

Mediation Program Fact Sheet

For nearly two decades, Catalyst CT's Mediation program has equipped justice-involved youth with lifelong conflict-resolution skills while addressing harm in a meaningful, restorative way. A trained, impartial mediator facilitates a conversation, bringing together youth, victim(s), and supporters. Participants share their experiences, and our clients gain insights into the consequences of their actions. Together, everyone can collaborate on solutions to make amends and resolve conflicts, which may include restitution of medical bills, property damage costs, or other expenses. Though mediation is a brief encounter, it leaves a lasting impact. Youth develop critical interpersonal skills to address conflict that help them navigate future challenges productively, building their confidence.

The Mediation Program serves the Bridgeport, Stamford, Waterbury, and Torrington juvenile court catchment areas, along with the surrounding Juvenile Review Boards and Youth Diversionary Teams. **It resolves cases in an average of six weeks with 1-2 mediators, compared to the 6-12 in the traditional court process involving 7-8 judicial staff.** With a \$250,000 annual budget, the Mediation program delivers faster, cost-effective outcomes that strengthen Connecticut's youth and communities.

With Mediation We...	By...
Resolve the root of the conflict	Bringing people face to face to discuss their concerns
Shorten interactions with the justice system	Taking about 4-6 weeks, rather than the anecdotal average of 6-12 months for traditional judicial handling
Lower the risk of youth reoffending	Shortening the time in contact with the justice system, reducing the likelihood of recidivism
Provide victims a voice and input on case resolution	Offering victims opportunities to ask questions and resolve their concerns about the harm caused
Reduce court dockets	Allowing court staff to focus on other cases as referrals are removed from the docket
Allow youth to take ownership of their action's impact	Engaging all participants in a restorative conversation instead of a punitive action

Success & Impact


1024

Between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2024, Mediation staff **mediated 224 cases** out of 258 referred, **impacting 1024 individuals.**


925

925 individuals engaged in the mediation process, touching the lives of youth, victims, and adults who support them.

87%
**CASES AGREED
TO MEDIATION**

96%
**CASES SUCCESSFULLY
MEDIATED**



PROGRAM CONTACT

LISA MCKENNA, PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Phone: 203.989.0073 • Email: lmckenna@catalystct.org

Participants Referred	
Justice-Involved Youth (Offenders)	408
Victims	148
Parents/Guardians/Supporters	468
Total Participants Referred	1024

Case Flow	
Added Between 7/1/19-6/30/24	255
Closed Between 7/1/19-6/30/24	258
Pending 6/30/24*	3
*These cases carried over to the next fiscal year.	

Participants Mediated*	
Justice-Involved Youth (Offenders)	368
Victims	106
Parents/Guardians/Supporters	451
Total Participants Mediated	925
*May include individuals referred from the prior fiscal year.	

Case Outcomes	
Agreement Reached	217
Mediated Agreement Not Reached	7
Mediated Total Results	224
Not Mediated	34
Total Cases Closed During Period	258

Our Mediation program owes much of its success to the neutrality of its trained mediators. Unlike probation or prosecution staff, who are inherently tied to the judicial system, mediators serve as impartial facilitators. This independence fosters **trust among all participants**, allowing open and honest engagement in the process.

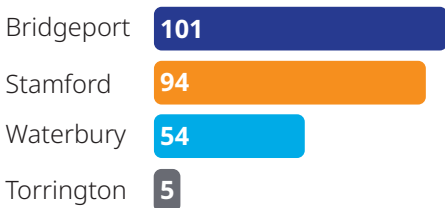
What I like best about mediation is the boys got to **talk about how they felt** and what they did to each other was not worth it. I feel that if the school had mediation for the kids, a lot of the kids would be able to work things out a little better.

Case Referrals

Sought after by front-line judicial staff and court diversion programs, mediation offers an effective and essential way to address accountability while **resolving cases faster** and **keeping youth out of the judicial system**. Over the last five years, Connecticut's diversionary efforts accounted for a quarter of the cases referred to the Mediation program, reducing a youth's likelihood of deeper legal involvement. Based on post-pandemic trends, this number is expected to rise in coming years.

By Location

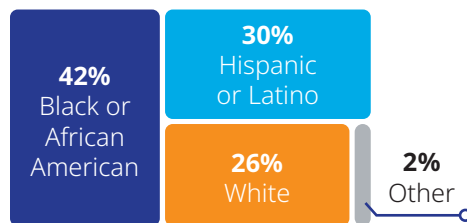
*Cases that involve cross-arrests reflect multiple cases.



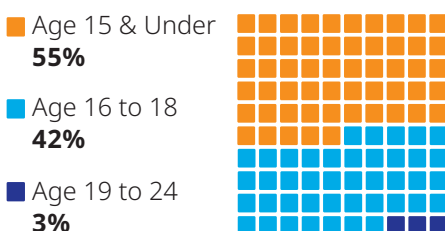
By Judicial Department

Probation	181
Prosecutor	66
Public Defender	6

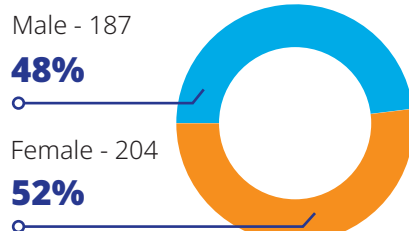
By Race/Ethnicity



By Age



By Gender



Most Prevalant Charges

- Breach of Peace
- Assault
- Disorderly Conduct
- Criminal Mischief
- Threatening