

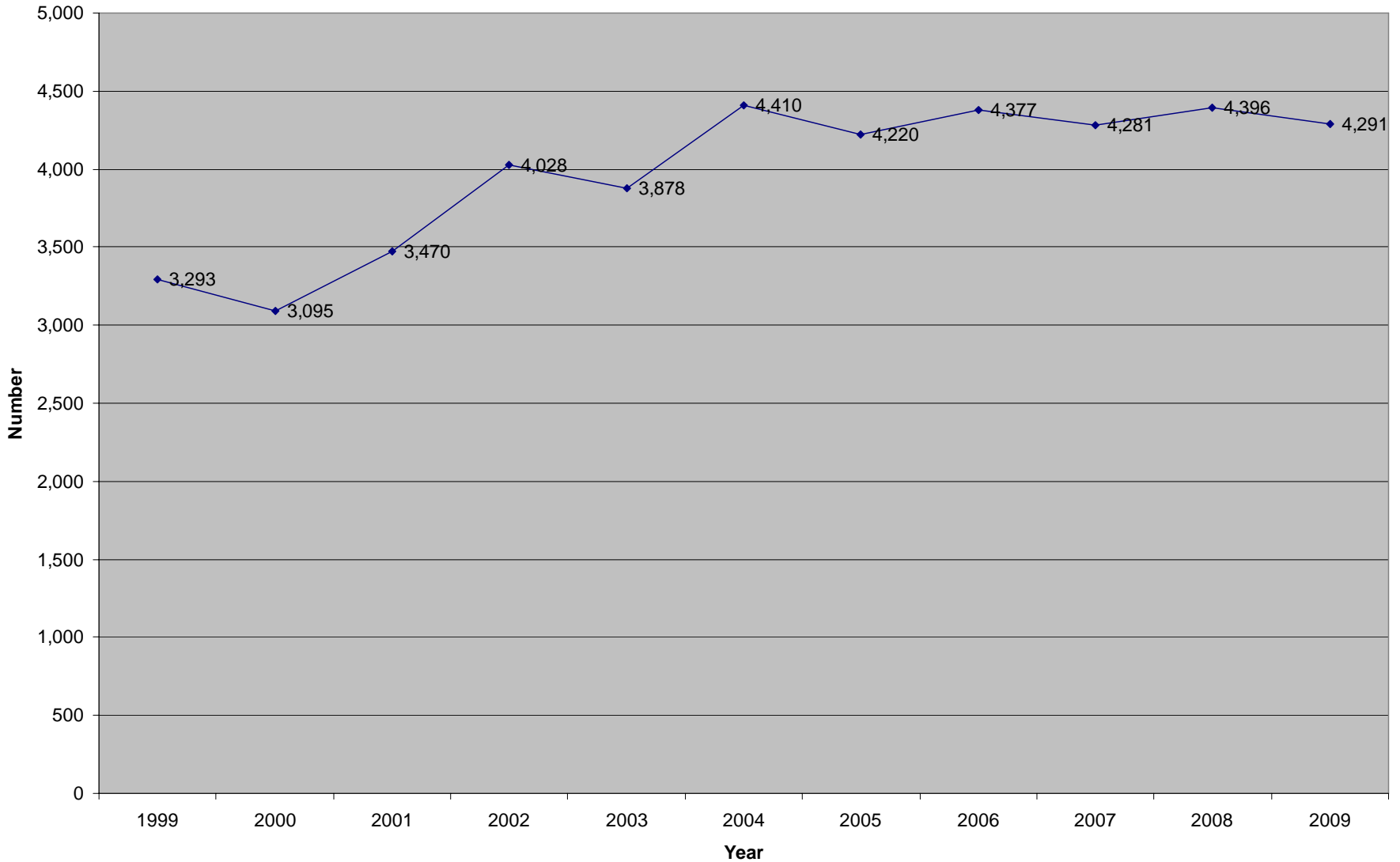


State of Connecticut Judicial Branch

Court Support Services Division
Adult Bail Services
October 8, 2009

CT Department of Correction Accused Population

Source: Department of Correction Website



Judicial Branch - CSSD

Adult Services

- **Bail Services**
 - **In 2003 the Judicial Branch's – CSSD initiated a multi-year project to develop a more systematic and consistent bail determination process ultimately resulting in:**
 - Increased number of defendant's released on non-financial bonds
 - Increased use of the service provider network
 - A decrease in the number of failures to appear
 - More consistent and equitable financial bond recommendations
 - **Three significant developments resulted from this project**
 - 2003 Validation of the Case Data Record
 - 2005 Bail Decision Aid
 - 2008 Financial Bond Guideline

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- **Case Data Record – Validation Process**
 - **In 2003, CSSD contracted with CCSU to validate the weighted release criteria to ensure that bail staff places greater emphasis on the factors related to appearance in Court.**
 - **Criteria such as number of dependants, other family in CT, time at current address and student status were eliminated and criteria such as marital status, references and charge severity were weighted differently.**
 - **Based upon recommendations by CCSU the weighted release criteria was modified and pilot findings showed:**
 - **Bail staff were more likely to order or recommend non-financial releases (66% vs 52%)**
 - **Fewer individuals released on non-financial bonds failed to appear (20% vs 10%)**
 - **In 2004 the revised weighted release criteria was implemented statewide.**

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- **Case Data Record – Decision Aid**
 - In 2005 CSSD contracted with CCSU to:
 - ✓ Review our pre-trial release decision making process and develop a system whereby more non-financial release recommendations are made in cases where lower surety bonds would have been recommended.
 - **This project resulted in the creation of the Bail Decision Aid which assists bail staff in obtaining additional information in the following areas:**
 - ✓ Personal Needs (substance use, education, employment)
 - ✓ Compliance Needs (support & structure, prior compliance)
 - ✓ Safety Risk (prior record)

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- **Decision Aid – Pilot Study**
 - **Decision Aid was associated with:**
 - A greater likelihood of recommending a non-financial condition of release (56% vs 20%)
 - A greater likelihood of recommending a condition (64% vs 21%)
 - A higher percentage of recommendations that matched the judge's order (65% vs 49%)
 - A lower failure to appear rate (12% vs 17%)
 - **In 2005 the Bail Decision Aid was implemented statewide**

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- Guidelines for Financial Bond Recommendations:
 - Prior to September of this year CSSD did not deploy a statewide structured method for determining financial bond amounts / recommendations.
 - In 2008 CSSD contracted with CCSU to review our financial bond determination process.
 - Over 50,000 financial bond records from 2006-2007 data were analyzed, resulting in the development of a financial bond guideline.
 - The Financial Bond Guideline considers the offense characteristics, mitigating or aggravating case factors and client risk to guide bail staff in recommending a financial bond amount.
 - In September 2009 the Financial Bond Guideline was implemented statewide.

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Guidelines for Financial Bond Recommendations

Charge Type/Class	Rating Scale Total												
	+6	+5	+4	+3	+2	+1	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6
Unclassified Misdemeanor	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000
Class C Misdemeanor	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
Class B Misdemeanor	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
Class A Misdemeanor	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Class D Felony	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
Unclassified Felony	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Class C Felony	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
Class B Felony	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Class A Felony	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

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- **Next Steps**

- Fully operationalize the Bail Risk Reduction Indicator Reports
- Educate Court personnel (Judges, Prosecutors and Public Defenders) about the changes to the bail determination process
- Quality Assure the bail interview process to make certain that each of the bail determination components are being completed accurately in order to better manage the Connecticut pre-trial population

Bail Key Performance Indicator Progress

Statewide

1. Percent of interviews conducted during non-court hours that were released prior to arraignment

	2009q1	2009q2
	37%	39%

2. Percent of all arraignment cases recommended for a non-financial release

	2009q1	2009q2
	26% Goal: 29%	28% Goal: 29%

3. Percent of cases in which the arraignment recommendation matched court order

	2009q1	2009q2
	43%	44%

4. Percent of cases released on a Non-Financial bond and failed to appear between arraignment and disposition

	2009q1	2009q2
	14% Goal: 13%	11% Goal: 13%

5. Percent of Bail cases that scored zero (0) or higher that had a non-financial release recommended at arraignment

	2009q1	2009q2
	49% Goal: 50%	51% Goal: 50%

6. Percent of Bail cases in which points were not calculated

	2009q1	2009q2
	8% Goal: 10%	6% Goal: 10%

7. Top Five Conditional Release Recommendations

	2009q1	2009q2
Obey Protective Order	29%	Obey Protective Order 31%
AIC - Walk In	23%	AIC - Walk In 24%
JRI - Referral	9%	JRI - Referral 9%
Mental Health trmt/Outpatient	6%	Mental Health trmt/Outpatient 7%
No Contact With	5%	No Contact With 5%