

State Reports

Louisiana

IMPRISONMENT GROWTH AT A GLANCE

Imprisonment Rate 1977: 152 (9th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 11 (16th)
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 816 (1st)	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 103 (3rd)
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977:	217
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004:	2,386
Percent Increase 1977-2004:	1,000%
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004:	10%
Percent Increase 1999-2004:	5%

IMPRISONMENT IN LOUISIANA

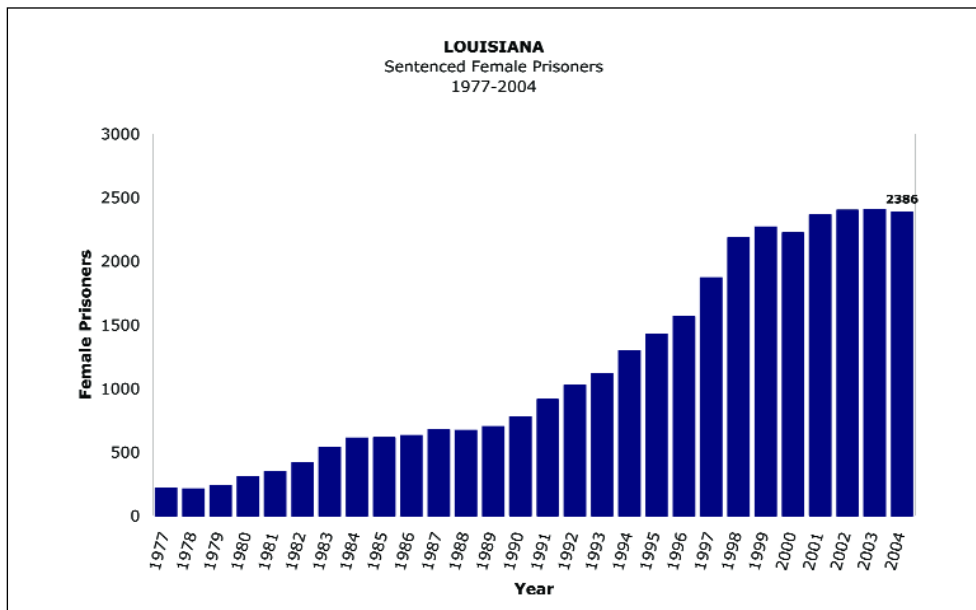
At year-end 2004, Louisiana prisons housed 36,939 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 34,553 were male and 2,386 were female. With 103 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, Louisiana has the third highest female imprisonment rate. Louisiana's 2004 overall imprisonment rate of 816 prisoners per 100,000 residents is the highest overall imprisonment rate in the country.

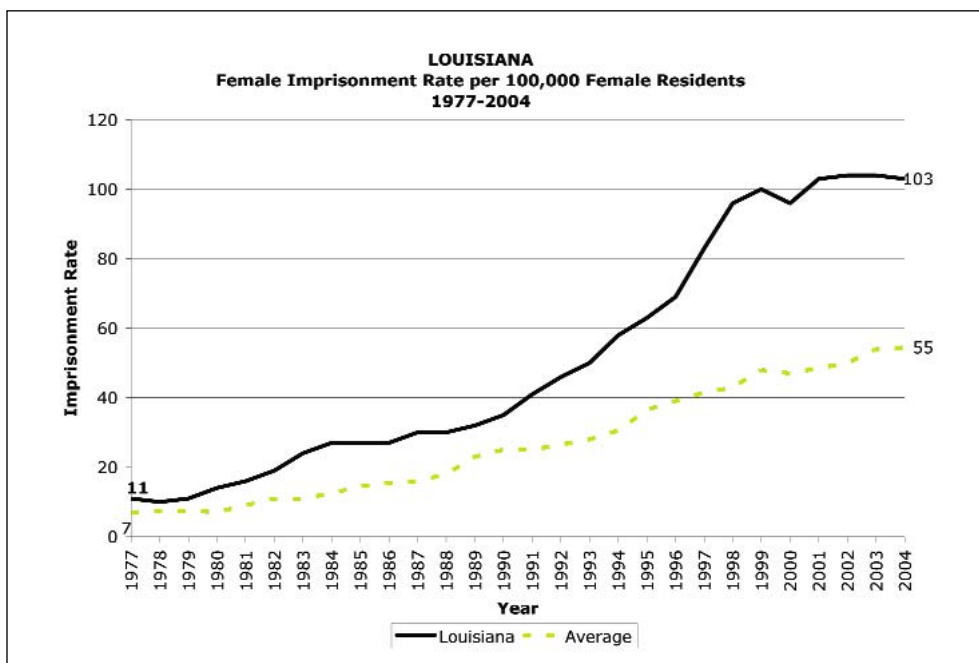
In 1977, Louisiana prisons housed 217 female inmates; by 2004, the female prison population had reached 2,386. Louisiana's female prison population was at its lowest with 208 female prisoners in 1978 and peaked at 2,405 female inmates in 2003.

GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATE

Between 1977 and 2004, Louisiana's female prison population grew by 1,000% with an average annual percent change of 9.6% per year.

While Louisiana's female imprisonment rate has been above average for the entire period between 1977 and 2004, its rate of increase in female imprisonment picked up substantially in the 1990s. By the late 1990s, Louisiana was almost twice as punitive as the average state in its female imprisonment rate.





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. In 1977, across the states, there were an average of 26 male prisoners for every female prisoner; by 2004, this ratio had fallen to 13 male prisoners for every female prisoner. Louisiana’s 1977 ratio was higher than average with 30 male prisoners for every female prisoner. By 2004, Louisiana’s male to female imprisonment ratio (14:1) was roughly equivalent to the average across states.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, Louisiana has 17 correctional facilities. Of Louisiana’s 17 correctional facilities, 14 house male prisoners only and three house female prisoners only. No facilities house both male and female prisoners.