



State of Connecticut Department of Correction

Contact: Office of Public Information
Director of External Affairs: Karen Martucci
Public Information Officer: Andrius Banevicius
Telephone: (860) 692-7780 **Fax:** (860) 692-7783
doc.pio@ct.gov

For Immediate Release **CT Prison Population Down 2,000 since March 1st**

Tuesday June 2, 2020

The State's incarcerated offender population has dropped by more than 2,000 or slightly more than 16% since March 1, 2020. On Tuesday morning, June 2, 2020, the Department of Correction's offender population stood at 10,400 the lowest number in more than 29 years.

According to data compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative, Connecticut currently has had the sixth-largest correction population decrease since the start of the COVID-19 public-health emergency among 40 other states and the federal system.

Several factors have contributed to the precipitous drop in the number of incarcerated individuals, among them is the agency's responsible discretionary release of low risk offenders, with stable home plans, and those offenders who are at least 60 years old or who have health conditions making them more susceptible to catching the virus, all carefully vetted through the reentry planning process.

The Department's efforts to expedite releases resulted in a 51% increase in discretionary releases for people with six months or more left on their sentence, when comparing April 2020 to April 2019.

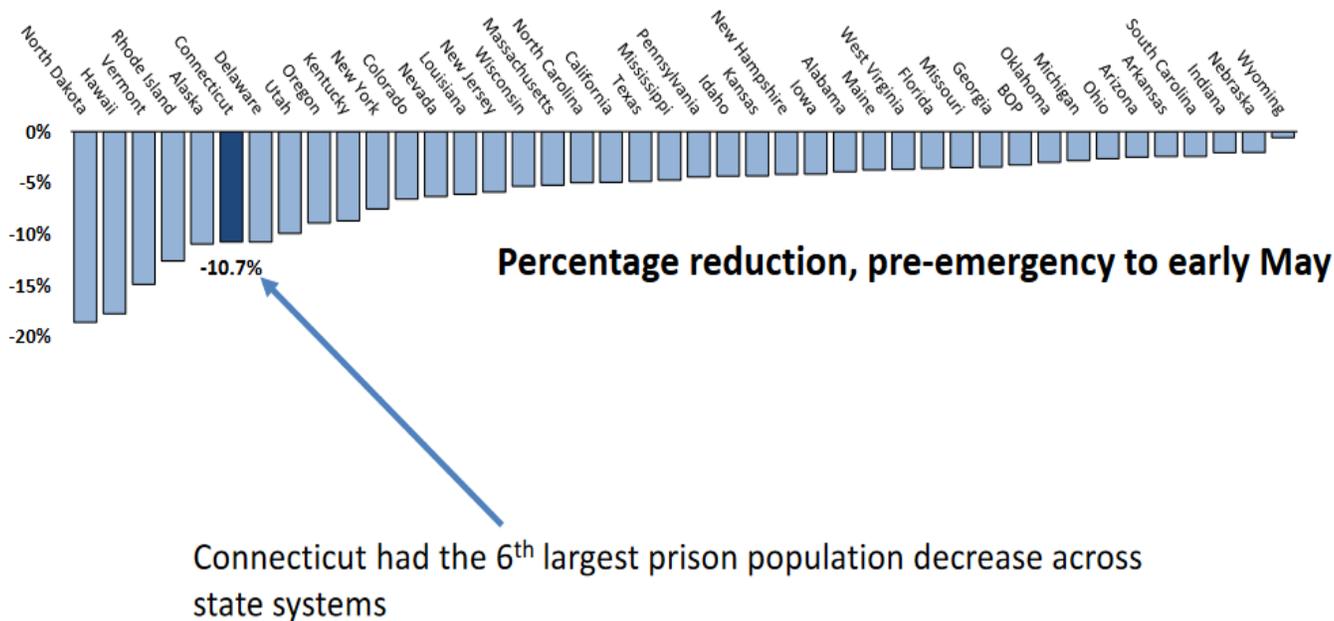
Additionally, in an effort to expand release options, Commissioner Rollin Cook signed a policy exception in early April of this year authorizing furloughs up to 45-days for offenders serving sentences of two years or less. Eligible and suitable offenders in this category, absent any victim impact, are considered for release after serving 40% of their sentence.

-more-

As a result, a total of 560 offenders were granted discretionary release for the month of May, 2020 alone. This number does not include those offenders who were released at the end of their sentences.

The graph below illustrating the percentage of reduction in the Department of Correction’s offender population (in comparison to other state prison systems) was part of the State Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division’s May 28th presentation to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC).

Correction population changes in 41 states and the Bureau of Prisons, collected at year-end 2019 and late April / early May 2020.



“It is essential that we continue to release offenders in a responsible and systematic manner, making sure whenever possible that they have places to live and access to the services they need,” said Commissioner Rollin Cook. “The impressive and substantial decrease in our population speaks volumes about the caliber and hard work of our staff, as well as that of our partners in the criminal justice community.”

For more Connecticut criminal justice data go to:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/CJPPD/CjCjpac/CJPAC-Presentations-Folder/2020-presentations/REVISED-May-2020_CJ-Trends-Presentation.pdf?la=en