



# FRANKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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<https://www.franklinma.gov/police-department>

## **Franklin Police Department Co-Response Program**

### **2024 Annual Report**

The Franklin Police Department Co-Response Program was initially launched by a third-party behavioral health agency contracted through the Department of Mental Health in November 2018. The program began as a regional Jail Diversion Program, partnering the Franklin Police Department with The Medway Police Department. The objective of the program was to provide on-scene crisis de-escalation, immediate support to those in need, and mental health and substance use evaluations. The intended outcome of this initiative was to keep people in the community with appropriate resources and supports in place, diverting them from unnecessary arrest or hospitalization.

The regional program experienced great success for five years. However, the needs of the Franklin Police Department and the Town of Franklin grew exponentially during that time. In July of 2023, Chief Lynch and The Franklin Police Department pursued continued grant funding through the Department of Mental Health and launched their own Co-Response Program independent of a third-party agency. The program continues to pair mental health clinicians with police to best suit the needs of the community. The FPD Co-Response Program currently operates with a Co-Response Program Manager who oversees the program and co-responds to calls for mental health, substance use, and crisis. Additionally, with funds granted through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Co-Response Program has been able to add two additional full-time clinicians. The second clinician started in November 2023, and the third in April 2024.

The goal remains: to keep people in the community with appropriate support. The renewed Co-Response program works alongside other town providers as part of a crisis action team to provide a holistic approach to mental health, substance use, and crisis needs for the Town of Franklin.

### **Co-Response Interventions**

Co-response interventions include on-scene responses by clinicians and police officers to calls for service involving individuals in crisis. In addition to on-scene interventions, clinicians also complete non-traditional or follow-ups. In 2024, **837** individuals were referred to the Franklin Police Co-Response Program clinicians.

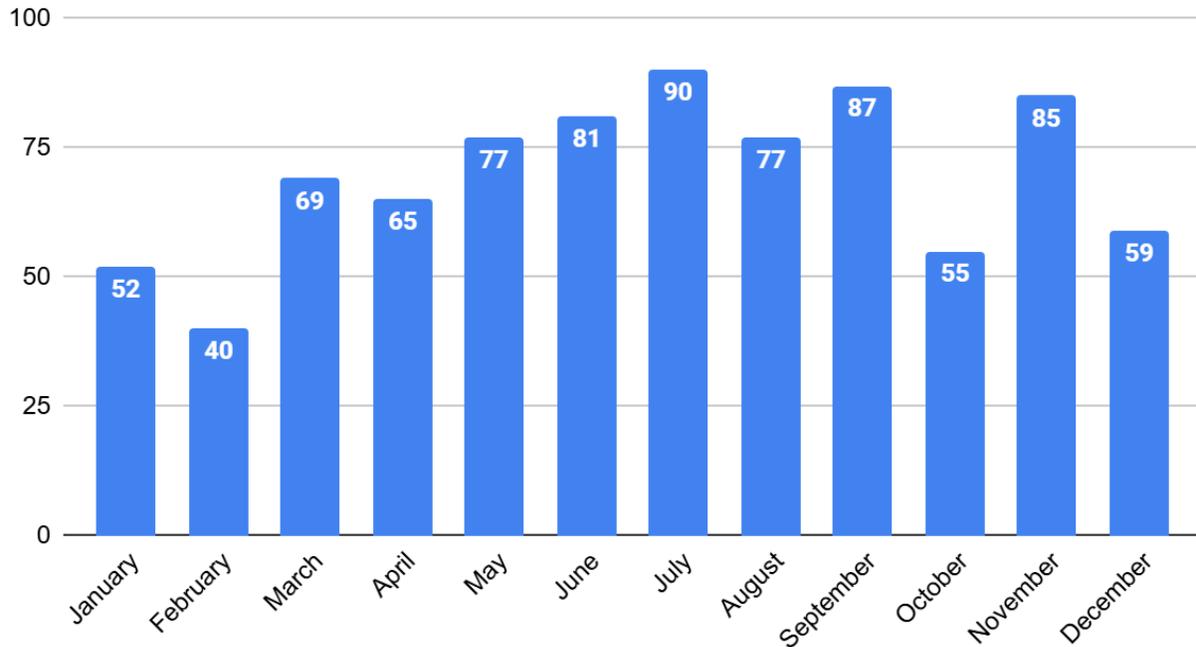


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## 2024 Co-Response Interventions



### Diversions from Arrest

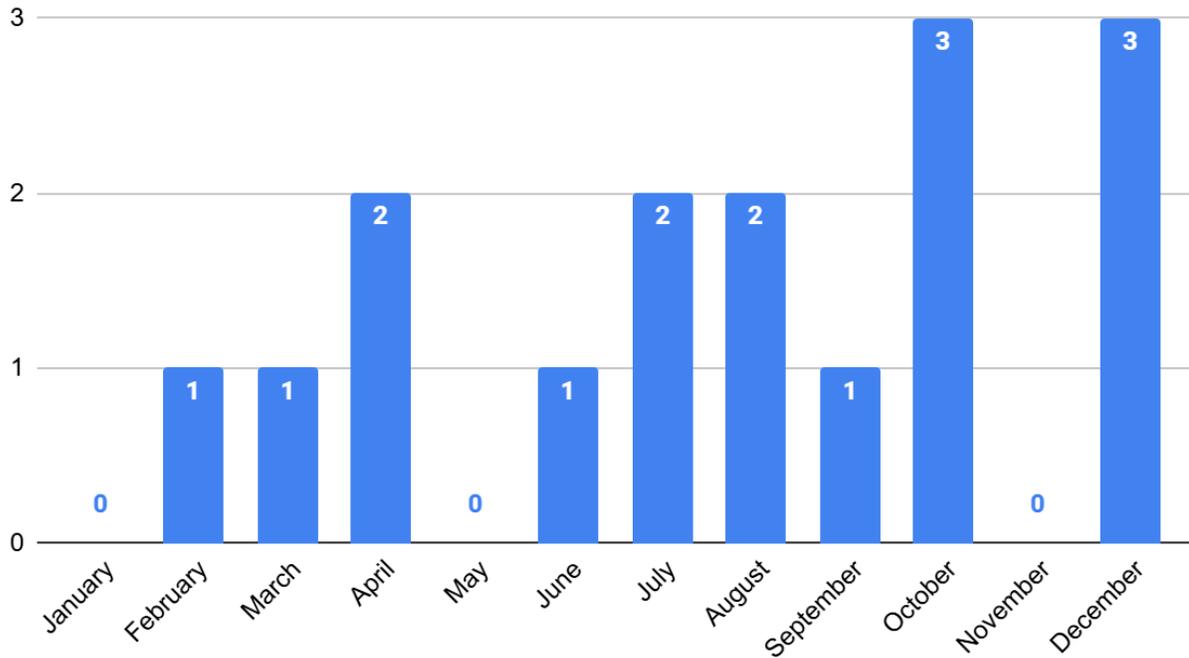
One of the objectives of the Franklin Police Co-Response Program is to divert individuals involved in low-level crimes away from the criminal justice system and into more appropriate mental health or substance use treatment. During the year 2024, a total of **16** individuals with mental health, behavioral health, or substance use challenges that were encountered by the Co-Response clinicians and Franklin Police Officers were diverted from arrest and referred to treatment. There was a **80%** diversion rate for individuals who were eligible for arrest diversion.



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## 2024 Arrest Diversions



Each arrest is associated with cost savings. The cost savings are an additional benefit of diverting individuals from arrest. This quarter's arrest diversions amount to an estimated cost savings to the criminal justice system of, **\$114,704\*** (\$7,169 per arrest diversion).

### Diversions from the Emergency Department

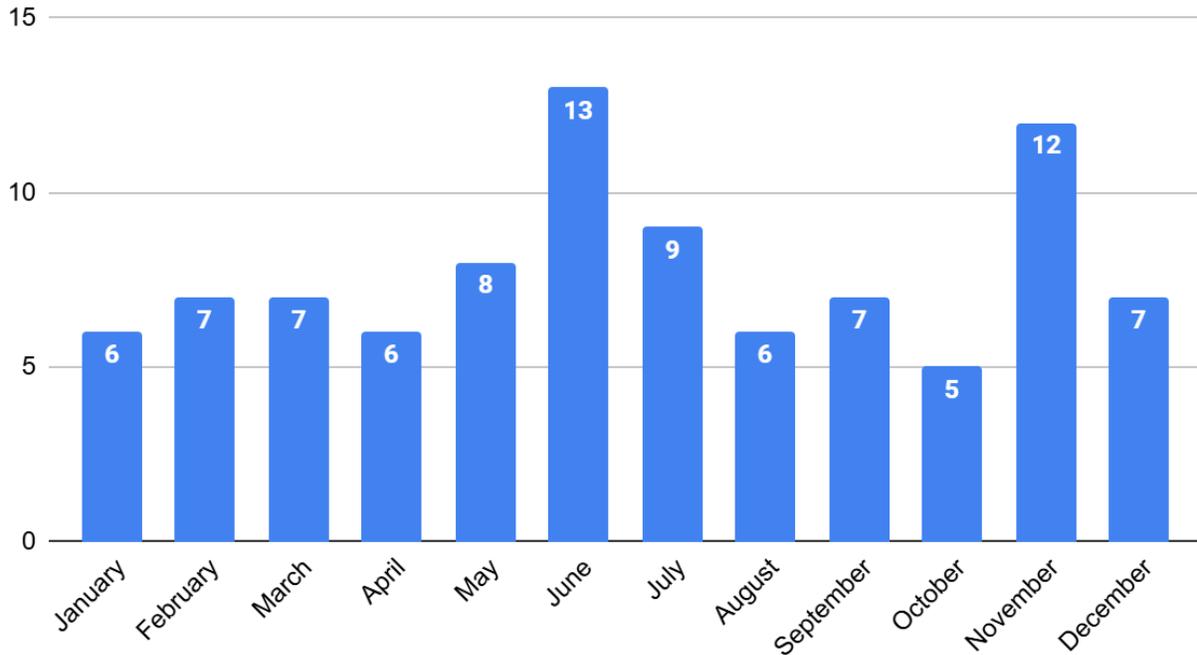
An additional objective of the Franklin Police Co-Response Program is to divert individuals with mental health, behavioral health, or substance use challenges away from unnecessary hospital emergency department (ED) presentations, and into community-based treatment. Throughout 2024, a total of **93** individuals were diverted from unnecessary ED visits.



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## 2024 ED Diversions



Each ED diversion is also associated with cost savings. The cost savings are an additional benefit of diverting individuals from the hospital. This quarter's ED diversions amount to an estimated cost savings to the healthcare system of **\$203,484\*** (\$2,188 per ED diversion).

The estimated cost savings due to arrest and emergency department diversions for 2024 is **\$318,188\***.

Report submitted by: Kallie Montagano | Co-Response Program Manager | Franklin Police Department

\**Jail and arrest diversion grant program - mass.gov. mass.gov. (2024, February).*

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy-2023-jdp-annual-report/download>