

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 1996, pages 190, 191

Table 2.100

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, 1984-96

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

(Percent saying "great risk"^a)

Type of drug and frequency of use	Age groups												
	19 to 22 years old												
	1984 (N=579)	1985 (N=547)	1986 (N=581)	1987 (N=570)	1988 (N=551)	1989 (N=565)	1990 (N=552)	1991 (N=533)	1992 (N=527)	1993 (N=480)	1994 (N=490)	1995 (N=500)	1996 (N=469)
Try marijuana once or twice	12.8%	11.2%	13.0%	12.9%	16.8%	16.9%	17.8%	19.1%	19.7%	19.4%	18.8%	13.3%	16.9%
Smoke marijuana occasionally	21.7	20.6	22.4	23.0	28.7	29.1	30.1	30.2	29.5	30.3	31.3	25.5	25.6
Smoke marijuana regularly	62.2	66.8	67.6	69.4	72.4	74.9	73.0	75.0	69.3	69.2	65.0	62.1	61.3
Try LSD once or twice	46.0	44.3	47.6	49.4	49.2	49.5	49.3	48.0	45.6	42.4	42.3	40.3	44.4
Take LSD regularly	84.5	86.4	87.1	85.6	85.4	85.5	85.8	86.6	87.0	81.3	81.0	80.5	82.4
Try PCP once or twice	NA	NA	NA	63.6	63.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Try cocaine once or twice	33.1	33.2	35.5	45.9	51.9	51.5	58.1	58.7	56.1	60.5	63.8	57.7	61.9
Take cocaine occasionally	NA	NA	53.8	61.3	67.1	72.6	74.6	72.6	74.9	75.4	78.0	73.4	76.6
Take cocaine regularly	75.1	82.9	82.0	88.0	90.3	89.1	93.9	93.5	92.9	91.7	92.2	91.5	92.1
Try crack once or twice	NA	NA	NA	59.4	67.3	68.5	69.4	66.9	65.4	63.5	70.1	61.9	65.2
Take crack occasionally	NA	NA	NA	75.0	77.3	81.8	82.3	82.7	81.9	83.6	84.3	78.8	83.5
Take crack regularly	NA	NA	NA	89.6	91.1	94.1	94.9	95.6	93.4	96.2	96.0	94.2	94.6
Try heroin once or twice	58.7	51.0	55.5	57.9	58.9	59.6	58.3	59.9	59.8	58.9	60.8	58.9	61.0
Take heroin occasionally	74.9	73.6	77.2	77.6	77.5	79.8	80.8	80.2	81.6	78.8	79.0	77.9	82.1
Take heroin regularly	86.8	90.2	90.7	90.2	89.6	90.8	91.2	91.5	92.2	89.2	91.2	89.9	94.0
Try amphetamines once or twice	26.9	23.9	27.1	27.4	31.7	28.9	35.6	32.8	34.5	33.3	36.3	32.9	36.8
Take amphetamines regularly	68.4	68.5	72.3	72.0	73.9	71.3	74.0	77.1	73.5	73.5	71.6	72.2	75.8
Try crystal methamphetamine (ice)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	57.8	58.6	57.7	57.5	61.4	58.9	61.1
Try barbiturates once or twice	29.9	25.0	30.7	29.6	32.7	30.5	36.4	33.5	33.5	33.4	35.0	30.5	34.1
Take barbiturates regularly	71.6	71.7	74.5	73.0	74.0	71.7	75.5	75.5	73.6	71.1	69.4	66.4	70.7
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	4.7	3.1	5.4	3.5	3.9	5.9	6.1	5.4	5.8	6.6	6.5	4.5	3.3
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	25.0	26.3	27.3	26.1	26.5	28.1	30.1	29.1	30.2	28.0	27.5	24.0	23.0
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	76.2	74.1	74.0	76.4	72.8	75.7	76.1	75.5	71.8	72.1	70.3	72.5	68.5
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	37.9	40.2	34.6	36.7	36.9	42.4	40.6	40.8	41.8	42.4	41.9	39.9	40.7
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	69.1	71.4	70.4	70.6	71.0	73.4	72.5	77.9	72.6	76.0	71.2	71.6	73.8

Note: See Note, table 2.98. "Young adults" includes high school graduates 1 to 10 years beyond high school. Some data for 1995 have been revised by the Source and therefore will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Patrick M. O'Malley, and Jerald G. Bachman, *National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-1996*, Vol. 2, College Students and Young Adults, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute on Drug Abuse (Washington, DC: USGPO, 1997). 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					
1988 (N=527)	1989 (N=498)	1990 (N=511)	1991 (N=505)	1992 (N=518)	1993 (N=503)	1994 (N=465)	1995 (N=445)	1996 (N=438)	1991 (N=486)	1992 (N=482)	1993 (N=473)	1994 (N=443)	1995 (N=448)	1996 (N=422)
16.0%	14.0%	17.7%	14.0%	15.0%	13.0%	15.0%	15.8%	18.5%	15.7%	15.1%	14.0%	14.8%	16.1%	16.2%
26.8	25.3	30.4	26.2	27.4	24.0	25.5	27.7	27.3	27.4	27.5	26.8	28.1	28.3	28.1
68.3	72.1	71.0	70.9	67.3	64.1	63.2	64.2	62.7	67.5	68.8	69.4	65.6	69.2	67.3
53.7	50.7	52.0	50.1	49.7	49.0	46.8	45.8	46.1	52.5	53.0	51.5	53.5	52.5	50.0
89.2	89.0	88.2	89.1	87.3	85.3	87.5	86.3	84.7	87.1	88.5	89.0	89.2	88.4	87.0
63.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
47.1	51.3	51.5	50.5	53.5	54.1	56.0	58.7	57.2	52.6	51.8	54.7	53.5	56.4	53.6
63.2	69.9	69.9	70.3	69.9	72.8	70.3	76.0	71.3	69.1	69.9	69.1	69.9	70.0	67.8
90.9	91.2	91.2	92.7	89.9	91.9	92.6	93.3	90.6	90.9	92.0	91.6	92.1	91.3	91.5
63.5	69.8	67.3	66.9	67.1	64.2	69.3	64.8	68.6	66.8	64.3	68.8	65.6	66.4	66.7
74.0	79.9	81.1	83.9	84.4	81.6	83.2	81.4	85.9	81.8	79.1	83.6	78.6	81.1	81.3
89.2	91.5	94.2	95.4	94.1	93.4	94.9	95.5	96.1	94.4	93.3	93.5	93.0	94.0	94.3
65.4	62.3	64.1	62.4	63.7	65.0	63.3	64.1	63.5	66.1	66.5	69.3	69.6	66.4	66.4
82.4	80.8	83.4	84.4	81.5	82.1	80.8	85.3	82.4	84.3	84.9	86.2	86.8	83.1	83.8
91.5	91.3	91.0	92.6	91.3	91.6	93.0	93.5	92.7	90.7	91.3	92.6	93.8	92.4	92.1
33.2	32.5	35.3	31.0	32.7	32.6	32.9	34.3	34.9	36.5	36.2	34.0	37.5	36.0	36.2
77.4	76.7	77.8	79.4	76.4	76.2	73.6	80.5	78.5	79.4	80.3	79.8	78.4	77.7	75.6
NA	NA	56.5	56.0	55.6	52.0	61.0	57.8	64.0	57.2	52.7	60.3	57.9	58.5	59.1
35.8	32.9	37.9	31.8	33.5	32.8	34.0	34.8	35.8	37.0	38.2	36.5	40.5	36.6	37.2
79.8	76.6	80.5	77.7	76.3	75.0	74.3	77.6	77.1	79.6	78.6	80.2	78.3	77.7	74.1
4.2	5.1	5.7	4.4	5.6	3.2	4.5	4.3	4.8	6.6	5.6	4.7	4.1	6.7	4.7
29.1	27.8	31.1	30.4	31.6	25.9	26.2	26.1	22.0	31.7	30.9	28.0	27.4	27.2	24.0
81.8	76.9	79.7	80.2	78.0	76.7	77.5	75.2	72.0	79.1	79.9	79.1	76.6	82.2	76.1
35.8	37.7	40.2	39.3	37.6	36.2	40.2	37.9	39.1	42.2	45.1	42.9	43.2	44.6	41.5
75.5	71.4	78.5	75.3	76.3	78.4	76.4	76.0	76.0	75.4	77.6	75.0	75.3	75.6	73.0