

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: June 2, 2006

RE: 2004 Inpatient Behavioral Health Utilization

The Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project has begun data analysis in preparation for the 2004 edition of our annual report on "Inpatient Behavioral Health Care Services Provided to Vermont Residents." This report will include a detailed description of service utilization patterns for the fifteen-year period, 1990-2004. This week's PIP provides three basic measures of inpatient mental health and substance abuse service utilization in Vermont and New Hampshire by Vermont residents during that time period. These measures include the number of episodes of care, the number of patient days, and the unduplicated number of individuals served.

This report is based on analysis of existing databases provided by the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont State Hospital, and the Brattleboro Retreat (Vermont's only private psychiatric hospital). The data provided by the Department of Health were extracted from Vermont's Hospital Discharge Data Set (a data set available in most states) that includes detailed (but de-identified) information regarding all episodes of hospitalization for Vermont residents that occur in general hospitals and veterans' hospitals in Vermont and New Hampshire. As of this writing, inpatient data for Vermont residents hospitalized in Massachusetts or neighboring counties of New York during 2004 have not yet been provided to the Vermont Department of Health. In order to provide a valid comparison of inpatient utilization over time, utilization for all years have been adjusted to exclude hospitalizations that occurred in Massachusetts or neighboring counties of New York. Numbers of episodes of care and patient days are based on direct counts. The exclusion of New Hampshire and New York hospitals from this report has decreased the total number of episodes and the total number of patient days in previous years by between 1% and 4%. The total unduplicated number of people served did not change because the data needed to complete the statistical estimation was not provided by the other states.

Unduplicated counts of individuals served are estimates provided by Probabilistic Population Estimation because the data sets used in this analysis do not include unique person identifiers.

As you will see, the number of episodes of inpatient care for 2004 continued a long term upward trend. The number of patient days for 2004 was similar to the numbers of patient days for the past 6 years and substantially lower than during the prior years. The

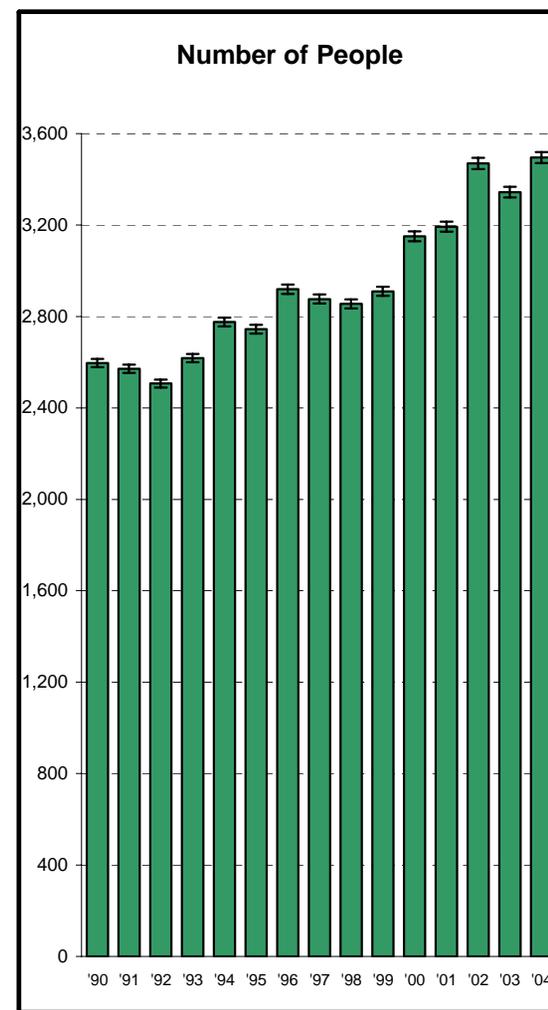
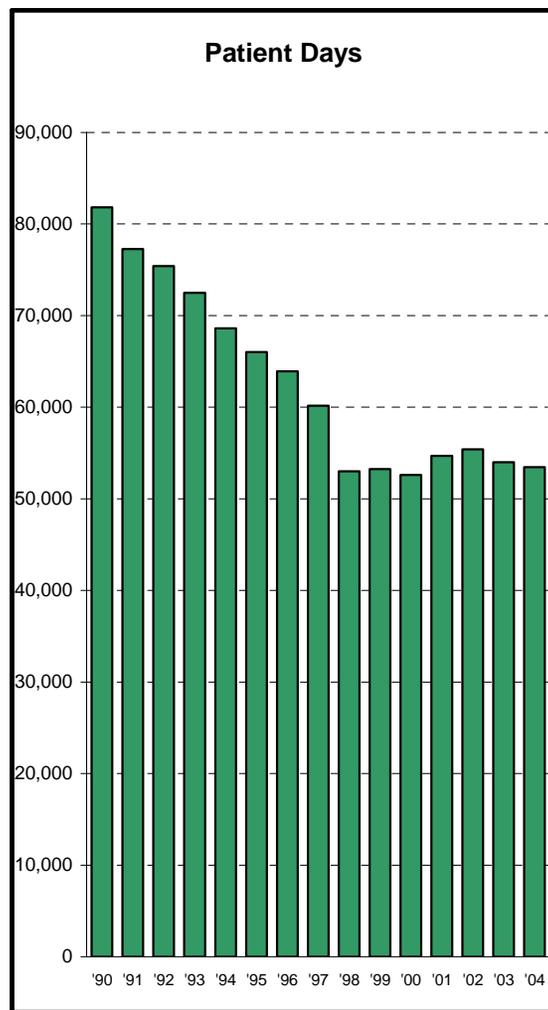
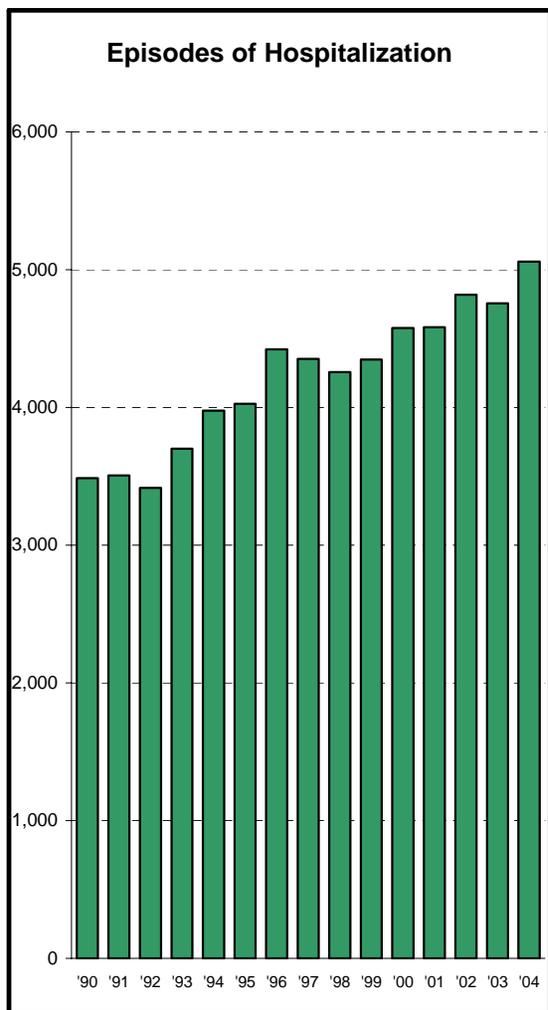
unduplicated number of individualized hospitalized during 2004 was similar to the unduplicated count for 2002 but substantially higher than during the prior years.

It is important to keep in mind that these utilization numbers have not been adjusted for increases in the population of Vermont over the fifteen years covered by this report.

We look forward to your interpretations of these findings and your suggestions for future analysis of this very rich data set to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or call 802-863-7249.

INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Provided To Vermont Residents During 1990 - 2004 (VT & NH Hospitals)



Prepared by the Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Inpatient Behavior Health Care Services
 Provided to Vermont Residents During 1990-2004
 Vermont & New Hampshire Hospitals Only

Year	Episodes of Hospitalization	Patient Days	Number of People
2004	5,058	53,456	3,495 ± 24
2003	4,757	54,003	3,344 ± 23
2002	4,819	55,394	3,469 ± 24
2001	4,583	54,694	3,193 ± 22
2000	4,576	52,611	3,151 ± 22
1999	4,349	53,243	2,910 ± 20
1998	4,257	53,015	2,855 ± 20
1997	4,352	60,157	2,876 ± 20
1996	4,422	63,913	2,919 ± 20
1995	4,026	66,017	2,744 ± 19
1994	3,976	68,603	2,776 ± 20
1993	3,700	72,491	2,618 ± 18
1992	3,416	75,412	2,506 ± 17
1991	3,506	77,264	2,571 ± 18
1990	3,486	81,813	2,596 ± 18

Information is derived from the Hospital Discharge Data Set maintained by the Vermont Health Department, and database extracts provided by the Brattleboro Retreat and Vermont State Hospital.

The State of Vermont does not have unique client identifiers, for this reason Probabilistic Population Estimation has been used to provide unduplicated counts of people served (with 95% confidence intervals).