

State Reports

Rhode Island

IMPRISONMENT GROWTH AT A GLANCE	
Imprisonment Rate 1977: 56 (45th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 1977: 3 (46th)
Imprisonment Rate 2004: 175 (48th)	Female Imprisonment Rate 2004: 11 (50th)
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 1977:	13
Total Female Sentenced Prisoners 2004:	60
Percent Increase 1977-2004:	362%
Average Annual Percent Increase 1977-2004:	9%
Percent Increase 1999-2004:	5%

IMPRISONMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

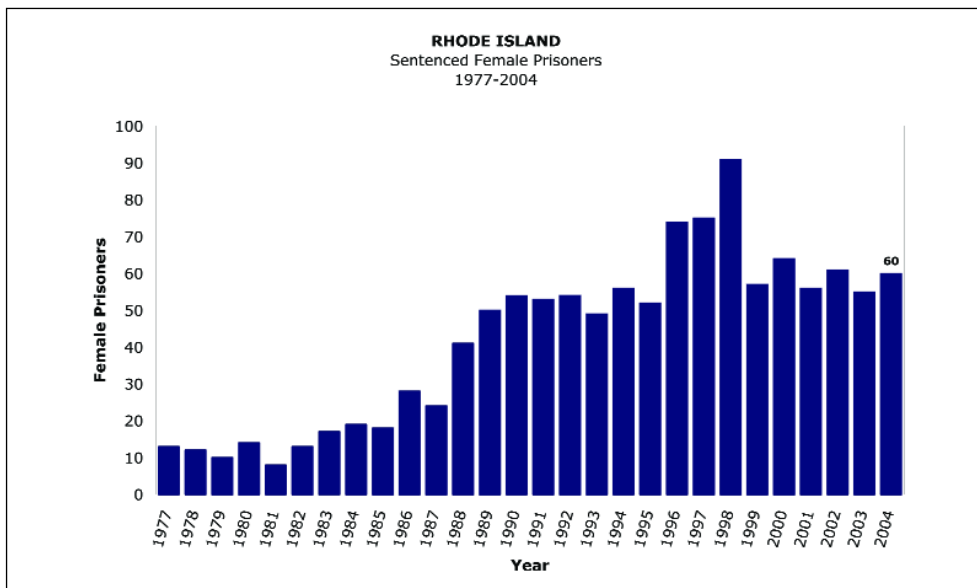
At year-end 2004, Rhode Island prisons housed 1,894 inmates serving sentences of more than one year. Of these inmates, 1,834 were male and 60 were female. Rhode Island ranked 50th in its 2004 female imprisonment rate with 11 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, and 48th in its 2004 overall imprisonment rate with 175 prisoners per 100,000 residents.

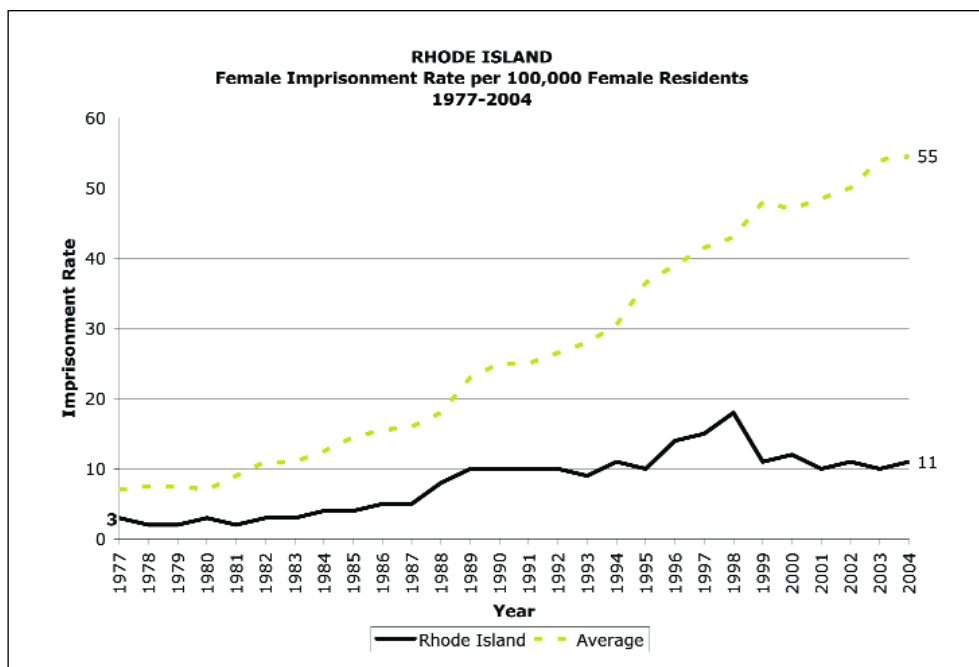
In 1977, Rhode Island prisons housed 13 female inmates; by 2004, the female prison population had reached 60. Rhode Island’s female prison population was at its lowest with 8 female prisoners in 1981 and peaked at 91 female inmates in 1998.

GROWTH IN FEMALE IMPRISONMENT RATE

Between 1977 and 2004, Rhode Island’s female prison population grew by 362% with an average annual percent change of 9.2% per year.

Throughout the period from 1977 to 2004, Rhode Island’s female imprisonment rate was substantially lower than the average female imprisonment rate across the states. In fact, Rhode Island experienced far less growth in female imprisonment than any other state. With a female imprisonment rate of 11 female prisoners per 100,000 female residents, Rhode Island was the least punitive state in its imprisonment of female offenders in 2004.





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. Rhode Island’s 1977 ratio was substantially higher than average with 40 male prisoners for every female prisoner. In 2004, Rhode Island’s male to female imprisonment ratio (31:1) remained markedly higher than the average across states.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

According to the 2000 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, Rhode Island has seven correctional facilities. Of Rhode Island’s seven correctional facilities, six house male prisoners only and one houses female prisoners only. No facilities house both male and female prisoners.