

**ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES
DIVISION'S PROBATION TRANSITION PROGRAM AND
TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS UNIT**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to Public Act 04- 234, *An Act Concerning Prison Overcrowding*, the Court Support Services Division within the Judicial Branch designed and implemented two pilot probation programs that sought to decrease probation violations and subsequent incarceration. These programs were the Probation Transition Program (PTP) and the Technical Violation Unit (TVU). A final evaluation report of these programs was prepared in January of 2006. The initial report consisted of a process evaluation of the implementation of the PTP and TVU with a short term outcome assessment of probationers' violation rates during their 120 day participation in the PTP and TVU. The following document is an addendum to that report.

Summary Of All Program Participants

A total of 1,806 probationers were referred to the PTP and the TVU programs from October 1, 2004 to June 1, 2006. Of these program participants, 917 (51%) were in the PTP and 889 (49%) have been in the TVU. The Bridgeport office had the most PTP (268) clients followed by the New Haven office (175). For TVU, the Waterbury office had the most clients (178) followed by the Hartford office (177).

One Year Effectiveness Assessment

A one year effectiveness was conducted that compared probation violation and reincarceration rates between the PTP group, PTP comparison group, and the TVU group one year after clients had been enrolled in these programs. This study found that the overall probation violation rate was the highest for the TVU (59%), however, the PTP comparison group had a higher violation rate (52%) than the PTP group (36%). For all three groups, the violation rate increased by LSI risk level. This finding was most pronounced in the PTP group. PTP Probationers with low risk levels had a very low violation rate (7%) while 52% of surveillance PTP probationers were violated.

There were also significant differences between the PTP and PTP comparison groups in technical violations. The PTP technical violation rate (14%) was significantly lower than the PTP comparison group technical violation rate (26%); the TVU technical violation rate was 31%. The differences in new arrests and new arrests and technical violations between these the PTP and PTP comparison groups were not statistically significant. The PTP and the TVU groups had significantly lower reincarceration rates than the PTP comparison group. That is, of all probationers who participated in PTP, only 17% were reincarcerated compared to 41% for the PTP comparison group (the TVU reincarceration rate was 24%).

Summary of One Year Assessment

First, PTP participants had significantly lower probation violation rates than the PTP comparison group (36% to 52%) one year after these split-sentenced probationers were released from prison. This difference was directly attributed to a lower technical violation rate (14% for the PTP and 26% for the PTP comparison group). The decrease in technical violation rates did not result in an increase in new arrests. In addition, LSI overall risk level was a significant predictor of PTP success, in that, the higher the risk

level the more likely PTP clients would be violated (although the PTP violation rate was lower than the PTP comparison group at every risk level). This finding was supported by the comparison of violators to nonviolators. PTP violators had significantly higher risk scores across most of the LSI subscales.

Second, the 59% violation rate for the TVU was encouraging because 100% of these probationers would have been violated without the TVU program. The analysis of TVU probation violators found that they have two common needs: employment and substance abuse treatment. Concerns over the inability to obtain timely employment and substance abuse treatment were expressed by probation officers in the initial report. The best way to decrease probation violations rate of TVU participants is to address these needs.

Third, the reincarceration rates for both PTP (17%) and TVU (24%) were significantly lower than the PTP comparison group (41%). While some of these differences can be explained by the lower probation violation rates, PTP and TVU violators were reincarcerated at much lower rates than the PTP comparison group. There are two possible explanations for the differences in court actions. One, several probation officers mentioned that they had acted as advocates for their clients during their court appearances. If this did occur, it may explain why judges were more likely to not change the probation status of the PTP and TVU violators than probation violators in the PTP comparison group. Two, the difference in court actions may simply reflect a change in the sentencing philosophy of current judges. The PTP comparison group reflected court decisions regarding probation violators prior to the implementation of PTP and TVU. Since this time, there has been a change in judges in each of the PTP and TVU courts and there has been more statewide attention to decreasing the prison population. It is highly likely that both of these issues led to the decrease in reincarceration rates of technical violators.

Overall Conclusions

The overarching goal of these programs was to decrease the number of technical violators returning to prison by 20%. Our initial and addendum reports show that CSSD was successful in meeting this goal. It is important to stress that these programs were able to produce both short and long-term effects. The probation violation rates were lower for PTP probationers compared to the comparison group during the 120 day programs with these differences remaining at end of one year. More importantly, the decrease in technical violations did not result in an increase in new arrests. This finding leads us to conclude that public safety was not decreased with the decrease in technical violations.

Our overall recommendation is that CSSD consider placing PTP and TVU officers in all of the adult probation offices along with increasing the number of PTP officers in the five existing PTP offices (especially Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven). While there were 917 PTP participants from October 1, 2004 to June 1, 2006, another 1,823 split-sentenced probationers were discharged from prison to the five PTP offices. More PTP officers will allow CSSD to reach more of these probationers.

INTRODUCTION

In response to Public Act 04- 234, *An Act Concerning Prison Overcrowding*, the Court Support Services Division within the Judicial Branch designed and implemented two pilot probation programs that sought to decrease probation violations and subsequent incarceration. These programs were the Probation Transition Program (PTP) and the Technical Violation Unit (TVU). A final evaluation report of these programs was prepared in January of 2006. The initial report consisted of a process evaluation of the implementation of the PTP and TVU with a short term outcome assessment of probationers' violation rates during their 120 day participation in the PTP and TVU. The following document is an addendum to that report. This document provides an update of the number of probationers participating in PTP and TVU since their inception in October of 2004. It also includes a follow-up study of one year violation rates with a sample of PTP and TVU participants.

Description of the Probation Transition Program and Technical Violation Unit

The PTP targeted inmates who had terms of probation upon their discharge from the Department of Correction (e.g., those discharged at the end of sentence from a correctional facility, halfway house, parole, transitional supervision or a furlough). The goal of this program was to increase the likelihood of a successful probation period for split sentence probationers by reducing the number and intensity of technical violations during the initial period of probation. The TVU focused on a different group of probationers who were about to be violated for technical reasons (e.g., deliberate or repeated non-compliance with court ordered conditions, reporting requirements, and service treatment requirements). The TVU was different, in that, it included all probationers regardless of whether they had been incarcerated. The goal of the TVU was to reduce the number of probationers sentenced to incarceration as a result of technical violations of probation.

Summary of Final Report Findings

The initial evaluation utilized both qualitative and quantitative analyses, with both producing consistent findings. First, both analyses found that the PTP and the TVU programs appeared to be operating according the program model in terms of selecting appropriate probationers and in the type of supervision. Both the PTP and the TVU targeted the more serious offenders who were at a high risk of reoffending, being violated, and being incarcerated.

Second, several PTP and TVU probation officers reported having difficulty locating substance abuse/mental health programs, housing, and employment for their clients in a timely manner. The probation officers strongly believed these delays had detrimental effects on probationer success. The findings from the quantitative analysis supported these beliefs by finding that probation violators had higher LSI risk scores for financial, leisure, companions, alcohol/drug problems, and overall risk score for PTP violators along with education/employment and alcohol/drug problems for TVU violators.

Third, the PTP and TVU probation officers believed that both programs were successful in reducing probation violations for program participants. These beliefs were also substantiated by the quantitative analysis. There was 40% difference in the PTP violation rates from the PTP comparison group during the first four program months. The higher violation rate for the TVU (30%) was not unexpected given that these were probationers who had already demonstrated poor behavior and were on the verge of being violated when referred to the TVU. It is important to restate that the baseline violation rate for TVU was 100%. That is, without TVU, all of the TVU probationers would have been violated.

Fourth, we were unable to draw conclusions on courts' actions regarding probation violations due to the high number of PTP and TVU violations that were pending at the time of the final report.

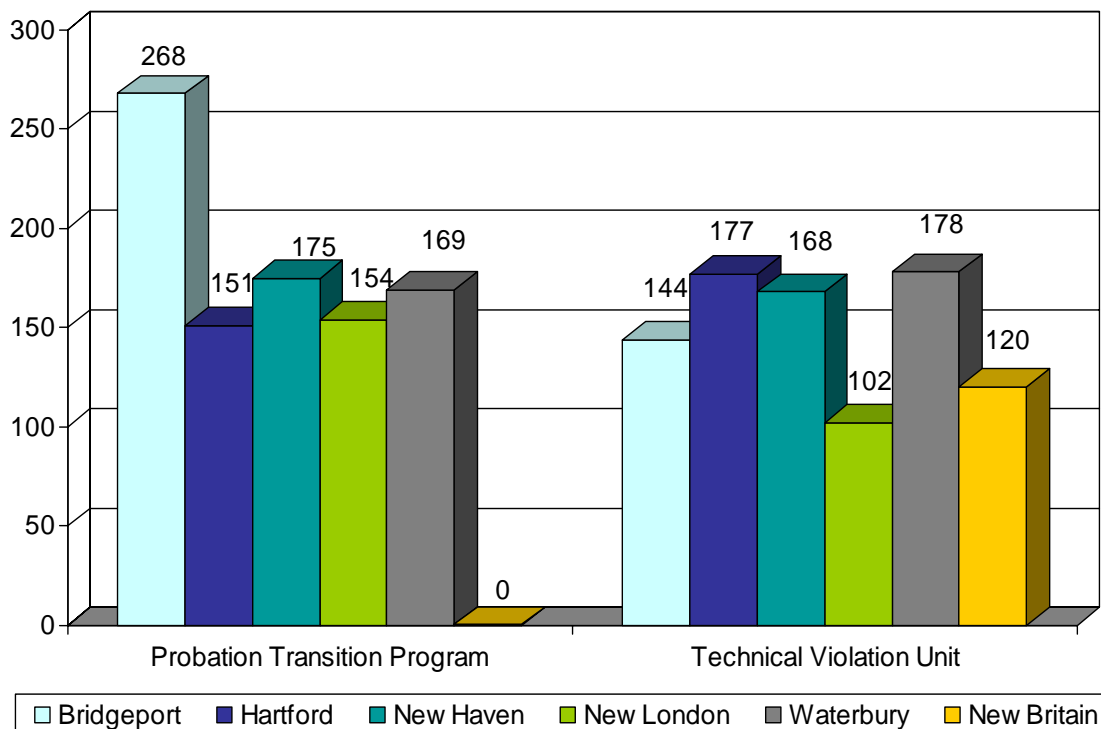
SUMMARY OF ALL PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

A total of 1,806 probationers were referred to the PTP and the TVU programs from October 1, 2004 to June 1, 2006. Of these program participants, 917 (51%) were in the PTP and 889 (49%) have been in the TVU. Figure 1 shows the number of probationers in the PTP and the TVU by probation office. The Bridgeport office had the most PTP (268) clients followed by the New Haven office (175). The Hartford office had the lowest number of PTP clients (151). For TVU, the Waterbury office had the most clients (178) followed by the Hartford office (177). The New London office had the lowest number of TVU clients (102). It is important to point out that the New Britain office and the New London office only had one TVU officer, whereas the other four locations had two officers.

ONE YEAR EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT

A one year effectiveness analysis was conducted for PTP and TVU participants. This study assessed probation violation rates (technical violations and new arrests) for a one year period after probationers' started the PTP or TVU. We also compared the success rates of the PTP to the PTP comparison group and analyzed differences between PTP and TVU probation violators to nonviolators. While probation violation and reincarceration rates were the primary measures of success, it was also important to determine why some probationers succeeded and others did not. A significant aspect of this section was dedicated to exploring factors associated with probationers' success.

Figure 1. Program Participants by Office



Description of Study Groups

There were three study groups in the one year assessment. Two of these groups were samples drawn from PTP and TVU clients; the third group was a PTP comparison group. The PTP and TVU samples were comprised of all program participants who started the PTP or TVU from the programs’ inception (October 1, 2004) to May 1, 2005. These samples were selected because at least one year had elapsed since they began the PTP or TVU.

The third study group, the PTP comparison group, was created by taking all split-sentenced felony probation cases that were closed during the months of June, July, and August of 2004 for courts that had PTP programs. These cases may have been closed because the client successfully completed his/her probation sentence or had his/her probation terminated or revoked due to a new arrest or technical probation violation. This type of group was utilized because it created a random selection of split sentenced offenders from the five PTP offices, it removed the problem of having a defined follow-up period, and provided complete outcome data for split sentenced probationers prior to the implementation of the PTP (refer to the initial final report for a more complete discussion of the creation of the PTP comparison group).

It is important to point out that the initial PTP comparison group consisted of 271 probationers while the PTP comparison group for the one year assessment is comprised of 134 probationers. In the January 2006 report, 147 probationers in the PTP comparison group did not have LSI scores but were still included in the study (many of these probationers were placed on probation prior to the implementation of the LSI while other probationers were less serious offenders and were never administered an LSI). In order to control for differences in risk levels (as measured by the LSI), we excluded those probationers who were missing an LSI score in the previous report.

Tables 1 and 2 provide a summary comparison of the three study groups. For demographic factors, most of the samples were male, (88% for the PTP, 89% for the PTP comparison group, and 78% for the TVU sample), African-Americans (42% to 46%), between the ages of 21 to 30 years old (32% to 43%), single (77% to 81%), without a high school diploma (65% to 70%), and unemployed prior to being arrested for the offense that caused their probation sentence (66% to 74%). The demographic differences between the three study groups were slight, with the PTP and PTP comparison group being very similar across most factors (the biggest difference between these two groups was unemployment, with the PTP group having a higher percentage of probationers unemployed).

While the average total LSI risk scores indicated that all three groups were high risk, the PTP study group and the TVU study group had a higher risk score (29.25 and 27.65) than the PTP comparison group (25.53). The differences in these averages were seen in the number of low risk probationers in the PTP comparison group (26%) compared to the other two study groups (11% for PTP and 12% for TVU). The PTP and TVU groups also had higher percentages of surveillance and high risk cases than the PTP comparison group (Table 2).

Based on these tables, the average probationer in all three study groups was male, under 30 years old, not married, unemployed, did not have a high school education, received a high number of charges and convictions, and had a high criminogenic risk score (although the PTP and TVU groups had a higher percentage of high risk probationers than the PTP comparison group). One key difference that we were unable to measure existed with the TVU group. Although this group appeared similar to the PTP and the PTP comparison group, it was different in that probationers referred to the TVU have already demonstrated poor behavior and judgment and the TVU was their last opportunity to succeed in probation before being violated. This difference is very important and one that cannot be drawn out in the data. Given this difference between TVU and the PTP and PTP Comparison groups, it was not appropriate to make direct comparisons between the TVU and PTP, or between TVU and the PTP comparison group.

Table 1. Demographic Summary of the Three Study Groups

	PTP (n=397)	PTP Comparison (n=134)	TVU (n=349)
Males	88%	89%	78%
Race/Ethnicity			
African-American	46%	45%	42%
Caucasian	26%	25%	34%
Hispanic	27%	30%	24%
Other	1%	1%	<1%
Age			
16-20	12%	15%	23%
21-30	43%	39%	32%
31-40	26%	24%	23%
Over 40	19%	22%	22%
Average Age	32 yrs. old	31 yrs. Old	31 yrs. old
Marital Status			
Married	5%	11%	5%
Single	80%	77%	81%
Divorced/Sep/Widowed	15%	12%	14%
Education			
No High School diploma	65%	70%	70%
High School Graduate	24%	19%	22%
More than High School	11%	19%	8%
Employment			
Unemployed	74%	67%	66%
Employed	23%	25%	28%
Other income	3%	8%	6%

Table 2. LSI Risk Level by Study Group

LSI Risk Level	PTP (n=397)	PTP Comparison (n=134)	TVU (n=349)
Low	44 (11%)	35 (26%)	37 (12%)
Medium	34 (9%)	17 (13%)	43 (13%)
High	248 (63%)	70 (52%)	220 (68%)
Surveillance	71 (18%)	12 (9%)	23 (7%)
Average LSI Risk Score	29.25	25.53	27.65

New Arrests and Technical Violations Across Study Groups

Comparative analyses were conducted across the three study groups from one year following probationers' start of the PTP, TVU, or probation supervision for the PTP comparison group. The smaller PTP and TVU study groups were used to create a standardized time frame across the three study groups. That is, we were able to make direct comparisons on the number of new arrests and technical violations across the study groups up to one year of being on probation (for the PTP and the PTP comparison group) or in the TVU program.

Table 3 shows the probation violation rates (both technical violation and new arrest) for the three study groups by their LSI risk level. The overall probation violation rate was the higher for the TVU (60%), however, the PTP comparison group had a higher violation rate (52%) than the PTP group (36%). For all three groups, the violation rate increased by risk level. This finding was most pronounced in the PTP group. Probationers with low risk levels had a very low violation rate (7%) while 52% of surveillance PTP probationers were violated. In addition, the violation rate was higher for the PTP comparison group than the PTP group at every LSI risk level.

Table 3. One Year Probation Violation Rates by LSI Risk Level of Study Groups*

LSI Risk Level	PTP (n=397)	PTP Comparison (n=134)	TVU (n=349)
Low	7% (3 of 44)	26% (9 of 35)	46% (17 of 37)
Medium	21% (7 of 34)	53% (9 of 17)	58% (25 of 43)
High	39% (96 of 248)	63% (44 of 70)	61% (133 of 220)
Surveillance	52% (37 of 71)	67% (8 of 12)	78% (18 of 23)
Total	36% (143 of 397)	52% (70 of 134)	60% (193 of 349)

*Study group differences were statistically significant at $p < .05$

There were also significant differences between the PTP and PTP comparison groups in technical violations. The PTP technical violation rate (14%) was significantly lower than the PTP comparison group technical violation rate (26%)(Table 4). The differences in new arrests and new arrests and technical violations between these two groups were not statistically significant.

Table 4. New Arrests and Probation Violations Across Study Groups*

	PTP (n=397)	PTP Comparison (n=134)	TVU (n=349)
VOPs and New Arrests within One Year			
New Arrests	52 (13%)	14 (10%)	53 (15%)
Technical Violations	56 (14%)	35 (26%)	107 (31%)
New Arrests and Tech. Violation	39 (10%)	21 (16%)	46 (13%)
Totals	147 (36%)	70 (52%)	206 (59%)

*Study group differences were statistically significant at $p < .05$

For TVU, 59% of the probationers were rearrested or violated within a year of beginning the program (Table 4) with most of the violations being technical violations (31%). This finding was not unexpected given that TVU probationers were close to being violated prior to their referral to the TVU.

Figures 2 and 3 present a line graphs showing when the technical violations (Figure 2) or new arrests (Figure 3) occurred (new arrests and new arrests with technical violations were combined into Figure 3). For technical violations, the PTP group had less technical violations every month throughout the first year than the PTP comparison group. The pattern of when the technical violation occurred is also different between these two groups. The technical violation rate for the PTP group slowed after the seventh month while the PTP comparison group steadily increased throughout the year. This finding demonstrates that the technical violation rate of PTP probationers did not significantly change after probationers completed PTP and were transferred to a general caseload. It also suggests that PTP’s early intervention produced long term positive effects on PTP participants.

For TVU participants, the majority of technical violations occur during their participation in TVU. Again, this finding is expected given that TVU was designed to be a probationer’s last chance to succeed after he/she had demonstrated poor behavior while on regular probation. For those TVU participants who complete the 120 day TVU program, their chance of a technical violation rate decreases.

Figure 2. Cumulative Technical Violation Rates by Month in the Program

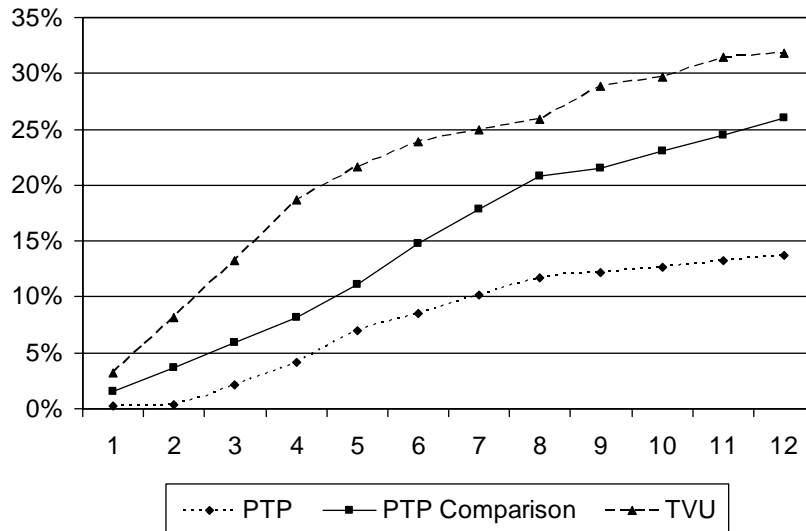
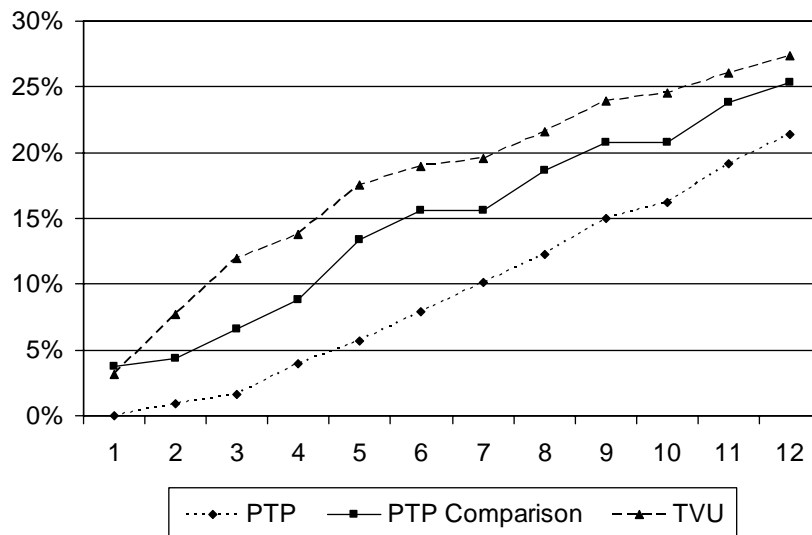


Figure 3 presents the same information for new arrest rates. Again, the rearrest rate is higher for the TVU group during the first four program months than the PTP and PTP comparison groups and remains higher throughout the year. Similar to the technical violation rate for the TVU group, TVU probationers who do not get rearrested during the first 120 period of TVU have a significant chance of being successful for the rest of the first year. The PTP comparison group had a slightly higher new arrest rate than the PTP group throughout the year, however, these differences were not statistically significant.

Figure 3. Cumulative New Arrest Rates by Month in the Program



The probation violation rates by office shows that three of the five PTP offices (Bridgeport, Hartford, and Waterbury) had violation rates lower than the PTP comparison group office (Figure 4). The largest difference was in Hartford, where the PTP comparison group violation rate was 68% and the PTP violation rate was 30%. The largest increase was in the New London office (the PTP comparison group violation rate was 18% and the PTP violation rate was 27%). The percentages for New London should be interpreted with caution given the small raw numbers that were used to calculate them.

For TVU, the probation violation rates were comparable across office with the exception of New Britain and Waterbury (Figure 4). New Britain had the highest violation rate (72%) and Waterbury had the lowest (46%). A closer examination of probation violations in New Britain found that 17 of the 36 probation violations were for new arrests, 16 were for technical violations, and 3 were for both new arrests and technical violations. The new arrest rate of New Britain TVU probationers appeared to be causing the higher overall probation violation rate. Unfortunately, at this time we cannot offer any explanations as to why the new arrest rate in New Britain was different from the other TVU offices.

Figure 4. Probation Violation Rates by Probation Office

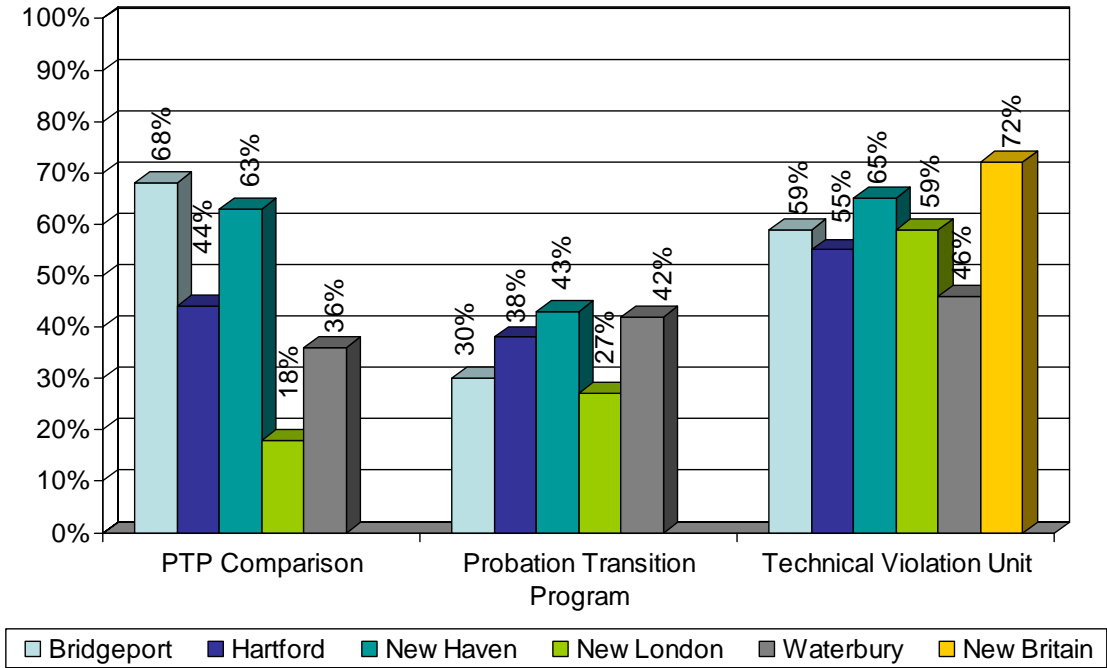


Table 4 presents the type of probation violations by office. In the PTP, the New Haven office had the highest overall probation violation rate (45%) and New London had the lowest (27%). Bridgeport had the highest percentage of probationers who were rearrested (20%), Waterbury had the highest percentage of technical violations (23%), and New London had the highest percentage of new arrests and technical violations (13%). In the TVU program, the New Britain office had the highest overall probation violation rate (72%) and Waterbury had the lowest (45%). The New Britain office had the highest percentage of probationers rearrested (34%), the New Haven office had the highest percentage of technical violations (41%), and the New London office had the highest percentage of new arrests and technical violations (25%).

Table 5. Type of Probation Violations By Office

	New Arrest	Technical Violation	New Arrest and Technical Violation	Total
PTP				
Bridgeport (n=107)	21(20%)	6 (6%)	5 (5%)	32 (30%)
Hartford (n=47)	5 (11%)	9 (19%)	4 (9%)	18 (38%)
New Haven (n=111)	19 (17%)	16 (14%)	13 (12%)	48 (45%)
New London (n=71)	1 (1%)	9 (13%)	9 (13%)	19 (27%)
Waterbury (n=71)	6 (8%)	16 (23%)	8 (11%)	30 (42%)
Totals (n=407)	52 (13%)	56 (14%)	39 (10%)	147 (36%)
TVU				
Bridgeport (n=46)	6 (13%)	18 (39%)	3 (7%)	27 (59%)
Hartford (n=67)	4 (6%)	17 (25%)	16 (24%)	37 (55%)
New Britain (n=50)	17 (34%)	16 (32%)	3 (6%)	36 (72%)
New Haven (n=76)	13 (17%)	31 (41%)	6 (8%)	50 (66%)
New London (n=44)	5 (11%)	10 (23%)	11 (25%)	26 (59%)
Waterbury (n=66)	8 (12%)	15 (23%)	7 (11%)	30 (45%)
Totals (n=349)	53 (15%)	107 (31%)	48 (14%)	206 (59%)

Note: Percentages are based on total number of probationers in each office

Differences between Violators and Nonviolators

The next step in the outcome analysis was to compare probation violators to probation nonviolators across demographic factors, legal factors, LSI risk scores, and ASUS scores (Table 6). For the PTP group, probationers who are most likely to be rearrested or receive a technical violation were African-Americans, single, unemployed, and were younger when starting probation. Further, these probationers had a more substantial criminal history (more bail charges, total charges, and total convictions), had already been convicted of a violation of probation, and were under 18 years old when first arrested. The LSI and ASUS scores also revealed that PTP clients who were rearrested and violated had high risk scores across LSI subscales with the exception of family and emotional. The ASUS scores found differences with the social and defensive subscales. In other words, PTP clients who were least likely to succeed were young single males, unemployed, with a criminal history, with high LSI risk scores and low ASUS protective factor scores.

Table 6. Statistically Significant Factors Related to Probation Violations

	PTP	PTP Comparison	TVU
<i>Demographic Factors</i>			
Gender	None	None	None
Race/Ethnicity	African-American	African-American Hispanic	African-American Hispanic
Marital status	Single	Unmarried	None
Employment	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed
Education	None	Less Education	None
Age	Younger	None	None
<i>Legal Factors</i>			
Bail charges	More Bail Charges	Less Bail Charges	More Bail Charges
Total charges	More Charges	More Charges	More Charges
Total convictions	More Convictions	More Convictions	More Convictions
VOP convictions	Prior VOPs	Prior VOPs	None
Prior probation cases	None	More Probation	None
Age of first arrest	Younger	Younger	None
<i>LSI Risk Scores</i>			
Criminal history	Higher	Higher	None
Educ./Employment	Higher	Higher	Higher
Financial	Higher	Higher	None
Family	None	None	None
Accommodation	Higher	Higher	None
Leisure	Higher	None	None
Companions	Higher	Higher	None
Alcohol/Drug	Higher	None	Higher
Emotional	None	None	None
Attitude/Orientation	Higher	None	None
Total Risk	Higher	Higher	Higher
<i>ASUS Scores</i>			
Involvement	None	None	Lower
Disruption	None	None	Lower
Social	Higher	Higher	Higher
Mood	None	None	None
Defensive	Higher	None	None
Motivation	None	None	Lower
Protective Score	Lower	Lower	None

The factors that were predictive of TVU participants who were rearrested or technically violated were: race/ethnicity (African-Americans and Hispanics), unemployed, criminal history, high LSI risk scores on employment and alcohol and drug use, and a high LSI total risk score. For both the PTP and TVU groups, employment,

criminal history, and the LSI total risk scores were consistently predictive of probation violations.

The LSI risk scores associated with probation violators in the TVU mirror concerns raised by the TVU officers (employment and substance abuse). TVU probation violators had higher education/employment needs and higher alcohol/drug problems than TVU nonviolators. Interestingly, TVU officers stated that lack of employment opportunities and available substance abuse treatment opportunities were common problems.

Reincarceration Rates by Type of Probation Violation

The PTP and the TVU groups had significantly lower reincarceration rates than the PTP comparison group (Table 7). That is, of all probationers who participated in PTP, only 17% were reincarcerated compared to 41% for the PTP comparison group (the TVU reincarceration rate was 24%). The pattern of reincarceration rates mirrors the pattern of probation violation rates; the higher the LSI risk level the more likely probationers were reincarcerated.

Table 7. Reincarceration Rates by Risk Level

LSI Risk Level	PTP* (n=335)	PTP Comparison (n=134)	TVU* (n=272)
Low	0%	17%	16%
Medium	6%	41%	14%
High	16%	50%	20%
Surveillance	24%	59%	39%
Total	17%	41%	24%

*Total does not include violations that are pending court action

Table 8 presents the reincarceration rates for the three study groups by type of probation violation. For the PTP group, 5% of probationers who were sent to prison committed a new offense, 7% received a technical violation, and 5% were rearrested and received a technical violation compared to 4% of the PTP comparison group who were reincarcerated for a new offense, 23% for a technical violation, and 14% for both a new arrest and a technical violation.

Table 8. Reincarceration Rates of Study Groups by Type of Probation Violation

	PTP*	PTP Comparison	TVU*
New arrest	18 (5%)	5 (4%)	19 (7%)
Technical violation	24 (7%)	31 (23%)	32 (12%)
New arrest and tech. viol.	16 (5%)	19 (14%)	13 (5%)
Totals	58 (17% of 335)	55 (41% of 134)	64 (24% of 272)

*Total does not include violations that are pending court action

Summary of One Year Assessment

The one year assessment consisted of measuring successful outcomes for the PTP and TVU programs, comparing PTP and TVU violators to nonviolators across demographic, legal, and risk assessment factors, and comparing violators who committed new offenses to those committing technical violations. The analysis produced several findings relevant to the PTP and the TVU.

First, PTP participants had significantly lower probation violation rates than the PTP comparison group (36% to 52%) one year after these split-sentenced probationers were released from prison. This difference was directly attributed to a lower technical violation rate (14% for the PTP and 26% for the PTP comparison group). The decrease in technical violation rates did not result in an increase in new arrests. That is, technical violations decreased without decreasing public safety. In addition, LSI overall risk level was a significant predictor of PTP success, in that, the higher the risk level the more likely PTP clients would be violated (although the PTP violation rate was lower than the PTP comparison group at every risk level). This finding was supported by the comparison of violators to nonviolators. PTP violators had significantly higher risk scores across most of the LSI subscales.

Second, the 59% violation rate for the TVU was encouraging because 100% of these probationers would have been violated without the TVU program. The analysis of TVU probation violators found that they have two common needs: employment and substance abuse treatment. Concerns over the inability to obtain timely employment and substance abuse treatment were expressed by probation officers in the initial report. The best way to decrease probation violations rate of TVU participants is to address these needs. We do not know whether employment opportunities and substance abuse treatment programs were available and probation officers underutilized them or if they were simply not readily available. We recommend that CSSD look further into this issue and attempt to reallocate the resources necessary to provide more employment and substance abuse treatment for TVU clients.

Third, the reincarceration rates for both PTP (17%) and TVU (24%) were significantly lower than the PTP comparison group (41%). While some of these differences can be explained by the lower probation violation rates, PTP and TVU violators were reincarcerated at much lower rates than the PTP comparison group. There are two possible explanations for the differences in court actions. One, several probation officers mentioned that they had acted as advocates for their clients during their court appearances. That is, the probation officers believed that their client had been making significant progress before being violated and that the court should take this into consideration. If this did occur, it may explain why judges were more likely to not change the probation status of the PTP and TVU violators than probation violators in the PTP comparison group. Two, the difference in court actions may simply reflect a change in the sentencing philosophy of current judges. The PTP comparison group reflected court decisions regarding probation violators prior to the implementation of PTP and TVU. Since this time, there has been a change in judges in each of the PTP and TVU courts and there has been more statewide attention to decreasing the prison population. It

is highly likely that these two issues may have had an effect on decreasing reincarceration rates of technical violators.

Overall Conclusions

The overarching goal of these programs was to decrease the number of technical violators returning to prison by 20%. Our initial and addendum reports show that CSSD was successful in meeting this goal. It is important to stress that these programs were able to produce both short and long-term effects. The probation violation rates were lower for PTP probationers compared to the comparison group during the 120 day programs with these differences remaining at end of one year. More importantly, the decrease in technical violations did not result in an increase in new arrests. This finding leads us to conclude that public safety was not decreased with the decrease in technical violations.

Our overall recommendation is that CSSD consider placing PTP and TVU officers in all of the adult probation offices along with increasing the number of PTP officers in the five existing PTP offices (especially Bridgeport, Hartford, and New Haven). While there were 917 PTP participants from October 1, 2004 to June 1, 2006, another 1,823 split-sentenced probationers were discharged from prison to the five PTP offices. More PTP officers will allow CSSD to reach more of these probationers.

However, to maintain the integrity and assure successful implementation of the PTP and TVU, we encourage CSSD to expand these programs with the same careful and in-depth planning that occurred with the pilot programs.