Learning Objectives

- Explain the race by age crossover theory in substance use
- Describe difference in substance use patterns between younger and older cohorts of African Americans
- Discuss health implications related to drug use among older African American adults

Historical Perspective

- Winick 1962
  - “Aging Out” Theory

- Relationship between chronological age and cessation of addiction unsupported
  - Capel 1972
  - Rosenberg 1995
  - Levy and Anderson 2005

Crossover Theory

- Differences in patterns of use between AA and Whites Adolescents:
  - Monitoring the Future
  - Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Differences observed in midlife:
  - Yuan 2011
  - limited economic opportunities
  - quality of social roles

Substance Use Lifetime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable Name</th>
<th>OLDER (n=138)</th>
<th>YOUNGER (n=138)</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>106 (83)</td>
<td>118 (89)</td>
<td>.246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>116 (86)</td>
<td>112 (85)</td>
<td>.468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoked Marijuana</td>
<td>118 (86)</td>
<td>112 (85)</td>
<td>.214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injected Speedball</td>
<td>62 (45)</td>
<td>52 (39)</td>
<td>1.825***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sniffed/Snorted Speedball</td>
<td>41 (30)</td>
<td>48 (36)</td>
<td>.991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sniffed/Snorted Cocaine</td>
<td>86 (66)</td>
<td>96 (72)</td>
<td>.071***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sniffed/Snorted Crack</td>
<td>86 (66)</td>
<td>77 (58)</td>
<td>8.108***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sniffed/Snorted Heroin</td>
<td>86 (66)</td>
<td>79 (58)</td>
<td>1.309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injected Heroin</td>
<td>98 (72)</td>
<td>56 (42)</td>
<td>0.223***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 *** p <= .005
Research Objectives
- Examination of patterns and prevalence of drug use among younger & older African Americans populations

Study Design
- Data from NEURO-HIV Epidemiologic Study
- Eligibility
- Recruitment Strategies
- Procedures
- Data Analysis

Sample Characteristics
- N= 260
- 100% African American
- 59% female
- 39% H.S. degree or equivalent
- 16% report homelessness past 6 months
- 80% receiving public assistance past 6 months
- Age Range 18-68 M=42.35 (9.27)

Differences by Age Cohort
- Younger Adult cohort:
  - More likely to be female
  - Less educated
  - Started using illicit drugs at younger age (17.65 vs. 20.32)
  - Never married
  - More likely to have received money from a regular job in past 6 months

Demographic Differences by Age Cohort
- No significant differences:
  - Receipt of public assistance past 6 months
  - Lifetime treatment for emotional or behavioral problems
  - Homelessness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLE</th>
<th>YOUNGER M or N  S.D. or %</th>
<th>OLDER M or N  S.D. or %</th>
<th>χ² or t-test p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes</td>
<td>107 81</td>
<td>101 79</td>
<td>0.18 0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>88 67</td>
<td>78 61</td>
<td>0.92 0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal Cocaine</td>
<td>11 8</td>
<td>14 11</td>
<td>0.5 0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal heroin</td>
<td>35 27</td>
<td>38 30</td>
<td>0.32 0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection heroin</td>
<td>12 9</td>
<td>14 11</td>
<td>0.24 0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection speedball</td>
<td>8 6</td>
<td>9 7</td>
<td>0.1 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speedball</td>
<td>12 9</td>
<td>12 9</td>
<td>0.06 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Table 2.** Odds Ratios and 95% CIs for Age Cohort & Recent Drug Use in past 6 months (N=260)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>Younger (n=128)</th>
<th>Older (n=132)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoked crack</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>Referent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>.48 (.28-.80)</td>
<td>.44 (.25-.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasal Heroin</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>Referent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
a. Odds ratio.
b. 95% confidence interval.
c. \(p \leq 0.01\); \(p \leq 0.02\); ns= not significant.
d. Adjusted for gender, education, marital status, money from regular job.

**Discussion**

- Nasal Heroin Use
- Crack: HIV risk
- Older Adults in Need of Interventions

**Limitations**

- Cross-Sectional Design
- Age, cohort & historical period effects

**Summary**

- The historical perspectives on Aging and Drug use do not apply to this cohort of community residing drug users
- Midlife and older adults are using high risk drugs
- Aging Cohort of drug users: an underserved group in need of intervention.

**Future Directions**

- Developmental trajectories