

## The Vermont Statutes Online

### Title 18 : Health

#### Chapter 179 : Admission Procedures

(Cite as: 18 V.S.A. § 7511)

#### § 7511. Transportation

(a) The commissioner shall ensure that all reasonable and appropriate measures consistent with public safety are made to transport or escort a person subject to this chapter to and from any inpatient setting, including escorts within a designated hospital or the Vermont State Hospital or its successor in interest or otherwise being transported under the jurisdiction of the commissioner in any manner which:

- (1) prevents physical and psychological trauma;
- (2) respects the privacy of the individual; and
- (3) represents the least restrictive means necessary for the safety of the patient.

(b) The commissioner shall have the authority to designate the professionals or law enforcement officers who may authorize the method of transport of patients under the commissioner's care and custody.

(c) When a professional or law enforcement officer designated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section decides an individual is in need of secure transport with mechanical restraints, the reasons for such determination shall be documented in writing.

(d) It is the policy of the state of Vermont that mechanical restraints are not routinely used on persons subject to this chapter unless circumstances dictate that such methods are necessary. (Added 2003, No. 122 (Adj. Sess.), § 141e; amended 2005, No. 180 (Adj. Sess.), § 2; 2007, No. 15, § 14; 2011, No. 79 (Adj. Sess.), § 24, eff. April 4, 2012.)

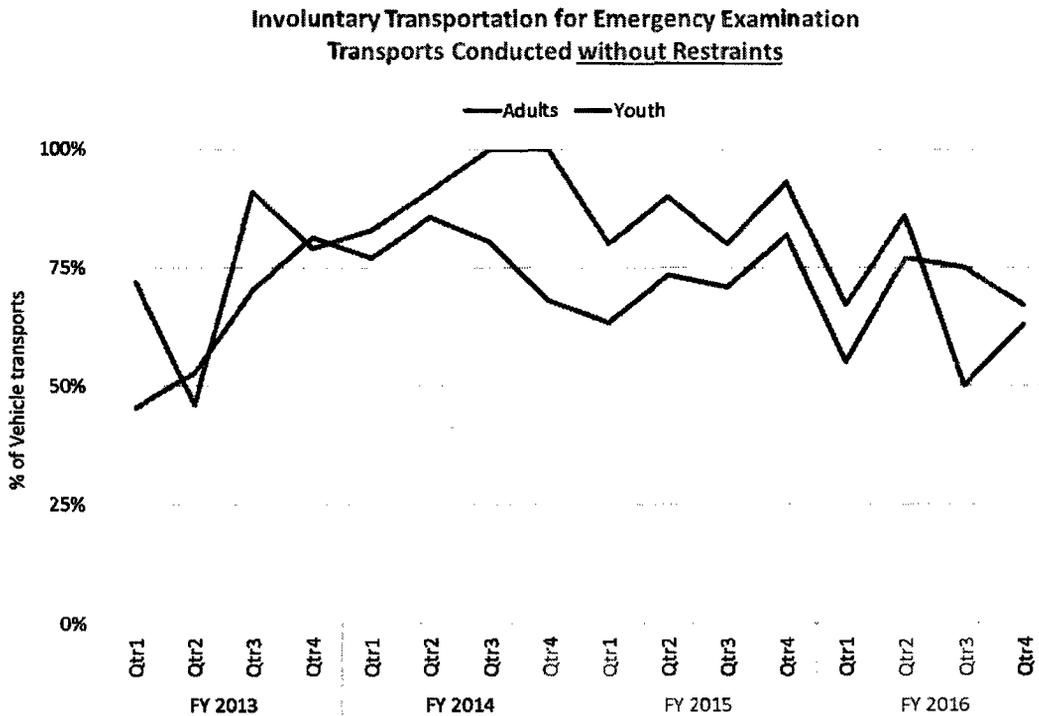
this measure across time and jurisdictions, with approximately 40% of cases resolved in less than 60 days and 71% of cases resolved in less than 120 days.

### Transportation

Since April 2012, the Department has developed an aggressive implementation plan for changing the manner in which individuals are transported to inpatient hospitalization with the goal of reducing metal restraints and providing options for transport whenever possible. Act 180, Title 18 §7511, recognizes the need to take steps to reduce trauma for people who are found to need sheriff transport for involuntary psychiatric hospitalization. For many years, secure transport was defined as a transport by sheriffs. The current definition of secure transport is defined as the application of mechanical restraints, either soft or metal. This change in terms evolved out the success of the involuntary transportation workgroup.

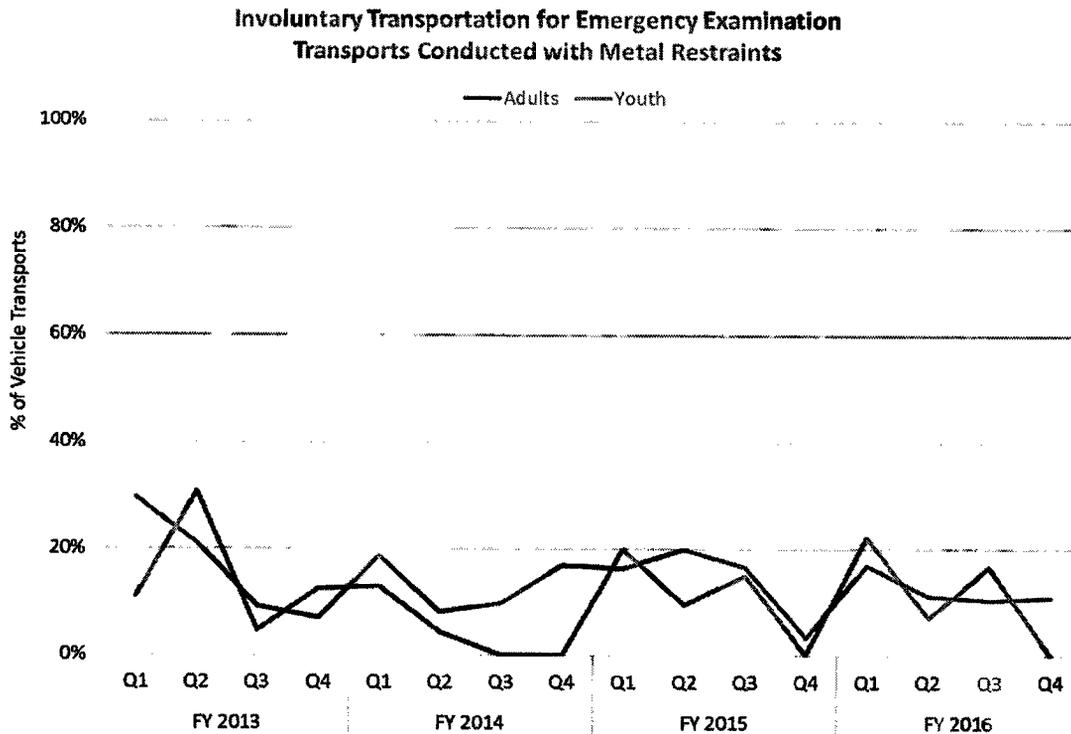
Grants to support a pilot program with sheriffs in Lamoille and Windham Counties using a least-restrictive approach by deputies in plain clothes with an unmarked van have been continued. Progression to some type of restraint is utilized only when a no-restraint approach fails.

**Chart 19: Involuntary Transports Conducted without Restraint**



Based on the Involuntary Transportation data maintained by the Vermont Department of Mental Health for people transported to involuntary inpatient treatment when placed under the custody of the Commissioner.

**Chart 20: Involuntary Transports Conducted with Metal Restraint**



Based on the Involuntary Transportation data maintained by the Vermont Department of Mental Health for people transported to involuntary inpatient treatment when placed under the custody of the Commissioner.

A review of the data provided shows that a majority of transports are conducted without restraint for both adults and youth. When examining the use of metal restraints by quarter, less than 20% of transports are conducted with metal restraint. The Department continues to work towards a goal of no metal restraint.

The Department is aware of differing practices that exist across law enforcement agencies; these differences are due in part to the need for more frequent training and monitoring of expectations from those who work in law enforcement. The Department continues to have specific contracts for use of soft or no restraints during transport but other law enforcement agencies may not utilize the same policy and procedures that make these contracted agencies successful. The Department is continually working to create a consistent law enforcement response to the need for least restrictive transportation protocols and has released an involuntary transportation manual that emphasizes Departmental expectations around transports.

Additional detail regarding adult and youth involuntary transports can be found in the subsequent graphs.

**Chart 21: One-Year overview of Adult Involuntary Transport**

**Vermont Department of Mental Health  
Adult Involuntary Transportation for Emergency Examinations  
Fiscal Year 2016**

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
<b>Transportation Type</b>													
Restrained	8	6	13	4	7	3	6	3	4	6	7	11	78
Non-Restrained	8	20	5	17	15	16	13	14	16	15	17	19	175
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Restraints Used in Transport</b>													
None	8	20	5	17	15	16	13	14	16	15	17	19	175
Metal	2	3	5	3	3	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	31
Soft	6	3	8	1	4	2	4	1	2	3	4	9	47
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>% All vehicle transports that use Metal</b>	13%	12%	28%	14%	14%	5%	11%	12%	10%	14%	13%	7%	12%
<b>Vehicle Used in Transport</b>													
Ambulance	0	3	1	3	8	4	6	3	5	7	5	5	50
MH Van Alternative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheriff Alternative	4	6	5	6	6	5	3	6	9	5	7	5	67
Sheriff Cruiser	12	17	12	12	8	10	10	8	6	9	12	20	136
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Applicable ("Walk Up")	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use Ambulance</b>		12%	8%	14%	36%	21%	32%	18%	25%	33%	21%	17%	20%
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use MH Van Alternative</b>													0%
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use Sheriff's Alternative</b>	25%	23%	28%	29%	27%	26%	16%	35%	45%	24%	29%	17%	26%
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use Sheriff's Cruiser</b>	75%	85%	67%	57%	36%	53%	53%	47%	30%	43%	50%	67%	54%
	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>EE's with Sheriff Involvement</b>	16	23	17	18	14	15	13	14	15	14	19	25	203
<b>TOTAL EE Transports</b>	16	26	18	21	22	19	19	17	20	21	24	30	253

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Department of Mental Health Research & Statistics Unit.  
Based on the Adult Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health for transports to involuntary inpatient treatment when an individual is placed under the care and custody of the Commissioner.

Date of Report: 11/09/2016

**Chart 22: One-Year overview of Youth Involuntary Transport**

**Vermont Department of Mental Health  
Youth Involuntary Transportation for Emergency Examinations  
Fiscal Year 2016**

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
<b>Transportation Type</b>													
Restrained	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	11
Non-Restrained	0	1	5	4	7	1	1	0	2	1	2	2	26
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Restraints Used in Transport</b>													
None	0	1	5	4	7	1	1	0	2	1	2	2	26
Metal	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Soft	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	7
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>% All vehicle transports that use Metal</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	0%	20%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	<b>11%</b>
<b>Vehicle Used in Transport</b>													
Ambulance	0	1	0	4	7	0	1	0	3	1	1	1	19
MH Van Alternative	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private Transport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheriff Alternative	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
Sheriff Cruiser	2	0	5	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	15
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Applicable ("Walk Up")	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use Ambulance</b>		<b>100%</b>		80%	88%		<b>100%</b>		75%	33%	33%	50%	<b>51%</b>
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use MH Van Alternative</b>												0%	<b>0%</b>
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use Sheriff's Alternative</b>			<b>17%</b>						25%		33%	0%	<b>8%</b>
<b>%Vehicle Transports that use Sheriff's Cruiser</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>83%</b>	20%	<b>13%</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>100%</b>		67%	33%	50%	<b>41%</b>
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
<b>EE's with Sheriff Involvement</b>	2	0	6	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	<b>18</b>
<b>TOTAL EE Transports</b>	2	1	6	5	8	1	1	1	4	3	3	2	<b>37</b>

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Department of Mental Health Research & Statistics Unit  
Based on the Youth Involuntary Transportation Data Set maintained by the VT Department of Mental Health for transports to involuntary inpatient treatment when an individual is placed under the care and custody of the Commissioner.

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