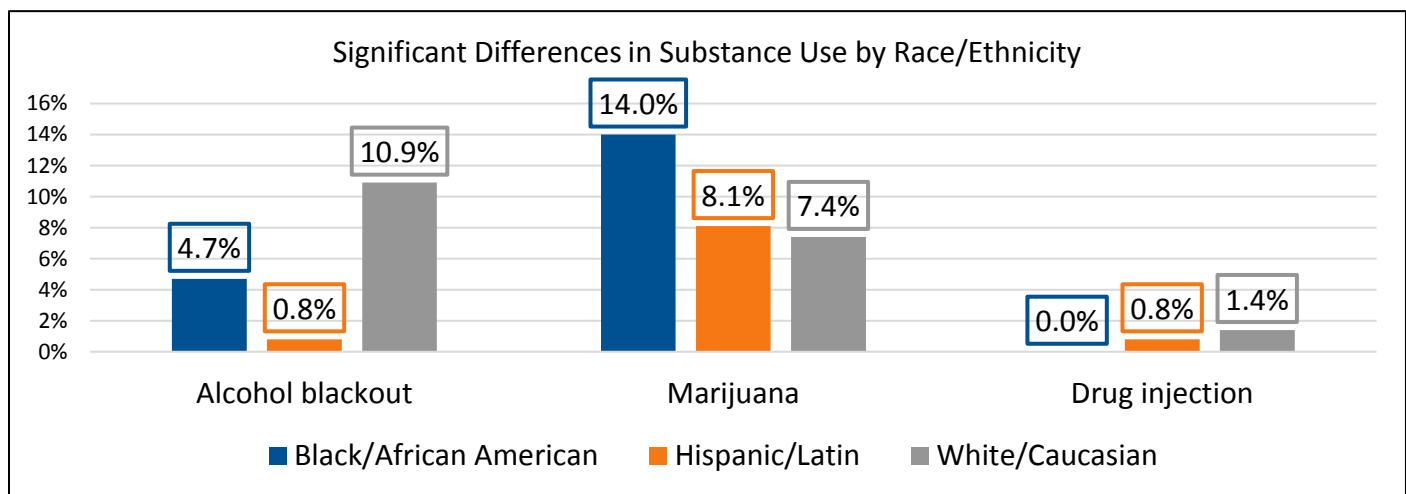


March 2023

Differences in Youth Substance Use by Race/Ethnicity

The Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) annually assesses risk and protective factors for substance use across the state. In even years, local data are collected. In 2022, 729 Broward County students participated in the survey. The chart below shows statistically significant differences in lifetime measures of substance use by race/ethnicity. Results of statistical tests indicate that: 1) white students are more likely to report drinking alcohol until blackout (10.9%), compared to Black/African American (4.7%) and Hispanic (0.8%) students; 2) Black/African American students are more likely to report marijuana use (14%), compared to Hispanic (8.1%) and white (7.4%) students; and 3) drug injection was reported by 1.4% of white students, compared to 0.8% of Hispanic students and no Black/African American students. Disparities in substance use such as these highlight important areas for intervention efforts, education, and prevention campaigns for specific sub-populations of Broward County students.



Outside of the differences shown above, reports of substance use by race/ethnicity are relatively similar, and with small numbers it is difficult to discern significant differences. Other items included: *heroin* use which was reported by Black/African American (0%), Hispanic (0.7%), and white (0.5%) students; *nonmedical use of prescription opioids* which was reported by Black/African American (2.3%), Hispanic (2.0%), and white (2.1%) students; *methamphetamine* use which was reported by Black/African American (1.4%), Hispanic (1.0%), and white (0%) students; and *cocaine* use which was reported by Black/African American (0%), Hispanic (0.3%), and white (0%) students.

Source: Florida Department of Children and Families, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/substance-abuse-and-mental-health/substance-abuse-mental-health-prevention-services-1-1-0>

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