

# **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

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

**Third Quarter 2013**





## **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor

### **Executive Office of Public Safety and Security**

Andrea Cabral, Secretary

Sandra M. McCroom, Undersecretary of Criminal Justice

### **Massachusetts Department of Correction**

Luis S. Spencer, Commissioner

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

### **Author: Research & Planning Division**

Prepared by: Daniel Feagans, Research Analyst

### **Acknowledgements**

Special recognition to: Hollie Matthews, Deputy Director of Research and Planning; Nick Cannata, Research Analyst II; and Melanie Arenson, Research and Planning Co-op

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  
(978) 405-6677  
Research@doc.state.ma.us

**This and other Massachusetts Department of Correction publications can be accessed on the internet under the Research & Statistics tab at:**

<http://www.mass.gov/doc>

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	.....	p.2
<b>Section 1. Current Population and Overall Trends</b>		
1.1	Custody and Jurisdiction Population.....	p.3
1.2	Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type.....	p.3
1.3	Overall Admission and Releases.....	p.4
1.4	Admissions by Gender.....	p.4
1.5	Releases by Gender .....	p.5
<b>Section 2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases</b>		
2.1	Overall Criminal Admissions and Releases.....	p.5
2.2	Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender .....	p.6
2.3	Male Criminal Admissions by Admission Code .....	p.6
2.4	Female Criminal Admissions by Admission Code .....	p.7
2.5	Male Criminal Releases by Release Code .....	p.7
2.6	Female Criminal Releases by Release Code .....	p.8
2.7	State Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction..	p.8
<b>Section 3. Civilly Committed Admissions and Releases</b>		
3.1	Overall Civil Admissions and Releases .....	p.9
3.2	Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender.....	p.9
<b>Section 4. Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases</b>		
4.1	Overall Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases .....	p.10
4.2	Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases by Gender.....	p.10
4.3	Male Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction.....	p.11
4.4	Female Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction.....	p.11
<b>Appendix</b>	.....	p.12

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Trend Period: Third Quarter, 2011, through Third Quarter, 2013

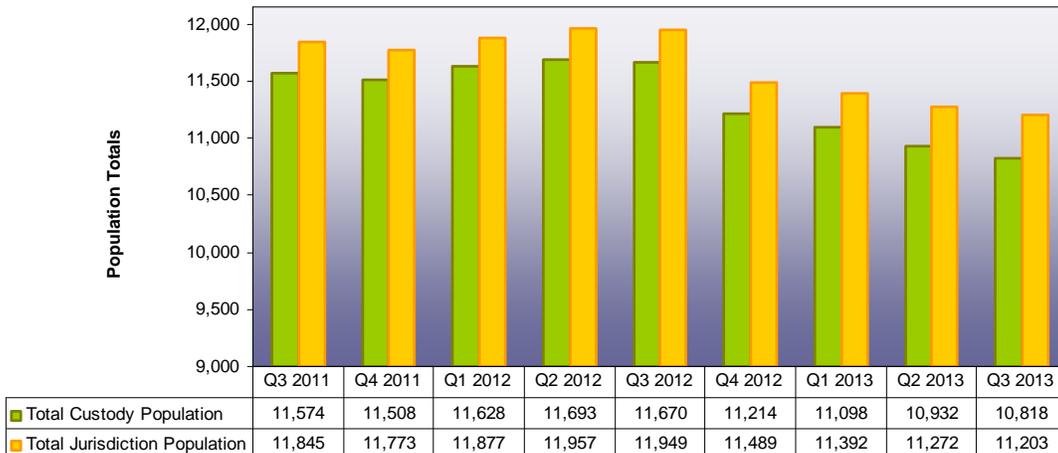
- The third quarter of 2013 saw a continuation of the decrease in MA DOC population begun in the third quarter, 2012.
- Based on quarterly averages for the nine quarters of the trend period, 88.7% of the **MA DOC jurisdiction populations** were criminally sentenced, 5.4% were civil commitments, and 5.9% were pre-trial detainees.
- During the trend period the **cumulative total admissions** were 23,570 and the **cumulative total releases** were 24,177, with the cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulting in a decrease of 607 inmates. The third quarter average population of 11,203 was the lowest of the trend period.
- Male inmates made up 59.9% of the total admissions and 60.4% of the total releases during the trend period.
- The overall difference between admissions and releases over the trend period resulted in female inmates decreasing by 50, while male inmates saw a decrease of 555 inmates.
- Based on the difference between admissions and releases, **criminally sentenced inmates** saw a cumulative decrease of 725 inmates. The fourth quarter of 2012 had the largest impact on this with a decrease of 333 inmates.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 45 inmates during the past nine quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 5 inmates.
- **Pre-trial detainees** saw increased numbers in both admissions and releases during the trend period resulting in a cumulative increase of 170 pre-trial inmates. More than half, 55.1%, of male pre-trials came from Suffolk County.

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

## CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

The MA DOC populations, both jurisdiction and custody, saw a fifth straight period of decline during the third quarter of 2013. Prior to third quarter, 2012, there was a general increase in population. The fourth quarter of 2012 saw a large drop in population - mostly due to implementation of the Crime Bill and issues regarding accuracy of testing at the Hinton Drug Lab. The continued drop throughout 2013 is in large part due to continued effects from the Crime Bill changes.

### 1.1 Average\* Quarterly Custody<sup>1</sup> and Jurisdiction<sup>2</sup> Population



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

The third quarter of 2013 saw a normal seasonal trend. Compared to the preceding quarter, there was an increase in civil commitments (1.0%), an increase in pre-trial detainees (6.7%), and a decrease in the criminally-sentenced population (-1.2%). It should be noted that all of these changes in population were to a lesser extent than other third quarters during the trend period.

### 1.2 Average Quarterly Population by Commitment Type

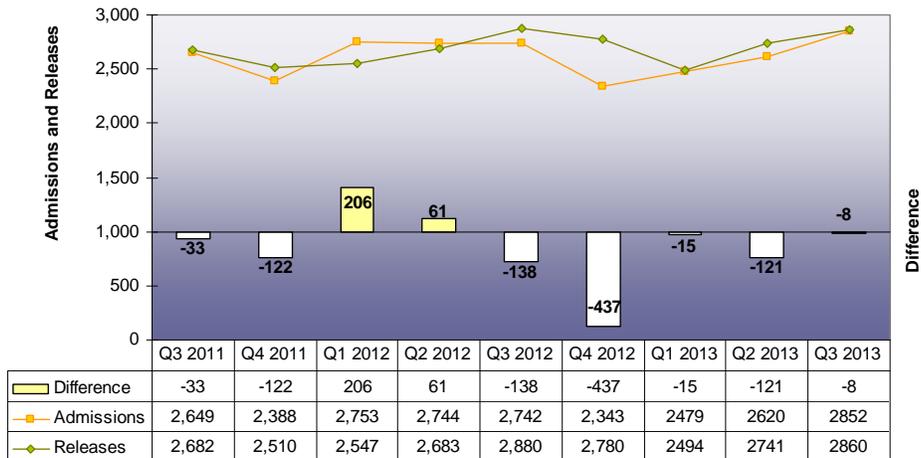


<sup>1</sup>Total MA DOC custody population includes criminally sentenced inmates, pre-trial detainees, and civil commitments in MA DOC facilities, excluding MA DOC inmates housed in other jurisdictions (i.e., County, Federal, or Out-of-state inmates).

<sup>2</sup>Total MA DOC jurisdiction population includes criminally sentenced inmates, pre-trial detainees, and civil commitments in MA DOC facilities and MA DOC inmates housed in county facilities, other state facilities, and federal facilities.

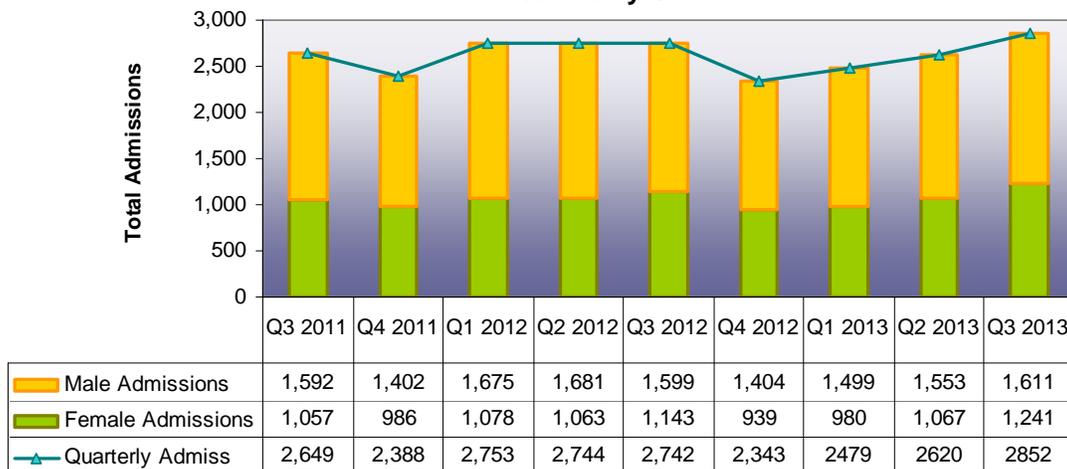
Over the past nine quarters the difference in the MA DOC population admissions and releases resulted in an **average decrease of 67** inmates per quarter. Similarly, the cumulative difference over the trend period showed a **decrease of 607** inmates; driven mostly by the second half of 2012. It should be noted that, during the third quarter 2013, we experience the highest number of admissions of the trend period, with releases slightly outpacing admissions. The jump in admissions was driven largely by pre-trial admissions which also experienced it highest numbers during the third quarter.

### 1.3 Overall Admissions and Releases

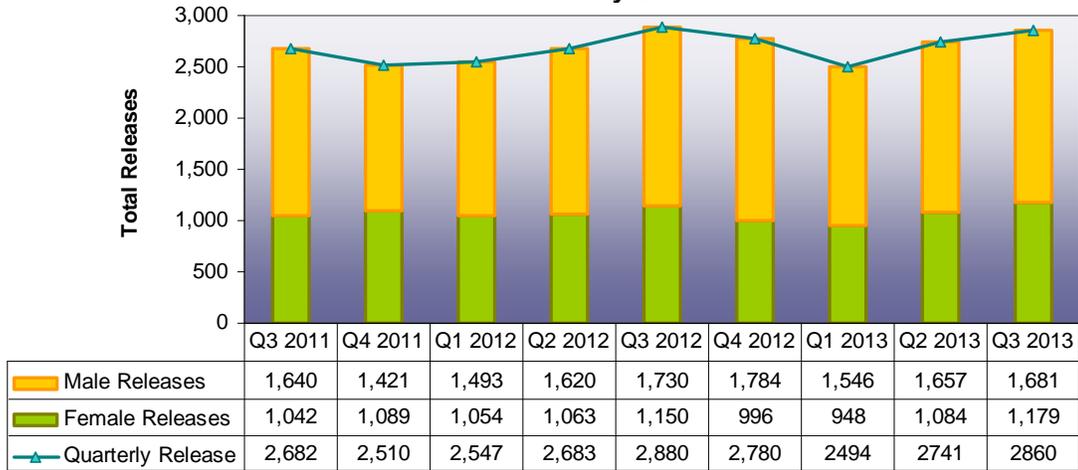


Throughout the trend period males made up the majority of the total admissions and release population with 59.9% of admissions and 60.4% of releases. For male inmates the difference between admissions and releases averaged a decrease of 62 inmates per quarter, with an associated, cumulative decrease of 556 inmates. Female inmates averaged a decrease of six inmates each quarter throughout the period, with a cumulative decrease of 51 inmates. Admissions for both males and females showed their third straight quarter of increase, up 8.9% from last quarter. Releases saw their second consecutive increase, up 4.3% from last quarter.

### 1.4 Total Admissions by Gender



### 1.5 Total Releases by Gender

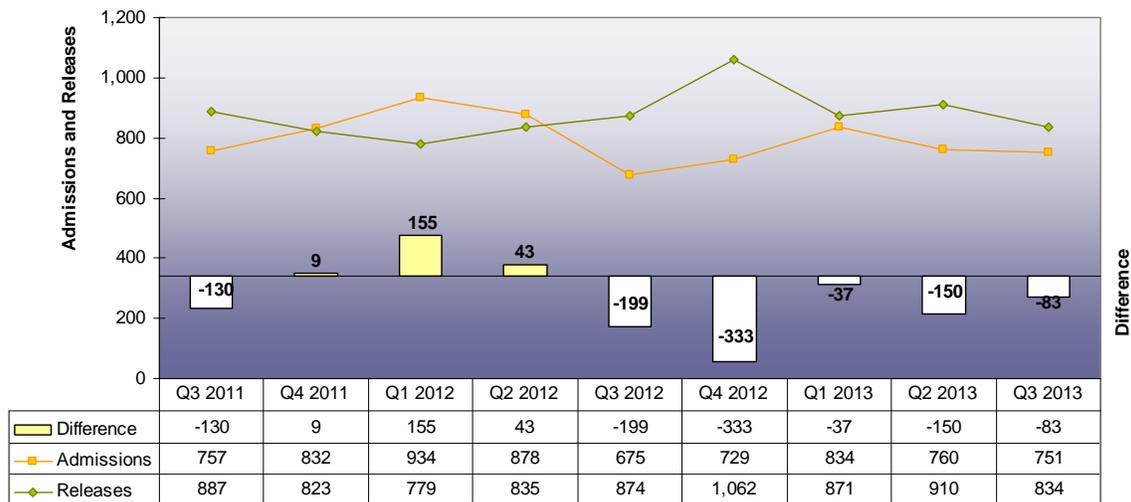


### CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

The nine quarter period, from third quarter 2011 through third quarter 2013, displayed an overall negative trend for admissions and an overall positive trend for releases. Also, during this trend period the difference between admissions and releases showed a negative slope; averaging a decrease of 81 inmates each quarter, with an overall negative change of 725 criminally sentenced inmates.

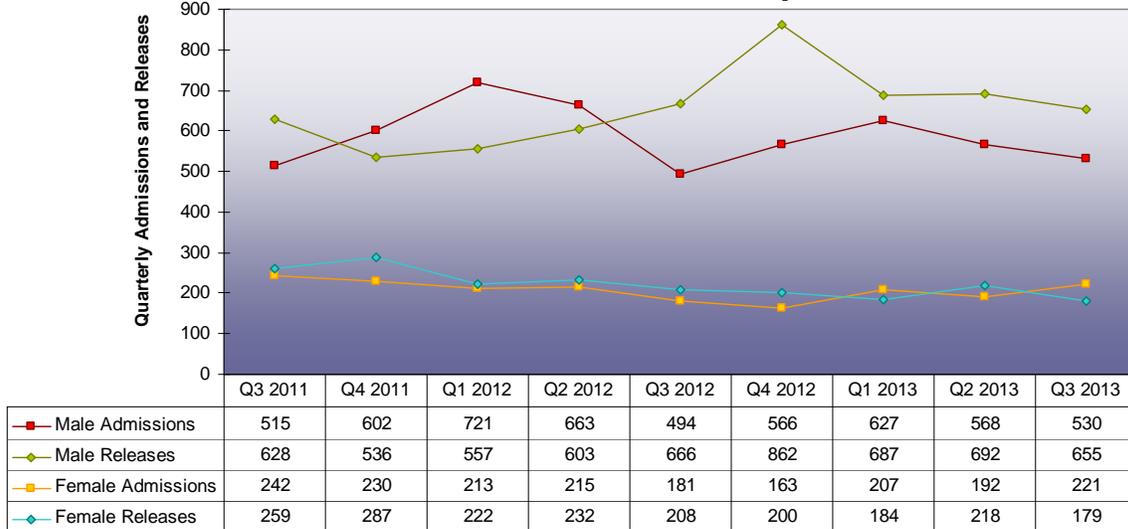
Comparison of average admissions and releases between the first three quarters of 2013 and the first three quarters of 2012 showed opposite trends: The first three quarters of 2012 showed an average admission decrease of 5.6% and an average release increase of 2.2%; whereas, for 2013, there was an average admission increase of 1.4% and an average release decrease of 7.3%.

### 2.1 Overall Criminal Admissions and Releases



During the nine quarter trend period male criminally sentenced inmates followed trends very similar to the overall criminally sentenced population. This was expected due to males comprising 73.9% of criminal admissions and 74.7% of criminal releases. During this period female criminally sentenced admissions and releases both showed negative trends, with releases trending much stronger due to increased admissions numbers during 2013.

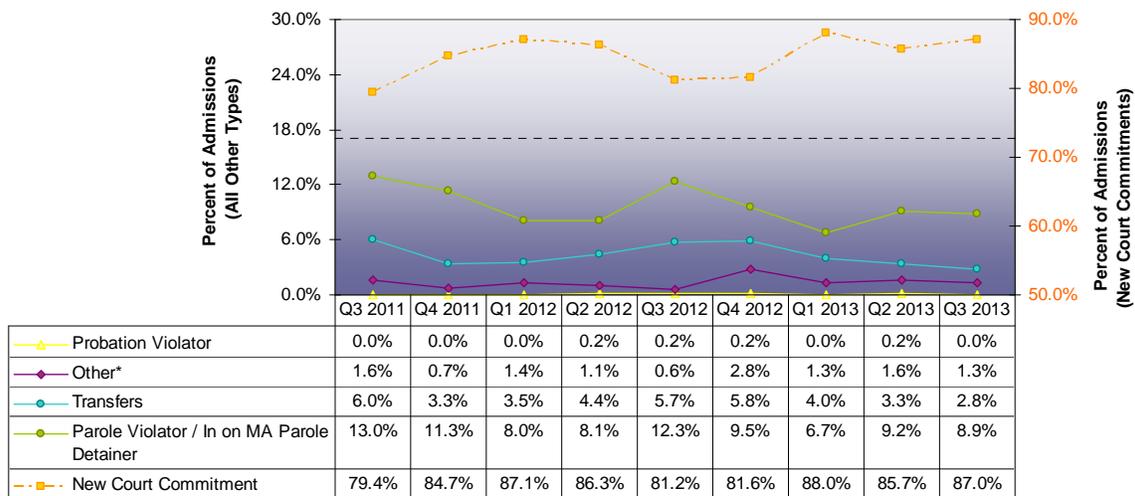
### 2.2 Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



Male criminal admissions by admission code, Table 2.3, are split into two axes, with 'New Court Commitments' represented on the right axis and all other admission codes represented on the left axis. New court commitments were the most common type of male admission and averaged 84.6% each quarter during the trend period. The next two most common types of male admissions, 'Parole Violator/In on MA Parole Detainer' and 'Transfers', averaged 9.7% and 4.3% of admissions during the trend period, respectively.

The third quarter of 2013, saw an increase in new court commitments over the second quarter 2013 balanced by decreases in the rates for the other admission categories.

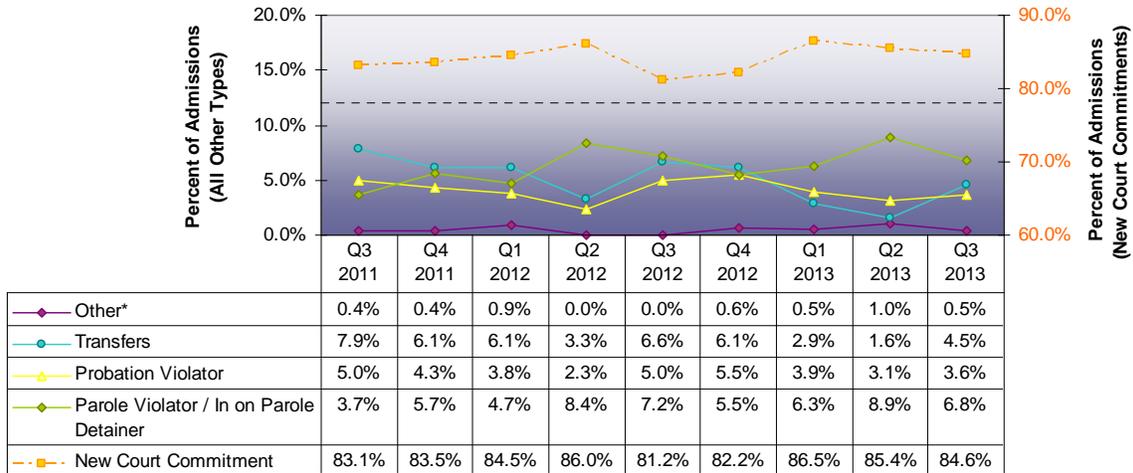
### 2.3 Male Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



\*See Appendix for definition of Other

Female criminally sentenced admissions for the trend period were predominately new court commitments, with an average of 84.1%, followed by 'Parole Violator/In on Parole Detainer' and 'Transfers', with respective averages of 6.3% and 5.0%. The thirds quarter of 2013 saw the highest percent of admissions by transfer thus far in 2013, but this is a seasonal trend and was to be expected.

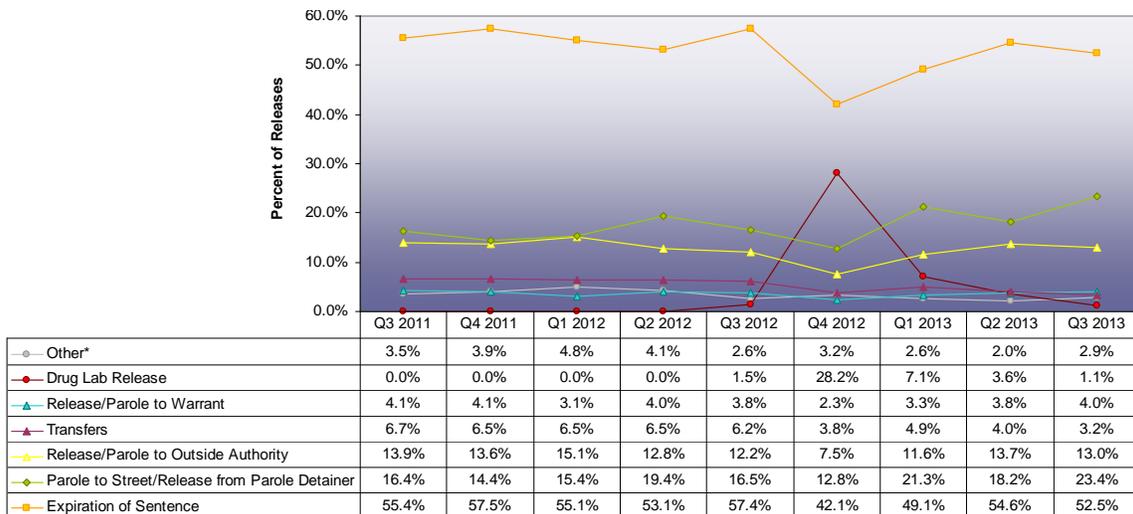
### 2.4 Female Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



\*See Appendix for definition of Other

During the first five quarters of the trend period the male criminal release type rates were steady, with the most variable release type being 'paroles to the street/ release from parole detainer'. Fourth quarter of 2012 saw a marked change, mostly attributable to the Hinton Drug Lab situation, and contributing to a notable drop in expirations of sentence. The first three quarters of 2013 saw a general return to release rates similar to those at the beginning of the trend period. One noted departure was paroles to the street/release from parole detainer which was at a high for this trend period, but followed a slow, upward trend which began during the middle of 2011.

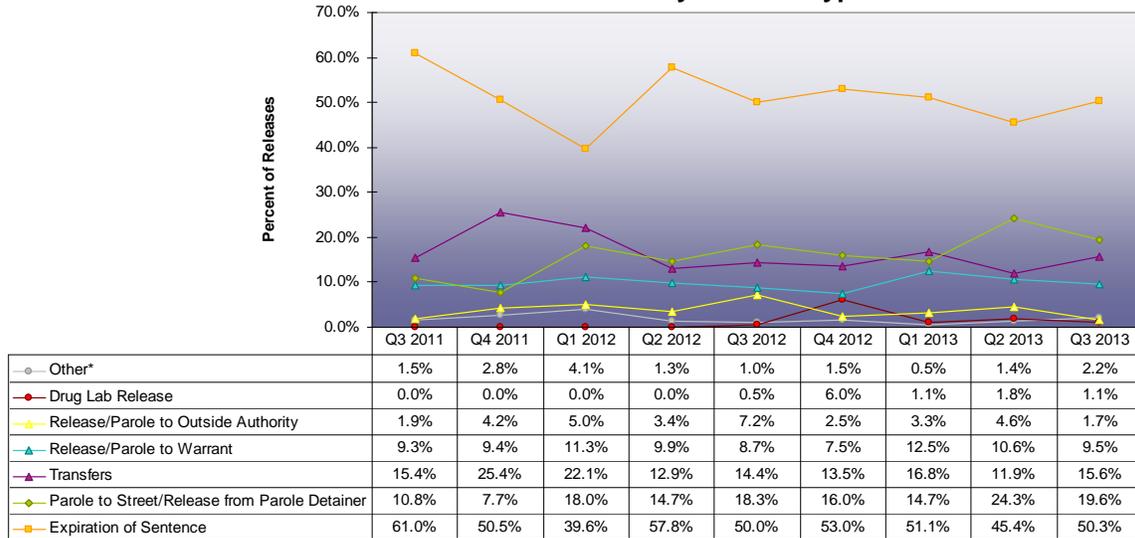
### 2.5 Male Criminal Releases by Release Type



\*See Appendix for definition of Other

Female criminally sentenced releases for the trend period were due mostly to expiration of sentence, averaging 51.0%. The second most common release type was transfers to outside entities, averaging 16.5%. This release type mostly ran counter to expirations of sentence during this trend period. Notably, from fourth quarter 2011 through first quarter 2012, 51 County sentenced female inmates in DOC custody were transferred to a regional correctional center in Hampden County. Similar to males, the female rate of paroles rose during 2013, although the third quarter did see a lesser rate than the second.

**2.6 Female Criminal Releases by Release Type**



\*See Appendix for definition of Other

On average Suffolk County accounted for 19.5% of the new court commitments followed by, Essex (13.2%), Middlesex (12.6%), Bristol (12.5%), Hampden (11.9%), and Worcester (11.9%).

**2.7 State\* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction**

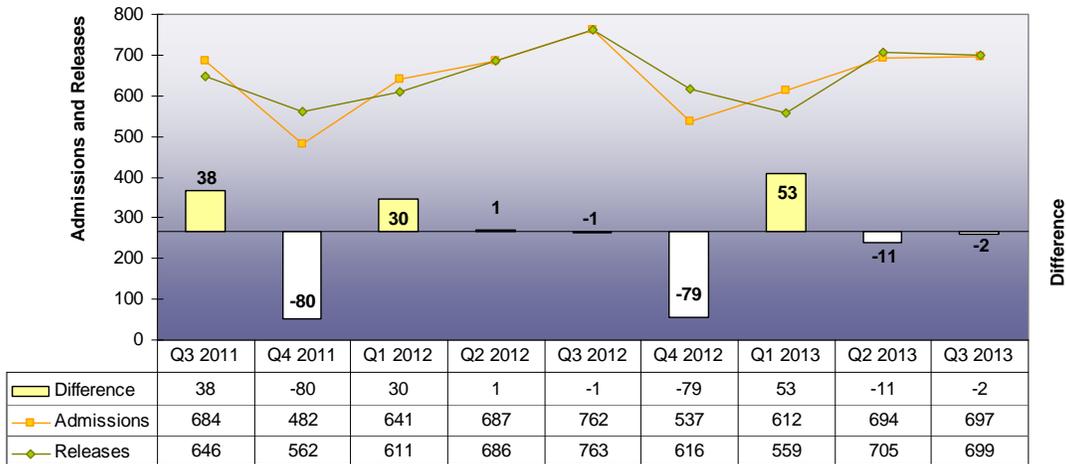
	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Tot
Suffolk	99	97	108	119	76	83	95	119	85	881
Essex	61	83	67	92	52	52	75	61	56	599
Middlesex	50	80	96	59	53	53	62	57	61	571
Bristol	41	57	61	89	56	73	66	57	66	566
Hampden	37	69	92	61	55	67	63	49	47	540
Worcester	40	58	62	66	39	78	65	71	59	538
Plymouth	21	25	58	21	15	19	60	18	18	255
Norfolk	17	32	35	24	11	15	30	23	28	215
Barnstable	17	6	14	5	17	9	17	13	21	119
Berkshire	12	6	20	7	9	9	17	9	15	104
Franklin	3	3	10	16	6	2	11	6	8	65
Hampshire	8	4	8	5	7	9	5	5	6	57
Dukes	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	1	1	9
Nantucket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
	406	520	631	566	396	473	567	490	473	4522

\*excludes county and out-of-state inmates

### CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

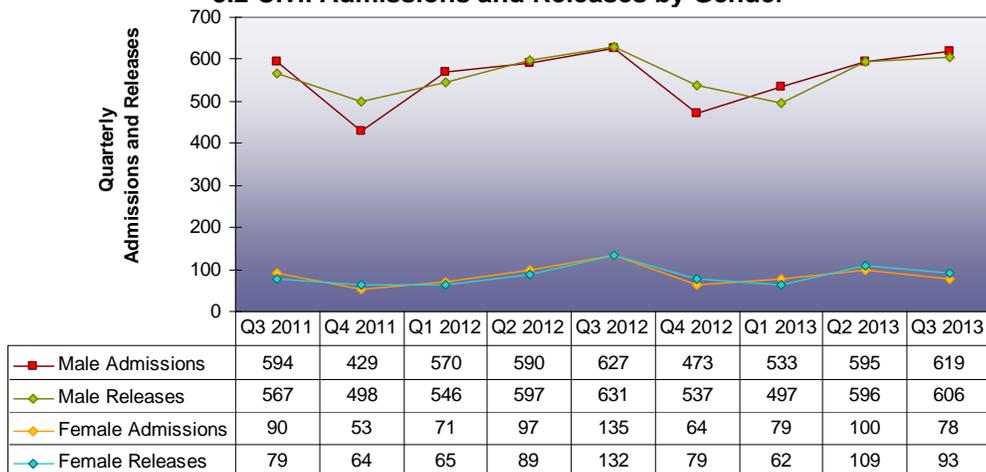
Quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates both had similar patterns throughout the trend period. A seasonal trend may be seen with a gradual rise in both admissions and releases over each year with a drop in both trends during each fourth quarter; of interest was a deviation from this trend during the third quarter of 2013 as both admissions and releases stayed relatively steady. Overall, both admissions and releases showed positive trends with civil admissions averaging 644 inmates each quarter and releases averaging 650. During the trend period there was a cumulative decrease of 51 inmates due to the difference between admissions and releases.

#### 3.1 Overall Civil Admissions and Releases by Quarter



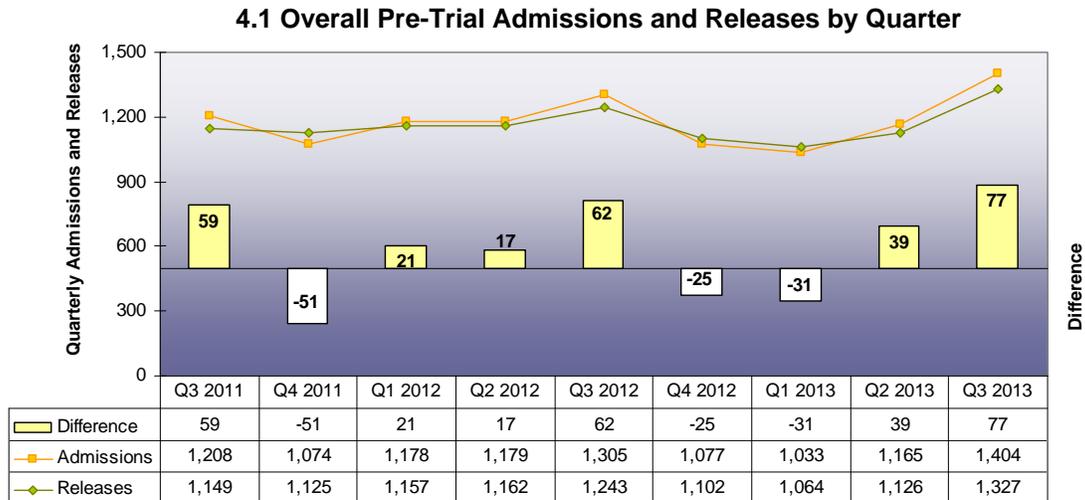
Over the past nine quarters female inmates made up 13.1% of civil admissions and 13.0% of civil releases. Both males and females had general increases in admissions and releases during the trend period. However both females and male saw an overall decrease: by 5 civil commitments for females and by 45 civil commitments for males.

#### 3.2 Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender



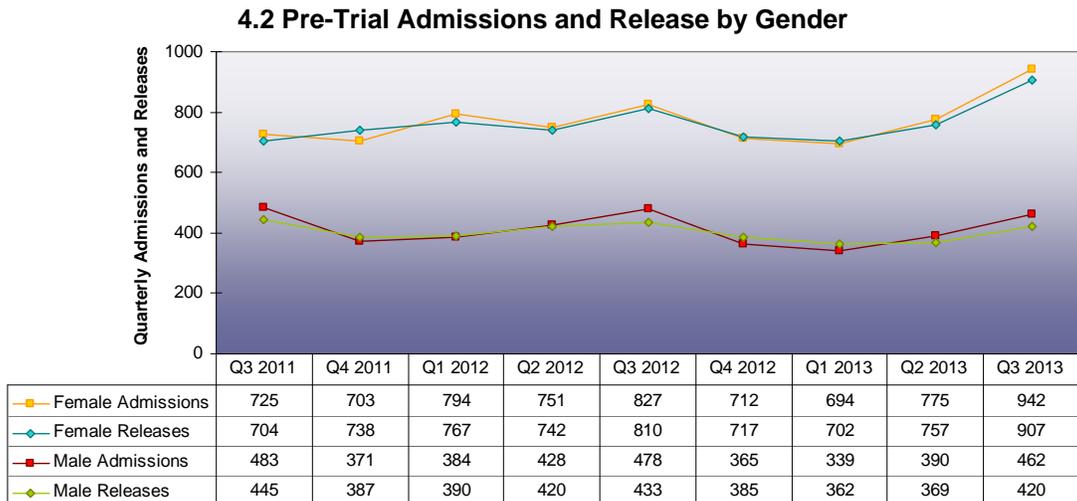
## PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases remained mostly even throughout the trend period, although both admissions and releases displaying slight positive trends. Pre-trial admissions averaged 1,180 per quarter, releases averaged 1,162 per quarter, and there was a cumulative increase of 168 pre-trial detainees over the trend period.



Over the trend period, female pre-trial detainees had a more variable trend than male detainees; with slightly positive trend lines for both admissions and releases. Male pre-trial detainees, in contrast, saw overall negative trends in both admissions and releases. Overall, females had a cumulative increase of 79 detainees and males had an increase 89.

The second and third quarters of 2013 have seen relatively steep increases for all four trend lines, male and females for both admissions and releases



For the trend period the majority of male pre-trial admissions came from the counties of Suffolk and Middlesex; the rate for these two counties averaged 55.1% and 29.4%, respectively. There were some notable points within the data: Suffolk had its lowest pre-trial admissions during fourth quarter 2012 - the only quarter where it made up less than half of all pre-trial admissions, at 46.3%. During the third quarter of 2013, Suffolk County had its second lowest pre-trial admission rate for the trend period at 53.9%. Middlesex saw the opposite trend during the third quarter, 2013, with its second highest pre-trial admissions rate at 32.5% for that quarter.

**4.3 Male Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction**

	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Total
Suffolk	272	208	215	236	266	169	197	230	249	2042
Middlesex	133	109	111	124	118	141	104	101	150	1091
Out-of-State	25	20	19	22	20	25	15	23	20	189
Worcester	16	13	18	19	17	9	9	11	9	121
Federal	18	3	2	15	40	10	5	6	9	108
Plymouth	7	4	7	9	5	6	4	9	13	64
Bristol	2	5	4	1	5	1	2	8	4	32
Norfolk	8	5	3	1	3	0	0	3	3	26
Essex	2	2	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	20
Barnstable	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	8
Hampden	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Berkshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	483	371	384	428	478	365	339	395	462	3705

For the trend period, 99.2% of female pre-trials came from the counties of Essex, Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk, or Plymouth; with 27.0% coming from Essex, 23.3% coming from Worcester, and 21.6% coming from Middlesex. Over most of the trend period the rate of female pre-trials for each of these counties tended to increase.

**4.4 Female Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction**

	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Total
Essex	188	198	209	204	236	201	180	209	245	1870
Worcester	169	152	213	169	193	161	155	189	216	1617
Middlesex	147	179	155	167	152	143	161	173	219	1496
Norfolk	123	99	116	109	123	110	90	99	124	993
Plymouth	86	72	93	98	118	94	104	97	127	889
Bristol	2	2	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	13
Suffolk	6	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	10
Federal	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	10
Out-of-State	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	5	11
Barnstable	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	5
Hampden	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	5
Mass Parole	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Berkshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	725	703	794	751	827	712	694	775	942	6923

## **Appendix Notes and Definitions**

Note: This report examines admission and release trends over the past nine 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 July of 2013. 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

<b>Admissions</b>	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”.
<b>Pre-Trial Detainee</b>	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).
<b>Civil Commitment or “Civil”</b>	The involuntary commitment of an individual via legal means to incarcerate an individual against their will.
<b>Criminally Sentenced</b>	An individual who has been found guilty of a criminal offense through legal means, and is required to be incarcerated.
<b>Custody Population</b>	An individual is considered to be in Massachusetts DOC custody when they are being held in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Expiration of Sentence (Release)</b>	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.
<b>HOC</b>	House of Correction, i.e. county jail.
<b>Jurisdiction Population</b>	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).
<b>MA DOC</b>	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".

**Probation**

Probation is a court-ordered sanction placed on a person convicted of a crime. The offender is allowed to remain in the community under the strict supervision of a probation officer.

**Release to 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.

**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.

**Drug Lab Releases**

Issues regarding accuracy of testing at the Hinton Drug Lab resulted in several hundred releases "from court", primarily during the months of September-November, 2012.