Reexamining What We Know about African American College Student Alcohol Use and Perceptions

Alicia L. Battle, PhD, MCHES
American College Health Association
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Session Outline

- Icebreaker and Introductions
- Presentation of Research
- Small Group Discussion
- Guided Discussion
- Questions & Answers
- Closing Remarks & Next Steps
Research – African American College Students Participation in National Alcohol Studies

College Alcohol Study

- Initial sample included 140 institutions (17,592 students)
- Only 6% of the respondents identified as African American
Research – African American College Students Participation in National Alcohol Studies

American College Health Association – National College Health Assessment

- Initial Sample included 48 institutions (26,437 students)
- 6.15% of the respondents identified as African American
Research – African American College Students Participation in National Alcohol Studies

Core Institute Alcohol and Other Drug Surveys

- Initial samples included 209,576 students
- Only 6.7% of the respondents identified as African American
1. Do African American college students consume alcohol, if so, how much?

2. Is there a difference in African American college student drinkers’ attitudes about alcohol use compared to the attitudes of African American college students that do not drink?

3. Is there a difference in African American college student drinkers’ perceived norms about alcohol use compared to the perceived norms of African American college students that do not drink?
Research Questions

4. Is there an association between attitudes and perceived norms about alcohol use based on:

a. GPA
b. classification
c. age
d. gender
e. participation in athletics
f. participation in Greek-letter organizations
g. living arrangement
Non-experimental, descriptive, quantitative

24-item survey was administered to students attending an HBCU in a variety of classes

500 surveys were included in data analysis
Results

- Being classified as a freshman or sophomore was a predictor for perception of increased alcohol use.
- Being male was a predictor for perception of increased alcohol use.
- Living off campus was a predictor for the perception of increased alcohol use.
- Students perceived that Greek-letter organization members drank more than students non-Greek affiliated.
- Participation in athletics, classification gender and living arrangement were predictors for alcohol use.
Conclusions

- An overwhelming percentage of students perceived that students on campus drank too much, but the actual numbers regarding use indicate moderate use.

- African American college student alcohol use is not dissimilar to that of national predominantly Caucasian samples.
Small Group Discussions
What barriers are inherent in how you approach alcohol prevention on your campus?

- Unconscious Bias
- Microaggressions
- Stereotype Threats
Guided Discussion

In education, there is a golden triangle of quantity, quality and equity. You just can't ignore one while strengthening the others.

Sitaram Yechury
EQUITY-MINDED

Institutionally Focused
Race Conscious
Evidence Based
Systemically Aware
Equity Advancing

CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION
EQUITY-MINDED

‘Equity-Minded’ policies, practices, and mindsets...

...are Race Conscious.

☑ Pay attention to racial inequities in educational experiences and outcomes
EQUITY-MINDED

‘Equity-Minded’ policies, practices, and mindsets...

...are Institutionally-Focused.

☑ Acknowledge that institutional, faculty, and staff practices may not be working
EQUITY-MINDED

‘Equity-Minded’ policies, practices, and mindsets…

…are Systemically Aware.

☑ Understand inequity as a dysfunction of structures, policy, and practices
EQUITY-MINDED

‘Equity-Minded’ policies, practices, and mindsets...

...are Evidence-based.

☑ Question assumptions, recognize stereotypes and implicit biases, rely instead on disaggregated quantitative data and qualitative inquiry findings.

CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION
EQUITY-MINDED

‘Equity-Minded’ policies, practices, and mindsets...

...are Equity Advancing.

☑ Take action to eliminate inequity
Equity-Minded Prevention

- Collaborative
- Deliberate
- Inclusive
- Constructive
- Safe
- Connected
Closing Remarks

Alicia L. Battle, PhD, MCHES
Assistant Professor
Addictions Studies & Behavioral Health
abattle@govst.edu
Questions, Comments, Concerns