

TABLE 5
Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by Eighth Graders

<i>How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .</i>	Percentage saying "great risk" ^a														'03-'04 change
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
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	31.9	+1.7 s
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	50.5	+1.9
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	76.2	+2.0 s
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	40.3	38.7	-1.6
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	67.4	66.4	-1.0
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	27.9	26.8	-1.1
Take LSD regularly ^c	—	—	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	58.8	57.5	52.9	49.3	48.2	45.2	-3.1
Try MDMA (ecstasy) once or twice ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35.8	38.9	41.9	42.5	+0.6
Take MDMA (ecstasy) occasionally ^d	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55.5	61.8	65.8	65.1	-0.7
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	48.7	49.0	+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	70.3	70.4	+0.1
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	43.7	44.4	+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	65.8	66.0	+0.2
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	62.7	61.6	-1.1
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^c	—	—	—	—	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	78.9	78.6	78.5	78.5	77.8	77.5	-0.3
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	13.7	+1.1
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	31.0	+1.2
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	56.9	+0.4
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	57.7	62.4	+4.7 ss
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	+1.6
Take steroids ^f	64.2	69.5	70.2	67.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Approx. N =</i> 17400 18700 18400 17400 17500 17900 18800 18100 16700 16700 16200 15100 16500 17000															

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.