

State Reports

New Jersey

IMPRISONMENT GROWTH AT A GLANCE

Imprisonment Rate 1977: 78 (34th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 5 (35th)
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 306 (38th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 33 (42nd)
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977:	180
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004:	1,470
Percent Increase 1977-2004:	717%
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004:	9%
Percent Decrease 1999-2004:	21%

IMPRISONMENT IN NEW JERSEY

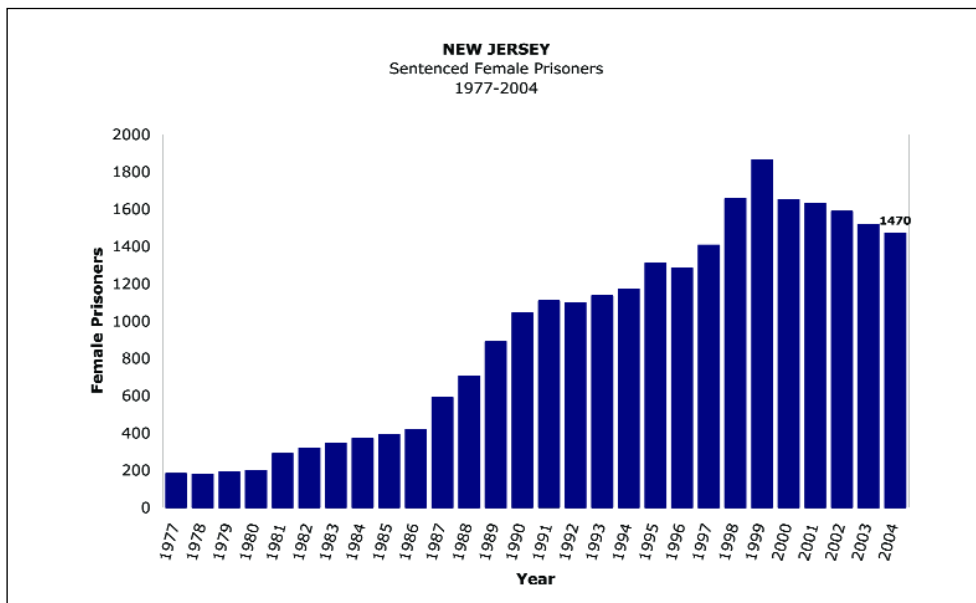
At year-end 2004, New Jersey prisons housed 26,757 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 25,287 were male and 1,470 were female. New Jersey ranked 42nd in its 2004 female imprisonment rate with 33 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents and 38th in its 2004 overall imprisonment rate with 306 prisoners per 100,000 residents.

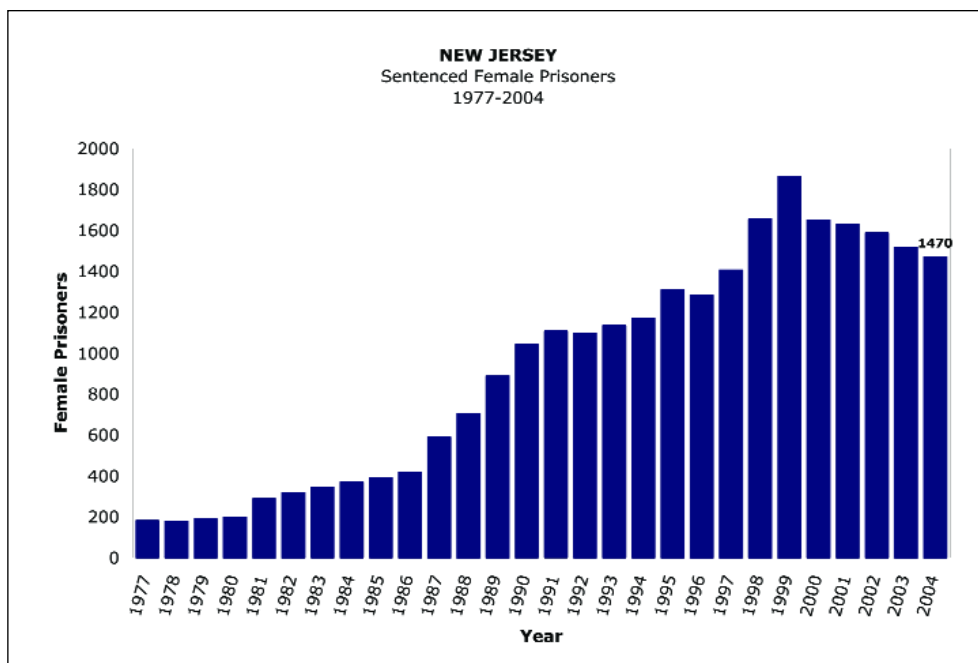
In 1977, New Jersey prisons housed 180 female inmates; by 2004, the female prison population had reached 1,470. New Jersey's female prison population was at its lowest with 176 female prisoners in 1978 and peaked at 1,862 female inmates in 1999.

GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATE

Between 1977 and 2004, New Jersey's female prison population grew by 717% with an average annual percent change of 8.8% per year.

Throughout the period from 1977 to 2004, New Jersey's female imprisonment rate was somewhat lower than the average female imprisonment rate across the states. With a female imprisonment rate of 33 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, New Jersey was among the 10 least punitive states in its imprisonment of female offenders in 2004 (ranked 42nd).





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. New Jersey's 1977 ratio was higher than average with 29 male prisoners for every female prisoner. In 2004, New Jersey's male to female imprisonment ratio (17:1) remained higher than the average across states.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, New Jersey has 43 correctional facilities. Of New Jersey's 43 correctional facilities, 35 house male prisoners only, four house female prisoners only, and four house both male and female prisoners.