

# **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

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

**Third Quarter 2014**





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Trend Period: Second Quarter 2012 through Third Quarter 2014

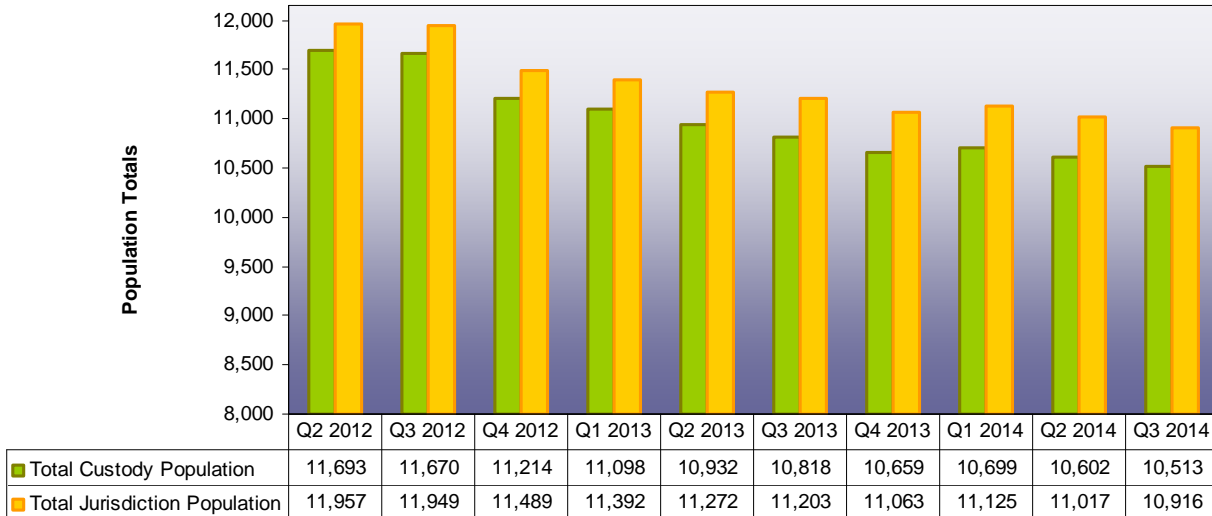
- The third quarter of 2014 saw the eighth quarter of decrease in the past nine quarters with cumulative declines of 10.1% (1,180) in the **custody population** and 8.7% (1,041) in the **jurisdiction population**.
- From the height of the total jurisdiction population in the second quarter of 2012, **criminally sentenced** jurisdiction inmates were down by 9.0%, **civil commitments** were down by 16.4%, and **pre-trial detainees** were up 3.8%.
- During the ten-quarter trend period, the **quarterly admissions** averaged 2,628 inmates and the average **quarterly releases** were 2,729 inmates, with the cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulting in a decrease of 1,012 inmates.
- The overall **difference between admissions and releases** over the trend period resulted in **female** inmates decreasing by 44, while **male** inmates saw a decrease of 968 inmates.
- Based on the difference between admissions and releases, **criminally sentenced inmates** saw a cumulative decrease of 960 inmates. The fourth quarter of 2012 had the largest impact on this trend with a decrease of 334 inmates.
- During the trend period **male criminally sentenced** inmates saw an average quarterly increase of 89 inmates, and **female criminally sentenced** inmates saw an average decrease of 7 inmates.
- While **female paroles to the street/release from parole detainer** remained fairly steady throughout the ten-quarter trend period, **male paroles to the street release from parole detainer** saw a notable rise.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 14 inmates during the past ten quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 14 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 67 pre-trial detainees; these were split with an increase in male pre-trial detainees by 30 and females increased by 37 detainees.

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## CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

Over the ten-quarter trend period from the second quarter of 2012 through the third quarter of 2014, Graph 1.1, there was a downward trend resulting in a cumulative loss of 1,180 (10.1%) from the **MA DOC custody population\*** and 1,041 (8.7%) from the **jurisdiction population**. This corresponded to a quarterly average loss of 1.2% from the custody population and 1.0% from the jurisdiction population. The largest quarterly drop occurred during 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 only increase seen during the trend period was during the first quarter of 2014, with an increase of 0.4% of the custody population and 0.6% of the jurisdiction population.

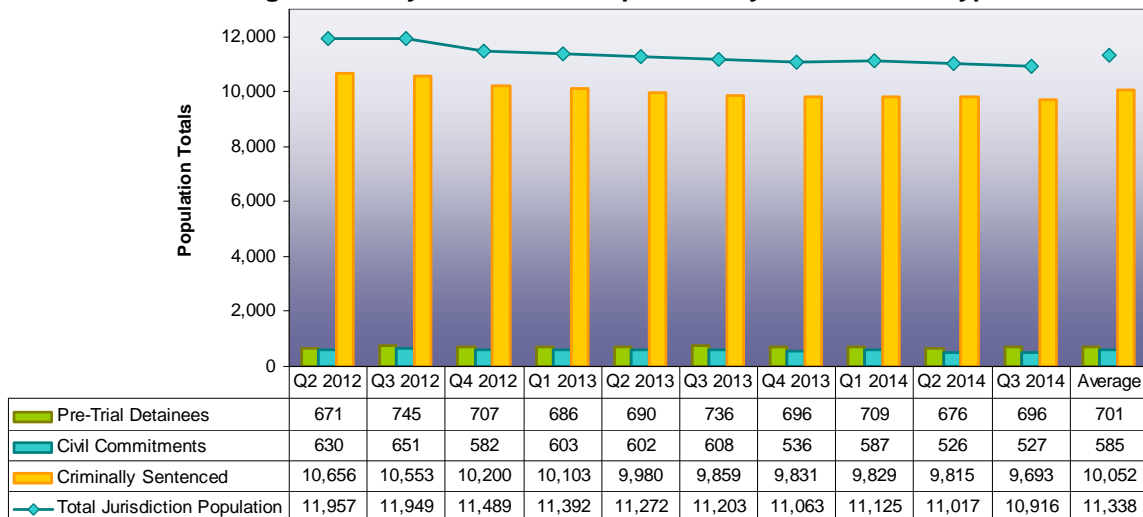
**1.1 Average\* Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population**



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

Graph 1.2 shows the breakdown of the quarterly jurisdiction population by commitment type. **Criminally sentenced** inmates saw a ninth straight quarter of decline with a total decline of 963 (9.0%) inmates. **Civil commitments** had a more variable trend, but with an overall greater effect resulting in a loss of 103 (16.4%) commitments over the trend period. **Pre-trial detainees**, unlike the other commitment types saw an increase over the trend period by 25 (3.7%) detainees.

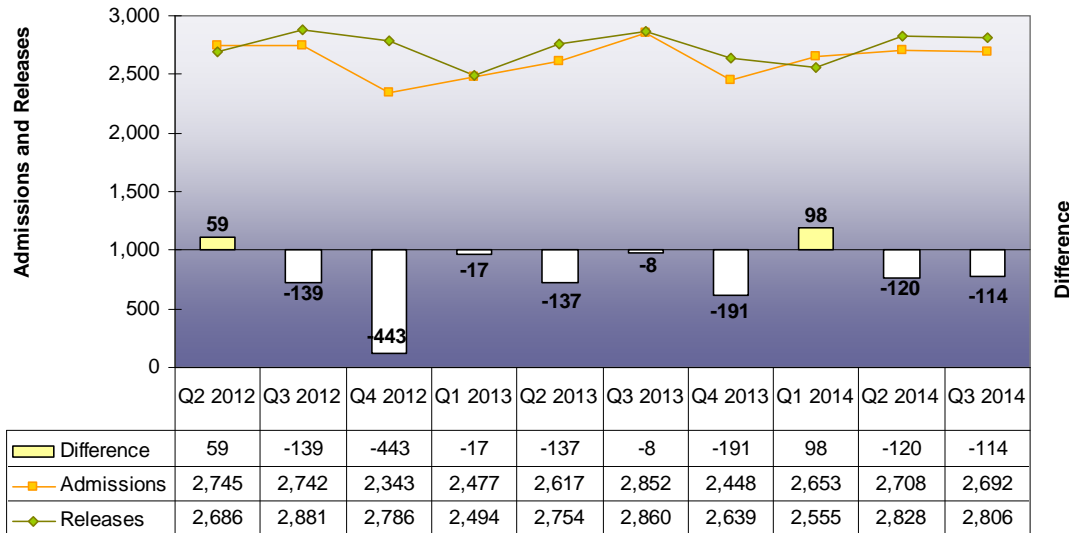
**1.2 Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type**



\* **Bolded** phrases are defined in the appendix.

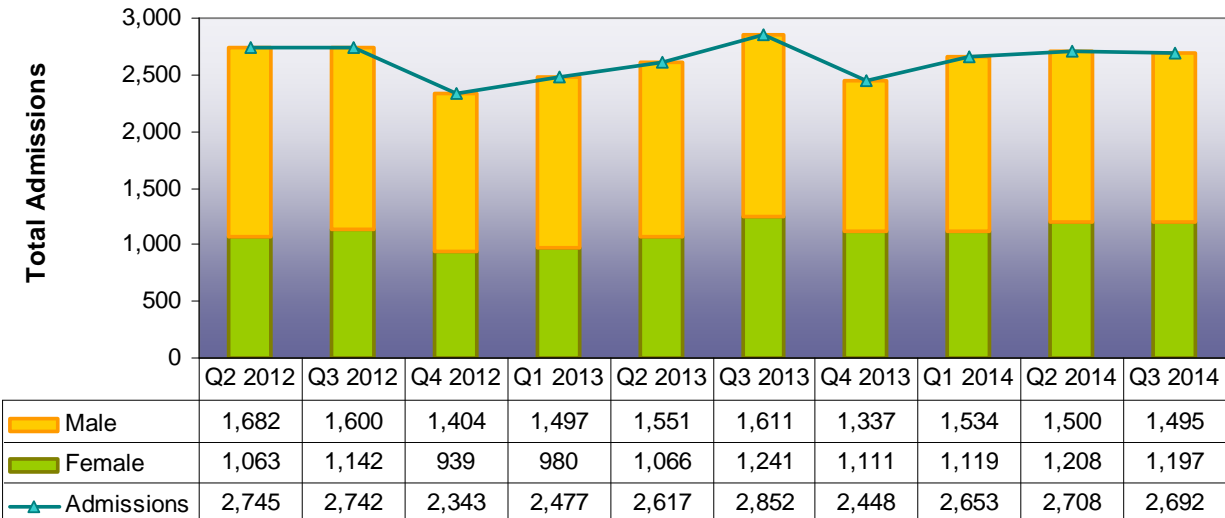
Over the past ten quarters, Graph 1.3, the difference in the MA DOC population **admissions** and **releases** resulted in an average decrease of 101 inmates per quarter with admissions averaging 2,628 inmates per quarter and releases averaging 2,729. Both admissions and releases saw overall positive trends during the ten-quarter period, but with releases rising at a faster rate, 7.5% per quarter, than did admissions, at 1.5% per quarter.

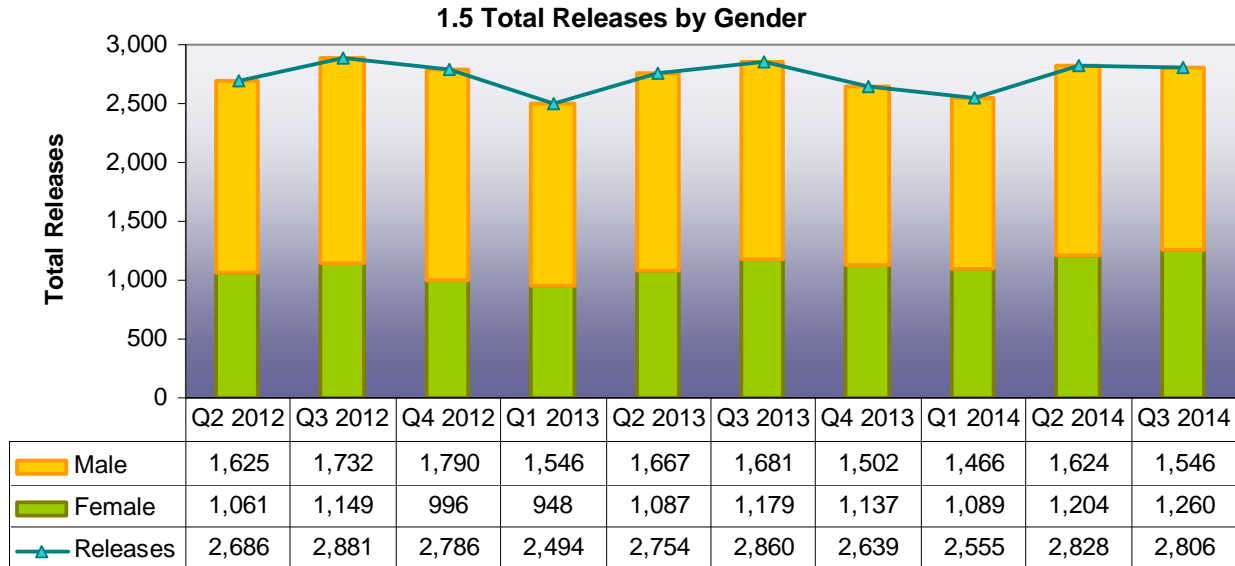
**1.3 Overall Admissions and Releases**



Throughout the trend period males made up the majority of the total admission, on Graph 1.4, and release, see Graph 1.5 on next page, population with 57.9% of admissions and 59.3% of releases; over the trend period, female inmates saw a gradual increase in the percent of both admissions and releases. For male inmates, the difference between admissions and releases averaged a decrease of 97 inmates per quarter; for female inmates this resulted in an average decrease of 4 inmates each quarter throughout the period.

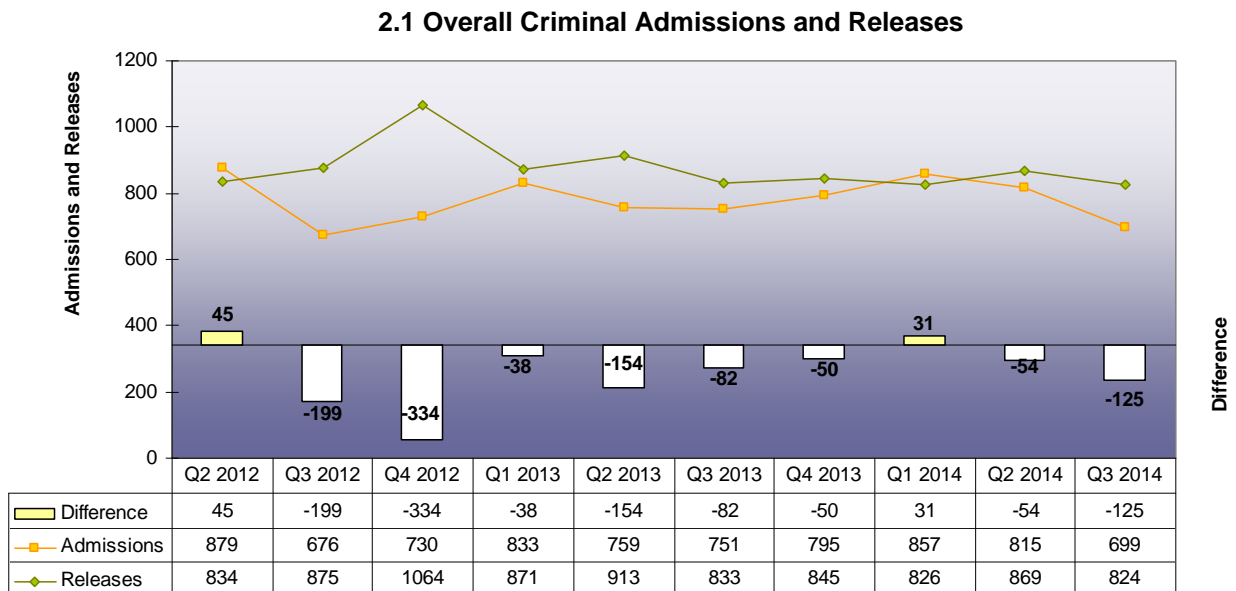
**1.4 Total Admissions by Gender**





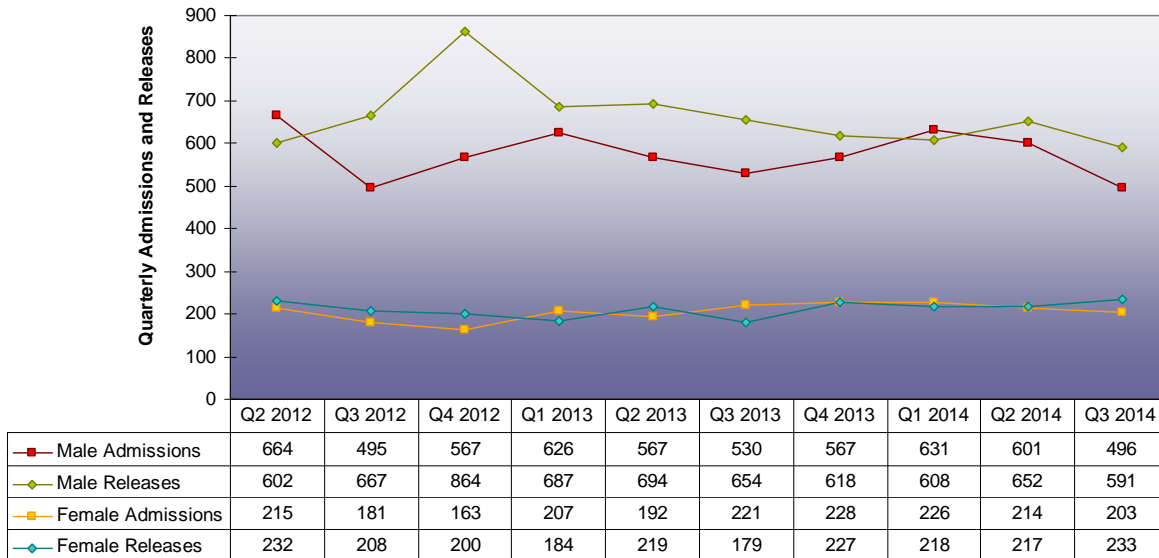
## CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions and releases for the ten-quarter trend period from the second quarter of 2012 through the third quarter of 2014 are displayed in Graph 2.1, below. Over the trend period, both criminal admissions and releases saw negative trends, with criminal releases having the stronger downward slope. There was some seasonality present in the trend, with first quarters showing increase admissions and decreased releases each year. On average, each quarter saw 779 admissions and 875 releases; based on the difference between admissions and releases, there was a result, an average decrease of 96 criminally sentenced inmates each quarter. The third quarter of 2014 saw the second sharpest drop in admissions between two quarters, with a decrease of 14.2% from the second quarter of 2014; the greatest drop in admissions was the third quarter of 2012 with a 23.1% decrease.



Graph 2.2, below, shows criminal sentenced jurisdiction admissions and releases by sex. During the ten-quarter trend period, male criminally sentenced inmates followed trends very similar to the overall criminally sentenced population. This was expected as male inmates comprised 73.7% of criminal admissions and 75.8% of criminal releases. Over the trend period, female criminally sentenced admissions saw slight positive trends for both admissions and releases, with admissions climbing at a slightly steeper rate.

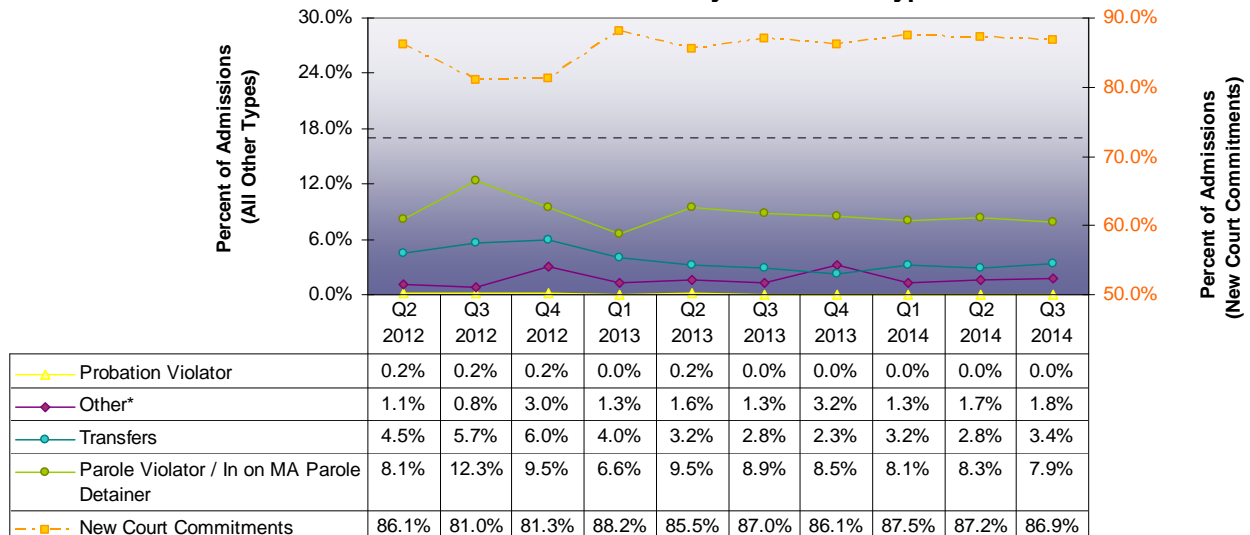
## 2.2 Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



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 accounted for 85.7% of male criminal admissions. The next two most common types of male admissions, '**Parole** Violator/In on MA Parole Detainer' and 'Transfers', averaged 8.8% and 3.8%, respectively, of admissions during the trend period.

Over the trend period, new court commitments saw a steady, upward trend, countered by the other release categories. Two of the other release categories, 'Transfers' and '**Probation** Violators', saw strong rate decreases of the trend period.

## 2.3 Male Criminal Admissions by Admission Type

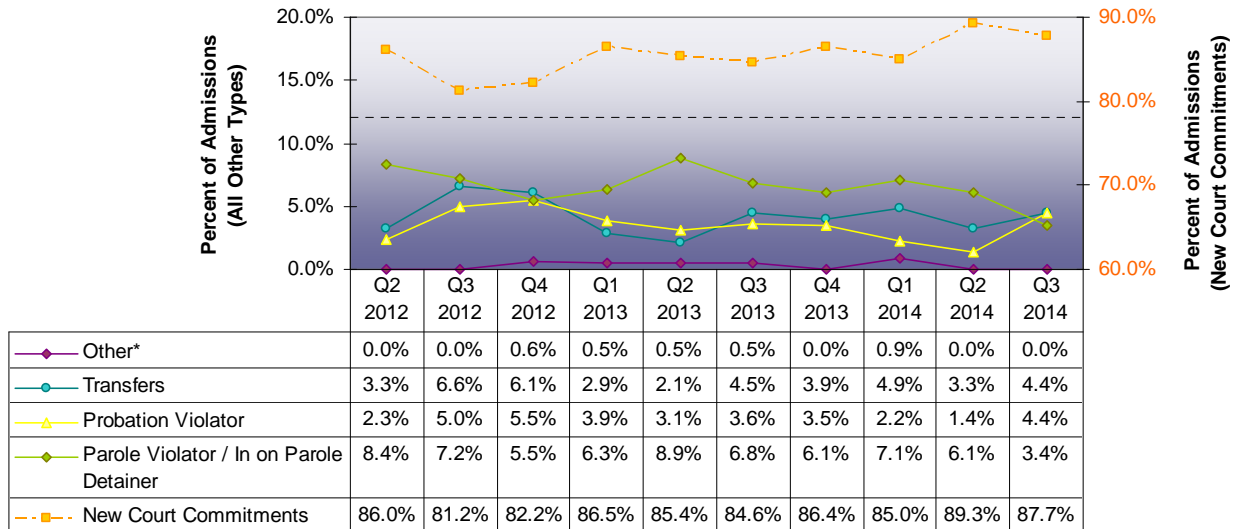




\*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Female criminally sentenced admissions, as seen in Graph 2.4, were predominately, 'New Court Commitments' over the trend period, with an average of 85.4% of admissions per quarter; followed by 'Parole Violator/In on Parole Detainer' and 'Transfers', with averages of 6.6% and 4.2%, respectively. Female admissions saw a greater rate increase in new court commitments than males, with 'Parole Violators/In on Parole Detainer' showing the strongest decline over the trend period.

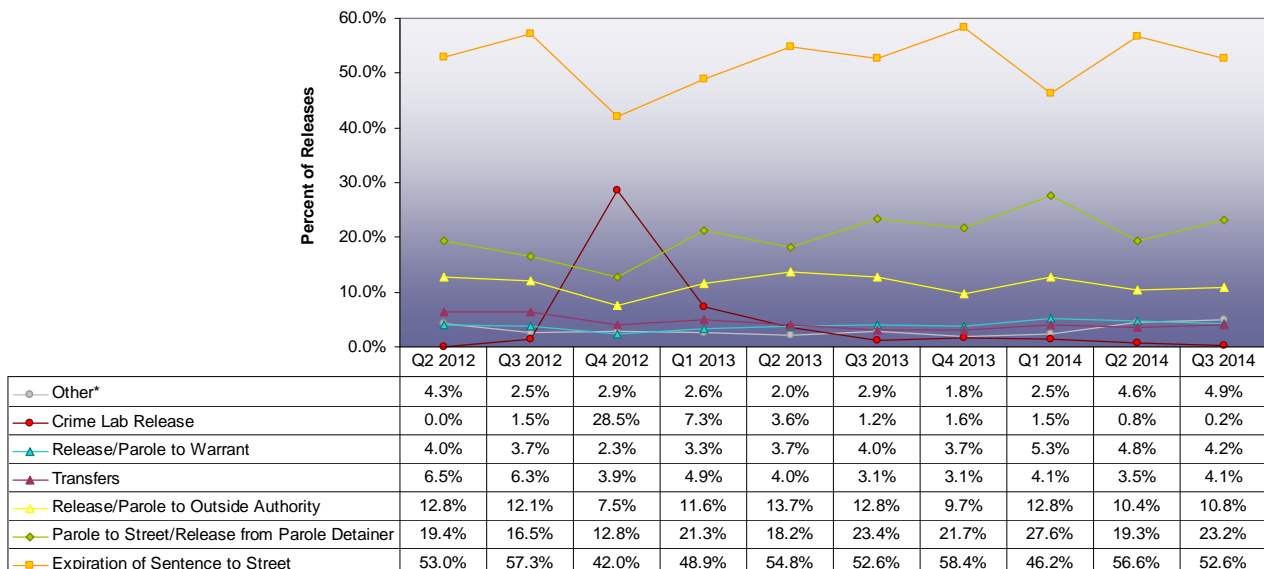
#### 2.4 Female Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



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

Graph 2.5 shows male criminal releases by release type. 'Releases to the Street' due to **expiration of sentences** were the most common release type, constituting 52.2% of the male releases for the trend period; the second most common release type were 'Paroles to the Street/Release from Parole Detainer', with 20.3% of male criminal releases. Overall, releases to the street due to expiration of sentence remained steady throughout the trend period. The release types which saw fluctuation include 'Parole to Street/Release from Parole Detainer' and 'Release/Parole to Warrant', which both saw definite upward trends, and 'Transfers', which saw a strong, downward trend.

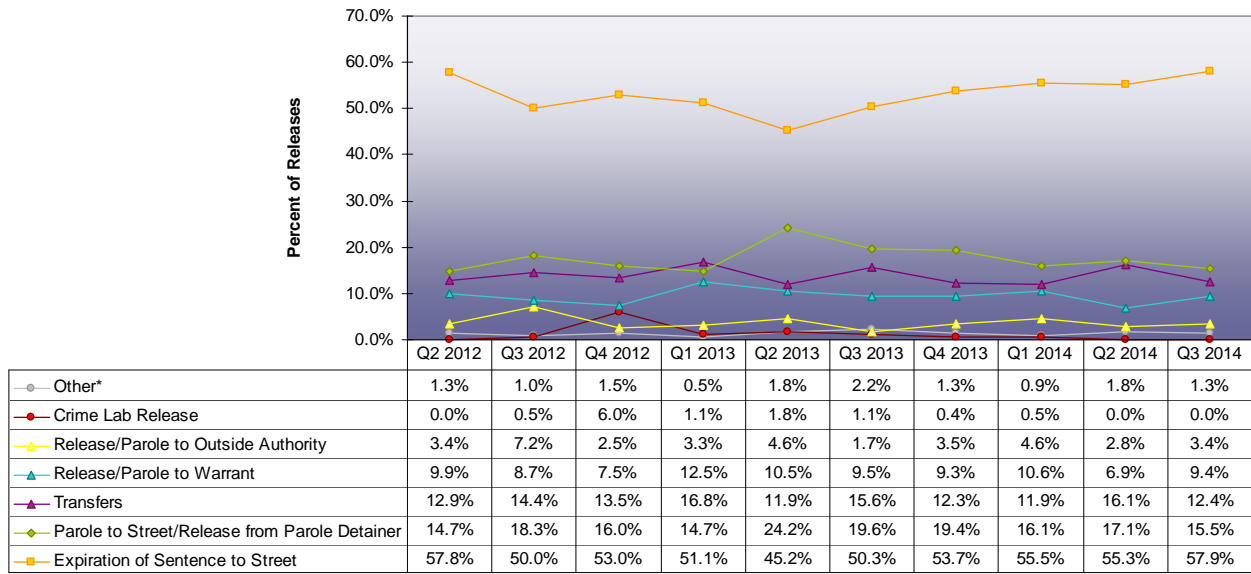
#### 2.5 Male Criminal Releases by Release Type



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

As seen in Graph 2.6, female criminally sentenced releases were most commonly due to 'Expiration of Sentence to the Street', averaging 53.1% each quarter. The next two most common release types were 'Paroles to Street/Releases from Parole Detainer', averaging 17.5%, and 'Transfers', averaging 13.7%. Overall, female release types saw little rate change over the trend period, although there was a weak positive trend of 'Expiration of Sentence to the Street' and a weak negative slope for 'Release/Parole to Outside Authority'.

**2.6 Female Criminal Releases by Release Type**



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

On average Suffolk County accounted for 20.0% of the criminal new court commitments, followed by Essex (13.3%), Bristol (13.0%), Worcester (12.1%), and Middlesex (12.1%). Table 2.7 displays additional information pertaining to criminally sentenced new court commitments by sentencing county.

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

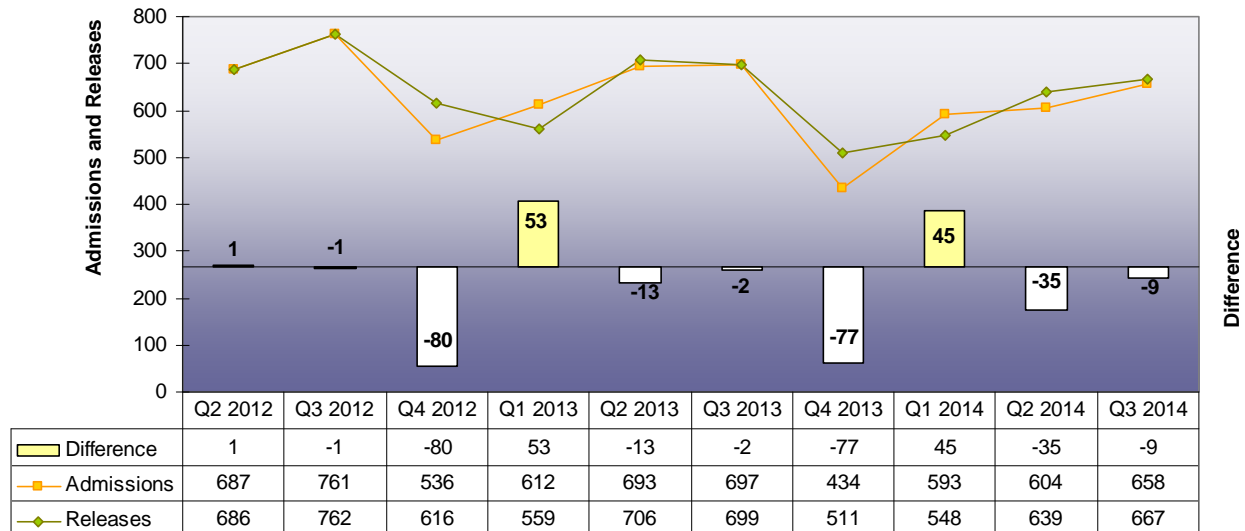
|            | Q2 2012 | Q3 2012 | Q4 2012 | Q1 2013 | Q2 2013 | Q3 2013 | Q4 2013 | Q1 2014 | Q2 2014 | Q3 2014 | Total |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Suffolk    | 119     | 76      | 83      | 95      | 119     | 85      | 111     | 114     | 119     | 77      | 998   |
| Essex      | 92      | 52      | 52      | 75      | 60      | 56      | 87      | 60      | 74      | 54      | 662   |
| Bristol    | 89      | 56      | 73      | 66      | 57      | 66      | 49      | 61      | 71      | 59      | 647   |
| Worcester  | 66      | 39      | 78      | 65      | 71      | 59      | 63      | 56      | 56      | 50      | 603   |
| Middlesex  | 59      | 53      | 53      | 62      | 57      | 61      | 68      | 63      | 70      | 56      | 602   |
| Hampden    | 61      | 55      | 67      | 63      | 49      | 47      | 63      | 63      | 47      | 43      | 558   |
| Plymouth   | 21      | 15      | 19      | 60      | 18      | 18      | 20      | 66      | 41      | 25      | 303   |
| Norfolk    | 24      | 11      | 15      | 30      | 23      | 28      | 20      | 25      | 12      | 36      | 224   |
| Barnstable | 5       | 17      | 9       | 17      | 13      | 21      | 11      | 10      | 13      | 22      | 138   |
| Berkshire  | 7       | 9       | 9       | 17      | 9       | 15      | 6       | 14      | 3       | 15      | 104   |
| Franklin   | 16      | 6       | 2       | 11      | 6       | 8       | 3       | 13      | 8       | 3       | 76    |
| Hampshire  | 5       | 7       | 9       | 5       | 5       | 6       | 1       | 8       | 5       | 4       | 55    |
| Dukes      | 2       | 0       | 4       | 1       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 11    |
| Nantucket  | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 2       | 0       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 5     |
|            | 566     | 396     | 473     | 567     | 489     | 473     | 502     | 554     | 522     | 444     | 4,986 |

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

## CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

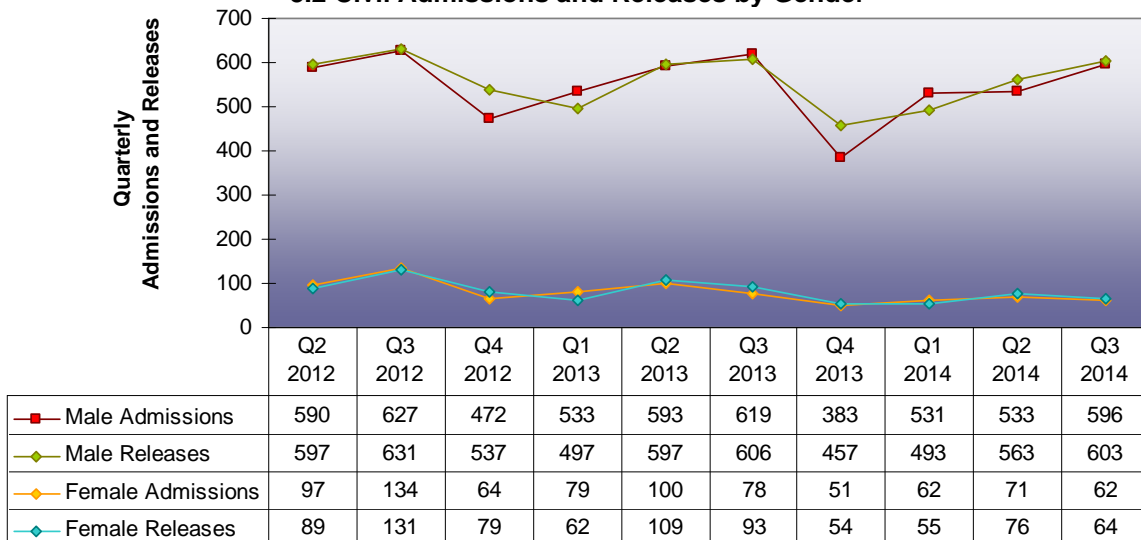
Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates had similar patterns throughout the trend period, as seen in Graph 3.1.. Both admissions and releases saw seasonal trends with gradual rises over each year with drops during the fourth quarter. Overall, there was a negative trend seen in both civil admissions and releases with a resulting cumulative decrease by 118 inmates due to the difference between admissions and releases over the trend period.

**3.1 Overall Civil Admissions and Releases by Quarter**



Over the past ten quarters, females made up 12.6% of civil admissions and 12.5% 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 14 civil commitments for females and by 104 civil commitments for males.

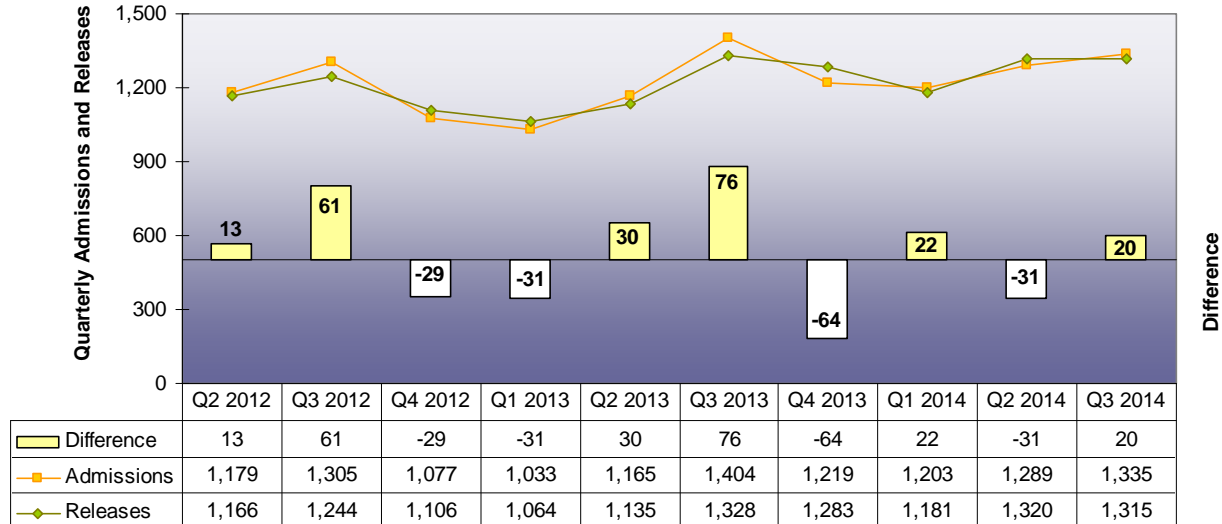
**3.2 Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender**



## 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 1,221 detainees per quarter and releases averaged 1,214; there was a cumulative increase of 67 pre-trial detainees. While there were seasonal patterns during the trend period, most notably a spike in both pre-trial admissions and releases during each third quarter, 2014 did not follow this pattern, and actually saw a slight decrease in releases compared to the second quarter of 2014.

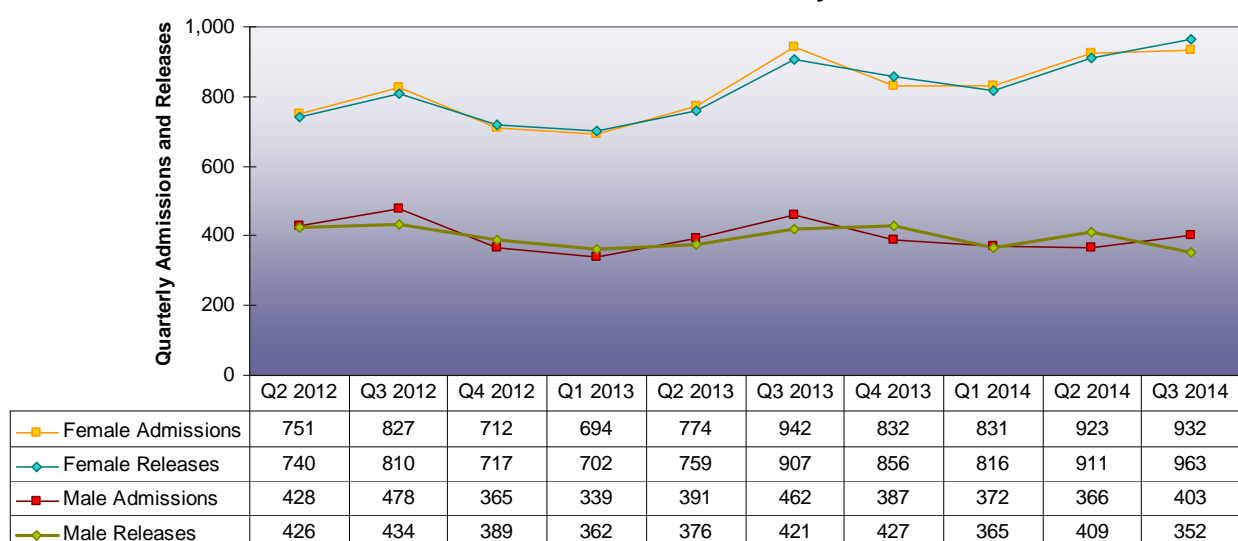
**4.1 Overall Pre-Trial Admissions and Releases by Quarter**



As seen in Graph 4.2, female pre-trial detainees had more variable pre-trial trends than male detainees. The female pre-trial detainees had strong positive trends for both admissions and releases. Male pre-trial detainees, in contrast, saw overall negative trends in both admissions and releases. Overall, females had a cumulative increase of 37 detainees and males saw an increase of 30.

The second and third quarters of 2013 saw increases for all four trend lines, male and females, for both admissions and releases. The second and third quarters of 2014 differed slightly from years earlier in the trend period, specifically, among male detainees whom saw a decrease in admissions during the second quarter of 2014 and a drop in releases during the third quarter of 2014, in comparison to their previous trend periods.

**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, with 54.4% of admissions, and Middlesex, with 30.9%. Over the trend period, Suffolk stayed steady while Middlesex saw a slight upward trend. Most of the other male pre-trial jurisdictions saw fairly steady rates over the trend period.

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

|              | Q2<br>2012 | Q3<br>2012 | Q4<br>2012 | Q1<br>2013 | Q2<br>2013 | Q3<br>2013 | Q4<br>2013 | Q1<br>2014 | Q2<br>2014 | Q3<br>2014 | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Suffolk      | 236        | 266        | 169        | 196        | 230        | 249        | 193        | 217        | 197        | 217        | 2,170 |
| Middlesex    | 124        | 118        | 141        | 104        | 101        | 150        | 130        | 106        | 130        | 130        | 1,234 |
| Out-of-State | 22         | 20         | 25         | 16         | 19         | 20         | 18         | 18         | 14         | 13         | 185   |
| Worcester    | 19         | 17         | 9          | 9          | 11         | 9          | 17         | 13         | 12         | 11         | 127   |
| Federal      | 15         | 40         | 10         | 5          | 6          | 9          | 5          | 6          | 0          | 9          | 105   |
| Plymouth     | 9          | 5          | 6          | 4          | 9          | 13         | 14         | 7          | 3          | 10         | 80    |
| Bristol      | 1          | 5          | 1          | 2          | 8          | 4          | 2          | 1          | 2          | 6          | 32    |
| Norfolk      | 1          | 3          | 0          | 0          | 3          | 3          | 5          | 1          | 4          | 3          | 23    |
| Essex        | 1          | 1          | 3          | 3          | 3          | 2          | 2          | 2          | 1          | 3          | 21    |
| Barnstable   | 0          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 3          | 0          | 0          | 3          | 1          | 9     |
| Hampden      | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 3     |
| Berkshire    | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0     |
| Mass Parole  | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 2     |
| Franklin     | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0     |
| Total        | 428        | 478        | 365        | 339        | 391        | 462        | 387        | 372        | 366        | 403        | 3,991 |

For the trend period, Table 4.4, 99.1% of female pre-trials came from the counties of Essex, Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk, or Plymouth; specifically, 27.9% come from Essex, 23.0% from Worcester, 21.5% from Middlesex, 13.6% from Norfolk, and 13.3% from Plymouth. Over the trend period, Essex saw a slight positive trend in its rate of female pre-trial admissions to the MA DOC. Norfolk saw a negative trend over the ten-quarter period, and was slightly more variable than Essex. Other counties tended to be fairly steady over the trend period; although Worcester did see a notable dip in its female admission rate during the third quarter of 2014, with a rate of 20.1% as opposed to the trend average of 23.0%.

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

|              | Q2<br>2012 | Q3<br>2012 | Q4<br>2012 | Q1<br>2013 | Q2<br>2013 | Q3<br>2013 | Q4<br>2013 | Q1<br>2014 | Q2<br>2014 | Q3<br>2014 | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|
| Essex        | 204        | 236        | 201        | 180        | 209        | 245        | 244        | 249        | 259        | 263        | 2,290 |
| Worcester    | 169        | 193        | 161        | 155        | 189        | 216        | 196        | 201        | 221        | 187        | 1,888 |
| Middlesex    | 167        | 152        | 143        | 161        | 173        | 219        | 184        | 151        | 201        | 217        | 1,768 |
| Norfolk      | 109        | 123        | 110        | 90         | 99         | 124        | 97         | 127        | 114        | 118        | 1,111 |
| Plymouth     | 98         | 118        | 94         | 104        | 97         | 127        | 105        | 93         | 117        | 137        | 1,090 |
| Bristol      | 0          | 2          | 1          | 2          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 1          | 2          | 11    |
| Suffolk      | 1          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 1          | 2          | 5          | 4          | 16    |
| Federal      | 1          | 1          | 1          | 1          | 2          | 2          | 1          | 3          | 3          | 4          | 19    |
| Out-of-State | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          | 5          | 2          | 2          | 1          | 0          | 12    |
| Barnstable   | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 3     |
| Hampden      | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 1          | 0          | 2          | 0          | 0          | 4     |
| Mass Parole  | 1          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 4     |
| Berkshire    | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0     |
| Franklin     | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 0          | 2     |
| Total        | 751        | 827        | 712        | 694        | 774        | 942        | 832        | 831        | 923        | 932        | 8,218 |

## **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 October 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.