

2021 BYRNE JAG STATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Connecticut's Proposal Narrative



Submitted by:
State of Connecticut
Office of Policy & Management
Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

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I. Introduction

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions. The Byrne JAG Program provides states, tribes, and local governments with critical funding necessary to support a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution, indigent defense, courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement, and crime victim and witness initiatives and mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams.

The State of Connecticut has a centralized and unified criminal justice system. Connecticut is divided into 169 municipalities with no county government. There also is no overlap of functions such as might arise with county government or a multi-tier court system. The Judicial Branch operates a single tier, unified court system with an intermediate appellate court and a supreme court. Except for local police services in the larger communities, all criminal justice functions are provided by state agencies (Connecticut also doesn't have a sheriff function.)

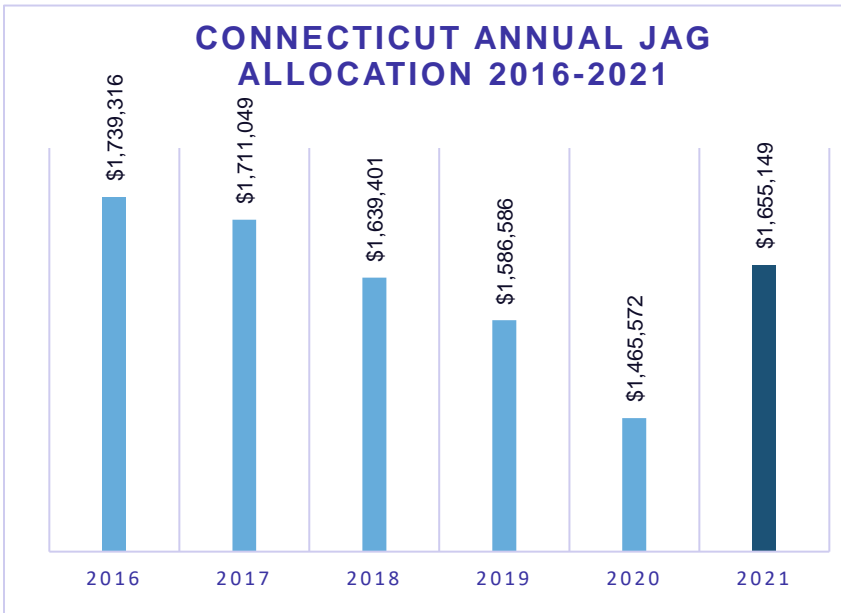
All the criminal justice formula grant programs emanating from the U. S. Department of Justice, except the Victims of Crime Act, are administered by the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM CJPPD). The Office of Policy and Management, the state administrative agency (SAA) for the Byrne JAG grant, is well positioned to coordinate the Byrne JAG Grant activities with other federal and state initiatives given that it is the state's budget and planning agency.

In addition to serving as the SAA for the Byrne JAG grant, OPM CJPPD is statutorily required to develop strategic plans to improve the outcomes and operation of the criminal justice system. OPM CJPPD collaborates with the state criminal justice agencies and local governments in assessing and analyzing existing functions and identifying opportunities for improvements in services to promote greater public safety. The OPM CJPPD Undersecretary serves as the chair of the Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC). By statute (Sec. 4. Section 18-87j), the CJPAC is directed to:

1. Develop and recommend policies for preventing prison and jail overcrowding;
2. Examine the impact of statutory provisions and current administrative policies on prison and jail overcrowding and recommend legislation to the Governor and the General Assembly;
3. Research and gather relevant statistical data and other information concerning the impact of efforts to prevent prison and jail overcrowding and make such information available to criminal justice agencies and members of the General Assembly; and
4. Advise the OPM CJPPD undersecretary on policies and procedures to promote more effective and cohesive state criminal justice and juvenile justice systems and to develop and implement the offender reentry strategy.

A. Historical use of Funds

Connecticut's allocation of its annual Byrne JAG award, of between \$1.6 and \$1.7 million dollars, is generally informed by an analysis of: the agency or entity requesting funding, the nature of the project being proposed, whether and how project performance metrics can be adequately measured, and the decision point at which the criminal justice system will be measurably impacted through increased process flow efficiencies, sustainable cost reductions, and safe, effective diversion from the criminal system.



Those allocation decisions may be further impacted by current criminal justice priorities, current or unforeseen crime events, federal mandates, issue areas and priorities emanating from the Connecticut General Assembly, or recommendations from the wide variety of criminal justice policy and planning groups that are meeting regularly to examine criminal justice issues in Connecticut. Particularly in CJ PAC, which the OPM CJPPD staffs and the undersecretary chairs.

OPM CJPPD holds a unique place in the Connecticut criminal justice system owing to its enabling legislation, enacted in 2005 (see Public Act 05-249 and codified in Sec. 4-68m through 4-68r of the Connecticut General Statutes). OPM CJPPD has been given deep and broad statutory authority and mandates to coordinate criminal justice policy, planning and data collection activities across the Executive and Judicial branches of government.

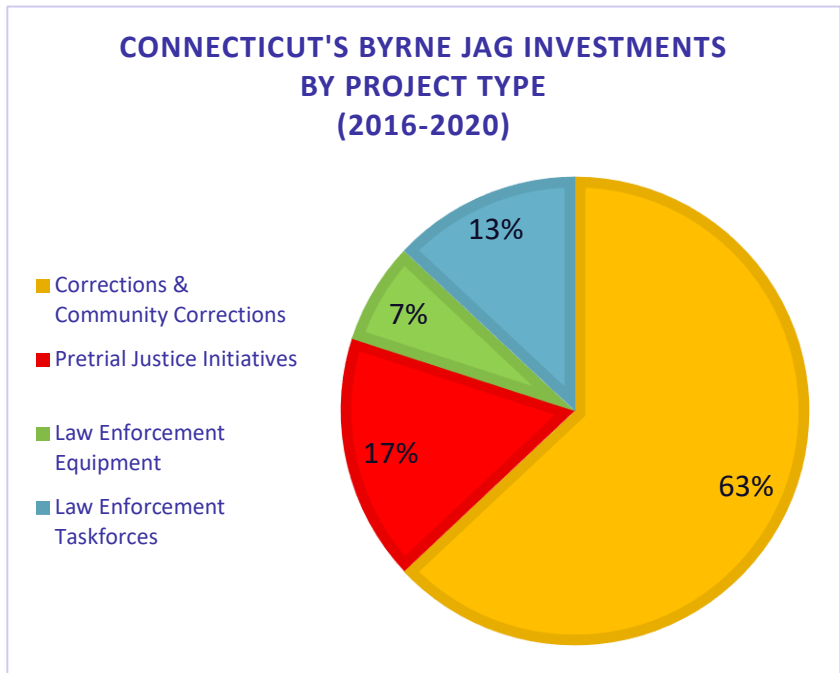
To help Connecticut remain a national leader in its data-driven criminal justice policy, statutory mandates structure OPM CJPPD's planning and program evaluation analyses consisting of producing: a monthly indicator document of system variables (which have been tracked since 2006), an annual prison population forecast report, and an annual recidivism study of Connecticut offender, among other reports. (Please see Appendix B for June's *Monthly Indicators Report*.)

B. Funding Priorities

Byrne JAG funds may be used to support the eight priority areas listed below. The first three areas listed reflect the major components of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, courts, and corrections. The remaining five reflect types of programs, practices, or initiatives that can be supported at the state or local level.

Byrne JAG Priority Areas

1. Law enforcement programs
2. Prosecution and court programs, including indigent defense
3. Corrections, community corrections and reentry programs
4. Prevention and education programs
5. Drug treatment and enforcement programs
6. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs
7. Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation)
8. Mental health programs and services



From FFY 2016-2020, the state sought to allocate 80% of funding towards *Corrections, Community Corrections & Reentry* and *Pretrial Justice Initiatives*, while the remaining 20% toward *Law Enforcement Equipment* and *Law Enforcement Taskforces*. Since 2017, due to litigation involving immigration-related conditions attached to Byrne JAG funds, the state has been unable to accept funding under this grant program and, therefore, complete projects highlighted in previous strategic plans. OPM CJPPD is working with its US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (US DOJ BJA) partners and other to prepare to accept these retroactive awards, however. Table 1 below highlights the purpose areas the state seeks to fund with its FFY 2021 Byrne JAG allocation.

Table 1: Connecticut Purpose Areas

Program Description	Byrne JAG Priority Area	Program Purpose
Community violence reduction strategies¹	Law enforcement programs, Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation), and Prevention and education programs	Provide state-level support and coordination to local strategies and regional partnerships to reduce community violence
Accumulated criminal court cases²	Prosecution and court programs, including indigent defense and Corrections, community corrections and reentry programs	Contribute to efforts to reduce the number of criminal cases that have accumulated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and help the criminal justice system prepare to manage anticipated increases in future cases.
Use of technology and data to improve victim services and increase public safety	Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation) and law enforcement programs	Support expanded innovation using technology and data to deliver improved and expanded services to victims and to help law enforcement investigate cases.
Improved outcomes for people with mental health needs in the criminal justice system	Mental health programs and services	Expand strategies to divert people with mental health needs and low-level charges to effective community treatment as needed.
Workforce development strategies for people with criminal records	Corrections, community corrections and reentry programs	Improve employment outcomes for people returning to the community following incarceration.

¹ Reference Appendix C Chart A for data representing Connecticut's share of firearm-related aggravated assaults.

² Reference Appendix C Chart B for state criminal case dispositions (2019 and 2020).

II. Priority Byrne JAG Policy, Planning and Program Areas

Introduction

Connecticut will use federal Byrne JAG grant funds to analyze, evaluate, and implement evidenced based programming to address one or more of the following activities relative to improving and enhancing the Connecticut criminal justice system:

1. Advise and assist the General Assembly in developing plans, programs for improving the effectiveness of the Connecticut criminal justice system;
2. Determine the long-range needs of the Connecticut criminal justice system and recommend policy priorities for the system;
3. Identify critical problems in the Connecticut criminal justice system and recommend strategies to solve those problems;
4. Determine long-range information needs of the Connecticut criminal justice system and acquire that information;
5. Analyze and assess the cost-effectiveness of the use of state and local funds in the Connecticut criminal justice system;
6. Provide for the support of victim advocacy and enhanced victim resources to provide more transparent and understandable information
7. Fund, analyze , evaluate and measure the success of community-based services and programs in reducing recidivism in the Connecticut criminal justice system;
8. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs to build and implement a comprehensive reentry strategy for Connecticut criminal justice system;
9. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs to address the opioid and heroin addiction epidemic within the Connecticut Criminal Justice system, with a focus on fentanyl detection;
10. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs in the criminal justice system to address the COVID-19-pandemic, to the extent that there are needs beyond what can be covered by the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding grant;
11. Fund, analyze , evaluate and measure services and programs to ensure community safety and prevent gun violence through the support of multi-jurisdictional Task Forces to ensure community safety and prevent gun violence through enforcement of firearms laws and reduction in trafficking of illegal firearms; support evidence-based gun violence intervention and prevention strategies;

12. Fund, analyze, evaluate and measure services and programs to address the National Incident- Based Reporting System (NIBRS) promulgated by the FBI in order to achieve compliance by the nation Year 2020 deadline.

C. Program Areas: Objectives & Analysis

Program Priority 1: Provide state-level support and coordination to local strategies and regional partnerships to reduce community violence

US DOJ Area of Emphasis: *Community Violence Intervention*

Objectives

1. Collect, analyze, and report more real-time data involving crime, arrest, and other front-end criminal justice system information;
2. Engage law enforcement, community organizations, and other stakeholders in cities and neighborhoods with heightened or rising levels of violence to identify factors contributing to the increased violence and to implement effective strategies to intervene, reduce, and prevent;
3. Coordinate Byrne JAG funds in conjunction with other available state and federal grants to support data-driven, evidence-based community violence intervention strategies;
4. Assess needs for prevention programs and services, particularly involving those serving youth, to make investments to avoid juvenile justice system involvement and victimization; and
5. Track outcomes from interventions and provide added support to successful interventions.

Program Priority 2: Contribute to efforts to reduce the number of criminal cases that have accumulated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and help the criminal justice system prepare to manage anticipated increases in future cases.

US DOJ Area of Emphasis: *Sustaining COVID-19 Criminal Justice Innovations*

Objectives:

1. Monitor data involving criminal justice system data, including arrests, arraignments, Department of Correction (DOC) pretrial admissions, and admissions to the DOC sentenced population, and engage stakeholders through the CJPAC and other boards and commissions;

2. Support and coordinate inter-branch efforts among prosecutors, public defenders, the courts, and other criminal justice system stakeholders to help resolve accumulated cases;
3. Provide resources and assistance to strategies to utilize pretrial services, supervision, diversion programs, and other options to provide tailored responses to people with pending cases; and
4. Analyze and document effective outcomes from these efforts and inform further criminal justice system improvements.

Program Priority 3: Support expanded innovation using technology and data to deliver improved and expanded services to victims and to help law enforcement investigate cases.

US DOJ Area of Emphasis: Sustaining COVID-19 Criminal Justice Innovations

Objectives:

1. Assess both gaps in and successful utilization of technology and data systems with emphasis on victim services and law enforcement since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Identify case studies in which technology helped service providers reach victims using technology during periods of sheltering in place and social distancing and maintain essential operations despite disruptions caused by the pandemic;
3. Apply similar analysis to state and local law enforcement use of technology, such as National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) machines to analyze bullet shell casings and rapid DNA analysis, to carry out investigations, especially those related to gun violence; and
4. Use needs identified during the pandemic to inform support with technology and data needs and help inform future investments.

Program Priority 4: Expand strategies to divert people with mental health needs and low-level charges to effective community treatment as needed.

Objectives

1. Contribute to the analysis of data to identify rates of people with assessed mental health needs who enter the criminal justice system with low-level charges;
2. Support efforts within judicial districts with higher relative rates of people with mental health needs with convening stakeholders around strategies to improve public health and safety outcomes; and

3. Support the implementation of strategies, including expansion of diversion programs, to connect suitable populations swiftly to effective treatment.

Program Priority 5: Improve employment outcomes for people returning to the community following incarceration.

Objectives

1. Partner with state-level efforts under the US DOJ Adult Reentry and Employment Services (ARES) grant, Connecticut Governor's Workforce Council, and other workforce-development efforts to support people returning the community seeking long-term, meaningful employment;
2. Engage stakeholders, such as employers through Industry Business Advisory Group convened in Connecticut under the ARES grant, to receive recommendations on strategies to improve employment outcomes among people with criminal records and to help highlight the advantages of hiring from this applicant pool; and
3. Assist ongoing efforts and contribute to additional areas where needed.

III. Capabilities and Competencies

A. Introduction

OPM CJPPD is responsible for planning interagency programs and coordinating policy development initiatives to improve Connecticut's criminal justice system and enhance community safety. It plans and manages the allocation of federal grant funds to support initiatives and projects that use a coordinated multi-disciplinary approach to ensure victim safety, improve offender accountability and reduce re-victimization.

OPM CJPPD has the experience required to oversee the administrative aspects of this grant. The division is the SAA for numerous federal grants, including the Violence Against Women (STOP) Grant, the Sexual Assault Services Program Grant (SASP), the Sex Offender Registry Notification Act (SORNA) grant, the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Grant, and the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Grant. Staff have knowledge and experience in collaborating with teams, designing programs, collecting data, and implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the use of federal funds. In order to create the best plan for the Byrne JAG dollars, the division will engage criminal justice system stakeholders and utilize evidence-informed approaches.

B. Criminal Justice System Stakeholder Involvement

Many criminal justice stakeholder policy and planning groups meet regularly to analyze and evaluate Connecticut's criminal justice system from unique and alternative points of view. Project proposals for the use of Byrne JAG funds can emanate from the deliberations of these statewide criminal justice policy and planning groups.

Coordination of Byrne JAG funding will engage these existing criminal justice stakeholder groups, including those involved in the CJPAC. CJPAC agencies and organizations include the DOC, the Judicial Branch, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Division of Public Defender Services, the Division of Criminal Justice, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

Connecticut's allocation of Byrne JAG will be generally dependent upon an analysis of which agency or entity may be requesting funding, what is the nature of the project being proposed, does the project have performance metrics that can be adequately measured, and how, and at what decision point, will the criminal justice system be measurably impacted.

Those allocation decisions may be further impacted by current State or Federal Administration criminal justice priorities, current or unforeseen violent crime events, Federal mandates, issue areas and priorities emanating from the Connecticut General Assembly or the wide variety of criminal justice policy and planning groups that are meeting regularly to examine criminal justice issues in Connecticut, including the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Governing Board, and the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board.

OPM CJPPD works intensively with CJPAC, which includes the state and local government agencies and non-profit community-based organizations listed below along with several others. CJPAC has met regularly, virtually every month, since 2006. CJPAC's full roster, agendas, meeting minutes, presentations, and meeting videos are available at this [web address](#).

1. Department of Correction

All jails and prisons in Connecticut are operated under authority of DOC.

2. Judicial Branch Courts

All criminal courts in Connecticut are operated under authority of the Judicial Branch.

3. Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division

CSSD oversees pretrial services, family services, divorce and domestic violence, probation supervision of adults and juveniles as well as juvenile residential centers including Juvenile Detention. CSSD also administers a network of statewide contracted community providers that deliver treatment and other support services

4. Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

DMHAS is responsible for publicly funded mental health and substance abuse services statewide. DMHAS Forensic Division (DMHAS DFS) funds services and housing for people with mental illness and/or addictions who are justice involved.

5. Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

DESPP includes the Division of State Police and serves as the local law enforcement agency for sixty-eight small local government jurisdictions.

6. Division of Public Defender Services

DPDS provides legal counsel to “indigent” accused adults and juveniles state-wide.

7. Division of Criminal Justice (Prosecutors)

All criminal matters in Connecticut are prosecuted under authority of DCJ.

8. Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Represents local government law enforcement perspective criminal justice policy and planning.

9. Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

CCADV is a non-profit organization which advocates for policy reforms to protect victims of domestic violence.

10. Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

The Alliance is a non-profit organization which advocates for policy reforms to protect victims of sexual violence.

11. Public Members

The Governor has statutory authority to appoint public members to CJPAC.

C. Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Development and Governing Board

The Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) was established to design and implement an information technology system to be used by Connecticut Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to share Criminal Justice information in a secure environment, thereby enhancing informed decision-making.

As part of the changes put forth by P.A. 08-01 (later codified as CGS 54-142s), the CJIS Governing Board was charged with designing and implementing a comprehensive, State-wide system to facilitate the sharing of information between all Criminal Justice Agencies. A plan for a new information sharing system, the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS), was established.

Now operational, the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) is a comprehensive, state-wide criminal justice information technology system that provides the ability to electronically share offender information within Connecticut’s criminal justice community. CISS will take data input from criminal justice databases and make it searchable to law

enforcement and justice officials with the proper security clearance and credentials. This information includes data capture of offender violations, as well as the retrieval of judicial, criminal offender, and DMV information. Data can be in text, audio, video, and graphical format. Connecticut's criminal justice community consists of eleven criminal justice agencies with over 23,000 staff members and utilizes fifty-two information systems to support its business needs.

A comprehensive presentation of the benefits of this system is available at this [web address](#). The development of this project has been supported by a \$60 million investment of State bond funds.

The CJIS Governing Board, created by Public Act 99-14, in 1999 was charged with the following: "design and implement a comprehensive, state-wide system to facilitate the immediate, seamless and comprehensive sharing of information between all state agencies, departments, boards and commissions having any cognizance over matters relating to law enforcement and criminal justice, and organized local police departments and law enforcement officials."

Additionally, P.A. 08-01 expanded the membership of the governing board and added provisions for an executive director and staff to fulfill the requirements of the statutory mandates. The new system was established as the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS). CISS is the technical capability to be used by agencies with criminal justice responsibilities to improve the sharing of actionable information to those agencies involved in the management of crime data and criminal offenders.

CJIS Governing Board stakeholder agencies include the following State agencies and organizations. Each of the organizations listed below is hyperlinked to their home page to provide for a more detailed evaluation and analysis of their core criminal justice functions in Connecticut State government.

A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the CJIS Governing Board is available at this [web address](#).

D. Connecticut Sentencing Commission

The Connecticut Sentencing Commission has been established by Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 54- 300.

The mission of the organization is also articulated within the enabling statute:

“ . . .the mission of the commission shall be to review the existing criminal sentencing structure in the state and any proposed changes thereto, including existing statutes, proposed criminal justice legislation and existing and proposed sentencing policies and practices and make recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly and appropriate criminal justice agencies.”

The Commission is made up of members from the Judicial Branch, Executive Branch criminal justice stakeholder agencies, police chiefs, private sector citizens and includes the Undersecretary of Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the Office of Policy and Management. The complete membership list is available at this [web address](#).

A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission is available at this [web address](#).

E. Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC)

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) was established by Section 79, of Public Act 14-217 "to evaluate policies related to the Juvenile Justice system and the expansion of juvenile jurisdiction to include persons sixteen and seventeen years of age".

The JJPOC has met regularly (every 4-6 weeks), beginning in October of 2014. In addition, the JJPOC includes 4 major working groups encompassing approximately 100 participants across all the major juvenile justice stakeholder agencies and Connecticut child advocacy organizations: 1) Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup; 2) Recidivism Reduction Work Group; 3) Incarceration Work Group and 4) Diversion Work Group. The work of the committee is facilitated by its research partner: Tow Youth Justice Institute at the University of New Haven Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences.

A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC), the membership list, agendas, meeting minutes, presentations and meeting videos are available at this [web address](#).

F. Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board

The Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act (Public Act 99-198) was first enacted in 1999 in the State of Connecticut. The law prohibits any law enforcement agency in the state from stopping, detaining, or searching motorists when the stop is motivated solely by considerations of the race, color, ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation of that individual (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 54- 1l and 54-1m).

In 2012, the Racial Profiling Prohibition Project Advisory Board was established to advise the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in adopting the law's standardized methods and guidelines. The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at Central Connecticut State University was tasked to help oversee the design, evaluation, and management of the racial profiling study mandated by Public Act No. 12-74 and Public Act No. 13-75, "An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information." The project staff worked with the state's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) to develop a system to collect consistent and universal traffic stop information and submit it to CJIS electronically on a monthly basis.

The Advisory Board is made up of members from Executive Branch criminal justice stakeholder agencies, the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, police chiefs, members of the Connecticut General Assembly and human rights and opportunities advocacy organizations - both internal and external to state government. The complete membership list is available at this [web address](#).

A more complete and comprehensive explanation of the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project, its annual reports and data repositories is available at this [web address](#)

G. Evidence-Informed Approach to Funding Decisions

OPM CJPPD contains a Research Unit – led by the director of the state Statistical Analysis Center (CT SAC). The work of the unit is generally defined by (1) regular (mandated) scheduled reports and (2) special studies and statistical analyses - generally original research - aimed at (1) identifying critical policy and planning issues through the examination of the demographics or criminogenic behaviors or risk factors of a particular cohort of the incarcerated (or paroled, etc.) inmate population or, (2) endeavoring to understand baseline business process flows of the stakeholder agencies within the Connecticut criminal justice system and the impact of those business process flows on the efficient movement of offenders into and out of the system.

The work of the CT SAC is used regularly to evaluate, or in fact discover, issues regarding process flow and/or measurable statistics which can be used to improve, enhance or evaluate suggested sub recipient grant projects.

The CT SAC's *Monthly Indicators Report*, which has been produced every month since 2006, is a critical resource to provide evidenced based decision making regarding proposed or recommended sub grant projects. Research produced by the unit has helped gain understanding of the criminal justice system's intersection with topics, including the opioid epidemic and housing, that impact recidivism, mortality, and other outcomes.³

The complete work of the CT SAC can be found (or referenced) on the home page of the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division at [this web address](#).

IV. Performance Measures and Data Collection Plan

A. Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division (Grantium GMS)

All Byrne JAG sub-recipient grant management activities are conducted through the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division GMS known as Grantium. The implementation of Grantium encompasses beginning-to-end management and administration of grant programs and sub-recipient grant projects in a secure web-enabled workflow-driven system. Key grant administration business process outcomes supported include:

- Password protected access control and user account management for applicants and sub-recipients,
- Online application submission,
- Online submission of Progress, Quarterly Financial and Performance Management reports such as Time Accountability reports and Property/Equipment Inventory lists,
- Online submission of Payment Requests,

³ Reference Appendix D Charts A and B for CT SAC analysis analyzing the intersection between criminal justice and the opioid pandemic and homelessness.

- Inclusion of all grant related correspondence, including e-mail, word processing documents, notes, portable document files, etc.,
- Automated grantee and grantor-initiated Amendments and/or Grant Adjustment Notices (GAN), and
- Automated Final financial Reconciliation and Grant Close-Out.

B. Death in Custody Reporting Act Compliance

Beginning with FFY 2019 Byrne JAG awards, recipient states will be required to report quarterly data on deaths occurring while in custody, per the Death in Custody Reporting Act (DCRA). In accordance with US DOJ BJA guidance, as DCRA reporting is a component JAG performance reporting, “the SAA is ultimately responsible for setting up their own policies and procedures to ensure that DCRA reporting is completed.” OPM CJPPD serves as the SAA for the Byrne JAG grant for the State of Connecticut. In keeping with practices established by US DOJ BJA and other states, OPM CJPPD will coordinate quarterly reporting of DCRA data to satisfy both DCRA and Byrne JAG requirements.

Overview of DCRA reporting requirements: An overview of DCRA required reporting fields can be seen at [this web address](#). DCRA requires states to report the death of any person in law enforcement custody. Specifically, state reporting must include “information regarding the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, or is in the process of being arrested, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, state-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted out by the state, any state or local contract facility, or other local or state correctional facility (including any juvenile facility).”

In accordance with the Byrne JAG performance reporting requirements, DCRA data will be reported each quarter of the FFY, with data entered into PMT within 30 days following the end of the quarter. All information about known deaths, even if incomplete, should be reported by that time frame. PMT however will allow states to “add decedents in a subsequent quarter if the reportable death was not reported in a previous quarter.”

In order to assess state capacity to respond to DCRA requirements, OPM CJPPD has met with both the DOC and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to consider current death in custody reporting capabilities. Both agencies subsequently provided OPM CJPPD with records extracted from their agency administrative systems containing custody deaths occurring within calendar year 2020. OPM CJPPD staff reviewed these reports and have determined that combined data from both of these administrative sources should be capable of generally meeting the DCRA data requirements. OPM is unable to truly assess the completeness of reported deaths occurring while in municipal police or other local law enforcement custody. However, given the presence of such deaths appearing in the OCME data, we believe the available data to generally be inclusive of all such deaths across the state.

Proposed Reporting procedure: Following our review of supporting agency data materials, OPM CJPPD proposes the following reporting steps for future DCRA reporting activities:

1. Following the conclusion of each FFY quarter, OPM CJPPD requests that DOC and OCME reports be provided to OPM CJPPD by the 15th. Reports should be provided to OPM CJPPD in a comparable format to the sample 2020 reports previously provided to us. See Table 2 for a tentative reporting schedule. Reports provided to OPM CJPPD should cover the recent quarter as well as the previous quarter, in case records need to be updated.
2. Upon receipt of these data, OPM CJPPD staff, with support from the CT SAC, will review the data to check for consistency and alignment with requirements. OPM CJPPD will then combine these data, remove duplicate records across the two sources, and prepare a combine set of records for the quarter. To support these preparation activities, OPM CJPPD will develop standard scripts to combine and reshape the quarterly report data into a submission format compatible with PMT reporting needs.

By the 30th following the end of the quarter, OPM CJPPD will then submit required DCRA records into PMT per the reporting deadline. If possible, records will be batch submitted into PMT from the assembled file. OPM CJPPD will also review the prior quarter and add/update any records from the prior quarter subsequently reflected within state data sources.

Table 2. Proposed DCRA reporting cycle

Federal Fiscal Quarters			DCRA Reporting Date	
Quarter Number	Quarter Start Date	Quarter End Date	OCME/DOC Reporting	OPM CJPPD PMT submission
1	October 1st	December 31st	January 15th	January 30th
2	January 1st	March 31st	April 15th	April 30th
3	April 1st	June 30th	July 15th	July 30th
4	July 1st	September 30th	October 15th	October 30th

Next steps: With a reporting procedure identified, we highlight some key follow up activities, including:

1. OPM CJPPD will develop supporting scripts in R or other software in order to combine reports and finalize data for reporting.
2. DOC and OPM CJPPD will collaborate to set up an FTP script to easily transmit death in custody reports by the 15th following each quarter.
3. OCME, as feasible, will coordinate with OPM CJPPD to continue to assess over time the extent to which OCME deaths in custody data reflect events occurring outside of state correctional facilities, such as during arrest, temporary detentions, etc.

D. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Performance Measurement Platform (PMP)

Because OPM CJPPD has been the SAA for the Byrne JAG grant since its inception, staff are fully aware of the [Performance Measurement Tool](#) requirements that are also being utilized with the grant. Sub-recipient progress reports are crafted to collect the necessary Byrne JAG data to fulfill the PMT requirements of each sub-recipient grant project.

E. Governing Body Review and Public Comment

OPM CJPPD made its FY 2021 Byrne JAG draft application available for public comment by making it available through a post on its website. The division also held a meeting with its Byrne JAG administering and planning board, CJPAC, to review the draft proposal. Participants were notified after the FY2021 Byrne JAG solicitation was posted, invited to review the draft application prior to the CJPAC meeting, and encouraged to provide input on the draft and submit questions prior July 20, 2021.

F. CJPPD JAG Strategic Plan Review & Updates

OPM CJPPD will review and evaluate the constantly evolving trends in criminal justice across the state through CJPAC, the SAC, and other boards and commissions and stakeholder engagement opportunities. The continuous evaluation of the state's strategic plan, facilitated by CJPAC meetings occurring monthly, will help ensure that the fiscal year 2021 Byrne JAG funds are used to support evidence-informed spending across the 4-year grant period.

V. Appendix A: Federal and State Grants Administered by OPM

Federal Programs

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

Through the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice, provides direct awards and technical assistance to states and localities to improve the quality, timeliness, and immediate accessibility of criminal history records and related information. Complete records require that data from all components of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and corrections be integrated and linked. NCHIP assists states to establish the integrated infrastructure that meets the needs of all components.

NCHIP Program Goals and Objectives

- To ensure that accurate records are available for use in law enforcement, including sex offender registry requirements, and to protect public safety and national security.
- To permit states to identify—
- Ineligible firearm purchasers
- Persons ineligible to hold positions involving children, the elderly, or the disabled
- Persons subject to protection orders or wanted, arrested, or convicted of stalking and/or domestic violence
- Persons ineligible to be employed or hold licenses for specified positions
- Persons potentially presenting threats to public safety

STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

The STOP Formula Grant Program enhances the capacity of local communities to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. Each state and territory must allocate 25 percent for law enforcement, 25 percent for prosecutors, 30 percent for victim services (of which at least 10 percent must be distributed to culturally specific community-based organizations), 5 percent to state and local courts, and 15 percent for discretionary distribution.

STOP Program Goals and Objectives

The STOP Formula Grant Program supports communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women and to enhance victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. The STOP Grant provides:

Services for Victims

Training for the Criminal Justice System

Offender Accountability

Police
Prosecution

Sexual Assault Services Formula (SASP)

The Sexual Assault Services Program is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. The SASP Formula Grant Program directs grant dollars to support Connecticut rape crisis centers and other nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations that provide services, direct intervention, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault. Funds provided through SASP are designed to supplement other funding sources directed at addressing sexual assault within the state.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)

The purpose of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program is to break the cycle of drug addiction and violence by reducing the demand for, use, and trafficking of illegal drugs. This program's objectives are to enhance the capabilities of states to provide residential substance abuse treatment for incarcerated inmates; prepare inmates for their reintegration into the community by incorporating reentry planning activities into treatment programs; and assist these offenders and their communities through the reentry process by delivering community-based treatment and other broad-based aftercare services. Given Connecticut's "unified" correctional system, 100% of these funds are awarded to the DOC. OPM provides the required 25% match.

Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA)

The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) are penalty funds established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006. Jurisdictions that failed to implement the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act by July 27, 2011, were subject to a ten percent reduction of Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) formula funds. These SORNA penalty funds are then reallocated to those affected jurisdictions to bring them in to compliance with the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006.

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funds (CESF)

The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program will provide funding to assist eligible states, local units of government, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus.

Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses, and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

State Programs

Body Worn Recording Equipment (BWRE)

The Office of Policy and Management, as directed by Public Acts 15-4, 17-225, 18-107, 19-11 and 20-1, is offering grants-in-aid to municipal law enforcement agencies, law enforcement officers under the supervision of Resident State Troopers and state university police department (special police forces established pursuant to Sec. 10a-156b) for body-worn recording equipment, dashboard cameras, electronic defense weapon recording equipment and digital data storage devices or services.

The passage of PA 17-225 adds additional authorized items, expands eligibility to resident state trooper towns, extends the timeline of 100% reimbursement (therefore pushing 50% reimbursement a year out) and provides clarity on some points that were previously unclear.

The passage of 18-107 adds in the 100% reimbursement for data storage services for FY 2018 that was erroneously left out in PA 17-225 and extends the reimbursement for dashboard cameras not just for first time purchases, but for replacing those purchases prior to December 21, 2010.

The passage of PA 19-11 extends the 100% reimbursement to August 31, 2018. The passage of PA 20-1 extends the 50% reimbursement to June 30, 2021. It also reallocates \$3 million of the remaining approximately \$3.5 million to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, therefore leaving \$500K for the municipalities.

Project Longevity Grant Program

Project Longevity is an initiative intended to be a multi-partner community collaboration and engagement activity between the police departments, community advocates and non-profit social service organizations to reduce gun violence in the Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven.

VI. Appendix B: June Monthly Indicators Report

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- As the summer season approaches, Connecticut's correctional population has remained relatively stable. On June 1, 2021, the confined population stood at 8,960 individuals. While a diminutive departure of only twelve persons compared to May 1, 2021 (8,948), it represents a 14% reduction in the DOC facility population from June 2020 (see table 1 on page 3).
- After a two-year hiatus, the Board of Pardons and Parole will begin to hear commutation petitions starting later in 2021. To be eligible, an individual must presently be incarcerated, have already served a minimum of ten years on an overall sentence of greater than a decade, and cannot qualify for parole within the next two years of their sentence. These parameters will yield a pool of candidates sentenced to lengthy terms of incarceration and therefore likely to have been convicted of serious crimes. Nonetheless, this release or "reduction" mechanism is expected to be utilized sparingly, as it employs a very rigorous approval process.
- Special parole discharges rose from 37 individuals in April, to 110 individuals in May, a two-fold increase (see Chart 2 and Table 2). This growth was attributed in part to a rise in the number of individuals who qualified for early discharge. Staff at Parole and Community Services (PCS) nominate for review candidates eligible and appropriate for early discharge consideration by BOPP. An uptick in nominations by PCS spurred the Board to add hearing dates, resulting in the jump observed between April and May.

Prison Population Forecast

The prison population continues to track closely with the path projected by OPM in February. Although April and May are generally easier to predict than the summer months, indicators suggest that the prison population will not see severe volatility in the near future. With admissions and releases in near equilibrium, conditions make a considerable swell in the near term unlikely. OPM will continue to monitor key indicators, particularly newly sentenced admissions to the DOC. Newly sentenced admissions represent the front end process of adjudication leading to a term of incarceration.

Historically, a typical month would see 200 to 300 such admissions. Since March 2020 the flow of newly sentenced admissions has slowed considerably. When this metric returns to pre-pandemic levels, a cascade effect will ensue: the sentenced population will stop falling and likely increase, the pretrial population will likely decline as some of those individuals will transition to the sentenced pool, while others will discharge with time served. With some time lag, downstream indicators will tick up as the CRU and BOPP will see an increase in cases for review. These are the indicators of flow and process that accompany the counts reflected in the chart below and drive OPM's forecast model.

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	8,965	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

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts

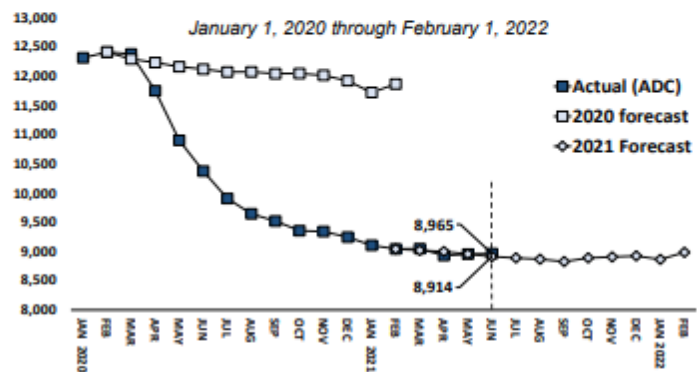


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

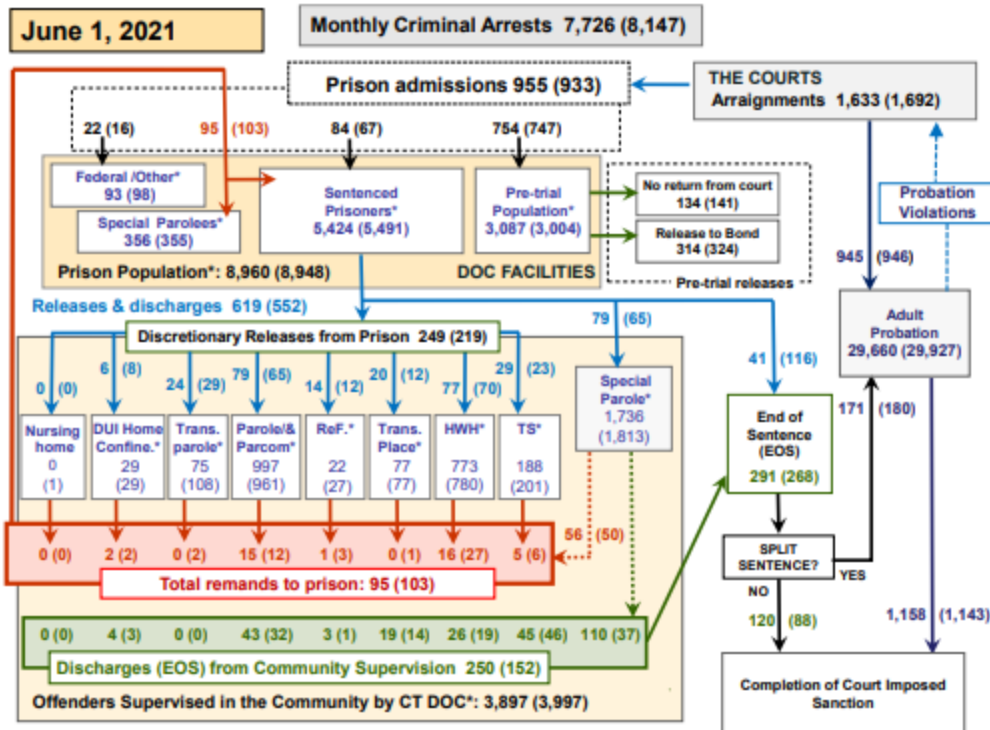
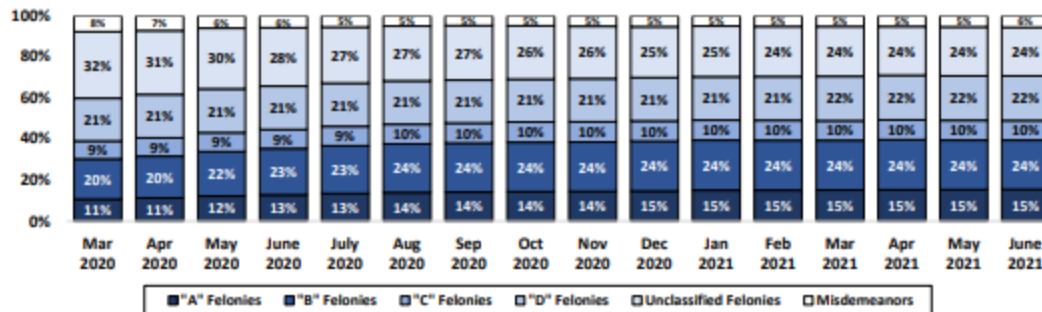


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for May 2021 and daily counts reported on June 1, 2021. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on June 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, via CJIS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Changes to the DOC population by charge class



Between March 2020 and June 2021, a period of 16 months, Connecticut's correction population (jail and prison) fell 27%. The decline has varied across classes of misdemeanor and felony charges and resulted in substantial changes to the composition of the population. This phenomenon is one of many that the COVID-19 pandemic has helped bring about.

In March 2020, 32% of the correction population were being held on unclassified felonies (mostly for probation violations or drug offenses).

By June 2021, this percentage dropped 8 points (to 24%). People whose most serious charge is a misdemeanor, now account for only 6 percent of the correction population (down 2 points from March 2020).

Today people with a Felony A or B convictions account for 39% of the correction population, up from 31% in March 2020. Murder is now the most common offense among people held at the DOC.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2021		2021		2020		% Change	
	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1	June 1	Monthly	Annual		
DOC Facilities								
Federal/Other	102	98	93	115	-5.1%	-19.1%		
Sentenced	5,551	5,491	5,424	7,347	-1.2%	-26.2%		
Special Parole	350	355	356	315	0.3%	13.0%		
Pre-trial	2,963	3,004	3,087	2,668	2.8%	15.7%		
Total	8,966	8,948	8,960	10,445	0.1%	-14.2%		
DOC Community								
Transfer Parole	171	108	75	147	-30.6%	-49.0%		
Parole/ Parcom Total	897	961	997	936	3.7%	6.5%		
Parole	717	779	823	778	5.6%	5.8%		
Parcom @ CT	180	182	174	158	-4.4%	10.1%		
Furlough	26	27	22	105	-18.5%	-79.0%		
Trans. Placement	78	77	77	96	0.0%	-19.8%		
DUI/Home confine.	25	29	29	115	0.0%	-74.8%		
Halfway House Total	798	780	773	843	-0.9%	-8.3%		
Comm Release	372	375	377	418	0.5%	-9.8%		
TS	11	5	3	16	-40.0%	81.3%		
Parole	125	128	131	124	2.3%	5.6%		
Transfer Parole	20	19	18	20	-5.3%	-10.0%		
Special Parole	270	253	244	265	-3.6%	-7.9%		
TS	224	201	188	559	-6.5%	-66.4%		
Nursing home	0	1	0	4	-100.0%	-100.0%		
Special Parole	1,814	1,813	1,736	2,159	-4.2%	-19.6%		
Total	4,033	3,997	3,897	4,964	-2.5%	-21.5%		

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2021		2021		2020		% Change	
	MAR	APR	MAY	MAY	Monthly	Annual		
Admissions								
Federal/Other	23	16	22	12	37.5%	83.3%		
Remands	110	103	95	88	-7.8%	8.0%		
DUI	0	2	2	0	0.0%	-		
Transfer Parole	4	2	0	0	-100.0%	-		
Parole	20	12	15	13	25.0%	15.4%		
Trans. Plac/Furlough	1	4	1	2	-	-		
HRH	25	27	16	15	-40.7%	6.7%		
TS	6	6	5	9	-16.7%	-44.4%		
Special Parole	54	50	56	46	12.0%	21.7%		
New Sentence	80	67	84	2	25.4%	4100.0%		
VOP	21	15	17	2	-	-		
Pre-trial	831	747	754	490	0.9%	53.9%		
Total	1,044	933	955	592	2.4%	61.3%		
Releases and discharges								
Transfer Parole	21	29	24	46	-17.2%	-47.8%		
Parole	61	65	79	76	21.5%	3.9%		
Furlough	17	12	14	66	16.7%	-78.8%		
Trans. Placement	22	12	20	23	66.7%	-13.0%		
Home Confinement/DUI	13	8	6	11	-25.0%	-45.5%		
HWH	77	70	77	216	10.0%	64.4%		
TS	25	23	29	110	26.1%	-73.6%		
Special Parole	81	65	79	105	21.5%	-24.8%		
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-		
End of Sentence	351	268	291	463	8.6%	-37.1%		
Total	668	552	619	1,116	12.1%	-44.5%		
Pre-trial Releases*								
From Court	144	141	134	35	-5.0%	282.9%		
Release to Bond	404	324	314	293	-3.1%	7.2%		

* 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	
MAR	351	161	65	45	46%
APR	230	105	32	30	46%
MAY 21	232	104	39	25	45%
MAY 20	380	207	61	39	54%

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:	Granted:
				Prior Year	Two Years Prior
MAR	91	58	64%	70	71
APR	103	74	72%	77	67
MAY	94	57	61%	86	78

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
MAR	20	0	27	10	25
APR	10	2	14	10	27
MAY 2021	11	0	9	23	13
MAY 2020	51	1	13	17	37

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Apr. 1, 2021	May 1, 2021	June 1, 2021	June 1, 2020
Less than \$20K	383	377	366	304
\$20K to < \$50K	388	366	370	386
\$50K to < \$100K	474	504	498	514
\$100K or higher	1,927	1,998	2,076	1,661
Persons w/bonds	3,172	3,245	3,310	2,865
Over \$1M	329	336	348	229

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Apr. 1, 2021	May 1, 2021	June 1, 2021	June 1, 2020
< 1 week	225	248	226	81
1 to < 3 weeks	198	192	200	176
3 to < 10 weeks	519	569	584	753
10 to < 30 weeks	821	802	849	856
30 wks or more	1,413	1,439	1,454	1,011
Pre-trial prisoners	3,176	3,250	3,313	2,877

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	MAR 2021	APR 2021	MAY 2021	MAY 2020
Arraignments	1,932	1,692	1,633	1,015
Pre-trial Admits	831	747	754	490
New to DOC	203	172	194	138
% New	24%	23%	26%	28%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Reinterview Program

	Pretrial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
MAR	831	688	225	238
APR	747	648	166	247
MAY	754	597	174	189

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pretrial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pretrial bail cases
MAR	2,050*	1,004	210	12,665*
APR	2,050*	946	180	12,665*
MAY	2,050*	945	171	12,665*
MAY '20	2,050*	1,123	313	12,665*

* CSSD estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population

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

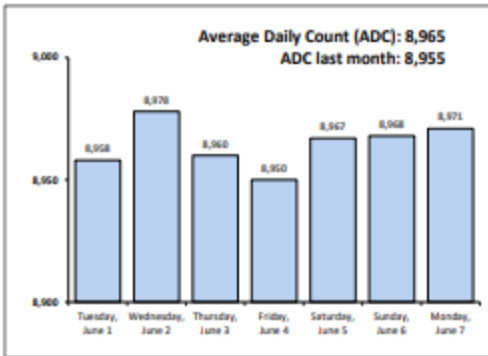


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

May 2020 through May 2021

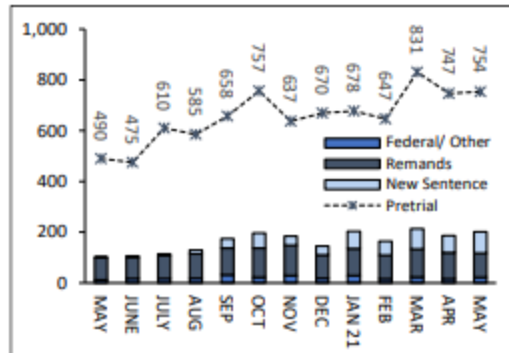


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

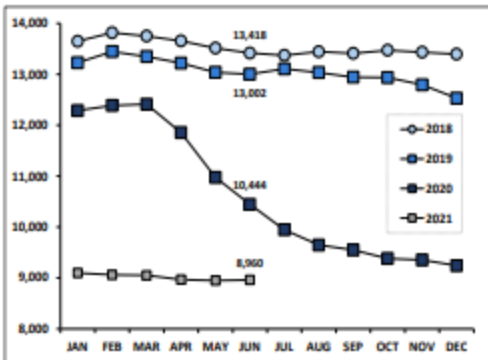


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

May 2021

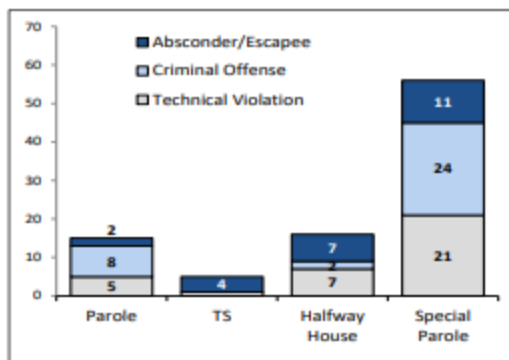


Chart 5 – Statewide Arrests

2020 and 2021

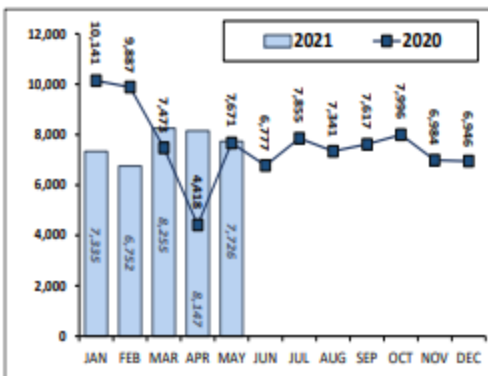
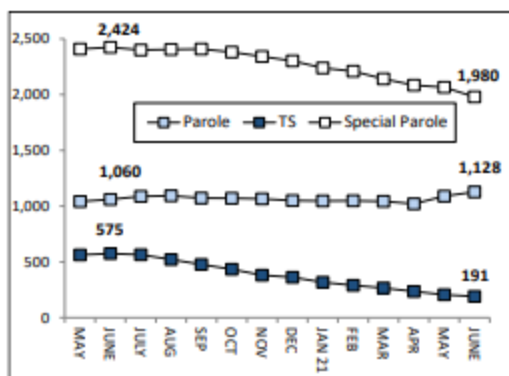


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

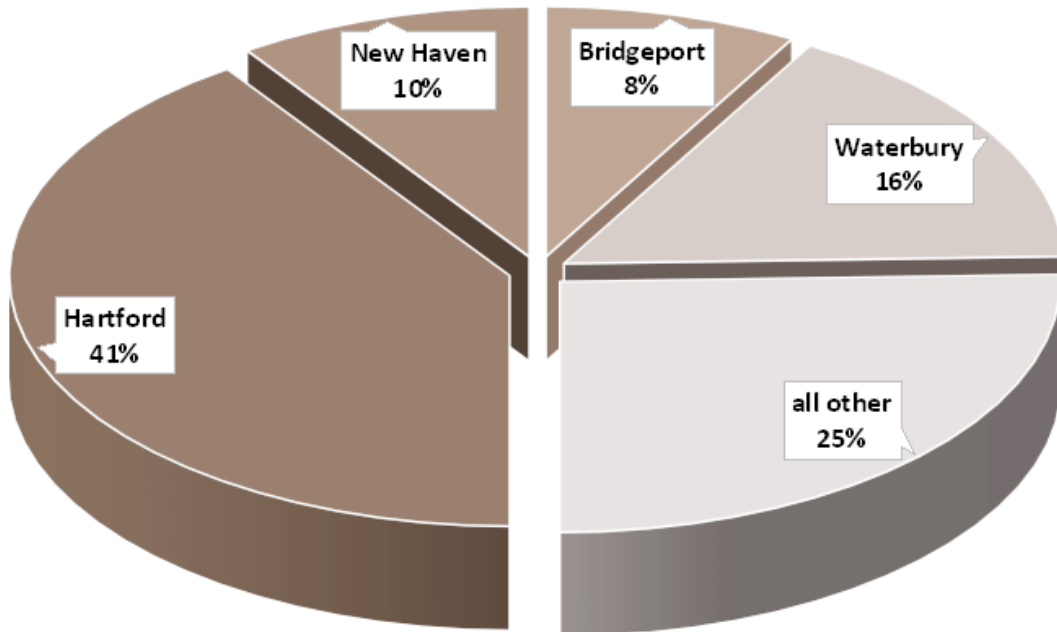
May 1, 2020 through Jun 1, 2021



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.

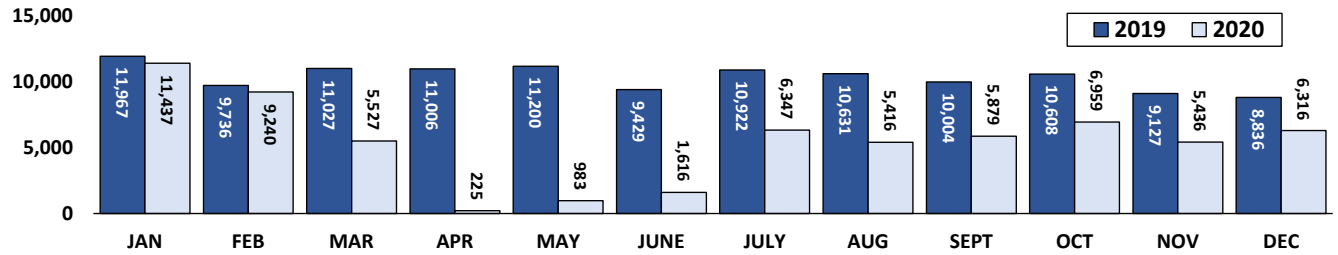
VII. Appendix C: Priority Area Data Charts

Chart A: Connecticut Cities' Share of Increase in Firearm-Related Aggravated Assaults, 2020



According to preliminary FBI Uniform Crime Report data, Connecticut had 220 more (+31%) firearm-related aggravated assaults in 2020 compared to 2019. Just four cities (Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury) account for 75% of that increase, with Hartford alone responsible for 40% of the net increase. Together these four cities are only 14% of the state population (504,322 of the 3.6 million state residents).

Chart B: State criminal case dispositions (2019 and 2020)



The number of monthly criminal case dispositions in 2019 and 2020 capture the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency orders were issued at the exact midpoint of March 2020, contributing to a halving of dispositions. April's numbers dropped 99% compared to the year prior.

Since then, criminal justice system 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 and reached 70% of 2019 levels by year's end.

VIII. Appendix D: Connecticut SAC Data Analysis Examples

Chart A: Accidental Drug Overdose Deaths with Incarceration History (2010—2019)

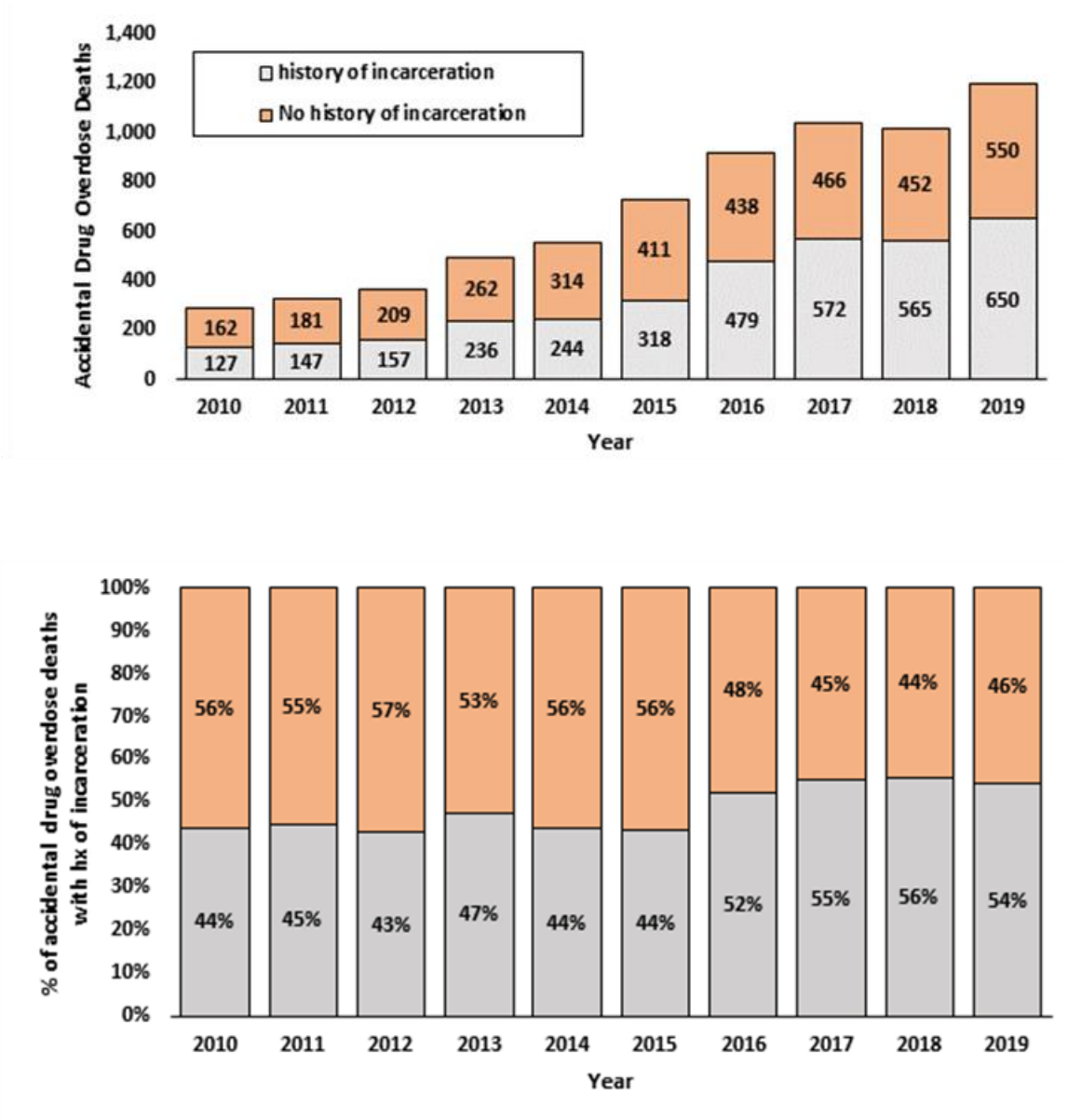
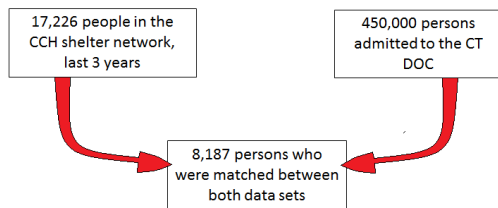


Chart B: Analysis of matched data analysis involving populations with history of correctional facility and homeless shelter admission (2016—2019)

Significant correction system involvement Among Homeless Population



- 48% (8,187) of people who used a homeless shelter in the last 3 years has a DOC record
- 21% (3,562) of people who used a homeless shelter in the last 3 years was released from DOC within the last 3 years

Details	Count	%
RELEASE TYPE I		
Sentenced	1,763	49%
Unsupervised release	1,405	80%
Halfway houses	115	7%
Transitional Supervision	190	11%
Parole Supervision	53	3%
RELEASE TYPE II		
Pretrial	1,799	51%
Release on bond	456	25%
Release at court	1,340	75%
Other	3	0%
All releases w/in 3 years	3,562	