

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

Third Quarter 2021





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

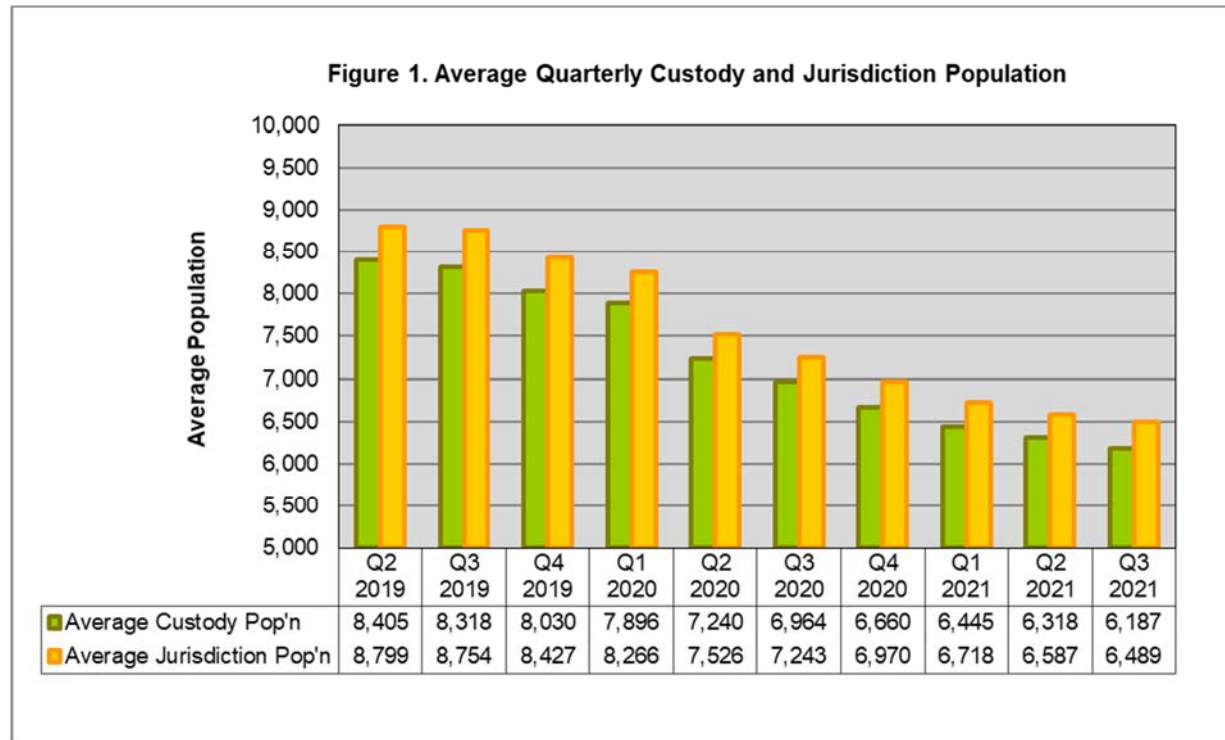
- Between the second and third quarter of 2021, the MA DOC custody population saw a 2.1 percent decline. During the ten-quarter trend period starting in Q2 2019, the average custody population has decreased 26.4 percent. The jurisdiction population is also down 1.5 percent from the previous quarter, and 26.3 percent since the second quarter of 2019.
- Criminally sentenced inmates fell from 7,975 in Q2 2019 to 5,803 in Q3 2021, a loss of 2,172 inmates or 27.2% of the total. Pre-trial detainees dropped from 258 individuals in Q2 2019 to 58 individuals in Q3 2021, a decline of 200 detainees or 77.5% of the total. Civil commitment inmates went up from 567 to 628, an increase of 61 inmates or 10.8% of the total during the same ten-quarter trend period.
- Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 1,119 from the previous quarter, a rise of 5.5 percent. Releases increased 8.7 percent to 1,267. This resulted in a larger admission-to-release deficit in the third quarter than the second quarter, 2021.
- Criminal releases continued to outnumber admissions by a 428 to 328 margin in the third quarter of 2021, contributing to the shrinking of 100 inmates from the DOC population, the smallest drop since the outbreak of the COVID-19. Overall, the DOC released 2,301 more criminally sentenced inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period.
- New court commitments remained to be the leading admission type for male admissions (78.7 percent), followed by parole violators (18.8 percent) in the third quarter of 2021. New court commitments were also the predominant admission type for female admissions with 85.7 percent. The share of parole violators as the second male criminal admission type continued to be larger in the third quarter of 2021 than the quarters prior to the COVID-19 outbreak while its share among female admission types fell back to the pre-pandemic level.
- Parole to community (40.7%) topped the list of male criminal release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (37.8%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (10.0%) as the top three release types. Parole to community in the third quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Expiration of sentence to community (44.4%) and parole to community (38.9%) continued to split the share of the top two female release types, followed by transfers (16.7%) as the top three release types. Parole to community in the third quarter remained to be higher than in the quarters before the pandemic.
- Male civil admissions and releases in the third quarter went back to the pre-pandemic level with 685 for admissions and 735 for releases. Female civil commitment activity with 13 admissions and 10 releases edged closer to the level prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Pre-trial admissions (93) and releases (94) remained largely unchanged in the third quarter of 2021 from the previous quarter. Both were low 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 6,187 inmates in the third quarter of 2021. This population decreased by 2.1 percent from the previous quarter. From the second quarter of 2019 through the third quarter of 2021, there was a decrease of 2,218 inmates, or 26.4 percent, from the custody population.

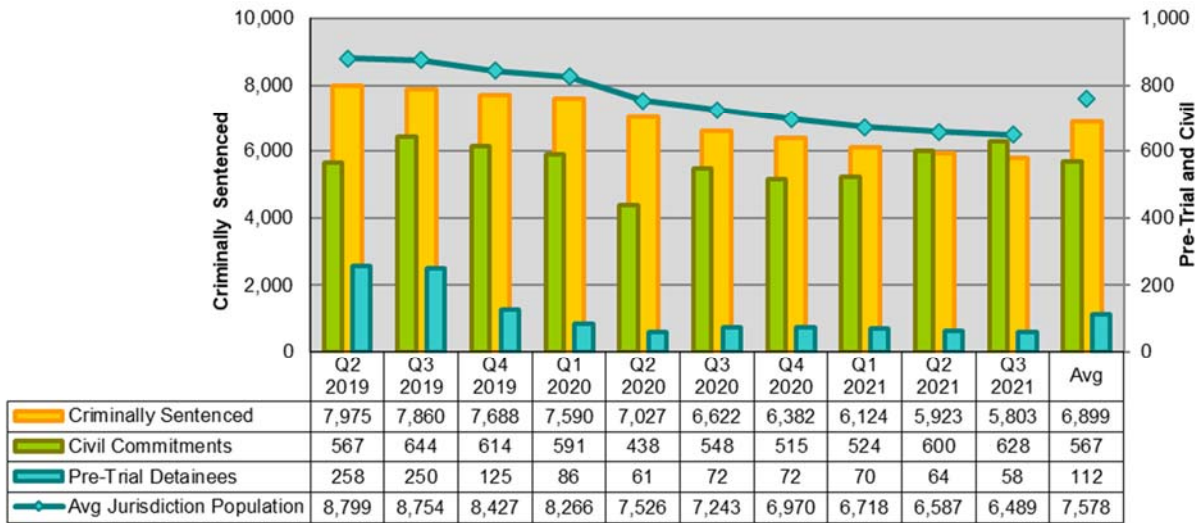
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 6,489 inmates in the third quarter of 2021, dropping 1.5 percent from the previous quarter. Over the ten-quarter trend period, the **jurisdiction** population is down 2,310 inmates or 26.3 percent. See Figure 1.1 below.*



The criminally sentenced population dropped 2.0 percent from the last quarter and 27.2 percent since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population increased 4.7 percent from the previous quarter and fluctuated around a flat line of 567 inmates during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population declined 9.3 percent this quarter from the previous quarter and averaged 58 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.

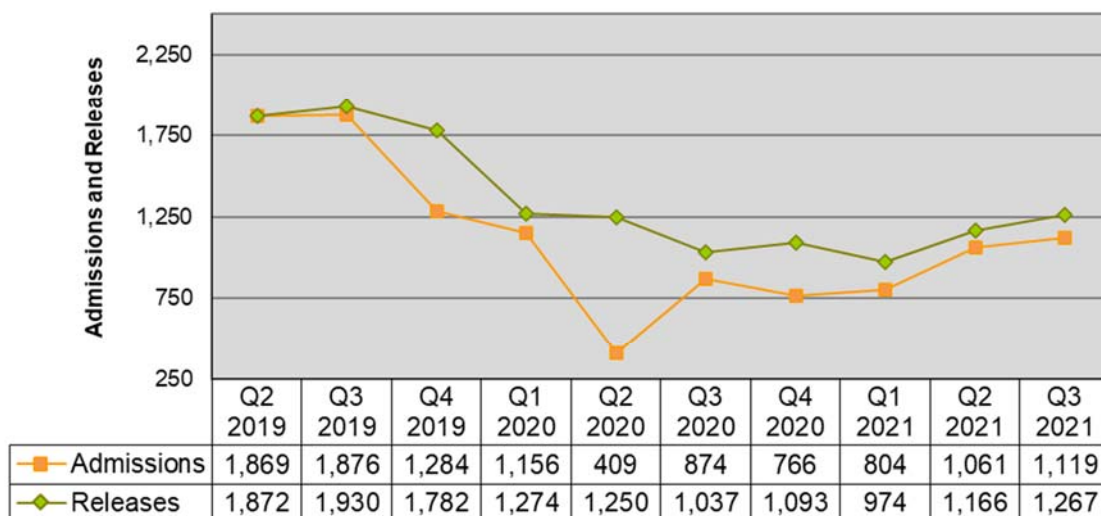
Figure 1.2. Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



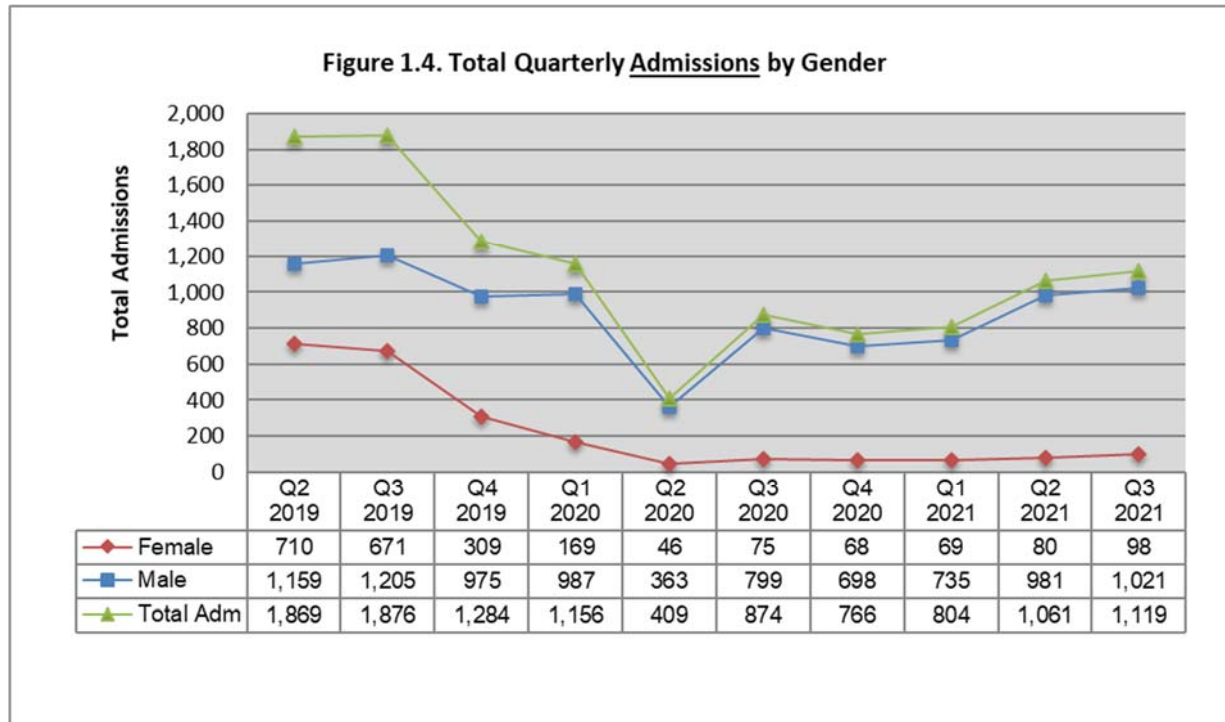
OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 1,119 from the previous quarter, a rise of 5.5 percent. Releases increased 8.7 percent to 1,267. This resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 148 inmates in the third quarter, 2021, larger than the deficit of 105 inmates in the previous quarter. See Figure 1.3 below.

Figure 1.3. Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases



Male admissions in the third quarter gained from 981 to 1,021 or a jump of 4.1% from the previous quarter while female admissions increased at a higher rate of 22.5% from 80 to 98. Both reached the highest level in two consecutive quarters since the outbreak of COVID-19. See Figure 1.4 below.



Both male and female releases went up from the previous quarter, up from 1,087 to 1,180 for males and 79 to 87 for females. Male releases reached the highest level since the outbreak of COVID-19. See Figure 1.5 below.

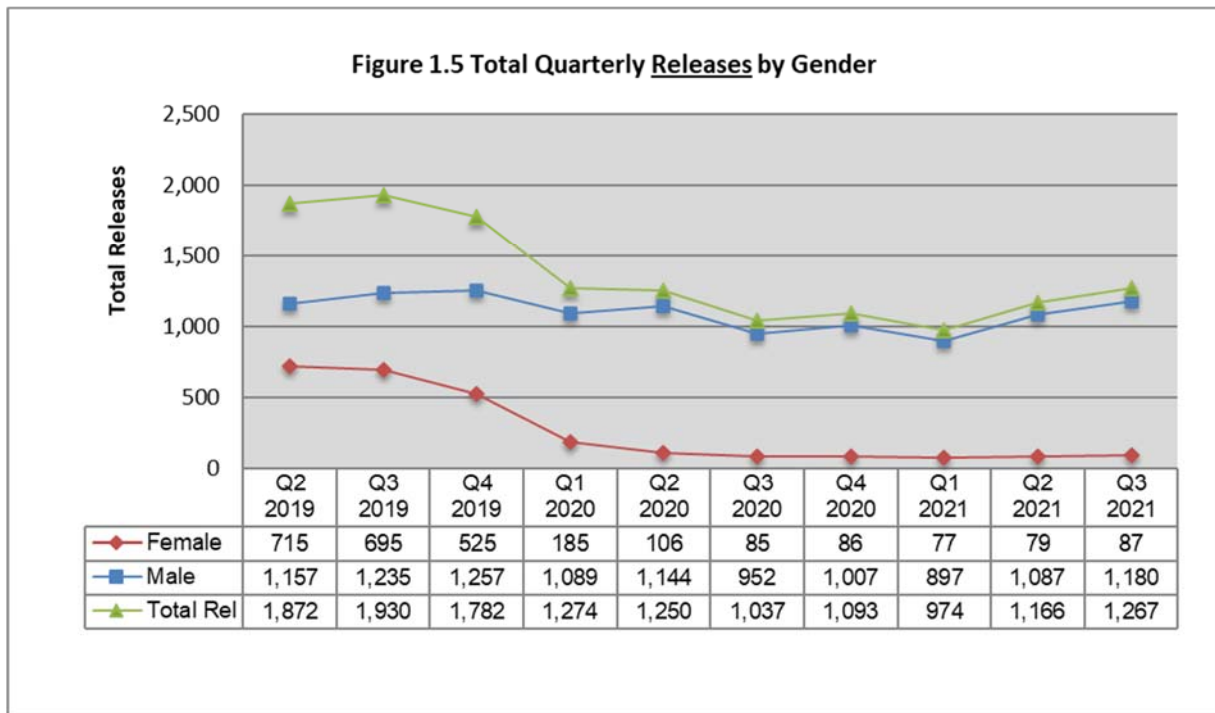


Figure 1.6 shows that male admissions in the third quarter of 2021 increased from the previous quarter. Male releases went up as well. It resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 159, which was larger than the 106 more releases than admissions of the last quarter.

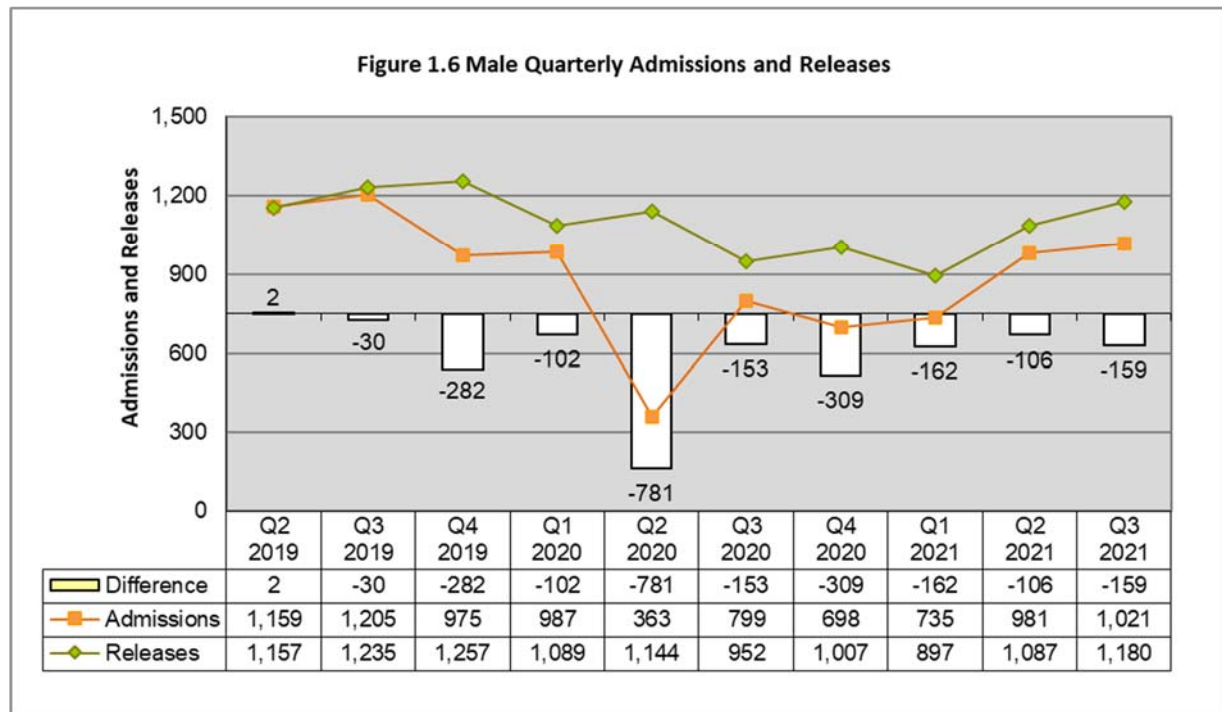
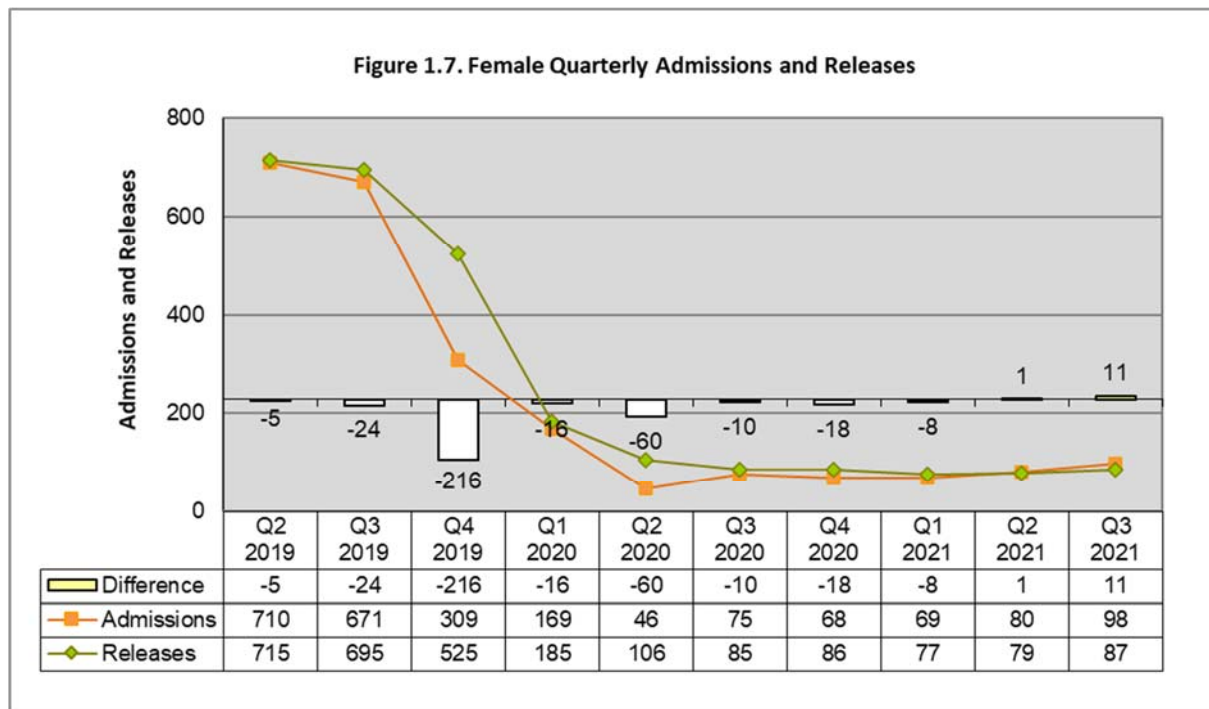
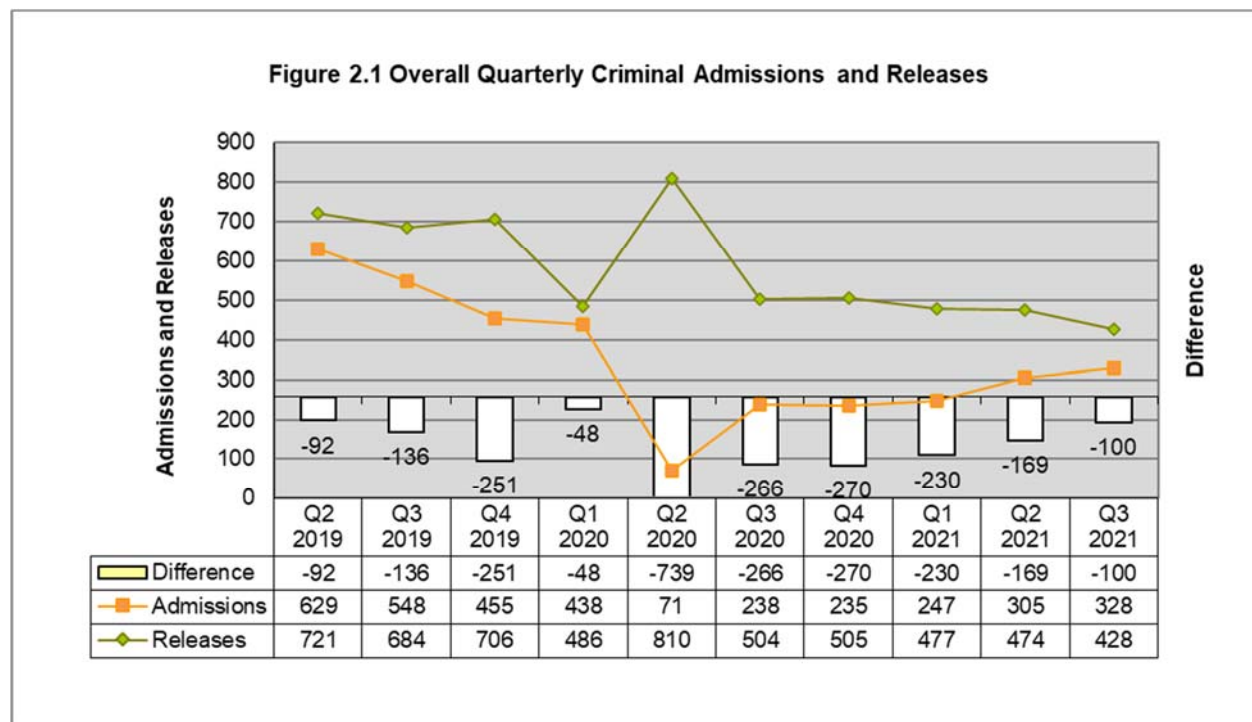


Figure 1.7 shows a similar movement in female admissions and releases. It ended up, however, with an admission-to-release surplus of 11 inmate in the third quarter, larger than the 1 more admission than releases in the previous quarter.



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions in the third quarter increased 7.5 percent from the previous quarter while releases dropped 9.7 percent. Releases, however, remained larger than admissions, contributing to the shrinking of the DOC population for another quarter. Overall, the DOC released 2,301 more inmates than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.1)



In the third quarter of 2021, male criminal admissions went up and releases went down from the previous quarter. The MA DOC released 96 more male inmates than admitted, smaller than the admission-to-release deficit of last quarter. Meanwhile female criminal admissions and releases declined from 20 of last quarter to 14 and 18 respectively, making the admission-to-release deficit bigger than the previous quarter. (Figure 2.2)

Figure 2.2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases by Gender

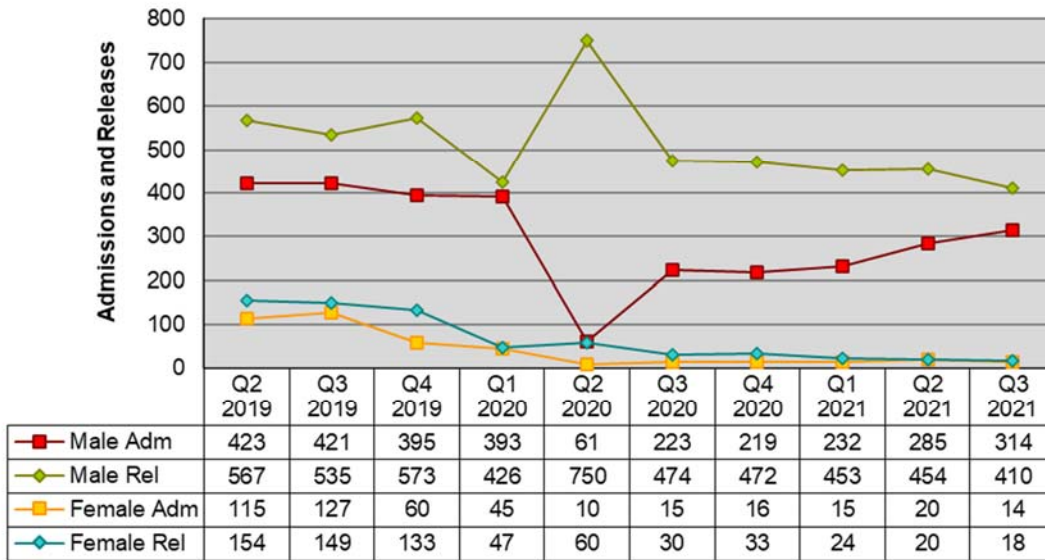
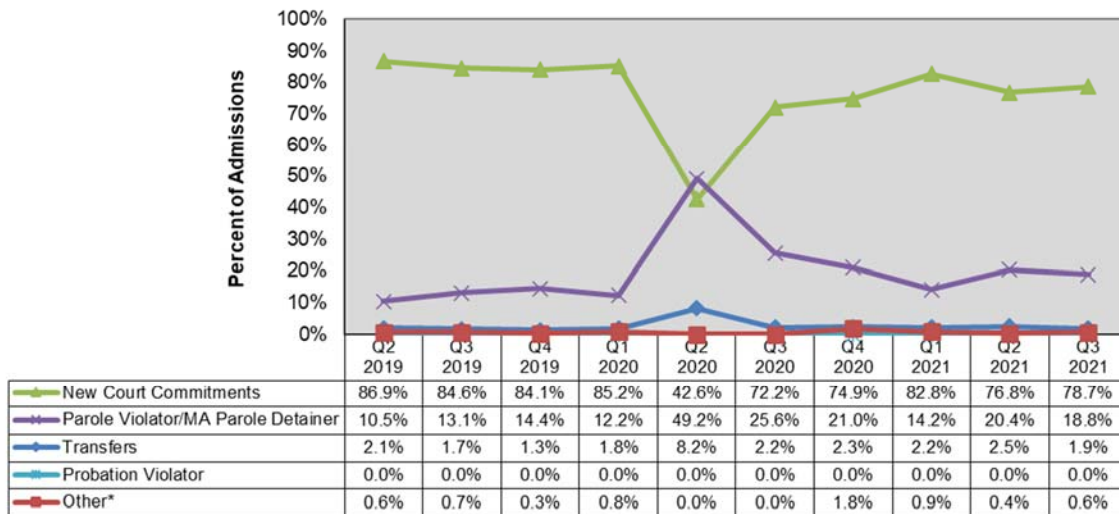


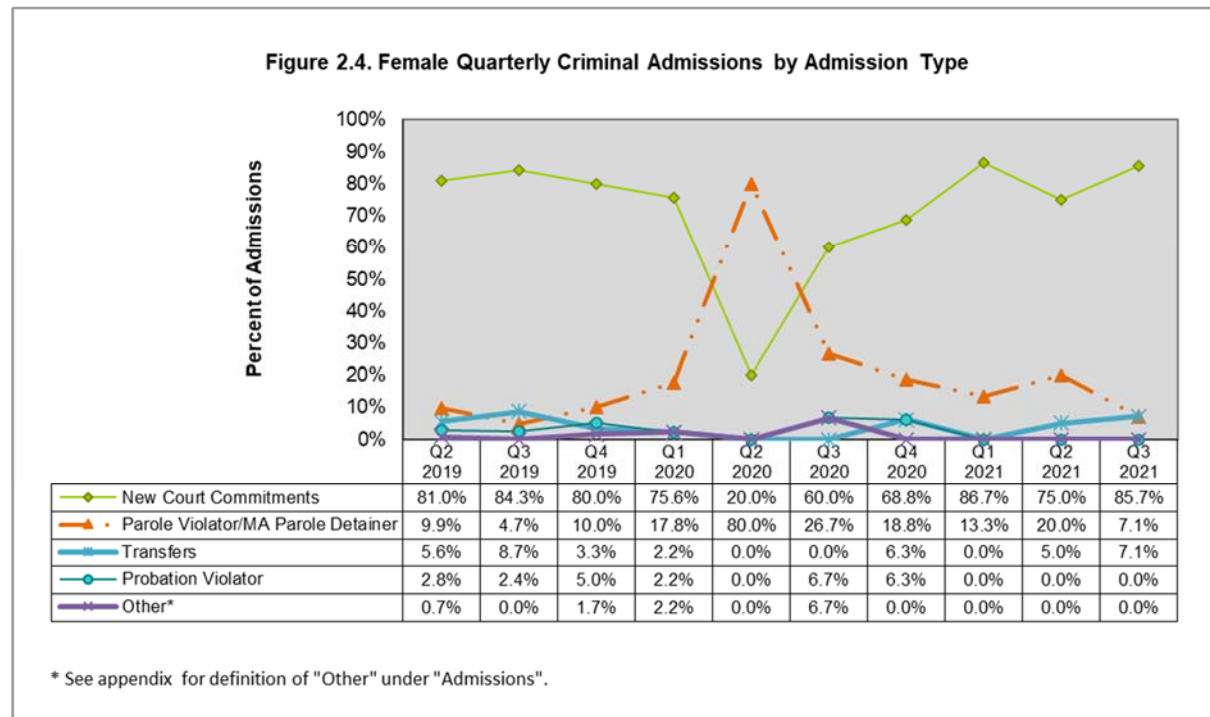
Figure 2.3 below shows that new court commitments continued to be the leading male criminal admission type (78.7%) followed by parole violators (18.8%). The share of parole violators as the second male criminal admission type appeared to be consistently larger in the quarters after the COVID-19 pandemic than prior to the pandemic with Q1 2021 as the only exception.

Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



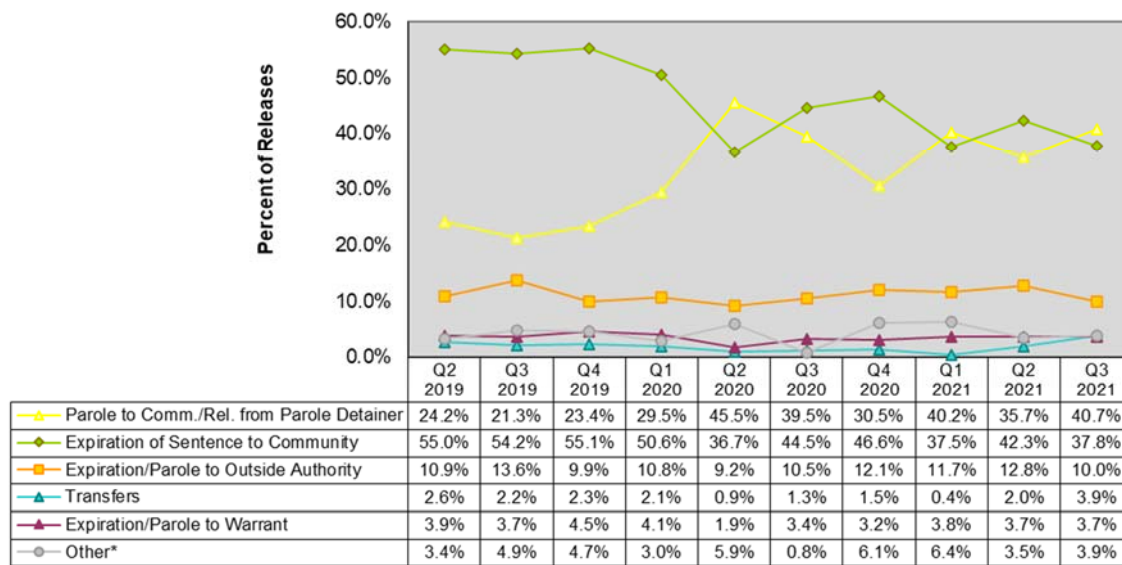
* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

New court commitments (85.7%) also dominated the list of female criminal admissions, followed distantly by parole violator (7.1%) and transfers (7.1%) as the top three admission types. The share of parole violators as the second female criminal admission type since the COVID-19 pandemic fell back to the pre-pandemic level in Q3 2021 and tied with transfers for the second position. (Figure 2.4)



Figures 2.5 describe how male criminally sentenced inmates were released in Q3, 2021 and the quarters prior. In the third quarter of 2021, parole to community (40.7%) tops the list of the release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (37.8%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (10.0%) as the top three types. Parole to community in the third quarter continued to be higher than in the quarters before the COVID-19 outbreak.

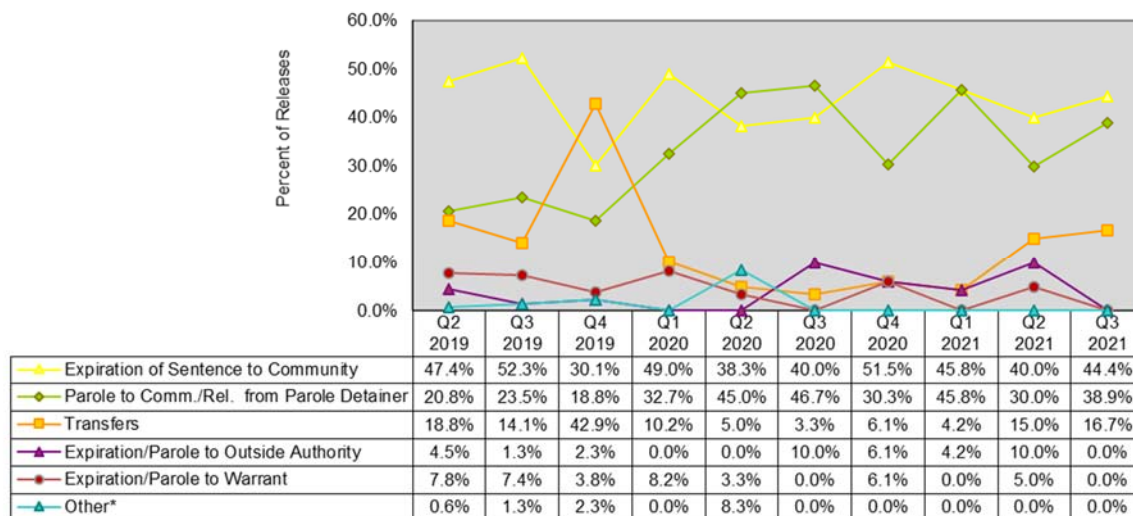
Figure 2.5. Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type



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

Expiration of sentence to community (44.4%) and parole to community (38.9%) continued to split the share of the top two female release types in the third quarter, 2021, followed by transfers (16.7%) as the top three release types. Parole to community as the second release type in the third quarter remained to be higher than in the quarters prior to the pandemic. (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 242 in the third quarter of 2021. Essex County (45) sent the most new criminal court commitments. Other counties that sent more than 20 new court commitments in the third quarter also include Suffolk (35), Hampden (32), Bristol (32), Worcester (24), and Middlesex (21) counties. (Figure 2.7)

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

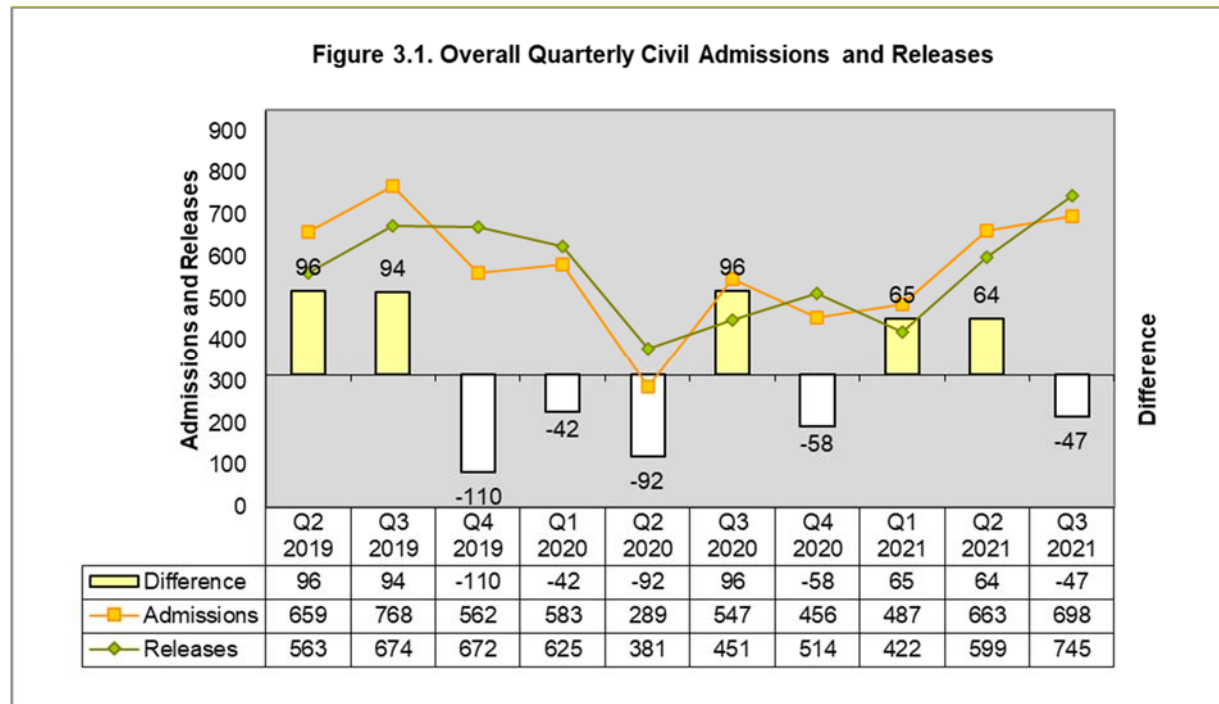
County	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
ESSEX	92	61	64	57	0	45	37	38	42	45
SUFFOLK	90	64	48	52	4	19	25	30	35	35
HAMPDEN	46	32	27	41	2	10	10	17	29	32
BRISTOL	56	37	46	47	1	21	20	39	35	31
WORCESTER	34	49	34	43	1	11	19	19	24	24
MIDDLESEX	45	37	42	38	4	17	24	18	17	21
PLYMOUTH	29	28	40	27	4	24	15	14	19	15
BARNSTABLE	8	16	15	10	1	5	5	5	6	13
NORFOLK	19	17	11	13	2	7	10	7	8	12
BERKSHIRE	5	13	8	8	1	1	8	3	1	9
FRANKLIN	4	5	3	5	1	0	1	3	2	4
HAMPSHIRE	4	5	2	4	0	1	1	3	3	1
DUKES	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	433	364	340	345	21	161	175	196	221	242

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

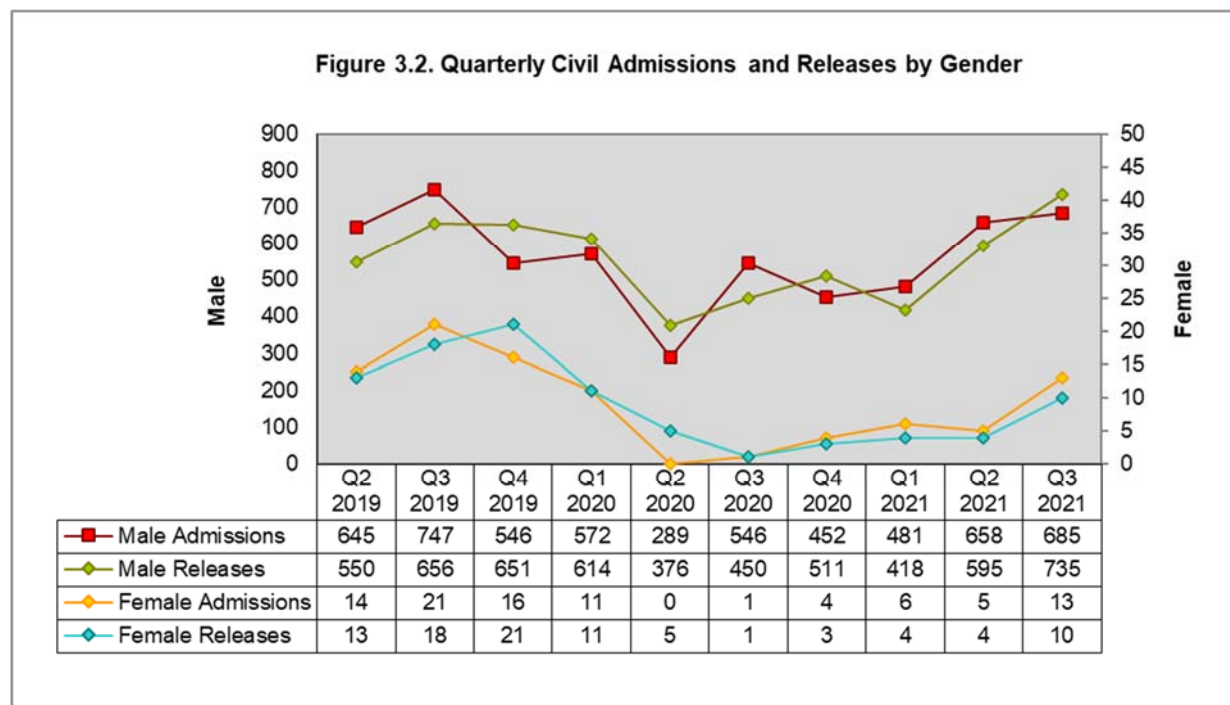
Nantucket County had no new court commitments to the DOC in the last ten quarters.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In the third quarter of 2021, the MA DOC released 47 more civil commitments than admitted, which reversed the admission to release surplus of the previous two quarters. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has admitted 66 more civil commitments than it has released. See Figure 3.1.



Female civil commitment activity edged closer to the level prior to the COVID-19 outbreak in third quarter of 2021. Male civil commitment activity went back to the pre-pandemic level, and reached 685 for admissions and 735 for releases. See Figure 3.2.



PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions remained at 93 in the third quarter of 2021, the same as the previous quarter while releases increased from 93 to 94, resulting in 1 more release than admissions for this quarter. The number of female admissions and releases, though increased from the previous quarter, 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.

Figure 4.1. Overall Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases

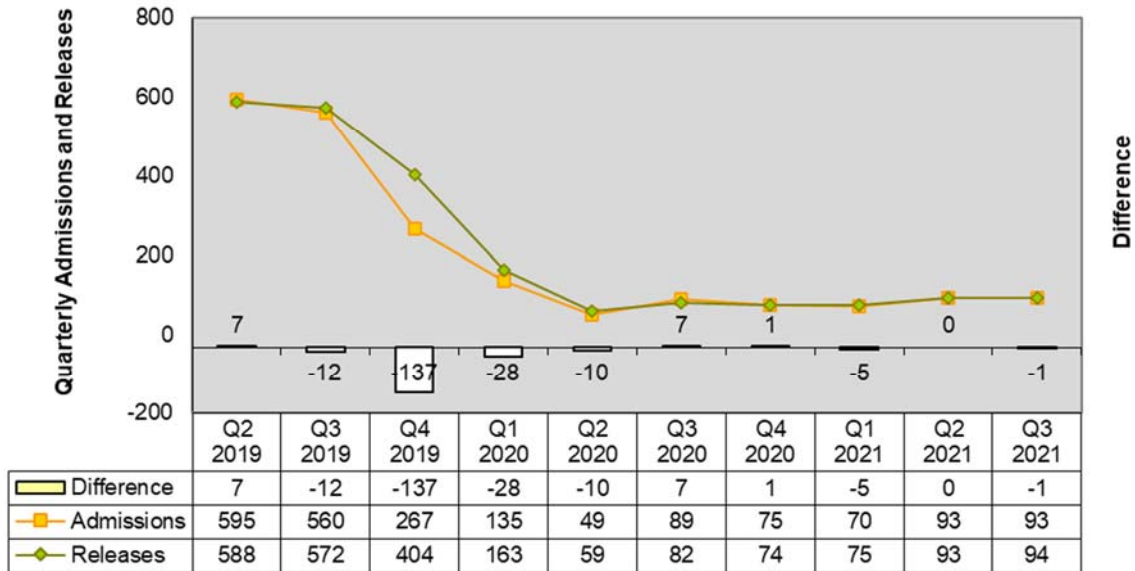
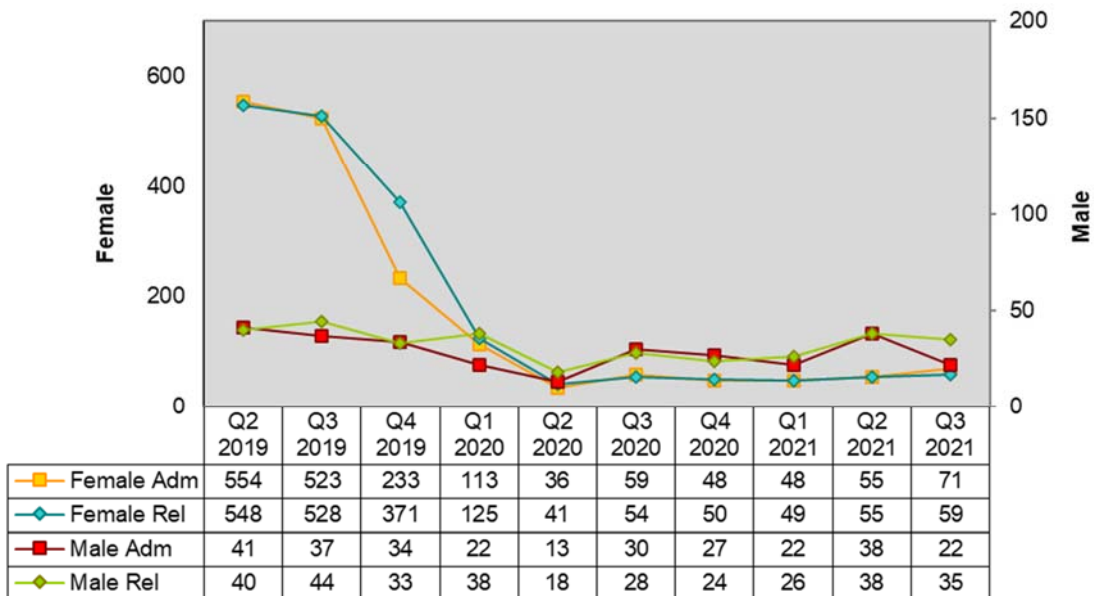


Figure 4.2 Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases by Gender



Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

In the third quarter of 2021, about one-half of male pre-trial detainee admissions came from Plymouth County, and the remaining one-half split about evenly between out-of-state and federal (6) on one side and other counties of Massachusetts on the other (5). Female detainees came predominantly from Middlesex County (68) followed distantly by federal (2) and Worcester (1) county in the third 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	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
Plymouth	4	1	3	2	0	2	1	0	6	11
Out-of-state	14	6	7	12	7	10	6	9	14	3
Federal	9	10	10	6	2	2	12	0	3	3
Bristol	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Middlesex	0	2	4	3	0	3	0	1	5	1
Suffolk	3	2	3	4	0	7	3	1	4	1
Worcester	4	4	2	8	1	0	0	0	1	1
Norfolk	3	4	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	0
Hampden	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	0
Barnstable	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	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	1	0	0	0
Essex	2	5	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	0
Total	41	37	34	38	13	30	27	22	38	22

*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 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021
Middlesex	138	150	149	122	34	57	43	48	52	68
Federal	7	1	5	2	0	0	2	0	1	2
Worcester	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Out-of-State	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Essex	202	180	31	1	0	2	2	0	0	0
Norfolk	89	87	32	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Plymouth	115	103	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Berkshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hampden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	555	523	233	125	36	59	48	48	55	71

*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.