INCARCERATED WOMEN

OVERVIEW

• The number of women in prison increased by 646% between 1980 and 2010, rising from 15,118 to 112,797. Including women in local jails, more than 205,000 women are now incarcerated.
  
  o The number of women in prison increased at nearly 1.5 times the rate of men (646% versus 419%).

NUMBER OF INCARCERATED WOMEN, 1980-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Federal Prison</th>
<th>State Prison</th>
<th>Jail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>112,797³</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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• As of 2010, more than 1 million women were under the supervision of the criminal justice system.
  
  o Prison 112,797³
  o Jail 93,300⁴
  o Probation 712,084⁵
  o Parole 103,374⁶

• The rate at which women are incarcerated varies greatly across the nation. Nationally in 2010, 67 out of every 100,000 women were in prison.⁷
  
  o Oklahoma incarcerates more women per capita than any other state with 130 out of every 100,000 women in prison.
  o Maine has the lowest per capita rate of women in prison with 21 out of every 100,000 women in prison.
RACE AND ETHNICITY

- The lifetime likelihood of imprisonment for women is 1 in 56; however, the chance of a woman being sent to prison varies by race. As of 2001, the lifetime likelihood of imprisonment was:
  - 1 in 19 for black women
  - 1 in 45 for Hispanic women
  - 1 in 118 for white women

- In 2010, black women were incarcerated at nearly 3 times the rate of white women (133 versus 47 per 100,000). Hispanic women were incarcerated at 1.6 times the rate of white women (77 versus 47 per 100,000).

- From 2000 to 2010, the rate of incarceration decreased 35% for black women and increased 28% for Hispanic women, and 38% for white women.

![Female Incarceration Rate by Race, 2000-2010](chart)

**GENDER DIFFERENCES**

- Women are more likely to be in prison for drug and property offenses, while men are more likely to be in prison for violent offenses.

![Offense Type by Gender, 2010](chart)
• Women in prison are more likely than are men to be victims of staff sexual misconduct. More than three-quarters of all reported staff sexual misconduct involves women who were victimized by male correctional staff.\textsuperscript{12}

• Women in prison (59\%) are more likely than are men (43\%) to have chronic and/or communicable medical problems (including HIV, Hepatitis C, and sexually transmitted diseases). \textsuperscript{13}

• Nearly three-quarters (73\%) of women in state prisons in 2004 had symptoms of a current mental health problem, compared to 55\% of men.\textsuperscript{14}

MOTHERS IN PRISON

• Women in state prisons are more likely to have minor children than are men (62\% versus 51\%).\textsuperscript{15}
  
  
  o 64\% of mothers in state prisons lived with their children before they were sent to prison compared to 47\% of fathers.

  o Mothers in prison are more likely than are fathers to have children living with grandparents (45\% versus 13\%), other relatives (23\% versus 5\%), or in foster care (11\% versus 2\%).

• 1 in 25 women in state prisons and 1 in 33 in federal prisons are pregnant when admitted to prison.\textsuperscript{16}
  
  o Women can be shackled during labor and delivery in all but 13 states.\textsuperscript{17}

  o The majority of children born to incarcerated mothers are immediately separated from their mothers.\textsuperscript{18}

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\textsuperscript{3} Ibid.


\textsuperscript{6} Glaze & Bonczar, supra note 5.

\textsuperscript{7} Guerino, supra note 2.


\textsuperscript{9} Guerino, supra note 2.

\textsuperscript{10} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{11} Ibid.


