

STEPPING UP

A National Initiative Reducing
Overincarceration of People with Mental
Illnesses

CJAB Conference 2023: Enhancing Your Collaborative Through Data

- Susie Fink, Gretchen Frank,
Jolynn Haney | March 21, 2023



AGENDA

1. Stepping Up Overview
2. Berks County
3. Chester County
4. Questions and Answers



SPEAKERS

- Susanne Fink, *MHS, Mental Health Diversion Specialist and Stepping Up Coordinator, Chester County*
- Gretchen Frank, *JD, Senior Policy Analyst, CSG Justice Center*
- Jolynn Haney, *PhD, Data Analyst and Stepping Up Project Data Manager, Berks County*



Stepping Up Overview



Stepping Up is a national initiative reducing overincarceration of people with mental illnesses in jails.



Justice Center
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



#StepUp4MentalHealth
www.StepUpTogether.org



STEPPINGUP

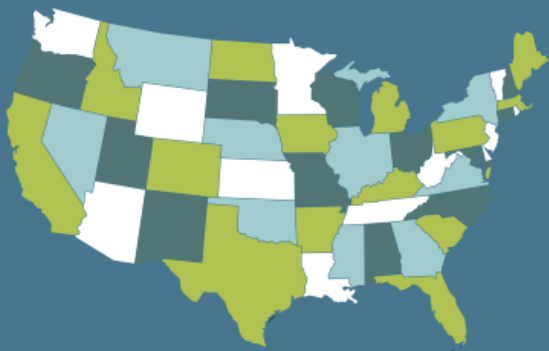


STEPPINGUP

7 YEARS AND COUNTING



More than **550** counties across **45** states have joined Stepping Up to reduce the prevalence of mental illnesses in jails.



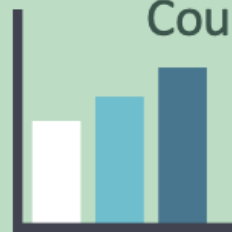
48% of Americans live in a Stepping Up county.



Approximately **2 million** times each year, people who have serious mental illnesses are booked in jails.



30+ Innovator Counties are blazing the trail in data collection.



5 states have launched statewide Stepping Up initiatives.



PA STEPPING UP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

- The TA Center is funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), administered by the CSG Justice Center
- There are 35 counties that have passed resolutions in support of Stepping Up in PA
- 25 counties are currently participating in the TA Center



PA STEPPING UP TA CENTER OFFERINGS



- Assistance and guidance on data-driven action planning



- Fostering peer-to-peer learning among similarly situated counties



- Targeted trainings to assist in implementing Stepping Up goals



- Access to resources and experts in the field

If your county would like to participate, please let me know! gfrank@csg.org

THE STEPPING UP SIX QUESTIONS FRAMEWORK

1

Is our leadership committed?

2

Do we conduct timely screening and assessments?

3

Do we have baseline data?

4

Have we conducted a process analysis and inventory of services?

5

Have we prioritized policy, practice, and funding improvements?

6

Do we track progress?

STEPPING UP FOUR KEY MEASURES



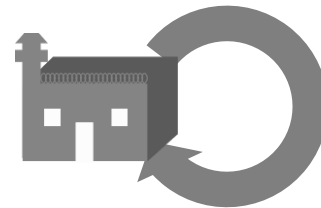
1. Reduce the number of people with mental illnesses booked into jails



2. Shorten the length of stay in jails for people who have mental illnesses



3. Increase connection to treatment for people who have mental illnesses



4. Reduce recidivism rates for people who have mental illnesses

Enhancing the Berks County Stepping Up Collaborative Through Data

Presented by Jolynn Haney, PhD
| March 2023



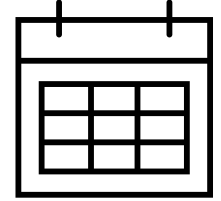
Pam Seaman, Berks County MH/DD Program Administrator

Kevin S. Barnhardt, Berks County Chief Operations Officer

Christian Y. Leinbach, Berks County Commissioner, Chair
Michael S. Rivera, Berks County Commissioner, Vice-Chair



BACKGROUND



- Berks County, Pa. became a Stepping Up Innovator County in **2019**.
- These efforts began before Berks County's official designation as an **innovator county**.
 - A local **Stepping Up resolution** was passed by the Berks County Commissioners on **December 10, 2015**.
 - In 2017, Berks participated in **Data Driven Justice Initiative team** that created action plans for developing and using integrated data systems that would aid their jurisdictions in identifying high utilizers of jail and crisis services.

DEVELOPING THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE

- **Goal:** Use available resources to divert cases to treatment rather than jail, while maintaining public safety
- **Objectives:**
 - Secure committed team leadership.
 - Ensure implementation of timely screening and assessments.
 - Obtain baseline data.
 - Complete a comprehensive process analysis and inventory of services.
 - Prioritize policy, practice, and funding improvements.
 - Identify strategies to track and evaluate progress.

PARTNERS

- Berks Connections/Pretrial Services
- Berks County Adult Probation and Parole
- Berks County Jail
- Berks County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/HealthChoices Program
- Berks County Single County Authority (Council on Chemical Abuse)
- Berks County District Attorney's Office



DATA INTEGRATION JOURNEY



Initially contracted with a **third-party vendor** to join and analyze agency data sets

- **Challenges** with outsourcing:
- **Cost** – continued investment with costs that were exponentially more expensive
- **Speed** – the vendor was slow to make changes to visualizations
- **Context** – the vendor did not fully understand the Berks data or the local context. They created visualizations based on their world view that was not necessarily congruent with local perceptions.

DATA INTEGRATION JOURNEY CONTINUED

- **Knowledge** – vendor lacked expert knowledge about the business processes and terminology
- **Control** – Berks County could not effectively or efficiently validate the vendor's outputs
- **Technical** – various technical changes on the back-end created setbacks that were costly and timely to overcome

In December 2021, Berks County was informed that the vendor was ending its business operations in January 2022

NEXT STEPS



- Engaging another third-party vs. developing an in-house data warehouse.
- Decided to use our internal knowledge, expertise, and information technology systems to create an **in-house integrated warehouse**.

Rationale:

- Leveraging existing infrastructure would **save money and increase speed**.
- Leveraging analytic resources already familiar with County services, terminology and business processes would **improve the quantity, quality and accuracy of data analysis**.
- Internalizing would better position our Stepping Up Committee to **gain value from the existing data sets**.

REBUILDING THE DATA WAREHOUSE

REBOOT



Reboot the project by rebuilding the data warehouse internally.

Current data sets:

- Jail
- HealthChoices (Medicaid)
- Adult Probation
- Substance use treatment data from the Single County Authority is pending onboarding
- Future data sets could include data from the local homelessness coalition and Berks County Emergency Medical Services

CONSIDERATIONS – SMI IDENTIFICATION

Identifying Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

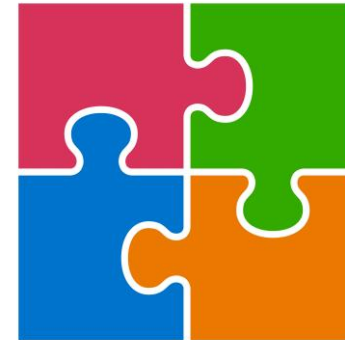
We identify individuals with serious mental illness using **both** the **jail data** and the **county Medicaid treatment data**.

An individual is defined as having an SMI if:

1. they are identified by the jail mental health department as having an SMI
OR
2. if they have had an SMI diagnosis in the HealthChoices administrative claims data prior to incarceration.

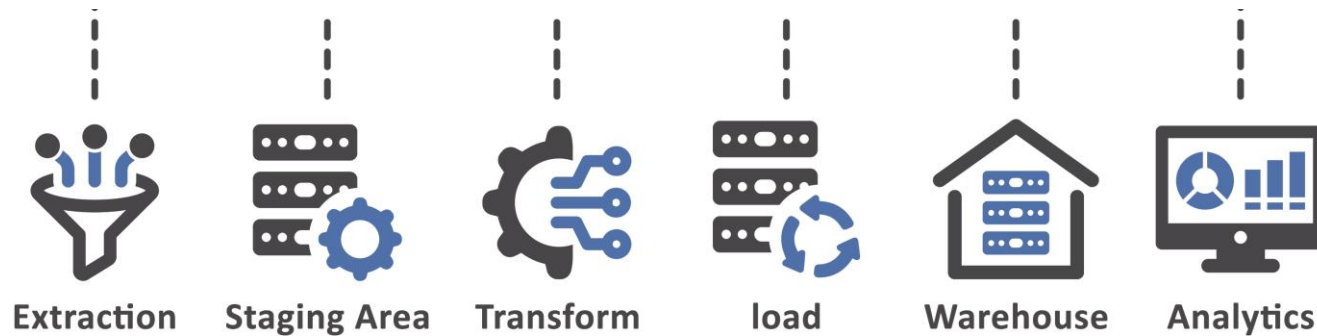
CONSIDERATIONS – CASE MATCHING

- Cases between the jail and the HealthChoices Medicaid program are matched using logic that considers the following data elements:
 - SSN
 - DOB
 - Gender
 - Last name (full, partial, Soundex)
 - First name (full, partial, Soundex)
- Matches are weighted and cases with low matching scores are reviewed individually to determine if they are true matches.



BENEFITS OF AN IN-HOUSE DATA WAREHOUSE

- Deeper data dives
- More focused analyses of the jail population and subpopulations
- Fast turnaround for reporting
- Daily care coordination for newly incarcerated individuals



REAL-TIME CARE COORDINATION

- Each day **new jail commitments** are compared to **open HealthChoices service authorizations** to determine which individuals are actively in treatment (mental health or substance use) and what type of treatment was authorized.
- Of particular interest are individuals with **recent inpatient psychiatric treatment episodes** and individuals who have been receiving **medication for opioid use disorders**.
- This information is provided to the jail mental health department to coordinate care.

AGGREGATE REPORTING TO INFORM PARTNERS

- Aggregate use of the data to inform Stepping Up stakeholders, quarterly
- Stepping Up metrics reviewed by full committee
- Subcommittees focus informed by metrics
 - length of stay subcommittee
 - recidivism committee

Metric Snapshots

Reported to Stepping Up Committee Quarterly



Berks County Stepping Up Summary as of December 31, 2022 updated 1/25/23

Serious mental illness (SMI)

Year	SMI Bookings	SMI Average Length of Stay (days)	Median Length of Stay (days)	SMI Length of Stay Range (Min-Max)	SMI Average Daily Population	% SMI ADP of Total Jail ADP	SMI Recidivate Count	SMI Recidivism Rate	SMI Releases	Connect to Care 14 Days	% Connect to Care 14 Days	% Bookings with SUD
2018	1,031	70.0	31	1 - 822	197	25.1%	458	44.4%	1,007	268	26.6%	63.2%
2019	970	85.1	37	1 - 1126	226	27.6%	394	40.6%	998	264	26.5%	63.5%
2020	602	86.5	42	1 - 1322	143	27.6%	239	39.7%	657	182	27.7%	63.1%
2021	570	83.0	40	1 - 1085	130	27.0%	202	35.4%	574	211	36.8%	64.2%
2022	594	75.9	32.5	1 - 921	165	26.7%	203	34.2%	576	192	36.8%	59.9%

SMI = Jail D rating and/or HealthChoices SMI diagnosis within three years of jail commitment date; SUD = HealthChoices SUD diagnosis within 3 years of jail commitment date.

Non-SMI

Year	non-SMI Bookings	non-SMI Average Length of Stay (days)	Median Length of Stay (days)	non-SMI Length of Stay Range (Min-Max)	non-SMI Average Daily Population	non-SMI Recidivate Count	non-SMI Recidivism	non-SMI Releases
2018	4,405	48.9	15	1 - 694	589	1,682	38.2%	4,378
2019	4,020	54.0	15	1 - 859	594	1,473	36.6%	4,121
2020	2,405	56.8	15	1 - 954	374	793	33.0%	2,592
2021	2,353	54.3	14	1 - 1542	350	644	27.4%	2,328
2022	2,578	48.0	13	1 - 1682	452	724	28.1%	2,492

All Jail

Year	All Bookings	All Average Length of Stay (days)	Median Length of Stay (days)	All Length of Stay Range (Min-Max)	All Average Daily Population	All Recidivate Count	All Recidivism	All Releases
2018	5,436	52.8	16	1 - 822	786	2,233	41.1%	5,385
2019	4,990	60.0	18	1 - 1126	820	1,970	39.5%	5,119
2020	3,007	62.8	20	1 - 1322	517	1,097	36.5%	3,249
2021	2,923	60.0	16	1 - 1542	480	886	30.3%	2,902
2022	3,172	53.2	15	1 - 1682	617	983	31.0%	3,068

**METRICS
FOR FULL
POPULATION**

BOOKINGS AND RELEASES

2021 - 2022 Variance as a Proportion of All Commits & Releases

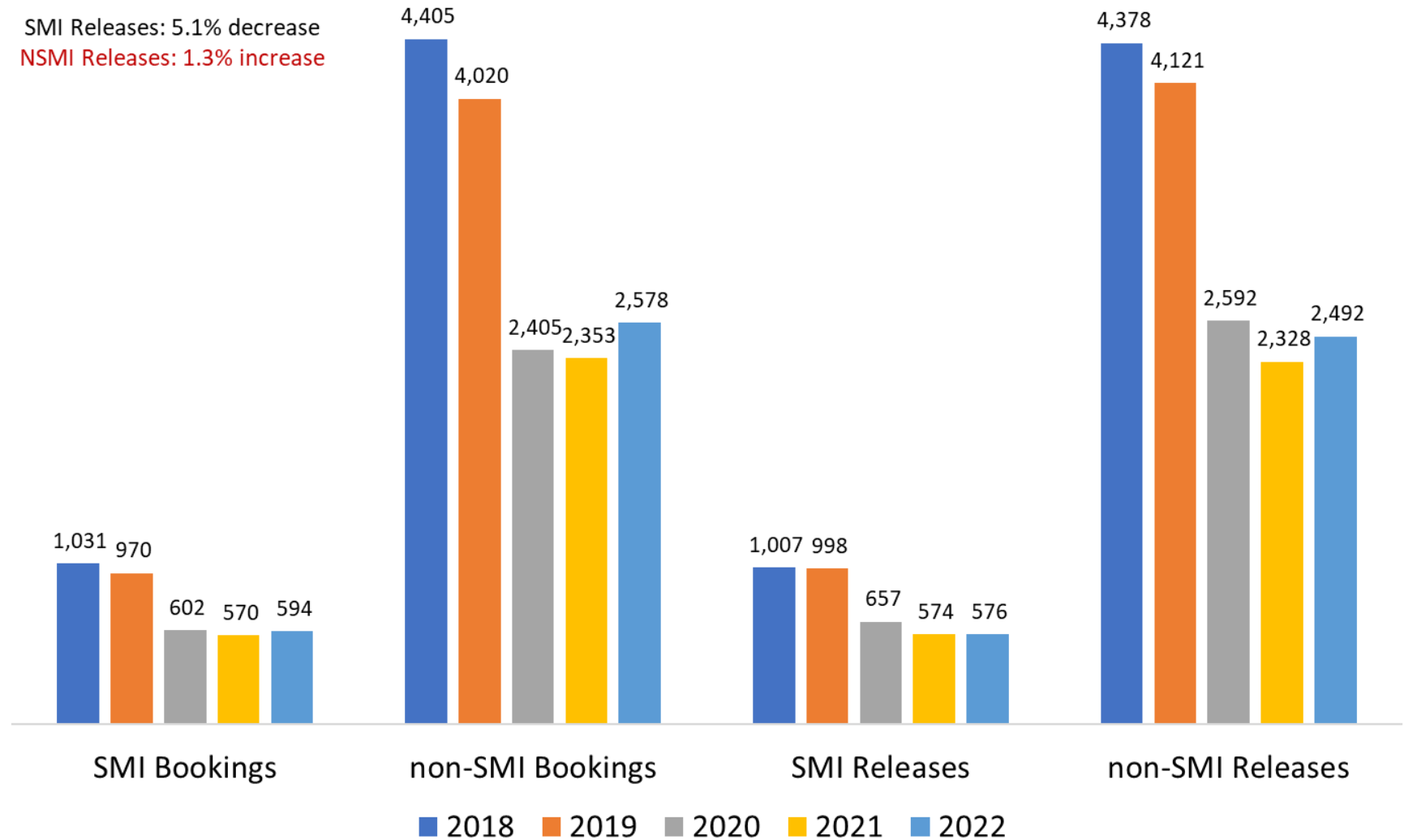
SMI Bookings: 4.0% decrease

NSMI Bookings: 1.0% increase

SMI Releases: 5.1% decrease

NSMI Releases: 1.3% increase

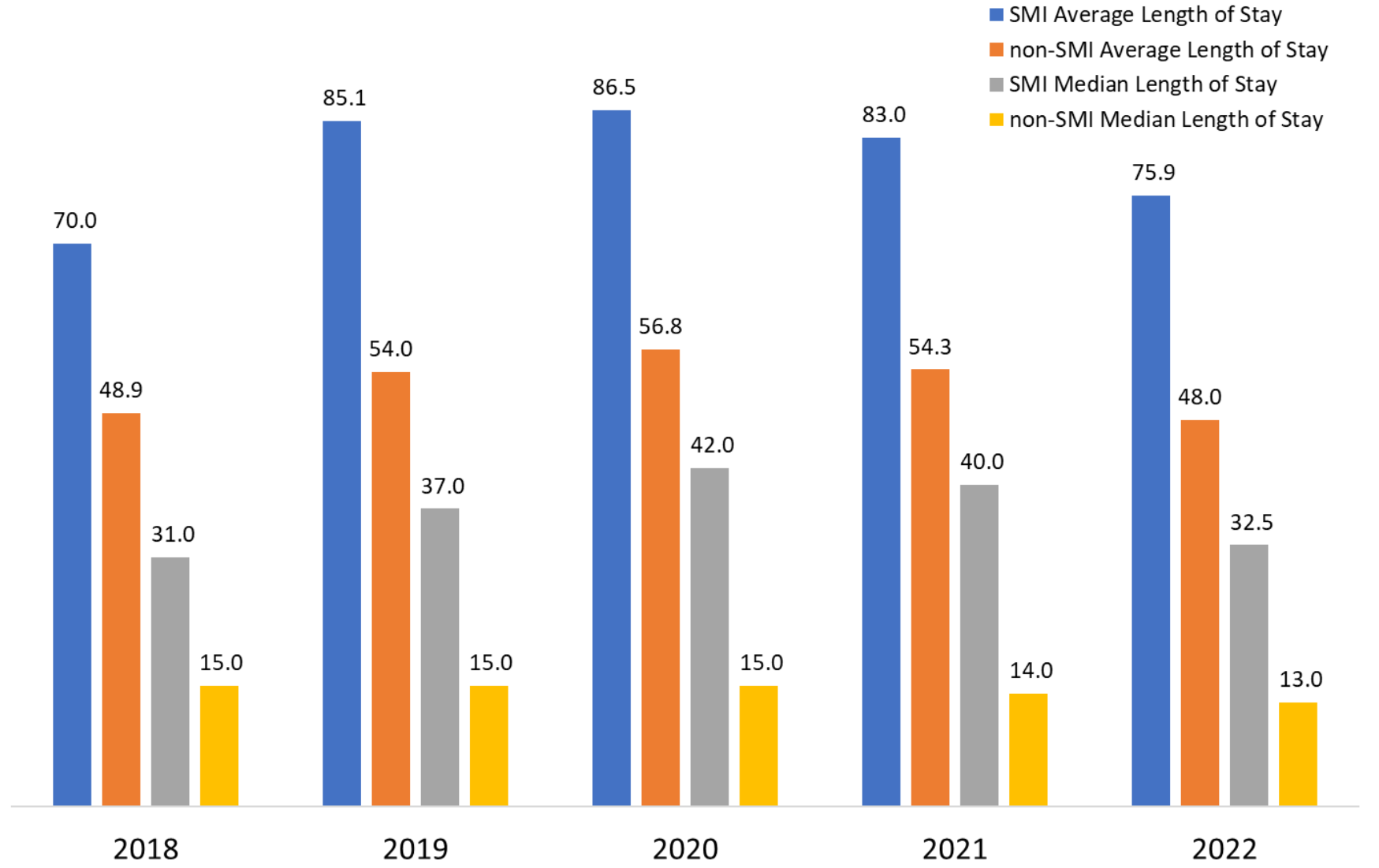
Bookings and Releases January 2018 - December 2022



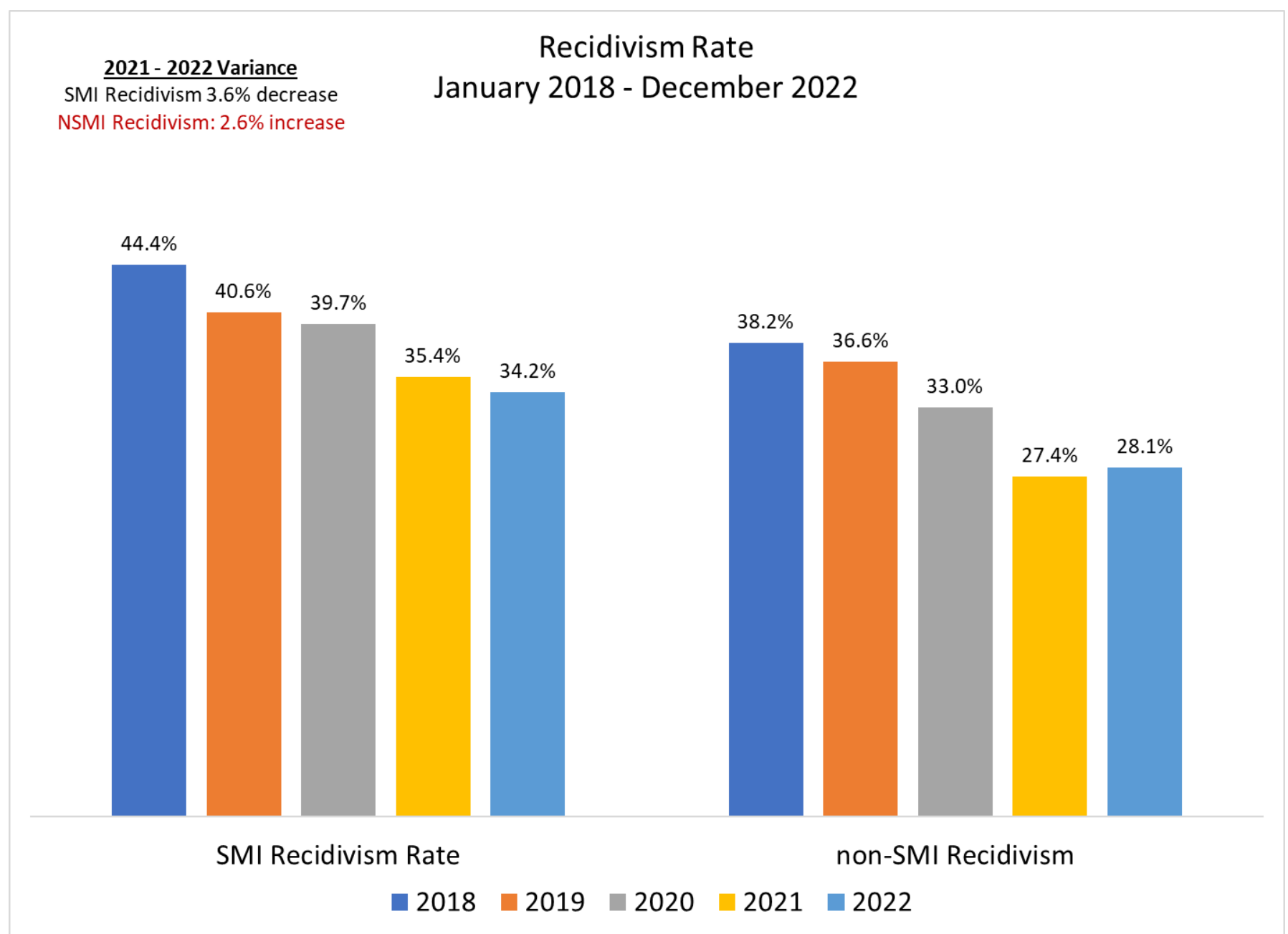
MEAN AND MEDIAN LENGTH OF STAY

2021 - 2022 ALOS Variance
SMI ALOS: 8.6% decrease
NSMI ALOS: 11.6% decrease

Average Length of Stay (ALOS) and Median Lengths of Stay (MLOS) in Days January 2018 - December 2022



RECIDIVISM RATE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- John Adams, District Attorney, Berks County District Attorney's Office
- Kevin S. Barnhardt, Chief Operations Officer, Berks County
- Brendan Harker, Deputy Chief, Berks County Adult Probation and Parole Office
- Justin Loose, Chief Information Officer, Berks County
- Kathy Noll, Executive Director, Council on Chemical Abuse
- Andrea Rosa, County Programs Eastern Service Line Director, Services Access and Management, Inc.
- Andrea Rumberger, MH Intake and Eligibility Director, Services Access and Management, Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS CONTINUED

- Pam Seaman, MH/DD Program Administrator, Berks County
- Melissa Shingle, Northeast Regional Director for MH, Services Access and Management, Inc.
- Nicolle Schnovel, Co-Executive Director, Berks Connections/Pretrial Services
- Lydia Singley, Director, Berks County HealthChoices Program
- Stephanie Smith, Deputy Warden, Berks County Jail
- Joseph Speece, Assistant District Attorney, Berks County District Attorney's Office

QUESTIONS?





The Power of Data

Susanne Fink | March 21, 2023

THE
STEPPINGUP
INITIATIVE

Chester County, PA



STEPPING UP INITIATIVE



Stepping Up is a National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails

OUR COMMITMENT HAS STEPPED UP THE MANY RELATIONSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND PROCESSES CHESTER COUNTY ALREADY HAD IN PLACE



Strong Partnerships Matter!



INTEGRATED DATA SHARING SITE



- 4 Key Measures:
 - Reduce the number of people with serious mental illness booked into the jail
 - Shorten the average length of stay for people with serious mental illness in the jail
 - Increase the percentage of connection to care for people with serious mental illness
 - Lower the rates of recidivism for people with serious mental illness

PROJECT GOALS



Build a repository from which a dashboard and analytical tools can be used to:

- ▶ Identify and Track Trends
- ▶ Inform Service Planning
- ▶ Evaluate efforts

OUR TIMELINE: 12/6/18 – 2/25/19

Establish Leadership

To oversee project.

Establish Workgroup

Recommend information priorities.

Develop data elements.

Identify analytical and operational indicators for dashboard.

Serve as a point of contact for developers.

OUR TIMELINE CONTINUED: 12/6/18 – 2/25/19

Workgroup

Refined fields needed from each system and crosswalks.

Workgroup

Began data collection and database development.
Engaged vendors to create extracts from each system.

Alleghany HealthChoices, Inc

AHCI won Request For Proposal to build database and visualization tools.

TIMELINE CONTINUED – DATES BELOW

Workgroup - 9/22

Began using the data site and refining data.

Workgroup – 2/22

Vendor ended business operations.

Workgroup – 11/22

Moved the data site in-house on county premises.

SHARED DEFINITIONS

- Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
- Substance Use Disorder
- Recidivism
- Recommitment
- Length of Stay

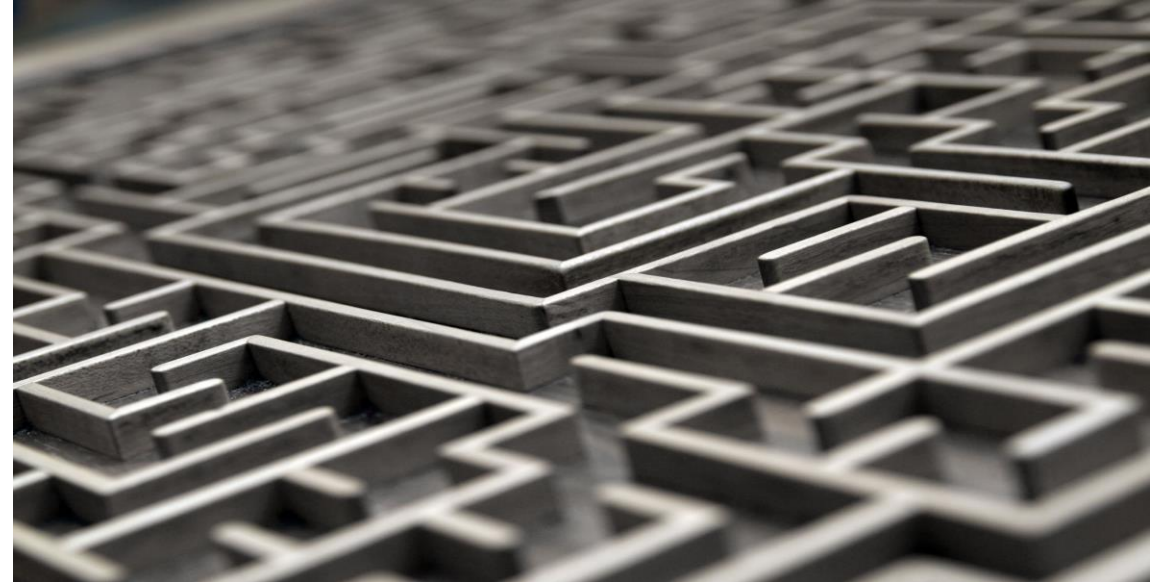
DATA SOURCES

- We use data from:
 - Chester County Prison
 - Chester County Departments of:
 - Mental Health
 - Drug and Alcohol
 - Adult Probation/Parole
 - HealthChoices Managed Health



CHALLENGES

- Some challenges we faced:
 - Memorandum of agreements
 - Data sets
 - What fields to connect
 - Certification for probation data



Examples of Data

Reported to the CJAB Stepping Up Committee



INDIVIDUALS INCARCERATED

Stepping Up Initiative - UAT Data Analysis Story

Year Incarcerated 2022 Service Categor... MH Diagnosis 4 of 31

Individual Profile (1) Selections Insights

Individual Profile (1)



Today's Date: January 25, 2023
Last Data Refresh: January 2, 2023 5:00 AM
Incarceration Years Available: 2022 - 2022

Unique Individuals Incarcerated

193

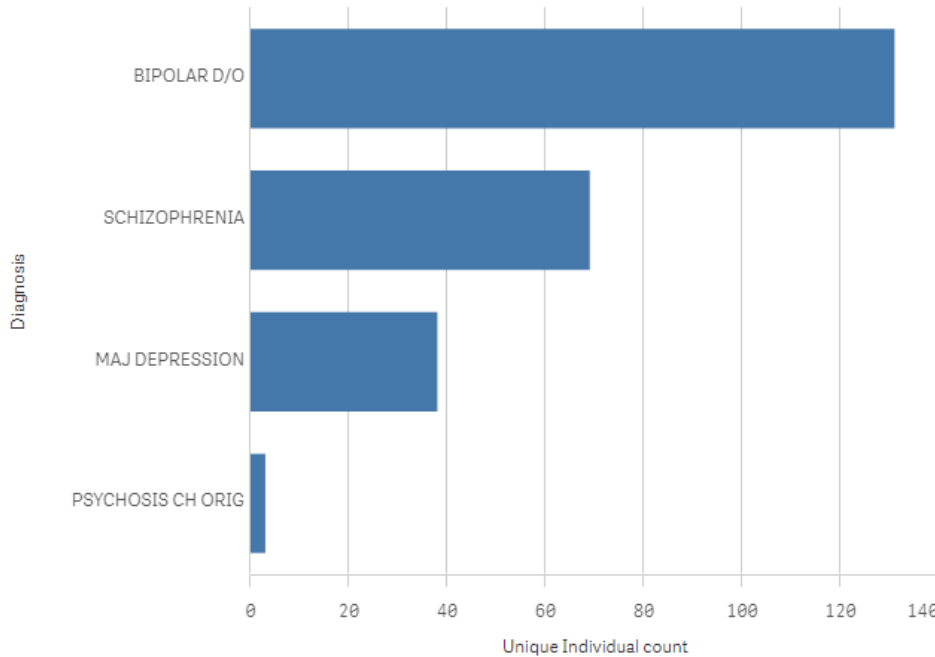
BH Consumers

193

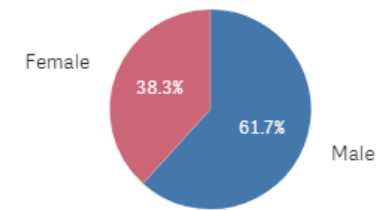
BH Percentage

100.0%

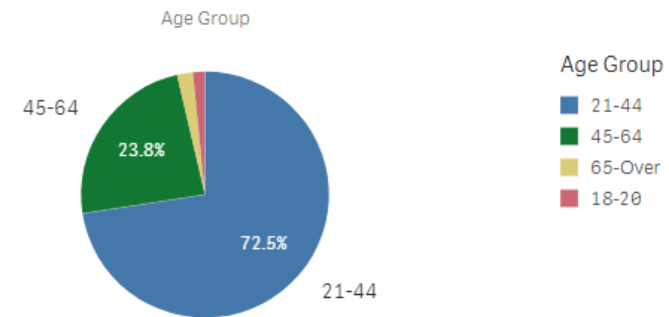
Diagnosis



Gender



Age Distribution



Average Age
37.93

- Year Incarcerated
- Year Released
- Service Category Type
- Service Category Descrip
- BH Consumer?
- BH Service Type
- COD Flag
- In Jail?

SERVICES RECEIVED

Services Received by Individuals with Criminal Justice Involvement, by Unique Members and Total Paid



Today's Date: January 25, 2023
 Last Data Refresh: January 2, 2023 5:00 AM
 Incarceration Years Available: 2022 - 2022

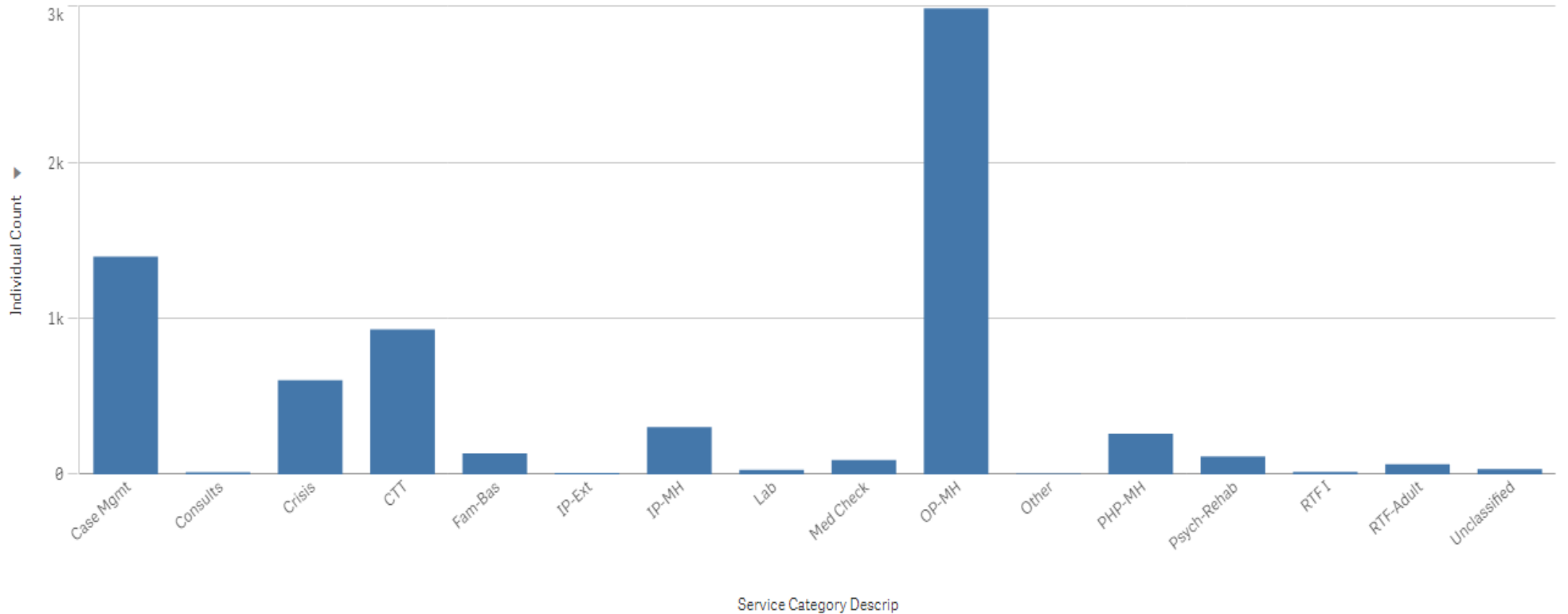
Unique Individuals Incarcerated
193

BH Consumers
193

BH Percentage
100.0%

Services Received by Individuals, by Individual Count and Total Paid

- Year Incarcerated
- Year Released
- Service Category Type
- Service Category Descrip
- BH Consumer?
- BH Service Type
- COD Flag
- In Jail?



REINCARCERATIONS

Today's Date: January 25, 2023
Last Data Refresh: January 2, 2023 5:00 AM
Incarceration Years Available: 2022 - 2022

Unique Individuals Incarcerated

193

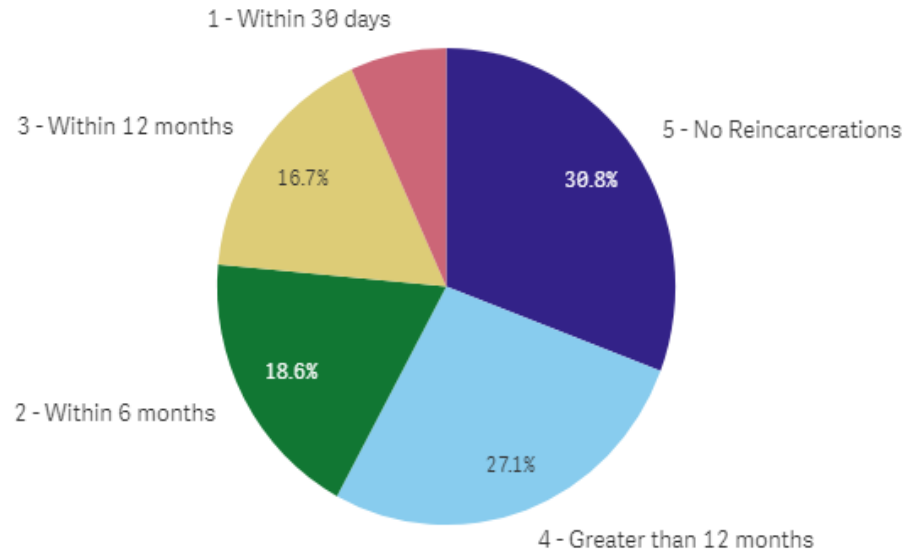
BH Consumers

193

BH Percentage

100.0%

Reincarcerations



BH Consumer?



Total Incarcerations

236

Reincarcerate Rate

26.4%

Total Releases

193

Avg Days Incarcerated

55.49

Q&A

Susie Fink, Mental Health Diversion Specialist

sfink@chesco.org

610-955-4583 (Cell)

610-344-5399 (Office)



Resources

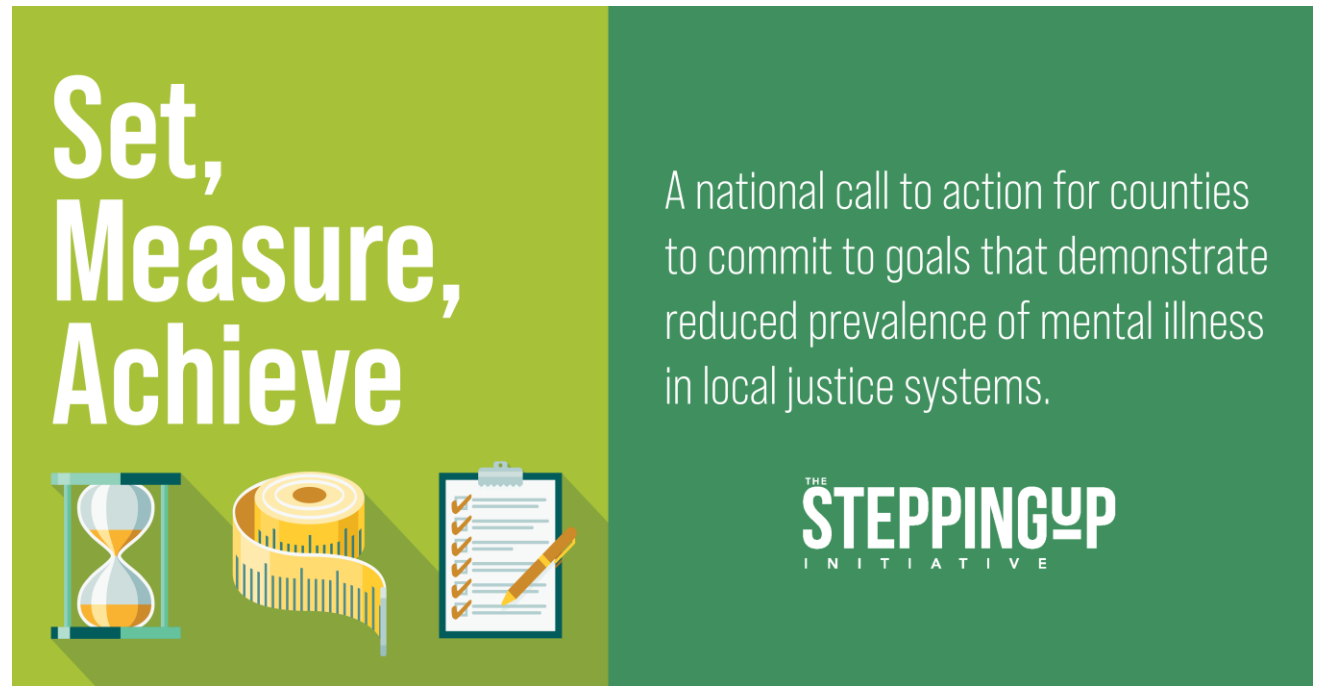


RESOURCES ON DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND SHARING

- **In Focus: Collecting and Analyzing Baseline Data:** https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/In-Focus_Collecting-and-Analyzing-Baseline-Data.pdf
- **Information Sharing in Criminal Justice-Mental Health Collaborations: Working with HIPAA and Other Privacy Laws:** <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/information-sharing-in-criminal-justice-mental-health-collaborations/>
- **Integrating Criminal Justice Behavioral Health Data, Checklist for Building and Maintaining a Data Warehouse:** <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/integrating-criminal-justice-and-behavioral-health-data/>
- **Selecting a Data Warehouse Vendor for Criminal Justice-Behavioral Health Partnerships:** <https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/selecting-a-data-warehouse-vendor-for-criminal-justice-behavioral-health-partnerships/>

STEPPING UP SET, MEASURE, ACHIEVE (SMA)

- Step 1: Set Your Targets
 - Average daily jail population
 - Jail bookings
 - Average length of stay
 - Post-release connections to care
 - Recidivism
- Step 2: Measure and Report Progress
- Step 3: Achieve Results



The graphic features a green background with the text "Set, Measure, Achieve" in large white font. Below the text are three icons: an hourglass, a measuring tape, and a clipboard with a pencil. To the right, a dark green box contains the text: "A national call to action for counties to commit to goals that demonstrate reduced prevalence of mental illness in local justice systems." Below this text is the logo for "THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE".

- Resources
 - SMA [Brief](#)
 - SMA [Progress Survey](#)

Wrap-Up and Questions

