

**TABLE 8**

**Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by Eighth and Tenth Graders, 1991–2003**

<i>How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .</i>	Percentage saying "great risk" <sup>a</sup>																											
	8th Grade												10th Grade															
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	'02-'03 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	'02-'03 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	30.2	+2.0s	30.0	31.9	29.7	24.4	21.5	20.0	18.8	19.6	19.2	18.5	17.9	19.9	21.1	+1.2
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	48.6	+2.6s	48.6	48.9	46.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	31.9	32.5	33.5	32.4	31.2	32.0	34.9	+2.9ss
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	74.2	+2.5s	82.1	81.1	78.5	71.3	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.8	65.9	64.7	62.8	60.8	63.9	+3.1ss
Try inhalants once or twice <sup>b</sup>	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	-2.5	37.8	38.7	40.9	42.7	41.6	47.2	47.5	45.8	48.2	46.6	49.9	48.7	47.7	-1.0
Try inhalants regularly <sup>b</sup>	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	-2.5	69.8	67.9	69.6	71.5	71.8	75.8	74.5	73.3	76.3	75.0	76.4	73.4	72.2	-1.2
Take LSD once or twice <sup>c</sup>	—	—	42.1	38.3	36.7	36.5	37.0	34.9	34.1	34.0	31.6	29.6	27.9	-1.7	—	—	48.7	46.5	44.7	45.1	44.5	43.5	45.0	43.0	41.3	40.1	40.8	+0.7
Take LSD regularly <sup>c</sup>	—	—	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	58.8	57.5	52.9	49.3	48.2	-1.1	—	—	78.9	75.9	75.5	75.3	73.8	72.3	73.9	72.0	68.8	64.9	63.0	-1.9
Try MDMA (Ecstasy) once or twice <sup>d</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35.8	38.9	41.9	+3.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39.4	43.5	49.7	+6.1sss	
Take MDMA (Ecstasy) occasionally <sup>d</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.5	61.8	65.8	+4.0s	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64.8	67.3	71.7	+4.3ss	
Try crack once or twice <sup>b</sup>	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	+1.3	70.4	69.6	66.6	64.7	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.0	57.8	56.1	57.1	57.4	57.6	+0.2
Take crack occasionally <sup>b</sup>	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	+0.6	87.4	86.4	84.4	83.1	81.2	80.3	78.7	77.5	79.1	76.9	77.3	75.7	76.4	+0.7
Try cocaine powder once or twice <sup>b</sup>	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	+0.6	59.1	59.2	57.5	56.4	53.5	53.6	52.2	50.9	51.6	48.8	50.6	51.3	51.8	+0.5
Take cocaine powder occasionally <sup>b</sup>	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	+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	71.4	+0.5
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle <sup>c</sup>	—	—	—	—	60.1	61.3	63.0	62.8	63.0	62.0	61.1	62.6	62.7	+0.1	—	—	—	—	70.7	72.1	73.1	71.7	73.7	71.7	72.0	72.2	70.6	-1.6
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle <sup>c</sup>	—	—	—	—	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	78.9	78.6	78.5	78.5	77.8	-0.7	—	—	—	—	85.1	85.8	86.5	84.9	86.5	85.2	85.4	83.4	83.5	+0.1
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	12.6	+0.2	9.0	10.1	10.9	9.4	9.3	8.9	9.0	10.1	10.5	9.6	9.8	11.5	11.5	0.0
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	29.9	+0.3	36.1	36.8	35.9	32.5	31.7	31.2	31.8	31.9	32.9	32.3	31.5	31.0	30.9	-0.1
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	56.5	0.0	54.7	55.9	54.9	52.9	52.0	50.9	51.8	52.5	51.9	51.0	50.7	51.7	51.6	-0.1
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day <sup>e</sup>	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	+0.2	60.3	59.3	60.7	59.0	57.0	57.9	59.9	61.9	62.7	65.9	64.7	64.3	65.7	+1.3
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	+0.4	40.3	39.6	44.2	42.2	38.2	41.0	42.2	42.8	44.2	46.7	46.2	46.9	48.0	+1.1
Take steroids <sup>f</sup>	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	16.5		14.7	14.8	15.3	15.9	17.0	15.7	15.6	15.0	13.6	14.3	14.0	14.3	15.8	

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.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) No risk, (2) Slight risk, (3) Moderate risk, (4) Great risk, and (5) Can't say, drug unfamiliar.  
<sup>b</sup>Beginning in 1997, data based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.  
<sup>c</sup>Data 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.  
<sup>d</sup>Data based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.  
<sup>e</sup>Beginning in 1999, data based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.  
<sup>f</sup>Data 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.