Minnesota’s Crime Problem

Minnesotans have had the good fortune to live in a low crime state - historically. That changed in 2020. Minnesota’s crime rate is now higher than the national average. All rates per 100,000 in population.

Minnesota vs. National Crime Rate

Part 1 Crimes include Murder, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Rape, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Larceny, and Arson.

Armed Car Jackings have increased significantly in the Twin Cities, though data is not being recorded statewide. Car Jacking remains a subset of Robbery. Minneapolis recorded a record 655 car jackings in 2021, up from 388 in 2020. In 2021 a total of 22 metro cities recorded another 28 car jackings total according to Star Tribune reporting.

Source: FBI Crime data explorer, and Minnesota BCA Crime Data Portal/UCR

Rate = crimes per 100,000 population
Minnesota Violent Crime Rate 2010-Present

84% increase of murders between 2018 and the 2022 estimate.

59% increase of aggravated assaults between 2018 and the 2022 estimate.
Since 2019, Minnesota is now above the national avg.

**Minnesota Burglary Rates**
12% decrease in burglaries between 2018 and the 2022 estimate.

**Minnesota Motor Vehicle Theft Rates**
63% increase in motor vehicle thefts between 2018 and the 2022 estimate.
High crime rates are not confined to Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Pin map with all metro cities with Part 1 Crime Rate above 2,500.

Metro avg in 2021 is 1,980.
Crime and Incarceration

Minnesota has historically been a low incarceration state. In 2021, despite rapidly rising crime rates, Minnesota continued decreasing its incarceration rate, ending the year as the state with the 3rd lowest incarceration rate in the country with a rate of 132/100,000 population. Minnesota’s rate is approximately 1/3rd the national rate.

**Minnesota Part 1 Crime Rate vs. Incarceration Rate**

Part 1 Crimes include Murder, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Rape, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Larceny, and Arson.

Sources: FBI Crime and MN BCA UCR’s and Crime Data Portal for Crime Rates - Bureau of Justice Statistics and VERA Institute for Incarceration data.
Prison Incarceration Rates by State

Source: Vera Institute
Anti-police and anti-criminal justice system rhetoric has emboldened criminals and demoralized officers. The results have been disastrous. As a result, Minnesota is officially a High Crime State.

**Law enforcement**
- Police recruitment and retention are in a state of crisis that will take years to fix.
- Currently, Minnesota’s rate of officers to citizens stands at 1.9/1000. The national average is 2.8/1000.
- Minnesota needs to hire 4,960 additional officers to meet the national average.

**Courts**
- Judges in Minnesota are departing downward from the Sentencing Guidelines on Presumptive Commitments in 43.2% of cases.
- Progressive prosecutors have abdicated their duty by decriminalizing swaths of crimes and refusing to use legally obtained evidence -- all in the name of social justice.

**Corrections**
- Minnesota is paying the price for a correctional system that values supervision over incarceration.
- Minnesota maintains the 48th lowest incarceration rate in the country despite having a Part 1 crime rate that exceeds the national average.

**Leaders Should**
- Support pro-active policing efforts
- Support police recruitment and retention efforts
- Hold judges, prosecutors, and corrections officials accountable

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David Zimmer has joined the Center of the American Experiment as the Policy Fellow for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Zimmer served 33 years in local law enforcement with the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office, retiring as a Captain. During his law enforcement career, he served as a deputy and a supervisor in areas including the Jail, Courts, Patrol/Water Patrol, Investigations, and Tactical Command. Zimmer was recognized as a collaborative law enforcement leader who earned the respect of stakeholders throughout the criminal justice system.
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