TRENDS IN CONNECTICUT’S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
2021 REPORT

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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
- Recidivism

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

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

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

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


Total Index Crimes in Connecticut, 2010-2020

- Violent
- Property
- Index crimes
- Linear (Index crimes)
Connecticut’s violent crime rate is less than half the national rate and decreased slightly between 2019 and 2020.

- 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’.

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

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

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

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

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

- 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.

The chart below shows the rate of victimization by type of crime from 2019 to 2020.

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>Total Property</th>
<th>Total Violent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle theft</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary &amp; trespassing</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other theft</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Assault</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape &amp; sexual assault</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranger violence</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.”

Source: 2020 National Crime Victimization Survey. Domestic violence includes violent victimizations committed by intimate partners or family members. Simple assault is the category of violent victimization captured by the NCVS that is least likely to be prosecuted as a felony.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office of the Victim Advocate</th>
<th>Coalition Against Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Survivors of Homicide</th>
<th>Alliance to End Sexual Violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requests for assistance</td>
<td>Total served</td>
<td>Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) screens</td>
<td>Information referral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open caseload</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Number of high-danger LAP screens</td>
<td>Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals to state, federal, private, or community agencies</td>
<td>Rapid rehousing</td>
<td>Officer calls to hotline for high-danger screens</td>
<td>Court support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Court-based advocacy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Counseling and groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Source: Connecticut Department of Correction monthly data provided to OPM
Trends in volumes for the three groups comprising the DOC supervision population.

Key DOC Supervision Types, 2010-2021

- Special Parole +103%
- Parole -40%
- Transitional Supervision -84%

Source: Connecticut Department of Correction monthly data provided to OPM
Between 2017 and 2020, the probation population decreased 25%.

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.

Source: Connecticut Judicial Branch Statistics, Court Support Services Division monthly statistics provided to OPM
THANK YOU

For more information, please visit
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.