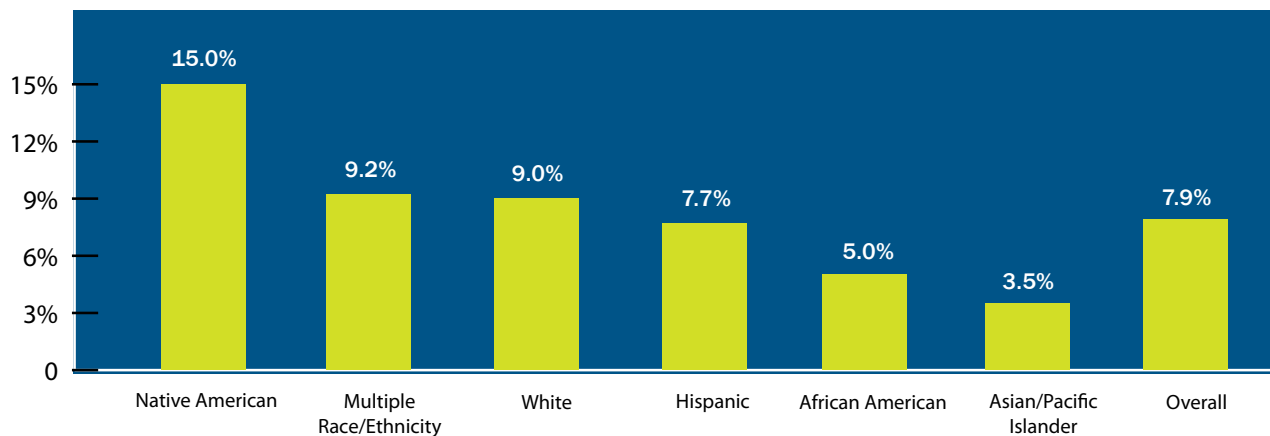




Substance Use Disorders Greatest Among Youth of Native American, Multiple Race/Ethnicity, White, and Hispanic Backgrounds

According to a recent report in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, adolescents aged 12 to 17 of Native American, multiple-race/ethnicity, white, and Hispanic backgrounds were more likely to have substance use disorders than their African-American and Asian/Pacific Islander peers. Using national survey data collected from 2005 to 2008, the study found that Native American youth had the highest rate (15.0%), almost double the national average (7.9%). Adolescents of multiple races/ethnicities had the second highest rate (9.2%), followed by whites (9.0%), Hispanics (7.7%), African Americans (5.0%), and Asians or Pacific Islanders (3.5%). The study corroborates evidence that Native American adolescents are vulnerable to a number of stressors, traumas, and disparities (e.g. high suicide rate and underfunded and inaccessible health care systems), suggesting the need for improved interventions and health care infrastructures and funding. Additionally, the high rate of substance use disorders among youth of multiple races/ethnicities suggests a need for further research and analysis regarding these populations.

Adolescent Rates of Past-year Substance Use Disorders, 2005-2008



Source:

Wu, L., Woody, G. E., Yang, C., Pan, J., and Blazer, D. G. (2011). Racial/Ethnic Variations in Substance-Related Disorders Among Adolescents in the United States. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, Vol. 68, No. 11.

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