

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: March 24, 2006

RE: Age of CMHC and Corrections Clients during FY2005

On December 23, 2005, the Vermont Performance Indicator Project distributed a brief report on the "Age of CMHC Clients by Program FY1989 - FY2004" (<http://www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/docs/pips/2005/pip122305.pdf>). In response to that report, Bob Bick (Director of Adult Behavioral Health Services at Howard Center for Human Services) requested additional information regarding the size and age distribution of the juvenile justice and adult correctional population in Vermont. This week's PIP report responds to those questions by providing information on the relative size of Vermont's CMHC and child and adult correctional caseloads, and by providing information about the caseload overlap between these two service sectors.

Data for this analysis were obtained from three sources. Information regarding the community mental health caseload (including both mental health and substance abuse) was obtained from the Monthly Service Report (MSR) data provided to DMH by designated community agencies. Data regarding Vermont's adult correctional caseload (including probation, parole, and incarceration) were obtained from the Vermont Department of Corrections. Data regarding the juvenile corrections caseload (including all "delinquent" youth) were obtained from the Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF). Because the data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine the unduplicated number of individuals who were served by each service sector and the unduplicated number of individuals who were on the caseload of both service sectors.

During FY2005, a total of 24,179 individuals aged 5 to 70 were served by community mental health programs and a total of 20,960 individuals in this same age range were on the caseload of the state's adults and juvenile corrections caseloads. In total, 40,142 unduplicated individuals were served by one or both of these service systems. As you will see, the size of the mental health and the corrections caseloads varies substantially with age. Overall, the mental health caseload was larger than the combined corrections caseload for individuals who were 5 to 18 years of age in 2005 and for individuals more than 46 years of age. In the 20 to 46 age group, the corrections caseload was larger.

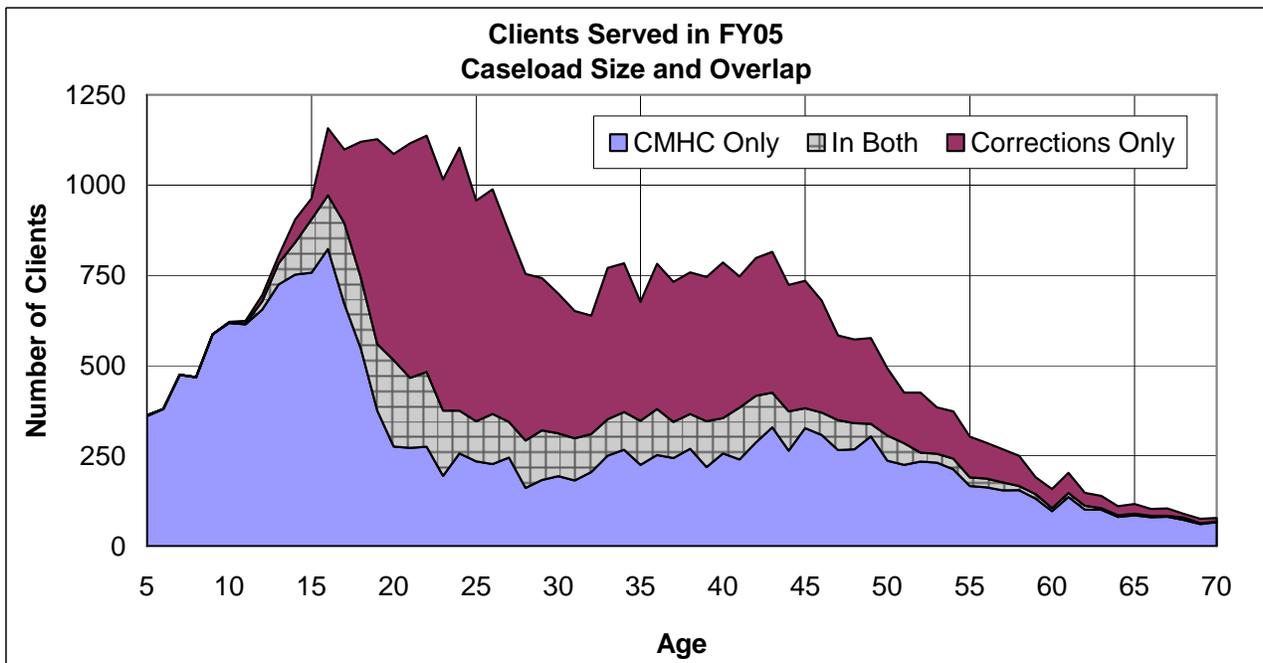
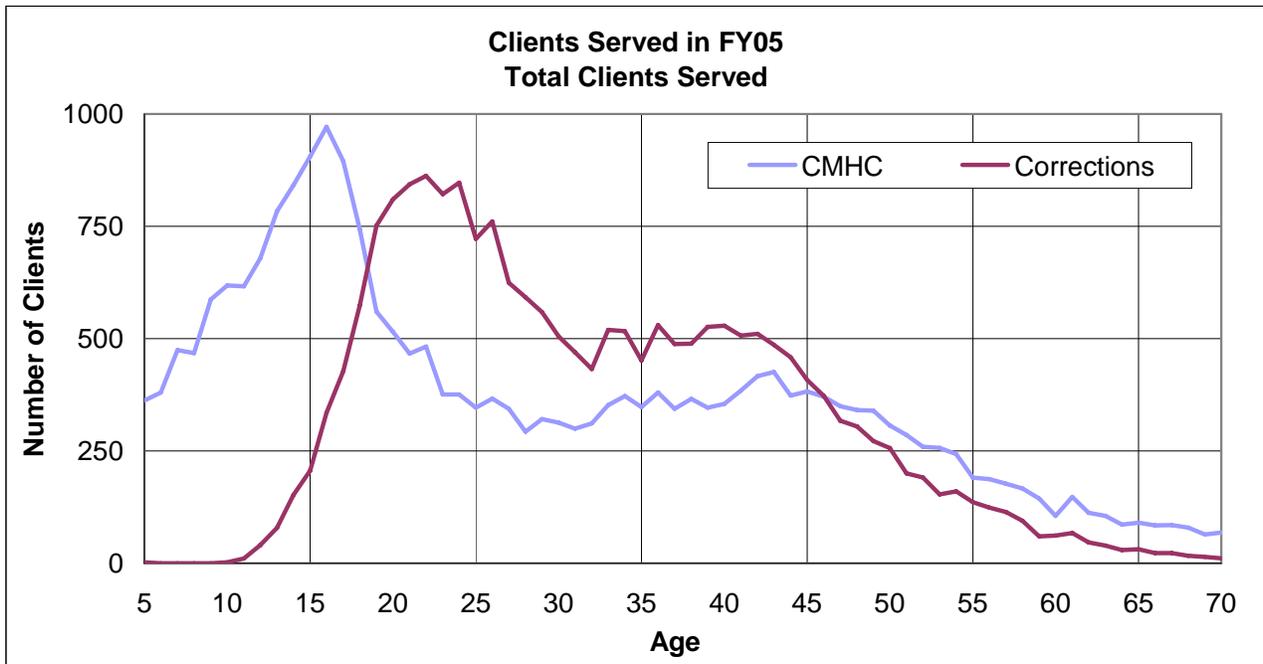
The Vermont community mental health caseload for children who were 5 years old was already substantial (more than 350 served) and continued to grow until age 16 (971 served). After age 16, the CMH caseload decreased rapidly to less than 300 at age 28, grew slowly to more than 425 at age 43, and then decreased slowly to fewer than 70 people who were 70 years of age.

Vermont's combined (juvenile and adult) corrections caseload did not reach 200 until age 15, but then increased to more than 850 at age 20 before declining at age 30. The corrections caseload stabilized at about 500 in the 30 to 42 age range and then decreased slowly to fewer than 15 at age 70.

During FY2005, there was relatively little sharing of cases between community mental health and correctional programs in Vermont. Overall, only 12% of the 40,142 individuals in the combined mental health and corrections caseloads were served by both systems during the year. Caseload overlap was greatest in the 17 to 23 and 28 to 32 year age groups with between 15% and 20% of the total caseload in each age being served by both sectors. Caseload overlap was lowest for individuals 52 years of age and older with less than 10 percent in each age cohort being served by both sectors.

This analysis has focused on a single year. Caseload overlap between mental health and corrections programs over a larger number of years could be substantially different than what was found here.

We look forward to your comments, questions, and suggestions for further analysis to 802.863.7249 or pjp@vdh.state.vt.us.



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