

State Reports

South Carolina

IMPRISONMENT GROWTH AT A GLANCE

Imprisonment Rate 1977: 239 (2nd)	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 18 (4th)
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 539 (7th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 66 (18th)
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977:	276
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004:	1,428
Percent Increase 1977-2004:	417%
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004:	7%
Percent Increase 1999-2004:	9%

IMPRISONMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

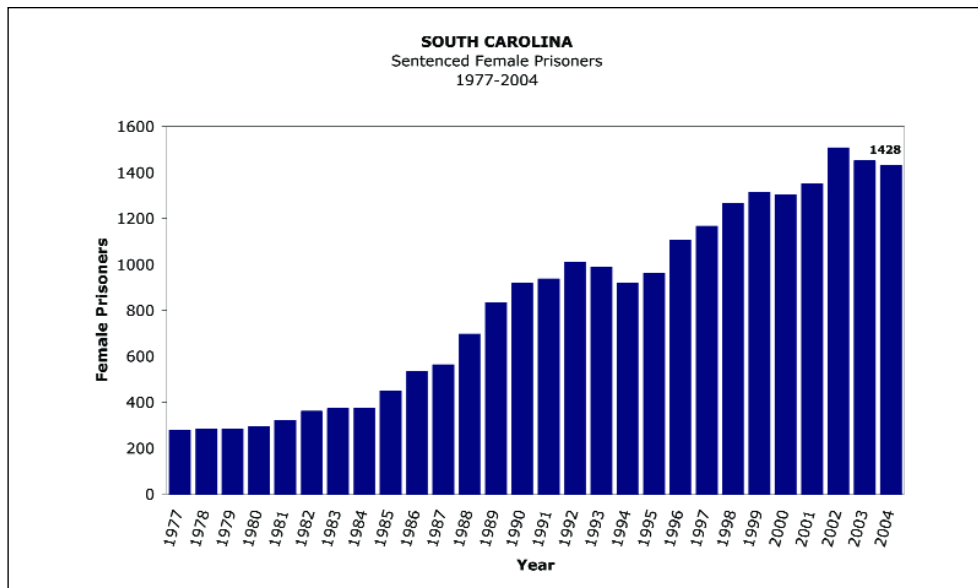
At year-end 2004, South Carolina’s prisons housed 22,730 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 21,302 were male and 1,428 were female. South Carolina ranked 18th in its 2004 female imprisonment rate with 66 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, and 7th in its 2004 overall imprisonment rate with 539 prisoners per 100,000 residents.

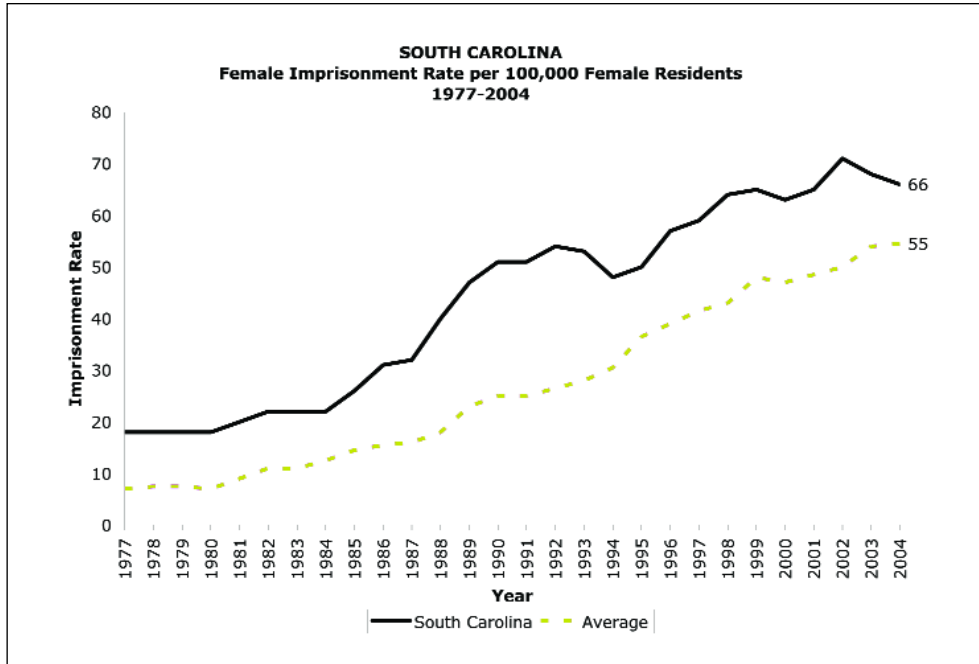
In 1977, South Carolina prisons housed 276 female inmates; by 2004, the female prison population had reached 1,428. South Carolina’s female prison population was at its lowest with 276 female prisoners in 1977 and peaked at 1,506 female inmates in 2002.

GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATE

Between 1977 and 2004, South Carolina’s female prison population grew by 417% with an average annual percent change of 6.6% per year.

Throughout the period from 1977 to 2004, South Carolina’s female imprisonment rate was substantially higher than the average female imprisonment rate across the states. With a female imprisonment rate of 66 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, South Carolina ranked 18th in female imprisonment in 2004.





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. South Carolina’s 1977 ratio was slightly lower than average with 24 male prisoners for every female prisoner. By 2004, South Carolina’s male to female imprisonment ratio (15:1) was roughly equivalent to the average across states.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, South Carolina has four correctional facilities. Of South Carolina’s four correctional facilities, two house male prisoners only, one houses female prisoners only, and one houses both male and female prisoners.