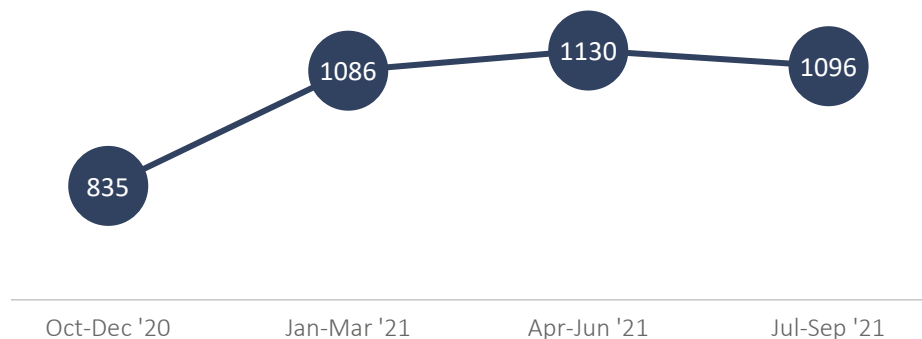


Virginia Department of Health Peer Supporters: SOR Year 3 Summary Report

Using the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, Virginia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services funds peer supporters through the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). This report summarizes the activities and impact of these VDH peer supporters in year 3 of SOR funding (October 2020 through September 2021) using data collected from VDH peer sites in the SOR Quarterly Reporting Surveys.

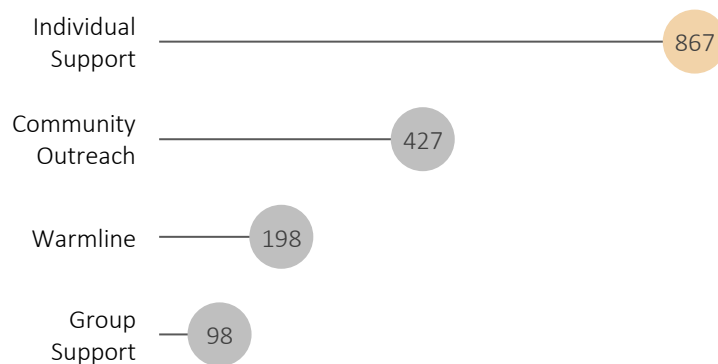
12 peer supporters at 7 VDH sites provided services to
3,557 individuals.

The number of individuals receiving services increased in the second quarter of the grant year and remained steady for the remainder of the year.



VDH peer supporters provide a broad range of services that span the continuum of care. **Individual support** was the most common service provided from July to September 2021, the quarter with the highest number of individuals served.

Number of individuals receiving each service in Q4 (July – Sept. 2021):



“A couple I have been working with and that has been participating in my recovery groups regained custody of their children. Over a year ago, the couple had their children removed because of their addiction issues... I am very proud of these two and look forward to watching both of them grow.”

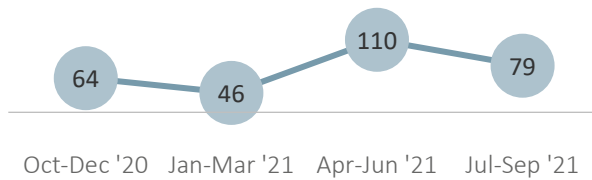
- VDH Peer Supporter

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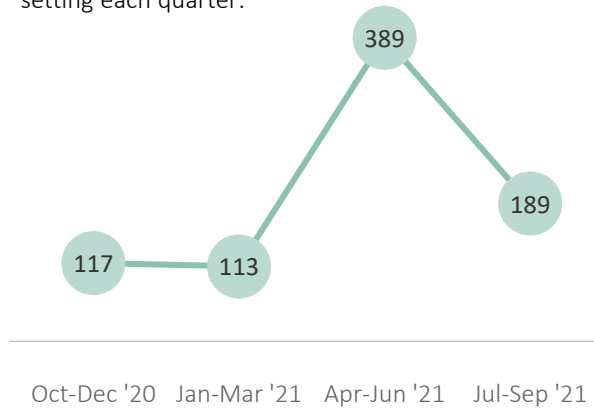
VDH peer supporters provided services in various settings, including emergency departments (EDs) and justice system settings (i.e., recovery courts, regional jails, and DOC facilities).

Peer support in both EDs and justice settings peaked in the third quarter of the grant.

Number of individuals receiving services in an ED each quarter:



Number of individuals receiving services in a justice setting each quarter:



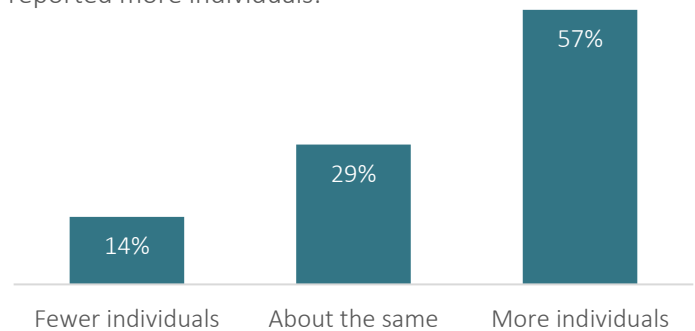
All seven sites noted that SOR funding has increased their capacity; however, the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to increased community need both in number of individuals and the level of care required.

100%

of VDH sites stated that individuals seeking services **required a higher level of care** in the previous 6 months compared to 57% of sites in SOR year 2.

In **year 3**, most VDH sites reported that the number of individuals seeking services had increased compared to before the pandemic.

This reflects an increase from year 2, when 43% of sites reported more individuals.



SOR funding allows us to provide comprehensive treatment inclusive of clinical services in conjunction with PRS services. We have seen how the support of someone with lived experience cultivates a different relationship that is therapeutic in a unique way. We are able to get out in the community and work with community partners to link people to services they might not have considered without a Peer. Our agency appreciates this funding allowing us to support our peers with full-time positions with fringe benefits along with professional development and training.

- VDH Site Supervisor