



**Police-Initiated Diversions to Services in an Urban Environment: The City of Philadelphia's Police-Assisted Diversion (PAD) Program**

# Jail Population Reduction

Since July 2015, the local jail population has decreased by 41%.

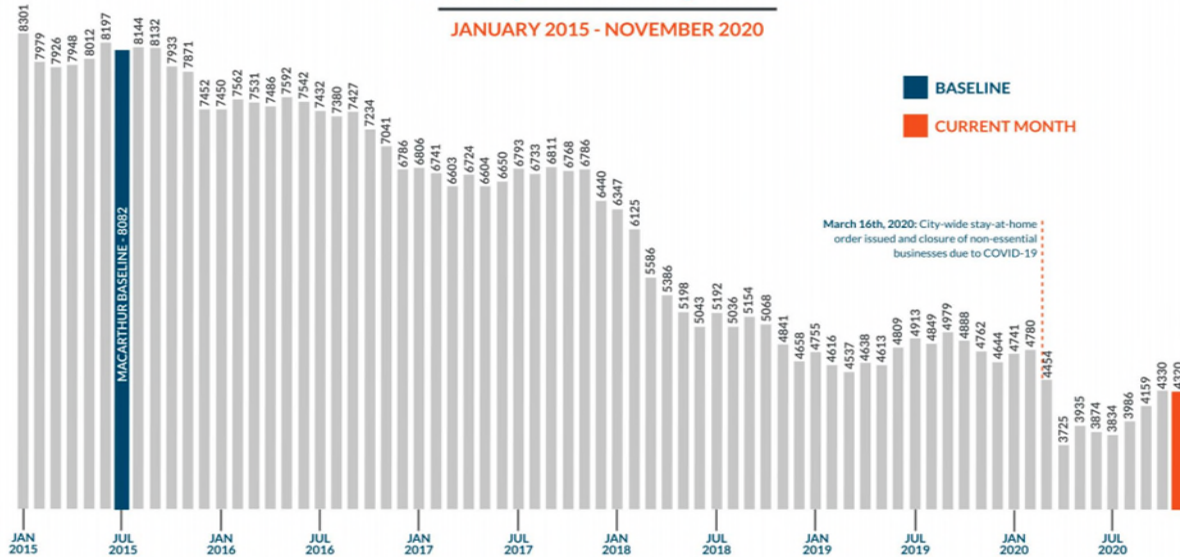


First Judicial of Pennsylvania  
Department of Research and Development



## Philadelphia Jail Population

JANUARY 2015 - NOVEMBER 2020



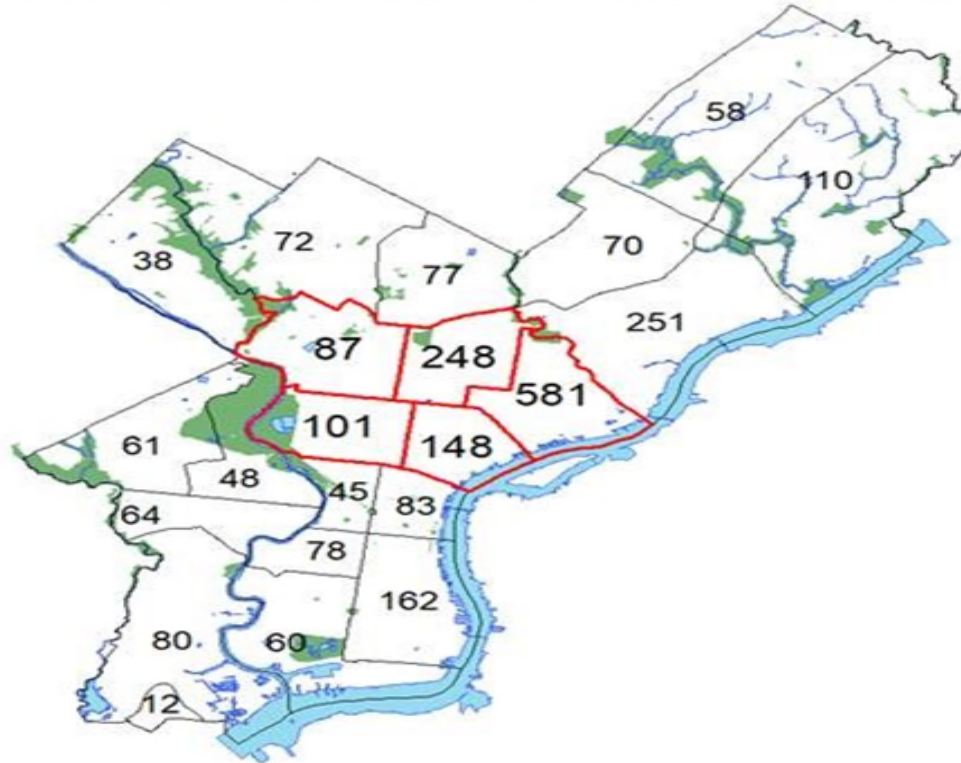
Note: Due to scaling issues in previous reports this graph was redesigned in January, 2020, and all archival reports were updated.

- Closure of the House of Correction in April 2018

- Target jail population reduction of 50% achieved in April 2020, but has since rebounded

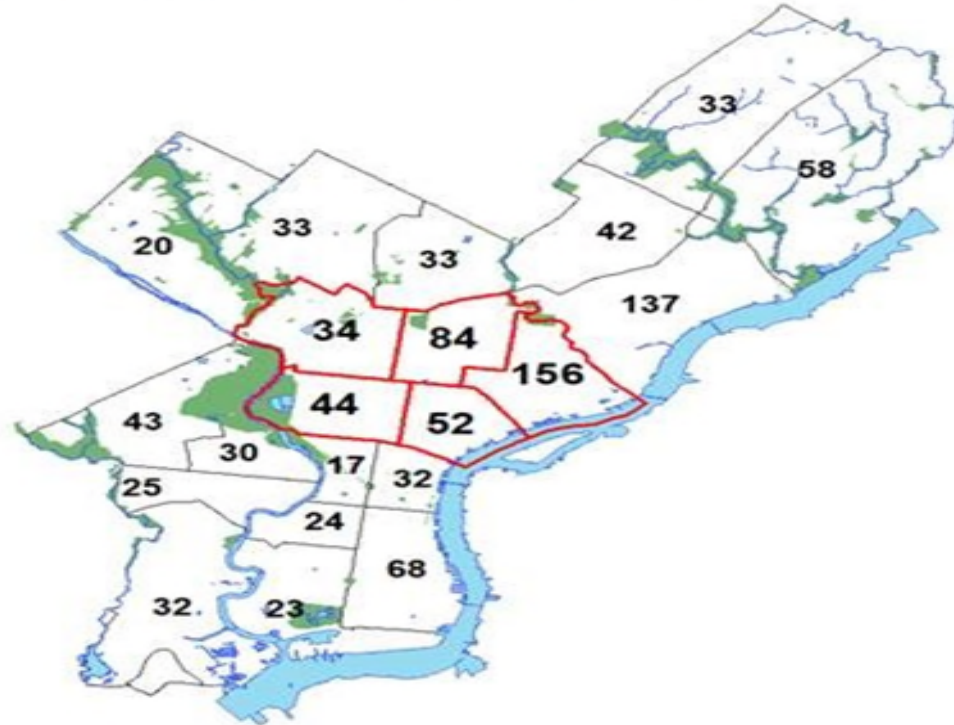
# Case for Intervention: Opioid Crisis

Counts of nonfatal overdoses by police district, Philadelphia, 2018



# Case for Intervention: Opioid Crisis

Counts of fatal overdoses by police district, Philadelphia, 2018



# Description of the Process

Police-Assisted Diversion is the earliest opportunity for diversion away from the criminal justice system and into services (law enforcement contact) for individuals with complex unmet health needs.

## Three Diversion Pathways:

1. Arrest Referral- Diversion at the point of arrest for retail theft, prostitution, and the unlawful possession or purchasing of Narcotics
2. Social Referral- Warm handoff by law enforcement to service provider during mere encounters with the police where there is no reasonable suspicion or probable cause for an arrest
3. Co-Responding Referrals- Active engagement by tandem behavioral health and law enforcement teams in designated areas or responding to quality of life calls for service

# Description of the Process (Cont'd)

- Upon encountering an individual, Police conduct eligibility checks
- If eligible, person is directly connected to behavioral health professionals who conduct an initial screening, designate a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS), and provide immediate supports
- Formal intake and goal setting/recovery planning is completed at the follow-up appointment
- Individuals have access to case management and peer support for as long as they are willing to accept help



# Partners

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MDO  
PPD  
DBHIDS  
DAO  
Defender Association  
Temple Police  
First Judicial District  
Service Providers:

- Pro-Act
- Prevention Point
- Salvation Army
- Merakey



# Current Operations

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**PAD North (22<sup>ND</sup> & 39<sup>TH</sup>)**

**PAD East (Narcotics  
Strikeforce + 24-26<sup>TH</sup>)**

**PAD VICE (Citywide)**

## **PAD NORTH:**

Operating Hours: 8AM-12AM, M-F

Police Site: 22<sup>nd</sup> Police District

Service Site (Pro-Act): Philadelphia Recovery Community Center (1701 W Lehigh Ave)

## **PAD EAST:**

Operating Hours: 8AM-12AM, M-F

Police Site- East Police Division

Service Site (Prevention Point): 707-711 E Allegheny Avenue

Co-Responder Site (Merakey): Mobile Teams with touchdown space at 711 E. Allegheny Avenue

## **PAD VICE:**

Operating Hours: 8AM-12AM, M-F

Police Site: 1341 N. Delaware Avenue

Service Site (Salvation Army): 707-711 E Allegheny Avenue  
(Lease held by Prevention Point)



# Current Staffing Structure

Site	Staff
PAD General Operations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MDO: Deputy Director of Diversion and Deflection</li><li>2. MDO: PAD Operations Manager</li></ol>
PAD North	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MDO: Assistant Program Manager for PAD North</li><li>2. Pro-Act: Service Coordinators (2)</li><li>3. Pro-Act: Certified Recovery Specialist (5)</li></ol>
PAD East	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MDO: Assistant Program Manager for PAD East</li><li>2. PPD: PAD Police Officers (4 detailed, in-kind)</li><li>3. Prevention Point: Service Coordinator (1)</li><li>4. Prevention Point: Case Manager (3)</li><li>5. Prevention Point: Certified Recovery Specialist (6)</li><li>6. Merakey: Engagement Specialist (2)</li><li>7. Merakey: Certified recovery Specialist (2)</li><li>8. Merakey: Case Manager (1)</li></ol>
PAD Vice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Salvation Army: Service Coordinator (1)</li><li>2. Salvation Army: Victim Advocate (1)</li><li>3. Salvation Army: Certified Recovery Specialist (2)</li></ol>

# Funding Streams

1. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge

2. City General Fund

3. PCCD (Program Evaluation)

4. CDC

5. Bloomberg Philanthropies

6. DDAP

7. Medicaid Reimbursement

# Program Outcomes

Site	Referrals	Demographics (since December 2017)	Outcomes (since 2017)
Program Totals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,273 total referrals</li> <li>245 arrest referrals deemed ineligible (9.2%)</li> </ul>		
PAD North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>245 total referrals (68 social referrals, 177 arrest referrals)</li> <li>42 arrest referrals were deemed ineligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66% Male, 34% Female</li> <li>87% Black, 9% White, 4% Latinx</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8% re-arrest rate</li> <li>50% engagement rate</li> </ul>
PAD East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,594 total referrals (698 social referrals, 500 co-responder referrals, 396 arrest referrals).</li> <li>114 arrest referrals were deemed ineligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% Male, 40% Female</li> <li>54% White, 31 Black, 15% Latinx</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9% re-arrest rate</li> <li>66% engagement rate</li> </ul>
PAD VICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>221 total referrals (221 arrest referrals)</li> <li>72 arrest referrals deemed ineligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>99% Female, 1% Transgender</li> <li>60% White, 25% Black, 15% Latinx</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11% re-arrest rate</li> <li>55% engagement rate</li> </ul>
PAD Strikeforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>213 total arrest referrals</li> <li>17 arrests were deemed ineligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>78% male, 22% female</li> <li>52% white, 35% Black, 13% Latinx</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5% re-arrest rate</li> <li>60% engagement rate</li> </ul>

# Benefits

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## Patrol Time Saved

- Typical Processing Time: 90 Minutes
- Diversion Processing Time: 30 Minutes

## Reduced Case Processing

- Reduced Detective Time
- Reduced District Attorney & Public Defender Time
- Court Time
- Reduced Transportation Time for Police
- Reduce Admission to Jail

## Early Service Intervention

- Creating pathways to services prior to formal criminal justice involvement
- Connecting people with acute service needs to care who would not otherwise access City services
- Making peer support services available in neighborhoods with greatest need

## Improve Police-Community Relations

- Improved trust in police
- Increased cooperation between police and community
- Increased rate at which individuals reach out to police for help with unmet health needs

# Concerns

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## Eligibility

- Low-level warrants

## Scaling

- Consistency of intervention across the City and at the border of the pilot zone specifically
- Integration into Police Academy and CIT Training
- 24/7/365 Availability

## Quality of Service Provision

- Communication between law enforcement and service providers
- Adequate resources to help people in the way they are asking
- Consistency of quality of service providers across police districts

# Future Planning

## Triage Desk/CIRT Teams

- Based on model currently utilized by LAPD and HPD
- BH Professionals in 911 Call Center
- Co-Responding Teams in the field with Peer-based follow up teams attached

## Targeted Scaling

- Diversion screenings from police headquarters
- Adding Police Divisions until operational Citywide
- Diversion Training component to Police Academy

## Increasing Service Capacity

- Growing the network of service providers connected to the work
- RFP
- Addressing space and transportation concerns
- Embedding medical professionals at service sites



# Contact Information

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**Questions/Comments?**