

## The Changing Landscape of the ACI

**1878**

The state's oldest operational prison, Maximum Security, opened. It was originally designed to house 252 inmates



**1932**

The Donald Price Medium Security Facility for men opened.

**1933**

An addition of 198 cells were added to Old Max.

**1972**

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections was created by statute with formal jurisdiction over the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) and Probation and Parole.

**1977**

Federal court order on conditions of confinement imposed.

# Rhode Island Department of Corrections

## A Brief Historical Overview

February 2012

The last execution in Rhode island took place in 1845 when John Gordon was executed by hanging. Gordon, an Irish immigrant, was convicted of murdering Amasa Sprague, a wealthy industrialist and brother of the governor.



Gordon was pardoned of the murder by RI Governor Lincoln Chaffee on June 29, 2011.

The Death Penalty was abolished in Rhode Island in 1984.

In recent history at the ACI, there have been six riots: 1969, 1978, 1985, 1988, 1991, and 1992.



Now RIDOC employs the use of the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) which is a voluntary unit made up of correctional staff whose mission is to neutralize disturbances and assist with other contingencies which may arise at any of the facilities of the Department of Corrections, and to assist outside law enforcement agencies.

The CERT Unit is specially trained in using the minimum force necessary to maintain good order and discipline. The CERT consists of the following specialized units: Tactical (TAC), Weapons, Less Lethal, Chemical Munitions (CMU), K-9, Breaching, and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).

*"The mission of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) is to contribute to public safety by maintaining a balanced correctional system of institutional and community programs that provide a range of control and rehabilitative options for criminal offenders."*

**1978**

Minimum Security was opened.

**1981**

The High Security Center was opened, with a capacity of 96 cells.



The Drug Unit (a treatment program) began in 1977 with 3 male inmates and operated until its closure in 1981. The first residential program for women opened in 1994. RIDOC now has a new contract provider, The Providence Center, which began various levels of in-prison treatment and after-care services in a recovery-oriented system of care in 2011.



**1982**

The Intake Service Center was opened, with a capacity of 168 cells.



**1984**

The Gloria McDonald building was opened as a women's prison.

**1990**

The Dorothea Dix building was opened as a women's prison.

**1992**

Medium I, now known as the John J Moran Facility, was opened in November with a capacity of 576 beds. The Intake Service Center North was opened with a capacity for 900 offenders.

**1995**

Termination of federal court order.

**2010**

The Dorothea Dix Building was closed. Inmates were moved to the newly renovated Reintegration Center, now known as Women's Facility I.



**2011**

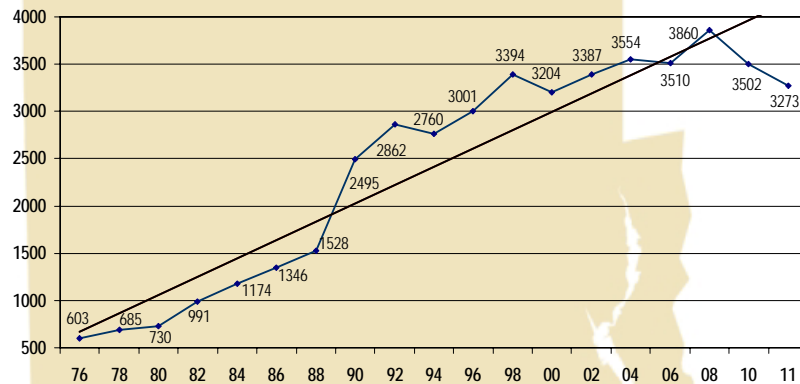
The Gloria McDonald Building was closed and the new Women's Facility II was opened with a capacity of 100 beds. The Donald Price Medium Security Facility was closed due to a falling population and state wide budget cuts.

**2012**

The ACI consists of 7 facilities with an operational capacity of 3,854.

# Population

The total inmate population experienced nearly a 4 1/2-fold increase from FY1976 to FY2011. This represents a 443% growth in the population over the past 35 years, or an average of 12.7% annually.



# Rates

In 1980, RI's incarceration rate was 77 offenders per 100,000 state residents. In 2000, the rate rose to 197 per 100,000 residents while in 2009 the rate increased to 211 per 100,000, representing growth by 174% between 1980 and 2011.

This is a fairly low rate compared to the rest of the United States which recorded an incarceration rate of 731 per 100,000 at the end of 2010.

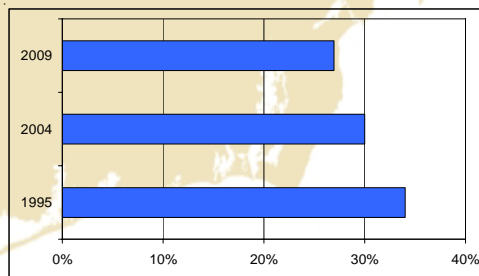
Rhode Island's Community Supervision rate (both Probation and Parole) was 3,074 per 100,000 at the end of 2010.

This is the third highest rate in the United States with only Georgia and Idaho having higher rates according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

There is specialized community corrections supervision for offenders who are considered high risk, such as supervision of sex offenders and domestic violence offenders.

# Recidivism

A new recidivism study began in 2011 analyzing a 2009 release cohort. At 1-year post-release, 27% of offenders have returned to RIDOC with a new sentence and 32% have returned as awaiting trial detainees. These numbers are lower



than those observed with the 2004 release cohort, which were 30% and 42%, respectively. As can be seen in the chart, RIDOC has seen a gradual reduction in the 1-year re-sentence rates over the past 14 years, from 32% in 1995 to 28% in 2009.