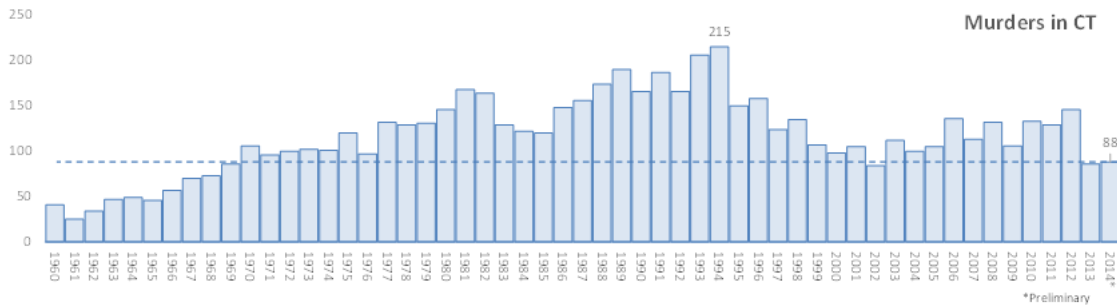


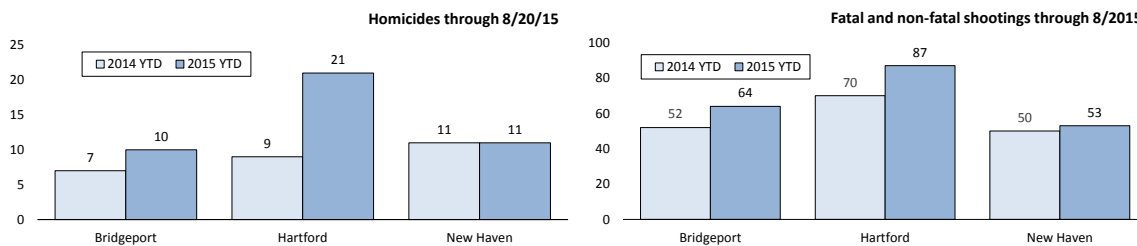
To: Governor Dannel P. Malloy
From: Mike Lawlor, Under Secretary for Criminal Justice Policy and Planning
Date: August 28, 2015
Subject: 2015 Mid-Year Update on Crime Trends

Crime Reduction

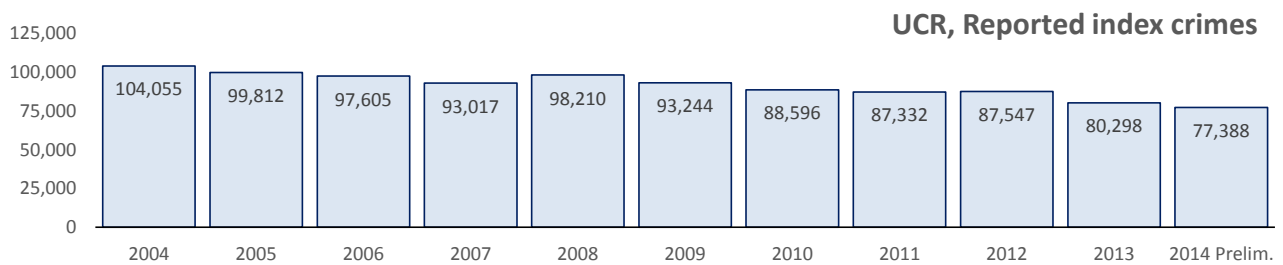
The number of murders in Connecticut remains at near-historical lows. The state Police report that in 2014 there were 88 murders in the state, 32% fewer than in 2011. The 2014 data represents the third lowest total for statewide murders in 40 years. During the last two years, we have witnessed the lowest two-year total for murders on record.



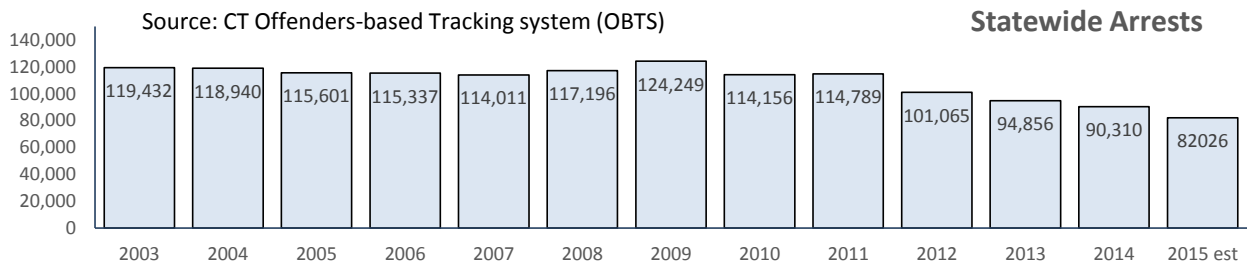
Murder deaths are a subset of statewide homicide deaths. If the current trend for statewide homicides holds, Connecticut could experience a third, consecutive year where the number of murders remains below 100. The state has not witnessed such consistent low-counts of murders since the late-1960s. As of mid-August 2015, the State Medical Examiner reported 70 homicides in the state. Last year at the same time, there had been 62 homicides. This uptick in homicides corresponds to a significant increase in a single city: Hartford. As of August 20, 2015, the Hartford Police Department reports that there have been 21 homicides in the city. At the same time last year, there had been nine (9). In New Haven, on a year-to-date basis, the number of homicides had remained the same at 11. In Bridgeport, the number of homicides increased from 7 to 10. Outside the state’s three major cities, year-to-date homicides are down from 35 to 28, a 20% decrease.



According to the FBI, reported “Index Crimes” (crimes involving victims, i.e. murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson) dropped 18% in Connecticut between 2008 and 2013. Preliminarily, the number of 2014 index crimes reported in Connecticut appears to be down significantly again this year. Connecticut State Police report a 7% drop in property crime and a 3% reduction in violent crime, compared to 2013. The 80,298 Index Crimes reported in 2013 represent the lowest total since 1968. The tentative number for total reported Index Crimes in Connecticut in 2014, is 77,388. In each of the state’s three major cities, violent crime was down in 2014 compared to 2013. In New Haven it dropped by 15%, in Hartford by 6% and in Bridgeport by 4%.



The total number of statewide arrests for all crimes (Index and non-index crimes combined) has dropped 27.3% between 2009 and 2014, further underscoring the drop in crime generally. In 2009 there were 124,249 arrests statewide. In 2014 there were 90,310. This year, total arrests as of July 1 are running approximately 9% lower than last year.

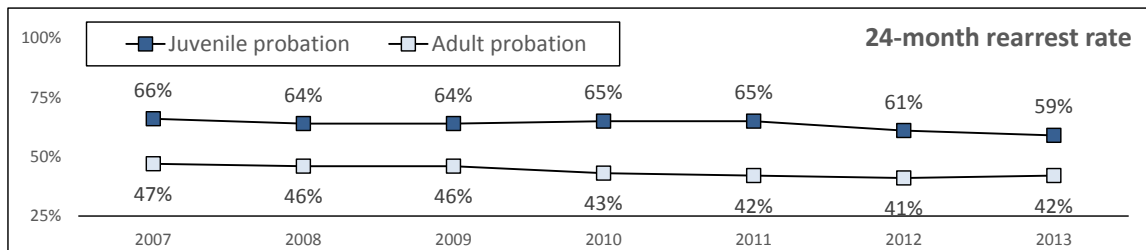


Recidivism Reduction

As reported last year, overall recidivism among inmates leaving prison has dropped significantly in recent years. The rate at which offenders returned to prison within three years dropped by 15% between 2005 and 2011. For the same years, the rate of re-arrest - opposed to the rate of re-incarceration – declined by 12%. Those trends appear to be continuing for prison releases that occurred in 2012 and 2013. OPM will be publishing recidivism analysis on more recent cohorts of offenders in February 2016.

Currently, we do know that the number of new admissions to prison is down almost 21% in 2014 compared to 2009. This drop is reflected both in the numbers of newly sentenced prisoners and among pre-trial defendants who could not post bail. It is worth noting that the total number of offenders on adult probation has also dropped almost 25% over the same period. These figures are consistent with the declining numbers of people being sent to prison and the number being arrested.

Recidivism among offenders supervised on Adult Probation is also down significantly, having declined from 47% to 42% from 2007 to 2013. The recidivism rate for juvenile probationers has also dropped from 66% to 59% over that same period. The observed 5% drop for adults and the 7% drop for juveniles, represent a relative decline in recidivism rates of 11% for each group. These two rates of recidivism, as reported by the Judicial Branch, count a re-arrest within a 24 month window as recidivating. On a related note, the number of young offenders held at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) is at a historic low, hovering at about 63. The number of juveniles being held in the two detention operated by the Judicial Branch is 64, also a near historic low.



Truth-in-Sentencing

Connecticut, like most states, imposes restrictions on eligibility for release depending on the type of crime and other factors. Although a 1994 law appeared to require violent offenders to serve 85% of any prison sentence imposed by a court, a wide variety of release mechanisms allowed for these offenders to be released prior to 85%.

For example, an analysis of releases from 2008, the year following the Cheshire Tragedy, shows most violent offenders convicted of Robbery 1st Degree, a Class B violent felony, were released well before the 85% mark. Some offenders served as little as 59% of their original sentence. This was also the case with Assault 1st Degree, another Class B violent felony. One such offender was released in 2008 after having served only 51% of the original sentence imposed by the court.

Reforms adopted by the General Assembly in 2008 have had a significant impact on the effort to prioritize secure beds for the most dangerous, high-risk offenders. Public Act 08-01 mandated the adoption of state-of-the-art risk assessment tools to be used by the Department of Correction and the Board of Parole as they make release decisions for prisoners. Although the DOC and the Board did not begin to implement these changes until 2011, they are now routinely used to identify high-risk offenders regardless of their crime of conviction. Since 2011, violent and high-risk offenders have done a far greater percentage of their original sentences than ever before, and no violent offenders are released from DOC custody before having served at least 85% of the original sentence imposed by the Court.

In general, release decisions are much more risk-focused than before. Prior to 2011, release decisions were typically made by wardens based on limited information or by the parole board based on incomplete files using outdated risk assessment. Since then the process has been very selective and the number of inmates leaving prison has steadily declined, and has done so at a rate far in excess of the declining inmate population.

Total DOC population has dropped by approximately 1,600 offenders since January 1, 2011, or about 9%, (calculated January 1, 2011 vs. January 1, 2015). Over that same period, the total number of releases from prison has declined by 20%, year over year. Reported crime also declined by almost 11% (CT UCR 2011 – 87,332, Preliminary 2014 – 77,846).

The most dramatic evidence of the drop in number of prison release is that the number of inmates released on discretionary parole has dropped by more than 54% (1039 vs. 2237) compared to 2009. The number of “end of sentence” releases has dropped by 20%; the number of “transitional supervision” releases (these are prisoners sentenced to less than two years to serve and therefore not parole eligible) has dropped almost 42% since 2009.

Second Chance Society Implementation Update

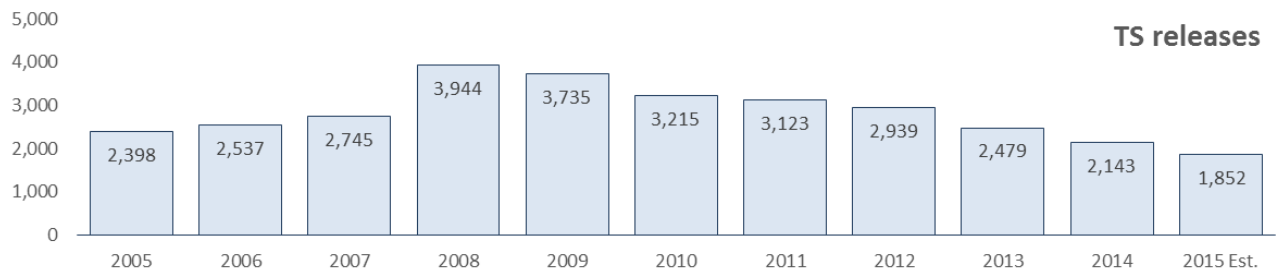
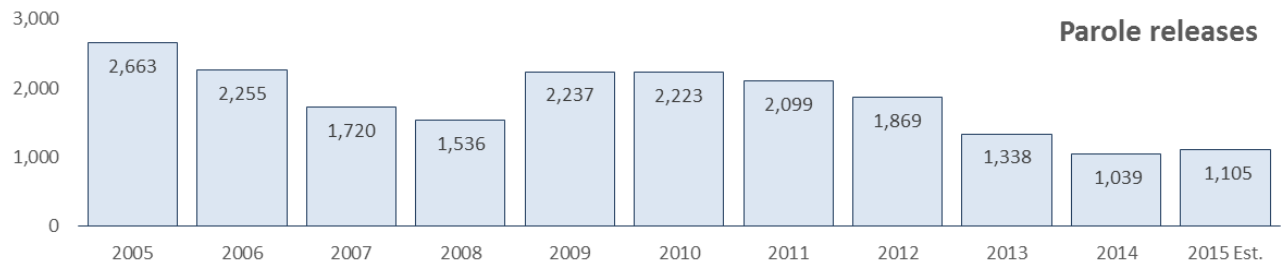
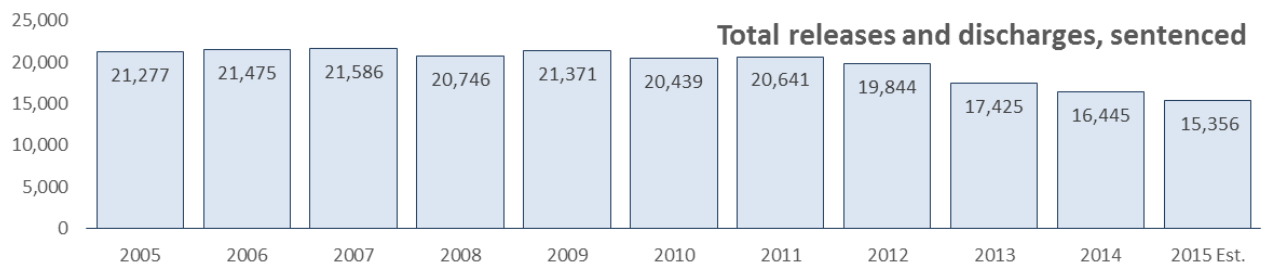
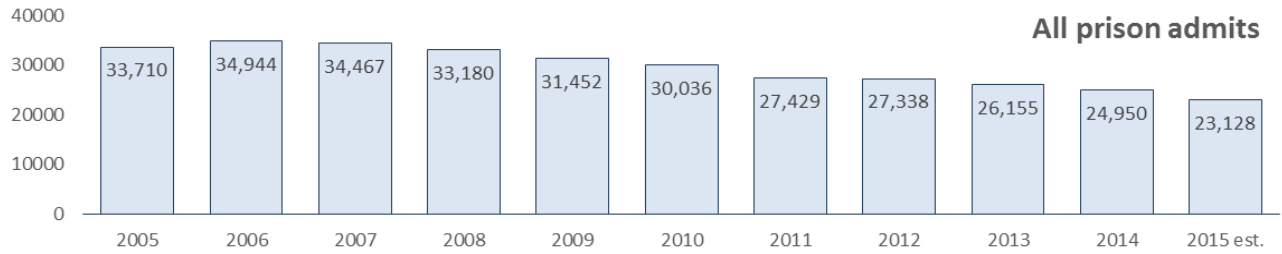
PA June Special Session 15-2 changes the penalty for drug possession from an unclassified 7 year felony to a Class A Misdemeanor [1 year in jail maximum] effective October 1, 2015. As of today, August 28, 2015, there are 513 prisoners where the controlling offense is Possession of Narcotics, 21A-279. It is worth noting that on June 30, 2010, 783 people were incarcerated on that charge, representing a 34% decline over five years.

The law also provides for “Expedited Parole Hearings” for non-violent, no victim cases. The Board of Parole is prepared to begin that process as soon as the four new Board members are appointed and complete their training.

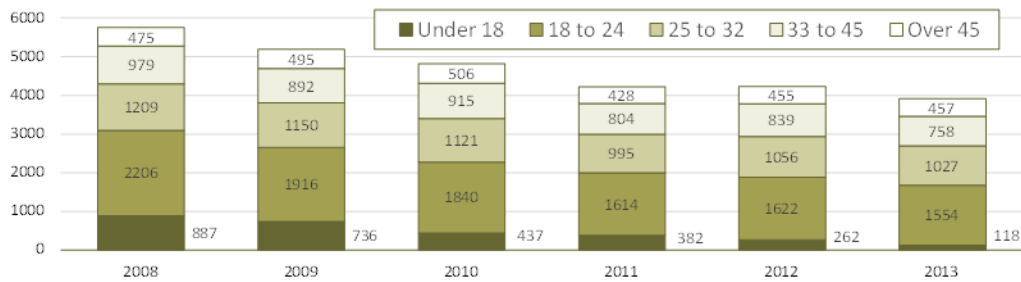
“Expedited Pardon Review” will begin as provided for in the new law as soon as the regulations governing the process have been drafted and approved. We anticipate that the regulations review process will be completed by July 1, 2016. The pardons eligibility notices have been prepared by the Board and are being printed. We anticipate that those forms will be available for distribution as required under the new law in the next few weeks, well in advance of the January 1, 2016 effective date.

In April, the Department of Correction opened a community Re-integration Unit at Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution. The Cybulski Community Reintegration Center is designed to concentrate appropriate programs and services to prisoners nearing the end of their sentences. Since the first 110-bed unit went into operation, there have been no incidents. A second 110 bed unit, focused on incarcerated military veterans nearing the end of their sentence, is slated to open on October 1.

Below are four additional charts that will provide you with a ten-year historical perspective on the changes outlined above. 2015 estimates are full year projections based on actual numbers for the first six months of the year.



First-time pre-trial admission for male prisoners, by age, 2008 - 2013



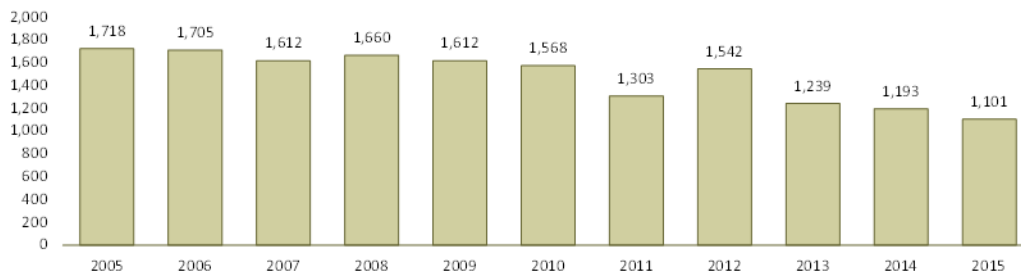
The state's prison population has been dropping for several years. On January 1st, 2008, the state's prisons held 19,438 inmates. This year, 16,167 people were in prison, a 16.8% decline.

During the same period, the size of the pre-trial population has also dropped but by a less dramatic 10.6%. Even though the decrease was smaller, there is reason to be optimistic; the number of new people being admitted to prison as pre-trial detainees appears to be decreasing. In 2008, 5,756 men, who had never been in prison before, were admitted as pre-trial offenders. In 2014, the number of new men being admitted to prison dropped to 3,786, a 34 % decrease.

Simply put, almost 2,000 fewer new people entered prison in 2014 than in 2008. Complete data on persons admitted to prison on pre-trial status by age and gender is only available through 2013. That data shows that the reduction in new people entering the prison system is disproportionately affecting younger adults. In 2008, 3,093 men under the age of 25, with no prison histories, were admitted on pre-trial status. By 2013, that number had fallen to 1,672, a 46% decrease.

Source: *Monthly Indicators Report, CT OPM, Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division, January 2015, page 2*

Pre-trial DOC admissions in February



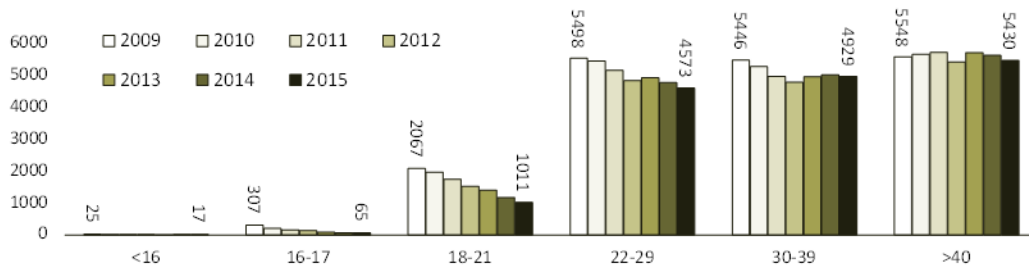
Over the last 10 years, the prison population in Connecticut has declined significantly. A major factor has been a relatively steady drop in the number of people admitted to prison each year. In February 2005, 1,718 people were admitted to prison as pre-trial detainees. This February 1,101 were admitted, an overall 35% reduction over the last decade.

No single factor can be credited for the impressive drop in admissions. Significant changes to the bail process, designed and implemented by CSSD, have certainly been critical. An overall drop in the number of statewide criminal arrests has also contributed to these declining numbers.

The number of new people being admitted to prison in recent years has also been dropping. Table 5b tracks persons admitted to prison on pre-trial status who have no prior history of incarceration with the CT DOC. An analysis performed by OPM revealed that the percentage of new people being admitted to prison has been declining for several years. In 2008, 29.3% people admitted, pre-trial, had no prior history with DOC. By 2014, that number had fallen to 25.6%

Source: *Monthly Indicators Report, CT OPM, Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division, March 2015, page 2*

Age ranges of offenders incarcerated in CT, 2009 - 2015



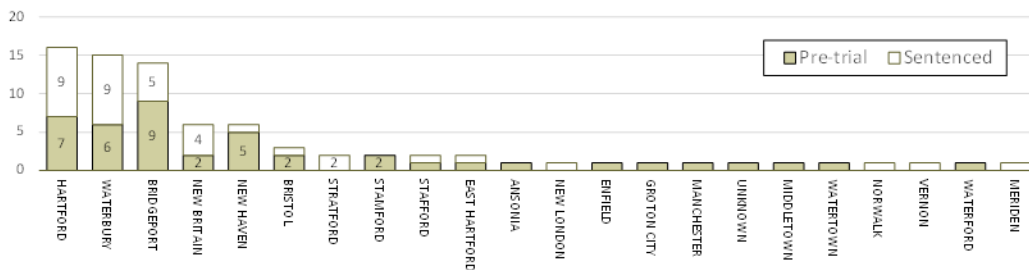
A chart similar to the one shown above, covering the years 2009 through 2014, appeared in the July 2014 issue of this report. In that issue we noted that while the total prison population between 2009 and 2014 had dropped by 12.4%, the decline in the number of younger prisoners was even more pronounced.

We have updated last year's chart to include 2015. Between 2009 and 2015, the total prison population declined by 15.4%. While this drop in the total prison population is noteworthy, the declining number of younger prisoners is even more dramatic. Between July 1, 2009 and July 1, 2015, the number of prisoners aged 18 to 21 fell from 2,067 to 1,011, an impressive 51.1% decrease. The number of prisoners between ages of 22 and 29 dropped by 16.8%. In contrast, the over-40 prison population declined by only 2.1%

These trends bode well for the state's criminal justice system as we move forward. Recidivism is generally most pronounced among younger offenders and the youth of an offender at the time of their first incarceration is a strong predictor of subsequent incarceration.

Source: *Monthly Indicators Report, CT OPM, Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division, July 2015, page 2*

Youth under 18 in adult prisons in CT



In this section, in the July issue of this paper, we reported that the number of offenders, under the age of 18, incarcerated in adult prisons in the state fell from 332 to 85 between 2009 and 2015, a 74% decrease.

On August 13, 2015, 80 offenders under the age of 18 were incarcerated in adult prison facilities in Connecticut; 37 were serving sentences, 43 were on pre-trial status. Forty-five (45) out of the 80 incarcerated youth came from just 3 towns, Hartford (16), Waterbury (15), and Bridgeport (14). In contrast, only 6 incarcerated youths were from New Haven.

Out of 80 young prisoners, only one was female. Seventy percent (70%) of these young prisoners were black. Among sentenced prisoners, the percentage of blacks jumped to 81%.

For the 43 pre-trial offenders bonds ranged from \$7,500 to \$2M. Two-thirds of pre-trial detainees came from either Hartford, Waterbury, Bridgeport, New Britain or New Haven.

Source: *Monthly Indicators Report, CT OPM, Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division, August 2015, page 2*