CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY & PLANNING DIVISION:

REVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH

MARCH 31, 2022

2022 Correctional Population Projection
2022 Recidivism Analysis: 2018 Release Cohort

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Office of Policy and Management
Today’s report includes two sections:

I. 2022 Recidivism Analysis: 2018 release cohort

II. 2022 Correctional Population Projection
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II. 2022 Correctional Population Projection
Revisiting the 2021 Correctional Population Projection

- Here we first review the year-end performance of OPM CJPPD’s 2021 projection.
  - Assessing the performance of prior forecasts a key step in OPM CJPPD’s annual projection process.

- We also review long term correction trends and the COVID-19 pandemic’s impacts on the population.
Most years, the variances from OPM’s forecasted population to the actual population range within 5% at the February end-of-reporting cycle.

Only twice has the correction count varied from OPM’s projections by more than 5% at the end of the reporting cycle: 2021 and this year, 2022.
As of February 1, the correction facility population stood at 9,719, 8% higher than OPM’s 2021 Annual Forecast estimate.

- As shown, the divergence of the correction facility population from our forecast began in June 2021.
- Growth of the pretrial population held in DOC facilities drove the 2021 rise in the correction population.
  - The accused population increased 31% since February 2021.
  - The sentenced population shrank by 3% over this same period.
The pandemic’s onset drastically shifted correction population trends between March 2020 and February 2021.

In developing our 2021 Annual Forecast, we had to anticipate how the correctional population might eventually return to the historic trend in years ahead.
Comparing OPM’s 2021 Annual Forecast approach against actual population changes

- OPM developed the 2021 Annual Forecast by opting for estimates between the slow and moderate return to trend lines.

- In actuality, the population changes between March 2021 and February 2022 exceeded our fast return trajectory.
Grappling with uncertainty to develop the 2022 Annual Forecast

The historic trends underpinning OPM forecasts tell three distinct, different stories:

- A steady decline (February 2008 to February 2020)
- A steep drop before leveling out (March 2020 to February 2021)
- Modest growth (March 2021 to February 2022)
OPM’s approach to developing the 2022 Annual Forecast

1. Hold preliminary discussions with DOC staff to inform our expectations for 2022 and 2023

2. Build upon insights from 2021 Annual Forecast development and performance

3. Employ multiple forecast methodologies

4. Assess range of forecast estimates

5. Develop composite forecast interpreting results across forecast methods
For 2022’s forecast, OPM CJPPD utilized 20 different forecasts representing a variety of methods, including:

- Benchmark methods
- OPM’s input-output methodology
- ARIMA
- ETS

Included a mix of forecasts utilizing pre-COVID trends only and forecasts built with post-pandemic data.
The 2022 Annual Forecast of the Correction Population
THANK YOU

For more information, please visit

HTTPS://PORTAL.CT.GOV/OPM/CJ-ABOUT/HOMEPAGE/CJPPD

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