



Commission Smarter, Not Harder: New Insights from the 2021 State of Sales Benchmarks

Sponsored by Varicent Concert



About Varicent Concert

Unlock performance and predictability through the science of comp





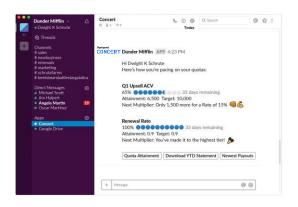








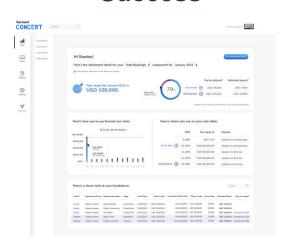
Give Real-Time Feedback



Set Smarter Targets



Build Habits for Success



Agenda

- The State of Sales Comp
- SDR / AE / CS Benchmarks
- What you can (and really should) do differently in 2022
- Questions







Since April

4M

people have quit their job **each month**

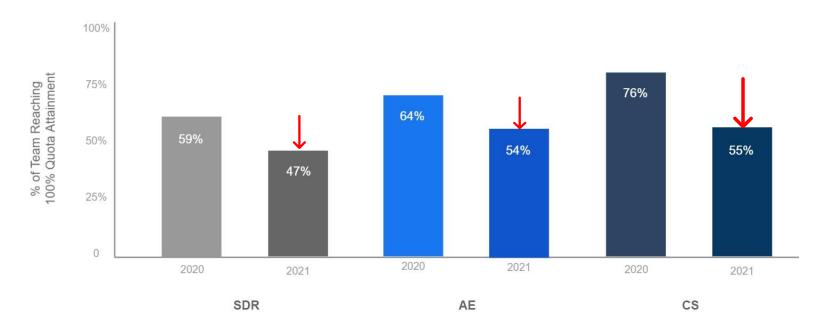
We are burned out.

What burnout looks like

- Low productivity
- Low motivation
- Hard to start tasks
- Lack of focus



Attainment (productivity) has dropped across all roles



42% of survey respondents tried to actively make their quotas more achievable

Preview of Benchmarks



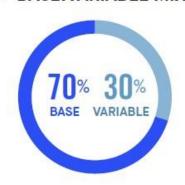
SDR/BDR Benchmarks

*** 3.24 AVERAGE PLAN SATISFACTION SCORE

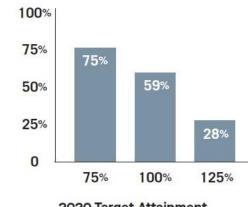




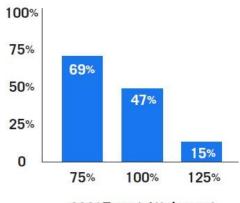
▶ BASE:VARIABLE MIX



% of SDRs Reaching This Level







2021 Target Attainment

Account Executive Benchmarks

**** 3.43 AVERAGE PLAN SATISFACTION SCORE

94%

OF PLANS QUOTA ON CLOSED WON

In addition to receiving credit for new business, many AEs receive quota credit for cross-sells

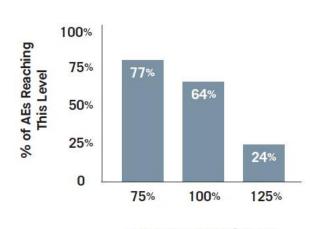
(56%) and growth (52%) from existing accounts.

7 10% OF PLANS QUOTA ON PIPELINE/PROCESS

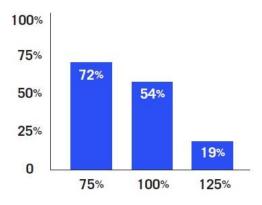
Those that comp on pipeline/process have a higher satisfaction score.







2020 Target Attainment



2021 Target Attainment

Client Service Benchmarks



74% RETENTION RATE

\$s retained

55% RENEWAL RATE

48% GROWTH

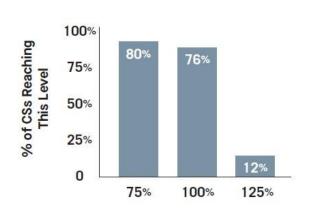
volume

Increase in usage/ Additional products

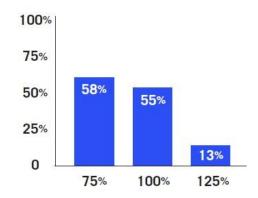
▶ BASE:VARIABLE MIX



28% of CS respondents have no variable compensation



2020 Target Attainment



2021 Target Attainment

Strategies for 2022 Comp

Comp can reduce the impact of burnout in 2 ways

Cognitive Engagement

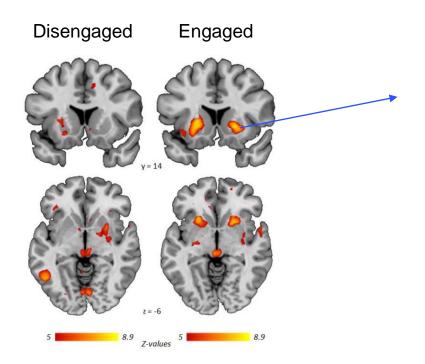


Remove Ambiguity



Smarter Quota Setting

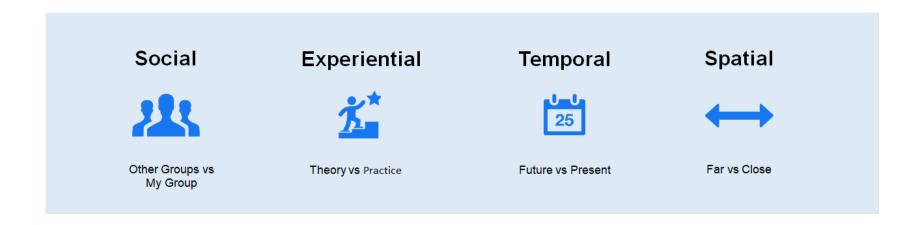
The Power of Reward Anticipation



Achievable targets cause us to release some dopamine before we even win!

This re-engages and motivates a person to move forward again.

We Perceive Difficulty of Targets through 4 Dimensions



This is called **Psychological Distance**

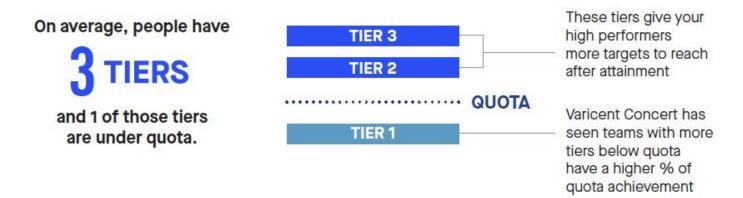
Social Distance

- When reps know that 70%+ of their team is hitting quota, targets have more meaning.
- They seem achievable!



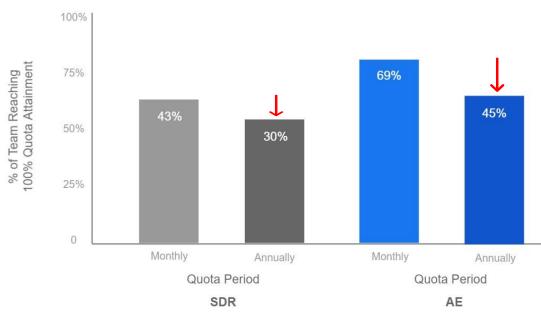
Experiential Distance

- Move targets closer and offer a progression!
- Once people reach that first milestone, they don't want to fall backward; they're looking for that next step



Temporal Distance

 Changing tactics by setting shorter time periods will ultimately help reps convert abstract goals into action.



Spatial Distance

Lower targets do not necessarily mean lower performance.

+\$1MM ARR by making the targets more achievable



Pay on Activities

This is the Blueprint to Quota

This removes any ambiguity of what needs to be done, when to hit quota

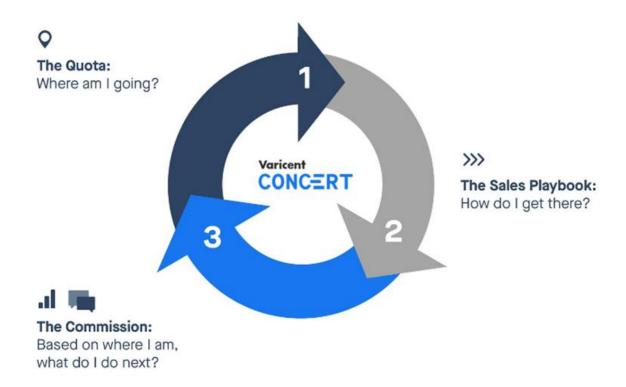
Your Blueprint to Quota			Varicent CONCERT
During this time period	You need this many deals	At this stage or later	With a total pipeline value of
March 21 - April 15	59	MQL	\$1,233,833.00
April 15 - April 25	25	SQL	\$530,548.00
April 25 - May 12	14	sqo	\$297,107.00
May 12 - June 16	10	Demo	\$216,888.00
June 16 - June 30	7	Proposal	\$164,835.00
	6	Closed Won	\$150,000.00

Pay earlier to give small wins sooner in the process





Reward Based Learning



Focused Reporting

Give Real-Time Reporting to Reps

- Reporting frequency significantly reduces ambiguity and improves focus
- The number of companies providing real-time reporting has doubled this year, so it is becoming an expectation

AE AVERAGE SATISFACTION SCORE



Stop the leaderboards!!!

- 72% of survey respondents have leaderboards for their SDRs
- 66% have their AEs on a leaderboard, too
- When burned out, competition is especially harmful to engagement and collaboration



UPenn 3 year study: employee performance increased by 11% without sales leaderboards

2022 Comp Planning Takeaways



Reward Anticipation: Targets your team can meaningfully engage in

Small Wins: Pay on activities to give a chemical jolt



Habit Formation: Remove ambiguity over what to do next



Clear Reporting: Don't have your reps guess about their next paycheck



Stop the Leaderboards (please!): Remove external, competitive stress

3rd Annual Commission Plan Benchmarks Report

Coming out next week!



© Varicent 2021

Questions?

ssanampudi@varicent.com