

## **Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**

Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division 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 Olivia Hunter

DATE: February 3, 2006

RE: Nicotine Dependence Among Adults with Mental Health Diagnoses

Health related behaviors of adults with mental illness are an increasing concern of both mental health and public health research. This week's Performance Indicator Project brief report addresses this issue by examining the prevalence of Nicotine Dependence among adults with mental health diagnoses in Vermont. This analysis was originally conducted in response to a request from Sheri Lynn, VDH Tobacco Control Chief.

This analysis focuses on the 51,748 episodes of inpatient care in Vermont general hospitals for adult Vermont residents during CY2003. Diagnostic and demographic information about these individuals was obtained from an anonymous extract from the Hospital Discharge Data Set maintained by the Vermont Department of Health.

Nicotine Dependence was identified by a DSM IV code of 305.10 in any one of 20 possible diagnoses associated with an inpatient episode of care (N=5,340, 10% of all hospitalizations). Nicotine dependence rates were determined for all episodes of care for individuals in each of our 6 mental health diagnostic categories (N=11,463, 22% of all hospitalizations) and for all episodes of care for individuals with no mental health diagnoses (N=40,285, 78% of all hospitalizations). (See Methodological Note for more detail.)

As you will see, Nicotine Dependence rates varied substantially among diagnostic categories. Individuals with Personality Disorders and Adjustment Disorders had the highest Nicotine Dependence rates (24% and 22% respectively). Individuals with Schizophrenia Disorders, Affective Disorders and Anxiety Disorders, had substantially lower rates (18%, 18%, and 17% respectively). The Nicotine Dependence rate for individuals with Organic Brain Disorders (11%) was not substantially different from the rate for individuals with no mental health diagnoses (9%).

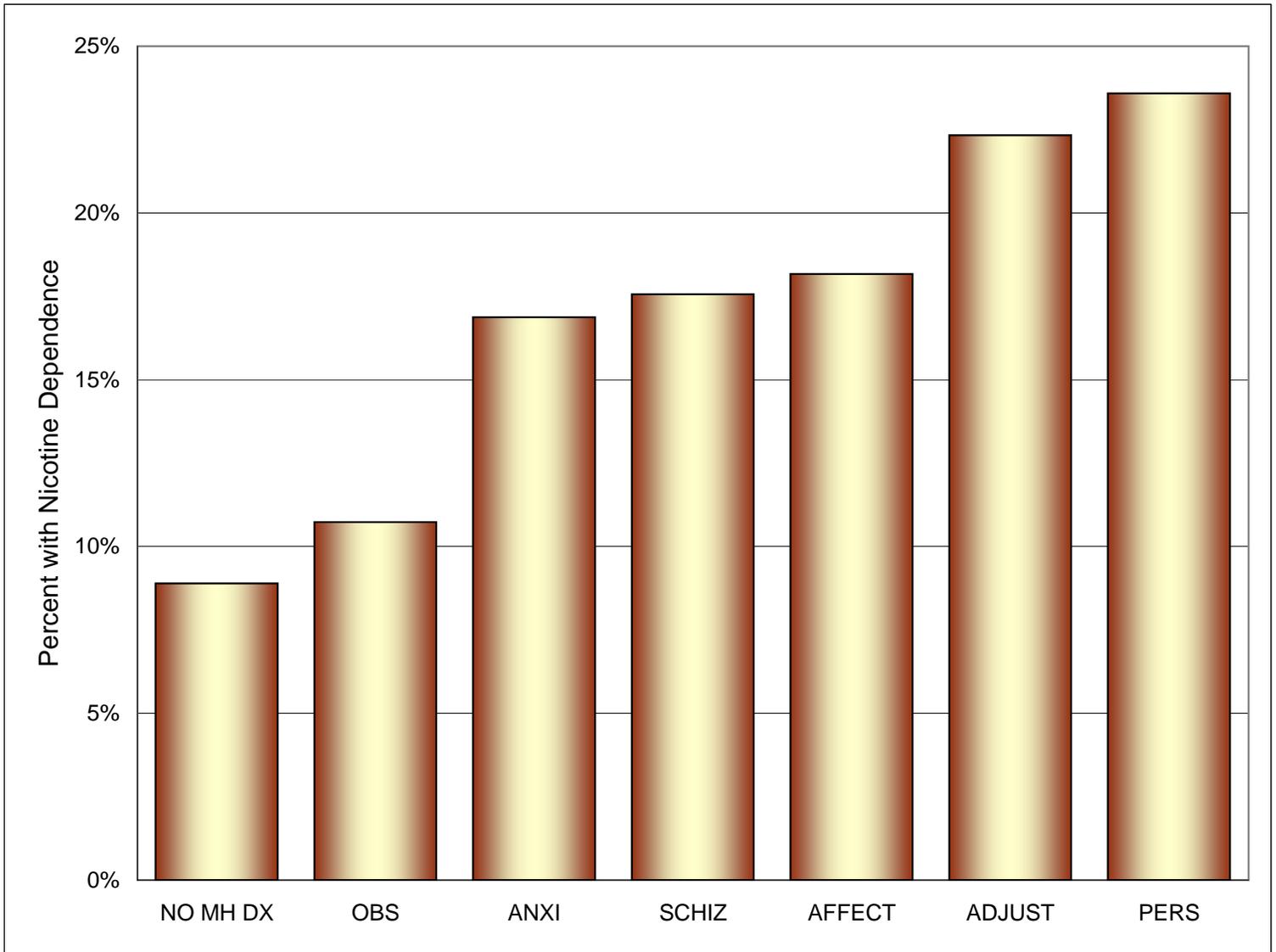
As always, we look forward to your questions and comments, and your suggestions for further analysis of these data or other data regarding the health and mental health status of Vermonters to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or 802.863.7249.

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## METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The mental health diagnostic categories include Adjustment Disorders, Affective Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Organic Brain Syndrome, Personality Disorders, Schizophrenia and other Psychoses. (Details regarding specific diagnostic codes used to create these groupings are available in Note 7 to the DMH Annual Statistical Report available at <http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/dept/annual-stats/2005/2005statPart9.pdf>). Because the unit of analysis for this study is the episode of hospitalization and many individuals have more than one diagnosis, the mental health diagnoses are not mutually exclusive; individuals with more than one type of mental health diagnosis will be represented in more than one diagnostic category. Also, individuals with more than one hospitalization will be counted more than once.

## Nicotine Dependence Among Adults with Mental Health Diagnoses



	No Mental Health Diagnoses	Organic Brain Syndrome	Anxiety Disorders	Schizophrenia Disorders	Affective Disorders	Adjustment Disorders	Personality Disorders
Total Episodes	40,285	3,206	1,956	1,207	6,328	1,487	920
Number with Nicotine	3,583	344	330	212	1,150	332	217
% with Nicotine	9%	11%	17%	18%	18%	22%	24%

This analysis focuses on episodes of inpatient care in Vermont general hospitals for adult Vermont residents during CY2003. Diagnostic and demographic information about these individuals was obtained from an anonymous extract from the Hospital Discharge Data Set maintained by the Vermont Department of Health. Nicotine Dependence was identified by a DSM IV code of 305.10 in any of 20 possible diagnoses associated with each inpatient episode of care. Nicotine dependence rates were determined for all episodes of care for individuals in each of our 6 mental health diagnostic categories and for all episodes of care for individuals with no mental health diagnoses.