

PROJECT HEAL

A community partnership
to Help, Empower and Lead



Quarterly Report

OCTOBER 2021



To our supporters,

On October 18th 2021, the White House announced the appointment of the 2021-2022 class of White House Fellows. This class includes Project HEAL's own Medical Director, Dr. Aakash Shah, who was placed at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. He is fiercely passionate and committed to ensuring that all individuals have access to quality healthcare and are treated with dignity and respect. Project HEAL, Jersey Shore University Medical Center and the Hackensack Meridian Health Network are extremely proud of Dr. Shah and his achievement.

While Dr. Shah steps away for the year to fulfill his role in Washington D.C., Project HEAL is excited to welcome Dr. Ramon Solhkhah, Chair of Jersey Shore University Medical Center's Department of Psychiatry, as the Interim Medical Director. Dr. Solhkhah is a dedicated member of the community Project HEAL serves and believes in the importance of their work- for the community, for the hospital, and more. Project HEAL thanks Dr. Solhkhah for his unwavering support and are thrilled to welcome him to the team.

Last quarter, Project HEAL was humbled to publish their first quarterly report in efforts to highlight their work on community violence intervention within Monmouth County. The program continues to grow and reach community members affected by violence evidenced in the growing numbers captured this quarter. Between July 2021 and September 2021, Project HEAL provided services to 71 individuals, 47 of whom were new admissions.

Since Project HEAL's official opening in March 2021, a total of 90 clients have been supported in their healing journey. The program has facilitated 372 trauma-informed counseling sessions, performed 128 health screenings, provided emergency victim aid 122 times and helped coordinate over 1,500 case management services including transportation assistance. This is all within six months of opening their doors.

Project HEAL's data and evaluation team, led by our partners at William Paterson University, continue to employ evidence-based approaches to guide program improvement. The evaluation team successfully presented a research presentation at the 2021 Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) Virtual Conference and an interactive workshop at the National Center for Victims of Crime National Training Institute in Atlanta, GA. Their article "Hospital-based Violence Intervention: Strategies for Cultivating Internal Support, Community Partnerships, and Strengthening Practitioner Engagement" was recently published in the Journal of Aggression, Conflict, and Peace Research.

Project HEAL would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to JSUMC Hospital Leadership, Dr. Grace Hickey, Dr. Kenneth Sable, Mr. Vito Buccellato, and the late Dr. Joseph Miller for their unconditional support. Project HEAL will continue to serve the community with passion in Dr. Miller's honor, as he was a true champion for the mission. Project HEAL would also like to thank the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the Novartis Foundation, and the HAVI for their past, present, and future support to spearhead the initiative to reduce violence in Monmouth County.

Above all else, Project HEAL gives a wholehearted thank you to their clients for the privilege to be a part of their healing journey. The continued faith and trust in Project HEAL only allows the team to grow and flourish in efforts to reach the next individual in need of help and healing.

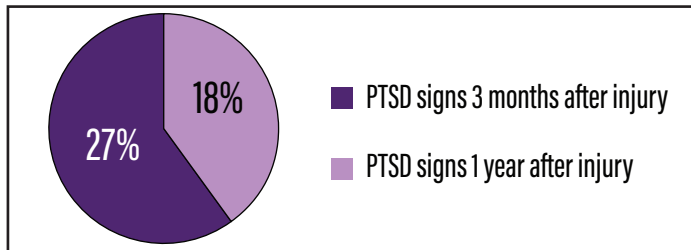
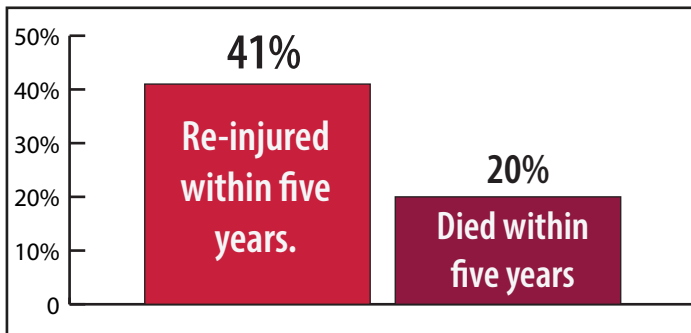
With warm regards,

Lisa McDermott, LCSW, LCADC
Clinical Program Manager

Ramon Solhkhah, MD, MBA
Interim Medical Director, Project HEAL
Chair, Dept of Psychology JSUMC

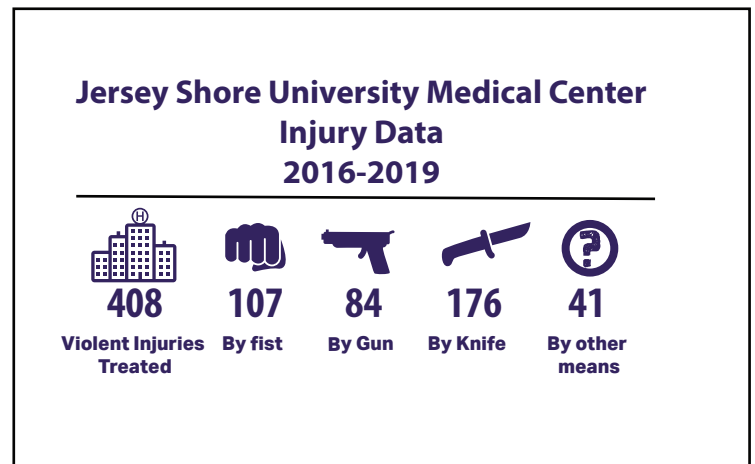
A Recap: Why the Work is Needed

Community violence is a major public health problem in the United States—and hospitals stand on the front lines of the epidemic. Homicide is the leading cause of death among Non-Hispanic African Americans ages 15-34, second among Hispanics of this age group, and fifth among non-Hispanic whites. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), homicide was responsible for 19,362 deaths in 2016 translating to more than 607,886 potential life years lost and more than \$25 billion in medical costs and lost productivity. Although the social and economic costs of homicide are significant, non-fatal violent injuries outnumber fatal by more than 100:1, with the average cost of medical care being \$29,201.



In urban settings, it is estimated that up to 41% of patients treated for violent injury are re-injured within five years. One survey of victims of violence at five-year follow-up found that 20% of patients treated for violent injury had died. In addition to the physical consequences of violent injury, many individuals experience psychological effects. A study of men hospitalized for violent injury found that 27% had possible PTSD at three months follow-up and 18% had possible PTSD one year later.

According to data from the Uniform Crime Report, three areas of concern in terms of violent crime are Asbury Park, Neptune Township, and Long Branch City. Combined, these areas saw 12 murders and 744 aggravated assaults in the past three years. Jersey Shore University Medical Center is a level II trauma center located in Neptune that treats a substantial number of these violent injuries within Monmouth County.



Source: JSUMC Internal Data

The specific problem that is being addressed are cycles of violence and the focus population for the patients who are evaluated for a violent injury by the trauma surgery service at JSUMC with emphasis on young men of color injured by guns and knives as well as women intimidated by guns during domestic disputes. Project HEAL takes a multi-pronged approach in trying to help break the cycle of repeat violent injury and victimization in Monmouth County. Its model is multidisciplinary and combines efforts of medical staff with trusted community-based partners to provide safety planning, wraparound services, and trauma-informed care to violently injured people.

Trainings

The following trainings were attended by funded staff, any fees associated were funded by The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA):

- NJ HVIP Case Conference Webinar through The HAVI - 7/14/21

6 Staff in attendance



- 180 Turning Lives Around Domestic Violence Training part 4 - 7/15/21

10 Staff in attendance



- Group Treatment Approaches in Working with Trauma through Rutgers University School of Social Work - 7/19/21

4 Staff in attendance



- Family Treatment Approaches in Working with Trauma through Rutgers University School of Social Work - 8/5/21

4 Staff in attendance



- Cultural Competency in Case Management through Rutgers University School of Social Work - 8/9/21

4 Staff in attendance



- The Neurobiology of Trauma through Rutgers University's School of Social Work - 8/11/21

4 Staff in attendance



- The Effects of Trauma Across the Developmental Spectrum through Rutgers University School of Social Work - 8/13/21

4 Staff in attendance



- 180 Turning Lives Around Domestic Violence Training Part 5 - 9/10/21

10 Staff in attendance



Events

Project HEAL staff continue to attend **monthly community provider meetings** as well as community events. The following community events were attended/co-hosted by Project HEAL staff.

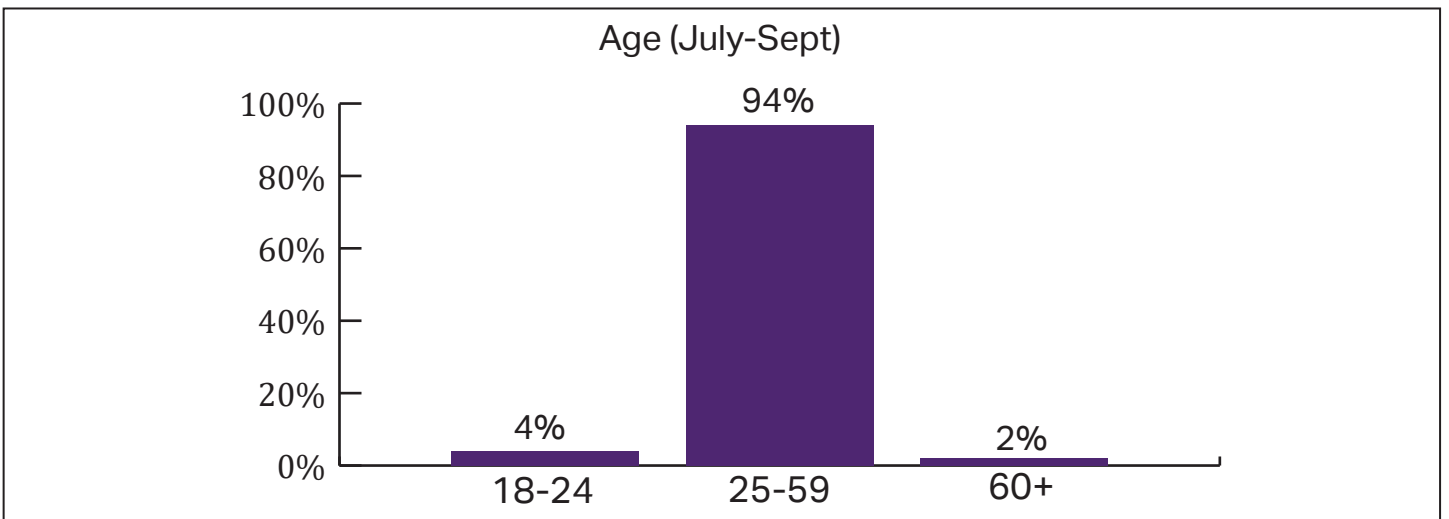
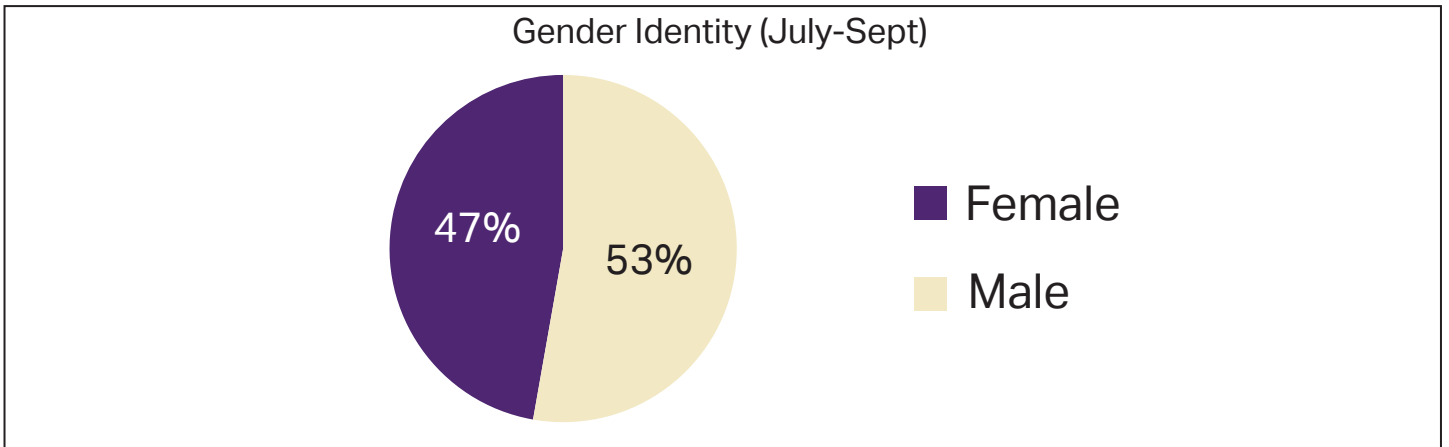
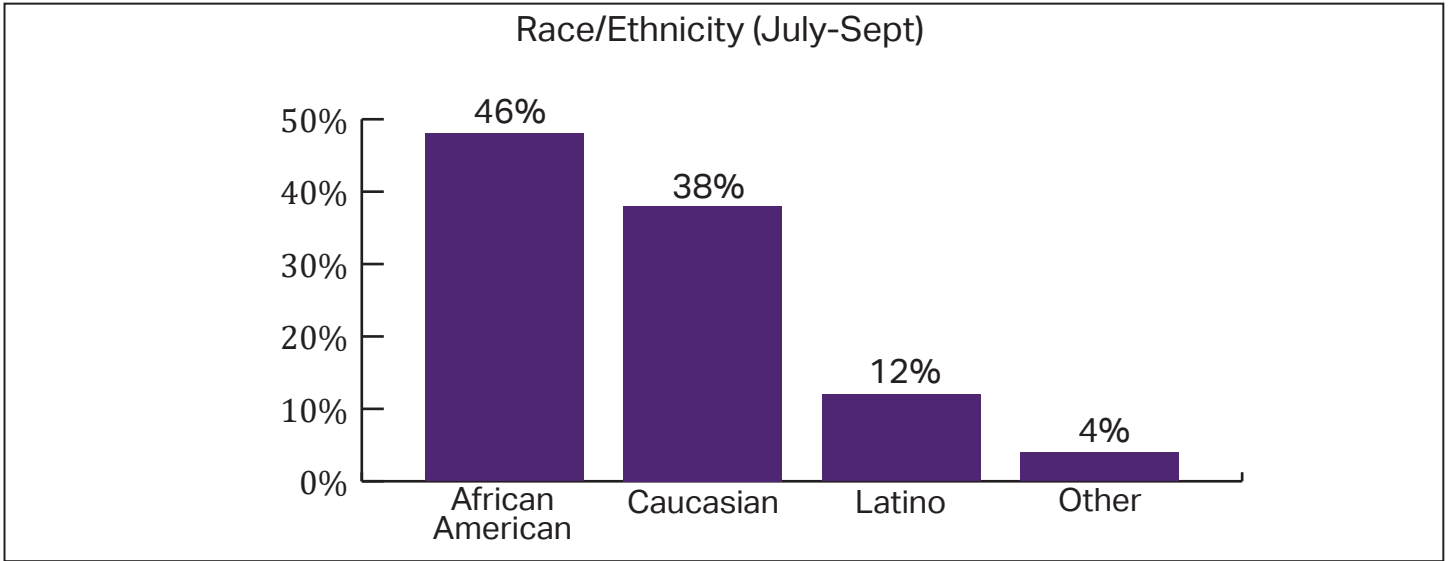
At these events, Project HEAL **provided emergency and wellness items** such as water bottles, flashlights, first aid kits, back to school items for children, as well as programmatic and emergency contact information.



- **7/19/21 - Music Mondays in the Park with the City of Asbury Park**
- **7/23/21 - Asbury Park Community Development Initiative**
- **8/3/21 - National Night Out with the City of Asbury Park**
- **8/16/21 - Music Mondays in the Park with the City of Asbury Park**
- **8/21/21 - Asbury Park Back 2 School Block Party**
- **9/21/21 - 9/23/21- HAVI Virtual Conference**
- **9/24/21 - Asbury Park Community Development Initiative**
- **9/26/21 - Asbury Fest**

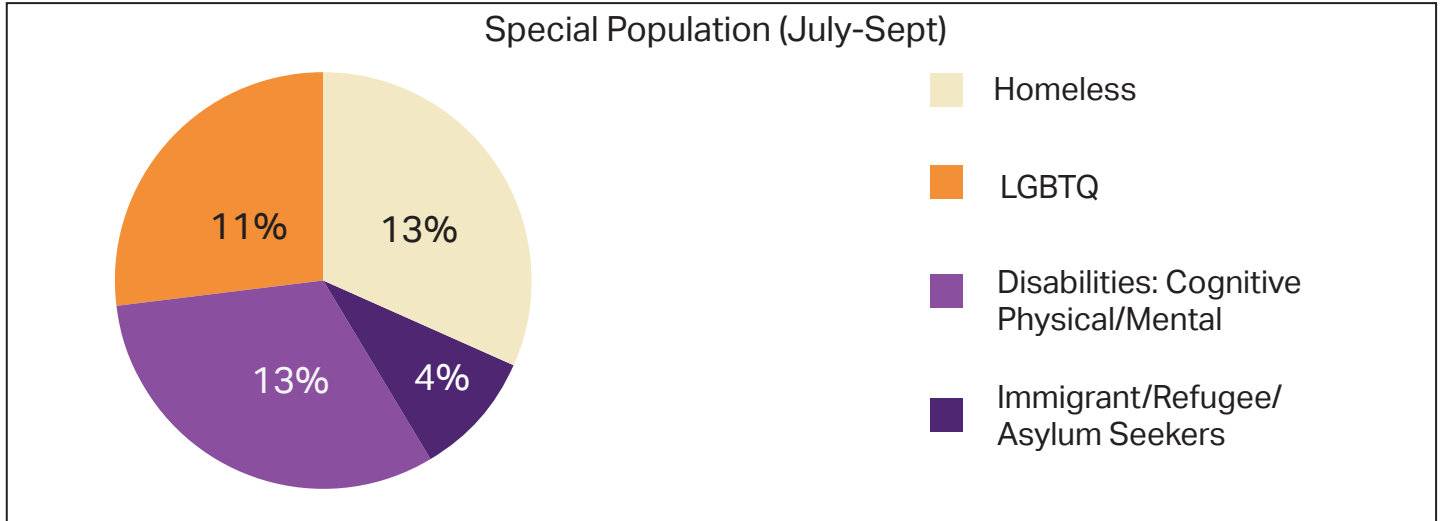
Client Demographics

Of the 47 new clients served this quarter, **more than half were male**. The majority of clients were between the **ages of 25 to 59**. Just under half of clients were **African American (46%)**, 38% were Caucasian, 12% Latino, with 4% being other.

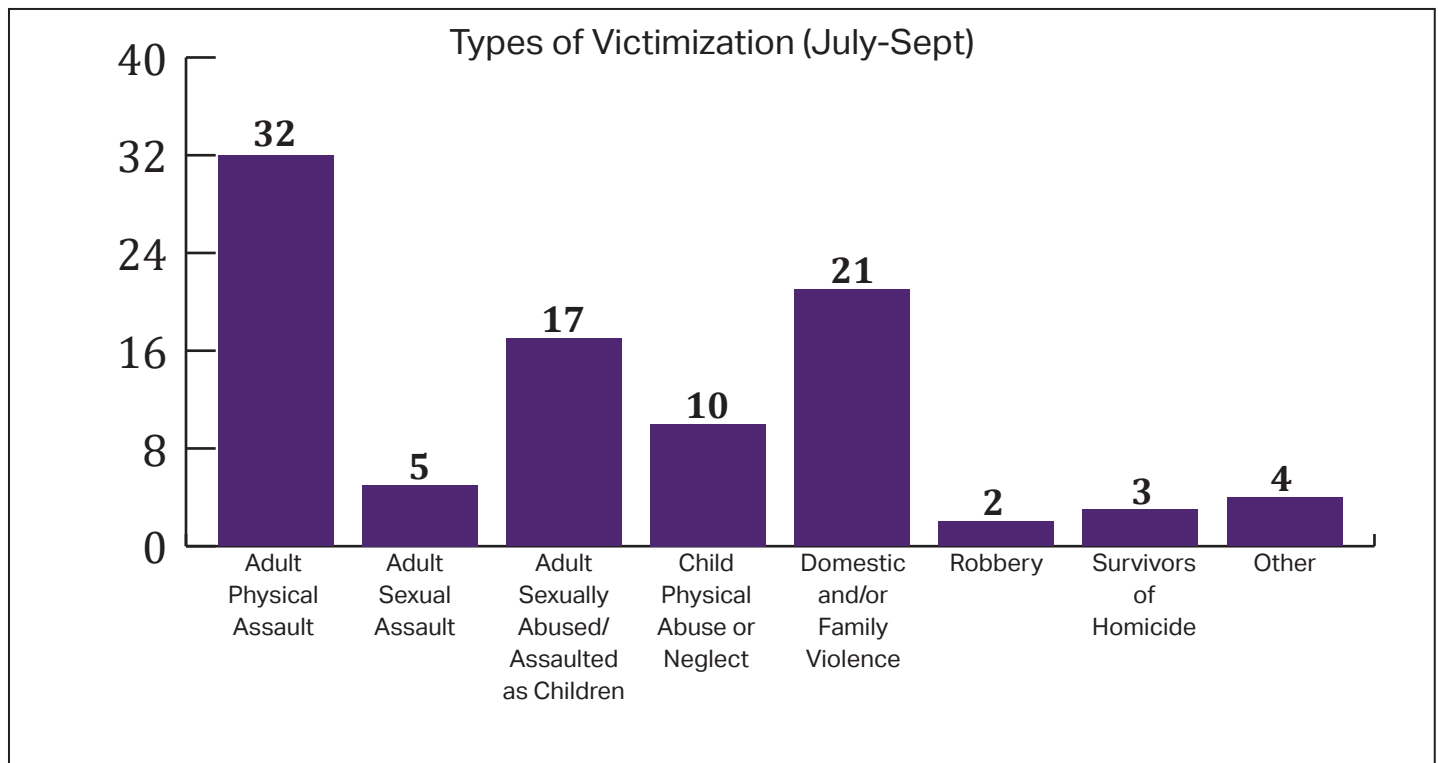


Client Demographics

Of the 47 new clients served, **47% of them were categorized as special population.**



Examining types of Victimizations, the most widely reported by patients was **Adult Physical Assault (47%)**, with 32% reporting being sexually abused or assaulted as children, and 30% reporting instances of domestic or family violence.

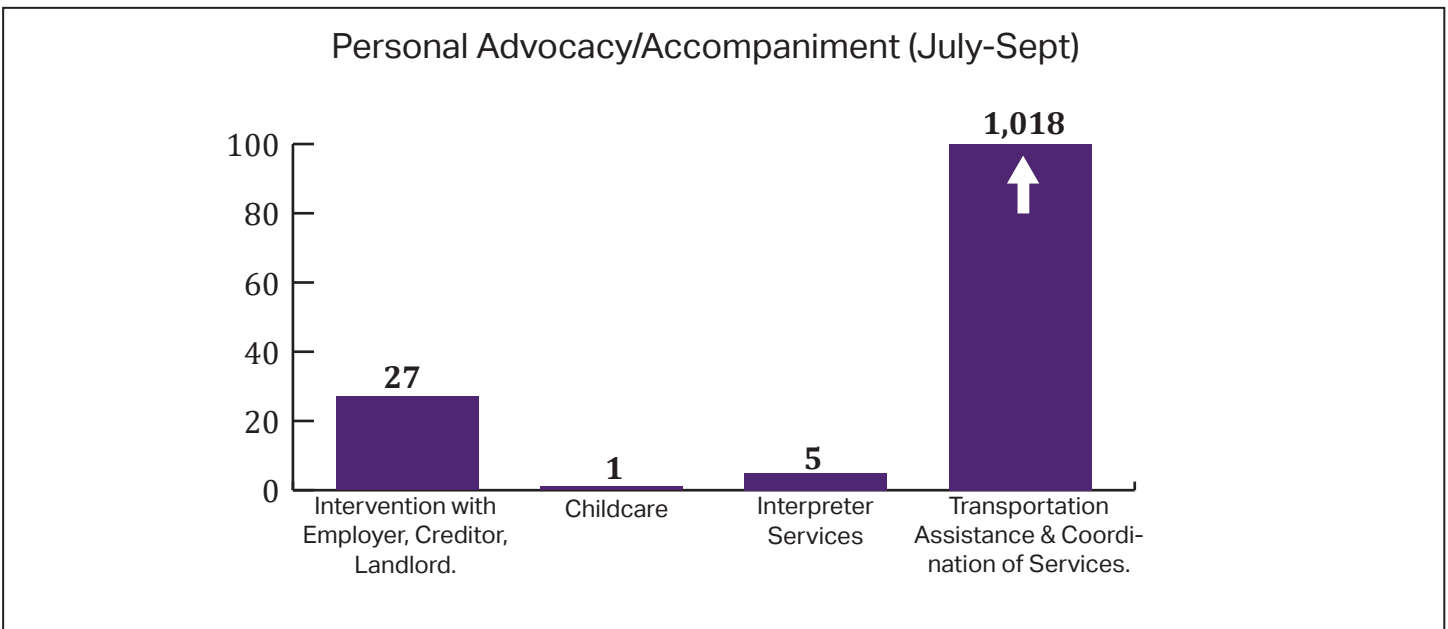
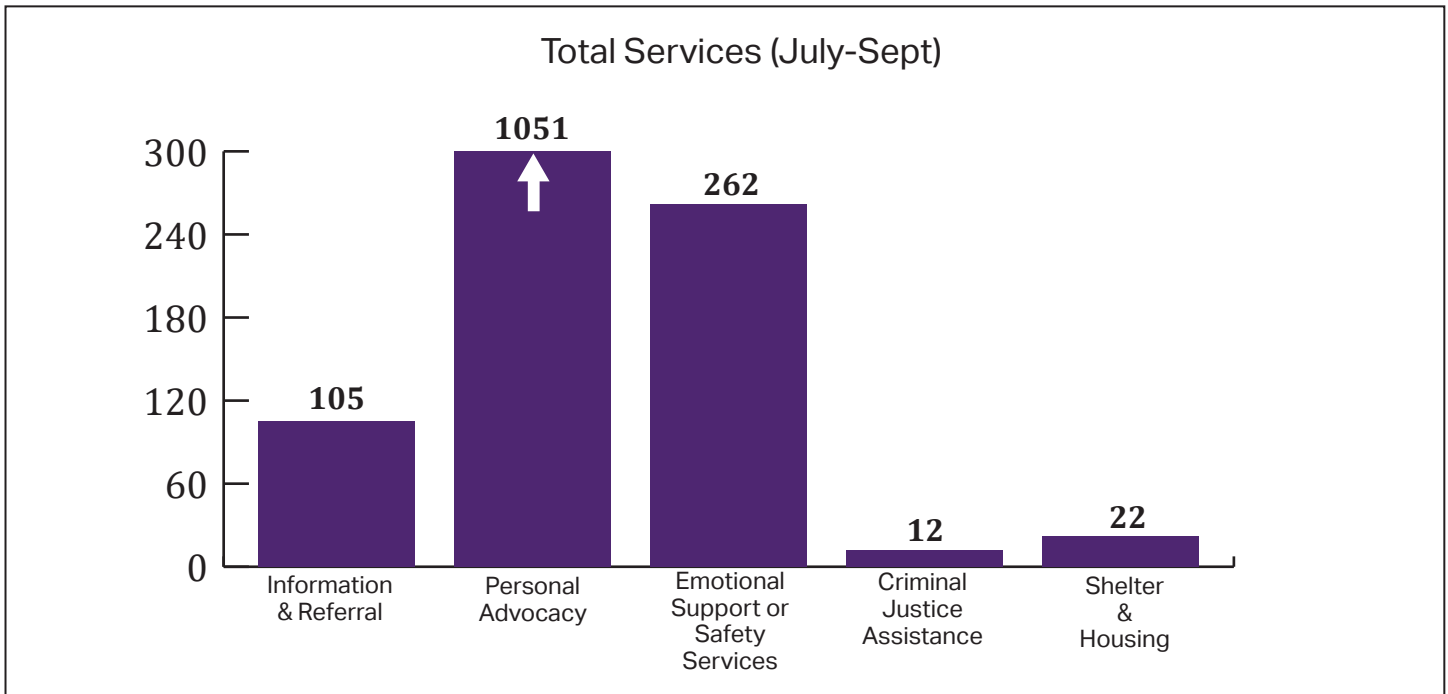


Of the 47 new clients served, **68% presented more than one type of victimization.**

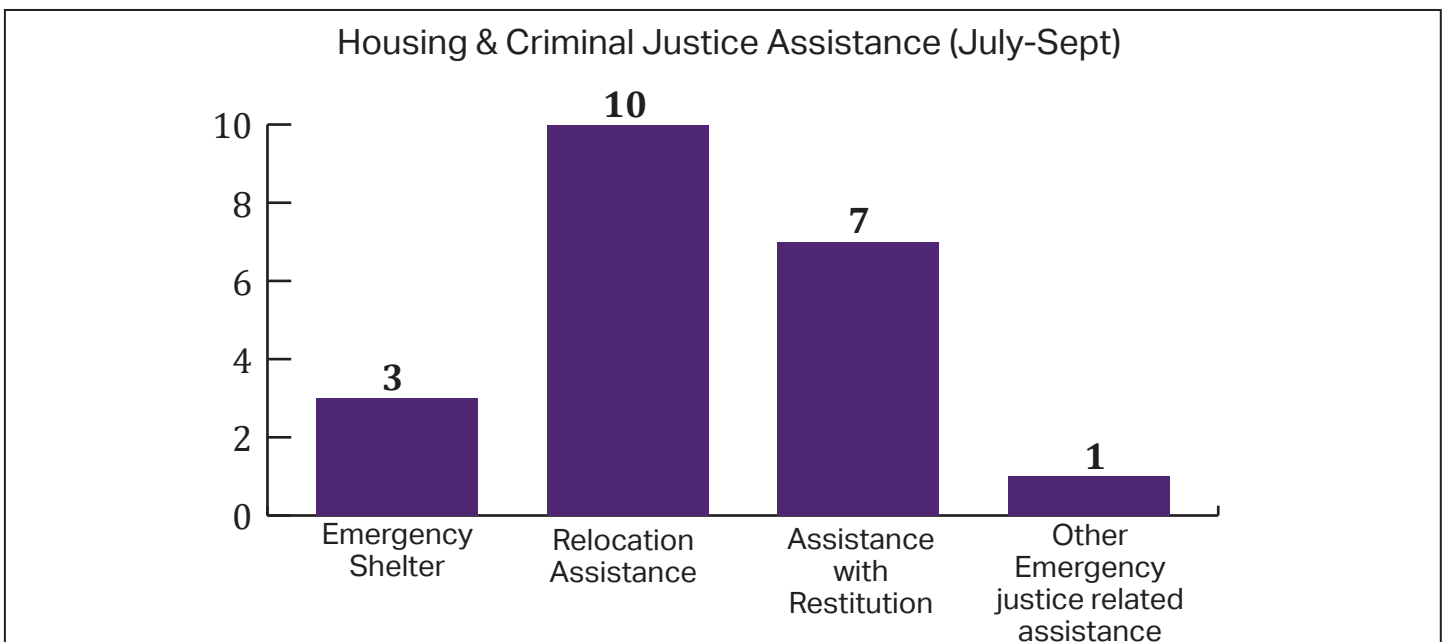
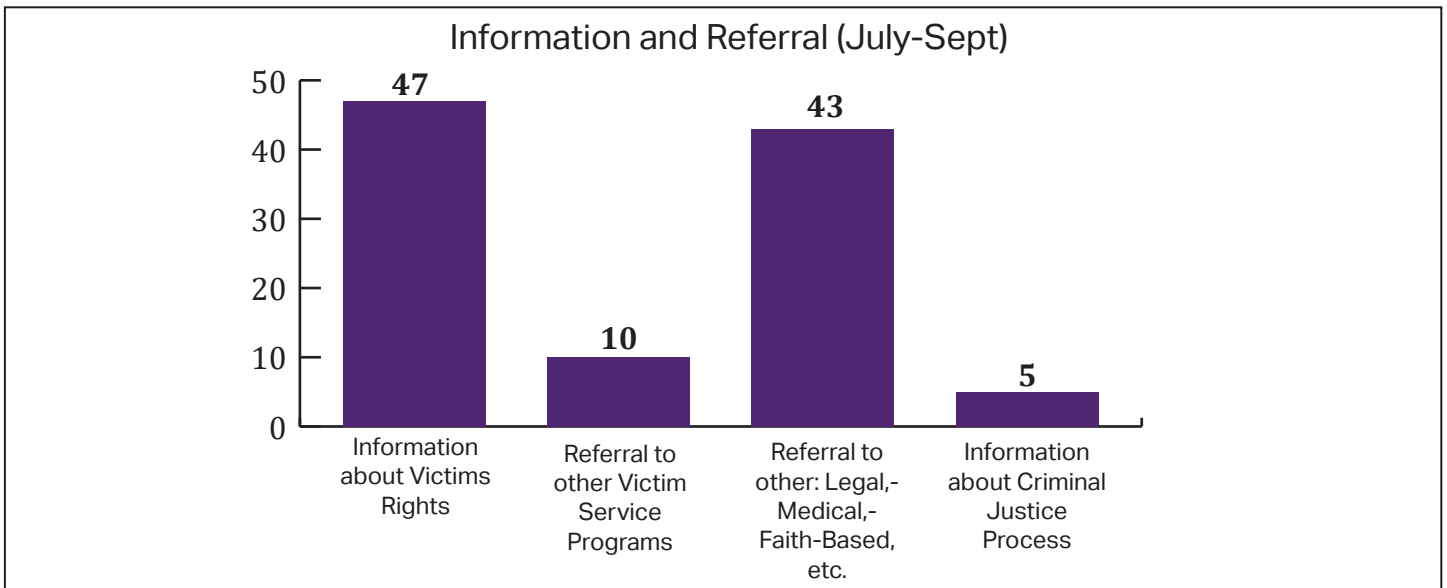
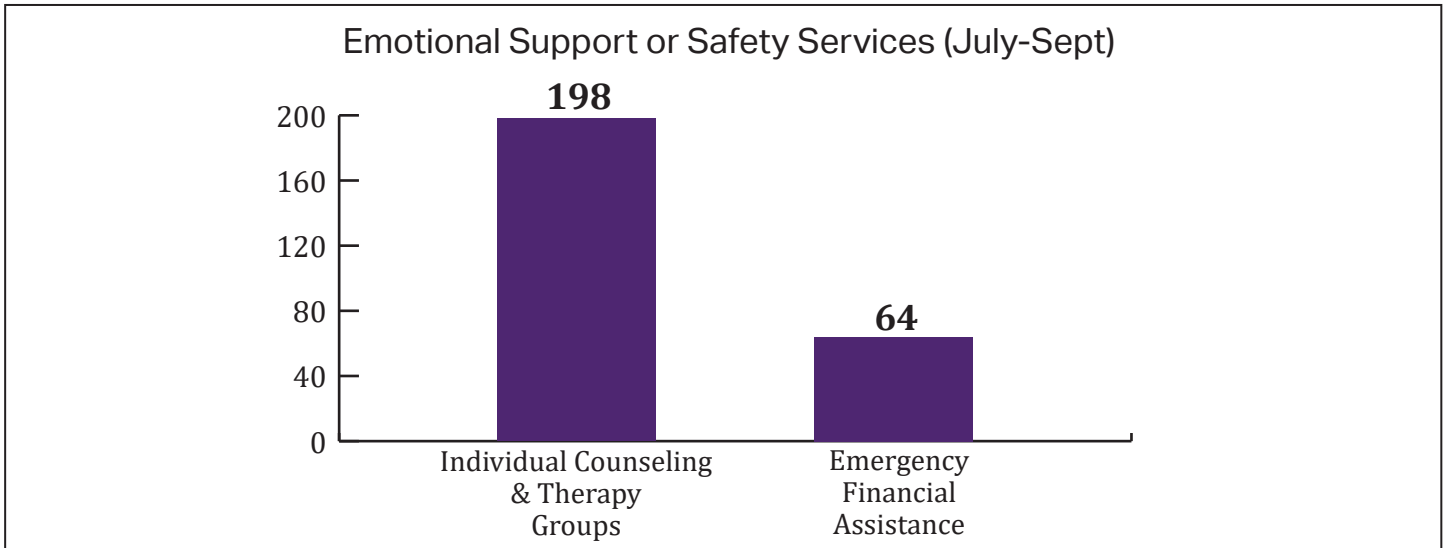
Direct Services

Intense case management services including coordination of transportation made up the majority (**96%**) of the Personal Advocacy category. As indicated last quarter, this service was wide ranging in it allowed clients to be brought to their **appointments in office** as well as being returned home.

Clients were also provided with transportation to other necessary case management services if deemed appropriate. In closely working with the community, Project HEAL has found transportation to be a **major barrier** for clients in receiving care.

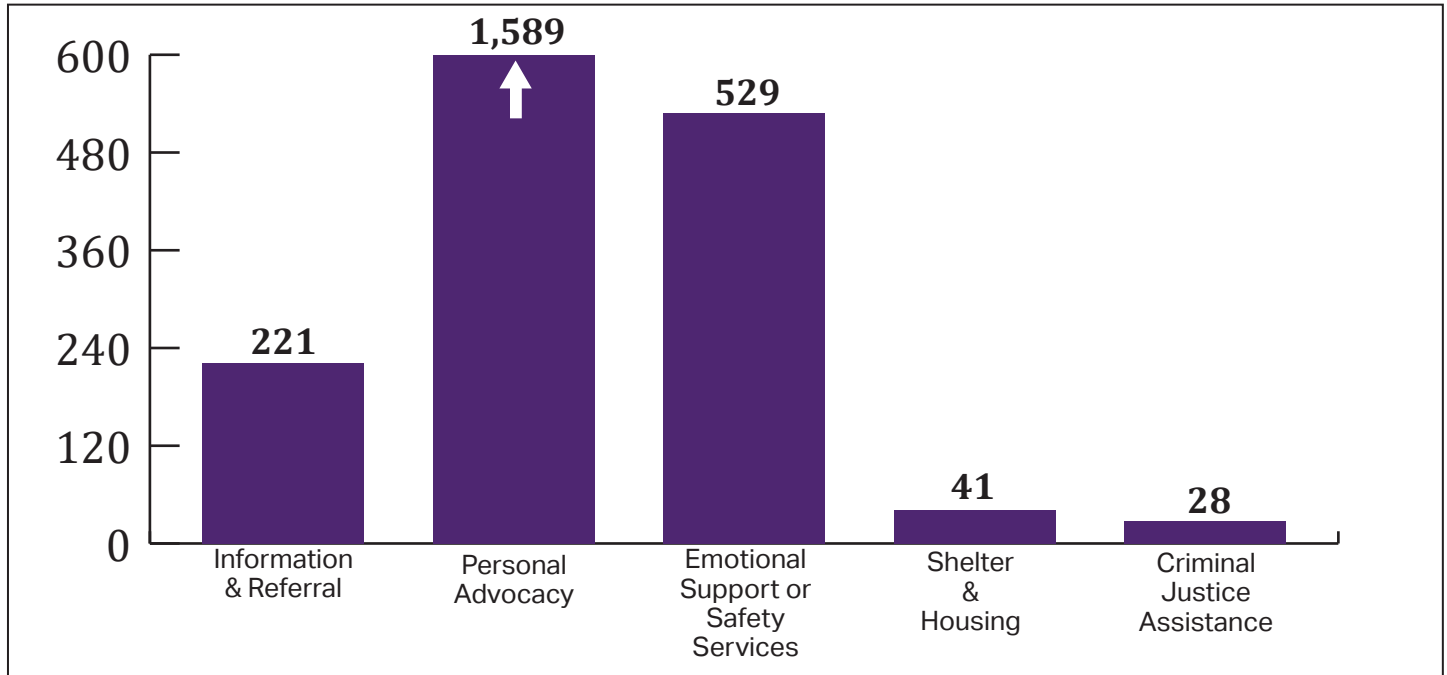


Direct Services



Year to Date Numbers

Since opening its doors in March 2021, Project HEAL saw **90 clients** who engaged in a variety of services. **Personal Advocacy made up the majority of services with 66%**, however this was inflated by transportation services. As noted previously, Project HEAL found a lack of transportation severely limited it's clients in being able to engage in services, proving that this became an **essential catalyst for support and case management**.



Emotional Support or Safety Services made up **23% of services for clients**. Trauma informed individual counseling sessions proved to be most beneficial to clients in their recovery from multiple incidents of violence. Clients were also provided with **122 instances** of Emergency Financial Assistance, nearly **100 instances** of informing of Victims Rights, and **88 referrals** to other legal, medical, and faith based services.

