

DBHDD/ GDC/ DCS Forensic Peer Mentor Collaboration



DBHDD

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DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
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Power in Partnership

**Georgia Department of Behavioral Health &
Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)**

Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network (GMHCN)

Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC)

Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS)

Peer Mentor Movement

Over the past 20-30 years, peer support has expanded and is now recognized as a vital element in an individual's recovery process.

Peer support has become increasingly integrated into reentry and diversion programs. States including New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Oregon and now Georgia – are successfully utilizing forensic peer specialists/forensic peer mentors.

Individuals with histories of criminal justice and behavioral health services involvement are referred to as forensic peer mentors.

Forensic peer mentors function to help justice-involved persons successfully reenter the community by providing a range of services.

Forensic peer mentors are key in interrupting the cycle of recidivism.

Unique qualifications: shared, lived experience, credible models of recovery, engagement skills

Forensic Peer Mentorship

The Need for Peer support within the criminal justice system

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that about 16 percent of the population in prisons or jails at any given time has a behavioral health diagnosis, and over the course of one year, approximately 10 million people enter U.S. correctional facilities.

In the state of Georgia, as of September 2014, there were 9,055 persons with a mental health diagnosis out of a total of 54,904 total persons who were incarcerated in the correctional system; approximately 16% of the total population has a MH diagnosis. Between July 2013 and January 2014, a total of 730 persons were released from the Georgia correctional system with a behavioral health diagnosis.

Forensic peer support would be offered to individuals with psychiatric and/or co-occurring substance abuse diagnoses (level 3 and 4), who are incarcerated and in the transition phase of their preparation for release.

Training

- Possession of a CPS or CARES credential, + lived experience in the correctional system
- 5 full-days of training
- Sequential Intercept Model; how to interface with the criminal justice and mental health systems
- Effective engagement
- Boundaries
- Orientation to the GDC and DCS systems
- Overview of Community Resources; Mental Health and Substance Abuse

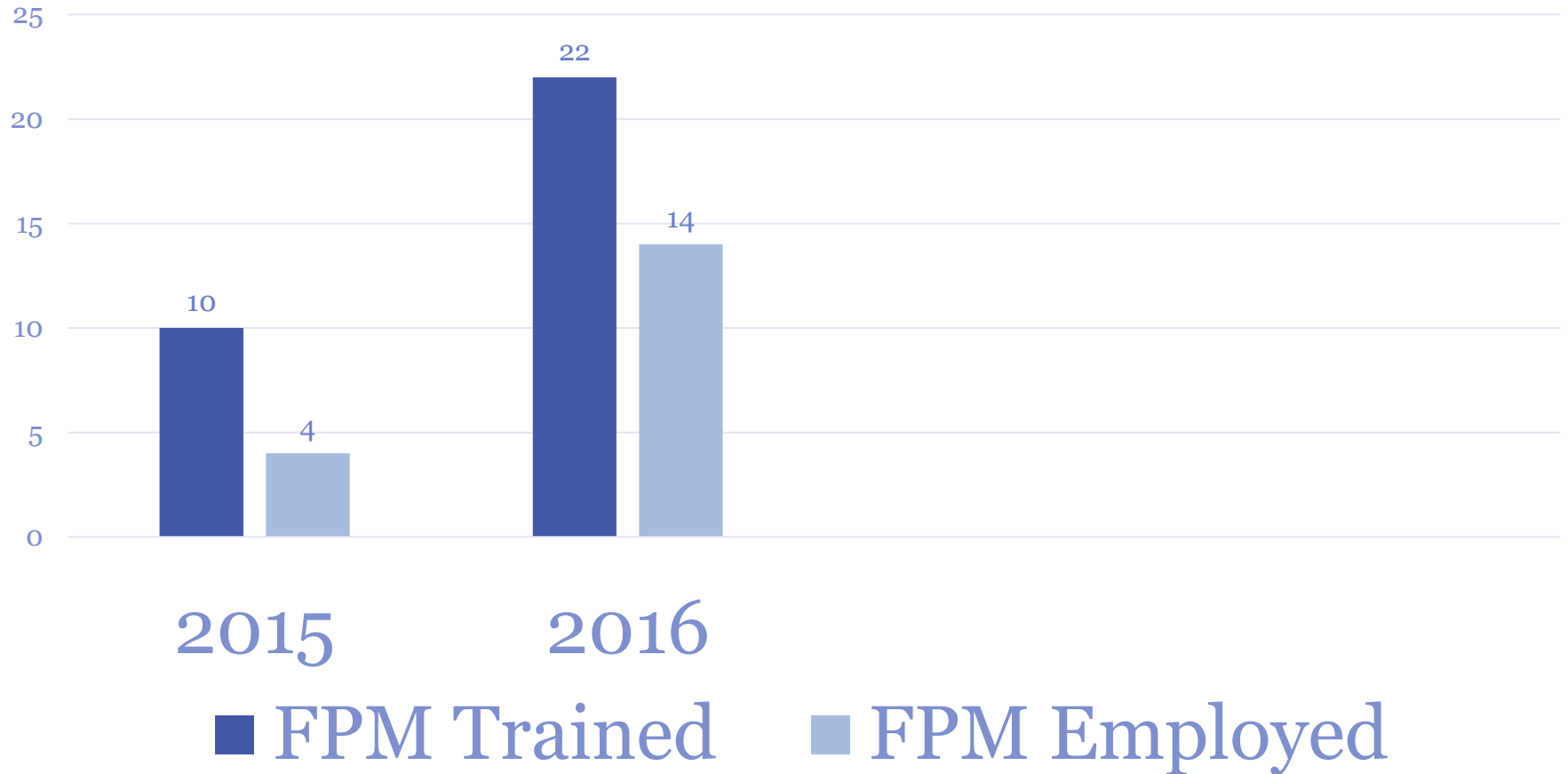
Forensic Peer Mentor Goals

- Participation in transition planning
- Provision of mentorship
- Maintenance of small caseload, 1:20
- Functioning as bridge between returning citizen and community
- Linkage to services and supports
- Reduce recidivism
- Reduce psychiatric hospital re-admission

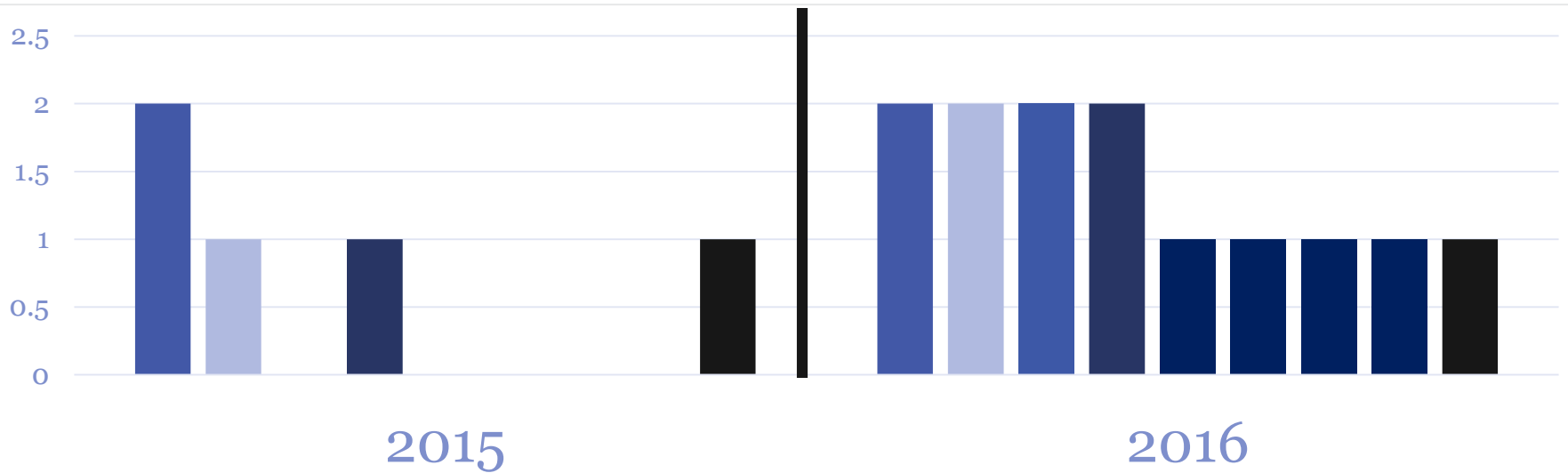
Forensic Peer Support

- Support people during their involvement in the Criminal Justice System
- Promote Recovery Principles including Self-Advocacy
- Advocate for recipients of behavioral healthcare when they are unable to advocate for themselves
- Educate all stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System about BH Recovery
- Inspire hope through shared life experiences
- Develop positive relationships that facilitate bridging transition
- Assist individuals with understanding and navigating the Criminal Justice System
- Aid in finding and utilizing resources to support behavioral health needs
- Educate individuals about Recovery
- Aid individuals to complete parole/probation requirements
- Reduce the time Behavioral Health Consumers stay in jail/prison due to the lack of community supports, housing options and resources
- Focus on the needs of individuals with serious psychiatric disorders and/or co-occurring challenges
- Offer an effective base of services that includes competent, supportive persons
- Incorporate wellness tools (Crisis plans, WRAP, SMART)

Forensic Peer Mentor Workforce



Forensic Peer Mentor Worksites



■ Lee Arrendale SP ■ GRHA

■ Atlanta DRC ■ Griffin DRC

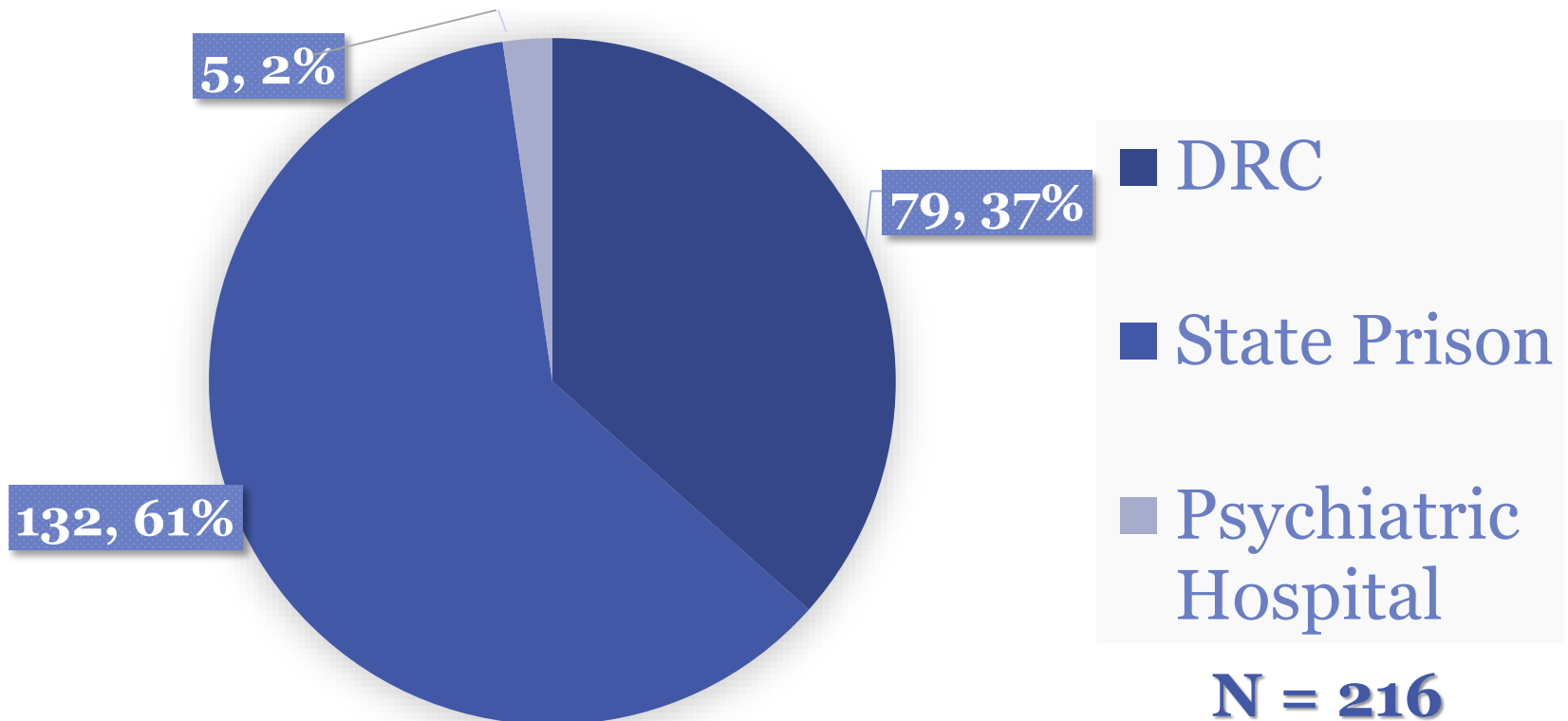
■ Morrow DRC ■ Macon DRC

■ Baldwin SP

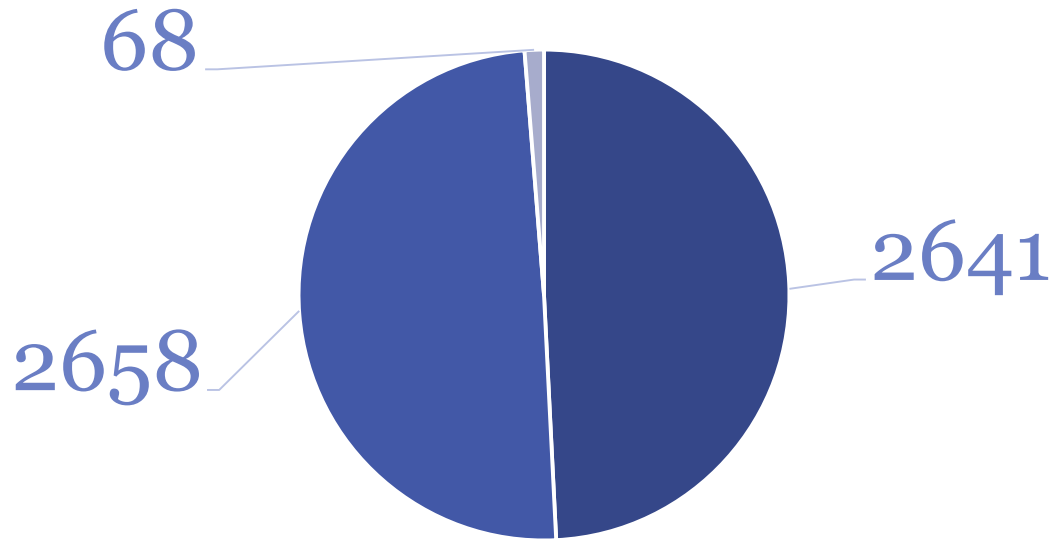
■ Athens DRC

■ GMHCN

FY16 Enrollment through May 2016



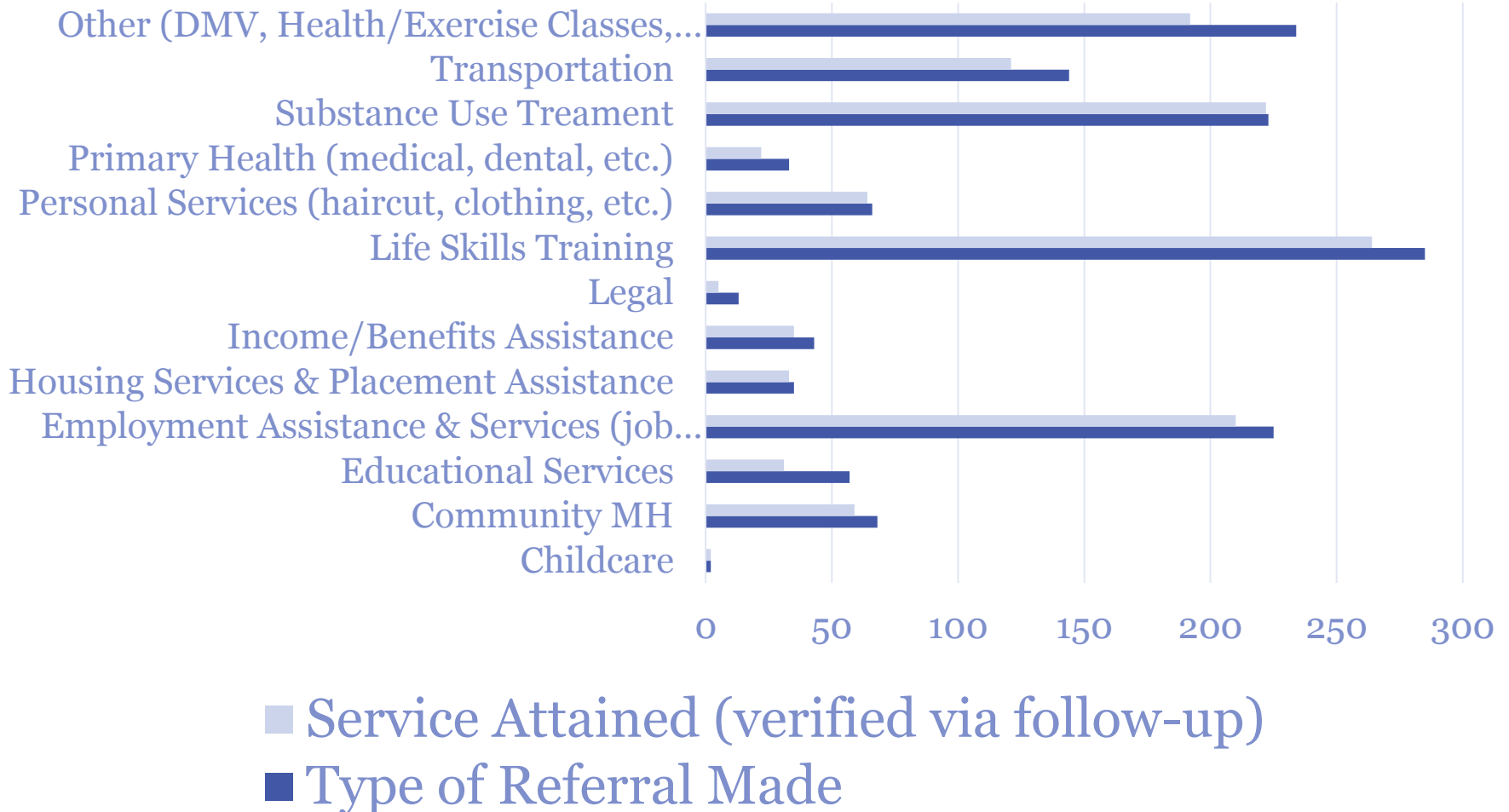
FY16 Discharge/Transition Planning Sessions Completed through May 2016



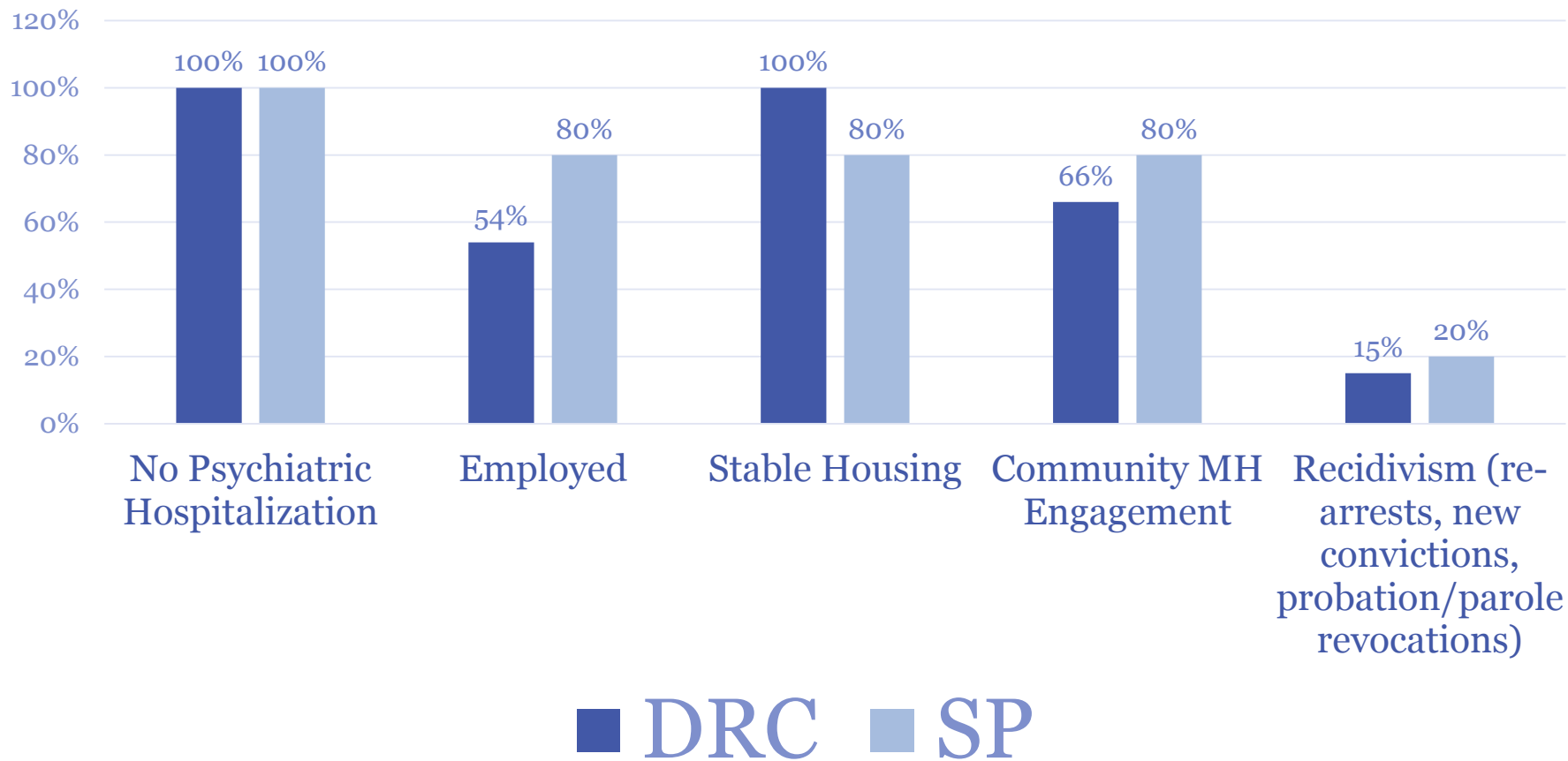
- DRC
- State Prison
- Psychiatric Hospital

**Total =
5,367**

Post-Release Referrals & Linkages



FY16 Post-Release Outcomes through May 2016



Returning Citizens' Successes



- 30 y.o female stated she has a new outlook on life since beginning to work with FPM; never knew that recovery was possible with mental health and substance abuse; clean for 2 consecutive months for first time



- 30 y.o male obtained court ruling in his favor to keep his infant child overnight; states that the FPM was the only person who believed in him and actually stood up with him on his behalf to go to court and share with the judge the recovery skills that the Forensic Peer Mentor has gained



- 26 y.o. female went on her first ever job interview; states that she was prepared due to the help of the FPM assisting her with filling out job applications, creating a resume, and role-playing mock interviews



- 45 y.o. female was able to develop a monthly budget and saved up enough to reinstate her driver's license; has not had her DL in 10 years; now creating a budget to save up for a used car



- 3 RC's accepted and started Certified Peer Specialist Training on 6/13/16

DBHDD

- Additional Information

www.dbhdd.ga.gov

- Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL)

- 24/7 crisis line
- (800) 715-4225
- mygcal.com

- Adult Mental Health Resource Directory

- <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/adult-mental-health>