

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

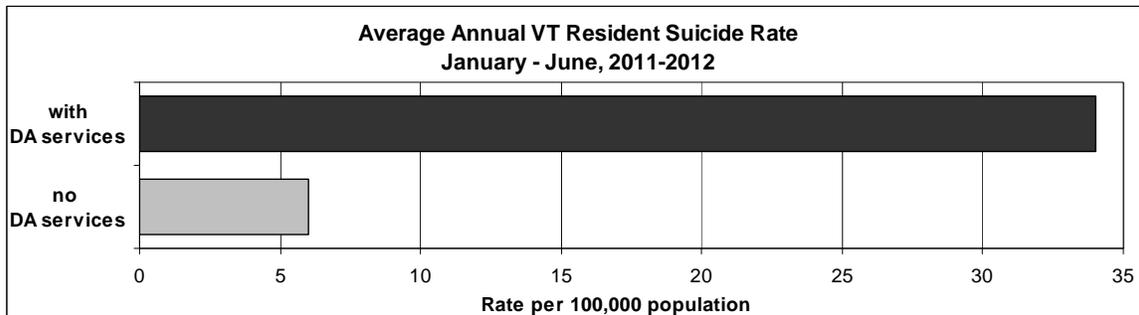
DATE: August 31, 2012

RE: Rates of suicide among Vermont mental health service recipients
And other Vermont residents during January–June of 2011-2012

This week's brief report provides information regarding the per capita rate of suicide for two groups of Vermont residents, those who had received services from a Department of Mental Health (DMH) designated community agency (DA) during the current or previous fiscal year of their death, and those who had not received services from a DMH DA during the same time period. This analysis was conducted in response to a request from Tim Connor, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute Mental Health Evaluation Specialist responsible for evaluating mental health programs for the State of Wisconsin. Specifically, Tim requested *per capita* suicide rates for both service recipients and others in response to our August 17 report on *numbers* of suicides among DA service recipients and others.

Like the previous report, 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 agencies, and population data provided by the Vermont Department of Health.

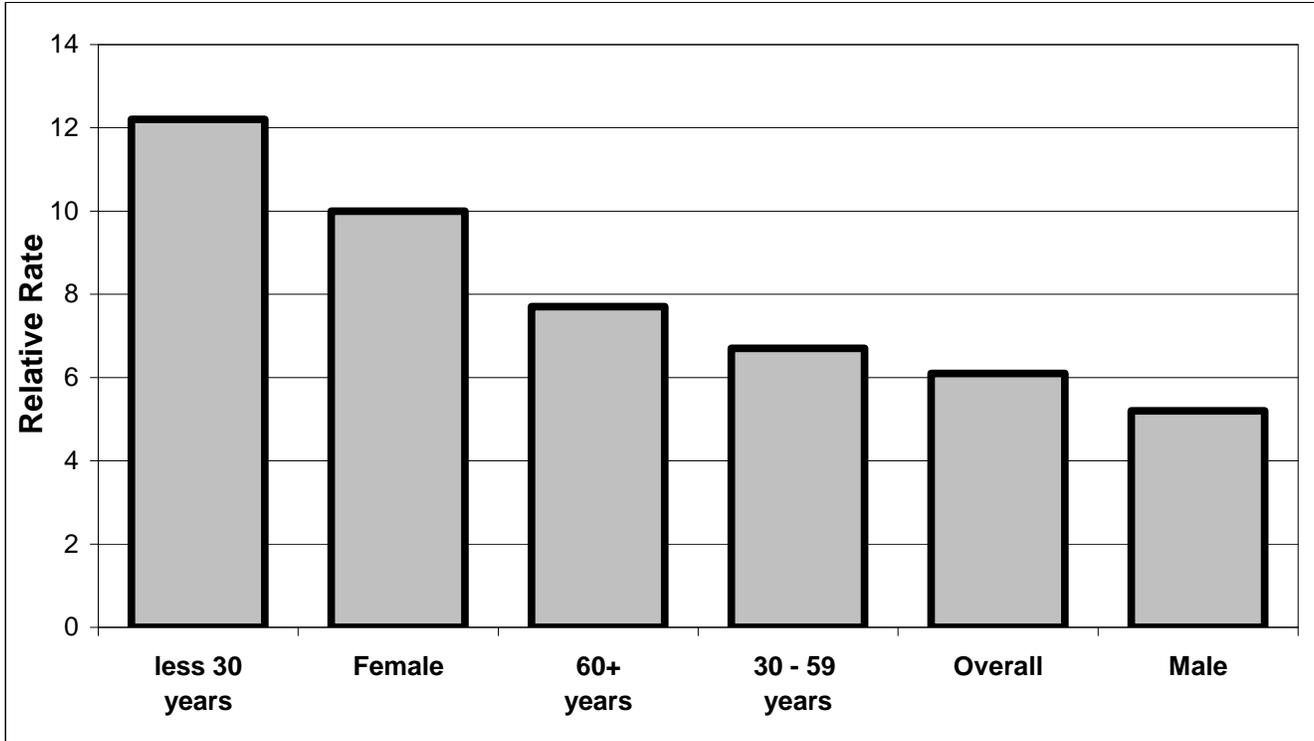
As you will see, this analysis indicates that during January through June of 2011 and 2012, the overall suicide rate for mental health service recipients (34 per 100,000 population) was 6 times the suicide rate for the population of Vermont that did not receive services (6 per 100,000 population).



However, there was substantial variation among age and gender groups in per capita suicide rates. Among Vermont residents less than 30 years of age, the suicide rate for mental health service recipients was 12 times the suicide rate for the remaining population in the same age group, while the suicide rate for individuals in the 30-59 and 60+ age groups was 7 times and 8 times the rate for the remaining population. Finally, the rate of suicide for female service recipients (10 times the rate for women in the remaining population) was higher than the rate of suicide for male mental health service recipients (5 times the rates for men in the remaining population).

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



	Average Annual VT Resident Suicides per Capita with no DA Services		with DA services		Elevated Rate*
	#	per 100,000	#	per 100,000	
Overall	32.5	5.6	14.5	34.0	6.1
Age					
less than 30	3.5	1.7	5.0	20.8	12.2
30 - 59	18.0	7.2	7.5	48.7	6.7
60+	11.0	8.5	2.0	65.5	7.7
Gender					
Male	28.0	9.8	11.5	50.6	5.2
Female	4.5	1.5	3.0	15.1	10.0

* Elevated Rate is the suicide rate for Mental Health service recipients divided by the rate for other Vermont residents. A relative rate of 10 would indicate that the suicide rate for residents with DA services is ten times the rate for residents with no DA services.

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 Center for Disease Control for linking records across databases. Suicides include Vermont Residents who died by suicide in January-June of 2011 or 2012. VT residents with DA services include individuals who received services from a DMH designated agency in the current or previous fiscal year of their death. Vermont suicide data is current as of July 31, 2012. Counts are subject to change as more information is made available.