

State Reports

Maine

IMPRISONMENT GROWTH AT A GLANCE

Imprisonment Rate 1977: 61 (42nd)	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 2 (48th)
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 148 (50th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 18 (48th)
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977:	14
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004:	120
Percent Increase 1977-2004:	757%
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004:	12%
Percent Increase 1999-2004:	114%

IMPRISONMENT IN MAINE

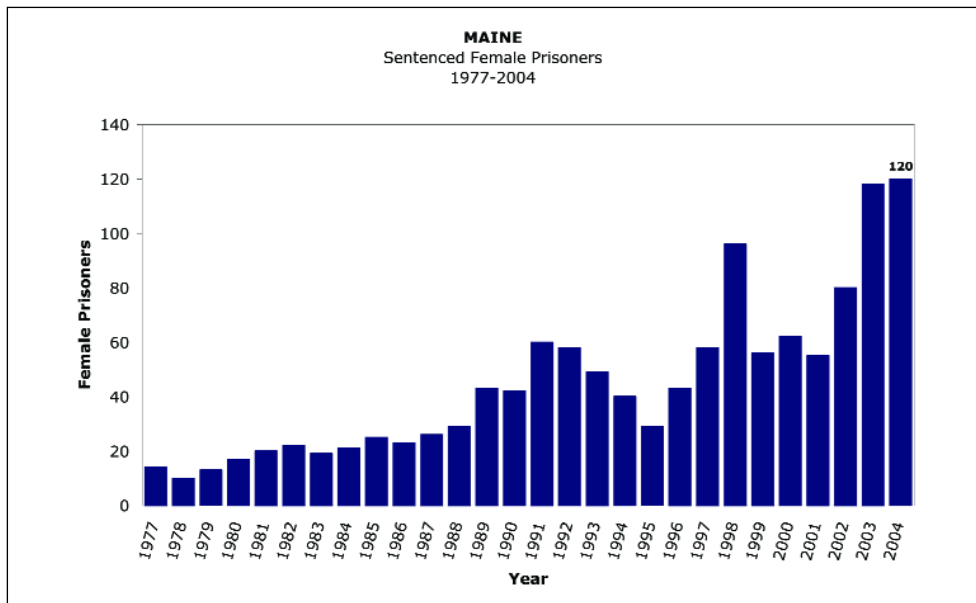
At year-end 2004, Maine prisons housed 1,961 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 1,841 were male and 120 were female. With an female imprisonment rate of 18 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, Maine ranks 48th in its imprisonment rate for women. Maine’s overall imprisonment rate is similarly low; at 148 prisoners per 100,000 residents, it had the lowest imprisonment rate in the country in 2004.

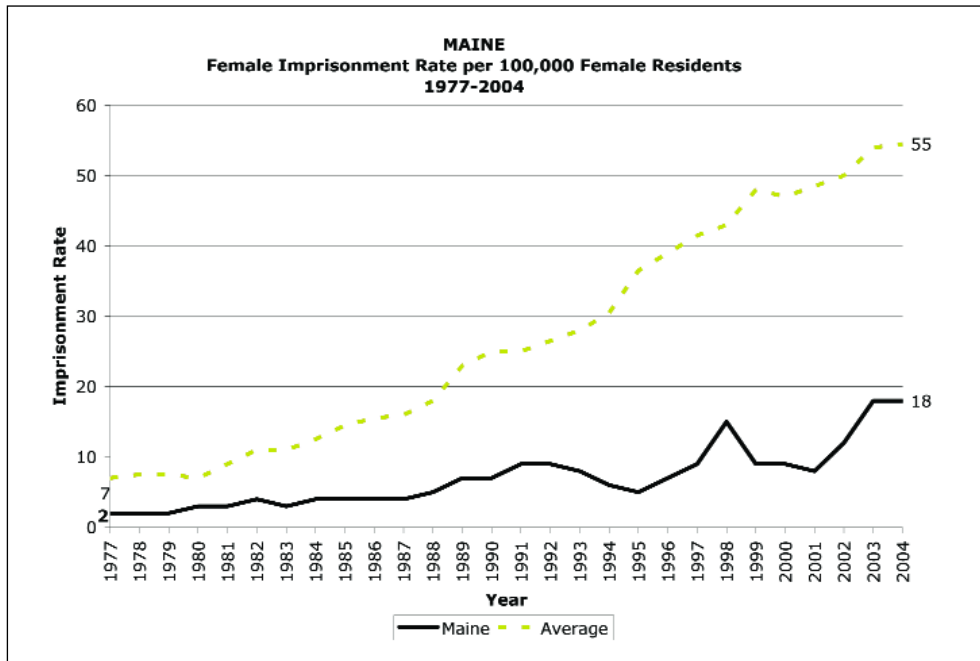
In 1977, Maine prisons housed 14 female inmates; by 2004, the female prison population had reached 120. Maine’s female prison population was at its lowest with 10 female prisoners in 1978 and peaked at 120 females inmates in 2004.

GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATE

Between 1977 and 2004, Maine’s female prison population grew by 757% with an average annual percent change of 11.7% per year.

Throughout the period between 1977 and 2004, Maine’s female imprisonment rate has been substantially below average. In fact, the average female imprisonment rate across the states has typically been two to three times higher than the female imprisonment rate in Maine. In 2004, Maine had the lowest overall imprisonment rate and, with a female imprisonment rate of 18 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, Maine is also among the 10 least punitive states (ranked 48th) toward female offenders.





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. Maine’s 1977 ratio was substantially higher than average with 43 male prisoners for every female prisoner. In 2004, Maine’s male to female imprisonment ratio (16:1) was only slightly higher than the average across states.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, Maine has eight correctional facilities. Of Maine’s eight correctional facilities, six house male prisoners only and two house both male and female prisoners. No facilities house only female prisoners.