

Table 6. Trends in Harmfulness of Drugs as Perceived by 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders, MTF 1991–2000

Drug	Percentage saying "great risk" ¹										1999–2000 Change
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
8th grade											
How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .											
• Try marijuana once or twice	40.4	39.1	36.2	31.6	28.9	27.9	25.3	28.1	28.0	29.0	+0.9
• Smoke marijuana occasionally	57.9	56.3	53.8	48.6	45.9	44.3	43.1	45.0	45.7	47.4	+1.8
• Smoke marijuana regularly	83.8	82.0	79.6	74.3	73.0	70.9	72.7	73.0	73.9	74.8	+1.4
• Try crack once or twice ²	62.8	61.2	57.2	54.4	50.8	51.0	49.9	49.3	48.7	48.5	-0.2
• Take crack occasionally ²	82.2	79.6	76.8	74.4	72.1	71.6	71.2	70.6	70.6	70.1	-0.5
• Try cocaine powder once or twice ²	55.5	54.1	50.7	48.4	44.9	45.2	45.0	44.0	43.3	43.3	0.0
• Take cocaine powder occasionally ²	77.0	74.3	71.8	69.1	66.4	65.7	65.8	65.2	65.4	65.5	+0.1
Approximate N	17,437	18,662	18,366	17,394	17,501	17,926	18,765	18,100	16,700	17,300	
10th grade											
How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .											
• Try marijuana once or twice	30.0	31.9	29.7	24.4	21.5	20.0	18.8	19.6	19.2	18.5	-0.7
• Smoke marijuana occasionally	48.6	48.9	46.1	38.9	35.4	32.8	31.9	32.5	33.5	32.4	-1.1
• Smoke marijuana regularly	82.1	81.1	78.5	71.3	67.9	65.9	65.9	65.8	65.9	64.7	-1.2
• Try crack once or twice	70.4	69.6	66.6	64.7	60.9	60.9	59.2	58.0	57.8	56.1	-1.7
• Take crack occasionally	87.4	86.4	84.4	83.1	81.2	80.3	78.7	77.5	79.1	76.9	-2.2*
• Try cocaine powder once or twice	59.1	59.2	57.5	56.4	53.5	53.6	52.2	50.9	51.6	48.8	-2.8*
• Take cocaine powder occasionally	82.2	80.1	79.1	77.8	75.6	75.0	73.9	71.8	73.6	70.9	-2.7*
Approximate N	14,719	14,808	15,298	15,880	17,006	15,670	15,640	15,000	13,600	14,600	
12th grade											
How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they . . .											
• Try marijuana once or twice	27.1	24.5	21.9	19.5	16.3	15.6	14.9	16.7	15.7	13.7	-1.9
• Smoke marijuana occasionally	40.6	39.6	35.6	30.1	25.6	25.9	24.7	24.4	23.9	23.4	-0.4
• Smoke marijuana regularly	78.6	76.5	72.5	65.0	60.8	59.9	58.1	58.5	57.4	58.3	+0.9
• Try crack once or twice	60.6	62.4	57.6	58.4	54.6	56.0	54.0	52.2	48.2	48.4	+0.2
• Take crack occasionally	76.5	76.3	73.9	73.8	72.8	71.4	70.3	68.7	67.3	65.8	-1.5
• Try cocaine powder once or twice	53.6	57.1	53.2	55.4	52.0	53.2	51.4	48.5	46.1	47.0	+0.9
• Take cocaine powder occasionally	69.8	70.8	68.6	70.6	69.1	68.8	67.7	65.4	64.2	64.7	+0.5
Approximate N	2,549	2,684	2,759	2,591	2,603	2,449	2,579	2,500	2,300	13,300	

Note: * = 0.05 level of significance of 1999–2000 difference. Any apparent inconsistency between the 1999–2000 change estimate and the respective prevalence estimates is due to rounding error.

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

² 8th and 10th grade: Beginning in 1997, data based on two-thirds of N indicated due to changes in questionnaire forms.

Source: *Monitoring the Future* study, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan (December 2000).