

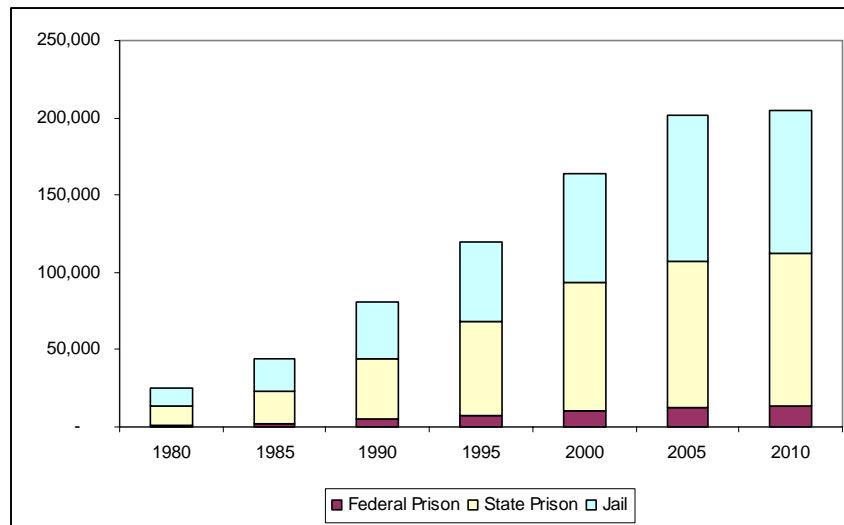


## INCARCERATED WOMEN

### OVERVIEW

- The number of women in prison increased by 646% between 1980 and 2010, rising from 15,118 to 112,797.<sup>1,2</sup> Including women in local jails, more than 205,000 women are now incarcerated.
  - 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

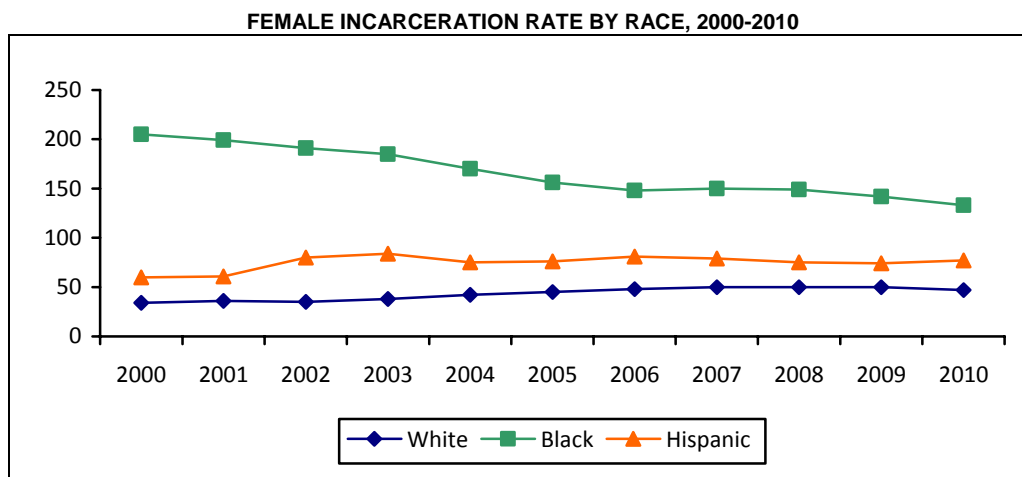


**Source:** Beck, A., & Karberg, J. C. (2001). *Prison and jail inmates at midyear 2000*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics; Guerino, P., Harrison, P. M., & Sabol, W. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

- As of 2010, more than 1 million women were under the supervision of the criminal justice system.
  - Prison 112,797<sup>3</sup>
  - Jail 93,300<sup>4</sup>
  - Probation 712,084<sup>5</sup>
  - Parole 103,374<sup>6</sup>
- 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.<sup>7</sup>
  - Oklahoma incarcerates more women per capita than any other state with 130 out of every 100,000 women in prison.
  - Maine has the lowest per capita rate of women in prison with 21 out of every 100,000 women in prison.

## RACE AND ETHNICITY

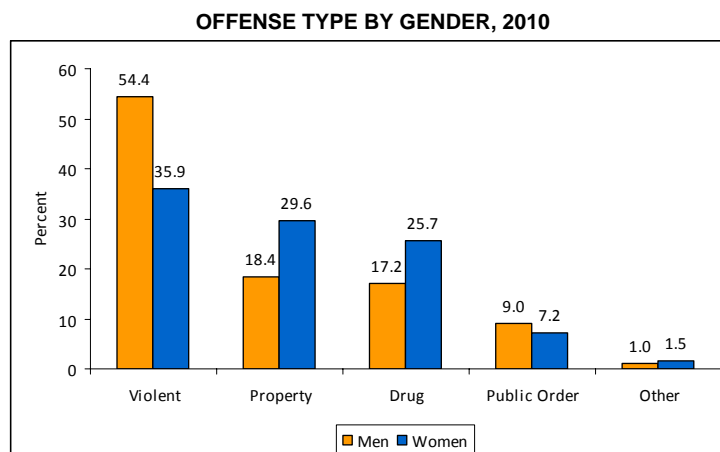
- The lifetime likelihood of imprisonment for women is 1 in 56; however, the chance of a woman being sent to prison varies by race.<sup>8</sup> As of 2001, the lifetime likelihood of imprisonment was:
  - 1 in 19 for black women
  - 1 in 45 for Hispanic women
  - 1 in 118 for white women
- In 2010, black 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).<sup>9</sup>
- From 2000 to 2010, the rate of incarceration decreased 35% for black women and increased 28% for Hispanic women, and 38% for white women.<sup>10</sup>



**SOURCE:** Guerino, P., Harrison, P. M., & Sabol, W. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

## 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.<sup>11</sup>



**SOURCE:** Guerino, P., Harrison, P. M., & Sabol, W. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

- 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.<sup>12</sup>
- 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).<sup>13</sup>
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of women in state prisons in 2004 had symptoms of a current mental health problem, compared to 55% of men.<sup>14</sup>

## MOTHERS IN PRISON

- Women in state prisons are more likely to have minor children than are men (62% versus 51%).<sup>15</sup>
  - 64% of mothers in state prisons lived with their children before they were sent to prison compared to 47% of fathers.
  - 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.<sup>16</sup>
  - Women can be shackled during labor and delivery in all but 13 states.<sup>17</sup>
  - The majority of children born to incarcerated mothers are immediately separated from their mothers.<sup>18</sup>

Rev. Sep 2012

<sup>1</sup> Cahalan, M. (1986). *Historical corrections statistics in the United States, 1850-1984*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Guerino, P., Harrison, P.M., & Sabol, W. (2011). *Prisoners in 2010*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Minton, T.D. (2012). *Jail inmates at midyear 2011-statistical tables*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>5</sup> Glaze, L. & Bonczar, T. (2011). *Probation and parole in the United States, 2010*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>6</sup> Glaze & Bonczar, supra note 5.

<sup>7</sup> Guerino, supra note 2.

<sup>8</sup> Bonczar, T. (2003). *Prevalence of imprisonment in the U.S. population, 1974-2001*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>9</sup> Guerino, supra note 2.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Beck, A. (2012). *PREA data collection activities, 2012*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>13</sup> Maruschak, L. (2008). *Medical problems of prisoners*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>14</sup> James, D. & Glaze, L. (2006). *Mental health problems of prison and jail inmates*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>15</sup> Glaze, L., & Maruschak, L. (2008). *Parents in prison and their minor children*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>16</sup> Maruschak, L. (2008). *Medical problems of prisoners*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

<sup>17</sup> Women's Prison Association, Institute on Women & Criminal Justice. (2011). *Shackling brief*. New York, NY: Women's Prison Association.

<sup>18</sup> Women's Prison Association, Institute on Women & Criminal Justice. (2009). *Mothers, infants and imprisonment: A national look at prison nurseries and community-based alternatives*. New York, NY: Women's Prison Association.