

## 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 Sheila Leno

DATE: October 29, 2010

RE: Race and Ethnicity of Children Served

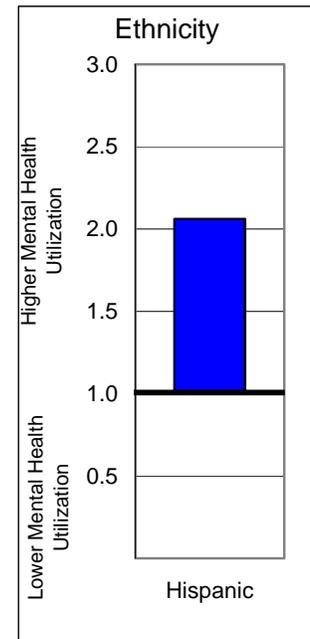
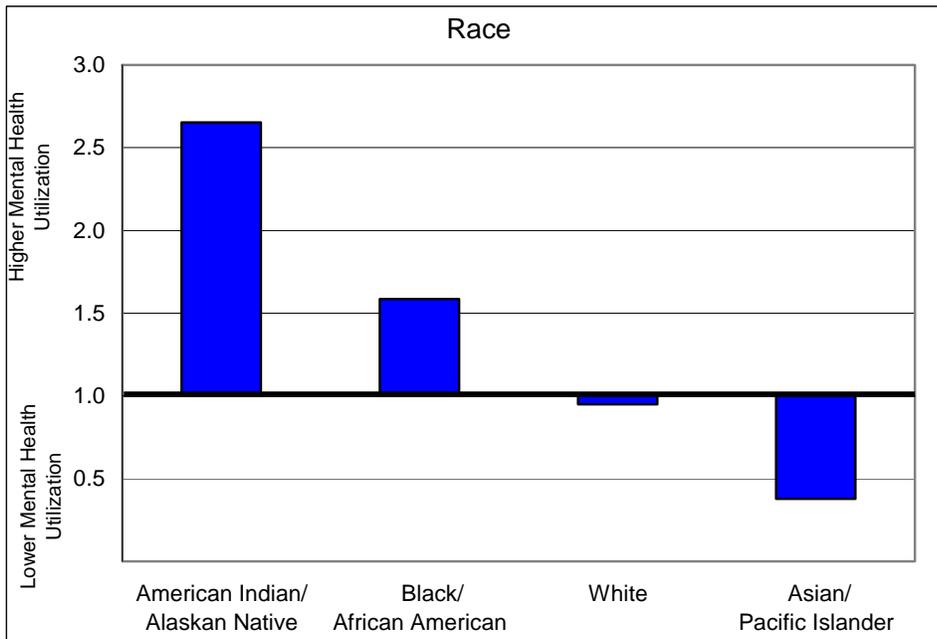
This brief report compares information regarding the representation of children and adolescents in each of five race and ethnic groups on the caseloads of Vermont's community mental health children's services programs, to the representation of the same race and ethnic groups in the child and adolescent population of the state of Vermont. This analysis was conducted in response to issues raised in a presentation to Department of Mental Health staff by Mercedes Avila, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Coordinator for the Vermont Youth in Transition Grant. The results of this analysis provide information relevant to access to care, one of the primary concerns of mental health program evaluation and service systems research.

Data for this analysis were drawn from two sources. Information regarding the race and ethnicity of children and adolescents served by child and adolescent mental health programs is based on data provided to the Vermont Department of Mental Health by designated community agencies in Monthly Service Reports. Information regarding the race and ethnicity of children and adolescents in the general population of Vermont was provided by the Vermont Department of Health. In order to provide a standard comparison of the five race and ethnic groups' representation in the community mental health caseload, with these groups' representation in the population of Vermont, a relative utilization rate was calculated. A relative rate of 1.0 indicates no difference between a group's representation on the CMH caseload and its representation in the general population. A higher relative rate indicates greater representation on the CMH caseload, and a lower relative rate indicates lower representation on the CMH caseload.

As you will see, the representation of white youth in Vermont's community mental health caseload was about equal to their representation in the general population of the state (95% vs. 96%). The representation of Black/African American youth in Vermont's CMH caseload was 1.6 times their representation in the general population (3.4% of service recipients vs. 2.1% of the general population). The representation of American Indian/Alaskan Native youth in the CMH caseload was 2.7 times their representation in the general population (1.3% vs. 0.5%). The representation of Hispanic youth in Vermont's CMH caseload was 2.1 times their representation in the general population (4.3% vs. 2.1%). The representation of Asian/Pacific Islander youth in Vermont's CMH caseload, by contrast, was 60% lower than their representation in the general population (0.6% of service recipients vs. 1.6% of the general population).

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

## Race and Ethnic Representation in Children's Service Programs Caseloads Compared to Vermont's Total Youth Population



Race					Ethnicity
	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Black/ African American	White	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic
<b>Relative Rate *</b>	2.7	1.6	0.99	0.4	2.1
<b>CMH Youth</b>					
Number	128	325	9,038	56	383
% CMH Youth	1.3%	3.4%	94.7%	0.6%	4.3%
<b>Vermont Youth</b>					
Number	742	3,186	142,209	2,304	3,112
% of VT Youth	0.5%	2.1%	95.8%	1.6%	2.1%

Based on analysis of Monthly Service Report (MSR) data submitted to the Vermont Department of Mental Health by designated agencies during FY2010. Race groups includes 9,547 individuals less than 20 years of age with a primary program assignment of Children's Services. The Ethnic group includes 8,457 individuals less than 20 years of age with a primary program assignment of Children's Services. Vermont's youth population includes 148,441 individuals less than 20 years of age provided by the Vermont Department of Health based on United States Census figures (July 1, 2008).

\* Relative Rate is the percent of Children's service recipients in the specified race/ethnic group divided by the percent of Vermont's youth population in the same race/ethnic group. A relative rate of 1.0 indicates that the representation of service recipients in the specified race/ethnic category is no different from their representation in the general population. A relative rate of 2.0 indicates that the representation of service recipients in the specified race/ethnic category is twice their representation in the general population. A relative rate of 0.5 would indicate that the representation of service recipients in the specified race/ethnic category is 50% lower than their representation in the general population of the state.

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project