

# **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

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

### **Third Quarter 2020**





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

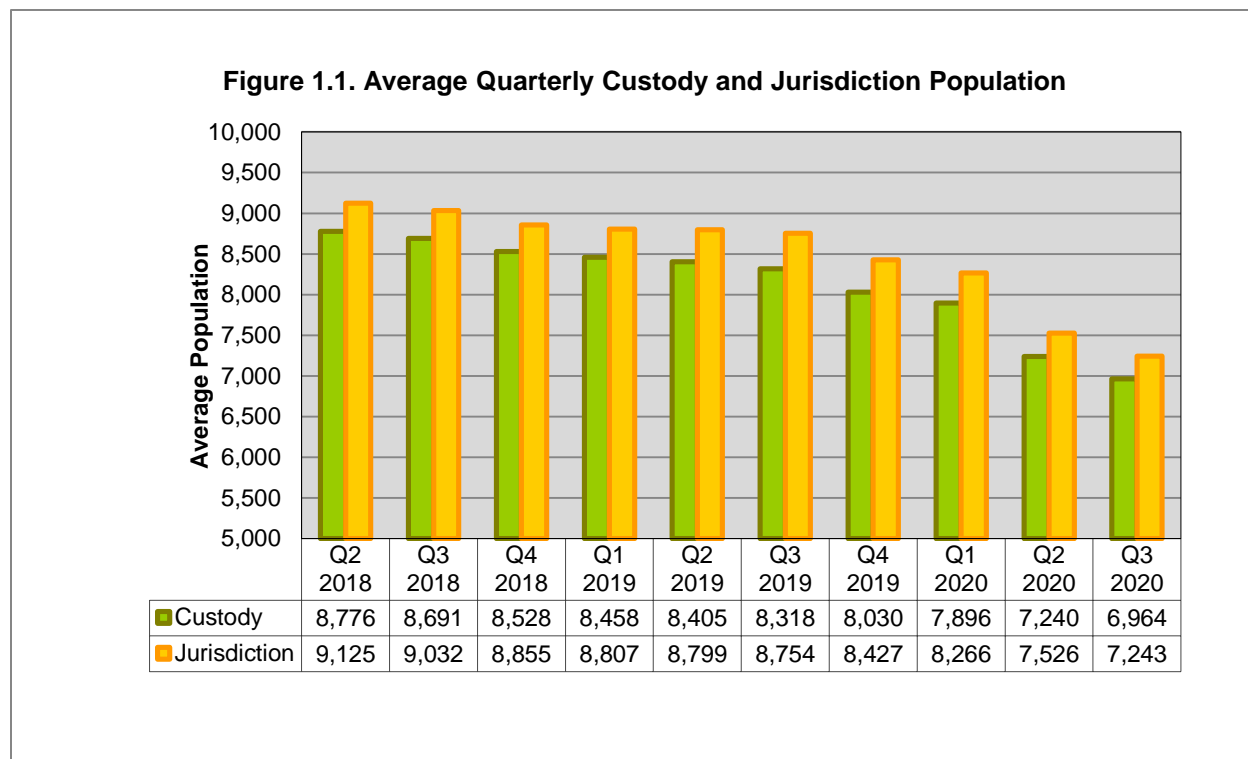
- Between the second and third quarters of 2020, the MA DOC custody population saw a 3.8 percent decrease. During the trend period of April 2018 to September 2020, the average custody population has decreased 20.6 percent. The jurisdiction population is also down 3.8 percent from the previous quarter, and 20.6 percent since Q2 2018.
- Admissions to the DOC have picked back up after three consecutive quarters of decline, increasing by 113.7 percent. Still, admissions were outnumbered by releases even though releases decreased by 17.0 percent.
- Both male and female admissions were up, and both male and female releases were down in the third quarter of 2020. Total male admissions more than doubled, from 363 to 799, and there were 153 more male releases than admissions. Female admissions increased by 63.0 percent; female releases decreased by 19.8 percent from the second quarter.
- Criminal admissions and releases during Q3 2020 are returning from an anomalous second quarter when criminal court activity was low. Admissions grew 235 percent, from 71 to 238. Still, there were more (504) criminal releases this quarter, contributing to the shrinking of the overall DOC population.
  - These patterns were reflected in both males and female criminally sentenced inmates, and new court commitments were their prevailing admission type, followed by parole violators.
  - Among male criminal releases, expiration of sentence was more common than paroles to the community; the opposite was true for female criminal releases.
- Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts court jurisdictions went from 21 last quarter to 161 in Q3 2020. Though still less than the pre-pandemic average, this 667 percent increase in admissions was driven by Essex County, followed by Plymouth and Bristol counties.
- Male civil commitment activity picked back up in the third quarter of 2020. Male admissions increased by 88.9 percent, and releases increased by 19.7 percent. Meanwhile, there was 1 female admission and 1 release. Overall, there were 96 more civil admissions than releases.
- Male and female pre-trial admissions and releases picked back up in the third quarter of 2020. Female pre-trial detainees came almost entirely from Middlesex County, while male pre-trial detainees came from out-of-state, federal and in-state jurisdictions.

*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 6,964 inmates in the third quarter of 2020. This population decreased by 3.8 percent from the previous quarter. From the second quarter of 2018 through the third quarter of 2020, there was a decrease of 1,812 inmates, or 20.6 percent, from the custody population.

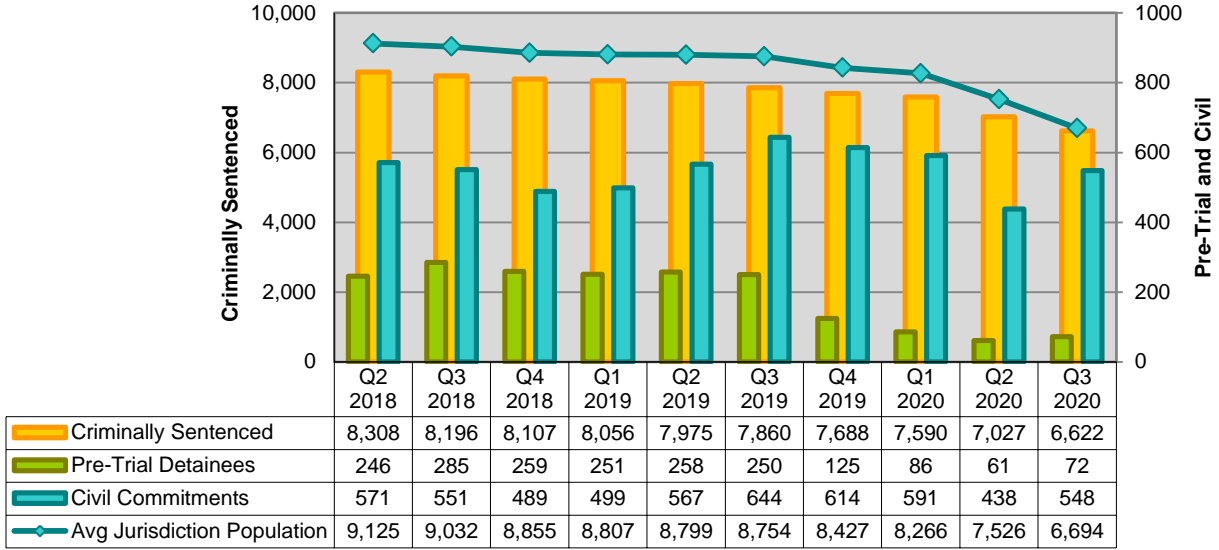
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 7,243 inmates in the third quarter of 2020, dropping 3.8 percent from the previous quarter. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 1,882 inmates or 20.6 percent. See Figure 1.1 below.\*



The criminally sentenced population dropped 5.8 percent from last quarter and 20.3 percent since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population has increased by 25.1 percent from the previous quarter. The MA DOC pre-trial population increased by 18.0 percent from the previous quarter, and averaged 72 detainees. See Figure 1.2.

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

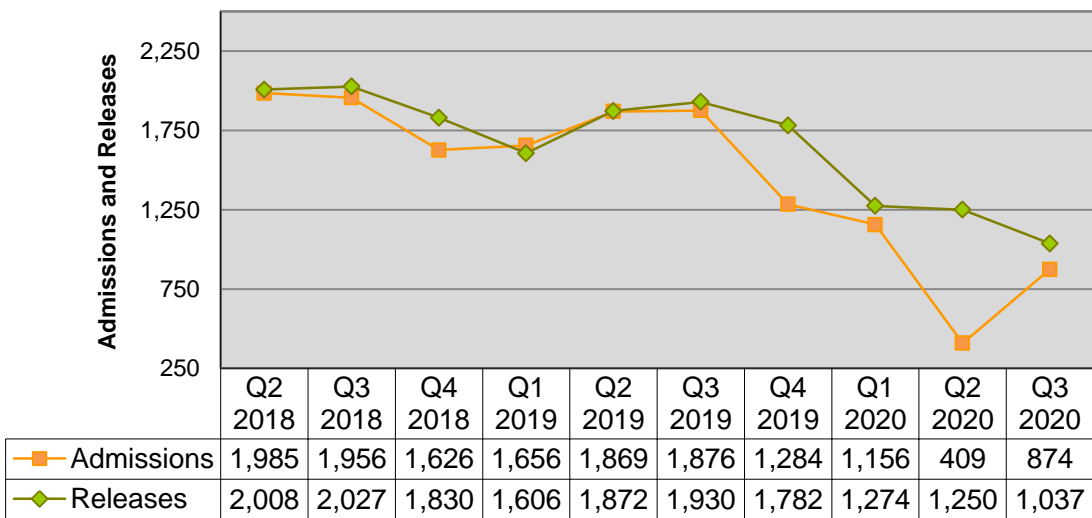
**Figure 1.2. Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type**



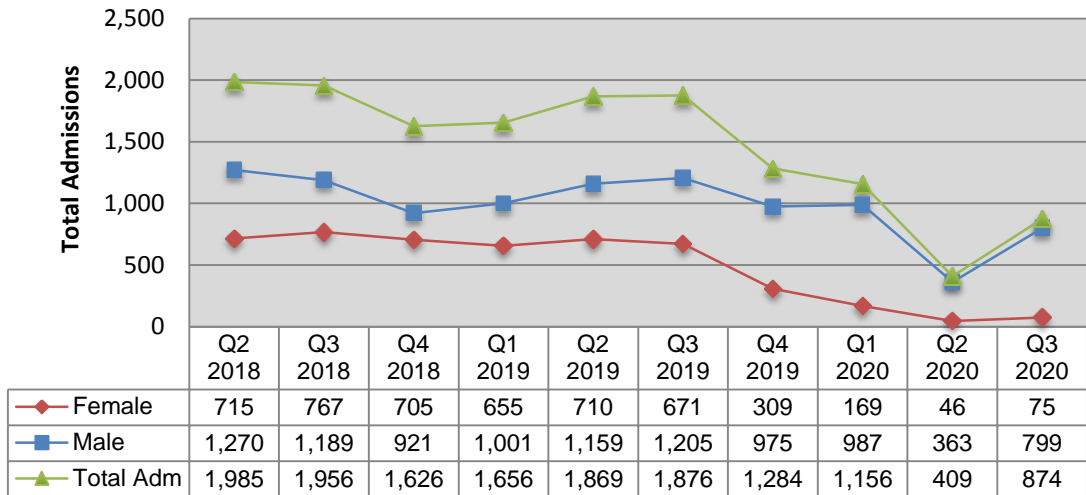
**OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES**

Overall admissions to the DOC have picked back up after three consecutive quarters of decline. Admissions increased by 113.7 percent, but were still outnumbered by releases. Releases have decreased again, this time by 17.0 percent to 1,037. See Figure 1.3 below.

**Figure 1.3. Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases**

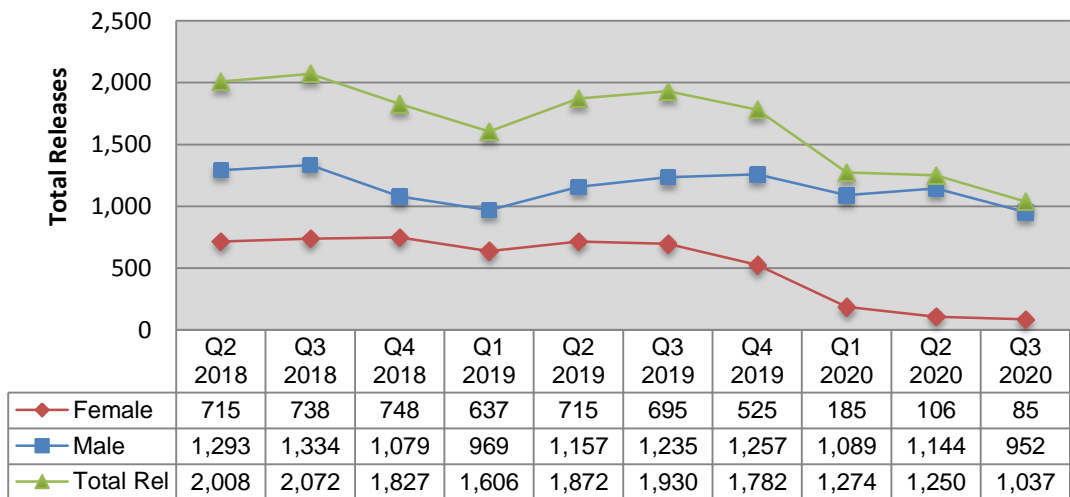


**Figure 1.4. Total Quarterly Admissions by Gender**



The increase in **admissions** in the third 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. Similarly, both female and male releases were down.

**Figure 1.5 Total Quarterly Releases by Gender**



**Figure 1.6 Male Quarterly Admissions and Releases**

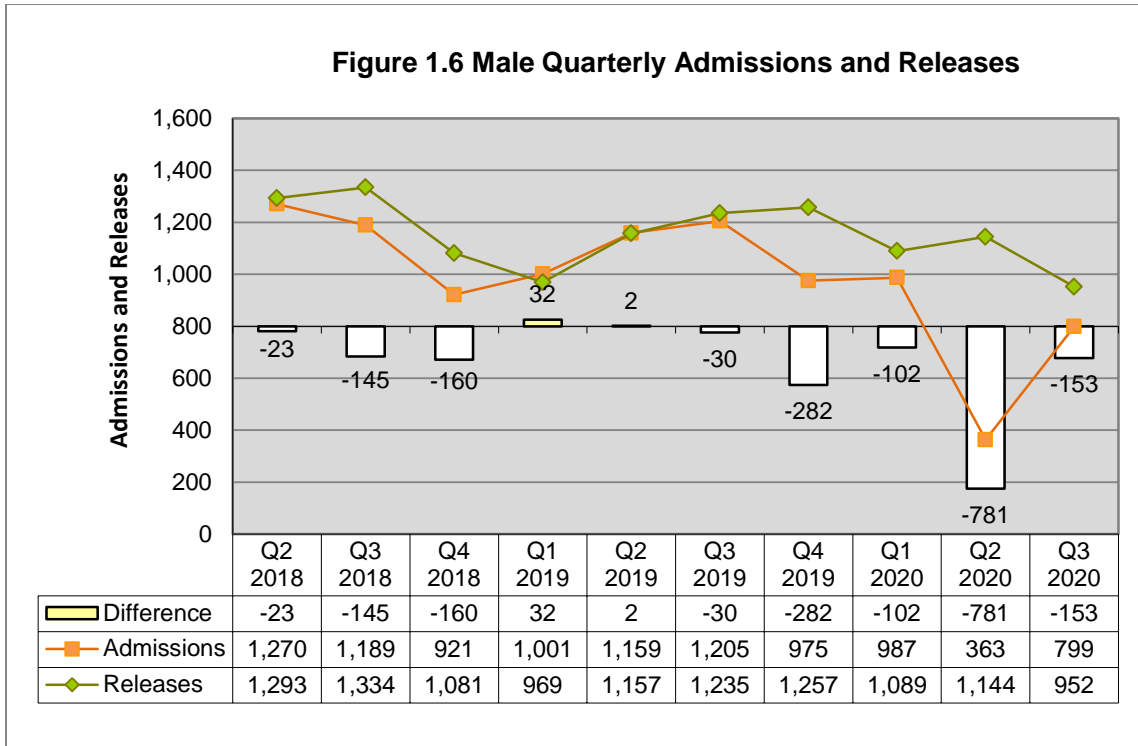
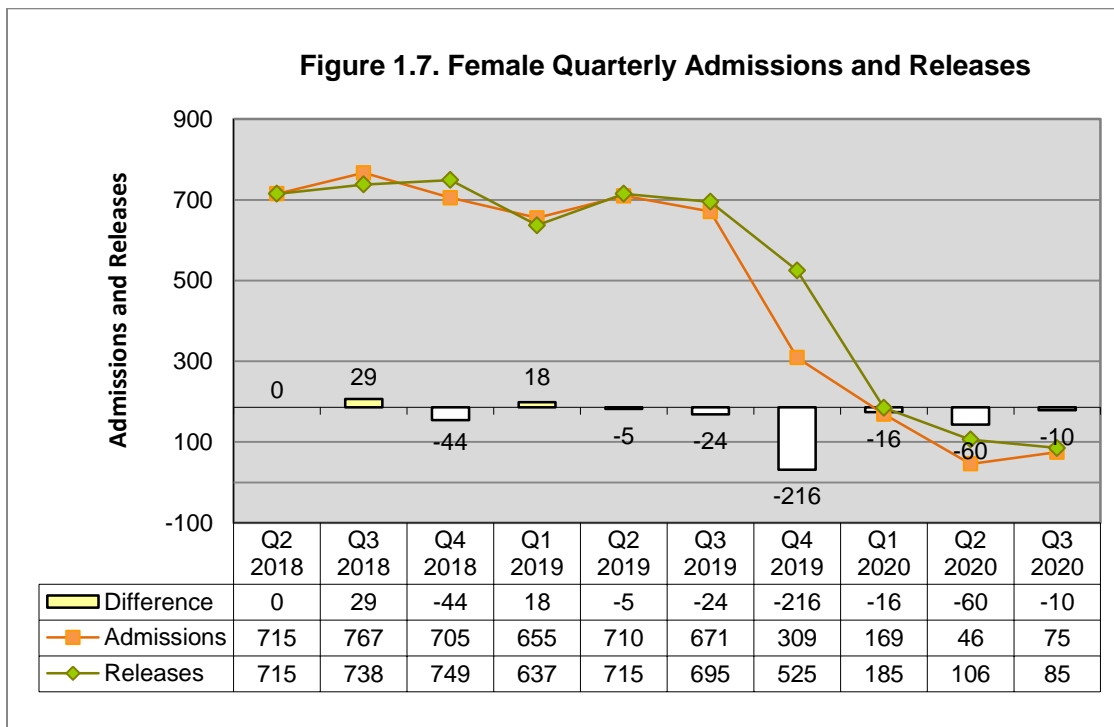


Figure 1.6 above shows that male admissions in Q3 2020 have more than doubled from the previous quarter, though they were still fewer than male releases. There were 153 more releases than admissions among males. Below, Figure 1.7 shows a similar movement in female admissions and releases. Female admissions increased by 63.0 percent, and releases decreased by 19.8 percent.

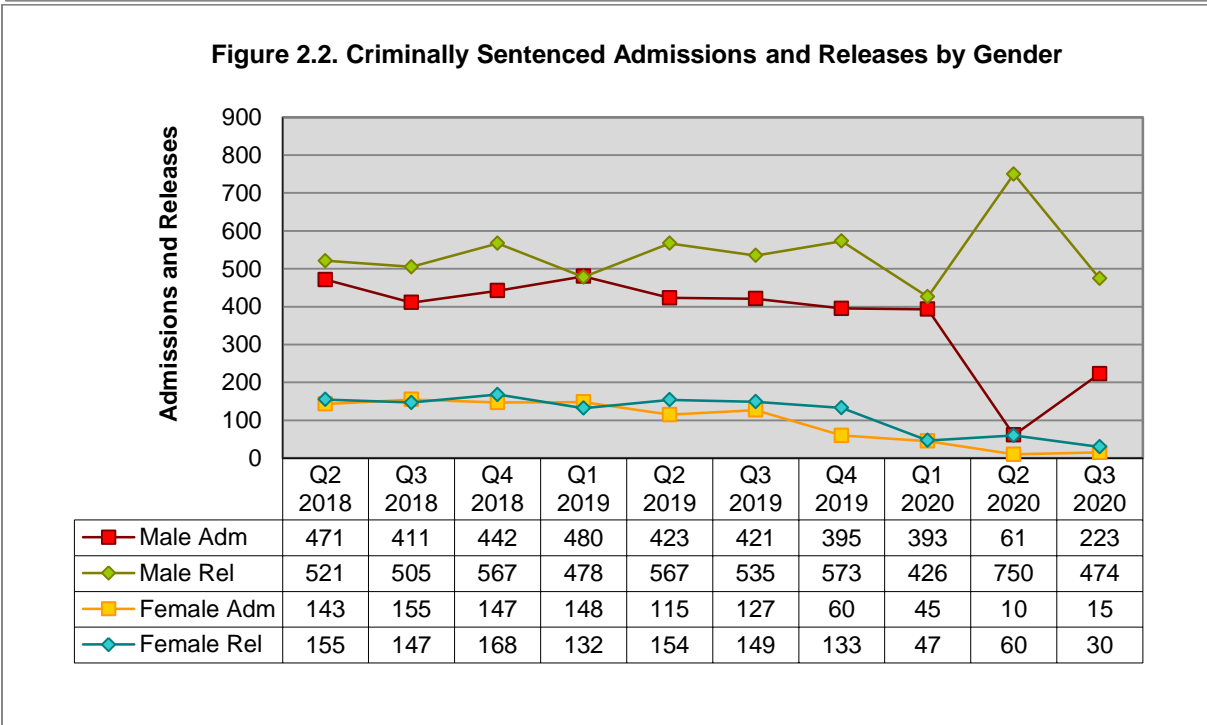
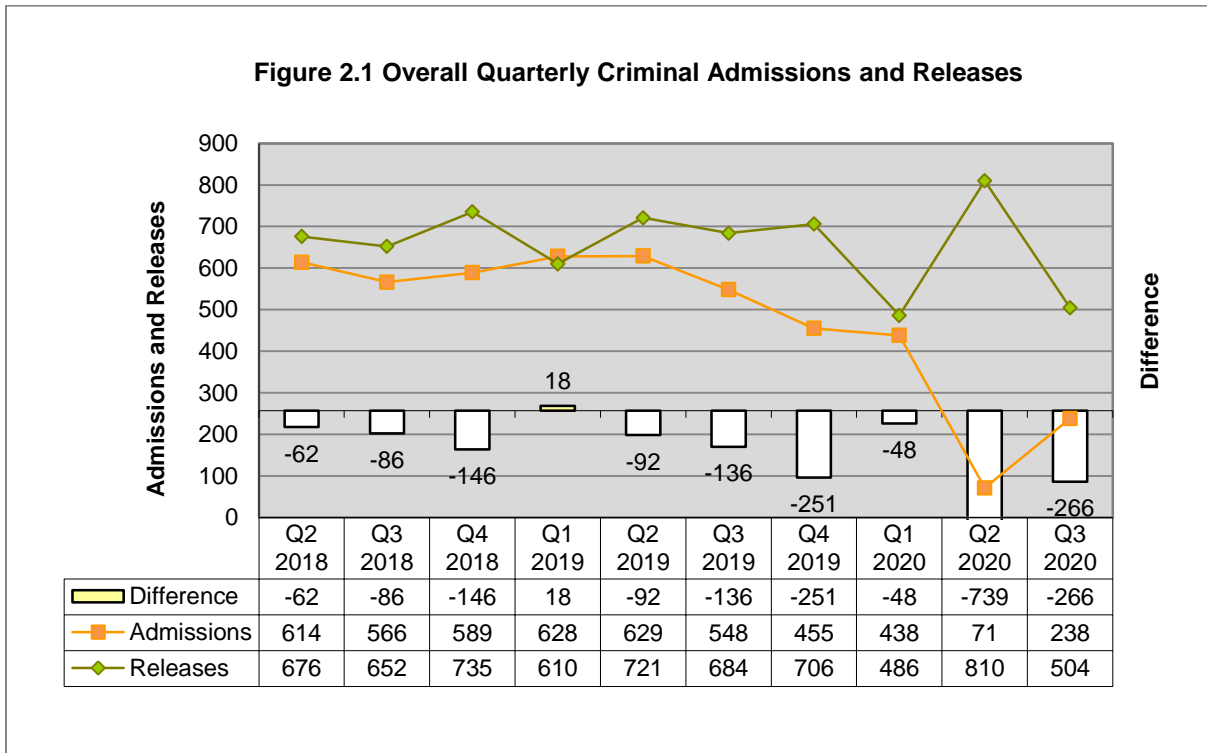
**Figure 1.7. Female Quarterly Admissions and Releases**





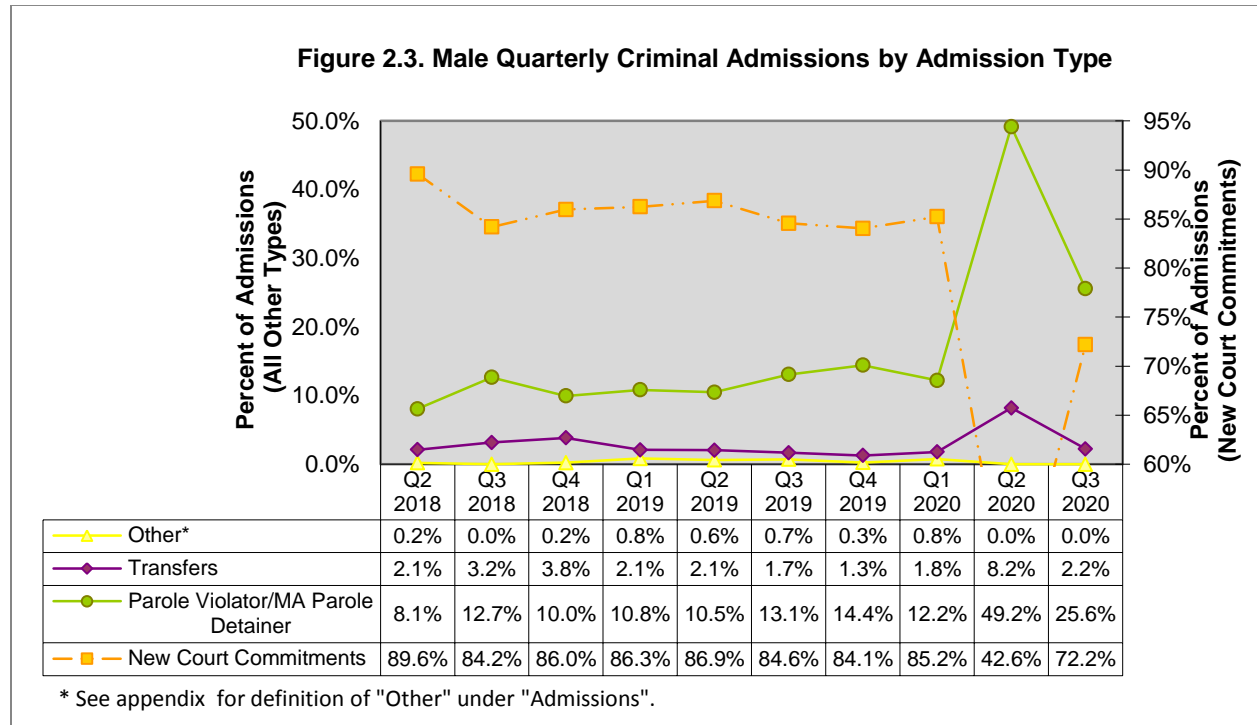
## CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions and releases during Q3 2020 are 'returning' from an anomalous second quarter (Figure 2.1, below). Releases remain larger than admissions, contributing to the shrinking of the overall DOC population.



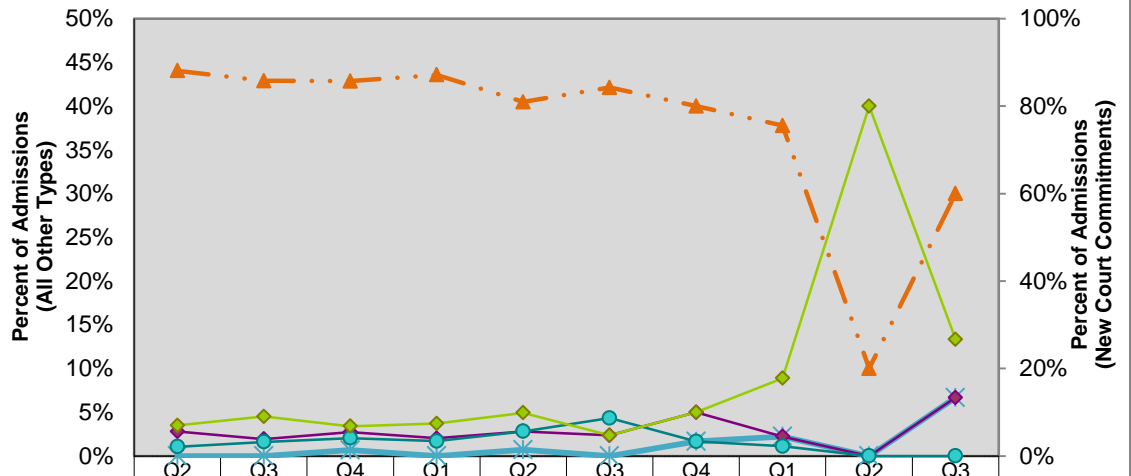
In Q3 2020, male criminal admissions are up 266 percent and female admissions are up 50 percent. Male releases are down 36.8 percent and female releases are down 50 percent.

Figure 2.3 below shows a shift in relative proportions of male admission types. Last quarter, because new court commitments were so few, parole violators became the prevailing type of criminal admission. This quarter, new court commitments have resumed and were the major form of criminal admissions for both males and females (figure 2.4).



Transfers of criminally sentenced males into the DOC and parole violation admissions came down while new court commitments picked back up after an anomalous second quarter.

**Figure 2.4. Female Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type**



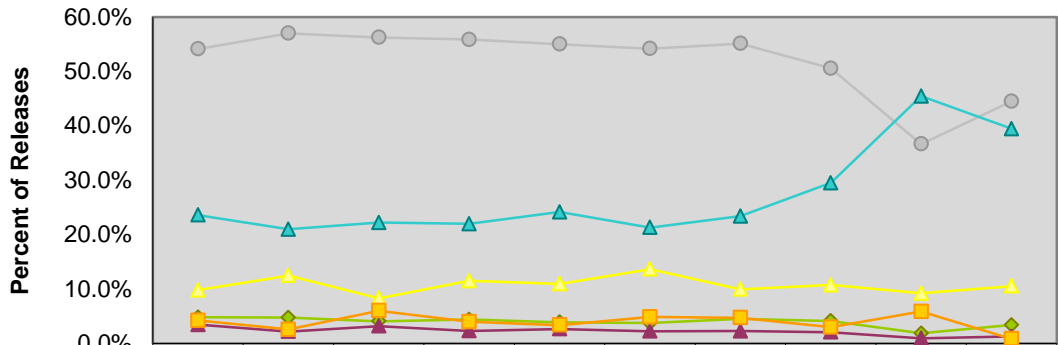
	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Other*	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	1.7%	2.2%	0.0%	6.7%
Probation Violator	2.8%	1.9%	2.7%	2.0%	2.8%	2.4%	5.0%	2.2%	0.0%	6.7%
Transfers	2.1%	3.2%	4.1%	3.4%	5.6%	8.7%	3.3%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
New Court Commitments	88.1%	85.8%	85.7%	87.2%	81.0%	84.3%	80.0%	75.6%	20.0%	60.0%
Parole Violator/MA Parole Detainer	7.0%	9.0%	6.8%	7.4%	9.9%	4.7%	10.0%	17.8%	80.0%	26.7%

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

In the third quarter of 2020, most criminal admissions were new court commitments, and just over one-quarter were parole violators. There were no female transfers in to the DOC for two consecutive quarters.

Figures 2.5 and 2.6 on the following page describe how criminally sentenced inmates were released in Q3 2020 and quarters prior. In Q3 2020, paroles have overtaken sentence expirations for both male criminal releases. 'Other' releases such as court-ordered changes in sentencing are also down in number and proportion of overall releases for both males and females.

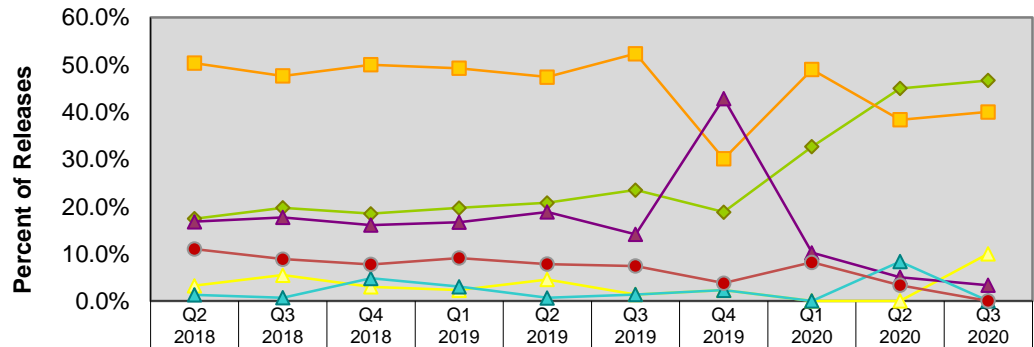
**Figure 2.5. Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type**



	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Expiration of Sentence to Community	54.1%	57.0%	56.3%	55.9%	55.0%	54.2%	55.1%	50.6%	36.7%	44.5%
Parole to Comm./Rel. from Parole Detainer	23.6%	21.0%	22.2%	22.0%	24.2%	21.3%	23.4%	29.5%	45.5%	39.5%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	9.8%	12.5%	8.3%	11.5%	10.9%	13.6%	9.9%	10.8%	9.2%	10.5%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	4.8%	4.8%	4.1%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	4.5%	4.1%	1.9%	3.4%
Transfers	3.5%	2.2%	3.2%	2.3%	2.6%	2.2%	2.3%	2.1%	0.9%	1.3%
Other*	4.2%	2.6%	6.0%	4.0%	3.4%	4.9%	4.7%	3.0%	5.9%	0.8%

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

**Figure 2.6. Female Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type**



	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Parole to Comm./Rel. from Parole Detainer	17.4%	19.7%	18.5%	19.7%	20.8%	23.5%	18.8%	32.7%	45.0%	46.7%
Expiration of Sentence to Community	50.3%	47.6%	50.0%	49.2%	47.4%	52.3%	30.1%	49.0%	38.3%	40.0%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	3.2%	5.4%	3.0%	2.3%	4.5%	1.3%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%
Transfers	16.8%	17.7%	16.1%	16.7%	18.8%	14.1%	42.9%	10.2%	5.0%	3.3%
Other*	1.3%	0.7%	4.8%	3.0%	0.6%	1.3%	2.3%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	11.0%	8.8%	7.7%	9.1%	7.8%	7.4%	3.8%	8.2%	3.3%	0.0%

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

## New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

Criminally sentenced new court commitments from Massachusetts court jurisdictions are returning to pre-pandemic levels as court proceedings increase. Essex County sent the most new criminal court commitments, followed by Plymouth and Bristol counties.

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

County	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
ESSEX	60	73	78	77	92	61	64	57	0	45
PLYMOUTH	23	14	28	26	29	28	40	27	4	24
BRISTOL	76	28	44	77	56	37	46	47	1	21
SUFFOLK	84	72	76	70	90	64	48	52	4	19
MIDDLESEX	48	55	53	53	45	37	42	38	4	17
WORCESTER	43	38	21	38	34	49	34	43	1	11
HAMPDEN	43	30	37	42	46	32	27	41	2	10
NORFOLK	22	24	22	19	19	17	11	13	2	7
BARNSTABLE	11	8	6	10	8	16	15	10	1	5
BERKSHIRE	6	6	4	7	5	13	8	8	1	1
FRANKLIN	8	6	8	6	4	5	3	5	1	0
HAMPSHIRE	8	5	7	6	4	5	2	4	0	1
DUKES	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	433	359	384	431	433	364	340	345	21	161

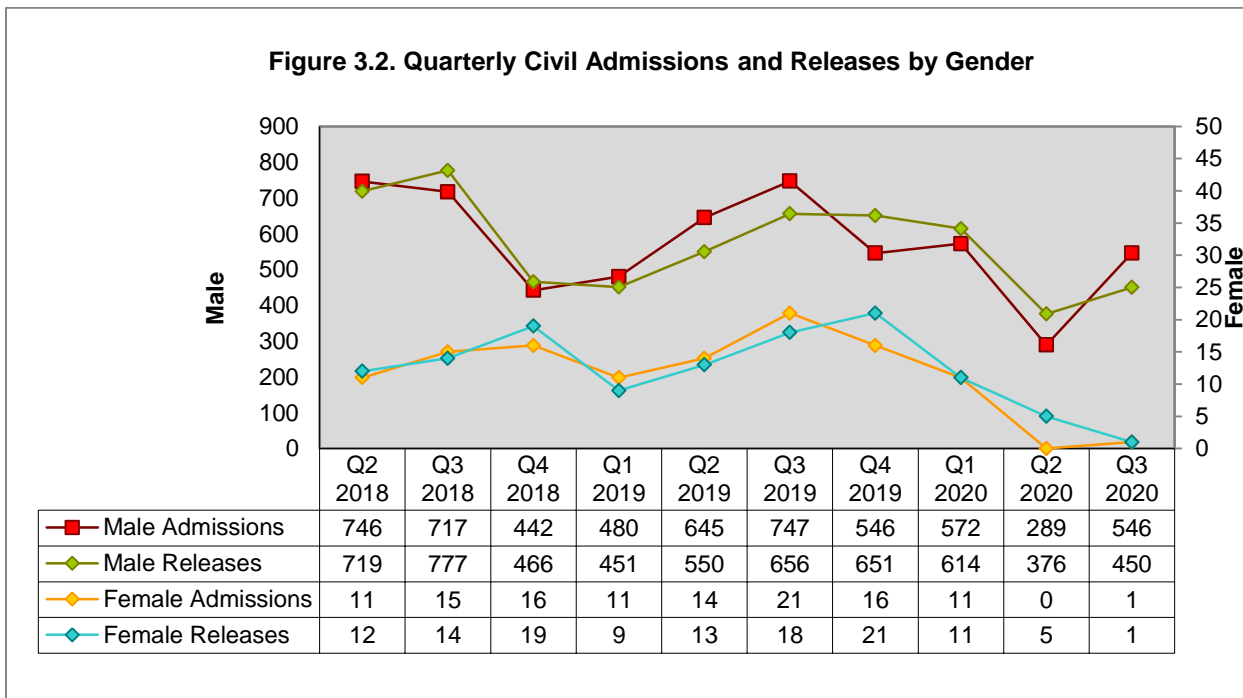
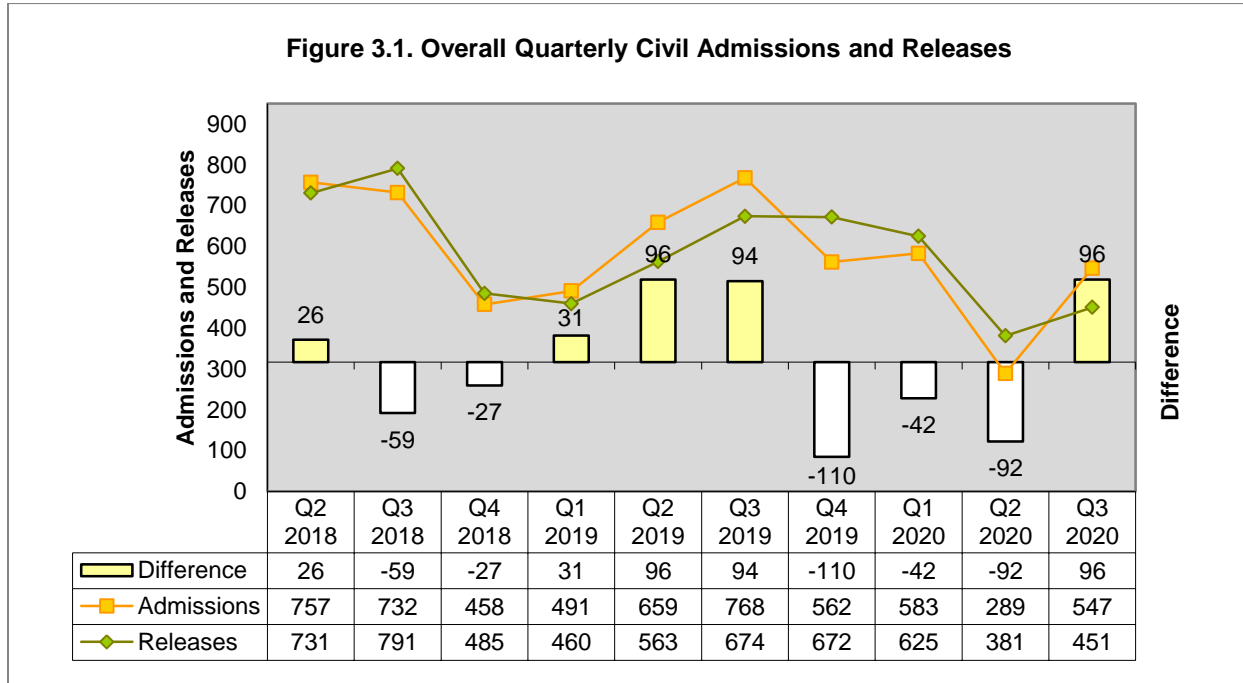
\*Excludes county, federal, and out-of-state inmates.

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

## CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

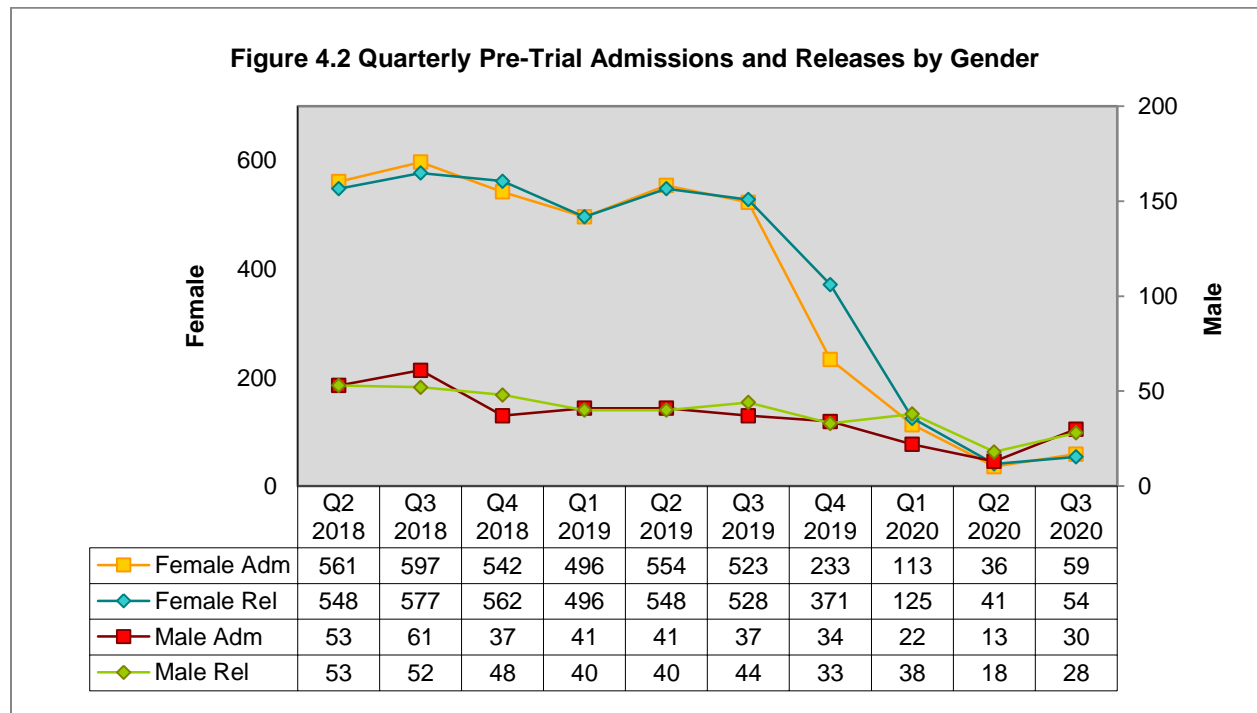
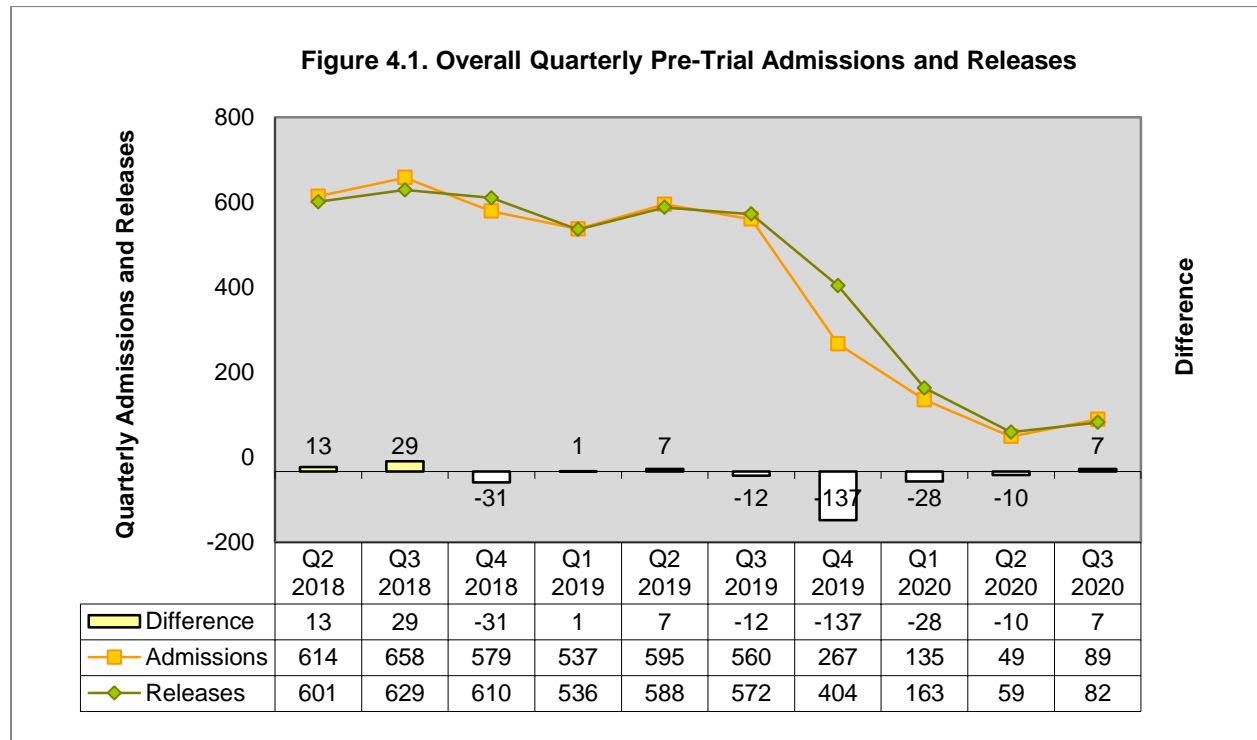
In the third quarter of 2020, there were 96 more civil commitment admissions than releases. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has admitted 13 more civil commitments than it has released. See Figure 3.1.

Female civil commitment activity remained low in Q3 2020. Male admissions increased by 88.9 percent, and releases increased by 19.7 percent. See Figure 3.2.



## PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases were up slightly in Q3 2020, after reaching their lowest levels this trend period and earlier. Both male and female pre-trial admissions and releases are up, though overall 7 more pre-trial detainees were admitted than released. See figures 4.1 and 4.2.



## Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

In the third quarter of 2020, male pre-trial detainee admissions came from out of state, federal and county jurisdictions. 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	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Out-of-state	7	10	8	7	14	6	7	12	7	10
Suffolk	6	8	3	2	3	2	3	4	0	7
Middlesex	5	2	3	2	0	2	4	3	0	3
Federal	6	23	9	12	9	10	10	6	2	2
Franklin	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Plymouth	7	6	0	2	4	1	3	2	0	2
Norfolk	4	1	3	3	3	4	2	0	0	1
Essex	2	3	3	3	2	5	1	1	1	1
Hampden	3	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	1	1
Barnstable	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Worcester	8	4	5	7	4	4	2	8	1	0
Bristol	2	2	3	0	0	1	2	1	1	0
Mass Parole	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	53	61	37	41	41	37	34	38	13	30

\*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	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020
Middlesex	126	143	131	119	138	150	149	122	34	57
Essex	230	220	195	194	202	180	31	1	0	2
Norfolk	97	111	109	96	89	87	32	0	1	0
Plymouth	101	115	97	83	115	103	15	0	0	0
Federal	2	5	7	2	7	1	5	2	0	0
Worcester	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Out-of-State	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hampden	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Mass Parole	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	561	597	542	496	555	523	233	125	36	59

\*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.

<b>Admissions</b>	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).
<b>Civil Commitment or "Civil"</b>	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.
<b>Criminally Sentenced or "Sentenced"</b>	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.
<b>Custody Population</b>	An inmate that is incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Expiration of Sentence (Release)</b>	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.
<b>HOC</b>	House of Correction, i.e. county jail or correctional facility.
<b>Jurisdiction Population</b>	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).
<b>MA DOC</b>	Massachusetts Department of Correction, i.e. state prison.
<b>MASAC</b>	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.