Monthly Indicators Overview

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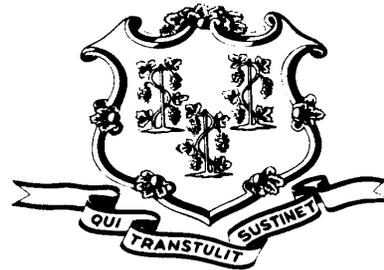
January 2020

Rate of c... n to Jan

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On January 1st, Connecticut's prisons and jails held 12,285 inmates, down 245 during the month of December. 2019 ended with 7% fewer inmates than when the year began, a reduction of over 900, January to January, see chart 4.

- There were 1,500 fewer admission events to the DOC in 2019 vs 2018, a reduction of just over 7%. The prison population has fallen in recent years by reducing the number of admissions, not by an increasing in the number of releases.

- Arrests, in large part, drive the inputs to the criminal justice system. Continuing a years long steady decline in statewide arrests 2019 saw a 5% decline compared to 2018. Compared to the most recent peak, 2009, arrests dropped 47%.

- Chart 2a offers a preview of the upcoming annual recidivism report. This year, OPM compares two cohorts and charts both the similarities as well as the differences between a cohort of prisoners released in 2015 and 2017. Chart 2a shows how remarkably similar the one-year return to prison rate is for both release cohorts – 32% in both cases.

- The sentenced population dropped below 9,000 inmates during the month of December, landing at 8,888 on January 1 (chart and table 2). Expect to see the count bounce up over 9,000 during the month of January as per usual in what has become known as the "January bump".
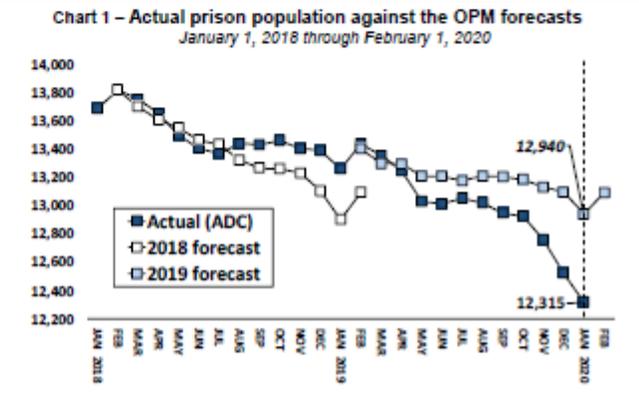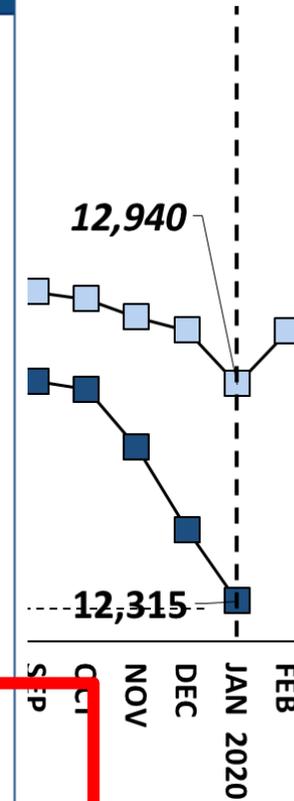
Prison Population Forecast

As the calendar year turns over, the prison population typically bottoms out after several months of contraction. In that respect, 2019 was no different. Different, though, has been the magnitude of the drop seen over the last three months. In fact, the prison system has shed more than 600 inmates since early October, far outpacing the rate OPM predicted in the February forecast. The last three months have been historic, the fastest three-month contraction, in percentage terms, on record. Forecaster rely on historical data to make predictions so three straight months of record setting contractions wreak havoc with projections.

...a break from prior years, all major segments of the prison population are contributing to the overall decline. In years past, sentenced prisoners have accounted for the majority, if not all, of the contraction seen in the total population. Early in the year, reductions in the pretrial population drove the inmate headcount down, keeping it closely aligned with OPM's forecast. Once the number of sentenced inmates began falling as well, the count began shrinking much faster than anticipated. Not to be overlooked, the number of special parolees on remand status has also fallen, contributing roughly 10% of the overall reduction since January 2019.
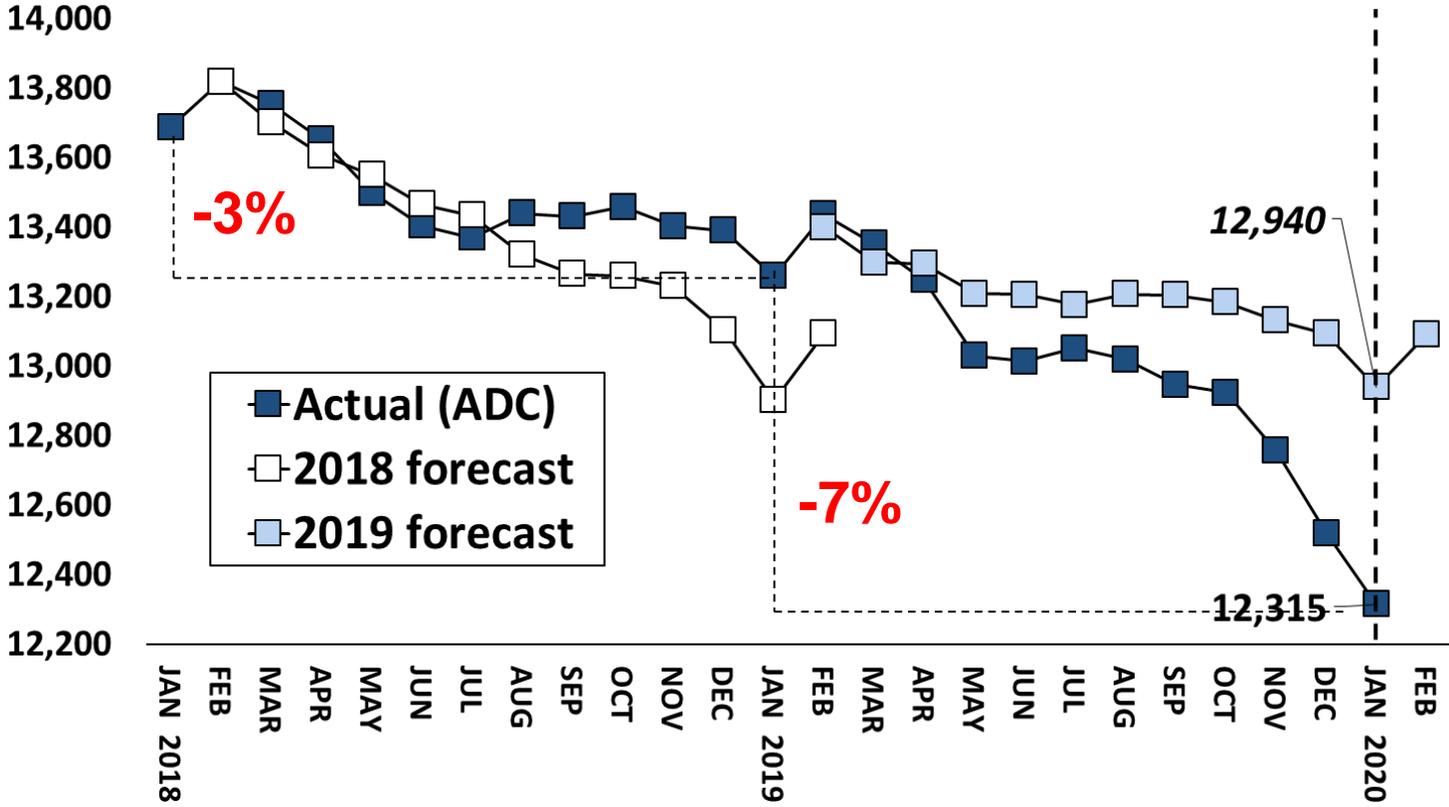
TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2019 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '19	13,259	-	-
FEB	13,436	13,400	-
MAR	13,352	13,298	-54
APR	13,247	13,293	46
MAY	13,029	13,208	179
JUN	13,013	13,205	192
JUL	13,052	13,177	125
AUG	13,020	13,207	187
SEP	12,947	13,204	257
OCT	12,924	13,183	259
NOV	12,756	13,131	375
DEC	12,520	13,094	574
JAN '20	12,315	12,940	625
FEB	-	13,090	-

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

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts
January 1, 2018 through February 1, 2020

- Actual (ADC)
- 2018 forecast
- 2019 forecast

12,940

12,315

12,940

12,315

SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN 2020 FEB
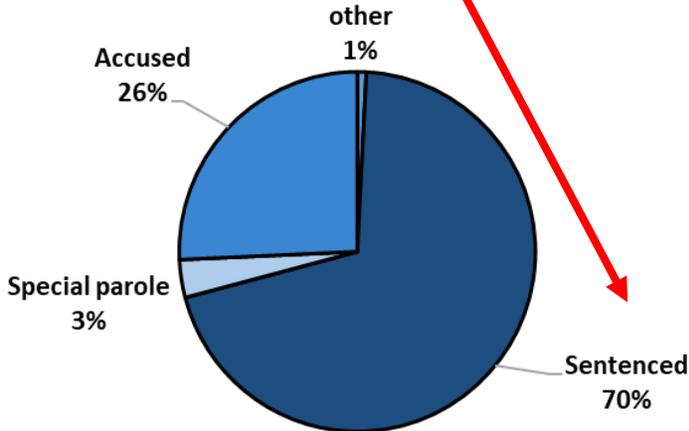
Rate of decline doubled in 2019, Jan to Jan
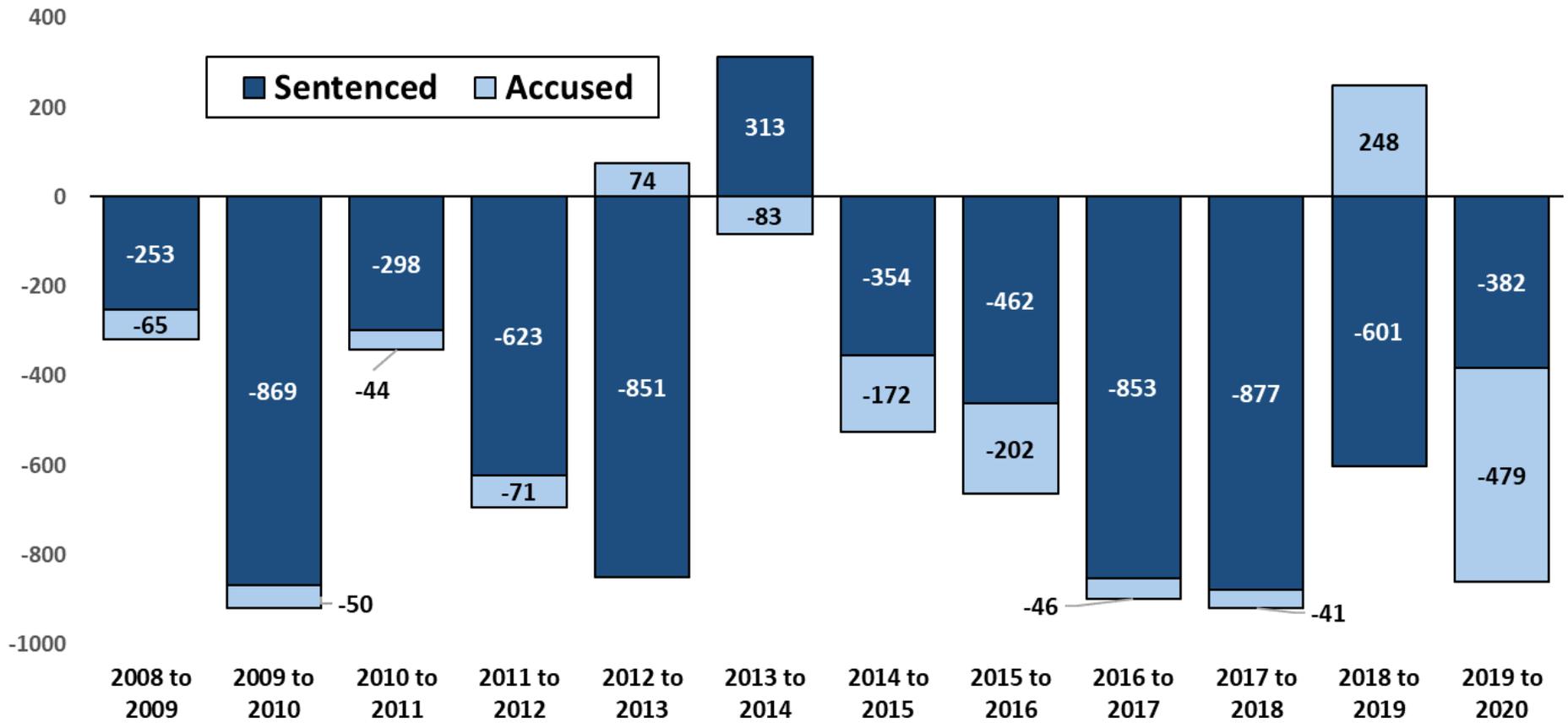
Pretrial vs. Sentenced inmates
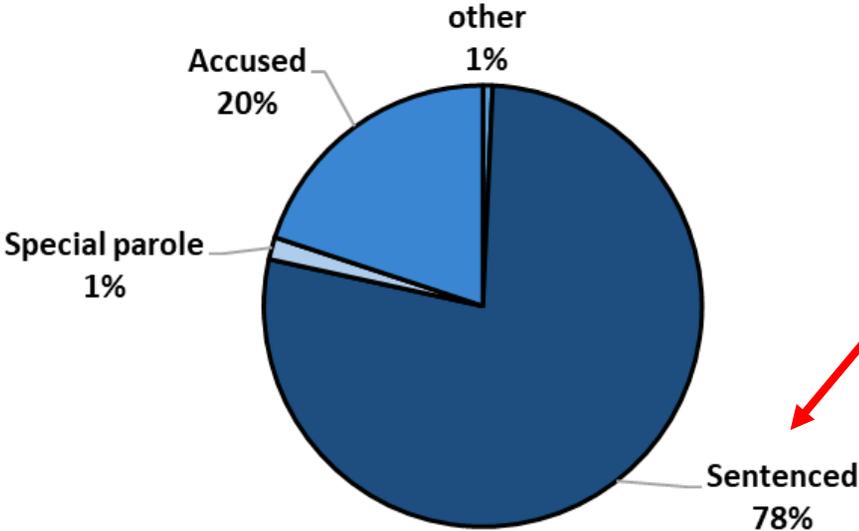
2009

- **In 2009 sentenced inmates were 78% of prison population**
- **By 2019 that ratio fell to 70%**

2019

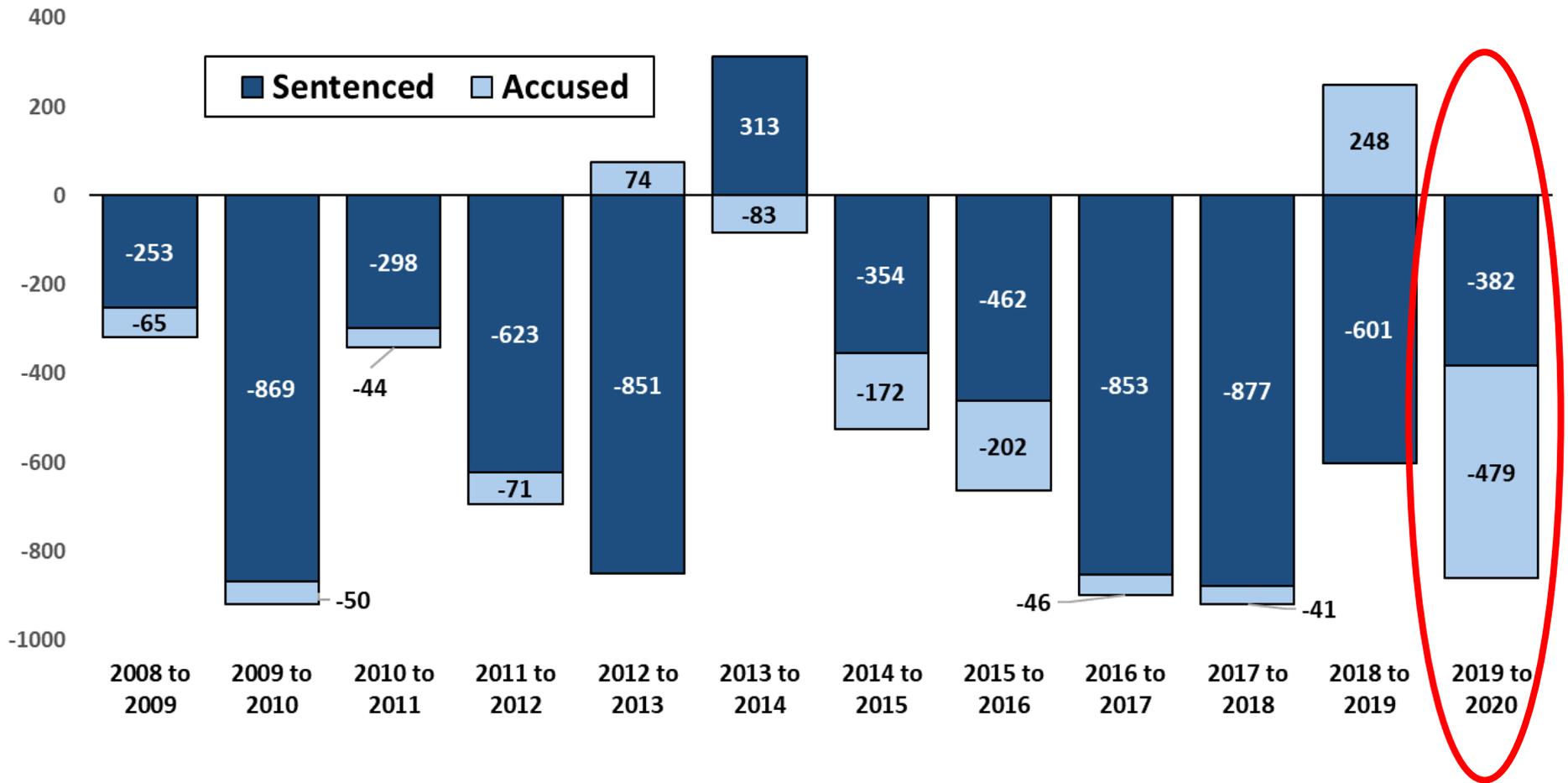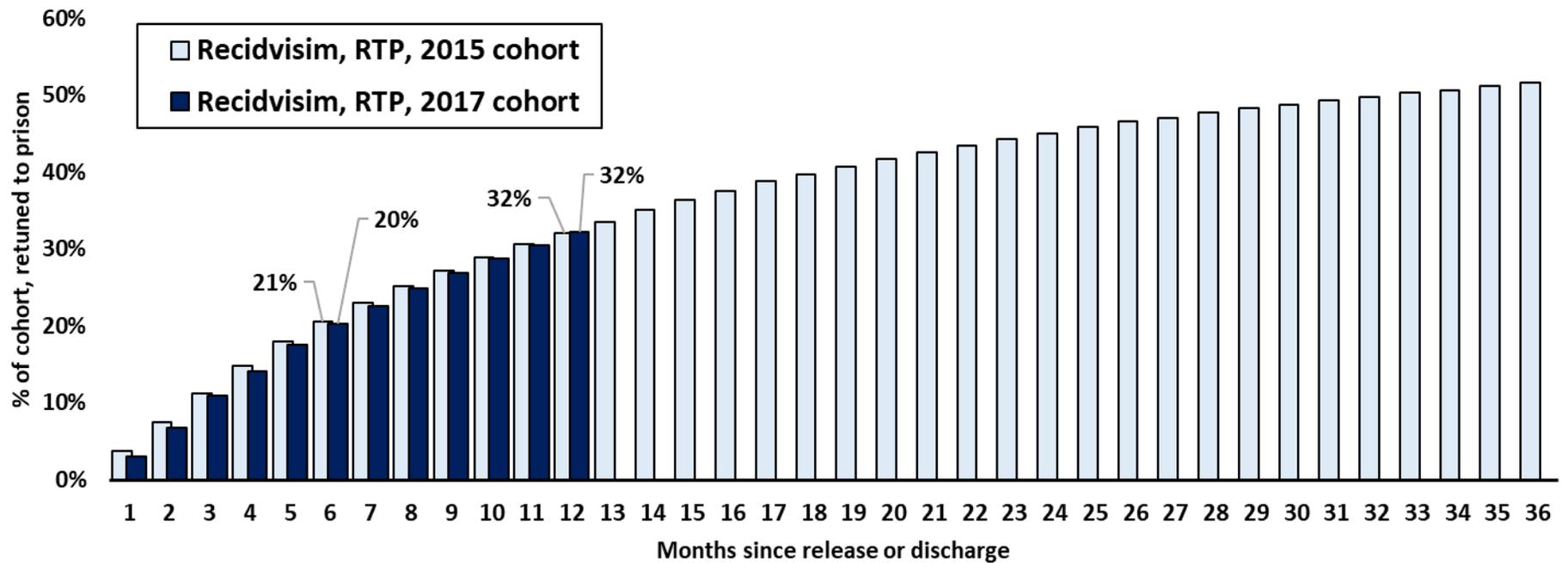# January to January change

January to January change

Chart 2a – January 2020, recidivism

Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/Research