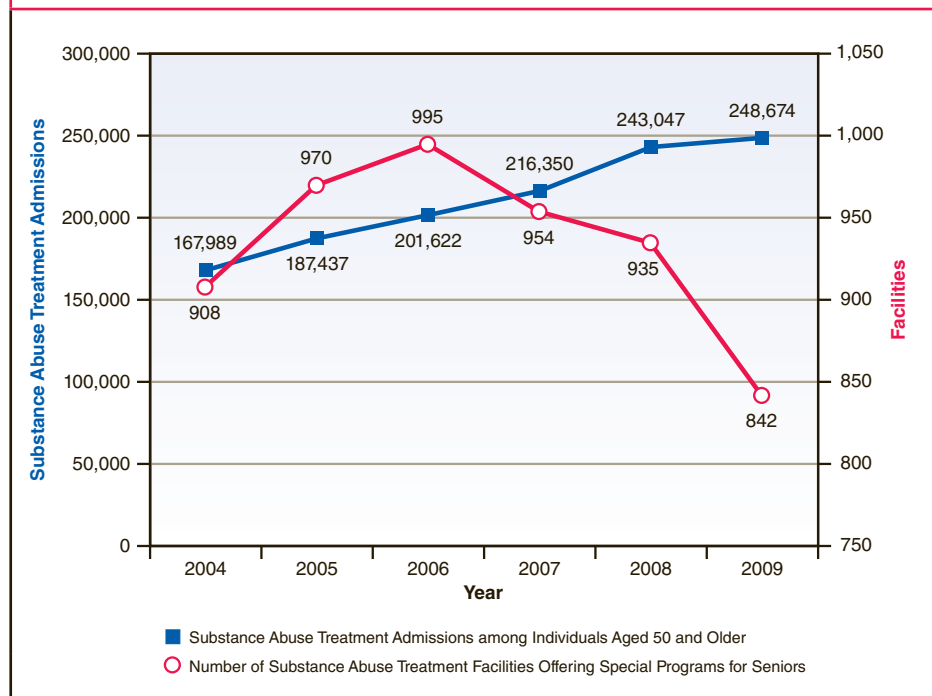


# Data Spotlight

## Older Adult Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Have Increased; Number of Special Treatment Programs for This Population Has Decreased

By 2020, the number of adults aged 50 or older needing substance abuse treatment is expected to double from 2.8 million (2002 to 2006 annual average) to 5.7 million.<sup>1</sup> Experts recommend that older adults with substance abuse problems receive services that are age specific and address the unique physical, psychological, social, and vocational changes that may occur at this life stage.<sup>2</sup> According to the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), substance abuse treatment admissions of individuals aged 50 or older increased by nearly 50 percent between 2004 and 2009 (Figure). In contrast, data from the National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS) show that in 2009 fewer facilities offered special programs or groups for seniors or older adults than in 2004. For more information on resources and funding for services for older adults, please visit <http://www.aoa.gov>.

**Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions among Individuals Aged 50 and Older and Facilities Offering Special Programs or Groups for Seniors or Older Adults, by Year: TEDS and N-SSATS, 2004 to 2009**



<sup>1</sup> Han, B., Gfroerer, J. C., Colliver, J. D., & Penne, M. A. (2009). Substance use disorder among older adults in the United States in 2020. *Addiction*, 104(1), 88-96. doi: 10.1111/j.1360-0443.2008.02411.x.

<sup>2</sup> Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. (1998). *Substance abuse among older adults* (Treatment Improvement Protocol [TIP] Series 26; HHS Publication No. SMA 98-3179). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. [Available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK14467/>].

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 2004–2009 National Surveys of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS). N-SSATS is an annual survey of all substance abuse treatment facilities in the United States, both public and private, that are known to SAMHSA. Information and data for this report are based on data reported to N-SSATS for the survey reference dates of March 31, 2004–2006, March 30, 2007, and March 31, 2008–2009. For more information on the N-SSATS see <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/09nssats/nssats2k9web.pdf>.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 2004 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. For more information on TEDS, see <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/teds09/teds2k9nweb.pdf>.

N-SSATS and TEDS are both components of the Drug and Alcohol Services Information System (DASIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA.

