

National Institute on Drug Abuse

**Monitoring the Future**  
National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-1999

**Volume II:**

**College Students &  
Adults Ages 19-40**



**1999**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
National Institutes of Health

**MONITORING THE FUTURE**  
**NATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS ON DRUG USE, 1975-1999**

Volume II

College Students and Adults Ages 19-40

by

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National Institutes of Health

*This publication was written by the principal investigators and staff of The Monitoring the Future project, at the Institute for Social Research, the University of Michigan, under Research Grant No. 3 R01 DA 01411 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.*

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National Institute on Drug Abuse  
NIH Publication No. 00-4803  
Printed August 2000

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## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME II

This is the second volume in a two-volume set reporting the results of all surveys through 1999 from the Monitoring the Future study of American secondary school students, college students, young adults, and now people in middle adulthood. Monitoring the Future is a long-term research program conducted at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research under a series of investigator-initiated research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. It is comprised, in part, of an ongoing series of annual national surveys of American *high school seniors* begun in 1975—the results of which are presented in Volume I—as well as a series of annual *follow-up surveys* of representative samples of the previous participants from each high school senior class going back to the Class of 1976. In 1991, the study also began to survey eighth and tenth grade students; the results from these surveys are also included in Volume I. This second volume presents the results of the 1977 through 1999 follow-up surveys of the graduating high school classes of 1976 through 1998 as these respondents have progressed through young adulthood. It also presents for the first time prevalence and trend data on 35- and 40-year-olds.

In order for this volume to stand alone, some material from Volume I is repeated here. Specifically, Chapter 2 in this volume is the same as Chapter 2 in Volume I; it provides an overview of the key findings presented in both volumes. Chapter 3, Study Design and Procedures, is also the same as Chapter 3, Volume I. Therefore, the reader already *familiar with Volume I* may wish to skip over these chapters. Otherwise, the content of the two volumes does not overlap.

#### SURVEYS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

The follow-up samples in Monitoring the Future provide very good coverage of the national college student population since 1980. College students tend to be a difficult population to study. They generally are not well covered in normal household surveys, which typically exclude dormitories, fraternities, and sororities from the universe covered. Further, the institution-based samples must be quite large in order to attain accurate national representation of college students because there is great heterogeneity in the types of student populations served in those institutions. There also may be problems getting good samples and high response rates within many institutions. The current study, which in essence draws the college sample in senior year of high school, has considerable advantages for generating a broadly representative sample of the college students to emerge from each graduating cohort, and it does so at very low cost. Further,

it has “before” as well as “during” and “after” college measures, which permit the examination of change. For comparison purposes, it also has similar panel data on the high school graduates who do not attend college.

As defined here, the college student population is comprised of all full-time students, one to four years post-high school, enrolled in a two- or four-year college in March during the year of the survey. More will be said about this sample definition in Chapters 3 and 8. Results on the *prevalence* of drug use among college students in 1999 are reported in Chapter 8, and results on the *trends* in substance use among college students over the past 20 national surveys are reported in Chapter 9.

## **SURVEYS OF YOUNG ADULTS**

The young adult sample, on which we report here, includes the college students and comprises representative samples from each graduating class from 1985 to 1998, all surveyed in 1999. Since 18 is the modal age of high school seniors, the young adults covered here correspond to modal ages 19 through 32. Because the study design calls for annual follow-up surveys through age 32, and then surveys at five-year intervals beginning at age 35, the classes of 1976 through 1984 were not surveyed in 1999; the two exceptions were the classes of 1977 and 1982, members of which were sent special “age 40” and “age 35” questionnaires, respectively. The results of these surveys are included in the present volume for the first time and will be included in future reports from the study.

In this volume, we have reweighted the respondents to correct for the effects of panel attrition on measures such as drug use; however, we are less able to adjust for the absence of high school dropouts who were not included in the original high school senior sample. Because nearly all college students have completed high school, the omission of dropouts should have almost no effect on the college student estimates, but this omission does have an effect on the estimates for entire age groups. Therefore, the reader is cautioned that the omission of the 15% to 20% of each cohort who drop out of high school will make the drug use estimates given here for the various young adult age bands somewhat *low for the age group as a whole*. The *proportional effect* may be greatest for some of the most dangerous drugs such as heroin and crack, and also for cigarettes—the use of which is highly correlated with educational aspirations and attainment.

## **GENERAL PURPOSES OF THE RESEARCH**

The research purposes of the Monitoring the Future study are extensive and can be sketched only briefly here.<sup>1</sup> One major purpose is to serve a social monitoring or social indicator function, intended to characterize accurately the levels and trends in certain

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<sup>1</sup>For a more complete listing and discussion of the study’s many objectives, see Johnston, L. D., O’Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., and Schulenberg, J. (1993). *The aims, objectives, and rationale of the Monitoring the Future study*. Monitoring the Future Occasional Paper No. 34. Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research.

behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, and conditions in the population. Social indicators can have important agenda-setting functions for society, and they are useful for gauging progress against national goals. Another purpose of the study is to develop knowledge that increases our understanding of why changes in these behaviors, attitudes, etc., are taking place. (In health-related disciplines, such work is usually labeled *epidemiology*.) These two purposes are addressed in the current series of volumes.

There are a number of other purposes for the research, however, which are addressed through other types of publications and professional products. They include helping to determine what types of young people are at greatest risk for developing various patterns of drug abuse; gaining a better understanding of the lifestyles and value orientations associated with various patterns of drug use, and monitoring how those orientations are shifting over time; determining the immediate and more general aspects of the social environment that are associated with drug use and abuse; determining how drug use is affected by major transitions into and out of social environments (such as military service, civilian employment, college, unemployment) or social roles (marriage, pregnancy, parenthood). We also are interested in determining the life course of the various drug-using behaviors during this period of development; distinguishing such “age effects” from cohort and period effects in determining drug use; determining the effects of social legislation on various types of substance use; and determining the changing connotations of drug use and changing patterns of multiple drug use among youth. We believe that the differentiation of period, age, and cohort effects in substance use of various types has been a particularly important contribution of the project; its cohort-sequential research design is especially well-suited to allow such differentiation. In fact, a number of important cohort effects that have emerged in the 1990s in terms of both use and attitudes about use will be featured in this volume.

Readers interested in publications dealing with any of these other areas, or wishing to receive a copy of a brochure listing publications from the study, should write the authors at the Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48106-1248. Up-to-date information about the study, including copies of the most recent press releases, may be found on the Monitoring the Future Web site at [www.MonitoringTheFuture.org](http://www.MonitoringTheFuture.org).



## Chapter 2

### OVERVIEW OF KEY FINDINGS

Over the past quarter century the Monitoring the Future study has tracked young Americans' use of an array of psychoactive substances, both illicit and licit. This annual series of monographs is written by the study's investigators and published by its sponsor—the National Institute on Drug Abuse; and it provides one of the major vehicles by which the epidemiological findings from the study are reported. The present two-volume monograph, which reports the study's findings through 1999, is the latest one in this long-term series. This year, for the first time, an advance report was published earlier in the year, providing a synopsis of the key findings from the 1999 survey of secondary school students.<sup>2</sup>

Over its twenty-five year existence, Monitoring the Future has conducted in-school surveys of nationally representative samples of (a) high school seniors each year since 1975 and (b) eighth- and tenth-grade students each year since 1991. In addition, beginning with the Class of 1976, follow-up surveys have been conducted by mail on representative subsamples of the respondents from each previously participating twelfth-grade class.

Volume I of this report presents findings on the prevalence and trends in drug use and related factors for secondary school students (eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders). Trend data are presented for varying time intervals, covering up to a 24-year interval in the case of the twelfth graders. Volume II presents the comparable results for young adult high school graduates 19-32 years old, as well as college students, specifically. For college students, a particularly important subset of the young adult population for which very little nationally representative trend data exist, we present detailed prevalence and trend results covering a 19-year interval (since 1980). This year, for the first time, we include in Volume II data on 35 and 40 year-old respondents who have been followed for 17 and 22 years, respectively, since their graduation from high school.

The high school dropout segment of these populations—about 15%-20% of an age group by the end of senior year—is of necessity omitted from the coverage, though this omission should have a negligible effect on the coverage of college students. Appendix A of Volume I discusses the likely impact of omitting dropouts from the sample coverage at twelfth grade. Very few students will have left school by eighth grade, of course, and relatively few by the end of tenth grade; thus the results of the school surveys at those levels should be generalizable to the great majority of the relevant age cohorts.

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<sup>2</sup> Johnston, L. D., O'Malley P. M., & Bachman, J. G. (2000). *Monitoring the Future national results on adolescent drug use: overview of key findings, 1999*. (NIH Publication No. 00-4690) Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse. (Also available on the Web at [www.MonitoringTheFuture.org](http://www.MonitoringTheFuture.org).)

A number of important findings have emerged for these five national populations—eighth-grade students, tenth-grade students, twelfth-grade students, college students, and all young adults through age 28 who are high school graduates. They have been summarized and integrated in this chapter so that the reader may quickly get an overview of the key results. Because so many populations, drugs, and prevalence intervals are discussed here, a single integrative set of tables (Table 2-1 through 2-3) showing the 1991-1999 trends for all drugs on all five populations is included in this chapter.

## **TRENDS IN ILLICIT DRUG USE**

- Earlier in the decade we noted an increase in the use of a number of illicit drugs among secondary students and some important changes among the students in terms of certain key attitudes and beliefs related to drug use. In the volume reporting 1992 survey results, we noted the beginning of such reversals in both use and attitudes among eighth graders, the youngest respondents surveyed in this study, and also a reversal in attitudes among the twelfth graders. Specifically, the proportions seeing great risk in using drugs began to decline, as did the proportions saying they disapproved of use. As we predicted, those reversals indeed presaged “an end to the improvements in the drug situation that the nation may be taking for granted.” The use of illicit drugs rose sharply in all three grade levels after 1992, as negative attitudes and beliefs about drug use continued to erode. This pattern continued for some years.

In 1997, for the first time in 6 years, illicit drug use finally began to decline among eighth graders. Use of marijuana continued to rise among tenth and twelfth graders, although their use of a number of other drugs appears to have leveled off, and relevant attitudes and beliefs also began to reverse in many cases. In 1998, illicit drug use continued a gradual decline among eighth graders and started to decline at tenth and twelfth grades. In 1999, the decline continued for eighth graders while use leveled for tenth and twelfth graders. We are hopeful that the leveling in 1999 simply represents a pause in a longer-term decline, much as did the earlier leveling in 1985 in the midst of an ongoing decline.

- As illustrated below in discussion of specific drugs, the increase in use of many drugs during the 1990s among secondary school students, combined with fairly level rates of use among college students and young adults, has resulted in some unusual reversals in the usage rates by age. In the early years of the epidemic, illicit drug use rates clearly were higher in the college age group (and eventually the young adults) than they were among secondary school students. But by the late 1990s, the highest rates of active use (i.e., annual or 30-day prevalence) tended to be found in the late secondary school years. For example, in 1999, 30-day prevalence of using

*any illicit drug* is highest in twelfth grade (26%), second highest in tenth grade (22.1%), third highest among college students (21.6%), fourth highest among 19- to 28-year-olds (17%), and lowest among eighth graders (12%). When it comes to using *any illicit drug other than marijuana* in the past 30 days, the rank order is: twelfth grade (10.4%), tenth grade (8.6%), college students (6.4%), 19- to 28-year-olds (6.0%), and finally eighth graders (5.5%). As can be seen, usage rates among tenth and twelfth graders are considerably higher than among young adults, and even higher than the college-student segment of the young adult population.

- Until 1997, *marijuana* use rose sharply among secondary school students, and their use of a number of *other illicit drugs* rose more gradually. The increase in marijuana use also began to appear among American college students, no doubt due largely to “generational replacement,” wherein earlier graduating high school class cohorts are replaced in the college population by more recent ones who were more drug experienced, even before they left high school. A resurgence in illicit drug use spreading *up* the age spectrum is a reversal of the way the epidemic spread several decades earlier. In the 1960s the epidemic began on the nation’s college campuses, and then the behavior diffused downward in age to high school students and eventually to junior high school students. This time the increases began in middle schools and have radiated up the age spectrum.

At present there still is rather little increase in illicit drug use in the young adult population, 19 to 28 years old, taken as a whole. In fact, from 1991 through 1999, their use of *illicit drugs* (taken as a class) has held remarkably stable at the same time that adolescent use rose. We think that generational replacement may well begin to boost the numbers for this group, as well. In fact, some of that appears to have happened among college students, whose significant rise in marijuana use in 1998 was preceded by a two-year rise in the use of two other classes of illicit drugs (MDMA and cocaine).

These diverging trends across the different age groups show that changes during the 1990s reflect some cohort effects—lasting differences between class cohorts—rather than broad secular trends, which characterize all of the age groups covered by the study. Typically, use has moved in parallel across most age groups.

- A parallel finding occurred for *cigarette* smoking, as well, in that college students showed a sharp increase in smoking, beginning in 1995, no doubt reflecting a generational replacement effect. (Smoking had been rising among high school seniors since 1992.) This has been a more typical pattern of change for *cigarettes*, however, since differences in cigarette smoking rates among class cohorts tend to remain through much or all of

the life cycle and also tend to account for much of the change in use that is observed at any given age. Now, smoking among American college students shows a continuing pattern of increase, even though smoking among younger age groups has started to turn downward.

- ***Marijuana*** use, which had been rising sharply in all three grades of secondary school during the 1990s, began to turn downward in 1997 among eighth graders and then did the same in 1998 among tenth and twelfth graders. Only the eighth graders showed a continuation of this decline in 1999, however. In the 1990s, the annual prevalence of marijuana use (i.e., the percent reporting any use during the prior twelve months) tripled among eighth graders (from 6% in 1991 to 18% in 1996), more than doubled among tenth graders (from 15% in 1992 to 35% in 1997), and grew by nearly three-quarters among twelfth graders (from 22% in 1992 to 39% in 1997). Among college students, however, the increase in marijuana use, presumably due to a “generational replacement effect,” was much more gradual. Annual prevalence rose by about one-third from 27% in 1991 to 35% in 1999. Among young adults there was even less change, from 24% in 1991 to 28% in 1999.

***Daily marijuana use*** rose substantially among secondary school and college students between 1992 and 1999, but somewhat less so among young adults (see Table 2-3). Nearly one in seventeen (6.0%) twelfth graders are now current daily marijuana users. Still, this rate is far below the 10.7% peak figure reached in 1978. Daily use among eighth graders is considerably lower, at 1.4%, but is still at the highest level it has been since 1991, when eighth-grade data were first collected.

The amount of risk associated with using marijuana fell during the earlier period of increased use and again during the more recent resurgence of use in the 1990s. Indeed, at tenth and twelfth grades, perceived risk began to decline a year *before* use began to rise in the upturn of the 1990s, making perceived risk a leading indicator of change in use. (The same may have happened in eighth grade, as well, but we do not have data starting early enough to check that possibility.) The decline in perceived risk halted after 1997 in eighth and tenth grade, and use began to decline a year or two later. Again, perceived risk was a leading indicator of change in use.

Personal disapproval of marijuana use slipped considerably among eighth graders between 1991 and 1996, and among tenth and twelfth graders between 1992 and 1997. For example, the proportions of eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders who said they disapproved of trying marijuana once or twice fell by 17, 21, and 19 percentage points, respectively, over those intervals of decline. There has since been a little increase in disapproval among eighth and tenth graders but not yet among twelfth graders.

- Among seniors, the proportions using *any illicit drug other than marijuana* in the past year rose to 21% in 1997, from a low of 15% in 1992. (This recent peak in 1997 was substantially below the 34% peak rate in 1981.) By way of contrast, there was very little change for young adults on this measure after 1991 (see Table 2-2). All of the younger groups showed significant increases but not as large in proportional terms as was true for marijuana. Use of any illicit drug other than marijuana began to increase in 1992 among eighth graders, in 1993 among tenth and twelfth graders, and in 1995 among college students. Use peaked in 1996 among eighth and tenth graders, and by 1997 among twelfth graders, college students, and young adults. The younger ages have shown a slight decline since, and the older age groups a leveling.
- Between 1989 and 1992 we noted an increase among college students and young adults in the use of *LSD*, a drug most popular in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1992, all five populations showed an increase in annual prevalence of LSD; for four subsequent years, modest increases persisted among the secondary school students. Use of LSD in all three grades leveled in 1997 and showed some (nonsignificant) decline in 1998. Use of LSD among college students and young adults peaked around 1995 and has declined some in both groups since then, though there was no further decline in 1999.

Prior to the significant increase in LSD use among seniors in 1993, there was a significant 4.3 percentage point decline between 1991 and 1992 in the proportion seeing great risk associated with trying LSD. The decline in this belief, which continued through 1997, halted in 1998. The proportion of seniors disapproving of LSD use also began to decline in 1992, continued through 1996, and reversed in 1997.

Because LSD was one of the earliest drugs to be popularly used in the overall American drug epidemic, there is a distinct possibility that young people—particularly the youngest cohorts, like the eighth graders—are not as concerned about the risks of use. They have had less opportunity to learn vicariously about the consequences of use by observing others around them, or to learn from intense media coverage of the issue, which occurred some years earlier. We were concerned that this type of “generational forgetting” of the dangers of a drug, which occurs as a result of generational replacement, could set the stage for a whole new epidemic of use. In fact, perceived harmfulness of LSD began to decline after 1991 among seniors. These measures for risk and disapproval were first introduced for eighth and tenth graders in 1993 and both measures had been dropping until 1997 or 1998, after which perceived risk and disapproval leveled.

- The use of prescription-controlled *amphetamines*—one of the most widely used classes of drugs taken illicitly (i.e., outside of medical regimen)—increased by about half among eighth and tenth graders between 1991 and 1996 (though the usage levels were still well below those attained in the early 1980s). In 1997, use declined significantly among eighth graders and leveled among tenth graders, but use continued to increase among twelfth graders. After 1997, use continued to decline in eighth and tenth grade and leveled in twelfth grade.

Between 1982 and 1992, annual prevalence rates for the use of amphetamines among seniors fell substantially, from 20% to 7%. Rates among college students fell over the same interval, from 21% to 4%. The subsequent increase in use of illicit amphetamines (and a decrease in disapproval) began among seniors in 1993, following a sharp drop in perceived risk a year earlier (which, as we have said, often serves as a leading indicator). Following a period of decline, disapproval and perceived risk associated with amphetamine use stabilized in 1997 among seniors, while use showed a leveling. In 1998, there was a sharp rise in perceived risk (up 4.3 percentage points). This general pattern of change is consistent with our theoretical position that perceived risk can drive both disapproval and use.

College students showed a modest increase in amphetamine use during the 1990s, but the absolute prevalence rates are only about half those for tenth and twelfth graders; and use among young adults generally is lower still and has changed very little.

Among the most widely reported specific amphetamines in recent years are *Ritalin*<sup>™</sup> (the use of which increased from an annual prevalence of 0.1% in 1992 to 2.8% in 1997, before leveling), *ice* (the use of which increased in the late 1990s but fell in 1999), and *methamphetamine*. (See Table E-2 in Appendix E.)

- The *inhalants* constitute another class of abusable substances in which a troublesome increase (this time a longer-term one) was followed by a reversal among secondary school students—after 1995, in this instance. Inhalants are defined as fumes or gases that are inhaled to get high, and they include common household substances such as glues, aerosols, butane, and solvents. One class of inhalants, *amyl and butyl nitrites*, became somewhat popular in the late 1970s, but their use has been almost eliminated. For example, their annual prevalence rate among twelfth-grade students was 6.5% in 1979 but only 0.9% in 1999.

When the nitrites are removed from consideration, it appears that all inhalants taken together showed an upward trend in annual use until 1995. Largely prompted by reports of Monitoring the Future survey findings

regarding the rise in inhalant use, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America launched an anti-inhalant ad campaign in mid-April of 1995. By the 1996 spring survey of eighth and tenth graders (twelfth graders are not asked about the dangers of inhalants), there was a sharp increase (of 3 to 6 percentage points, depending on the measure) in the percent who said that using inhalants carries great risk to the user. Inhalant use in all grades began to decline in 1996 and has continued declining since, after a long and steady increase in the preceding years. This is all the more noteworthy because illicit drug use generally was still increasing in 1996 and (for the upper two grades) in 1997 as well.

Some 10% of the 1999 eighth graders and 7% of the tenth graders indicated inhalant use in the prior 12 months, making inhalants the second most widely used class of illicitly used drugs for eighth graders (after marijuana) and the third most widely used (after marijuana and amphetamines) for tenth graders. Inhalants can and do cause death, and tragically, this often occurs among those in their early teens. Because the use of inhalants decreases with age, this class of drugs shows an unusual pattern, with active use being highest among the eighth graders (10% annual prevalence in 1999) and lowest among the young adult population (annual prevalence of 2% in 1999).

- **Crack cocaine** use spread rapidly from the early to the mid-1980s. Still, among high school seniors, the overall prevalence of crack leveled in 1987 at a relatively low prevalence rate (3.9% annual prevalence), even though crack use still continued to spread to new communities. Annual prevalence dropped sharply in the next few years, reaching 1.5% by 1991, where it remained through 1993. Then it rose gradually to 2.7% by 1999.

Among eighth and tenth graders, crack use has risen gradually in the 1990s: from 0.7% in 1991 to 2.1% by 1998 among eighth graders, and from 0.9% in 1992 to 2.5% in 1998 among tenth graders. In 1999 there was a significant decrease in use among eighth graders while use among tenth graders leveled. In contrast, among young adults one to ten years past high school, annual prevalence was 1.4% in 1999, virtually unchanged since 1992. Nor was there much change in the low rates of crack use among college students during the 1990s. Except for the recent decline among eighth graders, there does not yet seem to be a turnaround (as we have seen for most other drugs) in the crack situation, and perceived risk continued to decline in 1999 at all grade levels.

Among seniors, annual crack prevalence among the college-bound is considerably lower than among those not bound for college (1.9% for college-bound versus 5.0% for noncollege-bound, in 1999).

We believe that the particularly intense and early media coverage of the hazards of crack cocaine likely had the effect of “capping” an epidemic early, by deterring many would-be users and by motivating many experimenters to desist use. When we first measured crack use in 1987, we found that it had the highest level of perceived risk of any of the illicit drugs. While 4.6% of seniors in 1999 reported ever having tried crack, only 1.1% reported use in the past month, indicating that 76% of those who tried crack did not establish a pattern of continued use.

In 1993, although crack use did not increase, the levels of perceived risk and disapproval associated with crack dropped in all three grade levels, predicting the rise in use in all three grades between 1994 and 1998. Because more than a decade has now passed since the media frenzy about crack use peaked in 1986, it is quite possible that “generational forgetting” of the risks of that drug has been occurring.

- *Cocaine*<sup>3</sup> in general began to decline a year earlier than crack, probably because crack was still in the process of diffusing to new parts of the country since it was still quite new. Between 1986 and 1987 the annual prevalence rate for cocaine dropped dramatically, by roughly one-fifth in all three populations then studied—seniors, college students, and young adults. The decline occurred when young people began to view experimental and occasional use—the type of use in which they are most likely to engage—as more dangerous. This change first began to occur in 1987, probably partly because the hazards of cocaine use received extensive media coverage during the preceding year, but almost surely in part because of the highly-publicized cocaine-related deaths in 1986 of sports stars Len Bias and Don Rogers. By 1992, the annual prevalence of cocaine use had fallen by about two-thirds among the three populations for which long-term data are available (twelfth graders, college students, and young adults).

In 1993, cocaine use remained stable among secondary students but continued to decline among college students and young adults through 1994. From 1994 through 1996, annual use continued to rise among eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders, and possibly started to rise among college students; however, it remained stable among young adults. All groups (except eighth graders, who showed a small decline in 1999) have exhibited some continued upward drift in overall cocaine use since 1996.

Again, the story regarding attitudes and beliefs is informative. Having risen substantially since 1986, the perceived risk of using cocaine actually showed some (nonsignificant) decline in 1992 among seniors. In 1993, perceived risk for cocaine other than crack fell sharply in all grades and

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<sup>3</sup>Unless otherwise specified, all references to “cocaine” refer to the use of cocaine in any form, including crack.



disapproval began to decline in all grades, though not as sharply as perceived risk. Perceived risk declined until 1995 for eighth and twelfth graders and until 1998 for tenth graders. It increased some for all three grades in 1999. Disapproval declined between 1991 and 1995 among eighth graders, before leveling, and in 1992 through 1998 among tenth and twelfth graders, with the exception of an increase for twelfth graders in 1995. These changes foretold a subsequent leveling of use at each grade level.

Through 1989, there was no decline in perceived availability of cocaine among twelfth graders; in fact, it rose steadily from 1983 to 1989, suggesting that availability played no role in bringing about the substantial downturn in use after 1986. After 1989, however, perceived availability fell some among seniors; the decline may be explained by the greatly reduced proportions of seniors who said they have any friends who use, because friendship circles are an important part of the supply system. Since 1992 there has been rather little change in eighth and tenth grade reports of availability of powder cocaine. Among seniors, reported availability declined from 1992 to 1994, before leveling.

As with all the illicit drugs, lifetime cocaine prevalence climbs with age, reaching 25% by age 32 (among the 1999 survey respondents). Unlike all of the other illicit drugs, active use of cocaine—i.e., annual prevalence or monthly prevalence—holds fairly steady after high school (and until recent years increased in use after high school) rather than declining.

- *PCP* use fell sharply among high school seniors between 1979 and 1982, from an annual prevalence of 7.0% to 2.2%. It reached a low point of 1.2% in 1988, rose some in the 1990s to 2.6% in 1996, then declined to 1.8% by 1999. For the young adults, the annual prevalence rate is now only 0.6% (although this is the highest rate it has reached in the 1990s).
- Looking at the long-term trends, we see that the annual prevalence of *heroin* use among twelfth graders fell by half between 1975 (1.0%) and 1979 (0.5%). It then stabilized for fifteen years until 1994 (0.6%), before rising significantly to 1.1% in 1995, where it leveled. There has been little change since then (1.1% in 1999). Among young adults and college students, heroin statistics also were quite stable at low rates (about 0.1% to 0.2%) through 1994, followed by an increase in 1995 and then a leveling.

Shorter-term trends for eighth and tenth graders show an increase in heroin use from 1993 through 1996. Then, eighth graders' use of heroin decreased significantly to 1.3% in 1997, where it stayed, while tenth graders' use leveled after 1997. Their annual prevalence rates are roughly double what they were in the early 1990s. Two factors very likely contributed to the upturn in heroin use in the 1990s. One is that there was

a long-term decline in the perceived risk of harm from heroin use, probably due to “generational forgetting.” The second factor is that in recent years the increased purity of heroin allowed it to be used by means other than injection. This may have lowered an important psychological barrier for some potential users by making heroin use less aversive, and by making it seem less addictive as well as safer because non-injection reduces the likelihood of transmission of HIV, hepatitis, or other serious diseases. Using some new questions on heroin use introduced in 1995, we were able to show that significant proportions of past-year users in grades eight, ten, and twelve, have indeed been taking heroin by means other than injection. (See Chapter 4 for details.)

The risk perceived to be associated with heroin fell for more than a decade after the study began, with 60% of the 1975 seniors seeing a great risk of trying heroin once or twice and only 46% of the 1986 seniors saying the same. Between 1986 and 1991 perceived risk rose some, from 46% to 55%, undoubtedly reflecting the newly recognized threat of HIV infection associated with heroin injection. After 1991, however, perceived risk fell again (to 51% by 1995), this time perhaps reflecting the fact that the newer heroin available on the street could be administered by methods other than injection because it was so much purer. In 1996, perceived risk among seniors began to rise once again, and then rose sharply by 1997 and continued to rise in 1998—this time perhaps as the result of an anti-heroin campaign launched by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America in June 1996, as well as the visibility of heroin-related deaths of some celebrities in the entertainment and fashion design worlds.

Questions about the degree of risk perceived to be associated with heroin use were first introduced into the questionnaires for eighth and tenth graders in 1995. The questions asked specifically about use “without using a needle,” because we thought this was the form of heroin use of greatest concern at that point. (Similar questions were asked of twelfth graders, as well, in one of the six questionnaire forms.) In general, perceived risk in all three grades rose in 1996 and 1997, before leveling.

- The use of *narcotics other than heroin* had been fairly level over most of the life of the study. Seniors had an annual prevalence rate of 4% to 6% from 1975 to 1990. In 1991, however, a significant decline (from 4.5% to 3.5%) was observed. Use stayed at this level for a few years, before increasing significantly from 3.6% in 1993 to 6.7% by 1999. Young adults in their twenties generally showed a very gradual decline from 3.1% in 1986 to 2.2% in 1993; college students likewise showed a slow decrease, from 3.8% between 1982 and 1984 to 2.5% in 1993. Over the last five years, however, the young adults have shown a modest increase, to 3.8% in 1999, as have the college students (to 4.3% in 1999). (Data are not reported for eighth and tenth graders because we believe younger

students are not accurately discriminating among the drugs that should be included or excluded from this general class.) The specific drugs in this class are listed in Table E-4 in Appendix E, which shows that codeine and opium are among the ones most commonly mentioned in recent years.

- A long, substantial decline, which began in 1977, occurred for *tranquilizer* use among high school seniors. By 1992, annual prevalence reached 2.8%, down from 11% in 1977. Since 1992, use increased significantly (as has been true with most of the drugs), reaching 5.8% in 1999. Reported tranquilizer use also exhibited some recent, modest increase among eighth graders, from 1.8% in 1991 to 3.3% in 1996, before declining to 2.6% in 1998. Among tenth graders, annual prevalence remained stable between 1991 and 1994, at around 3.3%, increased significantly to 4.6% by 1996 and then leveled. After a period of stability, college students also showed some increase between 1994 and 1998. For the young adult sample, annual prevalence increased significantly in 1998, after a long period of decline. Most of the reported tranquilizer use in recent years has involved taking Valium™. (See Table E-3 in Appendix E.)
- The long-term gradual decline in *barbiturate* use, which began at least as early as 1975, when the study began, halted in 1988. Annual prevalence among seniors had fallen by more than two-thirds, from 10.7% in 1975 to 3.2% in 1988. It then hovered around 3.4% through 1991 before dropping further to 2.8% by 1992. Use then rose steadily to 5.8% in 1999—still only about half of the rate in the peak year. The 1999 annual prevalence of this class of sedative drugs is lower among young adults (2.8%) and college students (3.2%) than among seniors (5.8%). Use among college students began to rise a couple of years later than it did among twelfth graders, no doubt reflecting the impact of generational replacement. Use has increased only slightly so far among young adults. (Data are not included here for eighth and tenth grades, because we believe the younger students have more problems with the proper classification of the relevant drugs.)
- *Methaqualone*, another sedative drug, has shown quite a different trend pattern than barbiturates. Its use rose among seniors from 1975 to 1981, when annual prevalence reached 8%. Its use then fell very sharply, declining to 0.2% by 1993, before rising significantly during the general drug resurgence in the 1990s, to 1.1% by 1996, where it has leveled. Use also fell among all young adults and among college students, who had annual prevalence rates of only 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively, by 1989—the last year they were asked about this drug. In the late 1980s, shrinking availability may well have played a role in this drop, as legal manufacture and distribution of the drug ceased. Because of its very low usage rates, only the seniors are now asked about use of this drug.

- Questions about the use of *MDMA (ecstasy)* have been included in the follow-up surveys of college students and young adults since 1991; however, because of our concern about stimulating interest in an attractive-sounding and little-known drug, these questions were not added to the secondary school surveys until 1996. From 1991 to 1994, the annual prevalence rates tended to be quite low in the older age groups for whom we had data, but in 1995 there was a substantial increase (from 0.5% to 2.4% among college students, and from 0.7% to 1.6% among young adults).

When data were first gathered on secondary school students in 1996, the tenth and twelfth graders showed higher rates of annual use (both 4.6%) than the college students (2.8%). Ecstasy use then fell steadily at all three grades between 1996 and 1998 (though it continued to rise among college students and young adults through 1999). In 1999 there was a significant jump in use among both the tenth and twelfth graders—one which we found to be concentrated primarily in the Northeast and in large cities. Thus, this “club drug” made a clear comeback among teens in one region in 1999, and it is possible that its popularity will spread more widely next year.

- In sum, five classes of illicitly used drugs, *marijuana*, *cocaine*, *amphetamines*, *LSD*, and *inhalants* have had an impact on appreciable proportions of young Americans in their late teens and twenties. In 1999, high school seniors showed annual prevalence rates of 38%, 6%, 10%, 8%, and 6%, respectively, all unchanged from 1998. Among college students in 1999, the comparable annual prevalence rates are 35%, 5%, 6%, 5%, and 3%; and for all high school graduates one to ten years past high school (young adults) the rates are 28%, 5%, 5%, 4%, and 2%. Joining this set of long-established drugs in 1999 as among the more prevalent is *MDMA (ecstasy)*, which has annual prevalence rates of nearly 6% among twelfth graders and college students and nearly 4% among young adults.

It is worth noting that LSD has climbed in the rankings because its use has not declined, and in some cases has increased, during a period in which use of cocaine, amphetamines, and other drugs declined appreciably.

For similar reasons the inhalants have become relatively more important for the younger segments of the population. In fact, in eighth grade, inhalants are second to marijuana as the most widely used of the illicit drugs.

Because of their importance among the younger adolescents, a new index of illicit drug use including inhalants was introduced in Table 2-1 through

2-2 in recent years. Certainly the use of inhalants reflects a form of illicit, psychoactive drug use; its inclusion makes relatively little difference in the illicit drug index prevalence rates for the older age groups, but considerable difference for the younger ones. For example, in 1999 the proportion of eighth graders reporting any illicit drug use in their lifetime, exclusive of inhalants, was 28%, whereas including inhalants raised the figure to 37%.

- The annual prevalence among twelfth graders of over-the-counter *stay-awake pills*, which usually contain caffeine as their active ingredient, nearly doubled between 1982 and 1990, increasing from 12% to 23%. After 1990 this statistic fell to 19% in 1998, and then to 16% in 1999. Earlier decreases also occurred among the college-aged young adult population (ages 19 to 22), in which annual prevalence was 26% in 1989, declined to 19% in 1998, and then to 16% in 1999—its lowest level since 1986.

The *look-alikes* also have shown some falloff in recent years. Among high school seniors, annual prevalence decreased slightly from 6.8% in 1995 to 5.0% in 1999; among young adults aged 19 to 22, the corresponding figures are 6.0% and 4.0%. Over-the-counter *diet pills* have not shown a recent decline. Among high schools seniors, annual prevalence declined from 1986 to 1995, from 15% to 10%, where it still stands in 1999. (Among twelfth-grade girls in 1999, some 27% had tried diet pills by the end of senior year, 16% used them in the past year, and 5% used them in just the past 30 days.) Among young adults aged 19 to 22 there also had been an earlier decline from 1986 to 1995, with annual prevalence going from 17% to 6.9%; by 1998, however, it had risen slightly, to 8.6% before climbing to 11.4% in 1999.

### **College-Noncollege Differences in Illicit Drug Use**

- American college students (defined here as those respondents one to four years past high school who were actively enrolled full-time in a two- or four-year college) show annual usage rates for several categories of drugs which are about average for all high school graduates their age; these categories include *any illicit drug, marijuana, inhalants, hallucinogens other than LSD, and narcotics other than heroin*. For several other categories of drugs, however, college students have rates of use that are below those of their age peers, including *any illicit drug other than marijuana, hallucinogens, LSD specifically, cocaine, crack cocaine specifically, heroin, amphetamines, ice, barbiturates and tranquilizers*. Their use of hallucinogens other than LSD is slightly higher than it is among their noncollege peers in 1999.

Because college-bound seniors had below average rates of use on all of these illicit drugs while they were in high school, the eventual attainment of parity on many of them reflects some closure of the gap. As results from the study published elsewhere have shown, this college effect of “catching up” is largely explainable in terms of differential rates of leaving the parental home after high school graduation, and of getting married. College students are more likely than their age peers to have left the parental home and its constraining influences and less likely to have entered marriage, with its constraining influences.<sup>4</sup>

- In general, the trends since 1980 in illicit substance use among American college students have paralleled those of their age peers not in college. Most drugs showed a period of substantial decline in use sometime after 1980. Further, all young adult high school graduates through age 28, as well as college students taken separately, showed trends highly parallel for the most part to the trends among high school seniors until about 1992. After 1992, a number of drugs showed an increase in use among seniors (as well as eighth and tenth graders), but not among college students and young adults.

This divergence, combined with the fact that the upturn began first among the eighth graders (in 1992), suggests that cohort effects are emerging for illicit drug use. In fact, as those heavier-using cohorts of high school seniors enter the college years, we are beginning to see a lagged increase in the use of several drugs in college. For example, annual prevalence reached a low point among twelfth graders in 1992 for a number of drugs (e.g. *cocaine, amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, other narcotics, and any illicit drug other than marijuana*) before rising thereafter; among college students, those same drugs reached a low two years later in 1994, and then began to rise gradually. Then, in 1998, as *marijuana* use was declining in the three grades of secondary school, we saw a sharp increase among college students. The evidence for cohort effects resulting from generational replacement is impressive and consistent with our earlier predictions.

### ***Male-Female Differences in Illicit Drug Use***

- Regarding gender differences in three older populations (seniors, college students, and young adults), males are more likely to use *most illicit drugs*, and the differences tend to be largest at the higher frequency levels. *Daily marijuana use* among high school seniors in 1999, for example, is reported by 7.9% of males versus 3.9% of females; among all adults (aged 19 to 32 years) by 5.5% of males versus 2.6% of females; and among college students, specifically, by 5.9% of males versus 2.7% of females.

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<sup>4</sup>Bachman, J. G., Wadsworth, K. N., O'Malley, P. M., Johnston, L. D., & Schulenberg, J. (1997). *Smoking, drinking, and drug use in young adulthood: The impacts of new freedoms and new responsibilities*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

- In the eighth and tenth grade samples there are fewer gender differences in the use of drugs—perhaps because girls tend to date and then emulate older boys, who are in age groups considerably more likely to use drugs. There is little male-female difference in eighth and tenth grades in the use of *cocaine* and *crack*. *Amphetamine* use is slightly higher among females.

## TRENDS IN ALCOHOL USE

- Several findings about *alcohol* use in these age groups are noteworthy. First, despite the fact that it is illegal for virtually all secondary school students and most college students to purchase alcoholic beverages, experience with alcohol is almost universal among them. That is, alcohol has been tried by 52% of eighth graders, 71% of tenth graders, 80% of twelfth graders, and 88% of college students; and active use is widespread. Most important, perhaps, is the widespread occurrence of *occasions of heavy drinking*—measured by the percent reporting five or more drinks in a row at least once in the prior two-week period. Among eighth graders this statistic stands at 15%, among tenth graders at 26%, among twelfth graders at 31%, and among college students at 40%. After the early twenties this behavior recedes somewhat with age, reflected by the 33% rate found in the entire young adult sample and the 24% rate found among 31- to 32-year-olds.
- Alcohol use did not increase as use of other illicit drugs decreased among seniors from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, although it was common to hear such a “displacement hypothesis” asserted. This study demonstrates that the opposite seems to be true. After 1980, when illicit drug use was declining, the monthly prevalence of alcohol use among seniors also declined gradually, but substantially, from 72% in 1980 to 51% in 1993. *Daily alcohol use* declined from a peak of 6.9% in 1979 to 2.5% in 1993; and the prevalence of drinking *five or more drinks in a row* during the prior two-week interval fell from 41% in 1983 to 28% in 1993—nearly a one-third decline. When illicit drug use rose again in the 1990s, there was evidence that alcohol use (particularly binge drinking) was rising some as well—albeit not nearly as sharply as did marijuana use. In the late 1990s, as illicit drug use leveled in secondary schools and began a gradual decline, similar trends are observed for alcohol.

### *Male-Female Differences in Alcohol Use*

- There is a substantial gender difference among high school seniors in the prevalence of *occasions of heavy drinking* (24% for females versus 38% for males in 1999); this difference generally had been diminishing very

gradually since the study began. (In 1975 there was a 23 percentage point difference between them, versus a 15 point difference in 1999.)

- As just discussed, there also are substantial gender differences in alcohol use among college students, and young adults generally, with males drinking more. For example, 50% of college males report having *five or more drinks in a row* over the previous two weeks versus 34% of college females. There has not been a great deal of change in this gender difference since 1980.

### *College-Noncollege Differences in Alcohol Use*

- The data from college students show a quite different pattern of change in relation to alcohol use than that of twelfth graders or noncollege respondents of the same age. (See Figure 9-13 in Volume II). From 1980 to 1993, college students showed less drop-off in monthly prevalence of *alcohol* use (82% to 70%) than did high school seniors (72% to 51%) and slightly less decline in daily prevalence (6.5% to 3.9%) compared to a decline from 6.0% to 2.5% among high school seniors. *Occasions of heavy drinking* also declined less among college students from 1980 to 1993, from 44% to 40%, compared to a decline from 41% to 28% among high school seniors. Among noncollege-aged peers, the decline was from 41% to 34%. Thus, because both their noncollege-aged peers and high school students were showing greater declines, the college students stood out as having maintained a high rate of binge or party drinking. Between 1993 and 1999, the college students changed little (40% in 1999—the same rate observed in 1993), while their noncollege-aged peers increased by 1 percentage point, to 35%; high school seniors increased by 3 percentage points, to 31%. Still, college students stand out as having a relatively high rate of binge or party drinking.

Because the college-bound seniors in high school are consistently less likely to report occasions of heavy drinking than the noncollege-bound, the higher rates of such drinking in college indicate that they “catch up to and pass” their peers in binge drinking after high school graduation.

- Since 1980, college students have generally had *daily drinking* rates that were slightly lower than their age peers, suggesting that they were more likely to confine their drinking to weekends, when they tend to drink a lot. College men have much higher rates of daily drinking than college women (6.1% versus 3.4% in 1999). This gender difference is also reflected in the noncollege group (8.1% versus 3.6%, respectively).
- The rate of daily drinking fell considerably among the noncollege group, from 8.3% in 1980 to 3.2% in 1994, but is now back to 5.5%. Daily



drinking by the college group went from 6.5% to 3.0% in 1995, and stands at 4.5% in 1999.

- In 1999, college males had a somewhat higher binge drinking rate (50%) than noncollege males the same age (44%).

## TRENDS IN CIGARETTE SMOKING

- Quite a number of very important findings about *cigarette smoking* among American adolescents and young adults have emerged during the life of the study. Despite the demonstrated health risks associated with smoking, sizeable and, in recent years, growing proportions of young people continued to establish regular cigarette habits during late adolescence. In fact, since the study began in 1975, cigarettes have consistently comprised the class of abusable substance most frequently used on a daily basis by high school students.
- During most of the 1980s, when smoking rates were falling steadily among adults, we reported that smoking among adolescents was not declining. Then, the situation went from bad to worse.
- Among eighth and tenth graders, the current smoking rate increased by about half between 1991 (when their use was first measured) and 1996; and among twelfth graders, the current smoking rate rose by nearly one-third between 1992 (their recent low point) and 1997. This study played an important role in bringing these increases to public attention.

Fortunately, there has been some decline in current smoking since 1996 in the case of eighth and tenth graders, and since 1997 in the case of twelfth graders (nonsignificant for twelfth graders). In 1999, 18% of eighth graders, 26% of tenth graders, and 35% of twelfth graders reported smoking one or more cigarettes in the prior 30 days. Thus, at present over a third of American young people are current smokers by the time they complete high school; and other research consistently shows that smoking rates are substantially higher among those who drop out before graduating.

*Daily smoking* rates also increased by about half among eighth graders (from a low of 7.0% in 1992 to 10.4% in 1996) and tenth graders (from a low of 12.3% in 1992 to 18.3% in 1996), while daily smoking among twelfth graders increased by 43% (from a low of 17.2% in 1992 to 24.6% in 1997). In 1997, we saw the first evidence of a change in the situation, as daily smoking rates declined among eighth graders and leveled among tenth graders. There was a significant decline in tenth and twelfth graders' daily smoking rates by 1998.

## *Monitoring the Future*

- For seniors, the upturn in the 1990s followed a substantial decline in smoking during a much earlier period (from 1977 to 1981), a leveling for nearly a decade (through 1990), and a slight decline in 1991 and 1992. Rates then started up, and the 1998 decline in daily smoking rates was the first decline in use by seniors since 1992.
- The dangers perceived to be associated with *pack-a-day* smoking differ greatly by grade level and seem to be unrealistically low at all grade levels. Currently, only between two-thirds and three-quarters of the seniors (71%) report that pack-a-day smokers run a great risk of harming themselves physically or in other ways; more importantly, only about half (55%) of the eighth graders say the same. All three grades showed a decrease in perceived risk between 1993 and 1995, as use was rising rapidly, but a slightly larger and offsetting increase between 1995 and 1999, presaging the turnaround in smoking.

Disapproval of cigarette smoking had been in decline longer: from 1991 through 1996 among eighth and tenth graders, and from 1992 to 1996 among twelfth graders. Since then there has been an increase in disapproval in all three grades, though it is not yet large enough to offset the earlier decline completely. Undoubtedly the heavy media coverage of the tobacco issue (the proposed settlement with the state attorneys general, the congressional debate, the eventual state settlements, etc.) had an important influence on these attitudes. However, that coverage diminished considerably in 1998, raising the question of whether these changes in youth attitudes will continue. It may well be, of course, that the removal of certain kinds of cigarette advertising and promotion, combined with national and state-level anti-smoking campaigns, will sustain these changes.

### *Age and Cohort-Related Differences in Cigarette Smoking*

- Initiation of smoking most often occurs in grades 6 through 9 (i.e., at modal ages 11-12 to 14-15), with rather little further initiation after high school, although a number of light smokers make the transition to heavy smoking in the first two years after high school. Analyses presented in this volume and elsewhere have shown that cigarette smoking shows a clear "cohort effect." That is, if a class (or birth) cohort establishes an unusually high rate of smoking at an early age relative to other cohorts, the rate is likely to remain high throughout the life cycle relative to that of other birth cohorts at equivalent ages.
- As we reported in the "Other Findings from the Study" chapter in the 1986 volume in this series, some 53% of the half-pack-a-day (or more) smokers in senior year said that they had tried to quit smoking and found they could not. Of those who had been daily smokers in twelfth grade, nearly

three-quarters were daily smokers seven to nine years later (based on the 1985 follow-up survey), despite the fact that in high school only 5% of them thought they would “definitely” be smoking five years hence. A more recent analysis, based on the 1995 follow-up survey, showed similar results. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of those who had been daily smokers in the twelfth grade still were daily smokers seven to nine years later, although in high school only 3% of them had thought they would “definitely” be smoking five years hence. Clearly, the smoking habit is established at an early age; it is difficult to break for those young people who have it; and young people greatly overrate their own ability to quit. Additional data from the eighth and tenth grade students show us that younger children are even more likely than older ones to underestimate seriously the dangers of smoking.

- The surveys of eighth and tenth graders also show that cigarettes are almost universally available to teens. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of eighth graders and nearly nine-tenths (88%) of tenth graders say that cigarettes are “fairly easy” or “very easy” for them to get, if they want them. Until 1997 there had been little change in reported availability since these questions were first asked in 1992. Over the last three years, however, perceived availability of cigarettes decreased significantly for eighth and tenth graders, quite likely reflecting the impact of new regulations and related enforcement efforts aimed at reducing the sale of cigarettes to children.

### *College-Noncollege Differences in Cigarette Smoking*

- A striking difference in smoking rates has long existed between college-bound and noncollege-bound high school seniors. For example, in 1999 smoking a half-pack or more per day is nearly two and one-half times as prevalent among the noncollege-bound seniors (23% versus 10%). Among respondents of college age (one to four years past high school), those not in college show the same dramatically higher rate of smoking compared to that found among those who are in college, with half-pack-a-day smoking standing at 23% and 11%, respectively.
- In the first half of the 1990s, smoking rose some among college students and their same-age peers, although the increases were not as steep for either group as they were among high school seniors. But in 1998 and 1999, while smoking was declining among secondary school students at all grades, smoking increased significantly for college students, no doubt reflecting the cohort effect from earlier, heavier-smoking classes of high school seniors moving into the older age groups. Between 1991 and 1999, the 30-day prevalence of cigarette smoking rose from 23% to 31%, or by about one-third, and daily smoking rose from 14% to 19%—or by about 40%.

### ***Male-Female Differences in Cigarette Smoking***

- In the 1970s, high school senior females caught up to, and passed, senior males in their rates of ***current smoking***. Both genders then showed a decline in use followed by a long, fairly level period, with use by females consistently higher, but with the gender difference diminishing. In the early 1990s there was another crossover—rates rose among males and declined among females. Both genders showed increasing use between 1992 and 1997 and some decline in use since.

Among college students, females had slightly higher probabilities of being daily smokers from 1980 through 1994—although this long-standing gender difference was not true among their age peers not in college. However, there was a crossover in 1995—no doubt an echo of the crossover among seniors in 1991—and since 1995, smoking rates among college males have tended to be slightly higher than among females.

### **RACIAL/ETHNIC COMPARISONS**

The three largest ethnic groupings—Whites, African Americans, and Hispanics taken as a group—are examined here. (Sample size limitations simply do not allow finer subgroup breakdowns unless many years are combined.) A number of interesting findings emerge in these comparisons, and the reader is referred to Chapters 4 and 5 of Volume I for a full discussion of them.

- African American seniors have consistently shown lower usage rates on most drugs, licit and illicit, than White seniors; this also is true at the lower grade levels where little dropping out of school has yet occurred. In some cases, the differences are quite large.
- African American students have a much lower prevalence of ***daily cigarette smoking*** than White students (8% versus 27% in senior year, in 1999) because their smoking rate continued to decline after 1983, while the rate for White students stabilized for some years. (Smoking rates had been rising among White seniors after 1992 and among African American seniors after 1994, but by 1998 there was evidence of a leveling or reversal in both groups in the lower grades.)
- In twelfth grade, ***occasions of heavy drinking*** are much less likely to be reported by African American students (12%) than by White students (36%) or Hispanic students (29%).
- In twelfth grade, of the three racial/ethnic groups, Whites have the highest rates of use on a number of drugs, including ***marijuana, inhalants,***

*hallucinogens, LSD specifically, heroin, amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, narcotics other than heroin, alcohol, cigarettes, and smokeless tobacco.*

- However, in senior year, Hispanics have the highest usage rate for a number of the most dangerous drugs, e.g., *cocaine* and *crack*. Further, in eighth grade, Hispanics have the highest rates not only on these drugs, but on many of the others, as well. For example, in eighth grade, the annual prevalence of *marijuana* for Hispanics is 23%, versus 15% for Whites and 16% for African Americans; for *binge drinking*, 21%, 14%, and 10%, respectively. In other words, Hispanics have the highest rates of use for many drugs in eighth grade, but not in twelfth, which suggests that their considerably higher dropout rate (compared to Whites and African Americans) may change their relative ranking by twelfth grade.
- With regard to trends, seniors in all three racial/ethnic groups exhibited the decline in *cocaine* use from 1986 through 1992, although the decline was less steep among African American seniors because their earlier increase in use was not as large as the increase among White and Hispanic students.
- For virtually *all of the illicit drugs*, the three groups have tended to trend in parallel. Because White seniors had achieved the highest level of use on a number of drugs—including *amphetamines, barbiturates, and tranquilizers*—they also had the largest declines; African Americans have had the lowest rates, and therefore, the smallest declines.
- The important racial/ethnic differences in *cigarette smoking* noted earlier among seniors have emerged during the life of the study. The three groups were fairly similar in their smoking rates during the late 1970s, and all three mirrored the general decline in smoking from 1977 through 1981. From 1981 through 1992, however, smoking rates declined very little, if at all, for Whites and Hispanics, but the rates for African Americans continued to decline steadily. As a result, by 1992 the daily smoking rate for African Americans was one-fifth that for Whites. Subsequently, all three ethnic groups of twelfth graders exhibited fairly parallel trends in smoking.

## DRUG USE IN EIGHTH GRADE

It may be useful to focus specifically on the youngest age group in the study—the eighth graders, most of whom are 13 or 14 years old—because the exceptional levels of both licit and illicit drug use that they already have attained help illustrate the nation’s urgent need to continue to address the substance abuse problems among its young.

## *Monitoring the Future*

- By eighth grade 52% of youngsters report having tried *alcohol* (more than just a few sips) and a quarter (25%) say they have already been drunk at least once.
- Nearly half of the eighth graders (44%) have tried *cigarettes*, and nearly one in five (18%) say they have smoked in the prior month. Shocking to most adults is the fact that only 55% of eighth graders recognize great risk associated with being a pack-a-day smoker.
- *Smokeless tobacco* has been tried by 21% of male eighth graders, is used currently by 7% of them, and is used daily by 1.6%. (Rates are far lower among females than among males.)
- Among eighth graders, one in five (20%) have used *inhalants*, and one in twenty (5%) said they have used them in the past month. This is the only class of drugs for which use is substantially higher in eighth grade than in tenth or twelfth grade.
- *Marijuana* has been tried by more than one in every five eighth graders (22%), and has been used in the prior month by one in every ten (10%).
- A surprisingly large number of eighth-grade students (11%) say they have tried prescription-type *amphetamines*; 3.4% say they have used them in the prior 30 days.
- Relatively few eighth graders say they have tried most of the other illicit drugs yet. (This is consistent with the retrospective reports from seniors.) But the proportions having at least some experience with them is not inconsequential when considering the fact that a 3.3% prevalence rate, for example, on average represents one child in every 30-student classroom. The 1999 eighth-grade proportions reporting experience with illicit drugs are *tranquilizers* (4.4%), *LSD* (4.1%), *other hallucinogens* (2.4%), *crack* (3.1%), *other cocaine* (3.8%), *heroin* (2.3%), and *steroids* (2.7% overall, and 3.9% among males).
- Overall, 16% of all eighth graders in 1999—one in every six—have tried *some illicit drug other than marijuana* (excluding inhalants).
- The very large number who have already begun use of the so-called “gateway drugs” (*tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, and marijuana*) suggests that a substantial number of eighth-grade students are already at risk of proceeding further to such drugs as LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, and heroin.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

We can summarize the findings on trends as follows: over more than a decade—from the late 1970s to the early 1990s—there were very appreciable declines in use of several *illicit drugs* among twelfth-grade students, and even larger declines in their use among American college students and young adults. These substantial improvements—which seem largely explainable in terms of changes in attitudes about drug use, beliefs about the risks of drug use, and peer norms against drug use—have some extremely important policy implications. One is that these various substance-using behaviors among American young people are malleable—they *can* be changed. It has been done before. The second is that demand-side factors appear to have been pivotal in bringing about those changes. The reported levels of availability of marijuana, as reported by high school seniors, has held fairly steady throughout the life of the study. (Moreover, both abstainers and quitters rank availability and price very low on their list of reasons for not using.) And, in fact, the perceived availability of cocaine actually was rising during the beginning of the sharp decline in cocaine and crack use.

However, improvements are not inevitable; and, when they occur, they should not be taken for granted because relapse is always possible. Indeed, just such a “relapse” in the longer-term epidemic occurred in the early to mid-1990s.

In 1992, eighth graders exhibited a significant increase in annual use of *marijuana*, *cocaine*, *LSD*, and *hallucinogens other than LSD*, as well as an increase in *inhalant* use. (In fact, all five populations showed some increase in *LSD* use, continuing a longer-term trend for college students and young adults.) Further, the attitudes and beliefs of seniors regarding drug use began to soften.

In 1993, use of a number of drugs began to rise among tenth and twelfth graders, as well, fulfilling our earlier predictions that we had made based on their eroding beliefs about the dangers of drugs and their attitudes about drug use. Increases occurred in a number of the so-called “gateway drugs”—*marijuana*, *cigarettes*, and *inhalants*—increases that we argued boded ill for the use of later drugs in the usual sequence of drug-use involvement. Indeed, the proportion of students reporting the use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* rose steadily after 1991 among eighth and tenth graders and after 1992 among twelfth graders. (This proportion increased by more than half among eighth graders with annual prevalence rising from 8.4% in 1991 to 13.1% in 1996.) The softening attitudes about *crack* and other forms of *cocaine* also provided a basis for concern—the use of both increased fairly steadily through 1998.

Over the years, this study has demonstrated that changes in perceived risk and disapproval have been important causes of change in the use of several drugs. These beliefs and attitudes surely are influenced by the amount and nature of public attention paid to the drug issue in the historical period during which young people are growing up. A substantial decline in attention to this issue in the early 1990s very likely helps to explain why the increases in perceived risk and disapproval among students ceased and

began to backslide. News coverage of the drug issue plummeted between 1989 and 1993 (although it made a considerable comeback as surveys—including this one—began to document that the problem was worsening again), and the media's *pro bono* placement of ads from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America also fell considerably. (The twelfth graders in this study showed a steady decline in their recalled exposure to such ads and in the judged impact of such ads on their own drug-taking behavior.)

Also, the deterioration in the drug abuse situation first began among our youngest cohorts—perhaps because they had not had the same opportunities for vicarious learning from the adverse drug experiences of people around them and people they learn about through the media. Clearly there was a danger that, as the drug epidemic subsided in the 1980s and early 1990s, newer cohorts would have far less opportunity to learn through informal means about the dangers of drugs—that what we have called a “generational forgetting” of those risks would occur through a process of generational replacement of older, more drug-savvy cohorts with newer, more naive ones. If true, this suggests that as drug use subsides, as it did by the early 1990s, the nation must redouble its efforts to ensure that such naive cohorts learn these lessons about the dangers of drugs through more formal means—from schools, parents, and focused messages in the media, for example—and that this more formalized prevention effort be institutionalized so that it will endure for the long term. Clearly, for the foreseeable future, American young people will be aware of the psychoactive potential of a host of drugs and will continue to have access to them. That means that each new generation of young people must learn the reasons that they should *not* use drugs. Otherwise their natural curiosity and desires for new experiences will lead a great many of them to use drugs.

The following facts help to put into perspective the magnitude and variety of substance use problems that presently remain among American young people:

- By the end of eighth grade, nearly four in every ten (37%) American eighth-grade students have tried an *illicit drug* (if inhalants are included as an illicit drug), and by twelfth grade, more than half (56%) have done so.
- By their late twenties, two-thirds (65%) of today's American young adults have tried an *illicit drug*, including 36% who have tried some *illicit drug other than marijuana* (usually in addition to marijuana). (These figures do not include inhalants.)
- One out of five young Americans (20% in 1999) has tried *cocaine* by the age of 30, and 10% have tried it by their senior year of high school (i.e., by age 17 or 18). More than one in every twenty-five seniors (4.6%) has tried the particularly dangerous form of cocaine called *crack*. In the young adult sample, 4.8% have tried crack, including 5.6% by age 29-30.
- Over one in every twenty (6.0%) high school seniors in 1999 currently smokes *marijuana daily*. Among young adults aged 19 to 28, the percentage is slightly less (4.4%). Among seniors in 1999, one in every



five or six (17.9%) had been daily marijuana smokers at some time in their lives for at least a month, and among young adults the comparable figure is one in seven (14.2%).

- About a third of all seniors (31%) had consumed *five or more drinks in a row* at least once in the two weeks prior to the survey, and such behavior tends to increase among young adults one to four years past high school. The prevalence of such behavior among male college students reaches 50%.
- Over one-third (35%) of seniors in 1999 were current *cigarette* smokers and 23% already were current daily smokers. In addition, we know from studying previous cohorts that many young adults increase their rates of smoking within a year or so after they leave high school.
- Despite the substantial improvement in this country's drug situation between 1979 and 1991, it is still true that this nation's secondary school students and young adults show a level of involvement with illicit drugs that is as great as has been documented in any other industrialized nation in the world.<sup>5</sup> Even by longer-term historical standards in this country, these rates remain extremely high, though in general they are not as high as in the peak years of the epidemic in the late 1970s. Heavy drinking also remains widespread and troublesome; and certainly the continuing initiation of a large and (until recently) growing proportion of young people to cigarette smoking is a matter of the greatest public health concern.
- Finally, we note the seemingly unending capacity of pharmacological experts and amateurs to discover new substances with abuse potential that can be used to alter mood and consciousness. There is also a great capacity for our young people to discover the abuse potential of existing products, such as Robitussin™, and to rediscover older drugs, such as *LSD* and *heroin*. While as a society we have made significant progress on a number of fronts in the fight against drug abuse, we must remain vigilant against the opening of new fronts, as well as the reemergence of trouble on older ones.
- In fact, one of the dynamics that keeps the drug epidemic rolling is the emergence of new drugs, whose hazards are little known. In 1999 we saw this happen with the drug *MDMA (ecstasy)*. Other drugs like *ketamine* and *GHB* have arrived so recently that we do not yet have questions in the

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<sup>5</sup>A recently published report from an international collaborative study, modeled largely after the Monitoring the Future study, suggests that in 1995 the United Kingdom had illicit drug use rates among fifteen-year-old students about comparable to those observed in the United States. All the other European countries had substantially lower rates. See B. Hibell et al. (Eds.), (1997). *The 1995 ESPAD Report. (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) Use among students in 26 European countries*. Stockholm: The Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Council of Europe.

survey about their use. The spread of such new drugs appears to be facilitated and hastened today by young people's widespread use of chat rooms and other sites on the Internet. We predict a continuous flow of such new substances onto the scene and believe that the task of rapidly identifying their emergence and quickly demystifying them will be increasingly important.

- The drug problem is not an enemy that can be vanquished, as in a war. It is more a recurring and relapsing problem that must be contained to the extent possible on a long-term, ongoing basis. Therefore, it is a problem that requires an ongoing, dynamic response from our society—one that takes into account the continuing generational replacement of our children and the generational forgetting of the dangers of drugs that can occur with that replacement.

**TABLE 2-1**  
**Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**  
(Entries are percentages)

	<u>Lifetime</u>									'98-'99 change
	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	
Any Illicit Drug*										
8th Grade	18.7	20.6	22.5	25.7	28.5	31.2	29.4	29.0	28.3	-0.7
10th Grade	30.6	29.8	32.8	37.4	40.9	45.4	47.3	44.9	46.2	+1.3
12th Grade	44.1	40.7	42.9	45.6	48.4	50.8	54.3	54.1	54.7	+0.6
College Students	50.4	48.8	45.9	45.5	45.5	47.4	49.0	52.9	53.2	+0.3
Young Adults	62.2	60.2	59.6	57.5	57.4	56.4	56.7	57.0	57.4	+0.4
Any Illicit Drug Other Than Marijuana*										
8th Grade	14.3	15.6	16.8	17.5	18.8	19.2	17.7	16.9	16.3	-0.6
10th Grade	19.1	19.2	20.9	21.7	24.3	25.5	25.0	23.6	24.0	+0.4
12th Grade	26.9	25.1	26.7	27.6	28.1	28.5	30.0	29.4	29.4	0.0
College Students	25.8	26.1	24.3	22.0	24.5	22.7	24.4	24.8	25.5	+0.7
Young Adults	37.8	37.0	34.6	33.4	32.8	31.0	30.5	29.9	30.2	+0.3
Any Illicit Drug Including Inhalants <sup>ab</sup>										
8th Grade	28.5	29.6	32.3	35.1	38.1	39.4	38.1	37.8	37.2	-0.6
10th Grade	36.1	36.2	38.7	42.7	45.9	49.8	50.9	49.3	49.9	+0.6
12th Grade	47.6	44.4	46.6	49.1	51.5	53.5	56.3	56.1	56.3	+0.2
College Students	52.0	50.3	49.1	47.0	47.0	49.1	50.7	55.4	54.4	-0.9
Young Adults	63.4	61.2	61.2	58.5	59.0	58.2	58.4	58.5	58.5	0.0
Marijuana/Hashish										
8th Grade	10.2	11.2	12.6	16.7	19.9	23.1	22.6	22.2	22.0	-0.2
10th Grade	23.4	21.4	24.4	30.4	34.1	39.8	42.3	39.6	40.9	+1.3
12th Grade	36.7	32.6	35.3	38.2	41.7	44.9	49.6	49.1	49.7	+0.6
College Students	46.3	44.1	42.0	42.2	41.7	45.1	46.1	49.9	50.8	+0.9
Young Adults	58.6	56.4	55.9	53.7	53.6	53.4	53.8	54.4	54.6	+0.2
Inhalants <sup>bc</sup>										
8th Grade	17.6	17.4	19.4	19.9	21.6	21.2	21.0	20.5	19.7	-0.8
10th Grade	15.7	16.6	17.5	18.0	19.0	19.3	18.3	18.3	17.0	-1.3
12th Grade	17.6	16.6	17.4	17.7	17.4	16.6	16.1	15.2	15.4	+0.2
College Students	14.4	14.2	14.8	12.0	13.8	11.4	12.4	12.8	12.4	-0.4
Young Adults	13.4	13.5	14.1	13.2	14.5	14.1	14.1	14.2	14.2	0.0
Nitrites <sup>d</sup>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.7	1.7	-1.0
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-1 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	<u>Lifetime</u>									<u>'98-'99 change</u>
	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>										
8th Grade	3.2	3.8	3.9	4.3	5.2	5.9	5.4	4.9	4.8	-0.1
10th Grade	6.1	6.4	6.8	8.1	9.3	10.5	10.5	9.8	9.7	-0.1
12th Grade	9.6	9.2	10.9	11.4	12.7	14.0	15.1	14.1	13.7	-0.4
College Students	11.3	12.0	11.8	10.0	13.0	12.6	13.8	15.2	14.8	-0.4
Young Adults	15.7	15.7	15.4	15.4	16.1	16.4	16.8	17.4	18.0	+0.5
LSD										
8th Grade	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.7	4.4	5.1	4.7	4.1	4.1	0.0
10th Grade	5.6	5.8	6.2	7.2	8.4	9.4	9.5	8.5	8.5	0.0
12th Grade	8.8	8.6	10.3	10.5	11.7	12.6	13.6	12.6	12.2	-0.4
College Students	9.6	10.6	10.6	9.2	11.5	10.8	11.7	13.1	12.7	-0.5
Young Adults	13.5	13.8	13.6	13.8	14.5	15.0	15.0	15.7	16.2	+0.5
Hallucinogens Other Than LSD										
8th Grade	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.4	-0.1
10th Grade	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.8	3.9	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.7	-0.3
12th Grade	3.7	3.3	3.9	4.9	5.4	6.8	7.5	7.1	6.7	-0.4
College Students	6.0	5.7	5.4	4.4	6.5	6.5	7.5	8.7	8.8	+0.1
Young Adults	8.4	8.0	7.6	7.4	7.8	7.9	8.5	9.4	9.3	-0.1
PCP <sup>d</sup>										
8th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
12th Grade	2.9	2.4	2.9	2.8	2.7	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.4	-0.5
College Students	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Young Adults	3.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.3	-0.4
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>d</sup>										
8th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.7	0.0
10th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	5.6	5.7	5.1	6.0	+0.9
12th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	6.1	6.9	5.8	8.0	+2.3s
College Students	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.1	3.1	4.3	4.7	6.8	8.4	+1.5
Young Adults	3.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.5	5.2	5.1	7.2	7.1	-0.1

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-1 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Lifetime									'98-'99 change
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
<b>Cocaine</b>										
8th Grade	2.3	2.9	2.9	3.6	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.7	+0.1
10th Grade	4.1	3.3	3.6	4.3	5.0	6.5	7.1	7.2	7.7	+0.5
12th Grade	7.8	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	7.1	8.7	9.3	9.8	+0.5
College Students	9.4	7.9	6.3	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.6	8.1	8.4	+0.3
Young Adults	21.0	19.5	16.9	15.2	13.7	12.9	12.1	12.3	12.8	+0.5
<b>Crack</b>										
8th Grade	1.3	1.6	1.7	2.4	2.7	2.9	2.7	3.2	3.1	-0.1
10th Grade	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.8	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.0	+0.1
12th Grade	3.1	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.9	4.4	4.6	+0.2
College Students	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.2	1.4	2.2	2.4	+0.2
Young Adults	4.8	5.1	4.3	4.4	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.3	+0.5
<b>Other Cocaine<sup>f</sup></b>										
8th Grade	2.0	2.4	2.4	3.0	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.8	+0.1
10th Grade	3.8	3.0	3.3	3.8	4.4	5.5	6.1	6.4	6.8	+0.4
12th Grade	7.0	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.1	6.4	8.2	8.4	8.8	+0.4
College Students	9.0	7.6	6.3	4.6	5.2	4.6	5.0	7.4	7.8	+0.5
Young Adults	19.8	18.4	15.1	13.9	12.4	11.9	11.3	11.5	11.8	+0.3
<b>Heroin<sup>g</sup></b>										
8th Grade	1.2	1.4	1.4	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.3	0.0
10th Grade	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	0.0
12th Grade	0.9	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	0.0
College Students	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.7	0.9	-0.8s
Young Adults	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	+0.1
<b>With a needle<sup>e</sup></b>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.6	+0.2
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	+0.1
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	+0.1
College Students	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8	+0.3
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	+0.2
<b>Without a needle<sup>e</sup></b>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	1.5	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	-0.1
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	1.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	-0.1
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	1.4	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.8	+0.2
College Students	—	—	—	—	0.5	1.0	1.2	2.1	1.0	-1.1
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.9	+0.2
<b>Other Narcotics<sup>h</sup></b>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	6.6	6.1	6.4	6.6	7.2	8.2	9.7	9.8	10.2	+0.4
College Students	7.3	7.3	6.2	5.1	7.2	5.7	8.2	8.7	8.7	+0.1
Young Adults	9.3	8.9	8.1	8.2	9.0	8.3	9.2	9.1	9.5	+0.4

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-1 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Lifetime									'98-'99 change
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
<b>Amphetamines<sup>h</sup></b>										
8th Grade	10.5	10.8	11.8	12.3	13.1	13.5	12.3	11.3	10.7	-0.6
10th Grade	13.2	13.1	14.9	15.1	17.4	17.7	17.0	16.0	15.7	-0.3
12th Grade	15.4	13.9	15.1	15.7	15.3	15.9	16.5	16.4	16.3	-0.1
College Students	13.0	10.5	10.1	9.2	10.7	9.5	10.6	10.6	11.9	+1.3
Young Adults	22.4	20.2	18.7	17.1	16.6	15.3	14.6	14.3	14.1	-0.2
<b>Methamphetamine<sup>ij</sup></b>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.5	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.3	—
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.2	—
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.1	—
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8.8	—
<b>Ice<sup>j</sup></b>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.9	4.4	4.4	5.3	4.8	-0.5
College Students	1.3	0.6	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.6	2.2	2.8	+0.5
Young Adults	2.9	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.1	3.1	2.5	3.4	3.3	0.0
<b>Barbiturates<sup>h</sup></b>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	6.2	5.5	6.3	7.0	7.4	7.6	8.1	8.7	8.9	+0.2
College Students	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.2	4.0	4.6	5.2	5.7	6.7	+1.0
Young Adults	8.2	7.4	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.9	7.4	+0.4
<b>Tranquilizers<sup>h</sup></b>										
8th Grade	3.8	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.5	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.4	-0.2
10th Grade	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.4	6.0	7.1	7.3	7.8	7.9	+0.1
12th Grade	7.2	6.0	6.4	6.6	7.1	7.2	7.8	8.5	9.3	+0.8
College Students	6.8	6.9	6.3	4.4	5.4	5.3	6.9	7.7	8.2	+0.5
Young Adults	11.8	11.3	10.5	9.9	9.7	9.3	8.6	9.6	9.6	-0.1
<b>Rohypno<sup>ld</sup></b>										
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	-0.1
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.8	-0.2
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	1.2	1.8	3.0	2.0	-1.0
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-1 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	<u>Lifetime</u>									'98-'99 change
	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	
<b>Alcohol<sup>1</sup></b>										
Any use										
8th Grade	70.1	69.3	67.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	83.8	82.3	80.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	88.0	87.5	87.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
College Students	93.6	91.8	89.3	80.4	80.7	79.2	81.7	81.4	80.0	-1.4
Young Adults	94.1	93.4	92.1	91.2	91.6	91.2	90.7	90.6	90.2	-0.4
Been Drunk <sup>1</sup>										
8th Grade	26.7	26.8	26.4	25.9	25.3	26.8	25.2	24.8	24.8	0.0
10th Grade	50.0	47.7	47.9	47.2	46.9	48.5	49.4	46.7	48.9	+2.2
12th Grade	65.4	63.4	62.5	62.9	63.2	61.8	64.2	62.4	62.3	-0.1
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Cigarettes</b>										
Any use										
8th Grade	44.0	45.2	45.3	46.1	46.4	49.2	47.3	45.7	44.1	-1.6
10th Grade	55.1	53.5	56.3	56.9	57.6	61.2	60.2	57.7	57.6	-0.1
12th Grade	63.1	61.8	61.9	62.0	64.2	63.5	65.4	65.3	64.6	-0.7
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Smokeless Tobacco<sup>4</sup></b>										
8th Grade	22.2	20.7	18.7	19.9	20.0	20.4	16.8	15.0	14.4	-0.6
10th Grade	28.2	26.6	28.1	29.2	27.6	27.4	26.3	22.7	20.4	-2.3
12th Grade	—	32.4	31.0	30.7	30.9	29.8	25.3	26.2	23.4	-2.8
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Steroids<sup>1</sup></b>										
8th Grade	1.9	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.7	+0.4
10th Grade	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.7	+0.7 <sup>ss</sup>
12th Grade	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.9	+0.2
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.9	+0.4

### Footnotes for Table 2-1 to Table 2-3

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two years:  $s = .05$ ,  $ss = .01$ ,  $sss = .001$ .  
 — indicates data not available. "\*" indicates less than .05 percent but greater than 0 percent.  
 Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence of use estimates for the two years is due to rounding error.

SOURCE: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

Approximate Weighted Ns	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
8th Graders	17,500	18,600	18,300	17,300	17,500	17,800	18,600	18,100	16,700
10th Graders	14,800	14,800	15,300	15,800	17,000	15,600	15,500	15,000	13,600
12th Graders	15,000	15,800	16,300	15,400	15,400	14,300	15,400	15,200	13,600
College Students	1,410	1,490	1,490	1,410	1,450	1,450	1,480	1,440	1,440
Young Adults	6,600	6,800	6,700	6,500	6,400	6,300	6,400	6,200	6,000

<sup>a</sup>For 12th graders, college students, and young adults only: Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, LSD, other hallucinogens, crack, other cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders. For 8th and 10th graders only: The use of other narcotics and barbiturates has been excluded, because these younger respondents appear to overreport use (perhaps because they include the use of nonprescription drugs in their answers).

<sup>b</sup>For 12th graders, college students, and young adults only: Data based on on five of six forms in 1991-98; N is five-sixths of N indicated. Data based on three of six forms in 1999; N is three-sixths of N indicated.

<sup>c</sup>Inhalants are unadjusted for underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites; hallucinogens are unadjusted for underreporting of PCP.

<sup>d</sup>For 8th and 10th graders only: MDMA data based on one form in 1996; N is one-half of N indicated. Beginning in 1997, data based on one-third of N indicated due to changes in the questionnaire forms. Rohypnol data based on one-third of N due to changes in the questionnaire forms. Smokeless tobacco data based on one of two forms for 1991-96 and on two of four forms beginning in 1997; N is one-half of N indicated. For 12th graders only: Data based on one form; N is one-sixth of N indicated. For college students and young adults only: Data based on two forms; N is one-third of N indicated. Questions about nitrite use were dropped from the college student and young adult questionnaires in 1995. Questions about smokeless tobacco use were dropped from the college student and young adult analyses in 1989.

<sup>e</sup>For 12th graders, college students, and young adults only: Data based on four of six forms; N is four-sixths of N indicated for each group.

<sup>f</sup>In 1995, the heroin question was changed in three of six forms for 12th graders and in one of two forms for 8th and 10th graders. Separate questions were asked for use with injection and without injection. In 1996, the heroin question was changed in all remaining 8th and 10th grade forms. Data presented here represent the combined data from all forms.

<sup>g</sup>For 8th and 10th graders only: Data based on one of two forms in 1995; N is one-half of N indicated. For 12th graders only: Data based on three of six forms; N is three-sixths of N indicated.

<sup>h</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>i</sup>For 8th and 10th graders only: Data based on one of four forms; N is one-third of N indicated.

<sup>j</sup>For 12th graders, college students, and young adults only: Data based on two of six forms; N is two-sixths of N indicated for each group.

<sup>k</sup>For 8th and 10th graders only: Data based on one of two forms in 1996-97; N is one-half of N indicated. Data based on three of four forms in 1998; N is two-thirds of N indicated. Data based on two of four forms in 1999; N is one-third of N indicated.

<sup>l</sup>For 8th, 10th, and 12th graders only: In 1993, the question text was changed slightly in half of the forms to indicate that a "drink" meant "more than just a few sips." The data in the upper line for alcohol came from forms using the original wording, while the data in the lower line came from forms using the revised wording. In 1993, each line of data was based on one of two forms for the 8th and 10th graders and on three of six forms for the 12th graders. N is one-half of N indicated for these groups. Beginning in 1994, data were based on all forms for all grades. For college students and young adults, the revision of the question text resulted in rather little change in the reported prevalence of use. The data for all forms are used to provide the most reliable estimate of change.

<sup>m</sup>Daily used is defined as use on twenty or more occasions in the past thirty days except for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, for which actual daily use is measured, and for 5+ drinks, for which the prevalence of having five or more drinks in a row in the last two weeks is measured.



**TABLE 2-2**  
**Trends in Annual and 30-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Annual										30-Day									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Any Illicit Drug<sup>a</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	11.3	12.9	15.1	18.5	21.4	23.6	22.1	21.0	20.5	-0.5	5.7	6.8	8.4	10.9	12.4	14.6	12.9	12.1	12.2	+0.1
10th Grade	21.4	20.4	24.7	30.0	33.3	37.5	38.5	35.0	35.9	+0.9	11.6	11.0	14.0	18.5	20.2	23.2	23.0	21.5	22.1	+0.6
12th Grade	29.4	27.1	31.0	35.8	39.0	40.2	42.4	41.4	42.1	+0.7	16.4	14.4	18.3	21.9	23.8	24.6	26.2	25.6	25.9	+0.3
College Students	29.2	30.6	30.6	31.4	33.5	34.2	34.1	37.8	36.9	-0.9	15.2	16.1	15.1	16.0	19.1	17.6	19.2	19.7	21.6	+1.8
Young Adults	27.0	28.3	28.4	28.4	29.8	29.2	29.2	29.9	30.3	+0.4	15.1	14.8	14.9	15.3	15.8	15.8	16.4	16.1	17.1	+1.0
<b>Any Illicit Drug Other Than Marijuana<sup>a</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	8.4	9.3	10.4	11.3	12.6	13.1	11.8	11.0	10.5	-0.5	3.8	4.7	5.3	5.6	6.5	6.9	6.0	5.5	5.5	0.0
10th Grade	12.2	12.3	13.9	15.2	17.5	18.4	18.2	16.6	16.7	+0.1	5.5	5.7	6.5	7.1	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.6	8.6	0.0
12th Grade	16.2	14.9	17.1	18.0	19.4	19.8	20.7	20.2	20.7	+0.5	7.1	6.3	7.9	8.8	10.0	9.5	10.7	10.7	10.4	-0.3
College Students	13.2	13.1	12.5	12.2	15.9	12.8	15.8	14.0	15.4	+1.3	4.3	4.6	5.4	4.6	6.3	4.5	6.8	6.1	6.4	+0.2
Young Adults	14.3	14.1	13.0	13.0	13.8	13.2	13.6	13.2	13.7	+0.5	5.4	5.5	4.9	5.3	5.7	4.7	5.5	5.5	6.0	+0.5
<b>Any Illicit Drug Including Inhalants<sup>a,b</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	16.7	18.2	21.1	24.2	27.1	28.7	27.2	26.2	25.3	-0.9	8.8	10.0	12.0	14.3	16.1	17.5	16.0	14.9	15.1	+0.2
10th Grade	23.9	23.5	27.4	32.5	35.6	39.6	40.3	37.1	37.7	+0.6	13.1	12.6	15.5	20.0	21.6	24.5	24.1	22.5	23.1	+0.6
12th Grade	31.2	28.8	32.5	37.6	40.2	41.9	43.3	42.4	42.8	+0.4	17.8	15.5	19.3	23.0	24.8	25.5	26.9	26.6	26.4	-0.2
College Students	29.8	31.1	31.7	31.9	33.7	35.1	35.5	39.1	37.4	-1.6	15.1	16.5	15.7	16.4	19.6	18.0	19.6	21.0	21.8	+0.9
Young Adults	27.8	29.2	28.9	29.2	30.4	30.2	30.1	30.6	30.6	+0.1	15.4	15.3	15.1	16.1	16.1	16.4	16.9	16.7	17.4	+0.7
<b>Marijuana/Hashish</b>																				
8th Grade	6.2	7.2	9.2	13.0	15.8	18.3	17.7	16.9	16.5	-0.4	3.2	3.7	5.1	7.8	9.1	11.3	10.2	9.7	9.7	0.0
10th Grade	16.5	15.2	19.2	25.2	28.7	33.6	34.8	31.1	32.1	+1.0	8.7	8.1	10.9	15.8	17.2	20.4	20.5	18.7	19.4	+0.7
12th Grade	23.9	21.9	26.0	30.7	34.7	35.8	38.5	37.5	37.8	+0.3	13.8	11.9	15.5	19.0	21.2	21.9	23.7	22.8	23.1	+0.3
College Students	26.5	27.7	27.9	29.3	31.2	33.1	31.6	35.9	35.2	-0.7	14.1	14.6	14.2	15.1	18.6	17.5	17.7	18.6	20.7	+2.0
Young Adults	23.8	25.2	25.1	25.5	26.5	27.0	26.8	27.4	27.6	+0.2	13.5	13.3	13.4	14.1	14.0	15.1	15.0	14.9	15.6	+0.7
<b>Inhalants<sup>a,c</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	9.0	9.5	11.0	11.7	12.8	12.2	11.8	11.1	10.3	-0.8	4.4	4.7	5.4	5.6	6.1	5.8	5.6	4.8	5.0	+0.2
10th Grade	7.1	7.5	8.4	9.1	9.6	9.5	8.7	8.0	7.2	-0.8	2.7	2.7	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.9	2.6	-0.3
12th Grade	6.6	6.2	7.0	7.7	8.0	7.6	6.7	6.2	5.6	-0.6	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.7	3.2	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.0	-0.3
College Students	3.5	3.1	3.8	3.0	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.0	3.2	+0.2	0.9	1.1	1.3	0.6	1.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.5	+0.8
Young Adults	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	+0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	+0.1
<b>Nitrites<sup>d</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	0.9	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.6	1.2	1.4	0.9	-0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.4	-0.6s
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	0.1	0.2	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Annual and 30-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Annual										30-Day									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Hallucinogens<sup>c</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.7	3.6	4.1	3.7	3.4	2.9	-0.5	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.3	-0.1
10th Grade	4.0	4.3	4.7	5.8	7.2	7.8	7.6	6.9	6.9	0.0	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.4	3.3	2.8	3.3	3.2	2.9	-0.3
12th Grade	5.8	5.9	7.4	7.6	9.3	10.1	9.8	9.0	9.4	+0.4	2.2	2.1	2.7	3.1	4.4	3.5	3.9	3.8	3.5	-0.3
College Students	6.3	6.8	6.0	6.2	8.2	6.9	7.7	7.2	7.8	+0.7	1.2	2.3	2.5	2.1	3.3	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	-0.1
Young Adults	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.9	5.2	5.4	+0.3	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	-0.1
<b>LSD</b>																				
8th Grade	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.4	3.2	3.5	3.2	2.8	2.4	-0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.1	0.0
10th Grade	3.7	4.0	4.2	5.2	6.5	6.9	6.7	5.9	6.0	+0.1	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.0	3.0	2.4	2.8	2.7	2.3	-0.4
12th Grade	5.2	5.6	6.8	6.9	8.4	8.8	8.4	7.6	8.1	+0.5	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.6	4.0	2.5	3.1	3.2	2.7	-0.5
College Students	5.1	5.7	5.1	5.2	6.9	5.2	5.0	4.4	5.4	+1.0	0.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.5	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.2	-0.3
Young Adults	3.8	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.4	3.5	4.0	+0.6	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8	-0.1
<b>Hallucinogens Other Than LSD</b>																				
8th Grade	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.5	-0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	-0.1
10th Grade	1.3	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2	-0.2	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.2	-0.2
12th Grade	2.0	1.7	2.2	3.1	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.3	-0.3	0.7	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	0.0
College Students	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.8	4.0	4.1	4.9	4.4	4.5	+0.1	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.8	1.6	1.2	1.2	0.7	1.2	+0.5
Young Adults	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.5	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.0	-0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	+0.1
<b>PCP<sup>d</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.8	-0.3	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.3	0.7	1.0	0.8	-0.2
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
<b>MDMA (Ecstasy)<sup>d</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.7	-0.1	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	-0.1
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	4.6	3.9	3.3	4.4	+1.1s	—	—	—	—	—	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.8	+0.5
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	4.6	4.0	3.6	5.6	+2.0ss	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	1.6	1.5	2.5	+1.0s
College Students	0.9	2.0	0.8	0.5	2.4	2.8	2.4	3.9	5.5	+1.6	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	2.1	+1.3
Young Adults	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.7	2.1	2.9	3.6	+0.7	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.3	+0.6

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Annual and 30-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Annual										30-Day									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Cocaine</b>																				
8th Grade	1.1	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.6	3.0	2.8	3.1	2.7	-0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3	-0.1
10th Grade	2.2	1.9	2.1	2.8	3.5	4.2	4.7	4.7	4.9	+0.2	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.7	1.7	2.0	2.1	1.8	-0.3
12th Grade	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.9	5.5	5.7	6.2	+0.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.6	+0.2
College Students	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.6	2.9	3.4	4.6	4.6	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	-0.4
Young Adults	6.2	5.7	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.4	+0.5	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.7	1.9	+0.3
<b>Crack</b>																				
8th Grade	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.8	-0.4s	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.8	-0.1
10th Grade	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.4	-0.1	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.8	-0.3s
12th Grade	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.7	+0.2	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	+0.1
College Students	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.9	-0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	+0.1
Young Adults	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	+0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	+0.2
<b>Other Cocaine*</b>																				
8th Grade	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.3	-0.1	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.1	+0.1
10th Grade	2.1	1.7	1.8	2.4	3.0	3.5	4.1	4.0	4.4	+0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.6	-0.2
12th Grade	3.2	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.4	4.2	5.0	4.9	5.8	+0.9	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.5	+0.5
College Students	3.2	2.4	2.5	1.8	3.3	2.3	3.0	4.2	4.2	0.0	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.6	1.3	1.5	1.0	-0.5
Young Adults	5.4	5.1	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.5	4.8	+0.4	1.8	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.6	+0.2
<b>Heroin<sup>f</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	+0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0
10th Grade	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.0
12th Grade	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	+0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0
College Students	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.0	*	0.0	0.1	*	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Young Adults	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>With a needle<sup>g</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	+0.1	—	—	—	—	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	-0.1
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	-0.2	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	-0.1
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0
College Students	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	+0.1
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.1	*	0.1	+0.1
<b>Without a needle<sup>g</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	+0.1	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	+0.1
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	+0.1	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.0
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.0	+0.2	—	—	—	—	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.0
College Students	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.3	-0.5	—	—	—	—	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	+0.1
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	-0.1	—	—	—	—	0.1	*	0.1	0.2	0.2	+0.1
<b>Other Narcotics<sup>h</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12th Grade	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.7	+0.4	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.6	+0.2
College Students	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.8	3.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	+0.1	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.4	1.2	0.7	1.3	1.1	1.0	-0.1
Young Adults	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.4	3.8	+0.4	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.2	+0.3

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Annual and 30-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Annual										30-Day									
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Amphetamines<sup>h</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	6.2	6.5	7.2	7.9	8.7	9.1	8.1	7.2	6.9	-0.3	2.6	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.2	4.6	3.8	3.3	3.4	+0.1
10th Grade	8.2	8.2	9.6	10.2	11.9	12.4	12.1	10.7	10.4	-0.3	3.3	3.6	4.3	4.5	5.3	5.5	5.1	5.1	5.0	-0.1
12th Grade	8.2	7.1	8.4	9.4	9.3	9.5	10.2	10.1	10.2	+0.1	3.2	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	-0.1
College Students	3.9	3.6	4.2	4.2	5.4	4.2	5.7	5.1	5.8	+0.8	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.5	2.2	0.9	2.1	1.7	2.3	+0.6
Young Adults	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.7	+0.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.9	+0.2
<b>Methamphetamine<sup>ij</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.1	--
10th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.8	--
12th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.7	--
College Students	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.2	--
Young Adults	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.8	--
<b>Ice<sup>j</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
12th Grade	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.3	3.0	1.9	-1.1 <sup>ss</sup>	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.8	-0.4
College Students	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.3
Young Adults	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	-0.2	*	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	+0.1
<b>Barbiturates<sup>h</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
12th Grade	3.4	2.8	3.4	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.5	5.8	+0.3	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.6	0.0
College Students	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.2	2.0	2.3	3.0	2.5	3.2	+0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.0
Young Adults	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.8	+0.2	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	+0.2
<b>Tranquilizers<sup>h</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.6	2.5	-0.1	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	-0.1
10th Grade	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.3	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.4	+0.3	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.7	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0
12th Grade	3.6	2.8	3.5	3.7	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.5	5.8	+0.3	1.4	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.4	2.5	+0.1
College Students	2.4	2.9	2.4	1.8	2.9	2.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	-0.1	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.1	-0.3
Young Adults	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.8	3.7	-0.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.3	+0.1
<b>Rohypnol<sup>dk</sup></b>																				
8th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.5	-0.3 <sup>s</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	-0.1
10th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.0	-0.2	--	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	+0.1
12th Grade	--	--	--	--	--	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.0	-0.4	--	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0
College Students	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Young Adults	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 2-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Annual and 30-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Drugs**  
**for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Annual										30-Day											
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change		
<b>Alcohol<sup>1</sup></b>																						
Any use																						
8th Grade	54.0	53.7	51.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25.1	26.1	26.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
10th Grade	72.3	70.2	69.3	45.4	46.8	45.3	46.5	45.5	43.7	43.5	+0.2	—	—	24.3	25.5	24.6	26.2	24.5	23.0	24.0	+1.0	
12th Grade	77.7	76.8	76.0	63.4	63.9	63.5	65.0	65.2	62.7	63.7	+1.0	42.8	39.9	41.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
College Students	88.9	86.9	85.1	72.7	73.0	73.7	72.5	74.8	74.3	73.8	-0.5	54.0	51.3	51.0	38.2	39.2	38.8	40.4	40.1	38.8	40.0	+1.2
Young Adults	86.9	86.2	85.3	83.7	83.2	82.9	82.4	84.6	83.6	83.6	-1.0	48.6	50.1	51.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-1.0
Young Adults	86.9	86.2	85.3	83.7	84.7	84.0	84.3	84.0	84.1	84.1	+0.1	70.6	69.0	68.3	67.7	68.1	66.7	67.5	66.9	68.2	68.2	+1.4
<b>Been Drunk<sup>1</sup></b>																						
8th Grade	17.5	18.3	18.2	18.2	18.4	19.8	18.4	17.9	18.5	+0.6	7.6	7.5	7.8	8.7	8.3	9.6	8.2	8.4	9.4	9.4	+1.0	
10th Grade	40.1	37.0	37.8	38.0	38.5	40.1	40.7	38.3	40.9	+2.6s	20.5	18.1	19.8	20.3	20.8	21.3	22.4	21.1	22.5	22.5	+1.4	
12th Grade	52.7	50.3	49.6	51.7	52.5	51.9	53.2	52.0	53.2	+1.2	31.6	29.9	28.9	30.8	33.2	31.3	34.2	32.9	32.9	32.9	0.0	
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<b>Cigarettes</b>																						
Any use																						
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14.3	15.5	16.7	18.6	19.1	21.0	19.4	19.1	17.5	17.5	-1.6s	
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.8	21.5	24.7	25.4	27.9	30.4	29.8	27.6	25.7	25.7	-1.9	
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28.3	27.8	29.9	31.2	33.5	34.0	36.5	35.1	34.6	34.6	-0.5	
College Students	35.6	37.3	38.8	37.6	39.3	41.4	43.6	44.3	44.5	+0.2	24.2	23.5	24.5	23.5	26.8	27.9	28.3	30.0	30.6	30.6	+0.7	
Young Adults	37.7	37.9	37.8	38.3	38.8	40.3	41.8	41.6	41.1	-0.4	28.2	28.3	28.0	28.0	29.2	30.1	29.9	30.9	30.3	30.3	-0.6	
<b>Smokeless Tobacco<sup>4</sup></b>																						
8th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.9	7.0	6.6	7.7	7.1	7.1	5.5	4.8	4.5	4.5	-0.3	
10th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10.0	9.6	10.4	10.5	9.7	8.6	8.9	7.5	6.5	6.5	-1.0	
12th Grade	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.4	10.7	11.1	12.2	9.8	9.7	8.8	8.4	8.4	-0.4	
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<b>Steroids<sup>2</sup></b>																						
8th Grade	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.7	+0.5sss	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	+0.2s	
10th Grade	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.7	+0.5sss	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.9	+0.3s	
12th Grade	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.8	+0.1	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	-0.2	
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Young Adults	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	+0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	+0.1	

**TABLE 2-3**

**Trends in 30-Day Prevalence of Daily Use of Various Drugs for Eighth, Tenth, and Twelfth Graders, College Students, and Young Adults (Ages 19-28)**

	Daily									'98-'99 change
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
<b>Marijuana/Hashish, daily<sup>aa</sup></b>										
8th Grade	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.4	+0.3
10th Grade	0.8	0.8	1.0	2.2	2.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.8	+0.2
12th Grade	2.0	1.9	2.4	3.6	4.6	4.9	5.8	5.6	6.0	+0.4
College Students	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.8	3.7	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.0	0.0
Young Adults	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.7	4.4	+0.7
<b>Alcohol<sup>bb</sup></b>										
Any daily use										
8th Grade	0.5	0.6	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			1.0	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	+0.1
10th Grade	1.3	1.2	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.9	1.9	0.0
12th Grade	3.6	3.4	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			3.4	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.4	-0.6s
College Students	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.0	3.2	4.5	3.9	4.5	+0.6
Young Adults	4.9	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.6	4.0	4.8	+0.9s
<b>Been Drunk, daily<sup>bb</sup></b>										
8th Grade	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	+0.1
10th Grade	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.7	+0.1
12th Grade	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.6	2.0	1.5	1.9	+0.4
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>5+ drinks in a row in last 2 weeks</b>										
8th Grade	12.9	13.4	13.5	14.5	14.5	15.6	14.5	13.7	15.2	+1.5s
10th Grade	22.9	21.1	23.0	23.6	24.0	24.8	25.1	24.3	25.6	+1.3
12th Grade	29.8	27.9	27.5	28.2	29.8	30.2	31.3	31.5	30.8	-0.7
College Students	42.8	41.4	40.2	40.2	38.6	38.3	40.7	38.9	40.0	+1.1
Young Adults	34.7	34.2	34.4	33.7	32.6	33.6	34.4	34.1	35.8	+1.7
<b>Cigarettes</b>										
Any daily use										
8th Grade	7.2	7.0	8.3	8.8	9.3	10.4	9.0	8.8	8.1	-0.7
10th Grade	12.6	12.3	14.2	14.6	16.3	18.3	18.0	15.8	15.9	+0.1
12th Grade	18.5	17.2	19.0	19.4	21.6	22.2	24.6	22.4	23.1	+0.7
College Students	13.8	14.1	15.2	13.2	15.8	15.9	15.2	18.0	19.3	+1.3
Young Adults	21.7	20.9	20.8	20.7	21.2	21.8	20.6	21.9	21.5	-0.3
<b>1/2 pack+/day</b>										
8th Grade	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.6	3.4	4.3	3.5	3.6	3.3	-0.3
10th Grade	6.5	6.0	7.0	7.6	8.3	9.4	8.6	7.9	7.6	-0.3
12th Grade	10.7	10.0	10.9	11.2	12.4	13.0	14.3	12.6	13.2	+0.6
College Students	8.0	8.9	8.9	8.0	10.2	8.4	9.1	11.3	11.0	-0.3
Young Adults	16.0	15.7	15.5	15.3	15.7	15.3	14.6	15.6	15.1	-0.5
<b>Smokeless Tobacco, daily<sup>d</sup></b>										
8th Grade	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	-0.1
10th Grade	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.5	-0.7
12th Grade	—	4.3	3.3	3.9	3.6	3.3	4.4	3.2	2.9	-0.3
College Students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOTE: See Table 2-1 for relevant footnotes

## Chapter 3

### STUDY DESIGN AND PROCEDURES

Monitoring the Future has a complex cohort sequential design appropriate for distinguishing and explaining three different types of change: period related, age related, and cohort related. This chapter contains a description of this research design, including the sampling plans and field procedures used in both the in-school surveys of the eighth-, tenth-, and twelfth-grade students and the follow-up surveys of young adults. Related methodological issues such as response rates, population coverage, and the validity of the measures are also discussed. We begin with a description of the design that has been used consistently over twenty-five years to survey high school seniors; then we describe the more recently instituted design for eighth and tenth graders. Finally, the designs for the *follow-up* surveys of former twelfth graders, and former eighth and tenth graders, are covered.<sup>6,7</sup>

#### RESEARCH DESIGN AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SURVEYS OF SENIORS

The data from high school seniors have been collected during the spring of each year starting with the class of 1975. Each year's data collection takes place in approximately 125 to 145 public and private high schools selected to provide an accurate representative cross-section of high school seniors throughout the coterminous United States (see Figure 3-1).

#### *The Population under Study*

The senior year of high school was chosen as an optimal point for monitoring the drug use and related attitudes of youth for several reasons. First, completion of high school represents the end of an important developmental stage in this society because it demarcates both the end of universal education and, for many, the end of living in the parental home. Therefore, it is a logical point at which to take stock of the cumulated influences of these two environments on American youth. Further, completion of high school represents the jumping-off point from which young people diverge into widely differing social environments and experiences. Senior year, then, represents a good time

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<sup>6</sup>For a more detailed description of the study design, see Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L. D., & O'Malley, P. M. (1996). *Monitoring the Future project after twenty-two years: Design and procedures*. (Monitoring the Future Occasional Paper 38.) Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research.

<sup>7</sup>For a more detailed description of the full range of research objectives of Monitoring the Future, see Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., Schulenberg, J., & Bachman, J. G. (1996). *The aims and objectives of the Monitoring the Future study and progress toward fulfilling them* (2nd ed.). Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research.

## *Monitoring the Future*

to take a “before” measure that allows calculation of changes that may be attributable to the many environmental and role transitions that occur in young adulthood. Finally, there were some important practical advantages to building the original system of data collections around samples of high school seniors. The need for systematically repeated, large-scale samples from which to make reliable estimates of change requires that considerable stress be laid on cost efficiency as well as feasibility. The last year of high school constitutes the final point at which a reasonably good national sample of an age-specific cohort can be drawn and studied economically.

### *The Omission of Dropouts*

One limitation in the study design is the exclusion of those young men and women who drop out of high school before graduation—between 15 and 20 percent of each age cohort nationally, according to U.S. Census statistics. Clearly, the omission of high school dropouts introduces biases in the estimation of certain characteristics of the entire age group; however, for most purposes, the small proportion of dropouts sets outer limits on the bias. Further, since the bias from missing dropouts should remain just about constant from year to year, their omission should introduce little or no bias in *change* estimates. Indeed, we believe the changes observed over time for those who finish high school are likely to parallel the changes for dropouts in most instances. Appendix A to Volume I addresses the likely effects of the exclusion of dropouts on estimates of prevalence of drug use and trends in drug use among the entire age cohort; the reader is referred there for a more detailed discussion of this issue.

### *Sampling Procedures*

A multi-stage random sampling procedure is used to secure the nationwide sample of high school seniors each year. Stage 1 is the selection of particular geographic areas, Stage 2 is the selection (with probability proportionate to size) of one or more high schools in each area, and Stage 3 is the selection of seniors within each high school. Within each school, up to about 350 seniors may be included. In schools with fewer seniors, the usual procedure is to include all of them in the data collection. In larger schools, a subset of seniors is selected either by randomly sampling entire classrooms or by some other unbiased, random method. Weights are assigned to compensate for differential probabilities of selection at each stage. Final weights are normalized to average 1.0 (so that the weighted number of cases equals the unweighted number of cases overall). This three-stage sampling procedure has yielded the number of participating schools and students over the years shown in Table 3-1.

### *Questionnaire Administration*

About ten days before the questionnaire administration date, the seniors are given flyers explaining the study. Local Institute for Social Research representatives and their assistants conduct the actual questionnaire administrations following standardized procedures that are detailed in a project instruction manual. The questionnaires are



administered in classrooms during a normal class period whenever possible; however, circumstances in some schools require the use of larger group administrations.

### *Questionnaire Format*

Because many questions are needed to cover all of the topic areas in the study, much of the questionnaire content intended for high school seniors is divided into six different questionnaire forms that are distributed to participants in an ordered sequence that ensures six virtually identical random subsamples. (Five questionnaire forms were used between 1975 and 1988.) About one-third of each questionnaire form consists of key, or "core," variables that are common to all forms. All demographic variables, and nearly all of the drug *use* variables included in this report, are contained in this core set of measures. Many of the questions dealing with attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions of relevant features of the social environment are in a single form only, and the data are thus based on one-fifth as many cases in 1975-1988 (approximately 3,300) and on one-sixth as many cases in 1989-1999 (approximately 2,600). All tables in this report list the sample sizes upon which the statistics are based, stated in terms of the weighted number of cases (which is roughly equivalent to the actual number of cases).

## **RESEARCH DESIGN AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SURVEYS OF LOWER GRADES**

Beginning in 1991, there was an important expansion of the study to include nationally representative samples of eighth- and tenth-grade students. Surveys at these two grade levels have been conducted on an annual basis since 1991.

In general, the procedures used for the annual in-school surveys of eighth- and tenth-grade students closely parallel those used for high school seniors, including the procedures for selecting schools and students, questionnaire administration, and questionnaire formats. A major exception is that only two different questionnaire forms were used from 1991 to 1996, expanding to four forms beginning in 1997 rather than the six used with seniors. Eighth and tenth grades receive identical forms, and, for the most part, questionnaire content is drawn from the twelfth-grade questionnaires. Thus, key demographic variables and measures of drug use and related attitudes and beliefs are generally identical for all three grades. The forms used in both eighth and tenth grades have a common core (Parts B and C) that parallels the core used in twelfth-grade forms. Many fewer questions about lifestyles and values are included in the eighth- and tenth-grade forms, in part because we think that many of these attitudes are likely to be more fully formed by twelfth grade and, therefore, are best monitored there. For the national survey of eighth graders each year, approximately 155 schools (mostly junior high schools and middle schools) are sampled, and approximately 17,000 to 19,000 students are surveyed. For the tenth graders, approximately 130 high schools are sampled, and from 14,000 to 17,000 students are surveyed.

The research design originally called for follow-up surveys of subsamples of the eighth and tenth graders participating in the study, carried out at two-year intervals, similar to the twelfth-grade follow-up samples. From 1991 to 1994, this plan influenced the design of the cross-sectional studies of eighth and tenth graders in an important way. In order to "recapture" many of the eighth-grade participants two years later in the normal tenth-grade cross-sectional study for that year, we selected the eighth-grade schools by drawing a sample of high schools and then selecting a sample of their "feeder schools" that contained eighth graders. This extra stage in the sampling process meant that many of the eighth-grade participants in, say, the 1991 cross-sectional survey were also participants in the 1993 cross-sectional survey of tenth graders. Thus, a fair amount of panel data were generated at no additional cost. However, having followed this design in 1993, we concluded that the saving in follow-up costs did not justify the complexities in sampling, administration, and interpretation. Therefore, since 1994, we have used a simplified design in which eighth-grade schools were drawn independently of the tenth-grade school sample. Further follow-ups (at two-year intervals) were conducted only on panels of students drawn from the first three cohorts of students surveyed in the eighth and tenth grades, i.e., those surveyed in school in 1991, 1992, and 1993.

When follow-up surveys of new cohorts of eighth and tenth graders were no longer being conducted, the collection of personal identification information for follow-up purposes was no longer a necessity. For confidentiality reasons, this personal information had been gathered on a tear-off sheet at the back of each questionnaire. We felt that there were potential advantages in moving toward a fully anonymous procedure for these grade levels, including the following: (a) school cooperation might be easier to obtain; (b) any suppression effect the confidential mode of administration might have could be both eliminated and quantified; and (c) if there *were* any mode of administration effect, it would be removed from the national data, which are widely used for comparison purposes in state and local surveys (nearly all of which use anonymous questionnaires), and thus make those comparisons more valid. Therefore, in 1998 for the first time, in half of the eighth- and tenth-grade schools surveyed, the questionnaires administered were made fully anonymous. Specifically the matched half-sample of schools beginning their two-year participation in Monitoring the Future in 1998 received the anonymous questionnaires, while the half-sample participating in the study for their second and final year continued to get the confidential questionnaires. A careful examination of the 1998 results, based on the two equivalent half-samples at grade 8, and also at grade 10, revealed that there was no effect of this methodological change among tenth graders, and, at most, only a very modest effect in the self-reported substance use rates among eighth graders (with prevalence rates slightly higher in the anonymous condition). The net effect of this methodological change is to increase very slightly the observed eighth-grade prevalence estimates for marijuana, alcohol, and cigarettes in 1998 from what they would have been if there was no change in questionnaire administration. For those three drugs, that means that the declines in use in 1998 may be slightly understated for the eighth graders only. In other words, the direction of the change is the same as shown in the tables, but the actual declines may be slightly larger than those shown. For example, the annual prevalence of marijuana use among eighth graders is shown to have fallen by 0.8 percentage points between 1997-1998; however, the half-sample of eighth-grade schools

receiving exactly the same type of questionnaire that was used in 1997 showed a slightly greater decline of 1.5 percentage points.

For cigarettes, this change in method appeared to have no effect on self-reported rates of daily use or half-pack per day use, and to have had only a very small effect on 30-day prevalence. Thus, for example, the 30-day prevalence of cigarette use among eighth graders is shown to have fallen 0.3 percentage points between 1997-1998; however, the half-sample of eighth-grade schools receiving exactly the same type of questionnaire that was used in 1997 showed a slightly greater decline of 0.6 percentage points. Finally, lifetime cigarette prevalence is shown as falling by 1.6 percentage points between 1997 and 1998, but in the half-sample of schools with a constant methodology, it fell by 2.6 percentage points.

We have examined the effects of mode of administration in detail in a published journal article, in which we use multivariate controls to assess the effects of the change on the eighth-grade self-report data. It generally shows even less effect than is to be found without such controls.<sup>8</sup>

All tables and figures in Volume I use data from both samples of eighth graders, combined. This is also true for the tenth graders (for whom we found no methodological effect) and the twelfth graders (for whom it is assumed there is no such effect since none was found among the tenth graders). In 1999 the remaining half of the participating schools (all beginning the first of their two years of participation) received anonymous questionnaires, as well. Thus, from 1999 on, all data from eighth- and tenth-grade students are gathered using anonymous questionnaires. We continue to use confidential questionnaires with twelfth graders in order to permit follow-up of those who are randomly selected into the panel studies.

## RESEARCH DESIGN AND PROCEDURES FOR THE FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS OF SENIORS

Beginning with the graduating class of 1976, each senior class has been followed up annually on a continuing basis after high school for seven follow-up data collections, which corresponds to their reaching a modal age of 32.<sup>9</sup> From the roughly 15,000 to 17,000 seniors originally participating in a given senior class, a representative sample of 2,400 individuals is chosen for follow-up. In order to ensure sufficient numbers of drug users in the follow-up surveys, seniors reporting 20 or more occasions of using marijuana, or any use of any of the other illicit drugs in the previous 30 days, are selected with higher probability (by a factor of 3.0) than the remaining seniors. Differential weighting is then used in all follow-up analyses to compensate for these differential

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<sup>8</sup> O'Malley, P. M., Johnston, L. D., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. (2000). A comparison of confidential versus anonymous survey procedures: Effects on reporting of drug use and related attitudes and beliefs in a national study of students. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 30, 35-54.

<sup>9</sup> Further follow-ups occur (or will occur) at half-decade intervals, beginning with age 35.

sampling probabilities. Because those in the drug-using stratum receive a weight of only 0.33 in the calculation of all statistics to correct for their over-representation at the selection stage, there are actually more follow-up respondents than are reported in the weighted N's given in the tables.

The 2,400 selected respondents from each class are randomly split into two matching groups of 1,200 each; one group to be surveyed on even-numbered calendar years, and the other group to be surveyed on odd-numbered years. This two-year cycle is intended to reduce the burden on individual respondents, thus yielding a better retention rate across the years. By alternating the two half-samples, we have data from a given graduating class every year, even though any given respondent participates only every other year.

### ***Follow-up Procedures***

Using information provided by high school senior respondents on a tear-off card (containing the respondent's name, address, phone number, and the name and address of someone who would always know how to reach them), mail contact is maintained with the subset of people selected for inclusion in the follow-up panels. Newsletters are sent to them each year, and name and address corrections are requested. Questionnaires are sent to each individual biennially in the spring of each year by certified mail. A check for \$10.00, made payable to the respondent, is attached to the front of each questionnaire.<sup>10</sup> Reminder letters and postcards are sent at fixed intervals thereafter; finally, those who have not responded receive a prompting phone call from the Survey Research Center's phone interviewing facility in Ann Arbor. If requested, a second copy of the questionnaire is sent; but no questionnaire content is administered by phone. If a respondent asks not to be bothered further, that wish is honored.

### ***Panel Retention Rates***

To date, an average of about 77% of those selected for inclusion in follow-up panels have returned questionnaires in the first follow-up after high school. The retention rate declines with time, as would be expected. The 1999 panel retention from the class of 1985—the oldest of the panels in the seven biennial follow-ups, now age 32 (14 years past their first data collection in high school)—was 53%.

### ***Corrections for Panel Attrition***

Because, to a modest degree, attrition is associated with drug use, we have introduced corrections into the prevalence of use estimates for the follow-up panels. These corrections raise the prevalence estimates from the uncorrected ones, but only slightly. We believe the resulting estimates to be the most accurate obtainable for the population

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<sup>10</sup>Note that, for the class of 1991 and all prior classes, the follow-up checks were for \$5.00. The rate was raised, beginning with the class of 1992, to compensate for the effects of inflation over the life of the study. An experiment was first conducted that suggested that the increased payment was justified based on the increased panel retention it achieved.

of high school senior graduates but still low for the age group as a whole, due to the omission of dropouts and absentees from the population covered by the original panels.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Follow-up Questionnaire Format***

The questionnaires used in the follow-up surveys are very much like those used in the senior year. They are optically scanned; they contain a core section on drug use and background and demographic factors common to all forms; and they have questions about a wide range of topics at the beginning and ending sections, many of which are unique to each questionnaire form. Many of the questions asked of seniors are retained in the follow-up questionnaires, and respondents are consistently mailed the same version (or form) of the questionnaire that they first received in senior year, so that changes over time in their behaviors, attitudes, experiences, and so forth can be measured. Questions specific to high school status and experiences are dropped in the follow-up, of course, and questions relevant to post-high school status and experiences are added. Thus, there are questions about college, military service, civilian employment, marriage, parenthood, and so on.

For the early follow-up cohorts, the numbers of cases on single-form questions were one-fifth the size of the total follow-up sample because five different questionnaire forms were used. Beginning with the Class of 1989, a sixth form was introduced in senior year. That new questionnaire form was first sent to follow-up respondents in 1990; single-form data since then have N's one-sixth the total follow-up sample size. In the follow-up studies, single-form samples from a single cohort are too small to make reliable estimates; therefore, in most cases where they are reported, the data from several adjacent cohorts are combined.

## **REPRESENTATIVENESS AND SAMPLE ACCURACY**

### ***School Participation***

Schools are invited to participate in the study for a two-year period. For each school that declines to participate, a similar school (in terms of size, geographic area, urbanicity, etc.) is recruited as a replacement for that "slot." In 1999, either an original school or a replacement school was obtained in 99% of the sample units, or "slots." With very few exceptions, each school participating in the first year has agreed to participate in the second year as well. Figure 3-2 provides the year-specific school participation rates and

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<sup>11</sup>The intent of the weighting process is to correct for the effects of differential attrition on follow-up drug use estimates. Different weights are used for different substances. Cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana each have one weight for every follow-up of each graduating class. The weights are based on the observed differences in the distribution on an index of twelfth-grade use of the relevant substance for the follow-up sample compared to the distribution based on the full base-year sample. For example, the distribution on the index of marijuana use in the 1988 follow-up of approximately 1,000 respondents from the class of 1976 was compared to the original 1976 base-year distribution for the entire participating base-year class of 17,000 respondents; and weights were derived that, when applied to the base-year data for only those participating in the 1988 follow-up, would reproduce the original base-year frequency distribution. A similar procedure is used to determine a weight for all illicit drugs other than marijuana combined. In this case, however, an average weight is derived across graduating classes. Thus, the same weight is applied, for example, to all respondents in the follow-up of 1988, regardless of when they graduated from high school.

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the percentage of “slots” filled since 1977. (The data for the years prior to 1991 are for twelfth grade only; beginning in 1991, the data are for eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades combined.) As shown in the table, replacement schools are obtained in the vast majority of cases.

There are two questions that are sometimes raised with respect to school participation rates: (1) Are participation rates so low as to compromise the representativeness of the sample? (2) Does variation in participation rates over time contribute to changes in estimates of drug use?

With respect to the first issue, the selection of replacement schools (which occurs in practically all instances of an original school refusal) almost entirely removes problems of bias in region, urbanicity, and the like, that might result from certain schools refusing to participate. Other potential biases could be more subtle, however. If, for example, it turned out that most schools with “drug problems” refused to participate, the sample would be seriously biased. And if any other single factor were dominant in most refusals, that reason for refusal also might suggest a source of serious bias. In fact, however, the reasons given for a school refusing to participate tend to be varied and are often a function of happenstance events specific to that particular year; only a very small proportion specifically object to the drug-related or “sensitive” nature of the content of the survey.

If it were the case that schools differed substantially in drug use, then which particular schools participated could have a greater effect on estimates of drug use. However, the great majority of variance in drug use lies within schools, not between schools. For example, for tenth graders in 1992, between-schools variance for marijuana use was 4%-6% of the total variance (depending on the specific measure); for inhalant use, 1%-2%; for LSD, 2%-4%; for crack cocaine, 1.0%-1.5%; for alcohol use, 4%-5%; and for cigarette use, 3%-4%. (Eighth- and twelfth-grade values are similar.) To the extent that schools tend to be fairly similar in drug use, then which particular schools participate (within a selection framework that seeks national representation) has a smaller effect on estimates of drug use. The fact that the overwhelming majority of variance in drug use lies within schools implies that, at least with respect to drug use, schools are for the most part fairly similar.<sup>12</sup> Further, some, if not most, of the between-schools variance is due to differences related to region, urbanicity, etc.—factors that remain well controlled in the present sampling design because of the way in which replacement schools are selected.

With respect to the second issue, the observed data from the series make it extremely unlikely that results have been significantly affected by changes in response rate. If changes in response rates seriously affected prevalence estimates, there would be noticeable bumps up or down in concert with the changing rates. But in fact the trend

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<sup>12</sup>Among the schools that actually participated in the study, there is very little difference in substance use rates between the schools that were original selections, taken as a set, and the schools that were replacement schools. Averaged over the years 1991 through 1996, for grades 8 and 10 combined, the difference between original schools and replacement schools averaged less than 1 percentage point in the observed prevalence rates for monthly cigarette use, binge drinking, and annual marijuana use. (Original schools were slightly higher in cigarette and marijuana use and slightly lower in binge drinking.)

figures that result from this series of surveys are very smooth and change in a very orderly fashion from one year to the next. This suggests very strongly that the level of school-related error in the estimates does not vary much over time. Moreover, the fact that different substances trend in very different ways further refutes any likelihood that changes in response rates are affecting prevalence estimates. We have observed, for example, marijuana use decreasing while cocaine use was stable (in the early 1980s); alcohol use declining while cigarette use was stable (in the mid- to late 1980s); marijuana use increasing while inhalant use was decreasing (from 1994 to 1997). All of these patterns are explainable in terms of psychological, social, and cultural factors (as described in this and previous volumes in this series), and cannot be explained by changes in response rates.

Of course, there could be some sort of a constant bias across the years, but even in the unlikely event that there was, it seems highly improbable that it would be of much consequence for policy purposes, given that it would not affect trends and likely would have a very modest effect on prevalence rates. Thus we have a high degree of confidence that school refusal rates have not seriously biased the survey results.

At each grade level, schools are selected in such a way that half of each year's sample is comprised of schools that participated the previous year, and half is comprised of schools that will participate the next year. (Both of these samples are national replicates, meaning that each is drawn to be nationally representative by itself.) This staggered half-sample design is used to check on possible errors in the year-to-year trend estimates due to school turnover. For example, separate sets of one-year trend estimates are computed based on students in the half-sample of schools that participated in both 1997 *and* 1998, then based on the students in the half-sample that participated in both 1998 *and* 1999, and so on. Thus, each one-year *matched half-sample* trend estimate derived in this way is based on a constant set of about 65 schools (in 12th grade). When the trend data derived from the matched half-sample (examined separately for each class of drugs) are compared with trends based on the total sample of schools, the results are usually highly similar, indicating that the trend estimates are little affected by turnover or shifting refusal rates in the school samples. As would be expected, the *absolute* prevalence of use estimates for a given year are not as accurate using just the half-sample because the sample size is only half as large.

### ***Student Participation***

In 1999, completed questionnaires were obtained from 87% of all sampled students in eighth grade, 85% in tenth grade, and 83% in twelfth grade. (See Table 3-1 for response rates in earlier years.) The single most important reason that students are missed is absence from class at the time of data collection; in most cases, for reasons of cost efficiency, we do not schedule special follow-up data collections for absent students. Students with fairly high rates of absenteeism also report above-average rates of drug use; therefore, some degree of bias is introduced into the prevalence estimates by missing the absentees. Much of that bias could be corrected through the use of special weighting based on the reported absentee rates of the students who *did* respond; however, we

decided not to use such a weighting procedure because the bias in overall drug use estimates was determined to be quite small *and* because the necessary weighting procedures would have introduced greater sampling variance in the estimates. Appendix A in an earlier report<sup>13</sup> provides a discussion of this point, and Appendix A in the current Volume I illustrates the changes in trend and prevalence estimates that would result if corrections for absentees had been included. Of course, some students are not absent from class but simply refuse, when asked, to complete a questionnaire. However, the proportion of explicit refusals amounts to less than 1.5% of the target sample for each grade.

### ***Sampling Accuracy of the Estimates***

Confidence intervals (95%) are provided in Tables 4-1a through 4-1d (Chapter 4, Volume I) for lifetime, annual, 30-day, and daily prevalence of use for eighth-, tenth-, and twelfth-grade students. As can be seen in Table 4-1a, confidence intervals for lifetime prevalence for seniors average about  $\pm 1.5\%$  across a variety of drug classes. That is, if we took a large number of samples of this size from the universe of all schools containing twelfth graders in the coterminous United States, 95 times out of 100 the sample would yield a result that would be 1.5 percentage points *or less* divergent from the result we would get from a comparable massive survey of *all* seniors in *all* schools. This is a high level of sampling accuracy, and it should permit detection of fairly small changes from one year to the next. Confidence intervals for the other prevalence periods (past 12 months, past 30 days, and current daily use) are generally smaller than those for lifetime use. In general, confidence intervals for eighth and tenth graders are very similar to those observed for twelfth graders. Some drugs are measured on only one or two forms (smokeless tobacco, PCP, nitrites, and others, as indicated in Table 2-1 footnotes); these drugs will have somewhat larger confidence intervals due to their smaller sample sizes. Appendix C of Volume I contains information for the interested reader on how to calculate confidence intervals around other point estimates; it also provides the information needed to compare trends across time or to test the significance of differences between subgroups in any given year.

## **VALIDITY OF THE MEASURES OF SELF-REPORTED DRUG USE**

Are sensitive behaviors such as drug use honestly reported? Like most studies dealing with sensitive behaviors, we have no direct, totally objective validation of the present measures; however, the considerable amount of existing inferential evidence strongly suggests that the self-report questions produce largely valid data. A more complete discussion of the contributing evidence that leads to this conclusion may be found in other publications; here we will only briefly summarize the evidence.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., & Bachman, J. G. (1984). *Drugs and American high school students: 1975-1983*. DHHS (ADM) 85-1374. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>14</sup>Johnston, L. D., & O'Malley, P. M. (1985). Issues of validity and population coverage in student surveys of drug use. In B. A. Rouse, N. J. Kozel, & L. G. Richards (Eds.), *Self-report methods of estimating drug use: Meeting current challenges to validity* (NIDA Research Monograph No. 57 (ADM) 85-1402). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office; Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., & Bachman, J. G. (1984). *Drugs and American high school students: 1975-1983*. DHHS (ADM) 85-1374.



First, using a three-wave panel design, we established that the various measures of self-reported drug use have a high degree of reliability—a necessary condition for validity.<sup>15</sup> In essence, respondents were highly consistent in their self-reported behaviors over a three- to four-year time interval. Second, we found a high degree of consistency among logically-related measures of use within the same questionnaire administration. Third, the proportion of seniors reporting some illicit drug use by senior year has reached two-thirds of all respondents in peak years and nearly 80% in some follow-up years, constituting *prima facie* evidence that the degree of under-reporting must be very limited. Fourth, the seniors' reports of use by their unnamed friends—about whom they would presumably have less reason to distort reports of use—has been highly consistent with self-reported use in the aggregate in terms of both prevalence *and* trends in prevalence, as will be discussed later in this report. Fifth, we have found self-reported drug use to relate in consistent and expected ways to a number of other attitudes, behaviors, beliefs, and social situations—in other words, there is strong evidence of “construct validity.” Sixth, the missing data rates for the self-reported use questions are only very slightly higher than for the preceding nonsensitive questions, in spite of explicit instructions to respondents to leave blank those drug use questions they felt they could not answer honestly. Seventh, an examination of consistency in reporting of lifetime use conducted on the long-term panels of graduating seniors found quite low levels of recanting of earlier-reported use of the illegal drugs.<sup>16</sup> There was a higher level of recanting for the psychotherapeutic drugs, which we interpreted as suggesting that adolescents actually may overestimate their use of some of these drugs because of misunderstanding definitions which get cleared up as they get older. Finally, the great majority of respondents, when asked, say they would answer such questions honestly if they were users.<sup>17</sup>

This is not to argue that self-reported measures of drug use are valid in all cases. In the present study we have gone to great lengths to create a situation and set of procedures in which students feel that their confidentiality will be protected. We have also tried to present a convincing case as to why such research is needed. We think the evidence suggests that a high level of validity has been obtained. Nevertheless, insofar as any remaining reporting bias exists, we believe it to be in the direction of under-reporting.

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Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office; Wallace, J. M., Jr., & Bachman, J. G. (1993). Validity of self-reports in student-based studies on minority populations: Issues and concerns. In M. de LaRosa (Ed.), *Drug abuse among minority youth: Advances in research and methodology*. NIDA Research Monograph. Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse.

<sup>15</sup>O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Johnston, L. D. (1983). Reliability and consistency in self-reports of drug use. *International Journal of the Addictions*, 18, 805-824.

<sup>16</sup>Johnston, L. D. & O'Malley, P. M. (1997). The recanting of earlier reported drug use by young adults. In Harrison, L. (Ed.), *The validity of self-reported drug use: Improving the accuracy of survey estimates* (pp. 59-80). (NIDA Research Monograph 167, pp 59-79). Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse.

<sup>17</sup>For a discussion of reliability and validity of student self-report measures of drug use like those used in Monitoring the Future across varied cultural settings, see also Johnston, L. D., Driessen, F. M. H. M., & Kokkevi, A. (1994). *Surveying student drug misuse: A six-country pilot study*. Strasbourg, France: Council of Europe.

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Thus, we believe our estimates to be lower than their true values, even for the obtained samples, but not substantially so.

One procedure we undertake to help assure the validity of our data is worth noting. We check for logical inconsistencies in the triplets of answers about the use of each drug (i.e., about lifetime, past year, and past 30-day use), and if a respondent exceeds a minimum number of inconsistencies, his or her record is deleted from the dataset. Similarly, we check for improbably high rates of use of multiple drugs and delete such cases, on the assumption that the respondents are not taking the task seriously. Relatively few cases are eliminated for these reasons.

### *Consistency and the Measurement of Trends*

One further point is worth noting in a discussion of the validity of the findings. The Monitoring the Future project is designed to be sensitive to changes from one time period to another. One great strength of this study, in our opinion, is that the measures and procedures have been standardized and applied consistently across many years. To the extent that any biases remain because of limits in school and/or student participation, and to the extent that there are distortions (lack of validity) in the responses of some students, it seems very likely that such problems will exist in much the same way from one year to the next. In other words, biases in the survey estimates will tend to be consistent from one year to another, which means that our measurement of *trends* should be affected very little by any such biases. The smooth and consistent nature of most trend curves reported for the various drugs provides rather compelling empirical support for this assertion.

**TABLE 3-1**  
**Sample Sizes and Response Rates**

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
<i>Twelfth Grade</i>																									
Number public schools	111	108	108	111	111	107	109	116	112	117	115	113	117	113	111	114	117	120	121	119	120	118	125	124	124
Number private schools	14	15	16	20	20	20	19	21	22	17	17	16	18	19	22	23	19	18	18	20	24	21	21	20	19
Total number schools	125	123	124	131	131	127	128	137	134	134	132	129	135	132	133	137	136	138	139	139	144	139	146	144	143
Total number students	15,791	16,678	18,436	18,924	16,662	16,524	18,267	18,348	16,947	16,499	16,502	15,713	16,843	16,795	17,142	15,676	15,483	16,251	16,763	15,929	15,876	14,824	15,963	15,780	14,056
Student response rate	78%	77%	79%	83%	82%	82%	81%	83%	84%	83%	84%	83%	84%	83%	86%	86%	83%	84%	84%	84%	84%	83%	83%	82%	83%
<i>Tenth Grade</i>																									
Number public schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107	106	111	116	117	113	113	110	117	
Number private schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	19	17	14	22	20	18	19	23	
Total number schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	121	125	128	130	139	133	131	129	140	
Total number students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,996	14,997	15,516	16,080	17,285	15,873	15,778	15,419	13,885	
Student response rate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	87%	88%	86%	88%	87%	87%	86%	87%	85%	
<i>Eighth Grade</i>																									
Number public schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	131	133	126	116	118	122	125	122	120	
Number private schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	26	30	34	34	30	27	27	30	
Total number schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	162	159	156	150	152	152	152	149	150	
Total number students	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,844	19,015	18,820	17,708	17,929	18,368	19,066	18,667	17,287	
Student response rate	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	90%	90%	90%	89%	89%	91%	89%	88%	87%	

SOURCE: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

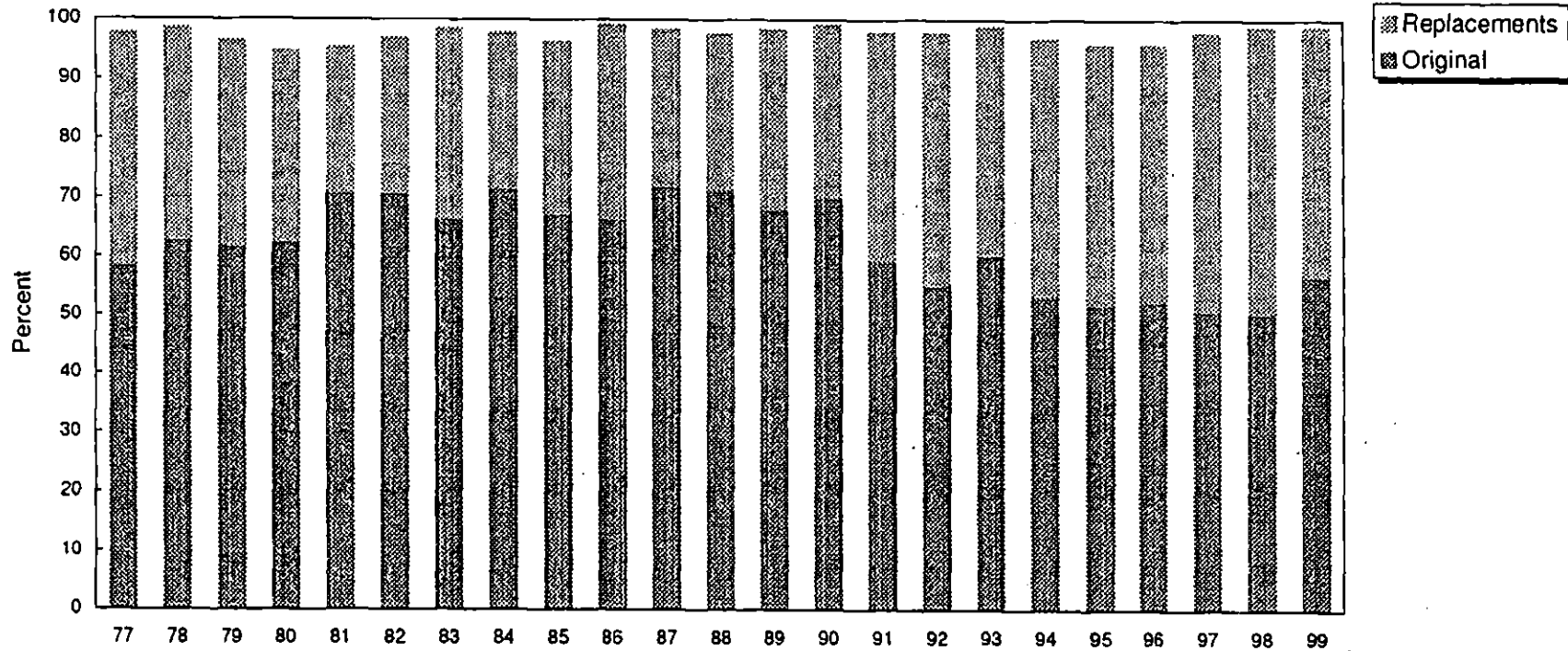
FIGURE 3-1

**Counties Included in One Year's Data Collection**



**NOTE: Counties may contain multiple schools and up to three grade levels each.**

FIGURE 3-2  
School Response Rates



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	<u>77</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>99</u>
Original	59	63	62	63	71	71	66	72	67	66	72	71	68	70	59	55	60	53	52	53	51	51	57
Replacements	39	36	35	32	25	26	32	26	29	33	26	26	30	29	39	43	39	44	44	43	47	48	42
Total	98	99	97	95	96	97	99	98	96	99	99	98	99	99	98	98	99	97	96	96	98	99	99

## Chapter 4

### PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE IN EARLY AND MIDDLE ADULTHOOD

The panel data gathered each year as part of the Monitoring the Future study can be, and are, used in the most obvious way—to study change in individuals across time. However, because the panels are based on nationally representative samples of many contiguous graduating high school classes, they can also be used to characterize age bands of all high school graduates in a given year. In other words, we can treat them as cross-sectional data representing various age groups in 1999, for instance. That is what we do in this chapter.

As described in more detail in Chapter 3, the Monitoring the Future study conducts ongoing panel studies on representative samples from each graduating class, beginning with the class of 1976. Two matched subpanels, of roughly 1,200 seniors each, are selected from each graduating class—one panel is surveyed every even-numbered year after graduation, the other is surveyed every odd-numbered year. Thus, in a given year, the study encompasses one of the panels from each of the last fourteen senior classes previously participating in the study. Because the study design calls for an end of biennial follow-ups of these panels after the respondents reach approximately age 32 (i.e., seven follow-ups for each half-panel), the classes of 1976 through 1984 were not included in the standard 1999 follow-up surveys. In 1999, this meant that representative samples of the classes of 1985 through 1998 were surveyed by mail. For brevity, we refer to the 19- through 32-year-old age groups as “young adults” in this volume.

Additional surveys are conducted at age 35 (that is, seventeen years after high school graduation) and at five-year intervals thereafter. In 1999, the class of 1982 received the “age 35” follow-up questionnaire, and the class of 1977 received the “age 40” questionnaire. The findings from these special questionnaires are presented in this chapter for the first time, with the result that we now cover the age interval from age 18 to age 40.

The results of the 1999 follow-up survey should accurately characterize approximately 86% of all young adults in the class cohorts one to fourteen years beyond high school (modal ages 19 to 32). The remaining 14% or so, the high school dropout segment, was missing from the senior year surveys and, of course, is missing from all of the follow-up surveys, as well, so the results presented here are not generalizable to that part of the population.

Figures 4-1 through 4-20 contain the 1999 *prevalence* data by age, corresponding to those respondents one to fourteen years beyond high school (modal ages 19 to 32). Figures provided

later in Chapter 5 contain the *trend* data for each age group, including seniors and graduates who are up to fourteen years past high school (modal age 32). With the exception of the twelfth graders, age groups have been paired into two-year intervals in both sets of figures in order to increase the number of cases, and thus the reliability, for each point estimate. The data for ages 35 and 40 are of necessity based in a single age in each case. Both half-samples from a given class cohort are included in the samples of 35 and 40 year-olds; in 1999 that means the graduating classes of 1982 and 1977 respectively. Their respective Ns are 1050 and 1090.

It is worth noting that the pattern of age-related differences in any one year can be checked against an adjacent year (i.e., last year's volume or next year's) for replicability, because two nonoverlapping half-samples of follow-up respondents have been used.

#### **A NOTE ON ADJUSTED LIFETIME PREVALENCE ESTIMATES**

In Figures 4-1 through 4-20, two different estimates of lifetime prevalence are provided. One estimate is based on the respondent's most recent statement of whether he or she ever used the drug in question (the light gray bar). The other estimate takes into account the respondent's answers regarding lifetime use gathered in *all* of the previous data collections in which he or she participated (the white bar). To be categorized as one who has used the drug based on all past answers regarding that drug, the respondent must either have reported past use in the most recent data collection and/or some use in his or her lifetime on at least two earlier occasions. Because respondents in the age groups of 18 and 19-20 cannot have their responses adjusted on the basis of two earlier occasions, adjusted prevalence rates are reported only for ages 21 and older. The unadjusted estimate is most commonly presented in epidemiological studies, since it can be made based on the data from a single cross-sectional survey. An adjusted estimate of the type used here is possible only when panel data have been gathered, so that a respondent can be classified as having used a drug at sometime in his or her life, based on earlier answers, even though he or she no longer indicates lifetime use in the most recent survey.

The divergence of these two estimates as a function of age shows that there is more inconsistency as time passes. Obviously, there is more opportunity for inconsistency as the number of data collections increases. Our judgment is that "the truth" lies somewhere between the two estimates: the lower estimate may be depressed by tendencies to forget, forgive, or conceal earlier use, and the upper estimate may include earlier response errors or incorrect definitions of drugs which respondents appropriately corrected in later surveys. It should be noted that a fair proportion of those giving inconsistent answers across time had earlier reported having used only once or twice in their lifetime. As we have reported elsewhere, cross-time stability of self-reported usage measures, which take into account the number of occasions of self-reported use, is still very high.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Johnston, L. D. (1983). Reliability and consistency in self-reports of drug use. *International Journal of the Addictions*, 18, 805-824.

It also should be noted that the divergence between the two lifetime prevalence estimates is greatest for the psychotherapeutic drugs and for the derivative index of “use of an illicit drug other than marijuana,” which is heavily affected by the psychotherapeutic estimates. We believe this is due to respondents having greater difficulty accurately categorizing psychotherapeutic drugs (usually taken in pill form) with a high degree of certainty—especially if such a drug was used only once or twice. We expect higher inconsistency across time when the event—and in many of these cases, a single event—is reported with a relatively low degree of certainty at quite different points in time. Those who have gone beyond simple experimentation with one of these drugs would undoubtedly be able to categorize them with a higher degree of certainty. Also, those who have experimented more recently, in the past month or year, should have a higher probability of recall, as well as fresher information for accurately categorizing the drug.

We provide both estimates to make clear that a full use of respondent information provides a possible range for lifetime prevalence estimates, not a single point. However, by far the most important use of the prevalence data is to track *trends* in *current* (as opposed to lifetime) use. Thus, we are much less concerned about the nature of the variability in the lifetime estimates than we might otherwise be. The lifetime prevalence estimates are primarily of importance in showing the degree to which a drug class has penetrated the general population.<sup>19</sup>

The reader is reminded that the reweighting procedures used to correct the panel data for the effects of panel attrition are described in Chapter 3.

## PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE AS A FUNCTION OF AGE

For virtually all drugs, available age comparisons show a much higher lifetime prevalence for the older age groups. In fact, the figures reach impressive levels among young adults in their early thirties.

- In 1999, the adjusted lifetime prevalence figures among 31- to 32-year-olds reach 75% for *any illicit drug*, 53% for *any illicit drug other than marijuana*, 69% for *marijuana*, and 30% for *cocaine*. Put another way, among young Americans who graduated from high school in 1985 and 1986—somewhat after the peak of the larger drug epidemic—only one-quarter (25%) have never tried an illegal drug.

The 1999 survey responses, *unadjusted* for previous answers, show somewhat lower lifetime prevalence: 68% for *any illicit drug*, 42% for *any illicit drug other than marijuana*, 64% for *marijuana*, and 25% for *cocaine*.

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<sup>19</sup>For a more detailed analysis and discussion, see Johnston, L. D. and O'Malley, P. M. (1997). The recanting of earlier-reported drug use by young adults. In L. Harrison & A. Hughes (Eds.), *Validity of Data in Longitudinal Studies*. (NIDA Research Monograph No. 97-4147.) Washington, DC: National Institute on Drug Abuse.



## Monitoring the Future

- As impressive as the data are for 31- and 32-year-olds, they are the most impressive for today's 40-year-olds, who were passing through adolescence in the peak of the drug epidemic. Some 87% of them have admitted trying an **illicit drug** (lifetime prevalence, adjusted), leaving only 13% who have not made such an admission. Some 81% said they had tried **marijuana**, but 70% said they had tried some **other illicit drug**, including 43% who had tried **cocaine**.
- Despite the higher levels of lifetime use among older age groups, they generally show levels of *annual* or *current* use that are no higher than such use among today's high school seniors. In fact, for a number of drugs the levels reported by older respondents are lower, suggesting that the incidence of quitting more than offsets the incidence of initiation after high school.

In analyses published elsewhere, we looked closely at patterns of change in drug use and identified some post-high school experiences that contribute to declining levels of annual or current use as respondents grow older. For example, the likelihood of marriage increases with age, and we have found that marriage is consistently associated with declines in **alcohol** use in general, **heavy drinking** in particular, **marijuana** use, and use of **other illicit drugs**.<sup>20</sup>

- For the use of **any illicit drug**, lifetime prevalence is 68% among 31- to 32-year-olds versus "only" 55% among the 1999 high school seniors. Annual prevalence, however, is highest among the seniors (42%) with progressively lower rates among the older age groups, reaching 18% among the 31- to 32-year-olds (see Figure 4-1). Current (30-day) prevalence shows much the same pattern with seniors having the highest rate (26%) and the rate declining gradually for each of the older age groups, reaching 10% among the 31- to 32-year-olds.
- Interestingly enough, the annual and 30-day prevalence rates found among the 35- and 40-year-olds for **marijuana**, **any illicit drug**, and **any illicit drug other than marijuana** are all virtually identical to the rates observed among the 31- to 32-year-olds. (This is also true for many of the other specific illicit drugs.) Yet more (and sometimes substantially more) of the 35- and 40-year-old cohorts (the classes of 1982 and 1977) have tried nearly all of these drugs than had the 31-32-year-old cohorts (the classes of 1985 and 1984). Thus, greater proportions of the older cohorts have discontinued use.
- Among the young adults a similar pattern exists for **marijuana**: a higher lifetime prevalence as a function of age, but considerably lower annual and 30-day prevalence rates through the late twenties. Current **daily marijuana** use shows

<sup>20</sup>Bachman, J. G., Wadsworth, K. N., O'Malley, P. M., Johnston, L. D., & Schulenberg, J. (1997). *Smoking, drinking, and drug use in young adulthood: The impacts of new freedoms and new responsibilities*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

the least variation across age. Still, in 1999 it ranges from 6.0% among twelfth graders, to 2.1% among 31–32-year-olds. Daily use for 35-year-olds is 2.0% in 1999, and among 40-year-olds 2.4%. This slightly curvilinear pattern suggests that a “cohort effect” may be working here, in addition to the “age effect.”

- Statistics on the use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* (Figure 4-2) have a similar pattern. Like marijuana and the any-illicit-drug-use index, corrected lifetime rates on this index also show an appreciable rise with age level, reaching 53% among the 31- to 32-year-old age group and 70% among the 40-year-olds. Current use shows a decline across the age bands, ranging from 10% among seniors to 4% among 31- to 32-year-olds, as well as the 35-year-olds, and 3% among the 40-year-olds. Annual use is lower with increased age of the respondent through age 30. In fact, most of the individual drugs that constitute this general category show lower rates of use at higher ages for annual prevalence. This is particularly true for *amphetamines, hallucinogens, LSD* specifically, *inhalants, barbiturates, heroin, narcotics other than heroin, and MDMA (ecstasy)*. The falloff with age is not as great, nor as consistent for *cocaine, crack, other cocaine, or tranquilizers*, though in general usage rates are somewhat lower among those in their early thirties than among those in their early twenties. Several various classes of drugs are discussed individually below.
- For *amphetamines*, lifetime prevalence is again much higher among the older age groups—reflecting the addition of many new users who initiate in the twenties (Figure 4-4). (There is also a considerable divergence between the corrected lifetime prevalence versus the contemporaneously reported lifetime prevalence, as is true for most of the psychotherapeutic drugs.) However, more recent use as reflected in the annual prevalence figure is lower among the older age groups. This has not always been true; the present pattern is the result of a sharper decline in use among older respondents than has occurred among seniors. These trends are discussed in the next chapter.
- Questions on the use of *crystal methamphetamine (ice)* are contained in two of the six questionnaire forms, making the estimates less reliable than those based on all six forms. (Ice use is not asked of the 35- or 40-year-old respondents.) Among the 19- to 32-year-old respondents *combined*, 0.8% reported some use in the prior year—lower than the 1.9% reported by seniors (see Table 4-1 and Figure 4-16).
- *Barbiturates* are similar to amphetamines in that lifetime prevalence, adjusted, is higher in the older ages and annual use appreciably lower (Figure 4-12). At present, current usage rates are quite low in all age groups; therefore 30-day use varies rather little by age. Because of the substantial long-term decline in

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barbiturate use over the life of the study, the 40-year-olds have by far the highest adjusted lifetime prevalence rate.

- *Narcotics other than heroin* show age differences similar to those seen for barbiturates—somewhat higher lifetime prevalence as a function of age, annual prevalence modestly lower at increasing age levels, and 30-day use varying rather little with age (Figure 4-13).
- *Tranquilizer* use shows an increase with age in lifetime prevalence and some modest decrease with age in annual prevalence. Thirty-day prevalence is fairly flat across age (Figure 4-14).
- *Cocaine* generally has presented a unique case among the illicit drugs in that lifetime, annual, and current prevalence rates have all tended to be higher among the older age groups (Figure 4-5). By 1994, however, 30-day cocaine use had reached such low levels that it varied rather little by age; since then, annual and current use have been fairly similar across all age groups. The annual prevalence rate is highest (and fairly flat at present) between ages 18 and 24.
- In 1999, lifetime prevalence of *crack* use reached 7% to 9% (adjusted) among those in their late twenties and early thirties, and 11% among the 35-year-olds, versus 5% among high school seniors. This, no doubt, reflects something of a cohort effect due to the rather transient popularity of crack in the early to mid-1980s. Current prevalence is very low at all ages. On average, the follow-up respondents one to fourteen years out of high school have an annual prevalence of 1.3% versus 2.7% among seniors, and a 30-day prevalence of 0.4% versus 1.1% among seniors. Clearly the follow-up respondents have a higher rate of noncontinuation than seniors, as is true for most other drugs.

We believe that the omission of high school dropouts is likely to have a greater than average impact on the prevalence estimates for crack (as is the case with the senior data).

- In 1989, *MDMA (ecstasy)* was added to two of the six forms of the follow-up surveys to assess how widespread its use had become among young adults. Questions about its use were not asked of high school students until 1996, primarily because we were concerned that its alluring name might have the effect of stimulating interest. We were less concerned about such an effect after the name of the drug had become more widely known. (MDMA is not asked of the 35- or 40-year-old respondents.)

Among all 19- to 32-year-olds combined, 6.8% say they have ever tried *MDMA*, compared to 8.0% of high school seniors. Annual prevalence begins to fall off among those more than 22 years of age (Figure 4-15).

- In the case of *alcohol*, all prevalence rates are higher among those of post-high school age than among those in high school, and they generally increase for the first three or four years after high school, through age 21 or 22 (Figure 4-19a). After that, prevalence rates vary slightly for the different age groups. Lifetime prevalence changes very little after age 21 to 22, due in large part to a “ceiling effect.” Current (30-day) alcohol use is considerably higher among those aged 21-22 (69%) than among seniors (51%); it stays fairly flat through age 28 (70%) and is a few percentage points lower after that. Current *daily drinking* varies rather little by age, though it is lowest among those aged 18 and 20 (Figure 4-19b).
- Among the various measures of alcohol consumption, *occasions of heavy drinking* in the two weeks prior to the survey show large differences among the age groups (Figure 4-19b). There is a fair difference between 18-year-olds (31%) and 21- to 22-year-olds, who have the highest prevalence of such heavy drinking (40%). Then there is a falloff with each subsequent age group, reaching 24% by age 31 to 32. We have interpreted this curvilinear relationship as reflecting an age effect—and not a cohort effect—because it seems to replicate across different graduating class cohorts, and also because it has been linked directly to age-related events such as leaving the parental home (which increases heavy drinking) and marriage (which decreases it).<sup>21</sup> Among those 35 and 40 years of age, about one-fourth (26%) report such heavy drinking in the prior two-week interval—about the same proportion as among 31- to 32-year-olds (24%).
- *Cigarette smoking* also shows an unusual pattern of age-related differences (Figure 4-20). On the one hand, current (30-day) smoking is about the same among those in their early twenties as among high school seniors, reflecting the fact that relatively few new people are recruited to smoking after high school. On the other hand, smoking at heavier levels—such as smoking half a pack daily—is somewhat higher among those in their twenties than among high school seniors, reflecting the fact that many previously moderate smokers move into a pattern of heavier consumption after high school.<sup>22</sup> While somewhat more than a third

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<sup>21</sup>O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Johnston, L. D. (1988). Period, age, and cohort effects on substance use among young Americans: A decade of change, 1976-1986. *American Journal of Public Health*, 78, 1315-1321. See also Bachman et al. (1997). *Smoking, drinking, and drug use in young adulthood: The impacts of new freedoms and new responsibilities*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

<sup>22</sup>Because age is confounded with class cohort, and because we have established that cigarette smoking shows strong cohort effects (enduring differences among cohorts), one must be careful in interpreting age-related differences in a cross-sectional sample as if they were due only to age effects, i.e., changes with age consistently observable across cohorts. However, multivariate analyses conducted on panel data from multiple cohorts do show a consistent age effect of the type mentioned here (O'Malley, Bachman, & Johnston, 1988, *op. cit.*).

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(38%) of the current smokers in high school smoke at the rate of a half-pack per day or more, almost two-thirds (62%) of the current smokers in the 31- to 32-age group do so.

- Questions about use of *steroids* were added in 1989 to one form only (and to an additional form in 1990), making it difficult to determine age-related differences with much accuracy. (Steroids are not asked of the 35- or 40-year-old respondents.) Overall, 1.8% of 19- to 32-year-olds in 1999 reported having used steroids in their lifetime. Annual and 30-day use levels were very low, at 0.5% and 0.2%, respectively. The rates among seniors are considerably higher, which may reflect both age and cohort effects. (See Tables 4-2 to 4-4.)
- In essence, lifetime prevalence rates in some of the older age groups studied here, who passed through adolescence in the heyday of the drug epidemic, show impressively high lifetime rates of illicit drug use—particularly when lifetime prevalence is corrected for the recanting of earlier reported use. However, the current use of most illicit drugs is substantially lower among those in their thirties and forties than among those in their late teens to early twenties. For the two licit drugs, alcohol and cigarettes, the picture is a more complicated one.

## **PREVALENCE COMPARISONS FOR SUBGROUPS OF YOUNG ADULTS**

### *Gender Differences*

Statistics on usage rates for the group of young adults one to fourteen years beyond high school (modal ages 19 to 32) are given for the total sample and separately for males and females in Tables 4-1 to 4-5. In general, most of the gender differences in drug use that pertained in high school may be found in the young adult sample as well.

- Among young adults, somewhat more males than females report using *any illicit drug* during the prior year (31% versus 25%). Males have higher annual prevalence rates in nearly all of the specific illicit drugs—with the highest ratios (all 1.9 or greater) pertaining for *steroids, inhalants, heroin, PCP, LSD*, and *hallucinogens*. For example, among the 19- to 32-year-olds, LSD was used by 4.9% of males versus 2.0% of females during the prior twelve months.
- All forms of *cocaine* were used by more males than females (19- to 32-year-olds) in the past year. Annual *cocaine* use was reported by 6.6% of the males and 3.8% of the females, *crack* use by 1.7% of the males and 1.0% of the females, and *other cocaine* use by 6.0% of the males and 3.4% of the females.

- Other large gender differences among the 19- to 32-year-olds are found in *daily marijuana* use (5.5% for males versus 2.6% for females in 1999), *daily alcohol* use (7.7% versus 2.6%), and occasions of drinking *five or more drinks in a row* in the prior two weeks (45% versus 25%). This gender difference in occasions of heavy drinking is greater among young adults than among high school seniors, where it is 38% for males versus 24% for females.
- The use of *amphetamines*, which is now about equivalent among males and females in high school, is also fairly similar for both genders in this post-high school period (annual prevalence 4.8% versus 3.6%, respectively).
- *Crystal methamphetamine (ice)* is used by small percentages of both genders, but by slightly more males (1.0% annual prevalence) than females (0.7%).
- In the 1980s, there were few differences between males and females in rate of *cigarette* use. By the early 1990s, however, there were slightly higher rates of use by males. Among high school seniors, past month prevalence in 1999 is 35% for males, compared to 34% for females. Daily use rates are 24% and 22%, respectively, and half-pack or more use rates are 15% and 12%, respectively. The patterns are similar among the 19- to 32-year-olds, with males slightly more likely to have smoked in the past month (31% versus 27%), to have smoked daily (22% versus 20%), and to have smoked half a pack or more per day (16% versus 14%).
- *Steroid* use among young adults is much more prevalent among males than females, as is true for seniors. Among seniors, 3.1% of the males reported steroid use in the past year versus 0.6% of the females. These statistics are much lower among the 19- to 32-year-olds (0.9% for males versus 0.1% for females).
- *MDMA (ecstasy)* use is somewhat higher among males than females in the young adult sample (annual prevalence 3.4% versus 2.3%, respectively).

### Regional Differences

Follow-up respondents are asked in what state they currently reside. States are then grouped into the same regions used in the analysis of the high school data.<sup>23</sup> Tables 4-2 through 4-5 present regional differences in lifetime prevalence, annual prevalence, 30-day prevalence, and current daily prevalence, for the 19- to 32-year-olds combined.

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<sup>23</sup>States are grouped into regions as follows: *Northeast*—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; *North Central*—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas; *South*—Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; *West*—Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and California.

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- Regional differences in use are not very large for *marijuana*, except that the South and North Central are somewhat lower than the other two regions. They are also somewhat lower in the proportion using *any illicit drug*.
- The Northeast and West also have slightly higher rates of annual *cocaine* use than the South and North Central. In earlier years, the regional differences were much larger, but they diminished as the overall prevalence of cocaine use dropped.
- *Crack* shows only slight differences based on region for either young adults or high school seniors in 1999, though use is typically highest in the West.
- The annual use of *amphetamines* is lowest in the Northeast (3.4%) and highest in the West (5.4%).
- The use of *crystal methamphetamine (ice)* by 19- to 32-year-olds is concentrated primarily in the Western region of the country, which has 1.9% annual prevalence versus 0.4%-0.7% for all other regions. Among high school seniors both the West and the South now have higher rates of use than the other two regions.
- *Hallucinogen* use is fairly evenly distributed across all regions as is true for *LSD*, specifically. The South is lower than the other regions, however.
- For the *remaining illicit drugs*, the annual and 30-day prevalence rates tend to be very low, at or under 3.4% and 1.2%, respectively, making regional differences small in absolute terms (see Tables 4-3 and 4-4). Still, like the high school seniors, the young adults in the Northeast report the highest rate of *MDMA* and *PCP* use, and the young adults in the South the highest rates of *barbiturate* and *tranquilizer* use.
- All prevalence rates for *alcohol* are somewhat higher in the Northeast and North Central regions than in the Southern and Western parts of the country, as generally has been true among seniors. For *binge drinking*, the Northeast and North Central have prevalence rates of 38% and 39%, respectively, whereas the South and West have rates of 28% and 29%—a fair difference.
- As with alcohol, *cigarette smoking* among young adults is highest in the Northeast and North Central. It is lowest in the West. This difference is most pronounced at the half-pack-a-day level, where the rate in the West (9%) is less than half the rate in the North Central (19%).

### **Population Density Differences**

Population density is measured by asking respondents to check which of a number of listed alternatives best describes the size and nature of the community where they lived during March of the year in which they were completing the follow-up questionnaire. The major answer alternatives are listed in Table 4-2, and the population size given to the respondent to help define each level is provided in a footnote. An examination of the 1987 and 1988 drug-use data for the two most urban strata revealed that the modest differences in prevalence rates between the suburbs and the corresponding cities were not worth the complexity of reporting them separately; accordingly, these categories have been merged. See Tables 4-3 through 4-5 for the relevant results discussed below.

- Differences in illicit drug use by population density tend to be very modest, perhaps more modest than is commonly supposed. This is not to deny that certain drug problems are more common in highly urban areas—*injection drug use*, for example, is likely concentrated in inner-city urban areas. Among the general population, however, use of most illicit drugs is fairly broadly distributed among all areas from rural to urban. To the extent that there are variations, almost all of the associations are positive, with rural/country areas having the lowest levels of use, and small towns having the next lowest. Medium-sized cities, large cities, and very large cities tend to be higher, with only small variations among these three categories. The modest positive association, based on annual prevalence, is true for *any illicit drug* use, *marijuana*, and *MDMA (ecstasy)*. On the other hand, there is now a slight negative association between population density and the annual prevalence of *crack* and *amphetamine* use (which is true among seniors, as well).
- Among young adults, the lifetime, annual, and 30-day *alcohol* use measures all show a slight positive association with population density. *Occasions of heavy drinking* are about the same across all strata except farm/country, which has a slightly lower rate (see Table 4-5). *Daily* use stands between 4.1% and 5.7% for all community size strata, with no discernable correlation.
- A *negative*, ordinal association exists between population density and *daily cigarette smoking*, which is highest in the farm/country stratum and lowest in the very large cities (daily prevalence rates of 24% and 16%, respectively). The same is true for smoking at the half-pack-a-day level (see Table 4-5).



**TABLE 4-1**  
**Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Gender, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
(Entries are percentages)

<i>Approx. Weighted N =</i>	<u>Males</u> (3500)	<u>Females</u> (4600)	<u>Total</u> (8100)
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>			
Annual	30.7	24.6	27.2
Thirty-Day	18.3	13.2	15.4
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup> Other than Marijuana			
Annual	14.9	10.4	12.3
Thirty-Day	6.4	4.6	5.4
Marijuana			
Annual	28.1	21.8	24.5
Thirty-Day	17.2	11.4	13.9
Daily	5.5	2.6	3.9
Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>			
Annual	2.7	1.0	1.7
Thirty-Day	0.8	0.4	0.6
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>			
Annual	6.5	2.8	4.4
Thirty-Day	1.6	0.6	1.0
LSD			
Annual	4.9	2.0	3.2
Thirty-Day	1.0	0.5	0.7
PCP <sup>d</sup>			
Annual	0.6	0.3	0.4
Thirty-Day	0.3	0.0	0.1
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>e</sup>			
Annual	3.4	2.3	2.8
Thirty-Day	1.6	0.6	1.0
Cocaine			
Annual	6.6	3.8	5.0
Thirty-Day	2.3	1.3	1.7
Crack			
Annual	1.7	1.0	1.3
Thirty-Day	0.4	0.3	0.4
Other Cocaine <sup>f</sup>			
Annual	6.0	3.4	4.5
Thirty-Day	2.1	1.1	1.5
Heroin			
Annual	0.5	0.2	0.3
Thirty-Day	0.2	0.1	0.1
Other Narcotics <sup>g</sup>			
Annual	4.3	2.6	3.3
Thirty-Day	1.3	0.9	1.1

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 4-1 (cont.)**  
**Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Gender, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
(Entries are percentages)

<i>Approx. Weighted N =</i>	<u>Males</u> (3500)	<u>Females</u> (4600)	<u>Total</u> (8100)
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>g,h</sup>			
Annual	4.8	3.6	4.1
Thirty-Day	1.9	1.4	1.6
Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) <sup>f</sup>			
Annual	1.0	0.7	0.8
Thirty-Day	0.2	0.3	0.3
Barbiturates <sup>g</sup>			
Annual	2.8	1.9	2.3
Thirty-Day	1.2	0.8	0.9
Tranquilizers <sup>g</sup>			
Annual	3.9	3.0	3.4
Thirty-Day	1.3	1.2	1.2
Alcohol			
Annual	86.3	83.0	84.4
Thirty-Day	74.4	63.0	67.9
Daily	7.7	2.6	4.8
5+ drinks in a row in the last 2 weeks	44.6	24.5	33.2
Cigarettes			
Annual	39.9	37.2	38.4
Thirty-Day	30.7	26.9	28.5
Daily	21.5	20.0	20.6
Half-pack or more per day	15.8	14.0	14.8
Steroids <sup>g</sup>			
Annual	0.9	0.1	0.5
Thirty-Day	0.5	0.1	0.2

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

\* indicates a prevalence rate of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in three of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 4100.

<sup>c</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in one of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 1400.

<sup>e</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 2700.

<sup>f</sup>This drug was asked about in four of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 5400.

<sup>g</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>h</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude the inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

**TABLE 4-2**  
**Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Subgroups, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
 (Entries are percentages)

	<i>Approx. Weighted N</i>	<i>Any Illicit Drug<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Any Illicit Drug<sup>a</sup> Other than Marijuana</i>	<i>Marijuana</i>	<i>Inhalants<sup>b,c</sup></i>	<i>Hallucinogens<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>LSD</i>	<i>PCP<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>MDMA<sup>e</sup></i>	<i>Cocaine</i>
<b>Total</b>	8100	59.7	32.4	56.8	13.9	18.1	16.1	2.4	6.8	15.3
<b>Gender:</b>										
Male	3500	61.4	34.9	59.2	17.8	22.8	20.3	3.5	8.3	18.4
Female	4600	58.5	30.6	55.0	11.1	14.6	13.0	1.6	5.6	13.0
<b>Modal Age:</b>										
19-20	1200	56.1	29.3	52.8	13.1	17.1	15.3	2.6	7.9	10.6
21-22	1300	57.4	28.0	55.4	13.9	16.6	14.8	3.7	7.8	10.7
23-24	1200	56.2	32.0	52.9	15.6	20.1	18.3	1.8	7.6	14.1
25-26	1200	57.3	30.3	54.2	14.0	18.0	16.6	2.7	6.4	13.1
27-28	1100	60.7	31.8	57.9	14.6	18.3	16.2	0.6	5.5	15.9
29-30	1100	65.0	36.0	62.2	14.5	18.0	15.7	2.8	6.6	19.8
31-32	1000	67.6	41.6	64.2	11.7	18.8	15.8	2.1	5.5	25.4
<b>Region:</b>										
Northeast	1500	63.7	32.6	61.8	15.3	20.2	17.2	3.6	8.3	16.5
North Central	2300	60.1	31.4	57.7	13.7	18.0	16.2	1.7	2.9	13.3
South	2700	56.6	30.6	52.8	12.3	14.8	13.7	1.9	7.0	13.8
West	1600	60.9	36.9	57.9	15.0	22.0	19.2	3.1	9.8	19.5
<b>Population Density<sup>f</sup>:</b>										
Farm/Country	1000	55.3	30.4	51.5	11.3	12.3	11.3	1.8	4.4	13.9
Small Town	2200	58.0	31.6	55.0	14.6	17.3	15.7	2.1	5.4	14.6
Medium City	1800	60.4	31.4	57.4	12.6	17.6	15.8	2.1	6.3	14.2
Large City	1800	62.0	33.3	59.1	14.2	19.4	17.4	2.6	7.3	15.8
Very Large City	1300	61.9	34.9	59.7	15.2	21.9	18.4	2.9	10.5	17.9

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>c</sup>This drug was asked about in three of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 4100.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in one of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 1400.

<sup>e</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 2700.

<sup>f</sup>A small town is defined as having less than 50,000 inhabitants; a medium city as 50,000-100,000; a large city as 100,000-500,000; and a very large city as having over 500,000 residents. Within each level of population density, suburban and urban respondents are combined.

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 4-2 (cont.)**  
**Lifetime Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Subgroups, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
(Entries are percentages)

	<i>Approx. Weighted N</i>	Crack	Heroin	Other Narcotics <sup>a</sup>	Amphetamines <sup>ab</sup>	Ice <sup>c</sup>	Barbiturates <sup>a</sup>	Tranquilizers <sup>a</sup>	Alcohol	Cigarettes	Steroids <sup>c</sup>
<b>Total</b>	8100	4.8	1.7	9.6	15.6	3.2	7.6	10.4	91.2	NA	1.8
<b>Gender:</b>											
<b>Male</b>	3500	6.4	2.4	12.0	16.2	4.5	9.1	11.4	91.3	NA	3.6
<b>Female</b>	4600	3.6	1.2	7.9	15.1	2.3	6.5	9.7	91.1	NA	0.4
<b>Modal Age:</b>											
<b>19-20</b>	1200	4.7	1.8	9.8	14.3	4.2	8.5	9.0	85.2	NA	1.4
<b>21-22</b>	1300	4.0	1.6	9.2	13.2	2.8	7.1	9.1	90.2	NA	1.6
<b>23-24</b>	1200	4.6	1.9	11.3	15.5	3.4	7.9	11.2	91.5	NA	0.8
<b>25-26</b>	1200	3.9	1.5	8.1	13.0	4.3	6.7	9.1	91.8	NA	2.3
<b>27-28</b>	1100	4.2	1.5	9.0	14.5	1.9	6.6	9.6	93.0	NA	3.4
<b>29-30</b>	1100	5.6	1.4	9.3	17.3	3.3	7.2	11.3	94.3	NA	1.5
<b>31-32</b>	1000	7.0	1.9	10.9	22.5	2.2	9.3	14.3	93.7	NA	1.4
<b>Region:</b>											
<b>Northeast</b>	1500	3.8	1.8	9.8	13.8	0.9	6.9	11.0	93.7	NA	2.3
<b>North Central</b>	2300	4.4	1.6	9.9	16.4	2.1	6.8	8.5	93.7	NA	1.3
<b>South</b>	2700	4.9	1.6	8.6	15.0	2.5	8.7	11.8	90.0	NA	2.3
<b>West</b>	1600	6.1	1.7	10.6	17.2	8.3	7.3	10.2	87.6	NA	1.1
<b>Population Density<sup>a</sup>:</b>											
<b>Farm/Country</b>	1000	4.9	1.6	9.1	16.9	3.4	8.1	10.5	87.9	NA	1.9
<b>Small Town</b>	2200	5.1	1.6	9.0	16.6	2.6	8.1	9.9	90.8	NA	1.7
<b>Medium City</b>	1800	4.7	1.8	9.2	15.9	3.2	7.3	10.3	91.3	NA	1.2
<b>Large City</b>	1800	4.4	1.7	10.0	14.5	3.3	6.9	10.6	91.9	NA	2.1
<b>Very Large City</b>	1300	4.6	1.6	10.9	13.4	4.1	7.6	11.0	93.4	NA	2.2

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

'NA' indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude the inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

<sup>c</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 2700.

<sup>d</sup>A small town is defined as having less than 50,000 inhabitants; a medium city as 50,000-100,000; a large city as 100,000-500,000; and a very large city as having over 500,000 residents. Within each level of population density, suburban and urban respondents are combined.

**TABLE 4-3**  
**Annual Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Subgroups, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
 (Entries are percentages)

	<i>Approx. Weighted N</i>	<b>Any Illicit Drug<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Any Illicit Drug<sup>a</sup> Other than Marijuana</b>	<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>Inhalants<sup>b,c</sup></b>	<b>Hallucinogens<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>LSD</b>	<b>PCP<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>MDMA<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Cocaine</b>
<b>Total</b>	8100	27.2	12.3	24.5	1.7	4.4	3.2	0.4	2.8	5.0
<b>Gender:</b>										
<b>Male</b>	3500	30.7	14.9	28.1	2.7	6.5	4.9	0.6	3.4	6.6
<b>Female</b>	4600	24.6	10.4	21.8	1.0	2.8	2.0	0.3	2.3	3.8
<b>Modal Age:</b>										
<b>19-20</b>	1200	40.4	18.7	38.0	3.1	9.4	7.7	1.2	4.9	5.7
<b>21-22</b>	1300	33.3	14.1	31.5	3.3	6.8	4.5	1.6	4.6	5.6
<b>23-24</b>	1200	31.1	14.8	27.5	3.0	5.9	4.3	0.0	3.3	6.8
<b>25-26</b>	1200	24.6	11.6	21.8	0.4	2.7	1.9	0.0	3.4	5.0
<b>27-28</b>	1100	20.8	8.6	18.2	1.2	1.7	1.2	0.0	1.8	3.9
<b>29-30</b>	1100	19.0	8.1	16.0	0.5	1.4	0.8	0.0	0.7	3.6
<b>31-32</b>	1000	17.7	8.3	14.8	0.3	1.3	0.9	0.0	0.8	4.1
<b>Region:</b>										
<b>Northeast</b>	1500	31.1	11.9	29.4	3.0	4.9	3.8	0.8	4.5	5.7
<b>North Central</b>	2300	25.7	11.0	23.0	1.3	4.5	3.3	0.4	1.1	4.1
<b>South</b>	2700	24.9	12.2	21.7	1.2	3.5	2.9	0.2	2.5	4.9
<b>West</b>	1600	30.1	14.9	26.9	1.7	5.2	3.0	0.5	3.9	5.6
<b>Population Density<sup>f</sup>:</b>										
<b>Farm/Country</b>	1000	19.8	10.9	17.2	0.4	2.8	2.3	0.6	2.6	4.5
<b>Small Town</b>	2200	26.1	12.2	23.8	1.6	4.7	3.6	0.3	2.5	5.1
<b>Medium City</b>	1800	28.9	12.5	26.0	2.2	4.8	3.5	0.6	2.4	4.3
<b>Large City</b>	1800	28.7	12.4	25.8	1.4	4.4	3.3	0.3	3.0	5.3
<b>Very Large City</b>	1300	30.2	13.2	27.2	2.3	4.4	2.6	0.6	3.6	5.8

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

\* indicates a percentage of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>c</sup>This drug was asked about in three of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 4100.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in one of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 1400.

<sup>e</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 2700.

<sup>f</sup>A small town is defined as having less than 50,000 inhabitants; a medium city as 50,000-100,000; a large city as 100,000-500,000; and a very large city as having over 500,000 residents. Within each level of population density, suburban and urban respondents are combined.

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**TABLE 4-3 (cont.)**  
**Annual Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Subgroups, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
(Entries are percentages)

	<i>Approx. Weighted N</i>	Crack	Heroin	Other Narcotics <sup>a</sup>	Amphetamines <sup>ab</sup>	Ice <sup>c</sup>	Barbiturates <sup>a</sup>	Tranquilizers <sup>a</sup>	Alcohol	Cigarettes	Steroids <sup>d</sup>
<b>Total</b>	8100	1.3	0.3	3.3	4.1	0.8	2.3	3.4	84.4	38.4	0.5
<b>Gender:</b>											
Male	3500	1.7	0.5	4.3	4.8	1.0	2.8	3.9	86.3	39.9	0.9
Female	4600	1.0	0.2	2.6	3.6	0.7	1.9	3.0	83.0	37.2	0.1
<b>Modal Age:</b>											
19-20	1200	2.4	0.6	5.5	7.9	1.4	5.0	4.1	79.6	48.5	0.5
21-22	1300	1.2	0.4	4.2	5.0	0.6	2.5	4.2	85.5	45.3	1.1
23-24	1200	1.5	0.5	4.1	4.5	1.5	3.2	4.2	85.2	43.1	0.1
25-26	1200	0.9	0.2	3.0	3.4	0.8	1.8	3.5	85.0	35.2	1.0
27-28	1100	0.8	0.3	1.8	2.6	0.4	1.1	2.6	85.4	32.2	0.1
29-30	1100	1.3	0.1	1.8	2.5	0.0	1.2	2.1	85.4	31.6	0.0
31-32	1000	0.8	0.2	2.2	1.9	0.0	0.9	2.8	85.1	29.2	0.0
<b>Region:</b>											
Northeast	1500	0.8	0.5	3.4	3.4	0.4	1.9	3.4	89.9	40.1	0.4
North Central	2300	1.2	0.3	3.4	3.9	0.4	1.9	2.5	88.4	43.4	0.3
South	2700	1.3	0.4	2.9	4.0	0.7	3.0	4.4	80.4	36.0	0.7
West	1600	1.9	0.2	3.8	5.4	1.9	2.2	2.9	80.4	33.3	0.3
<b>Population Density<sup>e</sup>:</b>											
Farm/Country	1000	1.5	0.1	3.1	4.6	1.2	2.7	3.5	77.0	39.1	0.8
Small Town	2200	1.6	0.3	3.6	4.4	0.6	2.4	3.0	83.0	40.7	0.6
Medium City	1800	1.2	0.6	3.3	5.1	1.1	2.4	3.7	85.1	39.3	0.6
Large City	1800	1.1	0.4	3.0	3.3	0.3	1.8	3.2	86.3	35.6	0.3
Very Large City	1300	1.2	0.2	3.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	4.0	88.8	36.2	0.1

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

\* indicates a percentage of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

<sup>a</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude the inappropriate reporting of non-prescription stimulants.

<sup>c</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 2700.

<sup>d</sup>A small town is defined as having less than 50,000 inhabitants; a medium city as 50,000-100,000; a large city as 100,000-500,000; and a very large city as having over 500,000 residents. Within each level of population density, suburban and urban respondents are combined.

**TABLE 4-4**  
**Thirty-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Subgroups, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
 (Entries are percentages)

	<i>Approx. Weighted N</i>	Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup> Other than Marijuana	Marijuana	Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>	Hallucinogens <sup>b</sup>	LSD	PCP <sup>d</sup>	MDMA <sup>e</sup>	Cocaine
<b>Total</b>	8100	15.4	5.4	13.9	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.1	1.0	1.7
<b>Gender:</b>										
Male	3500	18.3	6.4	17.2	0.8	1.6	1.0	0.3	1.6	2.3
Female	4600	13.2	4.6	11.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.6	1.3
<b>Modal Age:</b>										
19-20	1200	24.6	8.6	23.1	1.6	2.7	1.9	0.0	1.5	2.2
21-22	1300	18.9	5.9	17.8	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.8
23-24	1200	17.3	6.6	15.3	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.0	0.9	2.2
25-26	1200	13.2	4.7	12.0	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.0	1.9	1.7
27-28	1100	10.7	4.1	8.9	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.8	1.8
29-30	1100	10.8	3.4	9.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.9
31-32	1000	10.1	3.6	8.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	1.3
<b>Region:</b>										
Northeast	1500	16.9	5.0	16.2	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.1	1.0	2.1
North Central	2300	15.6	4.7	14.3	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.4	1.4
South	2700	13.4	5.4	11.8	0.6	1.0	0.8	0.0	1.0	1.5
West	1600	17.5	6.7	15.2	0.8	1.1	0.7	0.2	1.8	2.0
<b>Population Density<sup>f</sup>:</b>										
Farm/Country	1000	10.7	3.9	9.9	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.4
Small Town	2200	15.3	5.3	13.8	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.0	0.6	1.8
Medium City	1800	16.4	5.9	15.2	0.7	1.2	0.9	0.1	0.7	1.6
Large City	1800	15.9	5.2	14.3	0.4	1.1	0.6	0.0	1.7	1.6
Very Large City	1300	17.1	6.2	14.7	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.3	2.3

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

\* indicates a percentage of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>c</sup>This drug was asked about in three of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 4100.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in one of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 1400.

<sup>e</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 2700.

<sup>f</sup>A small town is defined as having less than 50,000 inhabitants; a medium city as 50,000-100,000; a large city as 100,000-500,000; and a very large city as having over 500,000 residents. Within each level of population density, suburban and urban respondents are combined.

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 4-4 (cont.)**  
**Thirty-Day Prevalence of Use of Various Types of Drugs by Subgroups, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
 (Entries are percentages)

	<i>Approx. Weighted N</i>	Crack	Heroin	Other Narcotics <sup>a</sup>	Amphetamines <sup>ab</sup>	Ice <sup>c</sup>	Barbiturates <sup>d</sup>	Tranquilizers <sup>d</sup>	Alcohol	Cigarettes	Steroids <sup>e</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<i>8100</i>	0.4	0.1	1.1	1.6	0.3	0.9	1.2	67.9	28.5	0.2
<b>Gender:</b>											
<b>Male</b>	<i>3500</i>	0.4	0.2	1.3	1.9	0.2	1.2	1.3	74.4	30.7	0.5
<b>Female</b>	<i>4600</i>	0.3	0.1	0.9	1.4	0.3	0.8	1.2	63.0	26.9	0.1
<b>Modal Age:</b>											
<b>19-20</b>	<i>1200</i>	0.9	0.3	1.6	3.2	0.4	1.9	1.6	62.0	36.1	0.2
<b>21-22</b>	<i>1300</i>	0.3	0.1	1.2	2.0	0.4	1.3	1.3	69.2	33.5	0.5
<b>23-24</b>	<i>1200</i>	0.4	0.1	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.4	1.7	70.2	32.4	0.0
<b>25-26</b>	<i>1200</i>	0.3	0.0	1.1	1.3	0.3	0.5	1.0	70.0	25.6	0.7
<b>27-28</b>	<i>1100</i>	0.4	*	0.4	1.2	0.0	0.4	1.0	70.2	22.9	0.0
<b>29-30</b>	<i>1100</i>	0.1	*	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.5	1.1	67.4	22.7	0.0
<b>31-32</b>	<i>1000</i>	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.4	0.9	66.0	24.0	0.0
<b>Region:</b>											
<b>Northeast</b>	<i>1500</i>	0.2	0.2	1.1	1.0	0.0	0.7	1.0	74.9	30.2	0.3
<b>North Central</b>	<i>2300</i>	0.3	0.2	1.1	1.7	0.2	0.8	1.1	71.6	33.2	0.1
<b>South</b>	<i>2700</i>	0.5	0.1	1.0	1.4	0.3	1.2	1.6	61.8	26.6	0.3
<b>West</b>	<i>1600</i>	0.5	0.1	1.3	2.5	0.7	0.9	1.2	65.9	23.2	0.3
<b>Population Density<sup>g</sup>:</b>											
<b>Farm/Country</b>	<i>1000</i>	0.3	0.1	0.8	1.6	0.7	0.9	1.2	57.2	30.0	0.3
<b>Small Town</b>	<i>2200</i>	0.4	0.1	1.0	1.8	0.1	0.9	0.8	64.0	31.2	0.4
<b>Medium City</b>	<i>1800</i>	0.4	0.2	1.0	2.2	0.5	1.2	1.5	69.0	29.7	0.1
<b>Large City</b>	<i>1800</i>	0.4	0.1	1.2	1.0	0.1	0.8	1.2	71.3	26.4	0.3
<b>Very Large City</b>	<i>1300</i>	0.3	*	1.2	1.4	0.5	0.9	1.7	76.2	24.4	0.1

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

\* indicates a percentage of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

<sup>a</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude the inappropriate reporting of non-prescription stimulants.

<sup>c</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N is approximately 2700.

<sup>d</sup>A small town is defined as having less than 50,000 inhabitants; a medium city as 50,000-100,000; a large city as 100,000-500,000; and a very large city as having over 500,000 residents. Within each level of population density, suburban and urban respondents are combined.



**TABLE 4-5**  
**Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use of Various Types of Drugs by Subgroups, 1999**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-32**  
(Entries are percentages)

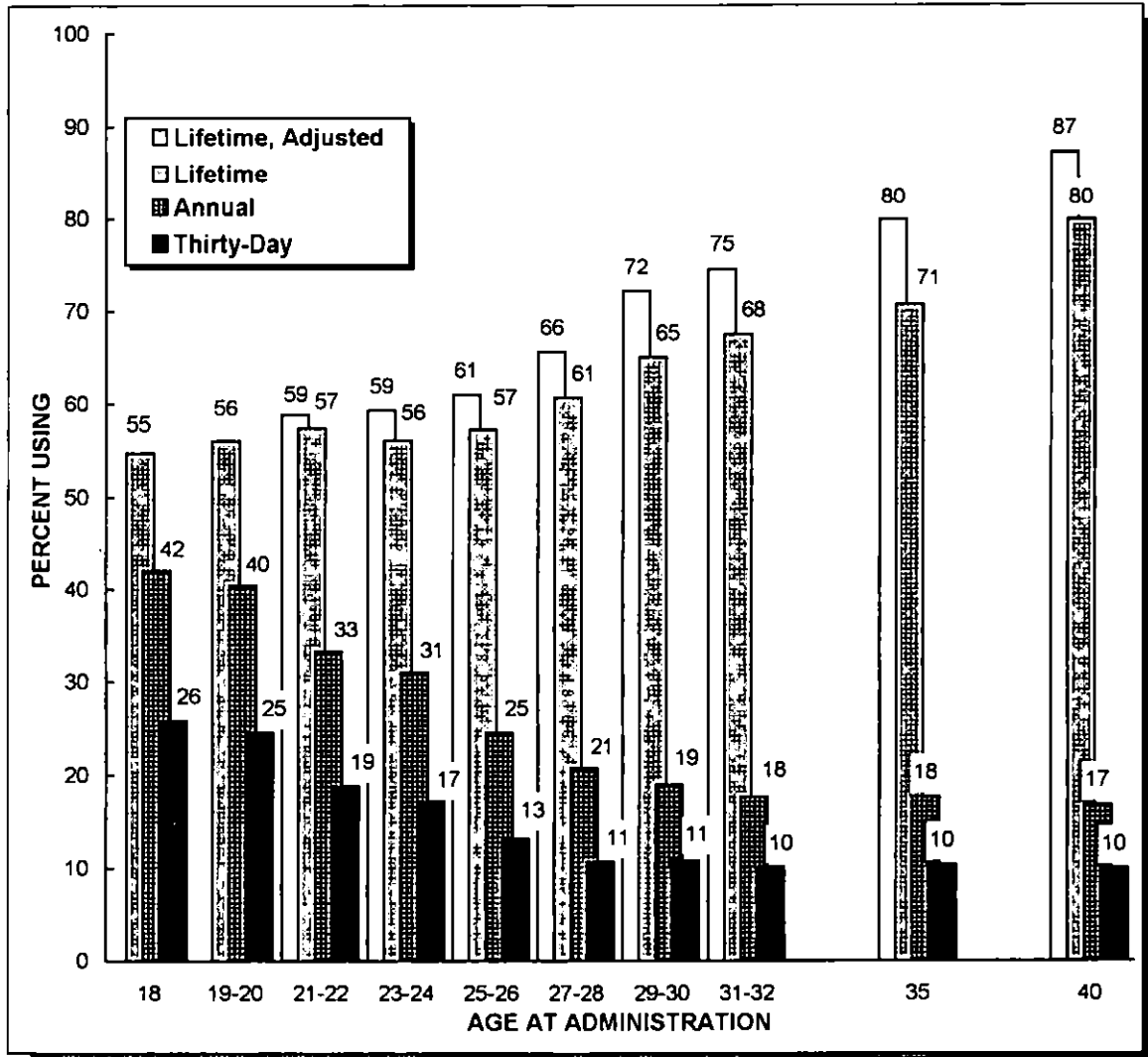
	<i>Approx. Weighted N</i>	Marijuana Daily	Alcohol Daily	Alcohol 5+ drinks in a row in past 2 weeks	Cigarettes Daily	Cigarettes: Half-pack or more per day
<b>Total</b>	8100	3.9	4.8	33.2	20.6	14.8
<b>Gender:</b>						
<b>Male</b>	3500	5.5	7.7	44.6	21.5	15.8
<b>Female</b>	4600	2.6	2.6	24.5	20.0	14.0
<b>Modal Age:</b>						
<b>19-20</b>	1200	6.2	4.1	35.3	25.6	16.3
<b>21-22</b>	1300	4.6	5.9	40.2	24.2	16.4
<b>23-24</b>	1200	5.1	4.7	38.1	21.4	14.8
<b>25-26</b>	1200	3.1	5.1	33.0	19.6	15.0
<b>27-28</b>	1100	2.8	4.3	32.0	16.1	12.4
<b>29-30</b>	1100	2.5	5.2	26.9	17.2	13.2
<b>31-32</b>	1000	2.1	4.4	24.1	18.9	14.9
<b>Region:</b>						
<b>Northeast</b>	1500	4.1	5.3	38.1	23.2	16.5
<b>North Central</b>	2300	3.9	5.7	38.7	24.2	18.8
<b>South</b>	2700	3.0	4.2	28.3	19.1	13.4
<b>West</b>	1600	5.3	4.2	29.1	15.0	9.2
<b>Population Density<sup>a</sup>:</b>						
<b>Farm/Country</b>	1000	3.5	4.6	28.8	24.3	19.4
<b>Small Town</b>	2200	3.4	5.1	34.0	23.7	17.5
<b>Medium City</b>	1800	4.1	4.5	34.0	20.9	14.6
<b>Large City</b>	1800	4.3	4.1	33.6	18.4	13.3
<b>Very Large City</b>	1300	3.6	5.7	33.4	15.6	9.3

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

<sup>a</sup>A small town is defined as having less than 50,000 inhabitants; a medium city as 50,000-100,000; a large city as 100,000-500,000; and a very large city as having over 500,000 residents. Within each level of population density, suburban and urban respondents are combined.

Figure 4-1

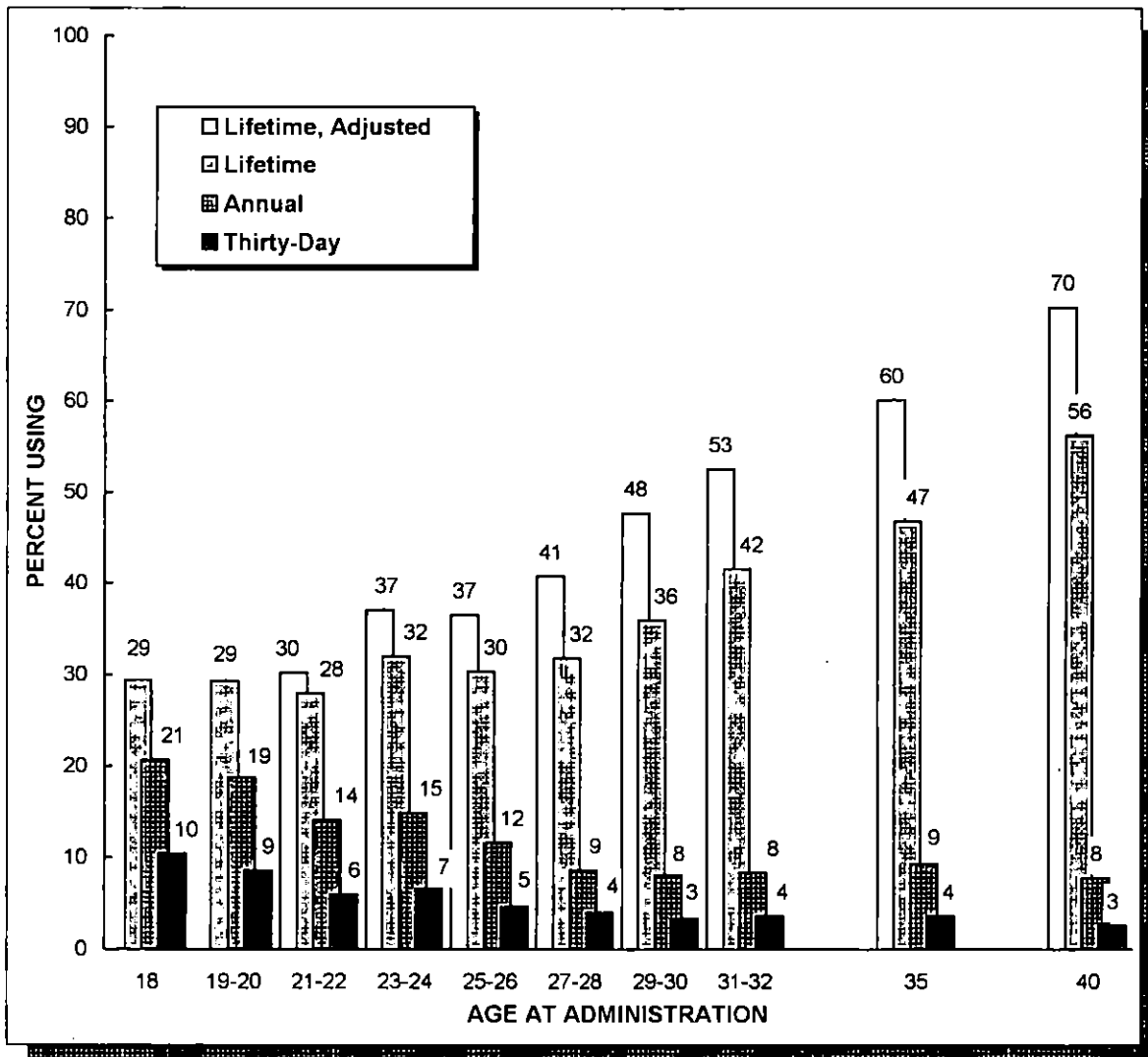
Any Illicit Drug: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence  
Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-2

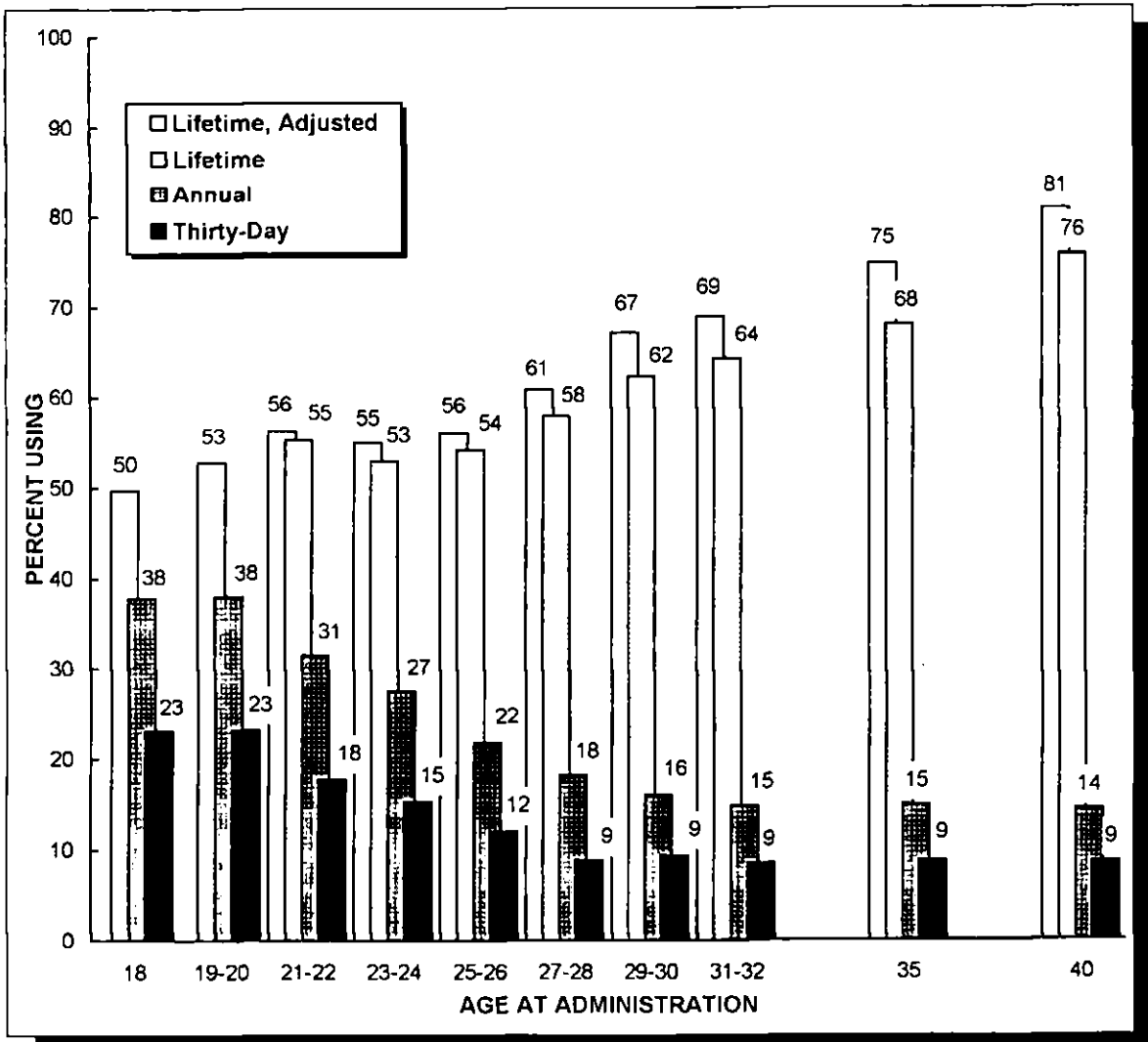
Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence  
Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-3

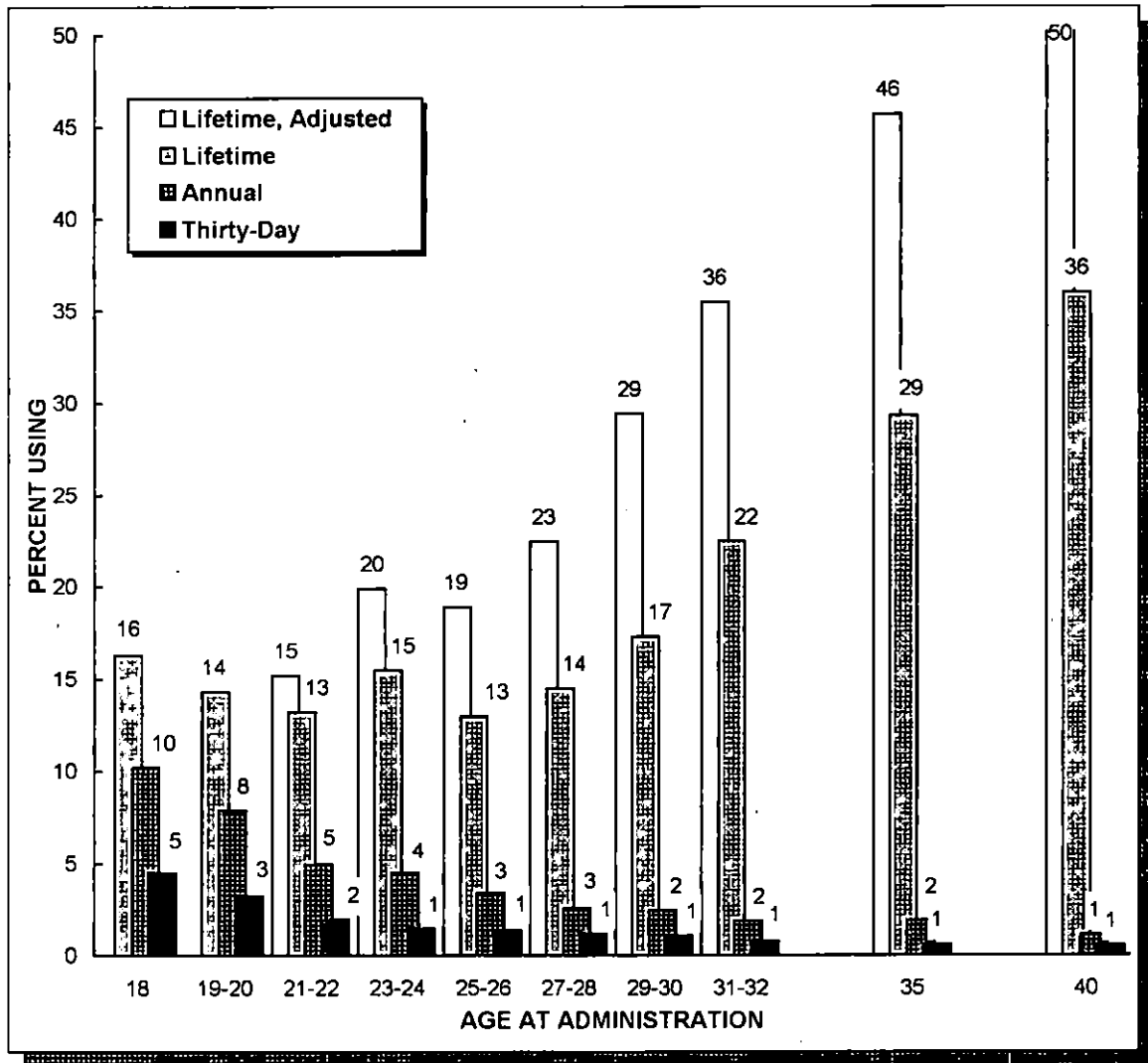
Marijuana: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999 by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-4

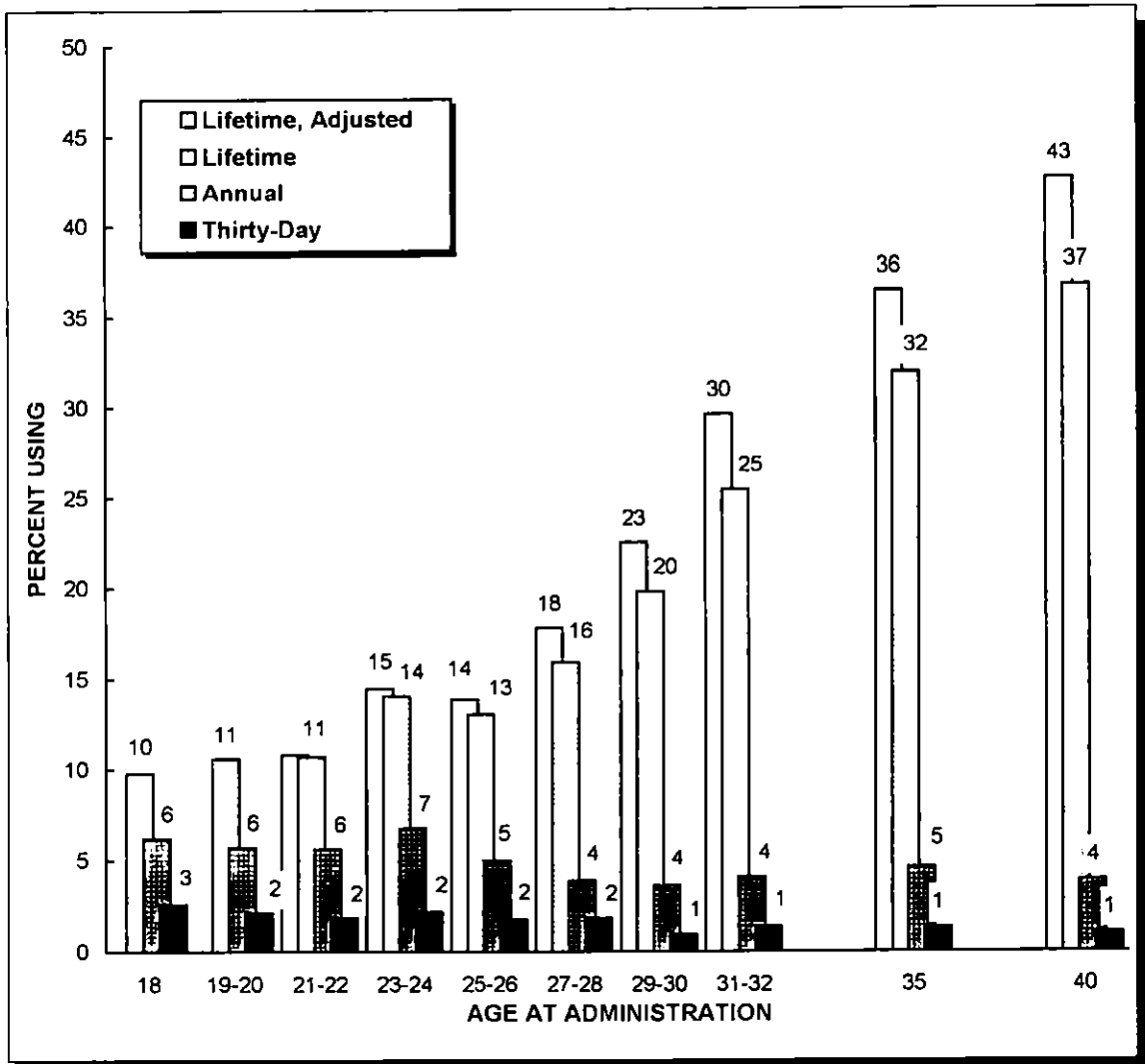
**Amphetamines: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999**  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion. The divergence between the two lifetime prevalence estimates is due in part to the change in question wording initiated in 1982/1983, which clarified the instruction to omit non prescription stimulants.

Figure 4-5

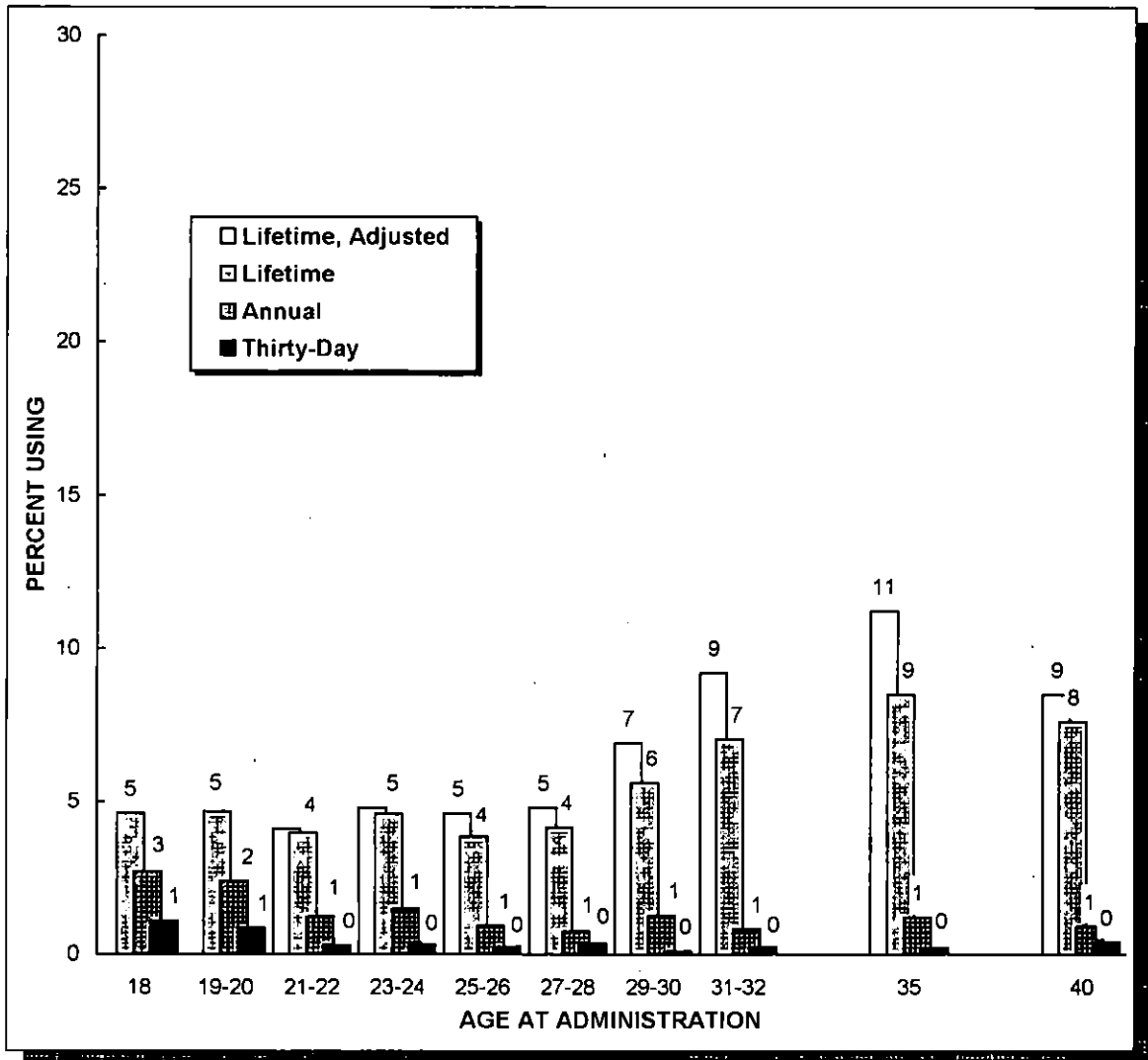
Cocaine: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-6

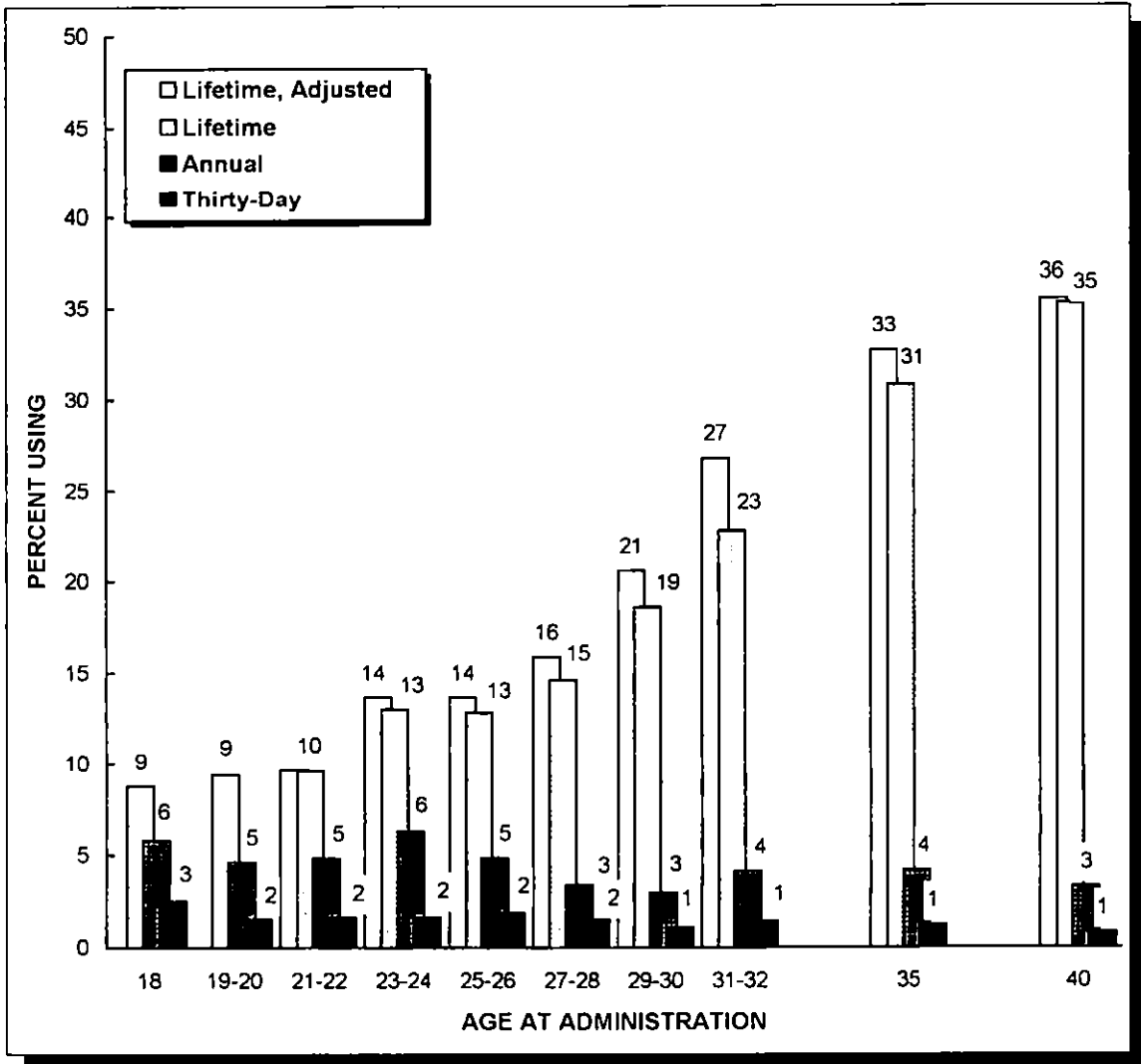
Crack Cocaine: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-7

Other Cocaine: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group

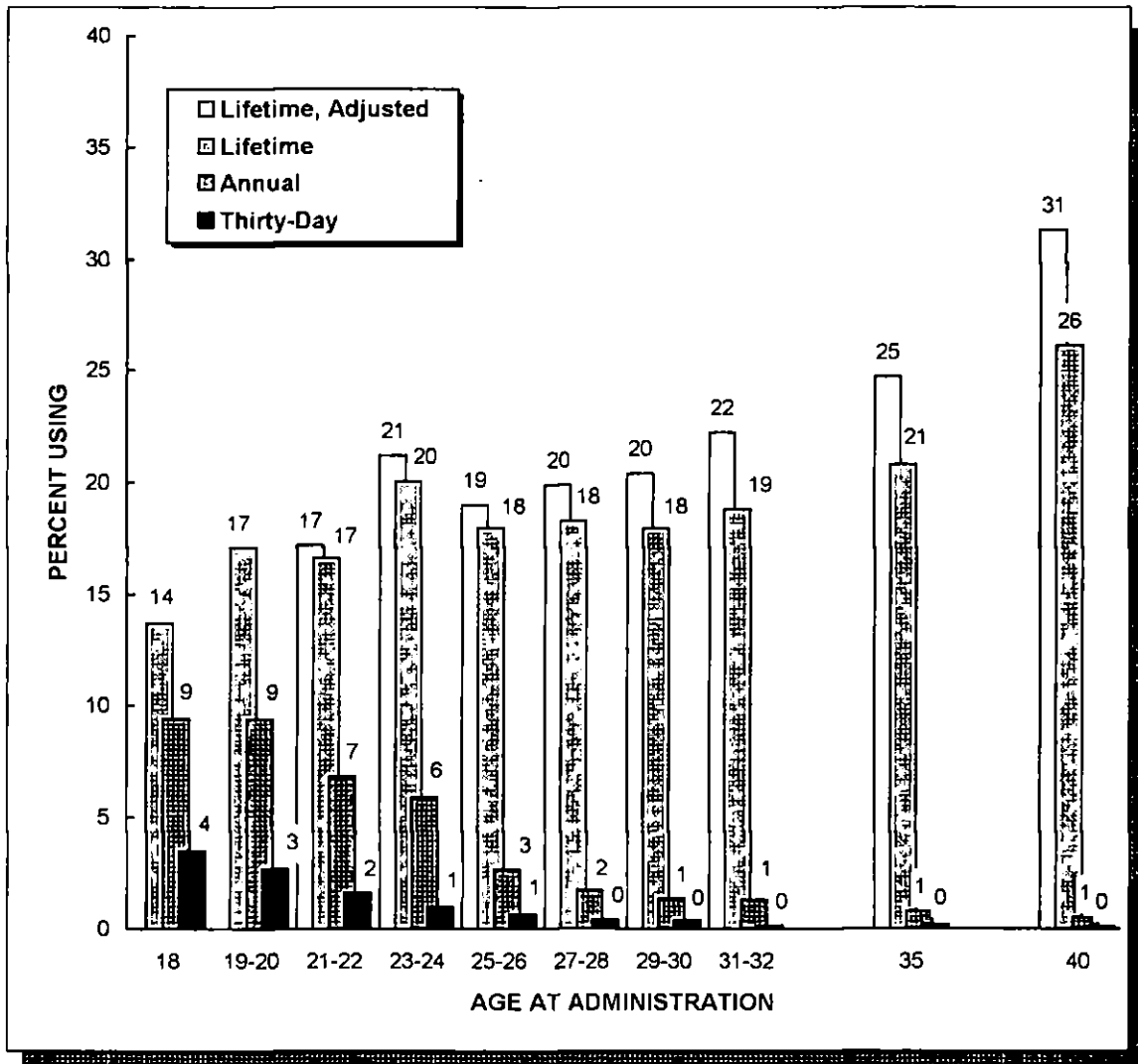


NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.



Figure 4-8

**Hallucinogens\*: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999**  
by Age Group

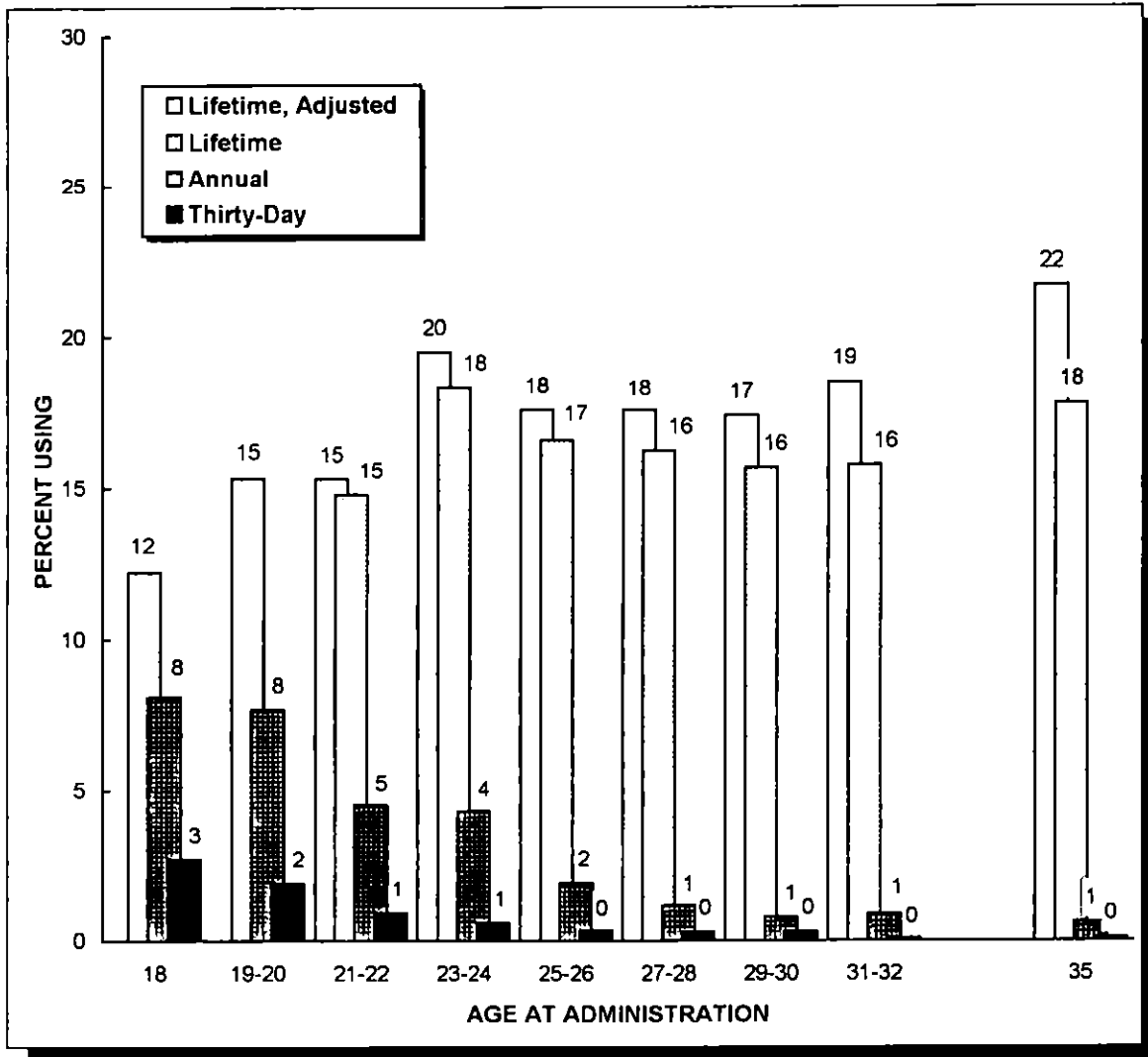


\*Unadjusted for the possible underreporting of PCP.

NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-9

LSD: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 35\*, 1999 by Age Group

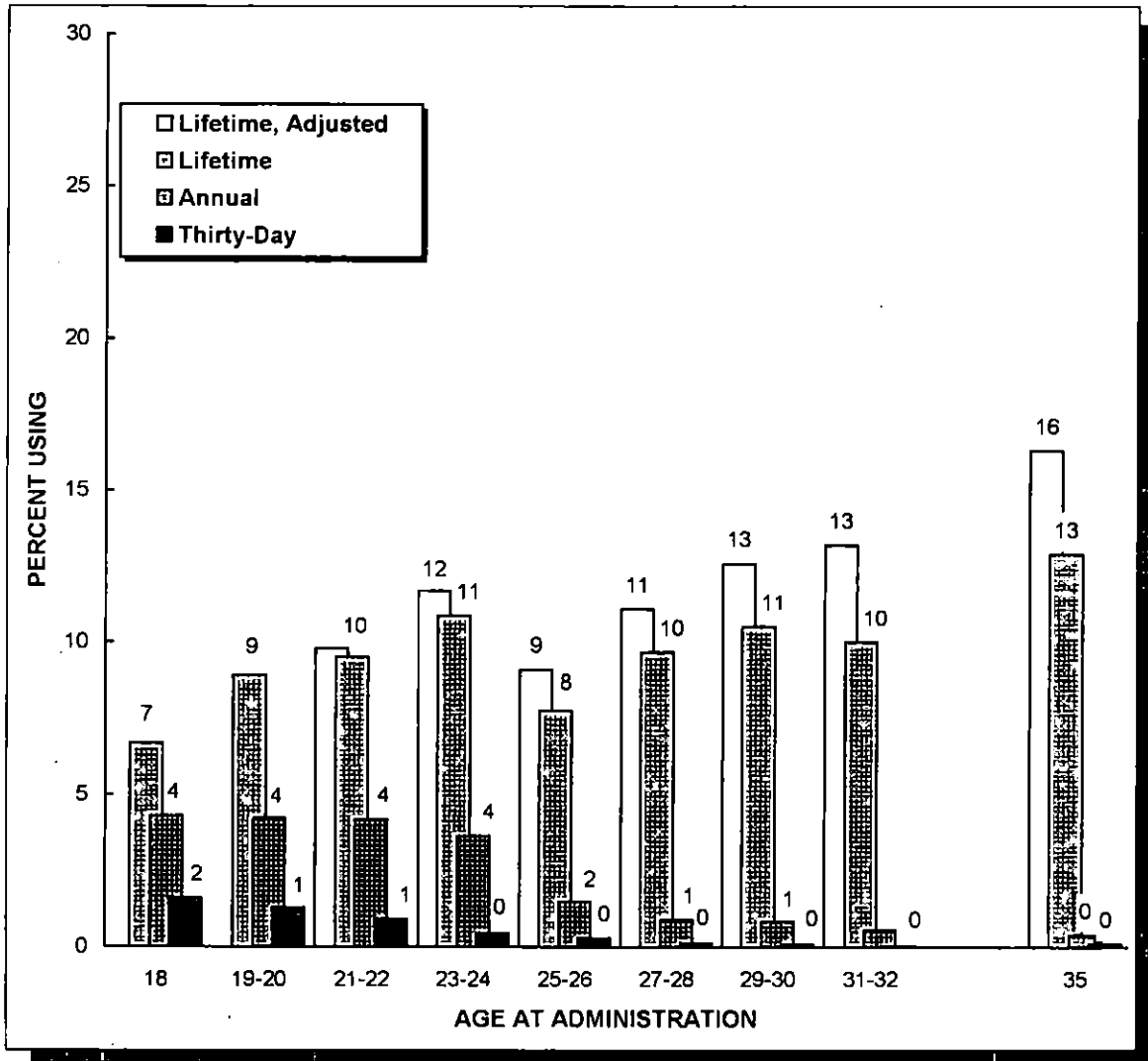


NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

\*This specific drug was not included in the age 40 questionnaire.

Figure 4-10

Hallucinogens Other than LSD: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 35\*, 1999  
by Age Group

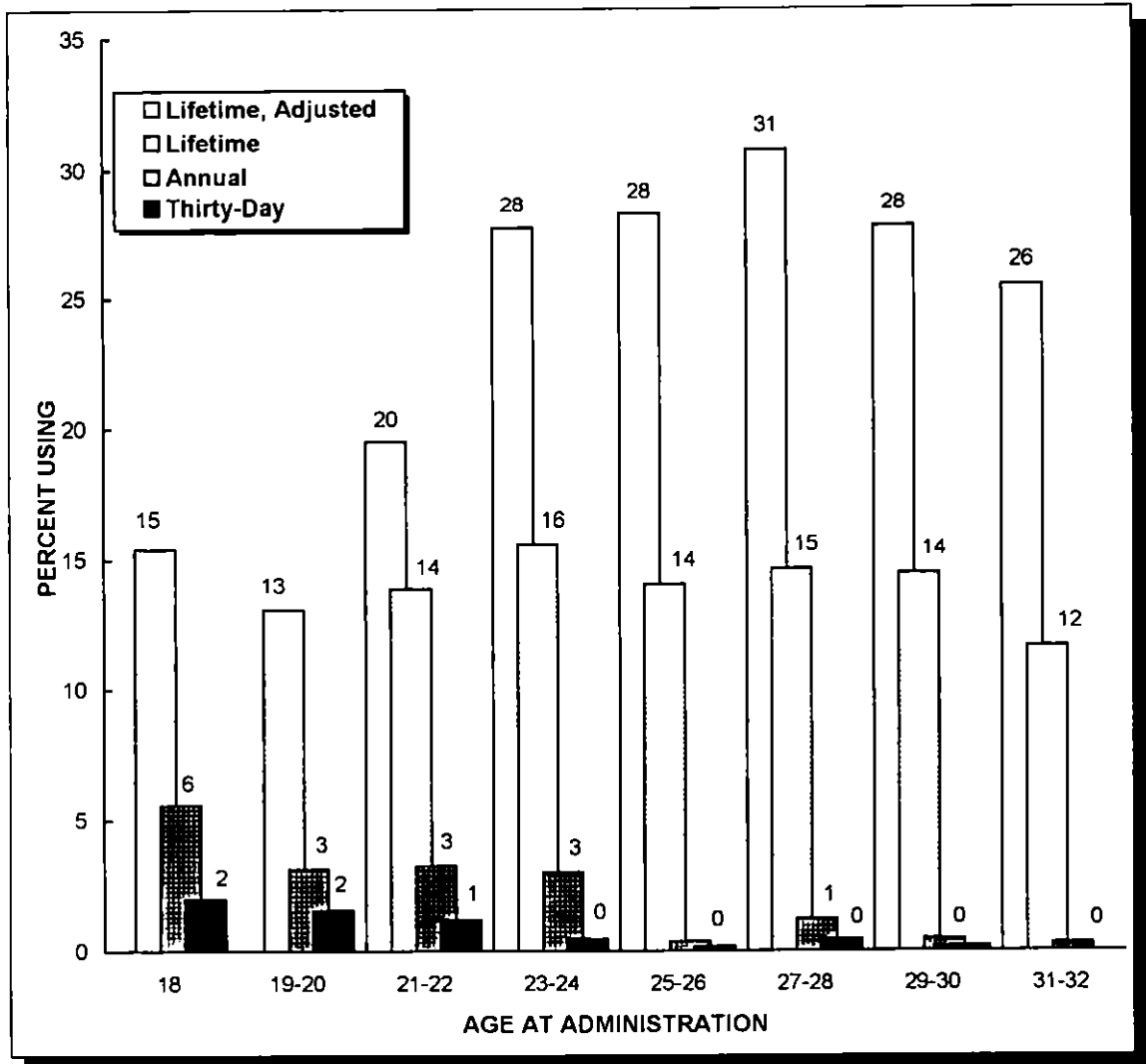


NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

\*This specific drug was not included in the age 40 questionnaire.

Figure 4-11

**Inhalants\*: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Young Adults, 1999**  
by Age Group

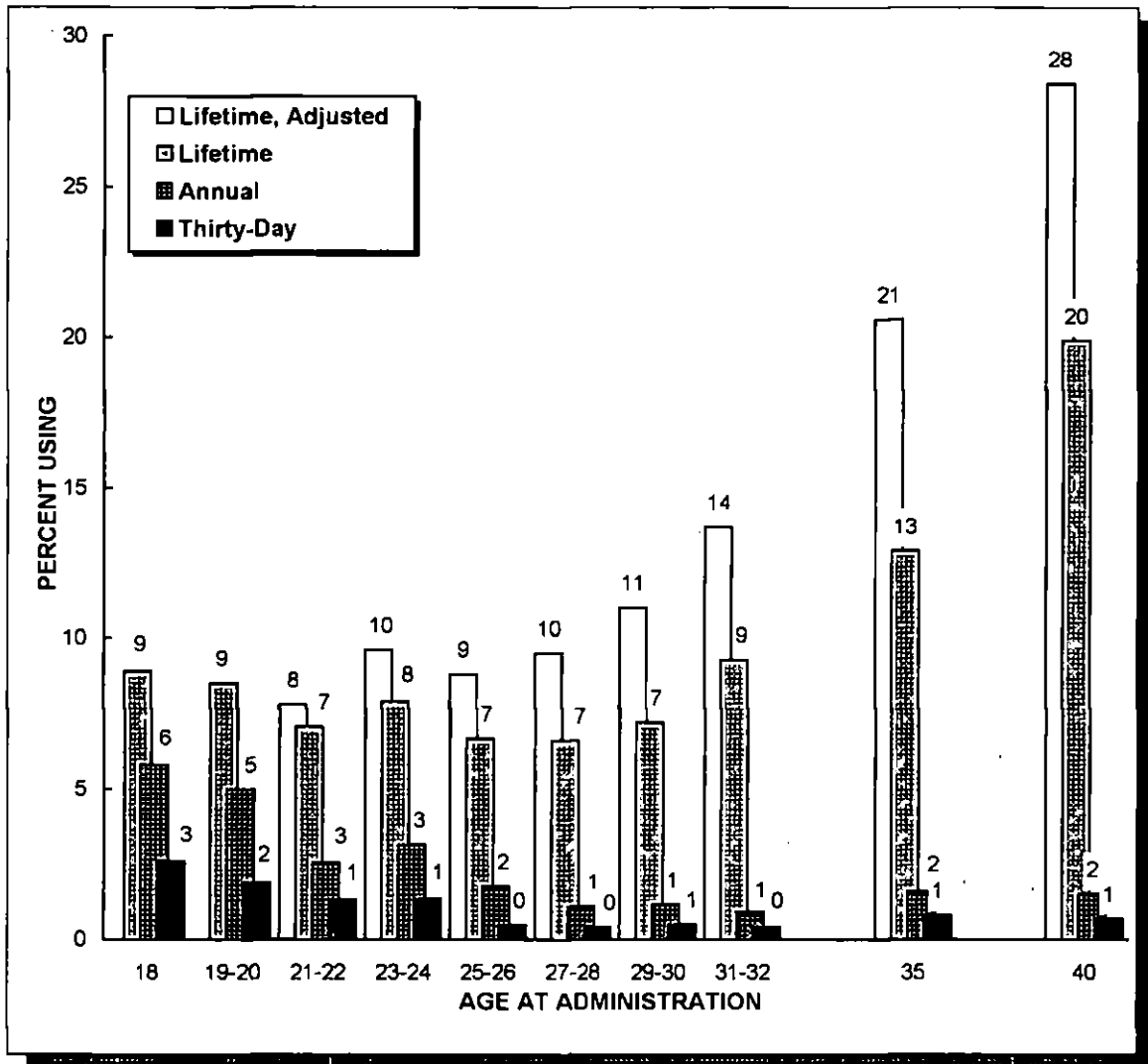


\*Unadjusted for the possible underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites. This specific drug was not included in the age 35 or age 40 questionnaires.

NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-12

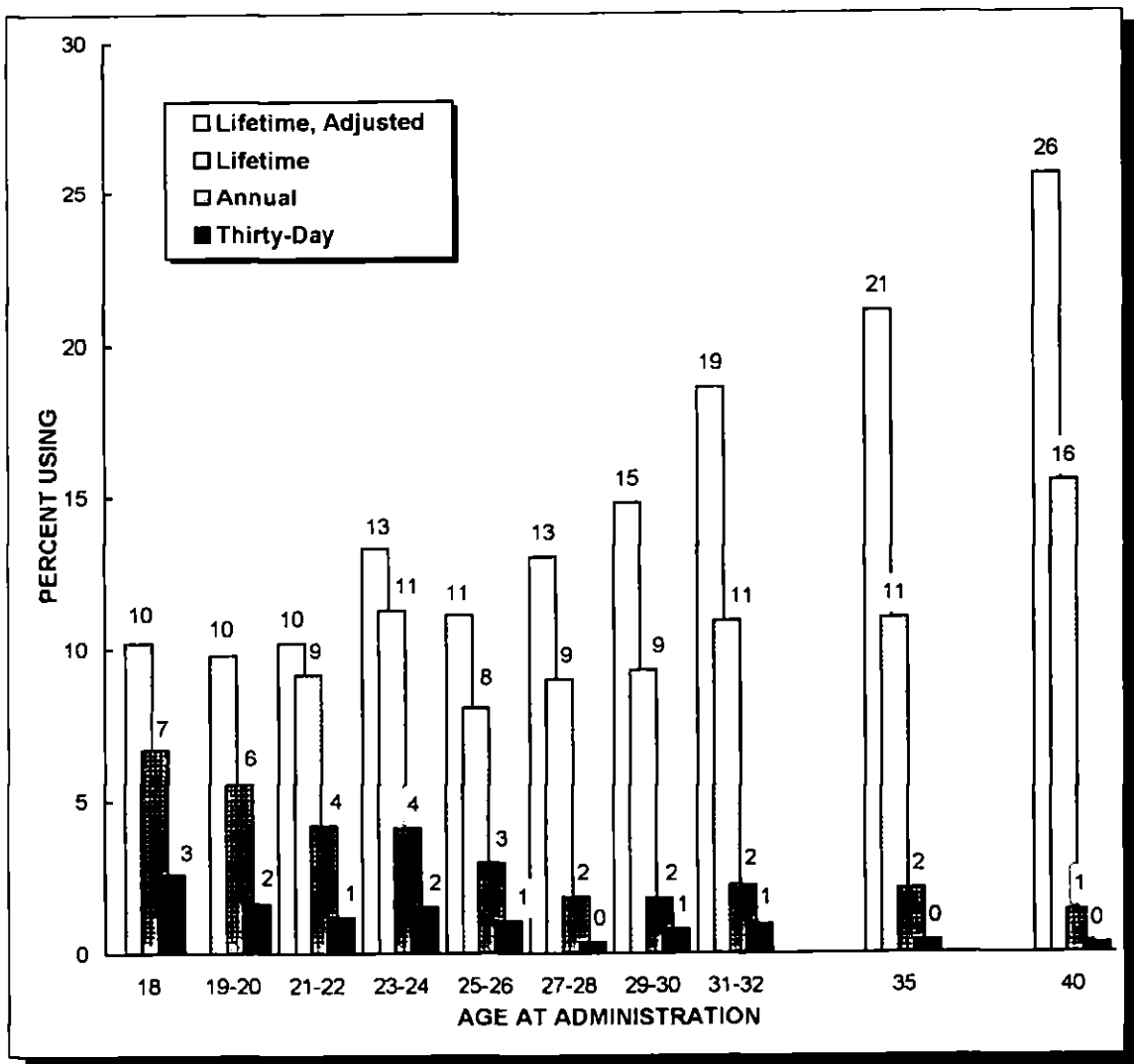
**Barbiturates: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999**  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-13

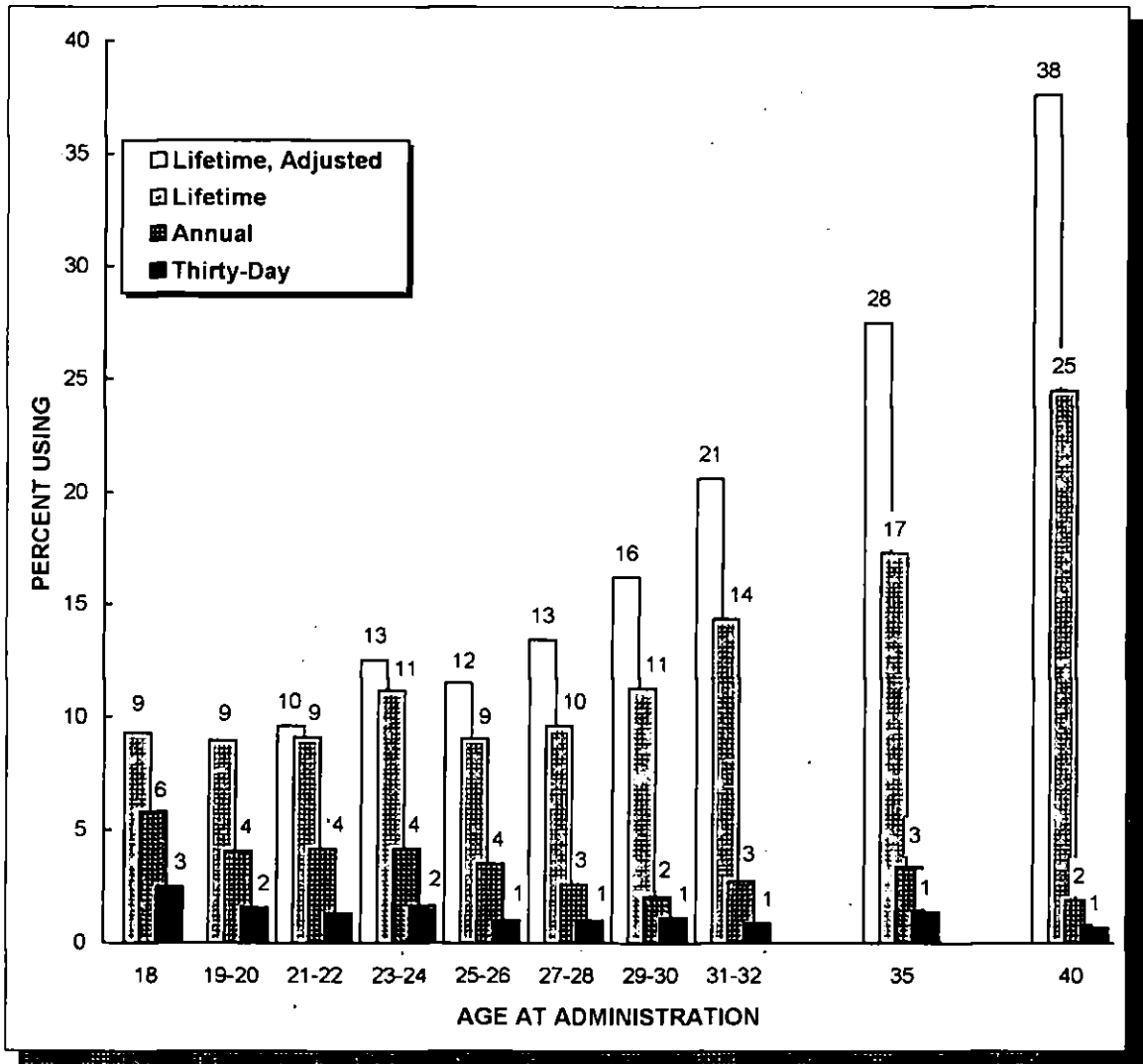
Narcotics Other Than Heroin: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence  
Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-14

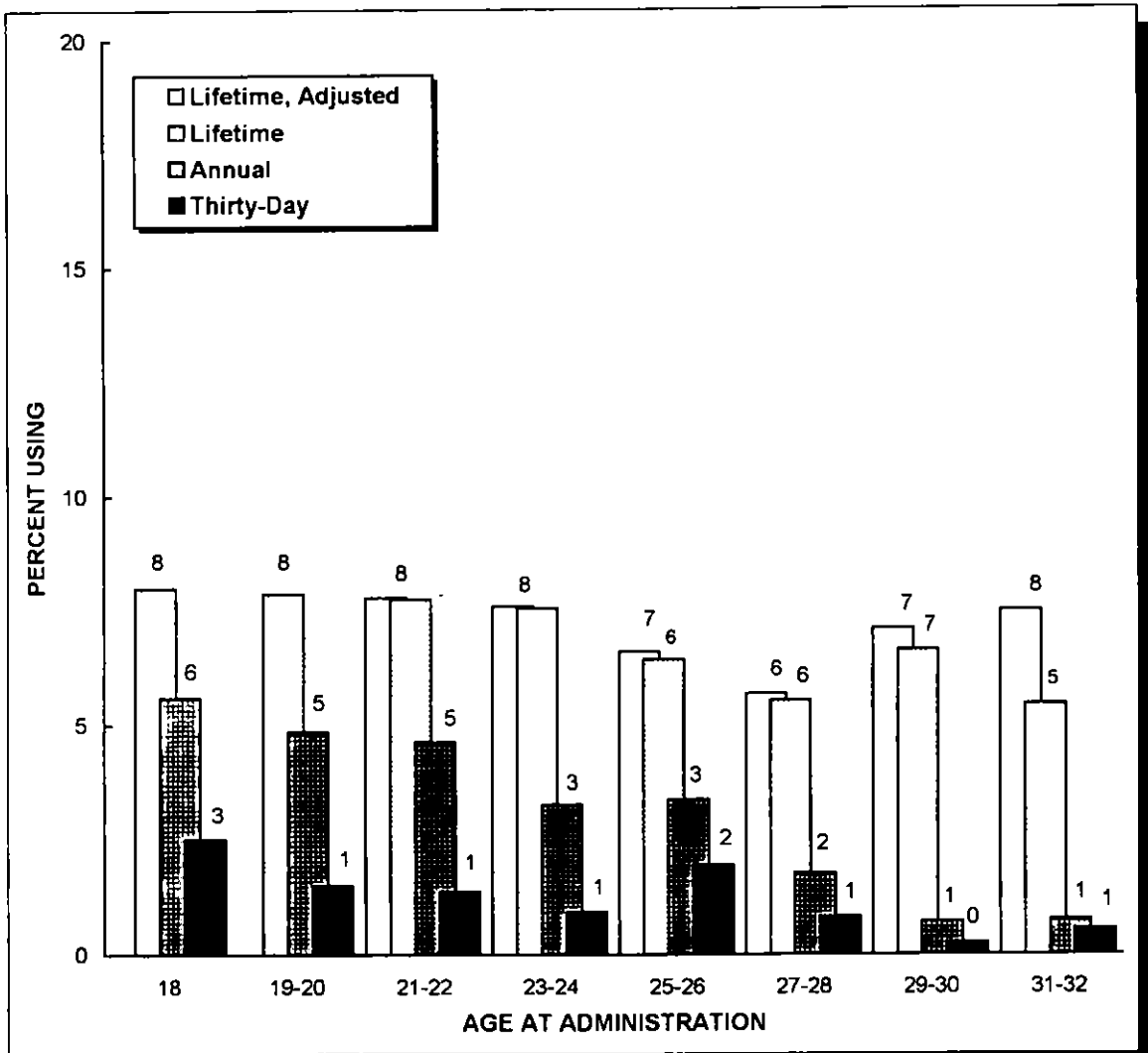
**Tranquilizers: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999**  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-15

MDMA: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Young Adults\*, 1999  
by Age Group



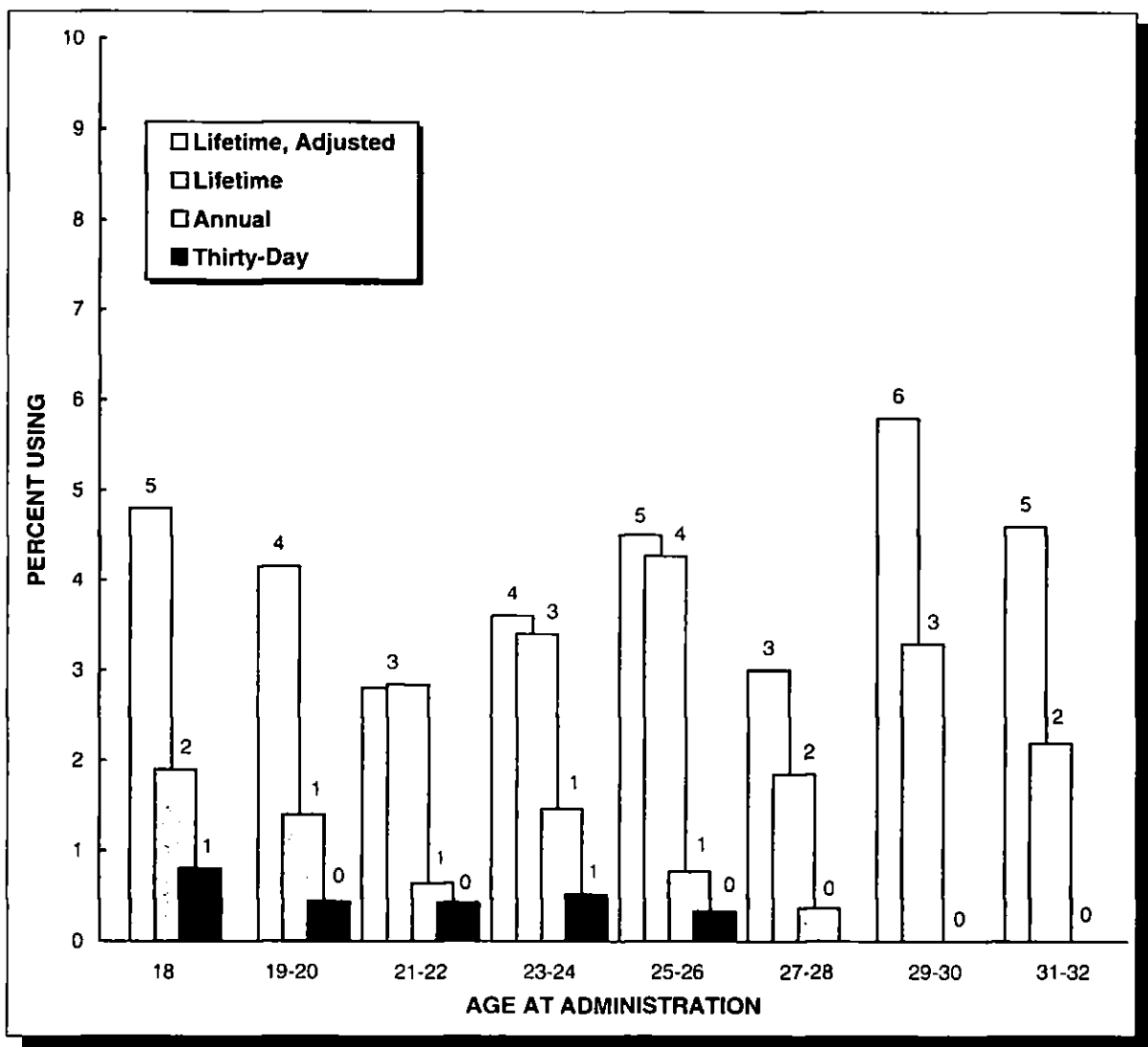
NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion. High school seniors were not asked about their use of this drug.

\*This specific drug was not included in the age 35 and age 40 questionnaires.



Figure 4-16

**Crystal Methamphetamine ("Ice"): Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Young Adults\*, 1999**  
by Age Group

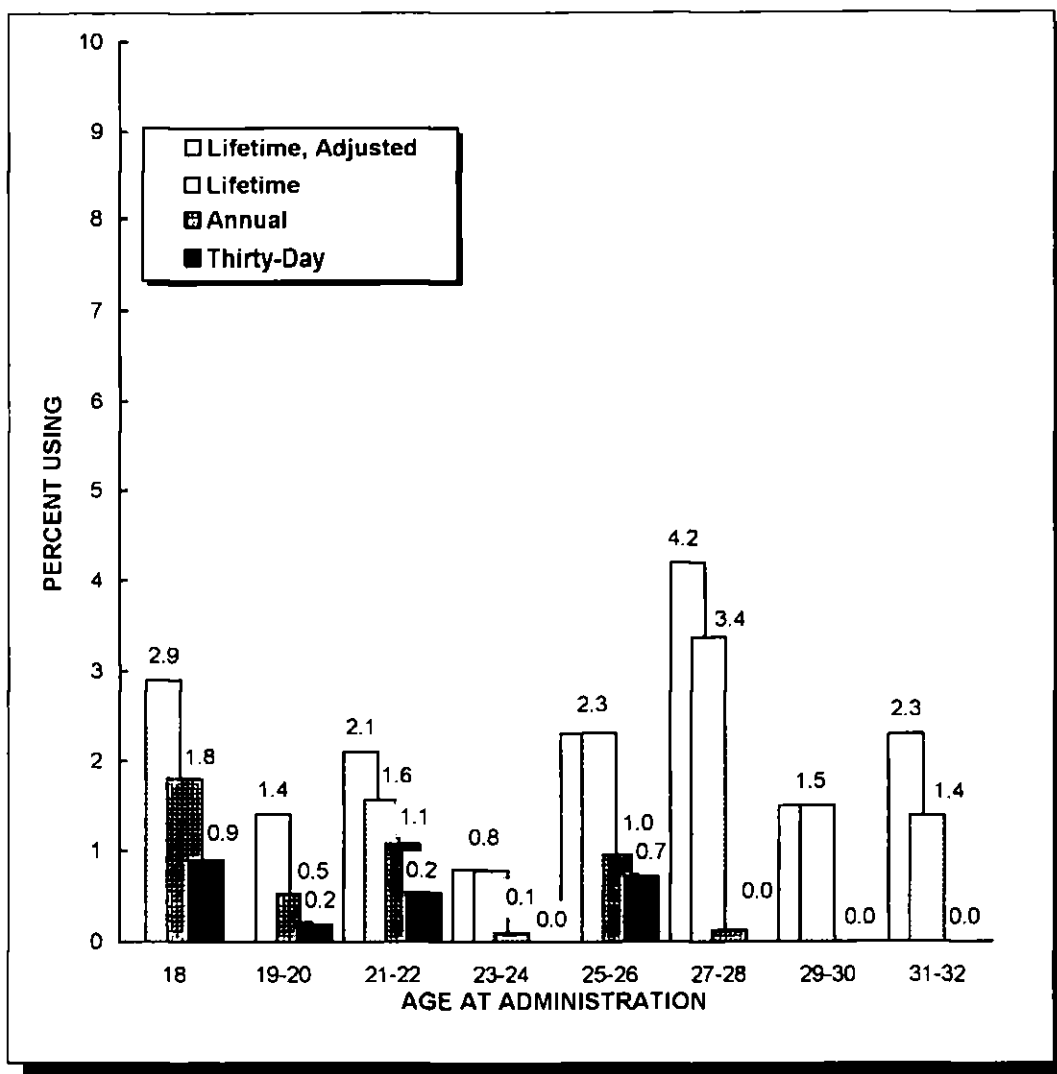


NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for details.

\*This specific drug was not included in the age 35 and age 40 questionnaires.

Figure 4-17

**Steroids: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Young Adults\*, 1999**  
by Age Group

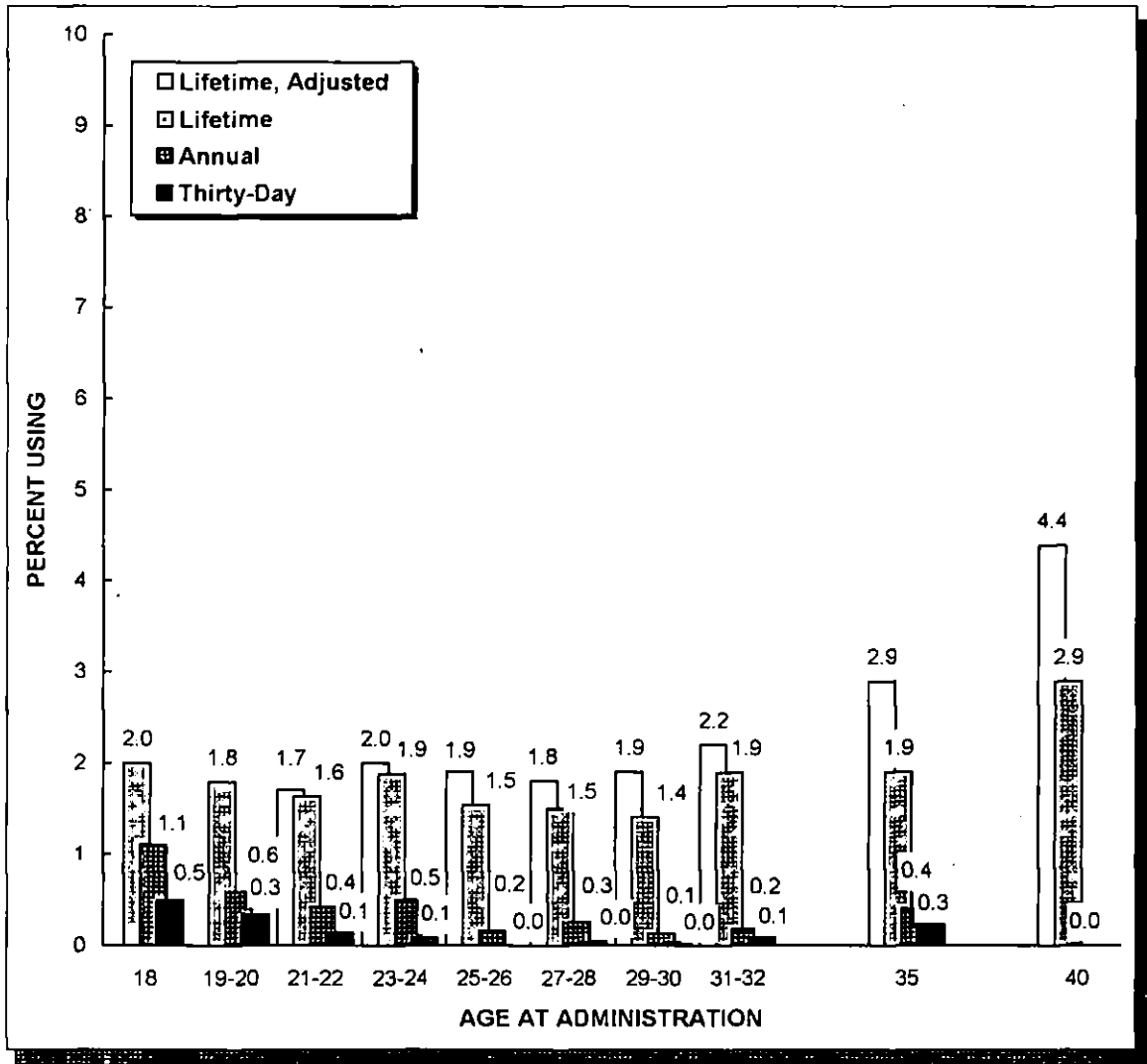


NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for details.

\*This specific drug was not included in the age 35 and age 40 questionnaires.

Figure 4-18

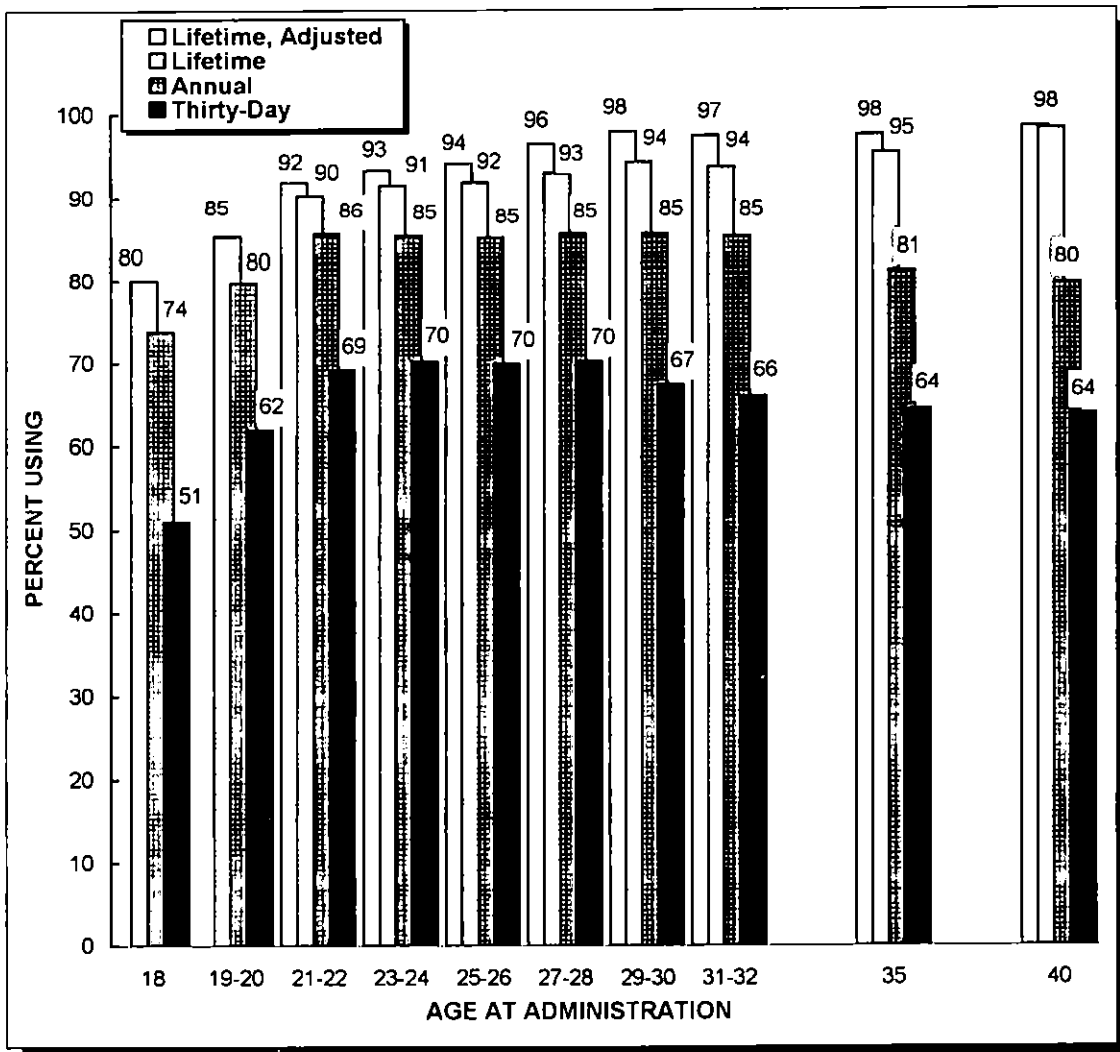
Heroin: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999 by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-19a

**Alcohol: Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999**  
by Age Group



NOTE: Lifetime prevalence estimates were adjusted for inconsistency in self-reports of drug use over time. See text for discussion.

Figure 4-19b

Alcohol: Two-Week Prevalence of Five or More Drinks in a Row and Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group

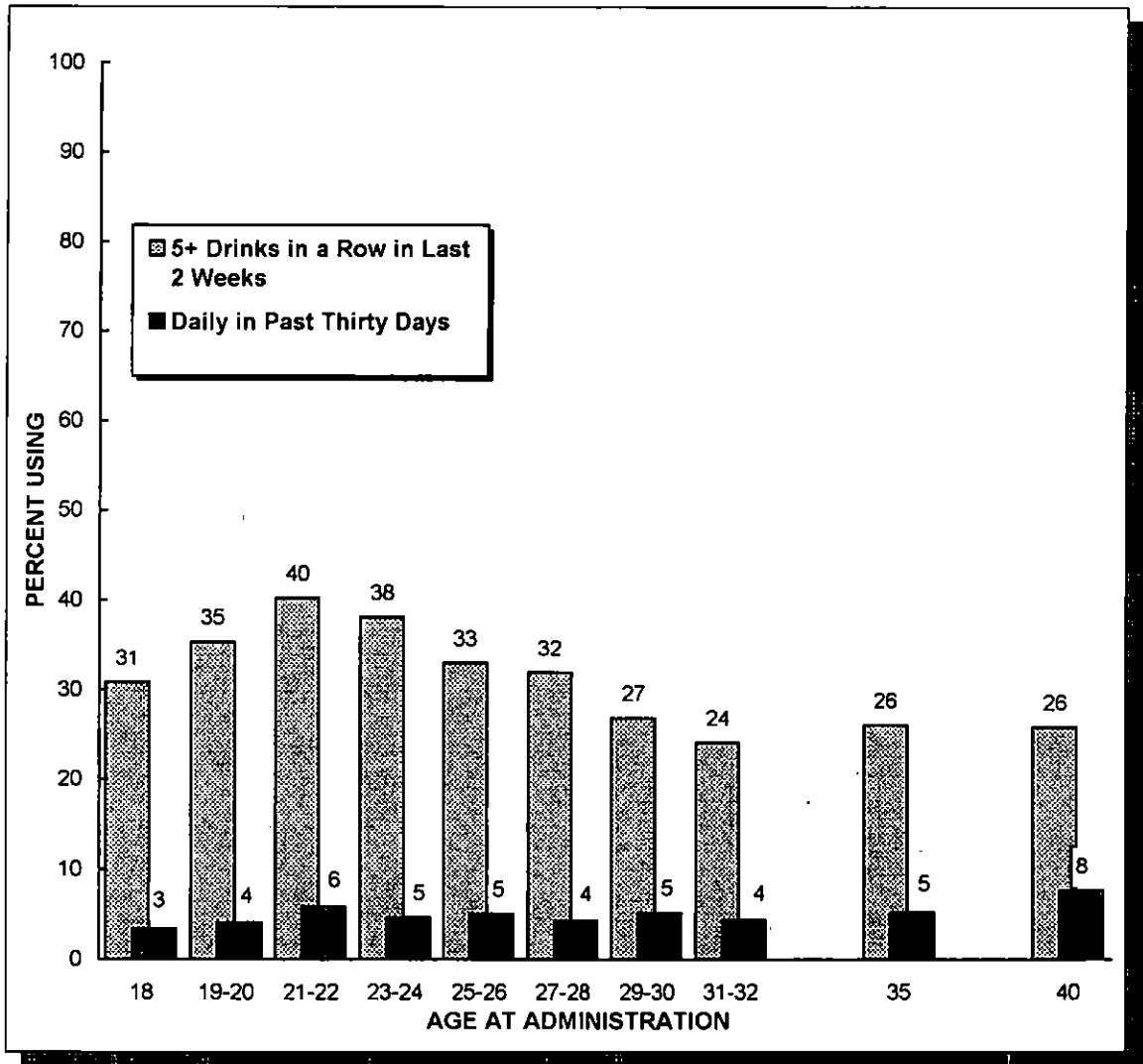
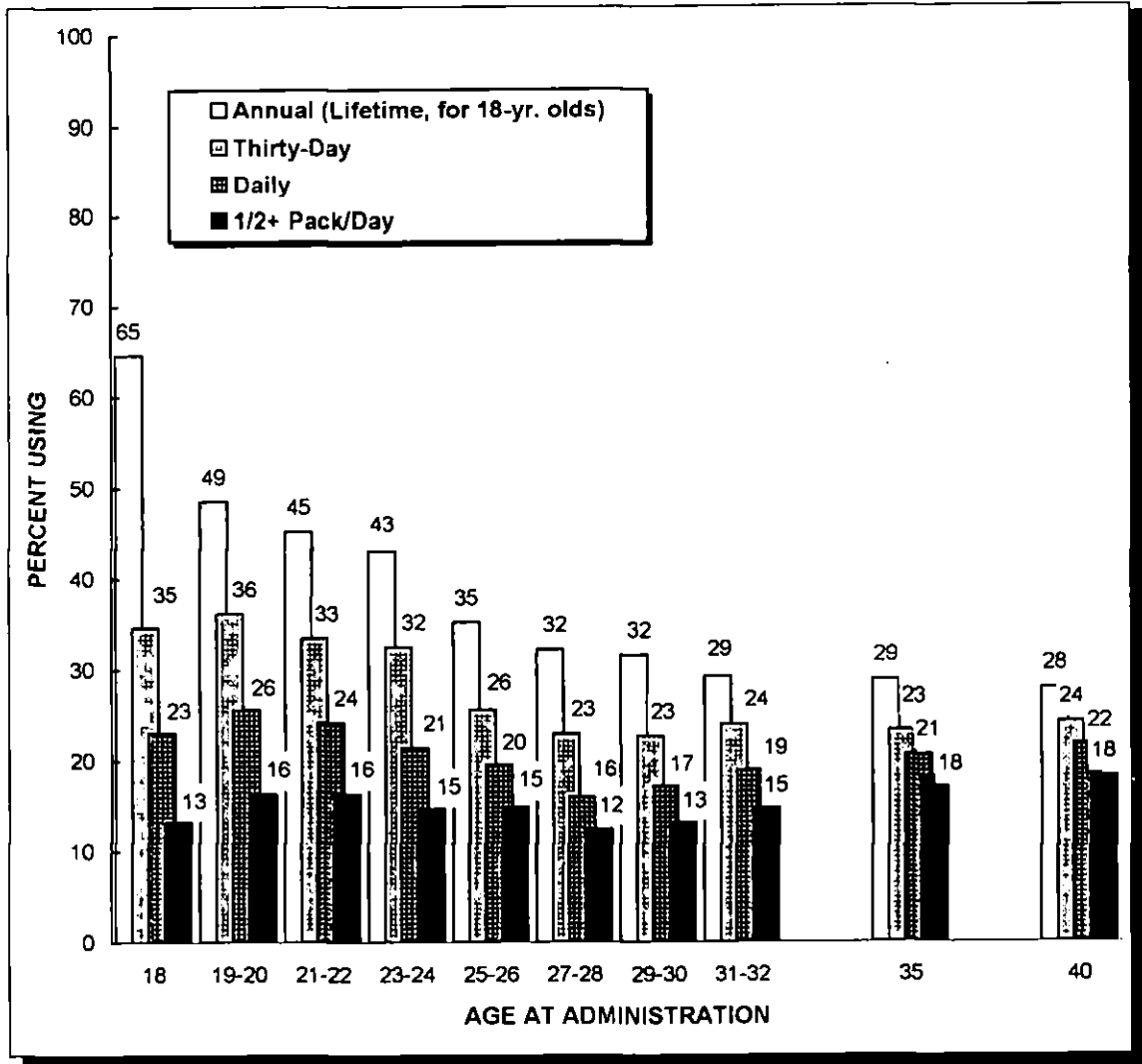


Figure 4-20

Cigarettes: Annual, Thirty-Day, Daily, and Half-Pack-a-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40, 1999  
by Age Group



## **Chapter 5**

### **TRENDS IN DRUG USE IN EARLY AND MIDDLE ADULTHOOD**

In the early 1990s, we began to document large and important increases among secondary school students in the use of a number of substances, particularly marijuana and cigarettes. The increases continued among high school seniors through 1997, as discussed in Volume I. One important issue to be addressed in this chapter is whether such increases have occurred only among adolescents, or whether recent graduating classes are carrying their higher levels of drug use in high school with them as they move into young adulthood. In other words, are they exhibiting lasting cohort effects?

Trends in the use of the various licit and illicit drugs by all high school graduates who are between one to fourteen years beyond high school are presented in this chapter. Figures 5-1 through 5-19 plot separate trend lines for two-year age strata (that is, 1-2 years beyond high school, 3-4 years beyond high school, etc.) in order to damp down the random fluctuations which would be seen with one-year strata. (Strictly speaking, these two-year strata are not age strata, because they are based on all respondents that year from two adjacent high school classes, and they do not take account of the minor differences in individual respondents' ages within each class; however, they are close approximations to age strata, and we characterize them by the modal age of the respondents, as ages 19 to 20, 21 to 22, and so on.) Each data point in these figures is based on approximately 1200 weighted cases drawn from two adjacent high school classes; actual (unweighted) numbers of cases are somewhat higher. For the 1999 data, the 19- to 20-year-old stratum is comprised of participating respondents from the classes of 1998 and 1997, respectively; the 21- to 22-year-old stratum contains data from the classes of 1996 and 1995, respectively, and so on. Figures 5-1 through 5-19 also present some recent trend data on age 35 and age 40 follow-ups. Each of these is constituted in a slightly different way, in that the two half-samples from a single graduating class (which until age 35 had been surveyed in alternating years) are both surveyed in the same year. In 1999, the 35-year-olds are graduates from the high school class of 1982 ( $n = 1050$ ) while the 40-year-olds are graduates from the high school class from 1977 ( $n = 1090$ ).

Tables 5-1 through 5-5 are derived from the same data but are presented in tabular form for 19- to 28-year-olds combined (i.e., those who graduated from high school one to ten years earlier). Data are given for each year in which they are available for that full age band (i.e., from 1987 onward). Those aged 29 to 32 (and those aged 35 and 40) are omitted, because their inclusion

would shorten the time period over which trends can be examined. However, the full data for them are contained in Figures 5-1 through 5-19.

## TRENDS IN PREVALENCE: YOUNG ADULTS

To repeat, trends in use by young adults may be found in Tables 5-1 through 5-5 (for the age group 19-28, combined), as well as in Figures 5-1 through 5-19 (for ages 19-32, broken into two-year age strata, as well as for ages 35 and 40 separately). The results are as follows:

- Longer term declines among young adults in the annual prevalence of a number of drugs appeared to end in 1992 (see Table 5-2). Among the 19- to 28-year-old young adult sample this was true for the use of *any illicit drug, any illicit drug other than marijuana, marijuana, amphetamines, and crack*. In 1993 and 1994, annual prevalence for most drugs remained steady. *Cocaine other than crack* leveled in 1993 after a period of substantial decline. In 1995, there were modest increases (a percentage point or less) in the annual prevalence of almost all of the drug classes in Table 5-2, some of which were statistically significant.

Thus, it is clear that by 1992 the downward secular trend observable in all of these age strata (as well as among adolescents) was over. (Such secular trends, in which different age groups move in parallel, are also called "period effects.") What has happened since 1992, however, is quite a different form of change; rather than being a period effect common to all age groups, it is more of a "cohort effect," reflecting an interaction between age and period such that only adolescents showed the increase in illicit drug use initially, and then they carried those new levels of drug use with them as they entered older age bands. Figure 5-1 shows the effects due to generational replacement, as the teens of the early 1990s reached their twenties. It can be seen that, while all age groups moved pretty much in parallel through about 1992, only the three youngest age bands show any sign of increase in their overall level of illicit drug use, with the 18-year-olds shifting up first, followed by the 19- to 20-year-olds, the 21- to 22-year-olds, and (for the first time in 1999) the 23- to 24-year-olds.

To repeat, in the earlier decline phase of the drug epidemic, annual prevalence of use of *any illicit drug* moved in parallel for all of the age strata, as illustrated in Figure 5-1; this pattern reflects a secular trend, because a similar change is observed simultaneously across different age levels. In what we have called the "relapse phase" after 1992, however, a quite different pattern emerged, with the seniors increasing their drug use first, and rising fastest; the next oldest age group following, but with a little delay; the next oldest then following, but with a longer delay; and the older groups not yet even showing an increase. This pattern



reflects a classical cohort effect, where different age groups are not all moving in parallel; rather, different age groups show increases when the cohorts (that is, different high school classes) having heavier use at an earlier stage in development reach the relevant age level. Further, the slopes of the age bands are successively less steep in the higher age groups, suggesting that some of the cohort effect may be dissipating with maturation. To the extent that the cohort effect endures, one would predict an increase among the 25- to 26-year-olds next, just as we predicted the beginning of an increase among the 23- to 24-year-olds for this year.

- Use of *marijuana*, which is the major component of the index of illicit drug use, shows an almost identical pattern (Figure 5-3a). After a long and steady decline from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, use leveled for awhile among young adults, before beginning a gradual increase. Virtually all of this increase was attributable to the two youngest age bands (18 and 19 to 20) until 1996, when the third youngest age band (21- to 22-year-olds) began to show a rise. The fourth youngest age band is now beginning to rise. A similar pattern emerged for current *daily marijuana* use (Figure 5-3c). The fact that daily marijuana use has been as high or higher among the 35- and 40-year-olds in recent years as among some younger age groups, suggests some lasting cohort effect on this behavior.
- In recent years, *LSD* use has come to be much higher among those in their teens and early twenties than among the older strata, as Figure 5-6 illustrates. Over the interval 1985 to 1996 there was a gradual but considerable increase in LSD use among those aged 18 to 24—and this was sharpest among the seniors and the 19- to 20-year-olds. By the mid-1990s, however, use had leveled out in all age bands, with nearly all groups showing some leveling or decline since 1996.
- In earlier years, trends in use of most drugs among the older age groups have pretty much paralleled the changes among seniors discussed in Chapter 5, Volume I. Many of the changes thus have been *secular trends*—that is, they are observable in all the age groups under study. This was generally true for the longer-term declines in the use of *any illicit drug, marijuana, any illicit drug other than marijuana, amphetamines, hallucinogens, crack, and tranquilizers. Narcotics other than heroin* began to level out in 1987, *barbiturates* and *methaqualone* in 1988. However, in the 1990s, the trends for nearly all of these drugs have not been parallel across age groups, again suggesting that the recent change is due more to *cohort effects*—differences between class cohorts which remain across a range of ages/dates.
- Several of these drug classes actually exhibited a faster decline in use among the older age groups than among high school seniors during the earlier period of

decline. (See Figures 5-1 through 5-19.) These included *any illicit drug, any illicit drug other than marijuana, amphetamines, hallucinogens* (until 1987), *LSD* (through 1989), and *methaqualone*.

- In fact there was a crossover for some drugs when seniors are compared to young adult graduates. In earlier years, seniors had lower usage levels but in recent years have higher ones than post-high school respondents for use of *any illicit drug, any illicit drug other than marijuana, marijuana, hallucinogens, LSD* specifically, *tranquilizers*, and *amphetamines*.
- *Cocaine* (Figure 5-9) gives a quite dramatic picture of change. Unlike most of the other drugs, active use has tended to rise with age after high school, generally peaking at about 3-4 years past graduation. Despite the large age differences in absolute prevalences among the different age strata, however, all of them have moved pretty much in parallel through 1991. All began a sharp and sustained decline in use after 1986. The two youngest strata (seniors and 19- to 20-year-olds) leveled by 1992, whereas use continued a decelerating decline for a couple of years beyond that in the older age groups. From 1994 to 1999, cocaine use rose some in the five youngest strata (i.e., those younger than 27) on a somewhat staggered basis, with the three older groups decreasing a bit more over that same period, thus to some degree reversing the age differences that were so prominent in the 1970s and 1980s. Cohort-related change appears to have predominated in the 1990s, quite possibly as the result of “generational forgetting” of the cocaine-related casualties so evident in the 1980s. The fact that in recent years the 35- and 40-year-olds had higher levels of cocaine use than some of the younger age groups also suggests that there has been some lasting cohort-related change in cocaine use.
- Recall that *crack* use was added to the seniors’ questionnaires in 1986 and to the follow-up questionnaires in 1987. The subsequent decline in crack use ended in 1991 among seniors, and by 1994 it had ended among young adults (see Figure 5-10 and Table 5-2). Among 19- to 28-year-olds, the annual prevalence rate has held at about 1%, which is down by nearly two-thirds from the peak levels of just over 3% in 1986 through 1988. As was true for a number of other drugs, crack use began to rise (in this case after 1993) among seniors, but not in the older age strata until 1999, when use rose significantly among 19- to 20-year-olds.
- With regard to *inhalants*, the large separation of the age band lines in Figure 5-4 shows that, across many cohorts, use consistently has dropped sharply with age—particularly in the first few years after high school. In fact, of all of the populations covered in this study, the eighth graders (not shown in Figure 5-4)

have had the highest rate of use, and we know that the decline in use with age starts at least as early as eighth or ninth grade.

Figure 5-4 also shows that there was a long-term gradual increase in annual inhalant use (unadjusted for underreporting of nitrite inhalants)—one which was greatest among seniors, next greatest among 19- to 20-year-olds, and next greatest among 21- to 22-year-olds. Respondents more than six years past high school, who historically have had a negligible rate of use, did not exhibit the increases in use seen among the younger respondents beginning at least as early as 1977 among the seniors and in 1983 among the 19- to 20-year-olds. There was subsequently some increase among the 21- to 22-year-olds and later still an increase among 23- to 24-year-olds. After 1995, this long-term trend began to reverse, and use declined, particularly among the younger age strata.

- In the late 1970s, *amphetamine* use rose with age beyond high school; but, after a long period of decline in use from 1981 to the early 1990s, this relationship had reversed (see Figure 5-13). The declines were sharpest in the older strata and least among the seniors, even though use decreased substantially in all groups. As was true for many of the illicit drugs, amphetamine use began to rise among the seniors after 1992, and eventually among the 19- to 20-year-olds; but there has been almost no change in use among the older age strata. In other words, another cohort-related pattern of change seems to have emerged in the 1990s for amphetamines.
- The annual prevalence for *MDMA (ecstasy)* among the entire young adult sample (ages 19 to 28) was at about 1.5% in 1989 and 1990; after 1991 it dropped to around 0.8% for several years, before starting to rise significantly in 1995 to 1.6%. After 1994, ecstasy use began to rise in all of the young adult age strata but clearly rose the most among those in the younger age bands (19 through 26), where it was still on the rise in 1999 (Figure 5-8). Use among seniors, which was not measured until 1996, was by then the highest of any of the age groups at 4.6% annual prevalence. Their use slipped by a full percentage point before jumping significantly—by two full percentage points—in 1999. (Recall that use by tenth graders also jumped significantly in 1999.) Thus it appears that young people from their mid-teens to mid-twenties have “discovered” ecstasy, after some years of low and level use. Ecstasy is one of the few drugs still showing an appreciable rise in use.
- Since 1990, when it was first measured, the use of *crystal methamphetamine (ice)* has remained at fairly low rates in this young adult population. However, its annual prevalence rose from 0.4% in 1992 to 1.2% by 1995 before leveling at around 1% through 1999 (Figure 5-14).

## Monitoring the Future

- Use of *heroin* increased appreciably in 1995 among both seniors and young adults aged 19 to 24 but not among the older age bands (Figure 5-11 and Table 5-2). Among young adults generally, annual use had previously been quite stable at least as far back as 1986 (Table 5-2), and it stabilized again at a higher level after 1995.
- Among 19- to 28-year-olds, the use of *narcotics other than heroin* leveled after 1991, following a period of slow, long-term decline (Figure 5-12). Seniors showed an increase, beginning in 1992, which continued into 1999, while 19- to 20-year-olds showed some increase after 1994, 21- to 22-year-olds after 1996, and 23- to 24-year-olds after 1997. The older age strata showed no change in the 1990s. Thus, cohort-related change appears to have been occurring during the 1990s for this class of drugs as well.
- *Barbiturate* use (Figure 5-15) had shown a long-term parallel decline in all age groups covered through the late 1970s and 1980s, leveling by about 1988. While use has remained low and quite level for most of the age bands, use began to rise by 1993 among seniors, by 1995 among 19- to 20-year-olds, by 1997 among 21- to 22-year-olds, and by 1998 among 23- to 24-year-olds. The same cohort-related pattern of change during the 1990s seen for many other drugs exists for barbiturates also.
- *Tranquilizers* (Figure 5-16) give a fairly similar picture to that just described for barbiturates. The major difference is that the seniors' annual prevalence rate has not always been the highest among the various age groups, as was the case for barbiturates, although it has been since 1994 as a result of the greater increase in tranquilizer use among the seniors.
- The use of *anabolic steroids* (Figure 5-17) is substantially lower after high school than during, and this has been true since measures of steroid use were first introduced into two of the follow-up questionnaires in 1991. Because the estimates in follow-up are based on relatively low numbers of cases, the age-related differences are not consistent. What is consistent is that they are all quite low and do not appear to trend in any systematic way.
- The *alcohol* trends for the older age groups (see Figures 5-18a-d) also have been somewhat different than for the younger age groups, and in some interesting ways. For *30-day prevalence* and *occasions of heavy drinking*, the declines for the two youngest age strata (seniors and those one to two years past high school) during the 1980s were greater than for the older age groups. These differential trends are due in part to the effects of changes in minimum drinking age laws in

many states, changes which would be expected to affect only the age groups under age 21. However, because similar (though weaker) trends were evident among high school seniors in states that maintained a constant minimum drinking age of 21, the changed laws cannot account for all the downward trends, suggesting that there was also a more general downward trend in alcohol consumption during the 1980s.<sup>24</sup> By 1994, these declines in 30-day prevalence had slowed or discontinued for virtually all age groups.

Those respondents three to four years past high school stand out for showing the smallest downward trend in *binge drinking* since the early 1980s. One important segment of that age stratum is comprised of college students, who showed very little downward trend (see Chapter 9).

The older age groups, in general, have shown only a modest long-term decline in annual prevalence rates, and no recent decline in binge drinking or in 30-day prevalence rates. Note that the binge drinking trend lines for different age groups (Figure 5-18d) are spread out on the vertical dimension reflecting large and persisting age differentials (age effects) in this behavior. In recent years the 21- to 22-year-olds have shown the highest rates of binge drinking, while the adjacent age bands have shown the next highest.

Rates of *daily drinking* (Figure 5-18c) fell by considerable amounts in all age strata, reflecting an important change in drinking patterns in the culture. Among 19- to 28-year-olds combined, daily drinking fell from 6.6% in 1987 to 3.9% in 1994, before leveling for a few years. It increased significantly in 1999 to 4.8% (see Table 5-4).

As shown in Figure 5-18b, there was a gradual decline in 30-day prevalence of *alcohol* use among seniors between 1980 (72%) and 1987 (66%) followed by a sharper drop between 1987 and 1992 to 51%, where it has remained since. Among those 1-2 years past high school there was a gradual decline from 1981 (77%) to 1989 (70%), followed by a sharper decline through 1996 (58%), and then some increase. The declines may reflect some lagged and lasting effects resulting, at least in part, from the change in drinking age laws.

It is worth noting that the 35- and 40-year-olds have had among the lowest rates of binge drinking but among the highest rates of daily drinking in the few recent years for which we have data available. These patterns—particularly the high rate of daily drinking—reflect age effects or some enduring cohort differences (since

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<sup>24</sup>O'Malley, P. M., & Wagenaar, A. C. (1991). Minimum drinking age laws on alcohol use, related behaviors, and traffic crash involvement among American youth: 1976-1987. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 52, 478-491.

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these cohorts had considerably higher rates of daily drinking when they were in high school).

- The prevalence rates for *cigarette smoking* show more complex trends than most other substances, due to the long-term presence of both cohort and age effects, plus slightly different patterns of such effects on different measures of smoking in the past 30 days (one or more cigarettes per month, one or more cigarettes per day, and half-pack or more cigarettes per day).

While in the earlier years of the study the curves are of the same general shape for each age band (Figures 5-18a-c), each of those curves tends to be displaced to the right of the immediately preceding age group, which is two years younger. The pattern is clearest in Figure 5-19c (half-pack plus per day). This pattern is very similar to the one described in Volume I for lifetime smoking rates for various grade levels *below* senior year; it is the classic pattern exhibited by cohort effect—that is, when cohorts (in this case, high school graduating class cohorts) differ from other cohorts in a consistent way across much or all of the life span. We interpret the cigarette data as reflecting just such a cohort effect,<sup>25</sup> and we believe that the persisting cohort differences are due to the dependence-producing characteristics of cigarette smoking.

The declining levels of cigarette smoking across cohorts at age 18, which were observed when the classes of 1978 through 1981 became high school seniors, were later observable in the early-30s age band, as those same high school graduating classes reached their early 30s (see Figures 5-18b and c). This was true at least through about 1991. After that, there was a considerable convergence of rates across age groups, largely because of few cohort differences among senior class cohorts who graduated from the early to mid-1980s through the early 1990s.

In addition to these cohort differences, there are somewhat different age trends in which, as respondents grow older, the proportion smoking at all in the past 30 days declines some, while the proportion smoking half-pack per day actually increases. Put another way, many of the light smokers in high school either become heavy smokers or quit smoking.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup>O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Johnston, L. D. (1988). Period, age, and cohort effects on substance use among young Americans: A decade of change, 1976-1986. *American Journal of Public Health*, 78, 1315-1321.

<sup>26</sup>To illustrate, in the class of 1976 39% were thirty-day smokers in senior year, 39% at ages 19 to 20, and by age 31 to 32 only 28%—a net drop of 11 percentage points over the entire interval. By way of contrast, 19% of that class were half-pack-a-day smokers in senior year, 24% by ages 19 to 20, and 21% at ages 31 to 32—a net gain of 2% over the interval.

The picture was further complicated in the 1990s, when it appears that a new cohort effect emerged, with smoking among adolescents first rising sharply (beginning after 1991 for the eighth and tenth graders and after 1992 for the twelfth graders). The 19- to 20-year-olds also showed a rise at the beginning of the 1990s—responding perhaps to some of the same social forces as the adolescents (including perhaps the Joe Camel advertising campaign); but the 21- to 24-year-olds did not show an increase until about 1995, and the 25- to 26-year-olds until about 1996. Those young adults over age 26 have not yet shown an increase, though they may well as the heavier smoking senior class cohorts enter those age bands.

- Apart from cigarettes, none of the other drugs included in the study showed a clear long-term pattern of enduring cohort differences in the earlier years of the study (the 1970s and 1980s), despite wide variations in their use by different cohorts at a given age. There was one exception; a modest cohort effect was observable for *daily marijuana* use during the late 1970s and early 1980s. (But as more recent classes leveled at low rates of use, evidence for the cohort effect faded.) The emergence in the 1990s of a new epidemic of marijuana use, and daily marijuana use, among teens once again yielded a strong pattern of cohort effects. As can be seen in Figure 5-3c, use rose sharply among seniors and 19- to 20-year-olds after 1992 and began to rise among 21- to 22-year-olds after 1993 with a sharp rise occurring in 1997. However, among those 25 and older there as yet has been virtually no increase in daily use. This is not so very different from the pattern of change for cigarette smoking that occurred in the 1990s (Figure 5-18a). The fact that there exists a cohort effect for daily marijuana use may be attributable, in part, to the very strong association between that behavior and regular cigarette smoking. It is noteworthy that even among the 35- and 40-year-olds in the study, fully 2.0% and 2.4%, respectively, report that they still currently smoke marijuana on a daily basis.
- In sum, except for *cigarettes* and *alcohol*, prior to 1992, substance use among high school seniors and the young adults had shown *longer-term* trends that were highly parallel. Although divergent trends would not necessarily demonstrate a lack of validity in either set of data (because such a divergence could occur as the result of cohort differences), we took the high degree of *convergence* for many years as evidence of validity in the trends reported earlier for the seniors. In fact, each of these sets of data have helped to validate the trend story reported by the other.

Since 1992, however, there has been some considerable divergence in the trends for different age bands on a number of drugs as use among adolescents rose sharply, followed by subsequent rises among the 19- to 20-year-olds, the 21- to

22-year-olds, and so on. This divergence indicates a new cohort effect, quite possibly reflecting a “generational forgetting” of the dangers of drugs by the cohorts who reached senior year in the early to mid-1990s. The data discussed in Chapter 6, Attitudes and Beliefs about Drugs among Young Adults, provide additional evidence for this interpretation.

## **TRENDS FOR IMPORTANT SUBGROUPS OF YOUNG ADULTS**

Four-year age-bands have been used here to examine subgroup trends in order to yield sufficiently large numbers of cases to permit reliable estimates for the various subgroups being examined. Subgroup data for respondents of each gender, and for respondents from communities of different sizes, are available for 19- to 22-year-olds since 1980, 23- to 26-year-olds since 1984, and 27- to 30-year-olds since 1988. Beginning with the 1987 follow-up questionnaires, information on state of residence was included, permitting us to obtain trend data for the four regions of the country since 1987. These various subgroup data are not presented in tables or figures here because of the substantial amount of space they would require. Rather, a verbal synopsis of what they contain is presented here.

### ***Gender Differences in Trends***

- Over the long term, gender differences narrowed for some drugs, primarily because of a steeper decline in use among males (who generally had higher rates of use) than among females. The overall picture, though, is one of parallel trends, with use among males remaining higher for most drugs, including the indexes of *any illicit drug* use in the prior year and use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* (see Table 5-5, for example).
- The downward trend in *marijuana* use among 19- to 22-year-olds, between 1980 and 1989, was somewhat sharper among males than females, narrowing the gap between the two groups. Annual prevalence fell by 22 percentage points (to 34%) among males, compared to a drop of 14 percentage points (to 31%) among females. Since then, the gap widened a bit, as use has begun to rise modestly in this age band (but not much yet in the older ones) since 1993.

Similarly, between 1980 and 1993 *daily marijuana* use for this age group fell more steeply, from 13% to 3% among males, versus from 6% to 2% among females, narrowing the gap considerably. However, as use began to rise after 1993, the gap widened. Among 23- to 26-year-olds, as daily use first began to increase in 1998 and 1999, the gap between the genders began to widen. In the oldest age group (aged 27-30), the difference has been fairly constant, with daily marijuana use among males being two to three times higher than among females.



- Males have shown slightly higher proportions using *any illicit drug other than marijuana* in all three age bands—a fact which has changed rather little over the years.
- For *LSD*, among 19- to 22-year-olds, the male-female differences tended to diminish as use declined (1980-1985) and tended to increase as use increased (1985-1995). In the two older age bands, there has been less change in use, and males have consistently had considerably higher rates of use than females. For example, among 23- to 26-year-olds in 1999, 5.3% of the males report LSD use in the prior year versus 1.5% of the females.
- Questions about the use of *MDMA (ecstasy)* were added to the study in 1990. In the beginning of the 1990s rates of use were quite low in all three age bands and use among males tended to be higher. The gender difference narrowed in the older two age bands in the early 1990s but not among the 19- to 22-year-olds. Ecstasy use increased in all three age bands, though in a staggered fashion. Among the 19- to 22-year-olds, there was a sharp increase from 1993 through 1998 (before leveling) among females and a sharp increase from 1994 to 1999 among males. Gender differences were eliminated by these changes—just the opposite of what usually happens in a period of increasing use. But among 23- to 26-year-olds, and later the 27- to 30-year-olds, the gender differences widened as use increased.
- During the period of sharp decline from the peak levels in annual *cocaine* prevalence (1986-1993), use dropped more among males than females, narrowing the gender differences. In the 19- to 22-year-old age band, annual prevalence for males declined by 16 percentage points (to 4.5%) versus 13 percentage points among females (to 2.8% in 1993). In the 23- to 26-year-old age band there was also a narrowing of the gender difference between 1986 and 1993, with annual prevalence down 19 percentage points (to 6.9%) among males and 13 percentage points (to 4.2%) among females. Since 1988, when data are first available for them, use in the 27- to 30-year-old group also dropped faster among males (down 13.3 percentage points versus 7.1 among females) between 1988 and 1997. In sum, during the period of sharp decline in cocaine use overall, the gender differences—which had been fairly large—narrowed considerably in all age bands.
- As *barbiturate* use declined through the 1980s, the modest gender differences (males were higher) were virtually eliminated in all three age bands; annual prevalence stands between 0.8% and 4.5% for both genders in all three age groups in 1999. Since the early 1990s, there has been a modest increase for both genders among the 19- to 22-year-olds, with males being the first to rise (as is often the

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case), followed by the females. Among the 23- to 26-year-olds, use began to rise among males since 1997, but so far by less among females.

- The annual prevalence figures for *heroin* dropped among males in the 19- to 22-year-old category between 1980 and 1986 (from 0.6% to 0.2%) before leveling through 1994; thus most of the decline in use in that interval was among males. Rates for both sexes remained very low, between 0.1% and 0.3% throughout the period 1986 through 1994. In 1995 through 1998, use increased appreciably among both males and females in this youngest age group, but a gender difference opened up again (with males higher). Among 23- to 26-year-olds, use also remained low (0.1% to 0.2%) over the years 1986-1994 for both genders. There was an increase in 1995 in both genders, followed by two years of falloff, but since 1994, use among males has risen and more of a gender difference has emerged (again, males are higher). Among 27-30-year-olds there was some falloff in *heroin* use between 1988 (when data were first available) and 1990 in both genders, and a narrowing of gender differences. Use rose slightly in the mid-1990s among males, and the rates among males have recently been higher than among females.
- Among 19- to 22-year-olds, both genders showed some decline in their use of *narcotics other than heroin* between 1980 and 1991, with a near elimination of previous gender differences (males had been higher). Beginning in 1994, use by males began to rise in this age band, while use by females began to rise a year later. The increase has continued through 1999 and the gender difference has reemerged, with an annual prevalence in 1999 of 6.9% for males versus 3.5% for females. The largest changes have occurred in the 19- to 22-year-old band. Among 23- to 26-year-olds, the gender difference (males higher) had been eliminated by 1988. It began to reemerge after 1992 as use has increased more among males. Among the 27- to 30-year-olds, there has been little gender difference and the least increase in use in the 1990s.
- Between 1981 and 1991, rates of *amphetamine* use were similar for males and females, and showed substantial and parallel downward trends for both genders. Among the 19- to 22-year-olds, use for males dropped 22 percentage points in annual prevalence (to 5.2% in 1991), and use for females dropped 21 percentage points (to 4.7% in 1991). Since 1991, there have been small increases in annual prevalence for both genders in the 19- to 22-year-age group, in which the prevalence rate now stands at 7.6% for males and 5.6% for females. However, there has been no upturn in the older age bands for either gender, and generally there has not been any appreciable gender difference in *amphetamine* use for some years in any of these three age bands.

- **Crystal methamphetamine (ice)** was added to the study in 1990. In the early 1990s use was low and very similar for both genders in all three young adult age bands. Nearly all of the increase in use that occurred in the mid-1990s in the younger two age bands occurred among males—opening a gender gap. The genders converged again by 1998 or 1999, however.
- For **tranquilizers**, both genders have shown a long, gradual decline (and very similar rates of use) since 1980. In recent years, from the late 1980s to the early 1990s, rates hovered around 2% to 3% annual prevalence for both genders in all three age groupings. Beginning in 1995, use increased for both genders in the 19- to 22-year-old group, followed by some increase in 1998 among the 23- to 26-year-olds, again reflecting generational replacement.
- **Inhalant** use has been consistently higher among males than females in all three age groups. The 19- to 22-year-old group showed a gradual upward shift from 1980 to 1988, followed by a leveling for some years, in both genders. In 1996, however, the gender gap diminished as use among females jumped to a higher plateau. Since 1996 there has been little change for either grade. Among 23- to 26-year-olds, there was a widening gender gap as use by males, but not females, increased after 1992. A similar occurrence appeared among 27- to 30-year-olds for the first time in 1999.
- For **alcohol**, 30-day prevalence rates have shown a long, gradual, parallel decline from 1981 through 1992 for both genders in the 19- to 22-year-old age group. Thirty-day prevalence fell from 83% to 72% among males and from 75% to 62% among females by 1992. In the two older age bands, there had also been a modest, parallel decline for both genders, from 1985 through 1992 in the case of 23- to 26-year-olds, and at least from 1988 (when data were first available) to 1991 or 1992 in the case of the 27- to 30-year-olds. After 1992, both genders in all three age bands showed level use.

There also was a general long-term decline in **daily drinking** from about 1981 or 1982 through about 1992, with daily use falling more among males, reducing, but far from eliminating, what had been a large gender difference among 19- to 22-year-olds. To illustrate, in 1981, 11.8% of the males reported daily use versus 4.0% of the females. The comparable statistics were 5.3% and 2.7% in 1992. After 1995 daily drinking began to increase among the 19- to 22-year-olds for both genders. There is still a large gender difference for daily drinking among the 19- to 22-year-old age group in 1999—7.1% for males versus 3.5% for females—but not nearly as large as it had been in 1981 (11.8% versus 4.0%). The gender differences have been larger for the older age groups (in 1999, for example, 7.7%

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versus 2.7% among 23- to 26-year-olds), and there has been little evidence of any convergence.

There also are long-established and large gender differences in all age groups on *occasional heavy drinking* or “binge drinking” (i.e., having five or more drinks in a row at least once in the past two weeks). Males in the 19- to 22-year-old band showed some longer-term decline in this statistic, from 54% in 1986 to 45% in 1995, thus narrowing the gender gap (from 24 percentage points in 1986 to 17 in 1995). Since 1995 the rates for both genders have drifted up a few percentage points. In the two older age bands (23–26- and 27–30-year-olds), both the binge drinking rates and the sizeable gender differences have been stable for the most part. However, since 1997 both sexes showed some slight increase in binge drinking in the 23- to 26-year-old group.

- For *cigarette smoking* the similarities between the genders in both absolute levels and in trends are what is most striking, though there are some differences. All three age groups showed a long-term decline in *daily smoking* rates for both males and females since data were first available for each—at least through 1990: 19- to 22-year-olds from 1980 to 1990; 23- to 26-year-olds from 1984 to 1992; and 27- to 30-year-olds from 1988 to 1994. Male and female daily smoking rates have also been very close, particularly in the two older age groups, but among the 19- to 22-year-olds there was a crossover after 1993—up to that point females had slightly higher smoking rates, but after that males did. (They converged again in 1999.)

There have been some increases in the last decade in 30-day smoking rates among the two younger groups, and especially among the males. For example, from 1993 to 1999, 19- to 22-year-old males increased from 29% to 37%, while females increased from 29% to 34%. Because smoking rates in high school graduating classes since 1992 have been on the rise, and because we know that class cohorts tend to maintain their relative differences over time, we have predicted a continuation of the increase in smoking among 19- to 22-year-olds in the coming years, and eventually in the older age bands as the recent heavier-smoking high school class cohorts grow older. Beginning in 1996, smoking began to rise among the 23- to 26-year-olds. Again, it has risen more among males.

## *Regional Differences in Trends*

The respondent’s current state of residence was first asked in the 1987 follow-up survey; thus trend data by region exist only for the interval since then. In this case changes have been examined for all 19- to 28-year-olds combined to increase the reliability of the estimates.

Because gender and urbanicity crosscut all regions, they have less sampling error than when the sample is divided into four separate regions. (All regions are represented by between 1,100 and 2,800 cases in all years.) In general, the changes that have occurred since 1987 have been fairly consistent across regions, particularly in terms of the direction of the change.

- There were substantial drops in all four regions between 1987 (the initial measurement point) and 1991 for *any illicit drug, marijuana, any illicit drug other than marijuana, cocaine, crack, and amphetamines*. Since 1991, there has been a leveling or increase in the use of these drugs in most or all regions, with the exception of *cocaine*, which has continued to decline through the mid-1990s before beginning to inch up in the years since.
- The proportion of 19- to 28-year-olds using *any illicit drug* has been consistently lowest in the South and highest in the West and Northeast. For *marijuana* use, the South stands out as being consistently lowest. Generally, the other three regions have been fairly close to one another. For the use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana*, the West has stood out as consistently highest with the other three regions nearly identical since 1990. As will be discussed below, in recent years the West has had the highest rates of use among young adults of *LSD* (at least until 1995, when use dropped in the West), *hallucinogens other than LSD* (again, until 1995, when use dropped in the West and rose in all other regions), and *ice*.
- The declines in *cocaine* use observed in all regions between 1987 and 1991 were greatest in the two regions that had attained the highest levels of use by the mid-1980s—the West and the Northeast. In 1992, these declines stalled in all regions except the Northeast, as was similar to the finding for seniors. A gradual further decline then occurred in all regions through 1996 (1997 for the West) before a slight rise began to occur, no doubt reflecting the affects of generational replacement. Much less regional variability remains in 1999 than in 1987.
- All four regions also exhibited an appreciable drop in *crack* use between 1987 and 1991, again with the greatest declines in the West and Northeast, where prevalence had been the highest. Use then generally leveled in all regions except the South, where it continued a gradual decline through 1997. As was true for cocaine generally, annual prevalence rates among the regions have converged; they now stand between 0.7% in the Northeast and from 1.4% to 2.1% in the other three regions.
- Through 1994, rates of *inhalant* use remained relatively stable and quite low in all four regions among 19- to 28-year-olds. Annual use then became higher in the

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Northeast, after rises in 1995 and 1996. It now stands at 4.3% in the Northeast versus between 1.4% and 2.4% in the other three regions.

- *LSD* use rose in all four regions between 1989 and about 1995, with the West showing the highest prevalence rate. Between 1995 and 1997, rates converged and remained fairly level, with a decrease occurring in 1998 for all regions. Annual prevalence of *LSD* now stands at 3.7% to 4.8% for all regions among 19- to 28-year-olds. In the late 1980s and then again in the late 1990s, the use of *hallucinogens other than LSD* has been higher in the West and Northeast than in the South and North Central. The rates converged during the interval 1990-1993.
- Questions about *MDMA (ecstasy)* were added to the surveys in 1989. Through 1993, rates were highest in the West and South and lower in the Northeast and North Central regions. Subsequently, use in the Northeast began to increase, approaching the levels of use found in the South and West. But in 1999 there was a sharp increase in the Northeast, as was true among seniors, giving it the highest annual prevalence (6.1%) versus 4.6% in the West, 3.4% in the South, and 1.5% in the North Central. In fact, the North Central has consistently had a much lower level of use than the other three regions.
- The regions have trended fairly similarly in their prevalence of *amphetamine* use by young adults. The only modest exception was that use declined more in the Northeast (which started out lowest) in the period 1987 to 1992, giving it a substantially lower rate than the other three regions. (The West has consistently had the highest rate, but not by much.) By the late 1990s, the Northeast had caught up to the North Central and South, making the regional differences pretty small.
- Questions about the use of *crystal methamphetamine (ice)* were added in 1990. Three of the regions have shown very low rates since then (from 0.1% to 1.4% annual prevalence). The West has shown the consistently highest rate (from 0.9% to 4.0%), including an increase in use between 1991 and 1995 (from 0.9% to 4.0%); and a fall-back to 2.3% by 1996, where it remained in 1999. Use also grew gradually in the South, from 0.1% in 1990 to 0.5% in 1996, 1.4% in 1997, and then down to 0.9% by 1999.
- The use of *barbiturates* remained flat, and at about equivalent levels, in all four regions of the country from 1987, when regional data were first available, through 1994. Rates then rose gradually in all regions, but by the most in the South, where annual use in 1999 was at 3.7%.

- The picture for *tranquilizers* is quite similar to that for barbiturates. The regional differences have been small, though the South tends to have the highest rate. Use generally declines in all regions from 1987 through 1993. Since then there has been some increase in the South, where annual prevalence stands at 5.0% in 1999 versus 2.6% to 3.9% in the other regions.
- With respect to *alcohol* use, there were modest declines in all four regions between 1987 (when the first measurement was available for 19- to 28-year-olds) and 1992 in 30-day prevalence. The rates for 30-day use then leveled in all regions for two to three years, followed by a bit more decline in all regions except the South, which remained unchanged. The West and the South have consistently had lower rates of 30-day use than the Northeast and North Central.

Current daily use also showed a decline from the first (1987) data collection through about 1994 or 1995 in all regions. (The proportional declines were substantial—on the order of 40%–50%.) Since 1995, there has been some increase in daily use of alcohol for all regions.

*Occasional heavy drinking* (or “binge drinking”) has remained fairly level in all regions since 1987. The rates generally have been appreciably higher in the North Central (42% in 1999) and the Northeast (41%) than in the South and the West (31% for both).

- There have been highly consistent regional differences in *cigarette smoking* since data were first available in 1987—and they exist for monthly, daily, and the half-pack-daily prevalence rates. The West consistently has had the lowest rates (e.g., 16% daily prevalence in 1999), the South the next lowest (20% in 1999), the Northeast the third highest (24% in 1999), and the North Central the highest (25% in 1999). After some slight decline in 30-day prevalence in all regions between 1987 and 1989, rates leveled off for about five years (roughly through 1994). There then followed a very gradual increase of a few percentage points through 1998. For *half-pack-a-day smoking*, the decline phase was longer (from 1987 through about 1992 or 1993), likely reflecting the lag between smoking initiation and regular heavy smoking. The later increase in smoking did not really show up in all regions at the half-pack-a-day level until 1998, but it did not continue into 1999.

### *Population Density Differences in Trends*

The analyses presented here for population density return to the use of four-year age groupings, which allows a longer time interval to be examined for the younger strata and for cross-age comparisons of the trends. Among the young adults, five levels of population density are

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distinguished based on the respondent's answer: very large city, large city, medium-sized city, small town, and farm/country.

- In general, the proportion of young adults using *any illicit drug* declined substantially over the long term in communities of all sizes. Among the 19- to 22-year-olds, this decline began in 1980 (when data were first available) and continued through 1991 (or in the cases of very large cities and farm/country areas, 1993); rates then began to increase fairly steadily through 1998 or 1999 among the 19- to 22-year-olds in all areas. In the two older age groups, rates have remained steady in all areas since about 1991 or 1992, following a period of decline after 1985. In general, the farm/country stratum tends to have lower use than all of the other strata, while the very large cities generally rank at the top. In 1999, the proportions of 19- to 22-year-olds reporting use of an illicit drug in the past year were 27% for the farm/country strata, 36% for small town, 39% for medium- and large-sized cities, and 40% for very large cities. (The absolute differences among these strata narrowed as usage rates fell, but they have increased some with the recent rise in use.) For young adults aged 23 to 26, the differences became smaller by the early 1990s. Among the 27- to 30-year-olds, the difference has averaged about 9% between the rural and large city strata and this has changed rather little since 1988, when data were first available for them.
- The use of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* tells a similar story. There was a long period of fairly parallel decline before leveling, and some convergence of usage rates among the strata at all three age levels. In general, small, large, and very large cities all have tended to have about the same rates, and the farm/country stratum has tended to have the lowest rates, particularly prior to 1990.
- *Marijuana* use began declines in 1981 or 1982 among the 19- to 22-year-olds in all community-sized categories; the declines lasted until about 1991, when prevalence rates stabilized briefly, before trending upward from 1993 through 1999. (The farm/country stratum only showed the increase from 1993 to 1994; then marijuana use stabilized through 1998, before rising in 1999.) Still, all urban strata are 15 to 19 percentage points below where they were in 1980. The most rural region has consistently had the lowest rate of use, and it fell less in the earlier period and rose less in the subsequent increase than did the other strata. Among 27- to 30-year-olds, there has been no increase in marijuana use in the 1990s in any stratum, and only a little increase among 23- to 26-year-olds—and there only in the very large cities through 1997.
- Among the 19- to 22-year-olds (the young adult age group with by far the highest rates of *LSD* use), *LSD* use in communities of all sizes declined appreciably in



the 1980s, particularly in the urban strata, eliminating prior differences by 1984. Since around 1989, there has been some increase in use in all strata among the 19- to 22-year-olds, with the most rural region generally continuing to have the lowest prevalence (though not in 1999). Among the 23- to 26-year-old respondents, there were also some modest increases after 1989 in all strata, though they had pretty much ended by 1995. In the oldest age group, LSD has remained very low and quite stable.

- The use of *hallucinogens other than LSD*, taken as a class, fell in communities of all sizes among the young adults between 1980 and about 1988. Then there was a leveling of use for a few years, followed by a modest increase in use among all strata in the 19- to 22-year-old age band through 1997 (with the least increase in the farm/country stratum). In 1998, nearly all of these strata reversed course, showing a leveling or decline in use. In the 23- to 26-year-old group, there have been slightly higher rates in the past four years among the more urban strata, but in general, the trend lines for the various strata have been pretty flat since the mid-1980s. Among 27- to 30-year-olds, the trend lines have been very flat with only minor stratum differences.
- The important drop in *cocaine* use after 1986 slowed considerably after 1992 or 1993 in all three age strata and in communities of all sizes. Among the 19- to 22-year-olds, and to a lesser extent among the 23- to 26-year-olds, there has been a sustained increase in cocaine use among all strata since about 1993 or 1994. Usage rates among the strata tended to converge considerably during the period of decline, and this convergence remains, with the very large cities showing rates of cocaine use only slightly higher than the less densely populated areas. After 1994, there was a slight increase in cocaine use among 19- to 22-year-olds in all strata. There has also been some modest increase in cocaine use in all strata in recent years among the 23- to 26-year-olds, but not among any of the 27- to 30-year-old strata.
- *Crack* use among all age groups peaked in 1987 or 1988 and, after declining, bottomed out in all population-density strata for several years. Among the 19- to 22-year-olds only, it made some comeback in the rural and small town strata but not in the larger cities. The crack use reported in these young adult samples at all three age levels has borne practically no systematic association with community size.
- *Amphetamine* use showed large drops after 1981 among 19- to 22-year-olds in communities of all sizes; after 1984 (the first time point available) among the 23- to 26-year-olds; and, to a lesser extent, after 1988 (first time point available) among the 27- to 30-year-olds. After 1991, use tended to level at relatively low

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prevalence rates in all strata and age groups, although use rose some after 1992 or 1993 for most population density strata of 19- to 22-year-olds, before leveling around 1998. Use has remained level in the older two age groups. There are virtually no differences in use associated with urbanicity in any of the three age groups, and this has been fairly consistently true since 1983.

- The use of *crystal methamphetamine (ice)*, first measured in 1990, showed a modest increase from the early 1990s through the mid-1990s among young adults generally. This was observable in all three age levels and in most population density groupings. There have not been any systematic differences in use as a function of population density, except for a rise among 23- to 26-year-olds in the farm/country stratum, who showed a sharp rise in 1997 and 1998 (reaching 3.0% annual prevalence in 1998—considerably higher than the other strata).
- *Methaqualone* use, which in 1981 was rather strongly associated (positively) with population density, dropped to annual prevalence rates of 0.8% or below in all size strata for all three age bands by 1989. Its use is no longer measured in the study.
- Unlike methaqualone, *barbiturates* have never shown much correlation with urbanicity, at least as far back as 1980. This remains true in all three age bands, with the exception that use in the farm/country stratum achieved a relatively high level in the last year or two among both 19- to 22-year-olds and 23- to 26-year-olds.
- *Tranquilizer* use among young adults has had little or no association with population density over this time interval either; again with the exception that there was an increase in the farm/country stratum over the last two or three years among 19- to 22-year-olds and 23- to 26-year-olds.
- From 1980 to 1995, annual *heroin* prevalence was less than 1.0%—usually much less—in all strata for all three age bands. After 1994, use among 19- to 22-year-olds in all strata rose and reached 1% in the three urban strata by 1998. In fact, in the very large cities, it reached 1.6% in 1996 (versus 0.3% to 0.7% in the other strata) and has actually declined a bit since.
- The annual use of *narcotics other than heroin* had some positive association with degree of population density in the early 1980s; however, it has shown rather little association since then, due to a greater decline in use in several urban strata. Since 1993, use has increased among 19- to 22-year-olds across all community sizes, and the same has happened since 1995 or 1996 among the 21- to 23-year-olds.

- The absolute levels of *inhalant* use have remained low in these age groups, particularly above age 22. However, during the mid- to late 1980s, there was a gradual increase among 19- to 22-year-olds in all community-sized strata. There has been no strong or consistent association with population density, though the urban areas generally have tended to have higher rates than the nonurban areas among 19- to 22-year-olds, particularly in the last two years.
- In the first three years for which data on *MDMA (ecstasy)* were available (1989-1991), use among 19- to 22-year-olds was generally higher in the very large city stratum than in the other strata. Between 1992 and 1994, use levels in this age group were very low and not systematically related to population density. Rates increased some in 1996 through 1998, particularly in the more urban areas, and in 1999 in the farm/country stratum. Large cities also showed some recent increases in the two older strata after 1996, and there has been some increase after 1997 in the less urban strata as well.
- There have been few differences in the 30-day prevalence of drinking *alcohol* among 19- to 22-year-olds since data were first available on them in 1980, except for the fact that the farm/country stratum has tended to have lower than average use. In the two older age bands, however, there has been a fairly consistent correlation between urbanicity and use of alcohol in the past thirty days. But there have been no consistent differences in current *daily drinking* associated with urbanicity in any of the three age bands. For *occasional heavy drinking*, all strata have been fairly close across time at all three age levels, with the exception that the farm/country areas have fairly consistently shown the lowest rates of binge drinking at all ages.
- *Cigarette smoking* has been negatively associated with urbanicity in all three age strata, without much evidence of differential trends related to degree of urbanicity, with one exception. Among 19- to 21-year-olds, all smoking prevalence measures have risen in the past two or three years in the farm/country and small town strata, while most other strata have remained level. The differences in 1999 are most striking for half-pack-a-day smoking among the 19- to 22-year-olds: farm/country (24% prevalence), small town (19%), medium and large cities (both 15%), and very large cities (10%). This compares with 1985, when there was virtually no difference in half-pack smoking rates among these strata (all were at 18% or 19%). Thus, smoking among those in their early twenties has become more concentrated in the nonurban populations.

**TABLE 5-1**  
**Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-28**  
(Entries are percentages)

	Percentage who used in lifetime														'98-'99 change
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
	<i>Approx. Wtd. N = (6900) (6800) (6700) (6600) (6700) (6600) (6800) (6700) (6500) (6400) (6300) (6400) (6200) (6000)</i>														
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	70.5	69.9	67.9	66.4	64.5	62.2	60.2	59.6	57.5	57.4	56.4	56.7	57.0	57.4	+0.4
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>															
Other than Marijuana	48.4	47.0	44.6	42.7	40.8	37.8	37.0	34.6	33.4	32.8	31.0	30.5	29.9	30.2	+0.3
Marijuana	66.5	66.0	63.8	62.8	60.2	58.6	56.4	55.9	53.7	53.6	53.5	53.8	54.4	54.6	+0.2
Inhalants <sup>b</sup>	12.3	12.7	12.6	13.2	12.5	13.4	13.5	14.1	13.2	14.5	14.1	14.1	14.2	14.2	0.0
Inhalants, Adjusted <sup>c</sup>	18.6	15.7	15.0	NA	13.5	14.1	13.9	14.5	13.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Nitrites <sup>d</sup>	2.6	6.9	6.2	NA	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Hallucinogens	18.5	17.1	17.0	15.9	16.1	15.7	15.7	15.4	15.4	16.1	16.4	16.7	17.4	18.0	+0.5
Hallucinogens, Adjusted <sup>e</sup>	20.1	17.2	17.2	NA	16.5	16.0	15.9	15.5	15.5	16.2	16.5	16.7	17.5	18.2	+0.7
LSD	14.6	13.7	13.8	12.7	13.5	13.5	13.8	13.6	13.8	14.5	15.0	15.0	15.7	16.2	+0.5
PCP <sup>f</sup>	8.4	4.8	5.0	NA	2.5	3.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.3	-0.4
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>g</sup>	NA	NA	NA	3.3	3.7	3.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.5	5.2	5.1	7.2	7.1	-0.1
Cocaine	32.0	29.3	28.2	25.8	23.7	21.0	19.5	16.9	15.2	13.7	12.9	12.0	12.3	12.8	+0.5
Crack <sup>h</sup>	NA	6.3	6.9	6.1	5.1	4.8	5.1	4.3	4.4	3.8	3.9	3.6	3.8	4.3	+0.5
Other Cocaine <sup>i</sup>	NA	28.2	25.2	25.4	22.1	19.8	18.4	15.1	13.9	12.4	11.9	11.3	11.5	11.8	+0.3
Heroin	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	+0.1
Other Narcotics <sup>j</sup>	10.7	10.6	9.8	9.6	9.4	9.3	8.9	8.1	8.2	9.0	8.3	9.2	9.1	9.5	+0.4
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>k</sup>	32.3	30.8	28.8	25.3	24.4	22.4	20.2	18.7	17.1	16.6	15.3	14.6	14.3	14.1	-0.2
Ice <sup>l</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.5	2.9	2.2	2.7	2.5	2.1	3.1	2.5	3.4	3.3	0.0
Sedatives <sup>m</sup>	16.7	15.0	13.2	12.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Barbiturates <sup>n</sup>	11.1	9.7	8.9	7.9	8.7	8.2	7.4	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.9	7.4	+0.4
Methaqualone <sup>o</sup>	13.1	11.6	9.7	8.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Tranquilizers <sup>p</sup>	17.6	16.5	15.1	13.5	12.9	11.8	11.3	10.5	9.9	9.7	9.3	8.6	9.6	9.6	-0.1
Alcohol <sup>q</sup>	94.8	94.9	94.8	94.5	94.3	94.1	93.4	92.1	91.2	91.6	91.2	90.7	90.6	90.2	-0.4
Cigarettes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Steroids <sup>r</sup>	NA	NA	NA	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.9	+0.4

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years:  $s = .05$ ,  $ss = .01$ ,  $sss = .001$ . Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

'NA' indicates data not available.

Footnotes continue on next page.

## FOOTNOTES FOR TABLES 5-1 THROUGH 5-4

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone (until 1990), or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in four of the five questionnaire forms in 1986-1989, five of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1998, and three of six questionnaire forms in 1999. Total N is approximately 3000 in 1999.

<sup>c</sup>Adjusted for underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites, except in 1995-1999, when questions about nitrite use were dropped.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in one questionnaire form. Total N in 1994 was approximately 1000.

<sup>e</sup>Adjusted for underreporting of PCP.

<sup>f</sup>This drug was asked about in one of the five questionnaire forms in 1986-1988, and in one of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 is approximately 1000.

<sup>g</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 is approximately 2000.

<sup>h</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1987-1989, and in all six questionnaire forms

<sup>i</sup>This drug was asked about in one of the five questionnaire forms in 1987-1989, and in four of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 is approximately 4000.

<sup>j</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>k</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude the inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

<sup>l</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1989, and in two of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 is approximately 2000.

<sup>m</sup>In 1993 and 1994, the question text was changed slightly in three of the six questionnaire forms to indicate that a "drink" meant "more than just a few sips." Because this revision resulted in rather little change in reported prevalence in the surveys of high school graduates, the data for all forms combined are used in order to provide the most reliable estimate of change. After 1994, the new question text was used in all six of the questionnaire forms.

<sup>n</sup>This drug was asked about in one of the five questionnaire forms in 1989, and in two of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 is approximately 2000.

**TABLE 5-2**  
**Trends in Annual Prevalence of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-28**  
(Entries are percentages)

	Percentage who used in last twelve months														'98-'99 change
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
	<i>Approx. Wtd. N = (6900) (6800) (6700) (6600) (6700) (6600) (6800) (6700) (6500) (6400) (6300) (6400) (6200) (6000)</i>														
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	41.9	39.3	36.3	32.8	30.7	27.0	28.3	28.4	28.4	29.8	29.2	29.2	29.9	30.3	+0.4
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>															
Other than Marijuana	27.0	23.9	21.3	18.3	16.7	14.3	14.1	13.0	13.0	13.8	13.2	13.6	13.2	13.7	+0.5
Marijuana	36.5	34.8	31.8	29.0	26.1	23.8	25.2	25.1	25.5	26.5	27.0	26.8	27.4	27.6	+0.2
Inhalants <sup>b</sup>	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.3	+0.2
Inhalants, Adjusted <sup>c</sup>	3.0	2.8	2.4	NA	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.3	2.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Nitrites <sup>d</sup>	2.0	1.3	1.0	NA	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Hallucinogens	4.5	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.1	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.8	5.2	5.4	+0.3
Hallucinogens, Adjusted <sup>e</sup>	4.9	4.1	3.9	NA	4.2	4.6	5.1	4.6	4.9	5.7	5.6	5.9	5.2	5.5	+0.3
LSD	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.8	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.6	4.5	4.4	3.5	4.0	+0.6
PCP <sup>f</sup>	0.8	0.4	0.4	NA	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.0
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>g</sup>	NA	NA	NA	1.4	1.5	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.6	1.7	2.1	2.9	3.6	+0.7
Cocaine	19.7	15.7	13.8	10.8	8.6	6.2	5.7	4.7	4.3	4.4	4.1	4.6	4.9	5.4	+0.5
Crack <sup>h</sup>	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.5	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	+0.3
Other Cocaine <sup>i</sup>	NA	13.6	11.9	10.3	8.1	5.4	5.1	3.9	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.3	4.5	4.8	+0.4
Heroin	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0
Other Narcotics <sup>j</sup>	3.1	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.4	3.8	+0.4
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>k,l</sup>	10.6	8.7	7.3	5.8	5.2	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.7	+0.2
Ice <sup>l</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	-0.2
Sedatives <sup>m</sup>	3.0	2.5	2.1	1.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Barbiturates <sup>n</sup>	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.8	+0.2
Methaqualone <sup>n</sup>	1.3	0.9	0.5	0.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
Tranquilizers <sup>n</sup>	5.4	5.1	4.2	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.1	2.9	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.8	3.7	+0.1
Alcohol <sup>m</sup>	88.6	89.4	88.6	88.1	87.4	86.9	86.2	85.3	83.7	84.7	84.0	84.3	84.0	84.1	+0.1
Cigarettes	40.1	40.3	37.7	38.0	37.1	37.7	37.9	37.8	38.3	38.8	40.3	41.8	41.6	41.1	-0.4
Steroids <sup>a</sup>	NA	NA	NA	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	+0.2

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years:  $s = .05$ ,  $ss = .01$ ,  $sss = .001$ . Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

'NA' indicates data not available.

See footnotes at end of Table 5-1.

**TABLE 5-3**  
**Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-28**  
(Entries are percentages)

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<i>Approx. Wtd. N = (6900) (6800) (6700) (6600) (6700) (6600) (6800) (6700) (6500) (6400) (6300) (6400) (6200) (6000)</i>															
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	25.8	23.4	20.5	17.7	15.9	15.1	14.8	14.9	15.3	15.8	15.8	16.4	16.1	17.1	+1.0
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>															
Other than Marijuana	13.0	10.7	9.5	7.5	6.0	5.4	5.5	4.9	5.3	5.7	4.7	5.5	5.5	6.0	+0.5
Marijuana	22.0	20.7	17.9	15.5	13.9	13.5	13.3	13.4	14.1	14.0	15.1	15.0	14.9	15.6	+0.7
Inhalants <sup>b</sup>	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	+0.1
Inhalants, Adjusted <sup>c</sup>	0.7	0.9	0.9	NA	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Nitrites <sup>d</sup>	0.5	0.5	0.4	NA	0.1	*	0.1	0.2	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Hallucinogens	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.3	-0.1
Hallucinogens, Adjusted <sup>e</sup>	1.4	1.2	1.1	NA	1.0	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.3	-0.2
LSD	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8	-0.1
PCP <sup>f</sup>	0.2	0.1	0.3	NA	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>g</sup>	NA	NA	NA	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.3	+0.6
Cocaine	8.2	6.0	5.7	3.8	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.9	+0.3
Crack <sup>h</sup>	NA	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	+0.2
Other Cocaine <sup>i</sup>	NA	4.8	4.8	3.4	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.6	+0.2
Heroin	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Other Narcotics <sup>j</sup>	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.2	+0.3
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>k</sup>	4.0	3.2	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.9	+0.2
Ice <sup>l</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	*	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	+0.1
Sedatives <sup>j</sup>	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Barbiturates <sup>j</sup>	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	+0.2
Methaqualone <sup>j</sup>	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Tranquilizers <sup>j</sup>	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.3	+0.1
Alcohol <sup>m</sup>	75.1	75.4	74.0	72.4	71.2	70.6	69.0	68.3	67.7	68.1	66.7	67.5	66.9	68.2	+1.4
Cigarettes	31.1	30.9	28.9	28.6	27.7	28.2	28.3	28.0	28.0	29.2	30.1	29.9	30.9	30.3	-0.6
Steroids <sup>n</sup>	NA	NA	NA	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	+0.1

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years:  $s = .05$ ,  $ss = .01$ ,  $sss = .001$ . Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

\* indicates a prevalence rate of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

'NA' indicates data not available.

See footnotes at end of Table 5-1.

**TABLE 5-4**  
**Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-28**  
(Entries are percentages)

	Percentage who used daily in last thirty days														'98-'99 change
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
	<i>Approx. Wtd. N = (6900) (6800) (6700) (6600) (6700) (6600) (6800) (6700) (6500) (6400) (6300) (6400) (6200) (6000)</i>														
Marijuana	4.1	4.2	3.3	3.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.8	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.7	4.4	+0.7
Cocaine	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	*	0.1	*	0.1	*	0.1	*	*	*	0.1	0.0
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>d,k</sup>	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	+0.1
Alcohol															
Daily <sup>m</sup>	6.1	6.6	6.1	5.5	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.6	4.0	4.8	+0.9 <sub>s</sub>
5+ drinks in a row in last 2 weeks	36.1	36.2	35.2	34.8	34.3	34.7	34.2	34.4	33.7	32.6	33.6	34.4	34.1	35.8	+1.7
Cigarettes															
Daily	25.2	24.8	22.7	22.4	21.3	21.7	20.9	20.8	20.7	21.2	21.8	20.6	21.9	21.5	-0.3
Half-pack or more per day	20.2	19.8	17.7	17.3	16.7	16.0	15.7	15.5	15.3	15.7	15.3	14.6	15.6	15.1	-0.5

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: *s* = .05, *ss* = .01, *sss* = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

The illicit drugs not listed here show a daily prevalence of 0.2% or less in all years.

\* indicates a prevalence rate of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

See footnotes at end of Table 5-1.



**TABLE 5-5**

**Trends in Annual and Thirty-Day Prevalence of an Illicit Drug Use Index<sup>a</sup>  
Among Respondents of Modal Age 19-28**  
(Entries are percentages)

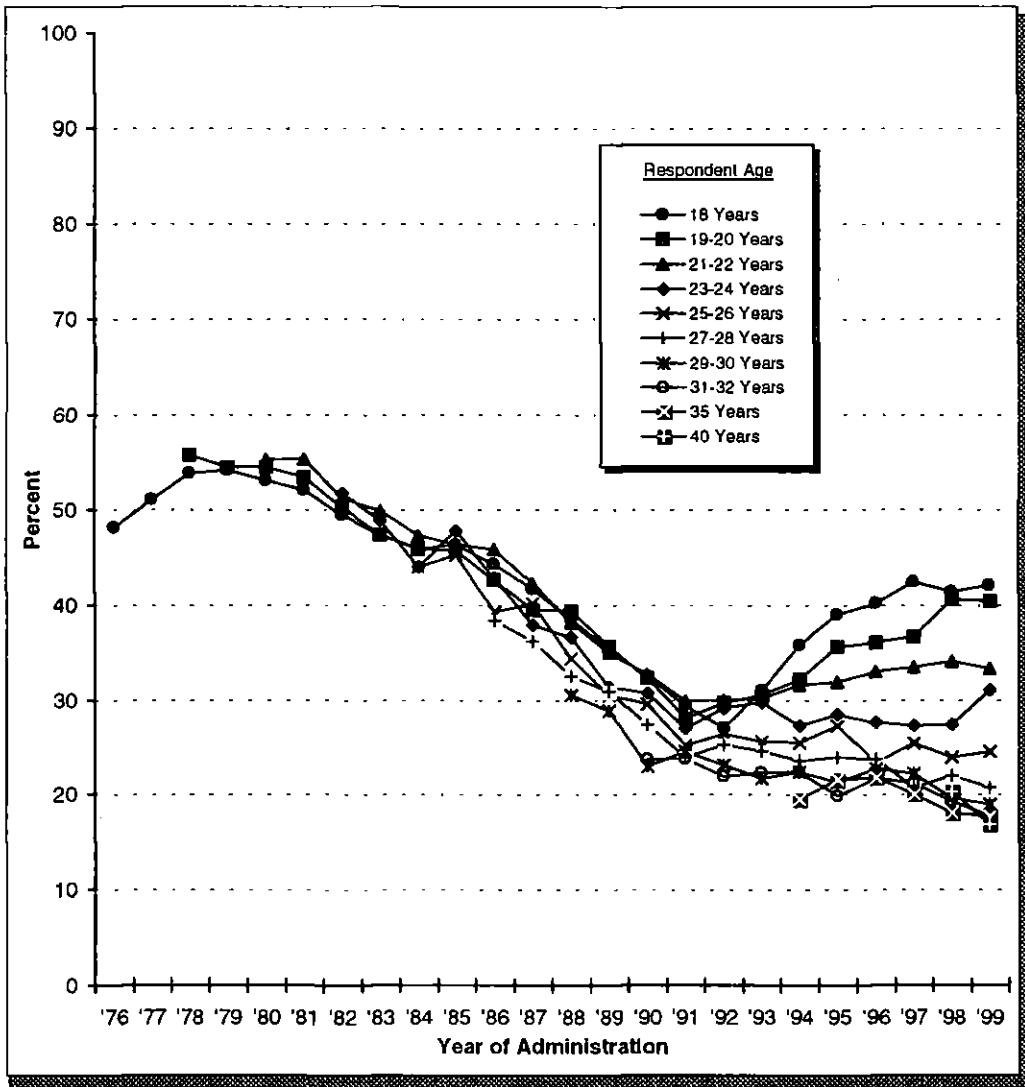
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	'98-'99 change
Percentage reporting use in last twelve months															
Any Illicit Drug	41.9	39.3	36.3	32.8	30.7	27.0	28.3	28.4	28.4	29.8	29.2	29.2	29.9	30.3	+0.4
Males	45.3	42.6	39.5	35.7	33.6	30.0	31.4	31.1	32.3	32.1	31.6	31.9	33.6	33.9	+0.3
Females	39.0	36.5	33.6	30.5	28.3	24.5	25.8	26.1	25.3	28.1	27.3	27.1	27.1	27.6	+0.5
Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana	27.0	23.9	21.3	18.3	16.7	14.3	14.1	13.0	13.0	13.8	13.2	13.6	13.2	13.7	+0.5
Males	30.4	26.5	23.8	21.0	19.1	16.4	16.3	14.7	16.2	16.2	15.4	15.6	16.2	16.7	+0.5
Females	24.0	21.6	19.4	16.2	14.7	12.5	12.2	11.6	10.5	12.0	11.4	12.0	11.0	11.5	+0.5
Percentage reporting use in last thirty days															
Any Illicit Drug	25.8	23.4	20.5	17.7	15.9	15.1	14.8	14.9	15.3	15.8	15.8	16.4	16.1	17.1	+1.0
Males	29.9	27.1	23.7	21.1	18.8	18.3	17.9	17.4	19.5	18.6	19.0	19.8	20.1	20.0	-0.2
Females	22.2	20.2	17.8	15.0	13.5	12.5	12.4	12.9	12.1	13.5	13.3	13.8	13.2	15.0	+1.9s
Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana	13.0	10.7	9.5	7.5	6.0	5.4	5.5	4.9	5.3	5.7	4.7	5.5	5.5	6.0	+0.5
Males	15.2	12.3	10.6	9.1	6.8	6.6	6.5	5.9	7.1	6.8	5.7	6.8	7.1	7.3	+0.2
Females	11.0	9.4	8.7	6.2	5.3	4.4	4.7	4.0	3.9	4.8	4.0	4.5	4.4	5.1	+0.7
Approximate Weighted N															
All Respondents	6900	6800	6700	6600	6700	6600	6800	6700	6500	6400	6300	6400	6200	6000	
Males	3200	3100	3000	2900	3000	3000	3000	3000	2900	2800	2700	2800	2700	2600	
Females	3700	3700	3700	3700	3700	3600	3700	3700	3600	3600	3600	3600	3500	3400	

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years:  $s = .05$ ,  $ss = .01$ ,  $sss = .001$ . Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

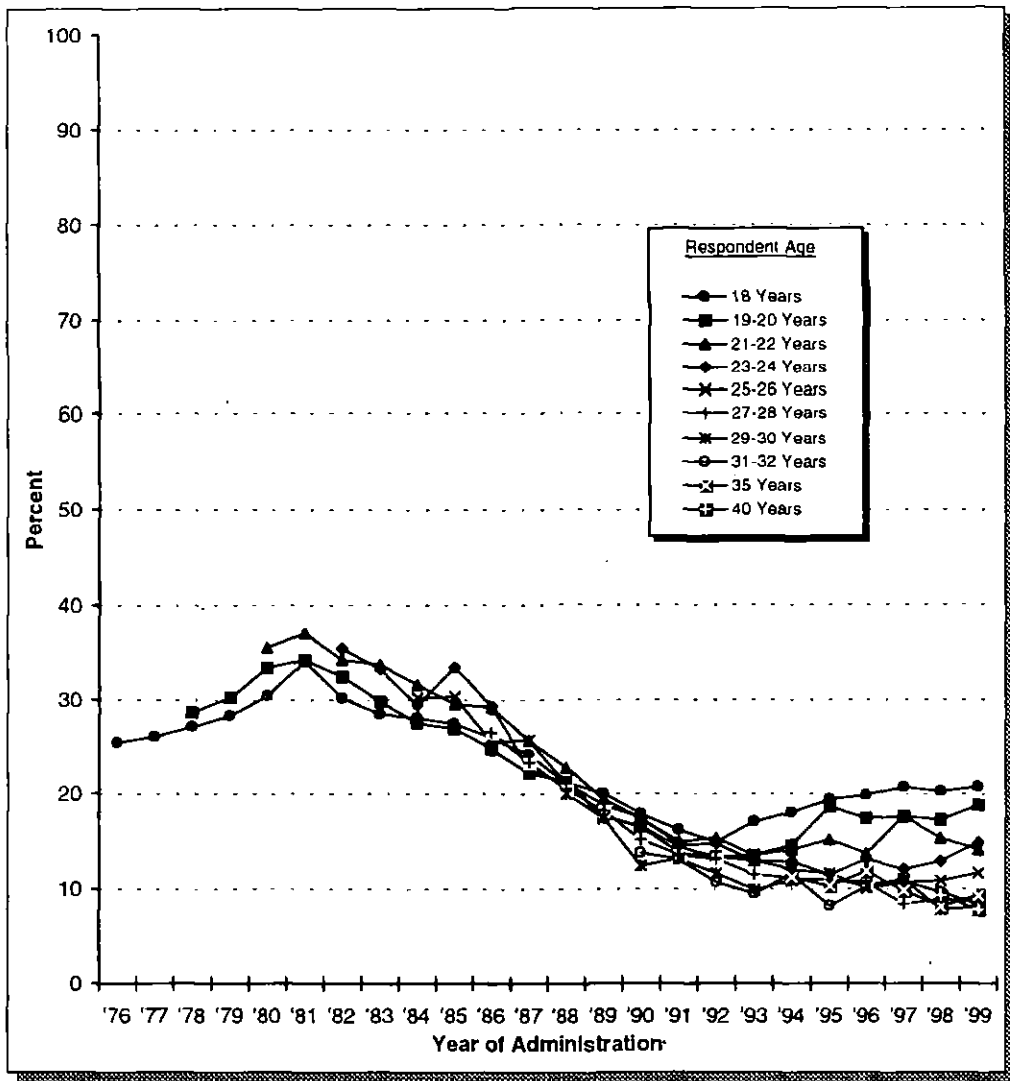
<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone (until 1990), or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

**Figure 5-1**  
**Any Illicit Drug: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among High School Seniors**  
**and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



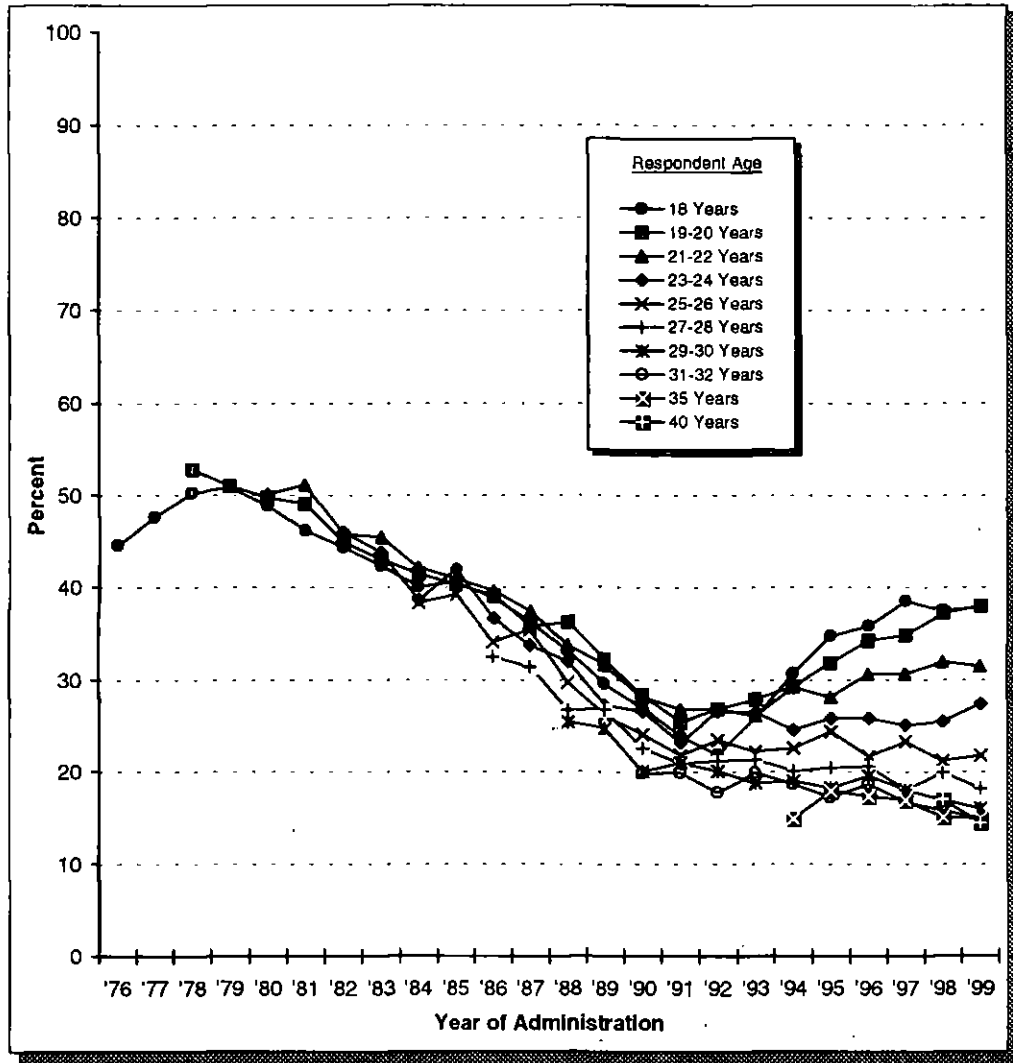
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	48.1	51.1	53.8	54.2	53.1	52.1	49.4	47.4	45.8	46.3	44.3	41.7	38.5	35.4	32.5	29.4	27.1	31.0	35.8	39.0	40.2	42.4	41.4	42.1	+0.7
19-20 Years			55.8	54.5	54.5	53.4	50.2	47.4	45.9	45.7	42.6	39.5	39.4	35.7	32.3	28.1	29.7	30.5	32.2	35.6	36.1	36.7	40.6	40.4	-0.1
21-22 Years					55.3	55.4	51.2	49.9	47.3	46.3	45.8	42.3	38.2	35.0	32.7	29.9	30.0	30.2	31.6	31.9	33.0	33.5	34.1	33.3	-0.8
23-24 Years							51.7	48.9	44.0	47.8	42.8	37.9	36.6	31.4	30.7	27.0	29.2	29.8	27.3	28.5	27.6	27.3	27.4	31.1	+3.6
25-26 Years									44.0	45.2	39.3	40.1	34.4	30.5	29.6	25.2	26.4	25.6	25.5	27.3	23.4	25.4	23.9	24.5	+0.7
27-28 Years											36.4	36.2	32.5	30.9	27.4	23.9	25.3	24.6	23.6	23.9	23.7	20.7	22.0	20.8	-1.3
29-30 Years														30.5	28.9	23.0	24.5	23.1	21.7	22.4	21.3	22.7	22.2	19.6	-0.6
31-32 Years																23.7	23.8	21.9	22.3	22.4	19.8	21.7	21.2	19.3	-1.5
35 Years																			19.5	21.6	21.8	20.0	18.1	17.7	-0.4
40 Years																							20.3	16.9	-3.5

**Figure 5-2**  
**Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



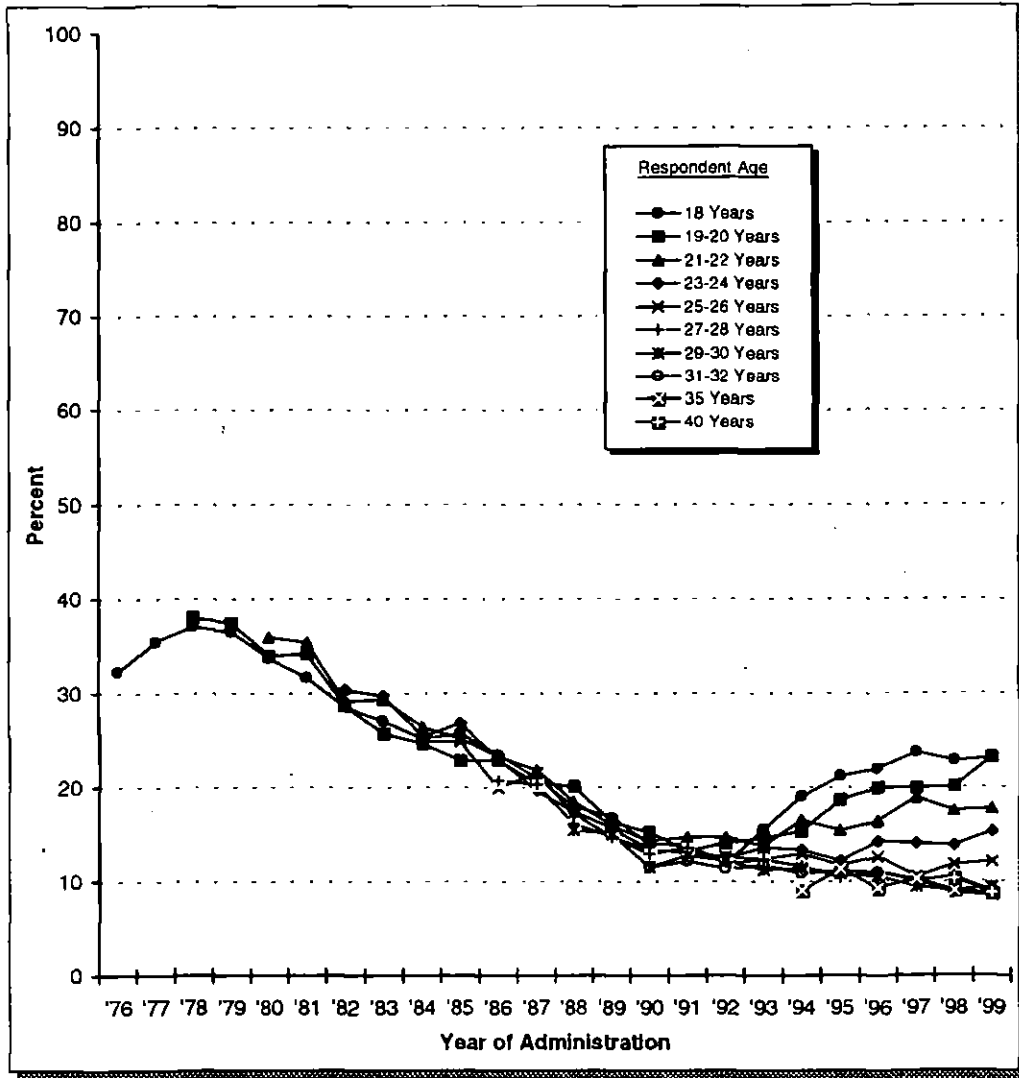
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	25.4	26.0	27.1	28.2	30.4	34.0	30.1	28.4	28.0	27.4	25.9	24.1	21.1	20.0	17.9	16.2	14.9	17.1	18.0	19.4	19.8	20.7	20.2	20.7	+0.5
19-20 Years			28.6	30.2	33.3	34.2	32.4	29.8	27.5	26.9	24.7	22.2	21.3	17.6	16.5	13.8	13.4	13.5	14.6	18.6	17.4	17.6	17.3	18.7	+1.4
21-22 Years					35.5	37.0	34.2	33.7	31.6	29.5	29.1	25.6	22.8	19.4	17.4	14.9	15.4	13.5	14.1	15.2	13.7	17.7	15.3	14.1	-1.2
23-24 Years						35.4	33.2	29.4	33.4	29.3	22.6	21.1	18.8	17.5	14.6	14.8	12.9	12.9	11.5	13.1	12.1	12.9	14.8	+2.0	
25-26 Years							30.2	30.3	25.5	25.7	21.0	17.6	16.6	14.4	13.4	13.0	12.0	11.6	10.0	10.7	10.8	11.6	+0.8		
27-28 Years								26.5	23.3	20.4	18.2	15.2	13.6	13.2	11.5	11.1	10.9	10.7	8.4	8.9	8.6	-0.2			
29-30 Years									20.0	17.4	12.4	13.2	11.6	9.9	10.8	11.0	10.5	11.0	7.8	8.1	+0.3				
31-32 Years											13.8	13.1	10.7	9.5	11.5	8.2	10.2	10.8	9.6	8.3	-1.2				
35 Years																	11.2	10.3	11.8	9.8	8.1	9.3	+1.2		
40 Years																						9.3	7.8	-1.5	

**Figure 5-3a**  
**Marijuana: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among High School Seniors**  
**and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



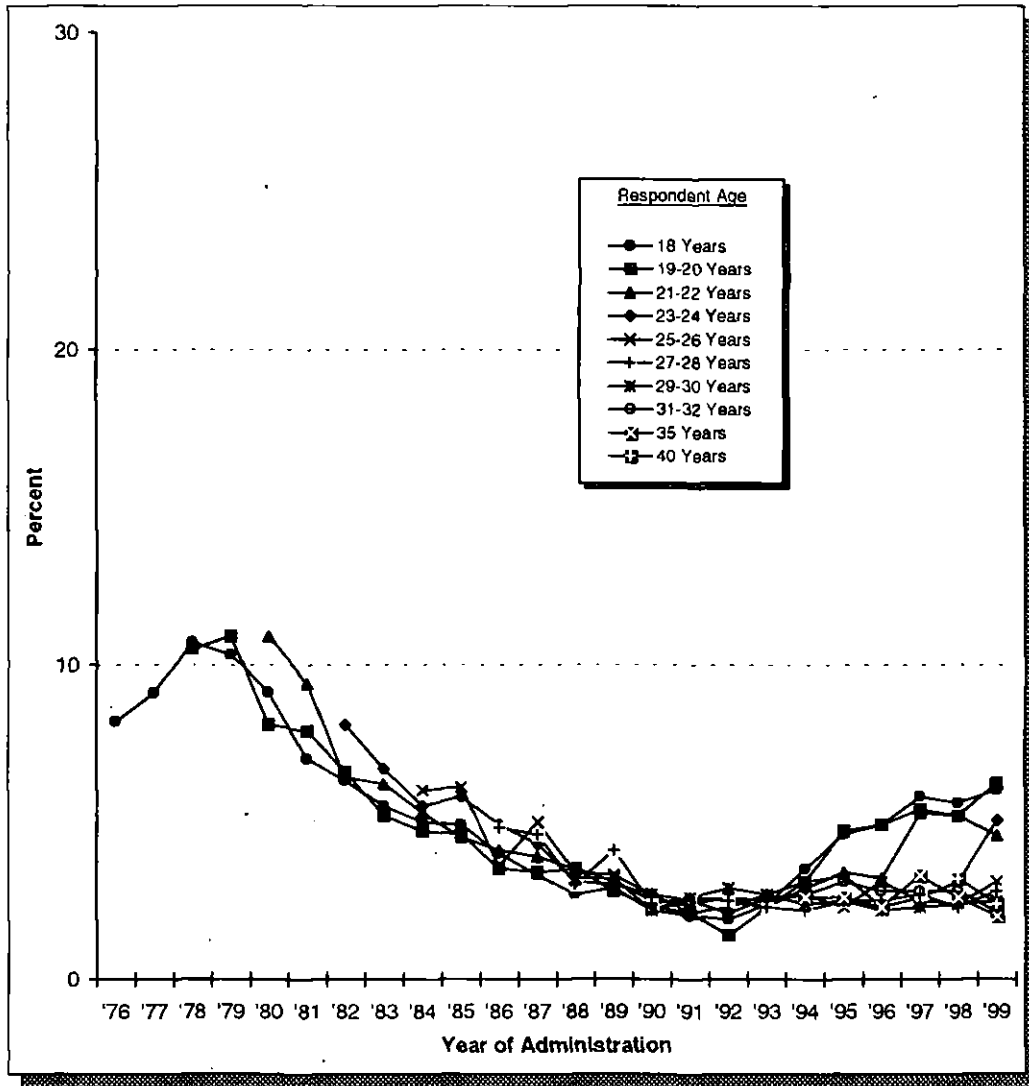
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change	
18 Years	44.5	47.6	50.2	50.8	48.8	46.1	44.3	42.3	40.0	40.6	38.8	36.3	33.1	29.6	27.0	23.9	21.9	26.0	30.7	34.7	35.8	38.5	37.5	37.8	+0.3	
19-20 Years		52.8	51.0	49.7	49.0	44.9	43.0	41.4	40.3	39.1	35.8	36.2	32.2	28.4	25.4	26.9	27.9	29.3	31.8	34.2	34.8	37.2	37.9		+0.8	
21-22 Years			50.1	51.1	45.8	45.4	42.1	40.9	39.6	37.4	33.7	31.6	28.2	26.8	26.9	26.1	29.2	28.1	30.6	30.6	31.9	31.5			-0.4	
23-24 Years					46.0	43.8	38.6	42.0	36.6	33.7	32.0	27.3	26.6	23.2	26.6	26.5	24.6	25.8	25.8	25.1	25.5	27.4			+1.9	
25-26 Years						38.3	39.2	34.1	35.4	29.7	26.2	24.1	21.8	23.5	22.2	22.6	24.4	21.7	23.3	21.2	21.8				+0.6	
27-28 Years							32.5	31.4	26.7	26.8	22.6	20.9	21.2	21.3	20.1	20.4	20.6	18.0	19.9	18.2					-1.7	
29-30 Years								25.4	24.7	20.0	21.0	20.1	18.8	19.0	18.2	19.5	18.0	16.9	16.0						-0.8	
31-32 Years										19.8	19.9	17.7	19.9	18.6	17.2	18.6	16.7	15.8	14.8							-1.0
35 Years																14.9	17.9	17.3	16.9	15.0	14.9					-0.1
40 Years																							17.0	14.4		-2.6

**Figure 5-3b**  
**Marijuana: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
 by Age Group



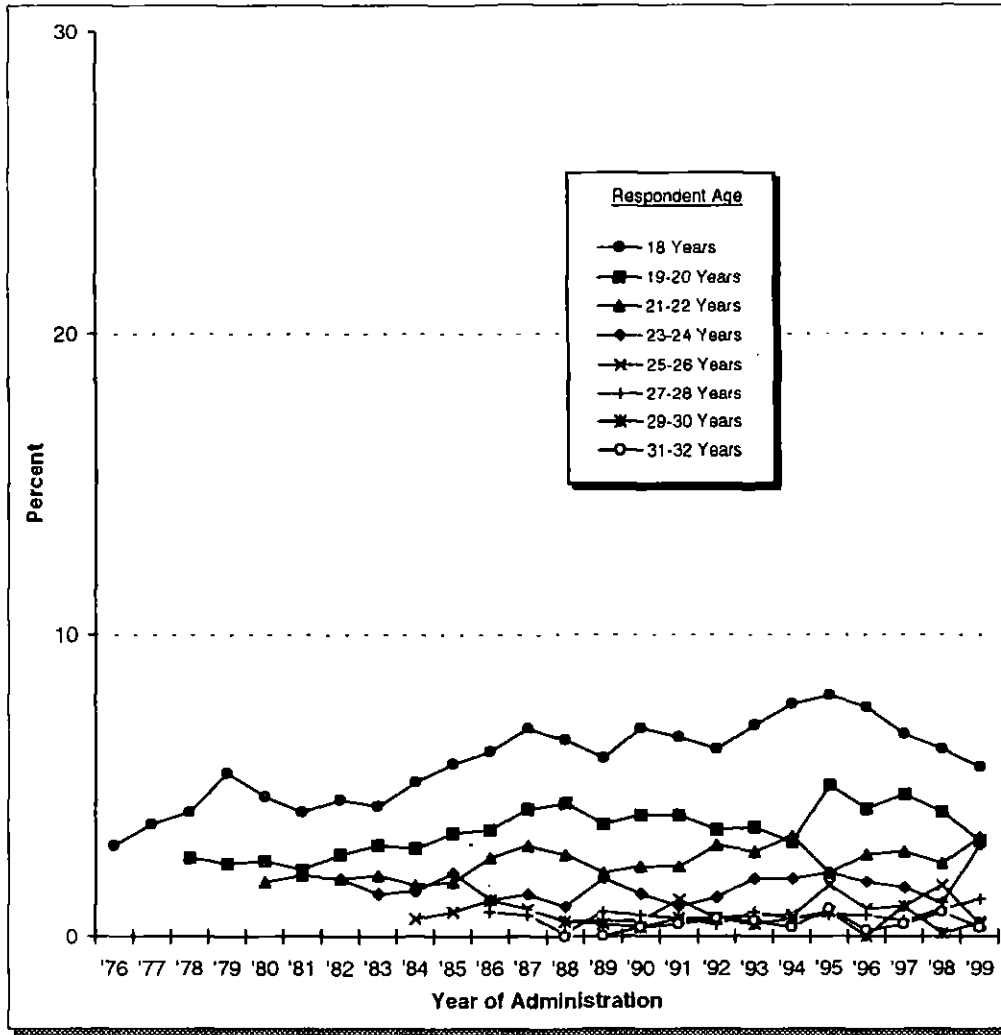
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	32.2	35.4	37.1	36.5	33.7	31.6	28.5	27.0	25.2	25.7	23.4	21.0	18.0	16.7	14.0	13.8	11.9	15.5	19.0	21.2	21.9	23.7	22.8	23.1	+0.3
19-20 Years			38.0	37.5	33.9	34.2	28.6	25.7	24.6	22.8	22.9	20.4	20.1	16.3	15.2	13.2	14.1	14.6	15.3	18.7	19.9	19.9	20.1	23.1	+3.0
21-22 Years					35.9	35.3	29.1	29.3	26.4	25.2	23.3	21.8	18.5	15.9	14.3	14.7	14.7	13.8	16.5	15.4	16.4	18.9	17.5	17.8	+0.2
23-24 Years						30.3	29.7	25.4	26.5	23.0	19.6	17.4	15.6	13.4	13.0	12.5	13.6	13.3	12.2	14.2	14.0	14.0	13.8	15.3	+1.5
25-26 Years								24.9	24.8	19.9	21.5	17.2	14.7	13.4	13.0	12.6	12.4	12.9	11.7	12.6	10.5	11.8	12.0	+0.2	
27-28 Years										20.7	20.3	16.1	14.7	12.9	13.5	12.0	12.3	11.6	10.4	11.0	10.1	10.5	8.9	-1.6	
29-30 Years													15.4	15.0	11.5	12.7	12.2	11.2	11.4	10.8	10.5	9.4	9.0	9.3	+0.3
31-32 Years															11.5	12.1	11.3	11.7	10.8	11.1	10.9	10.0	8.7	8.5	-0.2
35 Years																			9.0	11.3	9.3	10.2	9.0	8.8	-0.1
40 Years																							10.3	8.7	-1.6

**Figure 5-3c**  
**Marijuana: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	8.2	9.1	10.7	10.3	9.1	7.0	6.3	5.5	5.0	4.9	4.0	3.3	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.4	3.5	4.6	4.9	5.8	5.6	6.0	+0.4
19-20 Years			10.5	10.9	8.1	7.9	6.6	5.2	4.7	4.6	3.5	3.4	3.5	2.8	2.3	2.1	1.4	2.3	3.1	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.2	6.2	+1.0
21-22 Years					10.9	9.4	6.4	6.2	5.3	4.5	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.2	5.3	5.2	4.6	-0.7
23-24 Years						8.1	6.7	5.5	5.8	4.9	4.3	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.7	3.1	3.3	2.3	2.6	3.1	5.1	+2.0a
25-26 Years							6.0	6.1	3.6	5.0	3.4	3.3	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.5	2.4	3.1	2.4	3.1	+0.7
27-28 Years										4.8	4.6	3.0	4.1	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.8	2.8	+0.5
29-30 Years												3.2	3.2	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	+0.1
31-32 Years															2.2	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.7	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.1	-0.6
35 Years																			2.6	2.6	2.3	3.3	2.6	2.0	-0.6
40 Years																							3.2	2.4	-0.7

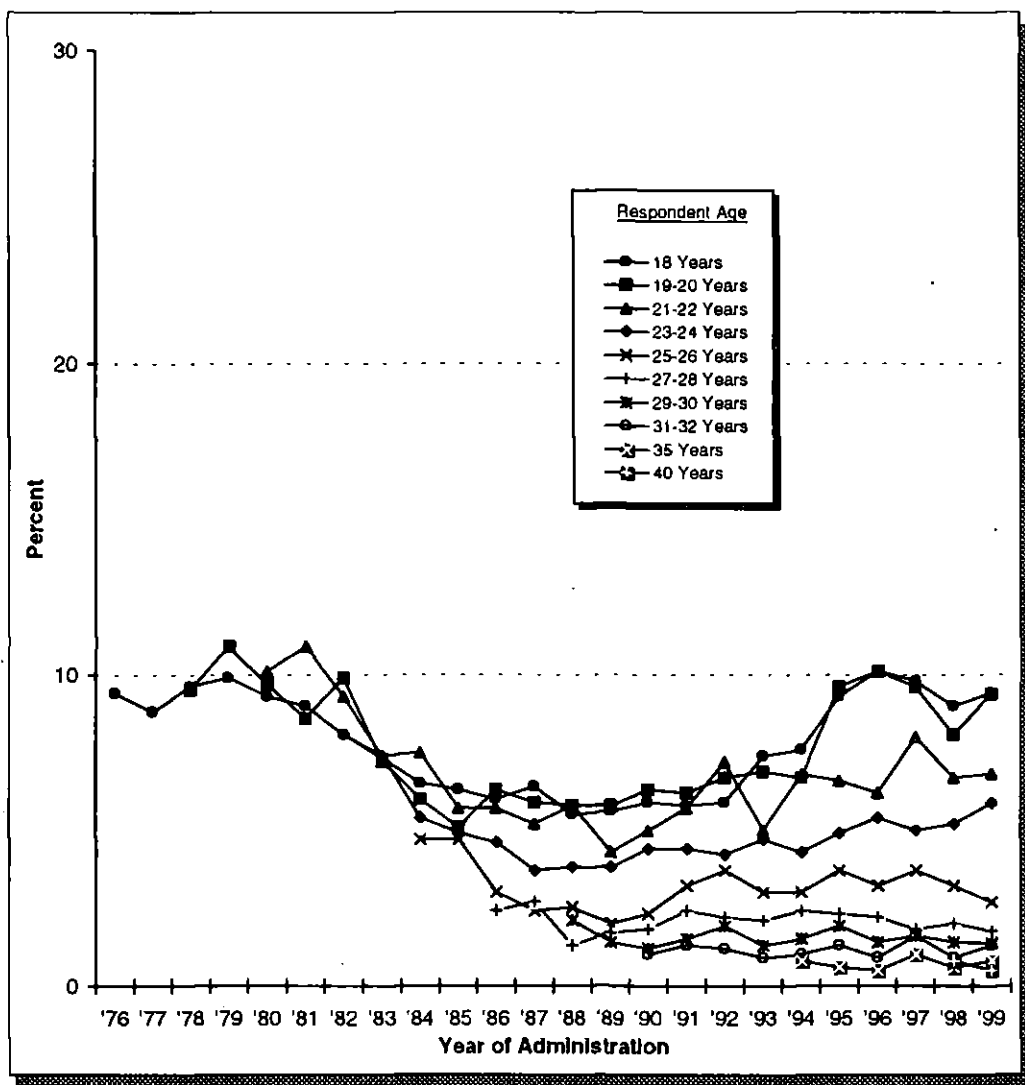
**Figure 5-4**  
**Inhalants\*: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



\*Unadjusted for the possible underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites. Chapter 5, Volume I, shows that such an adjustment would flatten the trend for seniors considerably because the line was adjusted up more in the earlier years, when nitrite use was more prevalent. Questions about nitrite use were dropped from the follow-up questionnaires beginning in 1995.

Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	3.0	3.7	4.1	5.4	4.6	4.1	4.5	4.3	5.1	5.7	6.1	6.9	6.5	5.9	6.9	6.6	6.2	7.0	7.7	8.0	7.6	6.7	6.2	5.6	-0.6
19-20 Years			2.6	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.7	3.0	2.9	3.4	3.5	4.2	4.4	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.1	5.0	4.2	4.7	4.1	3.1	-1.0
21-22 Years					1.8	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.8	2.6	3.0	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.8	3.3	2.1	2.7	2.3	2.4	3.3	+0.9
23-24 Years						1.9	1.4	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.4	1.0	1.9	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.1	3.0	+1.9%
25-26 Years								0.6	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.7	0.9	1.0	1.7	0.4	-1.3%	
27-28 Years									0.8	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.2	+0.3	
29-30 Years											0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.0	1.0	0.1	0.5	+0.4	
31-32 Years														0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.3	-0.5	
35 Years																									
40 Years																									

**Figure 5-5**  
**Hallucinogens\*: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**

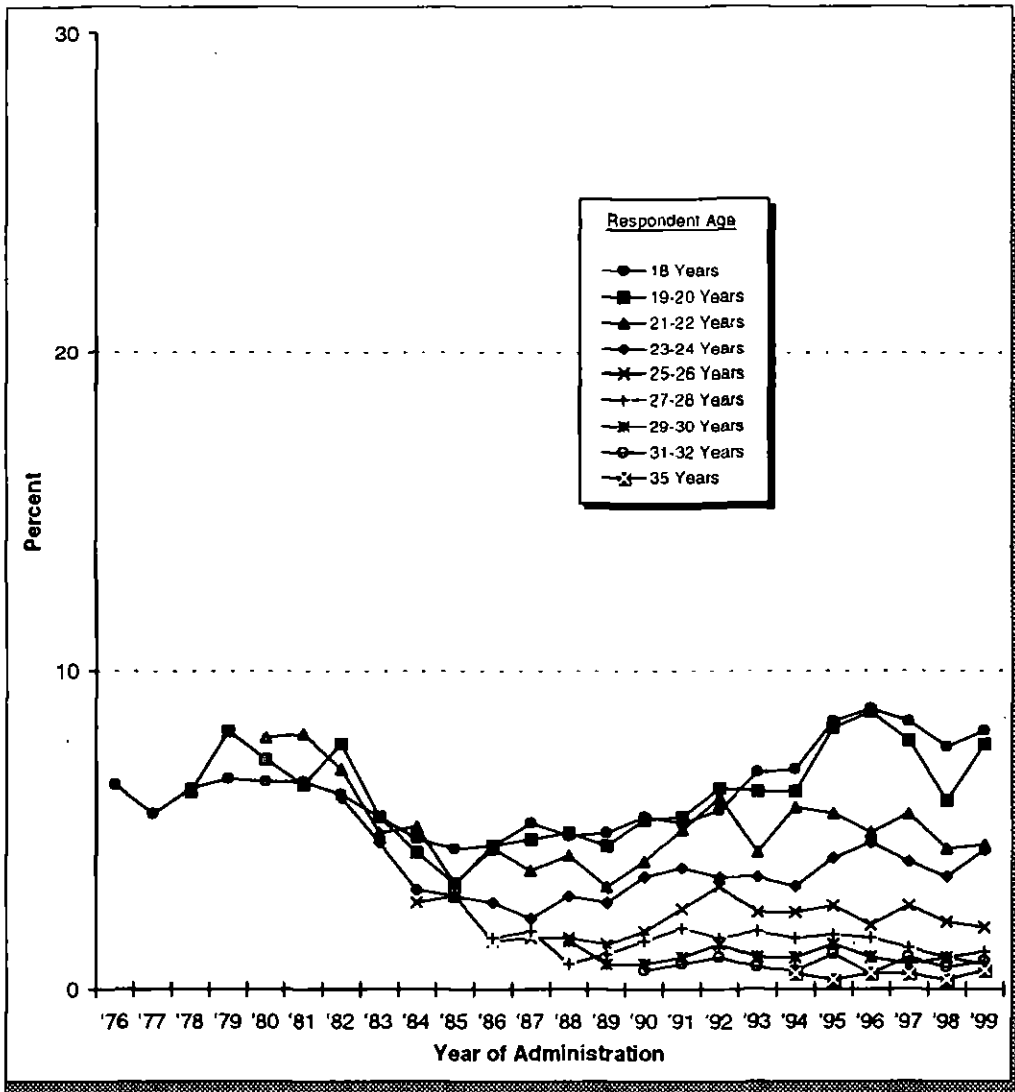


\*Unadjusted for the possible underreporting of PCP.

Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	9.4	8.8	9.6	9.9	9.3	9.0	8.1	7.3	6.5	6.3	6.0	6.4	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.8	5.9	7.4	7.6	9.3	10.1	9.8	9.0	9.4	+0.4
19-20 Years			9.5	10.9	9.7	8.6	9.9	7.2	6.0	5.1	6.3	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.3	6.2	6.7	6.9	6.7	9.6	10.1	9.6	8.1	9.4	+1.3
21-22 Years					10.1	10.9	9.3	7.4	7.5	5.7	5.7	5.2	5.8	4.3	5.0	5.7	7.2	5.0	6.8	6.6	6.2	8.0	6.7	6.8	+0.1
23-24 Years						8.1	7.4	5.4	4.9	4.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.3	4.9	5.4	5.0	5.2	5.9		+0.7
25-26 Years							4.7	4.7	3.0	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.3	3.2	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.2	2.7		-0.6
27-28 Years								2.4	2.7	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.7				-0.2
29-30 Years										2.1	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.4				-0.1
31-32 Years															1.0	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.0	1.3	0.9	1.6	0.9	1.3	+0.4
35 Years																			0.8	0.6	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.8	+0.2
40 Years																							0.8	0.5	-0.3

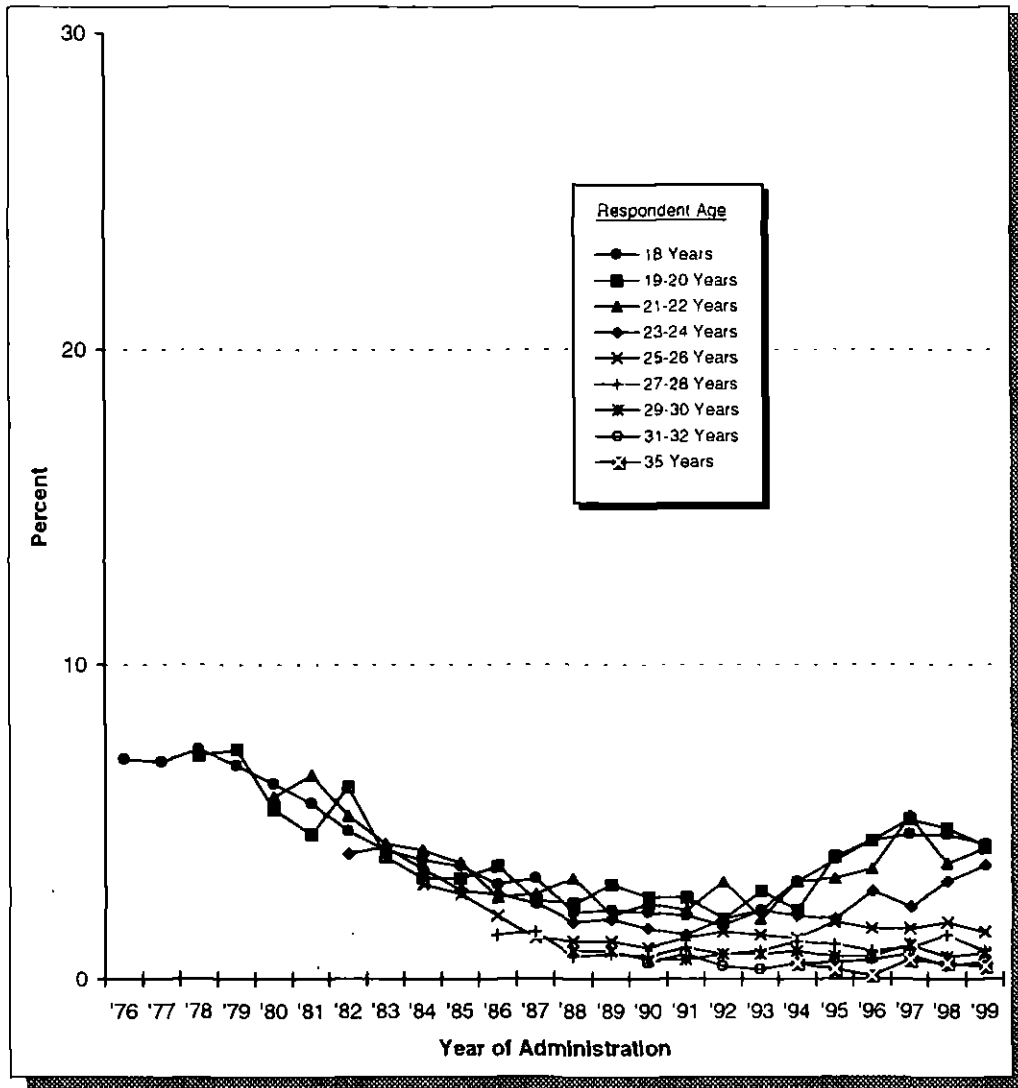


**Figure 5-6**  
**LSD: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among High School**  
**Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



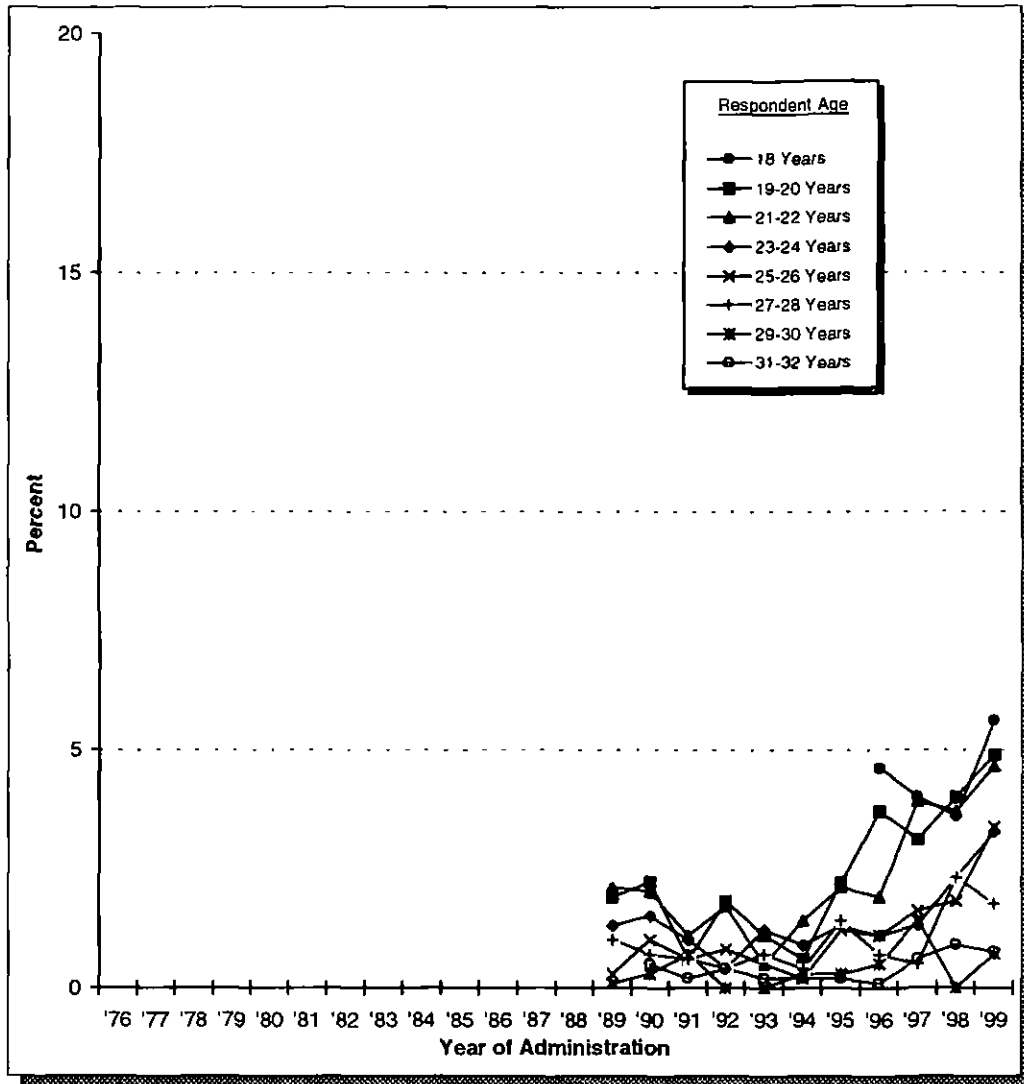
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change	
18 Years	6.4	5.5	6.3	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.1	5.4	4.7	4.4	4.5	5.2	4.8	4.9	5.4	5.2	5.6	6.8	6.9	8.4	8.8	8.4	7.6	8.1	+0.5	
19-20 Years		6.2	8.1	7.2	6.4	7.7	5.4	4.3	3.3	4.5	4.7	4.9	4.5	5.3	5.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	8.2	8.7	7.8	5.9	7.7		+1.8	
21-22 Years			7.9	8.0	6.9	4.9	5.1	3.3	4.4	3.7	4.2	3.2	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.3	5.7	5.5	4.9	5.5	4.4	4.5			+0.2	
23-24 Years				6.0	4.6	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.2	2.9	2.7	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.2	4.1	4.6	4.0	3.5	4.3				+0.8	
25-26 Years						2.7	2.9	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.8	2.5	3.2	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.6	2.1	1.9				-0.1	
27-28 Years								1.6	1.8	0.8	1.1	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.2				+0.1	
29-30 Years									1.5	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.0	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.0				-0.2	
31-32 Years													0.6	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.9			+0.2	
35 Years																		0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6		+0.4	
40 Years																										

**Figure 5-7**  
**Hallucinogens Other than LSD: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



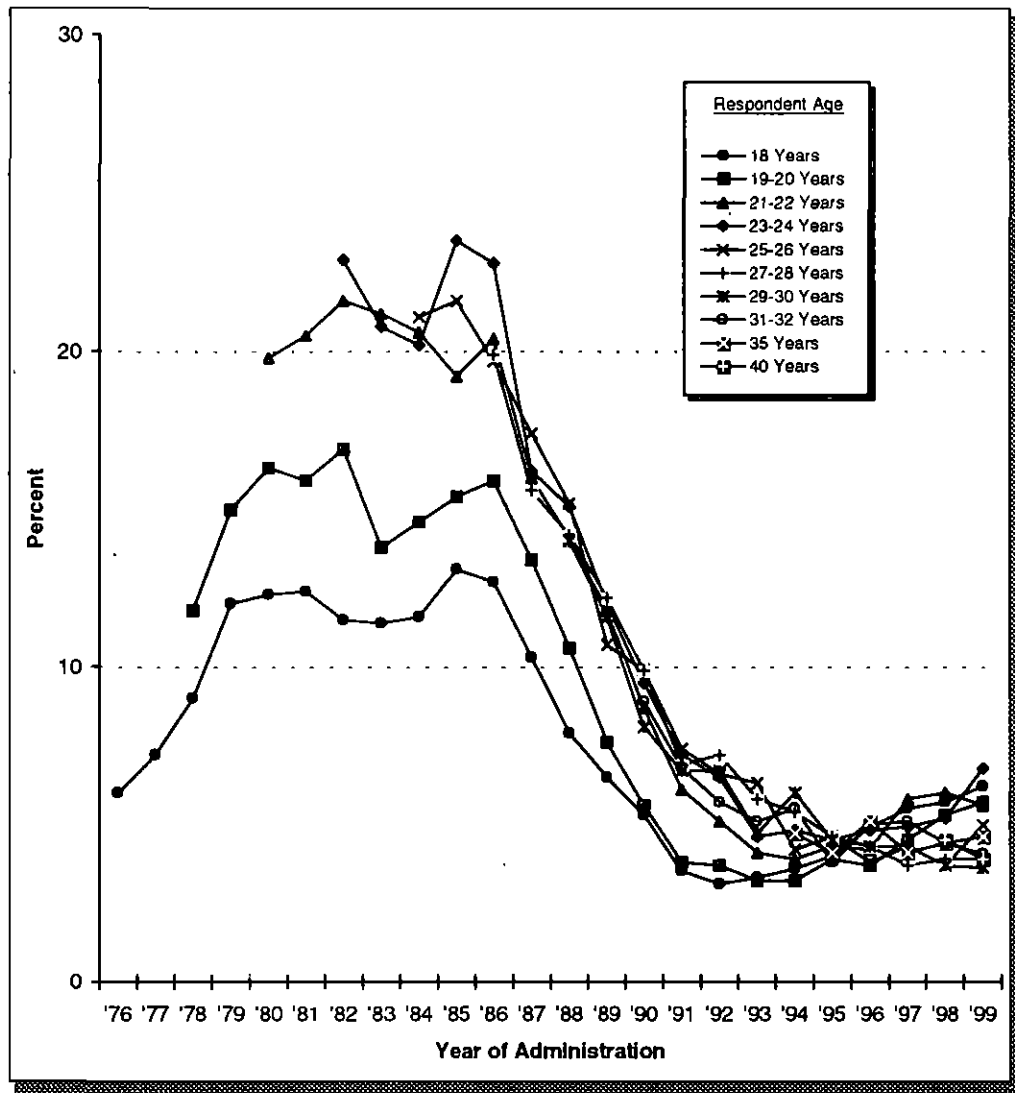
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	7.0	6.9	7.3	6.8	6.2	5.6	4.7	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.0	3.2	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.2	3.1	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.3	-0.3
19-20 Years			7.1	7.3	5.4	4.6	6.1	3.9	3.2	3.2	3.6	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.6	2.6	1.9	2.8	2.2	3.9	4.4	5.1	4.8	4.2	-0.6
21-22 Years					5.8	6.5	5.2	4.3	4.1	3.7	2.6	2.7	3.2	2.0	2.4	2.2	3.1	1.9	3.1	3.2	3.5	5.2	3.7	4.2	+0.4
23-24 Years							4.0	4.2	3.5	2.8	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.8	2.3	3.1	3.6	+0.6
25-26 Years									3.0	2.7	2.0	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.5	-0.3
27-28 Years										1.4	1.5	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.4	0.9	0.9	-0.5
29-30 Years												0.9	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.8	+0.2
31-32 Years															0.5	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.6	+0.2
35 Years																			0.5	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.4	-0.1
40 Years																									-

**Figure 5-8**  
**MDMA: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



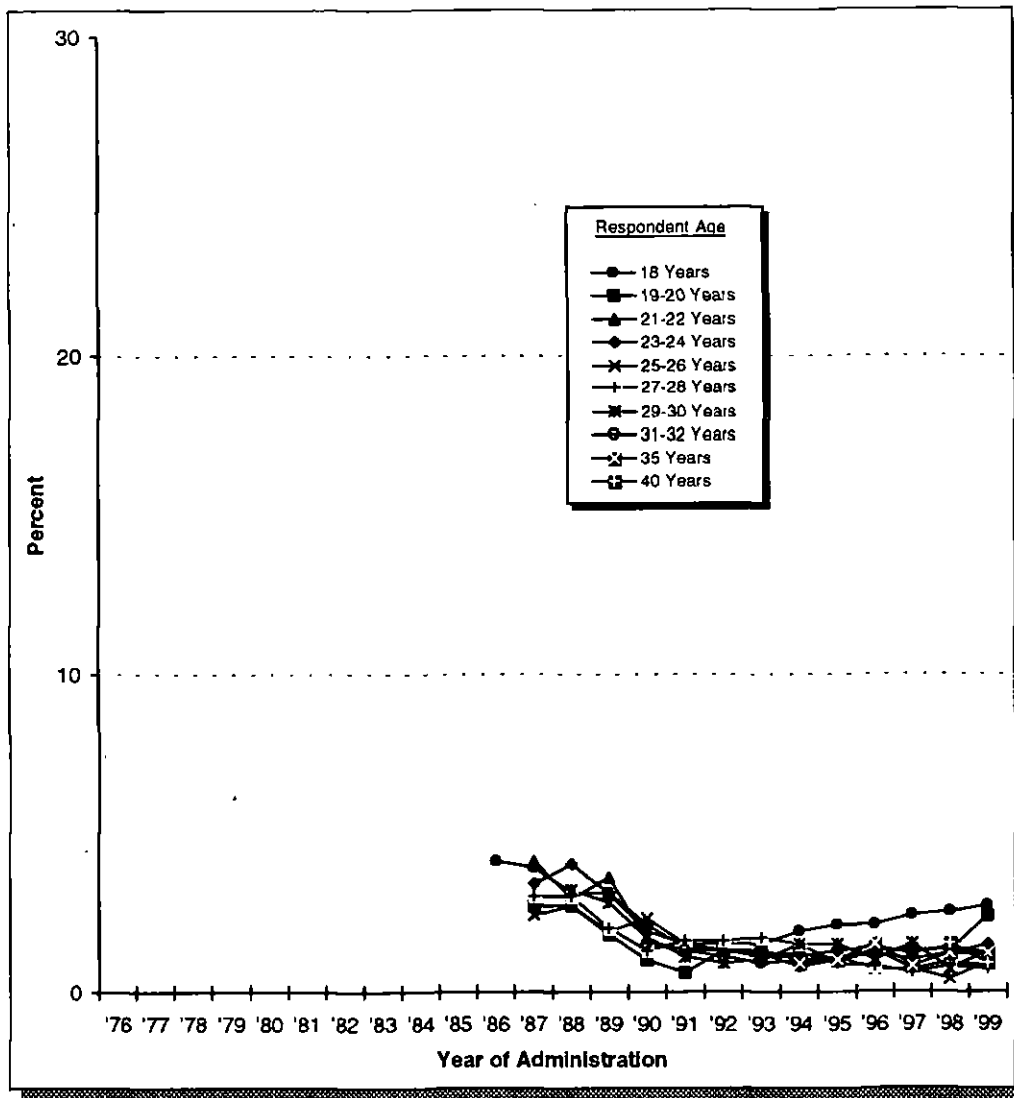
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change	
18 Years																					4.6	4.0	3.6	5.6	+2.0sa	
19-20 Years														1.9	2.2	0.6	1.8	1.1	0.6	2.2	3.7	3.1	4.0	4.9	+0.9	
21-22 Years														2.1	2.0	1.1	1.7	0.5	1.4	2.1	1.9	3.9	3.7	4.6	+0.9	
23-24 Years														1.3	1.5	1.0	0.4	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.3	2.3	3.3	+0.9	
25-26 Years														0.3	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.2	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.8	3.4	+1.5	
27-28 Years														1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.4	1.4	0.7	0.5	2.3	1.8	-0.6	
29-30 Years														0.1	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.5	1.4	0.0	0.7	+0.7	
31-32 Years															0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.9	0.8	-0.1
35 Years																										
40 Years																										

**Figure 5-9**  
**Cocaine: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among High School Seniors**  
**and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



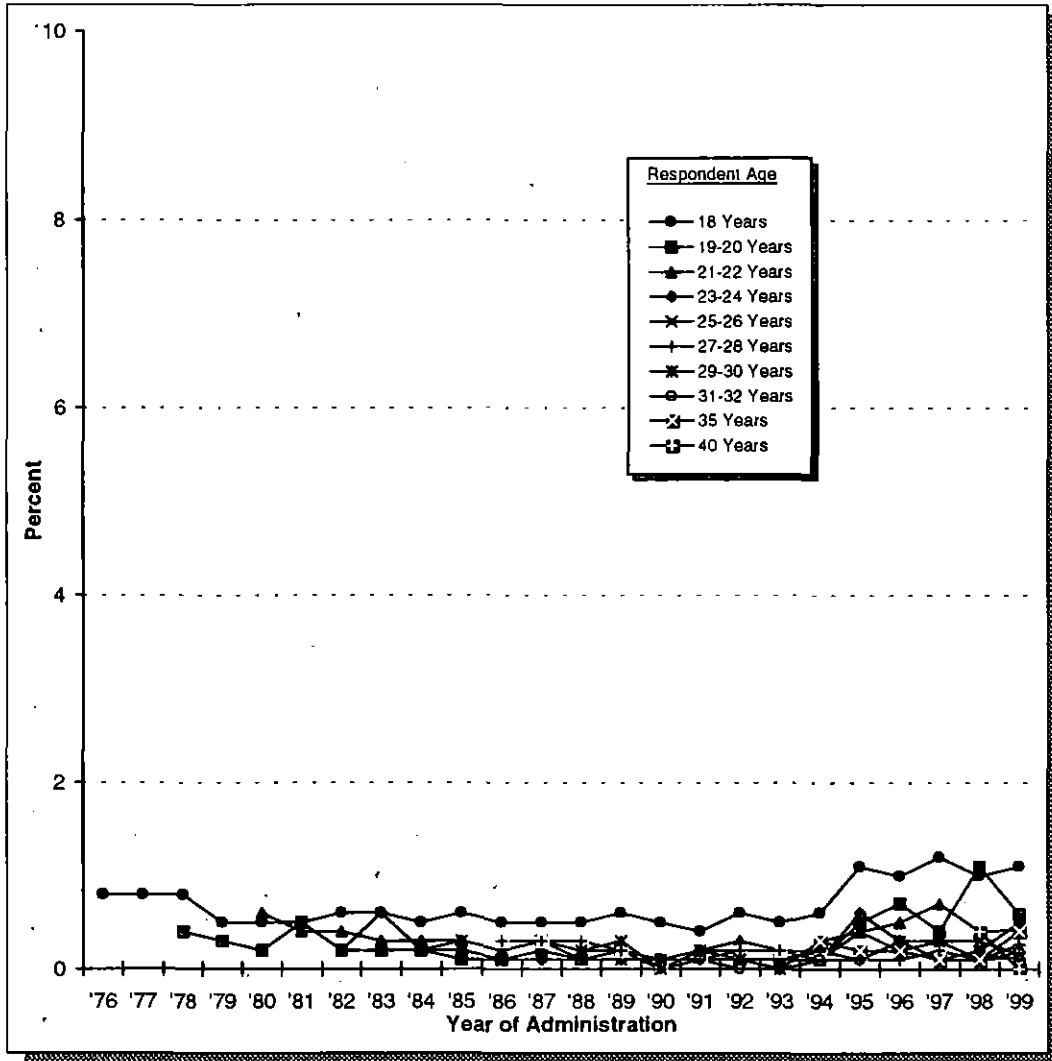
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	6.0	7.2	9.0	12.0	12.3	12.4	11.5	11.4	11.6	13.1	12.7	10.3	7.9	6.5	5.3	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.9	5.5	5.7	6.2	+0.5
19-20 Years			11.8	15.0	16.3	15.9	16.9	13.8	14.6	15.4	15.9	13.4	10.6	7.6	5.6	3.8	3.7	3.2	3.2	3.9	3.7	4.5	5.3	5.7	+0.4
21-22 Years					19.8	20.5	21.6	21.2	20.6	19.2	20.4	16.0	14.1	11.8	8.7	6.1	5.1	4.1	3.9	4.3	4.2	5.8	6.0	5.6	-0.4
23-24 Years							22.9	20.8	20.2	23.5	22.8	16.2	15.1	12.0	9.5	7.2	6.5	4.6	4.8	4.5	4.8	4.9	5.2	6.8	+1.6
25-26 Years									21.1	21.6	19.7	17.4	15.2	10.7	9.9	7.4	6.6	6.3	4.2	4.6	3.8	4.3	3.7	5.0	+1.2
27-28 Years											19.9	15.6	14.2	12.2	9.9	6.9	7.2	5.8	5.4	4.6	4.3	3.7	3.9	3.9	0.0
29-30 Years												14.0	11.6		8.1	6.7	6.7	4.7	6.0	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.7	3.6	-0.1
31-32 Years															8.9	6.8	5.7	5.1	5.5	3.8	5.0	5.1	4.4	4.1	-0.4
35 Years																			4.7	4.1	5.1	4.1	4.4	4.6	+0.3
40 Years																							4.5	3.9	-0.5

**Figure 5-10**  
**Crack Cocaine: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



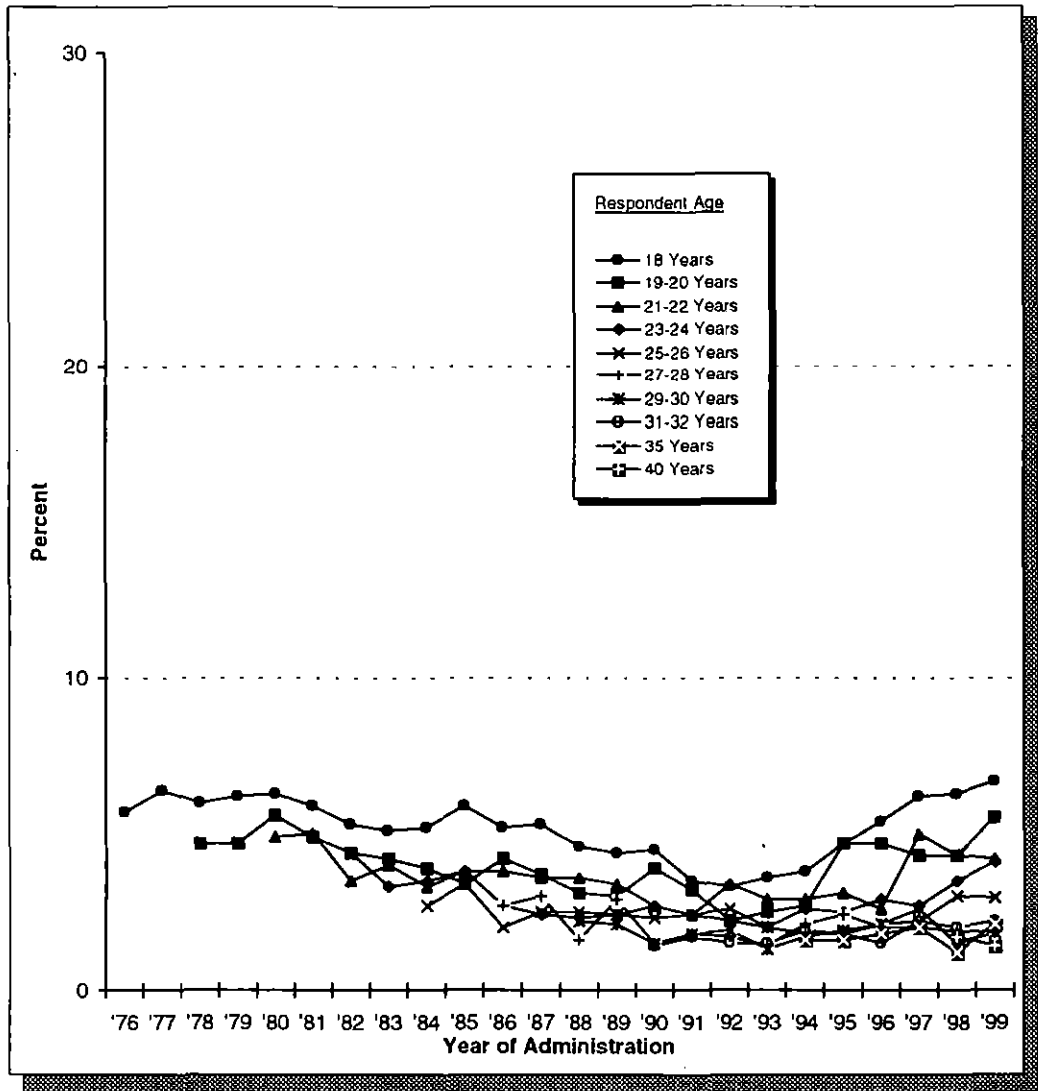
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years											4.1	3.9	3.1	3.1	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.7	+0.2
19-20 Years												2.7	2.7	1.8	1.0	0.6	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3	2.4	+1.1s
21-22 Years												4.1	2.9	3.6	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2	-0.2
23-24 Years												3.4	4.0	3.1	2.1	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.5	+0.3
25-26 Years												2.4	2.7	1.9	2.3	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.9	+0.5
27-28 Years												3.0	3.0	2.0	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	-0.1
29-30 Years													3.2	2.8	1.7	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.3	+0.5
31-32 Years															1.5	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.8	-0.1
35 Years																			0.9	1.0	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.2	-0.1
40 Years																							1.5	0.9	-0.5

**Figure 5-11**  
**Heroin: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among High School Seniors**  
**and Adults Through Age 40**  
 by Age Group



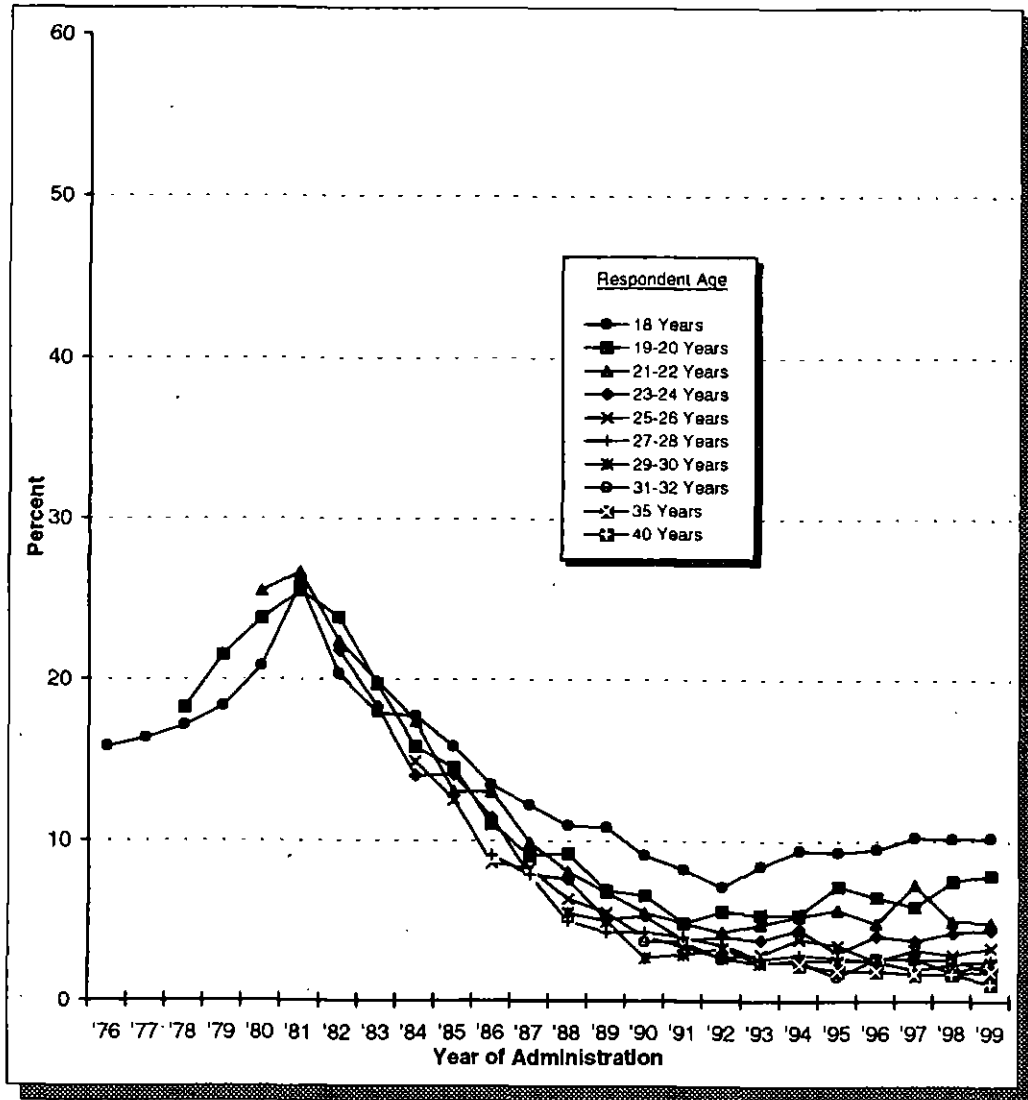
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change	
18 Years	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	+0.1	
19-20 Years			0.4	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.6	-0.5
21-22 Years					0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0
23-24 Years							0.2	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5	+0.3	
25-26 Years									0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	-0.2
27-28 Years										0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	+0.2
29-30 Years													0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	
31-32 Years															0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	
35 Years																				0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4	+0.3	
40 Years																							0.4	0.0	-0.4	

**Figure 5-12**  
**Narcotics Other Than Heroin: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
 by Age Group



Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	5.7	6.4	6.0	6.2	6.3	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.9	5.2	5.3	4.6	4.4	4.5	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.8	4.7	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.7	+0.4
19-20 Years			4.7	4.7	5.6	4.9	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.4	4.2	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.9	3.2	2.2	2.5	2.7	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.3	5.5	+1.3
21-22 Years				4.9	5.0	3.5	4.0	3.3	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.4	2.7	2.4	3.4	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.6	5.0	4.3	4.2		-0.1
23-24 Years					4.4	3.3	3.5	3.8	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.6	2.5	2.9	2.7	3.5	4.1			+0.6
25-26 Years							2.7	3.4	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.2	3.0	3.0			0.0
27-28 Years								2.7	3.0	1.6	2.9	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.4	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8				-0.1
29-30 Years									2.2	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.8					+0.4
31-32 Years													1.4	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.5	2.2	2.0	2.2			+0.2
35 Years																	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.0	1.2	2.1			+1.0
40 Years																						1.7	1.4		-0.4

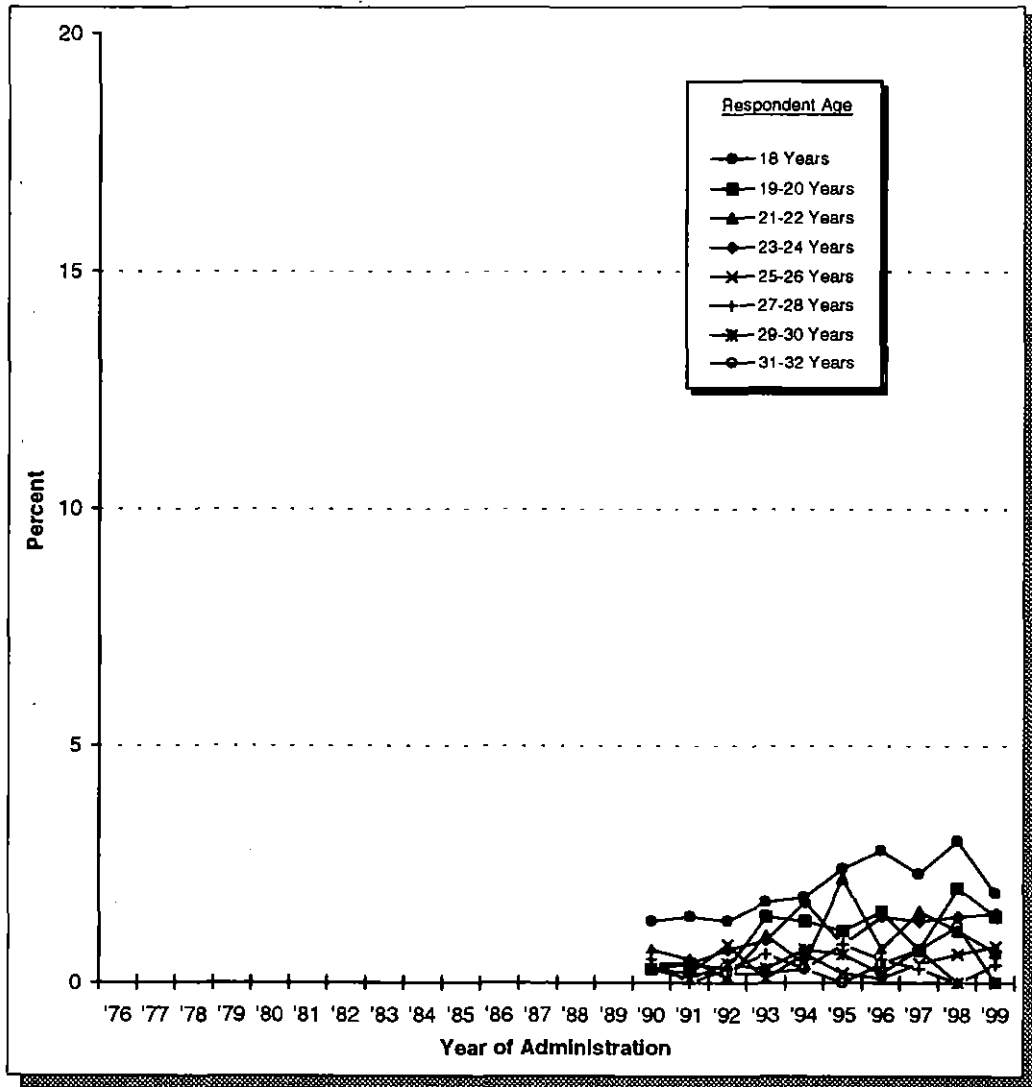
**Figure 5-13**  
**Amphetamines: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	15.8	16.3	17.1	18.3	20.8	26.0	20.3	17.9	17.7	15.8	13.4	12.2	10.9	10.8	9.1	8.2	7.1	8.4	9.4	9.3	9.5	10.2	10.1	10.2	+0.1
19-20 Years			18.2	21.5	23.8	25.5	23.9	19.7	15.8	14.5	11.0	9.1	9.2	6.9	6.6	4.9	5.6	5.4	5.4	7.2	6.5	5.9	7.5	7.9	+0.4
21-22 Years				25.5	26.7	22.4	19.9	17.4	13.0	13.0	9.9	8.1	6.8	5.5	4.9	4.3	4.8	5.3	5.7	4.9	7.3	5.0	5.0	0.0	
23-24 Years					21.8	18.3	14.0	14.1	11.4	7.9	7.6	5.1	5.3	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.5	3.0	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.5	+0.1		
25-26 Years							14.9	12.5	8.6	8.3	6.4	5.5	4.0	3.4	2.7	2.9	3.9	3.5	2.5	3.2	2.9	3.4	+0.4		
27-28 Years								9.1	7.9	5.0	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.5	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.6	+0.2			
29-30 Years									5.5	5.0	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	1.8	2.4	+0.6				
31-32 Years											3.7	3.7	2.6	2.4	2.5	1.5	2.7	2.6	1.9	-0.7					
35 Years																2.3	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.9	+0.2				
40 Years																						1.7	1.1	-0.7	

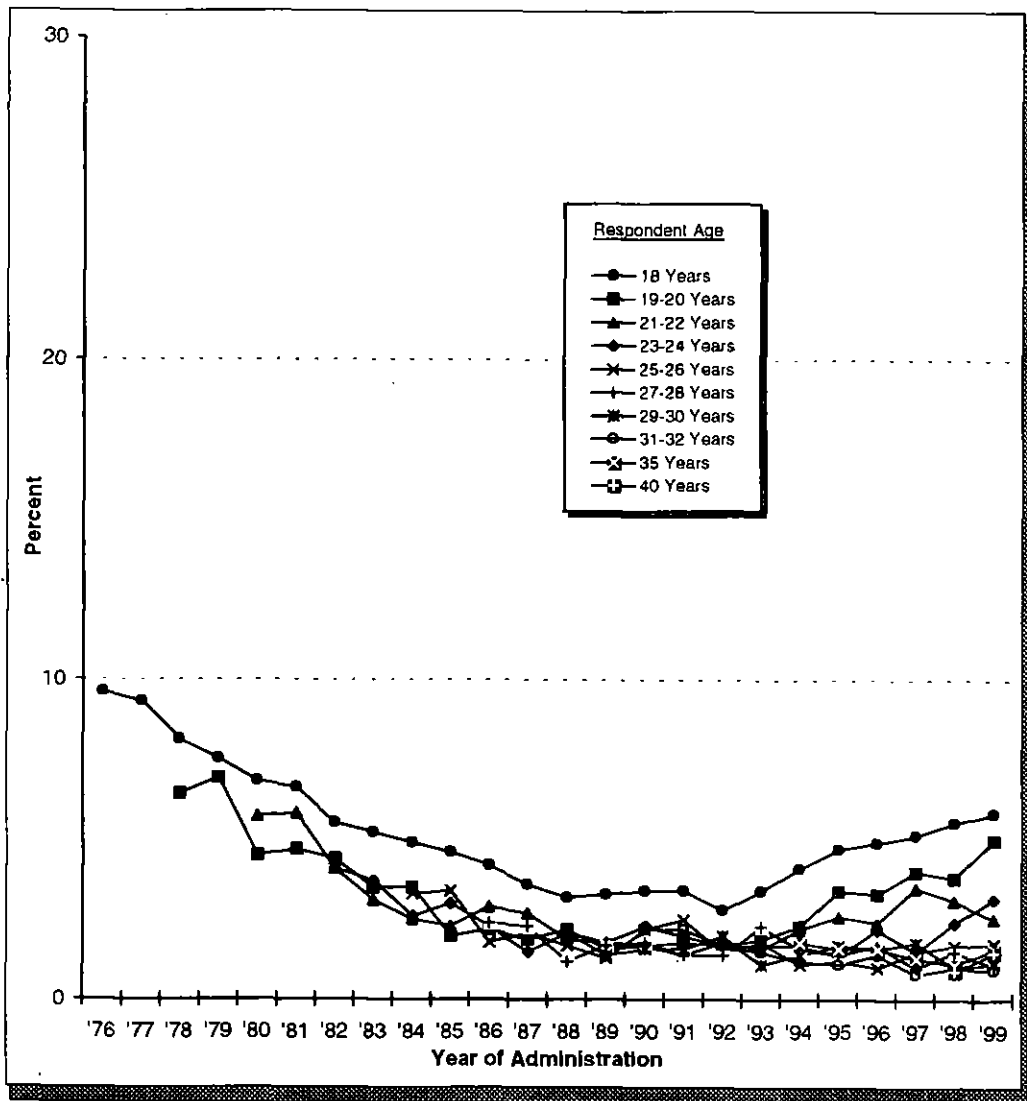


**Figure 5-14**  
**Ice: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



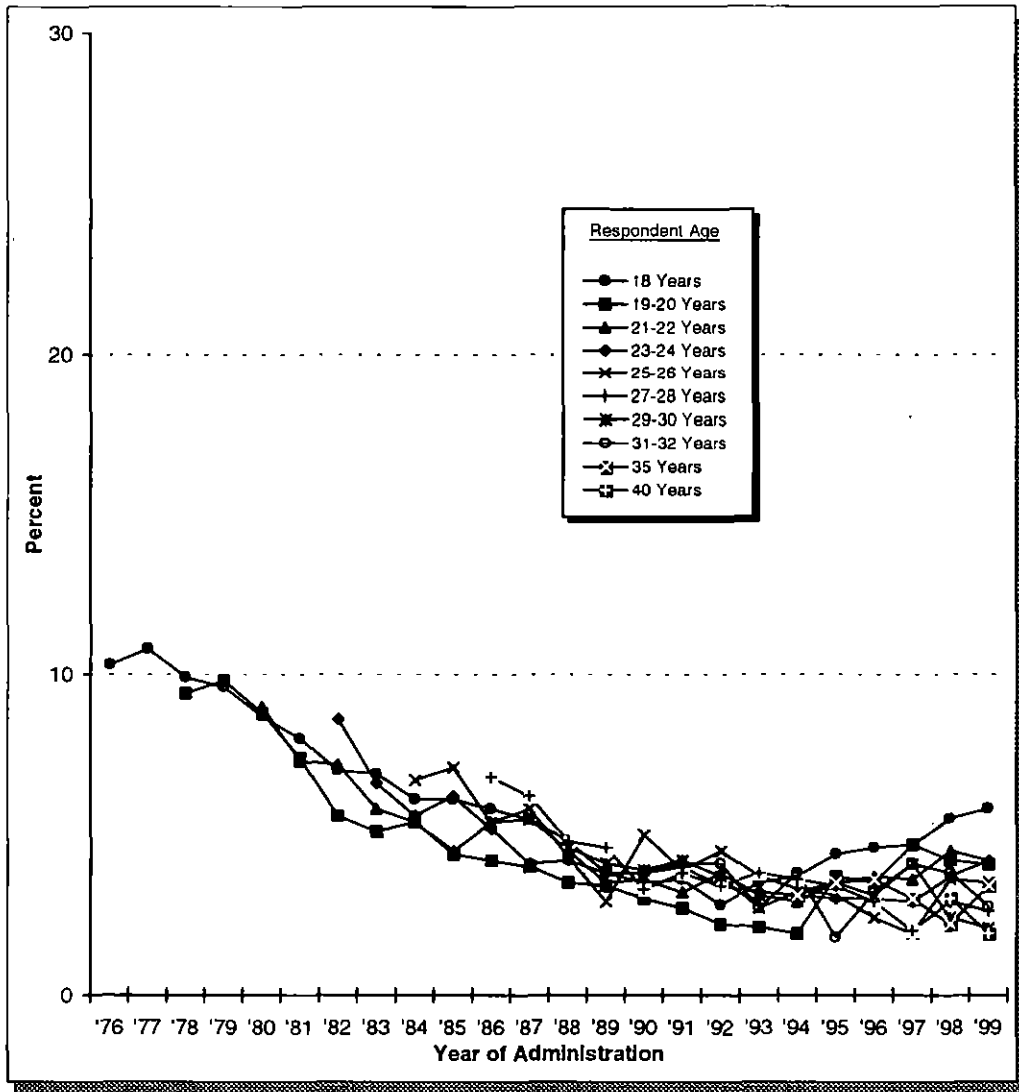
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change	
18 Years															1.3	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.8	2.3	3.0	1.9	-1.1ss	
19-20 Years															0.3	0.4	0.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.7	2.0	1.4	-0.6	
21-22 Years															0.7	0.5	0.1	1.0	0.4	2.2	0.7	1.5	1.1	0.6	-0.5	
23-24 Years															0.4	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.7	0.8	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	+0.1	
25-26 Years															0.3	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.8	+0.1	
27-28 Years															0.5	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.4	+0.4	
29-30 Years															0.3	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	
31-32 Years															0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.0	-1.2	
35 Years																										
40 Years																										

**Figure 5-15**  
**Barbiturates: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



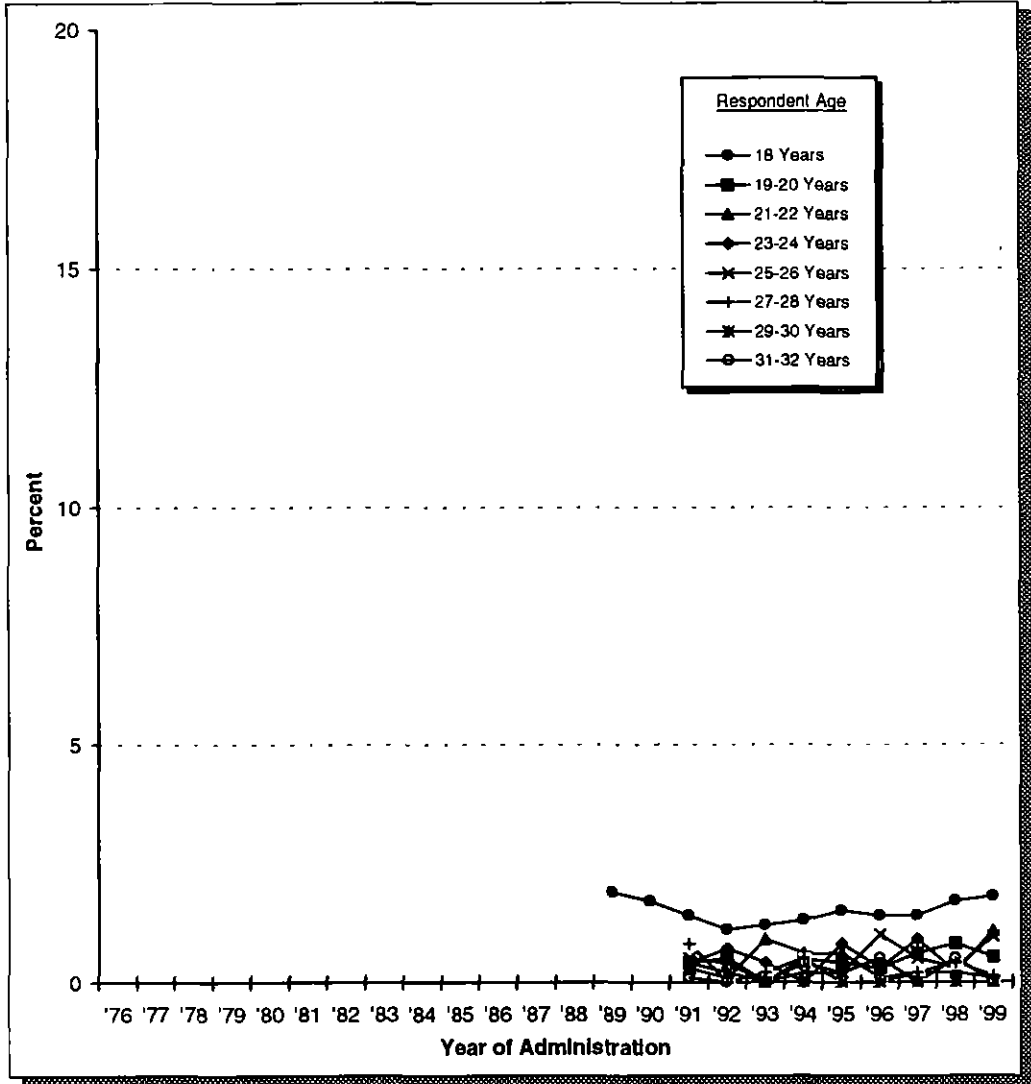
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	9.6	9.3	8.1	7.5	6.8	6.6	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	2.8	3.4	4.1	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.5	5.8	+0.3
19-20 Years			6.4	6.9	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.5	3.5	2.0	2.2	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.3	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.8	5.0	+1.2
21-22 Years					5.7	5.8	4.1	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.6	2.2	2.6	2.4	3.5	3.1	2.5	-0.6
23-24 Years							4.1	3.7	2.6	3.0	2.3	1.5	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.2	1.5	2.4	3.2	+0.7
25-26 Years								3.3	3.4	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.3	2.2	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	+0.1
27-28 Years										2.4	2.3	1.2	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.1	-0.4
29-30 Years													2.1	1.4	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.1	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.0	1.2	+0.2
31-32 Years															2.2	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.0
35 Years																			1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.6	+0.5
40 Years																							0.9	1.5	+0.6

**Figure 5-16**  
**Tranquilizers: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
 by Age Group



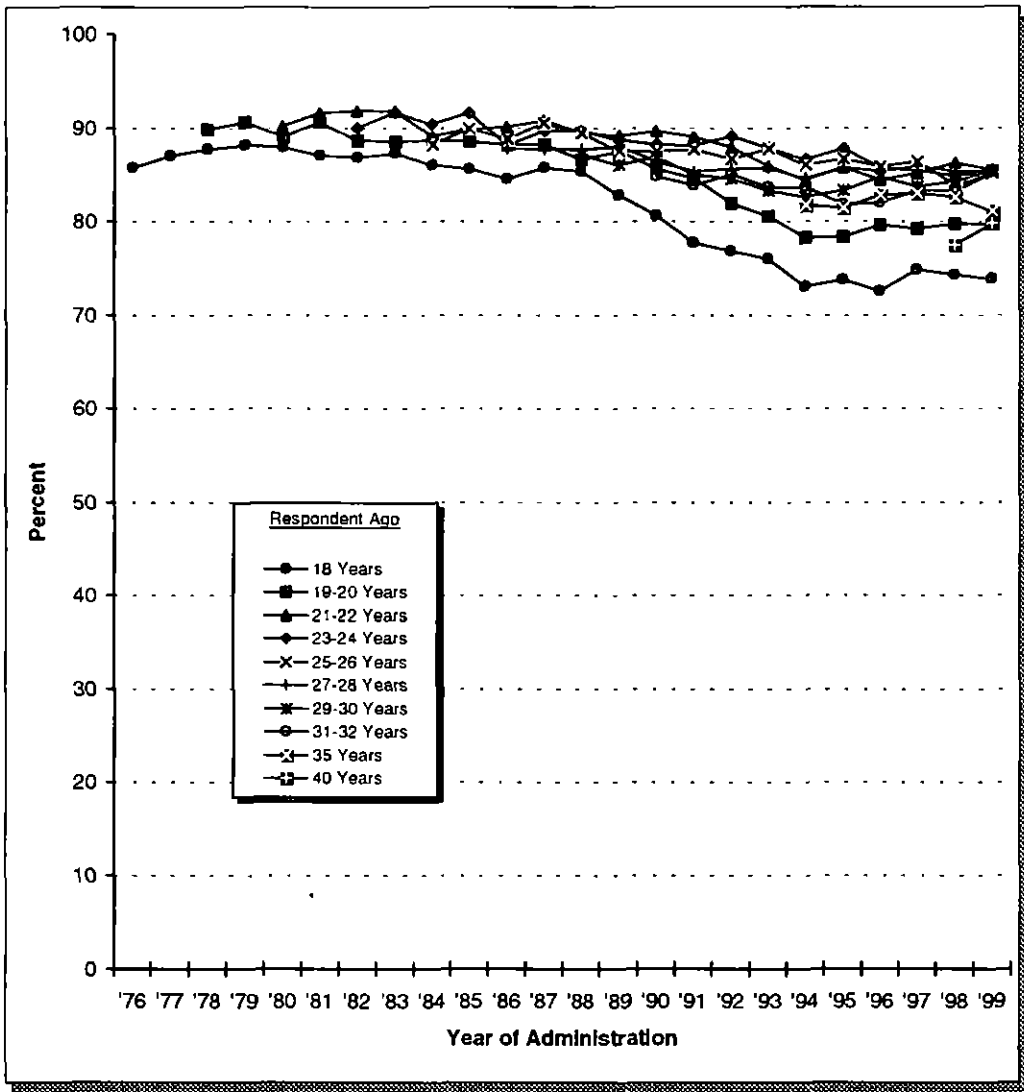
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	10.3	10.8	9.9	9.6	8.7	8.0	7.0	6.9	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.5	4.8	3.8	3.5	3.6	2.8	3.5	3.7	4.4	4.6	4.7	5.5	5.8	+0.3
19-20 Years			9.4	9.8	8.8	7.4	5.6	5.1	5.4	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.5	3.4	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.9	3.7	3.5	4.7	4.2	4.1	-0.1
21-22 Years				9.0	7.3	7.2	5.8	5.4	4.5	5.4	5.5	4.5	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.5	4.2	-0.3	
23-24 Years					8.6	6.6	5.6	6.2	5.2	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.7	4.2	+0.5		
25-26 Years						6.7	7.1	5.4	5.8	4.3	2.9	5.0	3.9	4.5	3.7	3.3	3.1	2.4	1.9	3.6	3.5	3.5	-0.1		
27-28 Years							6.8	6.2	4.8	4.6	3.3	3.8	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.4	2.9	2.0	2.9	2.6	-0.3				
29-30 Years								4.6	4.1	3.9	4.2	3.7	2.7	3.2	3.5	3.1	4.1	2.4	2.1	-0.3					
31-32 Years									3.8	4.1	4.1	2.7	3.8	1.8	3.2	4.1	3.8	2.7	-1.1						
35 Years																	3.1	3.5	3.6	3.0	2.2	3.4	+1.2		
40 Years																						3.0	1.9	-1.1	

**Figure 5-17**  
**Steroids: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



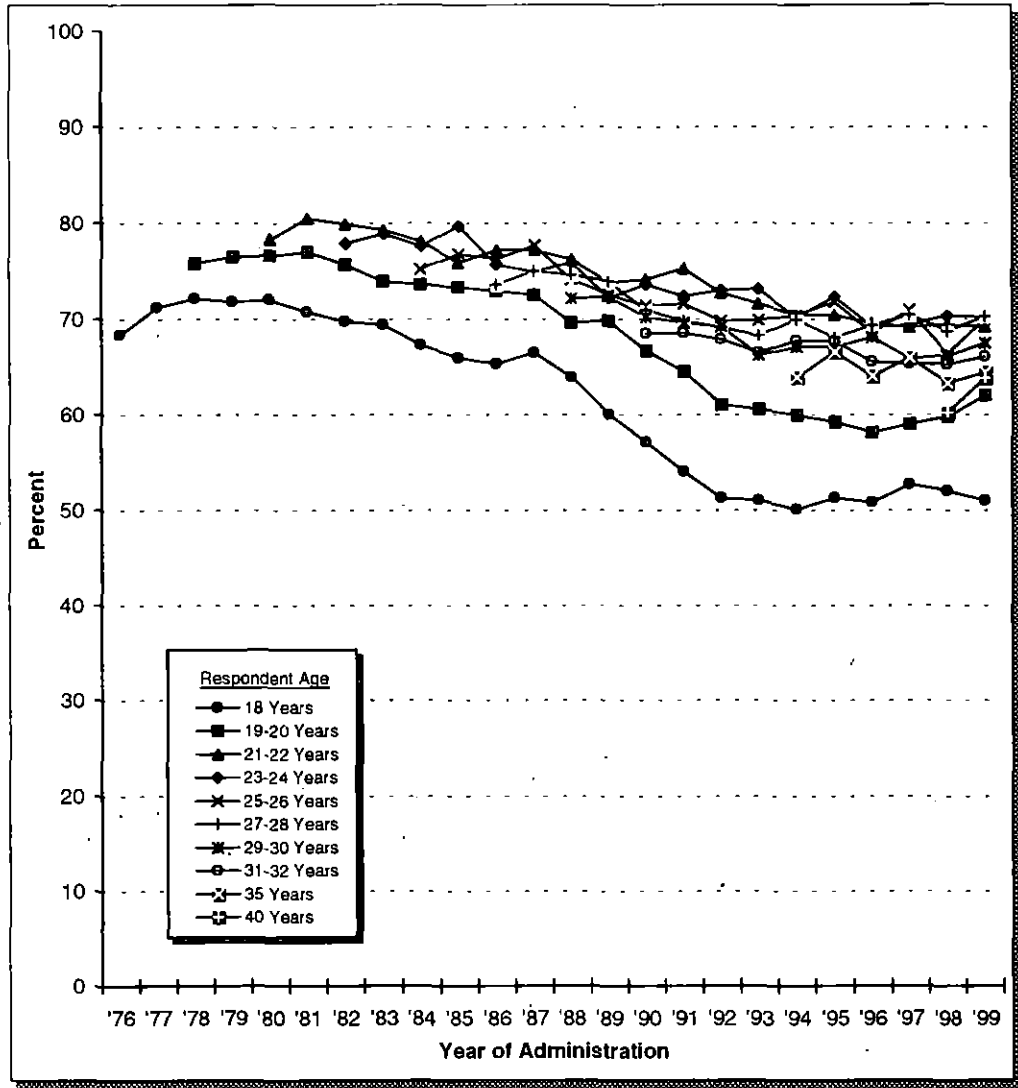
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change	
18 Years														1.9	1.7	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.8	+0.1	
19-20 Years																	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.5	-0.3
21-22 Years																	0.3	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	+0.9
23-24 Years																	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	-0.1
25-26 Years																	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.0	+0.7
27-28 Years																	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	-0.2
29-30 Years																	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
31-32 Years																	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.5
35 Years																										
40 Years																										

**Figure 5-18a**  
**Alcohol: Trends in Annual Prevalence Among High School Seniors**  
**and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



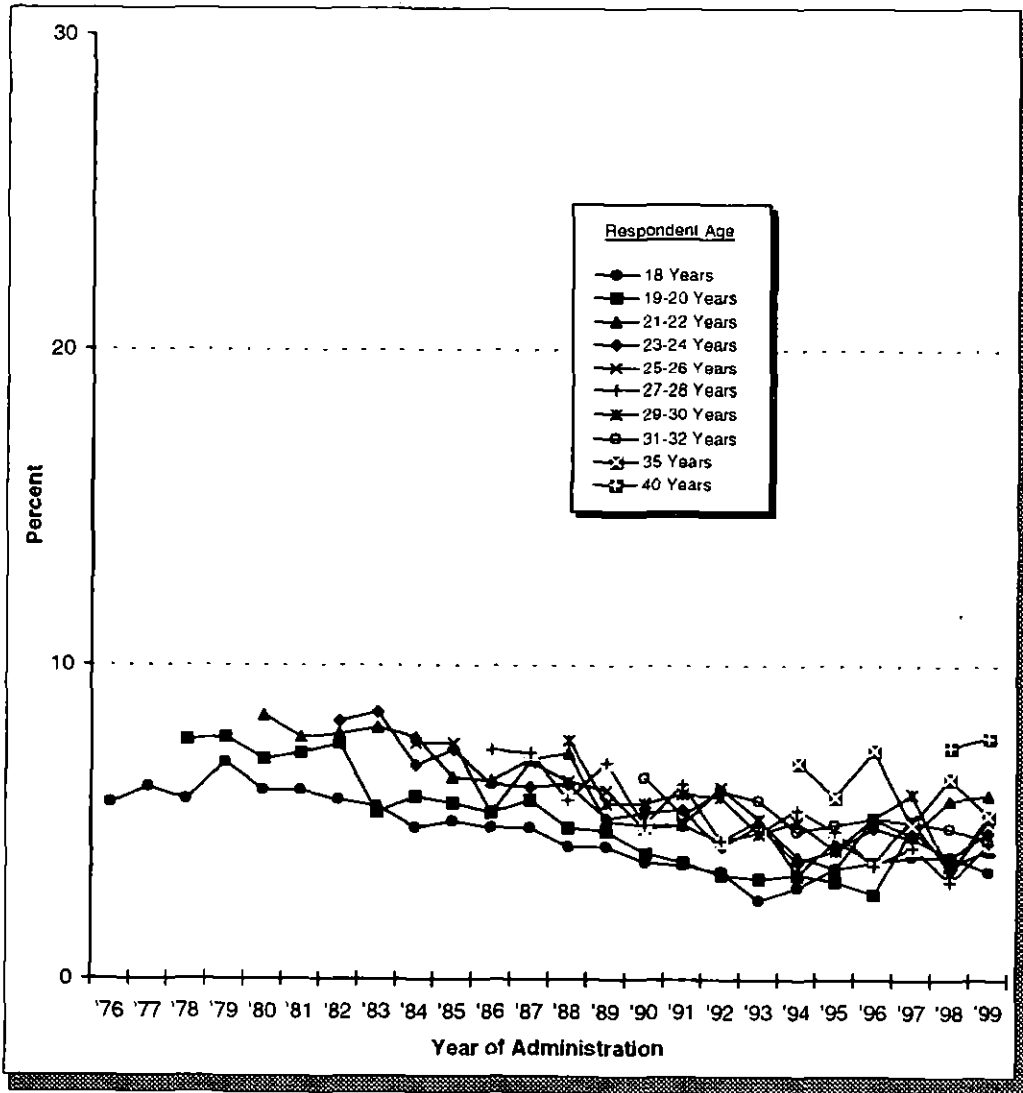
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	85.7	87.0	87.7	88.1	87.9	87.0	86.3	87.3	86.0	85.6	84.5	85.7	85.3	82.7	80.6	77.7	76.8	76.0	73.0	73.7	72.5	74.8	74.3	73.8	-0.5
19-20 Years			89.8	90.6	89.0	90.6	88.6	88.5	88.7	88.5	88.2	88.2	86.6	87.5	85.6	84.6	81.9	80.6	78.2	78.3	79.6	79.2	79.7	79.6	0.0
21-22 Years				90.2	91.6	91.3	91.5	89.1	89.3	90.1	90.8	89.5	89.1	89.6	89.0	87.9	85.9	84.4	85.7	84.4	85.1	86.3	85.5	-0.8	
23-24 Years					90.0	91.7	90.4	91.6	88.1	89.7	89.7	88.7	88.2	88.1	89.1	87.8	86.6	87.8	85.7	85.4	84.9	85.2	-0.3		
25-26 Years								88.2	89.9	88.8	90.5	89.4	87.5	87.5	87.7	86.7	87.8	86.0	86.7	85.9	86.4	83.8	85.0	+1.2	
27-28 Years									87.8	87.8	87.7	88.0	86.4	85.3	85.6	85.7	84.5	85.7	85.3	85.9	85.3	85.4	85.4	0.0	
29-30 Years											87.2	86.0	86.9	85.0	84.5	83.2	82.6	83.3	84.7	83.7	84.2	85.4	+1.2		
31-32 Years														84.8	83.8	85.0	83.6	83.6	81.8	82.0	83.3	83.2	85.1	+1.9	
35 Years																			81.7	81.4	82.8	83.0	82.6	81.0	-1.6
40 Years																							77.5	79.7	+2.3

**Figure 5-18b**  
**Alcohol: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School Seniors**  
**and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



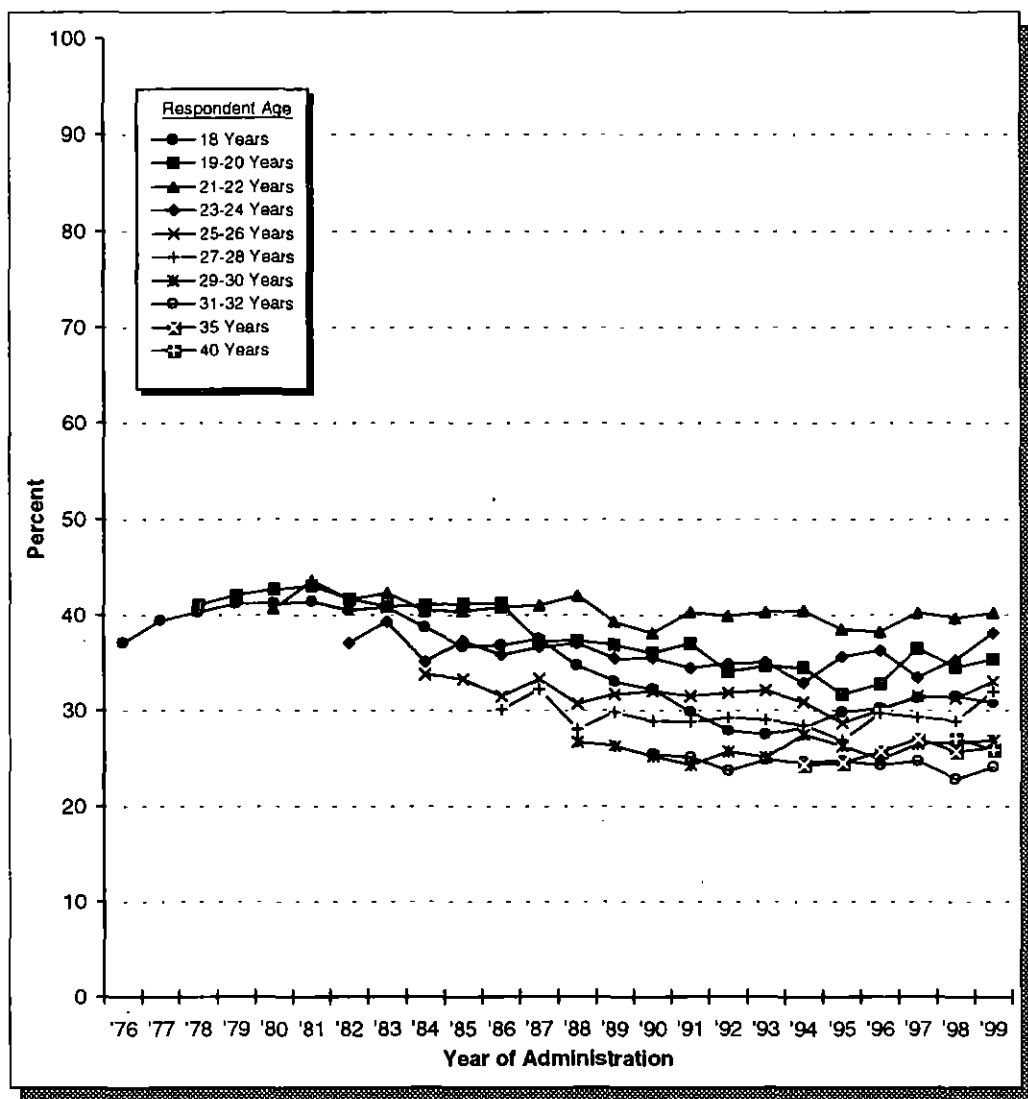
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	69.3	71.2	72.1	71.8	72.0	70.7	69.7	69.4	67.2	65.9	65.3	66.4	63.9	60.0	57.1	54.0	51.3	51.0	50.1	51.3	50.8	52.7	52.0	51.0	-1.0
19-20 Years		75.8	76.5	76.6	77.0	75.7	73.9	73.6	73.3	72.9	72.5	69.6	69.3	66.6	64.5	61.0	60.5	59.9	59.2	58.1	59.0	59.7	62.0	62.0	+2.3
21-22 Years			78.3	80.5	79.9	79.3	78.1	75.9	77.2	77.2	76.2	73.8	74.1	75.3	72.7	71.6	70.4	70.4	69.5	69.1	69.4	69.2	69.2	69.2	-0.2
23-24 Years					77.9	78.9	77.6	79.7	75.7	74.9	75.9	72.2	73.6	72.4	73.0	73.1	70.1	72.3	69.2	69.3	70.3	70.2	70.2	70.2	-0.1
25-26 Years							75.2	76.8	76.3	77.7	74.1	72.5	71.4	71.6	69.8	69.9	70.4	71.8	68.5	70.9	66.3	70.0	70.0	+3.7	
27-28 Years									73.6	75.0	74.6	73.9	70.9	69.8	69.1	68.3	69.9	68.0	69.3	70.4	68.7	70.2	70.2	+1.5	
29-30 Years											72.1	72.3	70.2	69.6	69.2	66.2	67.0	67.0	68.0	65.8	66.1	67.4	67.4	+1.3	
31-32 Years															68.4	68.5	67.8	66.4	67.7	67.6	65.5	65.3	65.2	66.0	+0.8
35 Years																			63.9	66.5	64.0	65.9	63.3	64.4	+1.1
40 Years																							60.2	63.8	+3.6

**Figure 5-18c**  
**Alcohol: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	5.6	6.1	5.7	6.9	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.5	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.4	2.5	2.9	3.5	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.4	-0.6a
19-20 Years			7.6	7.7	7.0	7.2	7.5	5.3	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.7	4.8	4.7	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	4.8	3.6	4.1	+0.6
21-22 Years					8.4	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.7	6.4	6.3	7.0	7.2	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.4	5.1	3.9	3.5	5.1	4.6	5.7	5.9	+0.1
23-24 Years							8.2	8.5	6.8	7.3	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.1	5.3	5.4	4.2	4.9	3.7	4.1	4.8	4.5	3.9	4.7	+0.8
25-26 Years									7.5	7.5	5.3	6.9	6.3	6.0	4.8	4.9	6.1	5.1	3.3	4.4	3.7	5.1	3.4	5.1	+1.7a
27-28 Years											7.3	7.2	5.7	6.9	4.9	6.2	4.4	4.7	5.4	4.7	3.6	4.2	3.1	4.3	-1.2
29-30 Years													7.6	5.6	5.6	5.9	5.8	4.6	5.0	4.1	5.1	5.9	3.4	5.2	+1.8a
31-32 Years															6.4	5.2	6.0	5.7	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.4	-0.5
35 Years																			6.9	5.8	7.3	4.9	6.4	5.2	-1.1
40 Years																							7.4	7.7	+0.3

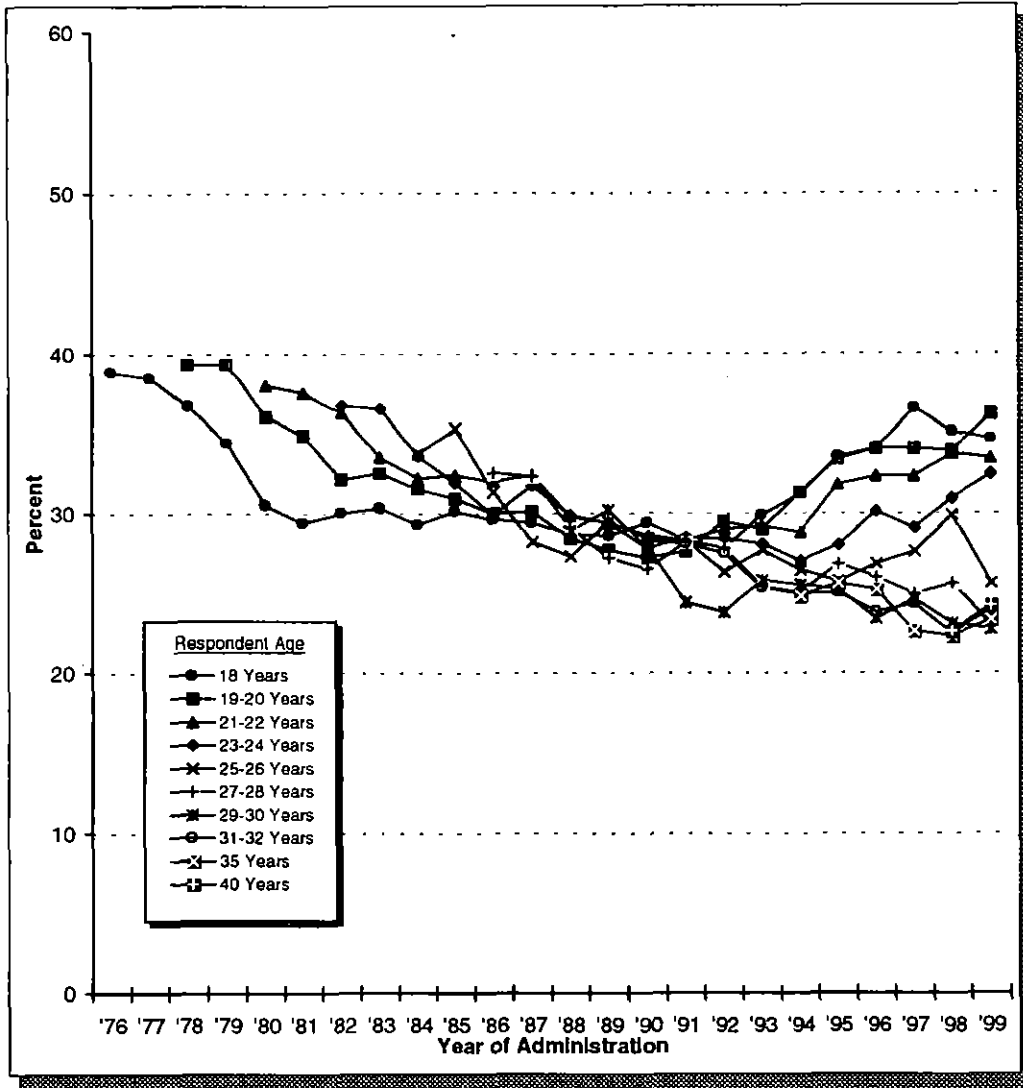
**Figure 5-18d**  
**Alcohol: Trends in Two-Week Prevalence of Having Five or More Drinks in a Row at**  
**Least Once Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



<u>Age of Respondent</u>	<u>'76</u>	<u>'77</u>	<u>'78</u>	<u>'79</u>	<u>'80</u>	<u>'81</u>	<u>'82</u>	<u>'83</u>	<u>'84</u>	<u>'85</u>	<u>'86</u>	<u>'87</u>	<u>'88</u>	<u>'89</u>	<u>'90</u>	<u>'91</u>	<u>'92</u>	<u>'93</u>	<u>'94</u>	<u>'95</u>	<u>'96</u>	<u>'97</u>	<u>'98</u>	<u>'99</u>	<u>'98-'99 change</u>
18 Years	37.1	39.4	40.3	41.2	41.2	41.4	40.5	40.8	38.7	36.7	36.8	37.5	34.7	33.0	32.2	29.8	27.9	27.5	28.2	29.8	30.2	31.3	31.5	30.8	-0.7
19-20 Years			41.1	42.1	42.7	43.1	41.7	40.9	41.0	41.2	41.2	37.2	37.3	36.9	36.0	37.0	34.0	34.6	34.5	31.7	32.7	36.5	34.5	35.3	+0.8
21-22 Years				40.7	43.6	41.6	42.3	40.4	40.4	40.8	41.0	42.0	39.3	38.1	40.3	39.9	40.3	40.5	38.5	38.2	40.2	39.7	40.2	+0.5	
23-24 Years					37.1	39.3	35.1	37.3	35.8	36.6	37.0	35.4	35.5	34.4	34.9	35.0	32.9	35.6	36.3	33.4	35.3	38.1	+2.8		
25-26 Years						33.7	33.3	31.5	33.3	30.7	31.7	32.0	31.5	31.8	32.1	30.9	28.7	30.0	31.5	31.3	33.0	+1.7			
27-28 Years							30.1	32.2	28.0	29.8	28.9	28.8	29.2	29.0	28.5	26.9	29.7	29.3	28.9	32.0	+3.0				
29-30 Years								26.7	26.3	25.2	24.3	25.7	25.1	27.5	26.3	24.9	26.5	26.6	26.9	+0.3					
31-32 Years									25.4	25.1	23.7	24.8	24.6	24.7	24.3	24.7	22.8	24.1	+1.3						
35 Years													24.3	24.5	25.7	27.0	25.7	26.1	+0.4						
40 Years																						27.1	25.9	-1.2	

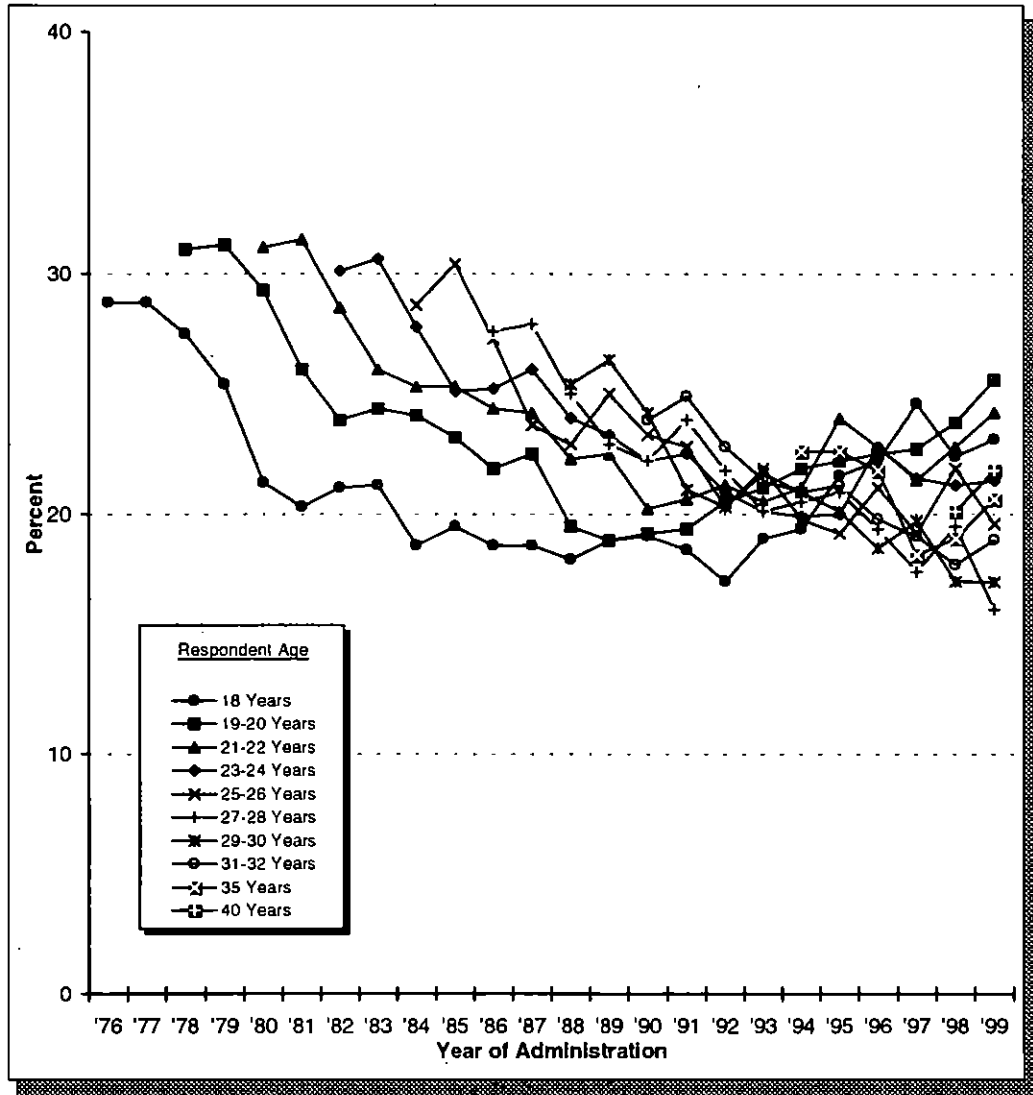


**Figure 5-19a**  
**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence Among High School**  
**Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



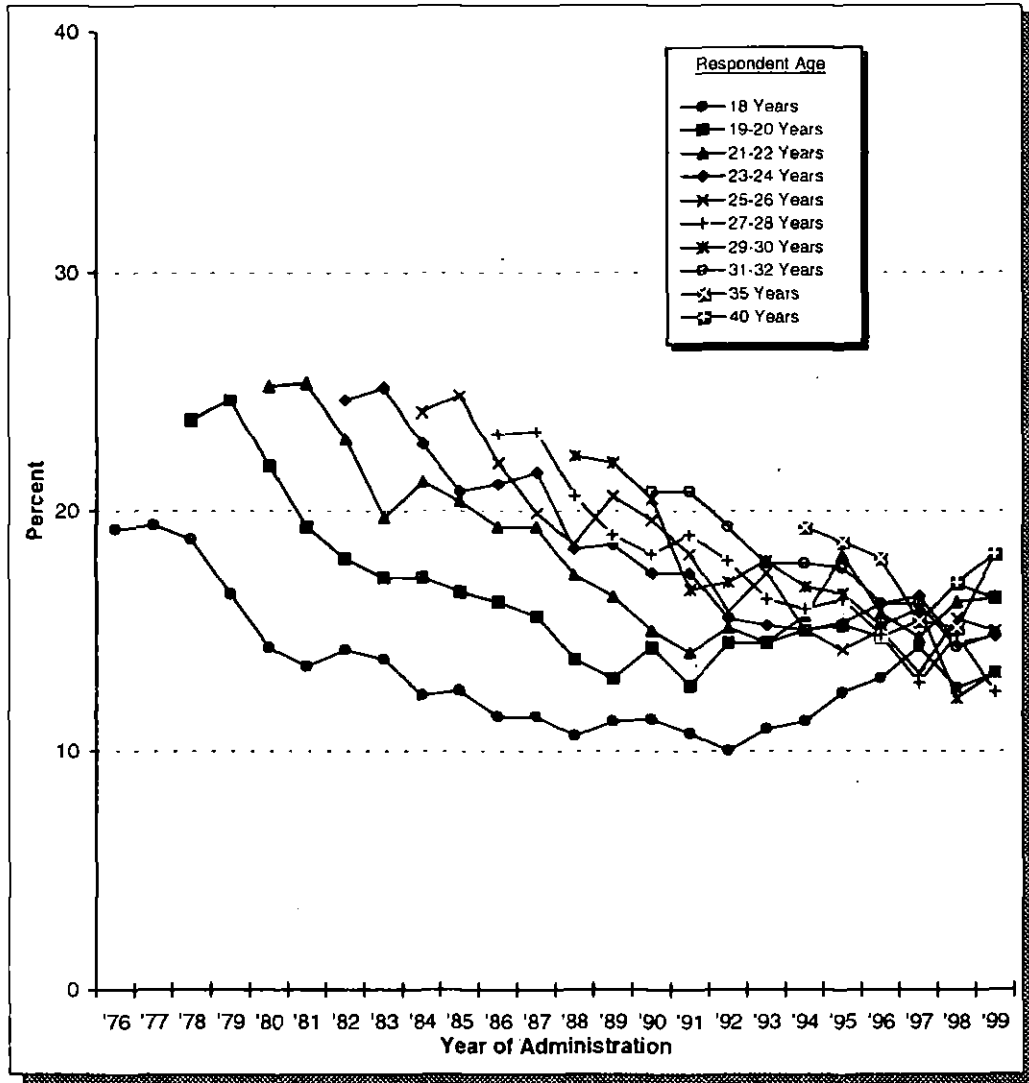
Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change	
18 Years	38.8	38.4	36.7	34.4	30.5	29.4	30.0	30.3	29.3	30.1	29.6	29.4	28.7	28.6	29.4	28.3	27.8	29.9	31.2	33.5	34.0	36.5	35.1	34.6	-0.5	
19-20 Years			39.3	39.3	36.0	34.9	32.1	32.5	31.5	30.9	30.0	30.1	28.4	27.7	27.2	27.6	29.5	29.0	31.3	33.4	34.0	34.0	33.9	36.1	+2.3	
21-22 Years				37.9	37.5	36.2	33.5	32.2	32.4	32.0	32.4	29.8	29.4	28.6	28.3	29.0	29.2	28.8	31.8	32.3	32.3	33.7	33.4		-0.3	
23-24 Years					36.7	36.5	33.6	31.9	29.9	31.7	29.9	29.4	27.8	28.5	28.4	28.1	27.0	28.0	30.1	29.1	30.9	32.4			+1.5	
25-26 Years									33.7	35.3	31.3	28.2	27.3	29.5	28.4	28.3	26.3	27.7	26.4	25.7	26.8	27.6	29.9	25.6	-4.38	
27-28 Years										32.5	32.3	29.1	27.2	26.5	28.2	27.3	25.4	25.0	26.8	26.0	24.9	25.6	22.9	22.7	-2.7	
29-30 Years												28.9	30.2	27.8	24.4	23.8	25.8	25.5	25.2	23.4	24.6	23.1	22.7		-0.4	
31-32 Years														28.9	30.2	27.8	24.4	23.8	25.8	25.5	25.2	23.4	24.6	23.1	22.7	+1.5
35 Years															28.3	28.1	27.5	25.3	24.9	25.0	23.8	24.3	22.5	24.0		+1.0
40 Years																			24.8	25.6	25.2	22.6	22.3	23.3		+1.0
																							22.6	24.2		+1.6

**Figure 5-19b**  
**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use Among**  
**High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	28.8	28.8	27.5	25.4	21.3	20.3	21.1	21.2	18.7	19.5	18.7	18.7	18.1	18.9	19.1	18.5	17.2	19.0	19.4	21.6	22.2	24.6	22.4	23.1	+0.7
19-20 Years			31.0	31.2	29.3	26.0	23.9	24.4	24.1	23.2	21.9	22.5	19.5	18.9	19.2	19.4	20.5	21.1	21.9	22.2	22.5	22.7	23.8	25.6	+1.8
21-22 Years					31.1	31.4	28.6	26.0	25.3	25.3	24.4	24.2	22.3	21.5	20.2	20.6	21.2	20.5	21.1	24.0	22.8	21.4	22.8	24.2	+1.4
23-24 Years							30.1	30.6	27.8	25.1	25.2	26.0	24.0	23.3	22.2	22.5	20.9	20.1	19.9	20.0	22.8	21.5	21.2	21.4	+0.2
25-26 Years									28.7	30.4	27.3	23.7	22.9	25.0	23.3	22.8	20.3	21.9	19.8	19.2	21.1	19.2	21.9	19.6	-2.3
27-28 Years											27.6	27.9	25.0	22.9	22.2	23.9	21.8	20.1	20.5	20.9	19.4	17.6	19.5	16.0	-3.4s
29-30 Years													25.4	26.4	24.2	21.0	20.3	21.7	20.9	20.1	18.6	19.7	17.2	17.2	0.0
31-32 Years															23.9	24.9	22.8	21.4	20.9	21.2	19.8	19.1	17.9	18.9	+1.0
35 Years																			22.6	22.6	21.8	18.3	19.0	20.6	+1.6
40 Years																							20.1	21.8	+1.8

**Figure 5-19c**  
**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Smoking a Half-Pack or**  
**More Daily Among High School Seniors and Adults Through Age 40**  
**by Age Group**



Age of Respondent	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'98-'99 change
18 Years	19.7	19.4	18.8	16.5	14.3	13.5	14.2	13.8	12.3	12.5	11.4	11.4	10.6	11.2	11.3	10.7	10.0	10.9	11.2	12.4	13.0	14.3	12.6	13.2	+0.6
19-20 Years			23.8	24.6	21.9	19.3	18.0	17.2	17.2	16.6	16.2	15.6	13.8	13.0	14.3	12.7	14.5	14.5	15.0	15.2	14.7	15.4	16.9	16.3	-0.5
21-22 Years					25.2	25.3	23.0	19.7	21.2	20.4	19.3	19.3	17.3	16.4	15.0	14.1	15.1	14.5	15.6	18.1	15.7	14.7	16.2	16.4	+0.2
23-24 Years						24.6	25.1	22.8	20.8	21.1	21.6	18.4	18.6	17.4	17.4	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.3	16.1	16.4	14.5	14.8	+0.3	
25-26 Years								24.1	24.8	23.0	19.9	18.6	20.6	19.6	18.2	15.8	17.4	15.0	14.2	15.0	13.2	15.5	15.0	-0.5	
27-28 Years									23.2	23.3	20.6	19.0	18.2	19.0	17.9	16.3	15.9	16.3	14.8	12.8	14.8	12.4	-2.3		
29-30 Years										22.3	22.0	20.5	16.7	17.0	17.9	16.8	16.5	15.2	15.9	12.2	13.2	+1.1			
31-32 Years												20.8	20.8	19.3	17.8	17.8	17.6	16.1	16.1	14.3	14.8	+0.6			
35 Years																	19.3	18.7	18.0	15.4	15.1	18.2	+3.1		
40 Years																						17.0	18.2	+1.1	

## Chapter 6

### ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS ABOUT DRUGS AMONG YOUNG ADULTS

Over the past twenty-five years we have observed substantial changes in twelfth graders' attitudes and beliefs about the use of drugs, in particular the perceived risk of harm associated with marijuana and cocaine, and personal disapproval of use of marijuana, cocaine, and amphetamines. Further, the importance of these shifts in attitudes and beliefs in explaining changes in actual drug-using behavior has been demonstrated in many of the earlier volumes in this series and elsewhere.<sup>27</sup> In this chapter, we review trends since 1980 in the same attitudes and beliefs among young adults.

#### PERCEIVED HARMFULNESS OF DRUGS

Table 6-1 provides trends in the perceived level of risk associated with differing usage levels of various licit and illicit drugs. These questions are contained in one questionnaire form only, limiting the numbers of follow-up cases; accordingly, we use four-year age bands in order to increase the available sample size (to about 400–600 weighted cases per year for each age band) and, thus, to improve the reliability of the estimates. (The actual case counts are given at the end of Table 6-1.) Still, these are small sample sizes compared to those available for eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders, and the change estimates are thus more labile. Because of the nature of the Monitoring the Future design, trend data are available for a longer period for 19- to 22-year-olds (since 1980) than for 23- to 26-year-olds (since 1984) or for 27- to 30-year-olds (since 1988). Also displayed in this table are comparison data for twelfth graders, shown here as 18-year-olds, from 1980 onward. (See also Table 8-3 in Chapter 8 of Volume I for the longer-term trends in seniors' levels of perceived risk.)

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<sup>27</sup>Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L. D., O'Malley, P. M., & Humphrey, R. H. (1988). Explaining the recent decline in marijuana use: Differentiating the effects of perceived risks, disapproval, and general lifestyle factors. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 29, 92-112; Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L. D., & O'Malley, P. M. (1990). Explaining the recent decline in cocaine use among young adults: Further evidence that perceived risks and disapproval lead to reduced drug use. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 31, 173-184; Bachman, J. G., Johnston, L. D., & O'Malley, P. M. (1998). Explaining recent increases in students' marijuana use: Impacts of perceived risks and disapproval, 1976 through 1996. *American Journal of Public Health*, 88:887-892; Johnston, L. D. (1981). Frequent marijuana use: Correlates, possible effects, and reasons for using and quitting. In R. deSilva, R. Dupont, & G. Russell (Eds.), *Treating the Marijuana Dependent Person* (pp. 8-14). New York: The American Council on Marijuana; Johnston, L.D. (1985). The etiology and prevention of substance use: What can we learn from recent historical changes? In C. L. Jones & R. J. Battjes (Eds.), *Etiology of Drug Abuse: Implications for Prevention* (NIDA Research Monograph No. 56, pp. 155-177). (DHHS Publication No. (ADM) 85-1335). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

## *Monitoring the Future*

- Table 6-1 illustrates considerable differences in the degree of risk young adults associate with various drugs. In general, the results closely parallel the distinctions made by seniors.
- ***Marijuana*** is seen as the least risky of the illicitly used drugs, although sharp distinctions are made between different levels of marijuana use. In 1999, experimental use is perceived as being of “great risk” by only 13%–16% of high school graduates (in the age band 19 to 30), whereas regular use is perceived to be that risky by over half (55%–66%) of them.

It is interesting to note that in the mid-1980s and early 1990s, fewer of the older age groups attached great risk to marijuana use than the younger age bands. Indeed, there was a quite regular negative ordinal relationship between age and perceived risk for some years after 1980, when the first comparisons were available. This could have reflected an age effect, but we interpreted it as a cohort effect: the younger cohorts initially perceived marijuana as more dangerous than the older cohorts and persisted in this belief as they grew older. Newer cohorts however, have become more relaxed in their attitudes—1999 high school seniors are much less likely to perceive marijuana use as dangerous than did high school seniors in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This reflects what we have interpreted as “generational forgetting,” a phenomenon wherein younger replacement cohorts no longer carry the knowledge, and perhaps the direct or vicarious experience on which the knowledge is based, that the older cohorts had when they were that age. The decline in perceived risk in the 1990s has been greater the younger the age band, including grades 8 and 10. It has been least among the 27- to 30-year-olds. We think that much of this decline in perceived risk in the older age bands is a direct result of generational replacement of earlier cohorts by the more recent, less concerned ones. In fact, the relationship between perceived risk of regular use and age began to reverse by 1995, and this trend continued through 1997, before a leveling in perceived risk among seniors led to a curvilinear relationship as risk continued to decline among 19- to 26-year-olds. Now, the oldest respondents are most likely to see marijuana as dangerous. In 1999, 66% of the 27- to 30-year-olds and 60% of the 23- to 26-year-olds thought regular marijuana use carried great risk versus 55% of the 19- to 22-year-olds and 57% of the seniors. This reversal of the relationship with age (and the subsequent divergence of the seniors) is consistent with an underlying cohort effect and could not simply be a reflection of a regular change in these attitudes being associated with age (i.e., an “age effect”).

- Use of any of the other illicit drugs is seen as distinctly more risky than marijuana. Even the experimental use of *amphetamines* and *barbiturates* is perceived as risky by about 29%–42% of young adults aged 19 to 30, and 38%–

51% think trying *LSD* or *MDMA (ecstasy)* involves great risk. Trying *cocaine powder* is seen as dangerous by 48%–54%, while using *crack* or *heroin* once or twice is seen as dangerous by 56%–70%.

- In recent years, the older age groups have been more likely than the younger age groups to see *LSD* and *barbiturates* as dangerous. Indeed, there is now a substantial age-related difference. The age distinctions for *LSD* and *barbiturates* have become sharper in recent years as perceived risk has declined more in the younger age groups than the older ones—again indicating some important cohort changes in these attitudes, quite likely as a result of the process we have labeled “generational forgetting.”
- There are now fair-sized age-related differences with respect to cocaine use; with the 23- through 30-year-olds reporting somewhat higher risk than the 18- to 22-year-olds, who have had less experience with cocaine. Among seniors and the young adult age groups, the danger associated with cocaine use on a regular basis grew considerably between 1980 and 1986. However, these changed beliefs did not translate into changed behavior until the perceived risk associated with experimental and occasional use began to rise sharply after 1986. When these two measures rose, a sharp decline in actual use occurred. We hypothesized that respondents see only these lower levels of use as relevant to them. (Nobody starts out planning to be a heavy user; further, cocaine was not believed to be addictive in the early 1980s.) Based on this hypothesis, we included the additional question about occasional use in 1986, just in time to capture a sharp increase in perceived risk which occurred later that year, largely in response to the growing media frenzy about cocaine—and crack cocaine, in particular—and the widely publicized, cocaine-related deaths of Len Bias and others. After stabilizing for a few years, perceived risk began to fall off among seniors after about 1991, but not among the older age groups, once again suggesting lasting cohort differences were emerging. A decline began among the 19- to 22-year-olds starting in 1994, likely as the result of generational replacement with the high school seniors who earlier had come to see cocaine as less dangerous. No such decline is so far observable in the two upper age strata.
- A similar situation also now exists for *crack*, for which perceived risk is highest in the two oldest age bands and lowest among seniors. Trend data (available since 1987) on the risks perceived to be associated with use of *crack* show increases in the 1987 to 1990 interval for all age groups, followed by relatively little change in the older two age strata.

Since 1992, the seniors have shown decreases in the perceived risk of experimental or occasional use of *crack*—perhaps reflecting the onset of

## *Monitoring the Future*

“generational forgetting”—leaving them as perceiving considerably less risk than the other age groups. After 1994, the 19- to 22-year-olds also showed a decline on these two measures, once again probably as the result of generational replacement. All age bands showed further decline in 1999.

- Questions about perceived risk of *crystal methamphetamine (ice)* use were introduced in 1990, and the results show what may be an important reason for its lack of rapid spread. More than half of all seniors and young adults perceive it as a quite dangerous drug even to try, perhaps because it was likened to crack in many media accounts. (Both drugs are burned and the fumes inhaled, both are stimulants, and both can produce a strong dependence.) There was rather little difference in these attitudes by age in 1990 and 1991, but as perceived risk fell considerably among seniors (and eventually among 19- to 22-year-olds) and held steady or rose in the oldest two age groups, an age-related difference emerged. At present, the risk associated with the use of ice increases with age band. The opposite was true as recently as 1992—again suggesting cohort effects.
- *MDMA (ecstasy)* questions were introduced in 1989 and were not asked of seniors until 1997. At the beginning of the 1990s, all young adult age bands viewed it as a fairly dangerous drug, even for experimentation. But, again, the different age bands had diverging trends during the 1990s, with the oldest two age bands continuing to see ecstasy as quite dangerous, but the 19- to 22-year-olds (and very likely the seniors, on whom we did not have data until 1997) coming to see it as less so. In 1999, only 35% of the seniors saw great risk in trying ecstasy versus 51% of the 27- to 30-year-olds.
- In general, young adults have been more cautious about *heroin* use than high school seniors. Among the seniors, there had been a downward shift from 1975 to 1986 in the proportion seeing great risk associated with trying heroin; then there was a sharp upturn in 1987, followed by a leveling through 1991, in turn followed by some falloff in the early 1990s before an increase from 1995 through 1998. Young adults, although their data do not extend back as far, also showed an increased caution about heroin use in the latter half of the 1980s, followed by a leveling through most of the 1990s. In 1996 and 1997, young adults' perceived risk increased some, as happened among the twelfth graders (as well as among the eighth and tenth graders). These various trends may reflect, respectively, (a) the lesser attention paid to heroin by the media during the late 1970s and early 1980s; (b) the subsequent great increase in attention paid to intravenous heroin use in the latter half of the 1980s because of its important role in the spread of AIDS; (c) the emergence in the 1990s of heroin so pure that people no longer needed to use a needle to administer it, resulting in lower perceived risk; and (d) the more recent increased attention given to heroin by the media (partly as a result of some

overdose deaths by public figures and partly prompted by the emergence of “heroin chic” in the design industry), as well as an anti-heroin campaign in the media launched by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America in June 1996.

- As was true for high school seniors, only a minority of the young adults see *heavy drinking on weekends* as dangerous (37%–42%). This belief has held fairly constant over the years among the 23- to 30-year-olds, but leveled some among the high school seniors, and subsequently among 19- to 22-year-olds, during the 1990s.
- More than three-quarters (76%–81%) of the young adults perceive regular *pack-a-day cigarette smoking* as entailing high risk, higher than the 71% of seniors who hold that belief and much higher than the 55% of eighth graders who do so. In recent years, the 18-year-olds have consistently shown lower perceived risk than young adults, while tenth graders are lower still, and eighth graders lowest. Clearly, there is an age effect in young people coming to understand the dangers of smoking. Unfortunately, it appears that much of the learning occurs after the proverbial “horse is out of the barn” and many young people already have become addicted. These beliefs have strengthened very gradually in all age groups from senior year on up, during the years we have monitored them. (See Table 6-1.) The parallel changes in these beliefs across the different age groups are suggestive of a period effect, rather than a cohort effect, suggesting that all of these age groups were responding to common influences in the larger culture.
- The use of *smokeless tobacco* is seen as dangerous by only 47%–54% of young adults and by even fewer seniors (41%). However, these beliefs have also gradually strengthened in all age groups over intervals covered (Table 6-1).

## PERSONAL DISAPPROVAL OF DRUG USE

The questions asked of high school seniors concerning the extent to which they personally disapprove of various drug-using behaviors also are asked of follow-up respondents in one of the six questionnaire forms. Trends in the answers of young adults aged 19 to 22, 23 to 26, and 27 to 30 are contained in Table 6-2. Comparison data for twelfth graders are also provided for 1980 onward. (See also Table 8-4 in Chapter 8 of Volume I for the longer-term trends in high school seniors’ levels of disapproval associated with using various drugs.)

- In general, the levels of disapproval of the use of the various drugs among adults rank similarly across substances as they did among twelfth graders. The great majority disapprove of using, or even experimenting with, all of the *illicit drugs other than marijuana*. For example, regular use of each of the following drugs is



disapproved of by 95% or more of young adults in 1999: *LSD*, *cocaine*, *amphetamines*, *barbiturates*, and *heroin*. Even experimentation with each of these drugs is disapproved of by 83% to 97% of the young adults. Many of these attitudes differ rather little as a function of age, at present; though, when there is a difference, it is usually the younger age groups that are the least disapproving.

- Even for *marijuana*, more than half of young adults now disapprove of experimentation. In 1999, between 66% and 72% disapprove of occasional use, and approximately 85% to 90% disapprove of regular use.

*Marijuana* is the drug showing the widest fluctuations in disapproval over time—generally, fluctuations that parallel the changes in perceived risk (though sometimes with a one-year time lag). The most fluctuation has occurred among the seniors, nearly as much among the 19- to 22-year-olds, and the least among the 27- to 30-year-olds (Table 6-2). Among seniors, disapproval of regular use increased substantially in the 1980s, peaked in the early 1990s, declined through much of the 1990s, and then leveled around 1998. The 19- to 22-year-olds had quite a similar pattern, though the decline still continues—likely due to generational replacement. Among 23- to 26-year-olds, the decline started later in the 1990s and continues; and among 27- to 30-year-olds, there is as yet rather little decline. This pattern of change is fairly indicative of a cohort effect.

- Beginning around 1990, there was some decrease in disapproval of trying *LSD* among all age groups (from similar levels of disapproval, all at 90% or 91%). The decline was steepest among seniors, but there was a reversal of the decline among seniors in 1997, and disapproval has increased some since then. The older age groups declined less and have not yet shown consistent evidence of a reversal. This pattern suggests some lasting cohort differences.
- Most of the disapproval statistics for *heroin* use, at all three levels of use, have remained very high and stable throughout the life of the study. There was, however, a little slippage in heroin disapproval rates among seniors from 1991 through 1996 (from 96% to 92%), and less among the 19- to 22-year-olds over the same interval.
- Disapproval of regular *cocaine* use rose gradually among the 19- to 22-year-olds, from 89% in 1981 to 99% in 1990, where it has remained since (98% in 1999). All three young adult age bands (but not seniors) are now near the ceiling of 100%. Young adults 19 to 22, like seniors, showed a sizeable increase in their disapproval of *experimental* use of cocaine, with the proportion disapproving rising from 69% in 1981 to 94% by 1994. Disapproval also rose among 23- to 26-year-olds—from 70% in 1984 (when data were first available) to 92% by 1995,

where it remains. Among all age groups, there was some falloff in disapproval in the 1990s; among seniors, disapproval moved from 94% in 1991 to 88% by 1997 (after which it edged up a bit). Among 19- to 26-year-olds, a small falloff began after 1995. Again, the lag in inflection points between seniors and 19- to 22-year-olds suggests some lasting cohort differences in these attitudes.

- There were significant increases in disapproval of experimental use of *amphetamines* and *barbiturates* during the 1980s. Trying amphetamines once or twice was disapproved of by 73%–74% of 19- to 26-year-olds in 1984, compared to 84% by 1990, and the corresponding figures for trying barbiturates were 84%–85% in 1984 compared to 89%–91% by 1990. Since then, disapproval of amphetamine and barbiturate use slipped some among seniors after 1992, and among 19- to 22-year-olds after 1994, with the 23–26 year-olds following suit in 1996. There has been little such change among the 27- to 30-year-old stratum, as yet.
- The story for *alcohol* has become quite complicated. Between 1980 and 1992, an increasing proportion of high school seniors favored total abstinence, with the percent disapproving even drinking once or twice rising from 16% in 1980 to 33% in 1992. (This figure has fallen back some, to 25% by 1998.) Among 19- to 22-year-olds, there was a modest increase from 15% to 22% disapproving between 1985 and 1989, with no discernible trend since then. For the two oldest age groups, there has been little change in these attitudes. These differing trends may reflect the fact that the drinking age in all states was raised to age 21, mostly during the period 1984 to 1987; this would have the greatest effect on seniors, who may incorporate the legal restrictions into their normative structure and, as they enter the second age band, bring these new norms with them. Put another way, these changes could reflect a cohort effect resulting from the laws that were prevailing when the cohort passed through late adolescence.

*Daily drinking* (of one or two drinks) became more disapproved in the three youngest age bands (seniors through 26-year-olds) up until about 1990, but disapproval has declined some since then. There was a considerable increase in disapproval of *occasional heavy drinking* from the early 1980s for the two youngest age groups (who started out the most tolerant), and this continued through 1992 for seniors (who then showed some drop-off) and through 1994, among 19- to 22-year-olds (who also then showed some drop-off). As Figure 5-14d illustrates, the prevalence of occasional heavy drinking declined substantially among seniors and 19- to 22-year-olds between 1981 and the early 1990s, as norms became more restrictive. There was little or no change in the older age strata either in their levels of disapproval or in their rates of occasional heavy drinking.

At present, the seniors are the most likely to disapprove of any drinking (as has been the case for some years) but the least disapproving of heavy daily drinking. Weekend binge drinking is less disapproved of among seniors and 19- to 22-year-olds—who tend to report the most such behavior—than among the two older age strata.

- Modest fluctuations in the disapproval of *cigarette smoking* have occurred over the intervals covered by the study in the age range 18 to 26, but not in the 27- to 30-year-old range. Seniors showed some increase in disapproval between 1982 (69%) and 1992 (74%), while 19- to 22-year-olds showed a similar increase from 1982 (66%) to 1989 (76%). Disapproval of pack-a-day-or-more smoking then fell from 1992 (74%) to 1997 (67%) before increasing in the last two years, to 70% in 1999. Changes since 1992 among the older age groups have been more modest and less consistent.

#### **A FURTHER COMMENT: COHORT DIFFERENCES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PREVENTION AND THEORY**

It was noted above that the older respondents are more likely than younger ones to see the use of *marijuana, LSD, heroin, amphetamines, MDMA, ice, cocaine, crack, and barbiturates* as dangerous. We have offered the framework for a theory of drug epidemics in which direct learning (from personal use) and vicarious learning (from observing use by others in both the immediate and mass media environments) play an important role in changing these key attitudes.<sup>28</sup> To the extent that the current data on perceived risk represent cohort effects (enduring differences between class cohorts), these findings would be consistent with this theoretical perspective. Clearly, use of these particular drugs was greater when the older cohorts were growing up, and public attention and concern regarding the consequences of these drugs was greatest in the 1970s and early 1980s. In the early 1970s, LSD was alleged to cause brain damage and chromosomal damage, as well as bad trips, flashbacks, and behavior that could prove dangerous. Methamphetamine use was discouraged with the slogan “speed kills.” There was a serious epidemic of heroin use in the early 1970s. More recent cohorts in our study (through the mid-1990s) were not exposed to these experiences. While there may have been a secular trend toward greater perceived risk for drugs in general, in the case of LSD there may also have been a cohort effect (younger cohorts seeing less danger) that was enough to offset the secular trend among seniors, who have shown a net decrease in perceived risk since 1980.

This vicarious learning process has a very practical importance for national strategy for preventing future epidemics. As future cohorts of youth grow up with less opportunity for such

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<sup>28</sup>Johnston, L. D. (1991). Toward a theory of drug epidemics. In R. L. Donohew, H. Sypher, & W. Bukoski (Eds.), *Persuasive communication and drug abuse prevention*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. pp. 93-132.

## *Chapter 6 Attitudes and Beliefs Among Young Adults*

vicarious learning, because fewer in their immediate social circles and fewer public role models are using these drugs and exhibiting the adverse consequences of use, the less opportunity these youth will have to learn about the adverse consequences of these drugs in the normal course of growing up. Unless those hazards are convincingly communicated to them in *other ways*—e.g., through school prevention programs, by their parents, and through the mass media, including public service advertising—they will become more susceptible to a new epidemic of use of the same or similar drugs.

Volume I, the companion volume to the present one, reports an increase in use of several drugs in eighth, tenth, and twelfth grades in 1994 through 1997. This increase suggests that this form of “generational forgetting”—in which replacement cohorts lose some of the knowledge held by their predecessors and thus become more vulnerable to using drugs—may well have been taking place during these years.

**TABLE 6-1**

**Trends in Perceived Harmfulness of Drugs  
High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**

(Entries are percentages)

Q. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they...	Age Group	Percentage saying "great risk"																		'98-'99 change			
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997		1998	1999	
Try marijuana once or twice	18	10.0	13.0	11.5	12.7	14.7	14.8	15.1	18.4	19.0	23.6	23.1	27.1	24.5	21.9	19.5	16.3	15.6	14.9	16.7	15.7	-1.0	
	19-22	8.3	7.8	9.7	9.7	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	14.8	13.4	12.5	-0.9	
	23-26					9.6	10.0	12.4	14.5	16.0	14.0	17.7	14.0	15.0	13.0	15.0	15.8	18.5	15.1	16.7	16.4	-0.3	
	27-30									14.6	16.0	17.0	15.7	15.1	14.0	14.8	16.1	16.2	16.1	16.4	16.1	-0.4	
Smoke marijuana occasionally	18	14.7	19.1	18.3	20.6	22.6	24.5	25.0	30.4	31.7	36.5	36.9	40.6	39.6	35.6	30.1	25.6	25.9	24.7	24.4	23.9	-0.5	
	19-22	13.9	14.2	16.9	16.7	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	22.0	22.0	19.8	-2.2	
	23-26					15.8	16.3	20.9	20.8	26.8	25.3	30.4	26.2	27.4	24.0	25.5	27.7	27.3	26.4	26.8	26.4	-0.4	
	27-30									24.2	25.7	28.7	27.4	27.5	26.8	28.1	28.3	28.1	26.0	25.8	25.3	-0.5	
Smoke marijuana regularly	18	50.4	57.6	60.4	62.8	66.9	70.4	71.3	73.5	77.0	77.5	77.8	78.6	76.5	72.5	65.0	60.8	59.9	58.1	58.5	57.4	-1.1	
	19-22	43.9	47.8	52.4	58.4	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	60.7	53.4	55.2	+1.8	
	23-26					52.9	57.5	59.4	65.3	68.3	72.1	71.0	70.9	67.3	64.1	63.2	64.2	62.7	64.1	62.7	60.1	-2.6	
	27-30									67.5	69.1	69.2	67.5	68.8	69.4	65.6	69.2	67.3	65.0	63.6	66.1	+2.5	
Try LSD once or twice	18	43.9	45.5	44.9	44.7	45.4	43.5	42.0	44.9	45.7	46.0	44.7	46.6	42.3	39.5	38.8	36.4	36.2	34.7	37.4	34.9	-2.5	
	19-22	44.8	44.4	45.0	44.7	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	40.1	38.7	38.1	-0.6	
	23-26					48.3	46.9	47.9	51.5	53.7	50.7	52.0	50.1	49.7	49.0	46.8	45.8	46.1	46.6	45.7	49.3	+3.6	
	27-30									53.3	55.6	54.6	52.5	53.0	51.5	53.5	52.5	50.1	52.0	52.0	49.9	-2.1	
Take LSD regularly	18	83.0	83.5	83.5	83.2	83.8	82.9	82.6	83.8	84.2	84.3	84.5	84.3	81.8	79.4	79.1	78.1	77.8	76.6	76.5	76.1	-0.4	
	19-22	83.4	85.3	86.2	86.0	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	83.6	78.6	82.2	+3.6	
	23-26					89.0	86.6	88.7	90.0	89.2	89.0	88.2	89.1	87.3	85.3	87.5	86.3	84.7	85.6	82.1	85.4	+3.4	
	27-30									89.1	91.2	92.0	87.1	88.5	89.0	89.2	88.4	87.0	87.2	90.5	87.8	-2.6	
Try PCP once or twice	18								55.6	58.8	56.6	55.2	51.7	54.8	50.8	51.5	49.1	51.0	48.8	46.8	44.8	-2.0	
	19-22								63.6	63.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	
	23-26								64.8	63.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	
	27-30								65.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---	
Try MDMA (ecstasy) once or twice	18																		33.8	34.5	35.0	+0.5	
	19-22									45.2	47.1	48.8	46.4	45.0	51.1	48.3	46.7	45.5	42.7	37.6	---	-5.1	
	23-26									49.5	47.2	47.4	45.5	41.9	50.6	49.3	50.4	50.5	47.7	50.0	---	+2.3	
	27-30									44.9	48.7	47.7	44.2	51.7	47.3	50.0	50.6	48.8	50.4	50.9	---	+0.5	
Try cocaine once or twice	18	31.3	32.1	32.8	33.0	35.7	34.0	33.5	47.9	51.2	54.9	59.4	59.4	56.8	57.6	57.2	53.7	54.2	53.6	54.6	52.1	-2.5	
	19-22	31.4	30.4	33.3	28.7	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	55.5	55.4	52.8	-2.6	
	23-26					31.3	31.1	35.9	48.0	47.1	51.3	51.5	50.5	53.5	54.1	56.0	58.7	57.2	63.1	60.2	62.6	+2.4	
	27-30									45.3	53.0	51.6	52.6	51.8	54.7	53.5	56.4	53.6	54.6	60.5	61.7	+1.2	
Take cocaine occasionally	18								54.2	66.8	69.2	71.8	73.9	75.5	75.1	73.3	73.7	70.8	72.1	72.4	70.1	70.1	0.0
	19-22								53.8	61.3	67.1	72.6	74.6	72.6	74.9	75.4	78.0	73.4	76.6	76.1	71.2	68.0	-3.2
	23-26								50.9	62.6	63.2	69.9	69.9	70.3	69.9	72.8	70.3	76.0	71.3	76.5	74.2	77.8	+3.6
	27-30								62.6	66.6	66.6	69.1	69.9	69.9	69.1	69.9	70.0	67.8	73.8	73.2	75.4	+2.2	

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 6-1 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Perceived Harmfulness of Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

Q. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they...	Age Group	Percentage saying "great risk"																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Take cocaine regularly	18	69.2	71.2	73.0	74.3	78.8	79.0	82.2	88.5	89.2	90.2	91.1	90.4	90.2	90.1	89.3	87.9	88.3	87.1	86.3	85.8	-0.5
	19-22	65.2	69.3	71.5	75.2	75.1	82.9	82.0	88.0	90.3	89.1	93.9	93.5	92.9	91.7	92.2	91.5	92.2	91.6	88.7	88.5	-0.2
	23-26					75.6	76.9	83.0	88.9	90.9	91.2	91.2	92.7	89.9	91.9	92.6	93.3	90.6	93.2	92.9	92.7	-0.2
	27-30									88.9	92.0	91.4	90.9	92.0	91.6	92.1	91.3	91.6	92.7	93.0	92.4	-0.6
Try crack once or twice	18								57.0	62.1	62.9	64.3	60.6	62.4	57.6	58.4	54.6	56.0	54.0	52.2	48.2	-4.0s
	19-22								59.4	67.3	68.5	69.4	66.9	65.4	63.5	70.1	61.9	65.2	62.0	59.3	56.1	-3.2
	23-26								59.1	63.5	69.8	67.3	66.9	67.1	64.2	69.3	64.8	68.6	64.7	67.3	64.6	-2.7
	27-30								66.5	64.9	68.7	66.8	64.3	68.8	65.6	66.4	66.7	68.5	66.5	65.0		-1.6
Take crack occasionally	18								70.4	73.2	75.3	80.4	76.5	76.3	73.9	73.8	72.8	71.4	70.3	68.7	67.3	-1.4
	19-22								75.0	77.3	81.8	82.3	82.7	81.9	83.6	84.3	78.8	83.5	79.1	79.1	75.5	-3.5
	23-26								70.3	74.0	79.9	81.1	83.9	84.4	81.6	83.2	81.4	85.9	80.8	84.2	81.6	-2.7
	27-30								76.4	76.7	82.6	81.8	79.1	83.6	78.6	81.1	81.3	85.3	81.7	79.8		-1.9
Take crack regularly	18								84.6	84.8	85.6	91.6	90.1	89.3	87.5	89.6	88.6	88.0	86.2	85.3	85.4	+0.1
	19-22								89.6	91.1	94.1	94.9	95.6	93.4	96.2	96.0	94.2	94.7	93.3	92.8	92.3	-0.6
	23-26								88.0	89.2	91.5	94.2	95.4	94.1	93.4	94.9	95.5	96.1	91.4	95.6	94.4	-1.2
	27-30								89.6	89.5	95.3	94.4	93.3	93.5	93.0	94.0	94.3	96.0	94.3	95.2		+0.9
Try cocaine powder once or twice	18								45.3	51.7	53.8	53.9	53.6	57.1	53.2	55.4	52.0	53.2	51.4	48.5	46.1	-2.4
	19-22								44.0	48.6	51.1	54.5	52.7	56.2	49.7	62.0	55.8	57.1	53.8	53.0	47.9	-5.1
	23-26								41.0	43.6	48.4	48.9	47.4	45.9	45.6	52.5	48.9	57.2	53.6	54.1	53.8	-0.3
	27-30								42.0	45.1	46.2	43.3	42.3	49.9	47.1	48.2	48.9	49.1	49.8	49.7		-0.1
Take cocaine powder occasionally	18								56.8	61.9	65.8	71.1	69.8	70.8	68.6	70.6	69.1	68.8	67.7	65.4	64.2	-1.2
	19-22								58.0	59.0	63.2	70.0	69.9	72.6	70.6	75.4	73.0	77.4	70.7	73.0	69.3	-3.8
	23-26								50.0	53.2	62.2	63.3	67.0	65.8	64.0	68.8	68.8	76.1	72.8	77.0	70.8	-6.1s
	27-30								53.6	52.7	60.9	59.2	61.2	64.3	61.0	65.9	68.2	69.7	68.5	70.1		+1.6
Take cocaine powder regularly	18								81.4	82.9	83.9	90.2	88.9	88.4	87.0	88.6	87.8	86.8	86.0	84.1	84.6	+0.5
	19-22								86.6	87.6	91.3	92.5	93.8	92.1	94.0	94.9	93.5	93.8	92.8	91.5	92.4	+1.0
	23-26								82.9	84.1	88.5	92.4	93.8	91.3	92.4	92.8	92.1	94.8	90.8	93.7	93.6	-0.1
	27-30								85.1	86.7	92.7	91.1	91.5	92.5	90.7	92.7	91.7	93.0	92.3	93.1		+0.7
Try heroin once or twice	18	52.1	52.9	51.1	50.8	49.8	47.3	45.8	53.6	54.0	53.8	55.4	55.2	50.9	50.7	52.8	50.9	52.5	56.7	57.8	56.0	-1.8
	19-22	57.8	56.8	54.4	52.5	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	63.9	60.7	63.5	+2.8
	23-26					58.2	59.2	60.8	66.6	65.4	62.3	64.1	62.4	63.7	65.0	63.3	64.1	63.5	67.3	67.3	68.0	+0.7
	27-30								66.0	69.7	67.5	66.1	66.5	69.3	69.6	66.4	66.4	67.9	69.7	70.1		+0.4

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 6-1 (cont.)**

**Trends in Perceived Harmfulness of Drugs  
High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**

(Entries are percentages)

Q. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they...	Age Group	Percentage saying "great risk"																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Take heroin occasionally	18	70.9	72.2	69.8	71.8	70.7	69.8	68.2	74.6	73.8	75.5	76.6	74.9	74.2	72.0	72.1	71.0	74.8	76.3	76.9	77.3	+0.4
	19-22	77.5	77.8	73.6	74.5	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	84.7	80.4	82.5	+2.1
	23-26					81.2	80.7	78.9	84.5	82.4	80.8	83.4	84.4	81.5	82.1	80.8	85.3	82.4	86.5	83.9	88.5	+4.5
	27-30									86.0	86.8	85.3	84.3	84.9	86.2	86.8	83.1	83.8	85.8	86.6	87.1	+0.5
Take heroin regularly	18	86.2	87.5	86.0	86.1	87.2	86.0	87.1	88.7	88.8	89.5	90.2	89.6	89.2	88.3	88.0	87.2	89.5	88.9	89.1	89.9	+0.8
	19-22	87.2	89.9	87.5	88.6	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	93.7	92.4	92.8	+0.4
	23-26					92.0	90.1	90.6	92.8	91.5	91.3	91.0	92.6	91.3	91.6	93.0	93.5	92.7	94.4	93.4	93.7	+0.3
	27-30									92.7	93.5	93.0	90.7	91.3	92.6	93.8	92.4	92.1	93.8	95.0	93.7	-1.3
Try amphetamines once or twice	18	29.7	26.4	25.3	24.7	25.4	25.2	25.1	29.1	29.6	32.8	32.2	36.3	32.6	31.3	31.4	28.8	30.8	31.0	35.3	32.2	-3.1
	19-22	24.6	24.6	27.8	24.8	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	30.1	31.7	33.7	+2.0
	23-26					29.6	29.4	29.4	34.1	33.2	32.5	35.3	31.0	32.7	32.6	32.9	34.3	34.9	37.8	40.9	41.8	+0.9
	27-30									35.2	37.5	36.9	36.5	36.2	34.0	37.5	36.0	36.2	34.5	37.6	36.3	-1.3
Take amphetamines regularly	18	69.1	66.1	64.7	64.8	67.1	67.2	67.3	69.4	69.8	71.2	71.2	74.1	72.4	69.9	67.0	65.9	66.8	66.0	67.7	66.4	-1.3
	19-22	71.9	69.9	68.3	69.9	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	72.3	71.9	72.4	+0.5
	23-26					75.8	77.2	75.6	78.2	77.4	76.7	77.8	79.4	76.4	76.2	73.6	80.5	78.5	79.1	77.5	78.7	+1.2
	27-30									80.6	82.9	83.3	79.4	80.3	79.8	78.4	77.7	75.6	77.4	81.1	82.6	+1.5
Try crystal meth (ice)	18												61.6	61.9	57.5	58.3	54.4	55.3	54.4	52.7	51.2	-1.5
	19-22											57.8	58.6	57.7	57.5	61.4	58.9	61.1	56.4	55.8	50.6	-5.2
	23-26											56.5	56.0	55.6	52.0	61.0	57.8	64.1	60.7	58.2	61.3	+3.1
	27-30											59.6	57.2	52.7	60.3	57.9	58.5	59.1	59.8	59.9	61.0	+1.1
Try barbiturates once or twice	18	30.9	28.4	27.5	27.0	27.4	26.1	25.4	30.9	29.7	32.2	32.4	35.1	32.2	29.2	29.9	26.3	29.1	26.9	29.0	26.1	-3.0
	19-22	27.6	26.4	30.5	25.4	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	31.4	27.7	28.5	+0.8
	23-26					32.2	29.9	30.2	35.5	35.8	32.9	37.9	31.8	33.5	32.8	34.0	34.8	35.8	37.3	40.3	39.4	-0.9
	27-30									37.2	38.7	39.0	37.0	38.2	36.5	40.5	36.6	37.2	35.7	36.7	35.2	-1.5
Take barbiturates regularly	18	72.2	69.9	67.6	67.7	68.5	68.3	67.2	69.4	69.6	70.5	70.2	70.5	70.2	66.1	63.3	61.6	60.4	56.8	56.3	54.1	-2.3
	19-22	74.0	73.3	72.7	71.3	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	69.5	65.1	64.7	-0.4
	23-26					77.4	77.0	74.9	79.9	79.8	76.6	80.5	77.7	76.3	75.0	74.3	77.6	77.1	75.2	73.9	75.1	+1.2
	27-30									81.5	83.7	84.0	79.6	78.6	80.2	78.3	77.7	74.1	77.1	79.9	80.7	+0.7
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	18	3.8	4.6	3.5	4.2	4.6	5.0	4.6	6.2	6.0	6.0	8.3	9.1	8.6	8.2	7.6	5.9	7.3	6.7	8.0	8.3	+0.3
	19-22	3.0	3.4	3.1	2.3	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	3.2	4.2	5.7	+1.5
	23-26					5.5	3.0	6.5	6.6	4.2	5.1	5.7	4.4	5.6	3.2	4.5	4.3	4.8	4.4	4.4	6.6	+2.2
	27-30									5.0	6.3	4.4	6.6	5.6	4.7	4.1	6.7	4.7	4.0	6.2	5.9	-0.2

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**TABLE 6-1 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Perceived Harmfulness of Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

Q. How much do you think people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways), if they...	Age Group	Percentage saying "great risk" <sup>a</sup>																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	18	20.3	21.6	21.6	21.6	23.0	24.4	25.1	26.2	27.3	28.5	31.3	32.7	30.6	28.2	27.0	24.8	25.1	24.8	24.3	21.8	-2.5
	19-22	22.7	22.9	23.2	23.2	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	24.2	22.1	23.9	+1.9
	23-26					27.8	27.4	26.9	30.2	29.1	27.8	31.1	30.4	31.6	25.9	26.2	26.1	22.0	20.2	21.0	26.0	+5.1
	27-30									27.4	31.7	32.2	31.7	30.9	28.0	27.4	27.2	24.0	24.8	20.8	25.3	+4.5
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	18	65.7	64.5	65.5	66.8	68.4	69.8	66.5	69.7	68.5	69.8	70.9	69.5	70.5	67.8	66.2	62.8	65.6	63.0	62.1	61.1	-1.0
	19-22	71.2	72.7	73.3	72.7	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	71.4	70.4	69.9	-0.5
	23-26					76.7	77.9	80.1	77.2	81.8	76.9	79.7	80.2	78.0	76.7	77.5	75.2	72.0	75.1	69.3	72.8	+3.5
	27-30									79.3	81.7	84.7	79.1	79.9	79.1	76.6	82.2	76.1	79.3	75.7	75.1	-0.6
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	18	35.9	36.3	36.0	38.6	41.7	43.0	39.1	41.9	42.6	44.0	47.1	48.6	49.0	48.3	46.5	45.2	49.5	43.0	42.8	43.1	+0.3
	19-22	34.2	30.1	33.5	36.6	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	36.6	42.0	37.2	-4.7
	23-26					38.4	39.7	39.1	39.8	35.8	37.7	40.2	39.3	37.6	36.2	40.2	37.9	39.1	37.4	41.1	40.2	-0.9
	27-30									41.0	42.3	44.1	42.2	45.1	42.9	43.2	44.6	41.5	40.0	40.2	41.9	+1.7
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	18	63.7	63.3	60.5	61.2	63.8	66.5	66.0	68.6	68.0	67.2	68.2	69.4	69.2	69.5	67.6	65.6	68.2	68.7	70.8	70.8	0.0
	19-22	66.5	61.7	64.0	62.1	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	76.3	77.2	75.7	-1.5
	23-26					71.1	70.1	75.7	73.6	75.5	71.4	78.5	75.3	76.3	78.4	76.4	76.0	76.0	77.6	76.5	80.9	+4.4
	27-30									72.8	75.2	77.8	75.4	77.6	75.0	75.3	75.6	73.0	80.3	80.9	80.7	-0.2
Use smokeless tobacco regularly	18							25.8	30.0	33.2	32.9	34.2	37.4	35.5	38.9	36.6	33.2	37.4	38.6	40.9	41.1	+0.2
	19-22							29.7	34.1	31.1	37.1	33.5	38.9	40.1	43.3	37.6	42.3	40.9	46.5	47.4	47.0	-0.4
	23-26							37.0	38.5	35.8	37.9	40.1	38.9	41.6	44.6	42.9	46.6	47.2	46.2	48.4	53.1	+4.7
	27-30									42.8	42.8	43.8	44.3	44.1	47.3	46.3	44.2	43.6	50.2	52.6	53.6	+1.0
Approximate Weighted N=	18	3234	3604	3557	3305	3262	3250	3020	3315	3276	2796	2553	2549	2684	2759	2591	2603	2449	2579	2564	2306	
	19-22	590	585	583	585	579	547	581	570	551	565	552	533	527	480	490	500	469	464	411	447	
	23-26					540	512	545	531	527	498	511	505	518	503	465	446	438	420	413	418	
	27-30									513	587	490	486	482	473	443	450	422	434	416	400	

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

'NA' indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) No risk, (2) Slight risk, (3) Moderate risk, (4) Great risk, and (5) Can't say, drug unfamiliar.



**TABLE 6-2**

**Trends in Proportions Disapproving of Drug Use  
High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**

(Entries are percentages)

Q. Do you disapprove of people (who are 18 or older) doing each of the following?	Age Group	Percentage disapproving*																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Try marijuana once or twice	18	39.0	40.0	45.5	46.3	49.3	51.4	54.6	56.6	60.8	64.6	67.8	68.7	69.9	63.3	57.6	56.7	52.5	51.0	51.6	48.8	-2.8
	19-22	38.2	36.1	37.0	42.0	44.1	46.6	51.6	52.8	55.8	62.4	59.6	60.4	57.8	60.6	63.5	57.1	55.4	56.2	55.9	54.0	-1.9
	23-26				41.2	38.6	42.6	49.1	48.7	52.5	57.5	58.8	55.0	54.6	52.3	51.9	56.3	54.5	55.3	55.7		+0.4
	27-30								49.0	50.9	53.8	54.6	51.9	56.8	55.7	57.5	54.1	59.0	55.7	52.6		-3.1
Smoke marijuana occasionally	18	49.7	52.6	59.1	60.7	63.5	65.8	69.0	71.6	74.0	77.2	80.5	79.4	79.7	75.5	68.9	66.7	62.9	63.2	64.4	62.5	-2.0
	19-22	49.6	49.1	51.3	56.0	60.4	62.6	66.7	67.2	69.5	77.3	76.3	77.0	74.8	75.8	76.9	70.4	68.9	70.2	67.8	66.4	-1.4
	23-26				54.8	52.8	57.0	64.9	63.4	69.4	73.7	73.3	74.0	71.9	70.9	68.1	72.5	69.2	70.4	71.1		+0.8
	27-30								65.3	67.1	68.9	73.0	67.2	72.2	69.4	72.5	70.5	74.5	72.4	71.5		-1.0
Smoke marijuana regularly	18	74.6	77.4	80.6	82.5	84.7	85.5	86.6	89.2	89.3	89.8	91.0	89.3	90.1	87.6	82.3	81.9	80.0	78.8	81.2	78.6	-2.6
	19-22	74.3	77.2	80.0	81.8	84.9	86.7	89.2	88.7	89.1	91.2	93.1	91.3	89.5	90.2	90.1	86.8	87.7	88.1	85.3	84.5	-0.7
	23-26				80.6	81.3	83.3	87.4	86.9	90.4	91.0	89.6	90.2	92.1	90.3	90.1	88.9	88.1	87.5	86.1		-1.5
	27-30								87.6	87.5	89.7	89.6	87.2	89.4	88.7	91.9	89.9	92.1	89.2	90.0		+0.8
Try LSD once or twice	18	87.3	86.4	88.8	89.1	88.9	89.5	89.2	91.6	89.8	89.7	89.8	90.1	88.1	85.9	82.5	81.1	79.6	80.5	82.1	83.0	+0.9
	19-22	87.4	84.8	85.9	88.4	88.1	89.1	90.4	90.0	90.9	89.3	90.5	88.4	84.6	88.5	86.8	84.2	83.0	83.1	80.8	83.2	+2.4
	23-26				87.3	87.1	88.0	89.9	91.4	91.0	90.7	89.1	88.8	86.9	87.3	87.1	86.7	87.9	84.1	84.8		+0.7
	27-30								91.0	87.2	89.7	87.9	85.6	88.8	88.2	87.4	88.7	88.7	87.3	86.6		-0.8
Take LSD regularly	18	96.7	96.8	96.7	97.0	96.8	97.0	96.6	97.8	96.4	96.4	96.3	96.4	95.5	95.8	94.3	92.5	93.2	92.9	93.5	94.3	+0.8
	19-22	98.2	97.4	97.7	97.6	97.6	98.8	98.5	98.0	98.1	97.5	99.1	97.5	97.0	97.8	97.7	96.8	97.0	97.4	96.3	97.0	+0.7
	23-26				99.2	98.0	98.5	99.0	98.0	98.4	98.3	98.4	98.3	98.1	97.7	96.7	97.7	96.1	97.6	98.0		+0.5
	27-30								98.8	97.1	98.9	98.9	97.5	98.5	98.7	98.6	98.1	97.5	97.4	97.9		+0.5
Try cocaine once or twice	18	76.3	74.6	76.6	77.0	79.7	79.3	80.2	87.3	89.1	90.5	91.5	93.6	93.0	92.7	91.6	90.3	90.0	88.0	89.5	89.1	-0.4
	19-22	73.0	69.3	69.9	74.1	72.5	77.6	78.9	82.3	85.3	88.8	90.1	91.2	90.6	92.7	93.9	94.2	92.0	91.7	89.9	90.9	+1.1
	23-26				70.2	70.5	72.1	80.0	82.9	85.5	88.3	88.0	87.3	89.2	89.2	91.8	90.7	91.5	89.0	91.3		+2.3
	27-30								82.1	81.0	85.5	86.9	83.9	85.7	86.6	86.6	88.3	89.2	90.3	90.4		+0.1
Take cocaine regularly	18	91.1	90.7	91.5	93.2	94.5	93.8	94.3	96.7	96.2	96.4	96.7	97.3	96.9	97.5	96.6	96.1	95.6	96.0	95.6	94.9	-0.6
	19-22	91.6	89.3	91.9	94.6	95.0	96.3	97.0	97.2	97.9	97.4	98.9	97.9	98.4	97.8	98.8	98.2	97.9	98.0	97.8	97.6	-0.2
	23-26				95.7	95.3	97.3	98.1	97.6	98.3	98.4	98.5	98.7	98.4	98.8	97.7	97.8	96.9	98.5	98.3		-0.3
	27-30								98.1	97.0	99.3	99.0	97.2	98.7	99.0	98.9	98.5	97.9	97.8	98.8		+1.0
Try heroin once or twice	18	93.5	93.5	94.6	94.3	94.0	94.0	93.3	96.2	95.0	95.4	95.1	96.0	94.9	94.4	93.2	92.8	92.1	92.3	93.7	93.5	-0.2
	19-22	96.3	95.4	95.6	95.2	95.1	96.2	96.8	96.3	97.1	96.4	98.3	95.9	95.9	96.3	96.6	95.6	95.2	95.6	95.1	95.5	+0.4
	23-26				96.7	94.9	96.4	97.1	97.4	96.7	96.8	96.9	96.3	95.4	96.5	95.9	96.1	95.2	94.6	96.3		+1.7
	27-30								97.9	95.8	97.5	96.6	94.8	97.3	94.7	96.3	96.0	96.9	95.9	96.7		+0.9

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 6-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Proportions Disapproving of Drug Use**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

Q. Do you disapprove of people (who are 18 or older) doing each of the following?	Age Group	Percentage disapproving*																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Take heroin occasionally	18	96.7	97.2	96.9	96.9	97.1	96.8	96.6	97.9	96.9	97.2	96.7	97.3	96.8	97.0	96.2	95.7	95.0	95.4	96.1	95.7	-0.4
	19-22	98.6	97.8	98.3	98.3	98.6	98.7	98.3	98.3	98.3	97.9	99.2	98.2	98.1	98.1	98.3	97.7	97.9	97.8	98.2	97.2	-1.0
	23-26					99.2	98.2	98.8	99.1	98.4	98.3	98.1	99.0	98.7	98.4	98.6	97.7	98.7	97.4	97.5	98.5	+1.0
	27-30									99.2	97.3	99.0	98.9	97.0	98.9	98.7	98.9	98.0	98.7	97.6	98.8	+1.3
Take heroin regularly	18	97.6	97.8	97.5	97.7	98.0	97.6	97.6	98.1	97.2	97.4	97.5	97.8	97.2	97.5	97.1	96.4	96.3	96.4	96.6	96.4	-0.2
	19-22	99.2	98.5	98.6	98.7	98.7	99.1	98.9	98.6	98.4	98.3	99.5	98.5	98.3	98.4	98.8	98.4	98.3	98.1	98.3	98.2	-0.1
	23-26					99.4	98.8	99.1	99.4	98.7	98.7	98.5	99.3	99.2	98.9	98.8	98.7	98.9	97.6	98.5	98.7	+0.2
	27-30									99.4	97.6	99.4	99.0	97.8	99.0	99.4	99.1	98.6	98.4	98.1	98.8	+0.8
Try amphetamines once or twice	18	75.4	71.1	72.6	72.3	72.8	74.9	76.5	80.7	82.5	83.3	85.3	86.5	86.9	84.2	81.3	82.2	79.9	81.3	82.5	81.9	-0.6
	19-22	74.5	70.5	68.9	74.0	73.0	75.6	78.9	79.9	81.8	85.3	84.4	83.9	83.8	87.2	88.3	85.0	84.4	83.3	84.6	84.9	+0.2
	23-26					74.2	74.2	74.6	80.3	83.5	83.3	84.1	84.8	83.4	84.8	82.7	86.0	86.4	85.7	83.5	84.5	+1.0
	27-30									83.5	81.0	84.3	83.7	80.9	83.5	82.0	83.1	85.8	86.3	85.9	86.4	+0.5
Take amphetamines regularly	18	93.0	91.7	92.0	92.6	93.6	93.3	93.5	95.4	94.2	94.2	95.5	96.0	95.6	96.0	94.1	94.3	93.5	94.3	94.0	93.7	-0.2
	19-22	94.8	93.3	94.3	93.4	94.9	96.6	96.9	95.1	97.5	96.8	97.5	97.7	96.7	97.3	97.9	96.8	97.2	97.8	96.7	97.5	+0.8
	23-26					96.6	95.9	96.6	97.0	97.2	98.1	97.9	97.9	97.7	98.4	97.7	97.0	97.9	97.0	98.0	97.0	-1.1
	27-30									98.1	96.5	98.6	97.8	96.8	97.7	99.0	98.9	98.2	98.1	97.7	98.2	+0.4
Try barbiturates once or twice	18	83.9	82.4	84.4	83.1	84.1	84.9	86.8	89.6	89.4	89.3	90.5	90.6	90.3	89.7	87.5	87.3	84.9	86.4	86.0	86.6	+0.6
	19-22	83.5	82.3	83.8	85.1	85.2	86.1	88.3	87.5	90.1	92.0	91.1	90.4	88.8	90.7	91.1	90.5	89.1	86.6	85.8	86.6	+0.9
	23-26					84	84.5	84.4	89.8	90.7	89.4	88.8	87.9	88.8	88.5	88.0	89.3	88.3	88.3	87.4	87.3	-0.1
	27-30									90.5	88.3	88.4	88.8	86.6	88.9	87.6	88.0	89.4	88.8	88.4	87.6	-0.8
Take barbiturates regularly	18	95.4	94.2	94.4	95.1	95.1	95.5	94.9	96.4	95.3	95.3	96.4	97.1	96.5	97.0	96.1	95.2	94.8	95.3	94.6	94.7	+0.1
	19-22	96.6	95.6	97.3	96.5	96.6	98.1	98.0	97.0	97.9	97.7	98.7	98.0	97.9	98.2	98.7	97.7	97.9	97.7	97.7	97.3	-0.4
	23-26					98.4	98.5	97.7	98.6	98.3	98.3	98.5	98.5	98.6	98.5	98.5	97.4	98.4	97.4	98.5	97.6	-0.9
	27-30									98.4	97.1	99.1	98.5	97.7	98.4	99.1	99.0	98.5	97.9	97.7	98.5	+0.8
Try one or two drinks of an alcoholic beverage (beer, wine, liquor)	18	16.0	17.2	18.2	18.4	17.4	20.3	20.9	21.4	22.6	27.3	29.4	29.8	33.0	30.1	28.4	27.3	26.5	26.1	24.5	24.6	+0.1
	19-22	14.8	14.5	13.9	15.5	15.3	15.4	16.9	16.0	18.4	22.4	17.6	22.2	16.9	20.8	22.2	22.0	22.0	18.3	21.5	18.3	-3.2
	23-26					17.4	16.1	13.2	17.7	13.7	17.5	18.6	19.5	17.4	18.1	17.6	16.5	18.0	15.8	18.6	19.1	+0.5
	27-30									19.5	19.1	18.7	18.8	17.9	19.5	18.6	18.2	16.1	17.4	15.2	15.9	+0.7
Take one or two drinks nearly every day	18	69.0	69.1	69.9	68.9	72.9	70.9	72.8	74.2	75.0	76.5	77.9	76.5	75.9	77.8	73.1	73.3	70.8	70.0	69.4	67.2	-2.2
	19-22	67.8	69.7	71.3	73.3	74.3	71.3	77.4	75.3	76.5	80.0	79.7	77.1	76.0	75.0	78.0	74.7	73.5	73.2	70.3	67.3	-3.0
	23-26					71.4	73.7	71.6	72.7	74.6	74.4	77.6	76.9	75.5	74.2	73.3	69.7	70.6	68.4	70.2	73.4	+3.2
	27-30									76.0	73.9	73.3	76.1	69.5	73.5	72.4	71.8	71.4	71.8	69.8	67.9	-1.9

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 6-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Proportions Disapproving of Drug Use**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

Q. Do you disapprove of people (who are 18 or older) doing each of the following?	Age Group	Percentage disapproving <sup>a</sup>																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Take four or five drinks nearly every day	18	90.8	91.8	90.9	90.0	91.0	92.0	91.4	92.2	92.8	91.6	91.9	90.6	90.8	90.6	89.8	88.8	89.4	88.6	86.7	86.9	+0.2
	19-22	95.2	93.4	94.6	94.6	94.6	94.8	94.9	95.7	94.8	96.1	95.8	96.4	95.5	95.1	96.2	95.5	94.2	93.9	92.4	92.4	0.0
	23-26					96.2	95.0	95.5	96.9	94.3	95.9	96.9	96.1	95.7	95.7	95.7	95.2	96.5	93.8	96.1	95.1	-1.0
	27-30									97.4	94.6	96.1	95.3	94.8	94.8	96.4	96.7	96.4	96.2	95.0	97.2	+2.2
Have five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	18	55.6	55.5	58.8	56.6	59.6	60.4	62.4	62.0	65.3	66.5	68.9	67.4	70.7	70.1	65.1	66.7	64.7	65.0	63.8	62.7	-1.1
	19-22	57.1	56.1	58.2	61.0	59.7	59.4	60.3	61.6	64.1	66.3	67.1	62.4	65.6	63.5	68.1	66.0	69.2	66.5	63.2	63.5	+0.3
	23-26					66.2	68.3	66.5	67.5	65.2	63.2	66.9	64.6	69.6	66.8	66.9	65.3	70.9	66.6	69.5	68.1	-1.4
	27-30									73.9	71.4	73.1	72.1	68.4	73.4	73.5	73.7	72.4	73.0	71.1	73.1	+2.0
Smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day	18	70.8	69.9	69.4	70.8	73.0	72.3	75.4	74.3	73.1	72.4	72.8	71.4	73.5	70.6	69.8	68.2	67.2	67.1	68.8	69.5	+0.7
	19-22	68.7	68.1	66.3	71.6	69.0	70.5	71.4	72.7	73.8	75.6	73.7	73.2	72.6	72.8	75.3	69.8	72.2	74.3	72.3	70.1	-2.1
	23-26					69.9	68.7	67.5	69.7	66.4	71.1	71.5	77.2	73.6	72.9	70.3	72.2	73.0	71.7	73.9	73.8	-0.1
	27-30									72.8	69.4	73.5	71.2	70.7	73.8	72.3	73.9	72.7	74.3	71.7	71.0	-0.7
<i>Approximate Weighted N=</i>	18	3261	3610	3651	3341	3254	3265	3113	3302	3311	2799	2566	2547	2645	2723	2588	2603	2399	2601	2545	2310	
	19-22	588	573	605	579	586	551	605	587	560	567	569	533	530	489	474	465	480	470	446	449	
	23-26					542	535	560	532	538	516	524	495	538	514	475	466	449	423	401	397	
	27-30									526	509	513	485	512	462	442	450	430	453	449	429	

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years:  $s = .05$ ,  $ss = .01$ ,  $sss = .001$ . Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

'NA' indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) Don't disapprove, (2) Disapprove, and (3) Strongly disapprove. Percentages are shown for categories (2) and (3) combined.

## Chapter 7

### THE SOCIAL MILIEU FOR YOUNG ADULTS

In Volume I, we examined the extent to which secondary school students are exposed to drug use of various kinds, their perceptions of the relevant norms in their peer groups, and the extent to which they perceive various drugs to be available to them. In this chapter, the same issues are addressed for the young adult population, many of whom are in social environments quite different from the ones to which they were exposed during their high school years.

Because each of these question sets is contained in only a single questionnaire form, and because the follow-up samples are much smaller than the in-school samples, the case counts are much lower than those discussed in most chapters. Therefore, the prevalence and trend estimates are more subject to fluctuation due to greater sampling error.

#### PEER NORMS AS PERCEIVED BY YOUNG ADULTS

Table 7-1 provides current levels and trends in perceived friends' disapproval of drug use among high school seniors, 19- to 22-year-olds, 23- to 26-year-olds, and 27- to 30-year-olds. (These are the same age groupings used in Chapter 6.) Trend data are available since 1980, 1984, and 1988, respectively, for the three four-year age groupings.

The questions about respondents' friends' views use the same answer scale (stated in terms of disapproval rates of different use levels of the various drugs) as do the questions that ask about the respondent's own attitudes about those behaviors (discussed in Chapter 6). The list of drug-using behaviors is shorter here, and the questions appear on a different questionnaire form and therefore have a different set of respondents. However, the results for perceived peer norms are generally quite consistent with those for personal disapproval; that is, the proportion saying that they personally disapprove of a drug-using behavior tends to be similar to the proportion saying that their close friends would disapprove of that same behavior. Exceptions are *trying marijuana once or twice* and *smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day*, to which respondents have consistently reported their friends' attitudes as *more* disapproving than their own attitudes (especially in the oldest age band), and *heavy weekend drinking*, to which friends' attitudes are seen as considerably *less* disapproving than their own.

### ***Current Perceptions of Friends' Attitudes***

Table 7-1 provides trends in the proportions of respondents indicating how their friends would feel about the respondents engaging in various drug-using behaviors, for each of the age bands. For purposes of simplification, we begin by talking about overlaps across the 19- to 30-year age band (tabular data are not presented).

- The peer norms reported by young adults one to twelve years past high school are similar to those reported by high school seniors. That is, for each of the *illicit drugs other than marijuana*, the great majority of young adults think that their close friends would disapprove of their even *trying* such drugs once or twice (85% for *LSD*, 86% for *amphetamines*, and 90% for *cocaine*).
- Well over half of the young adults (about 60%) now think their friends would disapprove of their even trying *marijuana*, while over two-thirds (70%) think they would disapprove of occasional use and about 85% think they would disapprove of regular use.
- Two-thirds (66%) of young adults say their friends would disapprove if they were *daily drinkers*, and over 9 out of 10 (91%) if they were *heavy daily drinkers*, defined as taking four or five drinks nearly every day.
- Friends' disapproval of occasional *heavy drinking* is distinctly lower. Only 52% to 58% of any age group think their friends would disapprove of their having five or more drinks once or twice each weekend. The 19- to 22-year-olds, the age group who exhibit the highest rate of such drinking, have the lowest level of perceived friends' disapproval; the two older age groups have friends who would be considerably more disapproving.
- Peer disapproval of *cigarette smoking* is reasonably high in all four age bands: 71% of seniors say their friends would disapprove of pack-a-day smoking, as well as 74% of the 19- to 22-year-olds, 78% of the 23- to 26-year-olds, and 83% of the 27- to 30-year-olds. Clearly, anti-smoking norms are weakest among the younger age bands, and this has generally been the case since the late 1980s.

### ***Trends in Peer Norms***

- Important changes in the social acceptability of drug-using behaviors among both seniors' and young adults' peers have occurred over the life of this study. Among seniors, friends' disapproval of trying marijuana rose from 41% in 1979 to 73% in 1992. Friends' disapproval subsequently grew substantially in all of the young adult age bands. For example, among the 19- to 22-year-olds, the proportion

thinking their friends would disapprove if they even tried marijuana rose from 41% in 1980 to 65% in 1992. A similar peaking occurred for the 23- to 26-year-olds around 1992, at 66%. In all age groups, disapproval subsequently declined—though so far the declines have been greatest at the younger ages.

Friends' disapproval of more frequent use of marijuana also rose through the early 1990s and has since declined, particularly among those under age 23.

- There was a more gradual increase in peer disapproval levels for *amphetamine* use for all age groups through 1991, with definite declines following through 1996 evident among the high school seniors.
- Peer disapproval of trying *LSD* showed very little change through 1991 in any of the age bands, but peer disapproval fell some in the 1990s, especially among the 18-year-olds and subsequently the 19- to 22-year-olds.
- Perceived peer norms regarding *cocaine* use were first measured in 1986. During the next five years, self-reported cocaine use declined substantially as peer norms in all age bands shifted considerably toward disapproval. For example, by 1994, 95% of the 19- to 22-year-olds thought their friends would disapprove of their even trying cocaine. After 1994, peer norms against use continued to strengthen a bit in the upper age bands, perhaps through generational replacement, but weakened slightly in the younger age groups, likely reflecting a cohort effect.
- Peer norms among seniors regarding *alcohol* use became somewhat more restrictive between 1981 and 1991 but relaxed for a few years after that. Among the young adults, friends' disapproval has followed a similar pattern, although at slightly lower levels in the case of the 19- to 22-year-olds.
- Peer norms regarding *cigarette smoking* became somewhat more restrictive among high school seniors in the early years of this study; peer disapproval rose from 64% in 1975 to 73% in 1979. There was little further net change through 1992 when friends' disapproval stood at 76%. However, peer disapproval of smoking slipped some in the 1990s, to 69% by 1995, where it remained through 1998, before beginning to rise once again. Between 1982 and 1992, peer disapproval among 19- to 22-year-olds also rose just a bit, from 75% to 79%, but it then dropped to 69% by 1998 (though it increased to 74% in 1999). Among 23- to 26-year-olds, disapproval increased a bit from 74% in 1984, to 83% by 1991 but dropped back to 78% by 1999. Despite substantial publicity about changing norms and new laws restricting smoking, there was rather little change in rates of perceived peer disapproval of cigarette smoking for some years, particularly among those of high school and college ages; and in the 1990s, rates of

disapproval actually declined some in all of these age groups. In fact, they reached their lowest levels in twenty years among high school and college-aged respondents by 1995.

## **EXPOSURE TO DRUG USE BY FRIENDS AND OTHERS**

Exposure to drug use is measured by two sets of questions, each appearing on a (different) single questionnaire form. The first set asks each respondent to estimate what proportion of his or her friends use each drug, while the second asks how often during the prior twelve months the respondent has been around people who were using each of a list of drugs “to get high or for kicks.” The same questions are asked of high school seniors, and their results are included for comparison purposes in Tables 7-2 and 7-3. We continue to deal with four-year age bands to increase the reliability of the measures. At the end of each table is a summary of the weighted numbers of cases upon which each annual estimate is based. (The actual numbers of cases are somewhat higher.)

### ***Exposure to Drug Use among Young Adults***

- Relatively high proportions of young adults in all of these age bands have at least some friends who use *some illicit drugs* (Table 7-2). Currently, the proportion declines considerably with age, although this was not always the case. In 1999, the proportion is highest for high school seniors (82%), falls to 77% among 19- to 22-year-olds, to 68% for the 23- to 26-year-olds, and to 60% for the 27- to 30-year-olds. The proportions who say that *most or all* of their friends use one or more of the illicit drugs falls from 26% for seniors, to 21% for 19- to 22-year-olds, to 8% for 23- to 26-year-olds, to only 6% among 27- to 30-year-olds—quite a dramatic difference.
- With regard to *illicit drugs other than marijuana*, taken as a whole, considerably fewer report *any* of their friends so involved: 51% for seniors, 55% for 19- to 22-year-olds, 41% for 23- to 26-year-olds, and 35% for 27- to 30-year-olds. High school seniors have the highest proportion saying that *most or all* of their friends use *illicit drugs other than marijuana* (7%, 5%, 2%, and 1%, respectively, for the four age bands).
- With respect to individual illicit drugs, exposure among all of the age groups is greatest for *marijuana*, with 81% of the seniors, 74% of the 19- to 22-year-olds, 64% of the 23- to 26-year-olds, and 57% of the 27- to 30-year-olds reporting that at least some of their friends use the drug. The next highest exposures are for *MDMA* (31% among 19- to 22-year-olds, declining to 12% among 27- to 30-year-olds), *LSD* (28% among 19- to 22-year-olds, declining to 13% among 27- to

30-year-olds), *cocaine* (declining from 26% among 19- to 22-year-olds declining to 21% in the oldest age band), and *amphetamines* (26% among 19- to 22-year-olds, declining to 12% among 27- to 30-year-olds). Clearly MDMA or ecstasy has edged out a number of the more traditional drugs on this list.

- The proportions of young adults who have some friends who use the other illicit drugs exceed 10% in at least one of the young adult age groups for the following drugs: *steroids* (11%-21%), *inhalants* (4%-16%), *psychedelics other than LSD* (9%-19%), *crack cocaine* (9%-19%), *cocaine* (20%-26%), *tranquilizers* (10%-16%), *narcotics other than heroin* (7%-20%), *quaaludes* (5%-11%), and *barbiturates* (6%-16%). The lowest is *heroin* (4%-10%).
- For all illicit drugs except *cocaine* and *tranquilizers*, the proportion of young adults having any friends who use decreases with age, consistent with the age-related differences in self-reported use. The steepest declines occur with *inhalants*, *marijuana*, *MDMA*, *LSD*, and *amphetamines*.
- For some years, *cocaine* was the one illicit drug that showed significantly higher rates of active use among adults than among high school seniors. That is no longer true, although there is still little drop-off with age in early adulthood; consequently, there is little difference associated with age in having friends who use (20% to 26% for all three young adult age groups).
- For *crack*, however, the story is different. Use now descends sharply with age, although this was not true in the mid-1980s, when measures of crack use were first included in the surveys.
- In general it appears that some respondents who report that their friends use illicit drugs are not directly exposed to that use themselves, judging by the differences in proportions saying they have some friends who use (Table 7-2) and the proportions who say they have not been around people who were using during the prior year (Table 7-3).
- With respect to *alcohol* use, the great majority of young adults have at least *some* friends who *get drunk at least once a week*, although this differs by age: 82% of the high school seniors, 83% of the 19- to 22-year-olds, 71% of the 23- to 26-year-olds, and 66% of the 27- to 30-year-olds. The proportions who say *most or all* of their friends get drunk once a week differ more substantially by age: 30% of the seniors, 29% of the 19- to 22-year-olds, 17% of the 23- to 26-year-olds, and only 12% of the 27- to 30-year-olds. Note in particular how high these rates are among the high school and college-aged respondents.



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In terms of direct exposure during the past year to people who were drinking alcohol “to get high or for ‘kicks,’ “ having some such exposure is almost universal in these four age groups: 92%, 91%, 92%, and 89%, respectively. (See Table 7-3.)

- In each of these four age groups, nearly all (84%-91%) have at least a few friends who *smoke cigarettes*, with some falloff after age 22. At the other end of the scale, nearly a third of seniors (31%) state that *most or all* of their friends smoke, while over a quarter (27%) of 19- to 22-year-olds say the same. The proportions decline sharply to 18% of the 23- to 26-year-olds and 13% of the 27- to 30-year-olds. This increase in the segregation of smokers from nonsmokers may reflect the stratification of young people after high school as a function of educational attainment, which is highly correlated with cigarette smoking. Also, it can be seen in Table 7-2 that there was much less age-related difference in the late 1980s, which suggests that the sharp rise in smoking among high school students accentuated the age differences.

### *Trends in Exposure to Drug Use by Young Adults*

Tables 7-2 and 7-3 also provide trend data on the proportions of friends using drugs and the proportions directly exposed to drug use. Once again, trends are available for the 19- to 22-year-olds since 1980, for the 23- to 26-year-olds since 1984, and for the 27- to 30-year-olds since 1988. Data for high school seniors since 1980 also have been included in these tables for comparison purposes.

- An examination of Table 7-3 shows that exposure to illicit drug use in the past 12 months moves progressively lower at higher ages for *any illicit drug*, as well as for a number of specific drugs. Some of the largest declines in exposure to use with age occur for *marijuana, LSD, other hallucinogens, cocaine, narcotics other than heroin, and barbiturates*. In general, these differences replicate across different historical periods, with the exception of cocaine which has only recently (since 1996) began to show a decline in exposure with increasing age.
- Until 1992, young adults' trends in exposure to use tended to parallel those observed for twelfth graders. Between 1980 and 1992, that meant a decreasing number of respondents were exposed to *any illicit drug* use (Table 7-3) or reported any such use in their own friendship circle (Table 7-2). Since 1992, however, an important *divergence* among age groups in trends has emerged: twelfth graders have shown a substantial increase in both friends' use and exposure to use (and in self-reported use); the 19- to 22-year-olds showed a similar rise but lagged by a few years; while the oldest two age bands of young adults have shown practically no change. This pattern no doubt reflects the

emergence of lasting cohort differences combined with the process of generational replacement.

- With regard to *marijuana*, it is particularly noteworthy that, while 34% of the 19- to 22-year-olds in 1980 said *most or all* of their friends used marijuana, only 9% said the same in 1993. Clearly the number of friendship groupings in which marijuana use is widespread dropped dramatically over that interval. The figure has increased recently, however, and was up to 19% by 1999.
- The proportion exposed to use of *any illicit drugs other than marijuana* did not begin to decline until after 1982. By 1991 there had been a considerable drop in such exposure in all four age groups. This drop appears to be due to decreases in exposure to the use of *cocaine* and *amphetamines* particularly, although there were decreases for *barbiturates* and *tranquilizers*, as well. The levels then began to rise in the two youngest age bands, while at the same time they continued to decline in the two oldest age bands.
- Between 1987 and about 1992, there was a considerable drop in the proportion of all four age groups who said they had any friends who used *crack*. (Self-reported use declined in the same period.) Since then the rates of friends' use have increased some in the two youngest age bands and decreased some in the two oldest ones.
- For all four age groups there were modest declines between 1987 and 1992 in the proportion saying that most or all of their friends drink *alcohol*. Since 1992, there may have been a slight upward drift in the younger age bands.
- Among high school seniors, the proportion who said most or all of their friends smoked *cigarettes* declined appreciably between 1975 and 1981, during the same period that self-reported use declined, after which neither measure showed much change until about 1992. Thereafter, substantial increases in both measures occurred. By 1997 fully one-third (34%) of high school seniors reported that most or all of their friends smoked cigarettes, up from 21% in 1992. (Both measures have shown some decline since.) Among 19- to 22-year-olds a decline in friends' use occurred between 1980 (or possibly earlier) and 1985, followed by a leveling through 1994. The percentage saying most friends smoke increased from 22% in 1994 to 29% in 1998 (but declined to 27% in 1999). Among 23- to 26-year-olds, a downturn was evident between at least 1984 (the first year for which data are available) and 1988, and then reported friends' use leveled. Friends' use has been rising very recently among the 27- to 30-year-olds. These staggered changes illustrate that the "cohort effects" are moving up the age spectrum along with the cohorts.

- Nearly all of these changes across the various drugs parallel changes in self-reported use by these four age groups, reinforcing our trust in the validity of the self-report data, since there would presumably be less motivation to distort answers about the proportion of an unnamed set of friends who use a drug than about one's own use of it.

## **PERCEIVED AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS BY YOUNG ADULTS**

Young adults participating in the follow-up survey receive identical questions to those asked of high school seniors about how difficult they think it would be to get each of the various drugs if they wanted them. The questions are contained in only one of the six questionnaire forms, yielding a weighted sample size for each four-year age band of about 400 to 600 cases per year. The data for the follow-up samples, which are grouped into the same four-year age bands, are presented in Table 7-4, along with the data for the twelfth graders. Sample sizes are presented at the end of Table 7-4.

### ***Perceived Availability***

- As was true with the high school seniors, substantial proportions of the American young adult population have access to various illicit drugs. (We do not ask about access to alcohol and cigarettes, because we assume access to be universal.)
- ***Marijuana*** is the most available illicit drug, with 83%-87% of the young adult age strata saying it would be "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get. Access is highest among the twelfth graders (89%) and lowest among the 27- to 30-year-olds, which was not the case in the 1980s.
- ***Amphetamines*** are the next most available (48%-58%), again with access declining with ascending age.
- ***Cocaine*** ranks next among young adults, with 46%-53% saying it would be fairly easy to get. ***Powdered cocaine*** is available to 44%-47%. ***Crack*** is available to somewhat smaller proportions than powdered cocaine—35%-41% for all three age strata. Cocaine was considerably more available to the older age groups in the 1980s but is now about equally available across all four age bands.
- ***LSD*** shows a high degree of availability among high school seniors (45%), then decreases with age to 36% for the 27- to 30-year-olds. That was generally not true in the early to mid-1980s. ***MDMA*** follows a similar pattern with high school

seniors at 40% and 27- to 30-year-olds at 30%. However, it is now as available to the 19- to 22-year-olds as to the high school seniors.

- **Psychedelics other than LSD** are reported as less available than LSD: 30%-32% in the three young adult strata, and 30% of twelfth graders, say they could get it fairly easily.
- **Barbiturates** and **tranquilizers** are reported as available by sizeable proportions of young adults. Some 38%-42% say they could get barbiturates (compared with 38% of seniors), and 37%-42% say they could get tranquilizers (versus 33% of seniors). The availability of tranquilizers increases with age—a fact that has been true for the life of the study.
- Almost a third of young adults (32%-33%) even say that they could get **heroin** fairly easily (versus 32% of twelfth graders). Note that there is practically no variation among the age groups.
- About a third of young adults (37%-40%) say they can get **other narcotics** (versus 41% of high school seniors). Availability declines some with age.
- **Crystal methamphetamine (ice)** is perceived to be available by between a quarter and a third of each age group (28%-32%).
- **Steroids** show declines in perceived availability with increasing age, as has generally been the case ranging from 45% among high school seniors down to 35% among the 27- to 30-year-olds.

### **Trends in Perceived Availability**

- **Marijuana** has been almost universally available to all these age groups throughout the historical periods covered by the available data (for up to 24 years in the case of high school seniors). There was a slight decrease through 1991 among high school seniors since the peak year of 1979 and a slightly larger decrease from 1980 through 1991 among 19- to 22-year-olds. Availability has risen some in nearly all strata since 1993, though by very little among the young adults. Perceived availability is now a bit higher for the younger age groups (89% for seniors versus 83% for those aged 27 to 30)—a reversal of the situation in the late 1980s.
- **Cocaine** availability moved up among all three younger age strata over the 1984 to 1988 interval, reaching historic highs in 1988 and 1989. (High school seniors showed a rise in availability in earlier years—from 1975 to 1980—followed by a

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leveling between 1980 and 1985. Availability was level during the latter period among 19- to 22-year-olds, also.) From a policy perspective, it is worth noting that in all three age bands for which we have data, the perceived availability of cocaine *increased* in 1987—the same year that use actually dropped sharply. Between 1988 and 1989, in the two younger age strata (aged 18, and 19 to 22) the proportions who believed cocaine to be easily available were still increasing, whereas in the older age strata the proportions were beginning to decrease. In 1990 and 1991, all four groups reported decreased availability—quite parallel to the number who had friends who were users and to personal use, both of which dropped substantially in these years and then leveled in 1992. Perceived availability of cocaine dropped to between 49% and 57% for all four age groups in 1993, with the declines ranging from 4 to 7 percentage points.

- **Crack** availability peaked in 1988-1989 for all age groups (it was first assessed in 1987) and declined through 1992, with little further change until 1995. Since 1995, crack availability has held fairly stable among seniors and 19- to 22-year-olds but has declined in the two oldest strata. In the late 1980s, crack was most available to the older age strata, but the opposite is now true.
- The trends in **LSD** availability among young adults have some parallels to those for twelfth graders. Among twelfth graders, there was a drop of about 10 percentage points in the mid-1970s and a later drop in the interval 1980 to 1986. The latter drop, at least, was paralleled in the data from 19- to 22-year-olds. After 1986 availability increased considerably in all age bands, reaching its peak levels (the highest we have recorded since these questions were introduced) in 1995; however, availability is now down appreciably in the youngest two age strata.
- In the early 1980s, there was a fair decline among all age groups in the availability of **psychedelics other than LSD**; there was little additional change until 1993, when high school seniors reported a significant increase in availability, but the young adult strata did not. There have been modest increases since then in all age groups except for the high school seniors, who showed a significant drop in 1999.
- The availability of **MDMA (ecstasy)** rose substantially in all the age groups during the 1990s. (The questions were first introduced in 1989 and 1990.) Among the high school seniors, reported availability nearly doubled, from 22% in 1989 to 40% in 1999.
- **Heroin** availability varied within a fairly narrow range from 1980 to 1986 but then showed a modest increase among both high school seniors and young adults through 1990. It then rose further among seniors and 19- to 22-year-olds through

1995 before easing back some. In the older two age groups *heroin* availability remained fairly flat from 1990 to 1995 but has increased some since then. What is clear is that *heroin* was much more available to all of these age groups in the 1990s than it was in the 1980s.

- The availability of *narcotics other than heroin* slowly rose among all age groups between 1980 and 1989, followed by considerable stability among young adults but some modest increase in subsequent years among twelfth graders (specifically, in the late 1990s).
- The reported availability of *amphetamines* peaked in 1982 for both twelfth graders and 19- to 22-year-olds; since then it has fallen by 13 percentage points among twelfth graders and 16 percentage points among the 19- to 22-year-olds. Since 1984, when data were first available, there has been a decline of 17 percentage points among the 23- to 26-year-olds, as well. For the 27- to 30-year-olds, reported availability decreased by 6 percentage points between 1988 and 1999.
- *Barbiturates* have exhibited a long-term decline in availability since about 1981 or 1982 in the two younger groups—by 17 percentage points among high school seniors and 19 percentage points among 19- to 22-year-olds. Since 1984, when data were first available for 23- to 26-year-olds, availability has declined by 13 percentage points. There also has been a decline for 27- to 30-year-olds of about 5 percentage points since 1989.
- *Tranquilizer* availability also has declined long term among high school seniors, from 72% in 1975 to 33% in 1999. From 1980, when data were first available for 19- to 22-year-olds, availability declined more sharply and from a higher level (from 67% to 37% in 1999) than among seniors, such that previous differences in availability between them were eliminated by 1992. The older age groups also showed a considerable decline in the availability of tranquilizers through 1999.
- Data on *steroid* availability were first gathered in 1990, and availability appeared to peak in 1992 in all age strata. This was followed by a modest decline in all age groups. However, seniors showed a nonsignificant increase beginning in 1997, and the older strata showed some increase in 1999.

**TABLE 7-1**

**Trends in Proportions of Friends Who Disapprove of Drug Use  
High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**

(Entries are percentages)

Q. How do you think your close friends feel (or would feel) about you...	Age Group	Percentage saying friends disapprove <sup>a</sup>																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Trying marijuana once or twice	18	42.6	46.4	50.3	52.0	54.1	54.7	56.7	58.0	62.9	63.7	70.3	69.7	73.1	66.6	62.7	58.1	55.8	53.0	53.8	55.1	+1.3
	19-22	41.0	40.6	46.9	47.1	51.6	54.5	55.2	54.7	58.7	63.0	63.6	64.7	64.7	63.4	63.7	58.5	64.3	58.4	57.0	56.5	-0.6
	23-26					47.7	47.0	49.1	53.9	58.2	62.6	61.3	64.5	65.6	65.5	63.2	63.8	61.2	59.3	66.5	62.6	-3.9
	27-30									58.6	58.7	61.4	64.6	63.5	64.4	66.3	66.1	65.8	65.0	65.4	61.8	-3.6
Smoking marijuana occasionally	18	50.6	55.9	57.4	59.9	62.9	64.2	64.4	67.0	72.1	71.1	76.4	75.8	79.2	73.8	69.1	65.4	63.1	59.9	60.4	61.6	+1.3
	19-22	50.9	49.2	54.0	57.9	59.4	64.6	64.4	65.1	69.8	71.5	74.1	73.9	74.3	73.1	73.0	66.6	71.3	65.1	65.1	64.6	-0.5
	23-26					54.3	56.4	57.1	63.1	68.1	73.2	71.8	72.5	75.3	73.5	72.2	70.7	70.8	68.5	73.6	70.2	-3.4
	27-30									67.8	69.4	71.9	73.7	76.0	75.1	76.4	73.8	75.6	72.4	74.9	74.5	-0.4
Smoking marijuana regularly	18	72.0	75.0	74.7	77.6	79.2	81.0	82.3	82.9	85.5	84.9	86.7	85.9	88.0	83.5	80.6	78.9	76.1	74.1	74.7	74.5	-0.1
	19-22	70.3	75.2	75.7	79.5	80.0	82.7	83.5	84.8	86.9	87.5	89.1	88.4	89.1	87.6	85.9	83.9	84.5	83.3	81.1	78.2	-2.9
	23-26					77.8	78.4	80.9	82.0	85.8	89.2	88.1	87.9	90.3	89.1	88.8	84.9	89.5	85.6	87.1	86.8	-0.3
	27-30									85.4	86.0	88.4	89.2	88.7	88.2	88.9	89.7	89.6	87.8	90.8	89.2	-1.6
Trying LSD once or twice	18	87.4	86.5	87.8	87.8	87.6	88.6	89.0	87.9	89.5	88.4	87.9	87.9	87.3	83.5	83.4	82.6	80.8	79.3	81.7	83.2	+1.5
	19-22	87.4	90.5	88.0	89.3	89.3	91.1	90.5	91.8	90.8	91.2	89.1	89.9	87.2	87.7	87.9	84.6	85.3	83.6	81.7	82.0	+0.3
	23-26					87.4	90.8	88.6	89.8	88.9	91.0	90.1	92.4	88.9	87.7	86.3	85.3	88.5	85.4	87.6	84.5	-3.2
	27-30									88.8	89.7	92.3	91.1	91.4	89.9	91.2	89.7	89.3	88.5	88.7	88.4	-0.3
Trying cocaine once or twice	18							79.6	83.9	88.1	88.9	90.5	91.8	92.2	91.1	91.4	91.1	89.2	87.3	88.8	88.7	-0.1
	19-22							76.4	NA	84.8	87.7	89.2	92.3	91.9	92.4	94.7	91.7	91.5	91.8	90.0	91.2	+1.2
	23-26							70.8	NA	81.4	84.5	84.1	86.7	87.4	87.7	87.9	90.4	90.0	91.1	92.0	89.6	-2.3
	27-30								81.8	81.1	83.7	83.5	84.4	86.1	87.8	87.5	88.7	89.4	89.3	90.5	+1.2	
Taking cocaine occasionally	18							87.3	89.7	92.1	92.1	94.2	94.7	94.4	93.7	93.9	93.8	92.5	90.8	92.2	91.8	-0.4
	19-22							84.9	NA	91.0	93.8	94.2	95.6	95.9	95.6	97.5	95.6	95.7	96.6	93.1	95.7	+2.6
	23-26							81.7	NA	88.2	91.5	92.4	94.1	93.8	93.5	94.3	94.6	95.4	95.1	95.2	95.2	0.0
	27-30								87.7	89.5	90.0	92.2	92.3	92.8	94.6	94.1	94.6	94.2	96.1	95.4	-0.7	
Trying an amphetamine once or twice	18	78.9	74.4	75.7	76.8	77.0	77.0	79.4	80.0	82.3	84.1	84.2	85.3	85.7	83.2	84.5	81.9	80.6	80.4	82.6	83.0	+0.4
	19-22	75.8	76.7	75.3	74.3	77.0	79.7	81.5	81.3	83.0	83.5	84.5	86.5	83.8	85.0	87.2	83.1	86.0	84.5	84.0	85.8	+1.8
	23-26					78.4	79.1	76.7	81.7	83.0	85.6	84.3	85.0	83.6	84.2	84.7	87.6	86.5	83.3	87.0	85.9	-1.1
	27-30									82.7	84.1	84.9	84.6	84.7	84.1	85.9	85.5	85.6	85.9	85.8	87.2	+1.4
Taking one or two drinks nearly every day	18	70.5	69.5	71.9	71.7	73.6	75.4	75.9	71.8	74.9	76.4	79.0	76.6	77.9	76.8	75.8	72.6	72.9	71.5	72.3	71.7	-0.6
	19-22	71.9	72.1	68.6	73.5	71.6	72.2	72.7	70.2	73.9	77.1	73.3	73.7	74.0	71.2	73.0	68.3	68.9	73.5	67.3	68.6	+1.3
	23-26					63.6	66.8	67.7	68.3	69.2	70.8	72.7	72.5	72.1	67.6	71.5	68.2	72.8	68.1	66.9	66.1	-0.8
	27-30									71.0	68.0	70.4	71.9	68.8	73.2	70.9	68.8	65.7	67.3	66.7	64.3	-2.4

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 7-1 (cont.)**

**Trends in Proportions of Friends Who Disapprove of Drug Use  
High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**

(Entries are percentages)

Q. How do you think your close friends feel (or would feel) about you...	Age Group	Percentage saying friends disapprove <sup>a</sup>																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Taking four or five drinks nearly every day	18	87.9	86.4	86.6	86.0	86.1	88.2	87.4	85.6	87.1	87.2	88.2	86.4	87.4	87.2	85.2	84.1	82.6	82.5	82.8	82.2	-0.5
	19-22	93.7	91.7	89.9	91.9	91.7	92.5	91.5	90.8	90.4	92.5	89.9	91.7	92.6	89.6	90.1	88.8	88.1	90.0	85.9	87.9	+1.9
	23-26					90.8	90.2	92.5	92.8	93.7	92.1	92.4	91.1	93.1	92.1	92.2	92.6	90.7	93.7	89.9	89.9	-3.8
	27-30									92.8	92.0	92.9	92.7	92.7	93.9	94.0	92.9	91.9	93.8	92.1	95.3	+3.3
Having five or more drinks once or twice each weekend	18	50.6	50.3	51.2	50.6	51.3	55.9	54.9	52.4	54.0	56.4	59.0	58.1	60.8	58.5	59.1	58.0	57.8	56.4	55.5	57.6	+2.1
	19-22	53.5	51.7	51.7	53.3	50.8	53.3	47.0	49.4	50.5	56.8	53.1	51.4	53.6	51.9	54.4	55.5	52.1	56.4	52.8	51.8	-1.0
	23-26					53.8	57.3	61.0	57.2	58.8	57.5	55.1	56.8	58.4	57.6	61.4	58.9	58.4	55.6	60.0	54.5	-5.5
	27-30									61.9	65.1	66.3	68.2	66.2	66.7	63.7	64.6	61.6	64.0	63.0	57.7	-5.3
Smoking one or more packs of cigarettes per day	18	74.4	73.8	70.3	72.2	73.9	73.7	76.2	74.2	76.4	74.4	75.3	74.0	76.2	71.8	72.4	69.2	69.3	68.5	69.0	71.2	+2.2
	19-22	75.6	75.1	75.4	78.5	76.2	79.7	77.7	78.6	80.2	78.4	77.5	78.3	79.0	76.0	73.8	70.9	73.9	76.5	69.2	73.9	+4.7
	23-26					73.9	77.3	80.3	80.5	79.5	80.5	78.5	83.3	82.3	77.4	80.1	78.8	78.3	75.8	76.5	78.0	+1.5
	27-30									81.2	80.9	82.9	84.5	83.1	86.8	82.5	83.4	81.9	80.5	81.9	82.6	+0.7
Approximate Weighted N=	18	2766	3120	3024	2722	2721	2688	2639	2815	2778	2400	2184	2160	2229	2220	2149	2177	2030	2095	2037	1945	
	19-22	569	597	580	577	582	556	577	595	584	555	559	537	520	510	470	480	471	466	436	430	
	23-26					510	548	549	540	510	513	516	516	507	481	463	445	436	419	425	394	
	27-30									483	518	479	480	451	451	457	439	439	422	440	397	

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Answer alternatives were: (1) Don't disapprove, (2) Disapprove, and (3) Strongly disapprove. Percentages are shown for categories (2) and (3) combined.



**TABLE 7-2**  
**Trends in Proportions of Friends Using Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

<i>Q. How many of your friends would you estimate...</i>	Age Group	Year																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
<b>Take any illicit drug*</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	87.5	85.4	86.3	82.6	81.0	82.4	82.2	81.7	79.1	76.9	71.0	69.1	67.3	71.0	78.3	78.6	80.6	83.4	84.6	82.0	-2.7
	19-22	90.2	88.0	86.8	85.0	82.3	82.9	80.5	76.7	77.2	78.4	72.7	71.5	66.8	71.7	71.6	71.6	76.2	77.2	79.8	77.3	-2.5
	23-26				83.6	82.7	80.3	80.9	74.4	73.8	65.8	63.0	67.3	64.6	66.7	65.3	64.6	67.0	67.6	67.9	+0.3	
	27-30								74.8	72.9	69.6	67.1	61.5	60.2	57.1	58.5	59.1	60.9	58.3	59.6	+1.3	
% saying most or all	18	32.5	29.8	26.5	23.8	20.9	22.7	21.5	18.6	15.8	15.7	11.6	11.7	12.0	15.5	20.3	21.7	23.8	23.7	25.9	25.5	-0.4
	19-22	34.9	32.8	28.1	22.4	21.9	18.2	16.2	14.0	13.5	10.9	10.5	8.8	9.0	10.4	14.9	13.1	17.3	16.2	16.8	20.6	+3.9
	23-26				19.6	15.4	16.2	11.7	9.5	9.7	9.5	7.4	6.2	6.4	8.7	7.6	8.8	10.5	9.6	8.4	-1.2	
	27-30							8.6	6.4	5.9	2.9	5.8	5.0	5.6	6.1	3.6	4.5	5.3	5.7		+0.4	
<b>Take any illicit drug* other than marijuana</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	62.4	63.3	64.7	61.2	61.3	61.8	63.3	62.4	56.5	56.2	50.1	46.3	47.1	48.7	53.7	53.7	54.5	55.1	55.6	51.2	-4.4s
	19-22	67.9	67.8	66.7	65.2	60.8	62.1	61.0	57.3	53.5	60.8	53.4	51.5	45.3	51.4	46.3	46.4	46.5	49.7	53.3	54.8	+1.5
	23-26				63.7	64.0	59.0	61.1	55.1	54.2	47.8	41.8	46.1	42.3	39.4	40.3	32.8	35.1	35.4	41.1	+5.7	
	27-30							55.9	55.0	49.7	47.2	37.7	38.5	33.9	37.7	36.4	33.9	34.1	35.2		+1.1	
% saying most or all	18	11.1	11.9	10.9	11.0	10.3	10.4	10.3	9.2	6.9	7.7	5.1	4.6	5.3	7.1	7.1	7.7	8.9	7.0	8.9	7.4	-1.5
	19-22	9.8	12.9	11.8	9.8	9.3	8.6	7.6	5.0	5.3	4.0	3.2	2.6	3.3	4.0	4.4	3.5	6.2	4.1	4.3	5.1	+0.8
	23-26				10.6	6.6	8.6	5.2	3.9	4.2	3.4	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.6	2.8	2.2	-0.6	
	27-30							4.6	3.0	2.8	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.3		+0.3	
<b>Smoke marijuana</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	86.4	83.0	84.4	80.3	77.7	79.5	79.2	78.4	75.3	72.5	68.3	65.8	63.1	67.4	75.6	76.1	78.0	81.4	83.2	80.7	-2.5
	19-22	88.8	86.4	85.2	83.8	81.6	81.1	78.5	75.3	75.1	73.8	67.6	68.0	63.5	67.6	67.4	68.8	74.9	74.7	77.2	73.9	-3.3
	23-26				82.0	80.8	77.7	79.4	71.6	69.8	61.8	59.6	61.3	61.2	62.6	63.2	62.6	63.5	65.0	64.4	-0.6	
	27-30							71.8	68.2	65.1	62.6	58.0	57.4	52.3	55.7	55.1	58.3	55.5	57.0		+1.5	
% saying most or all	18	31.3	27.7	23.8	21.7	18.3	19.8	18.2	15.8	13.6	13.4	10.1	10.0	10.3	13.9	18.9	20.7	22.2	22.5	23.8	24.2	+0.4
	19-22	34.1	30.6	25.6	20.6	19.4	16.0	13.3	12.5	12.2	9.0	9.2	8.3	8.2	8.5	13.0	12.5	16.3	16.2	16.4	19.4	+3.0
	23-26				17.0	14.3	13.7	10.4	7.8	8.6	8.3	6.9	5.6	5.6	7.5	6.6	8.2	9.8	9.0	8.5	-0.5	
	27-30							6.8	4.4	4.0	2.8	5.1	5.2	5.0	5.6	3.5	3.9	4.8	5.5		+0.7	
<b>Use inhalants</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	17.8	16.5	18.4	16.1	19.3	21.2	22.4	24.7	20.8	22.1	20.0	19.2	22.2	23.7	26.5	27.5	27.2	27.4	25.9	21.6	-4.2ss
	19-22	11.9	13.2	13.8	12.3	11.7	9.6	10.9	12.7	10.9	11.7	13.0	12.2	12.6	13.8	14.0	14.2	16.2	13.7	16.2	16.3	0.0
	23-26				7.7	6.7	7.2	6.1	6.2	5.9	6.1	4.4	5.1	6.3	7.0	9.3	5.6	7.5	6.2	7.9	+1.7	
	27-30							4.6	3.5	2.9	2.5	3.3	2.9	3.5	4.0	4.1	3.6	3.8	4.2		+0.4	
% saying most or all	18	1.2	0.9	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.2	1.9	1.0	0.7	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.4	1.9	2.7	1.8	-0.8
	19-22	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.7	1.3	0.8	-0.5
	23-26				0.6	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.0	0.1	+0.1	
	27-30							0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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**TABLE 7-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Proportions of Friends Using Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
(Entries are percentages)

<i>Q. How many of your friends would you estimate...</i>	Age Group	Year																			'98-'99 change		
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999	
<b>Use nitrites</b>																							
% saying any friends		18	19.0	17.4	17.5	14.5	15.0	15.6	18.0	18.3	13.6	13.3	10.4	8.9	9.0	10.7	10.0	10.7	11.2	11.9	12.9	10.9	-2.0
		19-22	18.4	16.0	14.2	13.8	8.9	9.9	11.7	13.2	10.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		23-26					10.8	7.8	8.0	7.9	5.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		27-30									6.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
% saying most or all		18	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.3	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.7	-0.3
		19-22	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		23-26				0.8	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		27-30								0.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
<b>Take LSD</b>																							
% saying any friends		18	28.1	28.5	27.8	24.0	23.9	24.4	24.5	25.3	24.1	25.2	25.0	23.4	28.1	31.3	34.1	36.9	37.9	36.5	36.8	32.2	-4.6ss
		19-22	30.9	25.9	26.5	22.6	21.6	18.8	18.7	18.2	19.0	20.1	20.1	22.0	22.2	28.8	23.8	26.9	28.6	24.7	29.4	28.2	-1.2
		23-26				21.5	17.2	15.4	15.9	13.3	14.1	12.3	12.5	15.0	17.2	17.3	21.5	15.3	18.2	15.2	18.1	18.1	+2.9
		27-30								10.4	7.7	9.1	8.6	10.9	8.7	8.1	12.0	11.6	12.3	12.6	13.4	13.4	+0.9
% saying most or all		18	1.8	2.2	2.4	1.4	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.5	2.4	1.9	1.7	2.4	3.8	4.2	4.8	5.0	3.7	4.7	3.9	-0.9
		19-22	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.6	1.3	0.4	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.3	3.8	1.4	2.5	1.8	-0.7
		23-26				0.8	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.5	1.5	+0.5
		27-30								0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.6	+0.5
<b>Take other psychedelics</b>																							
% saying any friends		18	28.2	26.3	25.6	22.1	21.3	22.0	22.3	21.7	17.8	18.1	15.9	15.1	17.0	19.3	21.4	23.8	26.4	26.3	27.4	22.5	-4.9ss
		19-22	33.4	25.5	25.1	21.0	20.2	16.6	15.8	15.0	16.1	13.9	15.3	14.2	12.0	15.0	13.8	14.9	17.2	17.2	19.1	18.9	-0.1
		23-26				20.0	16.7	13.2	13.2	11.7	9.6	8.7	8.5	9.8	9.4	10.3	11.7	10.4	13.0	11.7	9.6	9.6	-2.1
		27-30								10.6	7.4	7.1	6.8	7.9	7.1	6.6	7.9	7.5	6.8	7.8	7.8	9.4	+1.6
% saying most or all		18	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.4	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.6	3.1	2.4	-0.7
		19-22	1.5	0.9	1.1	1.2	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.7	0.8	-0.9
		23-26				0.8	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	+0.1
		27-30								0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
<b>Use PCP</b>																							
% saying any friends		18	22.2	17.2	17.3	14.2	14.2	15.9	16.1	15.5	13.5	14.7	13.0	12.0	12.7	15.6	15.5	18.3	20.3	19.7	20.2	16.8	-3.4s
		19-22	24.1	15.3	15.3	12.6	9.5	8.9	10.1	9.7	10.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		23-26				11.6	6.8	7.4	6.9	5.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		27-30								6.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
% saying most or all		18	1.6	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	-0.1
		19-22	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		23-26				0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---
		27-30								0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	---

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**TABLE 7-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Proportions of Friends Using Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

<i>Q. How many of your friends would you estimate...</i>	Age Group	Year																			'98-'99 change		
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999	
<b>Take MDMA (ecstasy)</b> % saying any friends	18											12.4	11.9	10.7	12.8	15.9	20.7	24.2	27.7	24.5	26.7	+2.2	
	19-22										16.3	14.3	12.0	12.9	13.7	11.3	17.2	20.7	21.4	26.0	30.7	+4.7	
	23-26										7.6	9.0	9.5	11.0	9.8	11.4	11.2	11.3	15.1	13.7	15.2	+1.5	
	27-30										5.6	6.3	5.4	4.6	6.6	5.8	6.9	10.1	7.4	8.5	12.4	-3.9	
% saying most or all	18											2.2	1.7	2.1	1.2	1.7	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.7	+0.3	
	19-22										0.4	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.7	2.0	2.9	+0.9	
	23-26										0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.8	0.4	-0.3	
	27-30										0.5	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.8	+0.8	
<b>Take cocaine</b> % saying any friends	18	41.6	40.1	40.7	37.6	38.9	43.8	45.6	43.7	37.7	37.4	31.7	26.8	26.3	24.5	26.1	24.8	28.1	28.2	31.2	27.8	-3.4s	
	19-22	51.0	48.9	49.8	46.5	47.6	45.9	48.3	45.7	42.0	42.7	33.2	29.7	22.8	24.3	21.5	22.0	19.4	22.2	26.8	25.7	-1.1	
	23-26					52.4	53.2	51.6	50.7	47.1	40.8	34.8	29.0	28.8	27.1	22.3	24.4	18.1	19.7	18.7	20.1	+1.4	
	27-30									47.9	43.3	38.3	35.7	29.9	27.6	22.6	26.2	20.8	21.5	18.6	20.7	+2.1	
% saying most or all	18	6.1	6.3	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.8	6.2	5.1	3.4	3.7	2.1	1.5	1.5	2.1	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.0	3.2	2.9	-0.3	
	19-22	7.0	8.6	7.8	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.1	3.3	3.5	2.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.5	1.5	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.5	1.1	-0.4	
	23-26					9.1	5.3	7.0	4.1	3.1	2.7	2.1	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.9	0.5	-0.4	
	27-30									3.8	2.0	2.3	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.4	+0.3	
<b>Take crack</b> % saying any friends	18									27.4	25.4	26.1	19.2	17.6	17.8	17.9	20.0	19.2	21.6	22.2	24.4	19.0	-5.5ss
	19-22									23.8	21.8	20.6	14.6	14.3	11.8	13.6	13.8	14.0	9.4	13.1	16.4	15.7	-0.7
	23-26									26.4	22.4	19.8	14.4	10.8	10.8	8.8	8.8	11.1	8.2	8.3	8.3	8.8	+0.5
	27-30									22.1	18.4	16.6	11.6	10.3	10.2	10.4	10.3	8.6	6.3	6.4	8.7	+2.3	
% saying most or all	18									2.2	1.1	2.1	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.5	-0.1
	19-22									0.7	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.9	+0.1
	23-26									0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.0	-0.4
	27-30									1.2	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	
<b>Take heroin</b> % saying any friends	18	13.0	12.5	13.2	12.0	13.0	14.5	15.3	13.9	12.4	14.0	11.4	11.4	13.2	13.3	14.3	14.5	15.6	15.6	16.5	12.7	-3.8ss	
	19-22	11.0	8.1	9.4	7.5	7.1	6.5	8.5	8.5	7.8	6.8	6.5	6.1	4.7	7.0	8.1	10.4	6.7	7.4	9.4	9.7	+0.2	
	23-26					6.1	4.4	4.3	6.5	3.6	5.2	4.2	3.6	3.8	4.5	4.9	5.8	4.0	6.2	5.8	4.8	-1.0	
	27-30									3.8	2.8	4.5	2.7	3.1	3.6	4.2	3.6	4.4	4.2	3.5	3.8	+0.2	
% saying most or all	18	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.0	-0.3	
	19-22	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.1	-0.4	
	23-26					0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	27-30									0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.1	

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 7-2 (cont.)**

**Trends in Proportions of Friends Using Drugs  
High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**

(Entries are percentages)

Q. How many of your friends would you estimate...	Age Group	Year																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
<b>Take other narcotics</b> % saying any friends	18	22.4	23.1	23.9	20.8	21.4	22.8	21.8	23.2	19.2	19.2	17.2	13.7	14.9	16.1	18.5	19.5	21.8	22.2	24.8	22.9	-1.8
	19-22	22.8	20.4	21.9	17.9	17.4	16.9	14.6	15.4	14.1	15.0	12.9	14.1	10.8	13.2	10.5	15.9	13.4	13.2	15.2	19.8	+4.5
	23-26					16.0	14.9	14.0	13.0	10.6	10.8	10.5	8.5	8.4	8.7	8.0	10.5	8.9	9.9	9.4	10.4	+1.0
	27-30									12.1	8.6	9.1	9.3	7.5	8.2	8.0	7.7	9.5	7.9	8.3	7.2	-1.1
% saying most or all	18	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.4	0.9	0.5	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.4	2.9	1.8	-1.1
	19-22	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.4	-0.4
	23-26					0.4	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.0	-0.2
	27-30									0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	+0.2
<b>Take amphetamines</b> % saying any friends	18	43.9	48.8	50.6	46.1	45.1	43.3	41.8	39.5	33.4	33.5	28.7	24.3	24.3	27.5	28.1	30.3	32.2	32.7	33.8	30.8	-3.0
	19-22	54.1	52.2	51.3	49.7	46.1	42.1	38.5	34.5	26.8	29.6	23.3	26.2	19.5	21.0	20.9	21.7	21.6	21.1	24.4	25.5	+1.1
	23-26					45.6	40.1	33.5	32.1	28.4	23.1	20.6	17.1	15.1	16.8	16.2	18.2	12.5	14.4	14.1	14.2	+0.1
	27-30									26.1	21.6	19.3	17.0	15.3	14.0	13.1	13.7	15.5	12.9	11.0	11.8	+0.8
% saying most or all	19-22	4.8	6.4	5.4	5.1	4.5	3.4	3.4	2.6	1.9	2.6	1.9	1.3	1.3	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.8	2.4	3.4	2.8	-0.6
	23-26	3.8	5.7	4.6	3.8	3.3	2.9	1.3	1.9	1.4	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.2	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.7	-0.5
	27-30					1.9	1.8	1.7	1.2	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.4	1.5	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.0
										0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.6	+0.2
<b>Take barbiturates</b> % saying any friends	18	30.5	31.1	31.3	28.3	26.6	27.1	25.6	24.3	19.7	20.3	17.4	14.8	16.4	17.8	18.2	17.8	21.6	20.4	22.8	20.9	-1.9
	19-22	33.2	27.9	27.7	23.6	22.0	17.2	18.8	15.5	14.0	14.1	11.9	12.8	10.7	11.7	9.7	13.3	11.6	12.1	14.8	16.0	+1.2
	23-26					22.2	18.7	16.3	14.1	11.2	10.4	8.9	8.3	8.7	8.2	7.6	9.6	6.9	8.4	7.9	8.3	+0.4
	27-30									12.0	8.5	8.8	7.1	6.6	6.7	7.4	7.2	6.7	6.5	6.1	5.7	-0.4
% saying most or all	19-22	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.1	2.5	1.4	-1.1s
	23-26	1.1	1.3	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.0
	27-30					0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
										0.2	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	+0.2
<b>Take tranquilizers</b> % saying any friends	18	32.5	35.0	35.5	29.7	26.1	26.0	23.5	22.0	17.1	16.6	14.3	12.0	13.1	14.2	14.2	15.5	18.1	16.1	17.4	15.5	-2.0
	19-22	38.3	36.2	35.4	30.5	24.6	19.9	20.3	16.9	12.5	10.9	10.0	10.6	9.2	10.0	7.8	11.5	10.1	9.3	10.6	11.4	+0.8
	23-26					25.7	21.0	17.4	15.0	12.1	10.3	8.6	5.9	6.4	7.6	7.7	9.0	6.3	6.5	6.6	6.4	-0.2
	27-30									11.8	7.9	8.2	7.0	7.1	6.5	6.6	4.5	6.9	4.9	4.1	5.1	+1.0
% saying most or all	18	3.6	3.6	2.6	2.6	1.7	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.1	2.0	1.4	-0.6
	19-22	1.9	2.7	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.4	-0.1
	23-26					0.6	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.2	+0.2
	27-30									0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	+0.2

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**TABLE 7-2 (cont.)**

**Trends in Proportions of Friends Using Drugs  
High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**

(Entries are percentages)

<i>Q. How many of your friends would you estimate...</i>	Age Group	Year																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
<b>Take tranquilizers</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	29.7	29.5	29.9	26.7	26.6	25.8	24.2	23.3	19.9	18.0	14.9	13.5	14.6	15.5	16.5	18.1	17.9	19.7	16.4	-3.4s	
	19-22	37.5	33.9	28.7	22.9	22.0	19.7	20.6	18.0	16.4	14.8	13.4	13.0	11.3	11.9	9.5	13.6	10.5	11.7	13.7	16.2	+2.5
	23-26					29.3	26.3	22.3	20.8	15.5	13.1	14.8	12.1	12.5	11.0	13.4	10.4	10.7	9.6	8.5	9.8	+1.3
	27-30									20.1	16.6	16.9	14.9	12.0	12.5	13.9	11.9	11.0	10.8	12.6	10.4	-2.2
% saying most or all	18	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.4	0.8	2.3	1.3	-1.0s
	19-22	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.3	-0.3
	23-26					0.4	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1
	27-30									0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4	+0.4
<b>Drink alcoholic beverages</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	96.1	94.7	95.7	95.5	94.6	94.6	95.6	95.4	95.7	95.1	92.0	91.2	90.5	88.9	90.1	90.9	89.6	90.7	91.2	90.2	-1.0
	19-22	96.3	96.7	96.6	97.3	96.8	95.8	96.9	95.6	97.0	97.6	96.1	95.2	93.1	95.1	92.5	94.8	93.7	94.5	94.5	92.8	-1.7
	23-26					96.8	96.8	96.2	95.9	95.3	95.4	94.7	93.9	95.1	94.4	94.0	94.1	92.7	95.4	95.5	93.3	-2.2
	27-30									96.1	96.0	95.2	94.4	95.6	93.4	93.3	93.3	93.1	95.1	93.1	64.4	+1.3
% saying most or all	18	68.9	67.7	69.7	69.0	66.6	66.0	68.0	71.8	68.1	67.1	60.5	58.6	56.9	57.0	59.6	56.4	56.4	60.9	61.0	58.2	-2.9
	19-22	76.6	77.6	75.2	75.1	74.9	71.9	74.2	71.3	73.4	74.1	70.0	71.4	67.4	66.5	68.7	63.9	67.0	63.8	69.4	67.8	-1.6
	23-26					73.2	74.4	69.5	74.9	68.9	69.8	67.1	69.3	68.8	68.7	70.7	67.0	68.9	66.6	67.4	63.6	-3.8
	27-30									66.7	67.8	62.0	62.7	63.3	61.3	63.2	62.6	64.1	66.6	62.9	64.4	+1.5
<b>Get drunk at least once a week</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	83.1	81.8	83.1	83.9	81.5	82.5	84.7	85.6	84.4	82.8	79.2	79.8	79.9	79.2	81.4	78.9	78.5	82.4	81.1	81.5	+0.4
	19-22	80.9	79.9	80.0	80.4	79.8	76.7	82.0	81.1	80.6	80.4	80.1	80.8	76.5	81.1	79.6	83.2	80.9	79.2	82.3	82.8	+0.5
	23-26					73.1	72.7	73.5	73.7	72.1	73.1	72.2	74.0	73.1	74.3	72.1	73.1	74.5	71.9	74.1	71.0	-3.1
	27-30									66.3	61.8	65.4	65.2	65.5	64.5	62.7	67.1	66.7	65.4	65.5	65.9	+0.4
% saying most or all	18	30.1	29.4	29.9	31.0	29.6	29.9	31.8	31.3	29.6	31.1	27.5	29.7	28.6	27.6	28.4	27.4	29.0	30.9	31.7	30.1	-1.6
	19-22	21.9	23.3	22.0	20.2	22.7	21.7	20.8	21.3	24.0	22.6	23.6	24.9	22.6	28.8	26.3	28.2	26.0	26.6	29.8	29.3	-0.4
	23-26					11.4	11.6	12.5	11.9	12.8	12.0	13.9	11.6	14.6	13.2	15.2	15.2	14.0	17.0	16.0	16.8	+0.8
	27-30									5.2	6.3	6.7	6.6	5.9	6.7	6.4	7.9	8.6	7.7	9.3	12.1	+2.8
<b>Smoke cigarettes</b>																						
% saying any friends	18	90.6	88.5	88.3	87.0	86.0	87.0	87.8	88.3	87.7	86.5	84.9	85.7	84.4	84.8	88.1	87.9	88.3	89.9	89.5	89.3	-0.3
	19-22	94.4	94.3	93.4	93.1	91.9	91.6	91.1	90.3	89.3	90.0	86.1	86.1	86.7	86.7	86.1	88.8	89.2	91.3	92.6	91.0	-1.5
	23-26					93.9	95.0	91.6	92.1	89.8	90.1	88.7	89.6	85.6	88.3	86.4	86.8	85.3	85.4	88.7	84.1	-4.6
	27-30									92.6	89.8	90.7	90.4	88.0	85.8	84.8	84.9	85.4	84.1	81.1	86.3	+5.3s
% saying most or all	18	23.3	22.4	24.1	22.4	19.2	22.8	21.5	21.0	20.2	23.1	21.4	21.8	21.4	25.0	25.3	27.5	30.4	34.4	33.9	31.1	-2.9
	19-22	31.8	27.6	25.6	25.2	25.6	22.7	21.9	22.5	19.3	19.9	19.2	20.2	20.3	22.2	21.7	28.4	24.0	25.1	28.8	26.8	-2.0
	23-26					25.6	22.7	19.7	18.5	16.5	20.5	16.9	18.1	16.0	15.5	16.6	13.9	17.6	17.0	16.8	17.5	+0.7
	27-30									15.8	14.2	11.6	12.9	11.9	14.3	10.9	12.3	10.4	12.1	12.3	13.4	+1.1

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**TABLE 7-2 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Proportions of Friends Using Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

Q. How many of your friends would you estimate...	Age Group	Year																			'98-'99 change			
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999		
Take steroids	% saying any friends	18										25.9	24.7	21.5	19.0	18.1	19.5	17.9	18.9	18.3	20.0	+1.7		
		19-22									23.4	21.5	22.2	19.7	20.7	16.8	16.6	16.1	16.8	20.0	20.6	+0.6		
		23-26									15.3	15.0	12.3	14.5	11.1	10.5	12.4	7.3	13.0	9.2	15.0	+5.9 <sup>a</sup>		
		27-30									9.9	10.5	7.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	10.2	9.1	7.0	11.2	+4.2 <sup>a</sup>		
	% saying most or all	18											1.8	1.0	1.7	0.9	1.2	1.3	0.8	1.7	1.4	0.9	-0.5	
		19-22									0.2	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.1		
		23-26									0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	+0.1		
		27-30									0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
	Approximate Weighted N=		18	2987	3307	3303	3095	2945	2971	2798	2948	2961	2587	2361	2339	2373	2410	2337	2379	2156	2292	2313	2060	
		19-22	576	592	564	579	543	554	579	572	562	579	556	526	510	468	435	470	469	467	437	426		
		23-26					527	534	546	528	528	506	510	507	516	495	449	456	416	419	394	414		
		27-30									516	507	499	476	478	461	419	450	464	454	428	424		

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years:  $s = .05$ ,  $ss = .01$ ,  $sss = .001$ . Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

'NA' indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>These estimates were derived from responses to the questions listed above. For the young adult sample, "any illicit drug" includes all of the drugs listed except cigarettes and alcohol.

**TABLE 7-3**  
**Trends in Exposure to Drug Use**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

*Q. During the LAST 12 MONTHS  
 how often have you been around  
 people who were taking each of the  
 following to get high or for "kicks"?*

	Age Group	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Any illicit drug<sup>a</sup></b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	84.3	82.7	81.4	79.4	77.9	77.7	75.5	73.9	71.3	68.6	67.6	64.2	61.3	66.1	70.8	75.3	78.0	78.8	77.2	77.9	+0.7
	19-22	80.6	81.0	81.5	76.5	76.3	77.4	74.6	72.7	69.5	61.5	60.8	58.9	58.6	58.4	60.7	66.4	67.2	65.3	69.1	65.8	-3.2
	23-26				68.9	70.2	68.0	62.4	62.7	58.3	54.6	52.1	48.2	49.9	47.1	54.2	50.3	55.4	50.6	50.5		-0.1
	27-30								52.4	50.2	47.0	39.6	41.7	38.9	45.6	42.4	44.9	41.6	37.5	41.1		+3.7
% saying often exposed	18	36.3	36.1	31.4	29.8	28.3	27.2	26.3	23.3	20.8	22.0	20.7	18.2	18.0	24.0	29.3	32.3	33.8	34.7	33.2	35.6	+2.4
	19-22	34.6	34.0	32.1	24.4	24.4	23.7	21.1	18.9	19.9	16.2	16.4	17.6	21.4	16.1	18.1	23.7	20.4	25.3	24.2	24.0	-0.3
	23-26				20.7	23.3	18.5	17.4	18.2	13.8	13.7	13.3	12.2	11.1	11.1	12.5	12.8	14.3	14.2	15.0		+0.8
	27-30								13.7	12.0	10.8	8.2	10.5	9.0	12.5	8.5	10.1	10.3	8.5	9.6		+1.1
<b>Any illicit drug<sup>a</sup> other than marijuana</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	58.5	62.6	62.5	59.4	59.8	59.3	55.3	51.7	47.8	47.1	45.4	40.0	41.6	42.6	45.3	47.2	49.7	47.9	47.3	46.5	-0.8
	19-22	56.9	58.4	61.6	54.9	57.1	53.3	53.4	48.5	46.4	36.5	39.4	33.8	37.1	29.4	33.9	36.8	36.5	39.4	40.0	36.4	-3.5
	23-26					51.5	51.9	51.5	43.6	42.9	36.8	34.0	30.0	27.3	27.8	24.9	26.8	23.2	25.6	27.1	28.0	+0.9
	27-30								35.8	33.7	31.5	25.8	26.6	24.2	25.8	21.1	21.8	21.4	15.4	19.5		+4.2
% saying often exposed	18	14.1	17.1	16.6	14.2	14.6	12.9	12.1	10.2	9.6	10.7	9.2	7.9	7.5	9.6	9.4	11.1	12.1	11.7	9.9	11.7	+1.8
	19-22	11.8	15.6	13.5	11.1	10.7	10.2	8.2	8.1	7.5	6.7	4.5	4.4	5.5	4.1	5.1	7.7	3.9	7.6	7.0	4.8	-2.2
	23-26				9.0	10.4	9.3	8.5	6.7	5.0	5.1	3.5	2.6	3.0	2.2	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.1	4.3		+1.3
	27-30								6.0	4.7	4.1	3.2	3.7	2.4	3.4	2.9	3.4	3.2	1.0	2.5		+1.5
<b>Marijuana</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	82.0	80.2	77.9	76.2	74.4	73.5	72.0	70.4	67.0	64.8	63.4	59.6	56.8	61.0	67.2	72.7	75.6	76.8	75.5	75.8	+0.3
	19-22	79.8	79.8	78.7	72.7	74.1	75.5	72.4	70.5	66.3	59.3	57.5	55.0	56.4	55.4	56.8	64.0	64.8	63.4	67.1	63.5	-3.6
	23-26					65.3	66.0	64.1	59.0	57.6	55.0	50.6	47.9	44.6	45.9	44.4	51.0	47.8	53.1	48.8	48.1	-0.7
	27-30								49.1	47.4	42.1	36.0	38.2	35.3	41.9	38.3	41.8	39.1	35.7	38.7		+3.0
% saying often exposed	18	33.8	33.1	28.0	26.1	24.8	24.2	24.0	20.6	17.9	19.5	17.8	16.0	15.6	20.9	27.6	30.7	31.8	32.9	31.4	34.4	+3.0
	19-22	32.6	30.5	30.3	21.1	21.9	20.3	18.6	16.4	18.3	14.2	14.7	15.9	19.9	14.7	17.0	22.1	20.3	23.7	22.8	23.0	+0.2
	23-26					17.5	20.6	14.6	14.8	15.6	11.6	11.2	11.6	10.9	10.4	10.4	11.1	11.5	12.9	13.6	13.2	-0.4
	27-30								10.9	9.8	8.5	6.7	8.9	7.6	10.7	7.4	9.1	8.9	8.1	8.8		+0.7

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 7-3 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Exposure to Drug Use**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

*Q. During the LAST 12 MONTHS  
 how often have you been around  
 people who were taking each of the  
 following to get high or for "kicks"?*

	Age Group	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change	
<b>LSD</b>																							
% saying any exposure		18	17.2	17.4	16.1	13.8	12.5	13.2	13.1	12.9	13.4	15.0	14.9	15.7	17.8	21.0	24.2	26.1	27.6	25.9	23.1	23.6	+0.5
		19-22	17.4	15.8	16.0	13.5	12.8	12.7	10.8	10.9	12.0	12.0	12.1	13.1	19.3	13.4	16.5	18.6	20.7	22.3	21.0	20.1	-0.9
		23-26					8.3	9.3	8.8	7.3	6.3	6.7	8.4	8.6	8.8	7.8	8.4	9.9	8.6	7.6	9.8	9.4	-0.4
		27-30									3.6	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.9	5.3	5.5	4.3	3.9	3.2	3.7	+0.6
% saying often exposed		18	1.4	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.6	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.9	4.2	6.1	4.7	5.1	3.2	4.1	+0.9
		19-22	1.4	1.5	1.4	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.6	1.1	1.2	1.0	2.0	1.1	0.4	3.6	1.4	1.8	2.0	1.7	-0.4
		23-26					0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	+0.2
		27-30									0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	+0.1
<b>Other psychedelics</b>																							
% saying any exposure		18	20.4	17.6	16.8	13.1	12.7	12.5	11.8	10.0	9.0	8.8	9.4	9.4	9.7	12.1	14.0	15.8	16.6	17.8	15.9	17.7	+1.8
		19-22	18.3	16.3	16.3	12.5	10.5	11.0	9.2	9.1	7.7	8.4	8.3	8.9	10.6	6.7	8.3	12.8	13.1	15.0	15.0	12.4	-2.7
		23-26					8.4	8.9	9.1	6.0	5.1	4.8	5.7	5.5	5.1	5.7	5.2	5.5	6.9	5.6	8.7	5.8	-2.9
		27-30									5.0	3.4	3.4	3.4	2.1	3.7	3.4	4.2	3.2	2.9	2.6	3.0	+0.4
% saying often exposed		18	2.2	2.0	2.6	1.1	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.8	1.7	2.7	+1.0
		19-22	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.2	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	+0.1
		23-26					0.1	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
		27-30									0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	+0.1
<b>Cocaine</b>																							
% saying any exposure		18	37.7	36.3	34.9	33.3	35.6	38.3	37.4	34.9	30.2	30.2	27.7	21.3	19.8	19.2	18.8	21.6	25.0	25.6	26.6	25.8	-0.9
		19-22	37.6	42.3	43.6	36.6	38.9	39.4	41.5	37.0	36.2	26.6	24.0	18.5	19.8	13.5	14.7	14.1	19.3	18.8	21.6	18.5	-3.0
		23-26					38.5	40.6	42.0	34.5	35.9	28.0	24.0	19.9	16.7	14.6	14.3	14.1	12.5	14.0	16.0	18.2	+2.2
		27-30									28.9	28.3	24.2	18.6	19.4	16.6	14.3	11.4	12.1	11.4	8.6	11.6	+3.0
% saying often exposed		18	5.9	6.6	6.6	5.2	6.7	7.1	7.8	5.9	5.1	5.4	4.7	3.4	2.7	2.9	2.5	3.2	4.0	4.2	3.7	4.6	+0.9
		19-22	5.8	7.6	6.5	4.3	6.5	7.0	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.3	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.2	2.4	3.2	1.4	-1.9
		23-26					5.3	8.5	7.0	6.0	5.4	3.5	2.5	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.5	2.2	+0.7
		27-30									4.4	3.9	2.9	2.2	2.0	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.6	0.8	1.5	+0.7

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**TABLE 7-3 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Exposure to Drug Use**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

*Q. During the LAST 12 MONTHS  
 how often have you been around  
 people who were taking each of the  
 following to get high or for "kicks"?*

	Age Group	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Heroin</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	7.4	6.6	7.1	5.1	6.0	5.5	6.0	5.8	5.7	6.5	5.4	5.1	5.4	5.7	7.3	7.9	8.6	9.1	8.7	8.1	-0.6
	19-22	4.4	3.3	4.1	2.9	3.1	4.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.5	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	6.4	3.2	-3.2s
	23-26					2.3	3.3	3.2	2.9	1.7	2.3	2.3	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.9	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.9	-0.1
	27-30									2.1	1.4	1.5	0.9	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.9	+0.6
																				0.9		
% saying often exposed	18	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.9	1.3	+0.3
	19-22	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8	+0.1
	23-26					0.0	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.0	+0.5
	27-30									0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	+0.2
<b>Other narcotics</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	19.6	17.5	18.5	17.3	18.0	18.4	15.6	14.4	14.8	13.8	14.2	11.3	11.1	12.4	14.9	15.5	18.5	20.4	20.7	21.9	+1.2
	19-22	14.4	14.4	15.2	10.9	12.4	13.7	9.8	12.2	11.2	9.0	9.4	9.2	8.5	6.8	10.1	12.1	11.5	14.5	15.3	13.9	-1.3
	23-26					9.0	12.3	9.2	9.7	7.4	8.0	5.9	8.3	7.0	4.6	6.9	7.8	7.4	6.5	8.1	9.4	+1.3
	27-30									6.5	6.5	5.8	5.5	3.7	5.6	5.9	5.7	4.7	4.9	3.6	5.2	+1.6
% saying often exposed	18	1.7	1.7	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.8	2.1	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.7	1.7	2.1	3.4	2.5	2.8	3.9	+1.1
	19-22	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.2	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.4	0.7	1.5	1.7	1.1	-0.5
	23-26					0.4	0.5	1.3	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.6	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.5	1.1	+0.6
	27-30									0.7	0.5	1.0	0.3	0.8	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.2	+0.2
<b>Amphetamines</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	40.8	49.5	50.2	46.1	45.0	41.0	36.5	31.7	27.9	27.4	28.3	23.6	24.5	24.7	28.2	28.1	31.5	31.0	29.9	30.1	+0.2
	19-22	42.3	48.6	48.4	39.7	41.3	35.9	31.3	26.7	21.2	18.5	19.5	17.4	21.3	15.1	20.3	21.0	22.3	24.6	24.8	21.2	-3.6
	23-26					32.3	30.5	29.1	20.9	18.8	14.0	16.8	14.6	11.8	13.2	11.2	13.0	11.1	11.7	14.6	12.3	-2.3
	27-30									15.6	14.3	13.5	10.7	11.4	11.3	11.0	10.6	7.6	9.1	6.6	10.4	+3.7s
% saying often exposed	18	8.3	12.1	12.3	10.1	9.0	6.5	5.8	4.5	4.1	4.7	4.1	3.1	3.0	3.9	4.1	4.5	5.6	5.2	4.7	6.3	+1.6
	19-22	7.4	9.9	7.7	6.9	5.4	4.4	3.1	3.3	2.2	1.5	1.1	1.9	2.6	1.5	3.3	5.0	1.3	4.1	2.9	2.2	-0.8
	23-26					3.9	3.2	2.2	3.3	1.9	0.7	2.0	1.3	0.2	0.8	0.9	1.6	1.3	1.4	2.2	1.7	-0.6
	27-30									2.0	2.0	1.2	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.7	1.6	1.8	1.0	0.2	1.1	+0.9

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**TABLE 7-3 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Exposure to Drug Use**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

*Q. During the LAST 12 MONTHS  
 how often have you been around  
 people who were taking each of the  
 following to get high or for "kicks"?*

	Age Group	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Barbiturates</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	25.2	25.9	25.7	22.5	21.2	18.9	15.8	13.1	12.4	11.8	13.3	10.0	10.2	11.9	13.0	14.5	15.5	16.1	16.1	17.1	+1.0
	19-22	25.6	23.1	21.8	18.3	15.7	14.7	12.8	12.0	8.2	8.3	6.5	7.9	7.3	7.2	7.4	10.1	8.8	11.7	13.4	11.6	-1.9
	23-26					16.1	13.1	11.0	7.1	7.1	6.6	6.9	5.9	6.5	3.8	4.2	5.7	6.6	4.9	8.5	7.1	-1.4
	27-30									8.0	6.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	5.7	4.5	5.2	3.5	3.8	2.7	4.1	+1.4
% saying often exposed	18	3.4	4.0	4.3	3.0	2.7	1.7	2.1	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.9	2.5	2.7	3.8	+1.2
	19-22	2.5	2.8	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.3	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.4	0.9	-0.5
	23-26					0.7	0.9	1.7	0.8	0.6	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.9	+0.4
	27-30									0.7	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.4	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.6	+0.6
<b>Tranquillizers</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	29.1	29.0	26.6	23.5	23.1	23.4	19.6	18.4	18.2	15.1	16.3	14.2	12.7	13.8	16.5	15.7	17.9	18.9	17.3	18.2	+0.9
	19-22	29.6	26.9	28.5	19.5	21.2	19.5	16.4	18.5	13.8	12.0	12.7	12.6	11.0	10.0	12.0	11.8	10.7	15.6	16.9	14.3	-2.7
	23-26					23.1	21.0	16.9	15.9	13.4	12.9	12.0	10.4	9.7	10.9	9.8	10.3	10.1	9.4	10.9	10.8	0.0
	27-30									15.0	11.6	11.1	9.7	10.3	10.4	9.0	11.2	9.6	9.6	6.1	8.8	+2.7
% saying often exposed	18	3.2	4.2	3.5	2.9	2.9	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.3	3.5	3.2	2.8	3.7	+0.9
	19-22	3.2	2.6	1.8	2.1	1.5	1.7	0.9	1.1	1.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.5	0.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	-0.1
	23-26					2.0	1.6	2.6	1.8	1.2	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.1	1.1	1.5	0.7	1.1	1.5	+0.3
	27-30									1.4	0.3	1.7	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.2	0.2	0.9	+0.7
<b>Alcoholic beverages</b>																						
% saying any exposure	18	94.7	94.0	94.0	94.0	94.0	94.0	94.1	93.9	93.1	92.3	93.6	91.7	90.6	91.8	90.0	91.2	91.5	91.4	92.2	91.8	-0.5
	19-22	94.3	93.8	94.5	93.4	94.2	92.7	93.6	94.4	92.5	91.8	92.4	94.0	93.3	92.9	93.7	93.1	93.7	93.1	91.8	91.0	-0.8
	23-26					90.3	92.7	91.4	90.6	91.1	92.9	91.3	91.0	91.4	90.3	89.5	91.9	89.6	93.1	89.1	91.5	+2.4
	27-30									87.1	88.4	86.2	87.7	87.3	86.6	86.2	89.3	89.2	86.4	88.4	88.7	+0.3
% saying often exposed	18	60.2	61.0	59.3	60.2	58.7	59.5	58.0	58.7	56.4	55.5	56.1	54.5	53.1	51.9	54.0	54.0	54.5	53.9	54.5	53.5	-1.0
	19-22	59.6	61.2	62.5	56.6	59.3	61.8	59.9	61.4	55.4	53.8	56.0	53.9	56.1	56.8	57.0	56.3	52.3	54.2	57.9	54.7	-3.2
	23-26					52.1	54.8	51.4	53.0	48.1	50.9	49.7	48.4	45.4	45.4	43.3	47.5	44.8	49.8	44.6	45.7	+1.1
	27-30									39.9	39.5	38.7	38.0	39.9	38.1	39.3	38.0	34.7	37.1	36.6	38.3	+1.7
Approximate Weighted N=	18	3259	3608	3645	3334	3238	3252	3078	3296	3300	2795	2556	2525	2630	2730	2581	2608	2407	2595	2541	2312	
	19-22	582	574	601	569	578	549	591	582	556	567	567	532	528	489	460	464	485	471	445	450	
	23-26					533	532	557	529	531	514	523	494	532	513	471	467	447	424	400	398	
	27-30									522	507	506	478	502	457	425	452	432	455	449	430	

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change and prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

\*These estimates were derived from responses to the questions listed above. For the young adult sample, "any illicit drug" includes all of the drugs listed except cigarettes and alcohol.

**TABLE 7-4**  
**Trends in Reported Availability of Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

Q. How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?	Age Group	Percentage saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get <sup>a</sup>																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
Marijuana	18	89.0	89.2	88.5	86.2	84.6	85.5	85.2	84.8	85.0	84.3	84.4	83.3	82.7	83.0	85.5	88.5	88.7	89.6	90.4	88.9	-1.5
	19-22	95.6	91.1	92.4	89.7	88.3	89.5	87.2	85.9	87.1	87.1	86.2	86.0	87.8	85.6	87.2	87.9	89.3	90.6	89.9	87.4	-2.4
	23-26					92.5	88.8	88.8	90.3	86.9	88.7	83.3	82.5	83.8	84.6	87.1	86.2	85.3	84.4	87.5	85.9	-1.6
	27-30									89.3	86.0	83.1	83.8	80.7	82.8	80.3	83.3	82.6	84.5	82.1	83.0	+1.0
Amyl & Butyl Nitrites	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	23.9	25.9	26.8	24.4	22.7	25.9	25.9	26.7	26.0	23.9	23.8	25.1	21.4	-3.7s
	19-22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.8	26.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
	23-26					NA	NA	NA	23.1	28.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
	27-30									26.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
LSD	18	35.3	35.0	34.2	30.9	30.6	30.5	28.5	31.4	33.3	38.3	40.7	39.5	44.5	49.2	50.8	53.8	51.3	50.7	48.8	44.7	-4.1s
	19-22	39.6	38.4	35.1	31.8	32.7	29.6	30.5	29.9	33.9	36.4	36.6	37.8	42.5	44.9	43.7	50.5	50.8	47.7	51.1	43.8	-7.3s
	23-26					32.7	29.1	30.0	27.5	32.7	32.6	30.2	32.8	33.5	33.4	40.1	41.0	43.6	39.2	40.4	41.2	+0.8
	27-30									29.4	29.9	32.3	27.0	30.9	30.5	27.2	35.6	33.6	35.2	32.9	35.7	+2.8
Some psychedelic other than LSD	18	35.0	32.7	30.6	26.6	26.6	26.1	24.9	25.0	26.2	28.2	28.3	28.0	29.9	33.5	33.8	35.8	33.9	33.9	35.1	29.5	-5.7ss
	19-22	42.1	37.7	33.5	31.0	28.9	28.7	26.3	27.5	28.7	28.1	28.9	26.6	28.3	29.5	28.6	31.5	31.5	33.4	34.1	31.1	-3.0
	23-26					31.8	29.6	26.4	25.6	29.6	28.7	27.0	25.7	27.7	25.3	28.3	29.2	32.6	31.0	32.4	31.5	-0.9
	27-30									28.6	29.6	30.8	24.9	24.8	25.4	24.7	29.3	25.9	28.0	25.2	30.3	+5.0
PCP	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.8	24.9	28.9	27.7	27.6	31.7	31.7	31.4	31.0	30.5	30.0	30.7	26.7	-4.0s
	19-22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21.7	24.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
	23-26					NA	NA	NA	21.2	27.6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
	27-30									24.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
MDMA (Ecstasy)	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21.7	22.0	22.1	24.2	28.1	31.2	34.2	36.9	38.8	38.2	40.1	+1.9	
	19-22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	26.6	24.9	27.1	23.9	27.0	29.3	33.4	35.6	39.4	43.2	+3.8	
	23-26					NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21.4	23.1	26.4	24.0	26.0	27.8	28.7	31.1	30.1	34.9	+4.8	
	27-30									NA	NA	27.1	20.8	22.2	22.8	21.9	27.1	29.3	24.3	26.4	30.0	+3.6
Cocaine	18	47.9	47.5	47.4	43.1	45.0	48.9	51.5	54.2	55.0	58.7	54.5	51.0	52.7	48.5	46.6	47.7	48.1	48.5	51.3	47.6	-3.7s
	19-22	55.7	56.2	57.1	55.2	56.2	56.9	60.4	65.0	64.9	66.8	61.7	54.3	54.5	49.2	49.9	49.4	44.4	49.7	47.7	52.6	+5.0
	23-26					63.7	67.2	65.8	69.0	71.7	70.0	65.6	58.0	61.1	53.8	54.4	54.7	50.2	46.9	51.8	45.7	-6.0
	27-30									68.6	68.2	64.0	60.0	63.1	56.8	53.1	57.0	53.0	50.4	46.9	50.0	+3.1

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 7-4 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Reported Availability of Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

*Q. How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?*

	Age Group	Percentage saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get*																			'98-'99 change	
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
<b>Crack</b>	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	41.1	42.1	47.0	42.4	39.9	43.5	43.6	40.5	41.9	40.7	40.6	43.8	41.1	-2.7
	19-22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	41.9	47.3	47.2	46.9	42.1	42.1	38.4	41.6	40.7	32.9	39.9	40.0	40.8	+0.9
	23-26					NA	NA	NA	44.5	53.0	49.9	46.9	42.0	42.6	42.5	42.4	42.3	37.9	37.2	38.4	35.0	-3.4
	27-30									46.5	46.8	46.8	43.1	45.2	45.8	41.1	44.7	39.9	36.5	33.3	38.8	+5.5
<b>Cocaine powder</b>	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52.9	50.3	53.7	49.0	46.0	48.0	45.4	43.7	43.8	44.4	43.3	45.7	43.7	-2.1
	19-22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	58.7	60.2	61.7	56.5	52.5	48.9	45.7	47.8	45.5	41.3	46.0	47.1	45.2	-2.0
	23-26					NA	NA	NA	64.9	69.1	60.1	58.6	53.2	56.4	50.5	49.7	49.6	45.9	43.6	44.4	44.3	-0.1
	27-30									63.5	62.8	57.9	55.8	56.8	55.0	48.9	52.9	48.4	45.1	43.9	46.5	+2.6
<b>Heroin</b>	18	21.2	19.2	20.8	19.3	19.9	21.0	22.0	23.7	28.0	31.4	31.9	30.6	34.9	33.7	34.1	35.1	32.2	33.8	35.6	32.1	-3.5s
	19-22	18.9	19.4	19.3	16.4	17.2	20.8	21.2	24.4	28.5	31.6	30.7	25.3	30.2	30.0	33.2	35.2	29.1	31.4	32.1	32.7	+0.7
	23-26					18.6	18.1	21.0	22.3	28.4	31.2	28.1	25.6	25.7	25.7	29.2	29.3	32.3	30.5	35.1	31.9	-3.2
	27-30									23.6	27.4	29.5	22.1	25.6	28.5	24.4	30.7	29.5	30.0	28.3	33.0	+4.7
<b>Some other narcotic</b>	18	29.4	29.6	30.4	30.0	32.1	33.1	32.2	33.0	35.8	38.3	38.1	34.6	37.1	37.5	38.0	39.8	40.0	38.9	42.8	40.8	-2.0
	19-22	32.7	32.4	30.8	31.0	28.7	34.3	32.6	33.8	37.9	37.9	35.6	35.4	35.2	33.5	35.1	38.7	37.3	38.3	38.9	39.5	+0.6
	23-26					32.8	32.1	33.6	32.2	35.9	36.4	34.7	33.2	33.9	33.1	35.8	32.6	36.7	35.7	39.9	38.2	-1.7
	27-30									31.6	36.2	36.1	29.0	31.8	33.0	34.8	36.9	37.2	35.2	32.2	36.9	+4.6
<b>Amphetamines</b>	18	61.3	69.5	70.8	68.5	68.2	66.4	64.3	64.5	63.9	64.3	59.7	57.3	58.8	61.5	62.0	62.8	59.4	59.8	60.8	58.1	-2.7
	19-22	71.7	72.6	73.5	69.7	69.1	69.1	63.1	61.8	61.3	62.2	57.7	58.3	56.3	56.0	56.6	60.3	56.9	55.5	56.3	57.6	+1.3
	23-26					65.8	66.0	64.5	65.3	62.2	60.1	55.8	54.8	54.5	52.6	52.9	56.0	52.8	51.2	53.2	49.1	-4.2
	27-30									54.3	58.6	55.3	54.4	50.4	52.9	48.3	53.7	51.7	48.1	41.4	48.2	+6.8s
<b>Crystal meth. (Ice)</b>	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	24.0	24.3	26.0	26.6	25.6	27.0	26.9	27.6	29.8	27.6	-2.1
	19-22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	24.0	21.8	22.5	20.9	24.7	25.5	25.4	29.3	31.0	31.8	+0.7
	23-26					NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22.3	20.0	21.3	22.9	24.5	24.7	24.7	25.8	30.2	28.5	-1.7
	27-30									NA	NA	27.3	19.7	22.0	21.2	21.7	25.8	26.1	25.1	22.6	29.1	+6.5s
<b>Barbiturates</b>	18	49.1	54.9	55.2	52.5	51.9	51.3	48.3	48.2	47.8	48.4	45.9	42.4	44.0	44.5	43.3	42.3	41.4	40.0	40.7	37.9	-2.8
	19-22	59.5	61.1	56.8	54.2	48.1	52.7	46.8	44.6	45.5	47.7	44.2	41.7	43.4	41.9	40.6	42.9	41.1	39.8	39.2	42.3	+3.0
	23-26					52.7	47.7	46.4	45.9	47.4	44.8	41.6	39.6	42.0	38.8	40.3	42.1	40.6	39.1	42.6	39.7	-2.9
	27-30									43.2	44.5	44.2	38.5	37.8	39.7	37.4	39.9	41.2	39.1	33.9	38.4	+4.5

(Table continued on next page)

**TABLE 7-4 (cont.)**  
**Trends in Reported Availability of Drugs**  
**High School Seniors (Age 18) and Young Adults in Modal Age Groups of 19-22, 23-26, and 27-30**  
 (Entries are percentages)

		Percentage saying "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get*																			'98-'99 change		
		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999	
<i>Q. How difficult do you think it would be for you to get each of the following types of drugs, if you wanted some?</i>																							
	Age Group																						
Tranquillizers	18	59.1	60.8	58.9	55.3	54.5	54.7	51.2	48.6	49.1	45.3	44.7	40.8	40.9	41.1	39.2	37.8	36.0	35.4	36.2	32.7	-3.5s	
	19-22	67.4	62.8	62.0	62.3	52.5	55.6	52.9	50.3	50.0	49.4	45.4	44.8	40.7	40.9	41.0	40.2	37.6	37.8	36.8	37.1	+0.3	
	23-26					60.2	54.3	54.1	56.3	52.8	51.4	47.8	45.1	48.1	43.2	45.9	44.3	42.3	36.4	39.4	38.3	-1.2	
	27-30									55.3	54.4	54.9	47.5	47.8	47.4	44.4	44.8	46.2	41.9	39.9	41.5	+1.6	
Steroids	18	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	46.7	46.8	44.8	42.9	45.5	40.3	41.7	44.5	44.6	+0.1	
	19-22	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	44.1	44.8	46.3	41.7	40.9	41.8	40.8	39.2	39.2	40.5	+1.3	
	23-26					NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37.6	35.8	39.3	35.8	37.0	37.4	33.9	35.5	34.9	37.1	+2.2	
	27-30									NA	NA	36.4	30.6	35.0	31.6	30.5	33.1	35.6	32.5	30.5	34.5	+4.0	
<i>Approximate Weighted N=</i>		18	3240	3578	3602	3385	3269	3274	3077	3271	3231	2806	2549	2476	2586	2670	2526	2552	2340	2517	2520	2215	
	19-22	582	601	582	588	559	571	592	581	568	572	571	534	512	480	459	470	467	463	433	425		
	23-26					540	541	548	539	526	514	532	511	523	500	463	449	418	419	395	415		
	27-30									519	513	510	487	475	473	437	446	468	459	425	424		

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

'NA' indicates data not available.

\*Answer alternatives were: (1) Probably impossible, (2) Very difficult, (3) Fairly difficult, (4) Fairly easy, and (5) Very easy.

## Chapter 8

### PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

College students are an important segment of the general population for a number of reasons. For example, they often are the harbingers of social changes that will spread eventually to other segments of the population. This was certainly the case for the epidemic of illicit drug use, which began to evolve in the American population in the late 1960s, and which continues today.

The Monitoring the Future study has generated an excellent annual national sample of college students since 1980. The 1999 survey is the twentieth such survey of this population. (The absence of dropouts in the original high school senior samples should have practically no effect on the college sample, since very few dropouts go on to college.) Perhaps the major limitation of the present design for the purpose of characterizing college students is that it limits the age range of the college sample. For trend estimation purposes, we decided to limit the age band to the most typical one for college attendance, i.e., one to four years past high school, which corresponds to the modal ages of 19 to 22 years old. According to statistics from the United States Bureau of the Census,<sup>29</sup> this age band should encompass about 68% of all undergraduate college students enrolled full-time in 1998, down some from the 79% covered in 1989. Although extending the age band to be covered by an additional two years would cover 78% of all enrolled college students, it would also reduce by two years the interval over which we could report trend data. Some special analyses conducted in 1985 indicated that the differences in *prevalence of use* estimates under the two definitions were extremely small. The annual prevalence of all drugs except cocaine shifted only about one- or two-tenths of a percent, based on comparisons made in 1985. Cocaine, which has the greatest amount of age-related change, would have had an annual prevalence rate only 0.8% higher if the six-year age span were included rather than the four-year age span. A replication of these analyses in 1997 yielded virtually the same results. Thus, for purposes of estimating all prevalence rates except lifetime prevalence, the four-year and six-year intervals are nearly interchangeable.

On the positive side, controlling the age band may be desirable for trend estimation purposes, because it controls for changes in the age composition of college students over the years. Otherwise, college students characterized in one year might represent a noncomparable segment of the larger population when compared to college students surveyed in another year.

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<sup>29</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. Available on Internet: <http://www.census.gov>.

## *Monitoring the Future*

*College students are defined here as those follow-up respondents one to four years past high school who say they were registered as full-time students in a two- or four-year college at the beginning of March in the year in question.* Thus, the definition encompasses only those who are one to four years past high school and are active, full-time undergraduate college students in the year in question. It excludes those who previously may have been college students or may have completed college. Note also that two-year colleges, such as community colleges, are also included.

Prevalence of use rates for college students, and their same-age peers who are also high school graduates, are provided in Tables 8-1 to 8-5. Having statistics for both groups makes it possible to see whether college students are above or below their age peers in terms of their usage rates. The college-enrolled sample now constitutes over half (58%) of the entire follow-up sample one to four years past high school. The differences reported here pertain to differences between those who are in college versus those who are not, *among high school graduates*. If data from the missing high school dropout segment were available for inclusion as part of the noncollege segment, any difference between the two groups likely would be enlarged; therefore, any differences observed here are only an indication of the direction and relative size of differences between the college and the *entire* noncollege-enrolled population, not an absolute estimate of them.

### **PREVALENCE OF DRUG USE: COLLEGE STUDENTS VERSUS THOSE NOT IN COLLEGE**

- For all drugs except alcohol and MDMA, lifetime prevalence of use among college students is lower than among their age peers, but the degree of difference varies considerably by drug, as Table 8-1 shows. However, there is much less difference between the two groups on annual or 30-day prevalence of use rates. (See tables 8-2 and 8-3.)
- There is no difference between those enrolled in college versus their fellow high school graduates who are one to four years past high school in their annual prevalence of an overall index of *any illicit drug* use (both are at 37%) or in *inhalant* use (both are at 3.2%). However, college students are lower in their annual prevalence of *any illicit drug other than marijuana* (15% versus 18%). In fact, the current annual prevalence of most specific illicit drugs other than marijuana is lower among college students than among their age peers not in college. The major exceptions occur for *marijuana* and *MDMA*.
- Annual *marijuana* use is very slightly higher among college students than among high school graduates of the same age (35% versus 34%). However, their rate of

## Chapter 8 Prevalence of Drug Use Among College Students

current *daily marijuana* use is lower (4.0% versus 7.3%). (See Table 8-4 for the prevalence of current daily use.)

- The annual prevalence of *MDMA (ecstasy)* use is now somewhat higher among college students (5.5%) than among their noncollege-student peers (3.9%).
- Among those drugs for which annual prevalence is higher among the noncollege group, *cocaine* and *crack* show the largest absolute difference in annual prevalence: 4.6% for college students versus 7.1% for those not in college for cocaine and 0.9% versus 3.1%, respectively, for crack.
- The next largest absolute difference occurs for *LSD*, with 5.4% of the college students versus 7.2% of the others reporting use in the past year, followed by *amphetamines* at 5.8% versus 7.3%, *narcotics other than heroin* at 4.3% versus 5.7%, *ice* at 0.5% versus 1.9%, and *barbiturates* at 3.2% versus 4.6%.
- Annual use of *hallucinogens* is slightly less prevalent among college students than among their noncollege-aged peers, at 7.8% versus 8.6%, respectively.
- In 1999, use of *heroin* in the past year among college students was lower than among those respondents not in college (0.2% versus 0.9%).
- *Tranquilizers* also were used by slightly fewer college students (3.8% annual prevalence) than 19–22-year-olds not in college full-time (4.5%) in 1999.
- In 1999, college students had higher prevalences of *alcohol* use than their age peers for lifetime, annual, and monthly use (88% versus 87% for lifetime, 84% versus 81% for annual, and 70% versus 60% for monthly).

They also had a higher prevalence of *occasions of heavy drinking* (five or more drinks in a row in the past two weeks), which was 40% among college students versus 35% among their age peers. In sum, college students were more likely to engage in occasional heavy drinking, most of it probably on the weekend, but they had a slightly lower rate of daily drinking (4.5%) than their age peers (5.5%).

- Among all substances studied, both licit and illicit, the largest absolute difference between the two groups occurs for *cigarette smoking*. For example, the college student prevalence of daily smoking is “only” 19% versus 32% for high school graduates the same age who are currently not full-time college students. Smoking at the rate of a half-pack per day stands at 11% versus 23% for these two groups, respectively. Recall that the high school senior data show the college-bound to have much lower smoking rates in high school than the noncollege-bound; thus,



these substantial differences observed at college age actually preceded college attendance.<sup>30</sup> The smoking differences would be even greater if dropouts were included in the noncollege groups, since they have an exceptionally high rate of smoking.

## **GENDER DIFFERENCES IN PREVALENCE OF USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Tabular data are provided separately in Tables 8-1 to 8-5 for male and female college students and their same-age peers.

- Most of the gender differences among college students replicate those discussed earlier for all young adults one to fourteen years past high school, and they in turn replicate gender differences among secondary school students for the most part. That means that among college students, males have higher annual prevalence rates for most of the illicit drugs. The rates for use of *any illicit drug* are 43% versus 33%, for *any illicit drug other than marijuana*, 19% versus 13%, and for *marijuana*, 41% versus 31%. Large gender differences occur for *hallucinogens* (11% for males versus 6% for females) and *LSD* specifically (8% versus 4%).
- *Daily marijuana* use is considerably higher among male college students (6%) than among females (3%).
- The annual prevalence of use rate for *alcohol* is similar for male and female college students (85% versus 83%, respectively), but the 30-day rate is somewhat higher among males (73% versus 67%). Males are much higher on *daily drinking* (6% versus 3%) and *occasional heavy drinking* as defined here (50% versus 34%).

Male college students also have higher rates of *occasional heavy drinking* (50%) compared to their male counterparts who are not in college (44%). This difference occurs also for females (34% and 28%, respectively).

- *Cigarette smoking* is one substance-using behavior that, in the past, reflected a gender difference among college students that was different than the one observed among their counterparts not in college. While the noncollege segment of this age group generally has shown a slightly higher rate of smoking among males than among females (e.g., in 1999, 25% of noncollege males smoked a half-pack or more per day compared to 23% of noncollege females), college women were as

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<sup>30</sup>See also Bachman, J. G., Wadsworth, K. N., O'Malley, P. M., Johnston, L. D., & Schulenberg, J. (1997). *Smoking, drinking, and drug use in young adulthood: The impacts of new freedoms and new responsibilities*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

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likely to be daily smokers as college men. This continued to be true in 1999; for monthly cigarette use, male and female college students have similar rates (32% versus 29%, respectively). There is now a larger difference between male and female college students in their prevalence of half-pack-a-day smoking (12% versus 10%, respectively), although this generally was not the case prior to 1998.

- For a number of drugs in which college students have lower annual prevalence overall, those overall differences are caused largely or exclusively by the differences between college and noncollege males. (Put another way, the females from these two groups are not nearly as different in their use of these drugs as are the males. See Table 8-2.) These drugs include *marijuana*, *hallucinogens*, *LSD* specifically, *barbiturates*, and *heroin*.
- On the other hand, it is the noncollege females who account for the overall college versus noncollege differences in the use of *tranquilizers*. (Tranquilizer use is quite low among female college students.)

In sum, while the noncollege segment is generally more drug experienced than the college student segment, their differences on annual prevalence (a measure of more recent use) tend to be smaller. In fact, annual prevalence rates are actually higher for some drugs among the college students.

**TABLE 8-1**  
**Lifetime Prevalence of Use for Various Types of Drugs, 1999:**  
**Full-Time College Students vs. Others**  
**Among Respondents 1-4 Years Beyond High School**  
(Entries are percentages)

	Total		Males		Females	
	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	53.2	61.5	58.4	61.9	49.6	61.3
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup> Other than Marijuana	25.5	32.9	29.4	33.4	22.8	32.5
Marijuana	50.8	58.7	56.2	60.8	47.1	57.2
Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>	12.4	14.9	16.3	19.2	9.9	11.5
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>	14.8	19.8	18.3	23.8	12.5	16.9
LSD	12.7	18.4	16.1	21.6	10.4	16.1
Cocaine	8.4	13.6	9.4	15.9	7.7	11.9
Crack	2.4	6.8	2.3	7.7	2.4	6.2
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>d</sup>	8.4	7.1	8.4	6.9	8.3	7.3
Heroin	0.9	2.7	0.9	4.1	0.8	1.8
Other Narcotics <sup>e</sup>	8.7	10.5	11.6	13.3	6.8	8.5
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>e,f</sup>	11.9	16.1	13.9	16.1	10.5	16.1
Ice <sup>d</sup>	2.8	4.5	3.9	5.5	1.9	3.7
Barbiturates <sup>f</sup>	6.7	9.1	7.5	10.2	6.2	8.3
Tranquilizers <sup>c</sup>	8.2	10.0	10.4	10.5	6.7	9.5
Alcohol	88.0	87.4	88.8	88.1	87.5	86.9
Cigarettes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Approximate Weighted N =</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1060</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>610</i>

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in three of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 for college students is approximately 720.

<sup>c</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 for college students is approximately 480.

<sup>e</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>f</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

**TABLE 8-2**  
**Annual Prevalence of Use for Various Types of Drugs, 1999:**  
**Full-Time College Students vs. Others**  
**Among Respondents 1-4 Years Beyond High School**  
(Entries are percentages)

	Total		Males		Females	
	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	36.9	36.6	42.5	37.4	33.2	36.0
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup> Other than Marijuana	15.4	17.8	19.0	20.5	12.8	15.9
Marijuana	35.2	34.0	40.8	35.3	31.3	33.1
Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>	3.2	3.2	3.8	3.9	2.9	2.7
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>	7.8	8.6	10.5	12.3	6.0	5.8
LSD	5.4	7.2	7.5	10.7	3.9	4.7
Cocaine	4.6	7.1	5.7	8.4	3.8	6.2
Crack	0.9	3.1	1.2	3.5	0.7	2.7
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>d</sup>	5.5	3.9	6.3	3.5	4.9	4.2
Heroin	0.2	0.9	0.2	1.4	0.3	0.5
Other Narcotics <sup>c</sup>	4.3	5.7	6.3	7.8	3.0	4.2
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>e,f</sup>	5.8	7.3	7.5	7.9	4.7	6.9
Ice <sup>d</sup>	0.5	1.9	0.9	1.7	0.1	2.1
Barbiturates <sup>c</sup>	3.2	4.6	3.3	6.1	3.1	3.5
Tranquilizers <sup>c</sup>	3.8	4.5	5.3	5.3	2.8	3.9
Alcohol	83.6	81.3	84.5	83.2	82.9	79.9
Cigarettes	44.5	50.1	46.0	49.7	43.4	50.4
<i>Approximate Weighted N =</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1060</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>610</i>

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in three of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 for college students is approximately 720.

<sup>c</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 for college students is approximately 480.

<sup>e</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>f</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

**TABLE 8-3**  
**Thirty-Day Prevalence of Use for Various Types of Drugs, 1999:**  
**Full-Time College Students vs. Others**  
**Among Respondents 1-4 Years Beyond High School**  
(Entries are percentages)

	Total		Males		Females	
	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	21.6	21.7	26.7	21.9	18.1	21.6
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup> Other than Marijuana	6.4	8.4	7.5	10.0	5.6	7.3
Marijuana	20.7	20.0	26.1	20.9	16.9	19.3
Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>	2.0	2.4	2.6	4.0	1.6	1.3
LSD	1.2	1.8	1.4	2.9	1.0	1.0
Cocaine	1.2	3.0	1.5	4.0	1.0	2.2
Crack	0.3	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.3	1.0
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>d</sup>	2.1	0.6	2.7	0.4	1.7	0.8
Heroin	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.3
Other Narcotics <sup>e</sup>	1.0	1.9	1.6	2.3	0.6	1.7
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>e,f</sup>	2.3	3.0	2.7	3.1	2.1	3.0
Ice <sup>d</sup>	0.0	1.1	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.9
Barbiturates <sup>f</sup>	1.1	2.3	1.1	3.3	1.0	1.7
Tranquilizers <sup>f</sup>	1.1	1.9	1.3	1.8	0.8	2.0
Alcohol	69.6	60.4	73.0	65.3	67.2	56.8
Cigarettes	30.6	40.3	32.4	42.1	29.4	39.0
<i>Approximate Weighted N =</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1060</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>610</i>

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in three of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 for college students is approximately 720.

<sup>c</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 for college students is approximately 480.

<sup>e</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>f</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

**TABLE 8-4**  
**Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use for Various Types of Drugs, 1999:**  
**Full-Time College Students vs. Others**  
**Among Respondents 1-4 Years Beyond High School**  
 (Entries are percentages)

	Total		Males		Females	
	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others	Full-time College	Others
Marijuana	4.0	7.3	5.9	9.3	2.7	5.8
Cocaine	0.0	*	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines, Adjusted <sup>a,b</sup>	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3
Alcohol						
Daily	4.5	5.5	6.1	8.1	3.4	3.6
5+ drinks in a row in past 2 weeks	40.0	34.6	49.5	43.6	33.5	28.0
Cigarettes						
Daily	19.3	32.4	19.5	32.1	19.1	32.6
Half-pack or more per day	11.0	23.4	12.4	24.5	10.0	22.6
<i>Approximate Weighted N =</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1060</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>610</i>

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

\* indicates a prevalence rate of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero.

<sup>a</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

**TABLE 8-5**  
**Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence of an Illicit Drug Use Index," 1999:**  
**Full-Time College Students vs. Others**  
**Among Respondents 1-4 Years Beyond High School**  
(Entries are percentages)

	<u>Total</u>		<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Full-time College</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Full-time College</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Full-time College</u>	<u>Others</u>
<u>Percentage Reporting Use in Lifetime</u>						
Any Illicit Drug	53.2	61.5	58.4	61.9	49.6	61.3
Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana	25.5	32.9	29.4	33.4	22.8	32.5
<u>Percentage Reporting Use in Last Twelve Months</u>						
Any Illicit Drug	36.9	36.6	42.5	37.4	33.2	36.0
Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana	15.4	17.8	19.0	20.5	12.8	15.9
<u>Percentage Reporting Use in Last Thirty Days</u>						
Any Illicit Drug	21.6	21.7	26.7	21.9	18.1	21.6
Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana	6.4	8.4	7.5	10.0	5.6	7.3
<i>Approximate Weighted N =</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1060</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>610</i>

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

## Chapter 9

### TRENDS IN DRUG USE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

Beginning in the mid-1960s, illicit drug use increased dramatically among American college students, then spread quickly to their noncollege-aged peers, and eventually down the age spectrum to high school students, and even to middle school students. College students were thus the leading edge of social change in illicit drug use. As we shall see in this chapter, that role seems to have shifted to secondary school students in recent times, as the “relapse” of the epidemic in the 1990s radiated up the age spectrum from early adolescence.

In this chapter we continue to use the same definition of college students described in Chapter 8: high school graduates one to four years past high school who are enrolled full-time in a two-year or four-year college at the beginning of March in the year in question. For comparison purposes, trend data are provided on the remaining follow-up respondents who are also one to four years past high school. (See Figures 9-1 through 9-14.) Because the rate of college enrollment declines steadily with number of years beyond high school, the comparison group is slightly older on the average than the college-enrolled group. It is also worth noting that the proportion of young adult high school graduates one to four years beyond high school who are enrolled full-time in college has increased considerably over the past twenty surveys. In 1999, about 58% of the weighted number of respondents met our definition of college students, compared with only 38% in the 1980 survey.

The reader is reminded that the difference between the enrolled group and the other group shows the degree to which college students are above or below average for other high school *graduates* in this age band. Were we able to include the high school dropout segment in the calculation for the noncollege group, many differences with the college-enrolled likely would be accentuated.

For each year given, there are approximately 1,100-1,500 weighted respondents constituting the college student sample (see Table 9-5 for N's per year) and roughly 1,000-1,700 respondents constituting the “other” group one to four years past high school. Comparisons of the trends for these two groups are provided in this chapter. Because it was not until 1980 that enough follow-up years had accrued to characterize young people one to four years past high school, the comparisons begin with that year.



## **TRENDS IN PREVALENCE 1980-1999: COLLEGE STUDENTS VERSUS THOSE NOT IN COLLEGE**

- The proportion of college students using *any illicit drug* in the twelve months prior to the survey (i.e., the annual prevalence rate) dropped fairly steadily between 1980 and 1991 (from 56% to 29%). (See Table 9-2.) In other words, illicit drug use fell by nearly half over the 11-year period 1980-1991. After 1991, annual (and also 30-day) prevalence held fairly steady for a couple of years before beginning to rise, reaching 38% in 1998. There was no further rise evident in 1999.
- Their noncollege peers moved similarly across that 18-year interval. High school seniors also showed a similar trajectory in the decline phase through 1991, but the rise in use after that was distinctly sharper among high school seniors, as Figure 9-1 illustrates. All three groups showed a leveling in 1999.
- Use of *any illicit drugs other than marijuana* declined fairly steadily among college students between 1980 and 1994, with annual prevalence dropping by nearly two-thirds from 32% to 12% (Table 9-2). This generally paralleled the trend for the noncollege group as well as for high school seniors. All three groups showed some increase in use during the 1990s—the high school seniors after 1992, the noncollege group after 1993, and the college students after 1994. However, the rise in use of illicit drugs other than marijuana was not as sharp among college students as it was in either of the two other groups (Figure 9-2). In 1999 there may have been some continuation of the increase among both the college students and the high school seniors, though neither increase was significant.
- In general, among those enrolled in college, the trends during the 1980s for most individual classes of illicit drugs tended to parallel those for the noncollege group, and those observed among seniors. During the 1990s, however, there was more divergence in the trends, with the college students usually showing less increase than the high school seniors and, for some drugs, less increase than their age peers not in college.
- The annual prevalence of *marijuana* use among college students decreased steadily from 1981 through 1991, dropping by nearly half from 51% to 27% (Figure 9-3a). Their noncollege peers showed a comparable decline over the same time interval (Figure 9-3a). Use then remained fairly stable among college students and their age peers before starting to rise in 1995 or 1996. From 1991 through 1998, annual prevalence rose by nearly 10 percentage points among college students, by 7 percentage points among other young adults, and by 14

## Chapter 9 Trends in Drug Use Among College Students

percentage points among twelfth graders. College students showed no further increase in marijuana use in 1999.

- **Daily marijuana** use among college students (Figure 9-3b) fell significantly between 1980 and 1986, from 7.2% to 2.1%, as it did for those not in college and among high school seniors. (The latter two groups were able to show sharper declines because they started higher than the college students in 1980.) After 1986, the decline decelerated, and by 1991 the rate stood at 1.8%. In sum, the proportion of American college students who actively smoked marijuana on a daily basis dropped by about three-fourths between 1980 and 1991. Daily use then leveled until 1994 and began increasing thereafter, reaching 4% in 1998, where it remained in 1999. The other two groups showed considerably larger increases after 1993 than did college students, and their daily use rates leveled after 1997.
- An appreciable and ongoing decline occurred for **amphetamine** use between 1981 and 1991 (Figure 9-10). Annual prevalence among college students dropped by more than eight-tenths, from 22% in 1981 to 4% in 1991. Proportionately, this was a larger drop than among high school seniors but fairly parallel to the overall change among age peers not in college. Use among college students and their noncollege-aged peers leveled for a year before beginning to increase in both groups after 1992 and 1993, respectively, but after some rise, use among both groups leveled off after 1995. Over the years, those not in college consistently have reported a higher rate of amphetamine use than the college students, and since the mid-1980s high school seniors have reported higher rates still.
- During the early 1980s, one of the largest proportional declines observed among college students was for **LSD** (see Figure 9-6). Annual prevalence fell from 6.3% in 1982 to 2.2% in 1985. After 1985, use began to increase, reaching 5.7% by 1992. Since then use has remained fairly level, while use among young adults not in college and high school seniors showed a considerable increase between 1993 and 1996. For whatever reason, college students did not show the same resurgence in LSD use in the mid-1990s that other young people did. By 1998, use among all these groups had begun to show some decline, though none of them showed a decline in 1999.
- When our college data were first available in 1980, **barbiturate** use (Figure 9-11) already was quite low among college students (at 2.9% annual prevalence), but it fell by more than half to 1.3% by 1985. This proportional decline was, once again, sharper than among high school students and less sharp than among the young adults not in college, both of whom started at a higher level of use. Annual

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prevalence remained essentially unchanged between 1985 and 1993 among all three groups (see Figure 9-11). The groups then showed some increase in use between 1993 (or 1994 in the case of the college students) and 1997—an increase that has continued among the seniors but not among college students and their age peers, both of whom have remained essentially level in use since 1997.

- Figure 9-12 shows that the annual prevalence of *tranquilizer* use among college students dropped by half in the period 1980-1984, from 6.9% to 3.5%, and again fell by half between 1984 and 1994, to 1.8%.<sup>31</sup> After this long period of decline, tranquilizer use began to increase, reaching 3.9% in 1998. Use in the noncollege segment dropped more sharply in the early 1980s, reducing the differences among the three groups. Tranquilizer use also dropped steadily among seniors, from 10.8% in 1977 to 2.8% in 1992, before rising to 5.8% by 1999.
- In 1994, the use of *narcotics other than heroin* (Figure 9-9) by college students was about half what it was in 1980 (2.4% in 1994 versus 5.1% in 1980) as a result of a gradual decline over the interval. This trend closely parallels use among noncollege young adults and high school seniors. As with a number of other drugs, use among seniors began to rise after 1992, but use among college students did not begin to increase until after 1994. College student annual prevalence reached 4.2% by 1997, before leveling.
- Like the high school seniors, college students showed a relatively stable pattern of *cocaine* use between 1980 and 1986, followed by a substantial decline in annual prevalence from 17% in 1986 to 2% in 1994—a dramatic drop of nearly nine-tenths (see Figure 9-8). Their noncollege counterparts also showed a large decline from 19% in 1986 to 5.1% in 1994. Use among college students dropped more sharply than among their age peers or among high school seniors, however, resulting in little or no difference between high school seniors and college students in annual prevalence rates for cocaine between 1990 and 1995. Since then, cocaine use rose least among the college students, once again opening a gap. Between 1994 and 1998 annual cocaine prevalence for college students increased significantly, from a 14-year low of 2.0% in 1994 to 4.5% in 1998, where it stayed in 1999. High school seniors and noncollege students also exhibited an increase in annual prevalence of cocaine use after 1992 and 1993, respectively, though use leveled among the noncollege group by 1998.
- College students have shown some shifts in *alcohol* use that are different from those observed either among their age peers not in college or among high school

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<sup>31</sup>The use of barbiturates and tranquilizers very likely dropped during the latter half of the 1970s, as well, judging by the trends among high school seniors.

## Chapter 9 Trends in Drug Use Among College Students

seniors. As can be seen in Figure 9-13d, both the noncollege segment and the high school seniors showed fairly substantial declines from 1981 through 1990 in the prevalence of having *five or more drinks in a row* during the two weeks prior to the survey. (The seniors then showed further decline for three more years.) In contrast, the college students showed no decline in binge drinking from 1981 to 1986, and then only a modest decline of 5 percentage points from 1986 through 1993. Between 1981 (when all three populations were very close in use) and 1992, this measure of heavy drinking dropped by 14 percentage points for high school seniors, by 11 percentage points for the noncollege 19-to 22-year-olds, but by only 2 percentage points among college students. Since 1992 there has been no further divergence between college students and the other two groups and, if anything, some convergence as binge drinking held fairly steady among college students but rose some among their age peers and among twelfth graders.

It is interesting to conjecture why college students did not show much decline in heavy drinking for a decade (1981-1991) while their noncollege peers and high school seniors did. One possibility is that campuses provided some insulation to the effects of changes in the drinking age laws. Also, in college, individuals who are under the legal drinking age are mixed in with peers who are of legal age to purchase alcohol in a way that is no longer true in high schools and less true, perhaps, for those 19 to 22 who are not in college. Finally, much alcohol advertising is directed at the college student population.

On the other hand, college students generally have had slightly lower rates of *daily drinking* than their age group taken as a whole, though by the early 1990s such differences nearly disappeared (Figure 9-13c). Daily drinking among the young adults (1-4 years past high school) not enrolled in college declined from 8.7% in 1981 to 6.5% in 1984, remained essentially unchanged through 1988, declined further (to 3.2% by 1994), and has since increased to 5.5% in 1999. The daily drinking estimates for college students—which appear a little less stable, perhaps due to smaller sample sizes in the 1980s—showed little or no decline between 1980 (6.5%) and 1984 (6.6%) but a considerable decline through 1995 to 3.0%, followed by some increase in the mid-1990s to 4.5% in 1997 (where the rate remains in 1999). High school seniors also showed a similar pattern of daily drinking with a long period of decline, followed by a somewhat earlier reversal, beginning in 1994.

- *Cigarette smoking* among American college students (Figure 9-14a) declined modestly in the first half of the 1980s. Thirty-day prevalence fell from 26% to 22% between 1980 and 1985, remained fairly stable through 1990 (22%), then increased gradually but substantially, reaching 31% in 1999.

The *daily smoking* rate (Figure 9-14b) fell from 18.3% in 1980 to 12.7% in 1986 as the cohorts who had lower initiation rates by senior year replaced the earlier, heavier smoking cohorts. It remained fairly level through 1990 (12.1%) but by 1999 rose to 19%, the highest level of smoking we have recorded among American college students since we began tracking them in 1980. (The 1999 30-day prevalence rate is also the highest we have recorded.)

While the rates of smoking consistently have been lower among college students than among those the same age who were not in college, the trends for these two groups diverged some after 1984, as smoking rates stabilized among college students but continued to decline among young adults not in college (Figure 9-14a). In fact, between 1989 and 1991 use began to rise among college students while continuing to decline among their peers. Both groups have shown a fairly parallel increase in smoking since about 1991—one which continued into 1999. High school seniors exhibited an increase from 1992 to 1997. The popularity of Camel cigarettes among the college-bound, which we have reported elsewhere, may help to explain some of the narrowing of the gap between college students and their age peers.<sup>32</sup> The Joe Camel advertising and promotion campaign, commenced in the late 1980s, may have succeeded in initiating more college students to smoking than had been the case previously.

- For many drugs (*stimulants, barbiturates, and tranquilizers*), differences between college students and their noncollege-aged peers narrowed over the years. Much of this is due to overall declines in usage rates generally during the 1980s, but some may also reflect the increasing proportion of the age group going to college.

The overall drug use trends among college students also are parallel, for the most part, to the trends among high school seniors, although declines in many drugs over the decade of 1980 to 1990 were proportionately larger among college students, and for that matter among all young adults of college age, than among high school seniors. Despite parallel trends to the early 1990s, the high school seniors have shown a larger, and often earlier increase in the use of a number of drugs in the years since; and as indicated in Volume I, the eighth and tenth graders in secondary school showed increases a year earlier than the seniors. It is clear that this most recent upsurge or “relapse phase” in the illicit drug epidemic did not originate on the nation’s campuses, as did the original epidemic. It originated among secondary school children, and the younger ones at that, and has been carried up the age spectrum—at least in part—through generational replacement. Put another way, there is evidence of some cohort effects at work.

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<sup>32</sup> Johnston, L. D., O’Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (1999). *Cigarette brand preferences among adolescents*. (Monitoring the Future Occasional Paper 45.) Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research.

## GENDER DIFFERENCES IN TRENDS AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS

One trend that is not obvious from the figures included here is the slow rise in the proportion of female college students. Females constituted 50% of our 1980 sample of college students compared to 59% of our 1999 sample. Given that substantial gender differences exist in the use of some drugs, we have been concerned all along that apparent long-term trends in the levels of drug use among college students might actually be attributable to changes in the gender composition of that population. For that reason, in particular, we have consistently presented separate trend lines for the male and female segments of the college student population. Differences in the trends observed for these two groups are illustrated in the lower panels of Figures 9-1 through 9-14 and are discussed below.

In general, trends in the use of the various drugs, and in the overall drug use indexes, have been highly parallel for male and female college students, as an examination of the relevant figures will show. The most noteworthy exceptions are mentioned below.

- Certain drug use measures showed a convergence of usage levels between the genders, mainly because they were converging toward zero. *Daily marijuana* use is one such example, with the decline among males between 1980 and 1986 narrowing the gap between the genders. Between 1986 and 1993 there was no further narrowing; but as use began to rise in the mid-1990s, a greater increase among males widened the gap. In 1999, the rates were 5.9% versus 2.7% for male and female college students, respectively. (See Figure 9-3b.)
- After 1986, *cocaine* use dropped more steeply for males than for females in general, and among male college students in particular, considerably narrowing the sizable gap between the genders (see Figure 9-8). Since 1991 both genders moved pretty much in parallel, with males reporting somewhat higher usage rates (5.7% versus 3.8% for females in 1999).
- Like a number of other drugs, *methaqualone* also showed a convergence in use through 1989, with use among males declining more than among females (no figure given).
- *Amphetamine* use (Figure 9-10) also showed some convergence in the early 1980s due to a greater decline among males. In fact, male and female college student use has been essentially equal since 1989.
- The annual prevalence of *alcohol* use has been virtually identical for the two genders throughout the duration of the study (Figure 9-13a), but college males have consistently had higher rates of *daily drinking* and *binge drinking* (Figures

9-13b and 9-13c). From 1988 through 1994, binge drinking among college females decreased slightly (from 37% to 31%); but heavy drinking among college males has declined more, from a high point in 1986 of 58% to a low of 47% in 1995 (see Figure 9-13c). There is a more recent indication of some increase in binge drinking among college males from 1995 through 1998 (though it did not continue in 1999) but not among females.

- Between 1980 and 1992, the 30-day prevalence of *cigarette smoking* was consistently higher among college females than males, despite decreases for both genders during the first half of the decade and increases for both genders from 1989 to 1993 (Figures 9-14a, 9-14b, and 9-14c). However, the gap in 30-day prevalence narrowed, because use by female college students declined some between 1980 and 1989, while use by male college students did not. After 1989, the gap remained quite small and the genders reversed position, with males catching up to, and passing, females in their rate of smoking by 1994. (A similar reversal occurred among seniors a few years earlier.) In 1999, 32% of college males reported smoking in the prior 30 days versus 29% of the college females.

While the rise in smoking among college students has been longer-term and more gradual than in the other two groups, it nevertheless has been substantial, rising by nearly half between 1989 (21%) and 1999 (31%). Note also that the increase in smoking since 1988 has been sharper among college males than among college females, consistent with the notion that Camel cigarettes may have played a role in the overall increase. (Camels are more popular among males.)

**TABLE 9-1**  
**Trends in Lifetime Prevalence of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among College Students 1-4 Years Beyond High School**

	Percentage who used in lifetime																			'98-'99 change	
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
<i>Approx. Wtd. N =</i>	1040	1130	1150	1170	1110	1080	1190	1220	1310	1300	1400	1410	1490	1490	1410	1450	1450	1480	1440	1440	
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	69.4	66.8	64.6	66.9	62.7	65.2	61.8	60.0	58.4	55.6	54.0	50.4	48.8	45.9	45.5	45.5	47.4	49.0	52.9	53.2	+0.3
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>																					
Other than Marijuana	42.2	41.3	39.6	41.7	38.6	40.0	37.5	35.7	33.4	30.5	28.4	25.8	26.1	24.3	22.0	24.5	22.7	24.4	24.8	25.5	+0.7
Marijuana	65.0	63.3	60.5	63.1	59.0	60.6	57.9	55.8	54.3	51.3	49.1	46.3	44.1	42.0	42.2	41.7	45.1	46.1	49.9	50.8	+0.9
Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>	10.2	8.8	10.6	11.0	10.4	10.6	11.0	13.2	12.6	15.0	13.9	14.4	14.2	14.8	12.0	13.8	11.4	12.4	12.8	12.4	-0.4
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>	15.0	12.0	15.0	12.2	12.9	11.4	11.2	10.9	10.2	10.7	11.2	11.3	12.0	11.8	10.0	13.0	12.6	13.8	15.2	14.8	-0.4
LSD	10.3	8.5	11.5	8.8	9.4	7.4	7.7	8.0	7.5	7.8	9.1	9.6	10.6	10.6	9.2	11.5	10.8	11.7	13.1	12.7	-0.5
Cocaine	22.0	21.5	22.4	23.1	21.7	22.9	23.3	20.6	15.8	14.6	11.4	9.4	7.9	6.3	5.0	5.5	5.0	5.6	8.1	8.4	+0.3
Crack <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.3	3.4	2.4	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.2	1.4	2.2	2.4	+0.2
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>e</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.8	3.9	2.0	2.9	2.3	2.1	3.1	4.3	4.6	6.8	8.4	+1.5
Heroin	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.7	0.9	-0.8s
Other Narcotics <sup>f</sup>	8.9	8.3	8.1	8.4	8.9	6.3	8.8	7.6	6.3	7.6	6.8	7.3	7.3	6.2	5.1	7.2	5.7	8.2	8.7	8.7	+0.1
Amphetamines <sup>g</sup>	29.5	29.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Amphetamines, Adj. <sup>h,g</sup>	NA	NA	30.1	27.8	27.8	25.4	22.3	19.8	17.7	14.6	13.2	13.0	10.5	10.1	9.2	10.7	9.5	10.6	10.6	11.9	+1.3
Crystal meth. (Ice) <sup>h</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.0	1.3	0.6	1.6	1.3	1.0	0.8	1.6	2.2	2.8	+0.5
Sedatives <sup>i</sup>	13.7	14.2	14.1	12.2	10.8	9.3	8.0	6.1	4.7	4.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Barbiturates <sup>i</sup>	8.1	7.8	8.2	6.6	6.4	4.9	5.4	3.5	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.2	4.0	4.6	5.2	5.7	6.7	+1.0
Methaqualone <sup>i</sup>	10.3	10.4	11.1	9.2	9.0	7.2	5.8	4.1	2.2	2.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Tranquilizers <sup>i</sup>	15.2	11.4	11.7	10.8	10.8	9.8	10.7	8.7	8.0	8.0	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.3	4.4	5.4	5.4	6.9	7.7	8.2	+0.5
Alcohol <sup>j</sup>	94.3	95.2	95.2	95.0	94.2	95.3	94.9	94.1	94.9	93.7	93.1	93.6	91.8	89.3	88.2	88.5	88.4	87.3	88.5	88.0	-0.5
Cigarettes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: s = .05, as = .01, sss = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding. 'NA' indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>"Any illicit drug" includes use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone (until 1990), or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in four of the five questionnaire forms in 1980-1989, in five of the six forms in 1990-1998, and in three of the six forms in 1999. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 720.

<sup>c</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1987-1989, and in all six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999.

<sup>e</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1989, and in two of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 480.

<sup>f</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>g</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

<sup>h</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 480.

<sup>i</sup>In 1993 and 1994, the question text was changed slightly in three of the six questionnaire forms to indicate that a "drink" meant "more than just a few sips." Because this revision resulted in rather little change in reported prevalence in the surveys of high school graduates, the data for all forms combined are used in order to provide the most reliable estimate of change. After 1994, the new question text was used in all six of the questionnaire forms.



**TABLE 9-2**  
**Trends in Annual Prevalence of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among College Students 1-4 Years Beyond High School**

	Percentage who used in past year																			'98-'99 change	
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998		1999
<i>Approx. Wtd. N =</i>	1040	1130	1150	1170	1110	1080	1190	1220	1310	1300	1400	1410	1490	1490	1410	1450	1450	1480	1440	1440	
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	56.2	55.0	49.5	49.8	45.1	46.3	45.0	40.1	37.4	36.7	33.3	29.2	30.6	30.6	31.4	33.5	34.2	34.1	37.8	36.9	-0.9
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>																					
Other than Marijuana	32.3	31.7	29.9	29.9	27.2	26.7	25.0	21.3	19.2	16.4	15.2	13.2	13.1	12.5	12.2	15.9	12.8	15.8	14.0	15.4	+1.3
Marijuana	51.2	51.3	44.7	45.2	40.7	41.7	40.9	37.0	34.6	33.6	29.4	26.5	27.7	27.9	29.3	31.2	33.1	31.6	35.9	35.2	-0.7
Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.4	3.1	3.9	3.7	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.1	3.8	3.0	3.9	3.6	4.1	3.0	3.2	+0.2
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>	8.5	7.0	8.7	6.5	6.2	5.0	6.0	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.4	6.3	6.8	6.0	6.2	8.2	6.9	7.7	7.2	7.8	+0.7
LSD	6.0	4.6	6.3	4.3	3.7	2.2	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.4	4.3	5.1	5.7	5.1	5.2	6.9	5.2	5.0	4.4	5.4	+1.0
Cocaine	16.8	16.0	17.2	17.3	16.3	17.3	17.1	13.7	10.0	8.2	5.6	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.6	2.9	3.4	4.6	4.6	0.0
Crack <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1.3	2.0	1.4	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.9	-0.1
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>e</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.3	2.3	0.9	2.0	0.8	0.5	2.4	2.8	2.4	3.9	5.5	+1.6
Heroin	0.4	0.2	0.1	*	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.2	-0.4
Other Narcotics <sup>f</sup>	5.1	4.3	3.8	3.8	3.8	2.4	4.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.4	3.8	3.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	+0.1
Amphetamines <sup>f</sup>	22.4	22.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Amphetamines, Adj. <sup>g,h</sup>	NA	NA	21.1	17.3	15.7	11.9	10.3	7.2	6.2	4.6	4.5	3.9	3.6	4.2	4.2	5.4	4.2	5.7	5.1	5.8	+0.8
Crystal meth. (Ice) <sup>h</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.5	-0.5
Sedatives <sup>f</sup>	8.3	8.0	8.0	4.5	3.5	2.5	2.6	1.7	1.5	1.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Barbiturates <sup>f</sup>	2.9	2.8	3.2	2.2	1.9	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.2	2.0	2.3	3.0	2.5	3.2	+0.7
Methaqualone <sup>f</sup>	7.2	6.5	6.6	3.1	2.5	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Tranquilizers <sup>f</sup>	6.9	4.8	4.7	4.6	3.5	3.6	4.4	3.8	3.1	2.6	3.0	2.4	2.9	2.4	1.8	2.9	2.8	3.8	3.9	3.8	-0.1
Alcohol <sup>i</sup>	90.5	92.5	92.2	91.6	90.0	92.0	91.5	90.9	89.6	89.6	89.0	88.3	86.9	85.1	82.7	83.2	83.0	82.4	84.6	83.6	-1.0
Cigarettes	36.2	37.6	34.3	36.1	33.2	35.0	35.3	38.0	36.6	34.2	35.5	35.6	37.3	38.8	37.6	39.3	41.4	43.6	44.3	44.5	+0.2

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: s = .05, ss = .01, sss = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding. 'NA' indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>"Any illicit drug" includes use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone (until 1990), or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in four of the five questionnaire forms in 1980-1989, in five of the six forms in 1990-1998, and in three of the six forms in 1999. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 720.

<sup>c</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1987-1989, and in all six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999.

<sup>e</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1989, and in two of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 480.

<sup>f</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>g</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

<sup>h</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 480.

<sup>i</sup>In 1993 and 1994, the question text was changed slightly in three of the six questionnaire forms to indicate that a "drink" meant "more than just a few sips." Because this revision resulted in rather little change in reported prevalence in the surveys of high school graduates, the data for all forms combined are used in order to provide the most reliable estimate of change. After 1994, the new question text was used in all six of the questionnaire forms.

**TABLE 9-3**  
**Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among College Students 1-4 Years Beyond High School**

	Percentage who used in last thirty days																				'98-'99 change
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
<i>Approx. Wtd. N =</i>	1040	1130	1150	1170	1110	1080	1190	1220	1310	1300	1400	1410	1490	1490	1410	1450	1450	1480	1440	1440	
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>	38.4	37.6	31.3	29.3	27.0	26.1	25.9	22.4	18.5	18.2	15.2	15.2	16.1	15.1	16.0	19.1	17.6	19.2	19.7	21.6	+1.8
Any Illicit Drug <sup>a</sup>																					
Other than Marijuana	20.7	18.6	17.1	13.9	13.8	11.8	11.6	8.8	8.5	6.9	4.4	4.3	4.6	5.4	4.6	6.3	4.5	6.8	6.1	6.4	+0.2
Marijuana	34.0	33.2	26.8	26.2	23.0	23.6	22.3	20.3	16.8	16.3	14.0	14.1	14.6	14.2	15.1	18.6	17.5	17.7	18.6	20.7	+2.0
Inhalants <sup>b,c</sup>	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.3	0.6	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.5	+0.8
Hallucinogens <sup>c</sup>	2.7	2.3	2.6	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.2	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.4	1.2	2.3	2.5	2.1	3.3	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	-0.1
LSD	1.4	1.4	1.7	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.5	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.2	-0.3
Cocaine	6.9	7.3	7.9	6.5	7.6	6.9	7.0	4.6	4.2	2.8	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.2	-0.4
Crack <sup>d</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	+0.1
MDMA (Ecstasy) <sup>f</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.3	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	2.1	+1.3
Heroin	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	*	0.0	0.1	*	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Other Narcotics <sup>g</sup>	1.8	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.4	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.4	1.2	0.7	1.3	1.1	1.0	-0.1
Amphetamines <sup>h</sup>	13.4	12.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Amphetamines, Adj. <sup>i,k</sup>	NA	NA	9.9	7.0	5.5	4.2	3.7	2.3	1.8	1.3	1.4	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.5	2.2	0.9	2.1	1.7	2.3	+0.6
Crystal meth. (Ice) <sup>h</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.3
Sedatives <sup>l</sup>	3.8	3.4	2.5	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Barbiturates <sup>l</sup>	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.0
Methaqualone <sup>l</sup>	3.1	3.0	1.9	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Tranquilizers <sup>l</sup>	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.1	-0.3
Alcohol <sup>l</sup>	81.8	81.9	82.8	80.3	79.1	80.3	79.7	78.4	77.0	76.2	74.5	74.7	71.4	70.1	67.8	67.5	67.0	65.8	68.1	69.6	+1.5
Cigarettes	25.8	25.9	24.4	24.7	21.5	22.4	22.4	24.0	22.6	21.1	21.5	23.2	23.5	24.5	23.5	26.8	27.9	28.3	30.0	30.6	+0.7

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: \* = .05, \*\* = .01, \*\*\* = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding. "NA" indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>"Any illicit drug" includes use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone (until 1990), or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

<sup>b</sup>This drug was asked about in four of the five questionnaire forms in 1980-1989, in five of the six forms in 1990-1998, and in three of the six forms in 1999. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 720.

<sup>c</sup>Unadjusted for known underreporting of certain drugs. See text for details.

<sup>d</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1987-1989, and in all six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999.

<sup>e</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the five questionnaire forms in 1989, and in two of the six questionnaire forms in 1990-1999. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 480.

<sup>f</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>g</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

<sup>h</sup>This drug was asked about in two of the six questionnaire forms. Total N in 1999 (for college students) is 480.

In 1993 and 1994, the question text was changed slightly in three of the six questionnaire forms to indicate that a "drink" meant "more than just a few sips." Because this revision resulted in rather little change in reported prevalence in the surveys of high school graduates, the data for all forms combined are used in order to provide the most reliable estimate of change. After 1994, the new question text was used in all six of the questionnaire forms.

**TABLE 9-4**  
**Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use of Various Types of Drugs**  
**Among College Students 1-4 Years Beyond High School**

	Percentage who used daily in last thirty days																				'98-'99 change
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
<i>Approx. Wtd. N =</i>	1040	1130	1150	1170	1110	1080	1190	1220	1310	1300	1400	1410	1490	1490	1410	1450	1450	1480	1440	1440	
Marijuana	7.2	5.6	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.1	2.1	2.3	1.8	2.6	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.8	3.7	2.8	3.7	4.0	4.0	0.0
Cocaine	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphetamines <sup>a</sup>	0.5	0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Amphetamines, Adj. <sup>Ab</sup>	NA	NA	0.3	0.2	0.2	*	0.1	0.1	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Alcohol <sup>c</sup>																					
Daily	6.5	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.6	5.0	4.6	6.0	4.9	4.0	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.9	3.7	3.0	3.2	4.5	3.9	4.5	+0.6
5+ Drinks in a row in last 2 weeks	43.9	43.6	44.0	43.1	45.4	44.6	45.0	42.8	43.2	41.7	41.0	42.8	41.4	40.2	40.2	38.6	38.3	40.7	38.9	40.0	+1.1
Cigarettes																					
Daily	18.3	17.1	16.2	15.3	14.7	14.2	12.7	13.9	12.4	12.2	12.1	13.8	14.1	15.2	13.2	15.8	15.9	15.2	18.0	19.3	+1.3
Half-pack or more per day	12.7	11.9	10.5	9.6	10.2	9.4	8.3	8.2	7.3	6.7	8.2	8.0	8.9	8.9	8.0	10.2	8.5	9.1	11.3	11.0	-0.3

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: *s* = .05, *ss* = .01, *sss* = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change estimate and the prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding. '\*' indicates a percentage of less than 0.05% but greater than true zero. 'NA' indicates data not available.

<sup>a</sup>Only drug use which was not under a doctor's orders is included here.

<sup>b</sup>Based on the data from the revised question, which attempts to exclude inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants.

<sup>c</sup>In 1993 and 1994, the question text was changed slightly in three of the six questionnaire forms to indicate that a "drink" meant "more than just a few sips." Because this revision resulted in rather little change in reported prevalence in the surveys of high school graduates, the data for all forms combined are used in order to provide the most reliable estimate of change. After 1994, the new question text was used in all six of the questionnaire forms.

**TABLE 9-5**  
**Trends in Lifetime, Annual, and Thirty-Day Prevalence of an Illicit Drug Use Index<sup>a</sup>**  
**Among College Students 1-4 Years Beyond High School, by Gender**

	<i>1980<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>1981<sup>b</sup></i>	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	'98-'99 change
<b>Percentage reporting use in lifetime</b>																					
Any Illicit Drug	69.4	66.8	64.6	66.9	62.7	65.2	61.8	60.0	58.4	55.6	54.0	50.4	48.8	45.9	45.5	45.5	47.4	49.0	52.9	53.2	+0.3
Males	71.0	67.5	68.1	71.3	66.4	69.8	64.7	63.5	56.0	56.5	52.5	51.3	50.8	45.7	49.5	47.3	50.3	52.1	54.4	58.4	+4.0
Females	67.5	66.3	61.5	63.0	59.2	61.6	59.4	57.4	60.2	54.9	55.1	49.7	47.1	46.0	42.6	44.3	45.6	46.7	52.0	49.6	-2.3
Any Illicit Drug																					
Other than Marijuana	42.2	41.3	39.6	41.7	38.6	40.0	37.5	35.7	33.4	30.5	28.4	25.8	26.1	24.3	22.0	24.5	22.7	24.4	24.8	25.5	+0.7
Males	42.8	39.8	45.1	44.6	40.9	42.1	38.2	37.2	31.8	30.6	26.2	27.6	26.3	24.3	24.6	26.6	25.0	27.3	27.3	29.4	+2.1
Females	41.6	42.6	34.7	39.2	36.4	38.3	37.0	34.6	34.6	30.4	30.1	24.3	26.1	24.3	20.1	22.9	21.2	22.2	23.3	22.8	-0.4
<b>Percentage reporting use in last twelve months</b>																					
Any Illicit Drug	56.2	55.0	49.5	49.8	45.1	46.3	45.0	40.1	37.4	36.7	33.3	29.2	30.6	30.6	31.4	33.5	34.2	34.1	37.8	36.9	-0.9
Males	58.9	56.2	54.6	53.4	48.4	50.9	49.8	43.3	37.0	38.2	34.2	30.2	32.8	32.6	33.9	36.1	36.6	38.3	40.1	42.5	+2.5
Females	53.3	54.0	44.9	46.7	41.9	42.7	41.1	37.7	37.6	35.4	32.5	28.4	28.7	29.1	29.5	31.7	32.7	31.1	36.4	33.2	-3.3
Any Illicit Drug																					
Other than Marijuana	32.3	31.7	29.9	29.9	27.2	26.7	25.0	21.3	19.2	16.4	15.2	13.2	13.1	12.5	12.2	15.9	12.8	15.8	14.0	15.4	+1.3
Males	33.7	32.8	33.4	33.5	29.2	29.7	28.6	23.5	19.4	18.7	15.7	14.4	13.8	15.0	14.9	19.5	15.1	18.1	17.0	19.0	+2.0
Females	31.1	30.8	26.9	26.8	25.2	24.4	22.1	19.6	19.0	14.6	14.8	12.1	12.6	10.5	10.2	13.3	11.3	14.1	12.1	12.8	+0.7
<b>Percentage reporting use in last thirty days</b>																					
Any Illicit Drug	38.4	37.6	31.3	29.3	27.0	26.1	25.9	22.4	18.5	18.2	15.2	15.2	16.1	15.1	16.0	19.1	17.6	19.2	19.7	21.6	+1.8
Males	42.9	40.6	37.7	33.8	30.4	29.9	31.0	24.0	18.8	20.0	18.2	16.0	18.0	16.0	20.5	23.7	20.6	23.4	23.1	26.7	+3.6
Females	34.0	34.8	25.6	25.5	23.7	23.2	21.7	21.1	18.3	16.7	12.7	14.6	14.5	14.5	12.7	15.7	15.8	16.2	17.6	18.1	+0.5
Any Illicit Drug																					
Other than Marijuana	20.7	18.6	17.1	13.9	13.8	11.8	11.6	8.8	8.5	6.9	4.4	4.3	4.6	5.4	4.6	6.3	4.5	6.8	6.1	6.4	+0.2
Males	22.8	18.6	20.2	16.0	16.1	12.6	14.4	9.0	8.2	8.0	4.9	4.8	5.1	7.3	6.2	8.8	6.1	7.8	8.6	7.5	-1.1
Females	18.7	18.5	14.2	12.1	11.5	11.2	9.3	8.5	8.8	6.0	4.0	3.9	4.2	3.8	3.4	4.5	3.4	6.1	4.6	5.6	+1.0
<b>Approximate Weighted N</b>																					
All Respondents	1040	1130	1150	1170	1110	1080	1190	1220	1310	1300	1400	1410	1490	1490	1410	1450	1450	1480	1440	1440	
Males	520	530	550	550	540	490	540	520	560	580	620	640	680	660	590	610	560	630	570	590	
Females	520	600	610	620	570	600	650	700	750	720	780	770	810	830	820	840	890	860	880	850	

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan.

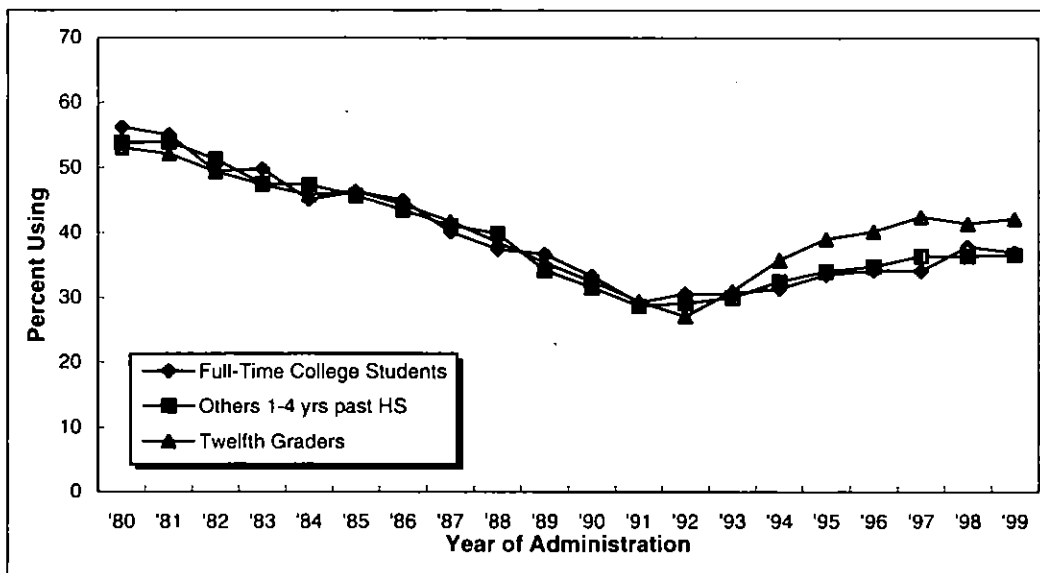
NOTES: Level of significance of difference between the two most recent years: \* = .05, \*\* = .01, \*\*\* = .001. Any apparent inconsistency between the change and prevalence estimates for the two most recent years is due to rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Use of "any illicit drug" includes any use of marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, or heroin, or any use of other narcotics, amphetamines, barbiturates, methaqualone (until 1990), or tranquilizers not under a doctor's orders.

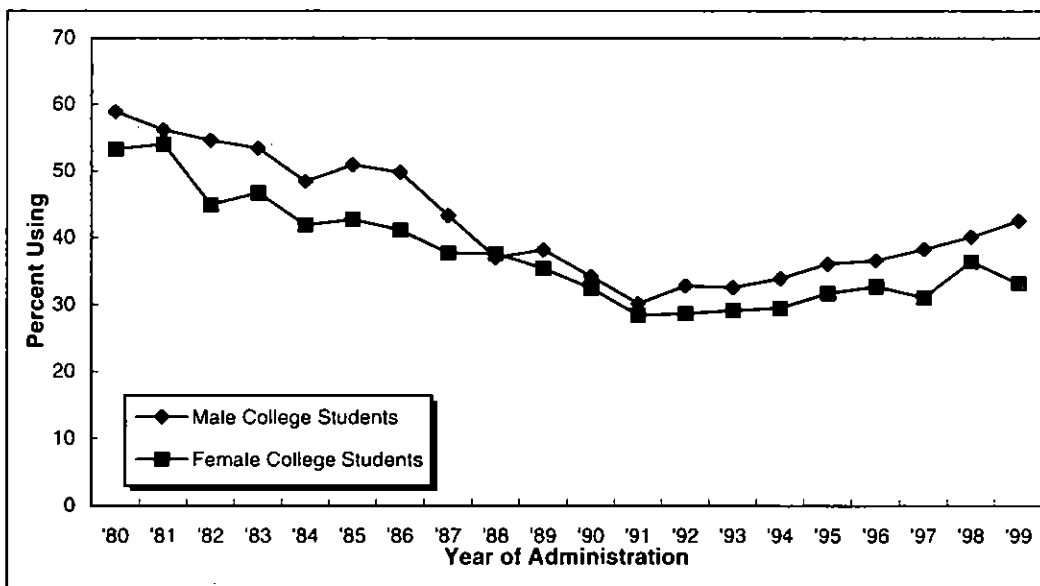
<sup>b</sup>Revised questions about amphetamine use were introduced in 1982 to exclude more completely inappropriate reporting of nonprescription stimulants. The data in italics are therefore not strictly comparable to the other data.

**Figure 9-1**

**Any Illicit Drug: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



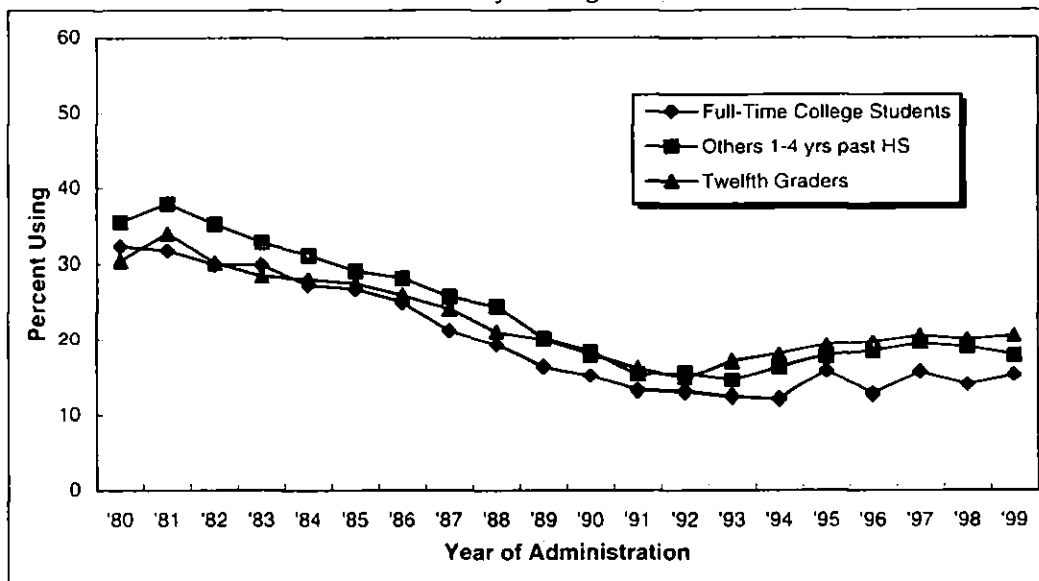
**Any Illicit Drug: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**



NOTE: "Others" refers to high school graduates 1-4 years beyond high school not currently enrolled full-time in college.

**Figure 9-2**

**Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Any Illicit Drug Other than Marijuana: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

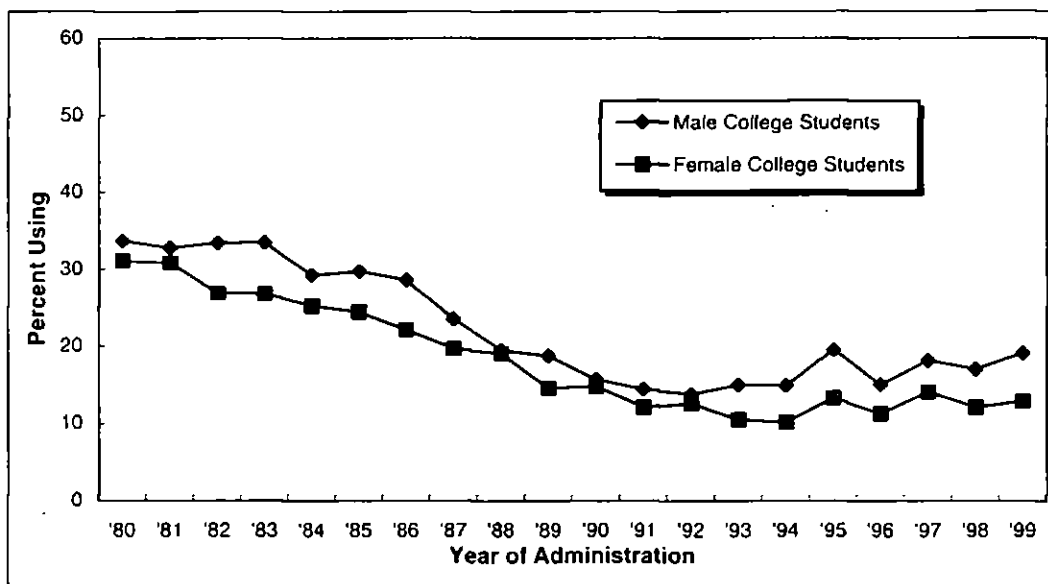
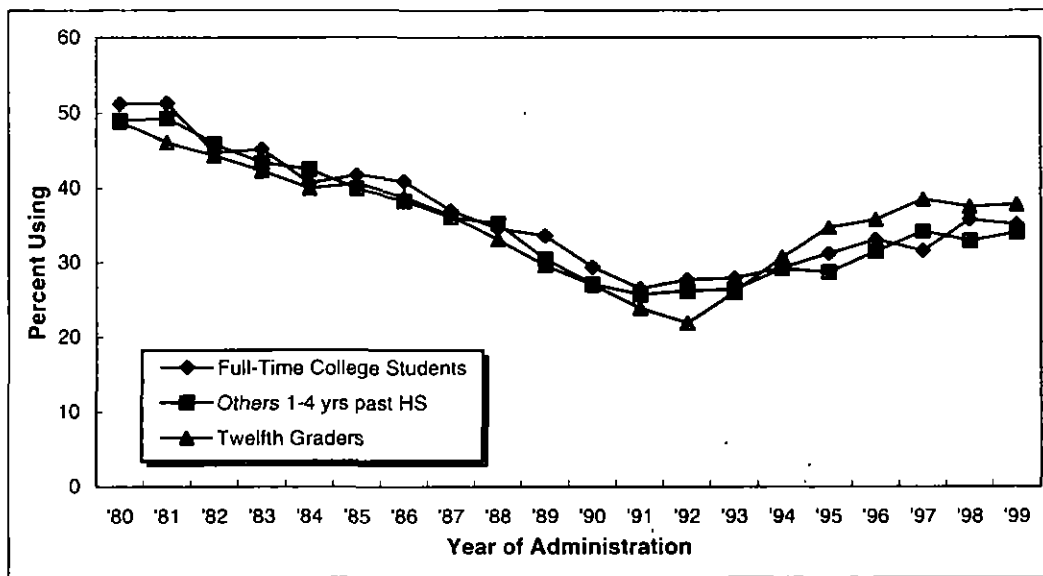


Figure 9-3a

**Marijuana: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Marijuana: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

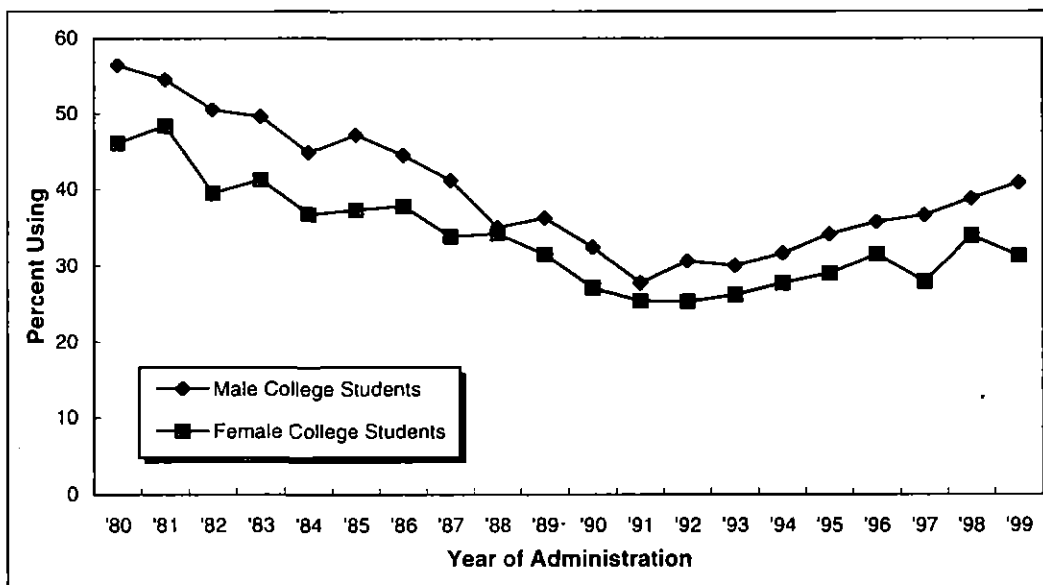
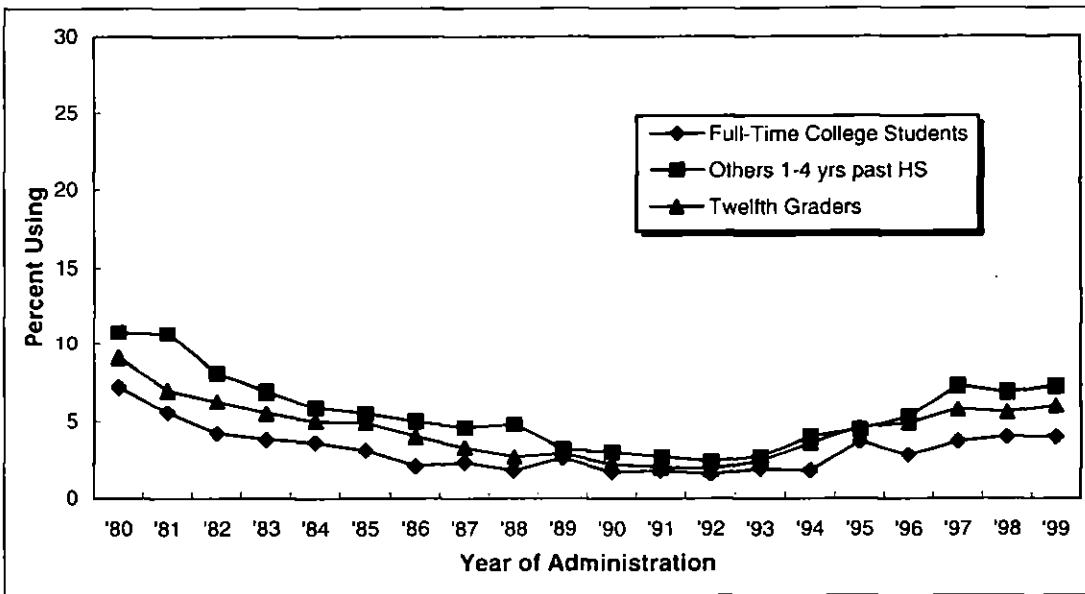


Figure 9-3b

**Marijuana: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Marijuana: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use  
Among Male and Female College Students**

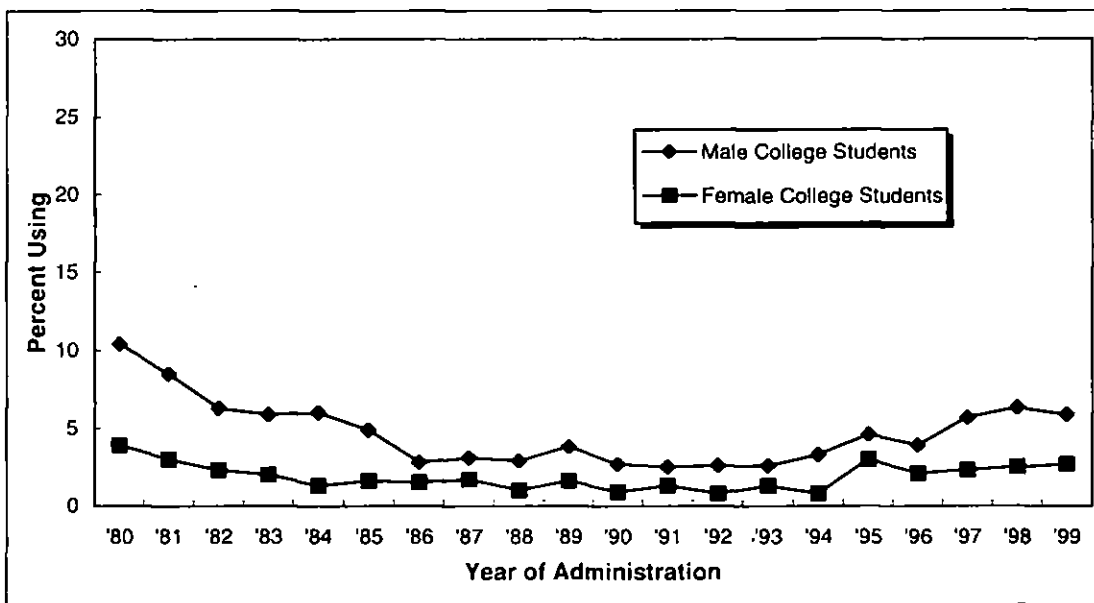
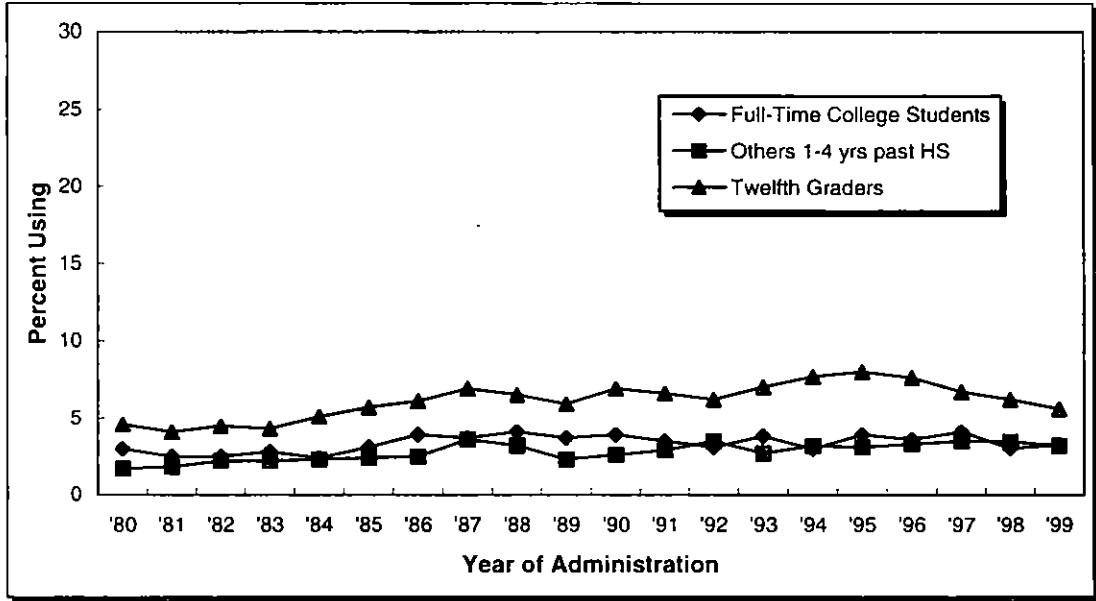


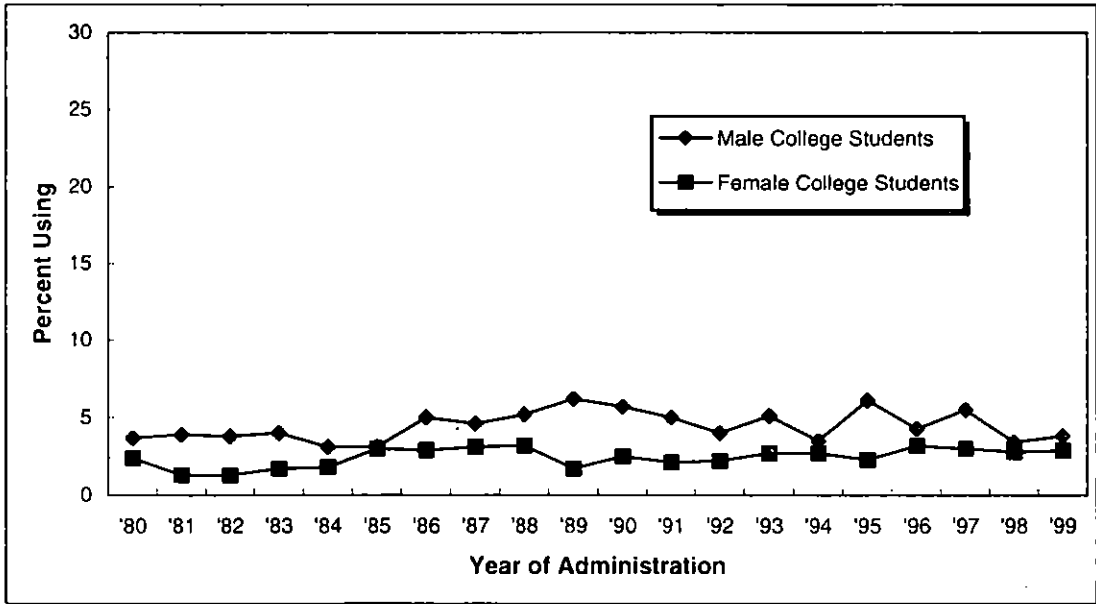


Figure 9-4

**Inhalants\*: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



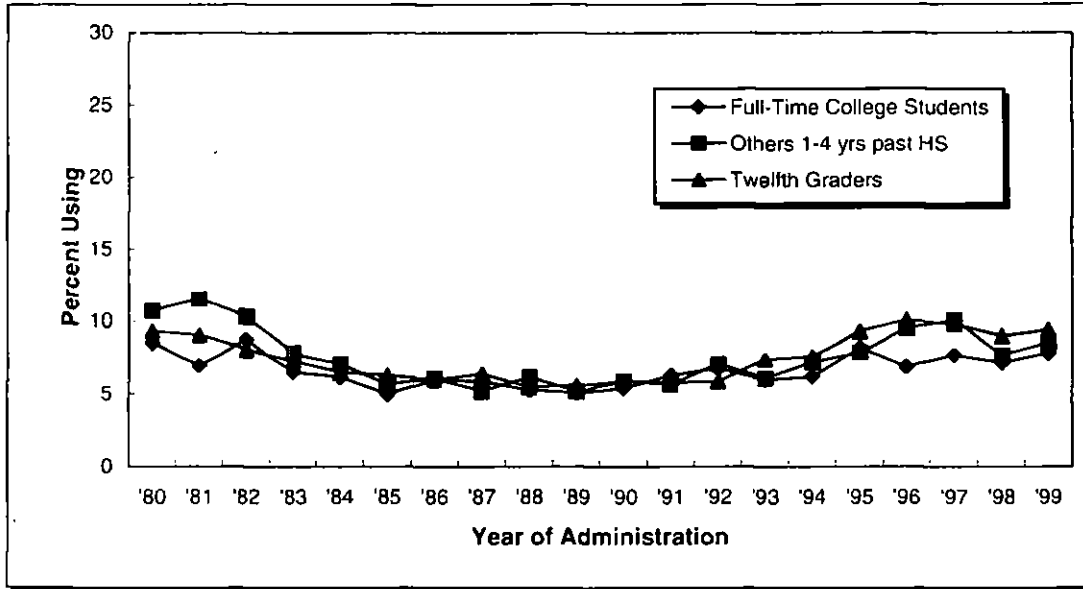
**Inhalants\*: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**



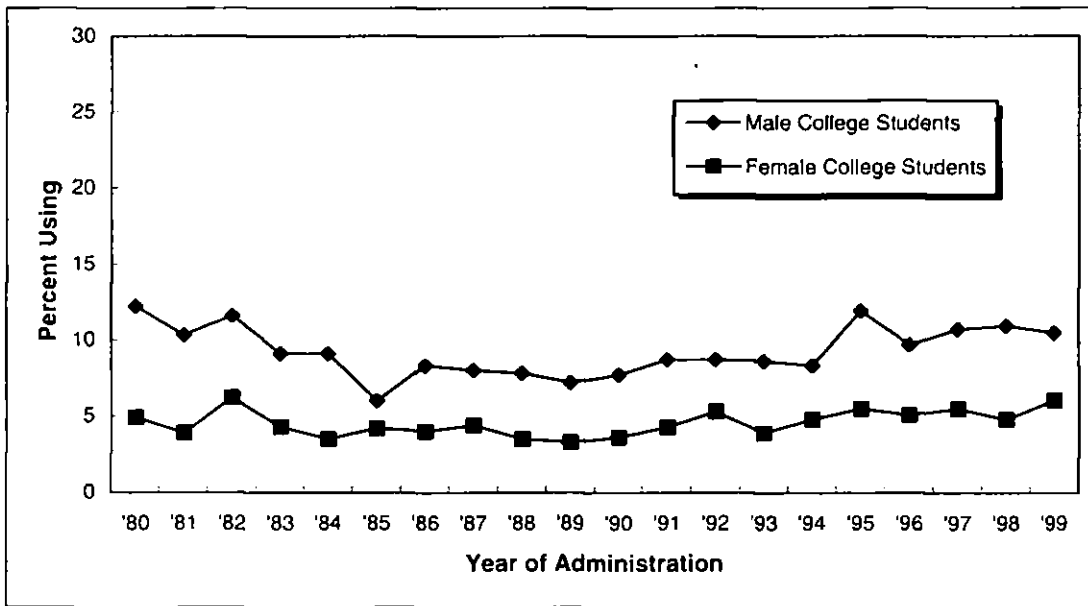
\*Unadjusted for the possible underreporting of amyl and butyl nitrites.

Figure 9-5

**Hallucinogens\*: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



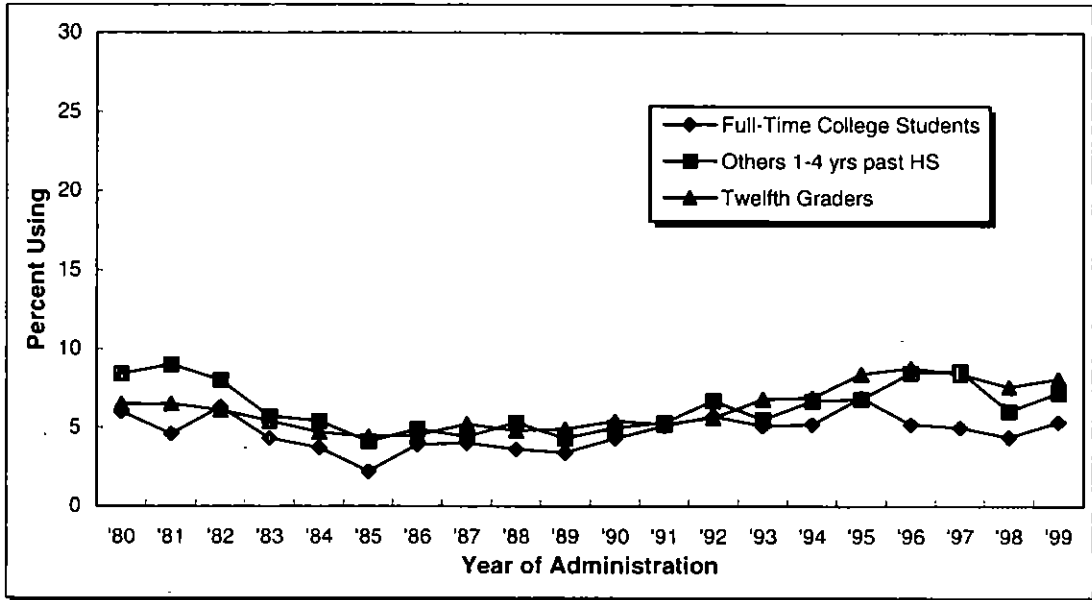
**Hallucinogens\*: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**



\*Unadjusted for the possible underreporting of PCP.

**Figure 9-6**

**LSD: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**LSD: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

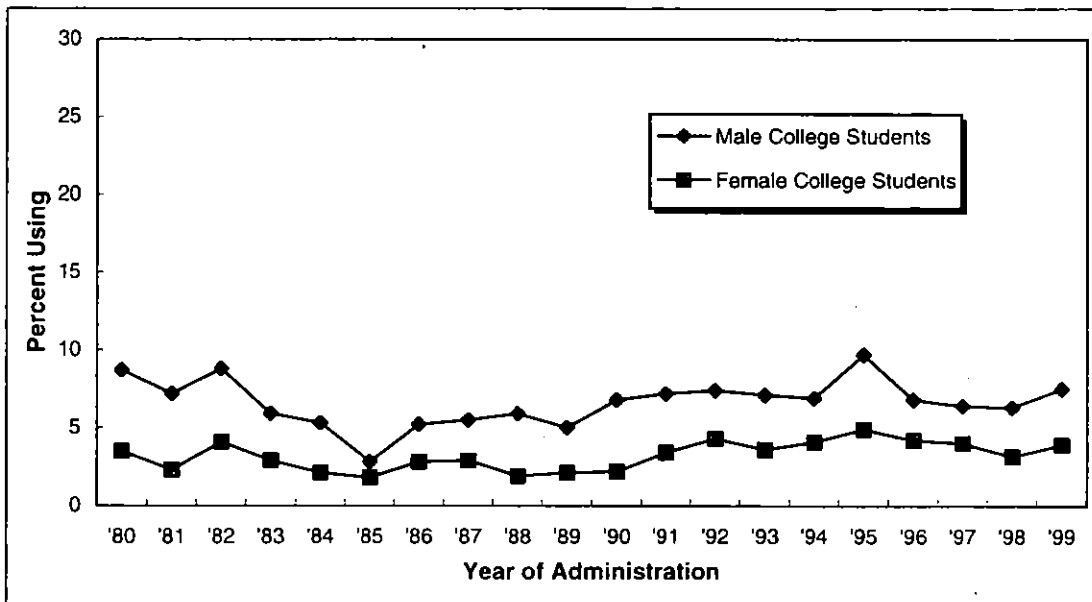
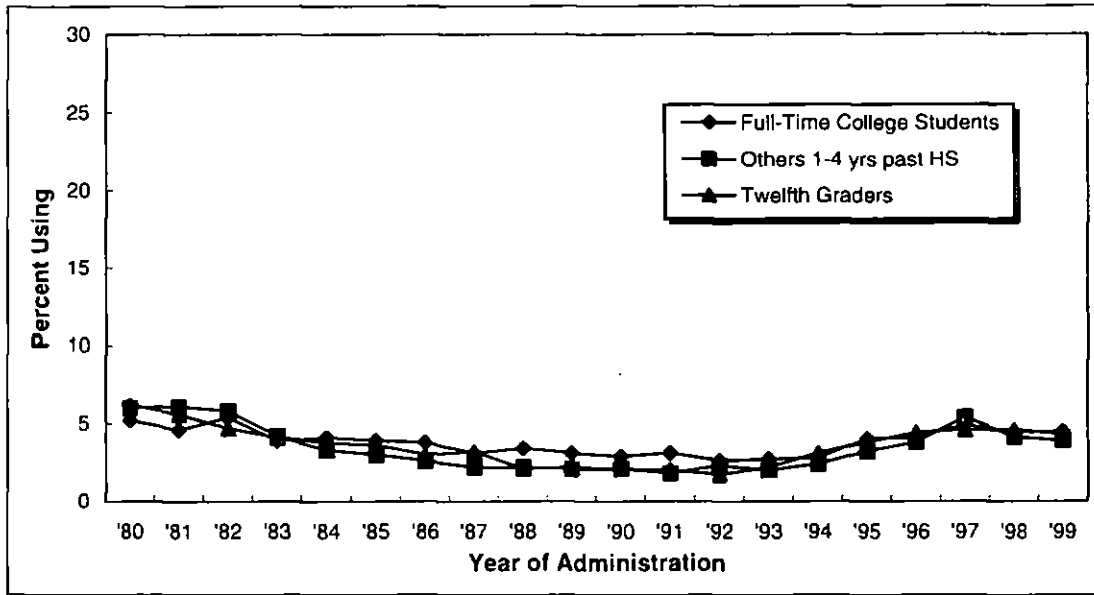


Figure 9-7

**Hallucinogens Other than LSD: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Hallucinogens Other than LSD: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

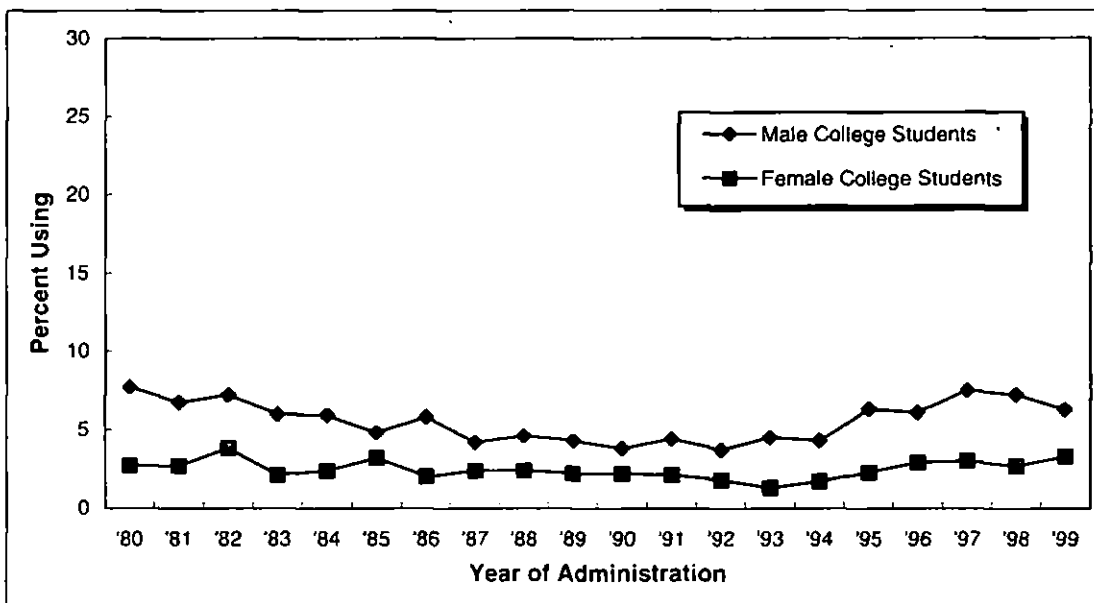
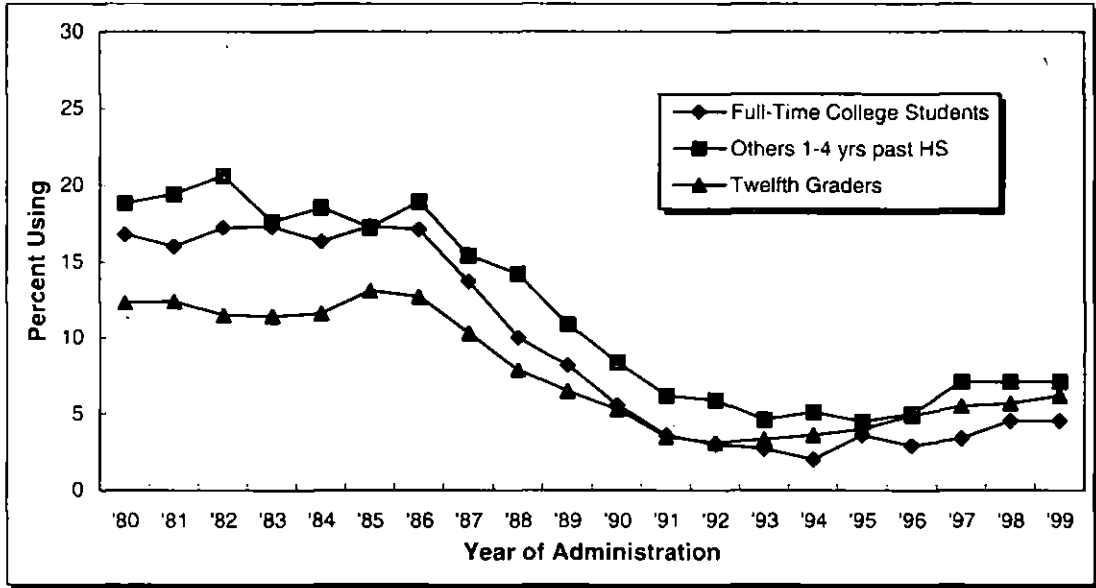
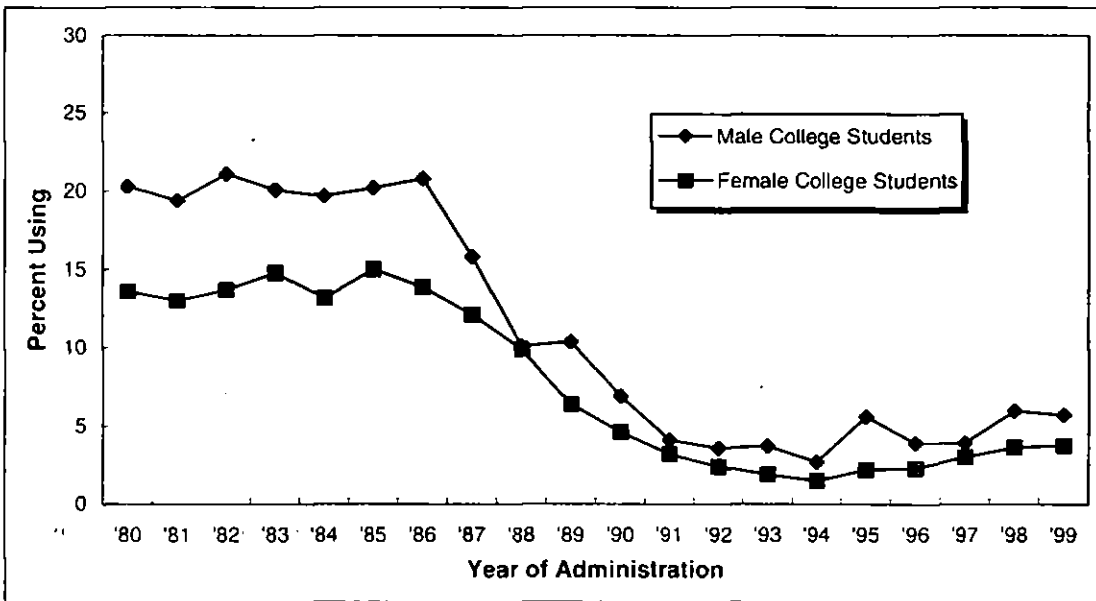


Figure 9-8

Cocaine: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School

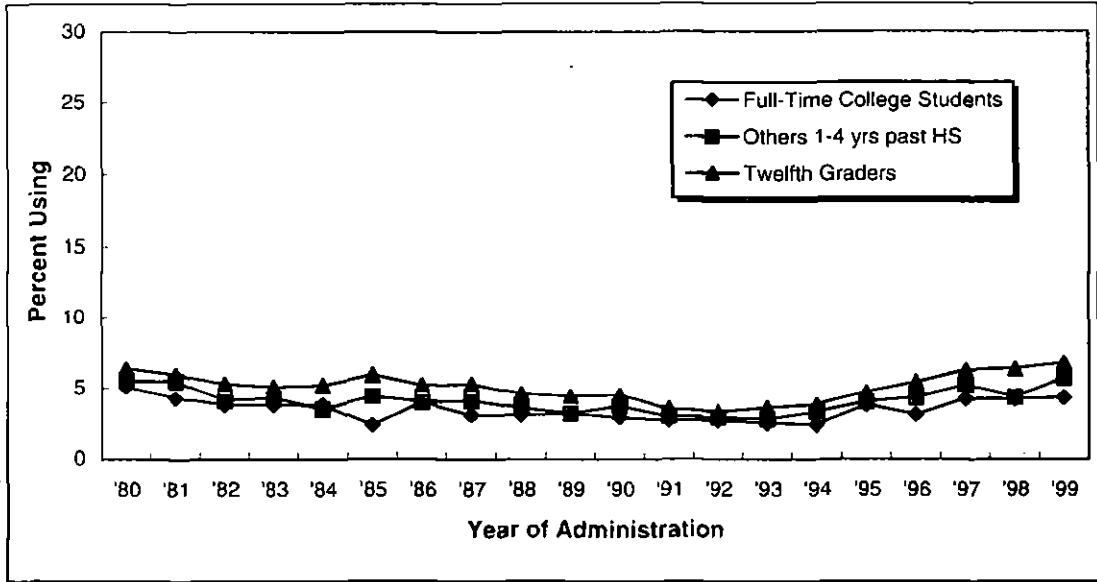


Cocaine: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students



**Figure 9-9**

**Narcotics Other Than Heroin: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Narcotics Other Than Heroin: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

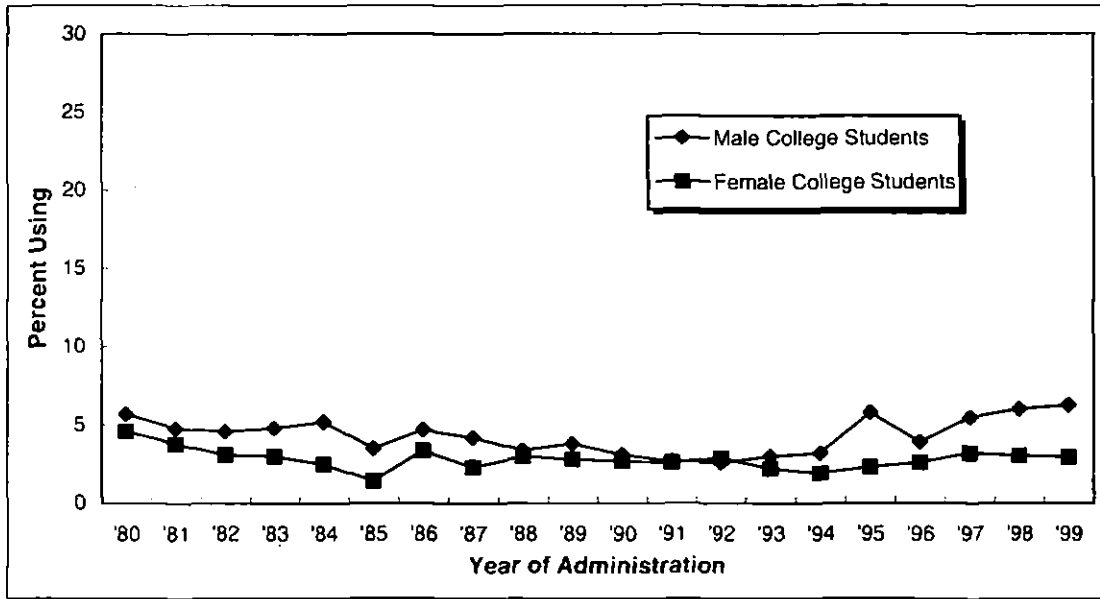
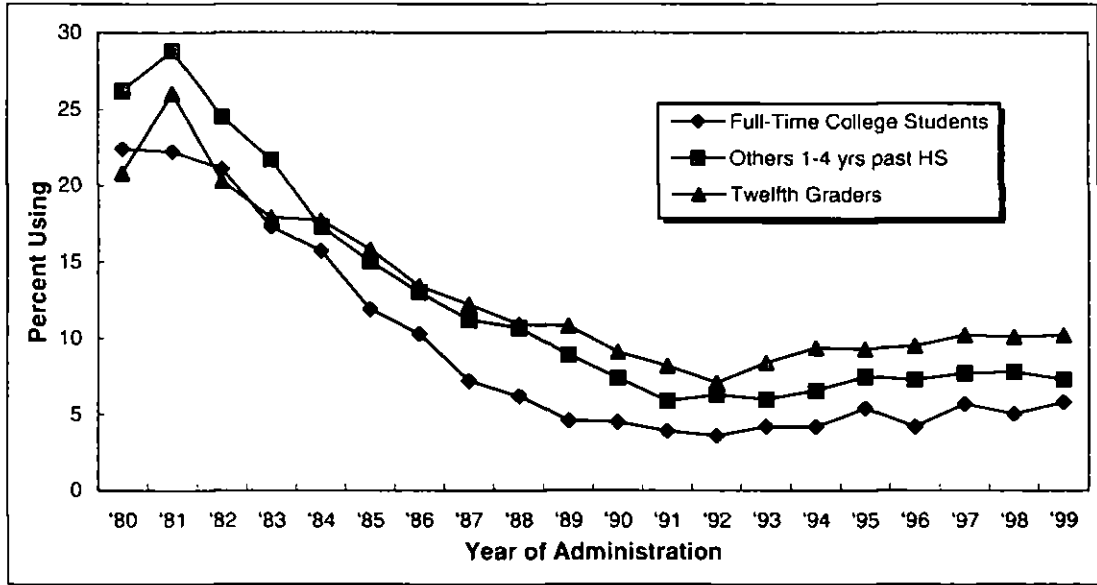


Figure 9-10

**Amphetamines: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Amphetamines: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

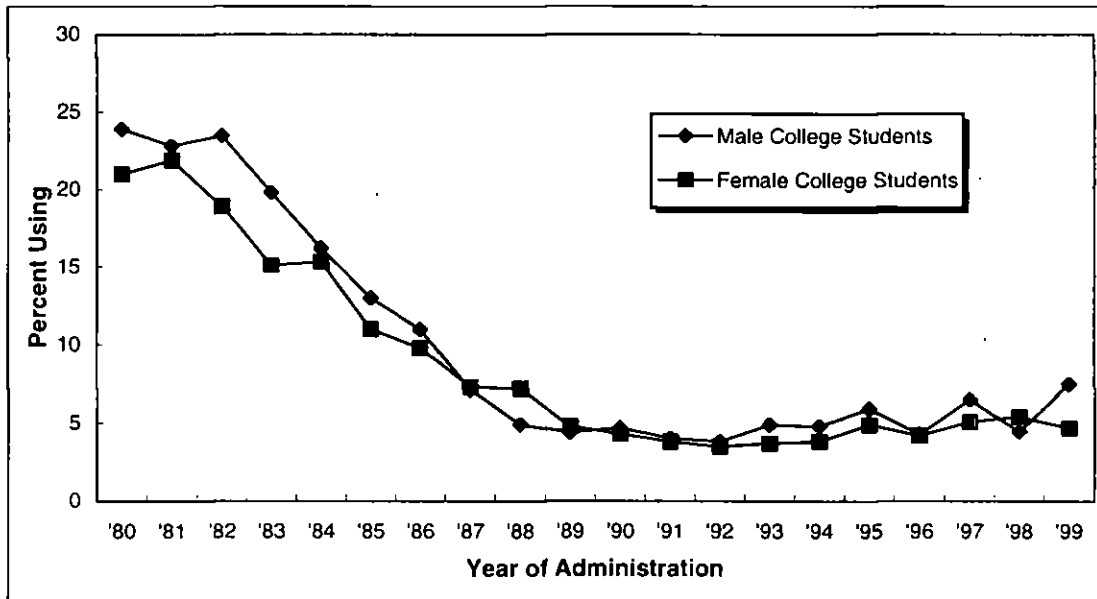
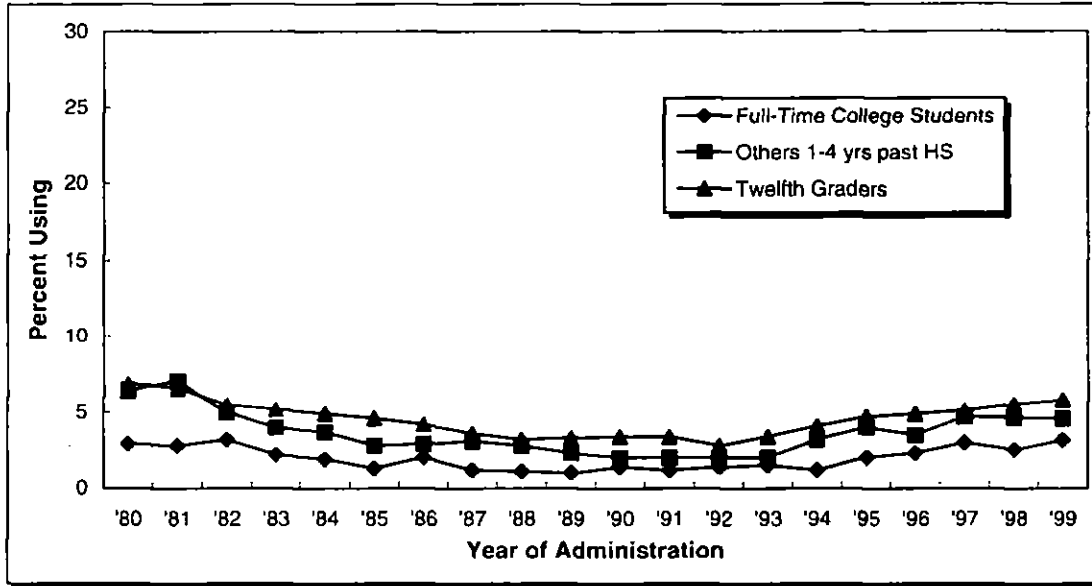


Figure 9-11

**Barbiturates: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Barbiturates: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

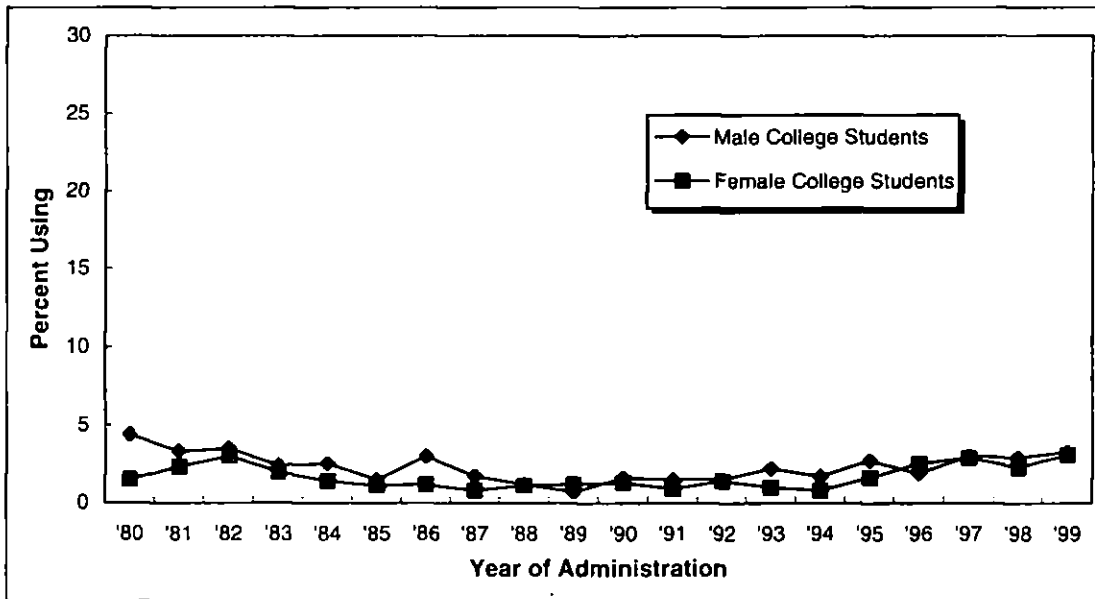
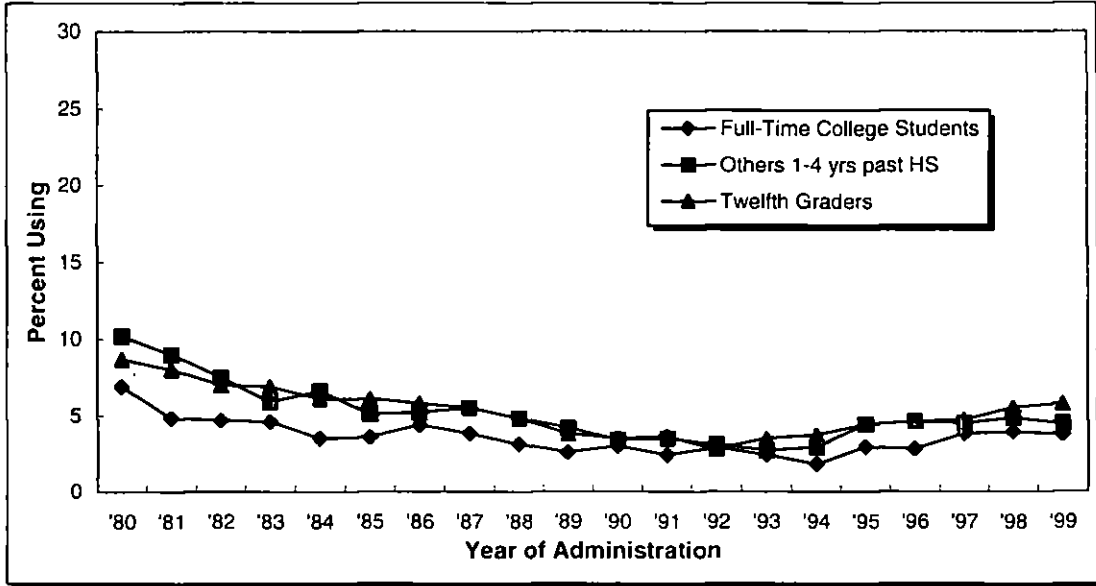




Figure 9-12

**Tranquilizers: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Tranquilizers: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

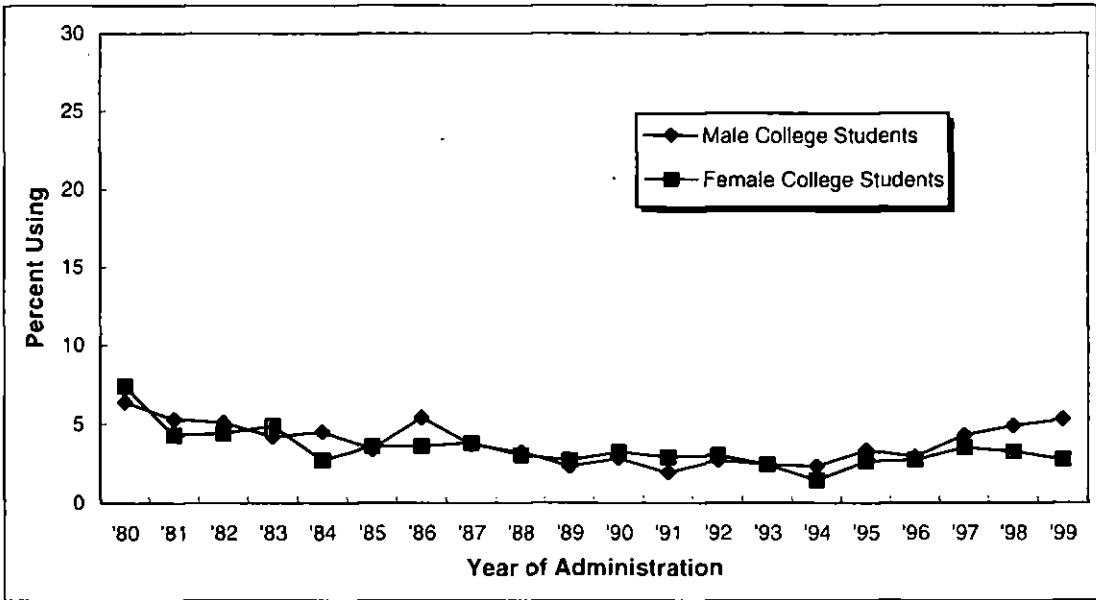
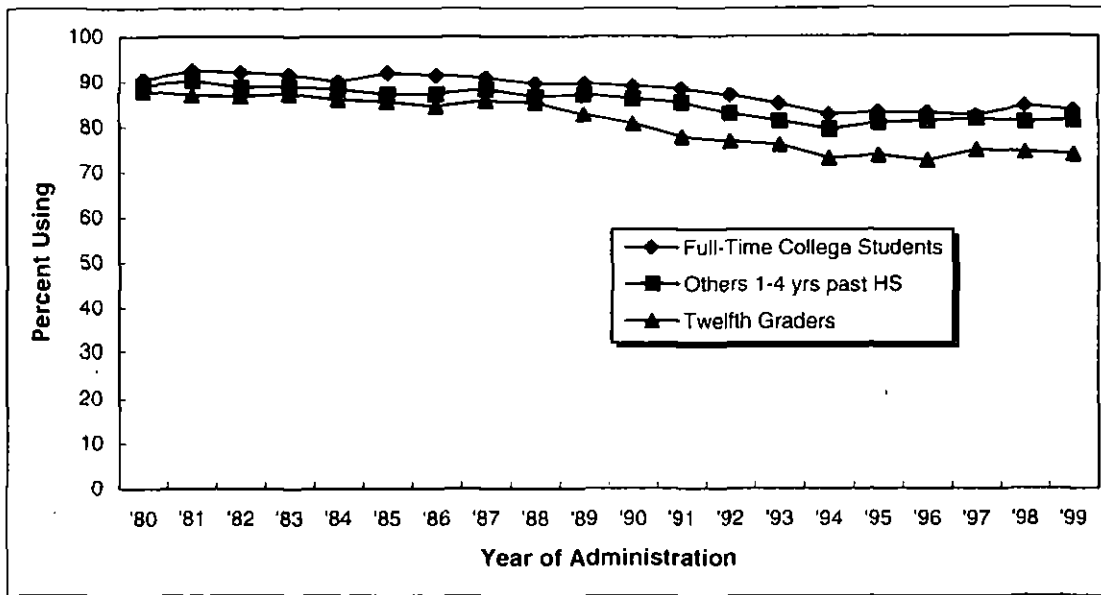


Figure 9-13a

**Alcohol: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Alcohol: Trends in Annual Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

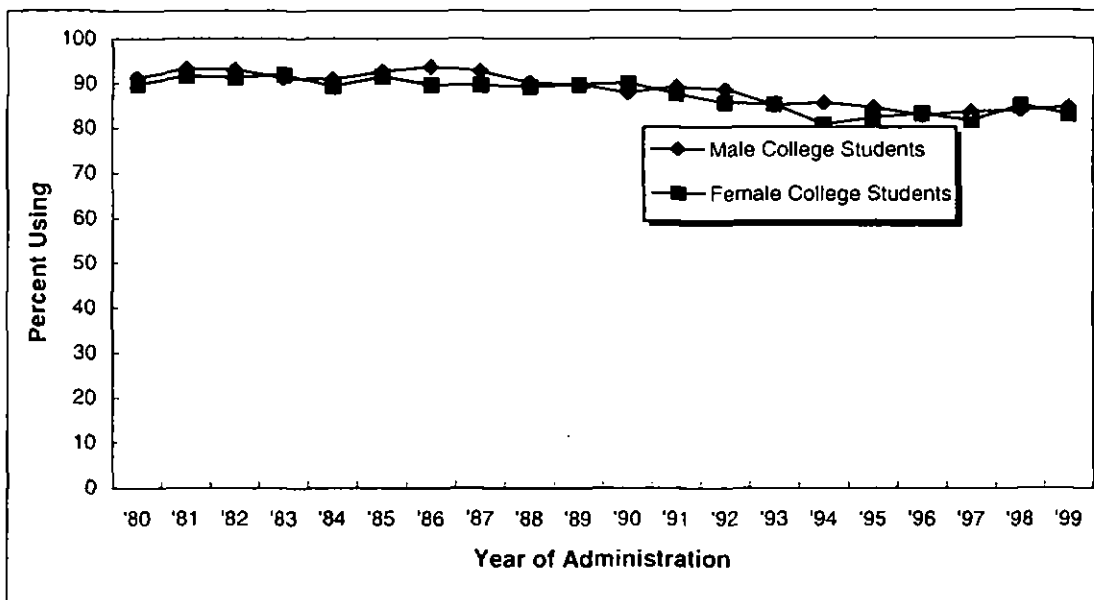
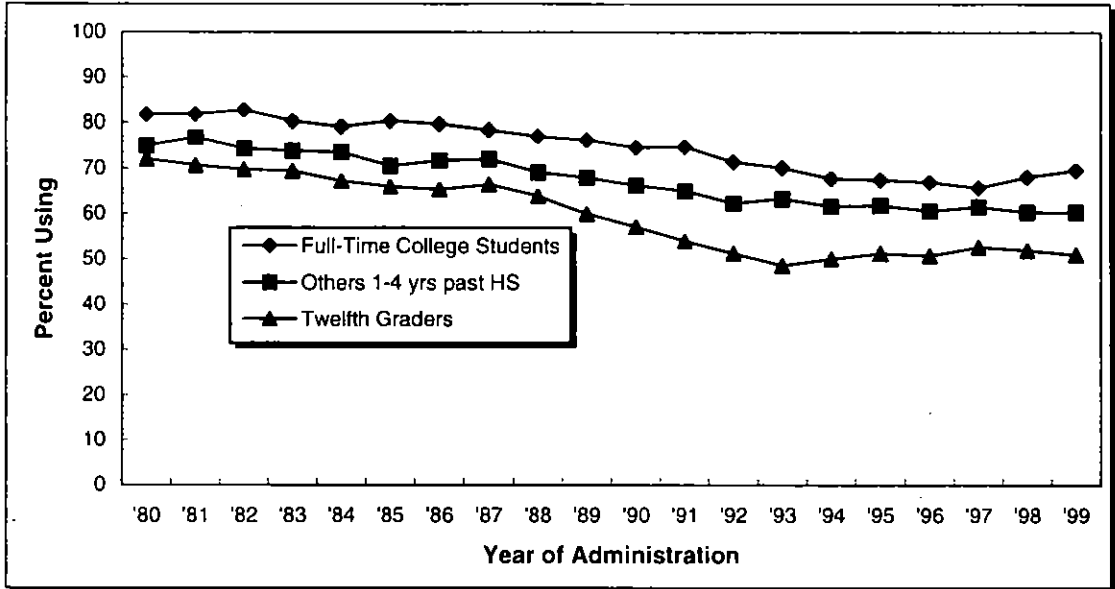


Figure 9-13b

**Alcohol: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Alcohol: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**

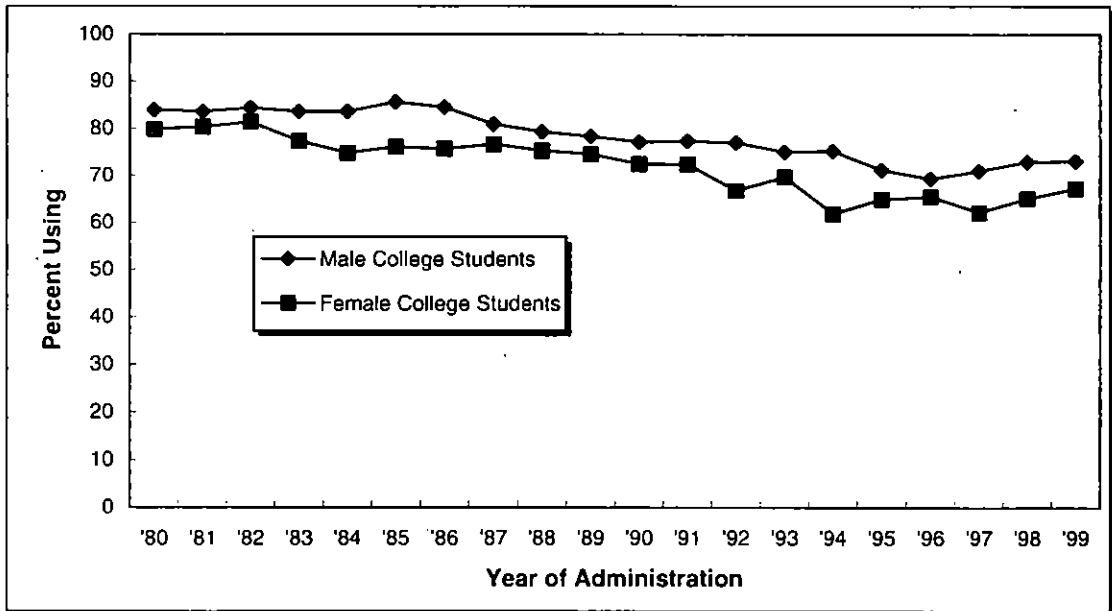
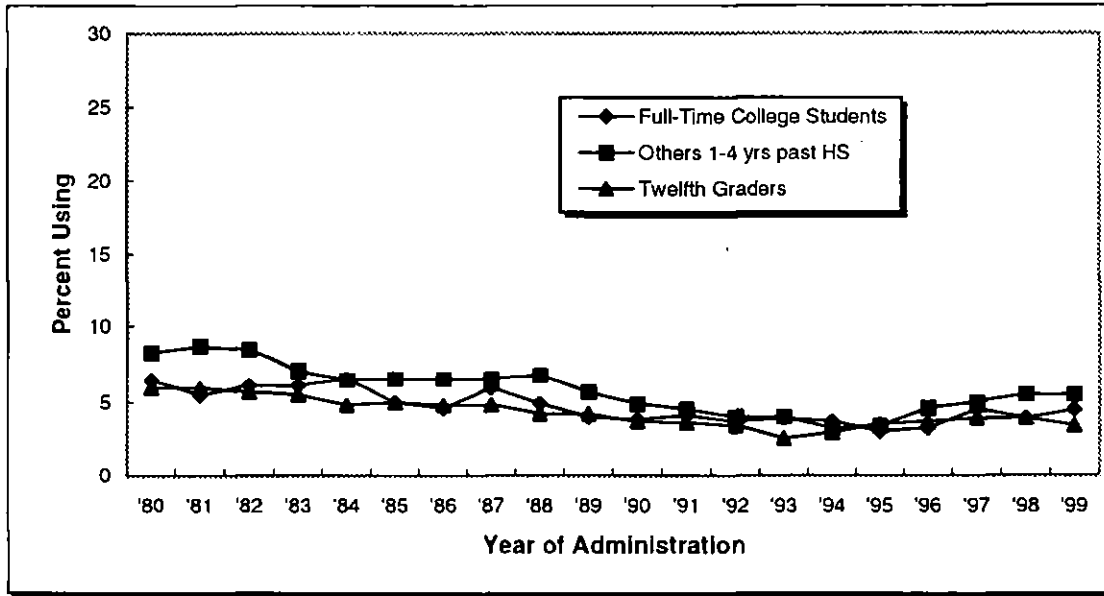


Figure 9-13c

Alcohol: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School



Alcohol: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use  
Among Male and Female College Students

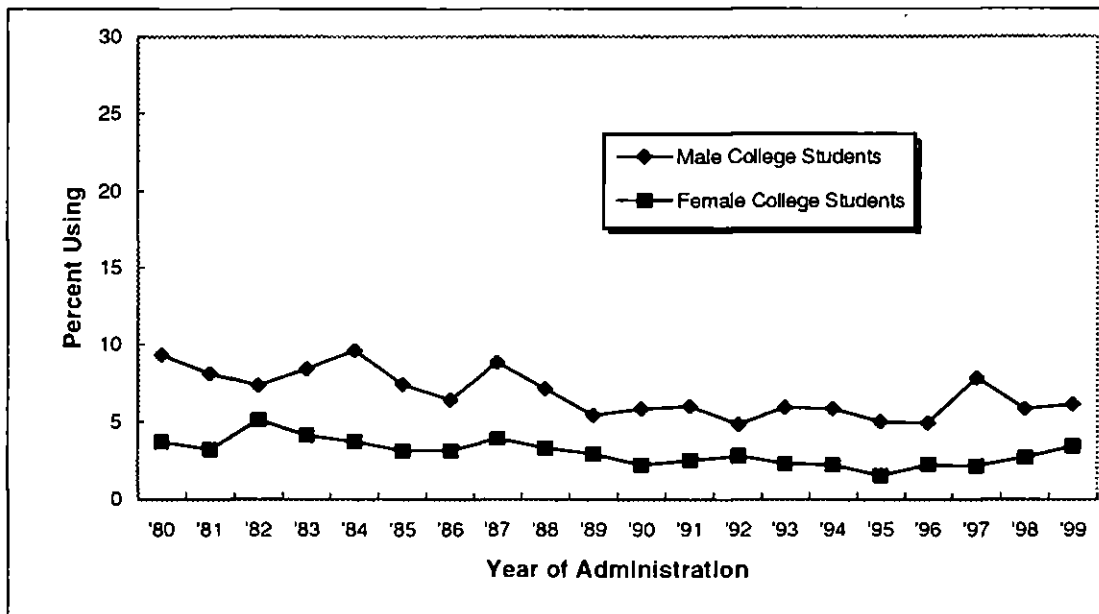
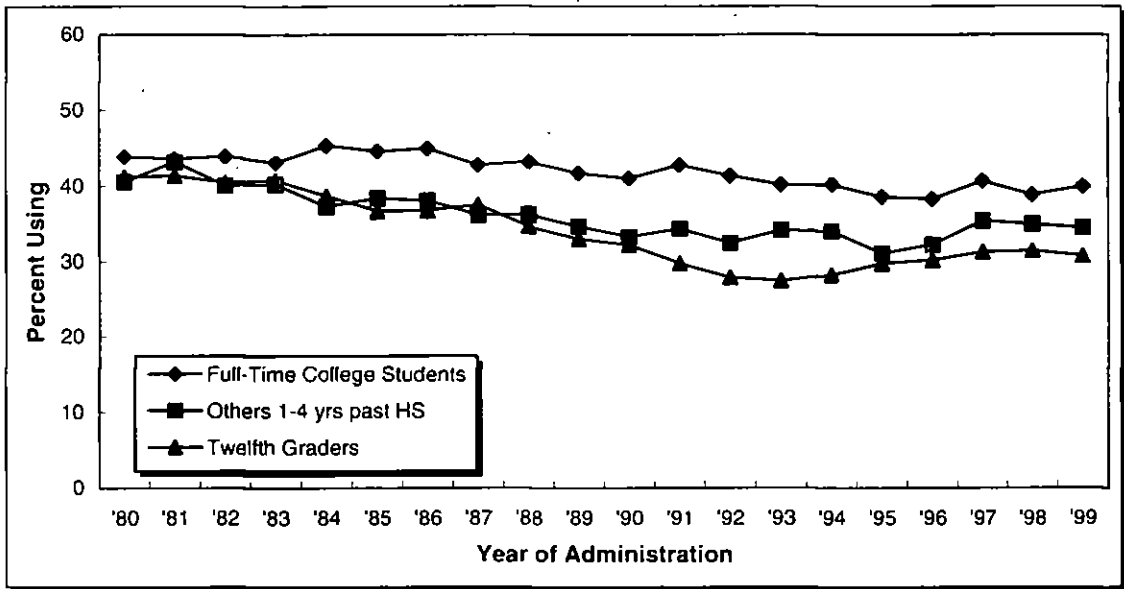


Figure 9-13d

**Alcohol: Trends in Two-Week Prevalence of Five or More Drinks in a Row  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Alcohol: Trends in Two-Week Prevalence of Five or More Drinks in a Row  
Among Male and Female College Students**

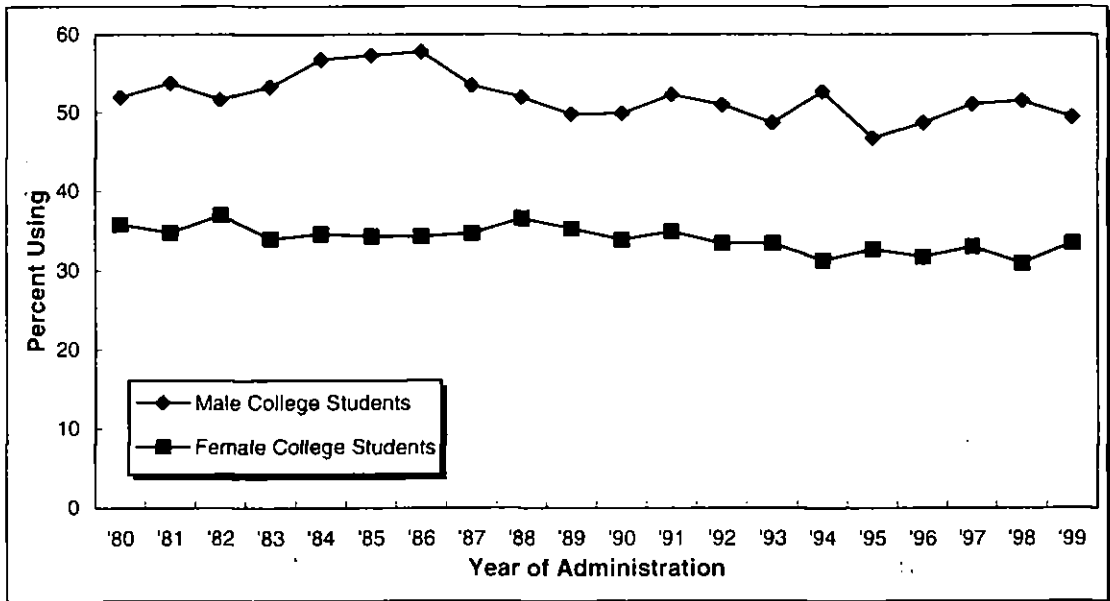
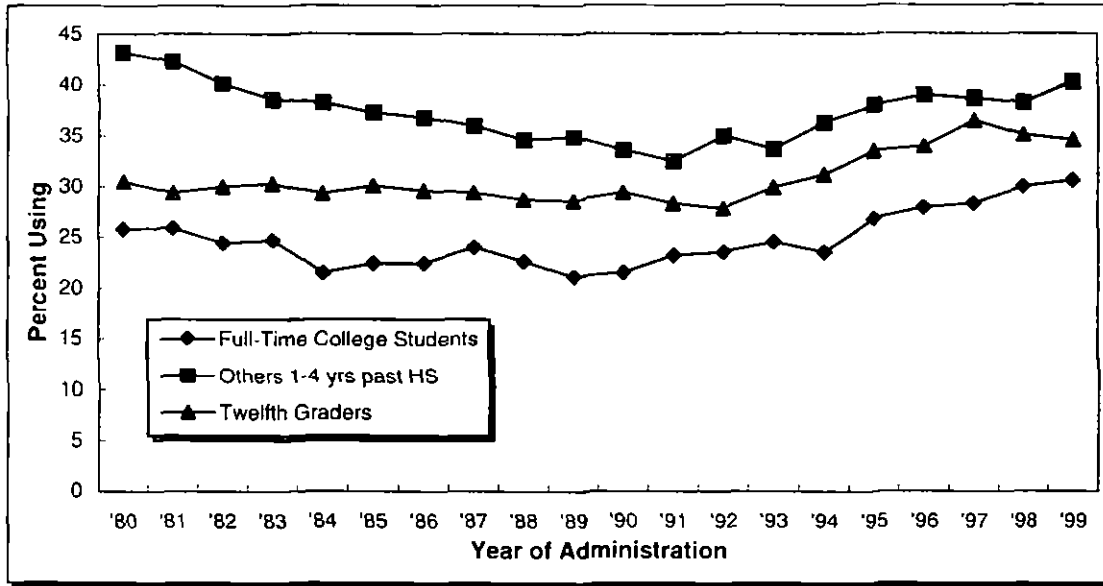
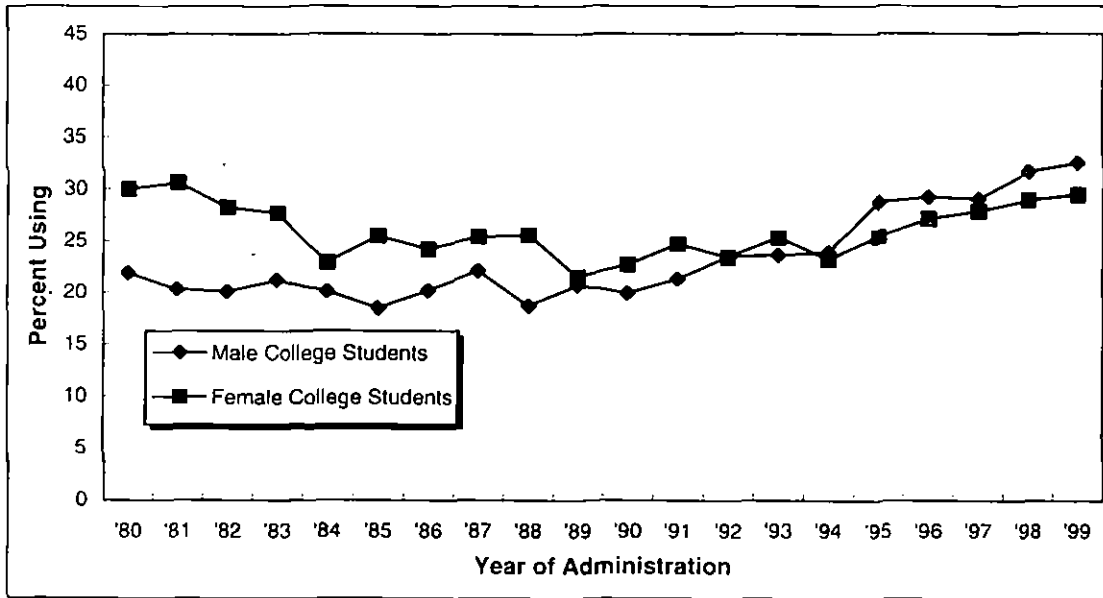


Figure 9-14a

**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**

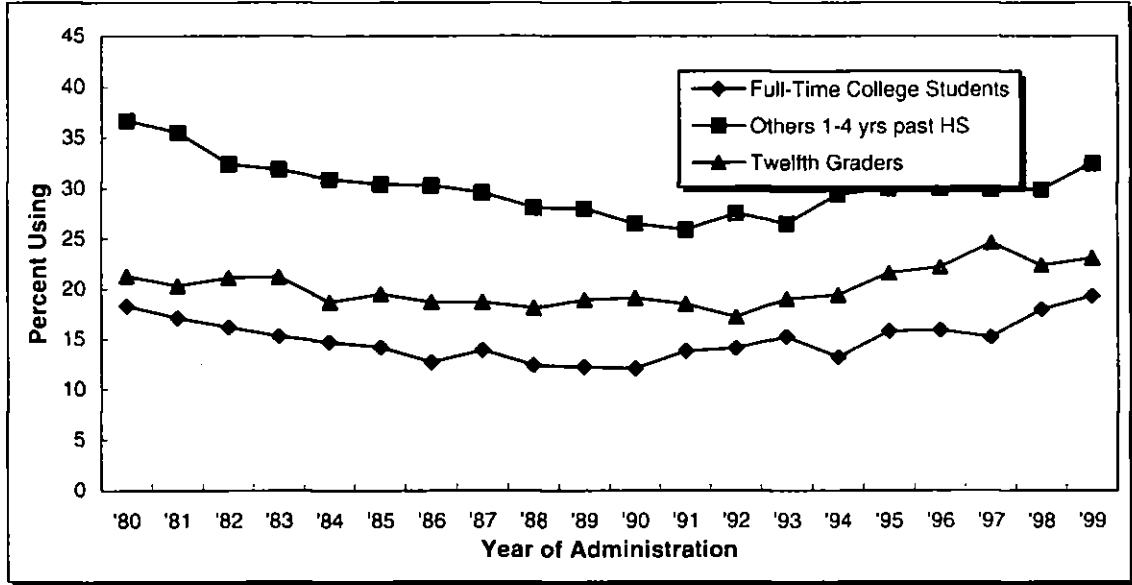


**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence  
Among Male and Female College Students**



**Figure 9-14b**

**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use  
Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Daily Use  
Among Male and Female College Students**

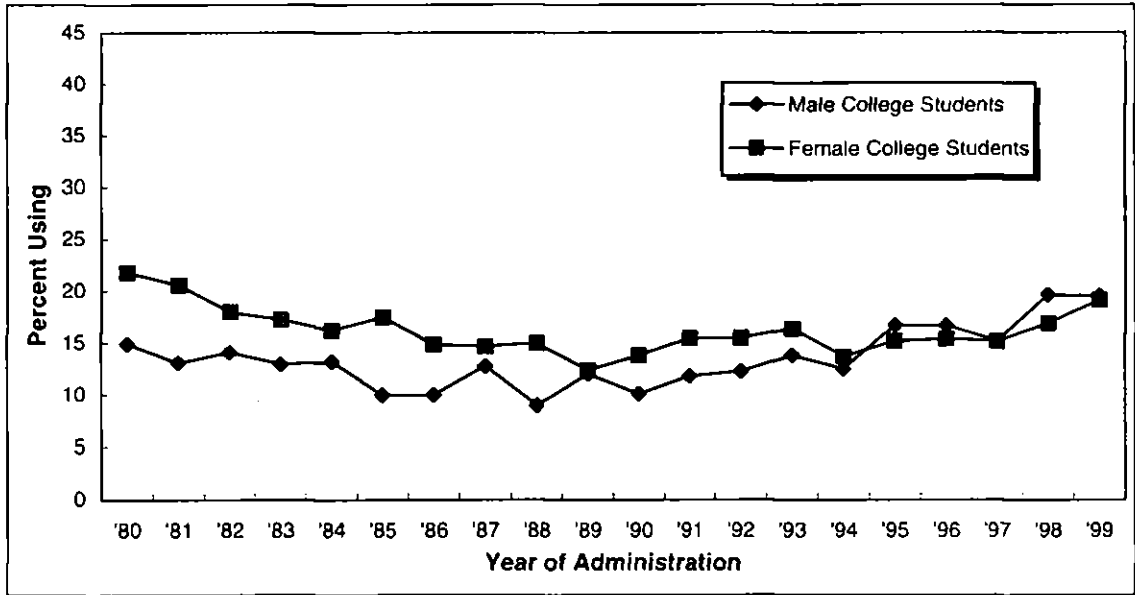
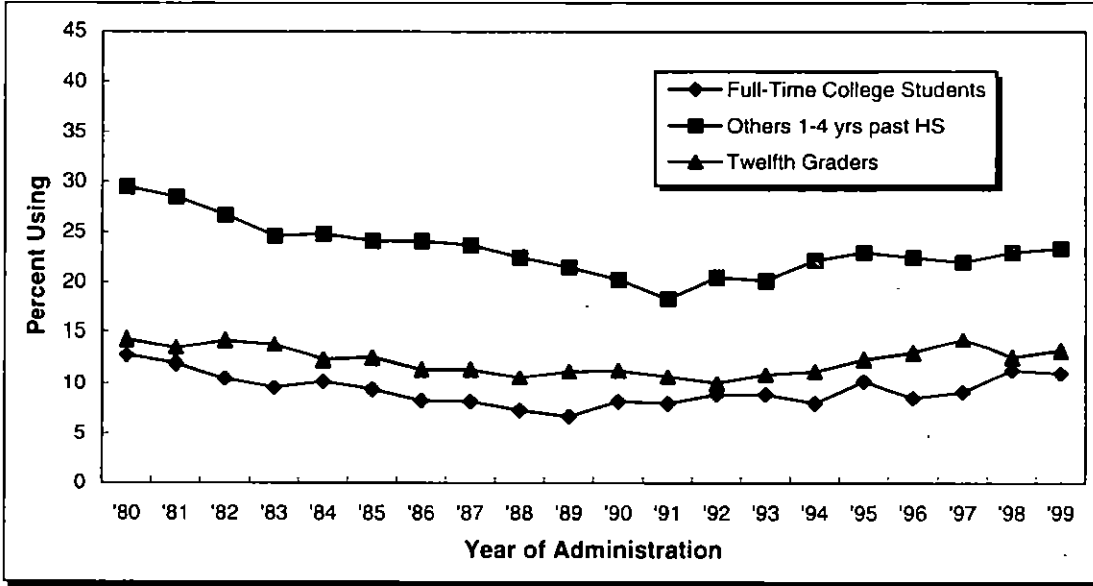
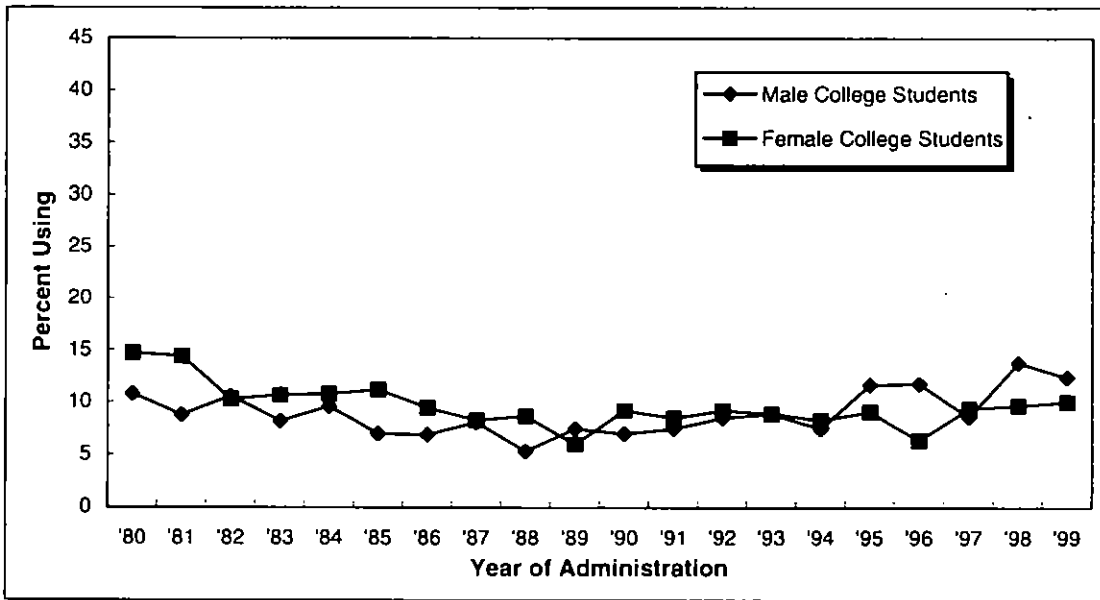


Figure 9-14c

**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Smoking a Half-Pack or More per Day Among College Students Vs. Others  
1-4 Years Beyond High School**



**Cigarettes: Trends in Thirty-Day Prevalence of Smoking a Half-Pack or More per Day Among Male and Female College Students**





**Study Web site address:**

**<http://www.MonitoringTheFuture.org>**

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ON DRUG ABUSE

NIH Publication No. 00-4803  
Printed August 2000