Further Analysis of Recent Criminal Justice System Data

Presented to the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission

May 28, 2020
Criminal arrests dropped 54%, with infractions and motor vehicle arrests falling by larger percentages.

Source: Criminal Record and Motor Vehicle System data and OPM Monthly Indicators Reports.
Pretrial admissions to the DOC shrank 73% between February and April, with a slight uptick anticipated in May.

Number of pretrial admissions to the DOC each week, February 2 – May 17 1920.

Source: DOC population data provided to OPM CJPPD.

*Data from the week of May 24 is not yet included.
Discretionary releases from DOC increased further in April, drastically reducing the number of end-of-sentence discharges.

The number of discretionary releases increased 28% between April 2019 and 2020 (425 to 545).

In April 2020, 79% of people returned to the community with supervision under a discretionary release mechanism, up 23 points from April 2019 (56% to 79%).

The increase in 2020 in discretionary releases helped reduce the number of people released from DOC with no community supervision (an EOS discharge).
More people receiving discretionary release had longer amounts of time left to serve on their sentence in April 2020 than the previous year.

![Bar chart showing the time left on sentences at the time of release, people receiving discretionary release in April 2019 and 2020](chart.png)

51% increase

In discretionary releases for people with six months or more left on their sentence.

(197 and 297 in April 2019 and 2020)

Source: CT DOC and The CT Open Data Portal. The small number of cases in the three lowest subgroups can cause the percent change to be exaggerated. For example, there was a 17% increase in the 1-week-to 2-week subgroup from April 2019 to 2020 even though the difference was only one person in absolute terms.
Criminal justice agencies tailored use of discretionary-release mechanisms while responding to the public-health emergency.

Discretionary releases from DOC to transfer parole, furlough, transitional placement, and halfway house, January to May 2020

Source: CT DOC data presented in May *Monthly Indicators Report*. Excludes release to nursing home and special parole releases as well as end-of-sentence discharges.
Since March 1, the correction population has fallen 15 percent.

Percent change in the pretrial and sentenced populations in DOC from March 1, to May 22, 2020

Total –15%
Pretrial –9%
Sentenced –17%

Source: OPM CJPPD “Date-Filtered Daily Count Data” and Open Data Portal. “Sentenced” category includes people serving a term of incarceration imposed by a Connecticut criminal court. “Pretrial” includes defendant held on bond, awaiting disposition of pending charges.
Connecticut’s correction population has returned to May 1991 levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correction Group</th>
<th>March 1</th>
<th>May 22</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Net Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sentenced</td>
<td>9,036</td>
<td>7,480</td>
<td>–17%</td>
<td>–1,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretrial</td>
<td>3,049</td>
<td>2,765</td>
<td>–9%</td>
<td>–284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>–22%</td>
<td>–70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,409</td>
<td>10,499</td>
<td>–15%</td>
<td>–1,910</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connecticut’s recent correction population decrease is the size of the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, New England’s most populous correction facility.
(March 1 to May 22, 2020)

Source: DOC population data provided to OPM CJPPD. “Other” includes special parole remandees and inmates incarcerated at CT DOC from other jurisdictions.
Connecticut currently has had the sixth-largest correction population drop during the COVID-19 public-health emergency among 40 other states and the federal system.

Thank you.

For more information, please visit https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-About/Homepage/CJPPD