

Data Spotlight

Treatment Episode Data Set

February 23, 2012

Fewer than One in Eight Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Are Referred to Treatment by Schools

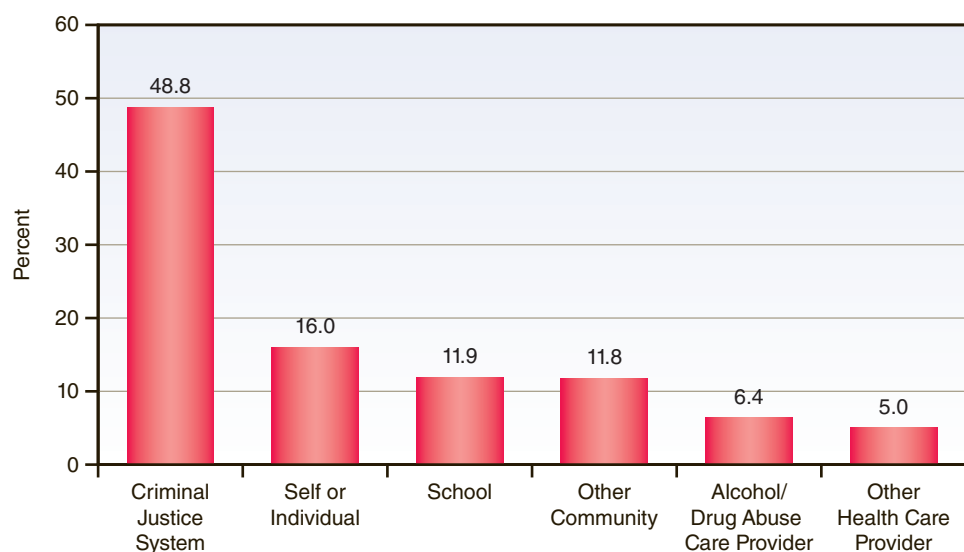
Because of their daily contact with students, teachers and other school personnel are in an ideal position to observe warning signs of adolescent substance use, such as school misbehavior, truancy, and poor academic performance.¹ However, according to the Treatment Episode Data Set for 2009, among substance abuse treatment admissions aged 12 to 17, fewer than one in eight (11.9 percent) were referred by schools, a proportion that has remained steady since 1998. In contrast, about half (48.8 percent) of the 147,000 substance abuse treatment admissions in this age group in 2009 were referred to treatment by the criminal justice system (Figure).

If substance use problems are recognized and referred early, escalation of these problems may be prevented. For schools seeking to strengthen their interventions with substance-abusing students, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has published a handbook on the Student Assistance Program model for problem prevention, identification, referral, and support.²

¹ Bryant, A. L., Schulenberg, J. E., O'Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Johnston, L. D. (2003). How academic achievement, attitudes, and behaviors relate to the course of substance use during adolescence: A 6-year, multiwave national longitudinal study. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 13(3), 361-397.

² Anderson, M. B., Crowley, J. F., Herzog, C. L., & Wenger, S. (2007). *Help is down the hall: A handbook on student assistance*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. [Available as a PDF at <http://www.nacoa.org/pdfs/SAP%20HANDBOOK.pdf>]

Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Aged 12 to 17, by Referral Source*: 2009



*Referrals by employers and employee assistance programs were excluded from figure.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 1998 to 2009, based on data received through November 3, 2010. TEDS is a compilation of data on the demographic characteristics and substance abuse problems of those admitted for substance abuse treatment in the United States, primarily at facilities that receive public funding. TEDS is one component of the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA. For more information on TEDS, see <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/teds09/teds2k9nweb.pdf>.

