

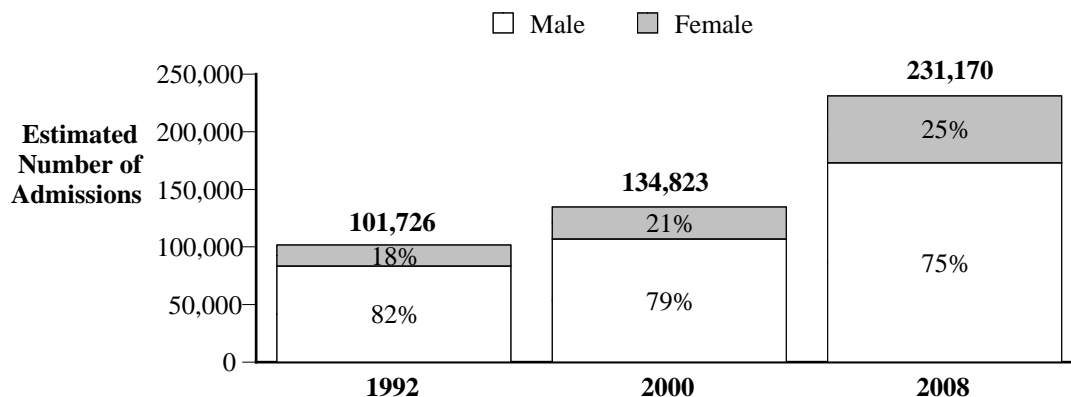
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

Number of U.S. Treatment Admissions Among Adults Ages 50 or Older More Than Doubled from 1992 to 2008

The number of older adults admitted to publicly-funded substance abuse treatment programs has more than doubled since 1992, according to data from the national Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). In 1992, there were an estimated 101,726 treatment admissions ages 50 or older. By 2008, this number had increased to an estimated 231,170. While the majority of these older adult admissions continue to be male, the proportion of female admissions increased, from 18% of all admissions ages 50 or older in 1992 to 25% in 2008 (see figure below). At the same time there was an increase in the percentage of these treatment admissions who were unemployed (from 19% in 1992 to 31% in 2008) or had no principal source of income (from 11% to 29%; data not shown), suggesting that “this population may need financial assistance with the costs associated with substance abuse treatment” (p. 2).

Estimated Number of Admissions Ages 50 or Older to Publicly-Funded Treatment Programs, by Gender, 1992, 2000, and 2008



NOTES: TEDS comprises state-collected data on client admissions to treatment programs receiving any public funds. TEDS data represent admissions rather than individuals, as a person may be admitted to treatment more than once.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), “Sociodemographic Characteristics of Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Aged 50 or Older: 1992 to 2008,” *The TEDS Report*, August 5, 2010. Available online at www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k10/240/240OlderAdm2k10.cfm.

VHS Tapes of Lectures by Renowned Scientists Available

In the early 1990s, CESAR sponsored a series of lectures with leading scientists in the fields of substance abuse and criminal justice, including David Musto, Robert Dupont, Ethan Nadelmann, David Nurco, and James Inciardi. Limited supplies of VHS tapes of these CESAR Speaker Series lectures are now available for the cost of shipping and handling (\$5 per tape). Don't miss this chance to add these unique lectures to your library! See the CESAR website (www.cesar.umd.edu) for a list of available tapes and for ordering information.