

**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 Joan Mongeon

DATE: January 13, 2006

RE: Influenza Immunizations for CRT Clients and other Medicaid Enrollees

Access to health care for adults with serious mental illness is a long-standing concern of mental health services research. In the past, Vermont's mental health Performance Indicator Project (PIP) has measured access to health services in broad terms with regard to doctor's visits (1), as well as with regard to specific medical screening procedures including mammograms and Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) tests (2). This week's brief report addresses this concern in relation to the current public health issue of access to influenza immunization.

The analysis reported here examines influenza immunization rates for adults with serious mental illness who received Medicaid reimbursed Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) services during two fiscal years, 2004 and 2005. Comparisons to other individuals in the same age and gender categories who were also enrolled in Medicaid during the same time periods are also provided. The data used in this analysis include all Vermont Medicaid paid claims for influenza immunization during the study period. In order to estimate the impact of dual Medicaid/Medicare coverage on immunization rates for Medicaid enrollees, additional analysis compared immunization rates for individuals with dual eligibility to immunization rates for individuals without Medicare coverage for FY2005. All analyses focused on fiscal years (July through June) because each fiscal year includes one full flu season.

As you will see, there was a substantial decrease in influenza immunizations among Medicaid recipients (both CRT and other) between 2004 and 2005. CRT clients' immunization rate decreased from 11% in '04 to 5% in '05. Other Medicaid recipients' immunization rate decreased from 5% in '04 to 2% in '05. This decrease in both immunization rates could be due to the shortage in vaccine during the 2004-05 flu season. Patterns of access to influenza vaccination within each year, however, were quite similar. In both years, CRT clients were substantially more likely than other Medicaid enrollees to receive Medicaid reimbursed influenza immunizations. This was true for both populations as a whole and for almost every age and gender group.

Women were more likely to receive influenza immunizations in both groups, but the gender difference was substantially greater among CRT clients than among other Medicaid enrollees. In both years, CRT women were twice as likely as men to be immunized (14% vs. 7% in '04,

and 6% vs. 3% in '05). In both years, other Medicaid women were 50% more likely than men to be immunized (6% vs. 4% in '04, and 3% vs. 2% in '05).

In both years, immunization rates increased with increasing age up to 65 years of age in both groups. After age 65, immunization rates decreased among individuals in both groups in 2004. In 2005, however, immunizations continued to increase among CRT clients, but decreased among Medicaid service recipients.

Our comparison of individuals with dual Medicaid/Medicare eligibility to other Medicaid enrollees indicates that elders (age 65+) with no Medicare eligibility noted in the Medicaid database are substantially more likely than other Medicaid enrollees in the same age group to receive Medicaid reimbursed influenza immunizations for CRT clients (19% vs. 8%) and other Medicaid enrollees (7% vs. 2%). This difference between immunization rates for individuals with dual Medicaid/Medicare eligibility to other Medicaid enrollees suggests that immunizations for dual eligible clients may be reimbursed by other payers, rather than by Medicaid. If this is true, the inclusion of other payers in future analyses would provided a much more complete measure of access to influenza immunizations by individuals with serious mental illness and other Vermont residents.

We look forward to your questions, comments, and suggestions for additional analysis of access to influenza immunizations and other measures of access to health care for mental health service recipients and other populations to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or 802.863.7249.

---

(1)  [Access to Medical Care - Part II \(7/23/1997\)](http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/1997/pip071697.pdf)  
<http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/1997/pip071697.pdf>

 [Consumers Linked to Primary Health Care Services \(7/20/2001\)](http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2001/pip072001.pdf)  
<http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2001/pip072001.pdf>

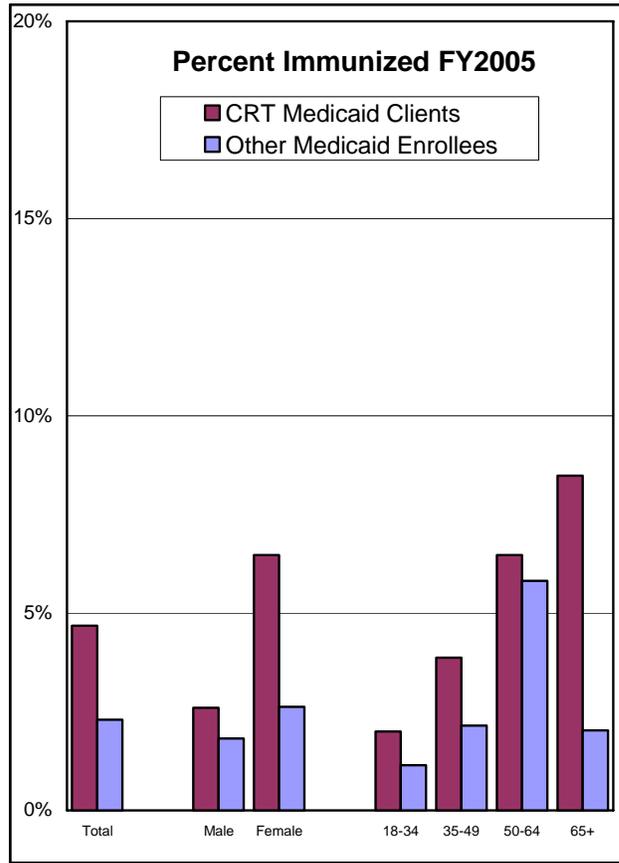
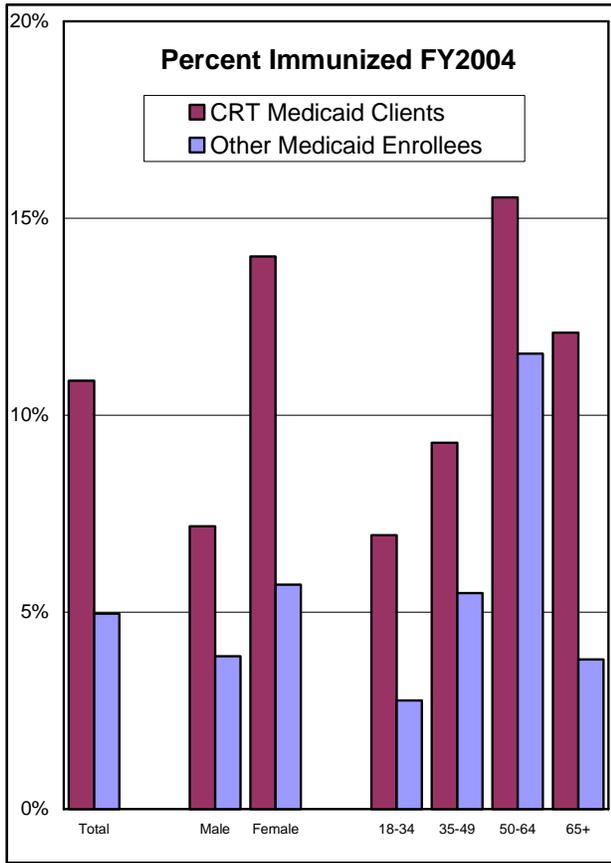
 [Another View of Consumers Linked to Primary Health Care Services \(8/3/2001\)](http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2001/pip080301.pdf)  
<http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2001/pip080301.pdf>

 [Medicaid Medical Services to CRT Clients and Others \(11/28/2003\)](http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2003/pip112803.pdf)  
<http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2003/pip112803.pdf>

 [Access to General Medical Care by Adults with Serious Mental Illness \(11/12/2004\)](http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2004/pip111204.pdf)  
<http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2004/pip111204.pdf>

(2)  [Access to Medical Care - Part II \(7/23/1997\)](http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/1997/pip072397.pdf)  
<http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/1997/pip072397.pdf>

## Influenza Immunizations FY2004 & FY2005 CRT Clients and Other Medicaid Enrollees



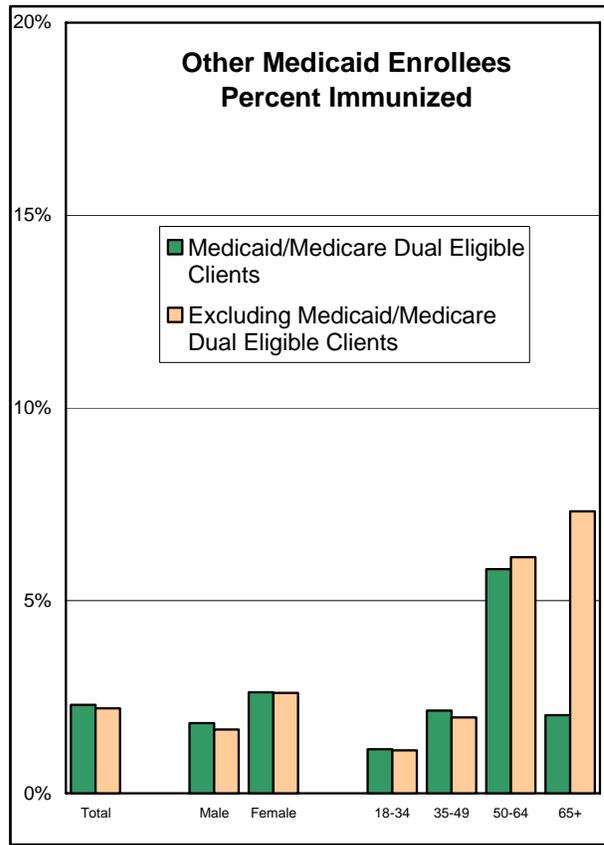
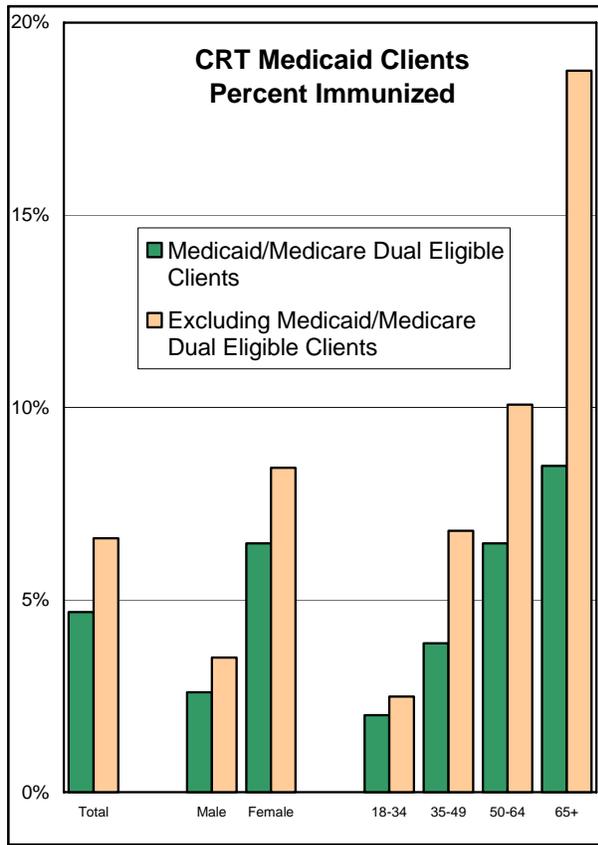
### CRT Medicaid Clients

### Other Medicaid Enrollees

		FY 2004			FY 2005		
		Total #	# Immunized	% Immunized	Total #	# Immunized	% Immunized
Gender	Total	2,602	283	11%	112,490	5,579	5%
	Male	1,198	86	7%	45,899	1,783	4%
	Female	1,404	197	14%	66,591	3,796	6%
Age	18-34	532	37	7%	40,291	1,113	3%
	35-49	1,075	100	9%	30,050	1,648	5%
	50-64	747	116	16%	15,655	1,810	12%
	65+	248	30	12%	26,494	1,008	4%

Data was extracted from the Vermont medicaid database maintained by EDS.

## Medicaid/Medicare Dual Eligibility and Influenza Immunizations FY2005 for CRT Clients and Other Medicaid Enrollees



		CRT Medicaid Clients			Other Medicaid Enrollees		
FY 2005		Total #	# Immunized	% Immunized	Total #	# Immunized	% Immunized
Dual Eligibles	Total	1,576	56	5%	35,326	881	2%
Gender	Male	812	18	3%	13,418	301	2%
	Female	764	38	6%	21,908	580	3%
Age	18-34	218	3	2%	1,284	27	1%
	35-49	666	15	4%	3,809	131	2%
	50-64	484	22	6%	5,272	269	6%
	65+	208	16	8%	24,961	454	2%
FY 2005		Total #	# Immunized	% Immunized	Total #	# Immunized	% Immunized
Excluding Dual Eligibles	Total	924	61	7%	81,238	1,792	2%
Gender	Male	343	12	3%	34,259	567	2%
	Female	581	49	8%	46,979	1,225	3%
Age	18-34	282	7	2%	40,933	455	1%
	35-49	368	25	7%	27,533	542	2%
	50-64	258	26	10%	11,774	722	6%
	65+	16	3	19%	998	73	7%

Data was extracted from the Vermont medicaid database maintained by EDS.