

Deflection: A New Word, A New Practice, A New Opportunity for Communities to be Safer and Healthier

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Chicago Police Board
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DEFLECTION IS... A COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVE

**Police / Fire /
EMS**

**Treatment,
Housing,
Services, and
Recovery**

**Starts With
and
Grounded in
Community**

**THAT CREATES A USEFUL FRAMEWORK
FOR RESPONDING TO OTHER ISSUES**



Deflection Responses to Behavioral Health Challenges are *Centered in the Community*

Deflection – Creating Pathways to Treatment, Services, and Recovery

- *An early, “upstream” approach* - Deflection is prevention:
- *Moving away from justice system* without having entered it
- *Behavioral health guided* with criminal justice partnerships alongside
- *Crime reduction and well being both* - Better public safety and public health
- *Reduces the “Social Burden”* placed on the police



Variety of Terms for the Practice of Deflection

- First Responder (FR) Diversion
- Deflection
- Pre-arrest diversion (PAD)
- Pre-booking diversion
- Law enforcement assisted diversion
- Alternatives to Arrest (A2A)
- Co-responder
- Community-responder
- Mobile Crisis Teams
- Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)
- Crisis/Triage centers

*****Not Waiting for the Crisis*****

Whatever It's Called: Third Way for Police/FR
1) Arrest 2) Take No Action 3) Deflect



Deflection: Where to Find Us

Suburban Cook County

- Harvey
- Justice
- Schiller Park
- Dixmoor*
- Chicago Heights*

Southern IL Counties

- Randolph
- Washington
- Alexander
- Jefferson
- Franklin
- Hardin
- Pulaski
- Massac
- Williamson*
- Jackson*
- Johnson*

Central IL Counties

- Calhoun
- Green
- Jersey
- Macoupin
- Madison
- Monroe
- Montgomery
- St. Clair



How to Bring Deflection to Your Community

- **Meet** with community stakeholders
- **Connect** with TASC's Center for Health & Justice
 - Jac Charlier, Executive Director
 - jcharlier@tasc.org
- **Connect** with TASC's Deflection Division
 - Nicole Munoz, Director
 - nmunoz@tasc.org
- **Take** Action!



United States Survey of Deflection

Site



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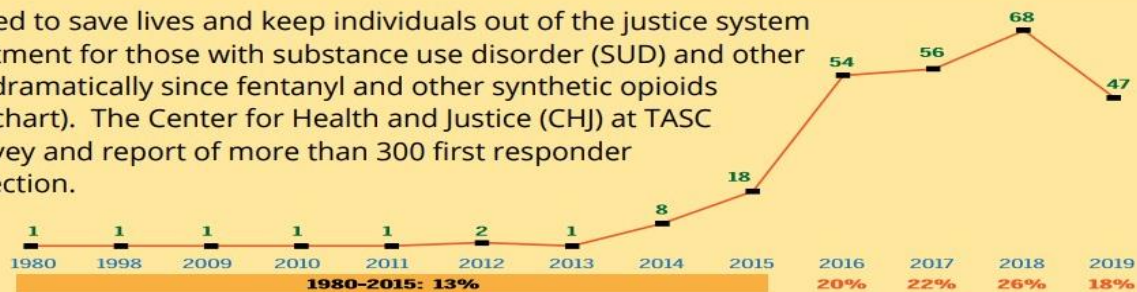
If your jurisdiction is interested in starting a deflection program, contact Ben Ekelund, Director of Consulting and Training at CHJ: bekelund@tasc.org.

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



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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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**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

