

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- Arrests, after reaching a historic low in April, rebounded in May, jumping 87 percent, from 2,734 to 5,115. Still, May 2020's arrests are down historically: 23% lower than their levels one year ago (6,612). (See Chart 5.)
- Other criminal justice system inputs—arraignments at court and pretrial admissions to the Department of Correction (DOC)—underwent similar changes. Both increased from the previous month—51% and 63%, respectively—from 671 to 1,015 and from 300 to 490. Each input is a fraction (36%) of their totals from one year ago, however, when they were 2,841 and 1,359, respectively. (Table 5b.)
- Although pretrial admissions to the DOC ramped up, there were only two people admitted in May to the department with a new sentence, compared to zero the previous month. (Table 2a.)
- Between the first of May and June, although the pretrial population ticked up 3%, from 2,583 to 2,668, the sentenced population fell 8%, from 7,961 and 7,347. (Table 2.)
- As expected, following two consecutive months without new sentence admissions, the population in the DOC eligible for discretionary release shrank. The DOC's Community Release Unit (CRU) reviewed 27% fewer cases between from April to May, from 522 to 380 people, which is 47% less than one year ago (718). Despite a shrinking pool of eligible cases to review, CRU's discretionary-release approval rate dropped only 5 points from April to May, from 59 to 54%. This percent is 11 points higher one year ago. (Table 3).

Prison Population Forecast

Between the firsts of March and June, Connecticut's correction population fell 16%—or 1,966 people—from 12,411 to 10,445. During the COVID-19 public-health emergency, Connecticut had the sixth-largest correction population drop among the 40 states and the federal system for which data was available. Connecticut operates the largest correction population, and has the most residents, compared the states with larger percent decreases.¹

The substantial prison population decrease over the last three months has increased focus on Connecticut's progress meeting the goal of #Cut 50, a national campaign to safely halve correction populations. From Connecticut's correction population high, of 19,894, in February 2008, to June 2020, the number of people incarcerated has fallen 48%. A reduction of 498 more people will bring Connecticut to half its 2008 peak, or 9,947 people. At the current rate of decline, it is credible that this goal could be reached this year, as early as July.

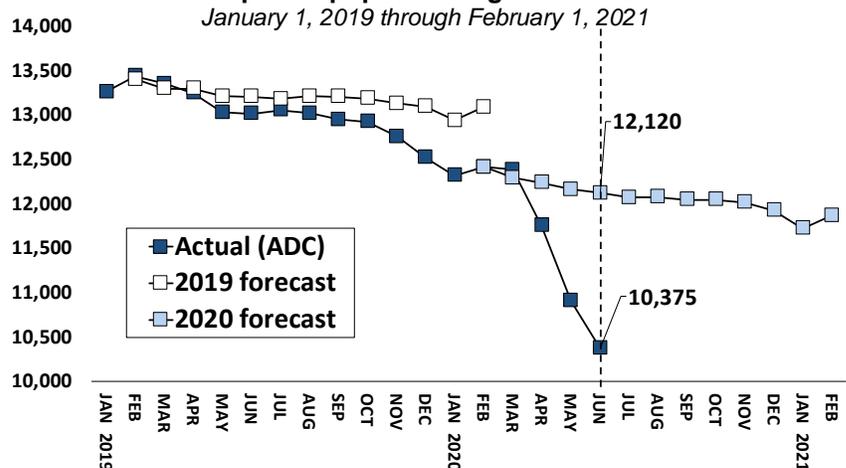
TABLE 1 – Prison Population Forecast

	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	10,903	12,163	1,260
JUN	10,375	12,120	1,745
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

As the state continues progressing through phases of reopening and criminal justice system operations increase activity, the OPM Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division will continue comparing the actual population to the forecast released in February before the onset of the public-health emergency. (See Chart 1.)

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts



1. Prison Policy Initiative. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/05/14/jails-vs-prison-update/>.

Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

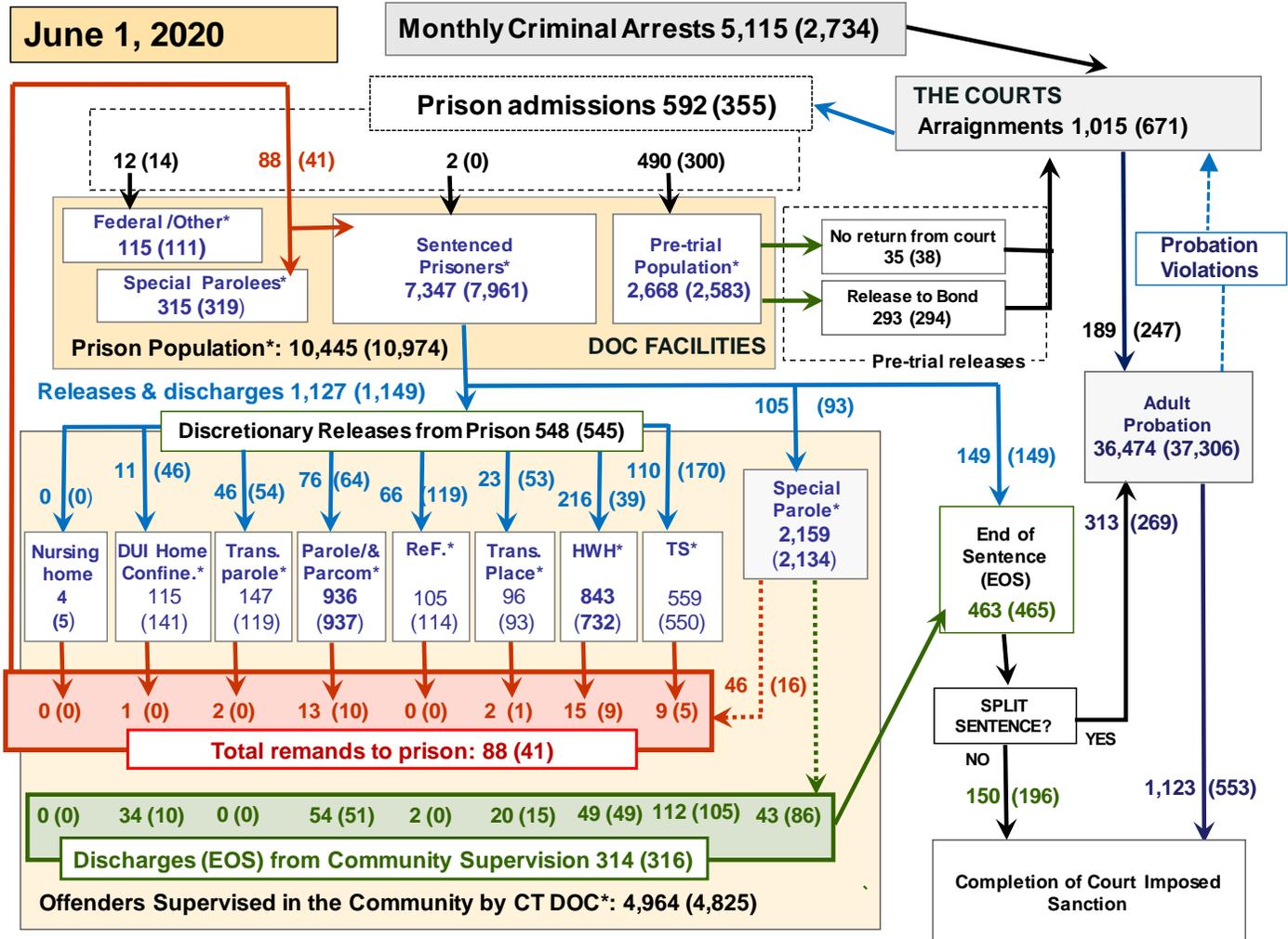
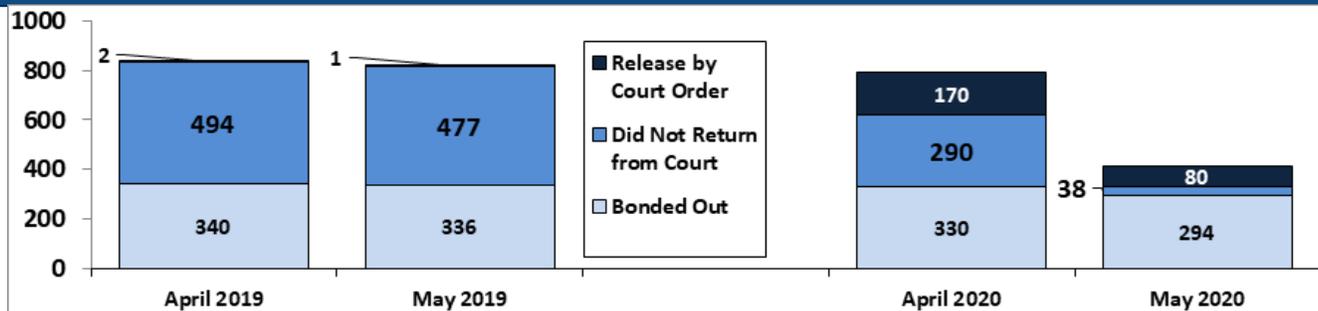


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for May 2020 and daily counts reported on June 1, 2020. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on June 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Collaborative Resolution of Pretrial Cases during COVID-19



The two largest categories of release from DOC for accused people held pretrial are, "Release to Bond," consisting of people who transition to the community, likely with conditions imposed by the court, after posting bond. The second category, "No Return from Court," consists of people diverted to programs or sentenced to time served, among other outcomes.

Since March 12, 2020 court operations have been limited to "Priority 1" business, however, whereby only arraignments and certain family violence cases are heard. In April and May 2020, the number of people in the "Did Not Return from

Court" category fell 42% and 92%, respectively, compared to the same months in the prior year.

In response to these changes, the Judicial Branch, the Chief Public Defender, and the Chief State's Attorney reviewed electronic pretrial case information and engaged attorneys in the courthouses. The chart above demonstrates the impact of their collaborative efforts to resolve cases safely and effectively. In April and May 2020, compared to the same months one year prior, the "Release by Court Order" increased from one and two cases to 170 and 80.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2020	2020	2020	2019	% Change	
	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1	June 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	117	111	115	147	3.6%	-21.8%
Sentenced	8,595	7,961	7,347	9,400	-7.7%	-21.8%
Special Parole	349	319	315	403	-1.3%	-21.8%
Pre-trial	2,793	2,583	2,668	3,052	3.3%	-12.6%
Total	11,854	10,974	10,445	13,002	-4.8%	-19.7%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	74	119	147	47	23.5%	212.8%
Parole/ Parcom Total	920	937	936	963	-0.1%	-2.8%
Parole	760	778	778	796	0.0%	-2.3%
Parcom @ CT	160	159	158	167	-0.6%	-5.4%
Furlough	12	114	105	28	(0)	3
Trans Placement	63	93	96	69	3.2%	39.1%
DUI/Home confine.	105	141	115	105	-18.4%	9.5%
Halfway House Total	971	732	843	1,075	15.2%	-21.6%
Comm Release	481	330	418	513	26.7%	-18.5%
TS	23	13	1	43	-92.3%	-97.7%
Parole	142	105	124	147	18.1%	-15.6%
Transfer Parole	6	9	20	3	-	-
Special Parole	319	275	265	369	-3.6%	-28.2%
TS	485	550	559	441	1.6%	26.8%
Nursing home	5	5	4	5	-	-
Special Parole	2,116	2,134	2,159	2,029	1.2%	6.4%
Total	4,751	4,825	4,964	4,762	2.9%	4.2%

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2020	2020	2020	2019	% Change	
	Mar.	April	May	May	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	54	14	12	87	-14.3%	-86.2%
Remands	112	41	88	160	114.6%	-45.0%
DUI	3	0	3	3	-	-
Parole	20	19	13	24	-31.6%	-45.8%
Trans Plac/Furlough	1	1	0	4	-	-
HWH	22	9	15	27	66.7%	-44.4%
TS	12	5	9	18	80.0%	-50.0%
Special Parole	54	16	46	80	187.5%	-42.5%
New Sentence	119	0	2	240	-	-99.2%
VOP	28	0	2	72	-	-97.2%
Pre-trial	741	300	490	1,359	63.3%	-63.9%
Total	1,026	355	592	1,846	66.8%	-67.9%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	10	54	46	10	-14.8%	360.0%
Parole	82	64	76	83	18.8%	-8.4%
Furlough	15	119	66	10	-44.5%	560.0%
Trans. Placement	31	53	23	21	-56.6%	9.5%
Home Confinement DUI	44	46	11	29	-76.1%	-62.1%
HWH	177	39	216	135	453.8%	60.0%
TS	163	170	110	146	-35.3%	-24.7%
Special Parole	103	93	105	153	12.9%	-31.4%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	506	465	463	647	-0.4%	-28.4%
Total	1,131	1,103	1,116	1,234	1.2%	-9.6%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	290	38	35	536	-7.9%	-93.5%
Release to Bond	330	294	293	386	-0.3%	-24.1%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	Rate
Mar.	768	422	105	87	55%
Apr.	522	307	68	52	59%
May	380	207	61	39	54%
May '19	718	311	119	141	43%

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
Mar.	131	70	53%	71	91
Apr.	116	77	66%	67	90
May	128	86	67%	78	93

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Mar.	29	2	9	13	17
Apr.	47	1	18	17	100
May '20	51	1	13	17	37
May '19	33	0	28	47	12

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Apr. 1, 2020	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020	June 1, 2019
Less than \$20K	304	262	304	424
\$20K to <\$50K	386	343	386	446
\$50K to <\$100K	514	482	514	532
\$100K or higher	1,661	1,648	1,661	1,760
Persons w/bonds	2,865	2,740	2,877	3,162
Over \$1M	229	235	229	194

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Apr. 1, 2020	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020	June 1, 2019
< 1 week	81	115	81	372
1 to < 3 weeks	176	76	176	333
3 to < 10 weeks	753	460	753	660
10 to < 30 weeks	856	970	856	902
30 wks or more	1,011	1,119	1,011	896
Pre-trial prisoners	2,877	2,740	2,877	3,163

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019
Arrestments	1,749	671	1,015	2,841
Pre-trial Admits	741	300	490	1,359
New to DOC	197	72	138	347
% New	27%	24%	28%	26%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Mar.	741	535	238	328
Apr.	300	226	247	303
May	490	242	189	356

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Mar.	2,050*	1,357	331	12,665*
Apr.	2,050*	553	269	12,665*
May	2,050*	1,123	313	12,665*
May '19	2,050*	1,997	371	12,665*

* CSSD estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population

First week of the month, avg. daily count (ADC)

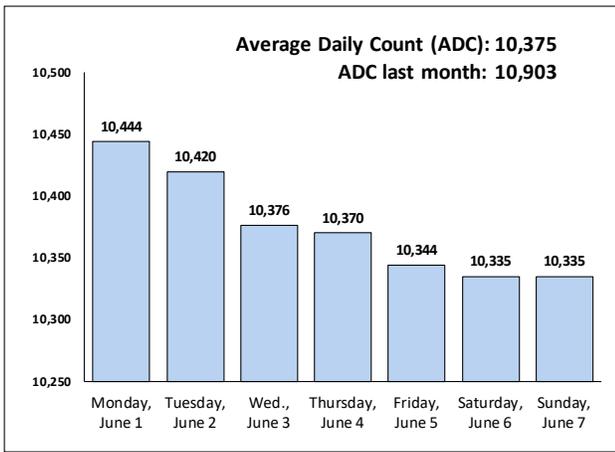


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

April 2019 through May 2020

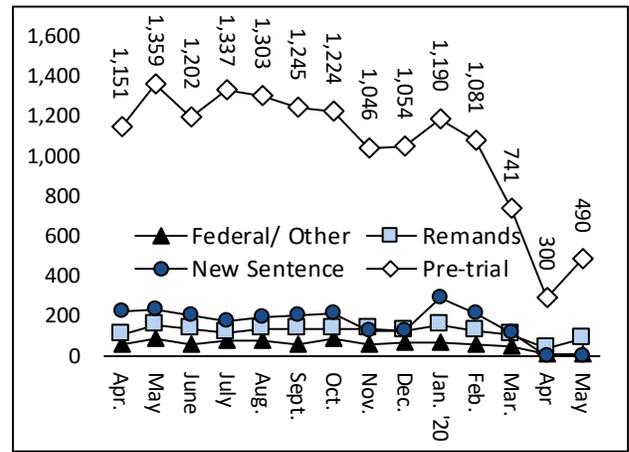


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

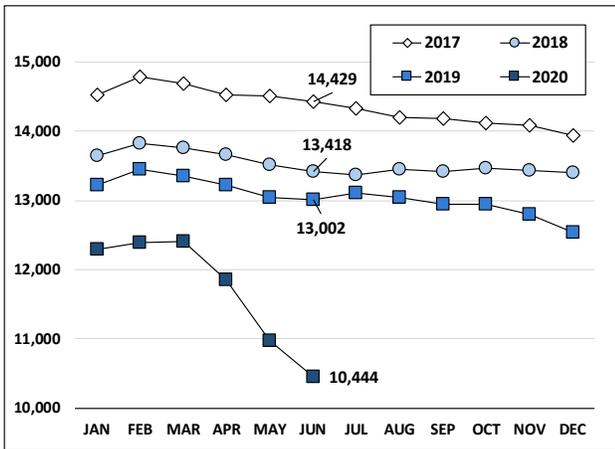


Chart 7– Remands from community release

May 2020

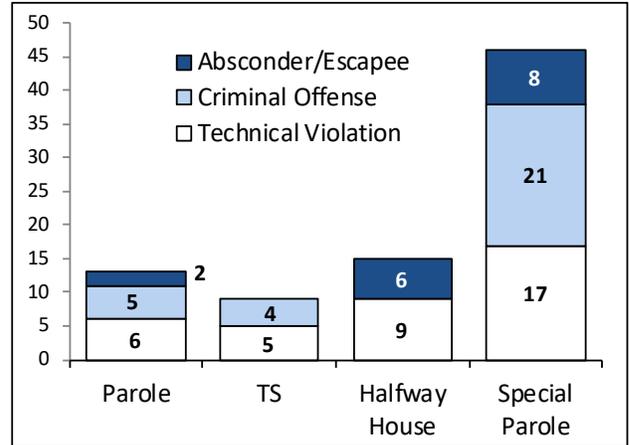


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2019 and 2020

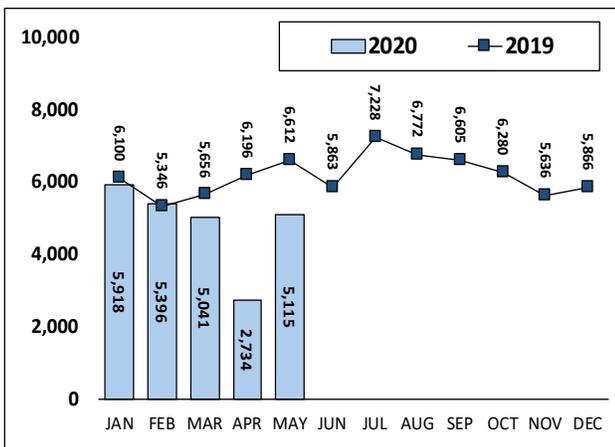
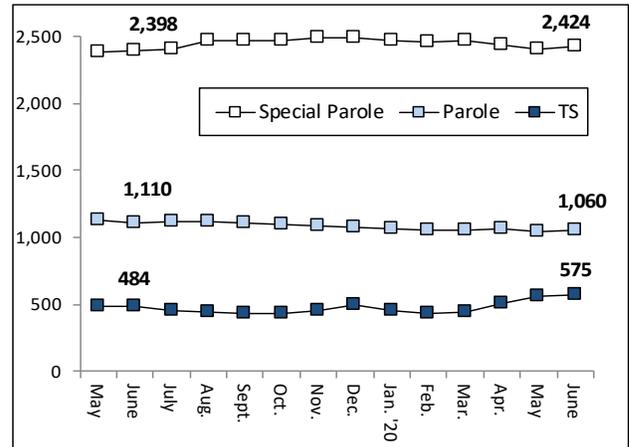


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

May 1, 2019 through June 1, 2020



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.