

TABLE 9
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 8th Graders

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .	Percentage saying great risk ^a														
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Try marijuana once or twice ^b	40.4	39.1	36.2	31.6	28.9	27.9	25.3	28.1	28.0	29.0	27.7	28.2	30.2	31.9	31.4
Smoke marijuana occasionally ^b	57.9	56.3	53.8	48.6	45.9	44.3	43.1	45.0	45.7	47.4	46.3	46.0	48.6	50.5	48.9
Smoke marijuana regularly ^b	83.8	82.0	79.6	74.3	73.0	70.9	72.7	73.0	73.3	74.8	72.2	71.7	74.2	76.2	73.9
Try synthetic marijuana once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take synthetic marijuana occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try inhalants once or twice ^d	35.9	37.0	36.5	37.9	36.4	40.8	40.1	38.9	40.8	41.2	45.6	42.8	40.3	38.7	37.5
Take inhalants regularly ^d	65.6	64.4	64.6	65.5	64.8	68.2	68.7	67.2	68.8	69.9	71.6	69.9	67.4	66.4	64.1
Take LSD once or twice ^e	—	—	42.1	38.3	36.7	36.5	37.0	34.9	34.1	34.0	31.6	29.6	27.9	26.8	25.8
Take LSD regularly ^e	—	—	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	58.8	57.5	52.9	49.3	48.2	45.2	44.0
Try ecstasy (MDMA) once or twice ^f	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35.8	38.9	41.9	42.5	40.0
Take ecstasy (MDMA) occasionally ^f	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.5	61.8	65.8	65.1	60.8
Try salvia once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take salvia occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try crack once or twice ^d	62.8	61.2	57.2	54.4	50.8	51.0	49.9	49.3	48.7	48.5	48.6	47.4	48.7	49.0	49.6
Take crack occasionally ^d	82.2	79.6	76.8	74.4	72.1	71.6	71.2	70.6	70.6	70.1	70.0	69.7	70.3	70.4	69.4
Try cocaine powder once or twice ^d	55.5	54.1	50.7	48.4	44.9	45.2	45.0	44.0	43.3	43.3	43.9	43.2	43.7	44.4	44.2
Take cocaine powder occasionally ^d	77.0	74.3	71.8	69.1	66.4	65.7	65.8	65.2	65.4	65.5	65.8	64.9	65.8	66.0	65.3
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^e	—	—	—	—	60.1	61.3	63.0	62.8	63.0	62.0	61.1	62.6	62.7	61.6	61.4
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^e	—	—	—	—	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	78.9	78.6	78.5	78.5	77.8	77.5	76.8
Try OxyContin once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take OxyContin occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try Vicodin once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take Vicodin occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try Adderall once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take Adderall occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try bath salts (synthetic stimulants) once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take bath salts (synthetic stimulants) occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try cough/cold medicine once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take cough/cold medicine occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) ^b	11.0	12.1	12.4	11.6	11.6	11.8	10.4	12.1	11.6	11.9	12.2	12.5	12.6	13.7	13.9
Take one or two drinks nearly every day ^b	31.8	32.4	32.6	29.9	30.5	28.6	29.1	30.3	29.7	30.4	30.0	29.6	29.9	31.0	31.4
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend ^b	59.1	58.0	57.7	54.7	54.1	51.8	55.6	56.0	55.3	55.9	56.1	56.4	56.5	56.9	57.2
Smoke one to five cigarettes per day ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.9	28.9	30.5	32.8	33.4	37.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day ^g	51.6	50.8	52.7	50.8	49.8	50.4	52.6	54.3	54.8	58.8	57.1	57.5	57.7	62.4	61.5
Use electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) regularly ^h	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke little cigars or cigarillos regularly ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	35.1	35.1	36.9	35.5	33.5	34.0	35.2	36.5	37.1	39.0	38.2	39.4	39.7	41.3	40.8
Take dissolvable tobacco regularly ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take snus regularly ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Take steroids ⁱ	64.2	69.5	70.2	67.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Approximate weighted N = 17,400 18,700 18,400 17,400 17,500 17,900 18,800 18,100 16,700 16,700 16,200 15,100 16,500 17,000 16,800

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TABLE 9 (cont.)
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 8th Graders

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .	Percentage saying great risk ^a											2015–2016 change
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Try marijuana once or twice ^b	32.2	32.8	31.1	29.5	29.5	28.2	26.0	24.1	23.0	23.0	22.8	-0.2
Smoke marijuana occasionally ^b	48.9	50.2	48.1	44.8	44.1	43.4	41.7	37.2	36.7	36.8	36.8	+0.1
Smoke marijuana regularly ^b	73.2	74.3	72.0	69.8	68.0	68.3	66.9	61.0	58.9	58.0	57.5	-0.4
Try synthetic marijuana once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	24.4	24.2	23.9	26.0	27.5	+1.5
Take synthetic marijuana occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	36.8	36.2	32.4	33.5	35.4	+1.9
Try inhalants once or twice ^d	35.8	35.9	33.9	34.1	35.5	34.7	34.2	33.7	34.5	33.7	32.0	-1.8
Take inhalants regularly ^d	62.1	61.9	59.2	58.1	60.6	59.0	59.0	56.7	55.3	54.1	52.1	-1.9
Take LSD once or twice ^e	23.8	22.8	21.9	21.4	23.6	21.7	19.9	19.6	20.0	22.2	22.6	+0.4
Take LSD regularly ^e	40.0	38.5	36.9	37.0	38.6	37.8	35.0	34.5	33.7	37.0	36.8	-0.2
Try ecstasy (MDMA) once or twice ^f	32.8	30.4	28.6	26.0	27.0	25.4	23.6	24.1†	46.1	45.5	42.5	-3.0
Take ecstasy (MDMA) occasionally ^f	52.0	48.6	46.8	43.9	45.0	43.7	41.0	42.1†	59.7	58.5	54.0	-4.5 ss
Try salvia once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	9.5	8.5	—	—	—	—
Take salvia occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	16.1	14.6	—	—	—	—
Try crack once or twice ^d	47.6	47.3	47.1	46.6	49.6	48.1	47.0	47.1	48.3	49.6	48.9	-0.7
Take crack occasionally ^d	68.7	68.3	67.9	66.6	68.4	67.7	67.8	66.5	65.5	65.7	65.7	+0.1
Try cocaine powder once or twice ^d	43.5	43.5	42.7	42.3	45.7	43.3	42.8	43.5	43.9	44.3	44.3	-0.1
Take cocaine powder occasionally ^d	64.0	64.2	62.7	62.3	64.2	63.5	63.3	62.7	61.8	61.6	62.4	+0.8
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^a	60.4	60.3	60.8	60.0	62.3	61.7	59.1	59.8	60.9	61.4	59.2	-2.2
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^a	75.3	76.4	75.5	74.0	76.7	75.9	75.1	73.4	73.2	72.7	70.3	-2.4
Try OxyContin once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	21.9	19.9	22.1	20.2	21.3	+1.1
Take OxyContin occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	35.3	32.6	34.4	32.5	33.5	+0.9
Try Vicodin once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	17.5	15.0	18.4	16.9	18.3	+1.4
Take Vicodin occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	29.4	26.2	28.2	26.7	28.8	+2.1
Try Adderall once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	17.6	16.5	20.7	19.2	21.4	+2.2 s
Take Adderall occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	29.9	28.3	32.5	32.0	35.9	+3.9 ss
Try bath salts (synthetic stimulants) once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	24.9	39.3	36.8	33.9	31.8	-2.1
Take bath salts (synthetic stimulants) occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	38.8	51.9	49.1	45.5	42.5	-3.0 s
Try cough/cold medicine once or twice ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	21.2	20.1	22.9	20.9	23.5	+2.6 ss
Take cough/cold medicine occasionally ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	38.8	37.3	37.9	37.3	38.6	+1.3
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) ^b	14.2	14.9	13.5	14.4	14.9	14.5	13.9	13.7	14.8	15.3	14.7	-0.6
Take one or two drinks nearly every day ^b	31.3	32.6	31.5	31.5	32.3	31.8	31.4	30.6	31.0	30.9	30.7	-0.2
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend ^b	56.4	57.9	57.0	55.8	57.2	58.4	58.2	55.7	54.3	53.9	53.4	-0.5
Smoke one to five cigarettes per day ^c	37.0	38.6	38.6	38.6	38.2	37.4	40.4	42.8	41.9	41.7	43.2	+1.5
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day ^g	59.4	61.1	59.8	59.1	60.9	62.5	62.6	62.4	62.1	63.0	61.2	-1.7
Use electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) regularly ^h	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.5	18.5	21.3	+2.8 ss
Smoke little cigars or cigarillos regularly ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28.8	31.0	32.5	+1.5
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	39.5	41.8	41.0	40.8	41.8	40.8	37.8	36.2	34.5	36.6	35.1	-1.5
Take dissolvable tobacco regularly ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	34.8	32.2	33.5	33.0	34.3	+1.3
Take snus regularly ^c	—	—	—	—	—	—	42.2	38.9	38.3	37.7	37.9	+0.2
Take steroids ⁱ	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table continued on next page.

Approximate weighted N = 16,500 16,100 15,700 15,000 15,300 16,000 15,100 14,600 14,600 14,400 16,900

TABLE 9 (cont.)
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 8th Graders

Source. The Monitoring the Future study, the University of Michigan.

Notes. Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes: $s = .05$, $ss = .01$, $sss = .001$. '—' indicates data not available. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding. "‡" indicates that the question changed the following year.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) No risk, (2) Slight risk, (3) Moderate risk, (4) Great risk, and (5) Can't say, drug unfamiliar.

^bBeginning in 2012 data based on two thirds of N indicated.

^cData based on one third of N indicated.

^dBeginning in 1997, data based on two thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^eData based on one of two forms in 1993–1996; N is one half of N indicated. Beginning in 1997, data based on one third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^fBeginning in 2014 data are based on the revised question which included "Molly," N is one third of N indicated in 2014 and two thirds of N indicated in 2015. 2014 and 2015 data are not comparable to earlier years due to the revision of the question text.

^gBeginning in 1999, data based on two thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^hE-cigarette data based on two thirds of N indicated. Little cigars or cigarillos data based on one third N indicated.

ⁱData based on two forms in 1991 and 1992. Data based on one of two forms in 1993 and 1994; N is one half of N indicated.