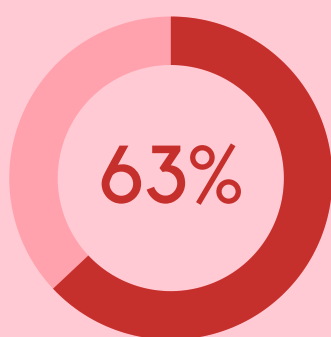


# Menstrual Equity in Prisons

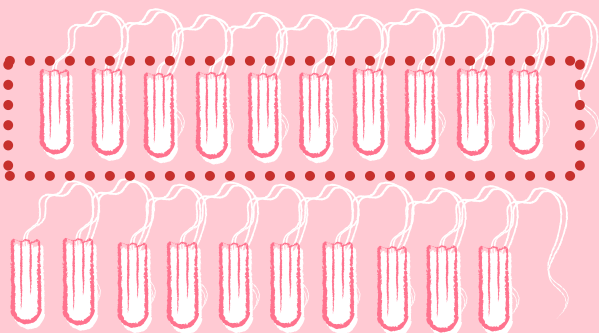
*The right of all individuals "to have access to menstrual hygiene products on demand and at no cost"*

Menstrual Equity for All Act, 2019

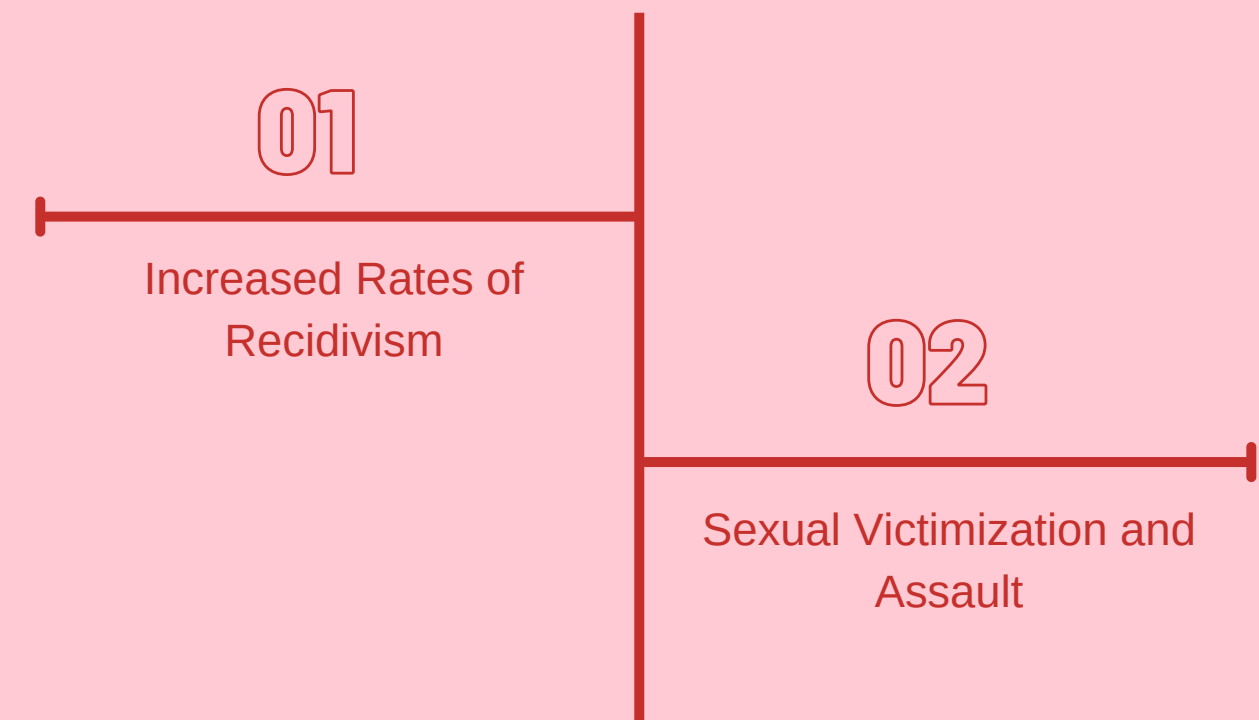


Nearly 63% of all women do not have access to menstrual hygiene products (ACLU, n.d.)

The average female uses about 4 products per day, 20 products per cycle. In comparison, the average female inmate only receives about 10 products per cycle (University of the District of Columbia, 2018).

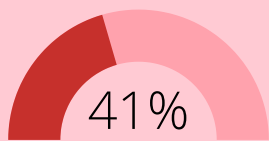


## LACK OF PRODUCTS



01 When inmates bleed through their clothes, they are more likely to turn down visitors and thus are more likely to recidivate. People who receive visitors are less likely to recidivate as it helps inmates keep their social ties to the outside world. With each visit, the likelihood to recidivate decreases by 3.8% (Bales and Mears, 2008).

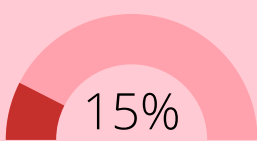
Research suggests that inmates are forced into sexual relations with correctional officers out of fear that their menstrual products will be otherwise withheld from them 02 (Words From Prison: Sexual Abuse in Prison, n.d.).



Sexual victimization in prisons is as high as 41%, and this includes both rape and sexual assault, as well as unwanted touching (Wolff, 2006).

6660

In 2011, there were 6660 allegations of sexual victimizations in prisons (Rantala, Rexcoat, and Beck, 2014).



Only 15% of inmate plaintiff lawsuits are successful as the Prison Litigation Reform Act restricts inmate access to federal court (Schlanger, 2003).

# Current Legislation

## 01 Global Legislation

## National Legislation 02

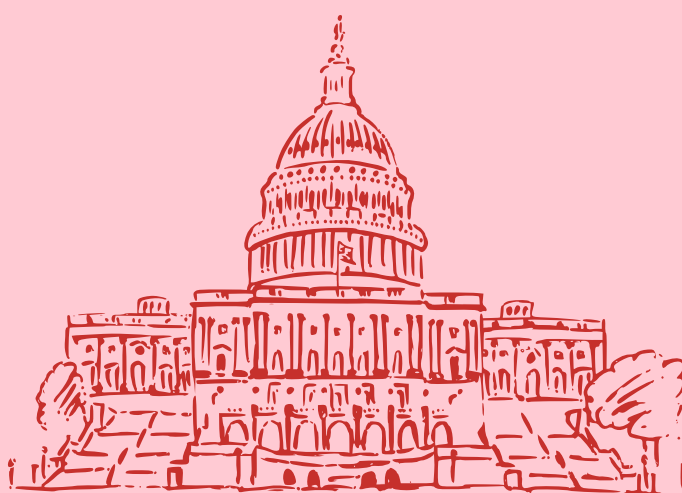
## 03 State Legislation

01

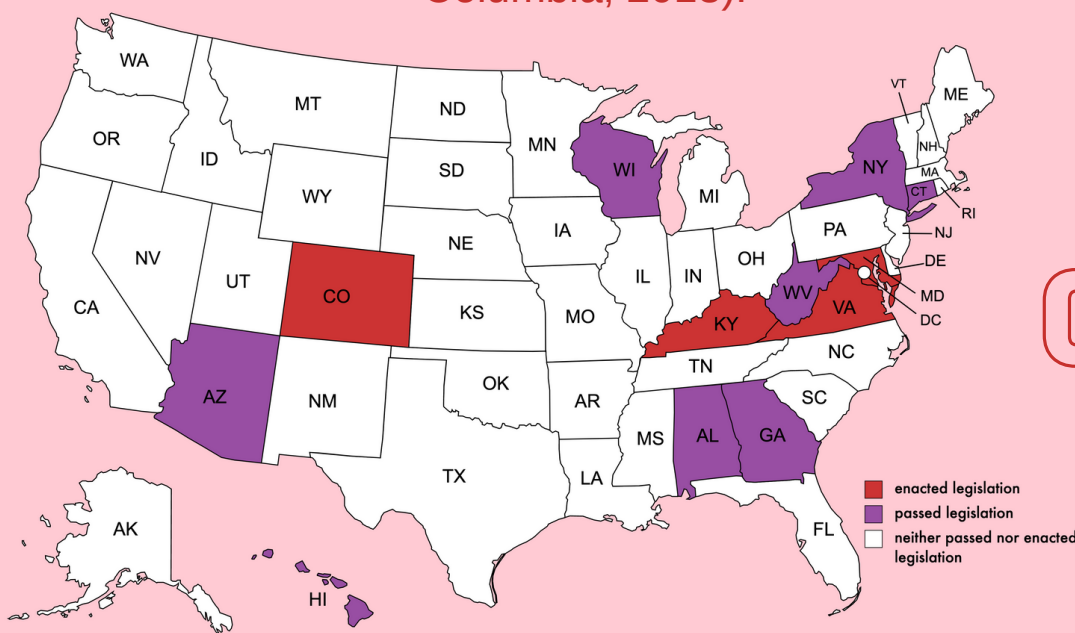
The U.N. Bangkok Rules states that “...women prisoners shall have facilities and materials required to meet women’s specific hygiene needs, including sanitary towels provided free of charge...” (Bangkok Rules, 2011:13).



02

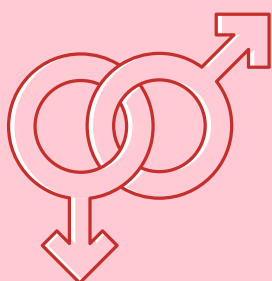


Only **twelve** states have passed legislation requiring unlimited access to products. Of those twelve, only **four** have fully enacted it. While these four states have enacted legislation, it is unknown if their legislation is being enforced (University of the District of Columbia, 2018).



03

While some states have begun to pass and enact legislation, it is unknown whether or not said legislation is being enforced. There is currently little research on menstrual equity, and it is imperative that we fill the gap and see if legislation is working and being enforced. By filling the gap, we can then pave the way for research on the different needs of all inmates.



#menstrualequityforall  
#metoo