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# Race, Ethnic Drug Use, and Delinquency in Public Schools among High School 12th Graders

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**Abstract**

Research has shown a strong correlation between drug use and delinquency. In addition, research has also shown that drug use tends to peak in late adolescence and the onset of early adulthood. Consequently, the high school years, especially, the 12th grade is an important transition in the life course of delinquents. This study used descriptive statistics to compare drug use among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th grade high school students, and Spearman's correlation to find which drugs have the strongest correlation to delinquency. The data for this study was downloaded from Monitoring the Future (MTF, 2007). The Null Hypothesis is that Blacks use more drugs than both Whites and Hispanics; hence they are more involved in delinquency than both Whites and Hispanics. The drugs analyzed in this study are: alcohol, marijuana, crack, cocaine, narcotics, LSD, and heroin.

**Keywords:** Ethnic, Drugs, Delinquency, and 12th-Grade

## 1. Introduction

The United States has an enormous drug abuse and addiction problem, and research has

shown a correlation between substance use and illegal behavior, both for illicit substances such as cocaine and heroin and for licit substances such as alcohol (Fagan, 1990). First, substance use and crime appear to be fairly correlated in the general population (White, 1991) and among students during and after junior high or middle school, high school, and college (Inciardi, Horowitz, & Pottieger, 1993). The early 1980s and 1990s witnessed a surge in crime rates that was believed to be connected to the rise of the "crack" cocaine market; hence, the government declared a "war on drugs." Before the ascendancy of the "crack" cocaine market, the arrest rate for nonwhite juveniles was below that of whites (the ratio is less than 1:1). But starting in 1986 the arrest rate for nonwhite juveniles grew rapidly, reaching a rate of four times that of whites during 1989-92, and then declined to about 50 percent above the white juvenile rate in 1999. This pattern shows that the major recruitment of nonwhite juveniles into the drug market did not begin until the distribution of crack became widespread in 1985 (Blumstein, 2002).

Then, in 1986, immediately following the death of college basketball star Len Bias, Congress passed the federal crack cocaine law. Unfortunately, it was believed that Bias, who had just signed a million-dollar contract to play for the Boston Celtics, died from an overdose of crack cocaine. Later, it was learned that he died from ingesting powder cocaine. The federal crack statute mandates a five year prison term for possession of five grams of crack cocaine. Under the same federal law, possession, of five hundred grams of cocaine is required for a five –year prison term. Prison sentences are mandatory under the federal law. In 1995, 88 percent (12,300) of the people serving sentences under this law were Black. Because the penalty for possession of crack cocaine is one hundred times harsher than the penalty for possession of powder cocaine, the federal law is described as having a "100:1 disparity" (Russell, 1998).Since many inmates in jails and prisons in the United States are there on drug-related offenses, this could partly explain the disproportionate minority confinement (DMC) especially of Black youth. So, the Null Hypothesis is that Black youth use drugs more than White and Hispanic youth; thus that is why they are more delinquent, and are more represented in both the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

## 2. Prior Studies

Even though research has shown a correlation between drugs and crime, there is no consensus among criminologists whether drugs cause crime or vice versa. According to Elliot et al. (1989), initiation of crime usually precedes initiation of substance use, although Inciardi et al. (1993) found that drug use more often preceded crime in their high-risk sample in Miami. But to some extent, the differences may depend on which offenses were included in the measure of crime. Illegal behavior is often initiated before adolescence, and alcohol use may also be initiated before adolescence, but illicit drug use is typically initiated during adolescence and young adulthood, rarely before the ages 11 and 12. The peak years for both illicit and licit substance use appear to be in the late teens and early twenties (Elliot et al., 1989).

However, in an attempt to harmonize the relationship between drugs and crime, White (1990) offered four explanations: (1) substance use causes crime; (2) crime causes substance use; (3) substance use and crime influence each other directly in a pattern of mutual causation; and (4) the relationship between substance use and crime is spurious. The first explanation that

substance use causes crime is explained within three mechanisms that may operate singly or in concert, by which alcohol or illicit drug use may cause crime: psychopharmacological crime resulting from the effects of the drug itself, such as reduction of inhibitions or impairment of judgment; economic-compulsive crime committed in order to obtain drugs or money for drugs; and systemic crime committed within the drug dealing and distribution network, such as robberies of drugs or "turf wars" between rival drug dealers (Goldstein, Brownstein, & Ryan, 1992).

For the second perspective that crime causes drug use, Elliot et al. (1989) believed that individuals typically initiate crime before they initiate alcohol or illicit drug use. Most individuals who never become involved in crime never become involved in serious illicit drug use, and are at reduced risk of involvement in marijuana use. There are two ways that crime could cause drug use: (1) financial—in which crime provides the money to buy drugs; and (2) associational—crime places the individual in an environment that tolerates or supports drug use. In line with the financial mechanism is the possibility that alcohol and drugs may be used as a form of chemical recreation to celebrate a successful criminal venture, in much the same way as alcohol is used legally to celebrate holidays, birthdays, business successes, and other conventional achievements. Thus, crime may provide both the motivation (celebration of success) and the resources (money to buy drugs and alcohol) for chemical recreation; in this sense, crime may contribute directly to substance use (Collins et al., 1985).

The third perspective that substance use and illegal behavior reinforce each other incorporates the first two explanations, and that causation is bidirectional. There is the possibility that crime and substance use influence each other in different ways. For example, Elliot et al. (1989) found that the initiation of illegal behavior (the first criminal act) preceded the initiation of substance use for both minor and serious forms of substance use and crime. Once both substance use and crime had been initiated, polydrug users (users of some combination of heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens, amphetamines, or barbiturates, almost always accompanied by marijuana and alcohol use) were less likely to discontinue their illegal behavior than were users of marijuana (typically in combination with alcohol), users of alcohol only, or nonusers. Therefore, illegal behavior might lead to initiation of substance use, but serious illicit substance use might lead to continuity of illegal behavior.

The fourth explanation that the relationship between crime and substance use is spurious is of the view that both of them have more or less common set of causes. Jessor et al. (1991) believed that problem alcohol use, illicit drug use, and crime are all manifestations of a single underlying phenomenon. Another perspective maintains that substance use and crime are distinct phenomena, with similar but not identical causes. Elliot et al. (1989) argue that on the basis of social learning theory, that the most important influence on both crime and substance use is the extent of involvement with friends who are engaged in illegal behavior, including illicit drug use. A fifth possibility is a blend of the third and fourth explanations that substance use and crime may be influenced by the same or a similar set of causes, but also may influence each other directly.

## 3. Methods

Participants: The data for this study was downloaded from secondary data of Monitoring the

Future: A Continuing Study of American Youth (12th-Grade Survey) 2007, referred to from now on as MTF. MTF was conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, which received its core funding from the National Institute of Drug Abuse. The MTF project is an unusually comprehensive research project in several ways: surveys are conducted annually on an ongoing basis; the samples are large and nationally representative; and the subject matter is broad, encompassing some 1400 variables per year. The MTF project is designed to explore changes in many important values, behaviors, and lifestyle orientations of contemporary American youth.

The MTF basic research design involves annual data collections from high school seniors during the spring of each year, beginning with the class of 1975. Each data collection takes place in about 130 public and private high schools selected to provide an accurate cross-section of high school seniors throughout the United States. Completed questionnaires are obtained from three-fourths to four-fifths of all students sampled. In order to protect the confidentiality of responses and the identity of the respondents, a number of alterations have been made in the original dataset to prepare it for public release.

In schools with more than 350 seniors, a random sample of seniors or classes was drawn. In schools with less than 350 seniors, all seniors were asked to participate. Each school was asked to participate for two years so that each year one-half of the samples would be replaced. For 2007, 111 public schools and 21 private schools participated in the project; thus the total number of participating schools was 132, and the total number of 12thGrade high school students who participated in the project was 15,132.

Schools refusing participation were replaced with similar schools in terms of geographic location, size, and type of school (e.g., public, private/Catholic, and private/non Catholic). The total sample was divided into six subsamples consisting of an average of 2,522 respondents. Each subsample was administered a different form of the questionnaire, although all respondents answered the "core" drug and demographic questions. The participation rate among schools has been between 66 and 85 percent since the inception of the study. The overall student response rate for 2007 was 81 percent.

African Americans and Hispanics, who constitute approximately 9-12 percent of each year's sample, are represented by only 250 to 300 respondents per year on any single questionnaire form. Therefore because of the limited number of cases, the margin of sampling error around any statistic describing African Americans or Hispanics is larger than for most subgroups. One limitation of MTF project is that it does not include in the target population those youth who drop out of school before graduating from high school. In each selected school, up to about 400 seniors may be included in the data collection. In 2007, the study included 301 African American high school seniors.

*3.1 Procedure*

This study used 301 African American, 1528 White, and 372 Hispanic respondents from the 2007 MTF dataset to test the hypothesis that African American high school 12th Graders used drugs more than White and Hispanic students. The drugs used in this study are alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, crack, crack and cocaine, narcotics, LSD, and heroin. In the MTF dataset, distinction is made between the use of crack and cocaine, crack, and cocaine, and narcotics

which include drugs such as methadone, opium, morphine, codeine, Demerol, Vicodin, OxyContin, and Percocet. The measurement of heroin is divided into the use of heroin with needle, without needle, and with and without needle.

*3.2 Measures*

The MTF 2007 questionnaire contains several questions that relate to drug use and the frequency of use. The format for alcohol measurement is different from the format for the other drugs. For alcohol, the question is "On the occasions that you drink alcoholic beverages, how often do you drink enough to feel high?" The response ranges from 1 = none; 2 = on a few occasions; 3 = on about half of the occasions; 4 = on most occasions; and 5 = nearly all the occasions. But for marijuana, crack, cocaine, crack and cocaine, narcotics, LSD, and heroin, the format of the questions are similar, and the responses which actually measure the frequency of use have the same format. For example, the question for the measurement of the use of marijuana is "On how many occasions (if any) have you used marijuana (weed, pot) or hashish (hash, hash oil) in your lifetime?" For LSD, the question is "On how many occasions (if any) have you used LSD (acid) in your lifetime?" To measure the use of crack, the question is "On how many occasions (if any) have you used "crack" cocaine in chunk or rock form in your lifetime?" For cocaine, the question is "On how many occasions (if any) have you used cocaine in any other form in your lifetime?" But for crack and cocaine, the question is "On how many occasions (if any) have you used "crack" (cocaine in chunk or rock form), and cocaine in any other form in your lifetime?"

To measure the use of narcotics, the question is "On how many occasions (if any) have you taken narcotics, other than heroin, such as methadone, opium, morphine, codeine, Demerol, Vicodin, OxyContin, and Percocet, without a doctor's prescription in your lifetime?" Because the measurement of heroin is divided into three, there are three different questions, but all of them have the same format. The questions are: "On how many occasions (if any) have you taken heroin using a needle in your lifetime?" Then, "On how many occasions (if any) have you taken heroin without a needle in your lifetime?" Finally, "On how many occasions (if any) have you taken heroin using a needle and without needle in your lifetime?" The responses to measure the frequency of the use of drugs apart from alcohol, are 1 = "0 Occasions" 2 = "1-2 Occasions" 3 = "3-5 Occasions" 4 = "6-9 Occasions" 5 = "10-19 Occasions" 6 = "20-39 Occasions" 7 = "40 or more Occasions" From the format of the responses, one could infer that respondents who answer 5-7 are habitual users of drugs, considering the fact that the respondents are 12$^{th}$ Graders in their teens and that the frequency of drug use peak in the late adolescent years.

For delinquency, the outcome variable, a 3-item scale was used to measure this construct. Respondents were asked to answer the following questions. "Now thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you get sent to the office or have to stay after school because you misbehaved?" "Now thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you skip a day of school, or part of a day without permission?" The response format for the two above questions was 1 = never, 2= seldom, 3 = sometimes, 4= often, and 5 = always. The other delinquency question is "Have you ever been suspended or expelled from school?" The response format for this question is 1 = no, 2 = yes, one time, and 3 = yes, two or more times. These items will be used in a cumulative scale to measure delinquency.

## 4. Data Analysis

*Alcohol:* Even though the use of alcohol is legal for adults, it is illegal for youth to buy or drink alcohol. But it is a well-known fact that youth buy alcohol with fake identity cards, and many of them drink. From the descriptive statistics above, White youth use alcohol more than Blacks or Hispanics. Almost 39% of Black 12$^{th}$ grade high school students have never used alcohol, compared to 26% for Whites and 31% for Hispanics. About 73% of White students admitted to drinking alcohol, compared to 58% for Blacks and 63% for Hispanics.

*Marijuana:* Marijuana is a common drug among youth. The results show that almost 61% of Black students have never smoked marijuana, compared to 57% for Hispanics, and 56 % for White students. At the initial stage of 1-2 occasions of use, Blacks (12%) used marijuana more than Whites (9%) and Hispanics (10%). About 3% of Blacks, 5% of Whites, and 4% of Hispanics, habitually (10-19 occasions) used marijuana. But then, 10% of Blacks, 14% of Whites, and 11% of Hispanics, consistently (40 or more occasions) used marijuana. Hence, from the findings, Whites and Hispanics used marijuana more than Blacks.

*Narcotics:* From the MTF 2007 dataset, narcotics include drugs such as methadone, opium, morphine, codeine, Demerol, Vicodin, OxyContin, and Percocet. The findings on narcotics show that 93% of Blacks, 84% of Whites, and 92% of Hispanics have never used narcotics. But then, Whites (1.8%) consistently and habitually used narcotics more than Blacks (.7%) and Hispanics (.5%).

*Crack:* The descriptive statistics show that 98% of Blacks, 96% of Whites, and 94% of Hispanics have never used crack. But from the findings, Hispanics (.8%) used crack more than Whites (.7%), and Blacks (.3%). If the "war on drugs" in the 1980s was supposed to crack down on "crack" users, presumably, Blacks, then these findings on crack do not agree with the official standpoint on the use of "crack" because Whites and Hispanics used "crack" more than Blacks. The findings on the use of "crack" agree with the findings of the US Sentencing Commission (1995), which revealed that Whites used "crack" more than Blacks, during the review of federal crack law (Russell, 1998).

*Cocaine:* The findings show that almost 97% of Blacks, 91% of Whites, and 91% of Hispanics have never used cocaine. In the frequency measurement of use from 1-7, Whites consistently used cocaine more than Blacks and Hispanics, except in response 2 (1-2 occasions of use), where 3.8% of Hispanics used more cocaine than Whites (3.6%), and Blacks (1%). But, Whites (1.4%) habitually used cocaine more than Hispanics (1.3%) and Blacks (.3%). The findings of this study on the use of cocaine agree with several studies that show that Whites use cocaine more than Blacks.

*LSD*: Even though 97% of Blacks, 95% of Whites, and 96% of Hispanics have never used LSD, but from the findings, Blacks (.7%) habitually used LSD more than Whites (.4%), and Hispanics (.5%).

*Heroin with needle*: From the descriptive statistics, 98% of Blacks, 99% of Whites, and 98% of Hispanics have never used heroin with needle.. For response 6 (frequency use of 20-39 occasions), Whites (.1%) used heroin with needle more than Blacks (0%), and Hispanics (0%). But for response 7 (frequency use of 40 or more occasions), Hispanics (.3%) used heroin with needle more than Whites (.2%) and Blacks (0%). The findings show that Whites

and Hispanics consistently use heroin with needle.

*Heroin without needle*: From the findings, Whites (.1%) habitually use heroin without needle more than Blacks (0%), and Hispanics (0%).

Table 1. Alcohol use among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th grade high school students

| Frequency of use | Black % | White % | Hispanic % |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (N=301) | (N=1528) | (N=372) |
| 1 | 21.3 | 14.7 | 18 |
| 2 | 16.9 | 17.1 | 17.5 |
| 3 | 7 | 12.3 | 10.8 |
| 4 | 6.6 | 18.1 | 11.8 |
| 5 | 6.3 | 10.6 | 5.4 |
| Total | 58.1 | 72.7 | 63.4 |
| Missing | 41.9 | 27.3 | 36.6 |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 |

1 = none; 2 = few occasions; 3 = half of the occasions; 4 = most occasions; 5 = nearly all the occasions.

Table 2. Marijuana use among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th grade high school students

| Frequency of use | Black % | White % | Hispanic % |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (N=301) | (N=1528) | (N=372) |
| 1 | 60.5 | 56.0 | 57.0 |
| 2 | 12.3 | 9.4 | 9.9 |
| 3 | 4.7 | 6.6 | 4.8 |
| 4 | 2.0 | 3.8 | 3.2 |
| 5 | 3.3 | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| 6 | 2.7 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| 7 | 10.0 | 13.9 | 11.3 |
| Subtotal | 95.3 | 98.5 | 95.2 |
| Missing | 4.7 | 1.5 | 4.8 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1 = 0 Occasion, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-5 times, 4 = 6-9 times, 5 = 10-19 times, 6 = 20-39 times, 7 = 40+ Occasions.

Table 3. Narcotics use among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th grade high school students

| Frequency of use | Black % | White % | Hispanic % |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (N=301) | (N=1528) | (N=372) |
| 1 | 93.0 | 83.6 | 91.9 |
| 2 | 2.7 | 5.0 | 2.4 |
| 3 | 1.3 | 3.2 | 0.8 |
| 4 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| 5 | 0 | 1.9 | 0.5 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 0.3 |
| 7 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| Total | 98.7 | 99.2 | 98.1 |
| Missing | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1 = 0 Occasion, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-5 times, 4 = 6-9 times, 5 = 10-19 times, 6 = 20-39 times, 7 = 40+ Occasions.

Table 4. Crack use among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th grade high school students

| Frequency of use | Black % | White % | Hispanic % |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (N = 301) | (N = 1528) | (N = 372) |
| 1 | 97.7 | 96.4 | 94.4 |
| 2 | .3 | 1.2 | 2.2 |
| 3 | .3 | .5 | .5 |
| 4 | .3 | .3 | .0 |
| 5 | .0 | .4 | .5 |
| 6 | .0 | .3 | .0 |
| 7 | .3 | .7 | .8 |
| Subtotal | 99.0 | 99.7 | 98.4 |
| Missing | 1.0 | .3 | 1.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1 = 0 Occasion, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-5 times, 4 = 6-9 times, 5 = 10-19 times, 6 = 20-39 times, 7 = 40+ Occasions

Table 5. Cocaine use among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th grade high school students

| Frequency of use | Black % | White % | Hispanic % |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (N = 301) | (N = 1528) | (N = 372) |
| 1 | 96.7 | 91.0 | 91.4 |
| 2 | 1.0 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| 3 | .0 | 1.6 | .5 |
| 4 | .0 | .5 | .0 |
| 5 | .0 | .5 | .8 |
| 6 | .3 | .7 | .5 |
| 7 | .3 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Subtotal | 98.3 | 99.3 | 98.4 |
| Missing | 1.7 | .7 | 1.6 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1 = 0 Occasion, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-5 times, 4 = 6-9 times, 5 = 10-19 times, 6 = 20-39 times, 7 = 40+ Occasions

Table 6. LSD use among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th grade high school students

| Frequency of use | | Black % | White % | Hispanic% |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (N = 301) | (N = 1528) | (N = 372) |
| | 1 | 97.3 | 95.4 | 96.0 |
| | 2 | .7 | 2.2 | 1.1 |
| | 3 | .0 | .7 | .0 |
| | 4 | .3 | .4 | .3 |
| | 5 | .0 | .3 | .0 |
| | 6 | .3 | .1 | .0 |
| | 7 | .7 | .4 | .5 |
| Subtotal | | 99.3 | 99.4 | 97.8 |
| | Missing | .7 | .6 | 2.2 |
| Total | | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1 = 0 Occasion, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-5 times, 4 = 6-9 times, 5 = 10-19 times, 6 = 20-39 times, 7 = 40+ Occasions

Table 7. Use of heroin with needle among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th graders

| Frequency of use | | Black % | White % | Hispanic % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (N = 301) | (N = 1528) | (N = 372) |
| | 1 | 98.0 | 99.0 | 97.6 |
| | 2 | .3 | .2 | .5 |
| | 3 | .0 | .1 | .0 |
| | 4 | .3 | .1 | .0 |
| | 5 | .0 | .0 | .0 |
| | 6 | .0 | .1 | .0 |
| | 7 | .0 | .2 | .3 |
| Subtotal | | 98.7 | 99.5 | 98.4 |
| | Missing | 1.3 | .5 | 1.6 |
| Total | | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1 = 0 Occasion, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-5 times, 4 = 6-9 times, 5 = 10-19 times, 6 = 20-39 times, 7 = 40+ Occasions

Table 8. Use of heroin without needle among Black, White, and Hispanic 12th graders

| Frequency of use | Black % | White % | Hispanic % |
|---|---|---|---|
| | (N = 301) | (N = 1528) | (N = 372) |
| 1 | 97.3 | 97.5 | 97.0 |
| 2 | .7 | .7 | .5 |
| 3 | .0 | .1 | .0 |
| 4 | .0 | .1 | .0 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | .3 | .3 | .5 |
| | 6 | .0 | .0 | .0 |
| | 7 | .0 | .1 | .0 |
| Subtotal | | 98.3 | 99.0 | 98.1 |
| | Missing | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.9 |
| Total | | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1 = 0 Occasion, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-5 times, 4 = 6-9 times, 5 = 10-19 times, 6 = 20-39 times, 7 = 40+ Occasions

Table 9. Correlation between drugs use and delinquency among Black high school 12th Graders

| | Delinq | Alco | Mari | Crack | Cocaine | Narco | LSD | Her wn | Her won |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delinq | 1.000 | | | | | | | | |
| Alcohol | .239** | 1.000 | | | | | | | |
| Marijuana | .322** | .424** | 1.000 | | | | | | |
| Crack | .120* | .036 | .076 | 1.000 | | | | | |
| Cocaine | .132* | .108 | .143 | .772** | 1.000 | | | | |
| Narcotics | .195** | .204** | .242** | .414** | .434** | 1.000 | | | |
| LSD | .164** | . 019 | .124 | .401 | .185 | .185 | 1.000 | | |
| Heroin w/n | .121* | -.018 | -.062 | .493 | .344 | .163 | -.010 | 1.000 | |
| Heroinwout/n | .134* | .083. | .076 | 1.000** | .772** | .414** | .250** | .495** | 1.000 |

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Heroin w/n is heroin lifetime use with needle

Heroin wout/n is heroin lifetime use without needle

Table 10. Correlation between drugs use and delinquency among White high school 12th Graders

| | Delinq | Alco | Mari | Crack | Cocaine | Narco | LSD | Her wn | Her won |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delinq | 1.000 | | | | | | | | |
| Alcohol | .286** | 1.000 | | | | | | | |
| Marijuana | .417** | .442** | 1.000 | | | | | | |
| Crack | .172** | .109** | .275** | 1.000 | . | | | | |
| Cocaine | .260** | .173** | .442 ** | .450** | 1.000 | | | | |
| Narcotics | .304** | .224** | .491** | .352** | .459** | 1.000 | | | |
| LSD | .205** | .109** | .290 ** | .426** | .455** | .329** | 1.000 | | |
| Heroin w/n | .110** | .027 | .104** | .278** | .199** | .132 ** | .160** | 1.000 | |
| Heroinwout/n | .094** | .058 | .187** | .415** | .323** | .269** | .317** | .352** | 1.000 |

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Heroin w/n is heroin lifetime use with needle

Heroin wout/n is heroin lifetime use without needle

Table 11: Correlation between drugs use and delinquency among Hispanic 12th Graders

| | Delinq | Alco Mari | Crack | Cocaine | Narco | LSD | Her wn | Her won | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Delinq | 1.000 | | | | | | | | |
| Alcohol | .377** | 1.000 | | | | | | | |
| Marijuana | .390** | .416** | 1.000 | | | | | | |
| Crack | .072 | .147** | .250** | 1.000 | | | | | |
| Cocaine | .142** | .172** | .348** | .486** | 1.000 | | | | |
| Narcotics | .116* | .161** | .296** | .293** | .374** | 1.000 | | | |
| LSD | .048 | .043 | .117* | .167** | .189** | .048 | 1.000 | | |
| Heroinw/n | .020 | .064 | .125* | .294** | .210** | .231** | .209** | 1.000 | |
| Heroinwout/n | .097 | .075 | .162 ** | .116* | .289** | .196** | -.015** | .285** | 1.000 |

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Heroin w/n is heroin lifetime use with needle

Heroin wout/n is heroin lifetime use without needle

## 5. Data Analysis

The findings of this study show that White high school 12th Graders habitually and consistently used drugs such as alcohol, marijuana, crack, cocaine, crack and cocaine, heroin, and narcotics (which include drugs such as methadone, opium, morphine, codeine, Demerol, Vicodin, OxyContin, and Percocet) more than Blacks and Hispanics. LSD is the only drug that Blacks used more than Whites and Hispanics. The findings do not support the Null Hypothesis that Blacks use more drugs than Whites and Hispanics, and that is why they are more delinquent and are more represented in both the juvenile justice and the criminal justice systems.

From the correlation statistics, the findings support other studies which found a strong correlation between drugs use and delinquency. For Blacks, there is a strong correlation between alcohol and marijuana and delinquency. In addition, there is a relationship between crack and cocaine. Those who use crack also use cocaine and heroin. Crack and heroin use without needle have the strongest relationship among all the drugs. For Blacks, alcohol and marijuana are the two drugs that have a correlation to delinquency.

## 6. Conclusion

For Whites, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and narcotics are all correlated to delinquency. But the two major ones are marijuana and narcotics. Alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and narcotics are all interrelated. Those who use one tend to use the others too. For Hispanics, alcohol and

marijuana are the two drugs that have strong correlation to delinquency. Those who use cocaine also tend to use marijuana, crack, and narcotics. For Blacks, Whites, and Hispanics, alcohol and marijuana are the two drugs that are highly correlated to delinquency. In relationship to delinquency, Whites use more marijuana (.417) than Blacks (.322), and Hispanics (.390). But Hispanics use more alcohol (.377) than Whites (.286), and Blacks (.239). Over all, Whites use more drugs than Blacks and Hispanics.

If Whites use more drugs than Blacks, and most Blacks in jails and prisons are there on drug related offenses, then there has to be other explanations for the disproportionate minority confinement (DMC), especially of Blacks. Could it be that many Blacks are brought into the juvenile justice and the criminal justice systems through net widening, the intake process, the discretionary powers of police and judges, and other extralegal factors? For example, a police officer can use his or her discretionary power to allow a White youth who has committed an offense to go, but decide to haul in a Black youth who has committed the same offense. Another explanation for the disproportionate minority confinement, especially, of Blacks on drugs charges could be because as couriers of drugs, they are more visible than Whites who are the end users. From the findings of this study, it is shown that Whites use more drugs than Blacks.

However, since many at risk Blacks (truants and drop out) are missing from the sample of Black students in the MTF 2007 dataset, more research needs to be done to investigate whether

Whites actually use more drugs than Blacks and Hispanics. If the US Sentencing Commission (1995) in its review of "crack" cocaine laws, pointed out that Whites used "crack" more than Blacks at the peak of the "crack" cocaine years, and yet today many Blacks are in jails and prisons on drug related offenses, such an aberration calls for more research investigation.

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