

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

Second Quarter 2021





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	p.2
Section 1. Current Population and Overall Trends		
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
Section 2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases		
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
Section 3. Civilly Committed Admissions and Releases		
3.1	Overall Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases	p.12
3.2	Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender	p.12
Section 4. Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases		
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
Appendix	p.15

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

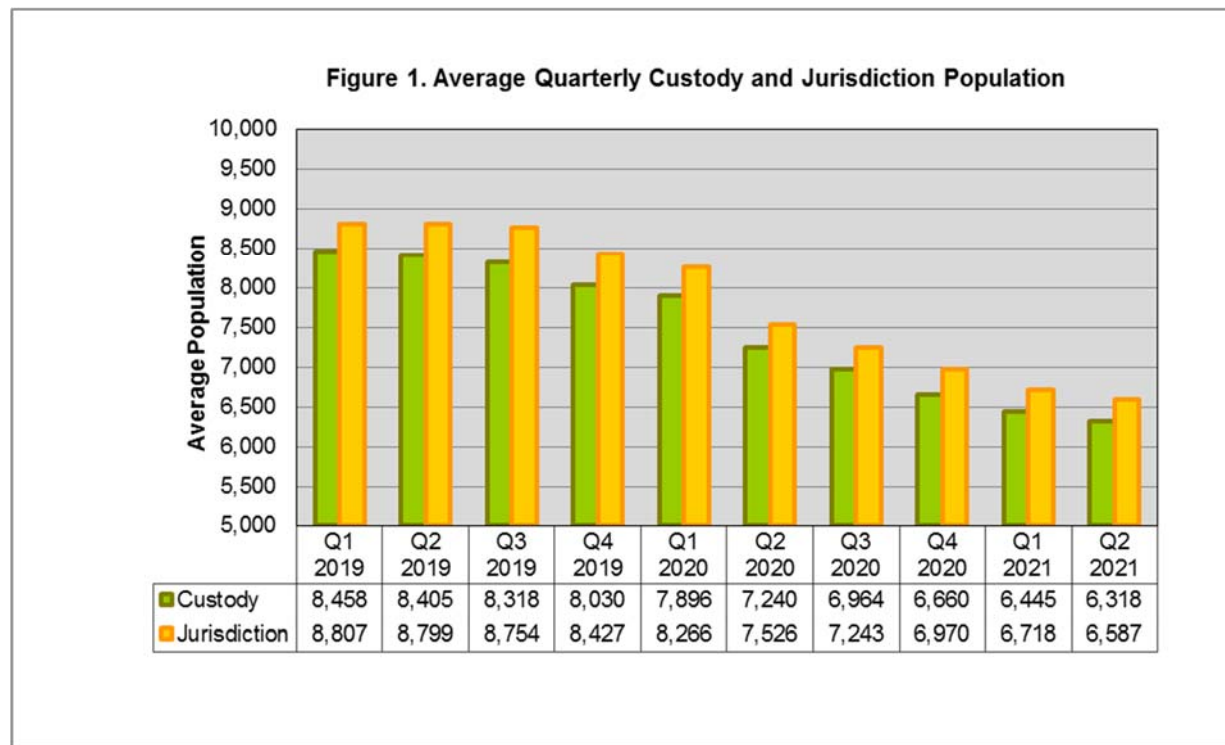
- Between the first and second quarter of 2021, the MA DOC custody population saw a 2.0 percent decline. During the ten-quarter trend period starting in Q1 2019, the average custody population has decreased 25.3 percent. The jurisdiction population is also down 1.9 percent from the previous quarter, and 25.2 percent since the first quarter of 2019.
- Criminally sentenced inmates fell from 8,056 in Q1 2019 to 5,923 in Q2 2021, a loss of 2,133 inmates or 26.5% of the total. Pre-trial detainees dropped from 251 individuals in Q1 2019 to 64 individuals in Q2 2021, a decline of 187 detainees or 74.4% of the total. Civil commitment inmates went up from 499 to 600, an increase of 101 inmates or 20.2% of the total during the same ten-quarter trend period.
- Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 1,061 from the previous quarter, a rise of 32.0 percent. Releases increased 19.7 percent to 1,166. This resulted in a smaller admission-to-release deficit in the second quarter than the first quarter, 2021.
- Criminal releases continued to outnumber admissions by a 474 to 305 margin in the second quarter of 2021, contributing to the shrinking of 169 inmates from the DOC population. Overall, the DOC released 2,183 more criminally sentenced inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. The five quarters after the outbreak of the COVID-19 contributed 76.7 percent of them.
- New court commitments remained to be the leading admission type for male admissions (76.8 percent), followed by parole violators (20.4 percent) in the second quarter of 2021. They were also the predominant admission types for female admissions with 75.0 percent and 20.0 percent respectively. The shares of parole violators as the second male and female criminal admission type were consistently larger in the quarters after the COVID-19 outbreak than prior to the outbreak with Q1 2021 as the only exception.
- Expiration of sentence to community (42.3%) topped the list of male criminal release types, followed by parole to community (35.7%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (12.8%) as the top three release types. Parole to community in the second quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Expiration of sentence to community (40.0%) and parole to community (30.0%) continued to split the share of the top two female release types. For the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak, their combined share accounted for less than 80 percent of female releases and rendered more share to transfer (15.0%) and parole to outside authority (10.0%).
- Male civil admissions and releases in the second quarter increased substantially from the previous quarter, up from 481 to 658 for admissions and from 418 to 595 for releases. Female civil commitment activity remained low in the second quarter of 2021 with only 5 admissions and 4 releases.
- Though increased from the previous quarter, pre-trial admissions (93) and releases (93) remained low in the second 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 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 6,318 inmates in the second quarter of 2021. This population decreased by 2.0 percent from the previous quarter. From the first quarter of 2019 through the second quarter of 2021, there was a decrease of 2,140 inmates, or 25.3 percent, from the custody population.

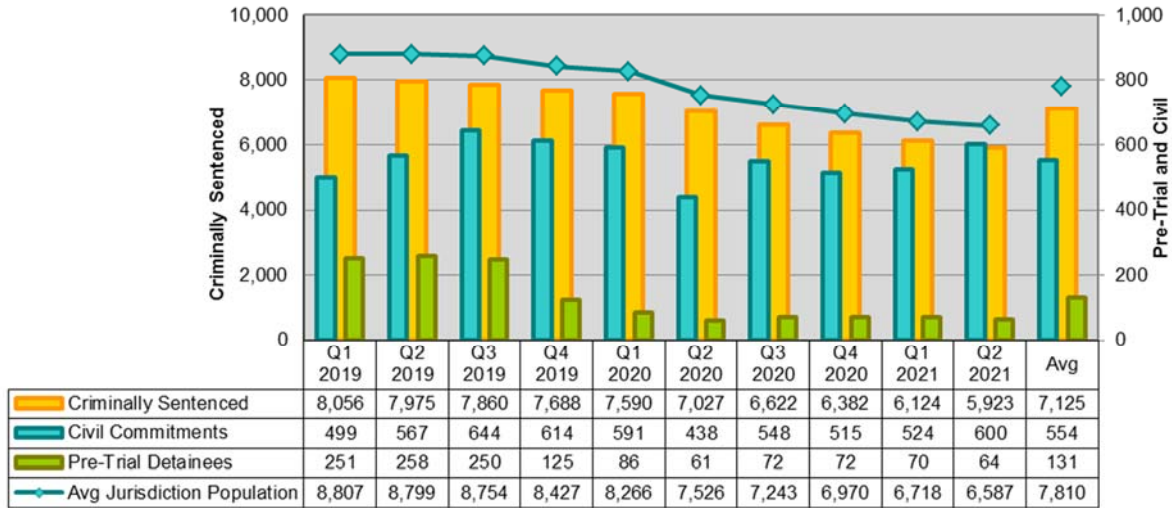
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 6,587 inmates in the second quarter of 2021, dropping 1.9 percent from the previous quarter. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 2,220 inmates or 25.2 percent. See Figure 1.1 below.*



The criminally sentenced population dropped 3.3 percent from the last quarter and 26.5 percent since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population increased 14.5 percent from the previous quarter and fluctuated around a flat line of 554 inmates during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population declined 8.5 percent this quarter from the previous quarter, and averaged 64 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.

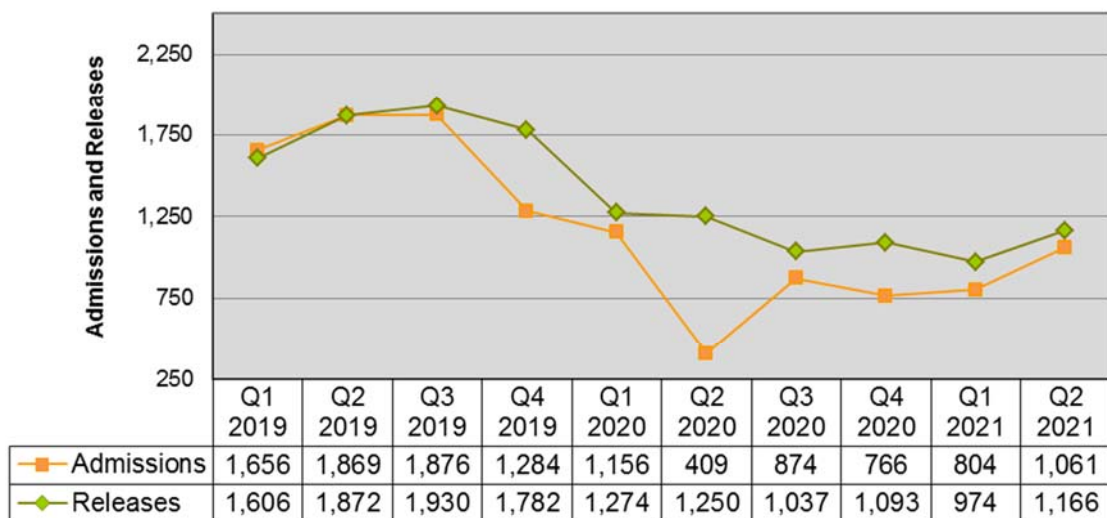
Figure 1.2. Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



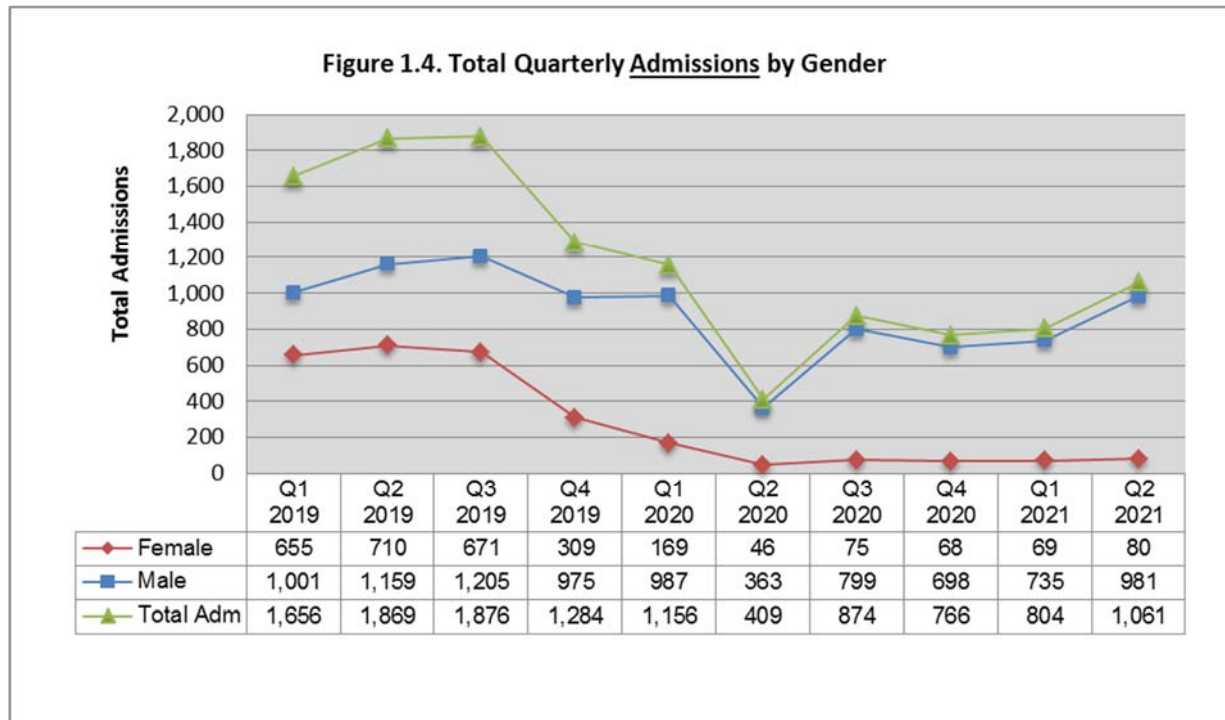
OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 1,061 from the previous quarter, a rise of 32.0 percent. Releases increased 19.7 percent to 1,166. This resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 105 inmates in the second quarter, 2021, smaller than the deficit of 170 inmates the previous quarter. See Figure 1.3 below.

Figure 1.3. Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases



The increase in **admissions** in the second quarter is seen primarily in males where admissions gained from 735 to 981 or a jump of 33.5% while female admissions increased more moderately from 69 to 80 or a rise of 15.9%. See Figure 1.4 below.



Both male and female releases went up from the previous quarter, up from 897 to 1,087 for males and 77 to 79 for females. See Figure 1.5 below.

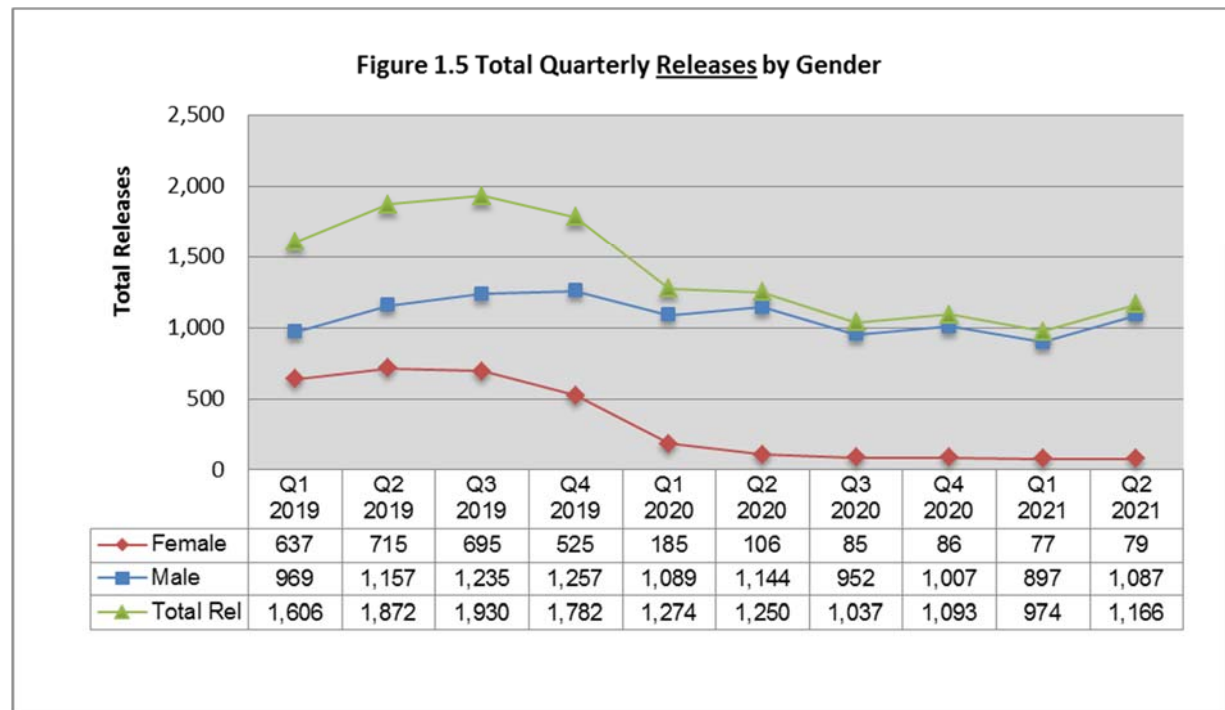


Figure 1.6 shows that male admissions in the second quarter of 2021 increased from the previous quarter. Male releases went up as well. It resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 106, which was smaller than the 162 more releases than admissions of the last quarter.

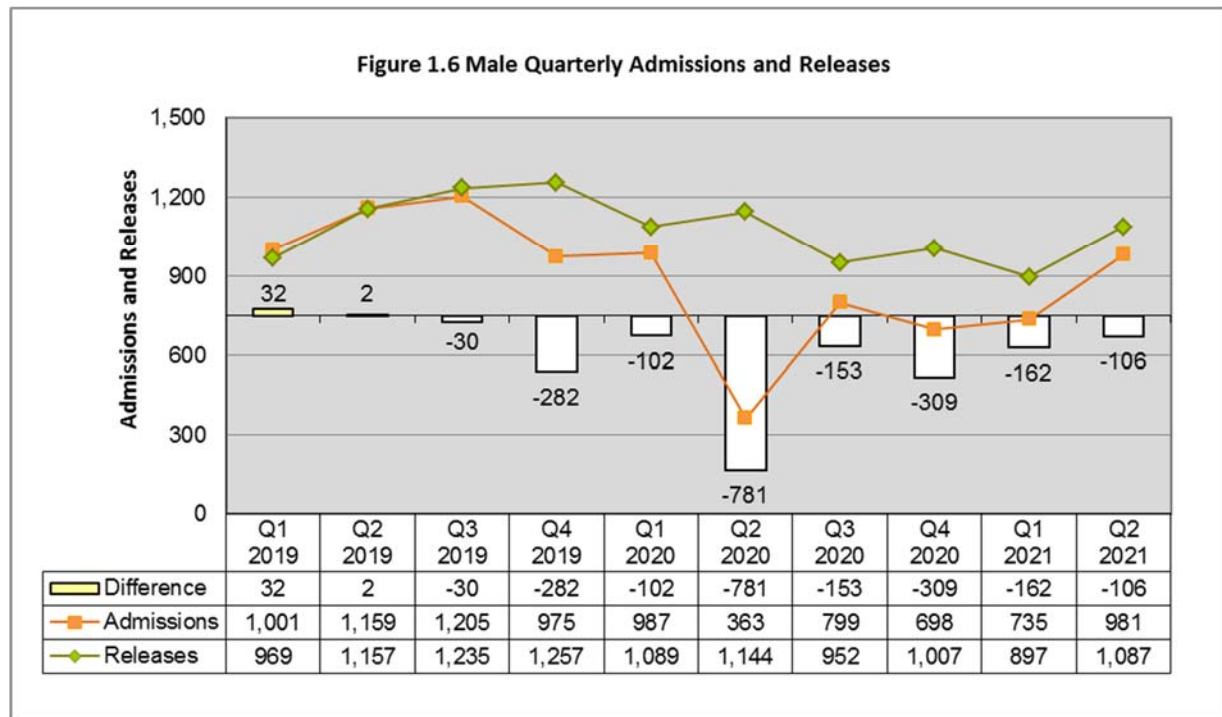
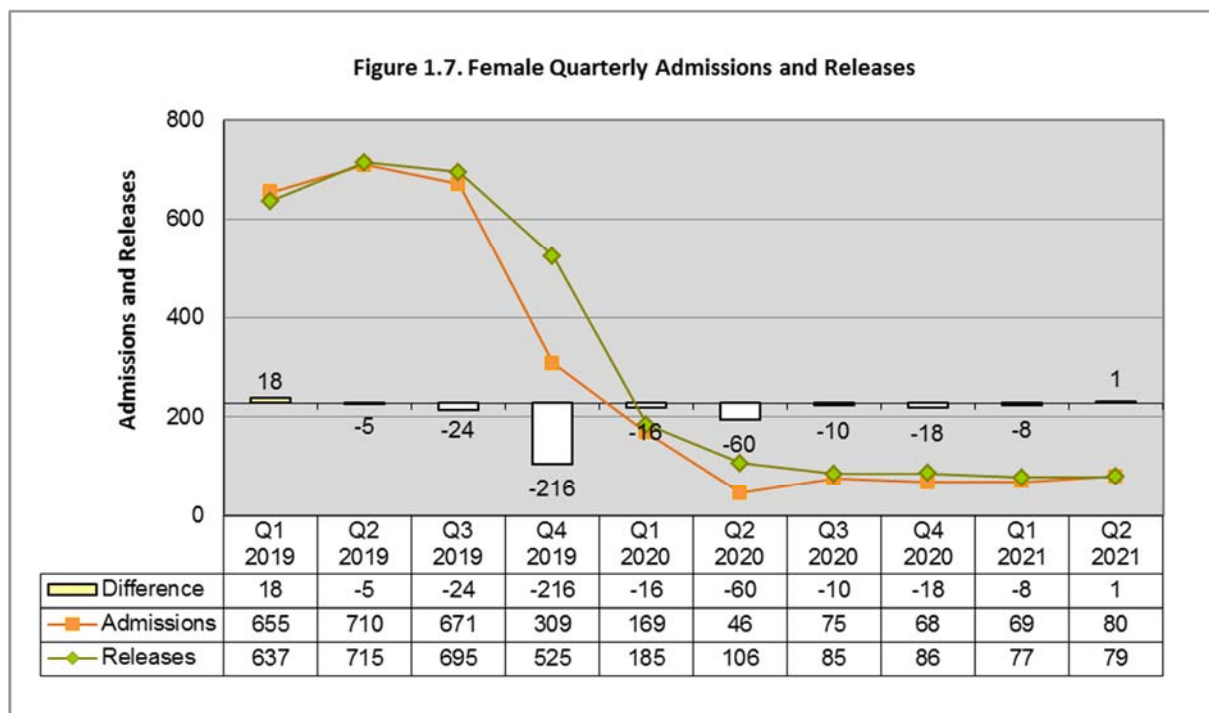
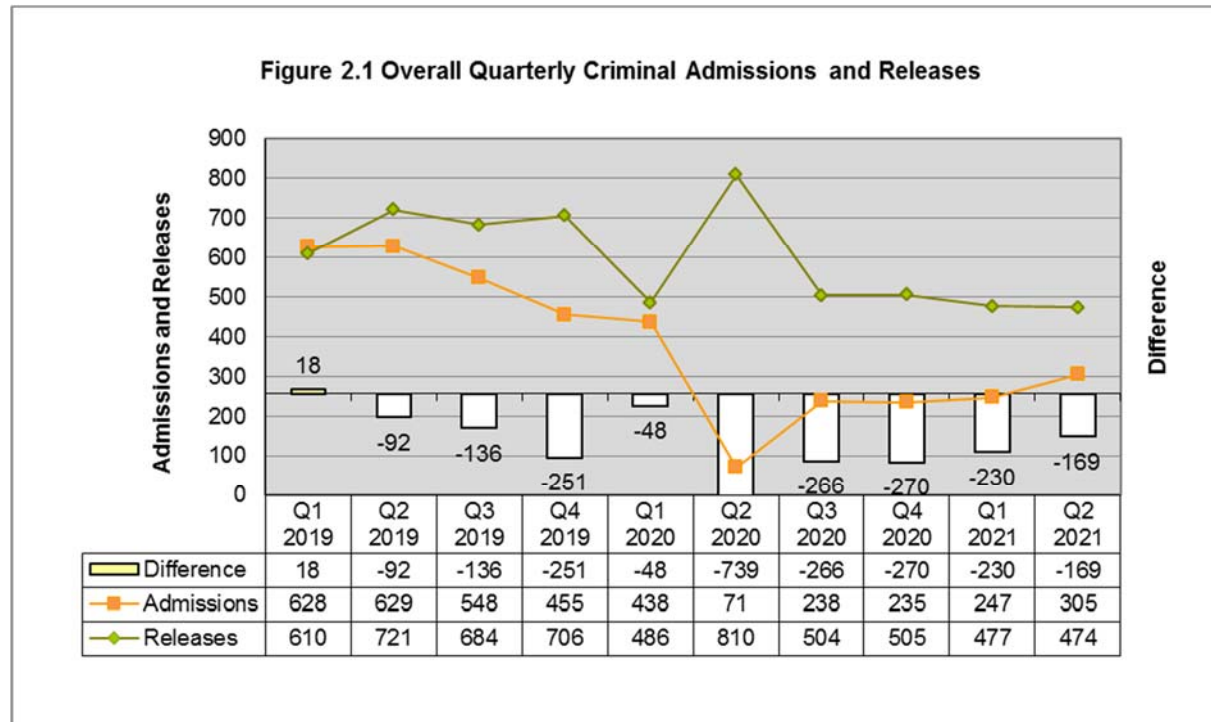


Figure 1.7 shows a similar movement in female admissions and releases. It ended up, however, with an admission-to-release surplus of 1 inmate in the second quarter.



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions in the second quarter increased 23.5 percent from the previous quarter while releases dropped 0.6 percent. Releases, however, remained larger than admissions, contributing to the shrinking of the DOC population for another quarter. Overall, the DOC released 2,183 more inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.1)



In the second quarter of 2021, male criminal admissions went up and releases stayed about the same from the previous quarter, and meanwhile female criminal admissions increased and releases declined, making the admission-to-release deficit smaller than the previous quarter, 169 for males and 0 for females. (Figure 2.2)

Figure 2.2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases by Gender

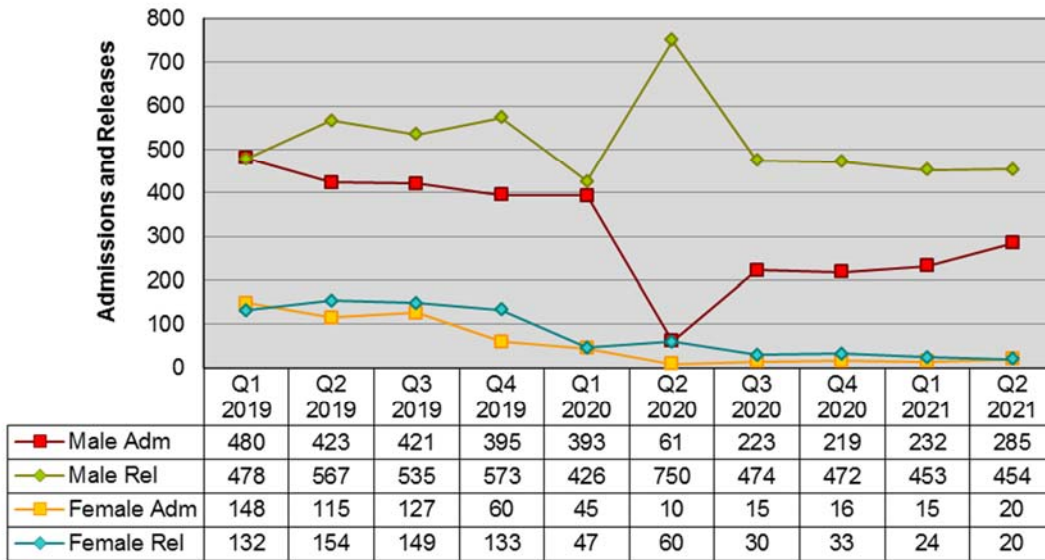
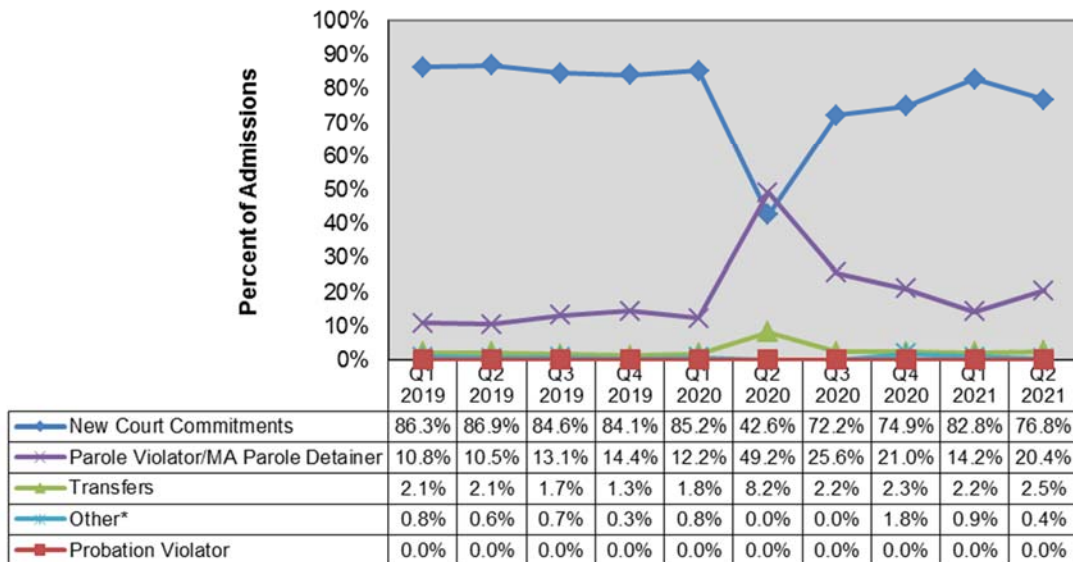


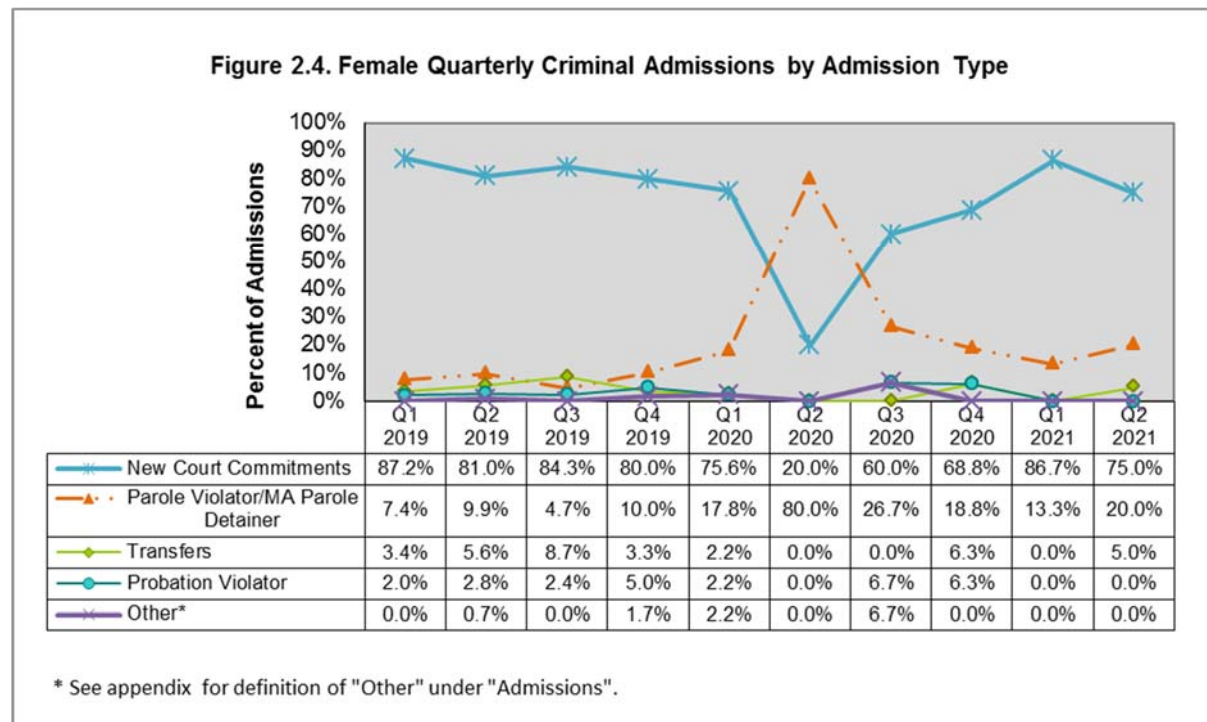
Figure 2.3 below shows that new court commitments continued to be the leading male criminal admission type (76.8%) followed by parole violators (20.4%). The share of parole violators as the second male criminal admission type appeared to be consistently larger in the quarters after the COVID-19 pandemic than prior to the pandemic with Q1 2021 as the only exception.

Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



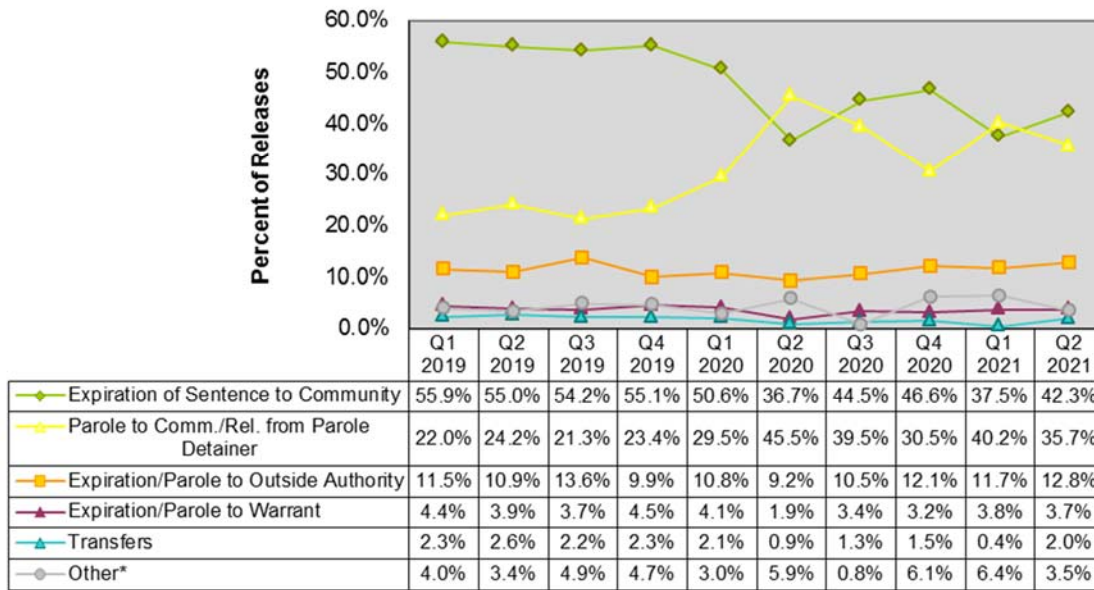
* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

New court commitments (75.0%) and parole violators (20.0%) also dominated the list of female criminal admissions. The share of parole violators as the second female criminal admission type was also consistently larger in the quarters after the COVID-19 pandemic than prior to the pandemic with the exception of Q1 2021 where its share was smaller than Q1 2020, the quarter that was partially affected by the outbreak of COVID_19. (Figure 2.4)



Figures 2.5 describe how male criminally sentenced inmates were released in Q2, 2021 and the quarters prior. In the second quarter of 2021, expiration of sentence to community (42.3%) tops the list of the release types, followed by parole to community (35.7%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (12.8%) as the top three types. Parole to community in the second quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.

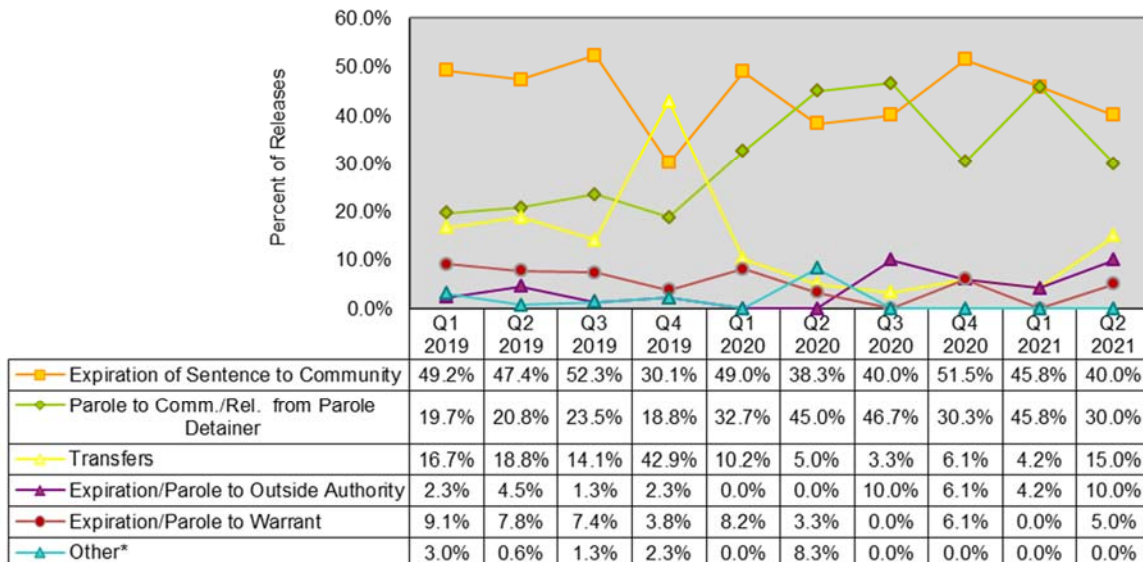
Figure 2.5. Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type



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

Expiration of sentence to community (40.0%) and parole to community (30.0%) continued to split the share of the top two female release types in the second quarter, 2021 though both shares went down from the previous quarter. For the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak, the share of the top two female criminal release types accounted for less than 80 percent of female releases and rendered more share to transfer (15.0%) and parole to outside authority (10.0%). (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 221 in the second quarter of 2021, a ten time increase from a year ago though still far below the pre-pandemic figures. Essex County (42) sent the most new criminal court commitments, followed by Bristol (35) and Suffolk (35) counties as the top three in the second quarter. (Figure 2.7)

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

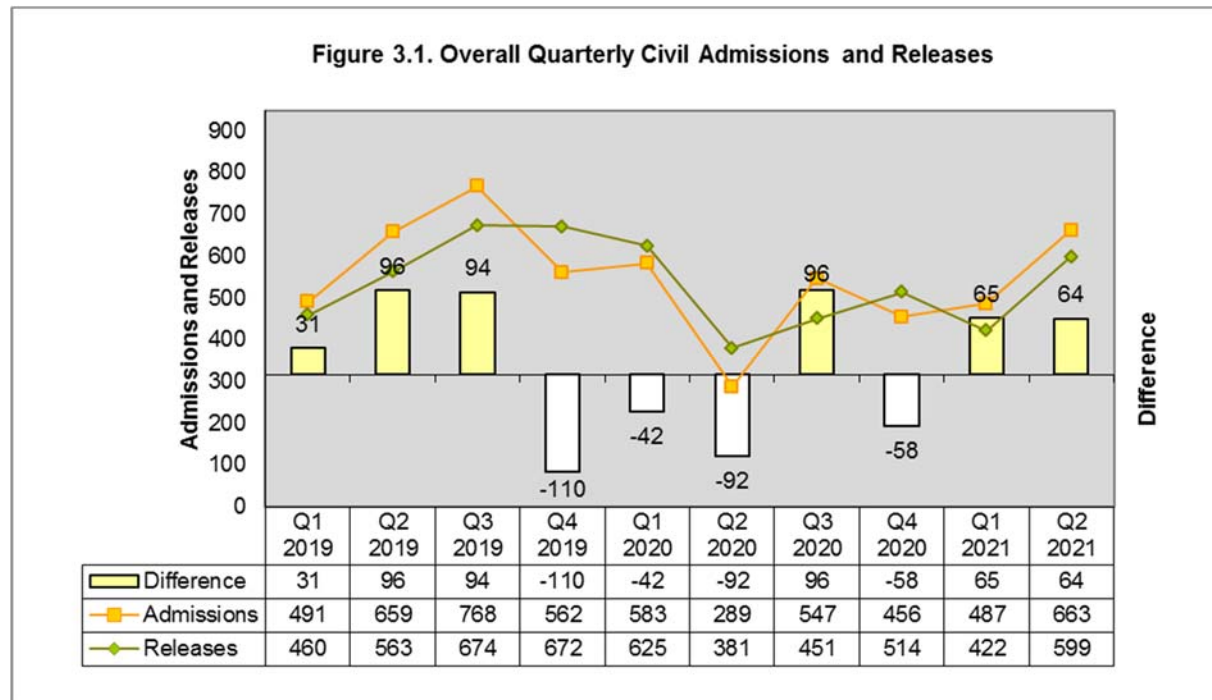
County	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
ESSEX	77	92	61	64	57	0	45	37	38	42
BRISTOL	77	56	37	46	47	1	21	20	39	35
SUFFOLK	70	90	64	48	52	4	19	25	30	35
HAMPDEN	42	46	32	27	41	2	10	10	17	29
WORCESTER	38	34	49	34	43	1	11	19	19	24
PLYMOUTH	26	29	28	40	27	4	24	15	14	19
MIDDLESEX	53	45	37	42	38	4	17	24	18	17
NORFOLK	19	19	17	11	13	2	7	10	7	8
BARNSTABLE	10	8	16	15	10	1	5	5	5	6
HAMPSHIRE	6	4	5	2	4	0	1	1	3	3
FRANKLIN	6	4	5	3	5	1	0	1	3	2
BERKSHIRE	7	5	13	8	8	1	1	8	3	1
DUKES	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	431	433	364	340	345	21	161	175	196	221

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

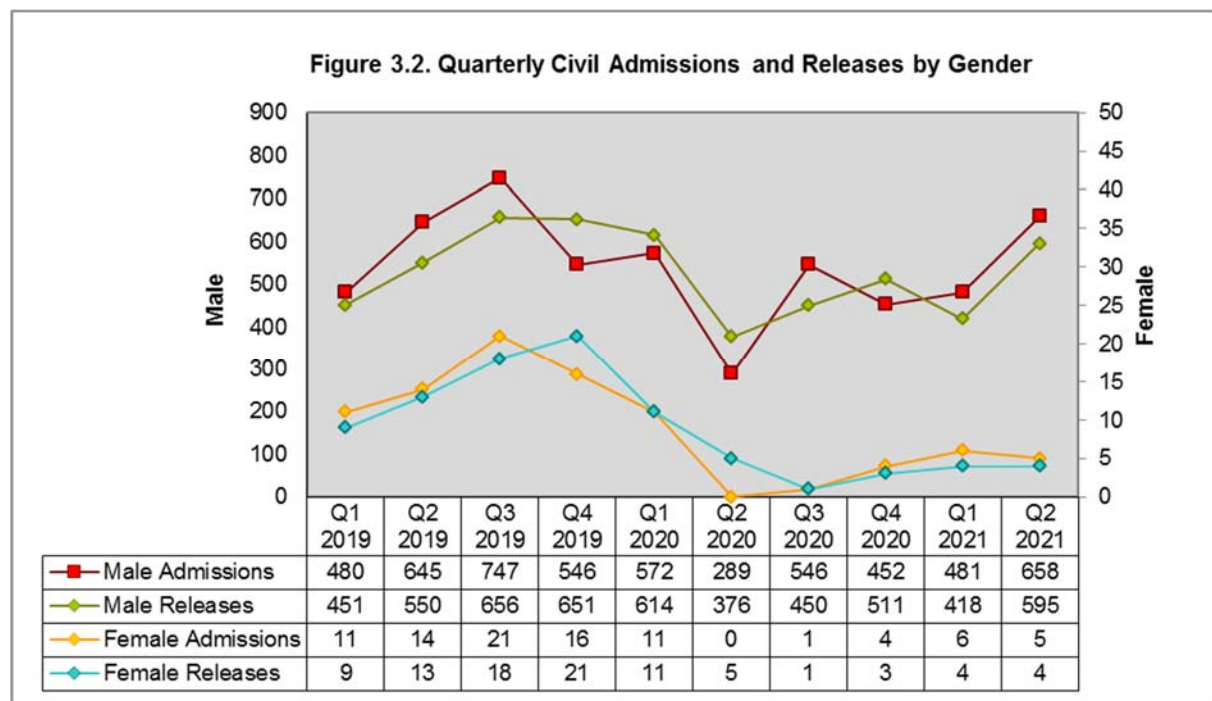
Nantucket County had no new court commitments to the DOC in the last ten quarters.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In the second quarter of 2021, there were 64 more civil commitment admissions than releases, similar to the admission to release surplus of the previous quarter. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has admitted 144 more civil commitments than it has released. See Figure 3.1.

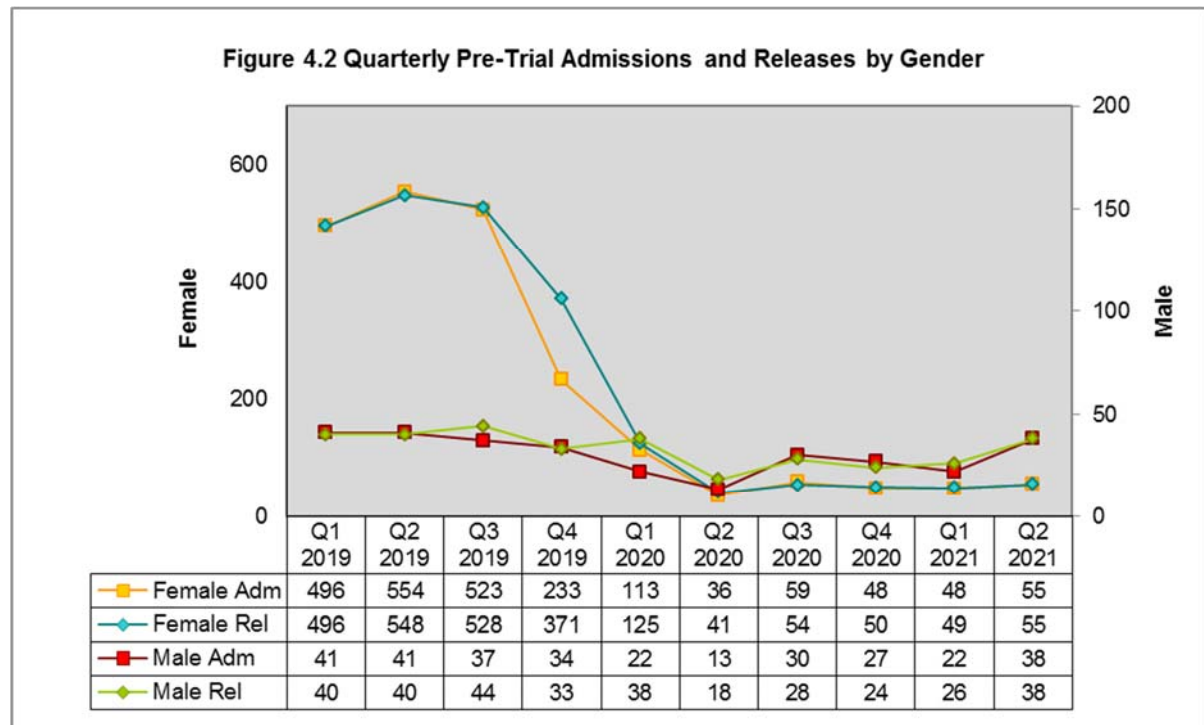
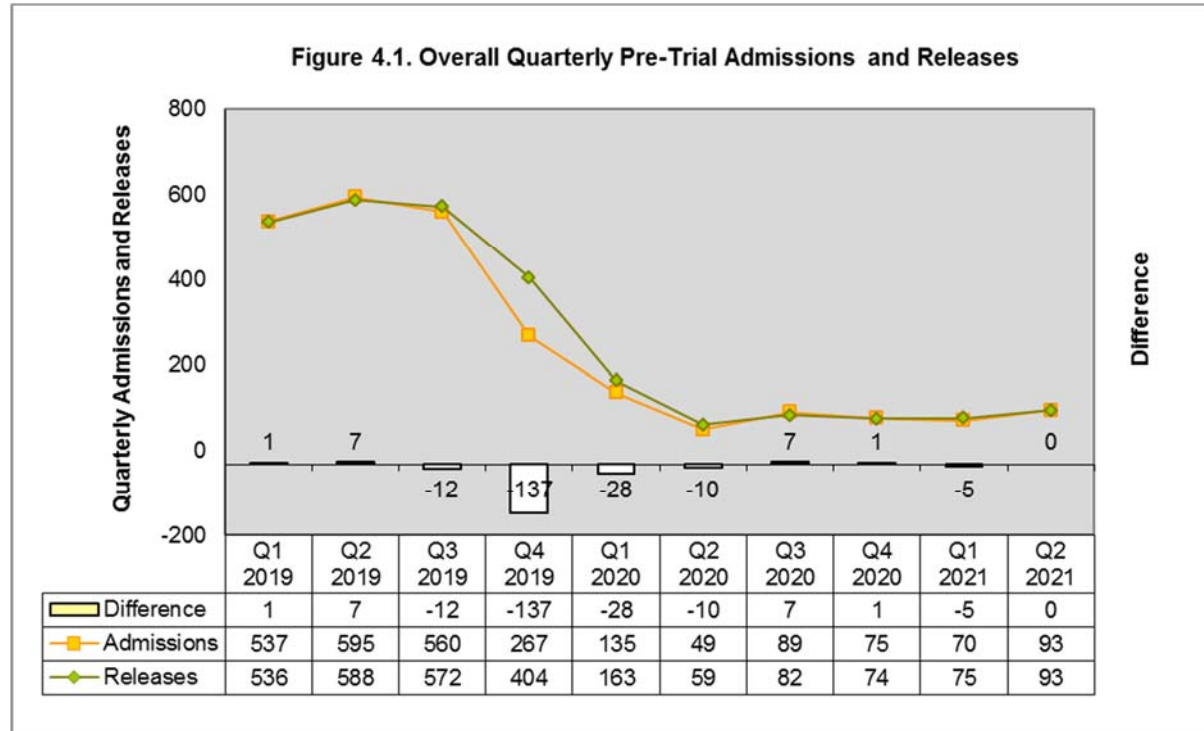


Female civil commitment activity continued to be low in the second quarter of 2021. Both male admissions and releases increased 177 more individuals from the previous quarter, and reached 658 for admissions and 595 for releases. See Figure 3.2.



PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions bounced back to 93 in the second quarter of 2021 following the downturns of the previous two quarters while releases continued to increase to 93 as well, resulting in no more admissions or releases for this quarter. The number of female admissions and releases 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 second quarter of 2021, about two-fifths of male pre-trial detainee admissions came from the out of state and federal jurisdictions, and the remaining three-fifths or so from Massachusetts with Plymouth (6), Middlesex (5) and Suffolk (4) counties as the top three. Female detainees came predominantly from Middlesex County (52) followed distantly by out-of-state (2) and federal (1) in the second 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	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
Out-of-state	7	14	6	7	12	7	10	6	9	14
Plymouth	2	4	1	3	2	0	2	1	0	6
Middlesex	2	0	2	4	3	0	3	0	1	5
Suffolk	2	3	2	3	4	0	7	3	1	4
Federal	12	9	10	10	6	2	2	12	0	3
Norfolk	3	3	4	2	0	0	1	1	1	2
Hampden	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	2
Essex	3	2	5	1	1	1	1	2	4	1
Worcester	7	4	4	2	8	1	0	0	0	1
Bristol	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	3	0
Barnstable	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	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	1	0	0
Total	41	41	37	34	38	13	30	27	22	38

*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 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021
Middlesex	119	138	150	149	122	34	57	43	48	52
Out-of-State	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Federal	2	7	1	5	2	0	0	2	0	1
Essex	194	202	180	31	1	0	2	2	0	0
Norfolk	96	89	87	32	0	1	0	0	0	0
Plymouth	83	115	103	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worcester	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Berkshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	496	555	523	233	125	36	59	48	48	55

*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, 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.