

TABLE 8

Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by Eighth and Tenth Graders, 1991–2002

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .	Percentage saying "great risk" ^a																									
	8th Grade												10th Grade													
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	'01-'02 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	'01-'02 change
Try marijuana once or twice	40.4	39.1	36.2	31.6	28.9	27.9	25.3	28.1	28.0	29.0	27.7	28.2	+0.5	30.0	31.9	29.7	24.4	21.5	20.0	18.8	19.6	19.2	18.5	17.9	19.9	+2.0s
Smoke marijuana occasionally	57.9	56.3	53.8	48.6	45.9	44.3	43.1	45.0	45.7	47.4	46.3	46.0	-0.3	48.6	48.9	46.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	31.9	32.5	33.5	32.4	31.2	32.0	+0.8
Smoke marijuana regularly	83.8	82.0	79.6	74.3	73.0	70.9	72.7	73.0	73.3	74.8	72.2	71.7	-0.5	82.1	81.1	78.5	71.3	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.8	65.9	64.7	62.8	60.8	-2.0
Try inhalants once or twice ^b	35.9	37.0	36.5	37.9	36.4	40.8	40.1	38.9	40.8	41.2	45.6	42.8	-2.8s	37.8	38.7	40.9	42.7	41.6	47.2	47.5	45.8	48.2	46.6	49.9	48.7	-1.2
Try inhalants regularly ^b	65.6	64.4	64.6	65.5	64.8	68.2	68.7	67.2	68.8	69.9	71.6	69.9	-1.7	69.8	67.9	69.6	71.5	71.8	75.8	74.5	73.3	76.3	75.0	76.4	73.4	-3.0ss
Take LSD once or twice ^c	—	—	42.1	38.3	36.7	36.5	37.0	34.9	34.1	34.0	31.6	29.6	-2.0	—	—	48.7	46.5	44.7	45.1	44.5	43.5	45.0	43.0	41.3	40.1	-1.2
Take LSD regularly ^c	—	—	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	58.8	57.5	52.9	49.3	-3.6	—	—	78.9	75.9	75.5	75.3	73.8	72.3	73.9	72.0	68.8	64.9	-3.9ss
Try MDMA (Ecstasy) once or twice ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35.8	38.9	+3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39.4	43.5	+4.1s
Take MDMA (Ecstasy) occasionally ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.5	61.8	+6.4sss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64.8	67.3	+2.6
Try crack once or twice ^b	62.8	61.2	57.2	54.4	50.8	51.0	49.9	49.3	48.7	48.5	48.6	47.4	-1.2	70.4	69.6	66.6	64.7	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.0	57.8	56.1	57.1	57.4	+0.3
Take crack occasionally ^b	82.2	79.6	76.8	74.4	72.1	71.6	71.2	70.6	70.6	70.1	70.0	69.7	-0.2	87.4	86.4	84.4	83.1	81.2	80.3	78.7	77.5	79.1	76.9	77.3	75.7	-1.7
Try cocaine powder once or twice ^b	55.5	54.1	50.7	48.4	44.9	45.2	45.0	44.0	43.3	43.3	43.9	43.2	-0.7	59.1	59.2	57.5	56.4	53.5	53.6	52.2	50.9	51.6	48.8	50.6	51.3	+0.7
Take cocaine powder occasionally ^b	77.0	74.3	71.8	69.1	66.4	65.7	65.8	65.2	65.4	65.5	65.8	64.9	-0.9	82.2	80.1	79.1	77.8	75.6	75.0	73.9	71.8	73.6	70.9	72.3	71.0	-1.4
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	60.1	61.3	63.0	62.8	63.0	62.0	61.1	62.6	+1.5	—	—	—	—	70.7	72.1	73.1	71.7	73.7	71.7	72.0	72.2	+0.1
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	78.9	78.6	78.5	78.5	0.0	—	—	—	—	85.1	85.8	86.5	84.9	86.5	85.2	85.4	83.4	-2.0
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	11.0	12.1	12.4	11.6	11.6	11.8	10.4	12.1	11.6	11.9	12.2	12.5	+0.3	9.0	10.1	10.9	9.4	9.3	8.9	9.0	10.1	10.5	9.6	9.8	11.5	+1.8ss
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	31.8	32.4	32.6	29.9	30.5	28.6	29.1	30.3	29.7	30.4	30.0	29.6	-0.4	36.1	36.8	35.9	32.5	31.7	31.2	31.8	31.9	32.9	32.3	31.5	31.0	-0.5
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	59.1	58.0	57.7	54.7	54.1	51.8	55.6	56.0	55.3	55.9	56.1	56.4	+0.4	54.7	55.9	54.9	52.9	52.0	50.9	51.8	52.5	51.9	51.0	50.7	51.7	+1.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day ^e	51.6	50.8	52.7	50.8	49.8	50.4	52.6	54.3	54.8	58.8	57.1	57.5	+0.4	60.3	59.3	60.7	59.0	57.0	57.9	59.9	61.9	62.7	65.9	64.7	64.3	-0.4
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	+1.1	40.3	39.6	44.2	42.2	38.2	41.0	42.2	42.8	44.2	46.7	46.2	46.9	+0.7
Take steroids ^f	64.2	69.5	70.2	67.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67.1	72.7	73.4	72.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Approx. N (in thousands) =</i>	17.4	18.7	18.4	17.4	17.5	17.9	18.8	18.1	16.7	16.7	16.2	15.1		14.7	14.8	15.3	15.9	17.0	15.7	15.6	15.0	13.6	14.3	14.0	14.3	

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 of use estimates for the two most recent classes is due to rounding error.

SOURCE: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

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

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

^cData based on one of two forms in 1993–96; N is one-half of N indicated. Beginning in 1997, data based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^dData based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

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

^fData 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.