

NOTICE

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED.
AUDIO AND VIDEO

LEHIGH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

2025-2026 HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING & PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 10:30 AM AND 6:00 PM

KAY ACHENBACH, HUMAN SERVICES

HEATHER REED, CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

MATT BAUDER, HEALTHCHOICES

JR REED, AGING AND ADULT SERVICES

MARY MCGONIGLE, 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”

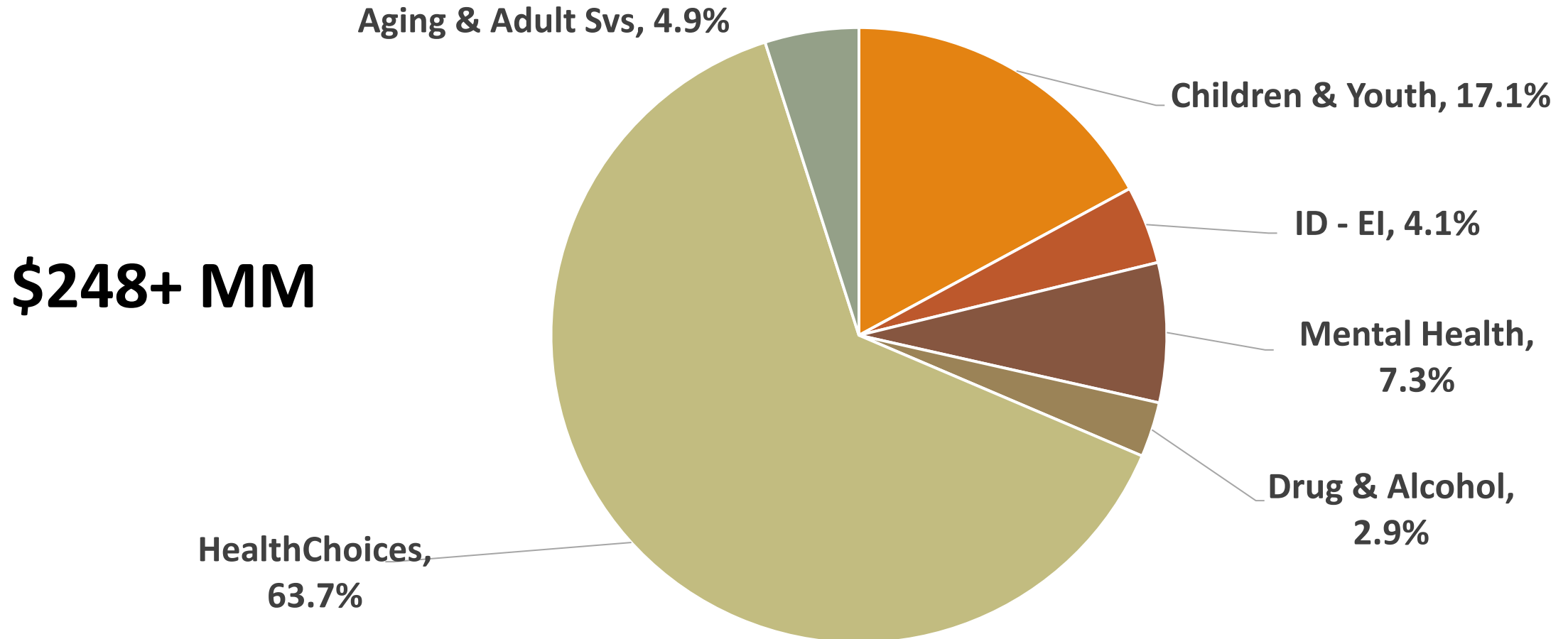
State Charge & Partnership

- State charges counties to assist in the delivery of Human Services
- PA is State-Administered, County-Run
- 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

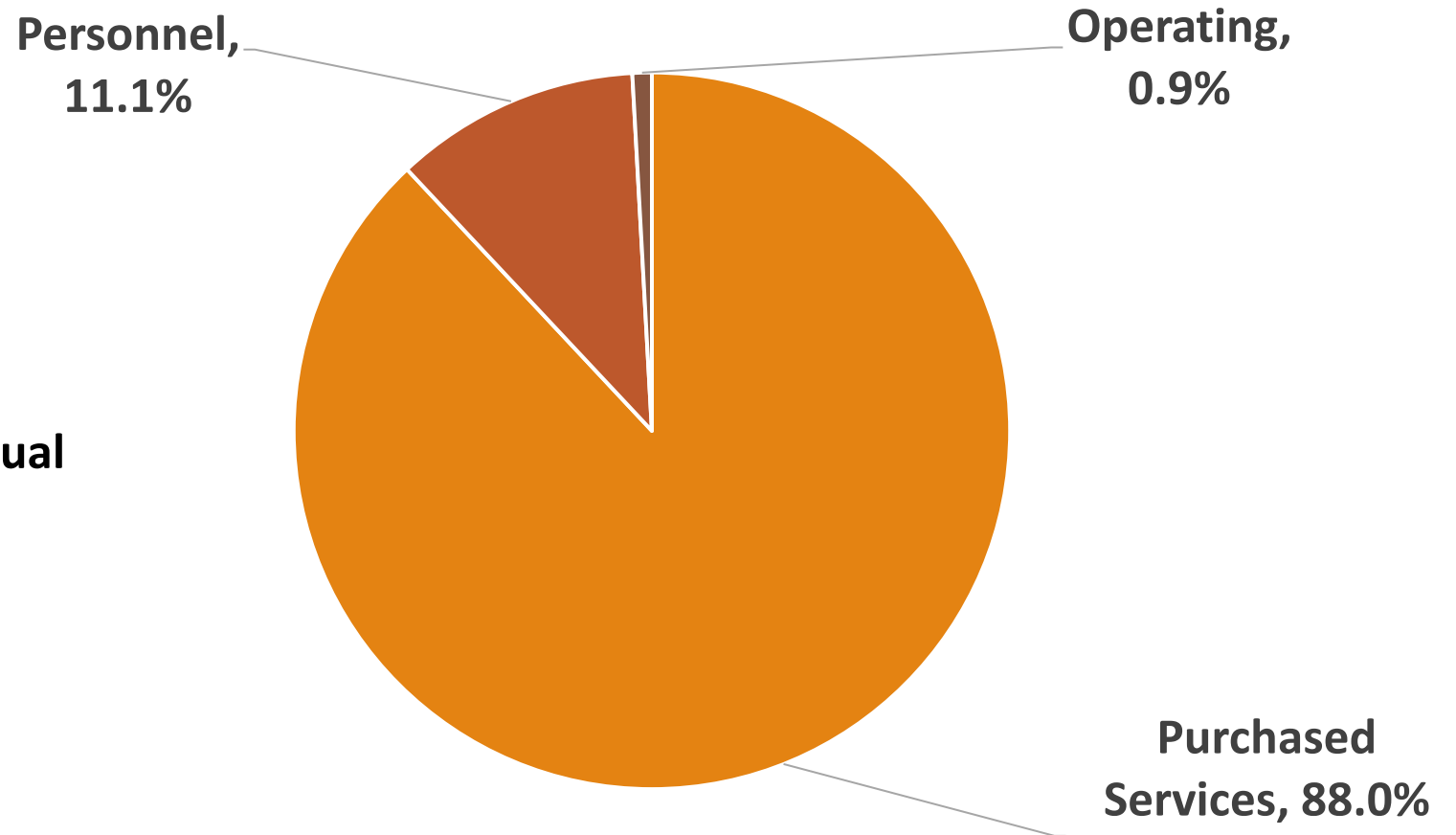
Challenges

- Human Services Programs are in Several State Departments
- Individualized Program Requirements
- Individualized Fiscal Requirements
- Confidentiality Requirements
- Limited Funding
- Changes to Federal Policy – more on that later.....

2025 Lehigh County DHS Expenditure Budget



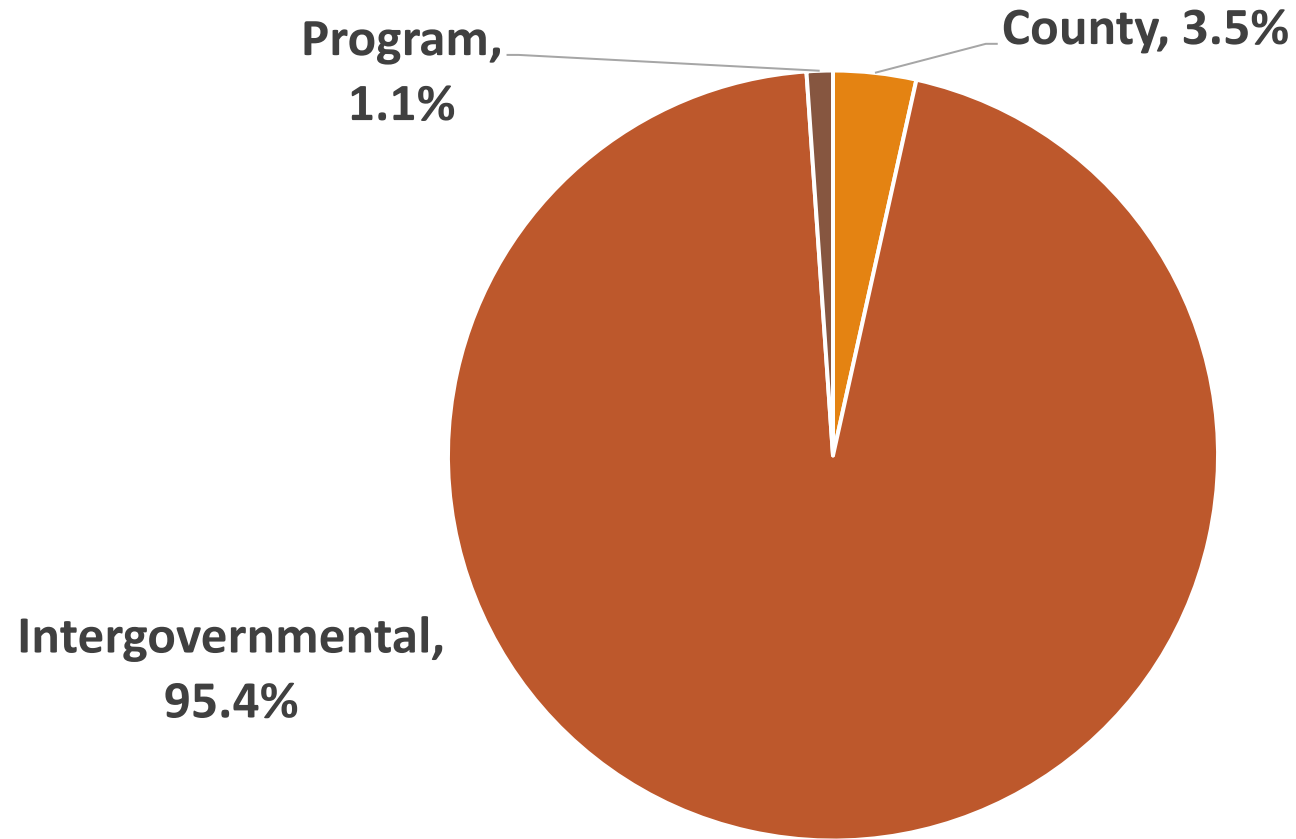
2025 DHS Expenditure Budget – Personnel, Operating, Purchased Services



Note:

This is DHS overall; individual agencies have different percentages

2025 Human Services Revenue by Source



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

Changes Coming.....

At this point we have very little information.

Things we do know:

- HealthChoices was underfunded with the Medicaid unwinding – but that was for 2024!
- There “may” be some cuts to Aging; we are tracking these possibilities.
- County DHS staff are committed to serving citizens.

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 2024, the Lehigh County HealthChoices program provided behavioral health services (mental health and substance abuse) to 17,700 unduplicated members (down from 19,191 members served in 2023) accounting for \$100MM in medical claims costs (down from \$100.7MM in 2023).

Lehigh County HealthChoices 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

- Suicide Screening, risk assessment and prevention
- 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
- Transforming Crisis Services
- Value Based Purchasing
- Tele-Health
- Trauma Focused Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF)
- Community Based Care Management

HealthChoices

Innovative Programming

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

Innovative Programming – Cont.

Additional Examples:

- County Wide School Based Mental Health Outpatient Services
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation For Transitional Age members with Autism
- Transition Age Navigation Guide for members with Autism – <https://www.magellanofpa.com/es/documents/2023/07/pa-transition-age-navigation-guide.pdf/>
- High Fidelity Wraparound for members aged 8-21
- 2:1 ABA Support program for members with Autism
- Respite Services for Children and Adolescents
- Housing Clearinghouse providing Bridge and Contingency resources
- Social Determinants of Health for the adult and aging population
- Police Liaison open Access appointments

HealthChoices Stabilizing Services Post-Pandemic

The HealthChoices system continues to experience challenges following the end of the Pandemic. The primary challenges include funding and staffing.

Funding

- Lehigh HC was underfunded by over \$12M in 2024. A large part of this was due to the Public Health unwinding.
 - Lehigh HC membership declined from a high of 125,000 members in March 2023 to roughly 90,000 members by June 2024. The number of members disenrolled was much higher than expected. Membership has remained flat since the end of the Public Health unwinding.
 - Members that remained in the program in 2024 had higher acuity needs than the members that were disenrolled
 - Members that remained in the program in 2024 used services more frequently than the members that were disenrolled
- Funding for 2025 does not leave room for any program growth or provider rate increases at the current time
- We are expecting further contraction in 2026 due to on-going budget/fiscal concerns at both the Federal and State levels

HealthChoices Stabilizing Services Post-Pandemic – Cont.

Staffing

- Many staff left the Human services field during the pandemic due to decreased utilization of services
- Some staff have transitioned to tele-health work that leaves home and community-based providers with greater challenges in staffing
- Some staff no longer see the Human Services field as a viable option given flat funding, lack of rate increases, and demanding work
- There has been decreased enrollment in human services related degree programs at the collegiate level

Steps that have been taken

- Staffing stabilization and retention payments offered during the pandemic through the end of 2023
- Provider Job Fairs
- Human Services Job videos
- Simulation Labs
- Provider rate increases when and where possible
- Focus on stabilizing existing service providers and ensuring utmost quality in services
- On-going outreach, coordination with providers, and coordination across providers
- Internship/Externship programs

HealthChoices Stabilizing Services Post-Pandemic, cont.

Planning for Services Post-Pandemic – Lehigh County HealthChoices strives to offer the most needed behavioral health services to its' members. As part of our planning process, we need to hear about member need that continues to go unmet in the community as well as any areas of gaps in services for our members. If you have any suggestions on unmet needs or services gaps that exist in the behavioral health system, please contact Drew Lazo at 610-782-3520. Information can also be submitted online at the following:

<https://www.lehighcounty.org/Departments/Human-Services/HealthChoices/Annual-Reinvestment-Planning>

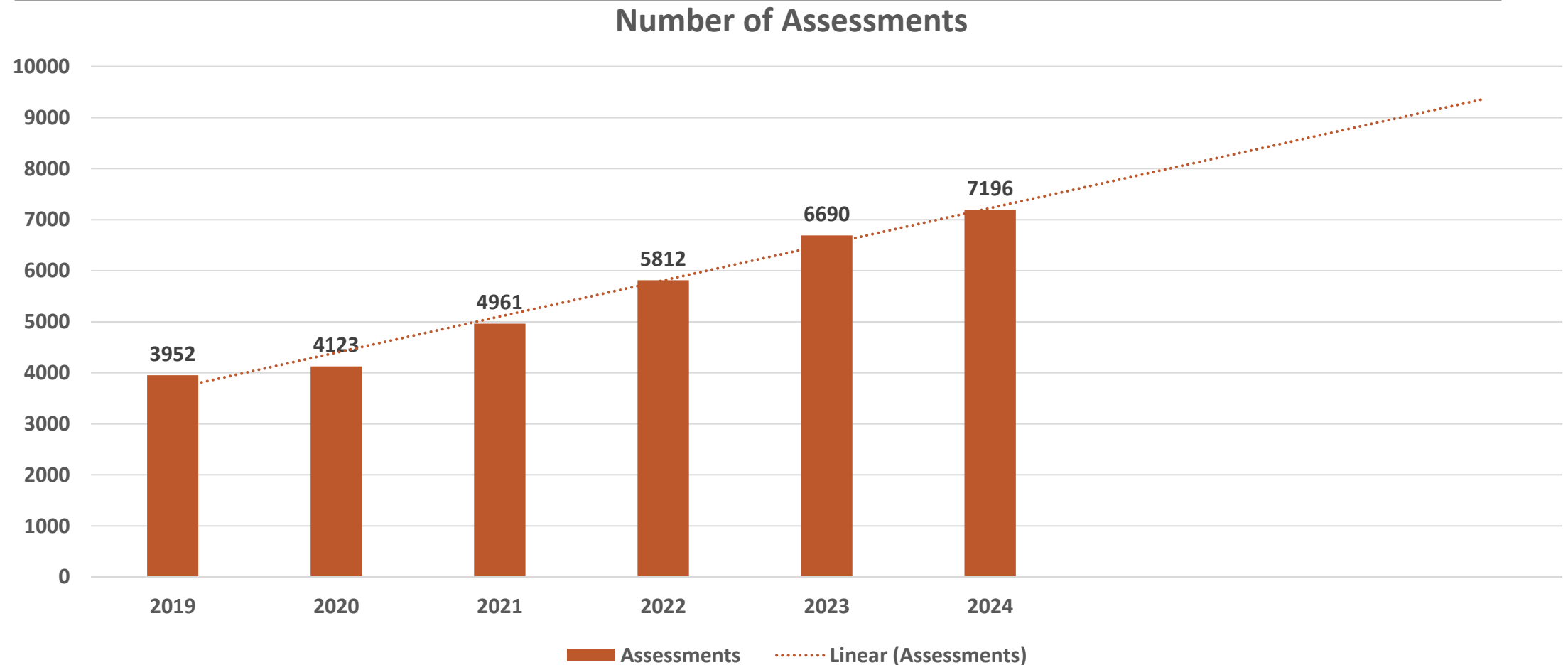
Aging and Adult Services

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

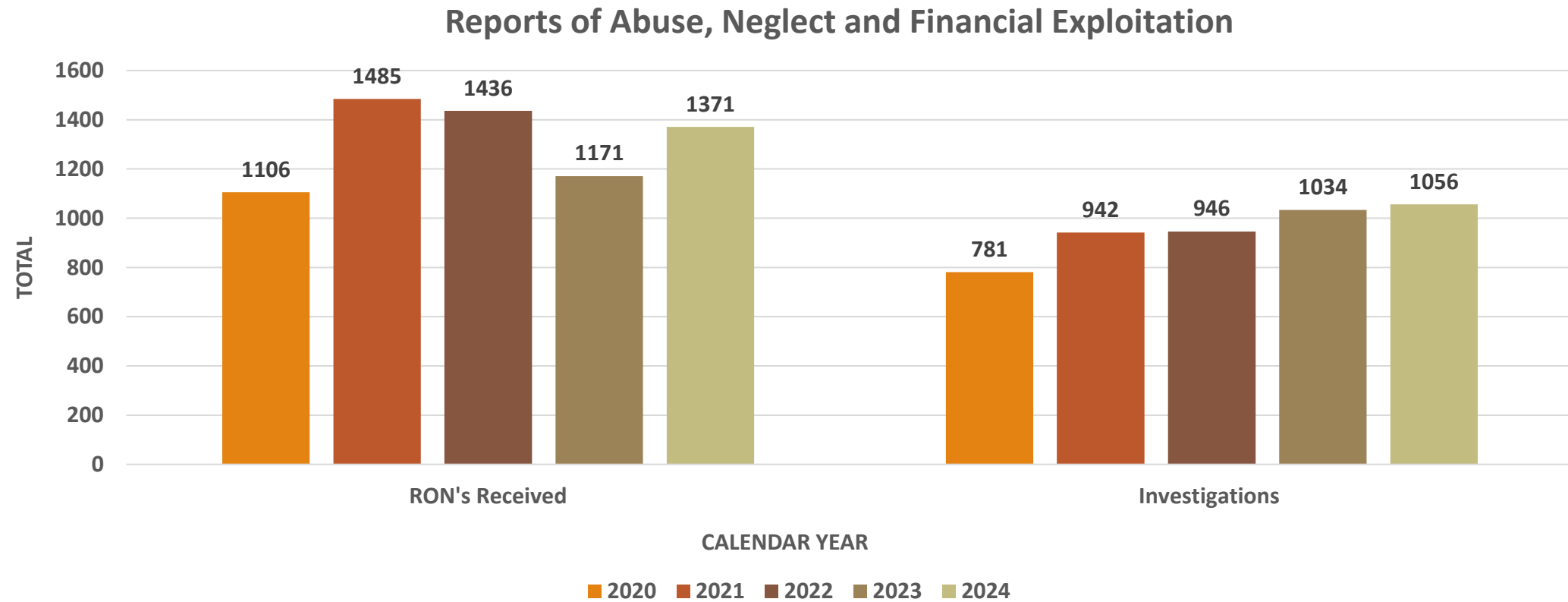
10,317 (unduplicated) Aging consumers 60+ received direct services and/or congregate meals.

Nearly 872 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)

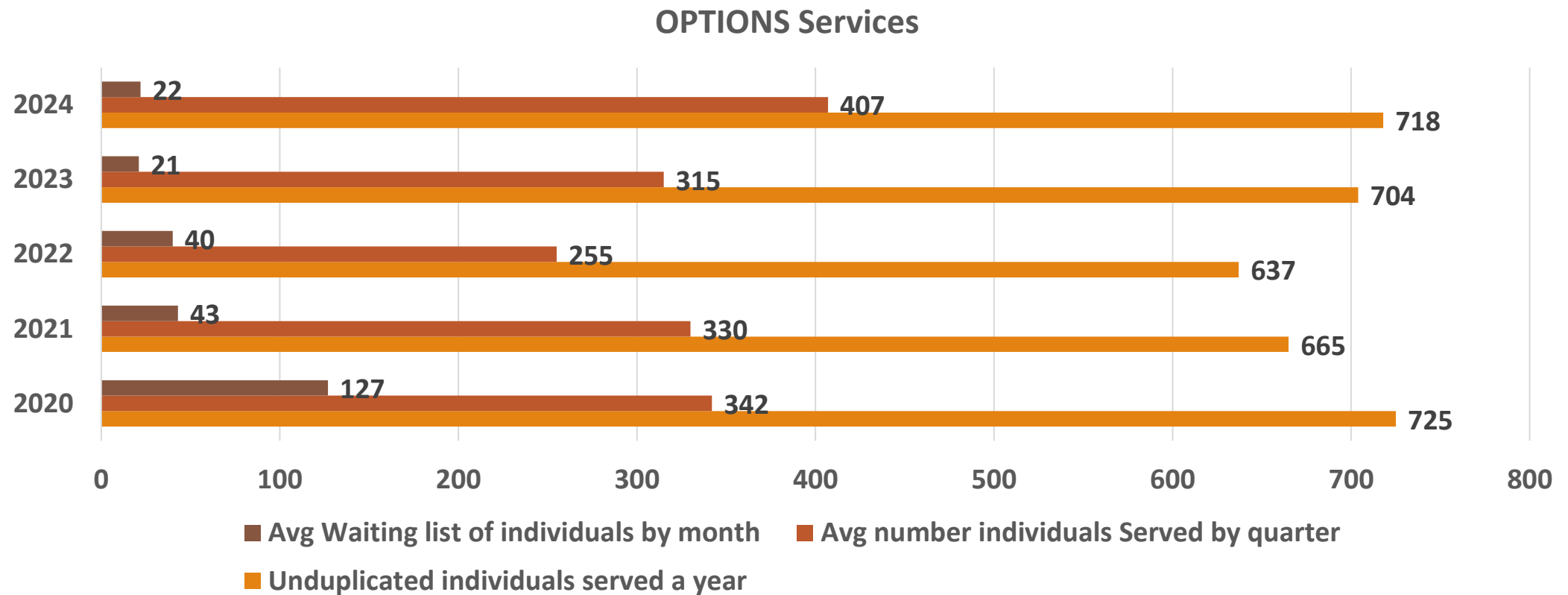
Aging and Adult Services



Aging and Adult Services



Aging and Adult Services



Aging and Adult Services

A total of 53,051 congregate meals were served in calendar year 2024 and 60,935 home-delivered meals were provided.

PA MEDI (Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight) program served 614 individuals.

Caregiver Support Program assisted 79 individuals.

SHARE (Shared Housing and Resource Exchange program) currently has 25 individuals in need of housing looking for a housing match and 2 home sharers.

Aging and Adult Services

Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)

- 993 individuals had eviction/near homeless situation resolved
- 121 individuals had homeless situations resolved
- 401 households assisted
- 567 children resided in households

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 2024, total of 10,057 referrals. 2506 CPS and 7,551 GPS
- 291 in Out of Home Care
 - Foster care - 113
 - Congregate care - 26
 - Runaway - 1
 - Kinship Care - 132
 - Independent Living - 20
- 26 in Adoption
- 16 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

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

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
- Parent education and support
- Following children ages 0-3 who then can transition into the Head Start program allowing for continuum of care

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 Christine Wagner 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

Ambulatory Withdrawal Management

Blue Guardian

Center City Allentown Outreach

Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS)

CRS Re-Entry

Family Codependency Groups

FORT Family Support Program

Hospital Opioid Support Team (HOST)

Journey's (Plan of Safe Care)

Linkage to Treatment for Victims of Human Trafficking

MAT Induction in the ED

Mother/Baby Programs

Naloxone Program

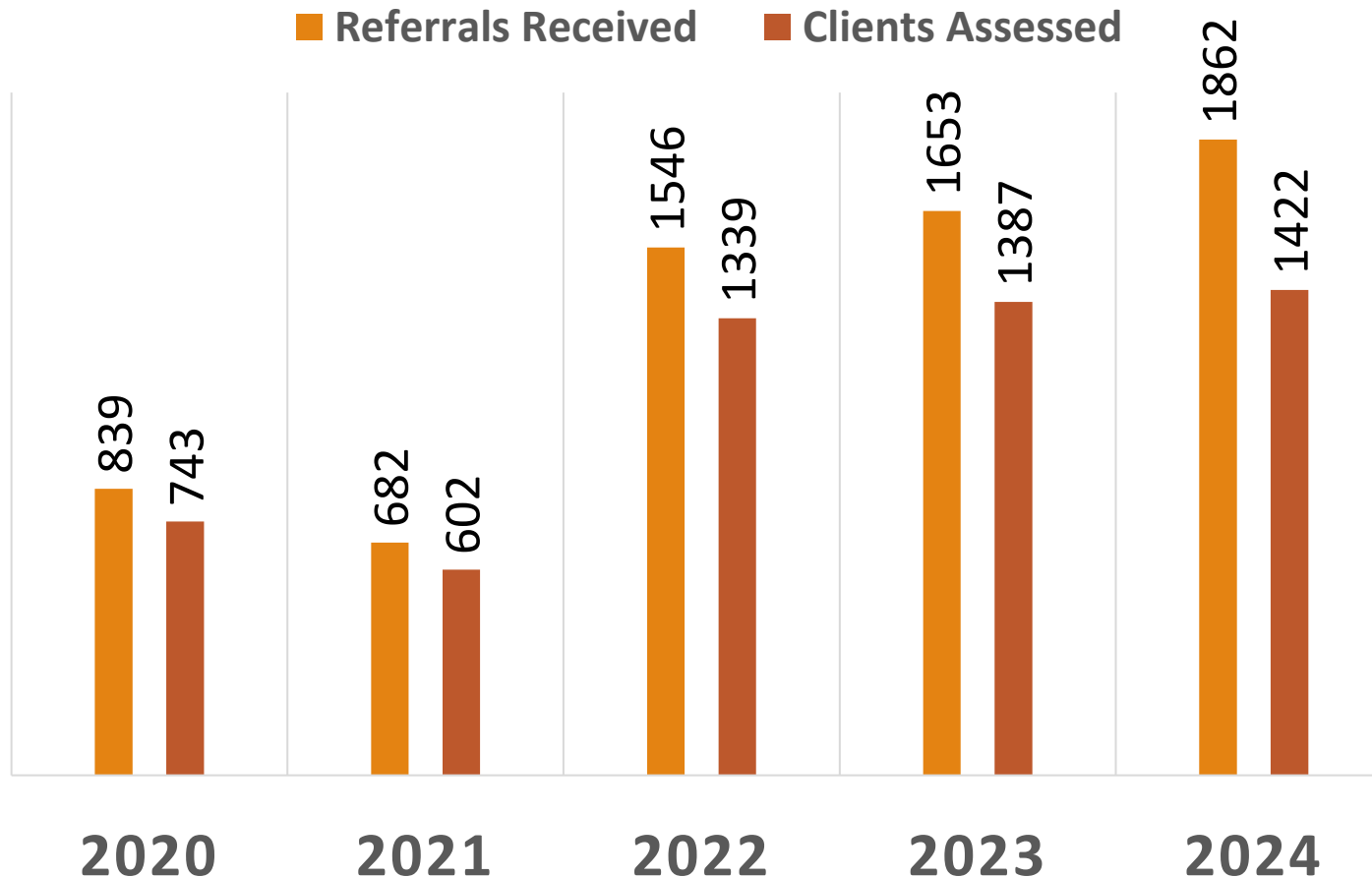
Pregnant Women Case Coordination

Recovery Housing Programs

Student Assistance Program

D&A by the Numbers: Ref & Assmnt

REFERRALS & ASSESSMENTS



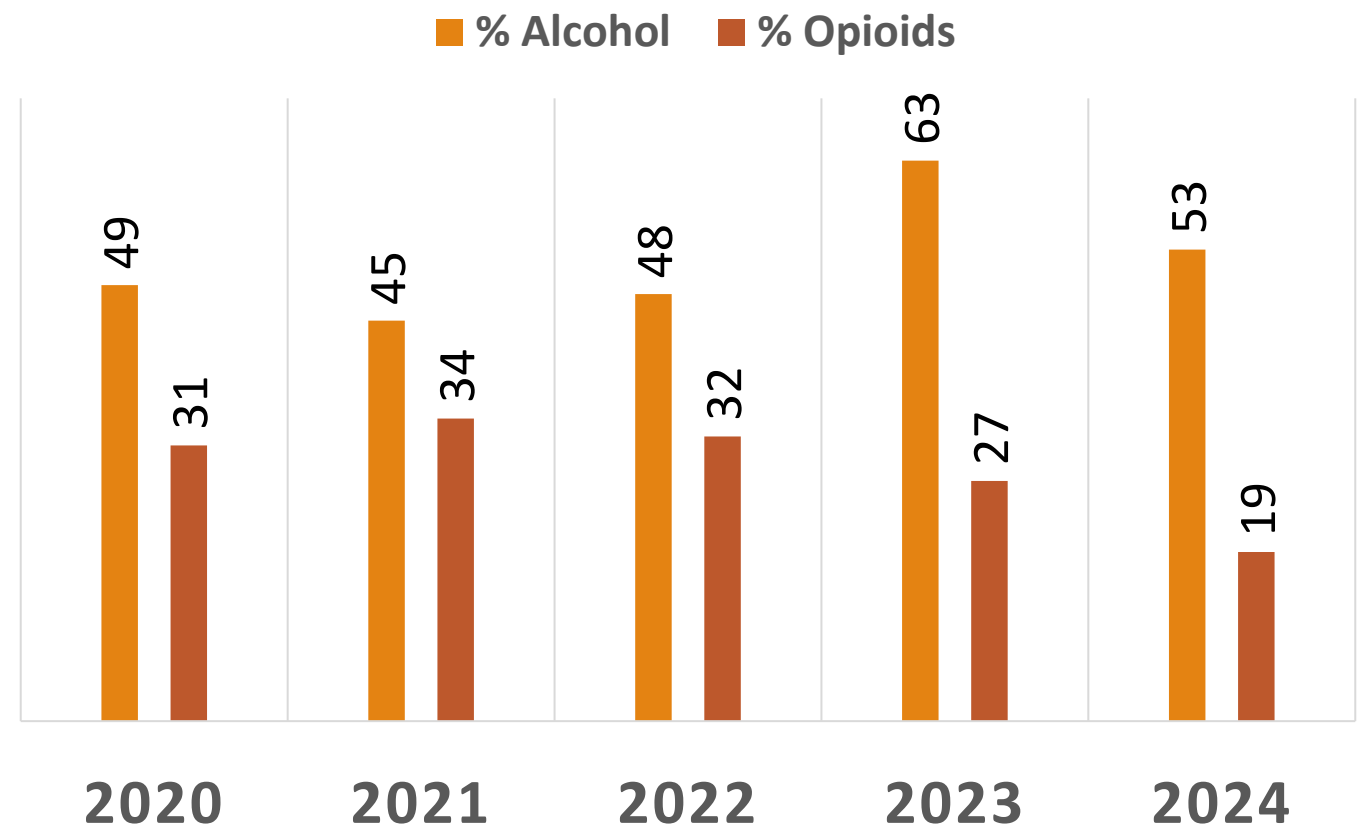
Data represents referrals outside the HOST program (Jail, Probation, Self-Referrals, Children & Youth, etc.). 76% of referred clients completed an assessment.

By comparison, referrals to the HOST program totaled 2222 and 1498. 67% of those clients were assessed.

D&A 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 PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE



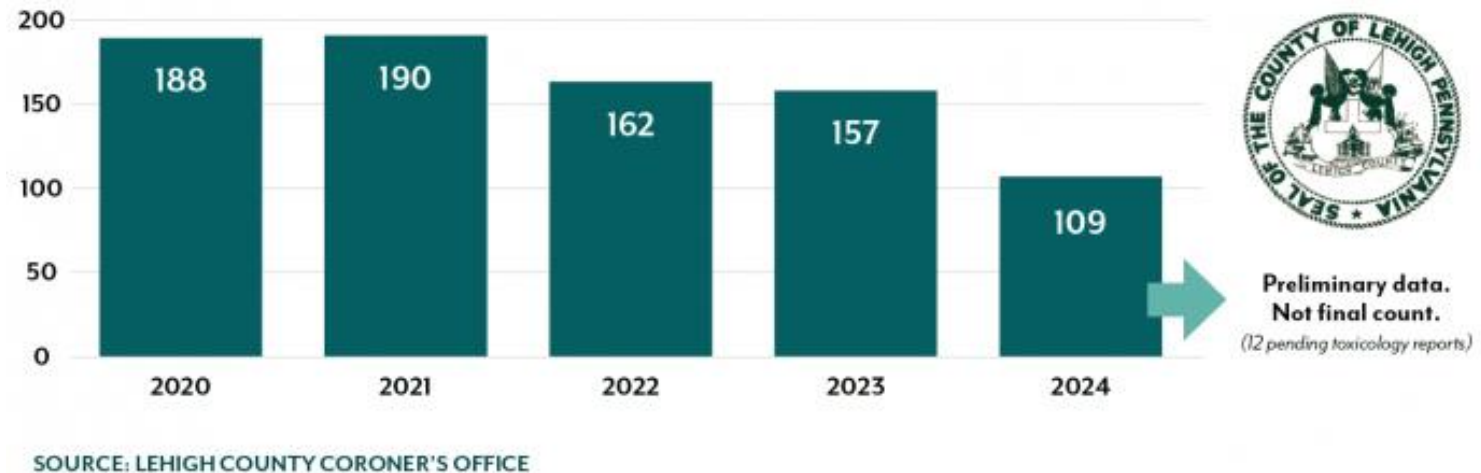
D&A Harm Reduction & Overdose

Nationally, overdose deaths are down 10%, but in 2024, Lehigh County saw a 30% reduction.

Lehigh County distributes around 4,000 Narcan kits and 200 Fentanyl and Xylazine test strip kits annually.

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are available through our local treatment providers.

LEHIGH COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATHS 2020-2024



RECOVERY COMMUNITY CENTERS



Change on Hamilton was renovated and can offer a broader array of recovery supports free to County residents. A second floor will soon open, creating a new event space for the recovery community. Change on Hamilton welcomes over 2500 people annually.

www.changeonhamilton.com



The Journeys Program operates within Change on Hamilton. There are two tracks for people who are using substances and have children: 1) is for anyone with a child under 18; 2) the Plan of Safe Care is for pregnant/postpartum people.

FORT Family Program

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

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

The FORT program began in the Fall of 2021 and has served over 140 families, with nearly 70% of those families completing the program. The new Allentown location has served 22 families since opening in mid-2024.



Lehigh County Early Intervention

What We Do

- EI serves children from birth to age 3 with developmental delays
- EI provides services to:
 - Improve the child's development and daily routines impacted
 - Enhance the family's capacity to meet their child's needs
 - Prevent the need for additional and/or more costly intervention in the future

About Us in 23-24

- 19 Service Coordinators
- 4 Bilingual SC
- 3.5 Supervisors
- 3 Clerical Staff
- 3 SC's/1 supervisor serving Safe Start children
- 1 SC's/1 supervisor serving POSC children
- 3 SC's/ 1 supervisor serving DHH children
- 3 SC's addressing all Transition activities

23-24 at a Glance

- Children served through LCEI
- Children enrolled in our tracking program
- Children transitioned from the county infant/toddler EI program to an Intermediate Unit preschool program
- Children entering had their evaluations and IFSPs completed per the mandated state timeline of 45 days from the date of referral
- Total number of agencies we contact for services

23-24 at a Glance in Numbers

- **2,331** Children served through LCEI
- **177** Children enrolled in our tracking program
- **596** Children transitioned from the county infant/toddler EI program to an Intermediate Unit preschool program
- **100%** Children entering had their evaluations and IFSPs completed per the mandated state timeline of 45 days from the date of referral
- **22** Total number of agencies we contact for services

Community Collaborations

- Local Interagency Coordinating Council-LICC
- Early Learning Resource Center- ELRC
- Parent to Parent
- ESS—Screenings for Child Care Centers/Homeless Shelters & Autism Diagnostic Clinic
- Early Head Start/Safe Start

Community Collaborations Continued

- Nurse and Family Partnership Program
- Plan of Safe Care team
- Family Connections for Language and Learning
(previously Guide by Your Side)
- Northampton Community College & Via-ASL classes
for children, families, and staff
- Unconditional Childcare

Community Events/Activities

- National Night Out(Upper Macungie)-August 2023
- Disability and Mental Health Fair presented by State Rep. Jeanne McNeill - October 2023
- Whitehall-Coplay SD Family Resource night - April 2024
- Training provided to Early Head Start staff as needed
- ASQ trainings provided to OCYS staff
- Quarterly meetings with local childcare centers

Crisis Intervention and Information & Referral

Individuals Served: **7714**

Phone Contacts: **6456**

Home and Community Visits: **1,011**

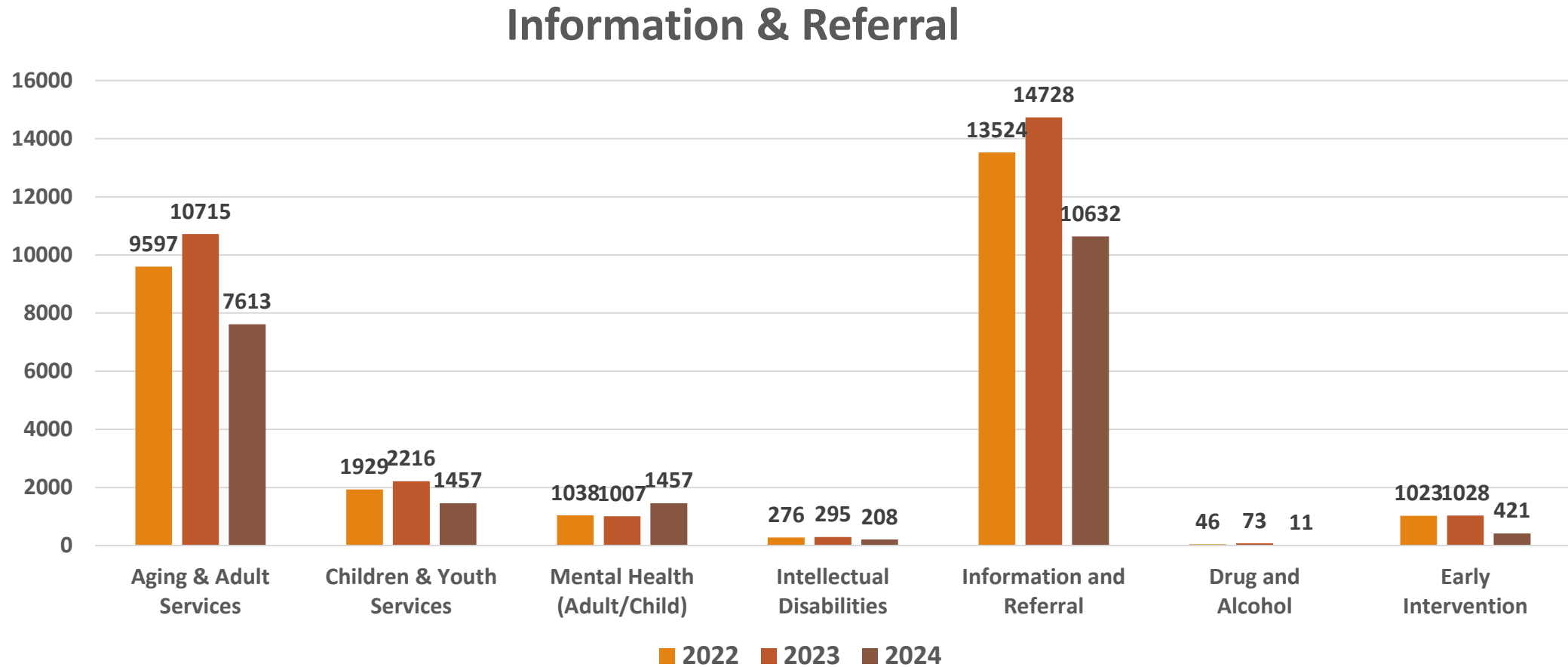
Walk-in Visits: **51**

Involuntary (302) Hospitalizations: **486**

Voluntary Hospitalizations: **627**

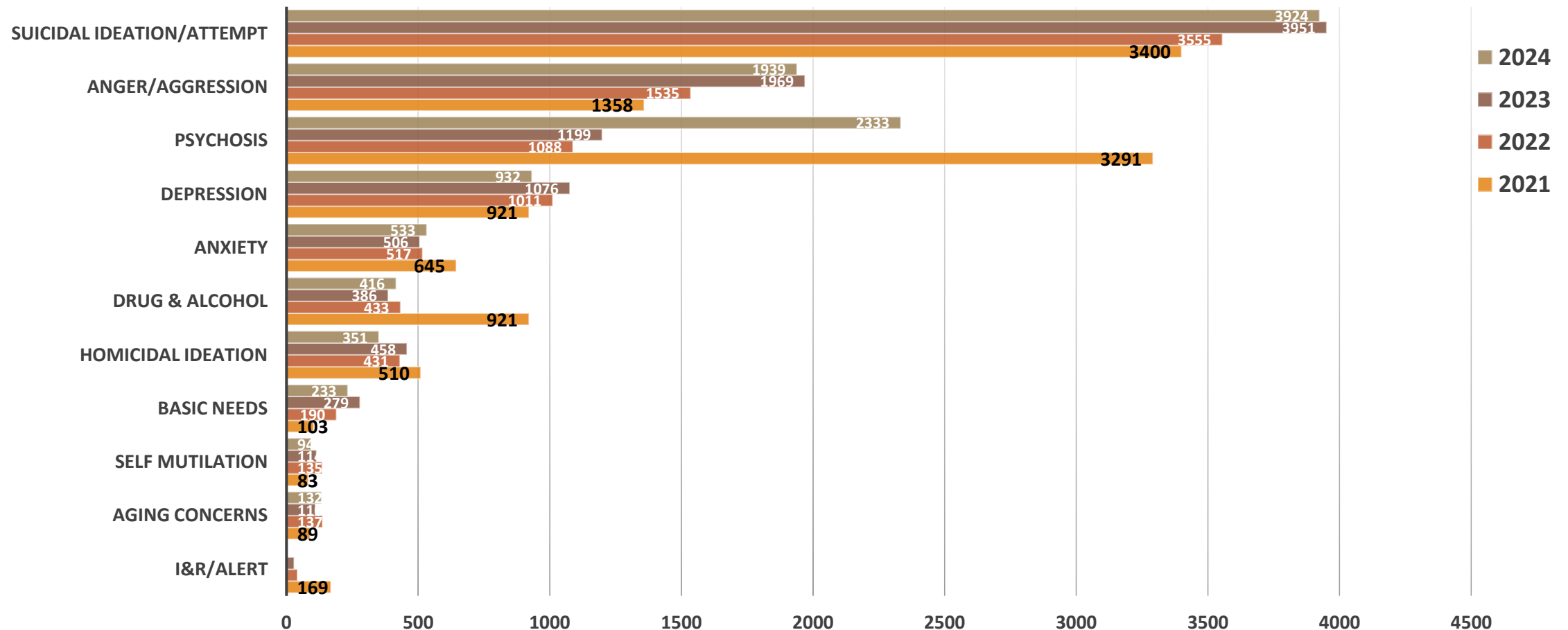


Information Only/Referrals

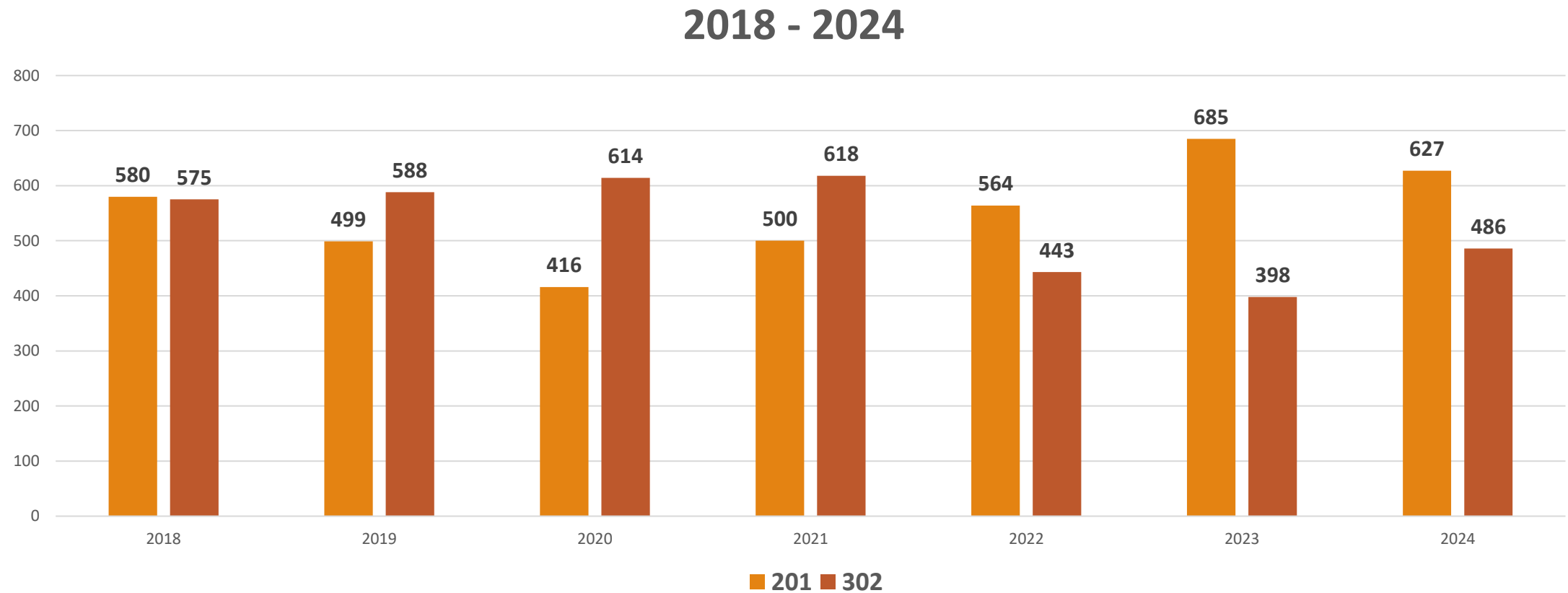


Crisis Intervention

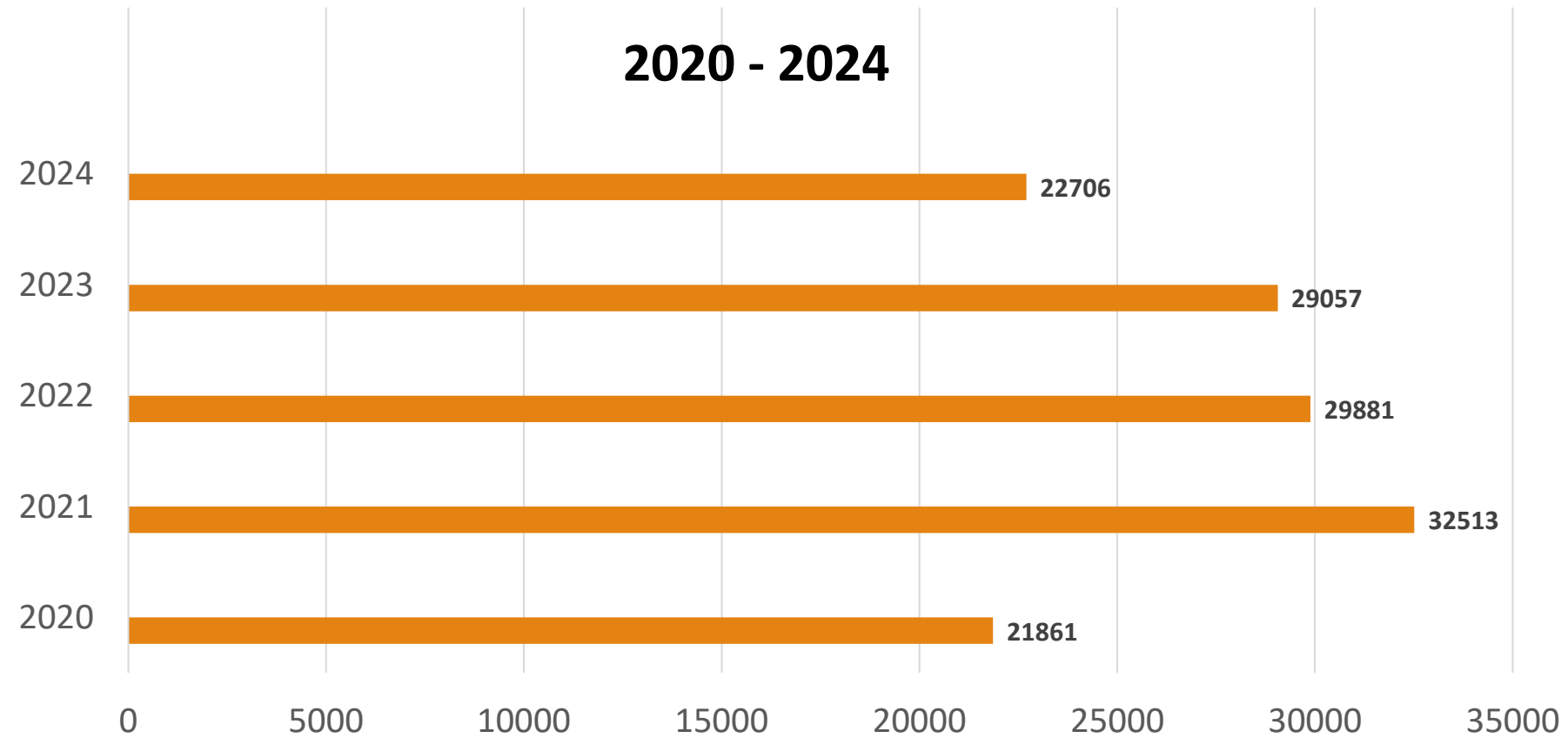
Presenting Problem Comparison Data



Hospitalization Trends

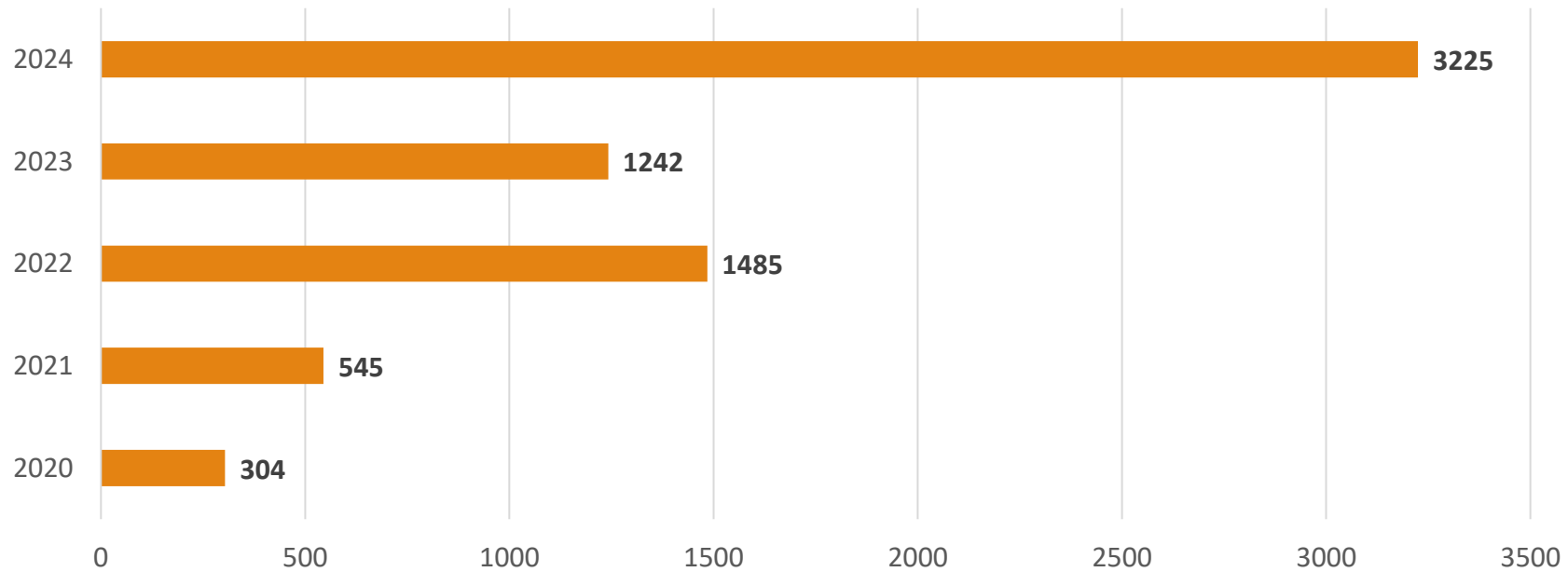


Telephone Contact Trends



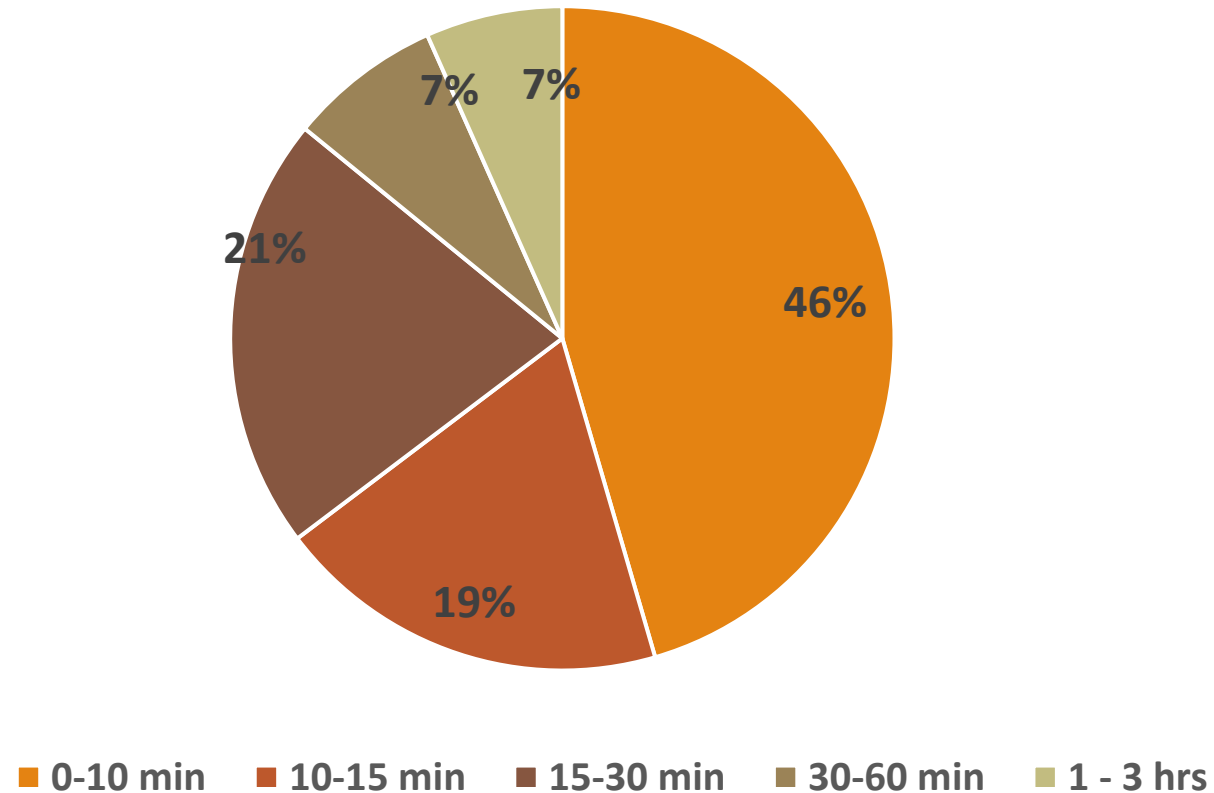
Mobile Visit Trends

2020 - 2024



Mobile Response Times

2023 2024



Crisis Intervention and I&R Program

Enhancements

- Certified Peer Specialist
- Lehigh County 988 provider



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.



Intellectual Disabilities

Accessible, responsive and culturally appropriate services and supports are designed to support self-determination and maximize independence, choice and responsibility in the community.

Intellectual Disabilities

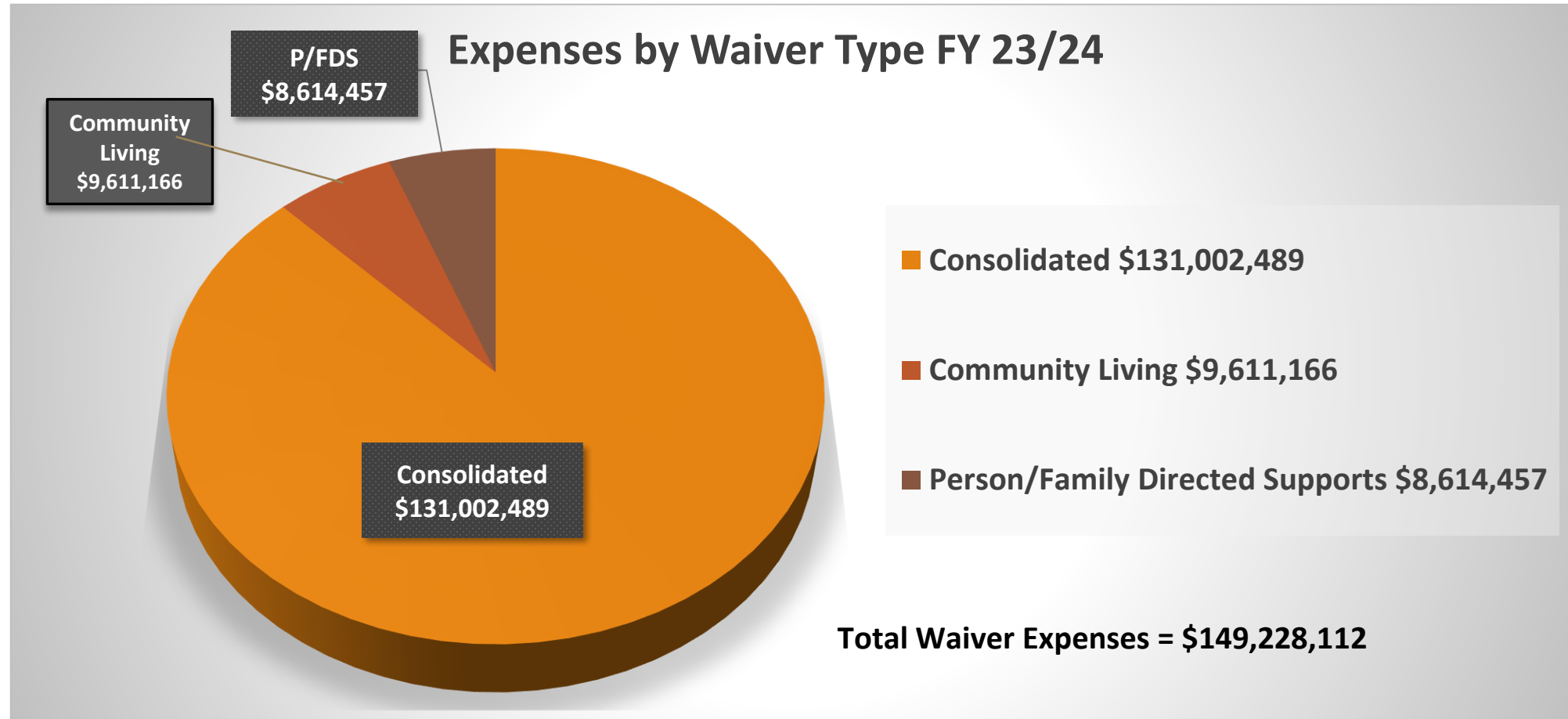
- Intellectual Disabilities believes that people with disabilities have the right to plan a future for themselves based upon their preferences, beliefs, and abilities
- ID continues toward community-based services, authorizing less in segregated settings and more in community supports, and assisting with finding and maintaining competitive employment
- 210 consumers in the Family Support Services Program
- 330 P/FDS Waivers, 218 Community Living Waivers, and 576 Consolidated Waivers provide necessary supports for individuals to be successful in the community

Intellectual Disabilities Continued

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

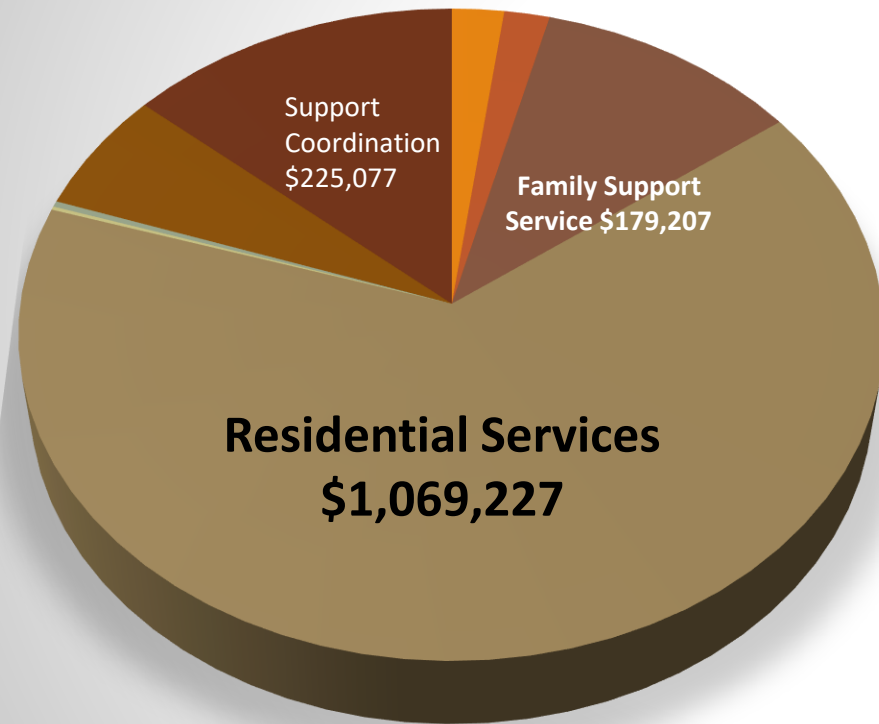
- 95% of individuals who responded reported that their supports coordinator always or sometimes helps them get what they need.
- 100% of the respondents reporting that they were very happy or happy with their life.
- 95% of individuals who responded reported that they were generally satisfied with where they live.
- 100% of the individuals who responded reported that they were getting all or some of services they need to live in their home and community.
- 100% of the individuals who responded reported that they only sometimes or never felt lonely.
- 94% of the individuals who responded reported that they are able to go out and do the things they like to do.
- 91% of the individuals who responded reported that they want to vote and do vote in political elections.

Waiver Funding



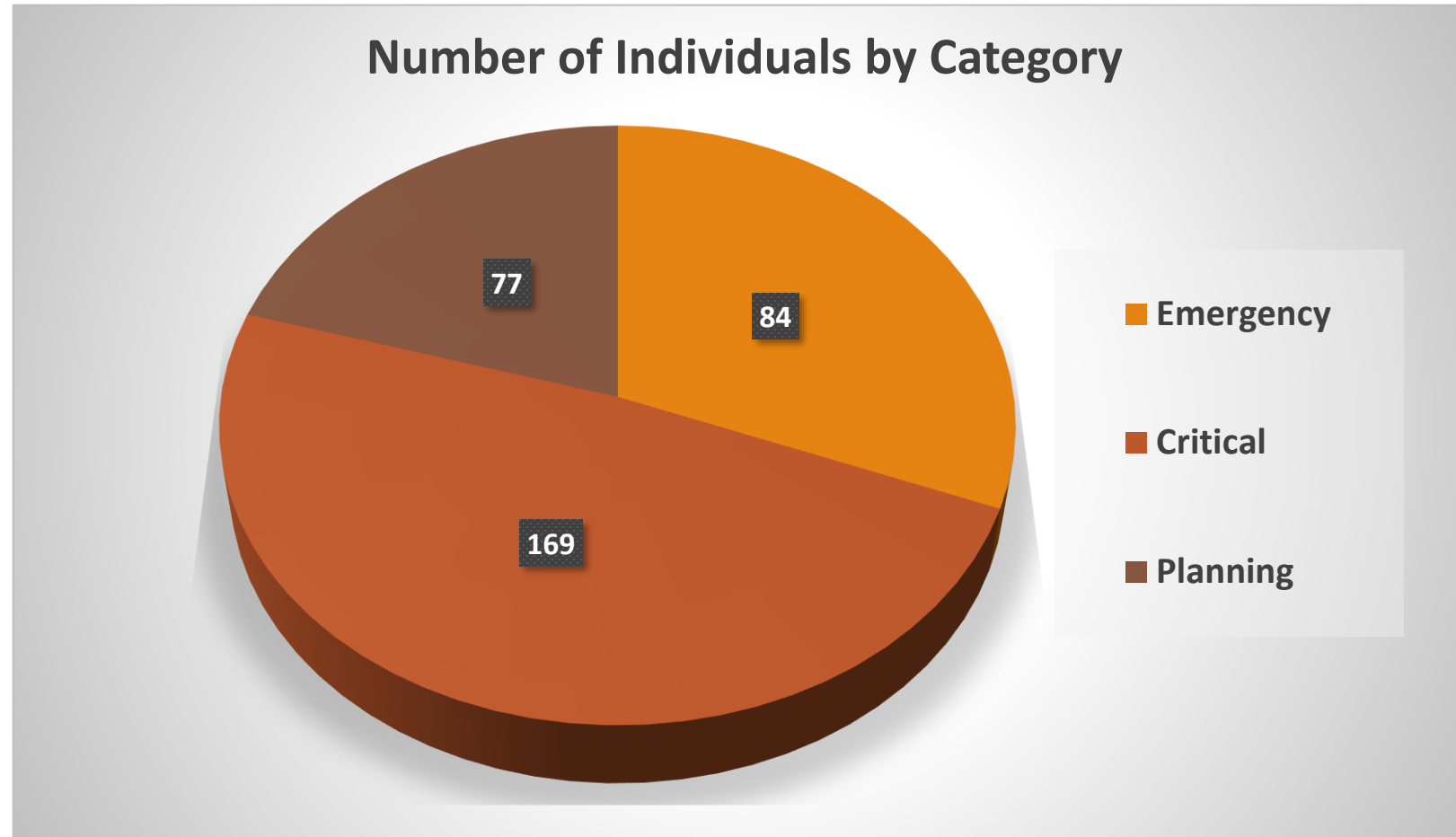
Block Grant Funding

Expenses by Service Type FY 23/24



- Community Habilitation \$35,085
- Community Employment \$30,554
- Family Support Service \$179,207
- Residential Services \$1,069,227
- Transportation \$2,797
- Vocational Rehab \$4,712
- Respite \$99,300
- Support Coordination \$225,077

PUNS/Waiting List



ID Housing Subsidy

- Lehigh County ID initiated a housing subsidy program to support independent community living for individuals with ID and/or autism
- Partnered with Housing Transition and a Tenancy Sustaining Service provider to build relationships with landlords and identify safe, affordable housing options
- Began with 2 individuals in November, 2022
- Currently subsidizing 23 individuals' rent payments at an average cost of \$612/person, per month.
- Presented to several County Administrators, Administrative Entities, and ODP about our program and are now part of ODP's Supportive Housing Pilot

Recent Administrative Entity Enhancements

- Increased Outreach Efforts = Increased Referrals (14% more referrals in FY 23-24 than 22-23)
- Planned large Resource Carnival outreach event (2nd Annual); instituted monthly Virtual Office Hours for individuals/caregivers to learn more about supports, eligibility, and other “hot topics”
- Increased ability to process eligibility determinations, to include administering adaptive assessments in house (over 40% of referrals completing eligibility process, plus being opened for SC services)
- Initiated process to track and follow up on monitoring issues (91 issues for FY 23-24) and issuing Corrective Action Plans when warranted (0 Issued Last FY)
- Initiated Risk Management visits to residential providers (17 homes visited across 11 providers; 20 individuals reviewed in the 23-24 FY) and following up with feedback and suggestions to providers
- Initiated quarterly meetings with residential providers (22 providers currently in rotation)
- Increased ability to cultivate quality providers (10 providers attended orientation; 4 were qualified; reviewed 31 self-assessments and completed 11 on-site reviews; 19 triennial requalification reviews completed)
- Doubled number of certified investigators within Lehigh County (as we plan to transition investigations back to county staff)

The MH Office Creative Planning

Clients

Providers

Community Members

Provider Staff

Criminal Justice



Warming Station Unique Bed Nights

	2023-2024		2024-2025		Increase over LY	
Month	Total Beds	Unique Guests	Total Beds	Unique Guests	Total Beds	Unique Guest
November	267	44	620	84	132.21%	90.91%
December	916	69	1447	54	57.97%	-21.74%
January	1146	55	1873	70	63.44%	27.27%
February	1243	40	1920	51	54.47%	27.50%
March	1495	28	2156	59	44.21%	110.71%
April	643	7				
Totals	5710	243	8016	318	40.39%	30.86%

Lehigh Valley Rents

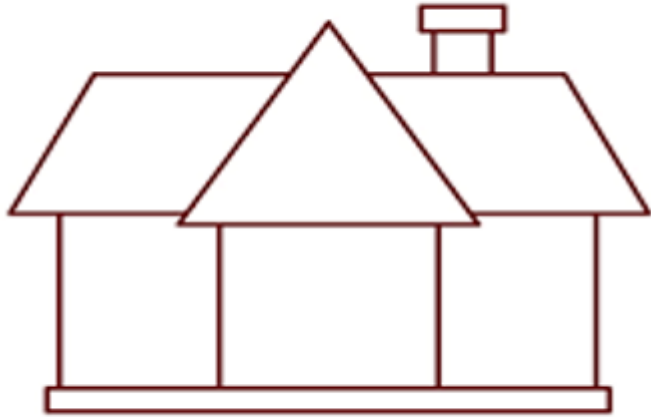
- You need \$20 an hour, assuming you work a standard 40-hour workweek, and spending no more than 30% of your income on rent, you can afford \$960 per month
- In the Lehigh Valley, rents climbed 3.4% over the previous year, with the average rent for apartments in Allentown ranging between \$1,835 and \$2,238 in 2024
- Lehigh Valley ranks among the nation's most overpriced rental markets in the new report

Fair Market Rent – Lehigh County

➤ \$1,033	Studio
➤ \$1,213	1-Bedroom
➤ \$1,507	2-Bedroom
➤ \$1,924	3-Bedroom
➤ \$2,005	4-Bedroom

Roommate Roundup

Shared Housing Opportunities



Programs Supporting Programs



CHIPP Expansion RFI

All current providers and three new providers were sent an RFI to take three men out of Wernersville State Hospital with CHIPP funding. All of them responded similarly-

We will not be responding to this RFI as we need to focus on stabilizing our current programs and our workforce before expanding into additional service lines or new programs.

Individualized Residential Treatment

Community Residential Rehabilitation



Enhanced Personal Care Homes



Unwinding of Members from MA

Impacts Liabilities for Lehigh County Base 2021-2024

Inday Liabs - 2021		Inday Liabs - 2022		Inday Liabs - 2023		Inday Liabs - 2024	
Jan	23	Jan	7	Jan	19	Jan	28
Feb	2	Feb	7	Feb	15	Feb	24
Mar	4	Mar	10	Mar	18	Mar	25
Apr	12	Apr	16	Apr	17	Apr	30
May	18	May	10	May	19	May	33
Jun	17	Jun	10	Jun	16	Jun	21
Jul	16	Jul	11	Jul	15	Jul	24
Aug	18	Aug	22	Aug	20	Aug	35
Sep	17	Sep	14	Sep	19	Sep	23
Oct	19	Oct	14	Oct	24	Oct	34
Nov	13	Nov	17	Nov	21	Nov	24
Dec	10	Dec	10	Dec	21	Dec	31
169		148		224		332	

Liabilities Completed

➤ 2022	12/month
➤ 2023	19/month
➤ 2024	28/month
➤ 2025	29/month to date

Individuals Who Are Incarcerated



The Stepping Up Initiative

- In 2023, Lehigh County became a Stepping Up county.
- The Stepping Up Initiative is a National Initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- The mission/purpose of the Forensic Familiar Faces Committee FC3 is to identify and provide resources to individuals struggling with various impairments that result in repeated incarcerations in Lehigh County.

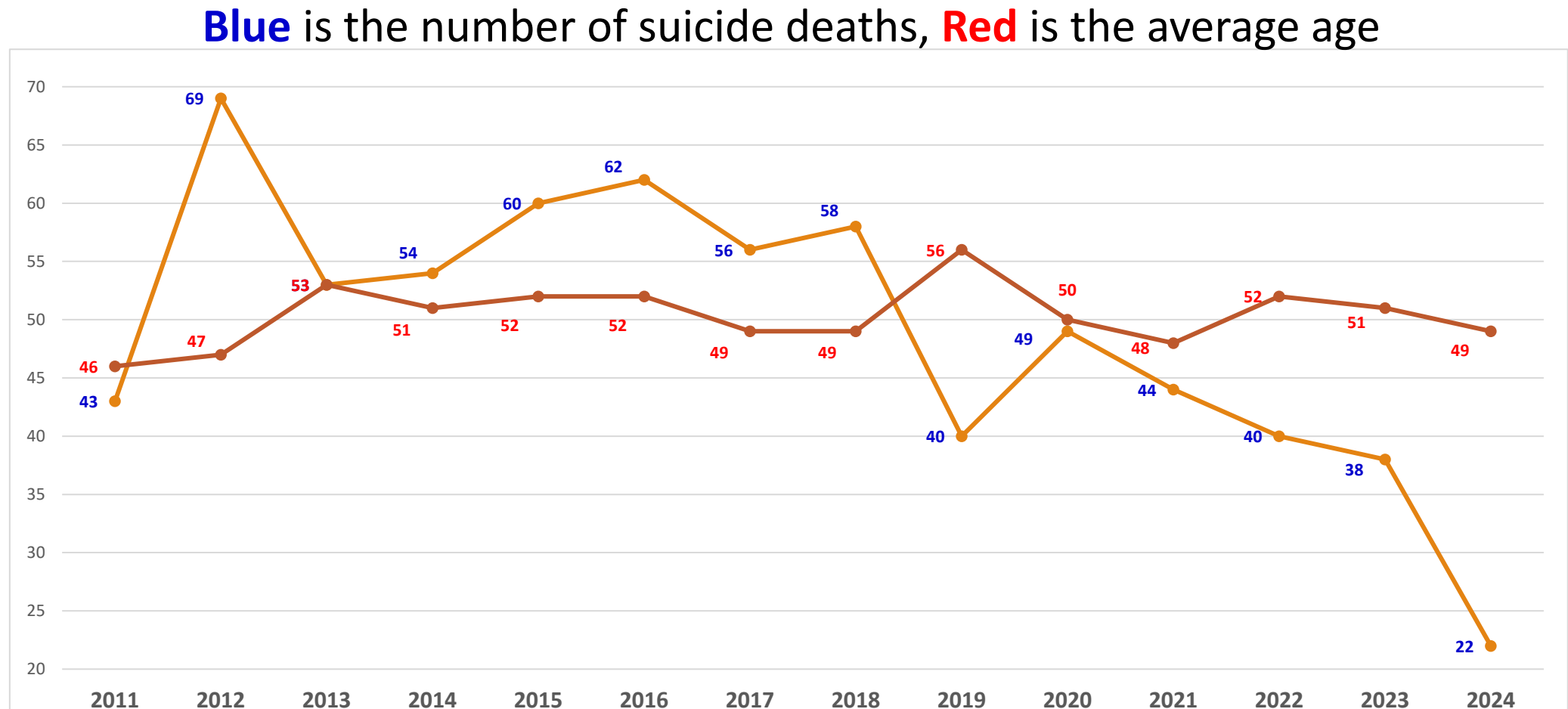
Mental Health Services in the Jail

- Integrative Community Therapy (ICT) is a discussion group led by the participants, providing an opportunity for mutual support to help build a community.
- Individual Counselling
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Certified Peer Specialist

Long Term Structured Residence



Suicides in Lehigh County 2011-2024



Creation of LOSS Team

Suicide Task Force creating a LOSS Team **L**ocal **O**utreach
to **S**uicide **S**urvivors - is an active postvention model that has been
introduced in Lehigh County.





Lehigh County Integrated Services

Mission: Supporting children and their families to collaborate, connect and coordinate mental health services and community resources



three Cs

Collaborate

Connect

Coordinate

Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP)

CASSP was designed to provide a comprehensive mental health system of care for children and their families

Six CASSP Principles



- 1- Child Centered**
- 2- Family Focused**
- 3- Community Based**
- 4- Multi System**
- 5- Culturally Competent**
- 6- Least Restrictive**

CASSP Coordination

1- CASSP Placement Authorization- Meeting to review a residential treatment recommendation. The CASSP Coordinator will facilitate a meeting to discuss the child's treatment history, diagnosis, medications, behaviors and treatment goals.

2- CASSP System Coordination Meetings (SCM)- Team approach to helping children and their families. A CASSP Coordinator works with the child and family to build/ pick the team and then facilitates a team meeting. Goal of meeting is defined by the child and family and identifies resources to help meet their goals.

System & Community Collaboration

- Facilitate outpatient mental health provider forum to increase awareness of services available across providers and human services
- Limited English Proficiency Policy – Coordination of all language services for DHS.
- Facilitate DHS Training for new employees to receive consistent training across all departments of human services
- Collaborate with Suicide Prevention Coalition of Lehigh County
- Connect with local universities and colleges to offer internship experiences in human services
- Facilitate Children's Round Table Mental Health Subcommittee that is connecting human services, schools, and community resources to decrease service gaps
- Promote mental health awareness in Lehigh County by pulling together mental health human services to do community outreach

Cross System Collaboration



Cross System Meetings

Allows professionals to partner across all human services to bridge gaps in service and improve quality of service to members of Lehigh County.

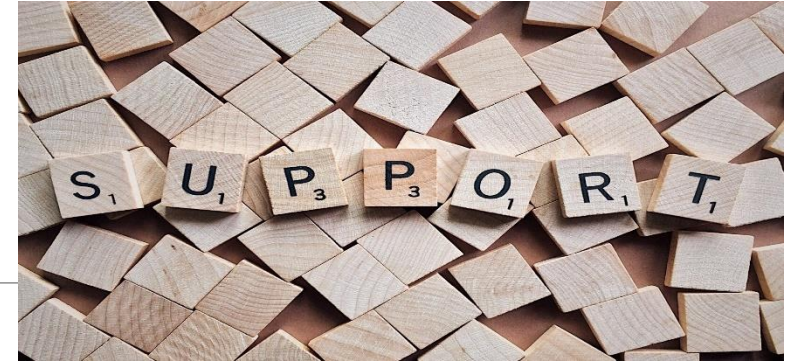
Assists in transition of services between systems. For example 21 year old aging out of Children and Youth to receive adult services.

Student Liaison

Caseworker who receives referrals from the local magistrates and schools to provide support and case management to students experiencing truancy.

Can visit student at family home, attend school meetings and/or schedule multidisciplinary meetings to bring everyone together to help student eliminate barriers to attending school and connect to any additional services.

Prevention Efforts / Supports



- Referrals - Integrated Services Caseworker partners with, Lehigh County Residents, Magisterial District Justices Offices, Community Partners, Juvenile Probation, Children and Youth and Lehigh County School Districts to assist families with short-term case management and/or linkage services before the family gets further involved with systems
- High Fidelity Wrap-Around – a process offered to families with goal to lessen dependency on professional services and link to natural and community supports
- Family Group Decision Making – a process which actively seeks the collaboration and leadership of family themselves crafting and implementing plans that support the safety, permanency and well-being of their children. Integrated Services has collaborated to connect this as a process available to residents in all Lehigh County human service departments.
- Respite Services – provide support to families caring for children with mental health needs

Children and Youth Liaison



- Children's Mental Health Caseworker assigned as a liaison 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, assisted with 65 families in 2024.
- Assists with setting up mental health treatment for children in out of home placements, completed 145 service coordination requests in 2024
- Mental Health representative on pre/post placement meetings, attended 87 preplacement meetings in 2024
- Assists in obtaining adult mental health services for children aging out of OCYS custody

PLAN OF SAFE CARE (PoSC)

- 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 2024:
 - Broadened scope to assist prenatal mothers as well
 - 83 PoSC cases
 - Fostered networking among PoSC families
 - Provided community education on Plan of Safe Care to organizations and medical providers

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?

