

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 Barbara Carroll

DATE: May 18, 2007

RE: Co-occurring (SMI/SA) Disorders and Homelessness

This week's brief report continues our examination of homelessness among community mental health service recipients in Vermont by comparing the rates of homelessness for two groups of individuals served by Vermont Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) programs for adults with serious mental illness during FY2006. These groups include individuals identified as having co-occurring substance abuse disorders and those not identified as having co-occurring substance abuse disorders.

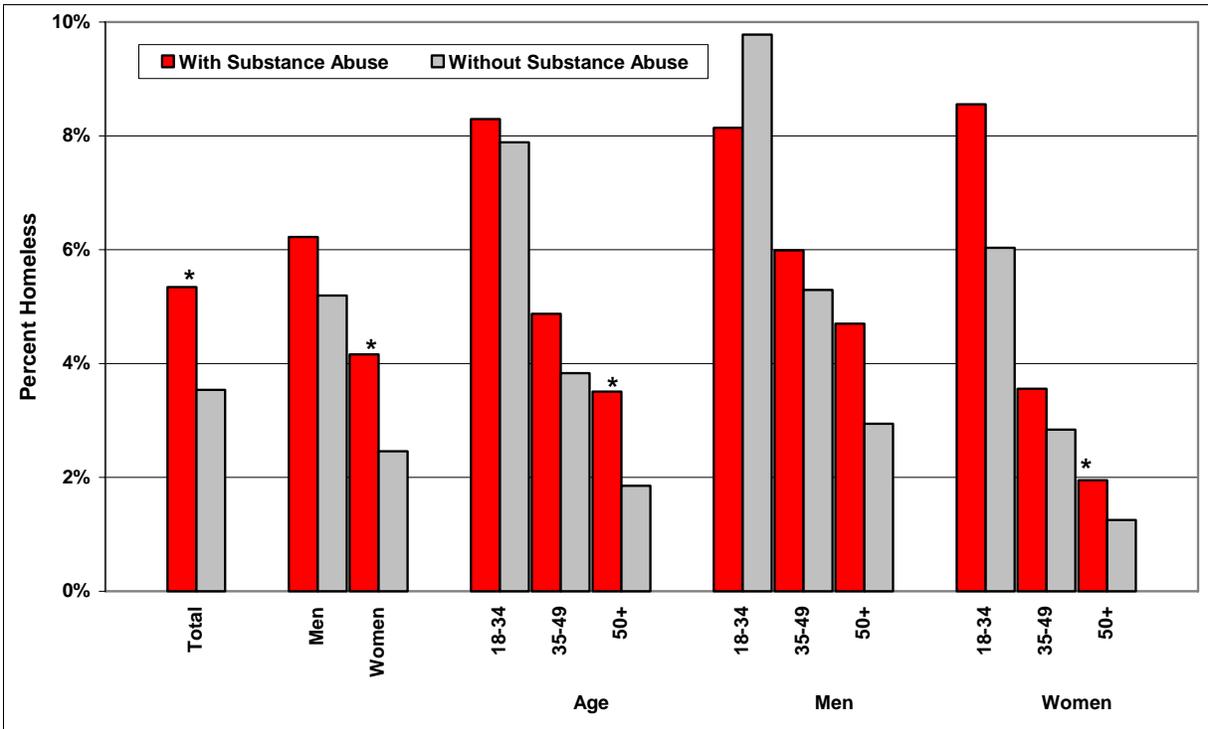
Two data sets were used in this analysis. Monthly Service Reports (MSR) data provided basic demographic information and information regarding co-occurring substance abuse disorders for all individuals served by CRT programs during FY2006. For this analysis, substance abuse disorders were identified by a substance abuse diagnosis or a substance abuse problem identified at intake, or receipt of service from a substance abuse programs in the same community mental health agency. Homelessness was identified using basic demographic data from the point-in-time census of homelessness in Vermont conducted by Vermont Homeless Coalition on January 25, 2007. This census collected basic demographic information as well as information on homeless services received and homeless service needs for individuals who lack a fixed regular and adequate nighttime residence and individuals whose primary residence is a shelter that provides temporary or transitional accommodations. Because the homeless census and MSR database do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of people identified by the homeless census who were also identified as having, or not having, a co-occurring substance abuse disorder in the MSR database.

As you will see, adults served by CRT programs who had been identified as having a co-occurring substance abuse disorder were 1.5 times as likely as other adults served by CRT programs to be homeless (5.3% vs. 3.5%). This pattern was evident for both men and women. Female CRT clients with co-occurring disorders were 1.7 time as likely as other women to be homeless (4.2% vs. 2.5%), and male CRT clients with co-occurring disorders were 1.2 times as likely as other men to be homeless (6.2% vs. 5.2%) although this difference is not a statistically significant. Among age groups, the difference in homelessness between CRT clients with co-occurring disorders and others

was statistically significant only in the 50+ age group overall where people with co-occurring disorders were almost twice (1.9 times) as likely as others to be homeless.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions for further analyses regarding homelessness among mental health and substance abuse service recipients in Vermont. Please send your interpretations of these findings and your suggestions for further analysis of these data to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802.863.7249.

Homelessness Among Adults with Serious Mental Illness with and without Identified Co-occurring Substance Abuse Disorders



Co-occurring Substance Abuse Disorders

| | | Identified | Not Identified | Relative Risk |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Total | 5.3% ± 1.1% | 3.5% ± 0.7% * | 1.5 ± 0.4 |
| | Men | 6.2% ± 1.6% | 5.2% ± 1.2% | 1.2 ± 0.4 |
| | Women | 4.2% ± 1.2% | 2.5% ± 0.8% * | 1.7 ± 0.7 |
| Age | 18-34 | 8.3% ± 2.5% | 7.9% ± 2.5% | 1.1 ± 0.5 |
| | 35-49 | 4.9% ± 1.8% | 3.8% ± 1.4% | 1.3 ± 0.7 |
| | 50+ | 3.5% ± 1.0% | 1.9% ± 0.5% * | 1.9 ± 0.8 |
| Men | 18-34 | 8.1% ± 3.3% | 9.8% ± 3.6% | 0.8 ± 0.5 |
| | 35-49 | 6.0% ± 3.0% | 5.3% ± 2.5% | 1.1 ± 0.8 |
| | 50+ | 4.7% ± 1.8% | 2.9% ± 1.0% | 1.6 ± 0.8 |
| Women | 18-34 | 8.6% ± 3.8% | 6.0% ± 3.4% | 1.4 ± 1.0 |
| | 35-49 | 3.6% ± 1.9% | 2.8% ± 1.6% | 1.3 ± 0.9 |
| | 50+ | 1.9% ± 0.6% | 1.2% ± 0.5% * | 1.6 ± 0.8 |

Analysis is based on extracts from the FY2006 Monthly Service Reports (MSR) submitted to DMH by designated community agencies, and data collected as part of the Vermont point-in-time homeless census conducted on January 25, 2007 by the Vermont State Housing Authority, the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Chittenden Homeless Alliance. The extract from the MSR database includes basic information about adults served by the Community Rehabilitation and Treatment (CRT) program. The extract from the homeless data includes basic information about adults identified by the homeless survey. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals). Because PPE relies on date of birth and gender, records that do not include these data (12% of all records) were excluded from the analyses.

* Indicates statistically significant differences at p<.05