

## 15 Time Series Comparison

### 15.1 Inmate Numbers

Total inmate numbers at the time of each census have increased from 4232 in 1991 to 5647 in 1999. This 33 percent growth in 8 years represents an average per annum growth of 4.2 percent.

For both males and females, the numbers of sentenced inmates and remand inmates have increased notably from 1991 to 1999. While the predominant trend has been upward, there have been some temporary decreases for both sentenced inmates (1993) and remand inmates (1995).

At the time of the 1991 census there were 3682 male sentenced inmates, 139 female sentenced inmates and 411 remandees. In the 1999 census there were 4759 male sentenced inmates, 206 female sentenced inmates, 657 remandees and 25 offenders on home detention.

Table 15-1 Inmate Numbers

Year	Sentenced females	Sentenced males	Remand females	Remand males	Total
1991	139	3682	9	402	4232
1993	118	3645	14	486	4263
1995	151	3981	14	343	4489
1997	207	4728	13	516	5464
1999	206	4759	24	633	5647

In 1999, 3 female and 22 male inmates were held on home detention.

Despite the increasing number of offenders in custody, the inmate numbers transferred from prison to a psychiatric hospital whose sentence had not expired at the time of the census has declined since 1995.

Table 15-2 Inmates Transferred from Prison to a Psychiatric Hospital

Year	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Number	7	10	12	7	4

### 15.2 Demographics

#### 15.2.1 Age

The trend towards an older prison population continued. In 1991, 14 percent of the sentenced inmates were 40 years or older, but in 1999 this had increased to 21 percent. Around 40 percent of the sentenced inmates were under 25 years old in 1991, compared with 31 percent in 1999.

Table 15-3 Age of Sentenced Inmates (Percent)

Age	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
15-19	11.0	7.9	9.7	9.9	8.9
20-24	28.9	26.6	22.9	23.0	22.2
25-29	22.2	21.6	22.2	20.3	19.9
30-34	15.4	15.0	15.6	15.8	16.2
35-39	8.9	10.4	10.2	10.8	11.9
40-49	9.2	11.4	12.5	12.2	13.4
50+	4.4	7.0	7.1	8.0	7.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

### 15.2.2 Ethnicity

In each year the highest proportion of female sentenced inmates was Māori. In 1999 some 59 percent of the female prison population were Māori; this is an increase of 8 percent since 1991 according to definitions used by Statistics New Zealand. European females formed a much lower percentage of the female sentenced prison population in 1999 than in previous censuses. The proportion of females who identified themselves as of both European and Māori ancestry has increased steadily from 2 percent in 1991 to 18 percent in 1999.

Table 15-4 Ethnic Group of Sentenced Females (Percent)

Ethnic group	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
European	38.8	36.9	38.6	37.0	31.5
European and Māori	1.7	1.8	6.4	13.3	18.0
Māori	47.1	51.4	49.3	42.0	38.0
Māori and Pacific	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.5
Pacific peoples	5.8	5.4	3.6	3.3	9.5
Other (incl. Asian)	6.6	4.5	2.1	4.4	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

In each year the highest proportion of male sentenced inmates was Māori. Against the definitions used by Statistics New Zealand, some 51 percent of the male prison population is now Māori, similar to the proportion in 1991. Pacific peoples have comprised relatively constant proportions (between 9% and 10%) of sentenced male inmates over the decade; in 1999 only 36 percent of the population declared themselves as European. The proportion of male sentenced inmates who identified themselves as of both European and Māori ancestry has increased from 2 percent in 1991 to 6 percent in 1999.

Table 15-5 Ethnic Group of Sentenced Males (Percent)

Ethnic group	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
European	40.7	38.3	38.9	38.2	35.9
European and Māori	2.4	2.9	3.5	5.1	5.7
Māori	43.3	42.7	45.0	43.8	44.4
Māori and Pacific	0.4	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.2
Pacific peoples	9.4	9.9	10.2	10.1	10.3
Other (incl. Asian)	3.9	5.6	1.4	1.7	2.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

### 15.3 Current Sentence

#### 15.3.1 Length

There has been a trend towards imposing longer sentences on inmates.

A dominant proportion of the female sentence length shifts may be accounted for by a 9 percent increase in the proportion of female inmates serving determinate sentences of more than five years – from 2 percent in 1991 to 11 percent in 1999. The proportion of female inmates serving sentences of one year or less decreased from 45 percent in 1991 to 36 percent in 1999.

Table 15-6 Sentence Length Imposed for Sentenced Females (Percent)

Sentence length imposed	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Up to 3 months	5.3	10.3	6.6	3.4	4.6
3 to 6 months	13.0	16.2	13.2	10.1	10.8
6 months to 1 year	26.7	17.9	17.2	20.8	20.6
1 to 2 years	19.1	17.9	27.2	18.8	20.1
2 to 3 years	16.0	8.5	11.9	13.5	16.5
3 to 5 years	9.2	12.0	7.3	17.9	10.8
5 to 7 years	1.5	3.4	3.3	4.3	7.2
7 to 10 years	0.8	1.7	2.0	1.4	2.6
10 years	0.0	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.5
Life	8.4	11.1	9.9	8.2	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

The proportion of male inmates serving sentences of one year or less decreased from 31 percent in 1991 to 21 percent in 1999. Over the same period, the proportion of male offenders serving determinate sentences of more than five years increased from 15 percent to 28 percent.

Table 15-7 Sentence Length Imposed for Sentenced Males (Percent)

Sentence length imposed	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Up to 3 months	6.0	4.6	4.1	3.7	2.9
3 to 6 months	8.3	6.5	5.5	4.2	5.6
6 months to 1 year	16.9	14.3	13.2	12.3	12.5
1 to 2 years	19.2	16.4	17.2	15.7	18.3
2 to 3 years	12.3	12.2	11.0	12.5	12.6
3 to 5 years	16.1	17.0	16.1	16.5	12.2
5 to 7 years	8.6	11.7	12.8	11.3	11.3
7 to 10 years	5.3	8.2	9.7	10.7	11.3
10 years	1.3	2.2	2.9	5.0	4.9
Life	5.0	5.7	5.6	6.1	6.3
Preventive detention	1.1	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

From 1997 to 1999 the number of male inmates serving sentences of life imprisonment or preventive detention changed little, relative to earlier increases. In 1991, 183 males and 11 females were serving sentences of life imprisonment, compared with 281 males and 10 females in 1999. In 1991, 40 males were serving sentences of preventive detention, compared with 93 in 1999.

Table 15-8 Inmates Serving Life Imprisonment or Preventive Detention

Year	Females	Males	Males
	Life	Life	Preventive detention
1991	11	183	40
1993	13	206	52
1995	15	222	74
1997	17	288	92
1999	10	281	93

No female inmates were serving sentences of preventive detention.

### 15.3.2 Major Offence

There was a trend towards more offences involving violence, for both female and male inmates. Because the major offence groupings in 1999 were based on Police code classifications, the information from earlier censuses was recalculated to fit this grouping code.

The proportion of female sentenced inmates who were violent offenders increased between 1991 and 1999 from 31 percent to 40 percent but was lower than the peak of 45 percent in 1993. While the proportion of female inmates who had a property offence as their most serious offence has varied significantly between censuses, in 1999 the proportion was the lowest recorded in a decade. The percentage of female sentenced inmates who were traffic offenders increased between 1997 and 1999 from 7 percent to 11 percent.

Table 15-9 Major Offence of Sentenced Females (Percent)

Major offence	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Violence	31.3	45.3	37.1	34.3	40.2
Property	44.3	31.6	39.7	41.1	29.9
Involving drugs	16.0	13.7	12.6	14.0	15.2
Traffic	7.6	2.6	7.3	6.8	10.8
Miscellaneous	0.8	6.1	3.3	3.9	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Violence includes all sex offences.

Major offence groupings are based on Police code classifications.

The proportion of male sentenced inmates who were violent offenders increased between 1991 and 1993 from 54 percent to 63 percent but has remained at relatively constant levels since then. No clear trend was visible for other offence classes.

Table 15-10 Major Offence of Sentenced Males (Percent)

Major offence	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Violence	53.8	63.2	62.4	58.8	61.9
Property	25.4	20.6	21.3	21.7	21.2
Involving drugs	7.3	6.0	5.8	7.0	7.5
Traffic	10.1	8.5	8.9	10.1	7.2
Miscellaneous	3.5	1.7	1.7	2.5	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Violence includes all sex offences.

Major offence groupings are based on Police code classifications.

### 15.3.3 Security Status

The proportion of female inmates with a minimum security classification peaked in 1995 at 81 percent and then decreased to 65 percent in 1999. Most of the remainder of the female prison population was medium security.

Table 15-11 Security Classification of Sentenced Females

Classification	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
No status	12.2	2.6	10.1	7.8	6.0
Minimum	63.4	77.6	80.5	78.5	64.5
Medium	24.0	19.8	9.4	13.2	28.0
Maximum	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Excludes inmates where the security status was not known.

The proportion of male inmates with a minimum security classification has fluctuated over the last decade between 50 percent and 60 percent. The proportion of male inmates with a medium security class was 42 percent in 1999 compared with 37 percent to 40 percent over the rest of the decade. Maximum security inmates represented less than 3 percent of the male population in 1999, and fluctuated from 1 to 5 percent in earlier years.

Table 15-12 Security Classification of Sentenced Males (Percent)

Classification	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
No status	2.5	5.1	3.4	2.1	3.6
Minimum	54.2	50.5	55.7	60.0	51.2
Medium	39.1	39.9	38.7	36.6	42.3
Maximum	4.3	4.5	2.1	1.3	2.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Excludes inmates where the security status was not known.

### 15.3.4 Protective Custody

The proportion of male sentenced inmates in protective custody increased from 12 percent in 1991 to 20 percent in 1995 and then decreased to 16 percent in 1999. The number of females in protective custody at the time of the census represented only 3 percent of the female population.

Table 15-13 Sentenced Males in Protective Custody

Year	Number	Percent of all male inmates
1991	428	12
1993	557	16
1995	791	20
1997	513	12
1999	775	16

## 15.4 Offending History

### 15.4.1 Previous Convictions

The proportion of female sentenced inmates who had not previously been convicted rose from 18 percent in 1995 to 25 percent in 1999. In 1999, almost 60 percent of the female population had less than six previous convictions. This compares with 32 percent in 1995 and 46 percent in 1997.

Table 15-14 Previous Convictions for Sentenced Females (Percent)

Previous convictions	1995	1997	1999
0	18.5	25.6	25.0
1	4.6	7.7	10.0
2	2.7	3.4	8.0
3-5	6.6	9.7	14.5
6-10	11.9	11.6	24.0
11-20	15.2	10.1	15.0
21-50	24.5	21.7	3.5
More than 50	15.9	10.1	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.  
Information earlier than 1995 was not available.

The proportion of male sentenced inmates who had not previously been convicted increased from 14 percent in 1991 to 17 percent in 1999. While less pronounced than for female inmates, the proportion of male inmates with less than six previous convictions increased notably from 1995 and 1999.

Table 15-15 Previous Convictions for Sentenced Males (Percent)

Previous convictions	1995	1997	1999
0	13.8	18.4	17.2
1	4.8	4.4	7.7
2	3.3	3.1	6.4
3 - 5	8.7	9.6	16.2
6-10	12.5	11.7	21.3
11-20	17.5	16.5	20.8
21-50	26.0	24.4	10.1
More than 50	13.5	11.9	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.  
Information earlier than 1995 was not available.

#### **15.4.2 Age at First Conviction**

The proportion of female sentenced inmates who were aged under 17 years when first convicted decreased moderately from 1991 to 1997, then fell sharply to a low of 6 percent in 1999. Female sentenced inmates who were at least 40 years old at the time of their first conviction quadrupled from 2 percent in 1991 to 9 percent in 1999 with another notable peak of 10 percent in 1993. Over the last decade, around 60 percent of the female prison population was first convicted when between 17 and 24 years of age.

Table 15-16 Age at First Conviction for Sentenced Females (Percent)

Age	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Under 17	18.5	16.4	17.8	15.5	5.5
17-19	43.5	35.4	41.7	47.8	41.0
20-24	16.3	17.2	18.5	15.0	22.0
25-29	8.5	10.3	11.3	8.7	13.5
30-34	7.0	6.0	3.3	5.3	6.5
35-39	4.7	5.2	2.0	1.9	3.0
40-49	0.8	6.9	3.3	2.9	6.5
50+	0.8	2.6	2.0	2.9	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

The proportion of male sentenced inmates under 17 years old when first convicted decreased gradually from 1991 to 1997, before falling sharply from 32 percent in 1997 to 13 percent in 1999. Male sentenced inmates who were 40 years old or older at the time of their first conviction almost doubled from 4 percent in 1991 to 7 percent in 1999.

Table 15-17 Age at First Conviction for Sentenced Males (Percent)

Age	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Under 17	38.4	35.3	29.0	32.1	13.2
17-19	40.0	39.7	46.0	44.3	51.5
20-24	10.7	10.9	11.5	10.7	15.3
25-29	3.1	3.9	3.5	3.8	6.4
30-34	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.2	3.6
35-39	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.7	2.5
40-49	2.1	3.2	3.1	2.7	3.6
50+	1.6	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

### 15.4.3 Previous Periods in Custody

The proportion of female sentenced inmates who had spent no more than one previous period in custody in 1999 was 78 percent, almost exactly the same as the average over the 1990s. Similarly, less than 5 percent of the female inmate population had served more than five previous periods in custody, compared to an average of 4 percent over the decade. While the female prison muster increased 48 percent over the 1990s, there is no evidence of the establishment of a significant core of often imprisoned recidivist female offenders.



Table 15-18 Previous Periods in Custody for Sentenced Females (Percent)

Previous periods in custody	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
0	61.1	71.8	58.3	70.5	58.4
1	16.0	6.0	13.9	15.5	19.4
2	8.4	7.7	10.6	5.8	7.6
3-5	11.4	10.3	12.6	4.8	9.6
6-9	3.0	7.3	3.4	1.9	3.6
10 or more	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.5	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

The proportion of male sentenced inmates who had spent no more than one previous period in custody was 53 percent in 1999, the lowest percentage in the decade. This is largely attributable to an 8 percent increase in male prisoners who had served six or more previous periods in custody – from 11 percent in 1991 to 19 percent in 1999. Given that the percentage of these often imprisoned, highly recidivist male inmates was stable from between 1999 to 1997, a trend cannot be inferred at this time.

Table 15-19 Previous Periods in Custody for Sentenced Males (Percent)

Previous periods in custody	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
0	39.5	42.7	40.9	43.5	38.9
1	18.1	17.9	16.9	17.3	14.5
2	11.6	11.4	11.2	11.4	9.8
3-4	20.1	17.1	19.7	17.4	18.2
6-9	9.1	8.7	8.8	7.4	12.0
10 or more	1.6	2.1	2.7	3.0	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

#### 15.4.4 Age at First Custodial Sentence

The proportion of female sentenced inmates who received their first custodial sentence when aged under 17 years decreased from 9 percent in 1991 to 4 percent in 1997 before increasing to 6 percent in 1999. The proportion of females receiving their first custodial conviction aged between 17 and 19 years increased from 18 percent in 1991 to 21 percent in 1999. The proportion of female sentenced inmates who received their first custodial sentence when they were 40 years old or older decreased from a peak of 16 percent in 1993 to 10 percent in 1999.

Table 15-20 Age at First Custodial Sentence for Sentenced Females (Percent)

Age	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Under 17	8.6	6.1	6.6	3.9	4.1
17-19	18.1	25.3	21.2	23.2	21.3
20-24	29.1	18.3	23.2	23.2	25.4
25-29	18.1	14.8	18.5	16.4	18.8
30-34	15.7	13.0	12.6	14.5	13.7
35-39	7.1	7.0	7.3	6.8	6.6
40-49	2.4	13.0	8.6	6.3	8.1
50+	0.8	2.6	2.0	5.8	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

The proportion of male sentenced inmates who received their first custodial sentence when aged under 17 decreased from 20 percent in 1991 to 8 percent in 1999. The proportion of males receiving their first custodial sentence aged between 17 and 19 years increased from 35 percent in 1991 to 37 percent in 1999. The proportion of male sentenced inmates who received their first custodial sentence when they were 40 years old or older increased from 6 percent in 1991 to 10 percent in 1997 and remained at this level through 1999.

Table 15-21 Age at First Custodial Sentence for Sentenced Males (Percent)

Age	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Under 17	19.7	17.7	13.5	12.7	7.5
17-19	35.0	32.5	34.1	34.8	37.1
20-24	21.0	21.5	22.5	22.1	23.9
25-29	9.0	9.7	9.9	9.6	11.0
30-34	5.8	4.9	5.7	6.7	6.3
35-39	3.3	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.4
40-49	4.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	4.9
50+	2.3	3.7	4.0	4.2	4.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

## 15.5 Gangs

The proportion of male sentenced inmates who were patch members or associates of gangs decreased between 1991 and 1993 from 20 percent to 16 percent, and has stayed at this lower level since then. The Mongrel Mob and Black Power continue to have the largest number of patch members in prison.

Table 15-22 Gang Affiliation of Sentenced Males (Percent)

Affiliation	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Patch member	9.8	8.8	8.0	7.1	8.0
Associate	10.6	6.9	7.8	8.9	8.3
No affiliation	79.6	84.3	84.2	83.9	83.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table 15-23 Patch Membership of Sentenced Males (Percent)

Patch membership	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
None	90.2	91.3	92.0	92.9	92.0
Black Power	3.6	3.2	3.5	2.6	2.6
Mongrel Mob	4.0	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.8
Other gangs	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

## 15.6 Programmes

Since 1991, the percentage of female sentenced inmates enrolled in programmes has been higher than the percentage for males. For male and female inmates respectively, the proportion of inmates enrolled in programmes appears to have declined 15 percent and 31 percent over the last decade.

Table 15-24 Sentenced Inmates enrolled in Programmes (Percent)

Enrolled in programmes	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Females	84	78	77	80	53
Males	68	55	59	45	43

Excludes those where information about programmes was not available.

## 15.7 Dependent Children

For each census since 1991, the percentage of female sentenced inmates with dependent children was higher than for males. In 1999 the proportions were 56 percent female and 47 percent male.

Table 15-25 Sentenced Inmates with Dependent Children (Percent)

With dependent children	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999
Females	62	62	53	58	56
Males	35	38	35	44	47

Excludes inmates where information about dependent children was not available.