

Table 4.16B Mean Age at First Use among Past Year Initiates of Substance Use Aged 12 to 49, by Gender: 2006 and 2007

Substance	MEAN AGE					
	Total		Male		Female	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
ILLCIT DRUGS^{1,2}	19.0	18.0	18.9 ^a	17.1	19.0	18.8
Marijuana and Hashish	17.4	17.6	17.4	17.1	17.4	18.0
Cocaine	20.3	20.2	21.0	20.9	19.5	19.2
Crack	22.9 ^a	29.6	23.9 ^a	32.3	21.3	24.6
Heroin	20.7	21.8	20.0	21.1	21.8	23.3
Hallucinogens	19.7	19.1	17.8 ^b	19.4	21.2	18.8
LSD	19.4	18.3	19.3	18.6	19.6	17.6
PCP	16.3	16.4	15.8	16.0	16.7	17.2
Ecstasy	20.6	20.2	19.1 ^a	20.9	21.9	19.4
Inhalants	15.7 ^a	17.1	15.7 ^a	17.4	15.6	16.8
Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics ^{2,3}	22.9	21.8	21.2	20.4	24.1	23.0
Pain Relievers	21.9	21.2	21.2	20.2	22.6	22.2
OxyContin [®]	22.6	24.0	23.3	24.6	21.9	23.4
Tranquilizers	24.0	24.5	22.9	23.5	24.8	25.3
Stimulants ²	23.0	21.9	19.7	19.0	24.7	23.3
Sedatives	26.5	24.2	18.9	23.5	29.4	24.8
ILLCIT DRUGS OTHER THAN MARIJUANA^{1,2}	20.7	20.0	19.9	19.1	21.4	20.9
CIGARETTES	17.1	16.9	16.7	16.7	17.4	17.1
Daily Cigarette Use ⁴	18.9	19.2	19.0	19.2	18.7	19.3
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	19.0	18.0	18.5	17.4	20.9	19.7
CIGARS	19.9	20.5	18.8	19.2	21.3	22.2
ALCOHOL	16.6	16.8	16.5	16.7	16.6	16.9

*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 2007 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

^b Difference between estimate and 2007 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 Estimates in these designated rows do not include data from methamphetamine initiation items added in 2007 or methamphetamine use items added in 2005 and 2006.

³ 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.

⁴ 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, 2006 and 2007.