

# ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Diversion 101



**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES  
OUTSIDE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
SYSTEM TO CHANGE BEHAVIOR.**



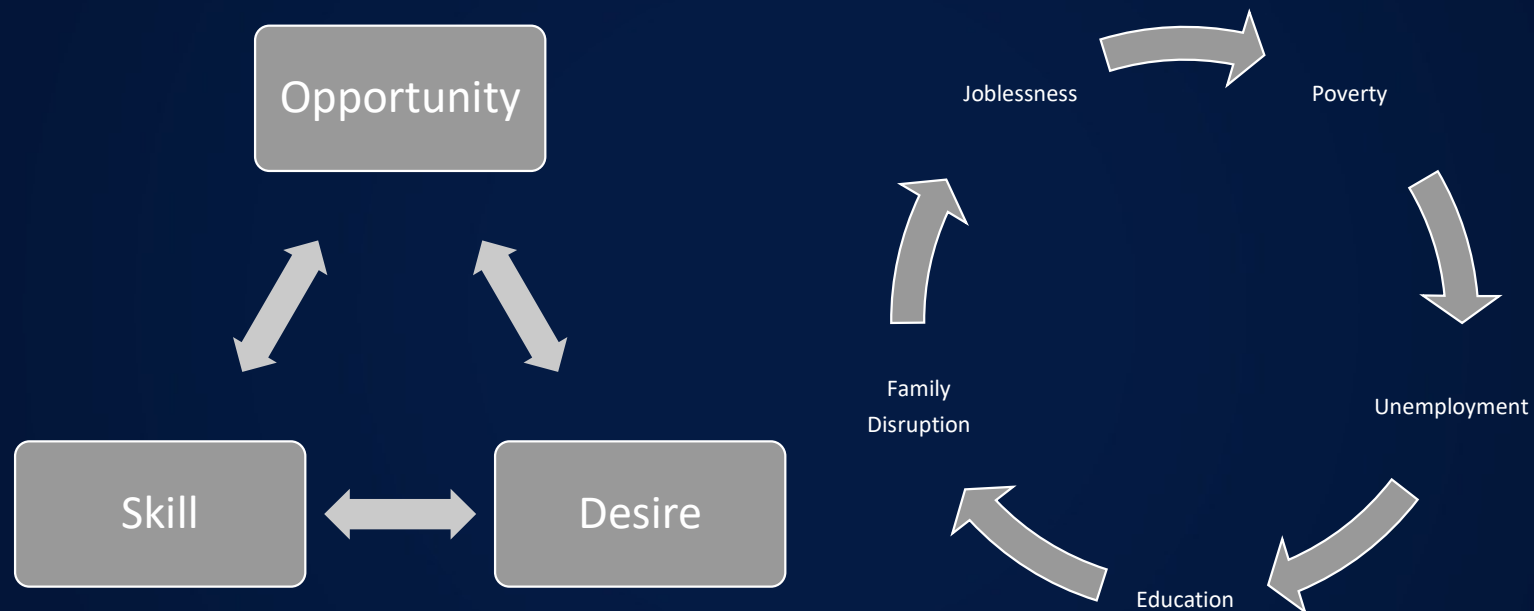
***DIVERSION***



“We have people who really we’re afraid of, and ones that we’re mad at.”  
Jerry Madden, Rep. of Texas (Ret.)



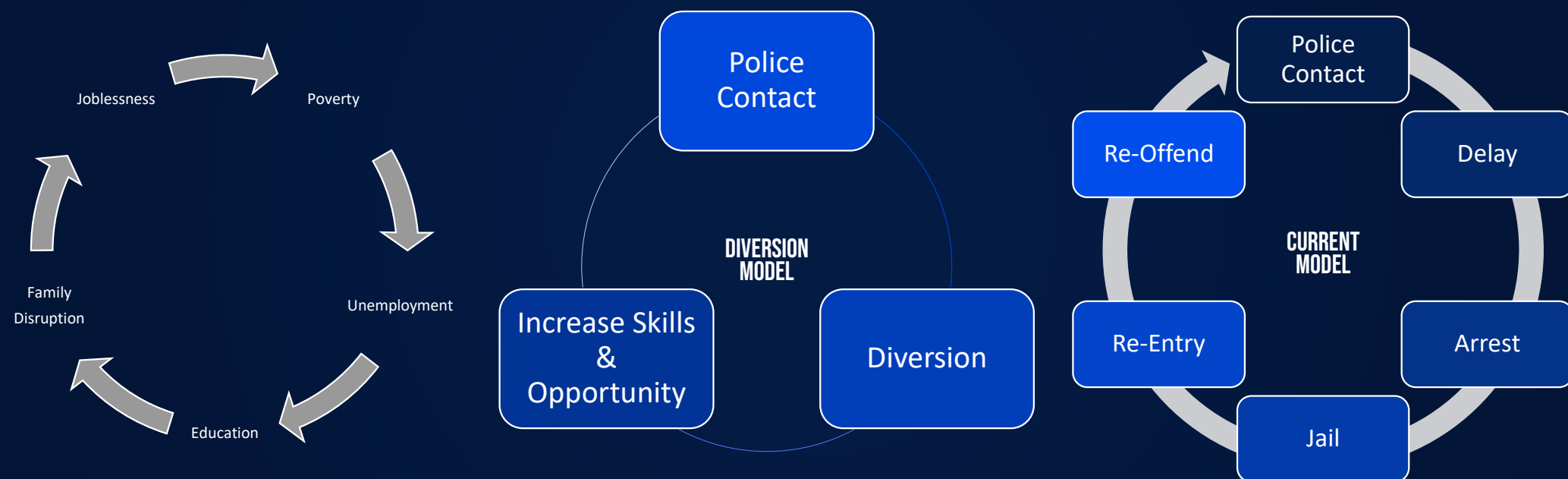
# LACK OF OPPORTUNITY INCREASES RE-OCCURRING ARRESTS



# LAW OF CRIME CONCENTRATION



# CREATE OPPORTUNITY TO BREAK THE CYCLE





# INCARCERATION DATA

## National

- 2/3 of all people booked into jail in the United States have a mental illness or problematic substance use.
- National prevalence of adults experiencing a mental health illness 23% and those with a substance use disorder is 17%
- Short periods of incarceration or a criminal conviction creates barriers to services, employment or housing while increasing the likelihood of future incarceration... "collateral consequences"

## Anchorage Bookings 2024

- 10,420 (ACC & HMCC)
  - 5,488 Misdemeanor (53%)
  - 5,032 Felony (48%)

## APD Bookings 2024

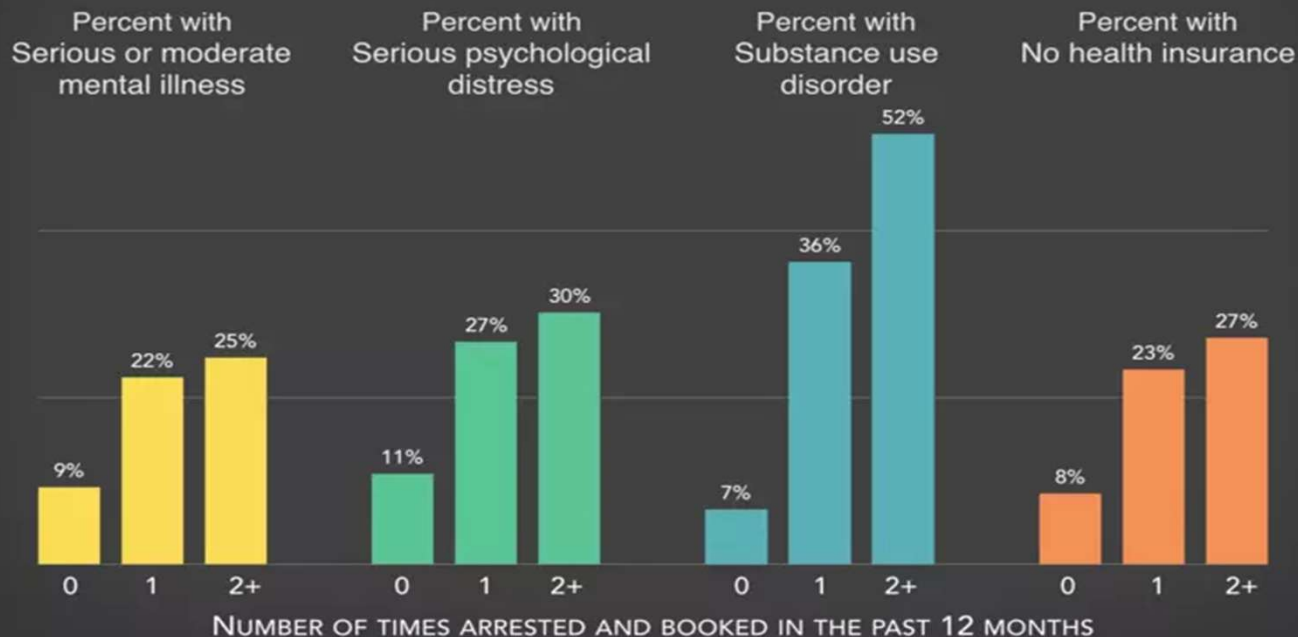
- ~ 8,537 (82%)
  - ~ 4,837 Misdemeanor (57%)
  - ~ 3,699 Felony (43%)

65% of the overall ADOC population experienced a mental health disorder, substance use disorder or other cognitive impairment (IDD, TBI, dementia, etc.)



## People with multiple arrests have serious health needs

Percentage of individuals who were not arrested and booked in the past 12 months, compared to those arrested and booked once, and those arrested and booked multiple times, that reported having a serious or moderate mental illness (SMMI), serious psychological distress, a substance use disorder, or no health insurance in the past 12 months



**PRISON**  
POLICY INITIATIVE

Compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2017

*People who were jailed were more likely than those who weren't jailed to have serious mental and physical health needs, and to lack health insurance. These needs were even more prevalent among those arrested more than once per year. For the raw data used to construct this graph, see [Appendix Table 1](#).*





# POLICING IS ON A SPECTRUM

WARRIOR VS. GUARDIAN



HIGH RISK

## High-Risk

Barricades  
Hostage  
High-Risk Warrants  
SWAT  
ISU  
TFO's  
K9

## Complex Calls

Mobile Intervention  
Crisis Intervention  
Crisis Negotiation  
Detectives  
Collision Investigators

## Calls for Service

Patrol  
Traffic  
SRO  
Etc.

## Diversion

Mental Health and  
Criminal Diversion  
Mobile Intervention  
Team  
IMPACT Team

## Public Health

Homelessness  
Foot Patrol  
HOPE Team

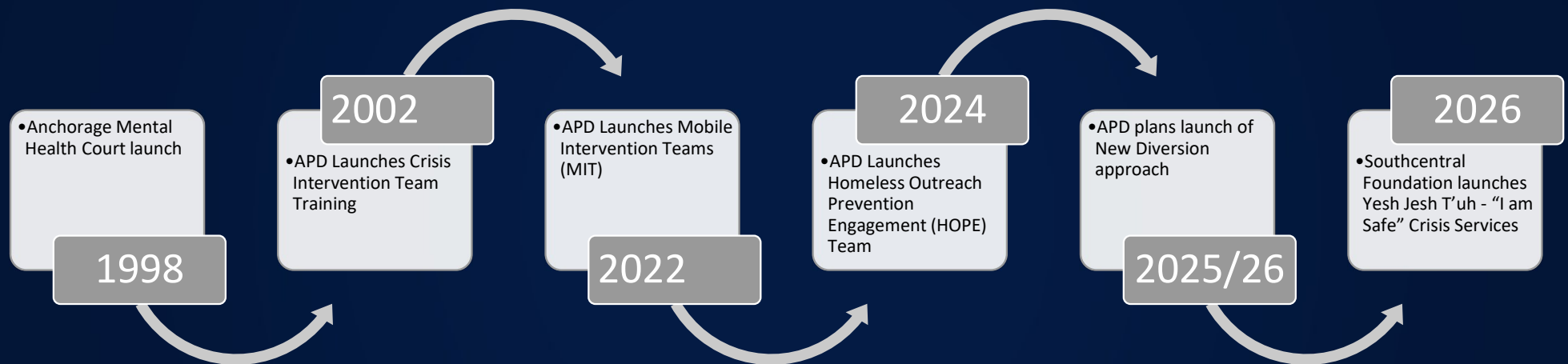
LOW RISK







# ANCHORAGE DIVERSION Hx





# INNOVATION



Homeless outreach



Mobile services



IMPACT



Patrol diversion



# DIVERSION IN THE LAW ENFORCEMENT REALM

## What is it?

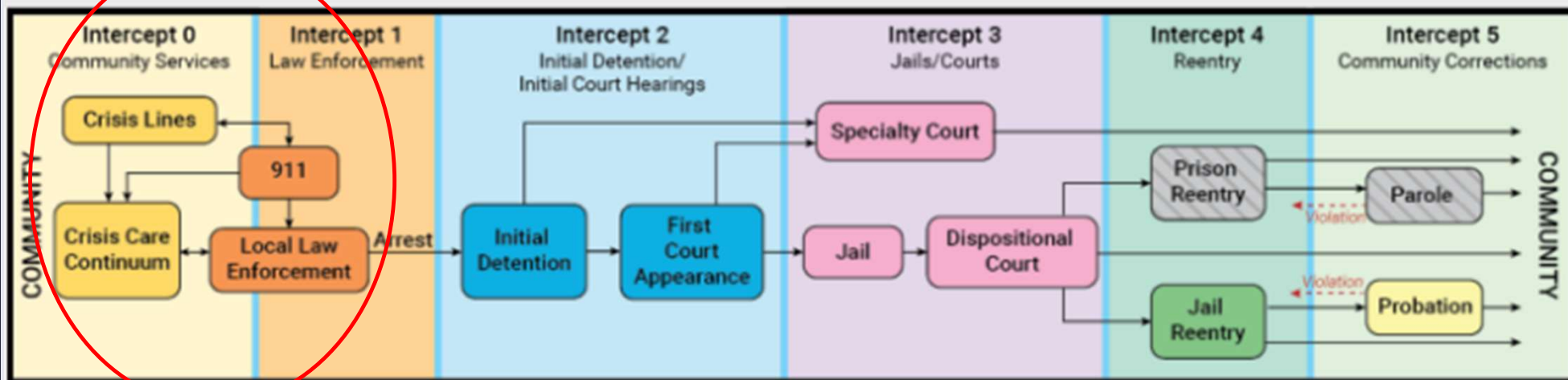
- Criminal Justice & Public Health collaboration
- **Part of** a “systems approach”, to provide guided and rapid access to supportive, community-based services
- a “warm-handoff” or other linkage to treatment from law enforcement.
- diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system to community-based services equipped to address the underlying health, social, cultural, and/or economic conditions that contributed to law enforcement contact.
- Voluntary participation by the individual

## And, what it is not...

- Necessarily appropriate for all individuals nor all situations nor when a risk to public safety is a concern.
- Forced participation



# Sequential Intercept Model



© 2020 Policy Research Associates, Inc.



# DIVERSION

## Focuses on...

- the individual;
- increased public safety by assisting with access to services\* equipped to address the underlying cause(s) for the law enforcement response and contact; and,
- engagement with and linkage of persons to community health & social service programs.

\*Mental health, substance use, physical health, housing (temporary, transitional, permanent), employment, faith-based, etc.

## The goals are...

- broadening the Agency's (APD) approach to achieving public safety
- using public resources more appropriately and effectively
- accountability coupled with treatment & services
- reduced risk of future law enforcement contact
- healthier individual and safer community



# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

- reserves the limited criminal justice resources for serious, egregious crimes
- reduces the direct costs of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, corrections, courts)
- diverts the person to more appropriate systems, the health care system, to address their underlying causes of behavior (those with expertise, training, and/or lived experience)
- prevents or reduces collateral consequences resulting from an arrest, involvement in the justice system and possible conviction of record

# POSITIVE POLICE CONTACTS



Constant  
interaction with  
the public



Demonstrating  
dignity and  
respect



Safer and Healthier  
Community





**WHERE ARE WE HEADED?**