

2012 Prison Population Forecast

State of Connecticut
Office of Policy and Management
Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division
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INTRODUCTION

Each February 15 the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of the Office of Policy and Management issues two criminal justice reports:

Annual Recidivism Report
Correctional Population Forecast Report

These reports provide policy makers and front-line professionals with the information they need to continue the progress our state has experienced in recent years. Governor Dannel P. Malloy has set two goals for our state's criminal justice system: reduce crime and maximize efficiency. Recidivism and correctional population are two important indicators of progress in this regard.

This year's correctional population report projects a moderate decline in the size of the state's prison population. This trend has been sustained since the historic high point in February, 2008. Our projection is a conservative one. Recent policy changes in Connecticut combined with the sustained national drop in both crime rates and arrests may result in a significantly larger drop in our prison population over the medium term.

Please feel free to share your ideas about how we can best accomplish these goals going forward. With your help, I am confident that our state can continue to achieve better outcomes with offenders on parole and probation supervision. As the prison population continues to decline, it is my hope that some of the budgetary savings will be reinvested in the supervision and treatment programs that have demonstrated success.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. Please visit our website for more information on current trends in Connecticut's criminal justice system.

Mike Lawlor

Under Secretary

Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

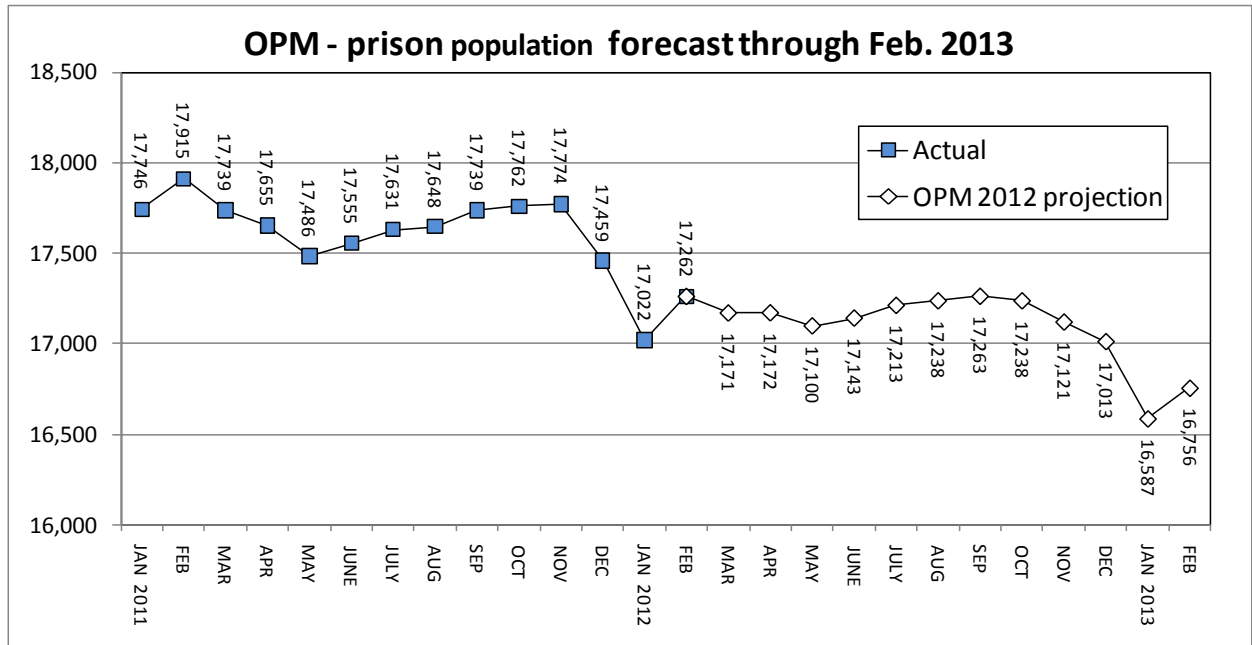
State Office of Policy and Management

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OPM's 2012 PRISON POPULASTION PROJECTION

On January 1, 2012, the total prison population in Connecticut was 17,022. By next January, OPM anticipates that the prison population will drop by about 2.6% to 16,587.

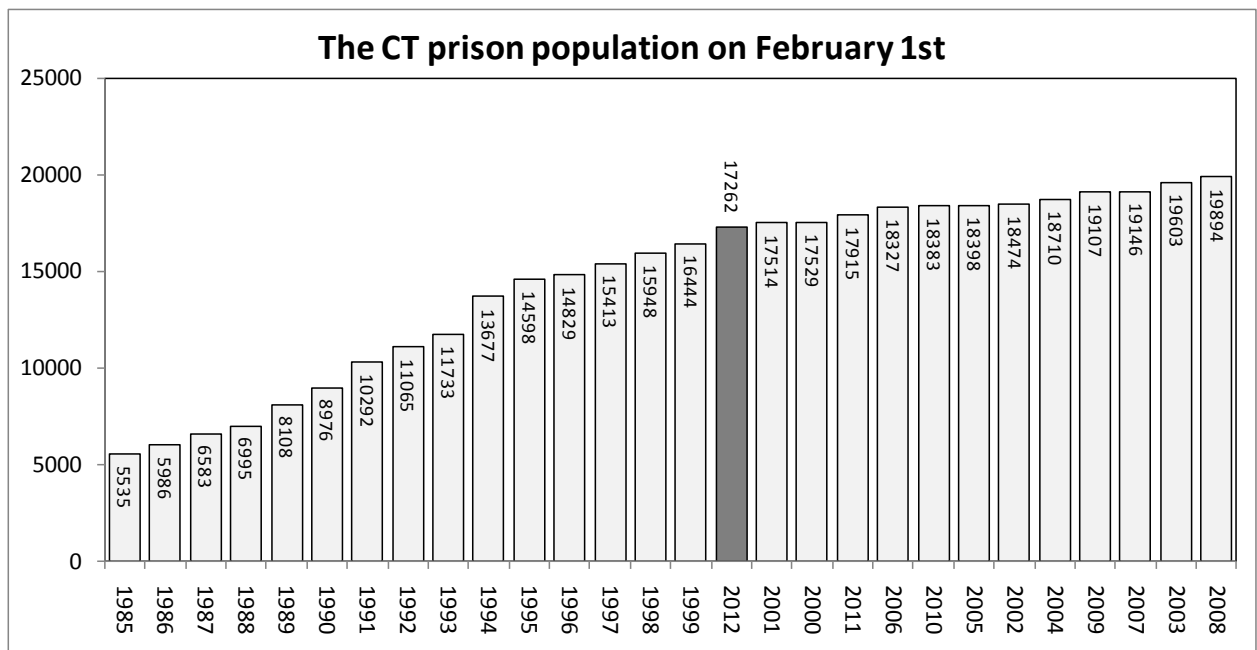


The current prison population is at its lowest level in a decade. On February 1, 2012 17,262 people were incarcerated in Connecticut prisons. The last year in which the prison population was lower on February 1 was in 1999.

THE STATE'S PRISON POPULATION

The following chart ranks the size of the state's prison population on February 1st for every year between 1985 and 2012. It is interesting to note that the population rose consistently in every year between 1985 and 1999. That steady, year-on-year growth saw the state's prison population grow from 5,536 in 1985 to 16,444 in 1999, a 300% increase in under 15 years.

After 1999, the inmate population stabilized. Although the system experienced two rapid periods of expansion and contraction over the following decade, the total growth in the system was not comparable to the sustained growth of the 1980s and 1990s. The critical question Connecticut policy makers must confront is: what is the appropriate size of the state's prison population given current crime rates and the demographic characteristics of the state?



RECENT CRIME DATA

According to Uniform Crime Report data the incidence of violent and property crime has declined considerably since the early 1990s.

