

# FIRST RESPONDER DEFLECTION

## Course Resource Guide

### OVERVIEW

Deflection serves as a community-centered practice by which law enforcement or other first responders make warm handoffs to community-based treatment and/or other services for people who have substance use or mental health disorders. Deflection presents an alternative to arresting people who might otherwise either enter the justice system or receive no assistance to address their needs.

The resources below offer information to help you dig deeper into the eCourse First Responder Deflection.

### DEFLECTION AT A GLANCE

#### **JCOIN Webinar**

***Deflection: Leveraging Police and First Responders to Create New Pathways to Treatment and Recovery*** (JCOIN, August 2021)

Featuring national experts and practitioners in deflection, this 90-minute webinar on deflection is part of the JCOIN Speaker Series.

<https://www.jcoinctc.org/courses/jcoin-speaker-series-deflection/lessons/video-jcoin-speaker-series-deflection-leveraging-police-and-first-responders-to-create-new-pathways-to-treatment-and-recovery/>

#### **National Deflection Survey**

***Report of the National Survey to Assess First Responder Deflection Programs in Response to the Opioid Crisis*** (NORC, BJA & TASC, May 2021)

Co-developed by NORC at the University of Chicago, BJA's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP), and TASC's Center for Health and Justice, this is a comprehensive survey of more than 300 deflection programs across the United States.

[https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/CHJ-TASC\\_Nation\\_Survey\\_Report.pdf](https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/CHJ-TASC_Nation_Survey_Report.pdf)

### **Journal Article**

#### ***Deflection: Police-Led Responses to Behavioral Health Challenges*** (NADCP, 2020)

This article in the *Journal for Advancing Justice* describes the origins of deflection and the five deflection pathways. Authored by Jac Charlier and Jessica Reichert, it is published with permission from the National Association for Drug Court Professionals (NADCP).

<https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/articles/introduction-deflection--police-led-responses-to-behavioral-health-challenges>

### **Brief**

#### ***Critical Elements of First Responder Diversion Programs*** (COSSAP, December 2020)

This brief, published by the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP), describes the critical elements of successful deflection programs. These elements include: 1) partnership building; 2) community engagement/buy-in; 3) standardization of deflection policies/procedures within the first responder agency; 4) care coordination and case management; and 5) program evaluation.

[https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/CHJ\\_TASC\\_Critical\\_Elements.pdf](https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/CHJ_TASC_Critical_Elements.pdf)

### **Deflection Resource Library**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Deflection Resource Library contains a wide range of deflection materials organized by category (e.g., deflection program documents, policies and procedures, program evaluations, and more).

<https://www.cossapresources.org/DeflectionLibrary>

## **5 PATHWAYS OF DEFLECTION**

There are five pathways of first responder deflection, each of which offers an alternative to justice system entry for individuals who have substance use, mental health, or co-occurring disorders that often result in contact with police or other first responders. Communities generally begin with one pathway and add other pathways as their programs evolve.

The five pathways of deflection include: Self-Referral; Active Outreach; Naloxone Plus; First Responder/Officer Prevention Referral; and Officer Intervention Referral. Below are briefs on three of these pathways, from the *Law Enforcement and First Responder Diversion Pathways to Diversion Case Studies Series* published by the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP).

### **Self-Referral Pathway**

[https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/CHJ\\_Pathways\\_to\\_Diversion\\_S](https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/CHJ_Pathways_to_Diversion_S)

[elf-Referral.pdf](#)

### **Naloxone Plus**

<https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/Pathways to Diversion Case Studies Series Naloxone Plus.pdf>

See also: *Exploring Effective Post-Opioid Overdose Reversal Responses for Law Enforcement and Other First Responders* (Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, November 2017)

<https://icjia.illinois.gov/researchhub/articles/exploring-effective-post-opioid-overdose-reversal-responses-for-law-enforcement-and-other-first-responders>

### **Officer Intervention Referral**

<https://www.cossapresources.org/Content/Documents/Articles/Pathways to Diversion Case Studies Series Officer Intervention.pdf>

## **POLICY**

The following are resources related to state and federal policies with regard to deflection.

### **Model Act**

***Model Law Enforcement and Other First Responder Deflection Act*** (LAPPA, March 2022)  
Authored by the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association (LAPPA) and released by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in March 2022, the Model Act is a resource that encourages the development and use of deflection programs at the state level.  
<https://legislativeanalysis.org/model-law-enforcement-and-other-first-responder-deflection-act/>

### **State Laws**

***Deflection Programs: Summary of State Laws*** (LAPPA, July 2021)  
As of June 2021, 25 states and the District of Columbia had some form of a deflection law in place.  
<http://legislativeanalysis.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Deflection-Programs-Summary-of-State-Laws.pdf>

## **RESEARCH**

The following explore some of the research that has been conducted on alternatives to arrest.

### **JCOIN Webinar**

#### ***Cascade of Care and Practical Applications*** (JCOIN, April 2021)

This is a two-hour webinar featuring researchers in conversation about the how the cascade of care can be applied to measure the broad-scale impacts of given initiatives, while revealing gaps in the processes as well. Recorded on April 16, 2021, this webinar is part of the JCOIN Speaker Series.

<https://www.jcoinctc.org/courses/jcoin-speaker-series-cascade-of-care-and-practical-applications/lessons/video-jcoin-speaker-series-cascade-of-care-and-practical-applications/>

### **Journal Special Issue**

#### ***Emerging Best Practices in Law Enforcement Deflection*** (NADCP, 2020)

Published by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), this special issue of the *Journal for Advancing Justice* addresses programs and interventions designed to assist individuals with mental health and substance use disorders who come to the attention of law enforcement and community corrections programs. This issue includes three research articles on deflection evaluation, including an overview of the history, development, and current state of the field of deflection.

<https://www.nadcp.org/advancingjustice/journal-for-advancing-justice/volume-iii/>

## **JCOIN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Through learning opportunities and other forms of assistance, the JCOIN Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program supports local and state justice and behavioral health agencies and stakeholders in integrating research and practice. Here you will find tailored resources and formats, including virtual learning and training opportunities, customized assistance and/or assessments, and other online resources. Learn more: <https://www.jcoinctc.org/tta/>