

Special Edition

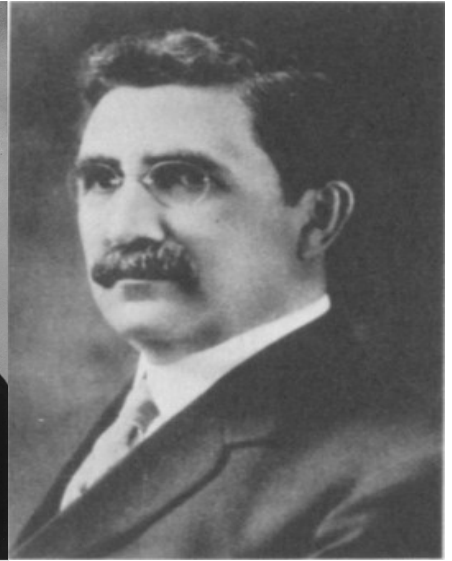
February is Black History Month

History

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, almost half a century after the thirteenth amendment abolished slavery in the United States. The Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), which was an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.



Carter G. Woodson



Jesse E. Moorland

The ASNLH sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.



In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks to part of the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to, “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in

every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Since then each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

Substance Use and Black Americans

History

Historically, people of color have been a primary target of anti-drug policies. In 1937, the federal government passed the Marijuana Tax Act which made individual possession and sale of marijuana illegal. Additionally, anyone who bought, sold, imported, distributed, cultivated or prescribed it as medicine had to pay a tax and those who did not pay the tax could be punished by either a fine of \$2,000, 5 years in prison, or both. Harry Anslinger, who was the commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics at the time, used this Act as an excuse to push racism and xenophobia. Anslinger created a narrative around the idea that marijuana made black people forget their place in society and pushed the idea that jazz was evil music created by people under the influence of marijuana.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared “drug abuse” to be public enemy number one. The harsh punishments that Nixon set against drugs like Heroin and Crack Cocaine crippled the black community in the 70s and 80s creating stereotypes and harsh jail sentences for Black people. Within the prison system, Black people account for 53.3% of persons admitted to state prisons for new convictions for drug offenses.

FIGURE 6A.
Rates of Drug Use and Sales, by Race

At the state level, blacks are about 6.5 times as likely as whites to be incarcerated for drug-related crimes.

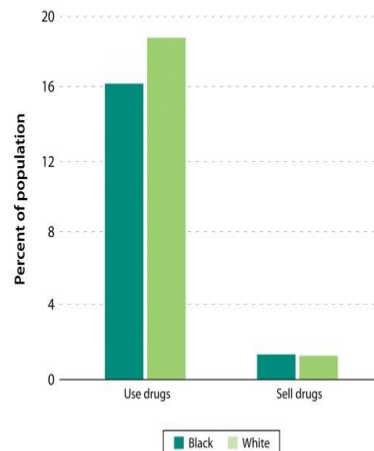
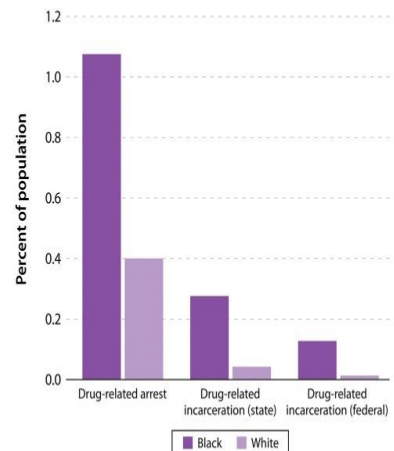


FIGURE 6B.
Rates of Drug-Related Criminal Justice Measures, by Race



Source: BLS n.d.c; Carson 2015; Census Bureau n.d.; FBI 2015; authors' calculations.

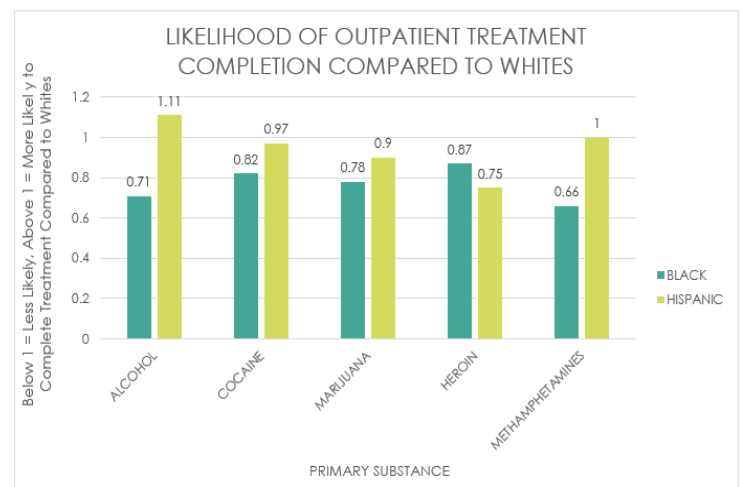


Addiction & Recovery

Using national data, it was found that blacks and Hispanics were 3.5%-8.1% less likely than whites to complete treatment for alcohol and drugs. Completion disparities for these two minorities groups were largely explained by differences in socioeconomic statuses and, in particular, greater unemployment and housing instability.

Other factors include:

- Program Staff: Cultural differences between providers and program participants can easily undermine the reception of treatment
- Location: Studies have found that lack of transportation is one of the top reported barriers to treatment for African Americans
- Spirituality: Studies have shown that spirituality among African Americans in recovery from substance abuse is associated with more positive outcomes



Black Americans who have addressed Substance Use



Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) who was a leader in the temperance movement (which promoted moderation and, more often, complete abstinence in the use of intoxicating liquor), advocate in addition to his efforts to help abolish slavery viewed sobriety as a key strategy in emancipation and full citizenship of Black Americans. He also considered drinking alcohol a danger to the Black man's survival.



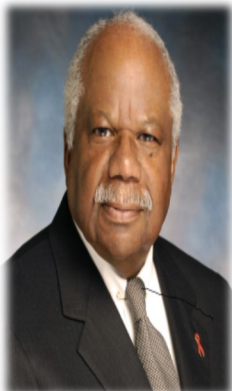
Sarah Jane Woodson Early (1825-1907) who was a temperance movement leader. She served as the Superintendent of the Department of Colored People in the South within the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in the 1880s. She soon became the first black woman employed as a college teacher and taught English at Wilberforce University in Ohio She gave 100 of speeches on the topic of substance use.



W.E.B. Du Bois, PhD (1868-1963), was the first Black American to complete a doctoral degree at Harvard University. Du Bois also was a civil rights activist and an early supporter of temperance which he saw as a strategy of self-development within Black communities. He later became critical of the movement when he saw it being used as a tool for social oppression and control of Black Americans.



Chaney Allen wrote one of the first autobiographies of a Black American in recovery. Her book "I'm Black and I'm Sober" was published in 1978. Allen also founded both the California Black Commission on Alcoholism and the California Women's Commission on Alcoholism. Allen has trained counselors on more culturally sensitive ways to work with minorities with alcohol problems.



Dr. Beny Primm, who passed away in 2015, helped found the Addiction Research Treatment Corporation (ARTC) in 1969. ARTC, located in Brooklyn, N.Y., is one of the largest minority non-profit community-based substance abuse treatment programs in the county, treating over 2,300 men and women from underserved communities. Four U.S. presidents including President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush selected Primm to serve as a consultant on substance use and public health issues. He also served as the U.S. representative on issues of drug addiction and AIDS to the World Health Organization in Geneva

Ways to Honor Black History Month

- Support Black-Owner Businesses:

- An estimated 40 percent of Black business owners had already closed their doors between February and April of 2020. This number is twice the decline experienced by white business owners.
- Becoming a customer — specifically during February when these companies have a lot more visibility

- Learn about Noteworthy Black Figures and Their Contributions:

- Typically, Black History Month draws associations with well-known figures like Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and activist Rosa Parks, but there are many others to learn about. For example, there's Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress.

- Donate to Charities that Support Anti-Racism Equity and Equality:

- Given the ongoing public protests against police brutality, charities and organizations that support anti-racism equity and equality need donors to continue their collective work to seek justice for the Black community.

- Purchase, Read, and Share Books by Black Authors:

- Add Black authors to your reading list, authors such as:
 - Maya Angelou
 - James Baldwin
 - W.E.B. Du Bois
 - Ralph Ellison
 - Langston Hughes

- Support and Learn about Black Women:

- It's incredibly important to have Black women at the table as major policies are being developed and discussed.

- Recognize black artists:

- From poets, to musicians, to actors and everything in between, there are multitudes of well-known (and amateur) black artists whom you can recognize during February. Search in your community for artists to watch, read or listen to; or, look on the national or international scale to broaden your horizons and learn more about the important work black artists create.



Belleville is a small community southwest of Madison in Dane and Green Counties. Belleville is a special place to visit because of its natural beauty, recreational activities and friendly people and atmosphere. Belleville is a great community for families seeking a solid educational system along with the natural amenities of the community.

The Belleville Area Cares Coalition came into existence following a town hall meeting in April of 2014.



We are comprised of local representatives from schools, businesses, churches, village administration as well as parents, and youth—all working together to promote healthy lifestyles

More information can be found at : <https://www.bellevillewicare.org/>

BACC meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:45 pm in the Belleville Village Hall.

BACC Mission Statement

“The mission of Belleville's Area Cares Coalition is to promote a healthy community for youth and young adults, free of alcohol and other drug abuse.”

The Belleville Area Cares Coalition works to develop, implement and support environmental strategies to reduce substance abuse.

We believe by working together, we can nurture social and environmental changes to make the Belleville area a safer and healthier place, brightening the future of our children, youth and families.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The BAAC asks you to give the gift of time. Make a difference in the lives of our youth and our community by

1. Working with us in providing support for planning, project management and awareness campaigns
2. Helping with coalition events, conferences, workshops, and fairs held throughout the year.
3. Being a voice for change in our community, it is time to come together and be that force for change in the Belleville area.