



PROBATION SENTENCES IN MINNESOTA

February 20, 2019

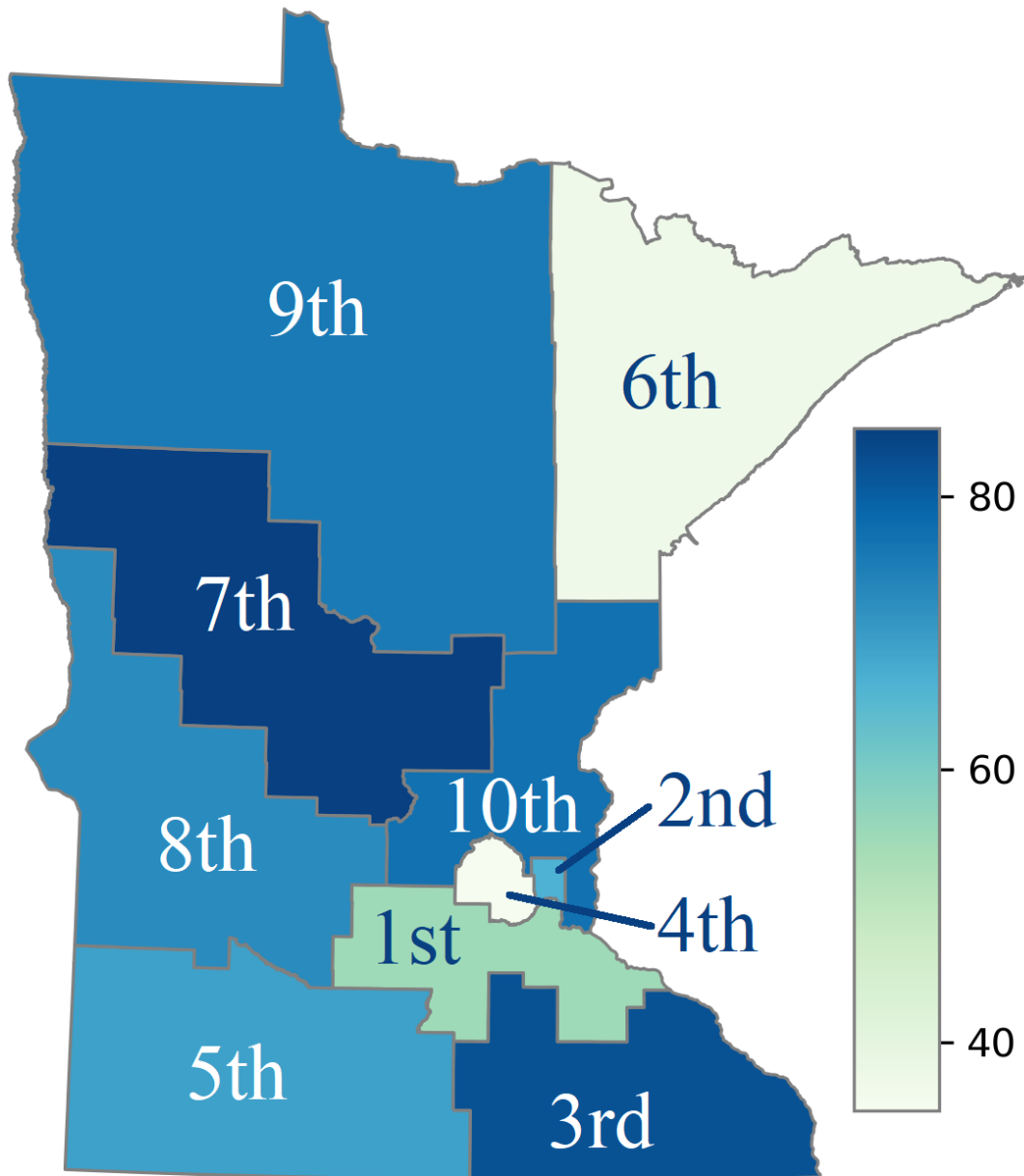
Probation sentences vary widely across Minnesota. Drawing on data from the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, **Table 1** reports the total number of felony cases sentenced from 2012-2017 and the number of cases sentenced to prison and to probation by judicial district. For cases sentenced to probation, the last column reports the average pronounced probation sentence (see also **Figure 1**). The 3rd and 7th Judicial Districts generally have longer probation sentences while the 2nd and 6th have, on average, shorter probation sentences.

Table 1. Felony Sentences by Judicial District (2012-2017)

Judicial District	Counties	Total Felony Sentences	Sentenced to Prison	Sentenced to Probation	Avg. Probation Sent. (Months)
1	Carver, Dakota, Goodhue, Le Sueur, McLeod, Scott, Sibley	12,093	2,535	9,558	56.4
2	Ramsey	11,547	3,354	8,193	67.1
3	Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Winona	7,836	2,071	5,765	82.1
4	Hennepin	19,964	5,999	13,965	37.6
5	Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Watonwan	5,462	1,196	4,266	69.7
6	Carlton, Cook, Lake, St. Louis	5,008	1,125	3,883	39.8
7	Becker, Benton, Clay, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, Wadena	9,882	2,988	6,894	84.7
8	Big Stone, Chippewa, Grant, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Meeker, Pope, Renville, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Wilkin, Yellow Medicine	2,544	739	1,805	73.0
9	Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau	9,900	2,697	7,203	75.7
10	Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Sherburne, Washington, Wright	13,413	3,117	10,296	77.3
Total		97,649	25,821	71,828	64.0

Source: Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (2018), MSGC Publicly Available Sentencing Data 2012-2017.

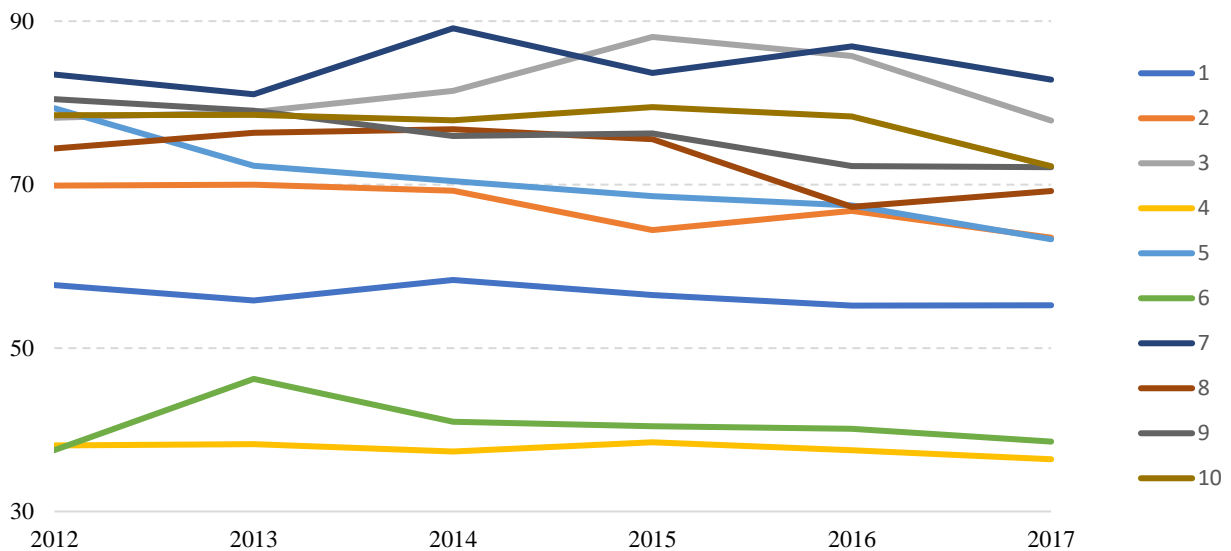
Figure 1. Average Pronounced Probation Sentence by Judicial District, 2012-2017.





The Legislature passed the Drug Sentencing Reform Act (DSRA) which took effect on August 1, 2016. The DSRA made several changes to Minnesota’s drug sentencing statutes, including reducing prison sentences for most drug offenses. However, while it is still too early to tell what long-term impact the DSRA will have on drug sentencing, it does not appear from data currently publicly available that the DSRA has had a significant impact on average probation sentence lengths overall. **Figure 2** below shows that average probation sentences by district have been relatively stable from 2012-2017 in districts across the state.

Figure 2. Average Pronounced Probation Sentence by Year and Judicial District (2012-2017)



Data Source: Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (2018), MSGC Publicly Available Sentencing Data 2012-2017.

For Additional Information or Questions Contact: Robert Stewart, rob@mnjrc.org

About the Minnesota Justice Research Center (JRC): The JRC is a non-profit organization established to improve the criminal justice system through high quality research, policy development, and education. The JRC works with partner agencies and organizations to conduct practical, high-impact research, analysis, and evaluation. As an organization, we strive to broadly share what we learn with the community and among justice system professionals and policymakers to effect transformational, lasting change to create a more effective, humane, and equitable justice system.