Introduction:
Predicted increase in the number of older adults needing/seeking substance abuse treatment.
Study analyzed: Treatment Episode Data Set-Admissions (TEDS-A) of SAMHSA
Includes all publically funded substance abuse treatment facilities
Looks at admissions, not individuals

Methods:
Selected records indicating first time admissions (no prior admits)
Data from 1998-2008 analyzed
Compared adults 30-54 and 55+ (looking for differences between age groups)

Results:
Steadily growing proportion of older adult admissions
No difference between groups for women
Differences for race and ethnicity
Referral sources: self-referred increased, criminal justice referred decreased
Decreasing rate of ETOH as problem and increase in other drugs (cocaine, heroin), Benzos increase in younger but stable in older adult
Opiates/Prescription 1% of admits, increase in admissions, but no difference in use between older/younger

Conclusion:
Proportion of older adults entering substance abuse treatment is increasing relative to younger adults
Increase in/shift towards treatment for illicit drugs, away from ETOH

No increase in treatment for first time prescription drug abuse

Limitations: did not include private or VA facilities, self-report nature of TEDS