OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division

Monthly Indicators Report

Highlights

- On July 1st, 13,107 inmates were held in Connecticut prisons and jails, an uptick from early June, but 2% drop from the figure reported last July.
- The size of the sentenced population appears to have stabilized. In recent years, the sentenced-prisoner population declined at a rate of 7-10% per year. This year, the sentenced inmate population was down only 1% compared to July 2018.
- Growth in the size of the special parole population continues to slow. Parole and community services added a net increase of only 8 offenders, on special parole status to its roster of clients in June.
- Statewide arrests are down for the sixth consecutive month. Year-to-date, there were 2,160 fewer arrests in 2019 than in 2018.
- On July 1, 2019 - 241 fewer inmates were held on bond compared to last July. Pretrial offenders held on bonds under $100k account for all of the reduction (table 5a).
- Only 326 sentenced offenders were released through one of the DOC's discretionary release mechanisms during the month of June. Last June 429 were released, 24% more. Year-to-date, discretionary releases are down 13% compared to 2018.
- Chart 2a provides an illustration of the adaptability of state systems to adjust to circumstances. A large and sudden increase in the state's prison population following criminal justice reforms in the early 1980s, resulted in a dramatic expansion of a little used discretionary release program to radically reduce overcrowding in CT DOC facilities.

Prison Population Forecast

The state's prison population rose moderately during June. The average daily count (ADC) for the first week in July was 13,052, only slightly higher than the June figure of 13,013. The uptick in this month's prison population brought the OPM forecast into closer alignment with the actual count.

During a typical year, the prison population expands as summer progresses, driven largely by increases to the pretrial population. Over the last few years, increases among pretrial population have been modest and offset - almost completely - by contraction of the sentenced population. The result, net decreases in the total prison count. This year the sentenced population has relatively remained flat while the pretrial population ticked up slightly.

TABLE 1 – **Prison Population Forecast**

	Avg. Daily Count	OPM 2019 Forecast	Inmate difference
JAN '19	13,259	-	-
FEB	13,436	13,400	-
MAR	13,352	13,298	-54
APR	13,247	13,293	46
MAY	13,029	13,208	179
JUN	13,013	13,205	192
JUL	13,052	13,177	125
AUG		13,207	-
SEP		13,204	-
OCT		13,183	-
NOV		13,131	-
DEC		13,094	-
JAN '20		12,940	-
FEB	-	13,090	-

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

Although the monthly pre-trial population increased last month to 3,115, the number of pre-trial prisoners remains down compared to July 2018, when 3,297 pre-trial offenders were incarcerated (See Table 2).

Chart 1 – Actual prison population against the OPM forecasts
January 1, 2017 through February 1, 2019

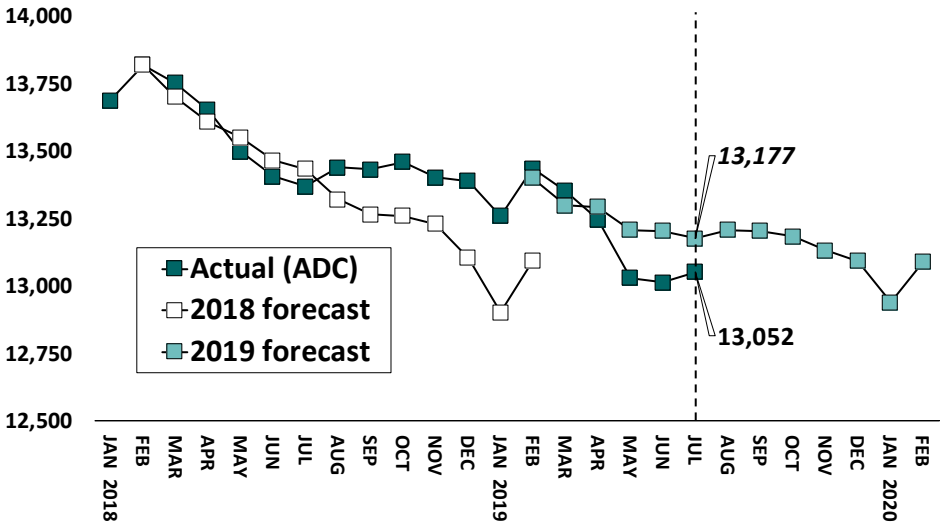


Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

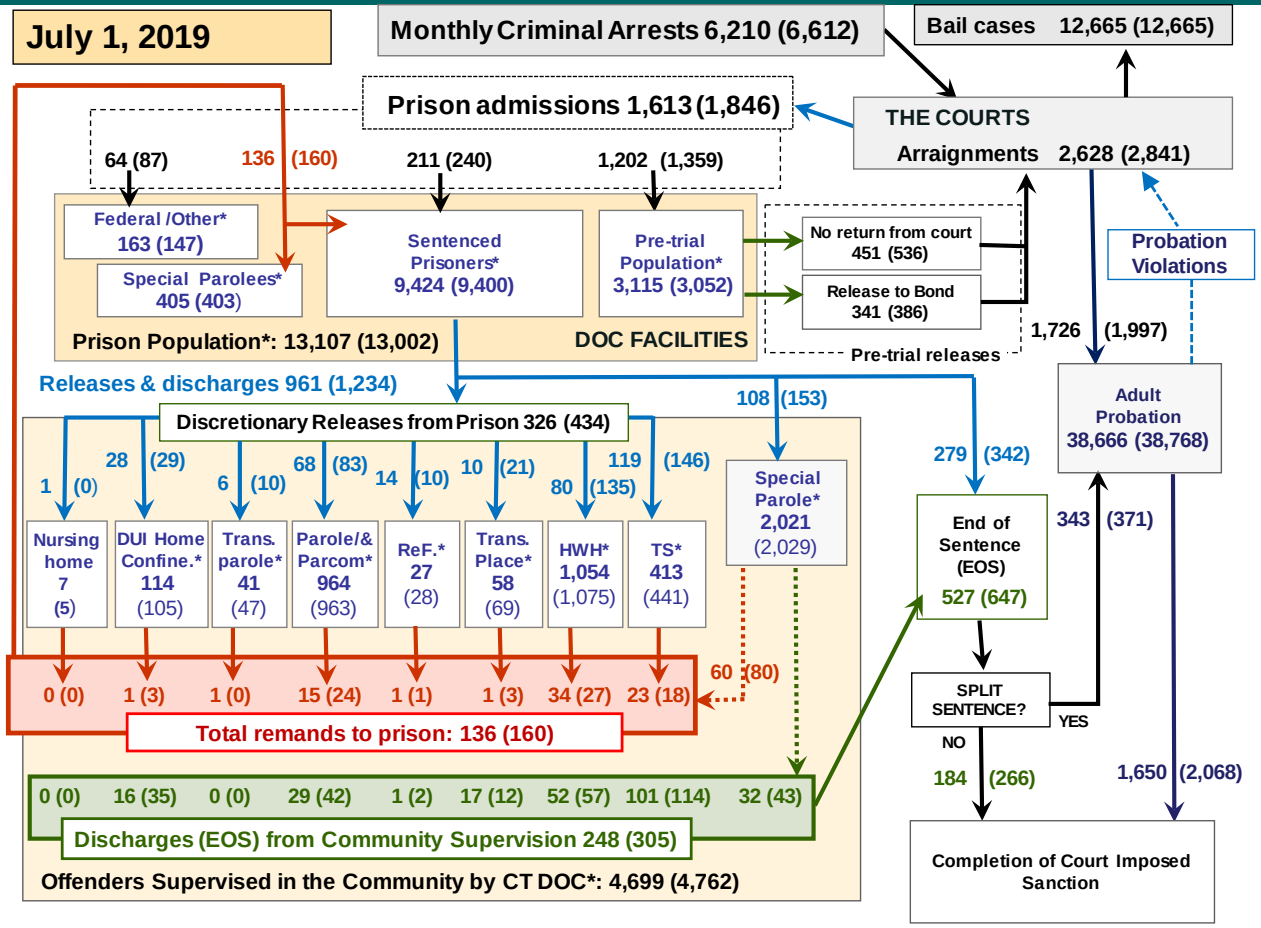
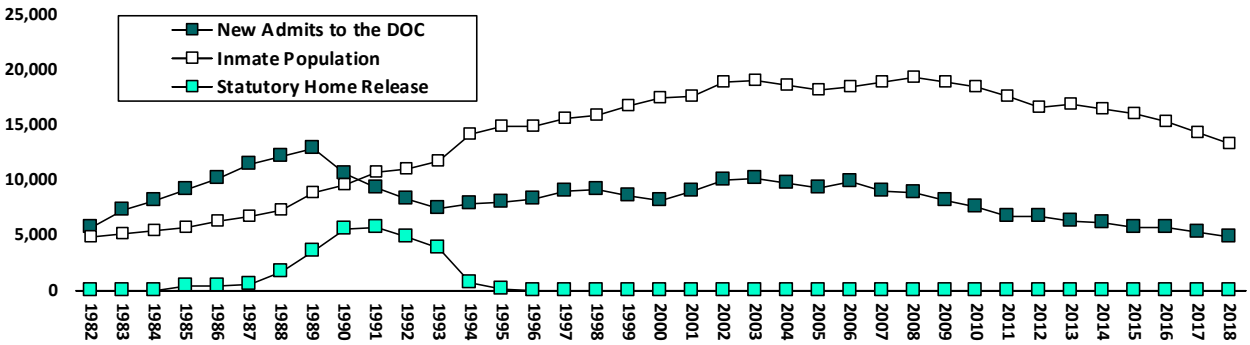


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for June 2019 and daily counts reported on July 1, 2019. Asterisks (*) indicate the daily count on July 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC. Note: Some Judicial Branch data this month is estimated.

Chart 2a – DOC admits, facility capacity, and SHR



Last month, this space featured a chart of the number of new persons admitted to the DOC against total DOC admits. With the current prison population back roughly where it was in 1993, we have decided to look back to try to understand some of the dynamics that drove mass incarceration in the state.

In 1981, the state moved from indeterminate sentencing system to a determinate system which imposed fixed prison terms and gave the DOC authority over releases.

On the back of longer sentences, the prison population swelled. According to a 2000 General Assembly report on Factors Impacting Prison Overcrowding, Supervised home release (SHR) quickly became a mechanism for prison overcrowding, and eventually the legislative intent of the program and the overall criminal sentencing policy were undermined by the DOC's need to free prisoner beds for incoming inmates. At the height of SHR inmates were serving only about 10% of their court-imposed sentences.

Table 2 - First-of-month totals

	2018	2019	2019	2018	% Change	
	May 1	June 1	July 1	July 1	Monthly	Annual
DOC Facilities						
Federal/Other	137	147	163	108	10.9%	50.9%
Sentenced	9,406	9,400	9,424	9,517	0.3%	-1.0%
Special Parole	407	403	405	449	0.5%	-9.8%
Pre-trial	3,087	3,052	3,115	**3,297**	2.1%	-5.5%
Total	**13,037**	**13,002**	**13,107**	**13,371**	**0.8%**	**-2.0%**
DOC Community						
Transfer Parole	41	47	41	42	-12.8%	-2.4%
Parole/ Parcom Total	978	963	964	1,088	0.1%	-11.4%
Parole	812	796	803	923	0.9%	-13.0%
Parcom @ CT	166	167	161	165	-3.6%	-2.4%
Furlough	30	28	27	3	-	-
Trans Placement	66	69	58	54	-15.9%	7.4%
DUI/Home confine.	116	105	114	108	8.6%	5.6%
Halfway House Total	1,071	1,075	1,054	1,036	-2.0%	1.7%
Comm Release	504	513	465	504	-9.4%	-7.7%
TS	43	43	43	50	0.0%	-14.0%
Parole	156	147	157	149	6.8%	5.4%
Transfer Parole	3	3	4	5	-	-
Special Parole	365	369	385	328	4.3%	17.4%
TS	447	441	413	466	-6.3%	-11.4%
Nursing home	5	5	7	6	-	-
Special Parole	2,019	2,029	2,021	**1,919**	-0.4%	5.3%
Total	**4,773**	**4,762**	**4,699**	**4,722**	**-1.3%**	**-0.5%**

Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges

	2018	2019	2019	2018	% Change	
	April	May	June	June	Monthly	Annual
Admissions						
Federal/Other	61	87	64	66	-26.4%	-3.0%
Remands	109	160	136	159	-15.0%	-14.5%
DUI	3	3	2	4	-	-
Parole	17	24	15	29	-37.5%	-48.3%
Trans Plac/Furlough	1	4	2	1	-	-
HWH	25	27	34	36	25.9%	-5.6%
TS	17	18	23	36	27.8%	-36.1%
Special Parole	46	80	60	71	-25.0%	-15.5%
New Sentence	224	240	211	204	-12.1%	3.4%
VOP	50	72	65	54	-9.7%	20.4%
Pre-trial	1,151	1,359	1,202	1,292	-11.6%	-7.0%
Total	**1,545**	**1,846**	**1,613**	**1,721**	**-12.6%**	**-6.3%**
Releases and discharges						
Transfer Parole	18	10	6	13	-	-
Parole	84	83	68	100	-18.1%	-32.0%
Furlough	8	10	14	2	-	-
Trans. Placement	22	21	10	18	-52.4%	-44.4%
Home Confinement DUI	25	29	28	26	-3.4%	7.7%
HWH	115	135	80	127	-40.7%	-37.0%
TS	153	146	119	142	-18.5%	-16.2%
Special Parole	140	153	108	148	-29.4%	-27.0%
Nursing home	0	0	1	1	-	-
End of Sentence	596	647	527	660	-18.5%	-20.2%
Total	**1,161**	**1,234**	**961**	**1,237**	**-22.1%**	**-22.3%**
Pre-trial Releases*						
From Court	477	536	451	485	-15.9%	-7.0%
Release to Bond	336	386	341	380	-11.7%	-10.3%

** 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
Apr.	699	290	107	111	41%
May	718	311	119	141	43%
June	605	298	100	96	49%
June '18	728	343	124	101	47%

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, 2017	Paroles granted, 2016
Apr.	142	67	47%	90	102
May	156	78	50%	93	100
June	141	74	52%	62	84

Table 4a - Other BOPP actions

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Apr.	43	1	23	33	3
May	33	0	28	47	12
June	30	1	20	31	1
June '18	34	3	38	44	6

The pre-trial population

Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees

Bond amount	May. 1, 2019	June 1, 2019	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2018
Less than $20K	435	424	465	543
$20K to < $50K	422	446	435	504
$50K to <$100K	556	532	555	671
$100K or higher	1,741	1,760	1,770	1,748
Persons w/bonds	3,173	3,162	3,225	3,466
Over $1M	189	194	192	202

Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission

Weeks since last DOC admit	May 1, 2019	June 1, 2019	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2018
< 1 week	348	372	386	444
1 to < 3 weeks	261	333	327	330
3 to < 10 weeks	709	660	727	822
10 to < 30 weeks	951	902	863	936
30 wks or more	904	896	925	939
Pre-trial prisoners	3,173	3,163	3,228	3,471

Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders

	Apr. 2019	May 2019	June 2019	June 2018
Arraignments	2,627	2,841	2,628	2,729
Pre-trial Admits	1,151	1,359	1,202	1,292
New to DOC	279	347	298	315
% New	24%	26%	25%	24%

Court Support Services Division

Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Apr.	1,151	951	303	335
May	1,359	1,025	356	331
June	1,202	990	324	334

Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Apr.	2,050*	1,900	350	12,665*
May	2,050*	1,997	371	12,665*
June	2,050*	1,726	343	12,665*
June '18	2,060*	1,840	375	12,660*

** CSSD estimates*

Chart 3 – Prison population

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

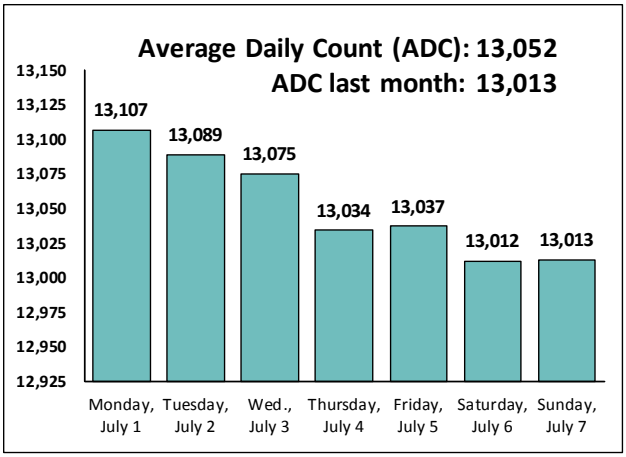


Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month

2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019

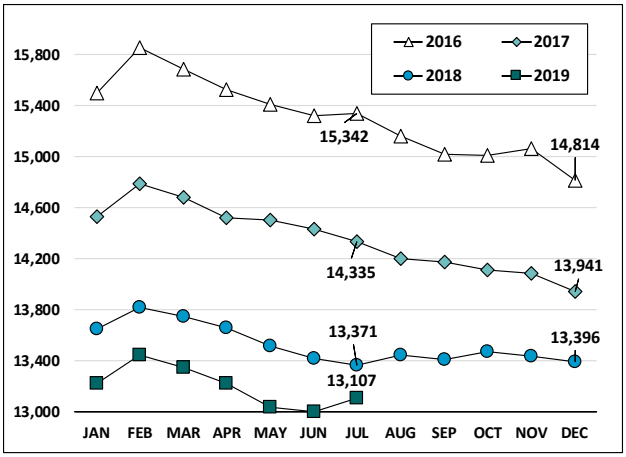


Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests

2018 and 2019

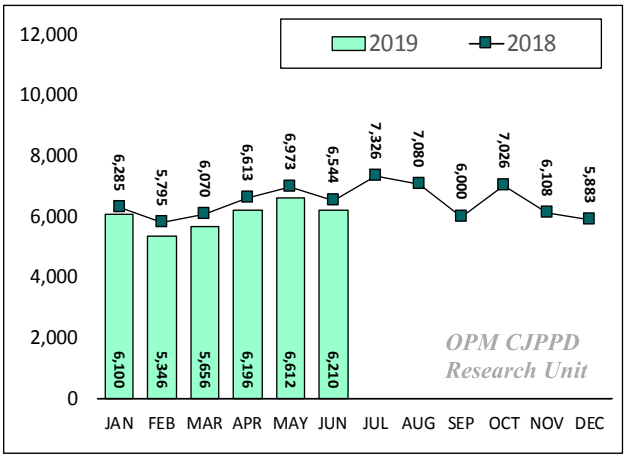


Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions

May 2018 through June 2019

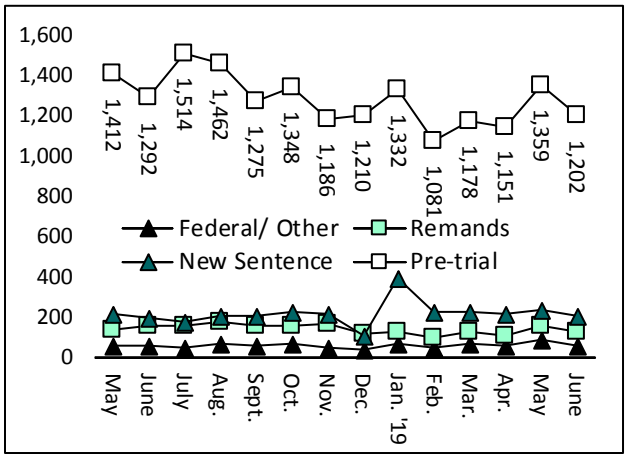


Chart 7– Remands from community release

June 2019

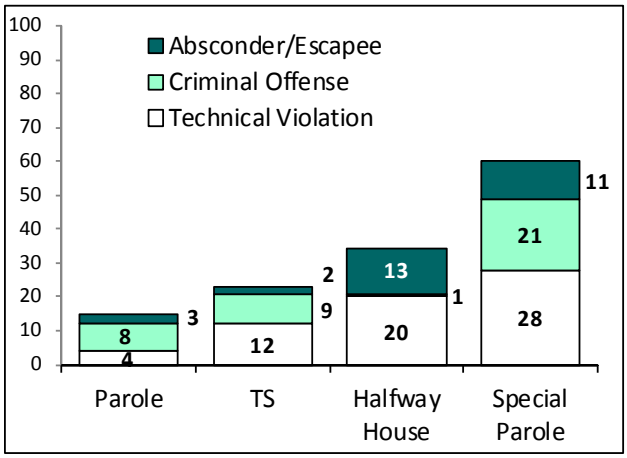
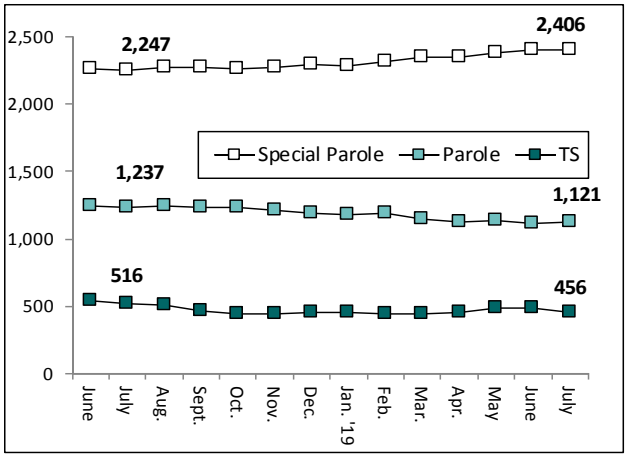


Chart 8 – DOC community supervision

June 1, 2018 through July 1, 2019



Note: Data for all charts, with the exception of 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.