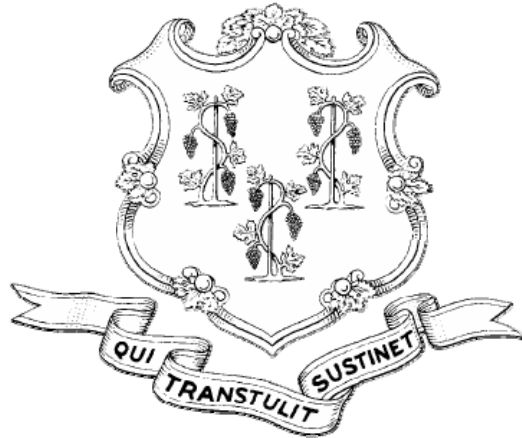# 2010 *Annual*

Recidivism Report

State of Connecticut

Office of Policy and Management

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

February 15, 2010

Acknowledgements

This report has been generated by the Office of Policy and Management in collaboration with members of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC) Research Workgroup.

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Introduction

The State of Connecticut Recidivism Study is an annual report published in response to the statutory requirements outlined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-68o. This statute tasked the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (CJPPD) within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) with issuing an annual report on the recidivism of offenders released from the custody of the Department of Correction (DOC) and from probation.

This is the fourth annual report to study recidivism in Connecticut that has been prepared by OPM. The 2010 study followed 16,241 sentenced offenders for a three year period after they were released or discharged from a state correctional facility during 2005. The study tracked four measures of recidivism during the three year period following an offender's release from prison consistent with the methodology applied by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. These four measures include: 1) new arrests; 2) new convictions; 3) any incidence of re-incarceration; and 4) returns to prison with a new sentence. In addition, a detailed analysis of recidivism rates for select offender groups is provided.

This study finds recidivism in Connecticut to be generally consistent with other states for the categories of recidivism that were reported. As in past studies on both the state and national level, offenders that were discharged after completing community supervision programs, like parole or transitional supervision, had the lowest recidivism rates among all groups of offenders in the study. For example, while 36.6% of all offenders were re-incarcerated for new sentences within 3 years of release, 27.9% of offenders completing transitional supervision and 24.7% of offenders completing parole were re-incarcerated for new sentences.

This report is a collaborative project with the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission's (CJPAC) Research Workgroup. We would welcome any comments or suggestions regarding this report or future projects.

Brian Austin, Jr., Esq., Undersecretary

Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Executive Summary

Recidivism Rates in Connecticut, 2005 - 2008

Within three years of their release or discharge:

- 67.5% of offenders were rearrested

- 53.7% were convicted for a new criminal offense

- 56.5% were returned to prison with new charges, for either technical violations or to begin a new prison sentence

- 36.6% were reincarcerated to serve a new prison sentence

These recidivism rates are consistent with the analysis performed last year and with Federal findings.

Recidivism and End of Sentence (EOS) Discharges

- During the same year, 1,514 offenders were discharged after completing the terms of their community-supervised parole (746) or transitional supervision (768). These offenders returned to prison at significantly lower rates (24.7% for parole and 27.9% for transitional supervision) than offenders who were released directly from a prison facility. This data suggests that offenders who complete community supervision programs have a higher probability of successful re-entry to the community from prison.

Recidivism and Community Supervision Releases

- Recidivism rates for the four major discretionary release programs were grouped relatively closely together. Parolees had the highest recidivism rates, with 41% returning to prison to begin new sentences within three years. Among the 2,300 offenders released to transitional supervision (TS), 37.4% began a new sentence. Offenders who were initially released to halfway houses (HWH) in 2005 returned at a 38.3% rate.

Recidivism and Probationers

- An offender's violation of probation (VOP) history is a predictor of increased recidivism. Of those offenders who had a history of two or more VOP convictions prior to their 2005 release or discharge, almost 50% returned to prison for a new sentence within 36 months. Among offenders with no history of probation violation prior to their release, only 27.3% returned within 36 months.

Recidivism and TPAI Risk Scoring

- The TPAI (Treatment Program Assessment Instrument) is an eight-point risk scale, based on a variety of factors that have been shown to correlate to offender risk. The TPAI is one of several

risk tools used by the CT DOC. OPM helped to validate this risk instrument using recidivism data for offenders released in 2004. The 4,751 offenders with highest TPAI scores, returned to prison to serve a new sentence at a 50% rate within three years. Offenders with the lowest scores returned at a 19% rate.

Return Rates for Recidivists: 2005 Release Cohort

- When we consider only those offenders who were rearrested during 36 months, we discover that 38.6% were rearrested during the first 6 months following their 2005 release or discharge. Among the 8,717 offenders who were returned to prison during the next 36 months, 36.7% were reincarcerated within 6 months. Unlike arrests and reincarcerations that peaked within three months of release or discharge, peak times for new convictions were at 8 months and 15 months.

Comparison 2004 and 2005 Offender Cohorts

- When comparing 2004 and 2005 offender release cohorts, there were slight increases in the number of offenders who left prison for some form of community supervision prior to discharge. The overall pattern of releases-to-discharges, however, remained virtually the same between 2004 and 2005.

Recidivism and Gender

- In general, female offenders recidivate at lower rates than male offenders. There are several significant factors that distinguish the female prison population from the male prison population. In comparison to male offenders, female offenders tend to be older, have higher rates of educational attainment, and possess more employment experience and skills. They also tend to enter prison for the first time at an older age than males. In general, they also have less extensive criminal histories.

Recidivism, Gender and Age

- Among females, younger offenders did not exhibit the highest rates of recidivism. Analysis of female age quintiles revealed some unexpected results. Among females, offenders in the middle quintile, between ages of 34 to 38, had the highest recidivism rates among all women. In fact, female offenders between the ages of 34 to 38 had higher rates of recidivism than middle-quintile male offenders in all recidivism categories except the new prison sentence rate at 36 months.

Female Offender Recidivism and Education Need Scores

- Analysis revealed that while recidivism rates and the educational level of female offenders is related, the difference in recidivism rates between level 1 and level 3 offenders were not as great as we might have anticipated.

Recidivism and Age at Release

- Over 80% of offenders who were under the age of 21 were rearrested within three years. Of 1,395 offenders who were younger than 21 and were released or discharged in 2005, only 240 were not rearrested within three years.

Recidivism and Alcohol and Drug Scores

- DOC uses the substance abuse treatment need score (T-score) to describe the extent, nature, and pattern of alcohol or other drug use related to general life functioning. Assessments are performed by Addition Services staff employed by DOC. Substance abuse treatment need scores range from 1 to 5. A score of 5 indicates an extremely serious substance abuse problem requiring a high-level of intensive treatment. A score of 4 indicates serious substance abuse problems requiring residential or intensive outpatient treatment.

- The Substance-Abuse Treatment Scores, for both men and women, were a predictor of recidivism among the 2005-release cohort. Among males, 46% of offenders assessed with T-scores of 4 returned to prison with new sentences in the three-years following their release. Among women with T-scores of 4, the rate was 37%.

Recidivism and Mental Health Scores

- All sentenced inmates are assigned a mental health needs score. These scores are not diagnostic. Instead, they identify the level of mental-health care that is most appropriate. Mental health scores range from 1 to 5. A MH5 score indicates a crisis level mental disorder requiring 24-hour nursing care. A MH4 score indicates a mental health disorder severe enough to require specialized housing or intensive mental health treatment, usually including psychotropic medications.

- 766 offenders in the 2005 cohort were assigned a MH5 score at least once prior to their 2005 release. 748 offenders had been assigned a MH4 score prior to release. Both of these groups of offenders had significantly higher recidivism rates than the cohort average.

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Methodology

OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM) is statutorily required (CGS § 4-68o) to produce annual reports on recidivism among offenders released from prison, probationers, and offenders participating in programs to reduce prison overcrowding, improve rehabilitation, and enhance re-entry strategies.

In 2009, OPM tracked 16,486 sentenced offenders who were released or discharged by the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC) in 2004 to determine recidivism rates for offenders in the state. At that time OPM modeled its study on the methodology applied by the U.S Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics in its 2002 study, "Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994".

In this current study, OPM has utilized the same methodology to calculate the recidivism rates of 16,241 sentenced offenders who were released or discharged by the DOC in 2005. Similar to the federal study, OPM tracks four types of recidivism for a three year period following an offender's release from prison. These four recidivism types include: 1) new arrests; 2) new convictions; 3) any incidence of re-incarceration; and 4) returns to prison with a new sentence. Unlike the federal study, OPM did not attempt to identify out-of-state incidents of recidivism.

The initial data used for this study was provided by the DOC from a query they produced that identified all sentenced offenders who had been released[1] or discharged from a state prison facility during 2005. The DOC also provided a wide range of supporting data for these offenders including: a complete prison-sentence history; records of all offender admissions, releases, and movements within the prison system; historical need and risk scores; and general demographic information.

Using personal identifiers for each offender in the DOC dataset, the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) were able to match DOC records with a complete electronic history of arrests and case dispositions for every offender in the 2005-release cohort.

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[1] The Department of Correction distinguishes between prison releases and prison discharges. Released offenders remain under the supervision of DOC personnel after leaving a prison facility. Discharged offenders are no longer under DOC custody once they have left prison. End of Sentence or "EOS" identifies discharged offenders who have completed the terms of their DOC custody and supervision.

Once this data was compiled, OPM verified that each offender in the study had a valid release or discharge date in 2005. Offenders who died within three years of their 2005 discharge or release were removed from the data set. Since it is not uncommon for offenders to be admitted and released from prison several times during the course of a year, OPM identified the first valid release date during 2005 for every offender in the study. Identifying these initial release/discharge dates was critical in computing recidivism rates for the entire offender cohort. These dates were compared to the dates of subsequent arrests, court dispositions and DOC admittances. When these time-to-recidivation dates were aggregated, OPM was able to produce data tables containing the monthly rates, in cumulative percentages, at which offenders returned to the criminal justice system.

Although the purpose of this study is to assess the recidivism rates of prisoners released from Connecticut prisons, it is essential to remember that the 16,000 prisoners who re-enter society each year are not a homogenous population. The 2005-release cohort contained offenders as young as 15 and others who were older than 70. Some were discharged from prison within days of being sentenced; others were discharged after completing considerable prison sentences. One offender in the cohort had spent the last 40 years behind bars.

Although OPM collects and analyzes large volumes of data, large gaps remain in our knowledge of why offenders succeed or fail in the community. It is hoped that the analysis produced here contributes to a more thorough understanding of Connecticut's prison population, and that this analysis can be used to benchmark future improvements to the system.

Recidivism Rates in Connecticut, 2005 - 2008

This study tracked 16, 241 sentenced offenders who were released or discharged by the Department of Correction (DOC) in 2005 to determine the three-year recidivism rates of Connecticut prisoners. Using data provided by DOC, the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD), and the Department of Public Safety, the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division calculated recidivism rates for four types of recidivism including: 1) new arrests; 2) new convictions; 3) any incidence of re-incarceration; and 4) returns to prison with a new sentence.

## CHART 1: Recidivism Rates in Connecticut, 2005 – 2008
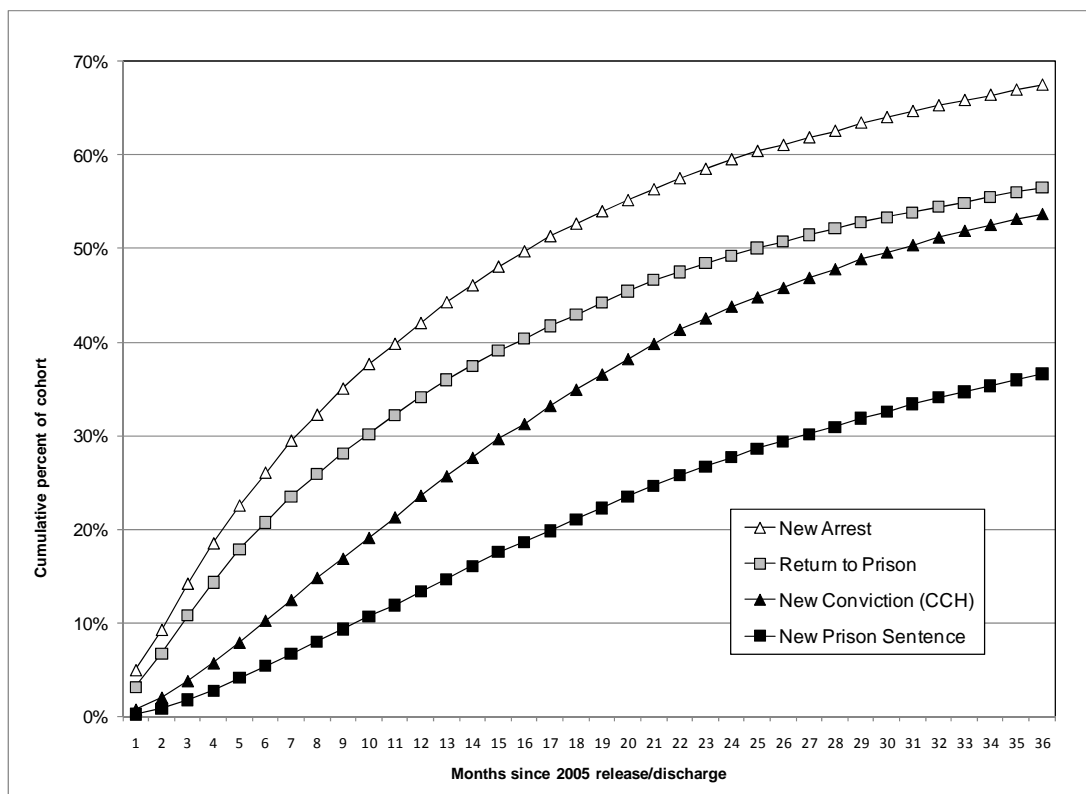
- Within three years of their release or discharge:
  - 67.5% of offenders were rearrested
  - 53.7% were convicted for a new criminal offense
  - 56.5% were returned to prison with new charges, for either technical violations or to begin a new prison sentence
  - 36.6% were reincarcerated to serve a new prison sentence
- These recidivism rates are for the entire population of offenders in the cohort. When subgroups of the population are considered separately, we find that different groups recidivate at significantly different rates.

Recidivism and End of Sentence (EOS) Discharges

In 2005, 6,534 offenders were discharged from prison at the end of their sentences. Within 3 years, 36.9% returned to prison with a new prison sentence.

CHART 2: Recidivism Rates, End of Sentence Offenders with a New Prison Sentence
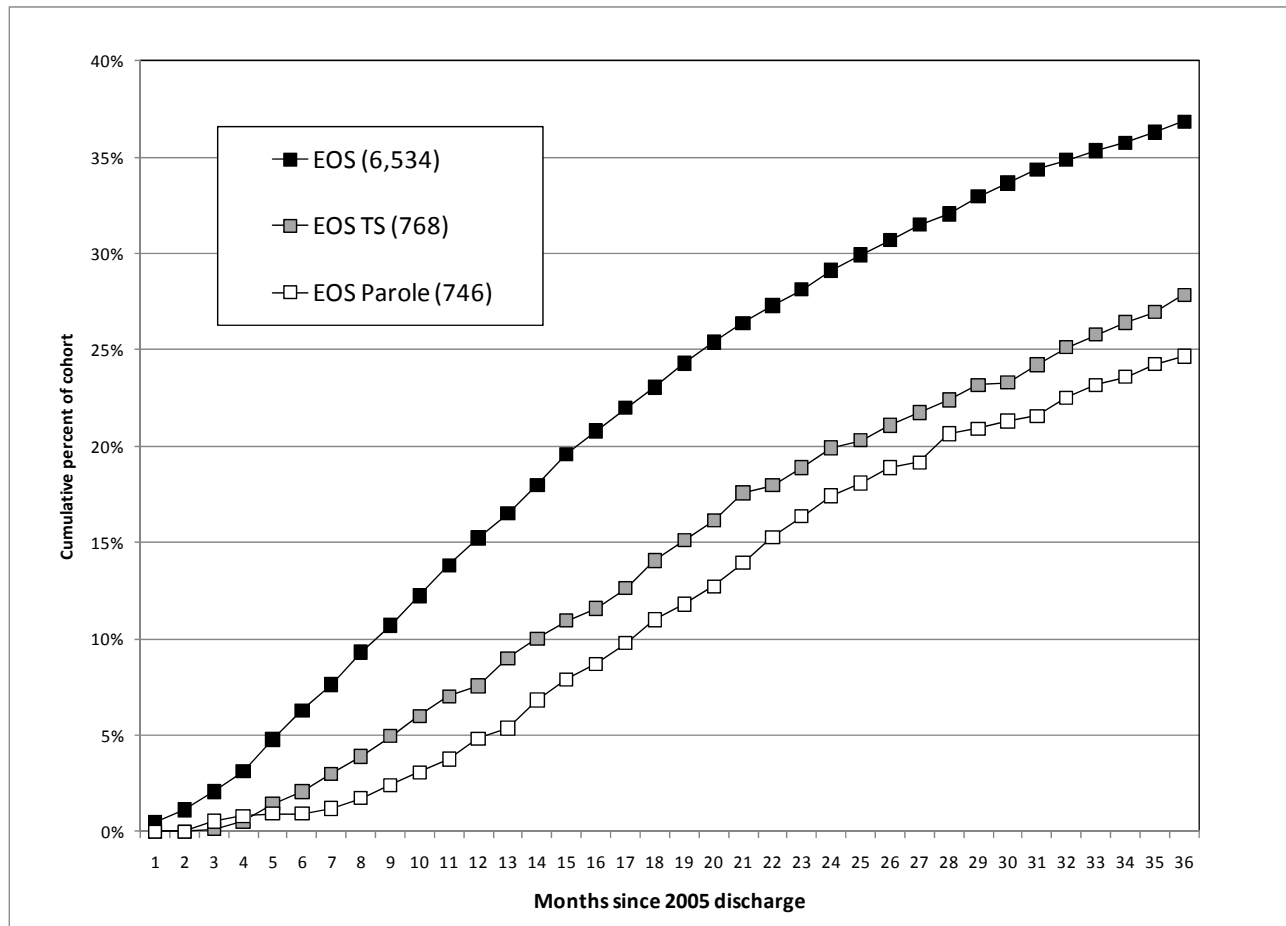
- During the same year, 1,514 offenders were discharged after completing the terms of their community-supervised parole (746) or transitional supervision (768). These offenders returned to prison at significantly lower rates (24.7% for parole and 27.9% for TS) than offenders who were released directly from a prison facility. This suggests that offenders who complete community supervision program have a higher probability of successful re-entry to the community from prison.

Recidivism and Community Supervision Releases

In 2005, 7,873 sentenced offenders were released into re-entry programs prior to the completion of their sentences.

CHART 3: Recidivism Rates and Community Supervision Releases
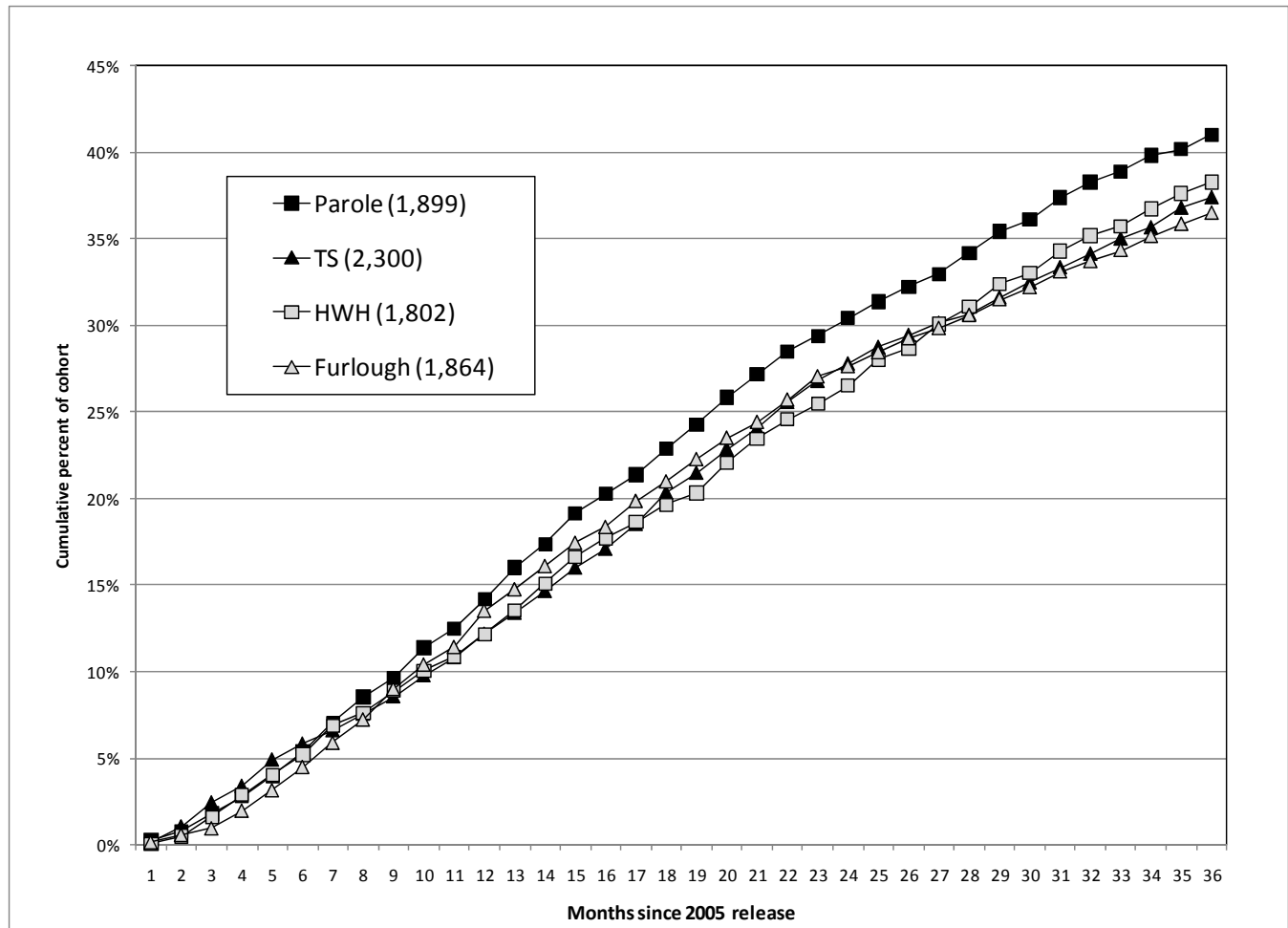
- Recidivism rates for the four major discretionary release programs were grouped relatively closely together. Parolees had the highest recidivism rates with 41% returning to prison to begin new sentences within three years. Among the 2,300 offenders released to transitional supervision (TS), 37.4% began a new sentence. Offenders who were initially released to halfway houses (HWH) in 2005 returned at a 38.3% rate.

- One thousand eight hundred and sixty-four offenders (1,864) left prison on their first discharge through the prison furlough program. Given the limited amount supervision these offenders received in the community, it is not surprising that furloughed-offenders recidivated at roughly the same rate (36.5%) as offenders who were discharged at the end of their sentences (36.9%).

Recidivism and Probationers

Probationers who fail to observe the conditions of their probation may be returned to court and then sentenced to prison. Violation of probation (VOP) is the most common controlling offense among inmates in Connecticut prisons. Some inmates serving sentences for VOP in Connecticut prisons may have already completed a prison sentence for a specific offense and have been returned to prison for a violation of their post-discharge probation. Other inmates who had been sentenced to probation in lieu of a prison sentence may enter prison after violating the conditions of their probation.

CHART 4: Recidivism Rates and Probation Violators
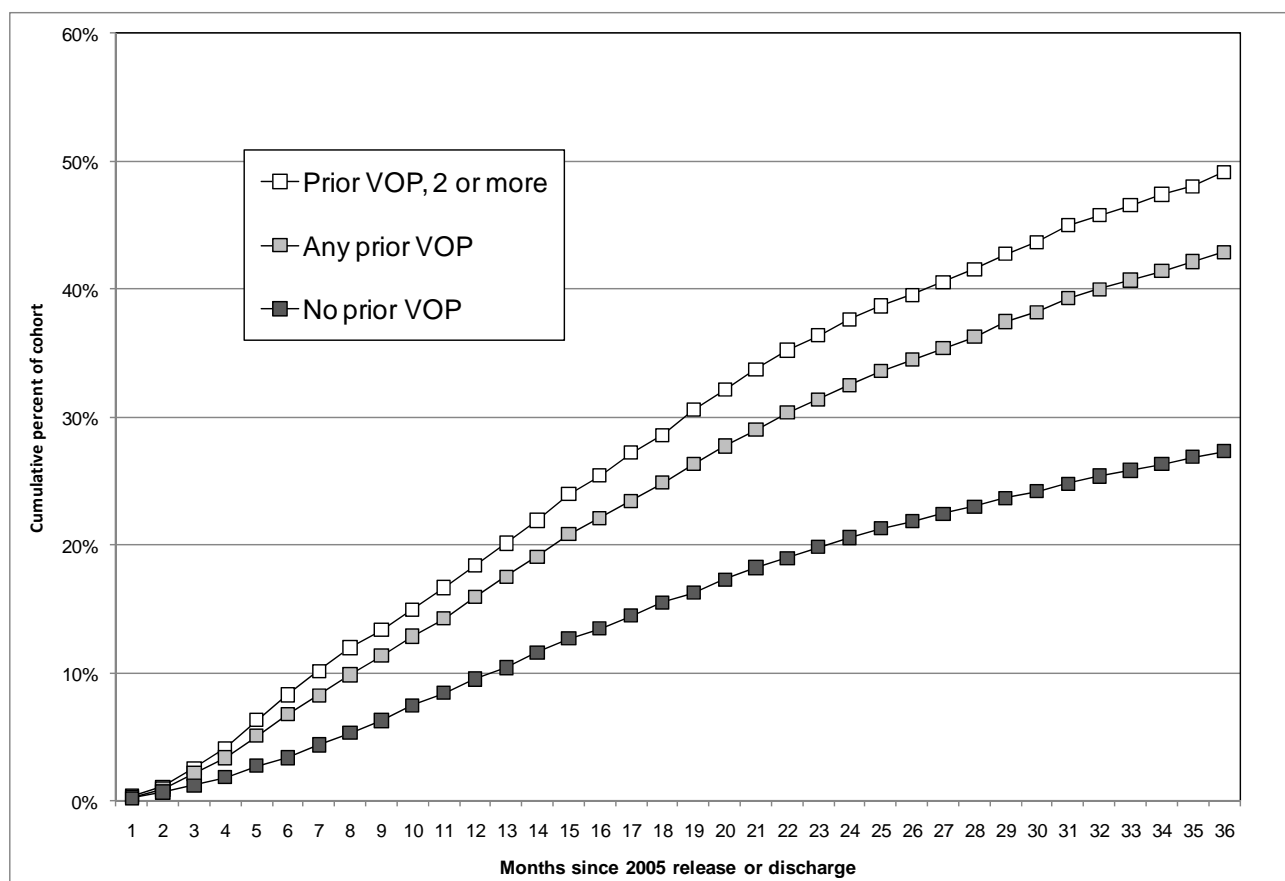
- Of the 16,241 offenders in 2005 cohort, 9,667 (59.6%) had at least one VOP conviction that resulted in a prison term prior to their 2005 release or discharge. 3,888 offenders (24%) had two or more convictions for VOP.

- An offender's VOP history is a predictor of increased recidivism. Almost 50% of offenders who had a history of two or more VOP convictions prior to their 2005 release or discharge returned to prison for a new sentence within 36 months. Among offenders with no history of probation violation prior to their release, only 27.3% returned within 36 months.

Recidivism and TPAI Risk Scoring

The TPAI (Treatment Program Assessment Instrument) is an eight-point risk scale, based on a variety of factors that have been shown to correlate to offender risk. These factors include: gender; age at the last offense; age at their first DOC admit; history of violence; history of technical offenses; and the number of sentences served at the CT DOC.

CHART 5: Recidivism Rates and TPAI Risk Scoring
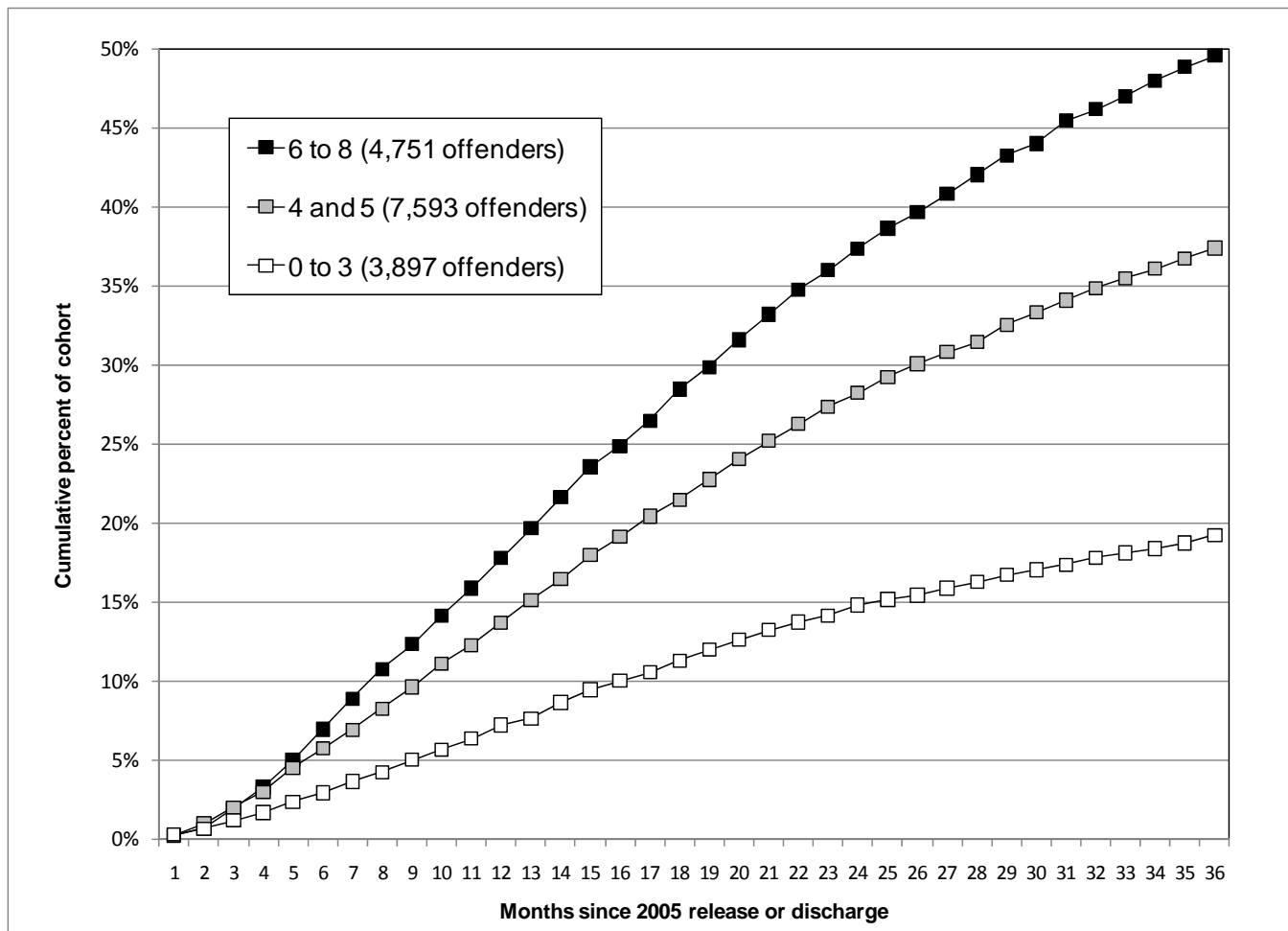
- The chart presents the recidivism rates of three groups of offenders in the 2005-release cohort. The 4,751 offenders with highest TPAI scores returned to prison to serve a new sentence at a 50% rate within three years. Offenders with the lowest scores returned at a 19% rate.

- The TPAI is one of the tools used by the CT DOC to assess offender risk. It was introduced during 2009 to assist the DOC in optimizing its use of offender programming. OPM helped to validate this risk instrument using recidivism data for offenders released in 2004.

- The process of assigning TPAI scores has been automated by the DOC. These scores can be used to identify groups of offenders who are at the highest risk of recidivating.

Return Rates for Recidivists: 2005 Release Cohort

CHART 6: Return Rates for Recidivists
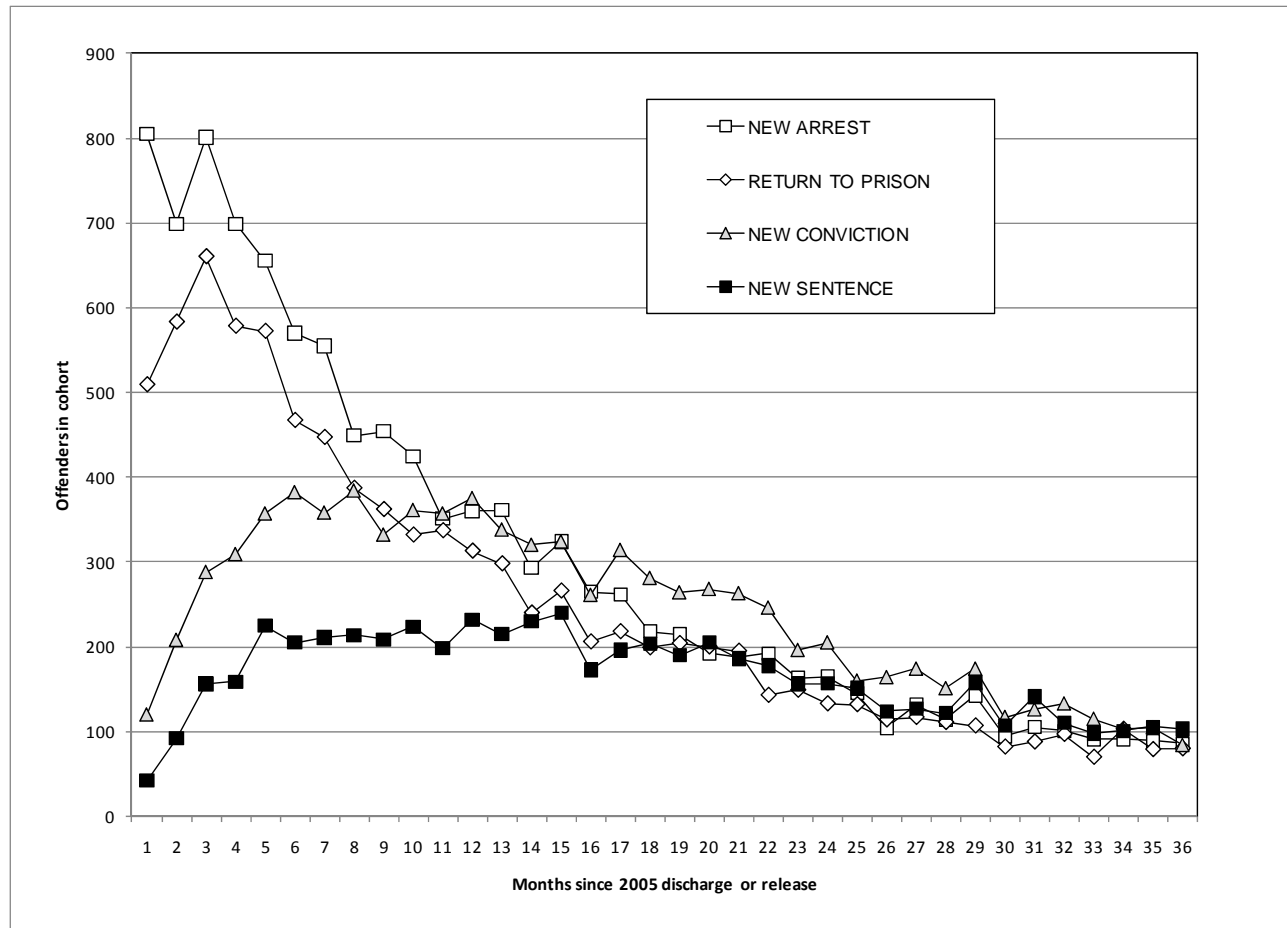
- Recidivism rates calculate the percentage of offenders who return to the criminal justice system in a given time period. Of the 16,241 offenders who were released or discharged during 2005, 10,956, or 67.5%, were rearrested at least once during the next 36 months.

- When we consider only those offenders who were rearrested during 36 months, we discover that 38.6% were rearrested during the first 6 months following their 2005 release or discharge. Among the 8,717 offenders who were reincarcerated during the next 36 months, 36.7% were reincarcerated within 6 months.

- Unlike arrests and reincarcerations that peaked within three months of release or discharge, peak times for new convictions were at 8 months and 15 months. This may be attributable to the time it takes for a case to be adjudicated.

Comparing 2004 and 2005 Offender Cohorts

CHART 7a: Age distribution of offenders in 2004 and 2005

Age at release	Total 2004	Total 2005	Women 2004	Women 2005	Men 2004	Men 2005
Under 20	657	879	48	50	609	829
20 to 25	3,693	3,642	272	292	3,421	3,350
26 to 39	7,324	6,994	878	877	6,446	6,117
40 to 54	4,384	4,298	662	592	3,722	3,706
55 and older	428	428	35	32	393	396
Total	**16,486**	**16,241**	**1,895**	**1,843**	**14,591**	**14,398**
Under 20	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%	6%
20 to 25	22%	22%	14%	16%	23%	23%
26 to 39	44%	43%	46%	48%	44%	42%
40 to 54	27%	26%	35%	32%	26%	26%
55 and older	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%

- In February 2009, OPM published its analysis of recidivism of 16,486 sentenced offenders who were released or discharged during 2004. In this new analysis, OPM found no significant demographic differences between offenders in the 2004-cohort and the 16,241 offenders in the 2005-release cohort.

- The number of male offenders in the cohort who were under the age of 20 at release or discharge did increase significantly between 2004 and 2005. In 2004, there were 609 males under the age of 20. In 2005, that figure had risen to 829.

CHART 7b: Recidivism Rates, 2004- and 2005-Release Cohorts

Recidivism type	Period from release	2004 cohort	2005 cohort
New arrest	12 months	41.9%	42.0%
	24 months	59.0%	59.5%
	36 months	67.4%	67.5%
Any reincarceration	12 months	34.0%	34.2%
	24 months	48.9%	49.2%
	36 months	56.5%	56.5%
New conviction	12 months	24.6%	23.6%
	24 months	44.3%	43.8%
	36 months	55.8%	53.7%
New prison sentence	12 months	13.2%	13.3%
	24 months	27.1%	27.6%
	36 months	36.7%	36.5%

- OPM did not observe a significant change in recidivism rates between 2004 and 2005. In fact, given the similarity of the prison population, little change was expected. The findings do suggest that OPM's current methodology produces stable values that can be used in future benchmark efforts. The analysis also demonstrates that prison system outcomes are remarkably stable with respect to prisoner re-entry.

CHART 7c: Discharge and Release Types, 2004- and 2005-Release Cohorts

Discharges and releases 2004 and 2005				
	2005	2004	2005 %	2004 %
Discharges				
EOS time served	6534	7156	40%	43%
EOS TS	768	756	5%	5%
EOS PAROLE	746	745	5%	5%
EOS SPECIAL PAROLE	277	275	2%	2%
EOS - Parcom	25	0	0%	0%
EOS HWH	18	0	0%	0%
Total discharges	**8368**	**8932**	**52%**	**54%**
Releases				
Release to TS	2300	2509	14%	15%
Release to Parole	1899	1787	12%	11%
Furlough	1864	1543	11%	9%
Release to HWH	1802	1715	11%	10%
Release Other	8	0	0%	0%
Total releases	**7873**	**7554**	**48%**	**46%**
Total cohort	**16241**	**16486**	**100%**	**100%**

- When comparing 2004 and 2005 offender release cohorts, there were slight increases in the number of offenders who left prison for some form of community supervision prior to discharge. The overall pattern of releases-to-discharges, however, remained virtually the same between 2004 and 2005.

CHART 7d: Total Facility Population in CT, 2004 - 2008
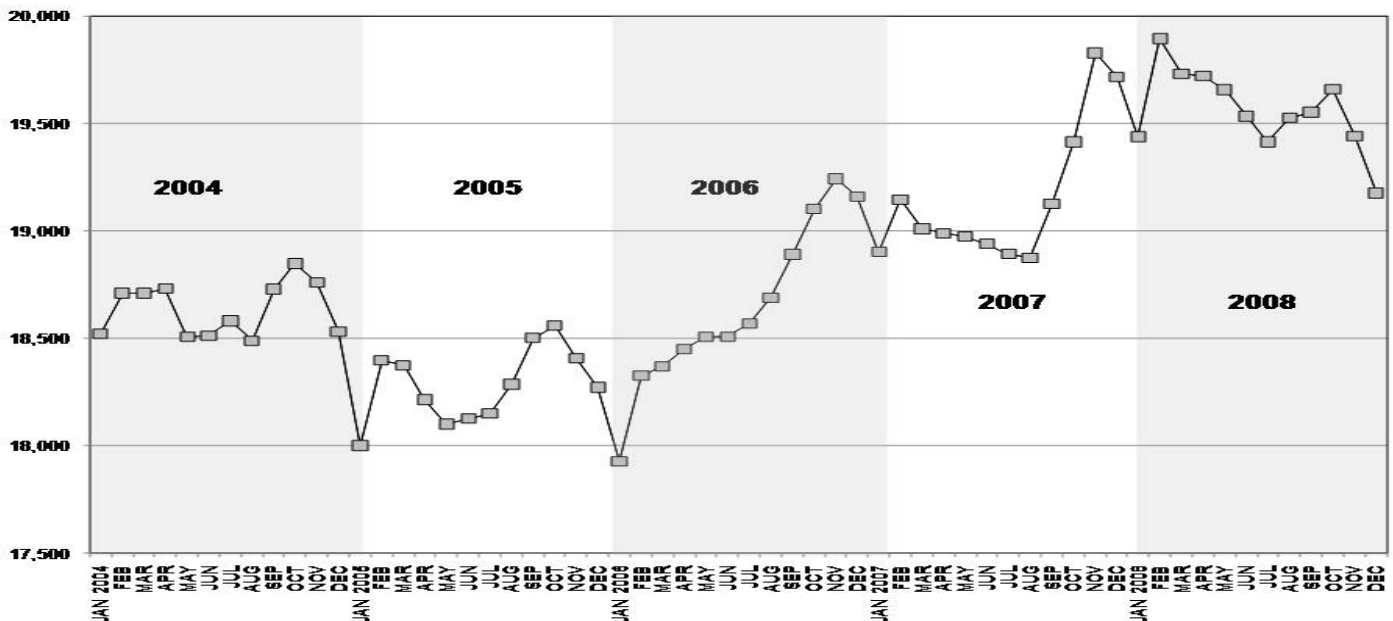
- Offenders in the 2005-release cohort were released or discharged between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005. They were tracked over the next three years.

- During 2004 and 2005, the prison population was relatively stable. In 2004 the prison population fluctuated between 18,500 and 19,000 for most of the year. In 2005, the mean prison population was lower than in 2004. The beginning of 2006 marked the start of a two year period in which the prison population swelled from under 18,000 to 19,800.

Recidivism and Gender

In general, female offenders recidivate at lower rates than male offenders.

CHART 8: Recidivism Rates, By Gender
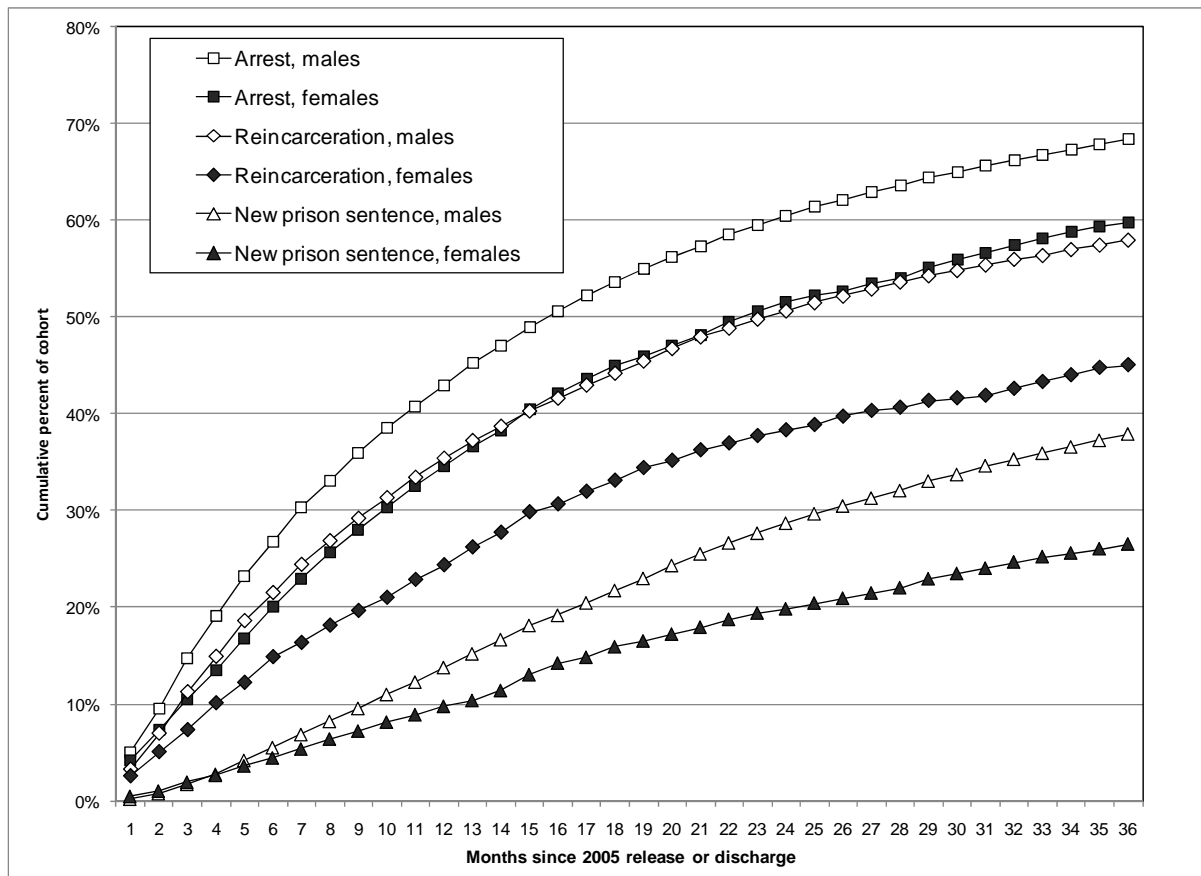
- There are several significant factors that distinguish the female prison population from the male prison population. In comparison to male offenders, female offenders tend to be older, have higher rates of educational attainment, and possess more employment experience and skills. They also tend to enter prison for the first time at an older age than males. In general, they also have less extensive criminal histories.

- Unlike males, all female prisoners in Connecticut are housed at one facility, York Correctional Institution in Niantic.

- When female offenders were grouped into age

Recidivism type	Period from release	Recidivism rates	
		Females	Males
Rearrest	12 months	34.6%	43.0%
	24 months	51.5%	60.5%
	36 months	59.7%	68.4%
Reincarceration	12 months	24.4%	35.4%
	24 months	38.3%	50.6%
	36 months	45.0%	58.0%
New Sentence	12 months	9.8%	13.8%
	24 months	19.8%	28.7%
	36 months	26.5%	37.9%

quintiles, offenders in the middle quintile had the highest recidivism rates. Among males, offenders in the youngest quintile had the highest recidivism rates.

Recidivism, Gender and Age

It is generally assumed that younger offenders have higher rates of recidivism than older offenders. This is certainly true for male offenders released in 2005. For every type of recidivism, offenders in younger age quintiles returned to the criminal justice system at higher rates than offenders in older age quintiles.

CHART 9: Recidivism Rates, By Gender, By Age Quintile

		Females					Males				
	Total	16 to 26	27 to 33	34 to 38	39 to 42	Over 42	15 to 23	24 to 28	29 to 35	36 to 42	Over 42
Offenders	16,241	393	364	362	331	393	2,967	2,796	2,884	2,835	2,916
Percent	100%	21%	20%	20%	18%	21%	21%	19%	20%	20%	20%
New Arrest											
6 months rate	26.0%	21.6%	19.8%	26.0%	19.6%	13.5%	36.6%	27.0%	25.4%	25.2%	19.7%
12 month rate	42.0%	34.4%	33.5%	44.5%	34.4%	27.0%	55.6%	45.6%	42.3%	39.9%	31.1%
24 month rate	59.5%	53.4%	50.8%	61.6%	52.9%	39.7%	73.1%	65.4%	60.3%	58.3%	45.4%
36 month rate	67.5%	61.1%	59.3%	69.3%	61.9%	48.1%	80.9%	74.9%	67.4%	65.7%	53.3%
New Conviction											
6 months rate	10.2%	7.1%	8.8%	11.6%	7.9%	5.1%	12.4%	9.8%	10.2%	10.7%	9.5%
12 month rate	23.6%	17.6%	18.7%	24.3%	19.6%	15.8%	30.3%	23.5%	23.9%	23.6%	19.4%
24 month rate	43.8%	35.1%	34.1%	46.7%	36.6%	29.8%	55.0%	46.3%	43.7%	44.9%	33.7%
36 month rate	53.7%	42.2%	43.1%	55.5%	46.2%	37.2%	66.3%	57.6%	53.6%	54.3%	42.2%
New Sentence											
6 months rate	5.4%	3.6%	4.1%	7.7%	5.1%	2.0%	6.1%	4.5%	4.9%	6.4%	5.7%
12 month rate	13.3%	7.6%	9.3%	15.2%	10.0%	7.1%	17.4%	12.5%	12.7%	14.4%	11.9%
24 month rate	27.7%	17.3%	21.2%	27.9%	17.8%	15.3%	37.1%	28.1%	26.9%	28.5%	22.6%
36 month rate	36.6%	22.4%	26.1%	35.1%	28.4%	21.4%	47.2%	38.3%	37.0%	38.2%	28.7%

- 80.9% of male offenders under the age of 24 were rearrested within 36 months. Among males in the oldest quintile (over 42) only 53.3% were rearrested. Among the youngest males, over one third (36.6%) were rearrested within 6 months of their release; in contrast, only 19% of older quintile males were rearrested.

- Among females, younger offenders did not exhibit the highest rates of recidivism. Analysis of female age quintiles revealed some unexpected results. Among females, offenders in the middle quintile, between the ages of 34 to 38, had the highest recidivism rates among all women. In fact, female offenders between the ages of 34 to 38 had higher rates of recidivism than middle-quintile male offenders in all recidivism categories except the new prison sentence rate at 36 months.

Female Offender Recidivism and Education Need Scores

According to DOC needs criteria, female offenders released in 2005 had significantly better need scores than male offenders with respect to educational attainment, work experience, and vocational skills (See Appendix 4).

**CHART 10:** Recidivism among Female Offenders with Different Educational Needs Scores
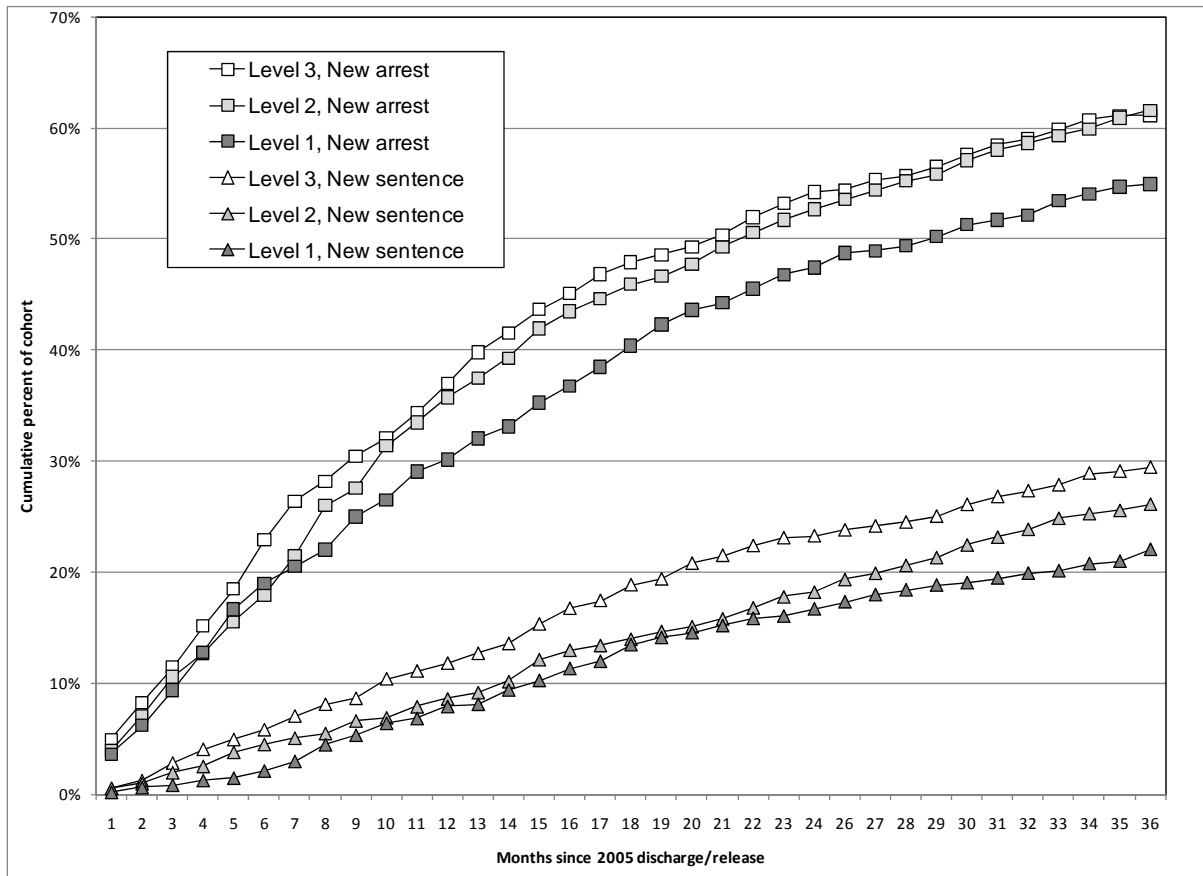
Education level of classified female offenders					
Level	1	2	3	4	5
Females	468	708	568	79	2
Percent	25.6%	38.8%	31.1%	4.3%	0.1%

- According to the DOC's offender classification manual, offenders with an education need score of '1' have participated in or completed some post-secondary education. Offenders with a score of '2' have completed high school or qualified for a GED. A '3' indicates that the offender scored at an 8th grade level on standardized tests. A score of '4' indicates an educational level below the 8th grade.

- Analysis revealed that while recidivism rates and the educational level of female offenders is related, the difference in recidivism rates between level 1 and level 3 offenders were not as great as we might have anticipated.

Recidivism and Age at Release

In the 2005-release cohort, younger offenders had the highest recidivism rates. In 2005, 157 17-year olds were released or discharged from prison. Within the next 36 months, 57% of those young offenders returned to prison to begin new prison sentences.

CHART 11: New Sentence Recidivism and Age at Release

Offender age-at-release
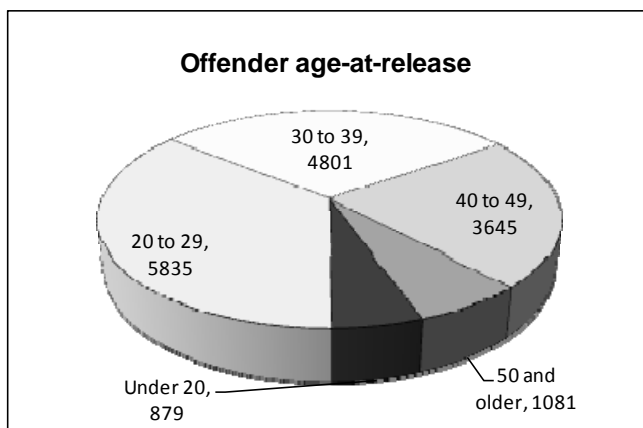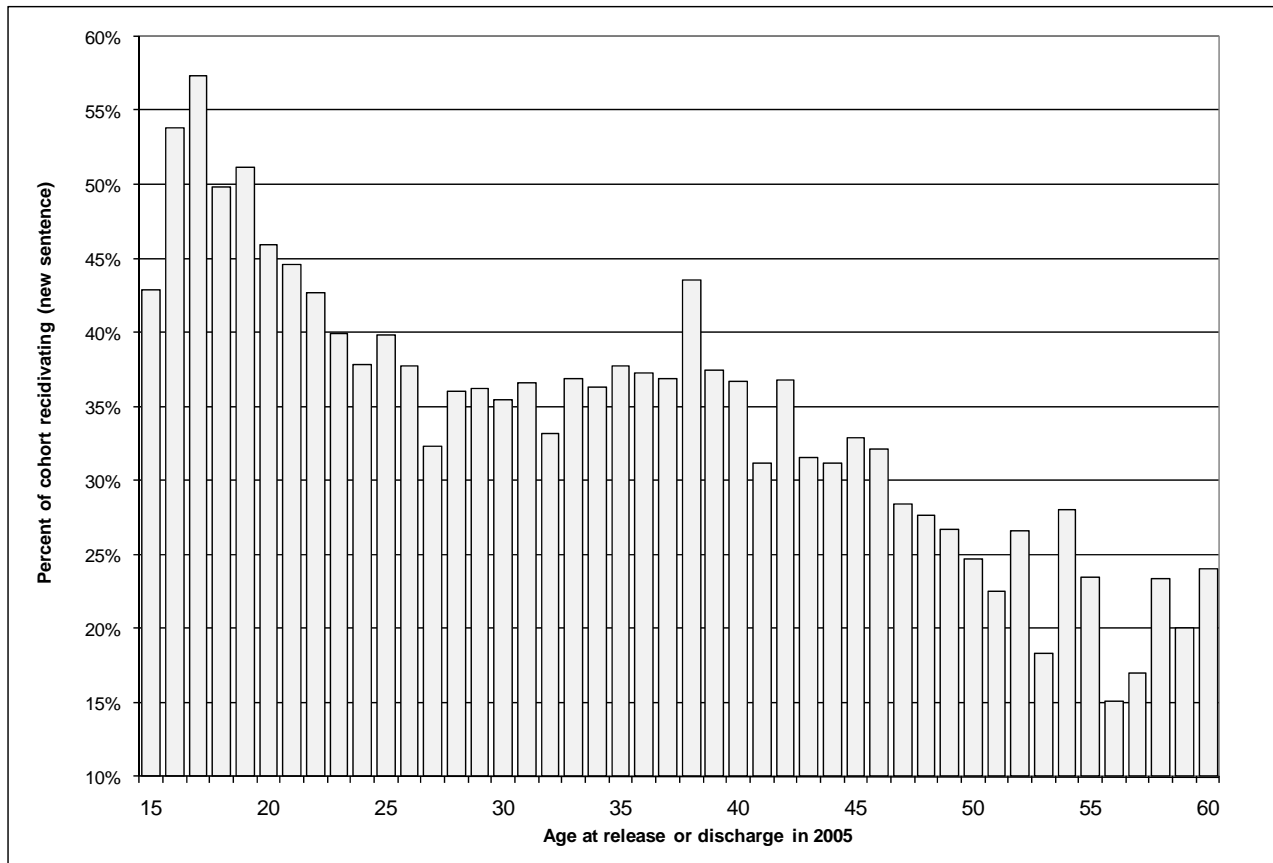
- Recidivism rates generally decline as offenders progressed through their 20s; recidivism rates remained relatively stable for offenders in their 30s and they began to fall off again after 40.

- 66% of offenders were between the ages of 20 and 39. Only 5% of offenders (879) were under the age of 20 when they were released.

- Over 80% of offenders who were under the age of 21 were rearrested within three years. Of 1,395 offenders who were younger than 21 and were released or discharged in 2005, only 240 were not rearrested within three years.

Recidivism and Alcohol and Drug Scores

- DOC uses the substance abuse treatment need score (T-score) to describe the extent, nature, and pattern of alcohol or other drug use related to general life functioning. Assessments are performed by Addition Services staff employed by DOC. Substance abuse treatment need scores range from 1 to 5.

T-score	Assessment
5	Extremely serious substance abuse problem requiring a high-level of intensive treatment of extended duration, such as DOC residential treatment. These individuals have a very high probability of relapse into active substance abuse.
4	Serious substance abuse problems requiring residential or intensive outpatient treatment.
3	Moderate substance abuse problem requiring treatment.
2	Slight substance abuse history; would benefit from brief substance abuse intervention.
1	No substance abuse intervention required.

- Among the 2005 cohort, male offenders tended to have higher substance abuse treatment scores than female offenders. 62% of male offenders had T-scores of 3 or higher. Among females, only 51% were assessed with T-scores that high. The percentage of women with T-scores of 1 was more than twice as high (26%) as the percentage for men (12%).

	Substance Abuse Treatment Scores					
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**Total**
MALES	1,780	3,527	5,648	3,167	136	14,258
FEMALES	469	410	567	364	15	1,825
MALES	12%	25%	40%	22%	1%	100%
FEMALES	26%	22%	31%	20%	1%	100%

- The Substance-Abuse Treatment Scores, for both men and women, were a predictor of recidivism among the 2005-release cohort. Among males, 46% of offenders assessed with T-scores of 4 returned to prison with new sentences in the three years following their release. Among women with T-scores of 4, the rate was 37%.
- Male offenders with T-scores of 1 returned at a rate of 35%; those with T-scores of 2 returned at a 33% rate.

CHART 12: Recidivism and Alcohol and Drug Scores

Recidivism (new prison sentence) and Alcohol/Drug scores							
		Scored offenders	**Alcohol and drug score**				
			1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
ALL	All offenders	16083	2249	3937	6215	3531	151
	12 month rate	13%	13%	11%	13%	18%	11%
	24 month rate	28%	26%	24%	27%	34%	26%
	36 month rate	37%	33%	32%	37%	45%	37%
MALES	Male offenders	14258	1780	3527	5648	3167	136
	12 month rate	14%	14%	12%	13%	18%	11%
	24 month rate	29%	28%	25%	28%	35%	25%
	36 month rate	38%	35%	33%	38%	46%	36%
FEMALES	Female offenders	1825	469	410	567	364	15
	12 month rate	10%	9%	7%	9%	17%	7%
	24 month rate	20%	18%	16%	18%	29%	33%
	36 month rate	27%	22%	23%	26%	37%	47%

- Among female offenders, treatment scores were also highly predictive of recidivism. Female offenders with T-scores below 3 returned to prison at rates in the low 20-percent range. Female offenders with T-scores of 4 returned at a 37% rate.

Recidivism and Mental Health Scores

CHART 13: Recidivism and Mental Health Scores
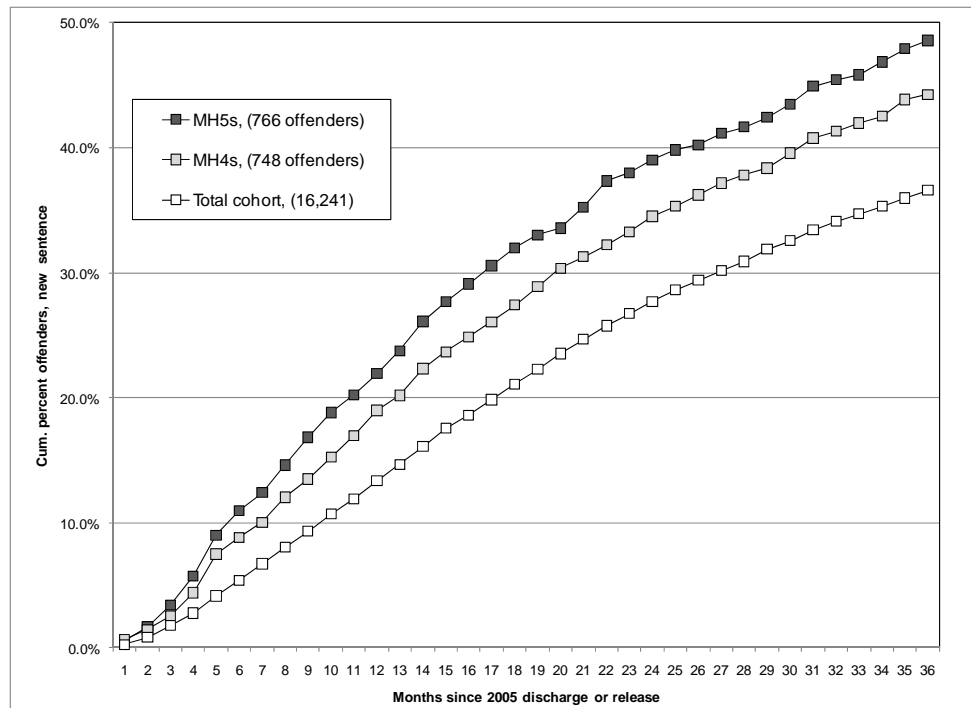
- The DOC evaluates its sentenced inmate population and assigns needs and risk scores based on these evaluations. These scores help the DOC to channel inmates to prison facilities where the programming is most appropriate to their needs and risk scores. All sentenced inmates are assigned a mental health needs score. These scores are not diagnostic; instead, they identify the level of mental-health care that is most appropriate.   Mental health scores range from 1 to 5.[1]
- A MH5 score indicates a crisis level mental disorder requiring 24-hour nursing care. A MH4 score indicates a mental health disorder severe enough to require specialized housing or intensive mental health treatment, usually including psychotropic medications.
- 766 offenders in the 2005 cohort were assigned a MH5 score at least once prior to their 2005 release. 748 offenders had been assigned a MH4 score prior to release. Both of these groups of offenders had significantly higher recidivism rates than the cohort average.
- Since 2005, collaboration between DOC, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and CSSD has been expanded to address the re-entry needs of offenders with mental health issues. The data presented here should assist in assessing the efficacy of these new efforts.

[1]See the DOC classification Manual online at
http://www.ct.gov/doc/lib/doc/PDF/PDFReport/ClassificationManualLibraryCopy.pdf

Appendices

Appendix 1: Data Limitations

2010 Study Methodology

This study tracked 16,241 sentenced offenders for a three year period following their discharges or releases from a DOC facility in 2005. Given that a significant number of individual offenders enter and leave the prison system more than once in any given year, this study tracked each offender in the study from their earliest release or discharge date in 2005.

Data Files Collected

DOC provided four (4) separate electronic files that contained demographic data, information on offenders' movements while in custody or under DOC supervision, offender classification data, and complete prison sentence histories for each offender in the study.

(1) Master File *(one line per offender released)*

- Inmate Name
- Inmate Number
- Social Security Number
- State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI) number
- Date of Birth
- Race
- Gender
- Marital Status
- Report Home Town
- Report Zip Code
- Educational Level
- US Armed Forces Status Code

(2) Classification File *(one line per offender released)*

- Inmate Number
- Mental Health Score
- Alcohol/Drug Score
- Sex Treatment Score
- Educational Score

- Vocational Training/Work Skills Score
- Severity/Violence of Current Offense Risk Score
- History of Violence Risk Score
- Length of Sentence Risk Score
- Discipline History Risk Score
- Overall Risk Score
- Security Risk Score
- Medical Needs Score

(3) Movement File *(one line per offender movement)*

- Inmate Number
- Movement Date
- Movement Code
- Receiving Facility
- Sending Facility
- Jurisdiction
- Legal Status

(4) Sentence File *(one line per offense that resulted in a prison sentence)*

- Inmate Number
- Sentence ID Number
- Docket Number
- Charge Count
- Offense Statute
- Offense Sentence Length
- Sentence Date
- Offense Max Sent Length
- Offense Min Sent Length
- Consecutive Docket Ind Number
- Docket Sent Type Indicator
- Docket Probation Indicator
- Offense Date
- Jail Credit (JC)
- JC Good Time Restored
- Dead Time
- JC Good Time
- Forfeit of JC Good Time
- Statutory GT Forfeited
- Statutory GT Restored
- Latest Expiration Date
- Sentence Start Date
- Statutory GT Earned
- Maximum Release Date
- Time Served

- Consecutive Docket Indicator
- Offense Sent Type Indicator
- Offense Probation Indicator
- Consecutive Charge Indicator
- Docket Sentence Length
- Docket Max Sent Length
- Docket Min Sent Length
- Reference Docket Number

A subset of the DOC Master File was provided to CSSD and the Department of Public Safety matched the offenders to their respective criminal history records. Matches were made based on SPBI number, offender name, offender number, and social security number. The following data fields were collected from criminal history files:

Criminal Histories *(one line per arraignment docket)*

- Offender Number
- Name
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- SPBI Number
- Docket Number
- Arrest Date
- Original Charge Description
- Original Charge Statute
- Substitute Charge Description
- Substitute Charge Statute
- Verdict Code
- Verdict Description
- Verdict Date
- Offense Date
- Disposition Date
- Violation of Probation Date
- Arraignment Date
- Re-arrest Date
- Amount of Court Ordered Fine
- Amount of Fee Assessed
- Consecutive or concurrent flag
- Min Prison Days Sentenced
- Max Prison Days Sentenced
- Prison Days Suspended
- Probation Days Sentenced
- Community Service Sentenced

Appendix 2: Community Supervision Types

Who decides if released to community?	Types of Release	Defintion
Department of Corrections (DOC) *Supervised by DOC Parole Officers*	Transitional Supervision (TS)	Inmates with sentences of two years or less are eligible to be released on TS after serving 50% of their sentence. The DOC provides supervision and case management through its Parole and Community Services Unit for offenders on TS status.
	Halfway House (HWH)	Inmates can become eligible to live in a halfway house if they have been voted to parole or are within 18 months of their release date. Halfway houses provide offenders with structured programs and supervision to help them obtain employment, housing, education, or residential substance abuse treatment.
	Furlough	Section 35 of PA 09-07, September special session, reinstated reentry furloughs for a period of up to 45 days for any compelling reason consistent with rehabilitation.
	Transitional Placement	After a successful term in a halfway house, inmates can be transferred to an approved community placement or private residence.
Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP) *Supervised by DOC Parole Officers*	Parole	Inmates serving sentences greater than two years may be eligible for parole. Offenders convicted of non-violent crimes can become eligible after serving 50% of their sentences and offenders convicted of violent crimes can become eligible after serving 85% of their sentences. The parollee must comply with the imposed conditions of parole; violators may be remanded to prison.
	Transfer Parole	An offender can be released to transfer parole 18 months prior to his or her voted to parole date. Offenders on transfer parole are placed under the same or, in some cases, stricter supervision conditions than offenders on parole.
	Special Parole	Special parole is a mandatory, court-imposed period of parole following the completion of a sentence. If an inmate violates special parole, he or she may be remanded to prison for the remainder of the sentence. In general, special parole is reserved for high-risk offenders.
Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) / Courts *Supervised by CSSD Probation Officers*	Probation	Probation is a mandatory, court-imposed period of supervision that allows a defendant to forego incarceration. Instead, the offender is subject to specific conditions of supervision (paying a fine, doing community service, attending a drug treatment program, etc.).
	Split Sentence Probation	A mandatory, court-imposed period of supervision following DOC sentence completion. If an offender violates split sentence probation, he or she may be remanded to court.

Appendix 3: Recidivism Rates: 2005 Release Cohort

CHART A3-1: Recidivism Rates for the 2005 Release Cohort

Three-year recidivism rate - New sentence							
Recidivism type				Recidivism rate, Cum. Percent			
NEW ARREST	RETURN TO PRISON	CON-VICTION	NEW SENTENCE	NEW ARREST	RETURN TO PRISON	CON-VICTION	NEW SENTENCE
Months since 2005 release							
805	509	120	42	5.0%	3.1%	0.7%	0.3%
699	583	208	92	9.3%	6.7%	2.0%	0.8%
801	660	288	156	14.2%	10.8%	3.8%	1.8%
699	578	309	159	18.5%	14.3%	5.7%	2.8%
655	572	357	225	22.5%	17.9%	7.9%	4.1%
570	467	382	205	26.0%	20.7%	10.2%	5.4%
555	447	358	211	29.5%	23.5%	12.4%	6.7%
449	387	384	214	32.2%	25.9%	14.8%	8.0%
454	362	332	209	35.0%	28.1%	16.9%	9.3%
425	332	361	224	37.6%	30.2%	19.1%	10.7%
351	337	357	198	39.8%	32.2%	21.3%	11.9%
360	313	375	232	42.0%	34.2%	23.6%	13.3%
361	298	338	215	44.2%	36.0%	25.7%	14.7%
293	240	320	230	46.0%	37.5%	27.6%	16.1%
324	266	324	240	48.0%	39.1%	29.6%	17.6%
265	206	261	173	49.7%	40.4%	31.2%	18.6%
262	218	314	196	51.3%	41.7%	33.2%	19.8%
218	199	281	204	52.6%	42.9%	34.9%	21.1%
215	204	264	190	53.9%	44.2%	36.5%	22.3%
193	200	268	205	55.1%	45.4%	38.2%	23.5%
188	195	263	186	56.3%	46.6%	39.8%	24.7%
192	143	246	178	57.5%	47.5%	41.3%	25.8%
163	149	196	156	58.5%	48.4%	42.5%	26.7%
165	133	205	157	59.5%	49.2%	43.8%	27.7%
145	132	160	151	60.4%	50.1%	44.8%	28.6%
104	114	164	124	61.0%	50.8%	45.8%	29.4%
131	117	174	127	61.8%	51.5%	46.9%	30.2%
114	111	151	122	62.5%	52.2%	47.8%	30.9%
143	107	174	158	63.4%	52.8%	48.9%	31.9%
94	82	117	107	64.0%	53.3%	49.6%	32.5%
105	88	126	141	64.6%	53.9%	50.3%	33.4%
101	97	133	110	65.3%	54.5%	51.2%	34.1%
91	70	115	98	65.8%	54.9%	51.9%	34.7%
91	103	103	101	66.4%	55.5%	52.5%	35.3%
89	79	105	106	66.9%	56.0%	53.2%	36.0%
86	80	84	103	67.5%	56.5%	53.7%	36.6%
Returns 10,956	9,178	8,717	5,945				
Not returning 5,285	7,063	7,524	10,296				
Total **16,241**	**16,241**	**16,241**	**16,241**				

Appendix 4: Recidivism Returns by Discharge Type

CHART A4-1: Recidivism Returns by Discharge Type

Three-year recidivism rate - New sentence						
	Returns by discharge			Recidivism rate, Cum. Percent		
Months since 2005 release	EOS	EOS, PAROLE	EOS, TS	EOS	EOS, PAROLE	EOS, TS
1	30	0	0	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
2	43	0	0	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
3	63	4	1	2.1%	0.5%	0.1%
4	68	2	3	3.1%	0.8%	0.5%
5	108	1	7	4.8%	0.9%	1.4%
6	99	0	5	6.3%	0.9%	2.1%
7	88	2	7	7.6%	1.2%	3.0%
8	110	4	7	9.3%	1.7%	3.9%
9	91	5	8	10.7%	2.4%	4.9%
10	99	5	8	12.2%	3.1%	6.0%
11	104	5	8	13.8%	3.8%	7.0%
12	93	8	4	15.2%	4.8%	7.6%
13	82	4	11	16.5%	5.4%	9.0%
14	97	11	8	18.0%	6.8%	10.0%
15	106	8	7	19.6%	7.9%	10.9%
16	78	6	5	20.8%	8.7%	11.6%
17	77	8	8	22.0%	9.8%	12.6%
18	70	9	11	23.0%	11.0%	14.1%
19	82	6	8	24.3%	11.8%	15.1%
20	71	7	8	25.4%	12.7%	16.1%
21	66	9	11	26.4%	13.9%	17.6%
22	59	10	3	27.3%	15.3%	18.0%
23	54	8	7	28.1%	16.4%	18.9%
24	66	8	8	29.1%	17.4%	19.9%
25	51	5	3	29.9%	18.1%	20.3%
26	50	6	6	30.7%	18.9%	21.1%
27	52	2	5	31.5%	19.2%	21.7%
28	37	11	5	32.0%	20.6%	22.4%
29	59	2	6	33.0%	20.9%	23.2%
30	46	3	1	33.7%	21.3%	23.3%
31	47	2	7	34.4%	21.6%	24.2%
32	31	7	7	34.8%	22.5%	25.1%
33	32	5	5	35.3%	23.2%	25.8%
34	28	3	5	35.8%	23.6%	26.4%
35	34	5	4	36.3%	24.3%	27.0%
36	37	3	7	36.9%	24.7%	27.9%
Returns	2,408	184	214			
Not returning	4,126	562	554			
Total	**6,534**	**746**	**768**			

Appendix 5: 2005 Release Cohort Compared to Sentenced Population

CHART A5-1: 2005 Release Cohort Compared to Sentenced Population

Age group	2005 cohort			Sentenced inmates, July 1, 2005		
	Total	**Females**	**Males**	**Total**	**Females**	**Males**
Under 21	1,369	85	1,284	1,078	50	1,028
21 to 25	3,125	251	2,874	2,853	151	2,702
26 to 30	2,690	258	2,432	2,649	156	2,493
31 to 35	2,345	301	2,044	2,261	175	2,086
36 to 40	2,434	392	2,042	2,096	196	1,900
41 to 45	2,165	350	1,815	1,623	161	1,462
46 to 50	1,219	129	1,090	985	78	907
51 to 55	543	49	494	443	29	414
56 to 60	218	19	199	203	13	190
61 to 65	91	7	84	104	6	98
Over 65	42	2	40	72	0	72
Total	16,241	1,843	14,398	14,367	1,015	13,352
	Total		Females		Males	
	2005 Cohort	**July 1, 2005**	**2005 Cohort**	**July 1, 2005**	**2005 Cohort**	**July 1, 2005**
Age group						
Under 21	8.4%	7.5%	4.6%	4.9%	8.9%	7.7%
21 to 25	19.2%	19.9%	13.6%	14.9%	20.0%	20.2%
26 to 30	16.6%	18.4%	14.0%	15.4%	16.9%	18.7%
31 to 35	14.4%	15.7%	16.3%	17.2%	14.2%	15.6%
36 to 40	15.0%	14.6%	21.3%	19.3%	14.2%	14.2%
41 to 45	13.3%	11.3%	19.0%	15.9%	12.6%	10.9%
46 to 50	7.5%	6.9%	7.0%	7.7%	7.6%	6.8%
51 to 55	3.3%	3.1%	2.7%	2.9%	3.4%	3.1%
56 to 60	1.3%	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%
61 to 65	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Over 65	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Appendix 6: Age, Race, and Ethnicity by Gender

CHART A6-1: Age, Race, and Ethnicity by Gender, 2004 and 2005 Release Cohort

		Cohort Size		Median Age		Mean Age		Percentage of cohort	
		2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
White	Males	5266	5156	35	36	35.3	35.6	32%	32%
	Females	947	907	37	37	36.1	35.9	6%	6%
Black	Males	5657	5536	30	30	31.8	32.2	34%	34%
	Females	632	614	35	36	34.6	35.0	4%	4%
Hispanics	Males	3588	3640	29	30	30.9	31.3	22%	22%
	Females	302	309	34	33	33.5	33.1	2%	2%
Others	Males	80	66	38	31	30.5	33.8	0%	0%
	Females	14	13	37	41	37.7	39.6	0%	0%
All	Males	14591	14398	32	32	32.8	33.2	89%	89%
	Females	1895	1843	36	34	35.2	35.2	11%	11%
Total		16486	16241	32	33	33.1	33.4		

CHART A6-2: Age Distribution, 2004 and 2005 Release Cohort

	Cohort		Females		Males	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Under 20	657	879	48	50	609	829
20 to 24	3046	2987	218	236	2828	2751
25 to 29	2946	2848	257	262	2689	2586
30 to 34	2467	2377	276	280	2191	2097
35 to 39	2558	2424	399	391	2159	2033
40 to 44	2326	2261	388	363	1938	1898
45 to 49	1414	1384	196	165	1218	1219
50 to 54	644	653	78	64	566	589
55 to 59	276	273	27	22	249	251
60 to 64	90	105	4	7	86	98
65 or older	62	50	4	3	58	47
Total	16486	16241	1895	1843	14591	14398
Under 20	4.0%	5.4%	2.5%	2.7%	4.2%	5.8%
20 to 24	18.5%	18.4%	11.5%	12.8%	19.4%	19.1%
25 to 29	17.9%	17.5%	13.6%	14.2%	18.4%	18.0%
30 to 34	15.0%	14.6%	14.6%	15.2%	15.0%	14.6%
35 to 39	15.5%	14.9%	21.1%	21.2%	14.8%	14.1%
40 to 44	14.1%	13.9%	20.5%	19.7%	13.3%	13.2%
45 to 49	8.6%	8.5%	10.3%	9.0%	8.3%	8.5%
50 to 54	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	3.5%	3.9%	4.1%
55 to 59	1.7%	1.7%	1.4%	1.2%	1.7%	1.7%
60 to 64	0.5%	0.6%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	0.7%
65 or older	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Appendix 7: Educational and Vocational Needs

CHART A7-1: DOC Education Need Scores among Offenders released in 2005

DOC Education-need scores among offenders released in 2005						
	Level	Total	Females	Males	Female %	Male %
Not Scored		119	11	108	1%	1%
Post secondary education	1	1259	468	791	25%	6%
High school diploma or GED	2	8446	708	7738	39%	54%
8th grade level	3	5224	568	4656	31%	32%
Below 8th grade level	4	1019	79	940	4%	7%
Deficient in minimum skills	5	141	2	139	0%	1%
Total		16208	1836	14372	100%	100%

CHART A7-2: DOC Vocational/Work Need Scores among Offenders released in 2005

DOC Vocational/work need scores among offenders released in 2005						
Voc Train score	Level	Total	Females	Males	Female %	Male %
Not Scored		118	11	107	1%	1%
Professional/technical	1	273	221	52	12%	0%
Substantial skills, no certification	2	2556	334	2222	18%	15%
Moderate, semi-skilled	3	7811	690	7121	38%	50%
Limited work skills	4	4300	433	3867	24%	27%
No skills or training	5	1150	147	1003	8%	7%
Total		16208	1836	14372	100%	100%