

# **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

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

**First Quarter 2021**





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## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b>	.....	p.2
<b>Section 1. Current Population and Overall Trends</b>		
1.1	Average Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population. ....	p.3
1.2	Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type.....	p.4
1.3	Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases .....	p.4
1.4	Total Quarterly Admissions by Gender.....	p.5
1.5	Total Quarterly Releases by Gender .....	p.5
1.6	Male Quarterly Admissions and Releases.....	p.6
1.7	Female Quarterly Admissions and Releases.....	p.6
<b>Section 2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases</b>		
2.1	Overall Quarterly Criminal Admissions and Releases .....	p.7
2.2	Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases by Gender.....	p.8
2.3	Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type .....	p.8
2.4	Female Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type .....	p.9
2.5	Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type .....	p.10
2.6	Female Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type.....	p.10
2.7	State Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Jurisdiction .....	p.11
<b>Section 3. Civilly Committed Admissions and Releases</b>		
3.1	Overall Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases .....	p.12
3.2	Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender .....	p.12
<b>Section 4. Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases</b>		
4.1	Overall Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases.....	p.13
4.2	Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases by Gender .....	p.13
4.3	Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction .....	p.14
4.4	Female Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction .....	p.14
<b>Appendix</b>	.....	p.15

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

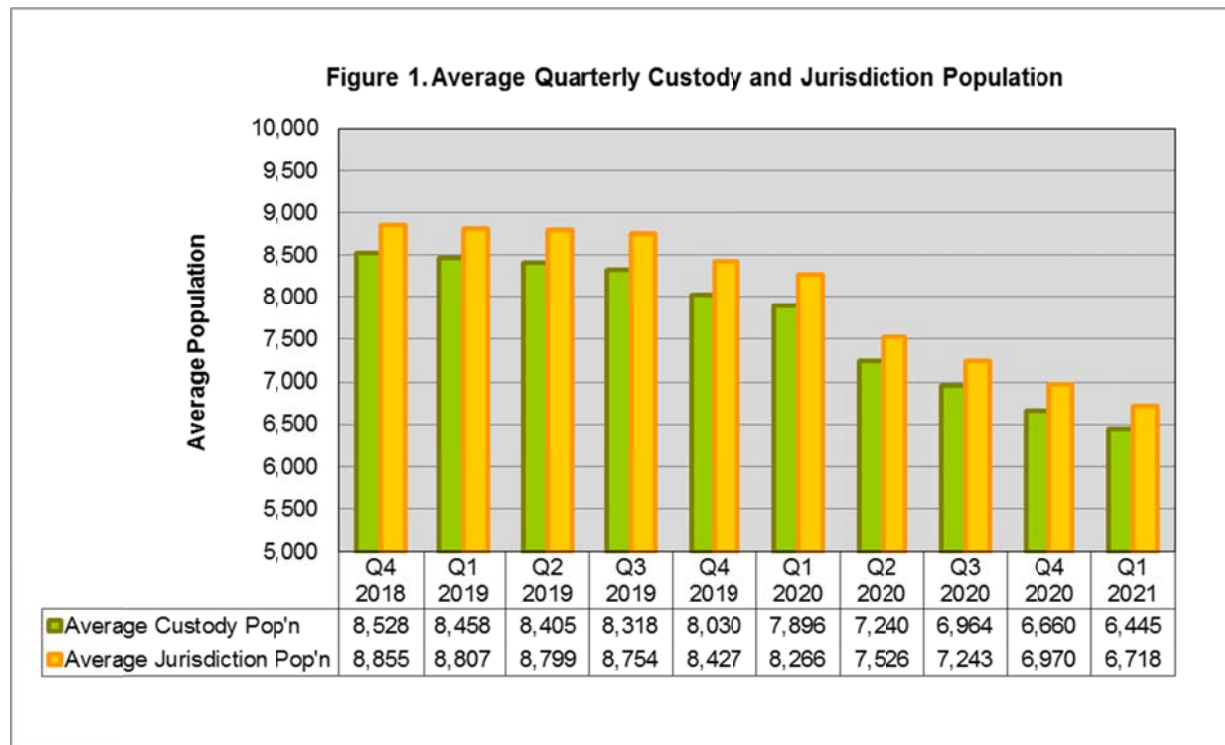
- Between the fourth quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021, the MA DOC custody population saw a 3.2 percent decline. During the ten-quarter trend period starting in Q4 2018, the average custody population has decreased 24.4 percent. The jurisdiction population is also down 3.6 percent from the previous quarter, and 24.1 percent since the fourth quarter of 2018.
- Criminally sentenced inmates fell from 8,107 in Q4 2018 to 6,124 in Q1 2021, a loss of 1,983 inmates or 24.5% of the total. Pre-trial detainees dropped from 259 individuals in Q4 2018 to 70 individuals in Q1 2021, a decline of 189 detainees or 73.0% of the total. Civil commitment inmates went up from 489 to 524, an increase of 35 inmates or 7.2% of the total during the same trend period.
- Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 804 from the previous quarter, a rise of 4.9 percent. Releases decreased 10.9 percent to 974. This resulted in a smaller admission-to-release deficit in the first quarter, 2021 than the fourth quarter, 2020.
- Criminal releases continued to outnumber admissions by a 477 to 247 margin in the first quarter of 2021, contributing to the shrinking of the DOC population for yet another quarter. Overall, the DOC released 2,160 more criminally sentenced inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. The four quarters after the outbreak of the COVID-19 contributed 69 percent of them.
- New court commitments were the dominating admission type for male admissions (82.8 percent), followed by parole violators (14.2 percent) in the first quarter of 2021. They were also the predominant admission types for female admissions with 86.7 percent and 13.3 percent respectively. Such changes made criminal admissions very similar to the pre-pandemic norms.
- Paroles (40.2%) topped the list of male criminal release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (37.5%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (11.7%) as the top three release types. Paroles in the first quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Expiration of sentence to community (45.8%) and paroles (45.8%) split the share of the top two female release types. While expiration of sentence to community was similar to the shares of the pre-COVID-19 quarters, paroles in the first quarter appeared to be higher than the pre-COVID-19 quarters.
- Male civil admissions and releases continued to be in the ballpark of the pre-pandemic level with 481 admissions and 418 releases. Female civil commitment activity remained low in the first quarter of 2021 with only 6 admissions and 4 releases.
- Pre-trial admissions (70) and releases (75) remained low in the first quarter of 2021 compared with the pre-pandemic numbers. Females, which normally accounted for over 90% of total pre-trial admissions and releases, appeared to be the primary reason for the low activities due to a combination of factors of COVID-19 and that female pre-trials were no longer coming to the MADOC from Essex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties since Q4, 2019.

*NOTE: Beginning in March of 2020, the number of individuals being admitted to and/or released from Massachusetts Department of Correction facilities has been significantly affected as a result of the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic on the criminal justice system in Massachusetts.*

## CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

The MA DOC **custody** population averaged 6,445 inmates in the first quarter of 2021. This population decreased by 3.2 percent from the previous quarter. From the fourth quarter of 2018 through the first quarter of 2021, there was a decrease of 2,083 inmates, or 24.4 percent, from the custody population.

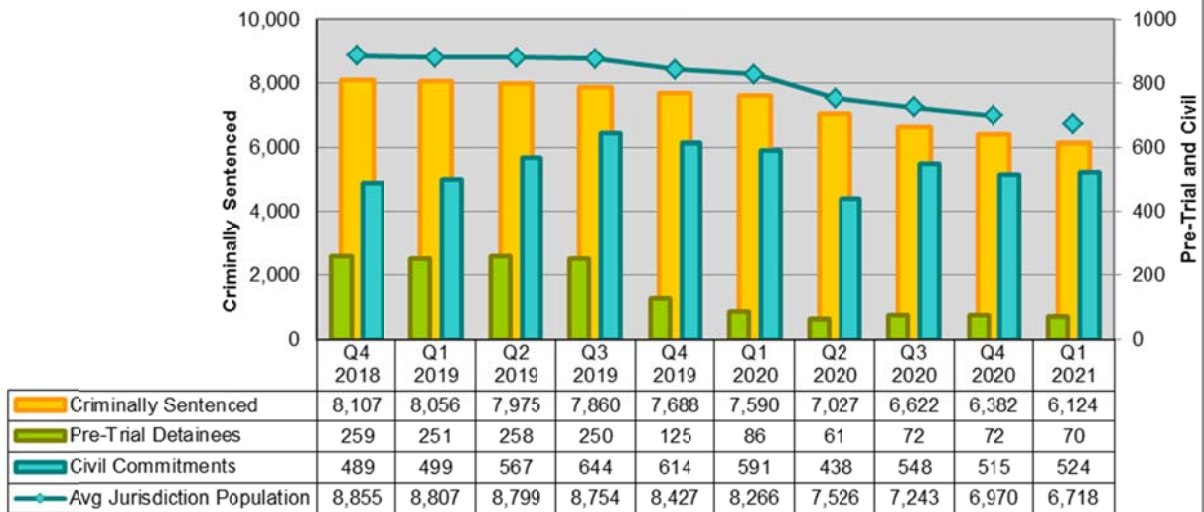
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 6,718 inmates in the first quarter of 2021, dropping 3.6 percent from the previous quarter. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 2,137 inmates or 24.1 percent. See Figure 1.1 below.\*



The criminally sentenced population dropped 4.0 percent from the last quarter and 24.5 percent since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population increased 1.7 percent from the previous quarter and fluctuated around a flat line of 543 inmates during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population declined 2.8 percent this quarter from the previous quarter, and averaged 70 detainees. See Figure 1.2, next page.

\* Each quarter's population is the average of the last day of the month's count for the three months within that quarter.

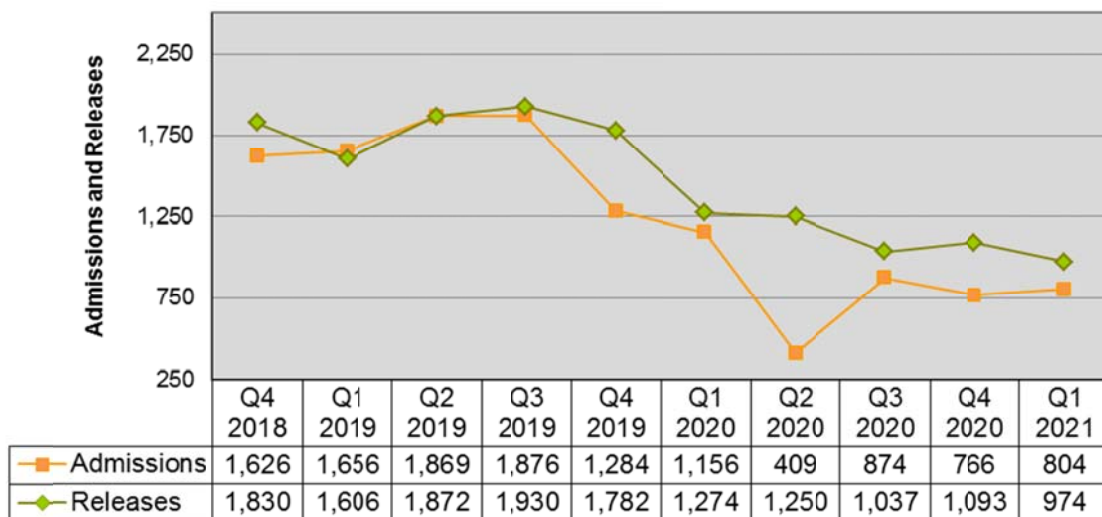
**Figure 1.2. Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type**



## OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

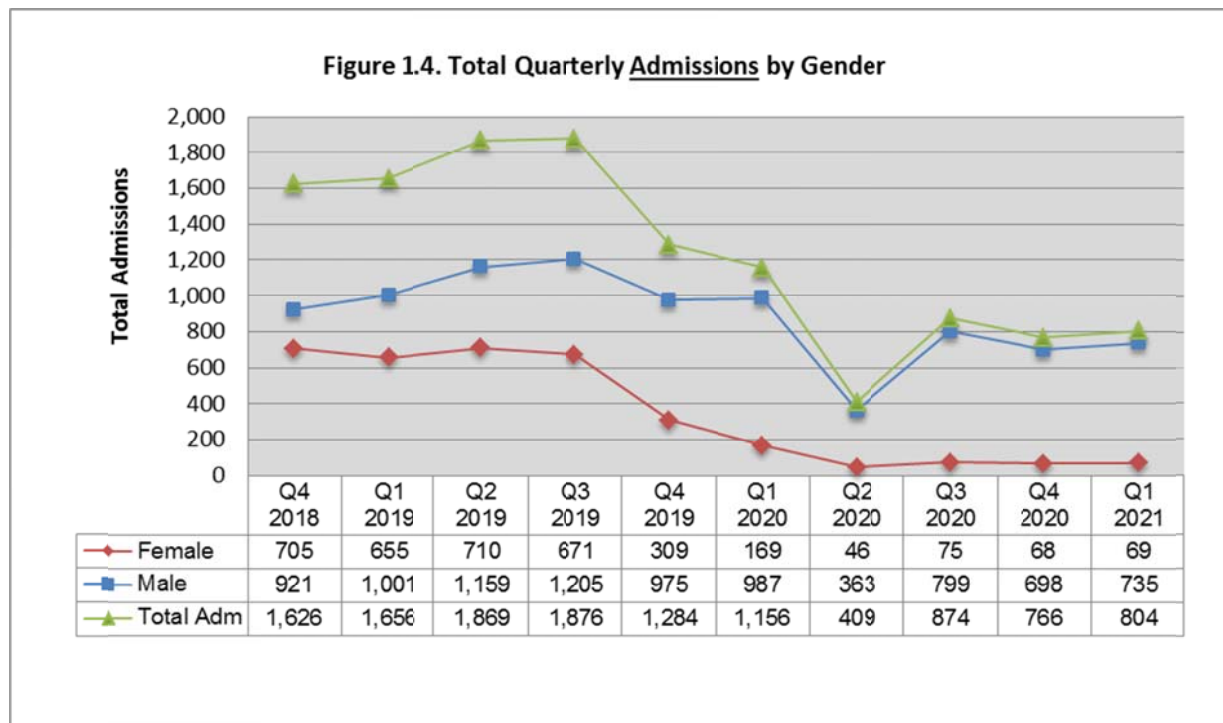
Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 804 from the previous quarter, a rise of 4.9 percent. Releases decreased 10.9 percent to 974. This resulted in a smaller admission-to-release deficit in the first quarter, 2021 than the fourth quarter, 2020. See Figure 1.3 below.

**Figure 1.3. Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases**



The increase in **admissions** in the first quarter is seen primarily in males where admissions gained from

698 to 735 while female admissions remained flat with an increase of only 1 from 68 to 69. See Figure 1.4 below.



Both male and female releases went down from the previous quarter, down from 1,007 to 897 for males and 86 to 77 for females. See Figure 1.5 below.

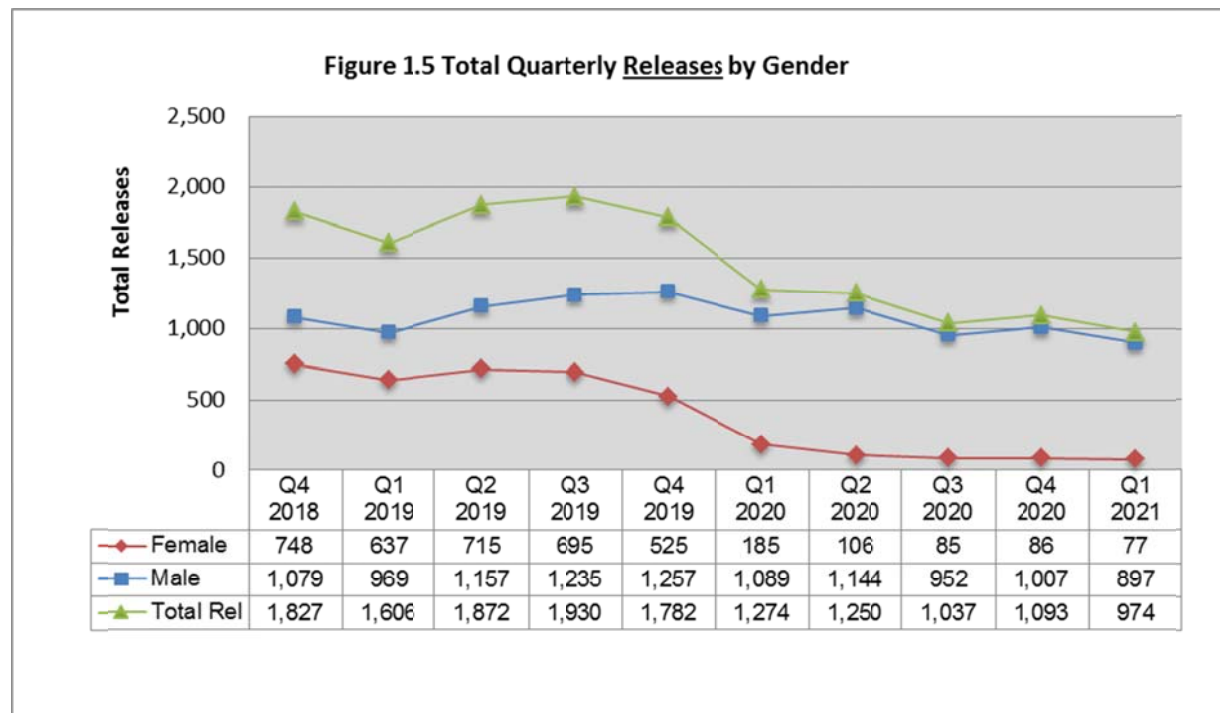


Figure 1.6 shows that male admissions in the first quarter of 2021 increased from the previous quarter

while male releases decreased. It, however, still resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 162, which was smaller than the 309 more releases than admissions of the last quarter.

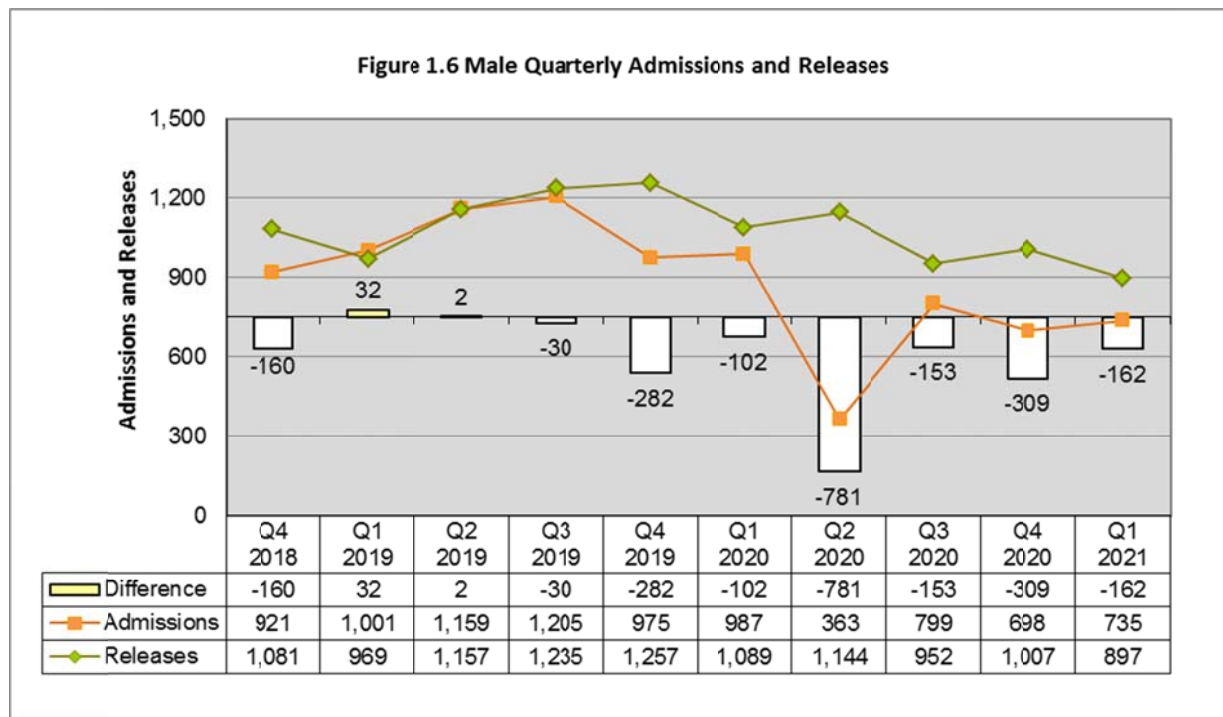
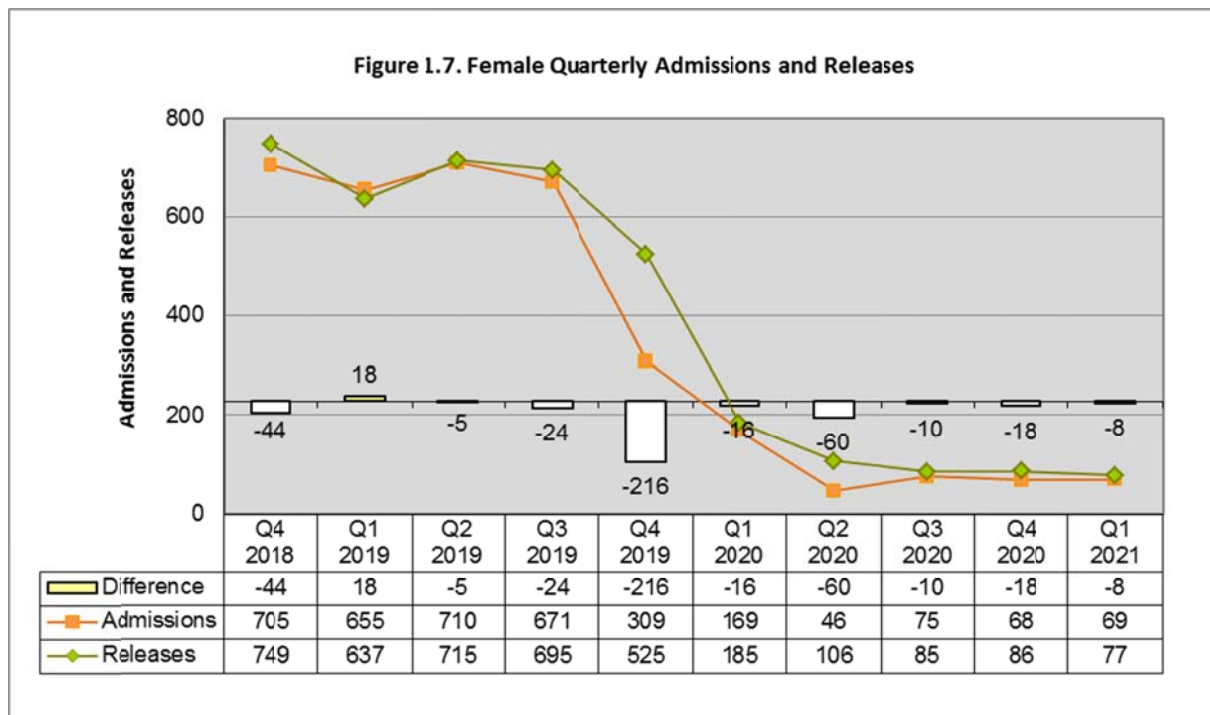


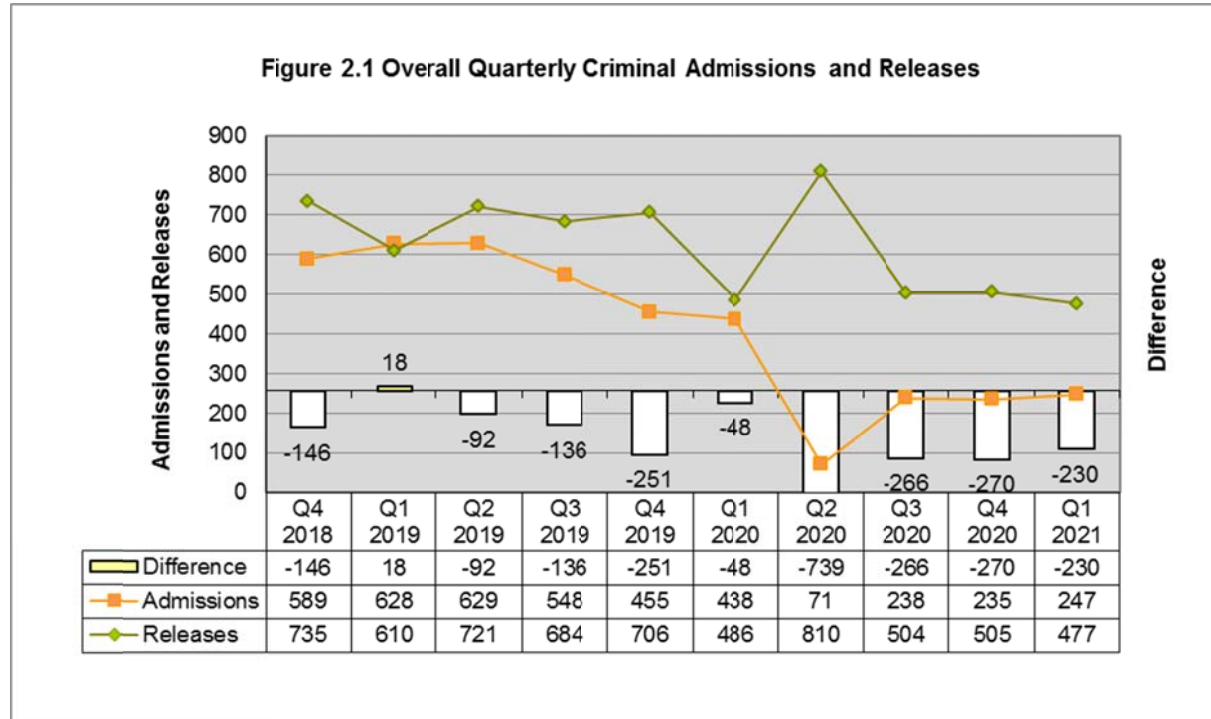
Figure 1.7 shows a similar movement in female admissions and releases, giving rise to a smaller admission-to-release deficit in the first quarter (-8) than the fourth quarter of last year (-18).





## CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions and releases during the first quarter of 2021 continued to follow the pattern of the previous quarters in which releases remained larger than admissions, contributing to the shrinking of the DOC population for yet another quarter. Overall, the DOC released 2,160 more inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. The four quarters after the outbreak of the COVID-19 contributed 70 percent of them. (Figure 2.1)



In the first quarter of 2021, male criminal admissions went up and releases went down both moderately from the previous quarter, and meanwhile female criminal admissions and releases went down, making the admission-to-release deficit smaller than the previous quarter, 221 for males and 9 for females. (Figure 2.2)

**Figure 2.2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases by Gender**

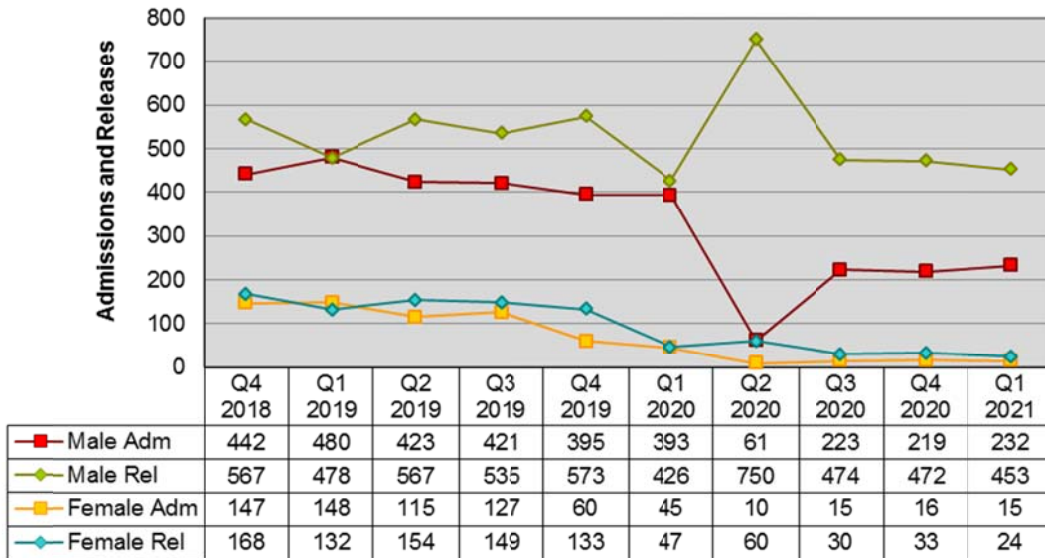
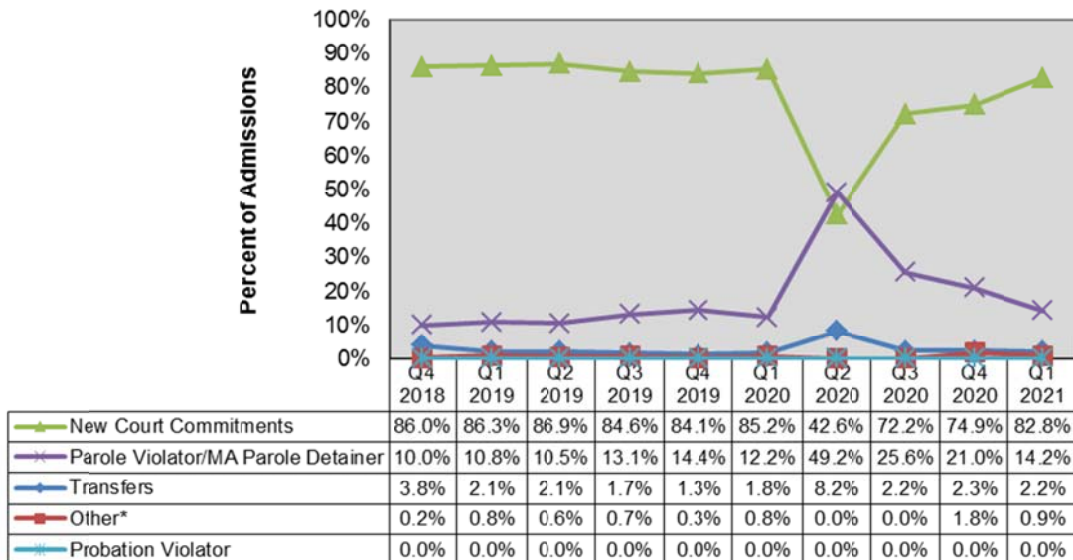


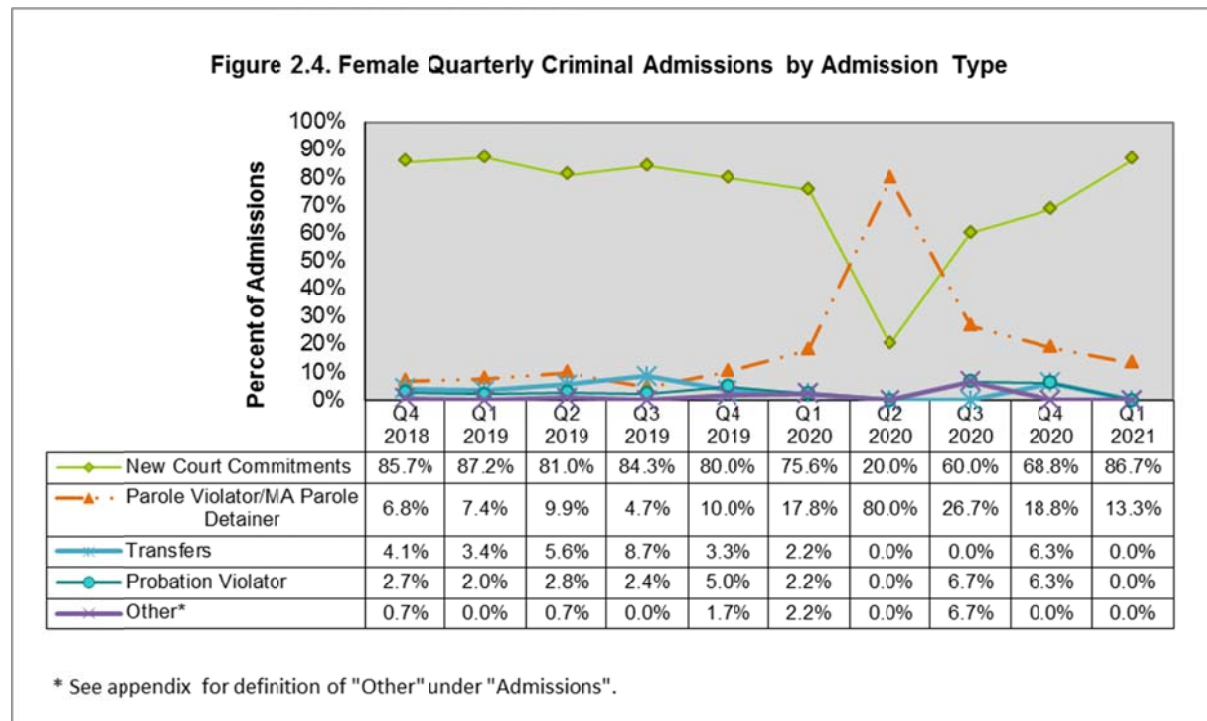
Figure 2.3 below shows that new court commitments continued to be the leading male criminal admission type followed by parole violators. Male criminal admissions in the first quarter look quite similar to the quarters prior to the COVID-19 pandemic with new court commitment in the eighty percent range and parole violators in lower mid-ten percent.

**Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type**



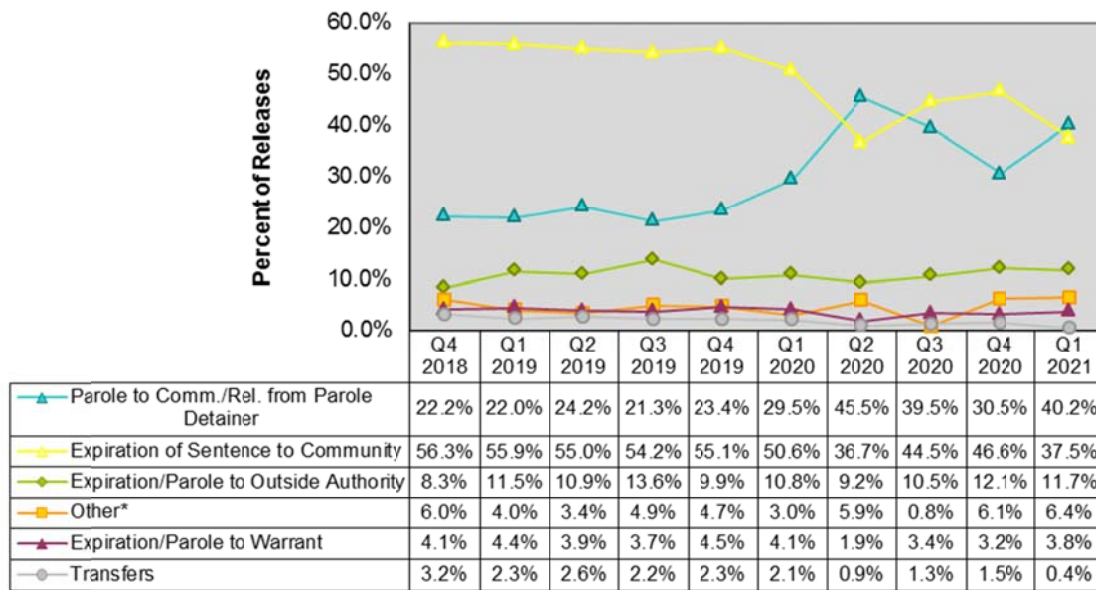
\* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

The same is true with female criminal admissions as well. New court commitments and parole violators dominated the list, making the first quarter female criminal admissions closer to the pre-pandemic norm. (Figure 2.4)



Figures 2.5 describe how male criminally sentenced inmates were released in Q1, 2021 and quarters prior. In the first quarter of 2021, paroles (40.2%) top the list of the release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (37.5%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (11.7%) as the top three. Paroles in the first quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.

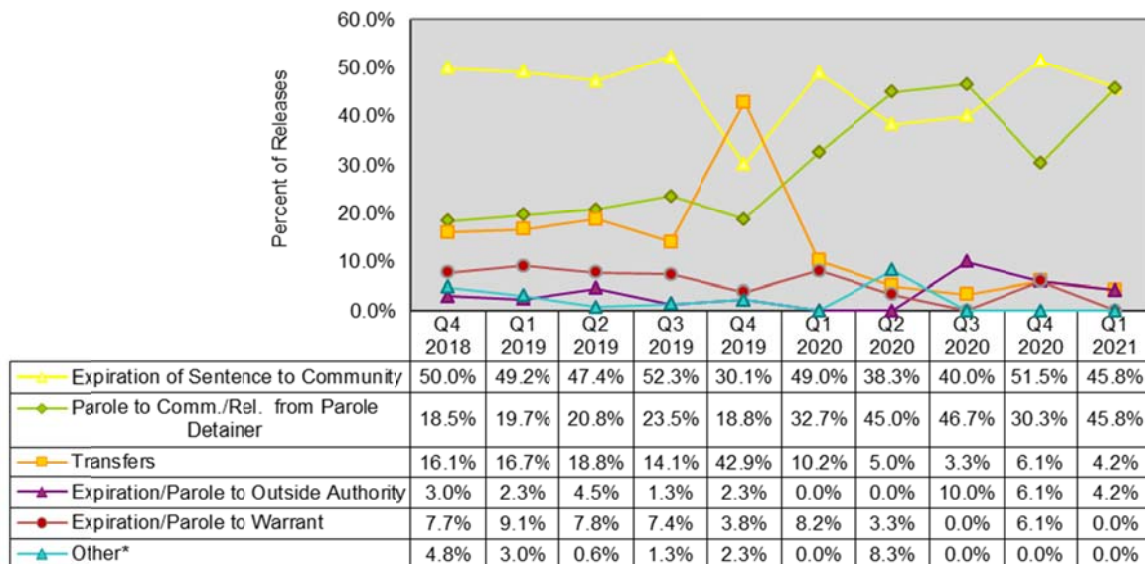
**Figure 2.5. Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type**



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

Expiration of sentence to community (45.8%) and paroles (45.8%) split the share of the top two female release types in the first quarter, 2021. While expiration of sentence to community was similar to the shares of the pre-COVID-19 quarters, paroles in the first quarter appeared to be higher than the pre-COVID-19 quarters, suggesting the growing share of paroles after the outbreak of COVID-19 continued in the first quarter. (Figure 2.6)

**Figure 2.6. Female Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type**



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

## New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts court jurisdictions are in the process of recovering from the pandemic. New court commitments continued to grow after the sharp increase in the last two quarters from the second quarter of 2020, the first full quarter impacted by COVID-19, but still at about 60% of the pre-pandemic level. Bristol County (39) sent the most new criminal court commitments, followed by Essex (38) and Suffolk (30) counties in the first quarter. (Figure 2.7)

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

County	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
BRISTOL	44	77	56	37	46	47	1	21	20	39
ESSEX	78	77	92	61	64	57	0	45	37	38
SUFFOLK	76	70	90	64	48	52	4	19	25	30
WORCESTER	21	38	34	49	34	43	1	11	19	19
MIDDLESEX	53	53	45	37	42	38	4	17	24	18
HAMPDEN	37	42	46	32	27	41	2	10	10	17
PLYMOUTH	28	26	29	28	40	27	4	24	15	14
NORFOLK	22	19	19	17	11	13	2	7	10	7
BARNSTABLE	6	10	8	16	15	10	1	5	5	5
BERKSHIRE	4	7	5	13	8	8	1	1	8	3
FRANKLIN	8	6	4	5	3	5	1	0	1	3
HAMPSHIRE	7	6	4	5	2	4	0	1	1	3
DUKES	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	384	431	433	364	340	345	21	161	175	196

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

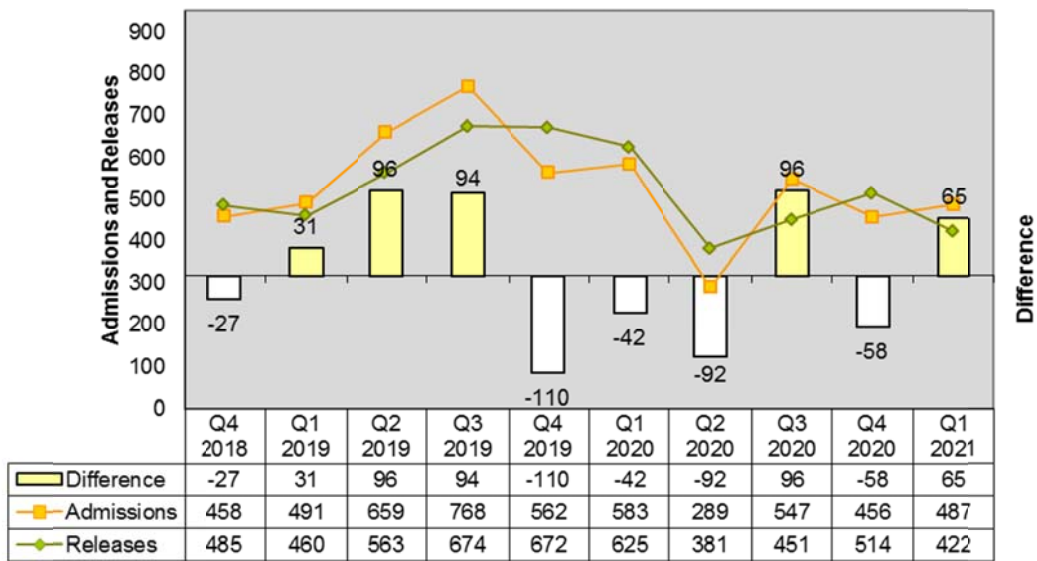
Nantucket County had no new court commitments to the DOC in the last ten quarters.

## CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

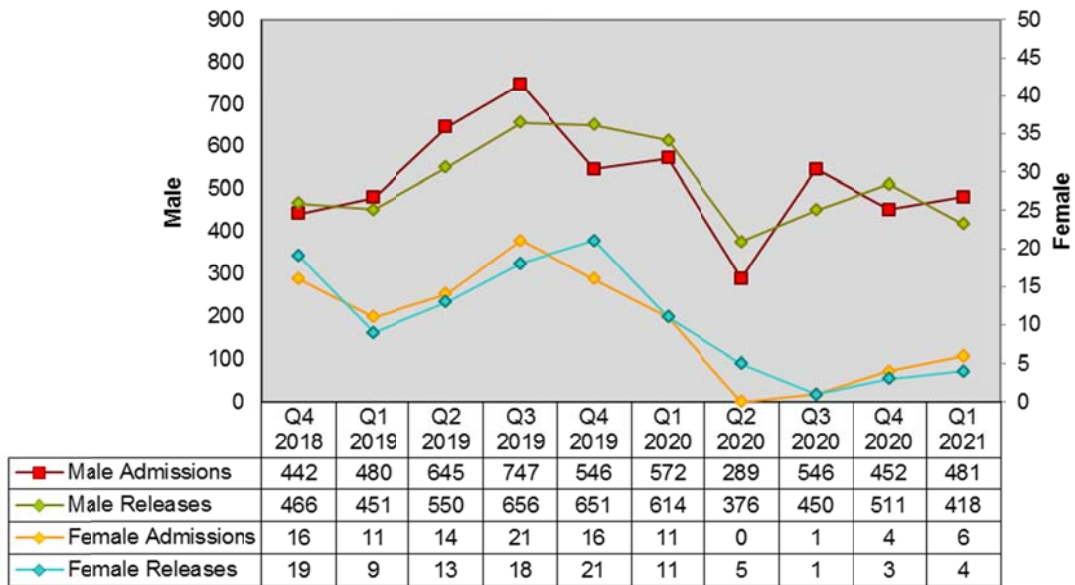
In the first quarter of 2021, there were 65 more civil commitment admissions than releases. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has admitted 53 more civil commitments than it has released. See Figure 3.1.

Female civil commitment activity continued to be low in the first quarter of 2021. Male admissions went up from the previous quarter while releases went down, but they were still in the ballpark of the pre-pandemic level with 481 admissions and 418 releases. See Figure 3.2.

**Figure 3.1. Overall Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases**



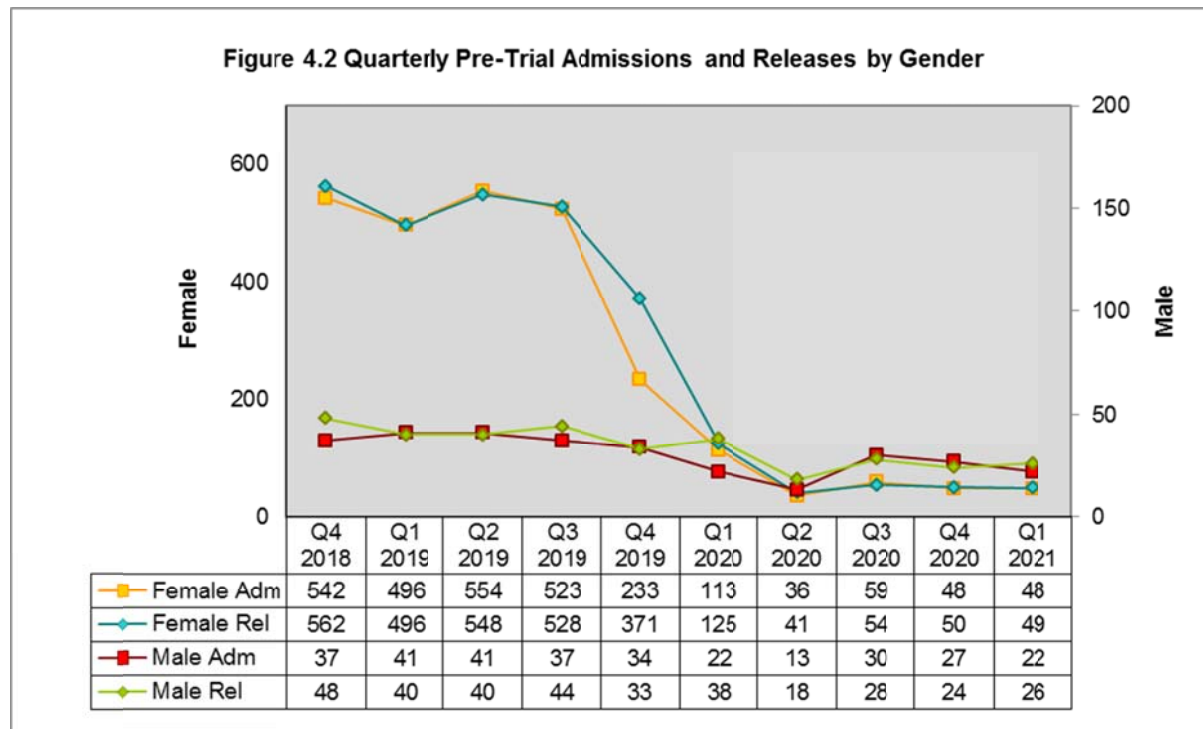
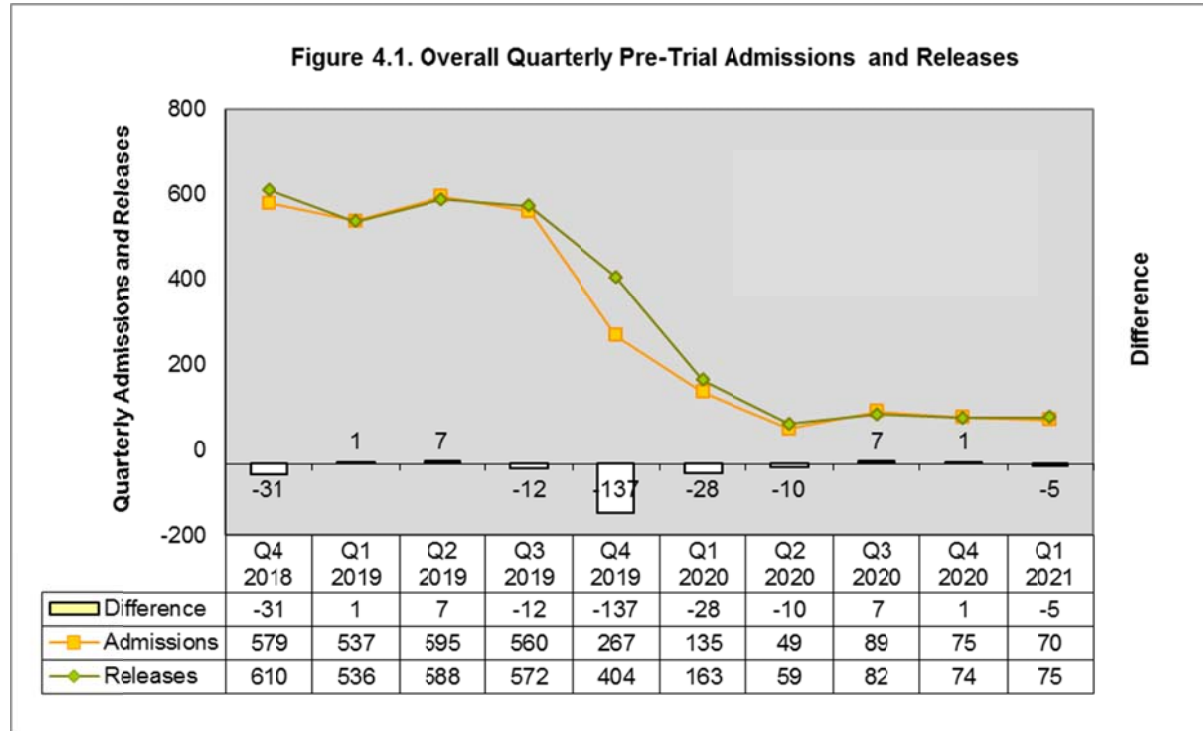
**Figure 3.2. Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender**





## PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions continued to go down in the first quarter of 2021 following the downturn of the previous quarter while releases stayed largely flat. The total number of admissions and releases were still far below the pre-pandemic level. This is especially true for females than males for a combination of factors: female pre-trials were no longer coming to the MADOC from Essex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties since Q4, 2019 and COVID-19. See figures 4.1 and 4.2.



## Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

In the first quarter of 2021, two-fifths of male pre-trial detainee admissions came from the out of state jurisdictions, and the remaining three-fifths from Massachusetts. For the first time in the ten-quarter trend period, none of the male pre-trial admissions to the DOC came from the Federal jurisdiction. Female detainees came exclusively from Middlesex County in the first quarter of 2021. Other counties, such as Essex, Norfolk and Plymouth that used to send more female detainees before the pandemic dropped to zero in this quarter due to the fact that they stopped sending pre-trials to the MADOC starting in Q4, 2019. See Tables 4.3 and 4.4 below.

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

County	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
Out-of-state	8	7	14	6	7	12	7	10	6	9
Essex	3	3	2	5	1	1	1	1	2	4
Hampden	0	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Bristol	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	3
Suffolk	3	2	3	2	3	4	0	7	3	1
Norfolk	3	3	3	4	2	0	0	1	1	1
Middlesex	3	2	0	2	4	3	0	3	0	1
Federal	9	12	9	10	10	6	2	2	12	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Plymouth	0	2	4	1	3	2	0	2	1	0
Barnstable	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Worcester	5	7	4	4	2	8	1	0	0	0
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	37	41	41	37	34	38	13	30	27	22

\*Dukes County has not reported pre-trial males in any of the previous ten quarters.

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

County	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021
Middlesex	131	119	138	150	149	122	34	57	43	48
Essex	195	194	202	180	31	1	0	2	2	0
Federal	7	2	7	1	5	2	0	0	2	0
Suffolk	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Norfolk	109	96	89	87	32	0	1	0	0	0
Plymouth	97	83	115	103	15	0	0	0	0	0
Worcester	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-State	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	542	496	555	523	233	125	36	59	48	48

\*Franklin and Dukes counties have not reported pre-trial females in any of the previous ten quarters.



## **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.

<b>Admissions</b>	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, or pursuant to the execution of a parole violation warrant. Inmates may also be re-admitted after a court release, or pursuant to the execution of an escape warrant (categorized as "Other" admissions).
<b>Civil Commitment or "Civil"</b>	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.
<b>Criminally Sentenced or "Sentenced"</b>	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.
<b>Custody Population</b>	An inmate that is incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Expiration of Sentence (Release)</b>	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.
<b>HOC</b>	House of Correction, i.e. county jail or correctional facility.
<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.
<b>MASAC</b>	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.