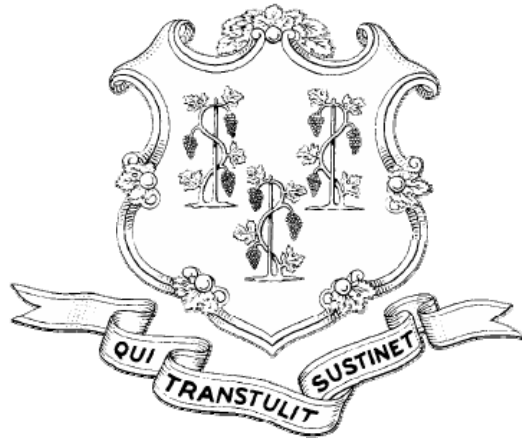


2011 *Annual* Recidivism Report



State of Connecticut
Office of Policy and Management
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
February 15, 2011

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Introduction

Each February 15 the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the Office of Policy and Management issues two criminal justice reports:

- Annual Recidivism Report
- Correctional Population Forecast Report

These reports provide policy makers and front-line professionals with the information they need to continue the progress our state has experienced in recent years. Governor Dannel P. Malloy has set two goals for our state's criminal justice system: reduce crime and maximize efficiency. Recidivism and correctional population are two important indicators of progress in this regard.

Please feel free to share your ideas about how we can best accomplish these goals going forward. With your help, I am confident that our state can continue to achieve better outcomes with offenders on parole and probation supervision. As the prison population continues to decline, it is my hope that some of the budgetary savings will be reinvested in the supervision and treatment programs that have demonstrated success.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. Please visit our website for more information on current trends in Connecticut's criminal justice system.

*Mike Lawlor
Under Secretary
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
State Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1365*

(o) 860-418-6394

www.ct.gov/opm/cjppd

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Methodology

OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (OPM) is required, by statute, (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. Since 2009, OPM had modeled its recidivism studies 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".

Like the federal study, OPM calculates recidivism using four measures: 1) new arrests; 2) new convictions; 3) any incidence of re-incarceration; and 4) returns to prison with a new sentence.

In 2009, OPM tracked 16,486 sentenced offenders who were released or discharged by the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC) in 2004. In 2010, OPM used the same methodology, and similar data, to calculate the recidivism rates of 16,241 sentenced offenders who were released or discharged by the DOC in 2005. In both studies, OPM tracked offenders for a three year period following their release from prison. To do this, OPM was required to wait almost four years to collect all of the data that was required to complete the study.

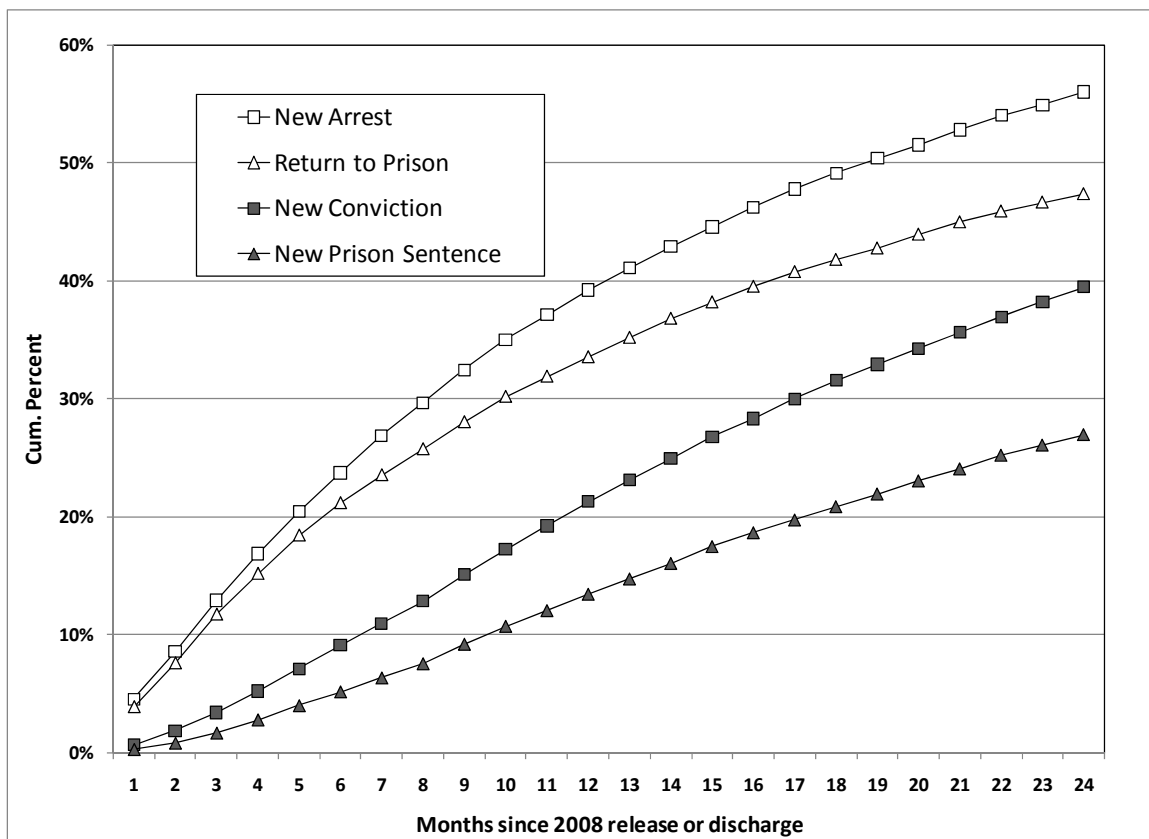
For its 2011 study, OPM, in a decision endorsed by its criminal justice partner agencies on the Criminal Justice Policy and Advisory committee (CJPAC), has produced a two-year recidivism study of 16,286 sentenced offenders released in 2008. The decision to produce a two-year study instead of a three-year study involved certain trade-off. On balance, OPM decided that there was more to be gained through an analysis of a more recent offender cohort (2008) and a cohort that provided a longer term of analysis (2006).

In the coming year, OPM will produce several short reports on the recidivism rates of specific offender sub-groups similar to analysis found in the 2010 OPM reports: Recidivism & Weapons and Incarceration History and Age.

Recidivism Rates, 2008 Release Cohort

16, 286 sentenced offenders were released or discharged by the Department of Correction (DOC) in 2008. OPM followed these offenders through criminal justice data to determine the two-year recidivism rates for this group of offenders. Using data provided by DOC, the Judicial Branch’s Court Support Services Division (CSSD), and the Department of Public Safety, OPM calculated cumulative return rates for four types of recidivism: 1) new arrests; 2) new convictions; 3) any incident of re-incarceration; and 4) returns to prison with a new sentence.

CHART 1: Two-year Recidivism Rates in Connecticut, 2008



- Within two years of their release or discharge:
 - 56% of offenders released or discharge in 2008 were rearrested
 - 47% were returned to prison
 - 39% were convicted on new charges, and
 - 27% began a new prison sentence

Recidivism Rates, 2008 versus 2005 and 2004

By most measures, the two-year recidivism rates declined moderately between 2005 and 2008.

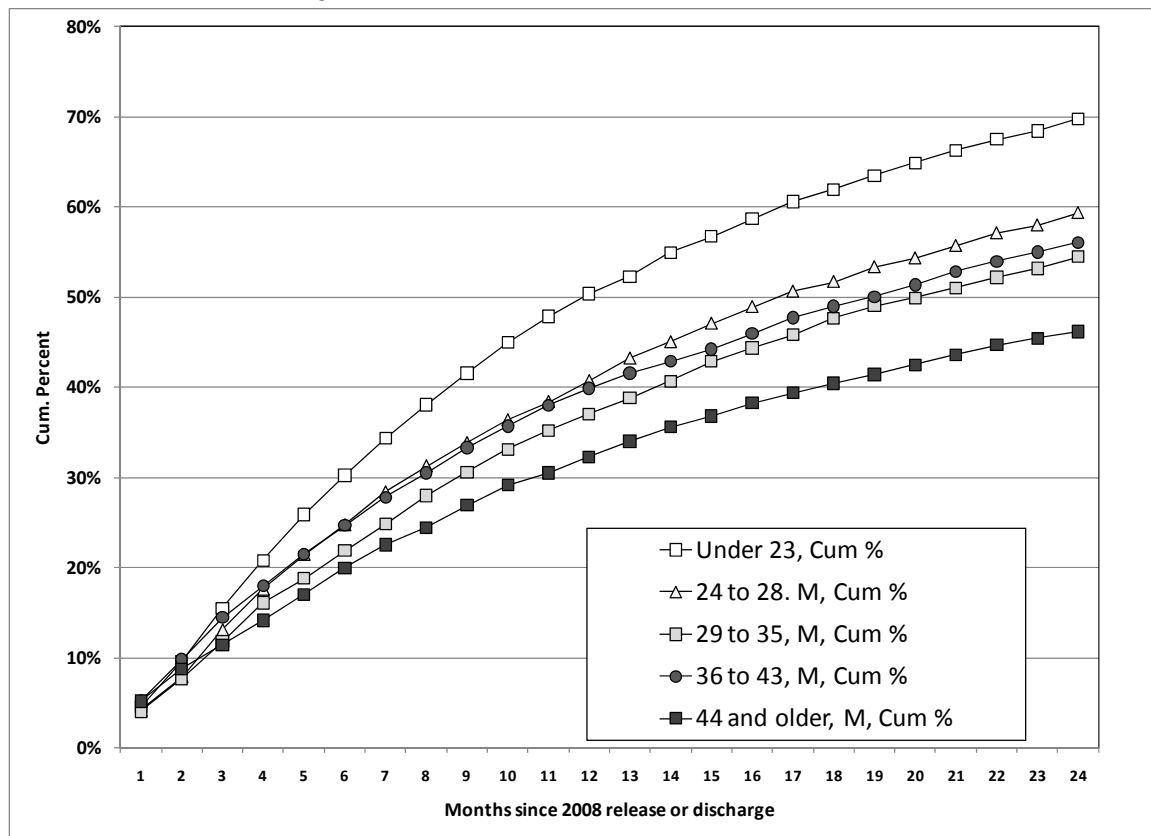
Recidivism type	Months from release	2004 cohort	2005 cohort	2008 cohort
Arrest	6	25.4%	26.0%	23.7%
	12	41.9%	42.0%	39.2%
	18	52.4%	52.6%	49.1%
	24	59.0%	59.5%	56.0%
	36	67.4%	67.5%	na
Return to prison	6	21.2%	20.7%	21.2%
	12	34.0%	34.2%	33.5%
	18	42.6%	42.9%	41.8%
	24	48.9%	49.2%	47.4%
	26	56.5%	56.5%	na
New conviction	6	10%	12.0%	9.1%
	12	25%	26.8%	21.3%
	18	36%	39.2%	31.5%
	24	44%	48.7%	39.5%
	26	56%	59.6%	na
New Sentence	6	4.9%	5.4%	5.2%
	12	13.2%	13.3%	13.4%
	18	20.6%	21.1%	20.9%
	24	27.1%	27.7%	27.0%
	26	36.7%	36.6%	na
Offenders		16,486	16,241	16,286

- While the two-year recidivism rates for new convictions showed the greatest decline between 2005 and 2008, data on convictions has a tendency to be most volatile.
- The recidivism rates for returns-to-prison and returns-to-prison-with-a-new-sentence, tend to be more stable from year to year. The return-to-prison rates between 2005 and 2008 declined from 49.2% to 47.4%. The return to prison with a new sentence rate edges down from 27.7% to 27.0%.
- Over the coming year, OPM will produce a more thorough analysis to investigate why most recidivism rates declined between 2005 and 2008.

Recidivism Rates, 2008, Gender and Age

As in last year's study, the recidivism rates for young male offenders was higher than the rate for older offenders.

CHART 2: Two-year Arrest Recidivism Rates in Connecticut, 2008



- Within two years of their release or discharge:
 - 70% of male offenders under the age of 23 were rearrested.
 - Among males over the age of 43, 46% were rearrested.
 - 14,420 males were released or discharged by the DOC in 2008. 57% of these men had been rearrested within two years.
- Male offenders generally recidivated at higher rates than females.
 - Among males 57% were rearrested within two years; among females the figure was 47%.

- 49% of males were returned to prison within two years. The rate for women was 36%.
- In contrast to males where the youngest offenders had the highest recidivism rates, women in the middle age-quintiles were more likely to recidivate than the youngest female offenders.

Table 2. Recidivism rates, by type, males by age quintile, 2008-release cohort

Recidivism event	Months	Under 23	24 to 28	29 to 35	36 to 43	44 and older	All males
Arrest	6	30%	25%	22%	25%	20%	24%
	12	50%	41%	37%	40%	32%	40%
	18	62%	52%	48%	49%	40%	50%
	24	70%	59%	54%	56%	46%	57%
Return to prison	6	27%	21%	20%	23%	17%	22%
	12	41%	35%	33%	36%	28%	35%
	18	51%	44%	42%	44%	35%	43%
	24	57%	49%	49%	50%	40%	49%
New conviction	6	9%	9%	8%	10%	9%	9%
	12	24%	21%	20%	23%	19%	22%
	18	38%	32%	31%	33%	27%	32%
	24	48%	41%	38%	41%	34%	40%
New prison sentence	6	5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%
	12	16%	12%	13%	15%	13%	14%
	18	26%	21%	21%	22%	19%	22%
	24	34%	28%	26%	28%	24%	28%
Male offenders		2,911	2,768	2,843	2,928	2,970	14,420

Table 3. Recidivism rates, by type, females by age quintile, 2008-release cohort

Recidivism event	Months	Under 26	26 to 32	33 to 39	40 to 45	46 and older	All females
Arrest	6	20%	25%	20%	17%	14%	19%
	12	36%	37%	34%	31%	25%	33%
	18	44%	47%	44%	39%	33%	42%
	24	52%	52%	51%	44%	37%	47%
Return to prison	6	13%	19%	18%	17%	13%	16%
	12	22%	27%	28%	27%	20%	25%
	18	26%	35%	36%	33%	25%	31%
	24	31%	39%	41%	37%	30%	36%
New conviction	6	7%	13%	9%	8%	6%	9%
	12	19%	23%	20%	18%	17%	19%
	18	26%	29%	29%	26%	22%	26%
	24	32%	35%	36%	32%	26%	32%
New prison sentence	6	3%	8%	4%	5%	2%	4%
	12	9%	13%	10%	11%	7%	10%
	18	12%	16%	14%	15%	11%	14%
	24	15%	21%	21%	18%	13%	18%
Female offenders		349	371	401	398	347	1,866

Recidivism Rates among Parolees Released in 2008

During 2008, 1,549 offenders were released to parole in Connecticut, 39% fewer than the 2,522 offenders who were released to parole in 2005. The steep drop in parole releases was a direct consequence of changes enacted in the aftermath of the tragedy in Cheshire in July 2007 (See Appendix 3). In September 2007, Gov. Rell suspended parole releases for violent offenders and in January 2008, the legislature passed several significant changes to the parole system in Connecticut. Together, these changes reduced the amount of parole eligible offenders who were actually released to parole during 2008.

Table 4. First change in jurisdiction since release to parole

First jurisdiction change	2005 parolees	2008 parolees	2005,%	2008, %	Relative % change
Discharge - EOS	1059	708	42.0%	45.7%	9%
Tech Violation	480	346	19.0%	22.3%	17%
Criminal violation	457	199	18.1%	12.8%	-29%
Discharge - EOS to SP	206	112	8.2%	7.2%	-11%
Absconder	151	49	6.0%	3.2%	-47%
No change in jurisdiction	138	80	5.5%	5.2%	na
Other	31	55	1.2%	3.6%	na
Total	2522	1549	100%	100%	

- The movements of all parolees released in 2005 and in 2008 were analyzed for a two year period following their transition to parole jurisdiction. Table 3 tracks parolees through the first significant change in jurisdiction from the date of the parolee’s release to parole.
- Most parolee complete their sentences while on parole and are discharged, or they are returned to prison for technical violations or criminal violations. While there were improvements in outcomes for parolees released in 2008 compared to those released in 2005, some differences in outcomes were significant.
- In 2005, 18% of parolees were returned to prison for criminal violations. By 2008 this figure had fallen to 13%, a relative 29% decrease. While criminal violations declined between 2005 and 2008, the percentage of parolees who were returned to prison for technical violations increased from 19% to 22%, a relative increase of 17%.

Releases and Discharges

The impact of the events in Cheshire is evident throughout the prison system data. Although roughly the same number of sentenced offenders were released or discharged in both 2005 and 2008, because of changes in the operations of the state's community supervision system, many more offenders completed their sentences in prison in 2008 than in 2005.

Table 5. Offenders, by release or discharge type, 2008 and 2005

	Males, 2008	Males, 2008, %	Females, 2008	Females, 2008, %	2008 cohort	2008 cohort, %	2005 cohort	2005 cohort, %
DISCHARGES								
EOS	6,616	46%	819	44%	7,435	46%	6385	39%
EOS - TS	609	4%	106	6%	715	4%	768	5%
EOS - PAROLE	487	3%	65	3%	552	3%	746	5%
EOS to SP	305	2%	9	0%	314	2%	274	2%
EOS - other	278	2%	29	2%	307	2%	200	1%
EOS from SP	3	0%		0%	3	0%	3	0%
	8,298	58%	1,028	55%	9,326	57%	8376	52%
RELEASES								
RELEASE TO TS	3,144	22%	482	26%	3,626	22%	2300	14%
COMMUNITY REL	1,744	12%	250	13%	1,994	12%	1802	11%
RELEASE TO PAROLE	1,055	7%	82	4%	1,137	7%	1899	12%
RE-ENTRY FURLOUGH	108	1%	22	1%	130	1%	1864	11%
RELEASE TO TRANS PAROLE	71	0%	2	0%	73	0%	0	0%
	6,122	42%	838	45%	6,960	43%	7865	48%
ALL	14,420	100%	1,866	100%	16,286	100%	16241	100%

- In 2005, 48% of offenders (7,865 prisoners) were released into the jurisdiction of DOC community supervision programs prior to completing their sentences. By 2008, that figure had fallen by about 1,000 offenders to 43%.
- The drop in releases to community supervision programs would have been even more severe had the DOC not increased the volume of offenders who were released to community supervision.
- The table also reveals another impact from Cheshire, the elimination of re-entry furloughs in 2008. This short-term, discretionary, early-release mechanism was eliminated in post-Cheshire criminal justice reforms.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Data Limitations

2011 Study Methodology

This study tracked 16,286 sentenced offenders for a two year period following their discharges or releases from a DOC facility in 2008. 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 from their earliest release or discharge date in 2008.

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	Definition
<p>Department of Corrections (DOC)</p> <p><i>Supervised by DOC Parole Officers</i></p>	<p>Transitional Supervision (TS)</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Halfway House (HWH)</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Furlough</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Transitional Placement</p>	<p>After a successful term in a halfway house, inmates can be transferred to an approved community placement or private residence.</p>
<p>Board of Pardons and Parole (BOPP)</p> <p><i>Supervised by DOC Parole Officers</i></p>	<p>Parole</p>	<p>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 parolee must comply with the imposed conditions of parole; violators may be remanded to prison.</p>
	<p>Transfer Parole</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Special Parole</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) / Courts</p> <p><i>Supervised by CSSD Probation Officers</i></p>	<p>Probation</p>	<p>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.).</p>
	<p>Split Sentence Probation</p>	<p>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.</p>

Appendix 3: The Cheshire Tragedy

In the early morning hours of July 23, 2007, two men on parole from the Connecticut Department of Correction entered the Cheshire home of Dr. William A. Petit Jr. with the intent to burglarize the residence. During the commission of the crime, Dr. Petit was severely beaten, and his wife, Jennifer Hawke-Petit; and their daughters, Hayley, 17, and Michaela, 11, were killed.

In October 2010, Stephen J. Hayes was convicted of six capital felony charges relating to the home invasion in Cheshire. Hayes was sentenced to death in the penalty phase of his trial in November 2010. Joshua Komisarjevsky is awaiting trial.

The tragic event in Cheshire prompted a systemic review of the criminal justice system in Connecticut, particularly as it relates to parole decisions. The crime has caused significant legislative changes to be enacted to improve and reform the criminal justice system in Connecticut.

The use of the term “Cheshire” in the document is used to denote the tragic event of July 23, 2007.