

INCARCERATED WOMEN IN MINNESOTA



Women make up a small share of incarcerated adults in Minnesota in 2026: ¹



Of the population of Minnesota adults in prison, women make up **7.2%** of incarcerated individuals, and men make up **92.8%** of the total. Nearly all of Minnesota's incarcerated adult women are housed in the Minnesota Corrections Facility in Shakopee, the state's only women's facility*. The Shakopee facility offers a variety of trauma-informed, evidence-based programming.

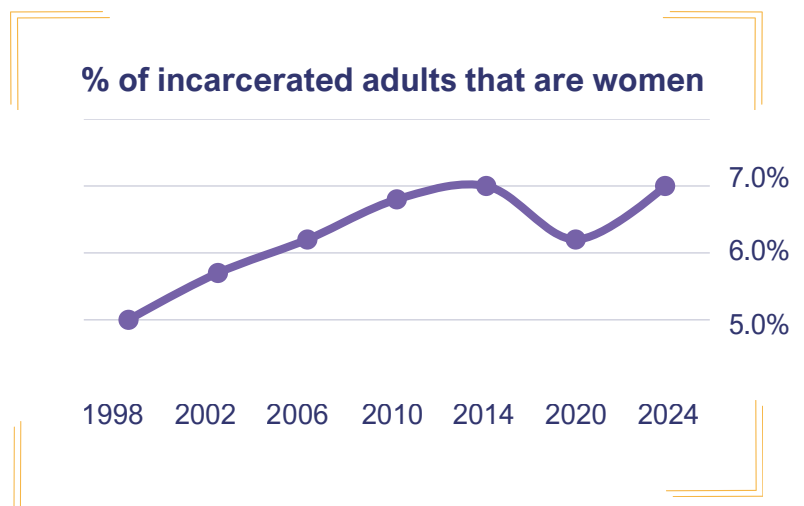
Minnesota has one of the lowest women's incarceration rates in the United States. ² However, compared to the rest of the world, Minnesota's rate is higher than all other OECD* countries. For example, neighboring Canada has a rate of 6 per 100,000. ³

Minnesota has an incarceration rate of **51 women per 100,000.**

The population of women incarcerated in Minnesota has increased over time. ⁴

In the past 30 years, women have made up a growing share of incarcerated adults in Minnesota. In 1998, women made up **5.0%** of incarcerated adults, but by 2024, they made up **7.0%** of incarcerated adults. In 2026, that has risen to **7.2%**.

This is consistent with the rest of the United States, where the percent of incarcerated adults that are women has remained around **7%** since 2013.



¹ Minnesota Department of Corrections, Adult Inmate Profile, 1/1/2026

² Bureau of Justice Statistics, Prisoners in 2023, September 2025 Report

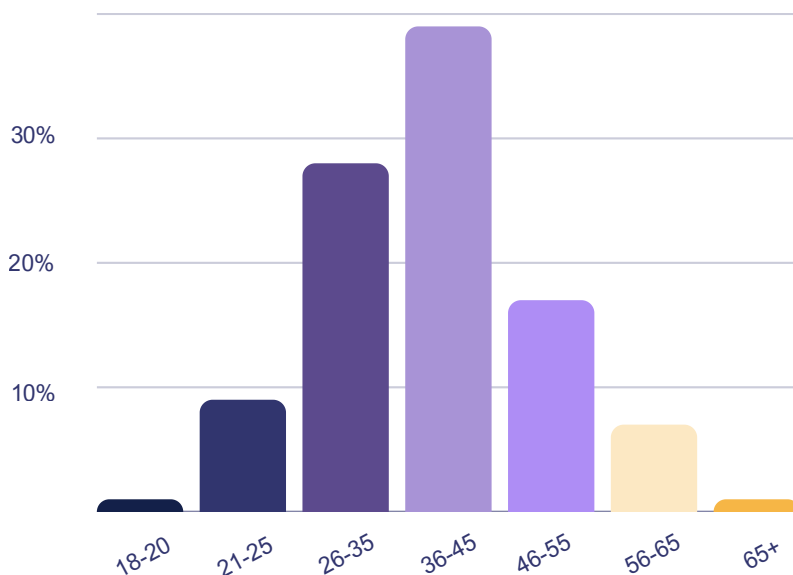
³ Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, World Female Imprisonment List

⁴ Minnesota Department of Corrections, Historical Population Summary Reports, 1998-2024

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The majority of incarcerated women in Minnesota are between 26 and 45 years of age.⁵
Percent of the incarcerated population by age group.



Over **50%** of the population at Minnesota's women correctional facility are between the ages of 26-45. **25%** are 45 and above.

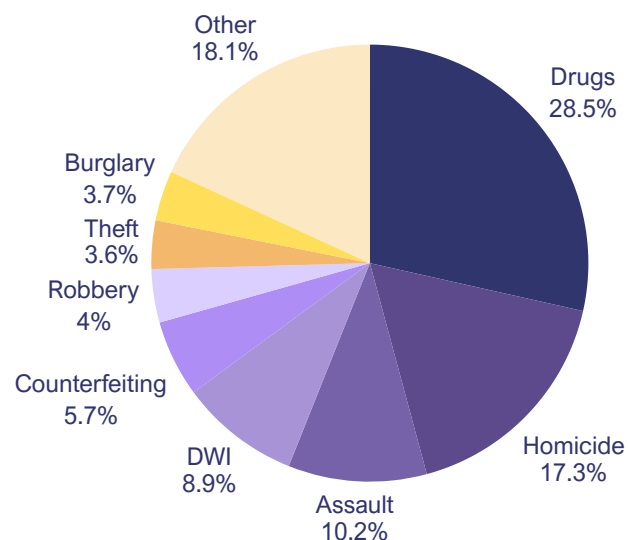
These age groups of women often have specific and unique needs related to this stage of life, such as reproductive healthcare for menstruation, pregnancy, and menopause, and special accommodations for motherhood, which can be complicated to provide for in corrections settings.

Over a quarter of women incarcerated in Minnesota are serving for drug offenses.⁵
Percent of total offenses being served by incarcerated adult women in 2026.

The most common sentence being served by women incarcerated in Minnesota are drug-related offenses, at **28.5%** of offenses.

The average length of a sentence is **76** months, or **6.3** years.

10 women are serving life sentences with the possibility of parole, and **8** are serving life sentences without the possibility of parole.

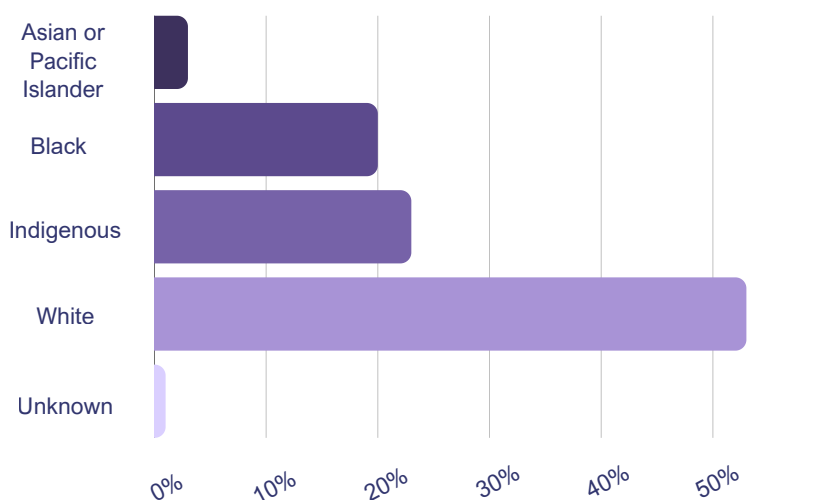


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Women of all racial groups experience incarceration in Minnesota.³

Percent of incarcerated adult women by race in 2026.



As of 2026, white women make up the majority of incarcerated women in Minnesota prisons, followed by Indigenous women, Black women, and Asian or Pacific Islander women.

Hispanic is considered an ethnicity for the purposes of this data, and is not counted as its own racial group. However, 7.4% of women counted were of Hispanic ethnicity as well as one of the listed racial groups

Minnesota Statutory Overview

Chapter 241, Section 241.70 **Programs for Female Offenders**

Subdivision 4d. **requires the provision of menstrual hygiene products** in prisons with female offenders.

Chapter 241, Section 241.021 **Licensing and Supervision of Facilities**

Subdivision 1. requires programming specific to the needs of female offenders.

Chapter 65, Minnesota Statutes 2014, Section 241.88

Subdivision 1 sets the circumstances under which the use of **restraint on pregnant inmates** is legally permissible.

Subdivision 2 **sets requirements for the provision of pre and post-natal maternal healthcare**, including regular pregnancy and STD testing, psychiatric medication access, and more.

*This fact sheet focuses on women in Minnesota state prisons operated by the Department of Corrections. It does not include county and city jails, or federal prisons.

*OECD refers to the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development and includes 38 member countries.