

Discourses of Alcohol Use in *Minority Youth*

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Outline

(A) Normalizing Alcohol

(B) Defining the Problem

- ❖ Youth Problematize Youth
- ❖ Scholars Problematize Youth
- ❖ Discourse of Marginalization

(C) Discourses of Marginalization

(D) Challenging Discourses of Marginalization

(A) Normalizing Alcohol

- ▶ Alcohol is normalized in society
- ▶ Alcohol is normalized in youth culture



(B) Defining the Problem



- ▶ How is alcohol use problematized in the literature on youth culture?
 - ❖ Youth problematize other youth
 - ❖ Scholars problematize youth culture
 - ❖ Discourses of Marginalization

❖ Youth Problematize Other Youth

- ▶ Showing off
- ▶ “Acting hard”
- ▶ Drink alone
- ▶ Self-medicate



❖ Scholars Problematize Youth Culture

- ▶ Negative outcomes
- ▶ The problem is the high-risk use of alcohol



❖ Discourses of Marginalization

- ▶ “Minority youth”
 - ▶ Alcohol misuse as associated with minority group status
 - ▶ Minority stress theory
 - ▶ Problematizes the youth themselves

(C) Challenging Discourses of Marginalization

- ▶ Who is more likely to engage in high-risk drinking patterns?
- ▶ Reproduces and maintains marginalization of some groups of youth



Youth Culture:

- ▶ “Young people’s alcohol use is related, not only to group norms, but also to their position in the peer group. Popular youths tend to drink more than others—and drinking (‘in the right way’) contributes to the social capital of the participants” (Demant & Jarvinen, 2011).

LGBTQ Youth:

- ▶ “While adolescence is a vulnerable period of hazardous drinking (Brown et al. 2008), sexual minority youth (SMY) appear to be at an increased risk of engaging in hazardous drinking” (Dermody et al., 2013).

Ethnic Minority Youth:

- ▶ “Although Caucasian youth reported higher rates of episodic drinking (34%) than Hispanic/Latino youth (30.1%), this rate is nevertheless high... examining the relation between early initiation and substance use prevalence seems warranted” (Strada, 2006).

Ethnic Minority Youth:

- ▶ “The finding that African American youth report lower substance use rates than their Caucasian counterparts does not diminish the severity of the problem” (Strada, 2006).

**32.7% of African
American
students report
consuming
alcohol**

**50.4% of
Caucasian
students report
consuming
alcohol**



Thank you

