

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, Rod McCormick, and Walter Ochs

DATE: January 2, 2009

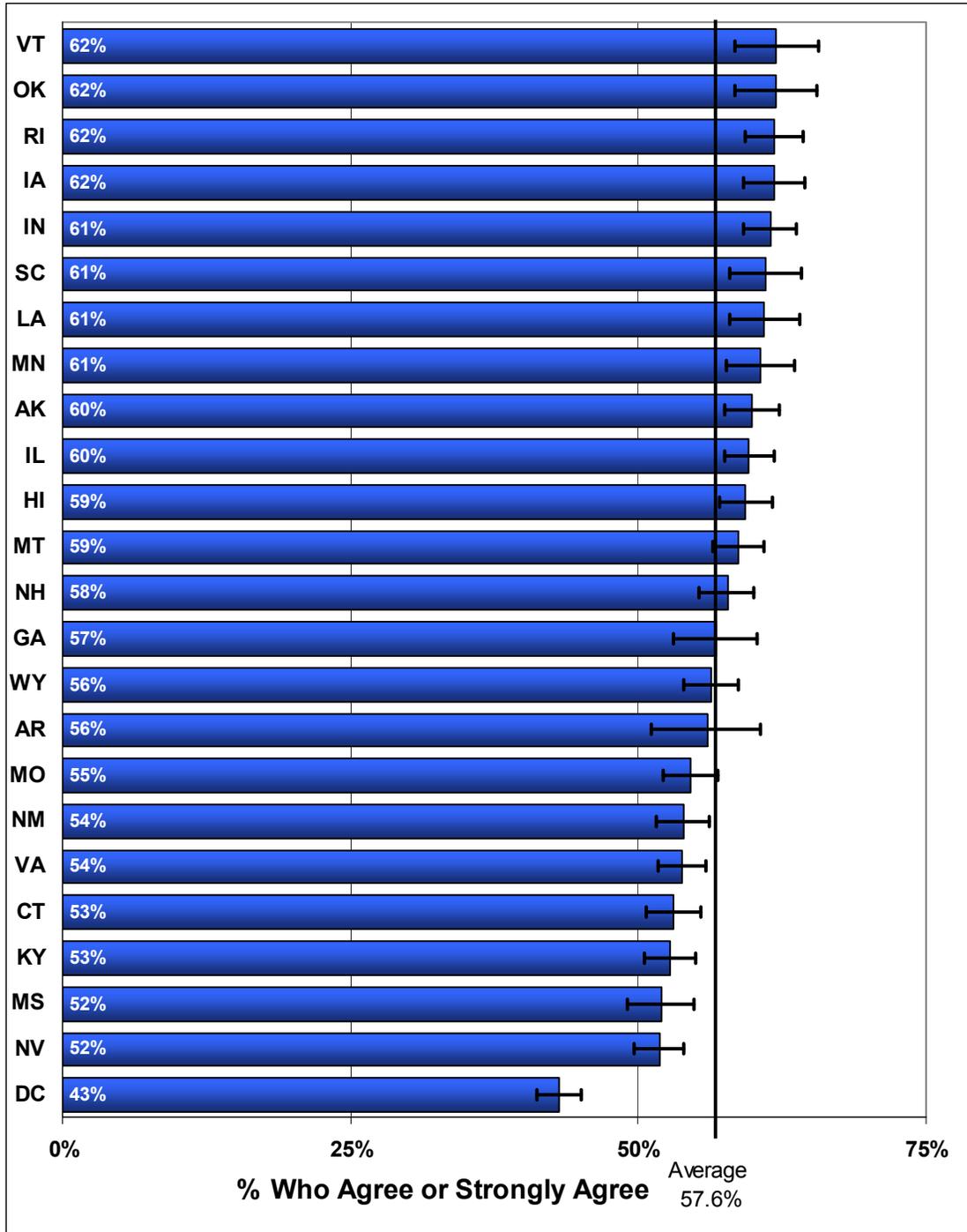
RE: Caring Toward People with Mental Illness in 24 States

This week's PIP reports the proportion of adult residents of each of 24 states who report that, "People are generally caring and sympathetic to people with mental illness." This question is part of the Mental Illness and Stigma module of each state's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey of a representative sample of each state's adult population. Because Vermont's population is 97% white non-Hispanic, results are reported for white non-Hispanic residents of all states in order to assure comparability of Vermont respondents to those in other states. Nationally this BRFSS survey indicated that non-white respondents are slightly more likely to report caring toward people with mental illness than white respondents.

As you will see, Vermont was one of four states (along with Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Iowa) where 62% of white respondents agreed that "People are generally caring and sympathetic to people with mental illness." Washington DC had the lowest reporting of caring toward people with mental illness (43%), followed by Nevada and Mississippi (52%), and Kentucky and Connecticut (53%).

We look forward to your interpretation of these findings, and your suggestions for further analysis of these data. Please forward your comments and suggestions to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802.863.7249

Survey Respondents Who Agree that People are Caring Towards People with Mental Illness, 2007



Analysis based on data collected in the Behavioral Health Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey during CY2007. The BRFSS is an on-going telephone health survey system conducted by the health department of each state. The BRFSS surveys include residents and exclude institutionalized individuals. This analysis includes respondents with a race category of white non-Hispanic. Caring towards people with mental illness was indicated by a response of "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to the following statement: "People are generally caring and sympathetic to people with mental illness."