

COVID 19

CRIMINAL

JUSTICE

CAMPAIGN

POLAND

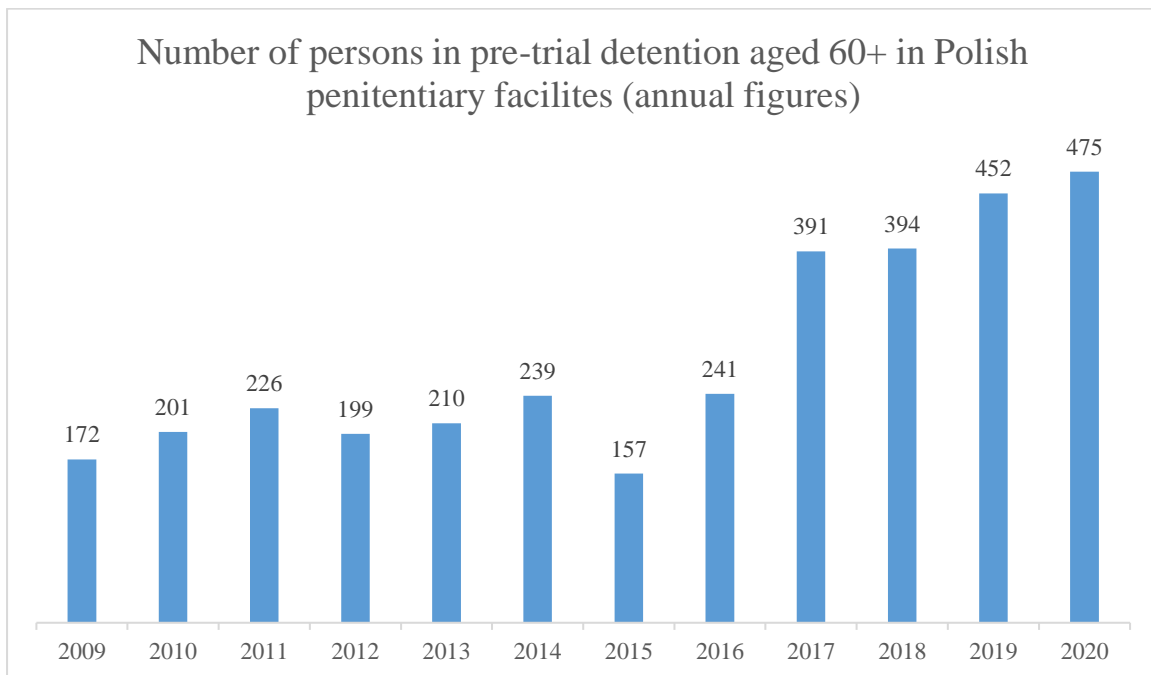
**Impact of the coronavirus pandemic
on the criminal justice system**

Situation of persons in pre-trial detention in polish
penitentiary facilities during the pandemic - update

SITUATION OF PERSONS IN PRE-TRIAL DETENTION IN POLISH PENITENTIARY FACILITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC - UPDATE

Number of persons in pre-trial detention aged over 60 years in Polish penitentiary facilities¹

The coronavirus mostly affects persons over the age of 60. Statistical data show that in recent years there are increasingly more persons from this age group among the persons in pre-trial detention. On the eve of the pandemic, there were nearly 500 of them in Poland, which accounted for 5% of the persons detained on remand. In 2020, the number of pre-trial detainees over the age of 60 increased to 475.

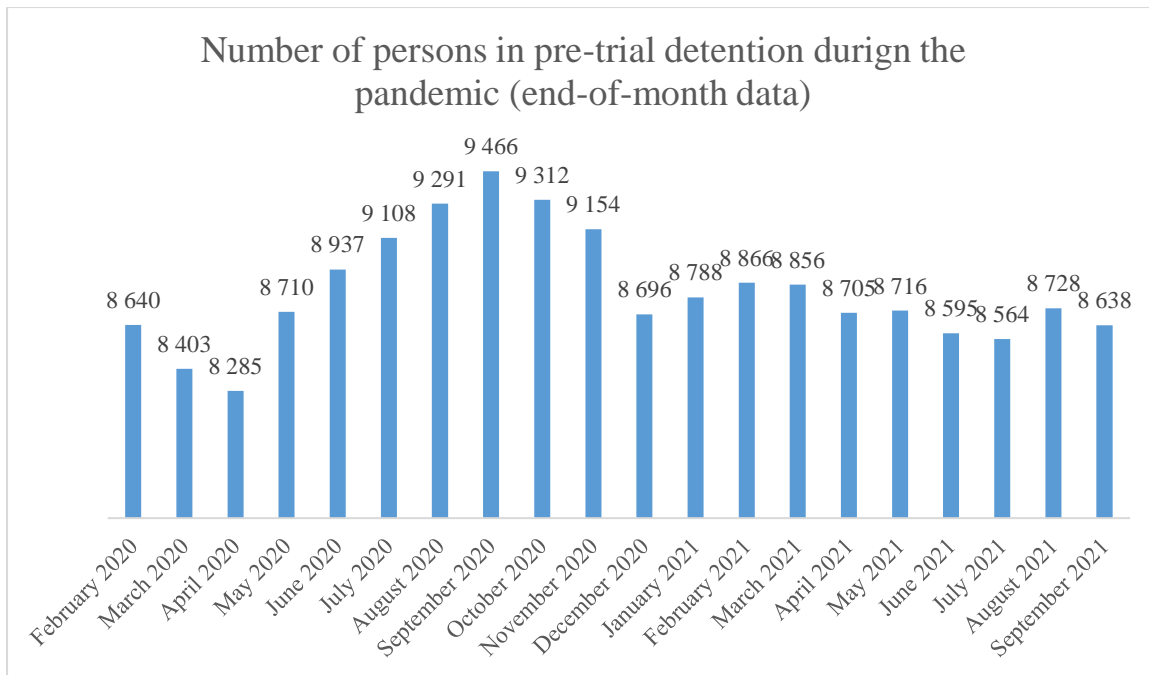


Number of persons in pre-trial detention during the pandemic (end-of-month data)²

¹ The chart is based on statistical data published by the Prison Service at:

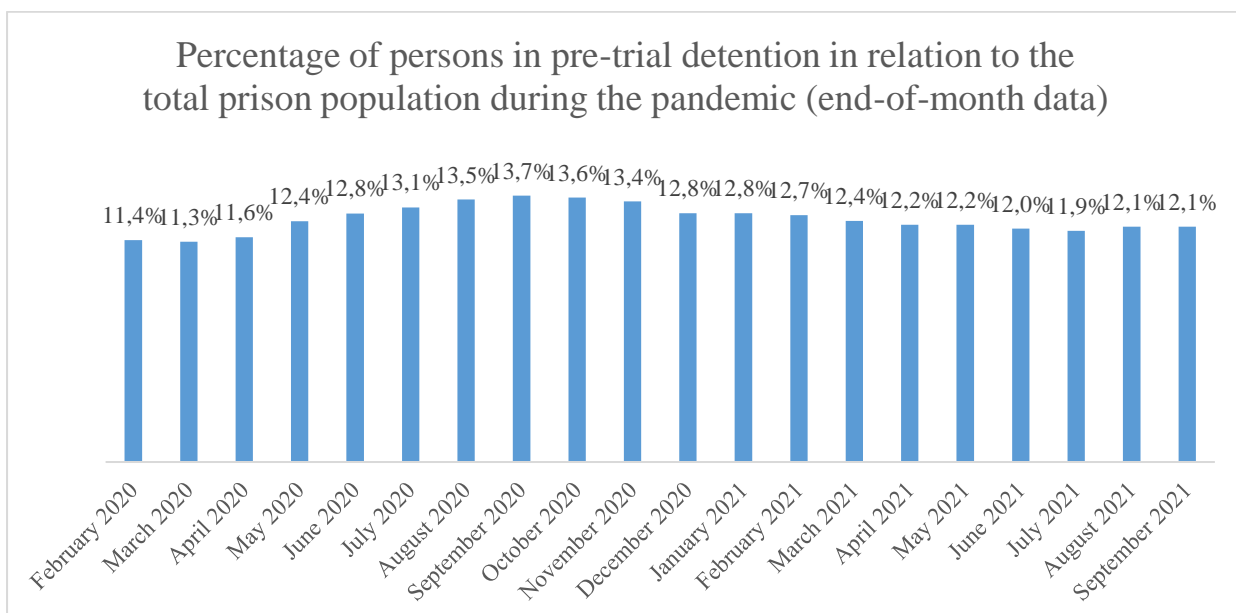
<https://www.sw.gov.pl/dzial/statystyka>.

² The chart is based on the statistics published by the Prison Service at <https://www.sw.gov.pl/dzial/statystyka>.



The number of persons in pre-trial detention was changing differently as compared to the prison population. Between April and September 2020 the number of persons held in pre-trial detention rose to 9,466. Later, in the period of October-December 2020, the number of pre-trial detainees materially decreased (by almost 800). From December 2020 onwards, no consistent trend in the number of pre-trial detainees can be demonstrated. However, there are still more than 8,500 persons held in remand centres.

Percentage of persons in pre-trial detention in relation to the total prison population during the pandemic (end-of-month data)



The above chart shows that during the initial period of the coronavirus pandemic, the percentage of persons in pre-trial detention in the total prison population increased from 11.3% in March 2020 to 13.7% in September 2020 (an increase of almost 2.5%). This situation resulted from a decrease in the number of prisoners held in penitentiary facilities. It is only since October 2020 that we have seen a decrease in the percentage of persons in pre-trial detention in the general population of Polish remand centres and prisons – from 13,6% in October 2020 to 11,9% in July 2021. Currently, the percentage is about 12%

CONCLUSIONS

- Since 2015, the number of pre-trial detainees over the age of 60 has steadily increased from 157 in 2015 to 475 in 2020.
- Despite a significant increase in the number of pre-trial detainees from April to September 2020, their number has now decreased, from 8,285 in April 2020 to 9,466 in September 2020. However, more than 8,500 people are held in remand centers.
- The pre-trial detention percentage is high at about 12%.

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