



Snapshot of Re-entry Mediation Statistics: February 2009 – June 2015

Choice Research Associates has been contracted to serve as an independent evaluator for the Community Mediation Maryland (CMM) Prison Re-entry Mediation program. Research began in mid-February 2009. This snapshot provides a picture of the service provision and a look at the longer term impact of re-entry mediation. In this time period, CMM provided Re-entry Mediation in 25 state facilities and 12 county facilities throughout Maryland.

From February, 2009 to June 2015, 721 inmates accepted the invitation and participated in mediation services. Demographic information was gathered for 472 of the 721, as follows:

Characteristics of Inmates:

- 33.4 years old (ranging 19 to 86)
- 88% Male
- 72% African American; 20% Caucasian;
- 2% Hispanic; <1% Asian; 5% Other/Multi-Racial
- 47% Single/Never Married; 23% Committed;
- 19% Married; 69% have Children
- 27% Incarcerated for the first time
- 48% Incarcerated 12 months or less

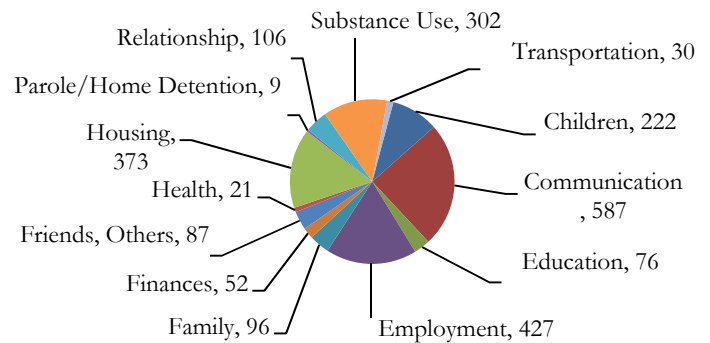
Mediated with 637 Outside Participants, of which:

- 31% Spouse/Partner
(Including boyfriend/girlfriend)
- 26% were Inmate's Parent
- 5% Child or Children of Inmate
- 5% Inmate's Child's Parent
- 19% Other Relatives
- 14% Friends and others

Mediations Conducted:

In this period, 766 cases mediated, for a total of 1,200 mediation sessions. Of these 1200 sessions, data for 835 sessions were collected. Participants decide what issues they want to discuss. The topic most often discussed in mediation was communication, followed by employment, housing, substance abuse, child access/children, relationships, friends and other relationships, education, finances, transportation and health (mental, physical, and insurance). (More than one topic may be discussed in a mediation session).

Mediation Topics N=836 Mediation Sessions



Participant Feedback: immediately following mediation indicates high levels of satisfaction with mediation service.

Of 1,096 mediation participants following their first session:

- 99% felt they could express themselves freely during mediation.
- 90% agreed they understood the other participant better as a result of mediation.
- 88% thought the other participant understood them better.
- 91% agreed they were satisfied with the results of mediation.
- 97% would recommend mediation to others involved in conflict.

Measureable Results: Two questions are asked at intake and again immediately following mediation – 1) “I feel I have no control over my relationship” and 2) “conflict can be dealt with productively”. Participants are asked their level of agreement with these statements on a scale of 1 to 5 (with the question about control set up so that higher values indicating a more positive response – a greater level of empowerment). With 848 participants reporting, there is a statistically significant gain of .55 ($p < .000$) in the average score on feeling more in control in the relationship, and with 837 reporting, there was a gain of .34 (significant $p < .000$) in feeling that conflict can be dealt with productively in the period between intake to the conclusion of the first mediation session.

Follow-up: Participants were surveyed 3 months following release from the facility, and among 176 respondents with data:

- 58% advised both communication with the other party and ability to work together was better after mediation.
- 84% agree they are more likely to think of a lot of different ways to solve conflict before they make a decision, and 86% agree when a conflict arises, they try to think things through before responding.
- 67% of outside participants and 84% of inside participants reported inmate was more prepared to return home.
- 75% of outside participants and 68% of inside participants had more hope for the future as a result of mediation.