

# OPM - Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division Monthly Indicators Report

## Highlights

- On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 13,002 inmates were held in Connecticut prisons and jails, a drop of roughly 400 prisoners from one year ago. The prison population hovered around the 13,000-inmate mark throughout the month of May. It ranged between 12,976 and 13,046.
- The number of sentenced prisoners 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 is down only 2% compared to June 2018.
- Growth in the size of the special parole population is slowing. Over the past five years, annual growth rates typically exceeded 10%. Compared to last June, the special parole count is up only 4%.
- The number of offenders who were remanded to prison in May was up 47% compared to the April (chart 2 and table 2a). Fifty percent (50%) of the remandees were special parolees. May remands were up by 13% compared to May 2018.
- On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 424 accused offenders were being held on bonds under \$20k. This is the lowest number since OPM began tracking bond amounts in late 2012. It is unclear whether this change is structural.
- This month CT Superior court judges approved a rule allowing low-income defendants to post 10% of their bonds in cash if the bond amount was less than \$20,000. It is unclear what the impact will be given the fact that, according to a 2018 Federal Reserve study, 40% of American households report they cannot cover a \$400 emergency expense.

## Prison Population Forecast

Between May and June, the number of inmates held in Connecticut’s prisons and jails held steady. In February, OPM projected that the prison system would remain flat in June. In percentage terms, it did. OPM is still not sure why the prison population dropped by over 200 prisoners in April. This unanticipated April contraction explains the existing gap between the forecast-population and the actual prison population.

After two consecutive months of sizeable drops, the inmate count flattened out in early June, following typical annual rhythm. This emerging pattern could suggest that the prison system is stabilizing following several years of larger than expected declines.

OPM projects that the prison population will continue to track much as it did last year, remaining relatively flat through the summer months before declining gradually as the seasons change from summer to fall. We still

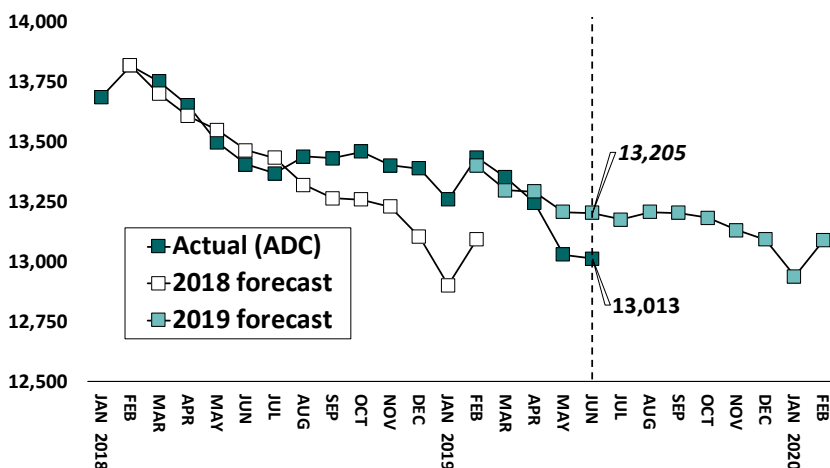
anticipate the system will contract at the end of the year, hitting its annual low point on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Should this pattern hold, the January 2020 prison population could be closer to 12,700 than the 12,900 OPM predicted in February. The drop of 200 prisoners during April is an important reminder that there is still some volatility in the system.

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		13,177	-
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*

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



## Chart 2 - Criminal justice, monthly counts and flows

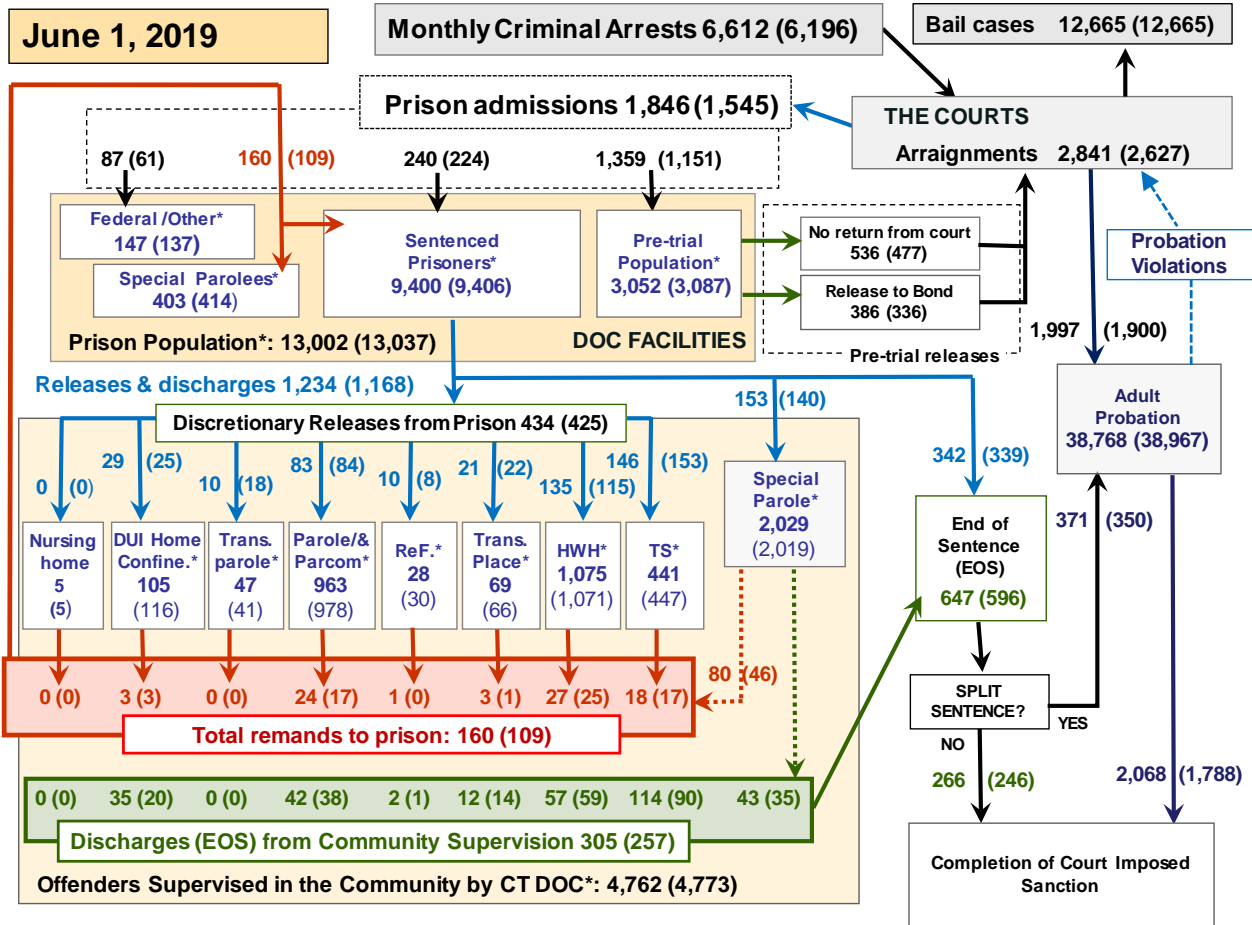
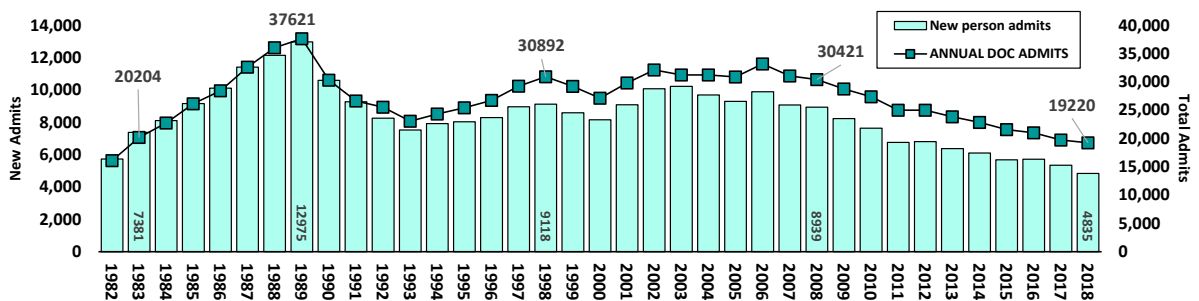


Chart 2 contains monthly operations data for May 2019 and daily counts reported on June 1, 2019. Asterisks (\*) indicate the daily count on June 1st. Figures for last month are enclosed by parentheses. Sources: Arrests – CRMVS, Court and probation data - CSSD, all other data - CT DOC. Note: Some Judicial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

## Chart 2a – Admits to the DOC, new vs total



The first time a person is admitted to a DOC facility, they are assigned a DOC inmate number which is theirs for life. The chart above plots new person admits – measured by new inmate numbers assigned – against total DOC admits since 1982.

It is generally assumed that mass incarceration in the state – and nationally – began during the early- to mid-1990s. While it is true that prison populations surged during the 1990s, this data shows that a decade earlier – the 1980s – the number of people being assigned DOC number grew astronomically.

inmate numbers that were assigned, annually, doubled from 5,725 to 11,412. It is possible that the observed ramp up in new DOC inmate number assignments included persons who had been held in county lock-ups and were finally entering the state corrections system for the first time.

One hopeful indicator for the future is that the number of new persons being admitted to the CT DOC appears to be steadily shrinking. Between 2012 and 2018, the number of new persons admitted to the CT DOC is down by 29% (6,809 to 4,835).

**Table 2 - First-of-month totals**

	2018	2019	2019	2018	% Change	
	Apr. 1	May 1	June 1	June 1	Monthly	Annual
<b>DOC Facilities</b>						
Federal/Other	146	137	147	116	7.3%	26.7%
Sentenced	9,470	9,406	9,400	9,594	-0.1%	-2.0%
Special Parole	414	407	403	438	-1.0%	-8.0%
Pre-trial	3,190	3,087	3,052	3,270	-1.1%	-6.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,220</b>	<b>13,037</b>	<b>13,002</b>	<b>13,418</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>
<b>DOC Community</b>						
Transfer Parole	28	41	47	41	14.6%	14.6%
Parole/ Parcom Total	965	978	963	1,092	-1.5%	-11.8%
Parole	795	812	796	932	-2.0%	-14.6%
Parcom @ CT	170	166	167	160	0.6%	4.4%
Furlough	27	30	28	12	-	-
Trans Placement	59	66	69	52	4.5%	32.7%
DUI/Home confine.	118	116	105	117	-9.5%	-10.3%
Halfway House Total	1,093	1,071	1,075	1,053	0.4%	2.1%
Comm Release	525	504	513	519	1.8%	-1.2%
TS	33	43	43	46	0.0%	-6.5%
Parole	157	156	147	147	-5.8%	0.0%
Transfer Parole	2	3	3	3	-	-
Special Parole	376	365	369	334	1.1%	10.5%
TS	421	447	441	490	-1.3%	-10.0%
Nursing home	5	5	5	6	-	-
Special Parole	1,973	2,019	2,029	1,925	0.5%	5.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,689</b>	<b>4,773</b>	<b>4,762</b>	<b>4,788</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>

**Table 2a - Monthly admissions, releases & discharges**

	2018	2019	2019	2018	% Change	
	Mar.	April	May	May	Monthly	Annual
<b>Admissions</b>						
Federal/Other	68	61	87	65	42.6%	33.8%
Remands	133	109	160	142	46.8%	12.7%
DUI	3	3	3	9	-	-
Parole	23	17	24	24	41.2%	0.0%
Trans Plac/Furlough	0	1	4	3	-	-
HWH	29	25	27	26	8.0%	3.8%
TS	14	17	18	29	5.9%	-37.9%
Special Parole	63	46	80	51	73.9%	56.9%
New Sentence	226	224	240	217	7.1%	10.6%
VOP	62	50	72	81	44.0%	-11.1%
Pre-trial	1,178	1,151	1,359	1,412	18.1%	-3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Releases and discharges</b>						
Transfer Parole	7	18	10	16	-	-
Parole	66	84	83	104	-1.2%	-20.2%
Furlough	17	8	10	18	-	-
Trans. Placement	8	22	21	17	-4.5%	23.5%
Home Confinement DUI	44	25	29	43	16.0%	-32.6%
HWH	144	115	135	136	17.4%	-0.7%
TS	125	153	146	158	-4.6%	-7.6%
Special Parole	127	140	153	142	9.3%	7.7%
Nursing home	0	0	0	1	-	-
End of Sentence	601	596	647	686	8.6%	-5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>-6.6%</b>
<b>Pre-trial Releases*</b>						
From Court	494	477	536	520	12.4%	3.1%
Release to Bond	340	336	386	428	14.9%	-9.8%

\* 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.	737	341	113	115	46%
Apr.	699	290	107	111	41%
May	718	311	119	141	43%
May '18	701	331	123	96	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
Mar.	134	71	53%	91	95
Apr.	142	67	47%	90	102
May	156	78	50%	93	100

**Table 4a - Other BOPP actions**

	Reparole from revocation	Reparole from rescission	Closed interest cases	Special parole cases	Transfer parole cases
Mar.	52	0	33	22	26
Apr.	43	1	23	33	3
May	33	0	28	47	12
May '18	35	2	25	30	17

**The pre-trial population**

**Table 5 - Bond ranges for pre-trial detainees**

Bond amount	Apr. 1, 2019	May 1, 2019	June 1, 2019	June 1, 2018
Less than \$20K	498	435	424	485
\$20K to <\$50K	428	422	446	470
\$50K to <\$100K	605	556	532	694
\$100K or higher	1,782	1,741	1,760	1,705
Persons w/bonds	3,313	3,173	3,162	3,354
Over \$1M	204	189	194	201

**Table 5a - Pre-trial, weeks since admission**

Weeks since last DOC admit	Apr. 1, 2019	May 1, 2019	June 1, 2019	June 1, 2018
< 1 week	387	348	372	409
1 to < 3 weeks	319	261	333	329
3 to < 10 weeks	695	709	660	819
10 to < 30 weeks	994	951	902	882
30 wks or more	919	904	896	918
Pre-trial prisoners	3,314	3,173	3,163	3,357

**Table 5b - Pre-trial admits, new offenders**

	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018
Arraignments	2,656	2,627	2,841	3,029
Pre-trial Admits	1,178	1,151	1,359	1,412
New to DOC	299	279	347	369
% New	25%	24%	26%	26%

**Court Support Services Division**

**Table 6 - The Jail Re-interview Program**

	Pre-trial admissions	Offender interviews	Offenders released	Released last year
Mar.	1,178	784	328	333
Apr.	1,151	951	303	335
May	1,359	1,025	356	331

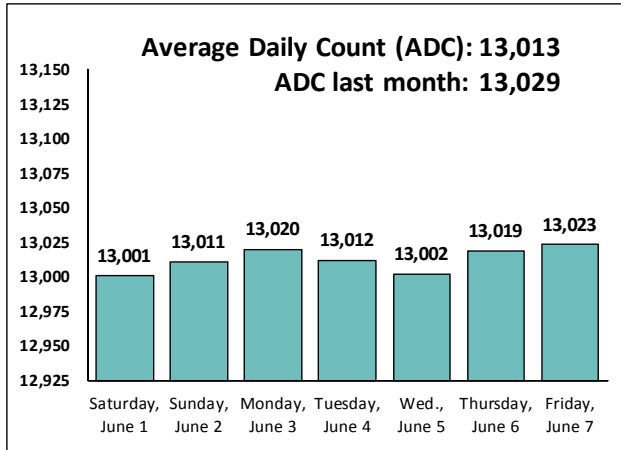
**Table 6a - Pre-trial bail and probation caseloads**

	Pre-trial Bail Case Starts	Client Supv. Starts	Split Sentence Starts	Pre-trial bail cases
Mar.	2,050*	1,927	341	12,665*
Apr.	2,050*	1,900	350	12,665*
May	2,050*	1,997	371	12,665*
May '18	2065*	2,097	411	12,665*

\* CSSD estimates

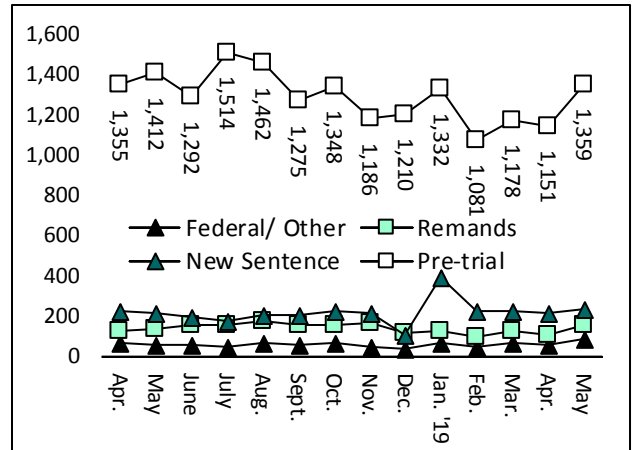
**Chart 3 – Prison population**

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



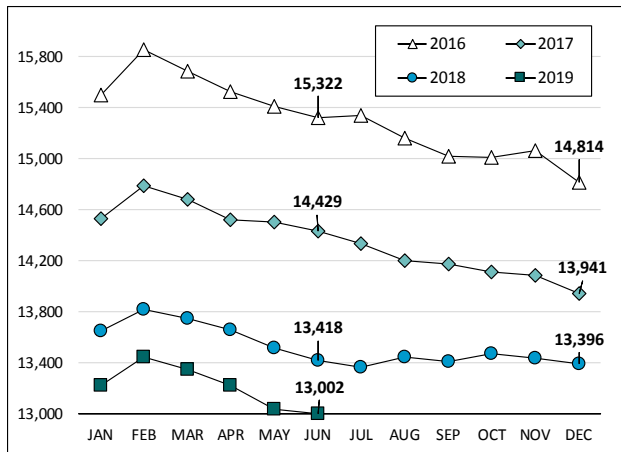
**Chart 6 – Monthly DOC Admissions**

Apr. 2018 through May 2019



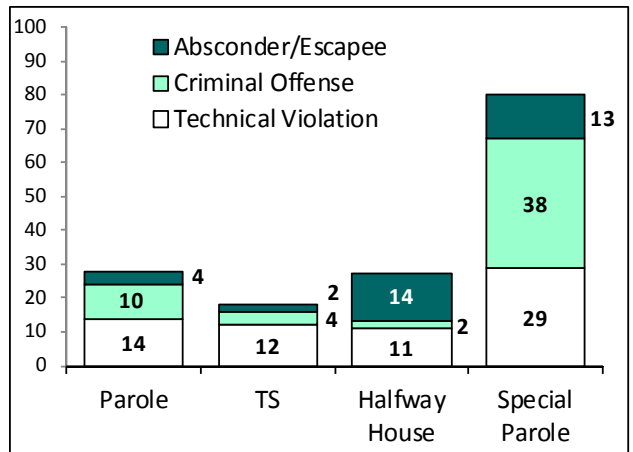
**Chart 4 – Prison population, first-of-month**

2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019



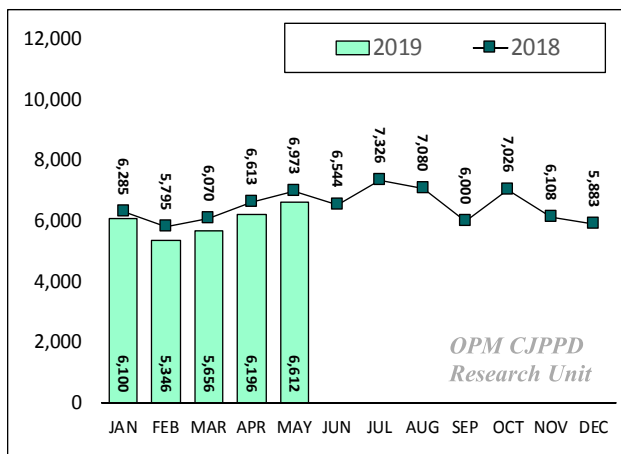
**Chart 7 – Remands from community release**

May 2019



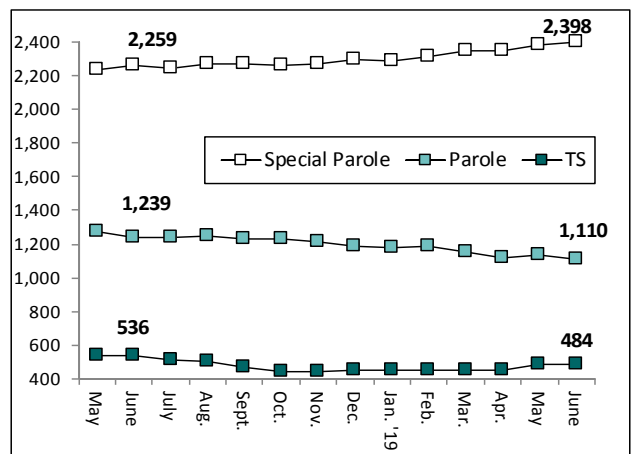
**Chart 5 – Statewide criminal arrests**

2018 and 2019



**Chart 8 – DOC community supervision**

May 1, 2018 through June 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.