

Table 2.79

High school seniors' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1980, 1990, and 1993-2003

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

(Percent responding "great risk"^a)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Class of 1980 (N=3,234)	Class of 1990 (N=2,553)	Class of 1993 (N=2,759)	Class of 1994 (N=2,591)	Class of 1995 (N=2,603)	Class of 1996 (N=2,449)	Class of 1997 (N=2,579)	Class of 1998 (N=2,564)	Class of 1999 (N=2,306)	Class of 2000 (N=2,130)	Class of 2001 (N=2,173)	Class of 2002 (N=2,198)	Class of 2003 (N=2,466)
Try marijuana once or twice	10.0%	23.1%	21.9%	19.5%	16.3%	15.6%	14.9%	16.7%	15.7%	13.7%	15.3%	16.1%	16.1%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	14.7	36.9	35.6	30.1	25.6	25.9	24.7	24.4	23.9	23.4	23.5	23.2	26.6
Smoke marijuana regularly	50.4	77.8	72.5	65.0	60.8	59.9	58.1	58.5	57.4	58.3	57.4	53.0	54.9
Try LSD once or twice	43.9	44.7	39.5	38.8	36.4	36.2	34.7	37.4	34.9	34.3	33.2	36.7	36.2
Take LSD regularly	83.0	84.5	79.4	79.1	78.1	77.8	76.6	76.5	76.1	75.9	74.1	73.9	72.3
Try PCP once or twice	NA	55.2	50.8	51.5	49.1	51.0	48.8	46.8	44.8	45.0	46.2	48.3	45.2
Try MDMA (ecstasy) once or twice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	33.8	34.5	35.0	37.9	45.7	52.2	56.3
Try cocaine once or twice	31.3	59.4	57.6	57.2	53.7	54.2	53.6	54.6	52.1	51.1	50.7	51.2	51.0
Take cocaine occasionally	NA	73.9	73.3	73.7	70.8	72.1	72.4	70.1	69.5	69.9	68.3	68.3	69.1
Take cocaine regularly	69.2	91.1	90.1	89.3	87.9	88.3	87.1	86.3	85.8	86.2	84.1	84.5	83.0
Try crack once or twice	NA	64.3	57.6	58.4	54.6	56.0	54.0	52.2	48.2	48.4	49.4	50.8	47.3
Take crack occasionally	NA	80.4	73.9	73.8	72.8	71.4	70.3	68.7	67.3	65.8	65.4	65.6	64.0
Take crack regularly	NA	91.6	87.5	89.6	88.6	88.0	86.2	85.3	85.4	85.3	85.8	84.1	83.2
Try cocaine powder once or twice	NA	53.9	53.2	55.4	52.0	53.2	51.4	48.5	46.1	47.0	49.0	49.5	46.2
Take cocaine powder occasionally	NA	71.1	68.6	70.6	69.1	68.8	67.7	65.4	64.2	64.7	63.2	64.4	61.4
Take cocaine powder regularly	NA	90.2	87.0	88.6	87.8	86.8	86.0	84.1	84.6	85.5	84.4	84.2	82.3
Try heroin once or twice	52.1	55.4	50.7	52.8	50.9	52.5	56.7	57.8	56.0	54.2	55.6	56.0	58.0
Take heroin occasionally	70.9	76.6	72.0	72.1	71.0	74.8	76.3	76.9	77.3	74.6	75.9	76.6	78.5
Take heroin regularly	86.2	90.2	88.3	88.0	87.2	89.5	88.9	89.1	89.9	89.2	88.3	88.5	89.3
Try amphetamines once or twice	29.7	32.2	31.3	31.4	28.8	30.8	31.0	35.3	32.2	32.6	34.7	34.4	36.8
Take amphetamines regularly	69.1	71.2	69.9	67.0	65.9	66.8	66.0	67.7	66.4	66.3	67.1	64.8	65.6
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice) once or twice	NA	NA	57.5	58.3	54.4	55.3	54.4	52.7	51.2	51.3	52.7	53.8	51.2
Try barbiturates once or twice	30.9	32.4	29.2	29.9	26.3	29.1	26.9	29.0	26.1	25.0	25.7	26.2	27.9
Take barbiturates regularly	72.2	70.2	66.1	63.3	61.6	60.4	56.8	56.3	54.1	52.3	50.3	49.3	49.6
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	3.8	8.3	8.2	7.6	5.9	7.3	6.7	8.0	8.3	6.4	8.7	7.6	8.4
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	20.3	31.3	28.2	27.0	24.8	25.1	24.8	24.3	21.8	21.7	23.4	21.0	20.1
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	65.7	70.9	67.8	66.2	62.8	65.6	63.0	62.1	61.1	59.9	60.7	58.8	57.8
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	35.9	47.1	48.3	46.5	45.2	49.5	43.0	42.8	43.1	42.7	43.6	42.2	43.5
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	63.7	68.2	69.5	67.6	65.6	68.2	68.7	70.8	70.8	73.1	73.3	74.2	72.1
Take steroids	NA	69.9	69.1	66.1	66.4	67.6	67.2	68.1	62.1	57.9	58.9	57.1	55.0

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research for the National Institute on Drug Abuse from 1975 through 2003. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools. Depending on the survey year, approximately 65% of the schools initially invited to participate agreed to do so. Completed questionnaires were obtained from approximately 83% of all sampled students in participating schools each year. Beginning in 1991, eighth and tenth grade students also were included in the survey. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the Ns that are shown in the tables also refer to the number of weighted cases. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1979, 1981 through 1989, 1991, and 1992 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see [Appendix 6](#).

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

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston et al., *Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2003*, Vol. 1, Secondary School Students (Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004), pp. 314, 315. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.