

Table 4.10B Past Year Initiation of Substance Use among Persons 12 to 49 and Mean Age at First Substance Use among Past Year Initiates Aged 12 to 49, by Gender: Numbers in Thousands and Averages, 2018 and 2019

Substance	Number of Past Year Initiates (1,000s)		Mean Age among Past Year Initiates		Mean Age among Past Year Male Initiates		Mean Age among Past Year Female Initiates	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
ILLICIT DRUGS	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Marijuana	2,953	3,224	19.3 ^a	20.6	18.9	20.3	19.7	20.8
Cocaine	874 ^a	671	21.9	22.4	21.2	22.6	22.5	22.3
Crack	101	71	27.7	27.2	25.9	26.0	29.3	28.8
Heroin	117 ^a	33	30.1	28.5	30.0	*	30.2	*
Hallucinogens	1,089	1,183	21.3	21.5	21.2	20.8	21.5	22.4
LSD	778	866	21.5	21.2	21.6	21.5	21.3	20.7
PCP	14	30	*	18.0	*	18.4	*	*
Ecstasy	722	726	21.9	22.0	21.4	21.6	22.4	22.5
Inhalants	576 ^a	729	18.0	18.4	18.4	19.3	17.5	17.5
Methamphetamine	205	151	25.8	25.6	25.7	26.5	26.0	24.7
Misuse of Psychotherapeutics	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Pain Relievers	1,455	1,287	26.6	27.5	27.0	28.6	26.4	26.5
Stimulants	965	865	22.7	22.8	21.5	22.0	23.8	24.0
Tranquilizers or Sedatives	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Tranquilizers	967 ^a	787	23.6	24.1	22.3	24.1	24.5	24.2
Sedatives	186	118	25.0	27.5	26.9	26.8	22.0	27.9
Benzodiazepines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Opioids	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana ¹	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
CIGARETTES	1,824 ^a	1,573	18.6	18.5	18.5	18.2	18.6	18.8
Daily Cigarette Use	476	438	20.5 ^a	23.6	20.1	21.7	21.1 ^a	25.5
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	845	949	20.4	20.7	19.1	19.8	22.9	22.3
CIGARS	2,183	2,016	21.5	21.4	20.6	20.8	22.6	22.4
ALCOHOL	4,878	4,832	17.4	17.7	17.4	17.5	17.4	17.8

* = low precision; -- = not available; da = does not apply; nc = not comparable due to methodological changes; nr = not reported due to measurement issues.

NOTE: Methodological limitations preclude the estimation of past year initiates for aggregate substance use categories having at least one prescription psychotherapeutic, including categories for overall illicit drugs, misuse of psychotherapeutics, tranquilizers or sedatives, opioids, and illicit drugs other than marijuana (see Section 3.4.2 in Chapter 3 of the *2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Methodological Summary and Definitions*).

^a The difference between this estimate and the 2019 estimate is statistically significant at the .05 level. Rounding may make the estimates appear identical.

¹ Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana excludes respondents who used only marijuana but includes those who used marijuana in addition to other illicit drugs.

Definitions: Measures and terms are defined in Appendix A.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2018 and 2019.