

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Quarterly Report on Admissions and Releases in the Massachusetts Department of Correction

Third Quarter 2015





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

Daniel Bennett, Secretary

Massachusetts Department of Correction

Carol Higgins-O'Brien, Commissioner

Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D., Executive Director of Strategic Planning & Research

Author: Research & Planning Division

Prepared by: Courtney Eaves, Research Analyst I

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Special recognition to: Hollie Matthews, Deputy Director; and Susan McDonald, Research Analyst III.

For questions regarding this report, please contact the Research & Planning Division:

Research & Planning Division
MCI-Concord/SFU Building
P.O. Box 9125
Concord, MA 01742
Phone: (978) 405-6677
Fax: (978) 405-6680

Research@massmail.state.ma.us

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trend Period: Second Quarter 2013 through Third Quarter 2015

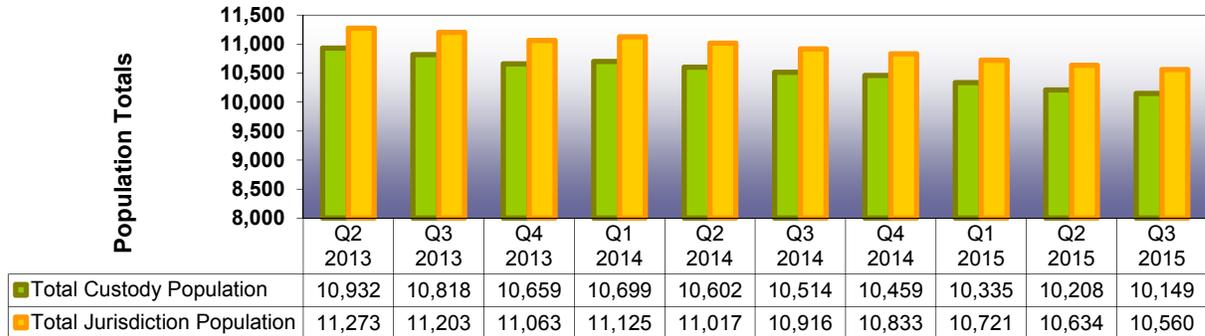
- From the population trend height in the second quarter of 2013, there were eight quarters of decrease with cumulative declines of 7% (783) in the **custody population** and 6.3% (713) in the **jurisdiction population**.
- From the height of the total jurisdiction population in the second quarter of 2013, **criminally sentenced** jurisdiction inmates were down by 6.6%, pre-trial detainees were down 8.4%, and **civil commitments** were up by almost 1% for the observed trend period.
- Following three quarters of decline, the pre-trial population increased by 5.9% during the third quarter of 2015.
- During the ten-quarter trend period, starting in the second quarter of 2013, the **quarterly admissions** averaged 2,569 inmates and the average **quarterly releases** were 2,655 inmates. The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a cumulative decrease of 86 inmates.
- The overall **difference between admissions and releases** over the trend period resulted in **female** inmates decreasing by an average of 5 inmates per quarter, while **male** inmates saw an average decrease of 81 inmates per quarter.
- During the third quarter 2015, criminal release far outpaced admissions resulting in the largest difference (189 inmates) between admissions and releases seen during the trend period. Based on the difference between admissions and releases, **criminally sentenced** inmates saw an average decrease of 82 inmates per quarter.
- During the trend period, **male criminally sentenced** inmates saw a cumulative quarterly difference decrease of 811 inmates, an average difference of 81 inmates per quarter for the trend period. **Female criminally sentenced** inmates had a cumulative quarterly difference decrease of 13 inmates, an average difference of 1 inmate per quarter.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference decrease of 2 inmates during the past ten quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference decrease of 13 inmates over that same period.
- **Pre-trial detainee** admissions averaged 1,152 per quarter and releases averaged 1,155 per quarter. Female detainees averaged slightly few admissions than releases ending the trend with a cumulative decrease of 23 detainees, while males ended the trend with no cumulative change.
- **Male pre-trial detainees** experienced a slight drop in both pre-trial admissions and releases after the fourth quarter 2014. **Female pre-trial** admissions averaged 872 prior to the fourth quarter 2014 and 623 for the remainder of the trend period. Looking at the same period, pre-trial releases went from an average of 869 to 634. This decline occurred as female detainees from Worcester County shifted from the MA DOC to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center.

Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Office of Strategic Planning & Research
Massachusetts Department of Correction

CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

Over the ten-quarter trend period, from the second quarter of 2013 through the third quarter of 2015, there was a downward trend resulting in a cumulative decrease of 783 (7.2%) inmates from the **MA DOC custody population*** and 713 (6.3%) inmates from the **jurisdiction population**†. This corresponded to an average cumulative quarterly loss of 0.9% from the custody population and a loss of 0.8% from the jurisdiction population. The only increase seen during the trend period was during the first quarter of 2014, with an increase of 0.4% of the custody population and an increase of 0.6% of the jurisdiction population. Graph 1.1, below, displays the population numbers over the trend period.

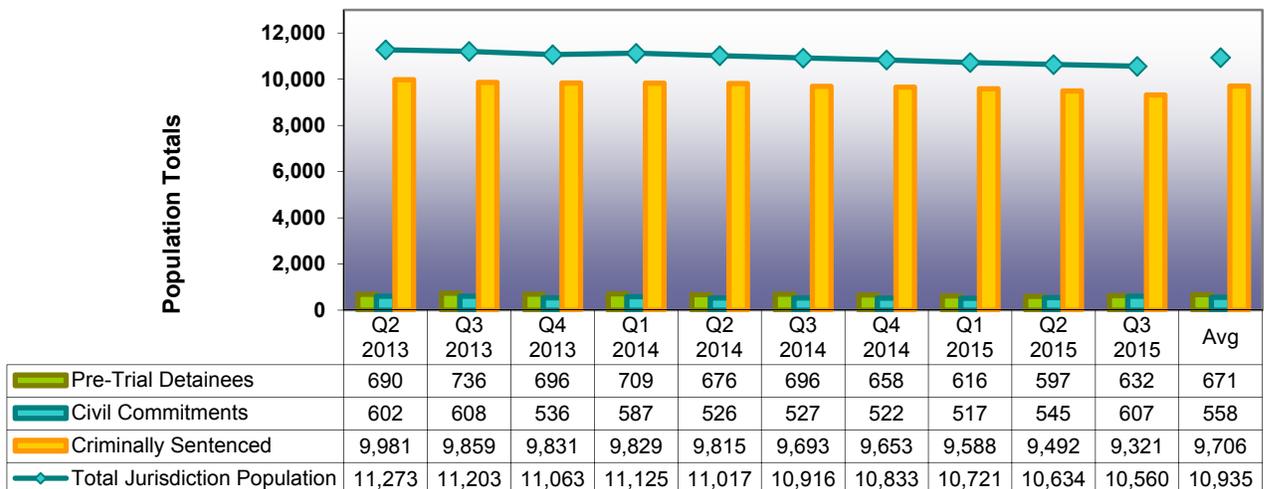
1.1 Average∞ Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population



∞ Each quarter's population is the average of the three months within that quarter.

Graph 1.2, below, shows the breakdown of the quarterly jurisdiction population by commitment type. **Criminally sentenced** inmates over the trend period saw a decline each quarter, with a total decrease in population of 660 (6.6%) inmates. For the same period, **civil commitments** had a rate of decrease until the third quarter of 2015, resulting in an increase of 5 (0.83%) commitments. **Pre-trial detainees** saw an overall decrease over the trend period of 58 (8.4%) detainees, but ended the third quarter of 2015 slightly higher than the previous quarter, increasing by 35, or 5.9%.

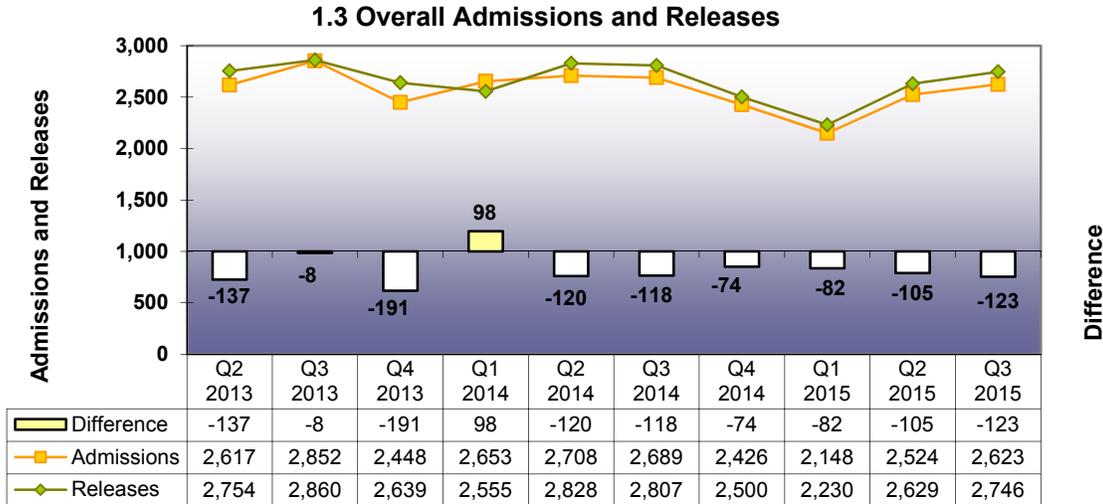
1.2 Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



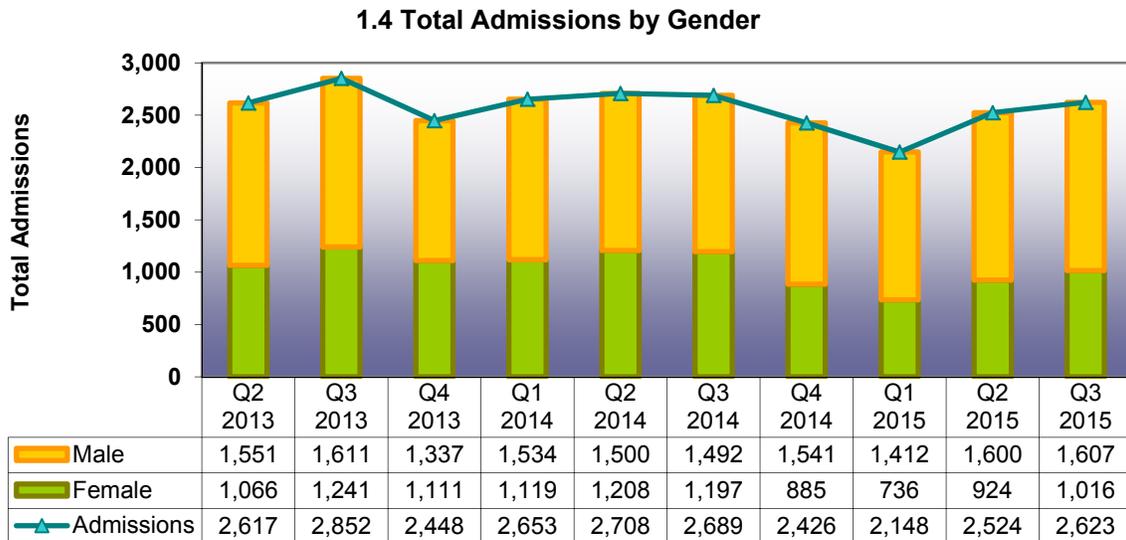
* **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

† **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

Over the past ten quarters, the difference between the MA DOC **admissions**[‡] and **releases**[§] (in Graph 1.3, below) resulted in an average difference decrease of 86 inmates per quarter, with admissions averaging 2,569 inmates per quarter and releases averaging 2,655 inmates per quarter. There is strong seasonality present in the trend, with both admissions and releases tending to rise over each year before seeing a decrease in each fourth quarter; the first quarter of 2015 was a notable exception to this trend.



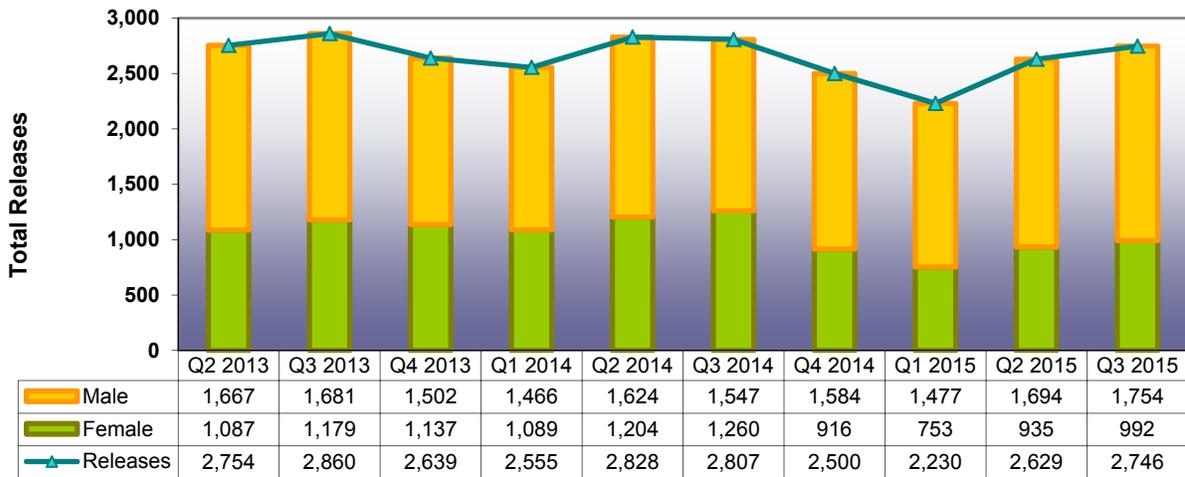
Throughout the trend period, males accounted for 59% of the total admissions (Graph 1.4, below) and 60% of total releases (Graph 1.5, on the next page). For the past four quarters, female inmates saw a gradual increase in the percent of both admissions and releases, until the fourth quarter of 2014 when female admissions decreased by 26.1% and releases decreased by 27.3% as compared to the previous quarter; females reached their lowest levels of the trend period in the first quarter of 2015. Male and female admissions and releases experienced a slight increase in the third quarter of 2015, with male releases reaching a high of 1,756. For male inmates, the difference between admissions and releases had an average decrease of 81 inmates per quarter; for female inmates, the difference resulted in an average decrease of 5 inmates each quarter.



[‡] **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

[§] **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

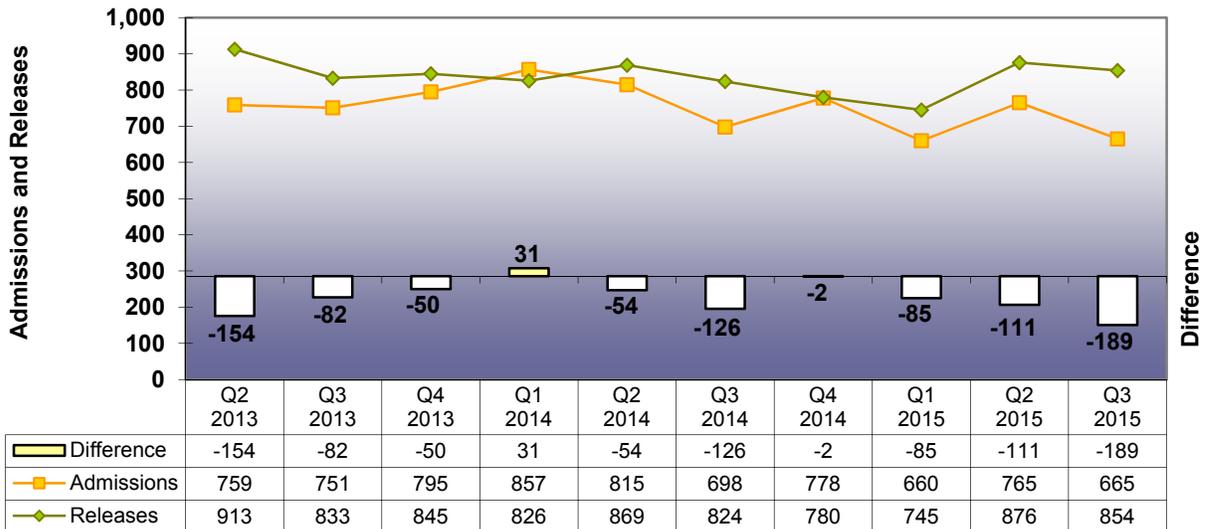
1.5 Total Releases by Gender



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

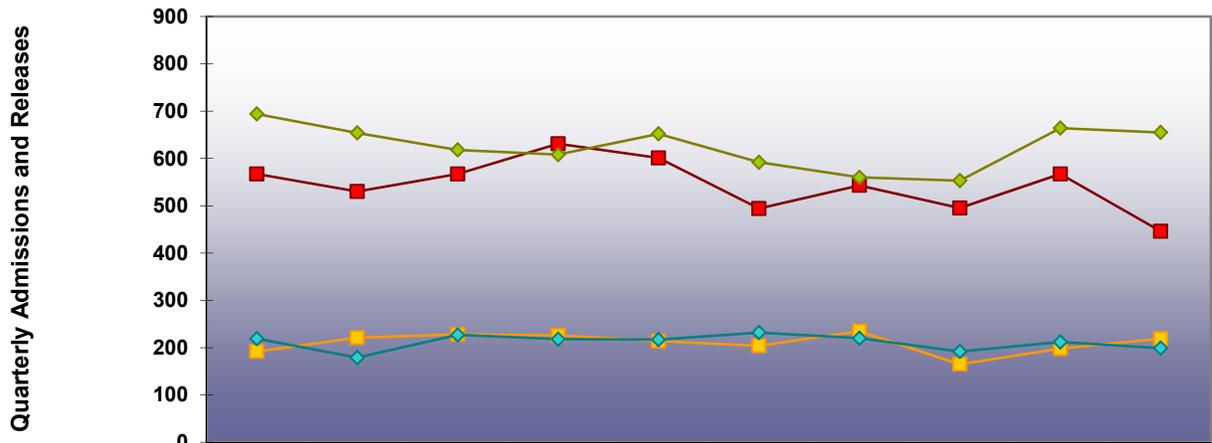
Criminal admissions and releases for the ten-quarter trend period (from the second quarter of 2013 through the third quarter of 2015) are displayed in Graph 2.1, below. Over the trend period, criminal admissions and releases both saw slight negative trends. On average, each quarter saw 754 admissions and 837 releases. Based on the difference between admissions and releases, this resulted in an average decrease of 82 criminally sentenced inmates each quarter. For the third quarter of 2015, there was the largest difference (of 191 inmates) between admissions and releases for the trend period.

2.1 Overall Criminal Admissions and Releases



Graph 2.2, on the next page, shows criminally sentenced jurisdiction admissions and releases by sex. During the ten-quarter trend period, male criminally sentenced inmates saw overall negative trends very similar to the overall criminally sentenced population. This was expected, as male inmates comprised 72.1% of criminal admissions and 74.7% of criminal releases. Over the trend period, female criminally sentenced admissions and releases were generally steady overall.

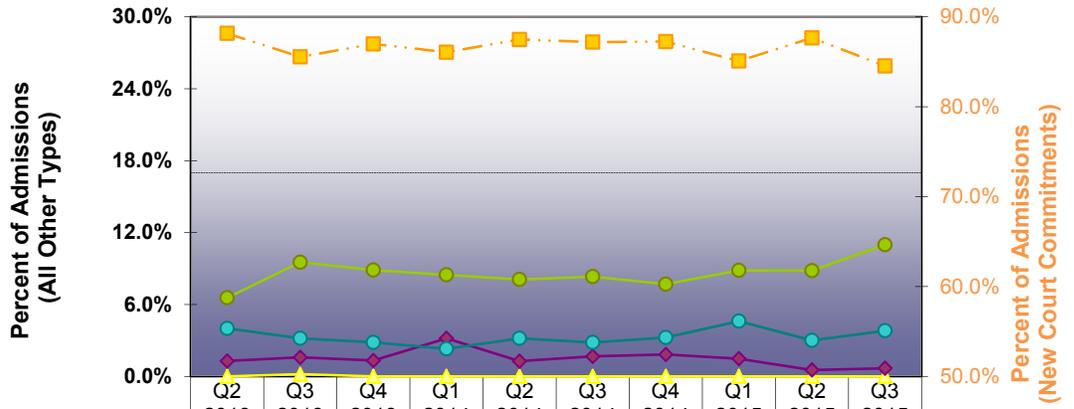
2.2 Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015
Male Admissions	567	530	567	631	601	494	543	495	567	446
Male Releases	694	654	618	608	652	592	560	553	664	655
Female Admissions	192	221	228	226	214	204	235	165	198	219
Female Releases	219	179	227	218	217	232	220	192	212	199

Male criminal admissions by admission type, shown in Graph 2.3, below, are split into two axes, with ‘new court commitments’ represented on the right axis, and all other admission types represented on the left axis. ‘New court commitments’ were the most common type of male admission and accounted for 86.6% of male criminal admissions over the trend. The next two most common types of male admissions, ‘**parole**** violator/detainer’ and ‘transfers’, averaged 8.6% and 3.3%, respectively, of admissions during the trend period.

2.3 Male Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015
Probation Violator	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other*	1.3%	1.6%	1.3%	3.2%	1.3%	1.7%	1.8%	1.5%	0.5%	0.7%
Transfers	4.0%	3.2%	2.8%	2.3%	3.2%	2.8%	3.2%	4.6%	3.0%	3.8%
Parole Violator / In on MA Parole Detainer	6.6%	9.5%	8.9%	8.5%	8.1%	8.3%	7.7%	8.8%	8.8%	11.0%
New Court Commitments	88.2%	85.5%	87.0%	86.1%	87.5%	87.2%	87.2%	85.1%	87.7%	84.5%

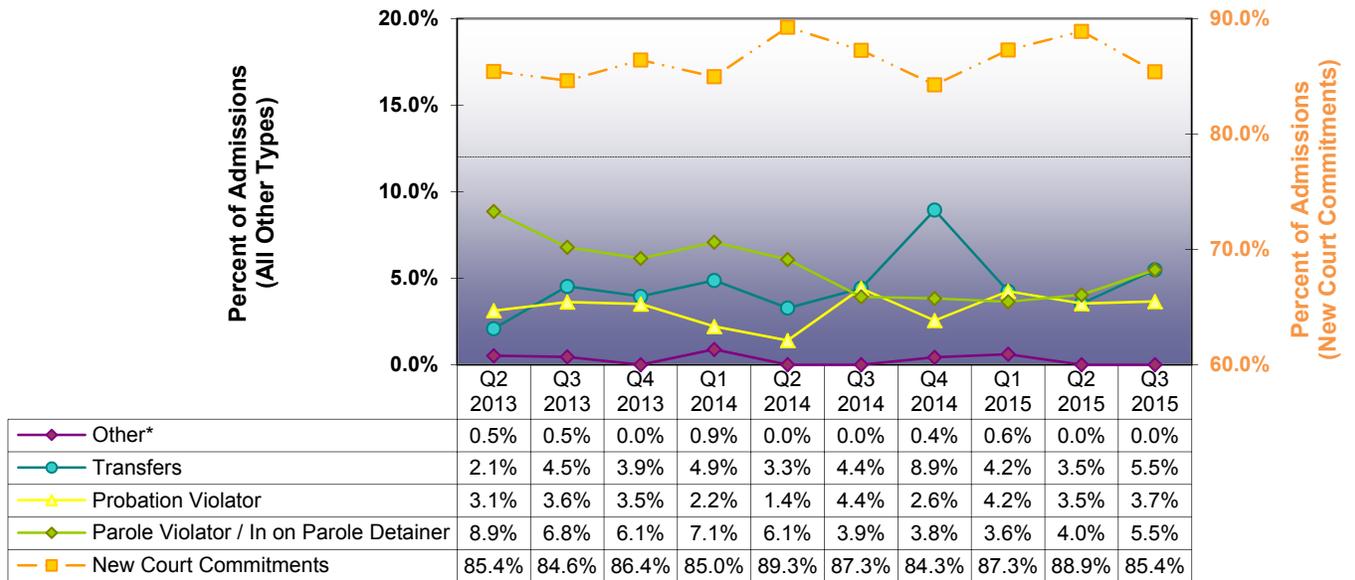
*See Appendix for definition of “Other” under “Admissions”.

** **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

Female criminally sentenced admissions, as seen in Graph 2.4, below, were predominately 'new court commitments', with an average of 86.4% of admissions per quarter; followed by 'parole violator/detainers' and 'transfers', with averages of 5.6% and 4.5%, respectively. Female admissions saw a slight upward trend in 'new court commitments', with 'parole violators / in on parole detainer' showing the strongest decline over the trend period.

During the fourth quarter of 2014, female criminally sentenced 'transfer' admissions saw a peak, with 8.9% of admissions for the quarter – nearly double the average transfer rate. This was due to a one-time intake of county inmates from Barnstable County due to security upgrades at their **House of Correction (HOC)**.^{††} Female new court commitments experienced a decline (of 3.5%) from 88.9% in the second quarter of 2015 to 85.4% for the third quarter of 2015.

2.4 Female Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

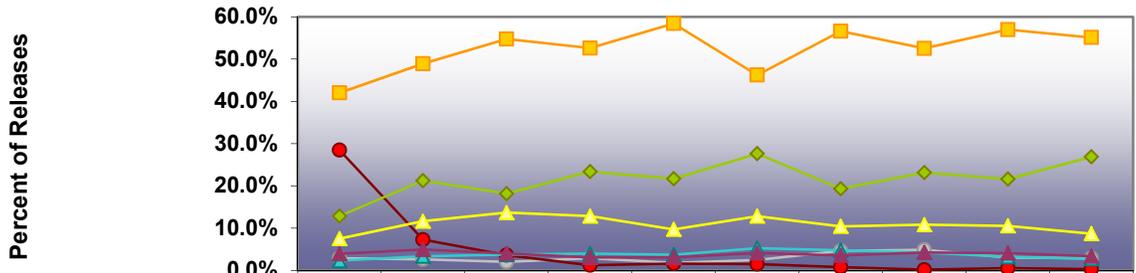
Graph 2.5, on the next page, shows male criminal releases by release type. **Releases to the street^{††}** due to **expiration of sentences^{§§}** was the most common release type, constituting 52.4% of the male releases for the trend period; the second most common release type was 'parole to the street/release from parole detainer', with 21.6% of male criminal releases. Overall, releases to the street due to expiration of sentence and paroles to the street / releases from parole detainers saw upward trends over the ten-quarter period.

^{††} **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

^{‡‡} **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

^{§§} **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

2.5 Male Criminal Releases by Release Type

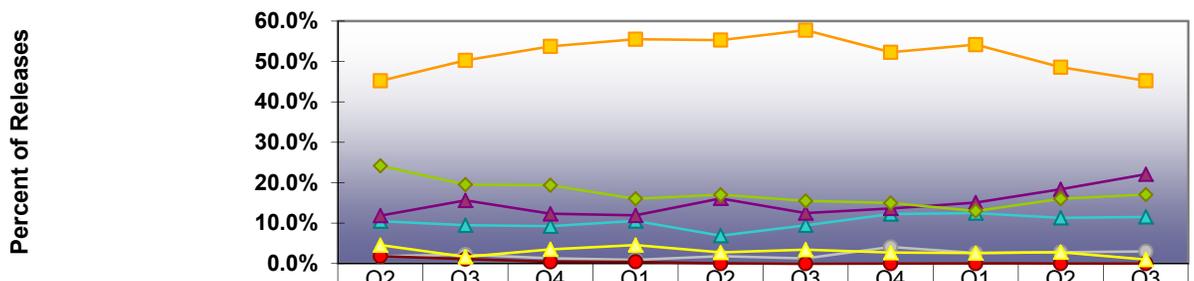


	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015
Other*	2.9%	2.6%	2.0%	2.9%	1.8%	2.5%	4.6%	4.9%	3.0%	2.9%
Crime Lab Release	28.5%	7.3%	3.6%	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	0.8%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	2.3%	3.3%	3.7%	4.0%	3.7%	5.3%	4.8%	4.2%	3.2%	2.7%
Transfers	3.9%	4.9%	4.0%	3.1%	3.1%	4.1%	3.5%	4.2%	4.1%	3.4%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	7.5%	11.6%	13.7%	12.8%	9.7%	12.8%	10.4%	10.8%	10.5%	8.7%
Parole to Street/Release from Parole Detainer	12.8%	21.3%	18.2%	23.4%	21.7%	27.6%	19.3%	23.1%	21.6%	26.9%
Expiration of Sentence to Street	42.0%	48.9%	54.8%	52.6%	58.4%	46.2%	56.6%	52.5%	57.0%	55.1%

*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under Parole (Releases).

As seen in Graph 2.6, below, female criminally sentenced releases were most commonly due to 'expiration of sentence to the street', averaging almost 52% for the trend period. The next two most common release types were 'parole to street/release from parole detainer', averaging 17.3%; 'transfers', averaged 14.8% for the overall trend period. Over the trend period, 'expiration of sentence to the street' saw little change over the trend period, and 'parole to street/release from parole detainer' saw a gradual downward trend.

2.6 Female Criminal Releases by Release Type



	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015
Other*	1.8%	2.2%	1.3%	0.9%	1.8%	1.3%	4.1%	2.6%	2.8%	3.0%
Crime Lab Release	1.8%	1.1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	4.6%	1.7%	3.5%	4.6%	2.8%	3.4%	2.7%	2.6%	2.8%	1.0%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	10.5%	9.5%	9.3%	10.6%	6.9%	9.5%	12.3%	12.5%	11.3%	11.6%
Transfers	11.9%	15.6%	12.3%	11.9%	16.1%	12.5%	13.6%	15.1%	18.4%	22.1%
Parole to Street/Release from Parole Detainer	24.2%	19.6%	19.4%	16.1%	17.1%	15.5%	15.0%	13.0%	16.0%	17.1%
Expiration of Sentence to Street	45.2%	50.3%	53.7%	55.5%	55.3%	57.8%	52.3%	54.2%	48.6%	45.2%

*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under Parole (Releases).

Over the trend period, Suffolk County accounted for 19.3% of the criminal new court commitments, followed by Essex (13.2%), Worcester (12.3%), Middlesex (12.0%), Bristol (11.9%), and Hampden (11.7%). Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Suffolk County were at a low during the third quarter 2015. Table 2.7, below, displays additional information pertaining to criminally sentenced new court commitments by sentencing jurisdiction.

2.7 State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

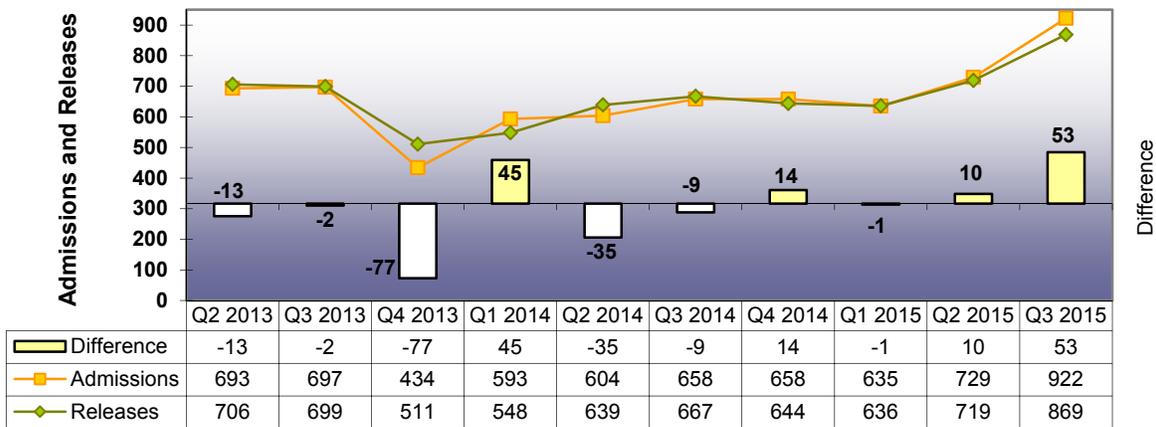
County	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Total
SUFFOLK	119	85	111	114	119	77	103	61	89	50	928
ESSEX	60	56	87	60	74	55	59	62	68	52	633
WORCESTER	71	59	63	56	56	50	52	47	81	55	590
MIDDLESEX	57	61	68	63	70	56	66	42	51	43	577
BRISTOL	57	66	49	61	71	60	63	42	47	55	571
HAMPDEN	49	47	63	63	47	43	40	85	72	52	561
PLYMOUTH	18	18	20	66	41	25	23	46	20	29	306
NORFOLK	23	28	20	25	12	36	32	19	32	18	245
BARNSTABLE	13	21	11	10	13	22	8	14	22	21	155
BERKSHIRE	9	15	6	14	3	15	13	11	13	10	109
FRANKLIN	6	8	3	13	8	3	5	7	6	0	59
HAMPSHIRE	5	6	1	8	5	4	9	7	6	6	57
DUKES	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
NANTUCKET	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total	489	473	502	554	522	446	474	443	507	391	4,801

*Excludes county, federal, and out-of-state inmates.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

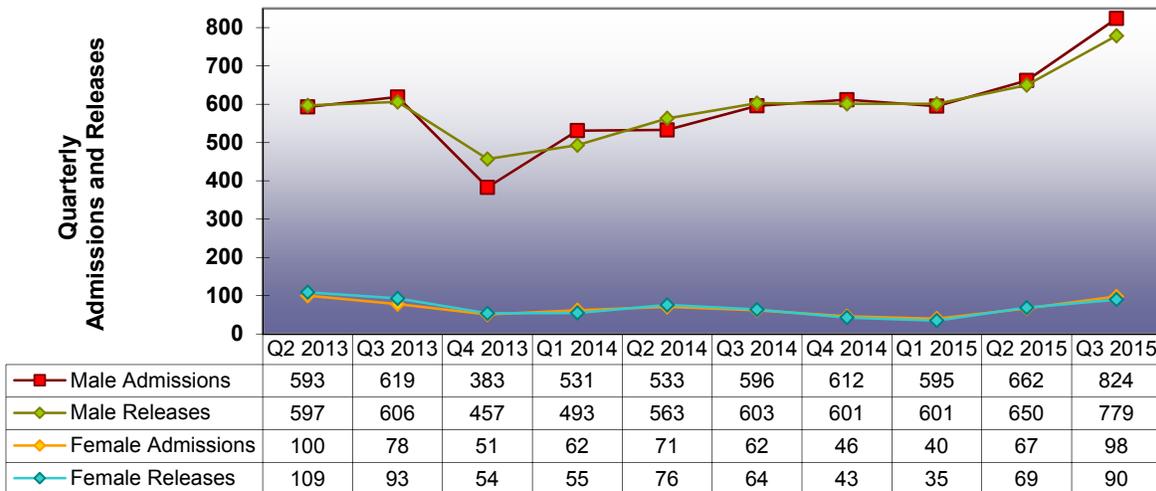
Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly commitments had similar patterns throughout the trend period, as seen in Graph 3.1, below. During the third quarter of 2015, there was a notable increase in both civil admissions and releases, with admissions increasing by 26.5% from the previous quarter and releases increasing by 20.9% since the last quarter. The difference between admissions and releases for the trend period resulted in a cumulative decrease of 2 commitments. Civil admissions for the trend period averaged 662 admissions and 664 releases per quarter.

3.1 Overall Civil Admissions and Releases by Quarter



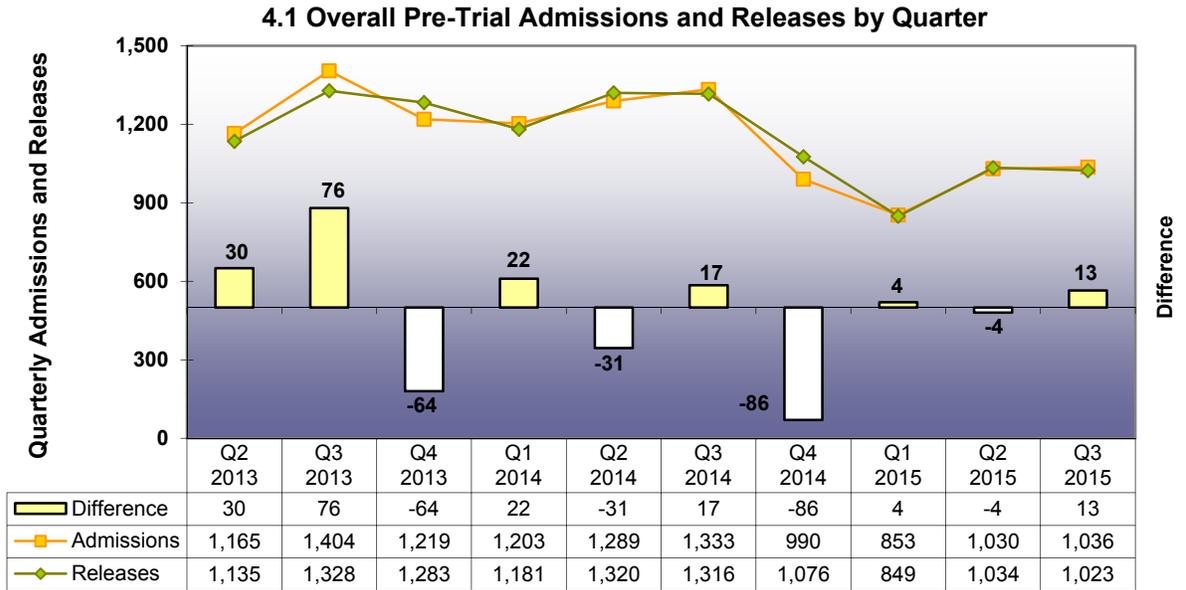
Over the past ten quarters, females made up 10.2% of civil admissions and 9.8% of civil releases with male civil admissions and releases comprised 89.8% and 90.2%, respectively. Male civilly committed admissions and civil releases experienced positive trends over the last ten quarters, with release trends slightly stronger than admissions. By contrast, female civil commitments saw slight negative trends in their admissions and releases for the trend period, despite an increase in numbers in the second and third quarters of 2015. Overall, there was a difference decrease of 13 female civil commitments and a decrease of 2 male civil commitments. Graph 3.2, below, displays the civilly committed admissions and releases by gender for the trend period.

3.2 Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender

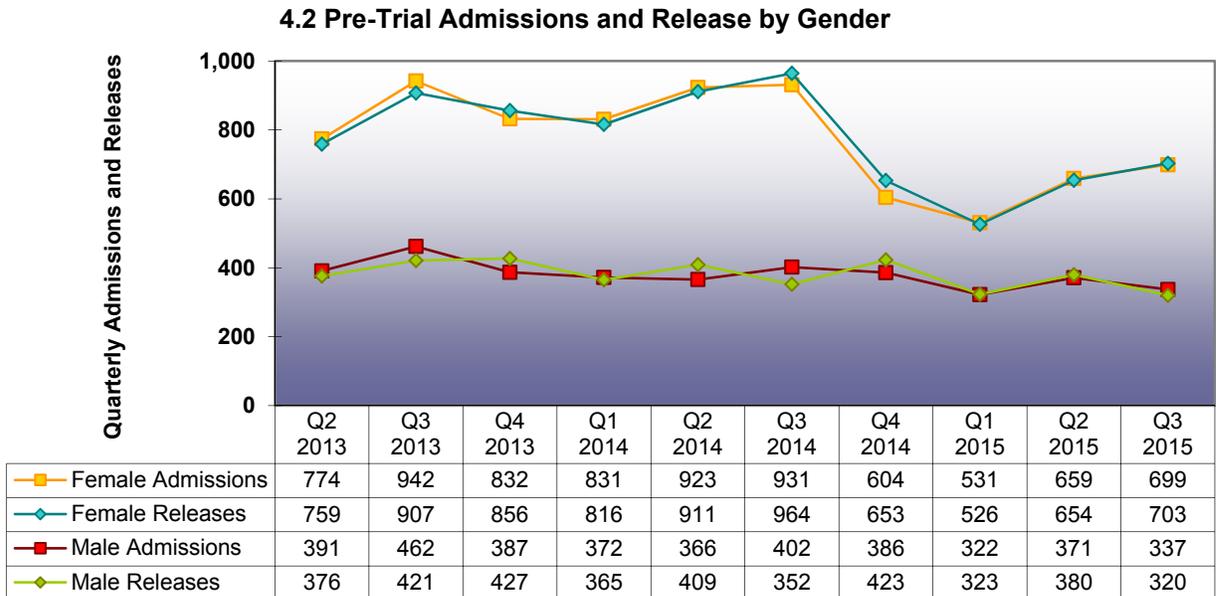


PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases, Graph 4.1, below, both experienced a downward trend for the ten quarter period. Pre-trial admissions averaged 1,152 detainees per quarter and releases averaged 1,155 detainees, with an average decrease of 2 pre-trial detainees for the trend period. The fourth quarter of 2014 saw a notable drop in pre-trial inmates, most notably as Worcester County shifted its county, pre-trial females to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women’s Correctional Center in Hampden County.



As seen in Graph 4.2, below, female pre-trial detainees mirrored the overall pre-trial trends, as they were the majority of pre-trial admissions and releases. Female detainees had an overall downward trend, with slight increases in the second and third quarters of 2015. Overall, females had cumulative difference decrease of 2 detainees; males saw no change for the trend period.



Over the trend period, Table 4.3, below, the majority of male pre-trial admissions came from the counties of Suffolk, with 54.9% of admissions, and Middlesex, with 31.8% of admissions. Suffolk County experienced a decrease between the second and third quarters of 2015 by 11.6%; on the other hand, Middlesex County experienced an increase by 8.3% between these two quarters. Male pre-trial admissions saw little overall change during the observed trend period.

4.3 Male Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Total
Suffolk	230	249	193	217	197	216	213	167	202	181	2,065
Middlesex	101	150	130	106	130	130	129	100	111	121	1,208
Out-of-State	19	20	18	18	14	13	16	19	18	5	160
Worcester	11	9	17	13	12	11	5	10	8	7	103
Plymouth	9	13	14	7	3	10	9	10	10	6	91
Federal	6	9	5	6	0	9	4	1	16	2	58
Bristol	8	4	2	1	2	6	3	7	1	4	38
Norfolk	3	3	5	1	4	3	2	5	3	2	31
Essex	3	2	2	2	1	3	5	1	2	5	26
Barnstable	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	3	11
Hampden	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mass Parole	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dukes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	391	462	387	372	366	402	386	322	371	337	3,796

As seen in Table 4.4, below, 98.5% of female pre-trials came predominately from the counties of Essex (29.8%), Middlesex (23.9%), Worcester (15.8%), Plymouth (14.8%), or Norfolk (14.2%). Over the trend period, most of the counties tended to be fairly steady. The most notable trend change was in Worcester County, which saw a significant drop during the fourth quarter of 2014, from 187 admissions to 3 admissions, due to the aforementioned shift of those Worcester pre-trials to Hampden County.

4.4 Female Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Total
Essex	209	245	244	249	259	263	188	188	214	247	2,306
Middlesex	173	219	184	151	201	217	175	148	185	193	1,846
Worcester	189	216	196	201	221	187	3	1	3	3	1,220
Plymouth	97	127	105	93	117	136	115	102	134	115	1,141
Norfolk	99	124	97	127	114	118	113	79	103	126	1,100
Suffolk	1	0	1	2	5	4	4	5	9	0	31
Federal	2	2	1	3	3	4	2	4	4	13	38
Out-of-State	1	5	2	2	1	0	3	3	1	0	18
Bristol	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	9
Hampden	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	7
Mass Parole	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4
Barnstable	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Franklin	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	774	942	832	831	923	931	604	531	659	699	7,726

Appendix

Notes and Definitions

Note: This report examines admission and release trends over the past ten quarters for the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC). Unless otherwise stated, all trends in this report refer to the MA DOC jurisdiction population.

Note: Admission and Release data for this report was gathered in November of 2015. Numbers in this report may vary slightly from numbers in other reports due to the continuous updating of data and information in the Inmate Management System.

Admissions	Inmates or detainees committed to a MA DOC facility as a “new court commitment”, “parole violator”, “transfer”, “probation violator”, “pre-trial detainee”, a “civil commitment” or other admission through legal means. “Other” admissions include: “Re-admit from Court Release” and “Return from Escape”.
Civil Commitment or “Civil”	The involuntary commitment of an individual via legal means to incarcerate an individual against their will.
Criminally Sentenced	An individual who has been found guilty of a criminal offense through legal means, and is required to be incarcerated.
Custody Population	An individual is considered to be in Massachusetts DOC custody when they are being held in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
Expiration of Sentence (Release)	An inmate is discharged from his sentence at the expiration of his term, less any statutory or earned good time. Statutory good time was eliminated for all offenses committed after June 30, 1994, due to the enactment of the “Truth in Sentencing” law.
HOC	House of Correction, i.e. county jail.
Jurisdiction Population	An individual is considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual regardless of where the inmate is being held to include those incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facilities as well as those housed in correctional facilities outside of the Massachusetts DOC (Massachusetts Houses of Correction, other state’s correctional facilities and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).
MA DOC	Massachusetts Department of Correction, i.e. state prison.
Parole (Releases)	Inmates released on parole are under the supervision of parole while in the community and may be re-incarcerated for violating the terms of their supervision. Unless otherwise specified, parole to other authority may include: “Parole to Out of State Sentence”, “Parole to Federal Authority”, “Parole to Immigration”, “Parole to From & After HOC Sentence”, “Parole to Warrant”, “Parole to From & After DOC Sentence”, or “Parole to Civil Commitment”. “Other” releases include: “HABEAS to Court – Received Forthwith Sentence”, “Escape”, “Death”, “Court Release – Sentence Revoked”, “Release to From and After at DOC”, and “Release from Weekend Sentence”.

Pre-Trial Detainee

An individual who is detained prior to trial, but not yet convicted of a crime to include male and female county detainees, male county detainees transferred to state facilities under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 276, section 52A, and federal detainees (both male and female).

Releases

A release occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of expiration of sentence, parole, a non-DOC release to other jurisdiction, a court release or other legal release from the custody of MA DOC.

Releases to the Street

A release to street occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of parole or discharge to the street. Conditions warranting a release to street include: Parole, Good Conduct Discharge (GCD), Expiration of Sentence, and court release.