

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

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 Walter Ochs

DATE: May 28, 2010

RE: DMH Vets and VA Vets with Vermont Hospital Emergency Services

This week's brief report provides information on the utilization of Vermont general hospital emergency services by two groups of armed forces veterans: veterans who received mental health and addiction services from the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH) designated community agencies and veterans who received mental health and addiction community services from Vermont's Veterans Health Administration (VA) during CY2007. Vermont hospital emergency service utilization rates are provided for the service year (CY2007), the year before the service year (CY2006), and the year after the service year (CY2008).

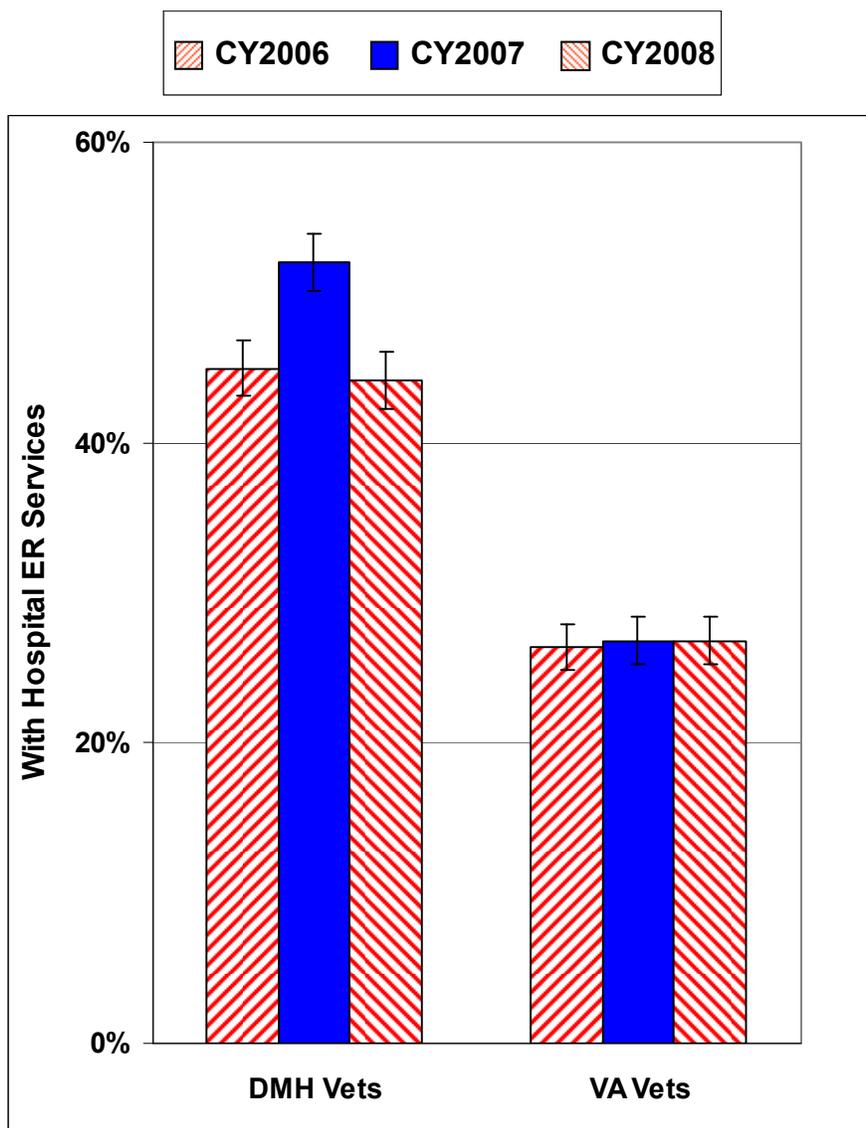
Extracts from three administrative databases were used in this analysis. An extract from the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set provided the date of birth and gender of all adults with Vermont general hospital emergency services during each of the study years. An extract from the Vermont DMH Monthly Service Report database provided the date of birth and gender for all veterans who were served by a DMH designated community agency during 2007. An extract from Vermont's VA service database the same information for all individuals served during 2007. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the unduplicated number of individuals in the VA data set and the unduplicated number of individuals in the DMH data set who were also represented in the Vermont general hospital emergency data set for each of the three years under examination.

As you will see, DMH veterans were substantially more likely than VA veterans to receive hospital emergency services during the study period, averaging 47% per year for DMH veterans compared to 27% per year for VA veterans.

It is also interesting to note that hospital emergency service utilization for DMH veterans was substantially higher during the service year (52%) than during the year before the service year or the year after the service year (45% and 44% respectively).

We look forward to your interpretation of these findings, questions, comments, and requests for further analyses. As always, we can be reached at pip@ahs.state.vt.us or 802-241-4049.

Vermont General Hospital Emergency Services During 2006-2008 to Vets with DMH and VA Services During 2007



	<u>DMH Vets</u>	<u>VA Vets</u>
Number of Individuals	693 ± 3	1,640 ± 8
% with VT ER Visits		
During 2006	45% ± 2%	26% ± 2%
During 2007	52% ± 2%	27% ± 2%
During 2008	44% ± 2%	27% ± 2%

This report is based on analysis of the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set maintained by the Vermont Department of Health, Monthly Service Report data submitted to the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH) by the designated agencies, and data provided by the Vermont Veterans Health Administration (VA). Analysis includes veterans who received outpatient mental health and addiction services from DMH designated community agencies and veterans with community mental health and addiction services from the VA during CY2007. Hospital emergency service data include visits to Vermont general hospitals during CY2006-CY2008.

Because data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine caseload size and overlap (with 95% confidence intervals).