

NOTICE

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED.
AUDIO AND VIDEO

LEHIGH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

2023-2024 HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING & PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 10:30 AM AND 6:00 PM

KAY ACHENBACH, HUMAN SERVICES

PAULA GRIFFIN, CHILDREN & YOUTH

JOSH BRIDGES, MH / ID / D&A / EI

MATT BAUDER, HEALTHCHOICES

JR REED, AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

SUE LETTERA, INTEGRATED SERVICES

What Are Human Services?

- Designed to assist people in difficult, sometimes permanent, life situations
- Interdisciplinary Services help people navigate through crisis or chronic situations where external help and guidance are needed for them to move forward with their lives and rediscover their personal power and self sufficiency
- Not “Welfare”

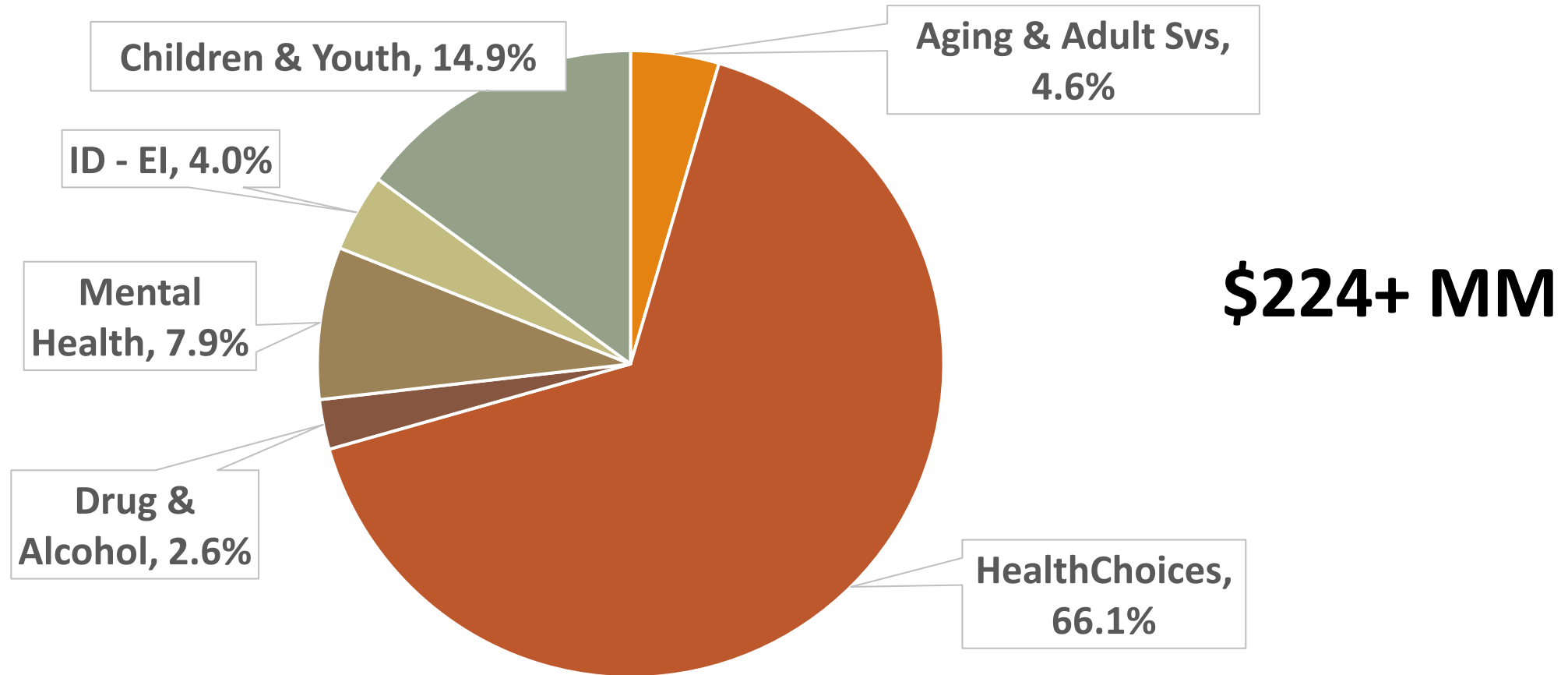
State Charge & Partnership

- State charges counties to assist in the delivery of Human Services
- Human Services model varies by county
- Counties can tailor their system as best meets the needs of citizens
- Some typical HS activities are completely optional (County Homes, ie) and others are mandated

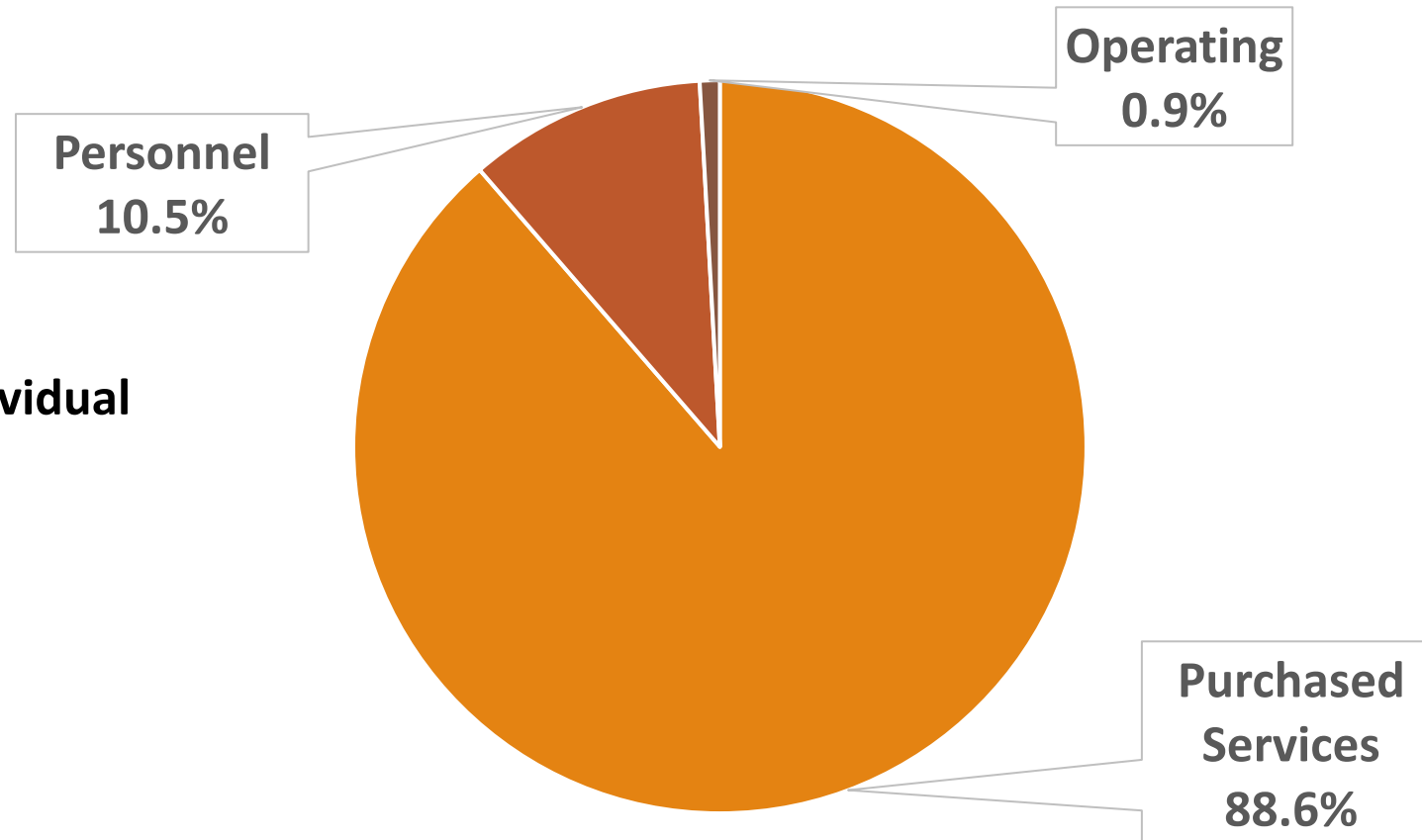
Challenges

- Human Services Programs are in Several State Departments
- Individualized Program Requirements
- Individualized Fiscal Requirements
- Confidentiality Requirements
- Limited Funding

2023 Lehigh County DHS Expenditure Budget

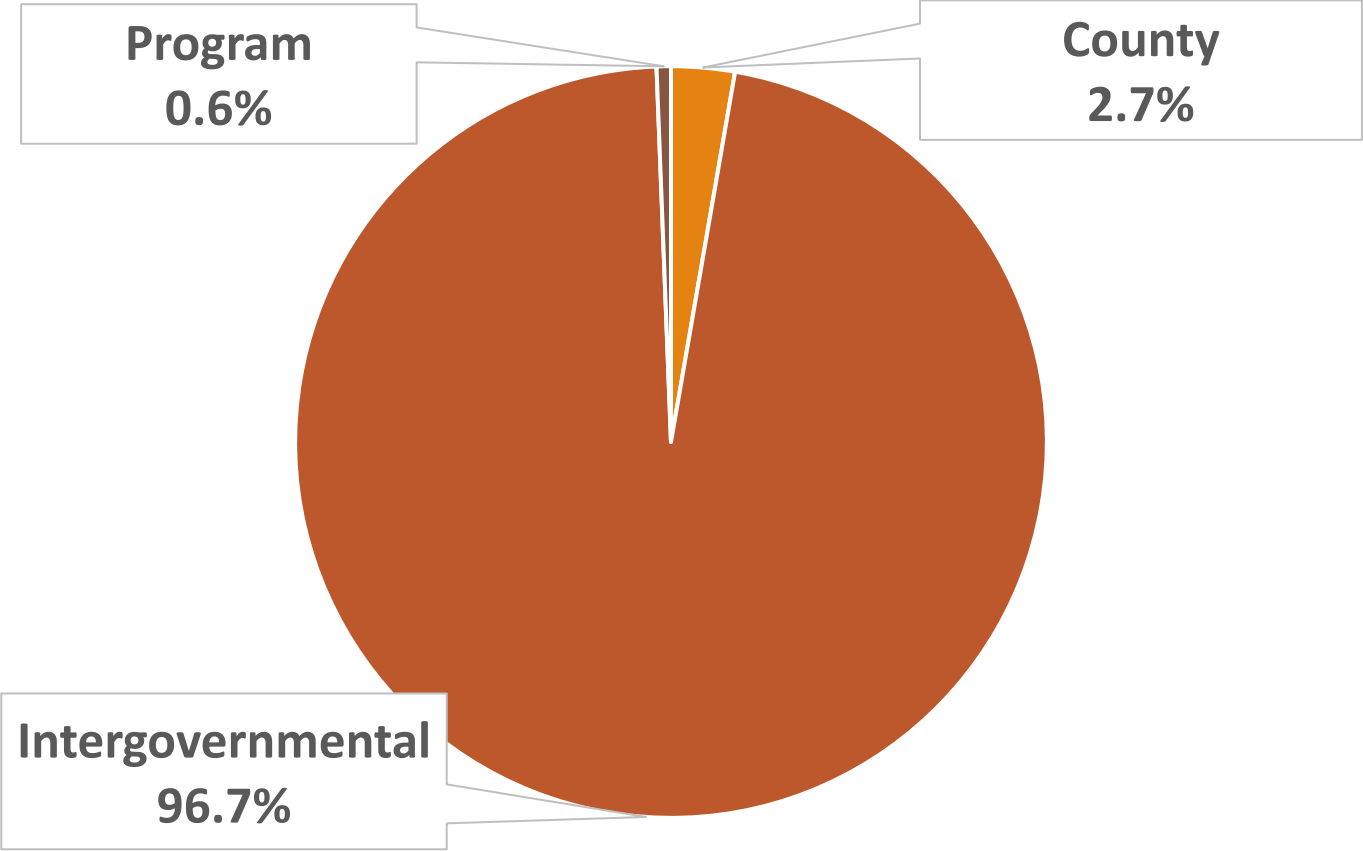


2023 DHS Expenditure Budget – Personnel, Operating, Purchased Services



Note:
This is DHS overall; individual agencies have different percentages

2023 Human Services Revenue by Source



A Good ROI - Uses just over \$0.05 of every County tax dollar

Aging and Adult Services

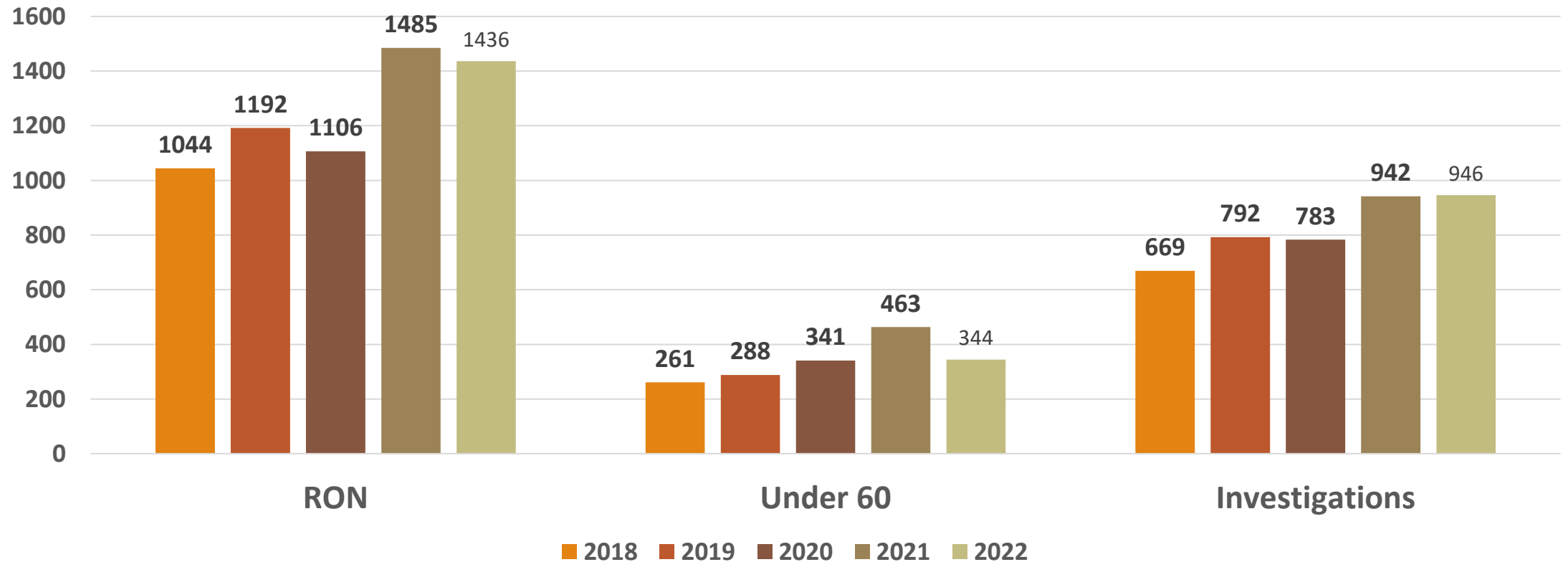
Aging and Adult Services supports and empowers the well being of adults of all ages who live in Lehigh County

Nearly 9,456 (unduplicated) Aging consumers 60+ received direct services and/or congregate meals

Nearly 869 consumers age 18-59 received direct services (meals, personal care, home assistance, assessments, response to reports of abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment for adult protective services, and service planning/care management)

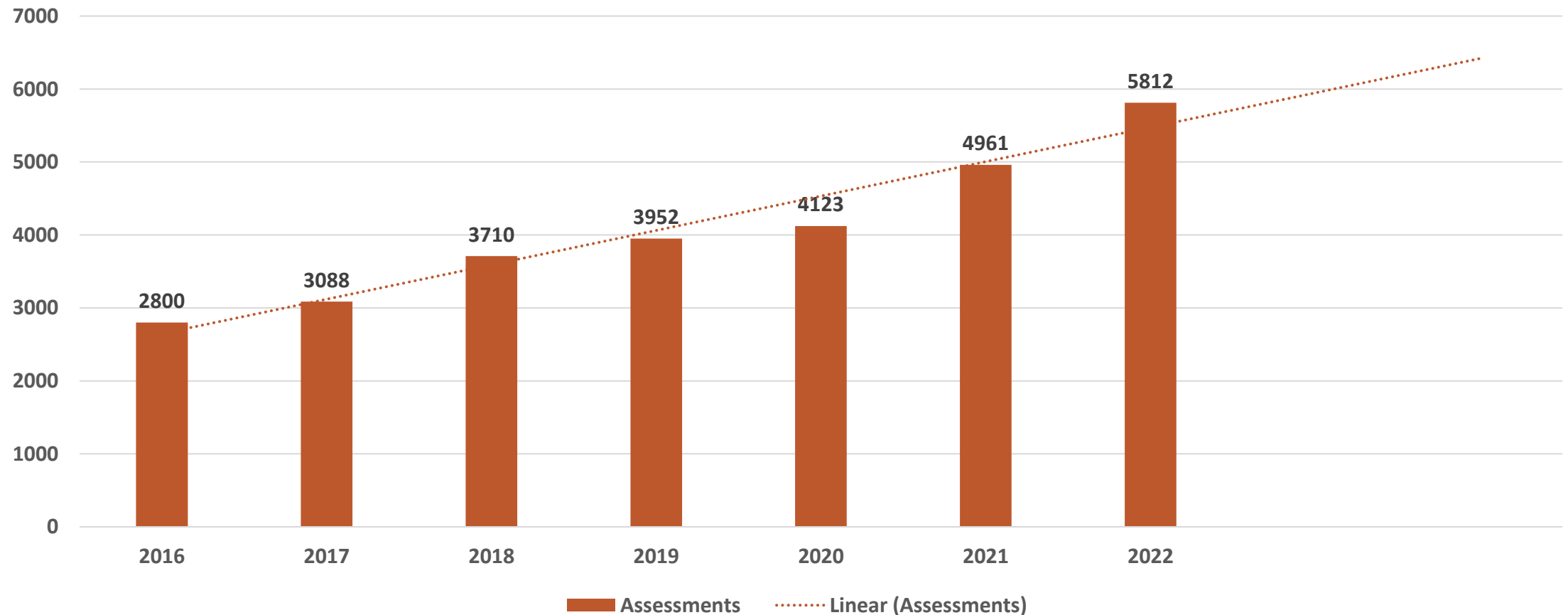
Aging and Adult Services

Reports of Abuse, Neglect, Financial Exploitation And Abandonment



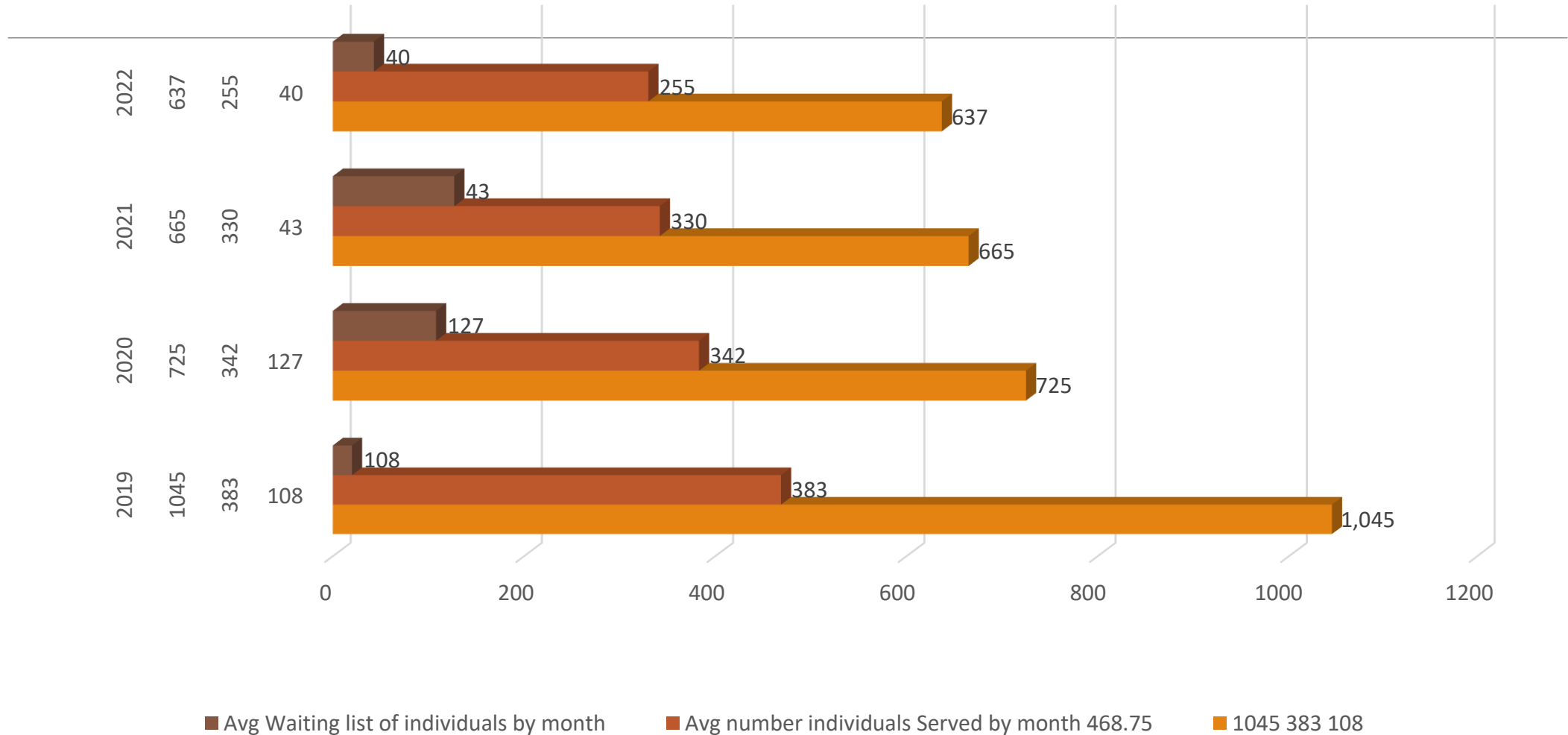
Aging and Adult Services

Number of Assessments



Aging and Adult Services

OPTIONS Services



Aging and Adult Services

Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)

- 582 individuals had eviction/near homeless situation resolved
- 73 individuals had homeless situations resolved
- 256 households assisted
- 301 children resided in households

Aging and Adult Services

Public Health Workforce within Aging and Disability Networks Program Grant

- Allentown Health Bureau
- Vaccination and Booster clinics held at Senior Centers and Community Sites
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Senior Home Safety Visits
- Following Health & Wellness
 - Matter of Balance Fitness Classes
 - Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Screenings
 - Nutrition Education

Cedar View Apartment Complex



Cedar View Apartment Complex

Grant from United States Economic Development Administration

- Built 1978
- 199 Unit Building

Qualifications for Residency

- Low to moderate income
- Current Lehigh County Resident or 50% Lifetime County Resident
- 62 years of age or older or under 62 with a disability
- Rent based off adjusted gross income and assets

Cedar View Apartment Complex

Amenities:

- Outdoor Pavilion
- Community Room
- Game Room
- On-site Laundry
- Locked Building
- Entertainment
- Senior Center



Children & Youth Services

PROTECTING CHILDREN

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Children & Youth Services

Children and Youth is committed to:

- Protecting children from abuse and neglect,
- Maintaining children in their own home and community,
- Ensuring access to services for parents,
- Preserving and stabilizing families, and
- Assuring that children have a permanent home.

Children & Youth Services

- Investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect
For 2022, total of 7,090 referrals. 1,451 CPS and 5,639 GPS
- 290 in Out of Home Care
 - Foster care - 121
 - Congregate care - 32
 - Runaway - 3
 - Kinship Care - 123
 - Independent Living - 11
- 267 in Adoption
- 55 in Subsidized Legal Custodianship

Family Engagement Initiative

- Designed to assist with greater inclusion of family in Child Welfare and keep families united
- Includes 3 core areas for meaningful family engagement
 - Enhanced Family Finding
 - Crisis and Rapid Response Family Meetings
 - Enhanced Legal Representation

Family First Prevention Services Act

- Effective October 1, 2021, placement prevention efforts must be documented in the Family Service Plan for:
 - Any child assessed and determined to be a candidate for foster care and
 - Any pregnant, expecting, or parenting youth in foster care

- Ongoing review of prevention efforts must take place every 6 months at a minimum

- Must demonstrate the prevention strategies or programs used for a child to remain safely at home, live temporarily with kin until reunification is safely achieved or live permanently with a kin caregiver that prevents C&Y from assuming custody

Early Head Start – SAFESTART Program

- A collaboration between Community Services for Children and C&Y
- Two full sites – East Allentown (old state hospital grounds) – West Allentown (LVH – 17th and Chew) adding Lehigh Valley Hospital as a third collaborative partner
- Providing all day supportive care for 72 children who are identified as drug impacted at birth
- In-home parenting program offered for 20 children
- Parent education and support
- Following children ages 0-3 who then can transition into the Head Start program allowing for continuum of care

Complex Youth

There is a real need across the state for placement facilities and foster families willing to open their homes to complex youth

Autism

Gender Identity

Intellectually Disabled

Behavioral Issues

Sexual Acting Out

Attachment Issues

Multiple Systems Involved

Mental Health Diagnosis & Medications

If interested in becoming a foster parent, contact the Greater Lehigh Valley Foster Care Coalition - recruitment@diakon.org

Volunteer Opportunities

- The Kindness Project 484-232-9674, Emmaus, Pa
 - This is an all volunteer, donation-based nonprofit organization.
 - They provide support to foster and kin families in the Lehigh Valley. The mission is to provide a brighter future by offering free essential resources and enrichment opportunities.
- Children & Youth Advisory Board- 610-782-3064.
Interested in serving on a board to help advise the agency on child welfare issues???? Contact Lorraine Schintz to inquire.

Child Welfare Education for Leadership

The CWEL program is an cooperative effort with 12 accredited schools of social work across the state of Pennsylvania.

The goal is to strengthen public child welfare services in Pennsylvania by providing educational opportunities at the graduate level for public child welfare personnel.

Requirements:

2 years as a caseworker at Children & Youth in exchange for a 2 year MSW program. You will then work 2 additional years post graduation. While attending school, you will be paid 95% of your salary.

How to Become a Caseworker

The Department of Human Services in Lehigh County hires via the Civil Service Commission.

- Apply at www.employment.pa.gov
- Select County Caseworker 2 for C&Y:
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pabureau/jobs/2353889/county-caseworker-2-lg-cy-online-exam>
- You may complete the exam at your convenience from your home
- You can sign up for alerts so you will be notified when additional positions are posted

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD!

Child Line

If you are concerned about a child being abused or neglected, please call:

1-800-932-0313



Drug & Alcohol Services

The Drug and Alcohol Services program recognizes the disease concept of chemical dependency and believes that prevention and early intervention are the keys to overcoming addiction.

Drug & Alcohol Specialty Services

Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS)

Hospital Opioid Support Team (HOST)

Blue Guardian

Pregnant Women Case Coordination

Mother/Baby Programs

CRS Re-Entry

Plan of Safe Care

MAT Induction in the ED

FORT Family Support Program

Ambulatory Withdrawal Management

Student Assistance Program

Linkage to Treatment for Victims of Human Trafficking

Naloxone Program

Center City Allentown Outreach

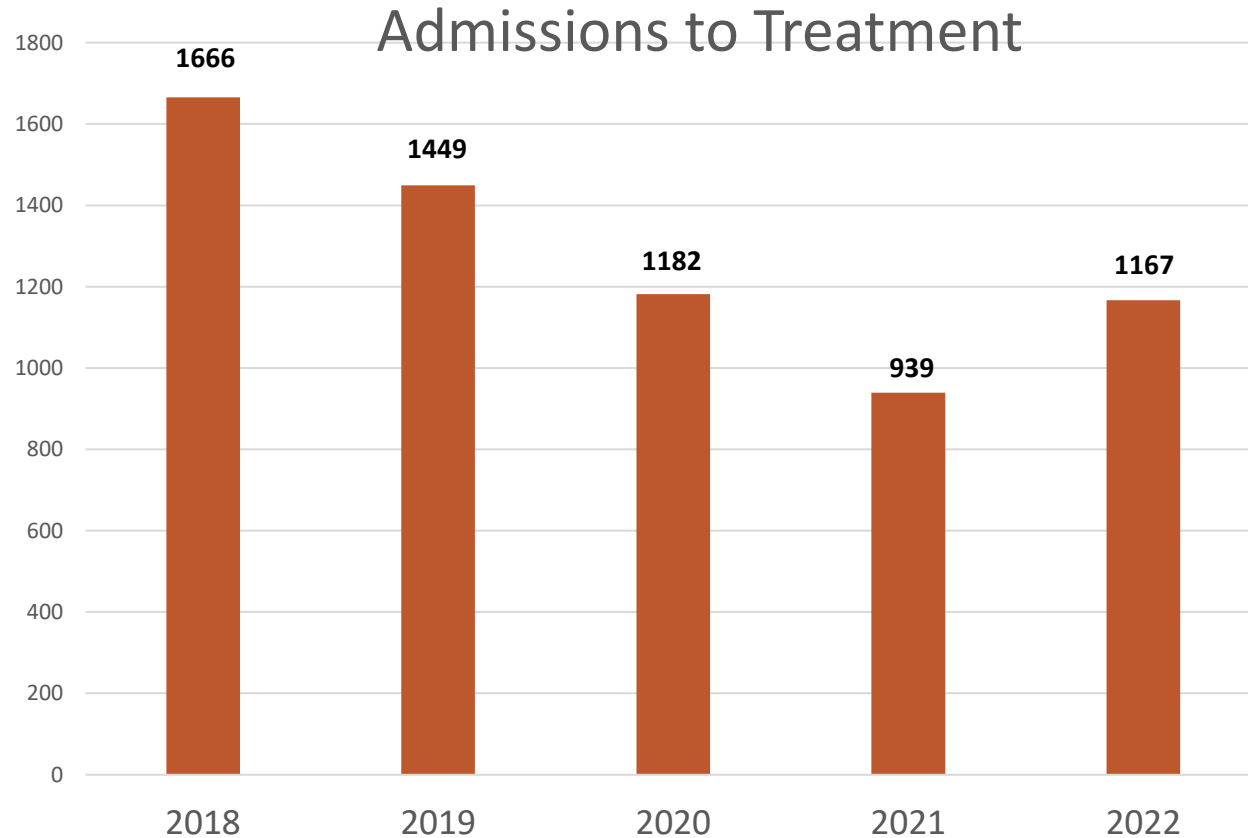
Comprehensive Treatment & MAT for Pregnant Women/ Women with Children

Family Codependency Groups

Adult Recovery Centers Change on Hamilton & Allentown Center for Recovery

Teen Recovery Center REACH LV

Drug & Alcohol by the Numbers: Overview



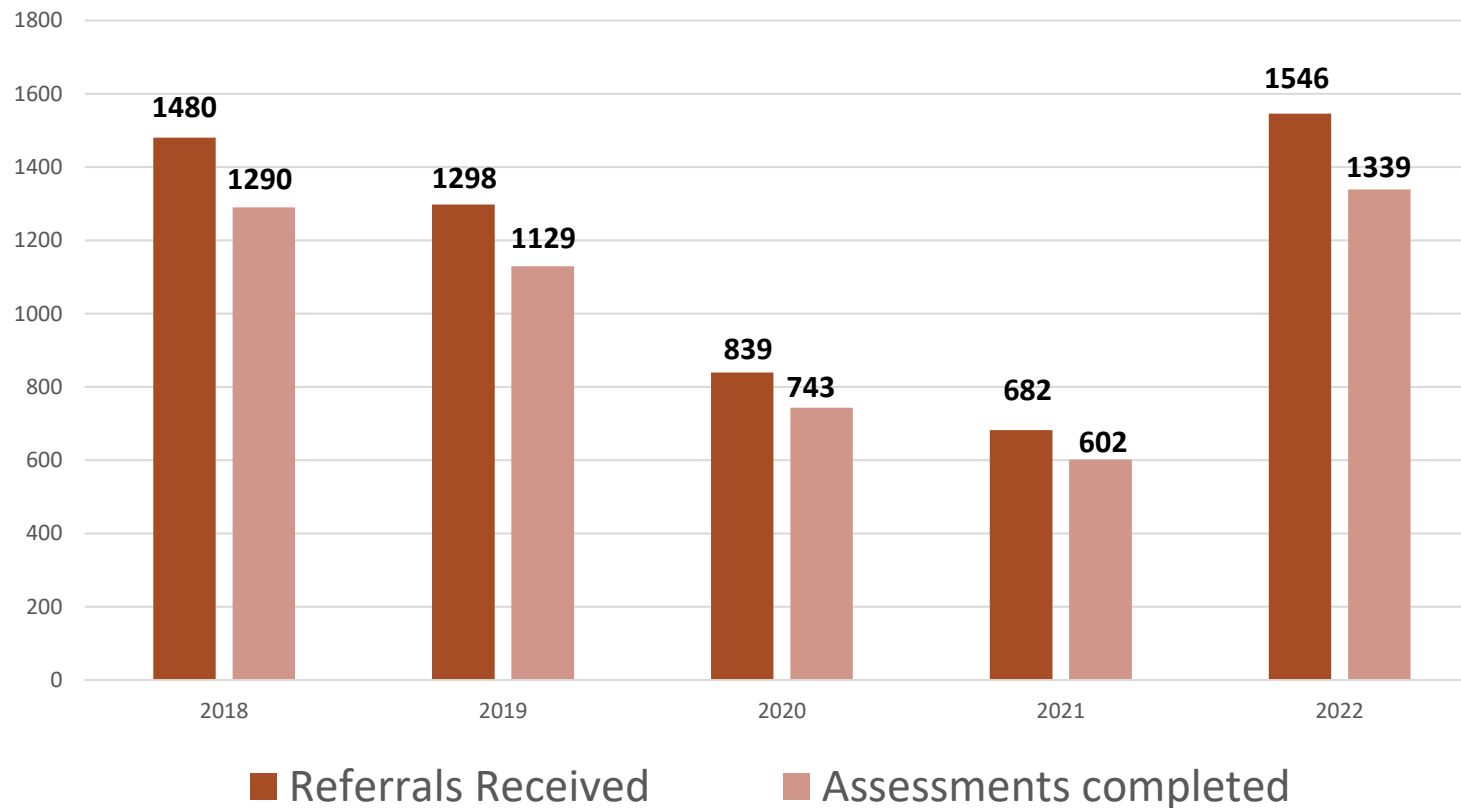
After a low in 2021, admissions are rebounding.

Our clients are admitted into multiple levels of care ranging from least restrictive to most restrictive. The levels of care are as follows:

- Outpatient
- Intensive Outpatient
- Partial Hospital
- Halfway House
- Residential Inpatient
- Withdrawal Management

Drug & Alcohol by the Numbers:

Referrals Received vs. Clients Assessed



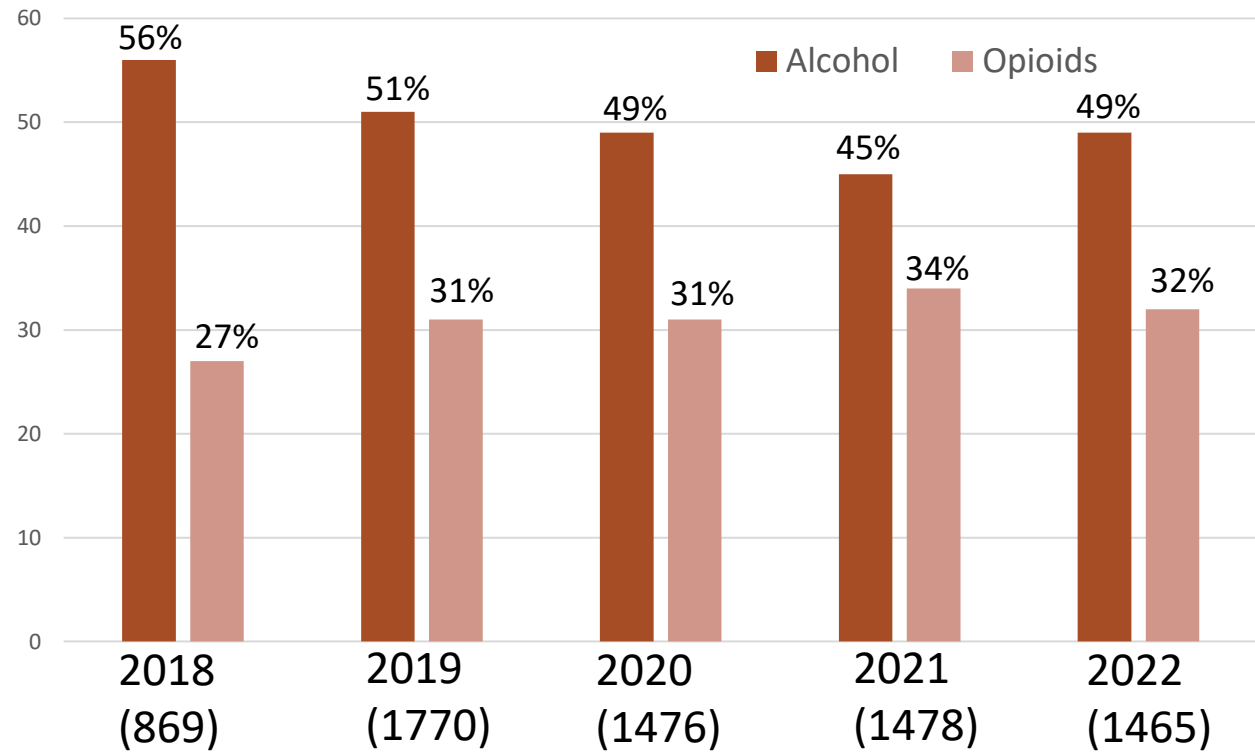
Data represents referrals outside of the HOST program (Jail, Probation, Self Referrals, Children & Youth, etc). Year to year the referral rate of 86-88% of the total referrals completing an assessment remains steady.

By comparison, referrals to the HOST program totaled 1740, and 1465 (84%) of those clients were assessed.

Drug & Alcohol by the Numbers: HOST

Though the Opioid Epidemic has dramatically increased the rate of opioid overdose, alcohol remains the primary reason for emergency room presentation among substance use disorders. The primary opioid in the drug supply remains fentanyl and it's also found in numerous other substances such as cocaine.

Alcohol vs. Opioids as a Primary Diagnosis in HOST Referrals.



RECOVERY COMMUNITY CENTERS



In 2021, Lehigh County opened three new Recovery Community Centers. Functioning like drop-in centers, they offer a judgment-free place to get help entering treatment, finding resources in the community, building skills, find employment, attend self-help meetings, socialize sober and more.



Together, our recovery centers have serve over 15,000 individuals annually.



REACH Youth Recovery Center one of a handful of teen Recovery Centers in the nation, and the only one in our multi-state region.

FORT Family Program

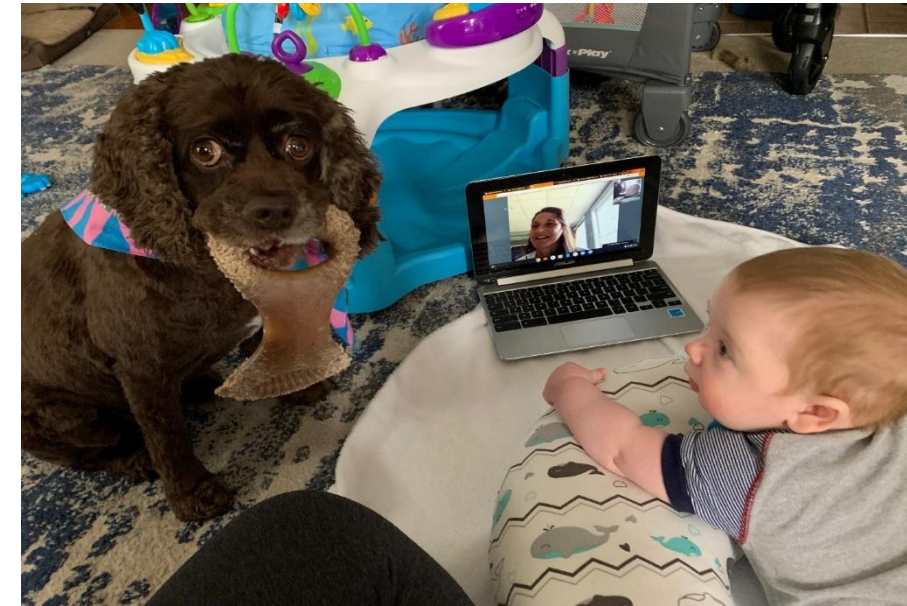
Families Obtaining Recovery Together (FORT) is a program focused entirely on the needs of loved ones of people using substances. The program was developed by MARS and Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol:

- Open to families even if their loved one is not in treatment.
- Works with families with or without their loved on present.
- Includes single family therapy, multi-family group, skill building, family peer services, and case management.

The FORT program began in Fall of 2021 and has served over 60 families with nearly 70% of those families completing the program.

Early Intervention

- **El serves children ages birth to 3 with developmental delays**
- **FY 21-22 El received 2,065 referrals.**
- **El provides services to:**
 - **Improve the child's development and educational growth**
 - **Enhance the family's capacity to meet their child's needs**
 - **Prevent the need for more and more costly intervention in the future**



Early Intervention Services

An initial screening and/or a multidisciplinary evaluation is offered to every family. After a child is determined eligible for EI services, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed.

Direct EI services can include:

- **Service coordination**
- **Family training**
- **Special Instruction**
- **Occupational Therapy**
- **Speech/Language Therapy**
- **Physical Therapy**
- **Vision Support**
- **Hearing Support**

Early Intervention

- **1,905 children were evaluated of which 1,598 were eligible**
- **98 children were enrolled in the ITF Waiver**
- **459 children were transitioned from the county infant/toddler EI program to an Intermediate Unit preschool program.**
- **946 children were discharged successfully from the program**
- **99.92% of the children entering EI in 21-22 had their evaluations and IFSP's completed according to the mandated state timeline of 45 days from the date of referral. Throughout the Pandemic these were mostly completed virtually and In Person on request of the family.**

Early Intervention Community Collaboration

- **Safe Start- Specialized child care centers to meet the needs of infants and toddlers affected by prenatal substance exposure.**
- **Plans of Safe Care Team for infants affected by prenatal substance exposure- a collaboration between the county offices of C & Y, EI and D & A and the local birthing hospitals.**
- **Easter Seal Society-completes developmental screenings for children in child care centers and homeless shelters. Also manages an Autism Diagnostic clinic for children enrolled in the EI program.**
- **Unconditional Child Care-provides classroom coaching to child care centers to prevent children from being at risk of suspension/expulsion.**

Increasing Awareness of Infant & Early Child Mental Health

2021-Trainings provided through IECMH Grant

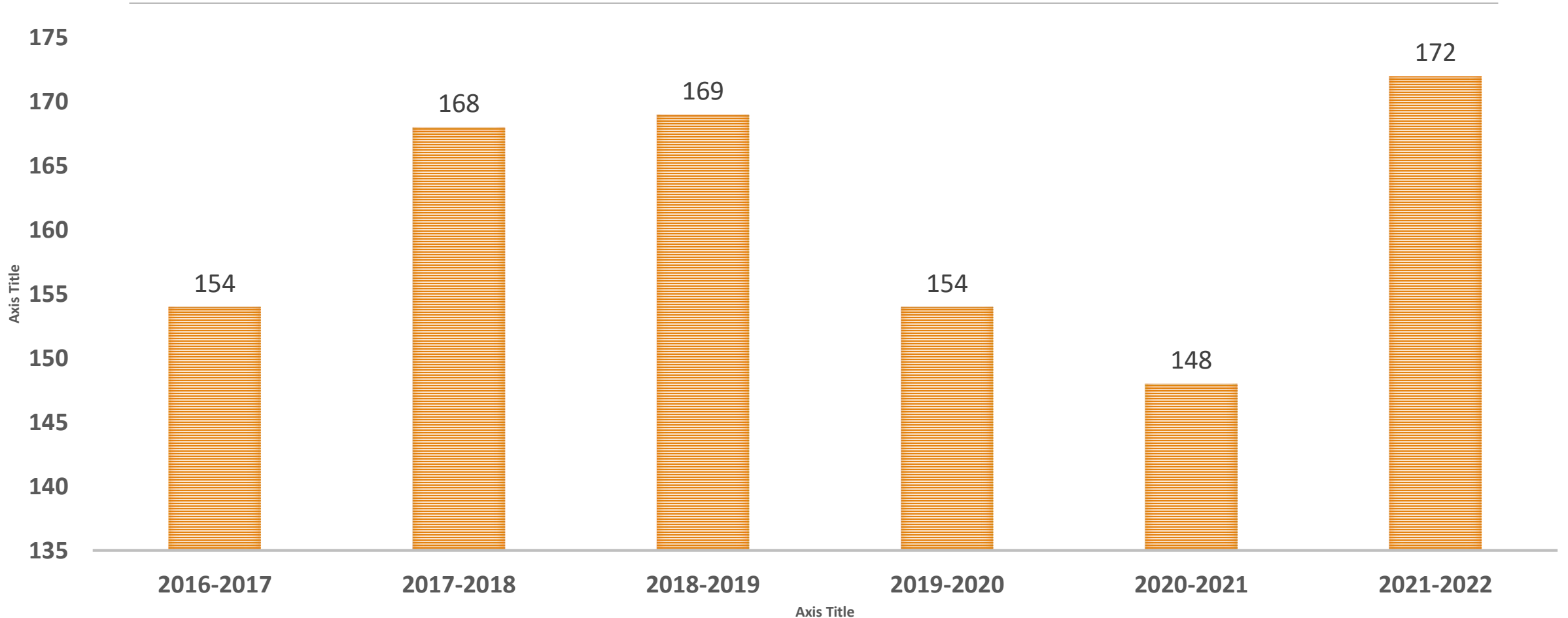
- Attachment: A Relational Foundation
- Relationship-Based Assessment
- Perinatal Mood Anxiety Disorder
- Engagement of Families with Substance Use Disorder
- Secondary Trauma, Compassion Fatigue & Self-Care
- Health Inequities & Racial Injustice
- Advocacy & Systemic-Care of Children & Their Caregivers within the Child Welfare System

2022-Trainings provided through IECMH Grant

- Holistic Approaches & Social Emotional Learning in Early Intervention
- May 6th, 13th, and 20th
- Open to All

EI Yearly Growth

Yearly Growth/Average Monthly Referrals



HealthChoices

Provides for medically necessary behavioral health and substance abuse services to Medical Assistance enrolled Lehigh County residents through contracts with either a Behavioral Health or Physical Health Managed Care Organization (MCO).

Federally funded through the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS); funding is passed through the state to each individual County in Pennsylvania.

In 2022, the Lehigh County HealthChoices program provided behavioral health services to 18,544 unduplicated members accounting for almost \$98MM in medical claims costs.

Program is always looking to be innovative and create new services that will meet the growing and changing needs of our members.

Current State HealthChoices Initiatives

- Tobacco Cessation Plan
- Transitional Age Youth Certified Peer Specialist Program
- Integrated Care Performance Initiative
- Forensic Solutions
- Implementation of Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) - formerly BHRS
- Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)
- Community HealthChoices (CHC)
- Opioid Centers of Excellence
- Antipsychotics Medications Dashboard
- Value Based Purchasing
- Tele-Health
- Trauma Focused Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF)

HealthChoices Innovative Programming

County Wide School Based Mental Health Outpatient Services – Partnered with each school district to identify the unique mental health needs of its student body. Created a pool of potential providers for School Districts to explore and interview to find the best fit to meet the needs of its’ student population. Providing Outpatient Services in identified schools to improve access to services and better meet member needs in their natural and community based settings. A technical assistance collaborative consisting of Magellan, Counties, Providers, and School Districts has been formed to help create consistency, share approaches, and work through challenges and barriers. Currently, all School Districts in Lehigh County have implemented Outpatient Services and Charter Schools have begun to implement as well. At last count, there were over 120 unique schools with Outpatient services available across the Lehigh Valley.

HealthChoices

Innovative Programming, cont.

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services for Transitional Age members with Autism – Home and community based services that focus on the functional adult living skills needed to be able to live as independently as possible. Various living skills focused on can include grocery shopping, budgeting, cooking, cleaning, furthering education, job seeking and interview skills, social and recreational outlets and activities. These services look to pick up and support members transitioning out of the Child and Adolescent system. These services are designed to help bridge the gap from the intensive home and community based services available to children to the less intensive community based services typically provided to adults. The School Based OP providers and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Providers have partnered together as well to better identify possible members that would benefit from this type of service.

HealthChoices

Innovative Programming – cont.

Specialized services to better meet the varying needs of varying members. Examples of specialized services include Intensive Case Management for the homeless, Dual Diagnosis Treatment Team (DDTT), Transition to Independence Case Management Program for transition age youth, Specialized Outpatient services for members with an Autism Spectrum Diagnosis, Certified Recovery Specialists, Program for members experiencing their First Episode of Psychosis, and Jail Diversion/Re-entry program for members with D&A/Forensic issues.

Service gaps and unmet needs are assessed on an annual basis to determine additional community and residential programs that could assist HealthChoices members. Social determinants of health (i.e. housing, income, schooling, transportation, food, etc.) are areas of need that continue to be identified as having a large impact on member's behavioral health needs. As such, social determinants are becoming areas of greater focus related to treatment. Identification of resources and linkages to those resources are being incorporated more into treatment plans and services for our members.

HealthChoices Stabilizing Services during the Pandemic and Post

Alternative Payment Arrangements (APAs) – Lump sum payments made monthly to providers. Payments were based on 2019 claims data to establish a baseline for each provider. Payments began in April 2020 and continued through the end of 2022.

Staffing Stabilization Payments – Provider staffing has been one of the areas most impacted by the pandemic. To address such, Lehigh County and Magellan Behavioral Health worked to identify one-time payments to providers that was based on 2019 claims averages. Providers were eligible for these one-time payments if they were able to present a clear plan on how these payments would be used directly for staffing needs. This could include sign-on bonuses, salary/wage increases, longevity bonuses, etc. However, providers needed to attest that the funds would be used in the manner in which they presented. We continue to track how these payments have benefitted providers and the impact they have had on staffing as a result.

Provider Job Fair and Human Services Job Video – Lehigh County, in conjunction with Magellan Behavioral Health and local Behavioral Health providers held a job fair at Penn State Lehigh Valley. There was also a video created for distribution to providers to help promote the type of work that is done in the human services field.

HealthChoices Stabilizing Services during the Pandemic and Post, cont.

Tele-Health Services – The ability to provide services through remote audio and video options. Prior to the pandemic, tele-health was very prescriptive and could only be used in very specific situations. Through the pandemic, tele-health has been increasingly used to ensure services to members can be maintained. Tele-health should only be used at the members request. Federal, state, and local systems are currently assessing the effectiveness of various options for tele-health services.

End of Public Health Emergency – PHE officially ended in April 2023. All MA enrolled members will need to go through the MA re-application process at some point in the next 12 month period. Re-application will be based on previous enrollment date. Communications are being sent out by the state, MCOs, and providers to ensure members are aware of the need to re-apply and prevent loss of MA benefits. It is unknown how many members will lose MA benefits through the re-application process but current projections note up to 30% of current MA members may no longer qualify for MA. Re-applications will now be processed on a rolling 12 month calendar.

Crisis Intervention / Information & Referral

Individuals Served: **5279**

Phone Contacts: **5296**

Home and Community Visits: **1485**

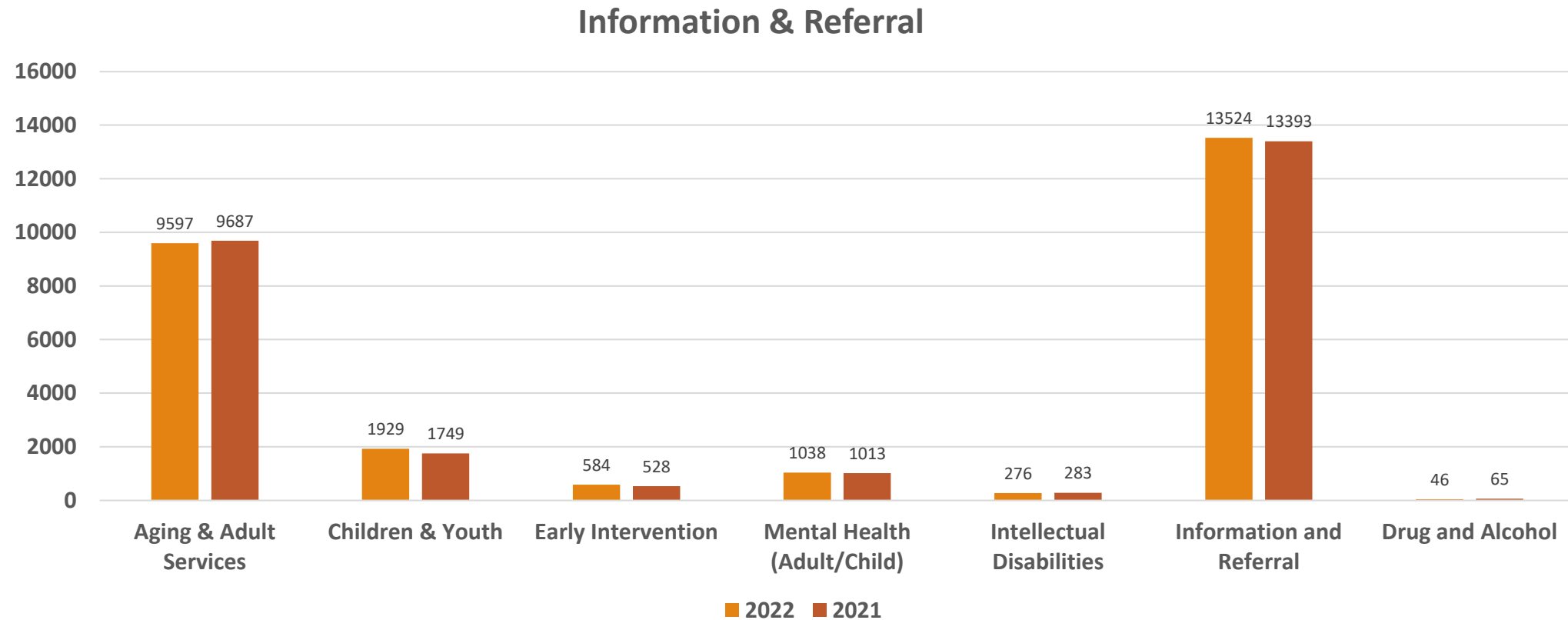
Walk-in Visits: **9**

Involuntary (302) Hospitalizations: **463**

Voluntary Hospitalizations: **564**

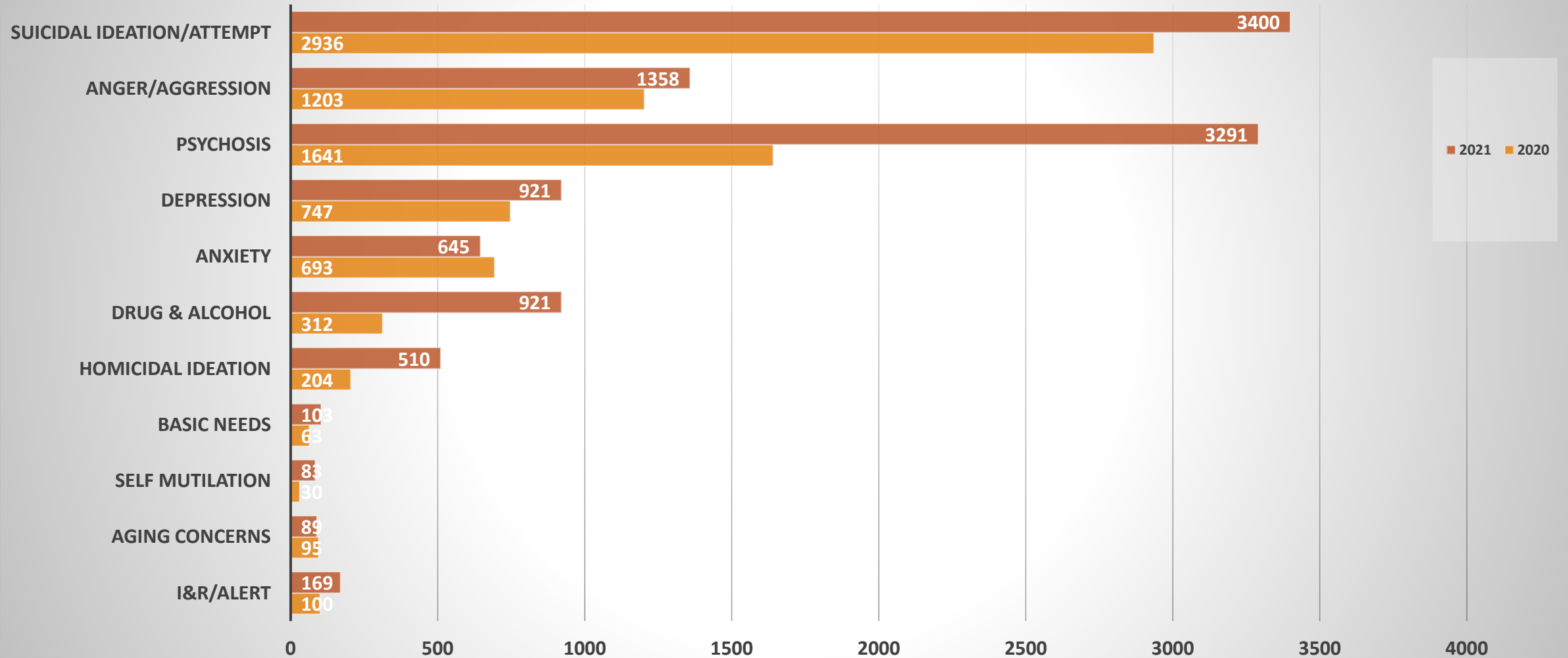


Information Only/Referrals

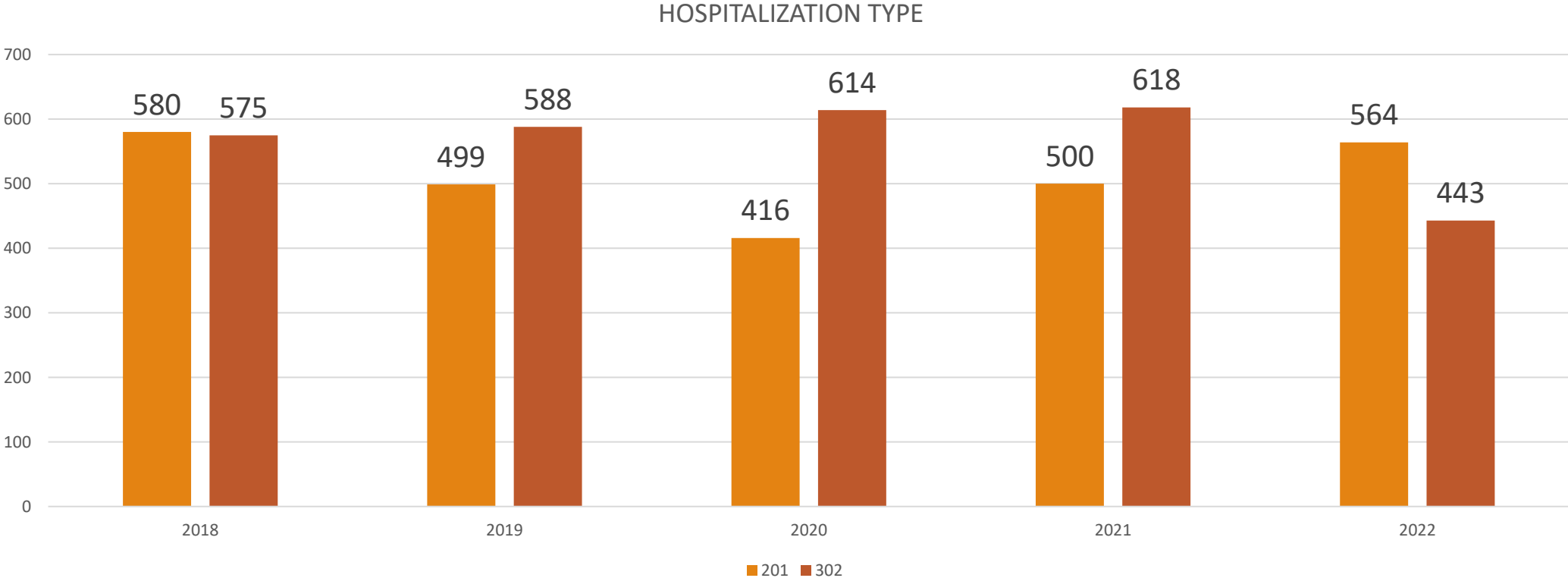


Crisis Intervention

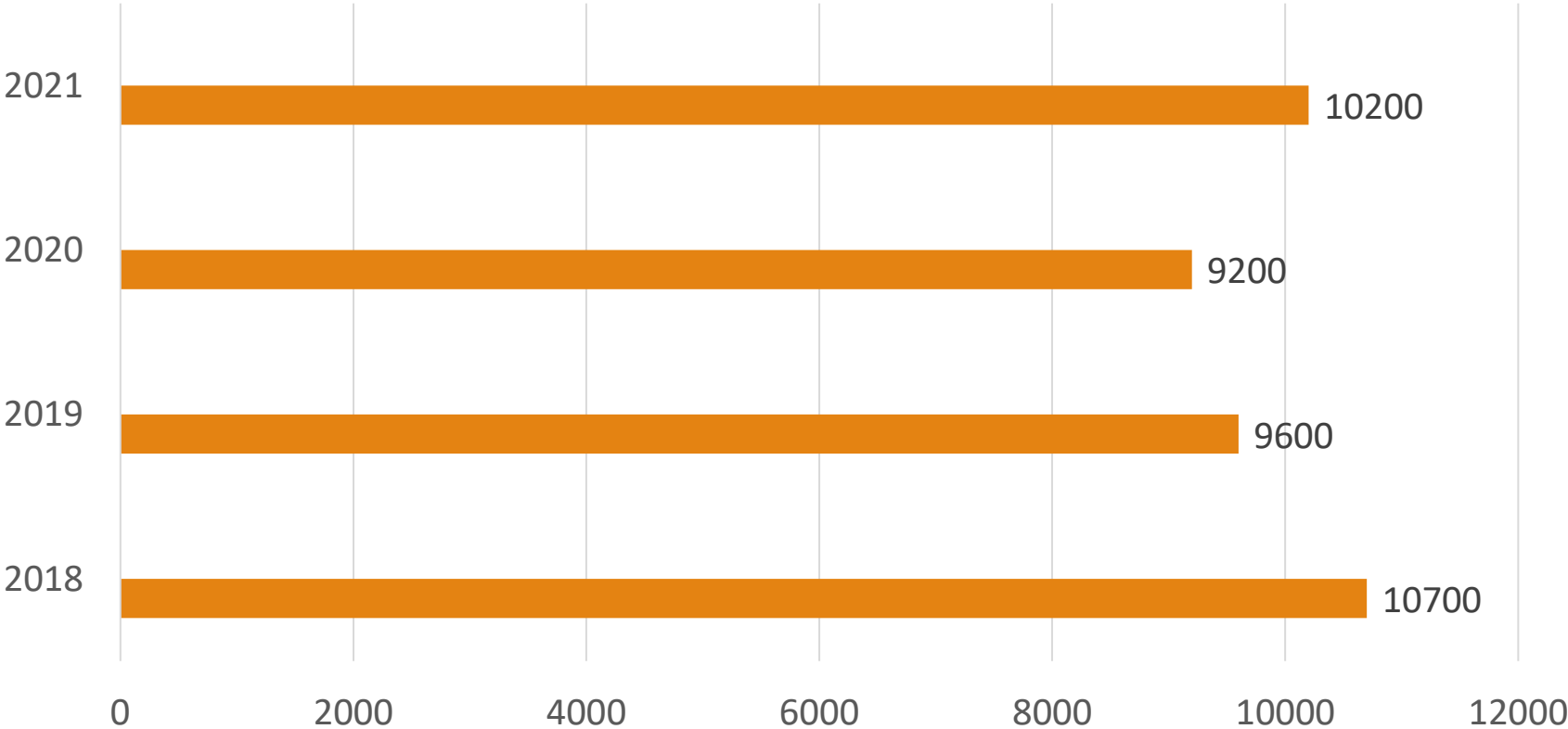
Presenting Problem Comparison Data



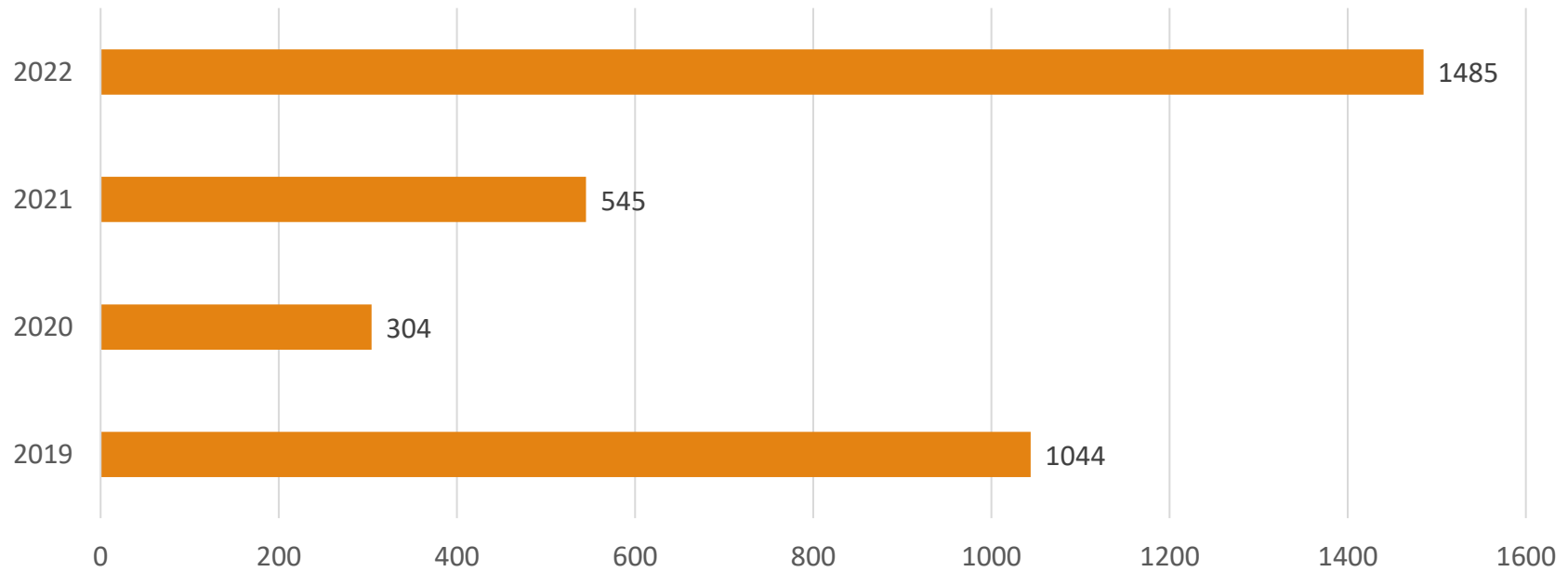
HOSPITALIZATION TRENDS 2018-2022



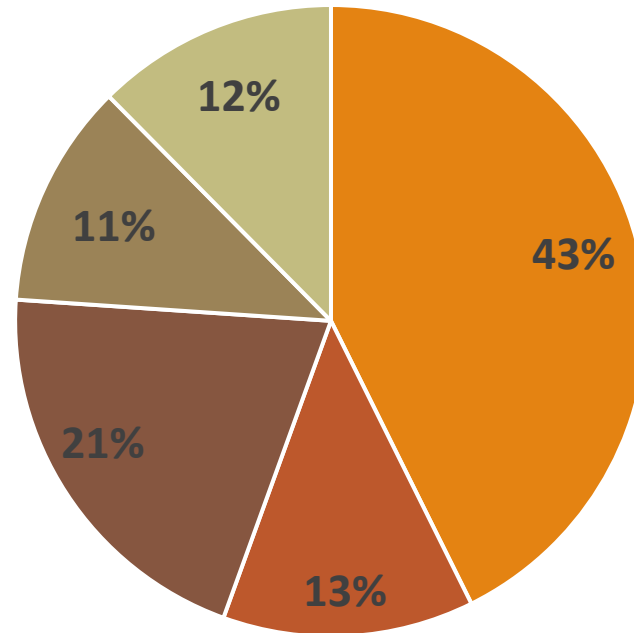
TELEPHONE CONTACT TRENDS



MOBILE VIST TRENDS



2021-2022 Mobile Response Times



■ 0-10 min ■ 10-15 min ■ 15-30 min ■ 30-60 min ■ 1 - 3 hrs

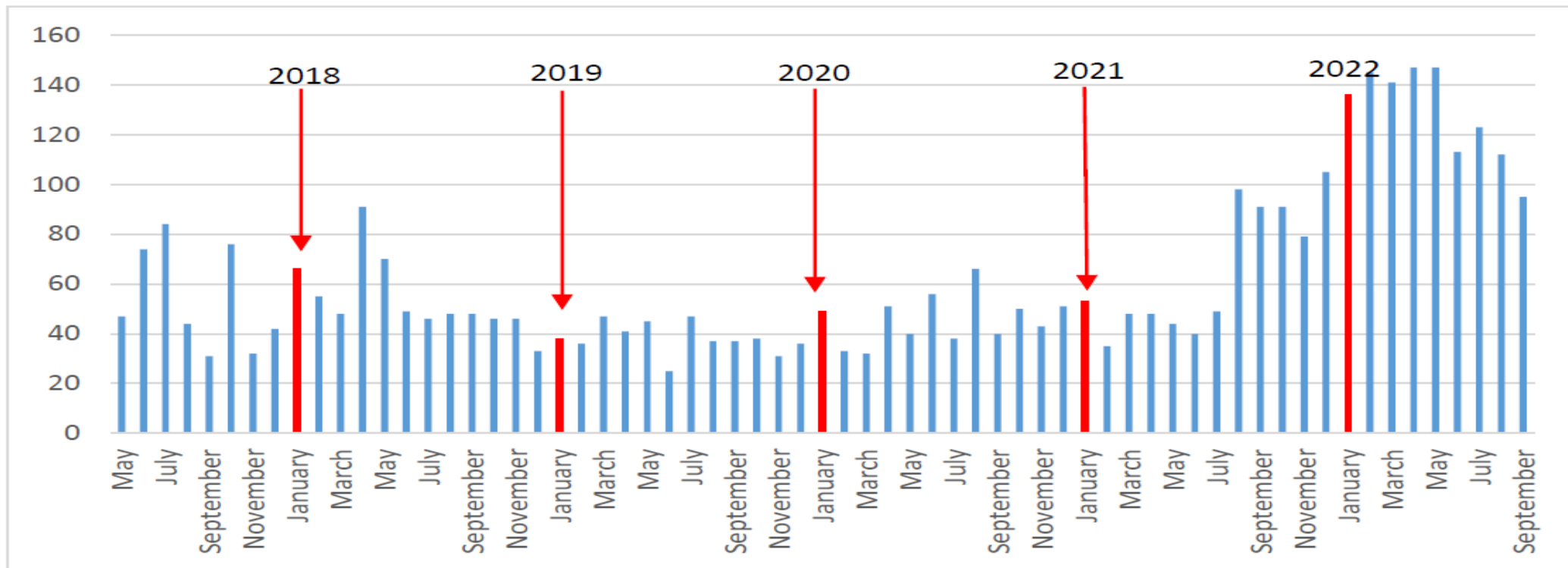
Crisis Intervention and I&R Program Enhancements

- Program Evaluation and Improvement Project
- Allentown Police Department and Crisis Intervention Community Mental Health Initiative
- Certified Peer Specialist
- Warm Handoff Program

Cedar Crest College Evaluation Findings

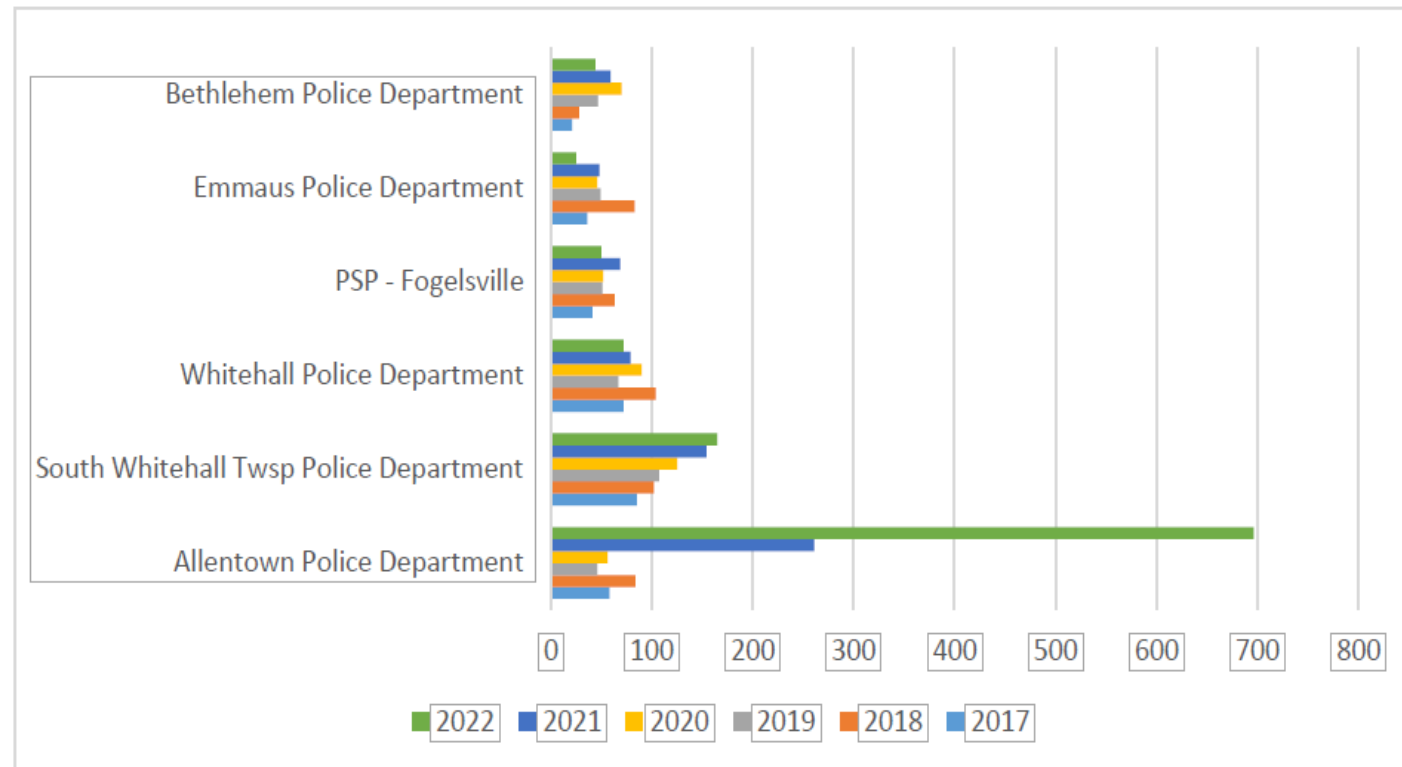
- The median length of a call leading to a mobile visit is 10 mins
- The median travel time is 15 mins
- The median time on scene is 35 mins
- The most common reasons for mobile visits are suicidal thoughts, bizarre behavior, 302 commitments and psychosis
- Most common referral sources for mobile visits are family, friends, and law enforcement officers

Number of Law Enforcement Calls



Call Volumes by Police Department and Year

The change in call volumes from 2020 to 2022 represents an increase of 1,143%. This clearly demonstrates the results of outreach and collaboration between Lehigh Country and the Allentown Police Department.



Peer Specialist in Crisis Services

- Certified Peer Specialist provides individual advocacy and support to peers and / or their family members while they are in or following a crisis.
- Provides suggestions and opportunities for individuals to engage in their recovery process by connecting them to services, support networks, and increasing awareness of community resources.
- Serves as a role model for recovery as someone who is a self-identified former or current consumer of mental health services and who can relate to others through their own recovery process.

Warm Handoff Program

The Warm Handoff Program (WHO) is a collaborative effort between Lehigh County Mental Health and Lehigh Valley Health Network. The Warm Handoff Program mission is to provide support, advocacy, and case management to survivors of suicidal action or intent and to reduce future risk of suicide and the stigma of mental illness.

- A Crisis Intervention Caseworker and Certified Peer Specialist meet individuals while they are hospitalized.
- After discharge, the caseworker and Certified Peer Specialist contact the individual to provide support and ensure connection to services.
- Since launching in October 2022, 26 individuals have been referred to the program

Intellectual Disabilities

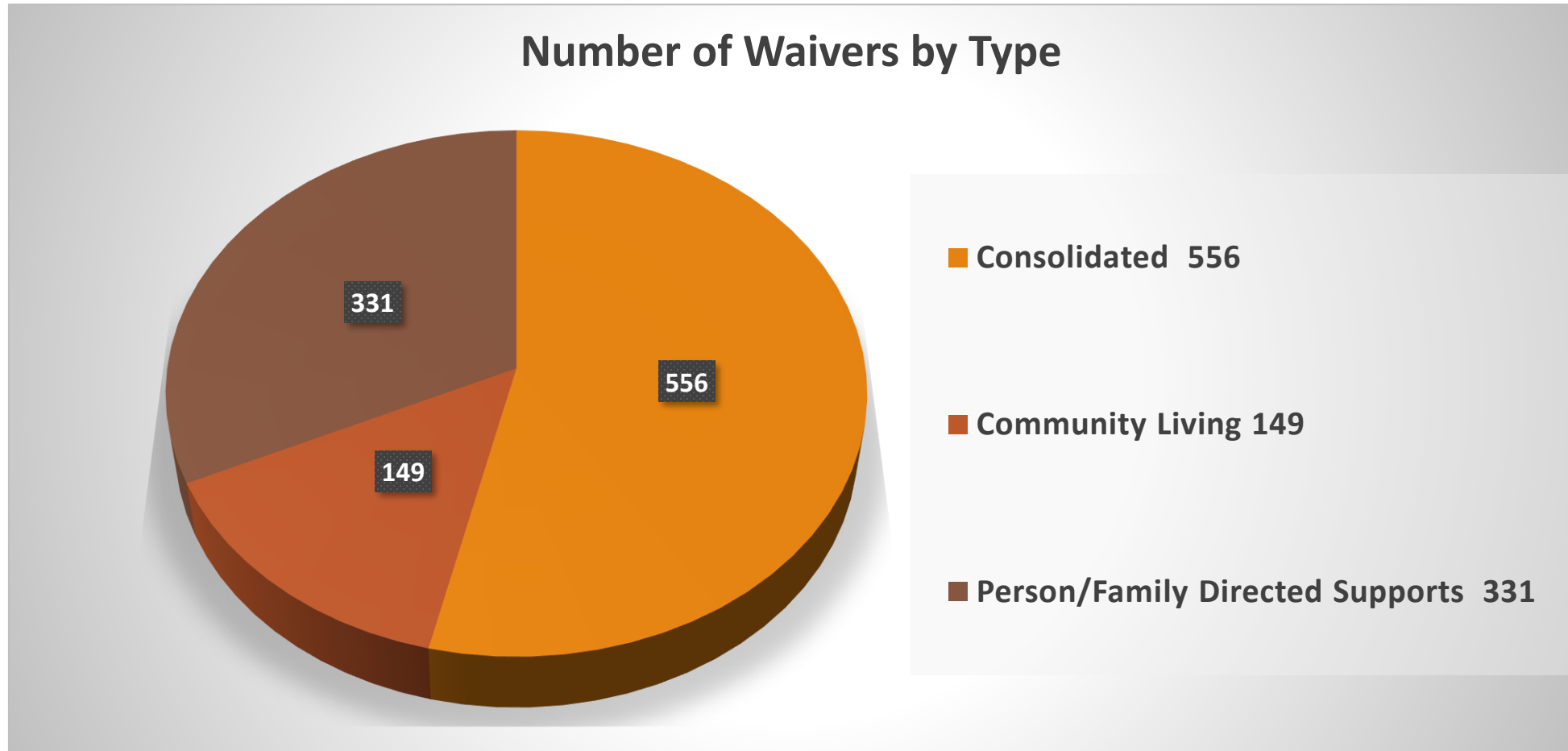
- Intellectual Disabilities believes that people with disabilities have the right to plan a future for themselves based upon their preferences, beliefs and abilities
- ID continues toward community based services, authorizing less in segregated settings and more in community supports and assisting with finding and maintaining competitive employment
- 309 consumers in the Family Support Services Program
- 331 P/FDS Waivers, 149 Community Living Waivers, and 556 Consolidated Waivers provide necessary supports for individuals to be successful in the community

Intellectual Disabilities

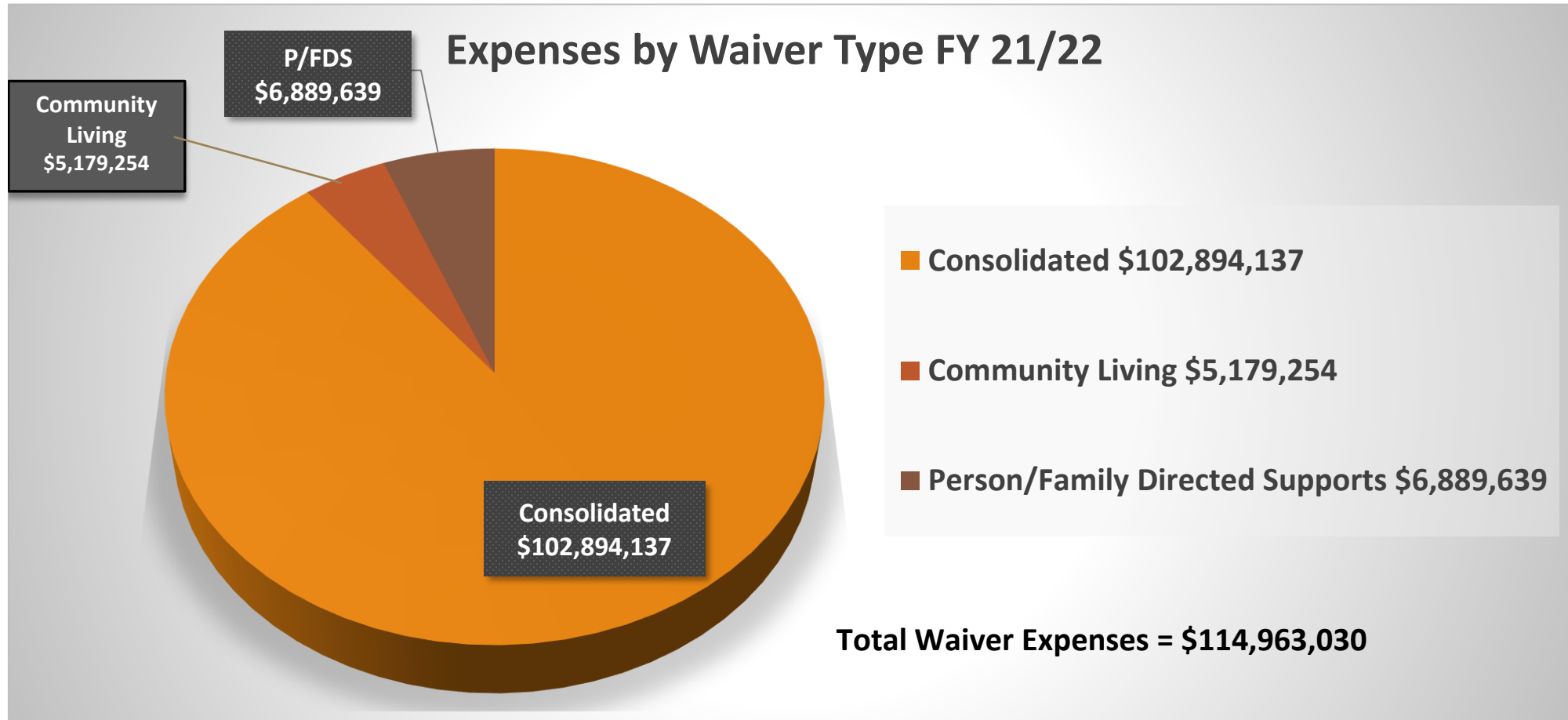
Recent data from ODP Independent Monitoring for Quality includes the following results

- 100% of individuals who responded reported that their supports coordinator always or sometimes helps them get what they need.
- 97% of the respondents reporting that they were very happy or happy with their life.
- 84% of individuals who responded reported that they were generally satisfied with where they live.
- 92% of the individuals who responded reported that they were getting all or some of services they need to live in their home and community.
- 97% of the individuals who responded reported that they only sometimes or never felt lonely.
- 100% of the individuals who responded reported that they are able to go out and do the things they like to do.
- 93% of the individuals who responded reported that they want to vote and do vote in political elections.

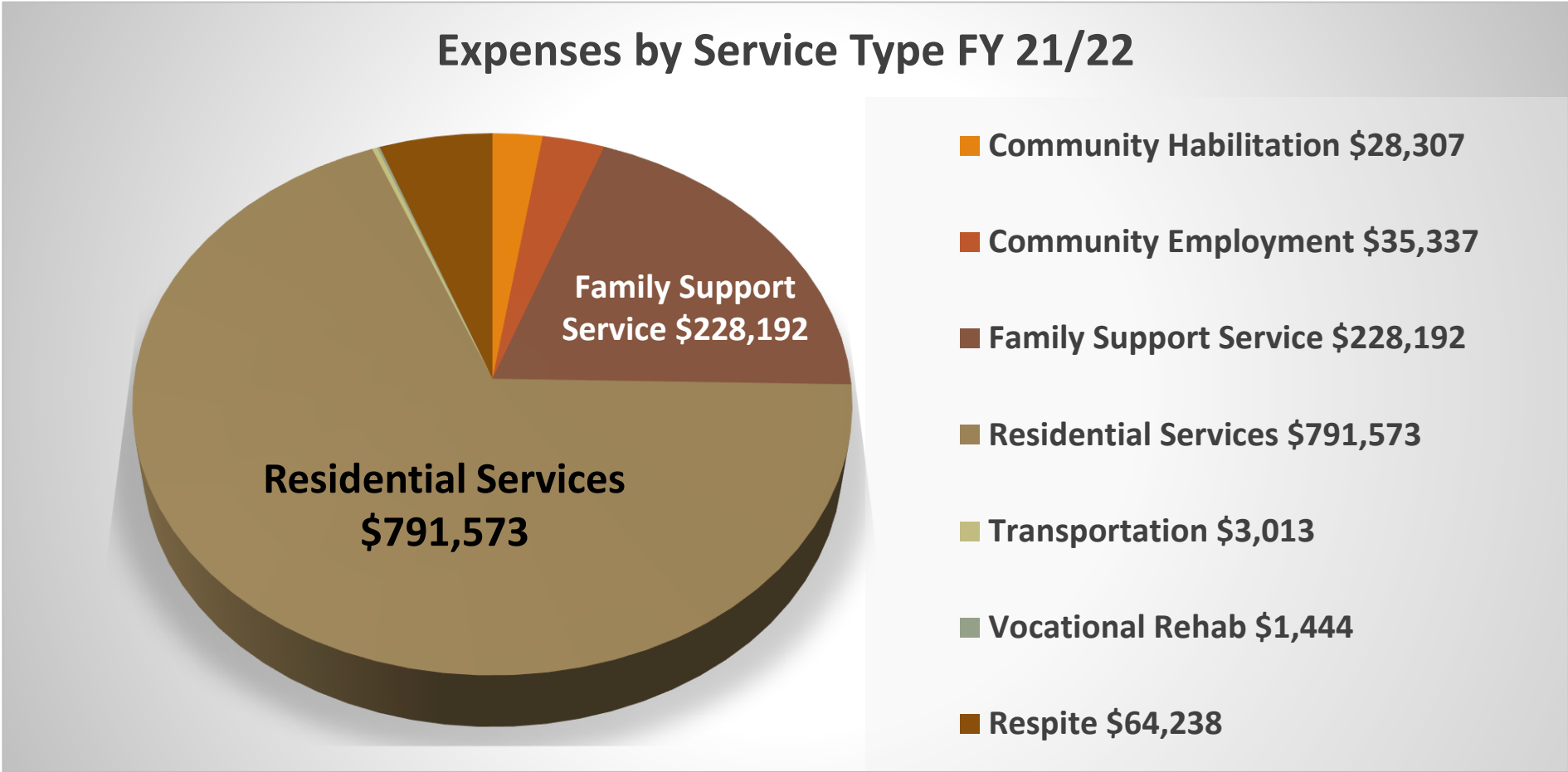
Waiver Funding



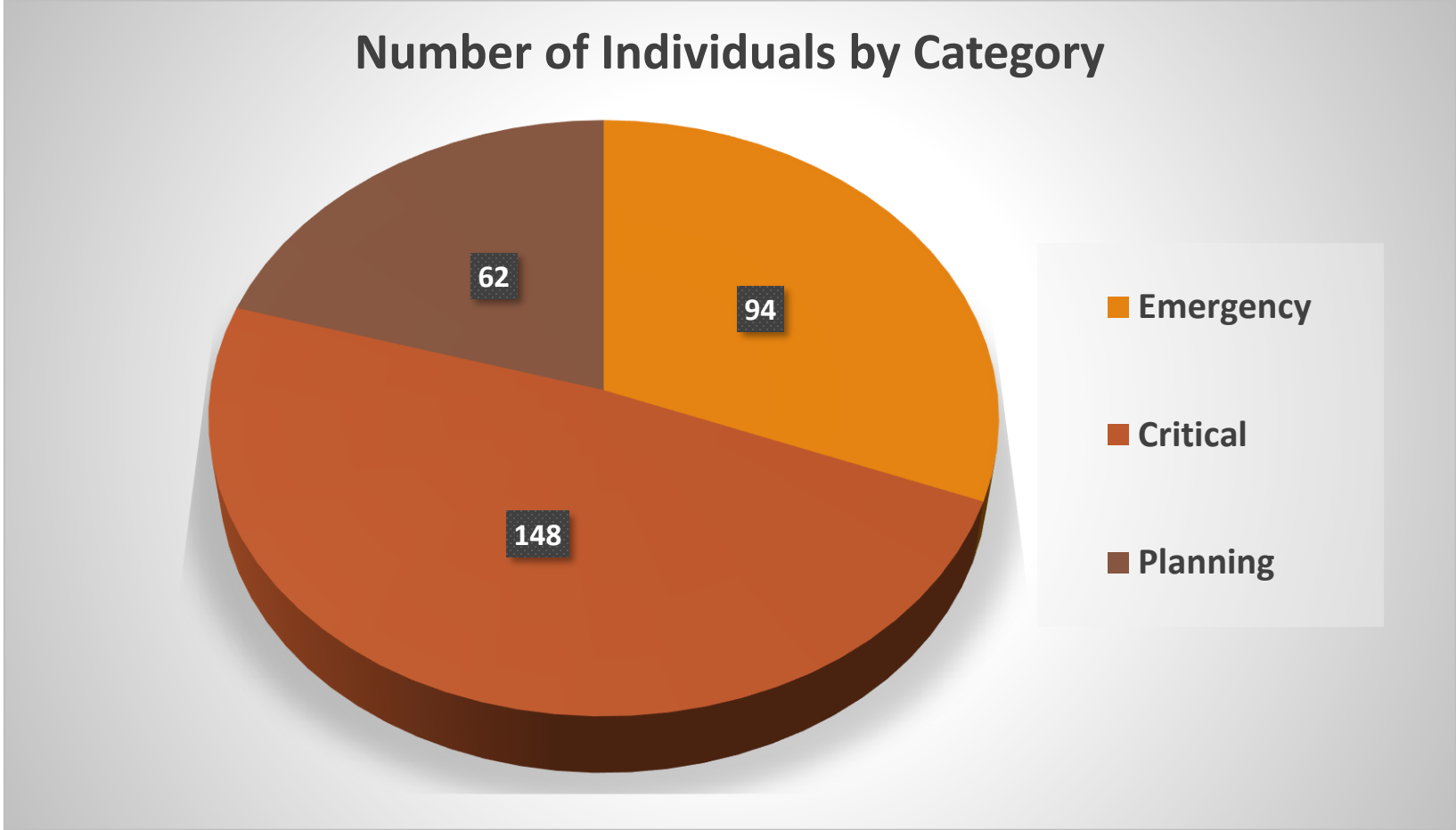
Waiver Funding



Block Grant Funding



PUNS/Waiting List



Mental Health

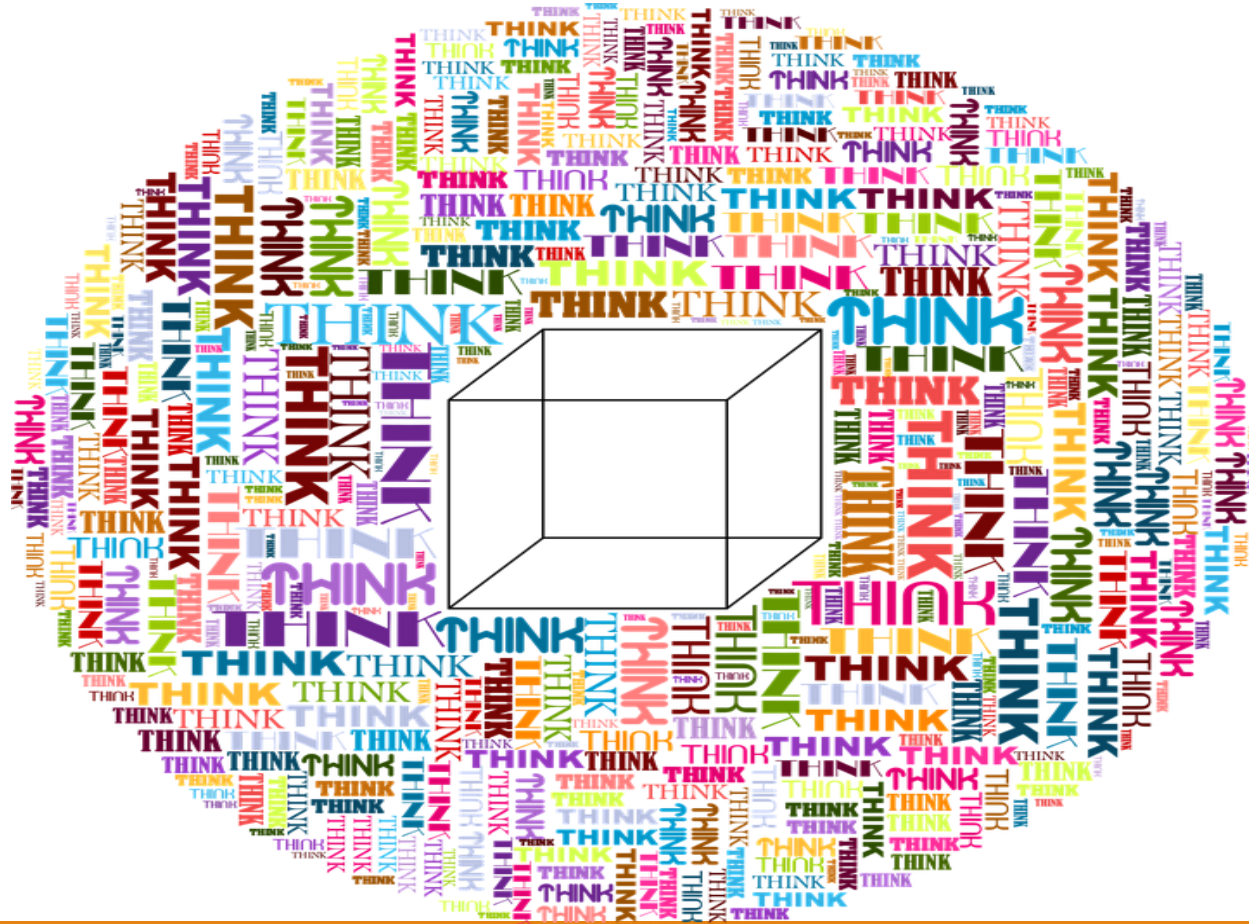
The Mental Health program believes that those with mental illness can best achieve positive change and recovery when treatment and supportive services are guided by the individual's goals, preferences, strengths and needs. It is their Journey of Recovery



Planning for the Future



Mental Health- A New Way of Thinking



Residential Treatment



Supportive Living, Community Residential Rehabilitation programs, Long Term Structured Residences provide living situations in a homelike setting that is designed to provide training and assistance in acquiring the skills needed to live successfully in the community.

Residential and Housing Supports

379 Individuals Served

Level of Care	Provider
State Hospitals	Civil beds Wernersville and Forensic Norristown
Extended Acute Care (EAC)	St Luke's Sacred Heart Hospital
Long-Term Structured Residence (LTSR)	Step By Step (SxS)
Enhanced CRR	Resource for Human Development and Merakey
Enhanced Personal Care Home (EPCH)	Salisbury Behavioral Health (SBH) and Merakey
Enhanced Supportive Living	SxS and SBH clustered apartments
Specialized Medical Home	SBH - for 6 people who meet skilled nursing criteria
Supported Living Program	SBH
Forensic Step Down	SxS
Community Residential Rehabilitation (CRR)	SxS - Weil Street, Richland, TLC Riverbend Apartments
Fairweather Lodge Program	SxS on 8 th St
Supportive Apartment Living	SxS - Woodward and Congress Apartments

Employment Supports

Individuals are provided the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to live a fulfilling, productive life in the community. The journey to employment has a goal not to change the individual but to find a natural fit between their strengths and experiences and jobs in the community.



Forensic Supports



For some, their journey may have gone off course and they may have become involved in the criminal justice system. The Mental Health Office, in collaboration with the adult and juvenile probation offices, supports people in getting back on the path to recovery through our Special Program Offering Recovery and Education (SPORE).

Mental Health - Forensic Supports

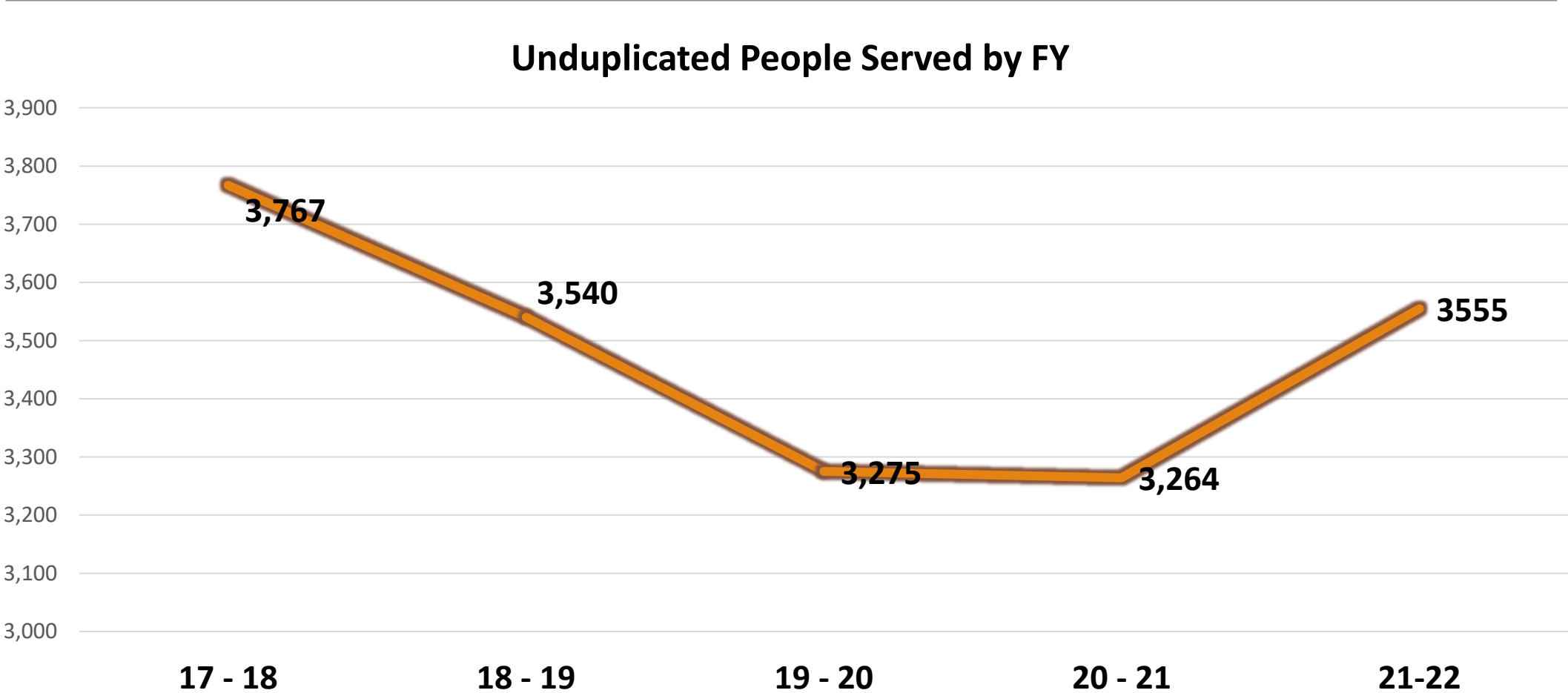
Lehigh County partnered with providers in developing forensic initiatives to serve people who are involved in the criminal justice system and who have a serious and persistent mental illness. These include:

- **A Long Term Structured Residence (LTSR)** which is a locked program serving eight individuals.
- **Forensic Step-Down Residential Program** for ten people who are no longer in need of treatment in the LTSR or who can go directly to the program from the Lehigh County Jail or the forensic unit and Norristown State Hospital.
- **SPORE Unit** – Collaboration between Mental Health, Adult and Juvenile Probation which served 612 people.
- **Forensic Certified Peer Specialist** who work with people in the jail and then follow them into the community upon release.

Mental Health - Forensic Supports, cont.

- **Community Intervention Specialists (CIS)** CIS are Mental Health / Police Liaisons who work with the police departments in the county.
- **CARE program** (Corrections Assessment Re-entry Endeavor), under a contract with Step by Step, this program provides intake and assessment, counseling, and psychiatric evaluations in the jail. This service also supports the transition from jail-based to community treatment.
- **Step by Step MPR** (Mobile Psychiatric Rehabilitation), provides mental health treatment to individuals while incarcerated at Lehigh County Jail to support recovery and prevent decompensation and assists individuals who are released to independent living to establish community re-entry in a positive, healthy and organized manner.
- **CIT** (Crisis Intervention Team), has trained 146 officers representing 14 police departments in Lehigh County. This national model of training first responders was implemented in Lehigh County in 2014. The training includes mental health awareness, system information and contacts and de-escalation techniques.

Mental Health Services



Credible Messenger Initiative

Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley

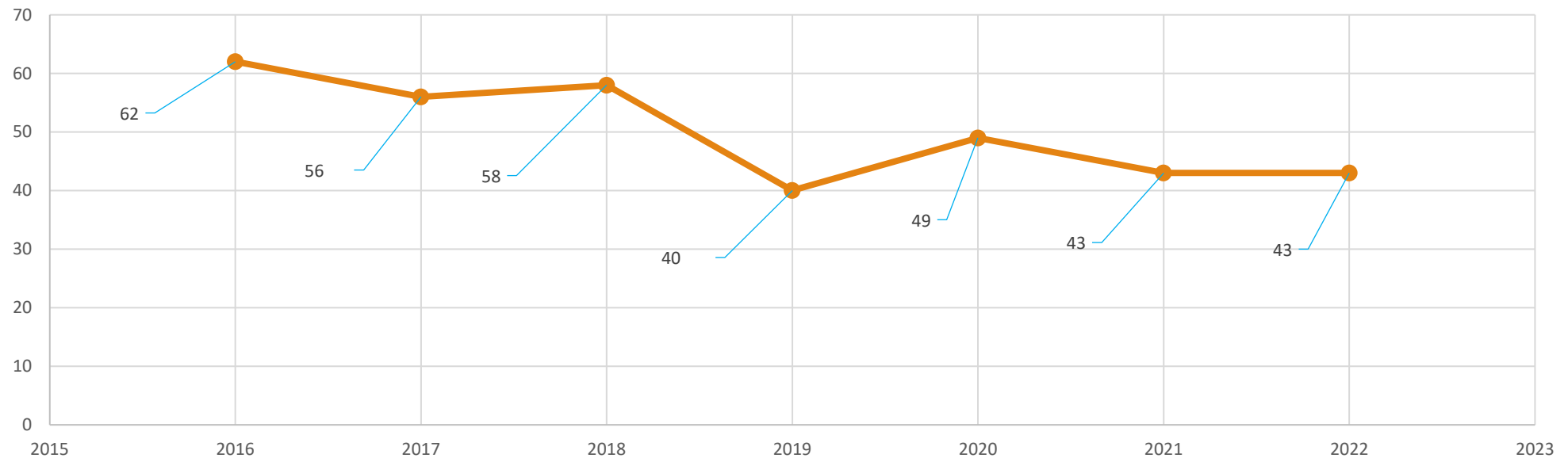


Hispanic American Organization

- Grant Funded
- Training of “Credible Messengers”
- Community Outreach and Education
- Mental Health Screening
- Warm Handoff to Mental Health Services
- Walk-in / same day Mental Health support
- Individual participant outcome tracking

Suicides Lehigh County Residents 2016 - 2022

Suicides
Lehigh County Residents
2016 - 2022



Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lehigh County

January 2022: Kickoff event: “YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE” convened at Cedar Crest College

February 2022: Coalition adds new members: NAMI, St. Lukes, Allentown Police Department.

May 2022: Public Screening of “My Accession” and panel community conversation- collaboration with Magellan, Lehigh County DHS, Northampton County DHS and their Task force.

June 2022: Bradbury-Sullivan Center LGBTQ+ Health Fair – Exhibitor

July 2022: IRON PIGS game at Coca-Cola Park – sponsor and exhibitor for their suicide prevention day.

August 2022: KNT Basketball Tournament sponsor. Daylong event at Cedar Beach. Tremendous turnout of 15 teams for the KNT basketball tournament to support suicide prevention. Men played basketball in support of their buddy who died by suicide.

Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lehigh County

September 2022: FACEBOOK postings daily during September. Prevention week: 5th – 11th. World Day: 10th. Proclamations for Suicide Prevention/ Awareness and Whitehall Township, Mayor Michael Harakal

October 2022: AFSP Out of Darkness Walk. Sponsor and exhibited.

November 2022: Tabled at Cetronia' s first health fair.

January 2023: Tabled at LCTI and provide the PSA for their closed circuit tv.

Lehigh County Integrated Services



Integrated Services



- **Purpose/Mission** → To increase collaboration on multi-system involved cases
 - To bridge service/communication gaps within the child-serving system/DHS
 - Provide leadership to cross-system projects within DHS when needed.
 - Support all DHS offices/JPO with mental health case consultation and coordination
- **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES SYSTEM (CASSP), SYSTEM OF CARE**

DHS Cross System Team & Integrated Case Management Support:

Multi-disciplinary team meets weekly to assist DHS and Juvenile Probation with youth & families and adults involved in multiple-systems. In 2022, DHS Cross System Team reviewed and assisted 51 multi-system involved cases. 48 of the cases were youth under the age of 21.

Cross System Collaboration

- Lehigh County Outpatient Mental Health Provider Forum
- Transitional aged youth and youth with disabilities to ensure smooth seamless movement into the adult system.
- Limited English Proficiency Policy – Coordination of all language services for DHS.
- Created on-line employee training platform for DHS
- Collaborate with Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lehigh County
- Connect with local universities and colleges to offer students learning and internship experiences in cross-system work.
- Provide leadership to the DHS Website Team

Prevention Efforts / Supports



- Community Referrals → Integrated Services Caseworker partners with Crisis Intervention, Magisterial District Justices Offices, Community Partners and the Allentown School District to assist families with short-term case management and/or linkage services before the family gets further involved with systems or to ensure that family does not “fall through the cracks”. In 2022, Integrated Services received 25 referrals.
- High Fidelity Wrap-Around – goal is to lessen dependency on professional services and link to nature and community support – diverting from the use of formal system services.
- Family Group Decision Making – a process which actively seeks the collaboration and leadership of family groups in crafting and implementing plans that support the safety, permanency and well-being of their children
- Respite Services – In 2022, Integrated Services partnered with ACCESS Services to revamp the respite program offered within the County. Anticipate launching in Summer 2023.

Children and Youth Liaison

- Children's Mental Health Caseworker assigned to work directly with Children and Youth Office
- Assists with diversionary efforts by providing information to families and Children and Youth Caseworkers regarding mental health services
- Serves as liaison between Children and Youth and Mental Health providers as needed
- Provides case management services for children who receive mental health services and are in the custody of Children and Youth office and placed in out-of-home mental health treatment
- Assists with setting up mental health treatment for children placed outside Lehigh County.
- Mental Health representative on pre/post placement meetings



CASSP – Child and Adolescent Service System Program

CASSP System Coordination and Placement Meetings:

- Available to all County residents at no cost. Coordinates team meetings with youth and families, their supports, and other professionals to increase communication, solve problems, identify resources, and develop a coordinated plan of care.
- In 2022, we coordinated and facilitated 27 System Coordination Meetings and 22 Placement Authorization Meetings. At the end of 2022 there were 12 children in RTF placement.





PLAN OF SAFE CARE (PoSC)

- Provides leadership for the County's Plan of Safe Care – a cross-system collaboration between Children & Youth, Early Intervention, Drug & Alcohol, Community Services for Children, Change on Hamilton, Nurse Family Partnership, Connections Clinic, LVHN/SLUHN. Purpose is to direct services and supports to ensure the safety and well-being of a substance-affected infant and their caregivers.
- In 2022:
 - Broadened scope to assist prenatal mothers as well
 - 43 PoSC cases, including 9 prenatal mothers
 - Provided concrete needs and support to families
 - Fostered networking among PoSC families
 - Provided community education on Plan of Safe Care to 35 organizations and 184 pediatricians
 - Identified an Early Intervention caseworker for PoSC Team to help ensure that all PoSC cases have been referred to Early Intervention for evaluation.

Trauma Informed Practices

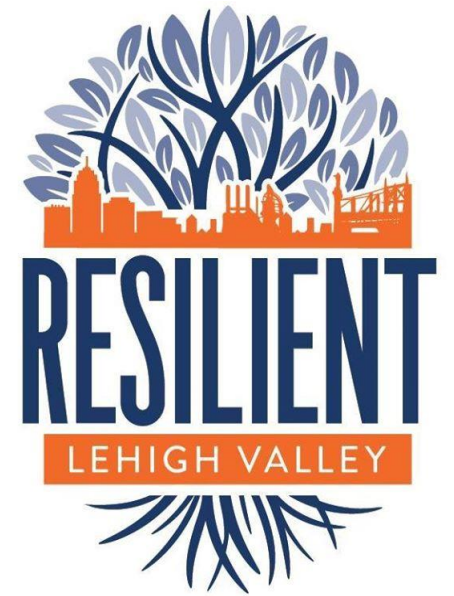
- **DHS Trauma Team** – A team of 5 DHS employees who obtained extensive training in Trauma awareness practices via Resilient Lehigh Valley and now provide training for DHS, other County Offices, system partners and community members as needed.
- **DHS Wellness Team** – represent all DHS offices in a collective effort to become a more trauma-informed organization where employees can recognize and respond to those who have been impacted by traumatic stress.
- **DHS Training Series** – coordinates and manages cross-system training opportunities for DHS staff, system partners, and other county offices.



Resilient Lehigh Valley

- Resilient Lehigh Valley is a cross-sector, collective-impact effort dedicated to increasing youth resiliency through creating a trauma-informed and resilient community. To date, Resilient Lehigh Valley has trained more than 4,000 educators, health-and-human services professionals and law-enforcement members in trauma-informed practices. Backbone support via the United Way.

- www.resilientlehighvalley.org



Questions...

What and Where are.....

- Service Needs?
- Unmet Needs?
- Unserved Populations?
- Underserved Populations?

What Could/Should Be Different?

What Works?

How Can We Do Better?

