

**TABLE 6**

**Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, 1991–99**

How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .	Percentage saying "great risk" <sup>a</sup>																														
	8th Grade									10th Grade									12th Grade												
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	
Try marijuana once or twice	40.4	39.1	36.2	31.6	28.9	27.9	25.3	28.1	28.0	0.0	30.0	31.9	29.7	24.4	21.5	20.0	18.8	19.6	19.2	-0.4	27.1	24.5	21.9	19.5	16.3	15.6	14.9	16.7	15.7	-1.0	
Smoke marijuana occasionally	57.9	56.3	53.8	48.6	45.9	44.3	43.1	45.0	45.7	+0.7	48.6	48.9	46.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	31.9	32.5	33.5	+1.0	40.6	39.6	35.6	30.1	25.6	25.9	24.7	24.4	23.9	-0.5	
Smoke marijuana regularly	83.8	82.0	79.6	74.3	73.0	70.9	72.7	73.0	73.3	+0.3	82.1	81.1	78.5	71.3	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.8	65.9	+0.2	78.6	76.5	72.5	65.0	60.8	59.9	58.1	58.5	57.4	-1.1	
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	+1.9	37.8	38.7	40.9	42.7	41.6	47.2	47.5	45.8	48.2	+2.3s	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Try inhalants regularly <sup>b</sup>	65.6	64.4	64.6	65.5	64.8	68.2	68.7	67.2	68.8	+1.6	69.8	67.9	69.6	71.5	71.8	75.8	74.5	73.3	76.3	+3.0ss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Take LSD once or twice <sup>c</sup>	—	—	42.1	38.3	36.7	36.5	37.0	34.9	34.1	-0.8	—	—	48.7	46.5	44.7	45.1	44.5	43.5	45.0	+1.5	46.6	42.3	39.5	38.8	36.4	36.2	34.7	37.4	34.9	-2.5	
Take LSD regularly <sup>c</sup>	—	—	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	64.1	59.6	58.8	-0.8	—	—	78.9	75.9	75.5	75.3	73.8	72.3	73.9	+1.6	84.3	81.8	79.4	79.1	78.1	77.8	76.6	76.5	76.1	-0.4	
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	-0.6	70.4	69.6	66.6	64.7	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.0	57.8	-0.1	60.6	62.4	57.6	58.4	54.6	56.0	54.0	52.2	48.2	-4.0s	
Take crack occasionally <sup>b</sup>	82.2	79.6	76.8	74.4	72.1	71.6	71.2	70.6	70.6	0.0	87.4	86.4	84.4	83.1	81.2	80.3	78.7	77.5	79.1	+1.7	76.5	76.3	73.9	73.8	72.8	71.4	70.3	68.7	67.3	-1.4	
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	-0.6	59.1	59.2	57.5	56.4	53.5	53.6	52.2	50.9	51.6	+0.7	53.6	57.1	53.2	55.4	52.0	53.2	51.4	48.5	46.1	-2.4	
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	+0.1	82.2	80.1	79.1	77.8	75.6	75.0	73.9	71.8	73.6	+1.8	69.8	70.8	68.6	70.6	69.1	68.8	67.7	65.4	64.2	-1.2	
Try heroin once or twice without using a needle <sup>c</sup>	—	—	—	—	60.1	61.3	63.0	62.8	63.0	+0.2	—	—	—	—	70.7	72.1	73.1	71.7	73.7	+2.0	—	—	—	—	55.6	58.6	60.5	59.6	58.5	-1.1	
Take heroin occasionally without using a needle <sup>c</sup>	—	—	—	—	76.8	76.6	79.2	79.0	78.9	-0.1	—	—	—	—	85.1	85.8	86.5	84.9	86.5	+1.6	—	—	—	—	71.2	71.0	74.3	73.4	73.6	+0.2	
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	-0.5	9.0	10.1	10.9	9.4	9.3	8.9	9.0	10.1	10.5	+0.4	9.1	8.6	8.2	7.6	5.9	7.3	6.7	8.0	8.3	+0.3	
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	-0.6	36.1	36.8	35.9	32.5	31.7	31.2	31.8	31.9	32.9	+0.9	32.7	30.6	28.2	27.0	24.8	25.1	24.8	24.3	21.8	-2.5	
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	-0.8	54.7	55.9	54.9	52.9	52.0	50.9	51.8	52.5	51.9	-0.6	48.6	49.0	48.3	46.5	45.2	49.5	43.0	42.8	43.1	+0.3	
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day <sup>d</sup>	51.6	50.8	52.7	50.8	49.8	50.4	52.6	54.3	54.8	+0.5	60.3	59.3	60.7	59.0	57.0	57.9	59.9	61.9	62.7	+0.8	69.4	69.2	69.5	67.6	65.6	68.2	68.7	70.8	70.8	0.0	
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	35.1	35.1	36.9	35.5	33.5	34.0	35.2	36.5	37.1	+0.6	40.3	39.6	44.2	42.2	38.2	41.0	42.2	42.8	44.2	+1.4	37.4	35.5	38.9	36.6	33.2	37.4	38.6	40.9	41.1	+0.2	
Take steroids <sup>e</sup>	64.2	69.5	70.2	67.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	67.1	72.7	73.4	72.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65.6	70.7	69.1	66.1	66.4	67.6	67.2	68.1	62.1	-5.9sss
<i>Approx. N (in thousands) =</i>	17.4	18.7	18.4	17.4	17.5	17.9	18.8	18.1	16.7		14.7	14.8	15.3	15.9	17.0	15.7	15.6	15.0	13.6		2.5	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.3		

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent classes: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. '—' indicates data not available.

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>8th and 10th grade: Beginning in 1997, data based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

<sup>c</sup>8th and 10th grade: 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>8th and 10th grade: Beginning in 1999, data based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

<sup>e</sup>8th and 10th grade: 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.