

## 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 and Barbara Carroll

DATE: June 26, 2009

RE: DCF Custody and Young Adult Homelessness

This week's brief report focuses on the relationship between two Vermont human service caseloads. The first caseload includes children (under 18 years of age) in state custody for delinquency or child protection at some time during 2000-2007. The second caseload includes young adults (aged 18 to 26) who are known to be homeless at some time during 2008. This report was prepared in response to a request from Ed Johnson, Client Advocate at the Brattleboro Area Drop In Center, at a presentation to the New England Regional Homeless Management Information Training and Policy Symposium in Boston in May, 2009.

Two data sets were used in this analysis. The first data set includes the date of birth, gender, and reason for custody for young adults (aged 18-26 during 2008) who had been in the custody of the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) during 2000-2007. The second data set includes the date of birth and gender of young adults represented in an integrated Vermont homeless database that includes information from the 2008 AHS Emergency Shelter database, the 2008 Service Point Balance of State HMIS database, the Housing Works HMIS database for projects ending in 2008, and the January 2008 Vermont Point in Time homeless survey. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine the unduplicated number of people represented in each data set, and the unduplicated number of people shared by the two data sets.

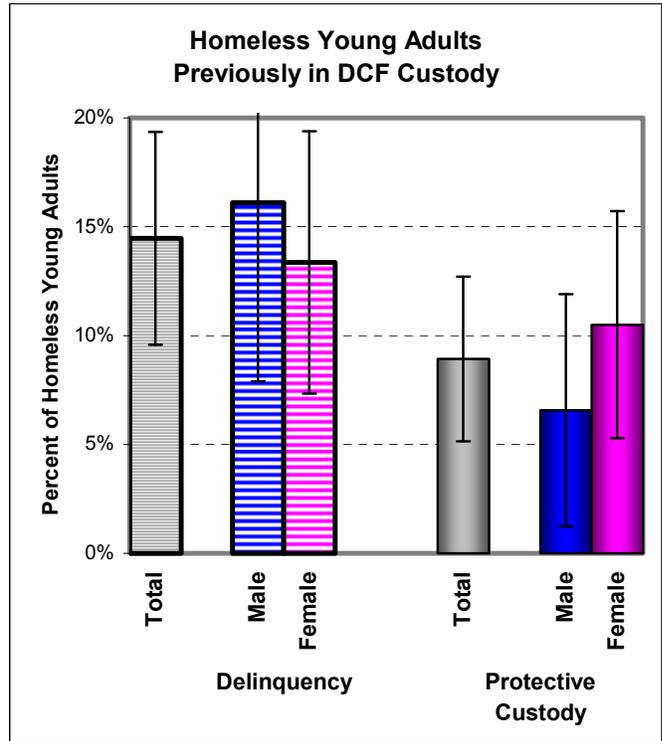
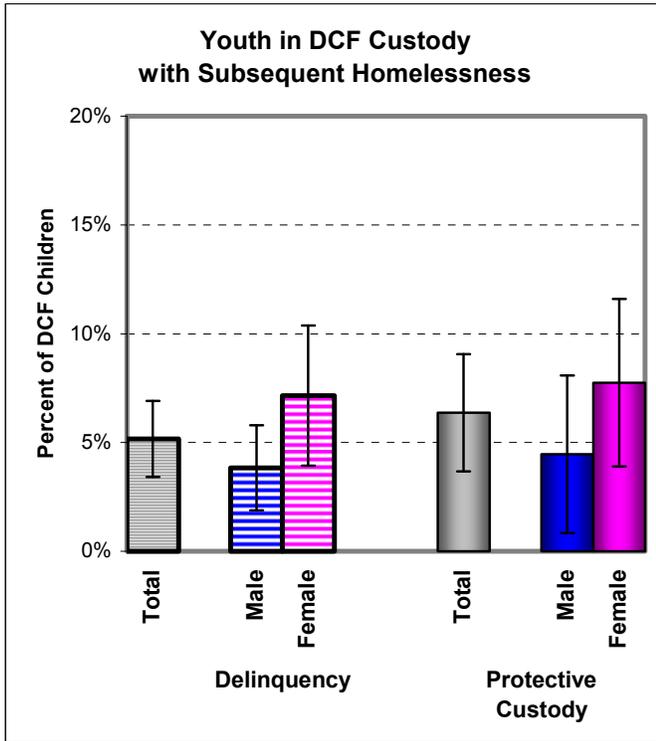
Overall, 5.2% of DCF children in custody for delinquency and 6.4% of DCF children in protective custody during 2000 – 2007 became homeless as young adults. Girls who had been in custody for delinquency were significantly and substantially more likely to be homeless as young adults than boys who had been in custody for delinquency (7.2% vs. 3.8% respectively). Girls who had been in protective custody were substantially, but not significantly, more likely to be homeless as young adults than boys who had been in protective custody (7.7% vs. 4.5% respectively).

Overall, 14.5% of young adults who were homeless in 2008 had previously been in custody for delinquency and 8.9% had previously been in protective custody. Young women who were homeless were substantially but not significantly more likely than young men who were homeless to have been in protective custody. There was no difference in the rate at which young women and young men who were homeless in 2008 had been in custody for delinquency.

We look forward to your comments and your suggestions for further analyses of these data (pip@vdh.state.vt.us or (802)863-7249).

# DCF Custody in 2000-2007 and Homelessness in 2008

## Movement between Two Vermont Human Service Caseloads



### Unduplicated Counts of Individuals

### Caseload Overlap

	DCF 2000-2007	Homeless 2008	Number	% of DCF	% of Homeless
<b>Delinquency</b>					
Total	2,662 ± 51	950 ± 18	137 ± 46	5.2% ± 1.7%	14.5% ± 4.9%
Male	1,600 ± 43	381 ± 10	61 ± 31	3.8% ± 2.0%	16.1% ± 8.2%
Female	1,063 ± 28	569 ± 15	76 ± 34	7.2% ± 3.2%	13.4% ± 6.0%
<b>Protective Custody</b>					
Total	1,333 ± 26	950 ± 18	85 ± 36	6.4% ± 2.7%	8.9% ± 3.8%
Male	561 ± 15	381 ± 10	25 ± 20	4.5% ± 3.6%	6.6% ± 5.3%
Female	771 ± 21	569 ± 15	60 ± 30	7.7% ± 3.8%	10.5% ± 5.2%

Analysis is based on the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF) client database covering the period 2000 through 2007, and on an integrated Vermont homeless database including information from the AHS Emergency Shelter database, the Service Point Balance of State HMIS database, the Housing Works HMIS database, and the January 2008 Vermont Point in Time homeless survey. Analysis includes all persons aged 18-26 in CY2008.

Because data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals).

Analysis performed by the Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project