

UNDERSTANDING THE INTERCEPT MODEL

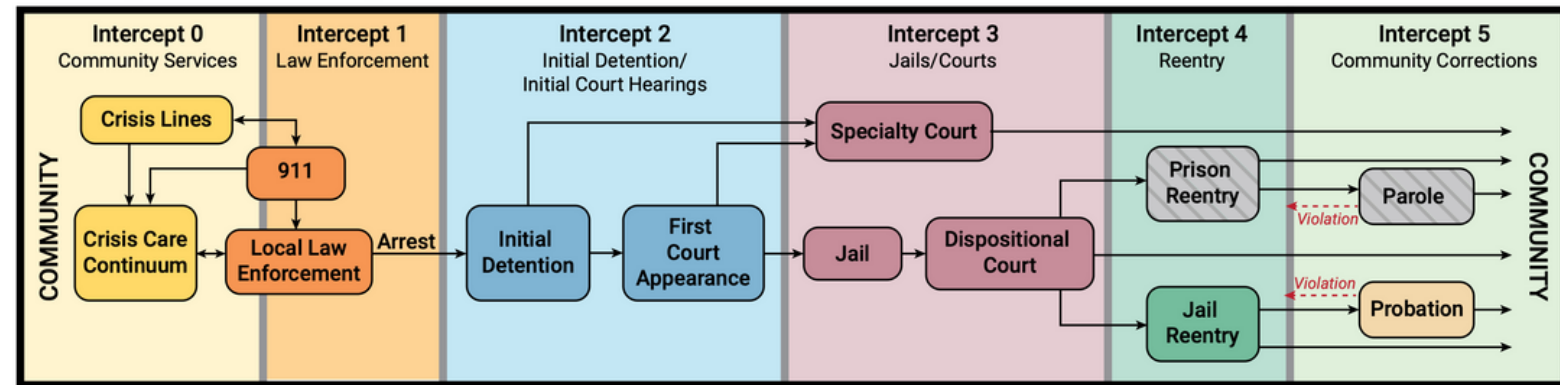
WHAT IS THE INTERCEPT MODEL?



**Effective
Law Enforcement
for ALL**

This guide is designed to help you use the intercept model as a tool to gauge the success of your local law enforcement response to mental health crisis and seek to address any system gaps you might find. The intercept model is a particularly useful framing tool to help emphasize the importance of early opportunities to redirect away from a law enforcement response when it isn't appropriate.

The Sequential Intercept Model



SAFER & MORE EFFECTIVE POLICING INTERCEPT METHOD

The Sequential Intercept Model helps map an individual's experience in the criminal justice system, highlighting opportunities to 'intercept' a person and redirect them towards more appropriate resources.

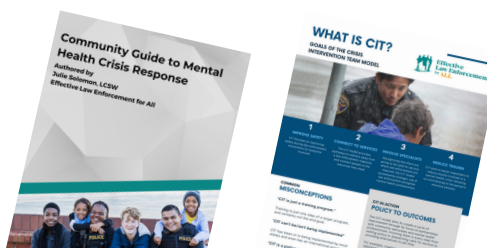
For example, rather than an arrest at the end of Intercept 1, which leads to detention and court in Intercept 2, sometimes it's more appropriate to bring a person experiencing crisis to a drop off center or even a hospital.

The intercept model also helps us think about what a person in mental health crisis needs at each of these steps. For example, in Intercepts 2 and 3, a person with mental illness may be detained or put in jail. Who needs to be alerted? Are they receiving their medications? What could potentially be traumatic or triggering about these environments and what can we do to alleviate that trauma?

CENTERING THE NEEDS OF THOSE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Within the criminal justice system, linkages have to be built to the rest of the mental healthcare ecosystem so that we aren't losing chances to intercept. Start by talking to allies in mental healthcare to build alternative responses!

Want to learn more about best practices in policing? See our full Community Guide and our CIT Resource!



USING THE INTERCEPT MODEL

HOW CAN THE INTERCEPT MODEL BE USED TO DRIVE CHANGE?



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Intervene Earlier

Safer for Everyone

Early Intervention means fewer instances where a person in crisis is a danger to themselves or others.

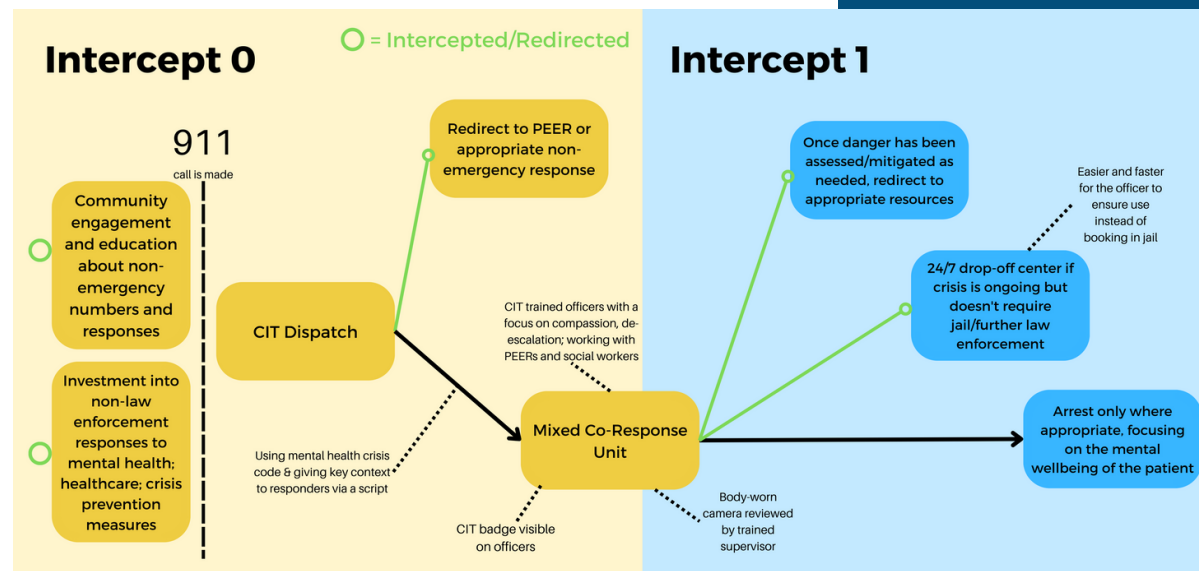
More Ethical

The goal is to expose people in crisis to as little unnecessary trauma as possible, and to avoid punishing mental illness with consequences intended for criminals

Saves Tax Money

Officers can focus their efforts on more efficient community policing, and fewer people are jailed that don't have to be.

A HEALTHY EARLY INTERCEPT MODEL



Identify System Gaps

The intercept model can help identify where your community might be stronger or weaker in its response. What happens to a person experiencing a mental health crisis in your community? Are there enough chances to make sure they're not processed through the criminal justice system? If you're not sure, reach out to your local police department, or people in the mental healthcare space like local social workers, and ask what can happen at each step.