

Table 4.48B Mean Age at First Use among Past Year Initiates of Substance Use Aged 12 or Older, by Gender: 2002 and 2003

Substance	MEAN AGE					
	Total		Male		Female	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
ILLICIT DRUG¹	18.1	19.7	17.2	17.7	19.0	21.2
Marijuana and Hashish	17.0	17.5	16.8	17.8	17.1	17.2
Cocaine	19.8	19.8	19.8	20.0	19.7	19.7
Crack	27.1	22.9	27.8	23.8	26.2	21.9
Heroin	21.0	20.9	22.9	21.5	17.3	19.8
Hallucinogens	18.7	17.9	19.1	18.6	18.4	17.2
LSD	17.4	17.2	17.0	17.9	17.8	16.2
PCP	16.0 ^a	17.4	15.9 ^b	17.4	16.1	17.4
Ecstasy	21.6 ^a	19.7	22.6	20.2	20.7	19.2
Inhalants	15.9	16.0	16.2	16.5	15.4	15.5
Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics ²	21.5 ^a	23.9	20.5	19.8	22.3 ^a	26.4
Pain Relievers	21.0 ^a	24.0	20.6	20.0	21.5 ^a	26.8
OxyContin [®]	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tranquilizers	25.2	22.9	23.0	21.1	26.5	24.0
Stimulants	19.2 ^a	22.1	18.8	19.3	19.7 ^a	23.8
Methamphetamine	18.9	20.4	19.0	19.9	18.8	20.8
Sedatives	28.4	31.1	22.0	19.1	30.8	37.3
ILLICIT DRUG OTHER THAN MARIJUANA¹	20.0	21.7	18.6	18.3	21.1	24.2
CIGARETTES	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.6	17.0	17.1
Daily Cigarette Use ³	19.9	19.8	20.0	18.1	19.8	21.2
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	19.1	18.3	18.6	17.9	20.3	19.4
CIGARS	22.1	21.2	20.8	19.5	23.6	23.1
ALCOHOL	16.7	16.5	16.3	16.3	17.1	16.6

*Low precision, no estimate reported.

-- Not available.

NOTE: Past Year Initiates are defined as persons who used the substance(s) for the first time in the 12 months prior to date of interview.

^a Difference between estimate and 2003 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.^b Difference between estimate and 2003 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.01 level.¹ Illicit Drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically. Illicit Drugs

Other Than Marijuana include cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically.

² Nonmedical use of prescription-type pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives; does not include over-the-counter drugs.³ Daily Cigarette Use is defined as ever smoking every day for at least 30 days.

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

Table 4.49B Mean Age at First Use among Past Year Initiates of Substance Use Aged 12 or Older Who Initiated Use Prior to the Age of 18, by Gender: 2002 and 2003

Substance	MEAN AGE					
	Total		Male		Female	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
ILLCIT DRUG¹	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.7	14.6	14.8
Marijuana and Hashish	15.0	15.1	15.0	15.0	15.0 ^a	15.1
Cocaine	15.8	15.7	15.9	16.1	15.6	15.4
Crack	15.4	15.7	15.7	15.9	15.2	15.5
Heroin	15.6	15.4	15.7	*	15.5	15.4
Hallucinogens	15.5	15.4	15.5	15.7	15.4	15.1
LSD	15.6	15.3	15.5	15.7	15.6 ^a	14.8
PCP	15.1	15.3	15.4	15.6	14.9	15.0
Ecstasy	15.8 ^a	15.5	15.8	15.6	15.8	15.5
Inhalants	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.4	14.1 ^a	14.4
Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics ²	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.3	14.9	15.0
Pain Relievers	15.1	15.2	15.4	15.3	14.9	15.0
OxyContin [®]	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tranquilizers	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.8	15.4	15.5
Stimulants	15.2	15.1	15.3	15.2	15.1	15.1
Methamphetamine	15.2	15.3	15.1	15.4	15.2	15.2
Sedatives	14.9	14.8	15.1	15.1	14.8	14.4
ILLCIT DRUG OTHER THAN MARIJUANA¹	14.8	14.8	15.0	14.9	14.7	14.8
CIGARETTES	14.7 ^a	14.9	14.7 ^a	15.0	14.6	14.7
Daily Cigarette Use ³	15.4	15.4	15.7 ^a	15.4	15.1	15.4
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	15.1	15.2	15.1	15.1	14.9 ^a	15.4
CIGARS	15.2	15.3	15.2	15.3	15.2	15.3
ALCOHOL	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.9	14.8	14.6

*Low precision, no estimate reported.

-- Not available.

NOTE: Past Year Initiates are defined as persons who used the substance(s) for the first time in the 12 months prior to date of interview.

^a Difference between estimate and 2003 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.^b Difference between estimate and 2003 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.01 level.¹ Illicit Drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically. Illicit Drugs

Other Than Marijuana include cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically.

² Nonmedical use of prescription-type pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives; does not include over-the-counter drugs.³ Daily Cigarette Use is defined as ever smoking every day for at least 30 days.

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

Table 4.50B Mean Age at First Use among Past Year Initiates of Substance Use Aged 12 or Older Who Initiated Use Prior to the Age of 21, by Gender: 2002 and 2003

Substance	MEAN AGE					
	Total		Male		Female	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
ILLCIT DRUG¹	15.6	15.6	15.6	15.5	15.5	15.6
Marijuana and Hashish	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.9	15.8	15.9
Cocaine	17.3	17.2	17.5	17.6	17.1	16.8
Crack	16.6	17.0	17.1	17.5	16.1	16.4
Heroin	17.3	16.8	17.7	17.2	16.6	16.2
Hallucinogens	16.7	16.6	16.7	17.1	16.6 ^a	16.2
LSD	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.9	16.4	15.7
PCP	15.8	16.4	15.9	16.8	15.7	16.0
Ecstasy	17.1	17.0	17.1	17.3	17.0	16.8
Inhalants	15.2	15.1	15.5	15.4	14.7	14.8
Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics ²	16.3	16.4	16.5	16.5	16.1	16.3
Pain Relievers	16.3	16.3	16.5	16.5	16.2	16.2
OxyContin [®]	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tranquilizers	16.7	16.9	17.0	17.1	16.5	16.7
Stimulants	16.4	16.3	16.6	16.6	16.2	16.1
Methamphetamine	16.2	16.5	16.5	17.0	16.0	15.8
Sedatives	15.8	15.6	16.6	15.9	15.4	15.3
ILLCIT DRUG OTHER THAN MARIJUANA¹	15.8	15.8	15.9	15.9	15.7	15.8
CIGARETTES	15.5	15.7	15.7	15.8	15.4	15.6
Daily Cigarette Use ³	16.6	16.5	16.8	16.6	16.3	16.5
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	16.3	16.2	16.3	16.1	16.1	16.6
CIGARS	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.3	16.4
ALCOHOL	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.7	15.4	15.5

*Low precision, no estimate reported.

-- Not available.

NOTE: Past Year Initiates are defined as persons who used the substance(s) for the first time in the 12 months prior to date of interview.

^a Difference between estimate and 2003 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.^b Difference between estimate and 2003 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.01 level.¹ Illicit Drugs include marijuana/hashish, cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically. Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana include cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used nonmedically.² Nonmedical use of prescription-type pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives; does not include over-the-counter drugs.³ Daily Cigarette Use is defined as ever smoking every day for at least 30 days.

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