

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Agency of Human Services, Department of Mental Health
103 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont 05671

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

FROM: John Pandiani and Sheila Leno

DATE: August 12, 2011

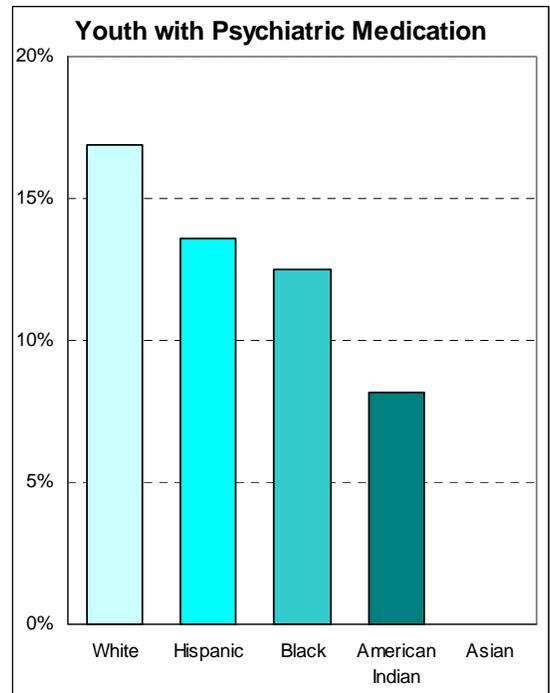
RE: Race and Ethnicity of Youth Receiving Psychiatric Medication

This brief report is the sixth in our series of reports that address issues related to race and ethnicity. This report focuses on the issue of practice patterns in Children's programs during FY2010 by providing information regarding the rate at which young service recipients in various race, ethnic, and gender groups receive psychiatric medication as part of their treatment at Vermont Department of Mental Health designated community agencies. Previous report in this series provided information on overall utilization rates for youth¹ and Adults,² time in service for youth³ and Adults⁴ in different race and ethnic groups, and utilization by youth in three Northern New England states.⁵

As you will see, psychiatric medication utilization rates were substantially higher for White youth than psychiatric medication utilization rates for Hispanic and Black youth, which, in turn, were substantially higher than psychiatric medication utilization rates for American Indian youth, with Asian youth having, by far, the lowest psychiatric medication utilization rates.

Among American Indian youth, boys were substantially less likely than girls to receive psychiatric medications, but gender difference among other race/ethnicity groups were not substantial.

We look forward to your questions, comments, interpretation of these findings, and requests for further analyses. As always, we can be reached at pip@ahs.state.vt.us or 802-241-4049.



¹http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_Oct_29_2010.pdf

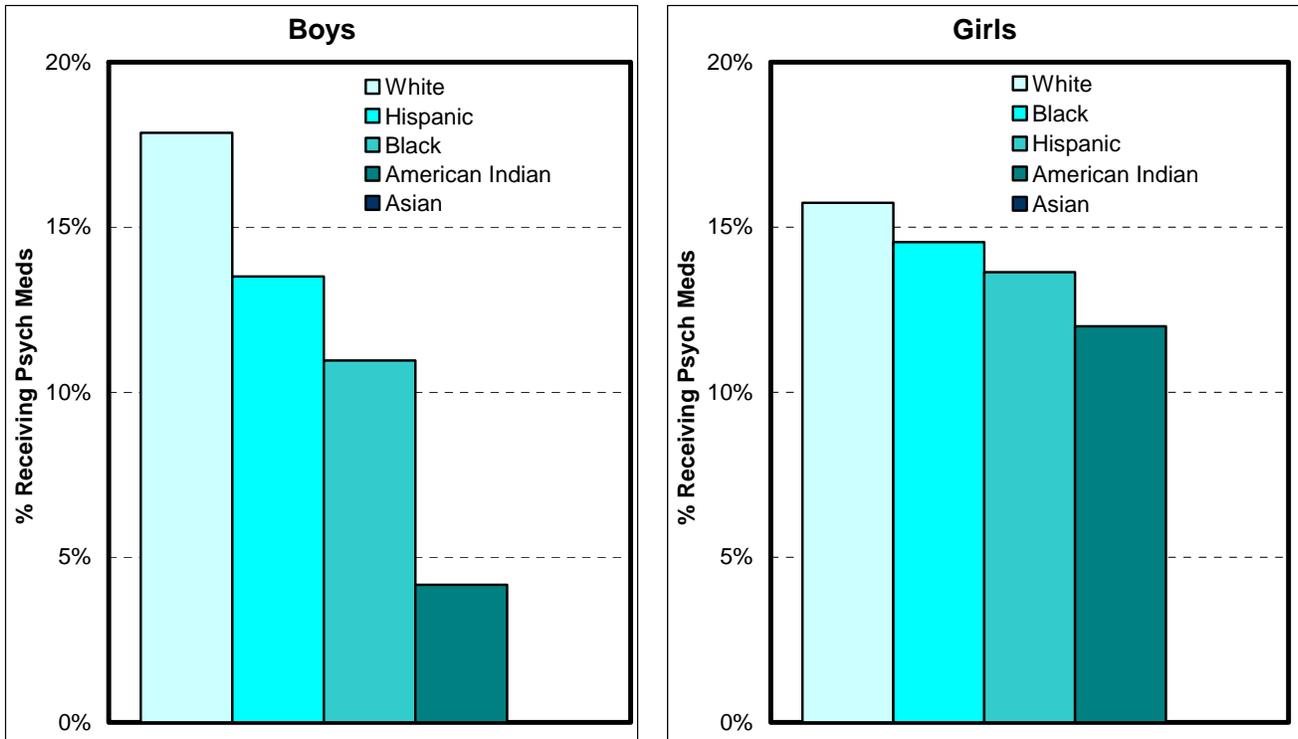
²http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_Dec_17_2010.pdf

³http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_April_22_2011.pdf

⁴http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_April_29_2011.pdf

⁵http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_June_3_2011.pdf

Youth in Children's Services Programs Receiving Psychiatric Medication By Gender and Race/Ethnic Groups: FY2010



Youth receiving Psychiatric Medication by Race/Ethnic Group

Race/Ethnic Groups	Overall			Boys			Girls		
	Total Number	Receiving Psych Meds		Total Number	Receiving Psych Meds		Total Number	Receiving Psych Meds	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
White	3,813	644	16.9%	2,066	369	17.9%	1,747	275	15.7%
Hispanic	162	22	13.6%	74	10	13.5%	88	12	13.6%
Black	128	16	12.5%	73	8	11.0%	55	8	14.5%
American Indian	49	4	8.2%	24	1	4.2%	25	3	12.0%
Asian	28	0	.0%	14	0	.0%	14	0	.0%

Based on analysis of Monthly Service Report (MSR) data submitted to the Vermont Department of Mental Health by designated agencies during FY2010. Race and ethnic groups include individuals between 13 and 18 years of age with a primary program assignment of Children's Services. Use of psychiatric medication is based on medchecks.