



## Snapshot of Re-entry Mediation Statistics: February 2009 – September 2018

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. This report includes data from 6 CMM centers who provided Re-entry Mediation in 23 state facilities and 7 county facilities throughout Maryland.

From February, 2009 to September 2018, 1,648 inmates accepted the invitation and participated in mediation services. Demographic information was gathered for 1,349 of the 1,648, as follows:

### Characteristics of Inmates:

- 32.5 years old (ranging 18 to 81)
- 90% Male
- 74% African American; 19% Caucasian;
- <2% Hispanic; <1% Asian; 5% Other/Multi-Racial
- 47% Single/Never Married; 27% Committed;
- 14% Married; 65% have Children
- 29% Incarcerated for the first time
- 41% Incarcerated 12 months or less

### Mediations Conducted:

In this period, 1,945 cases mediated, for a total of 3,366 mediation sessions. Of these 3,366 sessions, data for 2,860 sessions were collected. Participants decide what issues they want to discuss. The topic most often discussed in mediation was communication, followed by housing, employment, substance abuse, child access/children, friends and other relationships, relationships, education, finances, health (mental, physical, and insurance) and transportation. (More than one topic may be discussed in a mediation session).

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

Of 3,488 mediation participants following their first session:

- 99% felt they could express themselves freely during mediation.
- 91% agreed they understood the other participant better as a result of mediation.
- 89% thought the other participant understood them better.
- 93% 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 2,575 participants reporting, there is a statistically significant gain of .45 ( $p < .000$ ) in the average score on feeling more in control in the relationship, and among 2,553 reporting, there was a gain of .30 (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 403 respondents with data:

- 60% advised communication with the other party was better after mediation.
- 63% advised the ability to work together was better after mediation.
- 86% agree they are more likely to think of a lot of different ways to solve conflict before they make a decision, and 92% agree when a conflict arises, they try to think things through before responding.
- 79% of outside participants and 92% of inside participants reported inmate was more prepared to return home.
- 85% of outside participants and 76% of inside participants had more hope for the future as a result of mediation.

### Mediated with 2,164 Outside Participants, of which:

- 28% Spouse/Partner (Including boyfriend/girlfriend)
- 27% were Inmate’s Parent
- 10% Inmate’s Child’s Parent
- 3% Child or Children of Inmate
- 22% Siblings and Other Relatives
- 10% Friends and Others

### Mediation Topics N=2,860 Mediation Sessions

