

March 2018

Law and Justice Interim Committee  
Rachel Weiss

# MONTANA WOMEN'S PRISON

The Montana Women's Prison (MWP) is a secure facility located in Billings that houses adult women convicted of felony offenses. The prison is established by law in section 53-30-101, MCA. According to that statute, the primary purpose of the MWP "is to provide for the custody, treatment, training, and rehabilitation of adult female criminal offenders."

The prison completed its most recent Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audit in February 2018. The prison was compliant in all 46 applicable standards, although 20 of those standards required corrective action before compliance was achieved.

## Key Facts

- Warden: Jennie Hansen
- Mission statement: "Montana Woman's Prison is committed to fulfilling its obligation to the citizens of Montana by providing female felony offenders an environments emphasizing accountability, productivity and personal growth in a secured setting."
- Staff: approximately 92, including contractors
- Operational capacity: 194 beds
- Average daily population: 226
- Segregation cells (administrative or disciplinary): 22
- Feb. 28, 2018, snapshot population: 222
- Most common crime: criminal possession of dangerous drugs (47)
- Second most common crime: assault (30)
- Cost per day: \$115
- 2016 average length of stay: 21 months (The facility's most recent PREA report lists an average of 17 months.)
- Demographics: 63% Caucasian; 34% American Indian; 1% African American; 2% Other Minority

## Sources

- 2017 Biennial Report, Montana Department of Corrections, pgs 29-32, and Appendix C, [www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Reports/2017BiennialReport.pdf](http://www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Reports/2017BiennialReport.pdf)
- 2018 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) report, [www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Reports/PREA/Cycle2/MWPFinal%20Report02-03-2018.pdf](http://www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Reports/PREA/Cycle2/MWPFinal%20Report02-03-2018.pdf)
- Montana Women's Prison website, [www.cor.mt.gov/Adult/MWP](http://www.cor.mt.gov/Adult/MWP)
- Section 53-30-101, MCA: [www.leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0530/chapter\\_0300/part\\_0010/section\\_0010/0530-0300-0010-0010.html](http://www.leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0530/chapter_0300/part_0010/section_0010/0530-0300-0010-0010.html)
- Daily Population Report, Department of Corrections (DOC), [www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Reports/daily.pdf](http://www.cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/Resources/Reports/daily.pdf)
- DOC staff