



POLICING
ALTERNATIVES
& DIVERSION
INITIATIVE

2022 REPORT

*A NEW APPROACH
TO COMMUNITY SAFETY
& WELLNESS*





PAD promotes a new approach to community safety and wellness by reducing police involvement in issues related to quality-of-life concerns and by increasing the accessibility of supportive services. We engage in creative problem-solving to respond to community concerns, and addressing people's human needs with dignity, patience and care. PAD provides an alternative to criminal justice involvement through two core strategies:

1. Community Response Services: We partner with the City of Atlanta's 311 non-emergency services line to accept community referrals for issues of concern related to mental health, substance use or extreme poverty.

2. Diversion Services: We accept pre-arrest diversion referrals from law enforcement to provide an immediate alternative to arrest for individuals experiencing substance addiction, mental health concerns, or extreme poverty. We also accept post-booking diversions from the Fulton County Jail and Atlanta City Detention Center.

Our Care Navigation Team provides housing support, case management, and legal navigation for individuals who have been diverted by law enforcement or have an open and eligible criminal case in the City of Atlanta or Fulton County. We provided case management assistance to our participants for as long as they need assistance. We aim to build relationships to support our participants in achieving their goals for more stable and healthy lives.

THE TOP LINE: 2022

369

Diversions

1,321

Community
Response
Requests
Through
ATL311

382

New
Participants
Enrolled

1,661

Businesses
Engaged Through
Outreach

TESTIMONIAL

Bruce was diverted by law enforcement in January 2021 for urban camping near the Beltline. It was incredibly cold outside, and Bruce was immediately brought to the PAD office where he could warm up, have a hot meal, and be placed in emergency respite housing. Bruce began working diligently with PAD to obtain his birth certificate, military service records, and proof of his medical diagnosis – all necessary items to apply for the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing Voucher, a program that provides veterans with rental assistance, case management and clinical services. With the support of PAD's Housing Coordinator, Bruce successfully applied and was awarded a voucher, and then waited for an apartment to become available. This summer, after over six years of living on the street, Bruce moved into his very own place.



Diversions

369 COMPLETED DIVERSIONS

331 PRE-ARREST DIVERSIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

38 POST-BOOKING DIVERSIONS
- INCLUDES 26 POST-BOOKING DIVERSIONS FROM FULTON COUNTY JAIL

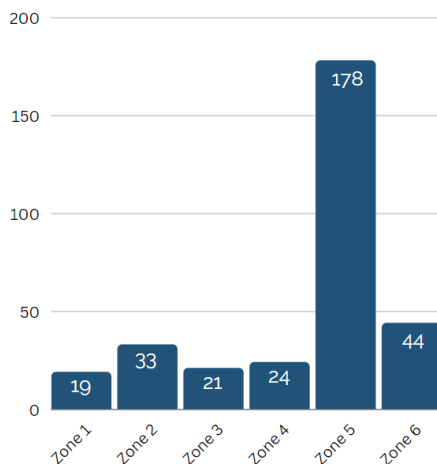
50 PAD RE-REFERALLS

Includes individuals who are referred more than once to PAD.

PAD accepts pre-arrest diversions from Atlanta Police Department, MARTA police officers, and Georgia Tech police officers who have probable cause to arrest an individual and identify that there is a need related to substance use, mental health, or extreme poverty. We also accept post-booking diversions from the Fulton County Jail and Atlanta City Detention Center.

The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion initiative, or LEAD, is a collaboration between PAD and the Atlanta Police Department, MARTA Police Department, City of Atlanta Public Defender's Office, City of Atlanta Solicitor's Office, Fulton County Public Defender's Office, Fulton County Solicitor General's Office, and Fulton County District Attorney's Office.

APD Pre-Arrest Diversions by Zone, 2022:



RESPONSE STATISTICS

Average response time to diversions was

20 minutes

TOP CHARGES AT THE TIME OF DIVERSION

1. Criminal Trespass
2. Panhandling
3. Shoplifting
4. Public Intoxication
5. Disorderly Conduct

Note there may be multiple charges per individual



Mr. Anderson was incarcerated at Fulton County jail when referred to PAD by the Fulton Public Defender's office in February 2022.

Immediately upon his release he was provided emergency shelter and paired with a Care Navigator. Today, Mr. Anderson lives in supportive housing and is in recovery from substance use. Mr. Anderson works a part time job as a Bobcat operator, which over the years has caused major hearing loss. In December he recieved hearing aids later - just in time to celebrate his birthday!

Recently, Mr. Anderson weighed in on the design and programming of the new Center for Diversion & Services in workshops hosted by PAD, Women on the Rise, Grady, and City and County partners.



Community Response Services

1,321 RESPONSE REQUESTS

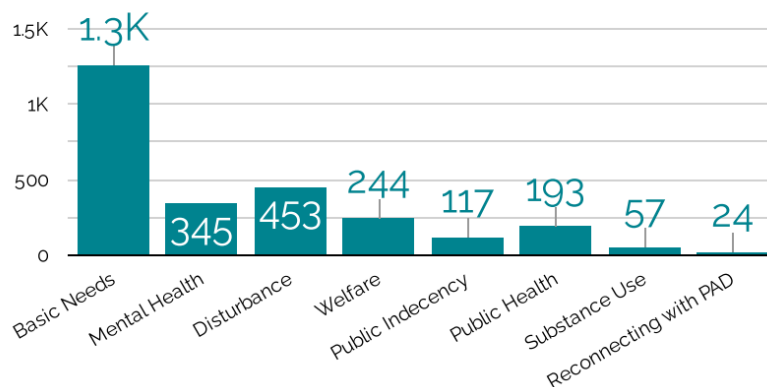
24 911 CALL TRANSFERS TO 311
SINCE OCTOBER LAUNCH

592 SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENTS

Excludes ineligible and duplicate calls.

Community members in Atlanta can call 311 regarding issues of community concern related to behavioral health or poverty. In October, 911 also began transferring calls concerning public indecency to 311. Our Harm Reduction team responds to these concerns and offers individuals short-term care navigation, stabilizing supports, and warm referrals to other service providers.

Top 311 Caller Concerns Among Successful Engagements



311 RESPONSE STATISTICS

1,091 referral requests were designated as requiring an immediate response. The average response time was

21 minutes

74.6% of these calls received an in-person response within 30 minutes.

124 requests were designated as outreach requests.

77 requests were provided with resources by PAD staff over the phone.

TESTIMONIAL

"As a 25+ year resident of Virginia Highland and an advocate for public safety in the neighborhood, I have seen our challenges with homelessness and mentally ill individuals increase substantially. Since PAD was implemented, we have seen a noticeable change for the better in how these challenges are addressed. PAD is one service we can all feel good about and which improves the lives of all members of our *community*."

- K.S.



Care Navigation

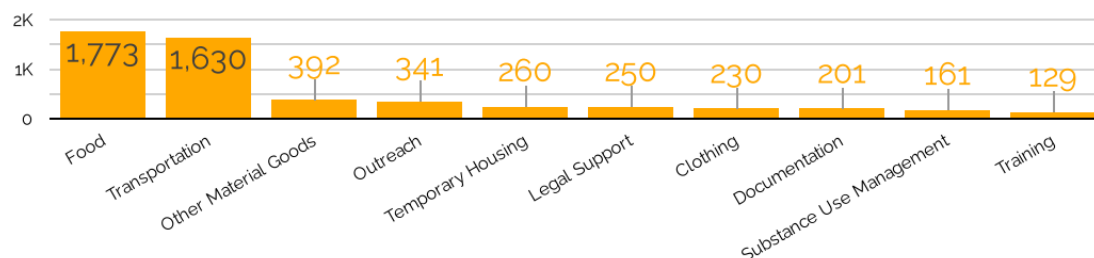
382 NEW PARTICIPANTS
ENROLLED IN 2022

582 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
CURRENTLY ENROLLED

PAD provides direct services to individuals that are focused on reducing the activities that lead to police contact and address quality of life concerns in a way that honors the dignity and self-determination of the referred individual. Our direct services include:

- **Immediate Shelter & Basic Needs:** People are offered emergency shelter, transportation and food assistance.
- **Linkage to Care:** People are supported with care navigation, and connected to service providers for identification documents, recovery support, employment, and other services.

SERVICES PROVIDED



HOUSING SUPPORT

Provided emergency housing:	304
Placed in residential substance use treatment:	145
Placed in bridge housing:	141
Placed in shelter:	103
Placed in permanent supportive housing:	75
Placed in veteran affairs supportive housing:	8
Placed in private housing:	6
Family reunification:	1

“When I was arrested, I was fired. I had no savings or safety net. I had been so unstable for years, renting rooms, being abused, living in my car. Getting the housing voucher was one of the best things to happen to me in my life.”



With the support of their Care Navigator, Monroe successfully obtained their social security card and a mental health diagnosis and treatment plan. They have received intensive outpatient treatment and now attend weekly group therapy sessions. After receiving the Georgia Housing Voucher this summer, Monroe moved into a place of their own in the fall.

SUPPORTING NEW PATHWAYS TO HOUSING

In May 2022, PAD launched street-based intensive case management for people with severe mental illness who are unhoused, with dedicated bridge housing, supportive services, and housing voucher placement through a partnership with Georgia DBHDD, Grady Hospital and Partners for HOME. Each team is staffed by a Peer Advocate and Clinical Specialist.

Community Engagement

1,661

**BUSINESSES
ENGAGED**

Through in-person canvassing.



PAD was selected by the National Football League as one of five new national grant partners as part of the Inspire Change Initiative. The grant was approved by the Social Justice Working Group, which is comprised of members of the Players Coalition and five team owners, including Atlanta Falcons' owner Arthur Blank.

After the grant was announced, Takeo Spikes, former NFL linebacker and Players Coalition Advocate, visited our office to meet our team and see our work up close.

PAD is a homegrown initiative that was created in response to broad public support for service-based responses to issues arising from mental health concerns, substance use and extreme poverty. As we grow, community engagement remains at the heart of our work. Whether we're attending community events or speaking at an NPU meeting, we are focused on spreading the word about PAD's services far and wide.

The PAD Community Engagement team provides door-to-door outreach to businesses and residents, specifically targeting neighborhoods with high arrest rates for behavioral health and poverty concerns. PAD also engages law enforcement through in-person trainings at headquarters and the Academy and weekly visits to roll calls at precincts.



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The Player's Coalition/NFL have truly found a partner that is not only talking about the work but doing the work and meeting people, literally, where they are.

TAKEO SPIKES
FORMER NFL LINEBACKER,
PLAYERS COALITION ADVOCATE AND
EXECUTIVE TASK FORCE MEMBER