

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 Olivia Kobel

DATE: November 3, 2006

RE: Length of Stay of Substance Abuse Clients: FY1996 – FY2006

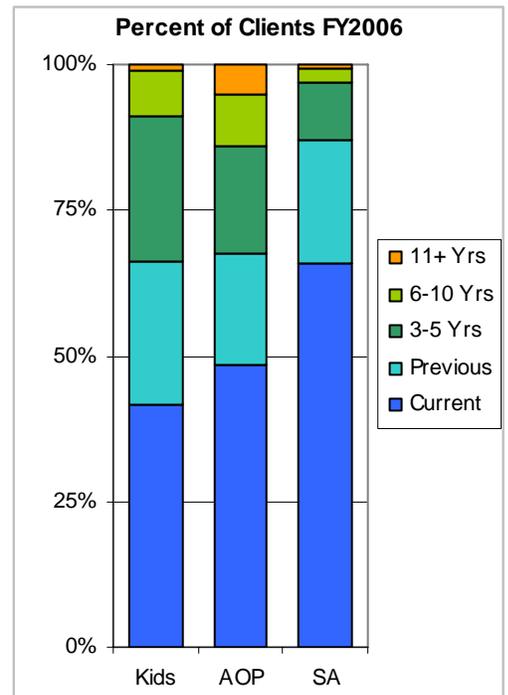
This is the third in a series of PIP reports that provide information on the duration of service for people served by treatment programs at community mental health agencies in Vermont for each year during FY1996 – FY2006.^{1,2} This week's installment presents information on the length of time since admission for clients served by Substance Abuse Programs (SA) during the same time period.

As you will see, the SA caseload was dominated by short term clients with between 65% and 72% of all individuals served having been admitted in the same year as they were served. The proportion who had been admitted during the same year or the previous year ranged from 87% to 93% during the time period under examination.

There were also some substantial differences among local providers in the length of stay profile. The SA Program at the Counseling Service of Addison County, for instance, tended to have more long term clients on its caseload than other SA programs.

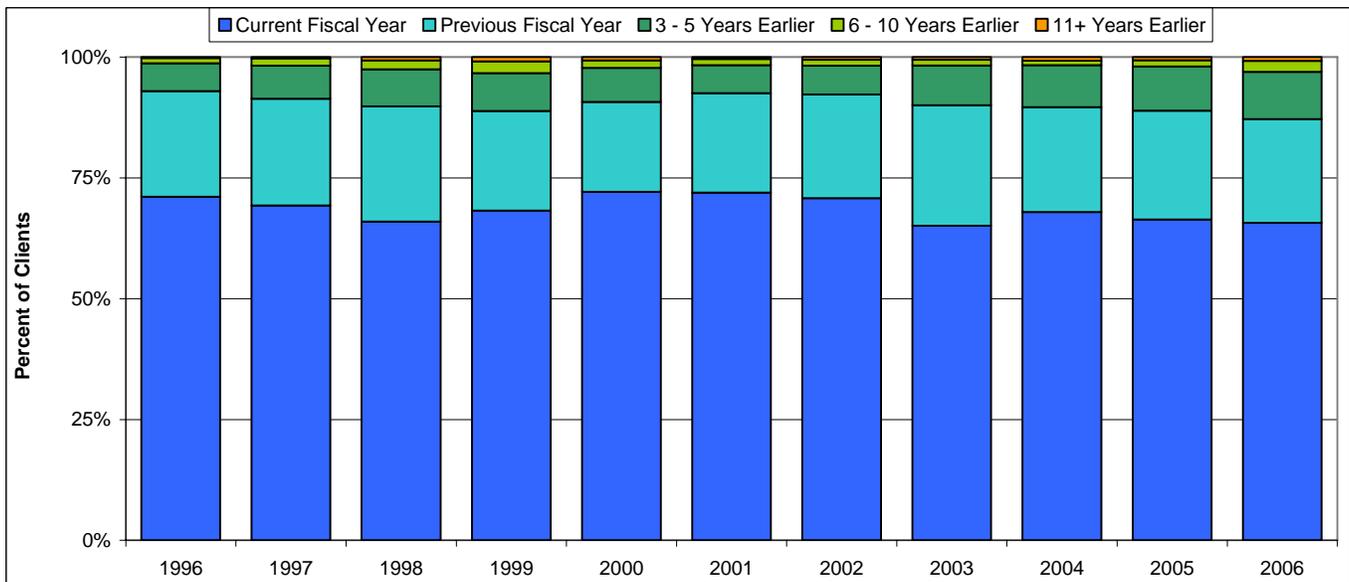
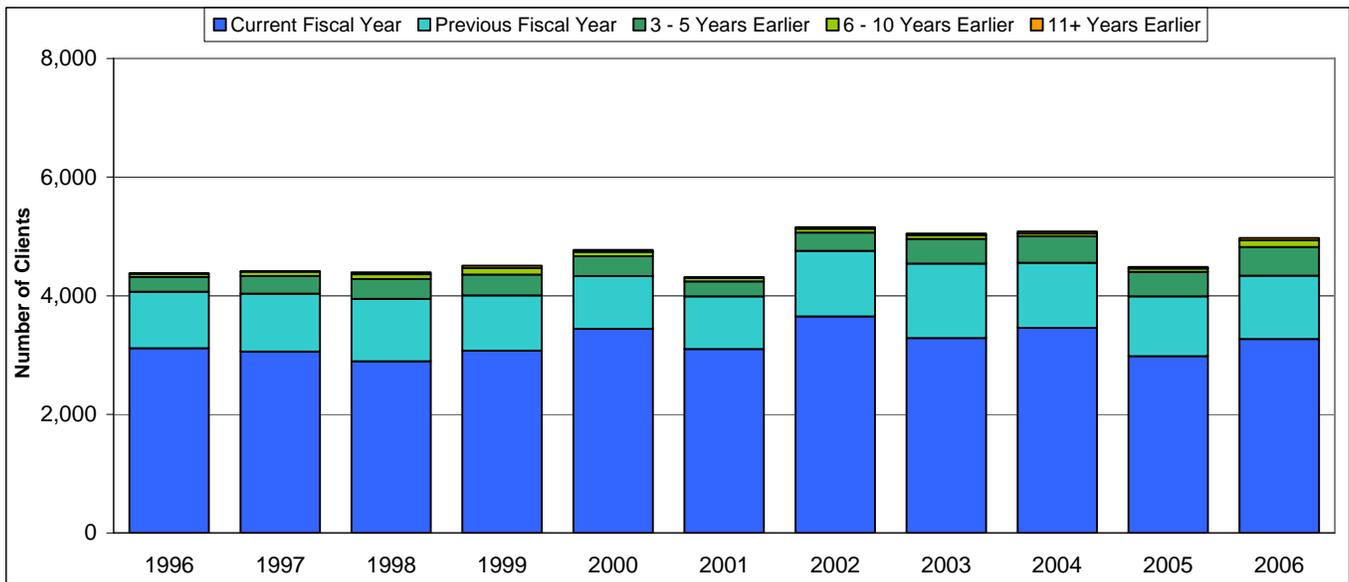
This profile of the length of time SA clients had been in treatment is very different from the profile for Children's Services and Adult Mental Health Outpatient programs reported earlier. The proportion of individuals served in the same year or the previous year was 66% for Children's Services, 67% for Adult Mental Health Outpatient programs, and 87% for Substance Abuse programs.

We look forward to your comments regarding potential causes for the changes observed, potential explanations for the observed change, and your suggestions for further analyses that might add to our understanding of this change in practice patterns. As always, we welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or call 802.863.7249.



¹ <http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2006/pip100606.pdf> ² <http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2006/pip102006.pdf>

Substance Abuse Programs Length of Time in Services for Clients Served FY1996 - FY2006

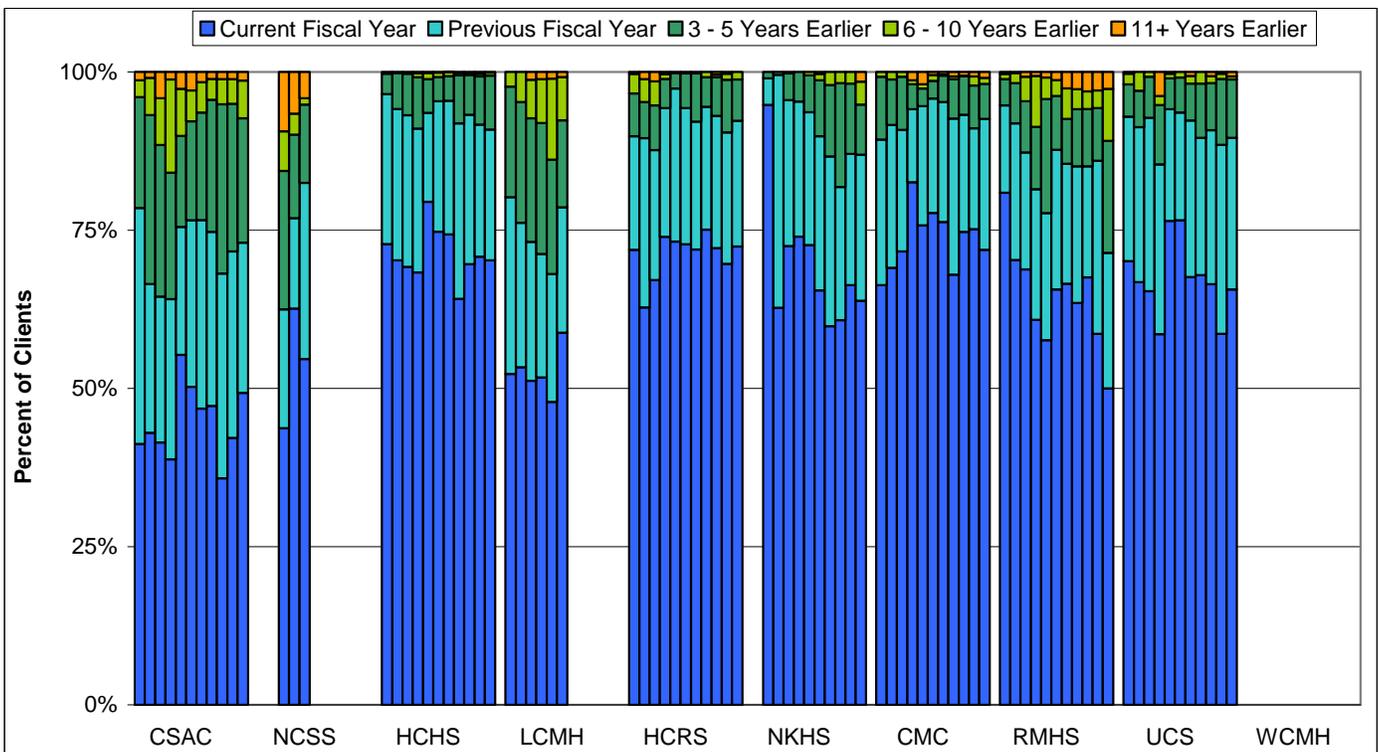
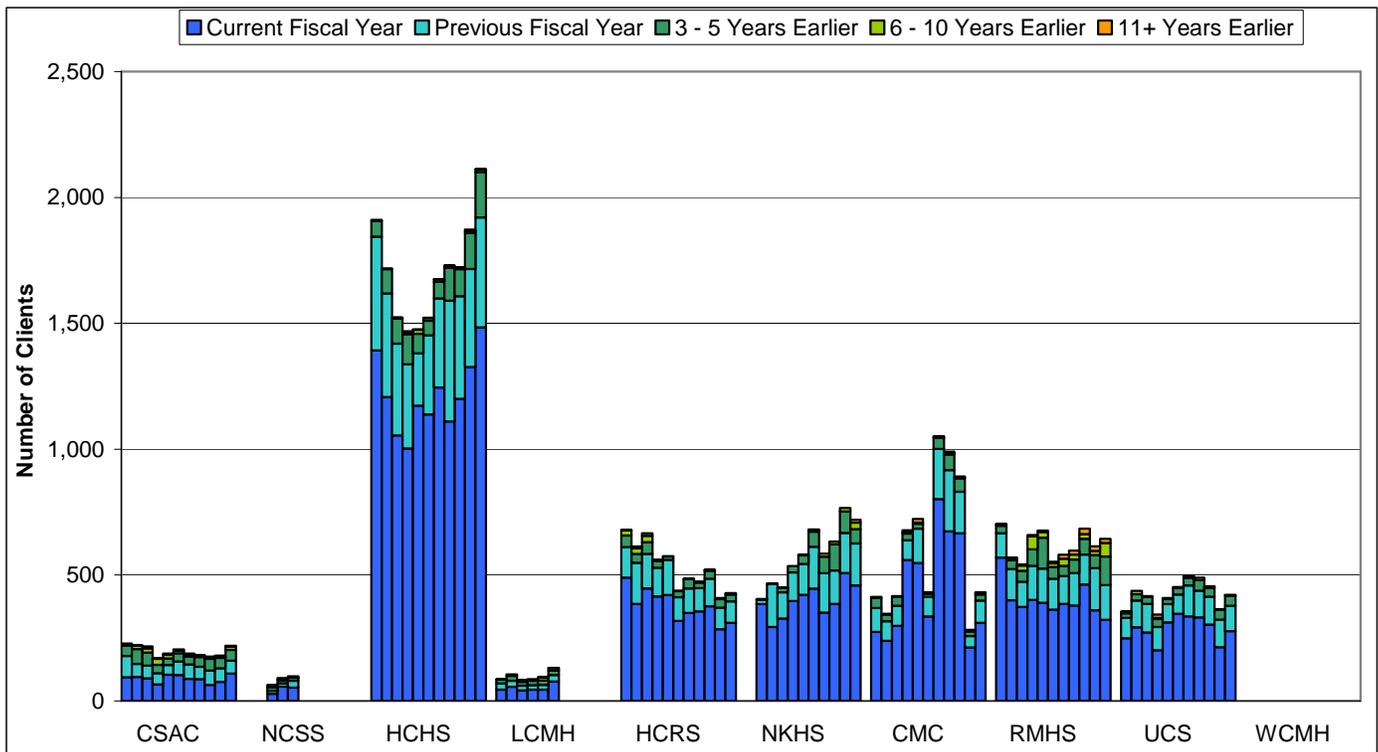


Admitted to Treatment

| | Current Fiscal Year | | Previous Fiscal Year | | 3 - 5 Years Earlier | | 6 - 10 Years Earlier | | 11+ Years Earlier | | Total Reported |
|------|---------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|----------------------|----|-------------------|----|----------------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | |
| 2006 | 3,270 | 66% | 1,068 | 21% | 485 | 10% | 113 | 2% | 40 | 1% | 4,976 |
| 2005 | 2,981 | 66% | 1,009 | 22% | 412 | 9% | 56 | 1% | 30 | 1% | 4,488 |
| 2004 | 3,455 | 68% | 1,102 | 22% | 441 | 9% | 49 | 1% | 37 | 1% | 5,084 |
| 2003 | 3,286 | 65% | 1,258 | 25% | 415 | 8% | 61 | 1% | 27 | 1% | 5,047 |
| 2002 | 3,652 | 71% | 1,106 | 21% | 308 | 6% | 63 | 1% | 28 | 1% | 5,157 |
| 2001 | 3,102 | 72% | 887 | 21% | 250 | 6% | 56 | 1% | 17 | 0% | 4,312 |
| 2000 | 3,442 | 72% | 889 | 19% | 335 | 7% | 74 | 2% | 33 | 1% | 4,773 |
| 1999 | 3,075 | 68% | 931 | 21% | 352 | 8% | 110 | 2% | 40 | 1% | 4,508 |
| 1998 | 2,897 | 66% | 1,048 | 24% | 337 | 8% | 80 | 2% | 31 | 1% | 4,393 |
| 1997 | 3,058 | 69% | 976 | 22% | 301 | 7% | 69 | 2% | 10 | 0% | 4,414 |
| 1996 | 3,112 | 71% | 956 | 22% | 251 | 6% | 49 | 1% | 8 | 0% | 4,376 |

Analysis is based on Monthly Service Report (MSR) data submitted to DMH by designated community agencies. For years in which designated agencies served less than 50 clients in Substance Abuse Programs, data were excluded from this analysis.

Substance Abuse Programs Length of Time in Services for Clients Served FY1996 - FY2006



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