

144565

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Superior Court

Bail Commission

* * Annual Report * *

January 1, 1991 - December 31, 1991

Paul F. Brown, Chief Bail Commissioner

144565

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this copyrighted material has been granted by

Connecticut Judicial Branch

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the copyright owner.

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

- I. Bail Release Activity
- II. Supervised Release
- III. Bail Review at Correctional Centers
- IV. Correctional Center Overcrowding
- V. Criminal Record Checks
- VI. Data Processing
- VII. Pretrial Alcohol Education System
- VIII. Statistics

I. BAIL/RELEASE ACTIVITY

The Bail Commission conducted 67,217 interviews in 1991.

Table A reports release/bond activity for the year. Of the total 67,217 interviews conducted during 1991, 65% were conducted at the police station. Of these, 31% were released on written promises to appear or non-surety bonds set by the Bail Commissioners. Another 7% posted the bond set by the Bail Commissioner before arraignment in court. The number of defendants who gain release prior to arraignment, either by non-financial bail or posting bond, is thus almost 38%. At arraignment Bail Commissioners recommended non-financial bail for 49% of those defendants remaining in custody.

Regardless of a slight decrease in the number of interviews, there remains continuous pressure on the system due to the lack of jail space. The net effect of this problem on the Bail Commission is the continued search and utilization of innovative alternatives. The Bail Commission totals for Supervised Release continued to rise during 1991, that indicates more difficult cases are being referred for supervision in lieu of money bail.

II. SUPERVISED RELEASE

The Bail Commission continues to do an assessment of pretrial detainees for consideration of all supervised release alternatives. The total number of Supervised Release cases in 1991 was 9,641, an increase of 162 cases from the previous year.

The Bail Commission staff provides supervision for 57% of defendants released pretrial. Bail Commission supervision for such cases includes monitoring conditions of release, providing progress updates to the court, making referrals to substance abuse programs or other social service agencies, providing urine testing, electronic monitoring, shelter referral and in general, assess

defendants needs that if addressed may provide for an alternative to incarceration release. Of the menu of options available approximately 1,800 cases were referred to outside agencies contracted by the Bail Commission. These agencies provide supervision for pretrial referrals representing almost 100,000 "supervision days". In addition the Bail Commission referred over 1,600 cases to alternative incarceration centers.

The Bail Commission developed a program for drug testing effective January 1, 1990 in order to implement legislation authorizing judges to order urine samples from suspected drug defendants. Bail Commission staff gather and forward samples to a testing laboratory for analysis as well as coordinate and distribute the test results to all pertinent parties in court. During 1991 approximately 435 tests were ordered by the court.

The Bail Commission continued to work with the Department of Corrections, Adult Probation, and the Alternative Sanctions unit to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and utilize AIC's and other outside service providers. The Bail Commission has integrated AIC services with existing Bail Commission private contract referral agencies, drug grant programs and the Bail Correctional Center Reinterview Program to provide more comprehensive and effective pretrial alternative release mechanisms. Approximately 70% of the total AIC population originates from Bail Commission referrals.

III. BAIL REVIEW AT CORRECTIONAL CENTERS

To further address jail overcrowding and utilization of AIC's, the Bail Commission has continued to implement its program of reinterviewing detained defendants for possible bond modification and release. In 1991, 1,189 defendants unable to post bond were reinterviewed subsequent to arraignment at correctional centers by Bail Commission staff. As a result of jail reinterviews 529 defendants were released. Under the reinterviewing system

information and/or circumstances are elicited which are not readily available at the time of arraignment but prove significant in obtaining release at subsequent court appearances. The correctional center reinterviewing procedure completes the conditional release network which incorporates contract agencies, AIC's and Bail Commission resources to provide an intensive and effective assessment process and supervised release program.

IV. CORRECTIONAL CENTER OVERCROWDING

A noteworthy development is that the percentage of persons detained at correctional centers in pretrial status decreased significantly from 16.7% to 13.2% in 1991. This decrease is due in part to continuing efforts by Bail Commissioners to utilize alternatives to jail for pretrial defendants.

V. CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

The number of criminal record checks performed by data entry operators in the Office of the Chief Bail Commissioner continued to increase in 1991. This was the first full year that all district offices were responsible for conducting record checks.

VI. DATA PROCESSING

In conjunction with Judicial Information Systems the Bail Commission processed 51,541 bail commissioner letters (failure to appear notices). Also, during this reporting period COLLECT terminals were installed in New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London and Bristol.

VII. PRETRIAL ALCOHOL EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Pretrial Alcohol Education System is administered by the Bail Commission. The statistics reflected in Table F indicate

a decrease (11.4%) in the number of applications received for the program. There were no notable trends regarding further treatment, violations or reinstatements.

In 1991 the Bail Commission with Judicial Information Systems implemented an on-line information system for the Pretrial Alcohol Education System. Efforts are currently underway to input more than 100,000 Pretrial Alcohol Education System cases previously maintained in a card file.

VIII.

During 1991 the Bail Commission completed the drug testing feasibility study as mandated by P. A. 90-261. As a result of the report completed by Toborg Associates, Inc. universal pretrial drug testing does not appear to be a viable option for Connecticut at the present time.

IX. STATISTICS

The tables depicting the activities of the Bail Commission follow at the conclusion of this report.

Table A - Interview & Release/Bond Activity

The total number of Bail Commission interviews by month are listed along with the following information:

1. Interviews conducted at police facilities
2. Bail Commission non-financial releases at police facilities.
3. Defendants posting a surety bond at police facilities after a Bail Commission interview.
4. Defendants arraigned prior to release.
5. Defendants whose cases are disposed at arraignment.

6. Defendants receiving non-financial bail recommendations at arraignment.
7. Court ordered non-financial releases at arraignment.

Table B - Conditional Releases

For the reporting period of January 1, 1991 - December 31, 1991, Table B indicates the total number of defendants receiving non-financial releases and the number of new conditional releases (reporting to Bail Commission, enrolling in drug and alcohol programs, etc.).

Table C - Criminal Record Checks

The monthly totals of criminal record checks performed in 1991 is shown in Table C (exclusive of district offices).

Table D-1 - D-5 - Characteristics of Defendants Interviewed

Tables D-1 through D-5 depict characteristics of the defendants interviewed by the Bail Commission including class of primary charge, age, sex, race, and other pending cases.

Table E - Jail Population

Table E sets forth the average daily population of Connecticut's correctional facilities by month as compared to the previous year. The following columns indicate the number of sentenced versus accused inmates and the percent of the total population in accused status.

Table F - Pretrial Alcohol Education System

Table F illustrates statistics on entry to the Pretrial Alcohol Education System and completion of the program, respectively.

TABLE A

INTERVIEW AND RELEASE/BOND ACTIVITY

Month/ Year	Total Intvws.	Intvws. at Police Station	Non- Financial Releases at Police Station	Post Surety at Police Station	Defendants Arrested Prior to Release	Disposed at Arrgnmnt.	Bail Comm. Recommend Non- Financial at Argnmnt.	Court Ordered Non-Financial at Arrgnmnt.
Jan. 91	5764	3794	969	262	3881	652	1453	1322
Feb. 91	5358	3684	1145	265	3350	598	1296	1165
March 91	5790	3860	1173	312	3624	681	1411	1354
April 91	5597	3680	1066	234	3683	614	1471	1367
May 91	5771	3733	1111	306	3738	616	1508	1414
June 91	5648	3723	1180	258	3675	535	1426	1344
July 91	5980	3866	1205	252	3854	658	1590	1529
Aug. 91	5989	3679	1192	301	3944	602	1687	1598
Sept. 91	5385	3376	1080	235	3463	607	1426	1465
Oct. 91	5734	3622	1187	242	3698	607	1572	1515
Nov. 91	5242	3401	1030	229	3472	511	1464	1477
Dec. 91	4959	3105	1056	221	3206	476	1454	1379
TOTAL -	67,217	43,523	13,394	3,117	43,588	7,157	17,758	16,929

TABLE B

Conditional Releases

Month/ Year	Total Non-Financial Releases Ordered by Court at Arraignment	Conditional Releases Ordered at Arrngmnt.	Bonds Reduced to Conditional Releases After Arraignment or Conditiona Added After Bond is Posted			Total Supervied Release Cases
			Surety Bond w/ Conditions	Conditions Added to Original Bond or WPTA	Bond Reduced to Conditional Release	
Jan. 91	1322	642	130	- 0 -	13	785
Feb. 91	1165	518	99	2	9	628
March 91	1354	616	107	- 0 -	12	735
April 91	1367	686	105	- 0 -	13	804
May 91	1414	674	85	- 0 -	4	763
June 91	1344	642	73	- 0 -	2	717
July 91	1529	751	120	- 0 -	28	899
Aug. 91	1598	829	125	1	33	988
Sept. 91	1465	760	53	1	38	852
Oct. 91	1515	836	47	6	27	916
Nov. 91	1477	748	38	4	7	797
Dec. 91	1379	679	52	- 0 -	26	757
TOTAL -	16,929	8,381	1,034	14	212	9,461

- Total Number of Defendants Released thru Jail Reinterview Program - 529

TABLE C
CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Month/Year	DMSS02	Out-of-State	T O T A L
Jan. 91	4610	656	5266
Feb. 91	5100	701	5801
March 91	5627	735	6362
April 91	3474	527	4001
May 91	2678	535	3213
June 91	6227	1153	7380
July 91	7666	1115	8781
Aug. 91	7038	1007	8045
Sept. 91	7052	880	7932
Oct. 91	6538	1083	7621
Nov. 91	7050	1069	8119
Dec. 91	6688	951	7639
TOTAL -	69,748	10,412	80,160

TABLE D-1

CHARGE

Month/ Year	Municipal	C Misd.	B Misd.	A Misd.	D Felony	C Felony	B Felony	A Felony	Unspecified Violation or Fugitive	TOTAL
Jan. 91	1	729	426	2,116	1,230	795	385	31	51	5,764
Feb. 91	3	770	452	1,870	1,165	725	311	36	26	5,358
March 91	3	833	478	2,008	1,291	730	377	35	35	5,790
April 91	4	748	491	1,986	1,175	791	336	33	33	5,597
May 91	5	797	500	1,977	1,319	819	296	28	30	5,771
June 91	6	779	576	1,973	1,193	750	293	43	35	5,648
July 91	3	827	614	2,143	1,264	725	319	44	41	5,980
Aug. 91	10	766	593	2,129	1,392	696	321	42	40	5,989
Sept. 91	4	871	428	1,895	1,134	667	307	37	42	5,385
Oct. 91	5	885	471	1,810	1,345	763	393	31	31	5,734
Nov. 91	12	722	433	1,780	1,212	689	333	36	25	5,242
Dec. 91	2	758	404	1,639	1,053	711	320	44	28	4,959
TOTAL -	58	9,485	5,866	23,326	14,773	8,861	3,991	440	417	67,217

TABLE D-2

AGE

Month/Year	16 - 18	19 - 24	25 - 30	31 - 35	36 - 40	40 - 50	51 - Over	Total
Jan. 91	584	1,527	1,465	1,025	567	469	127	5,764
Feb. 91	547	1,478	1,321	973	525	395	119	5,358
March 91	539	1,527	1,528	1,029	577	461	129	5,790
April 91	583	1,511	1,420	948	590	410	135	5,597
May 91	594	1,547	1,502	1,982	579	431	136	5,771
June 91	527	1,508	1,501	939	564	464	145	5,648
July 91	590	1,577	1,575	1,057	567	465	149	5,980
Aug. 91	588	1,588	1,547	1,015	626	482	143	5,989
Sept. 91	510	1,331	1,467	976	527	444	130	5,385
Oct. 91	649	1,451	1,472	947	586	476	153	5,734
Nov. 91	548	1,322	1,364	925	552	404	127	5,242
Dec. 91	446	1,245	1,348	876	533	414	97	4,959
TOTAL -	6,705	17,612	17,510	12,692	6,793	5,315	1,590	67,217

TABLE D-3

SEX

Month/Year	Male	Female	Total
Jan. 91	4917	847	5764
Feb. 91	4584	774	5358
March 91	5017	773	5790
April 91	4833	764	5597
May 91	4981	790	5771
June 91	4828	820	5648
July 91	5128	852	5980
Aug. 91	5069	920	5989
Sept. 91	4529	856	5385
Oct. 91	4942	792	5734
Nov. 91	4510	732	5242
Dec. 91	4271	688	4959
TOTAL -	57,609	9,608	67,217

TABLE D-4

RACE

Month/Year	Unknown	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	Total
Jan. 91	130	2063	2391	1151	29	5764
Feb. 91	136	1928	2178	1080	36	5358
March 91	144	2059	2369	1193	25	5790
April 91	137	1968	2247	1206	39	5597
May 91	136	2131	2248	1232	24	5771
June 91	130	1964	2265	1258	31	5648
July 91	161	2297	2202	1286	34	5980
Aug. 91	150	2224	2327	1257	31	5989
Sept. 91	171	1914	2156	1121	23	5385
Oct. 91	145	1970	2300	1289	30	5734
Nov. 91	105	1893	2157	1047	40	5242
Dec. 91	110	1831	2026	961	31	4959
TOTAL -	1655	24,242	26,866	14,081	373	67,217

TABLE D-5
PENDING CASES

Month/Year	Unknown	None	Misd.	Felony	Total
Jan. 91	0	3812	1267	685	5764
Feb. 91	1	3442	1293	622	5358
March 91	0	3785	1362	643	5790
April 91	0	3670	1327	600	5597
May 91	1	3920	1260	590	5771
June 91	0	3943	1194	511	5648
July 91	1	4131	1295	553	5980
Aug. 91	0	4091	1393	505	5989
Sept. 91	1	3683	1169	532	5385
Oct. 91	0	3923	1215	596	5734
Nov. 91	1	3465	1225	551	5242
Dec. 91	0	3332	1070	557	4959
TOTAL -	5	45,197	15,070	6,945	67,217

TABLE E
JAIL POPULATION

Average Daily
Population
DOC

Inmates Sentenced

Inmates Accused

Percent Accused

Month/Year	Current	One Year Prior	Current	One Year Prior	Current	One Year Prior	Current	One Year Prior
Jan. 91	10,359	9137	8626	7269	1733	1868	16.7%	20.4%
Feb. 91	10,364	8809	8675	6963	1689	1846	16.3%	21.0%
March 91	10,378	9044	8743	7255	1635	1789	15.8%	19.8%
April 91	10,226	9037	8679	7348	1547	1689	15.1%	18.7%
May 91	10,442	9313	8962	7684	1480	1629	14.2%	17.5%
June 91	10,784	9506	9179	7822	1605	1684	14.9%	17.7%
July 91	10,763	9388	9169	7778	1594	1610	14.8%	17.1%
Aug. 91	10,662	9637	9099	8040	1563	1597	14.7%	16.6%
Sept. 91	10,855	9823	9309	8153	1546	1670	14.2%	17.0%
Oct. 91	11,002	9862	9509	8163	1493	1699	13.6%	17.2%
Nov. 91	10,702	10,087	9212	8392	1490	1695	13.9%	16.8%
Dec. 91	10,600	10,150	9203	8486	1397	1664	13.2%	16.4%

TABLE F

PRETRIAL ALCOHOL EDUCATION SYSTEM
(PAES)

I. ENTRY TO PAES - 1991

1.	Granted PAES	8,855	(93.2%)
2.	Denied/Disposed	344	(3.6%)
3.	Pending at Time of Reporting	300	(3.2%)
	Total Applications Received -	9,499	

II. COMPLETION OF PAES - 1991

1.	Completed, No Further Treatment	8,529	(84.6%)
2.	Not Completed at Time of Reporting	66	(.6%)
3.	Completed, Further Treatment Ordered	746	(7.4%)
	a. Successful	678	
	b. Not Successful	46	
	c. Not Yet Completed	22	
4.	Violated from PAES	744	(7.4%)
	Reinstated	292	
	a. Completed, No Further Treatment	158	
	b. Not Completed at Time of Reporting	66	
	c. Completed, Further Treatment Ordered	30	
	1. Successful	24	
	2. Not Successful	0	
	3. Not Yet Completed	6	
	d. Violated 2nd Time	38	
	Total Granted PAES -	10,085	