

Introduction

This fourth edition of the World Female Imprisonment List shows the number of women and girls held in penal institutions in 221 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 number of imprisoned women and girls per 100,000 of the national population (the female prison population rate). The information is the latest available at the end of September 2017. In addition, this edition includes information about trends in female prison population levels since about 2000.

Both the World Female Imprisonment List and the World Prison Population List (the eleventh edition of which was published in 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 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 number of female prisoners in the few countries on which figures are not currently available (Cuba, Eritrea, 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 more than 714,000 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 five countries are not available and those for China are incomplete. The full total is therefore higher still.
- ▶ More than 200,000 female prisoners are in the United States of America (about 211,870). The countries with the next highest totals are China (107,131 plus an unknown number of women and girls in pre-trial detention and ‘administrative detention’), the Russian Federation (48,478), Brazil (about 44,700), Thailand (41,119), India (17,834), Philippines (12,658), Vietnam (11,644), Indonesia (11,465), Mexico (10,832), Myanmar (9,807) and Turkey (9,708). The female prison population levels in Brazil, Indonesia, Philippines and Turkey have risen sharply in the two years since the previous edition of this List was published; by contrast, they have fallen substantially in Mexico, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Vietnam.
- ▶ In around four-fifths of prison systems female prisoners constitute between 2 and 9% of the total prison population. Just nineteen systems have a higher percentage than that. The jurisdictions with the highest proportions are Hong Kong-China (20.8%), Laos (18.3%), Macau-China (15.4%), Qatar (14.7%), Kuwait (13.8%), Thailand (13.3%), Myanmar (12.3%), United Arab Emirates (11.7%) and South Sudan (10.9%) (excluding three very small jurisdictions*).
- ▶ Women and girls make up 6.9% of the global prison population. In African countries the proportion of women and girls in the total prison population, at 3.4%, is much lower than elsewhere. In the Americas women and girls make up 8.4% of the total prison population (6.3% if the US figures are excluded), in Asia 6.7%, in Europe 6.1% (5.1% excluding Russia) and in Oceania 7.4%.
- ▶ 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 overall rate per 100,000 of the national population is 3.2. In Asia the rate is 6.2, in Oceania 11.3, in Europe 12.1 (7.7 excluding Russia) and in the Americas 31.4 (14.6 excluding the U.S.A.).
- ▶ The highest female prison population rates are in the U.S.A. (about 65.7 per 100,000 of the national population), Thailand (60.7), El Salvador (58.4), Turkmenistan (about 38.2), Seychelles (34.8), Russian Federation (33.5), French Guiana (32.4), Macau-China (31.3), Rwanda (29.6), Greenland (28.5) and American Samoa (27.3).
- ▶ The number of women and girls in prison worldwide has increased by some 53% since about 2000, when the total was estimated as approximately 466,000. This rise cannot be explained in terms of global population growth (United Nations figures indicate that the global population rose only by 21% between mid-2000 and mid-2016) or growth in the total number of prisoners (the worldwide male prison population has increased by around 20% since 2000).
- ▶ The female prison population has risen in all continents since 2000. In Africa the rise has been somewhat less than the increase in the general population of the continent and in Europe the increase in prisoner numbers has been similar to the general population increase. By contrast, rises in the female prison population in the Americas, in Asia and in Oceania have been respectively about three, four and five times the increases in the general population of those continents.
- ▶ The number of women and girls in prison has risen particularly sharply in some countries: notably in central America – Guatemala (now more than five times the level at 2001) and El Salvador (now ten times the level at 2000); in south America – Brazil (four and a half times the 2000 level); and in south-eastern Asia – Cambodia and Indonesia (both more than six times the level at 2000).
- ▶ Comparison of the latest figures with those that were available two years ago suggests that the worldwide female prison population may still be increasing at a faster rate than the worldwide male prison population. Two years ago the increases since 2000 were about 50.2% for female prisoners and 18.1% for male prisoners; they are now about 53.3% and 19.6% respectively.

* Andorra (21.2%), Greenland (13.8%) and Liechtenstein (12.5%)

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth 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	1,063	31.12.14	1.7%	39.30m	2.7	2000 2006 2010	626 607 1,034	1.8% 1.1% 2.1%	2.0 1.8 2.9
Egypt	2,386	31.12.06	3.7%	73.61m	3.2	2001 2005	2,054 2,453	4.5% 3.6%	3.0 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	1,870	3.17	2.4%	35.12m	5.3	2002 2005 2010 2015	1,776 1,227 1,721 1,715	3.3% 2.4% 2.7% 2.3%	6.0 4.0 5.4 5.0
Sudan	c. 200	3.03	c. 1.7%	29.74m	c. 0.7	2002	624	4.9%	2.1
Tunisia	661	30.12.16	2.8%	11.42m	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	113	31.12.15	1.5%	18.36m	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	237	30.11.16	2.1%	21.99m	1.1	2002 2012	236 177	2.3% 2.5%	1.4 0.9
Gambia	28	11.14	2.5%	1.93m	1.5	1999	6	1.2%	0.5
Ghana	169	7.17	1.3%	28.11m	0.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	143 257 187 199	1.5% 2.1% 1.4% 1.4%	0.7 1.2 0.8 0.7
Guinea (Rep. of)	116	9.14	3.7%	12.12m	1.0	2002 2008	61 133	2.0% 4.8%	0.7 1.3
Guinea Bissau	5	18.2.17	2.6%	1.92m	0.3	2011	4	6.3%	0.2
Liberia	c. 27	14.9.16	c. 1.3%	4.64m	c. 0.6	2007 2011	50 52	4.9% 3.2%	1.4 1.3
Mali	145	.14	2.8%	15.77m	0.9	2002	80	2.0%	0.7
Mauritania	34	1.16	1.8%	4.13m	0.8	2010	62	3.6%	1.7
Niger	338	.14	4.3%	18.54m	1.8	2006 2010	183 155	3.2% 2.9%	1.3 1.0
Nigeria	1,336	2.17	2.0%	191.89m	0.7	2000 2005 2010 2014	709 722 897 1,156	1.9% 1.9% 1.9% 2.0%	0.6 0.5 0.6 0.6
Senegal	275	20.10.16	2.9%	15.72m	1.7	2000 2005 2012	183 234 284	3.7% 3.6% 3.4%	1.9 2.2 2.1
Sierra Leone	136	11.9.17	3.3%	6.58m	2.1	2007 2010 2015	66 79 116	3.3% 3.5% 3.3%	1.2 1.4 1.8
Togo	118	.15	2.7%	7.17m	1.6	1998 2011	46 92	2.3% 2.1%	1.0 1.4
Central Africa									
Angola	c. 700	9.13	c. 3.6%	23.64m	3.0	1999 2003	c. 97 196	c. 2% 3.3%	c. 0.7 1.2
Cameroon	697	31.12.15	2.7%	23.69m	2.9	2003 2009 2013	503 545 645	2.5% 2.4% 2.5%	3.0 2.7 2.9
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%*	- -
Equatorial Guinea	c. 25	.15	5.0%	799,000	c. 3.1	not available			
Gabon	119	31.12.15	3.5%	1.77m	6.7	not available			

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth 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
Sao Tome e Principe	9	10.16	5.1%	209,500	4.3	2002 2010	3 8	2.3% 2.6%	2.1 4.5
South Sudan	710	28.9.15	10.9%	12.45m	5.7	2011	c. 405	7.0%	3.8
Eastern Africa									
Burundi	457	31.12.16	4.5%	11.74m	3.9	2002 2006 2010	216 228 371	2.5% 2.8% 3.8%	3.2 3.0 4.4
Comoros	2	10.16	1.4%	792,000	0.3	2010	2	1.5%	0.3
Djibouti	c. 30	.16	c. 5.0%	913,000	c. 3.3	2009	c. 24	c. 4.8%	c. 2.9
Ethiopia	4,756	2013/14	4.2%	89.56m	5.3	2001/2 2006/7 2010/1	2,034 2,458 3,132	3.3% 3.1% 3.0%	3.0 3.2 3.7
Kenya	3,762	avrge 16	7.4%	47.25m	8.0	2001 2006 2009	1,486 2,000 2,081	4.2% 4.2% 4.5%	4.6 5.5 5.3
Madagascar	907	9.16	4.5%	25.06m	3.6	1999 2006 2010	626 573 736	3.1% 3.3% 3.9%	4.2 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	110	28.8.17	4.7%	1.28m	8.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	78 137 153 116	4.7% 5.6% 6.2% 5.6%	6.5 10.9 11.8 9.1
Mozambique	426	1.15	2.9%	27.63m	1.5	1999 2009	551 358	6.3% 2.2%	3.1 1.6
Rwanda	3,526	12.13	6.5%	11.93m	29.6	2002 2009	2,925 c. 4,200	2.6% c. 6.6%	33.6 c. 40.3
Seychelles	33	30.6.16	4.7%	94,700	34.8	2002 2006 2010	4 10 28	2.7% 5.7% 6.5%	4.8 11.8 31.5
Tanzania	1,285	1.11.11	3.4%	46.60m	2.8	1999 2005 2008	1,293 1,515 1,361	3.1% 3.3% 3.3%	3.9 3.9 3.2
Uganda	1,848	31.12.14	4.4%	38.18m	4.8	2005 2008 2010	901 1,070 1,296	3.4% 3.7% 4.3%	3.2 3.4 3.9
Zambia	c. 515	.14	c. 3.0%	14.55m	c. 3.5	2005	237	1.7%	2.1
Zimbabwe	434	1.5.17	2.2%	16.27m	2.7	2001 2005 2010 2015	671 597 c. 450 391	3.5% 3.3% 3.0% 2.1%	5.3 4.8 3.2 2.5
Mayotte (France)	2	1.9.17	0.7%	247,000	0.8	2003 2009 2015	2 8 0	1.2% 3.7% 0%	1.2 4.1 0
Reunion (France)	29	1.9.17	2.7%	917,000	3.2	2003 2007 2015	29 34 29	2.7% 2.6% 2.8%	3.8 4.2 3.2
Southern Africa									
Botswana	75	31.12.14	1.8%	2.05m	3.7	2001 2004 2009	289 306 215	4.6% 5.0% 4.1%	16.1 16.5 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 2.8
Namibia	108	7.16	2.9%	2.51m	4.3	2000 2007 2012	104 110 117	2.1% 2.7% 2.7%	5.4 5.0 4.9
South Africa	4,193	31.3.16	2.6%	55.58m	7.5	2000 2005 2010	3,966 4,072 3,694	2.5% 2.2% 2.2%	9.2 8.6 7.3
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:

Eastern Africa: Eritrea, Somalia.

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth 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	2,727	.14	c. 5.6%	35.54m	7.7	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.	c. 211,870	.15	c. 9.8%	322.3m	c. 65.7	2000 2005 2010	158,629 195,140 197,100	8.2% 8.9% 8.7%	55.9 66.0 63.5
Bermuda (UK)	13	31.7.14	5.7%	65,000	20.0	2000 2003 2007	20 36 14	6.7% 10.5% 5.4%	31.7 56.2 21.5
Greenland (Denmark)	16	21.7.15	13.8%	56,100	28.5	not available			
Central America									
Belize	46	30.6.17	3.5%	364,000	12.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	20 29 24 39	2.6% 2.3% 1.7% 2.7%	8.4 10.5 7.7 11.1
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	3,803	18.9.17	9.8%	6.51m	58.4	2000 2005 2010 2015	371 585 2,445 3,176	4.8% 4.7% 9.9% 9.7%	6.2 9.6 39.2 49.2
Guatemala	2,369	14.9.17	10.3%	17.13m	13.8	2001 2005 2010 2015	433 381 743 1,822	5.9% 5.3% 6.7% 9.1%	3.8 3.0 5.2 11.1
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	10,832	31.8.17	5.2%	123.75m	8.8	2000 2005 2010 2015	c. 6,813 10,485 9,839 13,047	4.4% 5.0% 4.5% 5.3%	c. 6.5 9.4 8.7 10.8
Nicaragua	575	10.14	5.4%	6.19m	9.3	1999 2005 2008	c. 238 365 515	4.5% 6.5% 7.6%	c. 4.7 6.7 9.1
Panama	888	6.17	5.5%	4.11m	21.6	2000 2005 2010 2014	654 761 865 1,032	7.6% 6.6% 7.1% 6.6%	21.2 22.4 23.3 26.1
Caribbean									
Antigua & Barbuda	22	9.16	5.9%	93,200	23.7	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	33	31.12.15	3.6%	287,500	11.5	2001 2007 2010	39 49 45	4.7% 4.7% 4.9%	14.5 17.8 16.0
Dominica	2	1.16	1.1%	73,000	2.7	2005 2010	1 6	0.3% 2.1%	1.4 8.8
Dominican Republic	707	30.6.17	2.6%	10.90m	6.5	2000 2006 2010 2015	654 470 563 635	4.3% 3.4% 2.7% 2.6%	7.6 4.9 5.6 5.9
Grenada	7	9.16	1.5%	107,000	6.5	2002 2005 2010	9 2 12	3.0% 0.8% 2.7%	8.8 1.9 11.4
Haiti	456	31.12.15	4.1%	10.78m	4.2	2003 2006 2010	116 248 440	3.3% 6.6% 8.6%	1.3 2.6 4.4
Jamaica	182	23.11.16	4.7%	2.81m	6.5	2003 2007 2011	371 245 285	7.8% 5.2% 6.4%	14.0 9.0 10.3
St Kitts & Nevis	8	6.17	3.6%	56,000	14.3	2005 2010 2014	5 7 10	2.4% 2.5% 3.0%	10.1 13.5 18.2
St Lucia	13	6.17	2.5%	188,000	6.9	2001 2003 2010 2014	11 8 9 14	2.4% 1.7% 1.6% 2.2%	6.9 4.9 5.1 7.6
St Vincent & the Grenadines	6	28.7.14	1.5%	109,000	5.5	2001 2006 2010	8 10 9	2.6% 2.6% 2.2%	7.4 9.2 8.3

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth 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
Trinidad & Tobago	90	avrge 14	2.6%	1.35m	6.7	2004 2009	120 148	3.1% 4.0%	9.3 11.2
Anguilla (UK)	1	30.10.15	2.2%	15,000	6.7	2007 2011	0 2	0% 2.8%	0 14.3
Aruba (Neth)	6	23.10.14	3.5%	103,000	5.8	2005 2011	23 c. 15	10.0% c. 6%	23.1 c. 14.7
Cayman Is. (UK)	11	20.7.17	5.0%	60,700	17.8	2000 2005 2010 2015	24 16 11 10	10.6% 8.4% 5.2% 5.3%	59.7 33.1 19.8 16.9
Curacao (Neth)	11	23.10.14	3.2%	154,650	7.1	2002 2007 2011	68 41 c. 25	12.4% 6.9% c. 5%	53.3 28.7 c. 16.5
Guadeloupe (France)	24	1.9.17	2.5%	474,500	5.1	2003 2007 2015	9 20 18	1.3% 2.6% 2.0%	2.1 4.4 3.9
Martinique (France)	24	1.9.17	2.8%	396,000	6.1	2003 2007 2015	12 16 22	1.9% 2.2% 2.5%	3.1 4.0 5.6
Puerto Rico (USA)	374	7.17	3.6%	3.35m	11.2	2004/05 2010 2015	513 328 420	3.4% 3.0% 3.5%	13.2 8.9 12.1
Sint Maarten (Neth)	8	23.10.14	5.0%	46,400	17.2	2002 2007 2011	7 7 4	5.4% 7.4% 2.9%	21.5 17.5 9.3
Virgin Is. (UK)	7	4.14	5.9%	28,000	25.0	2010	6	5.1%	22.2
Virgin Is. (USA)	16	1.1.11	2.7%	106,000	15.1	2007	21	3.8%	19.6
South America									
Argentina	2,963	31.12.15	4.1%	43.63m	6.8	2002 2005 2010	2,402 2,172 2,719	5.3% 5.0% 4.6%	6.4 5.6 6.7
Bolivia	1,157	.16	8.2%	11.20m	10.3	2000 2005 2009	1,393 913 892	17.1% 13.4% 12.0%	16.2 9.7 8.9
Brazil	c. 44,700	12.16	c. 6.9%	205.95m	c. 21.7	2000 2005 2010	10,112 20,264 34,807	4.3% 5.6% 7.0%	5.8 10.8 17.7
Chile	3,788	31.8.17	8.6%	18.16m	20.9	1999 2005 2010 2015	1,907 2,328 4,586 3,212	7.0% 6.0% 8.6% 7.5%	12.6 14.3 26.8 18.0
Colombia	7,679	31.8.17	6.6%	50.83m	15.1	2000 2005 2010 2015	3,141 4,122 5,684 8,256	6.1% 6.2% 6.7% 6.9%	7.8 9.5 12.2 16.6
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%	5.1 9.4 8.3
Guyana	70	31.12.13	3.5%	757,500	9.2	2001 2006 2010	47 82 98	3.1% 4.4% 4.5%	6.4 10.9 13.0
Paraguay	834	12.15	6.5%	7.09m	11.8	1999 2005 2010	207 265 328	5.1% 4.2% 5.3%	4.0 4.4 5.0
Peru	4,878	30.6.17	5.8%	31.94m	15.3	2001 2005 2010 2015	2,054 2,363 2,780 4,545	7.6% 7.0% 6.0% 5.9%	7.8 8.4 9.4 14.5
Suriname	28	.12	2.8%	535,000	5.3	2000 2005 2009	42 39 30	5.9% 4.8% 4.9%	9.0 7.8 5.8
Uruguay	585	31.8.17	5.3%	3.45m	17.0	1999 2005 2010 2015	c. 240 354 688 581	6.0% 4.9% 7.9% 5.8%	c. 7.3 10.6 20.4 16.9
Venezuela	2,696	.16	5.0%	31.73m	8.5	2001 2006 2010	936 1,255 2,399	5.5% 6.5% 6.4%	3.7 4.6 8.3
Fr. Guiana/ Guyane (France)	89	1.9.17	10.6%	275,000	32.4	2003 2008 2015	34 56 61	5.8% 8.5% 8.4%	18.4 25.2 23.3

Figures are not available for the following country:

Caribbean: Cuba.

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth 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	2003 2009	101 57	23.1% 11.4%	12.7 4.8
Iraq	1,103	.14	2.6%	34.69m	3.2	2005 2010	215 757	2.5% 2.1%	0.8 2.4
Israel	215	31.12.14	1.0%	7.87m	2.7	1999 2005 2010	182 353 451	1.9% 2.2% 2.2%	3.1 5.3 6.0
Jordan	c. 460	12.15	c. 4.0%	7.67m	c. 6.0	2005 2010	185 127	2.9% 1.5%	3.5 2.0
Kuwait	c. 400	.13	c. 13.8%	3.37m	c. 11.9	2003 2010	c. 550 201	c. 14.9% 4.8%	c. 25.9 6.7
Lebanon	296	8.16	4.6%	5.08m	5.8	2002 2005 2010	358 225 201	4.3% 3.3% 4.0%	10.4 5.6 4.6
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	c. 3,050	2.13	c. 6.5%	29.17m	c. 10.5	2000	1,570	6.6%	7.7
Syria	507*	.04	7.4%*	17.68m	2.9*	2003	497*	6.7%*	2.9*
United Arab Emirates	1,148	.14	11.7%	9.45m	12.1	2003 2006	486* 1,249	9.6%* 11.2%	14.4* 25.6
Yemen	192	.13	1.6%	26.23m	0.7	2003 2006 2010	263 184 211	1.6% 1.9% 1.8%	1.4 0.9 0.9
Central Asia									
Kazakhstan	2,762	10.1.17	7.6%	17.97m	15.4	2005 2010 2015	2,899 4,246 3,486	5.5% 6.7% 7.3%	19.3 26.8 19.9
Kyrgyzstan	437	1.1.17	4.2%	6.08m	7.2	2000 2005 2010 2015	705 821 283 387	5.1% 4.9% 2.9% 4.0%	14.3 16.1 5.2 6.6
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
Southern Asia									
Afghanistan	782	.15	2.8%	36.70m	2.1	2004 2007 2010	103 304 566	2.0% 2.9% 3.1%	0.4 1.0 1.8
Bangladesh	2,772	30.6.16	3.8%	162.29m	1.7	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	17,834	31.12.15	4.3%	1,289.7m	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%	78.59m	c. 8.8	2002 2006 2010	c. 5,790 c. 5,130 c. 5,850	3.5% 3.5% 3.5%	c. 8.6 c. 7.2 c. 7.9
Maldives	51	.14	4.3%	352,000	14.5	2010	40	4.8%	12.3
Nepal	1,222	10.14	7.3%	32.19m	4.3	2006 2010	360 737	6.5% 6.9%	1.4 2.7
Pakistan	1,497	31.12.16	1.8%	192.70m	0.8	1999 2005 2010	1,203 1,323 931	1.7% 1.5% 1.2%	0.9 0.8 0.5
Sri Lanka	828	mid-16	4.9%	21.77m	3.8	2000 2005 2010	662 906 1,254	3.9% 3.8% 4.7%	3.5 4.5 6.0
South Eastern Asia									
Brunei Darussalam	41	mid-15	7.3%	423,000	9.7	2000 2005 2010	22 37 37	6.6% 7.5% 9.8%	6.7 10.2 9.3
Cambodia	1,816	.17	8.0%	15.98m	11.4	2000 2005 2010 2015	288 500 856 1,331	5.2% 6.1% 6.1% 8.1%	2.4 3.7 6.0 8.5
Indonesia	11,465	2.17	5.5%	260.32m	4.4	2000 2005 2010 2014	1,807 4,656 6,876 8,457	3.4% 4.7% 5.8% 5.3%	0.9 2.1 2.9 3.3

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth 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
Laos	1,503	early 16	18.3%	6.88m	21.8	2004	421	10.5%	7.3
Malaysia	3,841	mid-16	6.9%	30.75m	12.5	2000	1,246	4.8%	5.3
						2005	2,322	6.5%	8.9
						2010	2,544	6.6%	9.0
Myanmar	9,807	early 17	12.3%	54.84m	17.9	2001	6,034	19.1%	12.3
						2007	9,754	15.0%	19.2
						2009	6,443	10.7%	12.5
						2013	10,000	16.3%	18.8
Philippines	12,658	early 16	8.9%	101.73m	12.4	2001	3,324	5.3%	4.2
						2005	7,076	7.8%	8.3
						2010	7,726	8.1%	8.3
Singapore	1,281	31.12.16	10.5%	5.74m	22.3	2000	1,126	8.2%	28.7
						2005	1,649	10.9%	38.6
						2010	1,341	9.8%	26.3
Thailand	41,119	1.9.17	13.3%	67.70m	60.7	2000	35,803	17.4%	57.4
						2005	28,452	17.2%	43.4
						2010	29,175	14.6%	43.9
						2015	44,152	14.4%	65.5
Timor-Leste	27	1.17	4.0%	1.20m	2.3	2003	1	0.3%	0.1
						2009	4	1.8%	0.4
						2013	15	3.5%	1.3
Vietnam	11,644	early 17	10.1%	94.67m	12.3	2005	10,990	12.4%	12.9
						2010	12,591	11.6%	14.1
Eastern Asia									
China	107,131*	mid-15	6.5%*	1.40bn	7.6*	2000	47,100*	3.3%*	3.7*
						2005	77,279*	4.9%*	5.8*
						2010	84,600*	5.1%*	6.2*
Japan	4,753	30.9.16	8.4%	126.93m	3.7	2000	3,302	5.4%	2.6
						2005	4,839	6.1%	3.8
						2010	5,343	7.3%	4.2
Korea (Rep. of)	3,759	mid-16	6.5%	50.50m	7.4	2000	2,951	4.8%	6.4
						2005	2,589	5.5%	5.5
						2010	2,375	5.2%	4.9
Mongolia	396	31.12.14	5.1 %	2.93m	13.5	2001	227	3.4%	9.3
						2005	308	4.4%	12.1
						2010	430	6.1%	15.6
Taiwan	5,448	31.7.17	8.7%	23.59m	23.1	2014	5,543	8.7%	23.7
Hong Kong (China)	1,756	30.6.16	20.8%	7.34m	23.9	2000	1,321	11.8%	19.8
						2005	2,476	20.4%	36.4
						2010	2,002	19.7%	28.5
Macau (China)	200	30.6.17	15.4%	639,300	31.3	2000	64	7.3%	14.9
						2005	82	9.2%	17.3
						2010	136	14.8%	25.3
						2015	218	17.4%	33.9

* 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 (fourth 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	136	1.9.17	4.0%	5.78m	2.4	2000 2005 2010 2015	164 184 183 118	5.0% 4.5% 4.6% 3.7%	3.1 3.4 3.3 2.1
Estonia	153	25.9.17	5.5%	1.32m	11.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	285 174 195 152	6.0% 3.9% 5.5% 5.2%	20.8 12.9 14.6 11.6
Finland	242	1.1.17	7.7%	5.50m	4.4	2000 2005 2010 2015	142 238 258 228	5.3% 6.2% 7.8% 7.6%	2.7 4.5 4.8 4.2
Iceland	8	1.9.17	6.1%	342,200	2.3	2000 2005 2010 2014	3 7 8 3	3.7% 5.9% 4.8% 1.9%	1.1 2.4 2.5 0.9
Ireland	136	29.9.17	3.8%	4.81m	2.8	2000 2005 2010 2015	84 102 154 127	2.9% 3.4% 3.5% 3.4%	2.2 2.4 3.4 2.8
Latvia	348	1.1.17	8.2%	1.95m	17.8	2000 2005 2010 2015	405 416 402 343	4.6% 5.4% 5.7% 7.2%	17.0 18.5 19.0 17.3
Lithuania	323	1.9.17	4.9%	2.82m	11.5	2000 2005 2010 2015	263 263 408 380	3.0% 3.3% 4.6% 4.4%	7.5 7.9 13.2 13.0
Norway	238	1.9.17	6.1%	5.29m	4.5	2000 2005 2010 2015	147 155 224 186	5.6% 5.0% 6.2% 5.1%	3.3 3.3 4.6 3.6
Sweden	346	1.10.16	6.1%	9.96m	3.5	2000 2005 2010	288 368 405	5.1% 5.2% 5.7%	3.2 4.1 4.3
UK: England & Wales	3,974	29.9.17	4.6%	59.00m	6.7	2000 2005 2010 2015	3,350 4,467 4,236 3,885	5.2% 5.9% 5.0% 4.5%	6.4 8.4 7.7 6.7
UK: Northern Ireland	51	30.9.17	3.6%	1.88m	2.7	2000 2005 2010 2015	23 32 43 56	2.2% 2.5% 2.9% 3.4%	1.4 1.9 2.4 3.0
UK: Scotland	360	29.9.17	4.9%	5.44m	6.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	203 332 443 408	3.3% 4.9% 5.6% 5.3%	4.0 6.5 8.5 7.6
Faeroes (Denmark)	0	1.9.17	0%	50,345	0	2005 2010 2015	0 0* 0	0% 2.0% 0%	0 0.4 0
Guernsey (UK)	5	29.9.17	5.2%	65,850	7.6	2001 2006 2010 2015	7 4 6 6	10.0% 3.5% 8.7% 7.2%	11.2 6.2 9.1 9.2
Isle of Man (UK)	4	1.9.17	4.2%	88,500	4.5	2000 2005 2010 2015	2 2 8 7	3.7% 3.3% 8.2% 9.0%	2.6 2.5 9.5 8.0
Jersey (UK)	7	1.9.17	5.0%	105,200	6.7	2001 2006 2010 2015	14 16 20 11	10.4% 9.1% 10.4% 6.9%	15.8 17.4 20.6 10.7
Southern Europe									
Albania	110	30.4.16	1.9%	2.89m	3.8	2003 2007 2010	80 149 93	3.1% 3.3% 2.0%	2.6 4.0 2.9
Andorra	11	1.9.15	21.2%	77,650	14.2	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 – Repub. Srpska	20	31.12.16	2.3%	1.30m	1.5	2001 2005 2010	23 14 19	2.7% 1.5% 1.8%	1.6 1.0 1.4
Croatia	132	30.9.16	4.1%	4.16m	3.2	2000 2005 2010	74 140 225	3.7% 4.0% 4.6%	1.6 3.2 5.2

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth edition)

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	40	1.9.15	6.7%	847,900	4.7	2000 2005 2010	14 18 38	4.5% 3.4% 6.0%	2.0 2.4 4.7
Greece	527	1.1.17	5.5%	10.73m	4.9	2000 2005 2010 2015	358 594 554 572	4.7% 6.8% 4.9% 4.8%	3.3 5.4 5.0 5.3
Italy	2,448	30.9.17	4.2%	60.53m	4.0	2000 2005 2010 2015	2,235 2,843 2,995 2,131	4.2% 4.8% 4.5% 4.1%	3.9 4.8 4.9 3.5
Kosovo	59	31.12.14	3.2%	1.81m	3.3	2003 2007 2010	25 34 35	2.1% 2.7% 2.6%	1.2 1.6 1.7
Macedonia (FYROM)	102	31.12.16	3.2%	2.07m	4.9	2000 2005 2010	32 66 59	2.3% 3.1% 2.3%	1.6 3.2 2.9
Malta	37	8.14	6.3%	425,900	8.7	2002 2006 2010	11 14 34	3.9% 4.1% 5.7%	2.8 3.5 8.2
Montenegro	35	31.12.15	3.1%	622,700	5.6	2002 2006 2010	18 17 60	2.5% 2.0% 4.1%	3.0 2.8 9.7
Portugal	870	15.9.17	6.4%	10.29m	8.5	2000 2005 2010 2015	1,216 875 627 862	9.4% 6.8% 5.4% 6.1%	11.9 8.3 5.9 8.4
San Marino	0	1.9.15	0%	32,900	0	2002 2005 2010	0 0 0	0% 0% 0%	0 0 0
Serbia	366	1.9.15	3.6%	7.09m	5.2	2000 2005 2010	116 231 348	1.9% 3.0% 3.1%	1.5 3.1 4.8
Slovenia	97	1.9.17	7.4%	2.07m	4.7	2000 2005 2010 2015	40 48 53 81	3.5% 4.2% 3.9% 5.8%	2.0 2.4 2.6 3.9
Spain	4,490	1.9.17	7.5%	46.53m	9.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	3,668 4,744 6,009 4,926	8.1% 7.7% 7.9% 7.7%	9.1 10.9 13.0 10.6
Gibraltar (UK)	4	12.12.16	7.1%	33,950	11.8	2001 2005 2009	0 0 2	0% 0% 3.9%	0 0 6.8
Western Europe									
Austria	514	7.17	5.7%	8.82m	5.8	2000 2005 2010 2015	406 442 534 535	5.9% 5.0% 6.2% 5.9%	5.1 5.4 6.4 6.2
Belgium	485	avrge 16	4.6%	11.34m	4.3	2000 2005 2010	358 391 419	4.1% 4.2% 4.0%	3.5 3.7 3.9
France (metropolitan France)	2,632	1.9.17	3.6%	65.20m	4.0	2000 2005 2010 2015	1,833 2,145 2,200 2,573	3.8% 3.7% 3.4% 3.5%	3.1 3.5 3.5 4.0
Germany	3,727	31.3.17	5.8%	83.0m	4.5	2000 2005 2010 2015	3,515 4,037 3,794 3,753	4.4% 5.0% 5.3% 5.9%	4.3 4.9 4.6 4.6
Liechtenstein	1	1.9.15	12.5%	37,530	2.7	2002 2005 2010	0 0 1	0% 0% 7.1%	0 0 2.8
Luxembourg	38	1.9.17	5.5%	600,400	6.3	2000 2005 2010 2015	20 32 25 39	5.1% 4.6% 3.6% 5.8%	4.6 6.9 4.9 6.8
Monaco	3	1.9.14	10.7%	37,520	8.0	2003 2006 2010	3 11 3	10.7% 29.7% 25.0%	8.5 31.2 8.5
Netherlands	547	30.9.16	5.4%	17.04m	3.2	2001 2006 2010	1,232 1,835 1,161	8.2% 8.7% 7.4%	7.7 11.2 7.0
Switzerland	384	7.9.16	5.6%	8.39m	4.6	2000 2005 2010	364 332 347	6.4% 5.4% 5.6%	5.1 4.5 4.4

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth edition)

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	2,232	31.12.14	7.5%	9.48m	23.5	2000 2005 2010	3,368 3,098 2,988	6.0% 7.5% 7.5%	33.7 31.8 31.5
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 Republic	1,672	29.9.17	7.4%	10.60m	15.8	2000 2005 2010 2015	968 909 1,293 1,433	4.5% 4.8% 5.9% 6.9%	9.4 8.9 12.3 13.6
Hungary	1,354	13.9.17	7.5%	9.77m	13.9	2000 2005 2010 2015	976 1,027 1,033 1,250	6.3% 6.5% 6.3% 7.2%	9.6 10.2 10.3 12.7
Moldova	520	1.1.17	8.2%	3.55m	14.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	387 445 401 485	4.0% 4.9% 6.3% 6.2%	10.7 12.4 11.3 13.7
Poland	2,813	31.8.17	3.8%	37.98m	7.4	2000 2005 2010 2015	1,729 2,359 2,597 2,379	2.5% 2.8% 3.2% 3.4%	4.5 6.2 6.8 6.3
Romania	1,397	31.3.17	5.1%	19.62m	7.1	2000 2005 2010 2015	1,931 1,696 1,273 1,465	4.0% 4.6% 4.5% 5.2%	8.6 8.0 6.3 7.4
Slovakia	720	1.9.17	7.0%	5.44m	13.2	2000 2005 2010 2015	259 399 564 631	3.6% 4.3% 5.6% 6.4%	4.8 7.4 10.4 11.6
Ukraine	7,977	1.12.13	6.2%	45.30m	17.6	2002 2006 2010	11,727 10,085 9,139	5.9% 6.1% 6.0%	24.4 21.6 20.0
Europe/Asia									
Armenia	171	1.10.15	4.4%	3.00m	5.7	2002 2005 2010	123 78 190	2.2% 2.8% 3.9%	4.0 2.6 6.4
Azerbaijan	730	.16	3.1%	9.76m	7.5	2000 2005 2010	272 266 367	1.3% 1.6% 1.7%	3.4 3.2 4.0
Georgia	274	31.1.17	2.9%	3.72m	7.4	2000 2005 2010 2015	219 283 1,174 309	2.6% 2.9% 5.0% 3.2%	5.0 6.4 26.3 8.3
Russian Federation	48,478	1.9.17	7.9%	144.6m	33.5	2002 2006 2010 2015	53,683 58,400 67,900 52,495	5.8% 6.7% 8.1% 8.1%	37.0 41.0 47.6 36.4
Turkey	9,708	15.6.17	4.3%	80.31m	12.1	2000 2005 2010 2015	2,591 1,802 4,218 6,289	3.6% 3.3% 3.5% 3.6%	3.8 2.5 5.8 8.0

* Faeroes (Denmark). The asterisked figure is an average that has been rounded down: the actual figure in 2010 was 0.19.

World Female Imprisonment List (fourth edition)

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
Oceania									
Australia	3,338	6.17	8.1%	24.55m	13.6	2000 2005 2010 2015	1,385 1,734 2,228 2,876	6.4% 6.8% 7.5% 8.0%	7.2 8.5 10.1 12.1
Fiji	83	avrge 15	5.2%	893,000	9.3	2000 2005 2010	17 23 32	1.4% 2.1% 2.9%	2.1 2.8 3.7
Kiribati	1	mid-16	0.8%	114,000	0.9	2000 2005 2010	1 1 3	1.8% 1.4% 3.3%	1.2 1.1 2.9
Marshall Is.	0	9.14	0%	53,000	0	2005 2010	2 0	4.7% 0%	3.8 0
Fed. 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	756	30.6.17	7.4%	4.79m	15.8	2000 2005 2010 2015	266 435 562 567	4.7% 6.1% 6.4% 6.4%	6.9 10.5 12.9 12.4
Palau	3	.15	4.2%	21,000	14.3	2003 2005 2010	7 8 5	6.9% 8.6% 5.7%	35.0 40.0 25.0
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	c. 30	.16	c. 6.0%	194,900	c. 15.4	2000 2005 2011	14 11 28	8.1% 4.5% 6.6%	8.0 6.1 14.9
Solomon Is.	6	mid-16	1.4%	596,000	1.0	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	2	9.16	1.0%	271,000	0.7	1999 2005 2010	1 6 3	2.2% 4.3% 1.6%	0.6 2.9 1.3
American Samoa (USA)	15	.14	7.2%	55,000	27.3	2004 2007	15 17	8.6% 7.2%	25.4 29.6
Cook Is. (NZ)	4	6.16	8.3%	21,000	19.0	2000 2005 2011	1 1 0	4.3% 3.7% 0%	5.6 5.3 0
Fr. Polynesia (France)	17	1.9.17	3.9%	290,000	5.9	2003 2007	12 12	4.1% 3.0%	4.8 4.6
Guam (USA)	42	31.12.15	5.6%	172,500	24.3	2005 2009	31 21	6.2% 4.1%	19.6 13.2
New Caledonia (France)	8	1.9.17	1.5%	269,500	3.0	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) and via U.S. State Department human rights reports.

Table 6 Female prison population levels – summary by continent

	Female prison population total (latest available to 30.9.2017)	Women/girls as percentage of total prison population	Female prison population rate (per 100,000 of general population)
AFRICA	35,606	3.4%	3.2
AMERICAS	308,293	8.4%	31.4
ASIA	263,571	6.7%	6.2
EUROPE	102,397	6.1%	12.1
OCEANIA	4,550	7.4%	11.3
WORLD	714,417	6.9%	9.9

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 (to 30.9.2017)	Change in female prison population total since about 2000	Change in general population mid-2000 to mid-2016 (United Nations)
AFRICA	25,000	35,606	+ 42.4%	+ 49.4%
AMERICAS	196,300	308,293	+ 57.1%	+ 19.1%
ASIA	143,800	263,571	+ 83.3%	+ 19.4%
EUROPE	98,900	102,397	+ 3.5%	+ 3.7%
OCEANIA	1,900	4,550	+ 139.5%	+ 28.4%
WORLD	465,900	714,417	+53.3%	+ 21.3%

Roy Walmsley is Director of the World Prison Brief, a comprehensive online database of information on the prison systems of the world, which is available free of charge at www.prisonstudies.org. He also researches and compiles the *World Prison Population List* (eleventh edition, 2016) and the *World Pre-trial/Remand Imprisonment List* (third edition, 2017). The World Prison Brief is hosted by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck, University of London, which also publishes the world imprisonment lists.