

**Racial Impact for HF3175:
Robbery - Increased Penalties**
Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission
February 29, 2008

Racial Impact

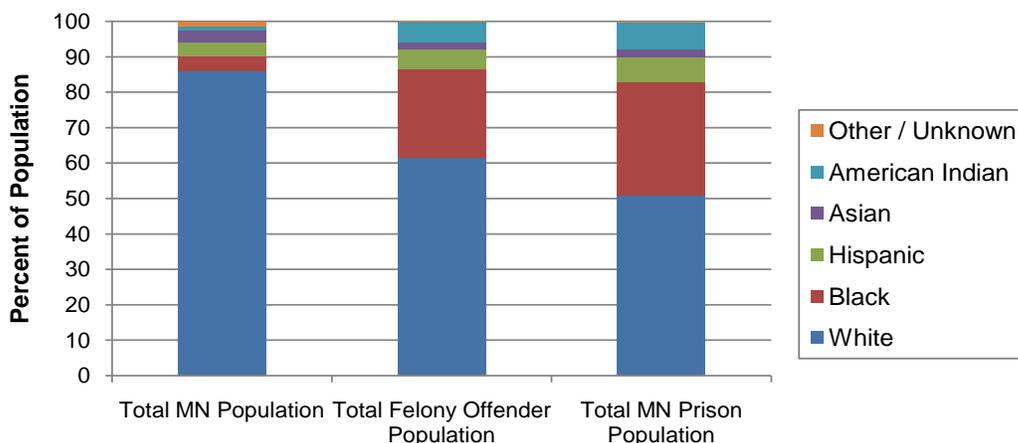
By providing the following information on race, MSGC seeks to enrich the discussion on how minorities in Minnesota are affected by changes in sentencing policy. If a significant racial disparity can be predicted before a bill is passed, it may be possible to consider alternatives that enhance public safety without creating additional disparity in Minnesota’s criminal justice system. Just as with the Commission’s fiscal impact notes, the agency does not intend to comment on whether or not a particular bill should be enacted. Rather, it is setting out facts that may be useful to the Legislature, whose members frequently express concerns about the disparity between the number of minorities in our population and the number in our prisons.

According to the U.S. Census population estimates for July 1, 2006 (the most current estimates available at this time), approximately 86 percent of Minnesota’s population is white. The composition of the remaining 14 percent is as follows: 4.3 percent black; 3.8 percent Hispanic; 3.5 percent Asian; 1.1 percent American Indian; .04 percent Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; and roughly 1.4 percent who identify themselves with two or more races.

In contrast, MSGC monitoring data shows the following racial make-up of the 2006 felony offender population: 61.6 percent white; 25.0 percent black; 5.9 percent American Indian; 5.5 percent Hispanic; 2.0 percent Asian, and .02 percent unknown/other.

According to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the racial composition of the prisons on July 1, 2006 was as follows: 50.9 percent white; 32.1 percent black; 7.8 percent American Indian; 6.9 percent Hispanic; 2.2 percent Asian; and .02 percent unknown/other.

**Comparison of Racial Composition Among Populations:
2006**



Minorities are even more over-represented among persons sentenced to prison for attempted aggravated robbery than non-minorities and their sentences would be increased if this bill were to be adopted. Among offenders sentenced to prison for attempted aggravated robbery in 2006, 25.9 percent were white, 61.1 percent were black, 9.3 percent were American Indian, and 3.7 percent were Hispanic. The average

increase in sentence length for those offenders would be 8 months for white offenders, 10 months for black offenders, 15 months for American Indian offenders, and 23 months for Hispanic offenders.