

## 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 Hunter

DATE: September 23, 2005

RE: Children's Mental Health Dollars and Juvenile Offender Custody Rates

This week's PIP examines the relationship between children's mental health per capita expenditures and juvenile offender custody rates in 37 states. The analysis was prepared in response to a request from the directors of Vermont's community mental health Children's Services programs. This request was inspired by a March, 2002 PIP that examined the relationship between adult mental health and corrections utilization rates in 14 states (<http://www.ddmhs.state.vt.us/docs/pips/2002/pip030102.pdf>).

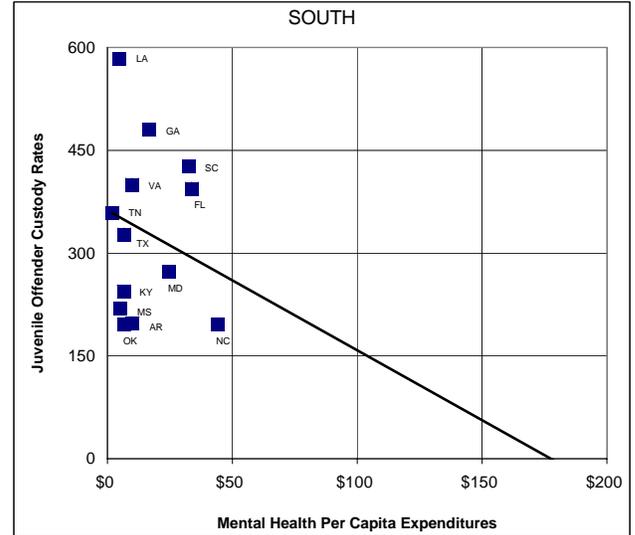
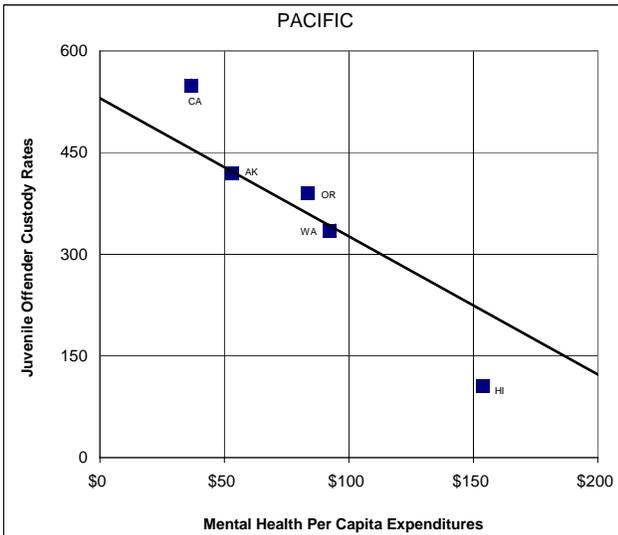
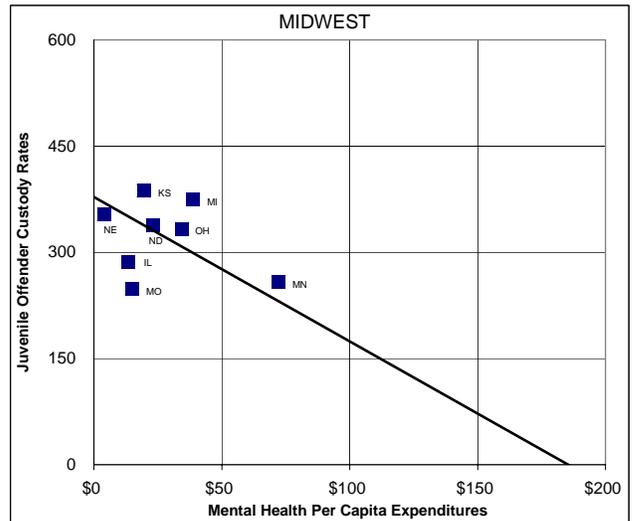
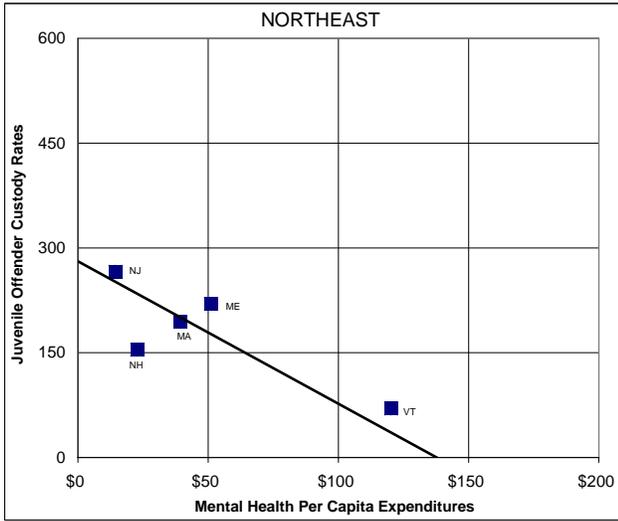
All data used in this analysis were drawn from previously published sources. The children's mental health expenditure data describes state mental health agency-controlled mental health expenditures at community-based child and adolescent programs and was drawn from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute report, "Funding Sources and Expenditures of State Mental Health Agencies Fiscal Year 1997." Data on custody rates of juvenile offenders was drawn from "State Custody Rates, 1997," published by the US Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (December 2000). Custody rates represent the number of juveniles assigned a bed (because of an offense) on October 29, 1997 per 100,000 juveniles in the general population age 10 through the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in each State. Offenders held in both public and private facilities have been counted in this analysis.

In order to determine the relationship between children's mental health expenditures and juvenile offender custody rates a series of correlation analyses were conducted. The analyses focused on the 37 states for which youth mental health expenditure data was available. The 14 states for which data are not represented either did not have mental health expenditures allocated independently or had separate state agencies providing mental health services. Because there were substantial differences among regions in both mental health expenditure and youth custody rates, analyses were conducted at the region level.

Results of this analysis indicate that four of the five regions are similar in that greater youth mental health expenditures are associated with lower youth custody rates. The combined correlation between youth mental health dollars and youth custody rates in these regions is  $-.44$  ( $p = 0.004$ ). In the fifth region (West) more youth mental health dollars are associated with higher youth custody rates ( $r = .76$ ,  $p = 0.08$ ).

As always, we are very interested in your interpretation of these findings, and your requests for further analysis to [pip@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@vdh.state.vt.us) or 802-863-7249.

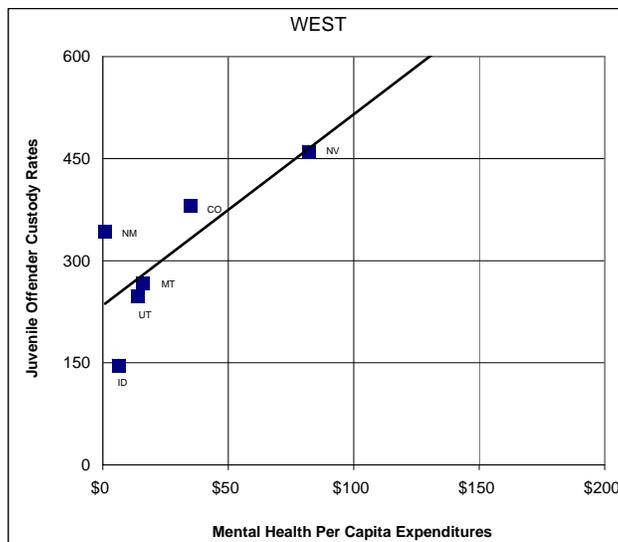
# Mental Health Per Capita Expenditures and Juvenile Offender Custody Rates for U. S. Regions: 1997



**Findings**

Analysis indicates that four of the five regions are similar in that greater youth mental health expenditures are associated with lower youth custody rates. The combined correlation between youth mental health dollars and youth custody rates in these regions is  $-0.44$  ( $p = 0.004$ ). In the fifth region (West) more youth mental health dollars are associated with higher youth custody rates ( $r = 0.76$ ,  $p = 0.08$ ).

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**Methods**

The mental health expenditure data used for this analysis includes the State Mental Health Agency-Controlled Mental Health Expenditures at Community-Based Programs figures from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute Inc. "Funding Sources and Expenditures of State Mental Health Agencies Fiscal Year 1997 Final Report."

Data on the custody rates of juvenile offenders was obtained from "State Custody Rates, 1997," in the Juvenile Justice Bulletin published by the U. S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (December 2000). OJJDP used results from their Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) for the publication. Custody rates represent the number of juveniles assigned a bed (because of an offense) on October 29, 1997, per 100,000 juveniles in the general population age 10 through upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction in each State. Offenders held in both public and private facilities have been counted in this analysis.