



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

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### **Number of Prisoners Aged 18-21 Drops 54% Over Seven Years *Steady Decline Foreshadows Continuing Decline in Total Prison Population, Demonstrates Success of Decade of Juvenile Justice Reforms***

Today OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division released additional information on trends in the state's prison population.

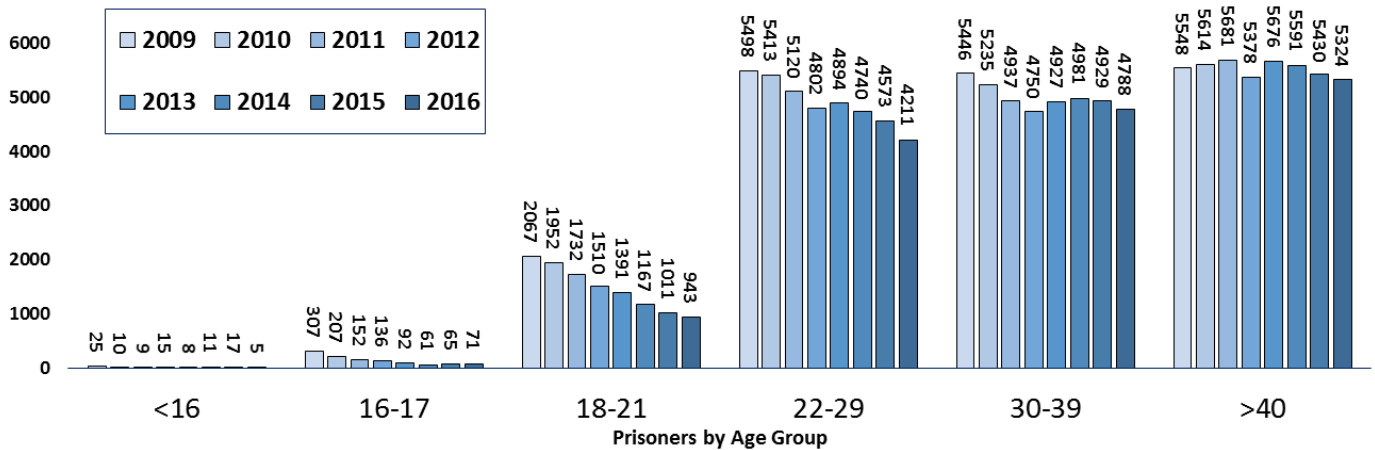
On July 1, 2016 Connecticut had 943 inmates aged 18-21, down from 2,067 on July 1, 2009, a 54% decrease. The reduction has been constant each year since 2009 and allows Connecticut to plan for a lower total prison population in the years to come. (Today there are 899 inmates aged 18-21)

- There has been a similar decline in the number of inmates aged 22-29 (23%), but the drop has not been as steep as that of the younger cohort.
- Although the total prison population fell by 19%, between 2009 and 2016, the largest were among the youngest offenders. The most granular data available, from 2010 to 2016 shows a drop by age group of 57% for 16-17 year olds, 54% for 18-20, and 30% for 22-24. Combined, offenders under 25 fell by 41%
- The number of older inmates (>40) has been relatively constant over that same period, fluctuating between 5,300 and 5,600.
- Inmates under the age of 18 have dropped from 332 in 2009 to 76 in 2016, a decrease of 77%. Much of this is due to the "Raise the Age" initiative that took full effect in July 2012.
- The dramatic decline in younger adult inmates tracks the decline in the number of arrests of persons 18-21. Between 2008 and 2015, the drop was 53%.

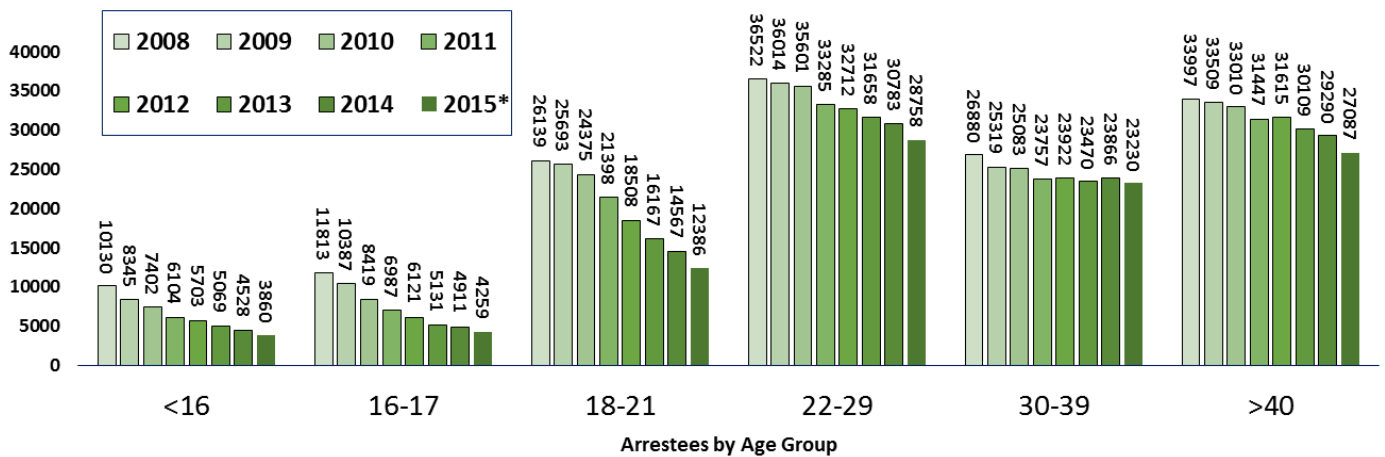
This is encouraging for two reasons: First, crime committed by the youngest adults seems to be dropping more rapidly than crime committed by older offenders, presumable due to the success of reform initiatives such as "Raise the Age" and a variety of school-based diversionary options and second, since most crime is committed by a relatively small number of career criminals; fewer younger offenders entering the system and beginning a life of crime means significantly less crime in the future.

The charts below illustrate the changes in inmate population by age cohort and the changes in total arrests by age cohort.

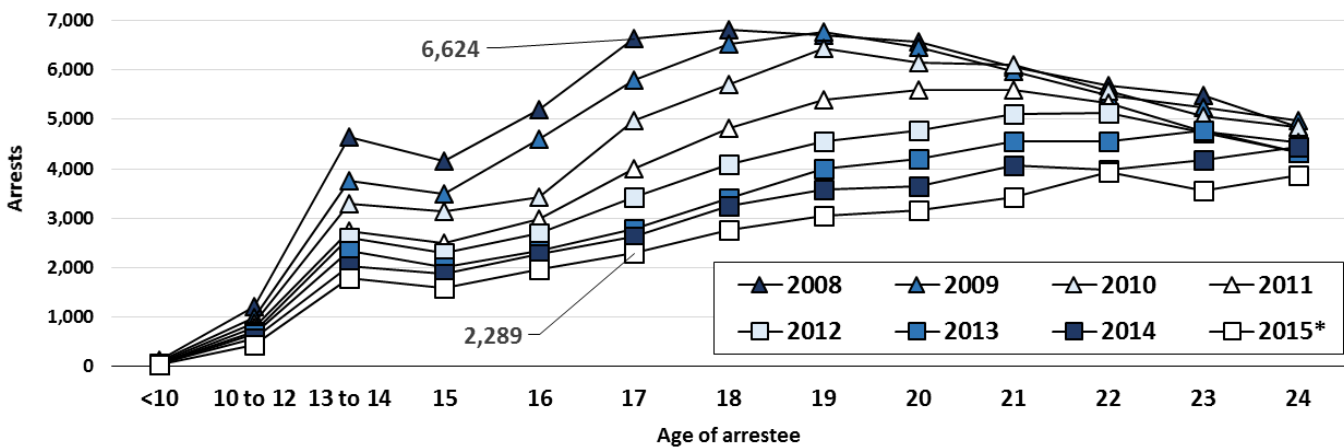
## Age ranges of offenders incarcerated in CT, 2009 through 2016



CT-OPM, Criminal Justice Police & Planning Division



## Statewide arrests by age at of arrestee, 2008-2015



Source: Crime in CT Reports, 2008-2014.

\*2015 arrest data are preliminary.

ARRESTS of 18 to 21 year olds dropped 53% between 2008 and 2015.