

# Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department of Mental Health  
103 South Main Street, Waterbury Vermont 05671

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

FROM: John Pandiani and Barbara Carroll

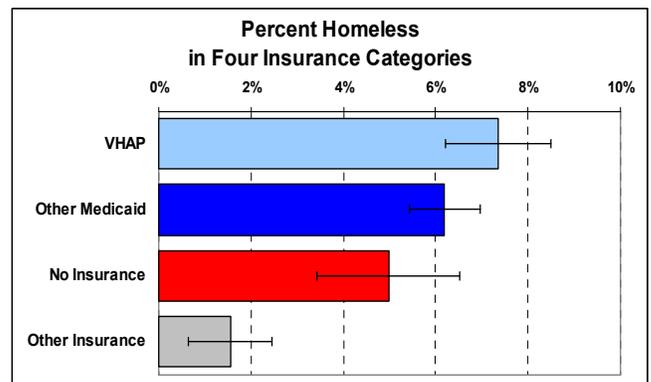
DATE: March 12, 2010

RE: Homelessness among VHAP and Other MH/SA Service Recipients

The report was prepared in response to a request for information from Shawn Terrell at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services regarding rates of homelessness among adult recipients of mental health or substance abuse services who were insured under the Vermont Health Access Program (VHAP) Medicaid managed care program, a health insurance program for adults 18 years old and older who do not have health insurance and do not qualify for standard Medicaid or Medicare.

This report is based on analysis of anonymous extracts from databases maintained by Vermont's community mental health programs and by Vermont's homeless programs. Information from community mental health programs includes type of insurance, date of birth, and gender for adult service recipients in FY2009. Information from the homeless databases includes date of birth and gender of all individuals represented in the state's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) databases or the state's Point in Time (PIT) homeless database for July 2008 through May 2009.

Because these data do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation<sup>1,2</sup> (PPE) was used to determine the unduplicated number of people with VHAP insurance who received mental health or substance abuse services during FY2009 and also received homeless services during the same period. Adults with regular Medicaid, other insurance, and no insurance were included in this analysis in order to provide a basis for comparison.



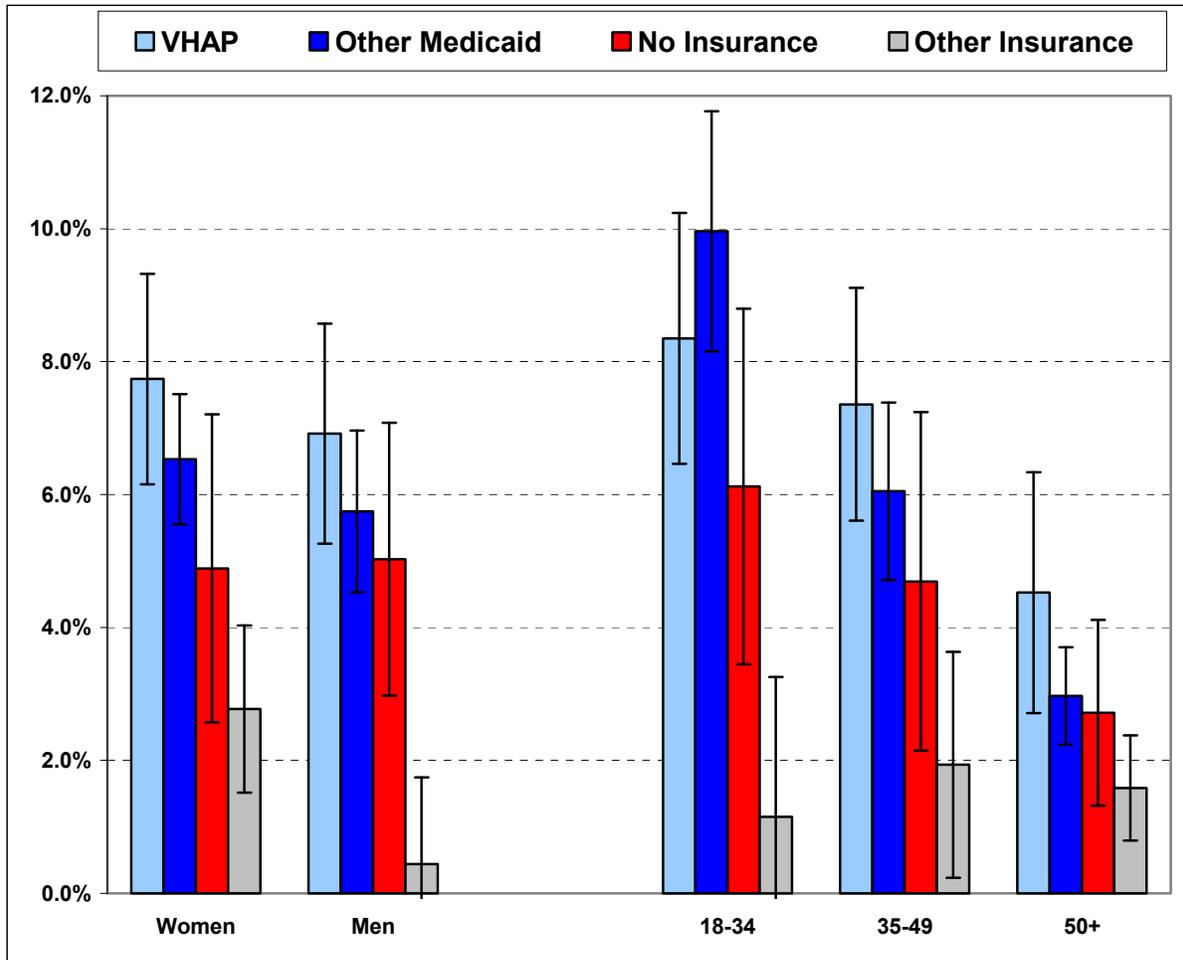
Results indicate that 7.4% ( $\pm 1.1\%$ ) of adult CMH VHAP service recipients were homeless at some time during FY2009. CMHC service recipients with other Medicaid had the second highest homeless rate with 6.2% ( $\pm 0.8\%$ ), followed by uninsured services recipients with 5% ( $\pm 1.5\%$ ), and non-Medicaid insurance coverage service recipients with 1.5% ( $\pm 0.9\%$ ).

We look forward to your suggestions for further analysis of these data. Please send your questions, comments, and interpretation of these findings to 802-241-4049 or [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us).

<sup>1</sup> Probabilistic Population Estimation of the Size and Overlap of Data Sets Based on Date of Birth. *Statistics in Medicine* 20: 1421-1430 May 2001. (Banks and Pandiani)

<sup>2</sup> Personal Privacy vs. Public Accountability: A Technological Solution to an Ethical Dilemma. *Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research* 25: 456-463 November 1998. (Pandiani, Banks, and Schacht)

## Vermont Adult Mental Health & Substance Abuse Service Recipients Percent Homeless within Insurance Categories FY2009



Analysis is based on FY2009 Monthly Service Reports (MSR) data submitted to the Vermont Department of Mental Health by the designated agencies, and data from several Vermont Homeless databases for the period from July 2008 through May 2009 (including AHS Emergency Shelter, HMIS service point, and January 2009 Point in Time survey). MSR data include all adults who were served by Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs for adults with serious mental illness, Adult Mental Health Outpatient (AOP) programs for adults who do not have prolonged serious disabilities but who are experiencing emotional, behavioral, or adjustment problems severe enough to warrant professional attention, Substance Abuse (SA) programs for those with alcohol and/or drug abuse problems, and Emergency programs for those who are experiencing an acute mental health crisis.

VHAP is a health insurance program for adults 18 years old and older who do not have health insurance and do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare. Eligibility depends on income and other factors. VHAP covers a wide range of services including hospital care and doctor visits.

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). For methodological detail see: Banks and Pandiani (2001) Probabilistic Population Estimation of the Size and Overlap of Data Sets Based on Date of Birth. *Statistics in Medicine* 20: 1421-1430. For more information, contact John Pandiani at 802-241-4049 or [john.pandiani@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:john.pandiani@ahs.state.vt.us).

## Vermont Adult Mental Health & Substance Abuse Service Recipients Percent Homeless within Insurance Categories FY2009

	<u>VHAP</u>		<u>Medicaid (Not VHAP)</u>		<u>No Insurance</u>		<u>Other Insurance</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Homeless</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Homeless</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Homeless</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% Homeless</u>
<b>Total</b>	3,620 ± 31	7.4% ± 1.1%	5,800 ± 42	6.2% ± 0.8%	1,780 ± 15	5.0% ± 1.5%	4,624 ± 33	1.5% ± 0.9%
<b>Women</b>	1,930 ± 23	7.7% ± 1.6%	3,313 ± 33	6.5% ± 1.0%	708 ± 8	4.9% ± 2.3%	2,193 ± 21	2.8% ± 1.3%
<b>Men</b>	1,690 ± 20	6.9% ± 1.7%	2,486 ± 26	5.7% ± 1.2%	1,072 ± 13	5.0% ± 2.1%	2,431 ± 25	0.4% ± 1.3%
<b>Age</b>								
<b>18-34</b>	1,798 ± 24	8.3% ± 1.9%	1,870 ± 25	10.0% ± 1.8%	871 ± 12	6.1% ± 2.7%	1,519 ± 21	1.1% ± 2.1%
<b>35-49</b>	1,191 ± 17	7.4% ± 1.8%	1,832 ± 26	6.0% ± 1.3%	531 ± 8	4.7% ± 2.5%	1,393 ± 19	1.9% ± 1.7%
<b>50+</b>	631 ± 9	4.5% ± 1.8%	2,097 ± 23	3.0% ± 0.7%	378 ± 4	2.7% ± 1.4%	1,712 ± 17	1.6% ± 0.8%

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