



WOMEN'S PRISON ASSOCIATION

The Numbers

- In 2003, 8,407,248 people lived in North Carolina. Of these, 33,728 were incarcerated in State prisons.
- 52% of the total population and 6.8% of the incarcerated population is female.
- Women represented a higher proportion of new admissions and releases than they did of the total prison census. Women typically receive shorter sentences than men. As a result, they represent a smaller proportion of the total prison population.
- Approximately the same number of people were admitted and released from North Carolina state prisons.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Incarcerated Population 2003	33,728	31,438 (93.2%)	2290 (6.8%)
Admissions to Prison in 2003	23,718	20,923 (88.2%)	2,795 (11.8%)
Releases from Prison in 2003	23,321	20,573 (88.2%)	2,748 (11.8%)

Age

- Women incarcerated in North Carolina are more likely to be older than their male counterparts.
- 63% of women (1,761) admitted to state prison were 30 years old and older. 52.6% of men (11,012) admitted to prison were 30 years old and older.
- 66% of women (1,817) released from state prison were 30 years old and older. 55.9% of men (11,490) released from state prison were 30 years old and older.

Incarcerated Population, 2003

	<u>Under 20</u>	<u>20 to 24</u>	<u>25 to 29</u>	<u>30 to 34</u>	<u>35 to 39</u>	<u>40 to 44</u>	<u>45 to 49</u>	<u>50 +</u>
Men	3.39%	16.38%	17.69%	16.75%	14.66%	13.62%	8.40%	9.10%
Women	2.5	11.75	16.89	18.47	19.39	16.11	8.29	6.55

Race

- 67% of North Carolina's population is White, 23% is Black, 5% is Hispanic. The remaining 5% report some other race or ethnicity.
- Women incarcerated in North Carolina are equally as likely to be black as white.
- Men are more likely to be black than white.

Incarcerated Population, 2003

	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Other</u>
Men	32.49%	61.45%	6.06%
Women	49.87	46.11	4.02

Conviction Status

- 85% of women, compared to 72% of men, were admitted to North Carolina prisons for nonviolent crimes.
- Women were more likely than men to be convicted for property and drug crimes.
- Men were more likely than women to be convicted for violent crimes.

Admissions, 2003

	<u>Violent</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Drug</u>	<u>Public Order</u>	<u>Other</u>
Men	27.9%	28.38%	20.3%	19.16%	4.24%
Women	14.92	41.15	25.51	15.71	2.29

Criminal Justice In the Community

Probation population, entries and exits, 2003

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Probation population 2003	115,857	89,117 (77%)	26,740 (23%)
Admissions to Probation in 2003	61,704	47,264 (77%)	14,440 (23%)
Exits from Probation in 2003	61,047	47,311 (77%)	13,736 (23%)

Parole population, entries and exits, 2003

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Parole population 2003	3,446	3,226 (94%)	220 (6%)
Admissions to Parole in 2003	3,526	3,366 (96%)	160 (4%)
Exits from Parole in 2003	3,556	3,390 (95%)	166 (5%)

North Carolina: Comparative Trends in Incarceration from 1978-1999

- North Carolina expanded the number of incarcerated women by 346%. It is ranked 48 (out of 51) for percent growth. All but 3 other states grew at a faster pace.
- North Carolina is ranked 40 (out of 51) for change in female incarceration rate. Other states grew at a faster pace.
- North Carolina is ranked 35 (out of 51) for change in ratio of male to female incarceration. While other states are closer to a 1:1 ratio of incarceration, NC still has a relatively low ratio of male to female incarceration.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of women incarcerated(Rank)*</u>	<u>Rate per 100,000 (Rank)**</u>	<u>Ratio of Men to Women (Rank)</u>
1978	685 (8)	38.14 (9)	23.37 (28)
1983	806 (11)	41.57 (21)	23.71 (39)
1988	1189 (14)	56.96 (29)	18.53 (40)
1993	1865 (14)	84.39 (28)	15.69 (36)
1999	3056 (16)	126.43 (35)	13.83 (41)

* Number includes women incarcerated in prisons and jails. Rankings include D.C. Rankings ordered from highest (1) to lowest (51)

** Incarceration rate (prisons and jails) per 100,000 women 18-64 years old

Correctional Facilities and Expenditures

- Minimum security prisons: 35 male facilities and 3 female facilities. Per inmate cost is \$46.23 daily and \$16,874 yearly.
- Medium security prisons: 22 male facilities and 0 female facilities. Per inmate cost \$60.54 daily and \$22,097 yearly.
- Maximum security prisons: 15 male facilities and 1 female facility. Per inmate cost is \$74.56 daily and \$27,214 yearly.
- Corrections Expenditures: \$137.50 per capita. Ranked 33rd (on a scale of 1 to 51, where lower scores = greater corrections expenditures per capita) in overall justice system expenditures by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Sentencing Laws

- Three Strikes and You're Out: Mandatory life in prison with no parole accompanies conviction for a third violent felony.
- Truth in Sentencing: Offenders are required to serve 85% of their sentence.
- Discretionary release: In 1994, NC abolished early release by discretion of a parole board.

INMATES AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Parenting classes are offered in North Carolina prisons and in most State prisons throughout the country. Fourteen states allow children to be present during the classes. North Carolina is not one of them.
- North Carolina Department of Corrections is one of 28 states to have developed a statewide program that focuses on developing and maintaining supportive family relationships. In addition, it is one of 27 states that attempt to assign inmates facilities near their families.
- North Carolina has no special facilities for pregnant inmates, nor does it provide in-prison accommodations for newborns, infants, and young children (only 9 and 11 states respectively have adopted such policies).

VOTING RIGHTS

- Prison inmates, felon probationers and felon parolees are barred from voting in North Carolina.
- Ex-prisoners who have completed their sentences and/or their parole requirements are permitted to vote.

WELFARE REFORM

- Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a monthly cash assistance program for poor families with children under age 18. The program was instituted as an integral part of the Welfare Reform Act in 1996. TANF replaced AID to Families with Dependent Children and ended the federal entitlement to welfare, placing primary responsibility for the allocation of assistance funds on state governments. The block grant format of TANF gives states some flexibility with regard to eligibility for TANF as well as for spending. Most states prohibit former drug felons from receiving TANF funds, either for life or for a specified period of time. North Carolina's policy on TANF falls in the middle. Whereas some states have completely eliminated the Federal Drug Felon Ban on TANF, and others impose it fully, individuals convicted with a drug felony in North Carolina may be eligible 6 months after release if there is no subsequent felony arrests and after completing mandated substance abuse treatment.

CHANGES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY

According to a Families against Mandatory Minimums report, North Carolina has made the following changes:

- Reduced number of new inmates: The passage of new sentencing guidelines has helped to reduce the proportion of sentenced felons receiving prison terms from 44% to 29%.
- Increased time served: New guidelines increased the length of prison terms for violent felons, retained mandatory minimum for major controlled substance offenses and required long prison terms for habitual offenders convicted of low-level felonies.
- Supported new prison initiatives: Legislators voted to purchase and activate three new prisons that have been privately financed and constructed and have approved financing and construction of three more new prisons.

Sources: Austin, James et. al. 1999. The Impact of 'Three Strikes and You're Out.' *Punishment and Society*. 1(2):131-162; Beck, Allen J. Prisoners in 1999. Washington DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Hill, George and Paige Harrison. 2000. Female Prisoners under State or Federal Jurisdiction, 1977-1998 [electronic file]; Hire Network. State Responses to the Federal Drug Felon Ban on TANF and Food Stamps. Available online at http://www.hirenetwork.org/State_Responses.htm; Ditton, Paula M. and Doris James Wilson. 1999. Truth in Sentencing in State Prisons. Washington DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Greene, Judith A. 2003. Positive Trends in State-Level Sentencing and Corrections Policy. Washington DC: Families Against Mandatory Minimums; Fellner, Jamie and Marc Mauer. 1998. Losing the Vote: The Impact of Felony Disenfranchisement Laws in the United States. Washington DC: Human Rights Watch and The Sentencing Project; Henry J. Kaiser Foundation. 2004. State Health Facts Online. Available at <http://www.statehealthfacts.kff.org>; Jantz, Amy et. al. 2002. "The Continuing Evolution of State Kinship Care Policies." Washington DC: Urban Institute; Legal Action Center. "After Prison: Roadblocks to Reentry. A Report on State Legal Barriers Facing People with Criminal Records." Washington DC: Legal Action Center; North Carolina Department of Corrections. Statistical Abstract Data for 2003. Available at <http://www.doc.state.nc.us>; Stephan, James J. 1999. State Prison Expenditures in 1996. Washington DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. NATIONAL JAIL CENSUS, 1999. Conducted by U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 2nd ICPSR ed. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor].