

FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

POPULATION: 149,618¹

URBAN/RURAL POPULATION: 59.65 PERCENT/40.35 PERCENT²

JAIL POPULATION: 504³



BACKGROUND

Through its participation with the **Data-Driven Justice (DDJ) Initiative, Franklin County, Pa.**, uses evidence-based strategies to identify and divert frequent utilizers away from the criminal justice system and toward alternative treatment and services. Franklin County is implementing new methods of coordination between agencies, new technologies to aid in responsible data sharing and innovative processes to connect frequent utilizers to effective services. The result has been the development of new strategies to leverage county resources that drive and sustain improvements to health and treatment outcomes.

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY OVERDOSE TASK FORCE

The Franklin County Overdose Task Force was formed in 2015 to address the opioid epidemic spreading throughout the county. The task force, which is composed of over 70 at-large members, strengthens connections with agencies and communities to create initiatives to effectively address the crisis. The task force meets monthly and has subcommittees that focus on prevention, treatment, recovery, law enforcement, communications and data collection.

A variety of new programs, interventions and strategies have been undertaken since the inception of the Overdose Task Force, including:

- Increased access to Naloxone, a non-addictive medication that reverses opioid overdoses
- Good Wolf Treatment Court to address the overcrowded jail population and those struggling with addiction
- Mobile-Vivitrol Services partnership with Positive Recovery Solutions
- Operation-Save-A-Life training to aid in preventing, recognizing and responding to opioid overdoses, and

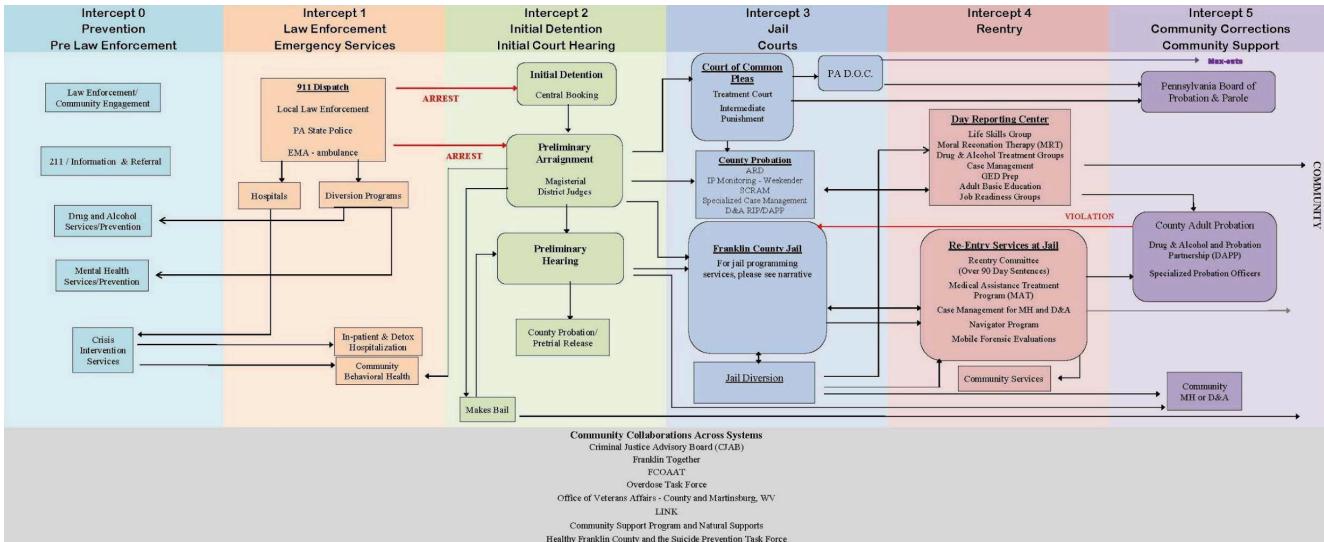
- Get Back Up diversion program that links those struggling with addiction to appropriate care if they ask the District Attorney or police for help.⁴

SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL (SIM) MAPPING

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) is a research-based approach for responding to justice-involved individuals with behavioral health needs at various contact points. The approach engages county administration and department leadership, law enforcement, service providers, courts and other system actors, to participate in a mapping exercise to identify the points (or intercepts) at which a person interacts with the justice system and the resulting opportunities for intervention.

Franklin County conducts an annual Sequential Intercept Model session led by the Behavioral Health subcommittee of the Franklin County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB). Franklin County's original intercept model and report was the product of a 2009 workshop sponsored by the Franklin County Commissioners and the CJAB.

FRANKLIN COUNTY CROSS-SYSTEMS MAP JUNE 2018



Franklin County updates its SIM map every year to help ensure local leaders understand resources, gaps and opportunities in their justice system.

Since 2009, the SIM has been used as a resource for referencing available behavioral health services. To make the model even more of a robust planning tool, in 2012 Franklin County added information that would assist in identifying resources and gaps related to individuals with substance use disorders. Finally, in 2017 Franklin County incorporated the latest research on SIM development by “Intercept Zero” to its model, which captures the shift towards connecting individuals in need with treatment and services in the community and before a person comes into contact with law enforcement or other first responders.

Results of this mapping process have provided Franklin County leadership with a thorough assessment and graphic presentation of their resources, gaps and opportunities at each contact point (see image above).⁵

CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES

Franklin County's Crisis Intervention Program provides a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week telephone, walk-in or mobile crisis intervention service. The crisis staff provide intervention, assessment, brief counseling and disposition/referral services to individuals presenting themselves in a mental health or substance abuse crisis situation.

The county also offers an innovative community partnership program of police-based crisis intervention involving law enforcement, mental health and advocacy partnerships. The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a pre-jail diversion program that directs individuals with mental illness away from the

criminal justice system and into treatment where they can be better served.⁶

CIT training focuses on effectively de-escalating incidents in the community when encountering individuals who are experiencing behavioral health crises due to mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. It also provides resources to officers in re-directing these individuals into emergency behavioral health facilities. Franklin County has over 150 trained CIT members.

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

As early identification and intervention to prevent the development of Substance Use Disorders (SUD) continues to be emphasized in counties across the country, warm handoff programs have been developed throughout Franklin County in recognition of and response to the need for improved SUD treatment access. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) has become a critical tool for the county to help individuals achieve sustained recovery.

Franklin County's “Jail-to-Community Treatment Program” allows for eligible inmates to receive Vivitrol injections combined with comprehensive MAT for substance use and co-occurring disorders prior to release from jail and continuing into the community. Participants in this program are able to attend treatment sessions in the community, rather than seeing providers in the jail, so those connections are made early and are kept consistent.

Franklin County employs physicians who are permitted to administer single doses of either buprenorphine, methadone or naltrexone (Vivitrol) to treat acute withdrawal while arranging for SUD treatment, which is especially important for individuals stepping down from a high level of care/secure environment (rehab, incarceration, psychiatric placement, etc.).⁷

Early initiation of MAT increases the likelihood that patients will engage in and continue in treatment. MAT can also help transitioning individuals pay for doctors' visits and medication in the community until other benefits can be activated. Programs initiating MAT therapy have demonstrated significant improvements in opioid withdrawal relief, treatment engagement and reductions in drug use.⁸

NACo would like to thank Carrie Gray, Franklin County Administrator for providing information on the county's ongoing efforts.

REFERENCES:

¹Healthy Franklin County, Urban and Rural Population: <http://www.healthyfranklincounty.org/urban-and-rural-population>.

²Healthy Franklin County, Urban and Rural Population: <http://www.healthyfranklincounty.org/urban-and-rural-population>.

³One-day population count on February 20, 2017. Email communication with Franklin County, Pa., February 21, 2017.

⁴DEA Philadelphia Division and the University of Pittsburgh. The Opioid Threat in Pennsylvania. September 2018. Available at: <https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2018-10/PA%20Opioid%20Report%20Final%20FINAL.pdf>.

⁵Franklin County Yearly Update to the 2012 GAINS Center Cross-System Mapping Workshop. Available at: [https://franklincountypa.gov/ckeditors/files/files/CJAB/SIM%202018%20Update%20\(1\).pdf](https://franklincountypa.gov/ckeditors/files/files/CJAB/SIM%202018%20Update%20(1).pdf)

⁶Franklin County Human Services Plan: Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Appendix A. Available at: http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_271104.pdf.

⁷D'Onofrio G, O'Connor PG, Pantalon MV, Chawarski MC, Busch SH, Owens PH, Bernstein SL, Fiellin DA. Emergency department-initiated buprenorphine/naloxone treatment for opioid dependence: a randomized clinical trial. JAMA. 2015 Apr 28; 313(16): 1636-44.; Love JS, Perrone J, Nelson LS. Should buprenorphine be administered to patients with opioid withdrawal in the emergency department? Ann Emerg Med. 2017 Nov 3.

⁸Franklin County Human Services Plan: Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Appendix A.



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ABOUT NACo

The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

ABOUT DATA-DRIVEN JUSTICE

The Data-Driven Justice initiative represents a growing network of counties that are reducing incarceration by developing strategies to identify frequent users of jails, hospitals, homeless shelters and other crisis and emergency services and divert them to effective, community-based treatment and care.

To learn more about the initiative and the resources that are available, please visit
www.naco.org/datadrivenjustice.