

## Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department 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 Walter Ochs

DATE: November 13, 2009

RE: Vets with Criminal Charges Before and After Treatment

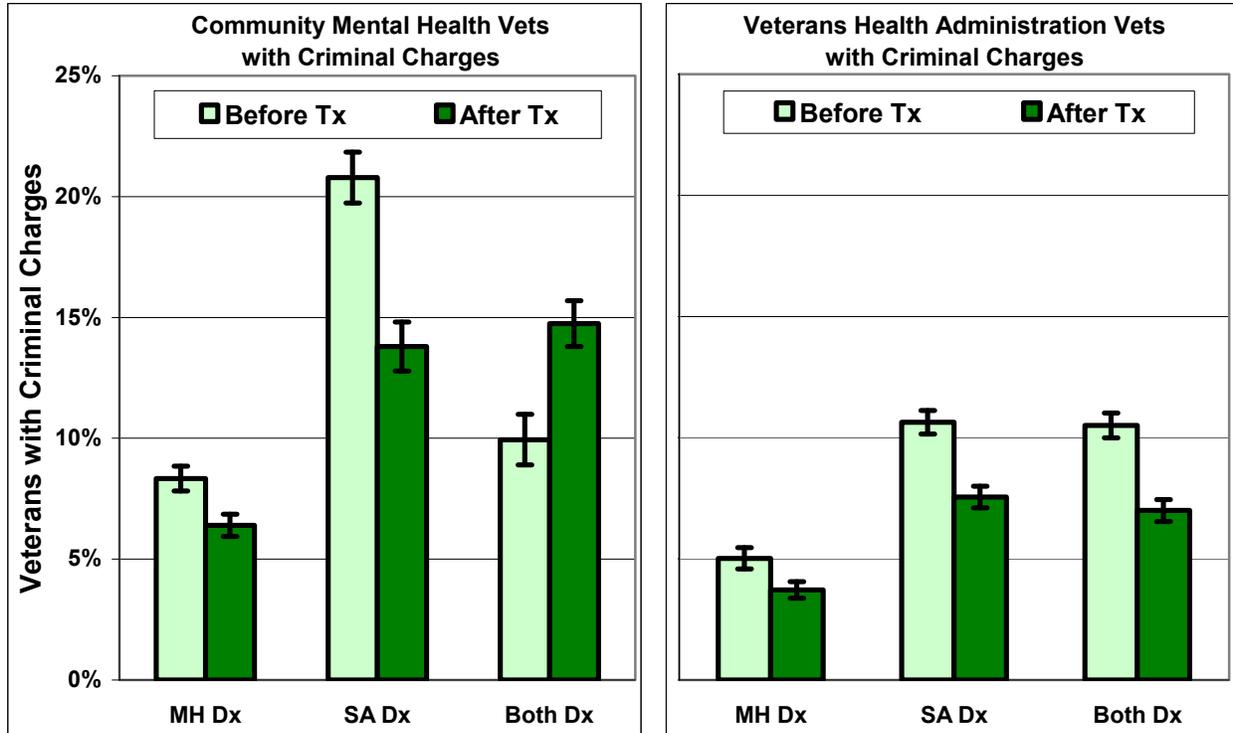
This brief report compares the rate at which veterans who received mental health and/or substance abuse services during calendar year 2007 were charged with a crime during the year before the treatment year with the rate at which the same individuals were charged with a crime during the year after the same treatment year. As such, this report provides a measure of treatment outcomes. This comparison is provided for veterans who were served by Vermont's designated community mental health centers (CMHC) and for veterans served by Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) programs in Vermont. In addition, this comparison is provided for three diagnostic categories (mental health, substance abuse, and both diagnoses) within each service sector. Previous brief reports on veteran's topics are available at: <http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/report/pip/topic#veterans>.

Data for this analysis were drawn from three sources. Basic demographic and client information (date of birth, gender, veteran status, and diagnosis) for CMHC service recipients were extracted from Monthly Service Report data provided to the Department of Mental Health by designated community providers for 2007. The same information for VHA mental health and/or substance abuse service recipients were extracted from Vermont's VHA database for 2007. Finally, demographic information and type of offense for all individuals charged with a crime in a Vermont District Court during 2006 and 2008 was provided by the Vermont Center for Justice Research. Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine the unduplicated number of individuals represented in each data sets and the unduplicated number shared by pairs of the data sets.

As you will see, veterans with a mental health diagnosis and veterans with a substance abuse diagnosis served during 2007 experienced significant reductions in criminal charging in both the CMHC service sector (-23% and -34% respectively) and the VHA service sector (-26% and -29% respectively). Among veterans with both mental health and substance abuse diagnoses, however, veterans served by the CMHC service sector experienced increased criminal charging while veterans served by the VHA service sector experienced decreased criminal charging.

We look forward to your comments and your suggestions for further analyses of these data. As always, you can reach us by e-mail at [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or by phone at 802-863-7249.

## Criminal Charges Before and After Treatment Armed Forces Veterans with MH Dx, SA Dx or Both in Two VT Systems of Care During 2007



	Community Mental Health Veterans by Diagnostic Group*			Veterans Health Administration Veterans by Diagnostic Group*		
	MH Dx	SA Dx	Both Dx	MH Dx	SA Dx	Both Dx
<b>Number of Veterans</b>	459 ± 3	300 ± 2	127 ± 1	1,413 ± 7	419 ± 3	368 ± 3
<b>% with Charges</b>						
Before	8.3% ± 0.5%	20.8% ± 1.1%	9.9% ± 1.0%	5.0% ± 0.4%	10.6% ± 0.5%	10.5% ± 0.5%
After	6.4% ± 0.5%	13.8% ± 1.0%	14.7% ± 0.9%	3.7% ± 0.3%	7.6% ± 0.4%	7.0% ± 0.5%
<b>%Change</b>	-23% ± 7%	-34% ± 6%	48% ± 18%	-26% ± 9%	-29% ± 5%	-33% ± 5%

\*Diagnostic Groups are not mutually exclusive and individuals may be in more than one group.

This analysis is based on anonymous extracts from data bases maintained by the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Vermont Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Vermont Center for Justice Research. The DMH data includes basic demographic, diagnosis, and veteran status information of individuals served by a Vermont Community Mental Health Center during CY2007. The VHA data includes basic demographic and diagnosis information of individuals who received mental health and/or substance abuse services from the VHA during CY2007. The Justice Research data includes basic demographic information of individuals with charges in a VT District Court during CY2006 and CY2008.

Because these data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation (PPE) was used to determine the number of individuals represented in each data sets and the unduplicated number shared by these data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).