

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Agency of Human Services, Department of Mental Health
26 Terrace Street, Montpelier, VT 05609

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

FROM: John Pandiani and Walter Ochs

DATE: March 30, 2012

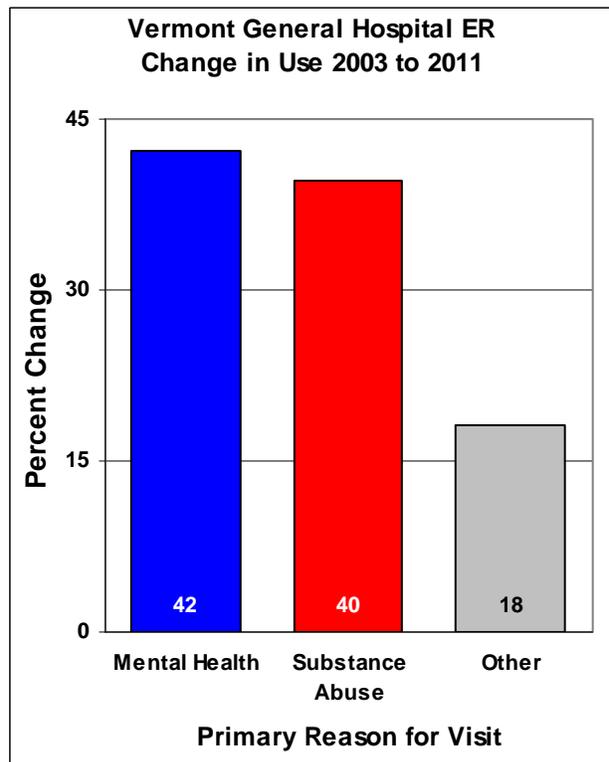
RE: Change in Emergency Room Visits
For Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders

This week's report provides information regarding the change in the numbers of Vermont general hospital emergency room (ER) visits for mental health or substance abuse disorders during calendar years 2003 through 2011.

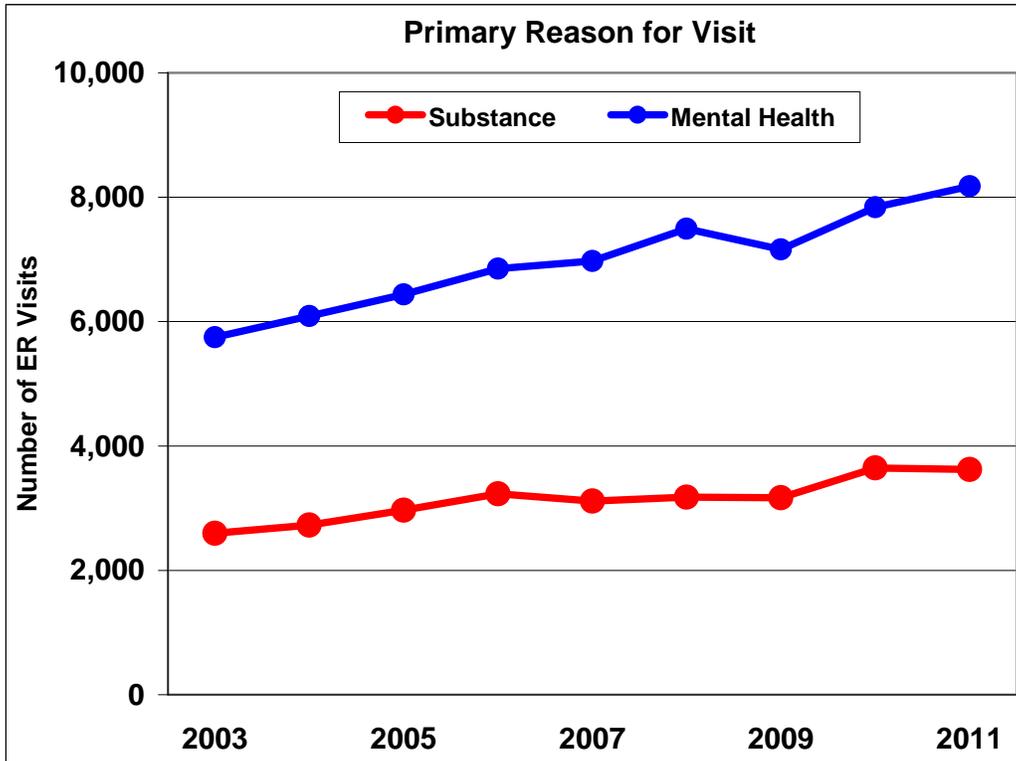
This report is based on analysis of Vermont's Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set for emergency room visits which includes primary reason for the ER visit and the year of the ER visit.

As you will see, the number of Vermont general hospital ER visits for mental health services increased from 5,747 in CY2003 to 8,175 in CY2011 (+42%), and the number of ER visits for substance use disorders increased from 2,597 in CY2003 to 3,623 in CY2011 (+40%) during the same period. All other ER visits increased by only +18% during the period under examination.

We look forward to your questions, comments, interpretation of these findings, and requests for further analyses. As always, we can be reached at pip@state.vt.us or 802-828-1703.



Vermont Hospital Emergency Room Visits For Mental Health and Substance Abuse CY2003-2011



Emergency Room Visits by Calendar Year

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
<u>Primary Reason</u>									
Substance Abuse	2,597	2,727	2,968	3,233	3,113	3,175	3,169	3,646	3,623
Mental Health	5,747	6,091	6,438	6,854	6,976	7,491	7,160	7,839	8,175
<i>all other</i>	213,568	214,395	230,558	238,572	244,576	253,122	250,888	251,446	252,284
<u>Total Number of VT ER Visits</u>	221,912	223,213	239,964	248,659	254,665	263,788	261,217	262,931	264,082

Analysis based on the Uniform Hospital Discharge Dataset maintained by the VT Department of Health. Mental health and substance abuse emergency room "Primary Reason" based on Clinical Classification Software (CCS) "clinically meaningful categories." Substance abuse includes alcohol and substance related disorders. Mental health includes all other categories in the mental health and substance abuse CCS group. Includes resident and non-resident Vermont general hospital emergency room (ER) visits that were discharged during CY2003-2011. The 2011 ER data are provisional.