

# Fact Sheet on Second Chance Act Grant Program Accomplishments



*October 2009–March 2015*

## Introduction

The Second Chance Act of 2007 (SCA)<sup>1</sup> was enacted to break the cycle of criminal recidivism, improve public safety, and help state, local, and tribal government agencies and community organizations respond to the rising populations of formerly incarcerated people who return to their communities. Since the first SCA appropriation in FY 2009, more than \$475 million has been authorized for grants, training and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal government agencies and community organizations to provide services that help people returning from prison and jail to safely and successfully reintegrate into the community. SCA programming provides support to eligible applicants for the development and implementation of comprehensive and collaborative reentry strategies specifically aimed to increase public safety by reducing recidivism.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has funded seven separate SCA grant programs that provide reentry services to individuals leaving incarceration (with a focus on individuals identified as being at medium to high risk to recidivate) including supports for housing, education, employment, and family relationships, as well as substance abuse and mental health treatment linkages, and therapy that addresses criminal thinking patterns.

The seven programs are:

- Targeting Adults with Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders
- Family-Based Prisoner Substance Abuse Treatment
- Adult Mentoring
- Technology Careers
- Adult Offender Reentry Demonstration
- State, Tribal, and Local Reentry Courts Program
- Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning Program.<sup>2</sup>

A crucial component of BJA-funded SCA programs is tracking grantee progress and performance in working toward funded goals and objectives. This tracking is accomplished through BJA's Performance Measurement Tool (PMT). Through PMT, BJA collects quarterly grantee-reported participant- and program-level data to enhance public accountability and to demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency of SCA programs. This fact sheet provides PMT data for all seven of BJA's SCA programs, from their first reports into the PMT through March 31, 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Pub. L. 110–199

<sup>2</sup> Most Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning Program grantees are conducting planning activities for this program. However, some are using grant funds for reentry services. In this case performance data for these grantees has been combined with the Adult Offender Reentry Demonstration data throughout the rest of this document.

## Program Accomplishments

Since 2009, BJA has made more than 600 awards to 49 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, and more than 113,000 people have so far participated in SCA programs. As Table 1 shows, through March 31, 2015, the largest numbers of program participants have been enrolled in either the Mentoring Program or the Reentry Demonstration Program.

Note that PMT data collection for the Reentry Demonstration Program and the Mentoring Program began in October 2009, and data collection for the Co-Occurring, Family-Based, Reentry Court, and Technology Careers programs began in July 2011. Totals are calculated from the beginning of PMT data collection for each respective program. Total calculations include participants who have received both pre- and post-release reentry services.

**Table 1. Participants served by SCA programs<sup>3</sup>**

SCA Program	Number Served
Co-Occurring	9,048
Family-Based	8,375
Mentoring	25,573
Technology Careers	6,632
Reentry Demonstration <sup>4</sup>	61,105
Reentry Court	2,595
<i>Overall</i>	<i>113,328</i>

Table 2 shows that since the beginning of funding, 260 grantees have closed out their grants. Mentoring and Reentry Demonstration have the most grants closed, as they have been around the longest.

**Table 2. Number of grantees that have closed out their grants**

SCA Program	Grants closed
Co-Occurring	39
Family-Based	35
Mentoring	92
Technology Careers	17
Reentry Demonstration <sup>5</sup>	68
Reentry Court	9
<i>Overall</i>	<i>260</i>

<sup>3</sup> These numbers should be interpreted with caution. The number of participants served for each program is calculated using the total number of enrolled participants—both pre- and post-release—in the first reporting period, plus the number of new enrollees in subsequent reporting periods. As participants are expected to receive both pre- and post-release services over the life of the grant award, some program participants may be double-counted in this total. Efforts have been made to minimize the double-counting. Grantees are now given explicit instructions detailing how to avoid reporting that a program participant received both pre- and post-release services in the same reporting period. Specifically, grantees should report participants as new only in the quarter in which they begin receiving either pre- or post-release services. However, since grantees report aggregate data, double-counting of participants over time could still occur.

<sup>4</sup> Includes data for Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning Program.

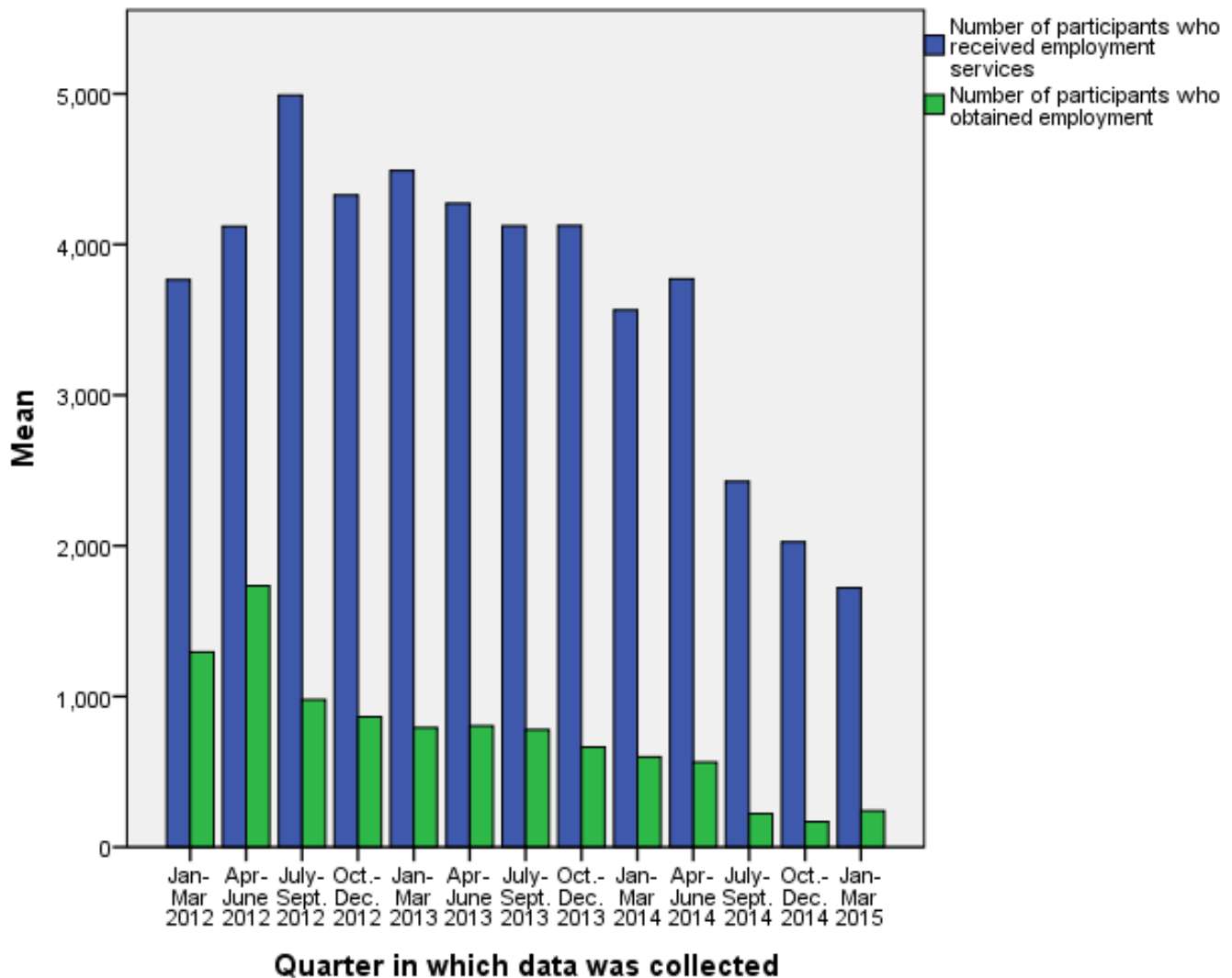
## Program Services

Successful reentry programs and services can help decrease an offender's likelihood of recidivating. 7 SCA grant programs provide a range of services to people to help facilitate their successful reentry into society, including employment, education, housing, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and cognitive-based programming. (See Figures 1–5.) All treatment services can be provided either directly by the agency receiving an SCA grant award or via referral to an external service provider.

### Employment Services

Employment services help formerly incarcerated people find employment opportunities, obtain gainful employment, and stay employed by providing job assistance and job training. Obtaining and retaining employment increases the likelihood of participants successfully transitioning from incarceration back into the community.

**Figure 1. Participants who received employment services compared with participants who obtained employment.**

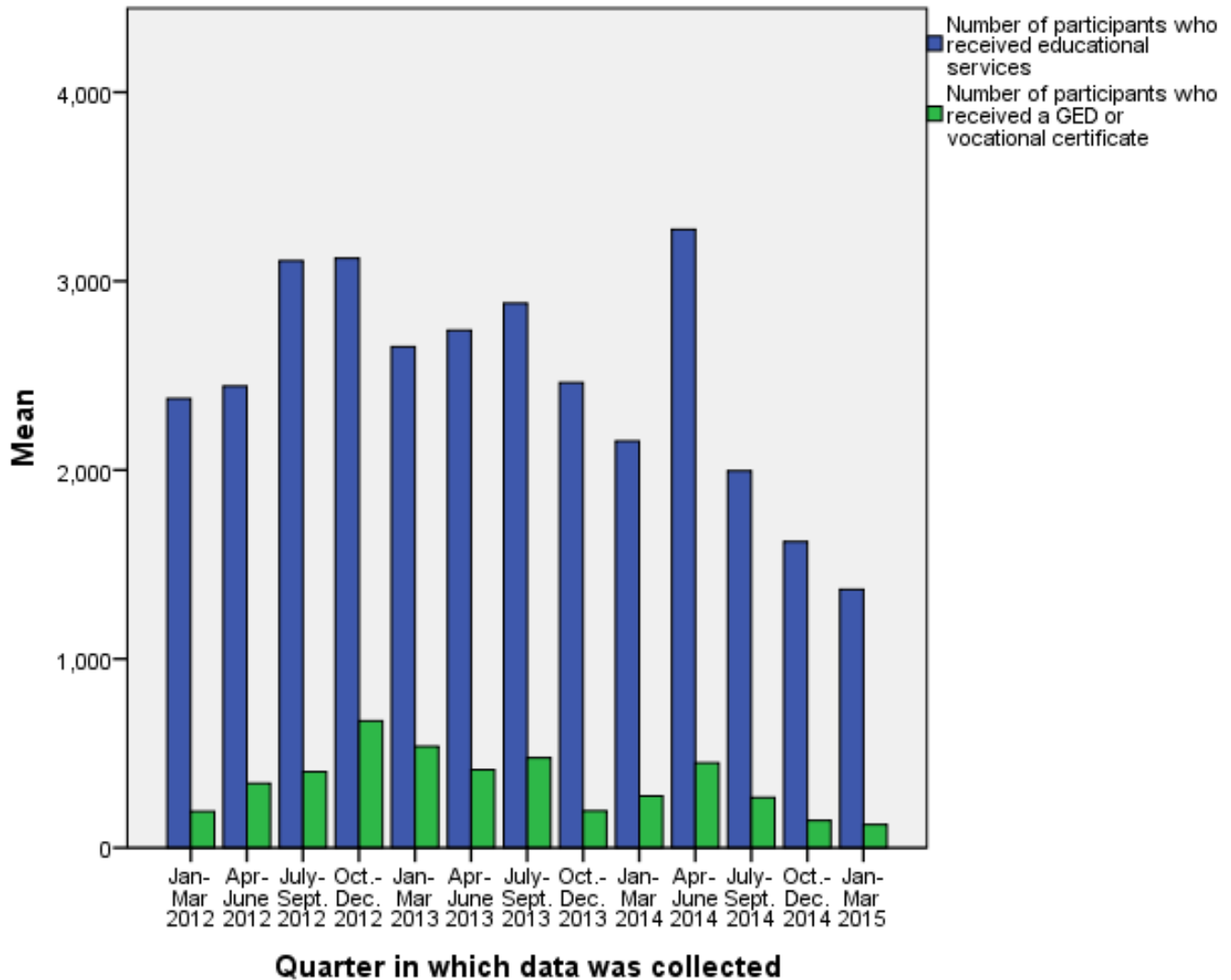


Between January 2012 and March 2015, 47,727 participants received employment services. Of that number, 9,708 (20.3%) participants obtained employment. It is important to note that the data represent both referrals and direct services.<sup>5,6</sup>

### Educational Services

Educational services foster knowledge and help participants obtain a GED, a vocational certificate, or higher education. By increasing their educational attainment, people improve their likelihood of obtaining legitimate employment and of succeeding in the community following their release.<sup>7</sup>

**Figure 2. Participants who received educational services compared with participants who obtained a GED or vocational certificate.**



<sup>5</sup> SCA grantees are not required to provide any information on employment retention or employment type within the PMT system.

<sup>6</sup> SCA grantees that refer clients to other agencies to receive specific services are required to provide in the PMT only the number of clients referred each reporting period. Grantees that offer direct services to clients are also required to provide data on program outcomes in addition to the number of clients served.

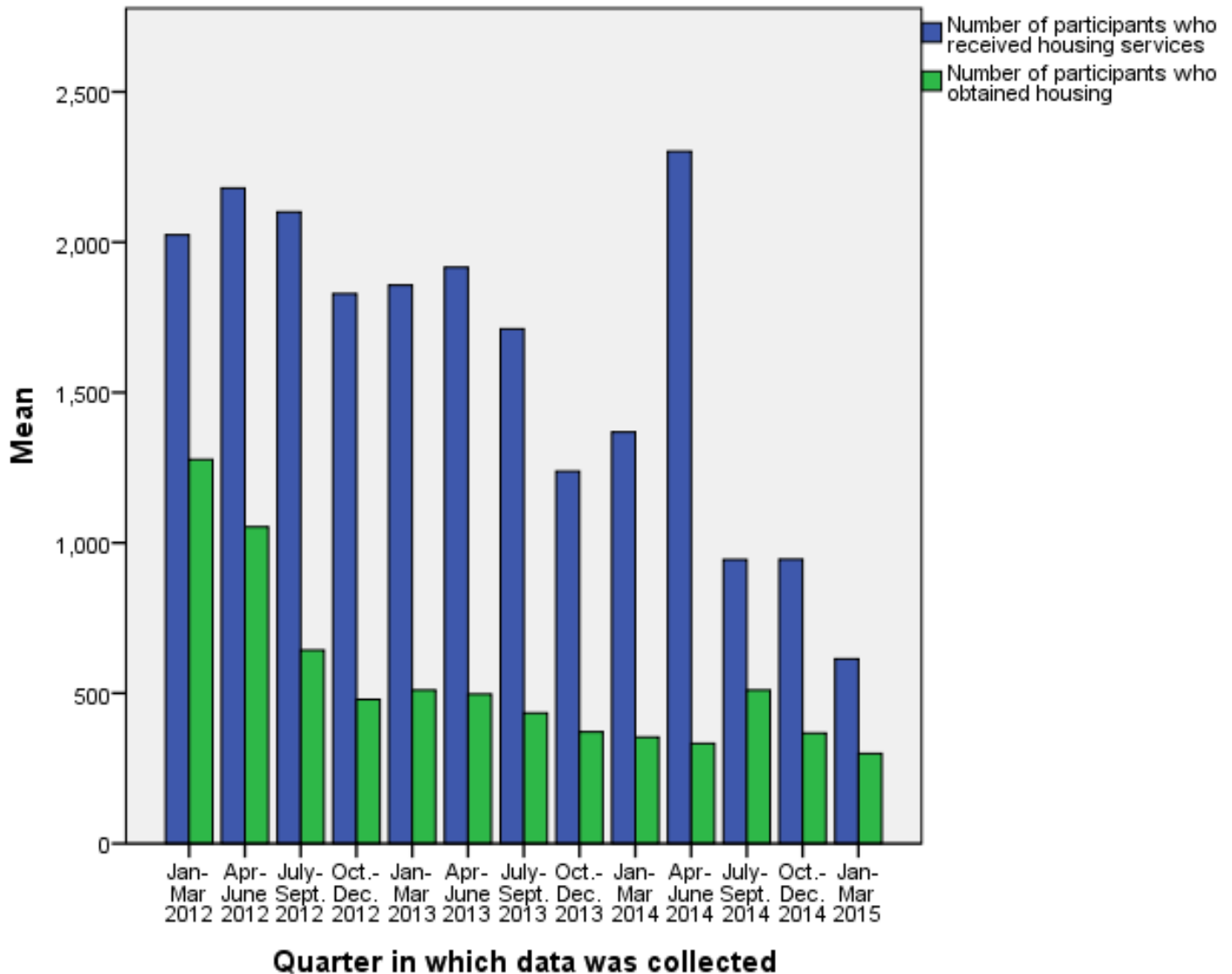
<sup>7</sup> [http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research\\_reports/RR200/RR266/RAND\\_RR266.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR200/RR266/RAND_RR266.pdf)

Between January 2012 and March 2015, 32,197 participants received educational services. Of that number, 4,486 (13.9%) participants obtained a GED or vocational certificate. The data represent both referrals and direct services.

### **Housing Services**

Upon reentry, formerly incarcerated people are immediately faced with the challenge of obtaining suitable housing. Housing services help participants and their families locate and obtain or retain stable, affordable housing.

**Figure 3. Participants who received housing services compared with participants who obtained housing.**



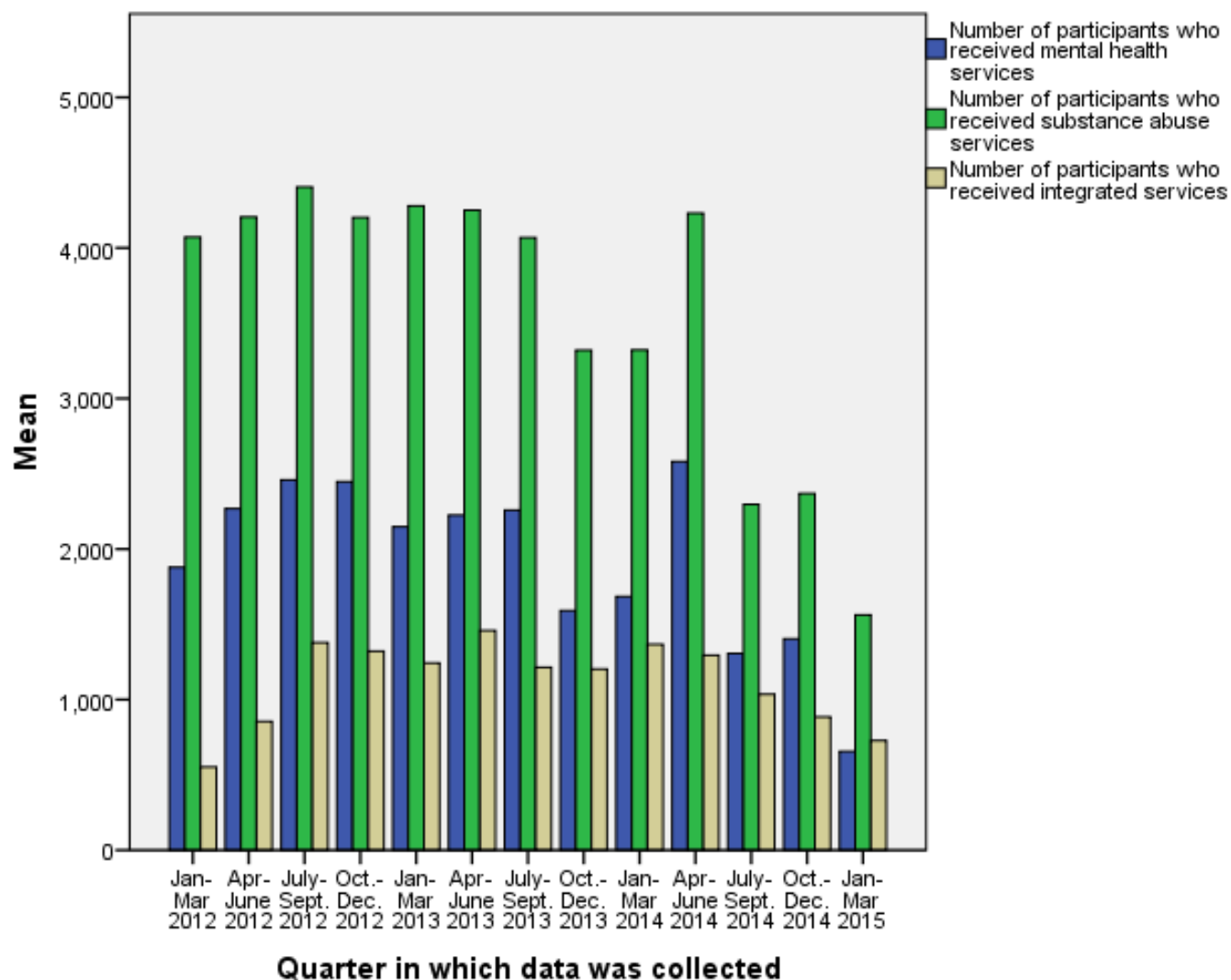
Between January 2012 and March 2015, 21,027 participants received housing services. Of that number, 7,127 (33.8%) participants obtained housing. The data represent both referrals and direct services.

### **Treatment Services for Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Co-Occurring Disorders**

Justice-involved individuals experience higher rates of substance use and mental disorders than the general population. Recipients of five of seven SCA grant awards provide mental health and substance abuse treatment services. These services are provided to achieve stabilization and to promote recovery and rehabilitation.

Recipients of grants under the Reentry Program for Adults with Co-Occurring Disorders provide integrated treatment services for the reentry population with dual diagnoses.

**Figure 4. Participants who received mental health services, substance abuse services, and integrated treatment services.**

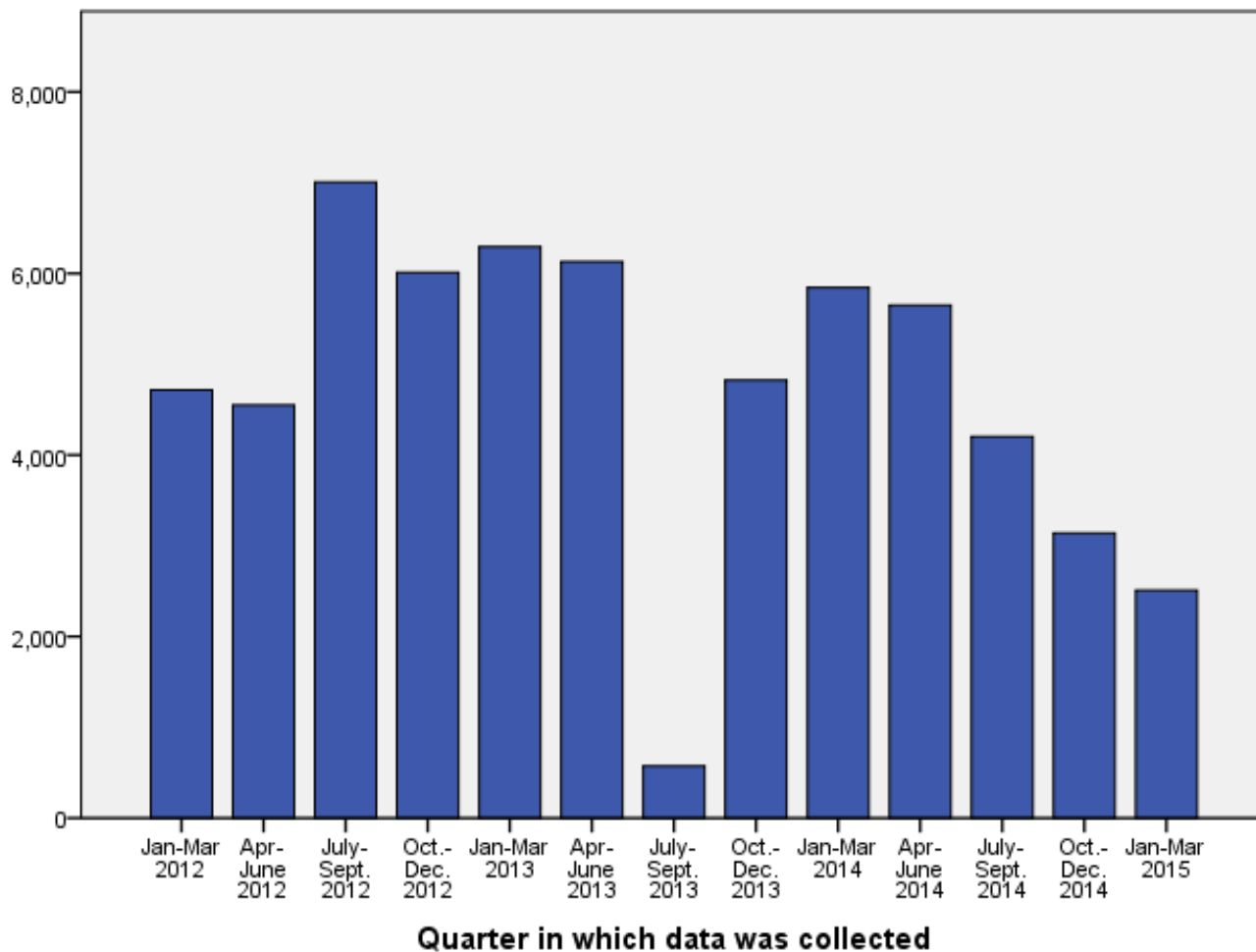


Between January 2012 and March 2015, 24,904 participants received mental health services, 46,580 participants received substance abuse services, and 14,533 participants received integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders. The data represent both referrals and direct services.

### Cognitive-Based Services

Cognitive-based services aim to address the thought patterns, feelings, and behaviors of program participants. These program services aim to help people change how they think and act, subsequently reducing their likelihood of recidivating.

**Figure 5. Participants who received cognitive-based services.**



Between January 2012 and March 2015, 61,457 participants received cognitive-based treatment services. Please note that the data represent both referrals and direct services.

**Table 3. Number of participants who received various services between January 2012 and March 2015**

Type of Service	Total Number Served
Employment Services	47,727
Obtained Employment	9,708
Educational Services	32,197
Obtained GED or Vocational Certificate	4,486
Housing Services	21,027
Obtained Housing	7,127
Mental Health Services	24,904
Substance Abuse Services	46,580
Integrated Treatment Services	14,533
Cognitive-Based Services	61,457

## Conclusion

Since 2009, SCA grant recipients have provided employment, educational, housing, mental health, substance abuse, integrated treatment, and cognitive-based services to more than 113,000 participants. These services have undoubtedly contributed substantially to the safe and successful reintegration of program participants into the community. With continued funding, SCA programs can further facilitate successful reentry while increasing public safety.