



Bothell 2019 Report

Demographic and Program Data

During 2019, RADAR Navigators and co-responding Bothell Police Department officers responded to 72 community members in behavioral health crisis, spending an average of 45 minutes per contact. Of those individuals, 15% were homeless, and at least 61% had a disabling behavioral health condition that interfered with one or more domain of their lives. At least 52% received a referral to some type of ongoing services, connecting those people to the system of care and reducing reliance on law enforcement and the crisis system.



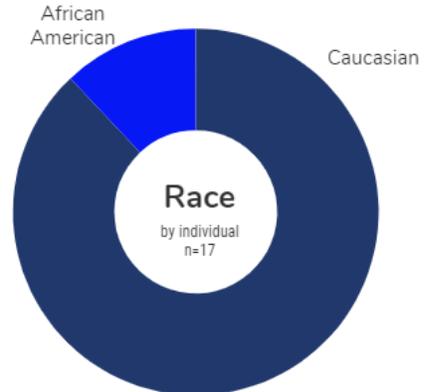
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61%
Disabling Behavioral
Health Condition



Navigator Stories

Navigator staff have been a valuable resource for Bothell Police Department. They bring a wealth of knowledge and resources, helping Bothell residents in crisis get the services they need so that law enforcement officers no longer need to intervene. RADAR Navigators have helped many Bothell residents access behavioral health treatment, including helping one Bothell man get his son immediate substance abuse treatment at an inpatient program.



In another case, a woman who was homeless and living outside, and who had multiple contacts with Bothell Police Department was finally willing to accept a referral to a shelter with a day program that would be appropriate for her mental health needs.

In many cases, RADAR Navigator staff have helped Bothell Police Officers recognize and respond to individuals who have also active behavioral issues in other cities. For example, a RADAR Navigator worked with both Bothell and Lake Forest Park officers in several cases to obtain services for individuals who had posed safety issues in both communities.

The North Sound RADAR Program

RADAR (**R**esponse Awareness, **D**e-escalation **A**nd **R**eferral) is a collaboration between the Police Departments in Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell and Kirkland to address the rights and needs of individuals with behavioral health issues and/or developmental disabilities (BH/DD).

RADAR aims to decrease use-of-force incidents between police and individuals with BH/DD and to reduce the repeated and inappropriate use of emergency services by institutionalizing department-wide and regional **information sharing** about community members who may be at increased risk of violence or use of force, and offering **connection to services and resources** through a Mental Health Professional (MHP) Navigator accompanied by a law enforcement co-responder. MHP Navigators focus on moving people into **community-based and long-term systems of care to reduce reliance on the crisis and criminal legal systems and to improve outcomes**. The **unique inter-jurisdictional nature** of the RADAR Program recognizes that people often move throughout a region, and capitalizes on economies of scale in staffing and administration.

A study by George Mason University researchers showed a reduction in use of force after RADAR was implemented, and that law enforcement officers working RADAR Program Navigators believed that the program contributed to their job satisfaction and effectiveness.¹

The creation of RADAR was been made possible by grants from the King County Sheriff Office, the United States Department of Justice through the Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Policing Initiative. The Program is currently funded by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, and the King County Mental Illness Drug Dependency (MIDD) Behavioral Health Sales Tax Fund.

Program Goals

- Develop and share individualized de-escalation strategies to reduce police use-of-force incidents during encounters with people with BH/DD.
- Collaborate with a mental health professional (RADAR Navigator) to connect individuals with BH/DD to ongoing services and treatment.
- Reduce repeat encounters with first responders and increase the effectiveness of police responses.
- Create cost effective community-policing strategies and promote increased collaboration between deputies, persons with BH/DD, caregivers, and families.

2019 Program Data Overall (All 5 Cities)

During 2019 RADAR Navigators served a total of 316 Individuals during a total of 446 Encounters. The average time per encounter was 1.3 hours. For over 60% of individuals served, a referral was made to an ongoing service. At least 43% of individuals served had a behavioral health condition that was disruptive enough to their lives to qualify as a disability. At least 16% were homeless.

¹ RADAR: Response Awareness, De-Escalation, and Referral. Final Evaluation Report. Gill, C., Jensen, R., Vovak, H. George Mason University Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy. December 2019.