

# Massachusetts Department of Correction Quarterly Report on Admissions and Releases

Calendar Year 2023  
Quarter 3



Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
October 2023

Maura T. Healey, Governor  
Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary of Public Safety and Security



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Maura T. Healey, Governor

**Executive Office of Public Safety and Security**

Terrence M. Reidy, Secretary

**Massachusetts Department of Correction**

Carol A. Mici, 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  
50 Maple Street  
Milford, MA 01757  
[Research@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:Research@massmail.state.ma.us)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

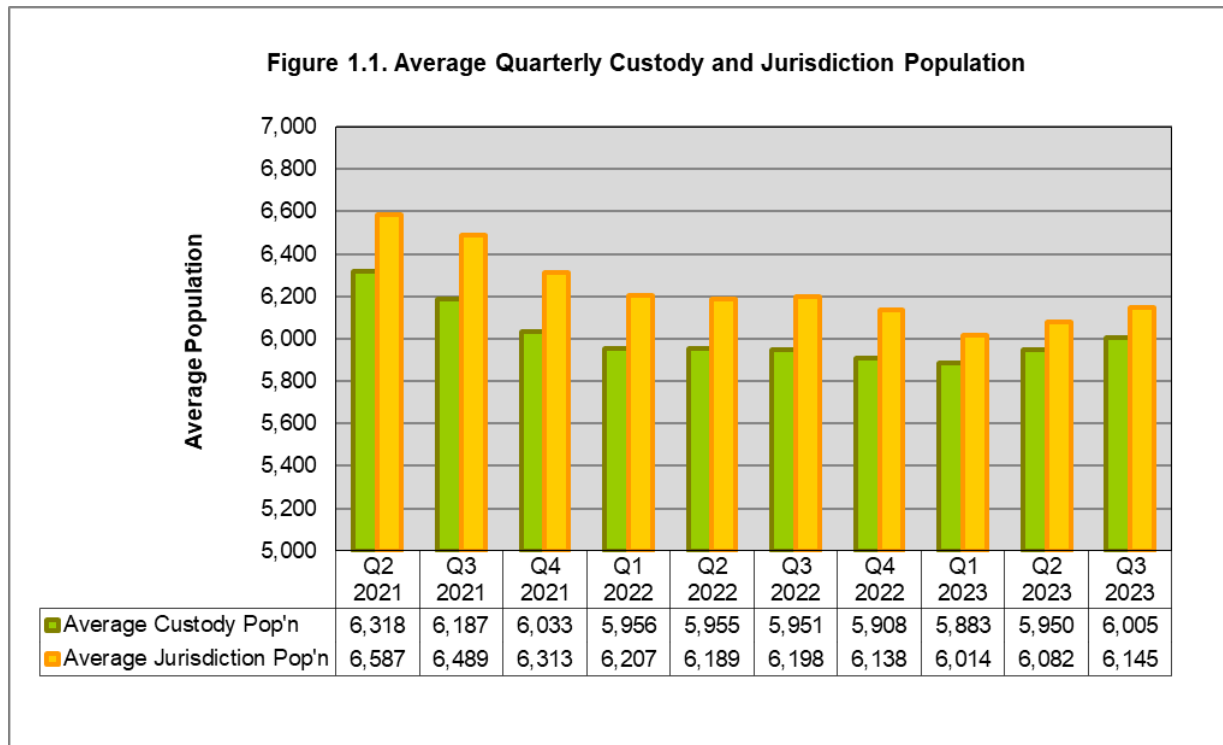
- Between the second and the third quarter of 2023, the MA DOC custody population saw an increase of 55 individuals. This is the second increase in a row since the second quarter of 2017. During the ten-quarter trend period starting in Q2 2021, the average custody population has decreased about 5.0%. The jurisdiction population increased about 1.0% or 63 individuals from the previous quarter, the third increase in the trend period, and dropped 6.7% since the second quarter of 2021.
- The criminally sentenced population increased 0.7% from the last quarter, the third successive increase since the first quarter of 2012, and dropped 4.5% since the beginning of the trend period. The civil commitment population added 21 individuals from the previous quarter and showed a moderately declining trend during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population decreased from the previous quarter and averaged 54 detainees for the ten-quarter trend period.
- Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 970 from the previous quarter, a rise of 4.8%. Releases went up 9.3% to 917. This resulted in an admission-to-release surplus of 53 individuals in the third quarter, 2023.
- Criminal admissions decreased 11.0% from the previous quarter but still surpassed releases by a 421 to 388 margin in the third quarter of 2023, adding 33 people to the DOC population. Overall, the DOC released 345 more criminally sentenced individuals than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period.
- New court commitments remained to be the leading admission type for male admissions (85.6%), followed by parole violators (11.9%) and transfers (2.2%) as the top-three admission types in the third quarter of 2023.
- Of the 18 female criminal admissions in the third quarter, all of them were new court commitments. No female admissions came from other admission types in the third quarter of 2023.
- Parole to community (47.5%) continued to top the list of male criminal release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (30.8%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (11.9%) as the top three release types in the third quarter, 2023. They stayed as the top three release types consistently in the ten-quarter trend period.
- Parole to community (50.0%) was the leading female criminal release type, followed by expiration of sentence to community (21.4%) and expiration/parole to warrant (14.3%) as the second and third leading release type in the third quarter, 2023.
- Male civil admissions increased from 334 of the previous quarter to 412 in the third quarter. Releases increased from 343 to 401, trailing admissions by 11 individuals. Female civil admissions and releases increased from the previous quarter at 21 for admissions and 20 for releases.
- In the third quarter of 2023, there were 116 pre-trial admissions and 108 releases, resulting in 8 more admissions than releases for the quarter. Female admissions went up to 92 and releases to 84 from the previous 75 and 83 respectively. Male admissions went down from 29 to 24 while releases went up marginally from 23 to 24,

*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 6,005 individuals in the third quarter of 2023. This population increased by 55 individuals or 0.9% from the previous quarter. This is the second custody population increase in a row since the second quarter of 2017. From the second quarter of 2021 through the third quarter of 2023, there was a decrease of 313 individuals, or about 5.0%, from the custody population.

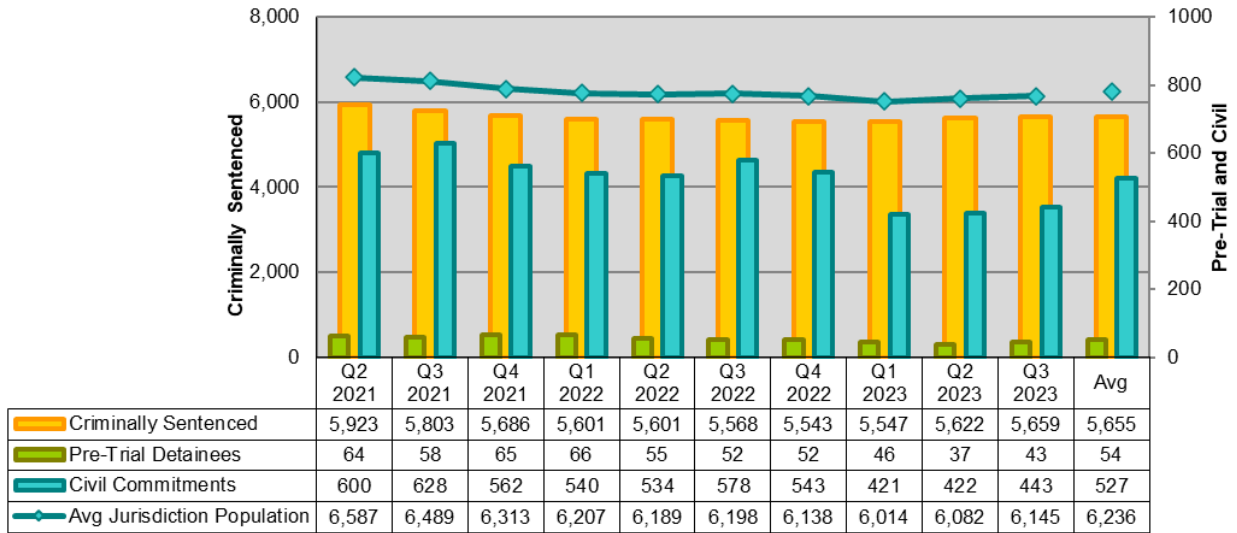
The **jurisdiction** population averaged 6,145 individuals in the third quarter of 2023, increasing 1.0% or 63 individuals from the previous quarter, the third increase in the trend period. Over the ten-quarter period from Q2 2021 to Q3 2023, the **jurisdiction** population is down 442 individuals or 6.7%. See Figure 1.1 below.\*



The criminally sentenced population went up 0.7% from the last quarter to 5,659, the third successive increase since the first quarter of 2012. For the ten-quarter trend period starting in the second quarter of 2021, it dropped 4.5%. The civil commitment population added 21 individuals from the previous quarter and showed a trendline of moderate decline during the ten-quarter trend period. The MA DOC pre-trial population increased this quarter from the previous quarter and averaged 54 detainees for the ten-quarter trend period. 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.

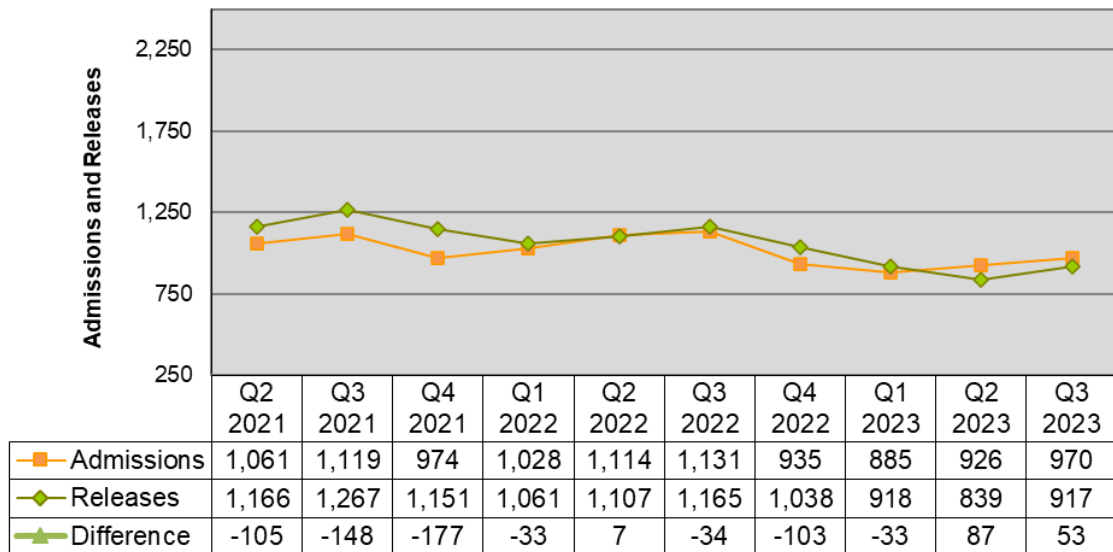
**Figure 1.2. Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type**



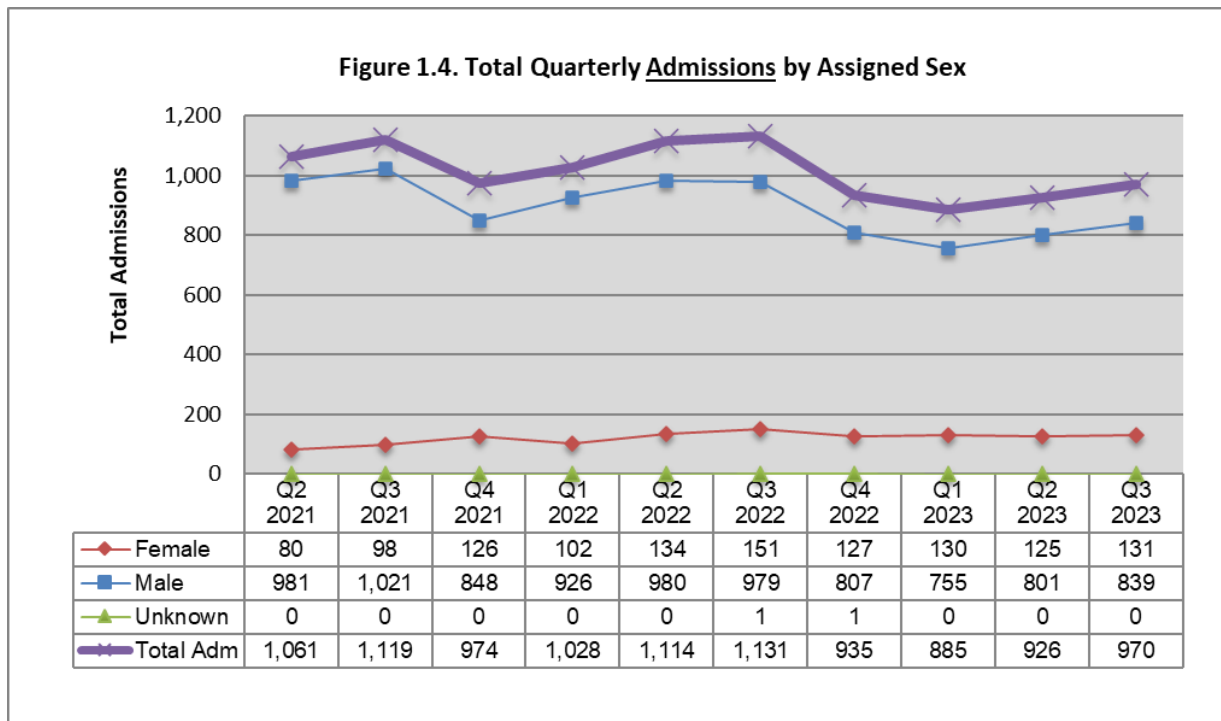
**OVERALL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES**

Overall quarterly admissions to the DOC increased to 970 from the previous quarter, a rise of 4.8%. Releases increased 9.3% to 917. This resulted in an admission-to-release surplus of 53 individuals in the third quarter, 2023, the third quarterly admission-to-release surplus in the ten-quarter trend period. See Figure 1.3 below.

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



Male admissions in the third quarter increased from 801 to 839, a rise of 38 admissions from the previous quarter. Female admissions went up from 125 to 131, an increase of 6 individuals. Consequently, the total quarterly admissions rose from 926 to 970. See Figure 1.4 below.



Male releases in the third quarter rose from 724 to 785, the second lowest in the ten-quarter period despite the rise. Female releases went up as well from 115 to 132. This resulted in a total increase of 78 releases from 839 to 917 in Q3, 2023, returning closely to the same level of Q1 2023. See Figure 1.5 below.

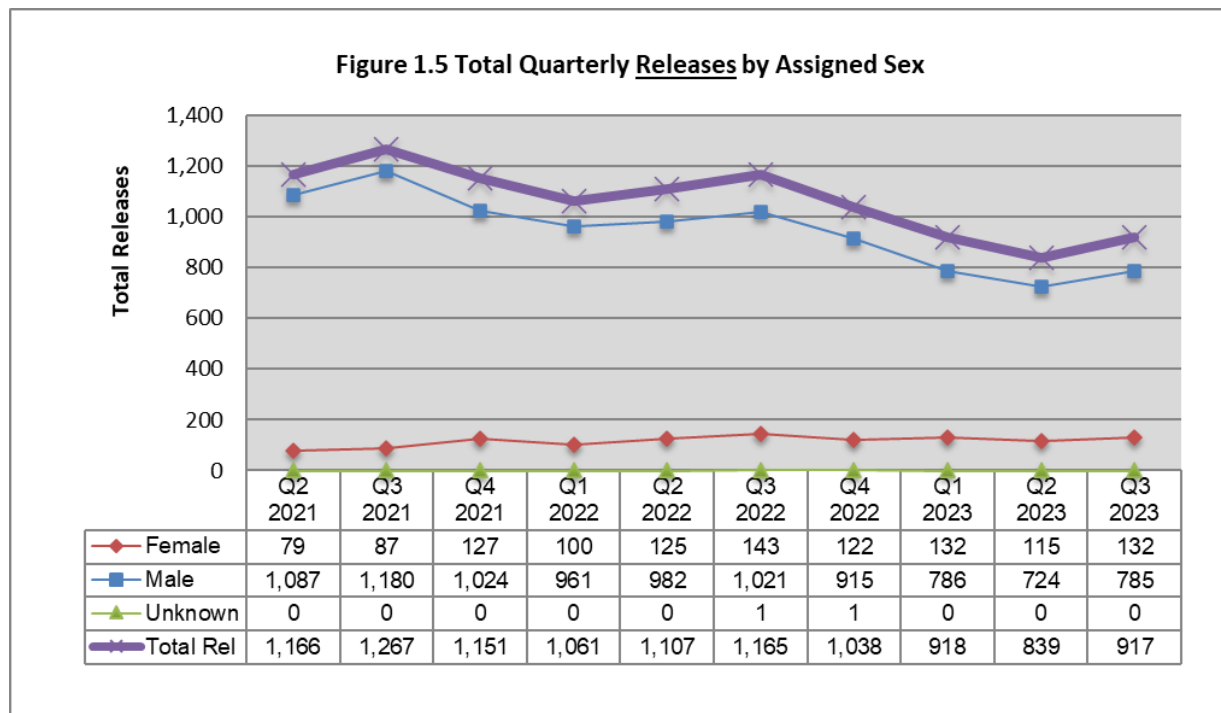


Figure 1.6 shows that both male admissions and releases went up from the previous quarter. It resulted in an admission-to-release surplus of 54 individuals in the third quarter of 2023, the second surplus in a row in the ten-quarter trend period and since the second quarter of 2019.

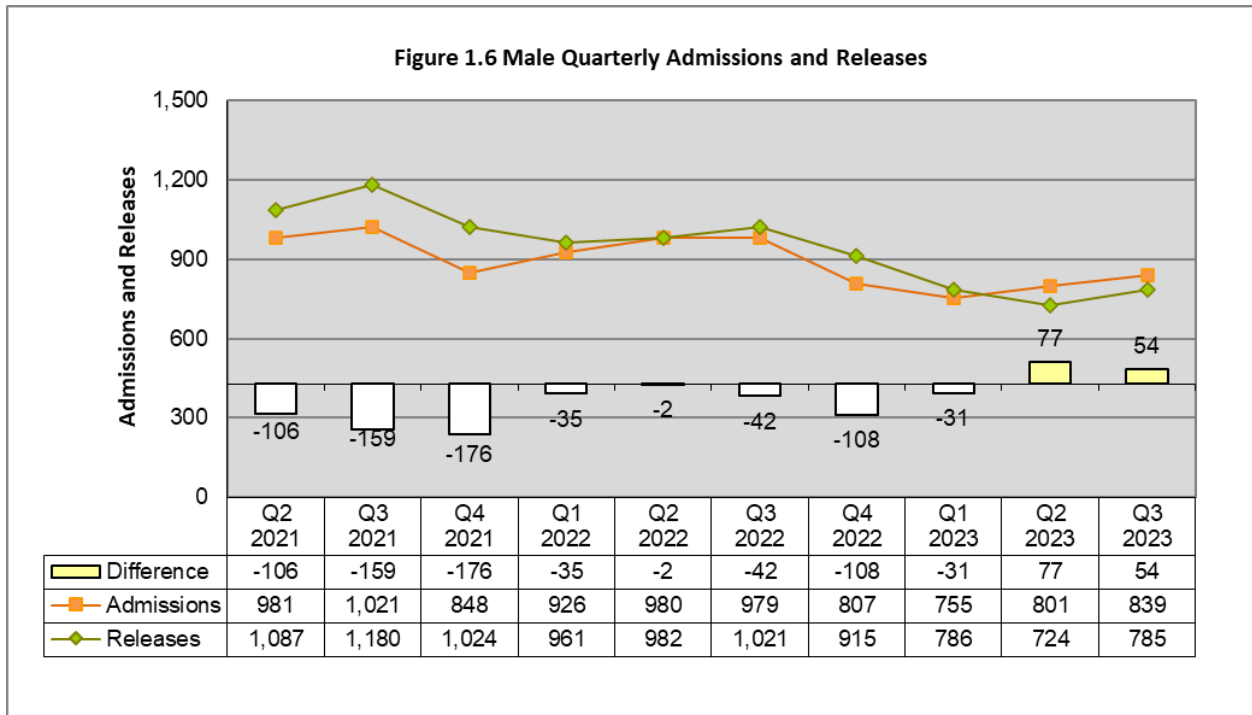
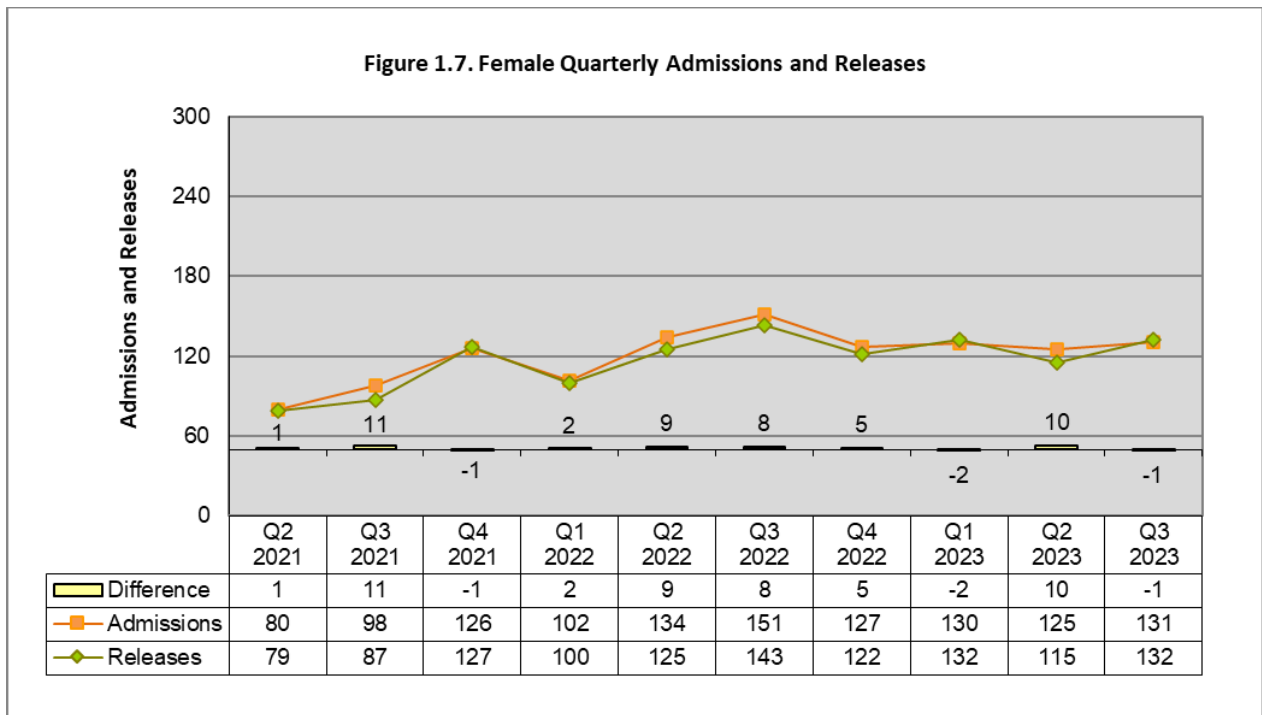


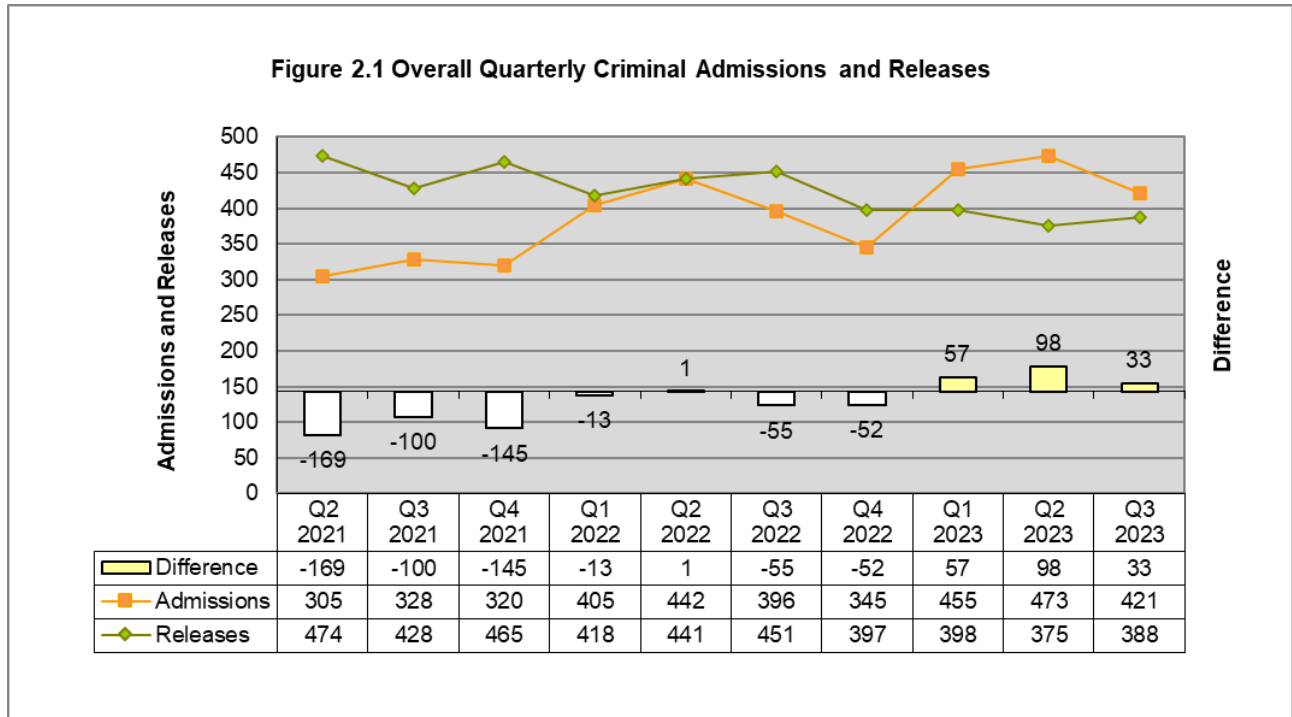
Figure 1.7 shows both female admissions and releases increased from the previous quarter and resulted in an admission-to-release deficit of 1 individual in the third quarter, one of the smallest quarterly differences between admissions and releases in the ten-quarter period.





## CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions in the third quarter decreased 11.0% from the previous quarter, the first quarterly drop in 2023 and after two consecutive increases. Releases went up from 375 in the previous quarter to 388. Releases trailed admissions for the fourth time in the ten-quarter trend period, adding 33 individuals to the DOC population. Overall, the DOC released 345 more incarcerated individuals than admitted during the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.1)



In the third quarter of 2023, male criminal admissions went down from the previous quarter and releases went up. Despite the decline in admissions and increase in releases, the MA DOC still admitted 43 more male individuals than released for the quarter. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC released 375 more men than admitted. Female criminal admissions declined while releases went up from the previous quarter, ending with an admission-to-release deficit of 10 more individuals for the third quarter, and an admission-to-release surplus of 28 individuals for the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.2, next page)

**Figure 2.2. Criminally Sentenced Admissions and Releases by Assigned Sex**

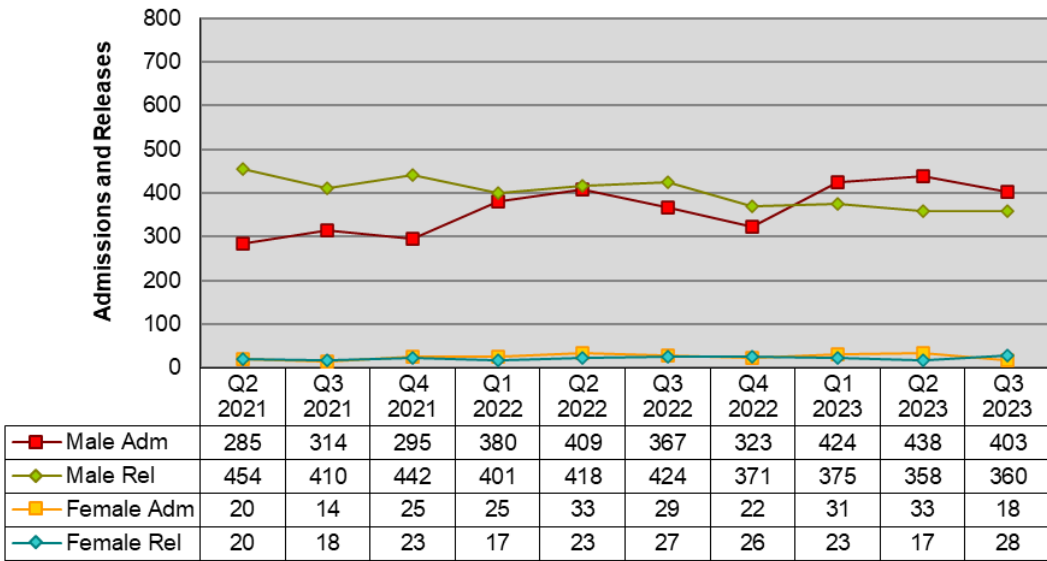
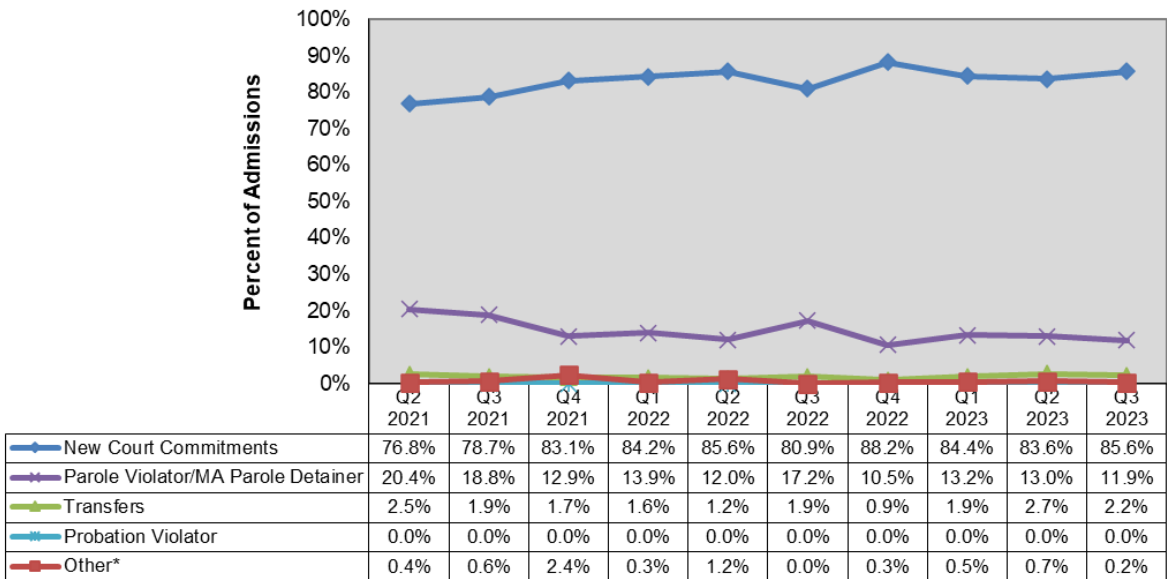


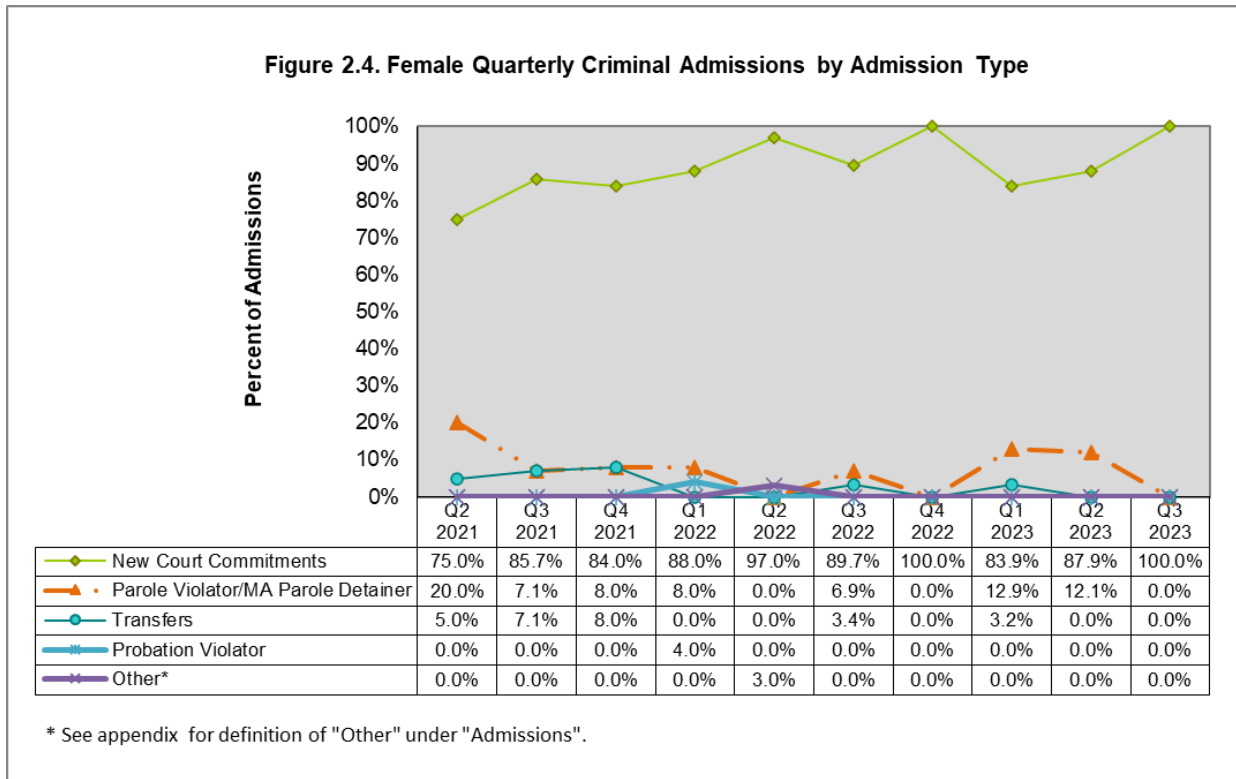
Figure 2.3 below shows that new court commitments continued to be the leading male criminal admission type (85.6%) followed by parole violators (11.9%) and transfers (2.2%) as the distant second and third male criminal admission types in the third quarter of 2023.

**Figure 2.3. Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type**



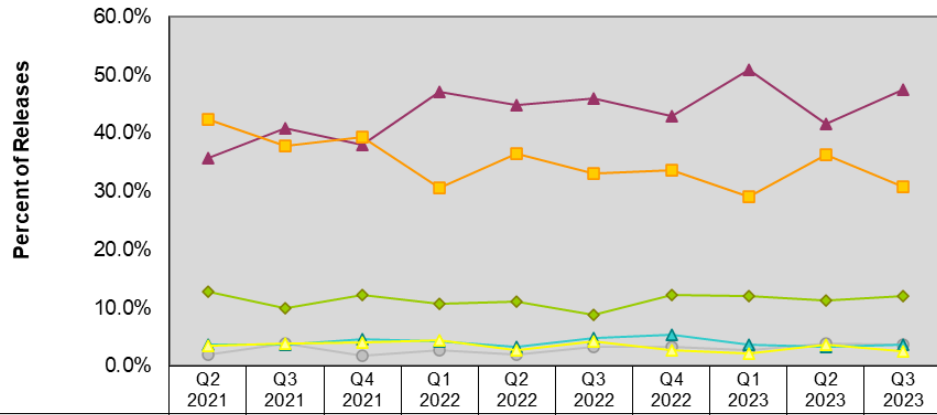
\* See appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Of the 18 female criminal admissions in the third quarter, all of them were new court commitments. No female criminal admissions came from other admission types in the third quarter of 2023, the second time in the ten-quarter trend period. (Figure 2.4)



Figures 2.5 on the next page describes how male criminally sentenced individuals were released in Q3, 2023 and the nine quarters prior. In the third quarter of 2023, parole to community (47.5%) continued to top the list of the release types, followed by expiration of sentence to community (30.8%) and expiration/parole to outside authority (11.9%) as the top three release types. They stayed as the top three release types consistently in the ten-quarter trend period.

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

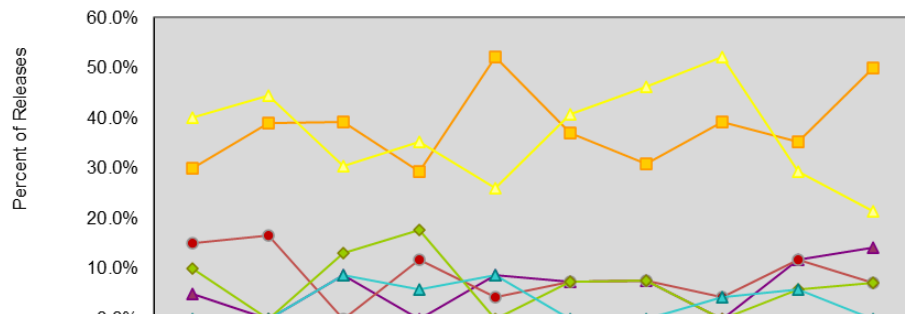


	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
Parole to Comm./Rel. from Parole Detainer	35.7%	40.7%	38.0%	47.1%	44.7%	46.0%	42.9%	50.9%	41.6%	47.5%
Expiration of Sentence to Community	42.3%	37.8%	39.4%	30.7%	36.4%	33.0%	33.7%	29.1%	36.3%	30.8%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	12.8%	10.0%	12.2%	10.7%	11.0%	8.7%	12.1%	12.0%	11.2%	11.9%
Transfers	2.0%	3.9%	1.8%	2.7%	1.9%	3.3%	3.2%	2.7%	3.9%	3.6%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	3.7%	3.7%	4.5%	4.2%	3.3%	4.7%	5.4%	3.7%	3.4%	3.6%
Other*	3.5%	3.9%	4.1%	4.5%	2.6%	4.2%	2.7%	2.1%	3.6%	2.5%

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

Parole to community (50.0%) was the top female criminal release type, followed by expiration of sentence to community (21.4%) and expiration/parole to warrant (14.3%) as the second and third leading release type in the third quarter, 2023. Because of the small number of female releases, 28 for this quarter, female release types have moved up and down more radically than male release types. (Figure 2.6)

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



	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
Parole to Comm./Rel. from Parole Detainer	30.0%	38.9%	39.1%	29.4%	52.2%	37.0%	30.8%	39.1%	35.3%	50.0%
Expiration of Sentence to Community	40.0%	44.4%	30.4%	35.3%	26.1%	40.7%	46.2%	52.2%	29.4%	21.4%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	5.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	8.7%	7.4%	7.7%	0.0%	11.8%	14.3%
Transfers	15.0%	16.7%	0.0%	11.8%	4.3%	7.4%	7.7%	4.3%	11.8%	7.1%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	10.0%	0.0%	13.0%	17.6%	0.0%	7.4%	7.7%	0.0%	5.9%	7.1%
Other*	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	5.9%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%	5.9%	0.0%

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

## New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

New court commitments decreased in the third quarter of 2023 to 350 from the previous 374, the highest number of new court commitments in the ten-quarter trend period and since the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020. Essex county (67) sent the most criminal new court commitments. Other counties that sent 20 or more new court commitments also include Suffolk (60), Hampden (47), Middlesex (46), Bristol (39), Worcester (24) and Plymouth (20). Together, they accounted for 86.6% of the total. (Figure 2.7)

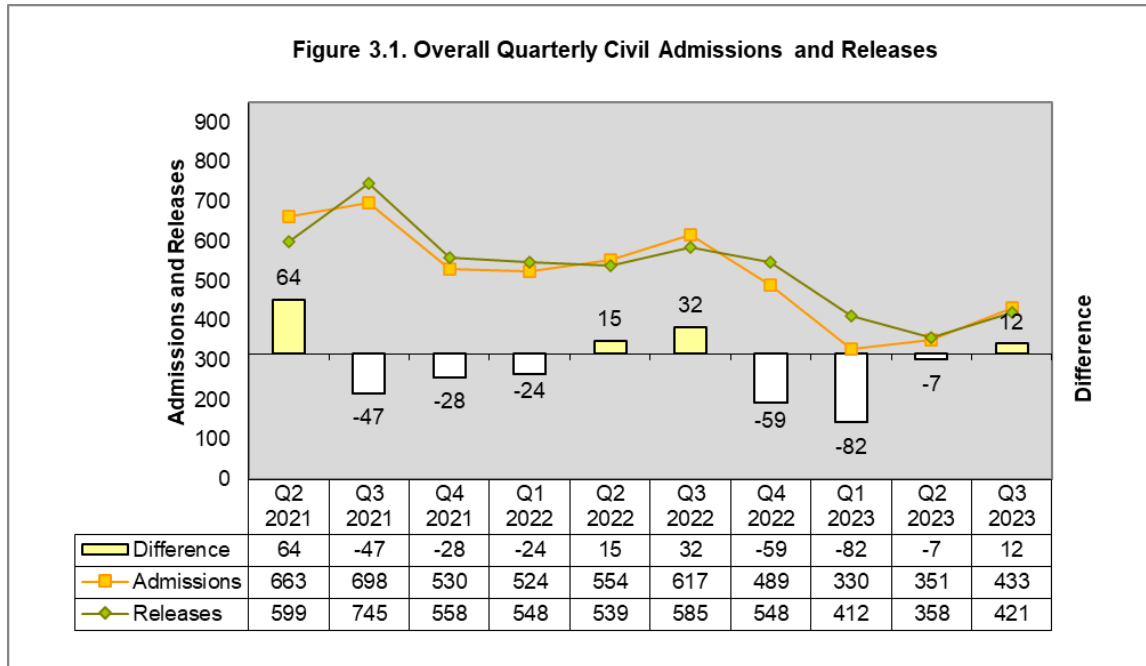
**Table 2.7. State\* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction**

County	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
Essex	42	45	51	74	82	47	66	59	74	67
Suffolk	35	35	33	47	59	74	41	63	81	60
Hampden	29	32	34	37	36	40	28	64	56	47
Middlesex	17	21	37	28	54	39	40	30	42	46
Bristol	35	31	32	32	35	34	26	60	42	39
Worcester	24	24	17	37	31	22	26	30	21	24
Plymouth	19	15	11	14	20	18	17	16	17	20
Norfolk	8	12	13	20	16	11	10	22	9	12
Barnstable	6	13	11	10	14	7	13	7	6	11
Franklin	2	4	6	7	3	4	10	2	15	10
Berkshire	1	9	6	13	5	3	11	8	8	8
Hampshire	3	1	4	7	5	6	5	5	2	6
Dukes	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Nantucket	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>350</b>

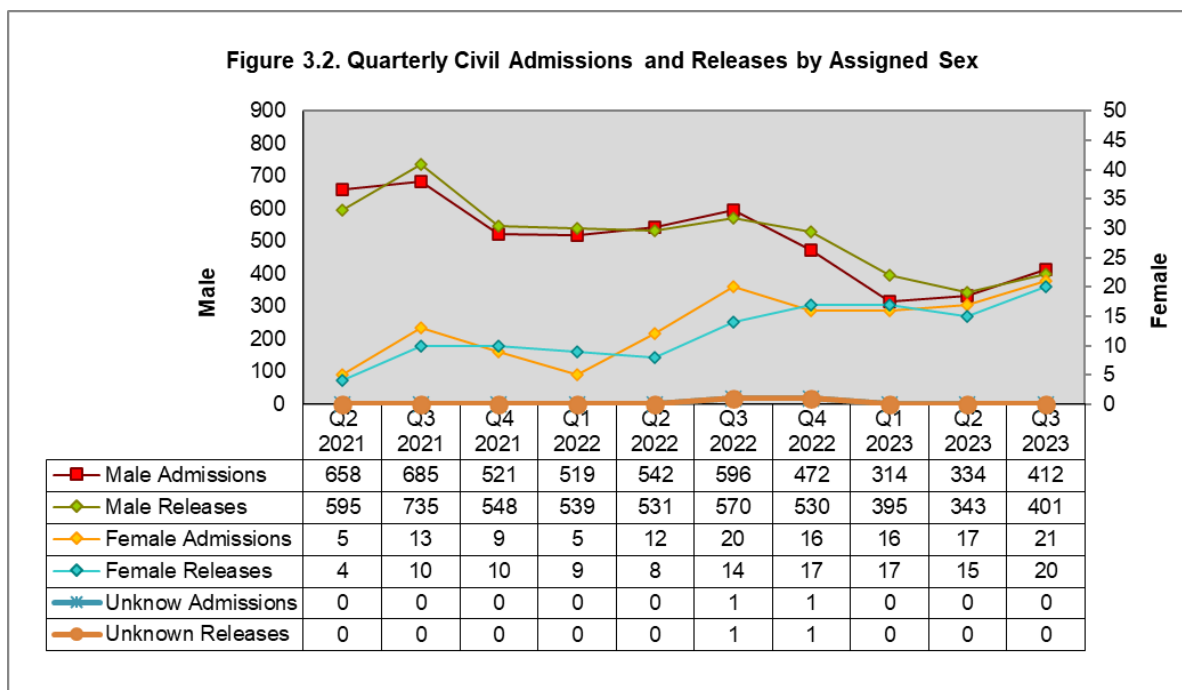
\*Excludes county, federal, and out-of-state individuals.

### CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In the third quarter of 2023, the MA DOC admitted 12 more civil commitments than released, which reversed the admission-to-release deficit of the past three quarters. For the ten-quarter trend period, the MA DOC has released 124 more civil commitments than it has admitted. See Figure 3.1.

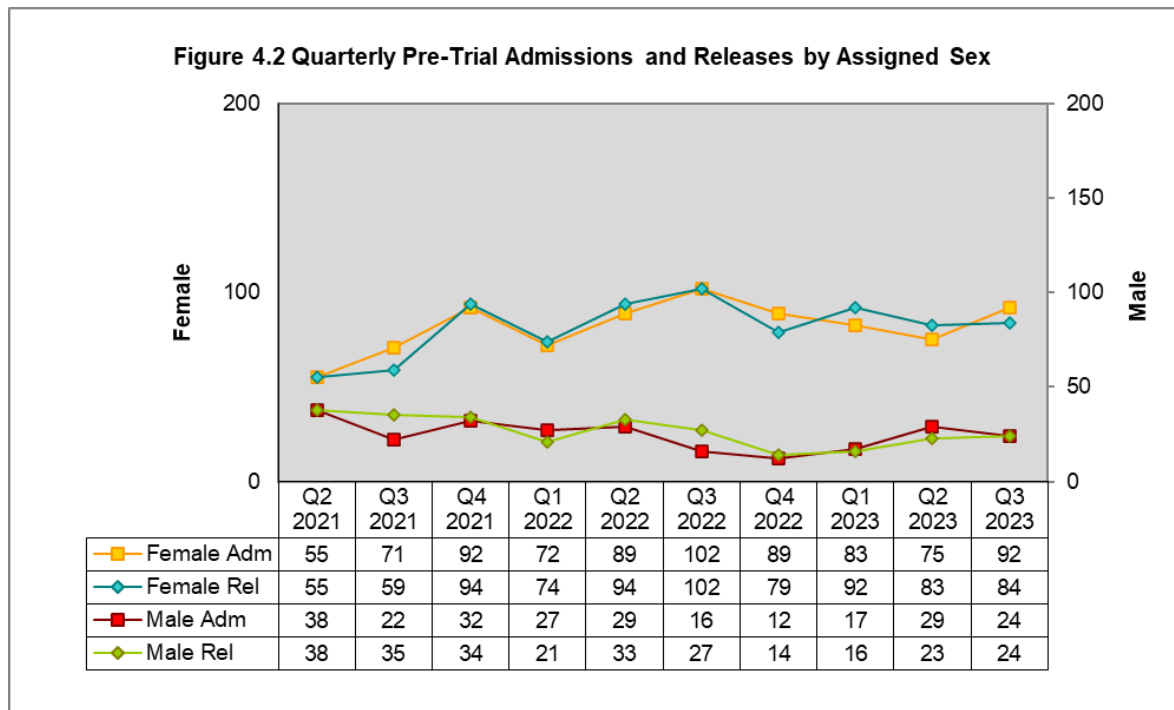
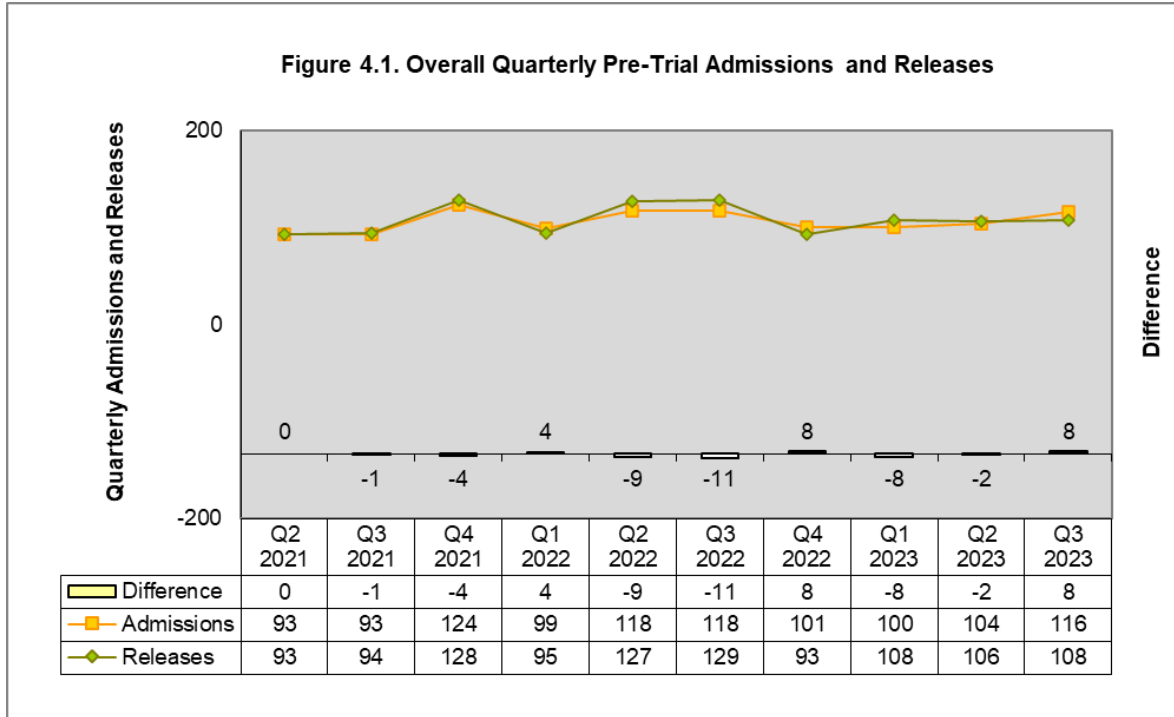


Male civil admissions increased from 334 in the previous quarter to 412 in the third quarter. Releases increased from 343 to 401, trailing admissions by 11 individuals. Female civil admissions and releases increased from the previous quarter, with 21 admissions and 20 releases. See Figure 3.2.



## PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

In Q3 of 2023, there were 116 pre-trial admissions and 108 releases, resulting in 8 more admissions than releases for the quarter. Female admissions went up to 92 and releases to 84 from the previous 75 and 83 respectively. Male admissions went down from 29 to 24 while releases went up marginally from 23 to 24, making male admissions and releases a draw for the quarter. See figures 4.1 and 4.2.



## Pre-Trial Admissions by Court Jurisdiction

In the third quarter of 2023, over one-half of male pre-trial detainee admissions came from out-of-state (7), Suffolk (4) and Worcester (4) counties. The remaining admissions came from Norfolk (3), Hampden (2), Plymouth (1), Middlesex (1), and Essex (1), counties. Female detainees came predominantly from Middlesex County (90) and 1 admission each from Suffolk and Essex Counties. See Tables 4.3 and 4.4 below.

**Table 4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction**

County	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
Out-of-state	14	3	7	11	10	5	2	4	7	7
Suffolk	4	1	2	1	6	1	1	0	3	4
Worcester	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	3	4
Norfolk	2	0	0	2	2	2	1	4	4	3
Hampden	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	2
Plymouth	6	11	4	2	3	3	0	0	2	2
Middlesex	5	1	4	4	2	2	1	2	3	1
Essex	1	0	2	2	1	0	3	2	4	1
Barnstable	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Federal	3	3	5	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bristol	0	2	4	0	2	2	2	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>

\*Berkshire, Dukes, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties have not reported pre-trial males in any of the previous ten quarters.

**Table 4.4 Female Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction**

County	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023
Middlesex	52	68	91	69	88	101	89	81	74	90
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Plymouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Federal	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Out-of-State	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Worcester	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>92</b>

\*Barnstable, Berkshire, Dukes, Franklin, and Norfolk counties and Mass Parole 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 Individual Management System.

<b>Admissions</b>	Individuals 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. individuals 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 Individual that is incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Expiration of Sentence (Release)</b>	An Individual 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 Individual 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>New Court Commitment</b>	Newly sentenced and committed individuals 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)**

Individuals 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 individual 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 individual 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 individual 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.