

Table 4.9A Past Year Initiation of Substance Use: Among People Aged 12 or Older Who Initiated Use Prior to Age 18, Prior to Age 21, and at Age 21 or Older; Numbers in Thousands, 2019 and 2020

Substance	People Who Initiated Use Prior to Age 18		People Who Initiated Use Prior to Age 21		People Who Initiated Use at Age 21 or Older	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
ILLICIT DRUGS	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
Marijuana	1,509	<i>1,107</i>	2,169	<i>1,779</i>	1,309	<i>1,060</i>
Cocaine	81	<i>96</i>	304	<i>244</i>	367	<i>245</i>
Crack	11	<i>2</i>	19	<i>17</i>	72	<i>36</i>
Heroin	*	<i>*</i>	8	<i>7</i>	42	<i>96</i>
Hallucinogens	300	<i>291</i>	689	<i>716</i>	532	<i>697</i>
LSD	226	<i>209</i>	477	<i>464</i>	407	<i>395</i>
PCP	16	<i>5</i>	23	<i>32</i>	*	<i>20</i>
Ecstasy	138	<i>87</i>	374	<i>217</i>	370	<i>416</i>
Inhalants	397	<i>379</i>	502	<i>462</i>	229	<i>216</i>
Methamphetamine	25	<i>6</i>	60	<i>35</i>	124	<i>118</i>
Misuse of Prescription						
Psychotherapeutics	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
Pain Relievers	280	<i>*</i>	471	<i>*</i>	1,136	<i>955</i>
Stimulants	262	<i>*</i>	482	<i>*</i>	419	<i>433</i>
Tranquilizers or Sedatives	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>	nr	<i>nr</i>
Tranquilizers	216	<i>*</i>	375	<i>*</i>	575	<i>719</i>
Sedatives	*	<i>*</i>	*	<i>*</i>	193	<i>293</i>
Benzodiazepines	--	<i>--</i>	--	<i>--</i>	--	<i>--</i>
Opioids	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>
CIGARETTES	610	<i>434</i>	1,265	<i>894</i>	330	<i>370</i>
Daily Cigarette Use	86	<i>54</i>	234	<i>189</i>	254	<i>269</i>
SMOKELESS TOBACCO	371	<i>181</i>	620	<i>437</i>	421	<i>216</i>
CIGARS	518	<i>412</i>	1,322	<i>807</i>	792	<i>696</i>
ALCOHOL	2,550	<i>1,975</i>	3,815	<i>3,042</i>	1,064	<i>1,035</i>

* = 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.