



A co-response clinician discusses a case with a detective.

The Advocates Co-Response Program Model

ABOUT

Program Need

The Middlesex County Sheriff's Office is the largest mental health facility in Middlesex County; 42% of the population is on psychiatric medication and 51% have "open mental health cases." Police officers receive little training and access to resources to respond to calls involving these individuals.

45%

OF INMATES IN THE
COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM HAVE
A MENTAL ILLNESS

80%

HAVE A SUBSTANCE
USE CONDITION

Middlesex County Restoration Center Commission Report, 2019

Program History

Advocates launched the first Pre-Arrest Co-Responder Jail Diversion Program (JDP) in Massachusetts in 2003 at the Framingham Police Department. The model has been successfully replicated in fourteen other cities and towns across Massachusetts.

Individuals Served

Police officers across all Advocates Co-Response programs refer on average 250 individuals in need of services to the embedded clinicians per month.

The Model

The model pairs patrol officers with masters-level clinicians, who ride alongside officers on all 911 and calls for service. This Co-Response model allows for much needed de-escalation, crisis stabilization, assessment/evaluation services and cross training with police.

Arrest Diversion

Co-Response clinicians are able to facilitate arrest diversions due to their immediate presence on scene. On average, 75% of individuals presenting with criminal behavior are diverted from arrest and into appropriate treatment. Individuals who are not able to be diverted (more serious crimes/mandatory arrests) also receive support, resources, and referrals from the clinician while in police custody.

Emergency Department Diversion

Given that Co-Response clinicians are on the scene alongside police, they are able to provide rapid assessment and de-escalation. This allows for a reduction in costly and unnecessary transportation to hospital emergency departments for mental health assessment.

Funding

Advocates Co-Response Programs have been funded using a mix of local philanthropic support and grants from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH).



A co-response clinician consults with an officer on a call.

Pre-Arrest Co-Response Programs were developed to provide police with immediate access to a full-time, embedded, masters-level clinician. Here's what our police partners have to say:



The Framingham Police would not be able to fulfil its mission of keeping Framingham safe without the Jail Diversion Program... The ability to immediately divert low-level offenders away from arrest- and into treatment- benefits everybody."

CHIEF OF POLICE, Framingham Police Department



The police academy does not adequately prepare cops to respond to the mentally ill. Before the JDP, we were 'on our own out here.' In the JDP clinician, we have our own 'in-house' set of resources at our disposal."

POLICE OFFICER, Marlborough Police Department

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IMPACT

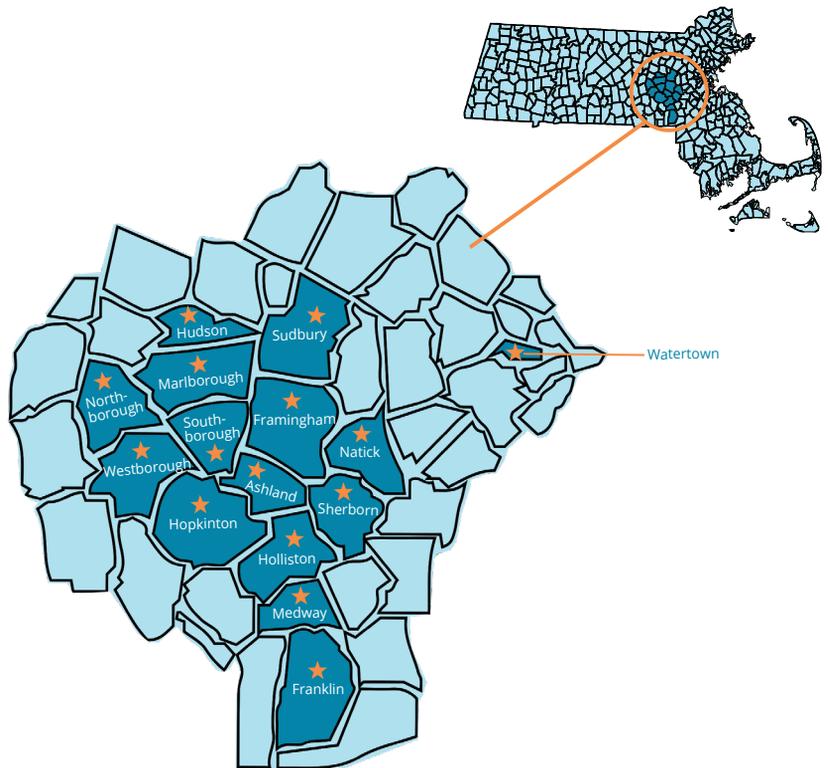
Diversions

Co-Response programs divert individuals with a behavioral health condition **74% to 88% of the time.**

Advocates Co-Response clinicians divert on average, **55 individuals per month** from unnecessary hospital emergency department visits.

Co-Response Partner Communities

Framingham, Marlborough, Watertown, Ashland, Sherborn, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Sudbury, Franklin, Medway, Natick, Westborough, Northborough, and Southborough



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