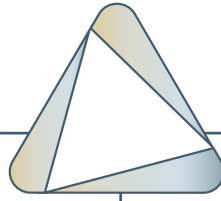


2023 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



202
site visits and technical
assistance (TA) visits

142
meetings and events

82
trainings

5,059
individuals who participated
in site visits and TA visits

31,153
meeting and event
attendees

15,041
individuals who participated
in trainings

76
public products
(e.g., reports, videos)

33
professional presentations
delivered to the field

12
policies and practices
reported to have changed
through work with PRA and
its projects

TOPICAL AREAS OF IMPACT



2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

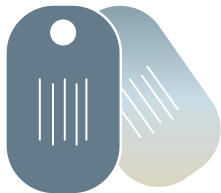


New PRA Podcast: *Data Points*

In February, Policy Research launched its new podcast series, *Data Points*, a show that breaks down research into takeaways that you can use to enhance your work and promote positive change. In the first episode, “Money Bail & Pretrial Risk Assessment,” Research Associate Kamiya Stewart, PhD, chats with Senior Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD, about her recently published paper “[Comparing the Relationships Between Money Bail, Pretrial Risk Scores, and Pretrial Outcomes](#).” Together, they answer important questions such as:

- What is money bail?
- How do people pay bail?
- Does bail work?
- What are alternatives to bail, and do they work better?

Data Points is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Soundcloud](#)!



SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center Meets With Tribal Representatives to Discuss the Development of a Virtual Tool Related to AI/AN SMVF Suicide Prevention

In February, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) TA Center held an expert panel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with tribal representatives to gain insight on the development of a virtual training tool related to preventing suicide among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) service members and Veterans. The attendees suggested highlighting the strengths and resilience of AI/AN SMVF while raising awareness of their experiences. The next steps include virtual working group meetings to outline the tool by August 2023.



SAMHSA SOAR TA Center Presents at the Innovations & Solutions for Ending Unsheltered Homelessness Conference

In March, the SAMHSA Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) TA Center presented at the National Alliance to End Homelessness's Innovations & Solutions for Ending Unsheltered Homelessness Conference. This conference highlighted the importance of innovative solutions, like SOAR, in addressing the issue of unsheltered homelessness and connecting individuals with resources they need to thrive.

This conference was attended by service providers, system leaders, advocates, and people with lived experience of homelessness who shared their expertise, discussed best practices, and showcased new innovations in the field. SOAR Co-assistant Director, Abigail Kirkman, MA, discussed the culturally sensitive and community-based elements of the SOAR model that helps people experiencing or at risk of homelessness apply for SSI/SSDI. Ms. Kirkman provides more detail on her presentation in a [blog](#).

2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Research and Evaluation Publishes Court Navigator Compendium

In April, Policy Research's Research and Evaluation team published the [National Compendium of Court Navigation Programs](#), which was authored in partnership with the State Justice Institute. This compendium offers a comprehensive overview of 18 court navigation programs that operate in 22 states across the United States. These programs offer guidance and support to individuals in contact with the court system, helping them understand court processes and connecting them to community services. The compendium includes details on funding sources, core components, and implementation strategies for each program. It is a valuable resource for courts to develop their navigation programs and improve services. Additionally, it offers guidance to court administrators, service providers, families, and community members in ensuring individuals' needs are met while navigating the court system.



Homeless and Housing Resource Center Hosts Webinar Series on Psychotic Disorders With Record Attendance

In May and June, the [Homeless and Housing Resource Center](#) hosted a two-part webinar series on psychotic disorders, with Part 1, "Introduction to Psychotic Disorders," drawing an impressive attendance of **3,805** people and the combined series reaching **6,101** participants.

The first webinar highlighted skills for working with individuals experiencing psychosis, covering topics like defining psychosis, de-escalation strategies, and best practices. Part 2, "Outreach and Housing Support for Individuals with Psychotic Disorders," featured a panel discussion on outreach and housing support strategies to enhance accessibility, stability, and community integration for those with psychotic disorders.

The webinar recordings for [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) are available on YouTube.



Policy Research Holds First Spanish-Language Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop

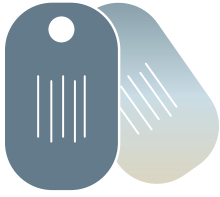
In June, SAMHSA's GAINS Center achieved a milestone with a successful [Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\) Mapping Workshop](#) at the Supreme Court in San Juan, Puerto Rico—the first conducted entirely in Spanish and the first in a U.S. territory. Though most attendees were bilingual, the decision to deliver the workshop in Spanish led to a "comfortable and safe" environment for all. Michelle Espinosa-Clark, MPA, and Magdalena Morales-Aina, LPC-S, facilitated discussions among local judges and community representatives on intercepts in the system with limited resources, particularly in diversion efforts and pretrial legal representation. Expanding the SIM's reach to Spanish-speaking communities is a step toward fostering broader inclusion and input. The success of the San Juan workshop has paved the way for more SIM Mapping Workshops, with Policy Research planning further engagement with Puerto Rico and beyond.

"Having materials in Spanish opens further opportunities to reach out to other Spanish-speaking communities across the country. Without their input, we are missing a voice."

- Michelle Espinosa-Clark

Read more about the [San Juan SIM Mapping Workshop](#).

2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



SMVF TA Center Holds Suicide Mortality Review Academy in White Plains, New York

In July, the Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance (SMVF TA) Center organized the Suicide Mortality Review Academy in White Plains, New York, as part of the [Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families](#). This gathering emphasized the crucial role of a robust suicide death investigation and review committee and showcased the commitment and progress of teams nationwide. Presenters covered vital topics, such as the Suicide Review Intervention Matrix, postvention strategies for loss survivors, and impactful community collaboration models. Participants were also able to explore partnerships with nonmedical death investigators, the pivotal role of a suicide mortality review committee coordinator, and the effective use of psychological autopsies in suicide mortality reviews. These sessions enriched participants' knowledge on how addressing suicide mortality and provided a space for networking with experts, fostering further connections and shared understanding.



New Data Points Podcast with Don Harris

In September, Policy Research's ongoing podcast series, *Data Points*, released an episode titled "[It's All in the Framing: Suicide Prevention Public Service Announcements and YouTube](#)." In this discussion, facilitated by Communications Director Holley Davis, Senior Project Associate Don Harris, MBA, shares key takeaways from his paper, "[Exploring the Association Between Suicide Prevention Public Service Announcements and User Comments on YouTube: A Computational Text Analysis Approach](#)."

Harris addresses key concerns, including the following:

- How does video framing impact audience responses in suicide prevention public service announcements?
- What is the role of social media, especially YouTube, in suicide prevention awareness?
- How did the researchers examine the videos and comments?
- What distinctions exist between narrative and argument video formats and gain and loss video framing?

Listen to *Data Points* on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and [Soundcloud](#)!



Farewell to the ARDRAW Small Grant Program

In August, after 12 years of dedicated disability research and nurturing emerging scholars, Policy Research, Inc., proudly marked the conclusion of its management of the Analyzing Relationships between Disability, Rehabilitation, and Work (ARDRAW) Small Grant Program. ARDRAW, a 1-year \$10,000 stipend initiative for graduate-level students, has yielded a diverse array of research, exploring innovative perspectives on work, rehabilitation, and disability issues, with a specific focus on the Social Security Administration's (SSA) work incentives and employment support.

Over this period, Policy Research, Inc., collaborated with **90 graduate students** from **80 universities** on **139 transformative projects**. As we close this chapter, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated researchers, mentors, and partners for their impact on disability research, ensuring that the spirit of ARDRAW continues to resonate in future research and policy.

See what's next for the ARDRAW Small Grant Program on [SSA's website](#).

2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



New SOAR Outcomes Issue Brief

In October, the SAMHSA Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance Center revealed the substantial impact of the SOAR approach over the past 18 years in its [SOAR Outcomes Issue Brief](#).

In 2023 alone, the SOAR program achieved the following:

- **2,604** approvals on initial applications
- **167** days to decision on initial applications
- **66** percent allowance rate on initial applications

These efforts have not only facilitated critical support for marginalized individuals but also brought over \$717 million into the economies of participating states and localities. The enduring success of the SOAR program underscores its pivotal role in enhancing the well-being of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.



Maryland's Annual State Summit on Behavioral Health and the Justice System: Utilizing the Sequential Intercept Model

In October, SAMHSA's GAINS Center presented at Maryland's Annual State Summit on Behavioral Health and the Justice System, highlighting using the [Sequential Intercept Model](#) (SIM) to achieve systems transformation. Senior Program Associate Dan Abreu, MS, CRC, LMHC, co-led this strategic gathering, sponsored by the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence, housed within the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The summit focused on reducing incarceration and enhancing responses to individuals with behavioral health conditions by strengthening connections to treatment services. Bringing together a diverse group of partners from various sectors, this event highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration and the effective use of SIM as a framework for assessing resources, identifying service gaps, and diversion opportunity to better support individuals with behavioral health conditions.



Policy Research Launches New Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Resources Page

In December, Policy Research launched its [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Resources page](#). The DEI Resources page serves as a central hub for exploring and integrating DEI principles into practice across several human service sectors. It features a wide range of materials designed to enhance understanding and application of DEI concepts in critical areas, such as intersectionality in behavioral health, culturally responsive treatments, and racial equity in housing. By providing access to this wealth of resources from its projects, Policy Research aims to empower organizations, practitioners, and policymakers to implement effective DEI strategies that promote fairness, respect, and dignity for all individuals.

TOPICAL AREAS OF IMPACT

