

**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 Brennan Martin

DATE: March 23, 2007

RE: CY2006 VSH Utilization

This week's PIP report provides a comparison of two frequently reported measures of Vermont State Hospital (VSH) utilization: "in-house census" and "total census". The analysis was originally conducted in response to a request for information from Stephanie Barrett of the Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office.

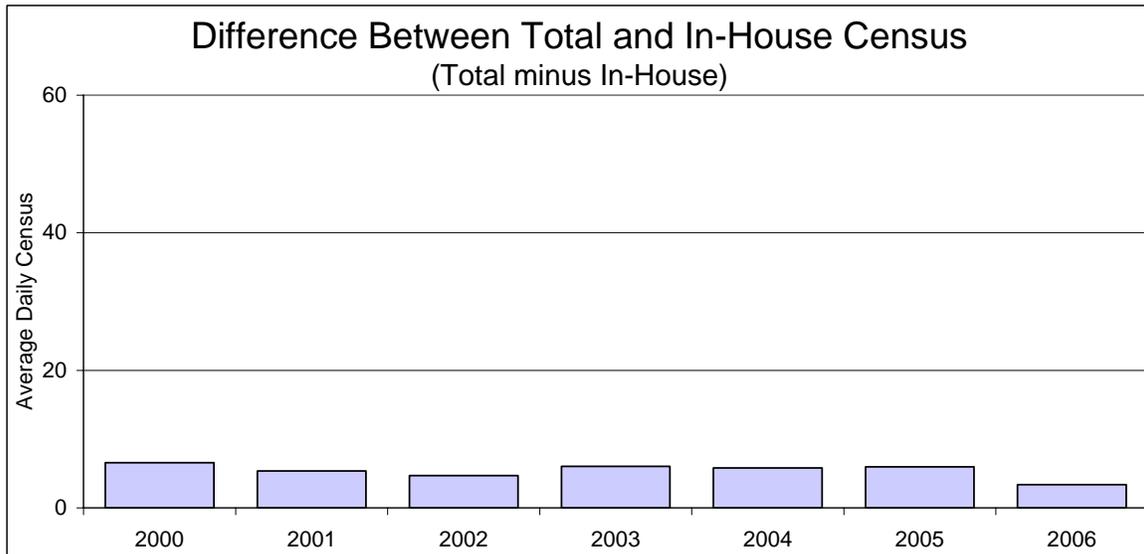
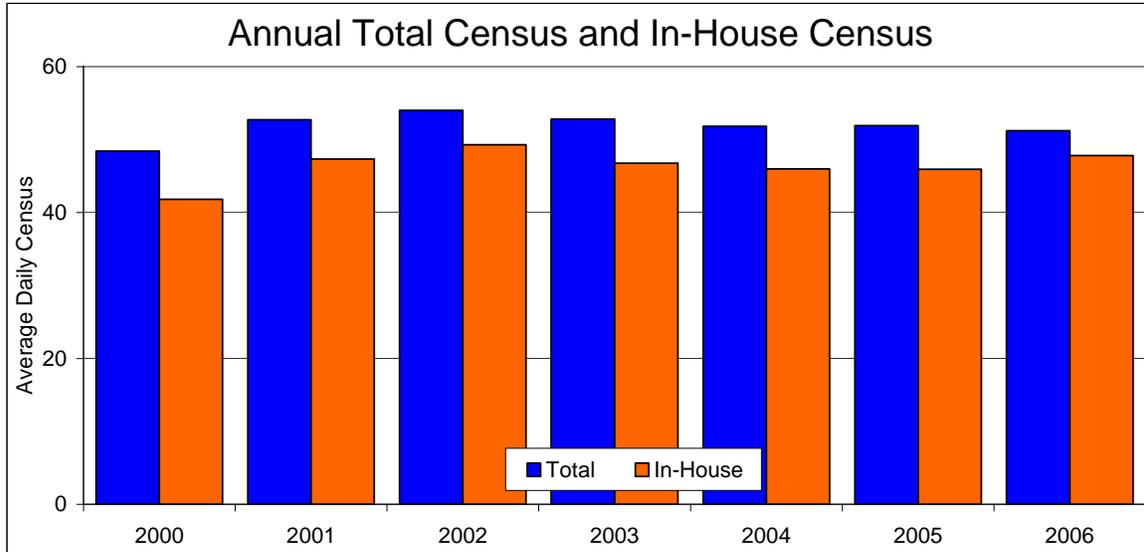
For purposes of statistical reporting, in-house census includes all VSH patients who were physically in VSH at the end of the reporting day. Total VSH census includes all VSH patients who were admitted to VSH on or before the reporting day and had not been discharged before midnight of the reporting day. Total VSH census includes individuals on short visits to community settings, individuals temporarily in other inpatient facilities for medical care, and individuals on pre-placement visits to the community (with the exception of individuals who successfully complete pre-placement visits and whose discharge is retroactive to the day they left VSH). The in-house census is always somewhat lower than the total census. A third measure of VSH census that is used to track "available beds" includes all in-house patients as well as patients who are not at VSH but are scheduled to return shortly and excludes individuals on pre-placement visits. This measure is not included in the analysis reported here.

Data regarding in-house census are available for April 1999 to the present. Data regarding total VSH census are available for January 1982 to the present. For this reason, long term comparisons of VSH census are always based on total census.

As you will see, the VSH average daily total census for 2000 through 2006 varied between 48 and 54 patients per day. During these same years, the VSH average daily in-house census varied between 42 and 49 patients. The difference between the total average daily census and the average daily in-house census during these years varied from 6.6 in 2000 to 3.4 in 2006.

We look forward to your questions, your comments, and your suggestions for further analysis. Please forward your comments and suggestions to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or 802.863.7249.

## Vermont State Hospital Average Daily Census: FY 2000-2006 A Comparison of Two Measures



Average Daily Census	FISCAL YEAR						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total	48.4	52.7	54.0	52.8	51.8	51.9	51.2
In-House	41.8	47.3	49.3	46.8	46.0	45.9	47.8
Difference	6.6	5.4	4.7	6.0	5.8	6.0	3.4

This report is based on analysis of the Vermont State Hospital Treatment Episode database and the Vermont State Hospital In-House Census database. The VSH In-House Census includes only those VSH clients who are in VSH at the end of the reporting day. The VSH In-House Census database includes data from April 1999 to the present. The VSH Total Census includes all individuals who had been admitted but not discharged from VSH, including individuals who are on pre-placement visits. When pre-placements are transitioned into community placement, individuals are retroactively discharged to the date they left VSH. The VSH Total Census database includes data from January 1982 to the present.