

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- Connecticut’s correction population remained stable over the last month, with a difference of only 18 people between people between April 1, 2021 (8,966) and May 1, 2021 (8,948). Taking a longer view, however, this is 19% lower than the population in May 2020.
- The DOC community supervision count fell below four thousand individuals (3,997) this month, the lowest level since October 2015. A time when the correction population housed nearly twice the current population (16,099 people). The Transitional Supervision and DUI home confinement experienced the largest reduction, while the parole population, whose population tends to have longer supervision periods, has remained stable through the pandemic.
- The adult probation population dipped below 30,000 people (see Chart 2). The May 1, 2021 population was 29,927 people, 20% lower than one year ago (37,306) and lower than any time on record. Fewer people starting new probation terms over the course of the last year likely contributed to the reduction.
 - First, fewer people received probation placements at the time of sentencing, especially in the early months of the pandemic. New probation starts fell by more than two-thirds in the summer of 2020.
 - Second, the number of people starting probation terms following incarceration (i.e. a “split sentence”) reached an all-time low, of 180, in April 2021. This is almost half the number of people one year ago.

Prison Population Forecast

At three months following its release, the Prison Population Forecast continues to show prognostic merit, just shy of the actual count by two people (see Table 1). If the forecast’s accurate forecasting continues, we anticipate a gradual decrease in the population until autumn, when a minor uptick is predicted. Even so, the trajectory forecast is relatively flat compared to typical seasonal variations (see Chart 1).

As cautioned in the prior report, declaring a return to normalcy is ill-advised until trends stretching over several months, or longer, is identified. The criminal justice system likely will see several false starts before truly reverting to pre-pandemic volumes and operations. March 2021—which had momentary spikes in lock-up arraignments, DOC admissions, discretionary releases, end-of sentence discharges, and probation case starts—illustrates this transitory phenomenon. Despite March’s increases in these metrics, the changes were not sustained: each either decreased or stabilized the following month.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily OPM 2021	Inmate
	Count	Forecast difference
JAN '21	9,106	-
FEB	9,044	9,044
MAR	9,048	9,020
APR	8,931	8,999
MAY	8,955	8,957
JUN		8,914
JUL		8,890
AUG		8,869
SEP		8,827
OCT		8,890
NOV		8,908
DEC		8,924
JAN '22		8,864
FEB		8,986

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

As such, despite widespread availability of vaccinations and increased activity across the state, additional months of data are needed to make any comprehensive statements about returns to normalcy.

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts

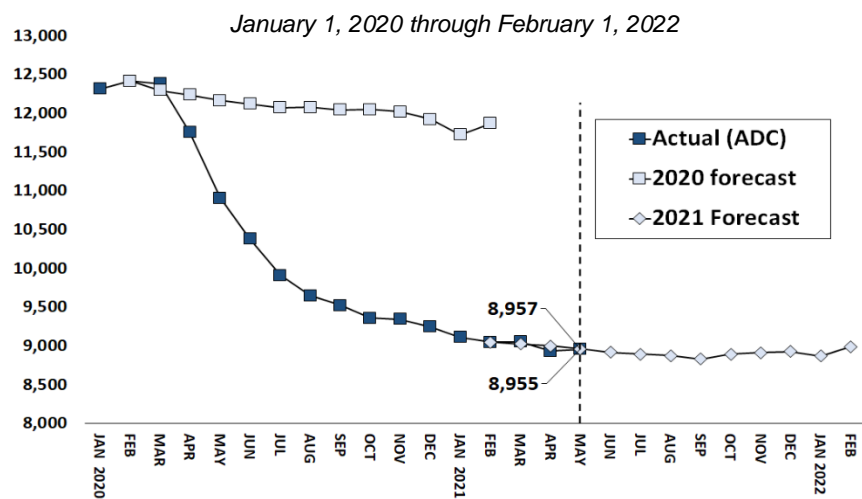


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

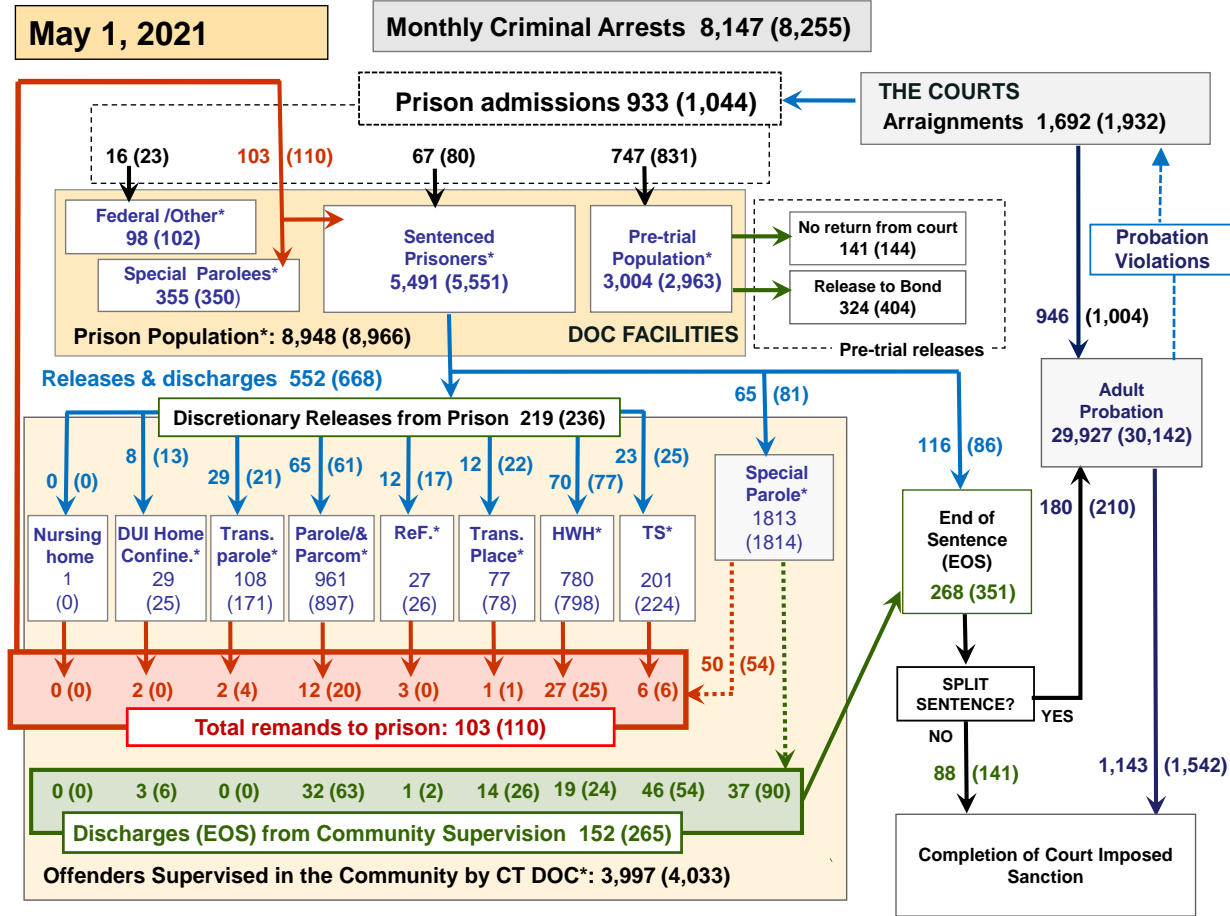
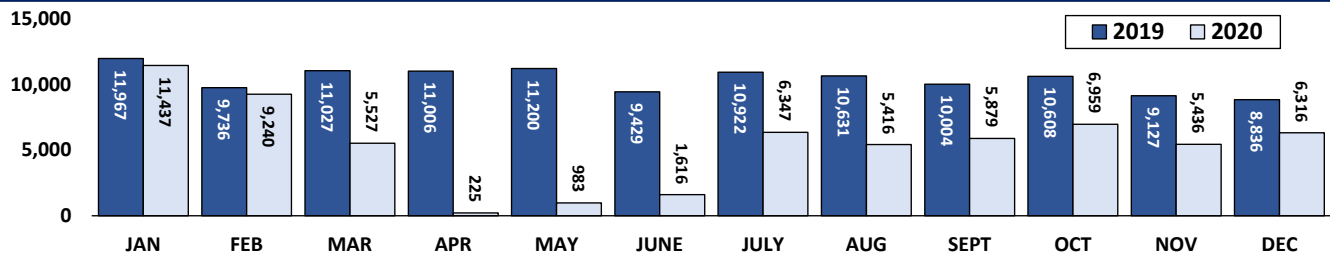


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for April 2021 and daily counts reported on May 1, 2021. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on May 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, via CJIS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Criminal dispositions - 2019 versus 2020



Over the past year, this space has highlighted the disruption endured and the adaptations made by the criminal justice system. One would be hard-pressed to find a more dramatic example than the volume of cases disposed in Connecticut's criminal courts. The chart above, depicts the number of monthly case dispositions in 2019 and 2020. In the first two months of 2020, dispositions were down 5% from 2019, a gradual decrease. Emergency orders were issued at the exact midpoint of March 2020, causing dispositions to halve. April's numbers dropped 99% compared to the year prior. Adaptations ensued: Prosecutors and defense counsel amended procedures to dispose of cases collaboratively. Cases were heard remotely. By July dispositions reached nearly 60% of the prior year's level. Through innovation, collaboration and hard work, dispositions reached 70% of 2019's levels by year's end.

Reaching disposition is a critical step in the life of a criminal case. Cases originate, naturally, with an arrest and, with rare exceptions, automatically initiate a court case, which means that without a disposition, cases languish. Without swift action to creatively move cases forward, a massive bottleneck would have developed.

The chart above is part of a relatively new deliverable OPM is tasked with: an analysis of case-level decision-making in the criminal courts. Work is well underway for our second annual presentation to the Criminal Justice Commission, scheduled for July 2021. We plan to delve much deeper into the cases disposed in 2020, examining the similarities and differences exhibited as cases were processed in Connecticut's courts.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2021	2021	2021	2020	% Change	
	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	May 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	118	102	98	111	-3.9%	-11.7%
Sentenced	5,668	5,551	5,491	7,961	-1.1%	-31.0%
Special Parole	344	350	355	319	1.4%	11.3%
Pre-trial	2,920	2,963	3,004	2,583	1.4%	16.3%
Total	9,050	8,966	8,948	10,974	-0.2%	-18.5%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	174	171	108	119	-36.8%	-9.2%
Parole/ Parcom Total	918	897	961	937	7.1%	2.6%
Parole	739	717	779	778	8.6%	0.1%
Parcom @ CT	179	180	182	159	1.1%	14.5%
Furlough	25	26	27	114	3.8%	-76.3%
Trans Placement	82	78	77	93	-1.3%	-17.2%
DUI/Home confine.	20	25	29	141	16.0%	-79.4%
Halfway House Total	801	798	780	732	-2.3%	6.6%
Comm Release	381	372	375	330	0.8%	13.6%
TS	8	11	5	13	-54.5%	-61.5%
Parole	126	125	128	105	2.4%	21.9%
Transfer Parole	22	20	19	9	-5.0%	111.1%
Special Parole	264	270	253	275	-6.3%	-8.0%
TS	258	224	201	550	-10.3%	-63.5%
Nursing home	0	0	1	5	-	-80.0%
Special Parole	1,877	1,814	1,813	2,134	-0.1%	-15.0%
Total	4,155	4,033	3,997	4,825	-0.9%	-17.2%

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2021	2021	2021	2020	% Change	
	FEB	MAR	APR	APR	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	16	23	16	14	-30.4%	14.3%
Remands	93	110	103	41	-6.4%	151.2%
DUI	3	0	2	0	-	-
Transfer Parole	1	4	2	0	-50.0%	-
Parole	15	20	12	19	-40.0%	-36.8%
Trans Plac/Furlough	4	1	4	1	-	-
HWH	12	25	27	9	8.0%	200.0%
TS	8	6	6	5	0.0%	20.0%
Special Parole	50	54	50	16	-7.4%	212.5%
New Sentence	55	80	67	0	-16.3%	-
VOP	17	21	15	0	-	-
Pre-trial	647	831	747	300	-10.1%	149.0%
Total	811	1,044	933	355	-10.6%	162.8%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	15	21	29	54	38.1%	-46.3%
Parole	54	61	65	64	6.6%	1.6%
Furlough	13	17	12	119	-29.4%	-89.9%
Trans. Placement	19	22	12	53	-45.5%	-77.4%
Home Confinement DUI	3	13	8	46	-38.5%	-82.6%
HWH	63	77	70	39	-9.1%	79.5%
TS	33	25	23	170	-8.0%	-86.5%
Special Parole	83	81	65	93	-19.8%	-30.1%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	288	351	268	465	-23.6%	-42.4%
Total	571	668	552	1,103	-17.4%	-50.0%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	98	144	141	38	-2.1%	271.1%
Release to Bond	247	404	324	294	-19.8%	10.2%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval Rate
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	
FEB	212	93	35	27	44%
MAR	351	161	65	45	46%
APR 21	230	105	32	30	46%
APR 20	522	307	68	52	59%

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	Granted: Prior Year	Granted: Two Years Prior
FEB	89	51	57%	53	83
MAR	91	58	64%	70	71
APR	103	74	72%	77	67

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
FEB	20	0	11	11	22
MAR	20	0	27	10	25
APR 2021	10	2	14	10	27
APR 2020	48	1	18	17	100

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Mar. 1, 2021	Apr. 1, 2021	May 1, 2021	May 1, 2020
Less than \$20K	397	383	377	262
\$20K to <\$50K	378	388	366	343
\$50K to <\$100K	476	474	504	482
\$100K or higher	1,887	1,927	1,998	1,648
Persons w/bonds	3,138	3,172	3,245	2,740
Over \$1M	317	329	336	235

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Mar. 1, 2021	Apr. 1, 2021	May 1, 2021	May 1, 2020
< 1 week	264	225	248	115
1 to < 3 weeks	194	198	192	76
3 to < 10 weeks	455	519	569	460
10 to < 30 weeks	849	821	802	970
30 wks or more	1,379	1,413	1,439	1,119
Pre-trial prisoners	3,141	3,176	3,250	2,740

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	FEB 2020	MAR 2021	APR 2021	APR 2020
Arraignments	1,347	1,932	1,692	671
Pre-trial Admits	647	831	747	300
New to DOC	154	203	172	72
% New	24%	24%	23%	24%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Reinterview Program

	Pretrial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
FEB	647	524	138	268
MAR	831	688	225	238
APR	747	648	166	247

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pretrial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pretrial bail cases
FEB	2,050*	676	183	12,665*
MAR	2,050*	1,004	210	12,665*
APR	2,050*	946	180	12,665*
APR '20	2,050*	1,927	341	12,665*

* CSSD estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population

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

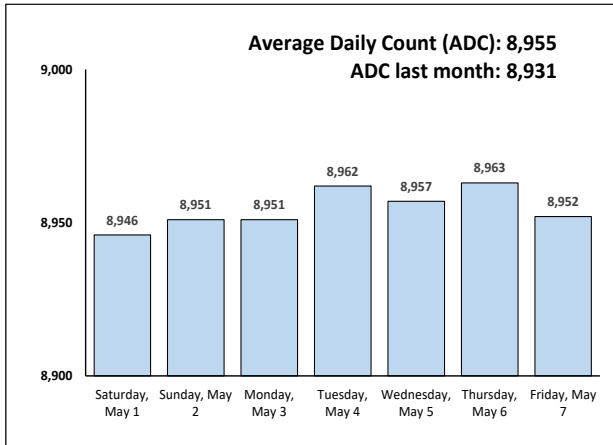


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

April 2020 through April 2021

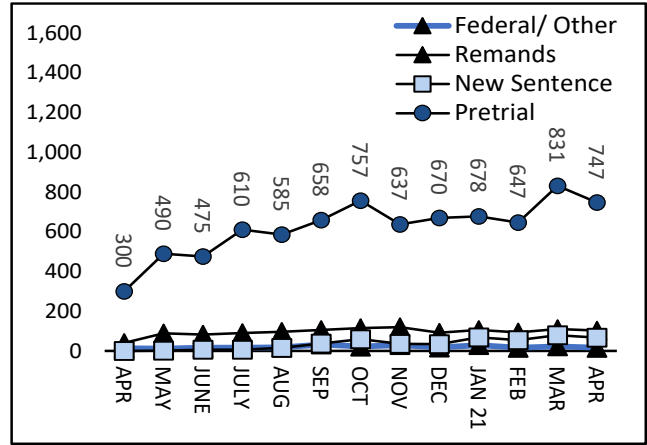


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

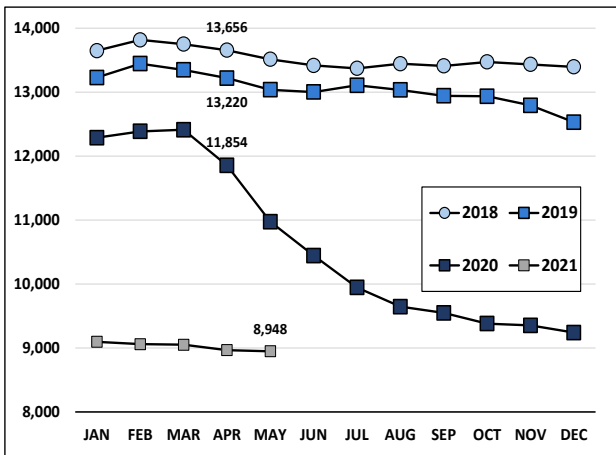


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

April 2021

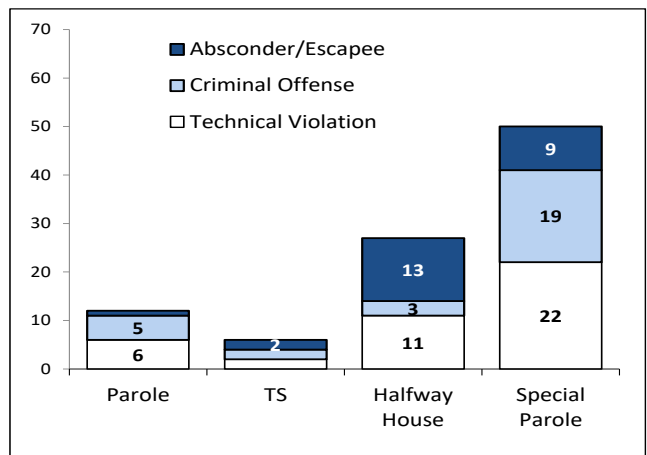


Chart 5 – Statewide Arrests

2020 and 2021

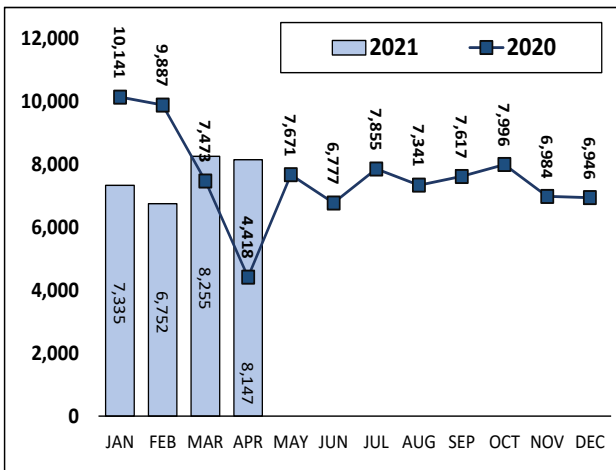
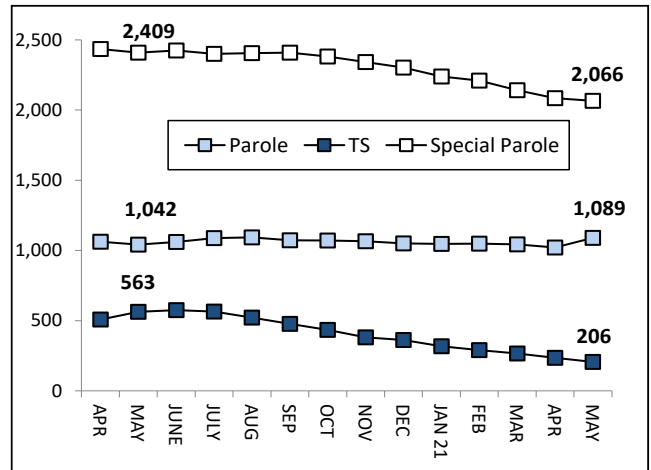


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

Apr. 1, 2020 through May. 1, 2021



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.