

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & MERCY MINISTRIES

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Facts about Oklahoma Incarceration Rates

- Oklahoma is #1 in the nation for incarcerating women and have been for the past three decades.
- Oklahoma is #1 in the nation for incarcerating men. This changed in early 2018.
- Oklahoma has 28,000 people behind bars right now.
- Our prisons in Oklahoma are now at 119% capacity.
- 40% of the men we incarcerate have a diagnosed mental illness.
- 70% of the women we incarcerate have a diagnosed mental illness.
- 55% of prison inmates in Oklahoma are considered to have a “serious and/or debilitating mental illness.” In Oklahoma, of those who we incarcerate who are considered to have a “serious and/or debilitating mental illness” more than half of them are incarcerated for a non-violent offense.
- Oklahoma has the 2nd highest rate of mental illness and addiction in the nation Oklahoma is ranked 46th in funding programs that respond to mental illness and addiction Between 700,000 and 950,000.
- Oklahomans suffer from mental illness and/or addiction In Oklahoma, of those who suffer mental illness and/or addiction 190,000 of them have access to services; that means 80 % of Oklahomans who suffer mental illness and/or addiction do not have access to mental health or addiction services.
- 65% of addicts in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections never get substance abuse treatment In the past 10 years, Oklahoma has increased spending on corrections by 34% And yet, in the past 10 years non-violent crime rates have remained the same and violent crime rates have actually increased in Oklahoma.
- In Oklahoma, the #1 crime for which we incarcerate people is “Possession of a controlled substance.” In Oklahoma, the #2 crime for which we incarcerate people is “Distribution of a controlled substance.” The majority of who do so to pay for an addiction.
- In Oklahoma, 7 out of 10 children who have a parent who is incarcerated will be incarcerated themselves.
- In Oklahoma, those who are discharged from prison are, on average, \$10,000 in debt to the state.
- In Oklahoma, for those who lose their driver’s license as a result of a felony conviction, the average cost to get it back is \$3,500.
- It costs \$19,000 a year to incarcerate someone in Oklahoma. That is just the cost to house them in a correctional facility. That does not include the cost to arrest, convict, and supervise them after incarceration. That does not also include how much a given individual would be contributing to the state in tax revenue, if they were in the free world working.
- In Oklahoma, slightly more than half of the men we incarcerate are incarcerated for a non-violent offense. In Oklahoma, 72% of the women we incarcerate are incarcerated for a non-violent offense.
- Several years ago, Oklahoma passed a sentencing mandate that a person must complete 85% of their sentence if they are convicted of any of seven particular crimes. That list of crimes has grown from 7 to 24 crimes. Why do we incarcerate so many women? Are women in Oklahoma just more deviant than other states? No. Many of the crimes for which women are incarcerated are considered felonies in Oklahoma while they are classified as misdemeanors in most other states. Most of all, we incarcerate for several crimes that other states simply do not.

