

# Inside and Out

Examining the Unique Needs of  
Incarcerated and Reentering Females

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# Women & Crime

## Reported Statistics

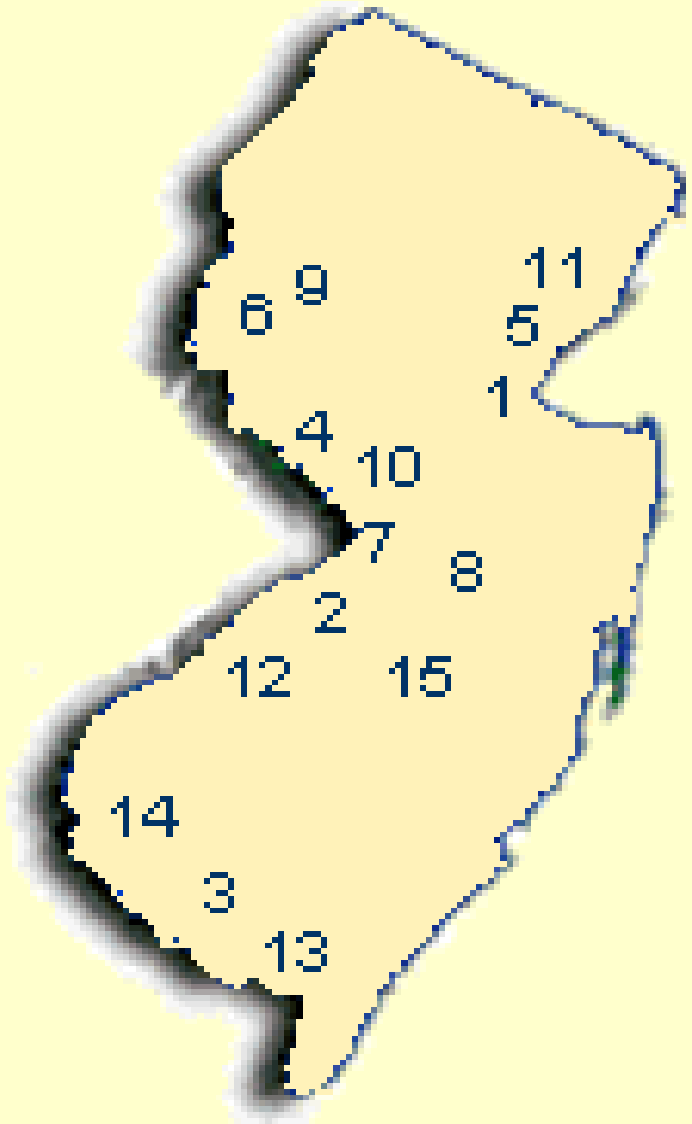
- *Crime in the United States, 2003*, released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation compiling data from the Uniform Crime Report, in 2003:
  - 23.2% of all arrests were females
- Bureau of Justice Statistics publication, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear, 2004*, using data collected from National Prisoner Statistics and the Annual Survey of Jails, at midyear 2004:
  - Women accounted for 6.9% of all prison inmates, up from 6.1% at yearend 1995.
  - Black females were 2.5 times more likely than Hispanic females and nearly 4.5 times more likely than white females to be incarcerated in prison or jail.
  - Since 1995, the total number of female State and Federal prison inmates has grown 5% a year, compared to 3.3% average annual growth for male prisoners.
- Bureau of Justice Statistics publication, *Probation and Parole in the United States, 2005* women account for :
  - 23% of 4,162,536 people on probation
  - 21% of 784,408 people on community supervision/parole
  - 11% of 747,429 people in jail
  - Almost 7% of 1,446,269 people in prison
- New Jersey mirrors U.S. patterns for incarcerated women

# Women and Prison in New Jersey

- **Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women (EMCF)**--  
Clinton, Hunterdon County
  - Custody and treatment programs for female offenders ages 16 and older
  - Minimum, Medium, Maximum Security Units
  - Average population 5 years =1,121.6 women
    - Range: 1,075-1,147 (2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006)
    - Point in time number (January of each reporting year)
    - Actual annual census can be considerably higher as population is quite fluid
- **New Jersey State Prison** --Trenton, Mercer County
  - Female Administrative Segregation (Ad-Seg)--punitive
  - Average 25.8 women/5-years  
Range: 10-32
  - Women represent less than 1% of the population at NJSP

Source: New Jersey Department of Corrections Offender Statistics

# Facility Locations



- 6 E. Mahan Correctional Facility for Women
- 10 New Jersey State Prison

# EMCF Population, Total Prison Population by County of Commitment

Source: New Jersey Department of Corrections, Offender Statistics

	2001		2003		2004		2005		2006*	
	% EMCF	% Total	% EMCF	% Total	% EMCF	% Total	% EMCF	% Total	29% cases unclassified	
	% EMCF	% Total	% EMCF	% Total	% EMCF	% Total	% EMCF	% Total	% EMCF	% Total
Atlantic	11	7	9	7	10	7	12	7	7	7
Camden	13	14	13	13	11	13	13	13	10	13
Essex	11	18	13	18	14	18	13	18	10	16
Hudson	7	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	5	8
Monmouth	8	6	6	5	7	5	6	5	5	5
Passaic	8	8	8	8	6	9	7	8	5	9
Union	11	8	8	8	9	9	9	8	6	8
% Total Pop	69	70	66	68	66	70	68	68	48	66

# EMCF Inmate Population by Base Type of Offense

## 2001-2006

Source: New Jersey Department of Corrections, Offender Statistics

	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006*
					18% not coded
Violent	32	33	35	36	35
Property	16	17	15	15	15
Drugs	40	42	38	34	28

Of the Remainder:

Homicide 13-15% (range)

Robbery 9-13%

Assault 7-8%

Figures do not add up to 100% as more than one base offense could be recorded .

# Female Prisoner Reentry

Study Overview, Rationale, Preliminary  
Findings

# Rationale

- Burdens and circumstances of incarcerated females are known to differ significantly from those of males
  - Custodial child care responsibilities
  - Reasons for going to prison differ
  - Mental and physical health care needs are different
  - Stigma and other social impacts
- Needs at reentry are likely to differ as well
  - Family reunification, housing, continuing health care, economic stability, etc.

# Study Aims

- Examine unique issues associated with women and reentry
- Provide data to inform the development of better targeted reentry strategies and resource
- Promote more successful outcomes for women, their families and the communities into which they are released
- Quantify service needs and gaps in services
- Examine policies as they apply to the needs of women

# Approach

- ✓ Administrative record review and data collection
- ✓ On-site survey (Approximately 800)
- ✓ On-site interviews (# to be determined)
- ✓ Longitudinal interviews (# to be determined)
- ✓ Staff and service provider interviews
- ✓ Regional and Statewide Broad-based Resource Inventory
- ✓ Policy review & recommendations

# Phase I: Administrative Record Review and Data Collection

- Extensive reviews of about 300 individual case records
- 550+ variables
  - Number, type, and disposition of current, pending, and previous juvenile and adult arrests and convictions
  - Education, work history, and other socioeconomic indicators
  - Childhood history and family composition
  - Custody, parenting responsibilities, and social services involvement prior to incarceration
  - Mental and physical health history
  - Substance use and abuse
  - Sanctions and behavioral issues at the prison
  - Number and type of rehabilitative and skill development activities completed while incarcerated.

# Preliminary Observations

Phase I Data Collection

# Socioeconomic Indicators

- Most have children
  - Many under age of 18
  - Inmate was primary caregiver before incarceration
  - Many children living with family or other kin
  - Number of cases under DYFS Supervision and in danger of terminating parental rights
- Housing
  - Many not primary tenant
  - Some renters

# Socioeconomic Indicators (Cont'd)

- Education
  - Lower levels of education (most less than high school equivalency)
  - Many drop outs
    - Pregnancy
    - Drug use
    - Problems adapting to school
- Work history
  - Most had no prior work history
  - Primarily food service/fast food/waitress
  - Retail sales (cashiers)
  - Some labor (warehouse, construction, drivers)

# Health

- Many self-report better than expected physical health
- Chronic health issues addressed at EMCF
- Significant drug and alcohol abuse
  - High dollar value of daily/weekly drug use
  - Heroin and cocaine
  - Many reported having been referred to drug and/or alcohol rehab prior to incarceration
  - Varying rates of compliance/completion
  - High rates of recidivism
  - Early involvement, especially among drop outs

- Significant percentage reported mental health diagnosis/treatment before incarceration
- Quality of family relationships varied
- Many unstable relationships with men
  - Fathers not present
  - Histories of sexual abuse and domestic violence
  - Unstable relationships with father(s) of children
- Unresolved psychological issues related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder/Anxiety

# Future Directions

- Analyze data collected in Phase I
- Develop instruments and protocols associated with Phases II through IV that build upon the data collected in Phase I
- Policy analysis and recommendations in collaboration with DOC, legislators, service providers, community leaders, former inmates, and their families.