



State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

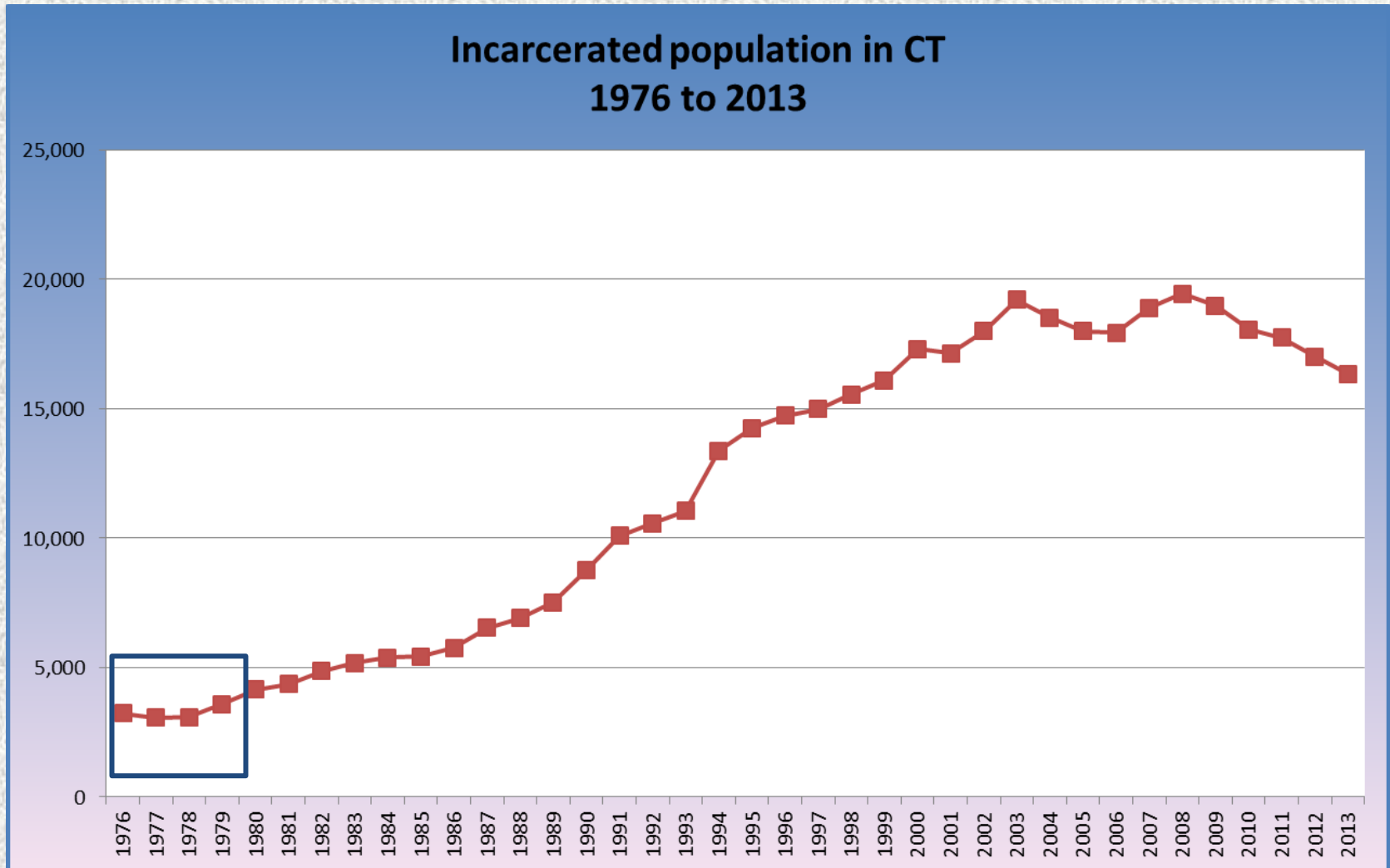
The Connecticut Criminal Justice System: A Historical Perspective and Future Directions December 12, 2013

***Presented to the
Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission***

1970's

**Relative “*Calm*”
in the
Criminal Justice System**

Connecticut's Stable Prison Population

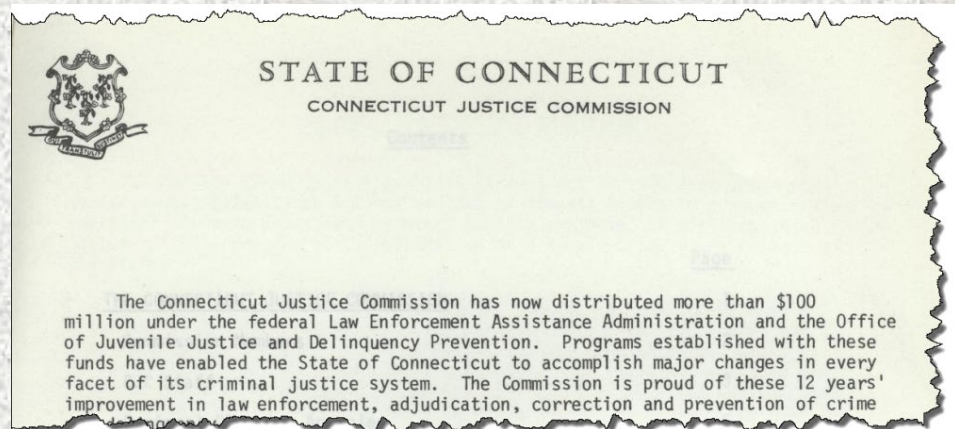


1976: 3,221

1979: 3,594

Federal LEAA Funding

- Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) Program brought \$100 million in funding to Connecticut
 - Computers for Police Departments
 - Treatment for Offenders
 - Training
 - Research and Evaluation



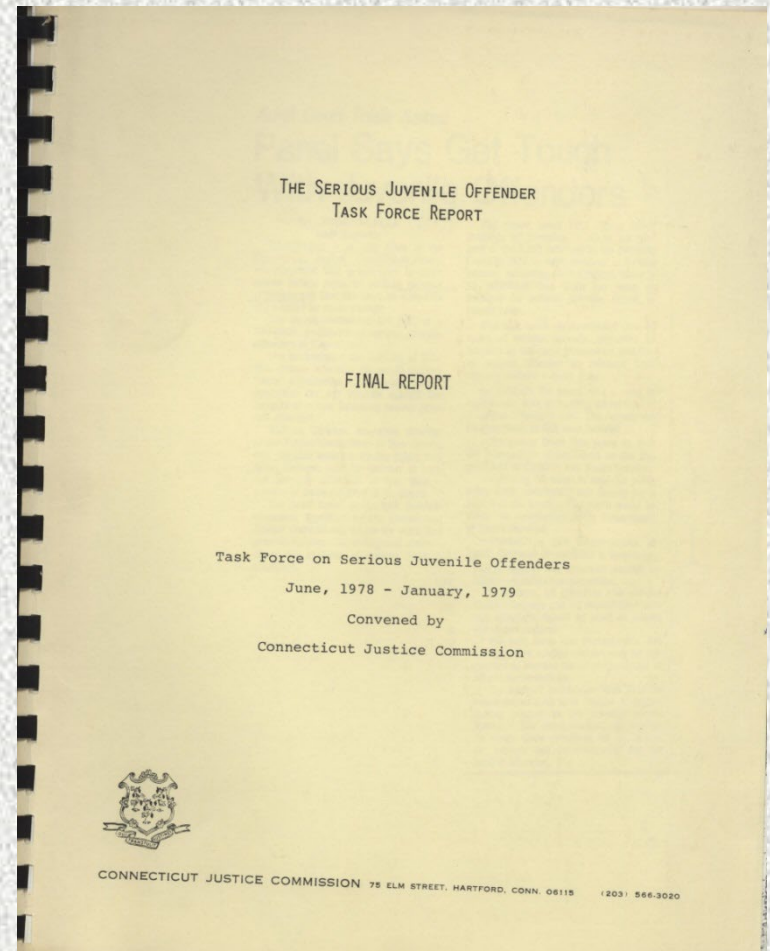
CONNECTICUT LEAA FUNDING
1968 - 1980

	PLANNING GRANTS	ACTION GRANTS ¹	JUVENILE JUSTICE ACT	DISCRETIONARY GRANTS ²
1968	33,000			17,000
1969	297,100	359,890		638,778
1970	326,000	2,669,000		774,696
1971	401,000	5,489,000		967,267
1972	534,000	6,805,000		1,649,186
1973	794,000	7,895,000		842,838
1974	774,000	7,895,000		2,417,764
1975	842,000	7,824,000	200,000	3,487,331
1976 ³	1,147,540	8,102,000	378,000	1,341,825
1977	911,000	5,031,000	673,000	4,847,864
1978	766,000	4,064,000	1,001,000	4,569,416 ⁴
1979	828,000	4,218,000	853,000	2,403,352
1980	3,438,000		835,000	
	71,443,530		3,940,000	23,957,317
			GRAND TOTAL	\$99,340,847

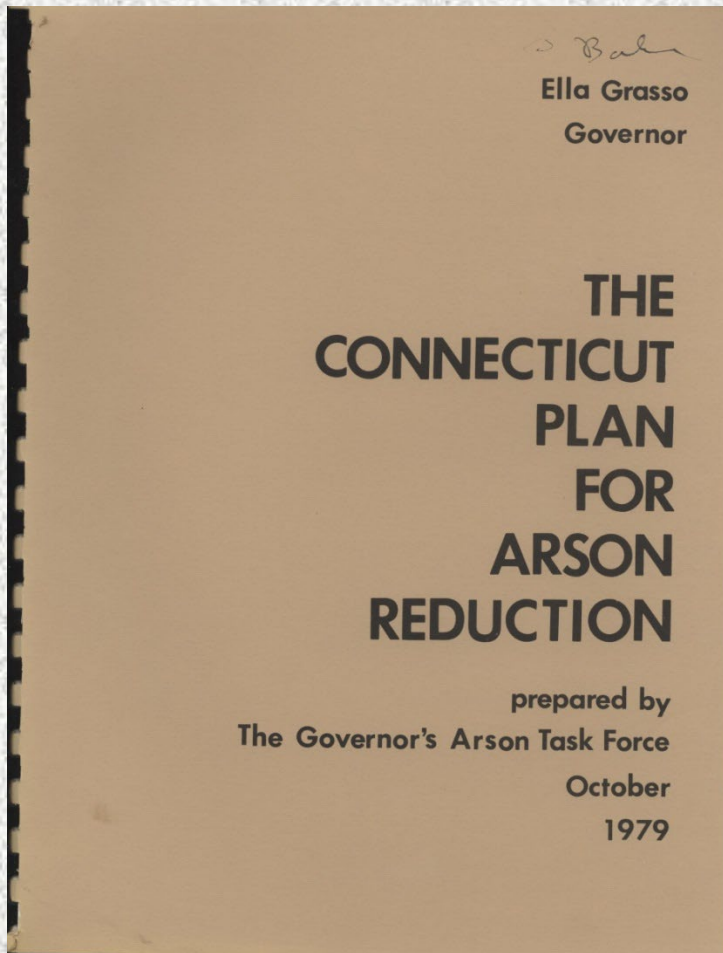
1 - Block grants
2 - Categorical grants
3 - 15-month transition year
4 - Includes community Anti-Crime, and other funds

Serious Juvenile Offenders

- Task Force Report resulted in the first Mandatory Transfer to Adult Court law



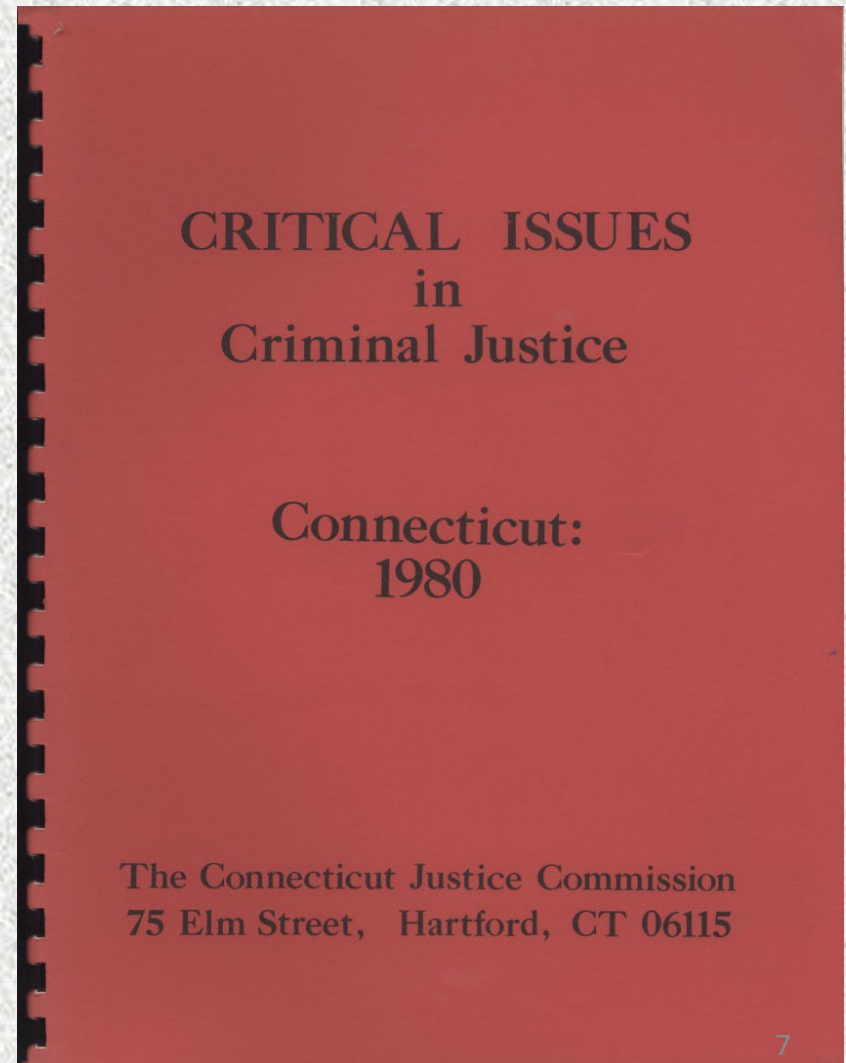
The Crime “du jour”: Arson



- Arson was the result of urban blight in big cities
- Legislation increased the crime of arson to a Class A Felony
- Plan included training for Law Enforcement and Fire Departments

Other Critical Issues

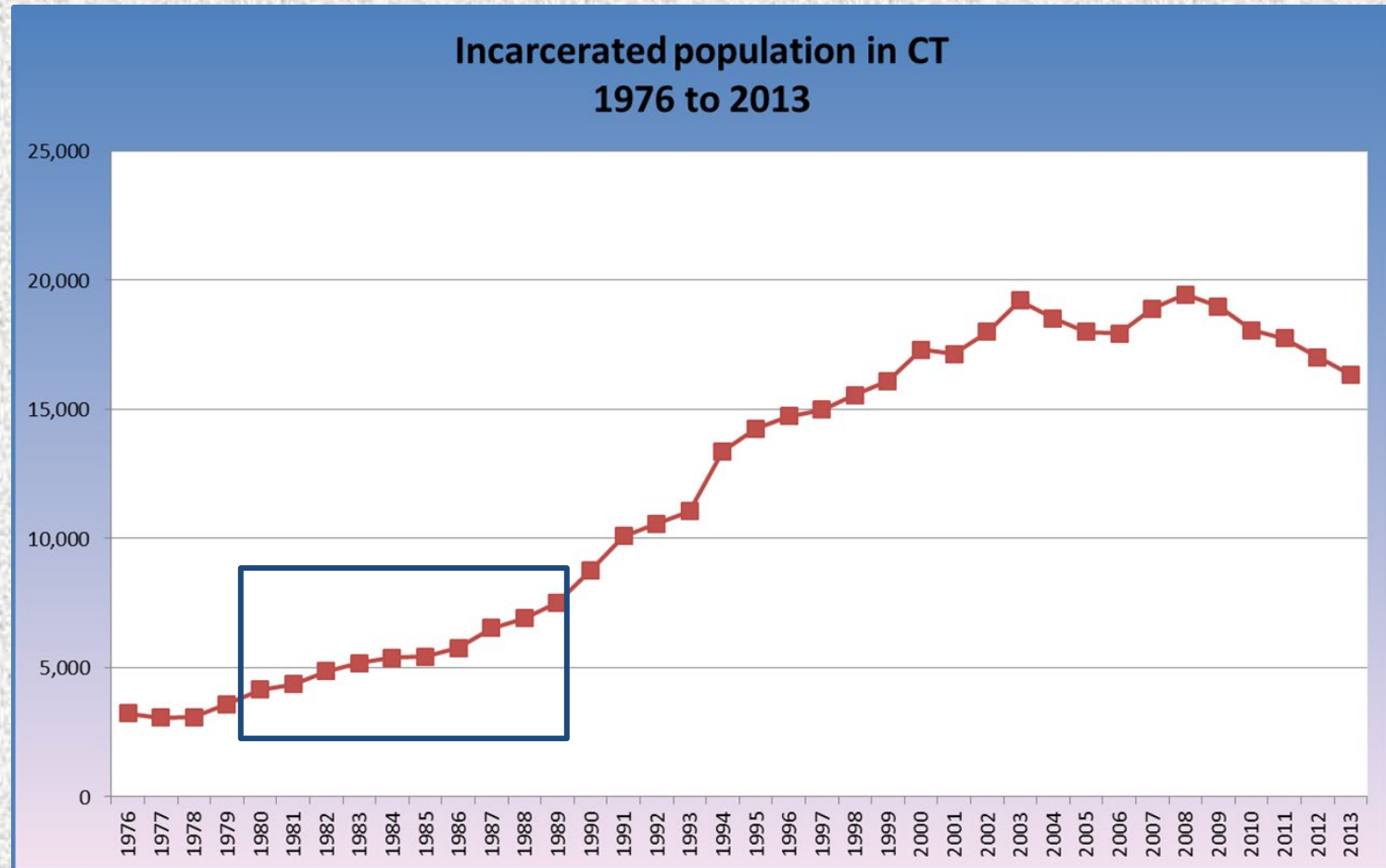
- Merger of the Circuit and Superior Courts
- Restructuring of Pretrial Services
- Community Corrections legislation
- Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) office established



1980's

**Relative “*Chaos*”
in the
Criminal Justice System**

Connecticut's Prison Population: 81% Increase



1976: 3,221

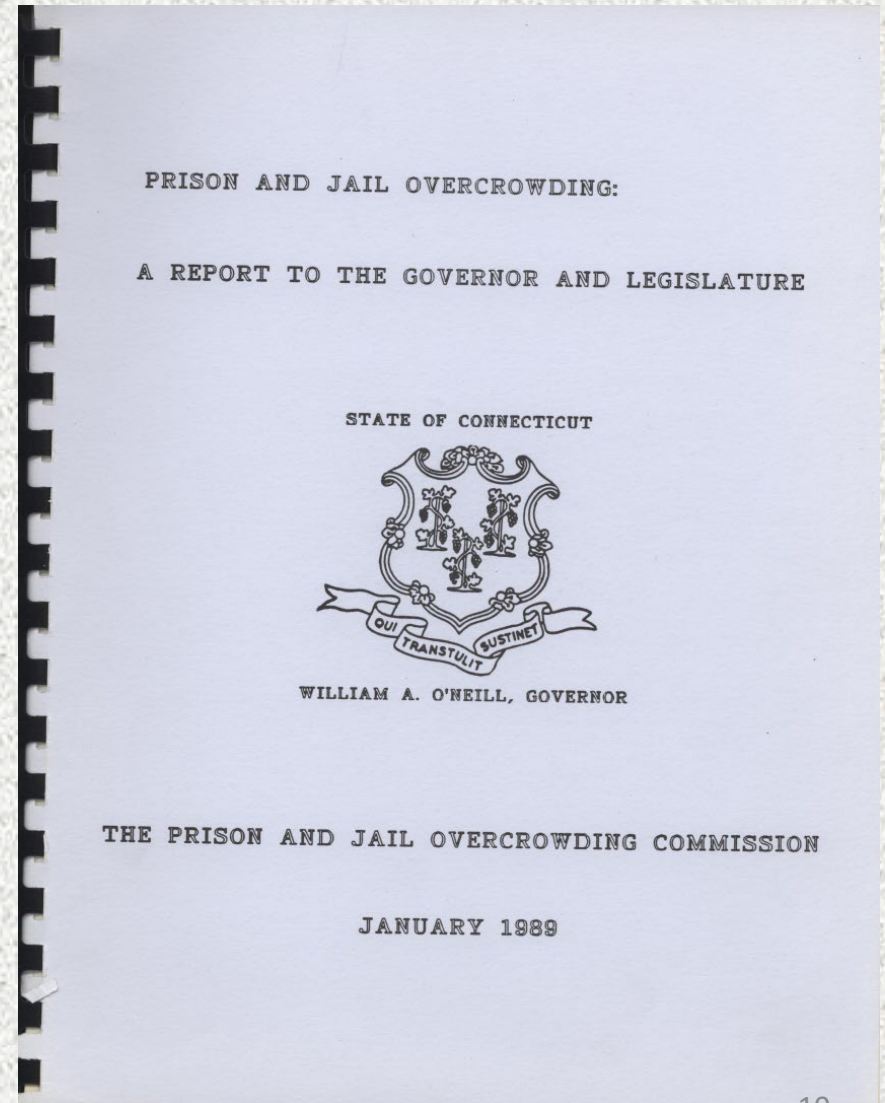
1979: 3,594

1980: 4,147

1989: 7,516

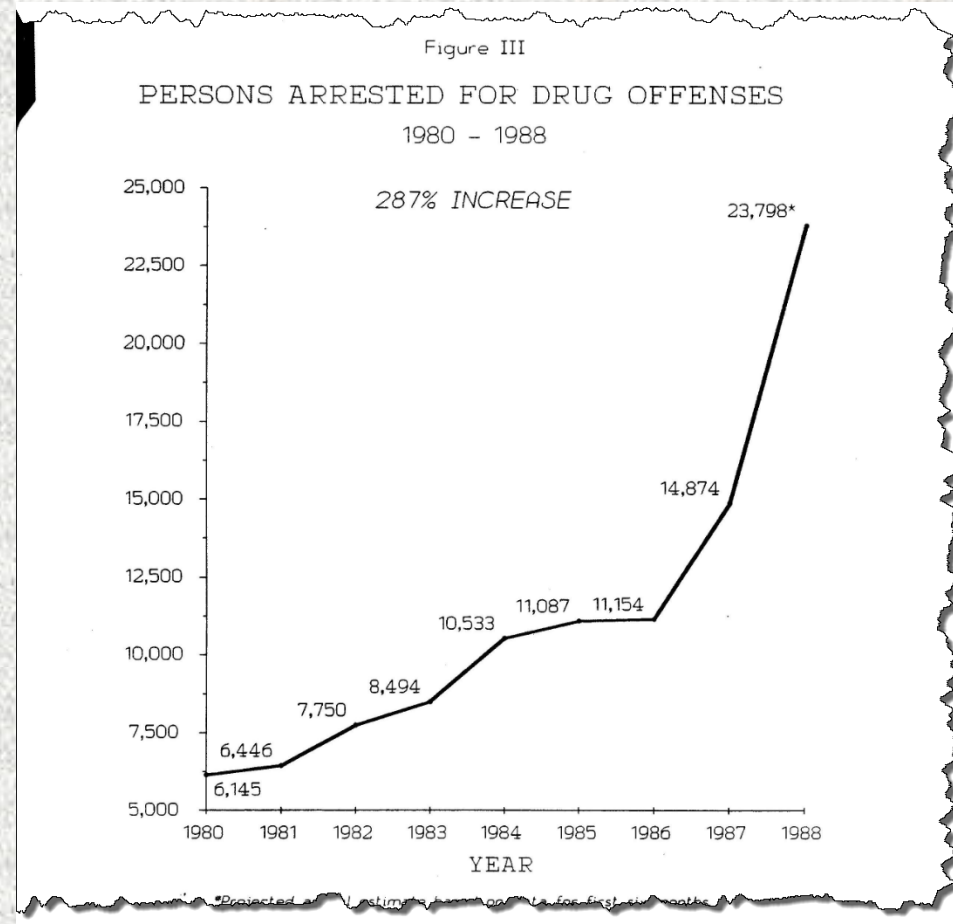
Major Initiatives

- LEAA dollars are drastically reduced and eliminated
- Legislative Sentencing Commission
 - Shift from Indeterminate to Determinate sentencing
- First Task Force on Prison Overcrowding established (1981)
 - Response to anticipated growth in population due to sentencing changes



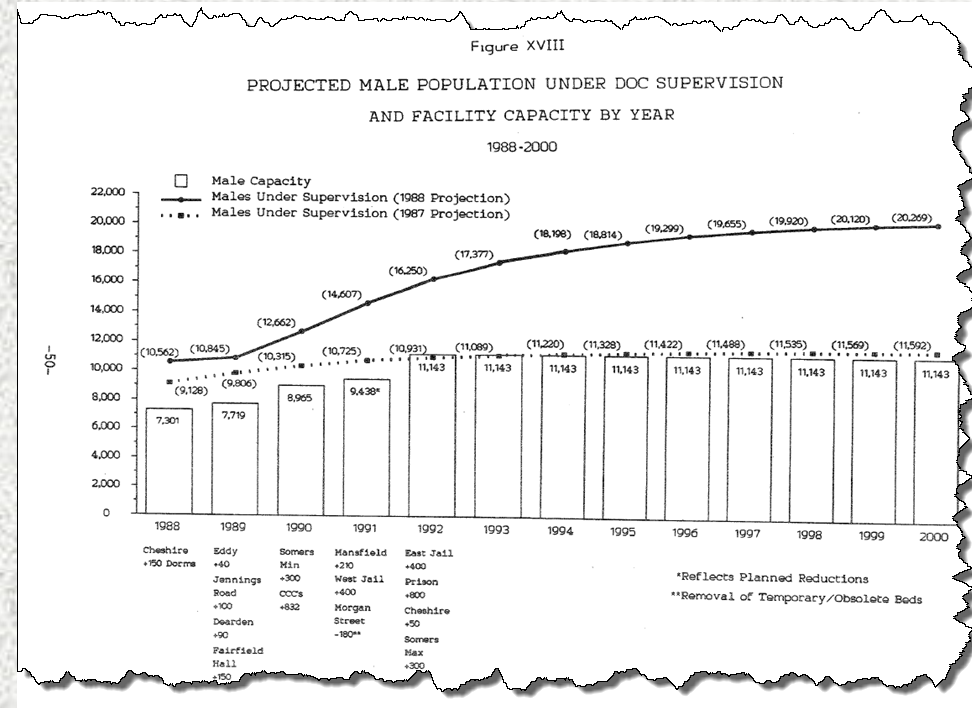
Drug Crime

- Federal War on Drugs
 - Huge increase in drug arrests, prosecutions, convictions and incarcerations
 - Prevention and treatment were not a focus of the “war”
- ***Minimum Mandatory Sentences*** increase in prevalence
- Crack Cocaine, reemergence of gangs and increase in weapons use all related to drugs



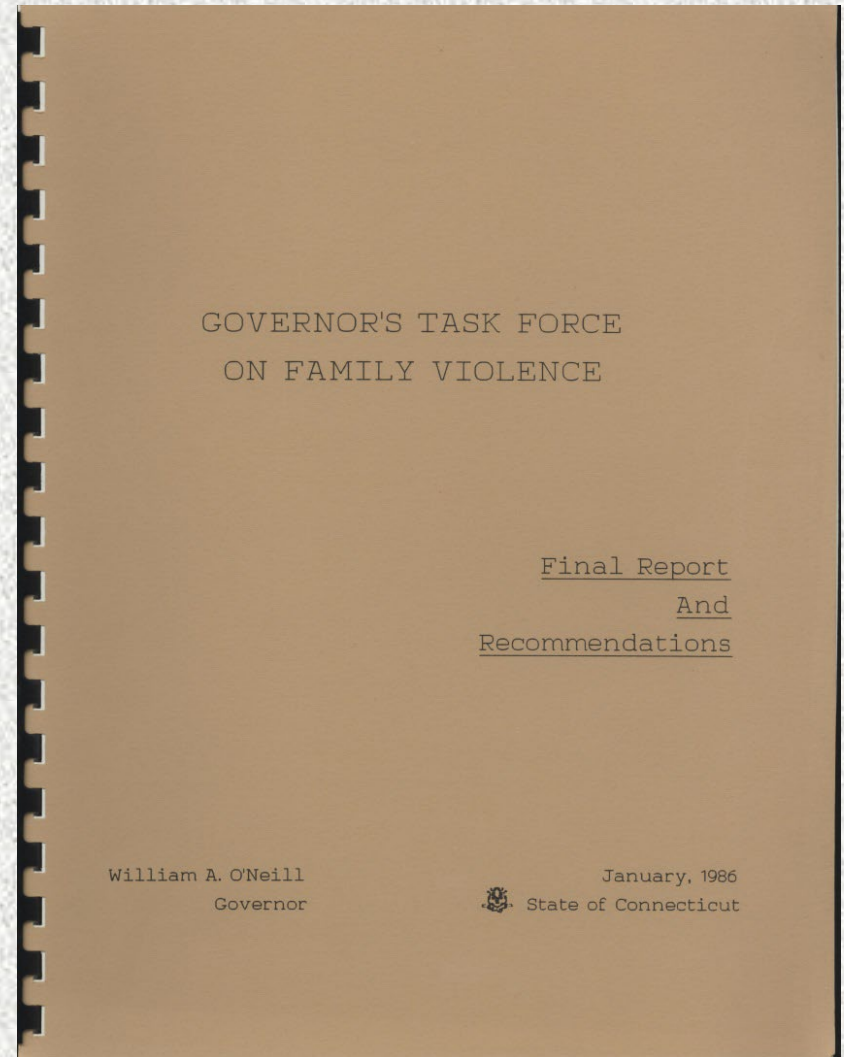
Prison Overcrowding Problem

- Prison Overcrowding Task Force becomes legislatively created Commission in 1981
- Prison growth far outstrips capacity
- Over 11,000 prison beds constructed between 1985-1990 at a cost of over \$1 billion to taxpayers
- Inmates serve an average of 10% of their sentence
- *Supervised Home Release* becomes the main release mechanism
- General Assembly passes controversial “*Prison Release Valve*” Measure
- Frustration grows across the CJ system



Domestic Violence Legislation

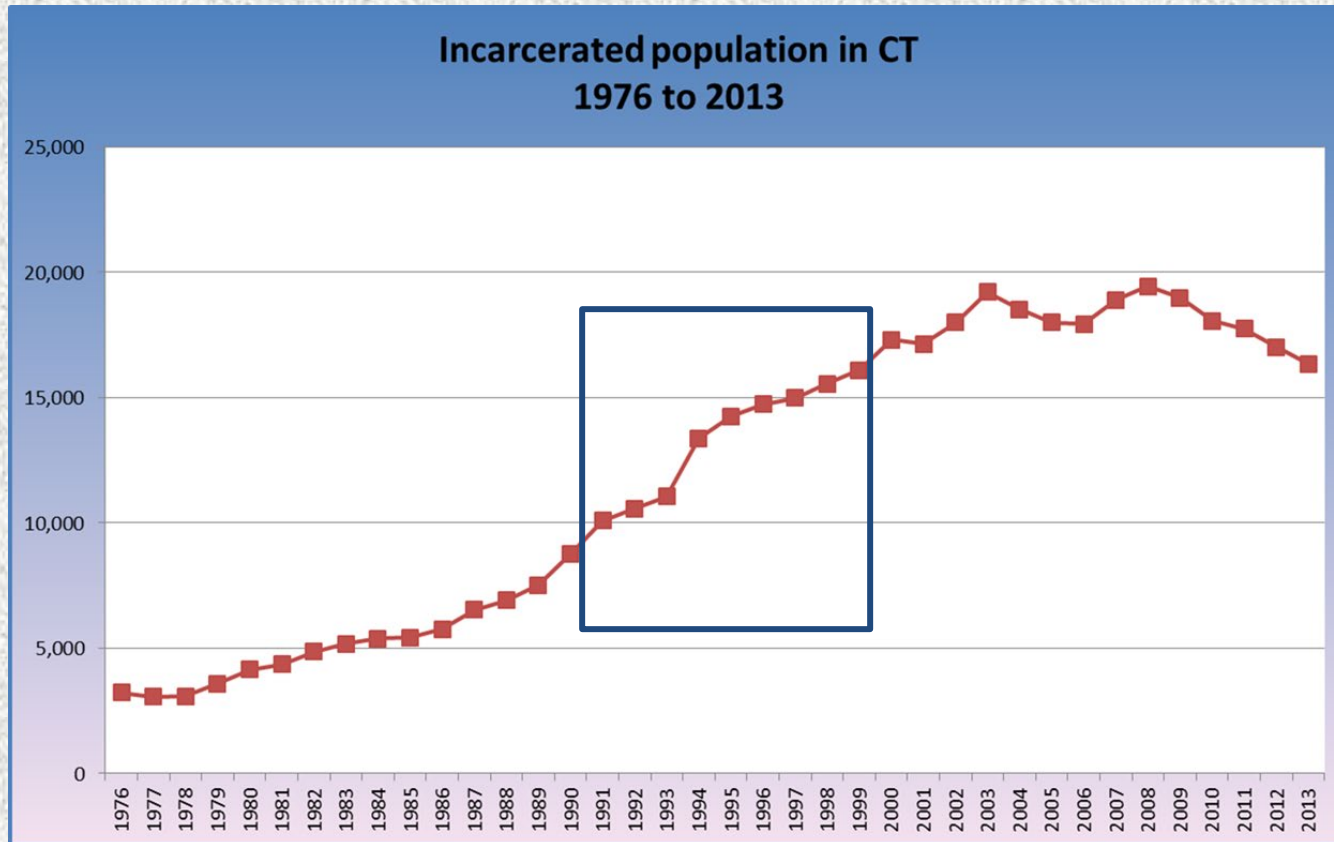
- Following the 1983 Tracy Thurman incident, comprehensive legislation was enacted in 1986 as part of Governor O'Neill's Task Force on Family Violence
- CT started a national trend in response to DV



1990's

**Prison Population Rise Continues:
CT Moves to Investment in
Community Corrections**

Connecticut's Prison Population: 83% Increase



1976: 3,221

1979: 3,594

1980: 4,147

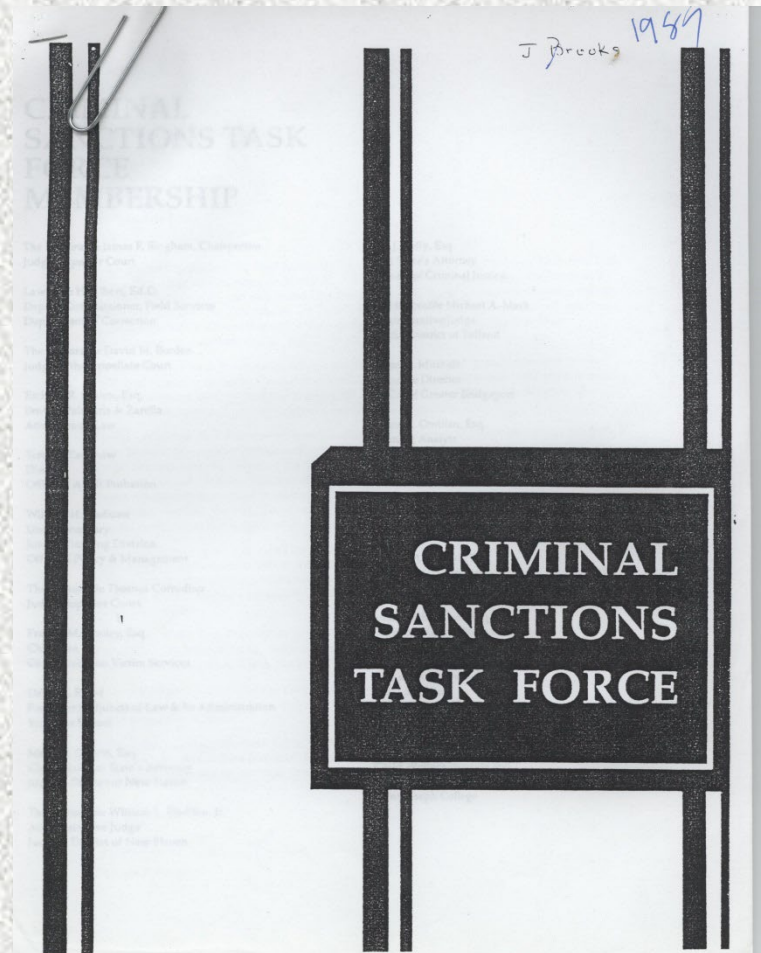
1989: 7,516

1990: 8,777

1999: 16,104

Criminal Sanctions Task Force

- Chief Justice Ellen Peters Task Force on Criminal Sanctions
- Legislation to gradually increase time served
 - 10% to 25%
 - 25% to 40%
 - 40% to 50%
 - Linked to completion of prison expansion and growth of alternative sanctions



Prison and Jail Overcrowding

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1990 PAGE 3

Overcrowding report approved

Prison panel would end home release program

HARTFORD — The state Commission on Prison and Jail Overcrowding unanimously approved a report Friday to the General Assembly, including recommendations to do away with the supervised home release program.

The report, due Monday in the General Assembly, contains recommendations approved at the commission's December meeting. Some of them include funneling 4,000 prisoners into drug treatment and other alternatives to prison; building jail cells for 4,000 more prisoners; and guaranteeing that prisoners serve at least half of their sentences.

"I feel this is the commission's best effort to date to deal with prison overcrowding," said William H. Carbone, the commission's chairman.

Projections show the prison system will contain more than 8,000 more inmates by 1993 than it can handle now. If implemented, the proposal will put half of those in alternate incarceration programs.



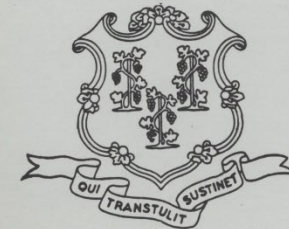
Associated Press

William Carbone, chairman of the commission on prison overcrowding, makes a point during Friday's meeting.

PRISON AND JAIL OVERCROWDING:

A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE

State of Connecticut



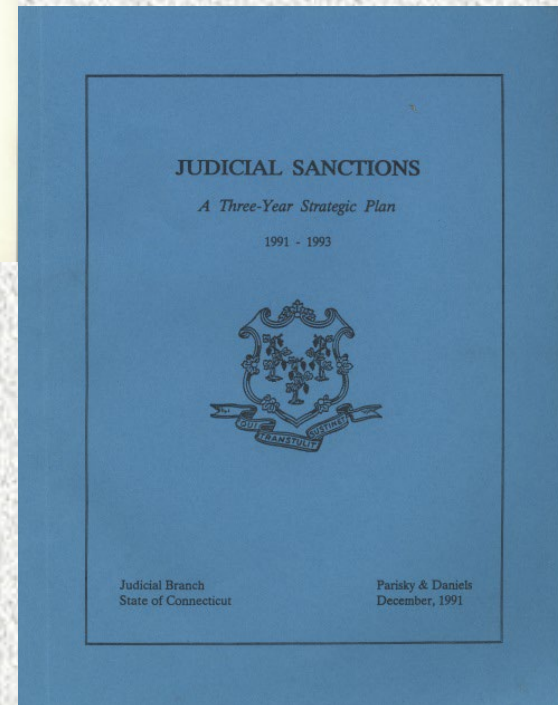
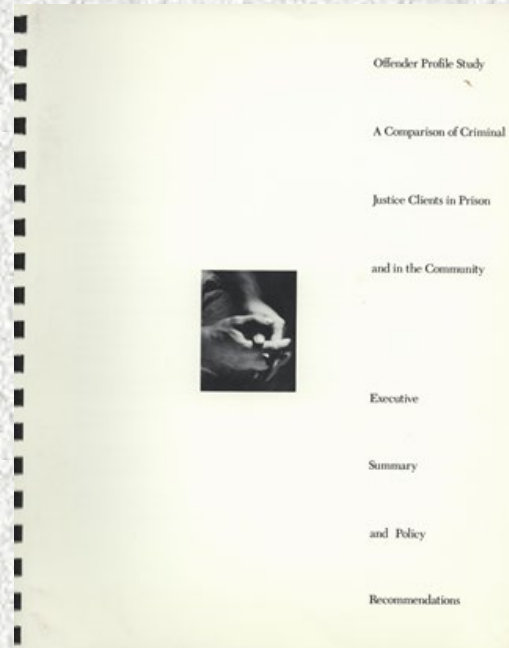
THE PRISON AND JAIL OVERCROWDING COMMISSION

January 1991

The Prison and Jail Overcrowding Commission published at least 15 reports to the Governor and General Assembly

Creation of Office of Alternative Sanctions

- Creation of the Office of Alternative Sanctions in the Judicial Branch
- Funding to expand Adult Alternative Sanctions
 - Included Alternative Incarceration Centers (AIC), Outpatient Mental Health and Drug Treatment, and Residential Beds



Promising Results by Mid-1990's

- Time Served at 50% of sentence
- New prison space opens, on time and on budget
- Alternatives to Incarceration daily population reaches 5,000 offenders by 1994
- Data from Dept. of Justice / UCONN study credits Alternatives to Incarceration with lower recidivism rates

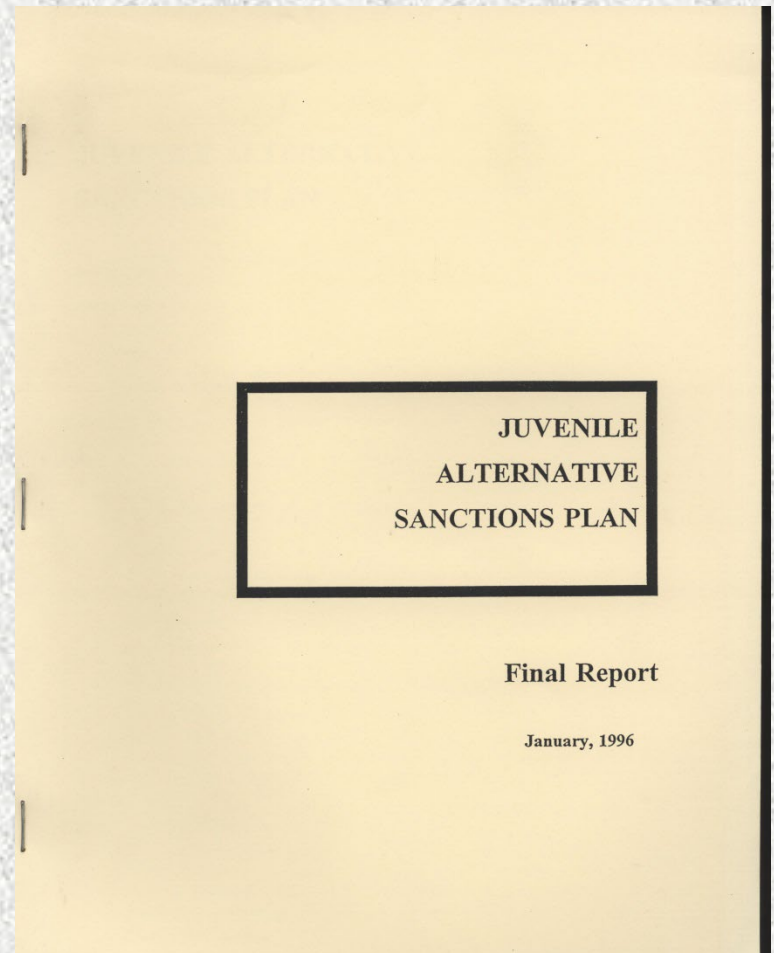
**Longitudinal Study:
Alternatives to Incarceration
Sentencing Evaluation, Year 3**

Executive Summary of the Final Year

September, 1996

Juvenile Alternative Sanctions

- Public Act 95-225 creates a Juvenile Alternative Sanctions network similar to Adult
- Sponsor: Representative Mike Lawlor



US Dept. Of Justice Identifies AIC Cost Savings

- Average cost of AIC: \$7,000
- Average cost of Prison: \$25,000
- It was estimated that through 1998, AICs saved taxpayers over \$600 million in prison construction and operating costs
- 1990: Alternative Sanctions Budget was less than \$1 million and served 750 offenders
- 1998: Alternative Sanctions Budget was \$48 million, serving more than 5,000 daily

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance

Bulletin From the Field

October 1998

Practitioner
perspectives

Nancy E. Gist, Director
Onsite Visits, Case Histories, and State
and Local Innovations From the
Bureau of Justice Assistance

**Connecticut's Alternative
Sanctions Program**
**\$619 Million Saved in Estimated Capital
and Operating Costs**

By Patrick J. Coleman, Jeffrey Felten-Green, and Geroma Oliver, BJA

[The program] built on the wise belief that not every criminal should go to prison continues to prove itself. It is money well spent. Since 1990, more than 40,000 offenders, most of them confronted with their first-ever prison term, have been diverted to this nationally recognized program. . . . Extensive counseling explores the root of the problem, community work teaches reliability while restoring dignity, and reading programs help develop valuable skills.

The Hartford Courant
October 20, 1997

Any visitor to the Alternative to Incarceration Center (AIC) in Bridgeport, Connecticut, will be impressed by the facility's structure and organization. The Bridgeport center is one of Connecticut's 17 AICs, which serve referrals from the 17 state courts. Just inside the front door is a control center that tracks the comings and goings of the several hundred offenders who are assigned to the center each year. During our visit on February 22 and 23, 1998, a Connecticut Noreaster was pounding the outside walls of the AIC, so many clients were busy at various activities within the center. For example, down the hall from the control center, six clients were folding and stapling newsletters for local nonprofit organizations to fill part of the community service requirement of their sentence. Ordinarily, if it had not been raining so hard, "Most of these clients would be outside doing much more physical community service work," according to Jim Greene, Deputy Director of Field Services for the Office of Alternative Sanctions

Alternative sanctions clients work alongside community members to build and maintain playscapes in Connecticut communities.



(OAS). More physical work includes activities like cleaning up state parks, removing trash from inner-city vacant lots, or building and maintaining giant playscapes (as OAS community service teams have a reputation of doing). OAS Field Services organizes and runs all of the community service opportunities available to OAS clients.

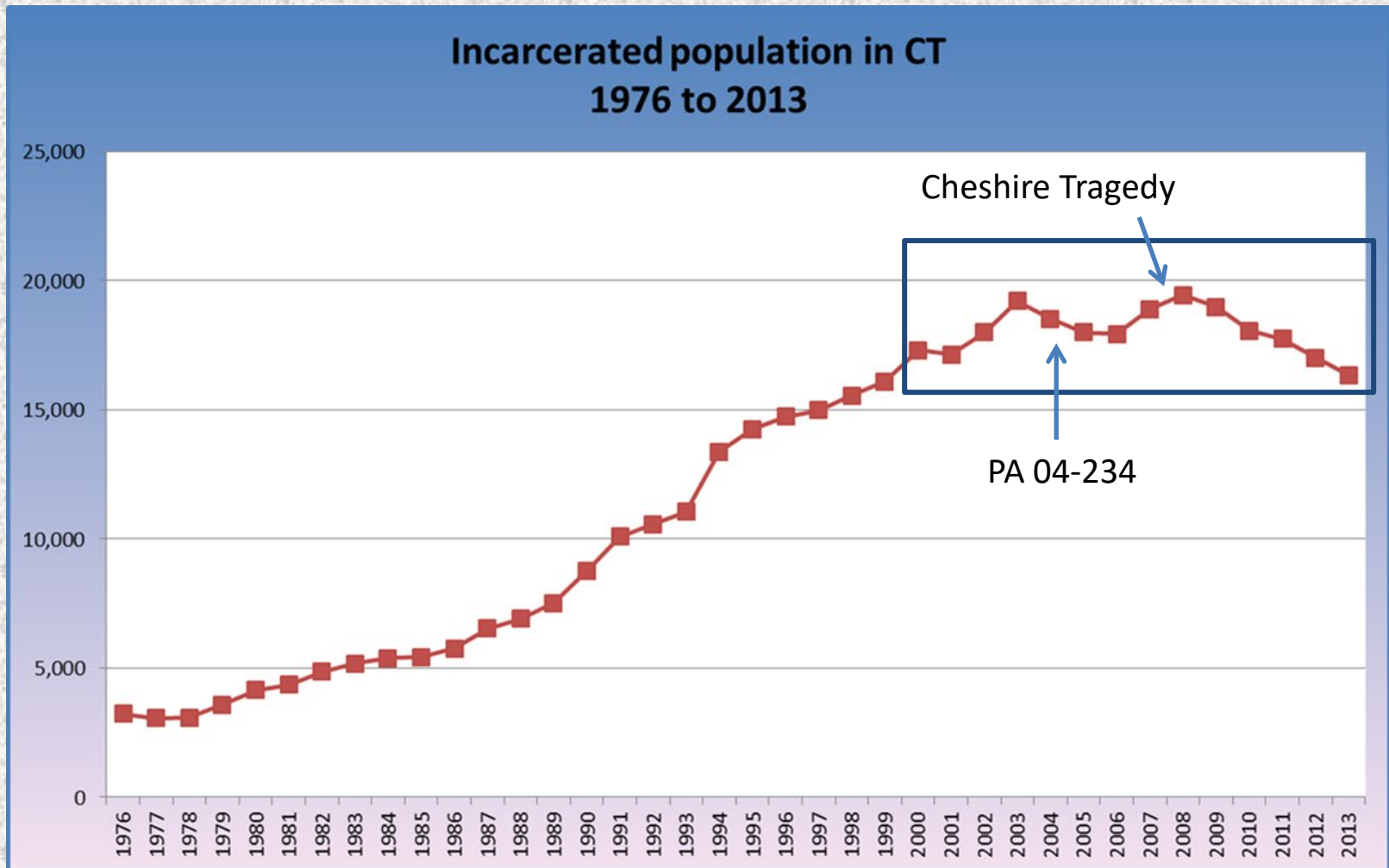
The AIC also contains a classroom and a computer room where clients are taught how to read or prepare for their general equivalency diploma (GED). One part of

2000-Present

**Learning Best Practices and
“What Works”**

Connecticut's Prison Population:

6% Decrease

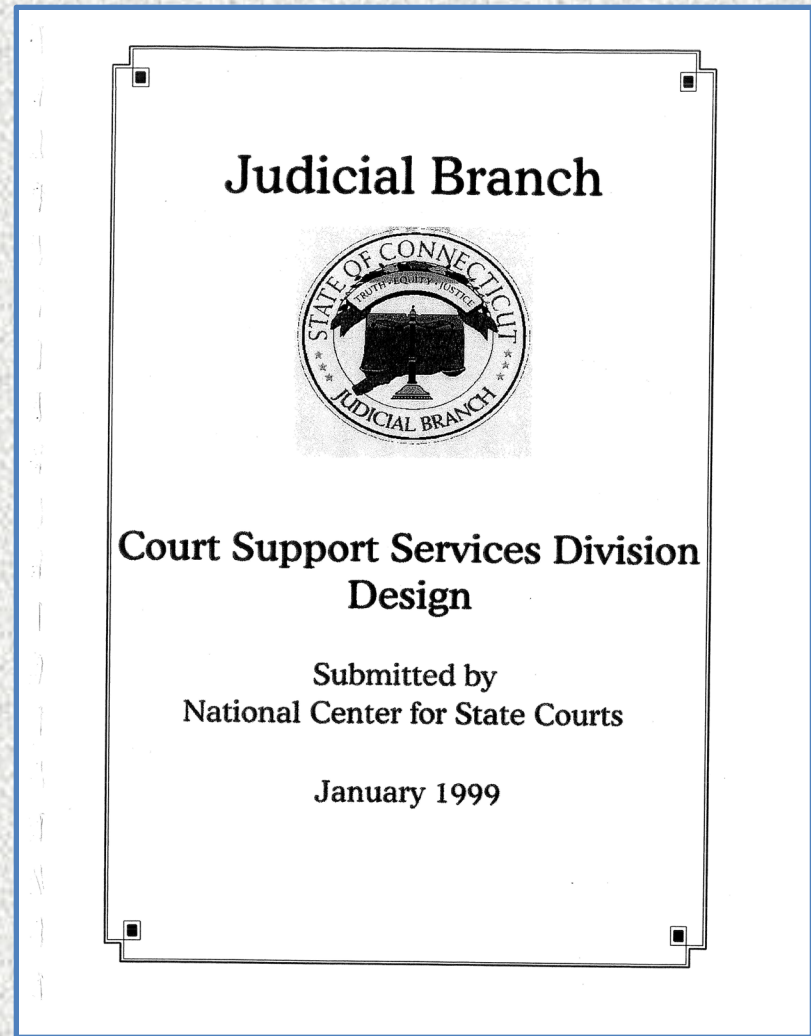


2000: 17,305

2013: 16,347

Judicial Branch Reorganization

- Merger of the Office of Alternative Sanctions with the operational entities in the Judicial Branch
- Major expansion of community supervision staffing and programs/services – from \$48 million in alternative sanctions funding in 1998 to \$109 million in 2013
- Increased use of research to inform policy and decision making



Critical Issues – Early 2000's

- Growing problem of inmates incarcerated on technical violations of probation
- Public Acts 04-234 and 08-01 / 08-51 create and expand specialized probation caseloads
- 2005 CCSU Study validated the specialized caseload approach to technical violations
 - Achieved the statutory mandate of a 20% reduction in incarceration due to technical violation

EVALUATION OF THE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES
DIVISION'S PROBATION TRANSITION PROGRAM
AND TECHNICAL VIOLATION UNIT

FINAL REPORT

Stephen M. Cox, Ph.D.

Kathleen Bantley, J.D.

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Central Connecticut State University

Thomas Roscoe, Ph.D.

Department of Criminal Justice
Westfield State College

December 2005

Adoption of Evidence Based Practice

1. Manageable Caseloads
2. Officer training in Motivational Interviewing and Positive Reinforcement
3. Use of validated assessment tools
4. Timeliness of work
5. Cognitive Behavioral Programs in the Private Network
6. Extensive ***Quality Assurance***
7. Investment in Technology for ease of data access and mining
8. Research and Evaluation

Results-Based Accountability

- Adopted by the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee in 2007
- Three main questions:
 1. *How much do we do?*
 2. *How well do we do it?*
 3. *Is anyone better off?*

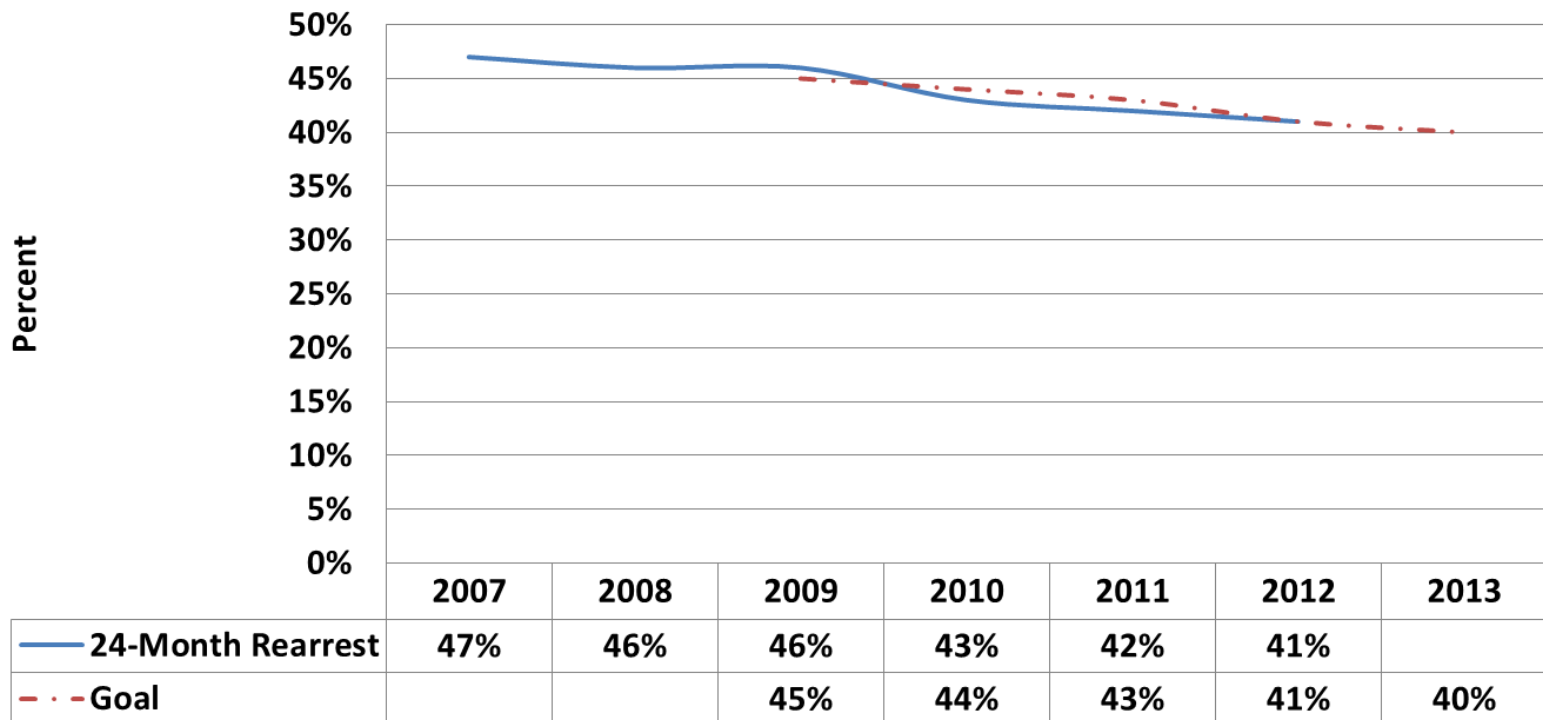
RBA became the framework within which CSSD measured its progress toward the mission of Risk Reduction

Results and Outcomes

**Building on Practice
and
Shaping the Future**

Adult Probation

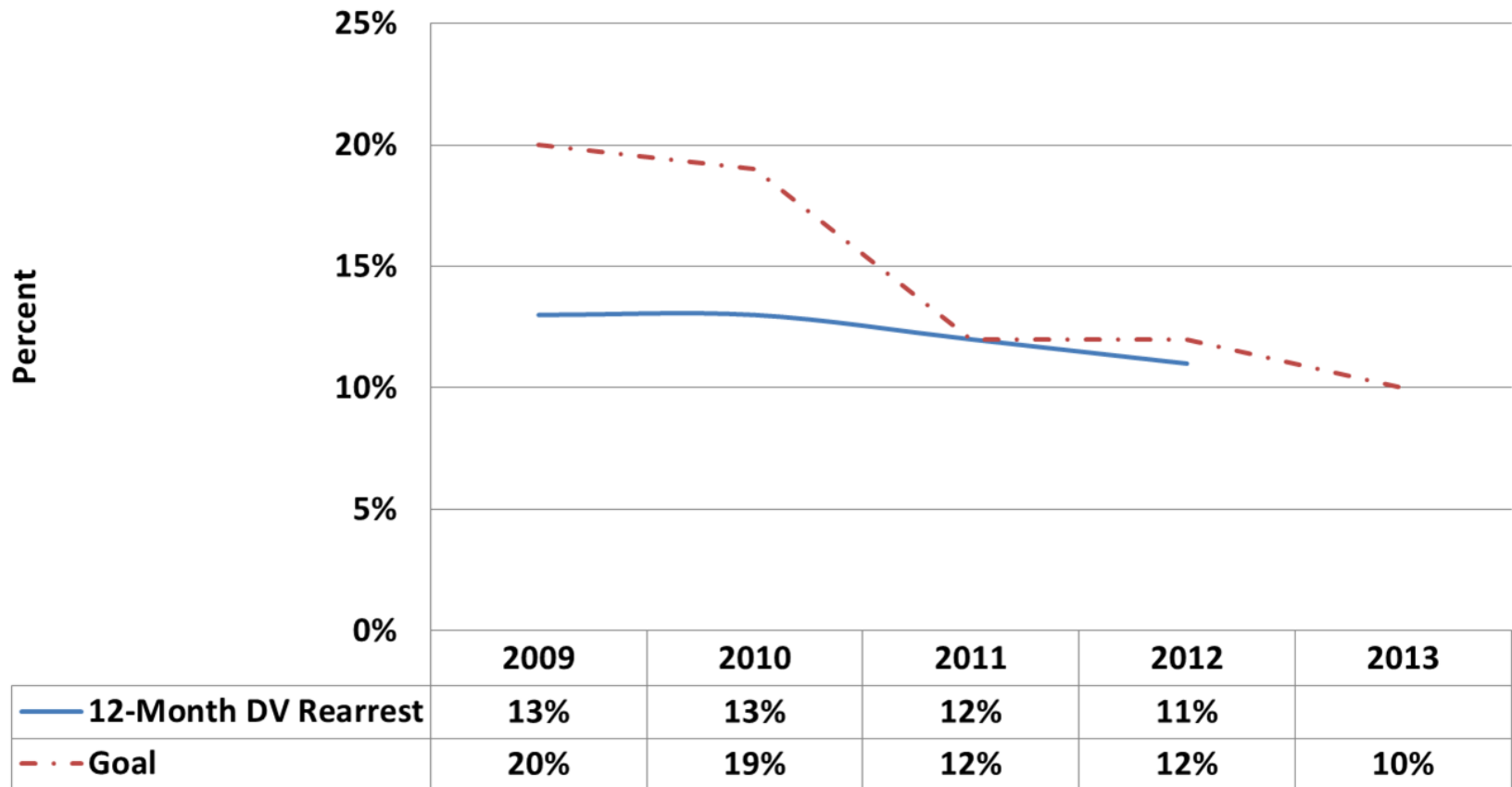
**Adult Probation
24-month Rearrest Rate
2007-2012**



Each one percentage point reduction in the rearrest rate equals approximately 275 fewer probationers arrested annually

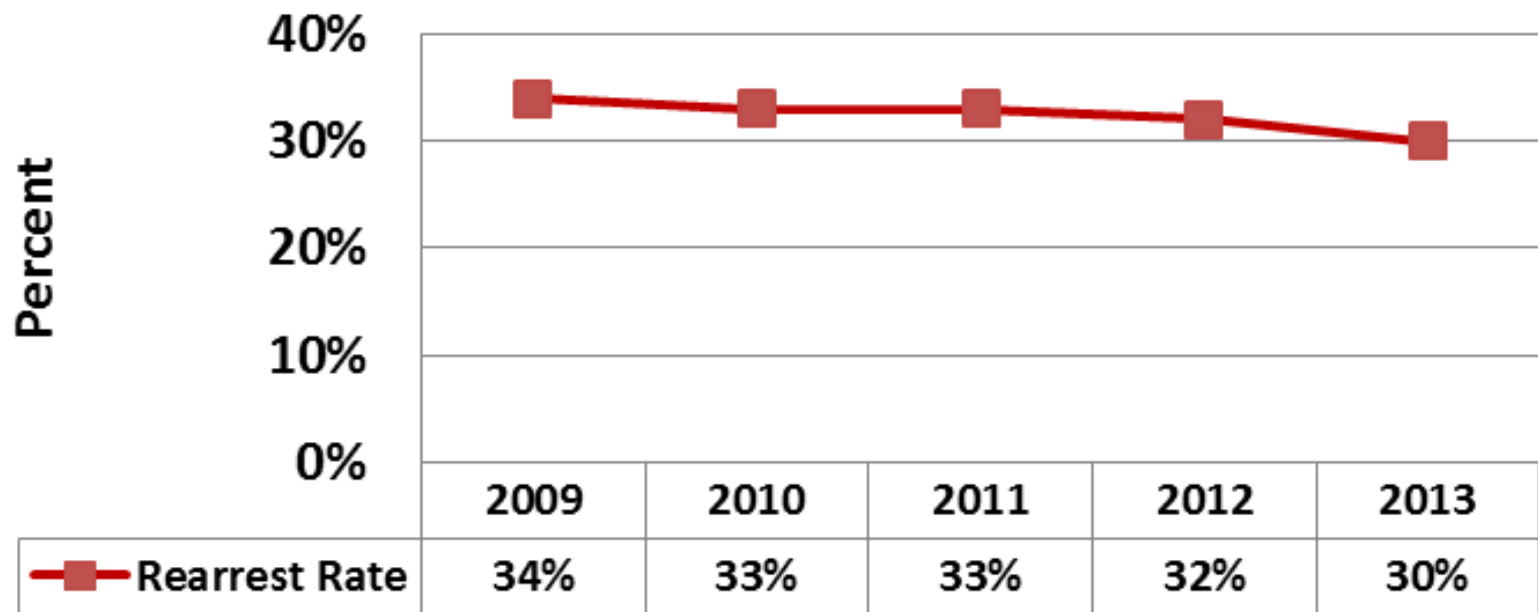
Family Services – Domestic Violence

**Family Services
12-month DV Rearrest Rate
2009-2012**

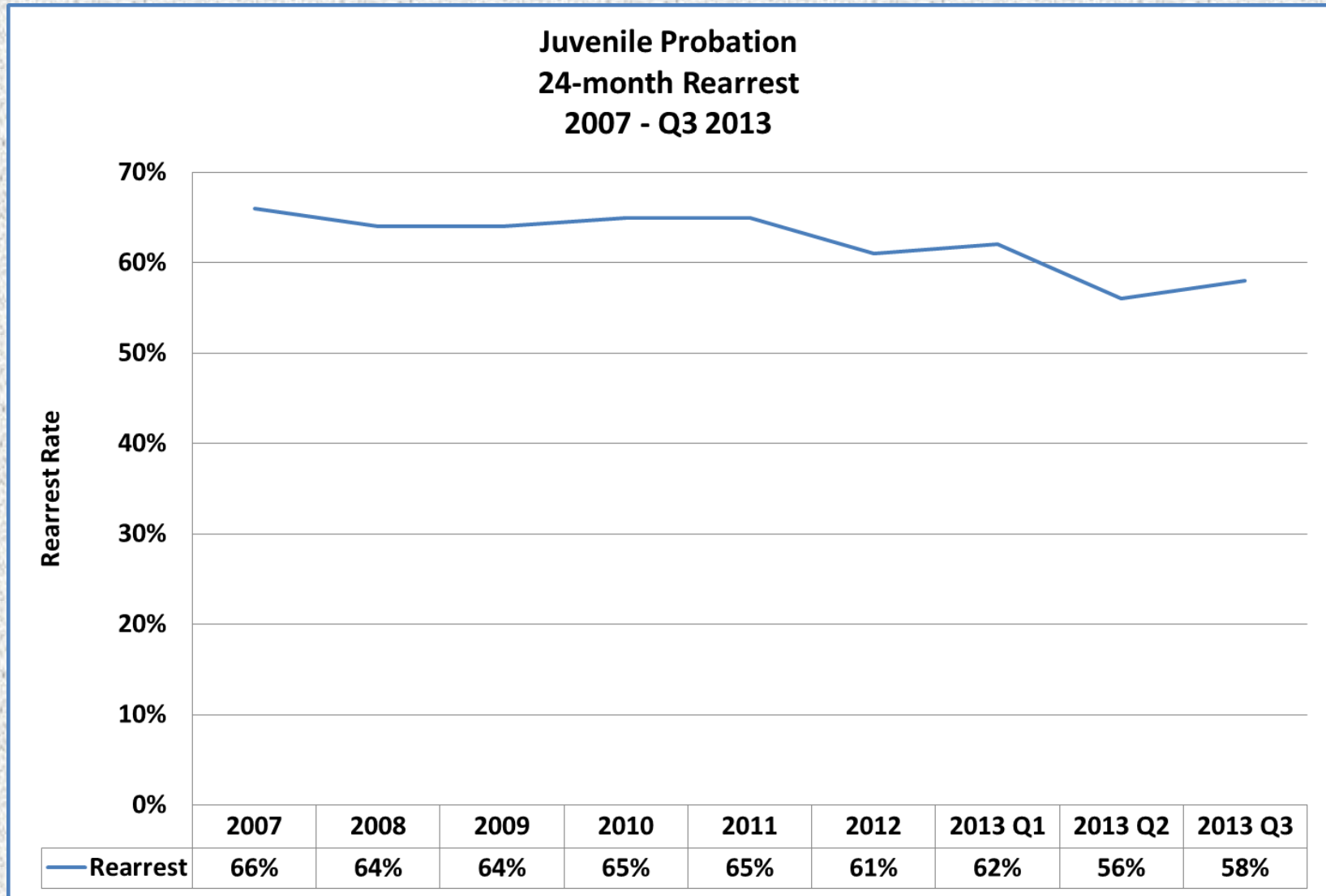


Alternative in the Community

**Alternative in the Community (AIC)
Rearrest Rate
2009-2013**

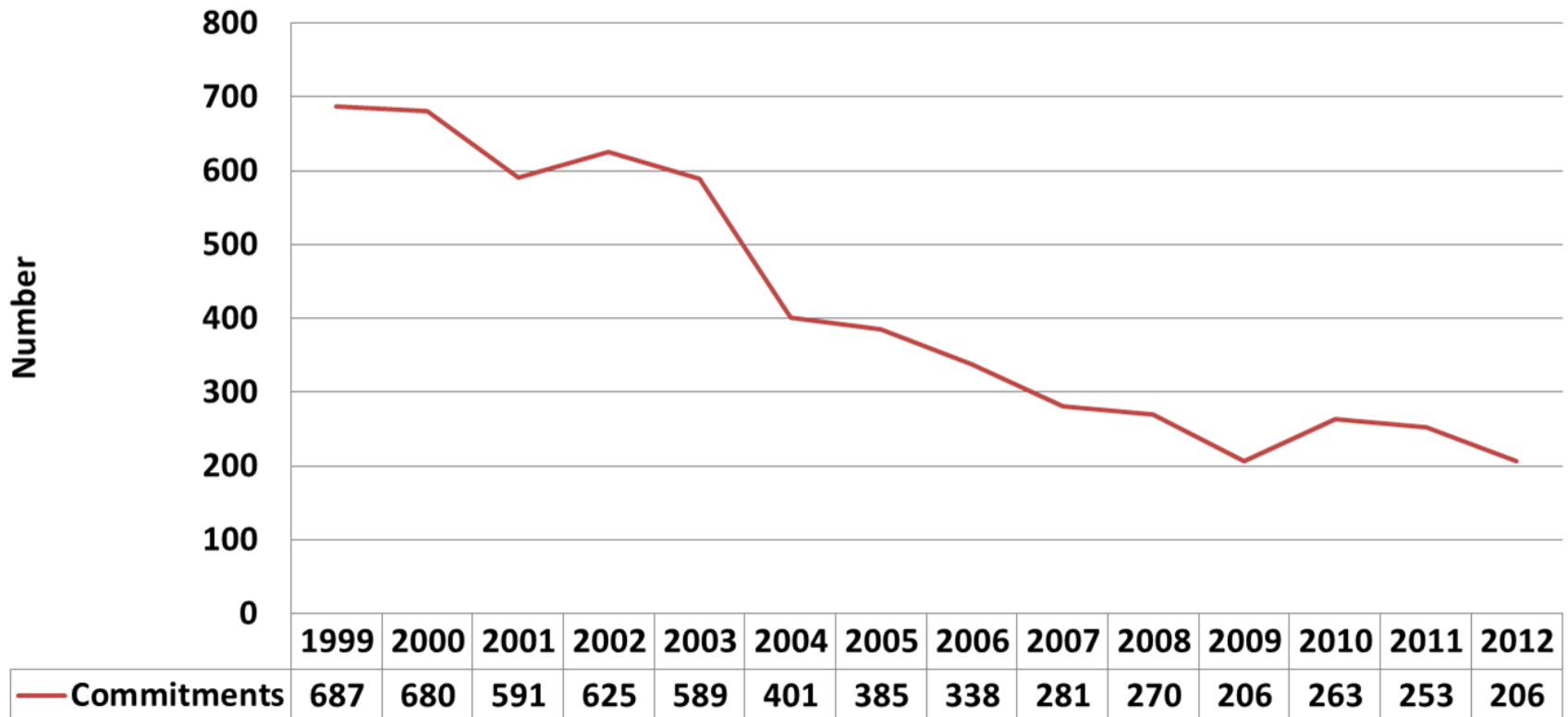


Juvenile Probation



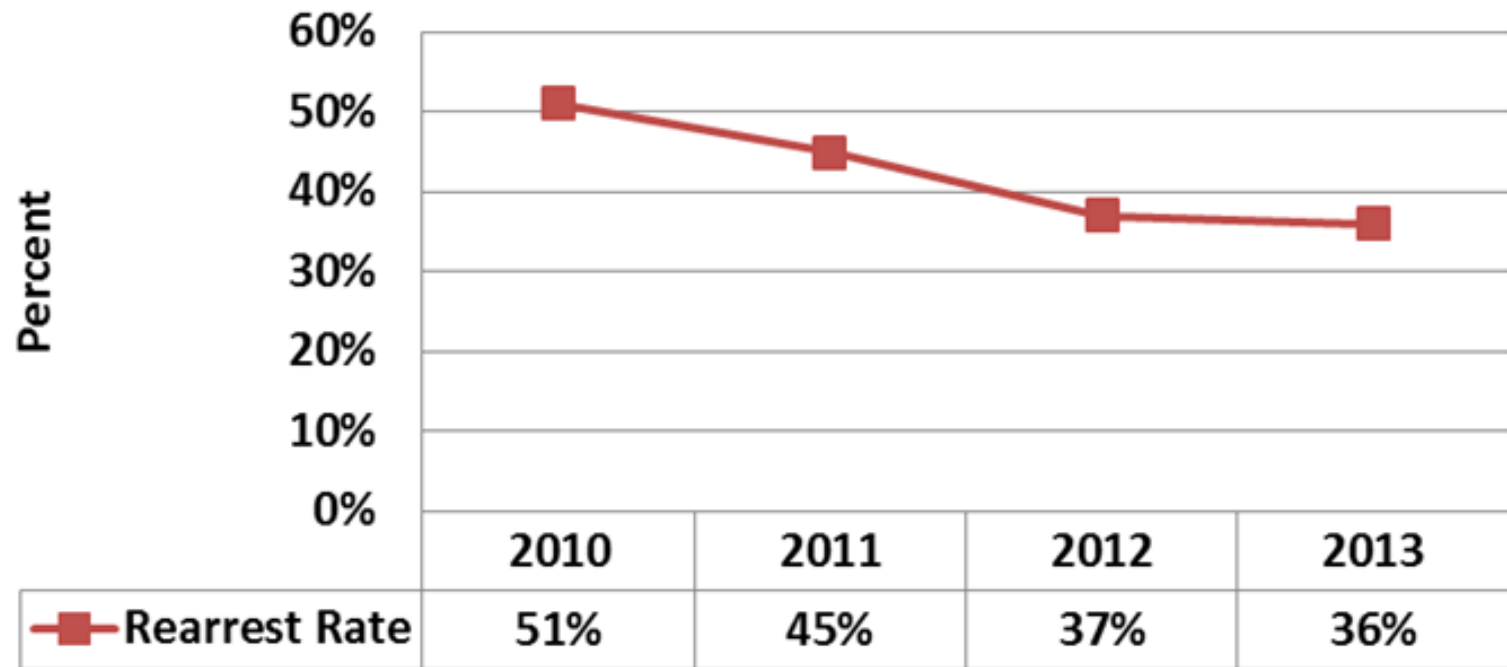
Juvenile Court Commitments to DCF

**Juvenile Court Commitments
CJTS or Out of Home Placement
1999-2012**



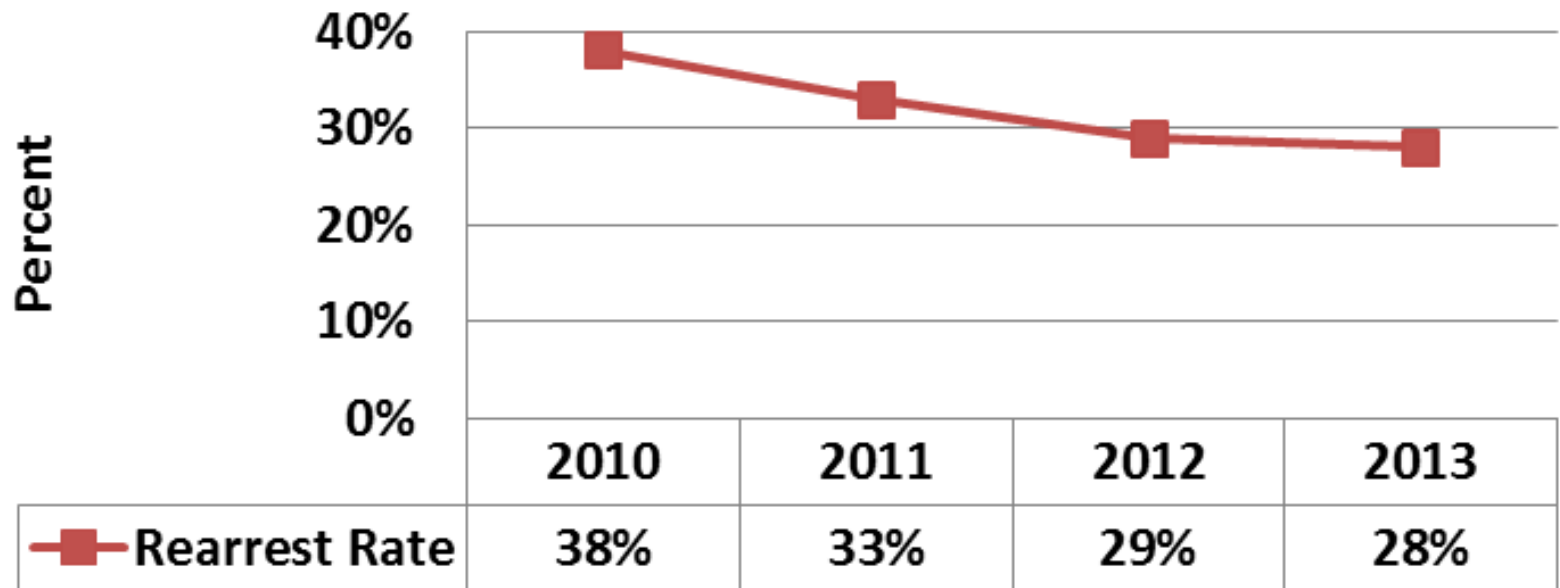
Youths Equipped for Success

**Youths Equipped for Success (YES)
12-month Rearrest Rate
2010-2013**



Family Support Centers

**Family Support Centers
12-month Arrest Rate
2010-2013**



Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Lessons Learned/Recommendations

- Criminal behavior can be changed
- Public-Private partnerships for treatment services
- Some programs don't work – evaluate regularly and invest in programs that do work – Funding is dependent on results
- Information Technology and Data Mining resources essential
- Data-driven decision making is best
- Collaboration with State Agency partners
- Advances are dependent on bipartisan support from all branches of government
- Always be a “***work in progress***”

Questions/Feedback