

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

First Quarter 2017





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the trend period, from the fourth quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2017, there were cumulative decreases of 1,374 (13.1%) inmates from the average quarterly **custody**^{*} population and 1,307 (12.1%) inmates from the average quarterly **jurisdiction** population, resulting in an average cumulative quarterly loss of 1.5% from the custody population and 1.3% from the jurisdiction population. Within the total jurisdiction population, **criminally sentenced** and **pre-trial detainee** populations have experienced downward trends. The average quarterly pre-trial detainee population experienced the largest percentage decrease, declining 55.2%, ending the trend with a quarterly population average of 295. The average quarterly criminally sentenced population decreased each quarter, from 9,653 to 8,660, resulting in an overall decline of 10.3%. The **civil commitment** population reached a high of 630 during the third quarter of 2016, increasing by 108 (20.7%) since the beginning of the trend period. The average quarterly civil population declined over the last two quarters, with the number of civilly committed inmates decreasing by 58 (9.2%) compared to the high of 630.

Admissions and **releases** have decreased over the ten quarter period. Compared to the first quarter of the trend, admissions have decreased by 440 (18.1%) and releases have decreased by 553 (22.1%). The overall decreases in admissions and releases can be attributed in part to the decrease in **pre-trial detainee admissions** and releases. Pre-trial admissions dropped from a high of 990 during the fourth quarter 2014, to 614 during the current quarter, a decrease of 376 (38.0 %). A substantial decrease was seen in male pre-trial admissions and releases beginning in the fourth quarter 2015, as the Middlesex County 52A court[†] order was vacated, and Suffolk County ceased the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody.

In all but the most recent quarter, releases outpaced admissions, leading to an overall decrease of 1,328 in the inmate population, or an average quarterly decrease of 133 . The largest difference decrease occurred during the fourth quarter 2015, resulting in a decrease of 484 inmates.

The number of **criminal admissions** to the MA DOC averaged 683 per quarter over the trend period of two and a half years, reaching a low of 603 admissions during the fourth quarter 2016. During the first quarter of 2017, male criminal admissions increased by 26.4% compared to the prior quarter, while female criminal admissions decreased by 11.3%, reaching a low of 141 admissions. **Criminal releases** averaged 784 per quarter, outpacing admissions in all but the last quarter of the trend. The difference between admissions and releases lead to an overall decrease of 1,014 in the **criminally sentenced** population. The number of state sentenced new court commitments to the MA DOC increased the last quarter, with commitments during the first quarter of 2017 increasing by 29.2% compared to the prior quarter, reaching the second highest number (n = 500) of state sentenced new court commitments since the beginning of the trend period.

Male civil admissions[‡] have increased during the first eight quarters, as the number of male civil admissions jumped from 612, to 850, or 38.9%. This increase was followed by a drop in male civil admissions during the fourth quarter 2016, from 850 to 651, or 23.4%. The number of male admissions during the first quarter 2017 was nearly equal to the number of admissions during the prior quarter (n = 654). Male civil releases followed a similar trend, with releases reaching a high of 874 during the second quarter of 2016, followed by three quarters of decrease.

For the first year and a half of the trend period, females averaged just over 55 civil admissions and 55 civil releases per quarter. During the last year, the number of female civil admissions[§] and releases saw a steep decline, with admissions averaging 13 per quarter, and releases averaging 14.

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^{*} **Bolded** phrases throughout the report are defined in the appendix.

[†] Pre-trial detainees could be sent directly to the MA DOC to await trial if criteria of the court order were met.

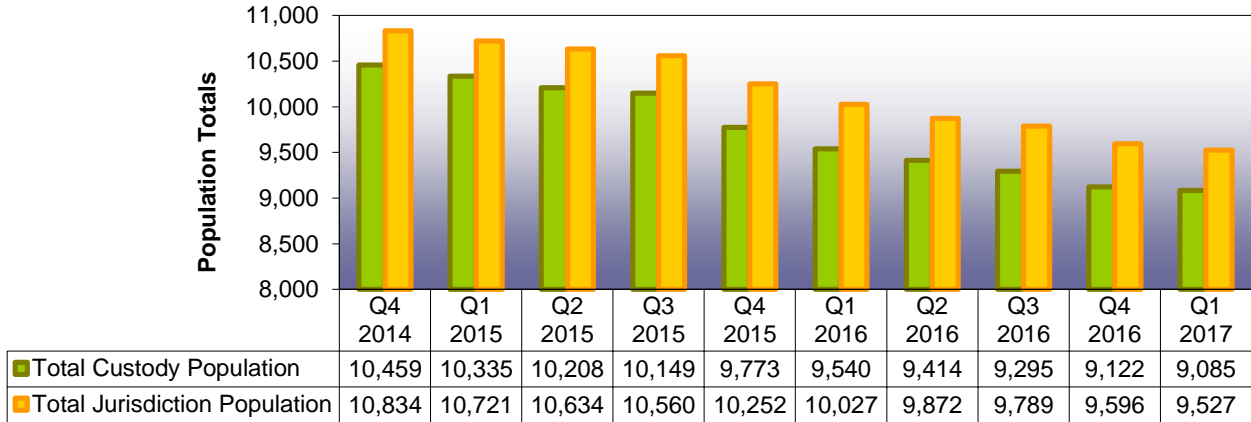
[‡] The majority of male civil admissions are **section 35 admissions** to the **Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center (MASAC)**.

[§] Prior to April 24, 2016, females were civilly committed to MCI-Framingham pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35.

CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

From the fourth quarter of 2014 through the first quarter of 2017, there was a cumulative decrease of 1,374 (13.1%) inmates from the **MA DOC custody** population and 1,307 (12.1%) inmates from the **jurisdiction** population. This corresponded to an average cumulative quarterly loss of 1.5% from the custody population and 1.3% from the jurisdiction population. Both the average quarterly custody and the average quarterly jurisdiction population experienced a decline in each of the quarters throughout the trend period.

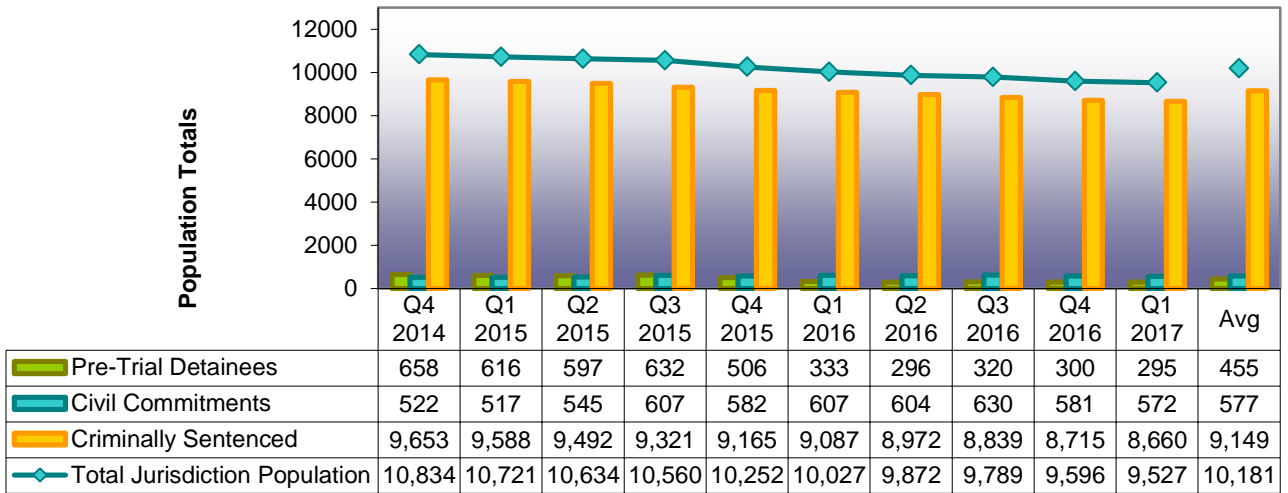
Average[∞] Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population



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

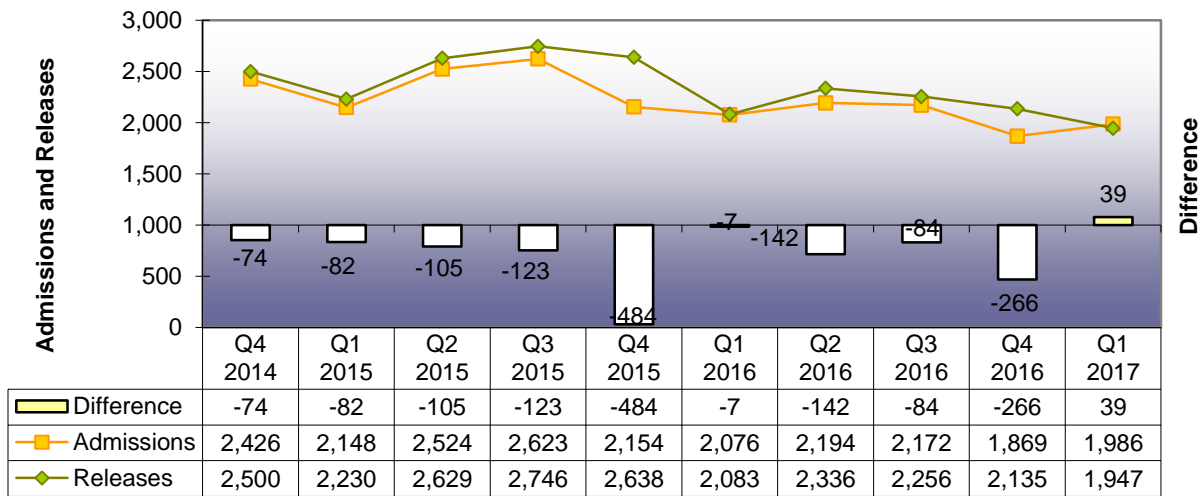
The decrease in the population over the trend has been driven by criminally sentenced inmates and pre-trial detainees. Pre-trial detainees have decreased by 55.2%, falling from an average of 658 inmates during the fourth quarter of 2014, to an average of 295 inmates during the first quarter 2017. Criminally sentenced inmates have experienced the most drastic decrease in number (n = 993), resulting in a 10.3% decrease in the average quarterly criminally sentenced inmate population by the end of the trend. After reaching an average high of 630 during the third quarter 2016, the average number of civil inmates decreased during the last two quarters of the trend, ending with an average quarterly population of 572. Graph 1.2, below, displays the quarterly jurisdiction population by commitment type.

1.2 Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



Admissions outpaced releases for the first time of the trend period during the first quarter 2017, resulting in a slight increase (n = 39) during that quarter. This increase followed the second largest difference decrease of the trend that occurred during the fourth quarter 2016. Overall, during the ten-quarter period, admissions and releases have experienced similar patterns, with both showing a downward trend. While admissions and releases have trended downward, releases have outpaced admissions (in Graph 1.3, below) resulting in an average difference decrease of 133 inmates per quarter, the largest decreases occurring during the fourth quarters of 2015 and 2016. Overall, admissions averaged 2,217 inmates per quarter and releases averaged 2,350 inmates per quarter.

1.3 Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases



During the first quarter 2017 (in graph 1.4, below), female admissions reached a low for the ten quarter trend period, while male admissions increased slightly from the prior quarter. Compared to the height of the trend, female admissions have decreased by 30.7%, declining from 1,016 to 704 quarterly admissions. Male admissions during the first quarter 2017 (n = 1,282) were down 20.2% compared to the male admissions height during the third quarter 2015 (n = 1,607). The last two quarters of overall admissions were the lowest in the ten quarter period.

1.4 Total Quarterly Admissions by Gender

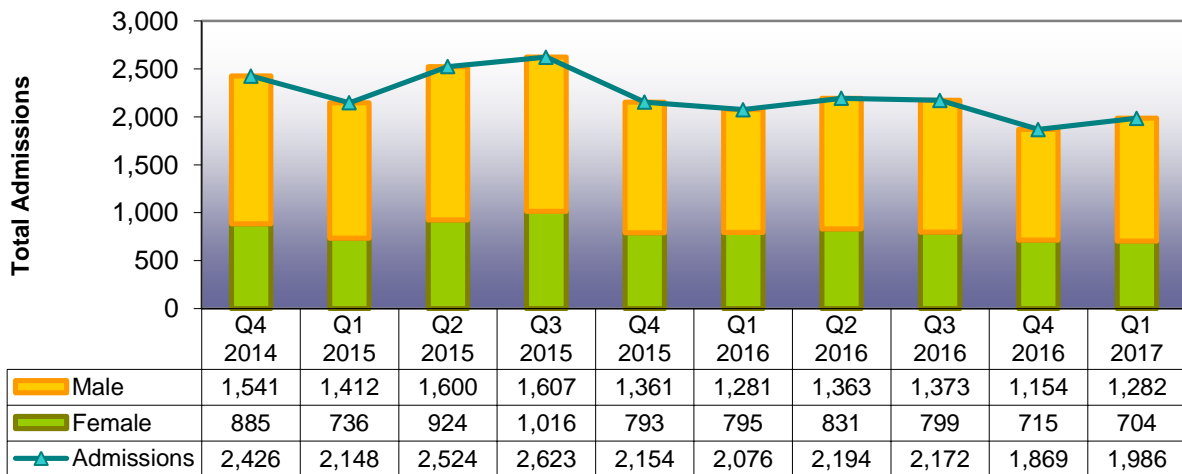
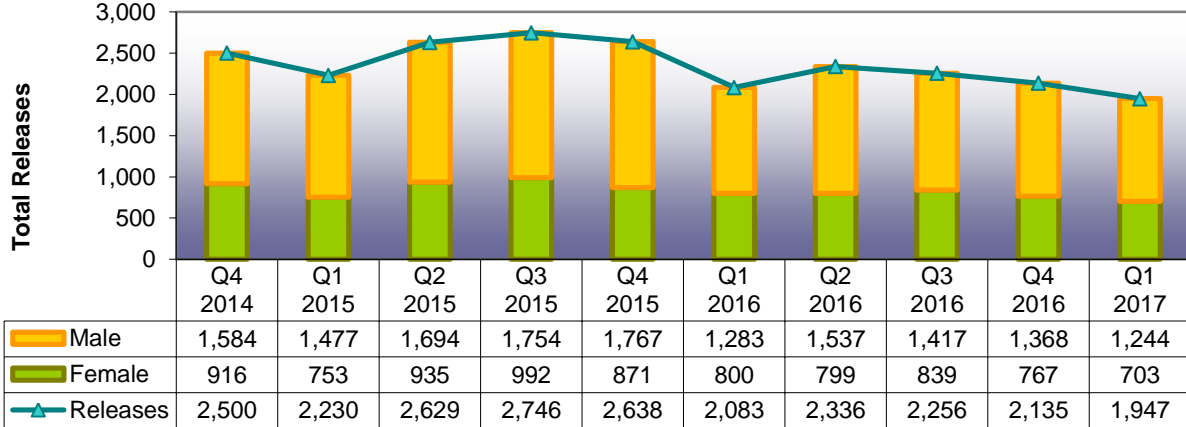


Table 1.5, on the next page, shows the number of overall releases has decreased for three consecutive quarters, with both male and female releases reaching a low during the first quarter 2017. Compared to the height during the third quarter 2015, the number of releases has decreased by 799 (29.1%). ending the ten quarter period with a low of 1,947 releases.

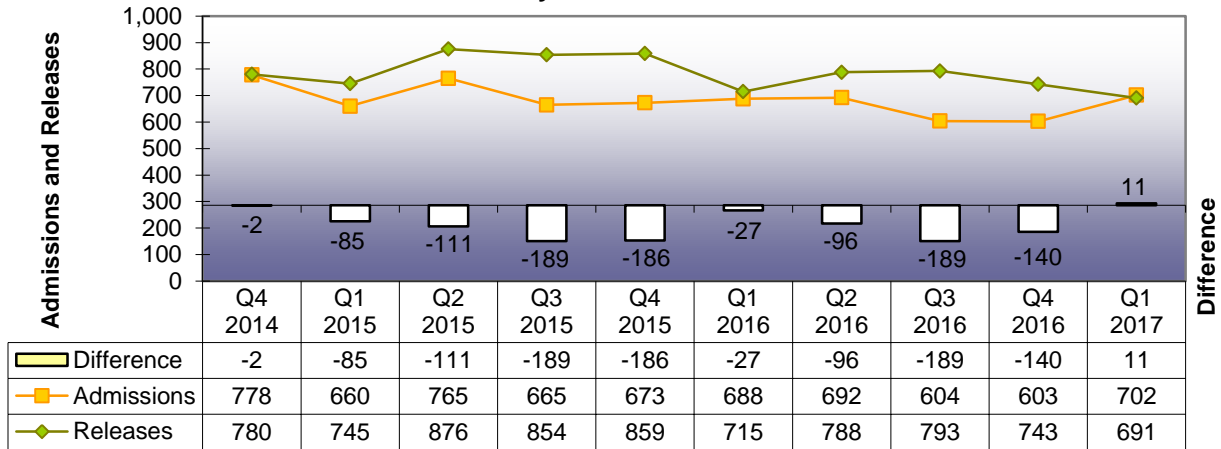
1.5 Total Quarterly Releases by Gender



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

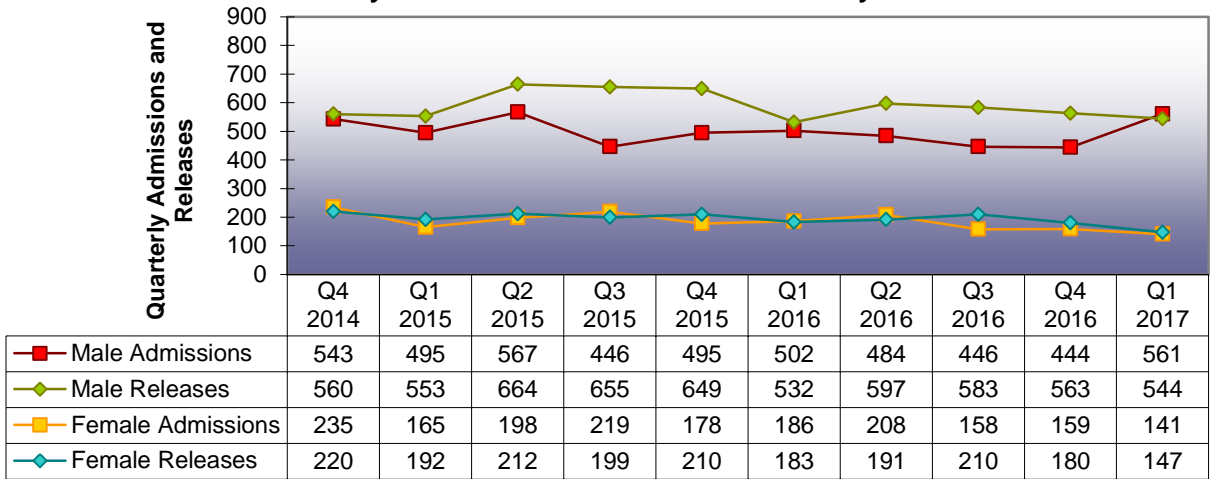
For the first nine quarters (in graph 2.1, below), there were more criminally sentenced releases than admissions, resulting in a decrease of 1,025 in the criminally sentenced population from the fourth quarter 2014, to the fourth quarter 2016. This decrease was followed by the first difference increase in the population, as admissions surpassed releases for the first time in the ten quarter period. During the last two quarters, releases were at a low, dipping to 691 for the current quarter, a 21.1% decrease compared to the high of 876 during the second quarter 2015.

2.1 Overall Quarterly Criminal Admissions and Releases



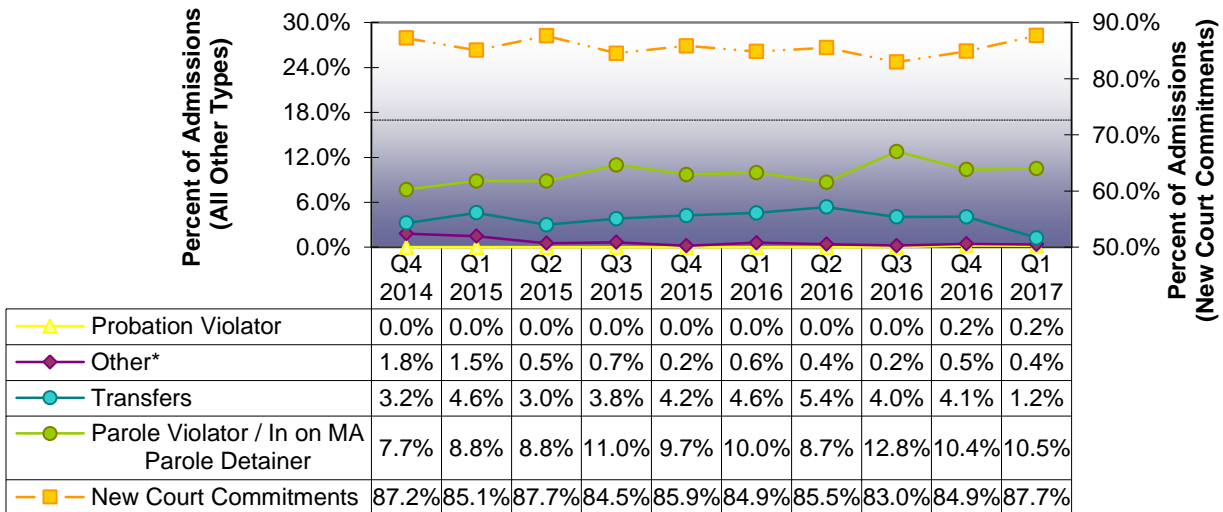
Graph 2.2, on the next page, displays the criminal admissions and releases by gender. Male criminal admissions saw a slight upswing in the first quarter 2017, reaching the second highest number of admissions over the ten quarters (n = 561). Female criminal admissions have decrease in each of the last three quarters, reaching a low of 141 in the current quarter, a decrease of 40%, compared to a high of 235 during first quarter of the trend period.

2.2 Quarterly Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



In Graph 2.3, below, male criminal admissions are split into two axes, with ‘**new court commitments**’ on the right axis and the other admission types on the left axis. ‘New court commitments’ averaged 85.6% of male criminal admissions over the trend period, and accounting for 87.7% of the 561 male admissions for the current quarter. Following new court commitments, ‘**parole violator/detainer**’ admissions, averaging 9.8%, and ‘**transfers**’, averaging 3.8%, had the next highest percentages of admissions over the ten-quarter trend period.

2.3 Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type**

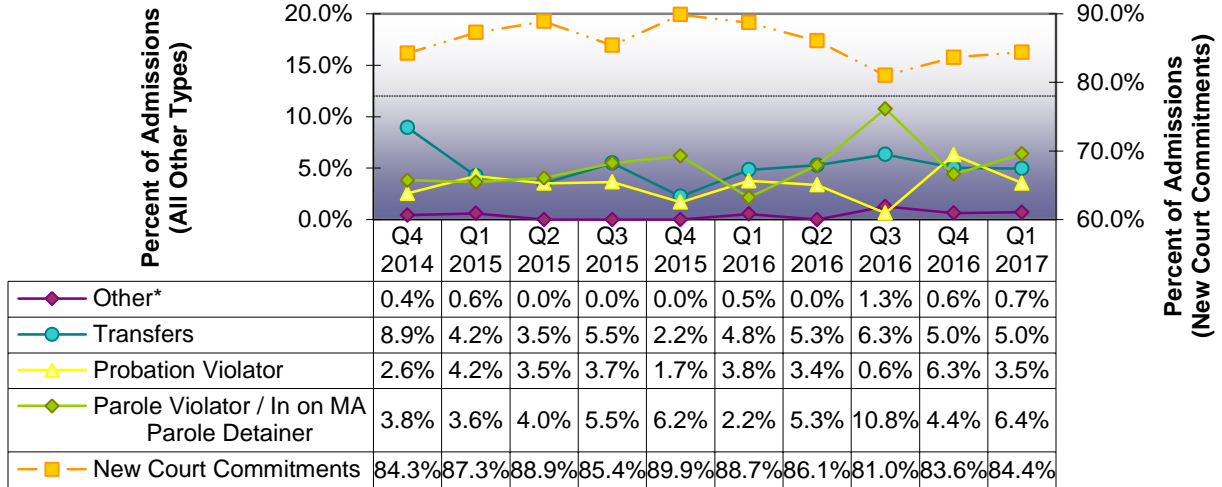


*See Appendix for definition of “Other” under “Admissions”.

Most female criminally sentenced admissions (in Graph 2.4, on the next page) were ‘new court commitments’, averaging 86.0% for the trend period. The next most common female criminal admission types were ‘parole violator/detainers’, and ‘transfers’ each averaging just over 5.0% of admissions, followed by ‘**probation violators**’, averaging 3.3%. During the fourth quarter 2016, parole violators decreased to 4.4% of the admissions, down from the high of 10.8% reached the prior quarter. Probation violators rose to 6.3% of female criminally sentenced admissions during the fourth quarter 2016, a high for the trend. During the fourth quarter of 2014, female criminally sentenced ‘transfer’ admissions saw its highest percentage, from a one-time intake of Barnstable County inmates due to security upgrades at their **House of Correction (HOC)**.

** Due to rounding percentages may not add up to 100%.

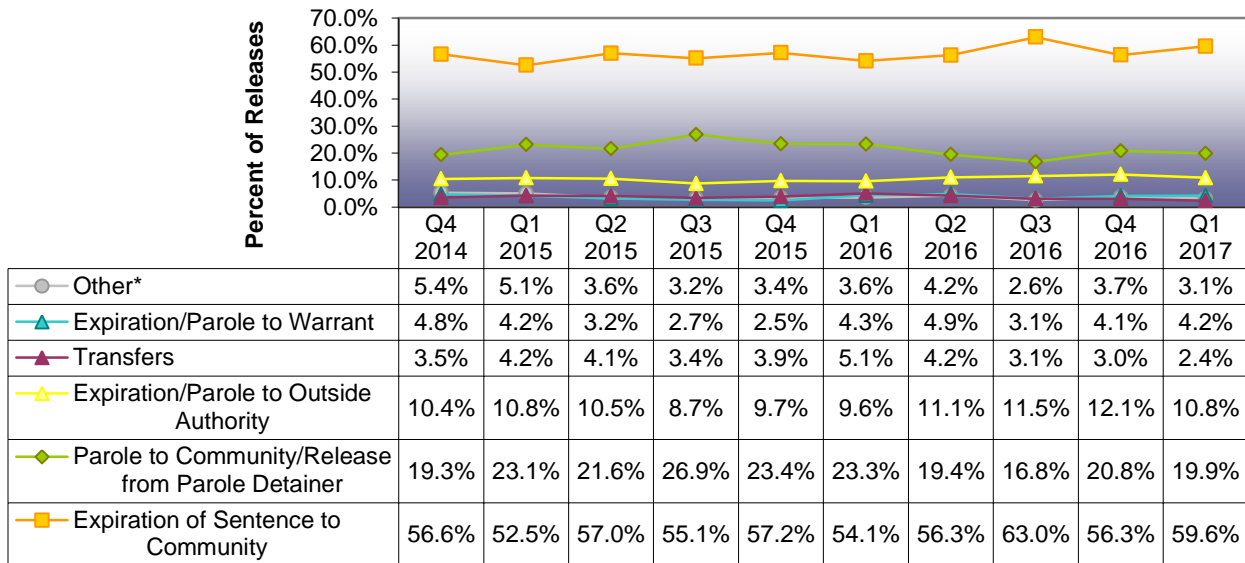
2.4 Female Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type^{††}



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

Releases to the community due to expiration of sentences averaged 56.8% of male criminal releases for the trend period, The next most common releases were 'parole to the community/release from a parole detainer', averaging 21.5% of male criminal releases, and 'expiration/parole to outside authority', averaging 10.5%. Graph 2.5, below, displays male criminal releases by release type.

2.5 Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type

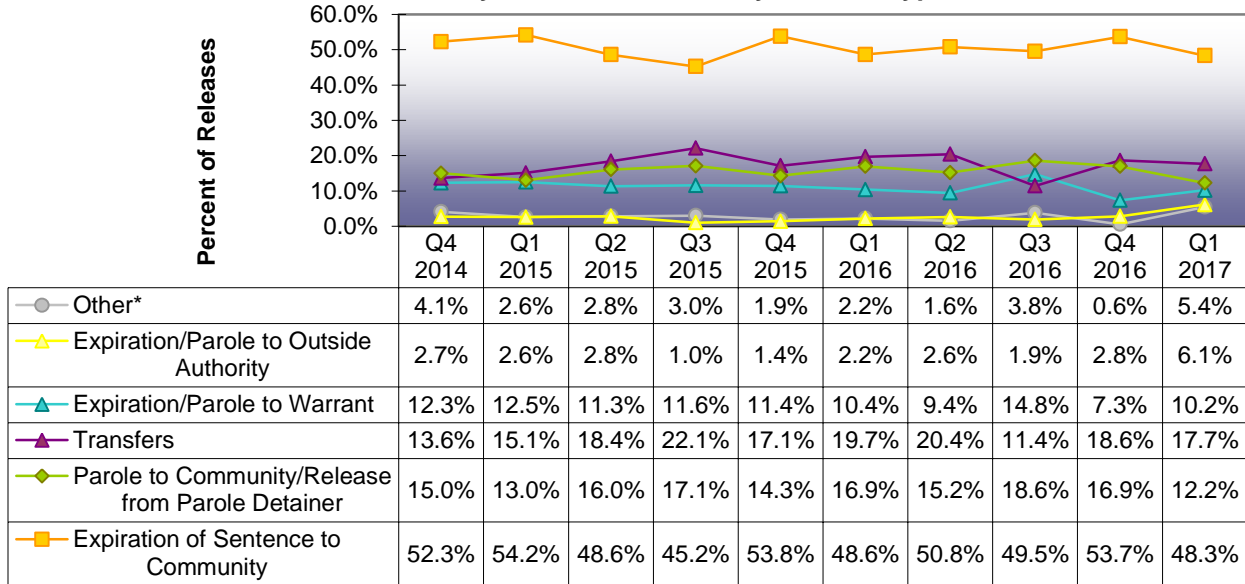


*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Releases".

†† Due to rounding percentages may not add up to 100%.

Similar to male criminally sentenced releases, the most common type of female criminal releases (in Graph 2.6, below) were 'expiration of sentence to the community', averaging 50.5% of releases. For the female criminal admissions, 'transfers' were the second most common release type, averaging 17.4% of releases, followed by 'parole to community/release from parole detainer' (15.5%).

2.6 Female Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type^{##}



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

The top six counties accounted for 79.7% of state, criminally sentenced new court commitments. Suffolk County accounted for 16.5%, followed by Essex (13.5%), Middlesex (12.8%), Hampden (12.4%), Worcester (12.4%), and Bristol (12.2%). The most recent quarter had the second highest number of state criminally sentenced new court commitments in the ten quarter period. Table 2.7, below, displays criminally sentenced new court commitments by sentencing jurisdiction.

2.7 State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

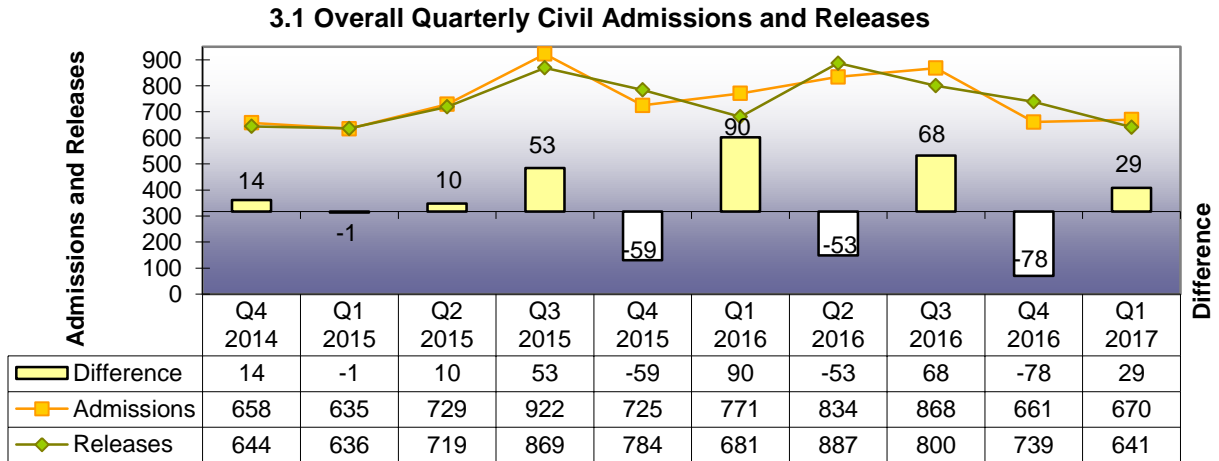
County	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Total
SUFFOLK	103	61	89	50	81	72	79	41	74	71	721
ESSEX	59	62	68	52	50	56	54	53	66	69	589
MIDDLESEX	66	42	51	43	84	53	59	41	59	63	561
HAMPDEN	40	85	72	52	37	64	37	59	31	67	544
WORCESTER	52	47	81	55	47	65	53	29	48	65	542
BRISTOL	63	42	47	55	64	44	54	68	34	64	535
PLYMOUTH	23	46	20	29	25	26	35	39	25	27	295
NORFOLK	32	19	32	18	24	24	19	18	22	16	224
BARNSTABLE	8	14	22	21	10	15	11	17	15	25	158
BERKSHIRE	13	11	13	10	7	10	9	10	4	15	102
HAMPSHIRE	9	7	6	6	3	5	3	4	5	5	53
FRANKLIN	5	7	6	0	5	4	3	4	4	12	50
NANTUCKET	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
DUKES	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	474	443	507	391	437	439	416	385	387	500	4,379

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

^{##} Due to rounding percentages may not add up to 100%.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

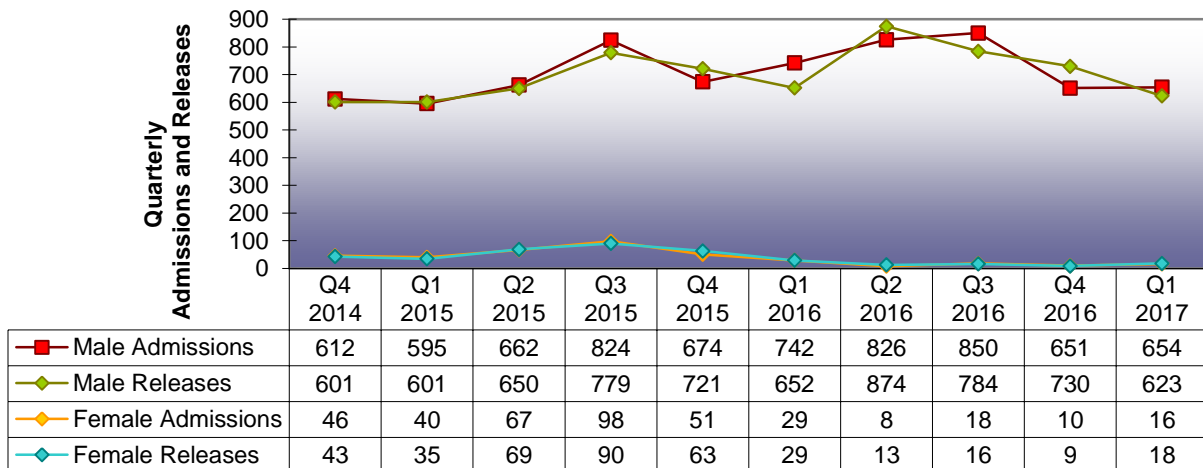
Civil admissions and releases (graph 3.1, below), shows civil admissions during the first quarter 2017 increased slightly from the previous quarter, from 661 to 670 admissions. While admissions saw a slight increase, civil releases had three consecutive quarters of decline, ending the first quarter 2017 with 641 releases.



Admissions and Releases

From the fourth quarter 2014 to the third quarter 2016, male civil admissions increased by 38.9%, reaching a high of 850 admissions per quarter (graph 3.2, below). During the current quarter, male civil admissions (n = 654) saw a decrease of 23.1% compared to the quarterly admissions high. Male civil releases have had three quarters of decrease, dropping to 623, the second lowest number of the trend period. The difference between male civil admissions and release resulted in an increase of 31 in the male civil population. There were 16 female civil admissions and 18 female civil releases during the current quarter, resulting in a decrease of two in the female civil population.

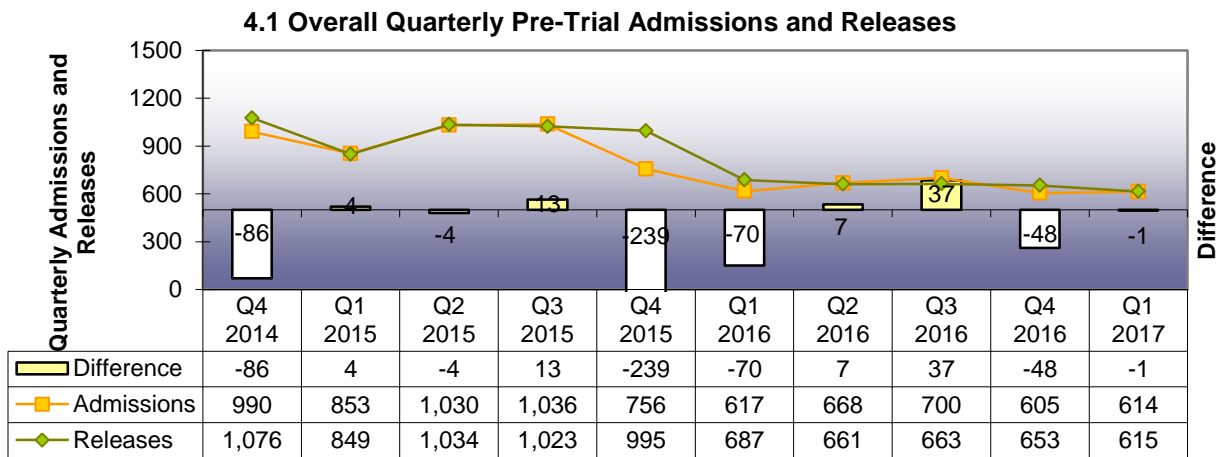
3.2 Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender



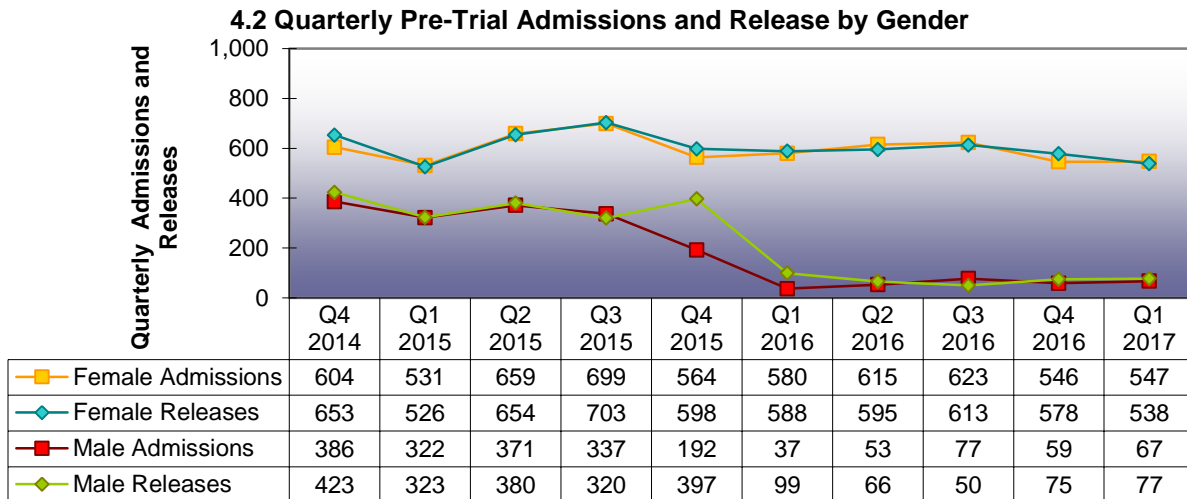
PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Overall, pre-trial admissions and releases both experienced strong downward trends, with pre-trial admissions decreasing by 40.7% and pre-trial releases decreasing by 39.9% from the third quarter 2015 to the first quarter 2017. The most notable decreases in admissions occurred between the third quarter of 2015 and the fourth quarter of 2016, with admissions decreasing by 431 (41.6%). The most notable decrease in releases occurred between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2017, with releases decreasing by 461 (42.8%).

Over the trend period, releases have outpaced admissions resulting in a decrease of 387 pre-trial detainees. The largest decrease was seen during the fourth quarter of 2015, as a result of 239 fewer pre-trial admissions than releases. Graph 4.1, below, displays pre-trial admissions and releases by quarter.



Graphs 4.2, below, shows female pre-trial admissions and releases have fairly consistent, averaging 597 admissions and 605 releases per quarter. The number of male pre-trial admissions and releases to the MA DOC have seen drastic reductions over the trend, with admissions decreasing by 319 (82.6%) and releases decreasing by 346, or 81.8%. The decrease in male pre-trial admissions was due to the Middlesex County 52A court order being vacated, and Suffolk County ceasing the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody.^{§§}



^{§§} 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 over the observed trend period, in Table 4.3, below, came from the counties of Suffolk (45.8%) and Middlesex (29.0%)^{***}. Pre-trial admissions from both of these counties saw continued steep decreases due to the aforementioned 52A information. For the most recent quarter, there were a total of 67 male pre-trial detainee admissions, of which over a third (n = 25) were federal detainees.

4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Total
Suffolk	213	167	202	181	90	5	3	5	2	3	871
Middlesex	129	100	111	121	74	5	5	2	2	2	551
Out-of-State	16	19	18	5	9	11	7	15	19	10	129
Federal	4	1	16	2	1	1	24	29	13	25	116
Worcester	5	10	8	7	1	2	2	12	11	8	66
Plymouth	9	10	10	6	5	5	3	2	1	8	59
Norfolk	5	1	2	5	4	5	2	2	4	3	33
Essex	2	5	3	2	1	1	5	3	2	4	28
Bristol	3	7	1	4	4	2	2	3	1	0	27
Barnstable	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	8
Berkshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	5
Hampden	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	5
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Dukes	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	386	322	371	337	192	37	53	77	59	67	1,901

As seen in Table 4.4, below, since the first quarter 2014, the majority of female pre-trial detainees came from the counties of Essex (32.3%), Middlesex (28.5%), Plymouth (19.7%), and Norfolk (17.1%).

4.4 Female Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2014	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Total
Essex	188	188	214	247	184	211	176	202	176	144	1,930
Middlesex	175	148	185	193	140	164	183	195	158	161	1,702
Plymouth	115	102	134	115	133	113	143	113	100	113	1,181
Norfolk	113	79	103	126	100	85	100	98	102	113	1,019
Federal	2	4	4	13	1	4	10	8	6	13	65
Suffolk	4	5	9	0	3	2	1	2	0	1	27
Worcester	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	14
Out-of-State	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	9
Hampden	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	8
Mass Parole	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	7
Bristol	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Barnstable	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	604	531	659	699	564	580	615	623	546	547	5,968

^{***} The decrease in male pre-trial admissions from Suffolk and Middlesex was due to the Middlesex County 52A court order being vacated, and Suffolk County ceasing the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody.

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.

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 who are admitted to a facility of the Department of Correction (DOC), pursuant to a court order, as a transfer from another DOC facility, pursuant to the execution of a parole violation warrant or pursuant to the execution of an escape warrant
Civil Commitment or “Civil”	A male who has been committed by a court to Bridgewater State Hospital pursuant to G.L. c. 123, section 7 and 8, 15, 16 or 18; or to the Massachusetts Alcohol and Substance Abuse Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35; or to the Massachusetts Treatment Center pursuant to G.L. c. 123A; a female who, prior to April 24, 2016, was committed to MCI-Framingham pursuant to G.L. c. 123, § 35; or a female who has been committed to MCI-Framingham, a branch of the Massachusetts Treatment Center, pursuant to G.L. c. 123A.
Criminally Sentenced or “Sentenced”	Individuals who have been found guilty of a criminal offense by a judge or jury and have been committed to a period of incarceration, whether directly or after a violation of probation or parole.
Custody Population	An inmate that is incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facility.
Expiration of Sentence (Release)	An inmate is discharged from his/her sentence at the expiration of his/her 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 or correctional facility.
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.
MASAC	MASAC is a facility whose institutional focus is to provide services to males civilly committed by the court under M.G.L., Chapter 123, Section 35 for detoxification and substance abuse treatment for up to 90 days.

New Court Commitment

Newly sentenced and committed inmates admitted to a committing institution as prescribed by law. Individuals committed by the courts to the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) as a result of a criminal offense. All new court commitments and those individuals who began serving new sentences (e.g., From and After Sentences) during the year are included in this category even if there was no physical release from custody upon the completion of one sentence and the commencement of another sentence. If an individual is committed to the DOC more than once during the current trend period, each court commitment for that individual is counted separately.

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).

Probation Violation

An inmate who has been returned to resume serving a previously imposed sentence (return on a split sentence) following a revocation of his/her terms of probation. Split sentences to the state prison were eliminated for offenses committed after June 30, 1994, pursuant to the "Truth-in-Sentencing" Act of 1994.

Releases

A release occurs when an inmate is released from the jurisdiction 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

The release of an inmate from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of parole or discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to community generally include: parole, expiration of sentence, expiration of fine, and court release.