

Table 2.101

Respondents' perceptions of the harmfulness of selected drug use behaviors

By age group, United States, 1994

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways, when they do each of the following activities?"

(Percent responding "great risk")

Risk behavior	Total all ages	Age group			
		12 to 17 years	18 to 25 years	26 to 34 years	35 years and older
Marijuana					
Smoke once or twice	35.6%	31.3%	21.0%	23.1%	43.4%
Smoke occasionally	39.8	32.4	24.0	28.9	48.0
Smoke regularly	59.0	57.8	46.4	49.5	65.0
Cocaine					
Try once or twice	69.8	51.7	60.5	60.6	77.8
Use occasionally	79.5	62.8	73.3	75.7	85.0
Use regularly	91.0	83.3	88.8	90.8	92.9
Use "crack" occasionally	86.3	65.2	82.1	87.6	90.6
PCP					
Try once or twice					
Use regularly	69.8	44.8	55.1	66.0	78.7
	84.5	69.5	77.8	85.2	88.5
Heroin					
Try once or twice	77.0	49.4	66.5	75.3	84.8
Use regularly	91.4	77.9	87.5	92.8	94.3
Anabolic steroids					
Use occasionally	68.9	51.2	56.6	65.7	75.8
Use regularly	86.2	78.1	81.5	85.5	88.9
Alcohol					
One or two drinks nearly every day	28.3	28.3	25.4	26.1	29.7
Four or five drinks nearly every day	71.8	64.9	65.1	71.7	74.6
Five or more drinks once or twice a week	59.0	53.7	48.3	51.9	64.5
Cigarettes					
Smoke one or more packs per day	66.0	51.6	60.2	65.6	69.9

Note: These data are from the 1994 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Households were randomly sampled from all households in the United States and interviews were conducted throughout the year. In 1994, a split sample design was employed in order to implement a new survey questionnaire. These data are based on 17,809 completed interviews using the new questionnaire.

Answer alternatives to the question were "no risk," "slight risk," "moderate risk," and "great risk."

For survey methodology, see Appendix 8.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Main Findings 1994* (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996), p. 140. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.