

Table 4.10B Past Year Initiation of Substance Use: Among People Aged 12 to 49; Mean Age at First Substance Use: Among Past Year Initiates Aged 12 to 49; by Gender, Numbers in Thousands and Averages, 2019 and 2020

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	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
ILLICIT DRUGS	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
Marijuana	3,224	2,598	20.6	20.2	20.3	20.1	20.8	20.2
Cocaine	671	489	22.4	21.8	22.6	20.1	22.3	23.8
Crack	71	53	27.2	26.6	26.0	*	28.8	*
Heroin	33	103	28.5	*	*	*	*	*
Hallucinogens	1,183	1,364	21.5	22.3	20.8	20.4	22.4	24.2
LSD	866	859	21.2	21.9	21.5	21.7	20.7	22.3
PCP	30	52	18.0	*	18.4	*	*	*
Ecstasy	726	610	22.0	25.3	21.6	23.7	22.5	26.9
Inhalants	729	664	18.4	18.6	19.3	20.6	17.5	16.9
Methamphetamine	151	122	25.6	31.3	26.5	37.7	24.7	23.3
Misuse of Prescription								
Psychotherapeutics	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
Pain Relievers	1,287	815	27.5	27.4	28.6	30.0	26.5	25.0
Stimulants	865	624	22.8	24.9	22.0	24.5	24.0	25.2
Tranquilizers or Sedatives	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
Tranquilizers	787	759	24.1	25.8	24.1	26.3	24.2	25.4
Sedatives	118	191	27.5	29.2	26.8	26.4	27.9	32.6
Benzodiazepines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Opioids	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana ¹	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
CIGARETTES	1,573	1,264	18.5	19.4	18.2	18.6	18.8	20.0
Daily Cigarette Use	438	419	23.6	22.2	21.7	21.2	25.5	23.5
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	949	653	20.7	20.5	19.8	19.6	22.3	22.2
CIGARS	2,016	1,329	21.4	22.0	20.8	21.2	22.4	24.0
ALCOHOL	4,832	3,969	17.7	17.7	17.5	17.6	17.8	17.9

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

NOTE: Estimates in the 2020 column are italicized to indicate caution should be used when comparing estimates between 2020 and prior years because of methodological changes for 2020. Due to these changes, significance testing between 2020 and prior years was not performed. See the *2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Methodological Summary and Definitions* for details.

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 prescription psychotherapeutics, tranquilizers or sedatives, opioids, and illicit drugs other than marijuana (see Chapter 3 of the *2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Methodological Summary and Definitions*).

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, 2019 and Quarters 1 and 4, 2020.