

Table 4.16B Mean Age at First Use among Past Year Initiates of Substance Use Aged 12 to 49, by Gender: 2004 and 2005

Substance	MEAN AGE					
	Total		Male		Female	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
ILLCIT DRUGS¹	18.1	18.7	17.9	17.7	18.3	19.5
Marijuana and Hashish	17.1	17.4	16.7	17.0	17.5	17.7
Cocaine	20.0	19.7	20.0	19.8	20.2	19.4
Crack	21.9	23.4	20.5	22.0	23.1	24.5
Heroin	24.4	22.2	22.7	22.6	26.4	21.7
Hallucinogens	18.7	18.7	18.7	19.2	18.7	18.0
LSD	18.4	18.3	18.2	18.9	18.6	16.8
PCP	18.9 ^a	16.5	17.7	16.6	20.3	16.4
Ecstasy	19.5	20.7	20.5	21.1	18.3	20.2
Inhalants	16.0	16.1	15.7	16.4	16.3	15.8
Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics ²	21.7	22.2	21.2	21.7	22.0	22.5
Pain Relievers	20.9	21.2	20.9	20.8	21.0	21.5
OxyContin [®]	22.9	23.2	22.3	21.9	23.6	24.8
Tranquilizers	24.4	25.7	23.1	25.1	25.2	26.1
Stimulants	20.0	20.1	19.0	20.2	20.7	20.1
Methamphetamine	20.6	18.6	20.8	19.1	20.4	18.1
Sedatives	23.5	22.9	21.6	21.9	24.9	23.5
ILLCIT DRUGS OTHER THAN MARIJUANA¹	19.9	20.5	19.8	19.9	19.9	21.0
CIGARETTES	16.7	17.3	16.6	17.2	16.8	17.3
Daily Cigarette Use ³	18.8	19.7	19.0	19.2	18.6	20.2
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	18.8	18.3	18.1	18.2	20.7	18.9
CIGARS	20.2	21.2	18.9	19.7	21.6	22.9
ALCOHOL	16.4	16.4	16.1	16.4	16.7	16.4

*Low precision; no estimate reported.

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 2005 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

^b Difference between estimate and 2005 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 psychotherapeutics includes the nonmedical use of pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives and 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, 2004 and 2005.