VERMONT*2011*

Transportation of Individuals in the Custody of the Commissioner of Mental Health

Report to the Legislature on Act 180 2006 (ADJ) Session
Section 3 - 18 V.S.A. § 7511
January 15, 2011

Vermont Department of Mental Health
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES
103 South Main Street
Wasson Hall
Waterbury, VT 05671-2510
www.mentalhealth.vermont.gov

Table of Contents

Policy Summary…….……3

Introduction…….……..4-5

Youth Transports……..6

Adult Transports…….……7

Attachment A Youth Involuntary Transport One Year Overview……..……..……..8

Attachment B Youth Type of Restraint……...…..…….……9

Attachment C Youth Involuntary Transport Four Year Overview…….……10

Attachment D Adult Involuntary Transport…….…….…...11

Attachment E Secure Adult Involuntary Transport Origin/Destination…….….12

Attachment F Adult Involuntary Transport Type of Restraint……..…….…….……13

Attachment G Adult Involuntary Transport Four Year Overview……....…….……14

Attachment H Adult Involuntary Transports 2009 Type of Restraint Four Year Overview……..15

Policy Summary

The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health is required to report to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare data for the preceding year regarding the transportation of persons in accordance with 18 V.S.A.§ 7511.

18 V.S.A. § 7511 states:

> *The Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health shall ensure that all reasonable and appropriate measures consistent with public safety are made to transport or escort a person subject to this chapter to and from any inpatient setting, including escorts within a designated hospital to the Vermont state hospital, or otherwise being transported under the jurisdiction of the commissioner in a manner which:*
>
> 1. *prevents physical and psychological trauma;*
> 2. *respects the privacy of the individual; and*
> 3. *represents the least restrictive means necessary for the safety of the patient.*
>
> *The commissioner shall have the authority to designate the professional who may authorize the method of transport of patients under the commissioner's care and custody.*
>
> *When a professional decides an individual is in need of secure transport with mechanical restraints, the reasons for such determination shall be documented in writing.*
>
> *It is the policy of the state of Vermont that mechanical restraints are not routinely used on persons subject to this chapter unless circumstances dictate that such methods are necessary.*

Introduction

The following report includes the number, method and location of all involuntary adult and child transports. In order to better orient and guide the reader to the terminology contained within the report, the following definitions of terms are provided.

Secure transports are categorized as any transport which involves a sheriff, or other law enforcement, in a marked vehicle, either with or without restraints. In addition, if there is sheriff back up in an ambulance transport, those transports are coded in the report as a secure transport, whether the sheriff is physically riding along with the person in the ambulance or the sheriff is riding in back of the ambulance in a separate marked or unmarked vehicle.

The term non-secure refers to transports that use civilian vehicles and supports, which includes ambulance transports. If there is no sheriff involvement the event is coded as non-secure.

Mental Health Alternative is a category that was introduced in the 2009 report. Mental Health Alternative transport refers to a civilian, non-secure transport service that was developed, with funding from DMH, by Howard Center and Washington County Mental Health and put into effect July 1, 2007. The establishment of this service is consistent with intent of the expressed desire of the legislature to offer a more clinically desirable alternative to adults who are assessed to be capable and willing to accept a less restrictive mode of transportation while on involuntary legal status. People who utilize the Mental Health Alternative transport service are driven in an unmarked van with dedicated program agency staff from community settings to inpatient hospital destinations without the use of any type of restraint. People can also be transported and transferred from one inpatient setting to another or from an inpatient setting back into the community using this service.

2010 marks the 4th year of data collection and reporting by the Department of Mental Health on youth and adult involuntary transports. Moving forward, into the 5th year of reporting and beyond, the Department will plan to introduce additional information that will better identify incremental changes in practice patterns in the field that are not delineated in the current reporting structure. An area of focus for next year's report will be differing components of a secure transport. While this category is currently reported, DMH will attempt to offer a better profile of the graduated levels of secure transport that are emerging in practice within this data category. For example, 2010 saw an improvement over 2009 with regards to sheriff secure transports with no restraints, where there were 39 transports in 2010 and 29 in 2009. Other areas that will be a point of focus will include ambulance transports where there is sheriff involvement. In some instances the term "secure" may overstate the level of the secure transport such as instances where sheriffs are following an ambulance transport.

Since data collection and reporting began in 2007, the state has seen a progressive decrease in the use of metal restraints. 2010 saw a more than 10% decrease in the use

of metal restraints compared with the year before. 2010 also saw a dramatic increase in the use of cloth restraints – an over four fold increase compared with the year prior for the same reporting period. The minimized use of metal restraints over time clearly addresses the current mental health policy outlined in the legislation around psychological and physical trauma prevention.

Youth transports

The number of involuntary youth transports had remained fairly static year to year from 2006 through 2009. 2010 saw the number of transports increase. In both 2008 and 2009 the number of transports was 71. The number of transports increased in 2010 to 96.

The total number of transports in the 10 and under age group increased in 2010, as did the number of secure transports for this same age group. However, the 10 and under age group had the highest percentage of non-secure transports compared to all other age groups in 2010.

RMHS had the highest percentage of non-secure transports for 2010. Both UCS and CMC had the lowest percentages of non-secure transports.

The legislation around involuntary transport states that mechanical restraints will not be used routinely unless circumstances dictate that they are necessary. This year, the data demonstrates that there has been improvement in this area, clearly addressing this policy point.

In 2010, there was one secure transport to the BrattleboroRetreat where the person transported with metal restraints on the person's hands, and cloth restraints used on the person's legs. Please note that this transport was counted in the report as one event.

In 2010, there was one secure inpatient escort from the admissions area at the Brattleboro Retreat to the inpatient unit using metal restraints.

Adult Transports

Since 2007, secure transports are seeing a year to year increase. The trend continues into 2010, where we see that 55% of all transports were secure. 43% were non-secure and 2% were mental health alternative transports. In 2010, most transports originated from a DA or where the DA decided the type of transport was secure. All DH's decided on secure transports of people with the exception of Rutland Regional Medical Center, where 25% of their transport were non-secure. RMHS was the DA that decided on non-secure transports for people more often than any other DA. More than half of the transports that they were involved with deciding on were non-secure in 2010. CMC, NKHS, and CSAC all had the least amount of non-secure transports at 0% each. The majority of emergency examinations were transported in a secure manner in 2010. Short visits from the VSH constituted the least amount of secure transports.

In 2009, the DMH introduced cloth restraints to be used by sheriff's department's state wide. Prior to this, hard plastic (polyurethane) restraints had been used as an alternative to metallic restraints. The cloth restraints were purchased by the DMH in order to address the policy point of using the least restrictive means necessary for the safety of patients during an involuntary transport. As of the writing of this report, the cloth restraints have been in use for a year and a half. Since their introduction, this year's data shows that there has been a significant increased use since 2009.The sharpest rise in the increased use of cloth restraints was seen in the 50-64 age group in 2010.

The use of metallic restraints has decreased overall, for all genders and all age groups with the exception of those 65 years and older. The decrease in the use of metallic restraints clearly addresses both policy points of preventing physical and psychological trauma and representing the least restrictive means of transport. Since 2008, there has been a year over year increase in the use of no restraints for the 50-64 age range. The other age ranges represented are not seeing the same increase over time. Since 2007, the 18-34 age range is also seeing year to year decreases in the use of metallic restraints. Where this age range is not seeing the gains is in the use of no restraints.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
YOUTH INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
One Year Overview (December 2009 - November 2010)
(96 Transports of 86 Children)

	Total Transports	Type of Transport			
		Secure		Non-Secure	
	#	#	%	#	%
Total	**96**	**51**	**53%**	**45**	**47%**
Gender					
Male	60	32	53%	28	47%
Female	36	19	53%	17	47%
Age					
5-10	22	5	23%	17	77%
11-14	31	19	61%	12	39%
15-17	43	27	63%	16	37%
Type of Transport Decided by:					
Designated Agency	**96**	**51**	**53%**	**45**	**47%**
HC - (Chittenden)	25	10	40%	15	60%
RMHS - (Rutland)	19	7	37%	12	63%
WCMH - (Washington)	16	11	69%	5	31%
HCRS - (Southeast)	13	6	46%	7	54%
CMC - (Orange)	5	5	100%	0	0%
LCC - (Lamoille)	5	2	40%	3	60%
NCSS - (Northwest)	5	3	60%	2	40%
NKHS - (Northeast)	4	3	75%	1	25%
UCS - (Bennington)	4	4	100%	0	0%
CSAC - (Addison)	0	0	-	0	-
Transport From:					
Hospital (Emergency Room)	81	41	51%	40	49%
BrattleboroRetreat	1	1	100%	0	0%
Other	14	9	64%	5	36%
Transport To:					
BrattleboroRetreat	96	51	53%	45	47%

Number of Involuntary Transports per Client:
(Transports during December 2009 through November 2010)

Number of Transports	Number of Clients
1 Transport	77
2 Transports	8
3 Transport	1
TOTAL CLIENTS	**86**

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP). Based on the Youth Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

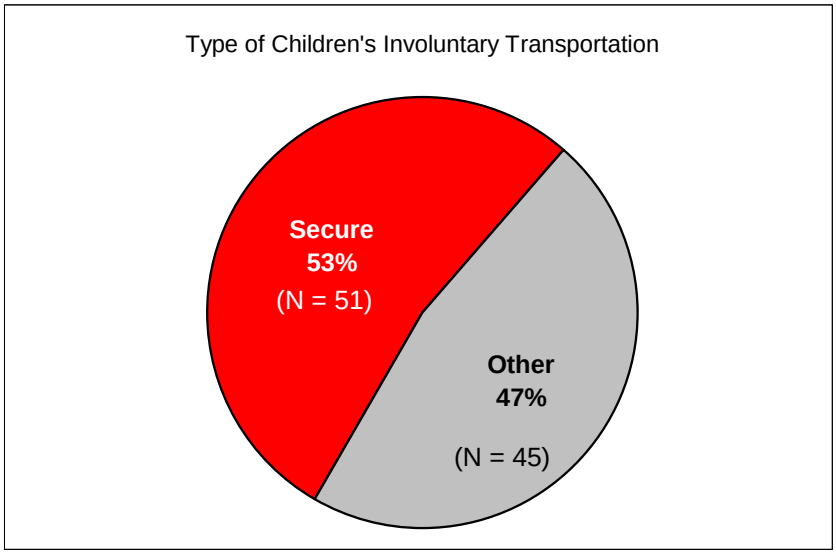
Vermont Department of Mental Health
YOUTH INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
Type of Secure Transport Restraint
51 Secure Transports during December 2009 - November 2010

Total Secure Transports	51
Data Available	51
Type of Restraint	
Metal	28 *
Cloth	12 *
None	12

*One youth had both metal and cloth restraints.

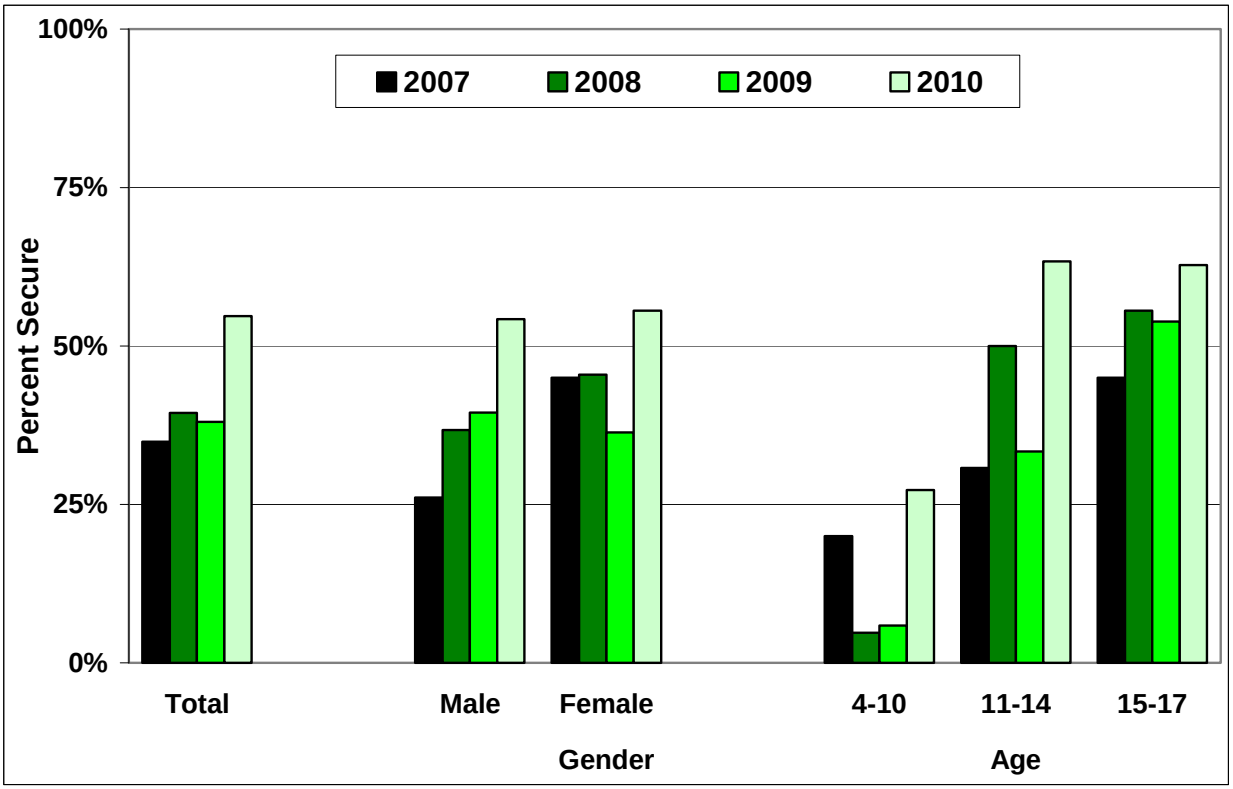
Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP). Based on the Youth Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
YOUTH INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
One Year Overview (December 2009 - November 2010)
(96 Transports of 86 Children)



Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP). Based on the Youth Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
YOUTH INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
Four Year Overview (December 2006 - November 2010)
by Age and Gender



	Youth Involuntary Transports											
	DEC06-NOV07			DEC07-NOV08			DEC08-NOV09			DEC09-NOV10		
	Total	Secure		Total	Secure		Total	Secure		Total	Secure	
	#	#	%	#	#	%	#	#	%	#	#	%
Total	43	15	**35%**	71	28	**39%**	71	27	**38%**	95	52	**55%**
Gender												
Male	23	6	**26%**	49	18	**37%**	38	15	**39%**	59	32	**54%**
Female	20	9	**45%**	22	10	**45%**	33	12	**36%**	36	20	**56%**
Age												
4-10	10	2	**20%**	21	1	**5%**	17	1	**6%**	22	6	**27%**
11-14	13	4	**31%**	14	7	**50%**	15	5	**33%**	30	19	**63%**
15-17	20	9	**45%**	36	20	**56%**	39	21	**54%**	43	27	**63%**

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP).
Based on the Youth Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
ADULT INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
December 2009 - November 2010
(621 Transports of 319 Adults)

	Total Transports	Type of Transport					
		Secure		Non-Secure		MH Alternative	
	#	Total #	Row %	Total #	Row %	Total #	Row %
Total	**621**	**338**	**54%**	**270**	**43%**	**13**	**2%**
Gender							
Male	352	204	58%	141	40%	7	2%
Female	269	134	50%	129	48%	6	2%
Age							
18-34	241	147	61%	90	37%	4	2%
35-49	156	98	63%	58	37%	0	0%
50-64	191	79	41%	104	54%	8	4%
65+	33	14	42%	18	55%	1	3%
Type of Transport Decided by:							
Vermont State Hospital	**310**	**84**	**27%**	**226**	**73%**	**0**	**0%**
Designated Agency	**290**	**234**	**81%**	**43**	**15%**	**13**	**4%**
HCRS - (Southeast)	52	44	85%	8	15%	0	0%
WCMH - (Washington)	48	35	73%	6	13%	7	15%
HC - (Chittenden)	38	30	79%	2	5%	6	16%
RMHS - (Rutland)	35	17	49%	18	51%	0	0%
UCS - (Bennington)	30	25	83%	5	17%	0	0%
NKHS - (Northeast)	26	26	100%	0	0%	0	0%
CSAC - (Addison)	22	22	100%	0	0%	0	0%
LCC - (Lamoille)	19	16	84%	3	16%	0	0%
NCSS - (Northwest)	15	14	93%	1	7%	0	0%
CMC - (Orange)	6	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Designated Hospital	**20**	**19**	**95%**	**1**	**5%**	**0**	**0%**
Fletcher Allen Health Care	11	11	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Central Vermont Medical Center	4	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Rutland Regional Medical Center	4	3	75%	1	25%	0	0%
BrattleboroRetreat	1	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP). Based on the Adult Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
ADULT INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
December 2009 - November 2010
(621 Transports of 319 Adults)

	Total Transports	Type of Transport: Secure		Non-Secure		MH Alternative	
	#	Total #	Row %	Total #	Row %	Total #	Row %
Transport From:							
VSH	308	83	27%	225	73%	0	0%
Other Hospital	253	203	80%	41	16%	9	4%
Designated Agency	9	8	89%	0	0%	1	11%
Other	51	44	86%	4	8%	3	6%
Transport To:							
VSH	208	169	81%	29	14%	10	5%
Other Hospital	175	110	63%	62	35%	3	2%
Other (including short visits)	238	59	25%	179	75%	0	0%
Reason:							
Emergency Examination	301	243	81%	45	15%	13	4%
Short Visit	149	1	1%	148	99%	0	0%
Medical	121	53	44%	68	56%	0	0%
Court	37	29	78%	8	22%	0	0%
Other	13	12	92%	1	8%	0	0%

Number of Involuntary Transports per Client:

(Transports during December 2009 through November 2010)

Number of Transports	Number of Clients
1 Transport	217
2 to 5 Transports	83
6 to 9 Transports	15
10+ Transports	4
TOTAL CLIENTS	319

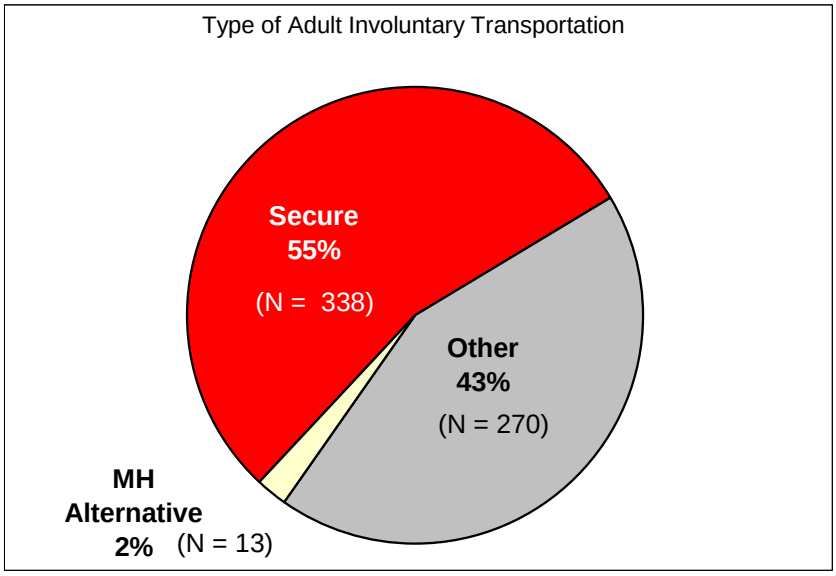
Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP). Based on the Adult Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
ADULT INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
Type of Secure Transport Restraint
338 Secure Transports during December 2009 - November 2010

Total Secure Transports	338
Data Available	328
Type of Restraint	
Metal	192
Cloth	94
No Restraint	42

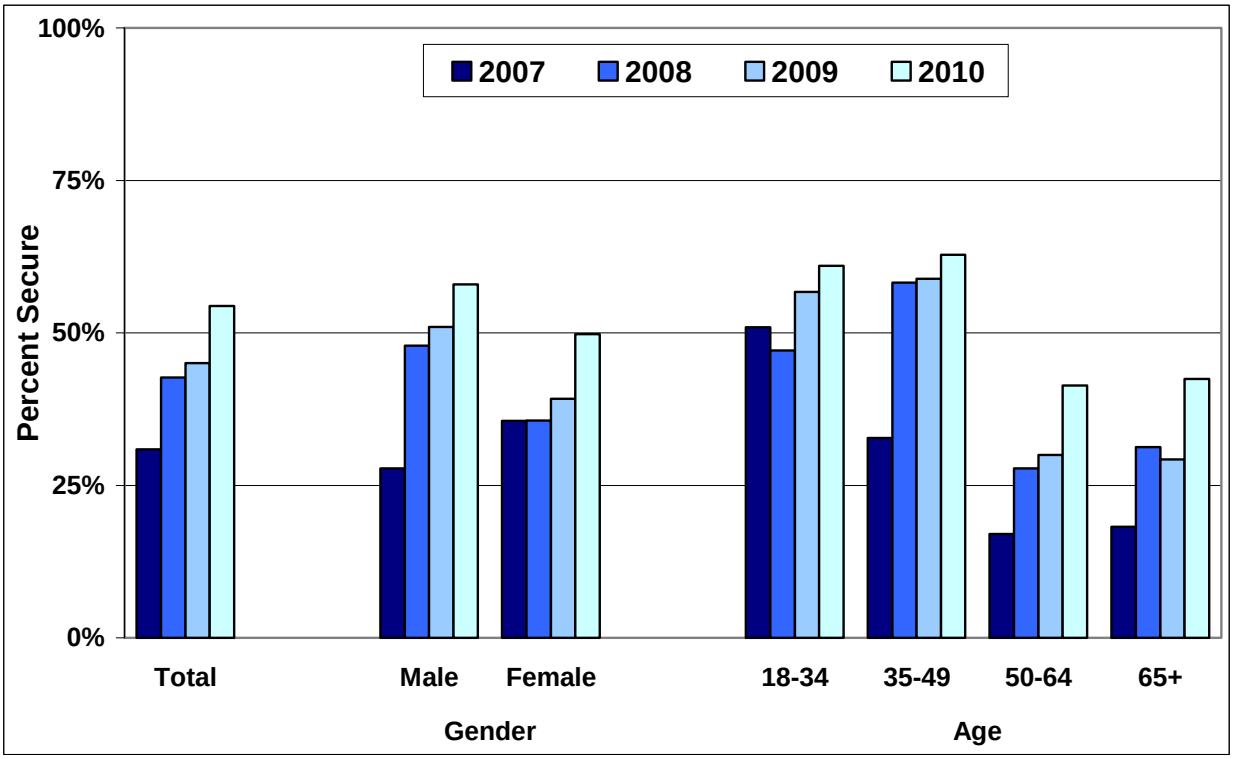
Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP). Based on the Adult Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
ADULT INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
December 2009 - November 2010
(621 Transports of 319 Adults)



Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP). Based on the Adult Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

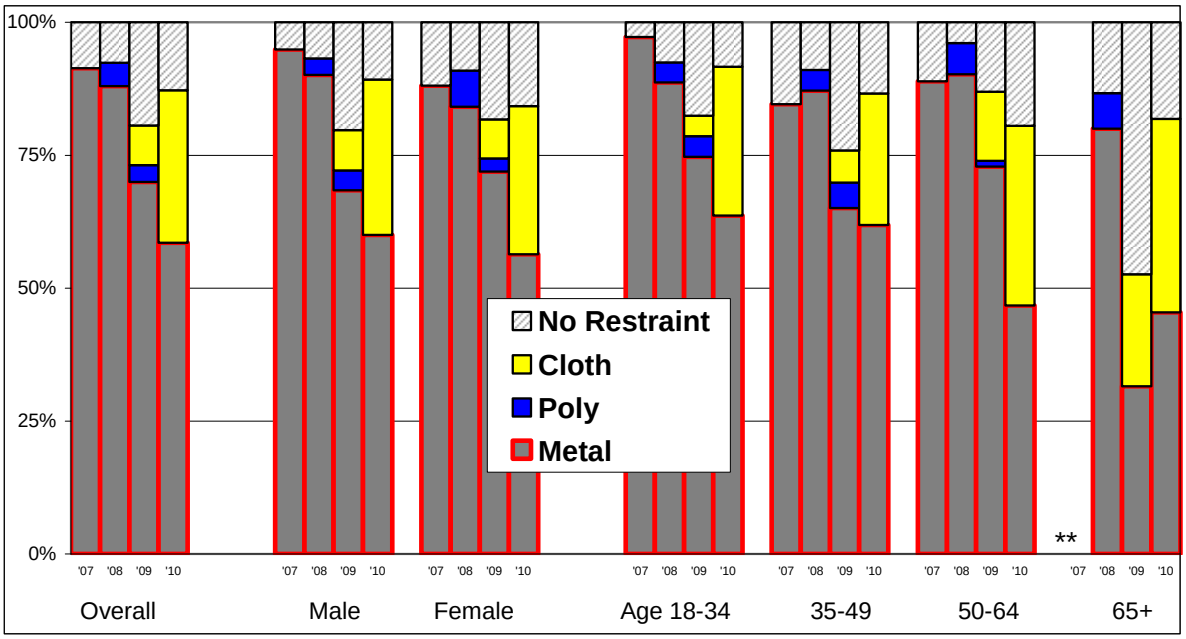
Vermont Department of Mental Health
ADULT INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
Four Year Overview (December 2006 - November 2010)
by Age and Gender



	Adult Involuntary Transports											
	DEC06-NOV07			DEC07-NOV08			DEC08-NOV09			DEC09-NOV10		
	Total	Secure		Total	Secure		Total	Secure		Total	Secure	
	#	#	%	#	#	%	#	#	%	#	#	%
Total Transports	918	284	**31%**	691	295	**43%**	837	377	**45%**	621	338	**54%**
Gender												
Male	544	151	**28%**	399	191	**48%**	416	212	**51%**	352	204	**58%**
Female	374	133	**36%**	292	104	**36%**	421	165	**39%**	269	134	**50%**
Age												
18-34	214	109	**51%**	257	121	**47%**	321	182	**57%**	241	147	**61%**
35-49	348	114	**33%**	170	99	**58%**	141	83	**59%**	156	98	**63%**
50-64	323	55	**17%**	216	60	**28%**	310	93	**30%**	191	79	**41%**
65+	33	6	**18%**	48	15	**31%**	65	19	**29%**	33	14	**42%**

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP).
Based on the Adult Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.

Vermont Department of Mental Health
SECURE ADULT INVOLUNTARY TRANSPORTATION
Type of Secure Transport Restraint
Four Year Overview (December 2006 - November 2010)



	Type of Secure Transport Restraint																			
	DEC06-NOV07					DEC07-NOV08					DEC08-NOV09					DEC09-NOV10				
# Secure Transports	*284*					*295*					*377*					*338*				
with Data Available*	**81**					**250**					**376**					**328**				
	with Data* #	Metal %	Poly %	Cloth %	No Restraint %	with Data #	Metal %	Poly %	Cloth %	No Restraint %	with Data #	Metal %	Poly %	Cloth %	No Restraint %	with Data #	Metal %	Poly %	Cloth %	No Restraint %
Total*	*81*	**91%**	**0%**	**0%**	**9%**	*250*	**88%**	**4%**	**0%**	**8%**	*376*	**70%**	**3%**	**7%**	**19%**	*328*	**59%**	**0%**	**29%**	**13%**
Gender																				
Male	*39*	**95%**	**0%**	**0%**	**5%**	*162*	**90%**	**3%**	**0%**	**7%**	*212*	**68%**	**4%**	**8%**	**20%**	*195*	**60%**	**0%**	**29%**	**11%**
Female	*42*	**88%**	**0%**	**0%**	**12%**	*88*	**84%**	**7%**	**0%**	**9%**	*164*	**72%**	**2%**	**7%**	**18%**	*133*	**56%**	**0%**	**28%**	**16%**
Age																				
18-34	*36*	**97%**	**0%**	**0%**	**3%**	*106*	**89%**	**4%**	**0%**	**8%**	*182*	**75%**	**4%**	**4%**	**18%**	*143*	**64%**	**0%**	**28%**	**8%**
35-49	*26*	**85%**	**0%**	**0%**	**15%**	*78*	**87%**	**4%**	**0%**	**9%**	*83*	**65%**	**5%**	**6%**	**24%**	*97*	**62%**	**0%**	**25%**	**13%**
50-64	*18*	**89%**	**0%**	**0%**	**11%**	*51*	**90%**	**6%**	**0%**	**4%**	*92*	**73%**	**1%**	**13%**	**13%**	*77*	**47%**	**0%**	**34%**	**19%**
65+**	*1*	**####**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	*15*	**80%**	**7%**	**0%**	**13%**	*19*	**32%**	**0%**	**21%**	**47%**	*11*	**45%**	**0%**	**36%**	**18%**

*Information on type of restraint was recorded only during the last five months for the 12/2006-11/2007 time period.

**Data for adults aged 65+ during the first time period includes one individual and is not included in the graph due to the sparse data.

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Performance Indicator Project (PIP).
Based on the Adult Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health.