

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On October 1st Connecticut's prisons and jails held 9,381 people, 167 fewer than the first of September and 3,030 less than March 1, 2020.
- The use of transfer parole continues to grow. On October 1st there were 220 people supervised on transfer parole (including those in halfway houses). A seldom used option, prior to late 2019, transfer parole typically accounted for fewer than 1% of the DOC community population. Growing three-fold in last year (see chart 2 on page 3) transfer parole now accounts for roughly 5% of the DOC's community population
- Several metrics tracked in the pages of this report indicate, directly and indirectly, that the criminal justice system's front-end processes are gradually increasing in volume. On page 2, chart 2 shows that newly admitted sentenced offenders rose from 15 last month to 37 in September. Although 37 is far fewer than what one would expect, the trend is one of steady growth from 0 in April. One result of more sentences being meted out, more people become eligible for a discretionary release. This is evident in the number of case reviews conducted by the CRU seen on page 3 in table 3. The number of cases ebbed to 310 in July but has crept up over the past two months to 367 in September.
- Chart 2a highlights that Connecticut's violent crime rate has had the largest reduction of any state in the country since 2009. Using the FBI's uniform crime report published in September, we see that Connecticut's violent crime rate fell by 39% compared to 2009.

Prison Population Forecast

The prison population shows signs of stabilizing. After months of historic drops, the last two months have been less volatile. The count fell by 164 in September after falling by 123 in August. Over the first two months of the pandemic, the prison population decreased by more than 1,700 inmates when admissions fell to all time lows and the number of releases increased. Over the past several months admissions have gradually risen to more closely balance out releases, causing the prison population to fall less steeply.

In the early months of the pandemic, admissions events to CT jails and prisons fell to historic lows, bottoming out in April at 355. Admission events have gradually rebounded, reaching 714 in August and 834 in September, but remain well below historic levels. Going back to January 2005, the fewest admission events in a month occurred in November 2019 when there were 1,377.

As we enter the time of year when the prison population usually begins a descent to the annual low point in early January, it is worth watching to

see if a different pattern emerges in 2020. As front end processes show evidence that they are gradually increasing in volume, will there be enough movement in the outflows to balance them?

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	9,357	12,046	2,689
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

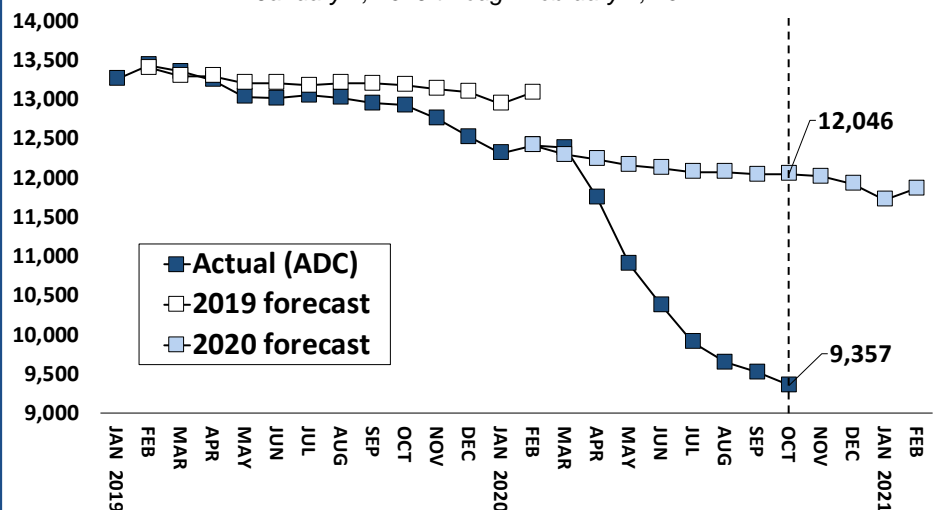


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

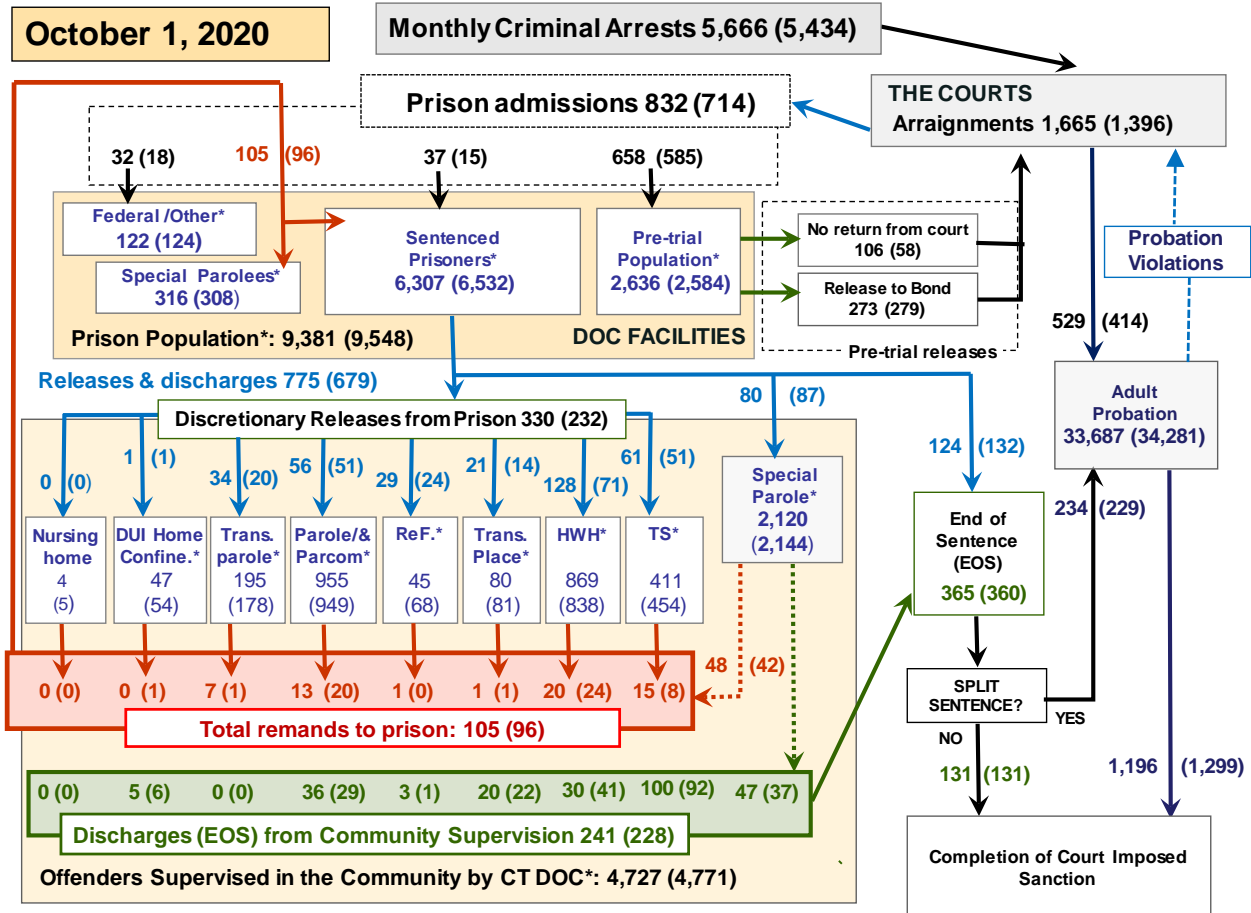
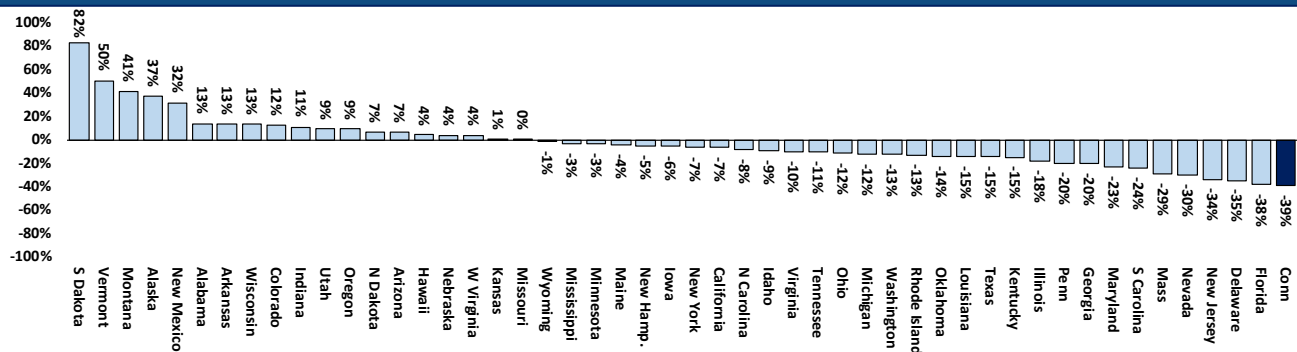


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for September 2020 and daily counts reported on October 1, 2020. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on October 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Violent crime rates, state by state comparison



Several cities in Connecticut are currently experiencing an increase in violent crime. To provide some context, we are sharing an analysis of the, recently released, 2019 FBI violent crime statistics. The chart above shows that Connecticut's violent crime rate fell by 39% between 2009 and 2019. Due to consistent, year over year drops, CT's violent crime rate has fallen more than any other state in the country.

Falling seven out of the past ten years, Connecticut's violent crime rate has gone from the twentieth lowest among all states in 2009 to the third lowest in 2019. Over the last two years the violent crime rate has fallen by

nearly 20% from 228 violent crimes reported per 100,000 residents to 184.

Each month we report the number of statewide arrests as the initial step in the criminal justice system. The diagram at the top of this page depicts the arrest as the first stage in the criminal justice process. The system is constructed to respond, not to arrests, but to crime. The amount and severity of crime drives the overall size and scope of the system. The reductions in violent crime have manifested in the continued and sustained reductions in the prison population since peaking in 2008.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2020	2020	2020	2019	% Change	
	Aug. 1	Sept. 1	Oct. 1	Oct. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	127	124	122	152	-1.6%	-19.7%
Sentenced	6,660	6,532	6,307	9,257	-3.4%	-31.9%
Special Parole	308	308	316	366	2.6%	-13.7%
Pre-trial	2,553	2,584	2,636	3,161	2.0%	-16.6%
Total	9,648	9,548	9,381	12,936	-1.7%	-27.5%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	169	178	195	44	9.6%	343.2%
Parole/ Parcom Total	962	949	955	957	0.6%	-0.2%
Parole	789	781	780	800	-0.1%	-2.5%
Parcom @ CT	173	168	175	157	4.2%	11.5%
Furlough	91	68	45	14	-33.8%	221.4%
Trans Placement	91	81	80	45	-1.2%	77.8%
DUI/Home confine.	67	54	47	75	-13.0%	-37.3%
Halfway House Total	872	838	869	1,072	3.7%	-18.9%
Comm Release	428	400	444	520	11.0%	-14.6%
TS	21	24	23	26	-4.2%	-11.5%
Parole	131	123	116	143	-5.7%	-18.9%
Transfer Parole	28	26	25	10	-3.8%	150.0%
Special Parole	264	265	261	373	-1.5%	-30.0%
TS	501	454	411	403	-9.5%	2.0%
Nursing home	4	5	4	5	-20.0%	-20.0%
Special Parole	2,142	2,144	2,120	2,092	-1.1%	1.3%
Total	4,889	4,771	4,727	4,707	-0.9%	0.4%

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2020	2020	2020	2019	% Change	
	July	August	Sept.	Sept.	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	17	18	32	63	77.8%	-49.2%
Remands	90	96	105	138	9.4%	-23.9%
DUI	1	2	7	8	-	-
Parole	15	20	13	24	-35.0%	-45.8%
Trans Plac/Furlough	0	1	2	1	-	-
HWH	16	24	20	21	-16.7%	-4.8%
TS	11	8	15	25	87.5%	-40.0%
Special Parole	43	42	48	59	14.3%	-18.6%
New Sentence	7	15	37	204	146.7%	-81.9%
VOP	0	2	5	54	-	-
Pre-trial	610	585	658	1,245	12.5%	-47.1%
Total	724	714	832	1,650	16.5%	-49.6%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	24	20	34	11	70.0%	209.1%
Parole	66	51	56	58	9.8%	-3.4%
Furlough	45	24	29	10	20.8%	190.0%
Trans. Placement	21	14	21	9	50.0%	133.3%
Home Confinement DUI	4	1	1	14	0.0%	-92.9%
HWH	97	71	128	130	80.3%	-1.5%
TS	67	51	61	140	19.6%	-56.4%
Special Parole	83	87	80	104	-8.0%	-23.1%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	414	360	365	582	1.4%	-37.3%
Total	821	679	775	1,058	14.1%	-26.7%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	71	58	106	446	82.8%	-76.2%
Release to Bond	356	279	273	361	-2.2%	-24.4%

* 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
July	310	153	57	30	48%
Aug.	327	148	58	39	45%
Sept.	361	149	56	45	41%
Sept. '19	617	270	109	99	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
July	131	79	60%	62	77
Aug.	95	68	72%	68	73
Sept.	150	102	68%	66	82

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
July	10	0	22	14	34
Aug.	18	1	14	9	34
Sept.	21	0	13	21	50
Sept. 2019	51	1	11	21	17

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Aug. 1, 2020	Sept. 1, 2020	Oct. 1, 2020	Oct. 1, 2019
Less than \$20K	279	312	328	515
\$20K to < \$50K	325	321	346	455
\$50K to <\$100K	433	441	423	526
\$100K or higher	1,644	1,687	1,711	1,731
Persons w/bonds	2,693	2,765	2,808	3,227
Over \$1M	250	258	265	202

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Aug. 1, 2020	Sept. 1, 2020	Oct. 1, 2020	Oct. 1, 2019
< 1 week	165	201	210	360
1 to < 3 weeks	157	153	167	311
3 to < 10 weeks	318	391	443	754
10 to < 30 weeks	763	676	610	879
30 wks or more	1,290	1,344	1,383	928
Pre-trial prisoners	2,693	2,765	2,813	3,232

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	July 2020	Aug. 2020	Sept. 2020	Sept. 2019
Arraignments	1,321	1,396	1,665	2,872
Pre-trial Admits	610	585	658	1,245
New to DOC	141	137	174	308
% New	23%	23%	26%	25%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
July	610	136	184	324
Aug.	585	537	139	363
Sept.	658	651	156	288

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
July	2,050*	403	243	12,665*
Aug.	2,050*	414	229	12,665*
Sept.	2,050*	529	234	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)

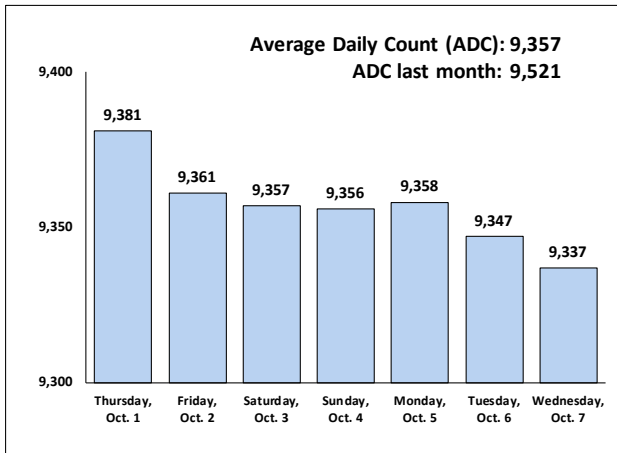


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

September 2019 through September 2020

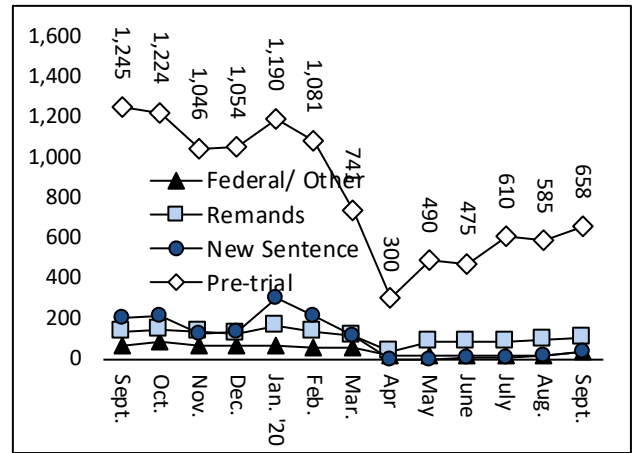


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

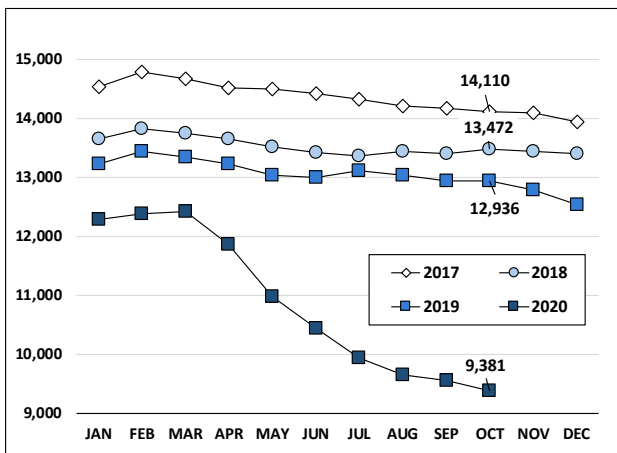


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

September 2020

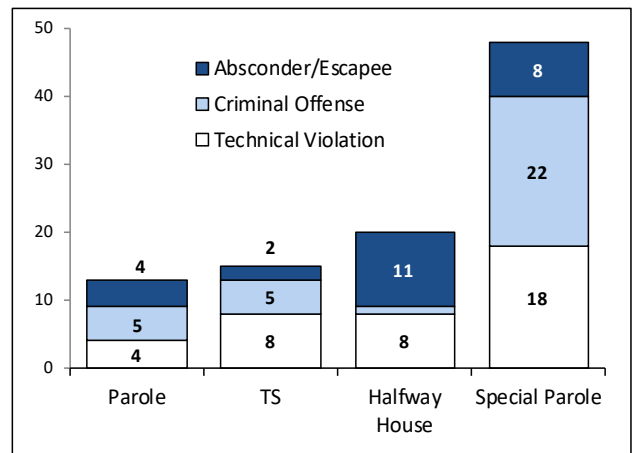


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2019 and 2020

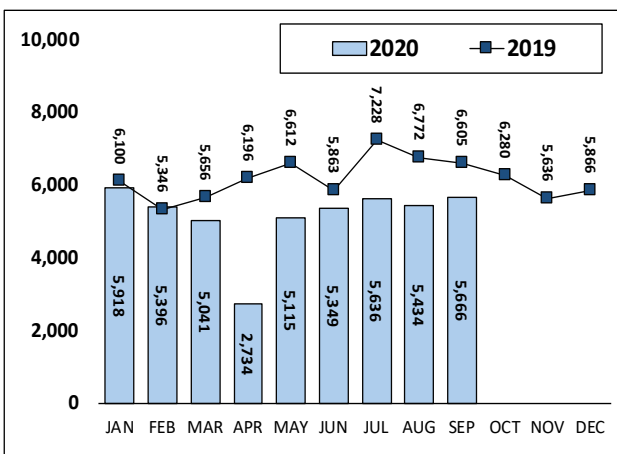
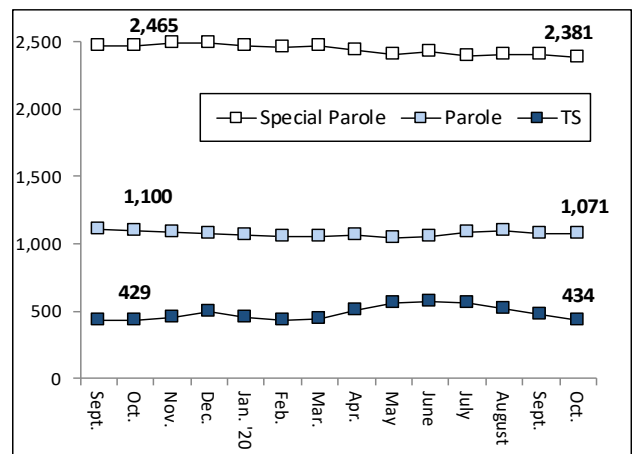


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

Sept. 1, 2019 through Oct. 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.