

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On March 1st, 2020 Connecticut's prisons and jails held 12,411 inmates, up slightly from last month (12,386). One year ago, there were 13,348 offenders incarcerated at the DOC, a difference of 897.
- OPM and its partner agencies are coordinating responses to the global pandemic, COVID-19, for which Governor Lamont issued a Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies on March 10. Rather than include the usual highlights in this section, we provide links to COVID-19 response information from several criminal justice agencies.
- Judicial Branch: <https://www.jud.ct.gov>
- Department of Correction: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOC/Common-Elements/Common-Elements/Health-Information-and-Advisories>
- DESPP: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Coronavirus>
- Office of the Chief Public Defender: <https://portal.ct.gov/ocpd>
- As required by CJPPD's governing statutes, the research unit published two reports last month: the 2020 Prison Population Forecast Report and Annual Recidivism Report. Both reports are available in PDF format on CJPPD's website by clicking through the link below: <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-About/CJ-SAC/SAC-Sites/SAC-Homepage>

Prison Population Forecast

OPM's 2020 prison population forecast is off to a good start (off by less than 1% or 89 inmates) – a hopeful, albeit early, sign that this year's estimate will more closely track the actual prison population. The promising start is almost certainly going to be interrupted by the global pandemic. The prison population will undoubtedly be impacted by forces both internal and external to the DOC. The initial impact appears to be driving the population down. At publication of this report, the prison population is under 12,200 inmates, a substantial decrease from March 1st – a drop of over 250 inmates – a 2% reduction.

Rare events present unique challenges to forecasters. By their very nature, rare events, (black swans) are inevitable. Unknowable at this point is what impact the global pandemic will play in the coming months. OPM suspects, but cannot accurately predict, that responses to the viral outbreak will exert additional downward pressure on the prison population, but the response could change drastically.

Responses by the criminal justice community will seek to balance the need to protect public safety and mitigate harm to the criminal justice community.

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		12,234	-
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

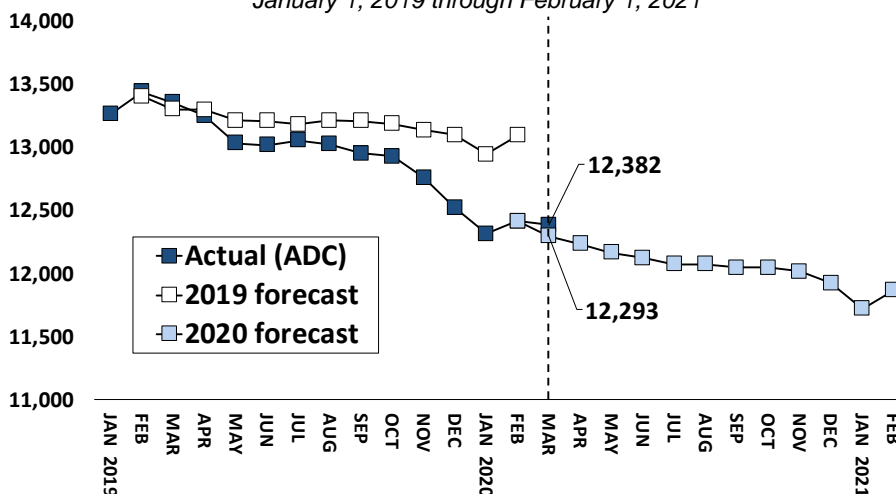


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

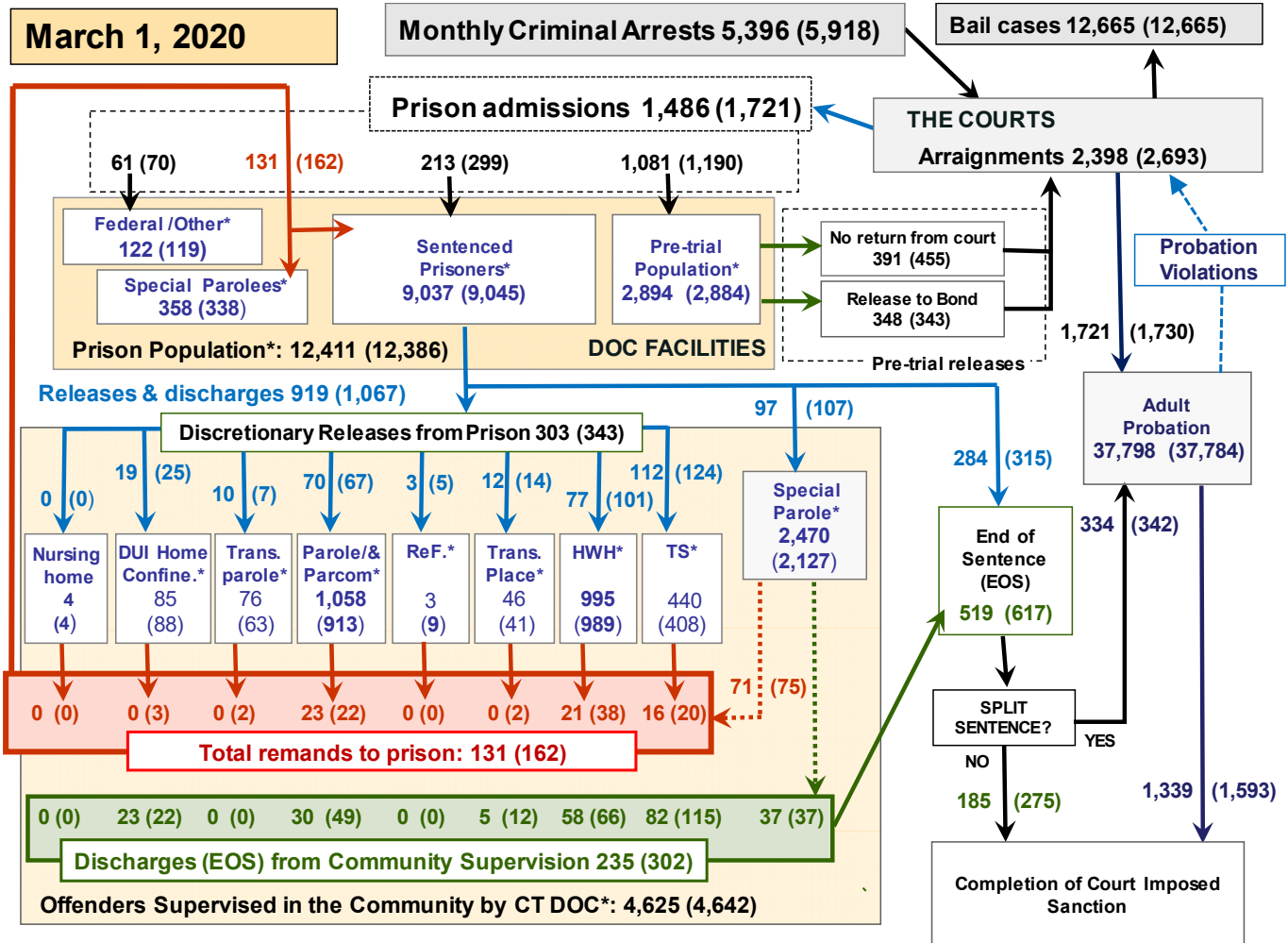
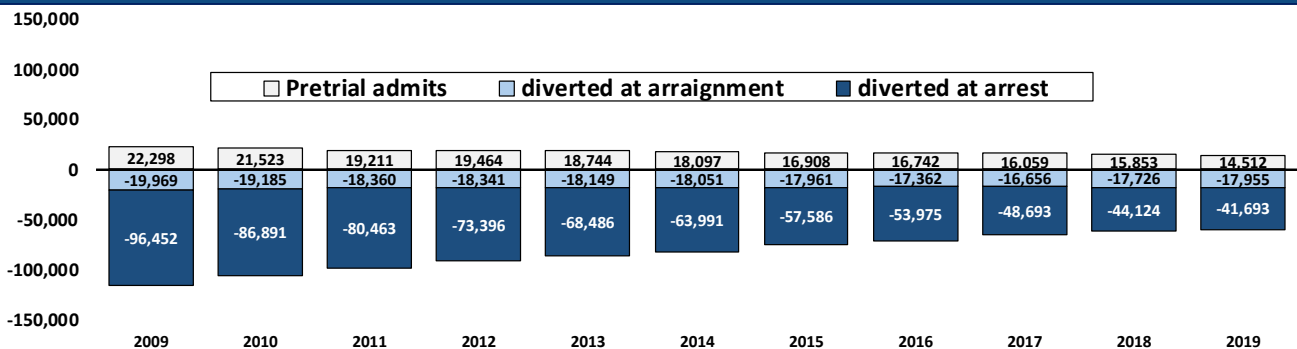


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for February 2020 and daily counts reported on March 1, 2020. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on March 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Diversion of pretrial offenders, from arrest to admit



The overwhelming majority of arrested offenders are not admitted to jail. Most are released at the initial phase of the process, from police custody. Based on a conservative accounting of statewide arrests each year, fewer than 20% of arrests result in a prison admit. In the chart above the total number of statewide arrests for the years 2009 to 2019 is represented by the entire bar, both above and below the "zero" line. The figures below the horizontal axis are those arrests diverted before the offender is admitted to the DOC on pretrial status.

The largest of the groups, shown in dark blue, represents the number of arrests released from custody released prior to their court arraignment. Another substantial group do not make it from initial arraignment to ultimately being admitted to a DOC facility as a result of the incident arrest. The small, light blue section above the axis are the number of offenders admitted to the DOC each year as a pretrial offender, clearly the smallest group of the three.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2020			2019		% Change	
	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Mar. 1	Monthly	Annual	
DOC Facilities							
Federal/Other	130	119	122	136	2.5%	-10.3%	
Sentenced	8,888	9,045	9,037	9,494	-0.1%	-4.8%	
Special Parole	345	338	358	417	5.9%	-14.1%	
Pre-trial	2,922	2,884	2,894	3,301	0.3%	-12.3%	
Total	12,285	12,386	12,411	13,348	0.2%	-7.0%	
DOC Community							
Transfer Parole	66	63	66	24	0.0%	0.0%	
Parole/ Parcom Total	927	913	901	1,003	-1.3%	-10.2%	
Parole	772	752	741	835	-1.5%	-11.3%	
Parcom @ CT	155	161	160	168	-0.6%	-4.8%	
Furlough	19	9	3	22	-	-	
Trans Placement	42	41	46	67	12.2%	-31.3%	
DUI/Home confine.	90	88	85	104	-3.4%	-18.3%	
Halfway House Total	1,017	989	988	1,086	-0.1%	-9.0%	
Comm Release	528	483	445	510	-7.9%	-12.7%	
TS	23	23	28	35	21.7%	-20.0%	
Parole	134	137	155	148	13.1%	4.7%	
Transfer Parole	9	11	10	3	-	-	
Special Parole	323	335	350	390	4.5%	-10.3%	
TS	433	408	412	412	1.0%	0.0%	
Nursing home	4	4	4	5	-	-	
Special Parole	2,143	2,127	2,120	1,957	-0.3%	8.3%	
Total	4,741	4,642	4,625	4,680	-0.4%	-1.2%	

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2020			2019		% Change	
	Dec.	Jan	Feb.	Feb.	Monthly	Annual	
Admissions							
Federal/Other	69	70	61	56	-12.9%	8.9%	
Remands	129	162	131	101	-19.1%	29.7%	
DUI	3	5	0	2	-	-	
Parole	18	22	23	17	4.5%	35.3%	
Trans Plac/Furlough	0	2	0	1	-	-	
HWH	36	38	21	31	-44.7%	-32.3%	
TS	16	20	16	9	-20.0%	77.8%	
Special Parole	56	75	71	41	-5.3%	73.2%	
New Sentence	132	299	213	231	-28.8%	-7.8%	
VOP	45	79	63	66	-20.3%	-4.5%	
Pre-trial	1,054	1,190	1,081	1,081	-9.2%	0.0%	
Total	1,384	1,721	1,486	1,469	-13.7%	1.2%	
Releases and discharges							
Transfer Parole	15	7	10	12	-	-	
Parole	54	67	70	53	4.5%	32.1%	
Furlough	10	5	0	12	-	-	
Trans. Placement	13	14	12	11	-14.3%	9.1%	
Home Confinement DUI	40	25	19	32	-24.0%	-40.6%	
HWH	144	101	77	96	-23.8%	-19.8%	
TS	127	124	112	127	-9.7%	-11.8%	
Special Parole	85	107	97	116	-9.3%	-16.4%	
Nursing home	0	0	0	1	-	-	
End of Sentence	556	617	519	596	-15.9%	-12.9%	
Total	1,044	1,067	916	1,056	-14.2%	-13.3%	
Pre-trial Releases*							
From Court	420	455	391	419	-14.1%	-6.7%	
Release to Bond	350	343	348	341	1.5%	2.1%	

* 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
Dec.	602	269	78	96	45%
Jan. 20	632	289	116	89	46%
Feb.	665	296	104	107	45%
Feb. '19	636	290	85	97	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, 2018	Paroles granted, 2017
Dec.	148	68	46%	74	87
Jan. '20	119	63	53%	65	87
Feb.	121	53	44%	83	100

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Dec.	44	1	29	26	11
Jan. '20	55	1	20	22	8
Feb '20	30	1	15	34	10
Feb. '19	57	1	12	26	11

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Jan. 1, 2020	Feb. 1, 2020	Mar. 1, 2020	Mar. 1, 2019
Less than \$20K	421	422	383	510
\$20K to <\$50K	437	452	426	450
\$50K to <\$100K	534	516	512	635
\$100K or higher	1,678	1,642	1,641	1,829
Persons w/bonds	3,070	3,032	2,962	3,424
Over \$1M	208	222	227	222

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Jan. 1, 2020	Feb. 1, 2020	Mar. 1, 2020	Mar. 1, 2019
< 1 week	277	362	371	367
1 to < 3 weeks	287	271	264	277
3 to < 10 weeks	688	629	614	799
10 to < 30 weeks	888	873	801	1,026
30 wks or more	945	901	916	959
Pre-trial prisoners	3,085	3,036	2,966	3,428

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019
Arraignments	2,521	2,693	2,398	2,413
Pre-trial Admits	1,054	1,190	1,081	1,081
New to DOC	277	278	254	295
% New	26%	23%	23%	27%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Dec.	1,054	733	260	303
Jan. '20	1,190	781	267	324
Feb	1,081	760	268	325

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Dec. '19	2,050*	1,610	323	12,665*
Jan. '20	2,050*	1,730	342	12,665*
Feb. '20	2,050*	1,721	334	12,665*
Feb. '19	2,050*	1,769	362	12,665*

* CSSD estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population

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

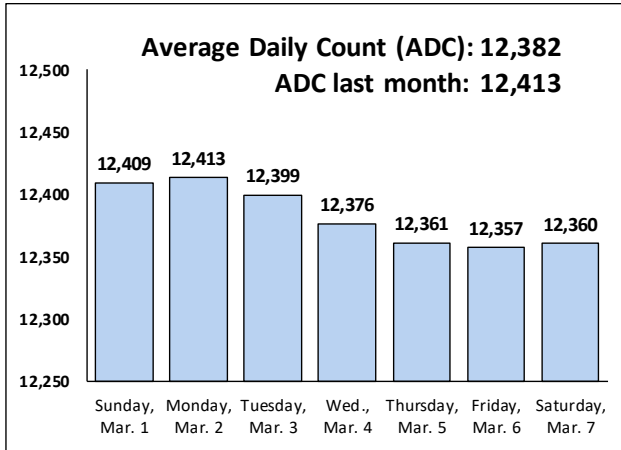


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

January 2019 through March 2020

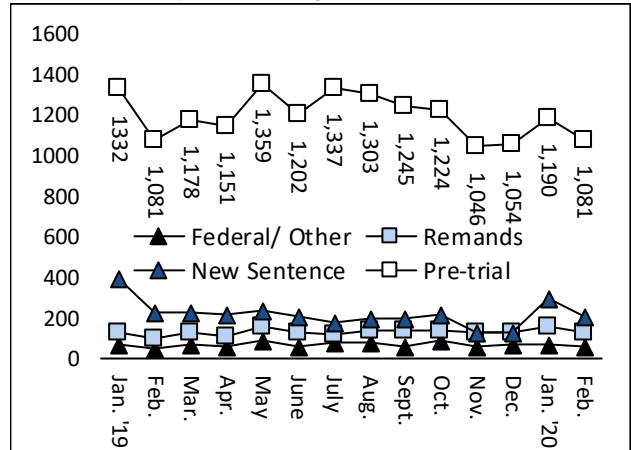


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

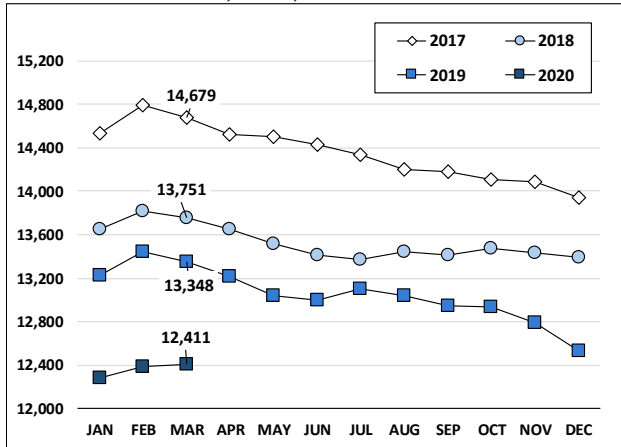


Chart 7– Remands from community release

February 2020

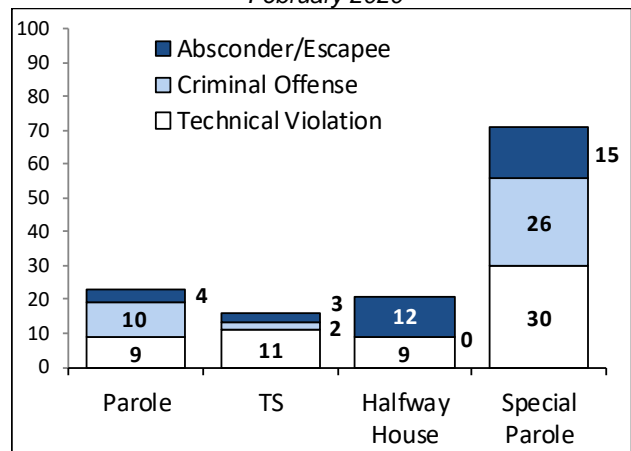


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2019 and 2020

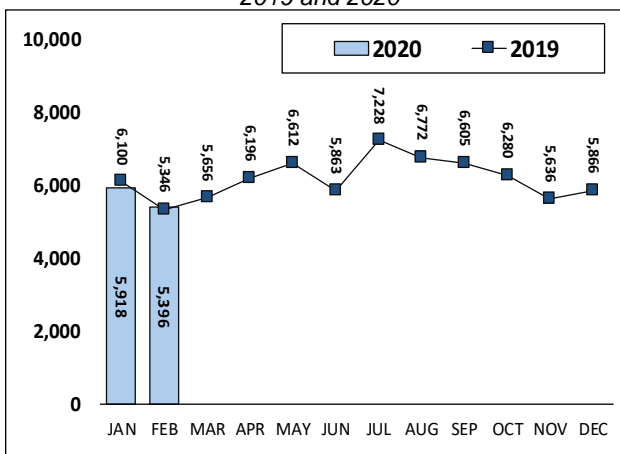
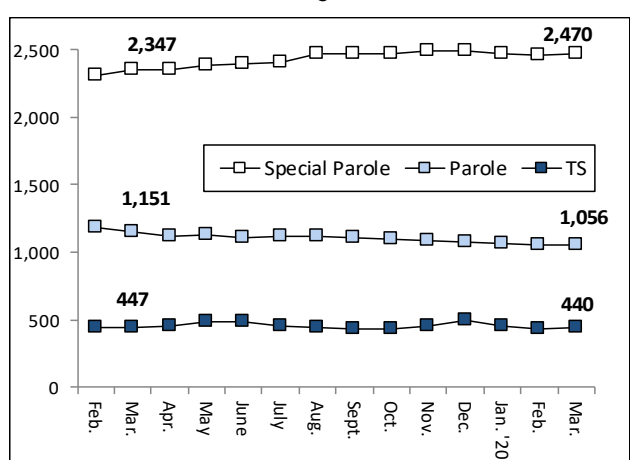


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

Feb. 1, 2019 through March 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.