

Table 4.16B Mean Age at First Use among Past Year Initiates of Substance Use Aged 12 to 49, by Gender: 2011 and 2012

Substance	Total (2011)	Total (2012)	Male (2011)	Male (2012)	Female (2011)	Female (2012)
ILLCIT DRUGS^{1,2}	18.1	18.7	17.4	17.9	18.8	19.4
Marijuana and Hashish	17.5	17.9	17.3	17.8	17.7	18.0
Cocaine	20.1	20.0	19.7	20.2	20.6	19.8
Crack	20.8	20.5	20.6	20.0	21.0	21.1
Heroin	22.1	23.0	22.9	24.3	21.2	20.9
Hallucinogens	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.1	18.4	19.0
LSD	18.6	19.0	18.7	19.5	18.5	18.2
PCP	17.8	16.6	18.9	16.8	16.2	16.4
Ecstasy	19.6	20.3	19.4	20.7	19.7	19.9
Inhalants	16.4	16.9	17.1	17.5	15.7	16.2
Nonmedical Use of Psychotherapeutics ^{2,3}	22.4	22.9	20.8	21.5	23.5	23.9
Pain Relievers	21.8	22.3	20.3	21.4	22.8	23.0
OxyContin [®]	22.8	22.0	24.2	21.2	21.1	23.1
Tranquilizers	24.6	23.6	22.7	22.5	25.8	24.5
Stimulants ²	22.2	22.1	21.2	21.2	23.0	22.8
Sedatives	22.0	26.2	20.4	24.8	23.0	26.8
ILLCIT DRUGS OTHER THAN MARIJUANA^{1,2}	20.1	21.2	19.1	19.9	20.9	22.3
CIGARETTES	17.2 ^a	17.8	17.1	17.2	17.2 ^b	18.5
Daily Cigarette Use ⁴	19.1	19.9	19.2	19.1	19.0	21.0
SMOKELESS TOBACCO⁵	19.8	18.8	20.1 ^a	18.0	18.9	21.0
CIGARS	19.6	20.5	18.7	19.5	20.7	21.9
ALCOHOL	17.1	17.4	16.9	17.3	17.3	17.5

*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 2012 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

^b Difference between estimate and 2012 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 new methamphetamine initiation items added in 2007 or new 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.

⁵ Smokeless Tobacco includes chewing tobacco or snuff.

Source: SAMHSA, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2011 and 2012.