

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) and a Bold New Direction: Building Partnerships to Deflect Veterans from Jail

Ohio Deflection Association (ODA)

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 26, 2023

Jac Charlier
Executive Director
TASC's Center for Health & Justice
Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative (PTACC)

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*The Global Voice of
The Field of Deflection
and Pre-Arrest Diversion*



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PTACC National Deflection Summit 2023

www.ptaccollaborative.org

SAVE THE DATE!
October 3-6, 2023

PTACC 2023 National Deflection
& Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit
Denver, Colorado



Registration information coming soon. For inquiries, contact PTACC: info@ptaccollaborative.org
ptaccollaborative.org



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Learning Objectives

- Learn about the NIC Justice-Involved Veterans Network (JIVN)
- Understand the application of deflection to veterans including the unique elements of Veterans Deflection.
- Identify and evaluate resources available to support veterans in their community, including courts, housing and VA services.
- Collaborate with VJO Specialists to better identify veterans and address their unique needs.
- Develop pathways to provide support to veterans and deflect them from the criminal justice system.
- Learn about the VA SQUARES application for quickly identifying veterans.



Justice Involved Veterans Network - JIVN



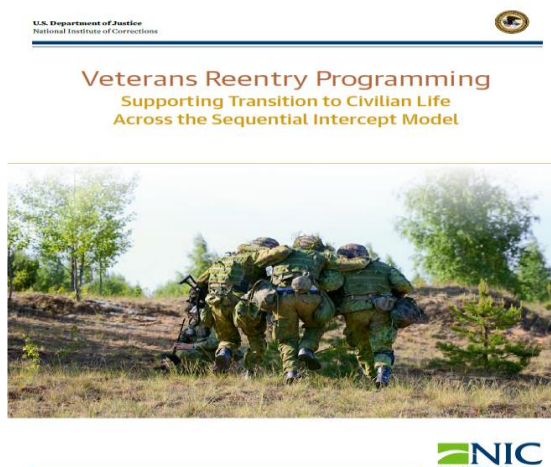
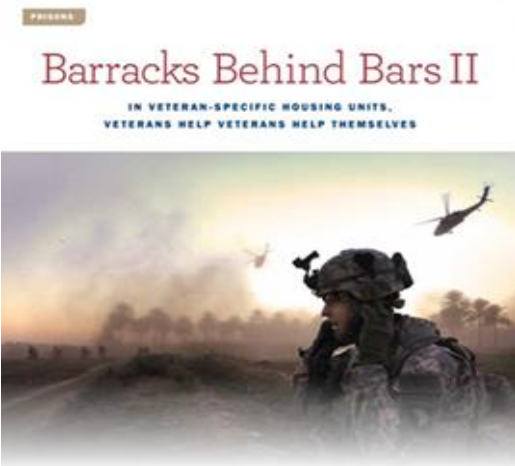
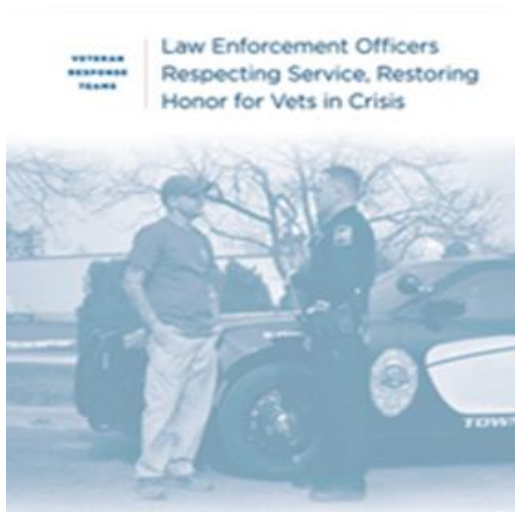
- *We are a network of community, local, state, and federal partners that identifies and develops innovative and holistic approaches to assist justice-involved veterans.*
- **Sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections**



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NIC Veterans Compendium Project



** Coming Soon **

- Veteran Intercepts in the Criminal Justice System:
- Minimizing Collateral Consequences for Veterans in the Criminal Justice System with Deflection, Diversion, and Intervention.



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Veteran Intercepts in the Criminal Justice System: Introduction and Overview of the Veteran Sequential Intercepts 0-5

National Institute of Corrections (NIC)

Justice Involved Veterans Network (JIVN) Webinar Series

November 9, 2022

<https://nicic.gov/veteran-intercepts-criminal-justice-system-webinar>

All NIC veteran-specific resources can be found here:

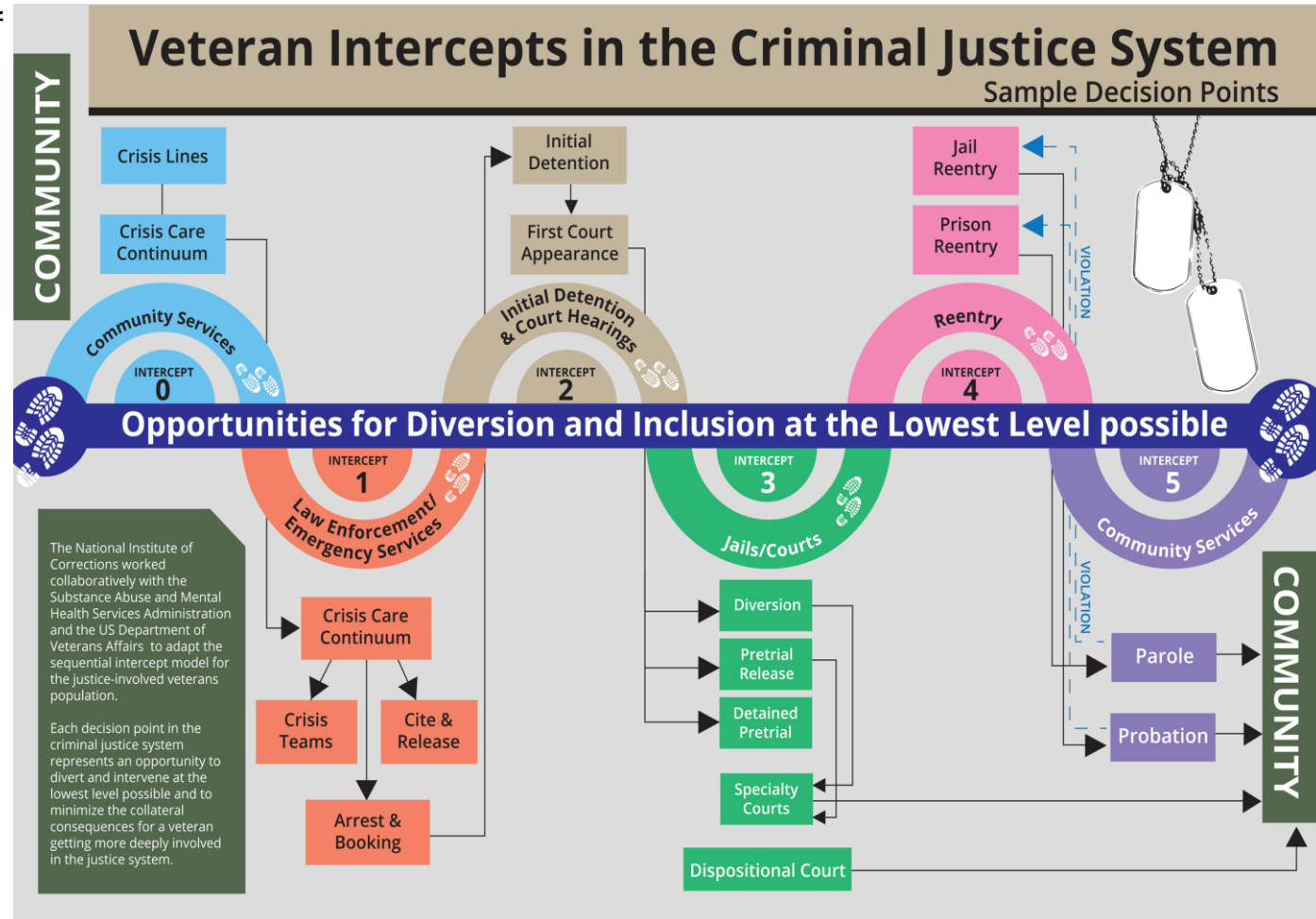
[Home | Justice Involved Veterans \(nicic.gov\)](#)

Next Veterans-SIM webinar focusing on Intercepts 0-1 will be 8 February 2023 at 1:00 p.m. EST.

Veterans Sequential Intercept Model (V-SIM)

Overview

- The National Institute of Corrections worked collaboratively with SAMSHA, the VA, and members of the Justice Involved Veterans Network to adapt the sequential intercept model to the justice-involved veteran population.
- The V-SIM delineates interventions at distinct stages of the criminal justice system.
- Highlights interventions that may be more effective at a given stage considering the needs of the veteran.



Presenter Material Used From JIVN Colleagues

- **Evan Seamone**
- Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic
- University of Florida Levin College
- eseamone@yahoo.com
- **Greg Crawford (JIVN Founder)**
- Correctional Program Specialist
- National Institute of Corrections
- gscrawford@bop.gov



DEFLECTION WHAT'S IN A NAME?



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The Easiest Way to Explain Deflection

Not Waiting for Nor Needing...

- ❖ A Crisis
 - ❖ An Overdose
 - ❖ An Arrest
 - ❖ A Situation
 - ❖ An Event
-
- ❖ Deflection is an early, upstream strategy
 - ❖ Deflection is prevention
 - ❖ Deflection is meeting people where they are in community

Language Matters!

How Deflection Differs from Diversion

Deflection (Responders)

- **Centered in the community**
- Moving away from justice system **without having entered it**
- **Behavioral health guided** with criminal justice partnerships
- *Public health* solution to better public safety – crime reduction and well being – “**balanced approach**”

Criminal Justice Diversion

- **Centered in the justice system**
- Moving *out* of justice system **after having entered it**
- **Criminal justice guided** with behavioral health partnerships
- *A wide variety* of approaches for a variety of reasons



DEFLECTION: PATHWAYS TO COMMUNITY POLICE, TREATMENT, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

3/8



VETERANS DEFLECTION: SPECIAL IMPLICATIONS



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1) Preserving Future Military Benefits

As a special application of deflection for veterans with military legal challenges subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Veterans Deflection...

...Contemplates the use of civilian resources to supplement active-duty services to deflect and divert from military discharge categories that can limit their future eligibility for benefits



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Preserving Future Military Benefits

Generally, in order to receive VA benefits and services, the Veteran's character of discharge or service must be under other than dishonorable conditions (e.g., honorable, under honorable conditions, general). By law, discharge under less than honorable conditions (Bad Conduct and Dishonorable) constitute a legal bar to the payment of VA benefits.



Potential Veterans Benefits Impacted

- VA medical and dental services
- VA home loans
- Burial in national cemeteries
- Educational benefits Montgomery or Post-9/11 GI Bill

- **Stigma** attached to having not received an Honorable Discharge

- **Stigma** can have negative consequences while searching for work or applying for school



2) Veterans Over Represent for MH and SUD

Deflect Early. Deflect Often. Using All three Prongs of Deflection

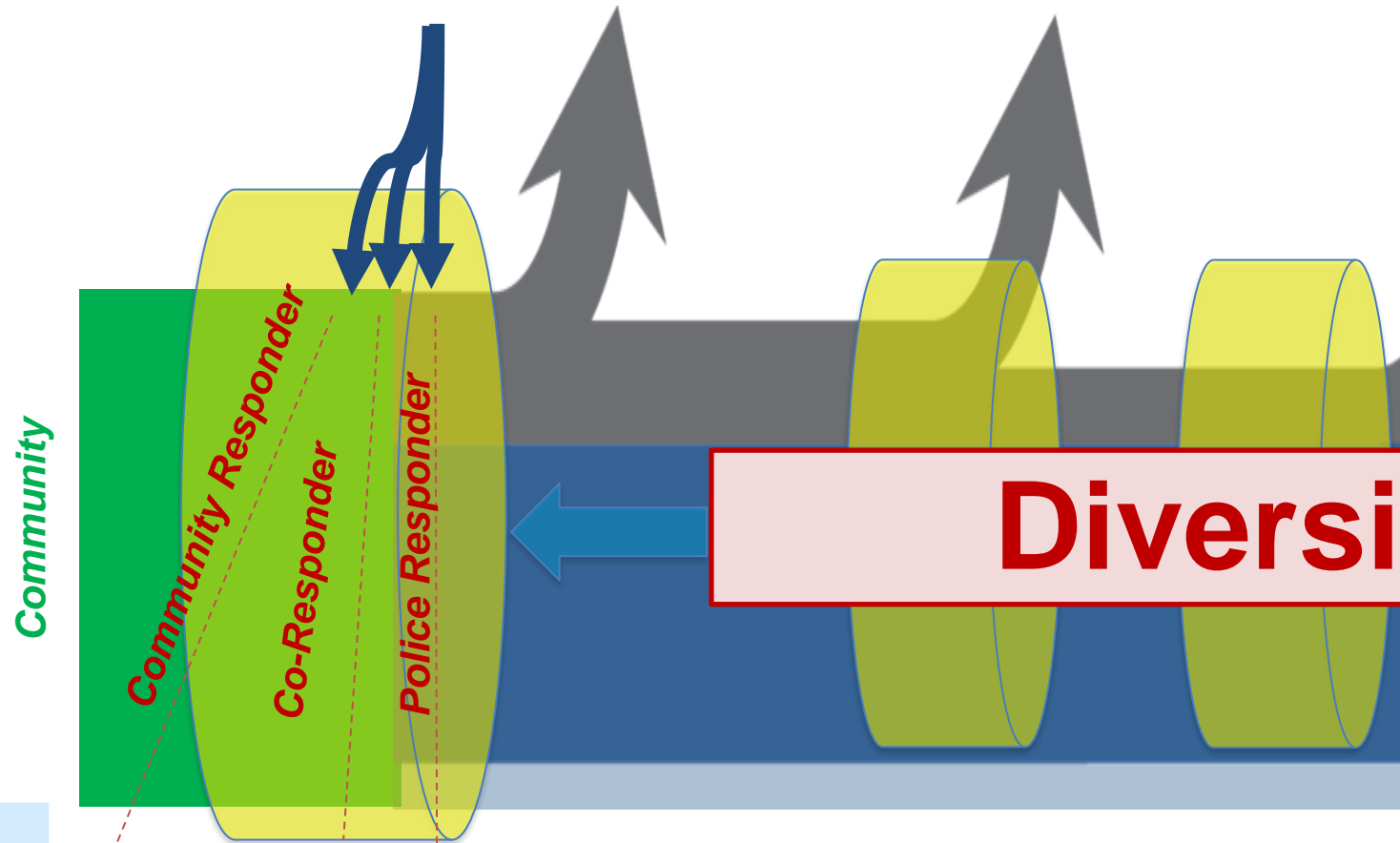
- **67% of Veterans** who connected to VHA services were diagnosed with one or more mental health disorder. – US General Pop (18%)
Top two diagnoses: Depressive disorders (44%), PTSD (39%)
- **52% of Veterans** who connected to VHA services were diagnosed with one or more substance use disorders – US General Pop (5%)
Top two diagnoses: Alcohol use disorder (39%) Cannabis use disorder 17%)

Finlay, A. K., Blue-Howells, J., Stimmel, M., Yu, M., Stewart, K. & Clark, S. (2020). Veterans Justice Program: Connecting Veterans with Veterans Health Administration Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment [Fact Sheet 2020]. Menlo Park, CA: Center for Innovation to Implementation. (Updated 07/09/2020)

The 3 Prongs of Deflection: A Systems Approach to Responders

Deflection (Responders)

- Centered in community
- Communities build the prongs needed to respond to the BH issues they face



Veterans SIM: 0-1



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Deflection Resources

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TASC's Center for Health and Justice



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Who Is PTACC? What is our Cornerstone?

- **PTACC** is the global voice of the field of deflection and pre-arrest diversion.
- **PTACC provides** vision, leadership, advocacy, and education to facilitate the growth and practice of deflection and pre-arrest diversion in all its forms—including programs that incorporate co-responder and community responder models—nationally and internationally.
- **Our Cornerstone** – PTACC does not endorse just one brand or pathway of deflection or pre-arrest diversion; each community must determine which approach meets its needs, responds to its local situation, and considers its current behavioral health capacity. The more pathways a community is able to use, the more challenges it can address.



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PTACC: Our Mission and Purpose

PTACC Mission – To strategically enhance the quantity and quality of community behavioral health and social service options through engagement in deflection and pre-arrest diversion.

PTACC Purpose - To provide vision, leadership, advocacy, and education to expand the practice of deflection and pre-arrest diversion nationally and internationally.



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National Deflection Resource Center



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Free Resources to the Field: “PTACC Suite”

- **PTACC Deflection and Pre-Arrest Presentations** – *Available to be presented by PTACC upon request*
- **PTACC Visual 5 Deflection Pathways to Treatment**
- **PTACC Core Measures of Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion**
- **PTACC 11 Guiding Principles for Behavioral Health Deflection**
- **PTACC Research Brief**
- **PTACC 3 Action Steps for Equity in Deflection**



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The first time the word deflection was introduced:

**“Want to Reduce
Drugs in Your
Community? You
Might Want to
Deflect Instead
of Arrest.”
*Police Chief
Magazine***



POLICY & REFORM



Want to Reduce Drugs in Your Community? You Might Want to Deflect Instead of Arrest

By Jac Charlier, Director of Consulting and Training, Center for Health and Justice

While on patrol, police officers routinely encounter people who have substance use disorders (SUDs). In the United States, adults who were arrested in the past year for any serious offense were four times more likely to have used an illicit drug than those who were not arrested.¹ Additional research shows that 87 percent of males tested positive for at least one illicit drug at the time of arrest and 40 percent tested positive for two or more.² Following arrest, in part or directly related to their drug use, those arrested might land in jail or prison. While it is estimated that SUDs occur in 68 percent of the jail population and 53 per-

cent of their next contact with police. We have also come to understand the harmful, unintended collateral consequences of repeated and extended contact with the justice system for those low-risk citizens who, due to their addiction, might be better treated in the community. To address this pervasive and costly situation, our citizens, our communities, and our police need solutions that call upon the resources of both the public safety and the public health systems, as well as reflect the desires and concerns of the local community; solutions that reduce crime, reduce drug use, save dollars, and seek to build a more just justice system

solution to this persistent challenge faced every day by police across the United States. The solution, known as the Montgomery County Deflection Model (the Model), is a pre-arrest deflection (diversion) model focused on the SUD populations who have a high likelihood of repeated contact with police due to their untreated addictions and the attendant criminogenic effects (i.e., those effects statistically related to criminal activity).

The Montgomery County Model brings evidence-based practices currently used in other parts of the criminal justice system to policing at the front end of the justice con-



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First Peer-reviewed Journal on Deflection:

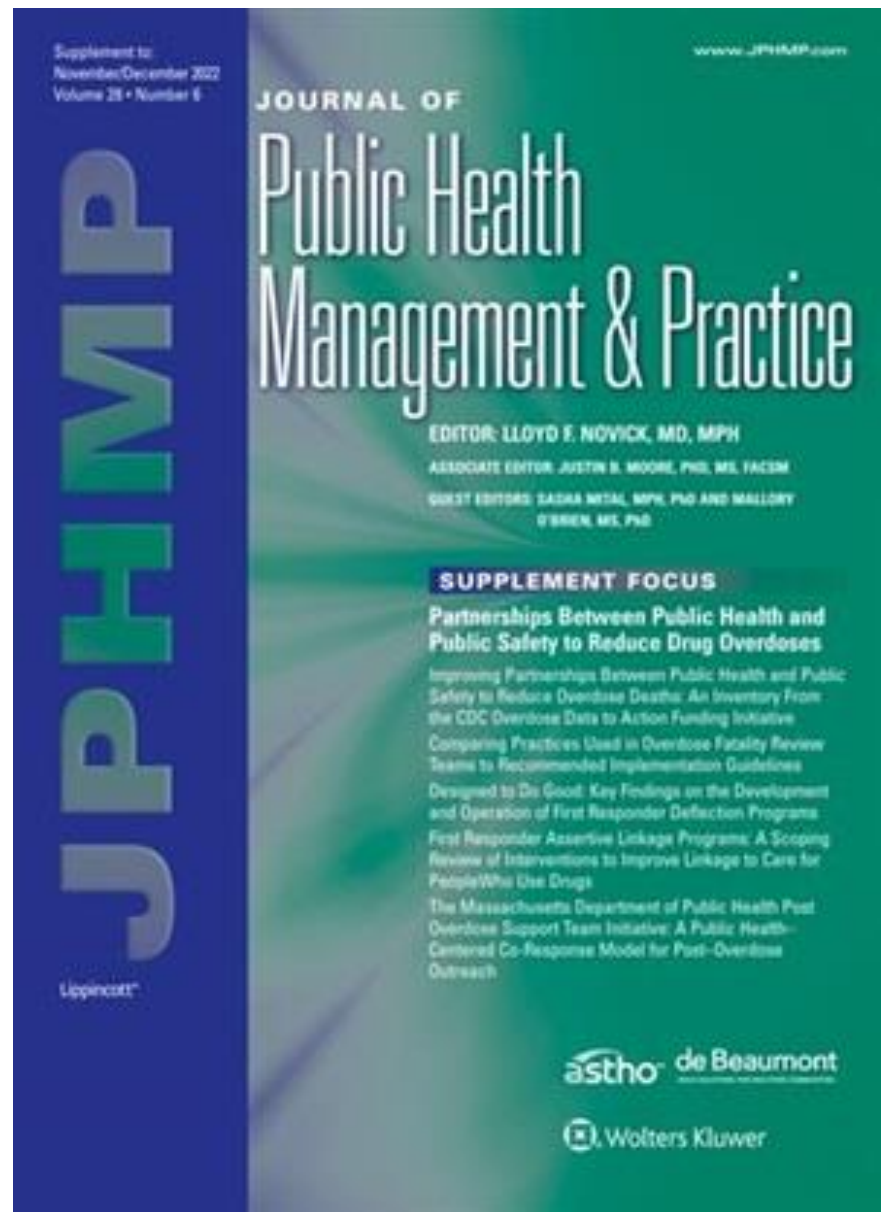
"Emerging Best Practices in Law Enforcement Deflection and Community Supervision Programs." *Journal for Advancing Justice Volume III*



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**Field-wide evaluation
on Deflection:
“Partnerships Between
Public Health and
Public Safety to Reduce
Drug Overdoses
Supplement.”**
*Journal of Public
Health Management &
Practice*



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**White House
Announces
2022 National
Drug Control
Strategy:
Principle #2
Outlines the
Role of
Deflection**

**NATIONAL DRUG
CONTROL STRATEGY**

THE WHITE HOUSE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY



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White House Announces State Model Law to Expand Programs that Deflect People with Addiction to Care

LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC POLICY ASSOCIATION

MODEL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDER DEFLECTION ACT

SEPTEMBER 2021



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United States Survey of Deflection Sites



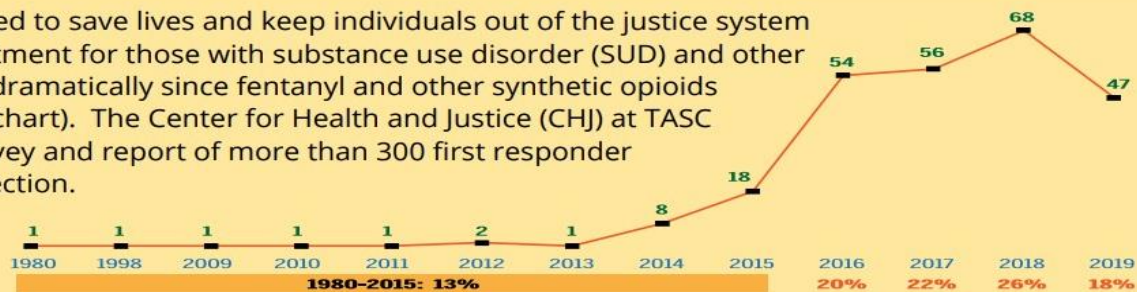
If your jurisdiction is interested in starting a deflection program, contact Ben Ekelund, Director of Consulting and Training at CHJ: bekelund@tasc.org.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SURVEY TO ASSESS First Responder Deflection Programs IN RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID CRISIS



Deflection is a strategy designed to save lives and keep individuals out of the justice system by providing pathways to treatment for those with substance use disorder (SUD) and other conditions. Its use has grown dramatically since fentanyl and other synthetic opioids became more accessible (see chart). The Center for Health and Justice (CHJ) at TASC and NORC partnered on a survey and report of more than 300 first responder agencies and their use of deflection.

% DEFLECTION PROGRAMS INITIATED BY YEAR (N=259)



KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY AND REPORT:

Characteristics of lead agency and community served by agency



Free Deflection eCourse

JCOIN

An eCourse from the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network

First Responder Deflection: A Warm Handoff to Services in the Community

JCOIN Coordination and Translation Center



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