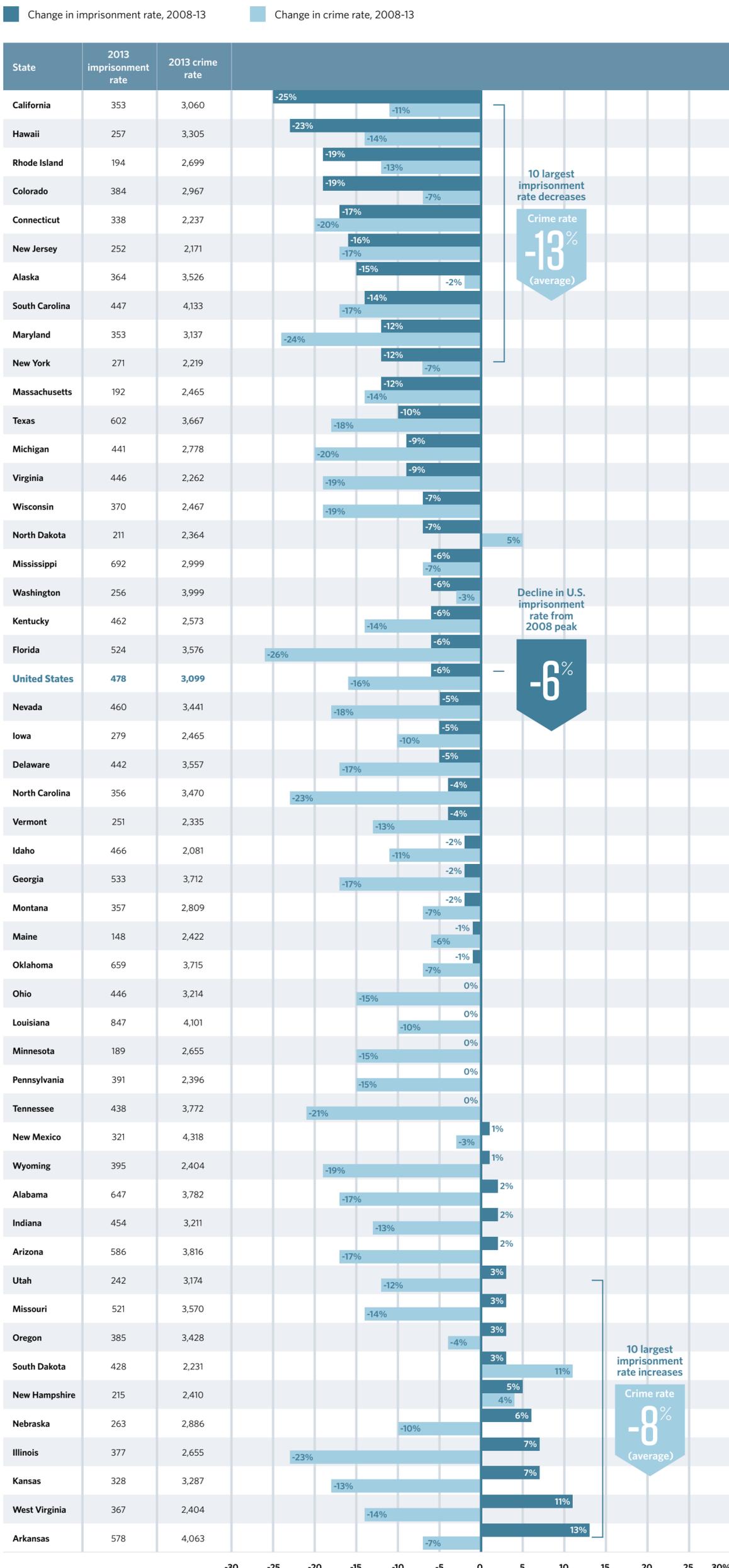




Most States Cut Imprisonment and Crime

Over the past five years, the majority of states have reduced their imprisonment rates while experiencing less crime. The relationship between incarceration and crime is complex, but states continue to show that it is possible to reduce both at the same time.



Notes: Imprisonment and crime rates are per 100,000 residents. Imprisonment rates count inmates sentenced to more than a year in prison and do not reflect total offender populations, which can be significantly higher in states with unified correctional systems that include prisons and jails. The U.S. imprisonment rate includes federal prisoners and excludes inmates held in local jails. Ohio, Louisiana, and Minnesota reduced their imprisonment rates by less than 0.5%; Pennsylvania and Tennessee increased their imprisonment rates by less than 0.5%. Crime rates reflect Part I offenses as defined by the FBI's Uniform Crime Report and combine violent and property crimes; 2013 violent crime rates use revised (not legacy) definition of rape. (See <http://www.ucrdatatool.gov/offenses.cfm> for more information.)

Crime Decline Is Greater in States That Cut Imprisonment

In the 33 states where imprisonment rates decreased, crime rates fell an average of 13%

In the 17 states where imprisonment rates increased, crime rates fell an average of 11%



Comparing Two States

Imprisonment rate down 10% in Texas, crime rate down 18%

Imprisonment rate up 6% in Nebraska, crime rate down 10%



Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics (imprisonment rates), FBI (crime rates)

© 2014 The Pew Charitable Trusts

Project website: pewtrusts.org/publicsafety

The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Pew applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.