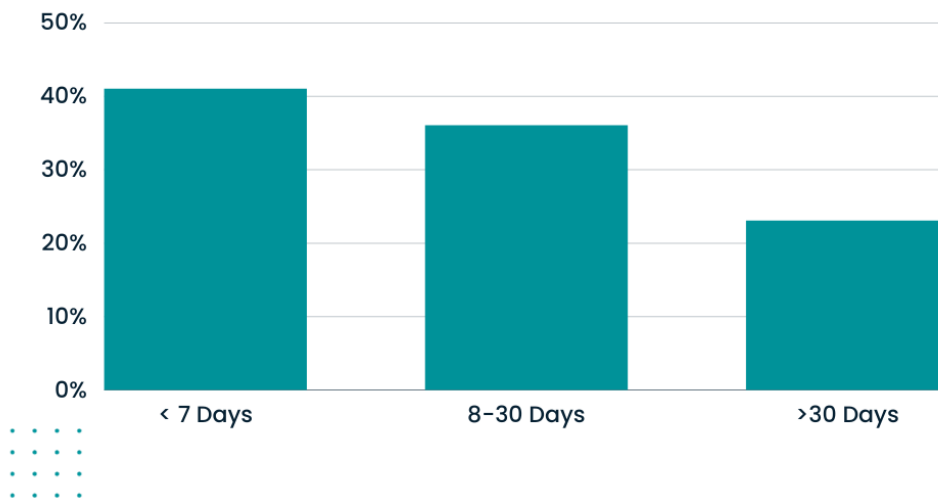




WA Peers Speak Out on Recovery System

In partnership with the WA Healthcare Authority (HCA), [United Peers of Washington](#) (UP of WA) collected input from 238 peer counselors in Washington State who serve participants seeking mental health (MH) & substance use disorder (SUD) recovery treatment and support services. Here are key findings from what they told us:

WAITING TIMES FOR MH+SUD SERVICES



Peers are consistently encountering wait lists for services for their participants, causing participants to disengage or relapse because services were not available during their “window of willingness.” Peer indicated that 36% of their participants have to wait between 7-30 days to access the services they need and another 23% have to wait longer than 30 days.

Peers indicate that the vast majority (more than 80%) of the participants they serve present with a need for both MH & SUD services. However, they report that **most providers still do not offer integrated (MH + SUD) services at one location**, meaning peers have to try to access MH services at one location and SUD services at another, creating major accessibility issues for their participants.

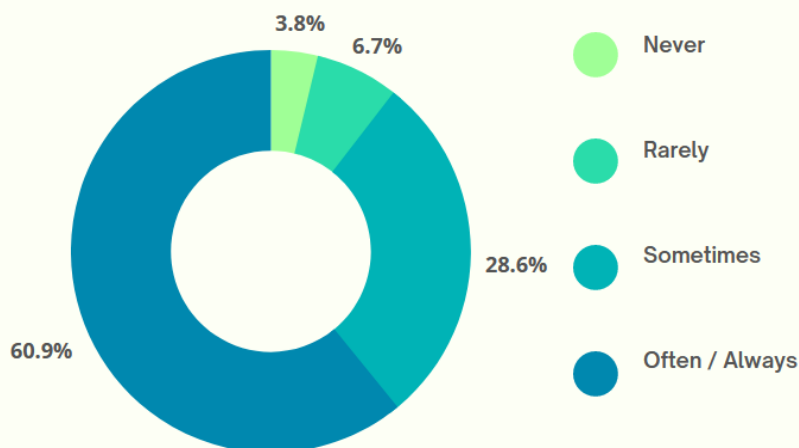
The lack of integrated services is especially concerning when peers indicate that they have seen **significantly better results for the participants accessing integrated services at one location (4.2 on a scale from 1-5)** compared to those accessing MH & SUD services at separate locations (2.8 on a scale from 1-5)

PEER EFFICACY RATINGS FOR INTEGRATED MH+SUD TREATMENT



Aside from wait lists, **transportation issues were noted as the most common barrier to accessing care and services within their participants' window of willingness.**

How Often is Transportation an Obstacle to Accessing Services?



UP of WA is working to elevate peer voices so that WA State can build a recovery treatment & support system we can all be proud of. Join us to help make recovery a reality for all!