

# **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

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

**First Quarter 2014**





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Trend Period: Fourth Quarter 2011 through First Quarter 2014

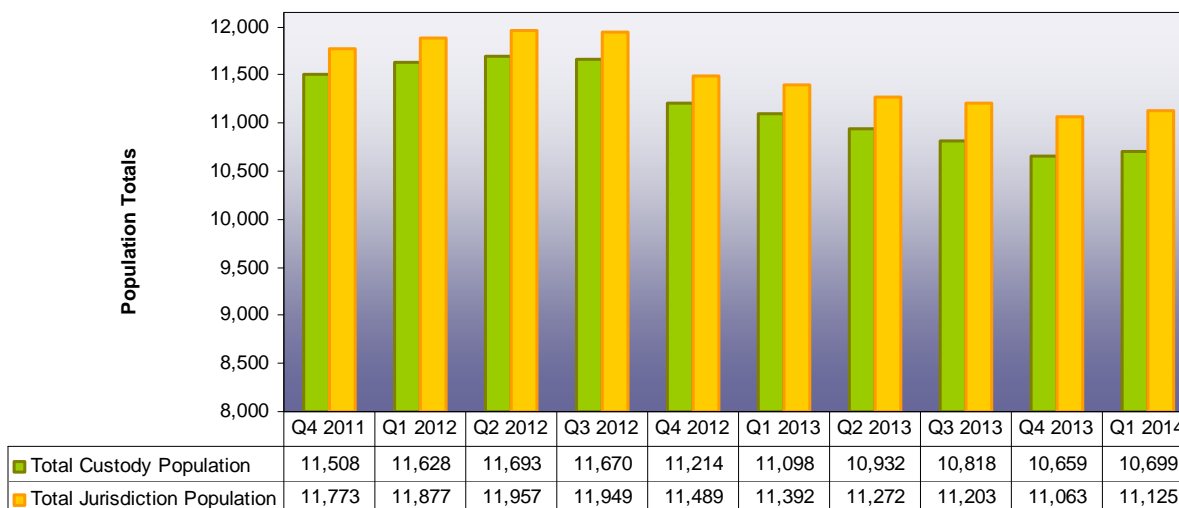
- The first quarter of 2014 saw the first increase in MA DOC population since the third quarter of 2012 with a 0.4% increase in **custody population** and 0.6% increase in **jurisdiction population**.
- From its height in the second quarter of 2012, the **custody population** was down **994** inmates (8.5%) in the first quarter of 2014. Likewise, the **jurisdiction population** was down **832** inmates (7.0%).
- Based on quarterly averages for the ten quarters of the trend period, 88.7% of the **MA DOC jurisdiction population** was criminally sentenced, 5.3% were civil commitments, and 6.0% were pre-trial detainees. The 2014 first quarter average population of 11,125 was the second lowest of the trend period.
- During the ten-quarter trend period, the **cumulative total admissions** were 26,023 and the **cumulative total releases** were 26,689, with the cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulting in a decrease of 666 inmates.
- Male inmates made up 58.8% of the total jurisdiction admissions and 59.6% of the total jurisdiction releases during the trend period.
- The overall difference between admissions and releases over the trend period resulted in female inmates decreasing by 61, while male inmates saw a decrease of 605 inmates.
- Based on the difference between admissions and releases, **criminally sentenced inmates** saw a cumulative decrease of 617 inmates. The fourth quarter of 2012 had the largest impact on this trend with a decrease of 334 inmates.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 110 inmates during the past ten quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 12 inmates over that same period.
- **Pre-trial detainees** saw increased numbers in both admissions and releases during the trend period, resulting in a cumulative increase of 45 pre-trial inmates. More than half, 54.8%, of male pre-trials came from Suffolk County.

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## CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

The MA DOC populations, both jurisdiction and custody (Graph 1.1), saw the first period of increase in seven quarters during the first quarter of 2014, with the jurisdiction population increasing by 0.6% and the custody population increasing by 0.4%. Over the ten-quarter trend period there was an average loss in the jurisdiction population of 0.6% and an average loss of custody population of 0.8%. Prior to third quarter, 2012, there was a general increase in population followed by a large drop in population in the fourth quarter of 2012 - mostly due to implementation of the 2012 Crime Bill and issues regarding accuracy of testing at the Hinton Crime Lab. The MA DOC population continued to drop throughout 2013, until the first quarter, 2014.

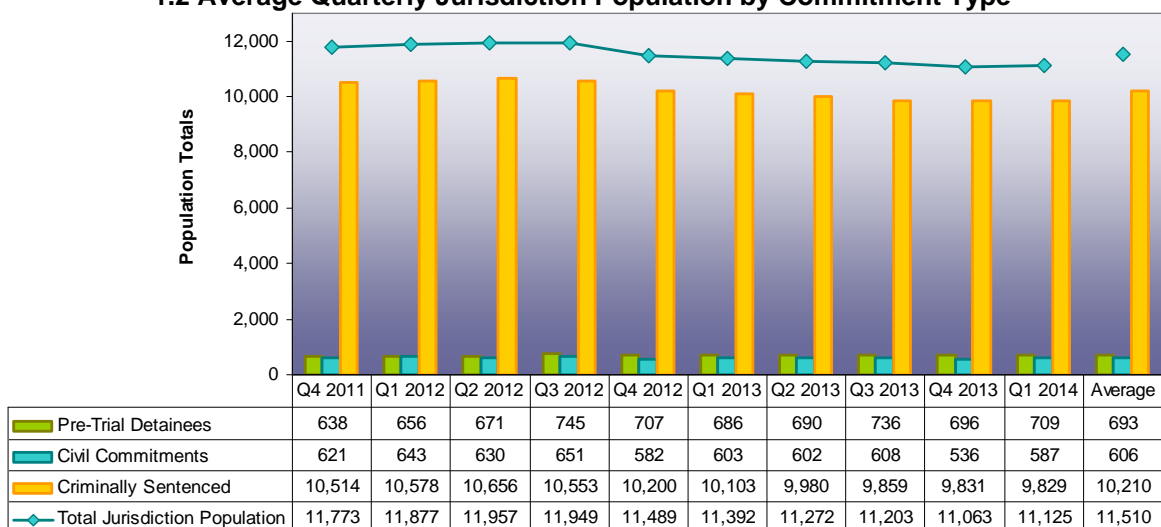
**1.1 Average\* Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population**



\*Each quarter's population is the average of the three months within that quarter.

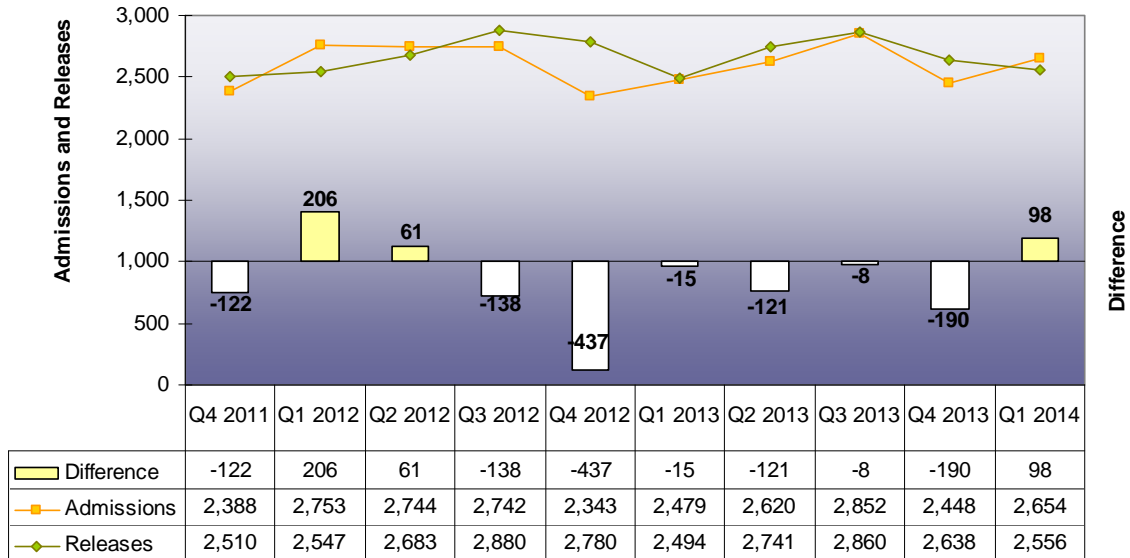
There was a slight increase during the first quarter of 2014, likely due to a seasonal increase, which did not occur during 2013 (see Graph 1.2). Compared to the previous quarter, the first quarter of 2014 saw an increase in pre-trial detainees of 1.9%, an increase in civil commitments of 9.5%, and a decrease in criminally sentenced inmates of 0.02%.

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



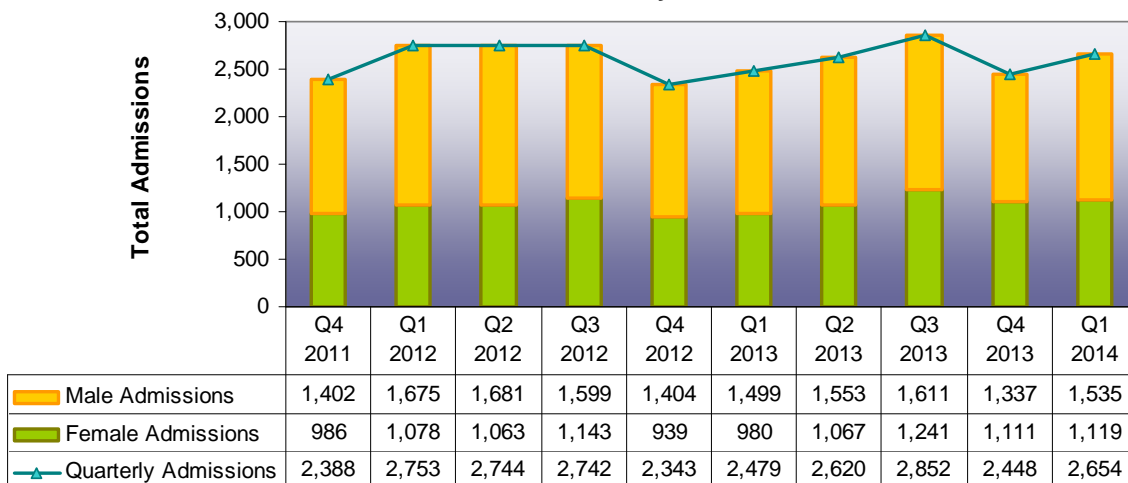
Over the past ten quarters, Graph 1.3, the difference in the MA DOC population admissions and releases resulted in an **average decrease of 67** inmates per quarter. Similarly, the cumulative difference over the trend period showed a **decrease of 666** inmates; this was driven largely by the second half of 2012. The first quarter of 2014 saw the second highest positive admission-release difference during the trend period with an increase of 98 inmates; the highest was the first quarter 2012, with a difference of 206 inmates.

**1.3 Overall Admissions and Releases**

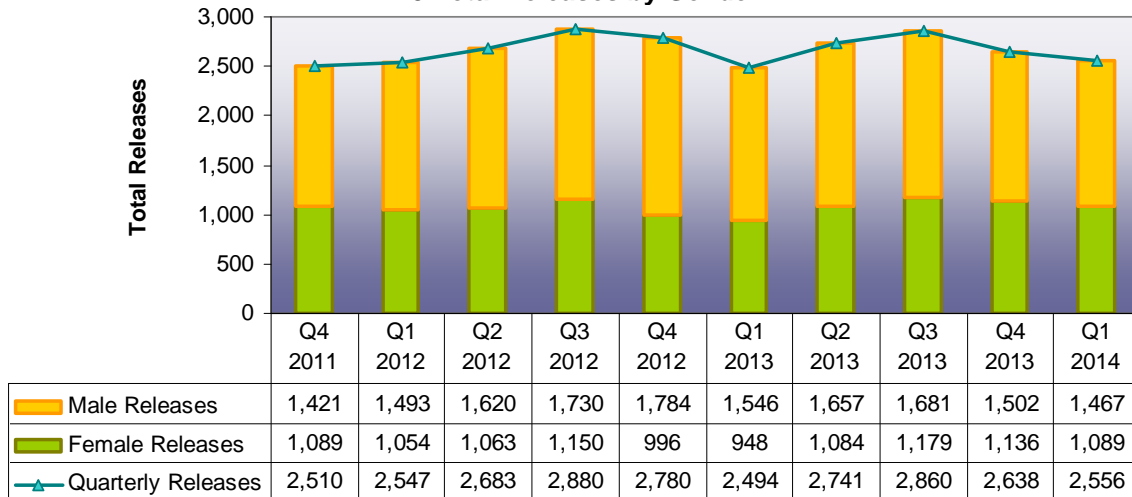


Throughout the trend period males made up the majority of the total admissions (Graph 1.4) and release (Graph 1.5) population with 58.8% of admissions and 59.6% of releases. For male inmates, the difference between admissions and releases averaged a decrease of 61 inmates per quarter, with an associated, cumulative decrease of 605 inmates. Female inmates averaged a decrease of 6 inmates each quarter throughout the period, with a cumulative decrease of 61 inmates.

**1.4 Total Admissions by Gender**



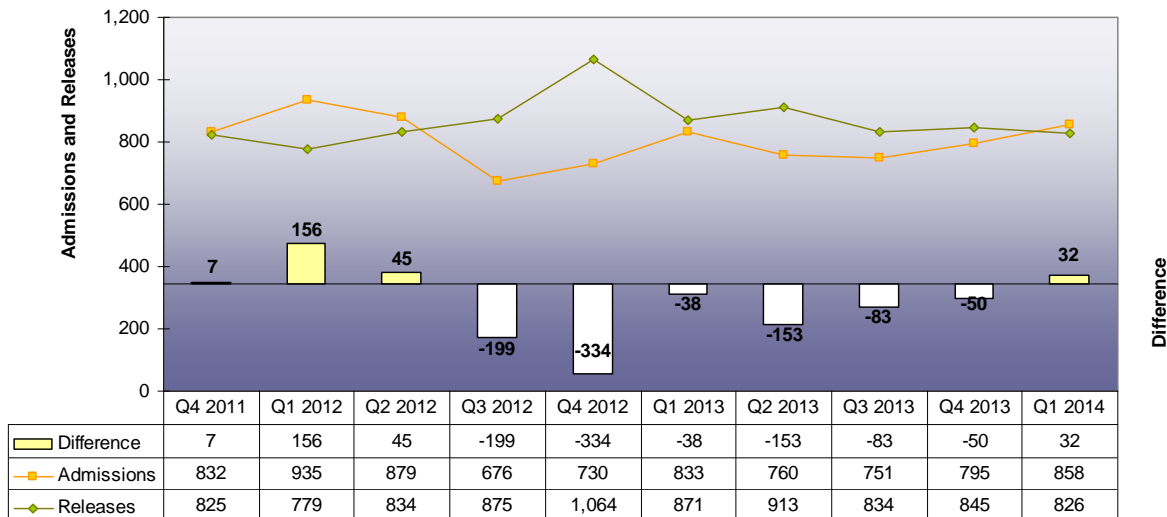
### 1.5 Total Releases by Gender



## CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

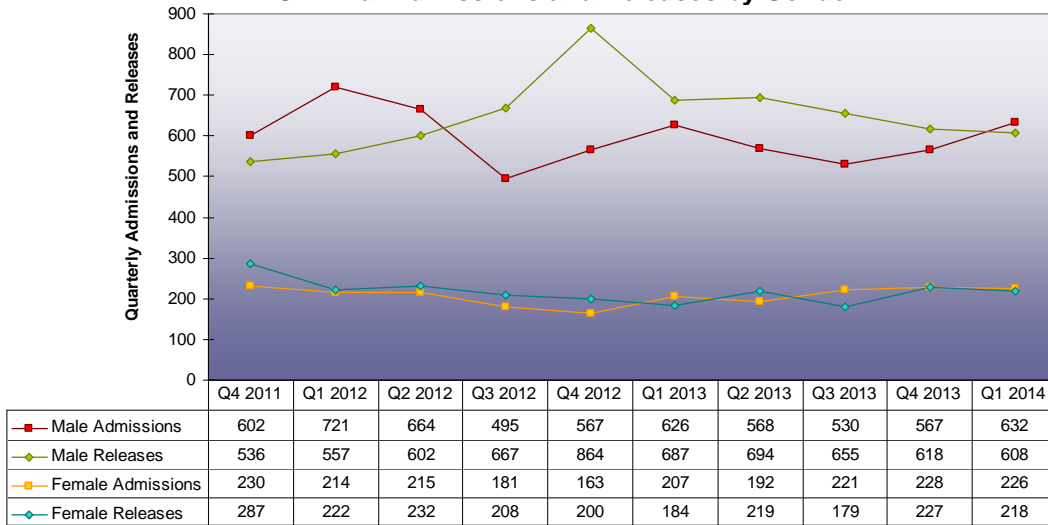
The ten-quarter period, from fourth quarter 2011 through first quarter 2014 (see Graph 2.1), displayed an overall negative trend for criminally sentenced admissions and an overall positive trend for criminally sentenced releases, with admissions trending more strongly. During this trend period, the difference between admissions and releases showed a negative slope averaging a decrease of 62 inmates each quarter, with an overall negative change of 617 criminally sentenced inmates.

### 2.1 Overall Criminal Admissions and Releases



Graph 2.2, below, shows criminal sentenced jurisdiction admissions and releases. During the ten-quarter trend period male criminally sentenced inmates followed trends very similar to the overall criminally sentenced population. This is expected due to males comprising 74.2% of criminal admissions and 74.9% of criminal releases. Over the trend period, female criminally sentenced admissions saw a slight positive trend while releases saw a stronger, negative trend.

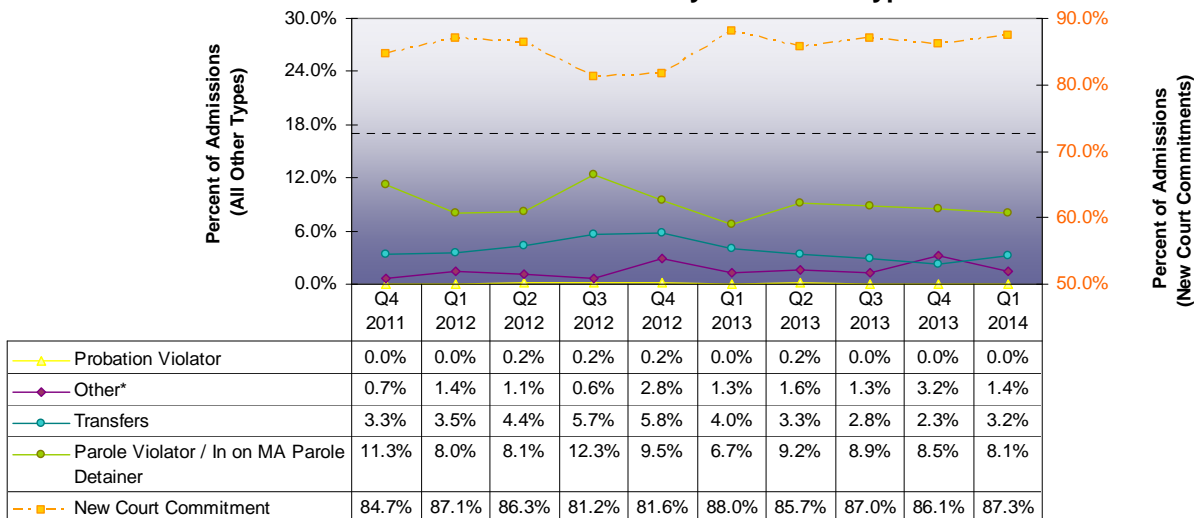
## 2.2 Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



Male criminal admissions by admission type, shown in Graph 2.3, are split into two axes, with 'New Court Commitments' represented on the right axis and all other admission types represented on the left axis. New court commitments were the most common type of male admission and averaged 85.5% each quarter during the trend period. The next two most common types of male admissions, 'Parole Violator/In on MA Parole Detainer' and 'Transfers', averaged 9.1% and 3.8% of admissions during the trend period, respectively.

Over the trend period, new court commitments were the only male criminal admission type which saw a positive trend; this was despite the large drop seen in the third and fourth quarters of 2012.

## 2.3 Male Criminal Admissions by Admission Type

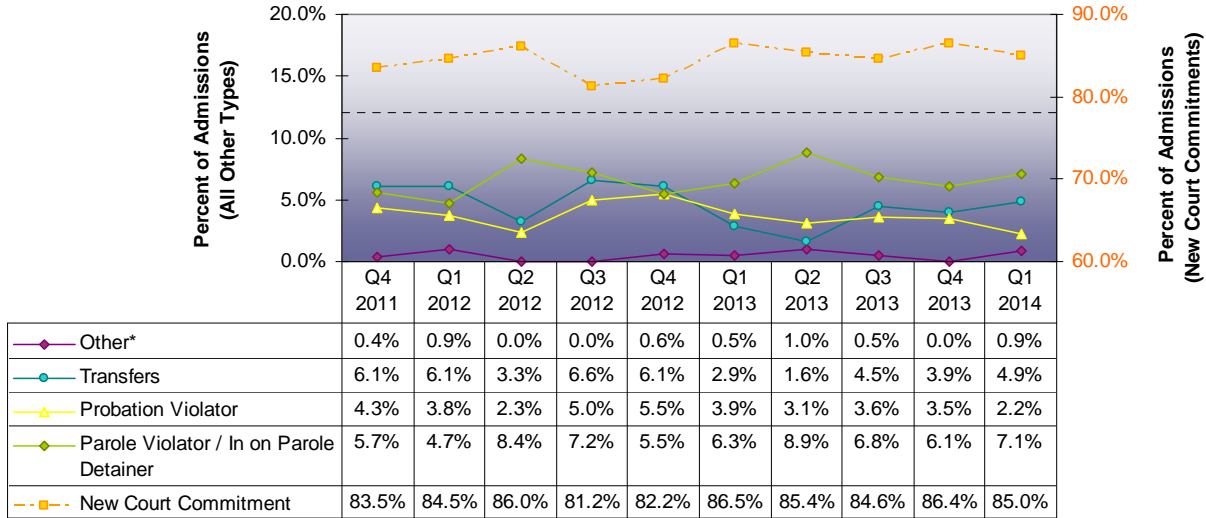


\*See Appendix for definition of Other



Female criminally sentenced admissions, as seen in Graph 2.4, for the trend period were predominately new court commitments, with an average of 84.5%, followed by 'Parole Violator/In on Parole Detainer' and 'Transfers', with averages of 6.7% and 4.6%, respectively. Overall, the female admission types saw less definite, although more variable, trends than their male counterparts.

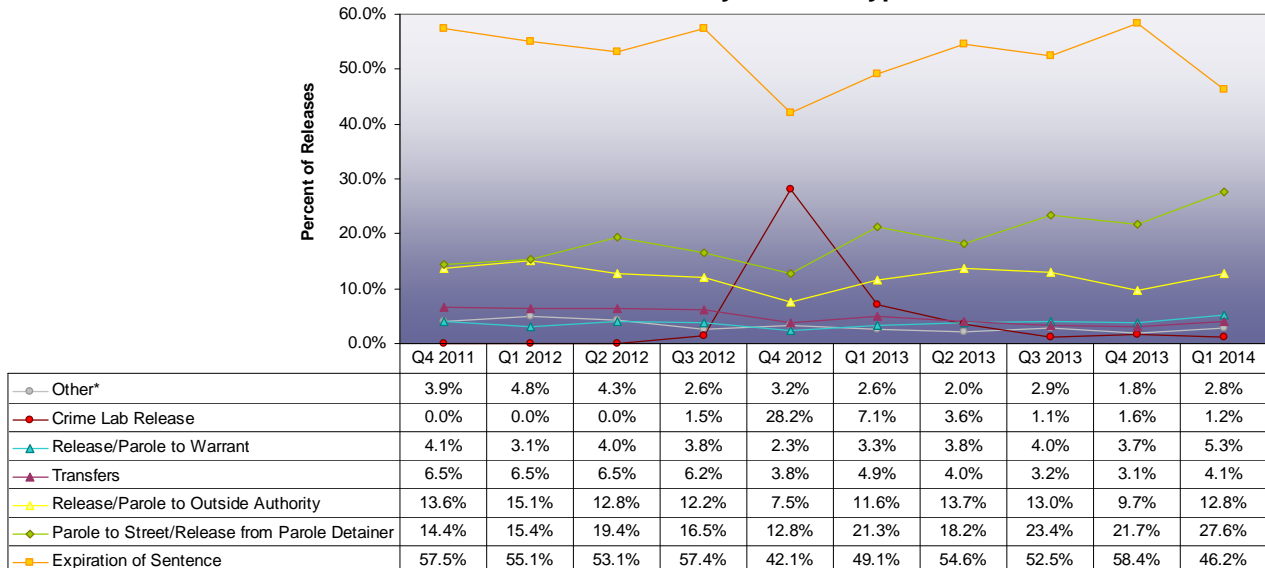
### 2.4 Female Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



\*See Appendix for definition of Other

During the first four quarters of the trend period, (Graph 2.5) the male criminal release type rates were steady, followed by a notable shift during the fourth quarter of 2012, and then a gradual resumption of prior trends. The shift during the last quarter of 2012 was mostly attributable to the crime lab situation; this led to a large amount of court releases, specified in Graph 2.5 as "Crime Lab Releases", which resulted in notable rate decreases for other release types. During 2013, there was a steady increase in expirations of sentence and paroles to the street/releases from parole detainers. First quarter 2014 saw the largest drop in expirations to the street since the fourth quarter 2012; this was most heavily countered by a notable rate increase in paroles to the highest level of the trend period.

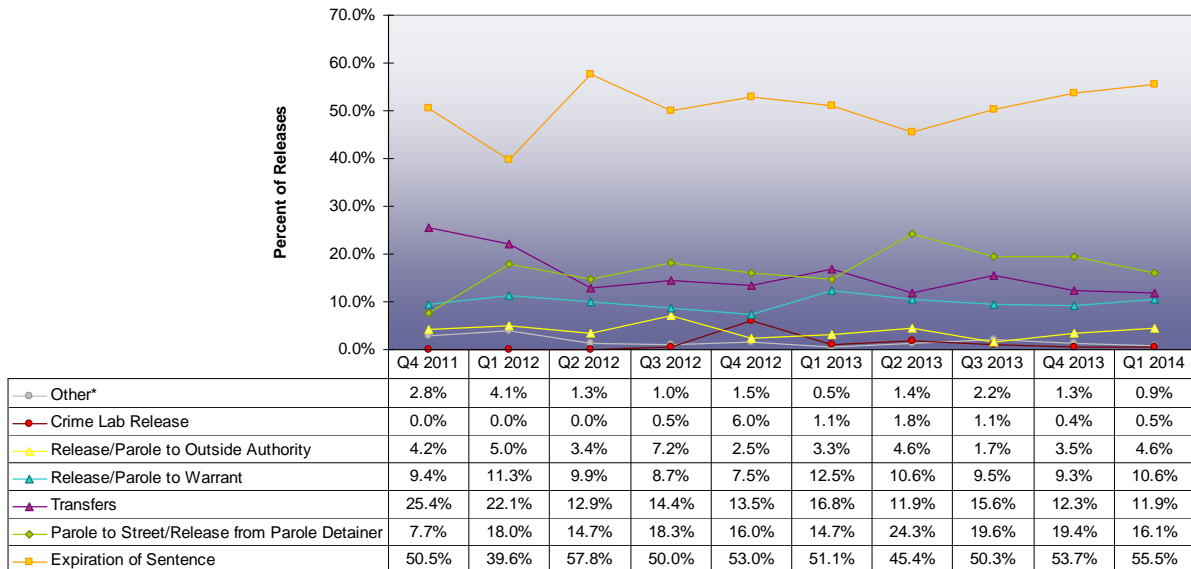
### 2.5 Male Criminal Releases by Release Type



\*See Appendix for definition of Other

As seen in Graph 2.6, Female criminally sentenced releases were most commonly due to expiration of sentence, averaging 50.7%. The next two most common release types were paroles to street/releases from parole detainers, averaging 16.9%, and transfers, averaging 15.7%. Of note was the period from fourth quarter 2011 through first quarter 2012 when 51 County sentenced female inmates in DOC custody were transferred to a regional correctional center in Hampden County. Counter to the male criminally sentenced releases, female saw their third straight increase in expirations of sentences with decreasing paroles.

**2.6 Female Criminal Releases by Release Type**



\*See Appendix for definition of Other

On average Suffolk County accounted for 19.4% of the new court commitments followed by, Essex (13.3%), Middlesex (12.6%), Bristol (12.3%), Hampden (12.2%), and Worcester (11.9%). Table 2.7 displays additional information pertaining to criminally sentenced counties of origin.

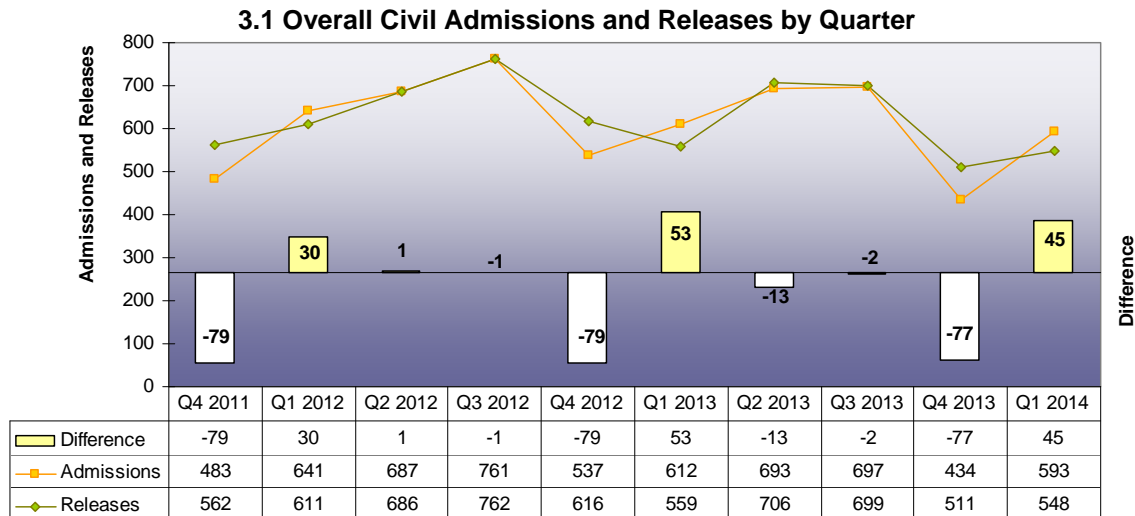
**2.7 State\* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction**

	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Total
Suffolk	97	108	119	76	83	95	119	85	111	112	1,005
Essex	83	67	92	52	52	75	61	56	87	60	685
Middlesex	80	96	59	53	53	62	57	61	68	61	650
Bristol	57	61	89	56	73	66	57	66	49	61	635
Hampden	69	92	61	55	67	63	49	47	63	63	629
Worcester	58	62	66	39	78	65	71	59	63	56	617
Plymouth	25	58	21	15	19	60	18	18	20	66	320
Norfolk	32	35	24	11	15	30	23	28	20	25	243
Barnstable	6	14	5	17	9	17	13	21	11	10	123
Berkshire	6	20	7	9	9	17	9	15	6	14	112
Franklin	3	10	16	6	2	11	6	8	3	13	78
Hampshire	4	8	5	7	9	5	5	6	1	8	58
Dukes	0	0	2	0	4	1	1	1	0	1	10
Nantucket	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
	520	631	566	396	473	567	490	473	502	550	5,168

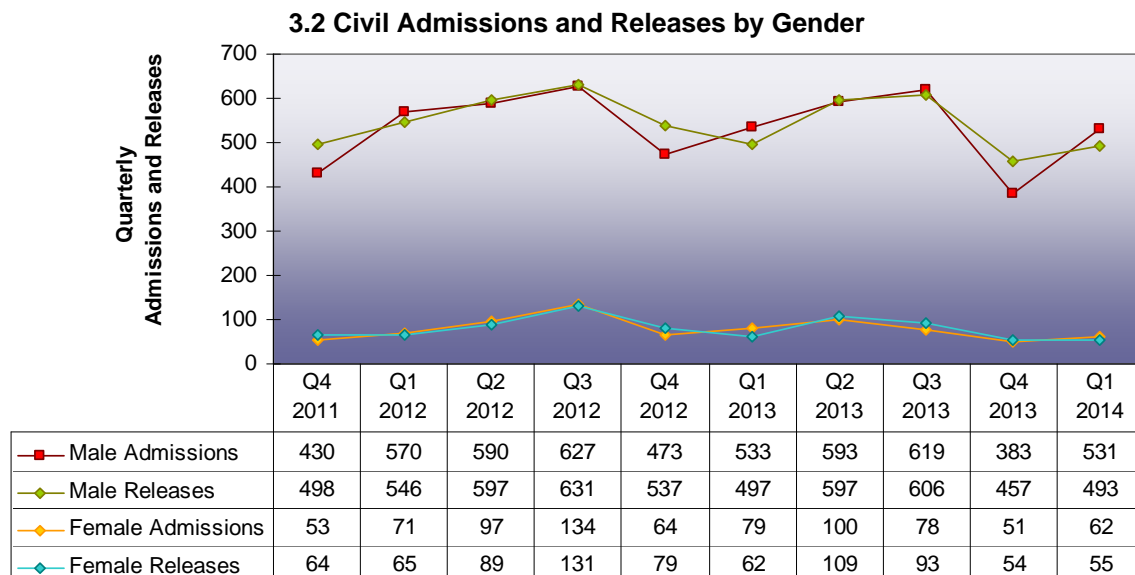
\*excludes county and out-of-state inmates

## CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates had similar patterns throughout the trend period (see Graph 3.1). A seasonal trend was seen with a gradual rise in both admissions and releases over each year with a drop in both trends during the fourth quarter. The first quarter of 2014 saw a normal, seasonal increase in civil commitments; but did see the lowest number of both admissions and releases for a first quarter during the trend period. Overall, there was a cumulative decrease of 122 inmates due to the difference between admissions and releases over the trend period.



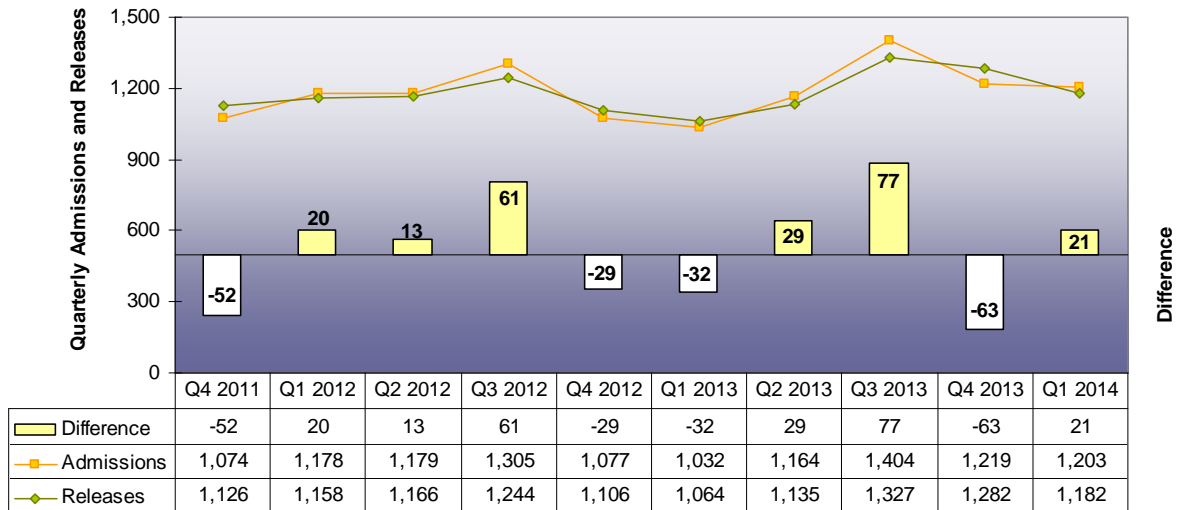
Over the past ten quarters female inmates made up 12.9% of civil admissions and 12.8% of civil releases. Both male and female civilly committed inmates saw weak negative trends in both admissions and releases over the trend period. This resulted in overall decreases of 12 civil commitments for females and by 110 civil commitments for males.



## PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases (Graph 4.1) both saw overall increases during the ten-quarter trend period. Pre-trial admissions averaged 1,184 per quarter, releases averaged 1,179 per quarter, and there was a cumulative increase of 45 pre-trial detainees.

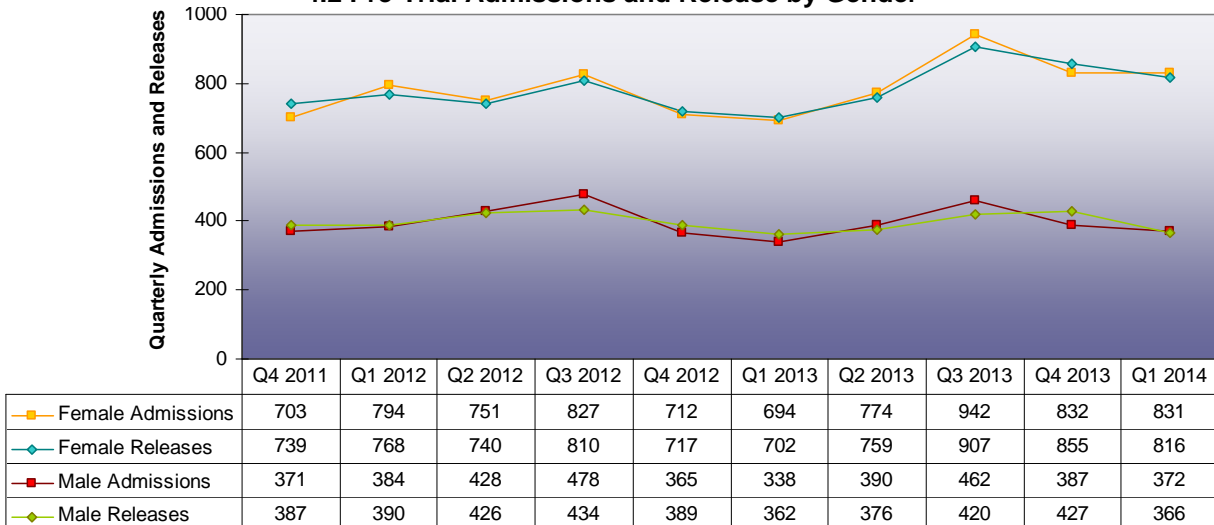
**4.1 Overall Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases by Quarter**



Over the trend period shown in Graph 4.2, female pre-trial detainees had a more variable trend than male detainees, characterized by positive trend lines for both admissions and releases. Male pre-trial detainees, in contrast, saw overall weak negative trends in both admissions and releases. Overall, females had a cumulative increase of 47 detainees and males saw a decline of two detainees.

The second and third quarters of 2013 saw relatively steep increases for all four trend lines, male and females, for both admissions and releases. The first quarter of 2014 saw the normal, seasonal decrease in admissions and releases, which resulted in a slight increase in pre-trial detainee populations.

**4.2 Pre-Trial Admissions and Release by Gender**



Over the trend period (Table 4.3), the majority of male pre-trial admissions came from the counties of Suffolk and Middlesex; the rate for these two counties was 54.8% and 30.0%, respectively. There were some notable points within the data: Suffolk had its lowest pre-trial admissions during fourth quarter 2012 where it made up less than half of all pre-trial admissions, at 46.3%. During the first quarter of 2014, Suffolk County had its highest pre-trial admission rate at 58.3%, coming off of its second lowest rate in fourth quarter 2013, at 49.9%. Middlesex saw the opposite trend with its second lowest pre-trial admission rate during first quarter 2014, at 28.5%, and its second highest rate at during fourth quarter 2013 at 33.6%.

#### 4.3 Male Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Total
Suffolk	208	215	236	266	169	197	230	249	193	217	2,180
Middlesex	109	111	124	118	141	104	101	150	130	106	1,194
Out-of-State	20	19	22	20	25	15	23	20	18	18	200
Worcester	13	18	19	17	9	9	11	9	17	13	135
Federal	3	2	15	40	10	5	6	9	5	6	101
Plymouth	4	7	9	5	6	4	9	13	14	7	78
Bristol	5	4	1	5	1	2	8	4	2	1	33
Norfolk	5	3	1	3	0	0	3	3	5	1	24
Essex	2	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	22
Barnstable	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	8
Hampden	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Berkshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mass Parole	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	371	384	428	478	365	339	395	462	387	372	3,981

For the trend period (Table 4.4), 99.2% of female pre-trials came from the counties of Essex, Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk, or Plymouth; with 27.7% coming from Essex, 23.5% from Worcester, and 21.4% from Middlesex. Over the trend period Essex, Middlesex, and Plymouth saw some modest increases in percent of admissions; Norfolk saw its highest rate of pre-trial admissions for the trend period in the first quarter 2014.

#### 4.4 Female Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Total
Essex	198	209	204	236	201	180	209	245	244	249	2,175
Worcester	152	213	169	193	161	155	189	216	196	201	1,845
Middlesex	179	155	167	152	143	161	173	219	184	151	1,684
Norfolk	99	116	109	123	110	90	99	124	97	127	1,094
Plymouth	72	93	98	118	94	104	97	127	105	93	1,001
Bristol	2	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	12
Suffolk	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	7
Federal	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	14
Out-of-State	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	5	2	2	13
Barnstable	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Hampden	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	6
Mass Parole	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
	703	794	751	827	712	694	774	942	832	831	7,860

## **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.

Note: Admission and Release data for this report was gathered in April of 2014. 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 or detainees committed to a MA DOC facility as a “new court commitment”, “parole violator”, “transfer”, “probation violator”, “pre-trial detainee”, a “civil commitment” or other admission through legal means. “Other” admissions include: “Re-admit from Court Release” and “Return from Escape”.
<b>Pre-Trial Detainee</b>	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).
<b>Civil Commitment or “Civil”</b>	The involuntary commitment of an individual via legal means to incarcerate an individual against their will.
<b>Crime Lab Releases</b>	Issues regarding accuracy of testing at the Hinton Crime Lab resulted in several hundred releases “from court”, primarily during the months of September-November, 2012.
<b>Criminally Sentenced</b>	An individual who has been found guilty of a criminal offense through legal means, and is required to be incarcerated.
<b>Custody Population</b>	An individual is considered to be in Massachusetts DOC custody when they are being held in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
<b>Expiration of Sentence (Release)</b>	An inmate is discharged from his sentence at the expiration of his 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.
<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.

**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". "Other" releases include: "HABEAS to Court – Received Forthwith Sentence", "Escape", "Death", "Court Release – Sentence Revoked", "Release to From and After at DOC", and "Release from Weekend Sentence".

**Probation**

Probation is a court-ordered sanction placed on a person convicted of a crime. The offender is allowed to remain in the community under the strict supervision of a probation officer.

**Release to Street**

A release to street occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of parole or discharge to the street. Conditions warranting a release to street include: Parole, Good Conduct Discharge (GCD), Expiration of Sentence, and court release.

**Releases**

A release occurs when an inmate is released from the custody 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.