MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

Second Quarter 2020



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

Thomas A. Turco III, Secretary

Massachusetts Department of Correction

Carol A. Mici, Commissioner Jennifer A. Gaffney, Deputy 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

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

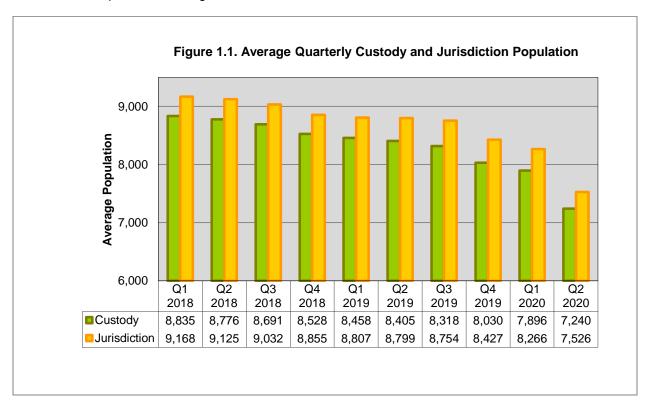
- During the trend period of January 2018 to June 2020, the average jurisdiction and custody
 populations have experienced a steady decline, with each quarterly average seeing a decrease
 from the previous quarter. Between the first and second quarters of 2020, the MA DOC custody
 and jurisdiction populations saw close to a 9 percent decrease, by far the largest quarterly
 decrease of the trend period.
- The decrease in the average DOC population from the first to second quarter of 2020 was driven by a difference between releases and admissions during the second quarter. During the second quarter there were 409 admissions and 1,250 releases, resulting in a decrease of 841 inmates.
- Both overall admissions and releases fell from the previous quarter. Releases were down only 1.8
 percent, with counteracting forces between female (decrease) and male (increase). Admissions
 came to a halt, dropping 64.5 percent.
- Criminally sentenced admissions took a huge hit in Q2 2020, and were down by 83.8 percent, with only 10 female and 61 male criminally sentenced admissions. Criminal releases were up significantly with a 66.6 percent increase. This gap is accelerating the decline of the DOC population which has been occurring over the past several years.
 - These patterns were reflected in both males and females, and parole violations were the prevailing admission type, overtaking new court commitments which typically account for over 75 percent of new criminal admissions each quarter.
- Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts court jurisdictions were down 93.9 percent. These admissions came from several counties, excluding Essex County, which normally sends dozens of new court commitments each quarter.
- Releases from civil commitment were again higher than admissions this quarter, even though both dropped significantly. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has released 85 more civil commitments than it has admitted.
- The pre-trial population experienced more major decline this quarter. Male and female admissions and releases all decreased; male admissions came primarily from non-Massachusetts jurisdictions, and female pre-trial admissions came primarily from Middlesex County.

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 7,240 inmates in the second quarter of 2020. This population decreased by 8.3 percent from the previous quarter. From the first quarter of 2018 through the second quarter of 2020, there was a decrease of 1,063 inmates, or just shy of 12 percent, from the custody population.

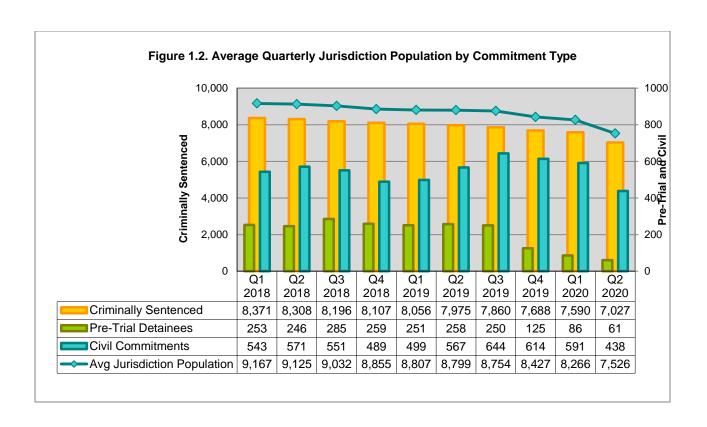
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 7,526 inmates in the second quarter of 2020, dropping 8.9 percent the previous quarter. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 1,045 inmates or 17.9 percent. See Figure 1.1 below.



The criminally sentenced population dropped 7.4 percent from last quarter and 16.1 percent since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population is at a ten-quarter low of 438 this quarter. The MA DOC pre-trial population shrank again this quarter, by 31.2 percent from the previous quarter, and averaged 61 detainees. See Figure 1.2.

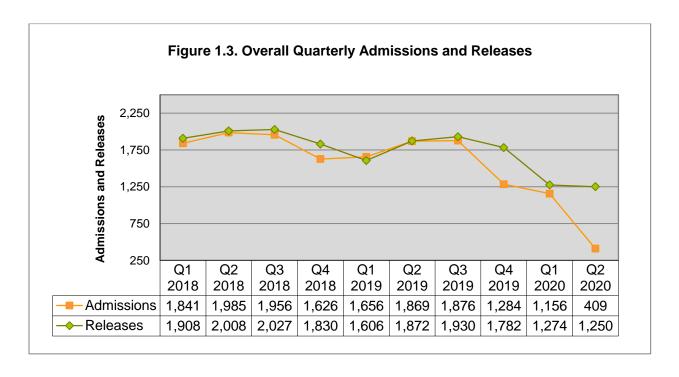
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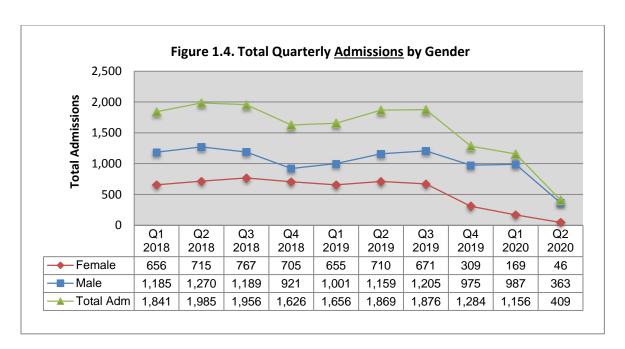
Each quarter's population is the average of the last day of the month's count for the three months within that quarter.



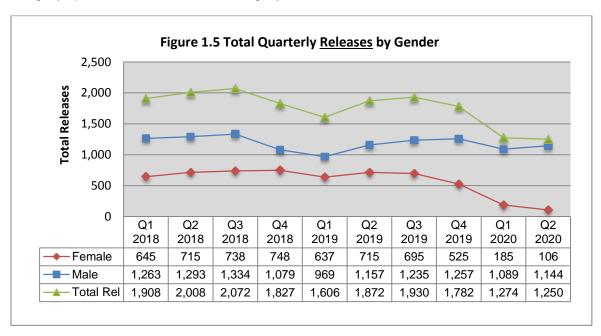
OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

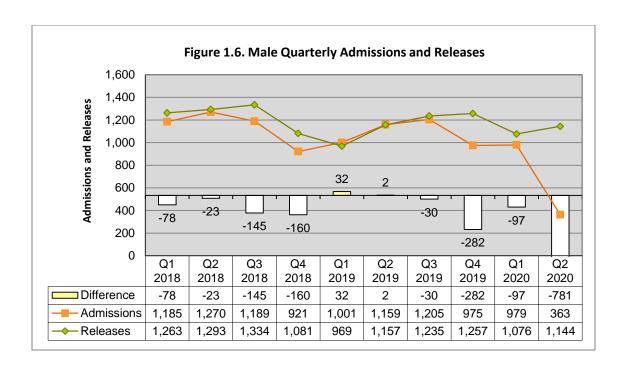
Both admissions and releases fell from the previous quarter; Releases dropped just slightly, by 1.8 percent. Admissions all but came to a halt in the second quarter of 2020, having come down by 64.5 percent from the first quarter. See Figure 1.3 below.



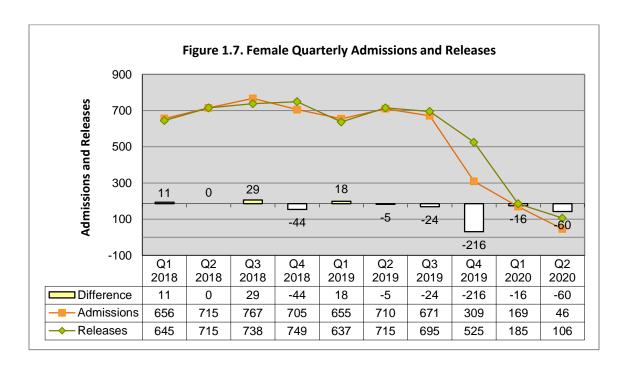


The decline in **admissions** in the second quarter of 2020 is seen in both males and females; see Figure 1.4 above. All **releases** for the trend period are shown in Figure 1.5 below. This quarter, male releases were slightly up and female releases were slightly down.



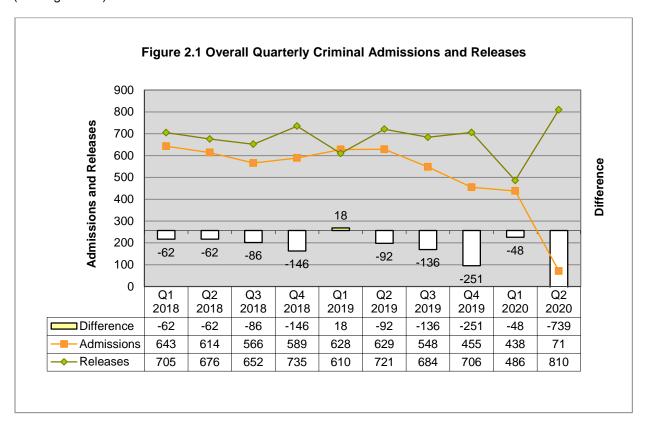


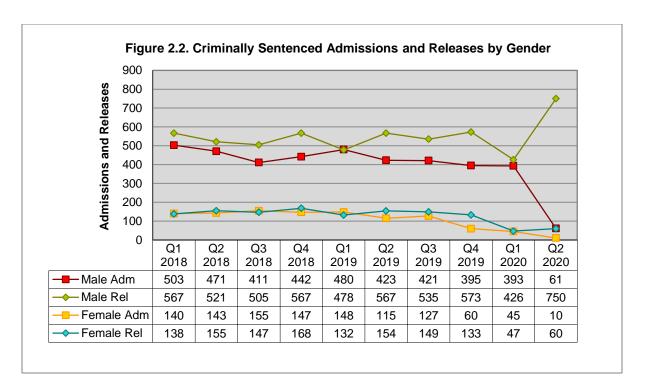
Male releases in Q2 2020 are slightly up while admissions are at a historic low (see Figure 1.6 above). Female admissions decreased by 72.8 percent and releases decreased by 42.7 percent (see Figure 1.7 below). No single quarter since at least 2010 has seen so few male or female admissions.



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

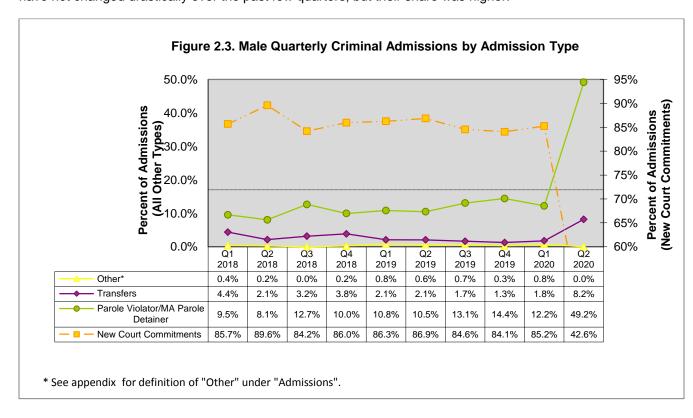
While releases of criminally sentenced inmates soared this quarter, criminal admissions during Q2 2020 shrank (Figure 2.1). This gap is accelerating the decline of the DOC population which has been occurring over the past several years. Both male and female releases increased, and their admissions decreased (see Figure 2.2).



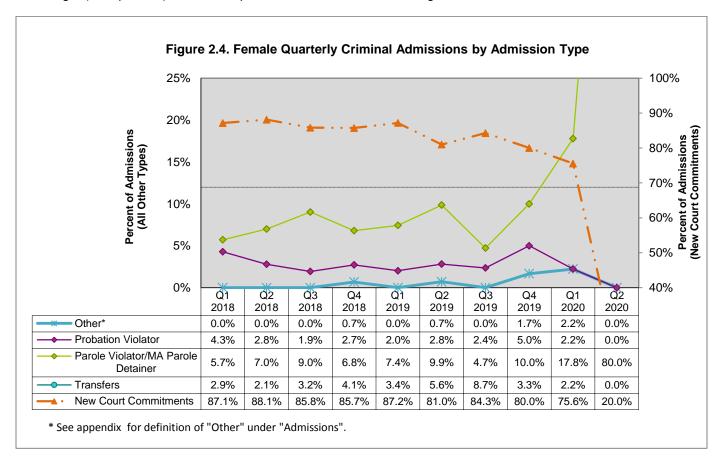


In Q2 2020, male admissions are down 84.2 percent and releases have almost doubled. Female admissions are down 77.7 percent, and admissions are up 40.4 percent, from the previous quarter.

Figure 2.3 below shows a shift in relative proportions of male admission types. Because new court commitments were so few, parole violators became the prevailing type of criminal admission. Transfers have not changed drastically over the past few quarters, but their share was higher.

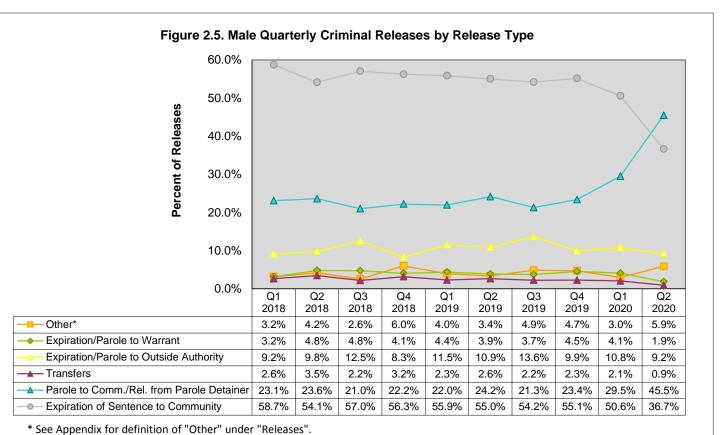


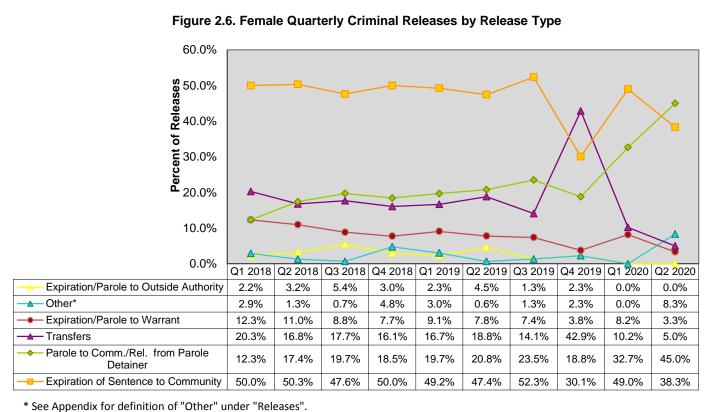
Of the ten female criminal admissions in Q2 2020, two (20.0 percent) were new court commitments and eight (80.0 percent) came in on parole related violations. See Figure 2.4 below.



Figures 2.5 and 2.6 on the following page describe how criminally sentenced inmates were released in Q2 2020 and quarters prior. In the second quarter of 2020, overall releases are up, and paroles have overtaken sentence expirations for both male and female criminal releases. While two years ago, paroles would make up less than one-fourth of criminal releases, they were the most likely mode of release in Q2 2020 at 45.4 percent of male and female releases.

'Other' releases such as court-ordered changes in sentencing are also up in number and proportion of overall releases for both males and females.





New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts court jurisdictions, as evidenced by Figures 2.5 and 2.6, shrank nearly completely.

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

County	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
ESSEX	64	60	73	78	77	92	61	64	57	0
SUFFOLK	83	84	72	76	70	90	64	48	52	4
BRISTOL	47	76	28	44	77	56	37	46	47	1
WORCESTER	43	43	38	21	38	34	49	34	43	1
HAMPDEN	63	43	30	37	42	46	32	27	41	2
MIDDLESEX	56	48	55	53	53	45	37	42	38	4
PLYMOUTH	25	23	14	28	26	29	28	40	27	4
BARNSTABLE	15	11	8	6	10	8	16	15	10	1
NORFOLK	21	22	24	22	19	19	17	11	13	2
BERKSHIRE	8	6	6	4	7	5	13	8	8	1
FRANKLIN	4	8	6	8	6	4	5	3	5	1
HAMPSHIRE	8	8	5	7	6	4	5	2	4	0
DUKES	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	437	433	359	384	431	433	364	340	345	21

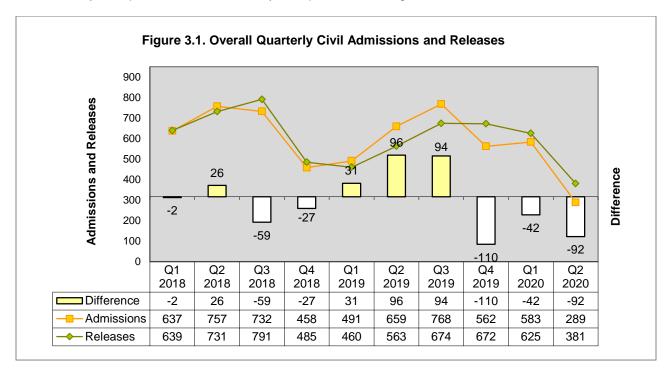
*Excludes county, federal, and out-of-state inmates.

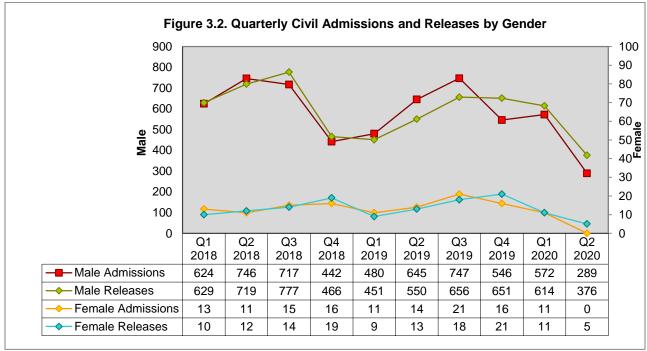
Nantucket County has no new court commitments to the DOC in the last ten quarters.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In the second quarter of 2020, civil releases remained slightly higher than admissions, though both dropped to a ten-quarter low. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has released 85 more civil commitments than it has admitted. See Figure 3.1.

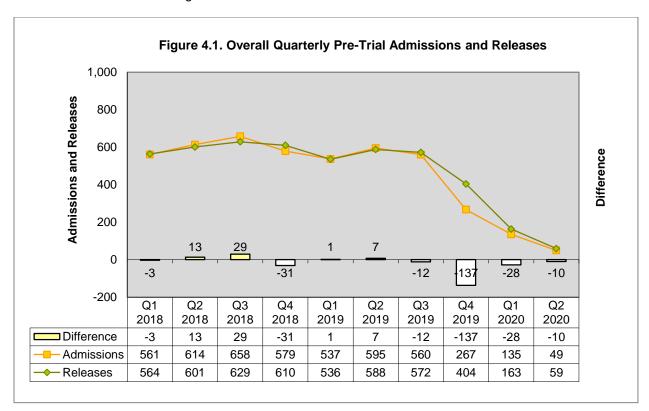
No females entered the DOC as civil commitments in Q2 2020, and five were released. Male admissions decreased by 49.5 percent, and releases by 38.8 percent. See Figure 3.2.

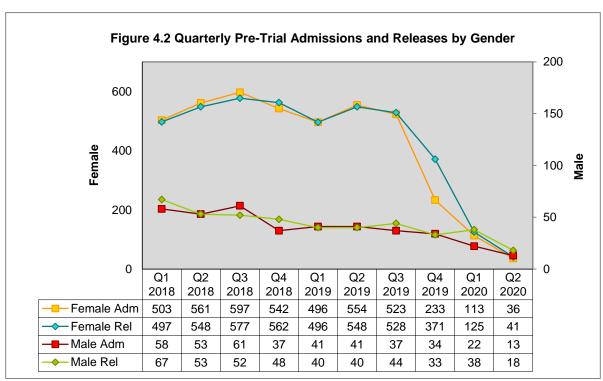




PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases both dropped further in Q2 2020, to the lowest levels this trend period and earlier. Female pre-trial activity was already in great decline at the end of 2019, but now it is just a fraction of 2019 levels. See figures 4.1 and 4.2.





Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

In the second quarter of 2020, male pre-trial detainee admissions primarily came from out of state and federal jurisdictions. Massachusetts male pre-trial admissions to the DOC shrank to nearly zero. Female detainees continued to arrive from Middlesex county but in far fewer numbers than the previous ten quarters and beyond. See Tables 4.3 and 4.4 below.

Table 4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Out-of-state	7	7	10	8	7	14	6	7	12	7
Worcester	5	8	4	5	7	4	4	2	8	1
Federal	28	6	23	9	12	9	10	10	6	2
Suffolk	4	6	8	3	2	3	2	3	4	0
Middlesex	5	5	2	3	2	0	2	4	3	0
Plymouth	3	7	6	0	2	4	1	3	2	0
Norfolk	0	4	1	3	3	3	4	2	0	0
Essex	0	2	3	3	3	2	5	1	1	1
Hampden	0	3	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	1
Bristol	2	2	2	3	0	0	1	2	1	1
Barnstable	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Mass Parole	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	58	53	61	37	41	41	37	34	38	13

^{*}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	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Middlesex	143	126	143	131	119	138	150	149	122	34
Norfolk	68	97	111	109	96	89	87	32	0	1
Essex	166	230	220	195	194	202	180	31	1	0
Plymouth	118	101	115	97	83	115	103	15	0	0
Federal	4	2	5	7	2	7	1	5	2	0
Worcester	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Out-of-State	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hampden	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mass Parole	1	0	<u> </u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	503	561	597	542	496	555	523	233	125	36

^{*}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.