

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Agency of Human Services, 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 and Barbara Carroll

DATE: August 28, 2009

RE: Special Education Children and Young Adult Homelessness

This week's brief report focuses on the relationship between Vermont's FY2000-2007 Department of Education Special Education service recipients and its 2008 young adult homeless population. This report is the third in a series that focuses on the relationship between Vermont's youth services populations and its young adult homeless services population. The first report¹ focused on the relationship between the CY2000-2007 Department for Children and Families youth custody population and its 2008 young adult homeless population. The second report² focused on the relationship between Vermont's CY2000-2007 Department for Mental Health community-based children's services population and its 2008 young adult homeless population. This week's report focuses on the relationship between Vermont's FY2000-2007 Special Education service recipients, including those with an Individualized Educational Plan for an emotional/behavior disorder (EBD) and those not identified as having an EBD, and Vermont's 2008 young adult homeless population.

Anonymous extracts from two data sets were used in this analysis. The first data set includes the date of birth, gender, and an EBD indicator for all children who received special education services from a Vermont public school during FY2000-2007 and were aged 18-26 during 2008. The second data set includes the date of birth and gender of young adults aged 18-26 during 2008 represented in an integrated Vermont homeless services database that includes information from the 2008 AHS Emergency Shelter database, the 2008 Service Point Balance of State HMIS database, the Housing Works HMIS database for projects ending in 2008, and the January 2008 VT Point in Time homeless survey. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine the unduplicated number of people shared by the two data sets.

Overall, 3.1% of special education children with services for an emotional/behavior disorder (EBD) and less than 0.9% of special education children with a non-EBD educational plan during FY2000-2007 received homeless services as young adults in 2008. Of those children with an EBD educational plan, girls were more likely than boys to receive homeless services as young adults in 2008 (5.4% and 2.2%, respectively). There was no statistically significant difference between boys and girls with non-EBD educational plans in likelihood of receiving homeless services as young adults.

Overall, 12.8% of young adults who received homeless services in 2008 had previously received special education services during FY2000-2007 for an EBD, and 10.9% had previously received special education services for another condition. There were no differences between young men and young women receiving homeless services in 2008 in likelihood of having previous special education services in either category.

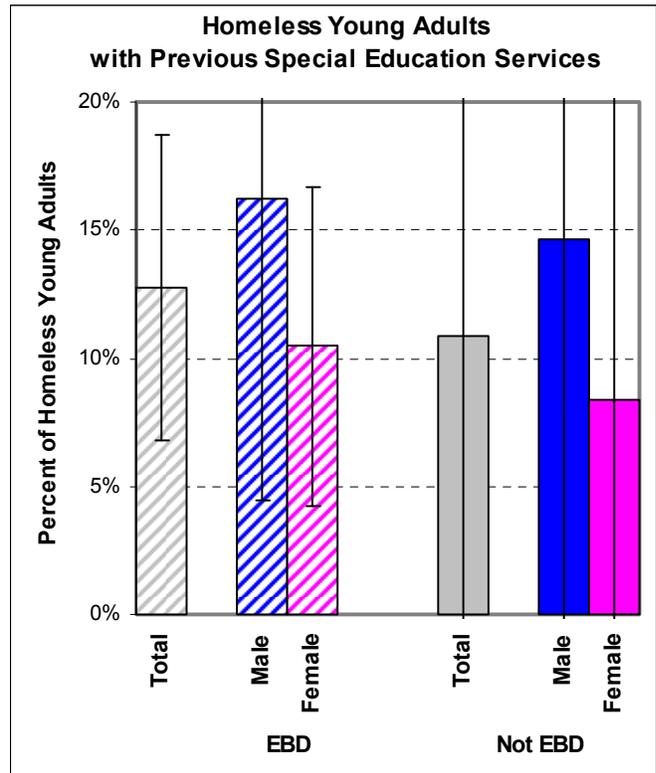
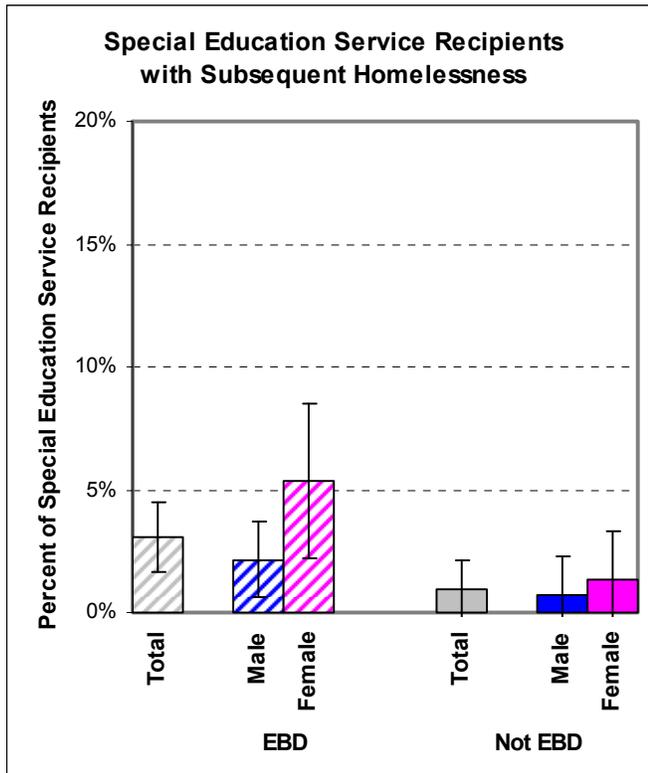
We look forward to your comments and your suggestions for further analyses of these data. As always, you can reach us by e-mail at pip@vdh.state.vt.us or by phone at 802-863-7249.

¹ http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_June_26_2009.pdf

² http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/pip/DMH-PIP_Aug_14_2009.pdf

Special Education Service Recipients in FY2000-2007 and Homelessness in 2008

Movement between Two Vermont Human Service Caseloads



Unduplicated Counts of Individuals

Special Education FY2000-2007	Homeless 2008
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Caseload Overlap

Number	% of Special Education	% of Homeless
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with Emotional/Behavior Disorder

Total	3,973 ± 90	950 ± 18	121 ± 57	3.1% ± 1.4%	12.8% ± 6.0%
Male	2,862 ± 85	381 ± 10	62 ± 45	2.2% ± 1.6%	16.2% ± 11.7%
Female	1,111 ± 29	569 ± 15	60 ± 35	5.4% ± 3.2%	10.5% ± 6.2%

No Emotional/Behavior Disorder

Total	11,336 ± 366	950 ± 18	103 ± 139	0.9% ± 1.2%	10.9% ± 14.6%
Male	7,770 ± 348	381 ± 10	56 ± 120	0.7% ± 1.5%	14.6% ± 31.6%
Female	3,567 ± 116	569 ± 15	47 ± 70	1.3% ± 2.0%	8.3% ± 12.3%

Analysis is based on Vermont Department of Education data on special education service recipients during FY2000-2007, and on an integrated Vermont homeless database including information from the 2008 AHS Emergency Shelter database, the 2008 Service Point Balance of State HMIS database, the Housing Works HMIS database for projects with a reporting year ending in 2008, and the January 2008 Vermont Point in Time homeless survey. Analysis includes all persons aged 18-26 in CY2008.

Because data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals).

Analysis performed by the Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project