



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

March 30, 2011

2011-R-0169

NUMBER OF MURDERS AND PEOPLE INCARCERATED FOR MURDER

By: Christopher Reinhart, Chief Attorney

You asked about the number of murders in Connecticut in the last 20 years and the number of people incarcerated for murder, other than death row inmates.

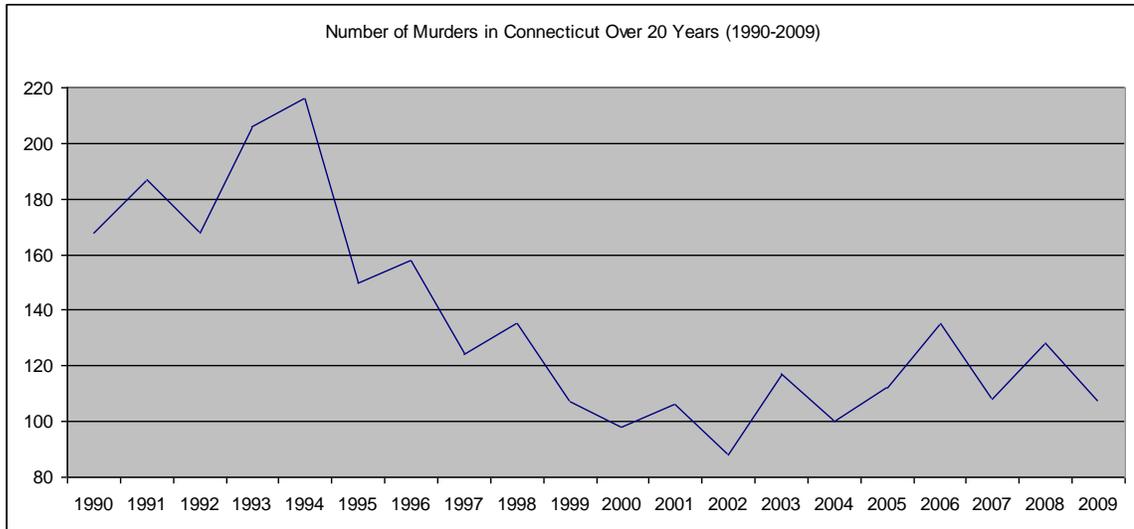
The Department of Public Safety (DPS) reports the number of murders in Connecticut in its annual *Crime in Connecticut* reports. The most recent report covers 2009. For the 20-year period from 1990 to 2009, there were 2,718 murders in Connecticut. The number of murders per year ranged from a low of 88 in 2002 to a high of 216 in 1994. In 2009, there were 107 murders in Connecticut. Table 1 and chart 1 display the number of murders per year during this 20-year period.

Table 1: Number of Murders in Connecticut, 1990 to 2009

Year	Number of Murders	Year	Number of Murders
1990	168	2000	98
1991	187	2001	106
1992	168	2002	88
1993	206	2003	117*
1994	216	2004	100
1995	150	2005	112
1996	158	2006	135
1997	124	2007	108
1998	135	2008	128
1999	107	2009	107

*DPS states that this includes 16 victims of a Hartford nursing home arson.

Chart 1: Number of Murders in Connecticut, 1990 to 2009



According to information provided by the Department of Correction (DOC), 977 inmates were incarcerated for murder crimes on January 1, 2011, in addition to the 10 inmates who are sentenced to death. Of these 977 inmates, 822 have been sentenced for their crimes and 155 are incarcerated while awaiting trial or sentencing. Table 2 shows the number of sentenced and unsentenced inmates for each type of murder crime, other than those sentenced to death.

Table 2: People Incarcerated for Murder Crimes but not Sentenced to Death, January 1, 2011

Crimes	Sentenced	Unsentenced	Total
Murder (CGS § 53a-54a and prior versions of this crime)	599	119	718
Capital felony (CGS § 53a-54b)	45*	12	57
Felony murder (CGS § 53a-54c)	176	24	200**
Arson murder (CGS § 53a-54d)	2	0	2
TOTAL	822	155	977

*An additional 10 inmates are sentenced to death for capital felonies.

**DOC currently holds one additional inmate for felony murder under federal charges.

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