



MINNESOTA

SENTENCING GUIDELINES

COMMISSION

2024 Sentencing Practices Report

MSGC Research Staff Presentation
December 18, 2025

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This presentation will discuss...

Sentencing Trends

- Felony Case Volume
- Confinement and Average Sentence Length
- Offense Type

Departures from the Guidelines

- Dispositional Departures
- Durational Departures

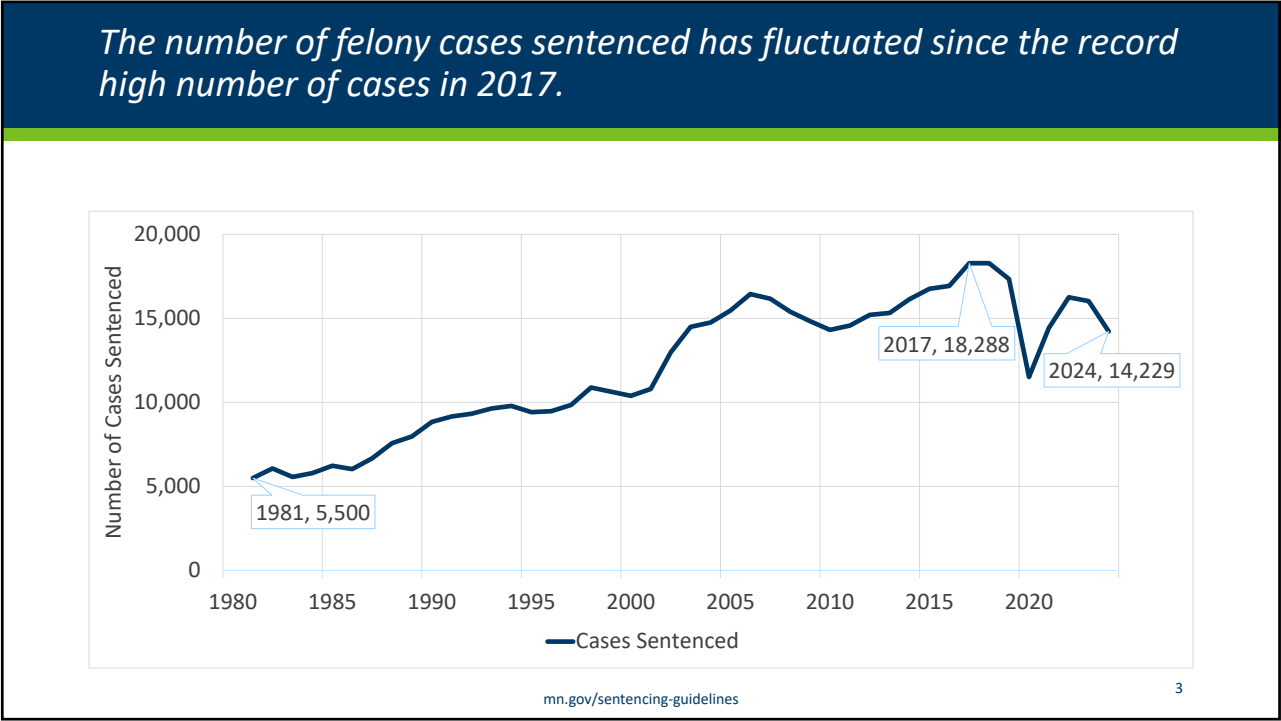
Demographic Characteristics by Sex, Race & Ethnicity, and Judicial District

- Case Distribution
- Departure Rates
- Actual & Presumptive Prison Rates

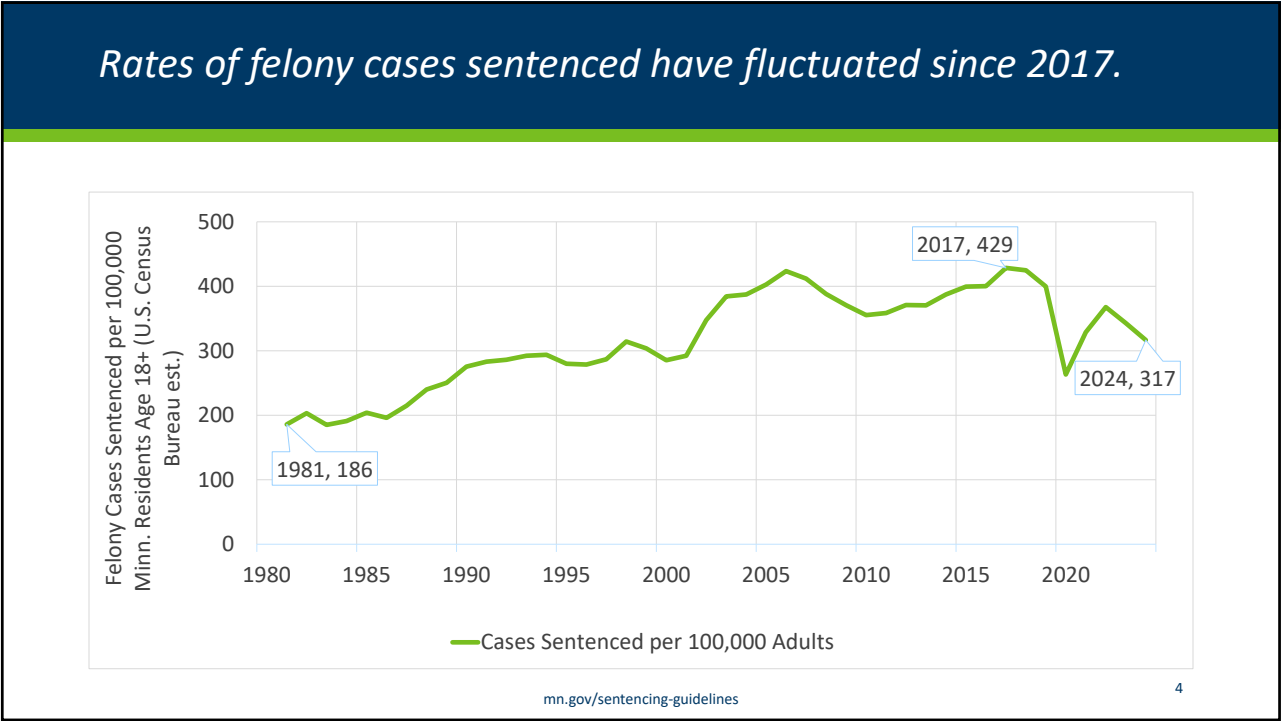
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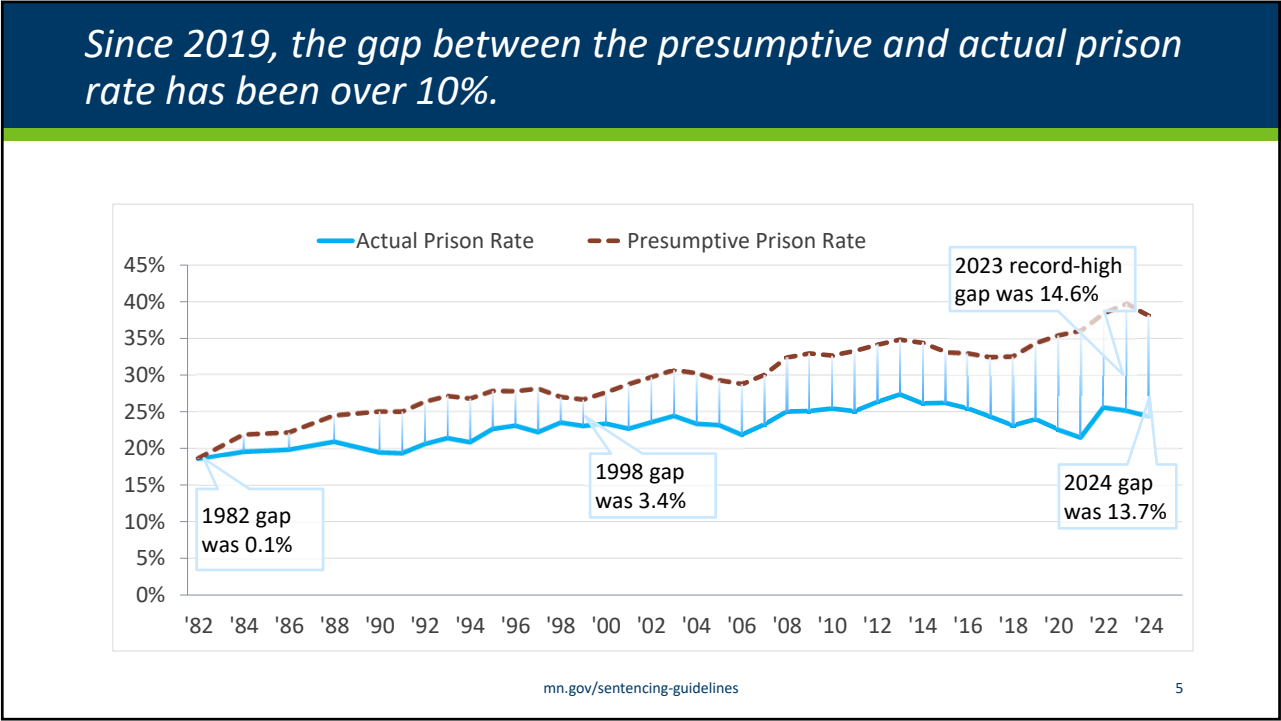
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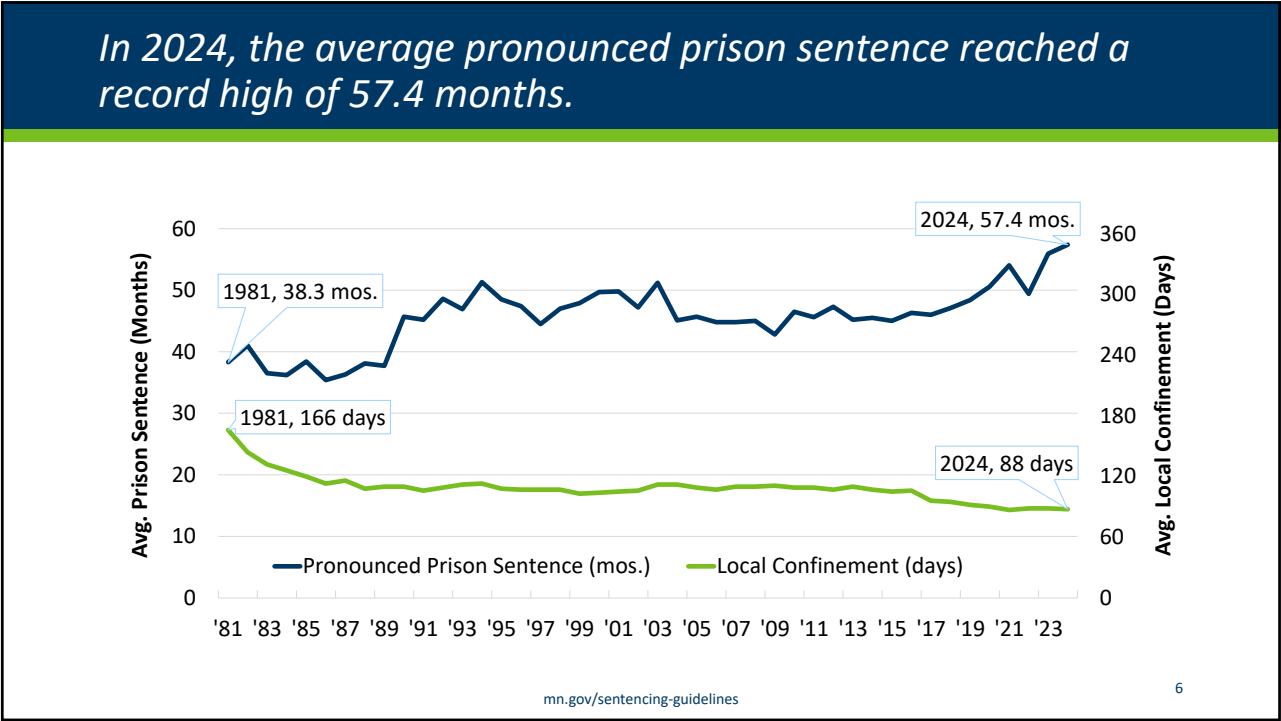
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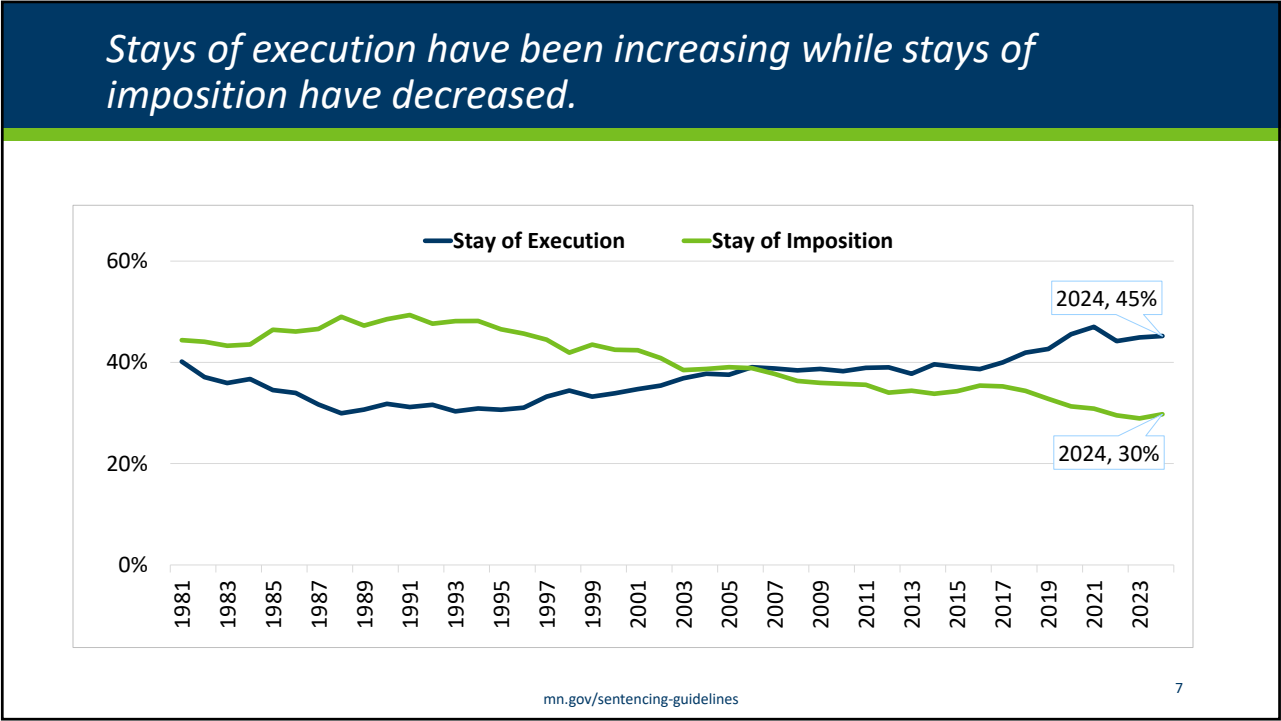
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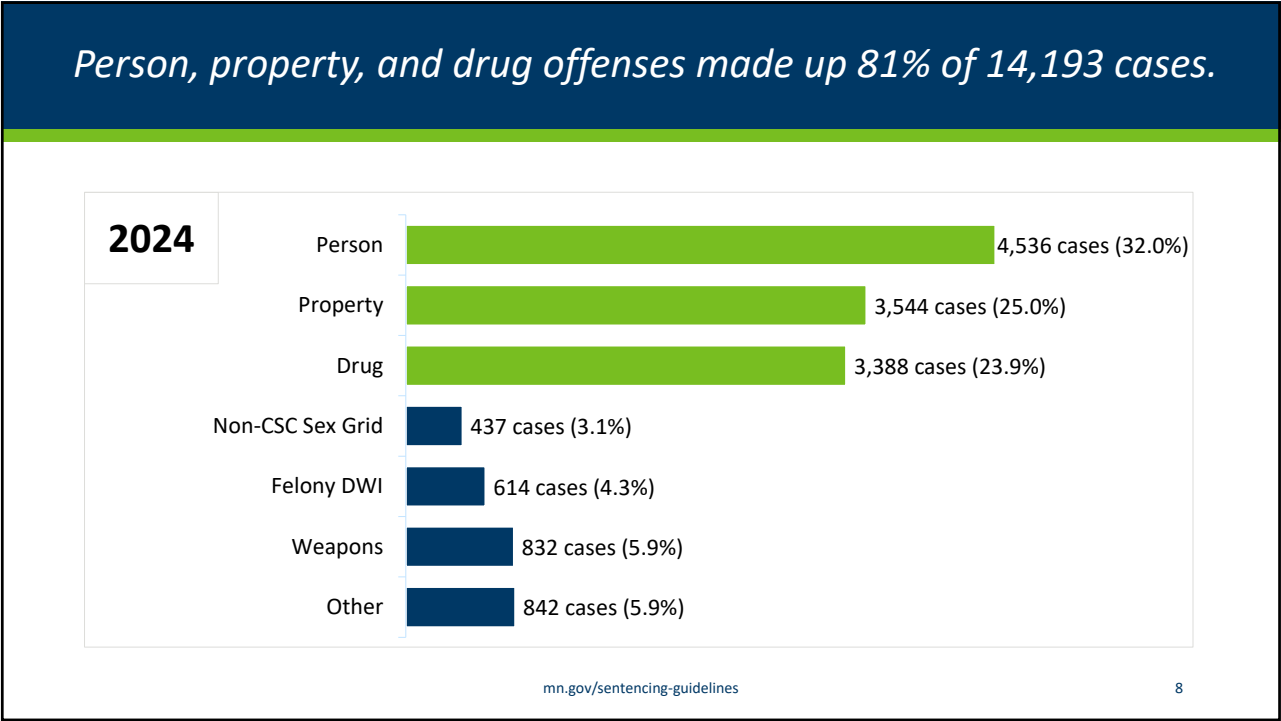
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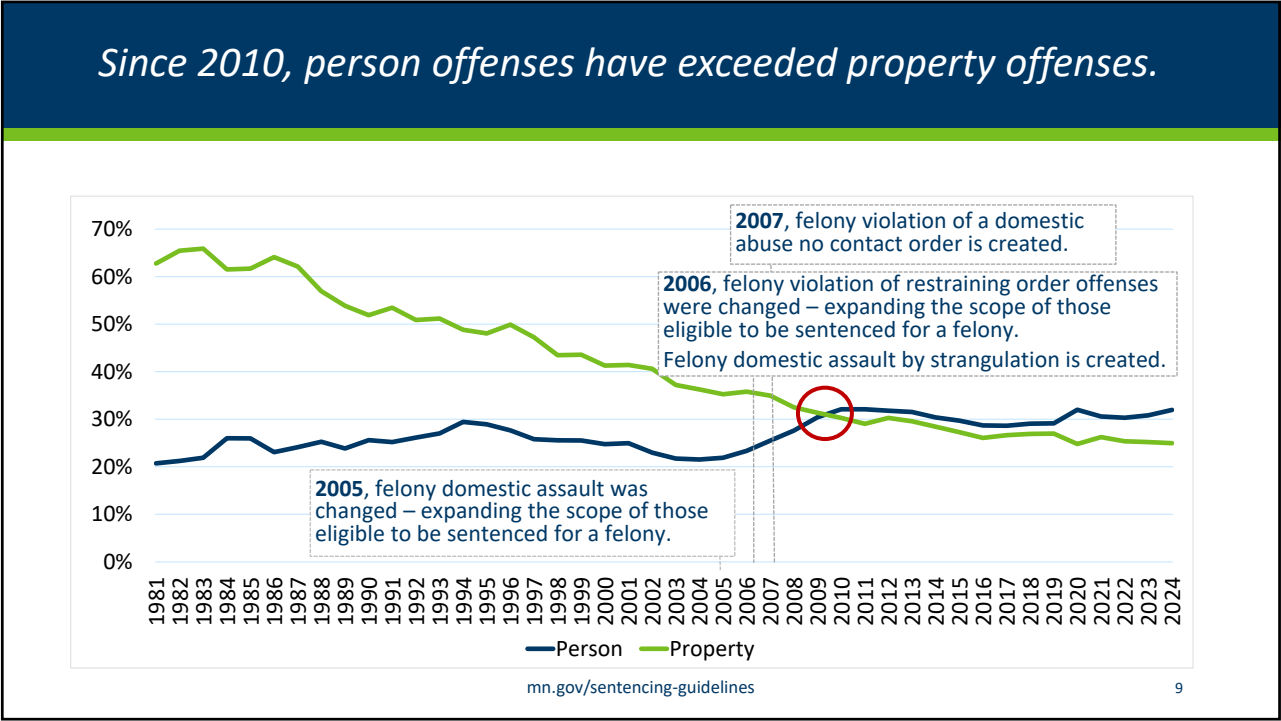
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DEPARTURES FROM THE GUIDELINES

This section discusses.....

• Dispositional Departures

• Mitigated dispositional departures

Occurs when a person who was recommended prison by the Guidelines received a stayed sentence from the Court.

• Aggravated dispositional departures

Occurs when a person who was recommended a stayed sentence by the Guidelines received a prison sentence from the Court.

• Durational Departures

• Mitigated durational departures

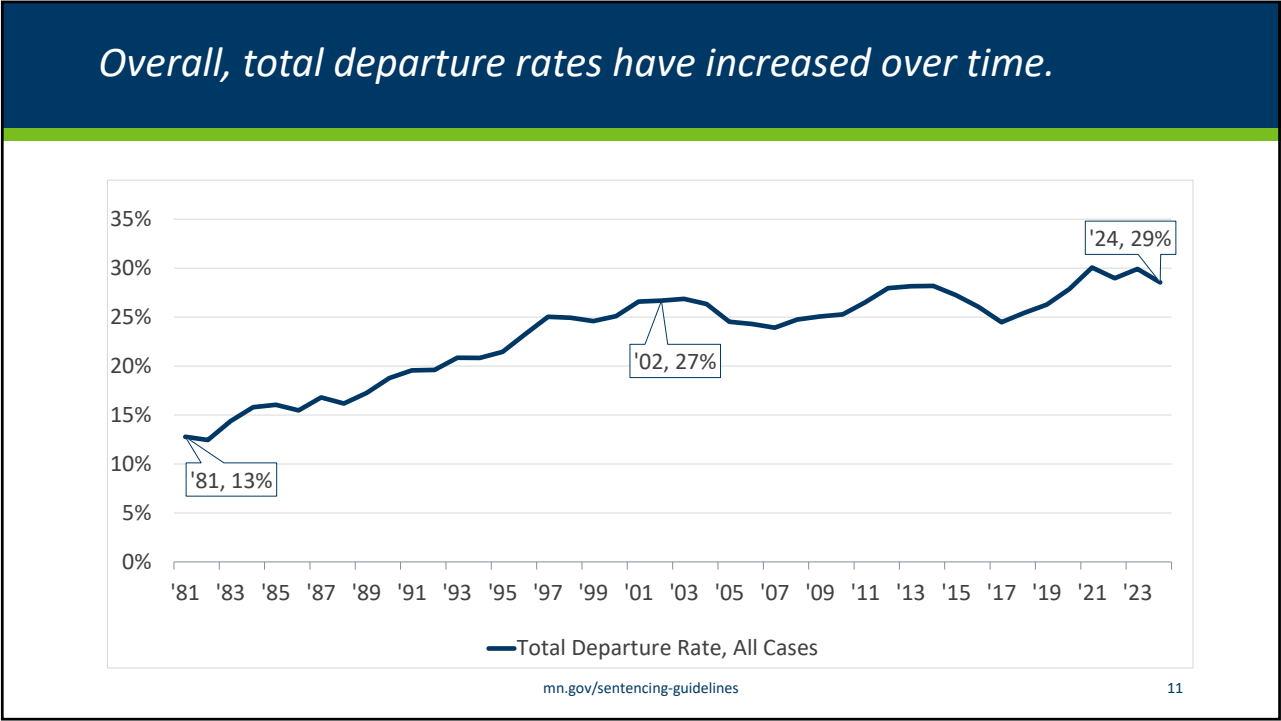
Occurs when the Court pronounces a duration that is lower than 15% of what the Guidelines recommended.

• Aggravated durational departures

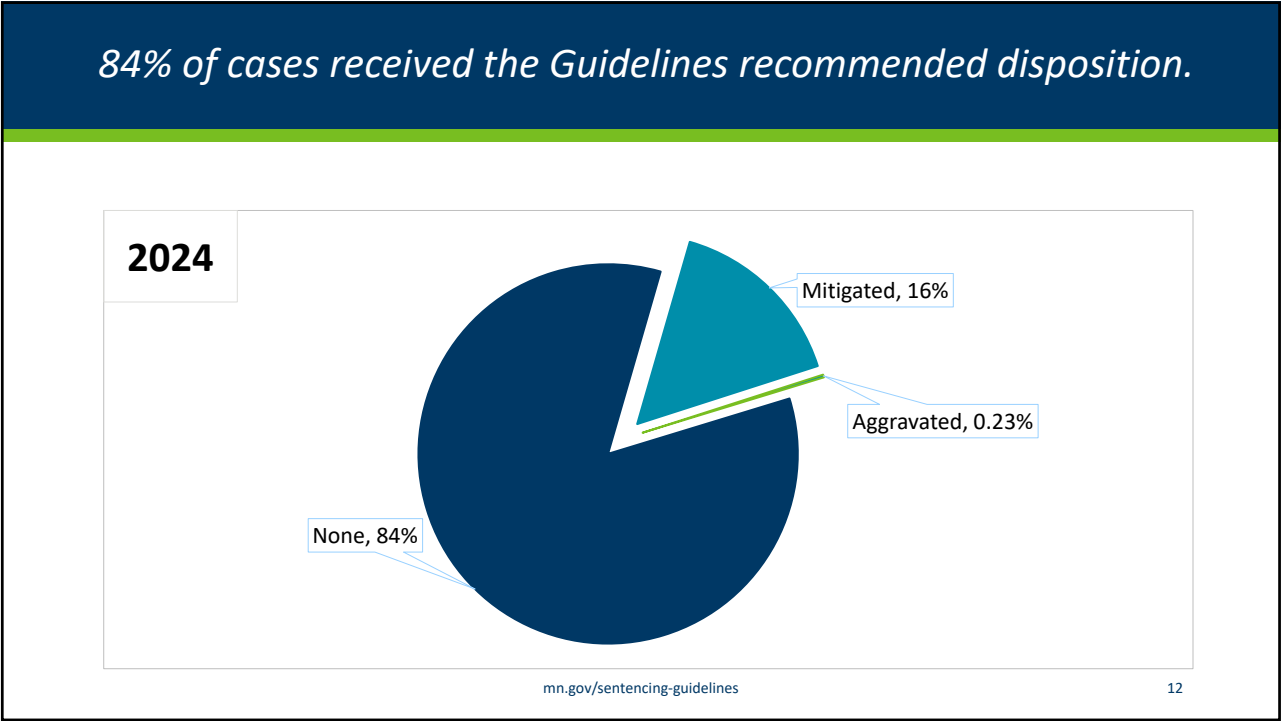
Occurs when the Court pronounces a duration that is higher than 20% of what the Guidelines recommended.

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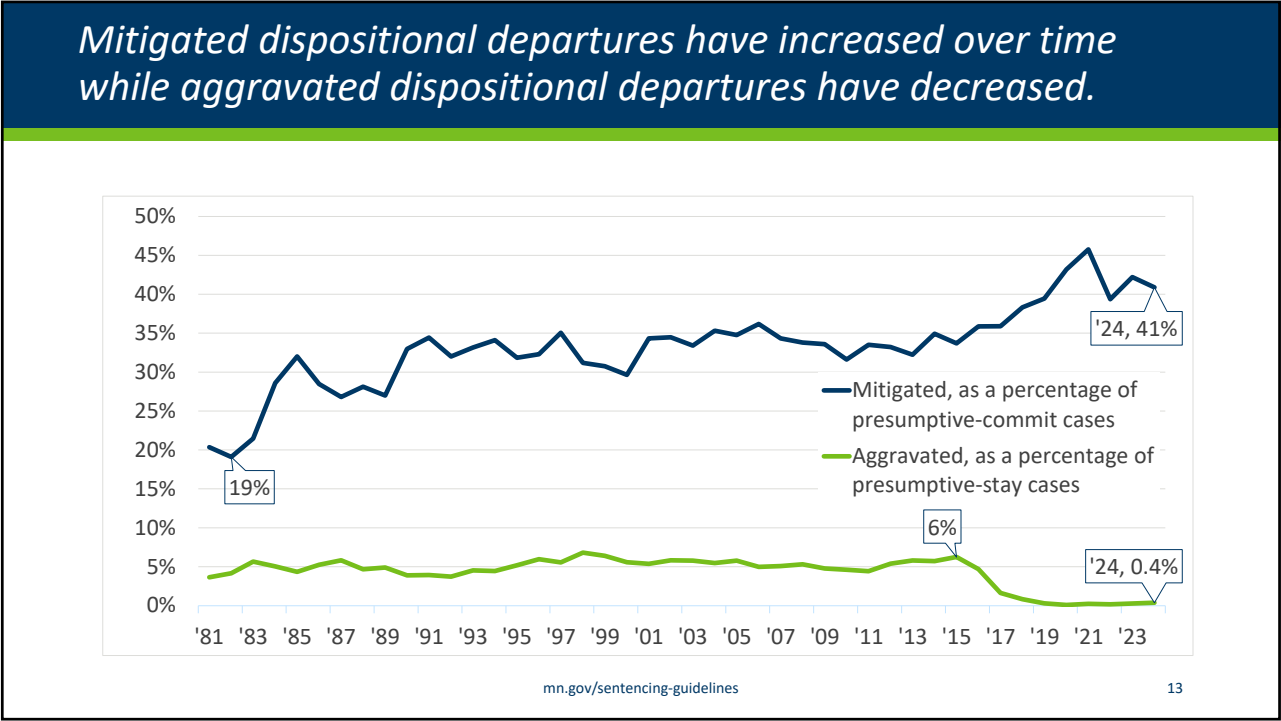
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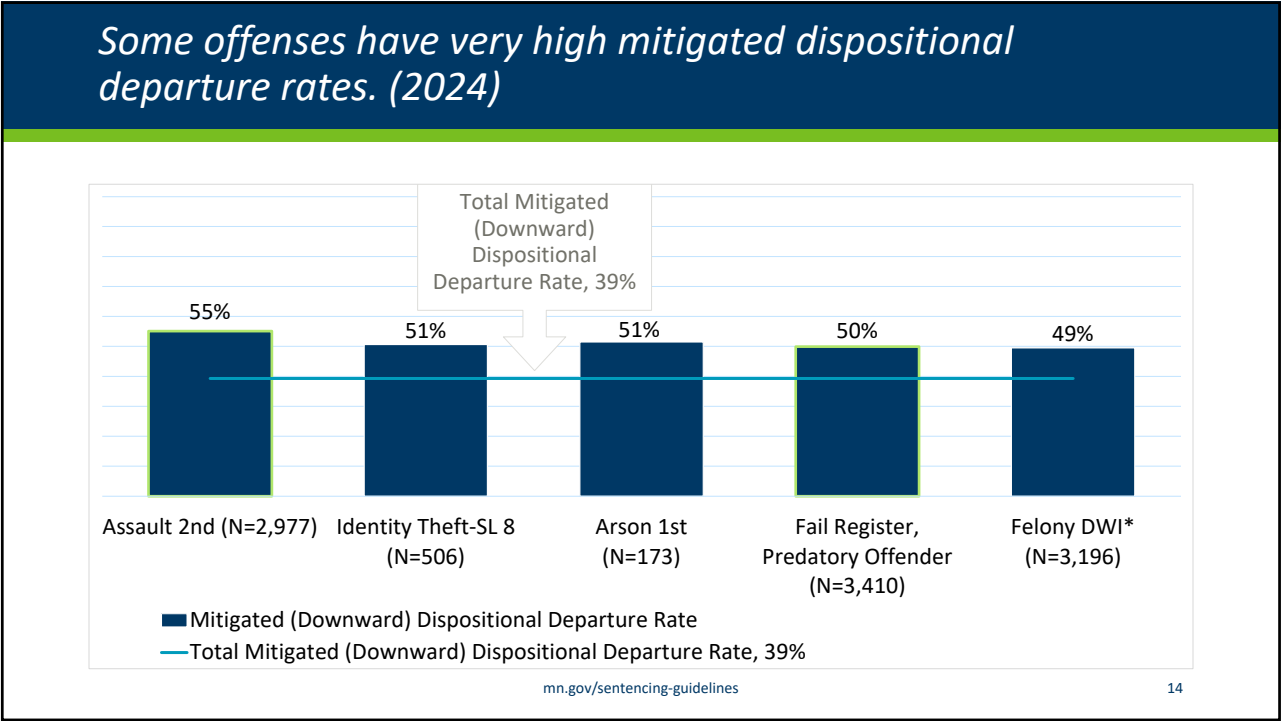
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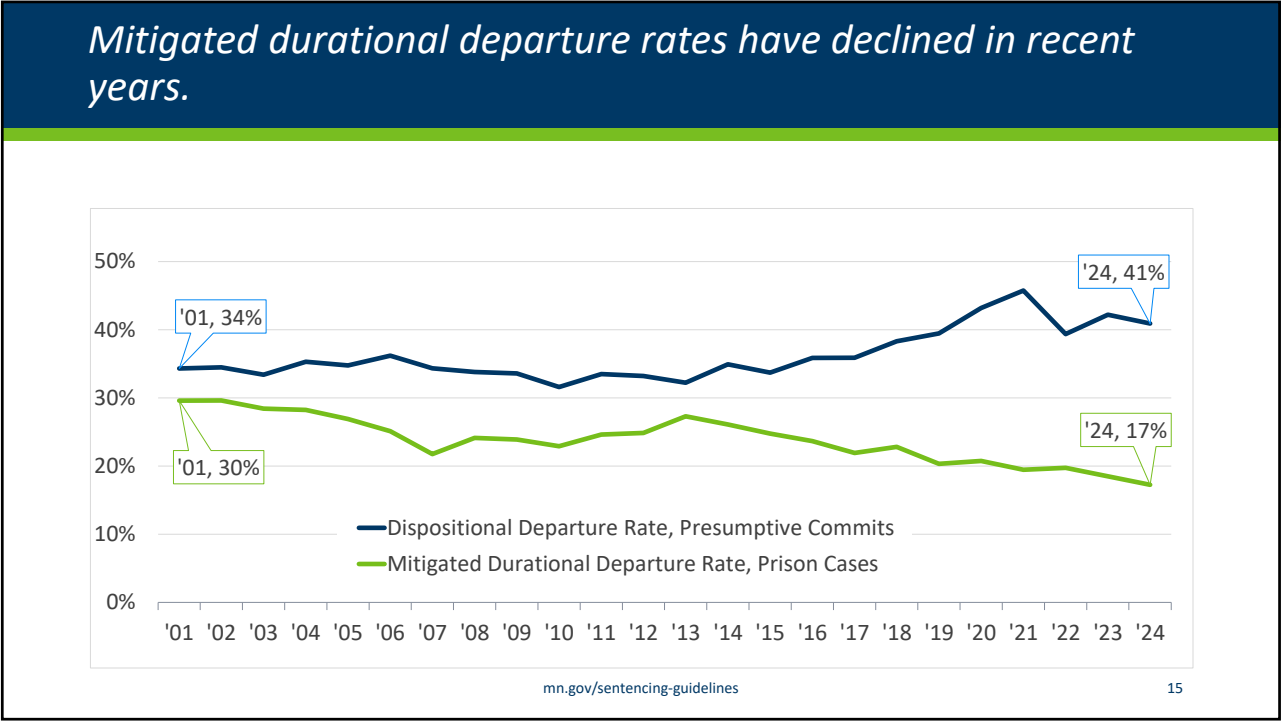
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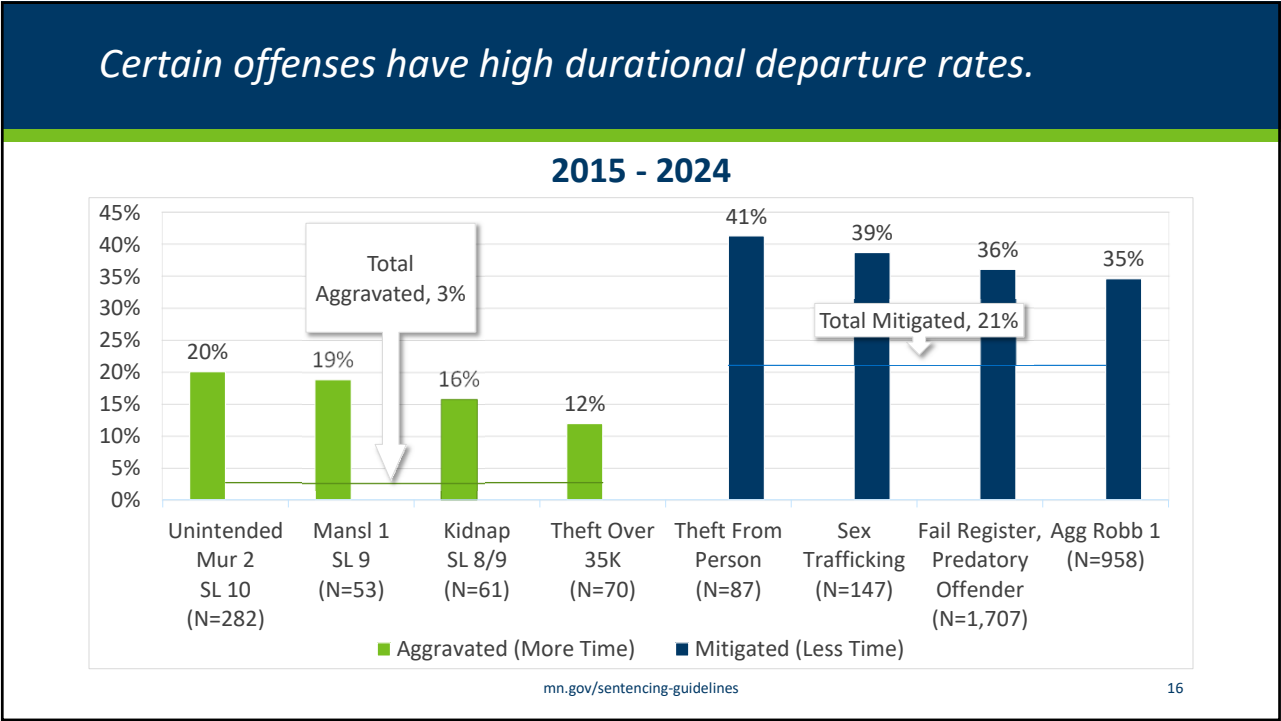
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DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section discusses.....

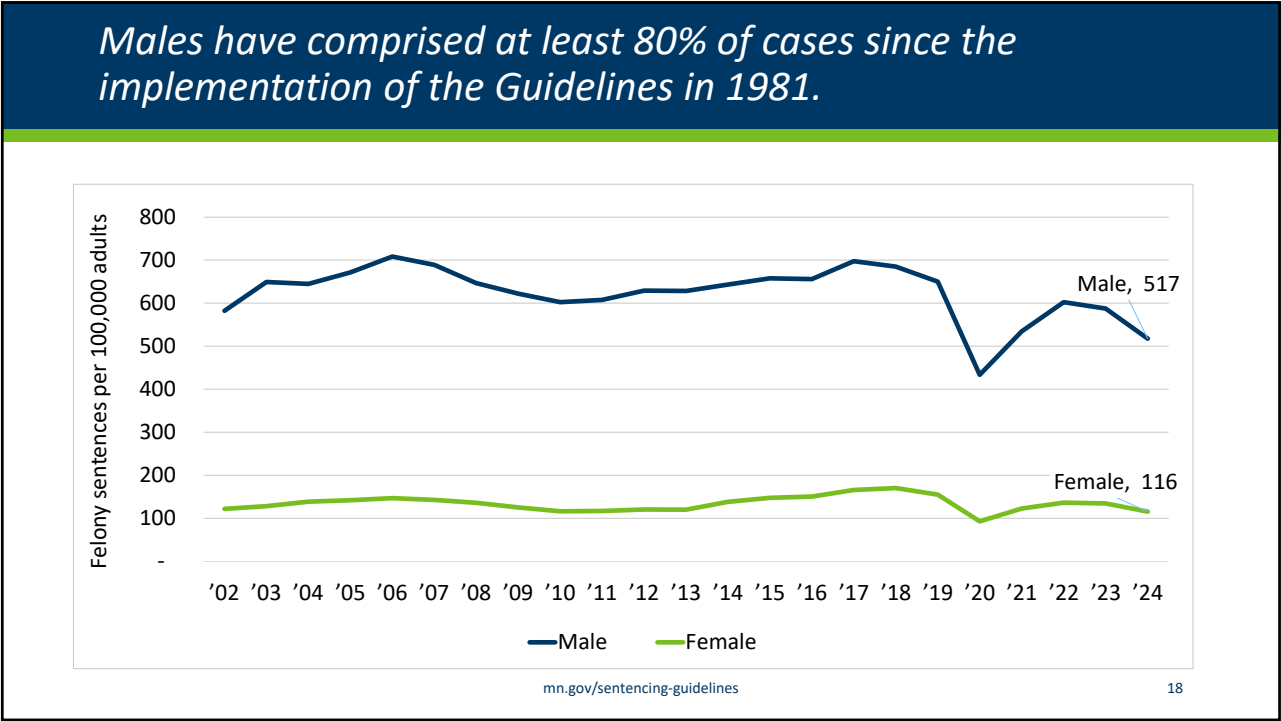
- Case Distribution
- Departures
- Actual & Presumptive Prison Rates

by Sex, Race & Ethnicity, and Judicial District

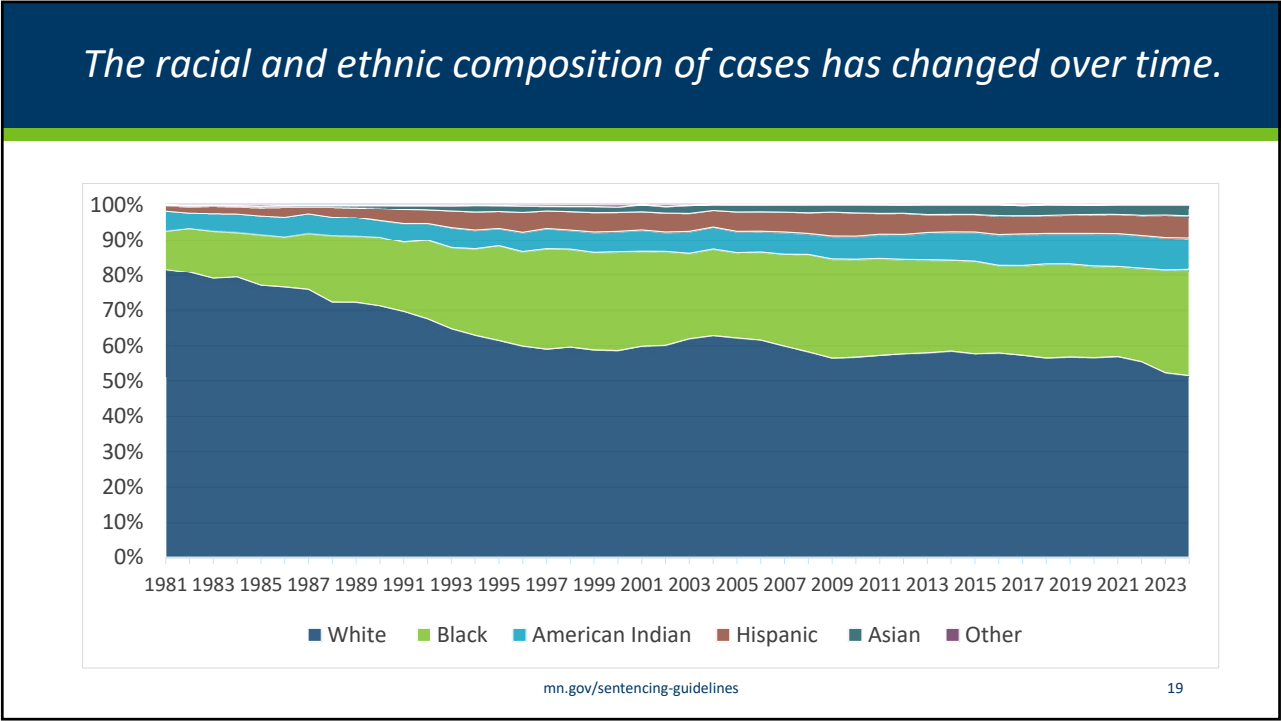
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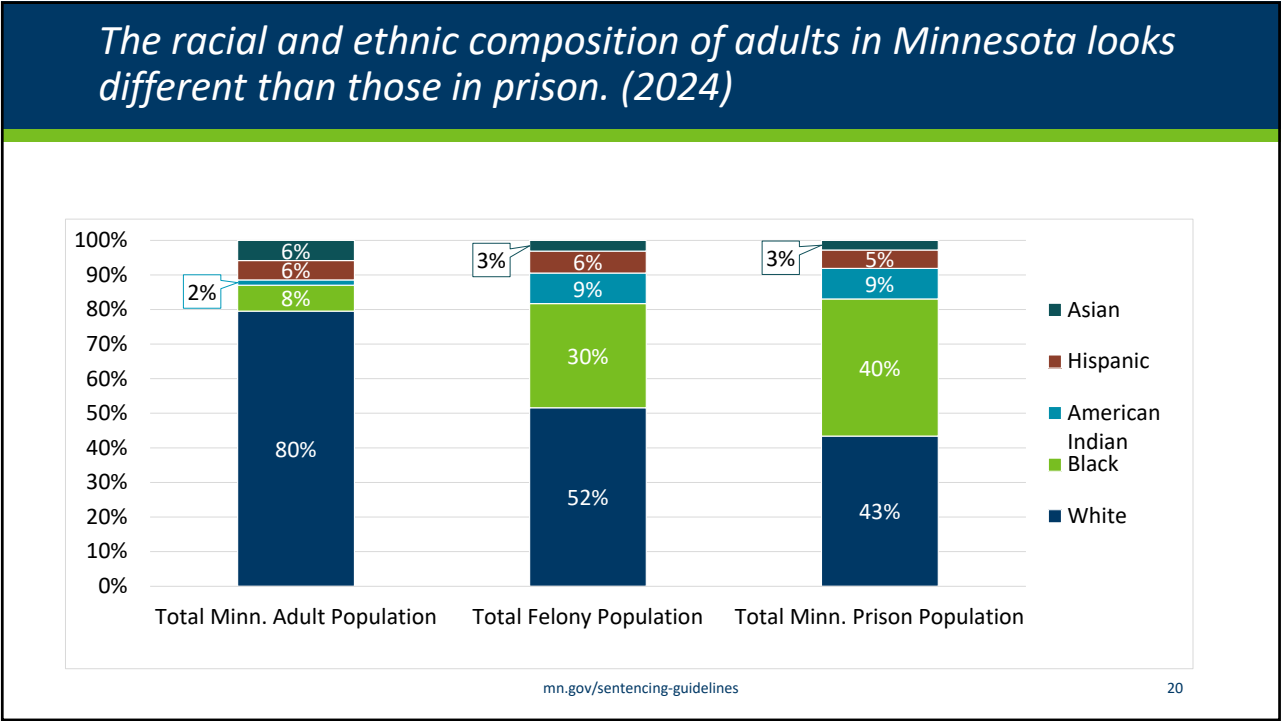
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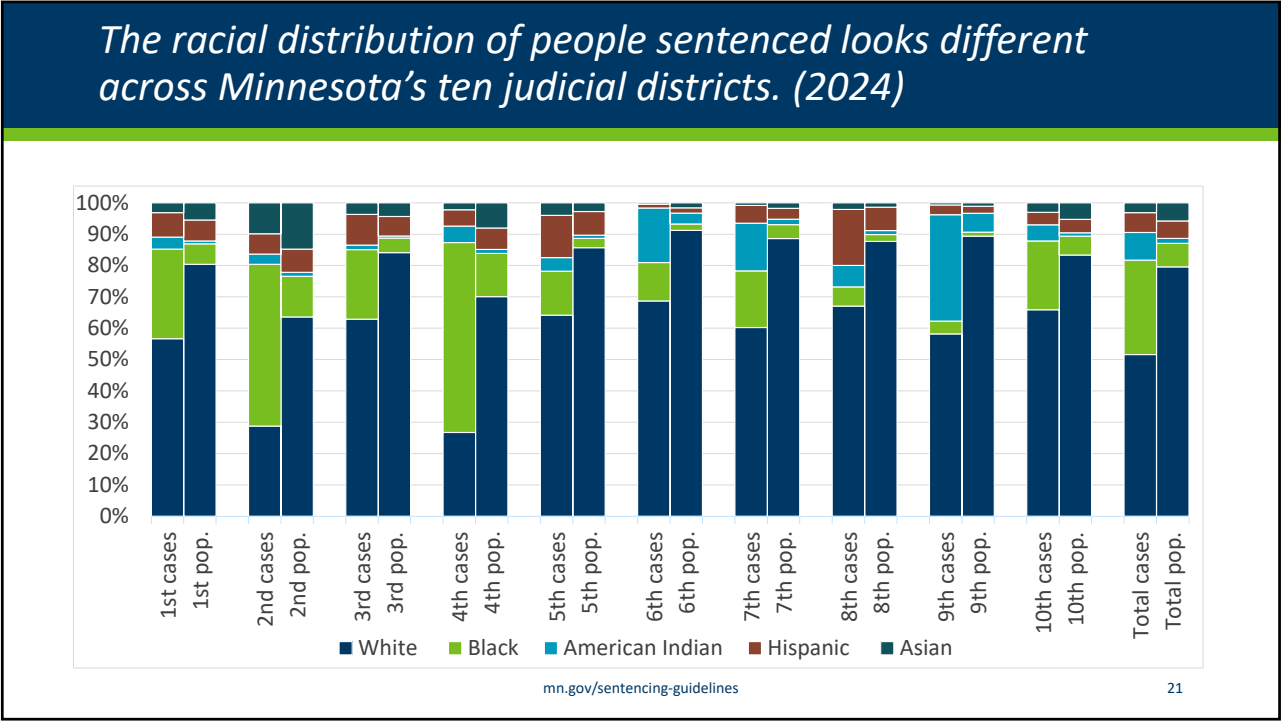
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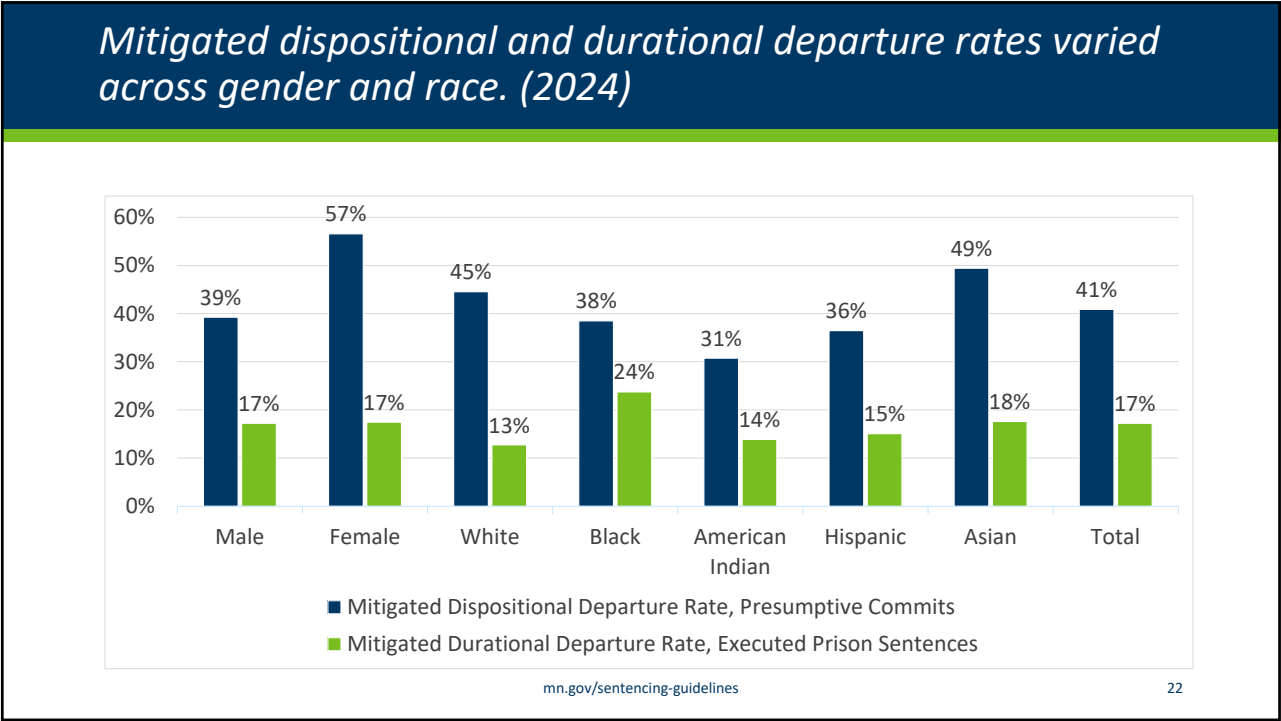
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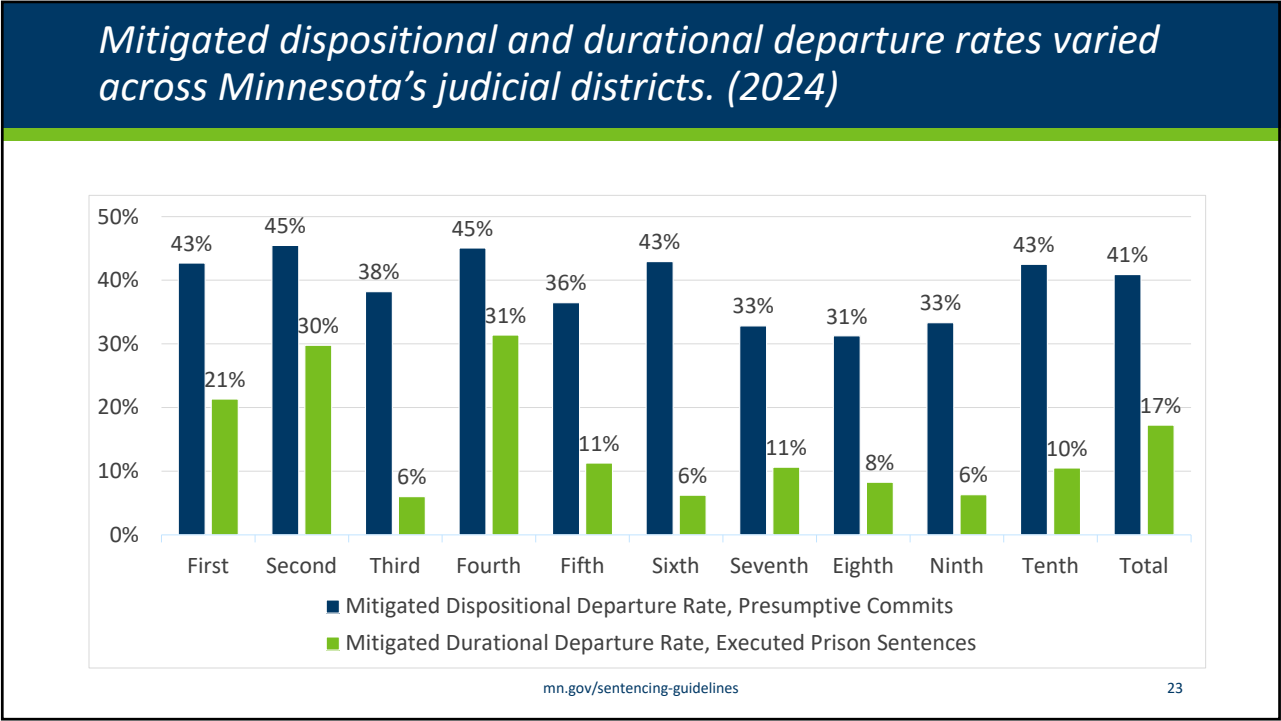
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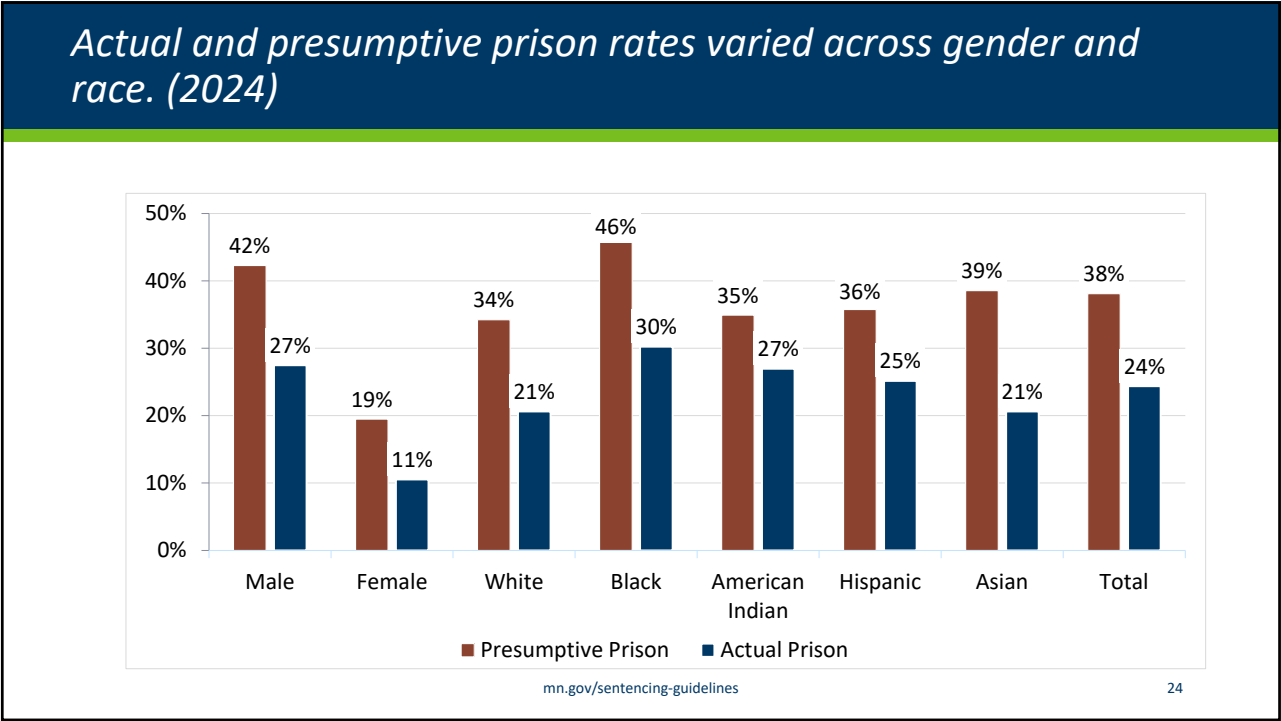
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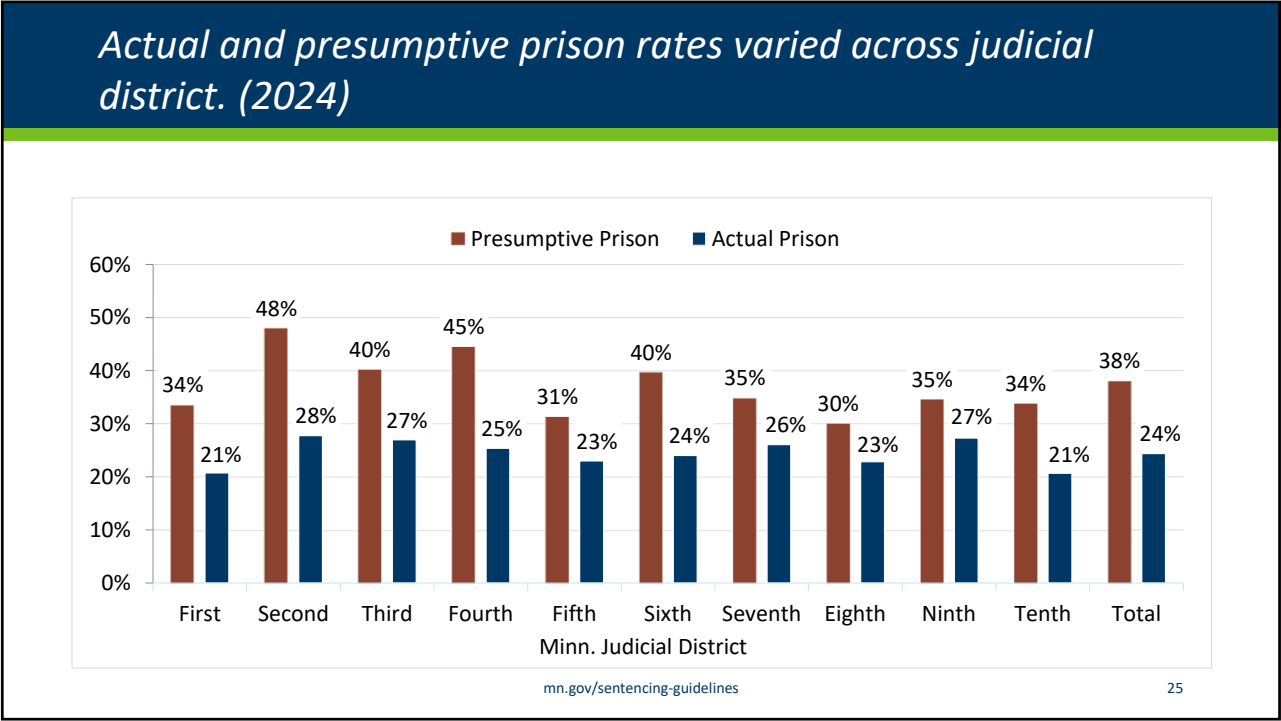
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This has been a presentation by the staff of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Please refer to the Commission’s web site for the Sentencing Guidelines policies that were discussed in this presentation.

<https://mn.gov/sentencing-guidelines/guidelines/>

Questions?

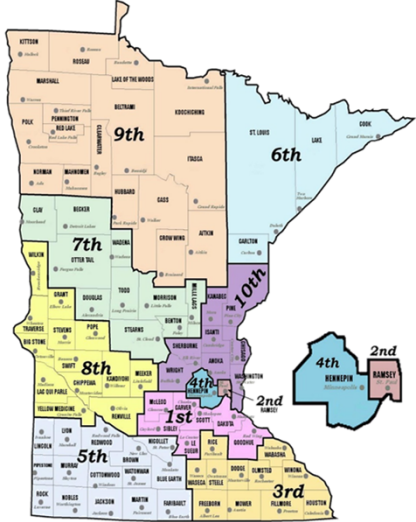
Contact MSGC at sentencing.guidelines@state.mn.us or 651-296-0144.

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Minnesota Judicial District



Source: Minn. Judicial Branch

First Carver Dakota Goodhue Le Sueur McLeod Scott Sibley	Second Ramsey	Third Dodge Fillmore Freeborn Houston Mower Olmsted Rice Steele Wabasha Waseca Winona	Fourth Hennepin	Fifth Blue Earth Brown Cottonwood Faribault Jackson Lincoln Lyon Martin Murray Nicollet Nobles	Pipestone Redwood Rock Watsonwan	Sixth Carlton Cook Lake St. Louis
Seventh Becker Benton Clay Douglas Mille Lacs Morrison Otter Tail Stearns Todd Wadena	Eighth Big Stone Chippewa Grant Kandiyohi Lac qui Parle Meeker Pope Renville Stevens Swift	Traverse Wilkin Yellow Medicine	Ninth Aitkin Beltrami Cass Clearwater Crow Wing Hubbard Itasca Kittson Koosiching Lake of the Woods	Tenth Mahnomenn Marshall Norman Pennington Polk Red Lake Roseau	Anoka Chisago Isanti Kanabec Pine Sherburne Washington Wright	

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Standard Sentencing Grid- Effective August 1, 2024

SEVERITY LEVEL OF CONVICTION OFFENSE (Example offenses listed in italics)	CRIMINAL HISTORY SCORE						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
<i>Murder, 2nd Degree (Intentional; Drive-By Shootings)</i>	11 306-261-367	326 278-391	346 295-415	366 312-439	386 329-463	406 346-480 ²	426 363-480 ²
<i>Murder, 2nd Degree (Unintentional)</i>	10 128-180	165 141-198	180 153-216	195 166-234	210 179-252	225 192-270	240 204-288
<i>Murder, 3rd Degree (Drugs)</i>	9 86	98	110	122	134	146	158
<i>Assault, 1st Degree (Great Bodily Harm)</i>	9 74-103	84-117	94-132	104-146	114-160	125-175	135-189
<i>Agg. Robbery, 1st Degree</i>	8 48	58	68	78	88	98	108
<i>Burglary, 1st Degree (w/ Weapon or Assault)</i>	8 41-57	50-69	58-81	67-93	75-105	84-117	92-129
<i>Felony DWI</i>	7 36	42	48	54	60	66	72
<i>Financial Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult</i>	7 46-64			51-72	57-79		62-84 ³
<i>Assault, 2nd Degree</i>	6 21	27	33	39	45	51	57
<i>Burglary, 1st Degree (Occupied Dwelling)</i>	6 34-46			39-54	44-61		49-68
<i>Residential Burglary</i>	5 18	23	28	33	38	43	48
<i>Simple Robbery</i>	5 29-39			33-45	37-51		41-57
<i>Nonresidential Burglary</i>	4 12 ¹	15	18	21	24	27	30
					21-28	23-32	26-36
<i>Theft Crimes (Over \$5,000)</i>	3 12 ¹	13	15	17	19	21	23
					17-22	18-25	20-27
<i>Theft Crimes (\$5,000 or less)</i>	2 12 ¹	12 ¹	13	15	17	19	21
<i>Check Forgery (\$251-\$2,500)</i>	2 18-25						
<i>Assault, 4th Degree</i>	1 12 ¹	12 ¹	12 ¹	13	15	17	19
<i>Fleeing a Peace Officer</i>	1 17-22						

¹ 12¹ = One year and one day

Presumptive sentence lengths are in months. Italicized numbers within the grid denote the discretionary range within which a court may sentence without the sentence being deemed a departure. Offenders with stayed felony sentences may be subject to local confinement.

☐ Presumptive commitment to state imprisonment. First-degree murder has a mandatory life sentence and is excluded from the Guidelines under Minn. Stat. § 609.185. See section 2.E, for policies regarding those sentences controlled by law.

☒ Presumptive stayed sentence; at the discretion of the court, up to one year of confinement and other non-jail sanctions can be imposed as conditions of probation. However, certain offenses in the shaded area of the Grid always carry a presumptive commitment to state prison. See 2.C and 2.E.

² Minn. Stat. § 244.09 requires that the Guidelines provide a range for sentences that are presumptive commitment to state imprisonment of 15% lower and 20% higher than the fixed duration displayed, provided that the minimum sentence is not less than one year and one day and the maximum sentence is not more than the statutory maximum. See section 2.C.1-2. ³ The stat. max. for Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult is 240 months; the standard range of 20% higher than the fixed duration applies at CHS 6 or more. (The range is 62-86.)

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Sex Offender Grid- Effective August 1, 2024

SEVERITY LEVEL OF CONVICTION OFFENSE (Example offenses listed in italics)		CRIMINAL HISTORY SCORE						
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Criminal Sexual Conduct (CSC) 1st Degree	A	144 144-172	156 144-187	168 144-201	180 153-216	234 199-280	306 261-360	360 306-360 ¹
CSC 2nd Degree--1(a)(b)(c)(d)(e) 1a(a)(b)(c)(d)(h)(i) (e.g., contact & force with bodily harm)	B	90 90 ¹ -108	110 94-132	130 111-156	150 128-180	195 166-234	255 217-300	300 255-300 ¹
CSC 3rd Degree--1(a)(b)(c)(d) 1a(c)(d)(g)(h)(i) (e.g., penetration & coercion/occupation)	C	48 41-57	62 53-74	76 65-91	90 77-108	117 100-140	153 131-183	180 153-216
CSC 2nd Degree--1a(e)(f)(g) (age) CSC 3rd Degree--1a(a)(e)(f) or 1a(b) with 2(1) (age)	D	36	48	60 51-72	70 60-84	91 78-109	119 102-142	140 119-168
CSC 4th Degree--1(a)(b)(c)(d) 1a(c)(d)(g)(h)(i) (e.g., contact & coercion/occupation)	E	24	36	48	60 51-72	78 67-93	102 87-120	120 102-120 ¹
CSC 4th Degree--1a(a)(b)(e)(f) (age) CSC 5th Degree--3(b) (subsequent)	F	18	27	36	45 39-54	59 51-70	77 66-92	84 72-100
CSC 3rd Degree--1a(b) with 2(2) Possession of Child Pornography Solicit Child for Sexual Conduct	G	15	20	25	30	39 34-46	51 44-60	60 51-60 ¹
CSC 5th Degree--3(a) (nonconsensual penetration)	H	12 ¹	14	16	18	24	24 ¹ 24-24	24 ¹ 24-24
Failure to Register as a Predatory Offender	I	12 ¹ 12 ¹ -14	14 12 ¹ -16	16 14-19	18 16-21	24 21-28	30 26-36	36 31-43

Presumptive sentence lengths are in months. Italicized numbers within the grid denote the discretionary range within which a court may sentence without the sentence being deemed a departure. Offenders with stayed felony sentences may be subject to local confinement.

Presumptive commitment to state imprisonment. First-degree murder has a mandatory life sentence and is excluded from the Guidelines under Minn. Stat. § 609.185. See section 2.E, for policies regarding those sentences controlled by law.

Presumptive stayed sentence; at the discretion of the court, up to one year of confinement and other non-jail sanctions can be imposed as conditions of probation. However, certain offenses in the shaded area of the Grid always carry a presumptive commitment to state prison. See 2.C and 2.E.

² Minn. Stat. § 244.09 requires that the Guidelines provide a range for sentences that are presumptive commitment to state imprisonment of 15% lower and 20% higher than the fixed duration displayed, provided that the minimum sentence is not less than one year and one day and the maximum sentence is not more than the statutory maximum. See section 2.C.1–2. For Severity Level H, all displayed durations, including the upper and lower ranges, are constrained by the statutory maximum at criminal history scores above 4.

³ Solicits, Promotes, or Receives Profit Derived from Prostitution; Sex Trafficking 1st Degree is not subject to a 90-month minimum statutory presumptive sentence so the standard range of 15% lower and 20% higher than the fixed duration applies.

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Drug Offender Grid- Effective August 1, 2024

SEVERITY LEVEL OF CONVICTION OFFENSE (Example offenses listed in italics)		CRIMINAL HISTORY SCORE						
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Aggravated Controlled Substance Crime, 1st Degree Manufacture of Any Amt. Meth	D9	86 74*-103	98 84*-117	110 94*-132	122 104*-146	134 114*-160	146 125*-175	158 135*-189
Controlled Substance Crime, 1st Degree	D8	65 56*-78	75 64*-90	85 73*-102	95 81*-114	105 90*-126	115 98*-138	125 107*-150
Controlled Substance Crime, 2nd Degree	D7	48	58	68 58-81	78 67-93	88 75-105	98 84-117	108 92-129
Controlled Substance Crime, 3rd Degree Failure to Affix Stamp	D6	21	27	33	39 34-46	45 39-54	51 44-61	57 49-68
Possess Substances with Intent to Manufacture Meth	D5	18	23	28	33 29-39	38 33-45	43 37-51	48 41-57
Controlled Substance Crime, 4th Degree	D4	12 ¹	15	18	21	24 21-28	27 23-32	30 26-36
Meth Crimes Involving Children and Vulnerable Adults	D3	12 ¹	13	15	17	19 17-22	21 18-25	23 20-27
Controlled Substance Crime, 5th Degree	D2	12 ¹	12 ¹	13	15	17	19	21 18-25
Sale of Simulated Controlled Substance	D1	12 ¹	12 ¹	12 ¹	13	15	17	19 17-22

Presumptive commitment to state imprisonment.

Presumptive stayed sentence; at the discretion of the court, up to one year of confinement and other non-jail sanctions can be imposed as conditions of probation. However, certain offenses in the shaded area of the Grid always carry a presumptive commitment to state prison. See sections 2.C and 2.E.

¹ Lower range may not apply. See section 2.C.3.c(1) and Minn. Stat. § 152.021, subdivisions 3(c) & 3(d).

¹ 12¹=One year and one day

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