



JUSTICE-INVOLVED

Maryland Women: A 2025 Status Report

Women involved with the justice system far too often fall between the cracks. They represent a small fraction of both incarcerated people and of the overall population of Maryland women, and discussions of each population frequently fail to include them. The Maryland Commission for Women is dedicated to bringing all Maryland women's stories to the forefront. This brief report updates our picture of women in Maryland involved

with the justice system, highlighting those who have been arrested or incarcerated.

Maryland has one facility that houses women convicted of a criminal offense. The Maryland Correctional Institution - Women (MCIW) is located in Jessup, Maryland, which straddles Howard and Anne Arundel counties. While women awaiting trial may be housed in other facilities, all women serving a state sentence do so at the MCIW.

NUMBER OF WOMEN ARRESTED FOR VARIOUS CRIMES IN MARYLAND (2023)

OFFENSE	NUMBER OF FEMALE ARRESTS	% OF ALL FEMALE ARRESTS	% OF TOTAL ARRESTS FOR THAT OFFENSE
Theft (Larceny, shoplifting, etc)	2951	12%	34%
Assault (simple or aggravated)	5690	23%	31%
Homicide	1	1%	17%
Drug-related (narcotic and alcohol-related)	4551	18%	24%

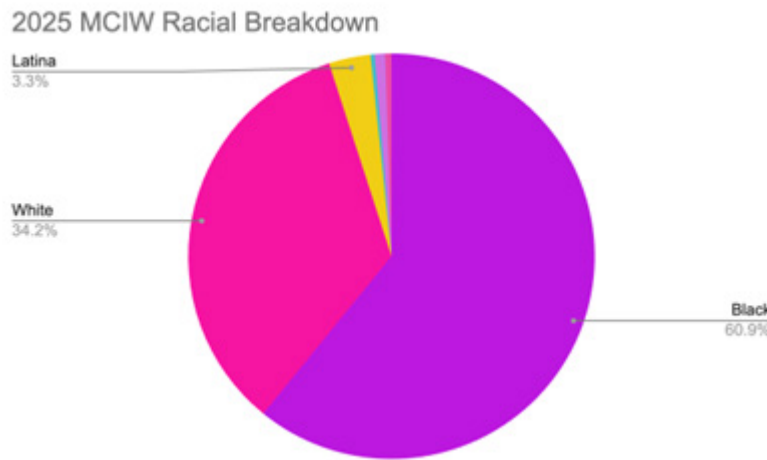
In 2023, the highest proportion of women (as compared to men) were arrested for theft-related offenses, accounting for 12% of all female arrests and 7% of male arrests. The largest number of women serving sentences were convicted of homicide, due primarily to the length of sentences for serious violent crimes. Therefore, women convicted of more minor offenses are less likely to be incarcerated at any given time, even though there are more of them.

THE AVERAGE WOMAN IN MCIW IN 2025:

AGE	RACE	JURISDICTION	LENGTH OF SENTENCE	LENGTH OF STAY
38.3	Black	Baltimore City	179.7 months	58.1 months

Maryland women's average sentence length and stay have fallen since a 2021 high of 215 months and 74 months, respectively. The average age of a woman in MCIW has remained steady since 2016 at approximately 37-38 years old, which is also about the average age of Marylanders in general. Incarcerated women in Maryland are disproportionately likely to be Black (60% of the MCIW population in 2025) and to have been sentenced in Baltimore City or County before serving a sentence at MCIW.

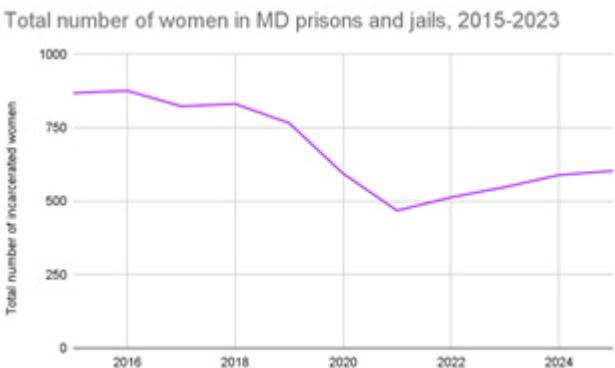
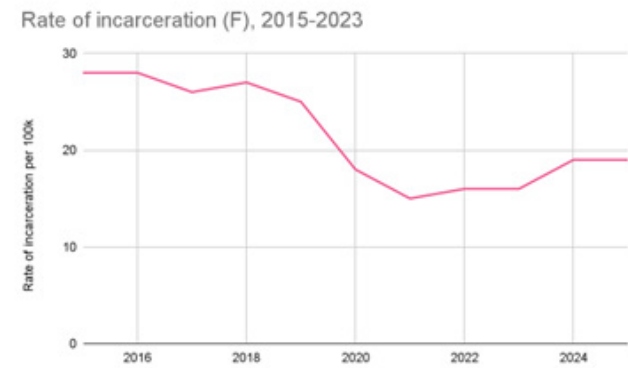
FIG. A: FY25 RACIAL
BREAKDOWN OF MCIW INMATES



NUMBER AND RATE OF INCARCERATION BY GENDER (2025)

2025	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	RATE OF INCARCERATION PER 100,000 POPULATION
Female	603	19
Male	15,627	512

Both the rate and number of women incarcerated in Maryland have decreased from highs in 2016, though they have been slowly rising since 2021. Overall, the rate of incarceration of Marylanders has decreased 42% for women and 31% for men since 2016.



The Maryland Commission for Women would like to thank the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for their collaboration in sharing data regarding the Maryland Correctional Institution - Women.