

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

Third Quarter 2019





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The third quarter of 2019 continued to show the decline of the MADOC population, with an average of 8,318 custody inmates and 8,754 jurisdiction inmates between July and September (Figure 1.1). Among the separate populations, the biggest drop was seen in the number of criminally sentenced inmates, which fell to 7,860 in Q3 2019, a new low for the ten quarter trend period. Pre-trial detainees are holding steady, their average having dropped by 3 percent from the previous quarter, a typical fluctuation. Lastly, the average civil commitment population rose for the third time in a row. There were over 600 civilly committed individuals on average during Q3 2019, a high for the ten quarters.

Admissions were just barely up (less than half of one percent), and releases were up (3 percent) in the third quarter of 2019. Graphically, admissions and releases appear to be carrying out a year-long cyclical trend, with both expected to decrease over the next one or two quarters. At the beginning of the trend period – the second quarter of 2017 – both admissions and releases were over 2,000. Recently, neither has hit the 2,000 mark and this pattern is likely to continue into the future.

Criminally sentenced admissions (548) were once again fewer than releases (684) in the third quarter of 2019. Though both experienced a decrease from the previous quarter, criminal admissions reached a trend low. These patterns were reflected in both males and females, with the exception of female admissions which were up slightly from their record low last quarter. Parole violation admissions were up in males, and down sharply in females.

Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts court jurisdictions dropped by a notable 16 percent (69 inmates) this quarter. Essex and Suffolk counties were the highest contributor of new court commitments, though both sent almost 30 fewer inmates than the previous quarter. Notable changes include Barnstable, who sent twice as many, and Berkshire, who sent more than twice as many, criminally sentenced new court commitments to the MADOC.

The decline of the population may have been larger had civil commitments not increased in Q3 2019. Admissions and releases both went up in Q3 2019, but there were 94 more admissions. Notably, male civil commitment admissions reached their second-highest level this trend period (747 men) and are up 69 percent from the end of 2018. Female civil admissions reached their highest level for the trend period (21 women), but it is unclear if their levels will stay in this range going forward.

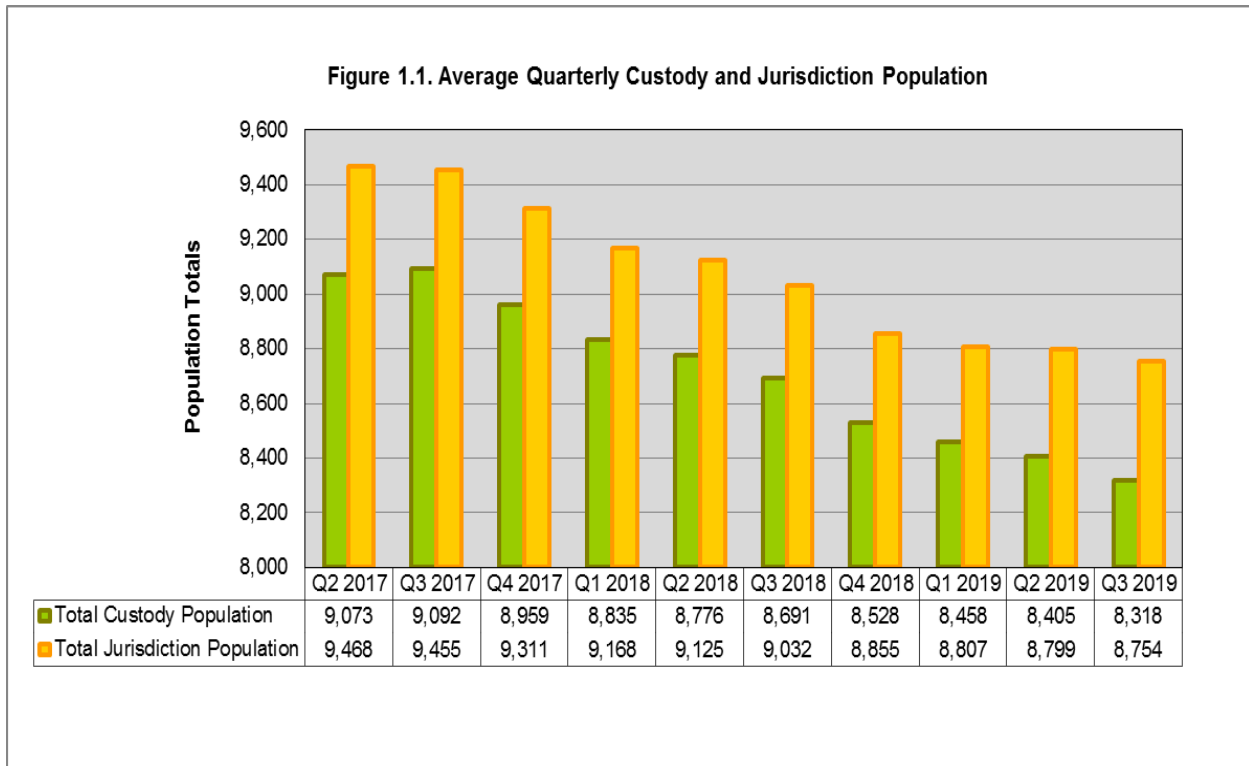
Pre-trial admissions and releases remained in the 500 range in Q3 2019, having both dropped slightly from the previous quarter. Male pre-trial figures remain on the low end for the trend period.

Overall, the declining MADOC population has been punctuated by an uptick in the civilly committed population, with more admissions than releases in 2019.

CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

The MA DOC **custody** population averaged 8,318 inmates in the third quarter of 2019. This population decreased by one percent from the previous quarter. From the second quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2019, there was a decrease of 755 inmates, or 8 percent, from the custody population.

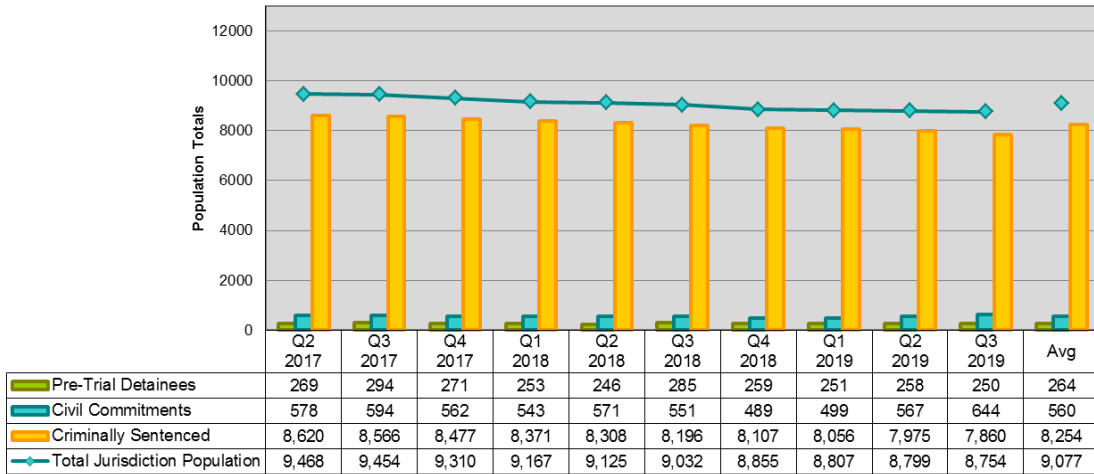
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 8,754 inmates in the third quarter of 2019, dropping half of one percent from the previous quarter. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 727 inmates or 7.5 percent. The decline continues for both the MA DOC custody and jurisdiction population. See Figure 1.1 below.



The criminally sentenced population dropped from an average of 8,620 inmates in Q2 2017 to an average of 7,860 inmates in Q3 2019, a loss of 760 inmates for the trend period. Civil commitment population rose again this quarter by 77 inmates and brought the average to 560 civil commitments over the trend period. Pre-trial population is down just slightly from last quarter at 250, bringing the ten-quarter trend period average to 264 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

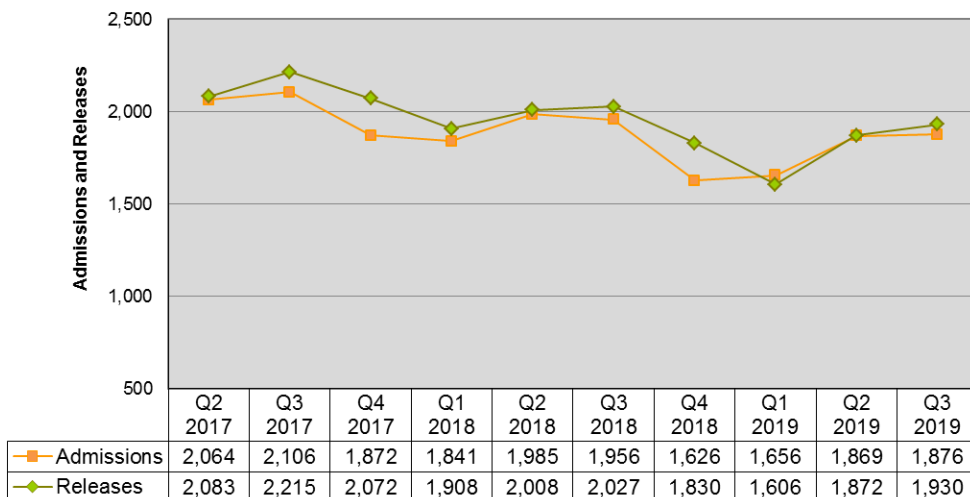


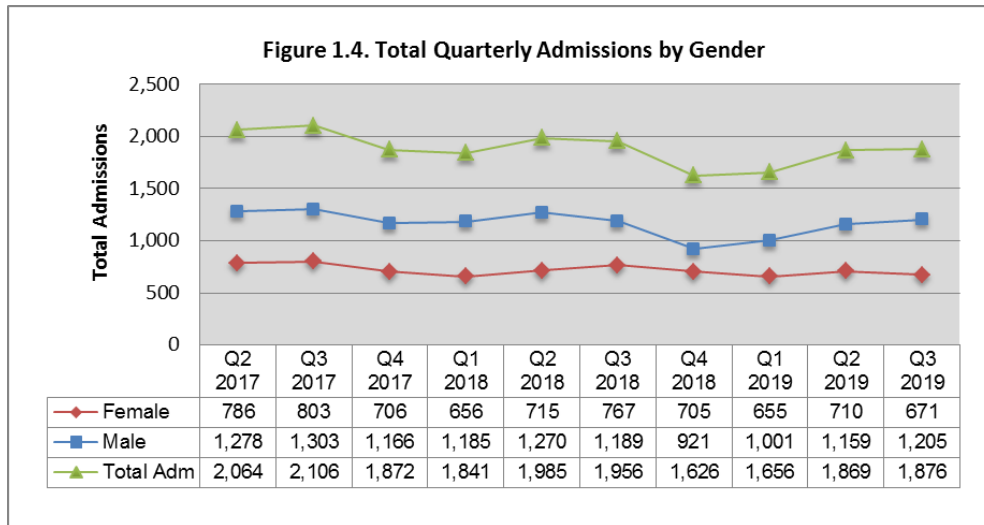
OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Both admissions and releases increased between Q2 and Q3 of 2019. This change conforms to a typical rise in activity during the second and third quarters of a year. Admissions rose less than one percent and releases rose three percent since the second quarter, significantly less activity than between the first and second quarters.

Between the second quarter of 2017 and the third quarter of 2019, the MA DOC released 700 more inmates than admitted, contributing to the overall decline of the DOC population. See Figure 1.3 below.

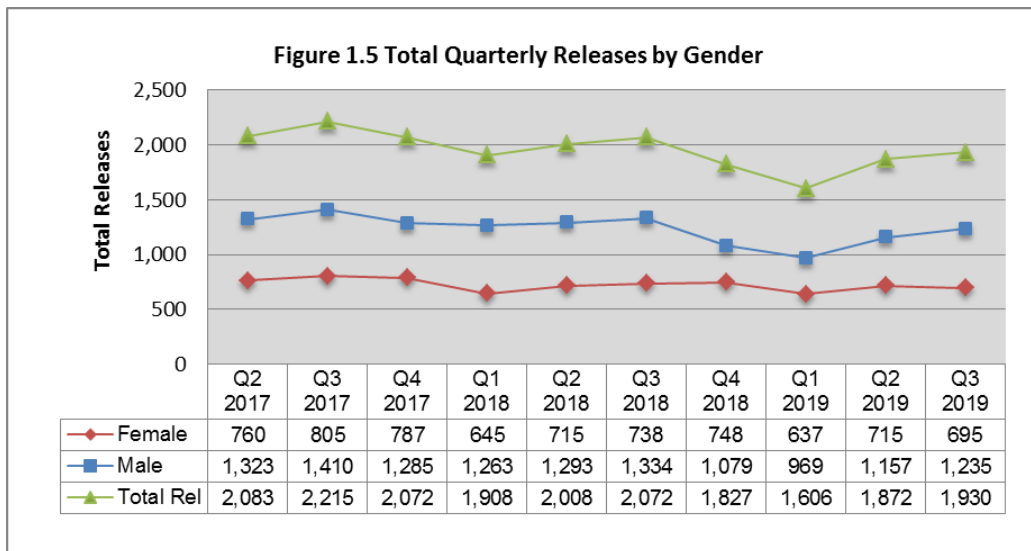
Figure 1.3. Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases

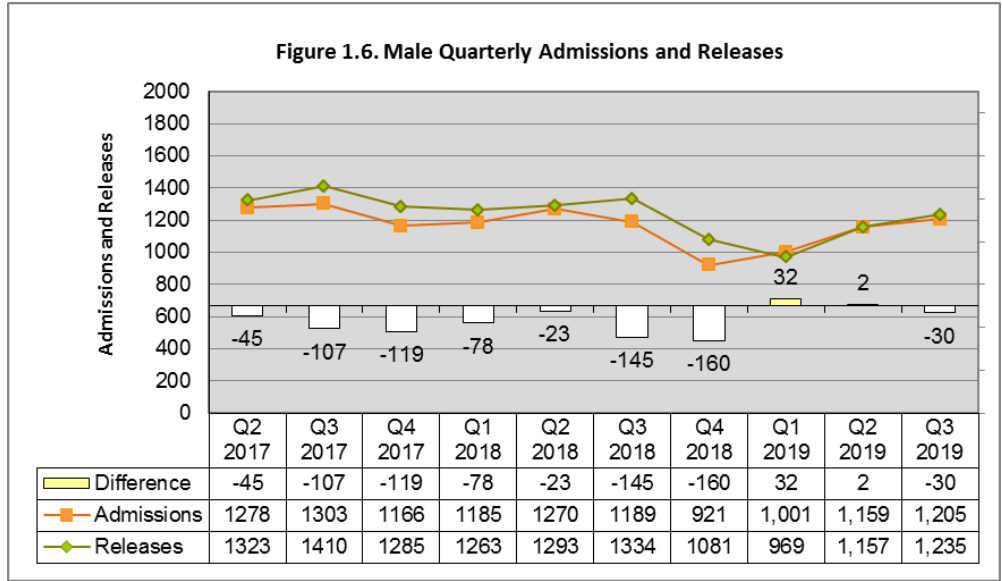




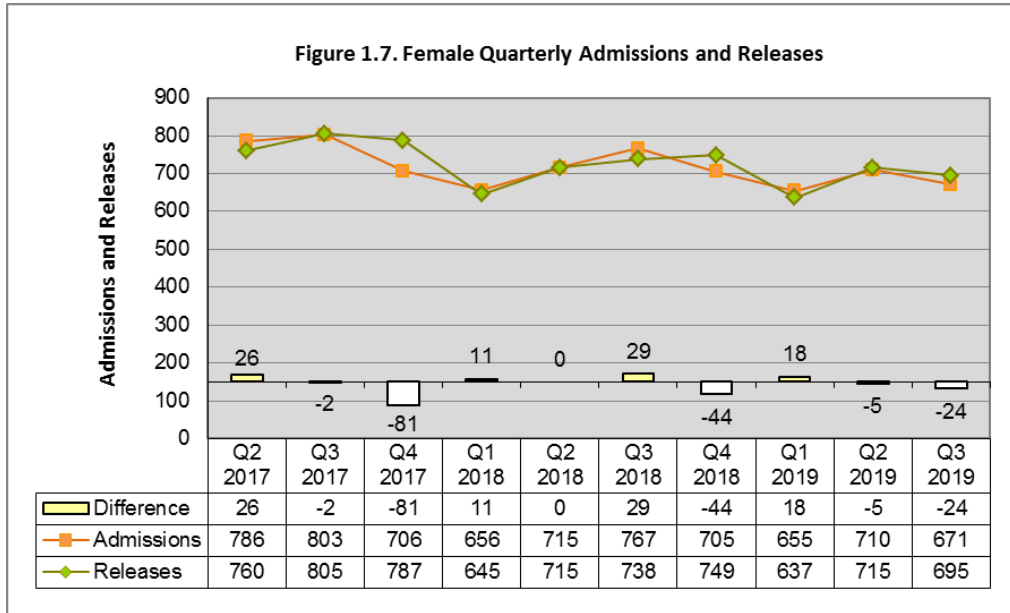
The slight rise in **admissions** was only found in males, while female admissions were down 5 percent from the previous quarter (see Figure 1.4 above).

Releases (Figure 1.5 below) exhibited similar trends and they appear to be on the upward part of a yearly cycle. Male releases rose by 7 percent, and female releases were down 3 percent this quarter.



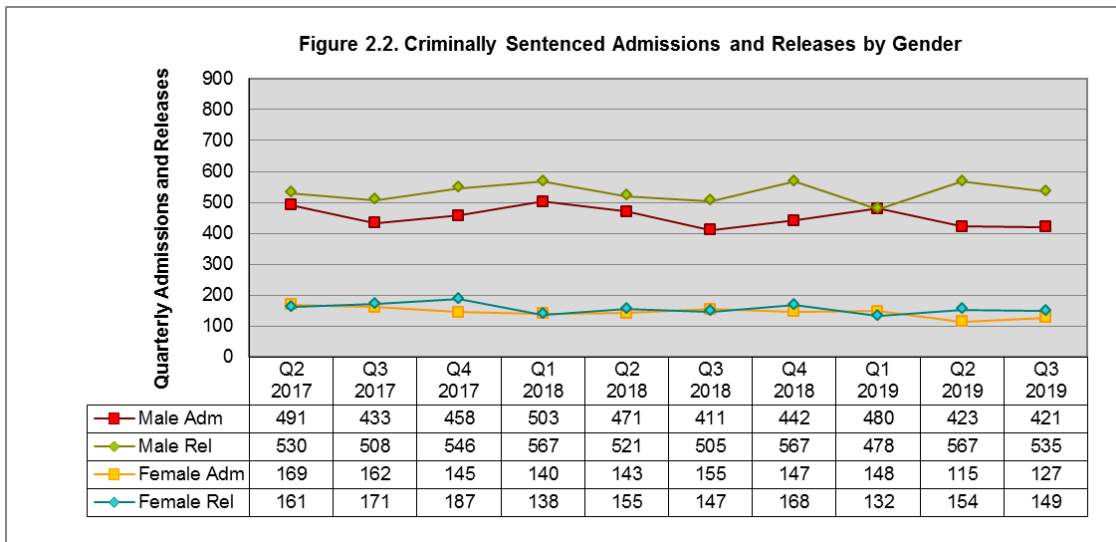
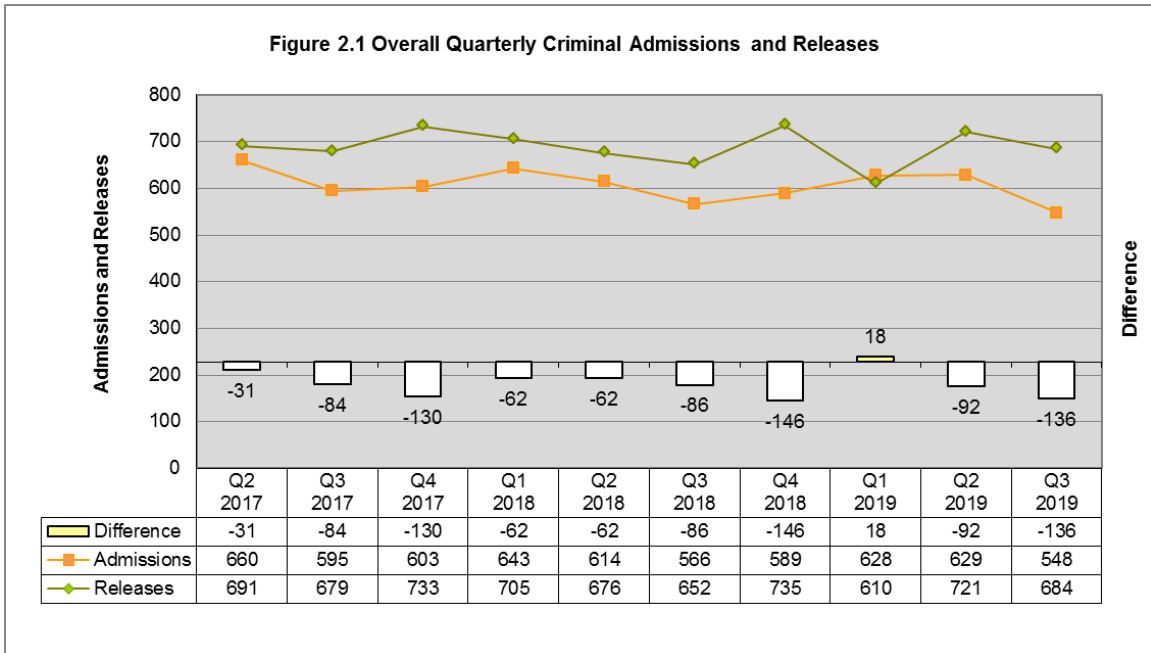


This quarter, both male admissions and releases were up (Figure 1.6 above) but there were 30 more releases than admissions, reverting to a trend from prior to 2019. Similarly, female admissions were slightly behind releases, though both fell from the previous quarter (see Figure 1.7 below).



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal releases were again higher than criminal admissions during Q3 2019 (Figure 2.1). There were 136 more criminal releases than admissions, the second-highest difference observed for the ten-quarter trend period. When broken out by gender, both male and female criminal releases outnumbered their corresponding admissions (Figure 2.2).

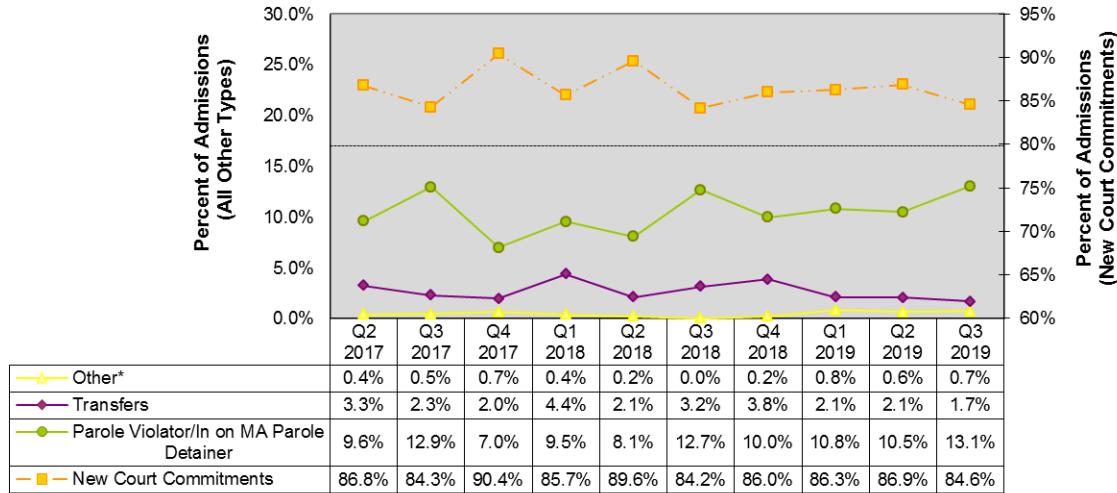


Admissions

Both male and female criminally sentenced inmates were admitted at typical levels; female admissions were up slightly after a notable drop last quarter. Male admissions hardly changed between the second and third quarters of 2019 (See Figure 2.2 above).

Figure 2.3 below shows that the proportion of male new court commitments shrank slightly, while male parole violator admissions reached a record high of 13.1 percent of all criminal admissions. Male transfers are down to a record low of 1.7 percent (equal to 7 men) of all male criminal admissions.

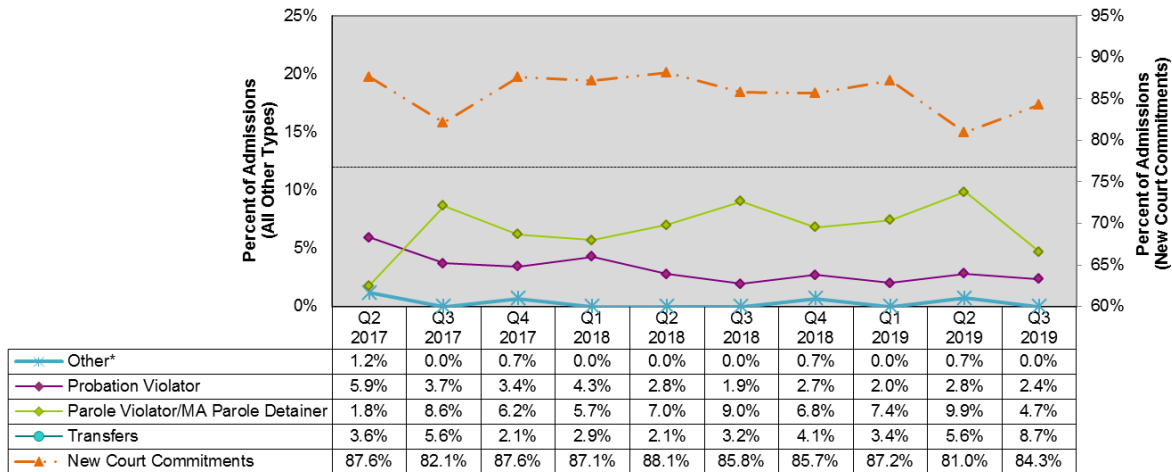
Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



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

While female parole violator admissions hit a record last quarter, they have dropped to a two-year low of 4.7 percent of all female criminal admissions. New court commitments were up slightly at 84.3 percent, or roughly 107 women. Transfers from county authorities were also up to a record 8.7 percent, the highest percentage of the trend period. Admissions from probation violations remain low for females relative to the first half of the ten-quarter trend period (see Figure 2.4 below).

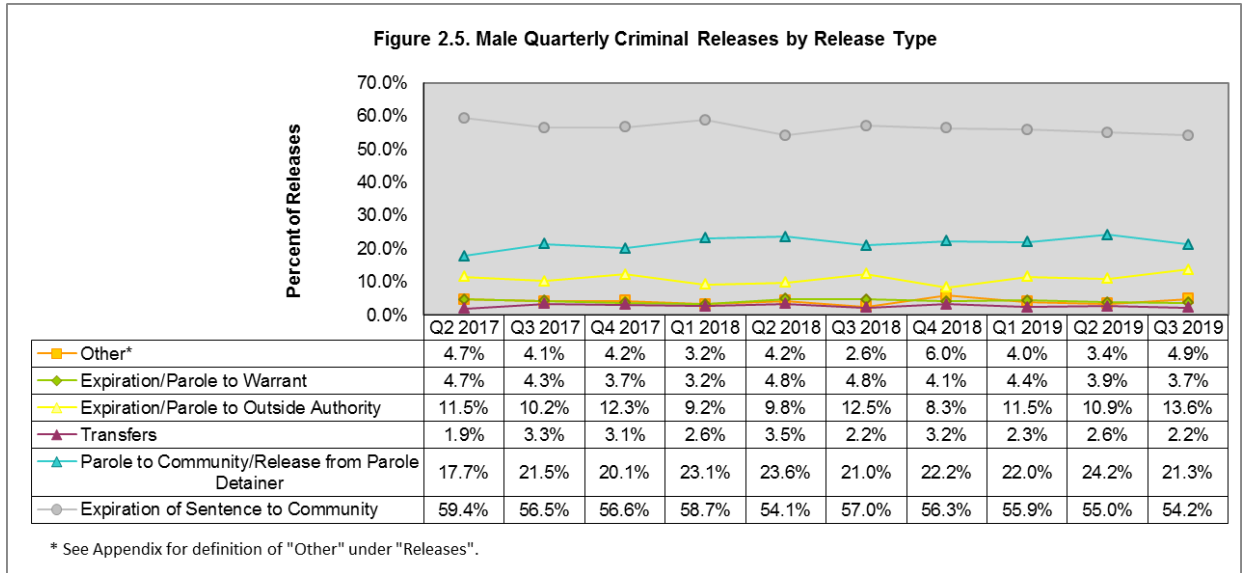
Figure 2.4. Female Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



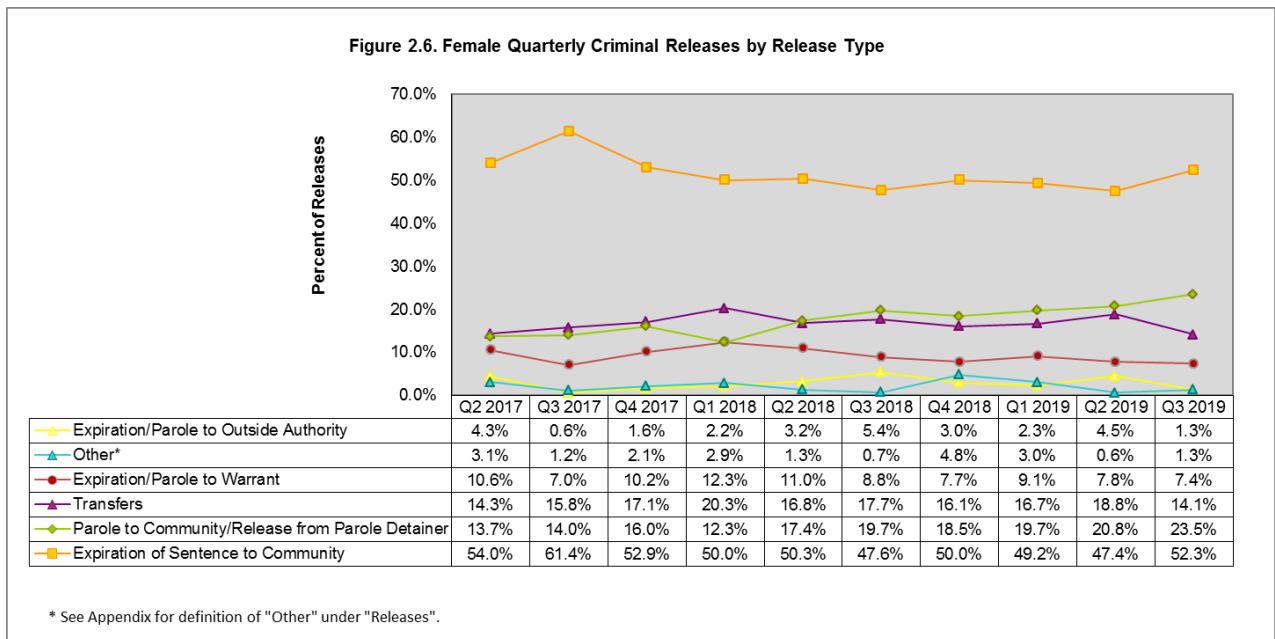
* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Releases

Release trends for criminally sentenced inmates largely held steady for the third quarter of 2019. As usual, over half of males (54%) were released to the community due to expiration of their sentence, though this proportion has decreased over the past four quarters. Just over one-fifth of male criminally sentenced releases were paroled to the community or released from a parole detainer.



As for female criminal releases in Q3 2019, proportions have changed while their relative order remains the same, with the largest group wrapping up their sentence and releasing to the community (52 percent, or roughly 77 women). Another 23.5 percent paroled to their community or were released from a parole detainer, the largest proportion observed over the trend period. This may correspond to a spike in parole violation admissions seen in females in the previous quarter.



New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts court jurisdictions were down 16 percent this quarter. Suffolk and Essex counties contributed the highest numbers of new court commitments, though both counties' figures dropped by over 25 percent from the previous quarter. Meanwhile, Barnstable sent twice as many new court commitments to the MA DOC and Berkshire, more than twice as many new court commitments this quarter compared to the previous quarter.

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

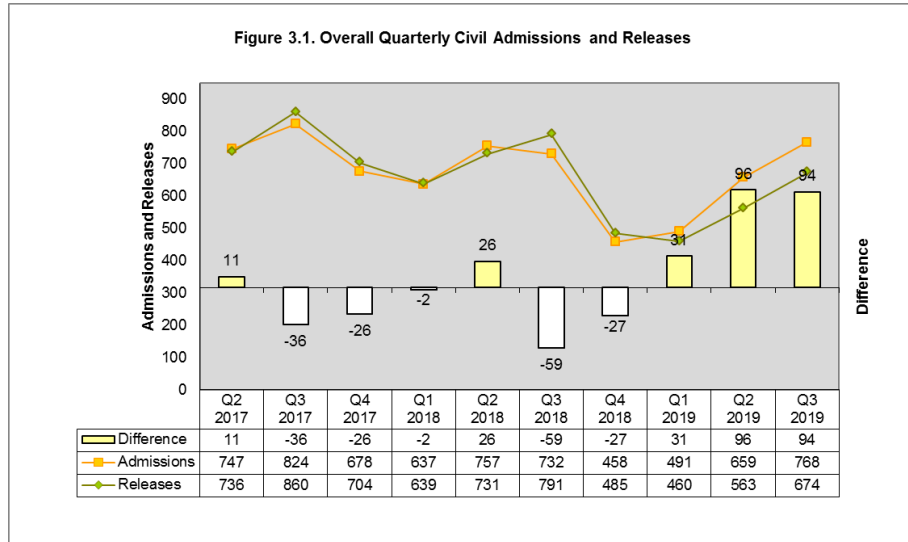
| County | Q2 2017 | Q3 2017 | Q4 2017 | Q1 2018 | Q2 2018 | Q3 2018 | Q4 2018 | Q1 2019 | Q2 2019 | Q3 2019 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| SUFFOLK | 83 | 61 | 77 | 83 | 84 | 72 | 76 | 70 | 90 | 64 |
| ESSEX | 73 | 53 | 76 | 64 | 60 | 73 | 78 | 77 | 92 | 61 |
| WORCESTER | 43 | 35 | 35 | 43 | 43 | 38 | 21 | 38 | 34 | 49 |
| BRISTOL | 43 | 39 | 49 | 47 | 76 | 28 | 44 | 77 | 56 | 37 |
| MIDDLESEX | 55 | 61 | 55 | 56 | 48 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 45 | 37 |
| HAMPDEN | 60 | 48 | 60 | 63 | 43 | 30 | 37 | 42 | 46 | 32 |
| PLYMOUTH | 28 | 18 | 30 | 25 | 23 | 14 | 28 | 26 | 29 | 28 |
| NORFOLK | 22 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 22 | 19 | 19 | 17 |
| BARNSTABLE | 11 | 20 | 11 | 15 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 16 |
| BERKSHIRE | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 13 |
| FRANKLIN | 7 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| HAMPSHIRE | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| NANTUCKET | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DUKES | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 440 | 372 | 426 | 437 | 433 | 359 | 384 | 431 | 433 | 364 |

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

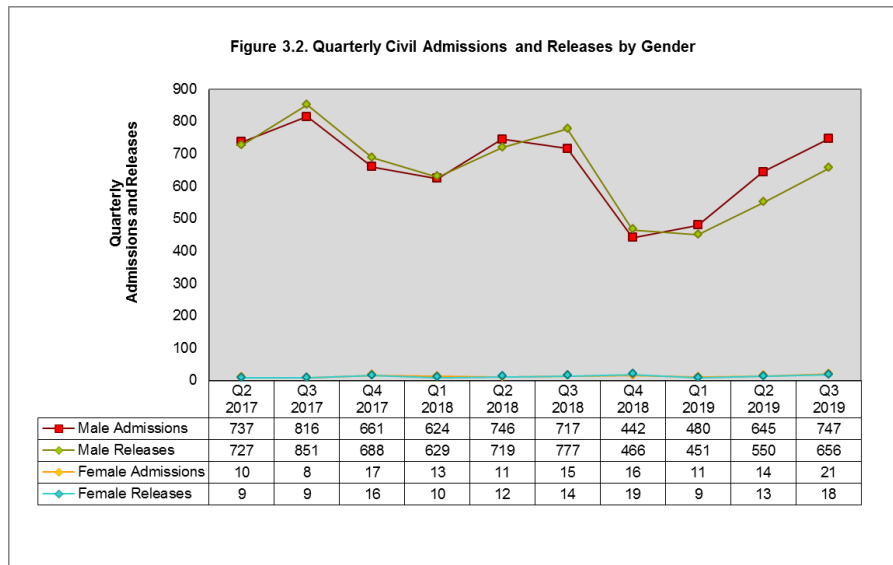
CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Civil admissions and releases both increased from Q2 2019. Civil admissions rose by 17 percent and civil releases rose by 20 percent, reaching levels similar to the beginning of the trend period.

For the trend period, the MA DOC experienced 108 more civil commitment admissions than releases.

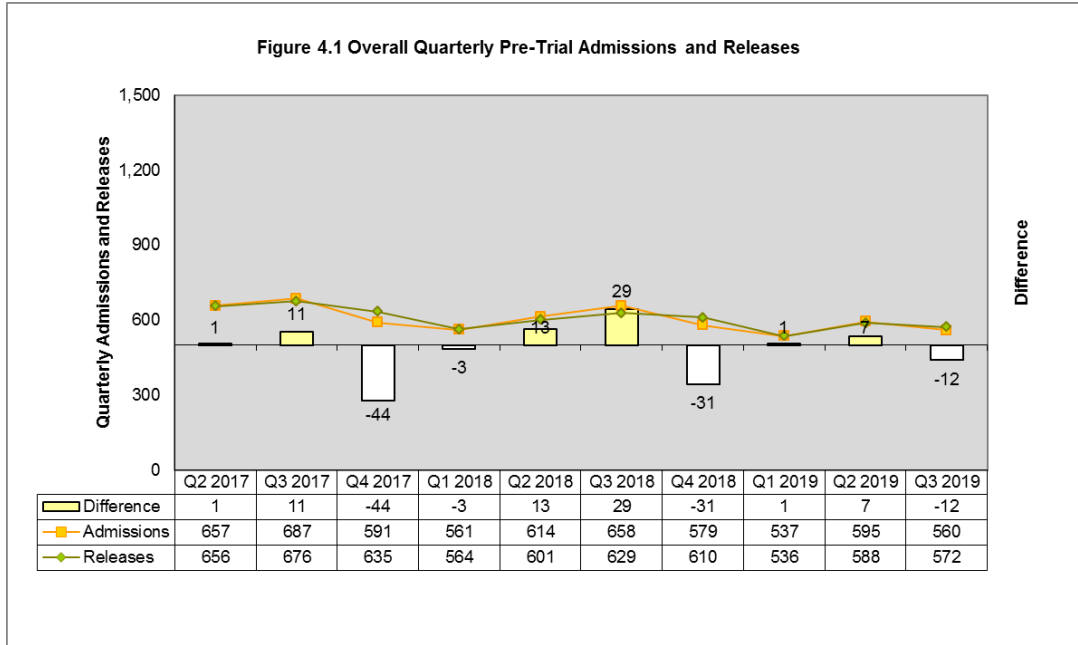


Both male and female civil commitment activity rose during the third quarter of 2019. If civil commitments behave in a cyclical fashion, there may be a decrease in admissions and releases during the next quarter.

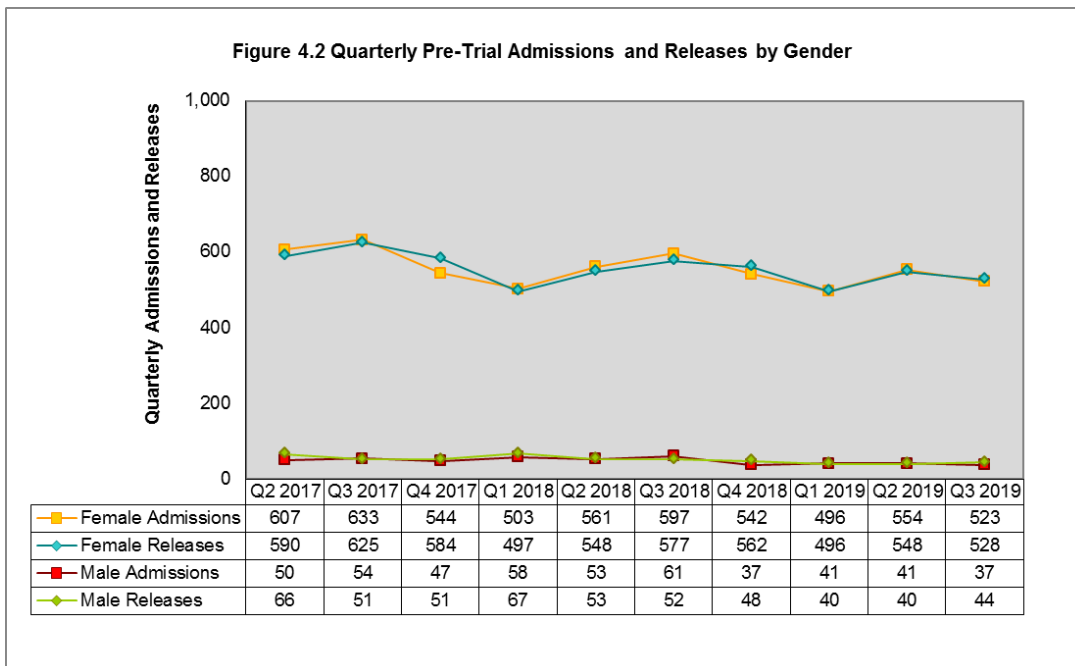


PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases both dropped slightly in Q3 2019 after a rise in both figures last quarter. This quarter, pre-trial admissions were their second-lowest for the trend period at 560. The average over the whole trend period for both admissions and releases is just over 600 per quarter.



Male pre-trial admissions dropped by 4, while releases increased by 4. Female pre-trial admissions and releases experienced a typical 'down' quarter, with admissions down 6 percent and releases down 4 percent (see Figure 4.2).



Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

Male pre-trial detainee admissions did not change drastically overall in Q3 2019, but the number of out-of-state men dipped back down from last quarter, to its lowest level this trend period (6 men). Contributions from other county jurisdictions changed slightly, with Essex and Plymouth counties experiencing the largest changes (see Figure 4.3).

Figure 4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

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

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

Female pre-trial detainees in Q3 2019 dropped slightly to 523 women, the third-lowest level this trend period (see Figure 4.4). Essex and Middlesex counties accounted for 63% of the total female pre-trial admissions for the quarter, and relative contributions by each jurisdiction did not change from the previous quarter.

Figure 4.4 Female Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

| County | Q2 2017 | Q3 2017 | Q4 2017 | Q1 2018 | Q2 2018 | Q3 2018 | Q4 2018 | Q1 2019 | Q2 2019 | Q3 2019 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Essex | 192 | 201 | 154 | 166 | 230 | 220 | 195 | 194 | 202 | 180 |
| Middlesex | 180 | 159 | 162 | 143 | 126 | 143 | 131 | 119 | 138 | 150 |
| Plymouth | 120 | 133 | 113 | 118 | 101 | 115 | 97 | 83 | 115 | 103 |
| Norfolk | 97 | 128 | 105 | 68 | 97 | 111 | 109 | 96 | 89 | 87 |
| Federal | 16 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| Worcester | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Out-of-State | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Berkshire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Hampden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bristol | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Suffolk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mass Parole | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Barnstable | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 607 | 633 | 544 | 503 | 561 | 597 | 542 | 496 | 554 | 523 |

*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.