

FY21-22 BUDGET

TESTIMONY

Department of Criminal Justice

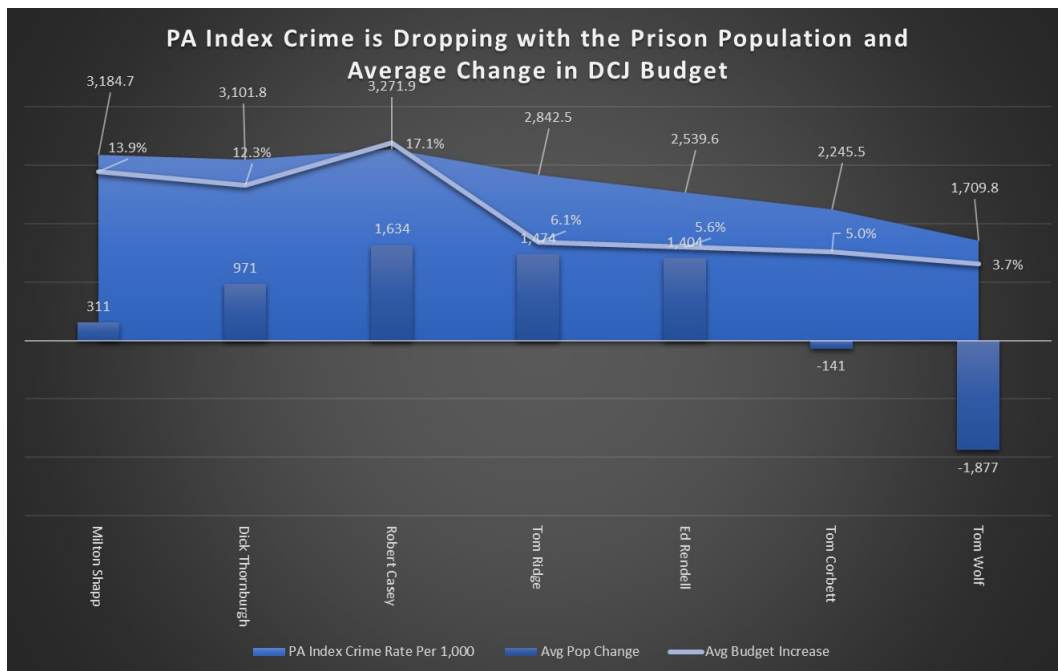
Secretary John E. Wetzel

FIGHTING COVID-19 WAS THE FOCUS IN 2020.

The word “unprecedented” was used a lot in 2020 to explain what the pandemic has done to our communities. But I am proud to say that “unprecedented” can also be used to describe how our staff responded to care for our inmates and for their fellow employees. The nature of the work we do does not allow tele-working. Daily operations must and have continued, and our staff are stepping up and leading by example. Staff are working tireless hours, whether volunteered or mandated, while dealing with concerns for personal safety and safety for loved ones. This pandemic has proven the DOC will come together as one team and will survive and advance. Please find personal accounts of the **many heroic efforts** by our staff in a brochure attached to this testimony.

On March 13, 2020, the Department of Criminal Justice (DCJ; comprised of Department of Corrections [DOC], the Pennsylvania Parole Board [PPB], Office of Victim's Advocate [OVA], and the Sex Offender Assessment Board [SOAB]), focused on reducing the spread of COVID-19 within our populations. Supported by the central Coronavirus group (made up of executive leadership and medical staff), our prisons held COVID-19 to manageable outbreaks through reducing the populations in the prisons and community corrections centers, using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), disinfecting protocols, creating inmate cohorts, and zoning staff to reduce possible exposure. However, as the cases in the community grew, so did the cases inside the prisons. By November 2020, the pandemic spread in our prisons eclipsed the spread in the community.

Assuming our funding is authorized at \$2,664,454,000, the FY21 budget submission *does not include* another prison closure. A prison closure will not be discussed until the threat of COVID-19 has subsided and physical distancing is no longer recommended by the Department of Health (DOH).



After the most challenging year ever for the DCJ, our budget request is basically flat, maintaining Governor Wolf’s low average increase in the budget, while crime remains low and the prison population is at the lowest level we have seen since 2002. As of December 2020, the prison

population was 39,493, and for the third year in a row, we experienced the **largest one-year population drop in the Department's history.**

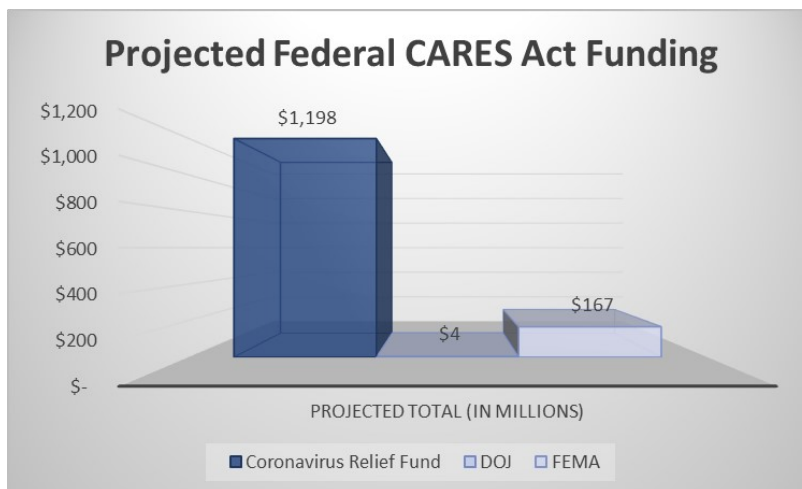
When **creating space was critical** to combatting the pandemic, the prison population **dropped by 6,382 from December 2019 to December 2020.** With the continued support of Governor Wolf, the DOC used this record-breaking reduction to promote physical distancing and smaller cohorts to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



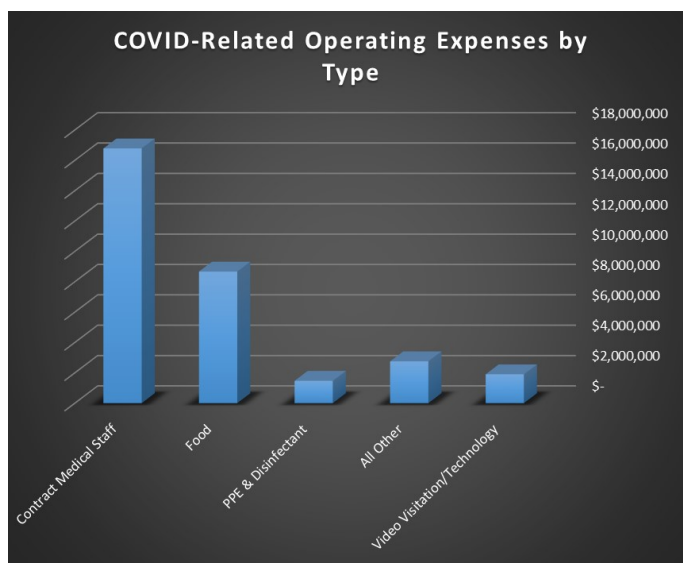
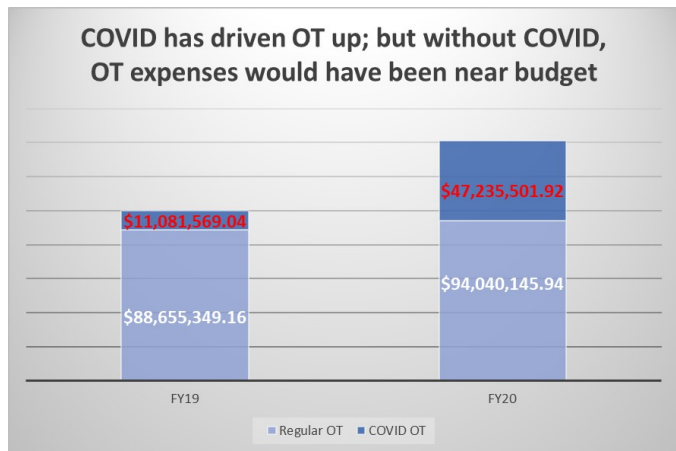
THE COST OF COVID-19

The true cost of COVID cannot be quantified in dollars. But here are some sobering statistics (as of Feb 10, 2021): **We had 4,048 total positive staff cases (active + recovered), with 4 staff deaths. We had 9,661 total positive inmate cases (active + recovered), with 101 inmate deaths.**

- ◆ The DCJ has been allocated **\$1.2B in Coronavirus Relief Fund** dollars to cover salaries and benefits for staff performing duties that have significantly changed due to COVID-19 mitigation efforts in FY20-21. We have also received **\$4M (FY19-20) from the Department of Justice (DOJ)** for reopening SCI-Retreat as our intake and quarantine prison at the beginning of the pandemic. Finally, we are projecting **\$167M** worth of COVID-19 related costs that appear eligible for reimbursement through FEMA—including OT, PPE & Disinfectant, medical supplies, contract nursing, COVID-19 testing, and vaccination distribution. This projection could span FY19-20 through FY21-22.



- ◆ The personnel expenses eligible for FEMA reimbursement include overtime, benefits, and annuitants. SCI Overtime was hugely impacted by COVID-related absences and deployments. In fact, **approximately \$58.3M (OT without benefits) will be attributed to COVID** by the end of FY20–21.
- ◆ Operating expenses for COVID-19 are expected to be **approximately \$31.5M by the end of the pandemic**. A breakdown of the categories that these expenses fell into are in the below chart.



THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS THE PATH OUT OF THE PANDEMIC

- ◆ Our COVID-19 vaccination plan was devised to provide a strategy framework to vaccinate all DCJ staff and contractors (**17,000**) and inmates (**39,000**).
- ◆ Our congregate setting environment consists of first responders, healthcare workers, individuals with clinical vulnerability (**47% of our inmate population**), elderly individuals, etc.
- ◆ Our plan is to attain at least **70% compliance** from staff and inmates at each SCI to achieve herd immunity.
- ◆ This will allow our facilities to cautiously return to everyday activities as quickly and safely as possible. Allowing more movement, normalcy, and routine will support overall safety and tension reduction in our correctional setting.
- ◆ Eradicating COVID-19 in our closed setting will avoid deaths resulting from infection.
- ◆ Vaccine Preparations:
 - ◆ Established each SCI as vaccine provider clinic with DOH (required to order vaccine inventory)
 - ◆ Enrolled **3 SCIs (MUN, WAM, LAU) as long-term care facilities** not enrolled in federal program

- ◆ Established HL7 interface with PA-SIIS registry for administration data
- ◆ Updated E.H.R. with vaccine consent/refusal forms, orders, reference materials, and reports
- ◆ Purchased freezers/digital temp loggers for storage for all 24 locations
- ◆ Supporting connecting healthcare staff with community providers for vaccination under 1A
- ◆ Developed educational materials for staff and inmates to address questions/concerns
- ◆ Distributed level of interest surveys to staff and inmates
- ◆ Created **Nurse Vaccination Team** consisting of agency nurse resources to support mass clinics
- ◆ Obtain Plans of Action from SCIs which outline their logistical plan for vaccinating while adhering to mitigation protocols and strategies
- ◆ Coordinate routine communications with DOH representatives
- ◆ If the DCJ could get **70% of the staff** vaccinated by the end of March 2021, **\$23M of OT expenses could be avoided** due to a reduction in the use of COVID-19 leave.
- ◆ Vaccine Survey Results—Preliminary—4,165 response from DCJ staff
 - ◆ **54%** of our staff believe they **have not had COVID-19**, but **85%** believe they **know someone who did**.
 - ◆ **81%** believe they have been **exposed to COVID-19**
 - ◆ **64%** of our staff would **get the COVID-19 vaccine** if offered for free
- ◆ For more information on COVID-19 mitigation efforts, please see the **DCJ Testimony attached** that was presented to the Senate Democratic Policy Committee on January 7, 2021.

PRISON VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19

- ◆ There was a **decrease in total violent incidents** in 2020.

- ◆ Despite the drop in inmate population, **we have seen an increase in major staff assaults in 2020**. Major staff assaults occur when a staff member has to go outside the facility for medical treatment. In an abundance of caution, facilities commonly send staff outside for evaluation; therefore more staff assaults have met the threshold of a major staff assault.

- ◆ In order to address the increased violence, the Department has established procedures to implement a **management control unit (MCU) which will house violent inmates**. Such inmates have displayed a period of positive



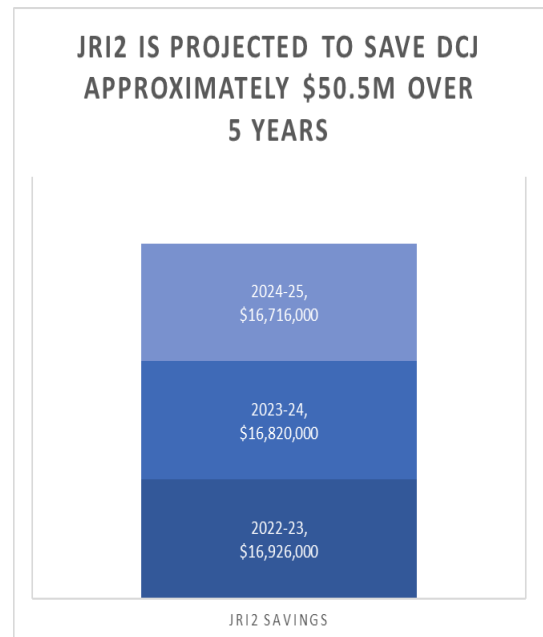
adjustment on restricted released but remain a high security risk and therefore cannot be safely housed in a typical general population housing unit.

- ◆ Some institutional operations established during the pandemic are here to stay as the Department has created some sound strategies that make our facilities more secure in inmate movement. Facilities have established new operational schedules which **reduce large congregations** of inmates and avoid the crossover of zones. A zone may consist of a single housing unit, or a few housing units in close proximity. This approach provides **improved inmate accountability** and the ability to internally separate problematic inmates. In addition to the schedule management, facilities have also adopted permanent infrastructure to **maintain the integrity of the zones** and outside recreational opportunities with smaller groups of inmates.
- ◆ Inmate services are now delivered directly on the housing units. This innovative use of technology, again, has **decreased unnecessary inmate movement**.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

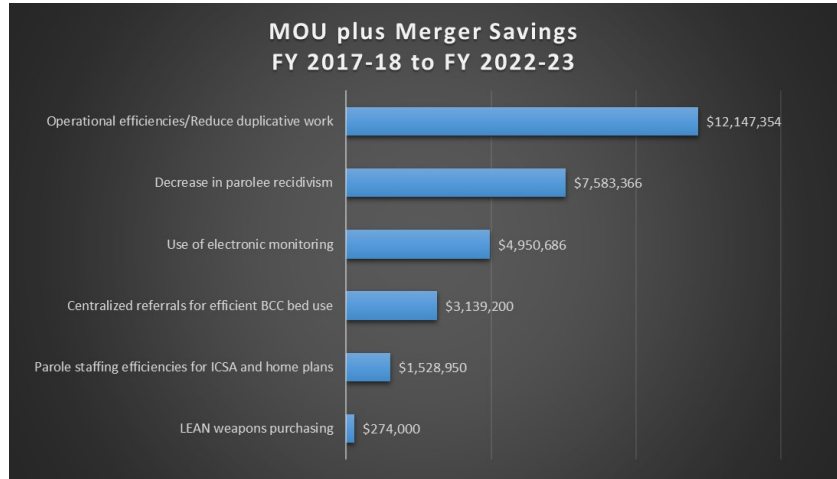
On December 18, 2019, JRI2 was enacted. There are three main policy components which are intended to reduce the DOC population: 1) **short sentence parole** at the minimum date for short-minimum, non-violent inmates, 2) redesign and expansion of SIP – now **State Drug Treatment Program (SDTP)**, and 3) use of **swift and certain sanctioning** among parole violators (aka “quick dips”).

- ◆ JRI2 was implemented immediately. Guidelines and procedures were developed to identify the appropriate track for each eligible inmate.
- ◆ To ensure the maximum efficiency of JRI2, the DOC hired James Stover as the JRI2 Coordinator. Mr. Stover has over 20 years working with the Boot Camp and SIP population.
- ◆ COVID-19 had and continues to have a significant impact on the court systems, as well as the DCJ, which directly impacts the number of participants in JRI2.
- ◆ With sentencing that occurred in 2020, we are starting to see more inmates who are eligible for release as Short Sentence Parole. Inmates continue to be referred to the SDTP, as well as Boot Camp.
- ◆ Due to COVID-19 concerns, we have not initiated swift and certain sanctioning (aka “quick dips”) among parole violators. With vaccinations and possible treatments for COVID-19, it is anticipated that we may be able to begin this component in the future.
- ◆ As directed by JRI2 legislation, the **Homicide Review Committee met in October of 2020**. The review of 43 inmates resulted in several immediate procedural changes that will likely improve assessment and supervision of inmates, with additional recommendations forthcoming.

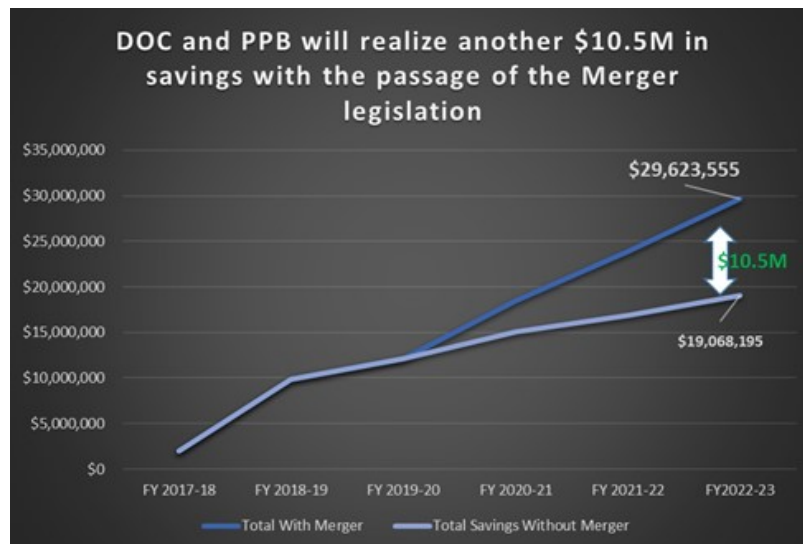


DOC & PPB MERGER

- ◆ As a result of our MOU between DOC and PPB, we have been able to combine efforts and cultures to work toward a **collective goal of safer Pennsylvania communities and rehabilitated returning citizens.** This union provides the opportunity to streamline practices, eliminate duplicative efforts, and ensure a strong reentry structure that will increase reentrant success and reduce recidivism.



- ◆ Merger legislation will provide a **permanent reliable infrastructure** and resolve current cumbersome processes in dealing with basic employment issues (hiring, firing, and chain of command), appropriations and fiscal matters. While we have already achieved **\$12 million in savings** and improved operational efficiency, a permanent solution is needed to realize the full potential. These collaborative efforts reduce costs and improve safety for our communities.
- ◆ There is **no impact on the independent decision-making** of the PPB or the SOAB nor the important work of the OVA.
- ◆ With the merger legislation, the department could **save another \$10.5M** in even more efficiencies and improved outcomes for individuals on parole.

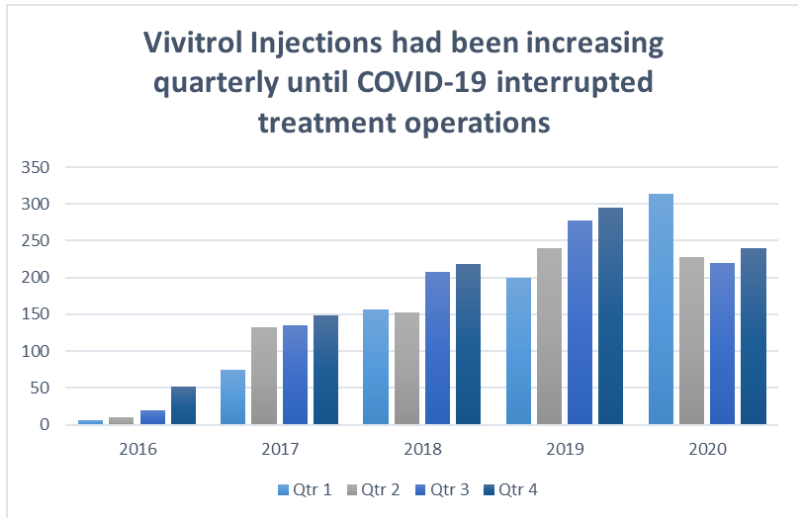


RESPONSE TO OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- ◆ Since 2010, the new admissions with an opioid addiction more than doubled, and a quarter of prison admissions who identify a "drug of choice" indicate heroin or opiate prescription drugs.
- ◆ Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), first piloted in FY13-14, has expanded to all 24 SCIs. MAT

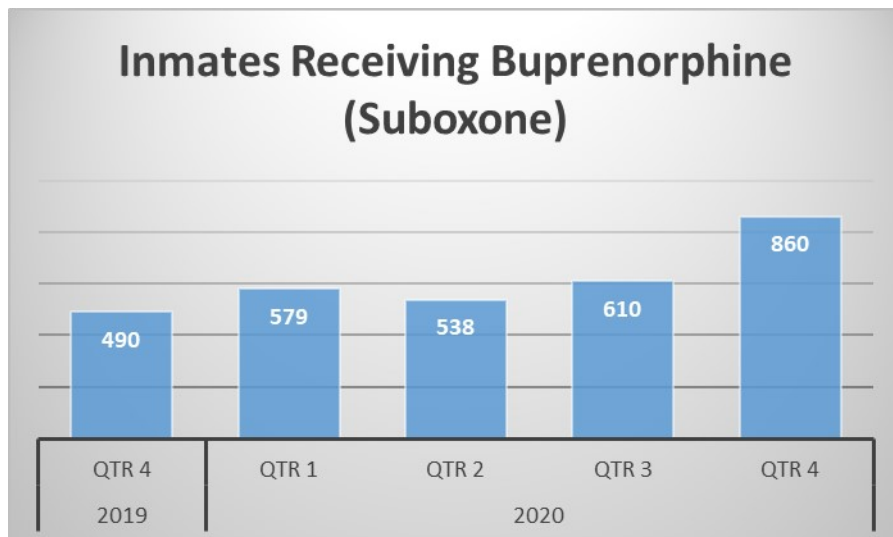
promotes behavioral, psychological, and emotional stabilization for individuals diagnosed with opioid use disorder.

- ◆ Through December 2020, **3,324 Vivitrol injections have been provided to 2,833 inmates.** Up to three monthly injections are provided to inmates prior to release. This allows inmates to better manage side effects as they return to their community.



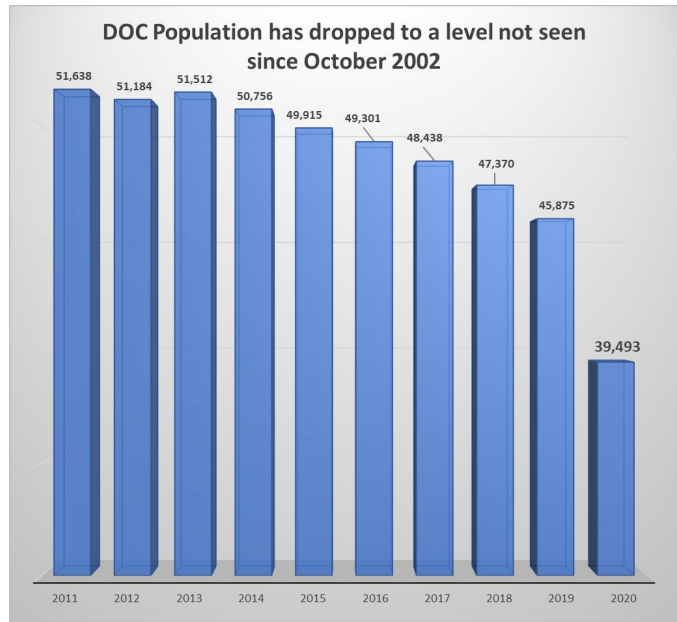
- ◆ In 2020, we continued to expand Buprenorphine, offered through daily oral tablets (crushed to eliminate the opportunity for diversion). **In 2020, 623 inmates received Buprenorphine, an increase from 215 in 2019.**

- ◆ We are focusing resources on **continuity of care for MAT participants** as they transition to the community. MAT social workers in the Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) coordinate with institutional staff and Single County Authorities for a smooth transition that sets reentrants up for success.
- ◆ Inmates are enrolled in **Medical Assistance prior to release**, and for those who lack coverage during the transition, the Vivitrol Mobile Unit continues to provide stop-gap services including drug screenings and Vivitrol injections across the Commonwealth.
- ◆ DCJ continues to leverage Federal funding to expand MAT and pilot innovative responses to the Opioid epidemic. State Opioid Response and Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (federal grant sub-awards via DDAP and PCCD) support medication costs, staffing, and the Vivitrol mobile unit.
- ◆ DCJ also works through PCCD to grant county jails funding (Act 80) for the implementation and expansion of their non-narcotic MAT programs (\$1.5M in FY20-21).

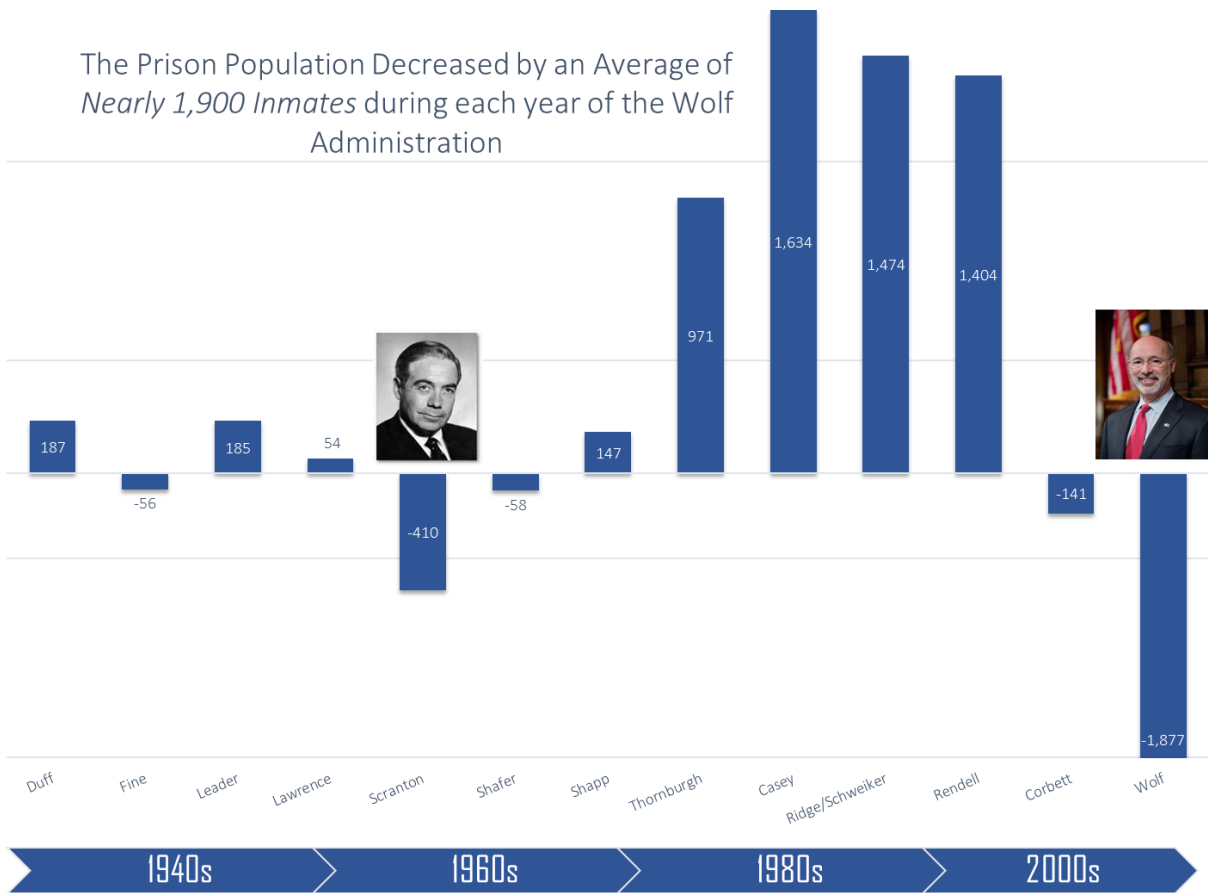


DOC POPULATION REDUCTION

- ◆ The DOC population has seen **the largest yearly drop in recorded history.**
- ◆ Due to the population drop in 2020, the average per year **decrease in population during Governor Wolf's term is now -1,877.**

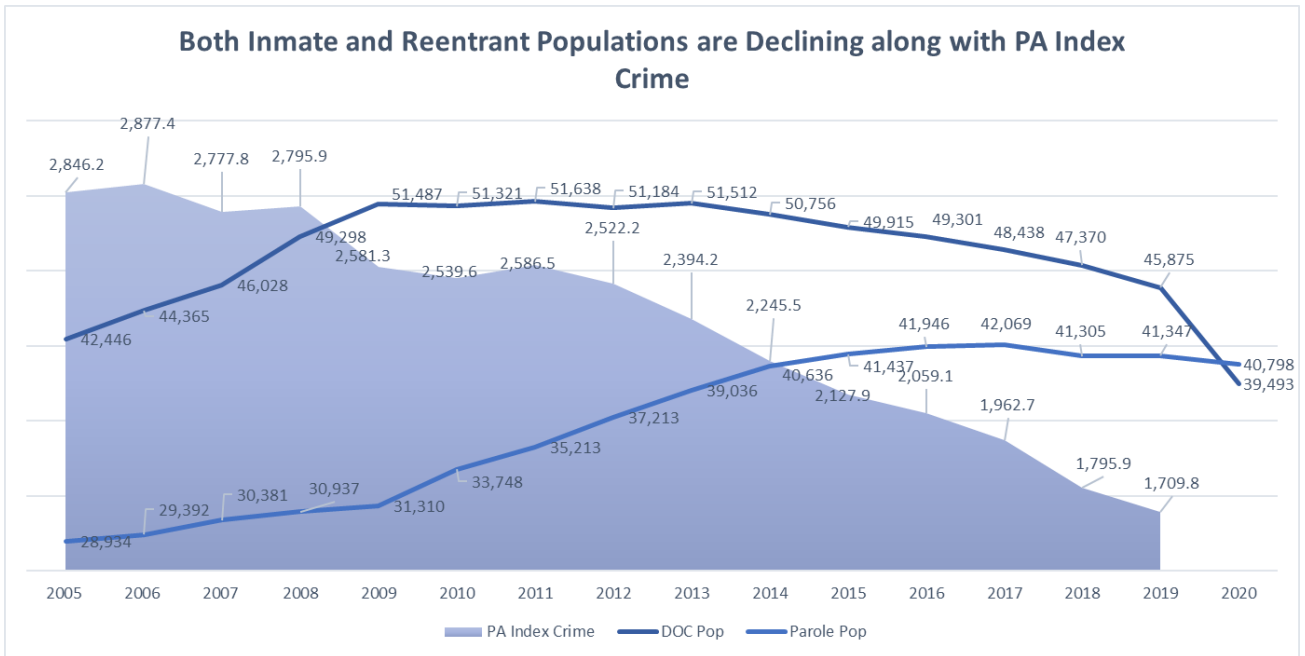


The Prison Population Decreased by an Average of Nearly 1,900 Inmates during each year of the Wolf Administration



CRIME & DOC AND PAROLE POPULATIONS

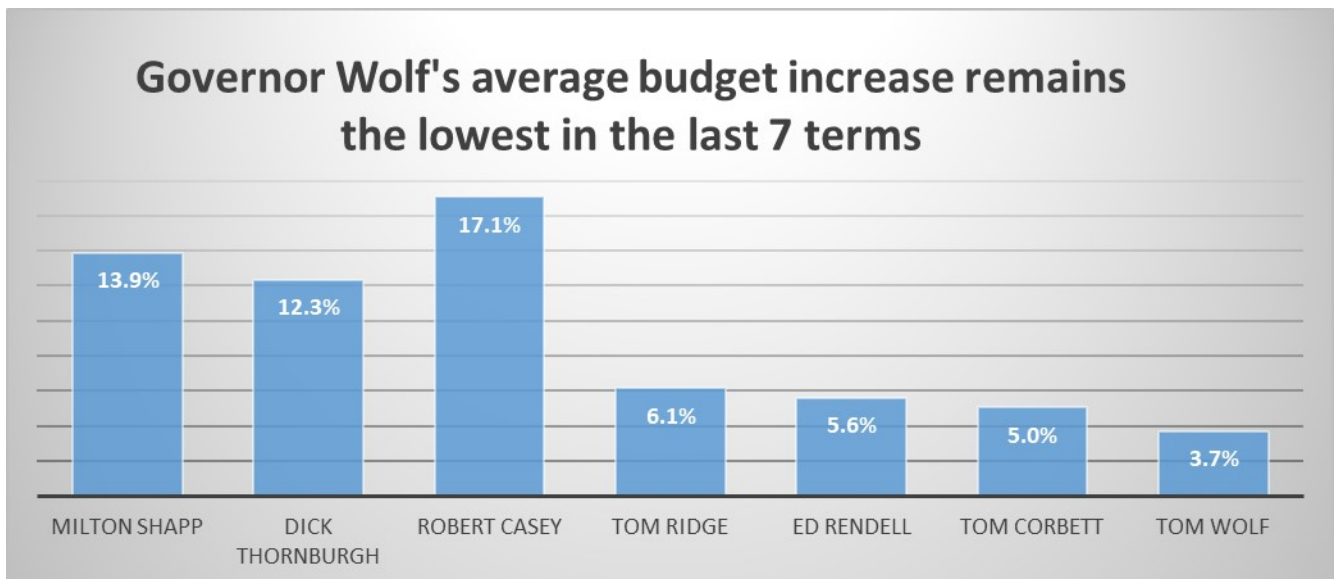
- ◆ As the inmate and reentrant populations decline, the PA Index crime rate per person **also drops**.



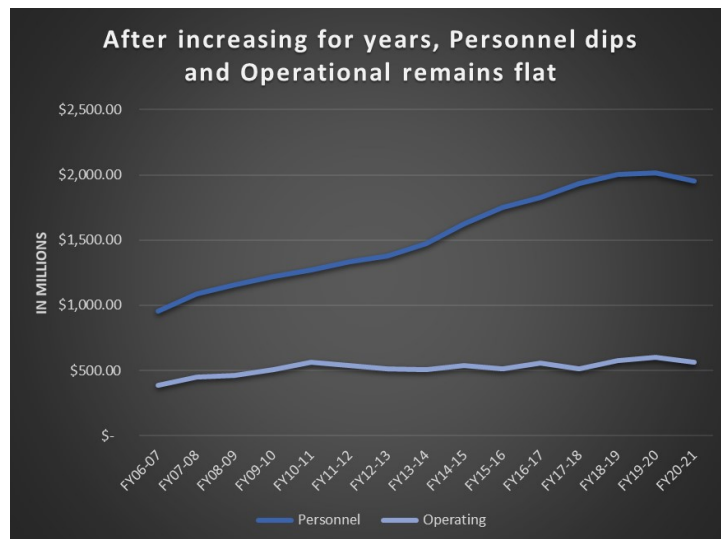
- ◆ While the inmate population dropped **by 10.9%** from 2013 to 2019, the Pennsylvania **crime rate dropped by 28.6%** during the same timeframe.

DOC BUDGET STEWARDSHIP

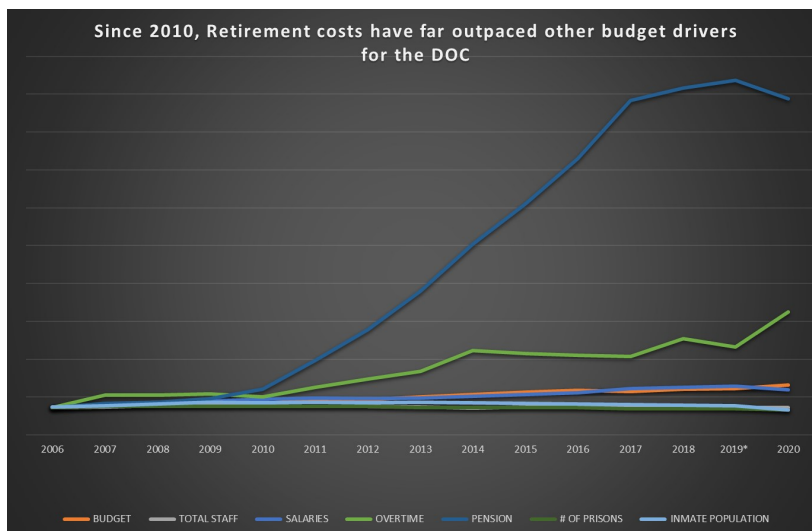
- ◆ The DOC has faced many challenges over the last six years including fighting COVID-19, increasing services to inmates with higher levels of risk, mental health issues, and substance use disorders (SUD). Despite these challenges, the DOC has managed to hold the budget expenditures to **only 3.7% growth** under Governor Wolf's leadership.



- ◆ While personnel costs are expected to dip, the operational expenses remain flat.

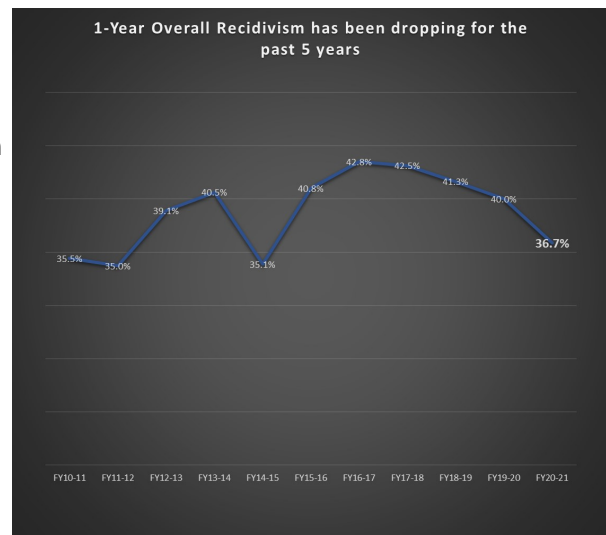


- ◆ The pension remains the biggest budget driver. OT has increased in FY20-21 as well due to COVID-19.

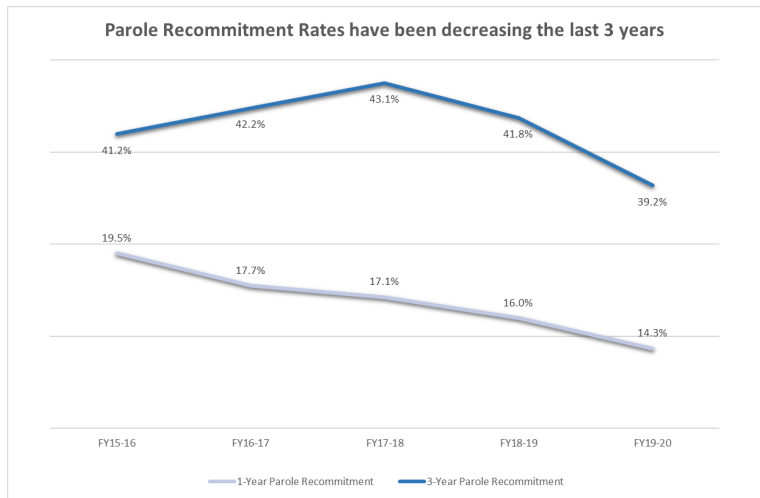


RECIDIVISM

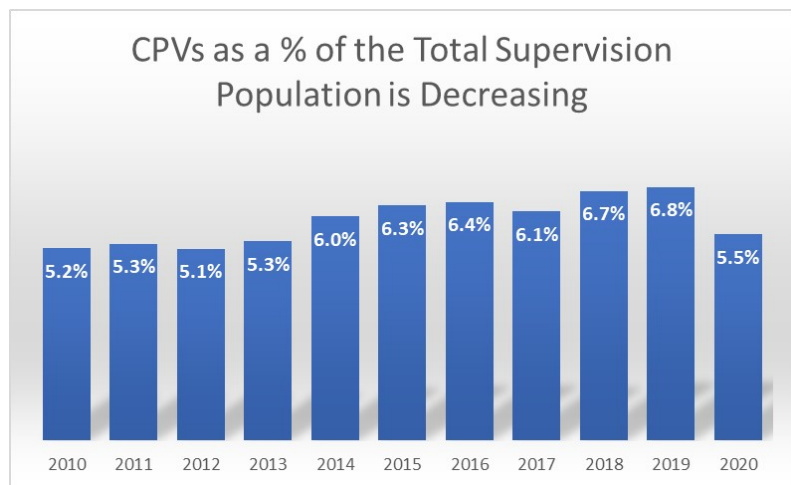
- ◆ The one-year overall recidivism rate has been declining since 2016, pointing to improvements in reentry efforts in the first year after release.



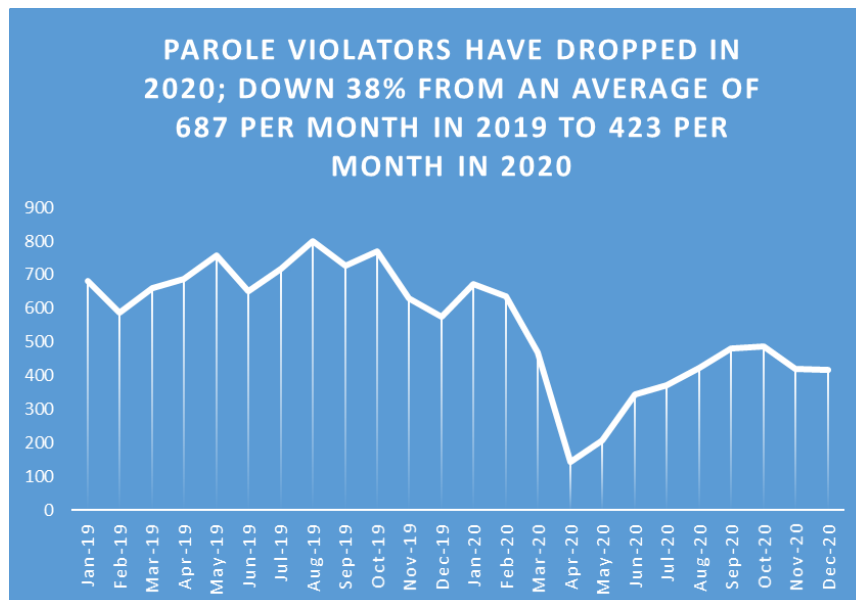
- ◆ Parole recommitment rates are also **down** for the third year in a row.



- ◆ Convicted Parole Violators (CPVs) as a percent of the total supervised population is declining, indicating that the reentrants under supervision are not committing new crimes as much as prior years.

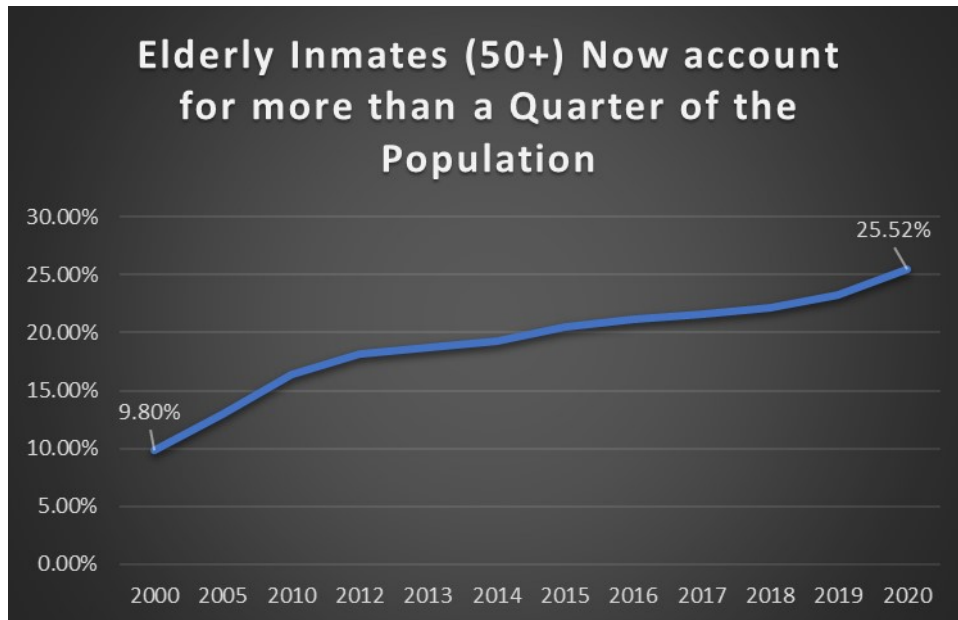


- ◆ Admissions of Parole Violators (PVs—both convicted and technical) were also **down in 2020**, helping the reduction in the inmate population in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in prison.

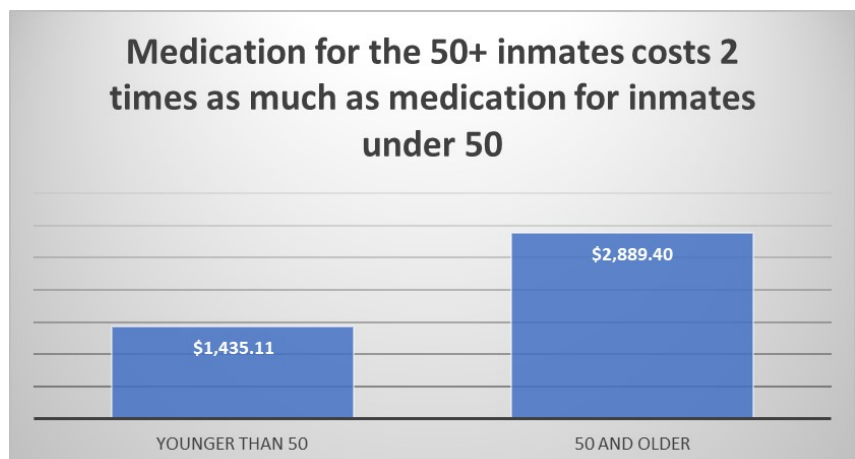


ELDERLY POPULATION, HEALTH CARE COSTS, AND MEDICAL PAROLE

- ◆ As of December 31, 2020, there were **10,077 inmates over the age of 50**, 25.5% of the total inmate population. That percentage has steadily increased since 2000. Nearly all of those inmates are on **medication that costs the DCJ \$34M annually**. Additionally, we have three special long term care units, combining both skilled and personal care at SCI Laurel Highlands, SCI Waymart, and SCI Muncy. As these are our most vulnerable population, they are currently in the process of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.



- ◆ The cost per day of those in skilled care and the personal care units is approximately \$500. This is an untenable expense for a corrections system. Most of these inmates are incapacitated and not a security threat. **Medical parole would help alleviate costs and get the infirm into the appropriate settings** to address their medical needs.
- ◆ The average annual medication costs per inmate for all inmates under 50 is approximately \$1,400, while it is \$2,900 for inmates over 50.
- ◆ With the **new medical parole** legislation, the DCJ could save **up to \$53.5M**. These savings would be offset by the cost to other agencies, but those costs could be partially covered by federal funding.



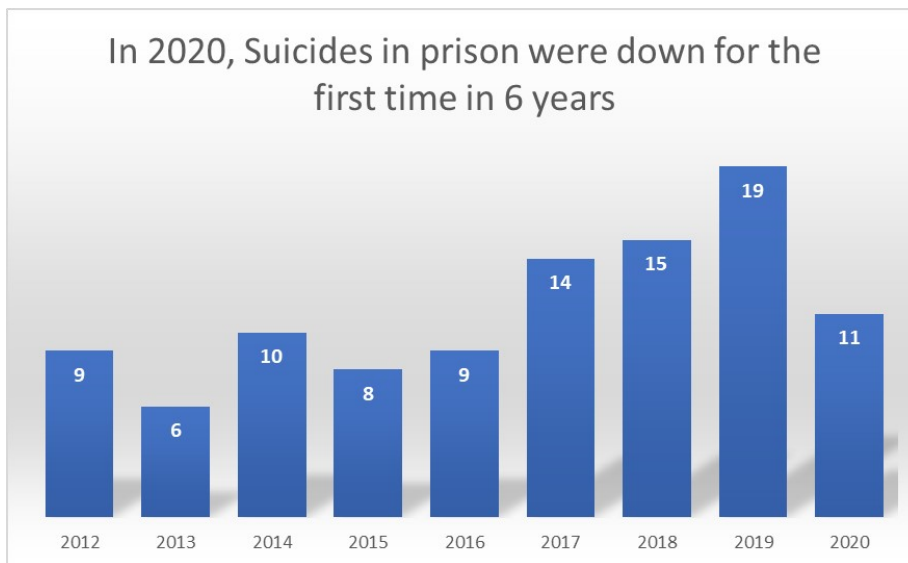
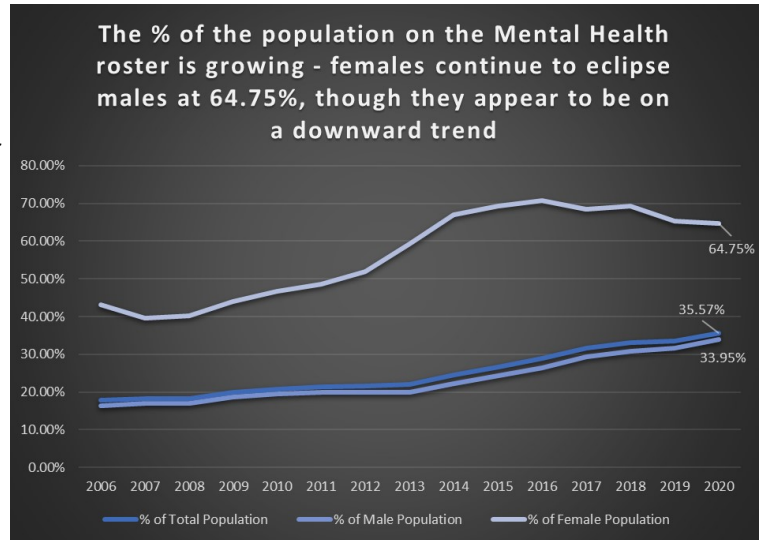
MENTAL HEALTH

◆ Overall, approximately **35.6% of our entire population is being treated for a mental illness**, with 8.0% diagnosed with a serious mental illness (SMI). 34.0% of our male population is actively receiving mental health treatment, with 7.8% (2,823) being diagnosed with an SMI. Among the female population, 64.8% (1,306) are currently receiving treatment and 13.2% are diagnosed with an SMI.

◆ For FY21–22, the **DCJ is requesting funding to add a unit that will specialize in the treatment and care of those**

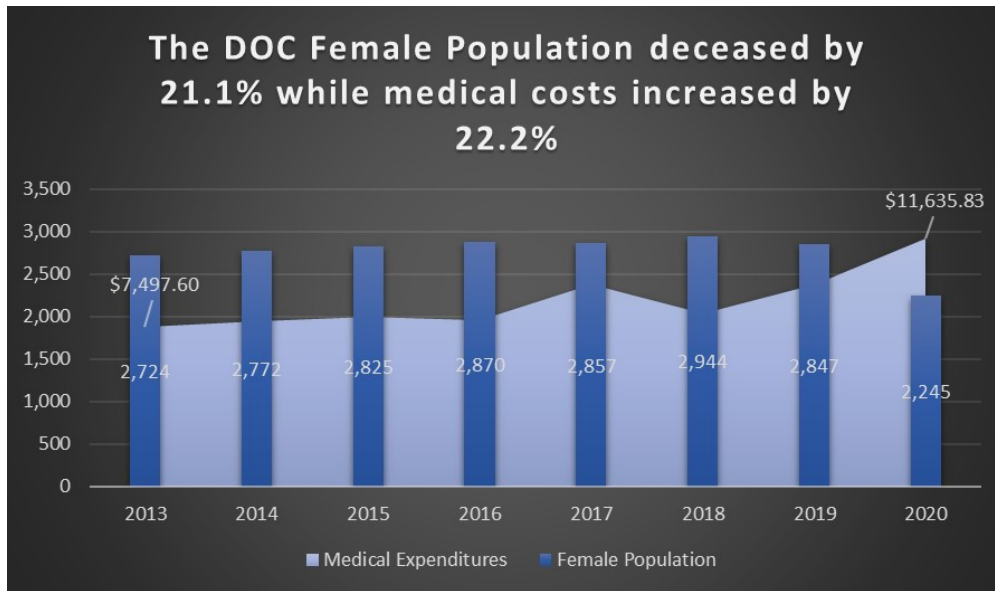
individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (such as autism spectrum disorder). The specialized unit will focus on those individuals diagnosed with these disabilities who are not otherwise able to function independently and safely in a less restrictive and less treatment intensive and supportive environment.

◆ **A bright spot in 2020 was that suicides were down**—indicating that though we are in a pandemic, inmates were getting the help they need to control their mental illness.



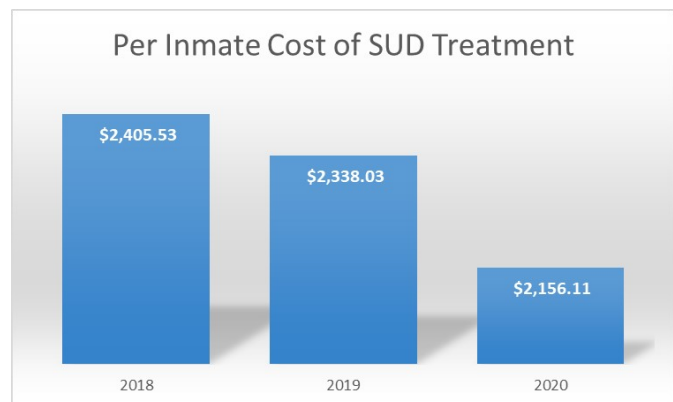
FEMALE POPULATION

- ◆ After years of remaining mainly flat, the **female population has dropped in 2020**. However, the **medical costs remain high** and the cost per day is around **\$11 more than male inmates**.



TREATMENT SERVICES AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

- ◆ An evaluation of the therapeutic communities and improved programming has led to a decrease in per inmate costs in SUD treatment and a savings of **approximately \$1.3M** since the recommended changes took place.
- ◆ We are currently **completely revising our risk/needs assessment protocol** to provide a treatment plan to inmates who need it from their first days in prison that will follow them through reentry. This assessment will use DCJ-specific data elements to make sure all risks and needs are identified early and addressed appropriately.

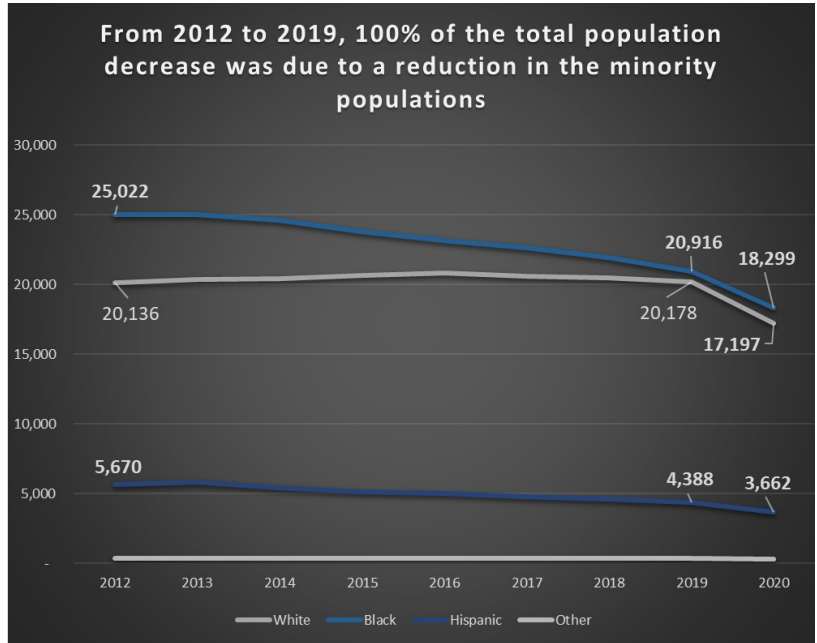


STANDARDIZED SCHEDULES

- ◆ In order to get overtime under control, we would like to use a scheduling system similar to the optimization systems used by commercial airlines. This would help us optimize overtime by hiring only what we need and **reducing mandates**. In order to do this, we need standard schedules across the prisons. If this is achieved, we could save up to **\$30M in OT in FY22-23**.

RACIAL DISPARITY

- ◆ Prison reform efforts, such as JRI, have led to a reduction in racial disparity. The population drop since 2012 (when JRI1 started) through 2019 (before COVID), **100%** of the total population reduction was due to a **reduction in the minority population** (black and Hispanic). In fact the white population actually went slightly up during that time. For unknown reasons, COVID in 2020 has now **skewed that reduction to 75%**.



- ◆ Examining the policies and practices that contribute to this disparity is long overdue. The collateral consequences of convictions for people of color limit employment and housing opportunities and create a cycle of poverty for entire communities. We not only see more minorities incarcerated, but the disparity also appears in the length of incarceration. The **greatest racial disparity can be found in the DOC population of individuals incarcerated for life without parole (LWOP)**. As noted in the below chart, there are **133 non-white LWOP per 100,000 compared to 13.7 white LWOP**.

	Race	Capital Case	Life	Others	Total
15-Jan	Non-white	4.1	138.6	879.8	1,022.50
	White	0.7	13.5	180.7	195
20-May	Non-white	2.5	133	653.3	788.8
	White	0.5	13.7	171.9	186.1

- ◆ To address the disparities in the above analysis, DCJ has done the following:
 - ◆ DCJ has begun work on a **new risk and needs assessment instrument** to more accurately establish custody and supervision levels while reducing assessment bias.
 - ◆ DCJ conducted a **cultural assessment in Parole Field services**. While the results are encouraging we have begun work to revamp training, leadership development and promotions.
 - ◆ DCJ continues to support measures to deal with the disparate impact of LWOP these include **expansion of medical parole for the elderly and vulnerable**.
 - ◆ DCJ also continues to support efforts to **broaden the availability of indigent defense** through adequate funding. Pennsylvania is one of only 15 states that does not provide state funding for meaningful criminal defense.

REENTRY INITIATIVES DURING COVID

- ◆ Community Reentry Parole Agent (CRPA) assessed (over the phone) recently released individuals for immediate needs including housing, clothing, food, and employment
 - ◆ Carey Guide Interventions utilizing Tools on Devices (TOD) – new technology used to assess individuals' **criminogenic needs using smart phones, computers, iPads, etc.**
 - ◆ Used Zoom and Skype to maintain contact with agents and reentrants
- ◆ Reentry Parole Agents (RPAs) – reentry services remained a priority—to minimize face-to-face interactions, **packets were developed** for the following:
 - ◆ **Pre-parole**—helped inmates prepare for the board interview, develop a home plan, and reentry planning
 - ◆ **Post-Parole Board Interview**—helped inmates awaiting board action with living under supervision and employment
 - ◆ **Positive Parole**— inmates who received a paroling action and release date—gave releasing information, resources and services information, introduction to CRPAs, and living in the community with COVID-19

LANTERN CULTURAL ASSESSMENT

- ◆ Reentry and parole staff were evaluated and the following aspects were determined
 - ◆ Strong **trust** in local supervisors
 - ◆ An approach to community corrections **balanced** between law enforcement and social work mentalities
 - ◆ **Positive views** toward the clients they oversaw on supervision
- ◆ All Lantern findings are **available upon request**

NEW MISSION AT SCI-SMITHFIELD

- ◆ SCI-Smithfield was designated the **single point of entry** as a mitigation strategy for COVID-19
- ◆ COVID-19 Testing strategy for new receptions is to **test on days 7, 14, and 21 of the 21-day quarantine**, if they are clear, new commitments will go to SCI-Camp Hill for diagnostics and classification and PVs will go to SCI-Coal Township or SCI-Greene for continued programming
- ◆ **21 Days to a New Path** program delivered in-cell, developed by Dr. Christian Conte
 - ◆ Program is developed to help individuals become **the best version of themselves**
 - ◆ The concrete philosophy behind this approach is focused on what an individual can become. The program is anchored in the reality that **people see our actions, not our intentions**; and in life, it doesn't matter what any of us ever "mean to do," or "don't mean to do";, it only ever matters what we do.
 - ◆ **Staff involved with this program also have a responsibility** to become the best versions of themselves. Quite simply, if we are asking those newly committed to our care to become the best versions of themselves, and if we all know that people learn more by watching

others than by being "told" how to live, then it is the philosophy of this program that our staff will be role models and lead by example.

- ◆ SCI Smithfield has been designated to open a 50- bed **regional infirmary** on K-B housing unit for **COVID-negative inmates** in the Department.
- ◆ This unit is necessary to ensure that we have an **appropriate number of infirmary beds** and to minimize intra-system transfers of COVID-positive patients who require housing in an infirmary.

FUGITIVE APPREHENSION SEARCH TEAM (FAST)

- ◆ **Pre-Consolidation**, the FAST Unit was established as a pilot and quickly was adopted in all parole districts—**FAST members were deputized as Special Deputy US Marshals (USMS)** and joined Violent Crimes Fugitive Task Force to reduce absconder rates. Only 10 of 13 full-time FAST Agents were deputized and there was a district-level chain of command.
- ◆ **Post- Consolidation—Centralized chain of command** standardized operations, equipment, tactics, training, administrative functions, created dedicated FAST policy, and utilized of manpower for special initiatives.
 - ◆ **24 FAST Agents**; 1 Agent assigned to Delaware Valley Intelligence Center (DVIC); 1 FAST Coordinator deputized **USMS Taskforce Officer**.
 - ◆ **3 USMS Regions**—11 Agents Eastern District, 6 Agents Middle District, 6 Agents Western District
- ◆ **FAST Consolidation Benefits**
 - ◆ **Increase** in PPB absconder **arrests**.
 - ◆ **Increase USMS Money** allocated to FAST Agents in all 3 districts.
 - ◆ **Increase Public Safety** from an increase in Joint Law Enforcement (LE) Operations.
 - ◆ **Increase in Intelligence sharing** and cooperation with other LE Agencies.
 - ◆ **Ability to deploy FAST resources anywhere** in the state as operationally needed.
- ◆ Arrest Statistics and a few Notable FAST Operations (May 2019–December 2020)
 - ◆ 1,218 absconders arrested/located
 - ◆ 1,400 Violent Fugitive arrests with USMS and other LE Agencies
- ◆ **Notable Arrests (May 2019–December 2020)**
 - ◆ PSP Top Ten Fugitive Khadir Blue arrested 12/03/2019 by FAST.
 - ◆ FAST helped Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Department in Virginia apprehend 5 individuals in the city of Philadelphia that were suspects in a triple homicide.
 - ◆ FAST agents assisted in the National Manhunt for Peter Manfredonia, suspect wanted for homicides in Connecticut. FAST helped locate and arrest Manfredonia in Maryland.
 - ◆ FAST agents located a suspect wanted for shooting at FBI agents in Reading, PA. The FAST agents located the suspect in the Lancaster area and searched the residence with the

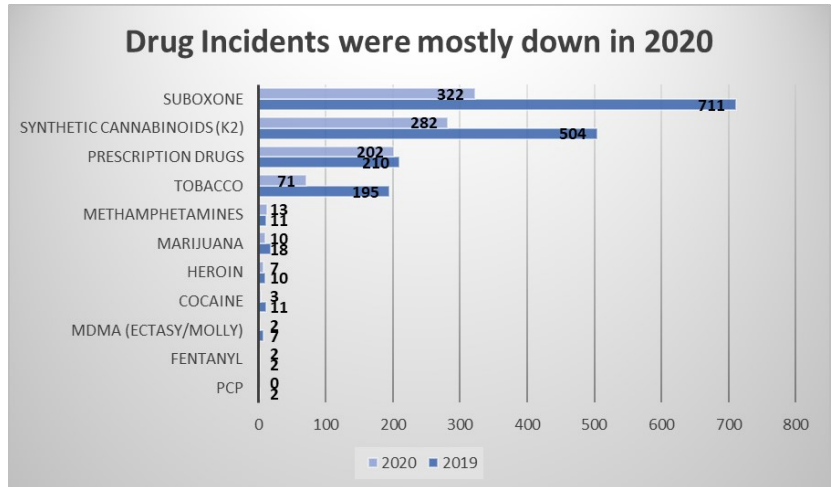
USMS. The suspect was inside in an upstairs bedroom. FAST and USMS backed out of the residence and secured the perimeter until PSP SERT and the FBI could respond.

- ◆ FAST was asked to locate an individual for questioning in a missing person/murder investigation in Delaware County, PA. FAST found the suspect in Flint, MI and sent a collateral to the USMS, leading to the capture and extradition of the suspect back to PA.
- ◆ FAST assisted the PA Office of Attorney General in a drug indictment roundup operation by executing numerous search warrants in the Kensington Section of Philadelphia.
- ◆ FAST assisted the USMS in the Triple Beam Operation in Eastern District, which targeted the city of Chester, Allentown, Reading and Lancaster.
- ◆ FAST assisted the USMS in conducting a roundup for sex offenders being sought for Megan's Law violations. The operations targeted the city of Chester and Scranton.
- ◆ FAST assisted in the manhunt for Shawn Christy in PA, West Virginia, and Kentucky.
- ◆ FAST located the suspect wanted in the violent stabbing and murder of a child in Western, PA. FAST and USMS were able to locate the suspect less than 24 hours after the crime in Youngstown, Ohio, and had him apprehended and extradited back to PA.
- ◆ FAST Seizures from FAST/Joint Operations
 - ◆ Guns—63 Firearms
 - ◆ Drugs—2 lbs. Marijuana; 2,454 Packets of Heroin; 23,000 Packets of Fentanyl; 26,000 Packets of Cocaine; 174 Bottles of Xylazine; 163 Grams of Methamphetamines; 1 Methamphetamine lab; 10 Tablets of Acid.
 - ◆ Money—\$501,348.00
- ◆ FAST Intelligence Agent in DVIC (started February 2020)
 - ◆ Intelligence sharing between DCJ and Philadelphia Police Department (PPD)
 - ◆ Assist PPD in identification of possible reentrants involved in criminal activity (shooting victim, witness, perpetrator)
 - ◆ Conduct intelligence link analysis and gang information sharing
 - ◆ Analysis of GPS Tracking of reentrants for possible link to criminal activity
 - ◆ Successful results—4 approved reentrant residences where firearms were stolen, 46 reentrants who are involved with gang activity, identify training needs for parole agents, mapping hot spots in Philadelphia
- ◆ **Future plans based on the Success of Centralization of FAST** and Assignment of Agent to DVIC
 - ◆ Plan to focus on violent crime and gun violence in the city of Philadelphia and creating a single point of contact for each taskforce for information sharing.
 - ◆ Philadelphia task forces—FBI Violent Crime Taskforce; DEA Taskforce; PA Office of Attorney General Gun Violence Unit; Philadelphia Police Criminal Intelligence Unit

- ◆ Replicate in other Pennsylvania cities
- ◆ FBI Violent Crime Taskforce—Allentown, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh
- ◆ DEA Taskforce—Pittsburgh
- ◆ PA Office of Attorney General Gun Violence—Pittsburgh, Harrisburg
- ◆ Police Intelligence Units—Allentown, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh

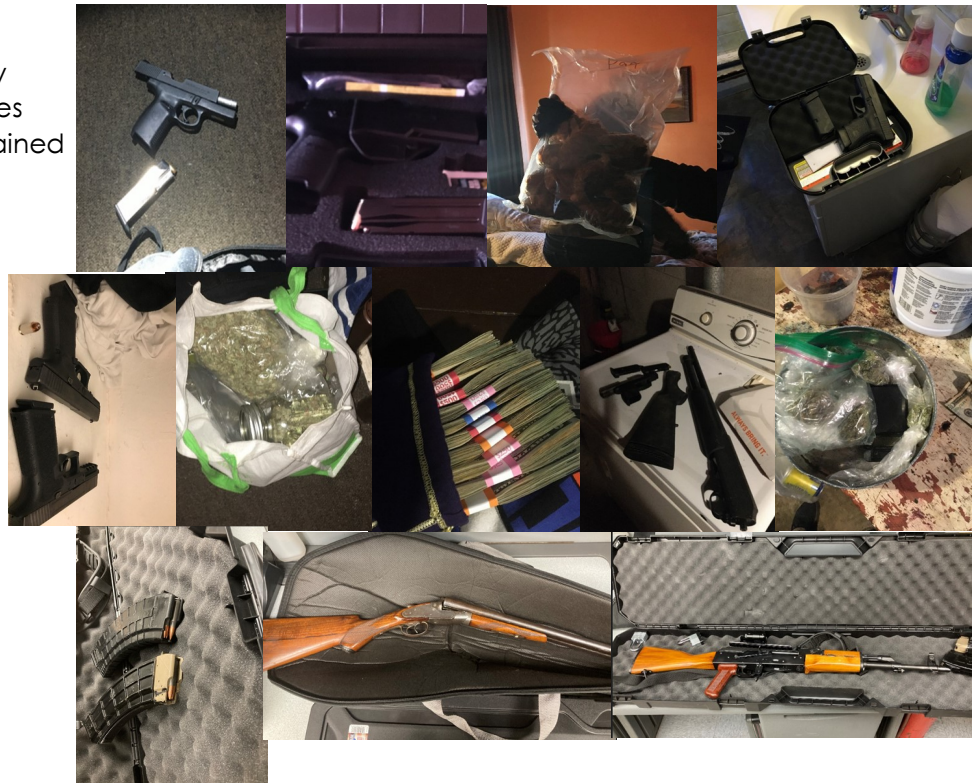
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE (BII)

Beginning in 2018, BII was assigned an Intelligence Gathering Lieutenant (IGLT) at each state prison. Additionally, K9 was moved under BII. The data that follows reflects a major shift in **drug interdiction** and subsequent arrests of drug and contraband smugglers. Information collected by IGLT's was passed over to BII criminal investigators and they teamed with K9 to confront drug smugglers. Prior to 2018, information was inconsistent and sporadic. Once these resources were unleashed, the amount of information that was sent to the BII Analytics Division exploded.

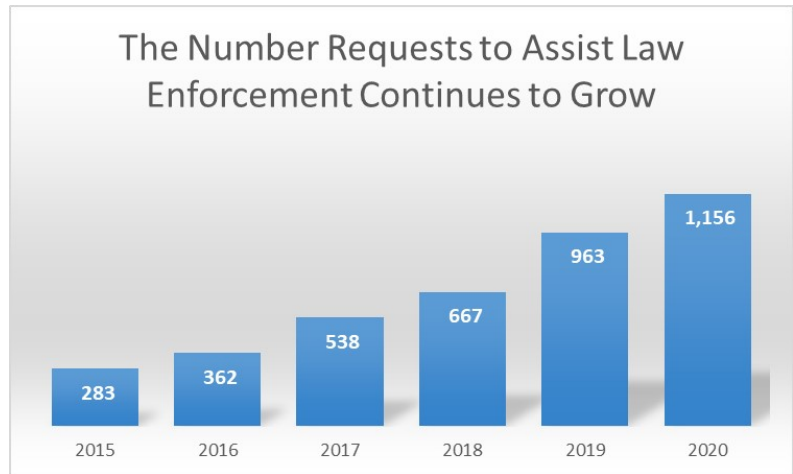


- ◆ The **Parole Intel program was launched in 2020** and produced immediate results. Most parolees move forward but others continue be involved with guns and drugs. BII parole intel agents recovered guns through searches based on intel they collected, returning dangerous parolees to prison.

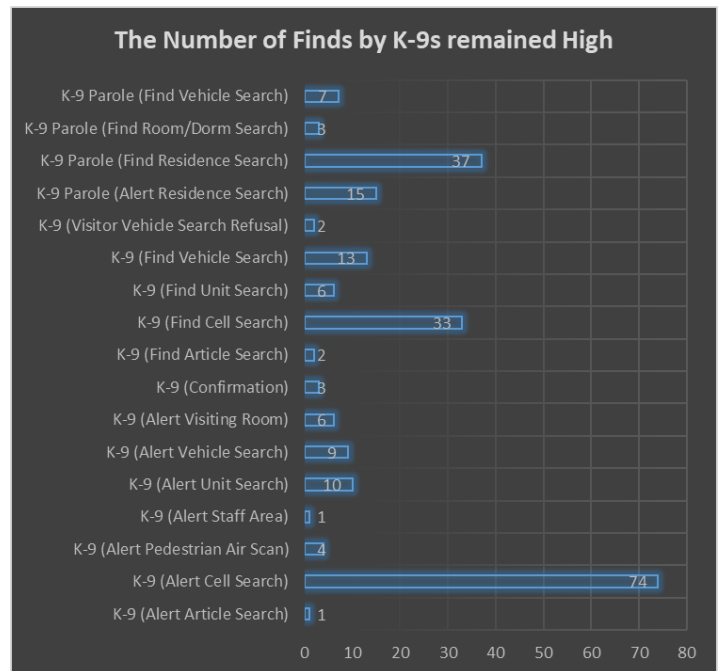
- ◆ Drugs, guns, and money recovered after searches due to information obtained by Parole Intel:



- ◆ BII launched our Intelligence Management System (IMS) during 2017 but it was not fully effective until 2018. The **resulting growth in law enforcement requests is a direct result of the proliferation of information collected by prison IGLTs.**



- ◆ The chart and photos reflect the ongoing effectiveness of the IGLTs, K-9 and BII investigators. Despite the closing of inmate visiting rooms during COVID-19, drug recoveries rose.



Visitor attempted to visit a reentrant at SCI Phoenix and found to have in her possession 90 grams of cocaine, 13 full pills of Xanax, 14 half pills of Xanax, 3 cell phones, a pill press and a large bag of green “trash can” containers commonly used to package drugs.

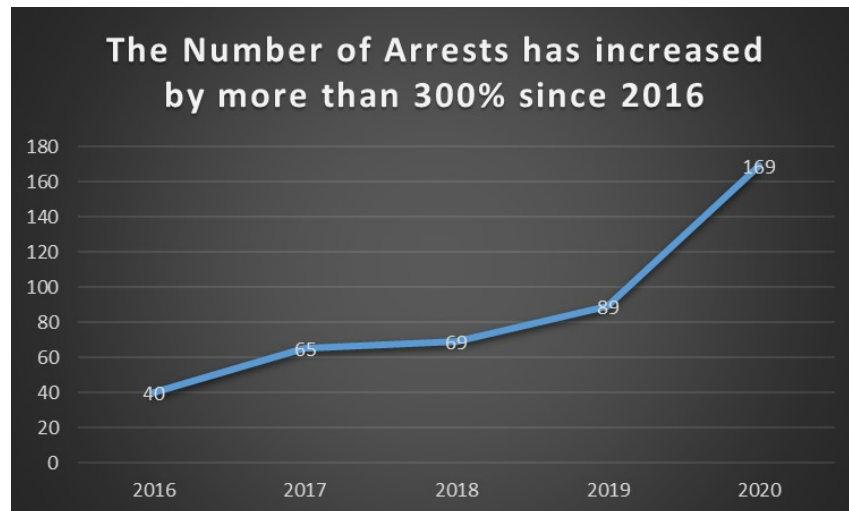


Interior search of SCI Benner Township was conducted and K-9 alerted to the garbage can in the female visiting restroom where a quart size Ziplock bag was found and contained—94 grams tobacco, 116.79 grams of synthetic cannabinoids and 89 full strips of buprenorphine.

- ◆ **To the right is one find by Parole K9:** 2020 was the first year for Parole K9 and they immediately were used in searches based on intel collected by BII parole intel agents. The dogs are also trained to detect firearms. A week does not go by without the recovery of drugs and guns by parole K9.



- ◆ Once K-9 was merged into BII they began collaborating with the prison IGLTs and criminal investigators. This chart reflects the effectiveness of the three combined units. Arrests of contraband smugglers has more than tripled in the since 2016. Just a few years ago there were 40 arrest and in 2020 there were 169.



- ◆ A final word; the BII Analytics Division expanded from one analyst to nine analysts (5 state; 4 contract). Combined with the increase in collection efforts by the **prison IGLTs, parole intel agents and the creation of IMS enabled our team to bring intel safety alerts warning prison and parole officials of impending disturbances** affecting public and institutional safety. Our Analytics Division was also the point of contact with the Office of the Attorney General Josh Shapiro for inmates who **illegally applied for unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic**.

SECOND CHANCE PELL

- ◆ Under the Obama Administration, we were selected as one of the **pilot sites** for Pell grants for incarcerated students—classes began in early 2016. We partnered with 4 higher education institutions—Bloomsburg University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Villanova, and Lehigh Carbon Community College.

- ◆ The DCJ **enrolls new cohorts of Pell students twice per year** and classes are conducted in the spring/summer and fall semesters. Since 2016, the DCJ has produced 7 cohorts and all together 130 students have been actively enrolled in the program. At the end of the 2019 fall semester, **Bloomsburg University graduated 10 students** from its program. **LCCC graduated 18 students from two enrolled cohorts in 2019.** In the fall of 2019 and Spring 2020, DCJ has enrolled 22 students in the program. DCJ has made various adjustments during 2020–2021 in order to continue the Pell program under the current COVID safety guidelines within the SCIs. Despite many challenges, DCJ was able to enroll 5 new students in the fall of 2020 and 12 new students for the spring 2021.
- ◆ The Wolf Administration, DCJ, and US Department of Education, and our PASSHE partners **advocated for Pell to be reinstated for all individuals behind bars** who wanted higher education.
- ◆ On December 21, 2020, **US Congress lifted the 1994 ban on federal student aid for incarcerated individuals** under the Trump Administration.
- ◆ When we return to the new normal, expanding higher education will be an important part of our plan. We look forward to expanding access to more students.

FIRST CHANCE ACT

- ◆ With the support of the Wolf Administration, the **DCJ will be the first in the nation to help at risk children who are living in regions with statistically higher incarceration rates and school dropout rates**, as well as high crime rates by allocating a portion of contracts to a First Chance Trust Fund to be managed by PCCD.
- ◆ Every DCJ contract over \$5M will have language included to contribute at least 1% of the annual contract amount to the fund each fiscal year.
- ◆ PCCD will establish targeted grants and scholarships that will provide access to programs and education giving at risk youths a “First Chance” at breaking the cycle of incarceration and crime.
- ◆ Although DCJ has not had a contract in excess of \$5M since the fund was established, we anticipate funds in FY 2021–22.

Final Thoughts:

Looking back on challenges faced and hope for a brighter future

During Governor Wolf's tenure, we have seen the **lowest annual increase in spending in the Department's history (3.7%), a historic reduction in population, and a reduction in recidivism rates, all while crime continues decline** in Pennsylvania. These are considerable achievements, particularly as they have been accomplished in the **shadows of uncertainty and peril cast by the COVID-19** pandemic.

COVID-19 substantially tested DCJ's core operating principal of providing for public safety by creating an environment where individuals can address the root cause of the crimes they committed and return to the community prepared to be successful. The abrupt and brutal disruption by the pandemic required DCJ staff to take all necessary steps to minimize its spread as well as manage its fallout on DCJ operations. The staff was courageous in their response and quick to adapt and re-adjust to conditions so as to minimize, as fully as possible, the negative impact of the pandemic on the inmate population, staff, and the communities in which DCJ operates. DCJ **staff heroically demonstrated its creativity and versatility amidst these challenges** in order to sustain

our Mission. Surely, challenges remain and the DOC community is prepared to meet them. In short order, these include the following considerations:

- ◆ Safety is an issue in all prisons and overall, violence in our prisons is trending downward; however, acts of severe violence against staff increased in 2020. Our practice is, of course, to **respond quickly to these actions**. We have created a unit to address violent individuals and we are revising DCJ protocols to further ensure the safety of our staff. Increased staffing levels coupled with targeted interventions in consult with law enforcement will continue to be the path forward.
- ◆ COVID -19 both stalled and informed our need to **revisit the concept of medical parole**. Policy development in this regard will be a priority for DCJ in 2021. Taxpayers, unfortunately, bear the burden of not having the option in PA.
- ◆ Finally, this year saw the **first convening of the Homicide Review Team**, established within JRI-2, looking at the extraordinarily unusual occasions where someone on parole supervision murders someone. The multi-disciplinary group took on their work, albeit slightly delayed from COVID-19 and recommendations are forthcoming. However, the **lack of consistent data, communication between law enforcement entities and coordination between criminal justice system actors** and those in human services are three consistent gaps in our system that need to be addressed moving forward.

No one has escaped the **heavy toll of COVID-19**. DCJ staff and incarcerated individuals alike have endured one of the most difficult years in DOC's history. But as Dr. Conte often explains – there is a beginning, middle and end to any situation, no matter how severe. **We believe the end of this pandemic and the beginning of a new normal will both define 2021.**

Finally, we all can agree that the body of work we call “criminal justice” is never a finished product. By extension, 2021 may be the year for the criminal justice system to **hit the reset button**. System wide, the Commonwealth's criminal justice stakeholders, including DCJ of course, now has an unprecedented opportunity to learn from our shared COVID-19 experiences to **make better use of limited public safety resources by keeping the incarcerated population low and rethinking our correctional and re-entry practices**. As policymakers contemplate such a strategy, consideration should be given as to how to engage all of the Commonwealth's stakeholders. The success of Justice Reinvestment, among other initiatives, is grounded in viewing criminal justice as a system.

The Mission of DCJ is to protect society by confining people in the controlled environment of our prisons and community-based facilities. **It is our obligation to keep these facilities safe, humane, and cost efficient**. And further, it is our responsibility to provide work and programming and treatment to assist criminally-involved people in becoming law abiding citizens. But it goes without saying that the current and future vitality of our Commonwealth's system of criminal justice does not exclusively reside within the province of DCJ. **Any hope for a brighter future for Corrections must include the coordinated policies and efforts of all of our stakeholders at virtually every level of the criminal justice labyrinth**. This holistic view of how we meet and sustain the first obligation of government – protecting and enhancing public safety, recognizes that no single part of our criminal justice system functions as an island.