

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Mental Health
108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani, Rod McCormick, and Walter Ochs

DATE: April 11, 2008

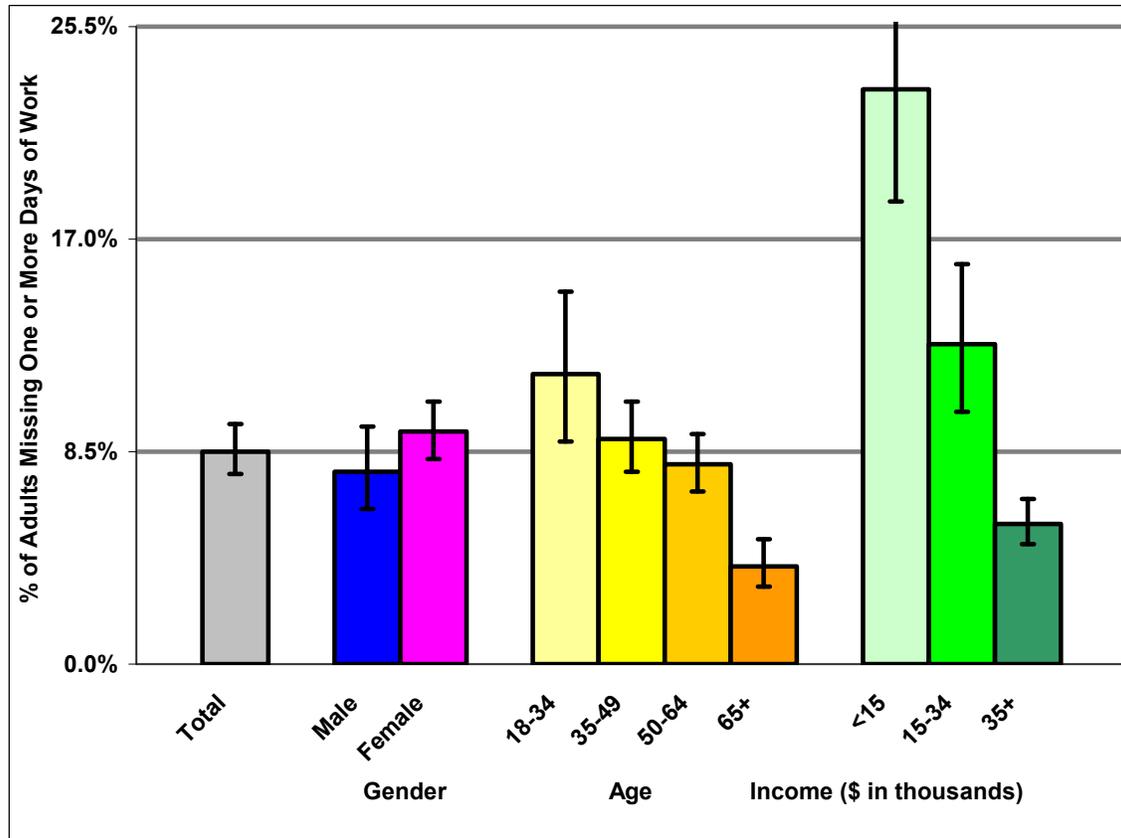
RE: Time Lost Due to Mental or Emotional Problems

During 2007, the Vermont Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey included a new 8-item module designed to measure the prevalence of mental illness in the general population of Vermont. This module includes the question: "During the past 30 days, for about how many days did a mental health condition or emotional problem keep you from doing your work or other usual activities?" This brief report provides an overview of the responses to that question. A copy of the complete survey instrument is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/questionnaires/pdf-ques/2007brfss.pdf>.

As you will see, more than 8% of Vermont adults reported that a mental or emotional problem had kept them from doing their work or other usual activities during at least one of the past thirty days. Women (9%) were somewhat more likely than men (8%) to report missing work or usual activities due to a mental or emotional problem. Missed work or other usual activities decreased with increasing age from more than 11% in the 18 to 34 age group to less than 4% in the 65+ age group. People with a household income of less than \$15,000 per year were the most likely to report having missed work or usual activities due to a mental or emotional problem (23%), while individuals with a household income of greater than \$35,000 per year were the least likely to report having missed work or usual activities due to a mental or emotional problem (less than 6%).

We look forward to your interpretation of these findings and your suggestions for further analysis of these data. Please forward your comments and suggestions to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802.863.7249

Prevalence of Mental/Emotional Problems Adults Missing One or More Days of Work: Vermont, 2007



		<u>Percent</u>	<u>95% CI</u>
Total		8.5%	(7.6-9.6%)
Gender	Male	7.7%	(6.2-9.5%)
	Female	9.3%	(8.2-10.5%)
Age	18-34	11.6%	(8.9-14.9%)
	35-49	9.0%	(7.7-10.5%)
	50-64	8.0%	(6.9-9.2%)
	65+	3.9%	(3.1-5%)
Income	<\$15,000	23.0%	(18.5-28.1%)
	\$15,000-34,999	12.8%	(10.1-16%)
	\$35,000+	5.6%	(4.8-6.6%)

Analysis based on data collected by the Vermont Department of Health Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey during FY2007. The BRFSS is an on-going telephone health survey system conducted by the health department of each state. The BRFSS surveys include residents and excludes institutionalized Vermonters. Mental/emotional problems were indicated by a response of one or more days to the question: "During the past 30 days, for about how many days did a mental health condition or emotional problem keep you from doing your work or other usual activities?"