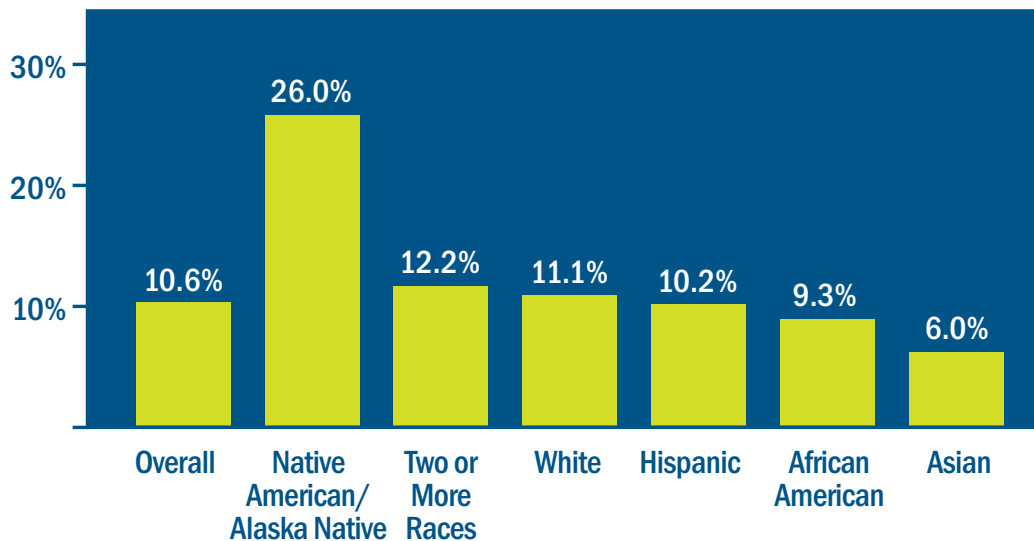




Current Illicit Drug Use Among American Indian/Alaska Native Youth Ranks Highest Among Racial/Ethnic Subgroups, Double Overall Rate

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) most recent *National Survey on Drug Use and Health* found that among all race/ethnicity subgroups, the rate of current illicit drug use among American Indian and Alaska Native youth aged 12 to 17 ranked highest. In fact, the percentage of youth from this ethnic group reporting current illicit drug use was more than twice the overall percentage among 12 to 17 year olds from all racial and ethnic groups - 26.0% vs. 10.6%. (Current illicit drug use is defined as any use within the last 30 days). Rates for other groups were as follows: 12.2% among those reporting two or more races, 11.1% among whites, 10.2% among Hispanics, 9.3% among African Americans and 6.0% among Asians. Notably, none of the racial/ethnic subgroups experienced statistically significant rate changes since 2003 findings, according to SAMHSA.

Youth Aged 12-17 Reporting Past-month Illicit Drug Use, by Race/Ethnicity (2004)



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. (2005). Results from the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings. Revised 9/8/2005. Retrieved October 17, 2005, from <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k4nsduh/2k4Results/2k4Results.htm#toc>.

Prepared by TASC, Inc. TASC is an independent, not-for-profit agency that provides clinical case management and other services to men, women and adolescents with a variety of social and health-related needs. TASC serves approximately 30,000 clients in Illinois each year. For more information visit www.tasc.org.

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