

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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

Fourth Quarter 2013





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trend Period: Third Quarter, 2011, through Fourth Quarter, 2013

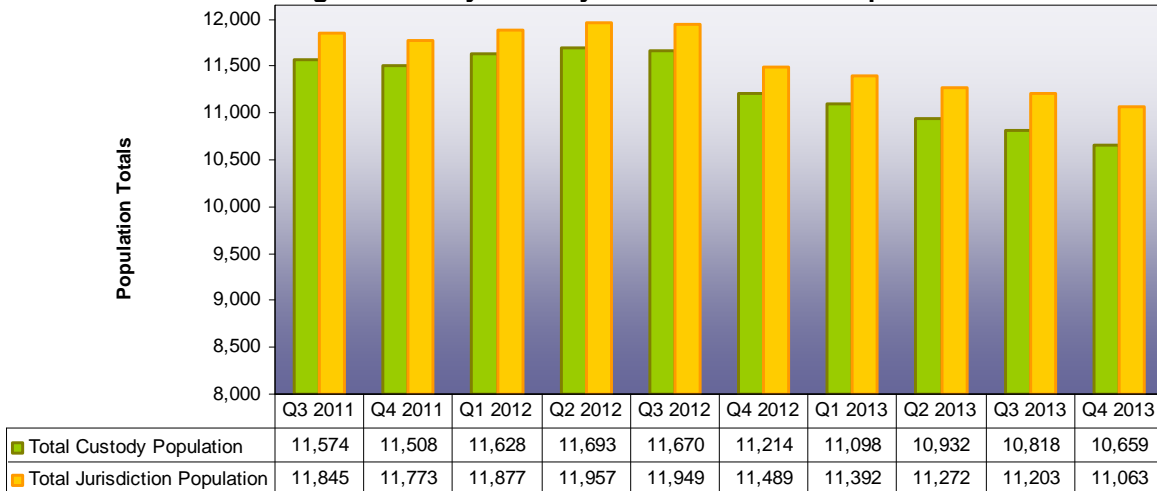
- The fourth quarter of 2013 saw a continuation of the decrease in MA DOC population begun in the third quarter 2012 with a resulting 8.8% decrease in **custody population** and 7.5% decrease in **jurisdiction population** since the height in second quarter 2012.
- Based on quarterly averages for the ten quarters of the trend period, 88.8% of the **MA DOC jurisdiction population** were criminally sentenced, 5.3% were civil commitments, and 5.9% were pre-trial detainees. The fourth quarter average population of 11,063 was the lowest of the trend period.
- During the trend period the **cumulative total admissions** were 26,018 and the **cumulative total releases** were 26,815, with the cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulting in a decrease of 797 inmates.
- Male inmates made up 59.0% of the total admissions and 59.9% of the total releases during the trend period.
- The overall difference between admissions and releases over the trend period resulted in female inmates decreasing by 76, while male inmates saw a decrease of 721 inmates.
- Based on the difference between admissions and releases, **criminally sentenced inmates** saw a cumulative decrease of 779 inmates. The fourth quarter of 2012 had the largest impact on this with a decrease of 334 inmates.
- **Male civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 121 inmates during the past ten quarters. **Female civil commitments** saw a cumulative decrease of 8 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 82 pre-trial inmates. More than half, 54.6%, 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, saw a sixth straight period of decline during the fourth quarter of 2013; with jurisdiction averaging a 1.3% drop per quarter and custody averaging a 1.5% drop per quarter. Prior to third quarter, 2012, there was a general increase in population; followed with the fourth quarter of 2012 having a large drop in population - mostly due to implementation of the Crime Bill and issues regarding accuracy of testing at the Hinton Crime Lab. The continued drop throughout 2013 was in large part due to continued effects from the Crime Bill changes.

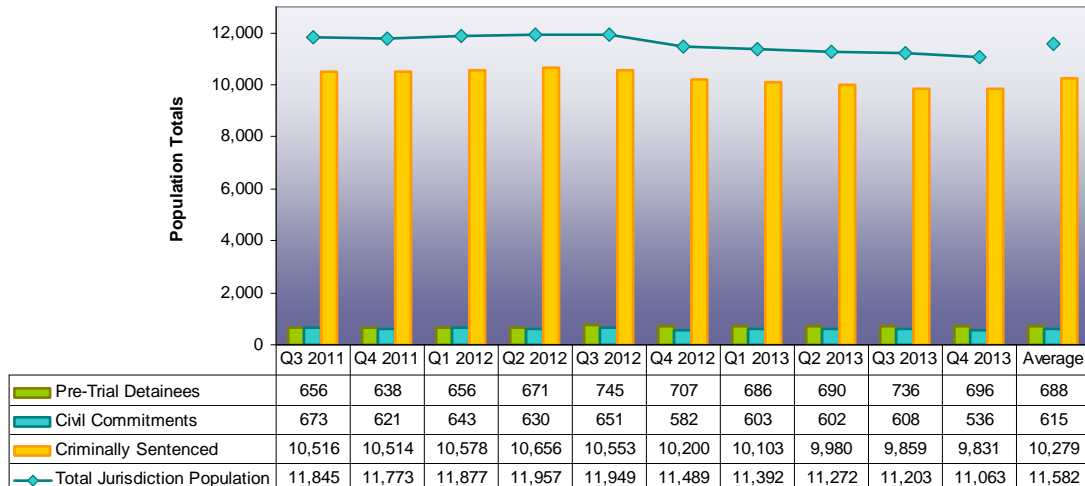
1.1 Average* Quarterly Custody¹ and Jurisdiction² Population



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

The fourth quarter of 2013 saw the normal seasonal trends. Compared to the preceding quarter, there was a decrease in civil commitments (-11.8%), a decrease in pre-trial detainees (-5.4%), and a decrease in the criminally-sentenced population (-0.3%). The change in civil commitments was the largest quarterly change seen during the ten quarter trend period.

1.2 Average Quarterly Population by Commitment Type

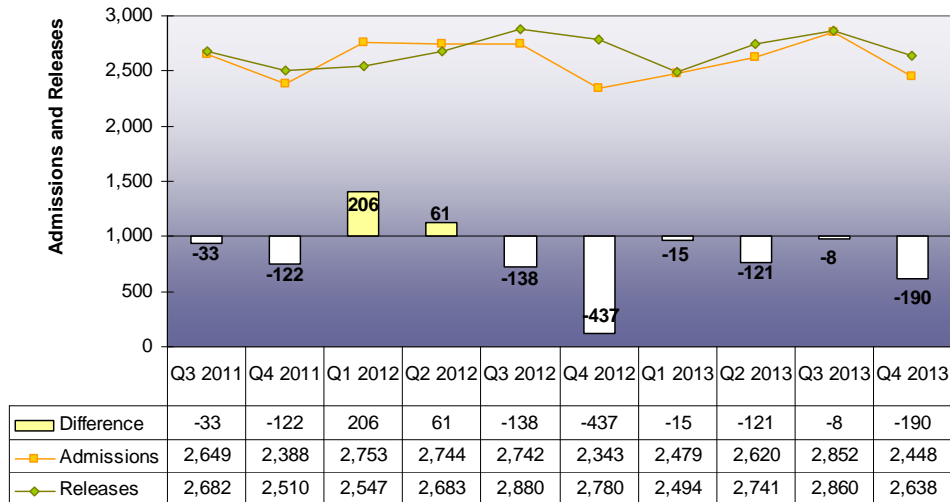


¹Total MA DOC custody population includes criminally sentenced inmates, pre-trial detainees, and civil commitments in MA DOC facilities, excluding MA DOC inmates housed in other jurisdictions (i.e., County, Federal, or Out-of-state inmates).

²Total MA DOC jurisdiction population includes criminally sentenced inmates, pre-trial detainees, and civil commitments in MA DOC facilities and MA DOC inmates housed in county facilities, other state facilities, and federal facilities.

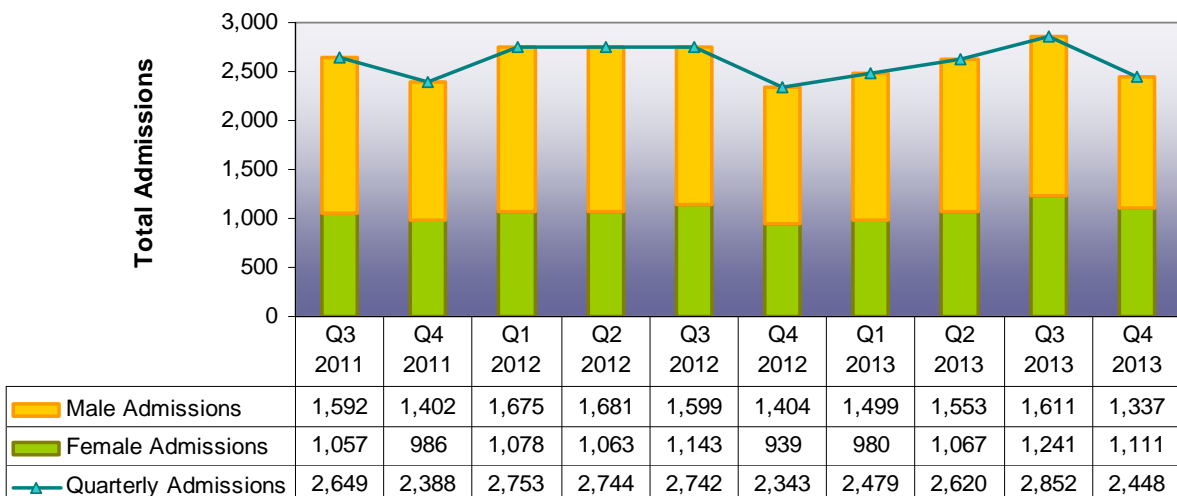
Over the past nine quarters the difference in the MA DOC population admissions and releases resulted in an **average decrease of 80 inmates** per quarter. Similarly, the cumulative difference over the trend period showed a **decrease of 797 inmates**; driven mostly by the second half of 2012. The fourth quarter saw the second highest admission-release difference during the trend period with a decrease of 190 inmates.

1.3 Overall Admissions and Releases

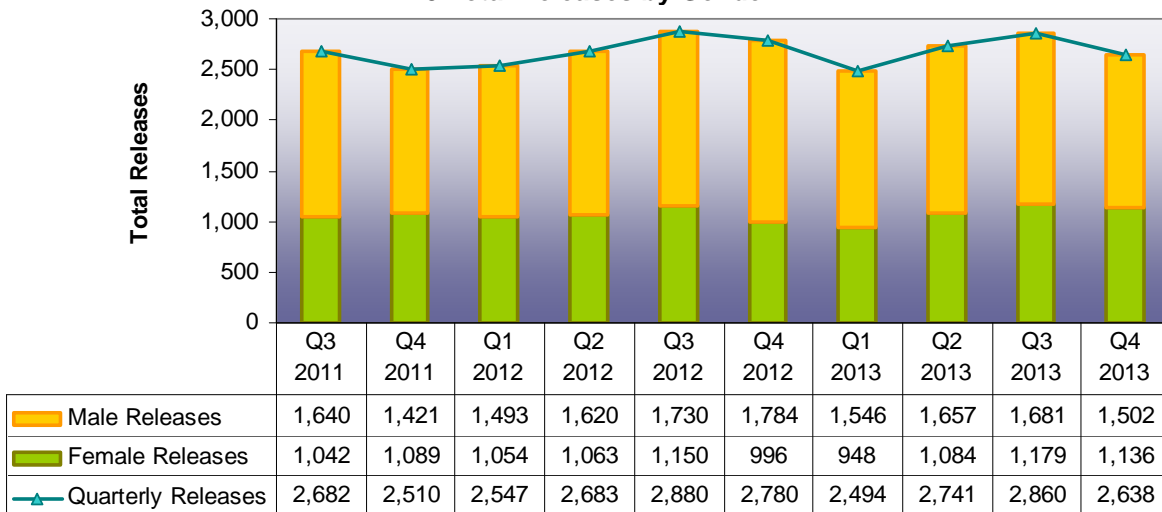


Throughout the trend period males made up the majority of the total admissions and release population with 59.0% of admissions and 59.9% of releases. For male inmates, the difference between admissions and releases averaged a decrease of 72 inmates per quarter, with an associated, cumulative decrease of 721 inmates. Female inmates averaged a decrease of 8 inmates each quarter throughout the period, with a cumulative decrease of 76 inmates. Admissions for both males and females showed their first quarter of decrease this year, down 14.2% from last quarter. Releases saw a decrease, down 7.8% from last quarter.

1.4 Total Admissions by Gender



1.5 Total Releases by Gender

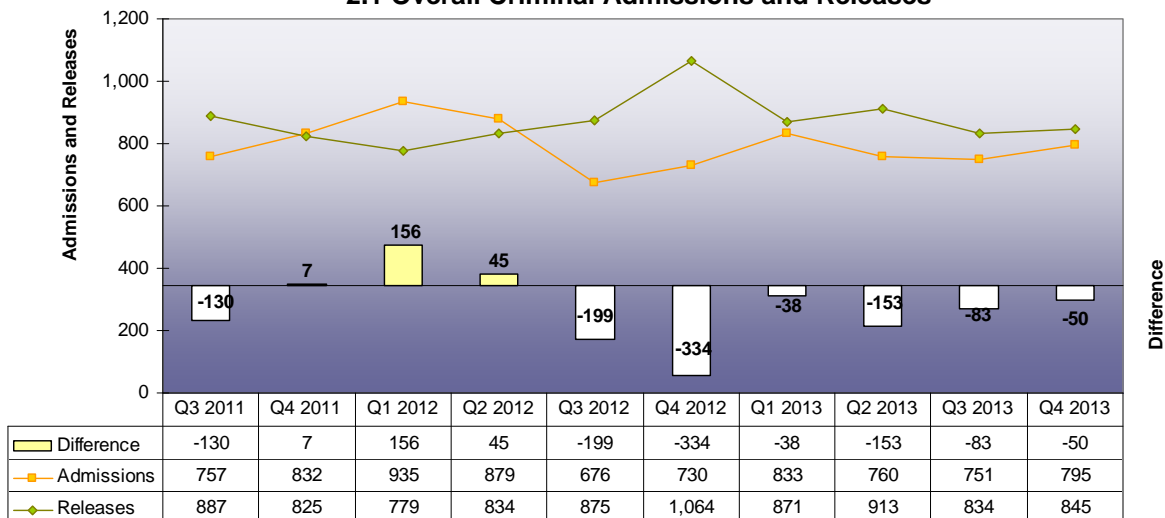


CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

The ten quarter period, from third quarter 2011 through fourth quarter 2013, displayed an overall negative trend for admissions and an overall positive trend for releases; with releases trending more strongly. Also, during this trend period the difference between admissions and releases showed a negative slope; averaging a decrease of 78 inmates each quarter, with an overall negative change of 775 criminally sentenced inmates.

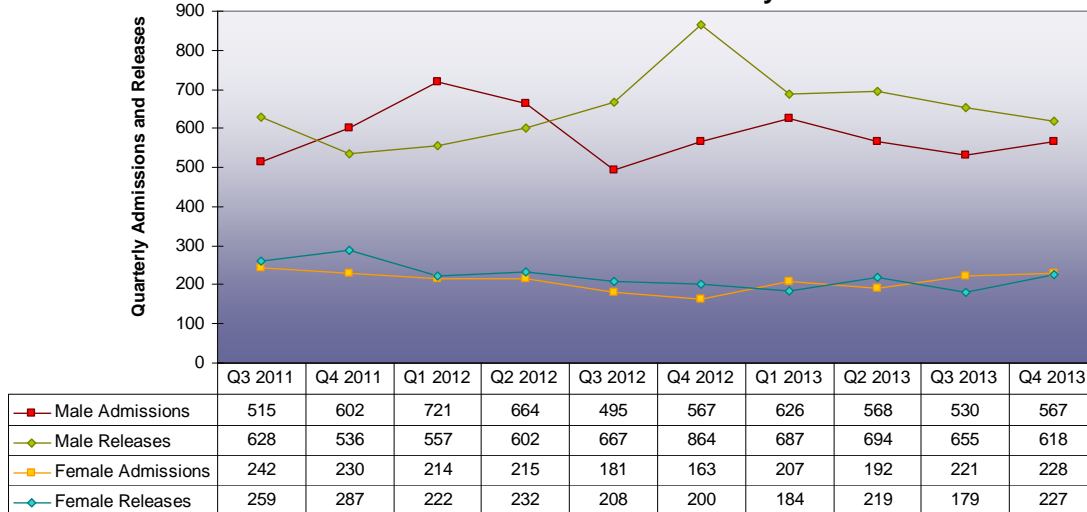
Comparison of total admissions and releases between 2012 and 2013 saw an overall decrease in both movements. For 2012 there were 3,220 admissions, compared to 3,139 for 2013, a decrease of 2.5%. Similarly, there were 3,552 releases in 2012 and 3,463 in 2013, a decrease of 2.5%. These numbers reflect an overall decrease in movement in and out of the DOC in 2013 compared to 2012.

2.1 Overall Criminal Admissions and Releases



During the ten quarter trend period male criminally sentenced inmates followed trends very similar to the overall criminally sentenced population. This was expected due to males comprising 73.7% of criminal admissions and 74.6% of criminal releases. During this period female criminally sentenced admissions and releases both showed negative trends, with releases trending much stronger than admissions for the period.

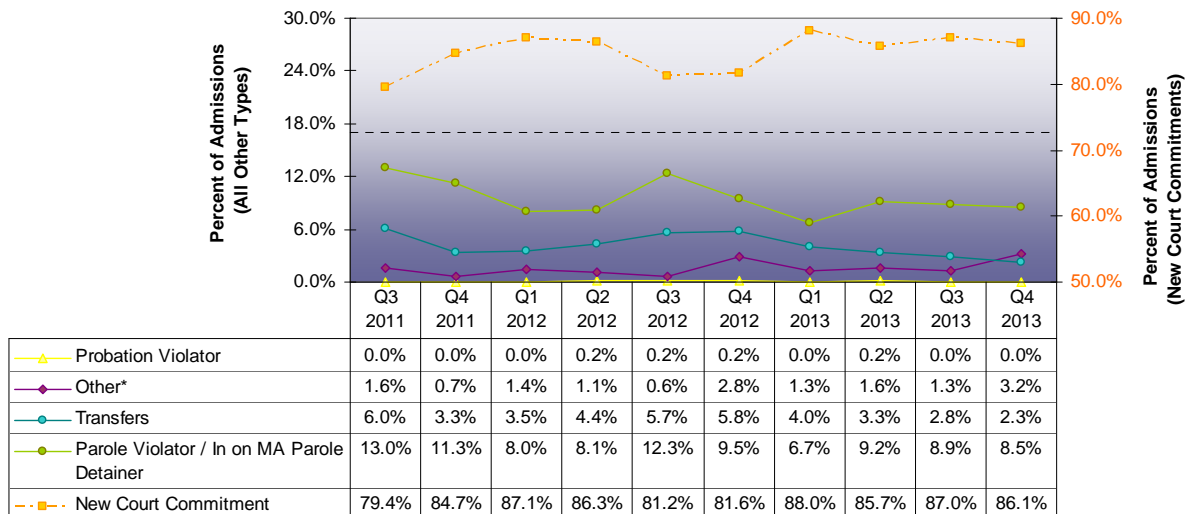
2.2 Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



Male criminal admissions by admission type, 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 84.7% 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 9.6% and 4.1% of admissions during the trend period, respectively.

New court commitments for 2013 were steady in comparison to 2012 and had a higher average with 85.6% of admissions compared to 84.0%, respectively.

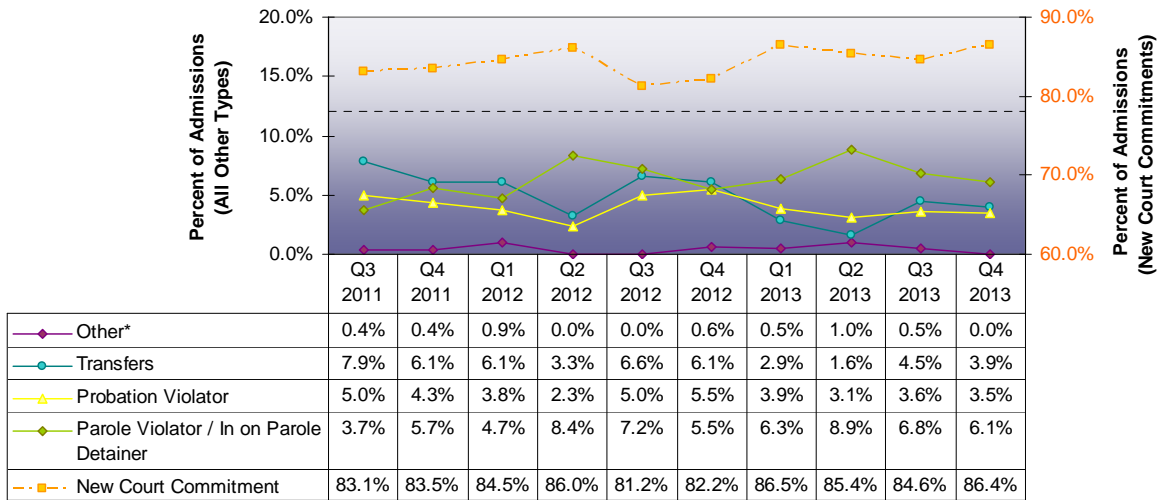
2.3 Male Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



*See Appendix for definition of Other

Female criminally sentenced admissions for the trend period were predominately new court commitments, with an average of 84.3%, followed by 'Parole Violator/In on Parole Detainer' and 'Transfers', with respective averages of 6.3% and 4.9%. The fourth quarter of 2013 saw, in relation to the third quarter, a seasonal increase in new court commitment and associated decrease in the other admission types.

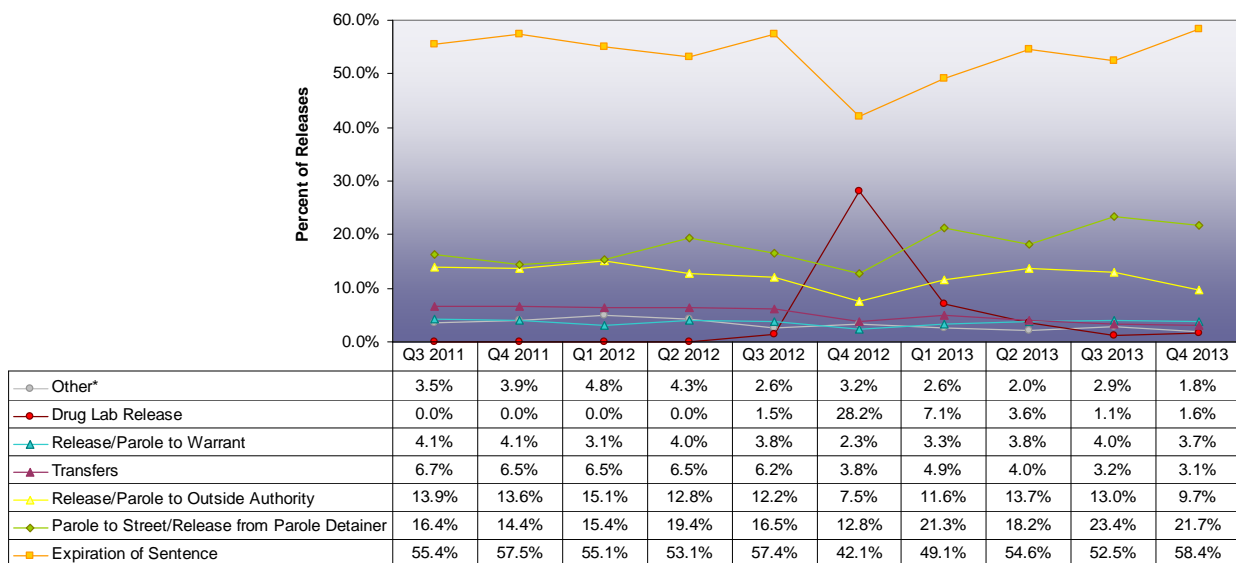
2.4 Female Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



*See Appendix for definition of Other

During the first five quarters of the trend period 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. The past year saw a steady increase in expirations of sentence and paroles to the street/releases from parole detainers with the fourth quarter of 2013 displaying the highest rate of expiration of sentence over the ten quarter trend period and the second highest rate of paroles to street/releases from parole detainer.

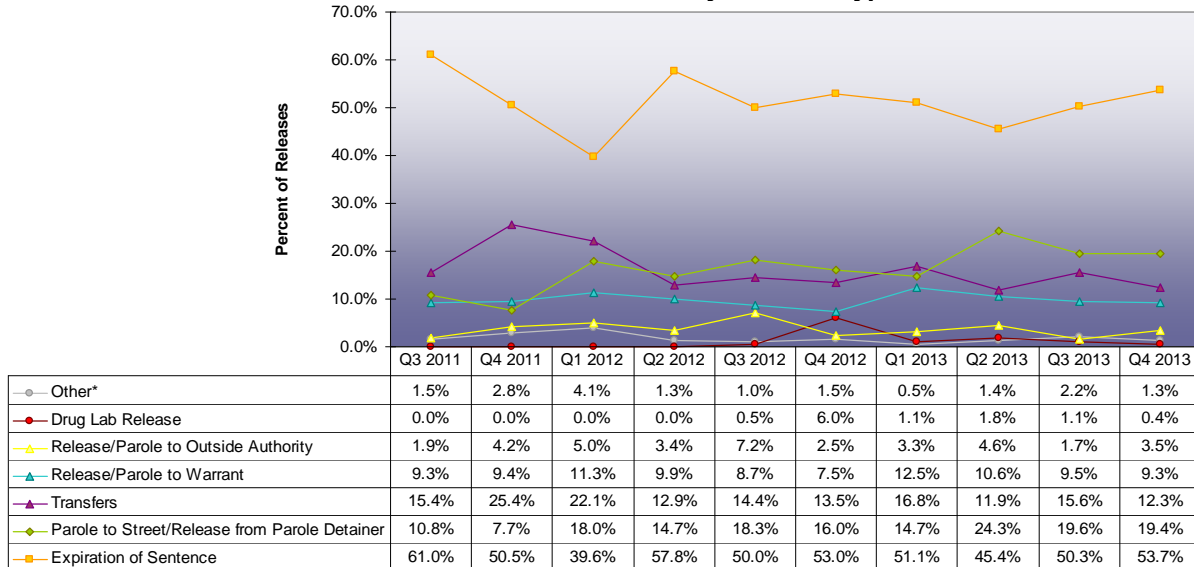
2.5 Male Criminal Releases by Release Type



*See Appendix for definition of Other

Female criminally sentenced releases for the trend period were most commonly due to expiration of sentence, averaging 51.2%. The next two most common release types were paroles to street/releases from parole detainers, averaging 16.3%, and transfers, averaging 16.1%. 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. During 2013 females saw a rise in paroles to the street/releases from parole detainer with quarters two through four possessing the three highest parole rates during the trend period.

2.6 Female Criminal Releases by Release Type



*See Appendix for definition of Other

On average Suffolk County accounted for 19.7% of the new court commitments followed by, Essex (13.7%), Middlesex (12.7%), Bristol (12.2%), Hampden (12.0%), and Worcester (12.0%).

2.7 State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

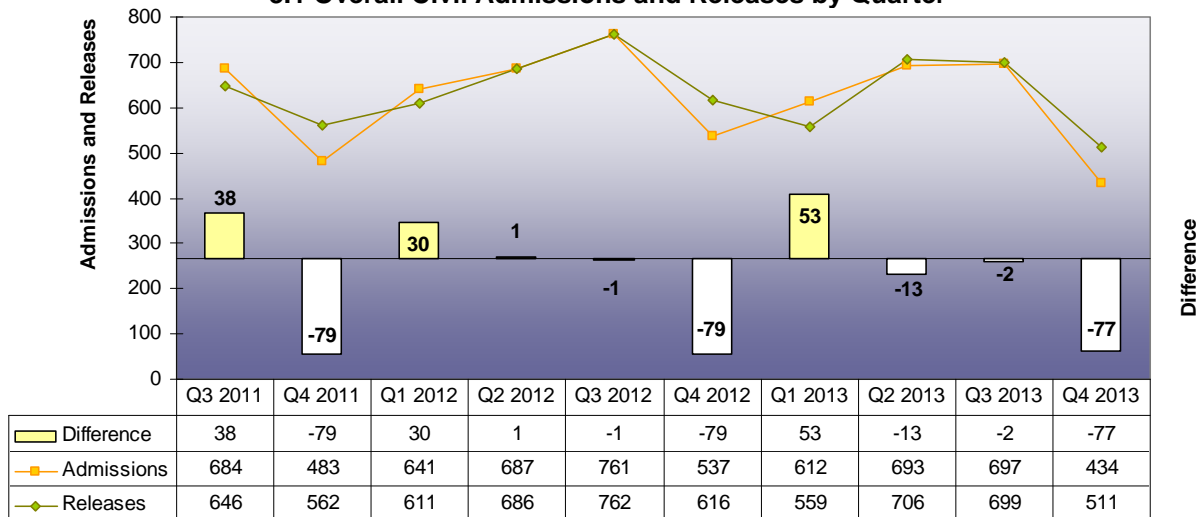
	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Tot
Suffolk	99	97	108	119	76	83	95	119	85	111	992
Essex	61	83	67	92	52	52	75	61	56	87	686
Middlesex	50	80	96	59	53	53	62	57	61	68	639
Bristol	41	57	61	89	56	73	66	57	66	49	615
Hampden	37	69	92	61	55	67	63	49	47	63	603
Worcester	40	58	62	66	39	78	65	71	59	63	601
Plymouth	21	25	58	21	15	19	60	18	18	20	275
Norfolk	17	32	35	24	11	15	30	23	28	20	235
Barnstable	17	6	14	5	17	9	17	13	21	11	130
Berkshire	12	6	20	7	9	9	17	9	15	6	110
Franklin	3	3	10	16	6	2	11	6	8	3	68
Hampshire	8	4	8	5	7	9	5	5	6	1	58
Dukes	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	1	1	0	9
Nantucket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
	406	520	631	566	396	473	567	490	473	502	5024

*excludes county and out-of-state inmates

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

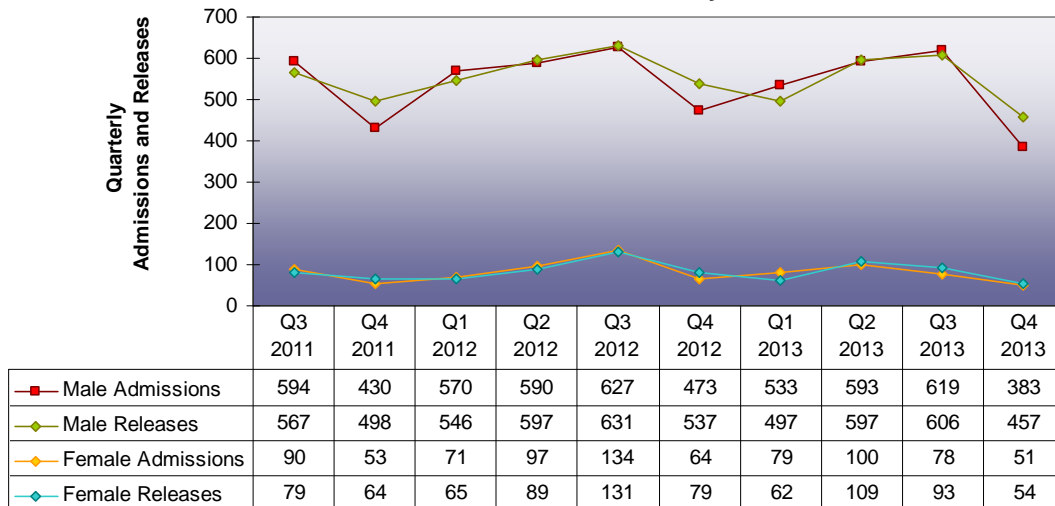
Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates had similar patterns throughout the trend period. A seasonal trend was seen with a gradual rise in both admissions and releases over each year with a drop in both trends during the fourth quarter. Fourth quarter 2013 had the least movement in both civil admissions and releases during the trend period. Overall, both admissions and releases displayed weak negative trends with civil admissions averaging 623 inmates each quarter and releases averaging 636. During the trend period there was a cumulative decrease of 129 inmates due to the difference between admissions and releases.

3.1 Overall Civil Admissions and Releases by Quarter



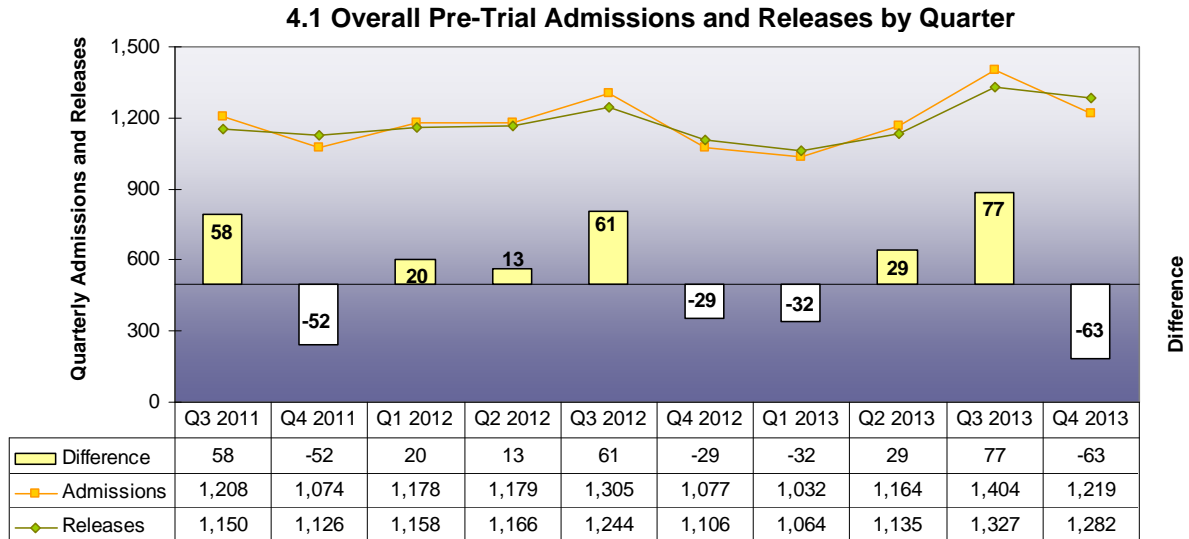
Over the past ten quarters female inmates made up 13.0% of civil admissions and 13.0% of civil releases. Male civilly committed inmates saw weak negative trends in both admissions and releases during the trend period while the female civil commitments saw a slight decrease in admissions and a negligible increase in the amount of releases. Both females and male saw an overall decrease: by 8 civil commitments for females and by 121 civil commitments for males.

3.2 Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender



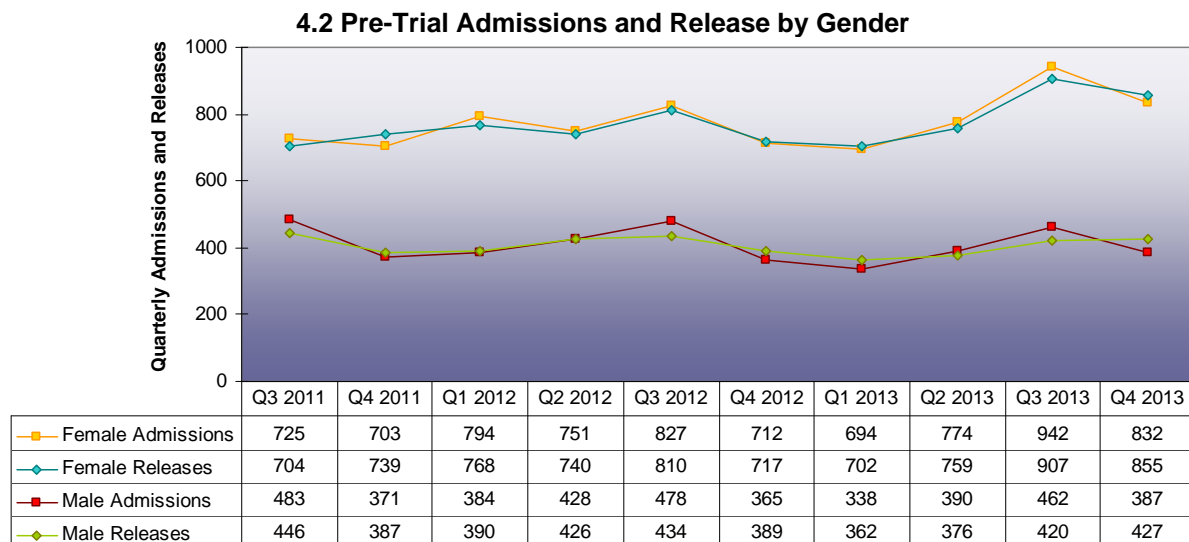
PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases both saw overall increases over the course of the ten-quarter trend period. Pre-trial admissions averaged 1,180 per quarter, releases averaged 1,164 per quarter, and there was a cumulative increase of 82 pre-trial detainees.



Over the trend period, female pre-trial detainees had a more variable trend than male detainees, characterized by strong 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 53 detainees and males had an increase 29 over the course of the trend period.

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



Over the trend period the majority of male pre-trial admissions came from the counties of Suffolk and Middlesex; the rate for these two counties averaged 54.6% and 29.8%, respectively. There were some notable points within the data: Suffolk had its lowest pre-trial admissions during fourth quarter 2012 - the only quarter where it made up less than half of all pre-trial admissions, at 46.3%. During the fourth quarter of 2013, Suffolk County had its second lowest pre-trial admission rate for the trend period at 49.9%; coming off of the third lowest rate in third quarter 2013. Middlesex saw the opposite trend during the fourth and third quarters of 2013, with its second and third highest pre-trial admissions rate at 33.6 and 32.5%, respectively.

4.3 Male Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Total
Suffolk	272	208	215	236	266	169	197	230	249	193	2235
Middlesex	133	109	111	124	118	141	104	101	150	130	1221
Out-of-State	25	20	19	22	20	25	15	23	20	18	207
Worcester	16	13	18	19	17	9	9	11	9	17	138
Federal	18	3	2	15	40	10	5	6	9	5	113
Plymouth	7	4	7	9	5	6	4	9	13	14	78
Bristol	2	5	4	1	5	1	2	8	4	2	34
Norfolk	8	5	3	1	3	0	0	3	3	5	31
Essex	2	2	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	22
Barnstable	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	8
Hampden	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Berkshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	483	371	384	428	478	365	339	395	462	387	4092

For the trend period, 99.2% of female pre-trials came from the counties of Essex, Worcester, Middlesex, Norfolk, or Plymouth; with 27.3% coming from Essex, 23.3% coming from Worcester, and 21.7% from Middlesex. Over the trend period Essex, Middlesex, and Plymouth saw some modest increases in percent of admissions, Worcester remained mostly steady other than the first quarter of 2012, and Norfolk had a steady decrease.

4.4 Female Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Total
Essex	188	198	209	204	236	201	180	209	245	244	2114
Worcester	169	152	213	169	193	161	155	189	216	196	1813
Middlesex	147	179	155	167	152	143	161	173	219	184	1680
Norfolk	123	99	116	109	123	110	90	99	124	97	1090
Plymouth	86	72	93	98	118	94	104	97	127	105	994
Bristol	2	2	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	14
Suffolk	6	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	11
Federal	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	11
Out-of-State	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	5	2	13
Barnstable	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
Hampden	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
Mass Parole	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Berkshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	725	703	794	751	827	712	694	774	942	832	7755

Appendix

Notes and Definitions

Note: This report examines admission and release trends over the past nine 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 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

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.
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.

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.