

## Part II: State by State Analysis

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### National Overview

#### U.S. IMPRISONMENT AT A GLANCE

Imprisonment Rate 1977: 129	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 10
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 486	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 64
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977: 11,212	
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004: 96,125	
Percent Increase 1977-2004:	757 %
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004:	8 %
Percent Increase 1999-2004:	17 %

#### Imprisonment in the United States

At year-end 2004, United States state and federal prisons housed 1,433,793 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 1,337,668 were male and 96,125 were female.

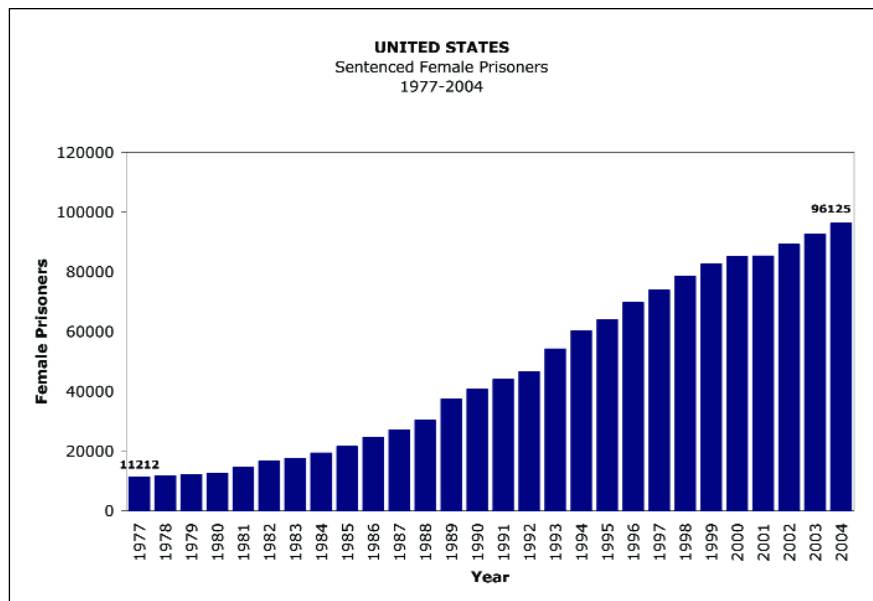
In 1977, United States prisons housed 11,212 female inmates: by 2004, the female prison population had increased almost nine-fold, reaching 96,125. The number of female inmates grew every year except for 2001 when the number of female inmates dropped slightly before resuming its upward trend. Between 1977 and 2004, the female imprisonment rate in the United States grew by 757% (with an average annual change of 8% per year).

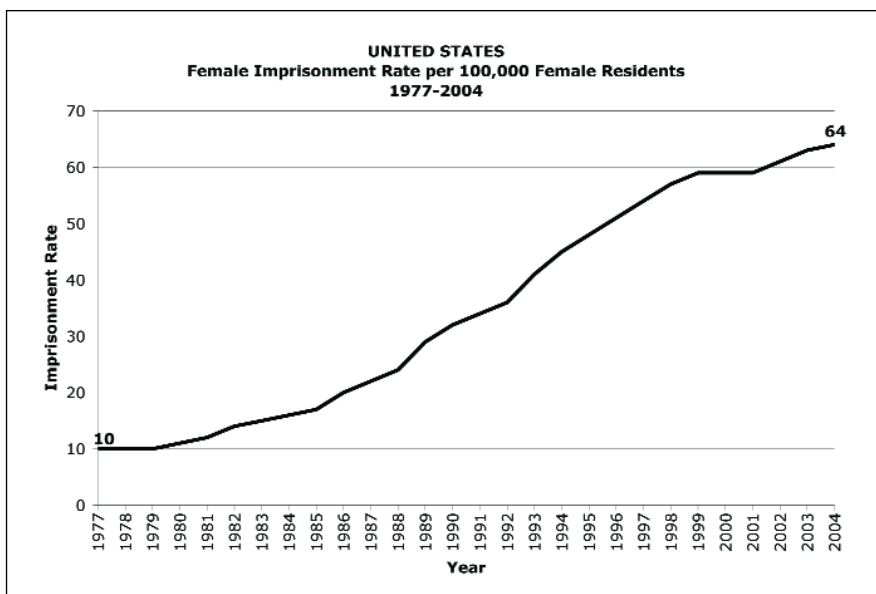
#### Female imprisonment rates

Between 1977 and 2004, the United States female imprisonment rate (including the federal prison system and the prison populations of all fifty states) grew from 10 to 64 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents.

#### Correctional Facilities

The source for all correctional facility data in this report is the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities (Stephan and Karberg, 2003). According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, the United States has 1,668 state and federal correctional facilities. Of the 1,668 correctional facilities, 1,287 house male prisoners only, 156 house female prisoners only, and 225 house both male and female prisoners.





**Male to Female imprisonment ratio**

The male to female imprisonment ratio indicates the number of male inmates for every female inmate. Although both female and male imprisonment rates have increased over the period of study, a shrinking ratio suggests that the number of female prisoners has increased at a faster pace than the number of male prisoners. In 1977, the United States imprisoned 24 male prisoners for every female prisoner – by 2004, this ratio had fallen to 14 male prisoners for

every female prisoner (including all 50 states and the federal system).

**TEN MOST PUNITIVE STATES FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATES 2004**

STATE	RATE	RANK
Oklahoma	129	1
Mississippi	107	2
Louisiana	103	3
Montana	102	4
Texas	101	5
Idaho	93	6
Arizona	89	7
Missouri	85	8
Wyoming	84	9
Colorado	83	10

**TEN LEAST PUNITIVE STATES FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATES 2004**

STATE	RATE	RANK
Rhode Island	11	50
Massachusetts	11	49
Maine	18	48
New Hampshire	18	47
Minnesota	21	46
Vermont	25	45
New York	28	44
Pennsylvania	28	43
New Jersey	33	42
Maryland	39	41

**State-level variation**

As is always the case, viewing the United States as a whole masks substantial state-level variations in imprisonment practices. Some states are significantly more punitive in female imprisonment rates than others. Although imprisonment rates have grown in all states between 1977 and 2004, that growth has taken different shapes, with some experiencing rapid growth and others demonstrating a surprising stability (particularly relative to other states) long after the beginning of unprecedented growth in the use of imprisonment across the country as a whole.

The color-coded map that follows visually depicts state-level variations in female imprisonment rates.

**GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT 1977-2004**

**Sentenced Female Prisoners**

At yearend 1977, U.S. prisons housed a total of 11,212 sentenced female prisoners. At that time, only the federal prison system housed over 1,000 women. Fully half of the states (25) had female prison populations of less than 100 and four states housed less than 10 prisoners (Montana, North Dakota, New Hampshire and Vermont).



**TABLE A. TOTAL FEMALE PRISONERS BY STATE, 2004 and 1977**

	2004	1977
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96,125</b>	<b>11,212</b>
Texas	11,408	919
California	10,882	671
Federal	10,207	1,694
Florida	5,660	870
Georgia	3,433	493
Ohio	3,185	577
New York	2,789	512
Illinois	2,750	277
Virginia	2,706	251
Arizona	2,545	187
Missouri	2,503	158
Louisiana	2,386	217
Oklahoma	2,300	172
Michigan	2,113	538
Tennessee	1,905	232
Colorado	1,900	72
Indiana	1,881	130
Pennsylvania	1,820	211
North Carolina	1,758	460
Alabama	1,661	223
Mississippi	1,602	57
New Jersey	1,470	180
Kentucky	1,447	138
South Carolina	1,428	276
Wisconsin	1,310	136
Washington	1,303	226
Maryland	1,124	248
Oregon	981	112
Arkansas	910	91
Nevada	878	65
Connecticut	788	71
Iowa	757	84
Idaho	647	28
Kansas	620	89
New Mexico	546	53
Minnesota	544	75
Utah	502	30
Montana	473	2
West Virginia	444	44
Hawaii	438	14
Massachusetts	376	78
Nebraska	348	73
South Dakota	290	18
Delaware	215	41
Wyoming	210	16
Alaska	174	21
North Dakota	129	2
Maine	120	14
New Hampshire	119	2
Vermont	80	9
Rhode Island	60	13

**TABLE B. FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATES BY STATE, 2004 and 1977**

	2004	1977
Oklahoma	129	12
Mississippi	107	4
Louisiana	103	11
Montana	102	1
Texas	101	14
Idaho	93	6
Arizona	89	15
Missouri	85	6
Wyoming	84	8
Colorado	83	5
Georgia	77	18
Nevada	77	19
South Dakota	75	5
Alabama	71	11
Virginia	71	9
Hawaii	69	3
Kentucky	69	8
South Carolina	66	18
Arkansas	65	8
Florida	64	19
Tennessee	63	10
California	61	6
Indiana	59	5
New Mexico	56	9
Alaska	55	11
Ohio	54	10
Oregon	54	9
Delaware	51	13
Iowa	50	6
West Virginia	48	4
Wisconsin	47	6
Kansas	45	8
Connecticut	44	4
Illinois	43	5
Utah	42	5
Washington	42	12
Michigan	41	11
North Dakota	41	1
North Carolina	40	16
Maryland	39	11
Nebraska	39	9
New Jersey	33	5
New York	28	5
Pennsylvania	28	3
Vermont	25	4
Minnesota	21	4
Maine	18	2
New Hampshire	18	0
Massachusetts	11	3
Rhode Island	11	3

## FEMALE PRISONERS 1999-2004

Over the five year period between 1999-2004, the number of sentenced female prisoners in the United States increased from 82,402 (in 1999) to 96,125 (in 2004) – a growth of 17% in just five years. Nine states experienced decreases in the female prison population

with New York and New Jersey experiencing the largest declines in female prisoners over the period (New York’s female prison population fell from 3,620 female prisoners in 1999 to 2,789 in 2004, a decrease of 23% and New Jersey’s female prison population fell from 1,862 female prisoners in 1999 to 1,470 in 2004 – a decrease of 21%). The remaining 41 states and the

### LARGEST INCREASES IN FEMALE PRISONERS AND LARGEST GROWTH (% CHANGE), 1999-2004

#### Increase in Number of Female Prisoners, 1999-2004

Federal	2,151
Florida	1,840
Texas	1,093
Arizona	975
Georgia	836
Virginia	803
Colorado	687
Indiana	662
Missouri	616
Tennessee	537

#### % Change 1999-2004

Maine	114%
North Dakota	102%
Vermont	95%
West Virginia	86%
New Mexico	81%
Montana	80%
Oregon	68%
Idaho	62%
Arizona	62%
Colorado	57%

### SMALLEST INCREASES IN FEMALE PRISONERS AND SMALLEST GROWTH (% CHANGE), 1999-2004

#### Increase in Number of Female Prisoners, 1999-2004

New Hampshire	2
Rhode Island	3
Vermont	39
Alaska	41
Kansas	50
Alabama	53
California	56
Maine	64
North Dakota	65
Wyoming	71

#### % Change 1999-2004

California	1%
New Hampshire	2%
Alabama	3%
Michigan	4%
Louisiana	5%
Rhode Island	5%
Kansas	9%
South Carolina	9%
Texas	11%
Ohio	12%

### DECREASES IN FEMALE PRISONERS AND NEGATIVE GROWTH (% CHANGE), 1999-2004

#### Decrease in Number of Female Prisoners, 1999-2004

New York	-831
New Jersey	-392
Wisconsin	-55
Illinois	-52
Massachusetts	-38
Hawaii	-36
Connecticut	-25
Oklahoma	-16
Delaware	-1

#### % Change 1999-2004

New York	-23%
New Jersey	-21%
Massachusetts	-9%
Hawaii	-8%
Wisconsin	-4%
Connecticut	-3%
Illinois	-2%
Oklahoma	-1%
*Delaware	0%

\*Though DE experienced a 1-person decrease from 1999-2004, this constitutes less than a 1%.

federal prison system saw increases in their female prison populations. The tables below list the ten states with the largest increase in actual female prisoners and the ten states with the largest % change in the female prison population between yearend 1999 and yearend 2004. The prison population data are year-end data, so the growth actually represents growth from the end of 1999 through the end of 2004.