In the United States, the number of women sent to prison increased 646 percent between 1980 and 2010, a rate of 1.5 times higher than the rate for men. With close to two hundred thousand women in jails and prisons in America and over a million women under the supervision or control of the criminal justice system, the incarceration of women has reached record levels.

-Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy, p. 236

Lifetime likelihood that a women will be sent to prison. This varies substantially by race: 1/19 for black women, 1/45 for Hispanic women, and 1/118 for white women.

Source: The Sentencing Project, 2012

Women in state prisons who are pregnant when admitted. Women can be shackled during labor and delivery in 32 states.

Source: The Sentencing Project, 2012; ACLU National Prison Project Briefing Report

Approximately 75 to 80 percent of incarcerated women are mothers with minor children. Nearly 65 percent had minor children living with them at the time of their arrest—children who have become more vulnerable and at-risk as a result of their mother’s incarceration and will remain so for the rest of their lives.

-Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy, p. 237

Number of children in America (or 1/28) with a parent who is incarcerated.

Source: The Pew Charitable Trust, Economic Mobility Project, 2010

Number of women who report an incident of sexual violence in prison. Note that actual percentage is probably much higher.

Source: Department of Justice, 2012

Number of prisons in America with a child care facility for new mothers who are incarcerated.

Source: The Atlantic, “Prison Born” 2015