



DIVISION OF CORRECTIONS



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Adult Female Inmates - Crime & Demographics

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CRIME DATA

The prison statistics used in this report were gathered on February 18, 2000 and jail statistics were gathered on March 14, 2000. Jail statistics represent female offenders who have been sentenced to the Division of Corrections (DOC) and are awaiting a bed in a DOC facility. The inmates represented in the following statistics are counted by their most serious crime and represented only once.

Table 1 represents the number of female offenders incarcerated in prison or in jail by crime category at the time of the study. The table also shows the percentage of the population that each category represents. Each of the Crime categories are further broken down in subsequent tables.

Table 1: Number of female inmates incarcerated by crime category, March 2000.

Crime Category	#in Prison	#in Jail	% of Females In Prison	% of Females In Jail
Homicide/ Kidnapping	35	15	23%	13%
Assault/Robbery	32	13	22%	11%
Sex/Child Abuse	14	10	9%	9%
Substance Abuse	21	21	14%	19%
Property Crimes	47	55	32%	48%
Totals	149	114	100%	100%

Table 2 shows the crime category Homicide/Kidnapping by specific crime and the number of females incarcerated in prison or jails for

GROWTH OF FEMALE INMATE POPULATION

- ◆ Since 1990, the annual rate of growth of the nation's female inmate population has averaged 8.5%. **West Virginia's annual rate of growth for female inmates during that same time period was 13.6%.**
- ◆ The total number of female inmates in the U.S. has increased by 92% since 1990. **In West Virginia the total number of female inmates has increased by 231% since 1990.**
- ◆ In 1998, female prisoners made up 6.5% of the inmate population nationwide. **During 1999 female prisoners made up 5% of West Virginia's inmate population.**
- ◆ In 1998, the incarceration rate for female offenders nationwide was 57 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents. **During the same period the incarceration rate for female offenders in West Virginia was 23, less than half the national rate.**
- ◆ **Only two states had higher percentage changes in female inmate population than West Virginia.** North Dakota (16.7%) and Montana (15.9%) as compared to West Virginia's percentage change of 13.6%.
- ◆ **In 1998, West Virginia had the 3rd largest percentage increase of state prisoners held in local or regional jails because of overcrowding.** Only New Mexico (24.7%) and Colorado (19.0%) had higher percentages.

(Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Prisoners in 1998*, August 1999.)

that crime. Within this category, Murder:First Degree was the most common crime with Kidnapping being the least common.

Table 2: Number of female inmates incarcerated for homicide /kidnapping, March 2000.

Crime	# in Prison	# in Jail
Murder: First Degree	19	4
Murder: Second Degree	10	4
Negligent Homicide	1	0
Voluntary Manslaughter	4	6
Kidnapping	1	1
Totals	35	15

Table 3 shows the female offenders which are incarcerated for those crimes that fall into the Assault/Robbery/Burglary category. This category includes most violent crimes, including those property based crimes that can be considered violent.

The most commonly represented (and the most violent) crime included in this category is Aggravated Robbery. The second is Burglary followed by Malicious Assault.

Table 3: Number of female inmates incarcerated for assault/robbery/burglary offenses, March 2000.

Crime	# in Prison	# in Jail
Aggravated Robbery	14	5
Assault	1	0
Burglary	8	2
Carry Weapon w/o Lic.	0	1
Mal. Assault/Wounding	5	1
Robbery	2	2
Unl. Assault/Wounding	2	0
Wanton Endangerment	0	2
Totals	32	13

One of the most controversial and scrutinized offender groups of recent years are those who have been incarcerated for sexual or child abuse crimes. Table 4 shows the female inmates in prison or jail that have been incarcerated for a sexual crime or a child abuse crime.

The largest group in this category, by a wide margin, is those who have been convicted for Child Abuse Resulting in Injury. Note that there are a couple of females incarcerated for Sexual Assault: First Degree and one in jail for Sexual Assault: Second Degree.

Table 4: Number of female inmates incarcerated for sex/child abuse offenses, March 2000.

Crime	# in Prison	# in Jail
Sexual Assault: First	1	1
Sexual Assault: Second	0	1
Sexual Assault: Third	2	2
Sexual Abuse: Parent	2	0
Sexual Abuse: First	2	1
Sexual Abuse: Third	1	0
Child Abuse: Injury	5	4
Child Neglect: Injury	1	1
Totals	14	10

HISTORY OF FEMALE CORRECTIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA

- ◆ Women housed in one wing of the **West Virginia Penitentiary** at Moundsville until 1947.
- ◆ West Virginia State Prison for Women opened at **Pence Springs** in 1947.
- ◆ **Pence Springs** inmates transferred to **FCI-Alderson, Beckley Work Release, and Charleston Work Release** in 1982.
- ◆ **Pence Springs** officially closed March 15, 1983.
- ◆ **Huntington Work Release Center** opened in 1984.
- ◆ **FCI – Alderson’s** security classification changed to minimum in 1988 necessitating the relocation of West Virginia’s female offenders to **Pruntytown Correctional Center**.
- ◆ **Pruntytown Correctional Center** opened to female offenders in 1988.
- ◆ **Ohio County Correctional Center** opened in April 1998.

Table 5 details those female substance abuse offenders that are incarcerated in prison or jail. The most common of these crimes is the Manufacture/Delivery/Possession or Sale of Schedule 1,2, or 3 drugs.

Table 5: Number of female inmates incarcerated for substance abuse offenses, March 2000.

Crime	# in Prison	# in Jail
Counterfeit Sch. 1 or 2	1	0
DUI	2	7
DUI Causing Death	1	0
Manufacture 1,2,3	14	11
Manufacture 4	1	0
Manufacture 5	1	0
Obtain Drug by Misrep.	1	3
Totals	21	21

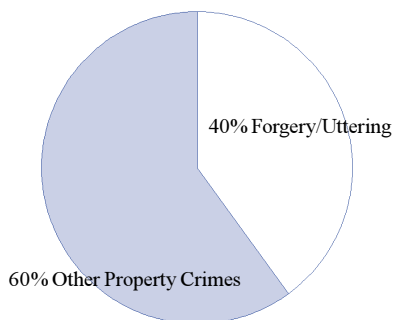
By far, the largest category of female offenders is the Property Crimes category. This category includes all non-violent property crimes and many miscellaneous crimes such as perjury, escape, etc.

The crime for which the most female offenders are incarcerated is Forgery/Uttering. More female offenders are incarcerated for this crime in West Virginia than any other offense. Alone, Forgery/Uttering offenders make up 16% of the DOC’s female inmate population in prison and jails and 40% of all property crime offenders.

Table 6: Number of female inmates incarcerated for property offenses, March 2000.

Crime	# in Prison	# in Jail
Aiding and Abetting	1	2
Arson: First Degree	1	1
Arson: Second Degree	1	1
Arson: Third Degree	0	1
Breaking & Entering	2	1
Conspiracy	1	8
Displacement of Dead	1	0
Embezzlement	3	3
Forgery/Uttering	21	20
Grand Larceny	7	5
Make Worthless Checks	0	1
False Pretenses	3	7
Receive Stolen Goods	1	1
Shoplifting	4	2
Contraband into Prison	1	2
Totals	47	55

Chart 1: Property offenses by crime type for female inmates, March 2000.



Another important aspect to consider when planning for future female corrections in West Virginia is how many female inmates are incarcerated for life sentences. In order to determine this, a count of all female inmates with a sentence of Life with Mercy or Life without Mercy was conducted in March 2000.

The count revealed the fact that 9% of all females incarcerated in prison or jail are serving a life sentence.

It is interesting to note that in 1988 the DOC did not have a single female inmate incarcerated for Life without Mercy. Table 7 shows the results of the entire count.

Table 7: Number of female inmates serving life sentences in prison or jail, March 2000.

Sentence	# in Prison	# in Jail
Life with Mercy	9	2
Life without Mercy	10	2
Totals	19	4

FEMALE PRISONER DEMOGRAPHICS

The following tables depict the demographic breakdown of the female offender population during March 2000. Demographic information on DOC inmates in jail is not usually available until the inmate goes through the intake process at a DOC institution.

EDUCATION

The next table shows the education level groups among female inmates in prison. These statistics show that 44% of the female inmates in prison have not completed high school or received a GED. In addition, the table shows that almost as many inmates have received a GED as those who have graduated from a four year high school.

Each female inmate was placed into one of the following categories based on their highest education level completed.

Table 8: Number of female inmates by highest grade level completed, March 2000.

Education Level	# in Prison
Did not graduate High School	66
GED	35
High School graduate	36
Post High School education	12
Totals	149

AGE

Table 9 shows the age group breakdown of the female inmate population in prison. The statistics show that the majority (66%) of female inmates fall in the 20 to 39 year old age range. Note that Table 9 reflects the inmates' age at the time of the study not the inmates' age at intake.

Table 9: Number of female inmates by age category, March 2000.

Age Group	# in Prison
Under 20 years	3
20-29 years	37
30-39 years	61
40-49 years	41
50-59 years	15
60 and over	2
Totals	149

RACE

The following table shows the racial background of female inmates in prison. Please note that there were no Hispanic, Asian, or Native American female inmates as of March 2000.

Table 10: Number of female inmates by race, March 2000.

Race	# in Prison
African American	23
Caucasian	126
Totals	149

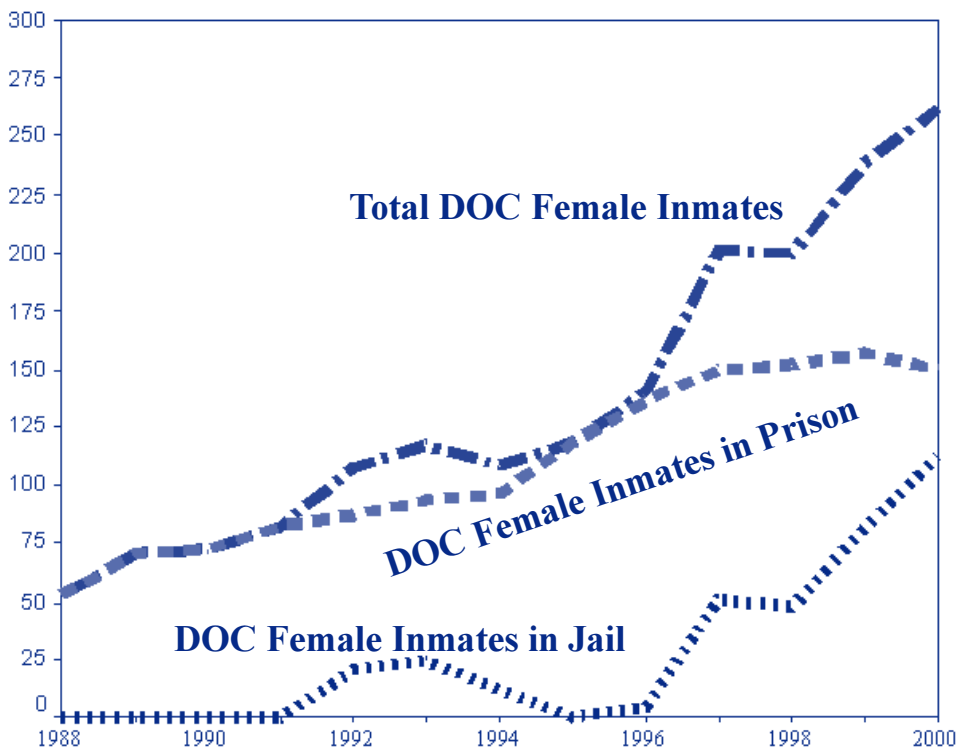
FEMALE OFFENDER POPULATION GROWTH

The following table and chart depict the historical growth of West Virginia's adult female inmate population over a period of thirteen years, from 1988 to 2000. The data was gathered from the daily inmate counts on June 30th of each year. The data shows an alarming overall population growth of 394% between the years 1988 through 2000. The average annual rate of increase during the same period was 14%. It should be noted, however, that female inmate jail populations were not available before 1992 and are not included in the data.

Table 11: Number of female inmates on June 30 by year, 1988-2000.

Year	# in Prison	# in Jail	Total Inmates	% Change From Previous Year	
1988*	53	-	53	-	-
1989	70	-	70	32%	Increase
1990	72	-	72	3%	Increase
1991	82	-	82	14%	Increase
1992	87	20	107	30%	Increase
1993	93	24	117	9%	Increase
1994	96	12	108	-8%	Decrease
1995**	118	0	118	9%	Increase
1996	136	4	140	19%	Increase
1997	150	51	201	44%	Increase
1998***	152	48	200	0%	No Change
1999	157	81	238	19%	Increase
2000	150	112	262	10%	Increase

Chart 2: Female Inmate Population in Prison and DOC sentenced inmates in County or Regional Jails, 1988-2000.



Please Note:

*DOC jail population data was not kept until 1992.

**An increase in female inmate bed space at Pruntytown Correctional Center in 1995 led to an accelerated movement of females from Regional/County Jails to Prison.

***Ohio County Correctional Center opened in 1998, adding 54 beds to DOC's total female capacity.

FEMALE INMATE SURVEY

The Division of Corrections recently completed a survey of 111 of the female inmates housed in DOC facilities. The inmates were asked questions in the following five subject areas: Personal History, Health Issues, Current Crime Information, Substance Abuse History, Criminal History, and Programming/Treatment Information. Below are the results of the survey which was conducted during May 2000.

PERSONAL HISTORY

When asked whether or not they had ever been the victim of sexual or physical abuse, and, if so at what age they were victimized, the following results were obtained.

Table 12: Victim of Sexual or Physical Abuse?

Answer	# of Inmates
No, I have not	34
Yes, before the age of 18	25
Yes, after the age of 18	15
Yes, before & after the age of 18	34
Did Not Answer	3
Totals	111

This data shows that 67% of the inmates surveyed reported that they had been the victim of sexual or physical abuse at one time in their lives. Of those surveyed, 53% said they had been a victim before the age of eighteen.

The next inquiry into the inmates' personal history asked whether the offender had ever been the victim of Domestic Violence and what was their relationship to the victimizer.

Of the 111 females surveyed, 66 reported that they had been the victim of Domestic Violence. The relationship between the victims and their victimizers are shown in table 13.

Table 13: Domestic Violence relationships.

Relationships to Victimizer	# of Inmates
Spouse or Ex-Spouse	56
Sibling	1
Parent	4
Child	1
Did Not Answer	4
Totals	66

One of the most important aspects of female corrections is child custody and care. Of the 111 females surveyed, 94 (85%) have at least one child, while 68 (61%) of those surveyed have at least one child under the age of 18 that requires adult supervision.

Table 14 illustrates who was providing child care for at least one underage child for each inmate with children under eighteen.

Table 14: Child care of Inmates' Children.

Has Custody	# of Inmates
Spouse	6
Ex-Spouse	15
Family Member	31
Friend	2
State of WV	14
Totals	68

Of the female inmates surveyed, 44 reported that they were married at the time of their offense. Table 15 shows those 44 inmates current marital status. All five of those reported as widows are incarcerated for the murder of their husbands.

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Table 15: Current Marital status of those who were married at the time of their offense.

Marital Status	# of Inmates
Married	21
Divorced	11
Separated	7
Widow	5
Totals	44

HEALTH ISSUES

To measure some issues regarding women's health, four yes or no questions were asked the survey group. The data shows that 34% of those surveyed are currently taking medication for an emotional disorder. The table below shows the remainder of the results.

Question	# answering Yes	# answering No
Are you currently pregnant?	0	111
Were you pregnant at the time of your admission?	4	107
Have you received prenatal care in prison?	4	107
Are you receiving medication for an emotional disorder?	38	73

The females surveyed were also asked about their employment status at the time of their offense. Table 16 shows the results of that question.

Table 16: Employment Status at Time of Offense.

Employment Status	# of Inmates
Employed	47
Unemployed	60
Did not Answer	4
Totals	111

The survey group was also asked to list the three main factors that they felt led directly to their criminality, and, while the answers varied greatly, some common threads were observed. Of the 75 inmates who answered the question, 16 put Domestic Abuse/Violence as one of the main factors, and 34 answered that Drugs or Alcohol led to their criminality.

CURRENT CRIME INFORMATION

The results of the survey showed that 61, or 55%, of the women surveyed were incarcerated for a violent crime. Of these women, 69% had a prior relationship with their victims. Table 17 shows the relationship between these 61 women and their victims.

Table 17: Violent crime victim relationship.

Relationship to Victim	# of Violent Offenders
Spouse	7
Ex-Spouse	2
Parent	5
Child	5
Friend	21
Co-Worker	2
Stranger	18
Did Not Answer	1
Totals	61

Table 18 shows the gender of the violent crime victims, 59% of which were male.

Table 18: Gender of violent crime victims.

Gender	# of Victims
Male	36
Female	21
Did Not Answer	4
Totals	61

The surveyed inmates were also asked about the location where they committed their crime. Table 19 shows that 32% of the crimes occurred in the victim's home.

Table 19: Crime location.

Location	# of Inmates
Victim's Home	36
Open Area	16
Work Area	5
Commerical Area	21
Other	15
Did Not Answer	8
Totals	111

SUBSTANCE ABUSE HISTORY

In order to better determine the effects of substance abuse on female offenders, questions regarding past drug or alcohol abuse were asked the surveyed inmates. 61% reported that they had abused drugs or alcohol sometime in the past. For those who reported past abuse, the average age at which abuse started was 16 years of age.

Of the 111 females surveyed, 60 (54%) claimed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of their offense. The substance

they were abusing at the time of the offense is shown in Table 20 below.

Table 20: Drug use at time of offense by type.

Type of Drug	# of Inmates
Alcohol	21
Amphetamines	1
Opiates	9
Barbiturates	2
Cocaine	17
Marijuana	6
Did Not Answer	4
Totals	60

The data also showed that 44 of the 68 females who reported prior abuse had tried outside drug treatment before being committed to a DOC institution.


CRIMINAL HISTORY

Because previous convictions on an inmate's record can affect sentencing and parole eligibility, it is important to examine an inmates previous criminal record. The results of the survey reveal that 40 (36%) of those surveyed have had at least one previous misdemeanor or felony conviction. The survey also showed that, at one time, 53 inmates had been given probation and 60% of those had violated that probation.

PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, AND TREATMENT

Surveyed inmates were asked if they had been taking advantage of the variety of programming, treatment, and education options available to them. Of those sur-

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veyed, 96% reported that they had participated in at least some programs.

In order to assist planning for future programming and treatment options in female corrections, each surveyed inmate was asked which programs they considered most beneficial or helpful to their rehabilitation. Below are the results of this question.

Of those surveyed, 17% felt that the single most beneficial program offered was GED education. GED was the most popular single program, however, if the various substance abuse treatment programs are combined, 17% thought that

substance abuse classes were the most beneficial, as shown in table 21.

Table 21: Most beneficial programs.

Program Name	# of Inmates
Alcoholics Anonymous	4
Aladruce Drug Treatment	11
Anger Control	7
Co-Dependency	8
Committed to Change	5
Computer Class	5
Crime Victim Awareness	4
GED program	19
Life Skills	4
Narcotics Anonymous	4
Parenting	9
Rational Emotive Therapy	3
Social Thinking Skills	3
Transitions	2
Other	5
Did Not Answer	12
Totals	111

DOC FEMALE INSTITUTIONS

Table 22 shows the current facilities in which DOC female offenders are housed. As of June 30, 2000, a total of 112 female offenders in County or Regional Jails were awaiting bed space in a Division of Corrections facility.

Lakin Correctional Center, which is slated to open in the year 2003, will be dedicated exclusively to female inmates and their special needs. The planned capacity of Lakin Correctional Center is 240 beds.

Table 22: West Virginia Division of Corrections - Female Correctional Institutions

Facility Name, Location, & Warden	Security Level	Female Bed Capacity	Female Population June 30, 2000
Ohio County Correctional Center Wheeling Associate Warden: William Yurcina	All Levels	58 beds	54
Pruntytown Correctional Center Grafton Warden: J. N. Liller	Minimum and Medium	79 beds	78
Huntington Work Release Huntington Administrator: James Parker	Minimum	12 beds	10
Charleston Work Release Charleston Administrator: Donald Ervin	Minimum	6 beds	5
Beckley Correctional Center Beckley Administrator: Alvin Ross	Minimum	1 beds	1
Anthony Correctional Center White Sulphur Springs Warden: Scott W. Patterson	Minimum	20 beds	2
Totals	-	176	150



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