

NIDA

National Institute on Drug Abuse

CAPSULES

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Institute on Drug Abuse
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SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG BLACKS IN THE U.S.

- Almost 8 million (36%) blacks have used marijuana, cocaine, or other illicit drugs at least once in their lifetimes; 3 million used in the past year; and 1.7 million blacks used an illicit drug in the past month. (Source: Household Survey)
- Among the population age 35 and older, blacks were more likely than whites or Hispanics to be using an illicit drug currently (past month). Current use of cocaine among blacks decreased from 3% in 1985 to 2% in 1988. (SOURCE: Household Survey)
- Black women are more likely than women in any other racial/ethnic group to have used crack cocaine. Less than 1% of white women, 1.3% of Hispanic women, and 1.5% of black women have used crack cocaine. (Source: Household Survey)
- Black patients accounted for 39% (63,002) of the 60,170 drug abuse related emergency room (ER) cases reported to the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) in 1988. Of the ER cases involving black patients, 62% were male, and 40% were 20-29 years old. (Source: DAWN)
- Cocaine was the most frequently mentioned drug in DAWN ER episodes. Almost 57% of cocaine ER cases involved black patients. (Source: DAWN)
- Black decedents accounted for 30% (1,999) of the 6,756 drug abuse related deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) to DAWN in 1988. Over 74% of blacks decedents were males, and 46% were 30-39 years old. (Source: DAWN)
- Cocaine was the most frequently mentioned drug in DAWN ME cases, followed by heroin/morphine deaths. (Source: DAWN)
- AIDS is a severe problem among blacks due to intravenous (IV) drug use. Of those living in households, blacks are twice as likely as whites to have used drugs intravenously. Although black Americans represent 12% of the population in the U.S., they account for 27% of all people with AIDS. Of these cases, 44% (12,609) reported injection of an illicit substance prior to diagnosis with AIDS. (Source: CDC)

- The impacts of AIDS associated with IV drug on blacks is also reflected in cases of AIDS among the heterosexual partners of IV drug abusers. Blacks account for more than half of the AIDS cases who were heterosexual partners of IV drug abusers. (Source: CDC)
- Blacks account for 53% (939) of pediatric AIDS cases. Over 60% of the black pediatric cases are infected because their mothers were IV drug users or had sex with an IV drug user. (Source: CDC)
- Data on drug abuse clients in treatment shows that black represented about one-fourth of the drug abuse clients. The proportion of black clients was highest in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, and Maryland. (Source: NDATUS)
- Over one-third of the 18-19 year old blacks have dropped out of school. Drug use is generally higher among drop outs than those who complete school. Black students who stay in school are less likely than white students to use illicit drugs. White seniors are twice as likely to report ever using cocaine than black seniors (13% vs. 6%), and more likely to ever use marijuana (50% vs. 37%). (Source: Department of Education, and NIDA's High School Senior Survey)

Household Survey: 1988 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, NIDA.
 DAWN: Drug Abuse Warning Network, 1988, NIDA.
 CDC: HIV/AIDS Surveillance (Sept. 1989), Center for Disease Control.
 NDATUS: National Drug and Alcoholism Treatment Unit Survey, 1987, NIDA.
 Dept. of Ed., : U.S. Department of Education, 1988
 High School Senior Survey: Monitoring the Future Study, 1988, NIDA.

<p>Distributed By: Michigan - Substance Abuse & Traffic Safety Information Center 2409 East Michigan Lansing, MI 48912-4019 (517) 482-9902 MATERIALS INFO 800-626-4636 FAX 517-482-8262</p>	<p>The Michigan Substance Abuse and Traffic Safety Information Center is operated by the Traffic Safety Association of Michigan under a contract from the Michigan Department of Public Health, Office of Substance Abuse Service. Additional funding and materials are provided by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning.</p>
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