

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
 Agency of Human Services, Department of Health, Department of Mental Health
 108 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
 Advisory Group and Interested Parties

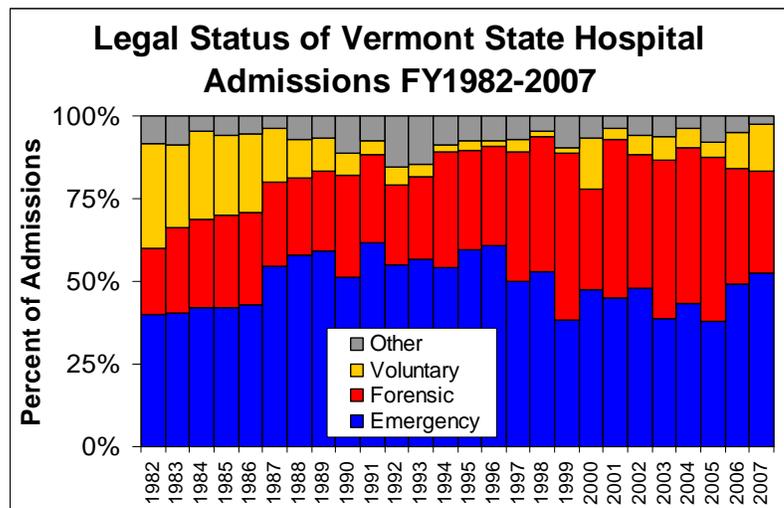
FROM: John Pandiani and Brennan Martin

DATE: October 12, 2007

RE: VSH Legal Status on Admission FY 1982 - 2007

This week's PIP report provides an overview of information regarding the legal status at admission associated with 8,781 admissions to the Vermont State Hospital (VSH) over a 26 year period that includes fiscal years 1982 through 2007. For this analysis, all admissions are placed in one of four categories: Emergency (4,341 admissions), Forensic (2,723 admissions), Voluntary (1,084 admissions), and 633 Other admissions. A brief description of each category is attached. Three measures of the volume of admissions in each category are provided for each year. These measures include the total number admission, the percent of all admission, and the population adjusted rates per 100,000 adult residents of Vermont. Data for this analysis were extracted from the Vermont State Hospital Treatment Episode Database.

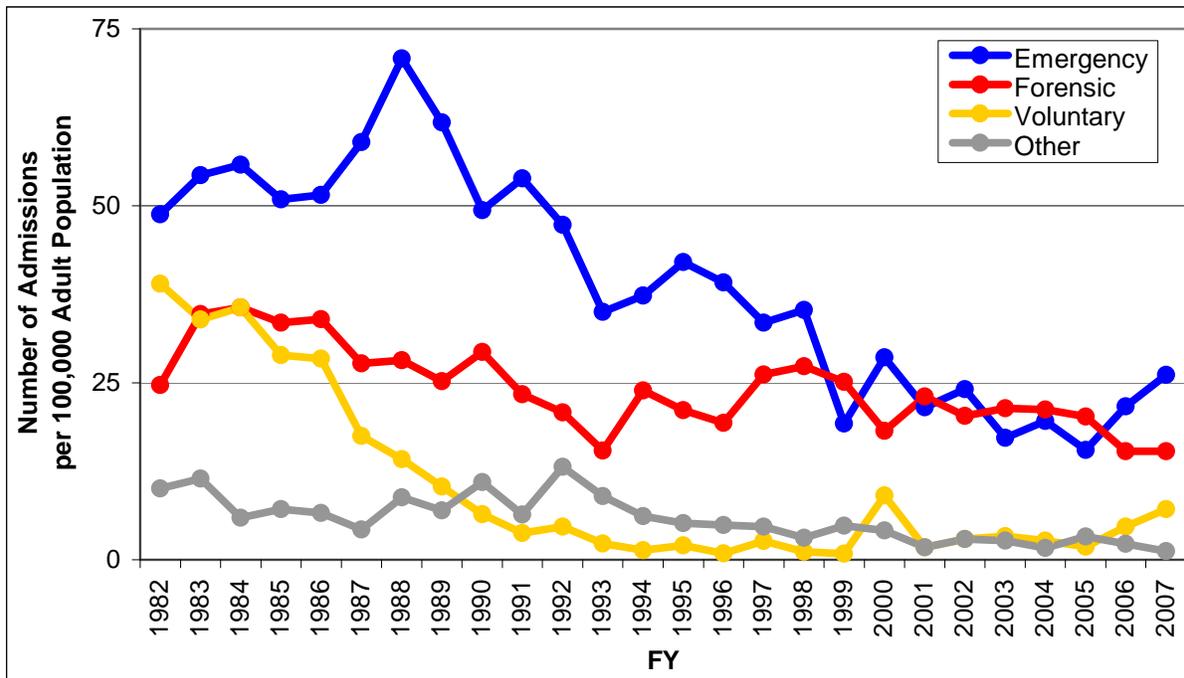
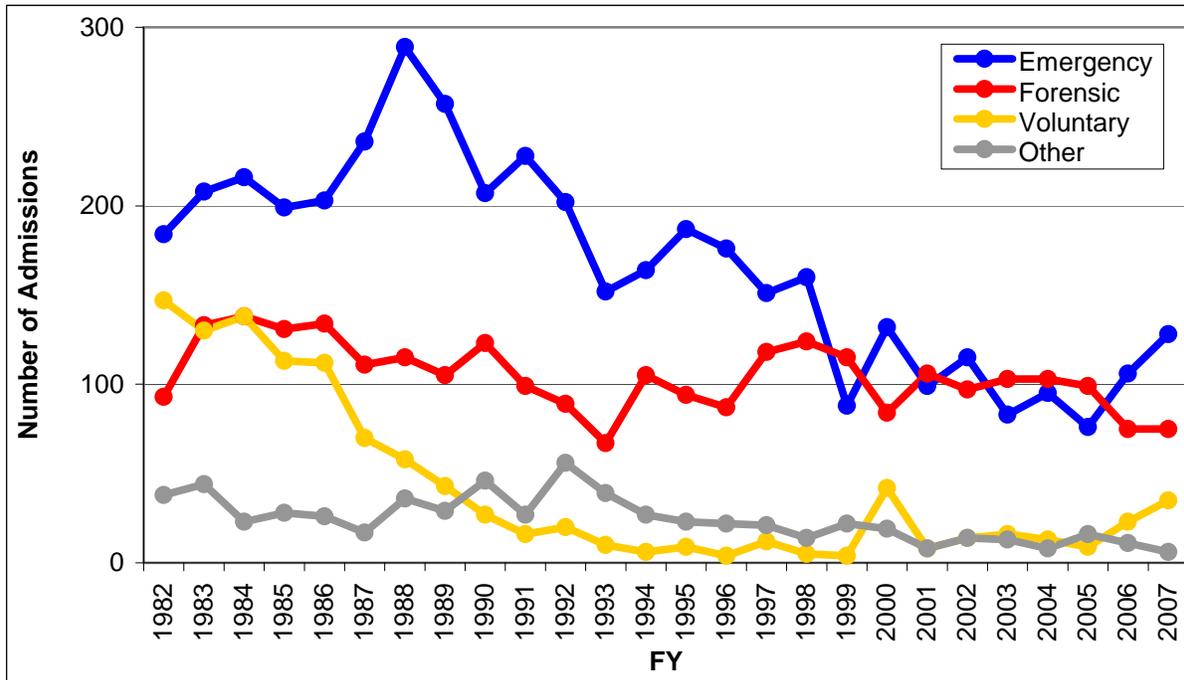
During the study period, the number of admissions to VSH varied from a high of 515 during FY 1983 and 1984 to a low of 200 in FY2005. Emergency admissions accounted for almost half (49%) of all admissions during the study period. Forensic admissions accounted for about one-third (31%) of all admissions during the study period. Voluntary admissions accounted for 12% of all admissions and Other admission accounted for 7% overall.



Our population adjusted measure of VSH utilization (admissions per 100,000 adults residents) provided a profile of VSH utilization that was very similar to the total number of admissions.

We look forward to your questions, your comments, and your suggestions for further analysis. Please forward your comments and suggestions to pip@vdh.state.vt.us or 802.863.7249.

Vermont State Hospital (VSH) Legal Status at Admission, FY1982-2007



This report is based on analysis of data from the Vermont State Hospital Treatment Episode database. Episodes occurred during FY 1982-2007.

Vermont State Hospital (VSH) Legal Status at Admission, FY1982-2007

FY	Total Admit	Emergency			Forensic			Voluntary			Other		
		#	%	Per 100,000 Adult Population	#	%	Per 100,000 Adult Population	#	%	Per 100,000 Adult Population	#	%	Per 100,000 Adult Population
1982	462	184	40%	48.8	93	20%	24.7	147	32%	39.0	38	8%	10.1
1983	515	208	40%	54.3	133	26%	34.7	130	25%	33.9	44	9%	11.5
1984	515	216	42%	55.8	138	27%	35.7	138	27%	35.7	23	4%	5.9
1985	471	199	42%	50.9	131	28%	33.5	113	24%	28.9	28	6%	7.2
1986	475	203	43%	51.5	134	28%	34.0	112	24%	28.4	26	5%	6.6
1987	434	236	54%	59.0	111	26%	27.8	70	16%	17.5	17	4%	4.3
1988	498	289	58%	70.8	115	23%	28.2	58	12%	14.2	36	7%	8.8
1989	434	257	59%	61.8	105	24%	25.2	43	10%	10.3	29	7%	7.0
1990	403	207	51%	49.4	123	31%	29.3	27	7%	6.4	46	11%	11.0
1991	370	228	62%	53.9	99	27%	23.4	16	4%	3.8	27	7%	6.4
1992	367	202	55%	47.3	89	24%	20.8	20	5%	4.7	56	15%	13.1
1993	268	152	57%	35.0	67	25%	15.4	10	4%	2.3	39	15%	9.0
1994	302	164	54%	37.3	105	35%	23.9	6	2%	1.4	27	9%	6.1
1995	313	187	60%	42.0	94	30%	21.1	9	3%	2.0	23	7%	5.2
1996	289	176	61%	39.1	87	30%	19.3	4	1%	0.9	22	8%	4.9
1997	302	151	50%	33.5	118	39%	26.2	12	4%	2.7	21	7%	4.7
1998	303	160	53%	35.3	124	41%	27.3	5	2%	1.1	14	5%	3.1
1999	229	88	38%	19.2	115	50%	25.2	4	2%	0.9	22	10%	4.8
2000	277	132	48%	28.6	84	30%	18.2	42	15%	9.1	19	7%	4.1
2001	221	99	45%	21.5	106	48%	23.0	8	4%	1.7	8	4%	1.7
2002	240	115	48%	24.1	97	40%	20.3	14	6%	2.9	14	6%	2.9
2003	215	83	39%	17.2	103	48%	21.4	16	7%	3.3	13	6%	2.7
2004	219	95	43%	19.6	103	47%	21.2	13	6%	2.7	8	4%	1.6
2005	200	76	38%	15.5	99	50%	20.2	9	5%	1.8	16	8%	3.3
2006	215	106	49%	21.7	75	35%	15.3	23	11%	4.7	11	5%	2.2
2007	244	128	52%	26.1	75	31%	15.3	35	14%	7.1	6	2%	1.2
Total	8,781	4,341	49%	35.8	2,723	31%	22.5	1,084	12%	8.9	633	7%	5.2

This report is based on analysis of data from the Vermont State Hospital Treatment Episode database. Episodes occurred during FY 1982-2007.

Vermont State Hospital Legal Statuses

Patients are admitted to the Vermont State Hospital in one of several legal statuses. These have been grouped into four categories for purposes of this analysis: voluntary, emergency, forensic and other. Emergency, forensic and other admissions are all involuntary admissions to the Vermont State Hospital.

Voluntary admissions include conditional voluntary admissions and regular voluntary admissions. In order to qualify as a conditional voluntary admission, the patient must have enough insight and capacity to make a responsible application. He or she must be mentally ill and in need of hospitalization. He or she must want to be admitted to the hospital as a voluntary patient; no third party may sign the patient in. Conditional voluntary patients must sign a consent form for admission which states that they understand their treatment will involve inpatient status, that they desire to be admitted to the hospital, and that they consent to admission voluntarily, without any coercion or duress. There is no special time limit on this type of admission. When the treatment team feels the patient is well enough to leave the hospital, he or she may be placed on a pre-placement visit, conditionally released, or discharged. Regular voluntary admissions are similar to conditional voluntary admissions except that the patient must be discharged immediately when he or she gives notice.

Emergency admissions include admissions for emergency examination and admissions under a warrant for immediate examination. Admissions for emergency examination occur upon written application by an interested party accompanied by a certificate signed by a licensed physician who is not the applicant. The application sets forth the facts and circumstances which constitute the need for an emergency examination and which show that the person is in need of treatment. After being examined by a VSH psychiatrist and found to be in need of hospitalization, the application for involuntary treatment is filed with the Waterbury Circuit Court. A hearing date is then set. (Patients are sometimes administratively discharged or conditionally released prior to the hearing date.)

Forensic admissions include admissions for court-ordered observation and commitments following competency and hospitalization hearings. Admissions for observation occur when a district court sends a criminal defendant to the Vermont State Hospital for psychiatric evaluation. An outside forensic psychiatrist evaluates the patient to determine if he or she was insane at the time of the alleged offense, had the mental state required for the offense charged, or is competent to stand trial for the alleged offense. These orders vary in duration from 15 to 60 days. Patients cannot leave the hospital or be released from the hospital without an order from the court. Once the examination has been completed and the evaluation is received by the court, a hearing date is set for final disposition.

Other legal status includes revocation of conditional release, revocation of orders of non-hospitalization, involuntary court commitment for 90 days, and transfers under interstate compact. A revocation of conditional release occurs when the head of the hospital revokes a conditional discharge before that discharge becomes absolute because the patient failed to comply with the conditions of the discharge. A revocation of orders of non-hospitalization occurs when a judge revokes an order of non-hospitalization because the patient failed to comply with the conditions of the order. An involuntary court commitment for 90 days applies to a patient who has been committed by the court after having been found mentally ill and in need of treatment. This is a civil commitment for a period not to exceed ninety days. If, prior to the expiration of the court commitment, the treatment team feels the patient is not ready to leave the hospital, they may apply for continued treatment. If the patient is well enough to leave the hospital, he or she may be discharged at the expiration of the court commitment order. Transfers under interstate compact usually occur when the patient is a former Vermont State Hospital patient (this is not a necessary condition, however) and is in an institution in another state. When both states' Departments of Developmental and Mental Health Services agree that it would be in the best interest of the patient to return him or her to this hospital, the patient is transferred on a "transfer under the interstate compact."