

**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 Brennan Martin

DATE: March 5, 2010

RE: Veterans in the Vermont State Hospital

This brief report provides an overview of the rate at which Vermont armed forces veterans received inpatient services from the Vermont State Hospital (VSH) during CY2000-2009. This report also compares veterans' utilization rates with non-veterans' utilization rates overall, and for age and gender categories. This analysis was conducted as part Vermont's participation in the NASMHPD Research Institute (NRI) DIG/URS Workgroup on Returning Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, and Their Families.

Data regarding people served by VSH during the study period were extracted from the VSH treatment episode database for the years under examination. Data regarding veteran status (veteran or not veteran) were reported for 906 patients, 62% of the 1,450 individuals served during CY2000-2009. Information regarding the number of Vermont resident veterans, overall and for age and gender groups, was obtained from the US Department of Veterans Affairs website.<sup>1</sup> Estimates of the total population of Vermont for age and gender groups were obtained from the Vermont Department of Health website.<sup>2</sup>

Analysis of these data indicates that, overall, veterans were served by VSH at about the same rate as other members of the adult population of Vermont (1.9 per thousand veterans compared to 1.8 per thousand non-veterans). There were, however, substantial differences in relative hospitalization rates of female veterans compared to the relative hospitalization rates for male veterans. Female veterans were 60% more likely than other women in the general population to be hospitalized at VSH, while male veterans were 30% less likely than other men in the general population to be hospitalized at VSH.

The findings reported here are based on a relatively small number of observations and should be considered in that light. The findings reported here, however, do suggest the potential value of expanding the scope of this inquiry to include other states.

We look forward to your questions, comments, and suggestions for further analyses. As always we can be reached at [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or 802.241.4049.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/docs/VP2007\\_state.htm](http://www1.va.gov/vetdata/docs/VP2007_state.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://healthvermont.gov/research/2008pop.aspx>

**Veterans and Non-Veterans in Vermont State Hospital  
Adult Vermont Residents: CY2000 - 2009**

Age *	Total VSH Patients	Veterans				Non-Veterans				Relative Rate
		VSH Patients		Vermont Residents **	Hospitalized per 1,000	VSH Patients		Vermont Residents **	Hospitalized per 1,000	
		#	%			#	%			
Total	906	104	11%	54,306	1.9	802	89%	438,034	1.8	1.0
18-49	589	36	6%	12,421	2.9	553	94%	256,573	2.2	1.3
50+	317	68	21%	41,884	1.6	249	79%	181,462	1.4	1.2
Male	613	97	16%	50,596	1.9	516	84%	188,963	2.7	0.7
18-49	421	32	8%	10,700	3.0	389	92%	123,589	3.1	1.0
50+	192	65	34%	39,896	1.6	127	66%	65,374	1.9	0.8
Female	293	7	2%	3,710	1.9	286	98%	249,071	1.1	1.6
18-49	168	4	2%	1,721	2.3	164	98%	132,984	1.2	1.9
50+	125	3	2%	1,989	1.5	122	98%	116,087	1.1	1.4

\* Age calculated as of July 1, 2008.

\*\* Vermont veteran population figures were based on estimates from the US Department of Veterans Affairs for September 30, 2008. Vermont population figures were obtained from the 2008 Vermont Population Estimates published by the Vermont Department of Health.

Based on analysis of the Vermont State Hospital Treatment Episode Database and includes patients who were served from CY2000 to CY2009. Information regarding veteran status was available for 906 (62%) of the 1,450 patients served in this time period, and it is these patients that are included in this analysis.

Relative Rate is the hospitalization rate of veterans divided by the hospitalization rate of non-veterans. A relative rate of 1.6 indicates that veterans are 60% more likely than non-veterans to be hospitalized in the VSH. A relative rate of 0.7 indicates that veterans are 30% less likely than non-veterans to be hospitalized in the VSH.