

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 3, 2008

RE: Seasonality of Depression in Vermont General Hospitals CY2000-2005

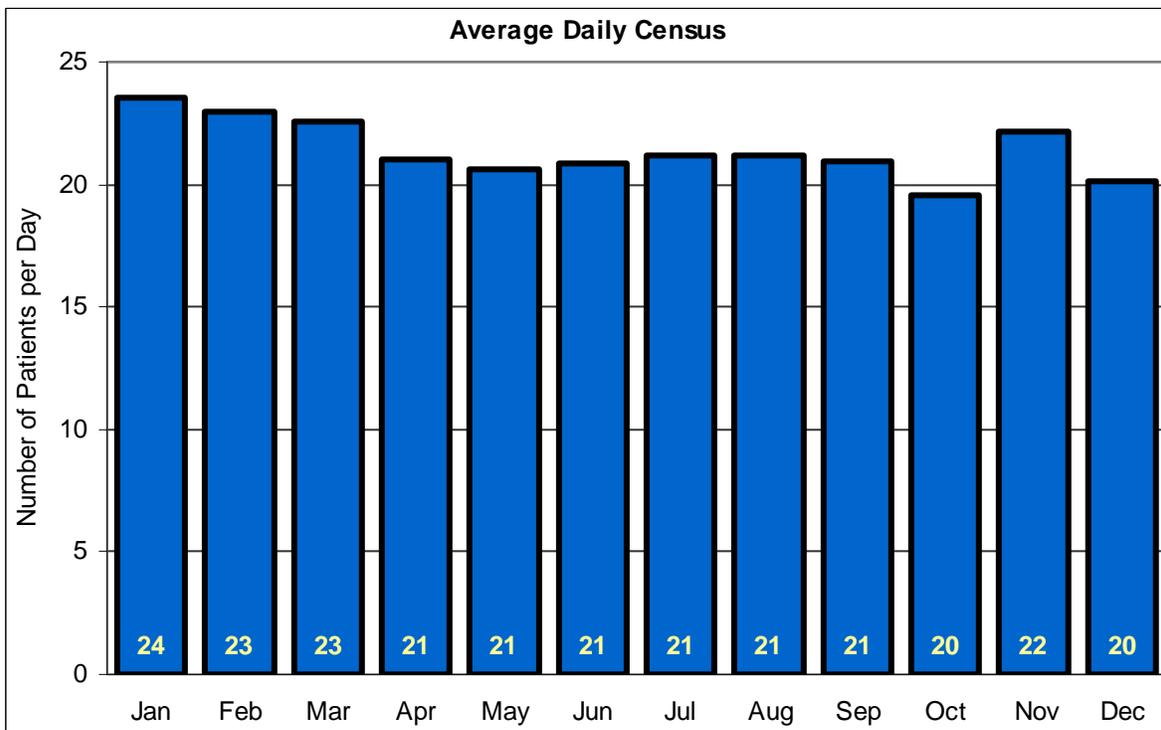
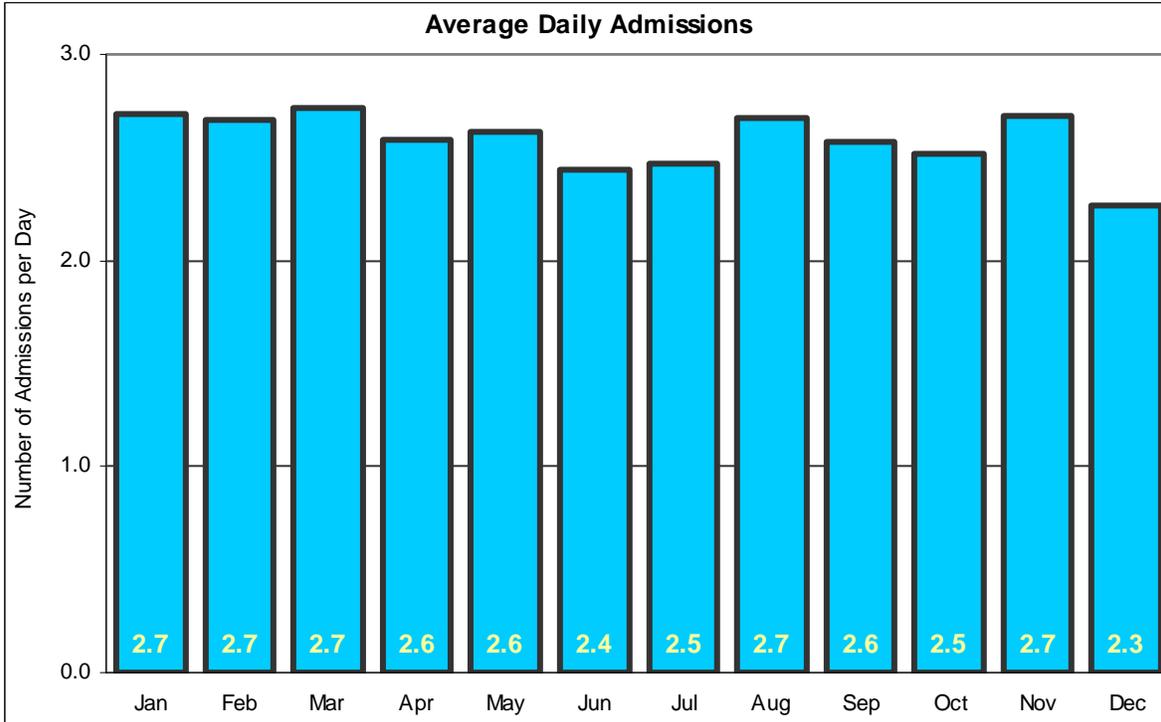
This week's report was prepared in response to a request from Rich McCoy, Public Health Statistics Chief in Vermont's Department of Health, for information regarding any seasonality in depression as evidenced by hospitalizations for a primary diagnosis of depression. This request followed distribution of our July 11, 2008 report on Depression and Obesity among Vermont Adults (<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/docs/pips/2008/documents/Pip071108.pdf>).

The findings presented here are based on analysis of the Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set maintained by the Vermont Department of Health. This analysis includes all episodes of care with a primary diagnosis of Depression (ICD-9 code 296.00 – 296.89). Two measures of hospitalization for the six years under examination (CY2000 through CY2005) are provided: average daily admissions, and average daily census of people with a primary diagnosis of depression.

As you will see, average daily admissions with a primary diagnosis of depression was lowest in the month December (2.3 per day) and highest (2.7 per day) in the months of January through March, August, and November. The average daily census of individuals with a primary diagnosis of depression was lowest in December and October (20 patients per day) and highest in January (24 patients per day) and in February and March (23 patients per day).

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

Vermont General Hospital Utilization with a Primary Diagnosis of Depression : CY 2000 - 2005



Information is derived from the Vermont Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Sets maintained by the Vermont Health Department. Depression is defined as having a primary DSM IV diagnosis of 296.00 - 296.89.