

“More Than Aerobics” statistics

compiled by Research Assistants Kim Dummons and Lisa McCarthy

1- City size and population: “San Francisco is the 13th largest city in the United States and, after Los Angeles and San Diego, the 3rd largest in the state of California. The city lies at the end of the San Francisco peninsula on the West Coast with the Pacific Ocean to the immediate west and the San Francisco Bay to the east. Part of an urban conurbation stretching from the Golden Gate to San Jose at the southern-most point of the Bay, the City of San Francisco is home to roughly 750,000 people.”

<http://hem.passagen.se/nodde/sf.htm>

2- “In 1998 more than 950,000 women were under correctional supervision, about 1% of the U.S. female population.”

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/crimoff.htm#data>

3- “What are characteristic family and background factors among incarcerated women? According to a report published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 2000:

- Incarcerated women are twice as likely as women in the general population to have grown up in a single parent household.
- 47% of female inmates (compared to 37% of male inmates) had at least one immediate family member who had been incarcerated.
- One third of female inmates and one quarter of male inmates report a parent/guardian abused alcohol or drugs.
- 57% of women in state prisons reported that they were physically and/or sexually assaulted at some point in their lives.
- Female inmates who had been abuse victims were more likely to be imprisoned for a violent offense.
- Most women in prison are unmarried.
- Over one-third of imprisoned women had been abused by an intimate in the past.”

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/prisonstudy/subpages/facts/facts.html>

4- “The San Francisco incarcerated population of approximately 2,200 inmates includes sentenced and un-sentenced offenders, out-of-county holds, juvenile warrants, and holds for state or federal correctional organizations (California Department of Corrections, INS, etc)¹. Inmates are held at SF General Hospital and six county jails including approximately 350 males in San Bruno County Jail #7, which the Mayor has proposed to close in the upcoming budget year. Demographic information on the incarcerated population comes primarily from ‘snapshots’ taken on a given day, which may or may not accurately reflect the average population.”

http://sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=16355

5- From Medea book, pp. 123-124:

- “CA has the 3rd largest penal system in the world following China and the United States as a whole: 125,842 prisoners at official last count.” – M. Davis, “Prison-Industrial Complex” (1995), 229
- CA prisons house the largest number of incarcerated women in the US: :From 1970 to 1990, the number of women felons [in CA] increased from 588 to 5,858 (an increase of 896%). For the same time period the # of men felons increased from 20,460 to 88,264 (an increase of 331%). The most frequently cited offenses committed by women felons in CA were drug law violations. In calendar year 1990, 38.4% of all women felons were incarcerated due to drug offenses. 34% of the women were incarcerated due to property offenses, 24.3% were incarcerated due to violent crimes, and 3.4% incarcerated due to other offenses.” – Come into the Sun Coalition (Delinquency Prevention Commission), “Come into the Sun: Findings and Recommendations on the Needs of Women and Girls in the Justice System,” 28
- In the US, the rate of growth for female inmates has exceeded that for male inmates each year since 1981. – Singer, Bussey, Song, and Longhofer, “The Psychosocial Issues of Women Serving Time” (1995). 103
- At the end of 1994, almost 95,000 women were incarcerated in state prisons and federal institutions and jails nationwide. – Barry, “Women Prisoners and Health Care: Locked Up and Locked Out,” 250
- African-American women are 8 times more likely than white women to go to prison. –Kurshan, “Behind the Walls: The History and Current Reality of Women’s Imprisonment” (1996), 151
- Although black women are only 7% of CA’s population, they are 34% of women who are convicted and incarcerated. Of those, 34.1% are African-American; 22.7% are Hispanic; 36.7% are Caucasian; 6.4% are other races. –Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, “Statistics on Women and Girls in State Prison and Juvenile Facilities,” February 1996

6- The state of California operates the third largest penal system in the world. California’s inmate population ranks behind only China’s national correctional system and the United States’ national correctional system.

http://www.cjcrj.org/cpp/ccf_growth.php - Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

7. In 1977, California housed 19,600 inmates. A decade later in 1998, the inmate population had skyrocketed by an astronomical 811 percent to 159,000. By February 2000 that number had jumped to 161,000. California now runs the largest prison system in the Western world. It houses more prisoners than do the countries of France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Singapore combined. California has spent \$5.2 billion on new prisons since 1977, yet it still has the most overcrowded system in the United States.

<http://www.fdungun.com/prison.htm> - Article: California’s Overcrowded Prisons by Fred Dungan

8. Currently, the state of California incarcerates one out of every eight prisoners in the United States.

SOURCES:

Coronado, Michael, *Press-Enterprise*, Riverside, California, Aug 10 2001, B4

Dyer, Joel, *The Perpetual Prisoner Machine*, Westview Press, 2000

Ismael, Katie E., *Press-Enterprise*, Riverside, California, Oct 17 2001, B4b

9. Since mandatory-sentencing laws went into effect in the mid 1980's, the California female prison population has skyrocketed. At the end of 1986, women in California's prisons totaled 3,564. As of September 2000, the female population now numbers 11,091 -- an increase of 311% in fourteen years (California Department of Corrections [CDC] Data).

<http://www.boalt.org/PAC/stats/women-prison-fact-sheet.html> - UC Berkeley, Boalt School of Law and the Prisoner Action Coalition

10. Although African-Americans comprise only 7% of California's population, they constitute 33.6% of California's female prison population. (Dept. of Finance, *California Statistical Abstract*, 12/1999; CDC, *California Prisoners and Parolees*, 12/1999)