



TRENDS IN CONNECTICUT'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

2021 REPORT

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Office of Policy and Management

Today's report reviews annual trends across components of Connecticut's justice system, including the points listed below.

- **Crime**
 - **Victimization**
 - **Arrests**
 - **Criminal Cases**
 - **Corrections**
 - **Community Supervision**
- Public Act 21-97 requires OPM CJPPD to produce an annual report containing data analysis of state criminal justice system trends, including, if available, the number of reported crimes and arrests, and the size of the populations on probation, parole, special parole, and in prison.
 - While OPM CJPPD previously presented similar trends reports, this is the first edition under the new statutory requirement.
 - The division seeks to refine, revise, and refocus the report in editions released over subsequent years,

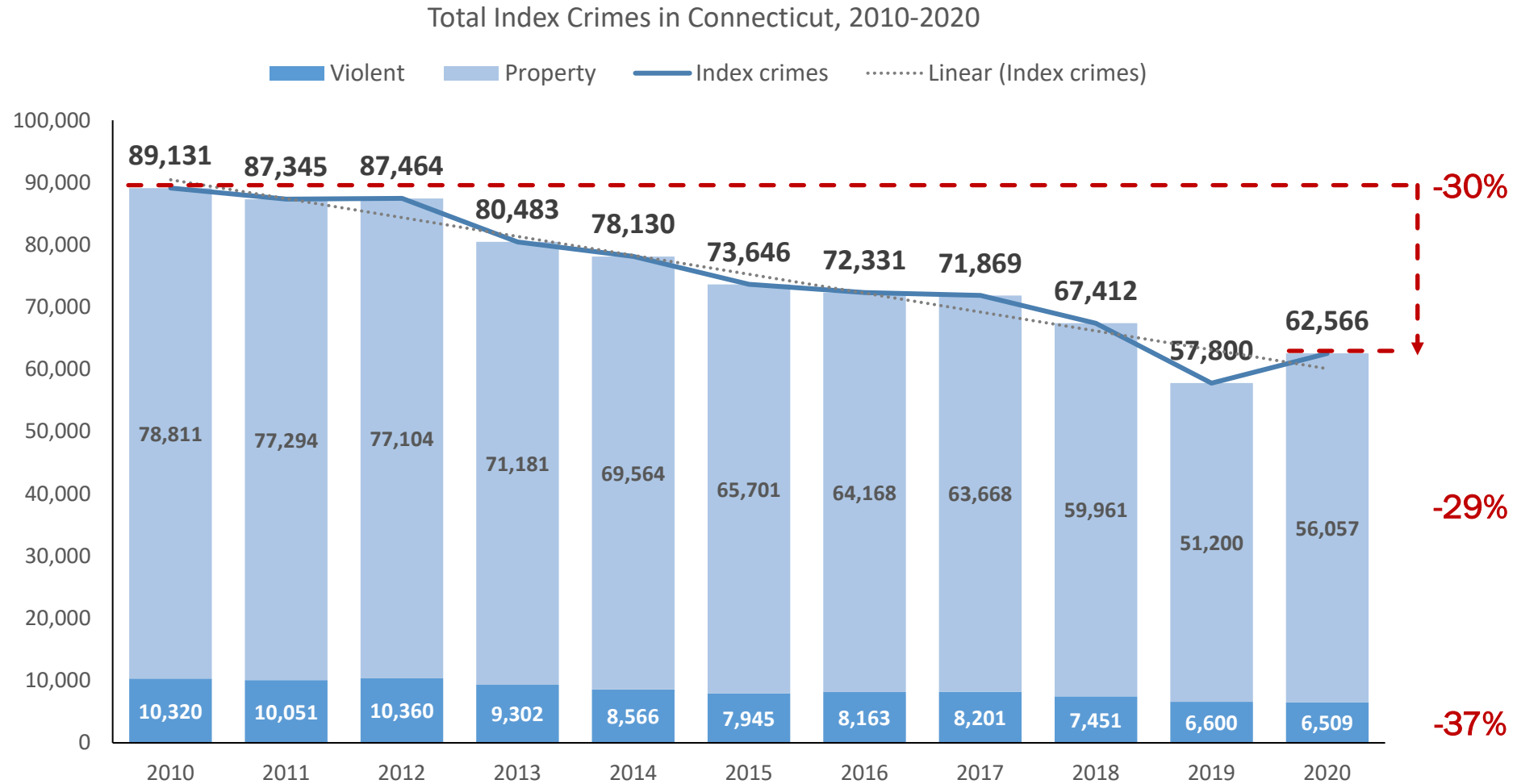
Summary of Key System Measures

Measure	Time Period	Percent Change
Reported violent crime rate	2010-2020	-36%
Reported property crime rate	2010-2020	-28%
Arrests	2017-2021*	-28%
Criminal cases added	2017-2021*	-34%
Correction Admissions	2017-2021*	-49%
Correction July 1 Population	2010-2021	-51%
Correction Community Supervision July 1 population	2010-2021	-21%
Probation: July average daily population	2017-2021	-25%

- Today’s analysis captures contractions occurring at points across the criminal justice system during the time periods for which data are available.
- Following its onset in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had widespread impacts on justice system trends.
- Pandemic-related impacts continue to affect the criminal justice system and will be monitored in these reports and others.

**Note: These statistics are aggregated per State of Connecticut Fiscal Years, which run July 1 to June 30 annually.*

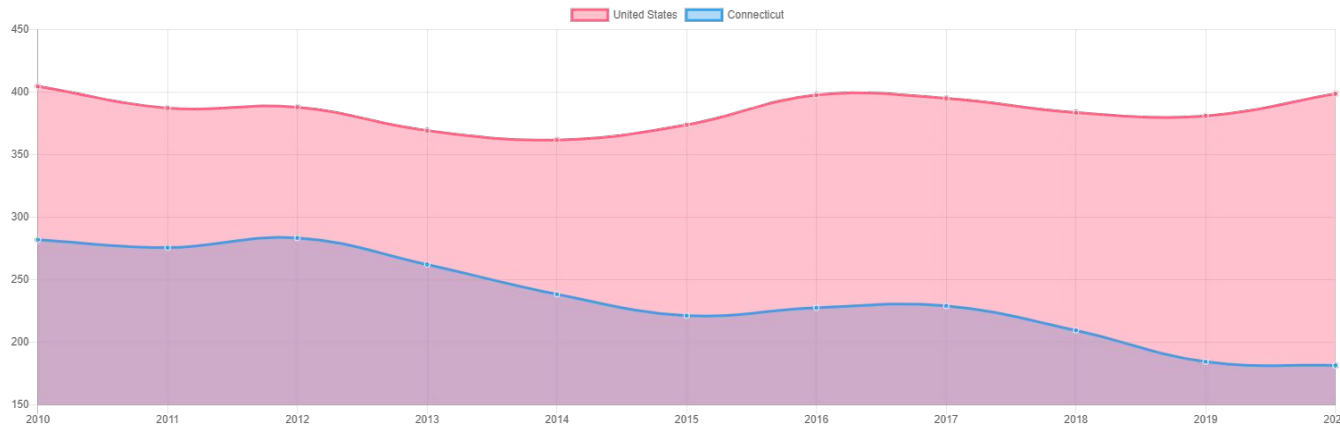
Between 2010 and 2020, Connecticut's index crime rate fell 30%, with a larger drop occurring in violent crime (37%).



Source: DESPP Connecticut Crime Online (<https://ct.beyond2020.com/>)

Connecticut's violent crime rate is less than half the national rate and decreased slightly between 2019 and 2020.

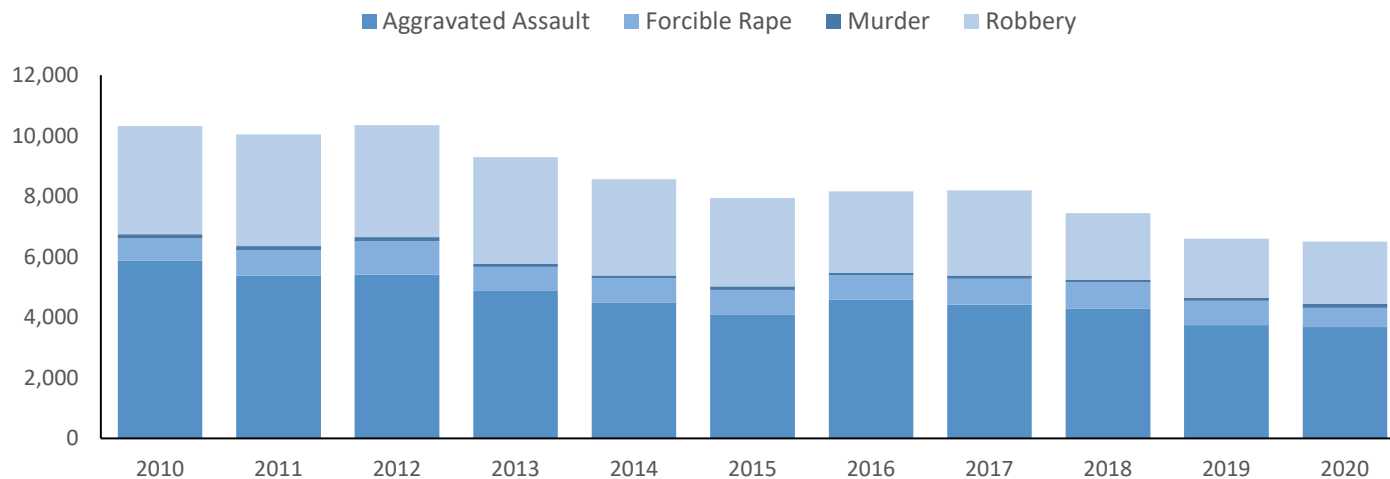
Rate of Violent Crime Offenses by Population



Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer (<https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/home>)

- Between 2019 and 2020, Connecticut's violent crime rate decreased 2% in contrast with a national increase of 5%.
- Connecticut's violent crime rate is 46% of the US'.

Statewide Violent Crimes by Type, 2010-2020



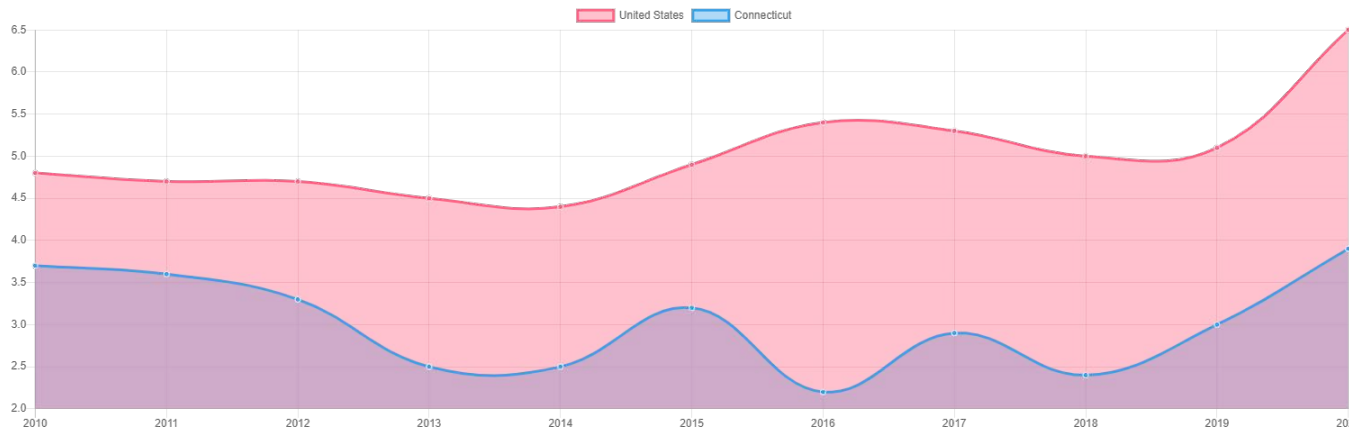
2010-2020 Difference

- Robbery -43%
- Murder 7%
- Forcible Rape -14%
- Agg. Assault -37%

Source: DESPP Connecticut Crime Online (<https://ct.beyond2020.com/>)

In 2020, the number of murders increased in the state and nationally, but Connecticut's rate remains 40% lower than the national rate.

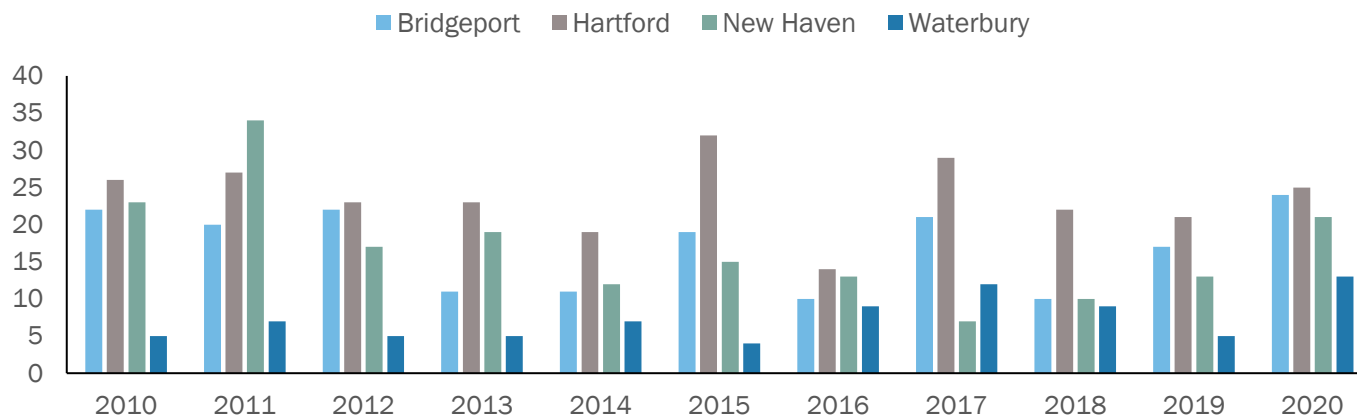
Rate of Homicide Offenses by Population



- Between 2019 and 2020, murder rates in Connecticut and the US increased by similar percentages, 30% and 28% respectively.

Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer (<https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/home>)

Murders in Select Connecticut Cities, 2010-2020

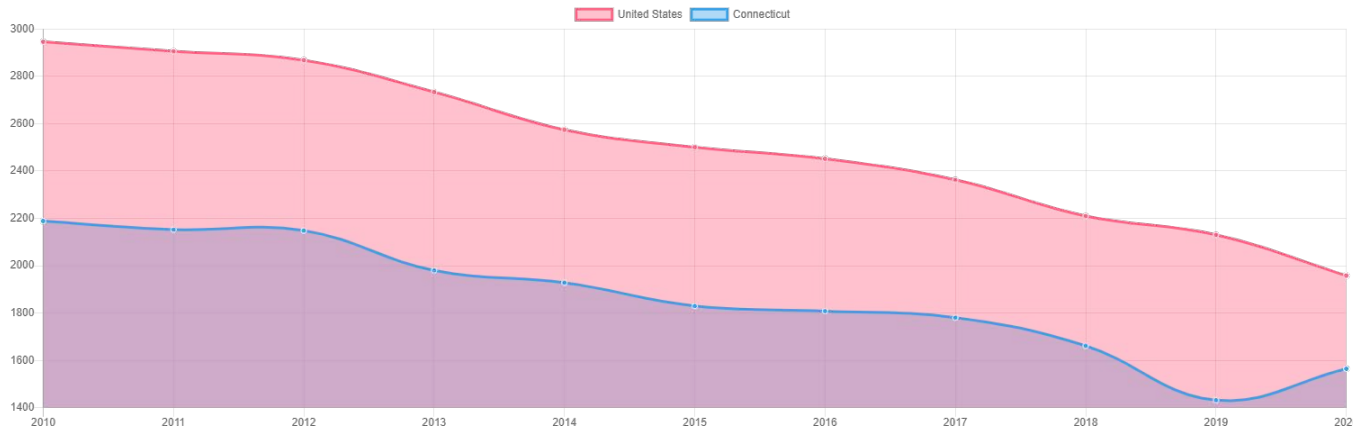


- Four cities—Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury—comprise 14% of the state population but bear 58% of murders in Connecticut.

Source: DESPP Connecticut Crime Online (<https://ct.beyond2020.com/>). DPH, <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Population/Annual-Town-and-County-Population-for-Connecticut>

After a steady decline over the last decade in Connecticut, property crime increased modestly in 2020.

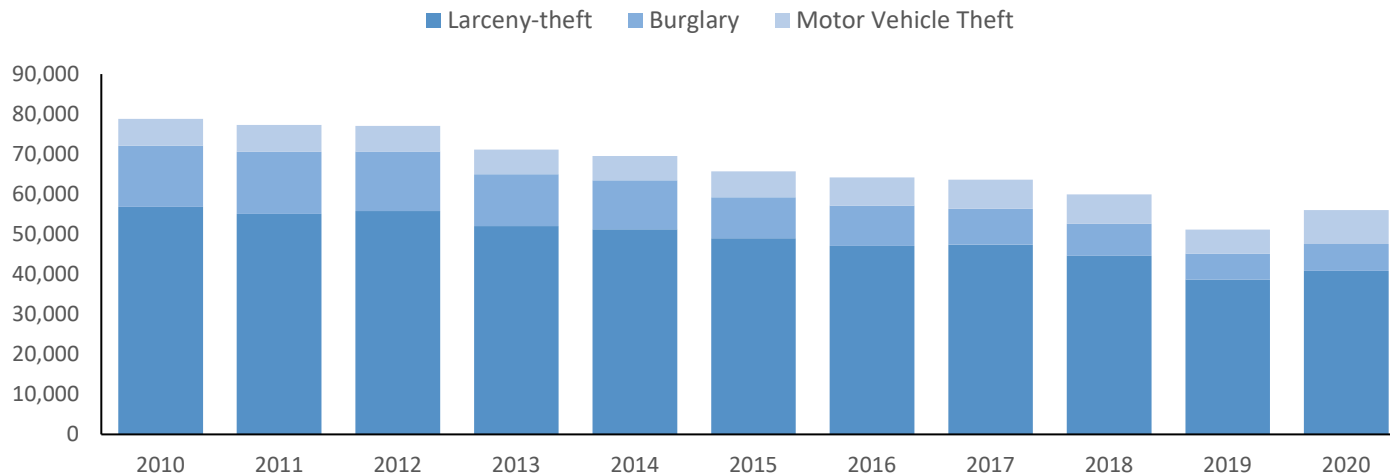
Rate of Property Crime Offenses by Population



Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer (<https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/home>)

- Between 2010 and 2020, Connecticut's property crime rate fell 28% and remains below the US rate.
- Between 2019 and 2020, Connecticut's property crime rate rose 9% following a double-digit decrease the previous year, with motor vehicle theft experiencing the largest increase (41%).

Statewide Property Crimes by Type, 2010-2020



2010-2020 Difference

M.V. Theft 26%

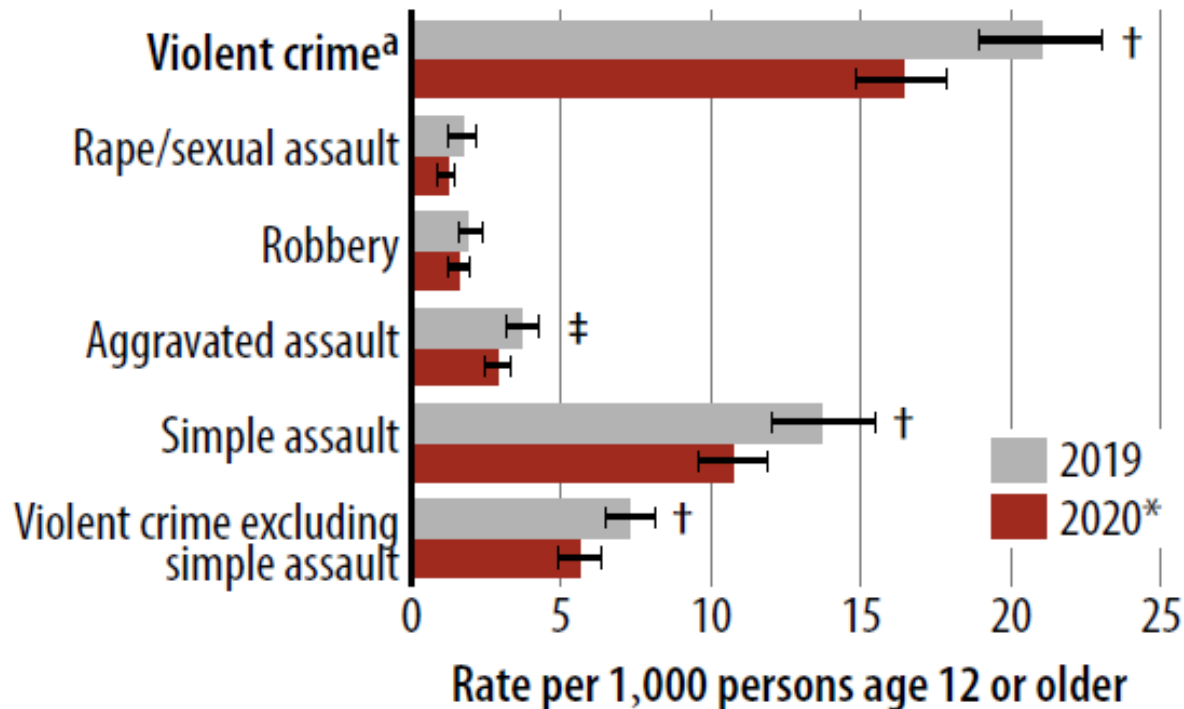
Burglary -56%

Larceny -28%

Source: FBI Crime Data Explorer (<https://crime-data-explorer.fr.cloud.gov/pages/home>)

The 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey and the FBI UCR provide a complementary picture of crime in the US.

Rate of victimization, by type of crime , 2019-2020

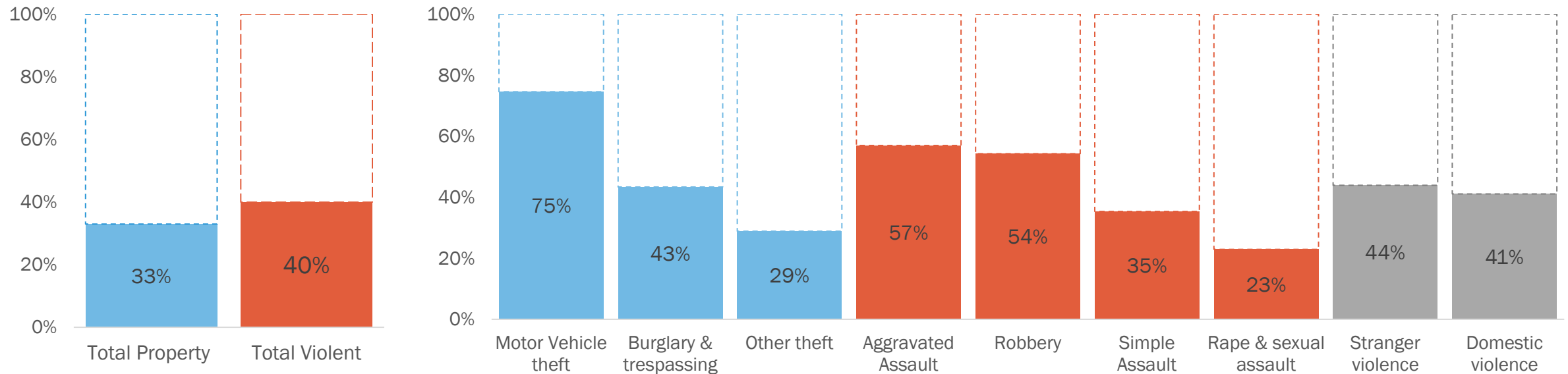


- The NCVS is an annual self-reported survey with victimization estimates based on crimes respondents experienced during the prior six months, excluding the month of the interview.
- There are some notable differences in crimes included in the UCR and NCVS reports, such as:
 - The UCR includes murder, non-negligent manslaughter, and commercial crimes, while the NCVS excludes these crimes
 - The NCVS includes sexual assault, which is separate from rape and includes a wider range of actions.
- Between 2019 and 2020, the national violent victimization rate decreased 22%, from 21.0 to 16.4 victimizations per 1,000 people age 12 or older.

Source: 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey. Simple assault is the category of violent victimization captured by the NCVS that is least likely to be prosecuted as a felony. NCVS' definition of sexual assault includes "attacks or threatened attacks involving unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender, with or without force; grabbing or fondling; and verbal threats."

In 2020, nationally, only 33% of property crimes and 40% of violent crimes were reported to the police, according to the NCVS.

Percent of victimizations reported to police, by crime type, 2020



While the FBI UCR measures crimes recorded by police, the NCVS measures crime reported and not reported to police.

NCVS indicates that “victims may not report a crime for a variety of reasons, including fear of reprisal or getting the offender in trouble, believing that police would not or could not do anything to help, and believing the crime to be a personal issue or too trivial to report.”

Agencies are working collaboratively to incorporate existing data into reports to provide a more detailed picture of victimization and need.

Examples of agency data already collected that could be incorporated into a combined report.

Office of the Victim Advocate
Requests for assistance
Open caseload
Referrals to state, federal, private, or community agencies

Coalition Against Domestic Violence	
Total served	Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) screens
Shelter	Number of high-danger LAP screens
Rapid rehousing	Officer calls to hotline for high-danger screens
Court-based advocacy	

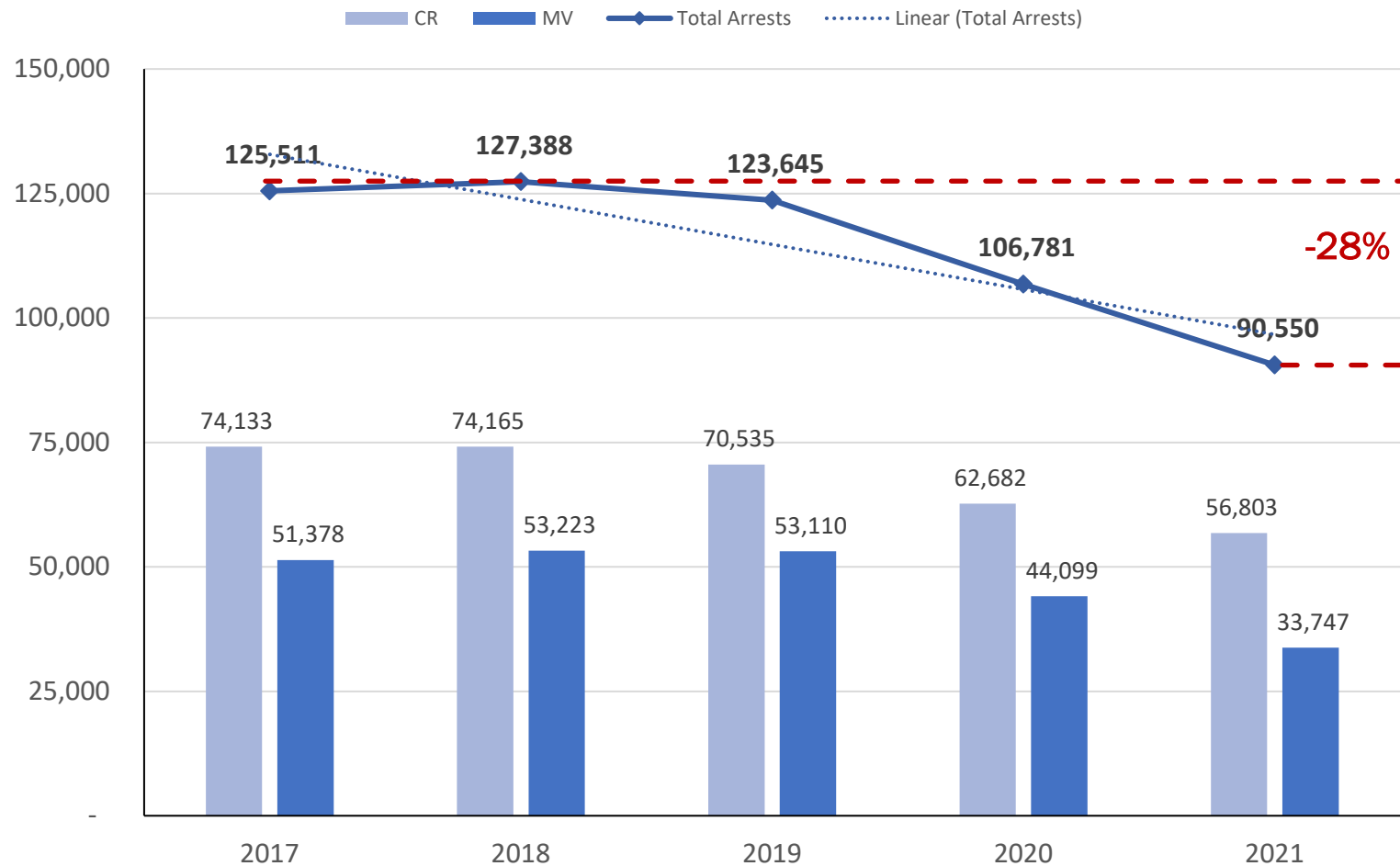
Survivors of Homicide
Information referral
Advocacy
Court support
Counseling and groups

Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Total victims served
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By member center By Victims' Rights Center of CT (legal assistance) By post-conviction victim services
Number of hotline calls
Number of hospital and police accompaniments

The Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services has contracted with an organization that is conducting a victimization survey. The results of the survey is the first of its kind to capture victimization data in Connecticut.

Between 2017 and 2021, statewide arrests decreased 28%, with the biggest drops occurring in 2020 and 2021.

Criminal & Motor Vehicle Arrests by Fiscal Year, 2017 to 2021



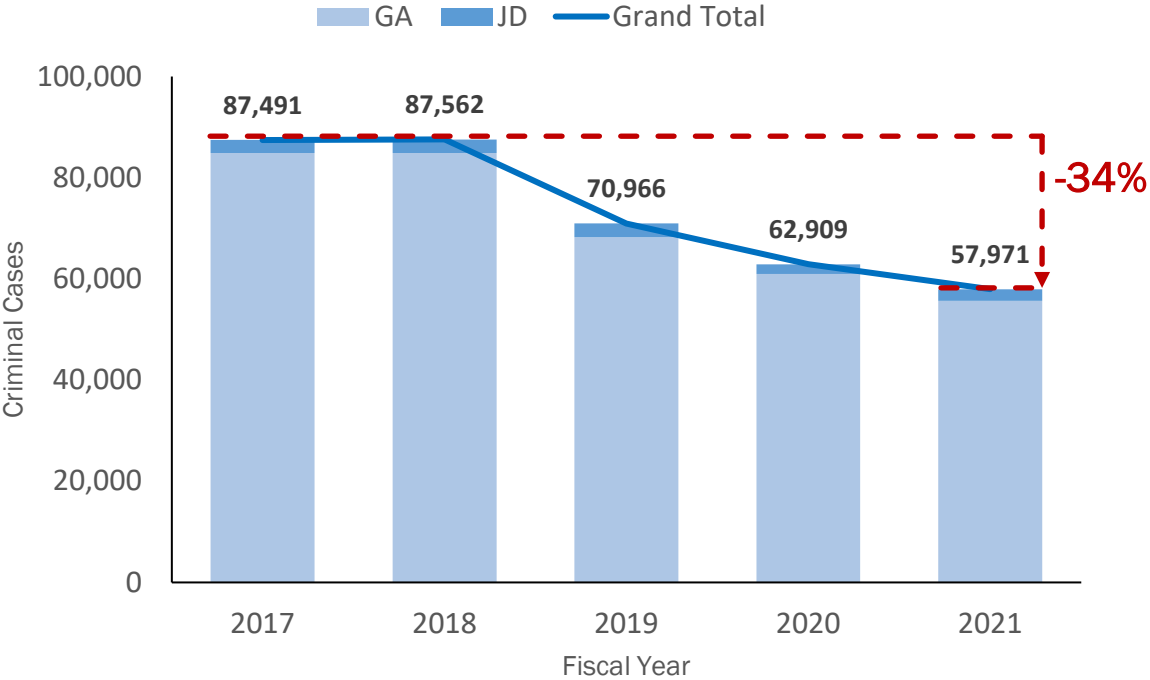
Both criminal and motor vehicle arrests exhibited this downward trend, with reductions of 23% and 37% respectively between 2018-2021.

Source: CRMVS reports provided courtesy of CJIS

Fiscal Year

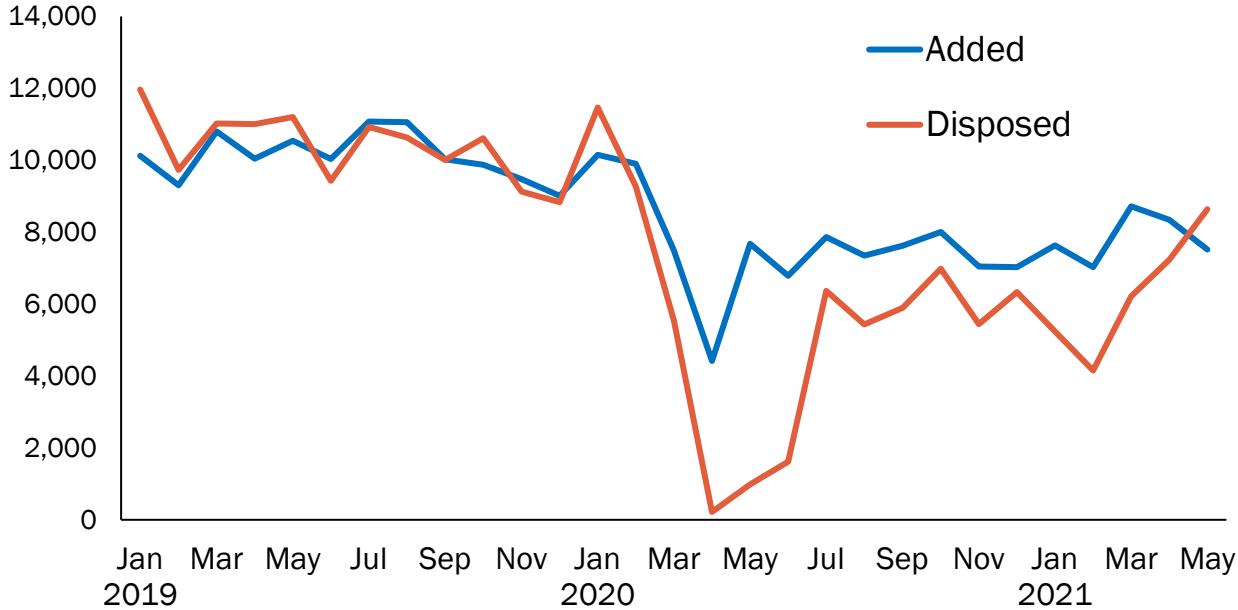
In 2020, after the onset of the pandemic, criminal cases added and disposed dropped before gradually increasing over the following months.

Criminal Cases Added by Fiscal Year, 2017 to 2021



Source: Connecticut Judicial Branch Statistics, Criminal Cases

COVID Impact On Cases Added and Disposed by Month, 2019-2021

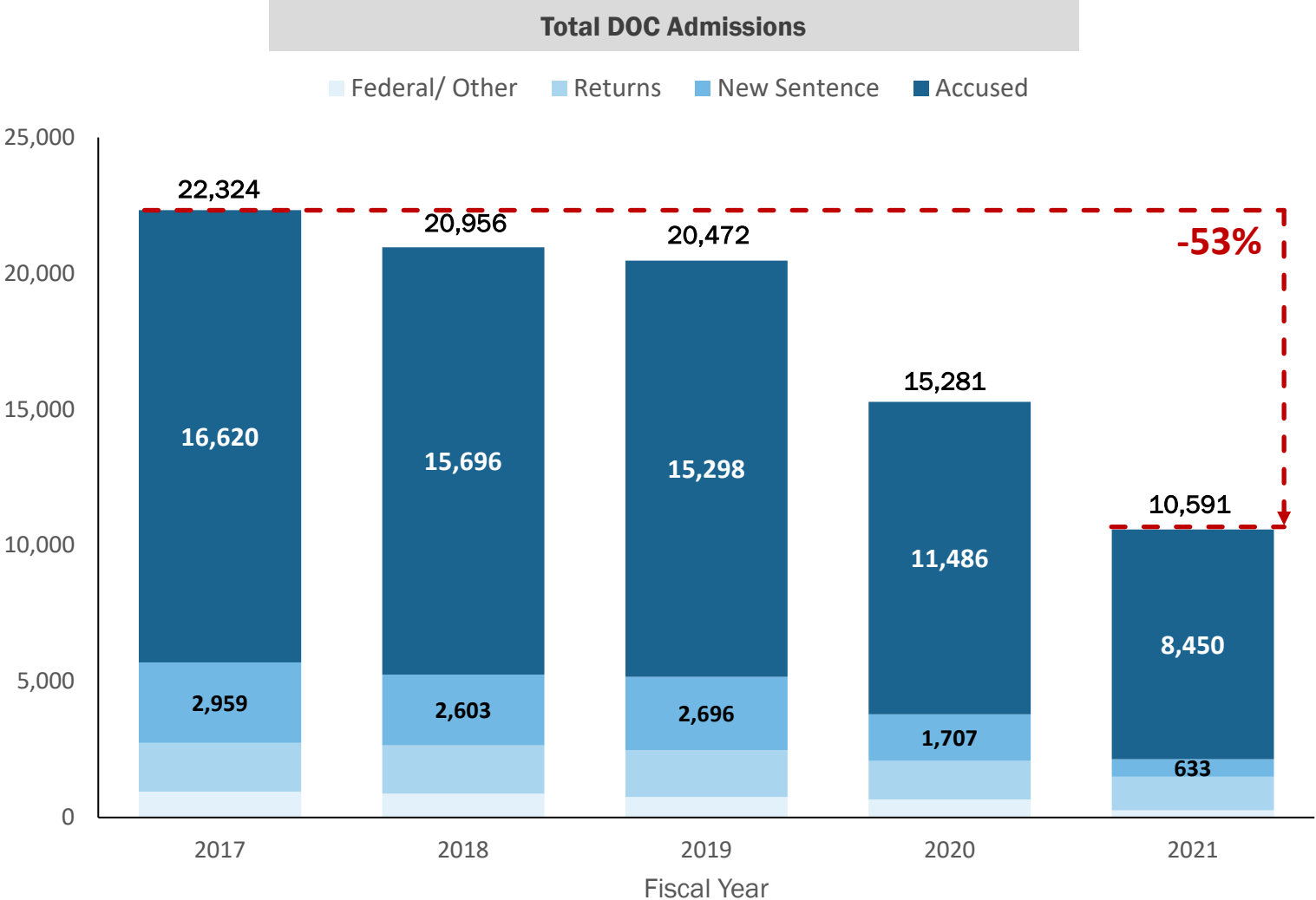


Note: Monthly counts shown include both criminal and serious motor vehicle matters, such as DUI, etc.
Source: Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Operations data provided to OPM

Following the immediate impact of the pandemic, the criminal justice system adapted: the Judicial Branch, prosecutors, and defense counsel amended procedures to collaboratively dispose cases and hear cases remotely.

By December 2020, counts of dispositions reached nearly three-quarters of the 2019 level.

Correction admissions also fell, by 53%, between 2017 and 2021.

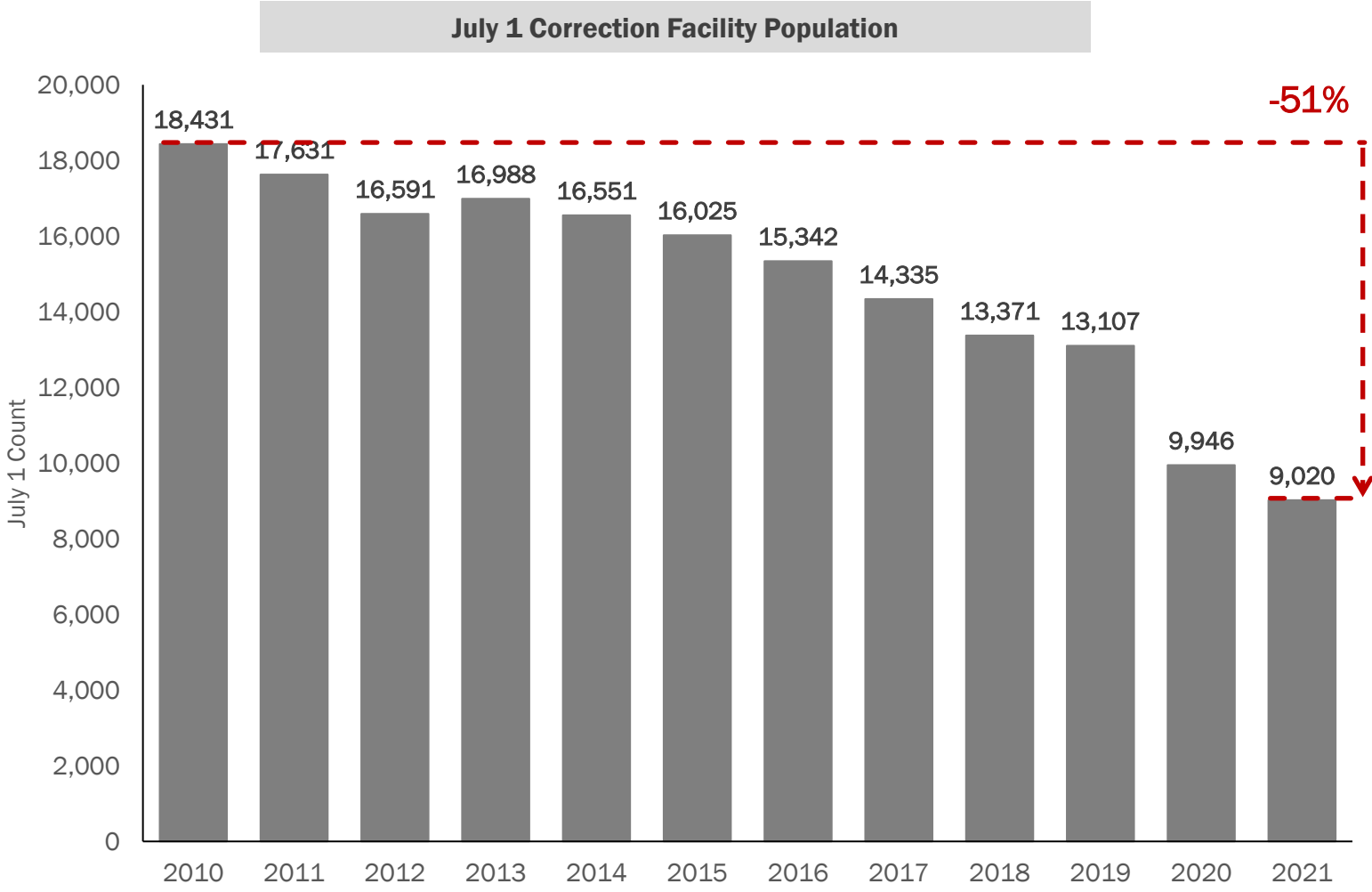


On an annual basis, total admissions have declined over the past five years, most notably over the past two pandemic-impacted years. FY2021 total admissions were 48% lower when compared against FY2019 totals.

We observed large reductions in pretrial admissions over the years, with new sentence admissions also significantly lower in FY2021.

Source: Connecticut Department of Correction monthly data provided to OPM

Between 2010 and 2021, the correction population declined steadily and, after the pandemic's onset, decreased by a faster rate.



As of July 1, 2021, Connecticut's correction population was 51% lower than July 1, 2010.

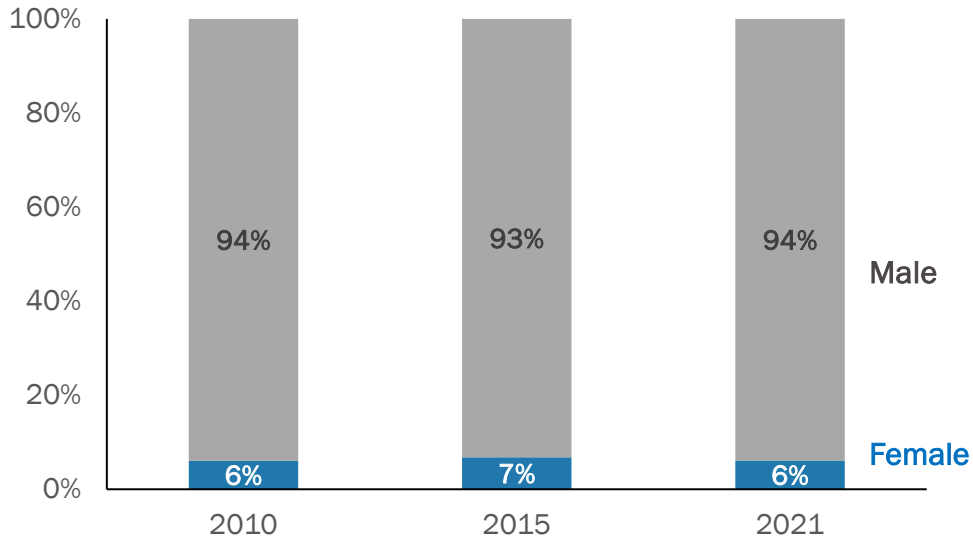
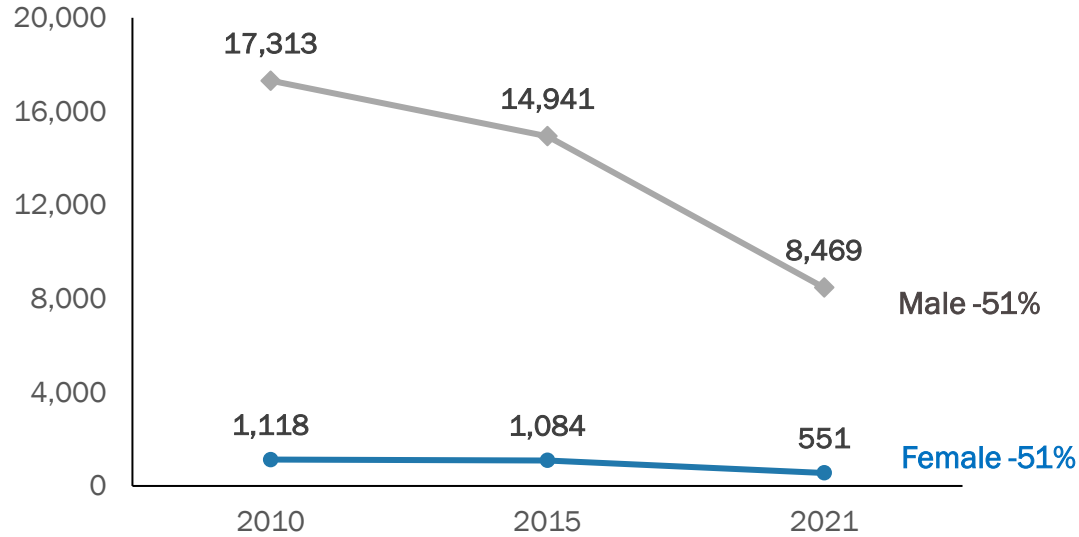
Correction facilities experienced steady reductions in population beginning in 2013, with even greater reductions following the pandemic's onset in March 2020.

As of July 1, 2021, the correction facility population was 9% lower than 2020, but has increased slightly into fall of 2021.

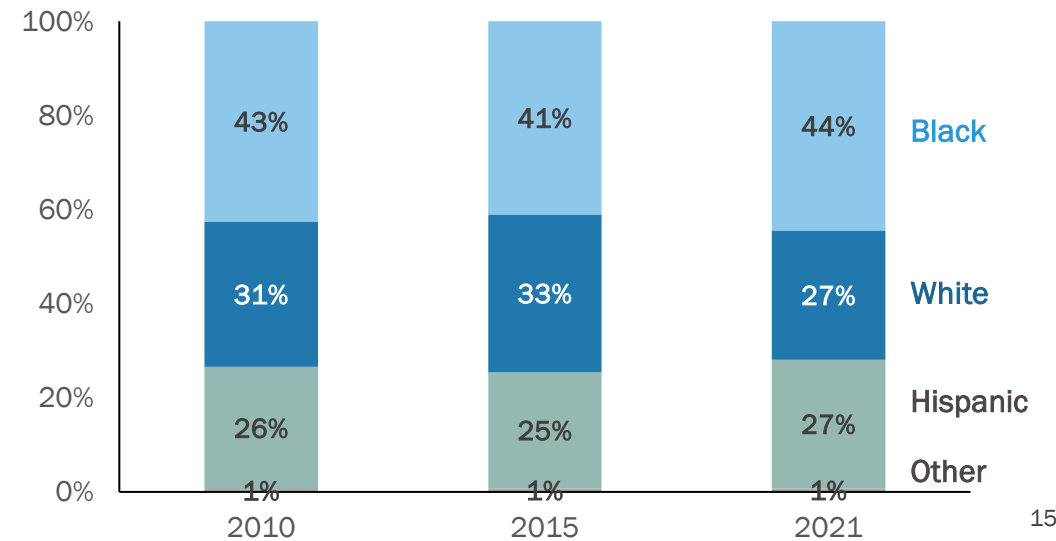
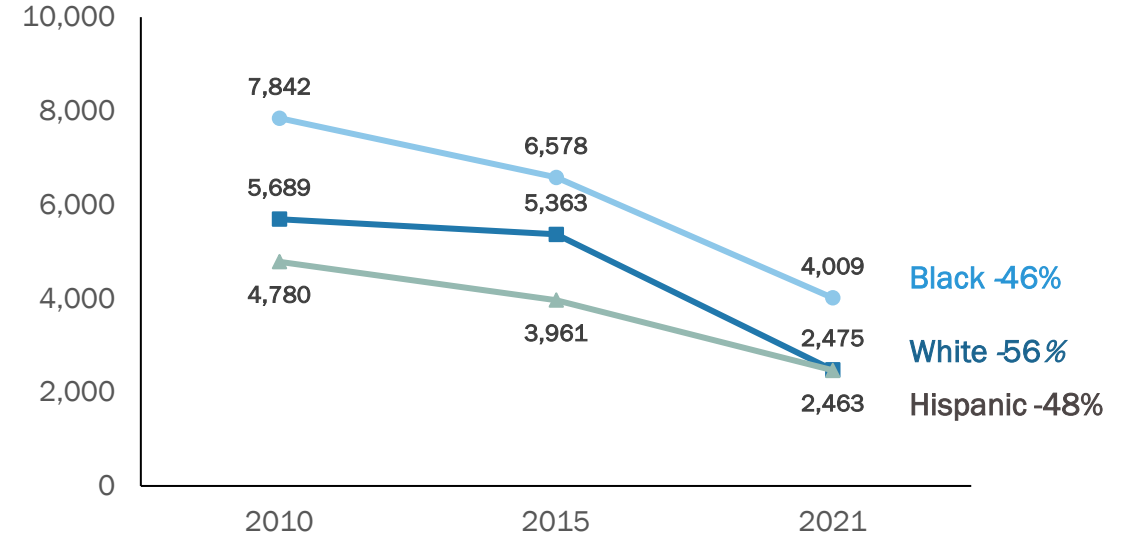
Source: Connecticut Department of Correction monthly data provided to OPM

Correction population changes according to demographics.

Correction Facility Population by Sex, July 1

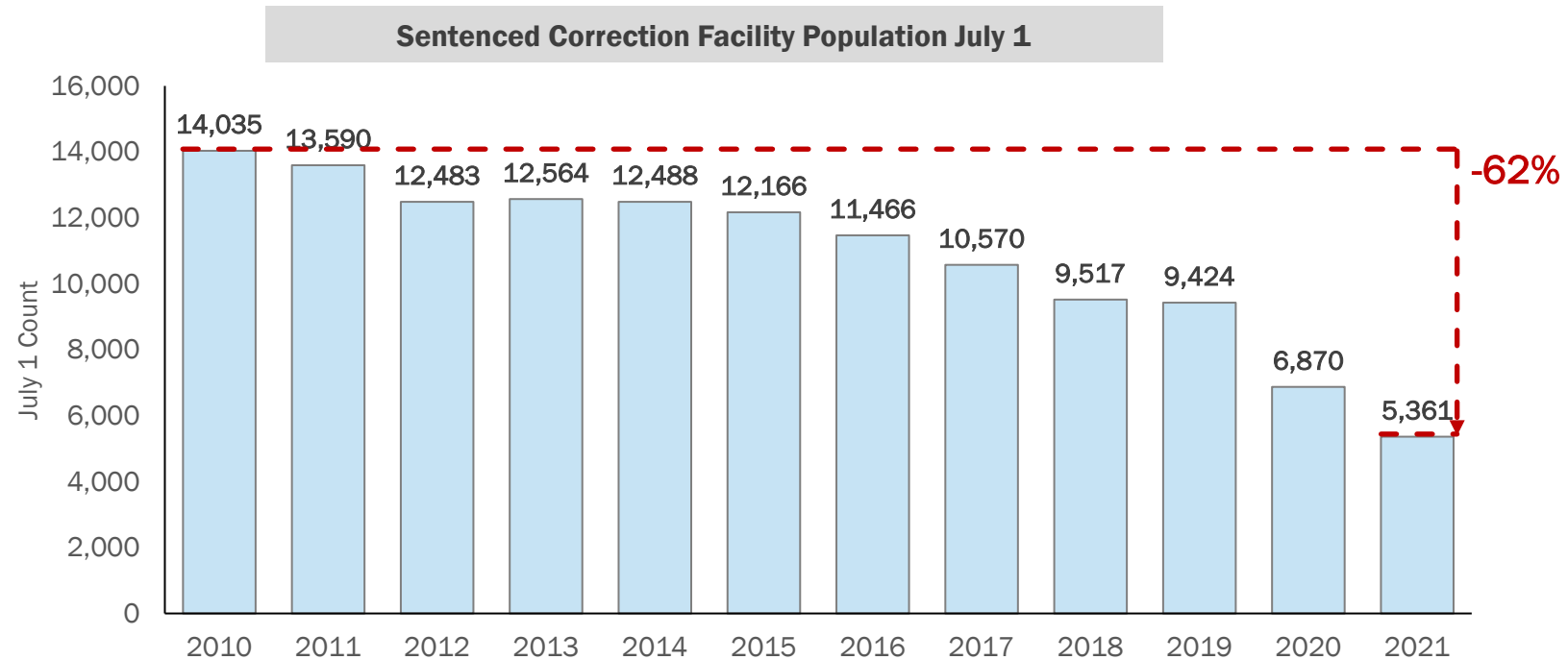
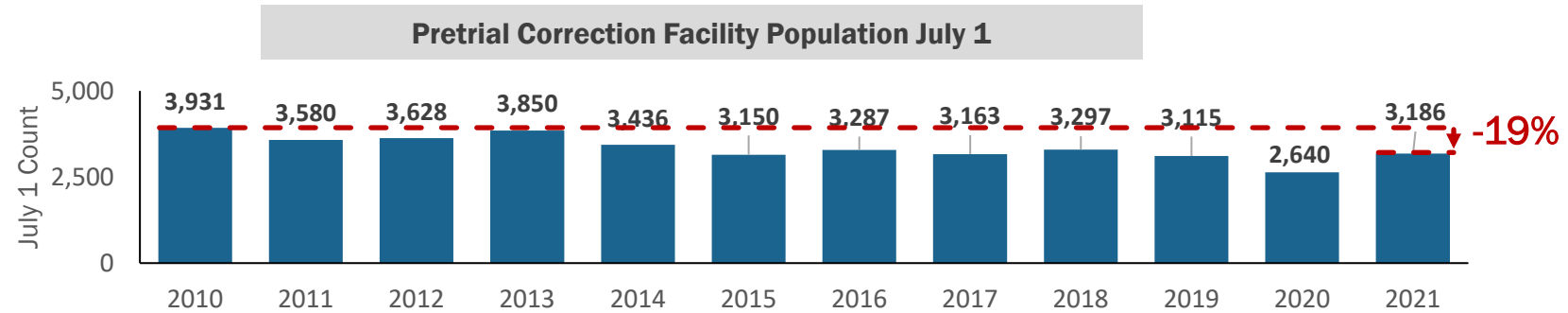


Correction Facility Population by Race/Ethnicity, July 1



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction data provided to OPM

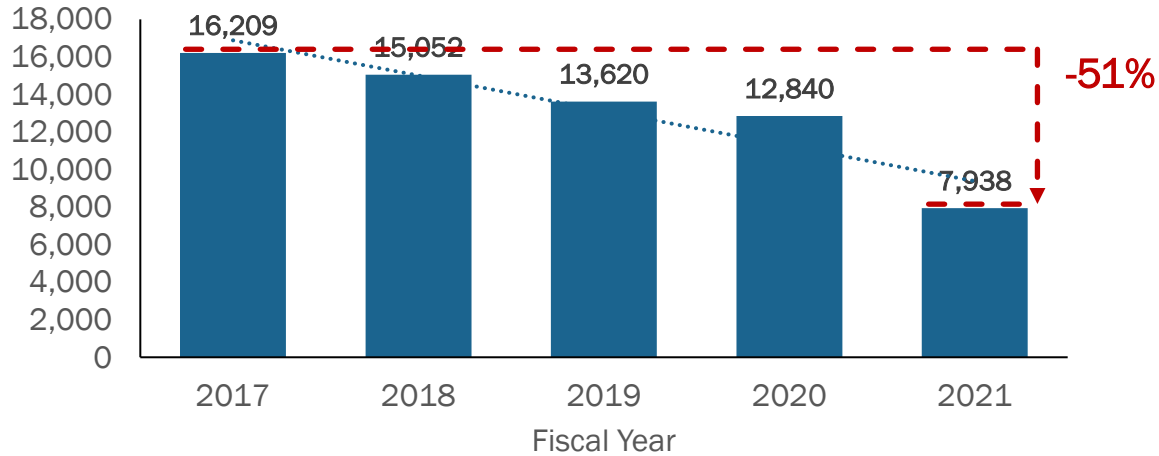
Between 2010 and 2020, the sentenced population fell more steeply than the pretrial or the overall correction population.



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction, monthly data provided to OPM

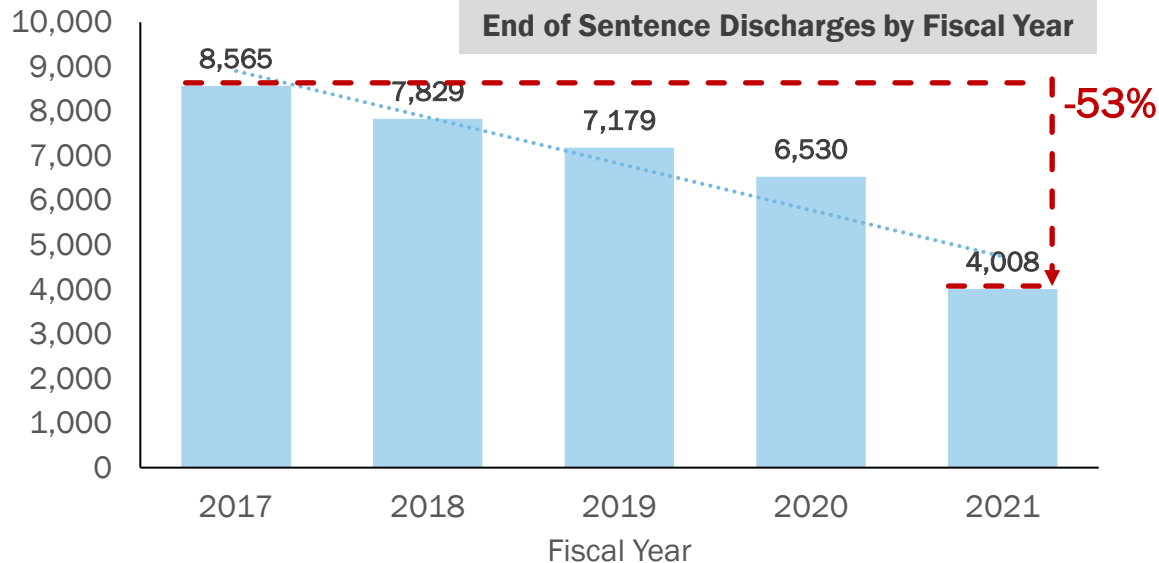
Consistent with upstream trends, sentenced releases, discharges, and end-of-sentence cases decreased between 2017 and 2021.

Total Sentenced Releases and Discharges by Fiscal Year



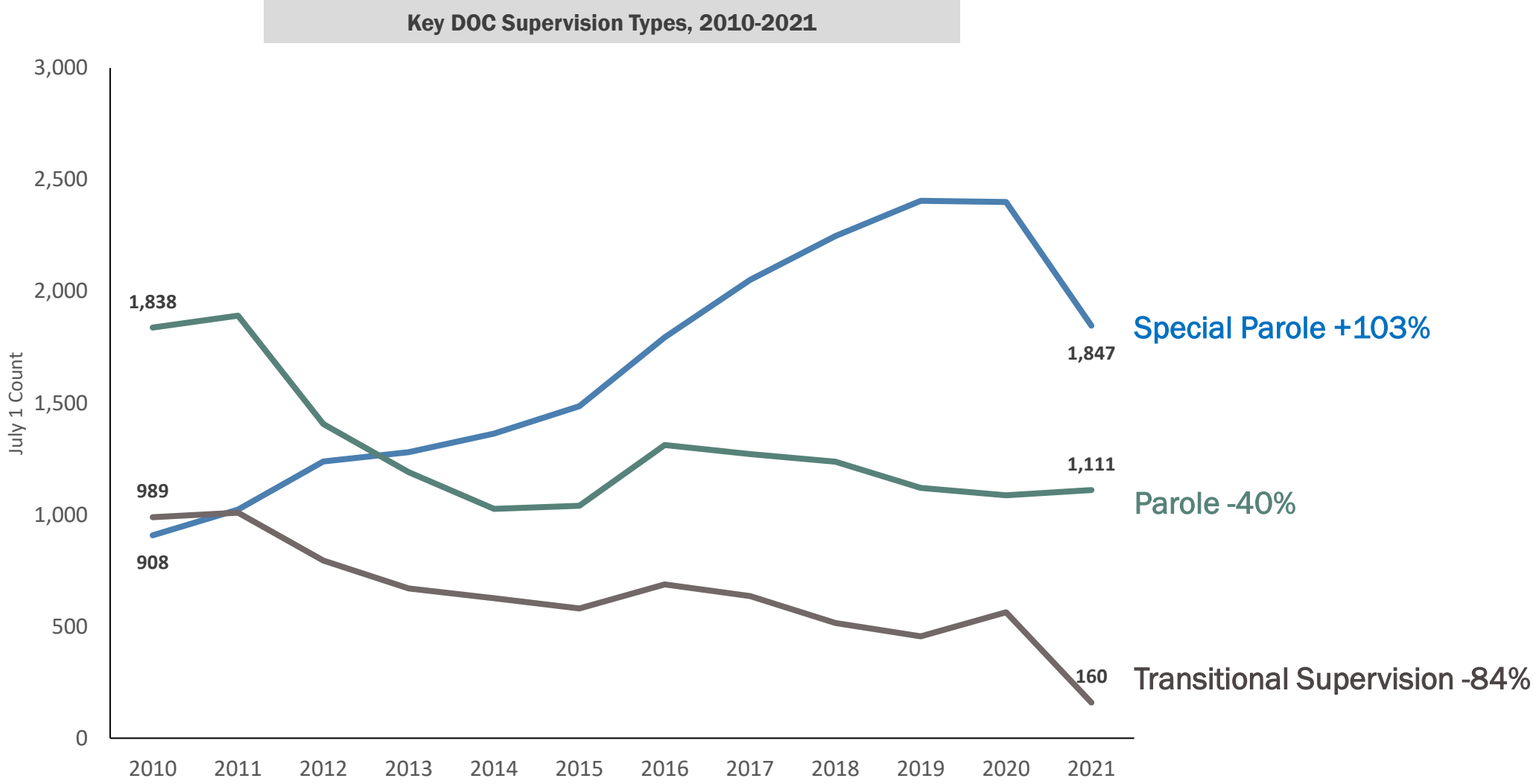
Like the drop in front-end as well as correction admissions and population trends, the annual number of releases and discharges from correction facilities also decreased.

End of Sentence Discharges by Fiscal Year



The 2015 establishment of the DOC's Community Release Unit to centralize and streamline the review of individuals prior to their transition to supervision helped increase efficiency in reviewing cases and matching people returning to the community with the needed levels of supervision and treatment.

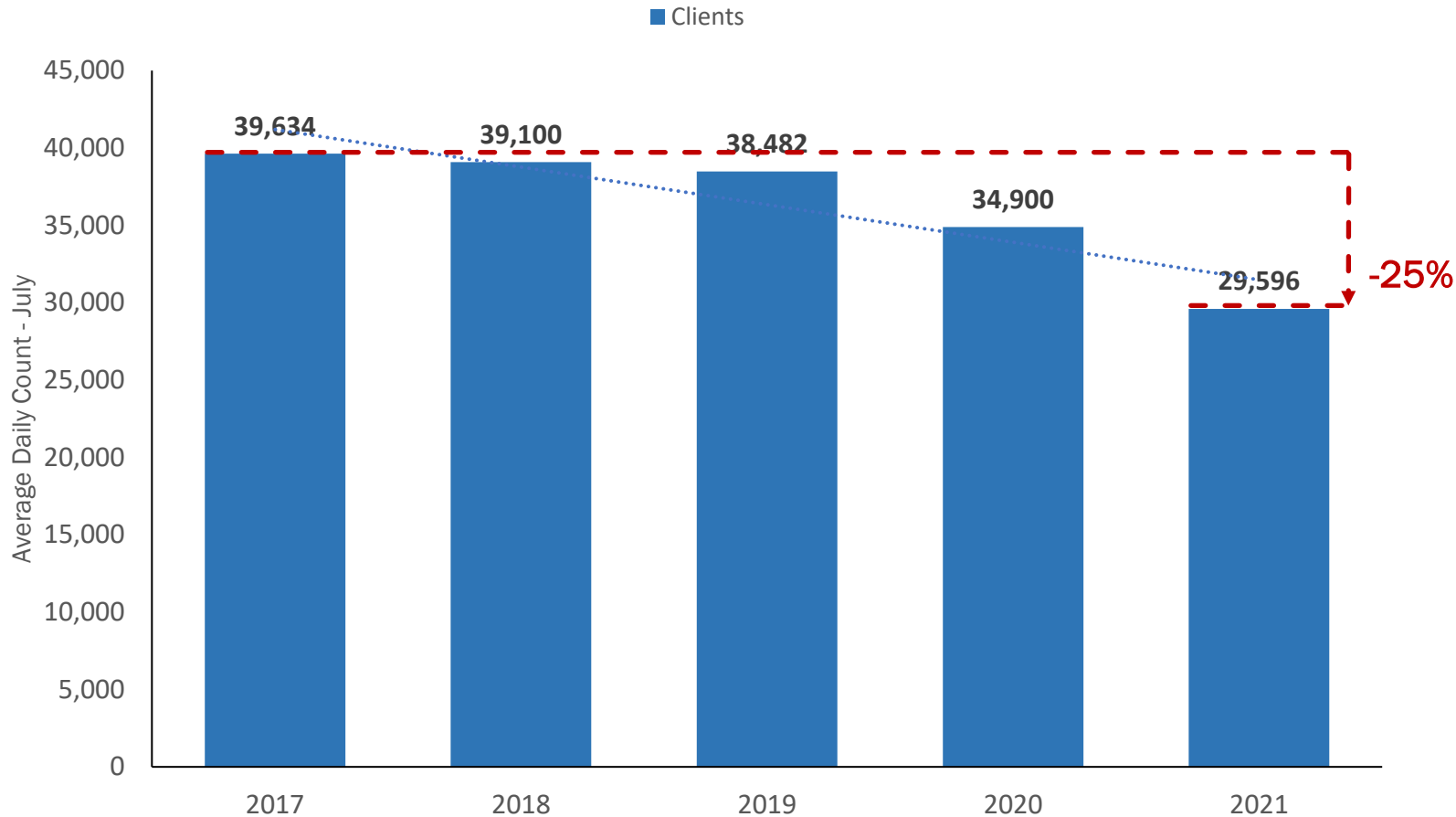
Trends in volumes for the three groups comprising the DOC supervision population.



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction monthly data provided to OPM

Between 2017 and 2020, the probation population decreased 25%.

Probation Clients: Average July Daily Count, 2017 to 2021



Given that individuals receive probation as part of sentencing, the downward trend suggests that these population drops may be attributable to reduced front-end factors, as highlighted earlier in arrest and criminal case trends.

The pandemic's impacts on case dispositions in 2020 and 2021 may have sharpened the reductions in probation population observed most recently.



THANK YOU

For more information, please visit

[HTTPS://PORTAL.CT.GOV/OPM/CJ-ABOUT/HOMEPAGE/CJPPD](https://portal.ct.gov/opm/cj-about/homepage/cjppd)

OPM wishes to acknowledge the contributions of:

Board of Pardons and Parole

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Court Operations, Judicial Branch

Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch

Crimes Analysis Unit, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Criminal Justice Information System

Department of Correction

Office of the Victim Advocate

Survivors of Homicide, Inc.