

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

First Quarter 2016





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trend Period: Fourth Quarter 2013 through First Quarter 2016

- The jurisdiction and custody populations experienced their most drastic reduction between the third and fourth quarters of 2015. This decline was driven by a decrease in the pre-trial population attributed to the Middlesex County 52A court order^{*} being vacated and Suffolk County ceasing the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody.
- From the population trend height in the first quarter of 2014, there were eight quarters of decrease with cumulative declines of 10.8% (1,159) in the **custody population** and 9.9% (1,098) in the **jurisdiction population**.
- In the first quarter of 2016, active **pre-trial detainees** were at their lowest population of the trend, averaging 333, down 376 (53%) from the pre-trial detainee height in the first quarter of 2014 which had an average pre-trial detainee population of 709. In contrast, the **civil population** matched the high for the trend in the first quarter 2016, with 607 inmates.
- **Criminally sentenced** offenders declined each quarter of the trend period, ending the first quarter of 2016 with 9,087 inmates, a decrease of 7.6% compared to the fourth quarter 2013.
- During the ten-quarter trend period, starting in the fourth quarter of 2013, the **quarterly admissions** averaged 2,523 inmates and the **quarterly releases** averaged 2,643 inmates, an average quarterly decrease of 121 per quarter. The cumulative difference between admissions and releases over the ten quarter period resulted in a decrease of 1,205 inmates.
- The overall difference between **admissions and releases** over the trend period resulted in **female** inmates decreasing by 18 inmates per quarter, while **male** inmates saw an average decrease of 103 inmates per quarter.
- The number of **criminally sentenced** admissions and releases the first quarter of 2016, were very similar, resulting in a small decrease in the criminally sentenced population (n = 27). Based on the difference between admissions and releases over the trend, **criminally sentenced** inmates saw an average decrease of 80 inmates per quarter; the third and fourth quarters of 2015 had the largest impact on this trend with decreases of 189, and 186, respectively.
- During the trend period, the difference between **male criminally sentenced** admissions and releases resulted in male inmates seeing a cumulative difference decrease of 742 inmates, **Female criminally sentenced** inmates had a cumulative difference decrease of 57 inmates.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference increase of 32 inmates during the past ten quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference decrease of 1 inmate over that same period.
- During the fourth quarter 2015, **male pre-trial detainee** admissions experienced a drastic decline, due to the aforementioned 52A court order, decreasing by 43% compared to the previous quarter. During the fourth quarter 2104, **female pre-trial detainees** experienced a sharp decline due to the shift of female pre-trial detainees from the MA DOC to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center.

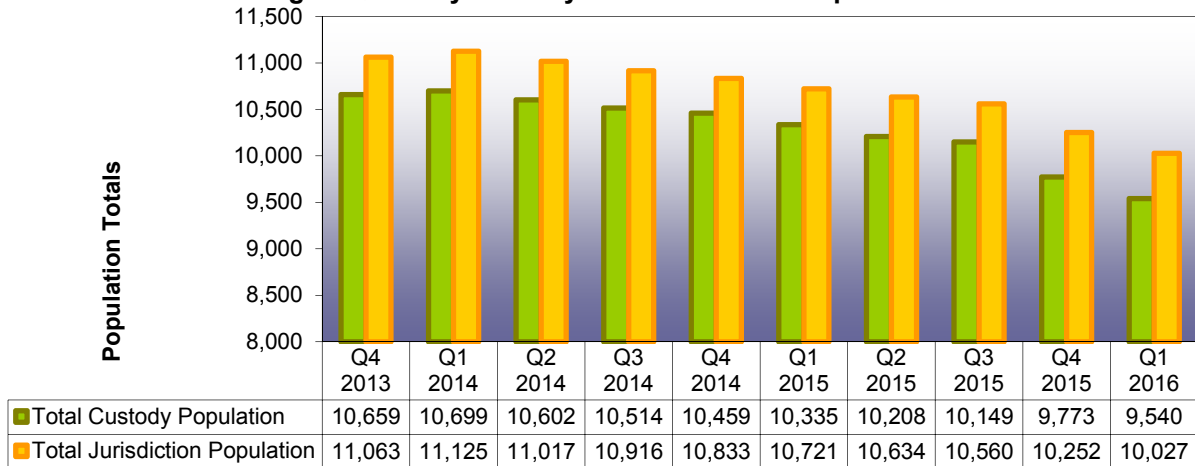
Rhiana Kohl, Ph.D.
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Office of Strategic Planning & Research
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^{*} Pre-trial detainees could be sent directly to the MA DOC to be held awaiting trial if criteria of the 52A court order was met.

CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

The graph below depicts the continued downward trend over the ten-quarter period, from the fourth quarter of 2013 through the first quarter of 2016 (Graph 1.1.) During this period there was a cumulative decrease of 1,119 (10.5%) inmates from the **MA DOC custody population**[†] and 1,036 (9.4%) inmates from the **jurisdiction population**. This corresponded to an average cumulative quarterly loss of 1.2% from the custody population and 1.1% from the jurisdiction population. Between the third and fourth quarters in 2015, the custody population decreased by 3.7%, the largest decrease experienced during the trend.

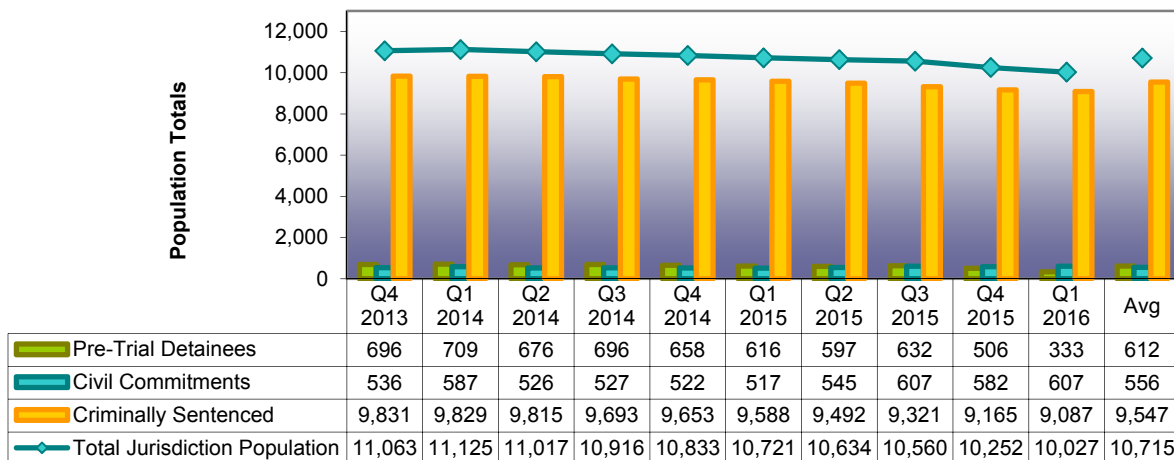
1.1 Average[∞] Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population



[∞] Each quarter's population is the average of the last day of the month count for the three months within that quarter.

Graph 1.2, displays the breakdown of the quarterly jurisdiction population by commitment type, showing **pre-trial detainees** experiencing the most drastic change, decreasing of 53% since the height during the first quarter of 2014. **Criminally sentenced** inmates saw a steady downward trend, declining each quarter with a total decrease in population of 744 (7.6%) inmates. For the same period, **civil commitments** had a more variable trend, averaging 556 inmates. The average number of **pre-trial detainees** during the first quarter 2016 (n = 333), was 34% less than the previous quarter (n = 506).

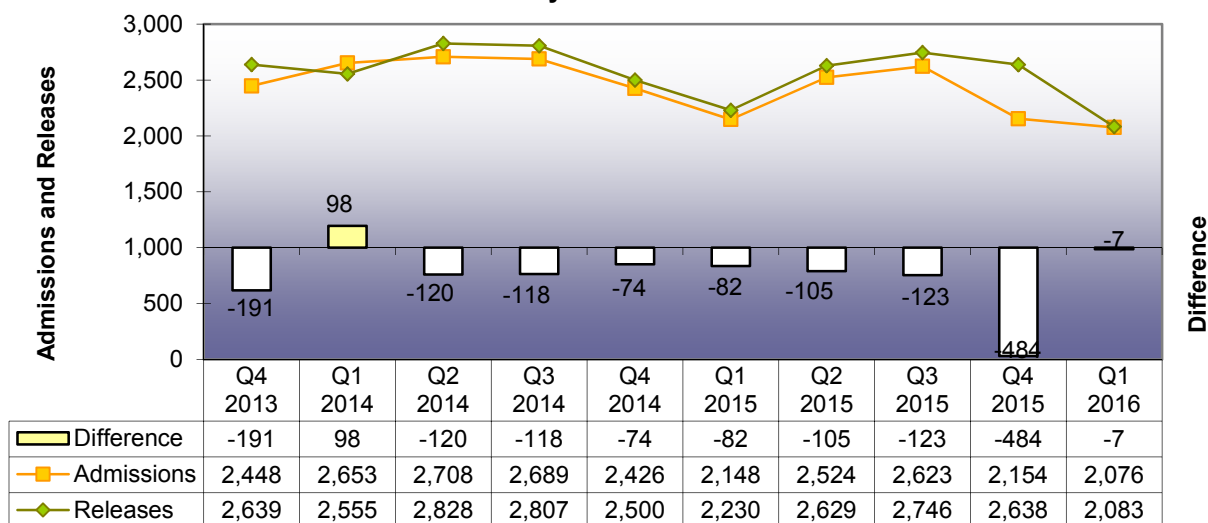
1.2 Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



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

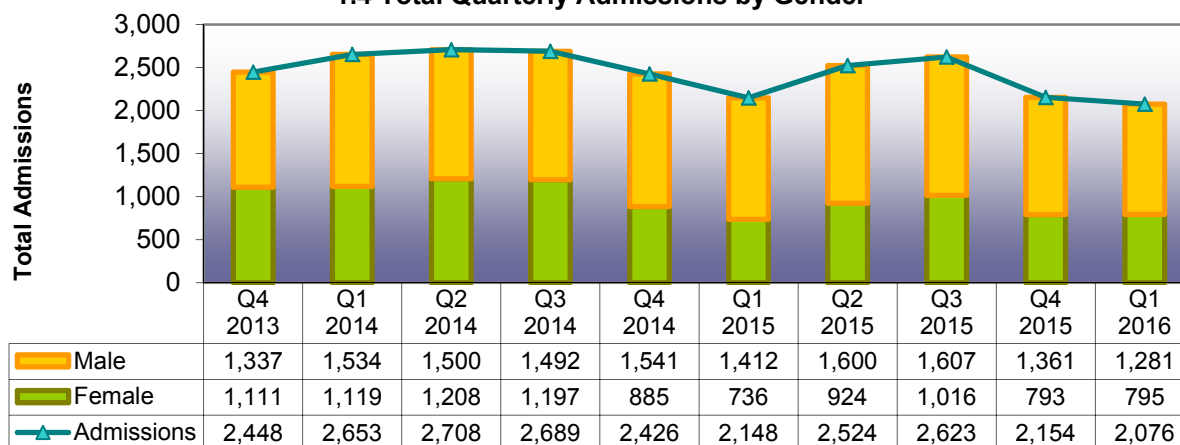
Over the past ten quarters (Graph 1.3), with the exception of the first quarter 2014, releases have outpaced admissions resulting in the number of inmates decreasing each quarter. The difference between the MA DOC **admissions**[‡] and **releases** resulted in an average difference decrease of 121 inmates per quarter, with admissions averaging 2,445 inmates per quarter and releases averaging 2,566 inmates per quarter. The fourth quarter 2015 experienced the largest difference between admissions and releases, resulting in a decrease of 484 inmates. Both admissions and releases experienced negative trends over the ten quarter period.

1.3 Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases



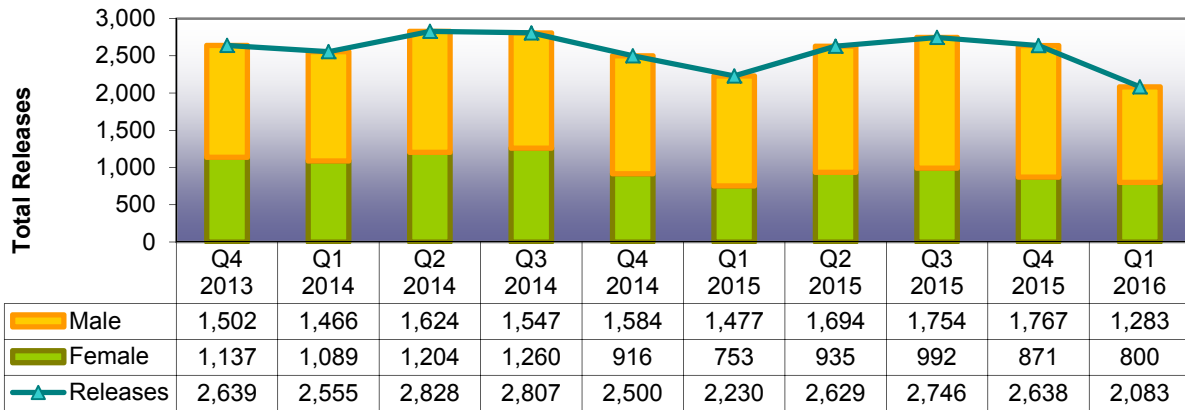
Throughout the trend, males accounted for 60% of the total admission (Graph 1.4, below) and 61% of total releases (Graph 1.5, on the next page). Prior to the fourth quarter 2014, females accounted for 44% of admissions and 43% of release. Since the fourth quarter of 2014, females made up 37% of admissions and 36% of releases. This change was marked by a 26.1% decrease in admissions and a 27.3% decrease in releases for females the fourth quarter 2014, compared to the previous quarter. Male admissions and releases reached their lowest levels of the trend period in the first quarter of 2016; male releases (table 1.5) in the first quarter 2016 decreased by 27% compared to the fourth quarter 2015 which had 1,767 releases, a high for the trend. The difference between admissions and releases resulted in an average decrease of 103 male inmates per quarter; and an average decrease of 18 female inmates each quarter.

1.4 Total Quarterly Admissions by Gender



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

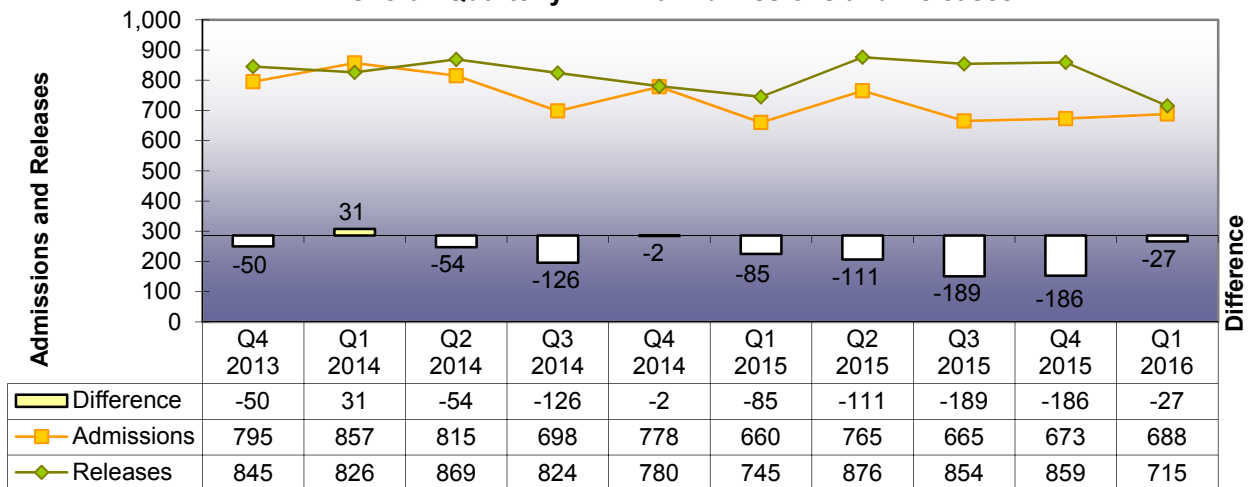
1.5 Total Quarterly Releases by Gender



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

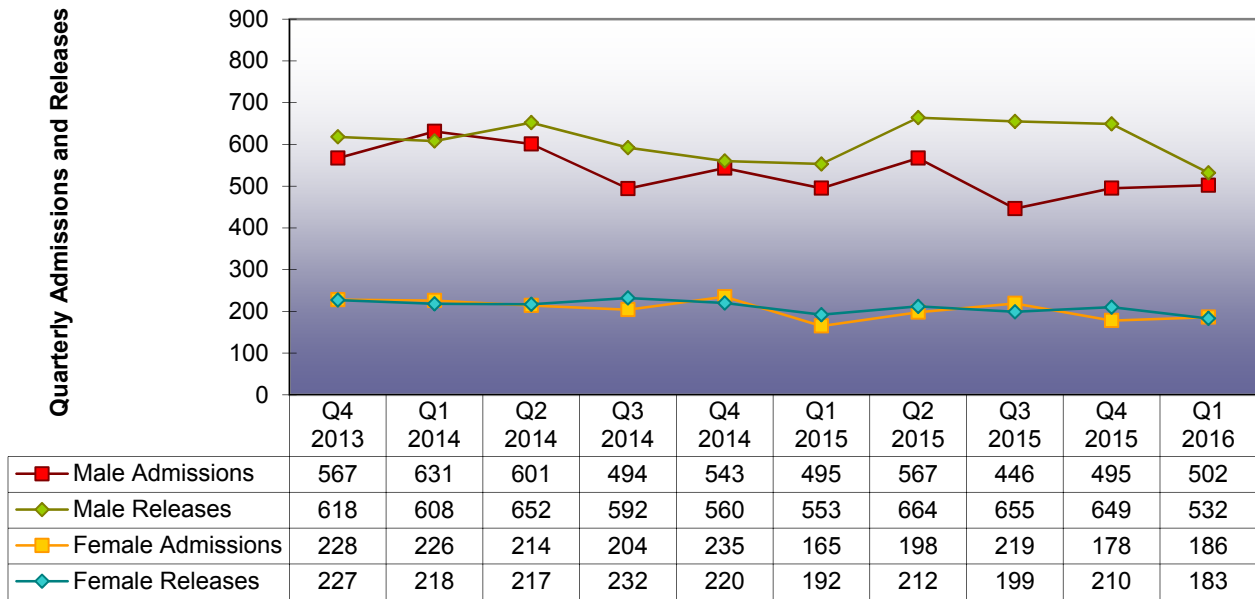
Criminal admissions and releases for the ten-quarter trend period (from the fourth quarter of 2013 through the first quarter of 2016) are displayed in Graph 2.1, below. Over the trend period, criminal admissions saw an overall negative trend, while releases, after experiencing a downward trend the first seven quarters, increased the second quarter 2015, remaining fairly consistent through the fourth quarter, then dipped again the first quarter 2016. On average, each quarter saw 739 admissions and 819 releases. Based on the difference between admissions and releases, there was an average decrease of 80 criminally sentenced inmates each quarter.

2.1 Overall Quarterly Criminal Admissions and Releases



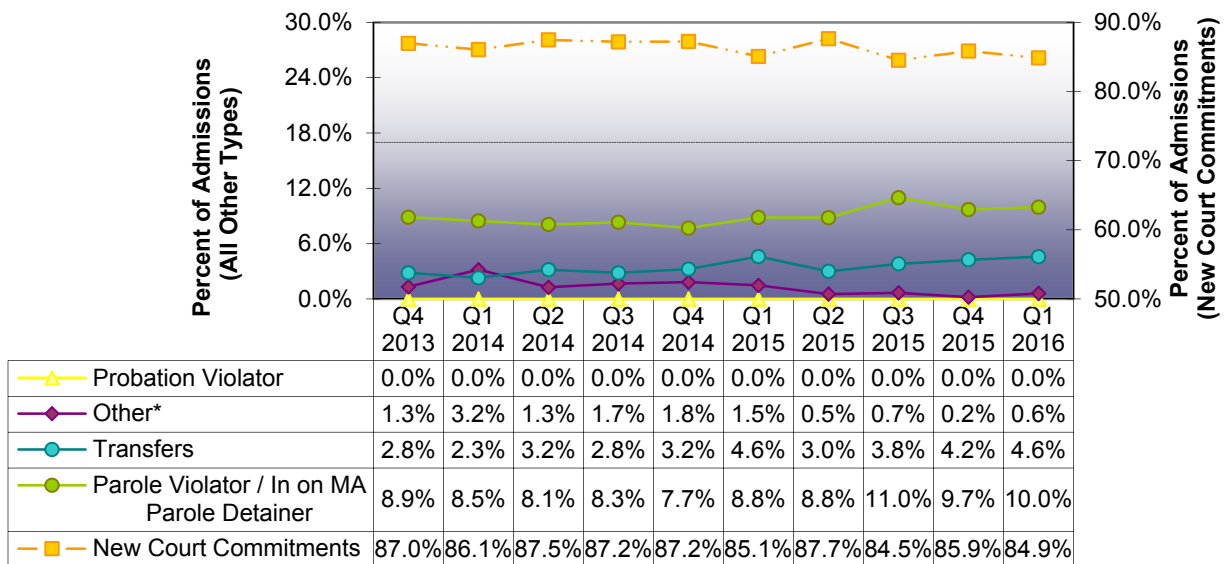
Graph 2.2, shows criminally sentenced jurisdiction admissions and releases by sex. During the ten-quarter trend period, male criminally sentenced inmates saw trends very similar to the overall criminally sentenced population, with a downward admission trend, and a generally steady release trend, with releases peaking the second quarter 2015, then dropping to a low the first quarter 2016. This was expected, as male inmates comprised 72% of criminal admissions and 74% of criminal releases. Over the trend period, female criminally sentenced admissions saw a slight negative trend, while releases were steady overall, though reaching a low during the first quarter 2016.

2.2 Quarterly Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



Male criminal admissions by admission type, shown in Graph 2.3, 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 86.3% of male criminal admissions over the trend, ranging from 84.5% to 87.7% of admissions. The next two most common types of male admissions were '**parole**[§] violator/detainer' averaging 9.0%, and 'transfers' averaging 3.5% of admissions during the trend period.

2.3 Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type

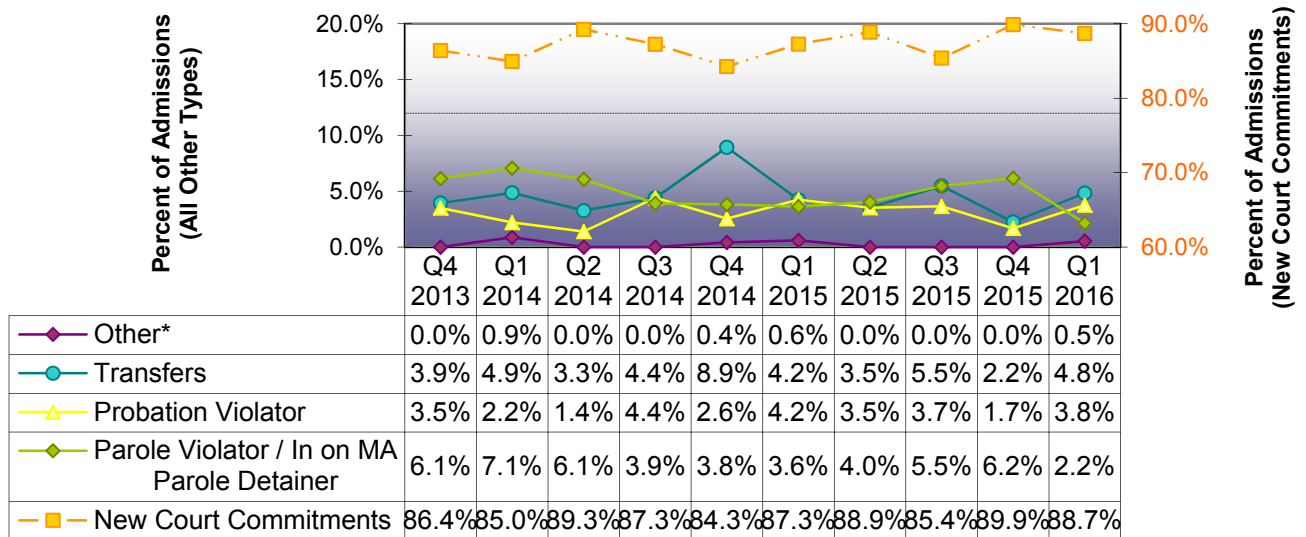


*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

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

Female criminally sentenced admissions, as seen in Graph 2.4, were predominately 'new court commitments', with an average of 87.2% of admissions per quarter; followed by 'parole violator/detainers' and 'transfers', with averages of 4.9% and 4.6%, respectively. Female admissions were fairly stable over the trend, with 'parole violators / in on parole detainer' showing a decline during the first quarter 2016, accounting for only 2.2% of female criminal admissions. 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 peaked during the fourth quarter of 2015, accounting for 89.9% of female criminally sentenced admissions.

2.4 Female Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type

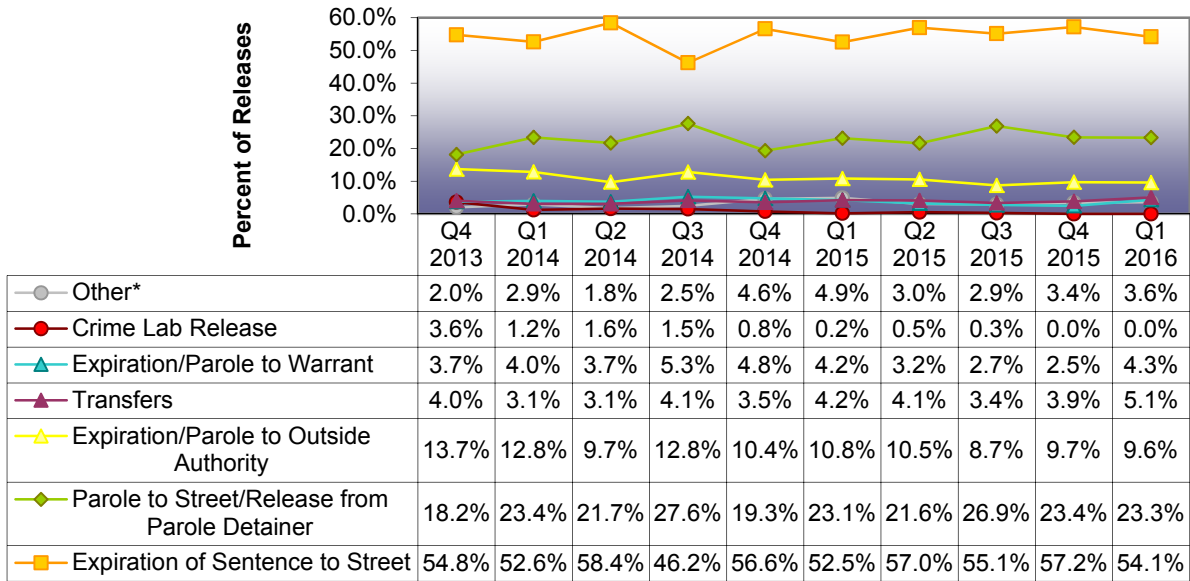


*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Graph 2.5, on the next page, shows male criminal releases by release type. **Releases to the community** due to **expiration of sentences** was the most common release type, constituting 54.4% of the male releases for the trend period; the second most common release type was 'parole to the street/release from parole detainer', with 22.9% of male criminal releases. Overall, releases to the street due to expiration of sentence and paroles to the street / releases from parole detainers saw slight upward trends over the ten-quarter period.

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

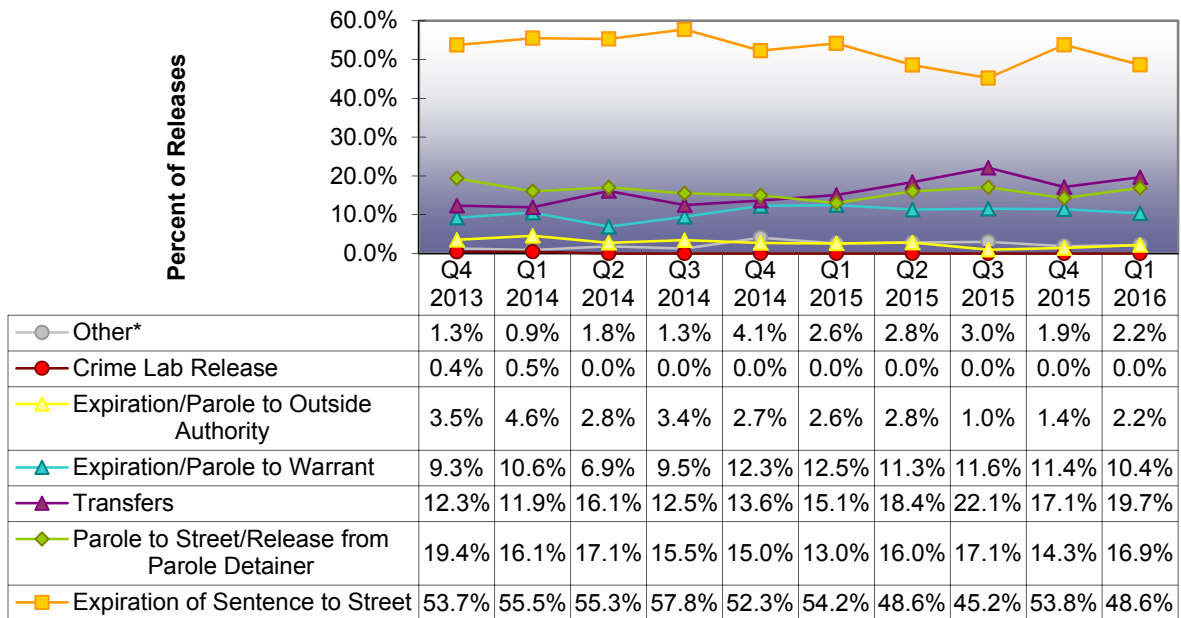
2.5 Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type



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

As seen in Graph 2.6, female criminally sentenced releases were most commonly due to 'expiration of sentence to the street', averaging 52.5% each quarter. The next two most common release types were 'parole to street/release from parole detainer', averaging 16.1%; 'transfers', averaged 15.9% for the overall trend period. Over the trend period, 'transfers' had the strongest upward trend, while 'expiration of sentence to the street' saw the strongest downward trend.

2.6 Female Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type



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

Over the trend period, Suffolk County accounted for 18.6% of the criminal new court commitments, followed by Essex (13.2%), Middlesex (12.6%), Worcester (12.1%), Hampden (12.0%), and Bristol (11.8). During the first quarter of 2016, Suffolk County accounted for the greatest number of state, criminally sentenced new court commitments. Table 2.7 displays additional information pertaining to criminally sentenced new court commitments by sentencing jurisdiction.

2.7 State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

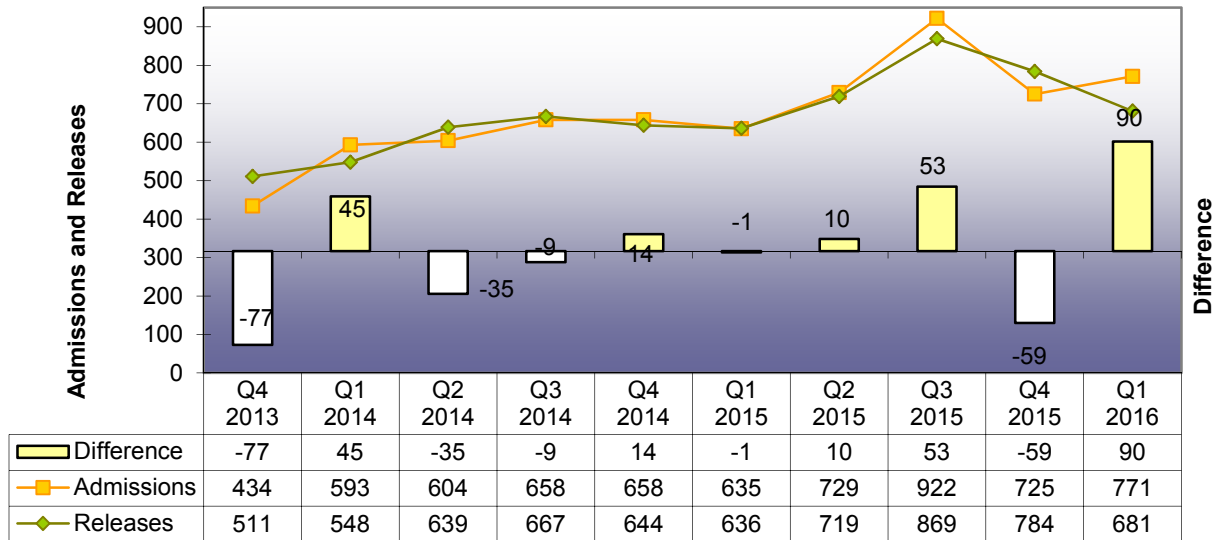
County	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Total
SUFFOLK	111	114	119	77	103	61	89	50	81	72	877
ESSEX	87	60	74	55	59	62	68	52	50	56	623
MIDDLESEX	68	63	70	56	66	42	51	43	84	53	596
WORCESTER	63	56	56	50	52	47	81	55	47	65	572
HAMPDEN	63	63	47	43	40	85	72	52	37	64	566
BRISTOL	49	61	71	60	63	42	47	55	64	44	556
PLYMOUTH	20	66	41	25	23	46	20	29	25	26	321
NORFOLK	20	25	12	36	32	19	32	18	24	24	242
BARNSTABLE	11	10	13	22	8	14	22	21	10	15	146
BERKSHIRE	6	14	3	15	13	11	13	10	7	10	102
FRANKLIN	3	13	8	3	5	7	6	0	5	4	54
HAMPSHIRE	1	8	5	4	9	7	6	6	3	5	54
DUKES	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
NANTUCKET	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Total	502	554	522	446	474	443	507	391	437	439	4,715

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

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

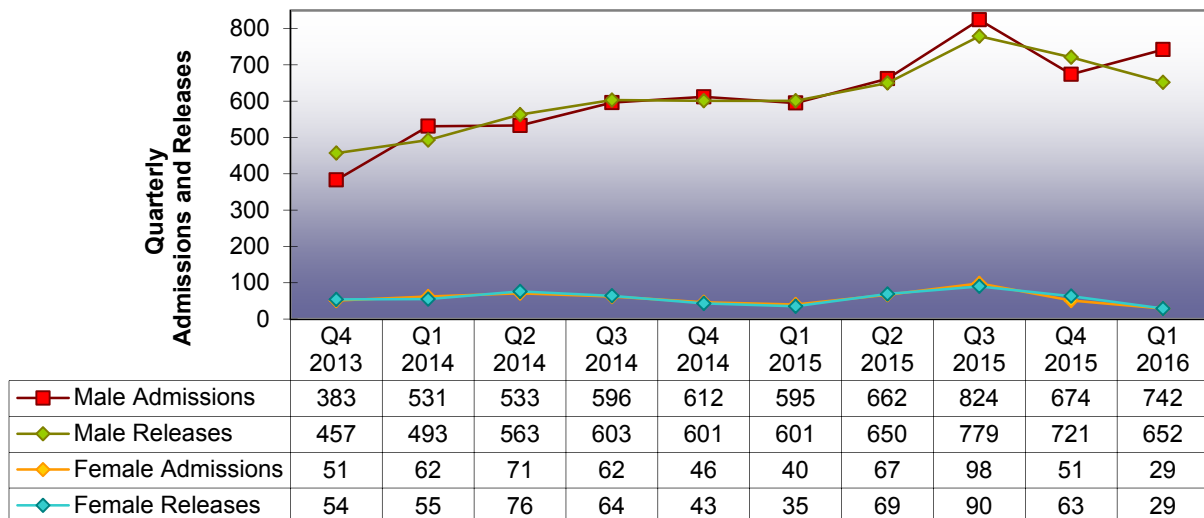
Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates had similar patterns throughout the trend period, as seen in Graph 3.1. There was a notable climb in both civil admissions and releases during the second and third quarters of 2015 with admissions increasing by 45.2% and releases increasing by 36.6% compared to the first quarter 2015. This increase was followed by a steep decline in civil admissions and releases the fourth quarter 2015, with admissions decreasing by 21.3% and releases decreasing by nearly 10%. During the first quarter of 2016, releases continued on a downward trend, while admissions experienced a slight increase, resulting in an increase in the civil population compared to the prior quarter.

3.1 Overall Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Quarter



Over the past ten quarters, females made up 8.6% of civil admissions and 8.7% of civil releases. Male civilly committed admissions and civil releases experienced strong positive trends over the last ten quarters, showing the increase in both male admissions and releases over the trend period. By contrast, female civil commitments saw a slight negative trend in their admissions and releases, ending the trend with a low in both civil admissions and releases. Overall, there were difference decreases of 1 female civil commitment and an increase of 32 male civil commitments. Graph 3.2, displays the civilly committed admissions and releases by gender for the trend period.

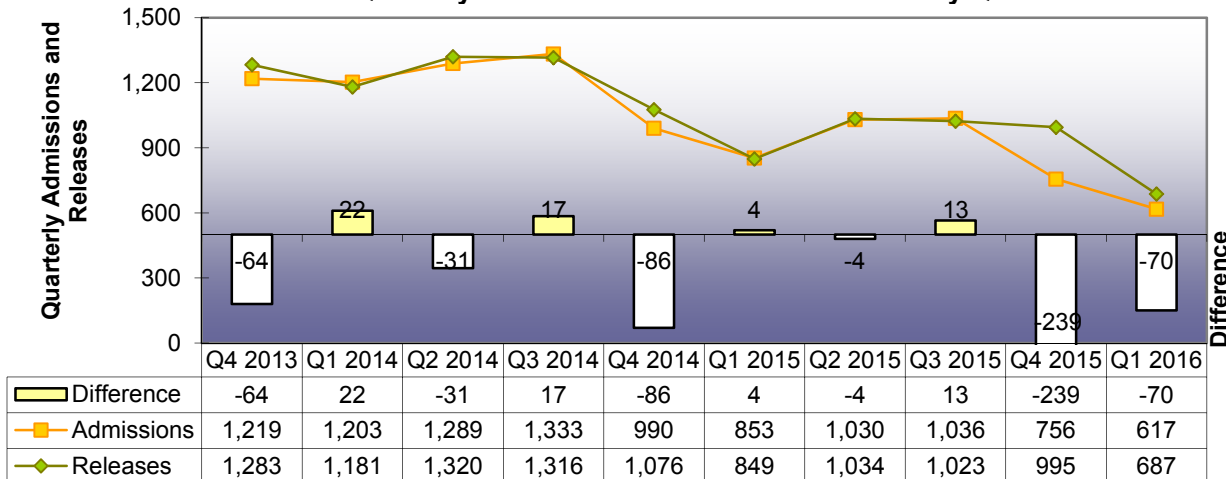
3.2 Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender



PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

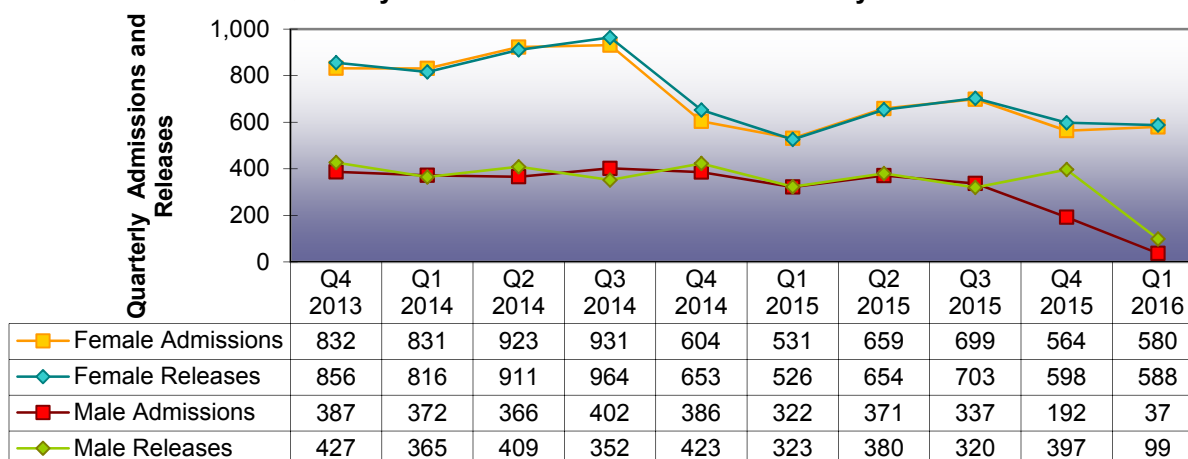
Pre-trial admissions and releases, Graph 4.1, experienced a strong downward trend for the ten quarter period. This decline was marked by notable decreases from the third quarter of 2014 through the first quarter 2015, most notably as Worcester County shifted its county, pre-trial females to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Hampden County, and again during the fourth quarter 2015. During the fourth quarter 2015, pre-trial admissions and release both saw decreases, with admissions experiencing a drastic decline. The decline in pre-trial admissions and releases continued into the 1st quarter 2016, where both reached a low for the trend; admissions saw a decrease of 115% compared to the high reached the third quarter 2014, while releases decreased by 91% compared to the high reached the second quarter 2014.

4.1 Overall Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases by Quarter



As seen in Graph 4.2, Female detainees had an overall downward trend, closely mimicking the above trends, which coincided with the shift of county, pre-trial females to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center. While the pre-trial males also experienced a downward trend, the drastic decrease in admissions during the fourth quarter 2015, resulted in a decrease of 205 male pre-trial detainees. During the first quarter 2016, male releases experienced a sharp decrease, but still outpaced admissions for the quarter, resulting in a decrease of 62 detainees. The steep decrease in male pre-trial admissions is attributed to the Middlesex County 52A court order^{††} being vacated and Suffolk County ceasing the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody. Overall, females had a cumulative difference decrease of 115 detainees and males saw a cumulative decrease of 314 detainees over the trend period.

4.2 Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions and Release by Gender



^{††} Pre-trial detainees could be sent directly to the MA DOC to be held awaiting trial if criteria of the court order was met.

The majority of male pre-trial admissions, table 4.3, came from the counties of Suffolk (53%) and Middlesex (32.7%). Since the third quarter 2015 pre-trial admissions from both of these counties has seen a steep decline, with Suffolk and Middlesex pre-trial detainees decreasing to a few admissions during the first quarter 2016. This drastic decrease was due to the Middlesex County 52A court order^{††} being vacated and Suffolk County ceasing the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody.

4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Total
Suffolk	193	217	197	216	213	167	202	181	90	5	1,681
Middlesex	130	106	130	130	129	100	111	121	74	5	1,036
Out-of-State	18	18	14	13	16	19	18	5	9	11	141
Worcester	17	13	12	11	5	10	8	7	1	2	86
Plymouth	14	7	3	10	9	10	10	6	5	5	79
Federal	5	6	0	9	4	1	16	2	1	1	45
Bristol	2	1	2	6	3	7	1	4	4	2	32
Essex	2	2	1	3	5	1	2	5	4	5	30
Norfolk	5	1	4	3	2	5	3	2	1	1	27
Barnstable	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	9
Hampden	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Mass Parole	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Dukes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	387	372	366	402	386	322	371	337	192	37	3,172

As seen in Table 4.4, female pre-trials came predominately from the counties of Essex (31.4%), Middlesex (24.6%), Plymouth (16.3%), Norfolk (14.8%), and Worcester (11.4%). The most notable trend change was in Worcester County, where female pre-trials saw a significant drop during the fourth quarter of 2014, from 187 to 3 admissions. This was due to the aforementioned shift of those Worcester pre-trials to Hampden County.

4.4 Female Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Total
Essex	244	249	259	263	188	188	214	247	184	211	2,247
Middlesex	184	151	201	217	175	148	185	193	140	164	1,758
Plymouth	105	93	117	136	115	102	134	115	133	113	1,163
Norfolk	97	127	114	118	113	79	103	126	100	85	1,062
Worcester	196	201	221	187	3	1	3	3	1	1	817
Federal	1	3	3	4	2	4	4	13	1	4	39
Suffolk	1	2	5	4	4	5	9	0	3	2	35
Out-of-State	2	2	1	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	12
Bristol	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	7
Hampden	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	6
Mass Parole	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5
Barnstable	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Franklin	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	832	831	923	931	604	531	659	699	564	580	7,154

^{††} Pre-trial detainees could be sent directly to the MA DOC to be held awaiting trial if criteria of the court order was met.

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 January/March of 2016. 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 inmate that is incarcerated in 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”.
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. "Other" releases include: "HABEAS to Court – Received Forthwith Sentence", "Escape", "Death", "Court Release – Sentence Revoked", and "Release to From and After at DOC."

Release to Community

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