

State Reports

Massachusetts

IMPRISONMENT GROWTH AT A GLANCE

Imprisonment Rate 1977: 48 (47th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 3 (47th)
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 232 (44th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 11 (49th)
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977:	78
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004:	376
Percent Increase 1977-2004:	382%
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004:	9%
Percent Decrease 1999-2004:	9%

IMPRISONMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS

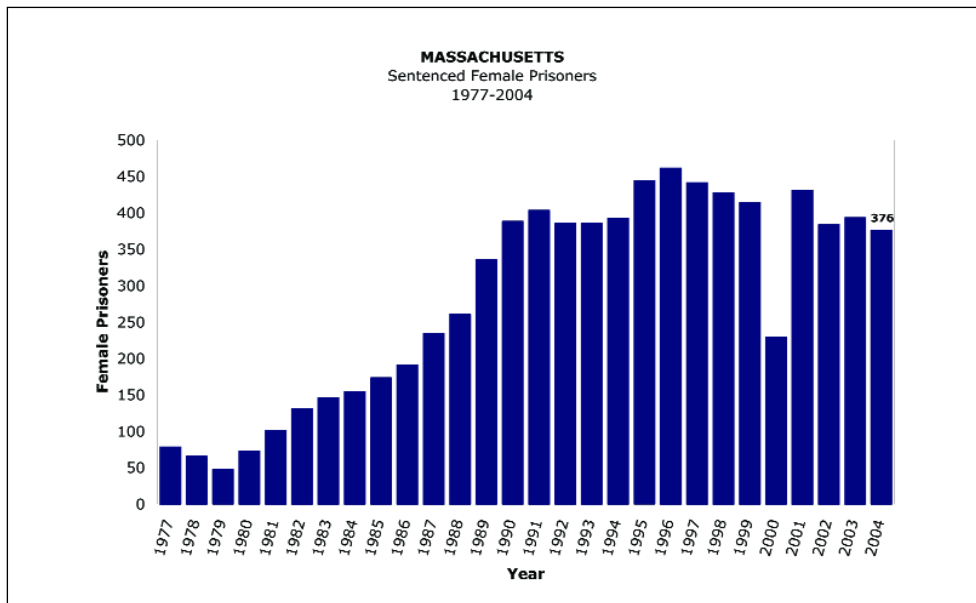
At year-end 2004, Massachusetts’ prisons housed 8,688 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 8,312 were male and 376 were female. Massachusetts ranked 49th in its 2004 female imprisonment rate with 11 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, and 44th in its 2004 overall imprisonment rate with 232 prisoners per 100,000 residents.

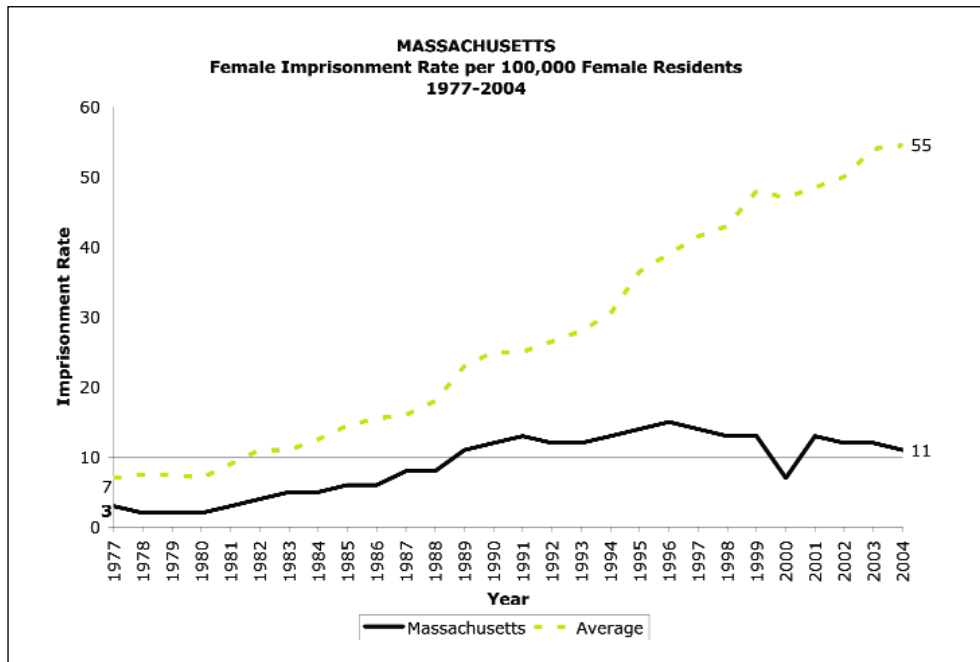
In 1977, Massachusetts’ prisons housed 78 female inmates; by 2004, the female prison population had reached 376. Massachusetts’ female prison population was at its lowest with 47 female prisoners in 1979 and peaked at 461 female inmates in 1996.

GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATE

Between 1977 and 2004, Massachusetts’ female prison population grew by 382% with an average annual percent change of 8.7% per year.

Throughout the period from 1977 to 2004, Massachusetts’ overall and female imprisonment rates were substantially lower than the average imprisonment rates across the states. With a female imprisonment rate of 11 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, Massachusetts is among the 10 least punitive states in its imprisonment of female offenders (ranked 49th).





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 was an average of 36 male prisoners for every female prisoner; by 2004, this ratio had fallen to 13 male prisoners for every female prisoner. Massachusetts’ 1977 ratio was notably higher than average with 35 male prisoners for every female prisoner. In 2004, Massachusetts’ male to female imprisonment ratio (22:1) remained notably higher than the average across states.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, Massachusetts has 25 correctional facilities. Of Massachusetts’ 25 correctional facilities, 19 house male prisoners only, four house female prisoners only, and two house both male and female prisoners.