

# An Introduction to the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)

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# SIM

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- Developed by Munetz, & Griffin, 2006
- Details how individuals with mental and substance use disorders, encounter and move through the judicial system
- Identify resources and gaps in services at each intercept
- Strategy to reduce the population of persons who suffer with severe mental illnesses, who are involved with the criminal justice system

# SIM: Intercept 0

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- With adequately available crisis services, persons could be diverted from criminal justice
  - Supported housing & employment
  - Assistance acquiring benefits
  - Integrated dual diagnosis programs, primary and behavioral health care
- Connected to treatment in lieu of court involvement (e.g., arrests)
- Mobile Crisis teams, Peer Outreach, ER triage, specialty trained police officers

# SIM: Intercept 1

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- Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
- Trained 911 dispatchers
- Police decide whether to arrest or divert to crisis mental health services
- Through specialized law enforcement approaches (CIT, multidisciplinary response teams) persons can be diverted
- Frequent ER/911 users: divert & follow-up after

# SIM: Intercept 2

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- Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings
- Prosecutorial discretion to refer to diversion strategies, or programs
- Mental health & substance use assessments
- Court clinicians
- Pretrial specialized probation services

# SIM: Intercept 3

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- Jails and the Courts
- In-Jail services: MAT, medications, programming
- Specialty Courts: mental health, substance use, veterans' treatment
- Connecting to community mental health providers

# SIM: Intercept 4

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- Reentry, from jail or prison
- Attention to planned re-entry services
  - Medicaid status
  - In-reach services
  - Link to aftercare services
- Warm handoff
  - treatment data, from corrections to community providers
  - Case managers to assist with accessing treatment, services

# SIM: Intercept 5

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- Community connections
- Specialized case loads
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Link to community support services
  - Housing, employment
- Crisis planning
  - Mental health and substance use treatment

# SIM: Intercept 5

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- Common Goal: Prevent recidivism
- Similar
  - Monitor with regular contact
  - Link with indicated services
- Different
  - Patient advocate - duty to public, court
  - Reduce symptoms - public safety
  - Privacy rules, care standards – court orders, release conditions

# Other Programs: Stepping Up

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- [stepuptogether.org](http://stepuptogether.org)
- Launched in 2015
- National partnership between Council of State Governments Justice Center, National Association of Counties, and APA Foundation
- Focused interventions at the county level
- Goal to reduce overincarceration of people with mental illness

# SIM Summary

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- Screening and assessment occurs at every intersection of the intercepts

# Resources

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- Munetz & Griffin (2006). Use of the Sequential Intercept Model as an Approach to Decriminalization of People with Serious Mental Illness. *Psychiatric Services*, 57(4), 544-549.
- The Sequential Intercept Model: Advancing Community-Based Solutions for Justice-Involved People with Mental and Substance Use Disorders[Brochure]. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.prainc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PRA-SIM-Letter-Paper-2018.pdf>

# Resources

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- Bazzi, L et al (2021). Mental Health Professionals' Guide to Their Role in the Criminal Justice System. (1<sup>st</sup> Edition). American Psychiatric Association Foundation.