



FRANKLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Franklin Police Department Co-Response Program

2023 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 of 2018. The program began as a regional Jail Diversion Program, partnering the Franklin Police Department and 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) to FPD's Co-Response Program, a second full-time clinician was added. The second clinician started in November, 2023. The goal remains the same, to keep people in the community with appropriate supports. The program has continued plans to expand by adding an additional third co-response clinician, that will provide a holistic approach to mental health, substance use, and crisis needs for the Town of Franklin.

It should be noted that the Franklin Police Department's Co-Response Program's 2023 Annual Report is a summary of Co-Response interventions, Jail diversions, and ED diversions from the program's inception as a town-managed program, which began in July, 2023. Therefore, 2023's annual report includes data from July, 2023 through December, 2023.

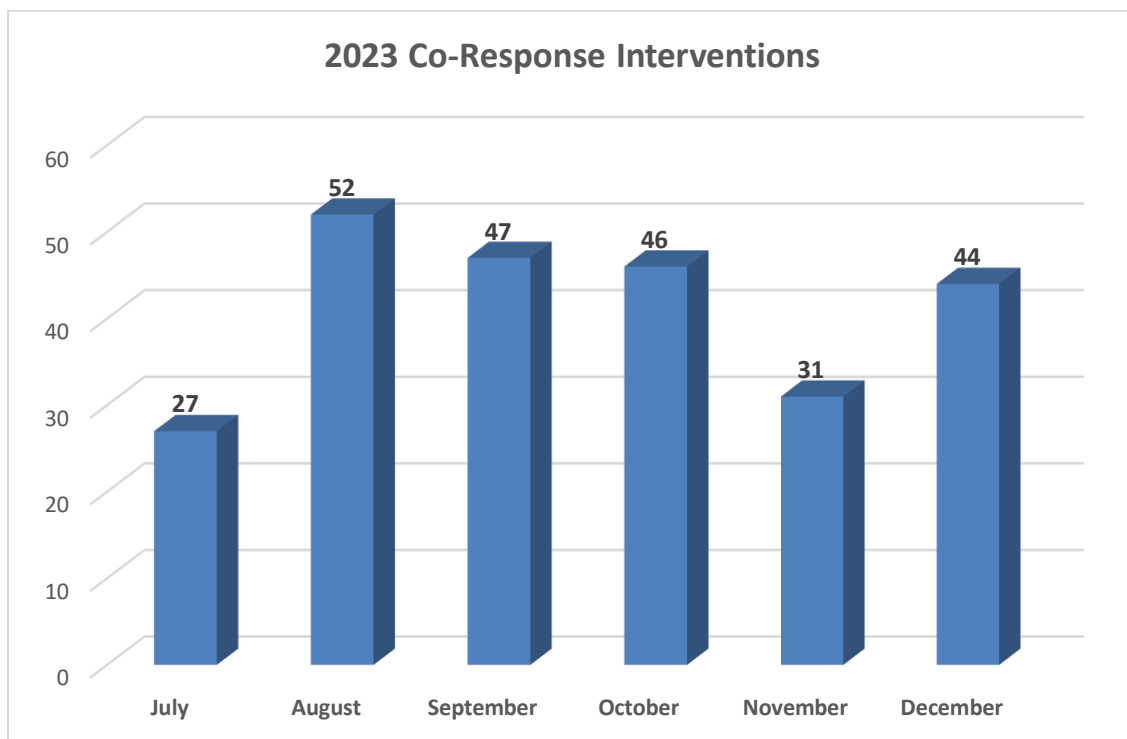


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Co-Response Interventions

Included in Co-Response interventions, are on-scene responses by clinicians and police officers responding to calls for service involving individuals in crisis. In addition to on-scene interventions, are non-traditional, or follow-ups, completed by the clinicians. In 2023, a total of **247** individuals were referred to the Franklin Police Co-Response Program clinicians.



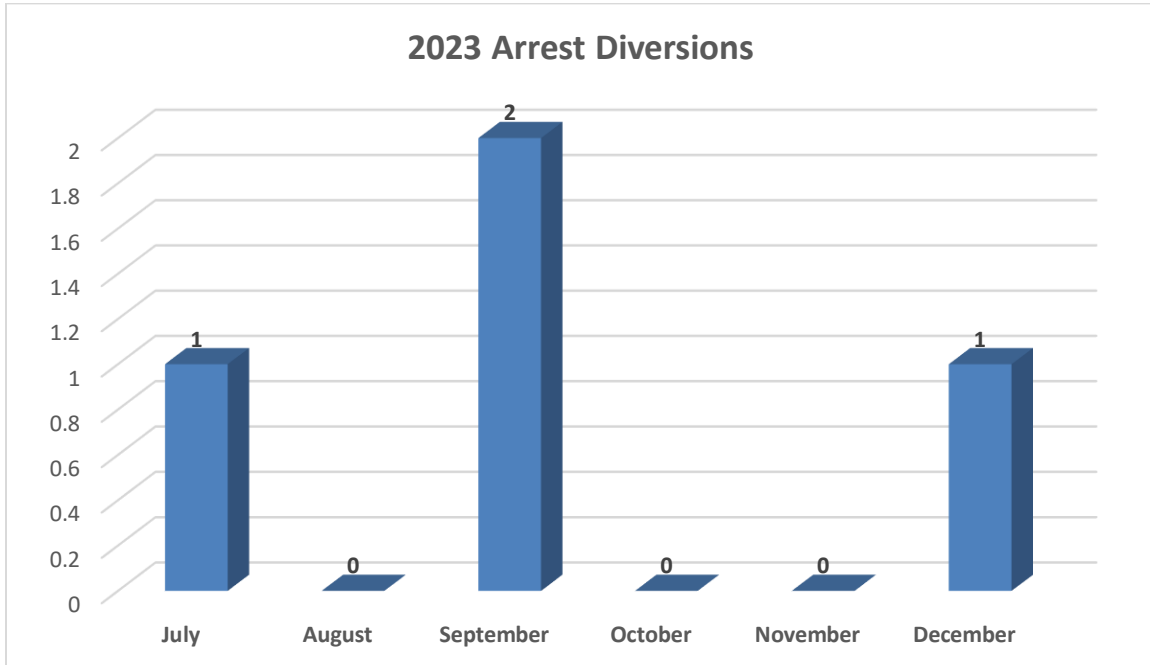
Diversions from Arrest

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 of 2023, a total of **4** 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 **66.67%** diversion rate for individuals who were eligible for arrest diversion.



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Each arrest is associated with a cost savings. The cost savings is 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, **\$11,960*** (\$2,990 per arrest diversion).

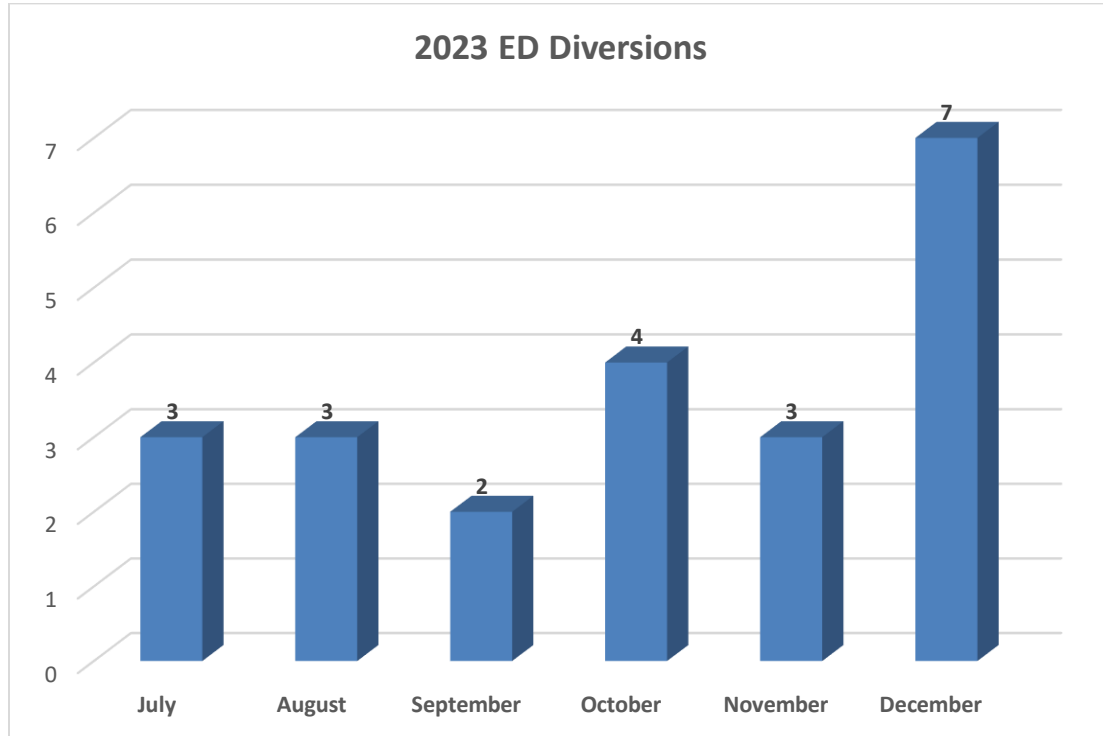
Diversions from the Emergency Department

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 2023, a total of **22** individuals were diverted from unnecessary ED visits.



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Each ED diversion is also associated with a cost savings. The cost savings is 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, **\$59,400*** (\$2,700 per ED diversion).

Collectively, the estimated cost savings due to arrest and emergency department diversions for 2023 equals **\$71,360***.

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

**Jail and arrest diversion grant program - mass.gov. mass.gov. (2022, February).*

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy2021-jail-and-arrest-diversion-program-annual-report/download>