Initial Analysis of Connecticut’s Correction Population Changes in March and April 2020

Connecticut Sentencing Commission Meeting
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Connecticut’s correction population has dropped 40 percent since its 2008 peak.

Source: DOC population data provided to OPM CJPPD.
In March 2020, the correction population decreased by the largest monthly percent on record and, under current trends, April is on pace to eclipse March.

March 2020’s percent decrease in the correction population from the start of the month exceeds all previous periods since 1988.

April 2020’s trend is on track for a larger decrease, both in percent and absolute terms.

Source: DOC population data provided to OPM CJPPD.
Between March 1 and April 17, the correction population dropped by 1,022 people, with roughly equal percent reductions in people held pretrial or sentenced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correction population groups</th>
<th>March 1</th>
<th>April 17</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Net Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sentenced</td>
<td>9,036</td>
<td>8,295</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>-741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretrial</td>
<td>3,049</td>
<td>2,822</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>-227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>-17%</td>
<td>-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,409</td>
<td>11,387</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>-1,022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DOC population data provided to OPM CJPDP 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. “Other” includes special parole remandees and inmates incarcerated at CT DOC from other jurisdictions.
In March, Connecticut’s correction population dropped rapidly because admissions decreased *and* releases increased during the month.

Source: DOC population data provided to OPM CJPPD.
Between February and March 2020, discretionary releases of people sentenced to DOC climbed 72 percent while end-of-sentence releases fell 17 percent.

This increase in discretionary releases had the secondary benefit of reducing the number of people released from correctional facilities with no community supervision. (The DOC is legally required to release an inmate in its custody at the conclusion of their court-stipulated sentence.)

Source: Data from CT DOC and analyzed for OPM Monthly Indicators Reports. Excludes exits to special parole.
Thank you.

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