

### + 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

### + Historical Perspective

- 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

Variable Name	OLDER	YOUNGER	χ <sup>2</sup>
	(n=128)	(n= 132)	
	n (%)	n (%)	
Cigarettes	106 (83)	118 (89)	2.464
Alcohol	116 (90)	122(92)	.272
Smoked Marijuana	115 (90)	118 (89)	.014
Injected Speedball	52 (41)	32 (24)	7.975***
Sniff/Snorted Speedball	41(32)	42 (32)	.001
Sniff/Snorted Cocaine	84 (66)	63 (48)	8.471***
Smoked Cocaine (Crack)	96 (75)	77 (58)	8.108***
Sniffed/Snorted Heroin	86 (67)	79 (60)	1.809
Injected Heroin	59 (46)	36 (27)	9.927***

\*\*\* 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 1.** Past 6 Months Substance Use: No Differences

VARIABLE	YOUNGER		OLDER		TEST STATISTICS	
	M or N	S.D. or %	M or N	S.D. or %	$\chi^2$ or t-test	p-value
Cigarettes	107	81	101	79	0.18	0.75
Alcohol	88	67	78	61	0.92	0.36
Nasal Cocaine	11	8	14	11	0.5	0.53
Nasal heroin	35	27	38	30	0.32	0.58
Injection heroin	12	9	14	11	0.24	0.68
Nasal Speedball	8	6	9	7	0.1	0.8
Injection speedball	12	9	12	9	0.06	1

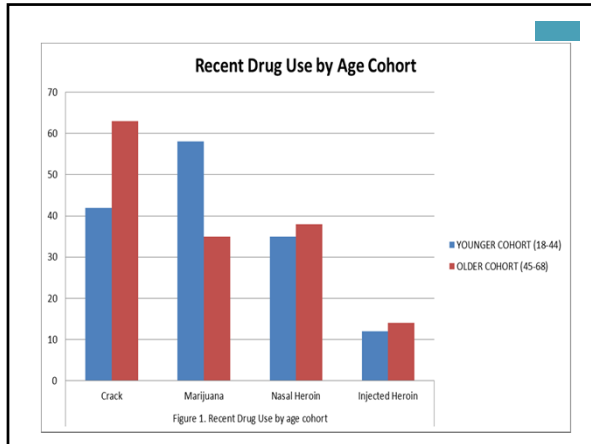


Table 2  
Odds Ratios and 95% CI's for Age Cohort & Recent Drug Use in past 6 months (N=260)

	Unadjusted OR <sup>a</sup> (CI) <sup>b</sup>	p <sup>c</sup>	Adjusted OR <sup>d</sup> (CI) <sup>b</sup>	p <sup>c</sup>
<b>Smoked crack</b>				
Younger (n= 128)	Referent		Referent	
Older (n=132)	2.07 (1.25-3.43)	**	1.92 (1.13-3.26)	*
<b>Marijuana</b>				
Younger (n= 128)	Referent		Referent	
Older (n=132)	.48 (.28-.80)	**	.44 (.25-.77)	**
<b>Nasal Heroin</b>				
Younger (n= 128)	Referent		Referent	
Older (n=132)	1.17 (.68-2.01)	ns	.99 (.56-1.77)	ns

a Odds ratio.  
b 95% confidence interval.  
c \*\*P ≤ 0.01; \*P ≤ 0.02; ns= not significant.  
d Adjusted for gender, education, marital status, money from a 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