

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, 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 Brennan Martin

DATE: December 12, 2008

RE: ER Behavioral Health Services to Male Veterans with VA or CMH Services

This week's brief report continues our examination of cross sector service utilization by people on Vermont's Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) behavioral health caseload. This report compares the rates at which three groups of adult male Vermont residents received behavioral health care services in a Vermont general hospital emergency room (ER) during CY2006. These groups include male veterans who received behavioral health (mental health or substance abuse) services from a VA community program, male veterans who received behavioral health services from a Vermont Department of Mental Health community mental health (CMH) adult mental health outpatient or substance abuse program, and adult men in the general population of Vermont.

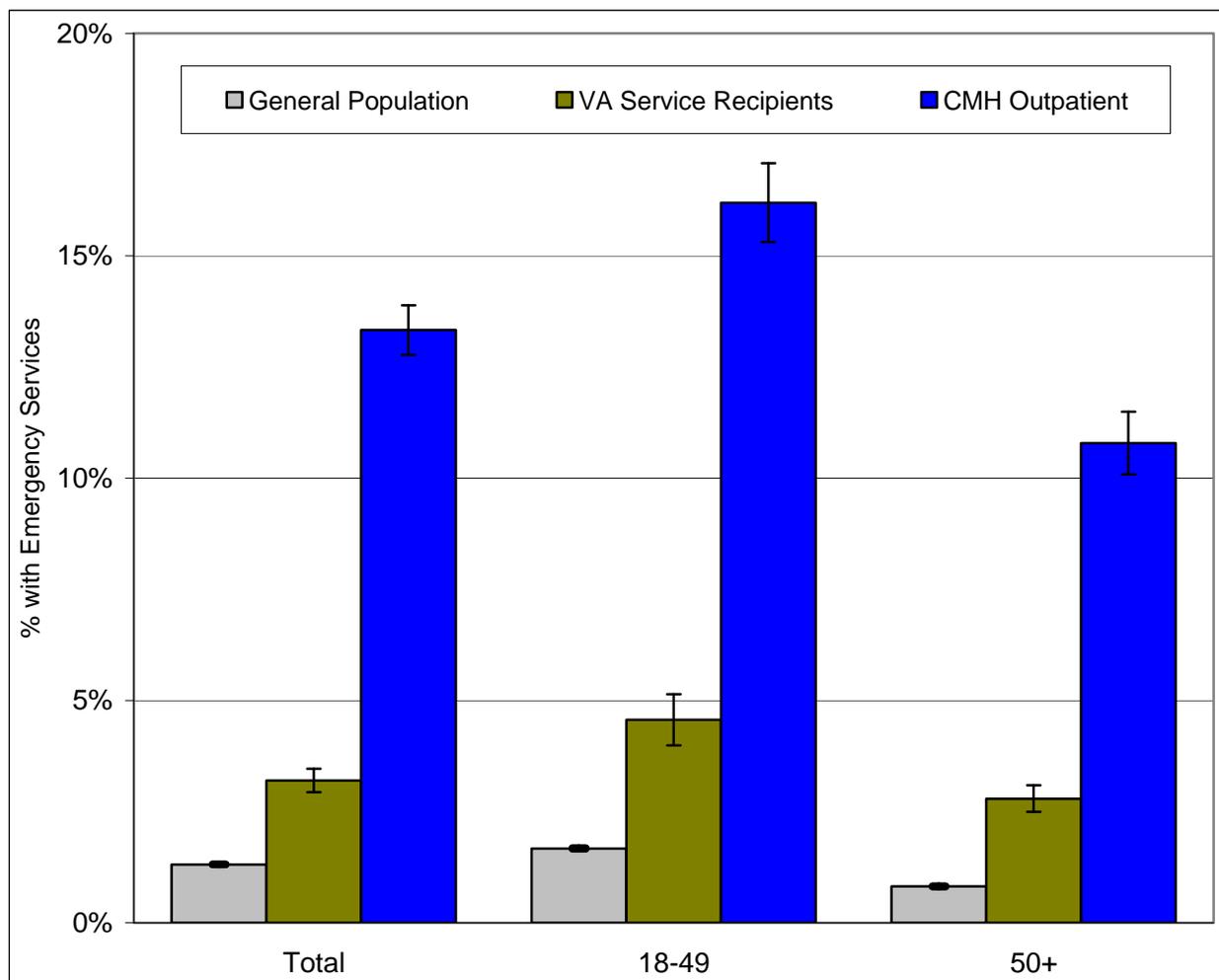
Extracts from three administrative databases were used in this analysis. An extract from the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set includes the date of birth, gender, and date of an ER visit with a primary behavioral health diagnosis during CY2006. An extract from the Vermont VA community service database includes the same data elements and date of service for all visits with a behavioral health services during the study period. The extract from the Vermont CMH database includes the same data elements for all adult male veterans who received behavioral health services during the study period. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the unduplicated number of individuals in each community service data set who were also in the hospital ER data set.

As you will see, 1.3% of all adult male Vermont residents had a general hospital ER visit with a primary behavioral health diagnosis during CY2006. The rate of ER utilization for male veterans who had received a VA community behavioral health service during the same year was more than twice the general population rate (3.2%). The rate of ER utilization for male veterans who had received CMH services was more than ten times the general population rate (13.3%).

In all three groups, younger men (aged 18-49) had substantially more hospital ER behavioral health services than older men (aged 50+). In the general population, younger men were twice as likely as older men to receive ER services. Among VA community service recipients, younger male veterans were 1.6 times as likely as older male veterans to receive ER services. Among CMH service recipients, younger male veterans were 1.5 times as likely as older male veterans to receive ER services.

We look forward to your interpretation of these findings, questions, comments, and requests for further analyses. As always, we can be reached at pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802-863-7249.

Emergency Room Behavioral Health Services Received by Male Veterans with VA or CMH Services: Vermont CY2006



	General Population			Service Sectors					
	Total #	Served by ER		Total #	VA		Total #	CMH	
		#	%		#	%		#	%
Total	238,740	3,138 ± 13	1.3% ± 0.01%	1,388 ± 7	44 ± 4	3.2% ± 0.3%	1,706 ± 5	227 ± 6	13.3% ± 0.3%
Age									
18-49	138,662	2,317 ± 12	1.7% ± 0.01%	318 ± 3	15 ± 2	4.6% ± 0.6%	267 ± 2	43 ± 2	16.2% ± 0.9%
50+	100,078	821 ± 5	0.8% ± 0.01%	1,070 ± 7	30 ± 3	2.8% ± 0.3%	301 ± 2	33 ± 2	10.8% ± 0.7%

Analysis is based on anonymous extracts from US Veterans Administration (VA) Vermont community behavioral health database, the Vermont designated community mental health centers' (CMH) monthly service reports, and the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals).

Emergency Room Behavioral Health services include visits with a primary diagnosis of mental illness or substance abuse.

VA community service recipients include men (aged 18+) served by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vermont community behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) program in CY2006. CMH service recipients include male veterans (aged 18+) served by the Vermont CMH Adult Mental Health Outpatient or Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs in CY2006.