

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department of Mental Health
26 Terrace Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05609

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

FROM: John Pandiani and Emma Harrigan

DATE: April 6, 2012

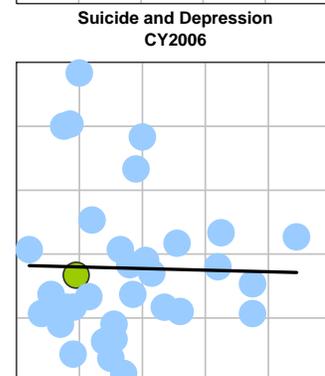
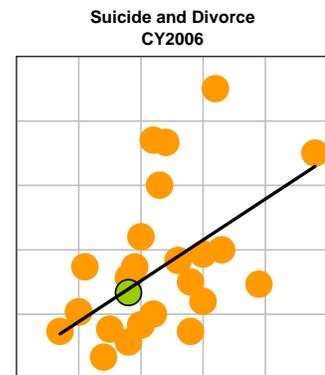
RE: Depression, Divorce, and Suicide Rates in Vermont and Other States

This week's brief report complements our previous report ¹ on the prevalence of depression in 33 states during CY2006 by comparing rates of depression and rates of divorce to rates of suicide in these states. This report was prepared in response to expressed interest from Ron Clark, Department of Vermont Health Access, in comparing state level rates of depression and suicide.

Data regarding states' depression rates are based on responses to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey of non-institutionalized residents in these 33 states. Data regarding the ranking of states' suicide rates in the same 33 states are based on information from the American Association of Suicidology². Pearson correlation was used to examine the relationship between rates of suicide and percentage of depression for each state. Results of this analysis indicate that during CY2006 states with higher rates of depression were no more likely than states with lower rates of depression to have high rates of suicide (Pearson's $r = -0.023$, $p = 0.899$).

Data regarding divorce rates are based on data collected by the United States Census in the 2012 Statistical Abstract, Births, Deaths, Marriages, & Divorces: Marriages and Divorces³. Pearson correlation was used to examine the relationship between rates of suicide and rates of divorce for each state. Results of this analysis indicate that during CY2006 states with higher rates of divorce were significantly more likely than states with lower rates of divorce to have high rates of suicide (Pearson's $r = 0.530$, $p = 0.004$).

We look forward to your interpretation of these findings, your questions and comments, and your requests for further analyses. As always, we can be reached at pip@state.vt.us or 802-828-1703.



¹ http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_Dec_30_2011.pdf

² http://www.suicidology.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=228&name=DLFE-142.pdf

³ <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0133.pdf>

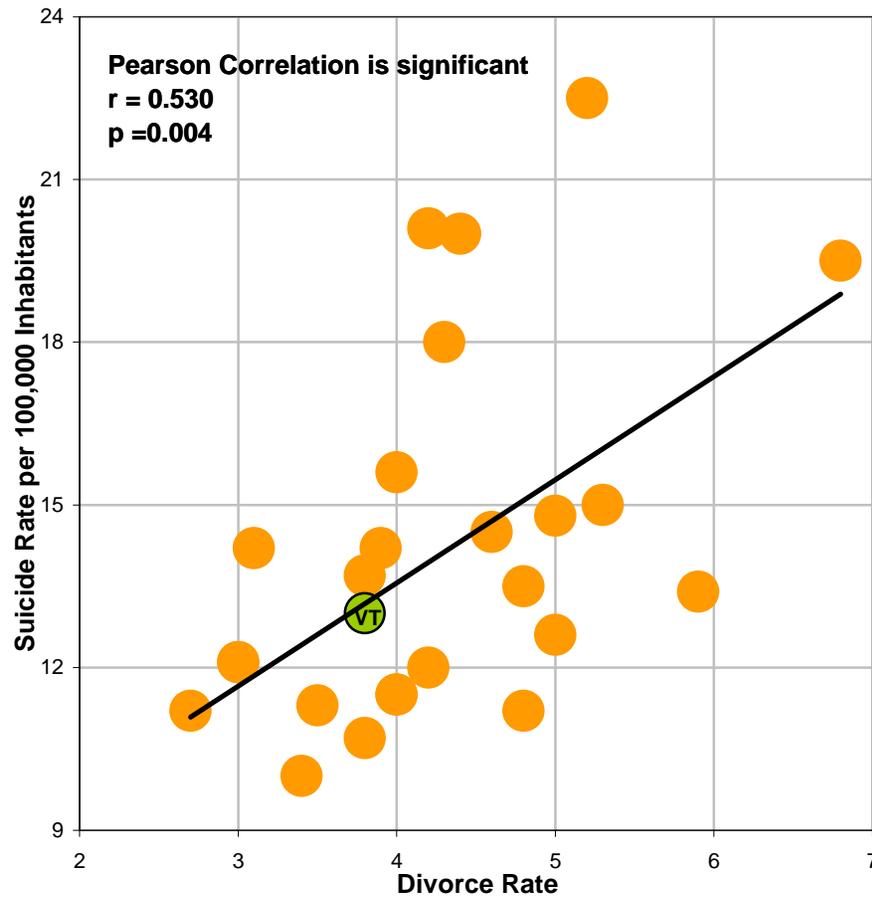
Comparison of State Ranking of Divorce and State Ranking of Suicide CY 2006

State	Rates of Divorce per 1,000 Population	Age-Adjusted Rates of Suicide per 100,000 Population	Percent with Moderate to Severe Depression
Wyoming	5.2	22.5	7.0
Alaska	4.2	20.1	6.7
Montana	4.4	20.0	6.5
Nevada	6.8	19.5	9.0
New Mexico	4.3	18.0	8.8
Oregon	4.0	15.6	7.4
Oklahoma	5.3	15.0	11.5
West Virginia	5.0	14.8	13.9
Tennessee	4.6	14.5	10.1
Utah	3.9	14.2	8.3
North Dakota	3.1	14.2	5.4
Missouri	3.8	13.7	9.1
Florida	4.8	13.5	8.6
Arkansas	5.9	13.4	11.4
Indiana		13.1	9.3
Vermont	3.8	13.0	6.9
Alabama	5.0	12.6	12.5
South Carolina	3.0	12.1	8.7
Wisconsin	3.0	12.1	6.1
Maine	4.2	12.0	7.3
Louisiana		11.5	9.7
Virginia	4.0	11.5	6.8
New Hampshire	4.0	11.5	6.6
Michigan	3.5	11.3	10.2
Mississippi	4.8	11.2	12.5
Iowa	2.7	11.2	5.8
Delaware	3.8	10.7	8.1
Minnesota		10.7	6.4
Texas	3.4	10.0	8.1
Georgia		9.9	7.8
Hawaii		9.3	6.8
California		9.1	8.0
Rhode Island	3.0	8.4	8.4

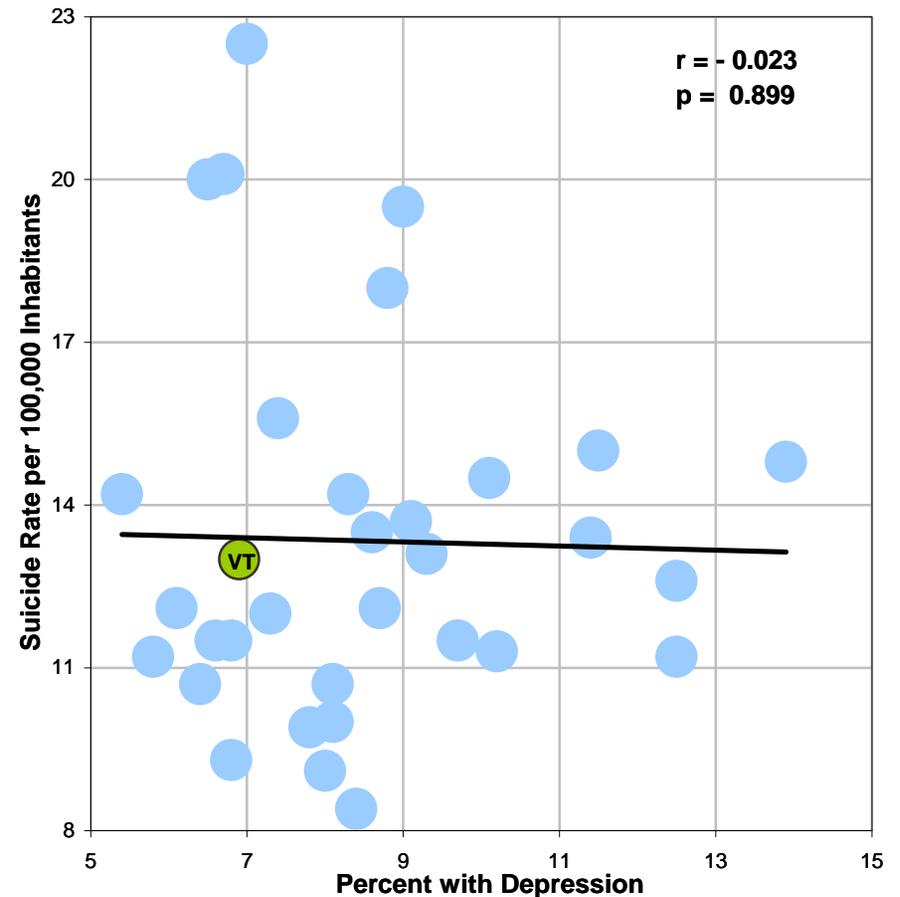
Data regarding states' depression rates are based on responses to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey of non-institutionalized residents in these 33 states. Depression was indicated by a PHQ-8 score corresponding with moderate to severe depression. Only 33 states participated in the depression module. Data regarding divorce rates are based on data collected by the United States Census in the 2012 Statistical Abstract, Births, Deaths, Marriages, & Divorces: Marriages and Divorces.

Data regarding the ranking of states' suicide rates in the same 33 states are based on information from the American Association of Suicidology.

**Comparison of State Rate of Divorce
and State Rate of Suicide
CY 2006**



**Comparison of State Percentage of Depression
and State Rate of Suicide
CY 2006**



Data regarding states' depression rates are based on responses to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey of non-institutionalized residents in these 33 states. Depression was indicated by a PHQ-8 score corresponding with moderate to severe depression. Only 33 states participated in the depression module. Data regarding divorce rates are based on data collected by the United States Census in the 2012 Statistical Abstract, Births, Deaths, Marriages, & Divorces: Marriages and Divorces. Data regarding the ranking of states' suicide rates in the same 33 states are based on information from the American Association of Suicidology.