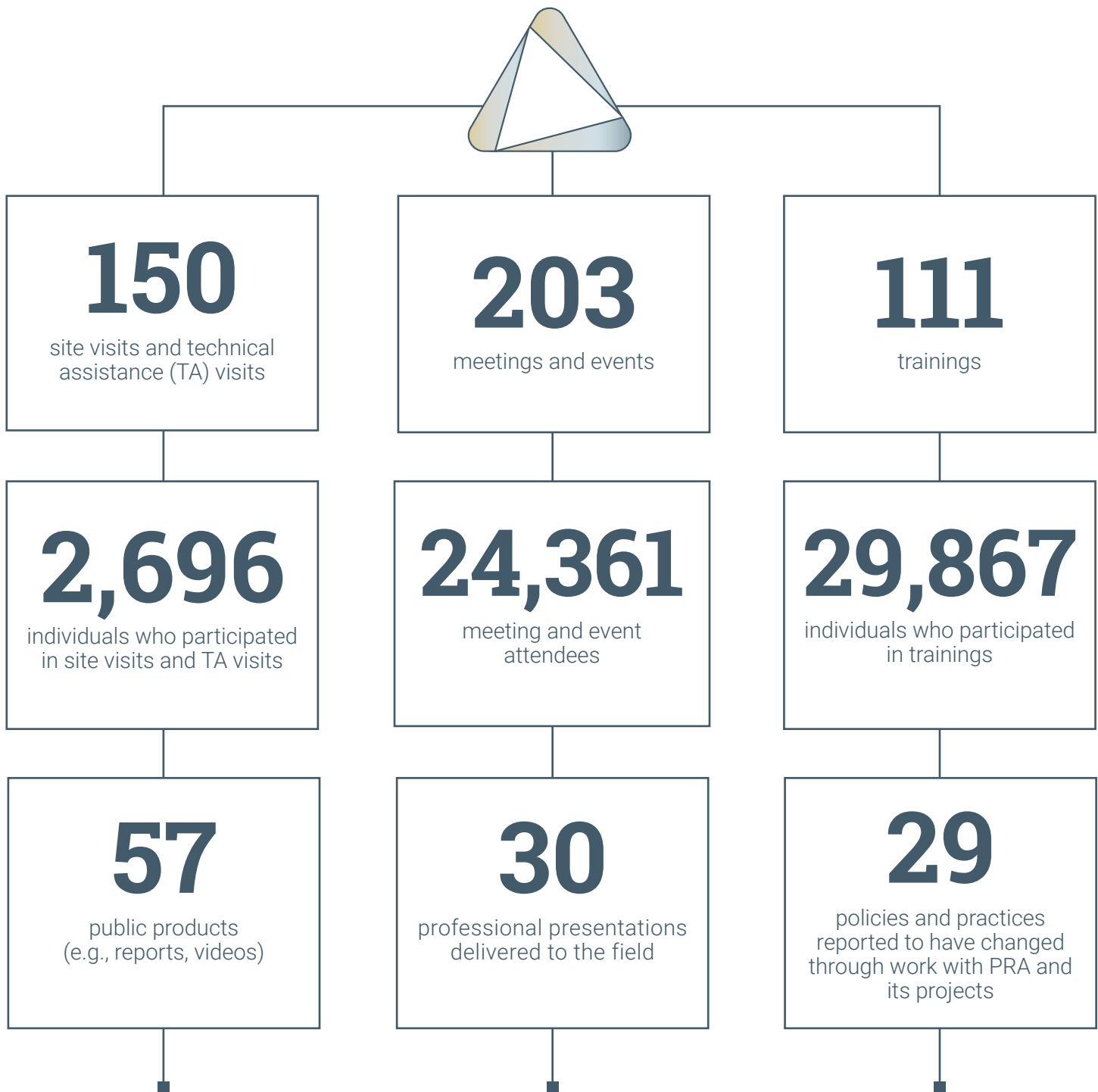


# 2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



## TOPICAL AREAS OF IMPACT



# 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## EQUITY IN ACTION WEBINAR SERIES

This quarter, three of PRA's TA providers hosted *Equity in Action*, a webinar series focused on addressing equity in the behavioral health field. The webinar series highlighted the work of the following projects:

- the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC)
- the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) TA Center
- the SAMHSA SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) TA Center

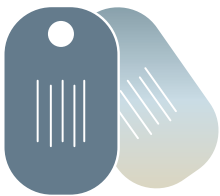
Each project webinar highlighted the perspectives of individuals with lived experience and provided strategies to influence equitable practices while implementing TA support. This webinar series also demonstrated how the work of these TA providers—all operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc., or its close partner nonprofit, Policy Research, Inc.—impacts equity, as evidenced by both the people providing and those engaging with services.



### **MacArthur SJC: Centering Equity, Engaging Communities, Transforming Systems**

On March 10, Policy Research, Inc., in support of the Safety and Justice Challenge, hosted a webinar highlighting jurisdictions that have pursued transformational change from an intersectional perspective, to achieve equitable outcomes for all people, thereby prioritizing a focus on people of color. Panelists examined treatment services at the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice for people of color. Panelists also shared information on accessible, culturally responsive, and integrated community-based services that exist across the country.

[View the SJC Event Recording](#)



### **Leveraging SAMHSA SMVF Technical Assistance to Improve Systems**

On March 17, SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center provided an overview of how they help support equity across state programs through education and outreach to engage diverse populations and apply a health equity lens to address social determinants of health when working with SMVF. This installment explored the needs of diverse populations and how to approach suicide prevention efforts through an equity lens. Presenters highlighted the SMVF TA Center's [diverse populations website](#), a resource developed to assist and guide providers engaging with diverse SMVF populations.

[View the SMVF Event Recording](#)



### **Leveraging SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance to Improve Systems**

On March 24, SOAR Leaders discussed how SOAR resources are used to promote equity and reduce the impact of implicit bias in the implementation of SOAR work. Panelists shared how community demographics (race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, and justice involvement) impact access to SOAR programs and presented strategies for recognizing and reaching underserved populations. Panelists shared equity-focused SOAR products and tools designed to support SOAR initiatives in their efforts to achieve equity and inclusion in program access and participation.

[View the SOAR Event Recording](#)

# 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## PRA Releases “Conversations on Leadership” Podcast Series

In April, PRA released the three-episode “[Conversations on Leadership](#)” podcast series, which explores PRA’s leadership transition. In May 2022, Sarah L. Desmarais, PhD, became the firm’s President; previous President Pamela Clark Robbins will retire in December 2022. In this series, Dr. Desmarais and Ms. Robbins offer their perspectives on the transition, the evolution of PRA over the past 35 years, and what the future holds for themselves and the organization.

The series is composed of the following three episodes:

- Episode 1: The Leadership Transition [[SoundCloud](#)]
- Episode 2: The Future of PRA [[SoundCloud](#)]
- Episode 3: Pam’s Reflection on 35 Years [[SoundCloud](#)]



## The Academic Training to Inform Police Responses Pilots Crisis Response and Intervention Training Program in Corvallis, Oregon

In May, the Academic Training to Inform Police Responses conducted a Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT) with the Corvallis (Oregon) Police Department. The 40-hour CRIT; program, developed by the Academic Training, provides officers with a better understanding of how to safely and effectively deescalate and interact with individuals experiencing a crisis related to behavioral health conditions and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Corvallis was one of four agencies selected to participate as a pilot site for the CRIT, the other agencies include the Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) Bureau of Police, the Rapid City (South Dakota) Police Department, and the Shreveport (Louisiana) Police Department. These agencies engage in comprehensive strategic planning, which includes program design, implementation, and partnership building to support recovery and treatment for persons experiencing a crisis or at risk of experiencing a crisis.

Watch this [news feature](#) on the Corvallis CRIT and learn more about the [CRIT curriculum](#).



## New Publication From Research and Evaluation Area: “Comparing the Relationships Between Money Bail, Pretrial Risk Scores, and Pretrial Outcomes”

In June, “Comparing the Relationships Between Money Bail, Pretrial Risk Scores, and Pretrial Outcomes,” co-authored by Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD, and President Sarah L. Desmarais, PhD, was published in [Law and Human Behavior](#). In their research, Drs. Zottola and Desmarais examined the following questions:

1. How do bail and pretrial risk assessment scores differ between people who do and do not experience failure to appear or rearrest?
2. Are pretrial risk assessment scores associated with failure to appear or rearrest when controlling for bail amount and relevant covariates (i.e., current charges, age, sex)?
3. Are pretrial risk assessment scores associated with failure to appear and rearrest when controlling for bail amount in a sample disaggregated by race?

The findings of their analyses did not support the use of money bail to ensure that people return to court and avoid rearrest. In a [blog post](#), Dr. Zottola notes, “The threat of lost money will not influence many reasons for rearrest. Other solutions are required to meet people’s needs and change system practices.”

# 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## **Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center Hosts Innovations Conference**

In August, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center hosted an Innovations Conference in Alexandria, Virginia. The two-day conference welcomed members from Governor's and Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF teams to advance the development and implementation of transformative suicide prevention strategies. Over 240 participants attended plenary sessions, workshops, team presentations, and an Innovation Practices showcase.

Presentations covered a wide range of topics, including,

- Big data
- Human-centered design
- 988 National Suicide & Crisis Prevention Lifeline roll-out
- Crisis Intercept Mapping
- Women Veterans of color
- Postvention for caregivers
- Suicide fatality reviews
- Individual psychological autopsies

Read more about the [Innovations Conference](#).



## **GAINS Center Presents at the CIT International Conference on 988/911 Implementation**

In August, SAMHSA's GAINS Center Director Chanson Noether and Senior Project Associate Dan Abreu presented "988/911 Implementation: Lessons Learned from Five States," at CIT International in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Noether and Abreu referenced their insights from the 2022 GAINS Center policy academy "Ensuring Successful 911/988 Coordination Through Developing Guidance and Local Implementation Strategies Support Statewide Roll-Out Efforts." Five states convened at this national policy academy to develop strategies to promote the development and distribution of guidance for 911/988 collaboration at the state and local levels. Based on the work of these five teams, Noether and Abreu discussed lessons learned for states and local jurisdictions implementing 988/911 processes and enhancing partnerships between law enforcement and behavioral health providers.

## **Policy Research Convenes 57 Safety and Justice Challenge IMPACT Network Sites in Atlanta, Georgia**

In September, Policy Research hosted the IMPACT Network Pre-Conference Meeting ahead of the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC) Network Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. During this larger meeting, hundreds of participants from over 60 SJC Network sites across the country gathered to engage with panels, presentations, and workshops to improve their behavioral health strategies, reduce jail incarceration, and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in local justice systems. PRI facilitated a pre-conference session for the 11 IMPACT Network sites, a behavioral health-focused expansion of the SJC. Throughout the meeting, presenters discussed topics including trauma, peer services, correctional facility care, 988, and more. Policy Research also facilitated a speed TA session with 10 other SJC partner organizations.

Graphic recording notes are available [here](#).



# 2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## SAMHSA's SOAR TA Center Releases 2022 National SOAR Outcomes

In November, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) TA Center released its [2022 National SOAR Outcomes](#). This annual report summarizes the outcomes of using the SOAR model to assist people experiencing or at risk of homelessness with SSI/SSDI benefits. Over the last 17 years, the SOAR approach has been used to assist over 100,000 people who were experiencing or at risk of homelessness to apply for the Social Security Administration's disability programs, SSI and/or SSDI. Cumulatively, SOAR-assisted applications have a 65 percent initial allowance rate, as compared to an initial allowance rate of 30 percent for all people 18-64 who applied for SSI/SSDI in 2019.

In 2022 alone, there were:

- **62,444** people receiving benefits because of SOAR
- **2,920** approvals of initial applications
- **153** days to decision on submitted initial applications
- **\$630** million brought into the economies of participating states and localities



## Research and Evaluation Team Presents at the American Society of Criminology's Annual Conference

In November, President Sarah Desmarais, PhD; Senior Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD; and Research Associate Kamiya Stewart, PhD, presented their research at the American Society of Criminology's Annual Meeting. Drs. Desmarais, Zottola, and Stewart presented together on two panels, *Discretion in Pretrial Decision-Making* and *Attitudes and the Criminal Court System*. During their *Discretion in Pretrial Decision-Making* panel, they shared the results of their research, "Applying the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model to the Pretrial Decision Context." For this study, the authors examined whether pretrial court actors' recommendations were consistent with the results of a pretrial risk assessment and aligned with the principles of the RNR model. Data from their analyses suggest that increased training and emphasis on RNR principles may improve outcomes during the pretrial process.



## Policy Research Releases 2022 Year in Review

In December, Policy Research released its [2022 Year in Review](#). This report celebrates a year's worth of research, TA, policy change, and community impact across all projects. In 2022, Policy Research facilitated a leadership change, implemented equitable cost-of-living adjustment policy changes, adopted new life-work integration policies, and received new contract awards. To mark these transitions, the Word of the Year—delivered for the first time by President Sarah Desmarais—was "change." Scroll through PRA's Year in Review for a recap of the following:

- Big News in 2022
- Top Accomplishments
- Select Awarded Contracts
- On the Horizon
- Staff Map and Events
- Policy Research in the Community

## TOPICAL AREAS OF IMPACT

