

# **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

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

### **Fourth Quarter 2021**





## **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Charles D. Baker, Governor

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

Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary

### **Massachusetts Department of Correction**

Carol A. Mici, Commissioner

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

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

Research & Planning Division  
MCI-Concord/SFU Building  
P.O. Box 9125  
Concord, MA 01742  
Phone: (978) 405-6677  
Fax: (978) 405-6680  
[Research@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Research@massmail.state.ma.us)

**This and other Massachusetts Department of Correction publications can be accessed on the internet at:**

<https://www.mass.gov/research-statistics-and-reports>

## 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

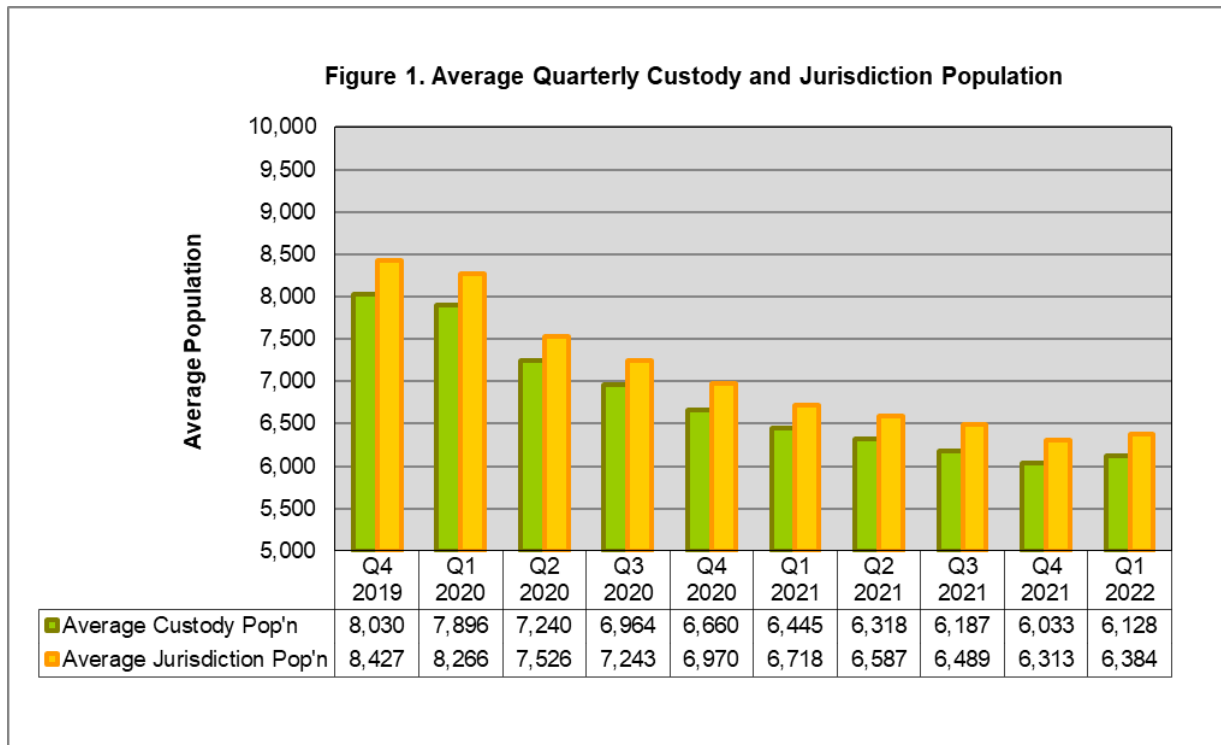
- Between the third and fourth quarter of 2021, the MA DOC custody population saw a 2.5% decline. During the ten-quarter trend period starting in Q3 2019, the average custody population has decreased 27.5%. The jurisdiction population is also down 2.7% from the previous quarter, and 27.9% since the third quarter of 2019.
- Criminally sentenced inmates fell from 7,860 in Q3 2019 to 5,686 in Q4 2021, a loss of 2,174 inmates or 27.7% of the total. Pre-trial detainees dropped from 250 individuals in Q3 2019 to 65 individuals in Q4 2021, a decline of 185 detainees or 74.0% of the total. Civil commitment inmates slid from 644 to 562, a decrease of 82 inmates or 12.7% of the total during the same ten-quarter trend period.
- Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC decreased to 974 from the previous quarter, a drop of 13.%. Releases went down 9.2% to 1,151. This resulted in a larger admission-to-release deficit in the fourth quarter than the third quarter, 2021.
- Criminal releases continued to outnumber admissions by a 465 to 320 margin in the fourth quarter of 2021, contributing to the shrinking of 145 inmates from the DOC population, the second smallest drop since the outbreak of the COVID-19. Overall, the DOC released 2,354 more criminally sentenced inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period.
- New court commitments remained to be the leading admission type for male admissions (83.1%), followed by parole violators (12.9%) in the fourth quarter of 2021. New court commitments were also the predominant admission type for female admissions with 84.0%. The share of parole violators as the second male criminal admission type fell back to the pre-pandemic level in the fourth quarter of 2021. So did its share among female admission types.
- Expiration of sentence to community (39.4%) topped the list of male criminal release types, followed closely by parole to community (38.0%) and distantly by expiration/parole to outside authority (12.2%) as the top three release types. Parole to community in the fourth quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Parole to community (39.1%) took the lead once again as the leading female release type in the fourth quarter of 2021, followed by expiration of sentence to community (30.4%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (13.0%) as the top three female release types. Parole to community in the fourth quarter remained to be higher than in the quarters before the pandemic.
- Male civil admissions and releases in the fourth quarter went down to 530 for admissions and 558 for releases, a drop of approximately 25% for both from the previous quarter. Female civil commitment admissions decreased from 13 of the previous quarter to 9 and female civil releases remained intact at 10 in the fourth quarter of 2021.
- In the fourth quarter of 2021, pre-trial admissions (124) and releases (128) increased about 35% more than the previous quarter. For the first time since the pandemic, pre-trial admissions and releases went over 100 detainees. Females, which normally accounted for over 90% of total pre-trial admissions and releases, appeared to be the reason for the low activities due to primarily the factor that female pre-trials were no longer coming to the MADOC from Essex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Suffolk Counties since Q4, 2019, and COVID-19 as a secondary factor.

*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 6,128 inmates in the first quarter of 2022. This population increased by 1.6% from the previous quarter. This is the first quarterly increase since the third quarter of 2017. From the fourth quarter of 2019 through the first quarter of 2022, there was a decrease of 1,902 inmates, or 23.7%, from the custody population.

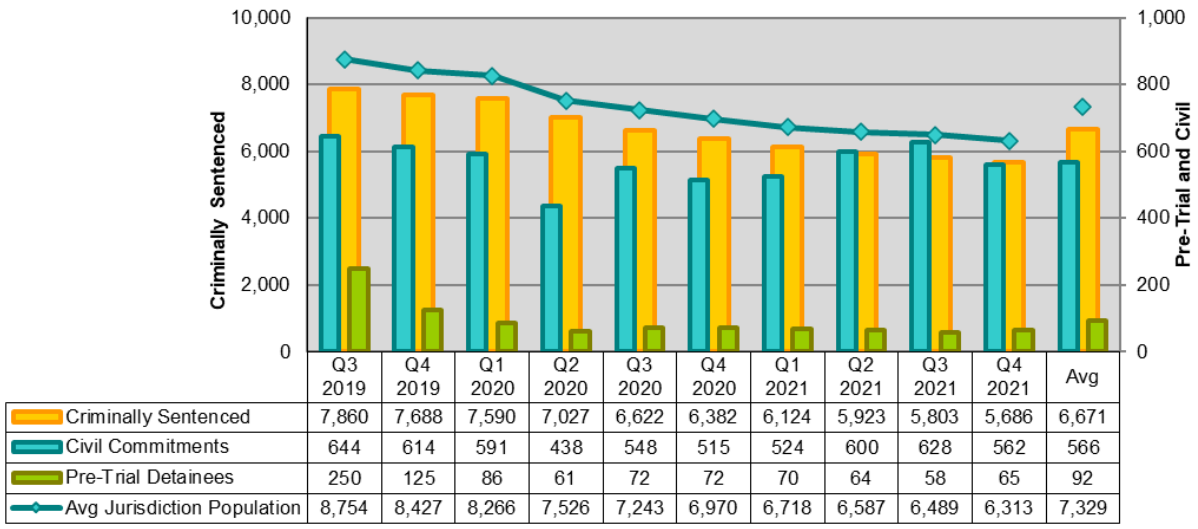
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 6,384 inmates in the first quarter of 2022, rising 1.1% from the previous quarter. This is the first quarterly increase since the first quarter of 2014. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 2,043 inmates or 24.2%. See Figure 1.1 below.\*



The criminally sentenced population dropped 2.0% from the last quarter and 27.7% since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population decreased 10.5 percent from the previous quarter and fluctuated around a flat line of 566 inmates during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population rose 10.9% this quarter from the previous quarter and averaged 65 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.

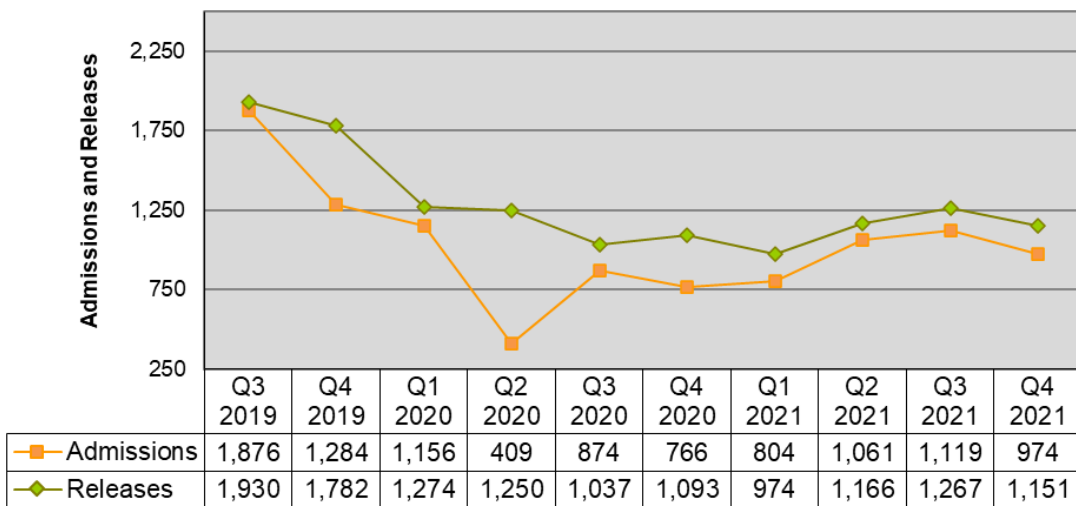
**Figure 1.2. Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type**



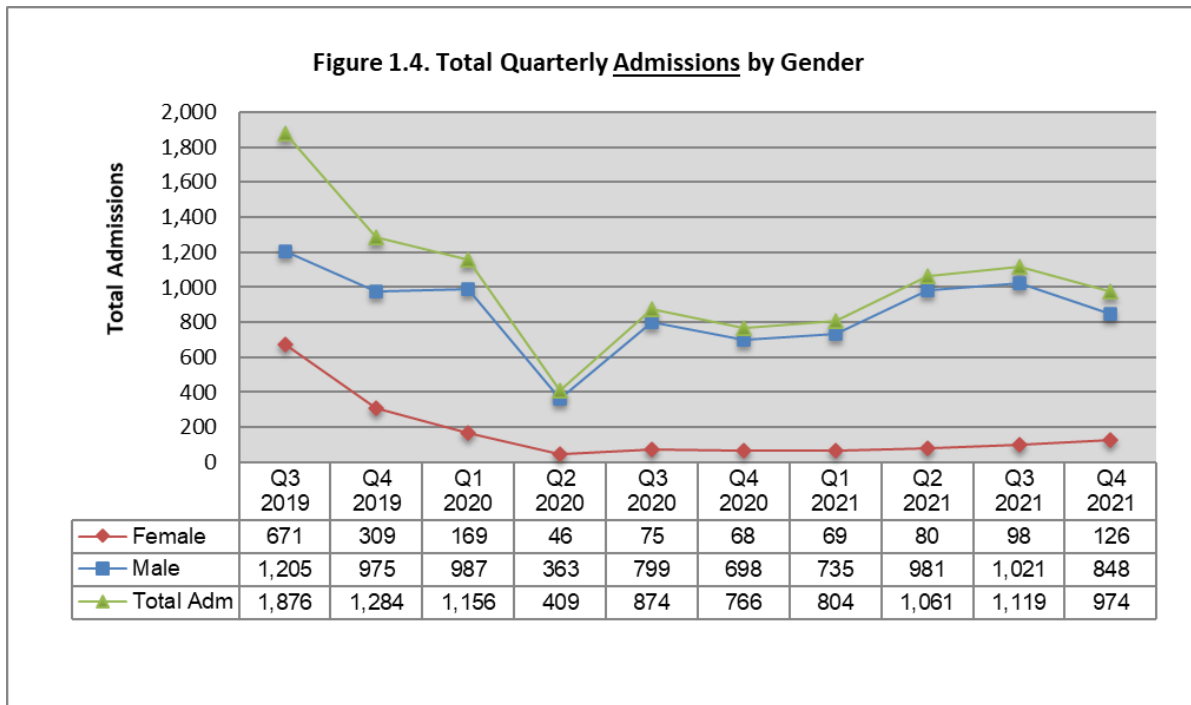
**OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES**

Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC decreased to 974 from the previous quarter, a drop of 13.0%. Releases decreased 10.2% to 1,151. This resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 177 inmates in the fourth quarter, 2021, larger than the deficit of 148 inmates in the previous quarter. See Figure 1.3 below.

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



Male admissions in the fourth quarter dropped from 1,021 to 848 or a decline of 12.9% from the previous quarter while female admissions increased 28.6% from 98 to 126. For the first time since the second quarter of 2020, male admissions did not increase from the previous quarter. See Figure 1.4 below.



Male releases in the fourth quarter declined from 1,180 to 1,024 while female releases increased from 87 to 127. Both female admissions and releases reached the highest level since the outbreak of COVID-19, the first quarter 2020. See Figure 1.5 below.

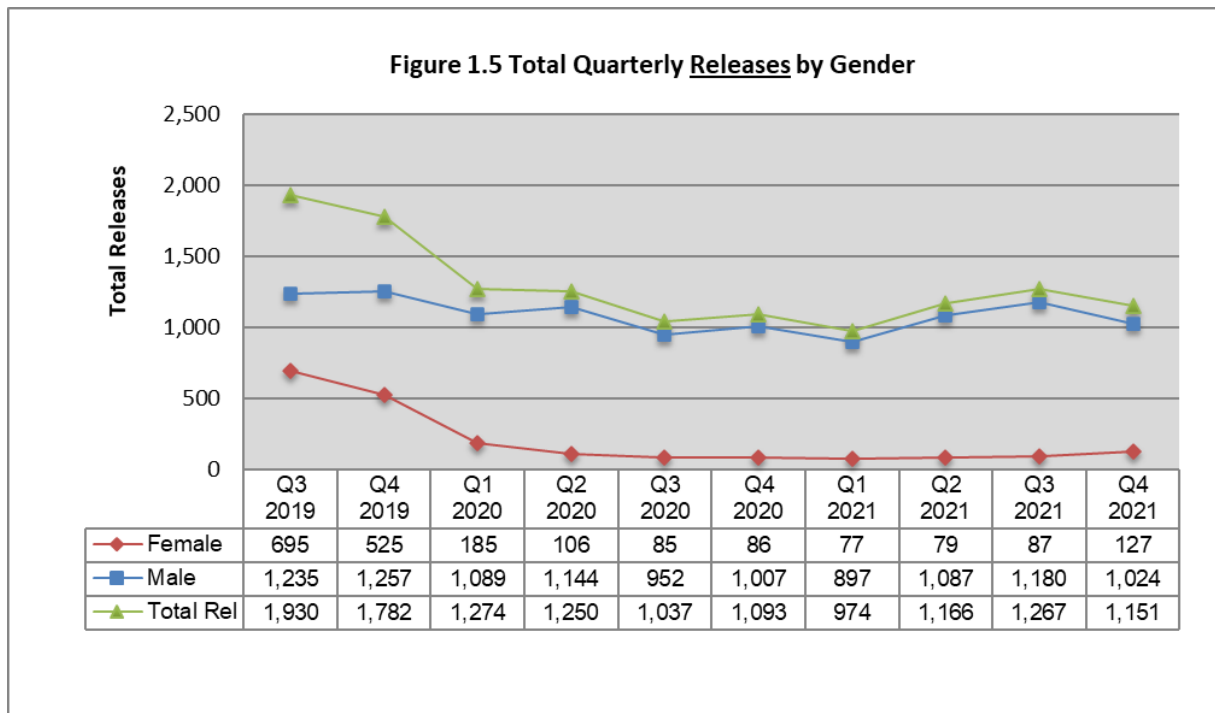


Figure 1.6 shows that male admissions in the fourth quarter of 2021 decreased from the previous quarter.

Male releases went down as well. It resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 176, which was larger than the 159 more releases than admissions of the last quarter.

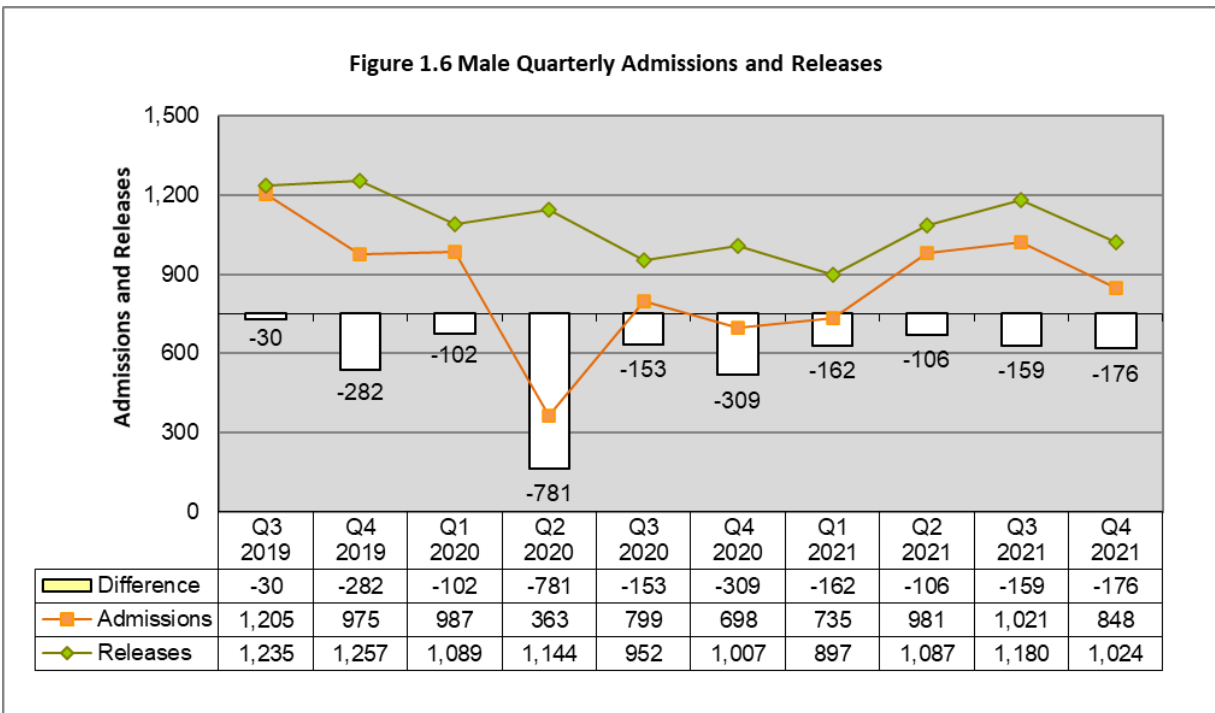
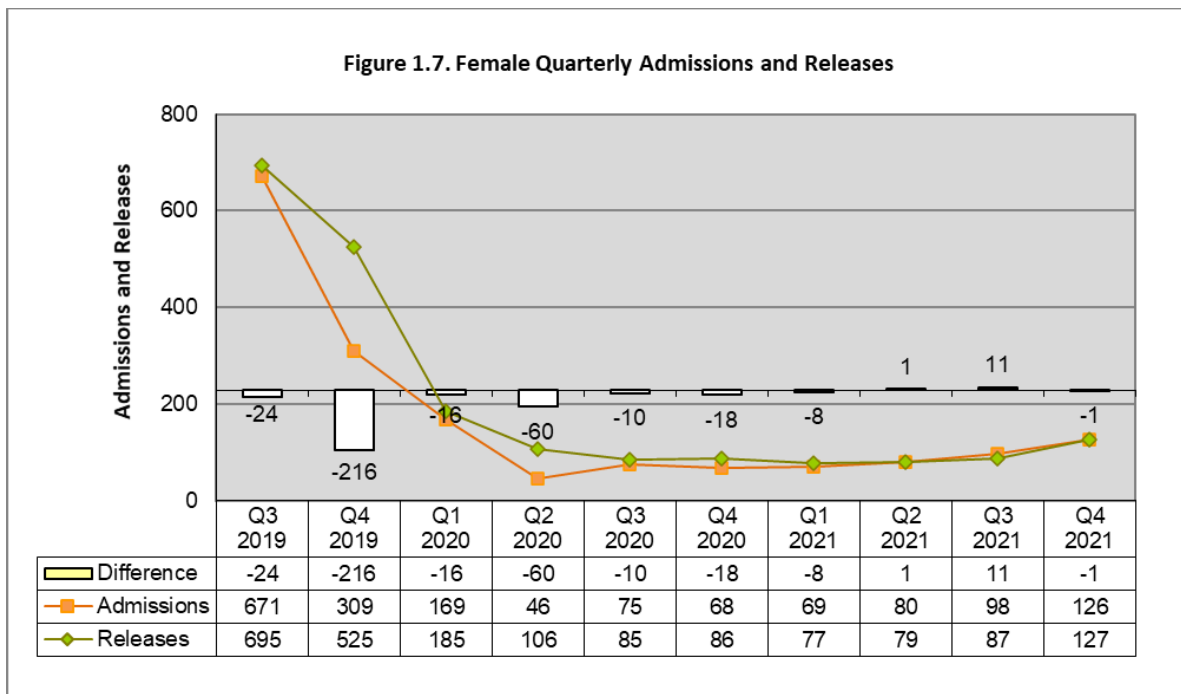


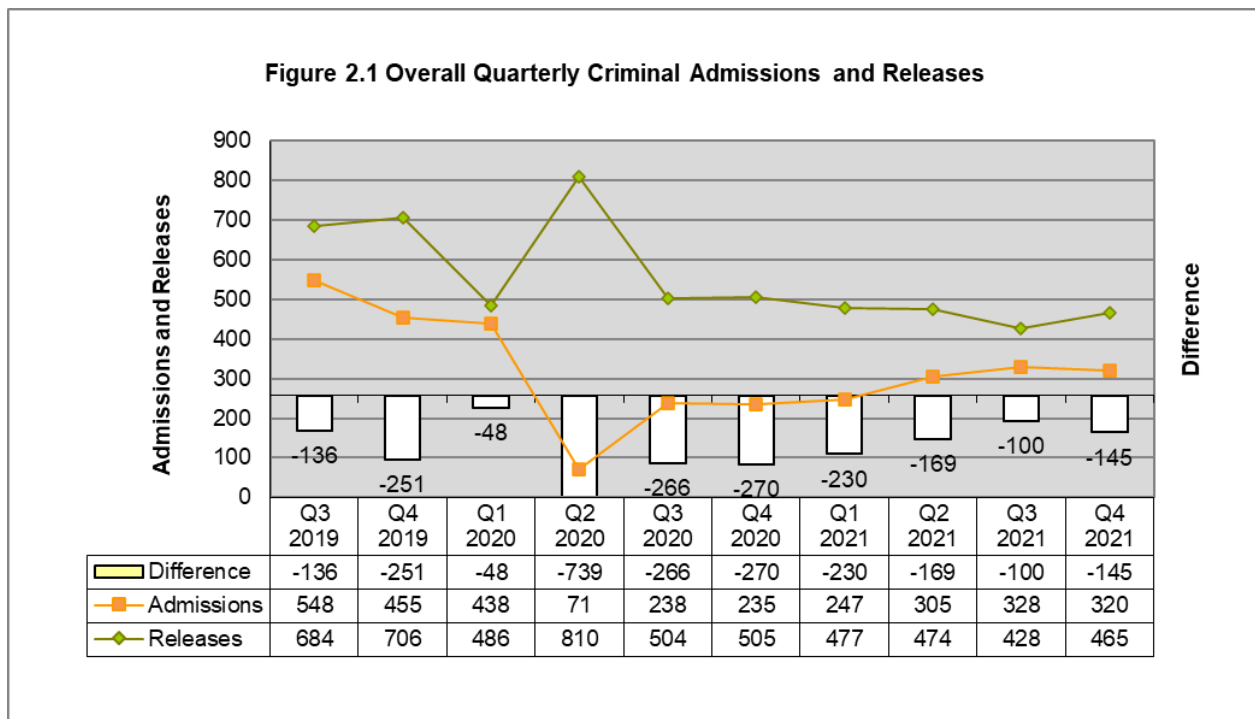
Figure 1.7 shows both female admissions and releases increased and resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 1 inmate in the fourth quarter. It reversed the admission-to-release surplus of the previous two quarters.



## CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

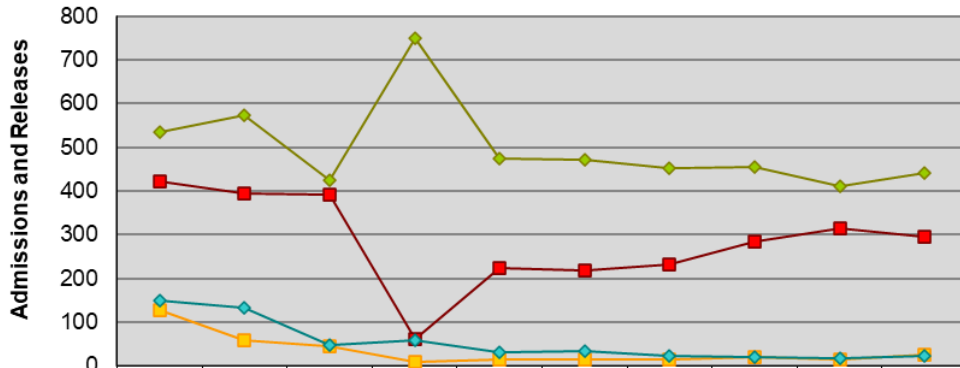


Criminal admissions in the fourth quarter decreased 2.4% from the previous quarter while releases increased 8.6%. Releases remained larger than admissions, contributing to the shrinking of the DOC population by 145 inmates for this quarter. Overall, the DOC released 2,354 more inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.1)



In the fourth quarter of 2021, male criminal admissions went down and releases went up from the previous quarter. The MA DOC released 147 more male inmates than admitted, larger than the admission-to-release deficit of last quarter. Meanwhile female criminal admissions and releases increased, from 14 of last quarter to 25 for admissions and from 18 to 23 for releases, making the fourth quarter the only quarter with an admission to release surplus in the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.2)

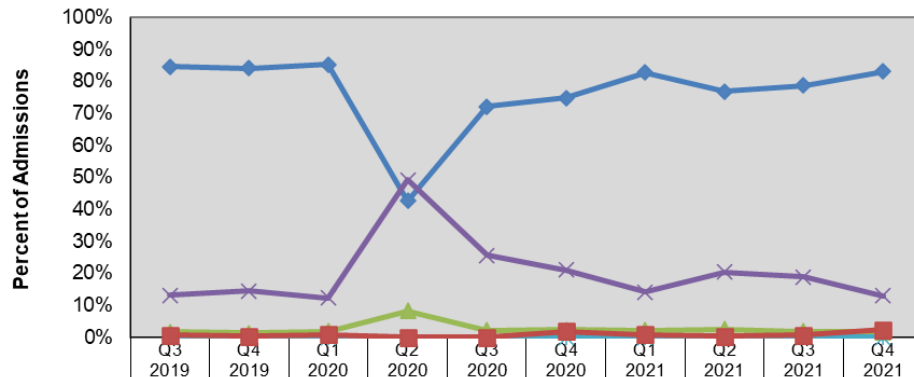
**Figure 2.2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases by Gender**



	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
Male Adm	421	395	393	61	223	219	232	285	314	295
Male Rel	535	573	426	750	474	472	453	454	410	442
Female Adm	127	60	45	10	15	16	15	20	14	25
Female Rel	149	133	47	60	30	33	24	20	18	23

Figure 2.3 below shows that new court commitments continued to be the leading male criminal admission type (83.1%) followed by parole violators (12.9%). The share of parole violators as the second male criminal admission type appeared to fall back to the pre-COVID-19 pandemic level.

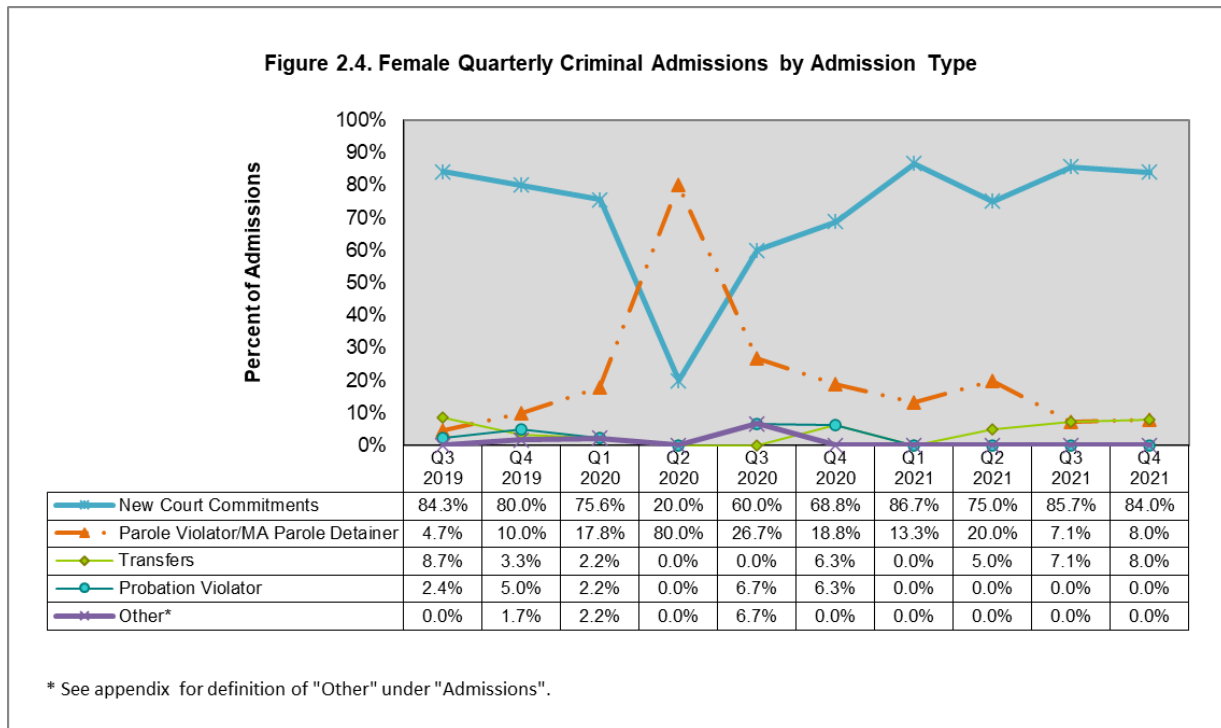
**Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type**



	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
New Court Commitments	84.6%	84.1%	85.2%	42.6%	72.2%	74.9%	82.8%	76.8%	78.7%	83.1%
Parole Violator/MA Parole Detainer	13.1%	14.4%	12.2%	49.2%	25.6%	21.0%	14.2%	20.4%	18.8%	12.9%
Transfers	1.7%	1.3%	1.8%	8.2%	2.2%	2.3%	2.2%	2.5%	1.9%	1.7%
Probation Violator	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other*	0.7%	0.3%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.9%	0.4%	0.6%	2.4%

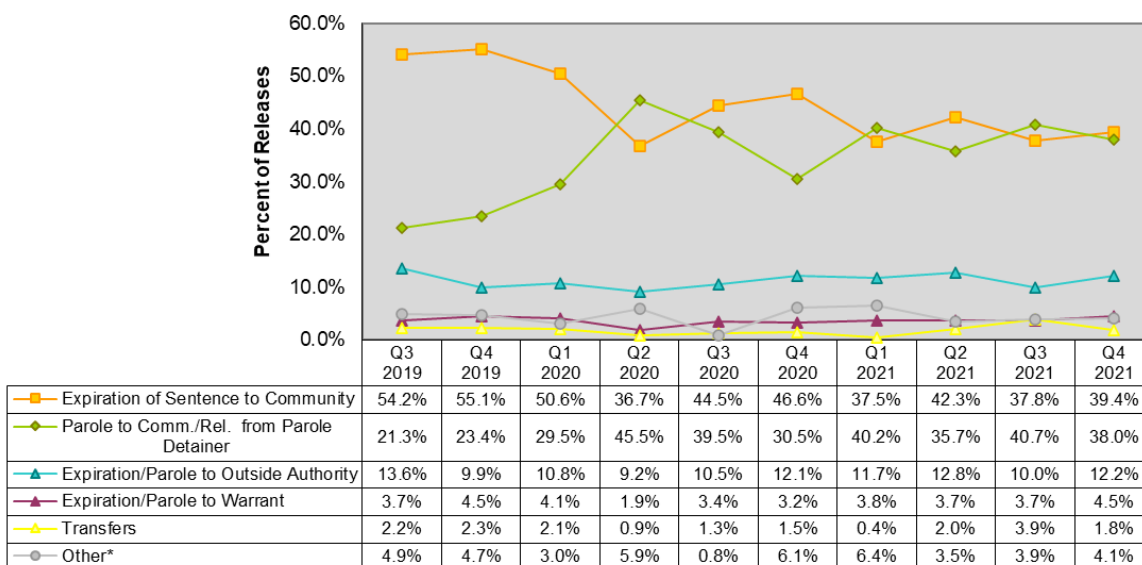
\* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

New court commitments (84.0%) also dominated the list of female criminal admissions, followed distantly by parole violator (8.0%) and transfers (8.0%) as the top three admission types. The share of parole violators tied with transfers for the second position for the second time in a row in Q4 2021. (Figure 2.4)



Figures 2.5 describe how male criminally sentenced inmates were released in Q4, 2021 and the quarters prior. In the fourth quarter of 2021, expiration of sentence to community (39.4%) tops the list of the release types, followed by parole to community (38.0%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (12.2%) as the top three types. Parole to community in the fourth quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.

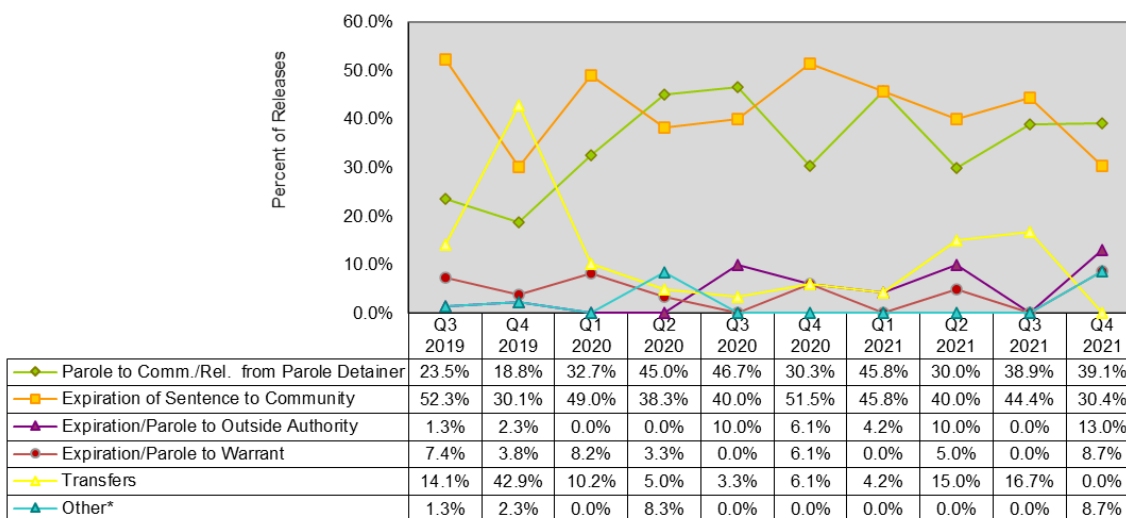
**Figure 2.5. Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type**



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

Parole to community (39.1%) and expiration of sentence to community (30.4%) continued to split the share of the top two female release types in the fourth quarter, 2021, followed by expiration/parole to outside authority (13.0%) as the top three release types. Parole to community as the first release type in the fourth quarter remained to be higher than in the quarters prior to the pandemic. (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 decline in the second quarter of 2020, the first full quarter impacted by COVID-19. It reached 255 in the fourth quarter of 2021. Essex County (51) sent the most new criminal court commitments. Other counties that sent more than 20 new court commitments in the fourth quarter also include Middlesex (37), Hampden (34), Suffolk (34) and Bristol (32) counties. (Figure 2.7)

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

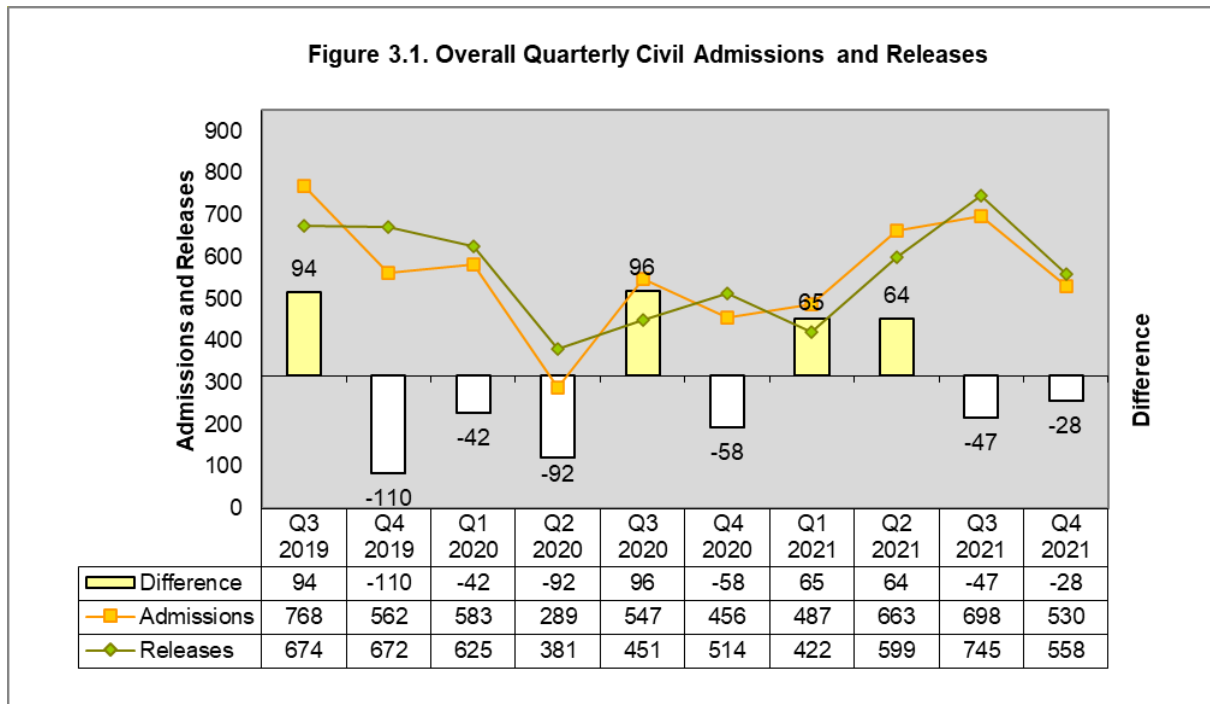
County	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
ESSEX	61	64	57	0	45	37	38	42	45	51
MIDDLESEX	37	42	38	4	17	24	18	17	21	37
HAMPDEN	32	27	41	2	10	10	17	29	32	34
SUFFOLK	64	48	52	4	19	25	30	35	35	33
BRISTOL	37	46	47	1	21	20	39	35	31	32
WORCESTER	49	34	43	1	11	19	19	24	24	17
NORFOLK	17	11	13	2	7	10	7	8	12	13
BARNSTABLE	16	15	10	1	5	5	5	6	13	11
PLYMOUTH	28	40	27	4	24	15	14	19	15	11
BERKSHIRE	13	8	8	1	1	8	3	1	9	6
FRANKLIN	5	3	5	1	0	1	3	2	4	6
HAMPSHIRE	5	2	4	0	1	1	3	3	1	4
Total	364	340	345	21	161	175	196	221	242	255

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

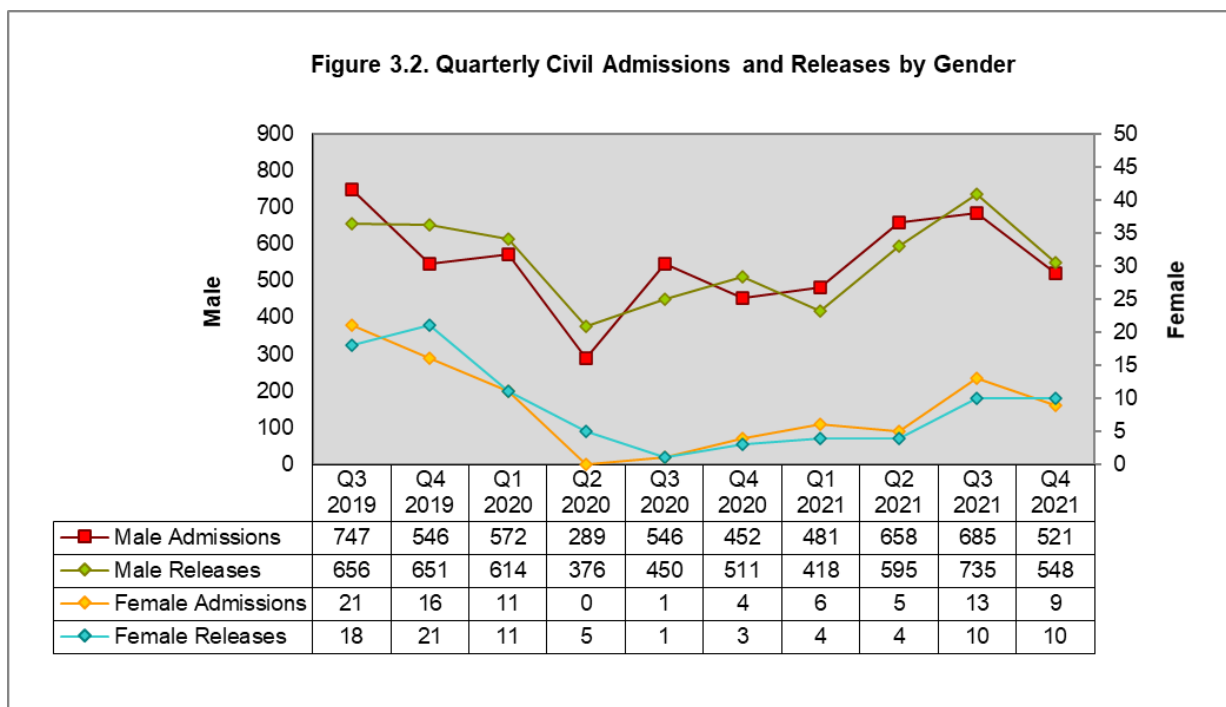
Nantucket and Dukes Counties had no new court commitments to the DOC in the last ten quarters.

## CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In the fourth quarter of 2021, the MA DOC released 28 more civil commitments than admitted, which continued the admission to release deficit of the previous quarter. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has released 58 more civil commitments than it has admitted. See Figure 3.1.

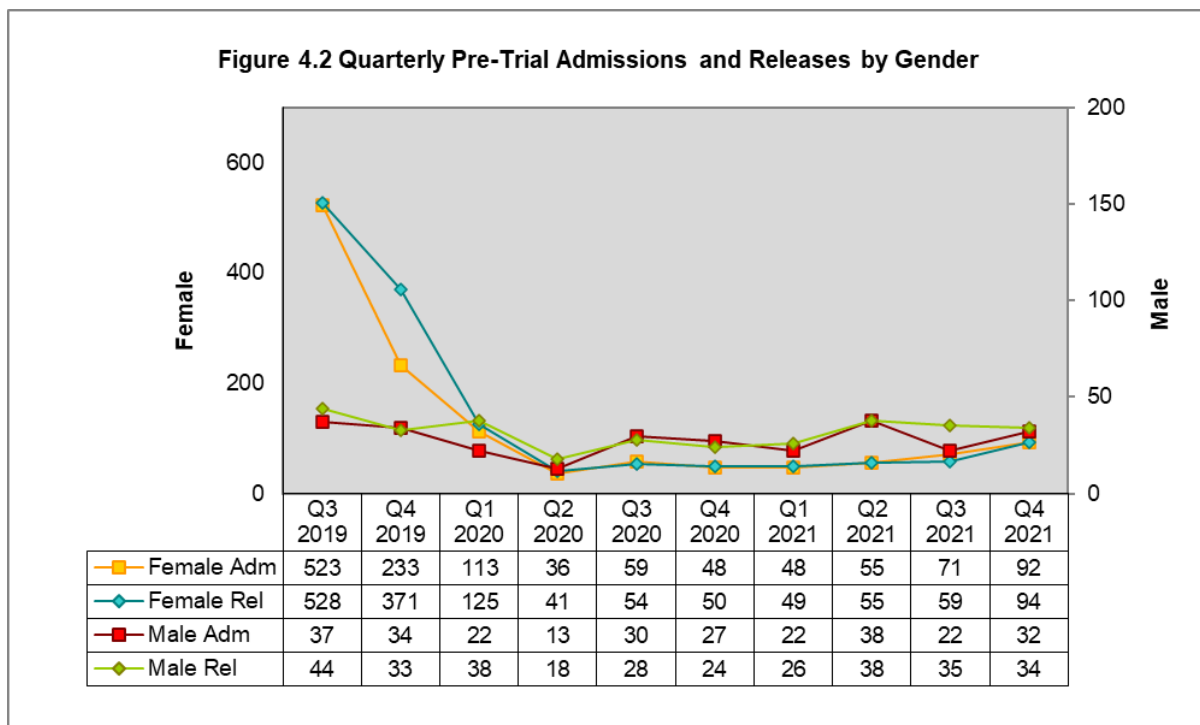
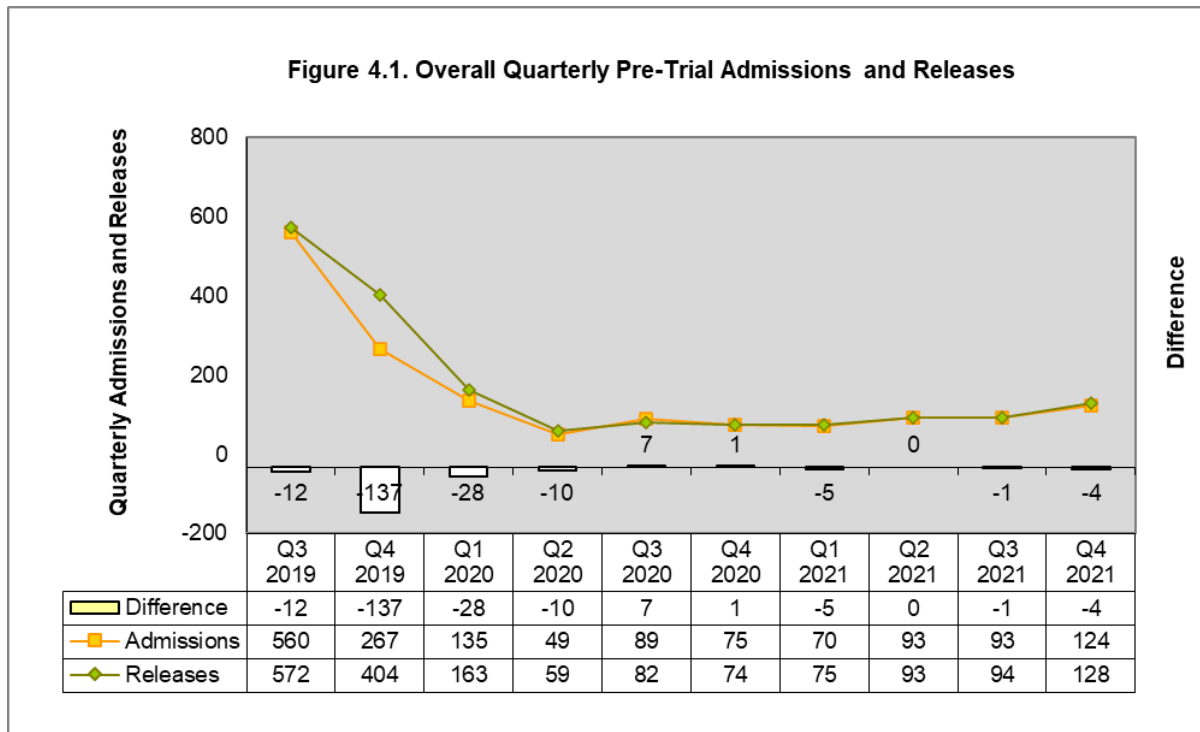


After two quarters of increase, male civil admissions and releases dropped in the fourth quarter to 521 for admissions and 548 for releases. Female civil admissions fell as well from 13 of the previous quarter to 9 while releases remained intact at 10. See Figure 3.2.



## PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions went up to 124 in the fourth quarter of 2021 while releases rose to 128, resulting in 4 more releases than admissions for this quarter. Both reached three digits for the first time since the outbreak of COVID-19. Female admissions and releases, though increased, were still far below the pre-pandemic level due to the reason that 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 fourth quarter of 2021, a little over one-third of male pre-trial detainee admissions came from out-of-state (7) and federal (5). The remaining admissions came from seven counties of Massachusetts with Plymouth, Bristol and Middlesex counties contributing 4 admissions each and Suffolk, Hampden, Essex and Barnstable counties contributing 2 admissions each. Female detainees came predominantly from Middlesex County (91) followed distantly by federal (1) in the fourth 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	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
Out-of-state	6	7	12	7	10	6	9	14	3	7
Federal	10	10	6	2	2	12	0	3	3	5
Plymouth	1	3	2	0	2	1	0	6	11	4
Bristol	1	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	2	4
Middlesex	2	4	3	0	3	0	1	5	1	4
Suffolk	2	3	4	0	7	3	1	4	1	2
Hampden	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	2
Essex	5	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	0	2
Barnstable	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Worcester	4	2	8	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	4	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0
Total	37	34	38	13	30	27	22	38	22	32

\*Dukes and Berkshire Counties and Mass Parole have not reported pre-trial males in any of the previous ten quarters.

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

County	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
Middlesex	150	149	122	34	57	43	48	52	68	91
Federal	1	5	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	1
Worcester	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Out-of-State	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Essex	180	31	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	87	32	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plymouth	103	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	523	233	125	36	59	48	48	55	71	92

\*Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Dukes, Franklin and Hampden counties and Mass Parole 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, federal and out of state 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.