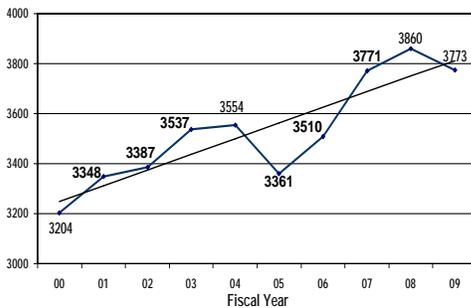




RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT SUMMARY OF SURVEY DATA AND OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

This document illustrates interesting facts, such as, the average total population, how RI compares to the United States, the history of the death penalty in Rhode Island, and a comparison of our population: 1974 vs. today.

**Average Total Population
FY 2000 to FY 2009**



The average total population increased 17.8% from FY2000 to FY2009.
The average total population decreased -2.3% from FY2008 to FY2009.

Did You Know???

- **RIDOC female inmates were first housed at the Women's Reformatory in Framingham, MA. By 1974, all women that were housed at the Framingham facility were transferred to RIDOC.**
- **The Drug Unit (a treatment program) began in October 1977 with three male inmates. By the end of that Fiscal Year, there were 20 inmates. The unit closed in December 1981. At present, there is one contact vendor that provides three separate levels of treatment within all RIDOC facilities. In FY2007, there were 489 graduates from the treatment program.**
- **There are 12 inmates on active escape status (as of June 2009) from Minimum/Work Release or Home Confinement.**

Rhode Island v. The United States of America Incarceration Rates, Sentenced Inmates and Gender



v.



Rhode Island:

- 235 per 100,000 residents are incarcerated in RI (less than half of the national incarceration rate)
- 21 per 100,000 female residents are sentenced inmates in RI
- 6.0% of the RIDOC population are female

Total U.S. Average:

- 506 per 100,000 residents are incarcerated
- 69 per 100,000 females in the country are sentenced inmates
- 10.5% of the inmate population are female

THE DEATH PENALTY AS IT WAS IN RHODE ISLAND

- June 1832 – Three executions were performed within 19 months
- June 1833 – The General Assembly banned public executions
- 1852 – Death Penalty abolished
- 1872 – Death Penalty reinstated by the Legislature for a murder committed by an inmate serving a life sentence
- 1973 – A broader capital penalty was enacted but invalidated 6 years later by the State Supreme Court
- 1979 – The Death Penalty was abolished by the State Supreme Court and does not currently exist in RI
 - JOHN GORDON was the last Rhode Islander to be executed by hanging in 1845

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PLANNING & RESEARCH UNIT

THEN

The inmate census was tracked on index cards and stored in a card catalog file, similar to a library card catalog. All calculations were done manually.



In 1974, the total inmate population = 580:

Men's Facilities:

- Maximum (343 inmates including 41 awaiting trial)
- Medium (120 inmates including 68 awaiting trial)
- Minimum (68 sentenced)
- Work Release (35 sentenced)

Women's Facilities:

- 14 women (7 sentenced, 7 awaiting trial) were housed in Framingham, MA until 1972-1973 when they began to return to RI. All female inmates were housed in RI by 1974.

NOW

An electronic database maintains inmate records. Computers and software programs aid in data collection and analyses.



Fiscal Year 2009 inmate population = 3773:

Men's Facilities:

- High Security (90 inmates including 10 awaiting trial)
- Maximum (442 sentenced)
- Medium Moran (1028 sentenced)
- Medium Price (345 sentenced)
- Minimum includes Work Release (602 sentenced)
- Intake Service Center (1051 inmates: 670 pre-trial, 381 sentenced)

Women's Facilities:

- Medium Security (127 inmates including 58 awaiting trial)
- Minimum-Work Release Security (88 inmates including 4 awaiting trial)

INMATE DEMOGRAPHICS

Age:

- Average age of a sentenced inmate was 29 years
- Average age of an awaiting trial inmate was 26 years

Race (only two categories were tracked):

- 76% White
- 24% Black

Categorization of Types of Offenses:

- Crimes of Violence 52% (304)
- Crimes Against Property 29% (167)
- Crimes Neither of Violence Nor Property 19% (109)

Age:

- Average age of a sentenced inmate is 36 years
- Average age of an awaiting trial inmate is 31 years

Race:

- 47% White
- 29% Black
- 22% Hispanic
- 1% Asian
- 0.5% American Indian
- 0.5 Other

Types of Offenses (by most serious as of 6/30/09):

- Violent 42% (1538)
- Sex 12% (426)
- Non Violent 14% (558)
- Breaking & Entering 9% (320)
- Drug 13% (484)
- Drug Possession 8% (305)
- Weapons 2% (71)

Lifers in RI prisons:

- 23 inmates serving a Life sentence
- No inmate(s) serving Life without Parole
- No inmate(s) serving a Death sentence

Lifers in RI prisons:

- 142 RI offenders serving Life
- 27 RI offenders serving Life without Parole

RECIDIVISM – Consistently defined in RI as, percentage of inmates released from serving a sentence who returned to RIDOC under sentence (regardless of term), within a specified time period.

1974 Release Group:

- By 36 months post-release, 60.2% returned

2004 Release Group:

- By 36 months post-release, 54% returned

Sources:

1. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 2007
2. RIDOC Documentation:
 - All Time High Population & 1974 Characteristics of Inmate Population
 - Recidivism (Final Report) 1975-1975 and Recidivism (Provisional Report) 1976-1977
 - Recidivism Report 2004
 - Joseph A. DiNitto, Associate Director/Classification
 - Albert A. Bucci, Jr., Executive Director/Rhode Island Family Court
 - Patrick J. Conley, JD, PhD. & Barbara Headen, Captain, RIDOC

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