

Table 2.81

Young adults' perceptions of the harmfulness of drug use, alcohol use, and cigarette smoking

By type of drug, frequency of use, and age group, United States, 1991-2003

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	Age groups												
	19 to 22 years old												
	1991 (N=533)	1992 (N=527)	1993 (N=480)	1994 (N=490)	1995 (N=500)	1996 (N=469)	1997 (N=465)	1998 (N=431)	1999 (N=447)	2000 (N=424)	2001 (N=430)	2002 (N=395)	2003 (N=402)
Try marijuana once or twice	19.1%	19.7%	19.4%	18.8%	13.3%	16.9%	14.8%	13.4%	12.5%	14.3%	11.9%	13.3%	17.1%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	30.2	29.5	30.3	31.3	25.5	25.6	22.0	22.0	19.8	25.8	18.0	21.0	24.1
Smoke marijuana regularly	75.0	69.3	69.2	65.0	62.1	61.3	60.6	53.4	55.2	58.0	49.6	56.7	57.8
Try LSD once or twice	48.0	45.6	42.4	42.3	40.3	44.4	40.1	38.7	38.1	37.9	37.5	35.3	39.7
Take LSD regularly	86.6	87.0	81.3	81.0	80.5	82.4	83.6	78.6	82.2	81.6	79.2	81.1	78.6
Try MDMA (ecstasy) once or twice	48.8	46.4	45.0	51.1	48.3	46.7	45.5	42.7	37.6	37.9	40.5	46.8	50.1
Try cocaine once or twice	58.7	56.1	60.5	63.8	57.7	61.9	55.5	55.4	52.8	56.7	48.9	55.5	55.0
Take cocaine occasionally	72.6	74.9	75.4	78.0	73.4	76.6	76.1	71.2	68.0	72.4	70.0	69.9	70.3
Take cocaine regularly	93.5	92.9	91.7	92.2	91.5	92.2	91.6	88.7	88.5	90.7	85.1	88.3	87.4
Try crack once or twice	66.9	65.4	63.5	70.1	61.9	65.2	62.0	59.3	56.1	52.9	54.1	54.1	55.1
Take crack occasionally	82.7	81.9	83.6	84.3	78.8	83.5	79.1	79.1	75.5	74.9	72.3	75.3	75.3
Take crack regularly	95.6	93.4	96.2	96.0	94.2	94.7	93.3	92.8	92.3	91.1	89.6	91.1	93.8
Try heroin once or twice	59.9	59.8	58.9	60.8	58.9	61.0	63.9	60.7	63.5	63.2	64.0	63.1	64.6
Take heroin occasionally	80.2	81.6	78.8	79.0	77.9	82.1	84.7	80.4	82.5	82.0	83.6	82.2	84.9
Take heroin regularly	91.5	92.2	89.2	91.2	89.9	94.0	93.7	92.4	92.8	94.0	91.3	92.6	93.9
Try amphetamines once or twice	32.8	34.5	33.3	36.3	32.9	36.8	30.1	31.7	33.7	35.0	34.2	38.1	40.2
Take amphetamines regularly	77.1	73.5	73.5	71.6	72.2	75.8	72.3	71.9	72.4	73.4	71.1	72.7	75.0
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice)	58.6	57.7	57.5	61.4	58.9	61.1	56.4	55.8	50.6	49.2	52.5	56.5	60.0
Try barbiturates once or twice	33.5	33.5	33.4	35.0	30.5	34.1	31.4	27.7	28.5	30.3	30.0	30.7	32.7
Take barbiturates regularly	75.5	73.6	71.1	69.4	66.4	70.7	69.5	65.1	64.7	64.6	61.8	64.5	63.8
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	5.4	5.8	6.6	6.5	4.5	3.3	3.2	4.2	5.7	5.4	4.8	6.6	7.5
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	29.1	30.2	28.0	27.5	24.0	23.0	24.2	22.1	23.9	22.1	19.6	22.7	19.8
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	75.5	71.8	72.1	70.3	72.5	68.5	71.4	70.4	69.9	69.9	64.5	71.1	66.4
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	40.8	41.8	42.4	41.9	39.9	40.7	36.6	42.0	37.2	38.9	37.2	37.8	40.4
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	77.9	72.6	76.0	71.2	71.6	73.8	76.3	77.2	75.7	77.1	76.6	80.6	77.8

Note: See Note, table 2.79. "Young adults" includes high school graduates 1 to 10 years beyond high school. Readers interested in responses to this question for 1980 through 1990 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from 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. 2, College Students and Adults Ages 19-40 (Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004), pp. 172-175. 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.

23 to 26 years old								27 to 30 years old							
1996 (N=438)	1997 (N=420)	1998 (N=413)	1999 (N=418)	2000 (N=400)	2001 (N=392)	2002 (N=382)	2003 (N=401)	1996 (N=422)	1997 (N=434)	1998 (N=416)	1999 (N=400)	2000 (N=377)	2001 (N=384)	2002 (N=369)	2003 (N=380)
18.5%	15.1%	16.7%	16.4%	13.1%	13.0%	15.1%	15.3%	16.2%	16.1%	16.4%	16.1%	14.4%	17.3%	16.2%	18.0%
27.3	26.4	26.8	26.4	24.9	20.5	24.5	22.2	28.1	26.0	25.8	25.3	25.8	25.0	30.2	27.9
62.7	64.0	62.7	60.1	60.3	55.1	53.7	56.7	67.3	65.0	63.6	66.1	64.0	61.7	63.5	64.7
46.1	46.6	45.7	49.3	44.9	48.5	45.7	43.8	50.1	52.0	52.0	49.9	46.4	46.7	44.9	47.5
84.7	85.6	82.1	85.4	84.1	86.0	85.3	84.3	87.0	87.2	90.5	87.8	85.3	86.9	85.3	87.5
50.4	50.5	47.7	50.0	46.7	45.7	45.6	45.9	50.6	48.8	50.4	50.9	48.9	53.6	52.0	58.8
57.2	63.1	60.2	62.6	63.1	62.4	61.0	55.4	53.6	54.6	60.5	61.7	59.9	60.9	58.8	56.4
71.3	76.5	74.2	77.8	76.2	74.2	75.4	68.3	67.8	73.8	73.2	75.4	76.5	78.1	74.3	72.6
90.6	93.2	92.9	92.7	92.9	91.9	91.5	88.5	91.6	92.7	93.0	92.4	92.3	94.5	91.2	92.9
68.6	64.7	67.3	64.6	63.2	59.8	60.9	58.5	66.7	68.5	66.5	65.0	62.9	69.3	67.4	66.0
85.9	80.8	84.2	81.6	84.0	80.1	82.2	77.1	81.3	85.3	81.7	79.8	81.6	84.4	81.5	81.9
96.1	91.4	95.6	94.4	95.6	93.4	94.7	92.2	94.3	96.0	94.3	95.2	93.5	96.8	94.2	94.4
63.5	67.3	67.3	68.0	70.7	71.9	69.8	70.6	66.4	67.9	69.7	70.1	67.4	68.2	70.9	72.3
82.4	86.5	83.9	88.5	86.6	88.4	90.0	88.3	83.8	85.8	86.6	87.1	86.5	86.4	87.9	87.4
92.7	94.4	93.4	93.7	94.8	95.9	96.3	96.5	92.1	93.8	95.0	93.7	94.2	94.5	95.9	94.9
34.9	37.8	40.9	41.8	39.9	41.6	38.0	38.3	36.2	34.5	37.6	36.3	39.4	38.5	39.0	40.5
78.5	79.1	77.5	78.7	79.0	77.7	77.9	80.1	75.6	77.4	81.1	82.6	80.8	79.9	79.8	81.5
64.1	60.7	58.2	61.3	60.1	59.2	57.7	58.6	59.1	59.8	59.9	61.0	59.7	66.4	62.5	66.6
35.8	37.3	40.3	39.4	37.0	38.5	34.7	36.5	37.2	35.7	36.7	35.2	36.3	40.9	37.3	38.6
77.1	75.2	73.9	75.1	73.8	73.1	73.1	72.8	74.1	77.1	79.9	80.7	75.5	78.2	75.4	79.0
4.8	4.4	4.4	6.6	3.5	5.5	5.1	5.7	4.7	4.0	6.2	5.9	4.7	5.5	3.1	6.9
22.0	20.2	21.0	26.0	21.7	23.5	23.4	19.1	24.0	24.8	20.8	25.3	22.0	22.7	21.7	21.4
72.0	75.1	69.3	72.8	71.7	75.8	74.9	71.1	76.1	79.3	75.7	75.1	77.4	72.8	76.2	70.6
39.1	37.4	41.1	40.2	34.9	39.0	36.8	36.3	41.5	40.0	40.2	41.9	37.9	41.6	40.6	42.5
76.0	77.6	76.5	80.9	79.7	83.9	85.1	83.6	73.0	80.3	80.9	80.7	78.4	82.7	80.6	82.0