

**Racial Impact Note for H.F. 1665:
Expansion of List of Crimes of Violence**
Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission
February 22, 2012

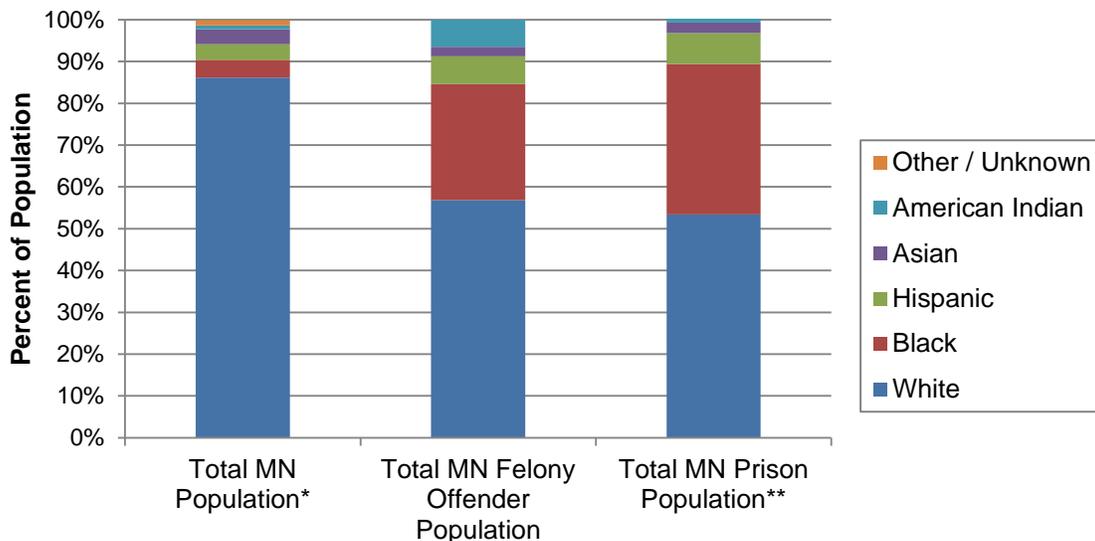
By providing the following information on race, MSGC seeks to enrich the discussion on how minorities in Minnesota are affected by changes in sentencing policy. If a significant racial disparity can be predicted before a bill is passed, it may be possible to consider alternatives that enhance public 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 2010, approximately 86.1 percent of Minnesota’s population is white. The composition of the remaining 13.9 percent is as follows: 4.3 percent black; 3.7 percent Hispanic; 3.6 percent Asian; 1.0 percent American Indian; and roughly 1.2 percent who identify themselves with two or more races, another race, or as Pacific Islander.

In contrast, MSGC monitoring data shows the following racial make-up of the 2010 felony offender population: 56.8 percent white; 27.8 percent black; 6.5 percent American Indian; 6.6 percent Hispanic; and 2.3 percent Asian.

According to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the racial composition of the prisons on July 1, 2010 was as follows: 53.4 percent white; 36.0 percent black; 8.1 percent American Indian; 7.4 percent Hispanic; and 2.5 percent Asian.

**Comparison of Racial Composition Among Populations:
2010**



* Source for “Total MN Population 18 years and older”: [U.S. Census Bureau, Census Summary File 1, Table P11.](#)

** Source for “Total MN Prison Population”: [MN Department of Corrections Adult Inmate Profile: 7/1/10.](#)

Bill Description

This bill amends the list of offenses defined as crimes of violence in Minn. Stat. § 624.712. A person who had been convicted of committing a crime of violence is prohibited from possession of firearms under Minn. Stat. § 609.165 or Minn. Stat. § 624.713, subd. 1(2). The offenses added are felony convictions for: fifth-degree assault under Minn. Stat. § 609.224; domestic assault under Minn. Stat. § 609.2242; and domestic assault by strangulation under Minn. Stat. § 609.2247.

The effective date is August 1, 2012, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date.

Racial Disparity Impact

The expansion of the list of crimes of violence as presented in H.F. 1665, may increase racial disparity in Minnesota's prison population because a disproportionate number of offenders sentenced to felony fifth-degree assault, felony domestic assault, and domestic assault by strangulation are black as compared to the overall felony population in Minnesota. Of the offenders sentenced in 2010 for the offenses added to the list of crimes of violence, 43 percent were white and 39 percent were black. This is compared to the overall racial make-up of the 2010 felony offender population, which is 56.8 percent white and 27.8 percent black.