

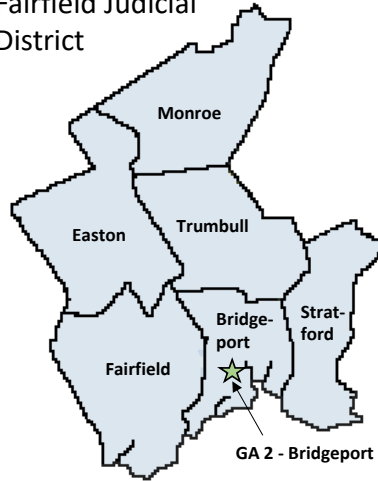


CT DCJ Fact Sheet: The Fairfield Judicial District

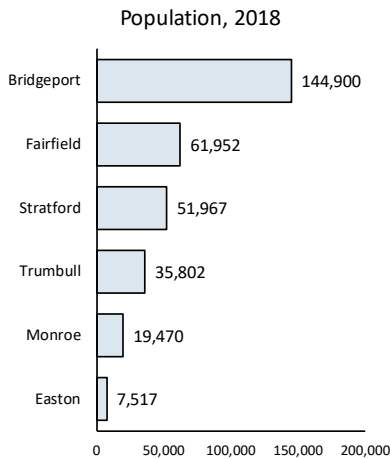
The Fairfield Judicial District (JD) serves six towns in the southeastern part of the state. The District contains one of the busiest Geographical Area (GA) courts in the state, GA 2, in Bridgeport.

About 325,000 people live within the six-town area, making the Fairfield JD the 4th most populous in the state.

Towns in the Fairfield Judicial District



Each year, the FBI releases its Uniform Crime Report which details the number of major crimes that were reported by state and local jurisdictions in the previous calendar year. In the data, violent crimes include murders, non-negligent manslaughter, robberies, aggravated assaults and rape. Property crimes include larcenies, burglaries and motor vehicle theft.



Source: CT DPH estimate

About 45% of residents in the JD live in the city of Bridgeport. In addition to being the largest, Bridgeport is also the most ethnically diverse town in the District. Almost 40% of Bridgeport residents are Hispanic, a mix of Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, Dominicans and South and Central Americans. Black non-Hispanics make up about 35% of the city's population.

Per capita income varies considerably across the towns in Fairfield JD. In 2015, the per capita income in Bridgeport was estimated at \$23,348 per person. In Easton, per capita income was \$69,652. Stratford, with a per capita income of \$37,485, is the only other town in the JD besides Bridgeport with a per capita income average lower than the statewide average.

Crime and crime rates per 10,000 residents, 2018

	Violent crimes	Property crimes	Violent crime rate	Property crime rate
Bridgeport	985	2,842	67.1	193.6
Stratford	53	1,081	10.1	205.6
Trumbull	46	839	12.8	232.9
Fairfield	34	952	5.6	157.8
Monroe	11	104	5.4	51.4
Easton	0	25	0.0	32.7
Fairfield JD	1,129	5,843	34.9	180.5

Source: 2018 UCR data

In 2018, 87% of violent crimes reported in the Judicial District occurred in Bridgeport. Interestingly, while Bridgeport led the District in violent crime rates, the city was third, behind Stratford and Trumbull, in the property crime rate.

In terms of arrests, the Bridgeport PD is the most active law enforcement agency in the JD. In 2019, the Bridgeport PD made 60% of the Judicial District's criminal arrests and 45% of its motor vehicle arrests.

Major arresting agencies in the Fairfield JD

Agency	Arrests 2019		Arrests 2020	
	Criminal	MV	Criminal	MV
Bridgeport PD	3,317	1,563	2,800	1,103
Stratford PD	905	511	809	327
Fairfield PD	623	774	475	274
Trumbull PD	549	321	283	149
Monroe PD	146	250	113	93
Easton PD	26	66	31	31

Source: CT Judicial Branch

In a typical year, law enforcement would make between 5,500 and 5,800 criminal arrests each year. In addition, they reported about 3,500 motor vehicle arrests. 2020 totals reflect the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Arrests in the Fairfield JD

Year	Criminal arrests	MV arrests
2018	5,815	3,486
2019	5,570	3,488
2020	4,517	1,979

In terms of criminal arrests, the Fairfield JD ranked 5th busiest in the state behind the JDs in Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and New Britain.

Arrests by JD, 2019

JD	Criminal arrests	MV arrests	Population, 2018 est.
Hartford JD	16,918	10,390	590,226
New Haven JD	11,308	8,041	473,771
Waterbury JD	6,954	3,627	224,385
New Britain JD	6,427	4,737	311,996
Fairfield JD	5,570	3,488	321,608
New London	5,550	4,435	266,784
Stamford-	4,393	2,720	380,274
Ansonia-	3,949	2,862	231,739
Middlesex JD	2,657	1,934	162,682
Danbury JD	2,334	2,302	200,844
Litchfield JD	2,317	2,278	140,408
Windham JD	1,665	1,270	117,027
Tolland JD	1,495	1,717	150,921

Source: CJIS

Part A cases, Fairfield JD

Fiscal Year	Cases Added	Cases disposed		Cases disposed
		w/o Trial	w/trial	
FY 16	324	299	26	325
FY 17	282	242	34	276
FY 18	231	205	29	234
FY 19	215	207	18	225
FY 20	222	127	13	140

Source: CT Judicial Branch

In recent years, the Part-A court in the Fairfield JD typically disposed under 300 cases. In 2019, almost 75% of Part-A cases involved A- or B-felonies, i.e., the most serious offenses.

Compared to other Judicial Districts, the Fairfield JD ranked 3rd in the state for the number of reported violent crimes in 2018. As we have already observed, much of this crime was reported in the city of Bridgeport.

Because of the relatively small population of the Fairfield JD compared to the JDs in Hartford and New Haven, the violent crime rate here was the highest in the state.

Reported crime by Judicial District, 2018

	Violent			
	Violent crimes	crime rate	Property crimes	Property crime rate
Hartford JD	1,815	30.4	13,211	221.6
New Haven JD	1,642	34.1	10,698	222.2
Fairfield JD	1,129	34.9	5,843	180.5
Waterbury JD	554	24.1	5,768	251.4
New Britain JD	524	16.6	6,154	194.8
Stamford-Norwalk	491	13.2	4,724	127.0
New London JD	385	15.0	2,593	100.8
Ansonia-Milford	248	10.8	4,000	174.8
Danbury JD	157	8.1	1,702	88.2
Windham JD	130	11.3	643	56.0
Litchfield JD	108	7.2	1,309	87.8
Middlesex JD	89	5.5	1,623	99.5
Tolland JD	76	5.3	846	59.0

Source: CT DESPP, UCR

Arraignments in 2019

Judicial District	Arraignments from lock-up
Hartford JD	7,033
New Haven JD	5,397
Waterbury JD	3,637
Fairfield JD	2,986
New Britain JD	2,781
New London JD	2,757
Ansonia-Milford JD	1,897
Stamford-Norwalk JD	1,812
Middlesex JD	1,075
Windham JD	1,040
Litchfield JD	892
Danbury JD	754
Tolland JD	634

Source: CSSD, CT Judicial Branch

Most people who are arrested in CT are released on either a promise-to-appear (PTA) agreement or after paying a bond. Typically, about 20% of people are unable to meet these conditions. As a result, they are held until they can be arraigned before a judge. At arraignment, judges may impose new release conditions or order the person held until trial.

The bulk of cases disposed in CT courts each year are handled in 19 Geographic Area (GA) courts. GA-2, in Bridgeport typically handled between

Cases - GA-2 Bridgeport

	Added	Transfer	
		to JD	Disposed
FY 16	7,200	343	6,549
FY 17	6,680	309	6,309
FY 18	6,883	251	6,433
FY 19	6,580	213	6,354
FY 20	4,978	324	3,958

Source: CT Judicial Branch

6,500 and 7,000 criminal cases each year before the pandemic. In 2019, 38% of GA-2 cases involved felony offenses. More

serious felony cases were generally transferred to the Part-A court at the Judicial District.