

infographic

# WOMEN AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

**We need to talk about female incarceration.**

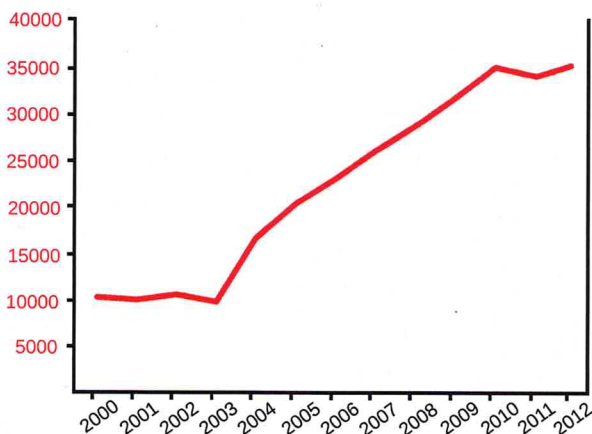
*Even if the gender issue is not a matter of concern,  
we should pay attention to the increasing number of  
women who are locked in Brazilian prisons.*

*Raquel Lima, coordinator of Programa Justiça Sem Muros*



## Increase of female incarceration in Brazil

Data from Departamento Penitenciário Nacional (Depen) indicate that between 2000 and 2012 the increase in women's imprisonment was 246%, in order to have a comparison, in the same period, the growth in incarceration of men stood at 130%.

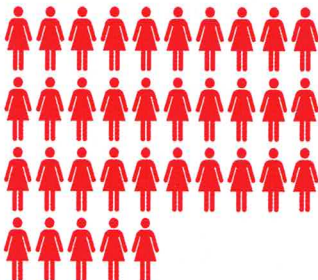


**2000**



**10 112 incarcerated women**

**2012**



**35 039 incarcerated women**

This vertiginous increase in the number of women in prison is not exclusively Brazilian and can be observed in many other countries:

**87%**

**New Zealand**

**47%**

**Spain**

**79%**

**Colombia**

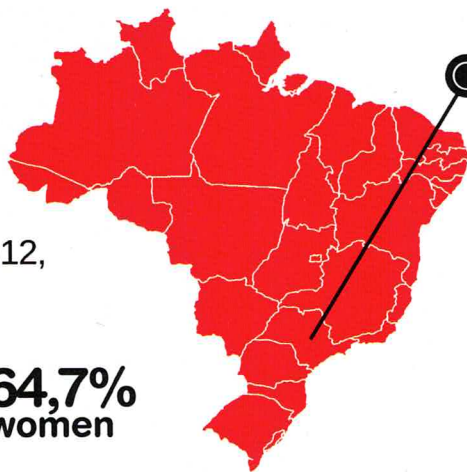
**87%**

**Chile**

## High representativeness of drug-related crimes

In Brazil, in 2012,  
drug arrests  
represented:

**22,6%** men      **64,7%** women



**Only in the state  
of São Paulo**

Between 2006 and  
2012, the number of  
women arrested for drug  
trafficking **increased**  
almost **5 times**

Regarding women, between 2003 and 2004 these crimes represented:

**64%** : **46%** : **86%** : **70%**  
in Costa Rica      in El Salvador      in Nicaragua      in Venezuela

## Other factors in common amongst women

- Absence of criminal records
- Main or only household providers
- Difficulty accessing formal jobs
- Low school level
- Employed in small retail activities of trafficking and national and international transportation ("mules").

**When the crime is drug trafficking, punishment is given even before trial and is harsher than for any other crime.**

**48%**

The apprehended drug was not in possession of the accused person and the police officers involved in the arrest were the ones to establish the connection between the narcotic and the person in custody, without any investigation prior to the arrest indicating that connection.

**74%**

of the arrests for drug trafficking in São Paulo counted only with the testimony of the police officers who apprehended the accused person.

Under the argument of protecting public order, judges in Rio de Janeiro choose to maintain **98%** of arrests in *flagrante delicto*. This number is even higher than that of homicide, in which the maintenance of the arrest happens in **93%** of the cases.

### Fontes

\*Triple sentencing is a concept debated by researcher Corina Giacomello.

Ação Educativa, Pastoral Carcerária e ITTT

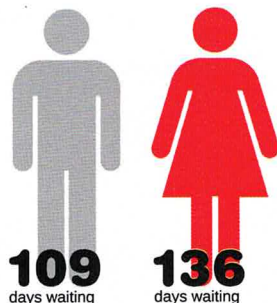
# In prison, the other crime is being a woman

Women suffer offenses to their sexuality and their bodies, besides denouncing sexual bribery.

They have fewer opportunities of work, education, leisure and health care.

Exams such as the Papanicolaou (pap smear) and the mammography are hardly made available and there is no adequate medical care before and after labour.

The term between the arrest in *flagrante delicto* and the first hearing, which is generally also the first meeting with the defense attorney, is longer for women.



87,2%

of the women held in custody at the Female Penitentiary of Sant'Ana were interested in studying, but both the penitentiary administration and the Judiciary refused to put that right into effect.

Being a woman is a three-dimensional sentence\*

Asymmetry in power relations between men and women before prison

1

**Incarcerated people with children**



81%

of incarcerated women have children

**Cohabitation with children**



56,2%

lived with their children

Mostly punished for trafficking, they have their penal sentences and regimes aggravated

2



53%

of incarcerated men have children



23,7%

lived with their children

Specific forms of discrimination within prison

3



Information contained in the series **“Women and drug trafficking - a triple sentence”**, written by Raquel Lima, research coordinator of the Program Justiça Sem Muros and available at [ittc.org.br](http://ittc.org.br)



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