



Is Poverty Making us Sick?

Shining a Light on Poverty Discussion Series, January 30, 2014
Office of Economic Opportunity, Vermont Department for Children
and Families



YES.

How do we define poverty?

- 'In the United States, the definition is an idea of absolute poverty. What that means is we're looking at how much money you need to support a particular standard of living, to buy a certain amount of calories, to buy a certain standard of housing' (Harford)
- Poverty is deprivation due to a lack of resources, both material and non-material, e.g. income, housing, **health**, education, knowledge and culture.

Who lives below the Poverty Level in Vermont?

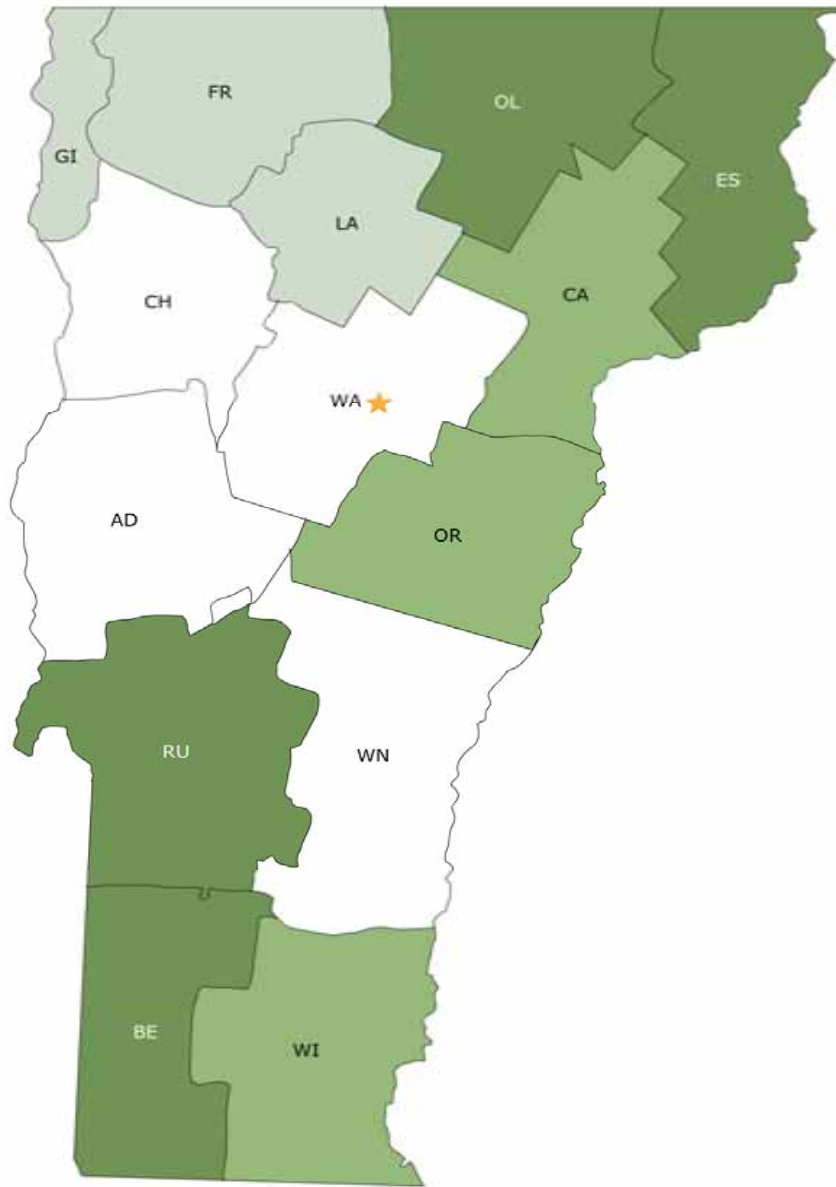


- 11% of all Vermonters
- 21% of all children under 6
- 40% of Vermont families with a single mother and children under age 5

2011 National Center for children in poverty

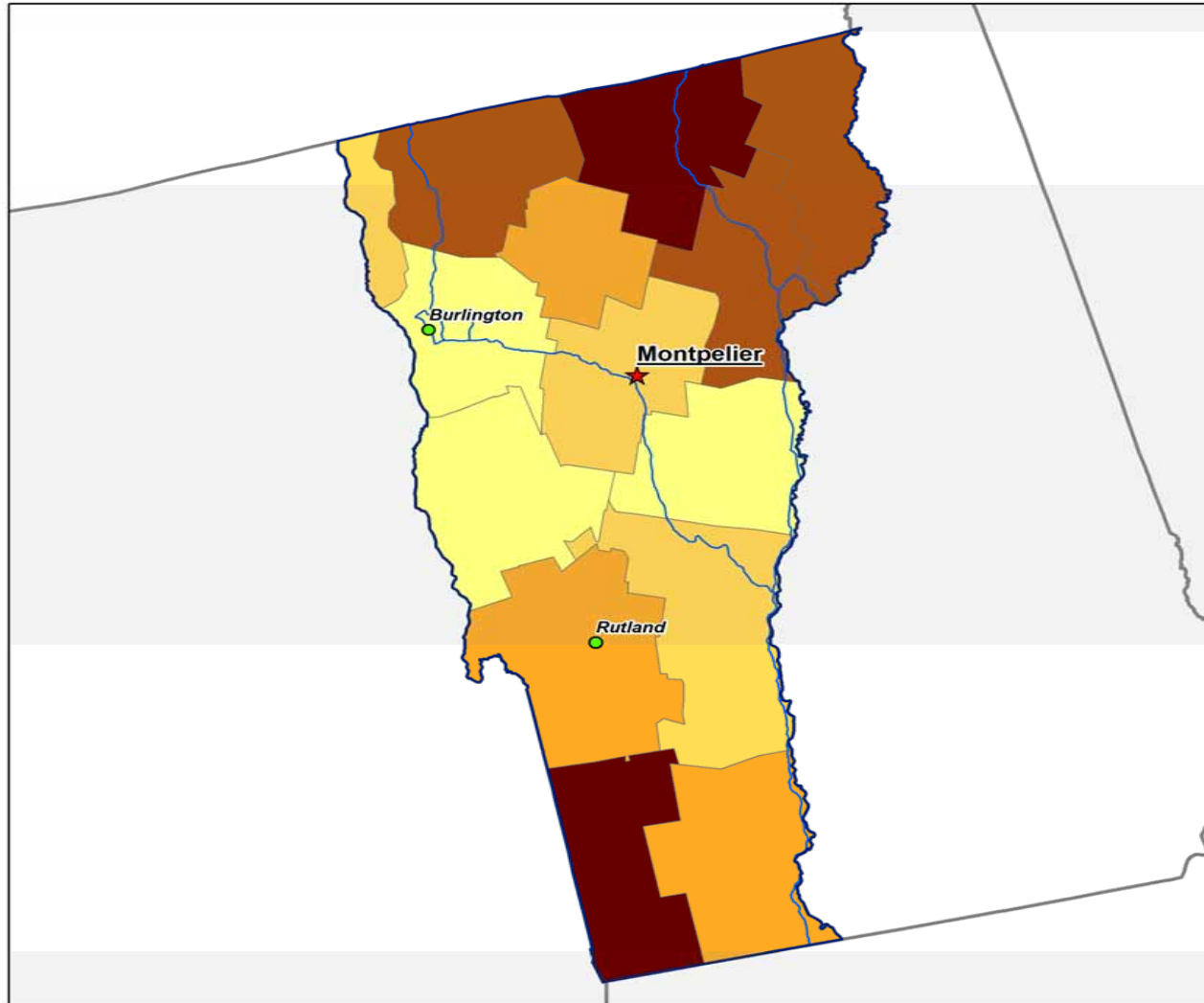
2012 National Census

2013 Health Outcomes - Vermont



Rank 1-4 Rank 5-7 Rank 8-10 Rank 11-14

Prevalence of Current Smoking among Adults Aged ≥ 18 Years, by County: 2011



Vermont

Data Source:
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
(BRFSS) 2011, Census 2010, ACS 2007-2011

Method: Multilevel small area estimation

Classification by Quintiles

Map produced by CDC/NCCDPHP/DPH/ESB-GIS



Date: 7/23/2013

- ★ State Capital
- Cities
- Interstates

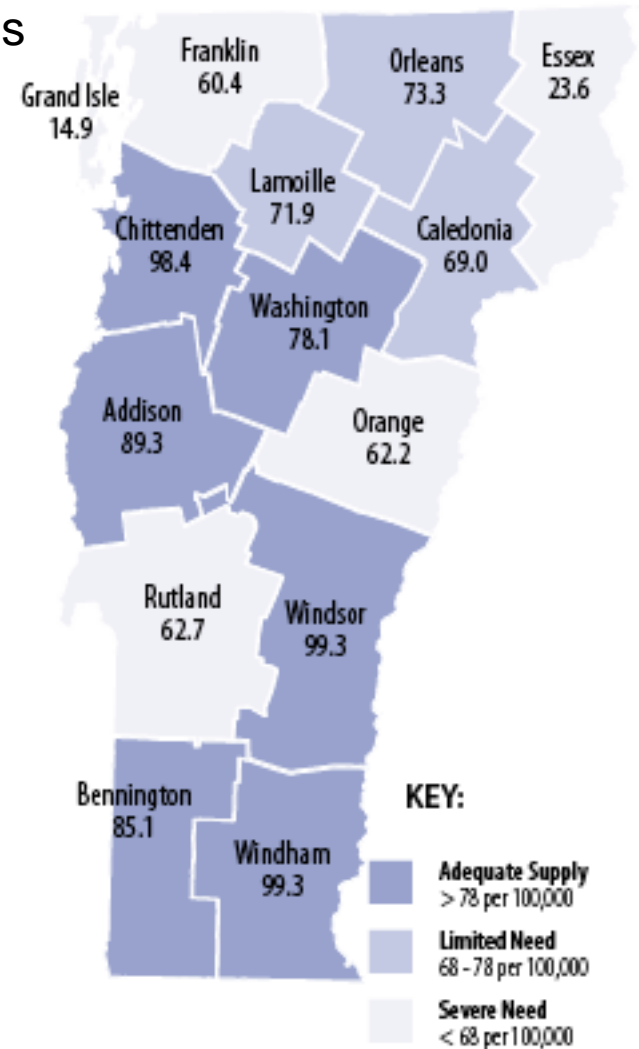


Percent

| |
|-------------|
| 13.5 - 16.8 |
| 16.9 - 19.1 |
| 19.2 - 20.7 |
| 20.8 - 23.9 |
| 24.0 - 26.7 |

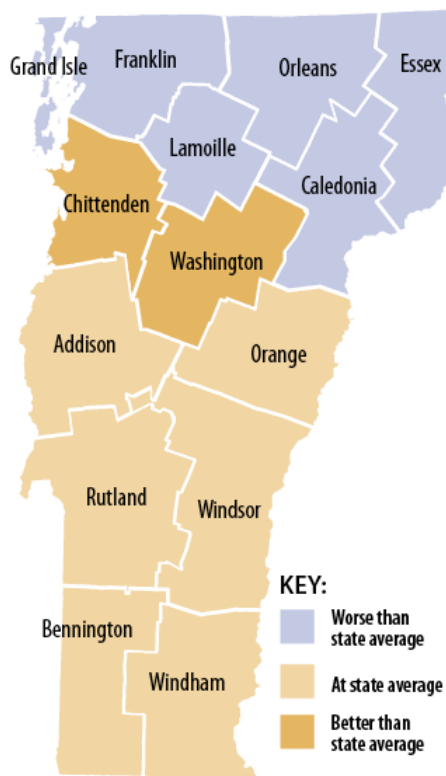
Access to Care Varies among Vermonters

full-time equivalent primary care physicians per 100,000 people, by county



Education varies among Vermonters

% of Vermonters age 25+ with less than a high school education, by county



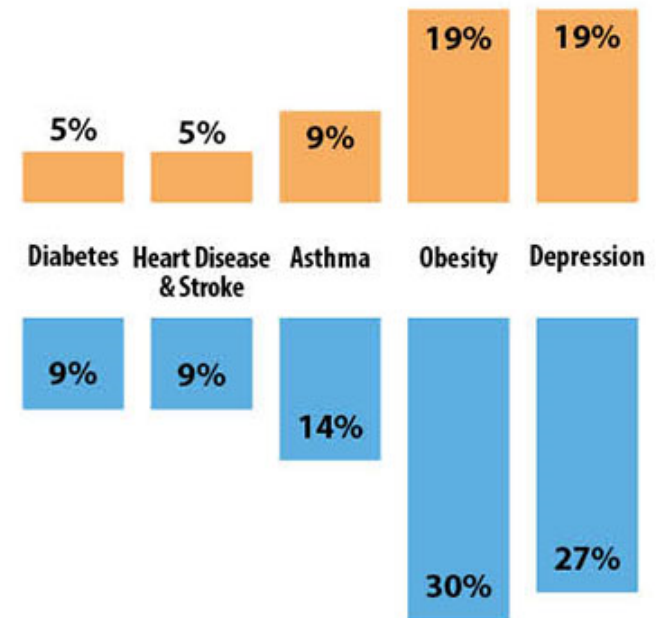
Vermont adults who report having a chronic health condition, by Federal Poverty Level



Chronic Conditions & Income

Vermont adults who report having a chronic condition,
by Federal Poverty Level • 2010

HIGHER INCOME % with income more than 2½ times poverty level

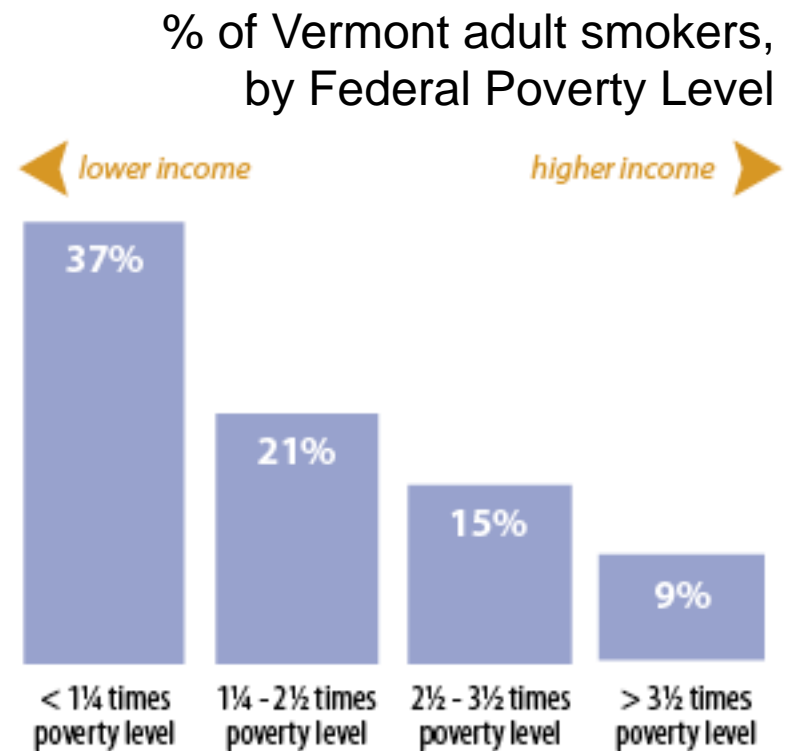


LOWER INCOME % with income less than 2½ times poverty level

Health Costs of Lower Incomes

Low income Vermonters are more likely to:

- Eat less than they feel they should
- Compromise quality for quantity
- NOT get enough physical activity
- Smoke



Health Costs of Lower Incomes

Low income Vermont mothers are more likely to:

- Have inadequate prenatal care
- Smoke during pregnancy
- Have low birthweight babies

And less likely to:

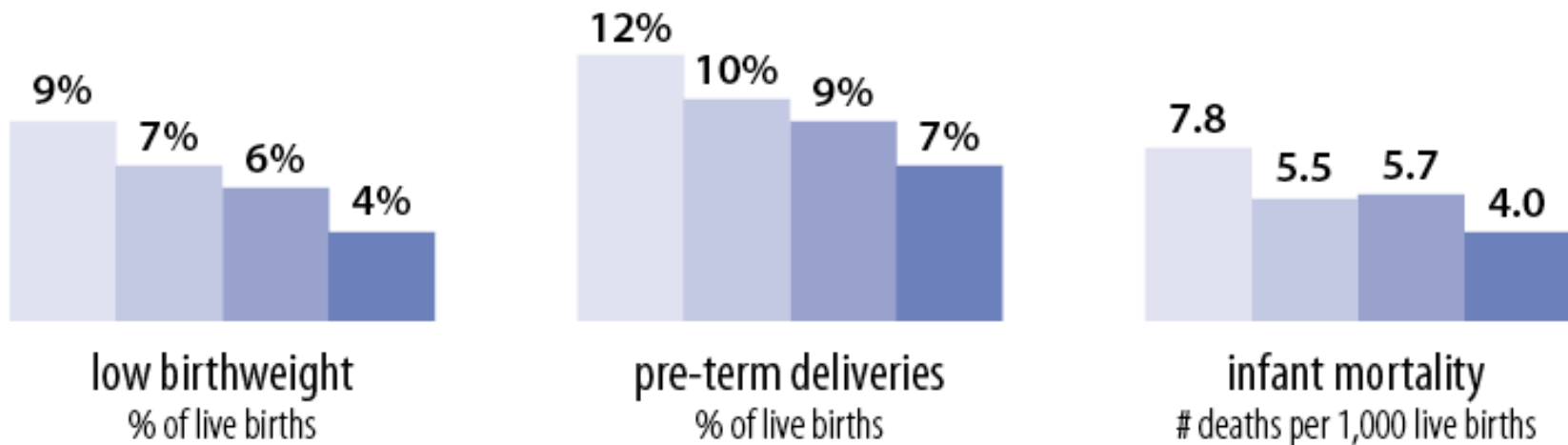
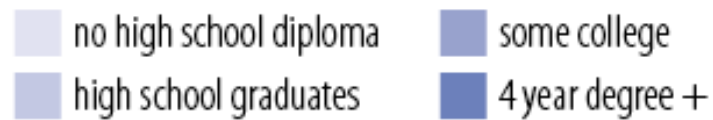
- Breastfeed



Parent's education matters

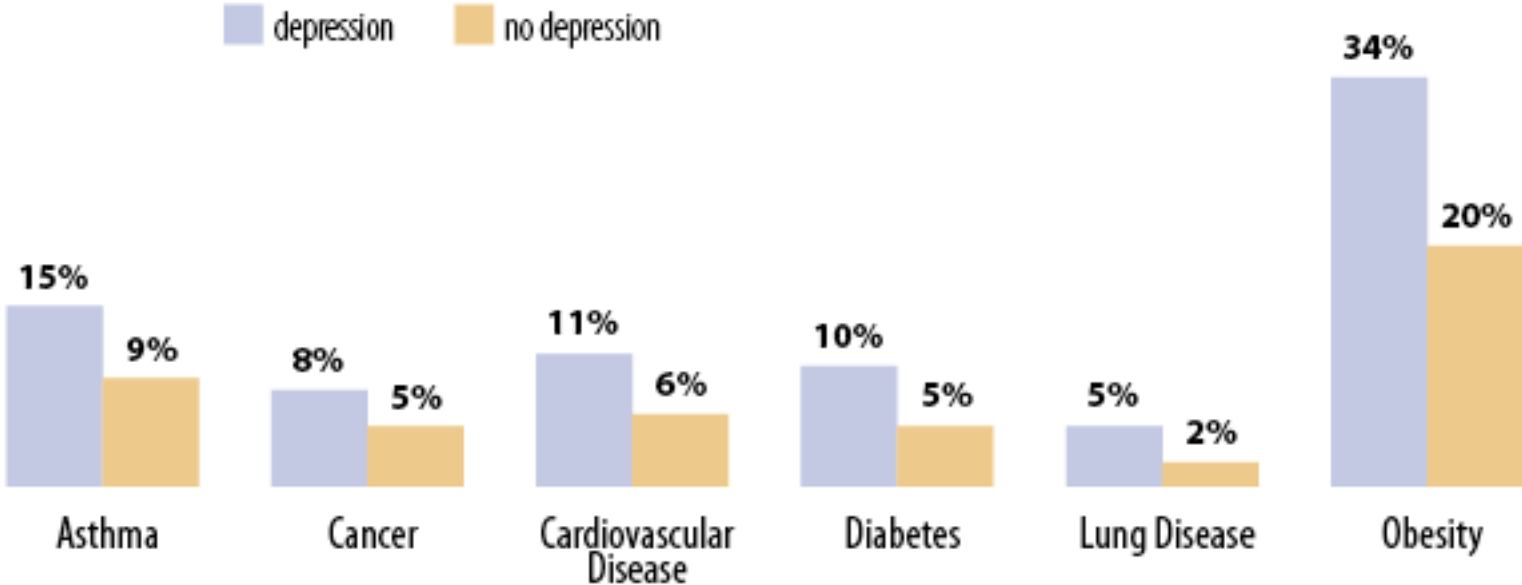
Childbirth & Education

Mother's educational level –



Beyond their Depression –

% Vermonters age 18+ who have a chronic disease among those who have –



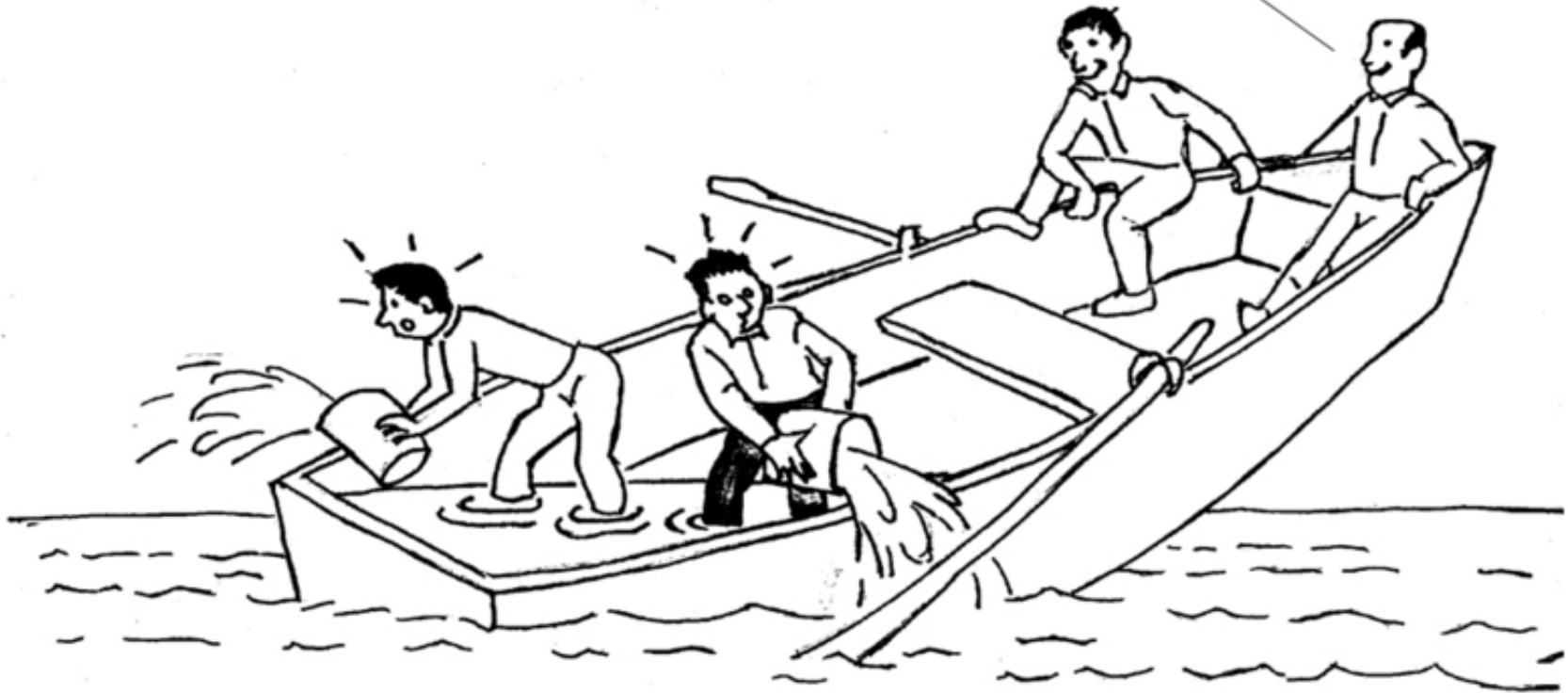
Whose fault is it?




Vermont Department of Health

Does it matter?

Sure glad the hole isn't at our end.





'cause I know the biggest crime
is just to throw up your hands
say this has nothing to do with me
I just want to live as comfortably as I can
you got to look outside your eyes
you got to think outside your brain
you got to walk outside your life
to where the neighborhood changes

Ani DiFranco, Willing to Fight

Vermont Department of Health