



LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

BREAKING THE BARRIERS For Women on Parole Fact Sheet

Female Offender Population Rises Rapidly

Number of female offenders incarcerated in California state prisons in 2003.....	10,454 ¹
Number of female offenders incarcerated in California state prisons in 1983.....	1,750 ²
Percent of increase in female offenders incarcerated from 1983 to 2003	497% ³
Number of female parolees supervised in California in 2003.....	12,290 ⁴
Number of female parolees supervised in California in 1983	1,458 ⁵
Number of female parolees returned to prison in California in 2003.....	6,279 ⁶
Number of female parolees returned to prison in California in 1983.....	395 ⁷

Gender Differences Among Offenders

	Female	Male
Percent of offenders physically or sexually abused prior to prison admission ⁸	57%	16%
Percent of offenders with substance abuse problems ⁹	80%	80%
Percent of offenders receiving therapy/counseling for mental health issues ¹⁰	27%	12%
Percent of offenders employed at the time of arrest ¹¹	40%	60%
Percent of offenders receiving welfare assistance at the time of arrest ¹²	30%	8%
Percent of offenders living with their children prior to prison admission ¹³	64%	44%
Of those living with children prior to arrest, percent in single parent households ¹⁴	46%	15%
Percent entering prison in 2003 convicted of non-violent drug or property crimes ¹⁵	87%	72%
Percent of inmates classified as low security risk (Level I or II) ¹⁶	69%	47%
Percent of parolees requiring low or minimal supervision ¹⁷	88%	72%
Average months served for felons first released to parole in 2003 ¹⁸	14	19

High Costs of Correctional Policies

Annual cost of incarcerating an inmate in California	\$30,929 ¹⁹
Annual cost of supervising a parolee in California.....	\$3,364 ²⁰
Department of Corrections (CDC) budget for FY 2004-05.....	\$5.3 billion ²¹
CDC Parole & Community Services Division budget for FY 2004-05.....	\$543 million ²²
Percentage of the General Fund allocated to CDC annually	6.7% ²³
Annual incarceration cost for parolees returned to prison.....	\$1 billion ²⁴
Annual costs to the social service system for the children of women in prison	\$56 million ²⁵

Notes

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- ¹ California Department of Corrections (CDC). "Historical Trends, 1983-2003." Table 1.
- ² CDC. "Historical Trends, 1983-2003." Table 1.
- ³ CDC. "Historical Trends, 1983-2003." Table 1 (10,454 - 1,750 = 8,704/1,750 = 497%).
- ⁴ CDC. "Historical Trends, 1983-2003." Table 7.
- ⁵ CDC. "Historical Trends, 1983-2003." Table 7.
- ⁶ CDC. May 2004. "Rate of Felon Parolees Returned to California Prisons, Calendar Year 2003."
- ⁷ CDC. May 2004. "Rate of Felon Parolees Returned to California Prisons, Calendar Year 2003."
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. April 1999. "Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers." Washington D.C.
- ⁹ Barbara Bloom, Ph.D., Barbara Owen, Ph.D., and Stephanie Covington, Ph.D. July 2003. "Gender-Responsive Strategies – Research, Practice and Guiding Principles for Women Offenders." National Institute of Corrections. Washington D.C. Also, Sharon Jackson, Assistant Deputy Director, Parole and Community Services Division, CDC. Written communication. October 7, 2003.
- ¹⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. July 2001. "Special Report: Mental Health Treatment in State Prisons." Washington D.C.
- ¹¹ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. December 1999. "Special Report: Women Offenders." Washington D.C.
- ¹² U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. December 1999. "Special Report: Women Offenders." Washington D.C.
- ¹³ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. August 2000. "Incarcerated Parents and Their Children." Washington D.C.
- ¹⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. August 2000. "Incarcerated Parents and Their Children." Washington D.C.
- ¹⁵ CDC. "Historical Trends, 1983-2003." Table 4
- ¹⁶ CDC. August 17, 2004. "Number of Female Felons by Classification Score Level as of August 11, 2004." Written communication from Linda Rianda, Chief Classification Services Unit, Institutions Division."
- ¹⁷ CDC. October 5, 2004. Written communication. "Female Parolees by Class and Male Parolees by Class."
- ¹⁸ CDC. February 2004. "Time Served on Prison Sentence: Felons First Released to Parole by Offense, Calendar Year 2003." Tables 2 and 3.
- ¹⁹ CDC. Facts & Figures. Third Quarter 2004.
- ²⁰ CDC. Facts & Figures. Third Quarter 2004.
- ²¹ Department of Finance. "2004-05 Final Budget Summary."
- ²² Department of Finance. "2004-05 Final Budget Summary."
- ²³ Department of Finance. "2004-05 Final Budget Summary." (\$5.3 billion/\$78.7 billion)
- ²⁴ CDC. May 2004. "Rate of Felon Parolees Returned to California Prisons, CY 2003." (78,058 parolees returned to custody.) CDC. 2001. "California Prisoners and Parolees." (Average time served is 5.2 months.) Table 42. "Facts & Figures, Third Quarter 2004." (Annual cost per inmate is \$30,929, \$2,577 per month.) $78,058 \times 5.2 \times \$2,577 = \$1,046,008,423$
- ²⁵ Katherine Gabel and Denise Johnston. 1995. "Children of Incarcerated Parents." Page 294. Table 19.1.