

OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On February 1, 2021, Connecticut's correction population—9,059 people—was 38 individuals fewer than on January 1. This slight net population reduction is atypical compared to the same period in prior years. (See Chart 4) Typically, there is a rise in the correction population around February 1 each year as an increasing number of criminal cases are processed in the beginning of the calendar year.
- OPM's 2021 *Annual Forecast of the Prison Population*, which was released this month, anticipates the correction population will remain relatively stable through 2021, a contrast to 2020, when the population decreased substantially.
- Along with the forecast report, OPM CJPPD also released the 2021 Annual Recidivism Report. Both are available on CJPPD's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/CJ-About/CJ-SAC/SAC-Sites/SAC-Homepage>
- The Department of Correction's Community Release Unit (CRU) continues to show consistency in their approval rate. CRU's approval rate in January 2021 (45%) was similar to January of the prior year (46%). (See Table 3)
- On February 2021, the adult probation population reached 30,990 people, a 2% decline from last month, (See Chart 2) and an 18% decline from a year ago.

Prison Population Forecast

In the first week of February 2021, the final month under OPM's 2020 forecast, Connecticut's correctional facilities recorded an average daily count (ADC) of 9,044 people, which is 2,823 lower than the forecast. (See Table 1) In prior years, OPM's forecast has varied from recorded counts within a range of $\pm 5\%$ by the end of each annual projection cycle. In stark contrast, the February 2021 ADC differed from the OPM projection by -24%. This divergence reflects, in large part, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the effects of which exceed the statistical forecasting methods.

In 2020, the actual correction population began sharply diverging from OPM's forecast between March and April, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. (See Chart 1) As often discussed in the *Monthly* reports, the pandemic's pervasive effects shifted operations and trends in the justice system in unforeseen ways, evidenced by the dramatic divergence of the prison population from the 2020 forecast. Finally, in an unusual finish to this cycle, February 2021 represents the first instance where the correction population did not increase over the month of January. This final anomaly provides another powerful indicator of the lasting and unexpected effects of COVID-19 on the criminal justice system since its onset.

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	9,907	12,072	2,165
AUG	9,644	12,074	2,430
SEP	9,521	12,044	2,523
OCT	9,357	12,046	2,689
NOV	9,342	12,015	2,674
DEC	9,246	11,922	2,676
JAN '21	9,106	11,722	2,616
FEB	9,044	11,867	2,823

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

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts

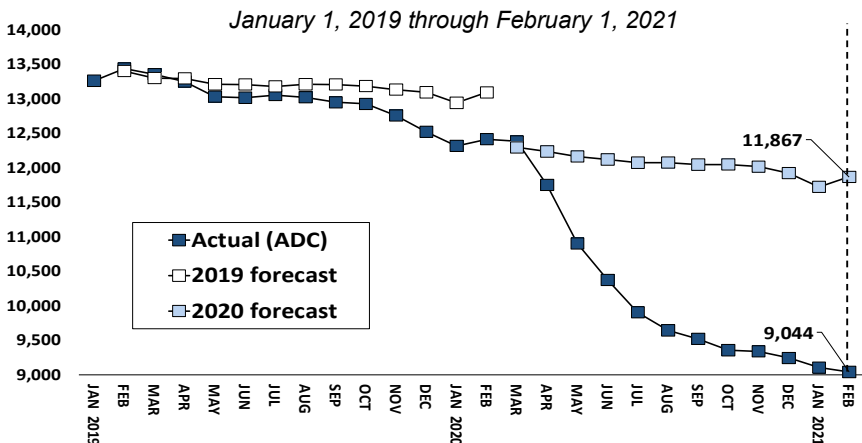


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

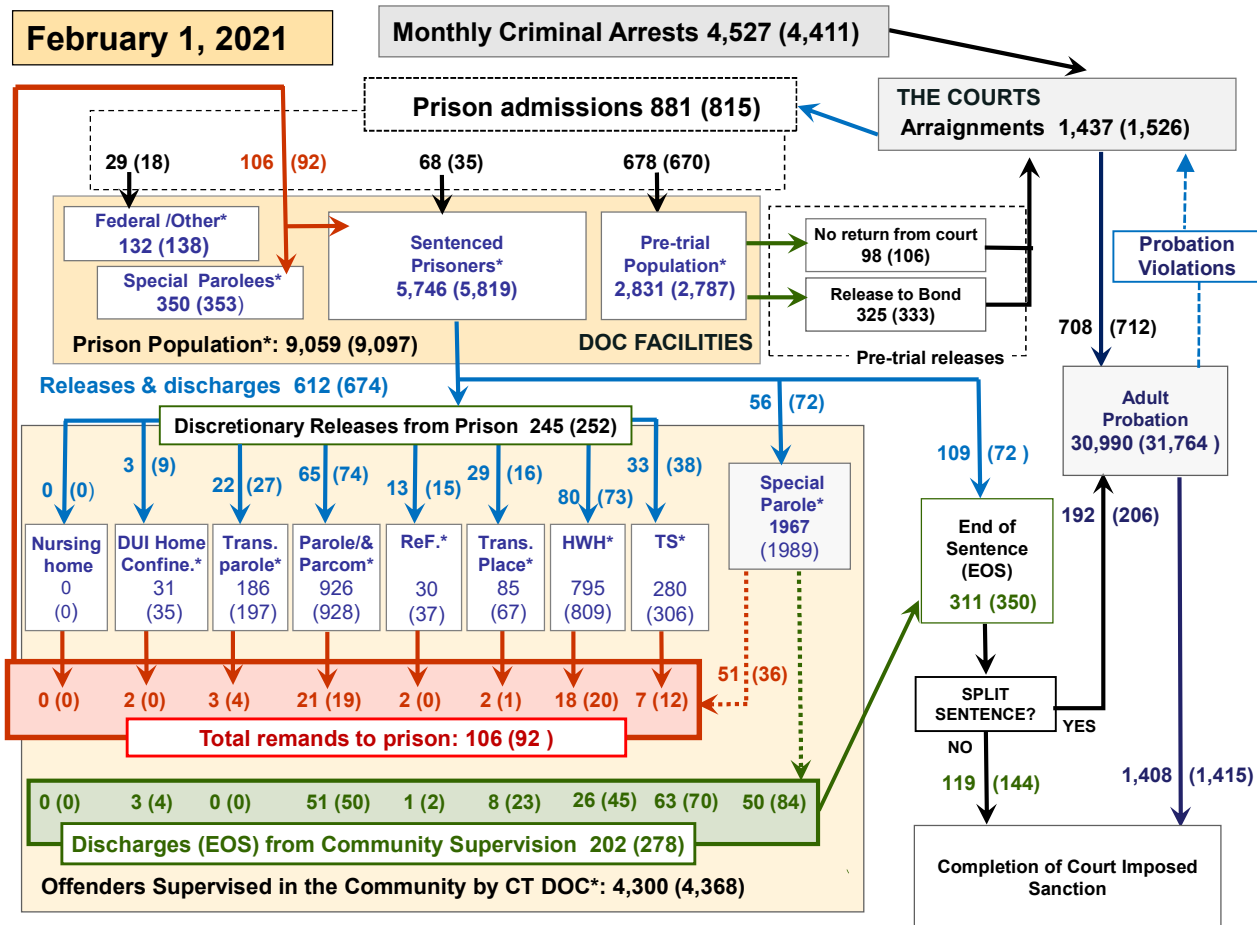
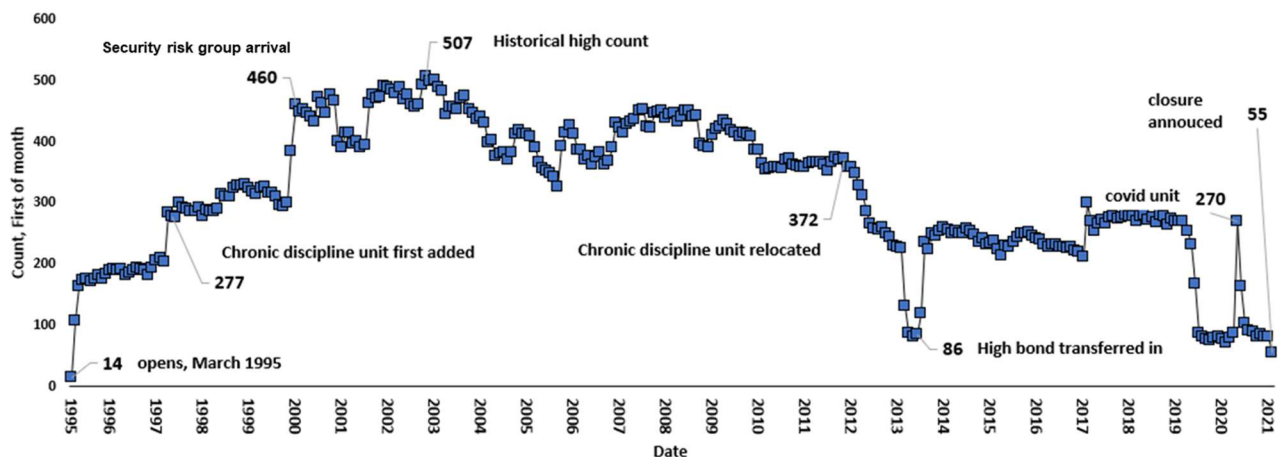


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for January 2021 and daily counts reported on February 1, 2021. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on February 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, via CJIS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC.

Chart 2a – Northern Correctional Institution Population Changes (1995-2021)



On February 8, Governor Lamont announced plans to close Northern Correctional Institution (“Northern”), the state’s only level five, maximum security facility. Northern has a more restrictive correctional environment overall than the state’s other facilities. Commissioner Quiros said, “The significant reduction in the population at Northern speaks to our staff’s exceptional interpersonal skills, superior conflict resolution abilities, and overall understanding and application of criminal justice reform.”

The line chart above reflects Northern’s population since opening in 1995. Consistent with Commissioner Quiros’ quote, after 2003, when Northern’s population reached its historical high count (507 people), the facility population shrank 89%, to 55 people, by 2021. Therefore, the announced closure of Northern reflects an evolution of DOC policy and practice over the years, leading to a population reduction as people requiring heightened security were safely housed in units within other facilities.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2020	2021	2021	2020	% Change	
	Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Feb. 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	139	138	132	119	-4.3%	10.9%
Sentenced	5,997	5,819	5,746	9,045	-1.3%	-36.5%
Special Parole	357	353	350	338	-0.8%	3.6%
Pre-trial	2,747	2,787	2,831	2,884	1.6%	-1.8%
Total	9,240	9,097	9,059	12,386	-0.4%	-26.9%
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	203	197	186	63	-5.6%	195.2%
Parole/ Parcom Total	946	928	926	913	-0.2%	1.4%
Parole	763	750	749	752	-0.1%	-0.4%
Parcom @ CT	183	178	177	161	-0.6%	9.9%
Furlough	38	37	30	9	-18.9%	233.3%
Trans Placement	75	67	85	41	26.9%	107.3%
DUI/Home confine.	30	35	31	88	-11.4%	-64.8%
Halfway House Total	840	809	795	989	-1.7%	-19.6%
Comm Release	417	391	386	483	-1.3%	-20.1%
TS	20	12	11	23	-8.3%	-52.2%
Parole	105	119	123	137	3.4%	-10.2%
Transfer Parole	32	36	32	11	-11.1%	190.9%
Special Parole	266	251	243	335	-3.2%	-27.5%
TS	342	306	280	408	-8.5%	-31.4%
Nursing home	0	0	0	4	-	-100.0%
Special Parole	2,036	1,989	1,967	2,127	-1.1%	-7.5%
Total	4,510	4,368	4,300	4,642	-1.6%	-7.4%

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2020	2020	2021	2020	% Change	
	NOV	DEC	JAN	JAN	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	29	18	29	70	61.1%	-58.6%
Remands	119	92	106	162	15.2%	-34.6%
DUI	9	4	5	5	-	-
Parole	21	19	21	22	10.5%	-4.5%
Trans Plac/Furlough	2	1	4	2	-	-
HWH	15	20	18	38	-10.0%	-52.6%
TS	13	12	7	20	-41.7%	-65.0%
Special Parole	59	36	51	75	41.7%	-32.0%
New Sentence	36	35	68	299	94.3%	-77.3%
VOP	7	5	14	79	-	-
Pre-trial	637	670	678	1,190	1.2%	-43.0%
Total	821	815	881	1,721	7.5%	-48.8%
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	29	27	22	7	-18.5%	214.3%
Parole	65	74	65	67	-12.2%	-3.0%
Furlough	19	15	13	5	-13.3%	160.0%
Trans. Placement	18	16	29	14	81.3%	107.1%
Home Confinement DUI	3	9	3	25	-66.7%	-88.0%
HWH	55	73	80	101	9.6%	-20.8%
TS	44	38	33	124	-13.2%	-73.4%
Special Parole	70	72	56	107	-22.2%	-47.7%
Nursing home	0	0	0	0	-	-
End of Sentence	349	350	311	617	-11.1%	-49.6%
Total	652	674	612	1,067	-9.2%	-42.6%
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	114	106	98	455	-7.5%	-78.5%
Release to Bond	316	333	325	343	-2.4%	-5.2%

* Totals reflect events, not individual offenders

DOC - Community Release Unit (CRU)

Table 3 - Case reviews and release metrics

	Cases				Approval Rate
	Reviewed	Approved	Denied	Continued	
NOV	223	110	43	25	49%
DEC	245	109	40	27	44%
JAN 21	265	118	45	27	45%
JAN 20	632	289	116	89	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	Granted: Prior Year	Granted: Two Years Prior
	NOV	71	36	51%	67
DEC	106	65	61%	68	74
JAN	94	50	53%	63	65

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
	NOV	15	1	8	11
DEC	22	1	17	15	28
JAN 2021	23	1	11	17	17
JAN 2020	55	1	20	22	8

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	Dec. 1, 2020	Jan. 1, 2021	Feb. 1, 2021	Feb. 1, 2020
	Less than \$20K	354	347	366
\$20K to < \$50K	368	369	372	452
\$50K to <\$100K	451	455	463	516
\$100K or higher	1,772	1,830	1,843	1,642
Persons w/bonds	2,945	3,001	3,044	3,032
Over \$1M	279	291	303	222

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	Dec. 1, 2020	Jan. 1, 2021	Feb. 1, 2021	Feb. 1, 2020
< 1 week	181	189	215	362
1 to < 3 weeks	157	173	172	271
3 to < 10 weeks	535	502	496	629
10 to < 30 weeks	720	793	831	873
30 wks or more	1,353	1,346	1,332	901
Pre-trial prisoners	2,946	3,003	3,046	3,036

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	NOV 2020	DEC 2020	JAN 2021	JAN 2020
Arraignments	1,490	1,526	1,437	2,687
Pre-trial Admits	637	670	678	1,190
New to DOC	149	160	171	278
% New	23%	24%	25%	23%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Reinterview Program

	Pretrial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
NOV	637	554	180	293
DEC	670	614	164	260
JAN	678	612	150	267

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pretrial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pretrial bail cases
NOV	2,050*	696	198	12,665*
DEC	2,050*	712	206	12,665*
JAN	2,050*	708	192	12,665*
JAN '20	2,050*	1,730	342	12,665*

* CSSD estimates

Chart 3 – Prison population

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

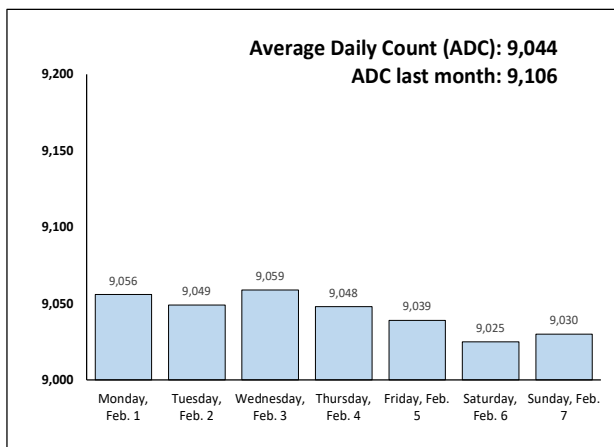


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

January 2020 through January 2021

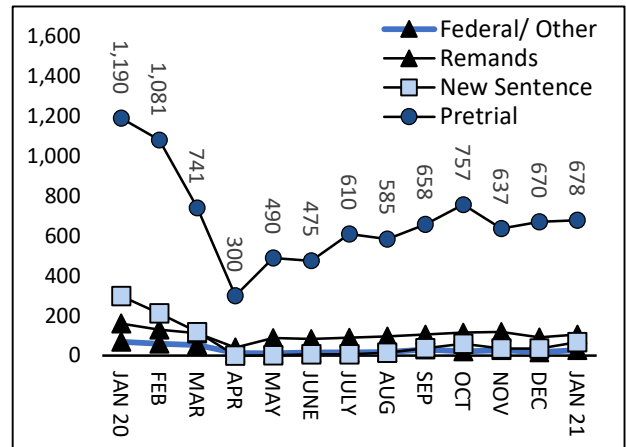


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021

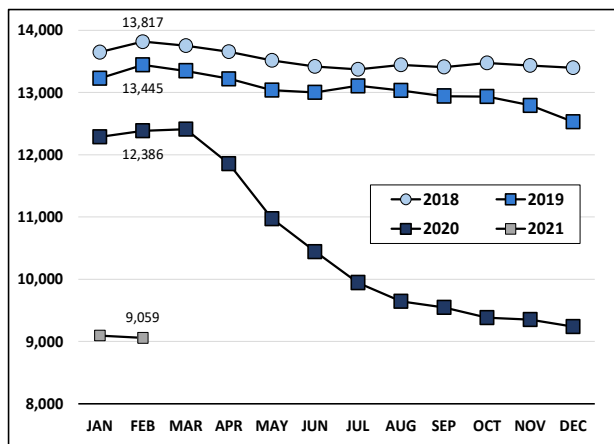


Chart 7– Remands from community release

January 2021

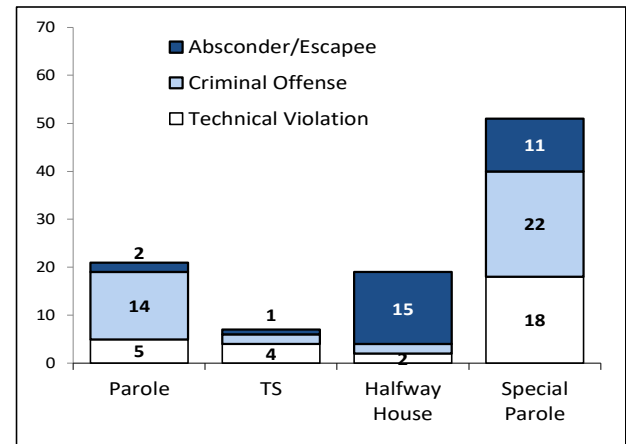


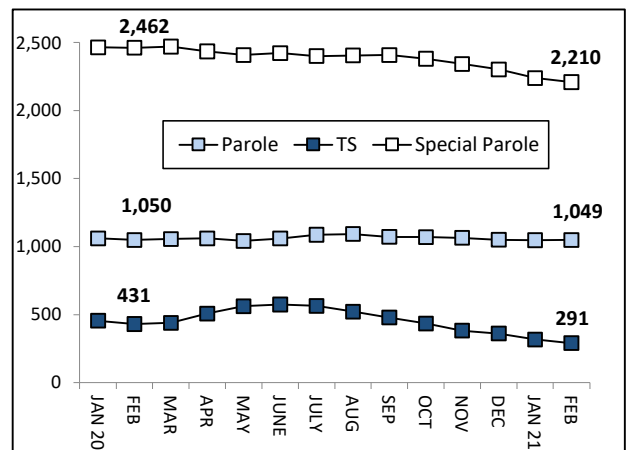
Chart 5 – Statewide Arrests

2020 and 2021

OPM CJPPD is working with its partners to solidify a new logic to report current and historical arrest information. Readers can expect this chart to be revised and updated in subsequent editions of the *Monthly Indicators Report*.

Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

Jan 1, 2020 through Feb. 1, 2021



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.