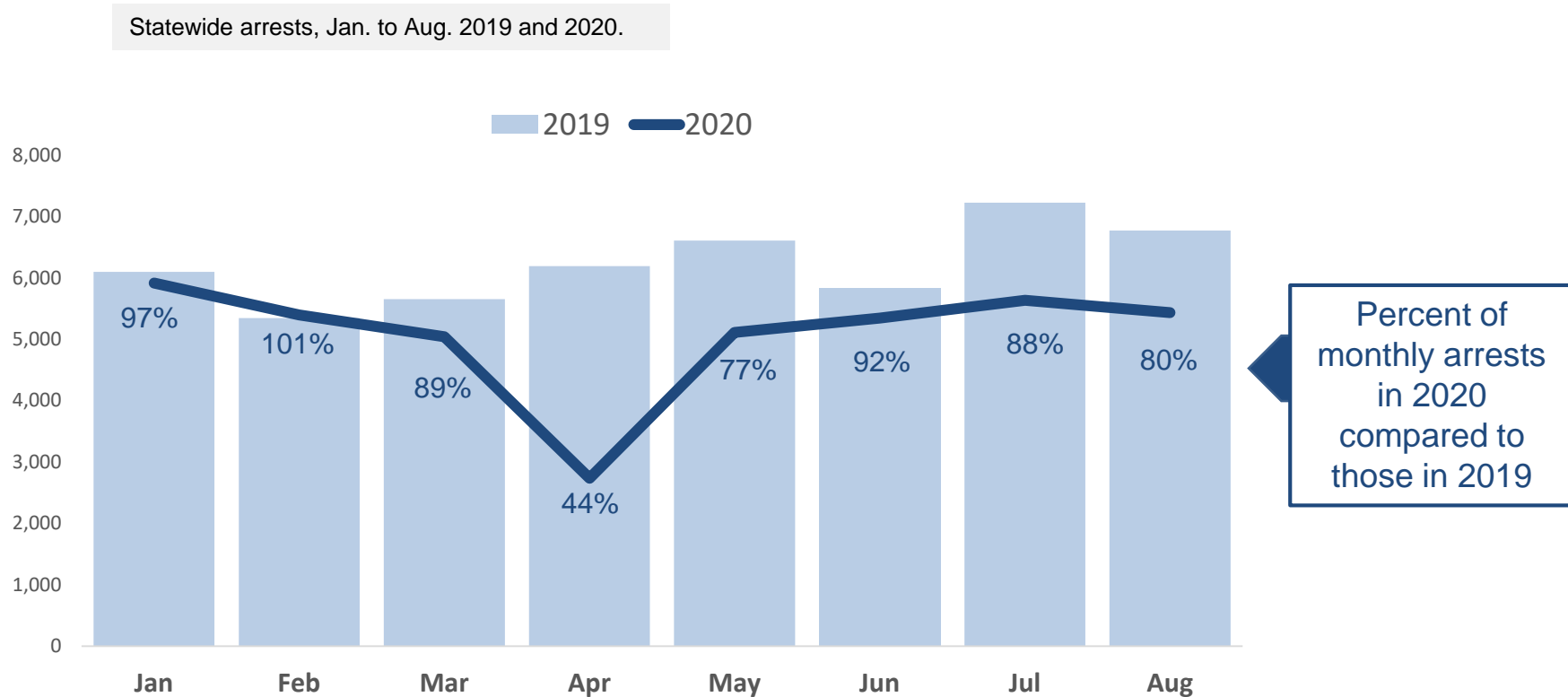Initial Comparison of 2019 and 2020
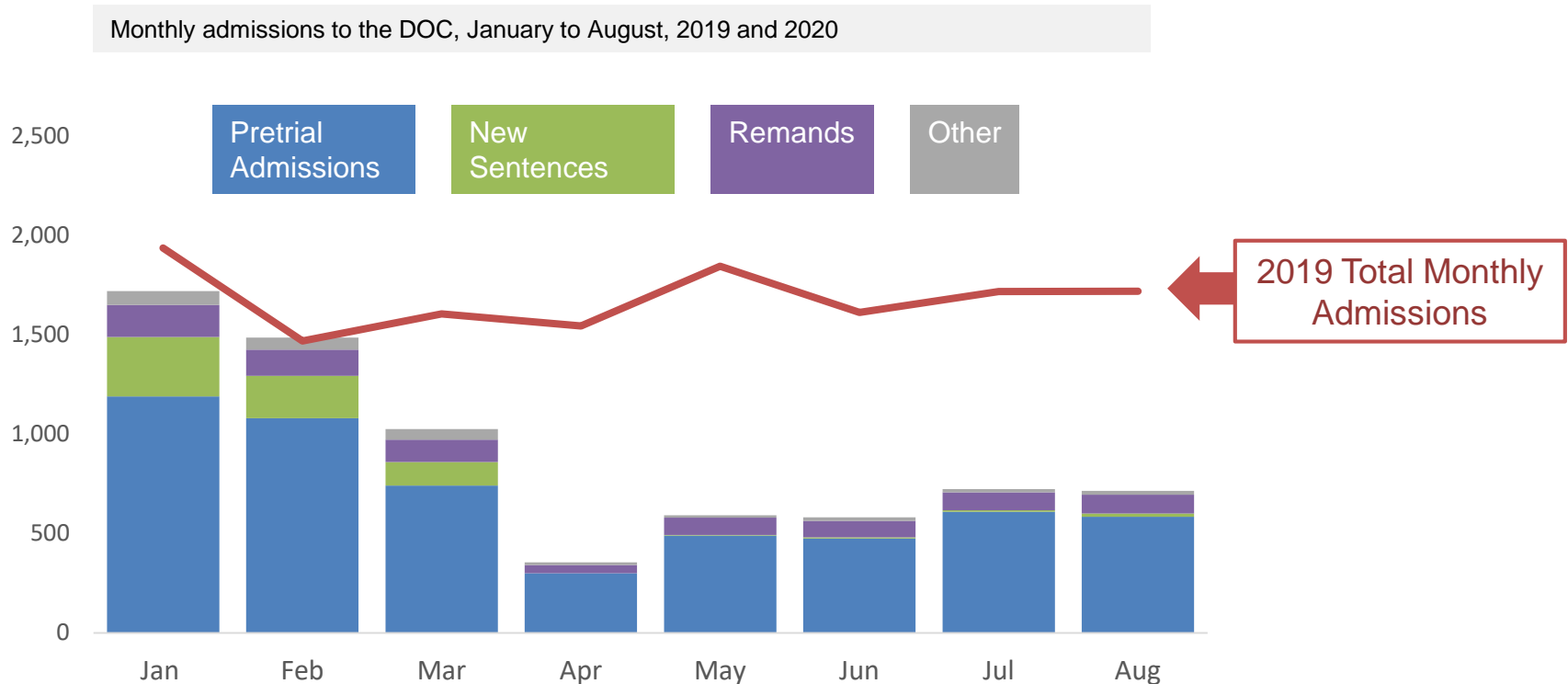Criminal Justice Data

*Presented to the*
*Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission*

September 24, 2020

# Between March and May 2020, statewide arrests followed a v-shape trajectory before regressing toward to the mean.

Statewide arrests, Jan. to Aug. 2019 and 2020.



Percent of monthly arrests in 2020 compared to those in 2019

# Since March 2020, monthly DOC admissions have diverged significantly from 2019 levels, with pretrial admissions and remands comprising most of the volume.
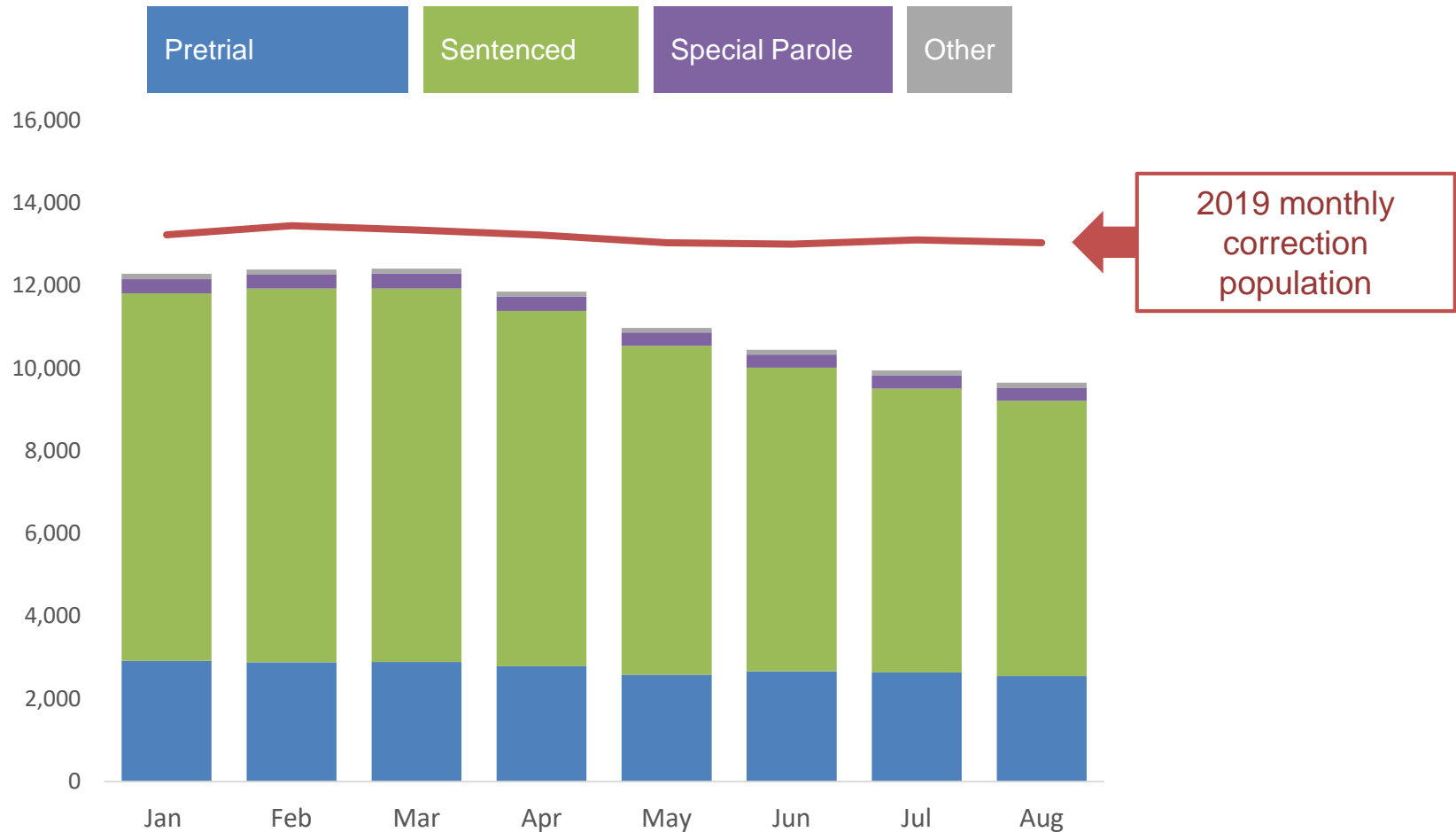
Monthly admissions to the DOC, January to August, 2019 and 2020

Pretrial Admissions   New Sentences   Remands   Other

2019 Total Monthly Admissions

"Remands" consist of returns to prison among DUI program participants, parole, transitional placement, re-entry furlough, halfway house, transitional supervision, transfer parole and special parole.

"New Sentences" also include violations of probation.

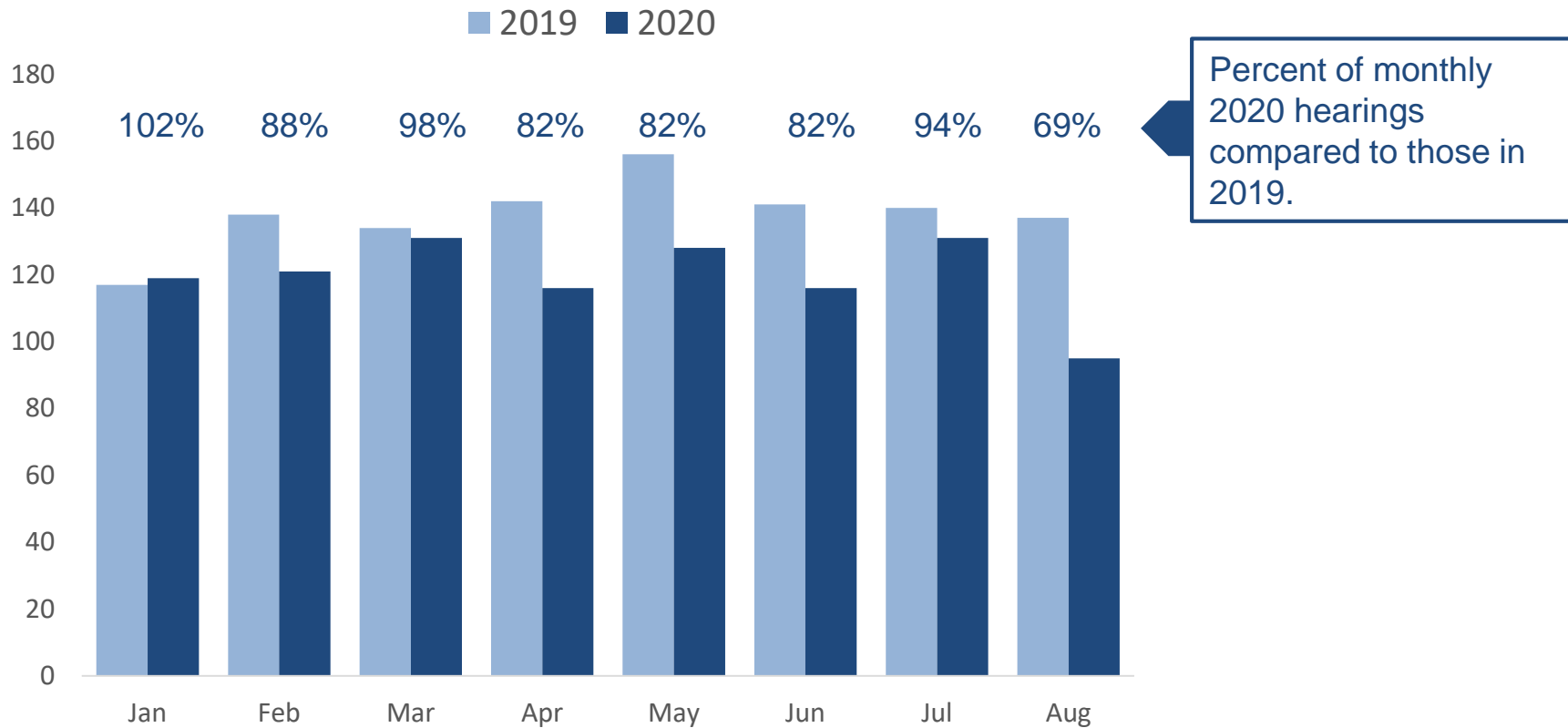"Other" consists of people under the custody of other jurisdictions.

# From January to March 2020, the correction population was stable before beginning a steady decline through August.



First-of-the-month correction population, January to August, 2019 and 2020

Pretrial | Sentenced | Special Parole | Other
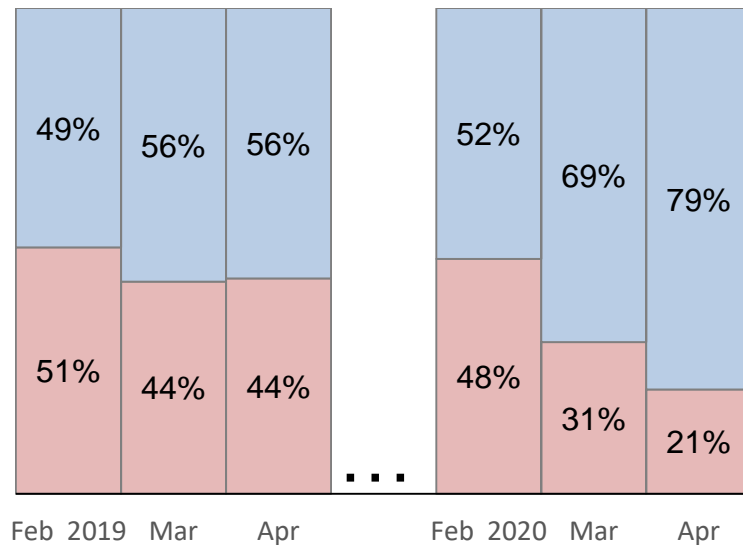
2019 monthly correction population

# Use of virtual meetings and other technology has helped the Board of Pardons and Paroles maintain 2019 levels of parole hearings for most months this year.

Number of parole hearings, January to August, 2019 and 2020.



■ 2019  ■ 2020

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 102% | 88% | 98% | 82% | 82% | 82% | 94% | 69% |

Percent of monthly 2020 hearings compared to those in 2019.

# A higher rate of people have returned to the community with supervision, reducing the end-of-sentence releases, per April CJPAC meeting analysis.
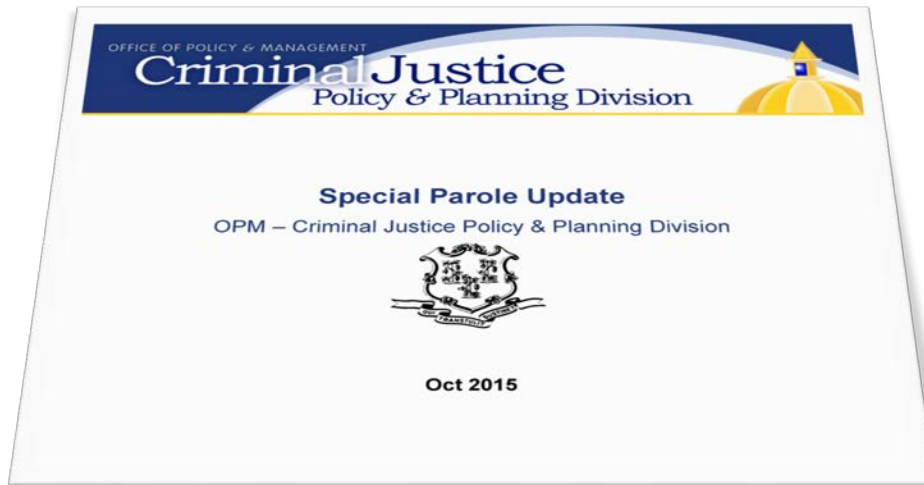
Percent of releases from DOC sentenced population by discretionary release vs. end-of-sentence discharge, Feb. to Apr. 2019 and 2020



| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 49% | 56% | 56% | 52% | 69% | 79% |
| 51% | 44% | 44% | 48% | 31% | 21% |

Feb 2019   Mar   Apr   Feb 2020   Mar   Apr

In April 2020, 79% of people returned to the community with supervision under a discretionary release mechanism, up 23 points from April 2019 (56% to 79%).

The increase in 2020 in discretionary releases helped reduce the number of people released from DOC with no community supervision (i.e. an EOS discharge).

Source: CT DOC. Excludes exits to special parole. The DOC is legally required to release an inmate in its custody at the conclusion of their court-stipulated sentence
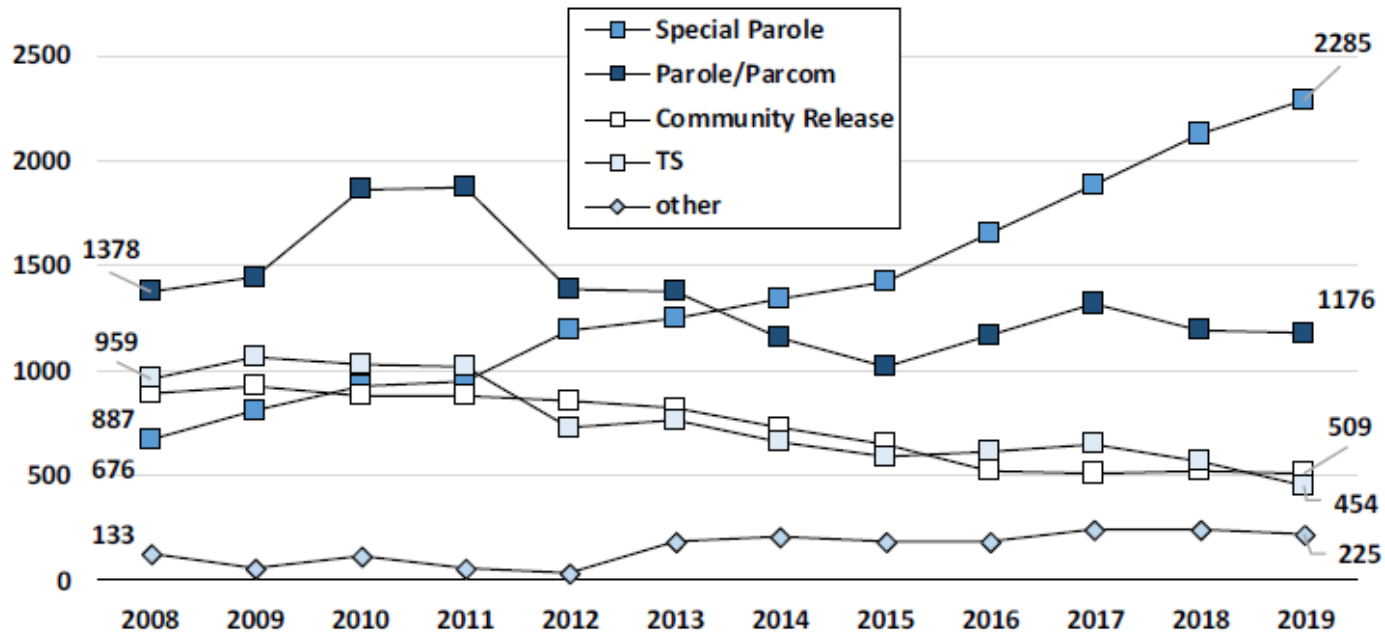
# An October 2015 OPM CJPPD presentation to CJPAC included analysis on the special parole population.



- Special parolee population had a larger percentage of higher-risk people (TPAI score of 7 or higher) compared to the transitional supervision (TS) population but smaller percentage than parolees.

- Drug (19%), sex (14%), and robbery (16%) offenses were the most common controlling offenses.

- Relatively longer periods of supervision were impacting parole officers and program capacity.

- Higher recidivism rate among special parolees (48% return-to-prison rate within 12 months) than the total released population (32%).

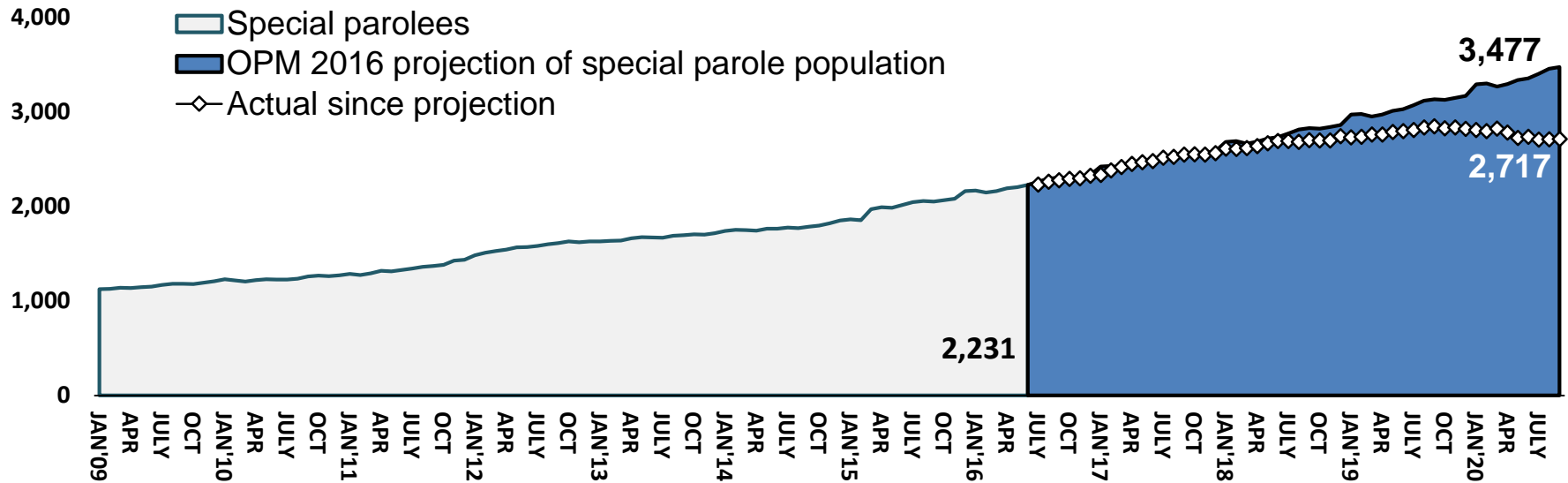- Special parole remands were impacting the correction population.

**OPM CJPPD estimated that between June 2016 and 2020, the special parole population would grow 59%, from 2,200 to 3,500 people.**

**The 2019 "Trends in Connecticut" presentation to CJPAC captured the special parole populations growth and consumption of supervision and halfway house resources.**



- Between 2008 and 2019, the special parole population grew 238%, from 676 to 2,285 people.

- In 2019, special parolees were half the DOC community supervision population.

- And special parolees occupied 40% of halfway house beds.

# Following nine years of growth, the special parole population began flattening in 2018 before dropping 22% below the projection in July 2020.



- Special parolees
- OPM 2016 projection of special parole population
- Actual since projection

3,477

2,717

2,231

- Public Act 18-63 was enacted, allowing for early discharge of special parolees and restricting the cases for which special parole could be attached as a sentence.

- The following year, Public Act 19-84 amended the statutes to provide victim notification and allow any victim to submit a statement to the board regarding a special parole termination under consideration.

*the number of special parolees include those in halfway house and in prison on remand

**Kyle Baudoin**
*Policy Development Coordinator*
*[Kyle.Baudoin@ct.gov](mailto:Kyle.Baudoin@ct.gov)*

**Marc Pelka**
Undersecretary,
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning
*[Marc.Pelka@ct.gov](mailto:Marc.Pelka@ct.gov)*

For more information, please visit
[https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-About/Homepage/CJPPD](https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-About/Homepage/CJPPD)