

# Data Spotlight

Treatment Episode Data Set

November 7, 2012

## Almost Half of American Indian and Alaska Native Adult Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Are Referred through the Criminal Justice System

American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) have disproportionately high rates of substance use disorders.<sup>1</sup> According to the Treatment Episode Data Set, in 2010, 42,074, or 2.5 percent, of the 1.7 million substance abuse treatment admissions in the United States with a known race were AI/AN adults aged 18 or older,<sup>2</sup> although only 0.9 percent of the U.S. population was AI/AN.<sup>3</sup> In 2010, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) estimated that the percentage of AI/AN adults in need of substance abuse treatment in the past year was higher than the national average.<sup>4</sup>

This *Data Spotlight* presents the differences between the sources of referral to treatment for AI/AN adult substance abuse treatment admissions and other adult admissions. Although the criminal justice system is the most frequently reported source of referral for all adult admissions, AI/AN adult admissions are referred by the criminal justice system at a higher rate than other admissions (45.9 vs. 35.8 percent) (Figure). At the same time, AI/AN adult admissions are referred by individuals or self-referred at a lower rate than other adult admissions (22.5 vs. 34.7 percent). Understanding the gaps in the outreach and referral system could provide a better pathway to substance abuse treatment.

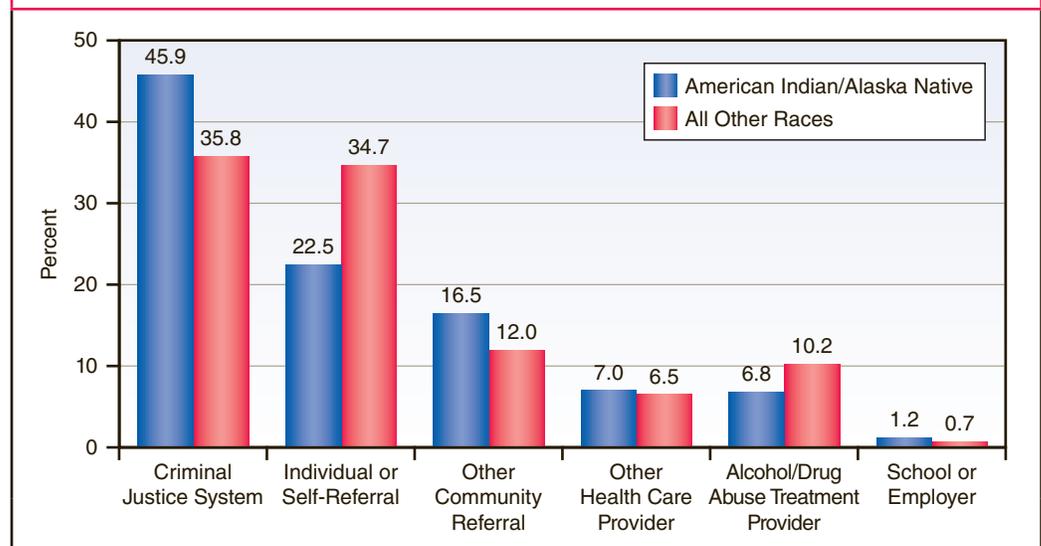
<sup>1</sup> Greenfield, B. L., & Venner, K. L. (2012). Review of substance use disorder treatment research in Indian country: Future directions to strive toward health equity. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 38(5), 483-492.

<sup>2</sup> In this report, American Indian and Alaska Native refers to persons identifying themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native at treatment entry, including those who also identify as Hispanic American Indians or Alaska Natives.

<sup>3</sup> Humes, K. R., Jones, N. A., & Ramirez, R. R. (2011). *Overview of race and Hispanic origin: 2010* (Census Brief; C2010BR-02). Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Office of Applied Studies. (2010, June 24). *The NSDUH Report: Substance use among American Indian or Alaska Native adults*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

**Sources of Referral for Adult Admissions to Substance Abuse Treatment, by Race: 2010**



Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), 2010, based on data received through October 10, 2011. 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.samhsa.gov/data/DASIS.aspx#TEDS>.

TEDS is a component of the Behavioral Health Services Information System (BHSIS), an integrated data system maintained by the Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, SAMHSA.

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