

Table 2.70

High school seniors reporting that they worry about selected social problems

United States, 1991-2003

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about each of the following?"

(Percent responding "sometimes" or "often")

	Class of 1991 (N=2,595)	Class of 1992 (N=2,736)	Class of 1993 (N=2,807)	Class of 1994 (N=2,664)	Class of 1995 (N=2,646)	Class of 1996 (N=2,502)	Class of 1997 (N=2,651)	Class of 1998 (N=2,621)	Class of 1999 (N=2,348)	Class of 2000 (N=2,204)	Class of 2001 (N=2,222)	Class of 2002 (N=2,267)	Class of 2003 (N=2,531)
Crime and violence	88.1%	91.6%	90.8%	92.7%	90.2%	90.1%	86.5%	84.4%	81.8%	83.5%	81.0%	75.5%	68.9%
Drug abuse	79.5	77.8	75.5	76.7	72.6	71.0	71.1	65.3	62.7	60.9	61.1	56.9	52.6
Hunger and poverty	66.4	68.1	71.1	65.7	62.3	62.6	61.1	55.5	54.5	54.4	51.3	49.7	46.1
Chance of nuclear war	41.5	33.4	28.8	27.9	20.0	21.6	20.4	29.0	32.1	23.7	23.9	35.9	50.3
Economic problems	63.9	70.6	71.8	62.6	55.7	57.9	51.5	47.6	44.8	45.2	47.0	47.0	49.0
Pollution	72.1	71.9	72.8	66.5	63.6	62.9	61.6	57.1	49.8	53.3	49.6	44.2	37.8
Race relations	59.4	68.7	75.4	71.6	68.9	70.7	64.7	56.0	55.6	51.2	52.6	46.9	41.8
Energy shortages	38.2	35.2	29.8	23.8	17.9	19.2	19.4	18.3	20.8	22.0	31.2	22.6	19.4
Using open land for housing or industry	33.8	34.7	32.9	32.7	28.9	32.6	32.7	30.8	27.5	32.6	30.6	28.5	26.7
Population growth	30.6	35.2	38.9	35.4	34.9	37.4	38.2	34.8	31.7	36.3	36.7	28.3	24.4
Urban decay	21.7	25.8	25.3	25.6	23.0	25.1	22.1	18.8	17.2	20.5	20.3	15.6	14.4

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the Monitoring the Future Project at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research from 1975 through 2003. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools throughout the continental United States. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the Ns that are shown in the tables refer to the number of weighted cases.

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1990 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 6](#).

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1991*, pp. 188, 189; *1993*, pp. 190, 191; *1995*, pp. 191, 192; *1997*, pp. 187, 188; *1999*, pp. 186, 187 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1992*, pp. 189, 190; *1994*, pp. 189, 190; *1996*, pp. 182, 183; *1998*, pp. 188, 189; *2000*, pp. 187, 188 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.