

The Connecticut Second Chance Pardon Gap [updated 5/18/21]

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Key Findings

Population with convictions: ~407K people²

Population with felony convictions: ~157K people³

Share of adult Black men with a conviction: ~48% | ~27% with felonies

Share of people with convictions eligible to apply for pardons: ~89%

Share of people with convictions eligible for erasure under Clean Slate*: ~67%

Population with convictions eligible to apply for pardons: ~360K

Uptake rate of relief : ~3%

Pardons awarded per year: 626 (based on 2016-2019 actuals)

Years to clear the backlog based on current rates: 577 years

*updated 5/19/21 to include current version of the Clean Slate Bill.

Summary Statistics	Eligible to Apply for Pardons	Eligible for Erasure under “Clean Slate” ⁴
People Eligible / (Share of People with convictions)	360K/(89%)	273/(67%)
People Eligible to clear <i>all</i> convictions / (Share of People with convictions)	295K (73%)	184K (45%)
Uptake rate based on eligibility	~3%	~4%
Years it would take to clear the backlog at the current rate	577	437

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² Based on actuals from the state database described in Appendix B, removing people with out of state addresses in the database and taking into account mortality.

³ Id. Cf. with Shannon et al, which reports a 2010 estimated felony population in Connecticut of 213K available at http://users.soc.umn.edu/~uggen/Shannon_Uggen_DEM_2017.pdf. If the 2010 estimate is projected forward linearly using the CAGR growth rate from 2000-2010, the 2020 estimated felony population would be 268K.

⁴ See summary of rules in Appendix A.