

# Data Spotlight

Treatment Episode Data Set

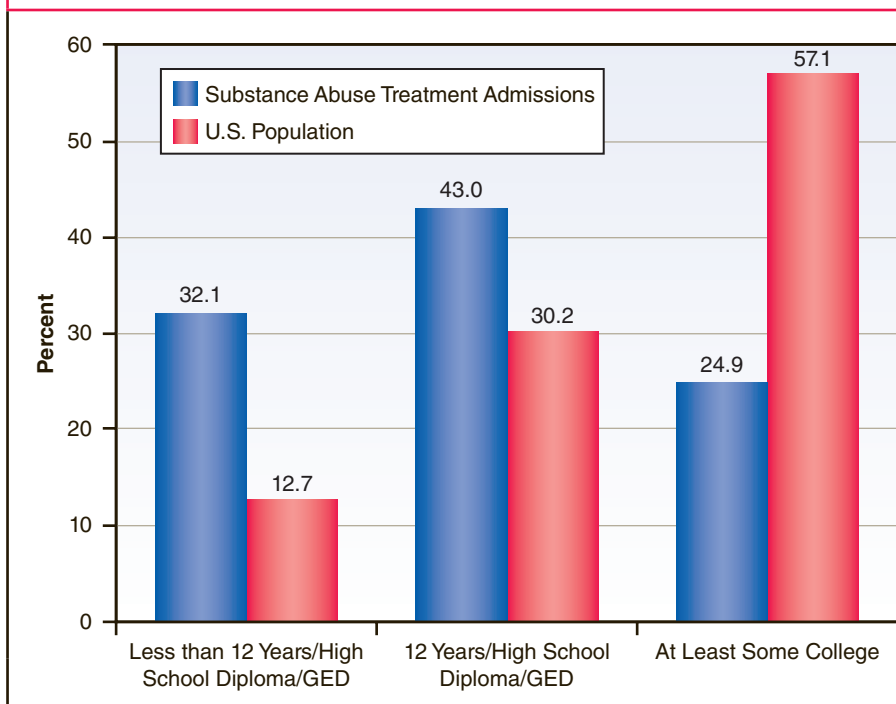
December 13, 2011

## Individuals Admitted to Substance Abuse Treatment Have Less Education than the General U.S. Population

According to 2009 data from the Treatment Episode Data Set, substance abuse treatment admissions aged 21 or older were more likely than persons of the same age in the general U.S. population<sup>1</sup> to have left school before completing high school or receiving a GED (32.1 vs. 12.7 percent; Figure). Individuals admitted to substance abuse treatment were also less likely than the general population to have attended college (24.9 vs. 57.1 percent).

Having a low level of education can add to the challenges that people with substance abuse problems face in obtaining and maintaining employment.<sup>2</sup> Unemployment and underemployment can, in turn, make it even more difficult for these individuals to lead healthy, stable, and independent lives. Connecting individuals in substance abuse treatment to GED programs, higher education, and/or job skills training is one potential way to help improve their employment prospects and overall quality of life.

**Educational Attainment by Individuals Aged 21 or Older: 2009**



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2009). *PUMS on DataFerrett* [Data from the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample]. Retrieved from [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data\\_documentation/data\\_ferrett\\_for\\_pums/](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_ferrett_for_pums/).

<sup>2</sup> Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2011). Section 7.1. Substance dependence, abuse, and treatment: Education/employment. In *Results from the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of national findings* (NSDUH Series H-41, HHS Publication No. SMA 11-4658). Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 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. 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.

