



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES  
THE HARRIMAN STATE CAMPUS – BUILDING 2  
1220 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
ALBANY, N.Y. 12226-2050

BRIAN FISCHER  
COMMISSIONER

RICHARD D. ROY  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

**DIVISION OF PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION**

## **Review of Department of Correctional Services Research on Female Commitments**

**Updated 2008**

**Contact Person:**

**Michele Staley  
Program Research Specialist III**

## **REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES RESEARCH ON FEMALE COMMITMENTS**

The Department receives numerous questions on female offender issues. These questions include:

- How have the demographic characteristics of female inmates changed over time?
- What crimes did the female inmates commit? In particular:
  1. What is the proportion of female inmates committed for drug offenses? Who are the female drug offenders?
  2. What is the profile of the female inmate committed for a homicide offense?
- How do women under custody compare to men under custody?
- How do women differ from men in their adjustment to prison?
- How many women participate in the Department's prison nursery programs? What becomes of the infants and mothers after they leave the program?

The Division of Program Planning, Research and Evaluation has addressed these issues in a series of reports on women committed to the Department of Correctional Services. Some of these reports were written during the past five years, however, several earlier reports of special interest are included. In addition to the reports discussed below, a number of historical reports are available upon request.

This review briefly discusses the reports offered on the attached checklist to facilitate readers' requests for the actual reports. The year the report was released to the public is reflected in parenthesis at the end of each brief summary. The review also provides a general picture of the kind of research the Department has done in the area of the female offender.

# CHECKLIST

## REPORTS ON FEMALE COMMITMENTS

### **A. TRENDS IN THE FEMALE INMATE POPULATION**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Female Offenders: 2005-2006 (2007)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Female Offenders: 2003-2004 (2005)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Female Offenders: 2001-2002 (2003)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Female Offenders: 1999-2000 (2001)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Female Offenders: 1997-1998 (1999)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Female Offenders: 1995-1996 (1997)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Female New Court Commitments, 1976 through 1987 (1988)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A Comparison of Women Under Custody: 1912 and 1982 (1982)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Characteristics of Female Inmates Held Under Custody,  
1975 through 1985 (1987)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Men & Women Undercustody: 1987-2001 (2002)

### **B. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. A Source for Empowerment: The Family Violence Program at Bedford  
Hills Correctional Facility (1994)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Follow-Up Study of the Bedford Hills Family Violence Program (1994)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Chemical Dependency/Domestic Violence Program \* (1996)

### **C. DRUGS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Female Drug Commitment Population 1987 to 1989 (1989)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Sample of 1986 Female New Commitments for Controlled Substance  
Convictions Involving "Crack" (1987)

### **D. INMATE DISCIPLINE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Review of Literature of Female Security Issues (1989)

### **E. REPORTS ON WOMEN COMMITTED FOR HOMICIDE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Female Homicide Commitments: 1986 vs. 2005 (2007)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. 1986 Female Homicide Commitments (1987)

### **F. INMATE MOTHERS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Bedford Hills Nursery Mothers Follow-Up (1984)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Profile of Participants: The Bedford Hills and Taconic Nursery Program  
in 1992 (1992)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Profile & Three Year Follow-Up of Bedford Hills & Taconic Nursery  
Program Participants: 1997-1998 (2002)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* This report deals with male inmates only.

## **A. TRENDS IN THE FEMALE INMATE POPULATION**

These reports contain extensive information designed to reflect changes which have occurred in the female inmate population over several years.

### **1. Female Offenders 2005-2006**

This report presents a demographic and legal profile of female offenders under the supervision of the NYS Department of Correctional Services during 2005 and 2006. Descriptive statistics are presented for female offenders and compared with those of male offenders. The data presented are based on three cohorts of data: (1) inmates under custody, (2) inmates admitted and (3) inmates released. (2007)

### **2. Female Offenders 2003-2004**

This report presents a demographic and legal profile of female offenders under the supervision of the NYS Department of Correctional Services during 2003 and 2004. Descriptive statistics are presented for female offenders and compared with those of male offenders. (2005)

### **3. Female Offenders 2001-2002**

This report presents a demographic and legal profile of female offenders under the supervision of the NYS Department of Correctional Services during 2001 and 2002. Descriptive statistics are presented for female offenders and compared with those of male offenders. (2003)

### **4. Female Offenders 1999-2000**

This report presents a demographic and legal profile of female offenders under the supervision of the NYS Department of Correctional Services during 1999 and 2000. Descriptive statistics are presented for female offenders and compared with those of male offenders. (2001)

### **5. Female Offenders 1997-1998**

This report provides a profile of female offenders under the supervision of the NYS Department of Correctional Services for 1997 and 1998. Descriptive statistics for female offenders are presented and compared with those of male offenders. (1999)

### **6. Female Offenders 1995-1996**

This report provides a profile of female offenders under the supervision of the NYS Department of Correctional Services for the years 1995 and 1996. Descriptive statistics are presented for female offenders based on three cohorts of data, (1) inmates under custody, (2) inmates admitted and (3) inmates released. Statistics are presented for male and female inmates for comparison purposes. (1997)

7. **Female New Court Commitments, 1976 through 1987**

This report examines trends in the demographic and legal history characteristics of female offenders committed to the NYS Department of Correctional Services for the period 1976 through 1987. The study also presents comparative data on commitment offense type of male and female admissions. (1988)

8. **A Comparison of Women Under Custody: 1912 and 1982**

This report concerns women under custody in 1912 and 1982. The 1912 information was obtained from the Annual Report of the Superintendent of State Prisons, a publication put out yearly as part of the budget request to the state legislature. The women under custody in 1912 were housed at the State Prison at Auburn, comprising two percent of the under custody population as opposed to three percent in 1982. (1982)

9. **Characteristics of Female Inmates Held Under Custody, 1975 through 1985**

This report provides a statistical profile of the changes in the Department's female inmate population during the 11 year period 1975 through 1985. Information is provided on variables such as crime of commitment, first and second felony offender status, prior adult record, minimum and maximum sentence length, age, ethnic status, years of education, marital status, region of commitment and occupational status. (1987)

10. **Men & Women Undercustody: 1987-2001**

The report provides relevant information on the characteristics of inmates under the custody of the New York State Department of Correctional Services at the end of each calendar year between 1987 and 2001. It examines the trends over time according to various legal history criteria, demographic characteristics, and program relevant characteristics. (2002)

**B. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

11. **A Source for Empowerment: The Family Violence Program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility**

This report provides a description of the therapeutic program for survivors of family violence. Eight of the participants are profiled and statistics are presented comparing demographic characteristics of the program with other inmates who have not been involved with the program. (1994)

12. **Follow-Up Study of the Bedford Hills Family Violence Program**

The Family Violence Program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility offers a combination of group and individual therapy to women who have experienced family violence. This report provides a follow-up study of the 220 women who participated in the Family Violence Program from 1988 through 1994 and were subsequently released into the community. (1994)

13. **Chemical Dependency/Domestic Violence Program at Eastern Annex Correctional Facility**

This report provides information on the criminal records, substance abuse histories, personal characteristics and domestic violence histories of the initial cohort of 156 male inmates who enrolled in the Chemical Dependency/Domestic Violence Program between September and December 1994. (1996)

**C. DRUGS**

14. **Female Drug Commitment Population 1987-1989**

This report shows the dramatic increase in female commitments to state prison in the mid 1980s. The type of commitment offense for males and females is compared and the substantial increase in drug offenders among females committed to state prison is presented. The report goes on to present information on legal and demographic characteristics of female drug offenders committed to state prison. (1989)

15. **Sample of 1986 Female New Commitments for Controlled Substance Convictions Involving "Crack"**

In response to legislative, law enforcement, and public inquiries, this brief survey examined a sample of 1986 female new commitments for drug crimes to determine the percentage involving cocaine, especially in the crystalline form known as "crack." (1987)

**D. INMATE DISCIPLINE**

16. **Review of Literature on Female Security Issues**

This report, originally part of the Department's ongoing Classification Improvement Project, presents the results of systematic literature review regarding the adjustment of the female inmate to prison. Areas covered by the report include the response of the female inmate to the prison environment, various demographic and legal characteristics associated with institutional adjustment, correlates of self-injury, escape and recidivism. (1989)

**E. REPORTS ON WOMEN COMMITTED FOR HOMICIDE**

17. **Female Homicide Commitments: 1986 vs. 2005**

This report presents information on the demographic and legal characteristics of the 36 female offenders committed to the Department of Correctional Services during 2005 for a homicide offense. This study is based on the analysis of information in individual case file folders and includes data on such factors as prior criminal involvement, accomplice involvement, victim characteristics and evidence of domestic violence. The cases from 2005 are compared with the cases from the 1986 report on this topic. (2007)

18. **1986 Female Homicide Commitments**

This report presents information on the characteristics of 78 female offenders committed to the Department of Correctional Services during 1986 for a homicide offense. This study is based on the analysis of information in individual case file folders and includes data on such factors as prior criminal involvement, accomplice involvement, victim characteristics and evidence of domestic violence. (1987)

**F. INMATE MOTHERS**

19. **Bedford Hills Nursery Mothers Follow-Up**

This report is a follow-up study of the 28 women who had babies born in 1981 and 1982 and participated in the Nursery Program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. The focus is on the custody of the infant and other children following release. (1984)

20. **Profile of Participants: The Bedford Hills and Taconic Nursery Programs in 1992**

This report presents a statistical overview of the legal and demographic characteristics of the 105 women who participated in the Bedford Hills and Taconic nursery programs during 1992. This statistical profile is illustrated by the case histories of seven participants. (1992)

21. **Profile and Three Year Follow-Up of Bedford Hills and Taconic Nursery Program Participants: 1997-1998**

This report presents a statistical overview of the legal and demographic characteristics of the 179 women who participated in the Bedford Hills and Taconic nursery programs during 1997 and 1998. This statistical profile is illustrated by the case histories of several participants. (2002)

All of the above cited research reports are available upon request. Please include the following checklist with your written requests.

Requests for these reports should be forwarded to:

**Ms. Michele Staley  
Program Research Specialist III  
NYS Department of Correctional Services  
Division of Program Planning,  
Research and Evaluation  
1220 Washington Avenue  
State Office Campus, Building 2  
Albany, NY 12226-2050**

Questions concerning this report series may be directed to Ms. Michele Staley at (518) 457-3007.