



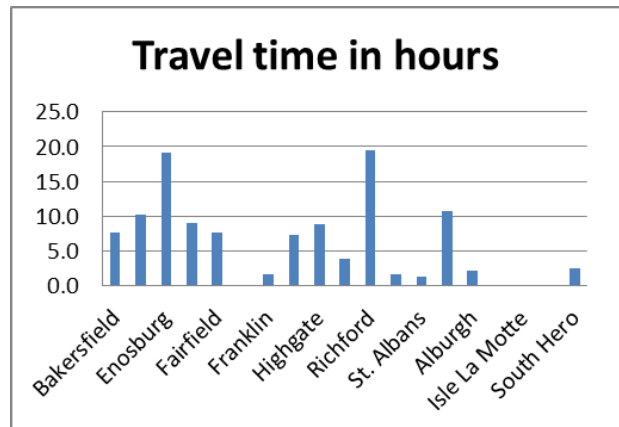
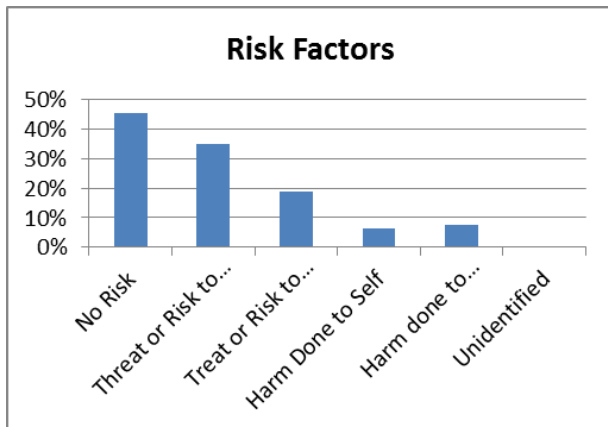
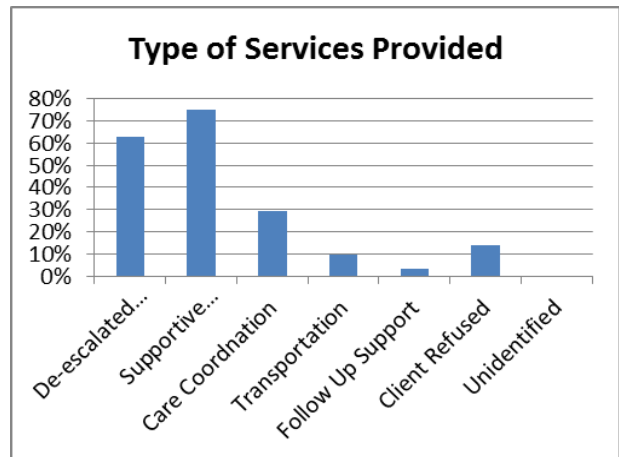
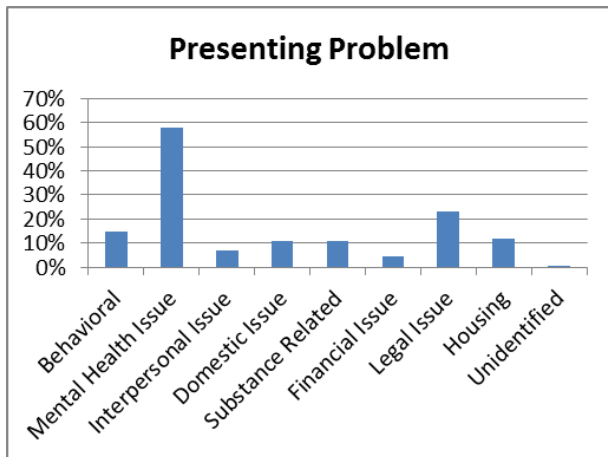
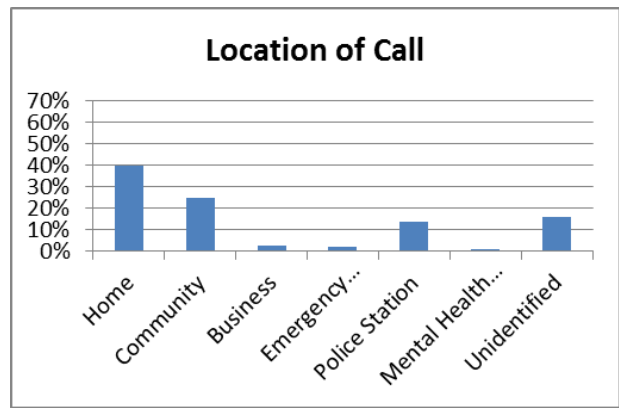
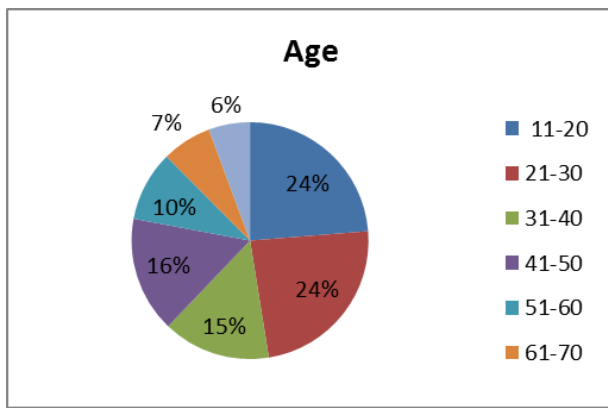
**Building Community Relationships through Intervention**  
***Law Enforcement & Embedded Clinicians***  
**St. Albans, VT**

**Program History**

- September 2016 - Embedded Crisis Worker in Vermont State Police
- Funded through Northwestern Counseling & Support Services as way to divert use of Emergency Department, Decrease Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitalizations, Suicide Rates, and Improve Response and Outcomes with Law Enforcement.
- First embedded clinician pilot program within VSP involving expanded scope with civilian background check, confidentiality agreement, portable radio, key card access to barracks, and collaborative response to scene with VSP Troopers. Response capacity to all 19 towns in Franklin and Grand Isle counties.

**Achievements**

- Initially, noticed a reducing amount of time troopers on scene to increase Troopers available to respond to other demands. **Data illustrates Troopers on scene less than 30 minutes for 65% of calls Embedded Crisis Worker responds to.** More recent experience illustrates more complicated responses in rural areas and value of getting to scene at same time as trooper results in better outcomes for all parties
- **45%** of on scene responses resulted in referrals and additional outreach efforts (2016-2019)
- Responding collaboratively with Troopers ensures effective response and that necessary services are initiated
- Addressing repetitive calls to VSP to work towards a resolution which may involve continued support until individuals are connected to services
- Responding to highly volatile situations with troopers to help facilitate safe resolution for all parties
- Responding to most warrants with VSP to provide mental health services and support family's affected by the warrants
- Responding to sudden deaths to promote adjustment of those on scene and families
- Value in responding together to school bomb and other threats
- Combined training with troopers to develop stronger working relationships and consistent responses on scenes (Crisis Negotiation Training, Critical Incident Stress Debriefing, etc.)
- Value of data entered at scene with mobile device & potential for tracking outcomes and patterns
- Added Service Dog which is demonstrating significant value in wide range of responses
- Since January 2017 and all of 2018 there were 178 Contacts through VSP. Of these contacts, 64% of time VSP on scene less than 30 minutes when clinician involved. 15% clinician only contact with no VSP. In 2019, 95 additional face to face contacts where 83% VSP on scene 30 minutes or less & 39% clinician only.



## Future Directions & Sustainability

- Plan for sustained / additional funding
- Expand Coverage. Need for second shift and weekend coverage due to demands
- Continue to develop Service Dog response efforts
- Statewide protocol for mental health liaison through Crisis Negotiation Unit response
- Modifying evaluation data elements to reflect valued outcomes for tracking

*“This is the most beneficial program I have been affiliated with since I began at the Vermont State Police. With the current and constant pressure on how law enforcement deals with people in crisis, this might be an opportune time to ask for assistance from other state departments in helping to fill the crisis worker role(s)”.*

*Lt. Maurice Lamothe, (RET) St. Albans Station Commander of the VT State Police*