

Introduction

This third edition of the World Female Imprisonment List shows the number of women and girls held in penal institutions in 219 prison systems in independent countries and dependent territories. The figures include both pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners and those who have been convicted and sentenced. The List also shows the percentage of women and girls within each national prison population and the proportion of the national population that are imprisoned females (the female prison population rate per 100,000 of the national population). The information is the latest available at the end of July 2015. In addition, this edition includes information about trends in female prison population levels since 2000.

Both the World Female Imprisonment List and the World Prison Population List (the eleventh edition of which is scheduled for publication in January 2016) complement the information held in the World Prison Brief online database at www.prisonstudies.org. The World Prison Brief is updated monthly.

The World Female Imprisonment List is compiled, like the World Prison Population List, from a variety of sources. In almost all cases the original source is the national prison administration of the country concerned, or else the Ministry responsible for the prison administration. Most of the figures are recent and efforts are continually made to update them and to obtain information on the numbers of female prisoners in the seven countries on which figures are not currently available (Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, North Korea, Somalia and Uzbekistan). We welcome the assistance of readers in notifying us of the latest figures. Care has been taken to ensure that the List is as accurate as possible but we cannot guarantee the reliability of every figure and readers are also invited to draw attention to any errors they notice and, if possible, to supply corrections.

It is hoped that this edition of the World Female Imprisonment List will be useful for policy makers, prison administrators, academic criminologists, non-governmental organisations, other criminal justice experts and everyone who is interested in the extent of female imprisonment.

Key points

- ▶ This report shows that 700,000 women and girls are held in penal institutions throughout the world, either as pre-trial detainees/remand prisoners or having been convicted and sentenced. Figures for seven countries are not available and those for China are incomplete. The full total is therefore higher than 700,000.
- ▶ More than 200,000 are in the United States of America (205,400). The countries with the next highest totals are China (103,766 plus an unknown number of women and girls in pre-trial detention or 'administrative detention'), the Russian Federation (53,304), Thailand (44,751), Brazil (37,380), Vietnam (20,553), India (18,188) and Mexico (13,400).
- ▶ Female prisoners generally (in about 80% of prison systems) constitute between 2 and 9% of the total prison population. Just eighteen systems have a higher percentage than that. The highest (excluding three countries with national populations under 60,000 – Liechtenstein (22.2%), Monaco (17.4%) and Greenland (13.8%)) are Hong Kong-China (19.4%), Macau-China (17.7%), Myanmar (16.3%), Bolivia and Qatar (both 14.7%), Thailand (14.5%), Vietnam (14.4%) and Kuwait (13.8%).
- ▶ The proportion of women and girls within the total prison population is lowest in African countries, where the median level is 2.8%, and highest in Asian countries, where the median level is 6.0%. The world median is 4.4%.
- ▶ There are also considerable variations between countries, regions and continents in the proportion of the national population that female prisoners constitute – best expressed for comparison purposes as the female prison population rate per 100,000 of the national population. The lowest levels are again in Africa where the median is 2.5 per 100,000; in Asia the median level is three times as high and in the Americas more than four times as high. The highest female prison population rates are in Thailand (66.4 per 100,000 of the national population), U.S.A. (64.6), Seychelles (48.9), El Salvador (45.9), Turkmenistan (38.2), Russian Federation (36.9), Macau-China (33.6), Rwanda (32.0), Belarus (29.9) and American Samoa (29.6).
- ▶ The number of women and girls in prison has increased by about 50% since the year 2000, when the total was estimated as approximately 466,000. This rise cannot be explained in terms of the growth in national population levels: United Nations figures for the world population indicate that this rose only by 18% between mid-2000 and mid-2014.
- ▶ The female prison population has risen in all continents. The increases have been greater than the growth in national population levels, except in Africa where the rise in the female prison population was only half as great as the increase in the population of the continent. Rises in the female prison population in the Americas, in Oceania and in Asia have been, respectively, three, four and five times the increases in the population of those continents.
- ▶ The number of women and girls in prison has risen particularly sharply in some countries: notably in central America – Guatemala (almost quadrupled since 2001) and El Salvador (now almost eight times the level at 2000); in south America – Brazil (almost four times the 2000 level) and Colombia (almost three times the 2000 level); and in south-eastern Asia – Cambodia and Indonesia (both more than quadrupled since 2000).
- ▶ Current indications are that female prison population levels have not only grown sharply; they have grown much faster than male prison population levels (see article cited under table 7 below). It is provisionally estimated that the total world prison population has increased by around 20% since 2000, compared with the approximately 50% increase in the number of imprisoned women and girls. More information will be available in the forthcoming eleventh edition of the World Prison Population List.

World Female Imprisonment List (third edition)

Table 1

AFRICA

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Northern Africa									
Algeria	1,037	31.12.13	1.7%	37.28m	2.8	2000 2006 2010	626 607 820	1.8% 1.1% 1.5%	2.0 1.8 2.3
Egypt	2,386	31.12.06	3.7%	73.61m	3.2	2002 2005	2,213 2,453	4.3% 3.6%	3.2 3.4
Libya	63	15.9.13	1.2%	6.21m	1.0	2004 2007 2010	387 347 345	3.3% 2.7% 2.6%	7.0 6.0 5.7
Morocco	1,719	31.12.14	2.3%	33.37m	5.2	2002 2006 2010	1,776 1,227 1,721	3.3% 2.4% 2.7%	6.0 4.0 5.4
Sudan	c. 200	3.03	c. 1.7%	29.74m	c. 0.7	not available			
Tunisia	647	10.14	2.7%	11.15m	5.8	2011	400	1.9%	3.7
Western Africa									
Benin	360	10.12	5.0%	9.42m	3.8	2000 2006 2008	c. 140 220 210	c. 3.6% 3.8% 3.5%	2.1 2.8 2.5
Burkina Faso	102	30.6.14	1.6%	18.41m	0.6	2001 2007 2010	25 74 100	1.0% 1.8% 2.0%	0.2 0.5 0.6
Cape Verde	57	7.13	4.0%	501,000	11.4	1999 2010	38 73	5.0% 6.0%	8.7 14.9
Cote d'Ivoire	187	30.11.14	1.7%	21.01m	0.9	2002	236	2.3%	1.4
Gambia	28	.14	3.1%	1.91m	1.5	1999	6	1.2%	0.5
Ghana	199	6.15	1.4%	26.96m	0.7	2000 2005 2010	143 257 187	1.5% 2.1% 1.4%	0.8 1.2 0.8
Guinea (Rep. of)	133	12.08	4.8%	10.45m	1.3	2002 2007	61 112	2.0% 4.4%	0.7 1.1
Guinea Bissau	4*	31.12.13	4.3%*	1.725m	-	not available			
Liberia	52	.11	3.2%	4.08m	1.3	2001 2007 2010	- 50 31	c. 5% 4.9% 2.0%	- 1.4 0.8
Mali	145	.14	2.8%	15.77m	0.9	2002	80	2.0%	0.7
Mauritania	21	.14	1.2%	4.01m	0.5	1999 2010	34 62	2.5% 3.6%	1.3 1.7
Niger	225	31.12.12	2.6%	17.49m	1.3	2006 2010	183 155	3.2% 2.9%	1.3 1.0
Nigeria	1,156	31.10.14	2.0%	180.19m	0.6	2000 2005 2011	709 722 908	1.9% 1.9% 1.9%	0.6 0.5 0.6
Senegal	284	21.12.12	3.4%	13.24m	2.1	2000 2005 2008	183 234 256	3.7% 3.6% 3.7%	1.9 2.2 2.2
Sierra Leone	138	14.10.14	3.6%	6.24m	2.2	2007 2010	66 79	3.3% 3.5%	1.2 1.4
Togo	115	.14	2.6%	6.99m	1.6	1998 2011	46 92	2.3% 2.1%	1.0 1.4
Central Africa									
Angola	522	31.12.11	2.7%	19.87m	2.6	1999 2003	c. 97 196	c. 2% 3.3%	c. 0.7 1.3
Cameroon	515	12.12	2.0%	21.95m	2.3	2003 2009	503 488	2.5% 2.1%	3.0 2.4
Central African Rep.	69	11.11	8.2%	4.51m	1.5	not available			
Chad	35*	31.5.11	2.8%*	12.05m	-	2002	21*	2.5%*	-
Congo (Rep. of)	99	.09	4.1%	3.995m	2.5	2005	82	5.3%	2.3
Dem. Rep. of Congo	c. 600	.10	c. 2.7%	62.19m	c. 1.0	2004 2008	83* 130*	3.2%* 3.0%*	- -
Sao Tome e Principe	3	8.10.14	1.5%	199,000	1.5	2002 2009	3 7	2.3% 2.9%	2.1 4.0
South Sudan	c. 400	31.12.13	c. 5.3%	11.52m	c. 3.5	not available			

World Female Imprisonment List (third edition)

Table 1 (continued)

AFRICA

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Eastern Africa									
Burundi	377	31.12.13	4.8%	9.125m	4.1	2002 2006 2010	216 231 349	2.5% 3.2% 3.8%	3.2 3.1 4.2
Comoros	7	10.14	3.0%	756,000	0.9	2010	2	1.5%	0.3
Djibouti	c. 35	.14	c. 5.8%	886,000	c. 4.0	2009	c. 24	c. 4.8%	c. 2.9
Ethiopia	2,637	2010/11	2.8%	84.17m	3.1	2001/2 2005/6	2,034 1,994	3.3% 2.8%	3.0 2.6
Kenya	2,756	10.12	5.3%	42.97m	6.4	2001 2006 2009	1,486 2,000 2,081	4.2% 4.2% 4.5%	4.6 5.5 5.3
Madagascar	834	.13	4.5%	22.48m	3.7	2003 2006 2010	650 573 736	3.4% 3.3% 3.9%	3.9 3.1 3.6
Malawi	129	25.7.14	1.1%	16.77m	0.8	2001 2005 2010	91 117 156	1.3% 1.2% 1.3%	0.8 0.9 1.0
Mauritius	169	16.1.13	6.3%	1.32m	12.8	2000 2005 2010	78 137 153	4.7% 5.6% 6.2%	6.5 10.9 11.8
Mozambique	618	9.13	3.9%	25.10m	2.5	1999 2009	551 358	6.3% 2.2%	3.1 1.6
Rwanda	3,620	30.9.12	6.4%	11.33m	32.0	2002 2009	2,925 c. 4,200	2.6% c. 6.6%	33.6 c. 40.3
Seychelles	45	9.14	6.1%	92,000	48.9	2002 2006 2010	4 11 28	2.7% 7.7% 6.5%	4.8 13.0 31.5
Tanzania	1,285	1.11.11	3.4%	46.60m	2.8	2005 2008	1,515 1,361	3.3% 3.3%	3.9 3.2
Uganda	1,907	8.14	4.5%	37.82m	5.0	2005 2008 2010	901 1,060 1,175	3.4% 3.6% 3.8%	3.2 3.3 3.5
Zambia	169	17.9.13	1.0%	14.26m	1.2	2005	237	1.7%	2.1
Zimbabwe	322	7.14	1.8%	12.96m	2.5	2001 2005 2011	671 602 340	3.5% 3.3% 1.9%	5.3 4.8 2.5
Mayotte (France)	3	1.1.10	1.4%	201,000	1.5	2003 2007	2 3	1.2% 1.9%	1.2 1.6
Reunion (France)	29	1.7.15	2.8%	895,000	3.2	2003 2007	29 34	2.7% 2.6%	3.8 4.2
Southern Africa									
Botswana	93	31.12.13	2.4%	2.03m	4.6	2001 2004 2009	289 306 215	4.6% 5.0% 4.1%	16.2 16.4 11.0
Lesotho	74	30.8.14	3.6%	2.26m	3.3	2000 2005 2010	139 78 61	4.5% 2.7% 2.4%	7.0 3.8 2.3
Namibia	85	10.4.15	2.4%	2.48m	3.4	2000 2007 2012	104 110 117	2.1% 2.7% 2.7%	5.4 5.1 4.9
South Africa	3,875	31.3.14	2.5%	53.79m	7.2	2000 2005 2010	3,966 4,072 3,694	2.5% 2.2% 2.2%	9.2 8.7 7.4
Swaziland	c. 105	21.3.14	2.9%	1.25m	c. 8.4	2002 2005 2009	133 104 68	3.9% 3.9% 2.6%	12.3 9.4 5.8

* These figures are for the main prisons only. Full figures are not available.

Figures are not available for the following countries:

Central Africa: Equatorial Guinea, Gabon. Eastern Africa: Eritrea, Somalia.

World Female Imprisonment List (third edition)

Table 2

AMERICAS

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Northern America									
Canada	4,124	2011/12	10.6%	34.45m	12.0	2000/01 2005/06 2010/11	2,601 2,126 4,204	7.3% 6.0% 11.0%	8.5 6.6 12.3
U.S.A.	205,400	.13	9.3%	317.8m	64.6	2000 2005 2010	158,629 195,140 197,100	8.2% 8.9% 8.7%	55.6 66.0 63.5
Bermuda (UK)	13	31.7.14	5.7%	65,000	20.0	2000 2003 2007	20 36 14	6.7% 5.6% 5.4%	31.7 56.2 21.5
Greenland (Denmark)	16	21.7.15	13.8%	55,700	28.7	not available			
Central America									
Belize	44	9.1.15	2.8%	344,000	12.8	2000 2005 2010	20 33 24	2.6% 2.4% 1.7%	8.4 12.1 7.7
Costa Rica	1,009	30.9.14	5.8%	4.95m	20.4	2003 2006 2009	454 615 673	6.8% 7.4% 6.4%	10.8 13.9 14.5
El Salvador	2,952	27.7.15	9.7%	6.43m	45.9	2000 2005 2010	371 585 2,445	4.8% 4.7% 9.9%	6.2 9.6 39.2
Guatemala	1,709	28.5.15	9.0%	16.22m	10.5	2001 2005 2010	433 381 743	5.9% 5.3% 6.7%	3.8 3.0 5.2
Honduras	627	9.14	4.3%	8.30m	7.6	2002 2005 2010	614 395 411	5.2% 3.4% 3.5%	9.4 5.7 5.3
Mexico	13,400	31.3.15	5.2%	119.81m	11.2	2001 2005 2010	7,207 10,485 9,839	4.3% 5.0% 4.5%	7.1 9.9 8.7
Nicaragua	450	31.12.12	4.9%	6.04m	7.5	2002 2005 2008	c. 215 365 515	3.8% 6.5% 7.6%	c. 4.1 6.7 9.1
Panama	1,077	3.14	6.9%	3.91m	27.5	2001 2005 2010	721 761 865	7.5% 6.6% 7.1%	22.9 22.4 23.3
Caribbean									
Antigua & Barbuda	14	9.14	4.2%	93,200	15.0	2003 2007 2011	7 4 13	4.3% 2.0% 4.3%	8.5 4.6 14.4
Bahamas	44	10.14	3.2%	385,000	11.4	2002 2011	23 35	1.8% 2.7%	7.4 9.5
Barbados	24	10.14	2.7%	286,300	8.4	2001 2007 2010	39 49 37	4.7% 4.7% 4.1%	14.5 17.8 13.2
Dominica	4	12.13	1.7%	68,000	5.9	2005 2010	1 6	0.3% 2.1%	1.5 8.8
Dominican Republic	627	29.5.15	2.5%	10.64m	5.9	2001 2006 2010	621 470 563	4.0% 3.4% 2.7%	7.1 4.9 5.6
Grenada	5	9.14	1.0%	106,000	4.7	2002 2005 2010	9 2 16	3.0% 0.8% 3.6%	8.8 1.9 15.3
Haiti	448	30.1.15	4.4%	10.54m	4.3	2003 2006 2010	116 248 440	3.3% 6.6% 8.6%	1.3 2.6 4.4
Jamaica	197	10.11.14	4.9%	2.78m	7.1	2003 2007 2011	371 245 285	7.8% 5.2% 6.4%	14.0 9.0 10.3
St Kitts & Nevis	10	.14	3.0%	55,000	18.2	2005 2010	5 7	2.4% 2.5%	10.1 13.5
St Lucia	14	7.14	2.2%	184,000	7.6	2001 2003 2010	11 8 8	2.4% 1.7% 1.4%	6.9 4.9 4.5

World Female Imprisonment List (third edition)

Table 2 (continued)

AMERICAS

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
St Vincent & the Grenadines	6	28.7.14	1.5%	109,000	5.5	2001 2006 2010	8 10 9	2.6% 2.7% 2.2%	7.4 9.2 8.3
Trinidad & Tobago	90	avrge 14	2.6%	1.34m	6.7	2004 2009	120 148	3.1% 4.0%	9.3 11.2
Anguilla (UK)	1	31.10.14	1.8%	14,000	7.1	2007 2011	0 2	0% 2.8%	0 14.3
Aruba (Neth)	6	23.10.14	3.5%	103,000	5.8	2005	23	10.0%	23.1
Cayman Is. (UK)	15	5.6.14	7.9%	55,300	25.7	2000 2005 2010	24 16 11	10.6% 8.4% 5.2%	59.7 33.1 19.8
Curacao (Neth)	11	23.10.14	3.2%	154,650	7.1	2002 2007	68 41	12.4% 6.9%	53.3 28.7
Guadeloupe (Fr)	20	1.7.15	2.2%	476,000	4.2	2003 2007	9 18	1.3% 2.3%	2.1 4.0
Martinique (Fr)	17	1.7.15	1.8%	411,000	4.1	2003 2007	12 15	1.9% 2.0%	3.1 3.7
Puerto Rico (USA)	433	11.13	3.4%	3.58m	12.1	2004/05 2010	513 328	3.4% 3.0%	13.2 8.9
Sint Maarten (Neth)	8	23.10.14	5.0%	46,400	17.2	2002 2007	7 7	5.4% 7.4%	21.5 17.5
Virgin Is. (UK)	7	4.14	5.9%	28,000	25.0	2011	5	5.0%	18.5
Virgin Is. (USA)	16	1.1.11	2.7%	106,000	15.1	2007	21	3.8%	19.6
South America									
Argentina	2,839	31.12.13	4.4%	41.62m	6.8	2002 2005 2010	2,402 2,172 2,719	5.3% 5.0% 4.6%	6.4 5.6 6.7
Bolivia	1,724	.12	14.7%	10.50m	16.4	2000 2005 2009	1,393 913 892	17.1% 13.4% 12.0%	16.2 9.7 8.9
Brazil	37,380	6.14	6.4%	202.03m	18.5	2000 2005 2010	10,112 20,264 34,807	4.3% 5.6% 7.0%	5.8 10.8 17.8
Chile	3,212	30.6.15	7.5%	17.87m	18.0	1999 2005 2010	1,907 2,527 4,586	7.0% 6.4% 8.6%	12.6 15.6 26.8
Colombia	8,482	30.6.15	7.0%	49.53m	17.1	2000 2005 2010	3,141 4,122 5,684	6.1% 6.2% 6.7%	7.8 9.5 12.2
Ecuador	1,999	14.9.14	7.7%	16.03m	12.5	2002 2005 2009	682 1,307 1,230	8.8% 10.7% 8.0%	5.2 9.4 8.3
Guyana	70	31.12.13	3.5%	757,500	9.2	2001 2006 2010	47 79 98	3.1% 4.0% 4.5%	6.4 10.5 13.0
Paraguay	776	3.14	7.2%	6.88m	11.3	1999 2005 2010	207 265 328	5.1% 4.2% 5.3%	4.0 4.4 5.0
Peru	4,396	31.3.15	6.0%	31.06m	14.2	2001 2005 2010	2,054 2,363 2,780	7.6% 7.0% 6.0%	7.8 8.5 9.4
Suriname	28	.12	2.8%	535,000	5.2	2000 2005 2009	42 39 30	5.9% 4.8% 4.9%	9.0 7.8 5.8
Uruguay	598	1.11.14	6.2%	3.42m	17.5	1999 2005 2010	c. 240 354 692	c. 6.0% 4.9% 7.9%	c. 7.3 10.7 20.5
Venezuela	3,260	.14	5.9%	30.85m	10.6	2001 2006 2010	936 1,255 2,399	5.5% 6.5% 6.4%	3.7 4.6 8.3
Fr. Guiana/ Guyane (Fr)	61	1.7.15	8.4%	262,000	23.3	2003 2007	34 54	5.8% 7.4%	18.4 25.2

Figures are not available for the following country:
Caribbean: Cuba.

World Female Imprisonment List (third edition)

Table 3

ASIA

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Western Asia									
Bahrain	189	12.13	4.7%	1.34m	14.1	2004 2009	101 57	23.1% 11.4%	11.9 4.8
Iraq	1,199	31.12.13	2.6%	34.27m	3.5	2005 2010	215 757	2.5% 2.1%	0.8 2.4
Israel	488	11.11	2.5%	7.58m	6.4	1999 2005 2009	182 353 492	1.9% 2.2% 2.2%	3.1 5.3 6.7
Jordan	c. 460	9.14	c. 4.6%	6.72m	c. 6.8	2005 2009	185 194	2.9% 2.7%	3.5 3.2
Kuwait	c. 400	.13	c. 13.8%	3.37m	c. 11.9	2002 2009	108 211	5.6% 5.2%	5.3 7.4
Lebanon	295	11.14	4.9%	5.02m	5.9	2002 2005 2009	358 225 336	4.3% 3.3% 7.0%	10.4 5.6 7.8
Oman	55	.02	4.5%	2.31m	2.4	2000	101	5.0%	4.6
Qatar	81	31.12.08	14.7%	1.46m	5.5	2000 2005	67 103	11.8% 19.7%	11.3 11.5
Saudi Arabia	1,639	.02	5.7%	21.83m	7.5	2000	1,570	6.6%	7.8
Syria	507*	.04	7.4%*	17.68m	-	2003	497*	6.7%*	-
United Arab Emirates	1,249	.06	11.2%	4.88m	25.6	2003	486*	9.6%*	-
Yemen	192	.13	1.6%	26.23m	0.7	2003 2006 2009	263 184 170	1.6% 1.9% 1.6%	1.4 0.9 0.7
Central Asia									
Kazakhstan	3,486	1.1.15	7.3%	16.69m	20.0	2005 2008 2011	2,899 3,646 4,222	5.5% 6.6% 7.6%	19.3 23.6 26.3
Kyrgyzstan	528	1.1.12	5.4%	5.43m	9.7	2000 2005 2008	705 620 398	5.1% 4.6% 4.7%	14.3 12.3 7.7
Tajikistan	118	1.1.08	1.6%	7.19m	1.6	2006	511	4.7%	7.4
Turkmenistan	c. 2,000	.13	c. 6.5%	5.24m	c. 38.2	2003 2006	1,507 1,351	9.7% 12.3%	32.4 28.1
South Central Asia									
Afghanistan	718	.14	2.7%	35.60m	2.0	2004 2007 2010	103 304 566	2.0% 2.9% 3.1%	0.4 1.0 1.8
Bangladesh	2,211	31.3.14	3.4%	158.03m	1.4	2003 2006 2010	1,910 2,222 2,324	2.8% 3.4% 3.4%	1.4 1.5 1.5
Bhutan	47	31.12.13	4.3%	760,000	6.2	2011	38	3.8%	5.2
India	18,188	31.12.13	4.4%	1,259.8m	1.4	2000 2005 2010	9,089 13,986 15,037	3.3% 3.9% 4.1%	0.9 1.2 1.2
Iran	c. 6,880	12.14	c. 3.1%	77.71m	c. 8.9	2002 2006 2010	c. 5,970 c. 5,130 c. 5,850	3.5% 3.5% 3.5%	c. 8.6 c. 7.3 c. 8.0
Maldives	51	.14	4.3%	352,000	14.5	2010	40	4.8%	12.3
Nepal	1,222	10.14	7.3%	32.19m	3.8	2006 2009 2011	360 661 829	6.5% 7.1% 7.2%	1.3 2.2 2.7
Pakistan	1,650	4.15	2.1%	187.52m	0.9	1999 2005 2010	1,203 1,323 931	1.7% 1.5% 1.2%	0.9 0.8 0.5
Sri Lanka	932	mid-14	4.7%	21.45m	4.3	2000 2005 2010	662 906 1,254	3.9% 3.8% 4.7%	3.5 4.5 6.0

World Female Imprisonment List (third edition)

Table 3 (continued)

ASIA

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
South Eastern Asia									
Brunei Darussalam	48	22.9.14	8.7%	428,500	11.2	2000 2005 2010	22 37 37	6.6% 7.5% 9.8%	6.7 10.2 9.3
Cambodia	1,331	15.7.15	8.1%	15.69m	8.5	2000 2005 2010	288 500 856	5.2% 6.1% 6.1%	2.4 3.7 6.0
Indonesia	8,246	8.14	5.1%	253.18m	3.3	2000 2005 2010	1,807 4,656 6,876	3.4% 4.7% 5.8%	0.9 2.1 2.9
Laos	421	mid-04	10.5%	5.70m	7.4	not available			
Malaysia	3,538	mid-14	7.4%	30.21m	11.7	2000 2005 2010	1,246 2,322 2,544	4.8% 6.5% 6.6%	5.3 8.9 9.0
Myanmar	c. 10,000	.13	c. 16.3%	53.26m	c. 18.8	2001 2007 2009	6,034 9,754 6,443	19.1% 15.0% 10.7%	12.3 19.2 12.5
Philippines	10,277	.14	8.6%	99.69m	10.3	2001 2005 2010	3,324 7,076 7,726	5.3% 7.8% 8.1%	3.4 8.3 8.3
Singapore	1,247	31.12.14	9.9%	5.72m	21.8	2000 2005 2010	1,126 1,649 1,341	8.2% 10.9% 9.8%	28.7 38.6 26.3
Thailand	44,751	16.7.15	14.5%	67.41m	66.4	2000 2005 2010	35,803 28,452 29,175	17.4% 17.2% 14.6%	57.4 43.4 43.9
Timor-Leste	16	31.12.14	3.5%	1.16m	1.4	2003 2009	1 4	0.3% 1.8%	0.1 0.4
Vietnam	20,553	mid-14	14.4%	92.55m	22.2	2005 2010	10,990 12,591	12.4% 11.6%	12.9 14.1
Eastern Asia									
China	103,766*	mid-14	6.3%*	1,393.8m	-	2000 2005 2010	47,100* 77,279* 84,600*	3.3%* 4.9%* 5.1%*	- - -
Japan	5,044	mid-14	8.2%	127.1m	4.0	2000 2005 2010	3,302 4,839 5,343	5.4% 6.1% 7.3%	2.6 3.8 4.2
Korea (Rep. of)	3,025	31.7.14	6.0%	49.08m	6.2	2000 2005 2010	2,951 2,589 2,375	4.8% 5.5% 5.2%	6.4 5.5 4.9
Mongolia	348	10.9.14	4.5%	2.94m	11.8	2001 2005 2010	227 308 430	3.4% 4.4% 6.1%	9.3 12.1 15.6
Hong Kong (China)	1,607	31.12.14	19.4%	7.26m	22.1	2000 2005 2010	1,321 2,476 2,002	11.8% 20.4% 19.7%	19.8 36.4 28.5
Macau (China)	217	30.4.15	17.7%	646,600	33.6	2000 2005 2010	64 82 136	7.3% 9.2% 14.8%	14.9 17.3 25.3
Taiwan	5,405	31.5.15	8.6%	23.46m	23.0	not available			

* These figures relate only to convicted prisoners. Full figures are not available.

Figures are not available for the following countries:

Central Asia: Uzbekistan. Eastern Asia: Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea

World Female Imprisonment List (third edition)

Table 4

EUROPE

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Northern Europe									
Denmark	139	1.5.15	4.0%	5.67m	2.5	2000 2005 2010	164 184 183	5.0% 4.5% 4.6%	3.1 3.4 3.3
Estonia	154	27.7.15	5.5%	1.31m	11.8	2000 2005 2010	203 212 196	4.2% 4.8% 5.7%	14.9 15.7 14.7
Finland	234	16.5.15	7.5%	5.47m	4.3	2000 2005 2010	142 238 258	5.3% 6.2% 7.8%	2.7 4.5 4.8
Iceland	5	1.9.13	3.3%	324,400	1.5	2000 2005 2010	3 7 8	3.7% 5.9% 4.8%	1.1 2.4 2.5
Ireland	124	31.7.15	3.3%	4.64m	2.7	2000 2005 2010	84 102 154	2.9% 3.4% 3.5%	2.2 2.4 3.4
Latvia	343	31.12.14	7.2%	1.986m	17.3	2000 2005 2010	421 411 438	4.9% 5.7% 6.5%	17.7 17.9 20.7
Lithuania	389	1.9.14	4.4%	2.93m	13.3	2000 2005 2010	263 263 408	3.0% 3.3% 4.6%	7.5 7.7 12.8
Norway	217	13.5.15	5.8%	5.19m	4.2	2000 2005 2010	147 155 224	5.6% 5.0% 6.2%	3.3 3.3 4.6
Sweden	326	1.10.14	5.6%	9.71m	3.4	2000 2005 2010	288 368 405	5.1% 5.2% 5.7%	3.2 4.1 4.3
UK: England & Wales	3,922	31.7.15	4.6%	57.90m	6.8	2000 2005 2010	3,350 4,467 4,236	5.2% 5.9% 5.0%	6.4 8.4 7.7
UK: Northern Ireland	54	31.7.15	3.2%	1.85m	2.9	2000 2005 2010	23 32 43	2.2% 2.5% 2.9%	1.4 1.9 2.4
UK: Scotland	383	31.7.15	5.2%	5.37m	7.1	2000 2005 2010	203 332 443	3.3% 4.9% 5.6%	4.0 6.5 8.5
Faeroes (Denmark)*	0*	avrge 13	1.6%	48,120	0.3	2005 2010	0 0*	0% 2.0%	0 0.4
Guernsey (UK)	5	24.10.14	5.2%	64,800	7.7	2001 2006 2010	7 4 6	10.0% 3.5% 8.7%	11.2 6.2 9.1
Isle of Man (UK)	2	9.11.14	2.4%	86,300	2.3	2000 2005 2010	2 2 8	3.7% 3.3% 8.2%	2.6 2.5 9.5
Jersey (UK)	6	17.11.14	4.5%	100,700	6.0	2001 2006 2010	14 16 20	10.4% 9.1% 10.4%	15.8 17.4 20.6
Southern Europe									
Albania	93	9.14	1.7%	2.89m	3.2	2005 2008 2010	103 126 93	3.0% 2.6% 2.0%	3.3 4.0 2.9
Andorra	10	8.14	18.2%	76,250	13.1	2002 2006 2010	4 1 6	7.3% 3.3% 16.7%	6.0 1.2 7.7
Bosnia & Herzegovina - Federation	49	1.9.12	2.9%	2.35m	2.1	2001 2005 2010	33 40 46	2.4% 2.8% 2.6%	1.4 1.7 2.0
Bosnia & Herzegovina - Republika Srpska	17	31.12.14	1.8%	1.32m	1.3	2001 2005 2010	23 14 19	2.7% 1.5% 1.8%	1.6 1.0 1.4
Croatia	195	25.11.14	5.1%	4.24m	4.6	2000 2005 2010	74 140 225	3.7% 4.0% 4.6%	1.6 3.2 5.1

* Faeroes (Denmark). The asterisked figures are both averages that have been rounded down: the actual figures are 0.19 in 2010 and 0.15 in 2013.

Table 4 (continued)

EUROPE

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Cyprus	45	1.9.13	7.6%	860,600	5.2	2000	14	4.5%	2.0
						2005	18	3.4%	2.4
						2010	38	6.0%	4.6
Greece	588	11.14	4.9%	10.80m	5.4	2000	358	4.7%	3.3
						2005	594	6.8%	5.4
						2010	554	4.9%	4.9
Italy	2,122	31.7.15	4.1%	60.80m	3.5	2000	2,235	4.2%	3.9
						2005	2,843	4.8%	4.8
						2010	2,995	4.5%	4.9
Kosovo	49	1.10.14	2.7%	1.82m	2.7	2003	25	2.1%	1.2
						2007	34	2.7%	1.6
						2010	35	2.4%	1.6
Macedonia	91	10.14	3.5%	2.07m	4.4	2000	32	2.3%	1.6
						2005	66	3.1%	3.2
						2010	59	2.3%	2.9
Malta	37	8.14	6.3%	425,900	8.7	2002	11	3.9%	2.8
						2006	14	4.1%	3.5
						2010	34	5.7%	8.2
Montenegro	28	9.14	2.6%	621,900	4.5	2002	18	2.5%	2.9
						2006	17	2.0%	2.7
						2009	41	2.7%	6.7
Portugal	838	15.7.15	5.9%	10.35m	8.1	2000	1,216	9.4%	11.9
						2005	875	6.8%	8.3
						2010	627	5.4%	5.9
San Marino	0	1.9.13	0%	33,700	0	2002	0	0%	0
						2005	0	0%	0
						2010	0	0%	0
Serbia	414	31.12.13	4.1%	7.15m	5.8	2000	116	1.9%	1.5
						2005	231	3.0%	3.1
						2010	348	3.1%	4.8
Slovenia	84	25.5.15	5.6%	2.06m	4.1	2000	40	3.5%	2.0
						2005	48	4.2%	2.4
						2010	53	3.9%	2.6
Spain	4,982	24.7.15	7.7%	46.40m	10.7	2000	3,668	8.1%	9.1
						2005	4,744	7.7%	10.9
						2010	6,009	7.9%	13.0
Gibraltar (UK)	2	27.11.09	3.9%	29,420	6.8	2001	0	0%	0
						2006	1	2.6%	3.5
Western Europe									
Austria	530	1.11.14	6.0%	8.55m	6.2	2000	406	5.9%	5.1
						2005	442	5.0%	5.4
						2010	534	6.2%	6.4
Belgium	502	1.3.14	4.3%	11.24m	4.5	2000	358	4.1%	3.5
						2005	391	4.2%	3.7
						2010	419	4.0%	3.9
France (metropolitan France)	2,032	1.7.15	3.3%	64.34m	3.2	2000	1,833	3.8%	3.1
						2005	2,145	3.7%	3.5
						2010	2,200	3.4%	3.5
Germany	3,753	31.3.15	5.9%	81.29m	4.6	2000	3,515	4.4%	4.3
						2005	4,037	5.0%	4.9
						2010	3,727	5.2%	4.6
Liechtenstein	2	1.9.13	22.2%	37,030	5.4	2002	0	0%	0
						2005	0	0%	0
						2010	1	7.1%	2.8
Luxembourg	26	1.1.15	4.1%	562,400	4.6	2000	20	5.1%	4.6
						2005	32	4.6%	6.9
						2010	25	3.6%	4.9
Monaco	4	9.14	17.4%	37,550	10.7	2003	3	10.7%	8.5
						2006	11	29.7%	31.2
						2010	3	25.0%	8.5
Netherlands	687	30.9.13	5.4%	16.82m	4.1	2001	1,232	8.2%	7.7
						2006	1,835	8.7%	11.2
						2010	1,161	7.4%	7.0
Switzerland	328	3.9.14	4.7%	8.20m	4.0	2000	383	6.0%	5.3
						2005	332	5.4%	4.5
						2010	347	5.6%	4.4

Table 4 (continued)

EUROPE

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Central & Eastern Europe									
Belarus	2,830	31.12.09	6.8%	9.48m	29.9	2000 2005	3,368 3,098	6.0% 7.5%	33.7 31.8
Bulgaria	292	10.14	3.2%	7.21m	4.0	2000 2005 2009	274 373 298	2.9% 3.0% 3.0%	3.4 4.8 3.9
Czech Rep.	1,350	31.7.15	6.6%	10.55m	12.8	2000 2005 2010	968 904 1,293	4.5% 4.8% 5.9%	9.4 8.8 12.3
Hungary	1,377	26.3.15	7.6%	9.84m	14.0	2000 2005 2010	976 960 1,033	6.3% 6.2% 6.3%	9.6 9.5 10.3
Moldova	422	1.9.13	6.3%	3.56m	11.9	2000 2005 2010	387 445 401	4.0% 4.9% 6.3%	10.7 12.4 11.3
Poland	2,631	30.6.15	3.5%	38.00m	6.9	2000 2005 2010	1,729 2,359 2,597	2.5% 2.8% 3.2%	4.5 6.2 6.7
Romania	1,508	30.6.15	5.1%	19.82m	7.6	2000 2005 2010	1,931 1,696 1,273	4.0% 4.6% 4.5%	8.6 7.8 6.3
Slovakia	639	1.7.15	6.3%	5.42m	11.8	2000 2005 2010	259 399 564	3.6% 4.3% 5.6%	4.8 7.4 10.4
Ukraine	7,977	1.12.13	6.2%	45.18m	17.7	2002 2006 2010	11,727 10,085 9,139	5.9% 6.1% 6.0%	24.4 21.6 20.0
Europe/Asia									
Armenia	199	1.1.14	5.1%	2.98m	6.7	2002 2005 2009	123 78 159	2.2% 2.8% 4.0%	4.0 2.6 5.4
Azerbaijan	632	.14	2.8%	9.54m	6.6	2002 2005 2009	274 266 433	1.5% 1.6% 2.1%	3.3 3.2 4.8
Georgia	307	30.4.15	2.9%	3.73m	8.2	2000 2005 2010	219 283 1,174	2.6% 2.9% 5.0%	5.0 6.4 26.3
Russian Federation	53,304	1.7.15	8.1%	144.3m	36.9	2002 2006 2010	53,683 58,400 67,900	5.8% 6.7% 8.1%	37.0 41.0 47.6
Turkey	5,971	2.3.15	3.6%	77.88m	7.7	2000 2005 2010	2,591 1,802 4,218	3.6% 3.3% 3.5%	3.8 2.5 5.8

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Table 5

OCEANIA

	Female prison population total	Date	Percentage of total prison population	Estimated national population	Female prison population rate	Trend information			
						year	total	%age	rate
Australia	2,805	3.15	7.8%	23.75m	11.8	2000 2005 2010	1,385 1,734 2,228	6.4% 6.8% 7.5%	7.2 8.5 10.1
Fiji	47	mid-14	3.1%	887,000	5.3	2000 2005 2010	17 23 32	1.4% 2.1% 2.9%	2.1 2.8 3.7
Kiribati	3	mid-14	2.5%	104,000	2.9	2000 2005 2010	1 1 3	1.8% 1.4% 3.3%	1.2 1.1 3.1
Marshall Is.	0	9.14	0%	53,000	0	2005 2010	2 0	4.7% 0%	3.8 0
Federated States of Micronesia	0	31.12.14	0%	104,000	0	2005 2011	0 3	0% 3.2%	0 2.9
Nauru	1	11.14	7.1%	10,000	10.0	2005 2010	0 1	0% 5.0%	0 10.0
New Zealand	561	31.12.14	6.5%	4.54m	12.4	2000 2005 2010	266 435 562	4.7% 6.1% 6.4%	6.9 10.5 12.9
Palau	4	.14	5.6%	21,000	19.0	2003 2005 2010	7 8 4	6.9% 8.6% 5.1%	35.0 40.0 20.0
Papua New Guinea	228	5.11.14	5.0%	7.53m	3.0	2001 2005 2010	101 201 230	3.1% 5.0% 5.4%	1.8 3.3 3.3
Samoa	35	10.14	7.3%	192,500	18.2	2000 2005 2011	14 11 28	8.1% 4.5% 6.6%	8.0 6.1 14.9
Solomon Is.	2	9.14	0.6%	575,000	0.3	1999 2005 2010	1 2 0	0.7% 0.7% 0%	0.2 0.4 0
Tonga	8	7.14	4.5%	106,000	7.5	2000 2005 2010	1 7 7	1.5% 5.5% 4.4%	1.0 6.9 6.7
Tuvalu	0	8.14	0%	10,000	0	2000 2005 2010	0 0 0	0% 0% 0%	0 0 0
Vanuatu	1	31.12.12	0.5%	255,000	0.4	1999 2005 2010	1 6 3	2.2% 4.3% 1.6%	0.6 2.8 1.3
American Samoa (USA)	17	31.12.07	7.2%	57,500	29.6	2004	15	8.6%	25.4
Cook Is. (NZ)	0	21.11.11	0%	20,000	0	2000 2005	1 1	4.3% 3.7%	5.6 5.3
French Polynesia (Fr)	17	1.7.15	3.8%	284,000	6.0	2003 2007	12 12	4.1% 3.0%	4.9 4.6
Guam (USA)	46	30.3.15	5.8%	170,000	27.1	2005 2009	31 21	6.2% 4.1%	19.6 13.2
New Caledonia (Fr)	7	1.7.15	1.5%	271,000	2.6	2003 2007	4 9	1.3% 2.8%	1.8 3.8
Northern Mariana Is. (USA)	8	31.12.07	5.8%	63,500	12.6	not available			

Sources The figures in the above tables originate almost always from the national prison administrations. Some were obtained indirectly, via the Ministry responsible for prisons, via national statistical offices, via United Nations surveys, via surveys for the annual meetings of the Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators, via the Council of Europe Annual Penal Statistics (SPACE) or via U.S. State Department human rights reports.

Table 6 Female prison population levels – summary by continent

	Female prison population total	Women/girls as percentage of total prison population (median)	Female prison population rate per 100,000 of national population (median)
AFRICA	30,675	2.8%	2.5
AMERICAS	297,663	4.9%	12.15
ASIA	264,625	6.0%	7.5
EUROPE	103,250	4.9%	5.4
OCEANIA	3,790	4.15%	5.65
WORLD	700,003	4.4%	6.0

Table 7 Female prison population levels – change since about the year 2000

	Estimated female prison population total at about 2000*	Latest available female prison population total	Change in female prison population total since about 2000	Change in national populations mid-2000 to mid-2014 (United Nations)
AFRICA	25,020*	30,675	+ 22.6%	+ 40.8%
AMERICAS	196,307*	297,663	+ 51.6%	+ 16.6%
ASIA	143,815*	264,625	+ 84.0%	+ 16.8%
EUROPE	98,906*	103,250	+ 4.4%	+ 3.4%
OCEANIA	1,864*	3,790	+ 103.3%	+ 24.4%
WORLD	465,912*	700,003	+50.2%	+ 18.2%

* For more details on the figures in this column see Walmsley R. (2015, forthcoming), 'Variations and growth in the levels of female imprisonment', in *Women in Prison: the Bangkok Rules and Beyond*, proceedings of a colloquium held in Bangkok in March 2014, International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation.

Roy Walmsley is Director of the World Prison Brief, a comprehensive online database of information on the prison systems of the world, which can be accessed free of charge at www.prisonstudies.org. He also researches and compiles the World Prison Population List (tenth edition, 2013) and the World Pre-trial/Remand Imprisonment List (second edition, 2014).

Until 2014 the International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS) hosted the World Prison Brief and published the Lists. In November 2014, ICPS merged with the Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck, University of London, which now hosts the World Prison Brief and publishes the Lists.