

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- The sharp decrease in the correction population (jail and prison) documented in the previous two reports continues in this one, covering April 2020.
 - April 1 to May 1 had the largest single-month decrease on record (7%), from 11,854 to 10,974 people.
 - From May 1, 2019 to 2020, the correction population fell by 2,000 people, equivalent to the size of Connecticut’s MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution, the most populous correction facility in New England.
- April’s 2,734 arrests were 46% lower than the previous month’s (5,041), itself a historic low at the time. Additionally, arraignments fell 61% from the previous month, from 1,741 to 671.
- DOC’s April intakes are down substantially, with 300 pretrial admissions compared to 1,151 a year ago. With the suspension of sentencing hearings since mid-March, April had zero new sentenced population admissions. (Typically, several hundred occur in a month.)
- Agencies ratcheted up use of specialized discretionary release mechanisms to increase transitions of eligible people to the community. Notably, on May 1, Reentry Furlough and Transfer parole climbed to high water marks, of 114 and 119 respectively.
- In late March and early April, the DOC strategically reduced halfway house placements, creating space to address social distancing, medical needs and disinfection of programs.

Prison Population Forecast

Following two consecutive months with numerous historic declines, the correction population sits roughly 1,200 people below OPM’s February 2020 forecast. In the coming months, it is anticipated that as arrests pick up and the Judicial Branch returns to normal operations, admissions to the correction system will resume.

The coming changes are as difficult to predict as the sudden and unexpected decline was. After all, forecast models rely heavily on historical data. In this case, precedents seem elusive. The February forecast no longer works as a true measuring stick; rather it demonstrates historical system performance. The forecast therefore will continue depicting the correction system’s typical ebbs and flows.

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		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

As activity resumes, the system may experience something akin to what is called the “January Bump,” a seasonal occurrence coinciding with the opening of courts at the start of a new calendar year. The dynamics here are different: The system constricted far more severely starting in mid-March than it does at the end of a calendar year. We will look for trends as the system restarts, comparing historical patterns against this ahistorical year.

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

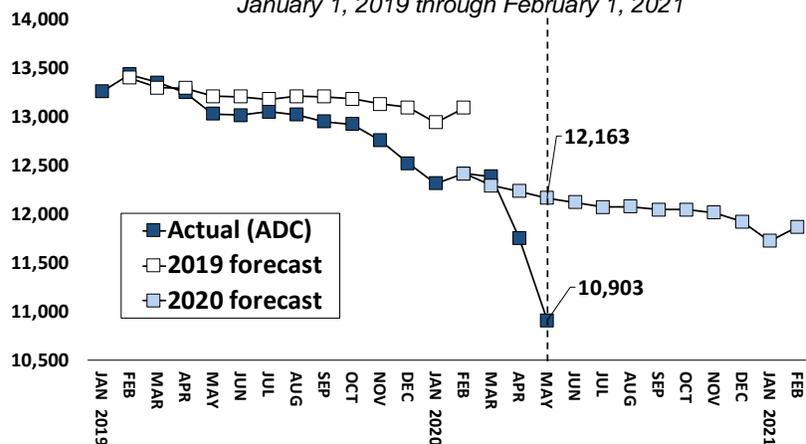


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

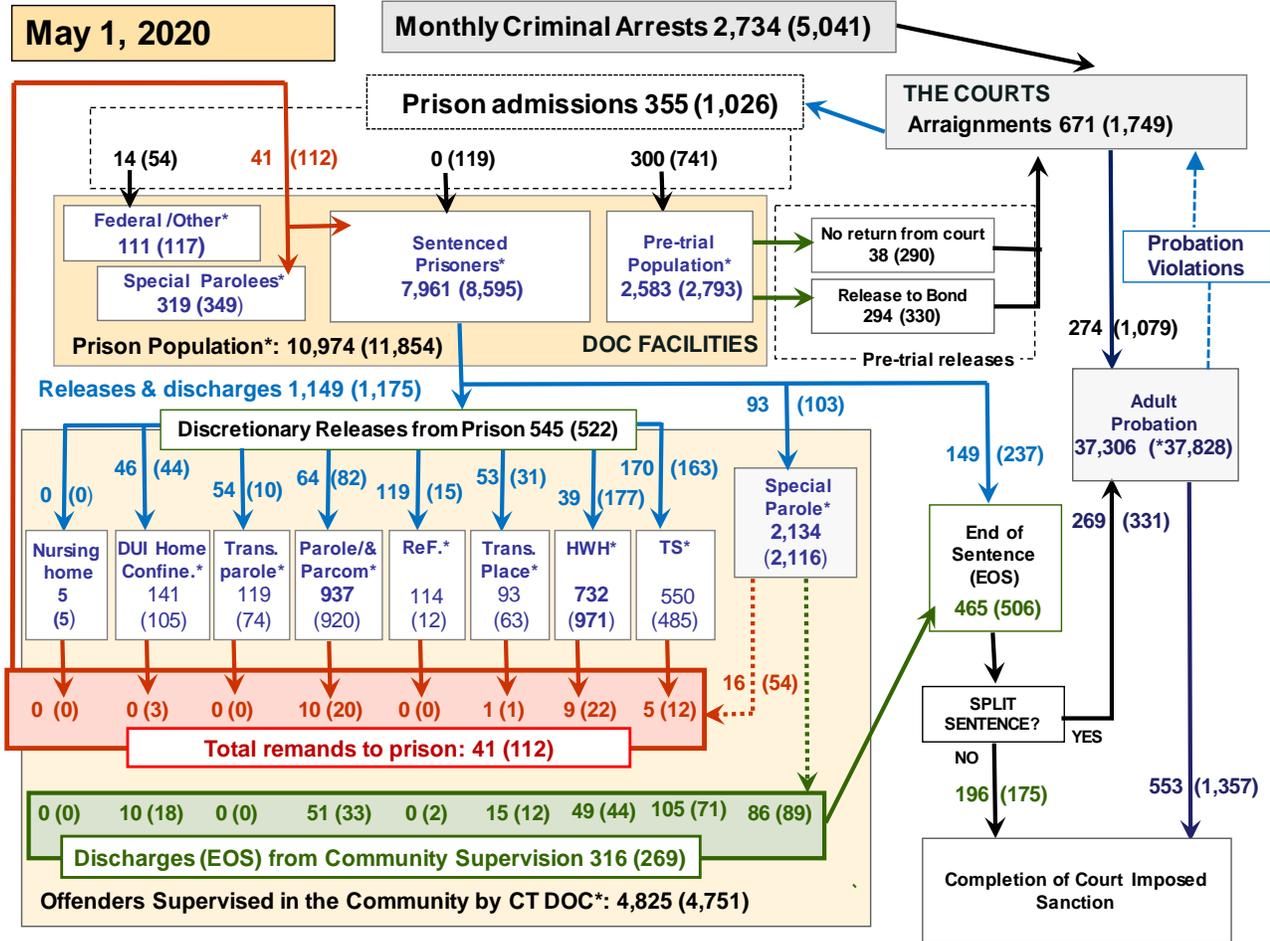
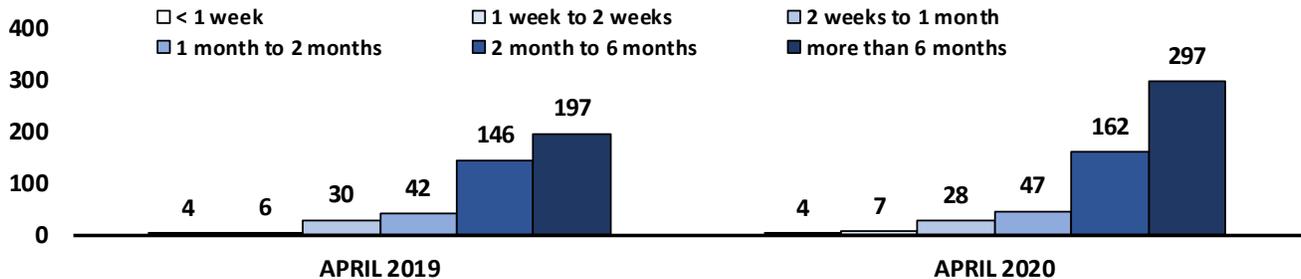


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for April 2020 and daily counts reported on May 1, 2020. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on May 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Time available for supervision on release date



Between April 2019 and 2020, discretionary releases increased 28 percent, from 425 to 545 people. The increase reflects the DOC's efforts, with other criminal justice agencies and community partners, to transition eligible people to the community during the public-health emergency. One might hypothesize that, considering the sizable increase in discretionary releases, very short supervision periods would be left on the sentences. It turns out that more people with relatively longer amounts of time left to serve on their sentence, including six months or more, received discretionary release than people with shorter amounts of time remaining.

2020, and the amount of time remaining on their sentences upon release, subject to risk reduction credits and other factors, divided into six subgroupings. The four lowest subgroupings had minimal differences between April 2019 and 2020. The longer periods, 2 weeks to a month and more than six months, had much larger relative increases.

The DOC's increased use of furlough in April 2020 may help explain the changes depicted in this analysis. Any time on supervision serves to benefit people transitioning to the community, making them eligible for planning, coordination and community supports. Inside facilities, this shift in DOC human resources to transition planning helped create valuable space for isolation, medical treatment, and quarantine as needed.

Chart 2a depicts the two release groups, April 2019 and

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2020			2019	% Change	
	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	May 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	122	117	111	137	-5.1%	-19.0%
Sentenced	9,037	8,595	7,961	9,406	-7.4%	-15.4%
Special Parole	358	349	319	407	-8.6%	-21.6%
Pre-trial	2,894	2,793	2,583	3,087	-7.5%	-16.3%
Total	12,411	11,854	10,974	13,037	-7.4%	-15.8%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	66	74	119	41	0.0%	0.0%
Parole/ Parcom Total	901	920	937	978	1.8%	-4.2%
Parole	741	760	778	812	2.4%	-4.2%
Parcom @ CT	160	160	159	166	-0.6%	-4.2%
Furlough	3	12		30		
Trans Placement	46	63	93	66	47.6%	40.9%
DUI/Home confine.	85	105	141	116	34.3%	21.6%
Halfway House Total	988	971	732	1,071	-24.6%	-31.7%
Comm Release	445	481	330	504	-31.4%	-34.5%
TS	28	23	13	43	-43.5%	-69.8%
Parole	155	142	105	156	-26.1%	-32.7%
Transfer Parole	10	6	9	3	-	-
Special Parole	350	319	275	365	-13.8%	-24.7%
TS	412	485	550	447	13.4%	23.0%
Nursing home	4	5	5	5	-	-
Special Parole	2,120	2,116	2,134	2,019	0.9%	5.7%
Total	4,625	4,751	4,825	4,773	1.6%	1.1%

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2019			2019	% Change	
	Feb.	Mar.	April	April	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	61	54	14	61	-74.1%	-77.0%
Remands	131	112	41	109	-63.4%	-62.4%
DUI	0	3	0	3	-	-
Parole	23	20	19	17	-5.0%	11.8%
Trans Plac/Furlough	0	1	1	1	-	-
HWH	21	22	9	25	-59.1%	-64.0%
TS	16	12	5	17	-58.3%	-70.6%
Special Parole	71	54	16	46	-70.4%	-65.2%
New Sentence	213	119	0	224	-100.0%	-100.0%
VOP	63	28	0	50	-100.0%	-100.0%
Pre-trial	1,081	741	300	1,151	-59.5%	-73.9%
Total	1,486	1,026	355	1,545	-65.4%	-77.0%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	10	10	54	18	440.0%	200.0%
Parole	70	82	64	84	-22.0%	-23.8%
Furlough	0	15	119	8	693.3%	1387.5%
Trans. Placement	12	31	53	22	71.0%	140.9%
Home Confinement DUI	19	44	46	25	4.5%	84.0%
HWH	77	177	39	115	-78.0%	-66.1%
TS	112	163	170	153	4.3%	11.1%
Special Parole	97	103	93	140	-9.7%	-33.6%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	519	506	465	596	-8.1%	-22.0%
Total	916	1,131	1,103	1,161	-2.5%	-5.0%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	391	290	38	477	-86.9%	-92.0%
Release to Bond	348	330	294	336	-10.9%	-12.5%

* 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
Feb.	665	296	104	107	45%
Mar.	768	422	105	87	55%
Apr. 20	522	307	68	52	59%
Apr.	699	290	107	111	41%

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
Feb.	121	53	44%	83	77
Mar.	131	70	53%	71	91
Apr.	116	77	66%	67	90

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Feb.	57	1	12	26	11
Mar.	29	2	9	13	17
Apr. '20	48	1	18	17	100
Apr. '19	43	1	23	33	3

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Mar. 1, 2020	Apr. 1, 2020	May. 1, 2020	May. 1, 2019
Less than \$20K	383	304	262	435
\$20K to <\$50K	426	386	343	422
\$50K to <\$100K	512	514	482	556
\$100K or higher	1,641	1,661	1,648	1,741
Persons w/bonds	2,962	2,865	2,740	3,173
Over \$1M	227	229	235	189

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Mar. 1, 2020	Apr. 1, 2020	May. 1, 2020	May. 1, 2019
< 1 week	371	81	115	348
1 to < 3 weeks	264	176	76	261
3 to < 10 weeks	614	753	460	709
10 to < 30 weeks	801	856	970	951
30 wks or more	916	1,011	1,119	904
Pre-trial prisoners	2,966	2,877	2,740	3,173

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	Mar. 2019
Arraignments	2,398	1,749	671	2,656
Pre-trial Admits	1,081	741	300	1,178
New to DOC	254	197	72	299
% New	23%	27%	24%	25%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Feb	1,081	760	268	325
Mar.	741	535	238	328
Apr.	300	226	247	303

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Feb.	2,050*	1,721	334	12,665*
Mar.	2,050*	1,357	331	12,665*
Apr.	2,050*	553	269	12,665*
Apr.. '19	2,050*	1,927	341	12,665*

* CSDS estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population

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

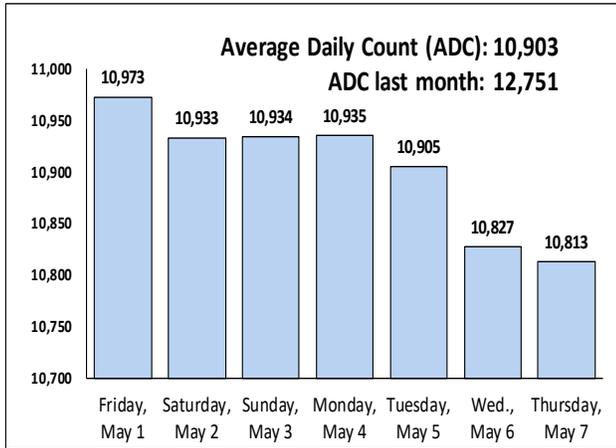


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

March 2019 through April 2020

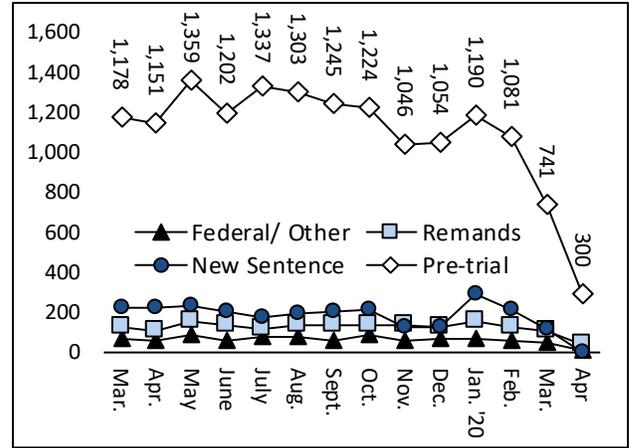


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020

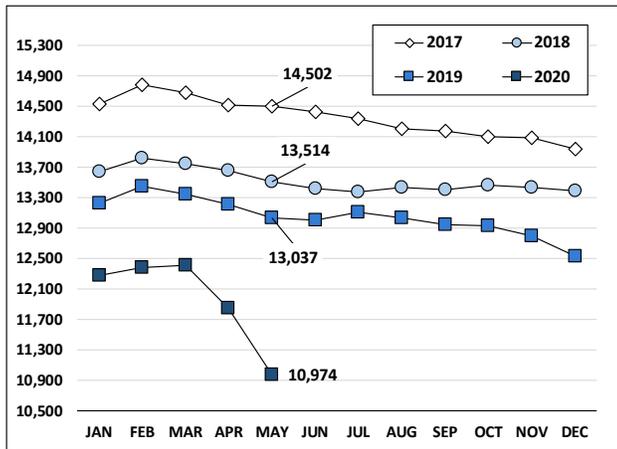


Chart 7 – Remands from community release

April 2020

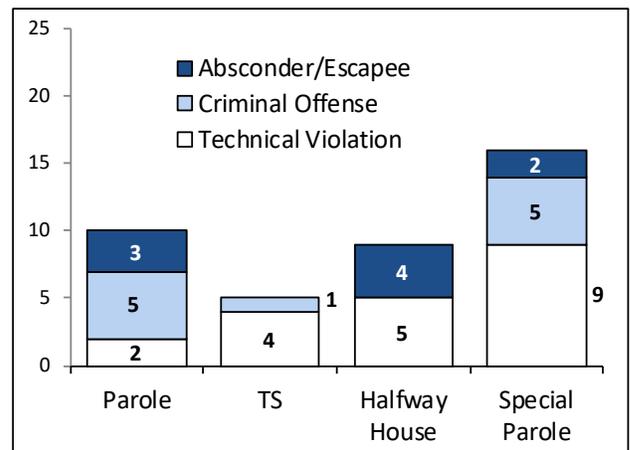


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2019 and 2020

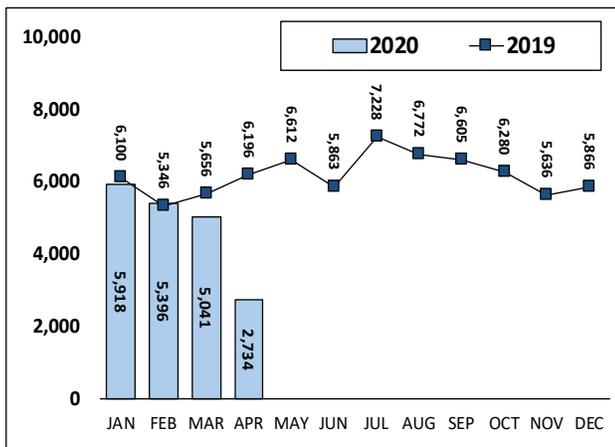
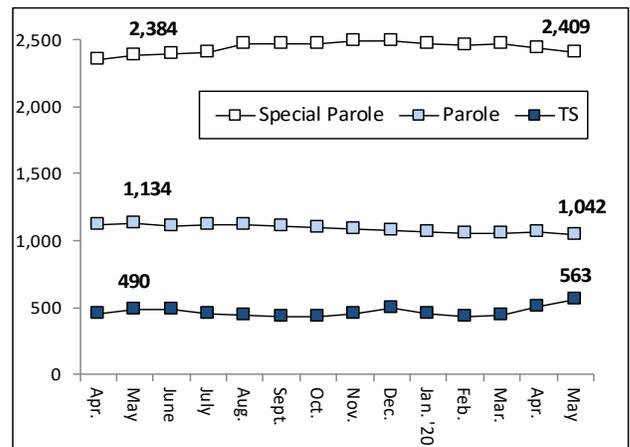


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

Apr. 1, 2019 through May 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.