

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On September 1st Connecticut's correction population was 9,548 people, 100 fewer than the first of August.
- Despite considerable monthly changes since March in the number of arrests, arraignments from lockup, and pretrial admissions to the DOC, the proportion of people admitted pretrial to the DOC with no prior such admission has remained consistent, at or near the 25% threshold. (See table 5b on page 3.)
- Despite challenges involving court operations and epidemiological protocols, the Jail Re-interview program continues to develop pretrial release plans for people held on such a status at the DOC, conducting 537 interviews and accounting for 138 releases in the month of August.
- Despite a reduction in hearings between July and August 2020, the BOPP managed to grant as many paroles in August 2020 as in August 2019, accomplished by a grant rate north of 70%. Additionally, work at the board has yielded results with continued increases in the number of transfer parolees supervised in the community. (Table 2 on page 3).
- Chart 2a revisits a chart first published in this publication in June 2016. At the time, we predicted, based on trends, the number of special parolees could grow 59% by September 2020. For the first two years our prediction proved accurate. Since then, trends have shifted, potentially due to the impact of a change in policy (Public Act 18-63).

Prison Population Forecast

Continuing a recent trend, the rate of decline in the prison population softened once again in August. The net decrease in August (-123) pales in comparison to those in the spring and early summer. The steepest declines occurred when both the pretrial and sentenced subgroups were dropping in concert. In recent months, the pretrial population has flattened while the number of sentenced inmates has declined more slowly.

One year ago sentenced inmates numbered 9,299. Today the count sits at 6,532 (-2,767), with the bulk of that reduction coming since February 2020. Last month in chart 2a, we described how those serving short sentences are disproportionately represented in that decline. As that population has contracted, internal DOC processes have been hampered by a stark reduction in eligible candidates for discretionary release. By way of example, the Community Release Unit, which makes release decisions for eligible sentenced offenders that do not fall under the Board of Pardons and Paroles purview has seen its case load decline significantly. Last August the CRU reviewed 767 cases. Contrasted that figure with August 2020 when the CRU case load dropped to 327 – a 57% reduction.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2020 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '20	12,315	-	-
FEB	12,413	12,413	-
MAR	12,382	12,293	-89
APR	11,751	12,234	483
MAY	10,903	12,163	1,260
JUN	10,375	12,120	1,745
JUL	9,907	12,072	2,165
AUG	9,644	12,074	2,430
SEP	9,521	12,044	2,523
OCT		12,046	-
NOV		12,015	-
DEC		11,922	-
JAN '21		11,722	-
FEB		11,867	-

Avg. Daily Count (ADC) for 1st week of month

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts

January 1, 2019 through February 1, 2021

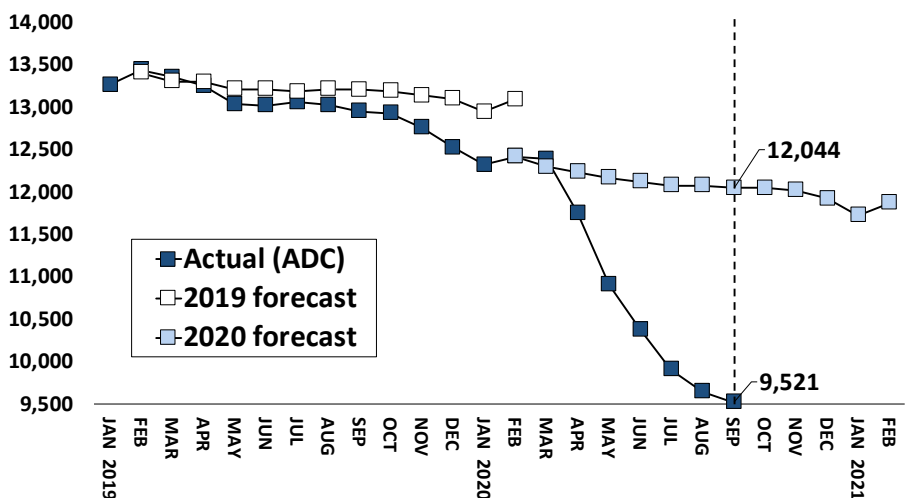


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

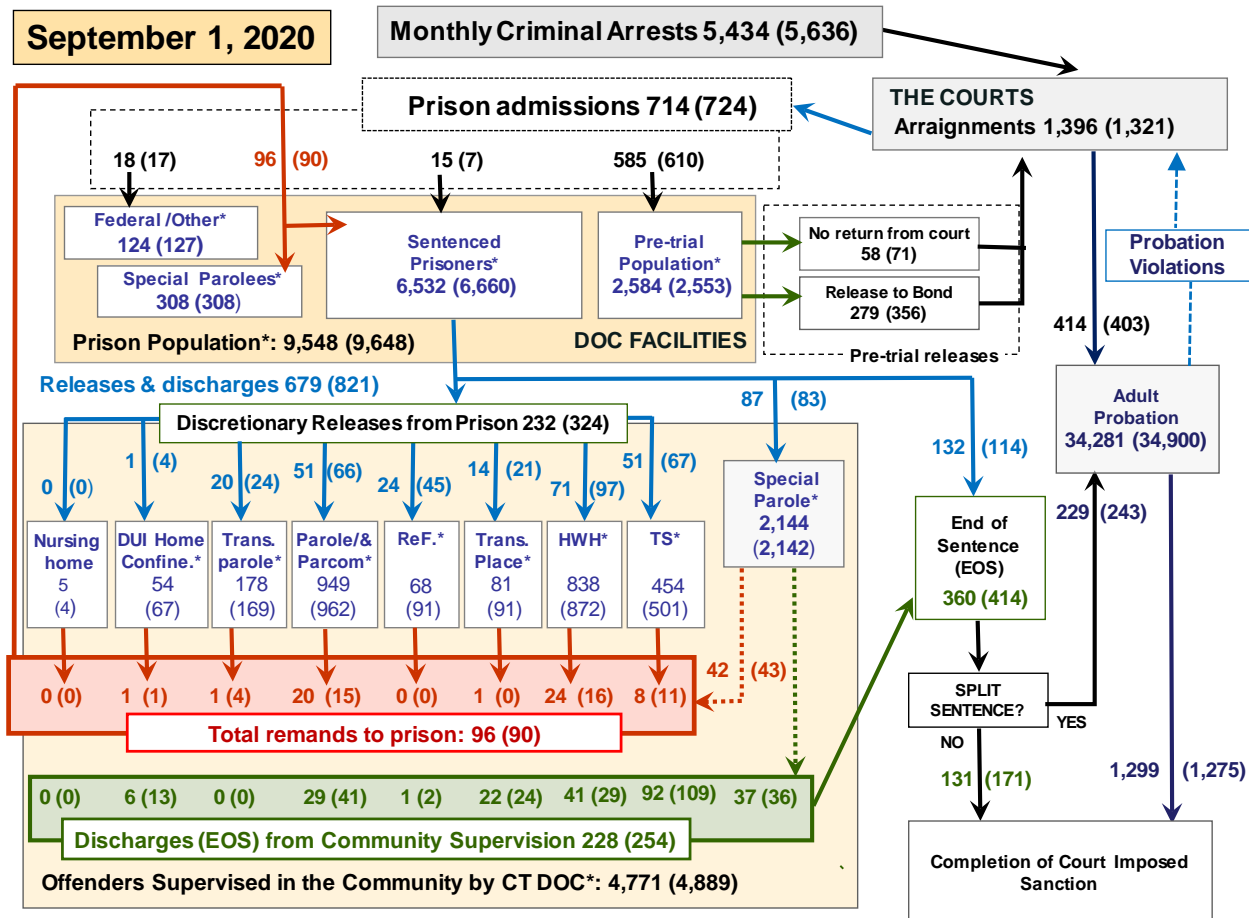
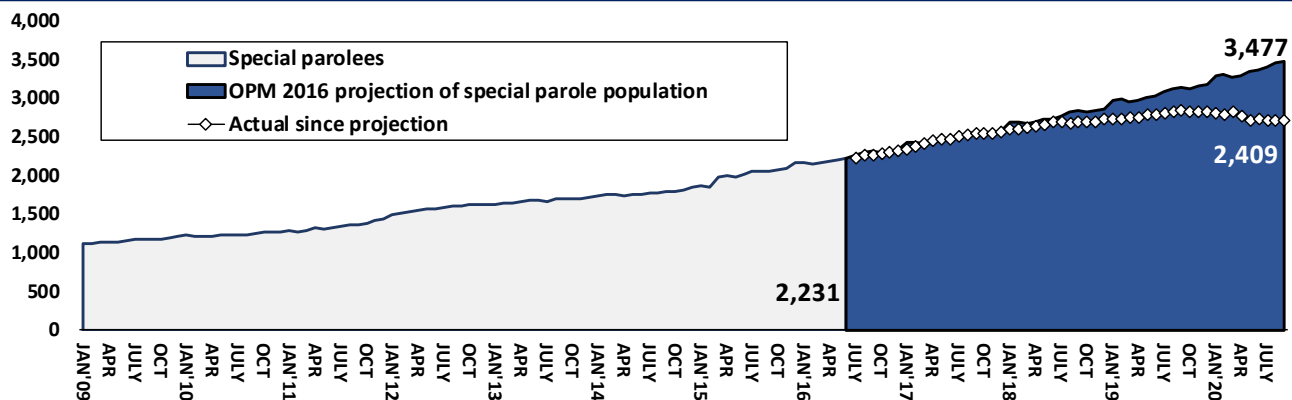


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for August 2020 and daily counts reported on September 1, 2020. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on September 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Special parole: a change in course



Since 2014 this publication has reported on the growth of the special parole population. In June 2016, when there were just over 2,200 special parolees, OPM projected that by mid-2020 the number would increase 59%, to nearly 3,500 people.

Early on, the 2016 prediction was remarkably accurate: two years after publication, in July 2018, the forecast missed the actual count by only 79 special parolees, a difference of less than 3%.

Beginning in mid-2018, the trend changed, the curve bending slowly below the forecasted line. Then, in mid 2019, the number of special parolees began slowly to decline.

In 2018, Public Act 18-63 was enacted, allowing for early discharge of special parolees and restricting the cases for which special parole could be attached as a sentence. It is likely that the change in course is due, at least in part, by implementation of the public act.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2020	2020	2020	2019	% Change	
	July 1	Aug. 1	Sept. 1	Sept. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	124	127	124	155	-2.4%	-20.0%
Sentenced	6,870	6,660	6,532	9,299	-1.9%	-29.8%
Special Parole	312	308	308	382	0.0%	-19.4%
Pre-trial	2,640	2,553	2,584	3,106	1.2%	-16.8%
Total	9,946	9,648	9,548	12,942	-1.0%	-26.2%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	167	169	178	40	5.3%	345.0%
Parole/ Parcom Total	953	962	949	968	-1.4%	-2.0%
Parole	788	789	781	806	-1.0%	-3.1%
Parcom @ CT	167	173	168	162	-2.9%	3.7%
Furlough	102	91	68	24	-25.3%	183.3%
Trans Placement	96	91	81	50	-11.0%	62.0%
DUI/Home confine.	81	67	54	92	-19.4%	-41.3%
Halfway House Total	864	872	838	1,075	-3.9%	-22.0%
Comm Release	430	428	400	497	-6.5%	-19.5%
TS	23	21	24	27	14.3%	-11.1%
Parole	135	131	123	145	-6.1%	-15.2%
Transfer Parole	26	28	26	6	-7.1%	333.3%
Special Parole	250	264	265	400	0.4%	-33.8%
TS	541	501	454	410	-9.4%	10.7%
Nursing home	4	4	5	6	25.0%	-16.7%
Special Parole	2,150	2,142	2,144	2,070	0.1%	3.6%
Total	4,958	4,889	4,771	4,735	-2.4%	0.8%

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2020	2020	2020	2019	% Change	
	June	July	August	August	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	17	17	18	77	5.9%	-76.6%
Remands	83	90	96	138	6.7%	-30.4%
DUI	2	1	2	4	-	-
Parole	9	15	20	26	33.3%	-23.1%
Trans Plac/Furlough	2	0	1	4	-	-
HWH	17	16	24	23	50.0%	4.3%
TS	13	11	8	16	-27.3%	-50.0%
Special Parole	36	43	42	65	-2.3%	-35.4%
New Sentence	6	7	15	201	114.3%	-92.5%
VOP	6	0	2	69	-	-
Pre-trial	475	610	585	1,303	-4.1%	-55.1%
Total	660	724	714	1,719	-1.4%	-58.5%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	42	24	20	10	-16.7%	100.0%
Parole	82	66	51	67	-22.7%	-23.9%
Furlough	67	45	24	8	-46.7%	200.0%
Trans. Placement	25	21	14	10	-33.3%	40.0%
Home Confinement DUI	4	4	1	25	-75.0%	-96.0%
HWH	135	97	71	153	-26.8%	-53.6%
TS	86	67	51	148	-23.9%	-65.5%
Special Parole	77	83	87	102	4.8%	-14.7%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	440	414	360	609	-13.0%	-40.9%
Total	958	821	679	1,132	-17.3%	-40.0%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	41	71	58	546	-18.3%	-89.4%
Release to Bond	311	356	279	367	-21.6%	-24.0%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Rate
June	342	164	68	36	54%
July	310	153	57	30	48%
Aug. '20	327	148	58	39	45%
Aug. '19	767	338	140	128	44%

Note: Figures published here are based on the operational data available at the time of publication. Data in subsequent issues may not agree.

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 - Parole hearings, new cases

	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted	Grant rate	Paroles granted, 2019	Paroles granted, 2018
June	116	77	66%	74	62
July	131	79	60%	62	77
Aug.	95	68	72%	68	73

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
June	13	0	10	15	35
July	10	0	22	14	34
Aug.	18	1	14	9	34
Aug 2019	29	2	14	21	6

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	July 1, 2020	Aug. 1, 2020	Sept. 1, 2020	Sept. 1, 2019
Less than \$20K	283	279	312	507
\$20K to <\$50K	347	325	321	456
\$50K to <\$100K	459	433	441	545
\$100K or higher	1,708	1,644	1,687	1,751
Persons w/bonds	2,797	2,693	2,765	3,259
Over \$1M	251	250	258	194

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	July 1, 2020	Aug. 1, 2020	Sept. 1, 2020	Sept. 1, 2019
< 1 week	129	165	201	411
1 to < 3 weeks	113	157	153	308
3 to < 10 weeks	334	318	391	770
10 to < 30 weeks	940	763	676	877
30 wks or more	1,292	1,290	1,344	893
Pre-trial prisoners	2,808	2,693	2,765	3,259

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	June 2020	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019
Arraignments	1,038	1,321	1,396	2,982
Pre-trial Admits	475	610	585	1,303
New to DOC	134	141	137	311
% New	28%	23%	23%	24%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
June	475	342	165	324
July	610	136	184	324
Aug.	585	537	139	363

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
June	2,050*	1,091	272	12,665*
July	2,050*	1,275	243	12,665*
Aug.	2,050*	1,299	229	12,665*
Aug. '19	2,050*	1,841	355	12,665*

* CSSD estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population

First week of the month, avg. daily count (ADC)

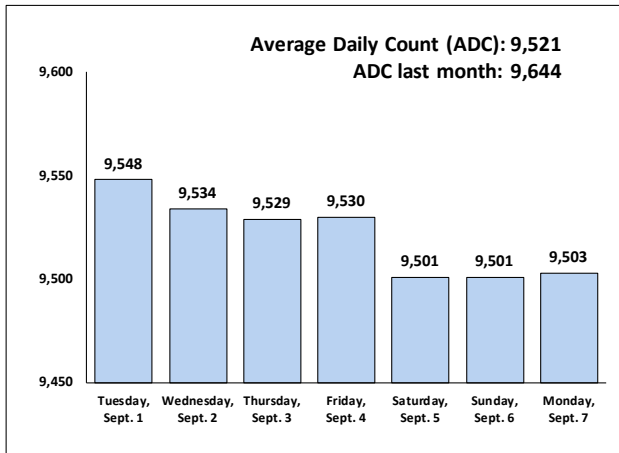


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

August 2019 through August 2020

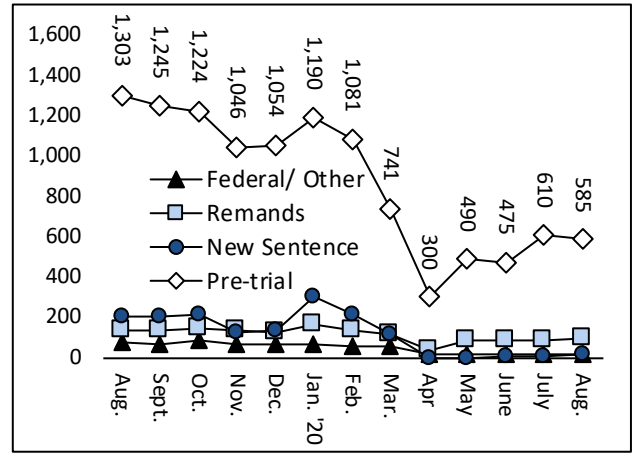


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

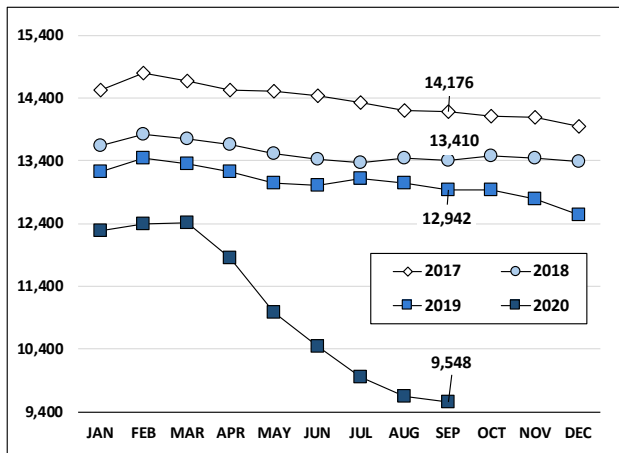


Chart 7– Remands from community release

August 2020

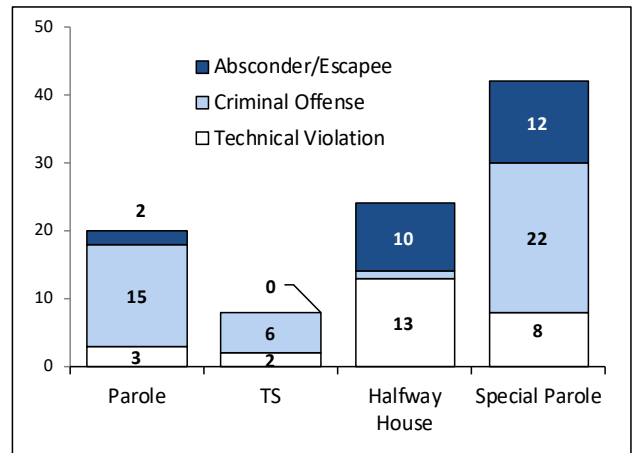


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2019 and 2020

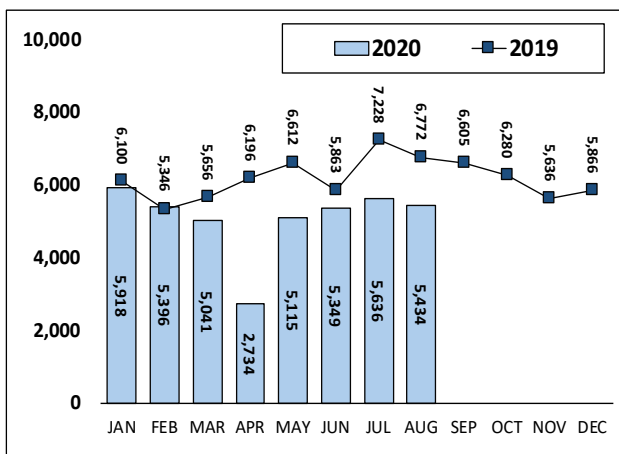
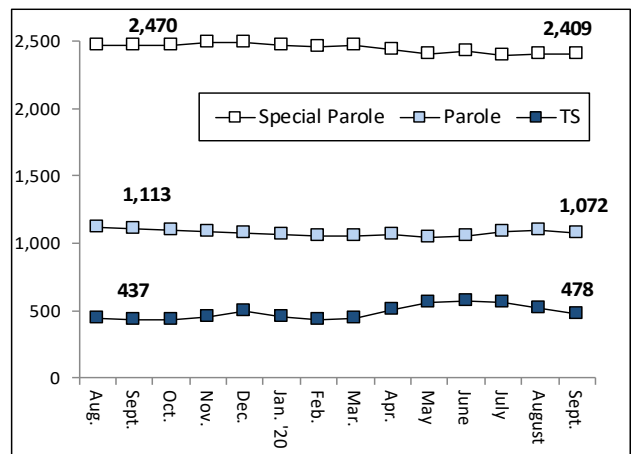


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

August 1, 2019 through Sept. 1, 2020



Note: Data for all charts, except for Chart 5, was supplied by CT DOC. Data for Chart 5 are for new case starts in the state Criminal Motor Vehicle System (CRMVS). Chart 8 includes offenders in halfway houses.