

Demographic Impact Statement

Senate File 667-0

Crimes of Violence Definition Modified

Statement Date: April 24, 2025

The staff of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) prepares demographic impact statements for proposed crime bills when it appears that the bill's policy changes would likely increase or decrease the number of people convicted of felonies each year by 50 or more; when it appears that the bill's policy changes would likely increase or decrease the annual need for prison beds by 10 or more; or upon legislative request.

This demographic impact statement was prepared because Senate File 667-0 met both of MSGC's significance criteria. MSGC staff estimate that the bill would—

- Reduce by 159 the number of felonies sentenced annually—a reduction of about four felonies annually per 100,000 adult Minnesotans.
- Eliminate the need for 222 prison beds by 2028—a reduction of about five prison beds per 100,000 adult Minnesotans.

These reductions would not be evenly distributed by demographic category, however. Among other findings, this demographic impact statement estimates that the bill would have the following demographic effects:

- Among racial groups, the American Indian group would see the largest reduction in both its felony-sentence rate (–35 per 100,000 adults annually) and its imprisonment rate (–52 per 100,000 adults).
- Among judicial districts, the Second Judicial District (includes St. Paul) would see the largest reduction in both its felony-sentence rate (–11 per 100,000 adults annually) and its imprisonment rate (–16 per 100,000 adults).
- Men would see a larger reduction in both their their felony-sentence rate (–7 per 100,000 adults annually) and imprisonment rate (–10 per 100,000 adults annually) than women.

Bill Description

[Senate File 667](#), as introduced, removes felony convictions of chapter 152 (Drugs; Controlled Substances) from the list of felony “crime[s] of violence” found in Minn. Stat. § 624.712, subd. 5. With respect to such crimes, prior convictions or adjudications of guilt result in a lifetime ban on possessing firearms or ammunition per Minn. Stat. § 624.713, subds. 1(2) & 2(b), or § 609.165, subd. 1b (hereinafter, “the ban”). Violations of the ban implicate the waivable mandatory-minimum five-year penalty found in § 609.11, subd. 5(b).

Estimated Impact (From Fiscal Note)

In its fiscal note,¹ MSGC staff estimated that the bill’s policy changes would eventually eliminate the need for 222 prison beds. Although the fiscal note did not explicitly estimate the change in felony convictions and sentences, its assumptions and data imply a 159-case estimated reduction in the annual number of convictions and sentences for violating the ban.

To obtain these estimates, MSGC staff reviewed 182 criminal complaints randomly selected from among the 2,731 sentences for violating the ban between 2019 through 2023—a 6.7-percent sample of five years of cases, the equivalent of a 33.3-percent sample of a single year of cases. Staff found that, in 53 of these 182 cases (29.1%), the defendant’s conviction was predicated on a prior felony chapter 152 “crime of violence.” If the sampled cases are assumed to be generally representative of violations of the ban, it is estimated that the bill will cause the number of convictions and sentences for violating the ban to fall by 29.1 percent, or by 159 cases annually.

The prison-bed reduction was estimated by calculating the reduction in the prison capacity needed by the 182 sentences in the sample group if the 53 sentences that were predicated on prior drug conviction had not been sentenced to prison (21 prison sentences would have been eliminated if the bill had been in effect) or had been sentenced for a shorter time (4 prison sentences would have been reduced if the bill had been in effect, as the defendant would have been sentenced to prison on another count).² The calculated reduction in the sample group’s required prison capacity was 22.5 percent.

Assuming the sentences received for violating the ban from 2019 through 2023 to be typical, it was estimated that people sentenced for violating the ban presently occupy approximately 986 prison beds. Assuming the sampled cases to be representative of sentences for violating of the ban, the number of prison beds required will eventually decrease by 22.5 percent, or by 222 prison beds.

Current State Demographics

The fiscal note assumed that future cases would be similar to 2019–2023 cases in general, and to the 182-case sample group in particular, and this demographic impact statement shares those assumptions. For purposes of this demographic impact statement, however, 2023 data are being used for baseline demographic populations.

¹ MSGC’s detailed assumptions can be found in the fiscal note created for [SF667-0](#).

² The remaining 28 people in the 53-person sample received mitigated dispositional departures, so the bill would not have changed their prison disposition.

Table 1 displays 2023 demographic information pertaining to three populations within the state: the adult population (on July 1, 2023, as estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau); the annual felony population (that is, the population of people sentenced for felony offenses in 2023); and the adult prison population (as of July 1, 2023). Table 1 breaks down those populations by three demographic categories: Gender; race and ethnicity; and judicial district.

Table 1. Minnesota's 2023 General Adult Population, Annual Felony Population, and Prison Population, by Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and Judicial District

	General Adult Population			Annual Felony Population			Prison Population	
	U.S. Census Category	2023 Estimated Adult Population		MSGC Category	People Sentenced in 2023		2023 Adult Inmate Population	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	Male	2,210,490	49.8	Male	13,017	81.2	7,674	92.7
	Female	2,226,491	50.2	Female	3,007	18.8	600	7.3
Race & Ethnicity	White*	3,632,563	81.9	White	8,397	52.4	3,789	45.8
	Black or African American*	322,930	7.3	Black	4,673	29.2	3,069	37.1
	American Indian*	68,788	1.6	American Indian	1,468	9.2	757	9.1
	Hispanic**	240,040	5.4	Hispanic**	1,021	6.4	418	5.1
	Asian/Pacific Islander*	253,216	5.7	Asian	464	2.9	224	2.7
	--	--	--	Other/Unknown***	1	0.0	17	0.2
Judicial District	First	641,465	14.5	First	1,993	12.4	683	8.3
	Second	413,891	9.3	Second	1,761	11.0	937	11.3
	Third	381,574	8.6	Third	1,086	6.8	610	7.4
	Fourth	989,486	22.3	Fourth	2,890	18.0	2,087	25.2
	Fifth	223,908	5.0	Fifth	891	5.6	458	5.5
	Sixth	206,288	4.6	Sixth	708	4.4	461	5.6
	Seventh	388,008	8.7	Seventh	1,796	11.2	958	11.6
	Eighth	123,803	2.8	Eighth	546	3.4	263	3.2
	Ninth	268,595	6.1	Ninth	1,715	10.7	885	10.7
	Tenth	799,963	18.0	Tenth	2,642	16.5	841	10.2
Total		4,436,981	100.0	Total	16,024	100.0	8,274	100.0

Source of July 1, 2023, population estimate: U.S. Census Bureau. Source of July 1, 2023, adult inmate population: Minn. Department of Corrections. Felony population total excludes 4 corporate defendants. Judicial district populations exclude 91 inmates whose governing sentences were for offenses committed in non-Minnesota jurisdictions.

*Not Hispanic, alone or in combination with one or more other races. The sum of percentages of residents in each racial or ethnic category exceeds 100 percent (101.8%) because residents of more than one race are counted in more than one category.

**This table lists all Hispanic people as Hispanic, regardless of race.

See <https://mncourts.gov/Find-Courts.aspx> for a map of Minnesota's ten judicial districts.

Demographic Impact

Demographic Characteristics – Decreased Felony Population

Based on its fiscal note, MSGC staff estimated that 159 felony cases per year would no longer be crimes under the provisions of this bill, a 29.1-percent reduction. This estimate is based on the fact that, in 53 of the 182 cases in a sample group (29.1%), the violation of the ban was predicated on a prior drug conviction.

One might assume that, in the future, the demographic characteristics of the people who would have been sentenced for those 159 felony cases will be the same as the known demographic characteristics of the 53 people in the sample group whose sentences for violating the ban were predicated on a prior felony drug conviction. If that assumption is accurate, it is estimated that the demographic characteristics of the annual felony population eliminated by this bill would be as follows.

- **Gender:** Male (97.2%); Female (2.8%).
- **Race & Ethnicity:** White (41.6%); Black (26.5%); American Indian (15.3%); Hispanic (4.2%); Asian (12.5%).
- **Judicial District:** First (0%); Second (27.8%); Third (4.2%); Fourth (34.8%); Fifth (9.1%); Sixth (0%); Seventh (8.3%); Eighth (4.2%); Ninth (11.7%); and Tenth (0%).

Table 2, on page 5, shows the demographic change in the population of felony cases sentenced that would result from the enactment of this bill, if the assumptions stated above are accurate.

Demographic Characteristics – Reduced Prison Population

In its fiscal note, MSGC staff estimated that the bill would eventually eliminate the need for 222 prison beds, a 22.5-percent reduction in the number of estimated prison beds now needed to accommodate sentences for violating the ban. This estimate was based on the calculated impact of eliminating or reducing the 25 executed prison sentences for violating the ban that were predicated on a prior felony drug conviction (see text accompanying footnote 2 on p. 2) within a 182-case sample group.

One might assume that, in the future, the demographic characteristics of the people who would have occupied the 222 prison beds not needed as a result of this bill will be the same as the known demographic characteristics of the 25 people within the sample group whose executed prison sentences for violating the ban were predicated on a prior felony drug conviction. If that assumption is accurate, it is estimated that the demographic characteristics of occupants of the prison beds reduced by this bill would be as follows.

- **Gender:** Male (97.0%); Female (3.0%).
- **Race & Ethnicity:** White (37.9%); Black (28.2%); American Indian (16.2%); Hispanic (4.4%); Asian (13.3%).
- **Judicial District:** First (0%); Second (29.5%); Third (4.4%); Fourth (37.0%); Fifth (8.6%); Sixth (0%); Seventh (6.2%); Eighth (2.9%); Ninth (11.3%); and Tenth (0%).

Table 3, on page 5, shows the demographic change in the prison bed population that would result from the enactment of this bill, if the assumptions stated above are accurate.

Table 2. Minnesota's Existing Annual Felony Population, Estimated Change in Felony Cases Due to the Bill, and Estimated Resulting Annual Felony Population, by Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and Judicial District

		Annual Felony Population			Estimated Change in Felony Cases*		Estimated Resulting Annual Felony Population*						
		MSGC Category	People Sentenced in 2023				No.	%	% -point change relative to other categories**	Estimated resulting rate per 100,000*†	Change in rate per 100,000	% change from existing felony pop.	
			No.	%									Rate per 100,000†
					No.	%							
		Male	13,017	81.21	589	-154.5	97.2	12,862	81.05	-0.2	582	-7	-1.2
		Female	3,007	18.76	135	-4.5	2.8	3,003	18.92	+0.2	135		-0.1
Race & Ethnicity		White	8,397	52.4	231	-66.1	41.6	8,331	52.5	+0.1	229	-2	-0.8
		Black	4,673	29.2	1,447	-42.1	26.5	4,631	29.2		1,434	-13	-0.9
		American Indian	1468	9.2	2,134	-24.3	15.3	1,444	9.1	-0.1	2,099	-35	-1.7
		Hispanic	1021	6.4	425	-6.7	4.2	1,014	6.4		423	-3	-0.7
		Asian	464	2.9	183	-19.9	12.5	444	2.8	-0.1	175	-8	-4.3
Judicial District		First	1993	12.43	311			1,993	12.56	+0.1	311		
		Second	1,761	11.0	425	-44.2	27.8	1,717	10.8	-0.2	415	-11	-2.5
		Third	1,086	6.8	285	-6.7	4.2	1,079	6.8		283	-2	-0.6
		Fourth	2,890	18.03	292	-55.3	34.8	2,835	17.86	-0.2	286	-6	-1.9
		Fifth	891	5.56	398	-14.5	9.1	877	5.52		391	-6	-1.6
		Sixth	708	4.42	343			708	4.46		343		
		Seventh	1,796	11.2	463	-13.2	8.3	1,783	11.2		459	-3	-0.7
		Eighth	546	3.4	441	-6.7	4.2	539	3.4		436	-5	-1.2
		Ninth	1,715	10.7	639	-18.6	11.7	1,696	10.7		632	-7	-1.1
		Tenth	2,642	16.48	330			2,642	16.65	+0.2	330		
		Total	16,028	100.0	361	-159.0	100.0	15,869	100.0		358	-4	-1.0

* This table's projections assume that the demographic characteristics of people sentenced in the future will be similar to the characteristics of people sentenced in the past, as stated on page 4. The accuracy of these projections will therefore vary according to the accuracy of this assumption.

† Rate per 100,000 adult residents, as shown on Table 1, "General Population" (2023 U.S. Census Bureau Estimate).

** I.e., the expected change, in percentage points, of the category's share of the annual prison population relative to the other demographic categories.

Table 3. Minnesota's Existing Prison Population, Estimated Change in Prison Beds Due to the Bill, and Estimated Resulting Prison Population, by Gender, Race and Ethnicity, and Judicial District

	Prison Population				Estimated Change in Prison Beds Needed*		Estimated Resulting Prison Population*						
		2023 Adult Inmate Population					No.		% -point change relative to other categories**	Estimated resulting rate per 100,000*†	Change in rate per 100,000	% change from existing prison pop.	
		No.	%	Rate per 100,000†									
	MSGC Category	No.	%	Rate per 100,000†	Beds	%	No.	%					
Race & Ethnicity	Male	7,674	92.7	347	−215.3	97.0	7,459	92.6	−0.1	337	−10	−2.8	
	Female	600	7.3	27	−6.7	3.0	593	7.4	+0.1	27		−1.1	
	White	3,789	45.8	104	−84.1	37.9	3,705	46.0	+0.2	102	−2	−2.2	
	Black	3,069	37.1	950	−62.6	28.2	3,006	37.3	+0.2	931	−19	−2.0	
	American Indian	757	9.15	1,100	−36.0	16.2	721	8.95	−0.2	1,048	−52	−4.8	
	Hispanic	418	5.1	174	−9.8	4.4	408	5.1		170	−4	−2.3	
	Asian	224	2.7	88	−29.5	13.3	194	2.4	−0.3	77	−12	−13.2	
	Judicial District	First	683	8.3	106			683	8.5	+0.2	106		
		Second	937	11.3	226	−65.5	29.5	872	10.8	−0.5	211	−16	−7.0
		Third	610	7.4	160	−9.8	4.4	600	7.5	+0.1	157	−3	−1.6
Fourth		2,087	25.2	211	−82.1	37.0	2,005	24.9	−0.3	203	−8	−3.9	
Fifth		458	5.54	205	−19.1	8.6	439	5.45	−0.1	196	−9	−4.2	
Sixth		461	5.57	223			461	5.73	+0.2	223			
Seventh		958	11.6	247	−13.8	6.2	944	11.7	+0.1	243	−4	−1.4	
Eighth		263	3.2	212	−6.4	2.9	257	3.2		207	−5	−2.4	
Ninth		885	10.7	329	−25.1	11.3	860	10.7		320	−9	−2.8	
Tenth		841	10.16	105			841	10.44	+0.3	105			
	Total	8,274	100.0	186	−222.0	100.0	8,052	100.0		181	−5	−2.7	

* This table's projections assume that the demographic characteristics of people sentenced in the future will be similar to the characteristics of people sentenced in the past, as stated on page 4. The accuracy of these projections will therefore vary according to the accuracy of this assumption.

† Rate per 100,000 adult residents, as shown on Table 1, "General Population" (2023 U.S. Census Bureau Estimate).

** I.e., the expected change, in percentage points, of the category's share of the annual prison population relative to the other demographic categories.

Appendix: Historical Demographic Data

The following figures illustrate the change in the state's population, felony sentencing rates, and imprisonment rates from 2003 through 2023. Rates (shown in figures 4 through 9) are per 100,000 Minnesota adult residents.

Estimated Adult Population

Figure 1. Minnesota Adult Residents, Estimated 2003–23, by Gender and Total

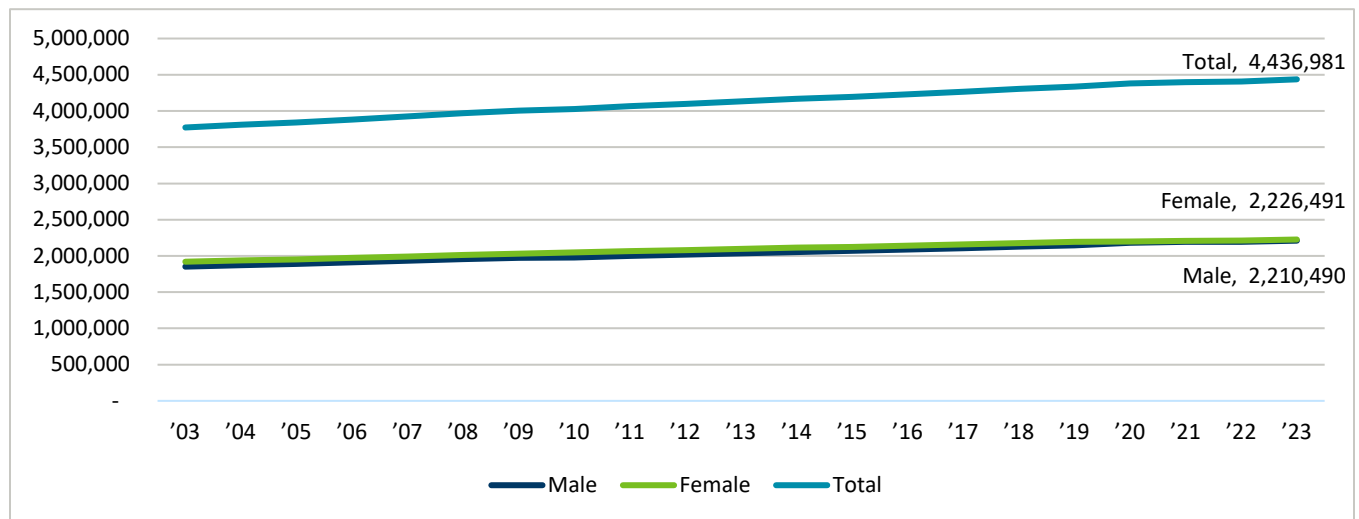


Figure 2. Minnesota Adult Residents, Estimated 2003–23, by Race and Ethnicity

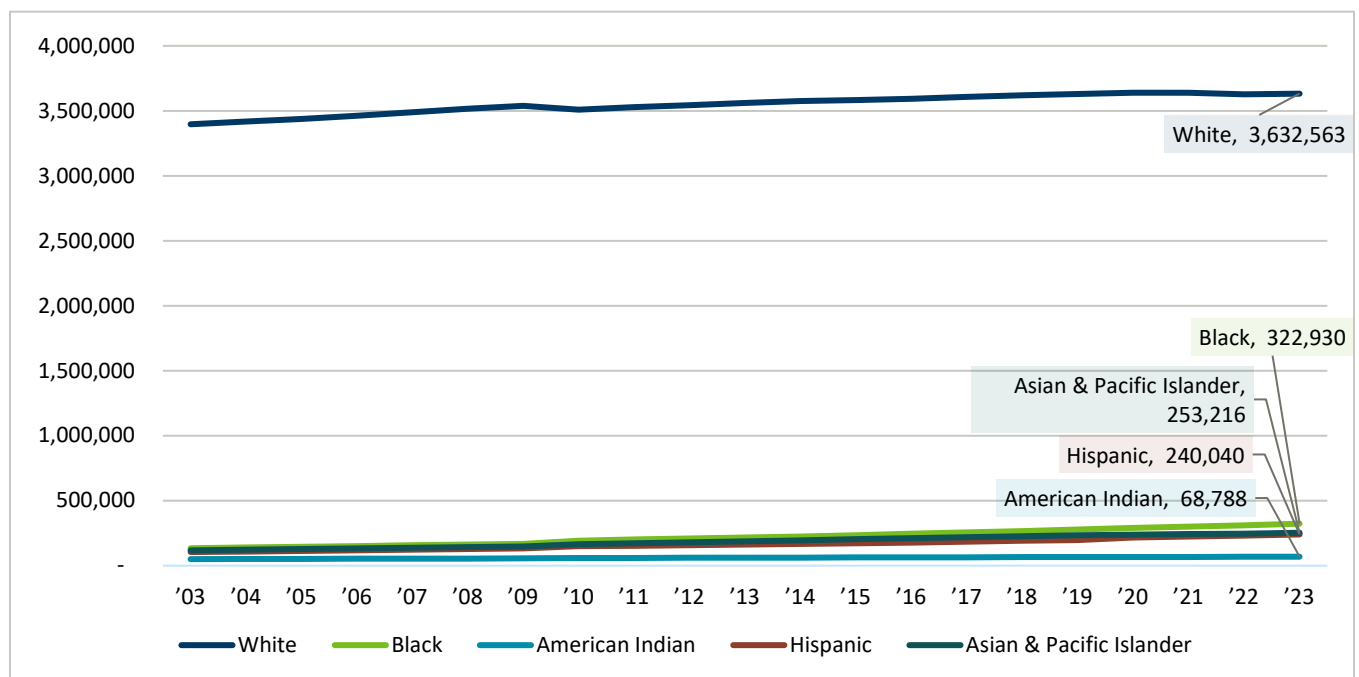
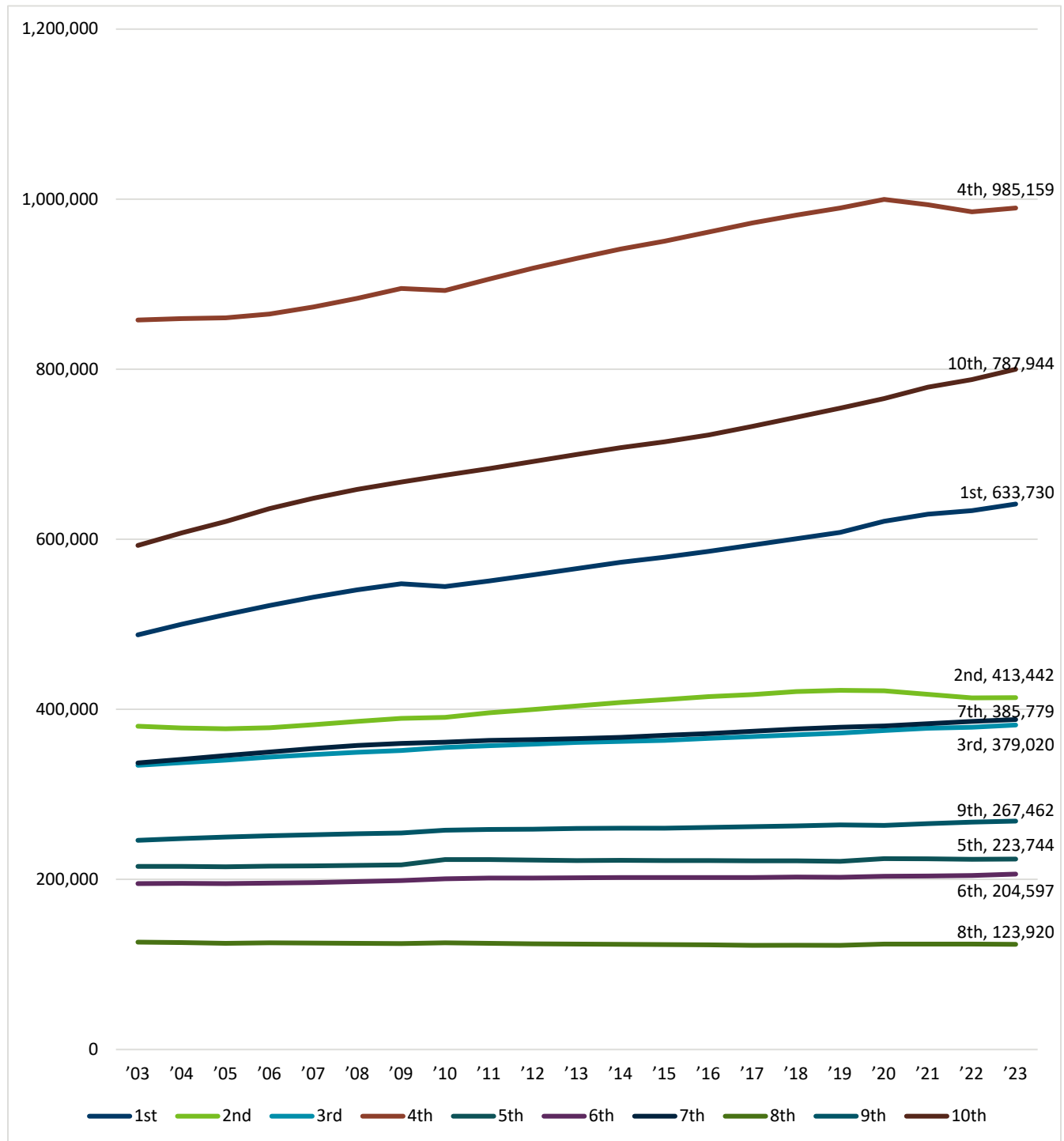


Figure 3. Minnesota Adult Residents, Estimated 2003–23, by Judicial District



Notes for figures 1 through 3: Minnesota residents age 18 and older on July 1 of the respective year. Source of residential population estimates: U.S. Census Bureau. Except for Hispanic residents, residents of more than one race are counted in more than one category.

Felony Sentencing Rates

Figure 4. Felony Sentencing Rates per 100,000 Minnesota Adult Residents, 2003–23, by Gender and Total

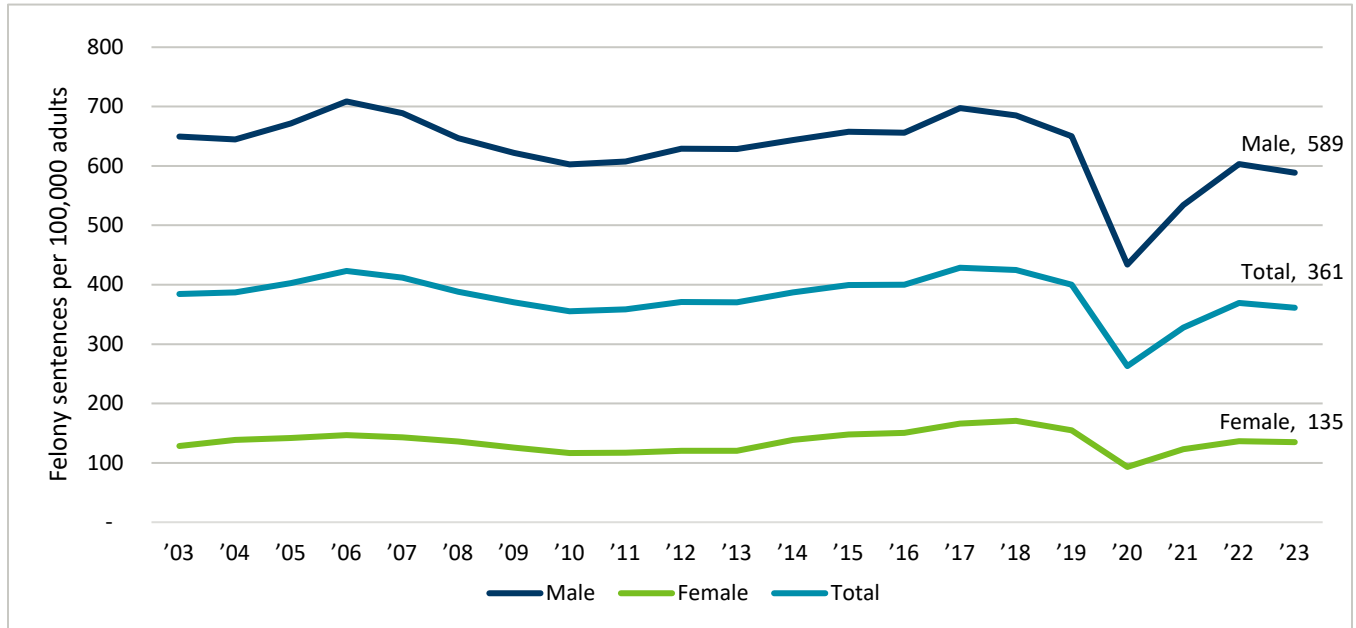


Figure 5. Felony Sentencing Rates per 100,000 Minnesota Adult Residents, 2003–23, by Race and Ethnicity

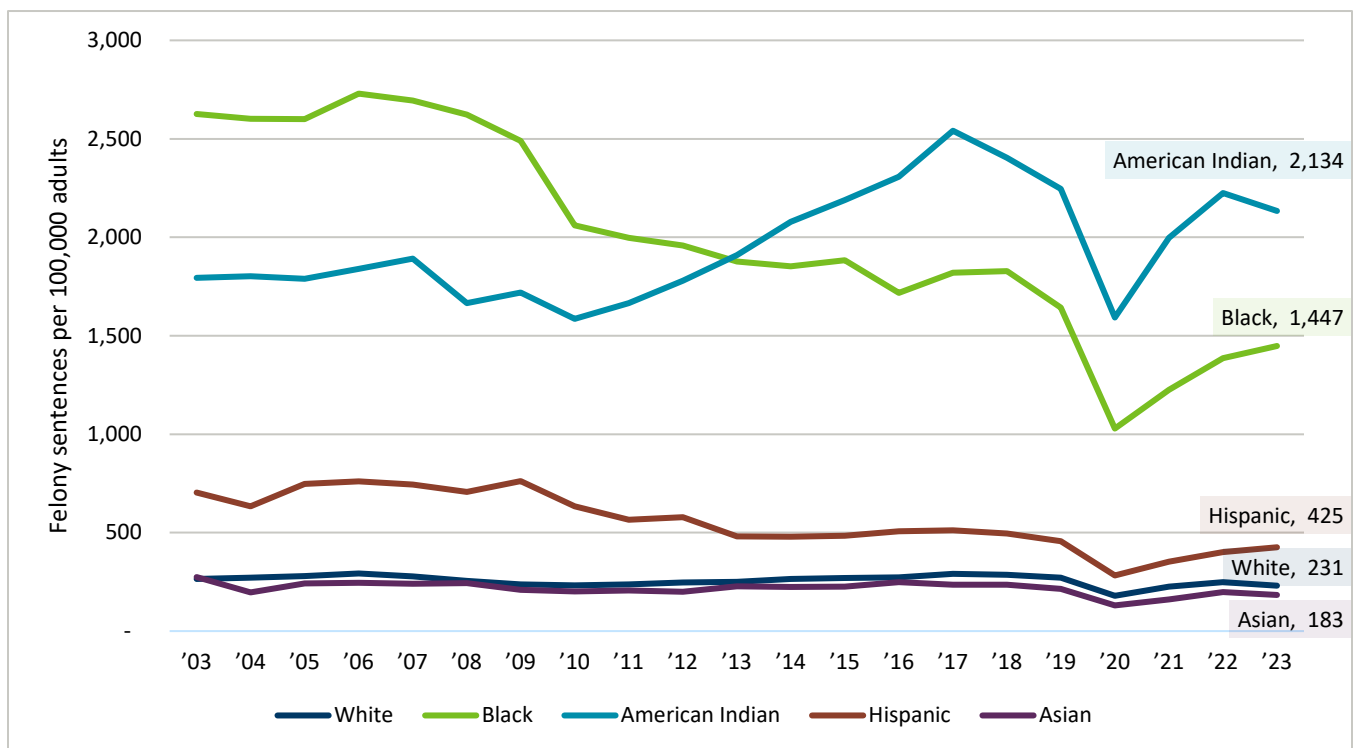
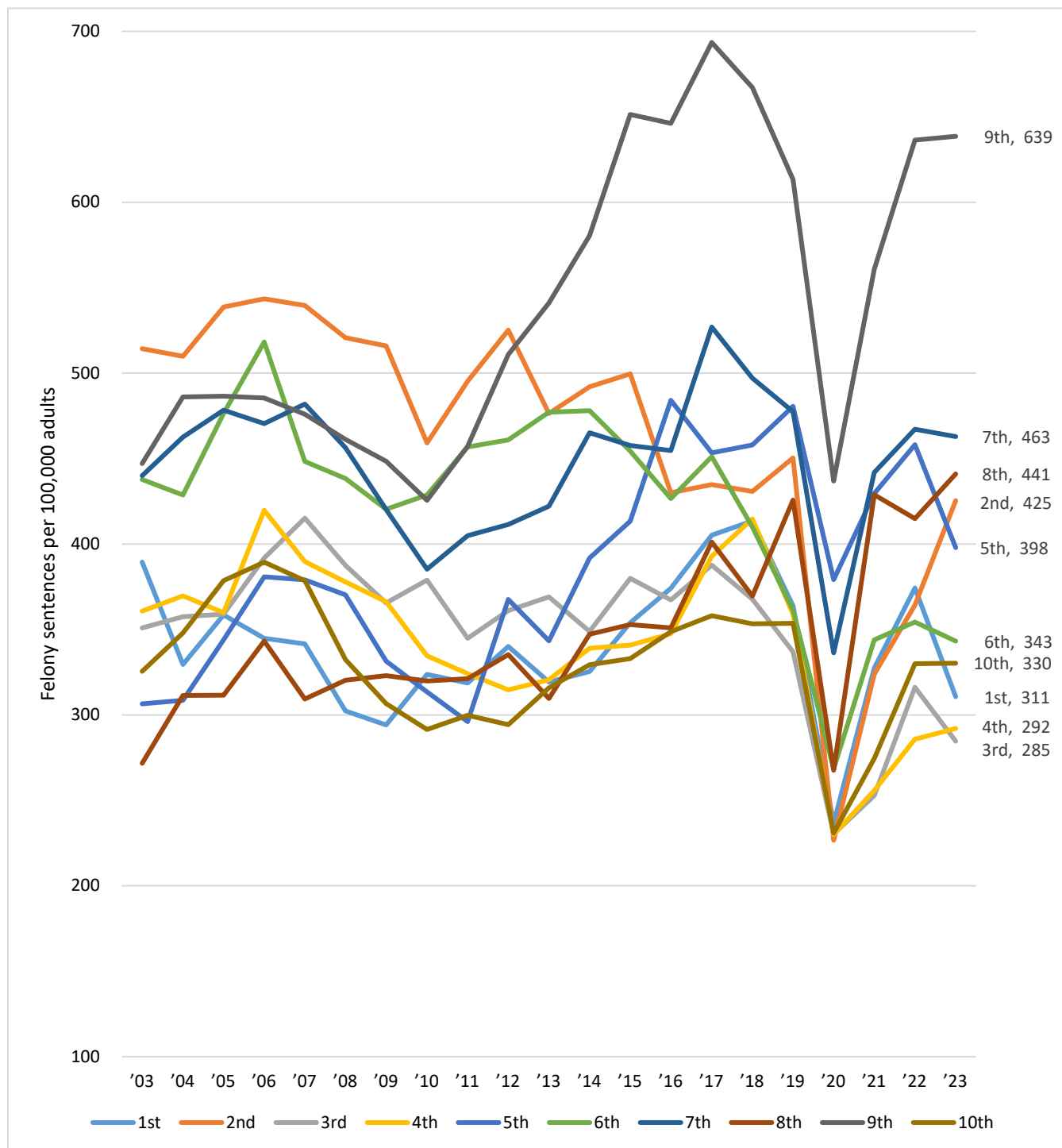


Figure 6. Felony Sentencing Rates per 100,000 Minnesota Adult Residents, 2003–23, by Judicial District



Notes for figures 4 through 6: Rates are people sentenced for felonies annually per 100,000 Minnesota residents age 18 and older on July 1 of the respective year. Source of residential population estimates: U.S. Census Bureau. Except for Hispanic residents, residents of more than one race are counted in more than one category.

Imprisonment Rates

Figure 7. Imprisonment Rates per 100,000 Minnesota Adult Residents, 2003–23, by Gender and Total

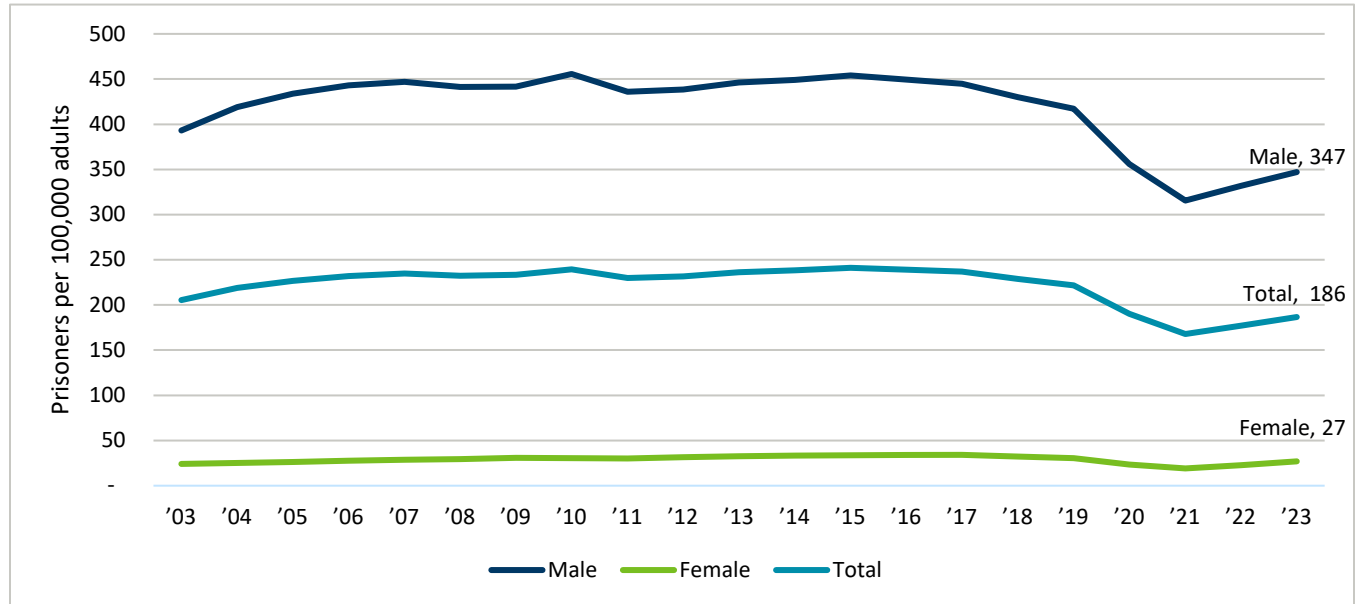


Figure 8. Imprisonment Rates per 100,000 Minnesota Adult Residents, 2003–23, by Race and Ethnicity

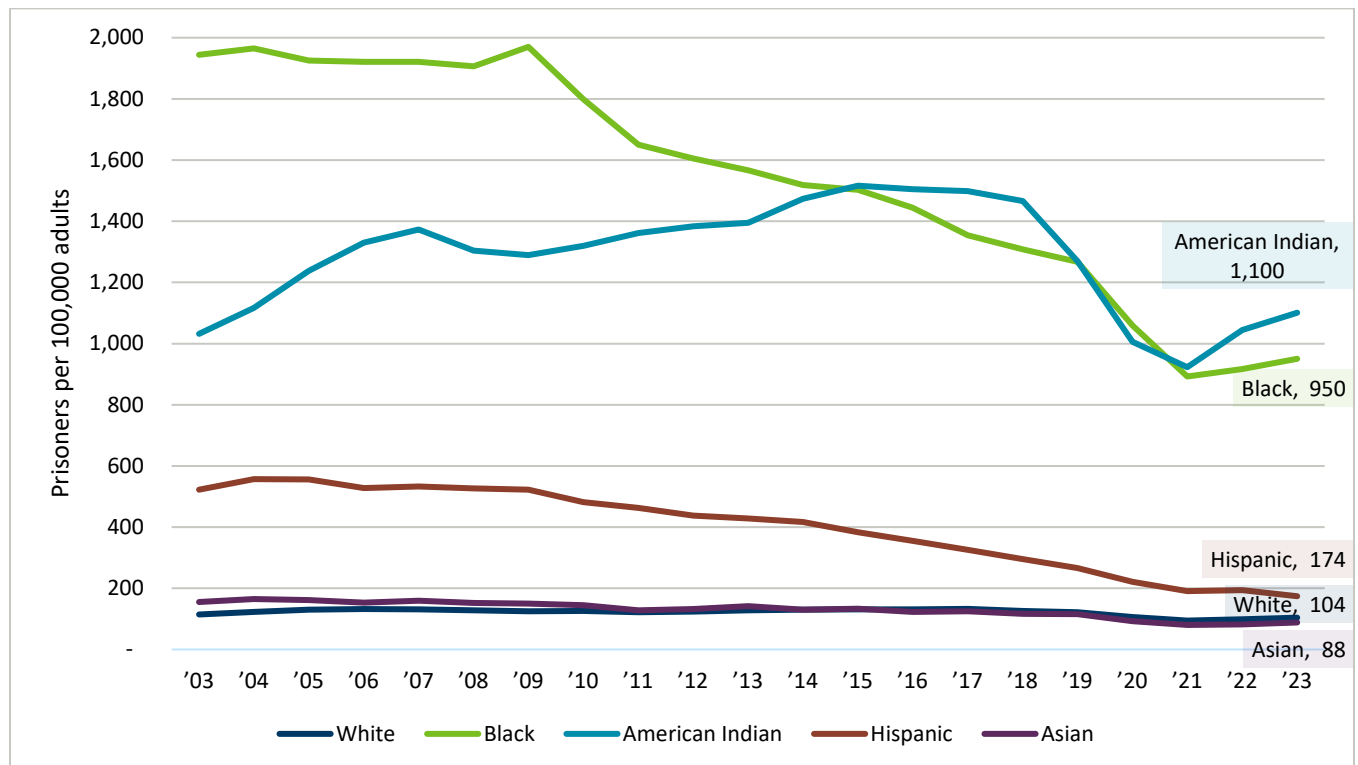
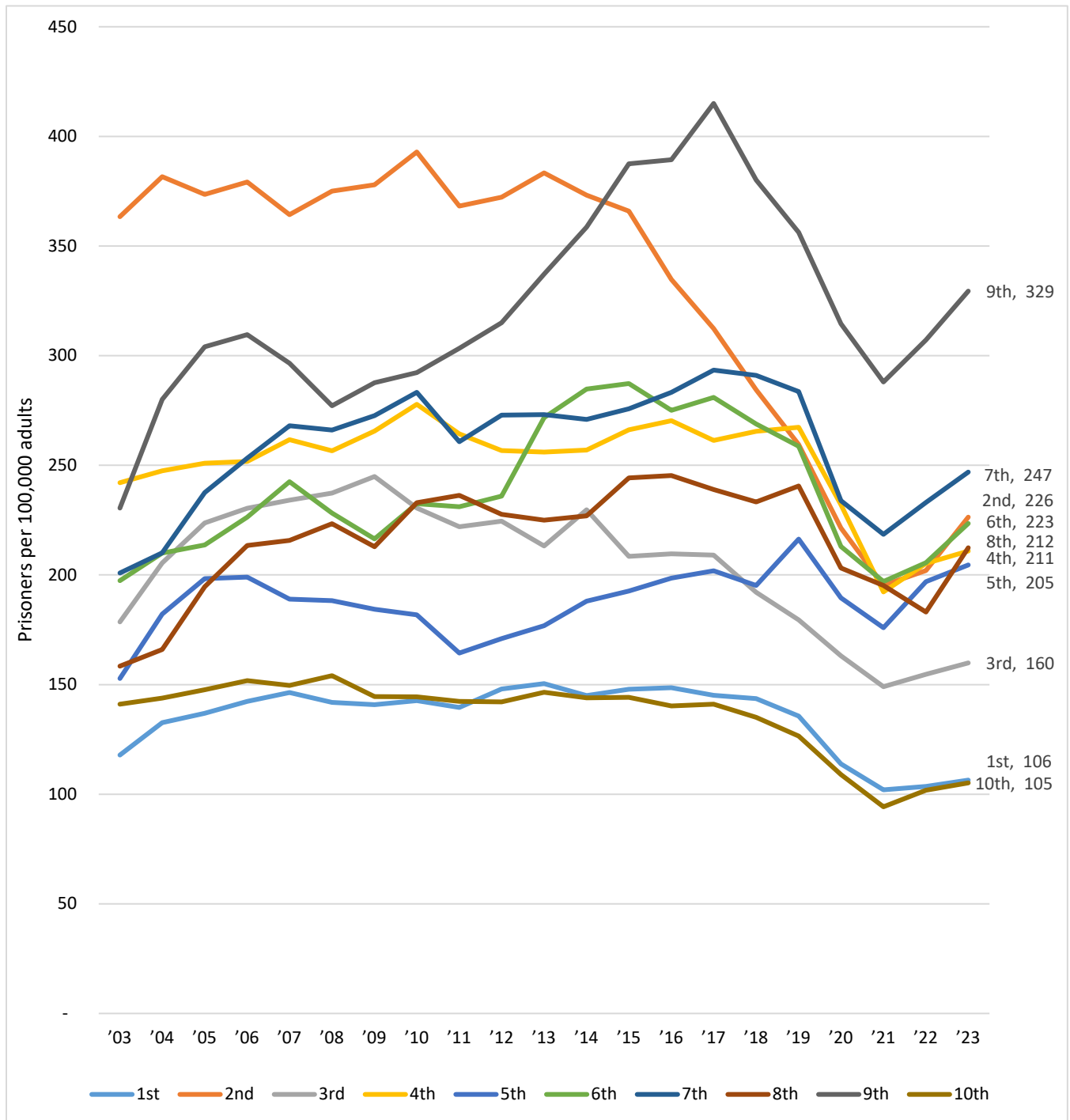


Figure 9. Imprisonment Rates per 100,000 Minnesota Adult Residents, 2003–23, by Judicial District



Notes for figures 7 through 9: Rates are prisoners on July 1 of the respective year per 100,000 Minnesota residents age 18 and older on the same date. Source of prison population counts: Minn. Dep't of Corrections. Source of residential population estimates: U.S. Census Bureau. Except for Hispanic residents, residents of more than one race are counted in more than one category. Other/unknown and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander are excluded, except for 2005–07, in which case they were included in the Asian prison population counts. Not all prisoners were associated with a particular judicial district.