

**A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research**

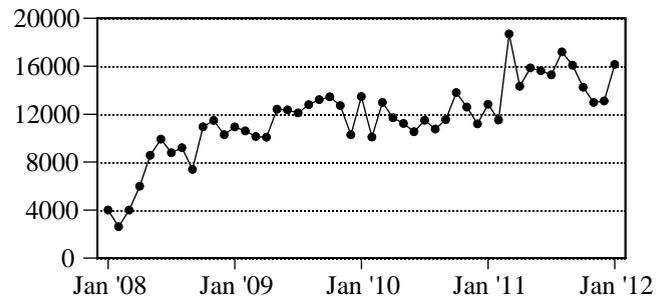
**University of Maryland, College Park**

## *Governor's Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) Connects Residents to Needed Community Services*

The Maryland Community Services Locator ([www.mdcs.org](http://www.mdcs.org)) is an interactive online directory developed to connect residents to needed community services. The MDCSL is funded by a grant from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. This valuable tool allows users to search for specific services, specify certain criteria such as payment options or populations served, obtain organizational contact information, map resources by location, and receive instant directions to programs. Since its launch in October 2007, the website has expanded to include more than 9,000 criminal justice, health, and social service programs throughout Maryland, which are each verified annually by MDCSL staff. The number of MDCSL program searches per month has steadily increased, reaching more than 16,000 in January 2012 (see figure).

In addition to making it easier for all Maryland residents to locate community services, the MDCSL also assists professionals in making referrals for clients to community services. For example, the MDCSL recently partnered with the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women and the Montgomery County Pre-Release Center to improve transition to the community by allowing inmates to access the MDCSL website inside their correctional facilities. To encourage the use of the MDCSL as a referral tool, MDCSL provides webinar trainings and community resource-sharing events. To date, the MDCSL has trained approximately 15,400 professionals from a wide range of service organizations across the state. In 2011, the MDCSL applied the Maryland branding standards to the website to improve awareness and recognition of the site as a state resource.

**Number of MDCSL Program Searches Per Month**



The MDCSL can be a valuable and time-saving resource for professionals who need to make referrals to social service programs, as well as for residents looking for help. CESAR can share lessons learned and provide development and management consultation services to other organizations looking to develop a similar program in their county or state. For more information, please contact the Amy Billing at [mdcs@umd.edu](mailto:mdcs@umd.edu) or 301-405-9796.

SOURCE: CESAR, The Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL). Funded by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention under grant number BJNT 2009-1565.

### **Let Us Know How You Use the MDCSL**

The MDCSL is up for refunding by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. We are asking users who find the website valuable to send an email of support ([mdcs@umd.edu](mailto:mdcs@umd.edu)) which can be included with our grant application. We are interested to know how you use the site, what makes it useful to you, and how we can make it better. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated and will help us continue to provide this valuable resource to the State of Maryland.