



LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTED DIVERSION 2018 ACTIVITIES

WHAT IS LEAD? Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) is a pre-arrest, community-based diversion program for people whose criminal activity is due to behavioral health issues. In LEAD, low-level offenders are diverted away from arrest by law enforcement and towards immediate referral to harm reduction-based, individualized case management services.



On O'ahu, LEAD currently operates in the Chinatown area of Honolulu. In 2019, LEAD pilot projects have begun in Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Counties.

WHY IS LEAD IMPORTANT? LEAD was intended to demonstrate that non-coercive and non-punitive approaches to currently illegal activities such as drug use can be more effectively and humanely addressed outside of the criminal justice system. LEAD has been shown to be more effective than repeating the cycle of arrest and incarceration.

WHAT DOES LEAD OFFER? LEAD offers individualized case management services. The types of services accessed are entirely determined by individual participants and their case manager. As noted the only requirement for being in LEAD is to complete an intake assessment within a specified period of time. Afterwards the individual is free to walk away without repercussion.

DATA FROM THE 2019 PROGRAM EVALUATION

The LEAD HNL one-year evaluation examines program data from the period of July 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019, during which 47 individuals were referred to the program, and 37 were enrolled in and received services through LEAD HNL. While LEAD HNL has not begun the diversion component of the program, the program achieved its primary goal of reducing recidivism rates of clients solely through social referral, in collaboration with HPD's HELP initiative, the Sheriff Division of the Hawai'i Department of Public Safety, and the Governor's Office on Homelessness. The evaluation is available publicly at www.hhhrc.org/lead.

FINDINGS



55%

reduction in citation encounters with law enforcement compared to 3 years before LEAD



40%

decrease in emergency department utilization in the last month after engaging in LEAD



38%

reduction in number of unsheltered days on the street after participating in LEAD



30%

decrease in experience of violence, assault, or trauma after participating in LEAD



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62%

increase in the number of days participants felt hopeful about the future after entering the LEAD program

Notable gains were observed in clients' quality of life while in the program. They include improvements in hope for the future, social support, and mental health. It should be noted, however, that while clients' general health and quality of life have improved, they continue to fare much worse than the average adult living in Hawai'i.

LEAD PARTICIPANT SERVICES



95% received case management

79% received medical care

74% received transportation

47% received mental health care



48% of LEAD participants received support with obtaining ID and documentation to become housing ready



LEAD IS A SUCCESSFUL HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

- Low-barrier, easy-to-access, and non-judgmental services
- Compassionate and holistic person-centered care
- Meets people where they are
- Supports and celebrates any positive change
- Participants define their own goals



THE LEAD HAWAII HUI

ACLU of Hawai'i
ALEA Bridge
CARE Hawai'i
City and County of Honolulu
Community Alliance on Prisons
Department of Human Services
Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i
Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
Harm Reduction Hawai'i

Harm Reduction Services Branch, Hawai'i State Dept. of Health
Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Dept. of Human Services
Hawai'i Substance Abuse Coalition
Hawai'i Literacy
Helping Hands Hawai'i
Hina Mauka
Honolulu Police Department
Institute for Human Services
Kū Aloha Ola Mau
Mental Health America of Hawai'i
Mental Health Kokua

Partners in Care
PHOCUSED
Residential Youth Services & Empowerment
State Office of the Public Defender
The Salvation Army ATS-FTS
Susannah Wesley Community Center
UH Office of Public Health Studies
We are Oceania
Waikiki Health

Join our hui! Contact David, LEAD Honolulu Program Manager, at dshaku@hhrc.org.