

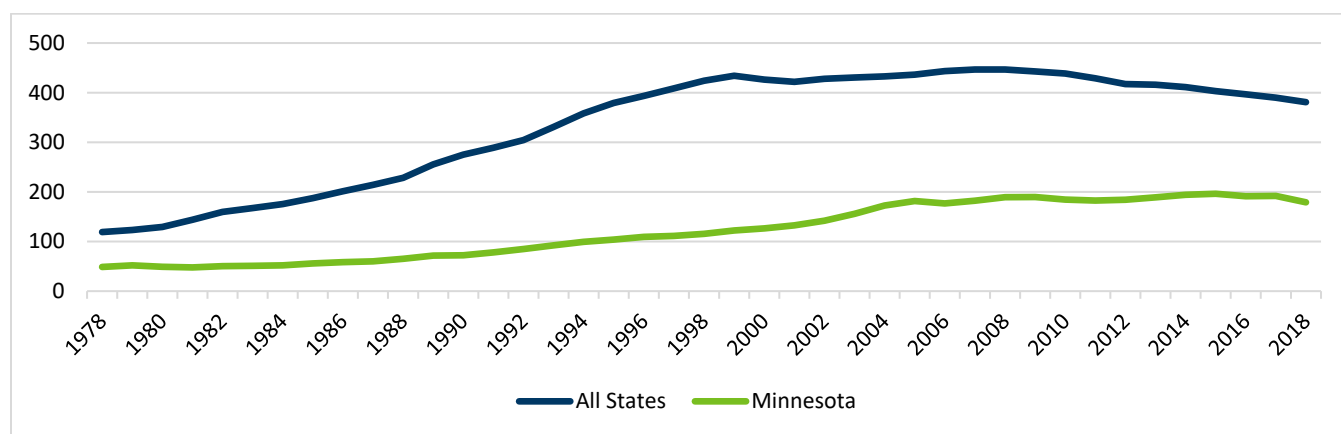
Staff Information Paper

2018 Imprisonment Rates, Bureau of Justice Statistics

April 30, 2020

In the first 39 years the Guidelines have been in effect—from 1980 through 2018—Minnesota has ranked nationally among the states with the lowest imprisonment rates. In 2018, Minnesota was fourth-lowest.¹ Minnesota’s 2018 rate—179 prisoners per 100,000 residents, down from a rate of 192 in 2017—returns Minnesota to an imprisonment rate last seen in 2006 (Figure 1).² Minnesota joined 36 other states with falling imprisonment rates from 2017 to 2018, causing the U.S. state imprisonment rate to fall by 2.4 per cent.³ Minnesota’s imprisonment rate continues to be less than half the national state imprisonment rate.⁴

Figure 1. Imprisonment Rate per 100,000 Residents, 1978–2018



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

¹ Minnesota had the fifth-lowest imprisonment rate in 2017; the fourth-lowest in 2014 and 2018; and the first-, second-, or third-lowest in the other years. E. Ann Carson, “Imprisonment Rate of Sentenced Prisoners under the Jurisdiction of State or Federal Correctional Authorities per 100,000 U.S. Residents, Dec. 31, 1978–2016” (Bureau of Justice Statistics, March 14, 2018) (retrieved April 30, 2020, at http://www.bjs.gov/nps/resources/documents/QT_imprisonment%20rate_total.xlsx); E. Ann Carson, “Prisoners in 2018” (NCJ 253516) (Bureau of Justice Statistics, April 2020), Table 7 (retrieved April 30, 2020, at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p18.pdf>).

² Minnesota’s 2006 imprisonment rate was 177 per 100,000. For purposes of comparison, its 1980 rate was 49 per 100,000.

³ “Prisoners in 2018,” tables 5 & 7.

⁴ The imprisonment rate for all states was 381 prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents. Neither rate includes inmates of federal prisons or local correctional facilities. “Prisoners in 2018,” Table 5.