



SACRAMENTO COUNTY

ADULT SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL (SIM)

Criminal Justice Cabinet

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Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)

Developed by Mark Munetz, MD, Patricia A. Griffin, PhD, and Henry J. Steadman, PhD to help communities understand and improve criminal justice system interactions and responses to people with mental and substance use disorders

First envisioned as a **strategic planning tool** – SAMHSA adopted the model in 2005 – that is now widely used by jurisdictions across the nation that have joined the national Stepping Up Initiative to reduce the prevalence of people with mental illness in jails

Focused on individuals with significant behavioral health needs, it shows how people come into contact with and move through the criminal justice system, identifying where/how justice and behavioral health agencies work together

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM): What It Is

Tool to inform stakeholders about programs and services available at different points along the criminal justice continuum

Maps pathways through the justice system to identify gaps, resources, and opportunities at different stages in the justice system for adults with mental and substance use disorders

Standardized mechanism for collecting, analyzing and reporting on key data elements for data-driven/informed decision making

- Guides further development of pathways to both reduce current justice involvement and connect people to services to reduce FUTURE involvement

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM): What It Covers

INTERCEPT 0: Crisis Care and First Response Continuum - Intercept 0 involves interventions for people with mental and substance use disorders prior to formal involvement with the criminal justice system. The critical components of this intercept include the local continuum of crisis care services and resources that reduce reliance on emergency response, hospitalizations, and law enforcement to serve people in crisis or with low-acuity mental health needs. In jurisdictions where very few resources exist, law enforcement may be involved in Intercept 0 diversion efforts in a *parens patriae*, or “guardian,” capacity, providing first responder services.

INTERCEPT 1: Law Enforcement Calls and Responses - At Intercept 1, law enforcement and other emergency service providers respond to people with mental and substance use disorders who are in crisis in the community. In many jurisdictions, when a person in crisis exhibits illegal behavior, law enforcement officers have the discretion to place the person under arrest or to divert them to treatment or services. Effective diversion at Intercept 1 is supported by training, programming, and policies that integrate behavioral health care and law enforcement to enable and promote the diversion of people with mental illness away from arrest and a subsequent jail stay and into community-based services.

INTERCEPT 2: Intake, Booking, Bail Setting/Review, Initial Court Hearing - At Intercept 2, individuals who have been arrested will go through the intake and booking process and will have an initial hearing presided over by a judicial official. Important elements of this intercept include the identification of people with mental and substance use disorders being processed and booked in the jail, placement of people with mental and substance use disorders into community-based treatment after intake or booking at the jail, and availability of specialized mental health caseloads through pretrial service agencies .

INTERCEPT 3: Courts and Incarceration in Jail or Prison - At Intercept 3, individuals with mental health or substance use disorders who have not yet been diverted at previous intercepts may be held in pretrial detention while awaiting disposition of their criminal cases. This intercept centers around diversion of individuals from the jail or prison into programs or services that allow criminal charges to be resolved while also addressing the defendant’s mental and substance use disorder needs. The intercept also involves jail- and prison-based programming that supports defendants in a trauma-informed, evidence-based manner during their incarceration.

INTERCEPT 4: Reentry - At Intercept 4, individuals transition from detention/incarceration in a jail or prison back to the community. This intercept requires transition planning with specific considerations to ensure people with mental and substance use disorders can access and utilize medication and psychosocial treatment, housing, healthcare coverage, and services from the moment of release and throughout their reentry back into the community.

INTERCEPT 5: Community Corrections - At Intercept 5, community corrections agencies (probation and parole) provide essential community-based supervision, as an arm of the court, to individuals released from custody. People with mental and substance use disorders may be at risk for probation or parole violations and benefit from added supports at this intercept. Use of validated assessment tools, staff training on mental and substance use disorders, and responsive services, such as specialized caseloads, are vital to reducing unnecessary violations, decreasing criminal re-offense, and improving behavioral health outcomes, through enhanced connections to services and coordination of behavioral health treatment and criminal justice supervision goals.

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM): How It's Used

Most effective when used to assess available resources, determine what gaps there are in services, and then plan and implement changes.

Multi-system team creates the local Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) that identifies service opportunities at different sequential points from initial justice system contact through justice system exit/case closure

- Best accomplished by a multi-system team of stakeholders, including mental health, substance use, law enforcement, pretrial services, courts, jails, community corrections, housing, health, social services, people with lived experiences, family members, and many others.

- Promotes cross-system collaboration and coordination

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM): How It's Used

Local SIM shows a comprehensive picture of how people with mental and substance use disorders flow through six distinct intercept points:

- Intercept 0: Crisis, Respite, and Community Services
- Intercept 1: Law Enforcement Calls and Responses
- Intercept 2: Intake, Booking, and Bail Setting/Review (Initial Detention and Initial Court Hearings)
- Intercept 3: Courts and Incarceration in Jail or Prison
- Intercept 4: Reentry
- Intercept 5: Community Corrections

Sequential Intercept Model (SIM): How It's Used

Multi-disciplinary team identifies gaps, resources, and opportunities at each intercept - aligning diversion and treatment strategies with the stage of justice involvement

Guides development of priorities for action designed to improve system and service level responses for adults with mental and substance use disorders – processes, policies, and programs that impact success in reducing the prevalence of individuals with significant behavioral health disorders in jail

Sacramento County Adult Sequential Intercept Model (SIM): Multi-Disciplinary Teamwork

In 2017, a multi-disciplinary Mental Health Workgroup was created to identify and implement changes to reduce recidivism and enhance pretrial diversion for mentally ill defendants

- They recommended the Resolution approved by the County Board of Supervisors in January 2019 to join the National Stepping Up Initiative to help guide work to reduce the use of jail for people with mental illness/behavioral health needs who can be safely diverted to community based alternatives
- This team created and periodically updates the Adult SIM to show how people come into contact with and move through Sacramento County's criminal justice system
- AND to identify where/how justice and behavioral health agencies are working together to successfully address behavioral health issues impacting their ability to exit and stay out of the justice system - including an inventory of services describing what's available at different points along the criminal justice continuum
- This team is a subgroup of the CJC and is working with our Data Driven Recovery Project (DDRP) consultant to inform decisions through use of the SIM as a mechanism to collect, analyze, and report on key data elements in each Intercept

Sacramento County Adult SIM: Sharing What We Do

Mental Health Workgroup is committed to periodic updates of the SIM to ensure stakeholders have a central resource identifying what service and program opportunities are available

AND identify access points for behavioral services that are available at different points for people going through the criminal justice system in Sacramento County

Sacramento County Adult SIM: Sharing What We Do

Standardizes communication regarding what is being done, helping develop broader understanding and knowledge about the tremendous justice and behavioral health partnerships and collaborative work being done -identifying where/how justice and behavioral health agencies work together

Sacramento County Adult Sequential Intercept: Criminal Justice-Behavioral Health Partnerships

