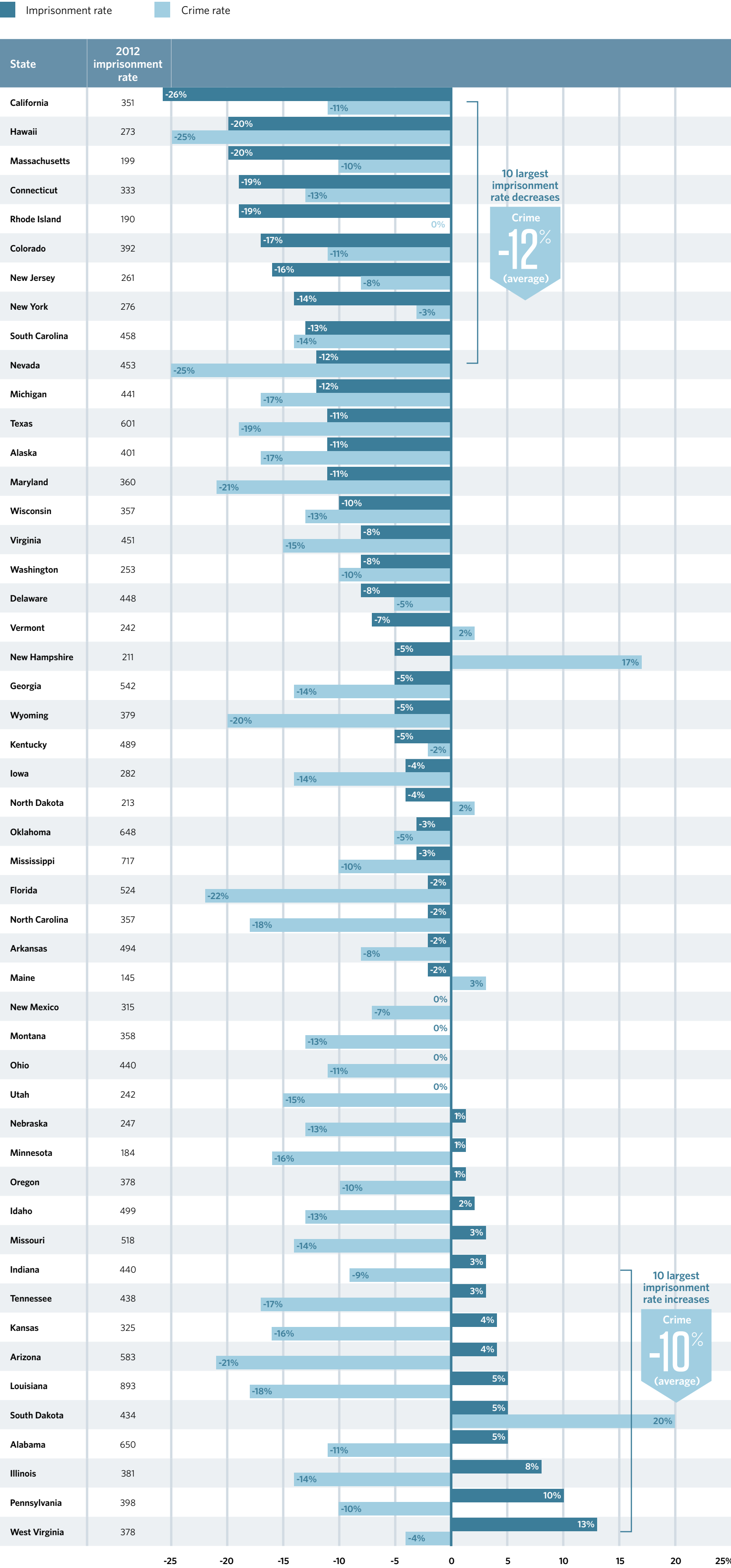


# States Cut Both Crime and Imprisonment

Over the past five years, the majority of states reduced both crime and imprisonment rates. The relationship between crime and incarceration is complex, but states are showing that it is possible to reduce them at the same time.



## Prison decline has little impact on crime rates

In states where crime rate increased, imprisonment rate dropped 4%

Crime increased

-4%  
Prison

In states where crime rate decreased, imprisonment rate dropped 5%

Crime decreased

-5%  
Prison

## Comparing two states

Imprisonment rate down in MD 11%, crime down 21%

-11%  
Prison

-21%  
Crime

Imprisonment rate up in AZ 4%, crime down 21%

+4%  
Prison

-21%  
Crime

Sources: Imprisonment rates from Bureau of Justice Statistics annual *Prisoners* series (2007-12); crime rates from FBI Uniform Crime Report