



# TRENDS IN CONNECTICUT'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

2022 REPORT

DECEMBER 15, 2022

*Presented by:*

Marc Pelka, *Undersecretary*

Kevin Neary, *Research Unit Director*

**Office of Policy and Management**

# Today's report reviews annual trends across components of Connecticut's justice system, including the points listed below.

- **Crime**
  - **Victimization**
  - **Arrests**
  - **Criminal Cases**
  - **Corrections**
  - **Community Supervision**
- Public Act 21-97 requires OPM CJPPD to produce an annual report containing data analysis of state criminal justice system trends, including, if available, the number of reported crimes and arrests, and the size of the populations on probation, parole, special parole, and in prison.
  - This is the second edition of trends presented under the PA 21-97 statutory requirement.
  - The division will continue to refine and enhance the information reported in editions released over subsequent years.

# Summary of Key System Measures

Measure	Time Period	Percent change		
		10 year	5 Year	1 Year
Reported violent crime	2012-2021	-43%	-27%	-9%
Reported property crime	2012-2021	-29%	-14%	-2%
Arrests	2018-2022*	—	-25%	+3%
Criminal cases added	2018-2022*	—	-23%	< -1%
Correction Admissions	2013-2022*	-44%	-29%	+41%
Correction July 1 Population	2012-2022	-40%	-30%	+11%
Correction Community Supervision July 1 population	2012-2022	-29%	-32%	-16%
Probation: July average daily population	2018-2022	—	-22%	+6%

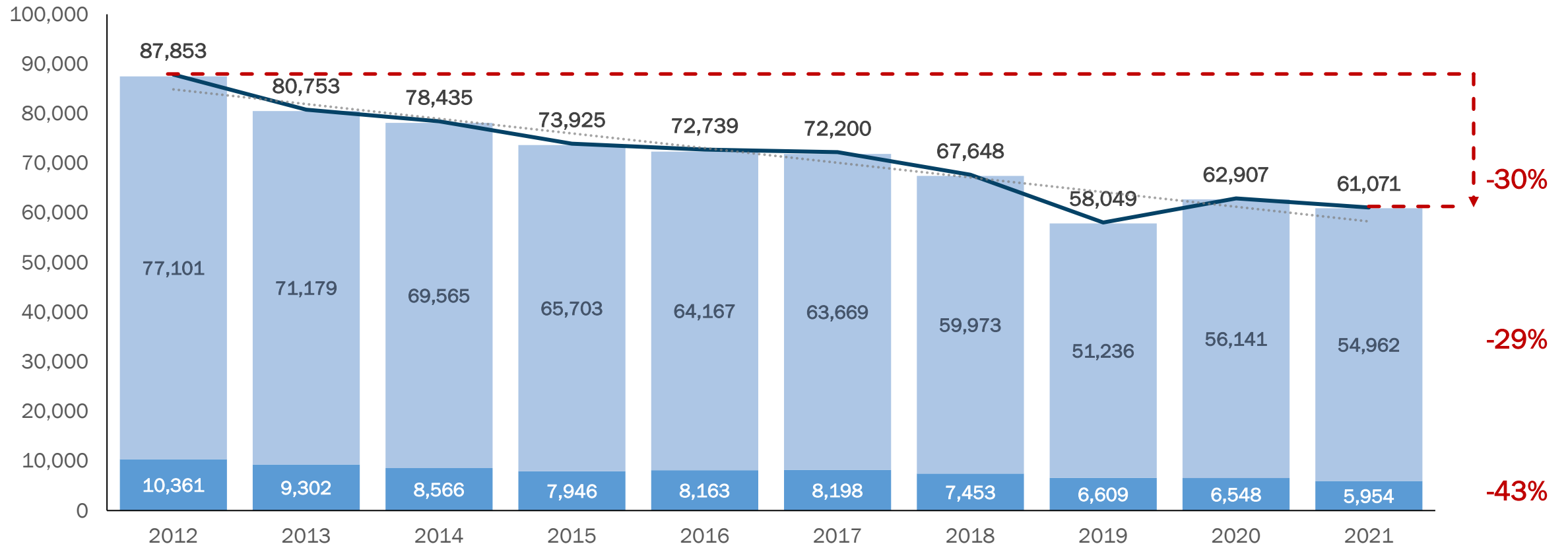
\*Note: These statistics are aggregated per State of Connecticut Fiscal Years, which run July 1 to June 30 annually.

- Today’s analysis captures contractions occurring at most points across the criminal justice system during the time periods for which data are available.
- Following its onset in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had widespread impacts on justice system trends.
- Pandemic-related impacts continue to affect the criminal justice system and will be monitored in these reports and others.

# Connecticut index crimes declined 3% from 2020 to 2021, and have fallen 30% from ten years ago, with violent crime down 43%.

Total Index Crimes in Connecticut, 2012-2021

Violent Property Index crimes Linear (Index crimes)



Source: Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) *Crime in Connecticut 2021 Report*, (<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DESPP/CSP/Crimes-Analysis/2021/Crime-in-Connecticut-Report-2021.pdf>)

# In 2021, Connecticut's estimated violent crime rate was less than half the estimated U.S. rate.

- Connecticut's violent crime rate has declined notably over the past 10 years, in contrast to the U.S. rate.

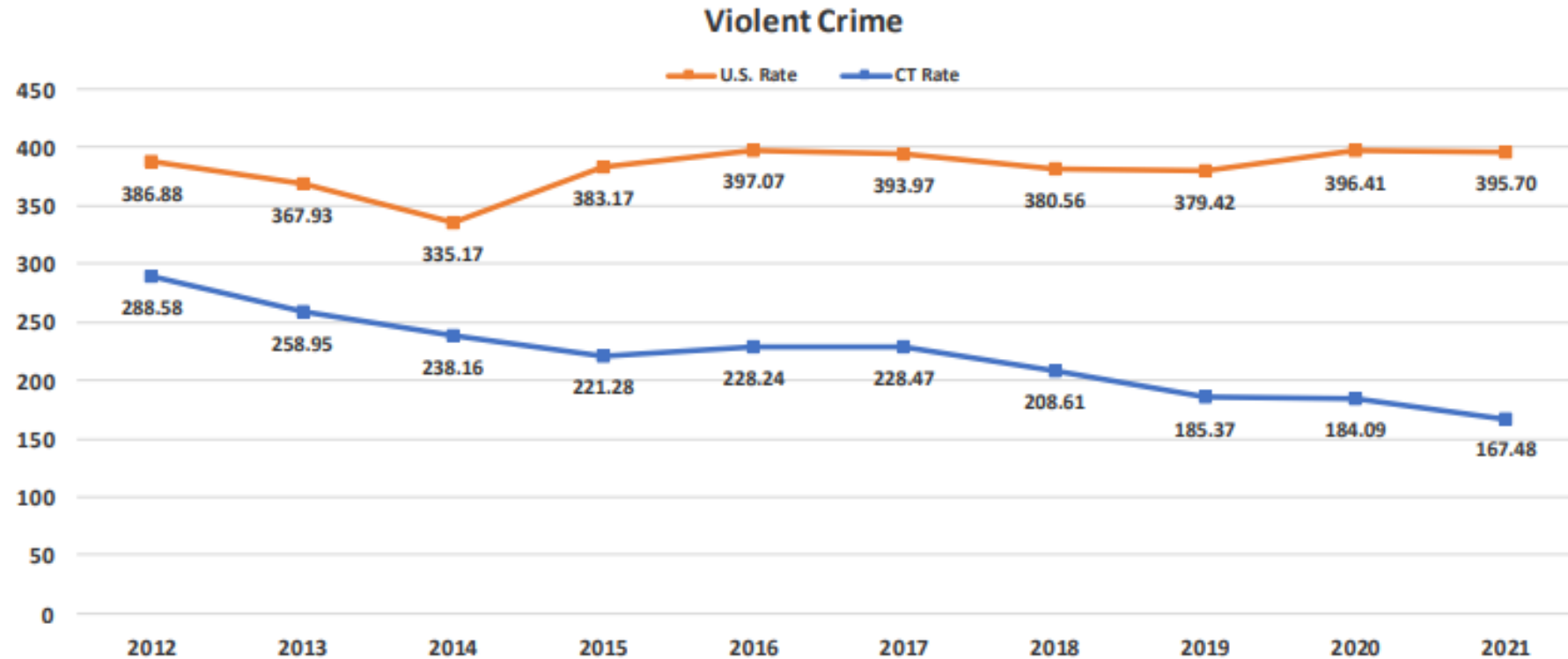
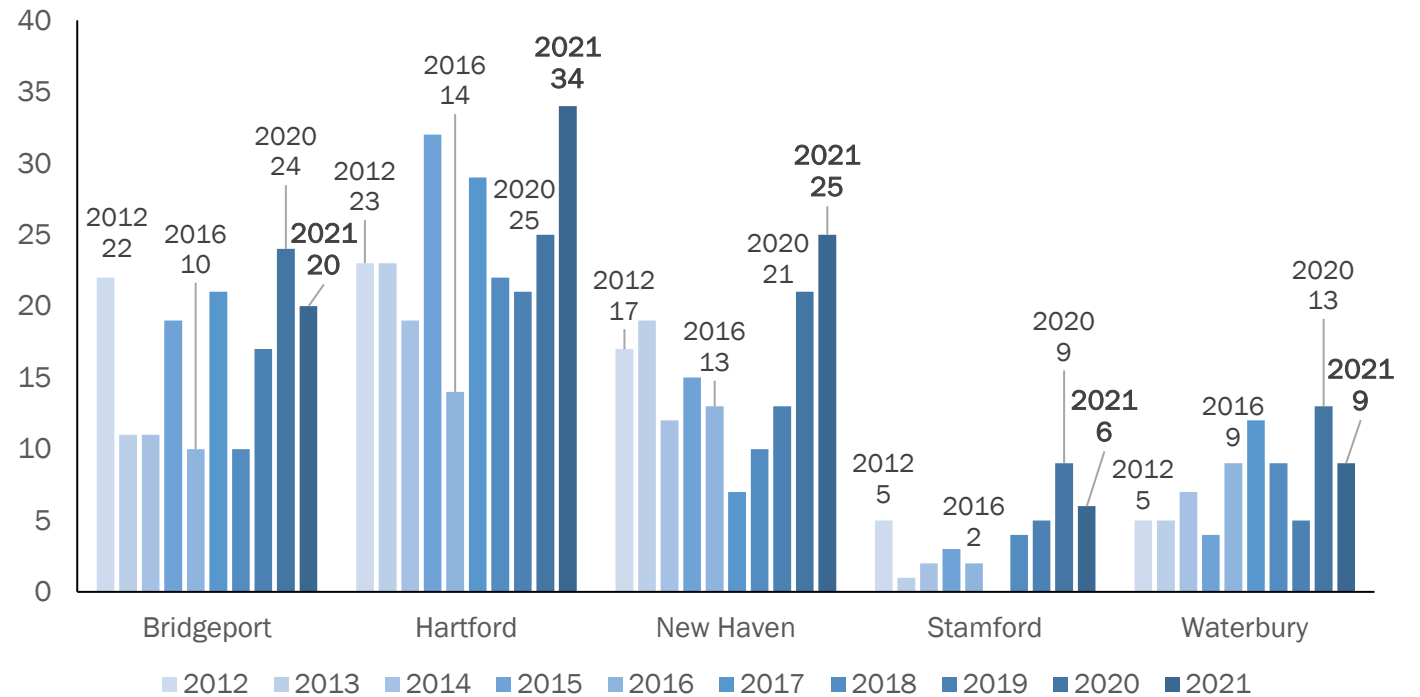


Chart Source: Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) *Crime in Connecticut 2021 Report*

# Like the U.S. rate, Connecticut's murder rate rose slightly in 2021, but still remains nearly 40 percent below the national rate.

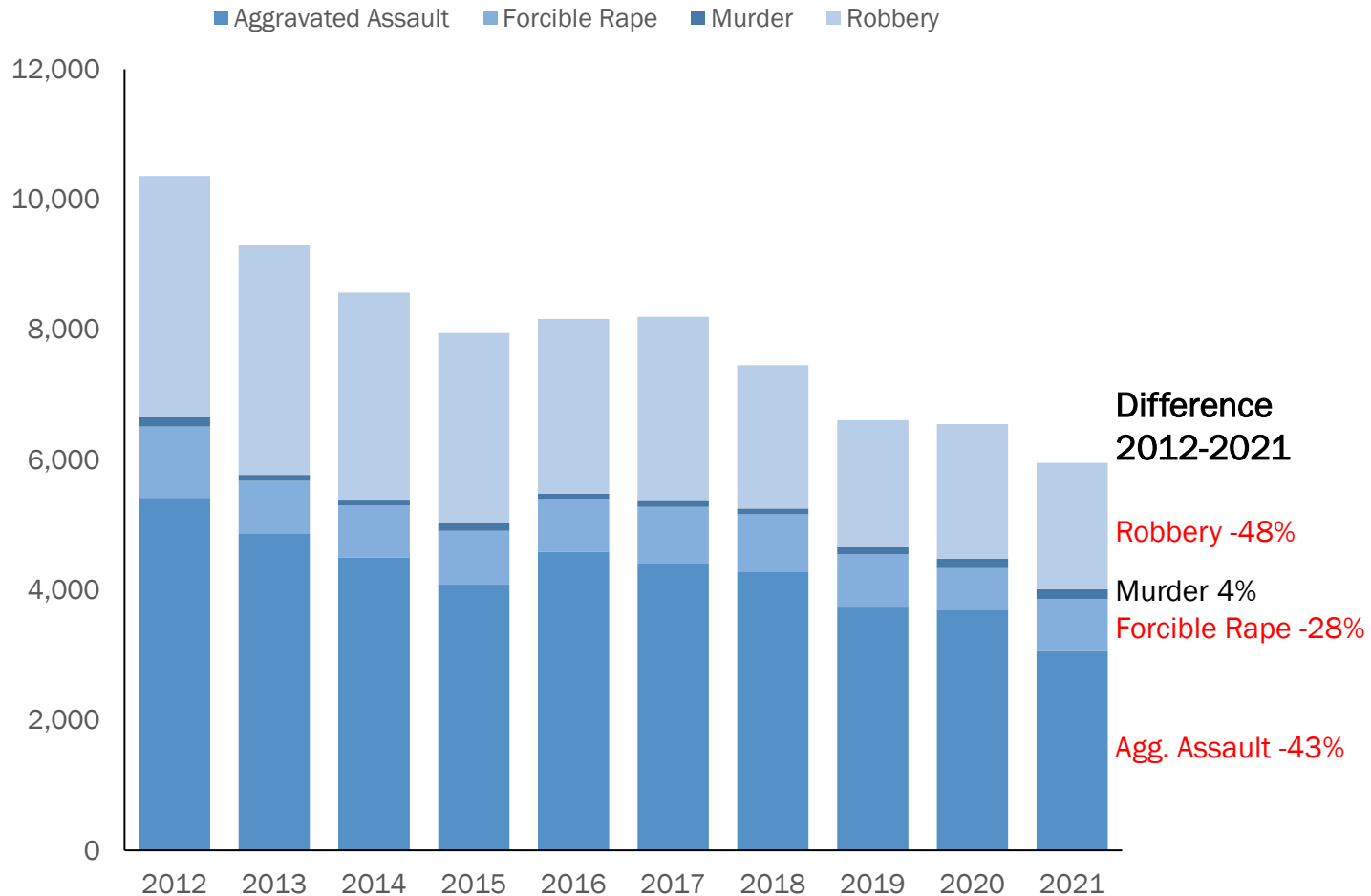
- Murder Rate per 100,000: 2021 (2020)
  - Connecticut estimate: 4.22 (4.13)
  - U.S. estimate: 6.9 (6.55)
  
- Of Connecticut's five largest cities (Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Stamford and Waterbury):
  - **3 cities experienced fewer murders in 2021** than 2020.
  - Reported murders in Hartford and New Haven reached a **10-year high** in 2021.

Murders in Connecticut Cities with Greater than 100,000 Population 2012-2021



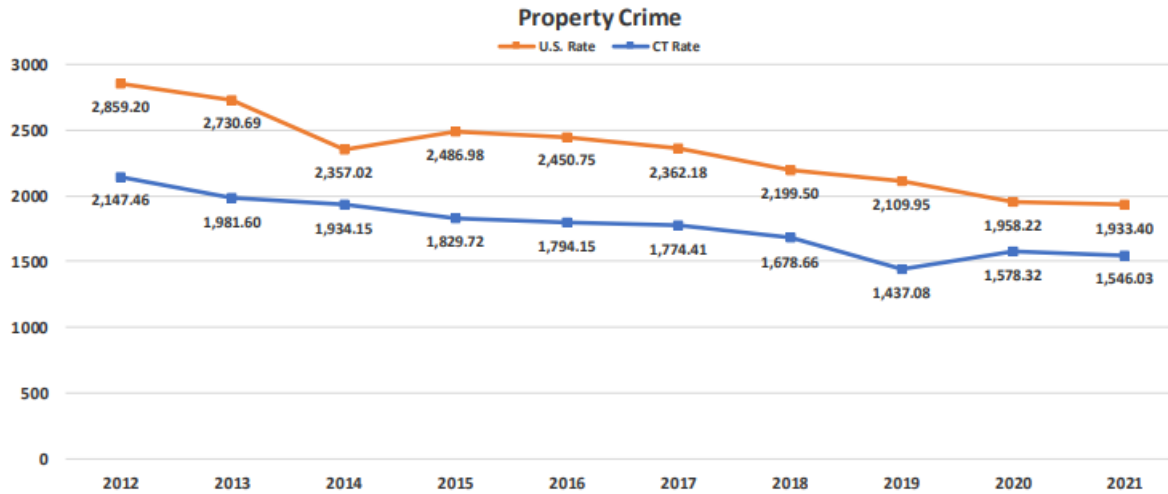
# Reductions in aggravated assaults and robberies have driven the decrease in statewide violent crime.

Statewide Violent Crimes by Type, 2012-2021



- Aggravated assaults **dropped 17%** in 2021 compared to 2020, and robberies were **down 6%**.
  - Both categories were down approximately 30% from 2017, and more than 40% over 10 years.
- Forcible rapes in 2021 **increased 23%** from 2020, similar to the rise seen nationally.
  - Connecticut's rate per 100,000 for forcible rape (**22.08**) remains nearly half of the 2021 U.S. rate (43.50)
  - Forcible rape crimes are **down nearly 30%** from 2012

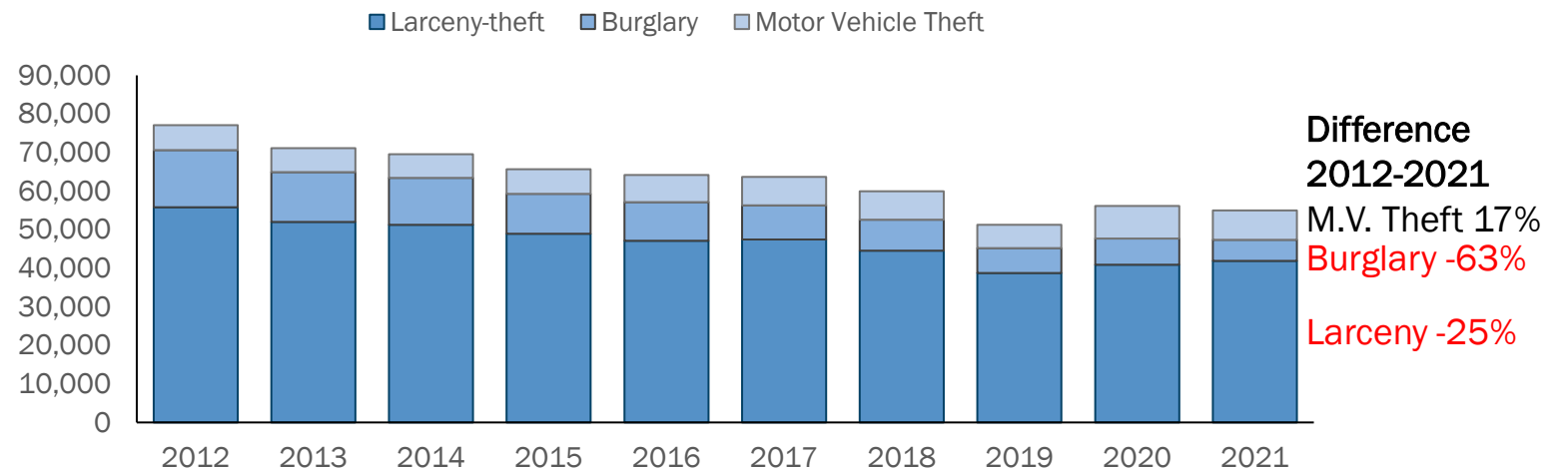
# Connecticut's property crime rate decreased 2% in 2021 from 2020



- Connecticut's estimated 2021 property crime rate per 100,000 was among the lowest observed over the past 10 years .
- Connecticut's rate (**1,546.03**) again registered below the 2021 U.S. rate (1,933.40)

- After increasing in 2020, motor vehicle thefts **declined 11%** in 2021, but have **grown 17%** from 2012.
- Burglaries are **down 19%** from 2020, and **-63%** from 2012.
- Larceny/property thefts **rose 2%** in 2021 but are a quarter lower than 10 years ago.

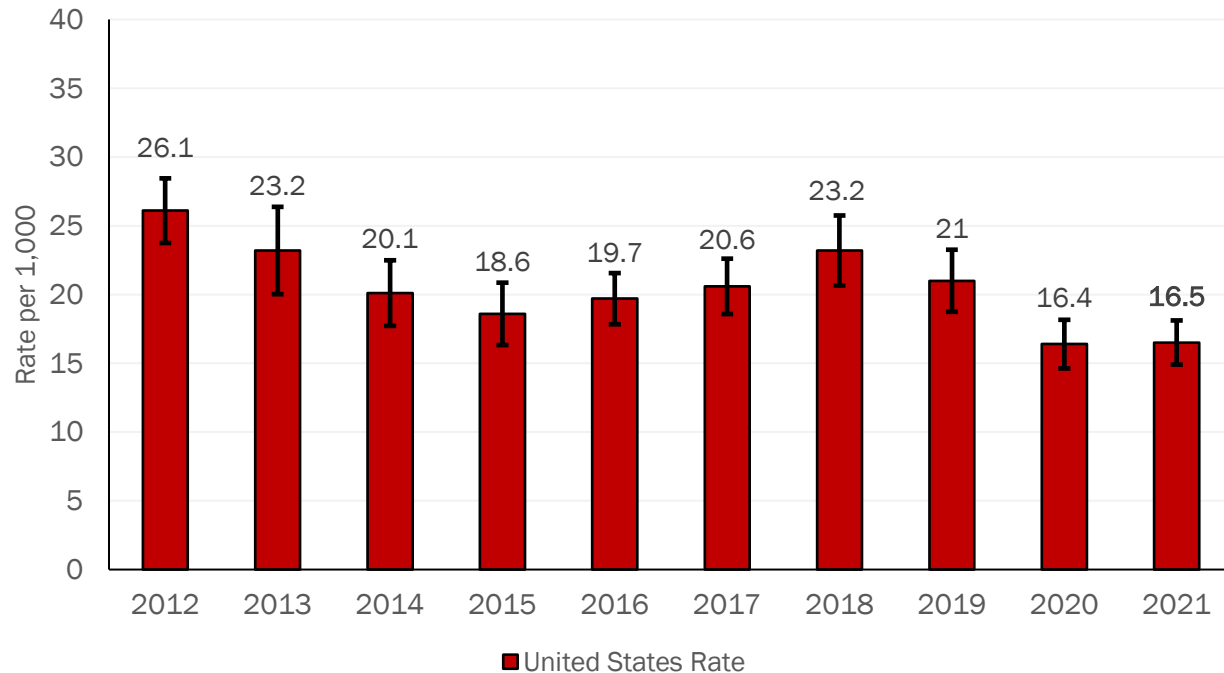
Statewide Property Crimes by Type, 2012-2021





# The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) offers complementary insights into U.S. crime trends and victimization.

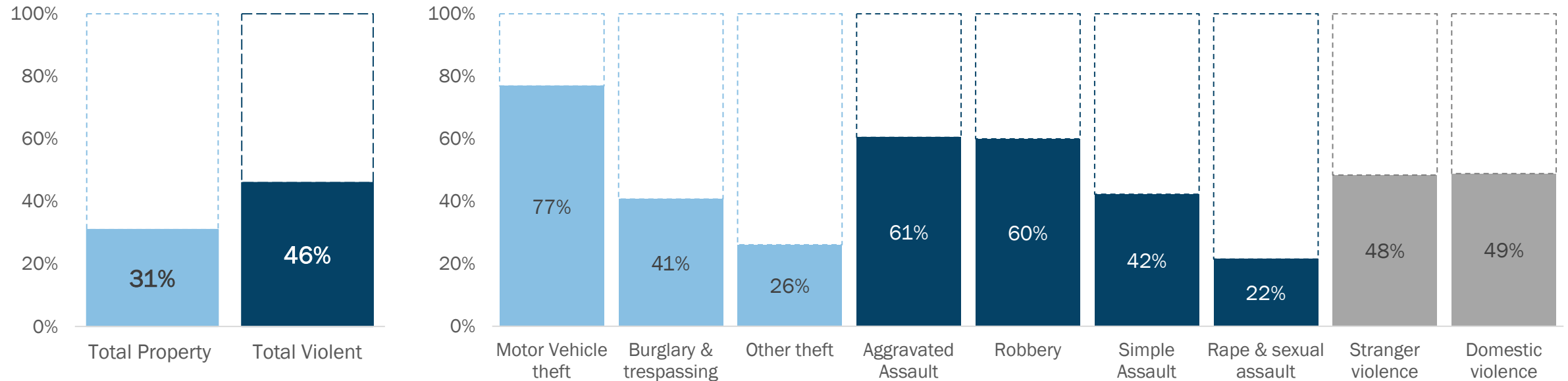
Rate of Violent Victimizations, 2012-2021



- The NCVS is an annual self-reported survey with victimization estimates based on crimes respondents experienced during the prior six months, excluding the month of the interview.
- There are some notable differences in crimes included in the UCR and NCVS reports, such as:
  - The UCR includes murder, non-negligent manslaughter, and commercial crimes, while the NCVS excludes these crimes
  - The NCVS includes sexual assault, which is separate from rape and includes a wider range of actions.
- Between 2012 and 2021, the estimated national violent victimization rate **decreased 37%**, from 26.1 to 16.5 victimizations per 1,000 people age 12 or older.
  - The 2021 violent victimization rate was consistent with 2020's estimate.

# Nationally, crimes continued to be under-reported to police in 2021, with only 31% of property crimes and 46% of violent crimes reported.

Percent of victimizations reported to police, by crime type, 2021



While the FBI crime statistics reflect crimes recorded by police, the NCVS measures crime reported and not reported to police.

NCVS indicates that “victims may not report a crime for a variety of reasons, including fear of reprisal or getting the offender in trouble, believing that police would not or could not do anything to help, and believing the crime to be a personal issue or too trivial to report.”

# In 2022, the Judicial Branch Office of Victim Services completed a statewide victim survey to collect data on victimization in Connecticut.

## Overview

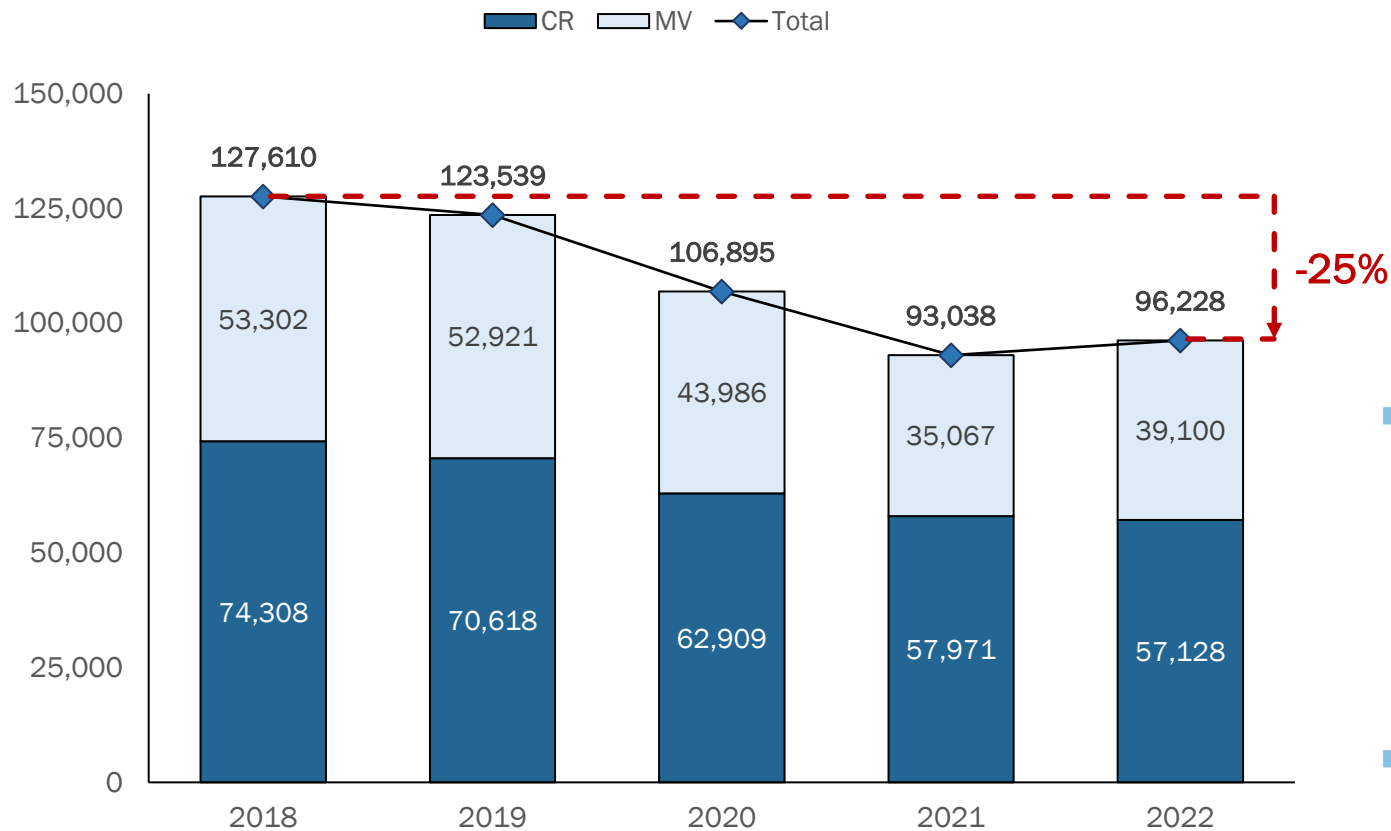


Initial Meetings and Design	Data Collection			Cumulative Research Report
	Victim Survey	In-depth interviews	VSP Focus Groups	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kick-off meeting</li> <li>Final work plan/timeline</li> <li>Design survey</li> <li>Design sampling plan</li> <li>Other materials</li> <li>Program survey</li> <li>IRB approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct survey</li> <li>Monitor and provide updates</li> <li>Report on results</li> <li>Plan for IDI and FGs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Interview Guide</li> <li>Conduct interviews</li> <li>Report on results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Moderator's guide</li> <li>Recruit for groups</li> <li>Conduct focus groups</li> <li>Report on results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis plan</li> <li>Analysis</li> <li>Draft report</li> <li>Final report</li> <li>Other deliverables</li> <li>Presentation of results</li> </ul>

- 1,230 respondents over the age of 18 completed the survey regarding their experiences as a victim of crime in Connecticut
  - 11,990 Connecticut residents were contacted overall
- In addition to the victimization survey:
  - 39 Respondents participated in follow up in-depth interviews about their experiences
  - 25 professionals working with victims of crime in Connecticut participated across 5 focus group discussions
- Initial findings from the survey, interviews, and focus group discussions were presented in July 2022, and finalized in a September 2022 report.
- The report and further examination of the collected data will guide a series of follow-up meetings with victim services stakeholders to inform understanding of victim needs for focusing services and supports.

# Though rising modestly in FY2022, statewide arrests have fallen 25% from five years ago.

Criminal & Motor Vehicle Arrests by Fiscal Year, 2018-2022

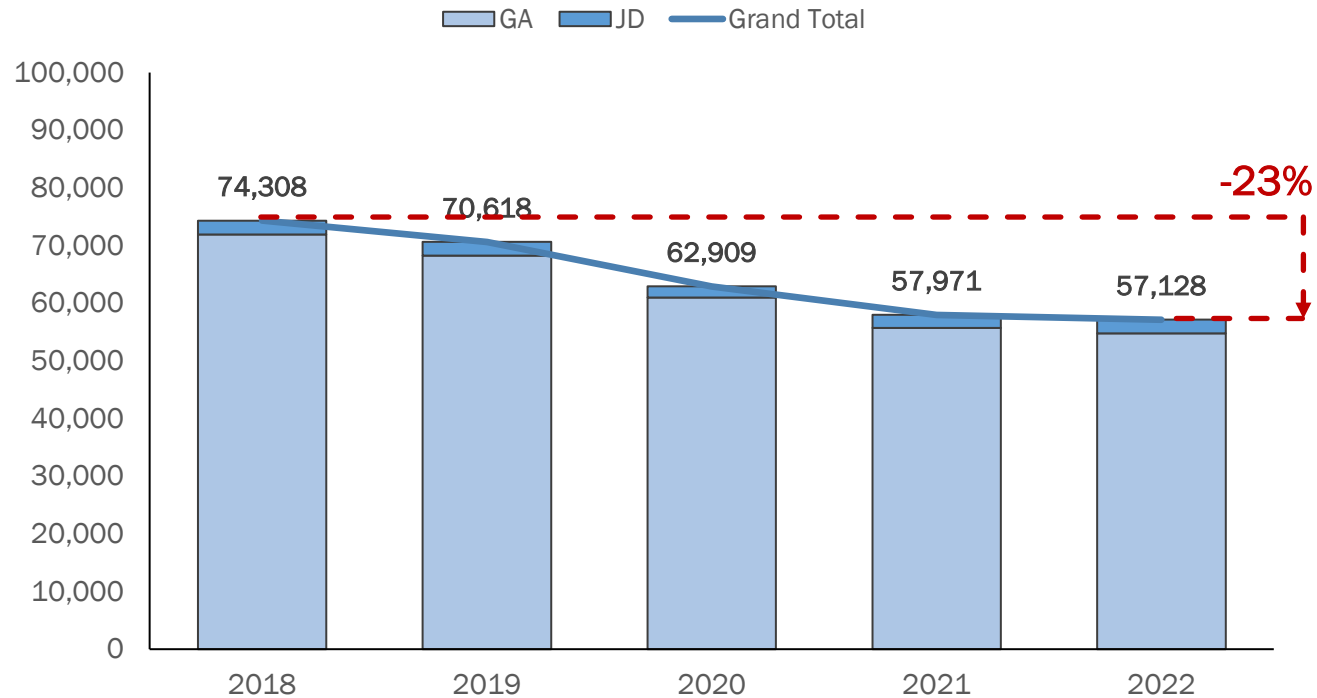


Notes: 1. Criminal includes cases transferred to the JD court  
 2. Criminal and Motor Vehicle matters exclude infractions and violations transferred from the Central Infraction Bureau

- Connecticut’s arrest volumes declined sharply with the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020.
  - Motor vehicle arrests were most impacted by the pandemic, **falling by 34%** in FY 2021 compared to FY2018.
- Connecticut’s **FY2022 arrests rose 3%** overall when compared to FY2021, driven by a 12% rebound in motor vehicle related-arrests.
- Criminal arrests decreased slightly in FY2022 and are down nearly a quarter from FY2018 volume.

# The number of criminal cases added in FY2022 were largely flat and has been declining since FY2018.

Criminal Cases Added by Fiscal Year, 2018 to 2022

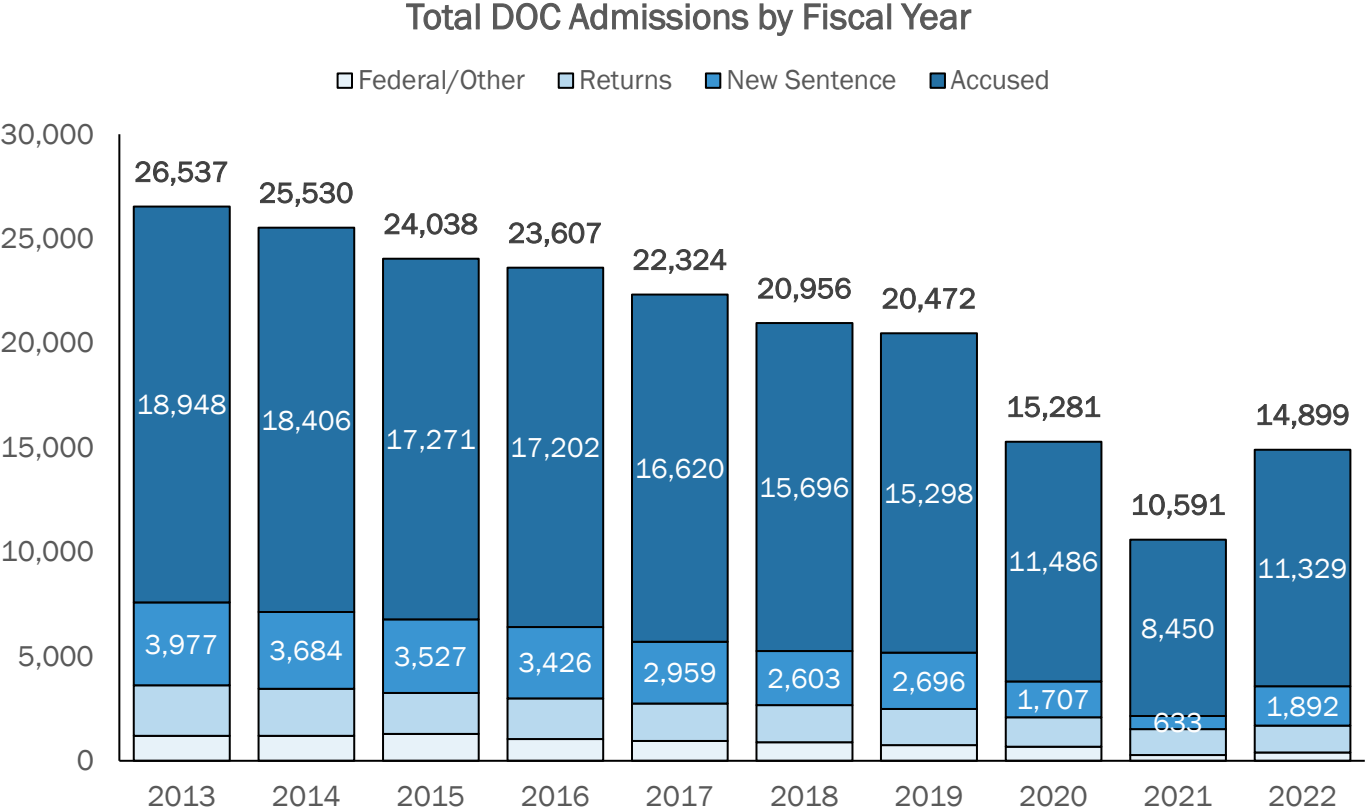


- Cases added were down less than one percent from FY2021  
A smaller year-to-year change than observed in previous years, this reduction levels out a trend first observed in FY2019.
- 23% fewer criminal cases were added in FY2022 than in FY2018.

Note: Criminal and Motor Vehicle matters exclude infractions and violations transferred from the Central Infraction Bureau

Source: Connecticut Judicial Branch Statistics, Criminal Cases

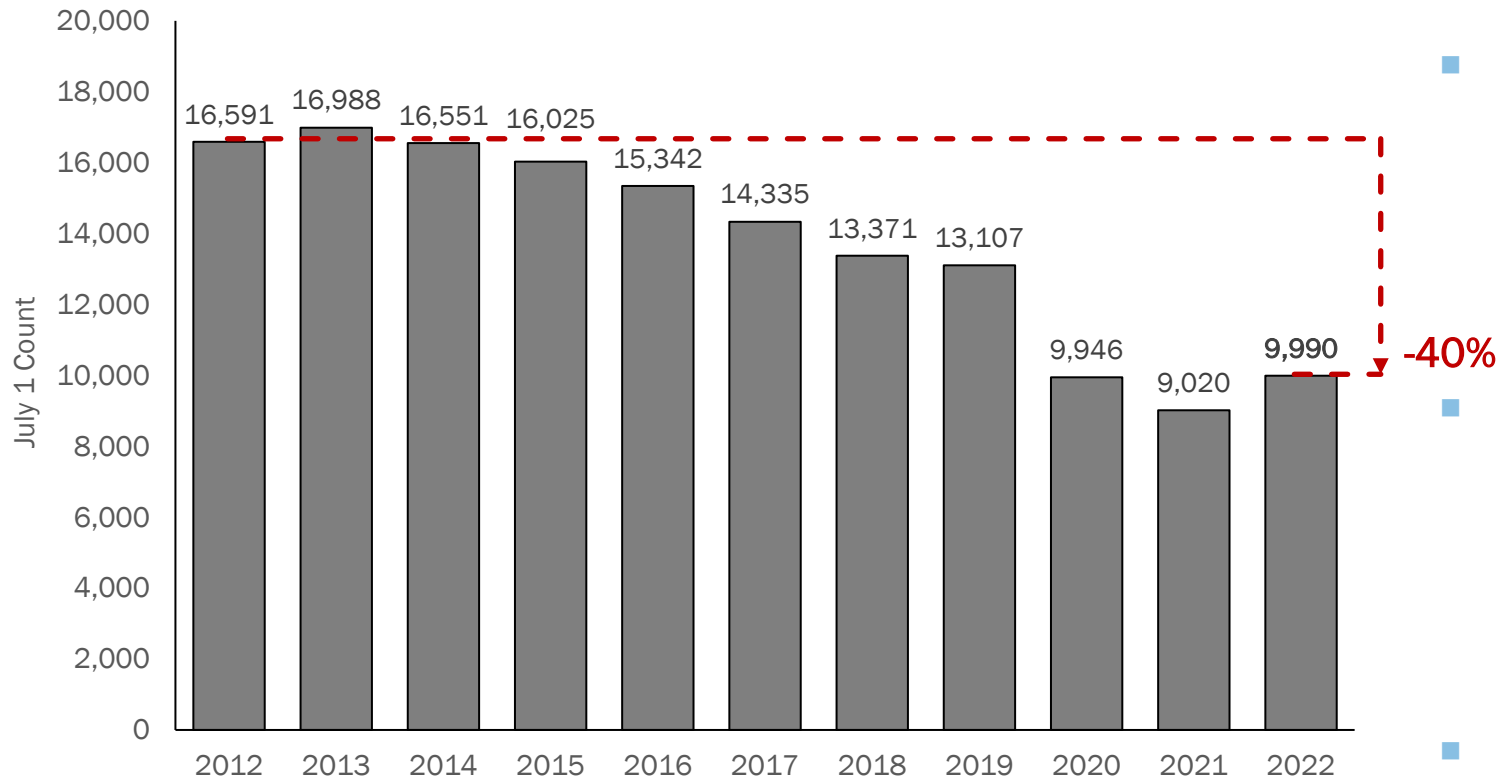
# Admissions to DOC facilities in FY2022 increased 41% from FY2021's pandemic-related low, though are well below pre-pandemic amounts.



- Both pretrial (*Accused*) admissions and admissions to begin an incarceration sentence (*New Sentence*) contributed to the rise in FY2022 admissions to DOC facilities.
  - Pretrial admissions **grew 34%** FY2021-FY2022
  - FY2022 new sentence admissions increased **nearly 200%** from FY2021, as courts recovered from pandemic impacts upon sentencing activities.
- Compared to 10 years ago, admissions to the DOC remain down significantly, with pretrial admissions **down 40%** and new sentence admissions **less than half** of FY2013 volume.

Source: Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), monthly admissions data provided to OPM

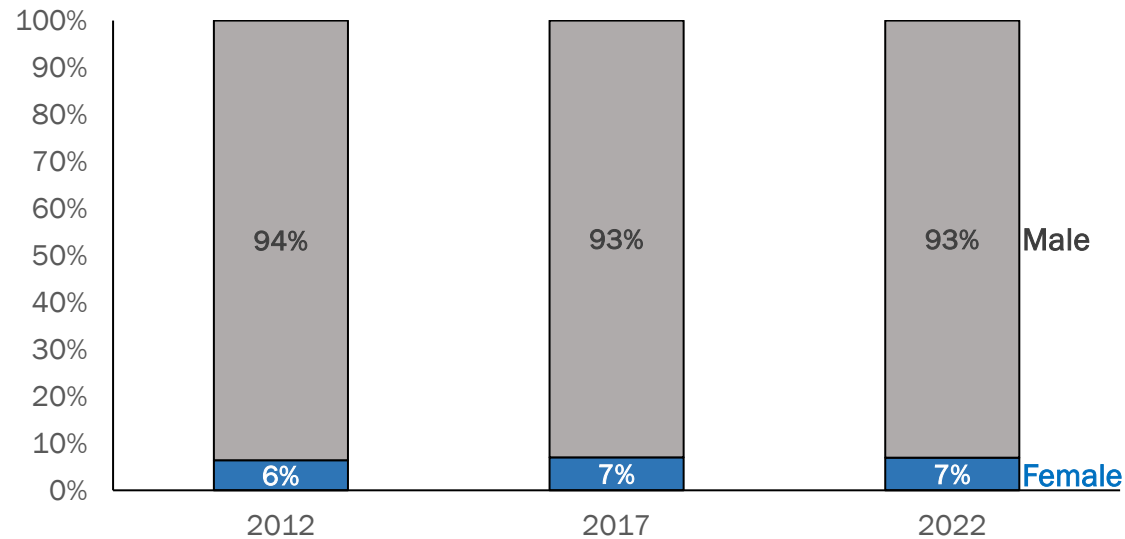
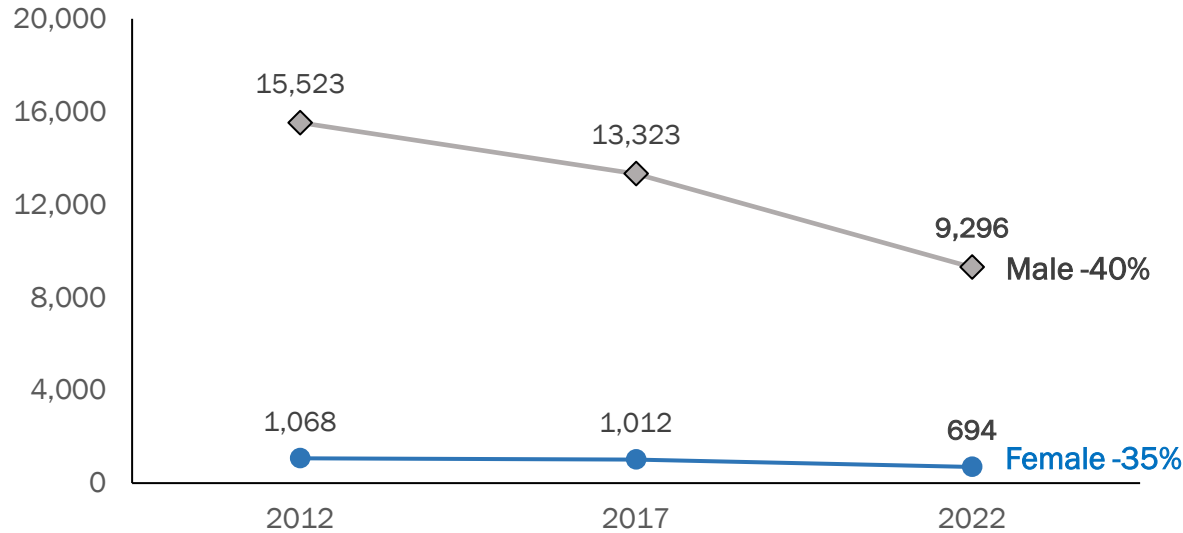
# While Connecticut's correction population registered an uptick for the first time since 2012-2013, there are 40% fewer people incarcerated than ten years prior.



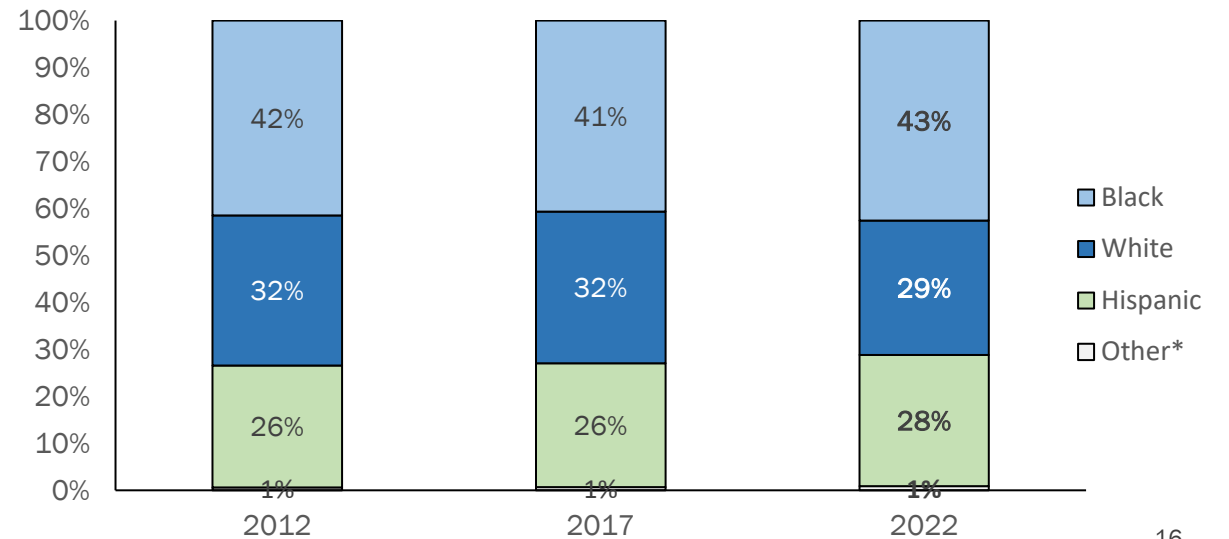
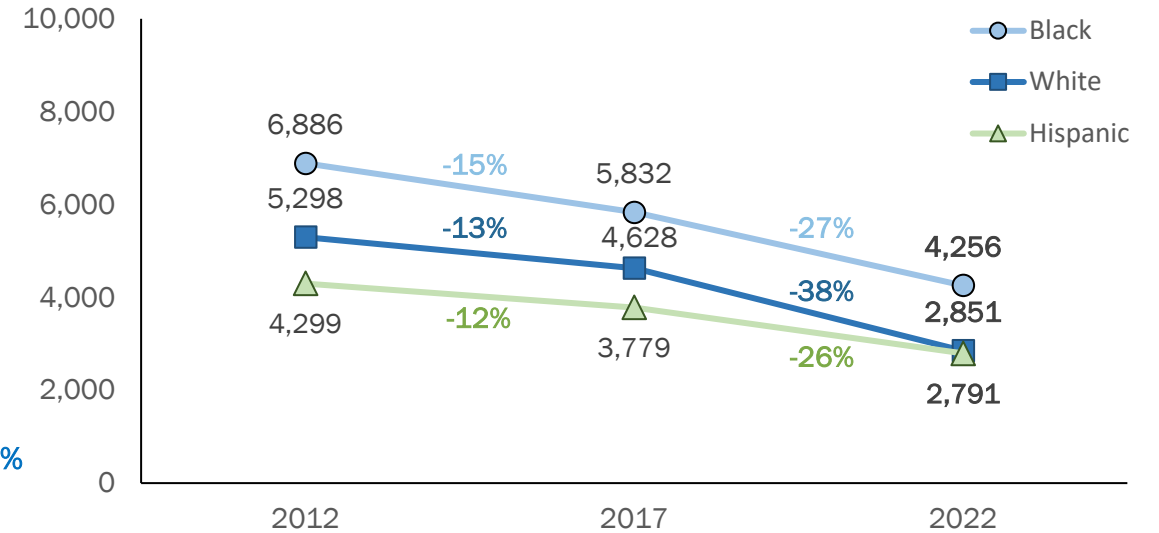
- The July 1 DOC facility population count contracted steadily between 2013 and 2019, before a steep drop following the onset of COVID-19.
- Even with 2022's **11% increase** from 2021, the DOC's July 1 count is approximately 76% of the pre-pandemic population.
- Compared to 2012, there were **40% fewer** people held in DOC facilities on July 1, 2022.

# Demographic trends of the correction facility population, 2012-2022

Correction Facility Population by Sex, July 1



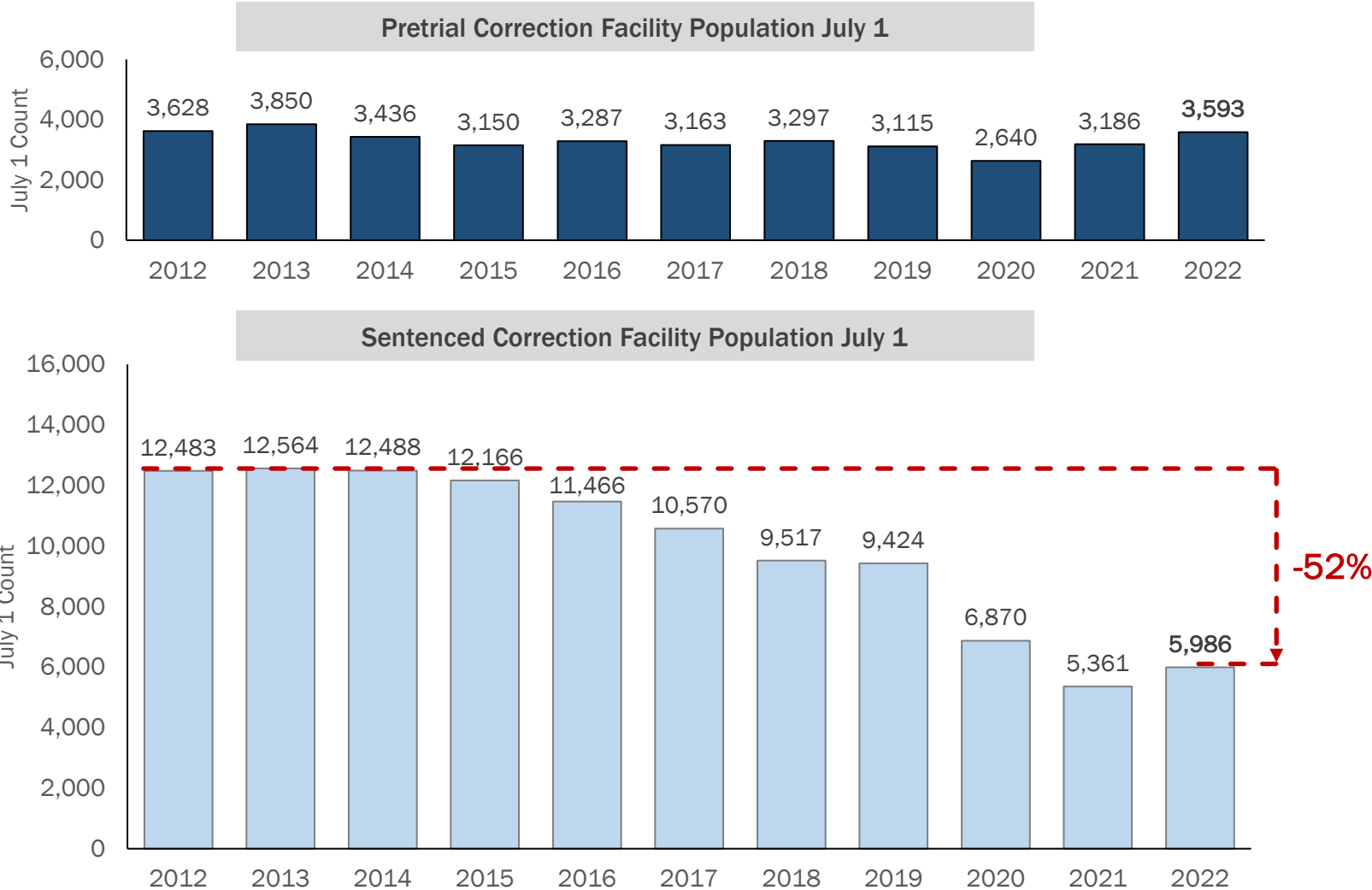
Correction Facility Population by Race/Ethnicity, July 1



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), monthly data provided to OPM

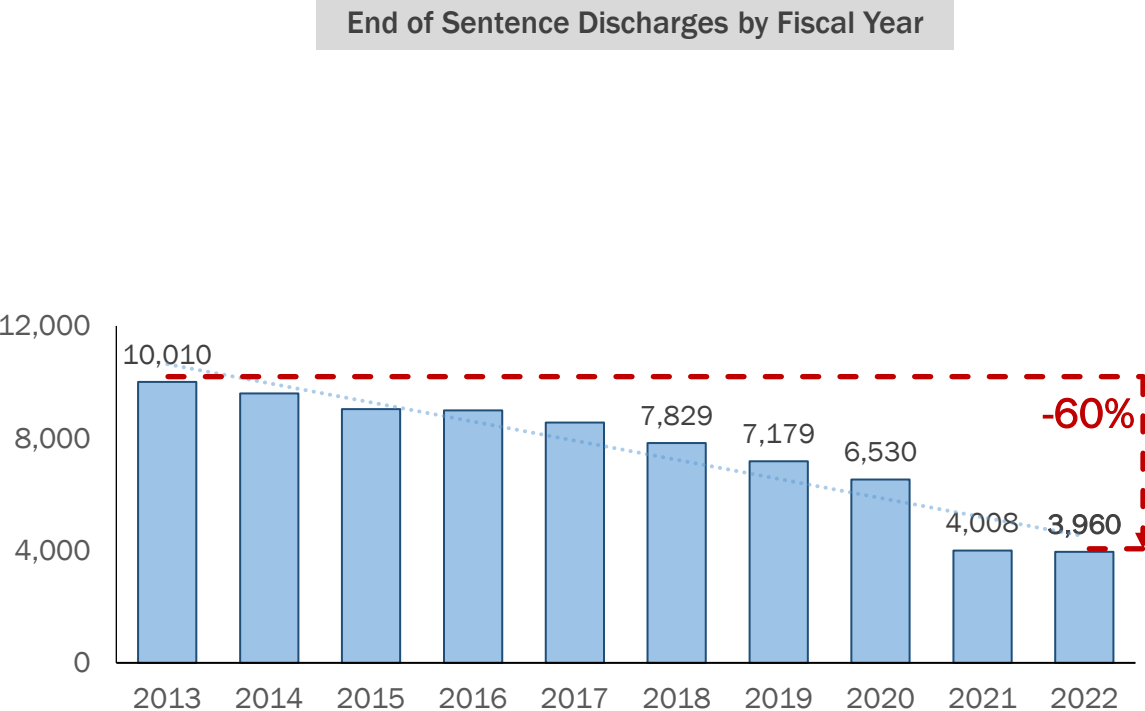
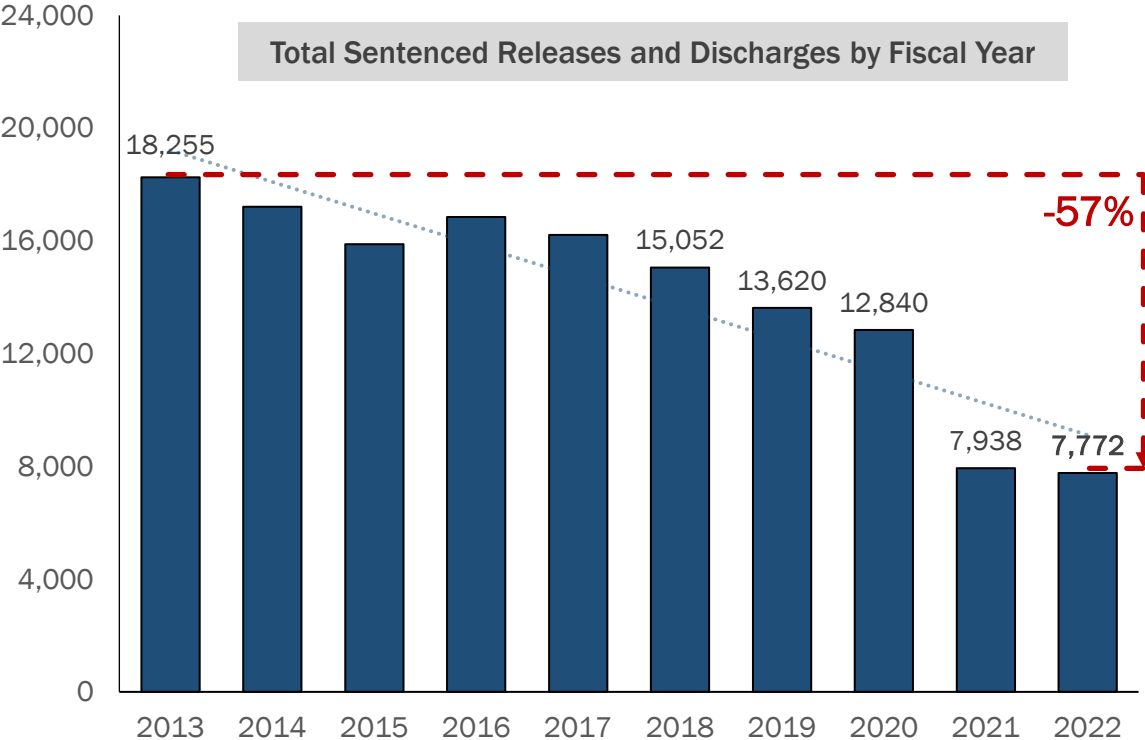


# Following pandemic lows, the July 1 DOC pretrial population has rebounded. The sentenced population grew slightly in 2022 yet lags pre-pandemic years.



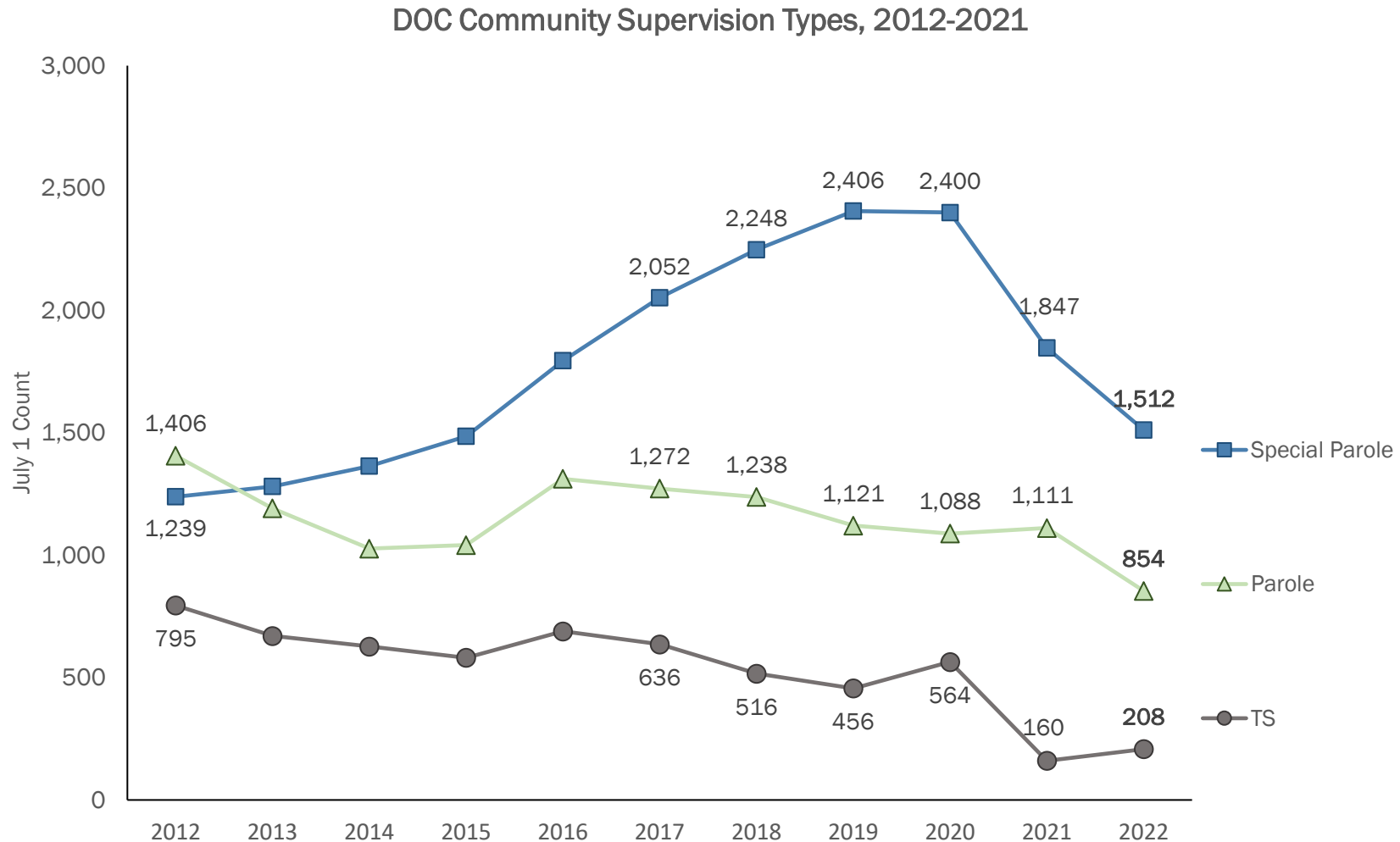
Source: Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), monthly data provided to OPM

# FY2022's increase in correction admissions has not yet affected release and discharge numbers, which held steady from the prior year.



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), monthly data provided to OPM

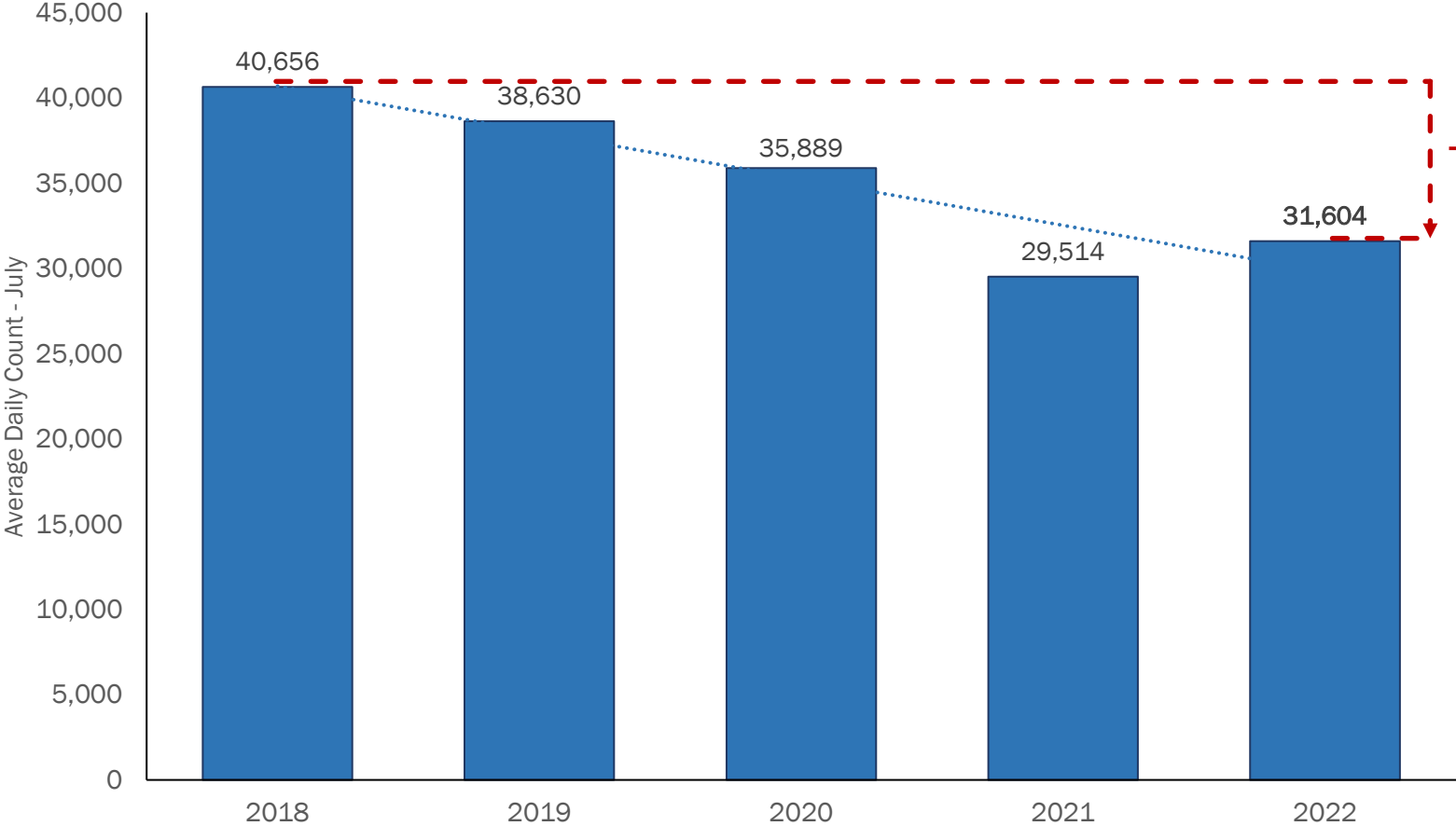
# Trends across the three major DOC Community Supervision types



Source: Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), monthly data provided to OPM

# The July average daily count of clients supervised by probation increased 7% in 2022 from 2021's average count, though is 22% lower than the 2018 count.

Clients Supervised by Probation: July Average Daily Count, 2018-2022



While primarily comprised of individuals sentenced to probation, probation officers also supervise other types of clients, including:

- Clients in diversionary programming
- Clients under pretrial supervision

Source: Connecticut Judicial Branch Statistics, Court Support Services Division statistics provided to OPM



# THANK YOU

For more information, please visit

[HTTPS://PORTAL.CT.GOV/OPM/CJ-ABOUT/HOMEPAGE/CJPPD](https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-ABOUT/HOMEPAGE/CJPPD)

*OPM wishes to acknowledge the contributions of:*

**Board of Pardons and Parole**

**Court Operations, Judicial Branch**

**Court Support Services Division, Judicial Branch**

**Office of Victim Services, Judicial Branch**

**Crimes Analysis Unit, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection**

**Criminal Justice Information System**

**Department of Correction**

As well as the assistance of OPM CJPPD Research Unit staff:

Melissa Beattie, *Lead Planning Analyst*; Patrick Lakha, *Research Analyst*; & Justin Etheridge, *Research Analyst CCT*