

Watertown Diversion Program

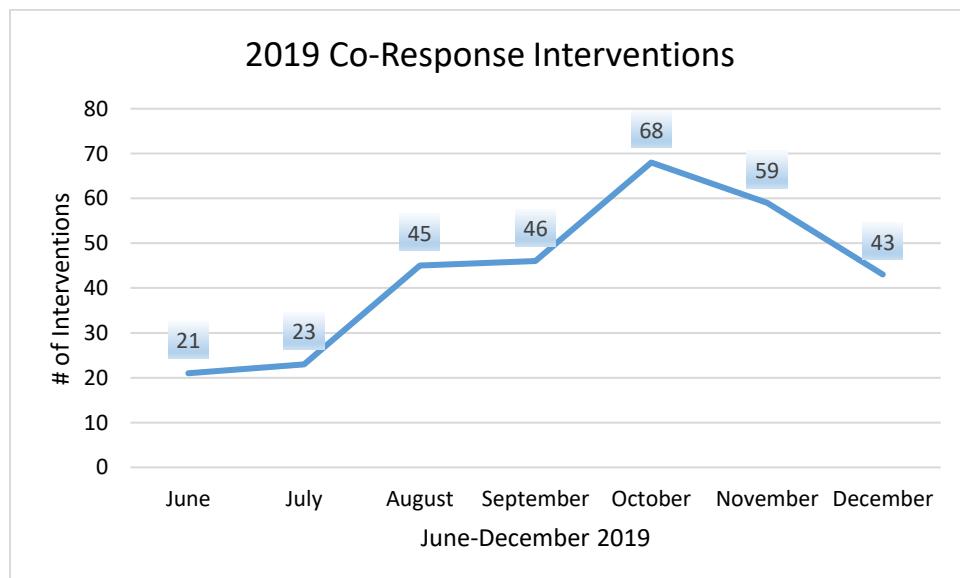
2019 Annual Report

The Watertown Jail Diversion Program (JDP) was launched in 2011 and pairs specially trained crisis clinicians from Advocates Inc, with police officers at the Watertown Police Department. These embedded clinicians respond to calls for service and 911 calls with patrol officers; providing immediate on-scene de-escalation, assessment and referrals for individuals in crisis. The primary goal of the Watertown -JDP is to re-direct individuals committing non-violent offences, out of the criminal justice system and into more appropriate community based behavioral health services. When a JDP clinician is not on duty, the Advocates Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) team supports the JDP clinician to ensure timely access for the participating police agencies 24/7.

JDP Interventions

On-scene crisis interventions are facilitated through the dual response of police and clinician to calls for service involving individuals in crisis. Chart 1 represents the 305 individuals referred to the Watertown Jail Diversion Program clinician (s) by Watertown police officers from June through December 2019.

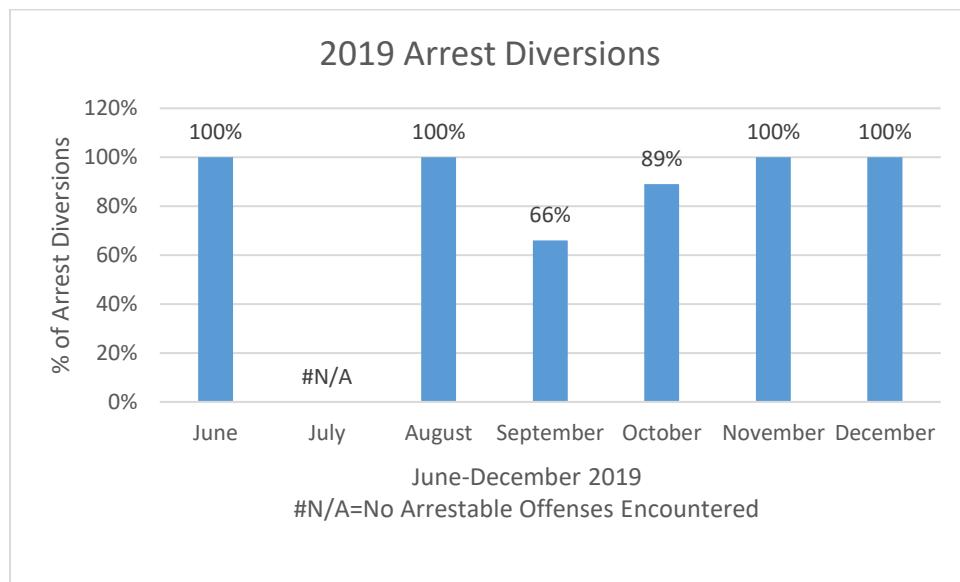
Chart 1: Watertown Co-Response Interventions 2019



Diversions from Arrest

The primary goal of the Watertown Jail Diversion Program is to divert low-level offenders away from the criminal justice system and into more appropriate, community-based behavioral health treatment. From June through December of 2019, a total of twenty-six (26) individuals with behavioral health conditions were diverted from arrest by Watertown police officers and into treatment facilitated by JDP clinicians. The average percentage of those eligible for arrest diversion who were diverted is 93%. Chart 2 represents the percentage of diversions from arrest by month.

Chart 2: Watertown JDP Arrest Diversions 2019



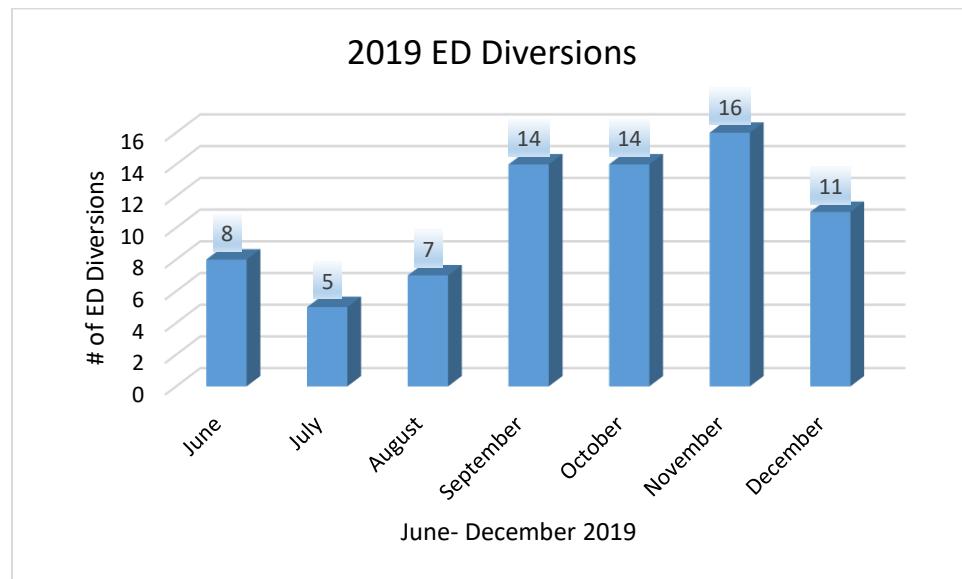
In addition to the benefit of diverting individuals in crisis from arrest, these diversions represent an *estimated* cost savings of **\$65,520*** to the criminal justice system (\$2,520 per arrest event).

Diversions from the Emergency Department 2019

A secondary goal of the Watertown Jail Diversion Program is to decrease the frequency of individuals with behavioral health conditions being referred to the hospital emergency department (ED) for psychiatric assessment by Watertown police officers. From June-December 2019,

seventy-five (75) individuals were diverted from unnecessary hospital admissions due the presence of a JDP clinician on scene; to facilitate assessment treatment recommendations. Chart 3 represents the monthly hospital ED diversions facilitated by the Watertown JDP team.

Chart 3: Watertown Emergency Department Diversions 2019



In addition to the benefits of receiving care outside of the hospital, these emergency department diversions represent *estimated* health care cost savings of **\$300,000*** ($\$4,000$ per ED diversion). Combined, estimated cost savings due to arrest and emergency department diversion activity equals **\$365,520***. Thank you for another year of partnership!

Report respectfully submitted by,

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*Formula cited in “Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Report on Pre-Arrest Jail Diversion Programs”, presented by Dr. Deborah Pinals, Assistant Commissioner for Forensic Services, Massachusetts State House, October 6th, 2009.