



Criminal Justice in Michigan

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Michigan Has *A LOT* of Criminal Laws


- 1,900 misdemeanor offenses in Michigan statute
- 1,200 felony offenses in Michigan statute
- Legislature creates about 45 new criminal offenses each year
- More than 15,000 administrative rules in 750 rule sets administered by more than 150 agencies

Michigan Crime Rate Has Dropped


Violent Crime

- Peaked in 1986
-  44% since
- 13th highest rate in America

Property Crime

- Peaked in 1981
-  73% since
- 12th lowest rate in America

Michigan Incarceration Statistics

- Each inmate in Michigan prison costs taxpayers about \$35,000 per year
- Prison population is about 36,000 ( 30% since 2006)
- Only about 5,000 on life sentences
- Michigan prisoners serve longer sentences (4.3 years vs. national average 2.9 years)
- Fewer than 10% of prisoners serve entire sentence in prison.
- Michigan 3-year recidivism rate is 26.7%, among top 10 states in America.

How the Mackinac Center Evaluates Criminal Justice Proposals

1. Does it improve public safety?
2. Does it save taxpayer money?
3. Does it increase opportunities for ex-offenders to attain meaningful employment and housing opportunities (earned success)?

Policy Recommendations

- Apply the \$35,000 test.
- Overhaul administrative crimes.
- Repeal arcane and unenforced laws.
- Adopt “clean slate” legislative package.
- Adopt “good moral character” occupational licensing legislative package.
- Expand re-entry programs that are proven to reduce recidivism.

Emerging Issue: Police Accountability

- Provisions commonly found in municipal police collective bargaining agreements or disciplinary processes
 - Time limits on complaints and internal investigations
 - Written notice in advance of interviews after incidents
 - Officers provided preferential access to information
 - Limits on disciplinary consequences and/or civilian oversight structures
 - Government entities pay for leave, legal costs, and judgments/settlements
 - Removal of disciplinary records from officer's personnel file