

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

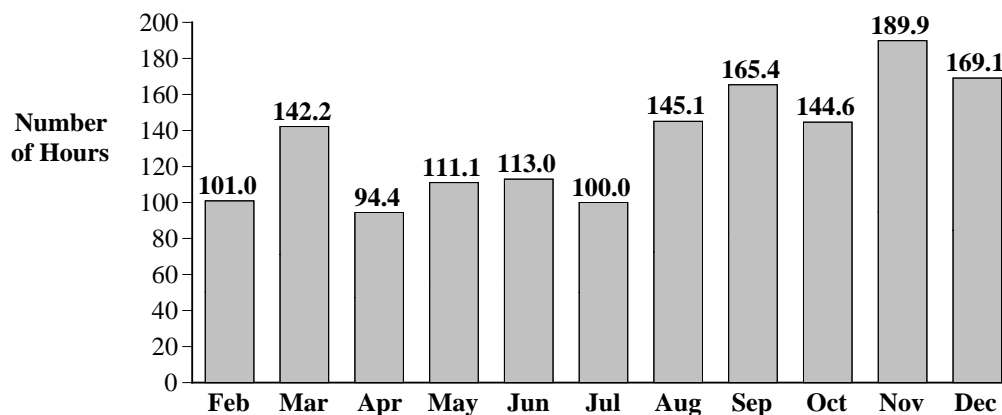
University of Maryland, College Park

Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) Connects Inmates to Post-Release Services

The Maryland Community Services Locator (MDCSL) was developed by CESAR to help parole and probation agents link their clients to community services. Funded by the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention, the MDCSL (www.mdcsll.org) is a free, interactive online directory of nearly 9,000 criminal justice, health, and social service programs in Maryland and enables users to identify programs by distance from any specified location. As use of the MDCSL grew statewide, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) decided to make a special version of the MDCSL available to inmates. In February 2013, DPSCS initiated limited internet access computer labs in 21 correctional facilities for inmates to access the MDCSL. To date, inmates have logged more than 1,475 hours on the MDCSL website, with the number of hours gradually increasing (see figure below). Gary Maynard, former Secretary of DPSCS, recently stated, "With approximately 63,000 individuals under criminal supervision living in Maryland communities, this MDCSL generated directory is critical in assisting them to connect with essential criminal justice, health and social services" (personal communication, 2013).

For further information on developing a similar online service in your facility, please contact Amy Billing, Project Director, at mdcsll@umd.edu or 301-405-9770.

Total Number of Hours of MDCSL Usage by Inmates in 21 Maryland Correctional Facilities, February-December 2013



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data provided by the Maryland DPSCS, Information Technology & Communication Division. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded MDCSL under grant number BJAG-2011-0007. All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency.

Interested in Developing a Community Services Locator for Your Correctional Facility?

CESAR is looking for correctional facilities in other states who would like to partner with CESAR to produce a community services locator in their facility. Please contact Amy Billing at mdcsll@umd.edu or 301-405-9770 for more information.

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