

Table 2.99

Students' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use and alcohol use

By type of drug, frequency of use, and student grade level, United States, 1993-96

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .?"

(Percent saying "great risk"^a)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Eighth grade				Tenth grade				Twelfth grade			
	1993 (N=18,366)	1994 (N=17,394)	1995 (N=17,501)	1996 (N=17,926)	1993 (N=15,298)	1994 (N=15,880)	1995 (N=17,006)	1996 (N=15,670)	1993 (N=2,759)	1994 (N=2,591)	1995 (N=2,603)	1996 (N=2,449)
Try marijuana once or twice	36.2%	31.6%	28.9%	27.9%	29.7%	24.4%	21.5%	20.0%	21.9%	19.5%	16.3%	15.6%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	53.8	48.6	45.9	44.3	46.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	35.6	30.1	25.6	25.9
Smoke marijuana regularly	79.6	74.3	73.0	70.9	78.5	71.3	67.9	65.9	72.5	65.0	60.8	59.9
Try inhalants once or twice	36.5	37.9	36.4	40.8	40.9	42.7	41.6	47.2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Take inhalants regularly	64.6	65.5	64.8	68.2	69.6	71.5	71.8	75.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
Try LSD once or twice ^b	42.1	38.3	36.7	36.5	48.7	46.5	44.7	45.1	39.5	38.8	36.4	36.2
Take LSD regularly ^b	68.3	65.8	64.4	63.6	78.9	75.9	75.5	75.3	79.4	79.1	78.1	77.8
Try crack once or twice	57.2	54.4	50.8	51.0	66.6	64.7	60.9	60.9	57.6	58.4	54.6	56.0
Take crack occasionally	76.8	74.4	72.1	71.6	84.4	83.1	81.2	80.3	73.9	73.8	72.8	71.4
Try cocaine powder once or twice	50.7	48.4	44.9	45.2	57.5	56.4	53.5	53.6	53.2	55.4	52.0	53.2
Take cocaine powder occasionally	71.8	69.1	66.4	65.7	79.1	77.8	75.6	75.0	68.6	70.6	69.1	68.8
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	12.4	11.6	11.6	11.8	10.9	9.4	9.3	8.9	8.2	7.6	5.9	7.3
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	32.6	29.9	30.5	28.6	35.9	32.5	31.7	31.2	28.2	27.0	24.8	25.1
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	57.7	54.7	54.1	51.8	54.9	52.9	52.0	50.9	48.3	46.5	45.2	49.5
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	52.7	50.8	49.8	50.4	60.7	59.0	57.0	57.9	69.5	67.6	65.6	68.2
Take steroids ^c	70.2	67.6	NA	NA	73.4	72.5	NA	NA	69.1	66.1	66.4	67.6

Note: See Note, table 2.98. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1991 and 1992 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.

^aAnswer alternatives were: (1) no risk, (2) slight risk, (3) moderate risk, (4) great risk, and (5) can't say, drug unfamiliar.

^bData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single questionnaire form; N is one-half of N indicated.

^cData for eighth and tenth grades are based on a single form in 1993 and 1994; N is one-half of N indicated.