

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- The state's prison population hovered above the 15,000-prisoner mark for most of October. On November 1st, 15,068 people were incarcerated in the state. At the start of October there were 15,010 prisoners in state correctional facilities.
- In recent months, this paper has speculated about the impact of staffing cuts at the Jail Re-interview Program (JRI) on the pre-trial prison population. Since April, the pre-trial population has increased by almost 5%. The number of pre-trial offenders held for less than 8 weeks, during the same period, has gone up by 12%, suggesting that lower-risk offenders – the type generally targeted by JRI – are being held longer prior to disposition. According to CSSD data, 52% fewer offenders were released as a result of JRI intervention this October compared to last October.
- As a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) offenders in halfway houses now Medicare eligible. Offenders on community release who require significant medical assistance can now have their needs met in the community. In the past, sick offenders were returned to prison.
- The number of special parolees continues to grow. According to Parole and Community Supervision data, the Hartford Parole office manages 23% of the state's special parolees. The Waterbury office supervises 14%. Bridgeport manages 12% and New Haven manages 10%. According to this data, 18% of special parolees in the state are managed by the specialized Sex Offender Management Unit (SMU).

Prison Population Forecast

The gap separating OPM's February projection and the actual prison count widened again last month. Although forecast accuracy is important, in the near term OPM is less concerned with accuracy than it is with its ability to understand and explain why the prison population is not tracking as anticipated.

CT's prison population is influenced by a range of internal and external factors. A glance at Chart 2, on the following page, may illustrate the complexity of the system and the myriad pathways available to offenders as they move in, through and out of prison. While many of factors may produce only a small impact, in alignment, minor factors can exert significant and measurable changes on the entire prison system.

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	15,290	15,588	298
AUG	15,153	15,605	452
SEP	15,012	15,613	601
OCT	15,045	15,644	599
NOV	15,002	15,639	637
DEC	-	15,480	-
JAN '17	-	15,227	-
FEB	-	15,451	-

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

Eighteen months ago, the DOC centralized decision-making over most discretionary prison releases. As a consequence, the sentenced-prison population dropped steadily for almost a solid year and the number of offenders on community DOC supervision expanded. Add in years of declining crime rates, drops in arrests and prison admissions, dramatic reductions in the number of young people entering prison because of raise-the-age legislation, and these recent prison population drops appear completely reasonable. During the last three months prison population levels have stalled and OPM is attempting to understand the cause. Given the time of the year, however, it seems certain that we could witness a prison count below 14,700 by January 1, 2017.

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

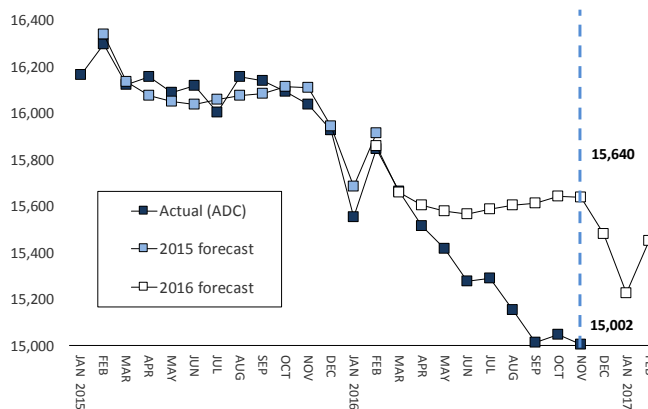


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

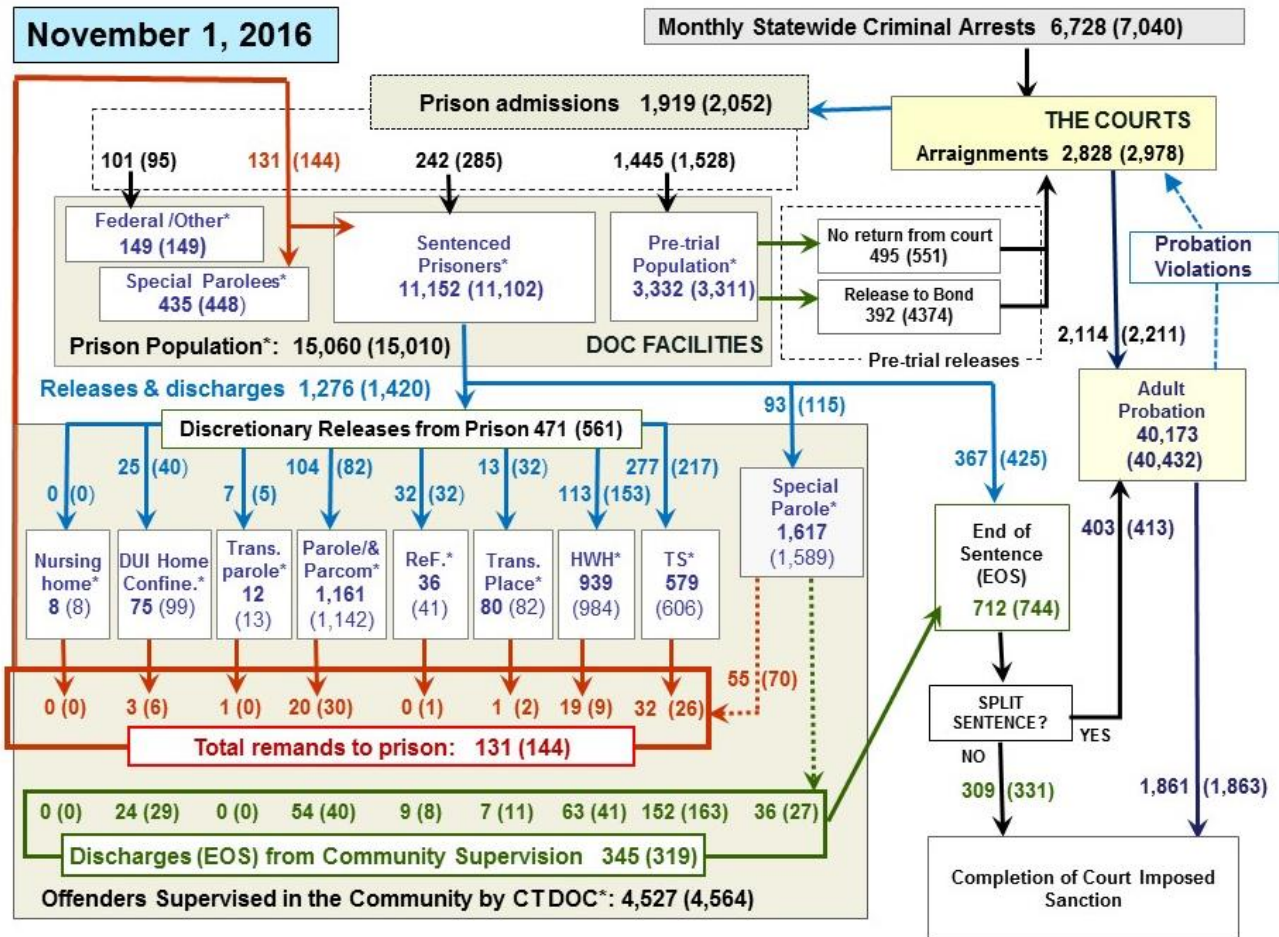
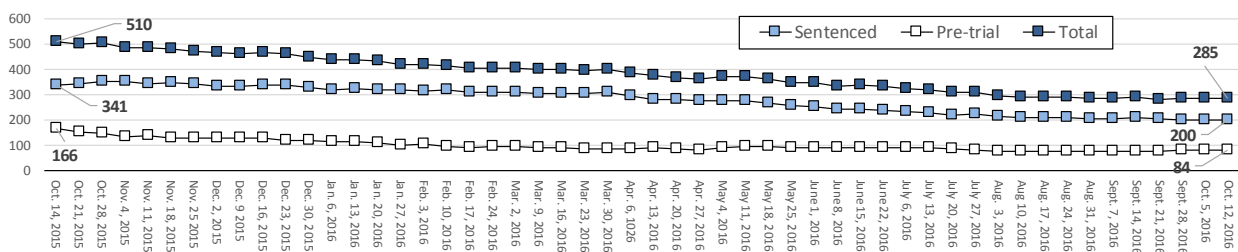


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for October 2016 and daily counts reported on November 1, 2016. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on November 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests - OBTS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – In prison on 21a-279 class offenses, controlling offenses



Governor Malloy's Second Chance Society legislation in 2015 included a change in the long-standing penalty for Possession of Narcotics, CGS Sec. 21a-279. Under the former law, simple possession was an unclassified felony with a maximum prison sentence of 7 years. Possession of narcotics within 1,500 feet of a school or daycare center carried a minimum mandatory 2-year period of incarceration.

Effective October 1, 2015 the penalty for simple possession became a misdemeanor with a maximum jail sentence of one year. The minimum mandatory prison sentence for possession within 1,500 feet of a school or daycare center was eliminated.

These changes did not affect the penalties for Sale of Narcotics or Possession with Intent to Sell. The stated purpose of the change was to reduce the number of persons incarcerated for relatively minor drug possession and to refocus criminal justice resources on high-risk, dangerous and violent offenders.

In the first year since the law took effect, the number of pre-trial prisoners with a controlling offense of Possession of Narcotics has dropped 49.4 % and the number of sentenced possession offenders has dropped by 41.3%, for a total reduction of 44.1%. As of November 15, 2016, the total number of persons held in prison on these charges was down to 266.

Table 2 – The first-of-month totals

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	Sept. 1	Oct. 1	Nov. 1	Nov. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	155	149	149	153	0.0%	-2.6%
Sentenced	11,182	11,102	11,152	11,998	0.5%	-7.1%
Special Parole	449	448	435	528	-2.9%	-17.6%
Pre-trial	3,237	3,311	3,332	3,349	0.6%	-0.5%
Total	15,023	15,010	15,068	16,028	0.4%	-6.0%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	8	13	12	0	-	-
Parole/ Parcom Total	1,140	1,142	1,161	956	1.7%	21.4%
Parole	961	962	988	778	2.7%	27.0%
Parcom @ CT	179	180	183	178	1.7%	2.8%
Furlough	25	41	36	27	-12.2%	33.3%
Trans Placement	68	82	80	44	-2.4%	81.8%
DUI/Home confine.	99	99	95	99	-4.0%	-4.0%
Halfway House Total	952	984	939	1,017	-4.6%	-7.7%
Comm Release	461	491	474	584	-3.5%	-18.8%
TS	62	61	57	54	-6.6%	5.6%
Parole	180	171	158	148	-7.6%	6.8%
Transfer Parole	3	3	2	0	-	-
Special Parole	246	258	248	229	-3.9%	8.3%
TS	574	606	579	552	-4.5%	4.9%
Nursing home	8	8	8	7	-	-
Special Parole	1,584	1,589	1,617	1,327	1.8%	21.9%
Total	4,458	4,564	4,527	4,029	-0.8%	12.4%

Table 3 – Admissions, releases & discharges*

	2016	2016	2016	2015	% Change	
	August	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	92	95	101	88	6.3%	14.8%
Remands	163	144	131	165	-9.0%	-20.6%
DUI	4	6	3	5	-	-
Parole	30	30	20	34	-33.3%	-41.2%
Trans Plac/Furlough	1	3	1	2	-	-
HWH	23	9	19	23	111.1%	-17.4%
TS	38	26	32	51	23.1%	-37.3%
Special Parole	67	70	55	50	-21.4%	10.0%
New Sentence	252	285	242	298	-15.1%	-18.8%
VOP	74	93	78	106	-16.1%	-26.4%
Pre-trial	1541	1528	1445	1488	-5.4%	-2.9%
Total	2,048	2,052	1,919	2,039	-6.5%	-5.9%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	3	5	7	0	-	-
Parole	118	82	104	131	26.8%	-20.6%
Furlough	24	32	32	24	0.0%	33.3%
Trans. Placement	18	32	13	11	-59.4%	18.2%
Home Confinement DUI	47	40	25	37	-37.5%	-32.4%
HWH	153	153	113	148	-26.1%	-23.6%
TS	219	217	177	201	-18.4%	-11.9%
Special Parole	121	115	93	110	-19.1%	-15.5%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	756	744	712	746	-4.3%	-4.6%
Total	1,459	1,420	1,276	1,408	-10.1%	-9.4%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	576	551	495	561	-10.2%	-11.8%
Release to Bond	451	374	392	417	4.8%	-6.0%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit

Table 3a – Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval Rate
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	
Aug.	928	456	146	137	49%
Sept.	864	438	139	118	51%
Oct. '16	801	341	127	153	43%
Oct. '15	867	394	148	143	45%

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 – Parole hearings, new cases

	Paroles			Paroles granted, 2015	
	Parole Hearings	granted, 2016	Grant rate	2015	2014
August	130	69	53%	123	141
Sept.	154	97	63%	109	151
Oct.	171	67	39%	93	110

Table 4a – Other Board actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Aug.	42	6	22	31	19
Sept.	45	2	28	37	14
Oct. '16	40	5	14	47	7
Oct. '15	53	6	32	36	0

The pre-trial population

Table 5 – Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Sept. 1, 2016	Oct. 1, 2016	Nov. 1, 2016	Nov. 1, 2015
Less than \$20K	603	649	634	546
\$20K to < \$50K	589	571	528	606
\$50K to < \$100K	701	699	718	723
\$100K or higher	1,477	1,513	1,474	1,524
Persons w/bonds	3,370	3,432	3,354	3,399
Over \$1M	150	149	144	178

Table 5a – Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Sept. 1, 2016	Oct. 1, 2016	Nov. 1, 2016	Nov. 1, 2015
< 1 week	441	468	395	495
1 to < 3 weeks	364	457	443	372
3 to < 10 weeks	875	836	854	920
10 to < 30 weeks	927	914	905	942
30 wks or more	773	760	757	677
Pre-trial prisoners	3,380	3,435	3,354	3,406

Table 5b – Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	June 2016	July 2016	Aug. 2016	Sept. 2016	Oct. 2016
Arraignments	2,921	2,760	3,213	2,978	2,828
Pre-trial Admits	1,469	1,367	1,541	1,528	1,445
New to DOC	415	375	426	412	401
% New	28%	27%	28%	27%	28%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 – The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Releases last year
August	1,541	805	541	887
Sept.	1,528	862	441	911
Oct.	1,445	726	428	896

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

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts
Aug.	2,408	2,220	524
Sept.	2,143	2,211	413
Oct. '16	2,310	2,114	403
Oct. '15	2,523	2,358	413

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, avg. daily count (ADC)

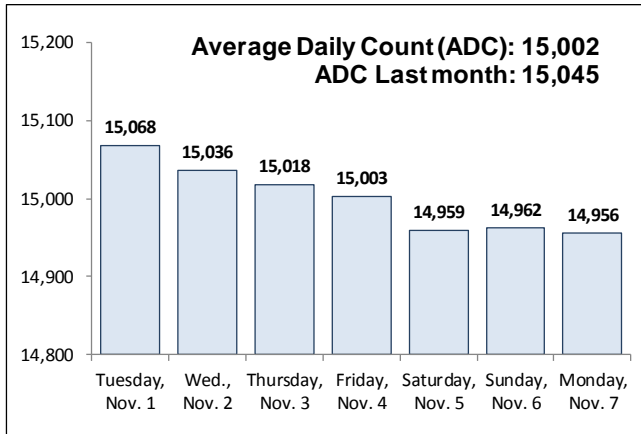


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

September 2015 through October 2016

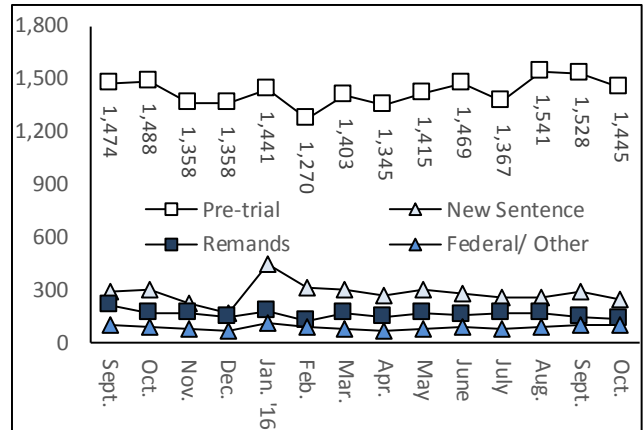


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2014, 2015 and 2016

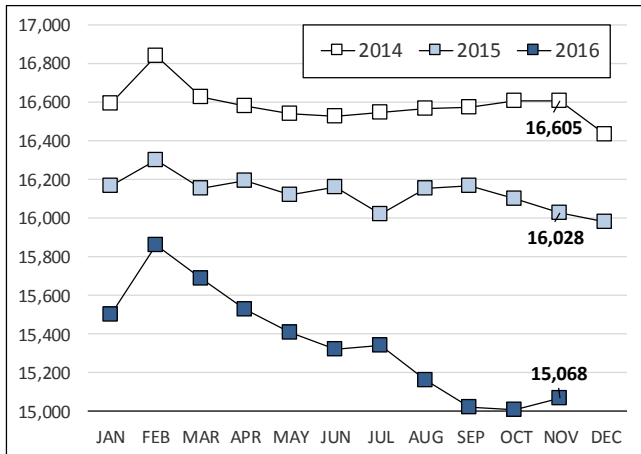


Chart 7– Remands from community release

October 2016

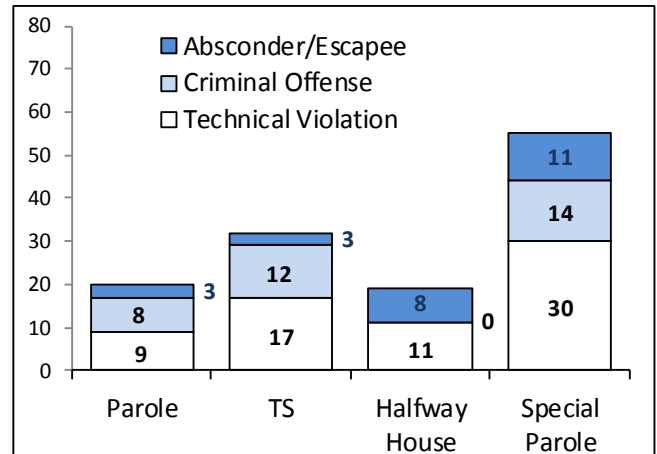


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2015 and 2016

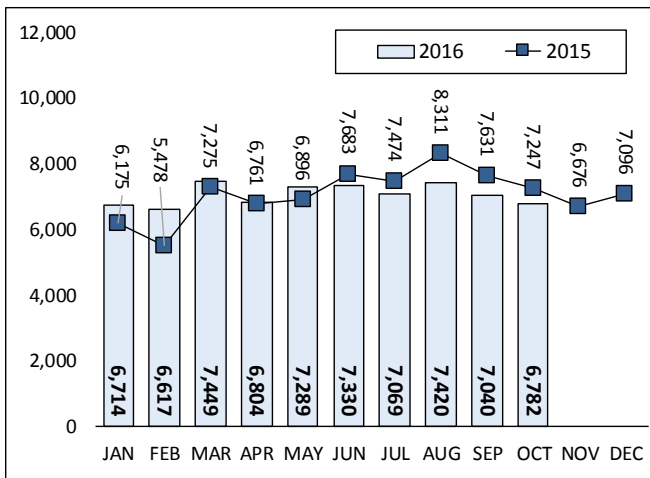
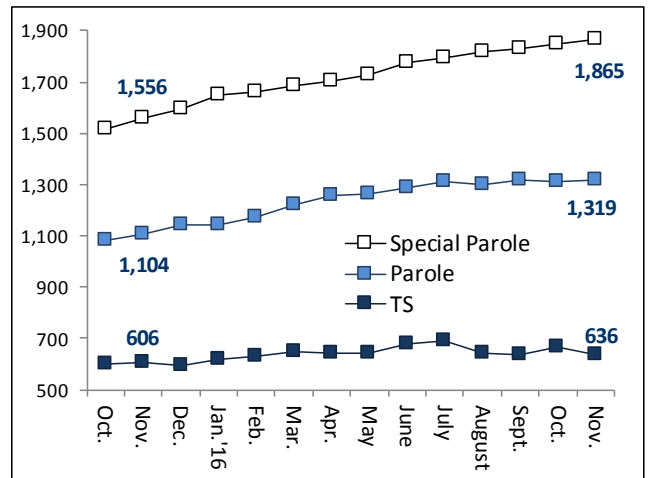


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

October 1, 2015 through November 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.