

September

PRA eNews

Quarterly Impact: April to June 2021

Policy Research is pleased to release its impact report for quarter 2 of 2021. Each quarter, Policy Research publishes this document spotlighting our work across the country via our technical assistance centers, projects, and fee-for-service activities. Highlights of the April-to-June reporting period include the following:

- Reached 10,424 people through 36 large virtual meetings and events
- Hosted 27 trainings, training 2,383 people
- Facilitated 29 site and technical assistance visits with 435 attendees
- Helped facilitate the change of 13 policies and practices

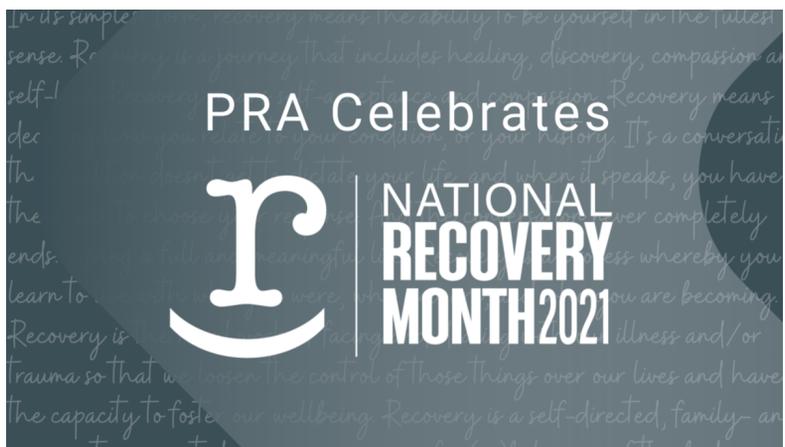


Read the full quarter 2 impact report for more on the following featured topics:

- HHRC Hosts Webinar to Explore Benefits of Incorporating Mobile Psychiatry Into Street Outreach
- Thirty-Five of Fifty States Are Engaged in VA/SAMHSA’s Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF
- Policy Research Develops New Tools for Mental Health Awareness Month

[Download the Quarter 2 Impact Report](#)

PRA Celebrates National Recovery Month



September is National Recovery Month, an honorary occasion dedicated to celebrating personal gains and evidence-based advances toward recovery. It's for people in recovery from behavioral health conditions, and for those who may someday be. It's for their friends and families. And it's for the people who work to support others on their way, many with a recovery experience of their own. As the 2021 National Recovery Month theme says, "Recovery is for everyone: every person, every family, every community."

To mark 2021's National Recovery Month, PRA staff shared reflections in response to the question "What does recovery mean to you?" as well as resources and recovery supports they wanted to highlight. Celebrate with us by reading through their answers below and by considering the question yourself.

What Does Recovery Mean to You?

- Recovery is a journey that includes healing, discovery, compassion, and self-love.
- Recovery means self-acceptance and compassion.
- Recovery means deciding how you relate to your condition, or your history. It's a conversation—the condition doesn't get to dictate your life, and when it speaks, you have the power to choose your response. And the conversation never completely ends.

Keep Reading

Policy Research Releases Safe Messaging GIFs to Honor Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

In September 2019, Policy Research, in collaboration with experts in the field, created a suite of nine icons that illustrate key suicide prevention concepts in a strength-based and recovery-oriented manner. This Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Policy Research has transformed these icons into GIFs for free, public use. These GIFs extend the impact of the icon suite by bringing safe messaging to a new audience and platform.

This nine-item GIF suite addresses key concepts within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practices*, as well as critical topics addressed in suicide prevention work:

- Identifying people at risk for suicide
- Experiencing suicidal ideation
- Increasing help-seeking behavior
- Creating safety plans
- Responding to a crisis
- Providing postvention services
- Linking to care
- Enhancing protective factors
- Promoting connectedness

Download the GIFs or the original icons and use them in conversations, presentations, and more to promote positive, proactive, and safe conversations around suicide prevention.



Download the GIFs

PRA Staff Author New Article in *Criminal Justice and Behavior*

PRA is pleased to announce the release of a new article in *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, authored by staff members Samantha Zottola, PhD, and Sarah L. Desmarais, PhD, "Evaluating Fairness of Algorithmic Risk Assessment Instruments: The Problem With Forcing Dichotomies." This article examines pretrial risk assessment error and accuracy indicators. Through their analysis, the authors illustrate how conclusions regarding the fairness of pretrial risk assessments are affected by the limitations of error and accuracy indicators.

The authors' analysis used data from studies examining the Public Safety Assessment, the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument, and the Federal Pretrial Risk Assessment. Drs. Zottola and Desmarais and co-authors Evan M. Lowder, PhD, and Sarah E. Duhart Clarke, MEd, recommend future research to examine whether there are biases in how the risk assessment scores are used to inform decision-making.

[Read the Article](#)

Spotlight: SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Homeless and Housing Resource Center (HHRC) delivers training on housing and treatment models focused on adults, children, and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, substance use disorders, and co-occurring disorders.

Throughout the past year, HHRC has released high-quality tools and resources to the field. Check out some of their most recent releases and register to join a webinar on September 30!

New Online Course: Introduction to Housing Models, Housing Navigation, and Engagement

HHRC has launched the "Introduction to Housing Models, Housing Navigation, and Engagement" online course! The goal of this training course is to provide foundational-level information about housing models, engagement, and navigation strategies that support individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, substance use disorders, and/or co-occurring disorders. This self-paced course is accredited by the National Association of Social Workers for four continuing education units!

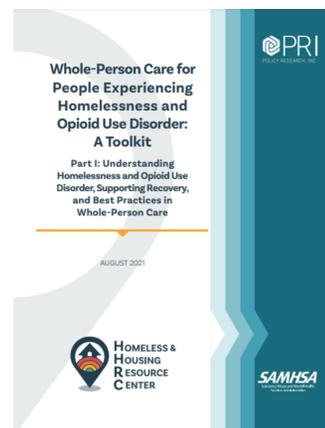


[Enroll in the Course](#)

New Toolkit: Whole-Person Care for People Experiencing Homelessness and Opioid Use Disorder

Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a complex brain disease that may be present alongside or contribute to additional mental and physical health conditions, as well as social, legal, and other challenges. Impacted individuals may be unable to access or obtain housing, health and/or behavioral health care, and recovery support services.

This toolkit from HHRC outlines a whole-person care approach to supporting and assisting people experiencing homelessness and OUD in their recovery journey. Key topics include an overview of homelessness and OUD, person-centered and trauma-informed care, recovery supports, and stigma and harm reduction.



[Download the Toolkit](#)

Part I: Understanding the Challenges Families Face and the Benefits Available to Them

Stabilizing Housing for Families of Children Who Experience Mental Health and/or Substance Use Challenges

September 30, 2:00-3:00 pm ET



Webinar: Understanding the Challenges Families Face and the Benefits Available to Them

September 30, 2021, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

In this webinar, presented by HHRC and the National Family Support Technical Assistance Center, presenters will share important information about family homelessness and the supports available to help families regain housing stability. After this webinar, attendees will better understand homelessness among families whose children experience mental health and/or substance use challenges and strategies for support.

Register for the Webinar

PRA in the Field

APHA Annual Meeting & Expo

Join Jen Elder, MSc, at [The Public Health Professional's Role in Ending Homelessness](#) (3007.0) session, scheduled for October 25, 2021, at 10:45 a.m. MT/12:45 p.m. ET.

Join Crystal L. Brandow, PhD, at the [Well-Being in the Workplace: No Turning Back](#) (4236.0) session, scheduled on October 26, 2021, at 4:15 p.m. MT/6:15 p.m. ET.

2021 Virtual NAPSA Conference

Join Drs. Sarah Desmarais and Samantha Zottola at the plenary session *Evidence-Based Pretrial Risk Assessment and Communication*, scheduled on September 30, 2021, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET.

Join Dr. Desmarais for the plenary session *Behavioral Health Needs and the Pretrial Period—Maintaining Your Mission Through Increasing Need for Pretrial Interventions*, scheduled on October 7, 2021, from 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET.

Recent Stories From the PRA Blog



Towards the Abolitionist Imagination



Social Work Internship With the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center at PRA



**Spiritual Wellness, Part 2
with Kei Okada**

8 Conversations About Wellness (and Films)

*Spiritual Wellness, Part 2: 8 Conversations
About Wellness (and Films)*



PRA Hobbies

Part 3

What have you been
working on?

*PRA Hobbies: What Have You Been Working
On? Part 3*



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