

# PROJECT HEAL

A community partnership  
to Help, Empower and Lead



# Quarterly Report JULY 2022



To our supporters,

In April, Project HEAL hosted its first annual Victim Services Information Fair at Springwood Ave Park, Asbury Park to highlight National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Our team partnered with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, City of Asbury Park, Asbury Park Library, Asbury Park Kiwanis Club and WeBuildNJ to celebrate the progress achieved in the victims' rights movement, to raise awareness of victims' rights and services and to stand with those whose lives have been forever altered by crime. Asbury Park Mayor John Moor, Councilwoman Yvonne Clayton and the City of Asbury Park recognized National Crime Victims Rights' Week with a proclamation that was signed by the City Council and presented to the Project HEAL team. We are truly honored and grateful to our community partners. Thank you for making the event possible and for the amazing work you do each and every day. It was a cold and windy day but it warmed our hearts to see everyone come together, with a shared purpose, for something so important.

For Gun Violence Awareness Month in June, Project HEAL collaborated with JSUMC's Trauma Department to shine a light on the country's gun violence epidemic. The event, titled "91 of Us", was created by Caileigh Nerney, daughter of JSUMC's Trauma Injury Prevention Coordinator Tracy Nerney, in 2017. After learning that a staggering 91 people each day die from gun violence, Caileigh created a social awareness art display with an assortment of empty chairs shrouded in t-shirts to represent the impact of people lost everyday. Sadly, this year's display added 33 chairs as the number has since risen to 124 lives lost daily.

On June 25th, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. Within this legislation, there is financial investment for violence intervention programs and mental health services for children and families, increased funding for schools, and protections for victims of domestic violence. The bill also contains the most progressive firearm legislation passed in the last 40 years.

Unfortunately, legislative change often comes as a reaction to current events. Project HEAL would like to take a moment to acknowledge the tragedies that have taken place across the nation over the past several months across the nation. To the survivors and to the families of those lost in the Buffalo, Uvalde, and Highland Park mass shootings, your loved ones did not leave us in vain. Every American should be able to live, work and play in their communities free from the threat of gun violence. Our team will utilize the progressive legislation passed to honor their memories as we continue to combat gun violence. With this support, and the support of Hackensack Meridian *Health*, we hope to extend our services further into the community and advocate for safer communities and a safer future.

With warm regards,

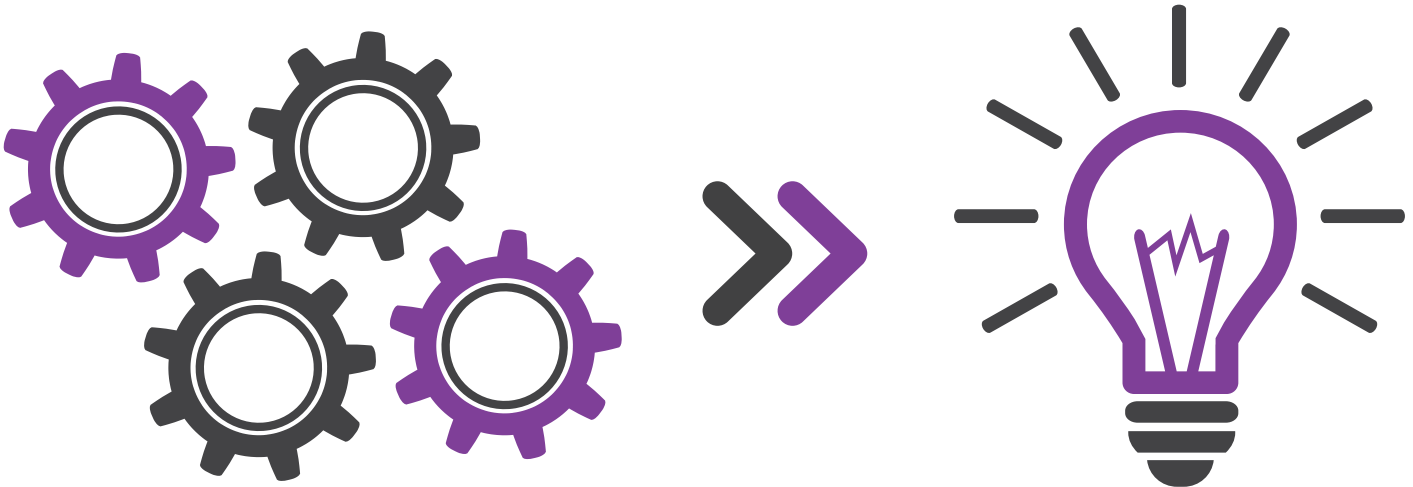
Lisa McDermott, LCSW, LCADC  
Clinical Program Manager

Ramon Solhkhah, MD, MBA  
Interim Medical Director  
Chair, JSUMC Dept of Psychiatry

## Trainings

\*These trainings were attended by funded staff, and any fees associated were funded by The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)\*

- **Rutgers University, School of Social Work, 4/6/22** - *"Leadership, Learning, and Change: Improving Out of Our Comfort Zone!"* - 1 staff in attendance
- **New Jersey Reentry Corporation, 4/14/22** - *"Trauma, A Hero's Journey: Holy Thursday Annual Reentry Conference."* - 4 staff in attendance
- **Office of Justice Programs, 4/19/22** - *"Addressing Housing Needs for Youth Returning from Juvenile Justice Placement"* - 1 staff in attendance
- **Rutgers University, School of Social Work, 4/22/22** - *"The Ethics of Trauma and Disaster Response"* - 2 staff in attendance
- **Office of Justice Programs, 4/26/22** - *"Raising the Bar on Juvenile Re-Entry"* - 2 staff in attendance



- **National Gang Center, 4/28/22** - *"Interrupting the Cycle of Violence"* - 1 staff in attendance
- **Rutgers University School of Social Work, 5/5/22** - *"Working With Trauma: Understanding Vicarious Trauma and the Importance of Self-Care"* - 2 staff in attendance
- **Rutgers University, School of Social Work, 5/5/22** - *"Individual Treatment Approaches in Working with Trauma"* - 1 staff in attendance
- **Recovery Centers of America, 5/17/22** - *"Trauma-Informed Care, Suicidality and Motivational Approaches for Substance Use"* - 1 staff in attendance
- **Jersey Shore University Medical Center, 5/19/22** - *"Stop The Bleed"* - 1 staff in attendance
- **The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention, 5/19/22** - *"HAVI NJ Symposium"* - 6 staff in attendance

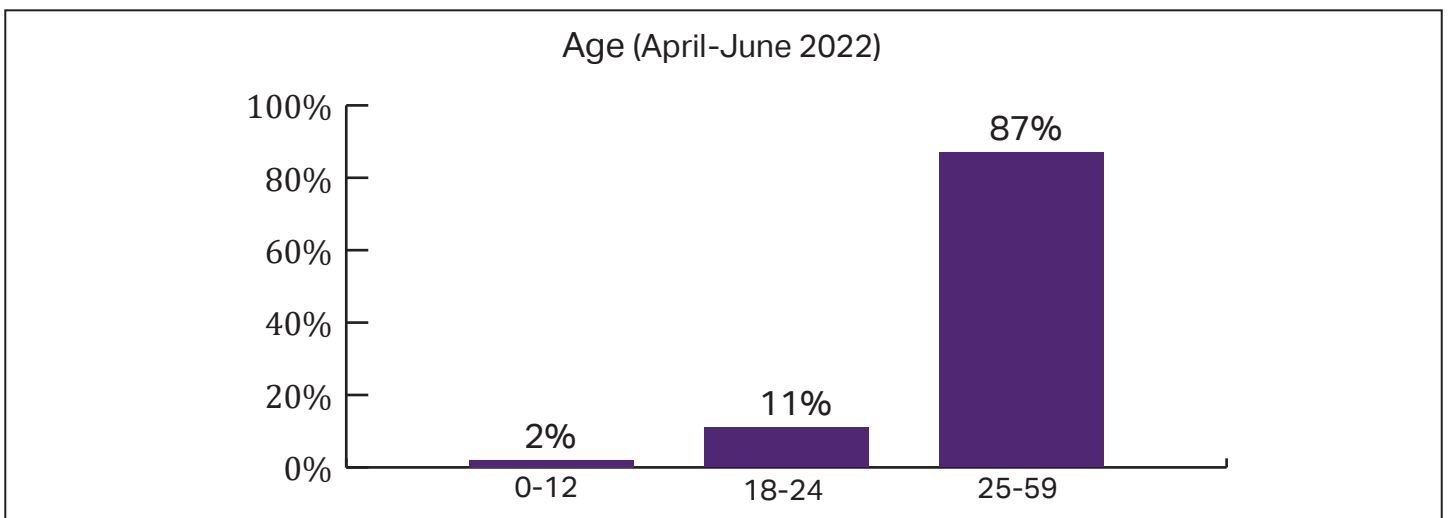
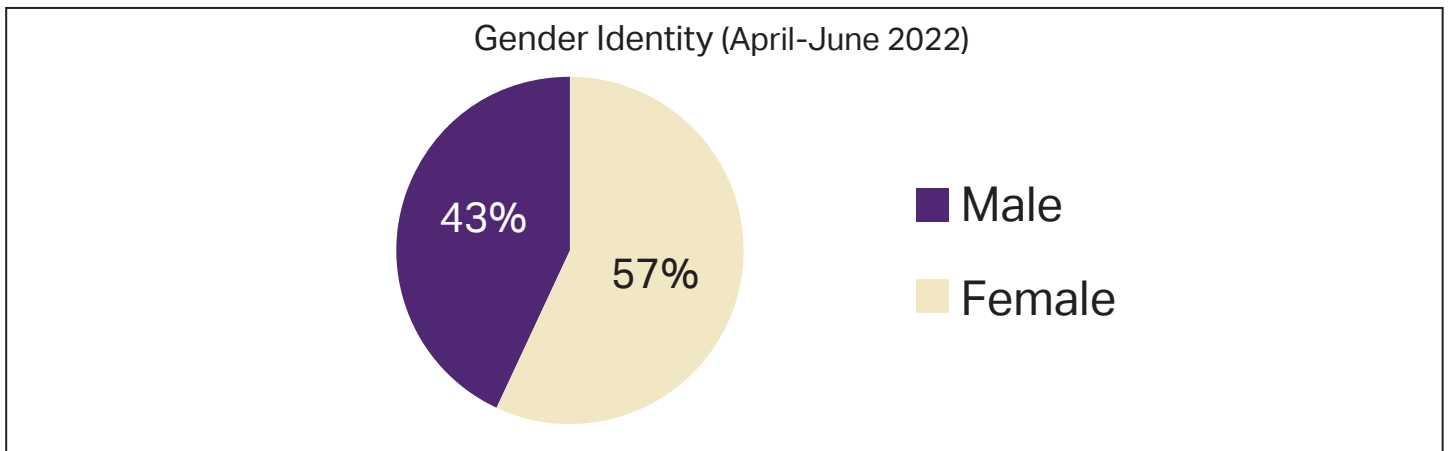
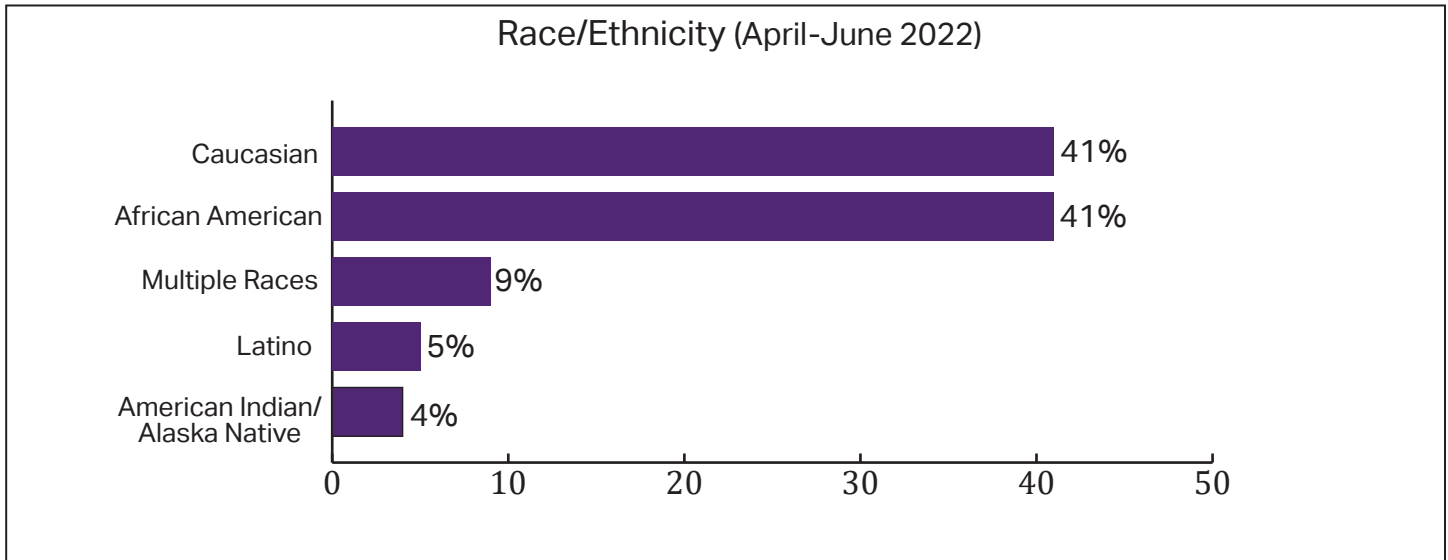
## Events



- **Victim Services Information Fair, 4/29/22** - Project HEAL partnered with community organizations and successfully hosted the first annual Victims Services Information Fair to highlight National Crime Victims' Rights week. All staff in attendance.
- **Paint the Mall Purple, 5/1/22** - Project HEAL had an information table set up to promote awareness of services and victim's rights. 3 staff in attendance
- **Mobile Office Hours with Assemblywomen Kim Eulner & Marilyn Piperno, 5/17/22** - Project HEAL had an information table set up to provide information to Monmouth County residents. 1 staff in attendance.
- **Faith and Blue Initiative, 5/21/22** - Hosted by Triumphant Life Church to build the relationship between local police departments, community members, and community services providers. Project HEAL had an information table set up to promote awareness of services and victim's rights. 2 staff in attendance.
- **Blackbird Community Commons Local Vendor Fair, 5/27/22** - Project HEAL had a staff member in attendance to network with local businesses owners and promote awareness of victim services. 1 staff in attendance.
- **Blackbird Community Commons Fundraiser Event, 6/5/22** - A fundraising event aimed at re-opening a famous local music spot (The Turf Club) on the west side of Asbury Park. A Project HEAL staff member was given access by a program partner to network and show support to a local initiative. 1 staff in attendance.
- **Juneteenth Celebrations in Neptune and Asbury Park, 6/18/22** - Project HEAL had an information tables set up in Neptune and Asbury Park to promote awareness of services and victim's rights. 4 staff in attendance.
- **Brick Housing Authority Wellness Fair, 6/23/22** - Project HEAL had an information table set up to promote awareness of services and victim's rights. 2 staff in attendance. 6/23/22.

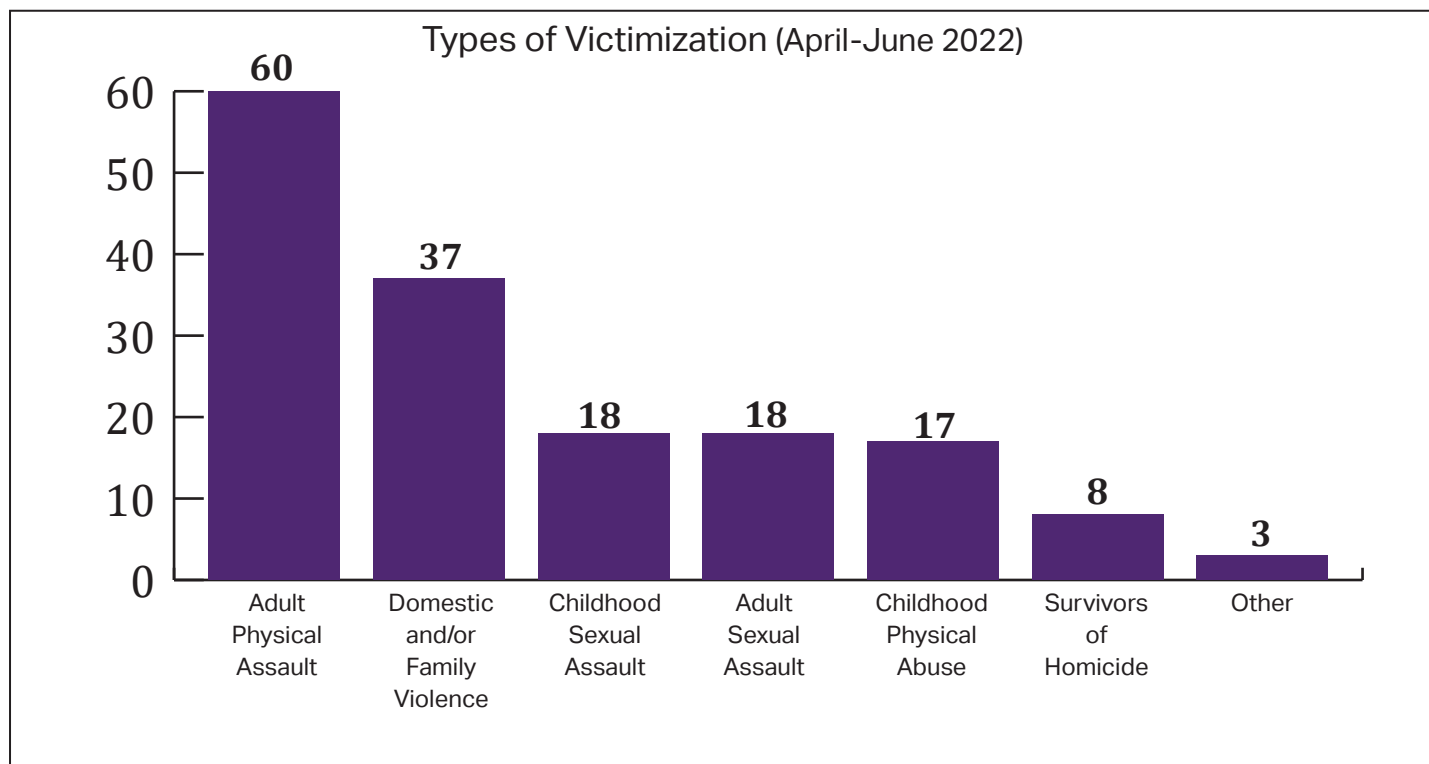
## Client Demographics

Of the **56 new clients** served this quarter, **more than half were female**. The majority of clients were between the **ages of 25 to 59**. Clients were predominantly **Caucasian (41%)** and **African American (41%)**, with **9%** reporting Multiple Races, **5%** being Latino and **4%** being American Indian or Alaska Native.

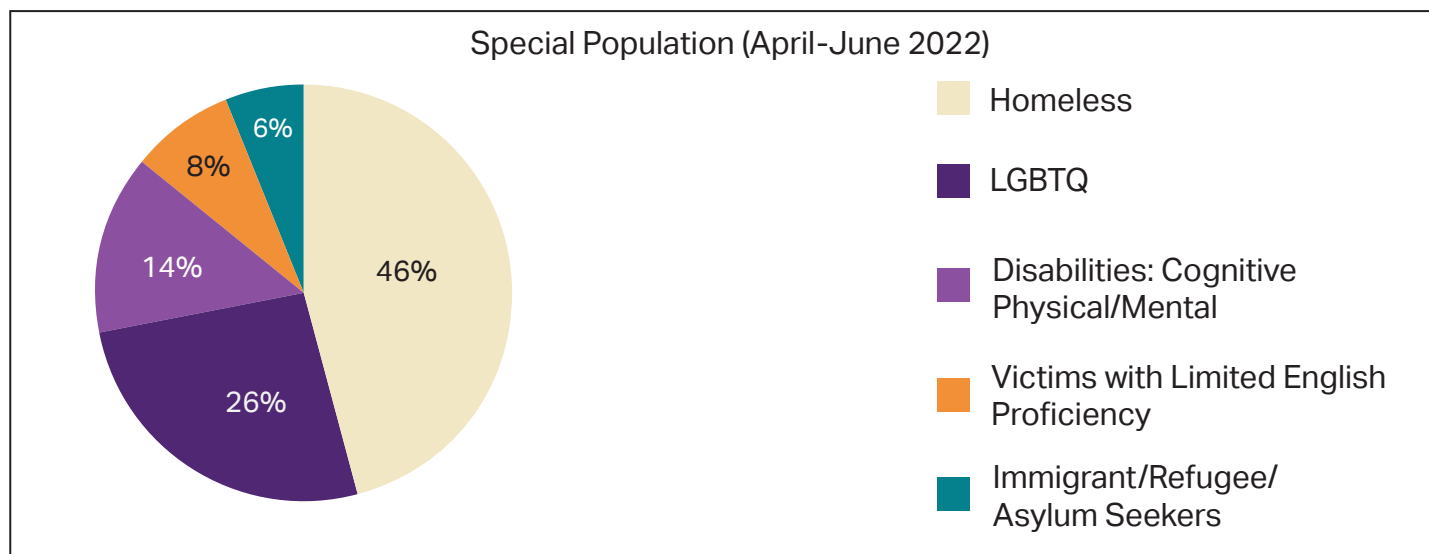


## Client Demographics

Of the **96 total clients** served this quarter, **58% presented with more than one type of victimization.**



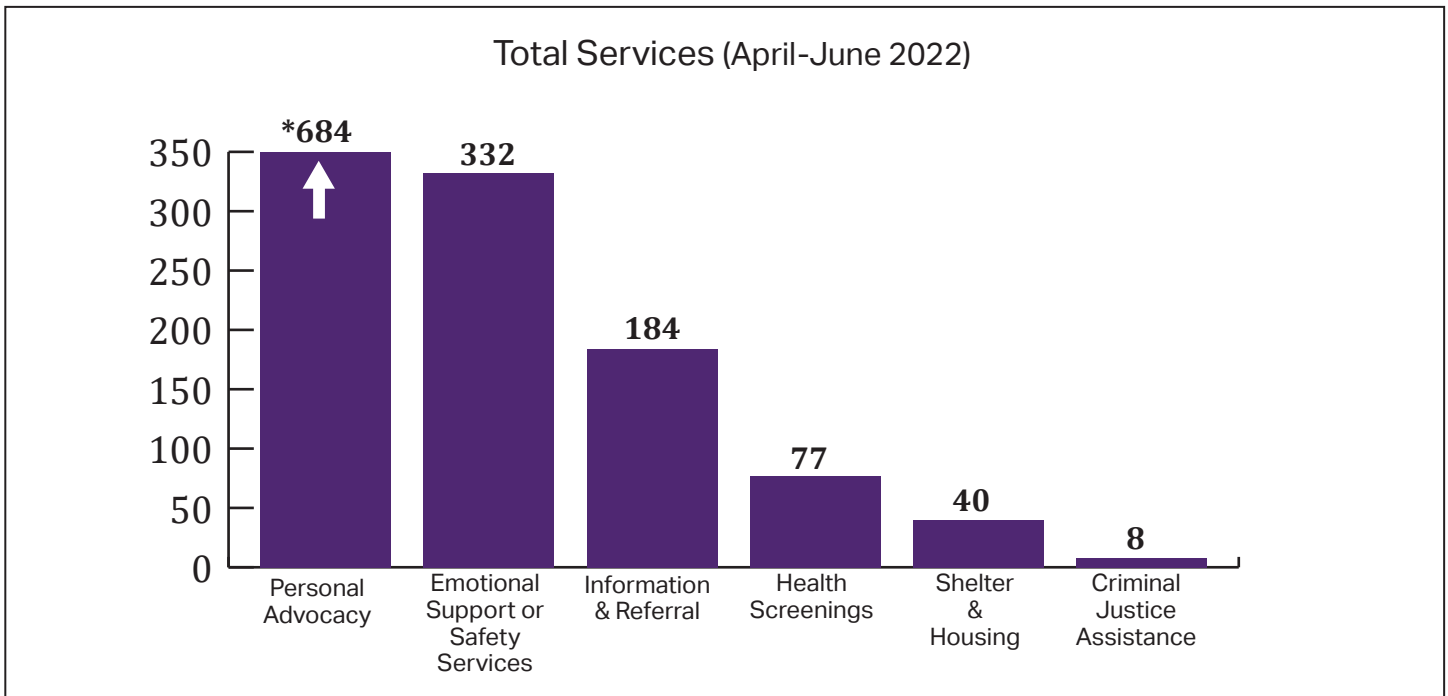
The most widely reported victimization type experienced by new clients was **Adult Physical Assault (35%)**. **Domestic/Family Violence** accounted for **22%** and **31%** reported some type of **abuse during childhood**, whether **physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect**.



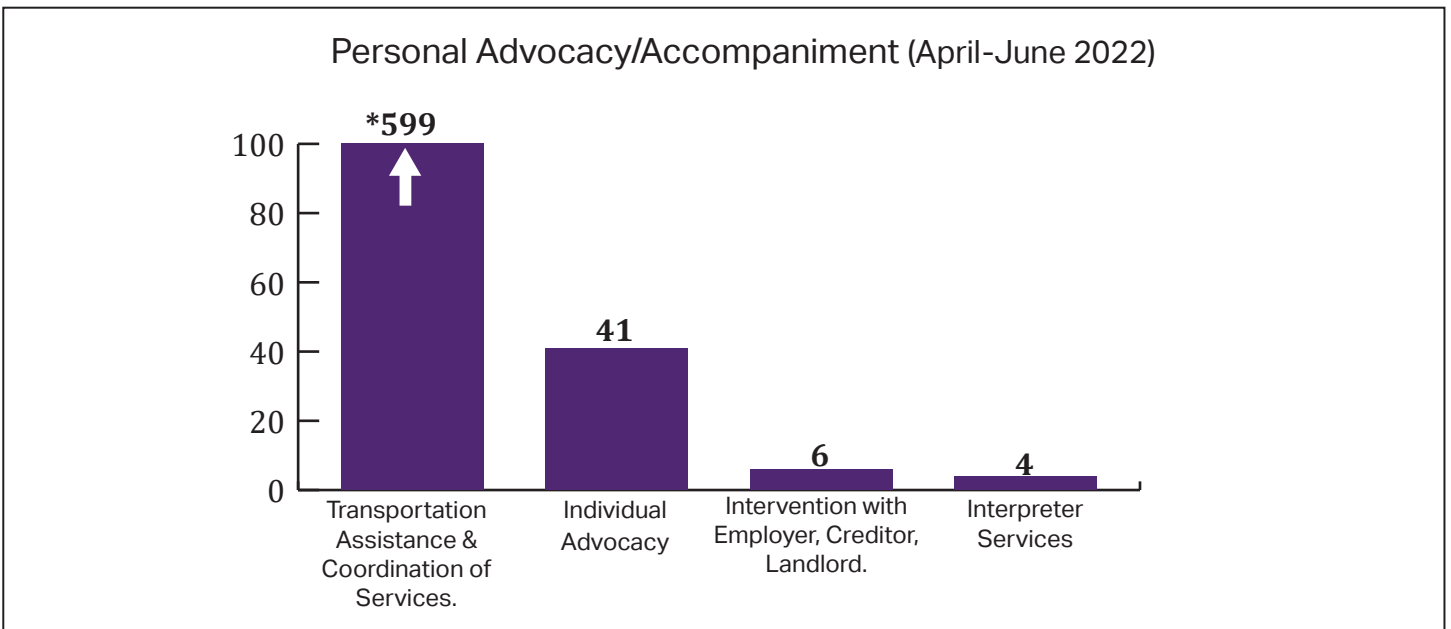
Of the 96 total clients served, **36% of them were categorized as special population.**

## Direct Services

**Emotional Support and Safety Services** made up **27%** of **total services** this quarter. The team conducted **239 Therapeutic Sessions**, which accounted for **72%** of Emotional Support and Safety Services category. Staff assisted with **Crisis Intervention and On-Scene Crisis Response 21 times** during this quarter.

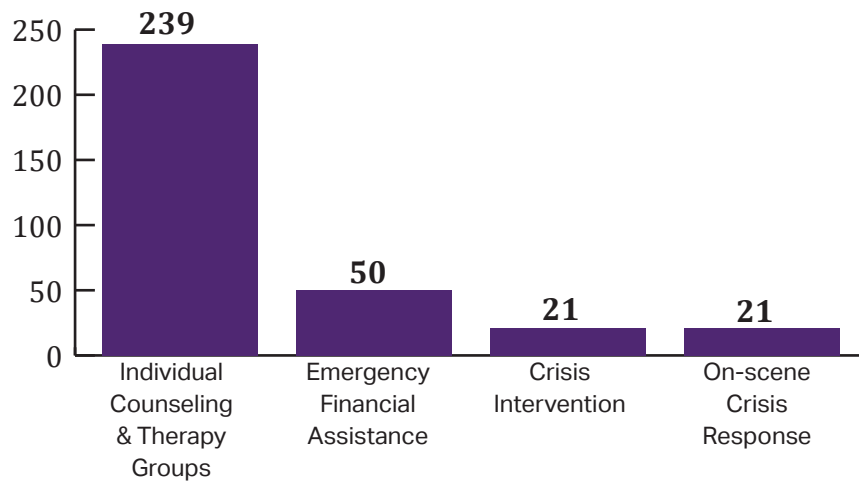


**Intensive Case Management Services including Coordination of Transportation** made up the **92%** of the Personal Advocacy category. **Individual Advocacy** provided clients with assistance in applying for public benefits, return of personal property, assistance with doctors appointments, and interventions with employers and landlords.

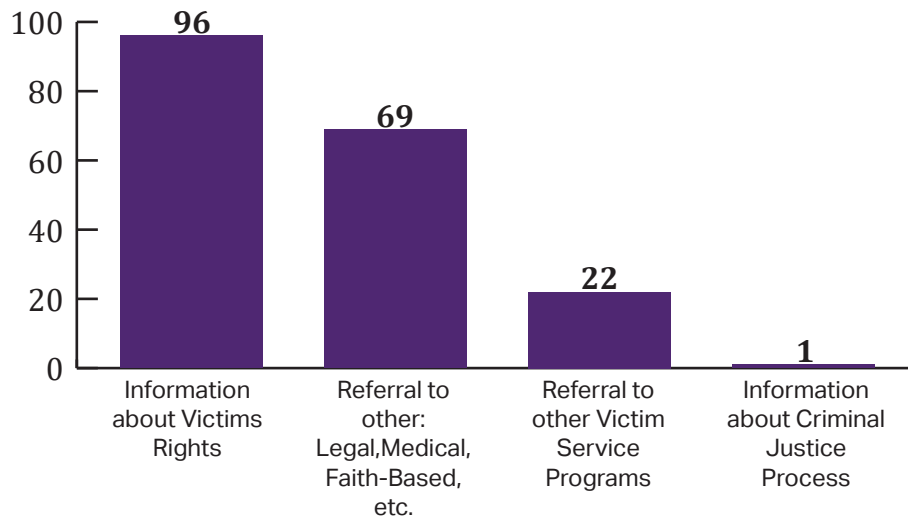


## Direct Services

Emotional Support or Safety Services (April-June 2022)



Information and Referral (April-June 2022)



Housing & Criminal Justice Assistance (April- June 2022)

