

Table 2.92

High school seniors reporting that they worry about selected social problems

United States, 1984-96

Question: "Of all the problems facing the nation today, how often do you worry about each of the following?"

(Percent responding "often" or "sometimes")

	Class of 1984 (N=3,294)	Class of 1985 (N=3,286)	Class of 1986 (N=3,073)	Class of 1987 (N=3,370)	Class of 1988 (N=3,326)	Class of 1989 (N=2,849)	Class of 1990 (N=2,595)	Class of 1991 (N=2,595)	Class of 1992 (N=2,736)	Class of 1993 (N=2,807)	Class of 1994 (N=2,664)	Class of 1995 (N=2,646)	Class of 1996 (N=2,502)
Chance of nuclear war	69.4%	64.5%	69.1%	58.3%	57.3%	52.4%	45.1%	41.5%	33.4%	28.8%	27.9%	20.0%	21.6%
Population growth	25.3	25.7	24.1	26.6	27.5	29.6	33.0	30.6	35.2	38.9	35.4	34.9	37.4
Crime and violence	83.9	82.3	79.4	81.9	83.9	86.3	88.8	88.1	91.6	90.8	92.7	90.2	90.1
Pollution	49.1	46.9	44.2	45.2	45.5	55.9	67.2	72.1	71.9	72.8	66.5	63.6	62.9
Energy shortages	40.4	33.7	28.7	28.1	25.1	27.9	32.6	38.2	35.2	29.8	23.8	17.9	19.2
Race relations	43.1	43.4	43.4	44.2	53.3	53.6	57.1	59.4	68.7	75.4	71.6	68.9	70.7
Hunger and poverty	58.3	69.7	65.9	62.2	64.2	64.1	65.9	66.4	68.1	71.1	65.7	62.3	62.6
Using open land for housing or industry	30.0	30.4	26.8	30.5	29.4	30.8	33.9	33.8	34.7	32.9	32.7	28.9	32.6
Urban decay	18.0	17.9	17.0	18.5	19.9	19.8	20.4	21.7	25.8	25.3	25.6	23.0	25.1
Economic problems	66.2	60.4	60.6	55.6	56.2	57.6	56.8	63.9	70.6	71.8	62.6	55.7	57.9
Drug abuse	68.4	69.1	69.2	75.4	78.6	79.5	82.6	79.5	77.8	75.5	76.7	72.6	71.0

Note: These data are from a series of nationwide surveys of high school seniors conducted by the Monitoring the Future Project at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research from 1975 through 1996. The survey design is a multistage random sample of high school seniors in public and private schools throughout the continental United States. All percentages reported are based on weighted cases; the N's that are shown in the tables refer to the number of weighted cases.

Response categories were "never," "seldom," "sometimes," and "often." Readers interested in responses to this question for 1975 through 1983 should consult previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For survey methodology and definitions of terms, see Appendix 7.

Source: Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1985*, pp. 174, 175; *1987*, pp. 180, 181; *1989*, pp. 180, 181; *1991*, pp. 188, 189; *1993*, pp. 190, 191; *1995*, pp. 191, 192 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); Jerald G. Bachman, Lloyd D. Johnston, and Patrick M. O'Malley, *Monitoring the Future 1984*, pp. 174, 175; *1986*, pp. 176, 177; *1988*, pp. 180, 181; *1990*, pp. 186, 187; *1992*, pp. 189, 190; *1994*, pp. 189, 190 (Ann Arbor, MI: Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan); and data provided by the Monitoring the Future Project, Survey Research Center, Lloyd D. Johnston, Jerald G. Bachman, and Patrick M. O'Malley, Principal Investigators. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.