Unmasking the Crisis: Exploring Intentional Substance Use Disorders
Understanding the Factors Addressing the Crisis, and Promoting Resilience

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Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) are treatable, chronic diseases characterized by a problematic pattern of use of a substance or substances leading to impairments in health, social function, and control over substance use.

It is a cluster of cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that the individual continues using the substance despite harmful consequences.

What to Know About Substance Use and the Latinx Community

While some may believe that substance use disorders (SUDs) impact those living with the condition in similar ways, the truth is that due to racial and ethnic disparities, historically marginalized communities may experience SUDs and access to treatment quite differently.

The 2020 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) found that 12.7% of Hispanic or Latinx people ages 12 and older, or 6.2 million people, had a substance use disorder (SUD). When looking at those over the age of 18, the prevalence was even higher, with 13.5%.

Yet, 94.8% of those ages 12 and older who were classified as needing SUD treatment in a specialty facility like a hospital, mental health center, or an inpatient or outpatient rehabilitation facility didn’t receive such specialty care.

Contextual Issues Related To Opioid Misuse And Overdose Use Disorders

According to the SAMHSA NSDUH, the opioid misuse (heroin use and prescription opioid misuse) rate among Hispanic/Latinos is similar to the national population rate, about 4 percent.

In 2018, 1.7 million Hispanic/Latinos and 10.3 million people nationally, aged 12 and older, were estimated to have engaged in opioid misuse in the past year.

In general, a higher percentage of Hispanic eighth and tenth grade youth reported opioid (heroin and prescription) misuse in the past year than Whites and African Americans

Hispanic people were less likely to have an SUD compared with American Indian or Alaska Native and Multiracial people.

Hispanic people were more likely than Asian people to have an SUD.

NH = Not Hispanic or Latino; AIAN = American Indian or Alaska Native; Black = Black or African American; Hispanic = Hispanic or Latino; NHOPI = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

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Hispanic people were more likely than Asian people to have an SUD.

Past Year Opioid Misuse: Among Hispanic People Aged 12 or Older

1.5M Hispanic People with Pain Reliever Misuse
73K Hispanic People with Pain Reliever Misuse and Heroin Use
149K Hispanic People with Heroin Use

1.5M Hispanic People with Pain Reliever Misuse Only
76K Hispanic People with Heroin Use Only

1.6 Million Hispanic People Aged 12 or Older with Past Year Opioid Misuse

Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder and Any Mental Illness: Among Hispanic Adults Aged 18 or Older

- 3.1 million (7.2%) Hispanic adults aged 18 or older had co-occurring SUD and AMI
- 2 in 5 (40.5%) of all Hispanic young adults aged 18 to 25 had SUD or AMI

AMI = any mental illness; SMI = serious mental illness; SUD = substance use disorder.

The Facts of the epidemic

Provisional data from CDC’s National Center indicate there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths during 2021, an increase of nearly 15% from the 93,655 deaths estimated in 2020.

Researchers found a staggering 110,236 people died in a single 12-month period, a stunning new record. Dec 31, 2022

The 2021 increase was half of what it was a year ago, when overdose deaths rose 30% from 2019 to 2020.

Drug overdose death rates increased for each race and Hispanic-origin group except non-Hispanic Asian people between 2020 and 2021.

https://www.cdc.gov/opioids/basics/epidemic.html
What to Know About Substance Use and the Latinx Community

Even when treatment is accessible, research suggests that — compared with white people — Hispanic Americans may face:

• less successful treatment outcomes
• lower satisfaction with treatment
• shorter stays in SUD programs

While the barriers mentioned above may explain some of the disparity, suggests a cultural mismatch between clinicians and clients may be at work as well.

Some evidence indicates a clash in values, beliefs, and practices between Latinx cultural traditions and how treatment programs are structured.

The ATTC Network Mission & Vision

• Accelerate the adoption and implementation of evidence-based and promising addiction treatment and recovery-oriented practices and services;
• Heighten the awareness, knowledge, and skills of the workforce that addresses the needs of people with substance use or other behavioral health disorders; and
• Foster regional and national alliances among culturally diverse practitioners, researchers, policy makers, funders, and the recovery community.