

Table 2.80

Eighth and tenth graders' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug and frequency of use, United States, 1991, 1995, and 2000-2003

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 | Eighth graders | | | | | | Tenth graders | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 1991 (N=17,400) | 1995 (N=17,501) | 2000 (N=16,700) | 2001 (N=16,200) | 2002 (N=15,100) | 2003 (N=16,500) | 1991 (N=14,700) | 1995 (N=17,006) | 2000 (N=14,300) | 2001 (N=14,000) | 2002 (N=14,300) | 2003 (N=15,800) |
| Try marijuana once or twice | 40.4% | 28.9% | 29.0% | 27.7% | 28.2% | 30.2% | 30.0% | 21.5% | 18.5% | 17.9% | 19.9% | 21.1% |
| Smoke marijuana occasionally | 57.9 | 45.9 | 47.4 | 46.3 | 46.0 | 48.6 | 48.6 | 35.4 | 32.4 | 31.2 | 32.0 | 34.9 |
| Smoke marijuana regularly | 83.8 | 73.0 | 74.8 | 72.2 | 71.7 | 74.2 | 82.1 | 67.9 | 64.7 | 62.8 | 60.8 | 63.9 |
| Try inhalants once or twice ^b | 35.9 | 36.4 | 41.2 | 45.6 | 42.8 | 40.3 | 37.8 | 41.6 | 46.6 | 49.9 | 48.7 | 47.7 |
| Take inhalants regularly ^b | 65.6 | 64.8 | 69.9 | 71.6 | 69.9 | 67.4 | 69.8 | 71.8 | 75.0 | 76.4 | 73.4 | 72.2 |
| Try LSD once or twice ^c | NA | 36.7 | 34.0 | 31.6 | 29.6 | 27.9 | NA | 44.7 | 43.0 | 41.3 | 40.1 | 40.8 |
| Take LSD regularly ^c | NA | 64.4 | 57.5 | 52.9 | 49.3 | 48.2 | NA | 75.5 | 72.0 | 68.8 | 64.9 | 63.0 |
| Try MDMA (ecstasy) once or twice ^d | NA | NA | NA | 35.8 | 38.9 | 41.9 | NA | NA | NA | 39.4 | 43.5 | 49.7 |
| Take MDMA (ecstasy) occasionally ^d | NA | NA | NA | 55.5 | 61.8 | 65.8 | NA | NA | NA | 64.8 | 67.3 | 71.7 |
| Try crack once or twice ^b | 62.8 | 50.8 | 48.5 | 48.6 | 47.4 | 48.7 | 70.4 | 60.9 | 56.1 | 57.1 | 57.4 | 57.6 |
| Take crack occasionally ^b | 82.2 | 72.1 | 70.1 | 70.0 | 69.7 | 70.3 | 87.4 | 81.2 | 76.9 | 77.3 | 75.7 | 76.4 |
| Try cocaine powder once or twice ^b | 55.5 | 44.9 | 43.3 | 43.9 | 43.2 | 43.7 | 59.1 | 53.5 | 48.8 | 50.6 | 51.3 | 51.8 |
| Take cocaine powder occasionally ^b | 77.0 | 66.4 | 65.5 | 65.8 | 64.9 | 65.8 | 82.2 | 75.6 | 70.9 | 72.3 | 71.0 | 71.4 |
| Try heroin once or twice without using a needle ^c | NA | 60.1 | 62.0 | 61.1 | 62.6 | 62.7 | NA | 70.7 | 71.7 | 72.0 | 72.2 | 70.6 |
| Take heroin occasionally without using a needle ^c | NA | 76.8 | 78.6 | 78.5 | 78.5 | 77.8 | NA | 85.1 | 85.2 | 85.4 | 83.4 | 83.5 |
| Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor) | 11.0 | 11.6 | 11.9 | 12.2 | 12.5 | 12.6 | 9.0 | 9.3 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 11.5 | 11.5 |
| Take one or two drinks nearly every day | 31.8 | 30.5 | 30.4 | 30.0 | 29.6 | 29.9 | 36.1 | 31.7 | 32.3 | 31.5 | 31.0 | 30.9 |
| Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend | 59.1 | 54.1 | 55.9 | 56.1 | 56.4 | 56.5 | 54.7 | 52.0 | 51.0 | 50.7 | 51.7 | 51.6 |
| Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day ^b | 51.6 | 49.8 | 58.8 | 57.1 | 57.5 | 57.7 | 60.3 | 57.0 | 65.9 | 64.7 | 64.3 | 65.7 |

Note: See Note, table 2.79. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1992 through 1994, and 1996 through 1999 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 6.

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), p. 313. 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 2000-2003 are based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^cData for 1995 are based on one of two forms; N is one-half of N indicated. Data for 2000-2003 are based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

^dData based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.