

Next Steps for Housing Solutions for CT's Justice-Involved Population

Track: **Sharing Solutions: Working
Across Systems To Improve
Housing Outcomes**

Track Sponsor:



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Office of Policy and Management*

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Hope for Success: Returning Home



Overview of Report & Recommendations

Presented by Steven Hernández

CEO/CWCS Executive Director

May 16, 2019

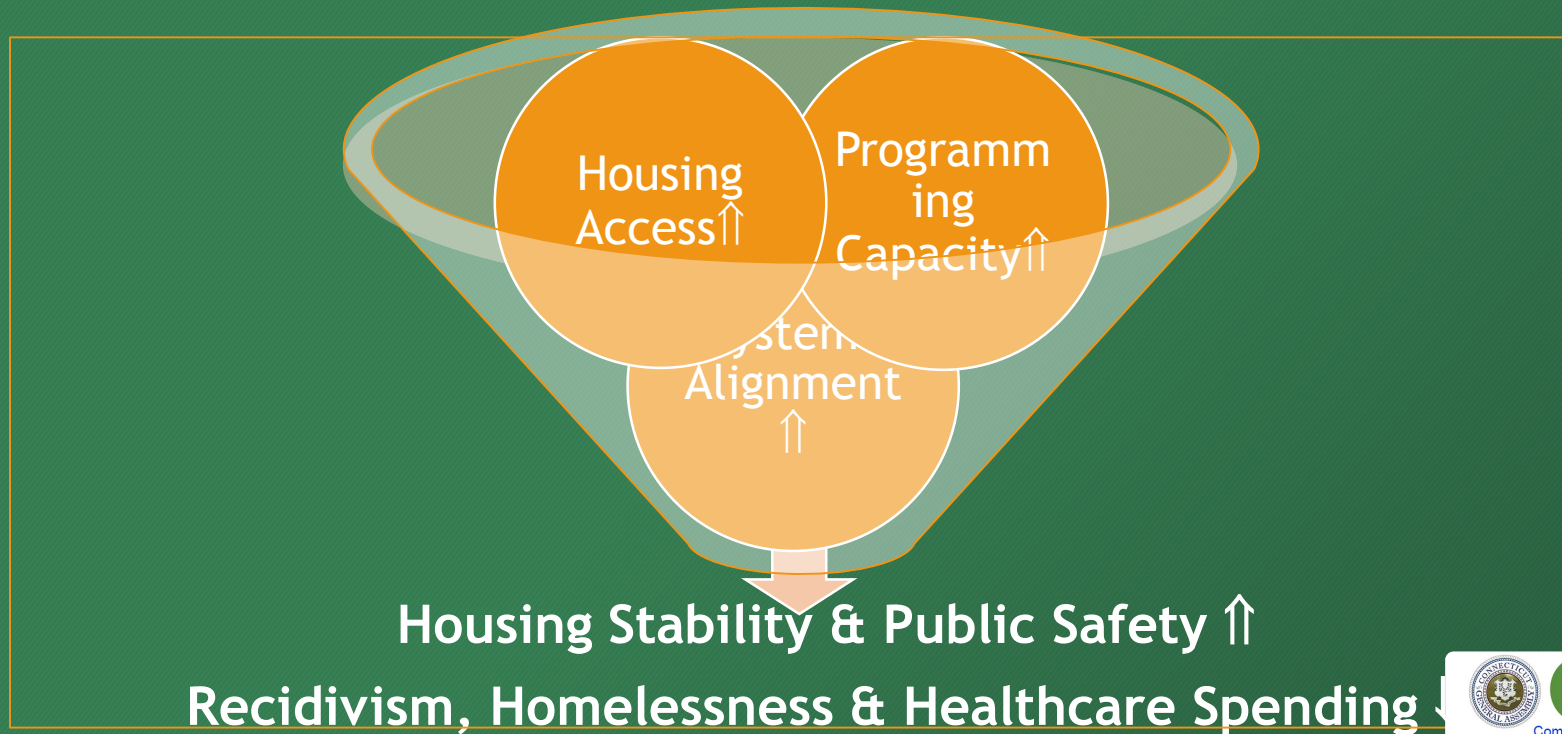
Background & Methods

- Beginning in July of 2018, the CEO engaged over 65 stakeholders to be part of the Reentry and Housing Working Group.
- The group convened five times between August and December 2018.
- Four working group subcommittees were established: 1) Program Innovation and Evaluation, 2) Community Engagement, 3) Law, Regulation and Policy, and 4) Legislation and Advocacy.

Methods continued

- Presentations from the Council of State Governments and the Corporation for Supportive Housing on evidence-based models from CT and other states.
- Information from individuals with direct experience via a listening tour held in three locations across CT—Willimantic, New London, and Hartford.
- Each subcommittee submitted their recommendations to the CEO in written reports in December.

Recommendations Overview



GOAL ONE

Strengthen policies to prevent discrimination in both public and private housing and remove unnecessary barriers to housing access for individuals with a criminal record.

Policy Changes to Section 8 and RAP Administrative Plans on Eligibility for Housing Assistance

*Strategy
One*

All Connecticut Housing Authorities should:

- Use a three-year lookback period when reviewing applicant eligibility.
- Remove any automatic denials for criminal history unless required by federal law.

Remove Barriers to Family Reunification for Families with Housing Assistance

Strategy Two

- Update DOH's policy for families with housing assistance through Housing Authorities. For family members returning from prison that wish to reunite, standard lookback periods will not apply.
- In community corrections, public housing and Section 8 addresses are made valid locations for parolees provided reentrants are formally added to the lease.

Strengthen anti-discrimination laws in housing and Protections for Landlords

Strategy Three

- Ban the Box legislation for housing to make it illegal to look at criminal records beyond seven years. When landlords do consider criminal records, they must also consider mitigating circumstances, and rehabilitation.
- Clean Slate Legislation to institute state-wide automatic sealing of all convictions after 7 years.
- Certificate of Housability, which would work like a certificate of employability to increase access to housing.

Strategy Three continued...

- Reinstate the previous DOH's Security Deposit Guarantee program that was defunded, and make sure that reentrants are eligible.
- DOH will enhance efforts to educate the public about anti-discrimination laws in housing and any amendments to Public Housing Authority guidelines for people with prior convictions.

Reduce the Barriers Facing People on the Sex Offender Registry

*Strategy
Four*

- Our sex offender registry is changed back to its original intent: a Law Enforcement tool for monitoring high-risk individuals so that the vast majority of people convicted of sexual offenses who pose no danger can reintegrate into their communities and build productive lives.
- DOH should strive to be a leader in challenging federal exclusions due to sex restrictions altogether.



GOAL TWO

Invest in Evidence-based Housing Interventions that will have the Greatest Impact on Reducing Homelessness, Housing Instability and Recidivism for the Reentry Population.



Conduct a Comprehensive Needs & Resources Assessment

*Strategy
Five*

- This assessment would include those services rendered by state and community providers.

Invest in Evidence-based Housing Interventions to address the Gaps in Services & Needs

Strategy
Six

Evidence-Based Programs to expand for Reentry populations:

- Immediate Shelter and Housing Opportunities
- Rapid Re-Housing with Critical Time Intervention Enhancement
- Supportive Housing
- Medical Respite and Connecting to Community Care Teams (CCTs)



GOAL THREE

Improve Coordination & Data Integration
between Corrections, Housing, and
Reentry to Drive Stronger Results



Implement a Standardized Statewide Corrections Discharge Planning Protocol

*Strategy
Seven*

- Use of SAMSHA GAINS Re-Entry Initiative, the Assess, Plan, Identify, and Coordinate (APIC) Model for Post-Release Planning.
- Apply Shelter Diversion Strategies.
- Utilize Patient and Housing Navigators.
- Reinstate Department of Correction Job Center initiatives.
- Educate Parole Officers on Section 8 & Family Reunification Strategy

Improve Tracking and Exchange of Data on Housing Status of individuals who are Released

Strategy Eight

- Improve tracking of housing status and exchange of data for the justice-involved population.
- Pilot a housing assessment tool in corrections to assess housing needs & homelessness.
- Shelters and Halfway Houses implement 'Hello' Line for employment purposes.
- Update policies regarding inmates' ability to access 211 prior to release.

Ongoing use of Data and Analysis to Inform Planning, Tracking, and Resource Allocation.

*Strategy
Nine*

- State-funded interventions should involve rigorous evaluations, and should supply data for cost/benefit analysis using the Results First model.
- Better data informs decision-making, linking data on housing and other reentry interventions across agencies to assess the quality of services provided to returning citizens.

Concluding Remarks



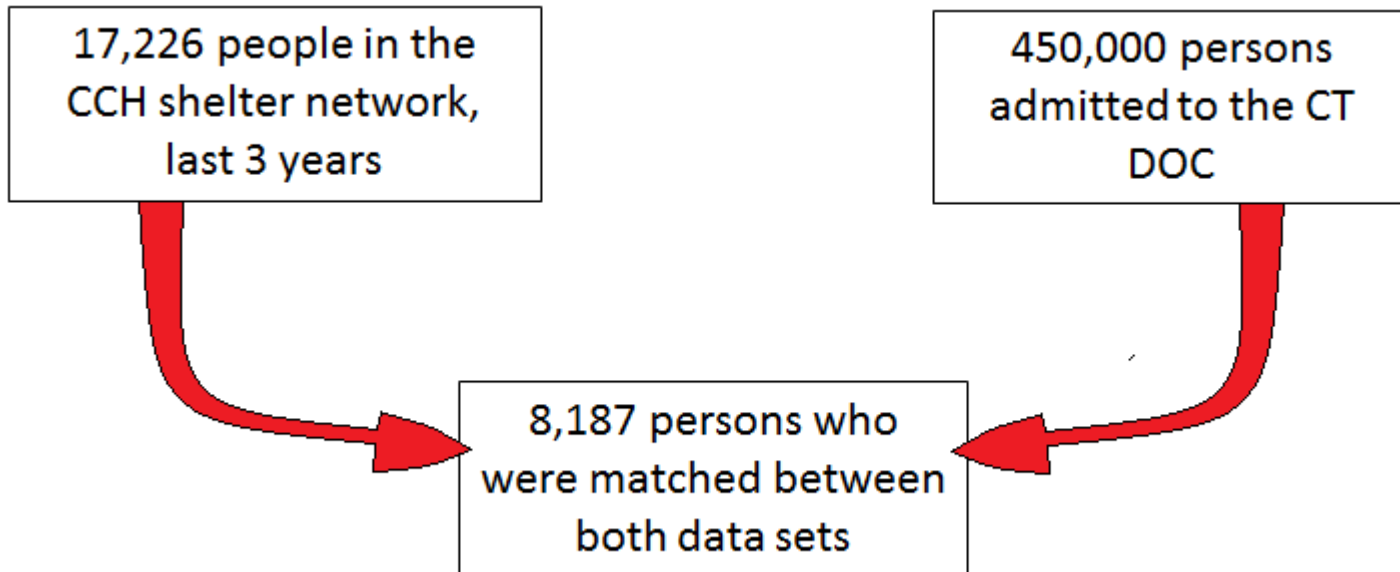
- Across the political spectrum, Connecticut citizens overwhelmingly support policies that promote second chances.
- These policy recommendations will require some upfront investments, however, based on best-practice research, one can expect returns in future years from reduced expenditures for prisons, shelters, & avoidable hospital admissions.
- If we continue to reinvest these dollars back into the communities that have the highest incarceration rates & the greatest inequities, we can restore hope and fair opportunities to our families & neighborhoods.
- This in turn will bring about a new cycle of urban renewal and economic revitalization for our entire state.

Marc Pelka

*Criminal Justice Policy and Planning
Office of Policy and Management*

The Criminal Justice Division at OPM met with the CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) to discuss the degree of overlap that exists between people entering the shelter system and the prison system.

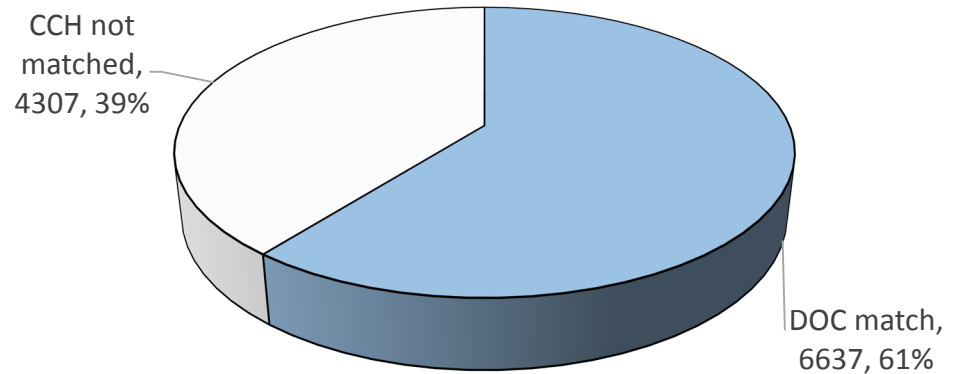
CCEH provided OPM with records for 17,226 people who had entered the shelter system within the last three years. OPM was able to match these individuals with inmate records for 8,187 people, an overall 48% match rate.



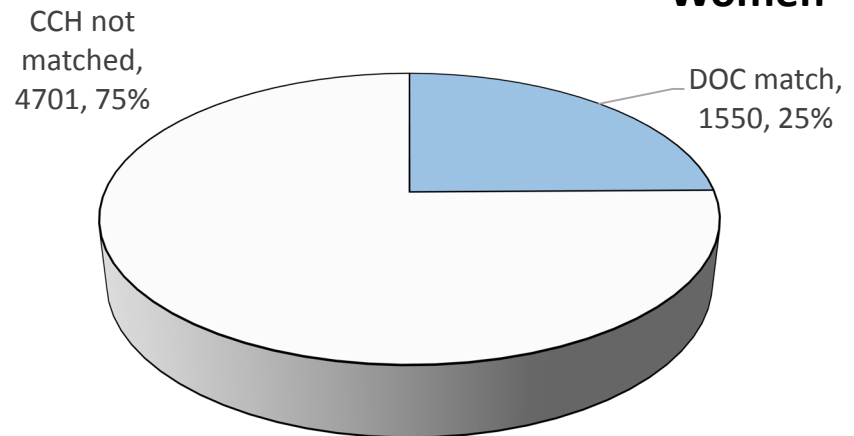
Matching the CCEH network to DOC inmate records - gender

- 48% of the 17,226 people in the CCEH database could be matched with current or former inmates of the CT DOC.
- Of 10,944 men in the CCEH database, 61% (6,637) could be matched with DOC records
- Among the 6,251 women in the CCEH database, only 25% (1,550) could be matched to a DOC record of incarceration.
- Among women between the ages of 50 and 56, the match rate was significantly higher, at 37%.

Men

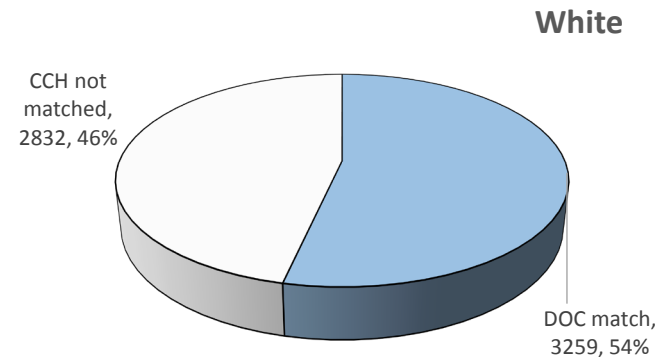
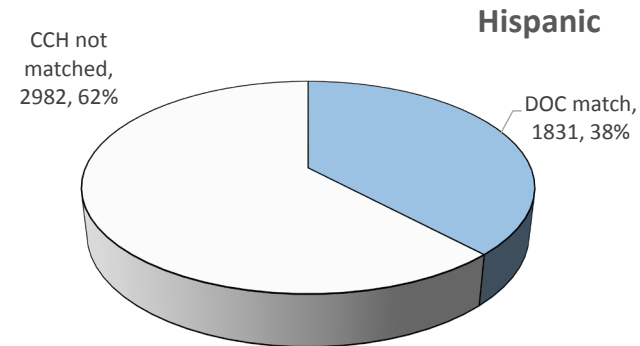
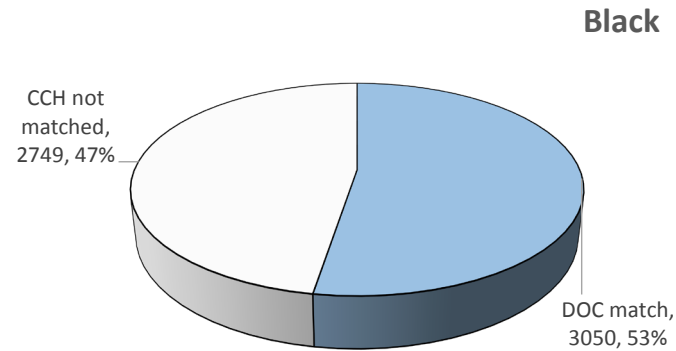


Women

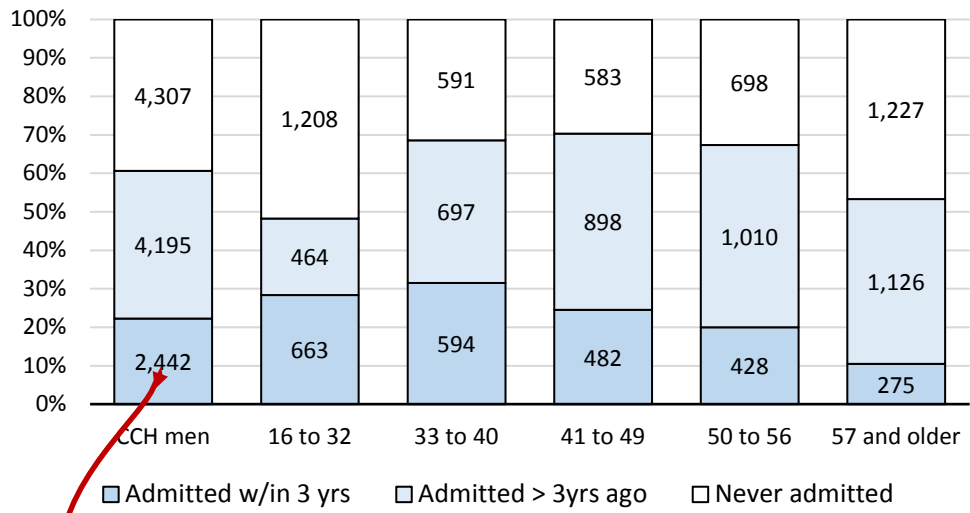


Matching the CCEH network to DOC inmate records race/eth.

- OPM recoded CCEH's race/ethnicity categories to reflect DOC race categories.
- 97% percent of persons in the CCEH data could be matched in this way.
- In the CCEH data, there were 6,091 white people, 5,799 black people, and 4,813 Hispanic people.
- White and black people in the CCEH data had similar DOC-match rates, 54% and 53% respectively.
- The lower match-rate among Hispanic people may be due to several factors including data incompleteness and insufficiency.



CCH men and DOC admit history

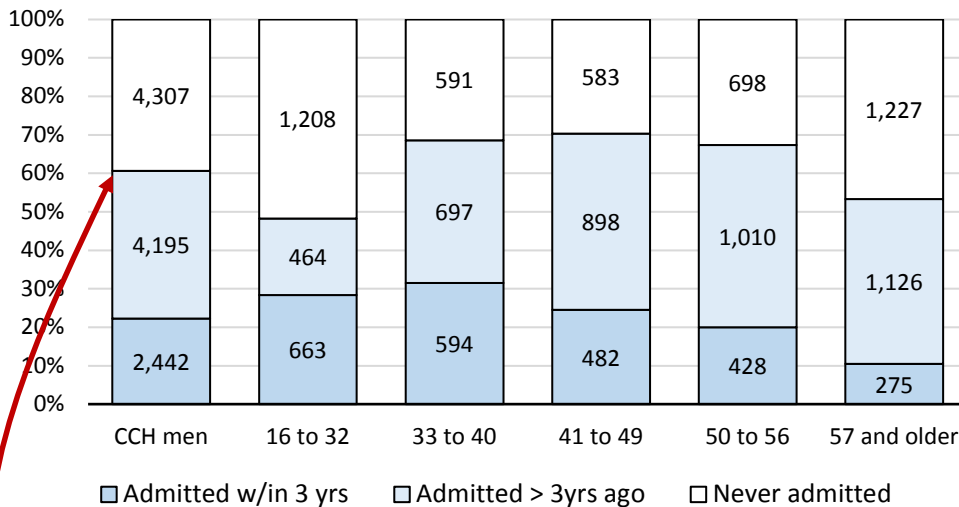


	CCH men	16 to 32	33 to 40	41 to 49	50 to 56	57 and older
Cohort	10,944	2,335	1,882	1,963	2,136	2,628
Never admitted	39%	52%	31%	30%	33%	47%
Admitted > 3yrs ago	38%	20%	37%	46%	47%	43%
Admitted w/in 3 yrs	22%	28%	32%	25%	20%	10%
Ever admitted	61%	48%	69%	70%	67%	53%

Among CCEH men:

- 22% had been admitted to a CT DOC facility within the last three years
- 61% had been admitted at some point in the past
- Over two-thirds of CCEH men between the ages of 33 and 56 had been admitted to a CT DOC facility at least once.
- Although men between the ages of 16 and 32 were least likely to have been incarcerated in the past (52%), this group has the highest total of among age groups of men who were admitted to a DOC facility within the last three years.

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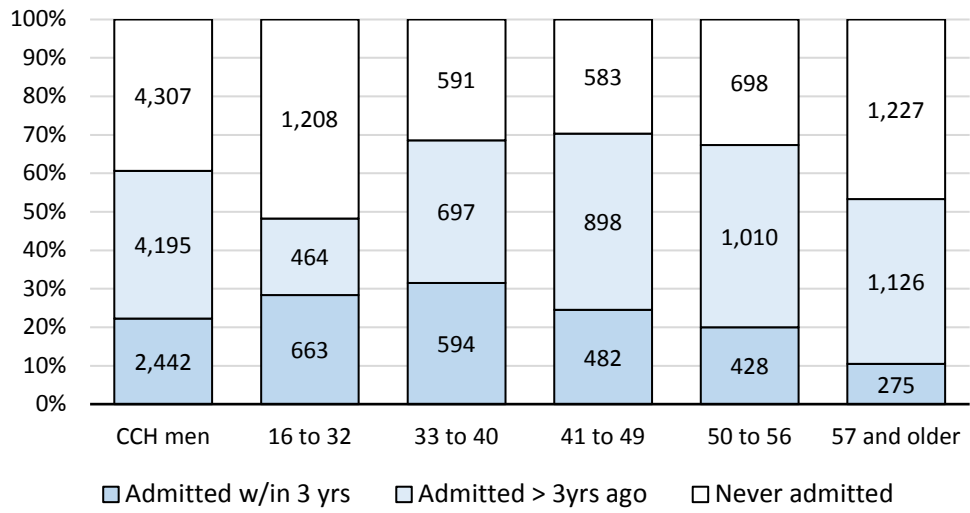


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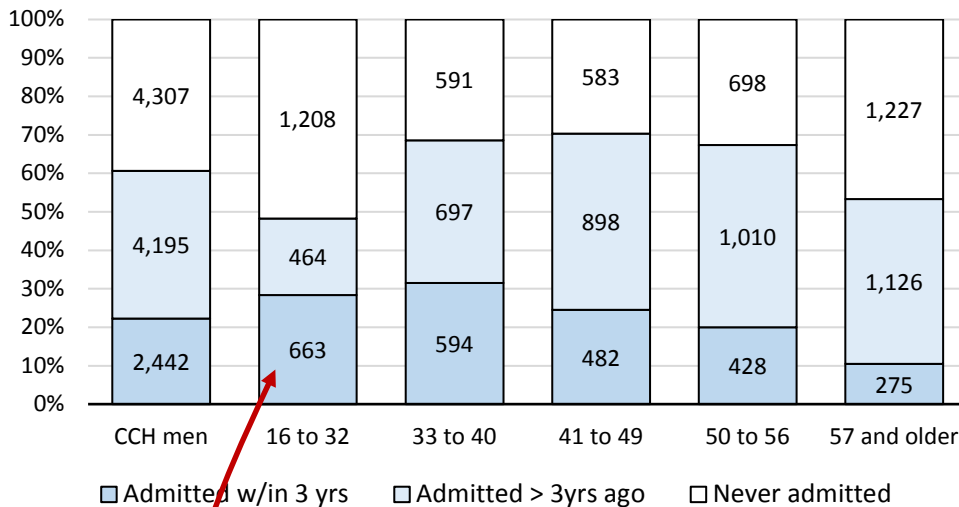


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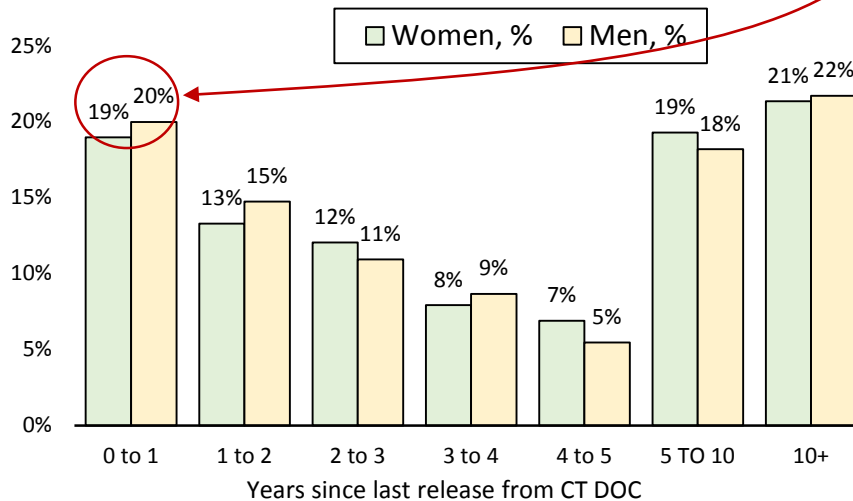
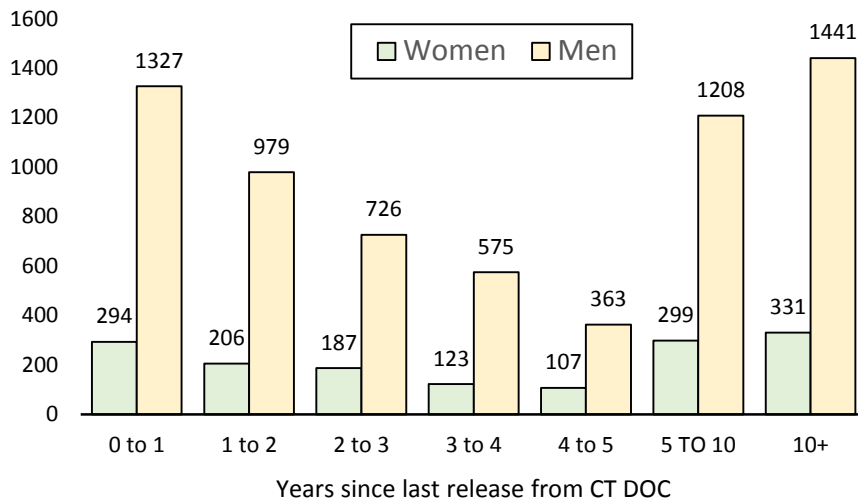
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Among CCEH men:

- 22% had been admitted to a CT DOC facility within the last three years
- 61% had been admitted at some point in the past
- Over two-thirds of CCEH men between the ages of 33 and 56 had been admitted to a CT DOC facility at least once.
- Although men between the ages of 16 and 32 have the lowest rate of prior incarceration (52%), they are the largest number of men admitted to a DOC facility in the last three years.

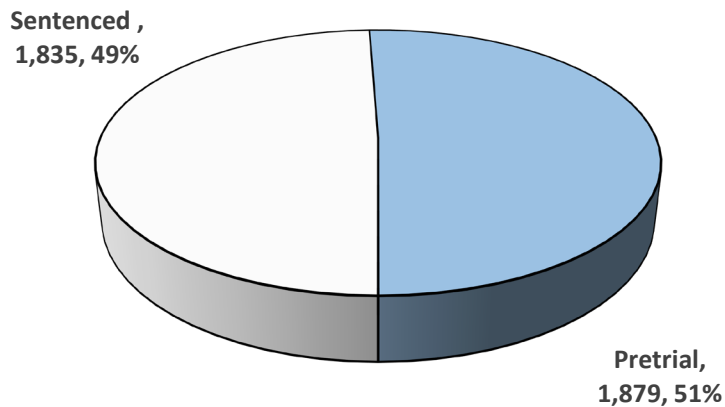


- Although there were many more men than women in the CCEH data that were matched with DOC records. The pattern of prison-releases over time was remarkable similar.

- 20% of matched men had been released from prison or jail in 2018. For matched women, 19% were released from prison during 2018.

- 46% of matched men were released from prison or jail within the last three years, among matched women the figure was 44%

- 40% of matched men and 41% of matched women last left prison over 5 years ago.



Matched persons who left prison since 2016

	Code	Count	Percent
Sentenced		1,835	
EOS (900,910)	900s	1,511	82%
Halfway houses	200s	141	8%
TS/DUI	300s	162	9%
To parole	400s	21	1%
Pretrial		1,879	
Rel. on bond (940)	900s	473	25%
Rel. at court (900)	900s	1,406	75%
Other releases	Var.	5	0%
All releases w/in 3 years		3,719	

- The number of matched persons who last left the CT DOC as a sentenced prisoner was nearly equal to the number leaving on pre-trial status.
- 82% of sentenced prisoners left prison at the completion of their sentences (EOS). 9% of sentenced prisoners were released to halfway houses.
- The low rate of persons going to parole compared to TS suggests that the matched was dominated by persons serving short sentences.
- 40% of matched men and 41% of matched women last left prison over 5 years ago.
- 70% of pre-trial releases left from court. Typically almost 50% of pre-trial releases at to bonds, suggesting a population with inadequate assets to make bond.

Michael Aiello
Court Support Services Division

ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Residential Treatment

- 188 bed Collaboration with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- Department of Public Health Licensure
- \$5.1 million dollars
- Various lengths of stay (LOS) – minimally 20 hours of week of drug treatment
- CY 18 –2,235 referrals & 834 admissions
- Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) – no cost 876 referrals & 391 admissions (equivalent to 48 beds and savings of approximately \$1.3 million)

Transitional Housing

- 148 beds at 5 locations male and female (30- 90 days)
- Limited services, case management
- CY 18 – 1,810 referrals & 928 admissions

ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES CONT.

Sierra Center

- 24 beds (14 beds JBCSSD and 9 DMHAS) for male clients with moderate to serious mental health issues
- Collaboration with DMHAS, the Local Mental Health Agency (LMHA) and JBCSSD contracted services
- CY 18 – 146 referrals & 45 admissions JBCSSD only

Re-entry Assisted Community Housing (REACH)

- 16 beds (3-6 months LOS)
- Collaboration with the Department of Correction (DOC)
- CY 18 – 36 referrals & 33 admissions

ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES CONT.

January Center

- 24 beds (12 beds JBCSSD and 12 DOC) for high risk sex offenders
- Collaboration with DOC
- CY – 47 referrals & 44 admissions

Rapid Rehousing Pilot

Collaboration with DOH

\$!50,000 for housing

\$30,000 for housing specialist

Housing Stability Questions

Questions?

Visit: <https://www.cceh.org/ati-2019/> or
contact training@cceh.org

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