

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 28, 2007

RE: Depression in Emergency Rooms 2003 - 2005

This week's PIP report adds to previous reports on the prevalence of depression¹ in Vermont by examining year-to-year and month-to-month variation in the rate at which a diagnosis of major depression (296.00 - 296.xx) was associated with a Vermont hospital emergency room visit during 2003 through 2005. Data for this analysis were extracted from Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Sets for the period under examination. For more information about these data sets, visit:

http://www.bishca.state.vt.us/HcaDiv/Data_Reports/uniform_discharge_data/overview_Q-A/FAQ1IntroVUHDDS_rev.pdf.

As you will see, the number of emergency room visits associated with a diagnosis of major depression averaged 7.4 per day during the period under examination. The annual average number of visits per day with a diagnosis of major depression increased from 7.0 in 2003 to 7.5 in 2004 to 7.7 in 2005.

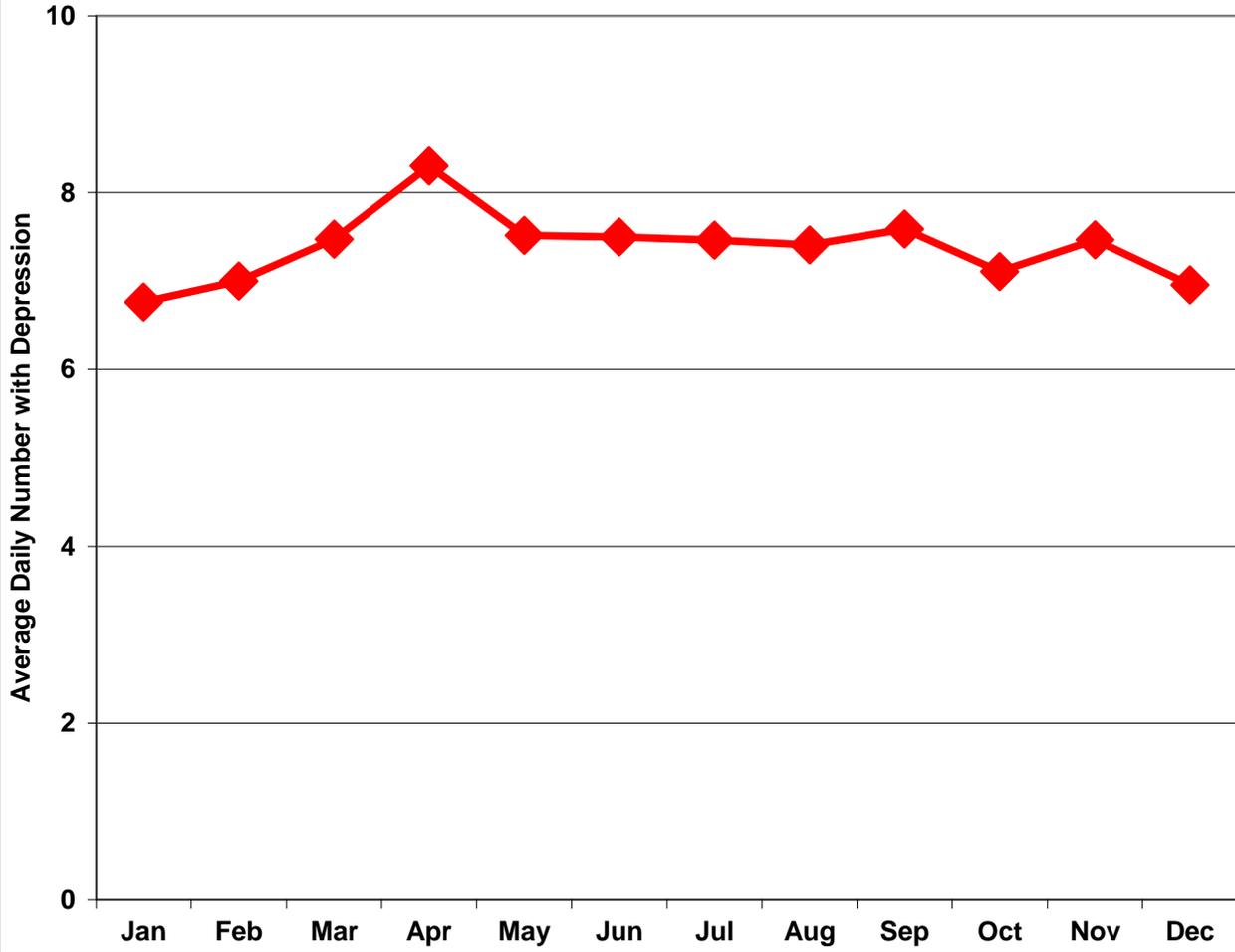
The average number of emergency room visits per month associated with a diagnosis of major depression varied from a high of 8.3 per day in April to a low of 6.8 per day in January. The month of April ranked highest in diagnosis of depression in 2003 and 2004, and ranked third in 2005. The month of January ranked lowest in diagnosis of depression in 2005 and second lowest in 2003, but ranked fourth from the highest among months in 2004.

We look forward to your questions and comments about these findings, and your suggestions for further analysis of patterns of utilization of hospital emergency rooms in Vermont. As always, we can be reached at 802.863.7249 or pip@vdh.state.vt.us.

Our catalog of archived PIP reports from 1997 to the present can be found online at:
<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/pip-reports.aspx>

¹ <http://smilevermont.com/mh/docs/pips/2007/documents/Pip110907.pdf>
<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2007/documents/Pip071307.pdf>
<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2007/Pip052507.pdf>
<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2006/pip012006.pdf>

**Major Depression Diagnosis
in Hospital Emergency Room Visits
Average Monthly Visits per Day : CY 2003-2005**



	Month												
	Yearly Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg	7.4	6.8	7.0	7.5	8.3	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.6	7.1	7.5	7.0
CY03	7.0	6.5	6.6	7.1	7.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	7.1	6.4	7.7	7.1	7.3
CY04	7.5	7.8	7.2	7.9	9.0	7.6	7.6	7.9	7.1	7.9	6.6	7.3	6.1
CY05	7.7	6.0	6.9	7.4	8.2	8.3	8.2	7.8	8.1	8.5	7.1	8.0	7.5

Information is derived from the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Sets maintained by the Vermont Health Department. Depression is defined as having a DSM IV diagnosis of 296.00 - 296.xx as primary or any other diagnosis.