

**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: October 20, 2006

RE: Length of Stay of Adult Outpatient Clients: FY1996 – FY2006

This is the second 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. The series began with a report on Length of Stay of Children's Services Clients for each year during FY1996 – FY2006.<sup>1</sup> This week's installment presents information on the length of time since admission for clients served by Adult Mental Health Outpatient Programs (AOP) during the same time period.

As you will see, there was a substantial decrease in the short term AOP caseload (people who had been admitted during the year in which they were served) and moderate increases in the longer term AOP caseload (people who had been admitted three or more years before the year in which they were served).

The proportion of AOP clients who had been admitted to treatment during the year in which they were served decreased substantially during this period from 60% in 1996 to 48% in 2006. The proportion who had been admitted to treatment three to five years before the year in which they were served increased from 14% in 1996 to 18% in 2006, and the proportion who had been admitted six to ten years earlier increased from 5% in 1996 to 9% in 2006. This overall pattern was evident at many but not all local Adult Mental Health Outpatient programs.

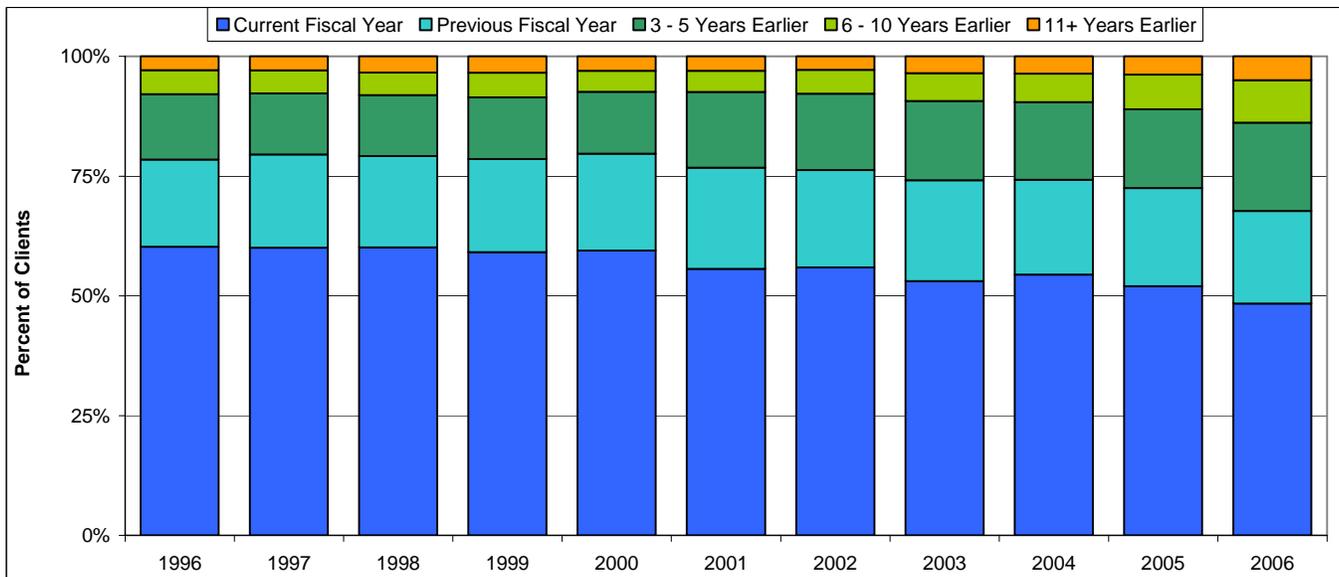
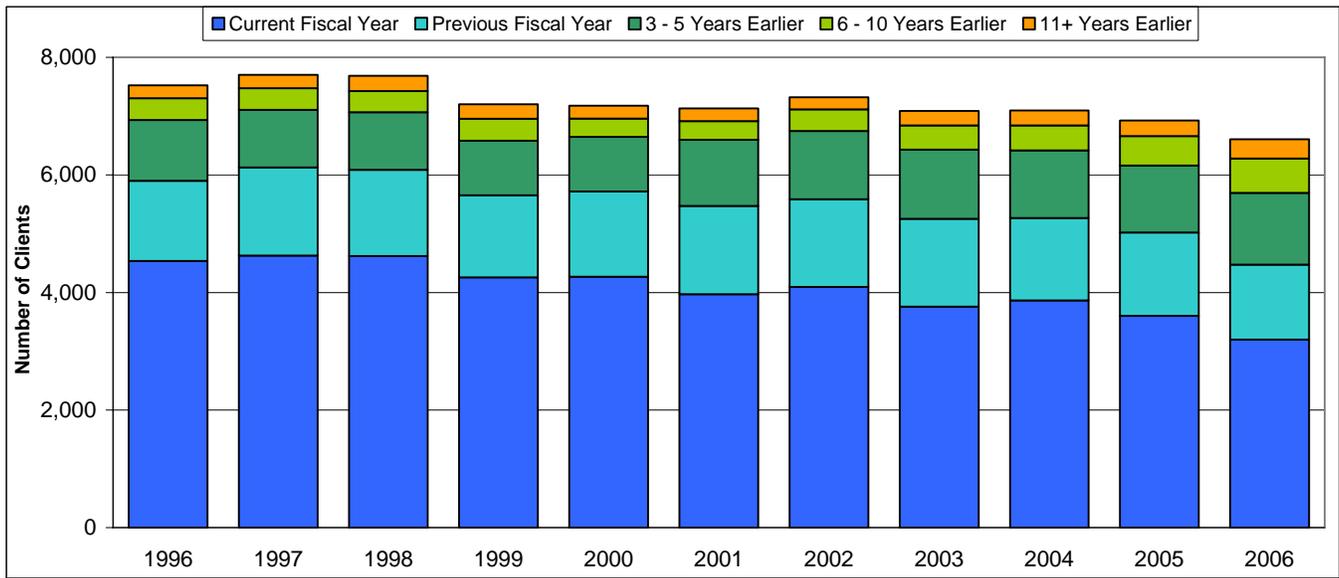
In terms of numbers of adults served, there was a substantial decrease in the AOP caseload, statewide, during this period (from 7,523 to 6,608). It is interesting to note that there was a substantial increase in the number of people who had been in treatment for three or more years.

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 these changes in practice patterns. As always, we welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or call 802.863.7249.

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

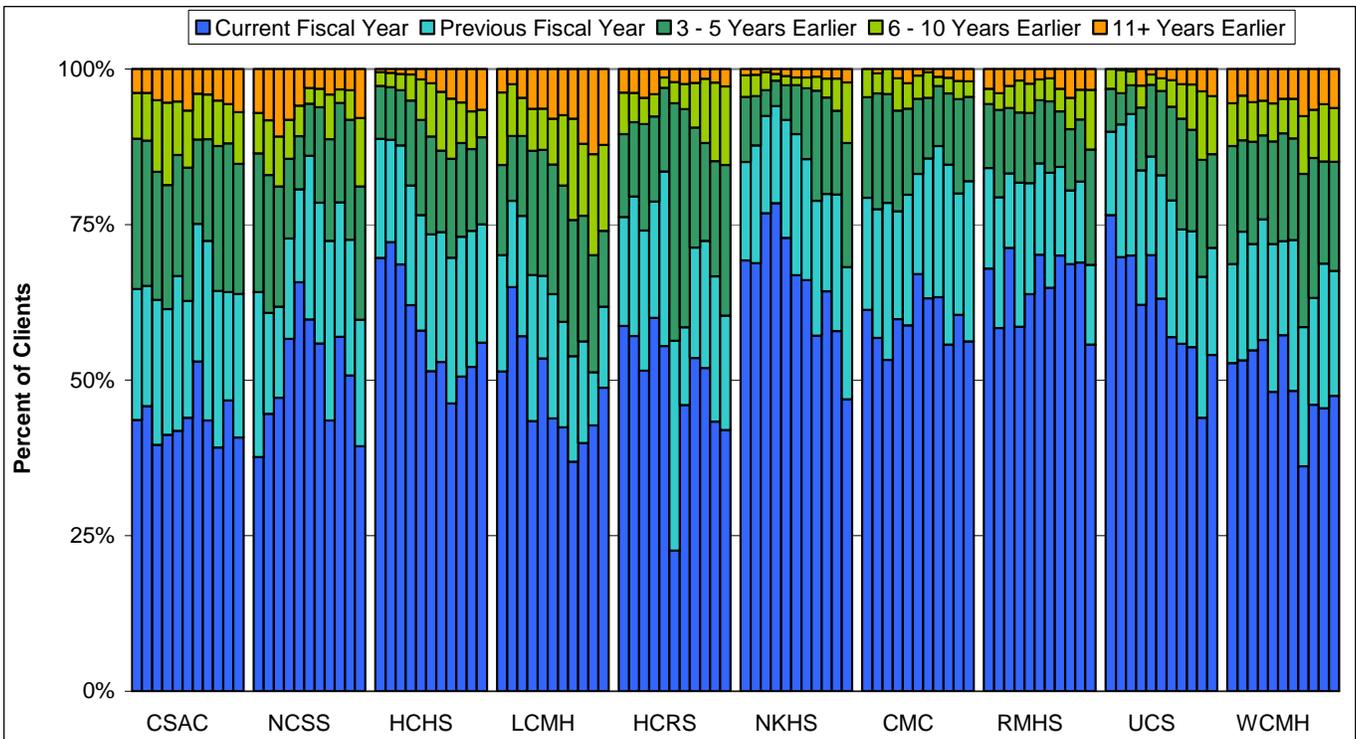
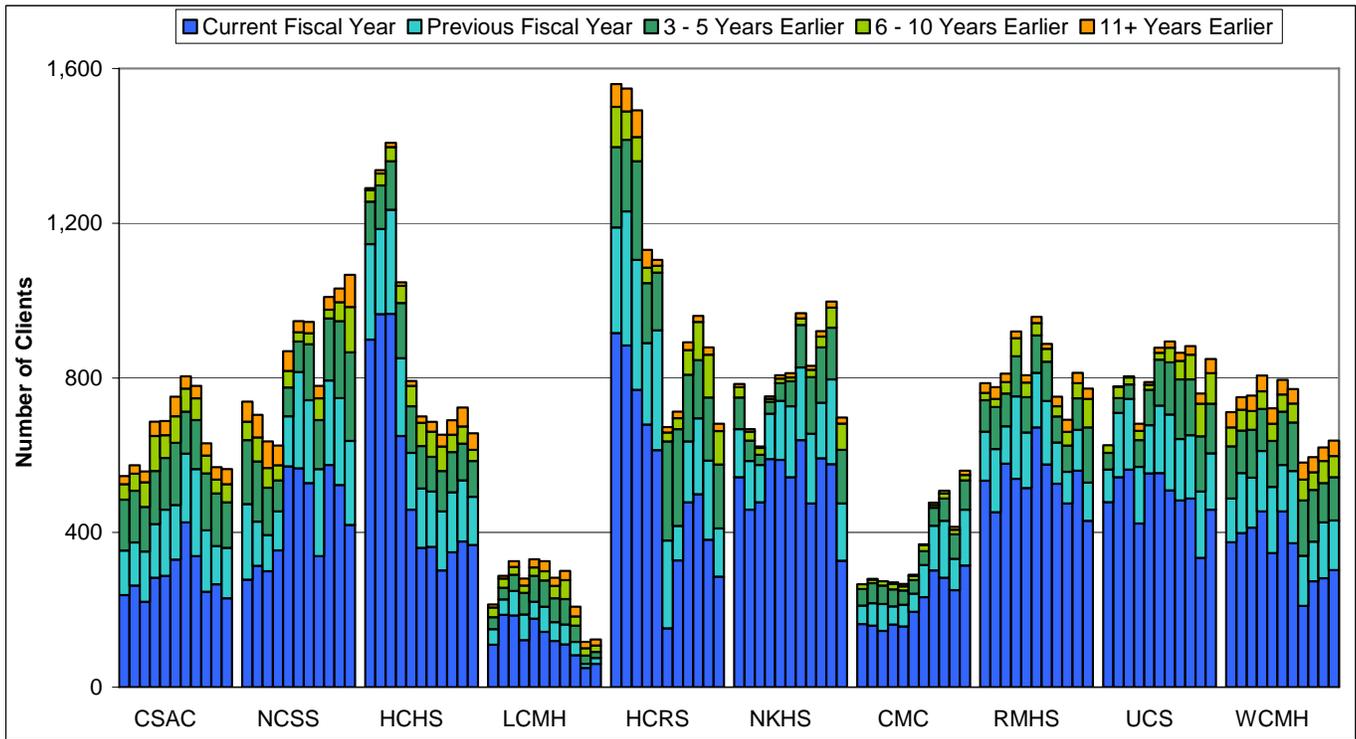
## Adult Outpatient Programs Length of Time in Services for Clients Served FY1996 - FY2006



	Admitted to Treatment										Total Reported
	Current Fiscal Year		Previous Fiscal Year		3 - 5 Years Earlier		6 - 10 Years Earlier		11+ Years Earlier		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
2006	3,198	48%	1,278	19%	1,217	18%	586	9%	329	5%	6,608
2005	3,601	52%	1,419	20%	1,138	16%	503	7%	263	4%	6,924
2004	3,865	54%	1,401	20%	1,152	16%	422	6%	256	4%	7,096
2003	3,761	53%	1,493	21%	1,174	17%	412	6%	249	4%	7,089
2002	4,094	56%	1,490	20%	1,165	16%	365	5%	206	3%	7,320
2001	3,970	56%	1,502	21%	1,128	16%	315	4%	216	3%	7,131
2000	4,268	59%	1,451	20%	928	13%	312	4%	217	3%	7,176
1999	4,257	59%	1,398	19%	928	13%	371	5%	247	3%	7,201
1998	4,620	60%	1,466	19%	980	13%	359	5%	260	3%	7,685
1997	4,626	60%	1,500	19%	981	13%	370	5%	225	3%	7,702
1996	4,535	60%	1,367	18%	1,030	14%	373	5%	218	3%	7,523

Analysis is based on Monthly Service Report (MSR) data submitted to DMH by designated community agencies.

## Adult Outpatient Programs Length of Time in Services for Clients Served FY1996 - FY2006



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