

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

Fourth Quarter 2014





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trend Period: Third Quarter 2012 through Fourth Quarter 2014

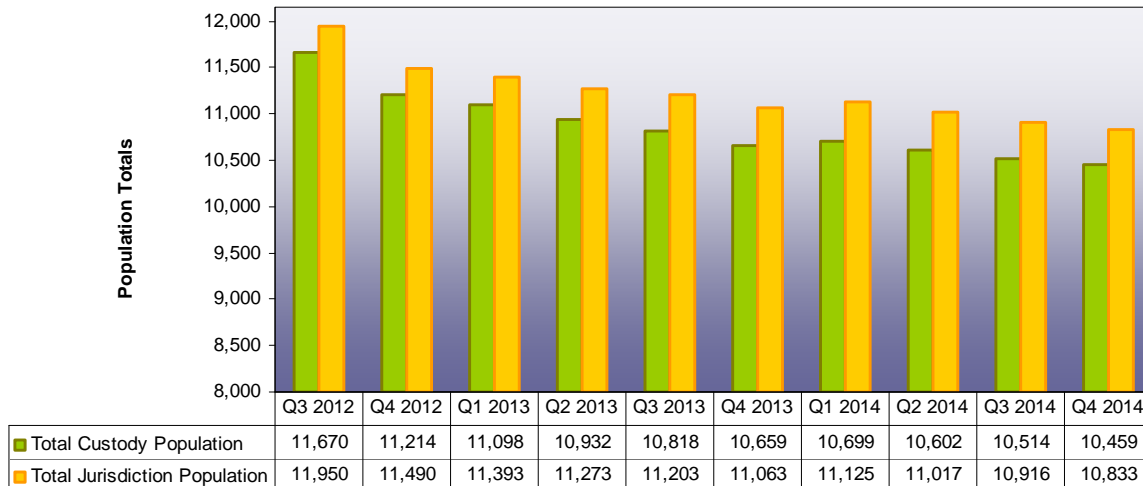
- From the population trend height in the third quarter of 2012, there were eight quarters of decrease with cumulative declines of 10.4% (1,211) in the **custody population** and 9.3% (1,116) in the **jurisdiction population**.
- From the height of the total jurisdiction population in the third quarter of 2012, **criminally sentenced** jurisdiction inmates were down by 8.5% and **civil commitments** were down by 19.8% during the fourth quarter of 2014.
- In the fourth quarter of 2014, active **pre-trial detainees** were at their lowest population of the trend period at 658, down 11.7% from their height in the third quarter of 2012 when they were at 745.
- During the ten-quarter trend period, starting in the third quarter of 2012, the **quarterly admissions** averaged 2,596 inmates and the average **quarterly releases** were 2,710 inmates, with the cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulting in a decrease of 1,149 inmates.
- The overall **difference between admissions and releases** over the trend period resulted in **female** inmates decreasing by 77, while **male** inmates saw a decrease of 1,072 inmates.
- Based on the difference between admissions and releases, **criminally sentenced inmates** saw a cumulative decrease of 1,008 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 difference decrease of 98 inmates, and **female criminally sentenced** inmates had an average decrease of 3 inmates.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference decrease of 86 inmates during the past ten quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 19 inmates over that same period.
- The fourth quarter of 2014 saw a difference increase between civil admissions and releases by 14 inmates. This broke from the normal trend of seeing decreased civil admissions and releases at the end of the year, averaging a difference decrease of 79 commitments from 2011 through 2013.
- **Pre-trial detainees** saw increased numbers in both admissions and releases during the trend period until the fourth quarter of 2014, when there was a notable drop in both trends. This resulted in a cumulative decrease of 67 pre-trial detainees.
- While **male pre-trial detainees** saw little change, **Female pre-trial detainees** in the fourth quarter of 2014 saw a sharp decline in admissions from the previous quarter as female detainees from Worcester County shifted from the MA DOC to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center.

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CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

Over the ten-quarter trend period from the third quarter of 2012 through the fourth quarter of 2014, Graph 1.1, there was a downward trend resulting in a cumulative decrease of 1,211 (10.4%) from the **MA DOC custody population*** and 1,116 (9.3%) from the **jurisdiction population**. This corresponded to a quarterly average loss of 1.1% 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.

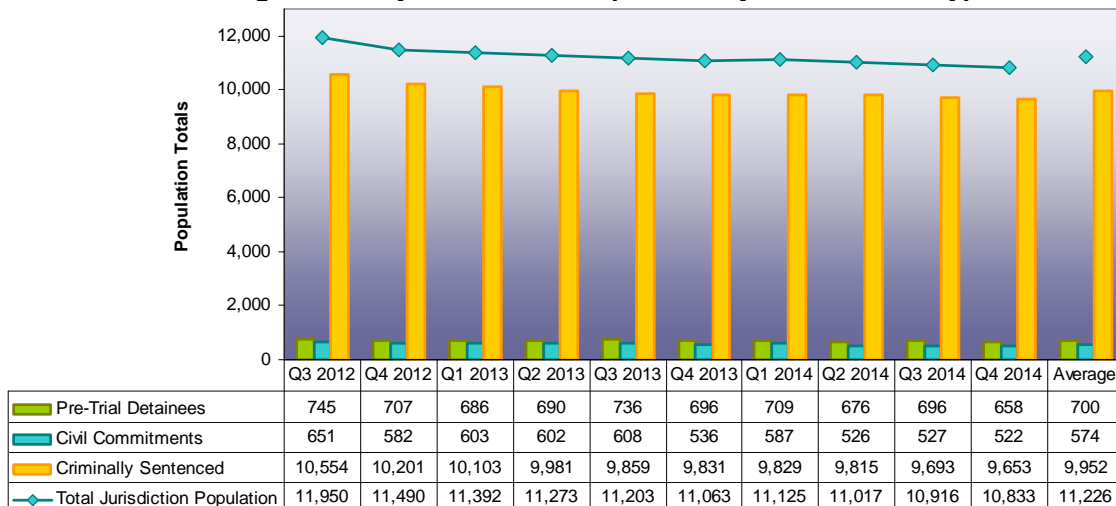
1.1 Average* Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population



*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 over the trend period saw a ninth straight quarter of decline with a total decrease in population of 901 (8.5%) inmates. For the same period, **Civil commitments** had a more variable trend, but with an overall greater rate of decrease resulting in a decline of 129 (19.8%) commitments. **Pre-trial detainees** saw a decrease over the trend period by 87 (11.7%) detainees, and were at their lowest count for the trend period.

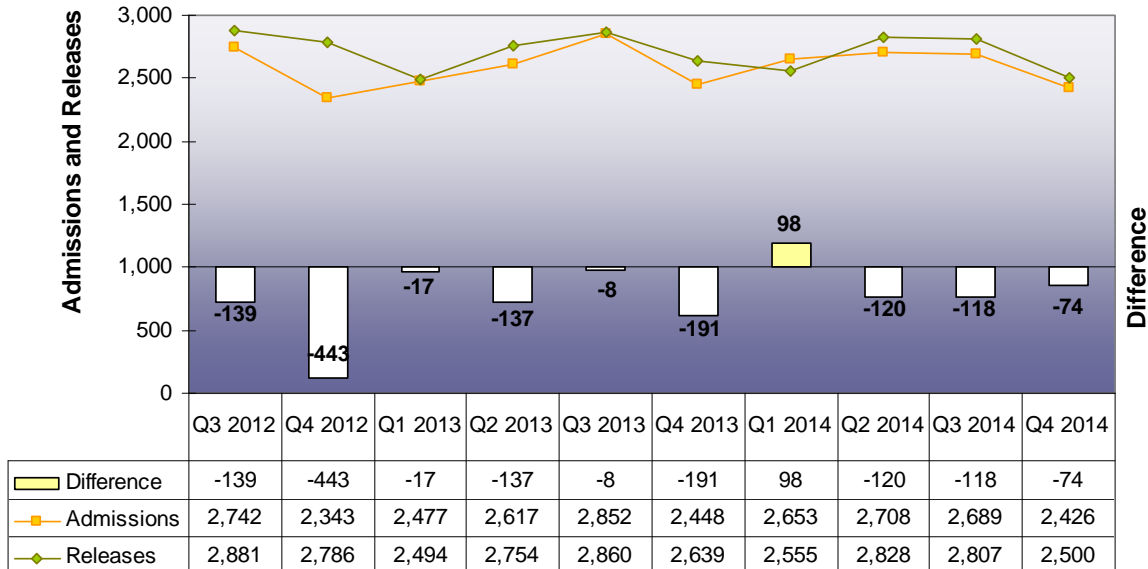
1.2 Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



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

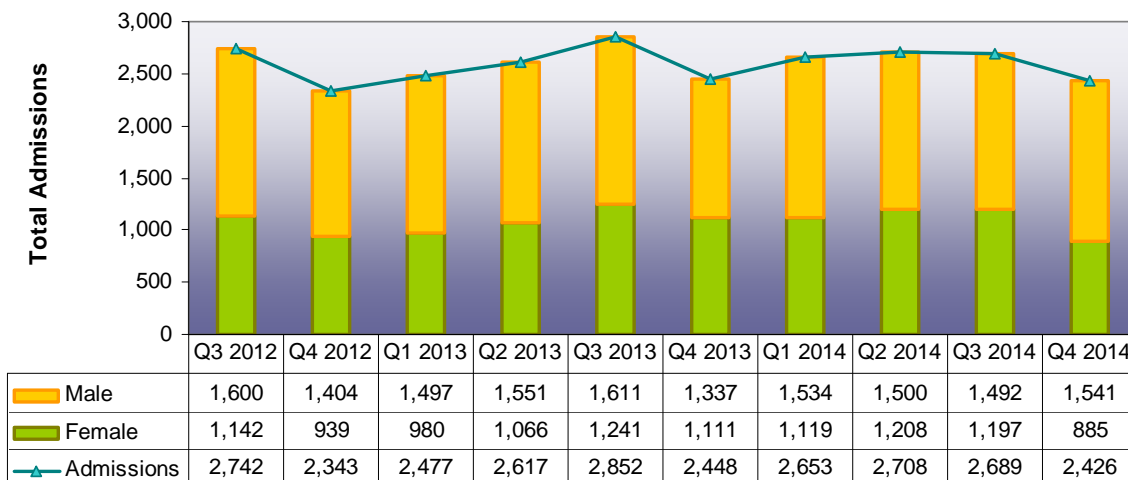
Over the past ten quarters (Graph 1.3), the difference between the MA DOC **admissions** and **releases** resulted in an average difference decrease of 115 inmates per quarter with admissions averaging 2,596 inmates per quarter and releases averaging 2,710. There is strong seasonality present in the trend, with both admissions and releases tending to rise over each year before seeing a decrease each fourth quarter. Over the trend period, total releases saw a slight negative trend, averaging a decrease of 0.9% each quarter, whereas admissions saw little overall change, with an average decrease of only 0.4% per quarter.

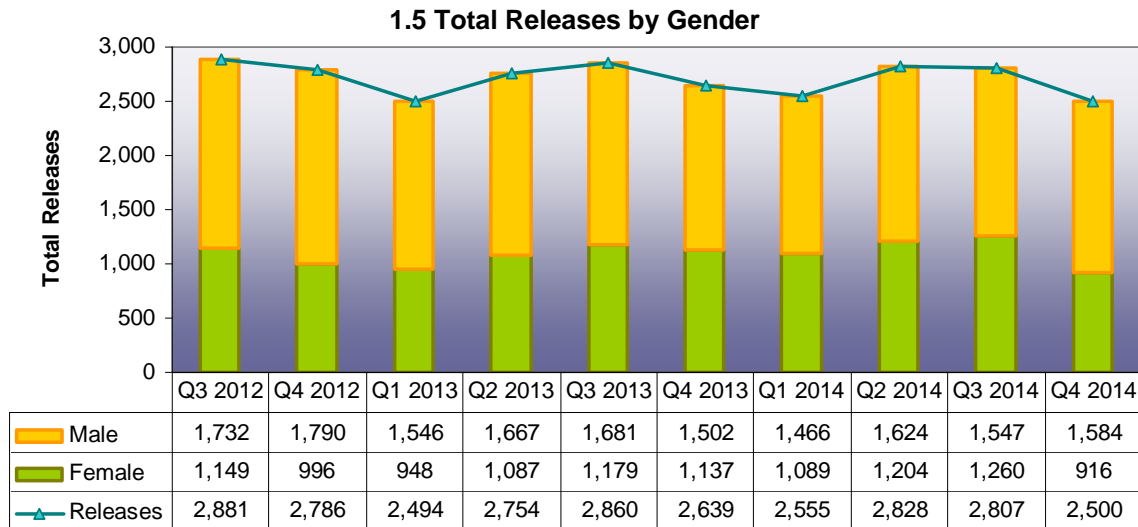
1.3 Overall Admissions and Releases



Throughout the trend period males accounted for 58.1% of the total admission (Graph 1.4) and 59.5% of total releases (Graph 1.5 on next page). Over most of the trend period female inmates saw a gradual increase in the percent of both admissions and releases; however, in the fourth quarter of 2014 female admissions decreased by 26.1% and releases decreased by 27.3%. For male inmates, the difference between admissions and releases averaged a decrease of 107 inmates per quarter; for female inmates the difference resulted in an average decrease of 8 inmates each quarter throughout the period.

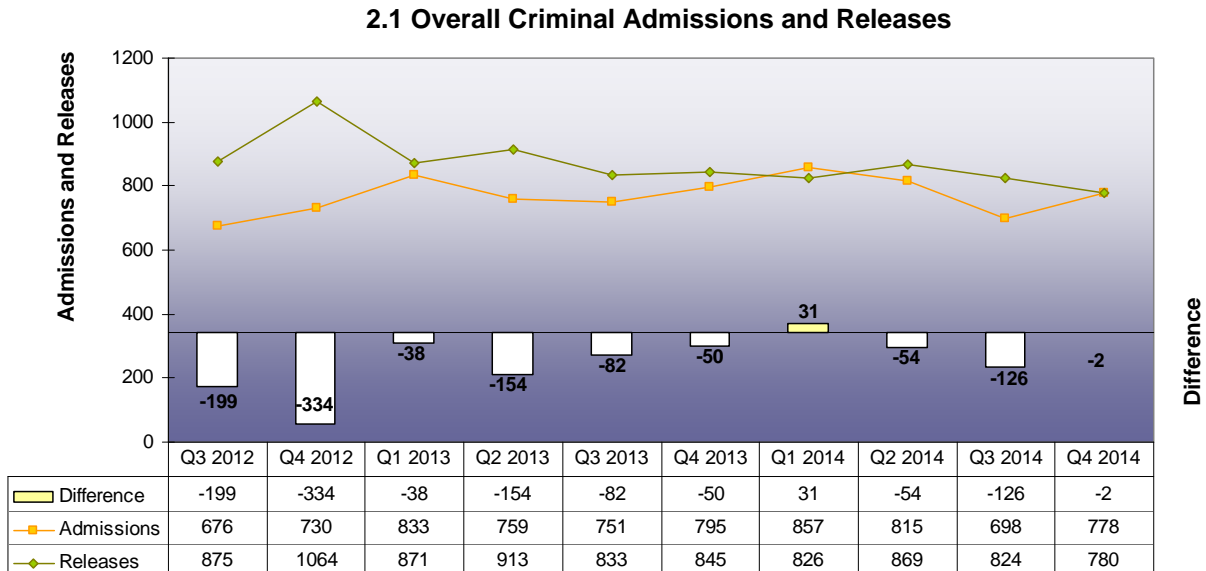
1.4 Total Admissions by Gender





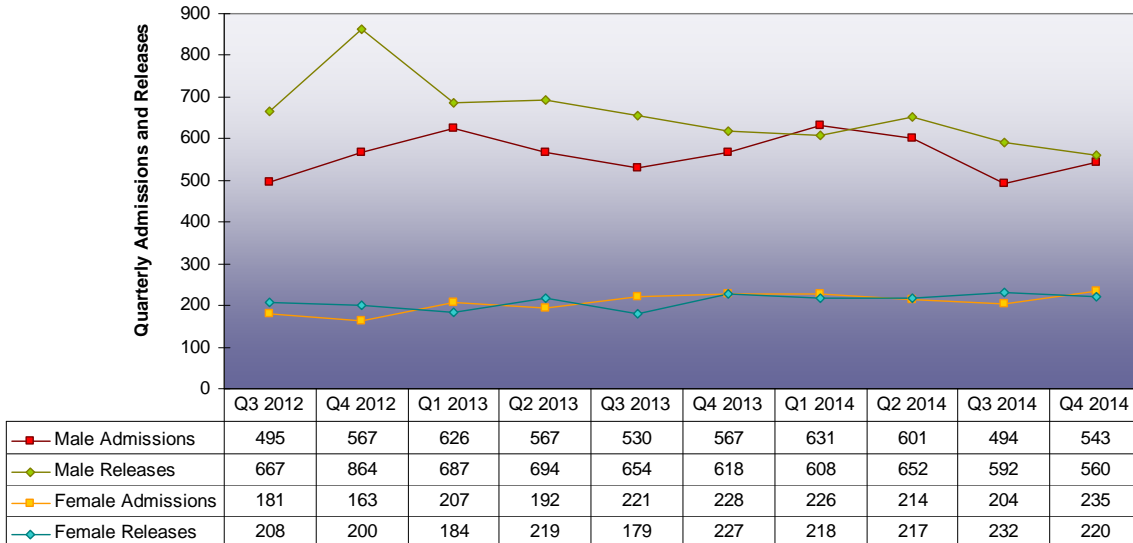
CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Criminal admissions and releases for the ten-quarter trend period from the third quarter of 2012 through the fourth quarter of 2014 are displayed in Graph 2.1, below. Over the trend period, criminal admissions and releases saw opposite trends, with criminal admissions having a slight upward trend, whereas criminal admissions displayed a stronger, negative trend. On average, each quarter saw 769 admissions and 870 releases. Based on the difference between admissions and releases, there resulted an average decrease of 101 criminally sentenced inmates each quarter. When compared to the third quarter of 2014, the fourth quarter saw an 11.5% increase of admissions and a 5.3% decrease in releases; this led to the smallest difference decrease over the trend period with a decrease of 2 inmates.



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 73.1% of criminal admissions and 75.8% of criminal releases. Over the trend period, female criminally sentenced admissions and releases both saw slight positive trends with admissions climbing at a slightly steeper rate.

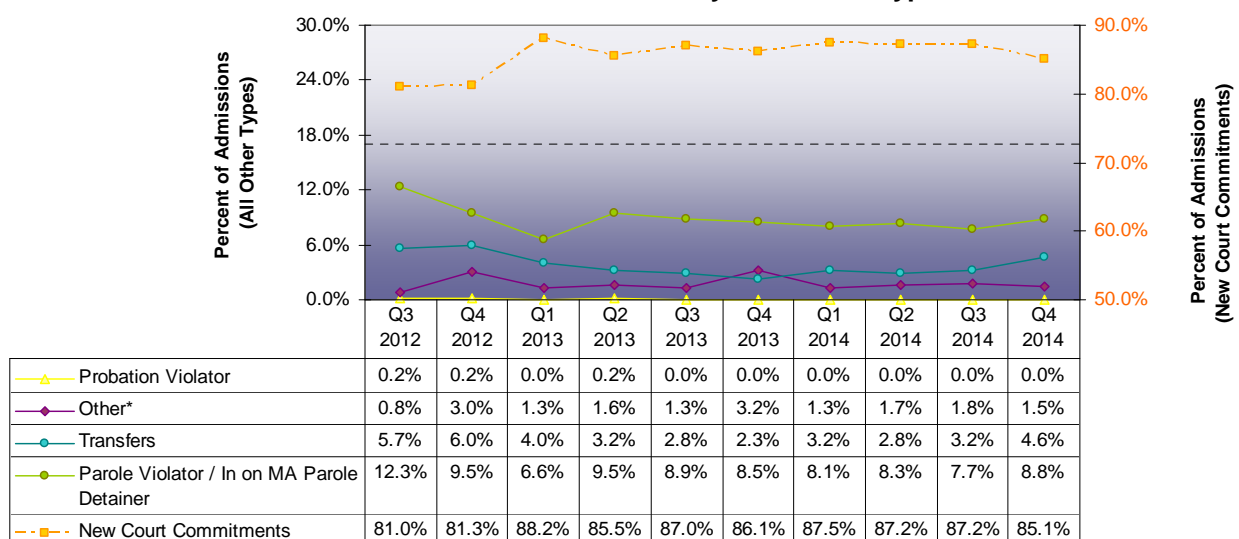
2.2 Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



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 85.6% of male criminal admissions. The next two most common types of male admissions, '**Parole** Violator/ Detainer' and 'Transfers', averaged 8.8% and 3.8%, respectively, of admissions during the trend period.

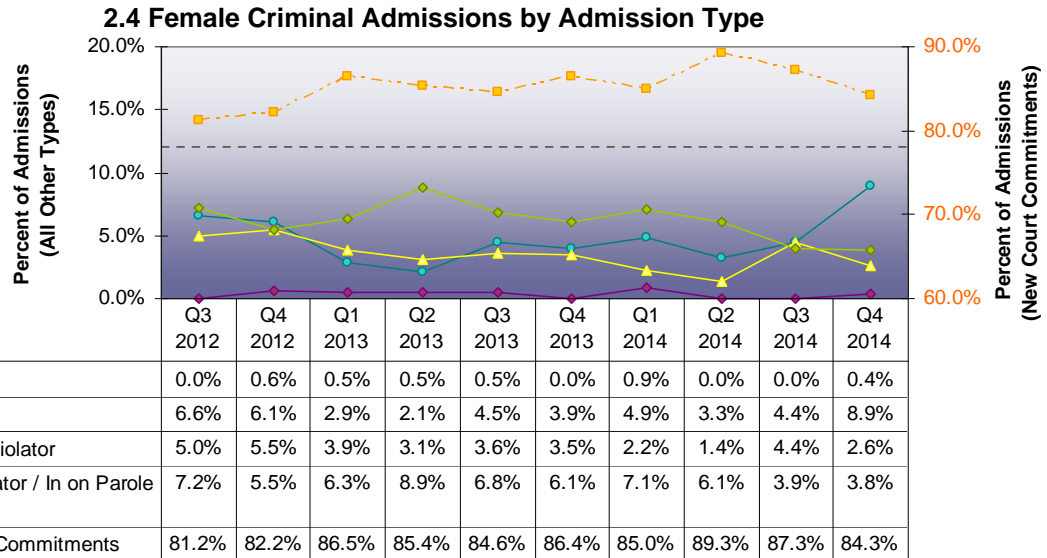
Over the trend period, new court commitments saw a steady, upward trend, countered by the other release categories. Two of the other release categories, 'Transfers' and '**Probation** Violators', saw strong rate decreases over the trend period.

2.3 Male Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



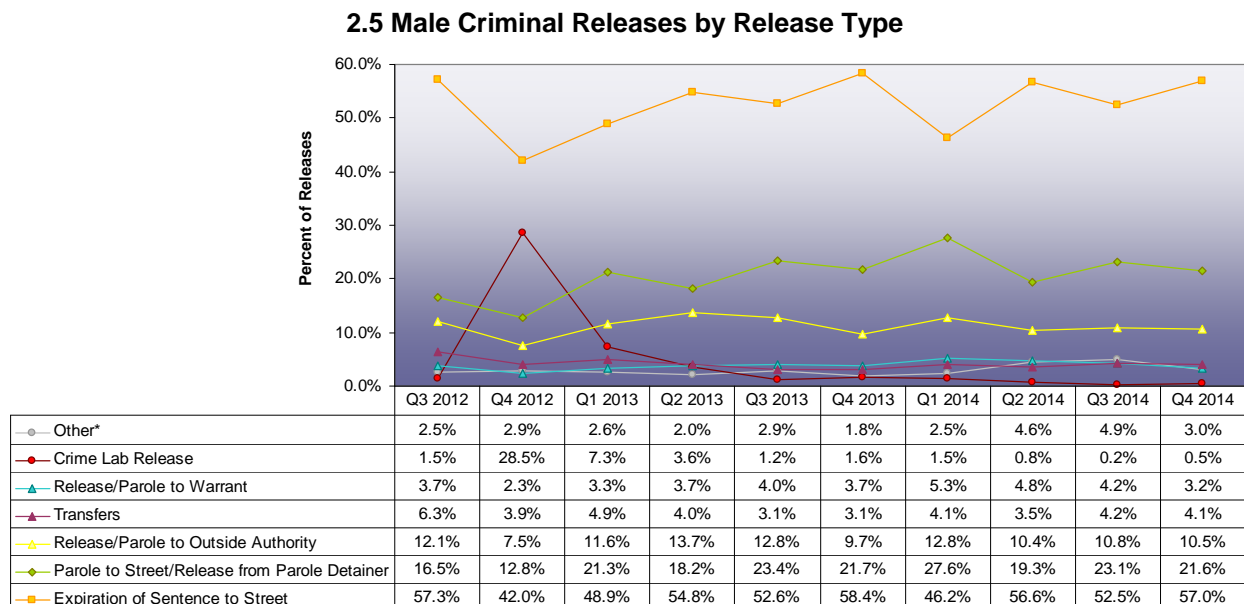
*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Female criminally sentenced admissions, as seen in Graph 2.4, were predominately, 'new court commitments' over the trend period, with an average of 85.2% of admissions per quarter; followed by 'parole violator/detainers' and 'transfers', with averages of 6.2% and 4.8%, 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. During the fourth quarter of 2014 female criminally sentenced transfer admissions saw a sharp increase, with 8.9% of admissions for the quarter – over double the average transfer rate. This was due to a one-time intake of county inmates from Barnstable County due to security upgrades at their House of Correction.



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

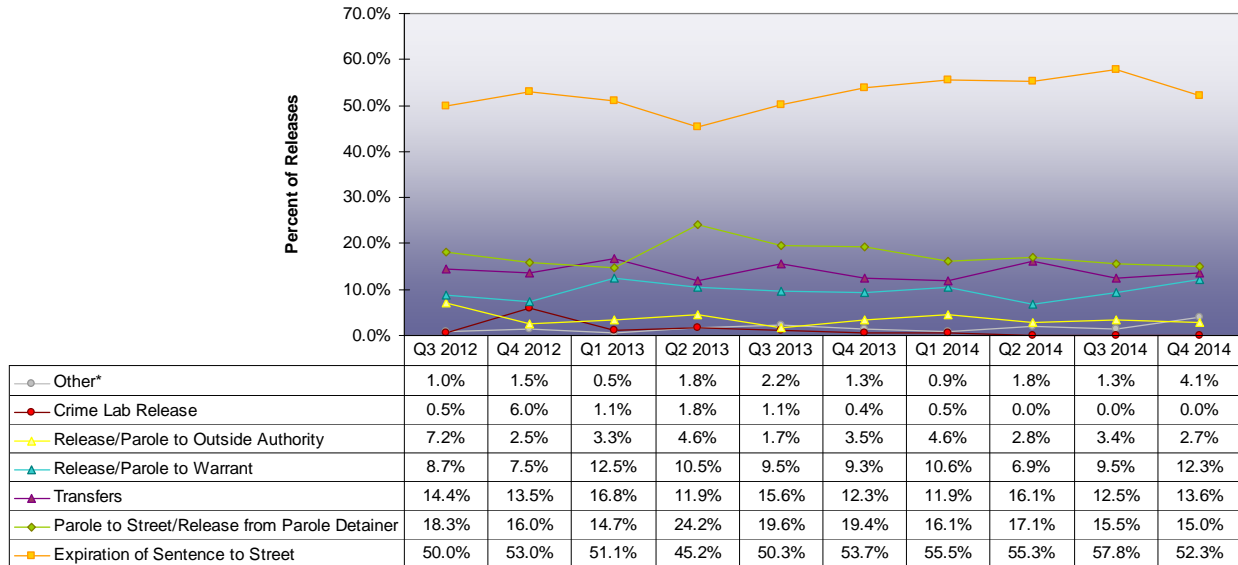
Graph 2.5 shows male criminal releases by release type. 'Releases to the Street' due to **expiration of sentences** was the most common release type, constituting 52.6% of the male releases for the trend period; the second most common release type was 'Parole to the Street/Release from Parole Detainer', with 20.6% of male criminal releases. Overall, releases to the street due to expiration of sentence saw a slight rate increase throughout the trend period, while paroles to the street and releases from parole detainers saw a slightly steeper rate climb over the period.



*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 52.5% each quarter. The next two most common release types were 'Parole to Street/Release from Parole Detainer', averaging 17.6%, and 'Transfers', averaging 13.8%. Overall, female release types saw little rate change over the trend period, although there was a 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).

Over the trend period, Suffolk County accounted for 20.1% of the criminal new court commitments, followed by Essex (12.9%), Bristol (12.7%), Middlesex (12.4%), and Worcester (12.0%). Table 2.7 displays additional information pertaining to criminally sentenced new court commitments by sentencing jurisdiction.

2.7 State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

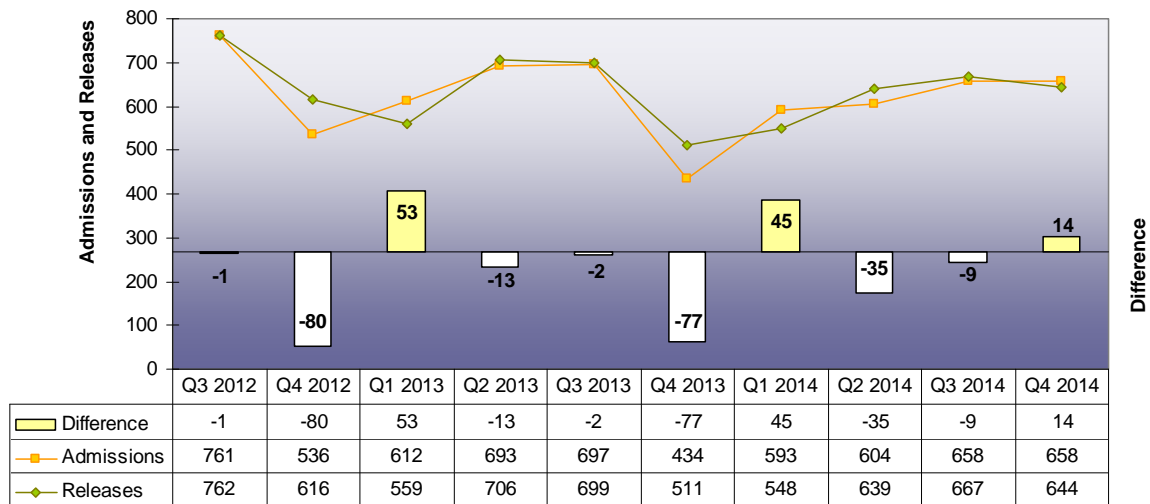
	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Total
Suffolk	76	83	95	119	85	111	114	119	77	103	982
Essex	52	52	75	60	56	87	60	74	55	59	630
Bristol	56	73	66	57	66	49	61	71	60	63	622
Worcester	53	53	62	57	61	68	63	70	56	66	609
Middlesex	39	78	65	71	59	63	56	56	50	52	589
Hampden	55	67	63	49	47	63	63	47	43	40	537
Plymouth	15	19	60	18	18	20	66	41	25	23	305
Norfolk	11	15	30	23	28	20	25	12	36	32	232
Barnstable	17	9	17	13	21	11	10	13	22	8	141
Berkshire	9	9	17	9	15	6	14	3	15	13	110
Franklin	6	2	11	6	8	3	13	8	3	5	65
Hampshire	7	9	5	5	6	1	8	5	4	9	59
Dukes	0	4	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	10
Nantucket	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	5
	396	473	567	489	473	502	554	522	446	474	4,896

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

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

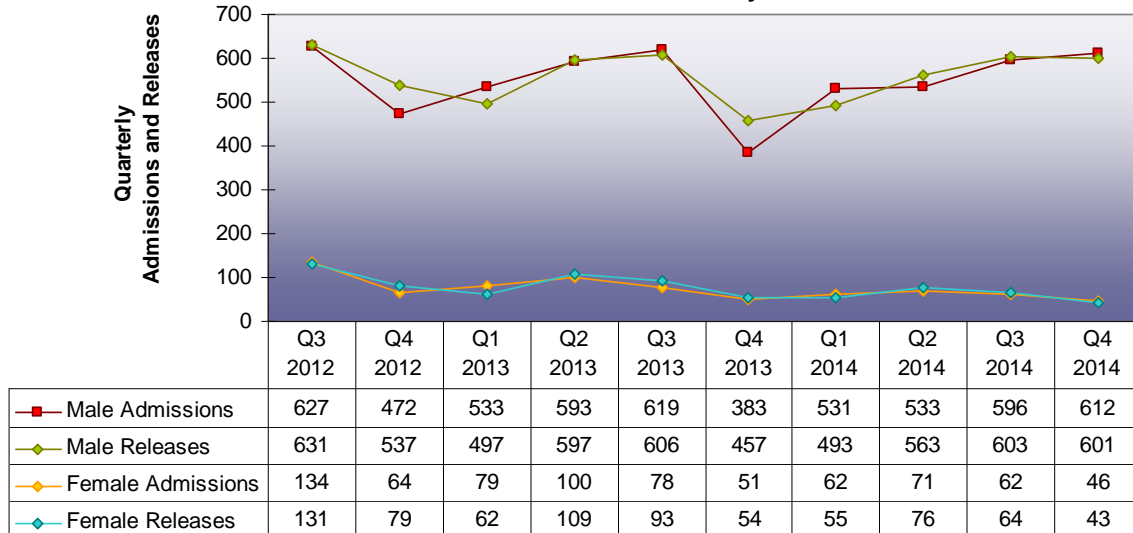
Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates had similar patterns throughout the trend period, as seen in Graph 3.1. Overall, there was a negative trend seen in both civil admissions and releases with a resulting cumulative difference decrease of 105 inmates due to the difference between admissions and releases over the trend period. Generally, civil admissions display a seasonal trend with a gradual rise over each year with a precipitous drop during the fourth quarter; however, the fourth quarter of 2014 did not see this sharp drop in civil admissions.

3.1 Overall Civil Admissions and Releases by Quarter



Over the past ten quarters, female inmates made up 11.9% of both civil admissions releases. Male civilly committed inmates saw little overall change in admissions and releases for the trend period outside of seasonal patterns. By contrast, female civil commitments saw strong negative trends in their admissions and releases for the trend period. Overall, there were difference decreases of 19 civil commitments for females and 86 civil commitments for males.

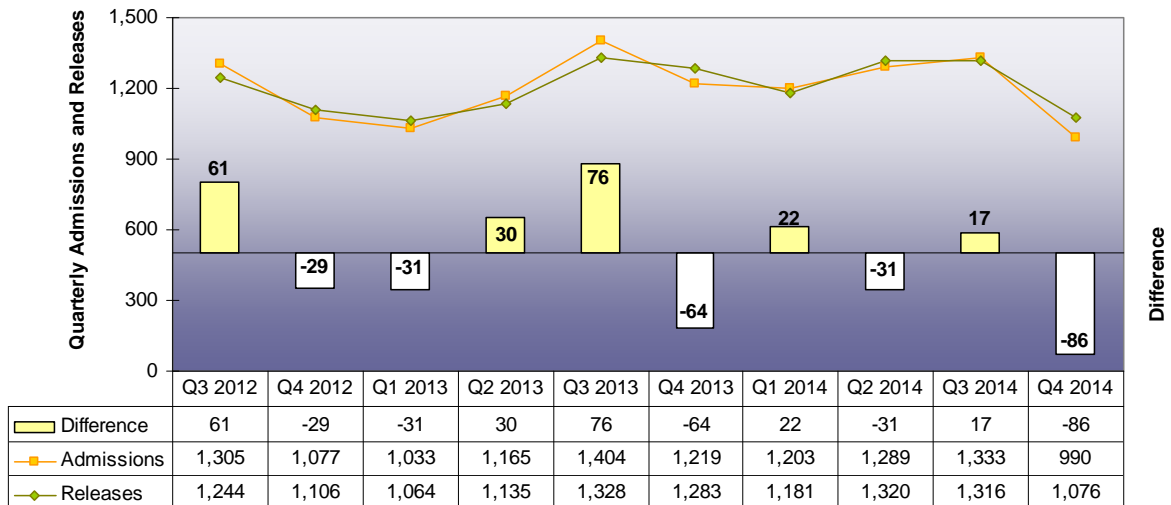
3.2 Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender



PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

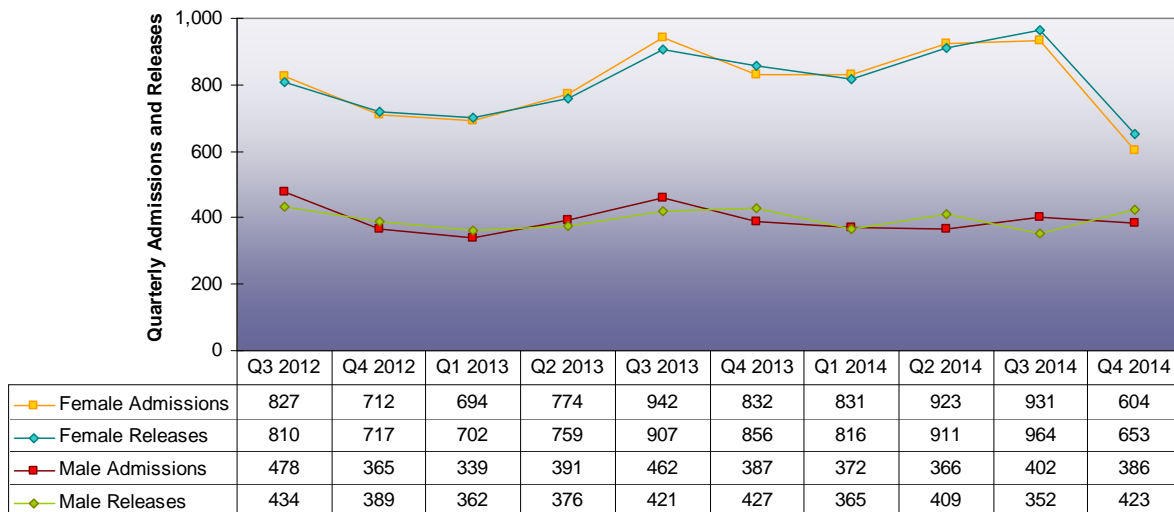
Pre-trial admissions and releases, Graph 4.1, both saw little change over the ten-quarter trend period; despite the seasonal movement being up during the middle of each year, and down during each first and fourth quarter. Pre-trial admissions averaged 1,202 detainees per quarter and releases averaged 1,205, with a cumulative difference decrease of 35 pre-trial detainees by the end of the trend period. The fourth quarter of 2014 saw a notable drop in pre-trial inmates as Worcester County shifted its county, pre-trial females to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Hampden County.

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 until the fourth quarter of 2014 when they saw the aforementioned shift to Hampden County. Male pre-trial detainees saw little overall change for either admissions or releases. Overall, females had a cumulative difference decrease of 25 detainees and males saw a decrease of 10.

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 31.4%. Over the trend period, most of the male pre-trial jurisdictions saw fairly steady rates of admissions; although both out-of-state and federal admissions saw some slight declines over the trend period.

4.3 Male Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Total
Suffolk	266	169	196	230	249	193	217	197	216	213	2,146
Middlesex	118	141	104	101	150	130	106	130	130	129	1,239
Out-of-State	20	25	16	19	20	18	18	14	13	16	179
Worcester	17	9	9	11	9	17	13	12	11	5	113
Federal	40	10	5	6	9	5	6	0	9	4	94
Plymouth	5	6	4	9	13	14	7	3	10	9	80
Bristol	5	1	2	8	4	2	1	2	6	3	34
Essex	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	3	5	25
Norfolk	3	0	0	3	3	5	1	4	3	2	24
Barnstable	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	9
Hampden	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mass Parole	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	478	365	339	391	462	387	372	366	402	386	3,948

As seen in table 4.4, 99.0% of female pre-trials came from the counties of Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Norfolk, or Plymouth: 28.2% from Essex, 22.0% from Middlesex, 21.3% from Worcester, 13.8% from Norfolk, and 13.7% 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. The notable exception was Worcester, which saw a precipitous drop in its female, pre-trial admission rate during the fourth quarter of 2014 with a rate of 0.5% as opposed to the trend average of 20.8%.

4.4 Female Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Total
Essex	236	201	180	209	245	244	249	259	263	188	2,274
Middlesex	152	143	161	173	219	184	151	201	217	175	1,776
Worcester	193	161	155	189	216	196	201	221	187	3	1,722
Norfolk	123	110	90	99	124	97	127	114	118	113	1,115
Plymouth	118	94	104	97	127	105	93	117	136	115	1,106
Suffolk	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	5	4	4	19
Federal	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	3	4	2	20
Out-of-State	0	0	1	1	5	2	2	1	0	3	15
Bristol	2	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	11
Hampden	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	5
Barnstable	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mass Parole	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total	827	712	694	774	942	832	831	923	931	604	8,070

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 January of 2015. 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 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”.
Pre-Trial Detainee	An individual who is detained prior to trial, but not yet convicted of a crime to include male and female county detainees, male county detainees transferred to state facilities under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 276, section 52A, and federal detainees (both male and female).
Civil Commitment or “Civil”	The involuntary commitment of an individual via legal means to incarcerate an individual against their will.
Crime Lab Releases	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.
Criminally Sentenced	An individual who has been found guilty of a criminal offense through legal means, and is required to be incarcerated.
Custody Population	An individual is considered to be in Massachusetts DOC custody when they are being held in a Massachusetts DOC facility.
Expiration of Sentence (Release)	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.
HOC	House of Correction, i.e. county jail.
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.

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.