

Table 4.22C Standard Errors of Numbers (in Thousands) of Persons Who Initiated Illicit Drug Use in the United States, Their Mean Age at First Use, and Rates of First Use (Per 1,000 Person-Years of Exposure): 1965-2003, Based on 2002-2004 NSDUHs

YEAR	NUMBER OF INITIATES (1,000s)			MEAN AGE	AGE-SPECIFIC RATES ¹	
	All Ages	Under 18	18 or Older		12-17	18-25
1965	86	55	65	0.4	2.7	3.2
1966	87	51	69	0.4	2.4	3.2
1967	103	67	79	0.3	3.3	3.7
1968	131	80	99	0.2	3.8	4.7
1969	128	75	103	0.2	3.5	5.0
1970	134	80	104	0.2	3.8	4.8
1971	118	72	95	0.3	3.4	5.0
1972	126	76	99	0.3	3.5	4.7
1973	124	79	92	0.2	3.7	5.0
1974	116	80	81	0.3	3.9	4.2
1975	121	85	84	0.2	4.2	4.3
1976	123	86	83	0.3	4.4	4.3
1977	114	85	77	0.3	4.4	3.9
1978	116	88	77	0.3	4.8	4.0
1979	109	82	73	0.3	4.5	4.0
1980	101	73	69	0.3	4.1	3.7
1981	96	67	67	0.3	4.1	4.2
1982	94	73	63	0.4	4.2	3.6
1983	94	69	62	0.4	3.9	4.1
1984	88	68	57	0.4	3.8	3.6
1985	97	70	63	0.4	4.2	3.7
1986	86	63	59	0.3	3.7	3.8
1987	82	62	49	0.4	3.7	3.4
1988	83	64	50	0.4	3.9	3.4
1989	78	50	58	0.3	3.1	3.6
1990	66	50	47	0.4	3.1	2.8
1991	69	52	51	0.5	3.1	3.2
1992	81	54	59	0.4	3.2	3.4
1993	73	50	51	0.3	2.9	3.3
1994	76	46	58	0.4	2.6	3.5
1995	73	40	60	0.2	2.0	4.0
1996	68	40	55	0.3	2.1	3.4
1997	65	43	46	0.2	2.2	3.0
1998	69	40	53	0.3	2.0	2.8
1999	66	43	48	0.3	2.1	2.7
2000	71	43	50	0.3	2.2	2.8
2001	64	38	48	0.3	2.0	2.4
2002 ²	71	50	50	0.3	2.6	2.4
2003 ³	115	69	91	0.4	3.6	3.6

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

-- Not available.

NOTE: Illicit Drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically.

NOTE: Comparisons between years, particularly between recent estimates and those from 10 or more years prior, should be made with caution due to potential bias from reporting and other sources.

¹ The numerator of each rate is the number of persons in the age group who initiated use of the drug in the specified year, while the denominator is the person-time exposure of persons in the age group measured in thousands of years.

² Estimated using 2003 and 2004 data only.

³ Estimated using 2004 data only.

Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2002, 2003, and 2004.