# 2021 QUARTER 4 IMPACT REPORT

**9**
site visits and technical assistance (TA) visits

**16**
small meetings and events

**29**
large meetings and events

**232**
individuals who participated in site visits and TA visits

**375**
small meeting and event attendees

**5,302**
large meeting and event attendees

**10**
trainings

**7**
public products (e.g., reports, videos)

**759**
individuals who participated in trainings

**10**
presentations to the field

**5**
policies and practices changed through work with PRA and its projects

### SOARWorks Releases 2021 National Outcomes

On October 14, SOAR released its 2021 National Outcomes infographic. This document reflects the impact of SOAR providers and practitioners around the country who continued their work through the pandemic and stretched their comfort zones in using new virtual technologies to make it happen. Nearly 4,000 individuals were approved for benefits in the 2021 reporting period. The national cumulative approval rate on SOAR-assisted Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) applications remains at 65 percent. There are now 59,153 people receiving benefits because of SOAR. SOAR's top 10 states this year had an average cumulative approval rate of 79 percent. The top states, in order, were Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Maryland, Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia, Washington DC, Oregon, and Kansas.
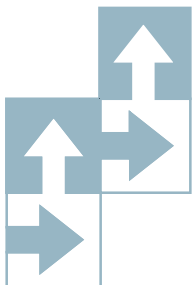
### Research Area Delivers Presentation on Examining Fairness of Pretrial Risk Assessment Algorithms

In November, PRA Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD, co-presented with Stanford University student Michelle Bao, on the complexities of "Examining Fairness of Pretrial Risk Assessment Algorithms" at the 2021 Neural Information Processing Systems Conference. This presentation featured the extensive research and collaborative efforts of several experts and institutions who assert the value of context when critiquing the fairness of algorithmic risk assessment instruments and outlined several important considerations for researchers interested in examining pretrial risk assessment algorithms. Considerations include awareness of the real-world application of pretrial risk assessment algorithms, the values embedded in their use, and the decades of research and guidelines for the use of these algorithms that exist in psychology and related fields.

In a companion blog, Dr. Zottola reflects on this experience and states, "As algorithms become part of the decision-making process in situations ranging from medical diagnoses to setting credit limits, important questions are being asked about whether these algorithms operate in fair ways. Criminal legal decision-making is one situation in which the use of algorithms has come under particular scrutiny."

Access to the presentation recording can be found on YouTube.

### SAMHSA's GAINS Center Virtual Summit Reviews State's Efforts to Improve Competence to Stand Trial and Competence Restoration Processes

On December 13, SAMHSA's GAINS Center featured national experts and state and local constituents in a virtual seminar on common barriers in the competence to stand trial and competence restoration process. Typically, there are limited resources for providing competence services, resulting in significant delays not only in court proceedings but also in accessing critical behavioral health care services. The Summit's presentations highlighted both system-wide restructuring efforts and targeted, small-scale process changes. This summit shared the work done through SAMHSA's GAINS Center's Competence to Stand Trial Community of Practice over the past 3 years and underscored recommendations, barriers, lessons learned, and outcomes to date.