

LAW ENFORCEMENT is often the initial contact someone has with the criminal justice system and the dynamics and outcome of these interactions often have great impact. WEI has prioritized finding ways to make police-civilian encounters responsive to the multidimensional needs of both communities and officers by working alongside agencies and stakeholders at the forefront.

TOGETHER WE CAN DEVELOP EVIDENCE-BASED SOLUTIONS THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY AND INDIVIDUAL WELL-BEING.



WEI Community Collaborations

- Correctional staff
- Attorneys
- Social workers
- Judges & court staff
- Mental health professionals
- Individuals who are system involved
- Law enforcement
- Non-profits

WEI Collaborations with Law Enforcement

- **Over 120 in-depth interviews** with law enforcement officers and mental health treatment providers to capture the genuine needs of officers responding to mental health or crisis calls.
- Analysis of recidivism rates for individuals with **mental health or substance use disorders** following their contact with law enforcement.
- Examination of **Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)** policies and their impact on law enforcement, civilians, and recidivism across six jurisdictions.
- Assessment of **co-response teams** and other civilian response options available to police.
- Comparison of barriers and facilitators for **rural versus urban police agencies**
- Exploration of **resource accessibility** and impact on criminal justice contact.

Key Lessons Learned

- CSUs are sometimes unable to admit individuals who are deemed dangerous despite their experiencing a mental health crisis which can lead law enforcement to arrest these individuals and take them instead to jail.
- Law enforcement officers are overwhelmingly supportive of civilian positions that can assist with the plethora of mental health and substance-use-related calls they receive.
- Creating at-home follow-up care for individuals following treatment at a CSU can reduce the likelihood of future contact with the criminal justice system.
- A lack of mental health resources and response strategies for non-crisis level situations contributes to repeat contact between law enforcement and individuals.



Exciting Opportunities & Research in Progress

1. Increased focus on the dynamics of **rural law enforcement agencies** and how to maximize the unique needs of the communities they serve.
2. Exploration of **technology and applications** that may increase efficiency, assist with staffing challenges, and enhance the ability to respond.
3. Use of **civilian law enforcement teams** that may extend beyond mental health crisis calls including homelessness, domestic violence, and sexual violence response strategies.

Get Involved & Stay Informed



To be included in our future projects & receive future reports, please email us:
WEI@wellbeingandequity.org

Wellbeing & Equity Innovations (WEI) is a national equity-centered translational research and services nonprofit, comprised of a multidisciplinary team of researchers, social workers, criminologists, peer support, and mental health professionals. WEI uses a comprehensive approach to work across the entire spectrum of criminal justice and legal systems to achieve transformation. By combining research and practice, we work with partners to design, implement, and sustain programs that center on wellbeing and human potential.