



Trends in the Prevalence of Marijuana, Cocaine, and Other Illegal Drug Use National YRBS: 1991–2011

The national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the United States. The national YRBS is conducted every two years during the spring semester and provides data representative of 9th through 12th grade students in public and private schools throughout the United States.

1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	Changes from 1991–2011 ¹	Change from 2009–2011 ²
Ever used marijuana one or more times (during their life)												
31.3 (28.4–34.4) ³	32.8 (29.6–36.2)	42.4 (39.4–45.5)	47.1 (44.1–50.1)	47.2 (44.7–49.7)	42.4 (40.5–44.3)	40.2 (37.4–43.1)	38.4 (35.9–41.0)	38.1 (35.5–40.7)	36.8 (34.8–38.8)	39.9 (37.8–42.1)	Increased, 1991–1999 Decreased, 1999–2011	Increased
Tried marijuana for the first time before age 13 years												
7.4 (6.3–8.7)	6.9 (5.9–8.2)	7.6 (6.4–8.9)	9.7 (8.4–11.2)	11.3 (9.6–13.2)	10.2 (9.1–11.5)	9.9 (8.6–11.3)	8.7 (7.8–9.6)	8.3 (7.0–9.7)	7.5 (6.7–8.3)	8.1 (7.3–9.0)	Increased, 1991–1999 Decreased, 1999–2011	No change
Used marijuana one or more times (during the 30 days before the survey)												
14.7 (12.6–17.0)	17.7 (15.3–20.3)	25.3 (23.5–27.3)	26.2 (24.0–28.5)	26.7 (24.2–29.4)	23.9 (22.3–25.5)	22.4 (20.2–24.6)	20.2 (18.6–22.0)	19.7 (17.8–21.8)	20.8 (19.4–22.3)	23.1 (21.5–24.7)	Increased, 1991–1999 Decreased, 1999–2011	Increased
Used marijuana on school property one or more times (during the 30 days before the survey)												
NA ⁴	NA	8.8 (7.7–10.0)	7.0 (6.0–8.1)	7.2 (5.9–8.8)	5.4 (4.7–6.2)	5.8 (4.6–7.3)	4.5 (3.9–5.2)	4.5 (3.6–5.5)	4.6 (4.0–5.4)	5.9 (5.1–6.7)	Decreased, 1995–2005 Increased, 2005–2011	Increased
Ever used any form of cocaine one or more times (for example, powder, crack, or freebase, during their life)												
5.9 (5.1–6.9)	4.9 (4.1–5.8)	7.0 (5.9–8.3)	8.2 (7.2–9.4)	9.5 (8.2–11.1)	9.4 (8.2–10.7)	8.7 (7.6–9.9)	7.6 (6.7–8.7)	7.2 (6.2–8.2)	6.4 (5.7–7.1)	6.8 (6.2–7.5)	Increased, 1991–1999 Decreased, 1999–2011	No change
Ever used inhalants (sniffed glue, breathed the contents of aerosol spray cans, or inhaled any paints or sprays to get high one or more times during their life)												
NA	NA	20.3 (18.3–22.5)	16.0 (14.7–17.3)	14.6 (12.9–16.5)	14.7 (13.1–16.6)	12.1 (10.9–13.4)	12.4 (11.1–13.8)	13.3 (12.1–14.6)	11.7 (10.6–12.8)	11.4 (10.7–12.1)	Decreased, 1995–2003 No change, 2003–2011	No change
Ever used heroin one or more times (also called “smack”, “junk”, or “China white”, during their life)												
NA	NA	NA	NA	2.4 (1.9–3.0)	3.1 (2.7–3.6)	3.3 (2.6–4.1)	2.4 (2.0–2.8)	2.3 (1.8–2.8)	2.5 (2.2–2.9)	2.9 (2.5–3.3)	No change, 1999–2011	No change
Ever used methamphetamines one or more times (also called “speed”, “crystal”, “crank”, or “ice”, during their life)												
NA	NA	NA	NA	9.1 (7.9–10.5)	9.8 (8.3–11.5)	7.6 (6.7–8.7)	6.2 (5.3–7.2)	4.4 (3.7–5.3)	4.1 (3.6–4.6)	3.8 (3.4–4.3)	Decreased, 1999–2011	No change

1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	Changes from 1991–2011 ¹	Change from 2009–2011 ²
Ever took steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription one or more times (during their life)												
2.7 (2.3–3.2)	2.2 (1.7–2.8)	3.7 (3.1–4.3)	3.1 (2.7–3.6)	3.7 (3.1–4.5)	5.0 (4.4–5.5)	6.1 (4.7–7.8)	4.0 (3.5–4.6)	3.9 (3.4–4.6)	3.3 (2.9–3.8)	3.6 (3.2–4.1)	Increased, 1991–2003 Decreased, 2003–2011	No change
Ever used a needle to inject any illegal drug into their body one or more times (during their life)												
NA	NA	2.1 (1.6–2.6)	2.1 (1.7–2.7)	1.8 (1.4–2.2)	2.3 (2.0–2.7)	3.2 (2.1–4.7)	2.1 (1.8–2.4)	2.0 (1.5–2.7)	2.1 (1.8–2.5)	2.3 (1.9–2.7)	No change, 1995–2011	No change
Offered, sold or given an illegal drug by someone on school property (during the 12 months before the survey)												
NA	24.0 (21.4–26.8)	32.1 (29.1–35.3)	31.7 (29.9–33.5)	30.2 (27.8–32.7)	28.5 (26.5–30.6)	28.7 (24.9–32.8)	25.4 (23.3–27.6)	22.3 (20.3–24.4)	22.7 (20.7–24.9)	25.6 (23.6–27.6)	Increased 1993–1995 Decreased 1995–2011	Increased

¹ Based on trend analyses using a logistic regression model controlling for sex, race/ethnicity, and grade.

² Based on t-test analyses, $p < 0.05$.

³ 95% confidence interval.

⁴ Not available.

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