

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- 15,322 people were incarcerated in Connecticut on June 1, 2016. Two years ago, there were 16,528 inmates in state prisons and jails, a drop of over 1,200 prisoners.
- Between February 1st and June 1st, the prison population decreased by 538 prisoners. The prison population does rarely declines this quickly during this time of the year. In fact, last time the prison count dropped so quickly was in early 2012 when the population dropped by 544 in the months following the implementation of Risk Reduction Earned Credits (RREC).
- The Board of Pardons and Paroles appears to be making solid progress increasing the number of monthly parole hearings. The Board also approved the first offenders for transfer parole in almost three years. During May, three offenders were released to transfer parole. Before that, the last prisoner released to transfer parole was in August 2013.
- Last month, 116 offenders were released to parole. This represents a 35% increase over last May when only 86 offenders were paroled (see table 3).
- The Community Release Unit reviewed 104 fewer cases in May than it did in April. In addition, 85 fewer offenders were approved for release. It is unclear whether the impact of layoffs at DOC impeded the preparation of offender re-entry and release packages.
- Statewide monthly arrests during May were on par with monthly arrests last year (see chart 5). Statewide arraignments were also almost flat this May (2,933) compared to last May (2,903).

Prison Population Forecast

The prison population during the first week of June was 288 prisoners under what OPM had projected in February. This is positive news. Compared to just a year ago, the prison population is down 5.2%.

Among sentenced prisoners the decline is 6.2%. As a corollary to these figures, TS caseloads are up 26.2% and parole caseloads have risen 27.1% compared to last year.

It appears that adjusting and streamlining the processes that govern prisoner re-entry at the DOC are paying big dividends. As inefficiencies are reduced fewer offenders languish in prison beyond their voted-to-parole dates or their release-eligibility dates. Expanded caseloads in community programs are the proof.

Last month, this paper observed that layoffs at the DOC could negatively impact the volume of prisoner releases as fewer staff are available to produce and review re-entry packages which are a critical component in the release process. In fact, during May the CRU unit reviewed 104, or 11.2%, fewer packages than they did in April. Because of a system lag, readers should refrain from viewing the drop in the prison population over the last three months as a predictor of future trends. If fewer re-entry packages are produced at the facility level, fewer cases will be review, approved and forwarded for release. If this occurs, the large declines we have witnessed in the sentenced prison population may slow considerably.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2016 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '16	15,556	-	-
FEB	15,852	15,860	8
MAR	15,664	15,659	-5
APR	15,517	15,604	87
MAY	15,418	15,579	161
JUN	15,279	15,567	288
JUL	-	15,588	-
AUG	-	15,605	-
SEP	-	15,613	-
OCT	-	15,644	-
NOV	-	15,639	-
DEC	-	15,480	-
JAN '17	-	15,227	-
FEB	-	15,451	-

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

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts
January 1, 2015 through February 1, 2017

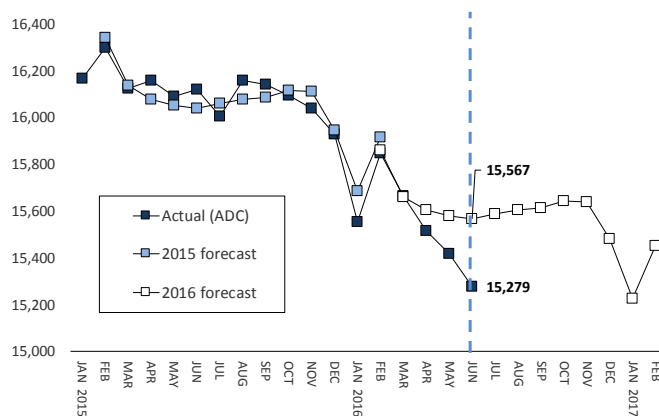
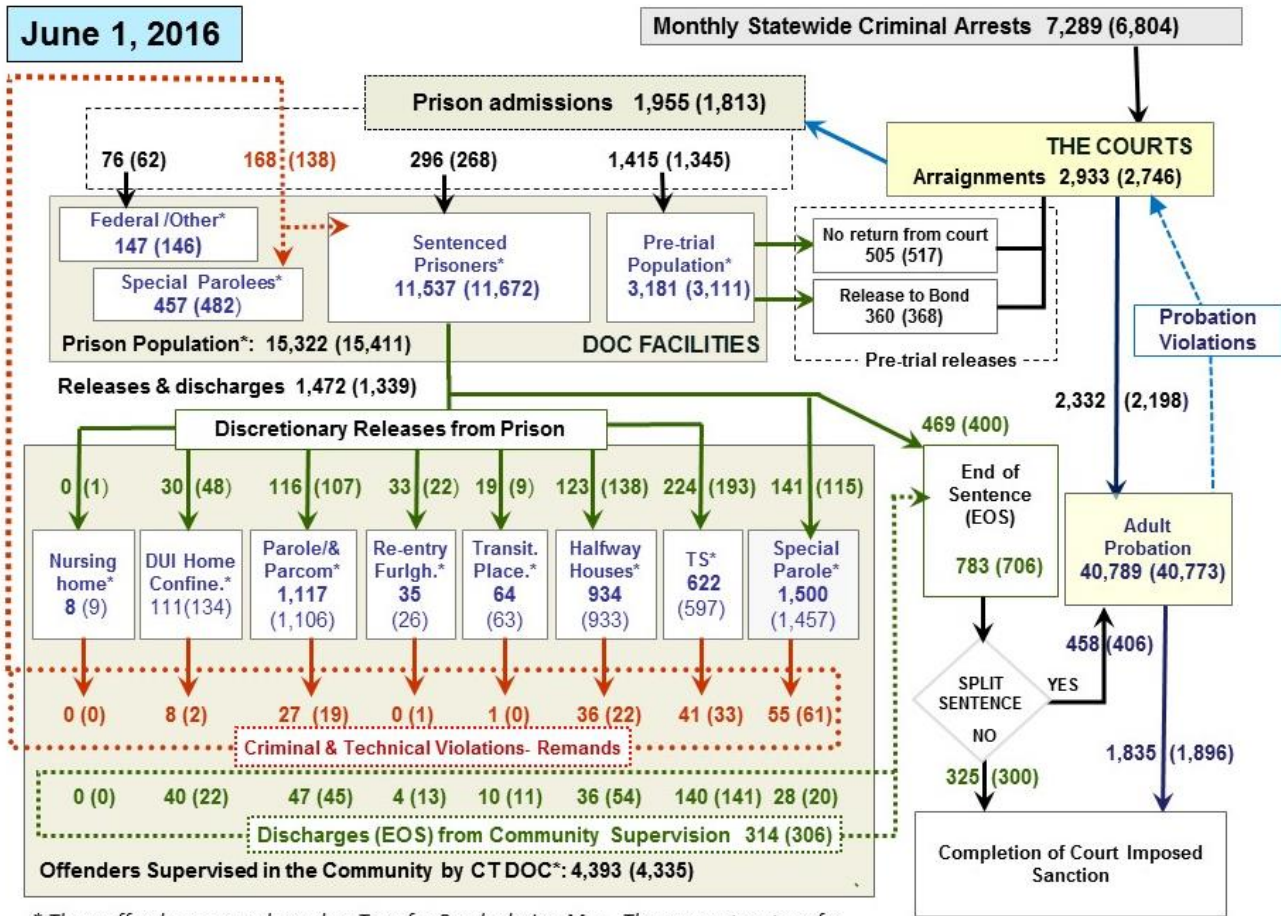


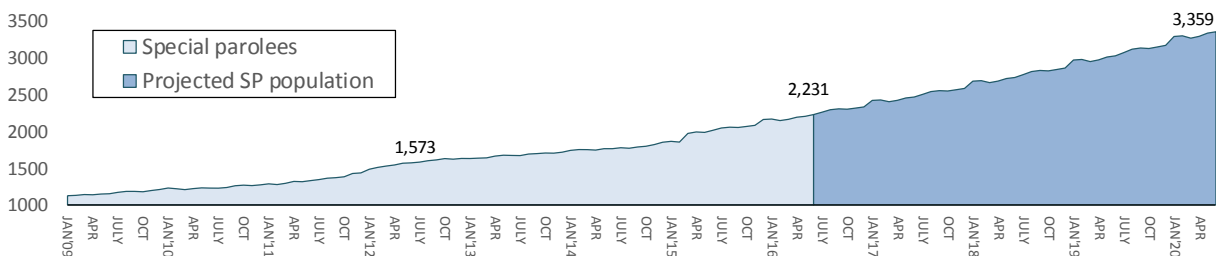
Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows



* Three offenders were released on Transfer Parole during May. There were two transfer parolees on the count on June 1, 2016

Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for May 2016 and daily counts reported on June 1, 2016. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on June 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Projected growth in the Special Parole population



In November 2014, this paper reported on a disquieting expansion in the size of the state's special parole population. At that time, the state had 1,822 special parolees. Today there are over 2,200* and the data suggests that the number of offenders sentenced to special parole is accelerating.

Since last June, the state's special parole population - both in the community and on remand - is up 10.4%. Were this rate-of-increase to continue unchecked, OPM estimates there will be 3,359 special parolees in CT by June 1, 2020.

Records for the 11,500 offenders currently serving a prison sentence in a DOC facility indicate that 2,628,

or 23%, will serve a term of special parole when they leave prison. If we add the increasing use of special parole as an option in sentencing and the high remand rate for technical violations among special parolees (see Monthly Indications Report, October 2015), it might be reasonable to wonder whether OPM's estimate for June 2020 is too conservative.

This issue will not resolve itself on its own. The relevant parties should consider; reviewing the state's expectations of special parole, seek to identify the types of offenders that are most appropriate for special parole supervision, and to review current sentencing guidelines and practices.

*in the community, in halfway houses and on prison remand.

Table 2 – The first-of-month totals

	2016			2015	% Change	
	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1	June 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	157	146	147	146	0.7%	0.7%
Sentenced	11,755	11,672	11,537	12,301	-1.2%	-6.2%
Special Parole	493	482	457	562	-5.2%	-18.7%
Pre-trial	3,122	3,111	3,181	3,156	2.3%	0.8%
Total	15,527	15,411	15,322	16,165	-0.6%	-5.2%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	0	0	2	0	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,107	1,106	1,117	906	1.0%	23.3%
Parole	925	937	934	735	-0.3%	27.1%
Parcom @ CT	182	179	183	171	2.2%	7.0%
Furlough	34	26	35	26	-	-
Trans Placement	73	63	64	71	1.6%	-9.9%
DUI/Home confine.	111	134	111	106	-17.2%	4.7%
Halfway House Total	917	933	934	983	0.1%	-5.0%
Comm Release	449	462	442	633	-4.3%	-30.2%
TS	44	44	47	38	6.8%	23.7%
Parole	150	159	170	106	6.9%	60.4%
Transfer Parole	0	0	1	0	-	-
Special Parole	274	268	274	206	2.2%	33.0%
TS	597	597	622	493	4.2%	26.2%
Nursing home	8	9	8	8	-	-
Special Parole	1,428	1,457	1,500	1,249	3.0%	20.1%
Total	4,275	4,325	4,393	3,842	1.6%	14.3%

Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges*

	2016			2015	% Change	
	Mar.	April	May	May	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	82	62	76	88	22.6%	-13.6%
Remands	161	138	168	162	21.7%	3.7%
DUI	3	2	8	5	-	-
Parole	26	19	27	28	42.1%	-3.6%
Trans Plac/Furlough	1	1	1	3	-	-
HWH	31	22	36	31	63.6%	16.1%
TS	44	33	41	44	24.2%	-6.8%
Special Parole	56	61	55	51	-9.8%	7.8%
New Sentence	300	268	296	281	10.4%	5.3%
VOP	105	87	101	91	16.1%	11.0%
Pre-trial	1403	1345	1415	1397	5.2%	1.3%
Total	1,946	1,813	1,955	1,928	7.8%	1.4%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	0	0	3	0	-	-
Parole	125	107	116	86	8.4%	34.9%
Furlough	29	22	33	17	50.0%	94.1%
Trans. Placement	23	9	19	12	111.1%	58.3%
Home Confinement DUI	60	48	30	31	-37.5%	-3.2%
HWH	151	138	123	134	-10.9%	-8.2%
TS	203	193	224	131	16.1%	71.0%
Special Parole	104	115	141	90	22.6%	56.7%
Nursing home	0	1	0	2	-	-
End of Sentence	786	706	783	735	10.9%	6.5%
Total	1,481	1,339	1,472	1,238	9.9%	18.9%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	595	517	505	530	-2.3%	-4.7%
Release to Bond	362	368	360	352	-2.2%	2.3%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit

Table 3a – Review and release metrics

	Cases				Approval Rate
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	
Mar.	1,023	530	131	163	52%
Apr.	925	488	135	113	53%
May'16	821	403	107	118	49%
May'15	840	438	209	119	52%

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases

	Paroles granted, 2016		Grant rate	Paroles granted, 2015	
	Parole Hearings	2016		2015	2014
Mar.	167	93	56%	67	78
Apr.	176	101	57%	67	73
May	164	95	58%	83	73

Table 4a – Other Board actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases
	Mar.	48	7	23
Apr.	59	7	21	41
May	51	6	13	38

The pre-trial population

Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Apr. 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016	June 1, 2015
Less than \$20K	503	543	592	566
\$20K to <\$50K	509	547	534	510
\$50K to <\$100K	637	611	624	664
\$100K or higher	1,537	1,519	1,501	1,410
Offenders w/bonds	3,186	3,220	3,251	3,150
Over \$1M	161	155	159	185

Table 5a – Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	April 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016	June 1, 2015
< 1 week	382	513	407	464
1 to < 3 weeks	343	375	374	351
3 to < 10 weeks	903	778	841	773
10 to < 30 weeks	911	862	919	809
30 wks or more	718	694	712	754
Pre-trial prisoners	3,257	3,222	3,253	3,151

Table 5b – Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	May 2016
Arrestments	2,636	3,001	2,746	2,933
Pre-trial Admits	1,270	1,403	1,345	1,415
New to DOC	342	362	337	377
% New	27%	26%	25%	27%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Releases last year
Mar.	1,403	1,678	856	868
Apr.	1,345	1,553	755	827
May	1,415	1,616	774	832

Table 6a – Pre-Trial & split-sentence starts

	Pre-trial Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
	Mar.	2,477	2,391
Apr.	2,216	2,198	406
May	2,396	2,332	458

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

Chart 3 – Prison population

First week of the month, and ADC

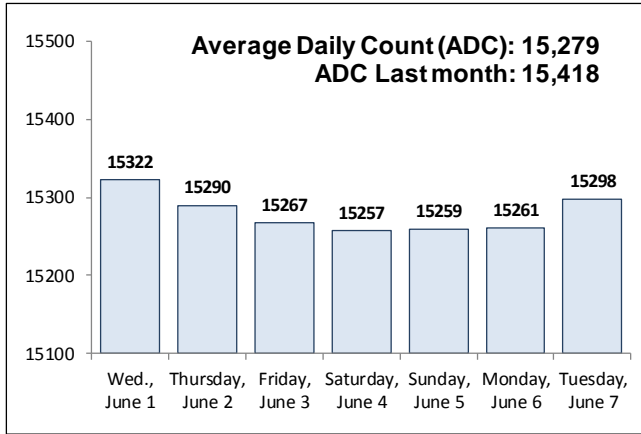


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

April 2015 through May 2016

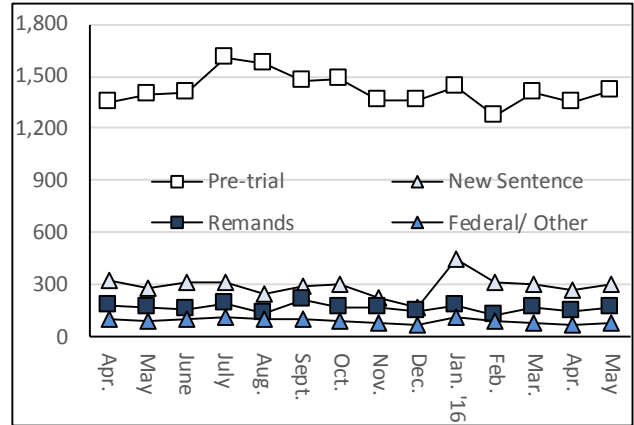


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2014, 2015 and 2016

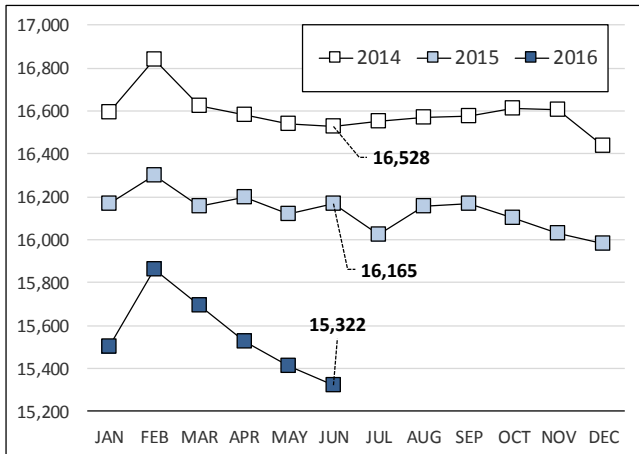


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

May 2016

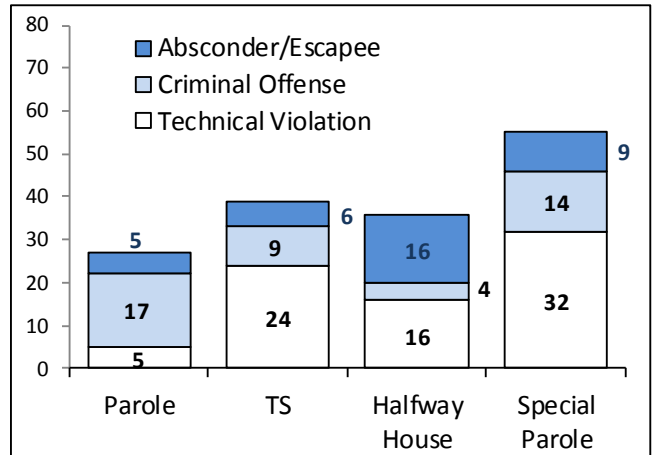


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2015 and 2016

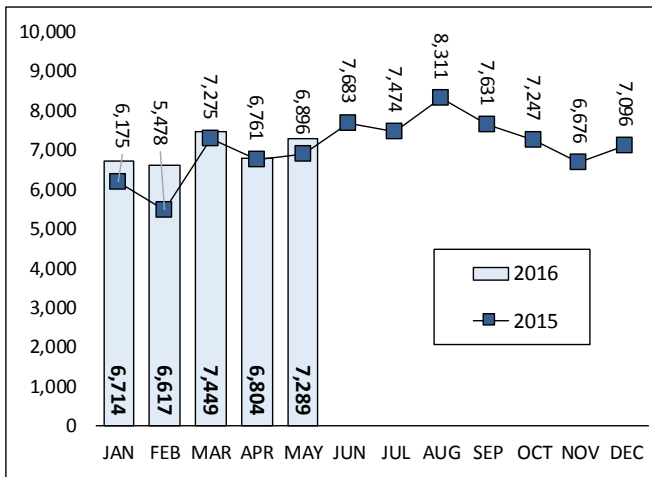
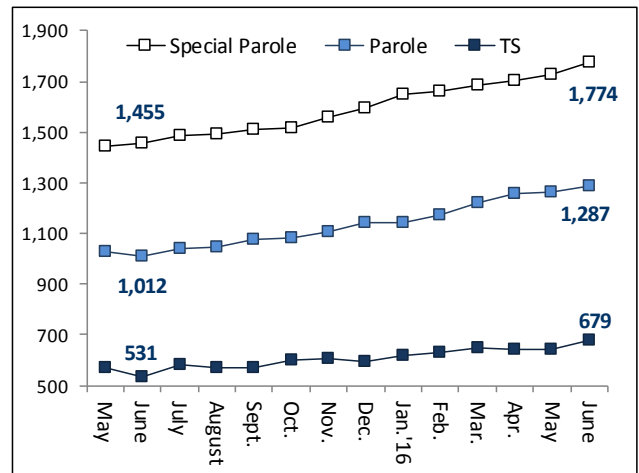


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

May 1, 2015 through June 1, 2016



Note: Data for all charts, with the exception of Chart 5, was supplied by CT DOC. Data for Chart 5 are for new case starts in the state Offender-Based Tracking System (OBTS). Chart 8 includes offenders in halfway houses.