OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division
Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On April 1, Connecticut's correction population (jail and prison) was 11,854, a level last seen in 1993.

- Between the beginnings of March and April, the number of people in Connecticut's jails and prisons fell 4.5% the largest monthly percent drop on record. In absolute terms, the 557-person decrease, from 12,411 to 11,854, was the second-largest monthly decrease on record.

- Statewide arrests in March 2020 were 11 percent lower than March 2019 (chart 5). The drop in March 2020 contrasts with the first two months of the year, when arrests essentially matched the first two months of 2019. The factors causing the drop in arrests, which are the criminal justice system's primary external driver of growth, is an issue warranting further analysis as more data become available.

- March's pretrial admissions to the DOC (741) were the lowest on record. By contrast, the 2019 average monthly pretrial admission (1,200) was 62 percent higher. Pretrial admissions typically comprise approximately three-quarters of DOC admissions. Admissions for the other three admission categories also dropped significantly in March (see Table 2a).

- Between February and March, the number of discretionary releases from prison increased 72 percent, from 303 to 522, as human resources were diverted to prepare for the release of approved, suitable, discretionary populations prior to the end of their term of incarceration (see Chart 2a).

Prison Population Forecast

This is the first Monthly Indicators Report to analyze data obtained following Governor Lamont's March 10 emergency declarations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The public-health emergency has required the criminal justice system to: adapt to ever-changing circumstances, address challenges around the clock, and prepare for countless contingencies. In March, thanks to exhaustive work and collaboration among practitioners and community partners, the criminal justice system maintained essential operations during the disruption cause by the public-health emergency.

With less than a month of data to analyze following the emergency declarations, we are reluctant to note beginnings of trends or offer hypotheses about the impact of societal factors on the criminal justice system. We do observe several phenomena, which are noted under Highlights and Chart 2a.
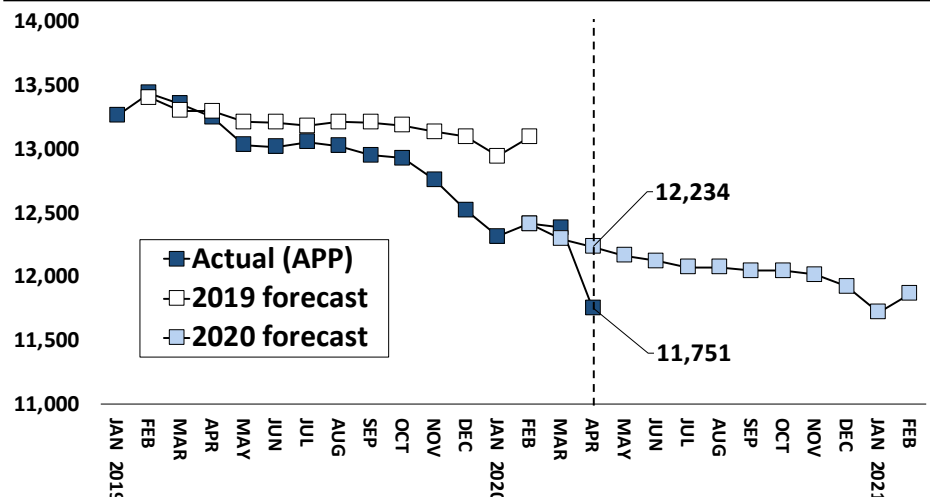
Numerous factors, namely the sharp decrease in admissions and the increased use of discretionary release, drove to the record monthly percent drop in the correction population. After the significant changes in March, it is not surprising that the forecasted correction population, published in in January, is 483 people above the actual population.

TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2020 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '20	12,315	-	-
FEB	12,413	12,413	-
MAR	12,382	12,293	-89
APR	11,751	12,234	483
MAY		12,163	-
JUN		12,120	-
JUL		12,072	-
AUG		12,074	-
SEP		12,044	-
OCT		12,046	-
NOV		12,015	-
DEC		11,922	-
JAN '21		11,722	-
FEB		11,867	-

Avg. Daily Count (ADC) for 1st week of month

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts
January 1, 2019 through February 1, 2021

Legend: Actual (APP); 2019 forecast; 2020 forecast
Annotations: 12,234; 11,751

Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

April 1, 2020

Monthly Criminal Arrests 5,041 (5,396)   **Bail cases 12,665 (12,665)**

Prison admissions 1,026 (1,486)

THE COURTS
Arraignments 1,749 (2,398)

54 (61)   112 (131)   119 (213)   741 (1,081)

| Federal /Other* 117 (122) | Sentenced Prisoners* 8,595 (9,037) | Pre-trial Population* 2,793 (2,894) |
| Special Parolees* 349 (358) | | |

No return from court 290 (391)

Release to Bond 330 (348)

Pre-trial releases

Prison Population*: 11,854 (12,411)   **DOC FACILITIES**

Probation Violations

1,716* (1,721)

Releases & discharges 1,131 (919)   103 (97)

Discretionary Releases from Prison 522 (303)   237 (284)

0 (0)   44 (19)   10 (10)   82 (70)   15 (3)   31 (12)   1 77 (77)   163 (112)

| Nursing home 5 (4) | DUI Home Confine.* 105 (85) | Trans. parole* 74 (66) | Parole/& Parcom* 920 (901) | ReF.* 12 (3) | Trans. Place* 63 (46) | HWH* 971 (995) | TS* 485 (440) |

Special Parole* 2,116 (2,120)

End of Sentence (EOS) 506 (519)

Adult Probation 37,828* (37,798)

340* (334)

0 (0)   3 (0)   0 (0)   20 (23)   0 (0)   1 (0)   22 (21)   12 (16)   54 (71)

Total remands to prison: 112 (131)

SPLIT SENTENCE?   YES

NO

166* (185)   1,516* (1,339)

0 (0)   18 (23)   0 (0)   33 (30)   2 (0)   12 (5)   44 (58)   71 (82)   89 (37)

Discharges (EOS) from Community Supervision 269 (235)

Offenders Supervised in the Community by CT DOC*: 4,751 (4,625)
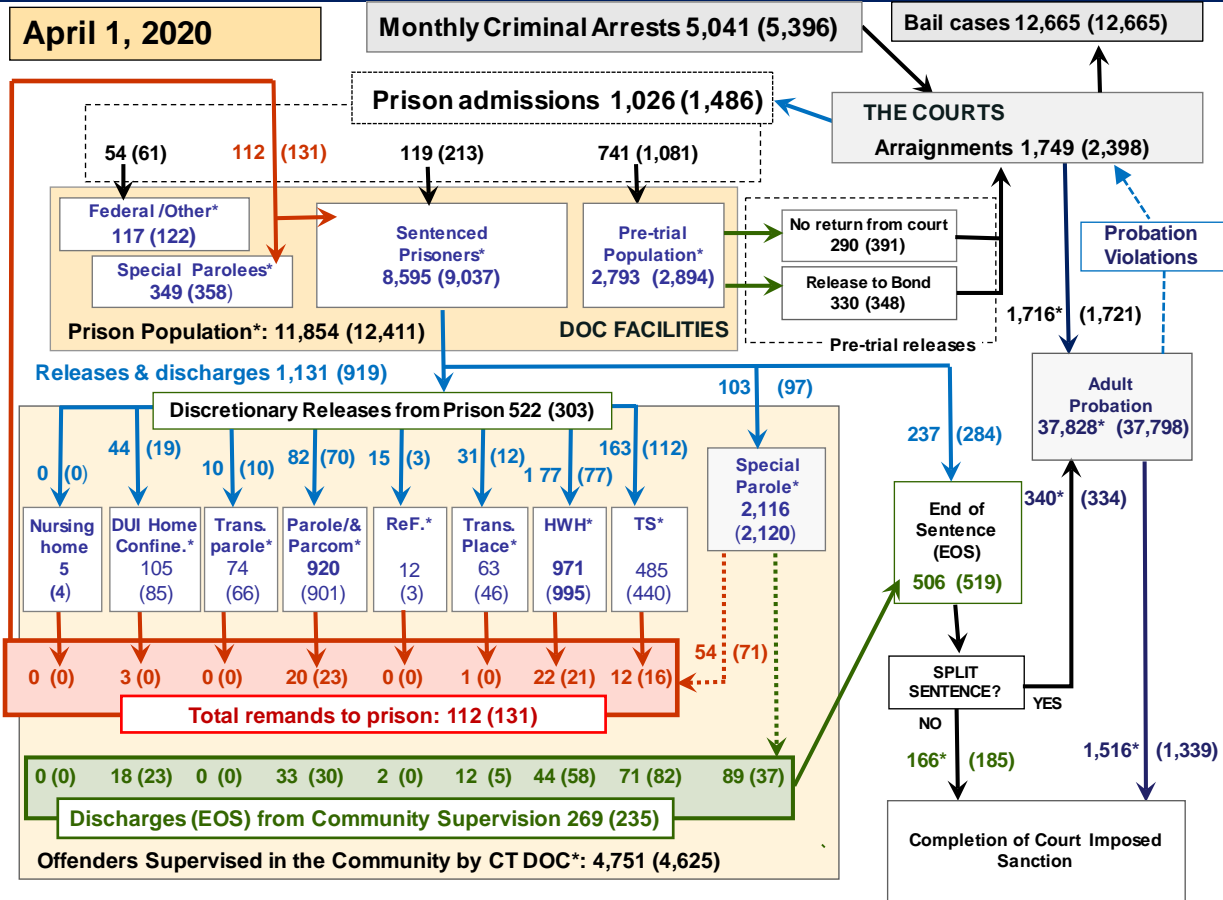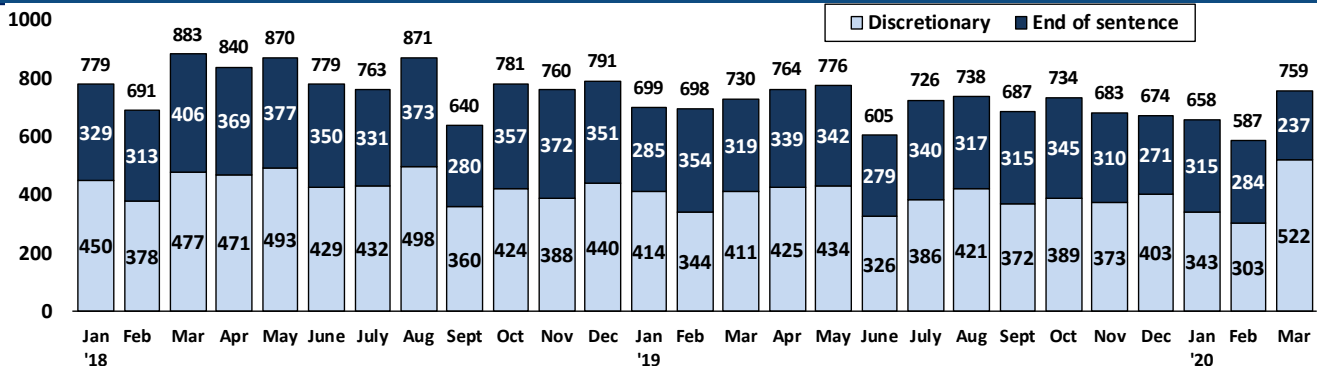
Completion of Court Imposed Sanction

Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for March 2020 and daily counts reported on April 1, 2020. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on April 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Discretionary vs. End-of-sentence releases

Month	Discretionary	End of sentence	Total
Jan '18	450	329	779
Feb	378	313	691
Mar	477	406	883
Apr	471	369	840
May	493	377	870
June	429	350	779
July	432	331	763
Aug	498	373	871
Sept	360	280	640
Oct	424	357	781
Nov	388	372	760
Dec	440	351	791
Jan '19	414	285	699
Feb	344	354	698
Mar	411	319	730
Apr	425	339	764
May	434	342	776
June	326	279	605
July	386	340	726
Aug	421	317	738
Sept	372	315	687
Oct	389	345	734
Nov	373	310	683
Dec	403	271	674
Jan '20	343	315	658
Feb	303	284	587
Mar	522	237	759

In March, more sentenced inmates (522) were released prior to the end of their sentence through discretionary release than during any month since August 2017, when the sentenced population was 20 percent higher than today.

Every month, between 600 and 900 sentenced inmates (excluding special parolees) leave prison. On average, a little more than half are released, using one of the statutory release mechanisms shown on Chart 2, before completing the full term of their sentence. In March, however, the ratio rose to nearly seven out of 10.
transition plans, using approved home plans, halfway houses. These efforts resulted in the most discretionary

people released from correction facilities to the community without supervision. (The DOC is legally required to release inmates from its custody at the conclusion of their court-stipulated sentence.)

A tertiary effect of DOC's shifting of human resources, in partnership with its criminal justice and community partners, to focus on transition planning is the bed space created inside its system. The additional space is helping the department respond to the impact of the public-health emergency inside its facilities.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2020 Feb. 1	2020 Mar. 1	2020 Apr. 1	2019 Apr. 1	% Change Monthly	% Change Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	119	122	117	146	-4.1%	-19.9%
Sentenced	9,045	9,037	8,595	9,470	-4.9%	-9.2%
Special Parole	338	358	349	414	-2.5%	-15.7%
Pre-trial	2,884	2,894	2,793	3,190	-3.5%	-12.4%
Total	**12,386**	**12,411**	**11,854**	**13,220**	**-4.5%**	**-10.3%**
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	63	66	74	28	0.0%	0.0%
Parole/ Parcom Total	913	901	920	965	2.1%	-4.7%
Parole	752	741	760	795	2.6%	-4.4%
Parcom @ CT	161	160	160	170	0.0%	-5.9%
Furlough	9	3	12	27	-	-
Trans Placement	41	46	63	59	37.0%	6.8%
DUI/Home confine.	88	85	105	118	23.5%	-11.0%
Halfway House Total	989	988	971	1,093	-1.7%	-11.2%
Comm Release	483	445	481	525	8.1%	-8.4%
TS	23	28	23	33	-17.9%	-30.3%
Parole	137	155	142	157	-8.4%	-9.6%
Transfer Parole	11	10	6	2	-	-
Special Parole	335	350	319	376	-8.9%	-15.2%
TS	408	412	485	421	17.7%	15.2%
Nursing home	4	4	5	5	-	-
Special Parole	2,127	2,120	2,116	1,973	-0.2%	7.2%
Total	**4,642**	**4,625**	**4,751**	**4,689**	**2.7%**	**1.3%**

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2019 Jan.	2020 Feb.	2020 Mar.	2019 Mar.	% Change Monthly	% Change Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	70	61	54	68	-11.5%	-20.6%
Remands	162	131	112	133	-14.5%	-15.8%
DUI	5	0	3	3	-	-
Parole	22	23	20	23	-13.0%	-13.0%
Trans Plac/Furlough	2	0	1	0	-	-
HWH	38	21	22	29	4.8%	-24.1%
TS	20	16	12	14	-25.0%	-14.3%
Special Parole	75	71	54	63	-23.9%	-14.3%
New Sentence	299	213	119	226	-44.1%	-47.3%
VOP	79	63	28	62	-55.6%	-54.8%
Pre-trial	1,190	1,081	741	1,178	-31.5%	-37.1%
Total	**1,721**	**1,486**	**1,026**	**1,605**	**-31.0%**	**-36.1%**
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	7	10	10	7	-	-
Parole	67	70	82	66	17.1%	24.2%
Furlough	5	0	15	17	-	-
Trans. Placement	14	12	31	8	-	-
Home Confinement DUI	25	19	44	44	131.6%	0.0%
HWH	101	77	177	144	129.9%	22.9%
TS	124	112	163	125	45.5%	30.4%
Special Parole	107	97	103	127	6.2%	-18.9%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	617	519	506	601	-2.5%	-15.8%
Total	**1,067**	**916**	**1,131**	**1,139**	**23.5%**	**-0.7%**
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	455	391	330	494	-15.6%	-33.2%
Release to Bond	343	348	290	340	-16.7%	-14.7%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Approval Rate
Jan. 20	632	289	116	89	46%
Feb.	665	296	104	107	45%
Mar.	768	422	105	87	55%
Mar. '19	737	341	113	115	46%

Note: Figures published here are based on the operational data available at the time of publication. Data in subsequent issues may not agree.

Board of Pardons and Paroles

Table 4 - Parole hearings, new cases

	Parole Hearings	Paroles granted	Grant rate	Paroles granted, 2019	Paroles granted, 2018
Jan. '20	119	63	53%	65	87
Feb.	121	53	44%	83	77
Mar.	131	70	53%	71	91

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Jan.	55	1	20	22	8
Feb.	57	1	12	26	11
Mar. '20	29	2	9	13	17
Mar. '19	52	0	33	22	26

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Feb. 1, 2020	Mar. 1, 2020	Apr. 1, 2020	Apr. 1, 2019
Less than $20K	422	383	304	498
$20K to < $50K	452	426	386	428
$50K to <$100K	516	512	514	605
$100K or higher	1,642	1,641	1,661	1,782
Persons w/bonds	3,032	2,962	2,865	3,313
Over $1M	222	227	229	204

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Feb. 1, 2019	Mar. 1, 2020	Apr. 1, 2020	Apr. 1, 2019
< 1 week	368	371	81	387
1 to < 3 weeks	331	264	176	319
3 to < 10 weeks	852	614	753	695
10 to < 30 weeks	1,008	801	856	994
30 wks or more	933	916	1,011	919
Pre-trial prisoners	3,492	2,966	2,877	3,314

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019
Arraignments	2,687	2,398	1,749	2,656
Pre-trial Admits	1,190	1,081	741	1,178
New to DOC	278	254	197	299
% New	23%	23%	27%	25%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

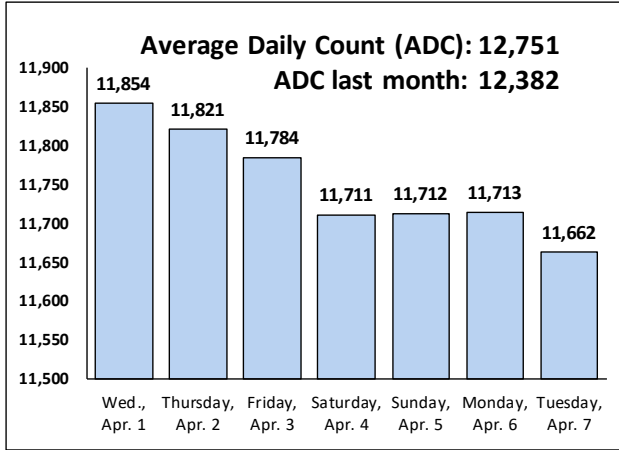|	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Jan. '20	1,190	781	267	324
Feb	1,081	760	268	325
Mar.	741	535	238	328

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Jan.	2,050*	1,730	342	12,665*
Feb.	2,050*	1,721	334	12,665*
Mar.	2,050*	1716*	340*	12,665*
Mar. '19	2,050*	1,927	341	12,665*

* CSSD estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population
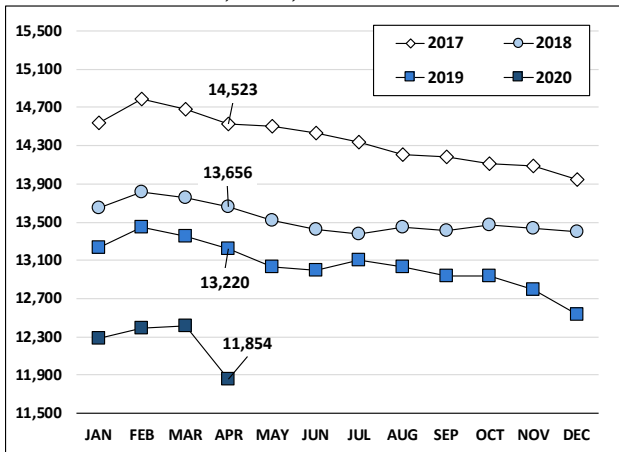*First week of the month, avg. daily count (ADC)*

Average Daily Count (ADC): 12,751
ADC last month: 12,382

11,854	11,821	11,784	11,711	11,712	11,713	11,662
Wed., Apr. 1	Thursday, Apr. 2	Friday, Apr. 3	Saturday, Apr. 4	Sunday, Apr. 5	Monday, Apr. 6	Tuesday, Apr. 7

Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions
February 2019 through March 2020

Pre-trial: 1081, 1,178, 1,151, 1,359, 1,202, 1,337, 1,303, 1,245, 1,224, 1,046, 1,054, 1,190, 1,081, 741

Legend: Federal/ Other, Remands, New Sentence, Pre-trial
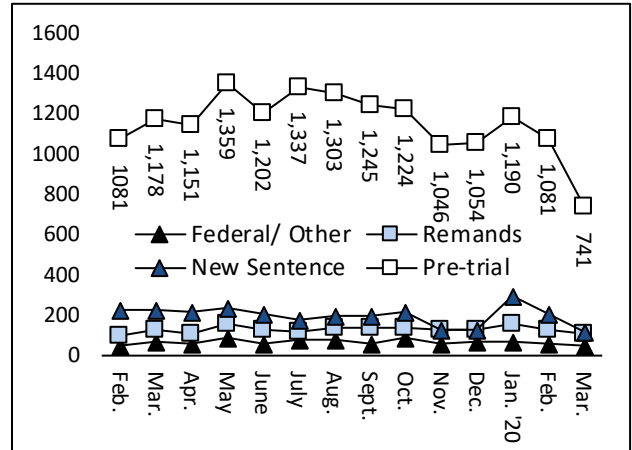
Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month
2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

Legend: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Labels: 14,523; 13,656; 13,220; 11,854

Chart 7– Remands from community release
March 2020

Legend: Absconder/Escapee, Criminal Offense, Technical Violation

	Parole	TS	Halfway House	Special Parole
Absconder/Escapee	0	1	1	9
Criminal Offense	6	5	13	21
Technical Violation	14	6	8	24
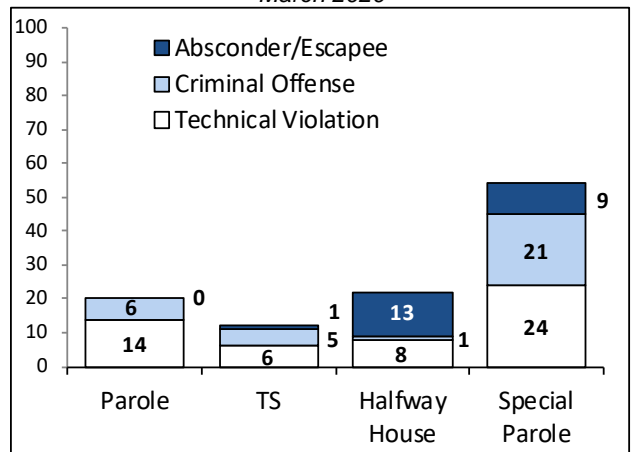
Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests
2019 and 2020

Legend: 2020, 2019

2019: 6,100; 5,346; 5,656; 6,196; 6,612; 5,863; 7,228; 6,772; 6,605; 6,280; 5,636; 5,866

2020: 5,918; 5,396; 5,041
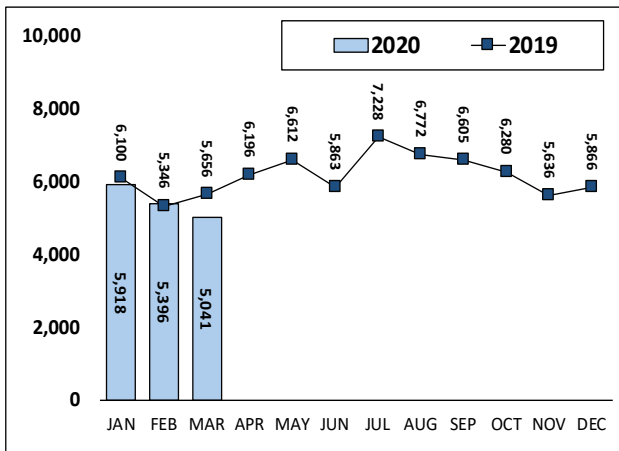
Chart 8 – DOC community supervision
Mar. 1, 2019 through April 1, 2020

Legend: Special Parole, Parole, TS

Special Parole: 2,349 → 2,435
Parole: 1,122 → 1,062
TS: 454 → 508
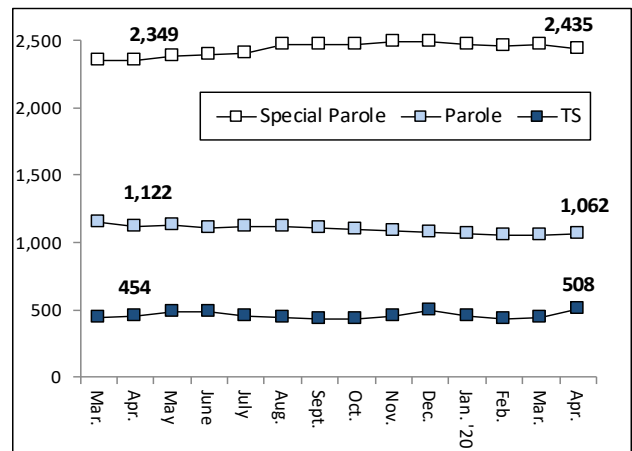
Note: Data for all charts, except for Chart 5, was supplied by CT DOC. Data for Chart 5 are for new case starts in the state Criminal Motor Vehicle System (CRMVS). Chart 8 includes offenders in halfway houses.