

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

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

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

FROM: John Pandiani and Emma Harrigan

DATE: August 17, 2012

RE: Suicides among Vermont mental health service recipients
and other Vermont residents during January–June of 2011 and 2012

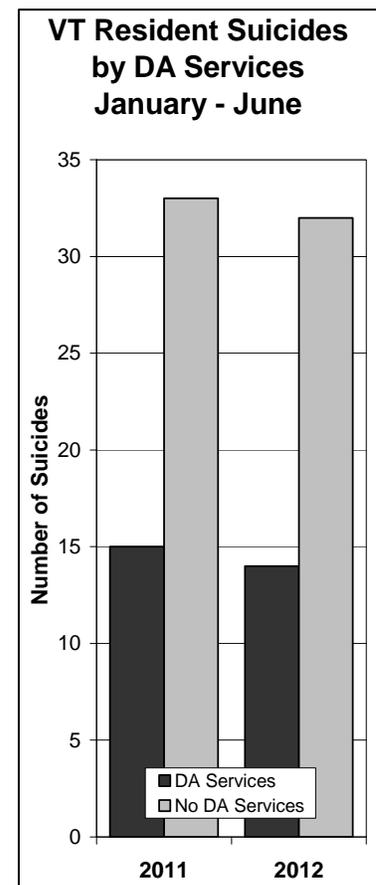
This week's brief report provides information regarding the number and proportion of Vermont suicides who had received services from a Department of Mental Health (DMH) designated agency (DA) during January through June of 2011 and 2012. This analysis was conducted in response to a request for information from DMH Commissioner Patrick Flood.

This report is based on analysis of data from the Vermont Department of Health Vital Statistics database in conjunction with community mental health client data submitted to DMH by designated community mental health service providers.

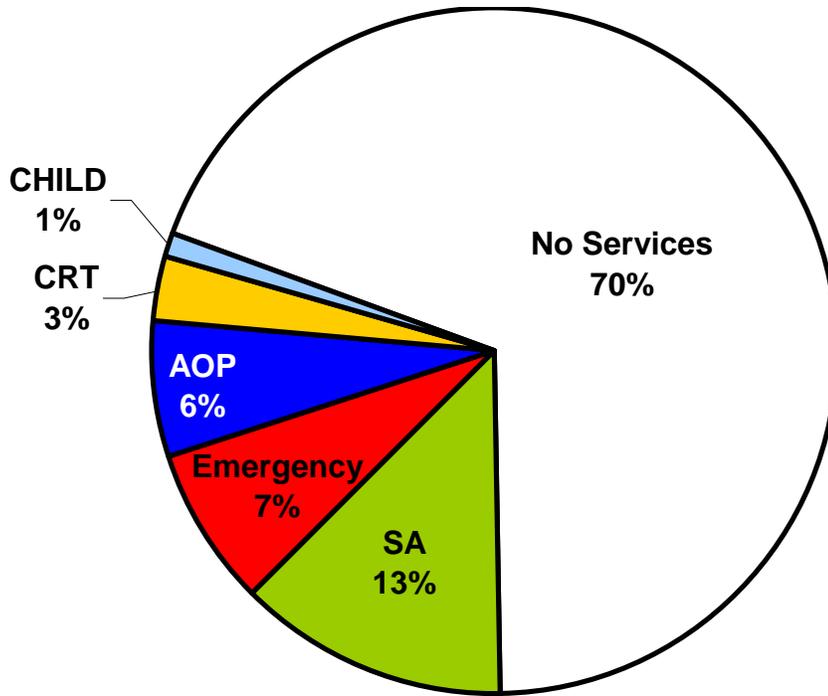
As you will see, this analysis indicates that there were a total of 48 Vermont resident suicides during January–June of 2011, and 46 Vermont resident suicides during January–June of 2012. During both years, more than two-thirds of all suicides were individuals who had no DA services in the current and prior fiscal year reporting period. Fifteen (31%) Vermonters who died by suicide in January-June of 2011 and 14 (30%) Vermonters who died by suicide in January-June 2012 had received DA services in the current and prior fiscal year reporting period.

Among the 29 DA service recipients who died by suicide during the two time periods under examination, the greatest number (12) had been Substance Abuse service recipients, followed by Emergency service recipients (7), Adult Outpatient service recipients (6), Community Rehabilitation and Treatment service recipients (3), and Children's Services recipients (1).

As always, we look forward to your questions, comments, and suggestions for further analyses at pip@state.vt.us or 802-828-1703.



Vermont Resident Suicides January - June 2011 and 2012



Suicides	January - June		Total
	2011	2012	
MH Clients	15	14	29
Others	33	32	65
Total	48	46	94
MH Primary Program			
Substance Abuse	9	3	12
Emergency / No Assignment	1	6	7
Adult Outpatient	3	3	6
Community Rehabilitation	1	2	3
Children's Services	1		1
Total	15	14	29

Based on data from the Vital Statistics System maintained by Vermont Department of Health and Monthly Service Report (MSR) data provided by the Department of Mental Health (DMH). Cross-sector data analysis was conducted using LinkPlus, a probabilistic statistical linkage software developed by the CDC for linking records across databases.

MH Clients for 2011 are defined as initials receiving services in FY2011 or FY2010. MH Clients for 2012 are defined as individuals receiving services in FY2012 or FY2011. Primary Program is defined as the primary program assignment on the client's last service with DMH during the current or previous fiscal year. Vermont suicide data is current as of July 31, 2012. Monthly counts are subject to change as more information is made available.