

**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, Brennan Martin, and Walter Ochs

DATE: January 4, 2008

RE: Depression in Emergency Rooms by Hospital 2003 - 2005

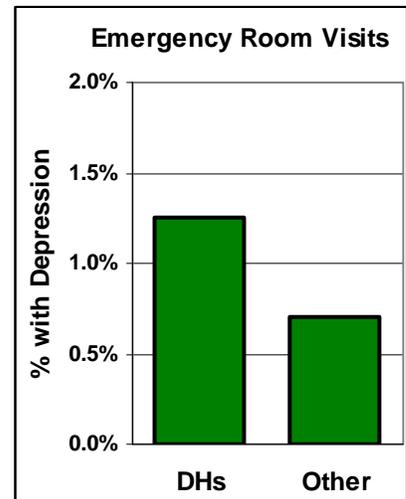
In response to last week's PIP report on Depression in Hospital Emergency Rooms, a number of readers requested more information and/or further analysis. This week's PIP was prepared in response to a request from Jeff Rothenberg, CRT Program Director at the Clara Martin Center, for hospital-specific information on the rate at which depression was identified in different Vermont hospital emergency rooms. As in the previous report, data for this analysis were extracted from Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Sets for the period under examination.

As you will see, the annual proportion of emergency room visits associated with a diagnosis of major depression varied from 2.1% at Central Vermont Hospital during 2004 to 0.1% at Grace Cottage during 2003.

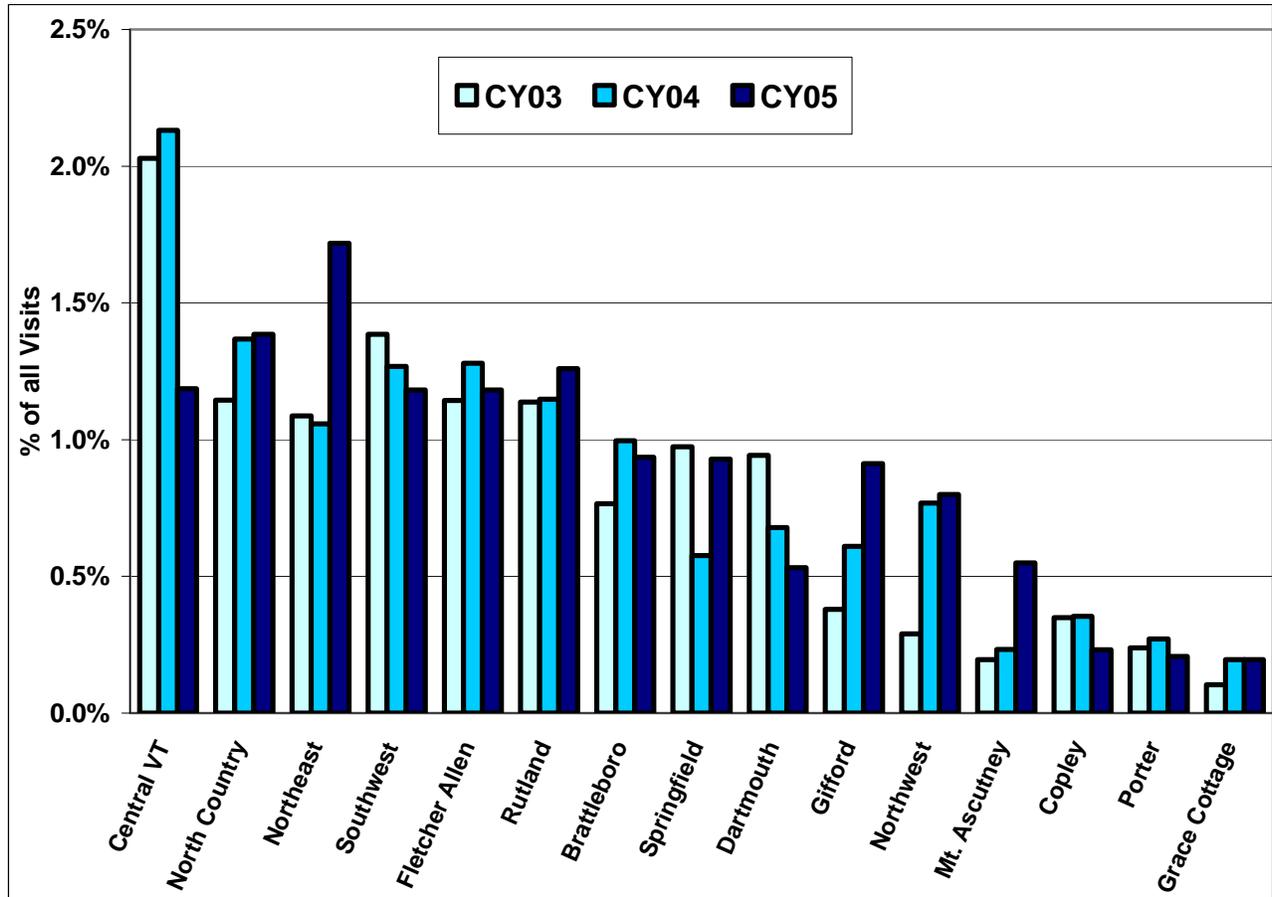
For the study period as a whole, the average proportion of emergency room visits associated with a diagnosis of major depression was 0.9%. Emergency room staff at Central Vermont Hospital were the most likely to identify depression in emergency room patients, averaging 1.7% of all ER patients during 2003 through 2005. Five other hospitals also identified depression in more than 1.0% of all ER patients. They are North County, Northeast, Southwest, Fletcher Allen, and Rutland. The lowest rates of identification of depression were at Porter and Grace Cottage.

It is interesting to note that the four general hospitals with inpatient psychiatric units (Central Vermont, Fletcher Allen, Rutland, and Springfield) were substantially more likely than other hospitals to identify major depression in emergency room clients (1.2% vs. 0.7% respectively).

We look forward to your questions and comments about these findings, and your suggestions for further analysis of general hospital data to 802.863.7249 or [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us).



## Major Depression Diagnosis in Hospital Emergency Room Visits by Hospital: CY 2003-2005



	Central VT	North Country	Northeast	Southwest	Fletcher Allen	Rutland	Brattleboro	Springfield	Dartmouth	Gifford	Northwest	Mt. Ascutney	Copley	Porter	Grace Cottage
<b>CY</b>	<b>Major Depression Visits</b>														
2003	408	110	108	274	572	362	75	116	79	23	65	10	39	29	2
2004	435	139	103	253	620	370	106	71	66	37	175	12	39	33	4
2005	303	153	176	241	604	424	110	118	61	58	196	32	27	27	4
<b>Mean</b>	382	134	129	256	599	385	97	102	69	39	145	18	35	30	3
<b>CY</b>	<b>% of all Emergency Room Visits</b>														
2003	2.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.4%	1.1%	1.1%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%
2004	2.1%	1.4%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.0%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
2005	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	0.8%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Mean</b>	1.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%

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