
National Health Statistics Reports

Number 15 ■ May 20, 2009

Smoking, Alcohol Use, and Illicit Drug Use Reported by Adolescents Aged 12–17 years: United States, 1999–2004

by Cheryl D. Fryar, M.S.P.H.; Mercy C. Merino, B.S.; Rosemarie Hirsch, M.D., M.P.H.; and Kathryn S. Porter, M.D., M.S., Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys

Abstract

Objective—This report presents national prevalence estimates for self-reported health risk behaviors of smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use by U.S. adolescents aged 12–17 years in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES).

Methods—Data in this report are from 6 years (1999–2004) of NHANES, which is conducted on a complex, stratified, multistage probability sample of the civilian, noninstitutionalized U.S. population.

Results—The tables included in this report present weighted percentages and standard errors for smoking, alcohol, and illicit drug use behaviors in U.S. adolescents, by sex, race/ethnicity, education, and poverty level (when sufficient data are available). Selected highlights are presented from information included in the tables.

Keywords: cigarette smoking • alcohol use • adolescent health risk behaviors • National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES)

Introduction

Behaviors related to smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use during adolescence are of great public health importance because they have been associated with depression, violence, addiction, and other health risks (1–3). A nationwide health promotion and disease prevention agenda for improving the health status of the U.S. population by year 2010 has targeted some of these behaviors (4), and several federal surveys track the prevalence of adolescent health risk behaviors in the U.S. population (5,6). Regular cigarette

smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use by children are also addressed in the report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2007* (7).

The present report provides prevalence estimates of self-reported risk behaviors for U.S. adolescents aged 12–17 years, sampled over 6 years (1999–2004) of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES). Conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), NHANES provides interview,

examination, and laboratory data on the health status of the U.S.

noninstitutionalized population. The risk behaviors of cigarette smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use in adolescents can be linked to health outcomes measured in NHANES, such as HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and conduct disorders. The present report should serve as a benchmark for how NHANES data (i.e., data from a general survey not collected with respect to any particular health condition) on adolescent risk behaviors are consistent with findings from other studies that are topic-specific to these behaviors, such as the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) (6), the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey (YRBSS) (5), and the National Institute on Drug Use-funded Monitoring the Future (MTF) study (8), all of which have larger adolescent samples and can describe trends over time.

Methods

NHANES comprises a series of cross-sectional, nationally representative health and nutrition examination surveys of the U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population. Samples are selected through a complex, multistage probability design (9,10). Beginning in 1999, NHANES



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became a continuous survey. Low-income persons, adolescents aged 12–19 years, persons aged 60 years and over, African American persons, and Mexican American persons are oversampled. NHANES data for the present report are from a combination of three 2-year cycles: 1999–2000, 2001–2002, and 2003–2004. Six years of data were used to provide estimates that have good statistical reliability for demographic subpopulations.

The NHANES data consist of in-person household interviews and standardized health examinations administered in a mobile exam center (MEC). A combined total of 38,077 sample persons, ranging in age from birth to over 85 years, were eligible for the surveys in 1999–2004, and of these, 31,126 (82%) were interviewed in the home and 29,402 (77%) had examinations at a MEC. A total of 5,322 adolescents aged 12–17 years participated in the MEC components, which included the collection of questionnaire data on smoking, alcohol use, and drug use. [Table 1](#) gives the sample sizes used in the present study. There was no proxy reporting for adolescents under age 16 years (as is done in the household interview) for these MEC questionnaire data. Questions were administered in English or Spanish, using audio computer-assisted self interviewing (ACASI) software.

Smoking and tobacco-use questions focused on recent tobacco use and on smoking and tobacco use history. Questions on the use of alcohol focused on age at first drink (initiation), lifetime use, and current use (past 30 days) but were not specific as to the type of alcohol used. Drug-use questions focused on lifetime use of marijuana, cocaine, and other street drugs, as well as intravenous drug use. The number of respondents who answered “Yes” to the question on intravenous drug use was too small for inclusion in this report.

Five race/ethnicity categories were derived from combined responses to questions on race and Hispanic origin. Race/ethnicity categories are reported for non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, and Mexican American

respondents. Although data were collected for other Hispanic persons and other multiracial persons, the numbers of observations were insufficient to meet statistical reliability requirements for reporting estimates.

Poverty status was defined by using the poverty income ratio (PIR), an index calculated by dividing family income by a poverty threshold specific to family size. The PIR is reported in three levels: below the poverty level, one to less than two times the poverty level, and two or more times the poverty level.

The questions and definitions used for analyzing smoking, alcohol, and drug-use risk behaviors are given in the Technical Notes. Questionnaires for each of these components are available from the NHANES website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm>. The data files used for this report contain sensitive information on adolescents and are only available to the public through the NCHS Research Data Center: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/r&d/rdc.htm>.

Statistical analysis

[Tables 2–29](#) give percentages and standard errors for the adolescent health risk behaviors. The standard errors of the percentages were estimated by Taylor series linearization (11), a method that incorporates the sample weights and accounts for the sample design. Six-year MEC weights were applied to account for differential probabilities of selection, nonresponse, and noncoverage. A relative standard error (RSE) greater than 30% was used to identify estimates that did not meet standards of reliability or precision (8,9). The RSE is defined as the ratio of the standard error of the estimate divided by the estimate and multiplied by 100. In the tables, any estimate with an RSE greater than 30%–40% is indicated by a dagger (†); estimates with an RSE greater than 40% are not shown and are replaced with an asterisk (*).

Student’s *t* tests at the 0.05 significance level, with no adjustment for multiple comparisons, were used to assess the significance of differences between point estimates. Terms such as “more likely,” “less likely,” “was

higher,” “was lower,” and “compared with” indicate a significant difference. Terms such as “similar” or “no difference” indicate that the statistics being compared were not statistically significant. Lack of comment regarding the difference between estimates should not be interpreted to mean that a *t* test was performed and the difference was found to be not significant. All data analyses were performed using the statistical packages SAS version 9.1 (12) and SUDAAN version 9.0 (13).

Strengths and limitations of the data

NHANES estimates of prevalence for alcohol, smoking, and illicit drug use in adolescents aged 12–17 years are limited because the data are self-reported. Limitations of self-reported data include recall bias and intentional misreporting of behaviors. Survey planners attempted to minimize response errors by implementing ACASI for adolescents answering questions about smoking, alcohol, and illicit drug use asked in NHANES. Although the NHANES target population (U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized) includes most of the U.S. population, the fact that NHANES did not survey the homeless, persons in prisons, or institutionalized populations means that the findings are not representative of the U.S. adolescent population as a whole.

Results

Cigarette smoking

Lifetime cigarette use

(i.e., ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs)

- About 40% of adolescents aged 12–17 years have ever tried smoking cigarettes, including a few puffs, in their lifetime. This prevalence is similar for males (40%) and females (39%) ([Table 2](#)).
- Lifetime prevalence of ever having tried smoking cigarettes increased with increasing age, from 19% at age 12–13 years, to 42% at age 14–15

years, to 60% at age 16–17 years (Table 2).

- Overall, Mexican American adolescents (41%) and non-Hispanic white adolescents (41%) had a higher prevalence of ever having tried smoking cigarettes, compared with non-Hispanic black adolescents (34%) (Table 2).
- Mexican American males (45%) were more likely than Mexican American females (38%) to have tried smoking cigarettes (Table 2).
- Ever having tried smoking cigarettes increased as educational grade level increased and decreased for adolescents living two or more times above the poverty level (Table 2).
- Overall, 24% of adolescents aged 12–17 years had smoked at least one whole cigarette during their lifetime (Table 3).
- Ten percent of adolescents had smoked at least one whole cigarette before age 13 years (Table 4).
- Among the 24% of adolescents who ever smoked a whole cigarette, 42% smoked before age 13 years (Table 5).

Current cigarette use

(i.e., smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)

- Thirteen percent of adolescents aged 12–17 years smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey (Table 6).
- The prevalence of having smoked in the past 30 days increased with age: 12–13 years (3%), 14–15 years (11%), and 16–17 years (24%) (Table 6).
- Non-Hispanic white adolescents (15%) were more likely to be current smokers than Mexican American adolescents (10%) and non-Hispanic black adolescents (8%) (Table 6).
- Non-Hispanic white females (18%) had a higher prevalence of current smoking than non-Hispanic white males (12%), Mexican American females (9%), and non-Hispanic black females (6%) (Table 6).
- Current smoking was more prevalent at higher grade levels: 11th grade and above (27%), 9th through 10th grades

(19%), and 8th grade and below (7%) (Table 6).

- The prevalence of current smoking among adolescents in families with a PIR two or more times the poverty level (11%) was lower compared with families at each of the other poverty levels (16%) (Table 6).
- Overall, 7% of adolescents had smoked on 20 or more days during the past 30 days, with 5% of them smoking daily (Table 7).
- Females (8%) had a higher prevalence of smoking on 20 or more days during the past 30 days than males (6%) (Table 7).
- Non-Hispanic white adolescents (9%) were more likely to have smoked on 20 or more days during the past 30 days than Mexican American adolescents (3%) or non-Hispanic black adolescents (3%) (Table 7).
- Among adolescents who were current smokers, 53% had smoked on 20 or more days during the past 30 days, and 37% smoked daily (Table 8).
- Thirty-three percent of adolescents who smoked during the 30 days prior to the survey smoked more than five cigarettes per day (Table 9).
- Forty-two percent of current smokers smoked from one to two cigarettes per day (Table 9).
- Among current smokers, non-Hispanic white adolescents (39%) had a higher percentage who smoked more than five cigarettes per day, compared with Mexican American adolescents (13%) and non-Hispanic black adolescents (22%) (Table 9).
- Fifty-nine percent of adolescents who smoked a whole cigarette had tried to quit in the past 12 months (Table 10).

Recent nicotine and cigarette use

(i.e., use of tobacco or nicotine products in the past 5 days)

- Eleven percent of all adolescents reported using some form of nicotine in the past 5 days (Table 11).
- Females (12%) and males (10%) reported similar use of nicotine during the past 5 days (Table 11).
- A higher percentage of non-Hispanic white adolescents (13%), compared with non-Hispanic black adolescents

(7%) and Mexican American adolescents (7%), reported using nicotine in the past 5 days (Table 11).

- Non-Hispanic white females (15%) had a higher percentage of nicotine use in the past 5 days than Mexican American females (6%) and non-Hispanic black females (5%) (Table 11).
- Overall, 9% of all adolescents had smoked cigarettes in the 5 days prior to the survey (Table 12).
- Four percent of recent (in the past 5 days) adolescent cigarette smokers smoked daily (Table 12).
- Non-Hispanic white adolescents (5%) had a higher percentage of daily cigarette smoking in the past 5 days, compared with Mexican American adolescents (2%) and non-Hispanic black adolescents (2%) (Table 12).
- Among adolescents who smoked during the past 5 days, 26% smoked 10 or more cigarettes per day (Table 13).

Alcohol use

Lifetime use

(i.e., had at least one drink of alcohol in lifetime)

- Sixteen percent of adolescents aged 12–17 years had their first alcoholic drink before age 13. Among those adolescents who had an alcoholic drink, 37% did so before age 13 (Tables 14 and 15).
- Eighteen percent of males and 14% of females aged 12–17 years reported drinking before age 13 (Table 14).
- Overall, 39% of adolescents aged 12–17 years had at least one drink of alcohol in their lifetime (Table 16).
- Females (40%) were as likely as males (38%) to have had at least one drink of alcohol (Table 16).
- Non-Hispanic black adolescents (30%) were least likely to have had at least one drink of alcohol, compared with Mexican American adolescents (42%) and non-Hispanic white adolescents (41%) (Table 16).
- Six percent of adolescents aged 12–17 years had at least one drink of alcohol on 40 or more days in their lifetime (Table 17).

Current use

(i.e., had at least one drink of alcohol in the 30 days before the survey)

- Overall, 21% percent of adolescents aged 12–17 years had at least one drink of alcohol during the 30 days before the survey (Table 18).
- Females (23%) reported a higher percentage of alcohol use in the past 30 days than males (19%) (Table 18).
- Mexican American adolescents (22%) were as likely as non-Hispanic white adolescents (23%) to have used alcohol in the past 30 days (Table 18).
- Non-Hispanic black adolescents (14%) were least likely to have used alcohol in the past 30 days (Table 18).
- The prevalence of alcohol use in the past 30 days increased as grade level increased (Table 18).
- Eight percent of adolescents aged 12–17 years reported drinking on three or more days in the past month. Among those who drank in the past 30 days, 37% drank on three or more days (Tables 19 and 20).

Heavy (binge) drinking

(i.e., had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)

- Ten percent of adolescents aged 12–17 years had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least one day during the past month (Table 21).
- Females (10%) were as likely as males (11%) to have had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least one day during the past month (Table 21).
- Mexican American adolescents (12%) and non-Hispanic white adolescents (12%) had a higher percentage who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least one day during the past month, compared with non-Hispanic black adolescents (4%) (Table 21).
- Three percent of adolescents aged 12–17 years had five or more drinks

of alcohol in a row on three or more days in the past month (Table 22).

Illicit drug use

Lifetime use

(i.e., ever tried)

- Approximately 21% of adolescents aged 12–17 years had ever tried marijuana (Table 23).
- Overall, there was no statistically significant difference by sex in the percentage of adolescents who had ever tried marijuana: 23% for males and 20% for females (Table 23).
- Mexican American male adolescents (28%) and non-Hispanic black male adolescents (26%) had a higher percentage who ever tried marijuana than non-Hispanic white male adolescents (21%). Mexican American male adolescents (28%) had a higher percentage who ever tried marijuana than Mexican American female adolescents (20%). Non-Hispanic black male adolescents (26%) had a higher percentage who ever tried marijuana than non-Hispanic black female adolescents (21%). However, the percentage of non-Hispanic white male adolescents who had ever tried marijuana was similar to that of non-Hispanic white female adolescents (20%) (Table 23).
- Overall, 13% of adolescents aged 12–17 years had tried marijuana by age 15 (Table 24).
- Twenty-one percent of adolescents who had tried smoking marijuana did so before age 13 and 63% did so before age 15 (Table 25).
- Approximately 8% of adolescents aged 12–17 years reported using marijuana one to two times in their lifetime, whereas close to 7% reported using marijuana more than 20 times in their lifetime (Table 26).
- Among those who ever used marijuana, 32% used marijuana 20 or more times in their lifetime (Table 27).
- Overall, 2% of adolescents aged 12–17 years had ever tried cocaine (Table 28).

- Approximately, 2% of adolescents first tried cocaine at age 15–17 years (Table 29).

Discussion

Several surveys track the prevalence of adolescent health risk behaviors, including smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use, in the U.S. population. Surveys such as the NSDUH (6), YRBSS (5), and MTF (8) have large samples of adolescents, can describe trends over time, and have released recent data on adolescent alcohol, smoking, and illicit drug use.

NHANES methodology is most comparable to the NSDUH methodology. The adolescent risk behavior measures from NSDUH were used as a touchstone for developing NHANES variable categories and for comparison with the present prevalence estimates. Table 30 presents a summary comparing NSDUH individual years for 1999–2004 and NHANES combined 1999–2004 prevalence estimates among adolescents aged 12–17 years. As shown, NHANES estimates for lifetime marijuana use, lifetime cocaine use, past-month binge drinking, and past-month cigarette use are comparable with the NSDUH estimates for 1999–2004. The lifetime and past-month alcohol use are within the confidence interval bounds of the NSDUH estimates. NHANES based estimates of lifetime alcohol use on the question, “During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?” However, if the question asked is “How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?” the lifetime alcohol estimate (43.2%) is much closer to that of NSDUH. The lifetime cigarette use estimate from NHANES is higher, likely due to a difference in the questions asked. The NSDUH lifetime cigarette smoking question asked “Have you ever smoked part or all of a cigarette?” and the NHANES lifetime cigarette smoking question was “Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even 1 or 2 puffs?”

In summary, NHANES data on the self-reported behaviors of smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use in adolescents are consistent with findings from other studies that are topic-specific to these behaviors.

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Table 1. Sample sizes for smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use analyses in adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Cigarette smoking	Alcohol use	Drug use
		Sample size	
Total ¹	4,911	4,896	4,914
Sex			
Male	2,475	2,466	2,478
Female	2,436	2,430	2,436
Age group			
12–13 years	1,697	1,689	1,699
14–15 years	1,568	1,564	1,569
16–17 years	1,646	1,642	1,646
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	1,709	1,702	1,712
Non-Hispanic white	1,252	1,248	1,252
Non-Hispanic black	1,561	1,556	1,560
Education			
8th grade and below	2,893	2,881	2,896
9th–10th grade	1,494	1,492	1,493
11th grade and above	522	521	523
Poverty status ²			
PIR less than 1	1,412	1,407	1,411
PIR 1 to less than 2	1,201	1,198	1,204
PIR 2 or greater	1,919	1,912	1,919

¹Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

²Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

Table 2. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who ever tried cigarette smoking, even a few puffs, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Ever tried cigarette smoking		
	Total	Male	Female
		Percent ¹ (standard error)	
Total ²	39.9 (1.4)	40.4 (1.6)	39.4 (1.8)
Age group			
12–13 years	18.5 (1.5)	18.8 (1.9)	18.1 (2.1)
14–15 years	41.9 (2.4)	43.8 (3.1)	40.0 (2.7)
16–17 years	59.7 (2.1)	60.1 (2.7)	59.3 (3.0)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	41.2 (2.0)	44.5 (2.0)	37.6 (2.8)
Non-Hispanic white	41.2 (1.9)	41.6 (2.2)	40.9 (2.7)
Non-Hispanic black	33.6 (1.7)	34.8 (2.6)	32.3 (1.8)
Education			
8th grade and below	27.8 (1.5)	30.2 (2.1)	25.2 (1.8)
9th–10th grade	54.3 (2.1)	53.4 (2.6)	55.2 (2.8)
11th grade and above	61.9 (2.9)	61.8 (4.1)	62.0 (4.1)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	46.2 (2.7)	47.1 (3.2)	45.4 (3.4)
PIR 1 to less than 2	43.4 (2.3)	42.3 (3.2)	44.6 (3.2)
PIR 2 or greater	36.6 (1.6)	37.8 (2.3)	35.3 (1.9)

¹The percentage of adolescents who ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs, is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 3. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who ever smoked a whole cigarette, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Ever smoked a whole cigarette		
	Total	Male	Female
	Percent ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	24.0 (1.2)	22.5 (1.3)	25.6 (1.7)
Age group			
12–13 years	6.9 (0.9)	5.8 (1.0)	8.2 (1.5)
14–15 years	23.9 (2.1)	22.2 (2.9)	25.6 (2.5)
16–17 years	41.5 (2.0)	40.7 (2.4)	42.3 (3.1)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	23.5 (1.4)	25.8 (1.5)	20.9 (1.8)
Non-Hispanic white	26.4 (1.7)	24.7 (1.8)	28.2 (2.3)
Non-Hispanic black	15.7 (1.0)	16.5 (1.8)	14.8 (1.3)
Education			
8th grade and below	14.1 (1.3)	14.0 (1.4)	14.3 (1.8)
9th–10th grade	35.3 (2.2)	32.2 (2.8)	38.8 (2.9)
11th grade and above	43.1 (3.5)	44.1 (4.4)	42.4 (5.1)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	28.4 (2.6)	26.6 (3.4)	30.3 (3.4)
PIR 1 to less than 2	26.0 (2.8)	25.9 (3.2)	26.2 (3.8)
PIR 2 or greater	21.5 (1.2)	19.6 (1.5)	23.4 (1.8)

¹The percentage of adolescents who ever smoked a whole cigarette is based on all adolescents. Adolescents who never smoked a whole cigarette or never tried smoking, even one or two puffs, are included in the denominator.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 4. Percent distribution of age when first smoked a whole cigarette, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Age when first smoked a whole cigarette					
	Never smoked	Never smoked whole cigarette	10 years or under	11–12 years	13–14 years	15–17 years
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)					
Total ²	60.1 (1.4)	15.9 (1.0)	3.9 (0.6)	6.3 (0.5)	8.5 (0.7)	5.4 (0.4)
Sex						
Male	59.6 (1.6)	17.8 (1.3)	4.8 (0.7)	5.1 (0.8)	7.6 (0.7)	5.0 (0.6)
Female	60.6 (1.8)	13.8 (1.2)	2.9 (0.6)	7.4 (0.8)	9.4 (1.0)	5.9 (0.7)
Race/ethnicity						
Mexican American	58.8 (2.0)	17.6 (1.2)	2.1 (0.3)	5.5 (0.6)	8.7 (0.8)	7.2 (0.7)
Non-Hispanic white	58.8 (1.9)	14.8 (1.2)	5.0 (0.8)	7.2 (0.7)	9.1 (0.9)	5.1 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic black	66.5 (1.7)	17.8 (1.1)	1.7 (0.4)	3.5 (0.4)	5.3 (0.6)	5.2 (0.6)
Poverty status ³						
PIR less than 1	53.8 (2.7)	17.7 (1.7)	5.3 (1.4)	7.1 (1.1)	8.2 (1.1)	7.8 (1.4)
PIR 1 to less than 2	56.6 (2.3)	17.4 (2.0)	†5.1 (1.8)	8.5 (1.2)	9.4 (1.6)	3.1 (0.6)
PIR 2 or greater	63.4 (1.6)	15.1 (1.2)	3.0 (0.6)	5.0 (0.8)	8.1 (0.9)	5.3 (0.5)

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

¹The percent distribution of the age adolescents first smoked a whole cigarette is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 5. Percent distribution of age when first smoked a whole cigarette, among those who smoked a whole cigarette in adolescence aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Age when first smoked a whole cigarette			
	10 years or under	11–12 years	13–14 years	15–17 years
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)			
Total ²	16.1 (1.9)	26.0 (1.8)	35.3 (2.2)	22.6 (1.9)
Sex				
Male	21.2 (3.0)	22.8 (2.8)	33.6 (2.6)	22.3 (2.6)
Female	11.3 (2.0)	29.0 (2.6)	36.8 (3.2)	22.9 (2.6)
Race/ethnicity				
Mexican American	9.0 (1.3)	23.4 (2.2)	36.8 (2.3)	30.8 (2.1)
Non-Hispanic white	19.0 (2.2)	27.3 (2.3)	34.3 (2.6)	19.5 (2.5)
Non-Hispanic black	11.1 (2.5)	22.1 (2.5)	33.7 (2.8)	33.0 (3.1)
Poverty status ³				
PIR less than 1	18.8 (3.8)	25.1 (3.8)	28.8 (3.5)	27.3 (4.3)
PIR 1 to less than 2	19.5 (5.6)	32.6 (5.4)	36.0 (4.0)	11.9 (2.3)
PIR 2 or greater	13.9 (2.7)	23.4 (3.3)	37.9 (3.4)	24.7 (2.7)

¹The percent distribution of the age adolescents first smoked a whole cigarette is based on adolescents who only responded with an age first smoked a whole cigarette.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution includes only those adolescents who responded with an age first smoked a whole cigarette and excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 6. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who smoked cigarettes during the past 30 days, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Smoked cigarettes during past 30 days		
	Total	Male	Female
	Percent ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	13.0 (0.9)	11.5 (1.1)	14.6 (1.4)
Age group			
12–13 years	3.3 (0.6)	2.6 (0.8)	4.1 (1.1)
14–15 years	11.4 (1.6)	9.2 (1.9)	13.8 (2.2)
16–17 years	24.4 (1.5)	23.5 (2.0)	25.3 (2.7)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	9.9 (0.9)	11.1 (1.0)	8.7 (1.2)
Non-Hispanic white	14.9 (1.3)	12.3 (1.6)	17.7 (1.9)
Non-Hispanic black	8.0 (0.8)	9.6 (1.3)	6.3 (0.9)
Education			
8th grade and below	6.9 (0.8)	6.3 (1.0)	7.6 (1.2)
9th–10th grade	19.1 (1.6)	16.6 (1.9)	21.8 (2.6)
11th grade and above	27.4 (3.3)	28.0 (3.9)	26.9 (4.3)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	15.8 (2.2)	15.6 (3.0)	16.1 (2.8)
PIR 1 to less than 2	16.1 (2.2)	14.6 (2.8)	17.5 (3.5)
PIR 2 or greater	10.7 (0.9)	8.8 (0.9)	12.8 (1.5)

¹The percentage of adolescents who smoked a whole cigarette on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 7. Percent distribution of number of days smoked a whole cigarette in the past 30 days, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by sex and race/ethnicity: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of days smoked a whole cigarette in past 30 days				
	None	1–5 days	6–19 days	20–29 days	30 days
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)				
Total ²	87.0 (0.9)	4.0 (0.4)	2.1 (0.3)	2.2 (0.4)	4.7 (0.5)
Sex					
Male	88.5 (1.1)	3.8 (0.5)	2.2 (0.4)	1.9 (0.5)	3.7 (0.6)
Female	85.4 (1.4)	4.3 (0.6)	2.0 (0.4)	2.4 (0.6)	5.9 (0.8)
Race/ethnicity					
Mexican American	90.1 (0.9)	5.5 (0.7)	1.8 (0.3)	0.7 (0.2)	1.9 (0.4)
Non-Hispanic white	85.1 (1.3)	3.7 (0.6)	2.2 (0.4)	2.6 (0.5)	6.5 (0.8)
Non-Hispanic black	92.0 (0.8)	3.6 (0.4)	1.5 (0.3)	1.0 (0.3)	1.8 (0.4)

¹The percent distribution of the number of days adolescents smoked a whole cigarette during the 30 days before the survey is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 8. Percent distribution of number of days smoked a whole cigarette in the past 30 days, among those who smoked, for adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of days smoked a whole cigarette in past 30 days			
	1–5 days	6–19 days	20–29 days	30 days
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)			
Total ²	30.9 (3.0)	16.0 (2.1)	16.6 (2.3)	36.5 (2.9)
Sex				
Male	32.6 (4.4)	18.9 (3.4)	16.6 (3.4)	31.9 (4.4)
Female	29.5 (3.6)	13.6 (2.2)	16.7 (3.1)	40.2 (3.8)
Age group				
12–13 years	71.4 (9.6)	*	*	*
14–15 years	35.4 (5.4)	19.9 (4.7)	20.2 (4.4)	24.6 (4.5)
16–17 years	23.3 (5.5)	14.9 (2.4)	17.0 (2.6)	44.7 (4.1)
Race/ethnicity				
Mexican American	55.6 (3.7)	17.9 (2.4)	7.2 (1.8)	19.3 (3.4)
Non-Hispanic white	24.7 (3.5)	14.6 (2.7)	17.3 (2.8)	43.3 (3.5)
Non-Hispanic black	45.5 (3.7)	18.6 (3.6)	13.1 (3.6)	22.8 (4.1)
Education				
8th grade and below	40.3 (6.0)	21.7 (4.2)	14.1 (3.1)	24.0 (4.9)
9th–10th grade	26.4 (3.7)	13.9 (3.1)	14.3 (3.6)	45.4 (4.3)
11th grade and above	27.4 (4.6)	12.7 (4.0)	24.6 (5.2)	35.2 (6.4)
Poverty status ³				
PIR less than 1	27.9 (4.5)	17.5 (4.0)	15.6 (4.8)	39.0 (5.0)
PIR 1 through less than 2	34.3 (6.7)	9.8 (3.0)	22.3 (6.2)	33.7 (5.7)
PIR 2 or greater	31.6 (4.8)	17.5 (4.0)	13.7 (3.4)	37.1 (5.0)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

¹The percent distribution of the number of days adolescents smoked a whole cigarette during the 30 days before the survey is based on those who smoked a whole cigarette during the past month.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 9. Percent distribution of number of cigarettes smoked each day, among those who smoked a whole cigarette in the past 30 days, for adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of cigarettes smoked per day		
	1–2	3–5	6 or more
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	42.0 (3.1)	25.2 (2.6)	32.8 (2.8)
Sex			
Male	43.3 (5.1)	21.5 (3.3)	35.2 (4.7)
Female	41.0 (3.4)	28.2 (4.1)	30.8 (3.4)
Age group			
12–13 years	85.9 (6.7)	*	*–
14–15 years	52.5 (6.2)	28.7 (5.5)	18.8 (4.4)
16–17 years	31.3 (3.5)	25.1 (2.8)	43.6 (3.6)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	64.0 (3.8)	23.2 (3.3)	12.7 (2.8)
Non-Hispanic white	35.7 (3.3)	25.7 (3.1)	38.7 (3.6)
Non-Hispanic black	50.9 (4.1)	27.6 (4.4)	21.5 (4.0)
Education			
8th grade and below	59.2 (5.4)	22.9 (5.3)	18.0 (4.0)
9th–10th grade	36.9 (3.9)	25.7 (4.2)	37.4 (4.4)
11th grade and above	29.8 (5.0)	27.1 (5.2)	43.1 (4.9)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	39.0 (5.3)	27.2 (6.1)	33.8 (5.0)
PIR 1 to less than 2	42.7 (6.4)	24.8 (5.9)	32.5 (4.9)
PIR 2 or greater	43.3 (5.4)	24.8 (3.8)	31.9 (5.0)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

*– Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision, and quantity is zero.

¹The percent distribution of the number of cigarettes smoked per day during the 30 days before the survey is based on adolescents who smoked a whole cigarette in the past month.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 10. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who tried to quit smoking cigarettes in the past 12 months, for those who ever smoked a whole cigarette, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Tried to quit smoking in past 12 months		
	Total	Male	Female
	Percent ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	58.7 (2.1)	57.9 (3.5)	59.3 (2.7)
Age group			
12–13 years	69.7 (6.1)	75.4 (8.1)	65.4 (10.2)
14–15 years	63.7 (4.1)	59.9 (5.5)	67.0 (5.6)
16–17 years	54.1 (3.2)	54.4 (4.4)	53.9 (3.6)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	57.4 (2.9)	64.2 (3.6)	48.5 (4.0)
Non-Hispanic white	54.8 (3.0)	53.1 (4.6)	56.4 (3.5)
Non-Hispanic black	71.6 (3.4)	75.9 (3.5)	66.3 (5.3)
Education			
8th grade and below	69.7 (3.1)	68.7 (3.9)	70.7 (4.3)
9th–10th grade	53.9 (4.3)	49.8 (6.0)	57.7 (5.3)
11th grade and above	51.5 (3.8)	57.9 (6.6)	47.1 (5.2)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	61.3 (4.4)	61.6 (6.5)	60.9 (5.0)
PIR 1 to less than 2	62.4 (4.7)	57.1 (6.5)	67.2 (7.3)
PIR 2 or greater	54.5 (3.4)	54.6 (4.8)	54.4 (4.1)

¹The percentage of adolescents who tried to quit smoking cigarettes in the past 12 months is based on adolescents who smoked a whole cigarette.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 11. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who used nicotine in the past 5 days, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Nicotine use in past 5 days ¹		
	Total	Male	Female
		Percent ² (standard error)	
Total ³	10.7 (0.8)	9.9 (0.9)	11.6 (1.2)
Age group			
12–13 years	1.9 (0.5)	*	†2.9 (1.0)
14–15 years	8.5 (1.4)	7.6 (1.7)	9.5 (1.9)
16–17 years	21.9 (1.6)	21.8 (2.0)	22.1 (2.4)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	7.2 (0.9)	8.6 (1.2)	5.6 (1.0)
Non-Hispanic white	12.8 (1.2)	11.0 (1.4)	14.6 (1.7)
Non-Hispanic black	6.5 (0.7)	7.8 (1.2)	5.0 (0.9)
Education			
8th grade and below	4.5 (0.6)	4.1 (0.8)	5.0 (1.0)
9th–10th grade	17.4 (1.9)	16.4 (2.1)	18.5 (2.5)
11th grade and above	24.0 (3.0)	25.0 (4.2)	23.3 (3.7)
Poverty status ⁴			
PIR less than 1	13.3 (1.9)	13.6 (2.6)	13.1 (2.1)
PIR 1 to less than 2	12.0 (1.7)	10.8 (1.9)	13.2 (3.2)
PIR 2 or greater	9.3 (0.8)	8.3 (1.0)	10.2 (1.2)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

¹Any product containing nicotine, including cigarettes, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, nicotine patches, and nicotine gum.

²The percentage of adolescents who used nicotine in the past 5 days is based on all adolescents.

³Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

⁴Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 12. Percent distribution of cigarette use in the past 5 days, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Cigarette use in past 5 days		
	None	Nondaily	Daily
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	90.7 (0.7)	5.1 (0.5)	4.1 (0.5)
Sex			
Male	92.3 (0.8)	4.3 (0.5)	3.5 (0.6)
Female	89.1 (1.1)	6.1 (0.9)	4.8 (0.6)
Age group			
12–13 years	98.9 (0.4)	†0.9 (0.3)	*
14–15 years	92.8 (1.4)	4.3 (0.9)	2.9 (0.7)
16–17 years	80.5 (1.4)	10.3 (1.0)	9.2 (1.1)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	94.1 (0.7)	3.9 (0.6)	1.9 (0.4)
Non-Hispanic white	88.9 (1.1)	5.7 (0.7)	5.4 (0.7)
Non-Hispanic black	95.2 (0.6)	2.9 (0.4)	1.9 (0.3)
Education			
8th grade and below	96.3 (0.6)	2.1 (0.4)	1.6 (0.4)
9th–10th grade	85.0 (1.7)	8.1 (1.2)	6.9 (1.0)
11th grade and above	78.1 (2.8)	12.6 (2.2)	9.3 (1.8)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	89.0 (1.7)	4.9 (1.0)	6.1 (1.3)
PIR 1 to less than 2	89.3 (1.7)	6.1 (1.3)	4.5 (0.9)
PIR 2 or greater	92.1 (0.7)	4.8 (0.5)	3.1 (0.5)

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

¹The percent distribution of adolescents who smoked cigarettes in the past 5 days is based on all adolescents. Daily is defined as smoking cigarettes every day for 5 days. Nondaily is defined as smoking cigarettes 1–4 days in the past 5 days.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 13. Percent distribution of number of cigarettes smoked per day, among those who smoked in the past 5 days, for adolescents aged 12–17 years, by sex: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of cigarettes smoked per day		
	1–2	3–9	10 or more
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	31.3 (3.7)	42.8 (3.6)	25.9 (3.3)
Sex			
Male	31.8 (5.8)	41.0 (5.6)	27.3 (5.3)
Female	30.9 (5.0)	44.2 (5.3)	24.9 (4.5)

¹The percent distribution of the number of cigarettes smoked per day during the 5 days before the survey is based on adolescents who smoked cigarettes in the past 5 days.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 14. Percent distribution of age first had a drink of alcohol, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by sex and race/ethnicity: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Age first had a drink of alcohol				
	Never drank	10 years or under	11–12 years	13–14 years	15–17 years
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)				
Total ²	56.8 (1.3)	8.0 (0.6)	8.0 (0.6)	14.9 (0.7)	12.3 (0.8)
Sex					
Male	56.9 (1.5)	10.1 (0.9)	7.8 (0.8)	14.4 (0.9)	10.8 (0.9)
Female	56.6 (1.9)	5.8 (0.7)	8.2 (0.9)	15.4 (1.1)	14.0 (1.0)
Race/ethnicity					
Mexican American	51.6 (2.1)	7.4 (0.6)	9.5 (0.9)	17.6 (1.2)	13.8 (1.1)
Non-Hispanic white	56.0 (1.9)	7.9 (0.8)	7.6 (0.8)	15.5 (1.1)	13.0 (1.0)
Non-Hispanic black	62.0 (1.4)	7.8 (0.6)	8.1 (0.8)	11.2 (0.9)	10.9 (0.9)

¹The percent distribution of age adolescents had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 15. Percent distribution of age first had a drink of alcohol, among those who drank alcohol, for adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Age first had a drink of alcohol			
	10 years or under	11–12 years	13–14 years	15–17 years
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)			
Total ²	18.5 (1.3)	18.4 (1.1)	34.5 (1.3)	28.5 (1.9)
Sex				
Male	23.5 (1.9)	18.1 (1.6)	33.5 (1.8)	24.9 (2.2)
Female	13.4 (1.5)	18.8 (1.7)	35.6 (1.8)	32.2 (2.3)
Race/ethnicity				
Mexican American	15.4 (1.2)	19.6 (1.5)	36.4 (2.1)	28.6 (1.6)
Non-Hispanic white	18.0 (1.7)	17.2 (1.4)	35.2 (1.9)	29.5 (2.4)
Non-Hispanic black	20.6 (1.5)	21.2 (1.7)	29.5 (2.3)	28.6 (2.1)
Poverty status ³				
PIR less than 1	22.1 (3.5)	16.7 (2.1)	31.9 (2.3)	29.4 (4.0)
PIR 1 to less than 2	19.9 (2.4)	27.1 (3.0)	31.9 (2.7)	21.1 (2.7)
PIR 2 or greater	17.1 (1.6)	15.1 (1.6)	37.0 (2.0)	30.9 (2.1)

¹The percent distribution of age adolescents had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, is based on adolescents who reported an age when they first had a drink of alcohol.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 16. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who had at least one drink of alcohol in their lifetime, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Had at least one drink of alcohol in lifetime		
	Total	Male	Female
		Percent ¹ (standard error)	
Total ²	38.8 (1.2)	37.8 (1.4)	39.8 (1.8)
Age group			
12–13 years	15.1 (1.4)	16.8 (2.0)	13.3 (2.2)
14–15 years	37.3 (2.2)	34.6 (3.1)	40.1 (2.8)
16–17 years	64.2 (1.7)	63.4 (2.3)	65.1 (2.3)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	41.7 (2.1)	43.6 (2.7)	39.5 (2.1)
Non-Hispanic white.	41.2 (1.8)	40.0 (2.1)	42.4 (2.8)
Non-Hispanic black.	29.5 (1.5)	32.1 (1.9)	26.9 (2.0)
Education			
8th grade and below	23.4 (1.3)	24.6 (1.8)	22.1 (2.0)
9th–10th grade	56.9 (2.5)	55.0 (3.0)	59.0 (2.9)
11th grade and above	66.7 (2.3)	63.3 (4.1)	69.0 (3.4)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	35.0 (2.3)	37.1 (3.2)	32.8 (2.7)
PIR 1 to less than 2	39.5 (2.1)	37.7 (2.8)	41.3 (3.5)
PIR 2 or greater.	40.7 (1.5)	39.0 (2.1)	42.4 (2.2)

¹The percentage of adolescents who had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their lifetime is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 17. Percent distribution of days had at least one drink of alcohol, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Days had at least one drink of alcohol					
	None	1–2 days	3–9 days	10–19 days	20–30 days	40 or more days
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)					
Total ²	61.2 (1.2)	12.4 (0.6)	9.4 (0.6)	6.0 (0.5)	5.3 (0.5)	5.7 (0.5)
Sex						
Male	62.2 (1.4)	11.8 (0.8)	9.3 (0.9)	5.7 (0.7)	5.4 (0.6)	5.6 (0.7)
Female	60.2 (1.8)	12.9 (0.8)	9.5 (0.9)	6.3 (0.7)	5.2 (0.8)	5.9 (0.7)
Age group						
12–13 years	84.9 (1.4)	9.0 (1.1)	2.5 (0.5)	†1.6 (0.6)	†0.9 (0.3)	†1.0 (0.4)
14–15 years	62.7 (2.2)	12.9 (1.1)	11.5 (1.3)	5.7 (0.9)	4.1 (0.8)	3.1 (0.7)
16–17 years	35.8 (1.7)	15.2 (1.4)	14.3 (1.4)	10.7 (1.0)	11.0 (1.4)	13.0 (1.3)
Race/ethnicity						
Mexican American	58.3 (2.1)	16.8 (1.0)	8.8 (0.6)	6.1 (0.6)	4.0 (0.6)	5.9 (0.8)
Non-Hispanic white	58.8 (1.8)	11.1 (0.9)	10.6 (1.0)	6.5 (0.7)	6.3 (0.8)	6.7 (0.7)
Non-Hispanic black	70.5 (1.5)	14.7 (1.0)	6.2 (0.6)	4.1 (0.5)	2.2 (0.5)	2.4 (0.5)
Education						
8th grade and below	76.6 (1.3)	10.7 (0.8)	6.2 (0.6)	3.1 (0.6)	1.7 (0.3)	1.8 (0.3)
9th–10th grade	43.1 (2.5)	14.8 (1.2)	12.6 (1.4)	9.8 (1.2)	9.4 (1.3)	10.3 (1.2)
11th grade and above	33.3 (2.3)	13.9 (2.9)	16.9 (2.2)	10.2 (1.8)	12.7 (2.5)	12.9 (2.1)
Poverty status ³						
PIR less than 1	65.0 (2.3)	14.1 (1.6)	7.3 (1.2)	4.9 (0.7)	3.8 (1.0)	4.9 (0.9)
PIR 1 to less than 2	60.5 (2.1)	15.3 (1.7)	7.8 (1.1)	5.7 (1.3)	5.9 (1.2)	4.8 (1.0)
PIR 2 or greater	59.3 (1.5)	10.4 (0.7)	11.0 (0.8)	6.9 (0.6)	5.9 (0.7)	6.5 (0.8)

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

¹The percent distribution of number of days adolescents had at least one drink of alcohol during their lifetime is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 18. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who used alcohol during the past 30 days, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Alcohol use during past 30 days		
	Total	Male	Female
	Percent ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	21.1 (1.2)	19.2 (1.2)	23.1 (1.8)
Age group			
12–13 years	5.9 (0.8)	5.6 (1.0)	6.3 (1.4)
14–15 years	20.2 (2.0)	17.4 (2.2)	23.1 (2.5)
16–17 years	37.4 (2.0)	35.5 (2.6)	39.3 (2.9)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	21.7 (1.5)	22.1 (2.0)	21.3 (1.4)
Non-Hispanic white	22.9 (1.7)	20.5 (1.6)	25.4 (2.6)
Non-Hispanic black	13.7 (1.1)	14.1 (1.2)	13.2 (1.5)
Education			
8th grade and below	10.6 (1.0)	9.9 (1.1)	11.3 (1.6)
9th–10th grade	34.0 (2.1)	31.7 (2.2)	36.4 (2.9)
11th grade and above	39.2 (3.3)	36.2 (4.7)	41.3 (4.3)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	17.8 (2.1)	18.3 (3.0)	17.4 (2.3)
PIR 1 to less than 2	20.6 (2.0)	16.0 (2.2)	25.4 (3.7)
PIR 2 or greater	23.1 (1.4)	21.5 (1.7)	24.7 (2.1)

¹The percentage of adolescents who had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 19. Percent distribution of number of days with at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by sex and race/ethnicity: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of days of alcohol use			
	None	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–30 days
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)			
Total ²	78.9 (1.2)	13.3 (0.9)	4.1 (0.4)	3.7 (0.4)
Sex				
Male	80.8 (1.2)	10.9 (0.9)	3.9 (0.6)	4.4 (0.5)
Female	76.9 (1.8)	15.9 (1.4)	4.2 (0.6)	3.0 (0.5)
Race/ethnicity				
Mexican American	78.3 (1.5)	14.8 (1.1)	2.7 (0.5)	4.2 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic white	77.1 (1.7)	13.3 (1.2)	5.0 (0.6)	4.6 (0.5)
Non-Hispanic black	86.3 (1.1)	10.3 (0.8)	1.7 (0.4)	1.6 (0.3)

¹The percent distribution of number of days adolescents had at least one drink on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 20. Percent distribution of number of days of alcohol use, among those who drank in the past 30 days, for adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of days of alcohol use		
	1–2 days	3–5 days	6–30 days
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	63.2 (2.1)	19.2 (1.6)	17.6 (1.5)
Sex			
Male	56.5 (2.9)	20.5 (2.9)	23.0 (2.4)
Female	69.0 (2.8)	18.1 (2.1)	12.8 (1.9)
Age group			
12–13 years	76.2 (5.3)	*	[†] 10.9 (4.2)
14–15 years	70.3 (3.4)	14.5 (2.0)	15.2 (2.8)
16–17 years	57.4 (2.9)	22.7 (2.8)	20.0 (2.0)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	68.2 (2.8)	12.6 (1.9)	19.2 (2.1)
Non-Hispanic white	58.3 (2.5)	21.7 (1.9)	20.0 (2.1)
Non-Hispanic black	75.5 (3.0)	12.5 (2.3)	12.1 (2.1)
Education			
8th grade and below	73.1 (3.7)	13.8 (2.9)	13.1 (2.7)
9th–10th grade	59.9 (2.7)	21.0 (2.7)	19.1 (2.2)
11th grade and above	57.3 (5.1)	22.5 (4.4)	20.2 (3.0)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	62.1 (5.0)	18.3 (4.0)	19.6 (3.7)
PIR 1 to less than 2	65.3 (4.8)	17.0 (3.5)	17.7 (3.6)
PIR 2 or greater	63.8 (3.0)	19.9 (2.3)	16.3 (2.3)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

[†] Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

¹The percent distribution of the number of days adolescents had at least one drink on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey is based on adolescents who had at least one drink of alcohol on at least one day during the past month.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 21. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who ever drank five or more drinks of alcohol in a row on at least 1 day in the past 30 days, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Drank five or more drinks at one time in past 30 days		
	Total	Male	Female
		Percent ¹ (standard error)	
Total ²	10.4 (0.8)	10.6 (0.9)	10.1 (1.1)
Age group			
12–13 years	2.1 (0.6)	†1.8 (0.7)	*
14–15 years	8.2 (1.0)	7.2 (1.3)	9.2 (1.5)
16–17 years	20.9 (1.6)	23.3 (2.3)	18.5 (2.1)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	11.9 (1.0)	13.8 (1.3)	9.8 (1.1)
Non-Hispanic white	12.1 (1.1)	12.1 (1.4)	12.1 (1.6)
Non-Hispanic black	3.5 (0.5)	4.2 (0.7)	2.7 (0.6)
Education			
8th grade and below	4.0 (0.7)	4.3 (0.8)	3.7 (0.9)
9th–10th grade	18.3 (1.5)	18.8 (1.7)	17.8 (2.2)
11th grade and above	20.7 (3.0)	22.9 (4.5)	19.2 (3.8)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	8.9 (1.2)	9.9 (1.8)	7.8 (1.5)
PIR 1 to less than 2	10.3 (1.1)	9.8 (1.7)	10.8 (2.3)
PIR 2 or greater	11.1 (0.9)	11.5 (1.3)	10.7 (1.5)

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

¹The percentage of adolescents who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 22. Percent distribution of number of days drank five or more drinks of alcohol in a row on at least 1 day in the past 30 days, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of days drank five or more drinks in past 30 days		
	None	1–2 days	3 or more days
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	89.6 (0.8)	6.9 (0.6)	3.4 (0.4)
Sex			
Male	89.4 (0.9)	6.5 (0.7)	4.1 (0.5)
Female	89.9 (1.1)	7.4 (1.0)	2.7 (0.4)
Age group			
12–13 years	97.9 (0.6)	†1.6 (0.6)	*
14–15 years	91.8 (1.0)	5.9 (0.8)	2.3 (0.5)
16–17 years	79.1 (1.6)	13.3 (1.3)	7.5 (0.8)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	88.1 (1.0)	8.1 (0.7)	3.8 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic white	87.9 (1.1)	7.8 (0.9)	4.3 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic black	96.5 (0.5)	2.6 (0.4)	0.8 (0.3)
Education			
8th grade and below	96.0 (0.7)	3.0 (0.6)	1.0 (0.2)
9th–10th grade	81.7 (1.5)	12.0 (1.2)	6.4 (0.8)
11th grade and above	79.3 (3.0)	13.2 (2.5)	7.5 (1.5)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	91.1 (1.2)	5.8 (0.9)	3.1 (0.7)
PIR 1 to less than 2	89.7 (1.1)	7.2 (0.9)	3.2 (0.7)
PIR 2 or greater	88.9 (0.9)	7.7 (0.7)	3.4 (0.5)

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

¹The percent distribution of number of days adolescents had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 23. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who ever tried marijuana, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Ever tried marijuana		
	Total	Male	Female
	Percent ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	21.1 (1.1)	22.5 (1.2)	19.6 (1.6)
Age group			
12–13 years	3.9 (0.8)	4.2 (1.0)	3.7 (1.1)
14–15 years	18.9 (1.4)	21.2 (2.3)	16.5 (2.0)
16–17 years	40.6 (2.0)	43.3 (2.5)	38.0 (3.1)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	24.3 (1.3)	28.4 (1.6)	19.8 (1.8)
Non-Hispanic white	20.4 (1.5)	20.9 (1.6)	19.8 (2.3)
Non-Hispanic black	23.4 (1.2)	26.0 (1.8)	20.6 (1.5)
Education			
8th grade and below	9.7 (0.9)	11.1 (1.2)	8.1 (1.3)
9th–10th grade	35.3 (2.0)	37.7 (2.5)	32.6 (2.8)
11th grade and above	39.8 (3.0)	43.3 (4.1)	37.4 (4.3)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	24.0 (2.4)	26.2 (3.3)	21.7 (3.1)
PIR 1 to less than 2	24.0 (2.0)	24.3 (2.2)	23.7 (3.1)
PIR 2 or greater	19.1 (1.3)	20.7 (1.6)	17.3 (1.8)

¹The percentage of adolescents who ever tried marijuana is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 24. Percent distribution of age first tried marijuana, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Age first tried marijuana			
	Never	12 years or under	13–14 years	15–17 years
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)			
Total ²	78.9 (1.1)	4.5 (0.5)	8.8 (0.6)	7.8 (0.5)
Sex				
Male	77.5 (1.2)	5.5 (0.7)	8.7 (0.7)	8.2 (0.7)
Female	80.4 (1.6)	3.4 (0.5)	8.9 (0.9)	7.2 (0.8)
Race/ethnicity				
Mexican American	75.7 (1.3)	5.5 (0.7)	10.9 (0.7)	7.8 (0.8)
Non-Hispanic white	79.6 (1.5)	3.8 (0.5)	8.6 (0.9)	8.0 (0.8)
Non-Hispanic black	76.7 (1.2)	4.6 (0.6)	9.6 (0.8)	9.1 (0.7)
Poverty status ³				
PIR less than 1	76.0 (2.4)	5.2 (1.1)	9.6 (1.2)	9.1 (1.4)
PIR 1 to less than 2	76.0 (2.0)	6.4 (1.4)	10.6 (1.2)	6.9 (1.0)
PIR 2 or greater	81.0 (1.3)	3.4 (0.6)	7.9 (0.9)	7.7 (0.6)

¹The percent distribution of age first tried marijuana is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 25. Percent distribution of age first tried marijuana, among those who tried, for adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Age first tried marijuana		
	12 years or under	13–14 years	15–17 years
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	21.3 (1.6)	41.9 (1.9)	36.8 (2.1)
Sex			
Male	24.4 (2.6)	38.9 (2.5)	36.7 (2.7)
Female	17.6 (2.4)	45.5 (2.8)	37.0 (3.0)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	22.9 (2.2)	45.1 (2.6)	32.0 (2.6)
Non-Hispanic white	18.7 (2.1)	42.2 (2.9)	39.2 (3.0)
Non-Hispanic black	19.9 (2.5)	41.3 (2.5)	38.8 (2.8)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	21.8 (3.6)	40.2 (4.3)	38.0 (4.1)
PIR 1 to less than 2	26.9 (4.7)	44.3 (3.9)	28.8 (4.0)
PIR 2 or greater	18.1 (2.4)	41.6 (3.0)	40.3 (3.0)

¹The percent distribution of age first tried marijuana is based on adolescents who reported an age when first tried marijuana.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 26. Percent distribution of number of times used marijuana, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of times used marijuana			
	Never	1–2 times	3–19 times	20 or more times
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)			
Total ²	79.0 (1.1)	7.6 (0.5)	6.6 (0.5)	6.8 (0.5)
Sex				
Male	77.6 (1.2)	8.5 (0.7)	6.8 (0.9)	7.0 (0.7)
Female	80.4 (1.6)	6.6 (0.8)	6.4 (0.7)	6.5 (0.8)
Age group				
12–13 years	96.2 (0.8)	2.0 (0.5)	†1.5 (0.5)	*
14–15 years	81.1 (1.4)	9.8 (1.0)	5.0 (0.7)	4.1 (0.7)
16–17 years	59.4 (2.0)	11.2 (0.9)	13.4 (1.1)	16.0 (1.2)
Race/ethnicity				
Mexican American	75.8 (1.3)	9.9 (0.9)	7.6 (0.9)	6.6 (0.7)
Non-Hispanic white	79.7 (1.5)	7.1 (0.7)	6.1 (0.8)	7.1 (0.7)
Non-Hispanic black	76.6 (1.2)	9.4 (0.8)	8.3 (0.7)	5.7 (0.5)
Education				
8th grade and below	90.4 (0.8)	4.5 (0.5)	2.8 (0.5)	2.3 (0.4)
9th–10th grade	64.8 (2.0)	12.4 (1.1)	11.2 (1.2)	11.6 (1.1)
11th grade and above	60.2 (3.0)	9.9 (1.6)	13.5 (2.0)	16.4 (2.2)
Poverty status ³				
PIR less than 1	76.1 (2.4)	8.6 (1.3)	8.7 (1.3)	6.6 (1.0)
PIR 1 to less than 2	76.0 (2.0)	9.7 (1.3)	7.4 (1.0)	6.9 (1.2)
PIR 2 or greater	81.1 (1.2)	6.5 (0.6)	5.6 (0.6)	6.8 (0.8)

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

¹The percent distribution of number of times adolescents used marijuana in lifetime is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 27. Percent distribution of number of times used marijuana, among those who ever tried, for adolescents aged 12–17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Number of times used marijuana		
	1–2 times	3–19 times	20 or more times
	Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)		
Total ²	36.2 (1.8)	31.6 (2.0)	32.2 (1.7)
Sex			
Male	38.0 (2.7)	30.6 (3.5)	31.4 (2.8)
Female	33.9 (3.0)	32.9 (2.7)	33.2 (2.8)
Age group			
12–13 years	52.3 (7.9)	41.1 (8.0)	*
14–15 years	51.8 (3.5)	26.6 (3.2)	21.6 (3.5)
16–17 years	27.6 (1.8)	33.0 (2.4)	39.4 (2.1)
Race/ethnicity			
Mexican American	41.1 (3.1)	31.5 (3.1)	27.4 (2.4)
Non-Hispanic white	35.0 (2.3)	30.1 (3.0)	34.9 (2.5)
Non-Hispanic black	40.2 (2.3)	35.5 (2.0)	24.3 (2.1)
Education			
8th grade and below	47.1 (4.3)	29.3 (4.0)	23.5 (3.3)
9th–10th grade	35.2 (2.3)	31.9 (2.9)	32.9 (2.7)
11th grade and above	24.9 (3.6)	33.9 (4.1)	41.2 (4.5)
Poverty status ³			
PIR less than 1	36.1 (4.2)	36.2 (3.7)	27.7 (3.2)
PIR 1 to less than 2	40.5 (4.0)	30.8 (4.1)	28.7 (3.7)
PIR 2 or greater	34.3 (2.6)	29.8 (3.1)	36.0 (3.1)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

¹The percent distribution of number of times adolescents used marijuana in lifetime is based on adolescents who reported the number of times they used marijuana in lifetime.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 28. Percentage of adolescents aged 12–17 years who ever tried any form of cocaine, including crack or freebase, by selected characteristics: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Ever tried any form of cocaine, including crack or freebase
	Percent ¹ (standard error)
Total ²	2.4 (0.4)
Sex	
Male	2.0 (0.4)
Female	2.8 (0.5)
Age group	
12–13 years	*
14–15 years	†1.0 (0.3)
16–17 years	6.0 (1.0)
Race/ethnicity	
Mexican American	4.2 (0.6)
Non-Hispanic white	2.5 (0.5)
Non-Hispanic black	*
Education	
8th grade and below	0.7 (0.2)
9th–10th grade	4.1 (0.8)
11th grade and above	6.0 (1.7)
Poverty status ³	
PIR less than 1	2.1 (0.5)
PIR 1 to less than 2	3.0 (0.9)
PIR 2 or greater	2.2 (0.5)

* Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 40%.

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

¹The percentage of adolescents who ever tried any form of cocaine, including crack or freebase, is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

³Poverty status levels are based on poverty income ratio (PIR): the ratio of income to the family's poverty threshold (U.S. Census Bureau). PIR less than 1: family income below the poverty threshold; PIR 1 to less than 2: family income one to less than two times the poverty threshold; and PIR 2 or greater: family income two or more times the poverty threshold.

NOTE: Denominator for each percentage excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 29. Percent distribution of age first tried cocaine, including crack or freebase, among adolescents aged 12–17 years, by sex: United States, 1999–2004

Characteristic	Age first tried cocaine, including crack or freebase		
	Never	14 years or under	15–17 years
Percent distribution ¹ (standard error)			
Total ²	97.6 (0.4)	0.6 (0.1)	1.8 (0.3)
Sex			
Male	98.0 (0.4)	0.5 (0.2)	1.4 (0.4)
Female	97.2 (0.5)	†0.6 (0.2)	2.2 (0.5)

† Estimate does not meet standards of reliability or precision; relative standard error is greater than 30%–40%.

¹The percent distribution of age adolescents first tried cocaine, including crack or freebase, in lifetime is based on all adolescents.

²Total includes other racial and ethnic groups not shown separately and missing or unknown responses for education and poverty status.

NOTE: Denominator for each percent distribution excludes adolescents with unknown characteristics.

Table 30. Comparison of NSDUH and NHANES prevalence estimates for adolescents aged 12–17 years: United States, 1999–2004

Substance	NSDUH						NHANES
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1999–2004
Marijuana							
Lifetime.	18.7	18.3	21.9	20.6	19.6	19.0	21.1
Cocaine							
Lifetime.	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4
Alcohol							
Lifetime.	42.9	41.7	42.9	43.4	42.9	42.0	^{††} 38.8 [§] 43.2
Past month	16.5	16.4	17.3	17.6	17.7	17.6	21.1
Binge in past month	10.1	10.4	10.6	10.7	10.6	11.1	10.4
Cigarettes							
Lifetime.	37.1	34.6	33.6	33.3	31.0	29.2	39.9
Past month	14.9	13.4	13.0	13.0	12.2	11.9	13.0

^{††} Estimate based on question, "During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?"

[§] Estimate based on question, "How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?"

NOTE: NSDUH is the National Survey on Drug Use and Health; NHANES is the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys.

Technical Notes

Questions and definitions used for analyzing risk behaviors

Cigarette smoking

The following questions were asked in NHANES about cigarette smoking and nicotine use. Note that these questions may have a series of skip patterns. For example, if a person answered “No” to the first question (did not try cigarette smoking), then they also did not answer the next question: “How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?” To estimate the age when first smoked a whole cigarette for the entire U.S. adolescent population, the “No” responses from the first question must be included in the denominator.

Lifetime use—(i.e., ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs).

Q. Have you ever tried cigarette smoking, even 1 or 2 puffs?

Estimates for the percentage of adolescents who ever tried cigarette smoking, even one or two puffs, are based on all adolescents.

Q. How old were you when you smoked a whole cigarette for the first time?

Estimates for the percentage of adolescents who ever smoked a whole cigarette are shown as a percentage of all adolescents. Adolescents who never smoked a whole cigarette, or never tried smoking, are included in the denominator. Percent distributions are presented for both (i) age first smoked a whole cigarette, among all adolescents; and (ii) age first smoked a whole cigarette, among adolescents who only responded with an age first smoked a whole cigarette.

Current use—(i.e., smoked cigarettes on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey).

Q. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?

Estimates for the percentage of adolescents who smoked a whole cigarette on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey are based on all

adolescents. Adolescents who did not smoke during the past 30 days, never smoked a whole cigarette, or never tried smoking are included in the denominator. Percent distributions are presented for both (i) the number of days adolescents smoked a whole cigarette during the 30 days before the survey, among all adolescents (adolescents who did not smoke during the past 30 days, never smoked a whole cigarette, or ever tried smoking are included in the denominator); and (ii) the number of days adolescents smoked a whole cigarette during the 30 days before the survey, among those who smoked a whole cigarette during the past month.

Q. During the past 30 days, on the days that you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke per day?

The percent distribution of the number of cigarettes smoked per day during the 30 days before the survey is based on adolescents who smoked a whole cigarette in the past month.

Q. During the past 12 months, have you stopped smoking for one day or longer because you were trying to quit smoking?

Estimates of the percentage of adolescents who tried to quit smoking cigarettes are based on adolescents who smoked a whole cigarette.

Recent use—(i.e., use of nicotine or cigarettes during the past 5 days).

Q. During the past 5 days, did you use any product containing nicotine, including cigarettes, pipes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, nicotine patches, nicotine gum, or any other product containing nicotine?

Estimates of the percentage of adolescents who used nicotine in the past 5 days are based on all adolescents.

Q. During the past 5 days (including today), on how many days did you smoke cigarettes?

The percent distribution of the percentage of adolescents who smoked cigarettes in the past 5 days is based on all adolescents. Adolescents who used other forms of nicotine are included in the denominator. “Daily” is defined as smoking cigarettes every day for 5 days. “Non-daily” is defined as smoking

cigarettes from 1 to 4 days in the past 5 days.

Q. During the past 5 days, on the days you smoked, how many cigarettes did you smoke each day?

The percent distribution of the number of cigarettes smoked per day during the 5 days before the survey is based on adolescents who smoked cigarettes in the past 5 days.

Alcohol use

The following questions were asked in NHANES about alcohol use. As defined in the survey, “alcohol” includes beer, wine, wine coolers, and liquor such as rum, gin, vodka, or whiskey; it does not include drinking a few sips of wine for religious purposes.

Lifetime use—(i.e., had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their lifetime).

Q. How old were you when you had your first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips?

Percent distributions are presented for both (i) the age adolescents had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, among all adolescents; and (ii) the age adolescents had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, among adolescents who reported an age when they first had a drink of alcohol.

Q. During your life, on how many days have you had at least one drink of alcohol?

Estimates of the percentage of adolescents who had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during their lifetime are based on all adolescents. The percent distribution of number of days adolescents had at least one drink of alcohol during their lifetime is based on all adolescents.

Current use—(i.e., had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey).

Q. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have at least one drink of alcohol?

Estimates of the percentage of adolescents who had at least one drink of alcohol on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey are based on all adolescents. Percent distributions are

presented for both (i) the number of days adolescents had at least one drink on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey, among all adolescents; and (ii) the number of days adolescents had at least one drink on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey, among adolescents who had at least one drink on a least 1 day during the past month.

Heavy (binge) use—(i.e., had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey).

Q. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?

Estimates of the percentage of adolescents who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey are based on all adolescents. The percent distribution of number of days adolescents had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey is based on all adolescents.

Illicit drug use

The following questions were asked in NHANES about illicit drug use.

Lifetime use—(i.e., ever tried).

Q. Have you ever tried marijuana?

Estimates of the percentage of adolescents who ever tried marijuana are based on all adolescents.

Q. How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?

Percent distributions are presented for both (i) the age first tried marijuana, among all adolescents; and (ii) the age first tried marijuana, among adolescents who only reported an age when first tried marijuana.

Q. During your life, how many times have you used marijuana?

Percent distributions are presented for both (i) the number of times adolescents used marijuana in their lifetime, among all adolescents; and (ii) the number of times adolescents used marijuana in their lifetime, among adolescents who reported the number of

times they used marijuana in their lifetime.

Q. Have you ever tried any form of cocaine, including crack or freebase?

Estimates of the percentage of adolescents who ever tried any form of cocaine, including crack or freebase, are based on all adolescents.

Q. How old were you when you tried any form of cocaine, including crack or freebase, for the first time?

The percent distribution of the age adolescents first tried cocaine, including crack or freebase, in their lifetime is based on all adolescents.

Suggested citation

Fryar CD, Merino MC, Hirsch R, Porter KS. Smoking, alcohol use, and illicit drug use reported by adolescents aged 12–17 years: United States, 1991–2004. National health statistics reports; no 15. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2009.

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National Center for Health Statistics

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Jennifer H. Madans, Ph.D.

Michael H. Sadagursky

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2009–1250
CS200278-B
T33889 (05/2009)