

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 Barbara Carroll

DATE: January 12, 2007

RE: Inpatient Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Diagnoses

This week's PIP continues our series on the identification of co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders among recipients of behavioral health services.¹ Previous reports in this series have tended to focus on recipients of community-based services. Indicators of co-occurrence of mental health (MH) and substance abuse (SA) services include diagnosis, problem assessment, and program assignment. This report focuses on episodes of hospitalization of Vermont residents for inpatient MH and SA services in general and veterans' hospitals in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and neighboring counties of New York.

Data for this analysis were extracted from comprehensive Hospital Discharge data sets maintained by the Vermont Department of Health and include all episodes with a Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) of mental health or substance abuse. These were grouped into three categories: "Mental Health Only" includes hospitalizations with an MDC of mental health but no substance abuse diagnosis, "Substance Abuse Only" includes hospitalizations with an MDC of substance abuse but no mental health diagnosis, and "Co-occurring" includes hospitalizations with an MDC of one disorder and a diagnosis of the other disorder. For a more detailed description of the data sources and analysis, refer to our June 2, 2006 report on Inpatient Behavioral Health Utilization during 2004.²

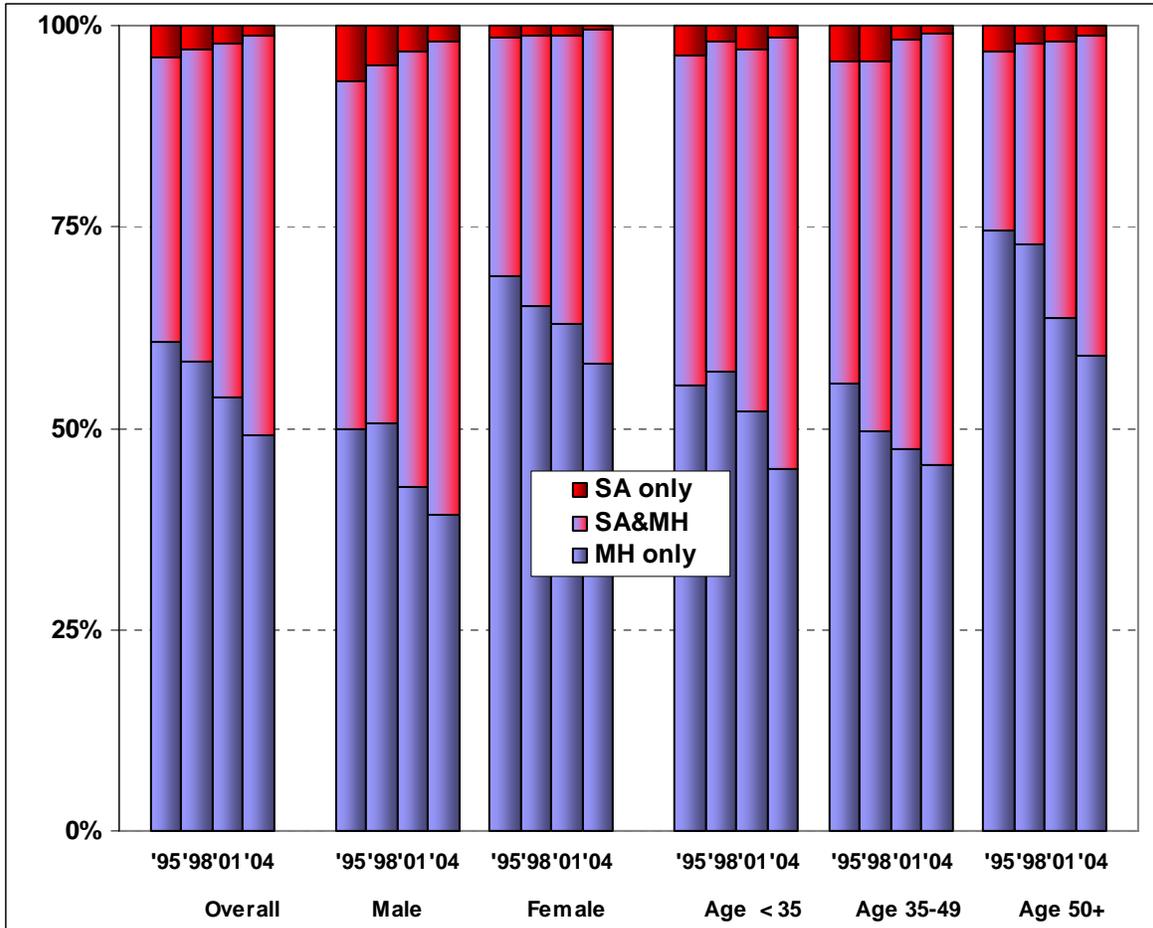
As you will see, there has been a substantial increase in the identification of co-occurring MH and SA diagnoses during 1995 - 2004. Hospitalizations with co-occurring diagnoses increased from 35% of all hospitalizations for behavioral health in 1995 to 50% in 2004. During this same time period there was a substantial decrease in hospitalizations for MH or SA with no identified co-occurring disorders. Hospitalizations with a MH diagnosis but no SA diagnosis decreased from 61% in 1995 to 49% in 2004, and hospitalizations with a SA diagnosis but no MH diagnosis decreased from 4% in 1995 to 1%.

We look forward to your interpretations of these findings and your suggestions for future analysis of this very rich data set (pip@vdh.state.vt.us or call 802-863-7249).

References

- ¹ [Mental Health Diagnoses Reported by Substance Abuse Programs](#) (11/24/06);
[Mental Health Clients with Substance Abuse Services](#) (10/28/05);
[Co-occurring \(MH/SA\) disorders Among AOP Clients](#) (07/15/05);
[Co-occurring \(MH/SA\) disorders Among CRT Clients](#) (06/24/05);
[Employment and Co-Occurring Substance Abuse Disorders](#) (04/08/05);
[Co-occurring \(MH/SA\) Disorders Among AOP Clients](#) (06/25/04);
[Co-occurring \(MH/SA\) disorders Among CRT Clients](#) (06/18/04);
[VSH Caseload Overlap with Other AHS Programs](#) (07/19/02);
[Children's Services Caseload Overlap with Other AHS Programs](#) (07/05/02);
[CRT Caseload Overlap with Other AHS Programs](#) (06/28/02);
[Adult Outpatient Caseload Overlap with Other AHS Programs](#) (06/21/02);
[CRT Clients with Substance Abuse Total & Percent Served by Substance Abuse Programs, FY1996](#) 10/16/97)
- ² <http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2006/pip060206.pdf>

Inpatient Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Diagnoses Vermont Residents 1995 – 2004



	Hospitalizations					Hospitalizations					
	Total #	SA only	SA&MH	MH only		Total #	SA only	SA&MH	MH only		
Overall	'95	3,264	4%	35%	61%	Age < 35	'95	1,166	4%	41%	55%
	'98	3,312	3%	39%	58%		'98	1,139	2%	41%	57%
	'01	3,477	2%	44%	54%		'01	1,026	3%	45%	52%
	'04	3,843	1%	50%	49%		'04	1,229	1%	54%	45%
Male	'95	1,402	7%	43%	50%	Age 35-49	'95	1,193	5%	40%	55%
	'98	1,570	5%	45%	51%		'98	1,307	4%	46%	50%
	'01	1,556	3%	54%	43%		'01	1,367	2%	51%	47%
	'04	1,812	2%	59%	39%		'04	1,502	1%	54%	45%
Female	'95	1,862	2%	30%	69%	Age 50+	'95	905	3%	22%	75%
	'98	1,742	1%	33%	65%		'98	866	2%	25%	73%
	'01	1,921	1%	36%	63%		'01	1,011	2%	34%	64%
	'04	2,031	0%	42%	58%		'04	1,112	1%	40%	59%

Data were extracted from comprehensive Hospital Discharge data sets that include episodes of hospitalizations of Vermont residents in general and veterans' hospitals in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and neighboring counties of New York. Extracts included all episodes with a Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) of mental health or substance abuse. These were grouped into three categories: "Mental Health Only" includes hospitalizations with a Major Diagnostic Category (MDC) of mental health and no indication of a substance abuse disorder in diagnostic fields. "Substance Abuse Only" includes hospitalizations with an MDC of substance abuse and no indication of a mental health disorder in diagnostic fields. "Co-occurring" mental health and substance abuse includes an MDC of one disorder with a diagnostic indication of the other disorder.

