

Table 2.82

Respondents' perceptions of the harmfulness of selected drug use behaviors

By age group, United States, 2002 and 2003

Question: "How much do you think people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they do each of the following activities?"

(Percent responding "great risk"^a)

Behavior	Total		Age group					
			12 to 17 years		18 to 25 years		26 years and older	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Marijuana								
Smoke once a month	38.3%	39.6%	32.4%	34.9%	23.5%	24.8%	41.7%	42.9%
Smoke once or twice a week	51.3	52.8	51.5	54.4	35.5	36.8	54.1	55.4
Cocaine								
Use once a month	71.5	71.0	50.5	51.4	64.1	63.6	75.7	75.0
Use once or twice a week	89.4	89.0	79.8	80.7	87.2	86.6	91.1	90.6
Heroin								
Try once or twice	82.4	82.2	58.5	58.8	78.0	77.5	86.5	86.2
Use once or twice a week	93.9	93.9	82.5	82.6	93.6	93.5	95.5	95.5
LSD								
Try once or twice	73.7	73.4	52.6	53.4	62.4	63.0	78.5	77.9
Use once or twice a week	88.8	88.7	76.2	76.9	84.8	85.3	91.2	90.9
Alcohol								
Four or five drinks nearly every day	69.4	68.9	62.2	61.6	62.1	61.1	71.7	71.2
Five or more drinks once or twice a week	42.3	41.7	38.2	38.5	33.2	31.9	44.5	43.9
Cigarettes								
Smoke one or more packs per day	71.1	71.4	63.1	64.2	65.2	65.7	73.3	73.4

Note: These data are from the 2002 and 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). The NSDUH is an annual survey of the civilian, noninstitutionalized population of the United States age 12 and older, and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Prior to 2002, the survey was called the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA). Due to methodological changes beginning with the 2002 NSDUH, estimates from the 2002 and 2003 surveys should not be compared with estimates from 2001 and earlier NHSDAs. For the 2002 NSDUH, a response rate of 78.9% yielded 68,126 completed interviews. For the 2003 NSDUH, a response rate of 77.4% yielded 67,784 completed interviews. For information on survey methodology, see [Appendix 7](#).

^a Answer alternatives to the question were "no risk," "slight risk," "moderate risk," and "great risk."

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2003 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings* (Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004), p. 225. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.