

State Reports

New Mexico

IMPRISONMENT GROWTH AT A GLANCE

Imprisonment Rate 1977: 126 (15th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 9 (22nd)
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 318 (37th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 56 (24th)
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977: 53	
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004: 546	
Percent Increase 1977-2004: 930%	
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004: 12%	
Percent Increase 1999-2004: 81%	

IMPRISONMENT IN NEW MEXICO

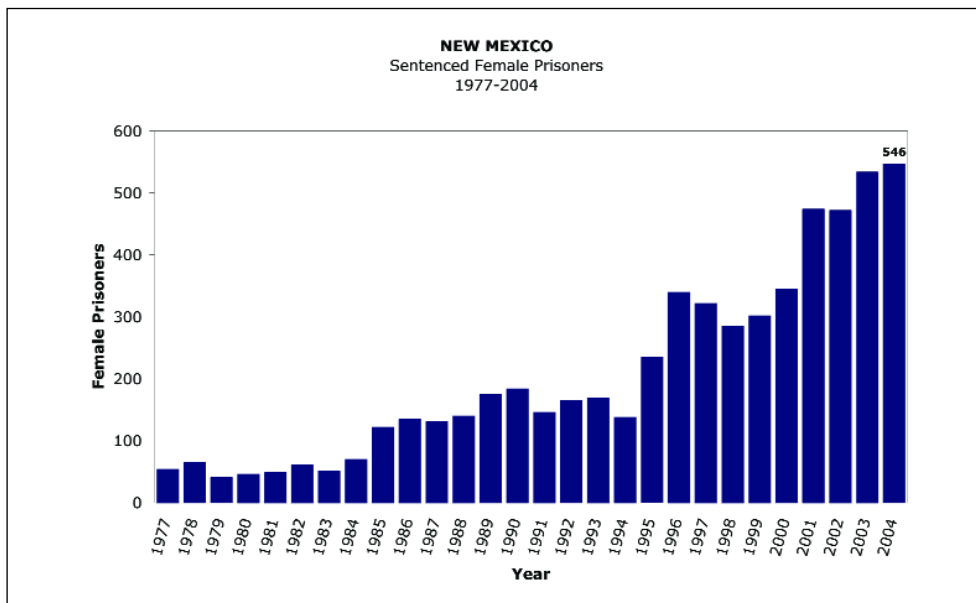
At year-end 2004, New Mexico’s prisons housed 6,111 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 5,565 were male and 546 were female. New Mexico ranked 24th in its 2004 female imprisonment rate with 56 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, and 37th in its 2004 overall imprisonment rate with 318 prisoners per 100,000 residents.

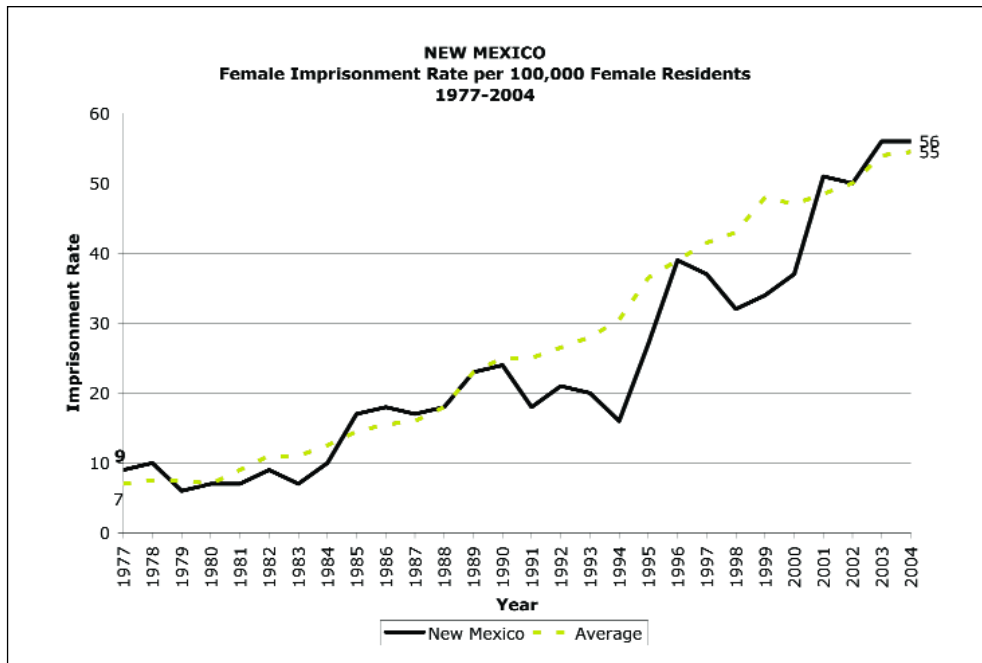
In 1977, New Mexico prisons housed 53 female inmates; by 2004, the female prison population had reached 546. New Mexico’s female prison population was at its lowest with 40 female prisoners in 1979 and peaked at 546 female inmates in 2004.

GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATE

Between 1977 and 2004, New Mexico’s female prison population grew by 930% with an average annual percent change of 12.0% per year.

Throughout the period from 1977 to 2004, New Mexico’s female imprisonment rate was at or below the average female imprisonment rate across the states. While many states experienced consistent and steady growth in female imprisonment, New Mexico’s female imprisonment rate varied quite erratically (particularly through the 1990s). With a female imprisonment rate of 56, New Mexico’s female imprisonment rate in 2004 was average.





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 Mexico’s 1977 ratio was equivalent to the average across states with 26 male prisoners for every female prisoner. In 2004, New Mexico’s male to female imprisonment ratio (10:1) was substantially lower than the average across states.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, New Mexico has 10 correctional facilities. Of New Mexico’s 10 correctional facilities, nine house male prisoners only and one houses female prisoners only. No facilities house both male and female prisoners.