

Massachusetts Department of Correction Quarterly Report on Admissions and Releases

Calendar Year 2023
Quarter 4



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
April 2024

Maura T. Healey, Governor
Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary of Public Safety and Security



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

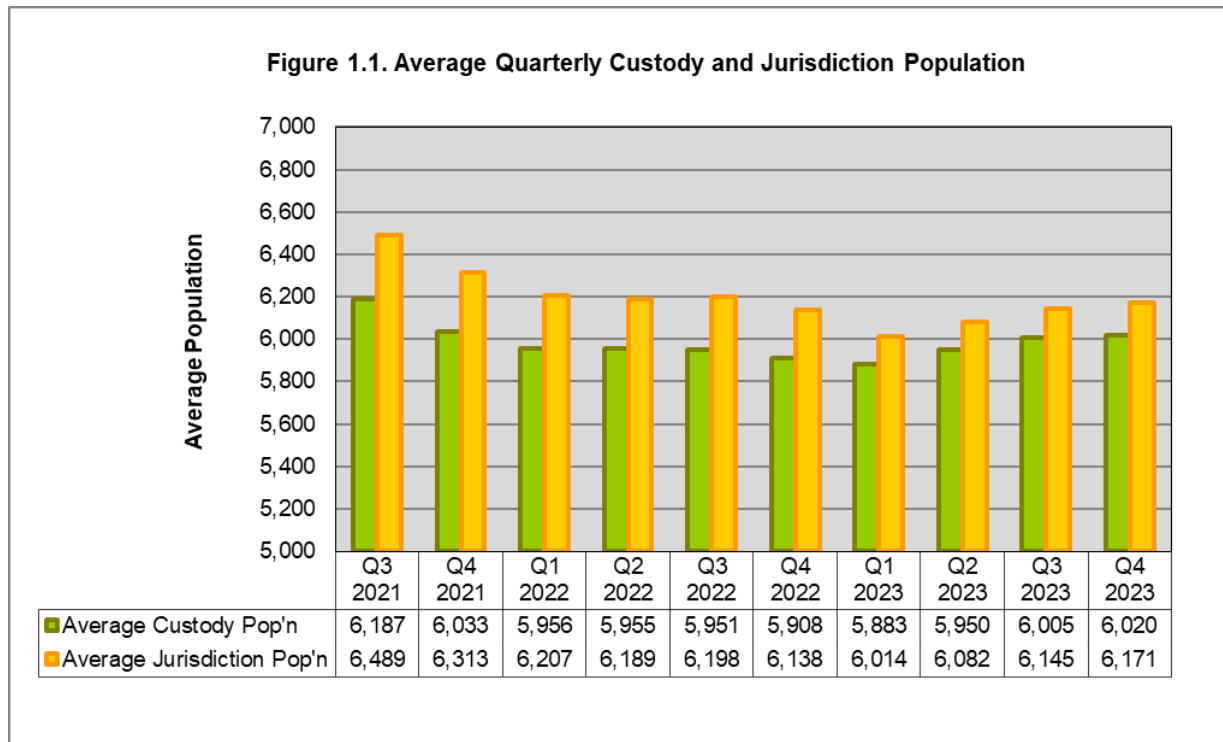
- Between the third and the fourth quarter of 2023, the MA DOC custody population saw an increase of 15 individuals. This is the third increase in a row since the second quarter of 2017. During the ten-quarter trend period starting in Q3 2021, the average custody population has decreased about 2.7%. The jurisdiction population increased about 0.4% or 26 individuals from the previous quarter, the fourth increase in the trend period, and dropped 4.9% since the third quarter of 2021.
- The criminally sentenced population increased 0.6% from the last quarter, the fourth successive increase since the first quarter of 2012, and dropped 1.9% since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population lost 17 individuals from the previous quarter and showed a moderately declining trend during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population increased from the previous quarter and averaged 53 detainees for the ten-quarter trend period.
- Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC decreased to 926 from the previous quarter, a drop of 4.5%. Releases went up 2.3% to 938. This resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 12 individuals in the fourth quarter, 2023.
- Criminal admissions decreased 7.6% from the previous quarter and trailed releases by a 389 to 394 margin in the fourth quarter of 2023, reducing 5 individuals from the DOC population. Overall, the DOC released 181 more criminally sentenced individuals than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period.
- New court commitments remained to be the leading admission type for male admissions (86.7%), followed by parole violators (11.1%) and transfers (1.6%) as the top-three admission types in the fourth quarter of 2023.
- Of the 20 female criminal admissions in the fourth quarter, 95% of them were new court commitments and the remaining 5% were transfers. No female admissions came from other admission types in the fourth quarter of 2023.
- Parole to community (49.5%) continued to top the list of male criminal release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (30.5%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (9.1%) as the top three release types in the fourth quarter, 2023. They stayed as the top three release types consistently in the ten-quarter trend period.
- Parole to community (40.0%) was the leading female criminal release type, followed by expiration of sentence to community (30.0%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (15.0%) as the second and third leading release type in the fourth quarter, 2023.
- Male civil admissions decreased from 412 of the previous quarter to 387 in the fourth quarter. Releases increased from 401 to 405, surpassing admissions by 18 individuals. Female civil admissions and releases increased from the previous quarter, with 27 for admissions and 22 for releases.
- In the fourth quarter of 2023, there were 123 pre-trial admissions and 117 releases, resulting in 6 more admissions than releases for the quarter. Female admissions went up to 108 and releases to 100 from the previous 92 and 84 respectively. Male admissions went down from 24 to 15 and releases from 24 to 17,

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 6,020 individuals in the fourth quarter of 2023. This population increased by 15 individuals or about 0.3% from the previous quarter. This is the third custody population increase in a row since the second quarter of 2017. From the third quarter of 2021 through the fourth quarter of 2023, there was a decrease of 167 individuals, or 2.7%, from the custody population.

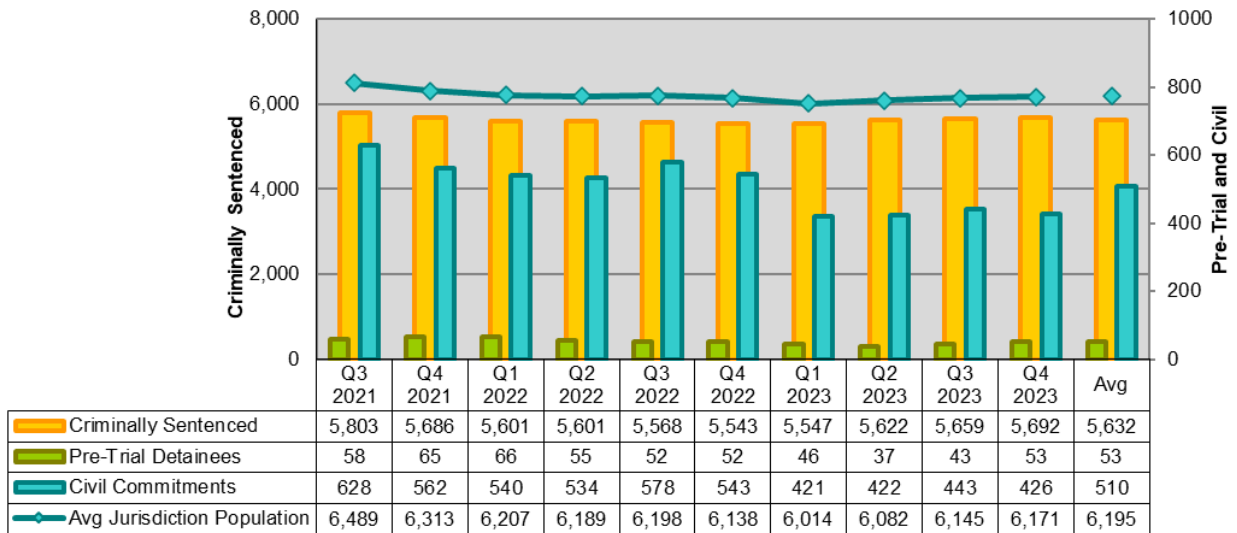
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 6,171 individuals in the fourth quarter of 2023, increasing 0.4% or 26 individuals from the previous quarter, the fourth increase in the trend period. Over the ten-quarter period from Q3 2021 to Q4 2023, the **jurisdiction** population is down 318 individuals or 4.9%. See Figure 1.1 below.*



The criminally sentenced population went up 0.6% from the last quarter to 5,692, the fourth successive increase since the first quarter of 2012. For the ten-quarter trend period starting in the third quarter of 2021, it dropped 1.9%. The civil commitment population lost 17 individuals from the previous quarter and showed a trendline of moderate decline during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population increased this quarter from the previous quarter and averaged 53 detainees for the ten-quarter trend period. 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.

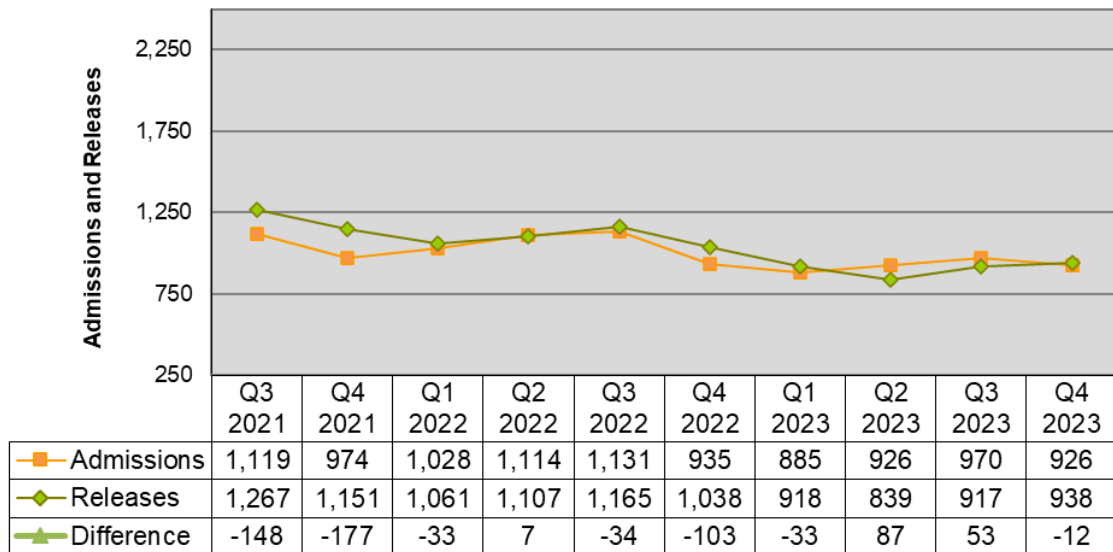
Figure 1.2. Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



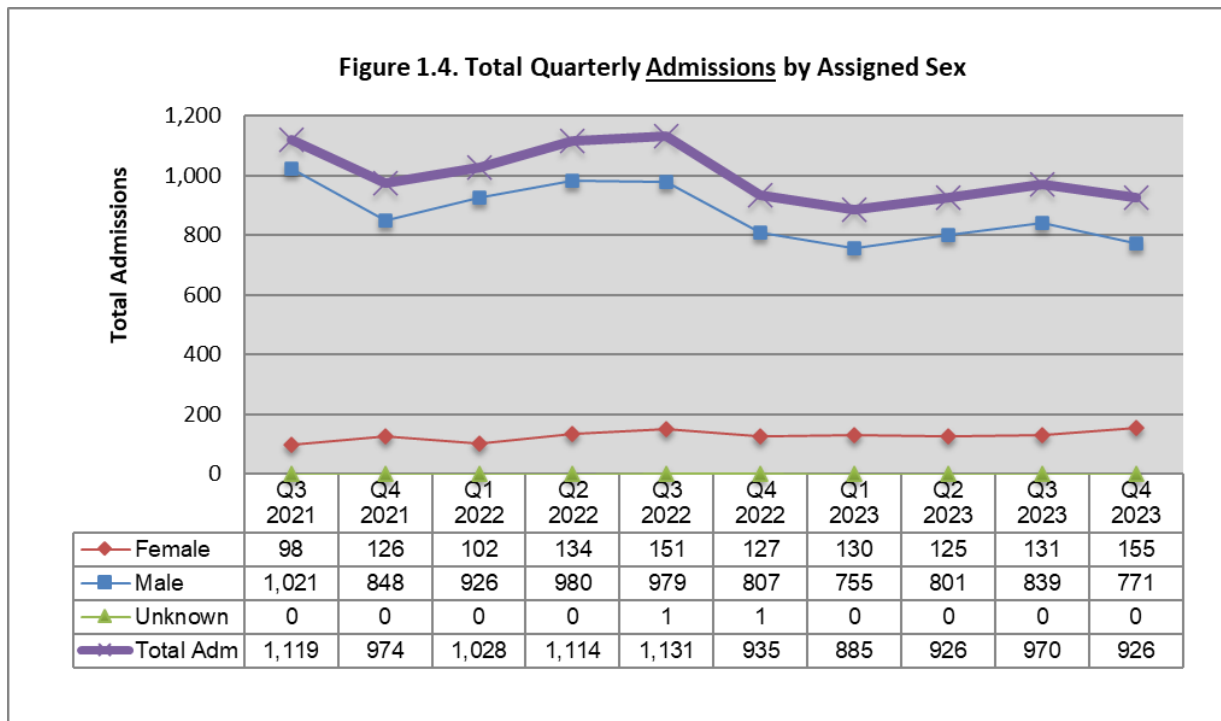
OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC decreased to 926 from the previous quarter, a drop of 4.5%. Releases increased 2.3% to 938. This resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 12 individuals in the fourth quarter, 2023, the first quarterly admission-to-release deficit after two quarters of surplus in a row. See Figure 1.3 below.

Figure 1.3. Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases



Male admissions in the fourth quarter decreased from 839 to 771, a decline of 68 admissions from the previous quarter. Female admissions went up from 131 to 155, an increase of 24 individuals. Consequently, the total quarterly admissions dropped from 970 to 926. See Figure 1.4 below.



Male releases in the fourth quarter rose from 785 to 796, making all quarterly releases in 2023 below 800 despite the rise. Female releases went up as well from 132 to 142. This resulted in a total increase of 21 releases from 917 to 938 in Q4, 2023, the highest quarterly releases in 2023. See Figure 1.5 below.

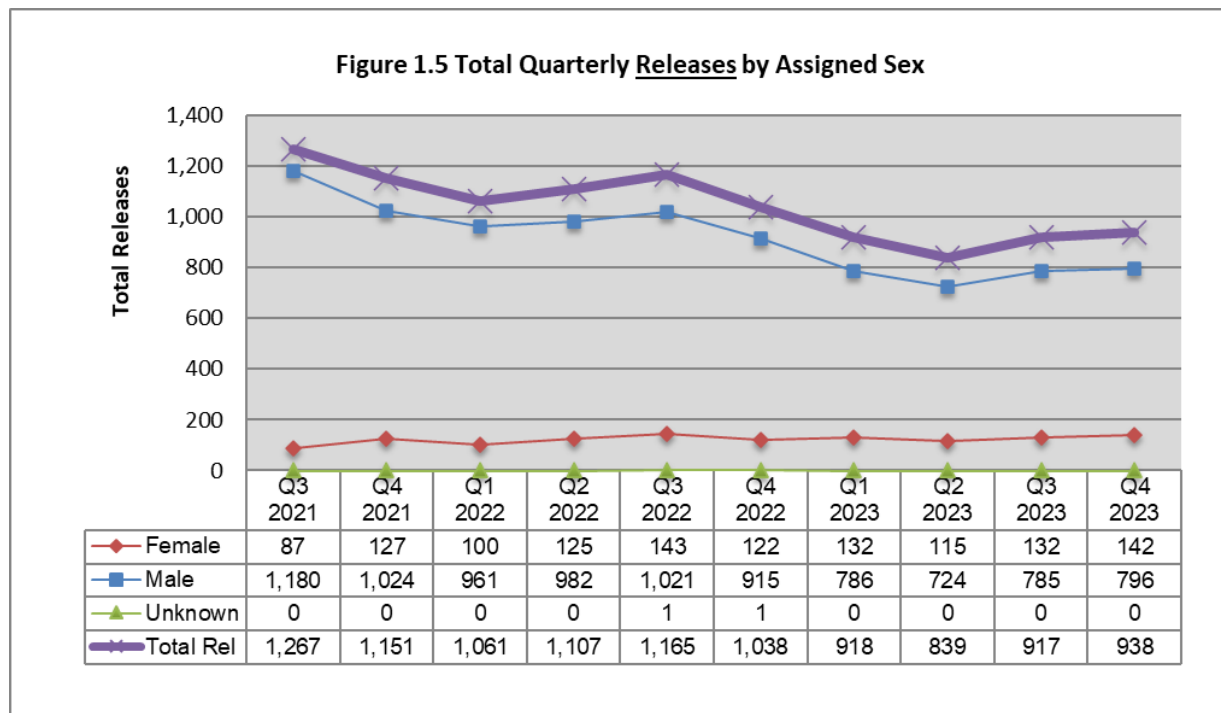


Figure 1.6 shows that male admissions declined while releases went up from the previous quarter. It resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 25 individuals in the fourth quarter of 2023, putting the admission-to-release number back to the negative area after two quarters of surplus.

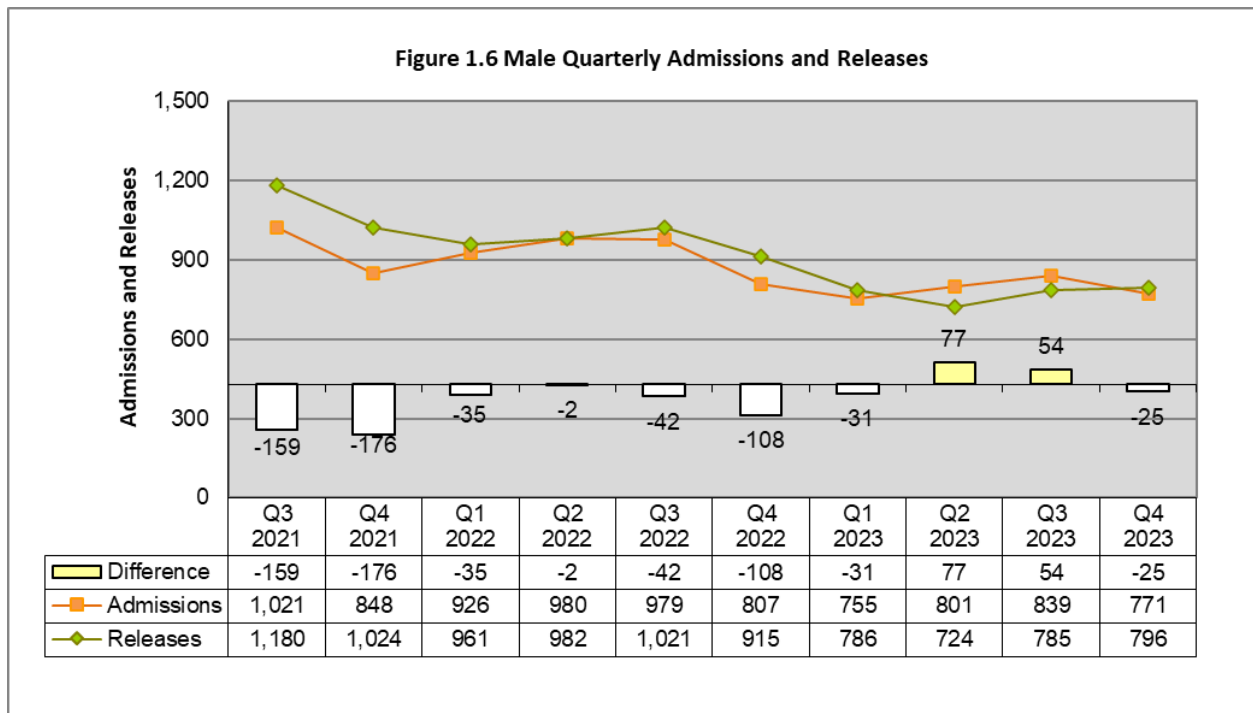
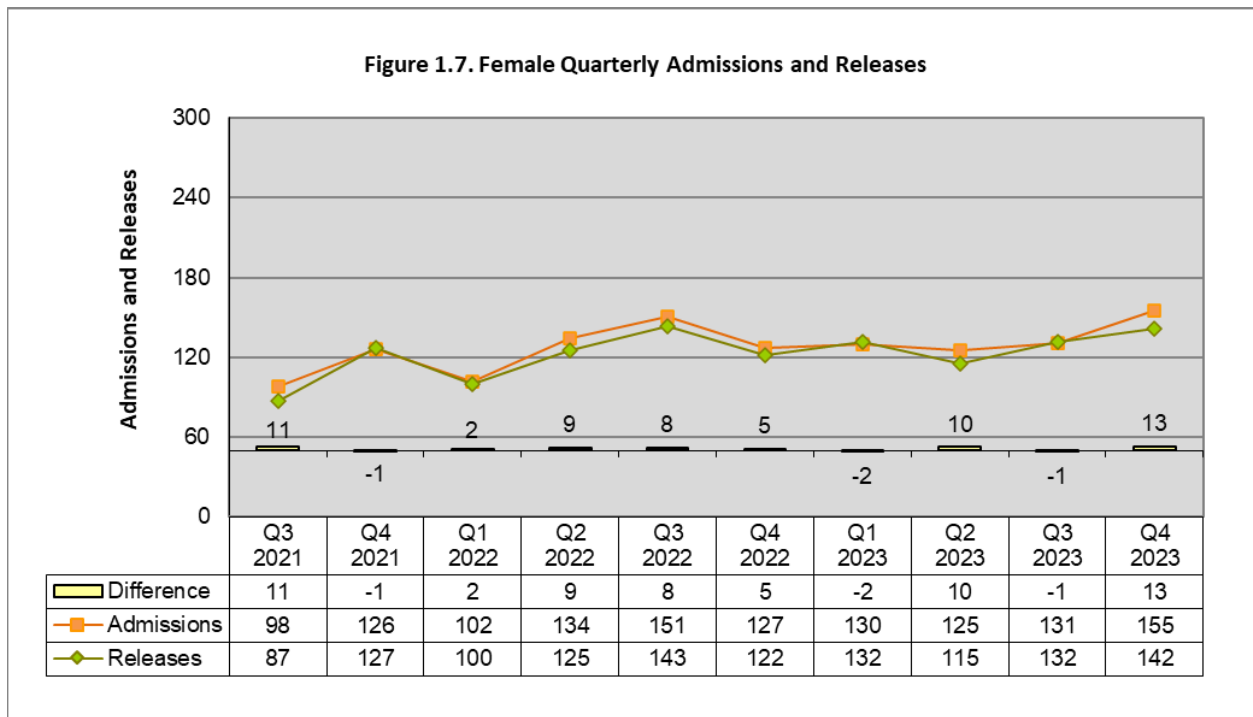
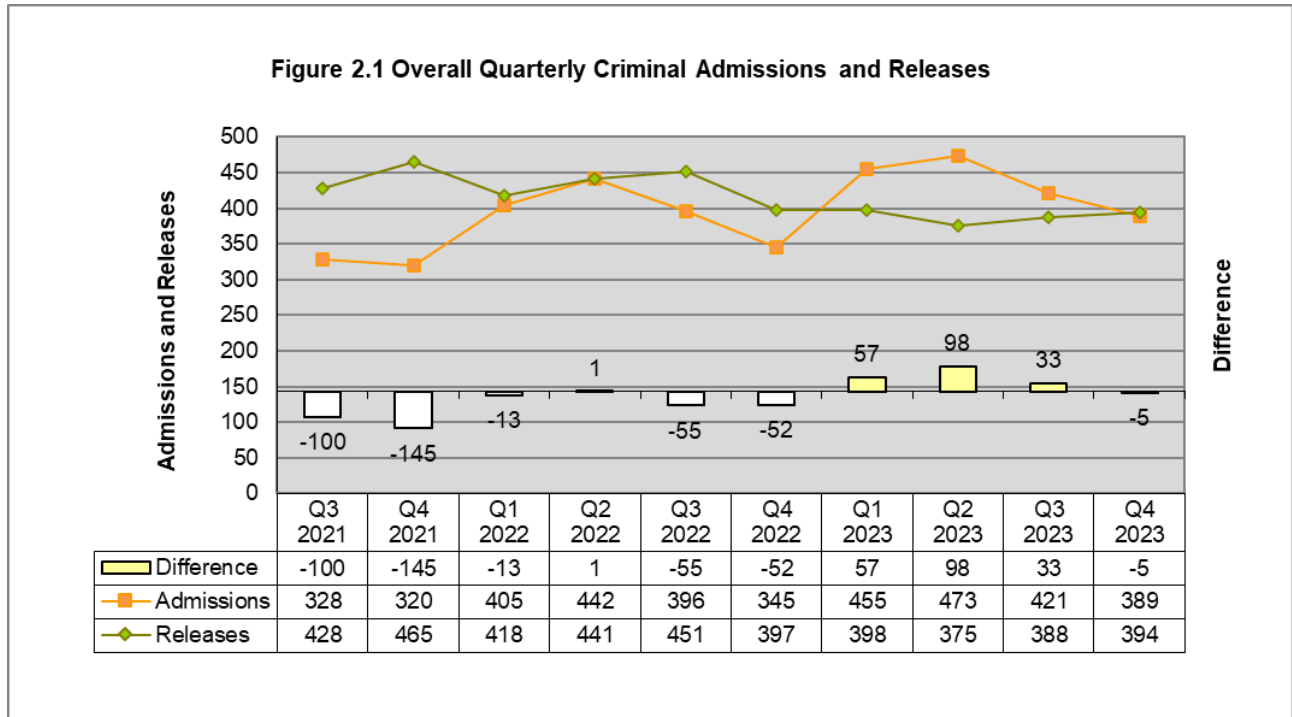


Figure 1.7 shows both female admissions and releases increased from the previous quarter and resulted in an admission-to-release surplus of 13 individuals in the fourth quarter, the largest quarterly difference between admissions and releases in the ten-quarter period.



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions in the fourth quarter decreased 7.6% from the previous quarter, the second quarterly drop in 2023 and after two consecutive increases. Releases went up from 388 in the previous quarter to 394. Releases surpassed admissions for the sixth time in the ten-quarter trend period, reducing 5 individuals from the DOC population. Overall, the DOC released 181 more incarcerated individuals than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.1)



In the fourth quarter of 2023, male criminal admissions went down from the previous quarter and releases went up. It resulted in an admissions-to-release deficit of 5 incarcerated individuals, the first admission-to-release deficit in 2023. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC released 211 more men than admitted. Female criminal admissions went up while releases declined from the previous quarter, ending with a draw between admissions and releases for the fourth quarter, and an admission-to-release surplus of 28 individuals for the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.2, next page)

Figure 2.2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases by Assigned Sex

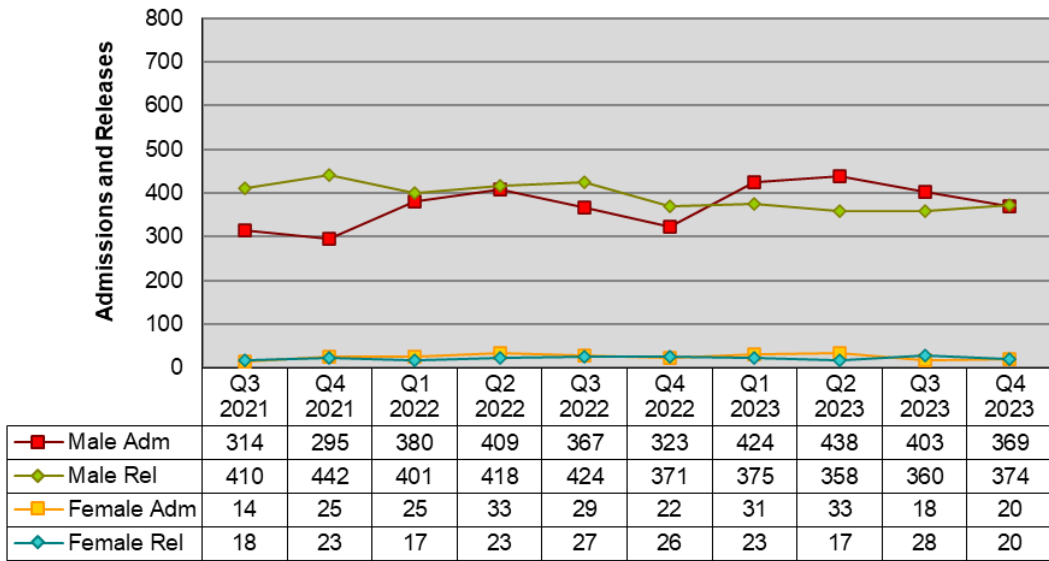
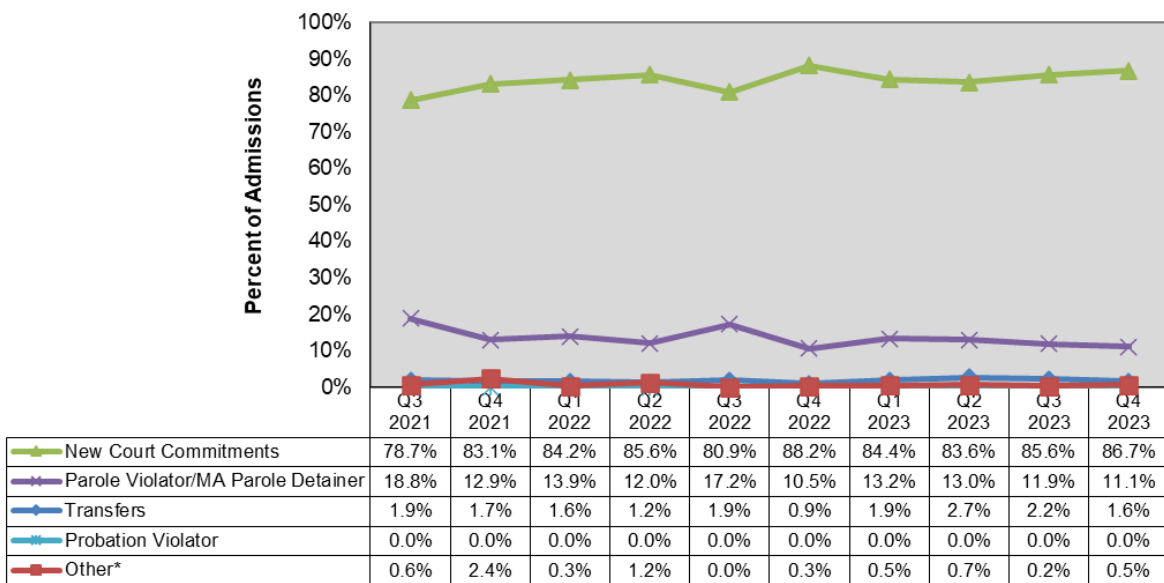


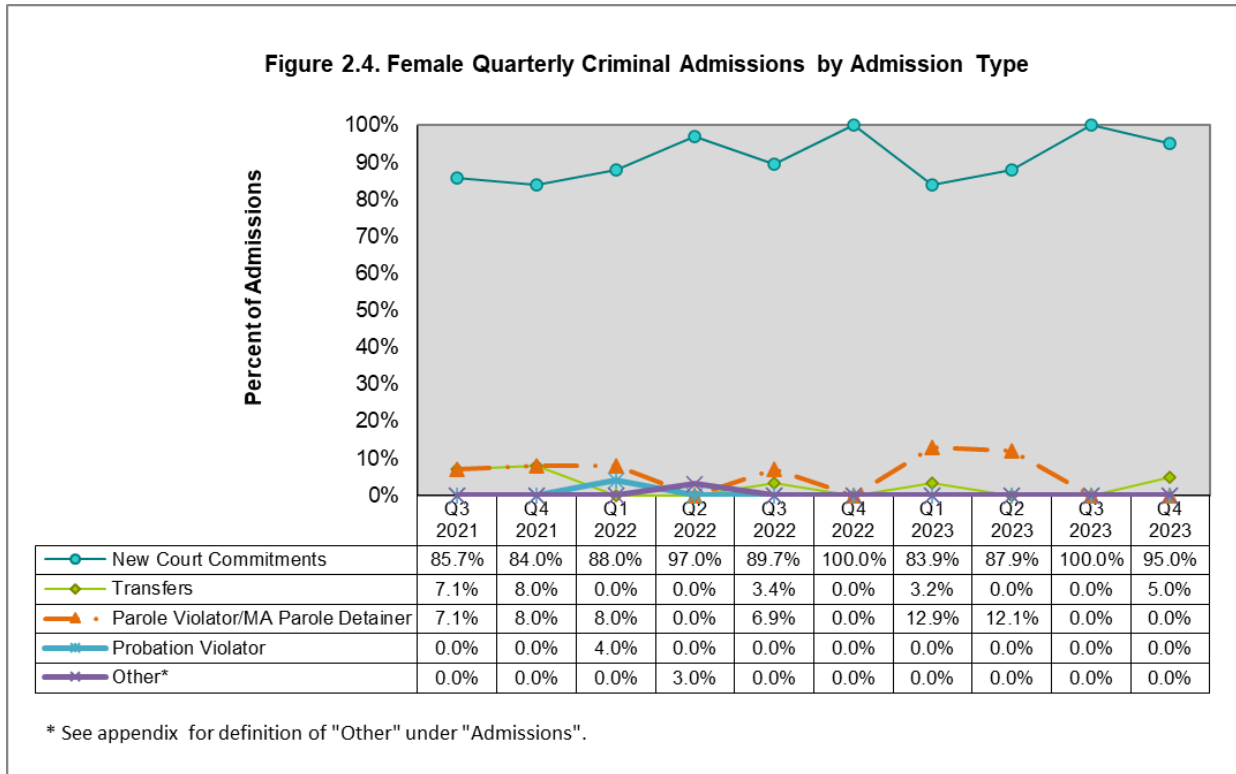
Figure 2.3 below shows that new court commitments continued to be the leading male criminal admission type (86.7%) followed by parole violators (11.1%) and transfers (1.6%) as the distant second and third male criminal admission types in the fourth quarter of 2023. The rank of the three admission types stayed consistently in the same order during the ten-quarter trend period.

Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



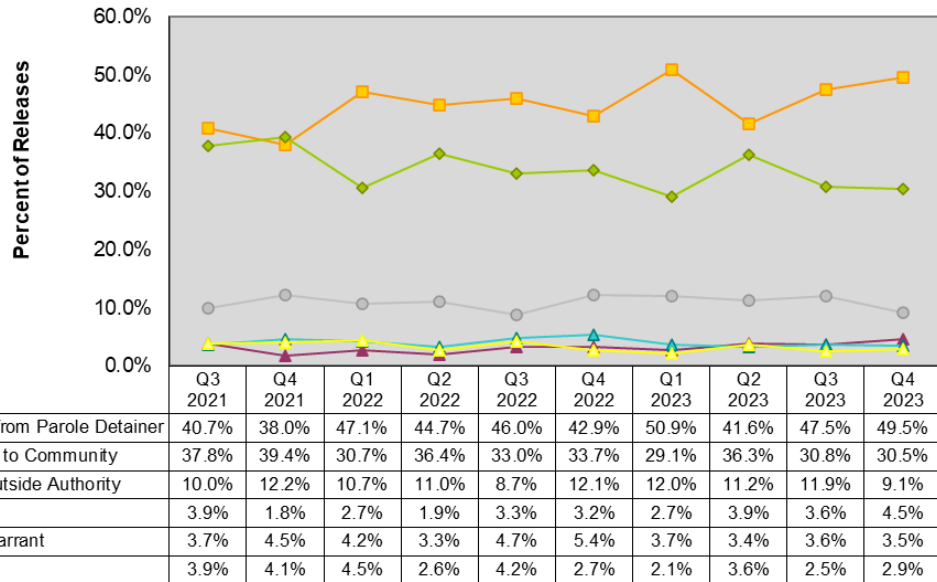
* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Of the 20 female criminal admissions in the fourth quarter, 95% of them were new court commitments and the remaining 5% were transfers. Because of the small number of female admissions, female admission types appeared to be more volatile than male admission types during the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.4)



Figures 2.5 on the next page describes how male criminally sentenced individuals were released in Q4, 2023 and the nine quarters prior. In the fourth quarter of 2023, parole to community (49.5%) continued to top the list of the release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (30.5%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (9.1%) as the top three release types. They stayed as the top three release types consistently in the ten-quarter trend period.

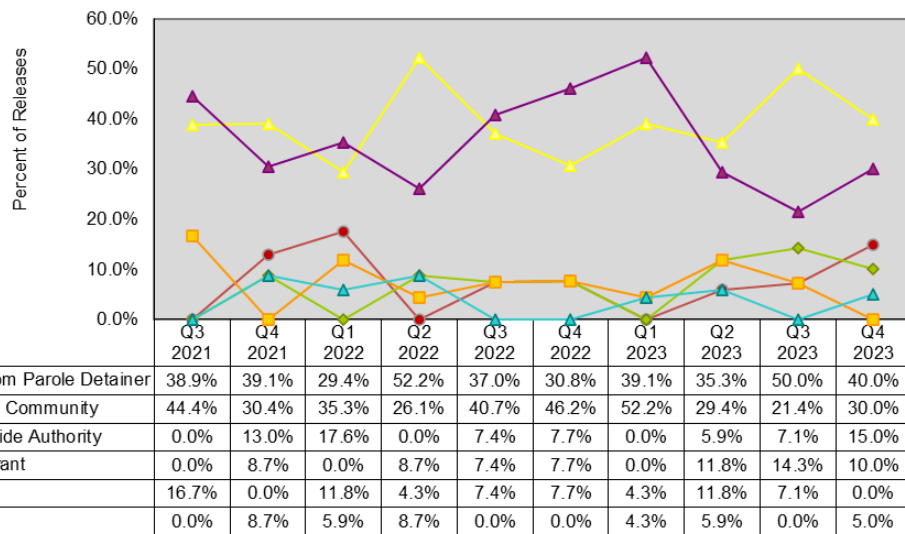
Figure 2.5. Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type



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

Parole to community (40.0%) was the top female criminal release type, followed by expiration of sentence to community (30.0%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (15.0%) as the second and third leading release type in the fourth quarter, 2023. Because of the small number of female releases, 20 for this quarter, female release types have moved up and down more radically than male release types. (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

New court commitments decreased in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 320 from the previous 350, the lowest number in 2023 and after it reached the peak of 374 in the second quarter of 2023 during the ten-quarter period. Essex county (65) sent the most criminal new court commitments. Other counties that sent 20 or more new court commitments also include Suffolk (56), Middlesex (53), Bristol (43), Hampden (34), and Worcester (27). Together, they accounted for 86.9% of the total. (Figure 2.7)

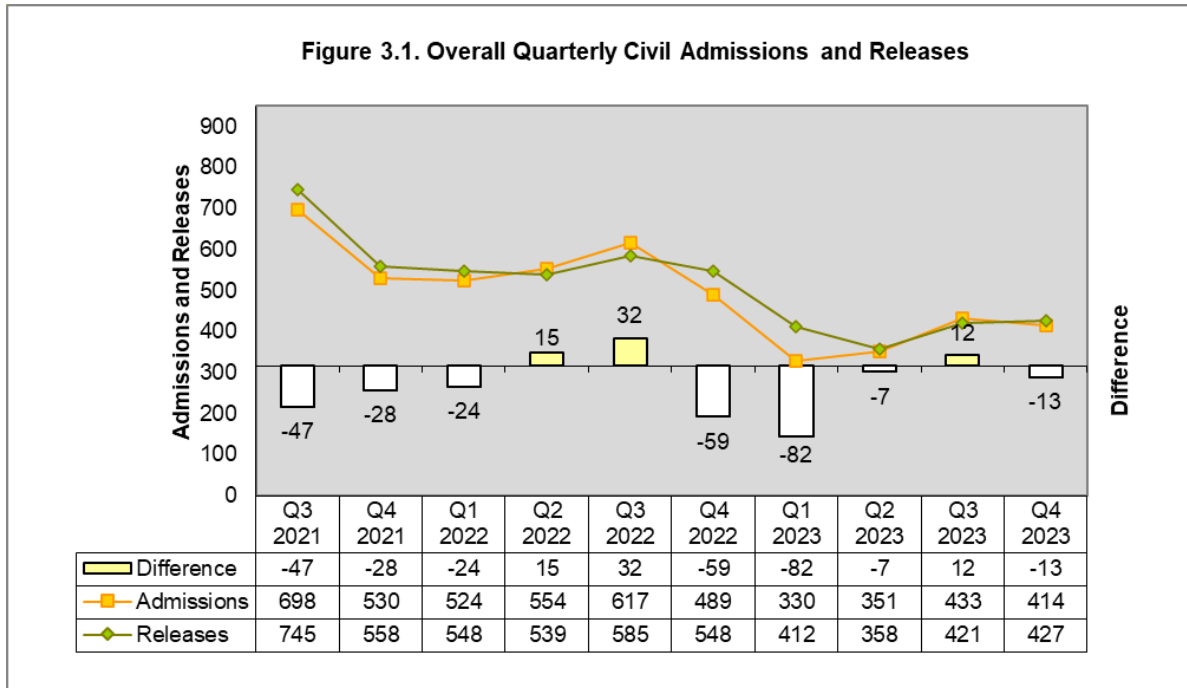
Table 2.7. State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

County	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023
Essex	45	51	74	82	47	66	59	74	67	65
Suffolk	35	33	47	59	74	41	63	81	60	56
Middlesex	21	37	28	54	39	40	30	42	46	53
Bristol	31	32	32	35	34	26	60	42	39	43
Hampden	32	34	37	36	40	28	64	56	47	34
Worcester	24	17	37	31	22	26	30	21	24	27
Plymouth	15	11	14	20	18	17	16	17	20	13
Norfolk	12	13	20	16	11	10	22	9	12	8
Franklin	4	6	7	3	4	10	2	15	10	7
Barnstable	13	11	10	14	7	13	7	6	11	6
Berkshire	9	6	13	5	3	11	8	8	8	4
Hampshire	1	4	7	5	6	5	5	2	6	4
Dukes	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Nantucket	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total	242	255	326	361	307	293	367	374	350	320

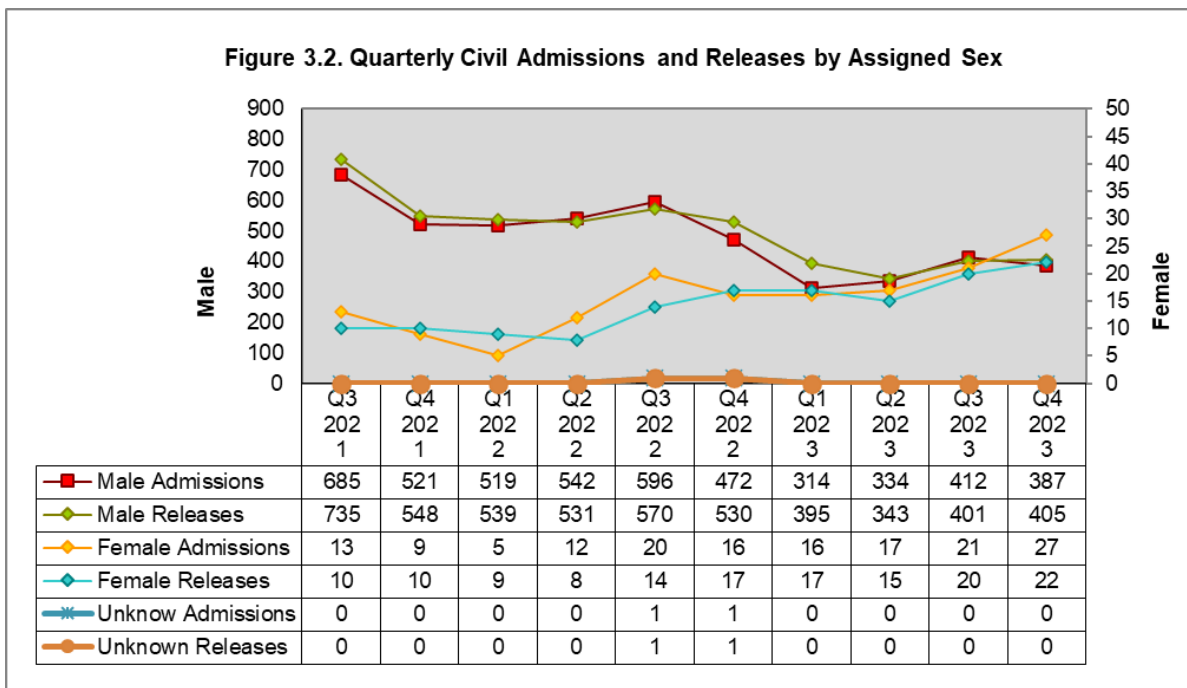
*Excludes county, federal, and out-of-state individuals.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In the fourth quarter of 2023, the MA DOC released 13 more civil commitments than admitted, which reversed the admission-to-release surplus of the previous quarter. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has released 201 more civil commitments than it has admitted. See Figure 3.1.

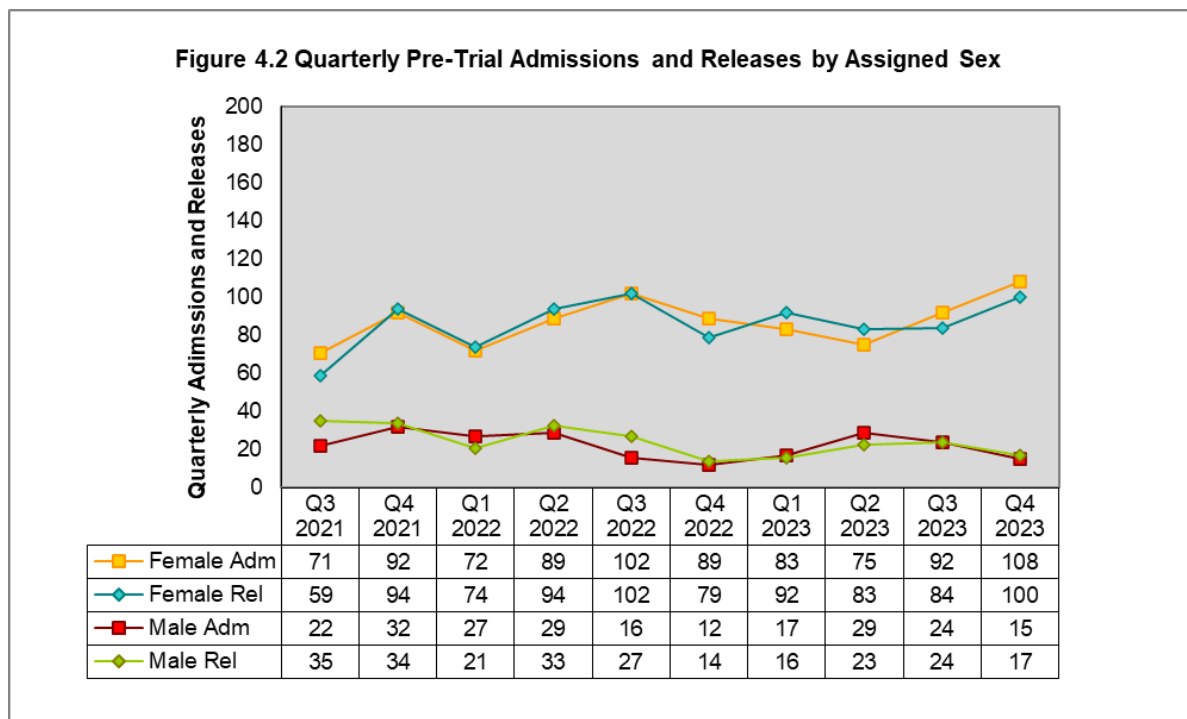
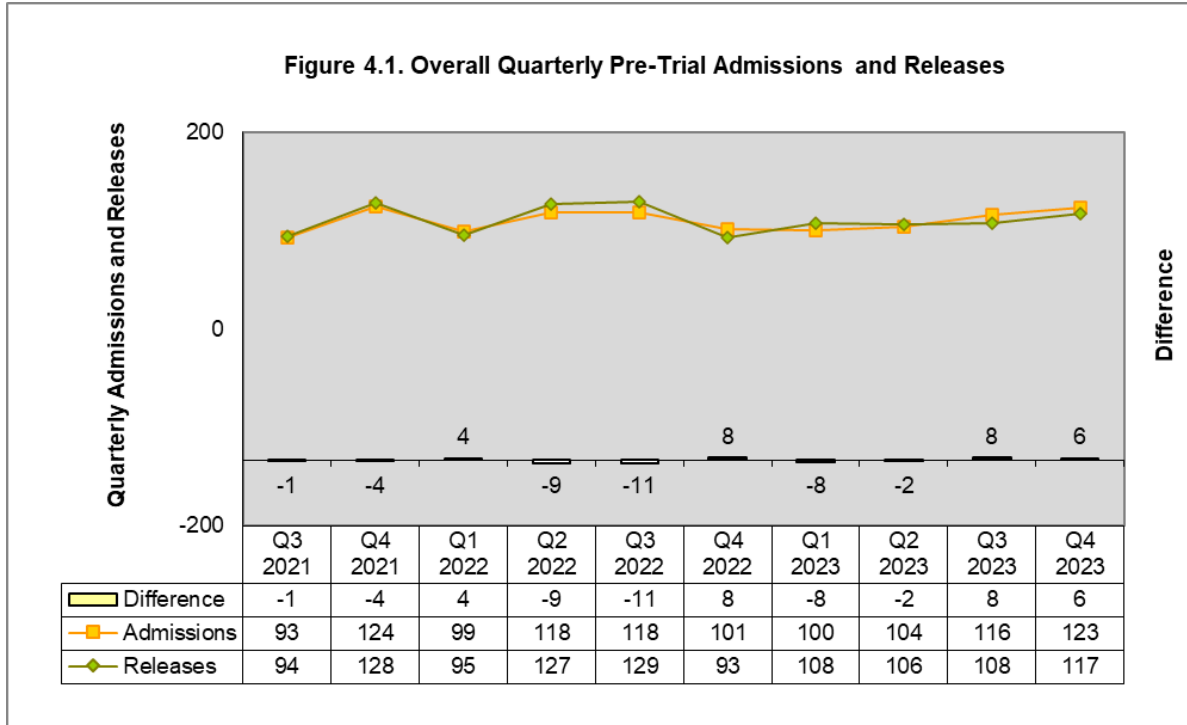


Male civil admissions decreased from 412 in the previous quarter to 387 in the fourth quarter. Releases increased from 401 to 405, surpassing admissions by 18 individuals. Female civil admissions and releases increased from the previous quarter, with 27 admissions and 22 releases. See Figure 3.2.



PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In Q4 of 2023, there were 123 pre-trial admissions and 117 releases, resulting in 6 more admissions than releases for the quarter. Female admissions went up to 108 and releases to 100 from the previous 92 and 84 while male admissions went down from 24 to 15 and releases from 24 to 17 respectively, ending the fourth quarter with an admission-to-release surplus for females and a deficit for males. (Figures 4.1 & 4.2)



Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

In the fourth quarter of 2023, two-thirds of male pre-trial detainee admissions came from out-of-state (3), Plymouth (3), Hampden (2) and Barnstable (2) counties. The remaining admissions came from Suffolk (1), Norfolk (1), Middlesex (1), Essex (1), and Worcester (1) counties. Female detainees came predominantly from Middlesex County (105) and 1 admission from Norfolk County. See Tables 4.3 and 4.4 below.

Table 4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023
Out-of-state	3	7	11	10	5	2	4	7	7	3
Plymouth	11	4	2	3	3	0	0	2	2	3
Hampden	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	2
Barnstable	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Suffolk	1	2	1	6	1	1	0	3	4	1
Norfolk	0	0	2	2	2	1	4	4	3	1
Middlesex	1	4	4	2	2	1	2	3	1	1
Essex	0	2	2	1	0	3	2	4	1	1
Worcester	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	3	4	1
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Federal	3	5	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bristol	2	4	0	2	2	2	1	0	0	0
Total	22	32	27	29	16	12	17	29	24	15

*Berkshire, Dukes, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties 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 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023
Middlesex	68	91	69	88	101	89	81	74	90	105
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Out-of-State	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Worcester	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Federal	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Hampden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	71	92	72	89	102	89	83	75	92	108

*Barnstable, Berkshire, Dukes, and Franklin 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 Individual Management System.

Admissions	Individuals 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. individuals may also be re-admitted after a court release, or pursuant to the execution of an escape warrant (categorized as "Other" admissions).
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 Individual that is incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facility.
Expiration of Sentence (Release)	An Individual 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 Individual 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.
New Court Commitment	Newly sentenced and committed individuals 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)

Individuals 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 individual 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 individual 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 individual 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.