

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

Second Quarter 2019





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The second quarter of 2019 was another milestone in the decline of the overall population, with an average of 8,405 custody inmates and 8,799 jurisdiction inmates (Figure 1.1). Among the separate populations, the average number of **criminally sentenced** inmates has fallen from 8,660 in Q1 2017 to an average of 7,975 in Q2 2019, the first figure below 8,000. **Pre-trial detainees** are holding steady but the average has fallen by 37 detainees since the beginning of the ten-quarter trend period. Lastly, average **civil commitment** population rose again, though the ten-quarter average remains below 2017 levels (see Figure 1.2).

Overall, admissions and releases experienced an ‘up’ quarter adhering to cyclical trends of the past. The second quarter 2019 **overall admissions and releases** spiked: admissions rose 13 percent and releases rose 17 percent since the first quarter of 2019. This increase occurred for both males and females.

Criminal admissions (629) fell behind releases (721) in the second quarter of 2019, a switch from last quarter. Both male and female criminal releases outnumbered their corresponding admissions (see Figure 2.1).

Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts **court jurisdictions** rose slightly to 433 inmates from 431 last quarter. Essex and Suffolk counties were responsible for 42% of all new court commitments in Q2 2019, followed by Bristol, Middlesex and Hampden Counties (see Figure 2.7).

Civil admissions and releases both went up in Q2 2019, admissions by 34 percent and releases by 22 percent. Still, civil admission and release levels are lower than at the beginning of the trend period. Notably, male civil commitments rose 34 percent from the previous quarter while releases only increased 22 percent. For the trend period, the MA DOC admitted 43 more civil commitments than releases.

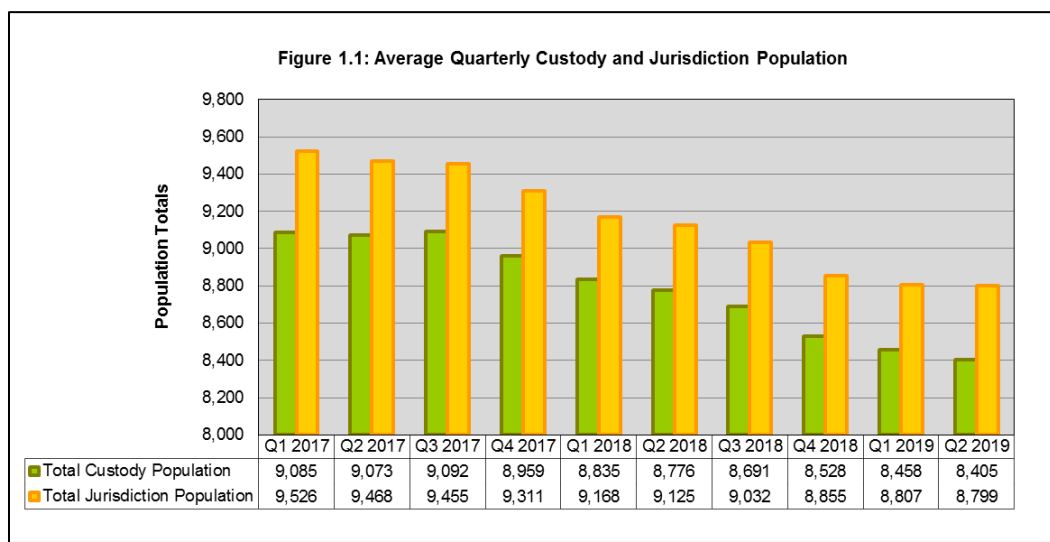
Pre-trial admissions and releases both rose in Q2 2019 after a drop in both figures last quarter. This number is largely influenced by female pre-trial detainees; in fact, male pre-trial admissions and releases for Q2 2019 did not change from the previous quarter (see Figures 4.1 and 4.2).

In summary, overall populations and their subpopulations continue to decline, despite a predictable rise in both admissions and releases during the second quarter of 2019.

CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

The MA DOC **custody** population averaged 8,405 inmates in the second quarter of 2019. This population decreased by less than one percent from the previous quarter. From the first quarter of 2017 through the first quarter of 2019, there was a decrease of 680 inmates, or 8%, from the custody population.

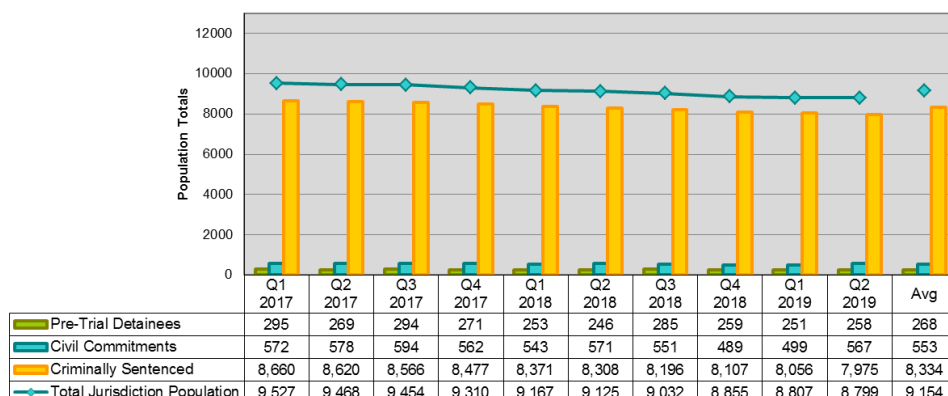
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 8,799 inmates in the second quarter of 2019, dropping one-tenth of one percent from the previous quarter. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 727 inmates or 8%. The decline continues for both the MA DOC custody and jurisdiction population. See Figure 1.1 below.*



The criminally sentenced population dropped from an average of 8,660 inmates in Q1 2017 to an average of 7,975 inmates in Q2 2019, a loss of 685 inmates for the trend period. Civil commitment population jumped back up to earlier levels with an average of 567 civil commitments in Q2 2019. Pre-trial population is up just slightly from last quarter to 258, but still below the ten-quarter trend period average of 268 pre-trial detainees.

* 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

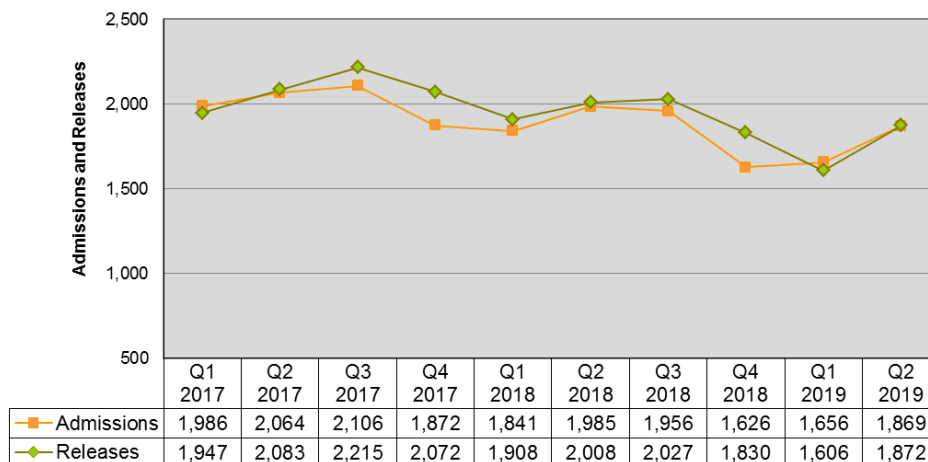


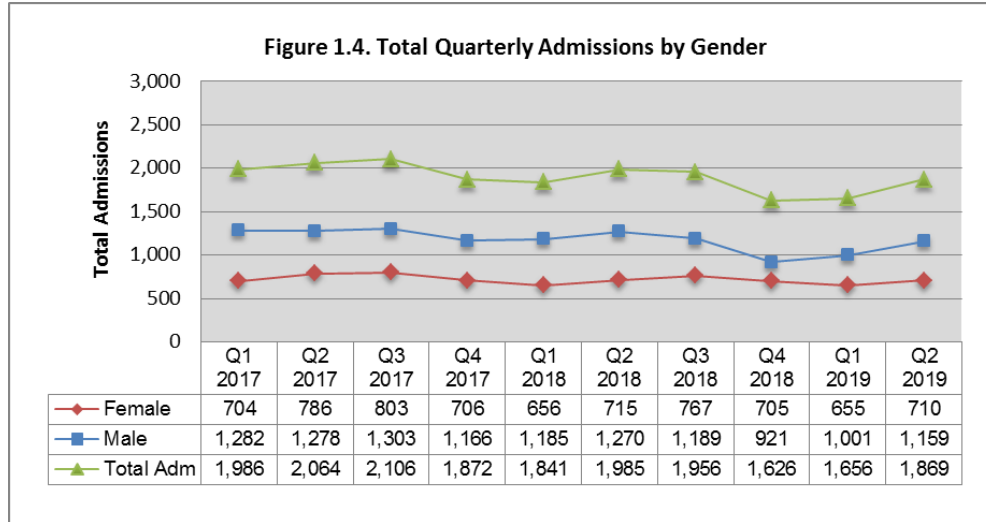
OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Both admissions and releases turned sharply upward during the second quarter of 2019. This change conforms to a typical rise in activity during the second and third quarters of a year, though the magnitude of change is remarkable. Admissions rose 13 percent and releases rose 17 percent since the first quarter, comprising some of the largest changes over the ten-quarter trend period. Admissions and releases were also closer to one another than they have been since at least the third quarter of 2014. These changes, however, did not alter the fact that admissions and releases had been in decline across year, a contributing factor to the dwindling DOC inmate population.

Between the beginning of 2017 and the second quarter of 2019, the MA DOC released 607 more inmates than admitted. This reliable deficit contributes to the overall decline of the DOC population. See Figure 1.3 below.

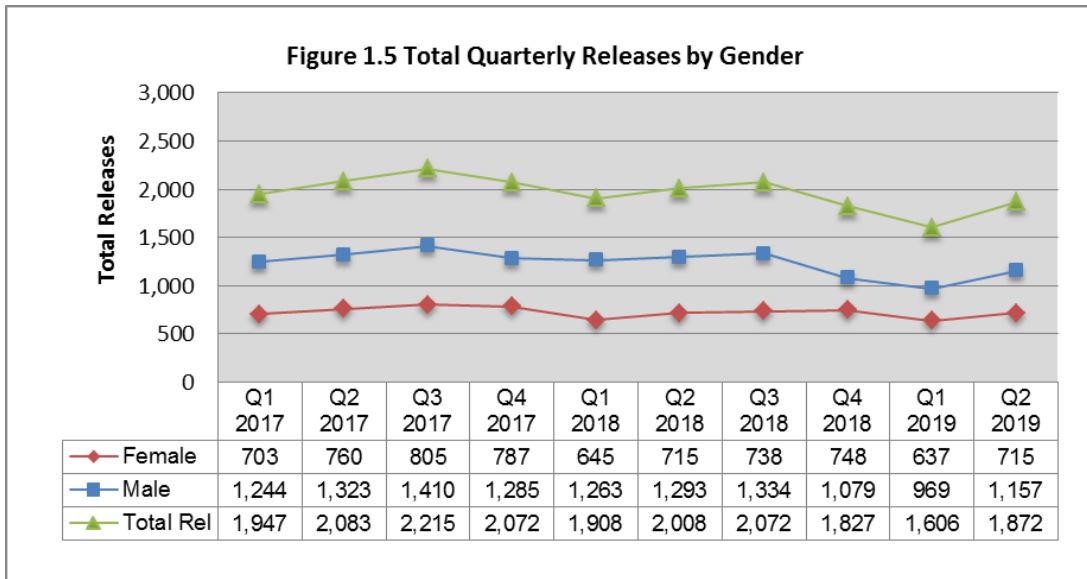
Figure 1.3. Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases

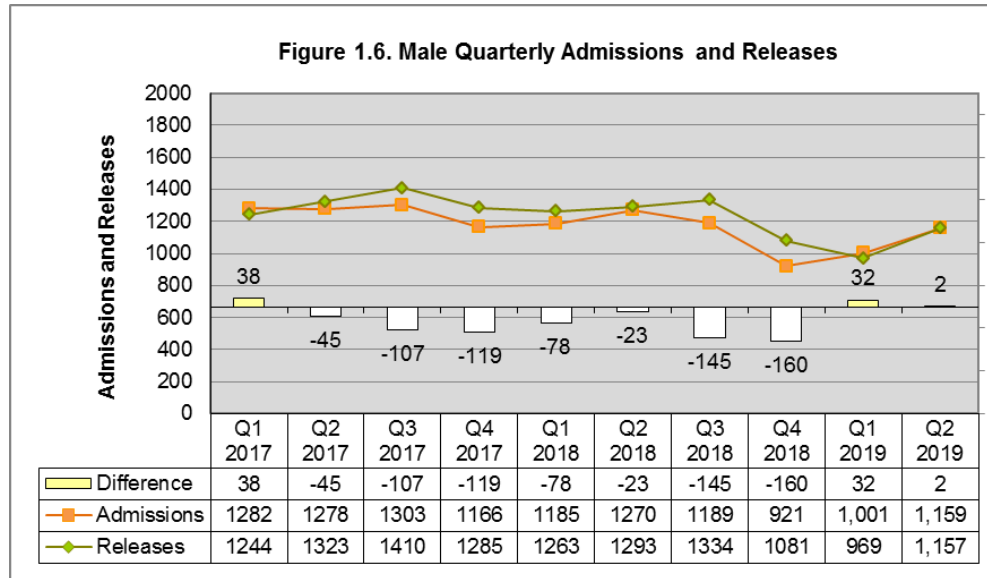




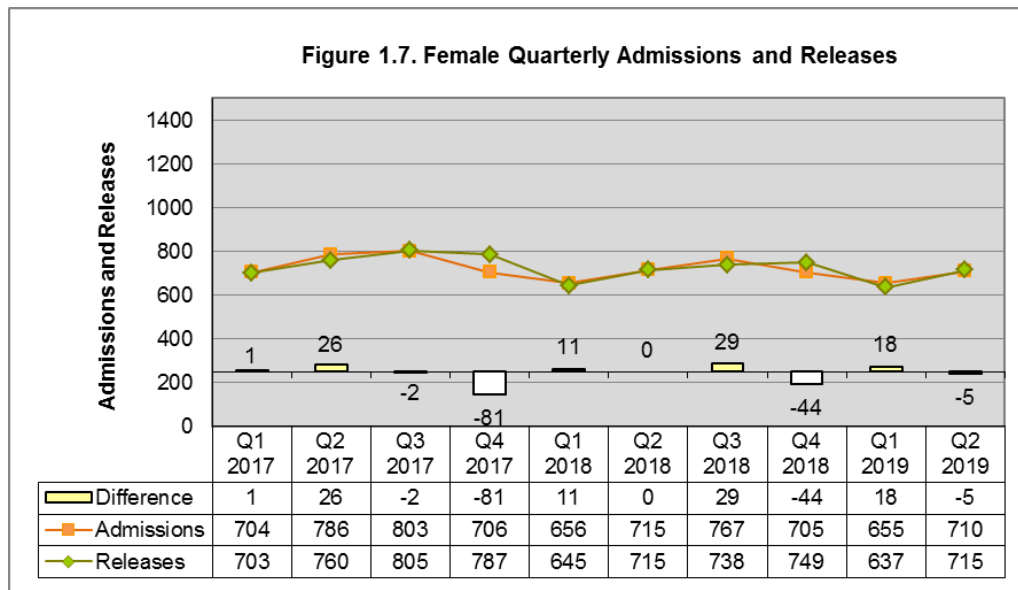
The rise in **admissions** was seen in both genders (see Figure 1.4 above). Male admissions rose 16 percent and female admissions rose 8 percent from the previous quarter.

Releases (Figure 1.5 below) exhibited very similar trends and they appear to be on the upward part of a yearly cycle. Male releases rose by 19 percent, and female releases were up 12 percent this quarter.



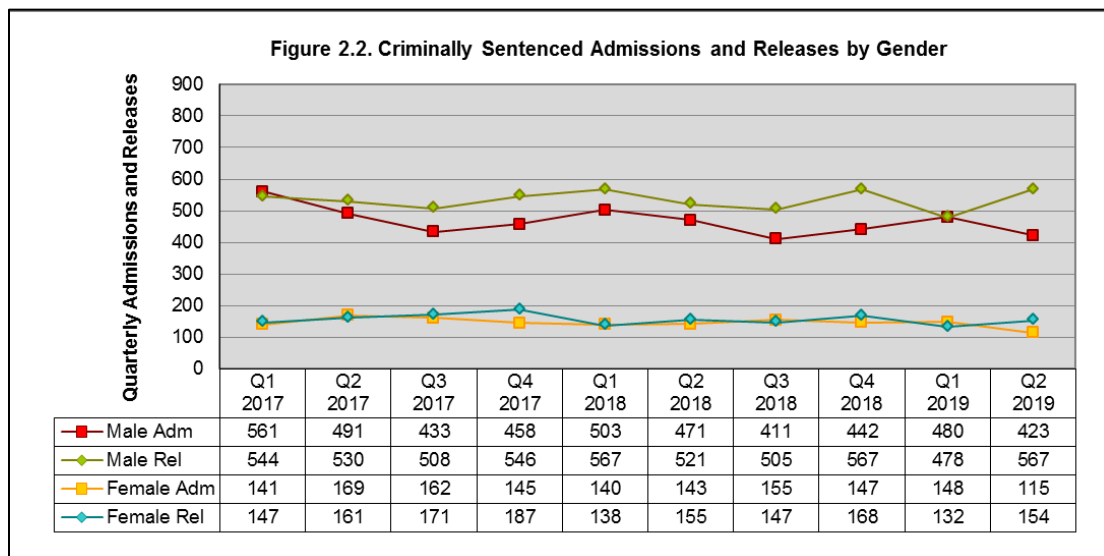
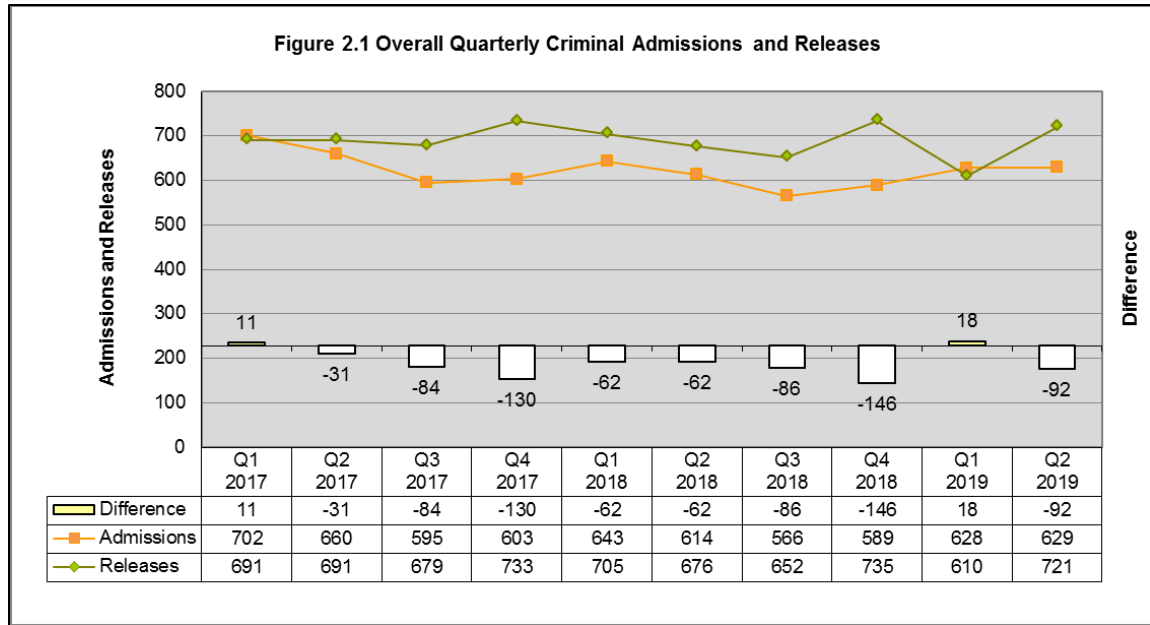


Male admissions (Figure 1.6 above) again outnumbered male releases for the quarter, but the difference was negligible (two more admissions than releases). Similarly, female admissions (Figure 1.7) and releases were nearly identical, both having risen since the first quarter of 2019.



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Reverting to a more typical quarter, criminal releases were higher than criminal admissions during Q2 2019 (Figure 2.1), though the difference was not the highest seen during the trend period. Both male and female criminal releases outnumbered their corresponding admissions (Figure 2.2).

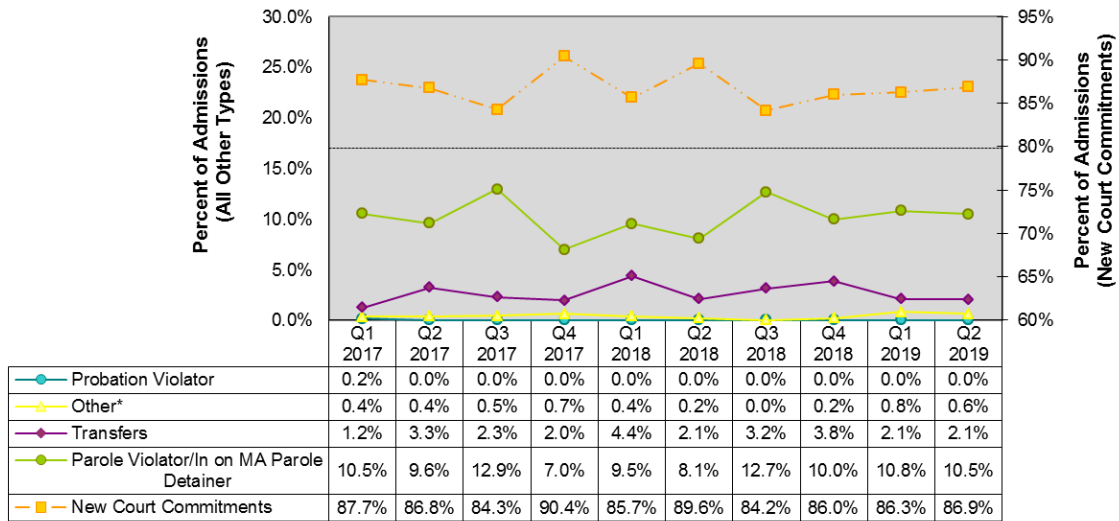


Admissions

Compared to Q1 2017, the MADOC admitted 138 fewer male criminally sentenced inmates (25 percent decrease) and 26 fewer female inmates (18 percent decrease) in the second quarter of 2019.

Figure 2.3 below shows little change in the relative proportions of male admission types. Parole violators and 'other' admissions dipped slightly and new court commitments rose slightly from the previous quarter.

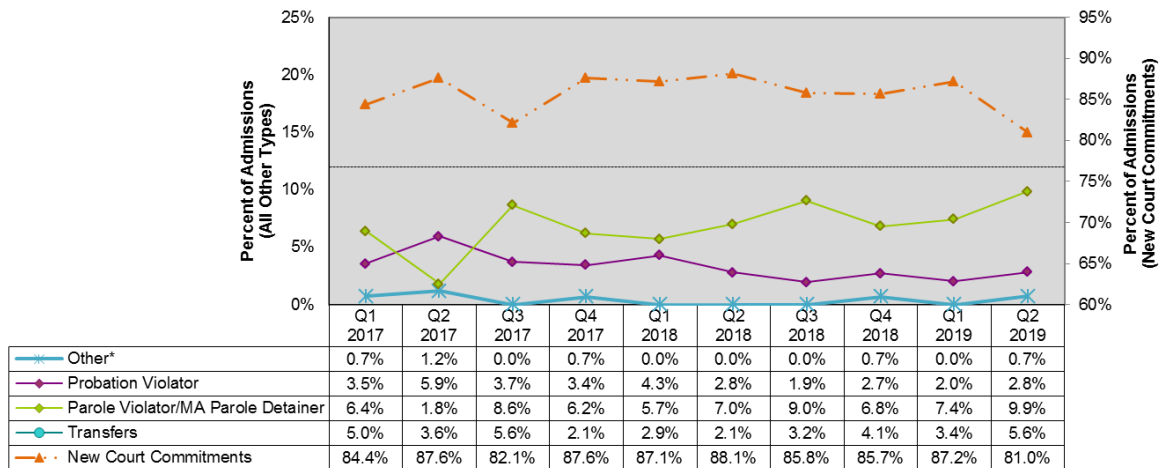
Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



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

Female criminal admissions were the lowest in recent history, and a dip in new court commitments is responsible, with over 6 percentage points made up by increases in all other admissions types, but especially transfers and parole violations (see Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4. Female Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



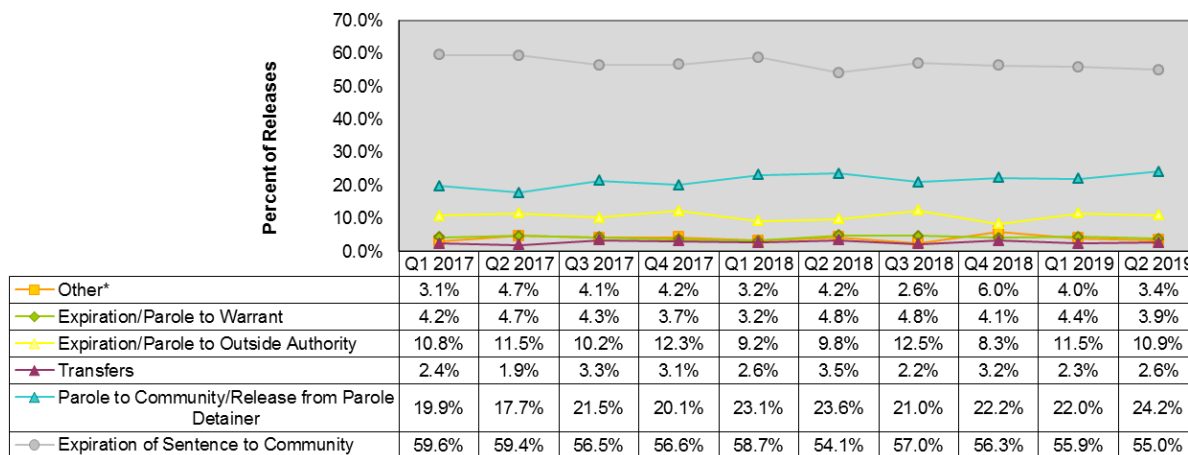
* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Releases

Release trends held steady for the most part for the second quarter of 2019. Over half of males (55%) were released to the community due to expiration of their sentence, another decrease from the past three quarters. Another 24 percent were paroled to the community or released from a parole detainer, indicating that over three-quarters of criminal releases went directly to their communities.

Parolees to the community, along with transfers, were up this quarter while all other release types went down (see Figure 2.5 below).

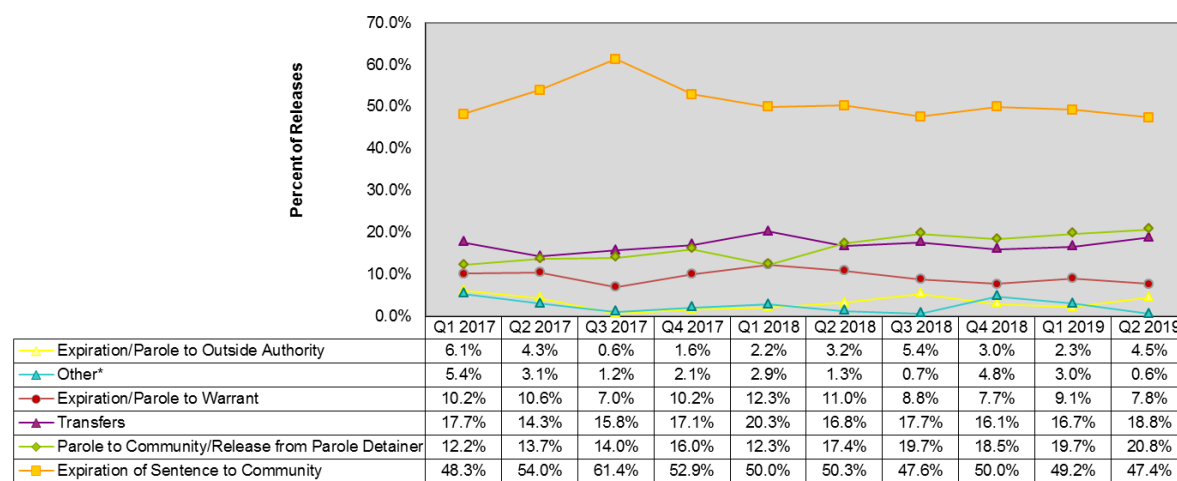
Figure 2.5. Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type



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

Female criminal releases followed suit in Q2 2019 with just under half wrapping up their sentence and releasing to the community. Over two-thirds of females went back to their communities via expiration of sentence or parole. 'Other' female releases dropped significantly again this quarter, and releases or transfers to other authorities were both slightly up (see 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 rose slightly to 433 inmates from 431 last quarter. Essex and Suffolk counties contributed 42 percent of new court commitments to the MA DOC and both experienced increases in the number sentenced. Hampden and Plymouth counties had slight increases in state new court commitments in Q2 2019.

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

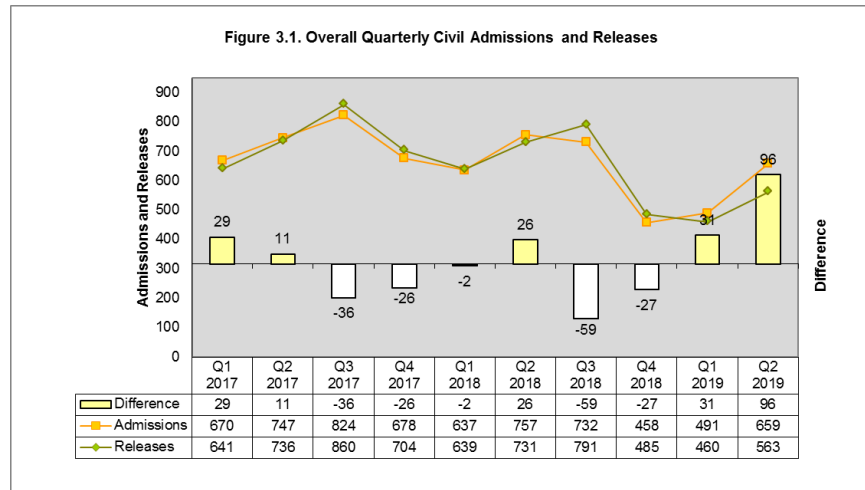
County	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
ESSEX	68	73	53	76	64	60	73	78	77	92
SUFFOLK	71	83	61	77	83	84	72	76	70	90
BRISTOL	63	43	39	49	47	76	28	44	77	56
HAMPDEN	66	60	48	60	63	43	30	37	42	46
MIDDLESEX	62	55	61	55	56	48	55	53	53	45
WORCESTER	64	43	35	35	43	43	38	21	38	34
PLYMOUTH	25	28	18	30	25	23	14	28	26	29
NORFOLK	16	22	20	20	21	22	24	22	19	19
BARNSTABLE	25	11	20	11	15	11	8	6	10	8
BERKSHIRE	14	8	10	8	8	6	6	4	7	5
FRANKLIN	12	7	3	1	4	8	6	8	6	4
HAMPSHIRE	5	3	2	3	8	8	5	7	6	4
NANTUCKET	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DUKES	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	492	440	372	426	437	433	359	384	431	433

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

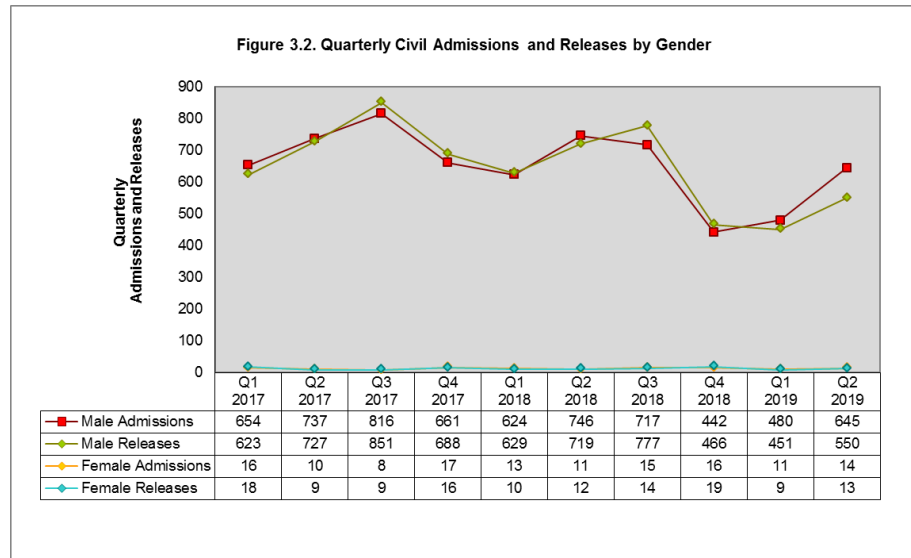
CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Civil admissions and releases both went up in Q2 2019. Civil admissions rose by 34 percent and civil releases rose by 22 percent. Still, civil admission and release levels are lower than at the beginning of the trend period.

For the trend period, the MA DOC admitted 43 more civil commitments than releases.

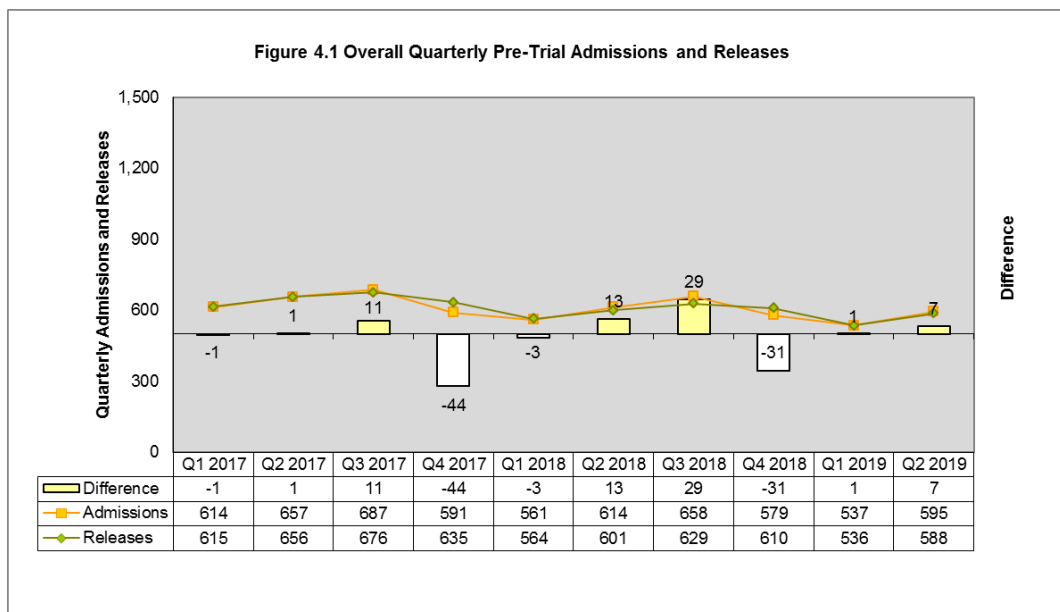


Influencing the overall numbers heavily, male civil admissions rose 34 percent from 480 to 645 individuals in Q2 2019, whereas they rose less than 9 percent last quarter. Male releases from civil commitment rose 22 percent. Female civil admissions and releases both increased in Q2 2019, but not to levels unseen during the trend period (see Figure 3.2).



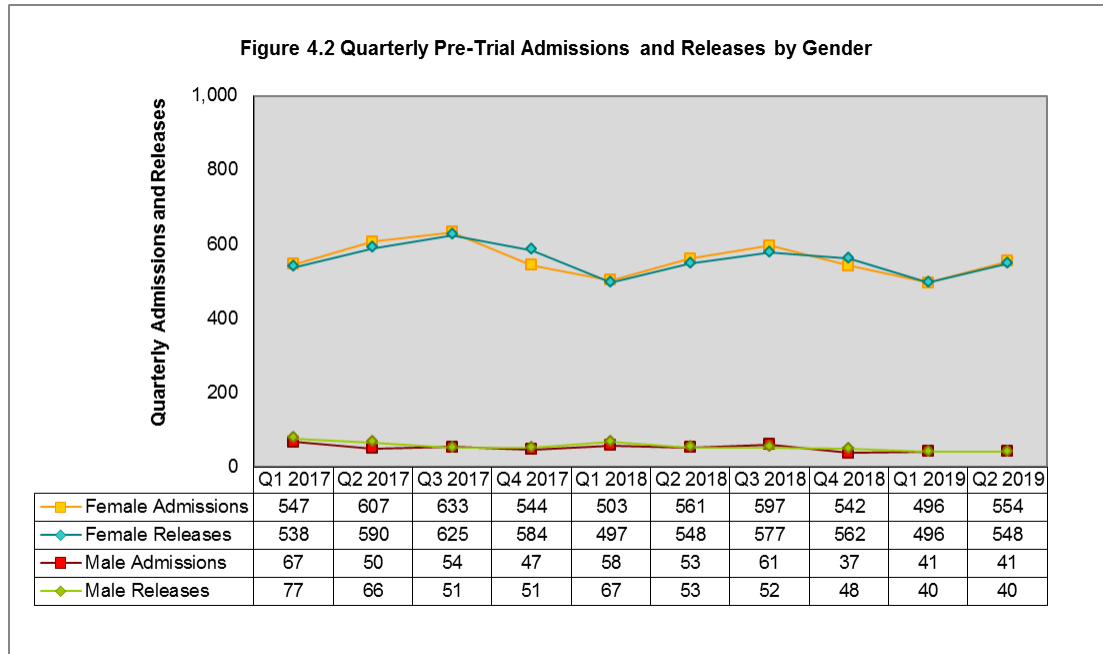
PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases both rose in Q2 2019 after a drop in both figures last quarter. Based on the cyclical patterns of the ten-year trend period, both admissions and releases may rise again in the next quarter (see Figure 4.1).



Male pre-trial admissions held steady at 41, and male pre-trial releases remained unchanged at 40.

Female pre-trial admissions and releases experienced a typical 'up' quarter, with admissions up 12 percent and releases up 10 percent (see Figure 4.2).



Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

Male pre-trial detainees remained at 41 but the number of out-of-state men doubled from last quarter, and contributions from other counties changed slightly (see Figure 4.3). It is unclear if male pre-trial levels will revert to early 2018 or prior levels.

Figure 4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Federal	13	25	14	13	9	28	6	23	9	12	9
Out-of-state	19	10	11	7	11	7	7	10	8	7	14
Worcester	11	8	3	9	6	5	8	4	5	7	4
Plymouth	1	8	3	3	2	3	7	6	0	2	4
Norfolk	4	3	2	2	7	0	4	1	3	3	3
Suffolk	2	3	6	5	7	4	6	8	3	2	3
Hampden	1	3	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	2
Essex	2	4	3	5	1	0	2	3	3	3	2
Middlesex	2	2	3	3	1	5	5	2	3	2	0
Bristol	1	0	2	4	2	2	2	2	3	0	0
Barnstable	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mass Parole	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total	59	67	50	54	47	58	53	61	37	41	41

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

Female pre-trial detainees in Q2 2019 rose after a one-quarter drop, although Norfolk County admissions have decreased. Essex and Middlesex counties accounted for 61% of the total female pre-trial admissions for the quarter. Worcester admitted two females after six quarters with no activity.

Figure 4.4 Female Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Essex	176	144	192	201	154	166	230	220	195	194	202
Middlesex	158	161	180	159	162	143	126	143	131	119	138
Plymouth	100	113	120	133	113	118	101	115	97	83	115
Norfolk	102	113	97	128	105	68	97	111	109	96	89
Federal	6	13	16	11	8	4	2	5	7	2	7
Worcester	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Out-of-State	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hampden	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mass Parole	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Barnstable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	546	547	607	633	544	503	561	597	542	496	554

*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.

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, 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).
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.