



COMMUNITY MEDIATION MARYLAND RE-ENTRY MEDIATION PROGRAM: IMPACT ON RECIDIVISM

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The program serves those incarcerated in jail and prison who are within 18 months of release from facilities in the state of Maryland.

Individuals who are interested and volunteer in the program are allowed to select individuals in their life to participate in mediation.

Individuals may undergo between one and three (on average 1.7 sessions) two-hour confidential sessions within the correctional facility, facilitated by two trained volunteer community mediators.

During sessions, mediators (a) explain mediation, (b) facilitate dialogue surrounding the conflict, (c) identify topics all participants want to discuss, (d) facilitate a brainstorm in which participants develop solutions, and (e) in some cases, write the participants' agreement for them to sign.

CrimeSolutions.Gov recognized CMM Re-Entry Program as a "Promising Practice" in 2017

Community Mediation Maryland (CMM) Re-entry Mediation is an innovative program that aims to assist those in correctional settings in their return to the community. The program operates by aiding in rebuilding relationships fractured by the experiences of incarceration by providing opportunities to meet, create spaces for challenging conversations and productive next steps, and ultimately, rebuild relationships that are fundamental for successful reentry. This report supplements the prior studies conducted in 2013 and 2014, analyzing the impact mediation has on recidivism using a larger sample and additional data.

The Project CMM engaged with Choice Research Associates (CRA) in 2008 to assess the impact of their program. This study examines re-entry mediation services from 2009 to 2019.

The Final Sample comprised 12,459 individuals, of which 11,352 had complete data. Data was provided by Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service (DPSCS) and includes criminal history records, Department of Corrections (DOC), and Department of Parole and Probation (DPP) data.

The Method utilized rigorous sample matching techniques and sophisticated statistical models to account for other factors that could explain these results.



RESULTS: OVERALL

Results consistently show that when compared to individuals who did not participate in the program, individuals who received mediation experienced less criminal legal system involvement. On average, mediation participants were:

- ↓ 4.5% less likely to be arrested
- ↓ 3.3% less likely to be re-convicted
- ↓ 3.8% less likely to be reincarcerated
- ↓ 6.8% less likely to violate supervision

Results suggest Mediation may be differentially effective for different subgroups:

- Men are more likely to see an impact
- The relationship between mediation and recidivism is strongest for those in the sentenced population

RESULTS: SENTENCED POPULATION

The sentenced population of mediation participants is on average:

- ↓ 5.5% less likely to be arrested
- ↓ 5.3% less likely to be re-convicted
- ↓ 5.8% less likely to be reincarcerated
- ↓ 7.8% less likely to violate supervision

KEY FINDING

Those who participate in mediation appear to have a consistently lower likelihood of recidivism across a host of measures compared to those who did not participate.

Note: The results appear to be sensitive to characteristics that are either not measured in the data or unable to be directly measured. See the Full Report for a full discussion of the limitations.
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