CONNECTing Research to Action: Bringing Pre-Arrest Diversion to Allegheny County

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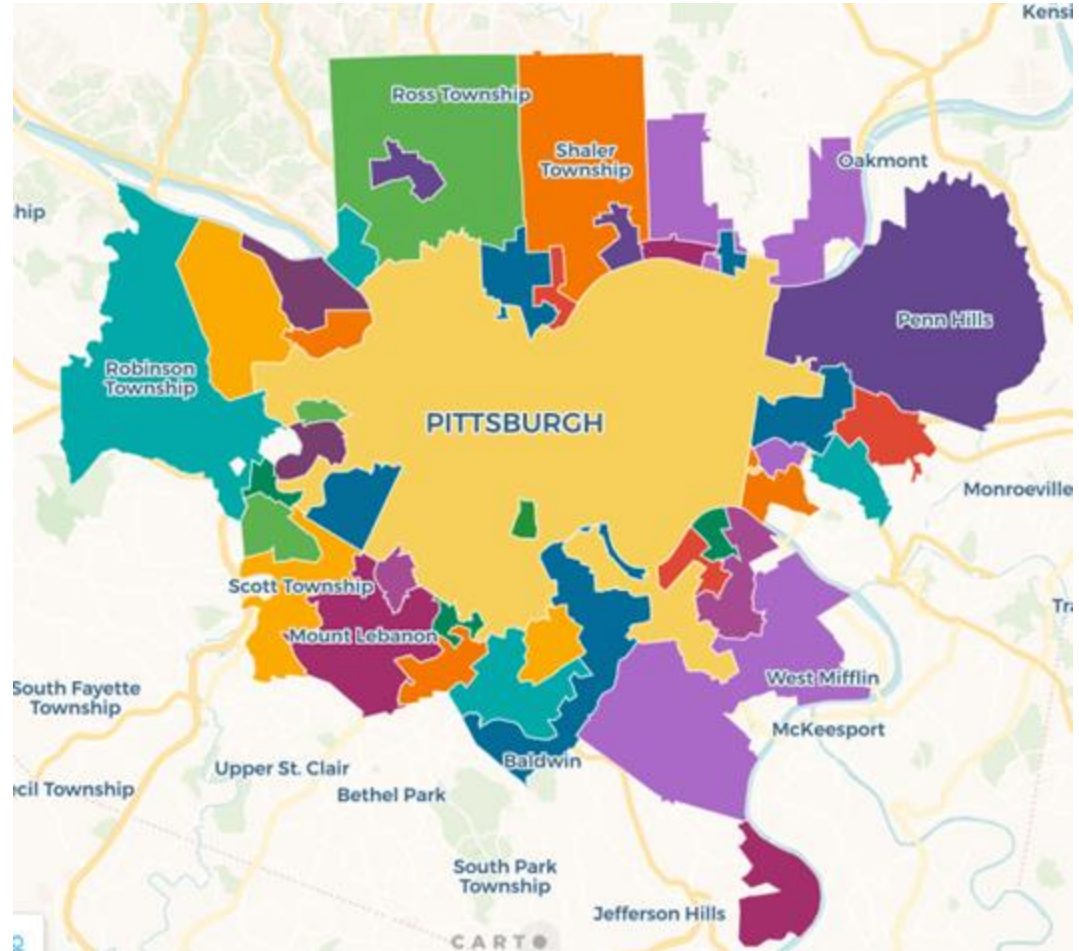
WORKING TOGETHER FOR CHANGE.

Mission

The Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) brings together the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities to identify common public policy challenges and advocate for collective change on behalf of Allegheny County's urban core.

A national model

CONNECT is the only collaborative organization comprised of local governments in the United States that features a major metropolitan city at its core. This model makes CONNECT uniquely effective, and a national model for excellence in intergovernmental cooperation.

connect.pitt.edu

Allegheny County is complex

130 → **108**

Municipalities   Police Departments

1.2 million → **75.3%**

Residents   Live outside Pittsburgh

Too Many People with Behavioral Health Issues are in the CJ system

- 75% of people in the Allegheny County Jail have mental health or drug and/or alcohol issues, and 48% have both
- People with mental health issues are more likely to be victims
- At least 81% of people in the jail are being held for non-violent crimes
- Major racial disparities throughout criminal justice system
- Nearly 1 in 10 people who died from opioid-related overdoses in Allegheny County in 2017 were released from jail less than a month before they died

Police are Often Acting as Social Workers

- Police are doing *a lot* of social work
- # of officers ≠ less violent crime in Allegheny County
- It's expensive - 42 cents of every property tax dollar goes to criminal justice
- ***From police to probation, stakeholders want earlier interventions***

What is LEAD®?

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

- LEAD gives police a tool to divert individuals who commit low-level offenses to a community-based case management program

- Individuals can be referred to a trauma-informed intensive care coordination program that focuses on reducing harm

- **LEAD is for people who are repeatedly arrested because of unmet behavioral health needs** *(cases where repeated arrests do not improve public safety)*

Who else is implementing LEAD?

Exploring
Developing
Launching
Operating

* Site certified by the LEAD National Support Bureau

* Jurisdictions developing police diversion/ deflection that are not called LEAD, but are in alignment with LEAD Core Principles.
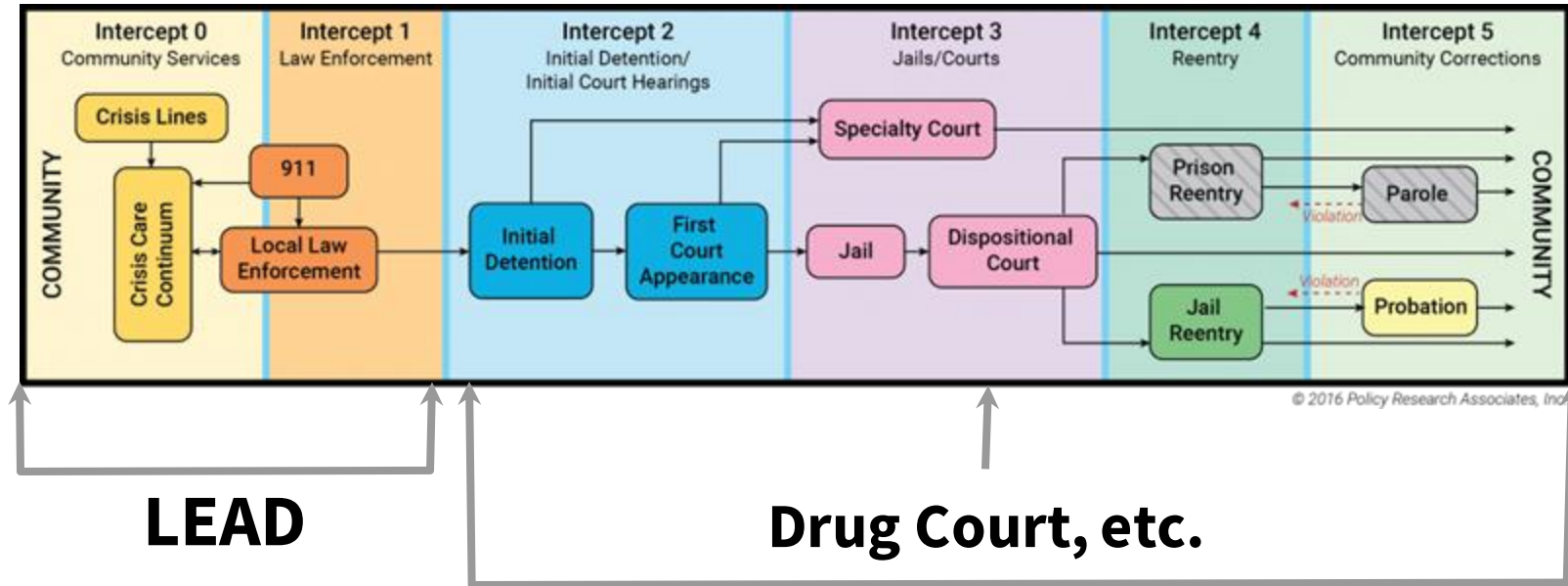
How does LEAD work?

Police connect a person to LEAD case managers for an intake assessment.

Case managers/care coordinators:

- Complete intake assessment
- Work with participants to identify goals and needs
- Connect participants to supportive services
- Meet people where they're at – literally and figuratively

How is LEAD different from drug court, etc.?

Sequential intercept model - goal is to intervene earlier

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LEAD

Drug Court, etc.

LEAD lowers recidivism rates
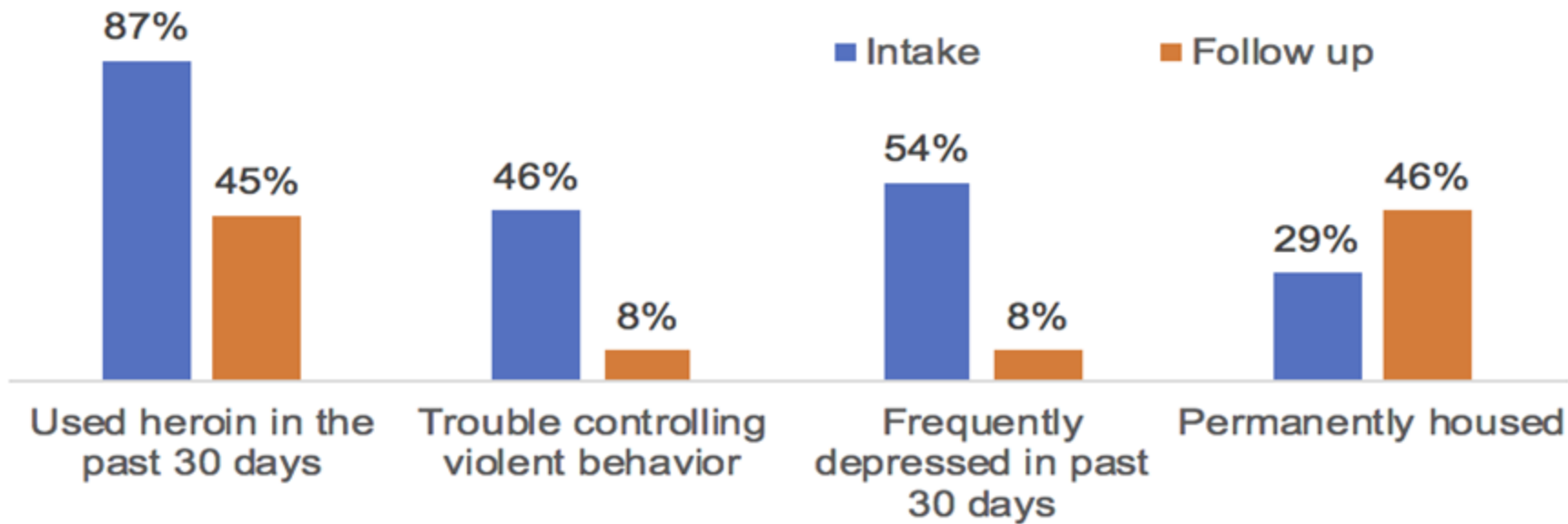
Seattle:

58%

Less likely to be arrested

Santa Fe:

20%

decrease in new arrests

LEAD increases health and well-being

Piloting LEAD - Cohort Model

- Form a cohort of contiguous municipalities

- ~3-5 municipalities (can expand after initial pilot)

- Suggestion from CONNECT members: At least one "anchor community" that can provide additional operational support – attend workgroup meetings, collaborate on proposals, etc.

- A cohort shares:
  - Case Manager(s)
  - Operational Workgroup
  - Community Leadership Team

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