

**Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**  
Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Division of Mental Health  
Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Shoshana Boar

DATE: June 17, 2005

RE: Clinical Assessment after Substance Abuse Admission

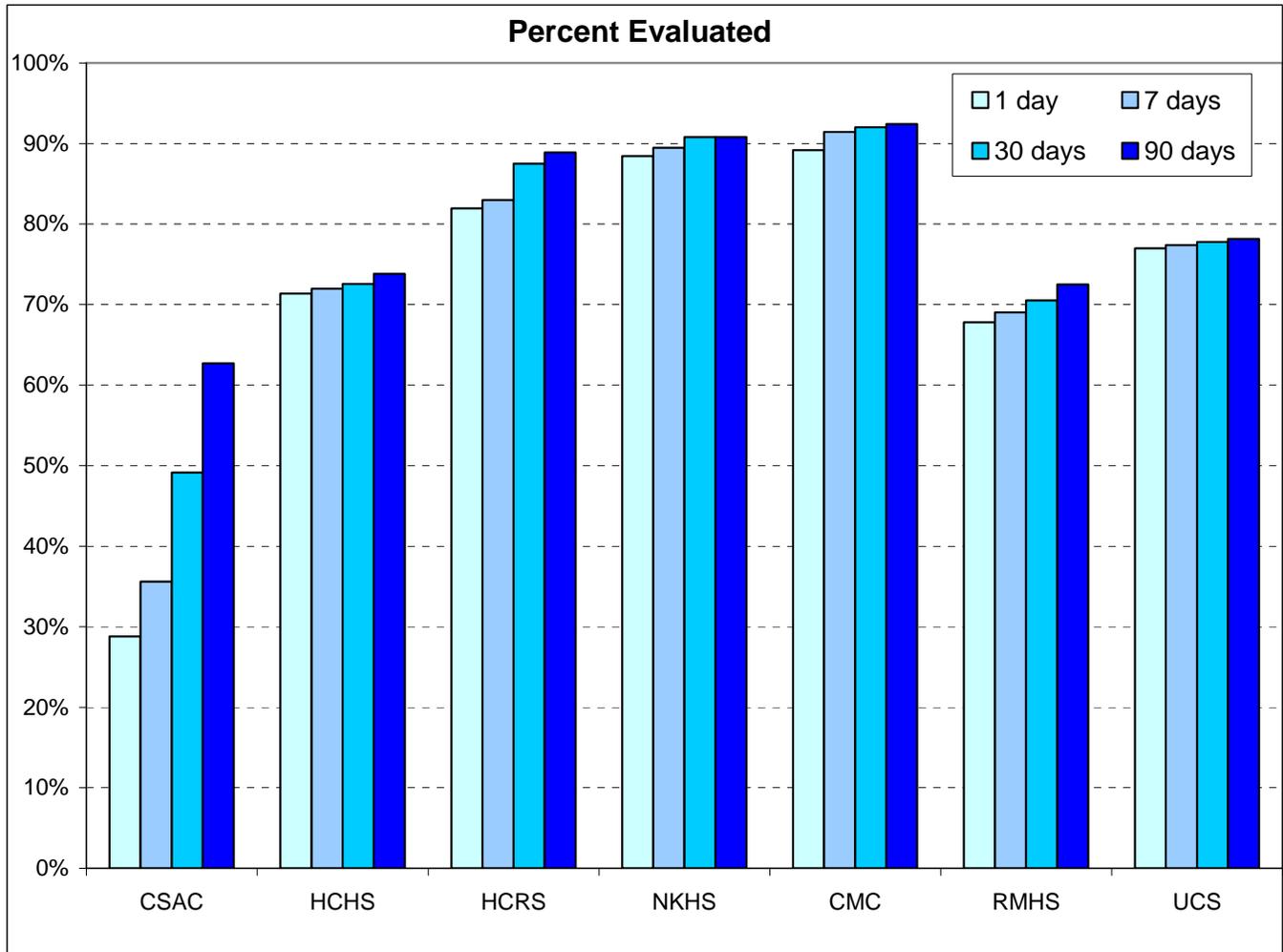
This week's report examines the proportion of individuals admitted to CMHC Substance Abuse Programs who received clinical assessments during specified time periods after their admission. This report is a follow-up on our report on clinical assessment of young people admitted to children's services programs (<http://www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2005/pip060305.pdf>). This report was prepared in response to an inquiry from Anne VanDonsel of the Vermont Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs.

As in the earlier report, this analysis relied exclusively on Monthly Service Report (MSR) data provided to DMH by Designated Agencies. All individuals admitted to CMHC Substance Abuse Programs during July of 2003 through March of 2004 are included in this analysis. In order to determine the proportion of individuals admitted to Substance Abuse Programs who received a Clinical Assessment (DMH Service code E01) within specified time periods, the date of each reported assessment was compared to the reported date of admission for each person admitted during the study period. Clinical Assessment includes services that "evaluate individuals' and families' strengths, needs, existence and severity of disability(s), and functioning, across environments" that are "provided by clinical or medical staff, including a qualified clinician, therapist, psychiatrist or nurse."

As you will see, more than three quarters (77%) of all individuals admitted to a substance abuse program had a clinical assessment on the day their case was opened. This proportion, however, varied from less than 30% in Addison County to more than 85% in Northeastern Vermont and Orange County. By the end of 90 days, the statewide percent who had a clinical assessment had increased to 81%. The substance abuse program in Addison County had provided clinical assessment services to less than 65% of individuals admitted. Substance abuse programs in two other regions (Northeastern Vermont and Orange County) had provided clinical assessment services to more than 90% of the individuals admitted.

We look forward to your thoughts regarding the degree to which the difference among local programs that are reported here are due to differences in clinical practice and the degree to which they are due to differences in record keeping or reporting practices. We also look forward to your interpretation of these findings and your suggestions for further analysis to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us).

## Clinical Assessment Within Specified Periods of Time After Admission to CMHC Substance Abuse Programs in VT



### Clinical Assessment Within Specified Periods After Admission

	Total	1 day		7 days		30 days		90 days	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Region - Clinic</b>	<b>2,840</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>81%</b>
Addison - CSAC	59	17	29%	21	36%	29	49%	37	63%
Chittenden - HCHS	1,013	723	71%	729	72%	735	73%	748	74%
Southeast - HCRS	288	236	82%	239	83%	252	88%	256	89%
Northeast - NKHS	294	260	88%	263	89%	267	91%	267	91%
Orange - CMC	527	470	89%	482	91%	485	92%	487	92%
Rutland - RMHS	407	276	68%	281	69%	287	71%	295	72%
Bennington - UCS	252	194	77%	195	77%	196	78%	197	78%

Analysis is based on monthly service reports submitted by Vermont's community service providers. This report includes individuals who were admitted into the Substance Abuse program; during July 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004.