THE EFFECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS ON CRACK & COCAINE USE IN THE UNITED STATES

University of Kansas School of Nursing

NURS 485 Population Health

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Group 16

CULTURAL BACKGROUND & TARGET POPULATION

WHAT IS CRACK & COCAINE? (ALCOHOL AND DRUG FOUNDATION, 2021)

(Perry, 2021)

(Gans, 2021)

(Britannica, 2016)

POWDER COCAINE

Pure hydrochloride
Salt

Often mixed with
lidocaine or talcum
powder

CRACK COCAINE

Hydrochloride salt
mixed with baking
soda and water

More affordable on
the street

FREEBASE

Purest form of cocaine
hydrochloride

PHYSIOLOGICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF CRACK & COCAINE USE

(AMERICAN ADDICTION CENTER, 2021)

IMMEDIATE

Euphoria

Heightened alertness

Dilated pupils

Decreased appetite

LONG TERM

Mood changes

Paranoia

Irritability

Anxiety

Restlessness

WITHDRAWAL

Agitation

Cravings

Depression

Suicidal thoughts

Extreme fatigue

LIFE THREATENING

Overdose

Coma

Respiratory problems

Infections

Death

Using drugs made KO feel euphoric and "whole" (KO, personal communication, October, 21, 2021)
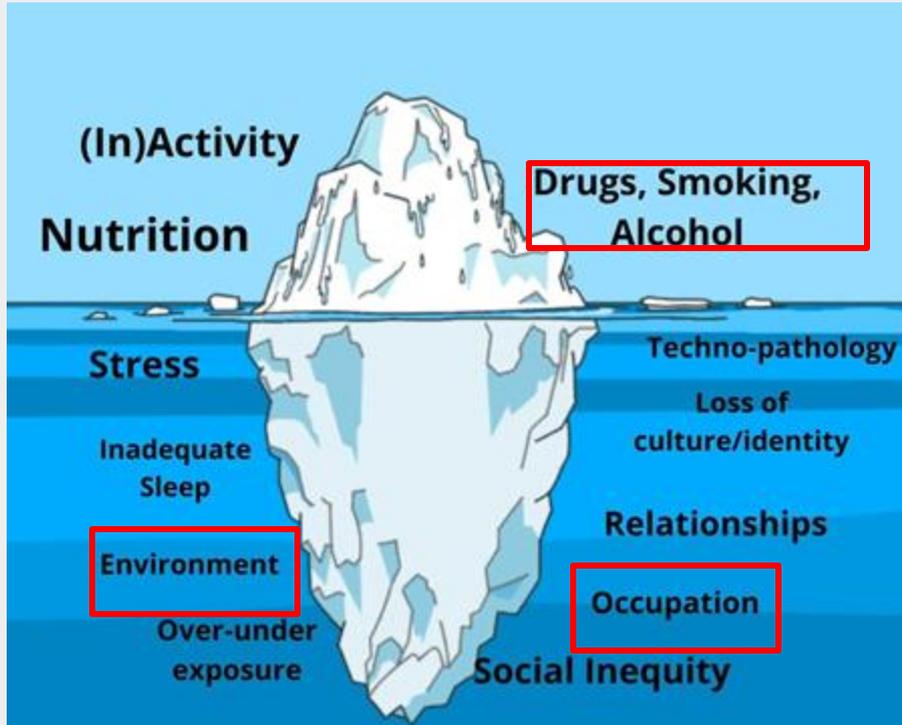
INTERVIEWEE INTRODUCTION

"KO" M.S. CRADC

- Owner and Director of Operations of Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Center
- Personal experience with alcohol and drug use
- Recover Center
  - Privately owned
  - Offers a variety of treatment options and programs

WHY DO PEOPLE USE CRACK & COCAINE?

(Binns, 2019)

- KO's drug use began in teen years with a busy single mom, low self-esteem, and family history of substance abuse (KO, personal communication, October 21, 2021)
- Different forms of cocaine are used in different socioeconomic statuses (American Addiction Center, 2021)
  - Influencing factors
    - Access
    - Price
    - Geographical location

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

WHAT IS IT?

A person's social standing or class based off occupation, income, and education (American Psychology Association, n.d.)
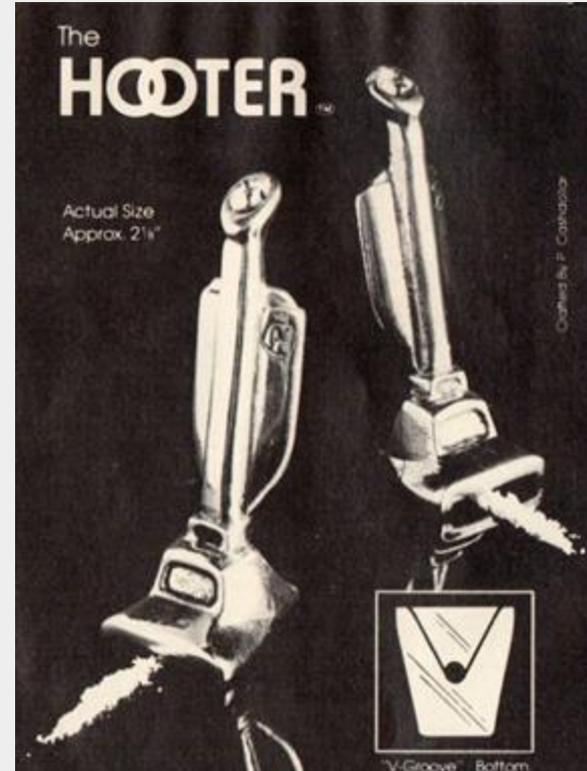
LOW SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

"Adults who have lower levels of educational attainment, who are unemployed, or who live at, near, or below the U.S. federal poverty level are considered to have low socioeconomic status" (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019).

HIGH SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

There is no agreed upon definition of high SES. For the purpose of this presentation, we will be defining it as a combination of high income, high occupation, and/or high education.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF CRACK AND COCAINE USE IN THE U.S. (DAS, 1993)

1880S	1890S	1890S	1910S
First introduced in America	Used in medicine, soda, & alcohol	Recreational use & addiction begins	Harrison Act passed to regulate sales & distribution

1920S	1950S	1960S	1970s
Most feared illicit drug	Cocaine use diminished	Cocaine use increased again	Used in athletes, teens, & homeless populations

The HOOTER

Actual Size
Approx. 2¼"

"V-Groove" Bottom.

(McGinley, 2016)

SOCIO-CULTURAL INFLUENCE

CULTURE OF COCAINE USE

Who is more likely to use powder cocaine? (Palamar et al., 2015)
- Full time employed individuals
- High school/college graduates
- Household income > $20,000/year

Development of Use
- First introduced in the 1880s (Das, 1993)
- Criminalized in 1910s (Das, 1993)
- Now seen as elite, glamorous, and luxurious due to high price tag (Palamer et al., 2015)

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CULTURE OF CRACK USE

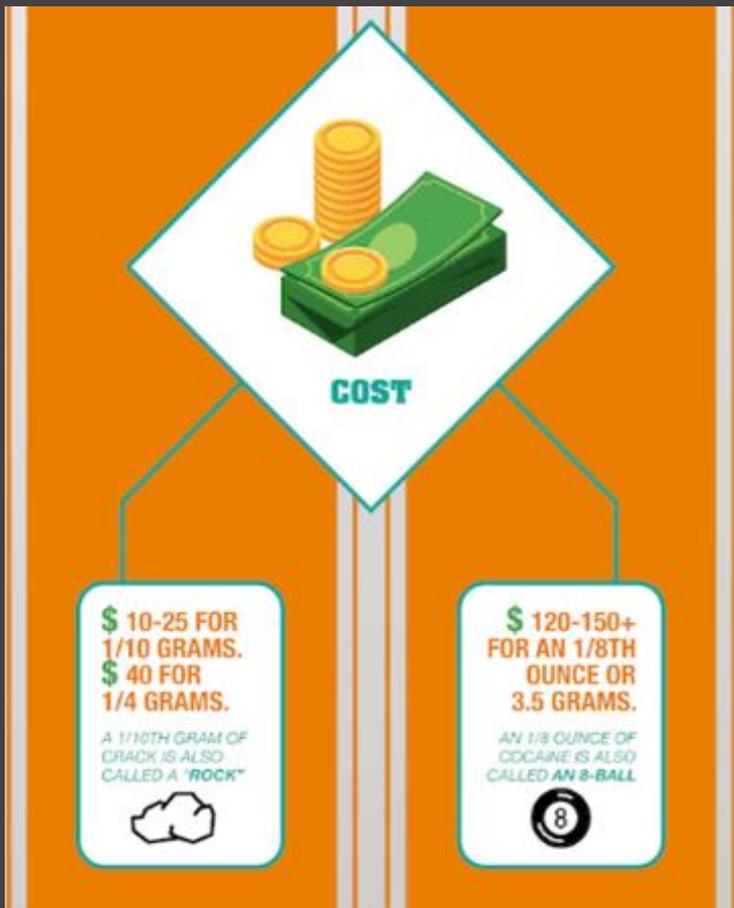Who is more likely to use crack? (Palamar et al., 2015)
- Unemployed individuals
- Government assistance users
- Crack users tend to be of lower SES

Development of Use (American Addiction Center, 2021)
- Developed in the 1980s
- Criminalized in 1980s then revised in 2010
- Cheap alternative to cocaine and seen in impoverished communities
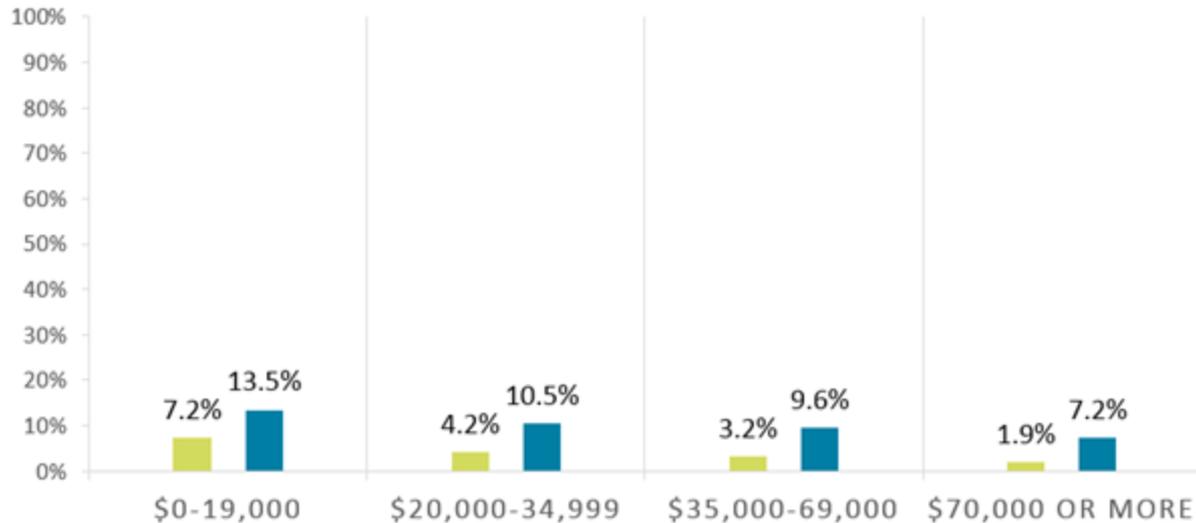
Cost Differences

Crack   versus   Cocaine

DRUG USE AND ANNUAL INCOME

DRUG USE DISORDER PREVALENCE & ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME IN THE U.S.
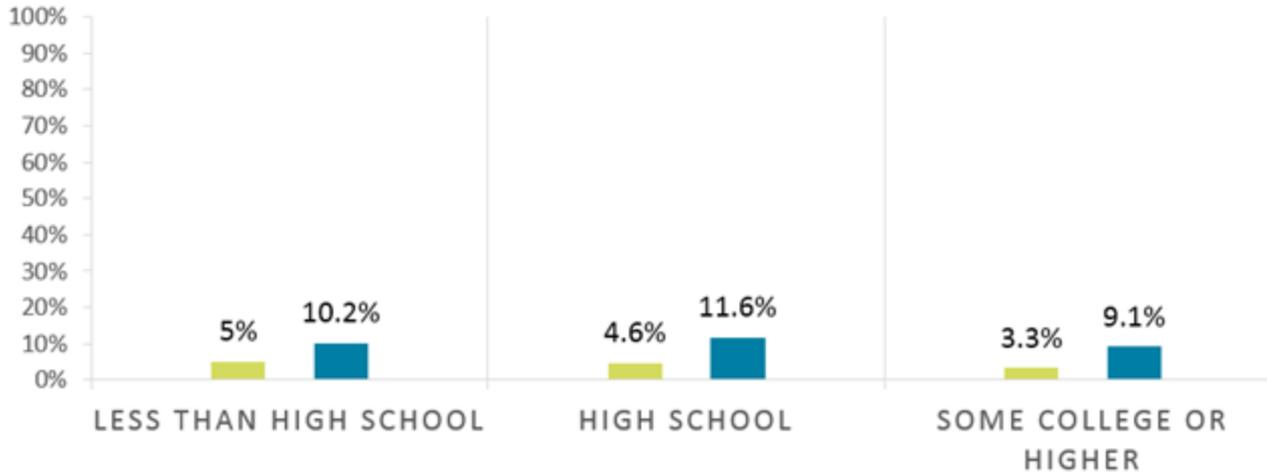
■ Previous 12-months ■ Lifetime

Income	Previous 12-months	Lifetime
$0-19,000	7.2%	13.5%
$20,000-34,999	4.2%	10.5%
$35,000-69,000	3.2%	9.6%
$70,000 OR MORE	1.9%	7.2%

This Graph Shows:

○ Highest percent of users make < $19,000 per year

○ Lowest percent of users make >$70,000 per year

○ Majority of users are in a low income family

DRUG USE AND EDUCATION

DRUG USE DISORDER PREVALENCE & EDUCATIONAL LEVEL IN THE U.S.

■ Previous 12-months ■ Lifetime

LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL: 5% / 10.2%
HIGH SCHOOL: 4.6% / 11.6%
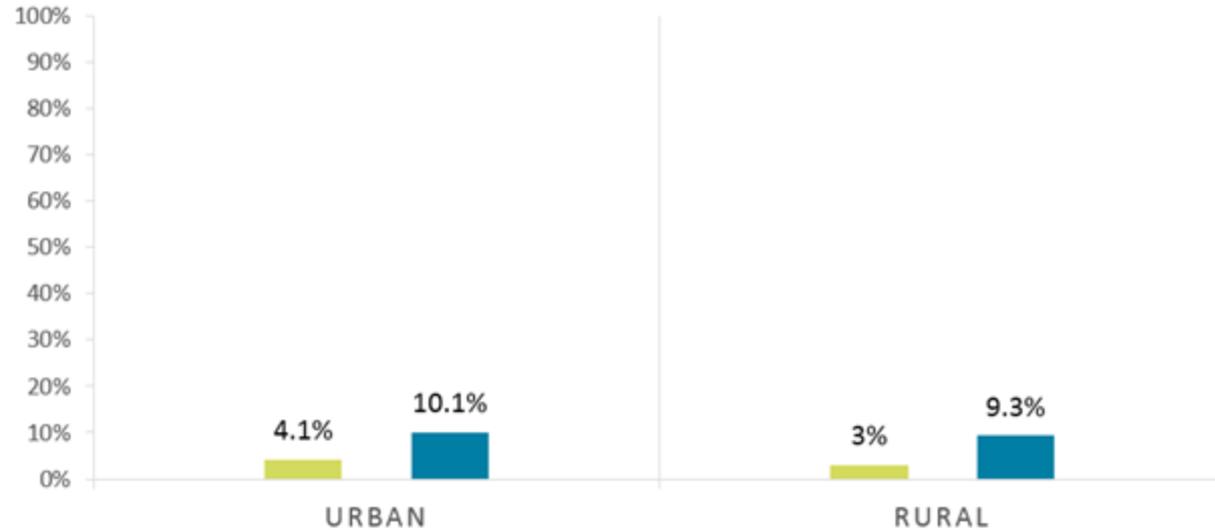SOME COLLEGE OR HIGHER: 3.3% / 9.1%

This Graph Shows:

- Lower education level = higher rate of drug use

- High School Education has the highest rate of drug use

- Some college or higher has the lowest rate of drug use

DRUG USE IN RURAL & URBAN SETTINGS

DRUG USE DISORDER PREVALENCE IN URBAN VS. RURAL SETTINGS IN THE U.S.

■ Previous 12-months ■ Lifetime

URBAN: 4.1%, 10.1%
RURAL: 3%, 9.3%

This Graph Shows:

○ Urban areas have a slightly higher prevalence

○ Both settings have similar data

POLICY

POLICY

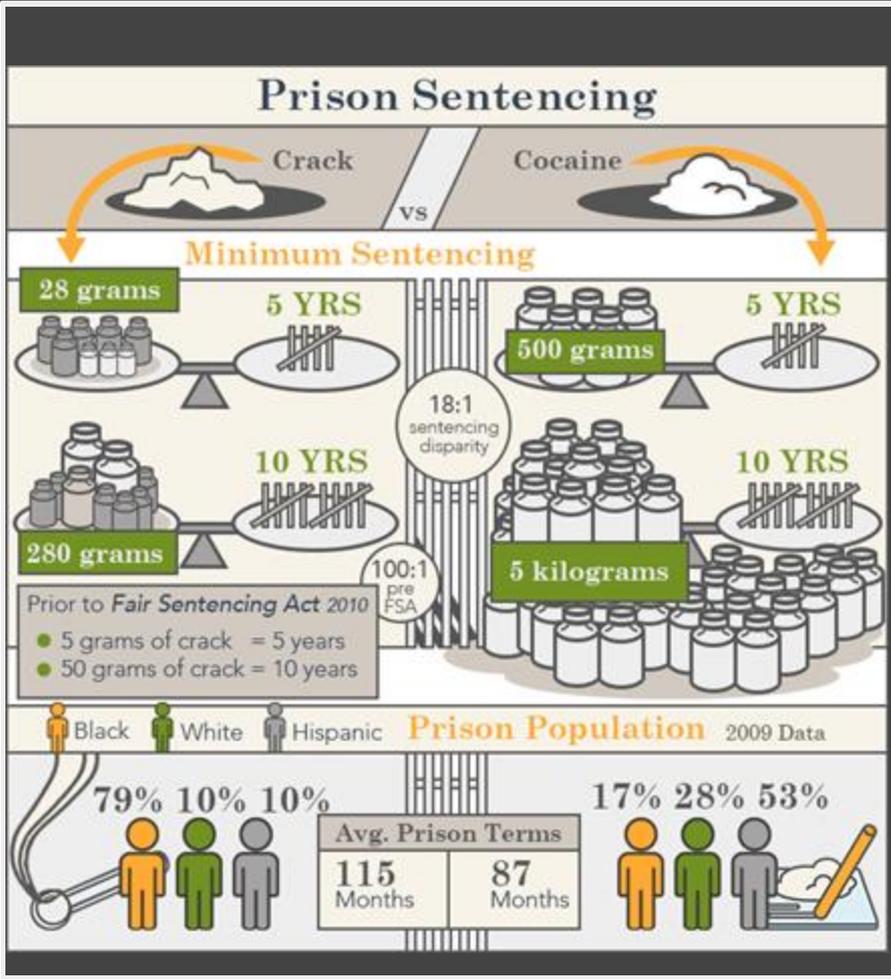| 1914 | Harrison Narcotics Act |

| 1986 | Anti-Drug Abuse Act |

| 2010 | Fair Sentencing Act |

(U.S. Department of Justice, 2021)

FAIR SENTENCING ACT

(American Addiction Centers, 2021)

- ○ Purpose was to combat socioeconomic status disparities (ACLU, 2021)
- ○ Reduced the sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine
- ○ Prior sentencing was based on discredited assumptions about crack cocaine (Vagins, 2006)
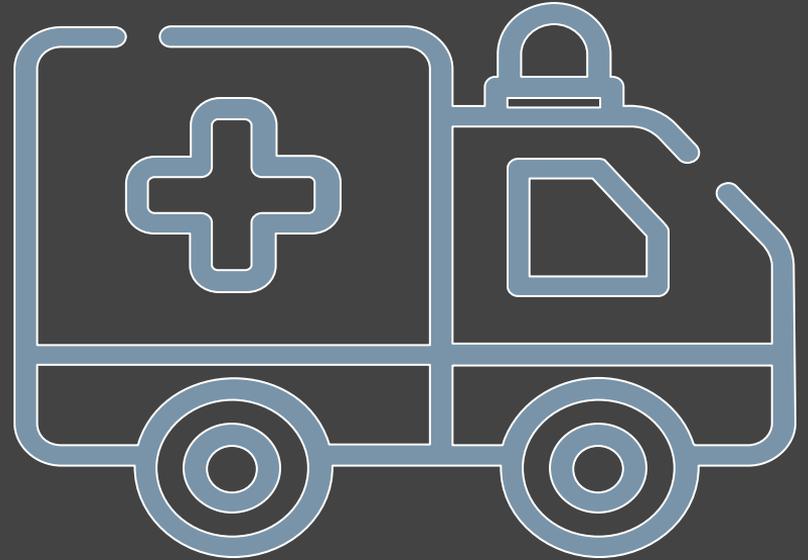- ○ Ratio went from 100:1 to 18:1, but should be 1:1 (ACLU, 2021)

DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

DOH: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- "I see cocaine more than I see crack" (KO, personal communication, October 21, 2021)
  - Privately funded treatment centers see more cocaine
  - Varying health insurance coverage
- Higher demand in facilities leads to lower quality care (KO, personal communication, October 21, 2021)
- Transportation to hospitals and treatment centers (Starbird et al., 2020)
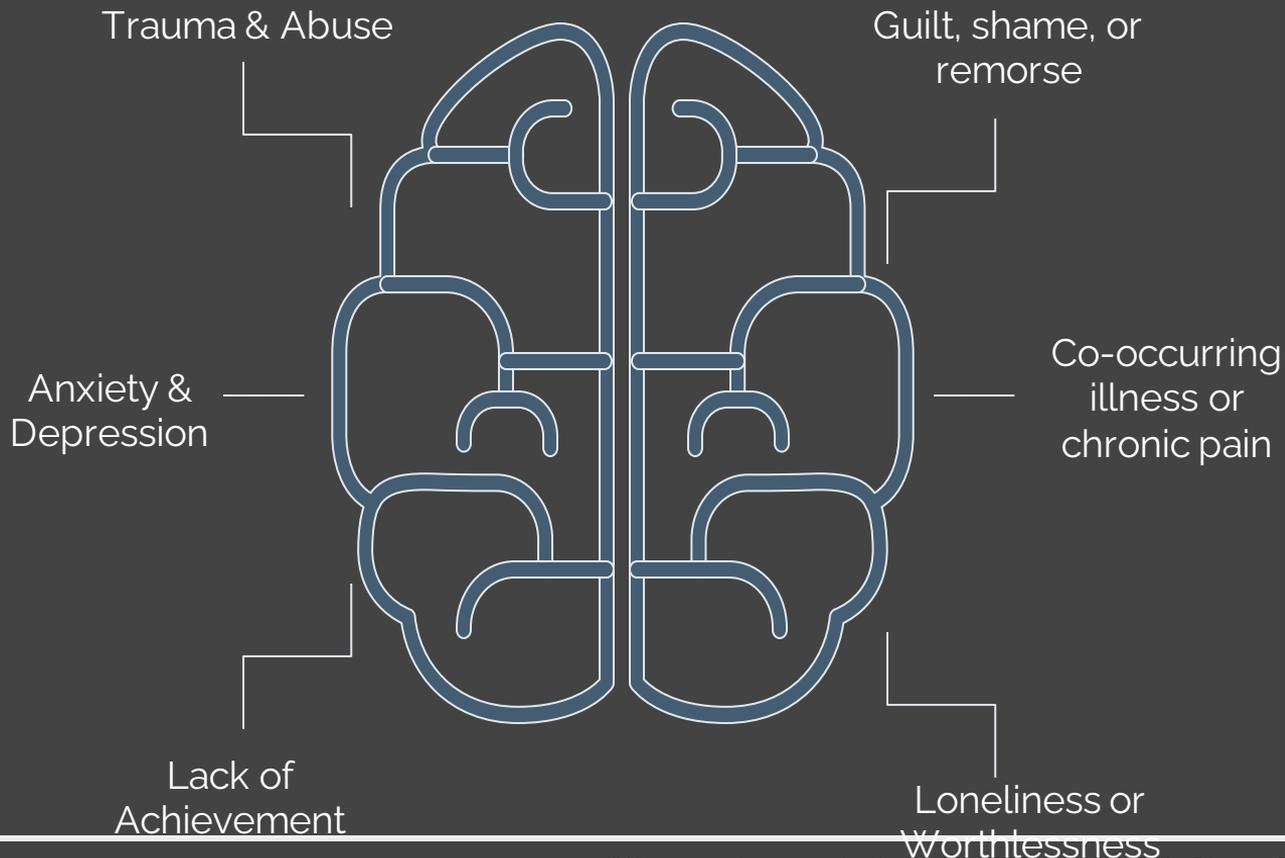
DOH: HOME ENVIRONMENT

INCREASES RISK

- Lack of support
- Poor parental monitoring
- Family history of drug use
- Easy access to drugs
- Support system uses

DECREASES RISK

- Family engagement in recovery
- Parental disapproval of substance use
- Parental monitoring
- Social support system

DOH: PSYCHOLOGICAL

Trauma & Abuse

Guilt, shame, or remorse

Anxiety & Depression

Co-occurring illness or chronic pain

Lack of Achievement

Loneliness or Worthlessness

(KO, personal communication, October 21, 2021; Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019)

INTERVENTIONS

SAMSHA'S NATIONAL HELPLINE 1-800-622-HELP (SAMSHA, 2021)

AWARENESS

Broadcast the helpline number

AVAILABILITY

Open 24/7 all year long

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessible from anywhere, English & Spanish available

AFFORDABILITY

Free helpline that refers individuals to affordable treatment

ACCEPTABILITY

Confidential, objective, & judgement free

ADEQUACY

Offers a variety of treatment options

APPROPRIATENESS

Meets the needs of the individual

SUMMARY

SUMMARY

CULTURE

Crack use ↑ in low SES
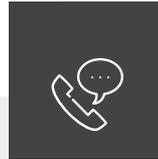Cocaine use ↑ in high SES

POLICY

18:1 sentencing disparity

DOH

Access to healthcare, home environment, & psychological determinants

INTERVENTION

SAMSHA's National Helpline

"Drugs are normally taken as a solution to a bigger problem."

(KO, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION, OCTOBER 21, 2021)

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