

## **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 3, 2006

RE: Employment Before and After Substance Abuse Services

Increased employment is one of the ten National Outcome Measures (NOMs) currently being implemented by the US Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This week's brief report compliments our December 30, 2005 report on change in criminal justice involvement (another NOMs measure) for adults who received public substance abuse services by examining change in employment for adults who received public substance abuse services in Vermont during FY2004. The subjects of this analysis are adults who received substance abuse services during July 2004 through March 2005 from DMH designated community service agencies (DAs).

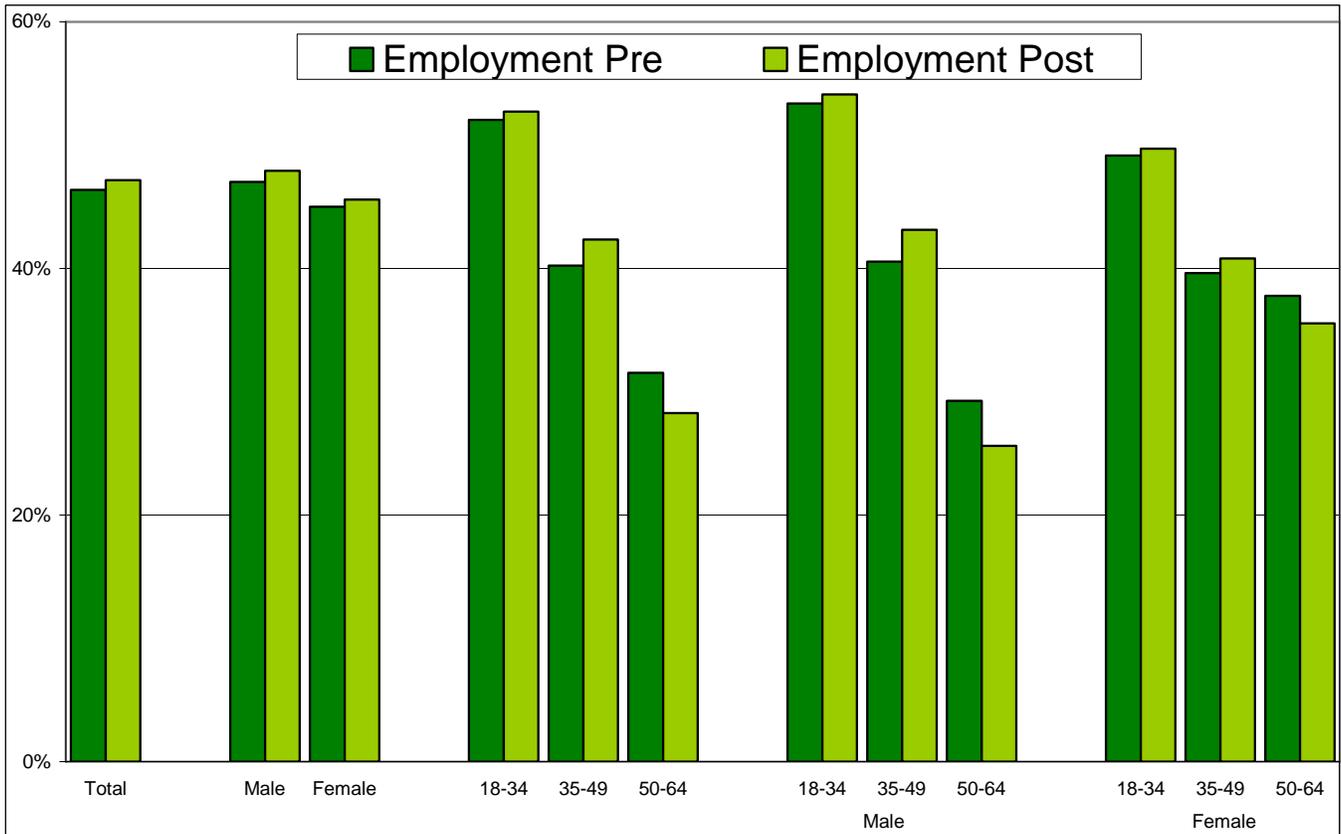
Change in employment is measured by comparing two employment rates: the rate of employment for these individuals during three months before the treatment period and the rate of employment for these same individuals during the three months after the treatment period. Data used in this analysis were obtained from DMH DAs and from the Vermont Department of Employment and Training (DET). The analysis involved the linking of DMH Quarterly Service Report (QSR) data with DET employment data. The DMH database includes client and service information provided by designated agencies in accordance with DMH contracts. The DET database includes employee and wage information submitted by employers in conformance with state and federal unemployment laws. Certain workers are not included in the DET database including self-employed individuals, firm owners not incorporated, and the following employee groups: elected officials, nonprofit religious, charitable and educational organizations, unpaid family members, farm (with some exceptions), and railroad employees. In addition, 28% of the substance abuse service recipients were excluded from this analysis because the MSR data did not include the information necessary for the record linkage.

As you will see, the overall employment rate for these substance abuse service recipients increased slightly during the study period (from 46% to 47%). Employment rates for male and female service recipients changed at similar rates, 47% to 48% for males and 45% to 46% for females. Among age groups, the greatest increase in employment was in the 35-49 age group (from 40% to 42%), and the greatest decrease in employment was in the 50-64 age group (from 32% to 28%).

The employment rates for substance abuse service recipients found here are substantially higher than the rates of criminal charging for substance abuse services recipients we reported in December (almost 50% employed vs. almost 10% charged with a crime). The change in employment, however, is very small compared to the change in criminal justice involvement (2% increase in employment compared to 28% reduction in criminal charging).

We look forward to your comments and questions regarding this analysis, and your suggestions for further analysis regarding the employment of substance abuse service recipients to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or 802.863.7249.

Substance Abuse Clients Served July 2004 - March 2005  
 Employment Quarter Pre (Apr-Jun 2004) and Quarter Post (Apr-Jun 2005) Services



		SA Clients Jul04 - Mar05 # Served	Employment Pre - Quarter Before Service Period		Employment Post - Quarter After Service Period		% Change
			# Employed	% Employed	# Employed	% Employed	
	Total	3,799	1,762	46%	1,792	47%	2%
Gender	Male	2,590	1,218	47%	1,241	48%	2%
	Female	1,209	544	45%	551	46%	1%
Age	18-34	2,223	1,157	52%	1,172	53%	1%
	35-49	1,240	499	40%	525	42%	5%
	50-64	336	106	32%	95	28%	-10%
Male	18-34	1,523	813	53%	824	54%	1%
	35-49	821	333	41%	354	43%	6%
	50-64	246	72	29%	63	26%	-13%
Female	18-34	700	344	49%	348	50%	1%
	35-49	419	166	40%	171	41%	3%
	50-64	90	34	38%	32	36%	-6%

Analysis based on monthly service reports submitted to DMH by community mental health centers and data provided by the Department of Employment and Training (DET).