CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY & PLANNING DIVISION:

REVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH

JUNE 29, 2023

2023 Correctional Population Update
Key 2023 CJPPD Research Unit Initiatives

Presented by:
Marc Pelka, *Undersecretary*
Kevin Neary, *Research Unit Director*

Office of Policy and Management

Today's briefing includes two sections:

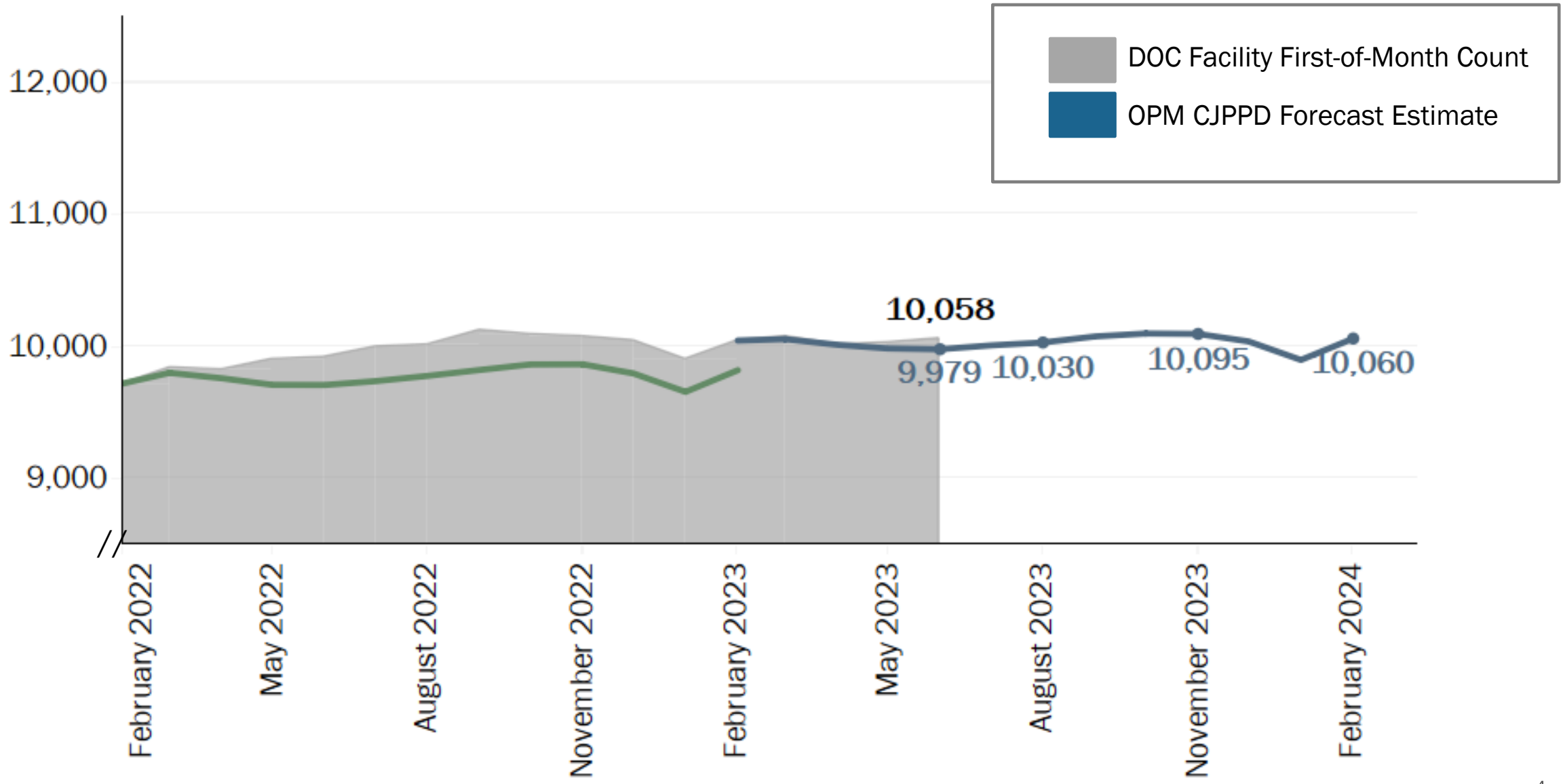
I. June 2023 Correctional Population Update

II. Key 2023 Research Unit Initiatives

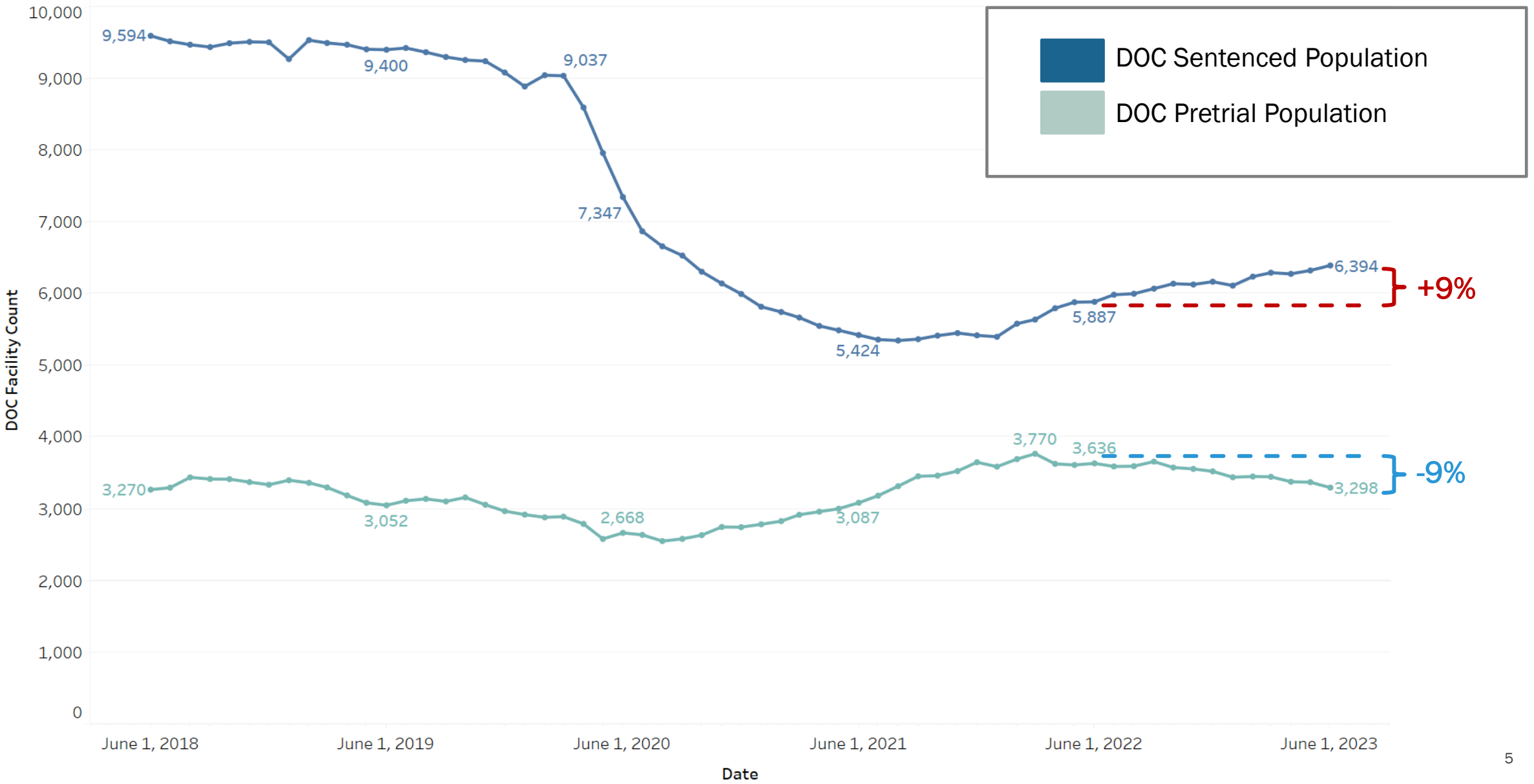
Today's report includes two sections:

I. June 2023 Correctional Population Update

DOC Correctional Facility Population as of June 1, 2023



In the past year, the sentenced population grew while the pretrial population fell

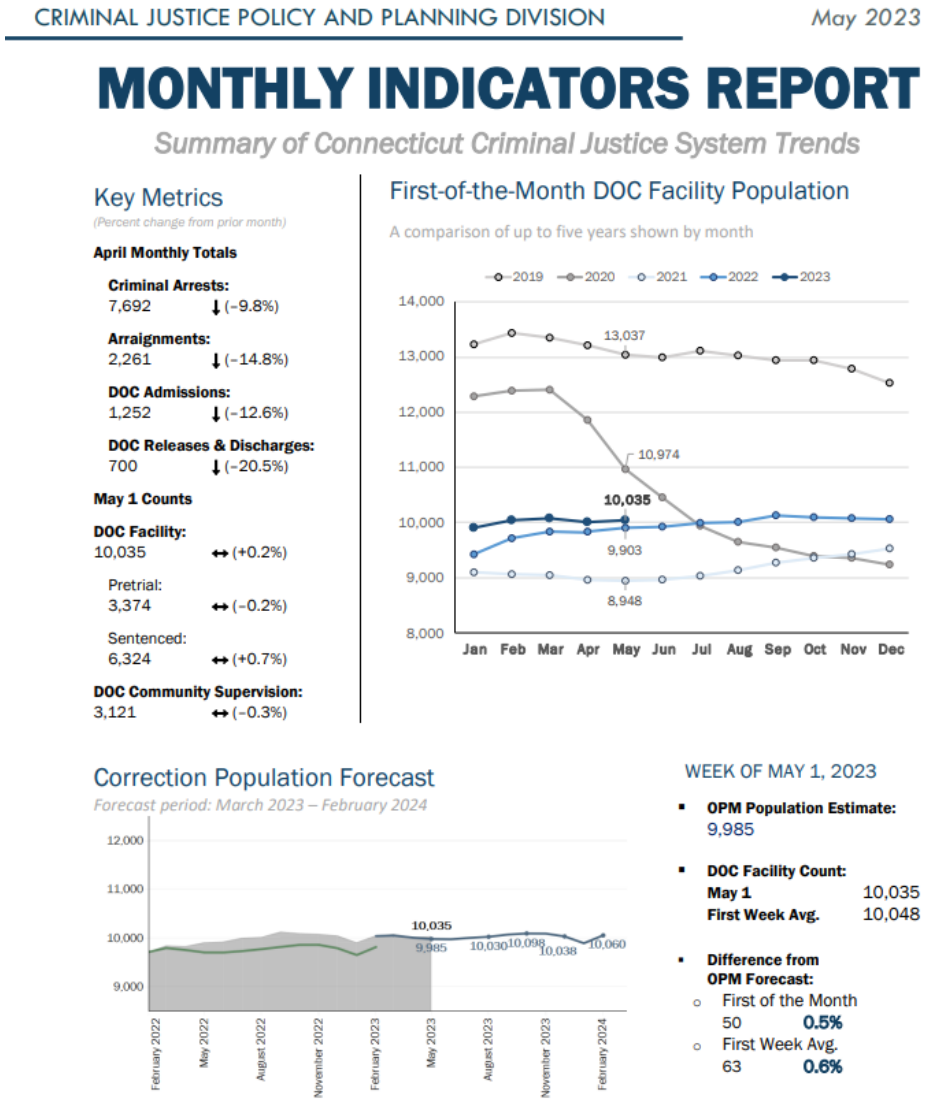


Today's report includes two sections:

II. Key 2023 Research Unit Initiatives

In 2023, OPM CJPPD redesigned the Monthly Indicators Report

- Beginning in January, OPM CJPPD substantially redesigned the *Monthly Indicators Report*.
- The new design:
  - Uses a modular approach to group related measures and data,
  - Emphasizes visualizations increasingly for ease of use and reference, and
  - Seeks to accommodate future additional content providing a more expansive collection of criminal justice system indicators.



The revised *Monthly* uses clear visualizations to depict trends and indicators that is seeks to expand further in the report.

To enable readers with an efficient rundown of key metrics, the *Monthly* now provides the following information on the cover page:

April Monthly Totals

Criminal Arrests:
7,692 ↓ (-9.8%)

Arraignments:
2,261 ↓ (-14.8%)

DOC Admissions:
1,252 ↓ (-12.6%)

DOC Releases & Discharges:
700 ↓ (-20.5%)

May 1 Counts

DOC Facility:
10,035 ↔ (+0.2%)

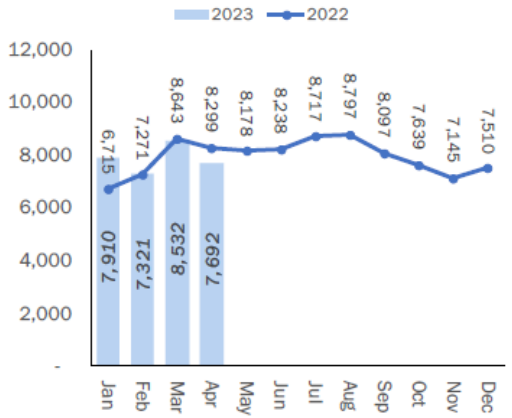
Pretrial:
3,374 ↔ (-0.2%)

Sentenced:
6,324 ↔ (+0.7%)

DOC Community Supervision:
3,121 ↔ (-0.3%)

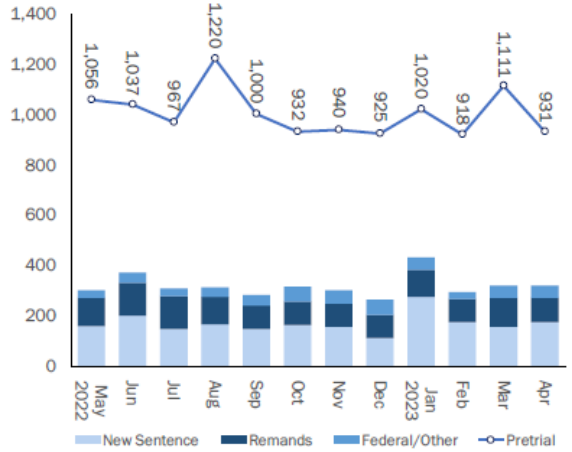
The *Monthly* will seek to use charts, like the existing ones below, to capture trends in a more clear and understandable manner:

Statewide Arrests: 2022 & 2023



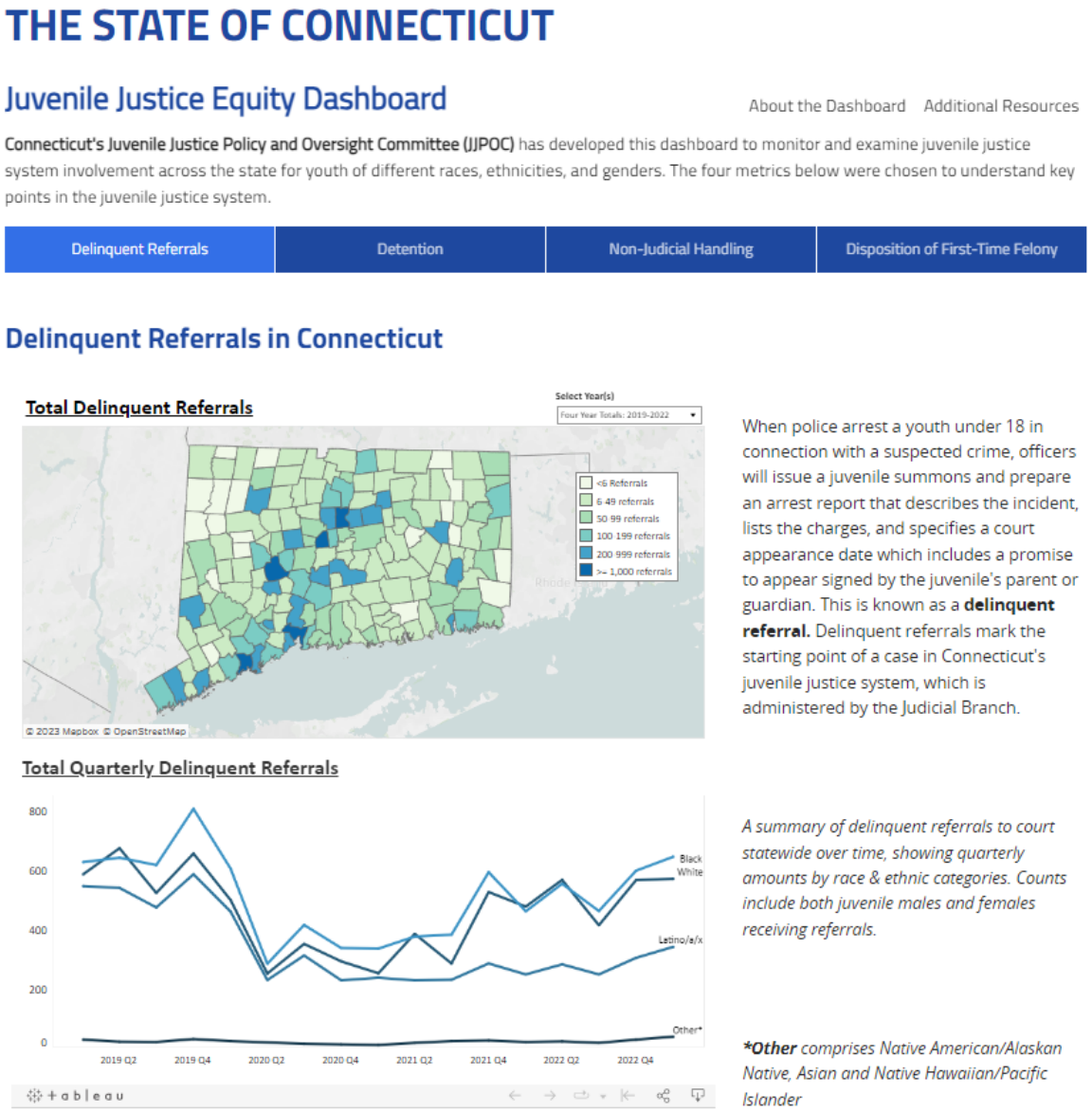
Note: Data in the chart above show new case starts in the state Criminal Motor Vehicle System (CRMVS).

Monthly DOC Admissions: 2022 & 2023

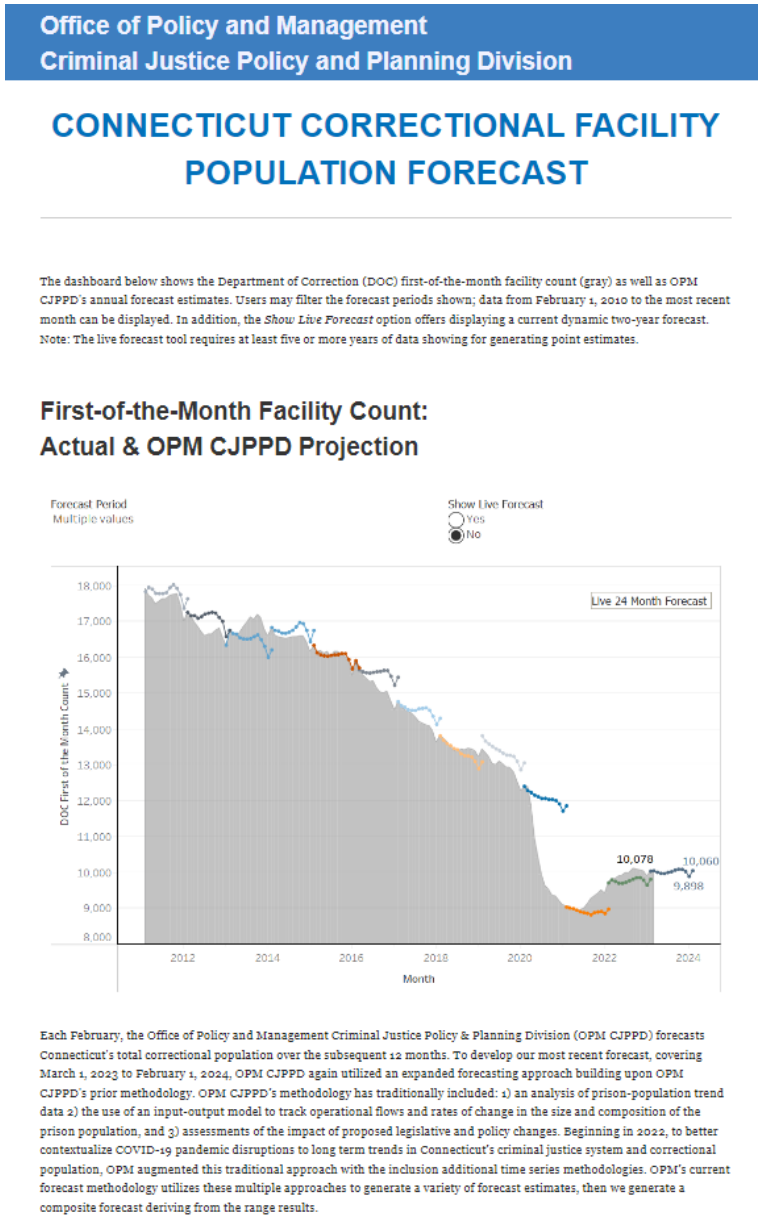


In the spring of 2023, OPM CJPPD supported the launch of the Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard

- An initiative of the Juvenile Justice Policy Oversight Committee (JJPOC), development of the dashboard began in 2020.
- Collaborative effort involving:
  - JJPOC Racial and Ethnic Disparities Work Group
  - JJPOC Cross-Agency Data Sharing Work Group
  - The Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division
  - OPM CJPPD
  - OPM Data and Policy Analytics Unit
  - Tow Youth Justice Institute
  - Key stakeholders for Connecticut's juvenile justice system
- The dashboard launched with an initial measure, and work is ongoing in 2023 to develop additional measures prioritize for the tool.



OPM CJPPD exploring digitization of additional reports and analyses



Office of Policy and Management
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

CONNECTICUT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY POPULATION FORECAST

The dashboard below shows the Department of Correction (DOC) first-of-the-month facility count (gray) as well as OPM CJPPD's annual forecast estimates. Users may filter the forecast periods shown; data from February 1, 2010 to the most recent month can be displayed. In addition, the *Show Live Forecast* option offers displaying a current dynamic two-year forecast. Note: The live forecast tool requires at least five or more years of data showing for generating point estimates.

First-of-the-Month Facility Count: Actual & OPM CJPPD Projection

Each February, the Office of Policy and Management Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division (OPM CJPPD) forecasts Connecticut's total correctional population over the subsequent 12 months. To develop our most recent forecast, covering March 1, 2023 to February 1, 2024, OPM CJPPD again utilized an expanded forecasting approach building upon OPM CJPPD's prior methodology. OPM CJPPD's methodology has traditionally included: 1) an analysis of prison-population trend data 2) the use of an input-output model to track operational flows and rates of change in the size and composition of the prison population, and 3) assessments of the impact of proposed legislative and policy changes. Beginning in 2022, to better contextualize COVID-19 pandemic disruptions to long term trends in Connecticut's criminal justice system and correctional population, OPM augmented this traditional approach with the inclusion additional time series methodologies. OPM's current forecast methodology utilizes these multiple approaches to generate a variety of forecast estimates, then we generate a composite forecast deriving from the range results.

- With experienced developed from work supporting the Juvenile Justice Equity Dashboard, OPM CJPPD has begun exploring ways to prepare other digital tools for several of its research products.
- Over the first half of 2023, OPM CJPPD explored pilot versions of key reports, such as:
  - The *Annual Forecast of the Correctional Population*, and
  - The *Monthly Indicators Report*.
- While very much in early development stages, OPM CJPPD also recognizes an opportunity to reimagine this research for the web.
- OPM CJPPD wishes to continue working with CJPAC members and criminal justice data partners to develop, adapt, and enhance these analyses as we make a digital transition ahead.

THANK YOU

For more information, please visit

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

Additional thanks to the assistance of OPM CJPPD Research Unit staff:

Melissa Beattie, *Lead Planning Analyst*

Justin Etheridge, *Research Analyst*