

District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)

April 2016, No. 3

Outcomes of Incidents Involving MPD Crisis Intervention Officers (CIO) FY11-FY15

The Crisis Intervention Officer (CIO) program in the District of Columbia began in 2009 as a collaborative effort between the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI DC). The purpose of the CIO program is to increase safety, decrease the use of force and number of arrests in incidents involving the mentally ill, and provide enhanced training in de-escalation as an alternative to incarceration for individuals in crisis. As of 2015, a total of 878 officers have been certified, from MPD as well as U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Capital Police, Amtrak, American University, DC Housing, and Metro Transit (WMATA). The information contained in this report features select data collected from the PD251C (MPD-CIO Tracking Form) from the past four fiscal years (N= 3,736).



Key Data Findings: The majority of incidents where CIOs respond do not involve injuries to officers (71-63%). Injuries to both CIOs and non-CIOs decreased between FY11-FY14, with a slight increase in FY15. Injuries to the incident subject (45-56%), and others who may be on-scene (31-38%), account for the majority of injuries reported. Yearly trends in dispositions show on-scene intervention increased 61%, and transports for psych evaluation increased 17% between FY11 and FY15. CIOs reported completing FD12s nearly twice as often from FY11 to FY14. The number of incidents resulting in no action (the CIO is able to intervene and provide resolution without formal action being taken like arrest or transport), case management referrals, and arrests has remained fairly consistent. **Implications for Practice:** Most often, CIOs are performing crisis intervention on-scene and then transporting subjects for



psychiatric evaluation. In keeping with the goals of the program, there has been an overall decrease in individuals being arrested, as well as an overall decrease in injuries to officers. This intervention program has brought more awareness among law enforcement and civilians around the issues of mental health and getting proper treatment.

Ref: Incident records from the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)