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EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: Detailed information on the drug use study may be obtained from Dr. Lloyd Johnston, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. 48109, telephone (313) 763-5043. A simultaneous release is being issued by the sponsoring agency, the National Institute on Drug Abuse. To obtain further information contact Diane Striar, NIDA Office of Communication and Public Affairs (301) 443-6245.

ANN ARBOR---Results from the most recent national survey of drug use among high school students contain both good news and bad news.

First the bad news: Based on a nationwide survey of nearly 17,000 seniors in the class of 1980, researchers at The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research found that illicit drug use still remains very widespread. Nearly two-thirds (65 per cent) of all high school seniors in the country report illicitly using some drug during their lifetime, and nearly two out of every five (39 per cent) had used an illicit drug other than marijuana.

As for the good news, most of the specific illicit substances are showing either a decline or a leveling in use:

Marijuana use is down slightly since 1979---and daily marijuana use in particular has been dropping. Inhalant use dropped some and PCP use dropped substantially between 1979 and 1980. Barbiturates, tranquilizers, and cigarettes continued their longer term decline. The use of cocaine among seniors nearly leveled in 1980, following a period of rapid increase. Heroin use remained steady in 1980, as did the use of other narcotics and the use of alcohol.

These and other findings are contained in a forthcoming volume to be published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the sponsoring agency for the research. The authors---U-M social psychologists Lloyd Johnston, Jerald Bachman, and Patrick C'Malley---have surveyed high
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school seniors each year since 1975 in an ongoing research project titled "Monitoring the Future: A Continuing Study of the Lifestyles and Values of Youth."

The authors conclude that "illicit substance use among young Americans of high school age appears to be at or near its peak level." They add, however, that "this level is probably higher than that in any other industrialized nation in the world."

"It now appears that 1978 and 1979 may have marked the crest of a long and dramatic rise in marijuana use among American high school students," the authors state in their report. "Current usage statistics dropped for the first time in 1980 for marijuana, from 37 per cent of the Class of 1979 having used in the month preceding the survey to 34 per cent of the Class of 1980. (Six in every 10 seniors have at least tried the drug.)

"Of perhaps greater importance, the proportion of the age group who frequently use marijuana also has been declining. Between 1975 and 1978 there had been an almost two-fold increase in daily or near-daily marijuana use (defined as use on 20 or more occasions in the past 30 days), from 6 per cent to 11 per cent. That finding aroused considerable concern among policy makers and the public. Since 1978, however, daily use has dropped back to 9 per cent as more seniors are beginning to associate health risks with regular use, and also as more are coming to feel that their peers disapprove of such behavior."

The U-M investigators credit the substantial media attention given to new scientific evidence on marijuana effects with much of the increased student concern with health consequences. (Half of all seniors now believe there is a "great risk" of harm associated with being a regular marijuana user, up from 35 per cent in 1978.)

Substantial peer disapproval of regular marijuana use always has existed among seniors, the investigators note, but disapproval still has increased appreciably over the last two or three years (75 per cent in 1980 said they personally disapprove of regular use, up from 66 per cent in 1977). This increasing disapproval generalized this year to

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experimental and occasional use of marijuana, the authors emphasize, noting that these behaviors are now disapproved by 39 per cent and 50 per cent of all seniors, respectively.

Despite the decline in marijuana use in 1980, as well as the decline in the use of a number of other specific drugs, it was found that the proportion of all seniors who have ever used an illicit drug other than marijuana has risen slowly since 1976---from 35 per cent in 1976 to 39 per cent in 1980.

"Most of this rise," the report notes, "is attributable to the increasing popularity of cocaine between 1976 and 1979 and the increasing use of stimulants from 1978 through 1980. Prescription stimulants, such as amphetamines, are the most widely used of the illicit drugs other than marijuana, with one in four seniors (26 per cent) having at least tried them. Each year since 1976 more seniors have reported using stimulants, but fewer of those users now say that the purpose of their use is to 'get high'. More are now saying they use them to lose weight (particularly females) or to get through the day."

Use of the sedative-hypnotic methaqualone (Quaaludes) also has been increasing gradually over the last two years; but the barbiturate sedatives continued their decline, which began some time prior to 1976.

"Overall, I would say that we are observing a gradually increasing conservatism among young people in their attitudes toward drugs," Dr. Johnston concludes. "We still have a very long way to go before we return to anything like the relatively drug-free years of the fifties---in fact, it seems unlikely that we ever will return to those levels. But the dramatic rise over the last two decades in the proportion of young people involved with illicit drugs appears at or very near an end."

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EDITORS: The attached tables are excerpted from Highlights from Student Drug Use in America 1975-1980 authored by L.D. Johnston, J.G. Bachman, and P.M. O'Malley and published by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office), 120 pp. forthcoming in March 1981. Single copies are available free of charge from the National Clearinghouse on Drug Abuse Information, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

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TABLE 6
Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Sixteen Types of Drugs

	Percent ever used						'79-'80 change
	Class of 1975	Class of 1976	Class of 1977	Class of 1978	Class of 1979	Class of 1980	
	Approx. N = (9400)	(15400)	(17100)	(17800)	(15500)	(15900)	
Marijuana/Hashish	47.3	52.8	56.4	59.2	60.4	60.3	-0.1
Inhalants	NA	10.3	11.1	12.0	12.7	11.9	-0.8
<i>Inhalants Adjusted^a</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	18.7	17.6	-1.1
Amyl & Butyl Nitrites ^b	NA	NA	NA	NA	11.1	11.1	0.0
Hallucinogens	16.3	15.1	13.9	14.3	14.1	13.3	-0.8
<i>Hallucinogens Adjusted^c</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	18.6	15.7	-2.9 <i>sss</i>
LSD ^b	11.3	11.0	9.8	9.7	9.5	9.3	-0.2
PCP ^b	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.8	9.6	-3.2 <i>ss</i>
Cocaine	9.0	9.7	10.8	12.9	15.4	15.7	+0.3
Heroin	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.0
Other opiates ^d	9.0	9.6	10.3	9.9	10.1	9.8	-0.3
Stimulants ^d	22.3	22.6	23.0	22.9	24.2	26.4	+2.2 <i>s</i>
Sedatives ^d	18.2	17.7	17.4	16.0	14.6	14.9	+0.3
Barbiturates ^d	16.9	16.2	15.6	13.7	11.8	11.0	-0.8
Methaqualone ^d	8.1	7.8	8.5	7.9	8.3	9.5	+1.2 <i>ss</i>
Tranquilizers ^d	17.0	16.8	18.0	17.0	16.3	15.2	-1.1
Alcohol	90.4	91.9	92.5	93.1	93.0	93.2	+0.2
Cigarettes	73.6	75.4	75.7	75.3	74.0	71.0	-3.0 <i>ss</i>

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes:
s = .05, *ss* = .01, *sss* = .001.

NA indicates data not available.

^aAdjusted for underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites (see text).

^bData based on a single questionnaire form. N is one-fifth of N indicated.

^cAdjusted for underreporting of PCP (see text).

^dOnly drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

TABLE 7
Trends in Annual Prevalence of Sixteen Types of Drugs

	Percent who used in last twelve months						'79-'80 change
	Class of 1975	Class of 1976	Class of 1977	Class of 1978	Class of 1979	Class of 1980	
	Approx. N = (9400)	(15400)	(17100)	(17800)	(15500)	(15900)	
Marijuana/Hashish	40.0	44.5	47.6	50.2	50.8	48.8	-2.0
Inhalants	NA	3.0	3.7	4.1	5.4	4.6	-0.8 s
<i>Inhalants Adjusted^a</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	9.2	7.8	-1.4 ss
Amyl & Butyl Nitrites ^b	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.5	5.7	-0.8
Hallucinogens	11.2	9.4	8.8	9.6	9.9	9.3	-0.6
<i>Hallucinogens Adjusted^c</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	12.8	10.6	-2.2 sss
LSD	7.2	6.4	5.5	6.3	6.6	6.5	-0.1
PCP ^b	NA	NA	NA	NA	7.0	4.4	-2.6 sss
Cocaine	5.6	6.0	7.2	9.0	12.0	12.3	+0.3
Heroin	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.0
Other opiates ^d	5.7	5.7	6.4	6.0	6.2	6.3	+0.1
Stimulants ^d	16.2	15.8	16.3	17.1	18.3	20.8	+2.5 ss
Sedatives ^d	11.7	10.7	10.8	9.9	9.9	10.3	+0.4
Barbiturates ^d	10.7	9.6	9.3	8.1	7.5	6.8	-0.7
Methaqualone ^d	5.1	4.7	5.2	4.9	5.9	7.2	+1.3 sss
Tranquilizers ^d	10.6	10.3	10.8	9.9	9.6	8.7	-0.9
Alcohol	84.8	85.7	87.0	87.7	88.1	87.9	-0.2
Cigarettes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes:
s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001.

NA indicates data not available.

^aAdjusted for underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites (see text).

^bData based on a single questionnaire form. N is one-fifth of N indicated.

^cAdjusted for underreporting of PCP (see text).

^dOnly drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

TABLE 9

Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use of Sixteen Types of Drugs

	Percent who used daily in last thirty days						'79-'80 change
	Class of 1975	Class of 1976	Class of 1977	Class of 1978	Class of 1979	Class of 1980	
	Approx. N = (9400)	(15400)	(17100)	(17800)	(15500)	(15900)	
Marijuana/Hashish	6.0	8.2	9.1	10.7	10.3	9.1	-1.2 <i>ss</i>
Inhalants	NA	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	+0.1
<i>Inhalants Adjusted</i> ^a	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	0.2	+0.1
Amyl & Butyl Nitrites ^b	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.1	+0.1
Hallucinogens	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
<i>Hallucinogens Adjusted</i> ^c	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.2	0.2	0.0
LSD ^b	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PCP ^b	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	0.1	0.0
Cocaine	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other opiates ^d	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	+0.1
Stimulants ^d	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	+0.1
Sedatives ^d	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	+0.1
Barbiturates ^d	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	+0.1
Methaqualone ^d	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	+0.1
Tranquilizers ^d	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Alcohol	5.7	5.6	6.1	5.7	6.9	6.0	-0.9 <i>s</i>
Cigarettes	26.9	28.8	28.8	27.5	25.4	21.3	-4.1 <i>ss</i>

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes:
s = .05, *ss* = .01, *sss* = .001.

NA indicates data not available.

^aAdjusted for underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites (see text).

^bData based on a single questionnaire form. N is one-fifth of N indicated.

^cAdjusted for underreporting of PCP (see text).

^dOnly drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

TABLE 11
Trends in Perceived Harmfulness of Drugs

Q. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they...	Percent saying "great risk" ^a						'79-'80 change
	Class of 1975	Class of 1976	Class of 1977	Class of 1978	Class of 1979	Class of 1980	
Try marijuana once or twice	15.1	11.4	9.5	8.1	9.4	10.0	+0.6
Smoke marijuana occasionally	18.1	15.0	13.4	12.4	13.5	14.7	+1.2
Smoke marijuana regularly	43.3	38.6	36.4	34.9	42.0	50.4	+8.4 sss
Try LSD once or twice	49.4	45.7	43.2	42.7	41.6	43.9	+2.3
Take LSD regularly	81.4	80.8	79.1	81.1	82.4	83.0	+0.6
Try cocaine once or twice	42.6	39.1	35.6	33.2	31.5	31.3	-0.2
Take cocaine regularly	73.1	72.3	68.2	68.2	69.5	69.2	-0.3
Try heroin once or twice	60.1	58.9	55.8	52.9	50.4	52.1	+1.7
Take heroin occasionally	75.6	75.6	71.9	71.4	70.9	70.9	0.0
Take heroin regularly	87.2	88.6	86.1	86.6	87.5	86.2	-1.3
Try an amphetamine once or twice	35.4	33.4	30.8	29.9	29.7	29.7	0.0
Take amphetamines regularly	69.0	67.2	66.6	67.1	69.9	69.1	-0.8
Try a barbiturate once or twice	34.8	32.5	31.2	31.3	30.7	30.9	+0.2
Take barbiturates regularly	69.1	67.7	68.6	68.4	71.6	72.2	+0.6
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	5.3	4.8	4.1	3.4	4.1	3.8	-0.3
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	21.5	21.2	18.5	19.6	22.6	20.3	-2.3
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	63.5	61.0	62.9	63.1	66.2	65.7	-0.5
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	37.8	37.0	34.7	34.5	34.9	35.9	+1.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	51.3	56.4	58.4	59.0	63.0	63.7	+0.7
N =	(2804)	(3225)	(3570)	(3770)	(3250)	(3234)	

NOTE: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes:
s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001.

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

TABLE 12
Trends in Proportions Disapproving of Drug Use

Q. Do you disapprove of people (who are 18 or older) doing each of the following? ^b	Percent disapproving ^a						Class of '79-'80 change
	Class of 1975	Class of 1976	Class of 1977	Class of 1978	Class of 1979	Class of 1980	
Try marijuana once or twice	47.0	38.4	33.4	33.4	34.2	39.0	+4.8 <i>ss</i>
Smoke marijuana occasionally	54.8	47.8	44.3	43.5	45.3	49.7	+4.4 <i>ss</i>
Smoke marijuana regularly	71.9	69.5	65.5	67.5	69.2	74.6	+5.4 <i>sss</i>
Try LSD once or twice	82.8	84.6	83.9	85.4	86.6	87.3	+0.7
Take LSD regularly	94.1	95.3	95.8	96.4	96.9	96.7	-0.2
Try cocaine once or twice	81.3	82.4	79.1	77.0	74.7	76.3	+1.6
Take cocaine regularly	93.3	93.9	92.1	91.9	90.8	91.1	+0.3
Try heroin once or twice	91.5	92.6	92.5	92.0	93.4	93.5	+0.1
Take heroin occasionally	94.8	96.0	96.0	96.4	96.8	96.7	-0.1
Take heroin regularly	96.7	97.5	97.2	97.8	97.9	97.6	-0.3
Try amphetamines once or twice	74.8	75.1	74.2	74.8	75.1	75.4	+0.3
Take amphetamines regularly	92.1	92.8	92.5	93.5	94.4	93.0	-1.4
Try barbiturates once or twice	77.7	81.3	81.1	82.4	84.0	83.9	-0.1
Take barbiturates regularly	93.3	93.6	93.0	94.3	95.2	95.4	+0.2
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	21.6	18.2	15.6	15.6	15.8	16.0	+0.2
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	67.6	68.9	66.8	67.7	68.3	69.0	+0.7
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	88.7	90.7	88.4	90.2	91.7	90.8	-0.9
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	60.3	58.6	57.4	56.2	56.7	55.6	-1.1
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	67.5	65.9	66.4	67.0	70.3	70.8	+0.5
N =	(2677)	(3234)	(3582)	(3686)	(3221)	(3261)	

NOTE: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes:
s = .05, *ss* = .01, *sss* = .001.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) Don't disapprove, (2) Disapprove, and (3) Strongly disapprove. Percentages are shown for categories (2) and (3) combined.

^bThe 1975 question asked about people who are "20 or older."

TABLE 16

Trends in Proportion of Friends Disapproving of Drug Use

Q. How do you think your close friends feel (or would feel) about you...	Percent saying friends disapprove ^a						
	Class of 1975	Class of 1976	Class of 1977	Class of 1978	Class of 1979	Class of 1980	'79-'80 change
Trying marijuana once or twice	44.8	NA	42.3	NA	41.4	42.6	+1.2
Smoking marijuana occasionally	54.0	NA	48.2	NA	47.4	50.6	+3.2
Smoking marijuana regularly	70.4	NA	64.5	NA	65.6	72.0	+6.4 <i>sss</i>
Trying LSD once or twice	83.6	NA	84.6	NA	85.6	87.4	+1.8
Trying an amphetamine once or twice	76.6	NA	78.1	NA	78.8	78.9	+0.1
Taking one or two drinks nearly every day	59.4	NA	63.2	NA	63.2	70.5	+7.3 <i>sss</i>
Taking four or five drinks every day	79.9	NA	78.8	NA	79.2	87.9	+8.7 <i>sss</i>
Having five or more drinks once or twice every weekend	50.3	NA	48.7	NA	46.6	50.6	+4.0 <i>s</i>
Smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day	55.3	NA	60.0	NA	65.1	74.4	+9.3 <i>sss</i>
Approx. N =	(2488)	(NA)	(2971)	(NA)	(2716)	(2766)	

NOTE: NA indicates question not asked.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) Not disapprove, (2) Disapprove, and (3) Strongly disapprove. Percentages are shown for categories (2) and (3) combined.