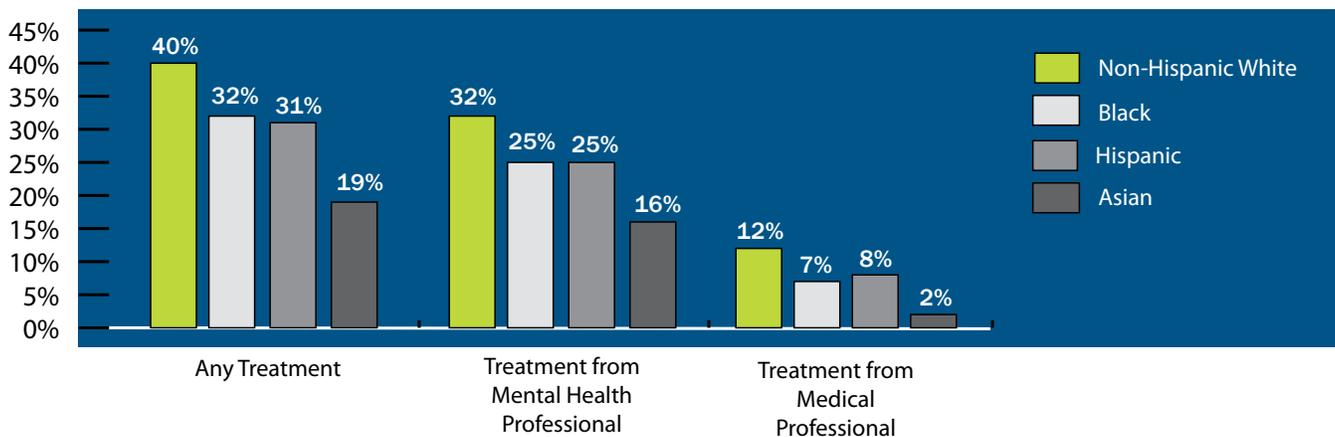




Racial/Ethnic Minority Youth Less Likely to Receive Treatment for Major Depression

Analyzing 2004–2008 data from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health (NSDUH),¹ a new study has found that racial and ethnic minority youth ages 12–17 received treatment for major depression less often than their white counterparts. The study revealed that 32% of African Americans, 31% of Hispanics, and 19% of Asians got treatment for major depression compared to 40% of non-Hispanic whites.² These minority youth were also less likely than their non-Hispanic white peers to receive treatment from a mental health professional (25% of African Americans, 25% of Hispanics, and 16% of Asians, compared to 32% of non-Hispanic whites) or medical provider (7% of African Americans, 8% of Hispanics, and 2% of Asians, compared to 12% of non-Hispanic whites). Researchers concluded that only a small part of the disparities could be attributed to socioeconomic status and health insurance status, suggesting that other factors are largely responsible for racial/ethnic disparities.

Percent of Youth Who Received Major Depression Treatment, 2004–2008²



Source:

Cummings, J. R. and Druss, B. G. (2011). "Racial/Ethnic Differences in Mental Health Service Use Among Adolescents with Major Depression." *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. 50(2):160-170.

Notes:

¹ The NSDUH is conducted annually by the federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), sampling non-institutionalized people 12 years and older from all 50 states.

² Percentages were adjusted for demographics and health status.

Prepared by the Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC. CHJ works to build, enhance, and sustain strong and vibrant communities by promoting policies and practices that stop the cycle of drugs and crime. We conduct research and evaluations, and offer policy analysis, trainings, and technical assistance in the fields of health and justice. For more information, visit us online at www.centerforhealthandjustice.org.

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