



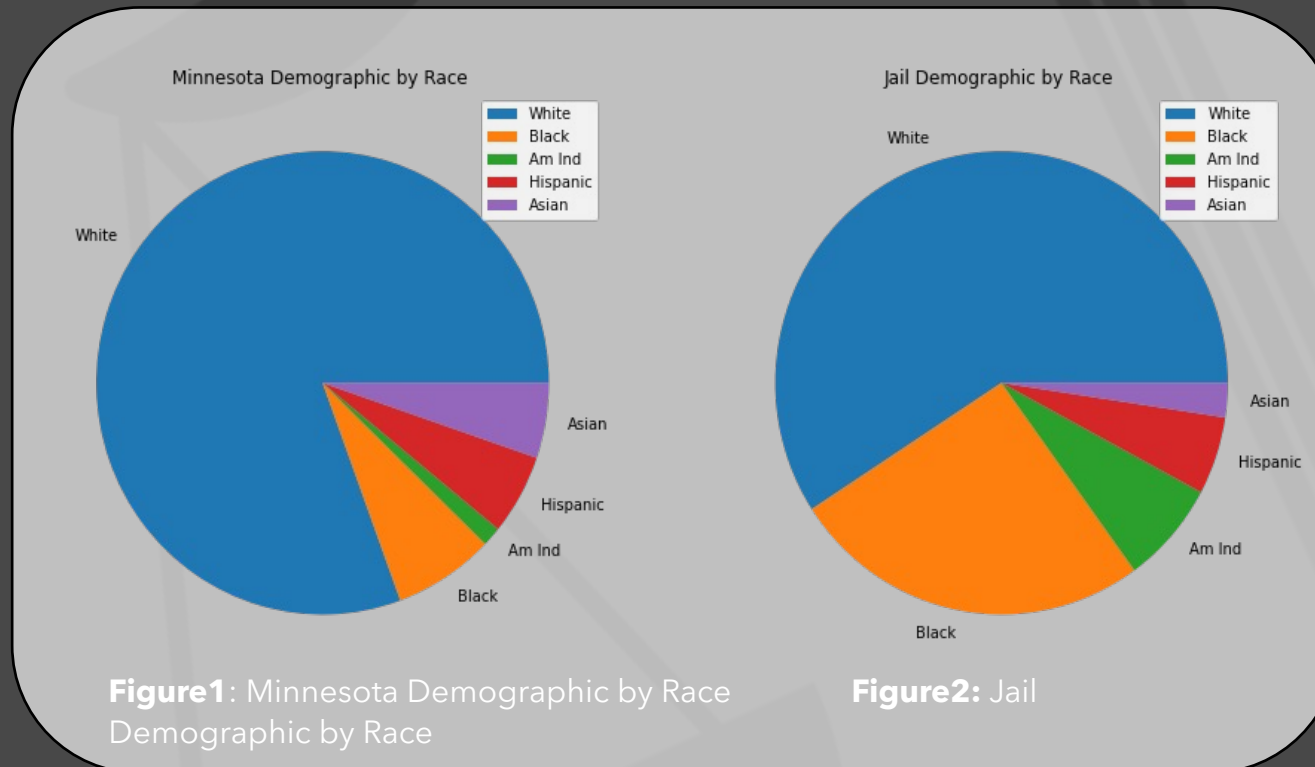
*Are Certain Communities
Let off easier in
Minnesota Courts?
Plus, other interesting analysis*

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Jail Demographics



- We show and compare the demographics of the state of Minnesota vs. the demographics of the jails of Minnesota.
- African-Americans made 7.4% of the population of the state but 25.7% of the prison population. Compare that to the white community - they make 83% of the state, and 59% of the prisons.
- This data suggests a disproportionate rate of incarceration towards a particular community.



Average Sentence Period By Offence (by Race)



- Next, we compare the sentence period each community received. We grouped our data based on offense type. We then calculated the average sentence received for that offense, grouped by race.
- Again, we see that white offenders get a lower sentence on average, no matter the type of offense. We see the most prejudice in drug-related crimes, where Hispanics get the highest sentences on average.

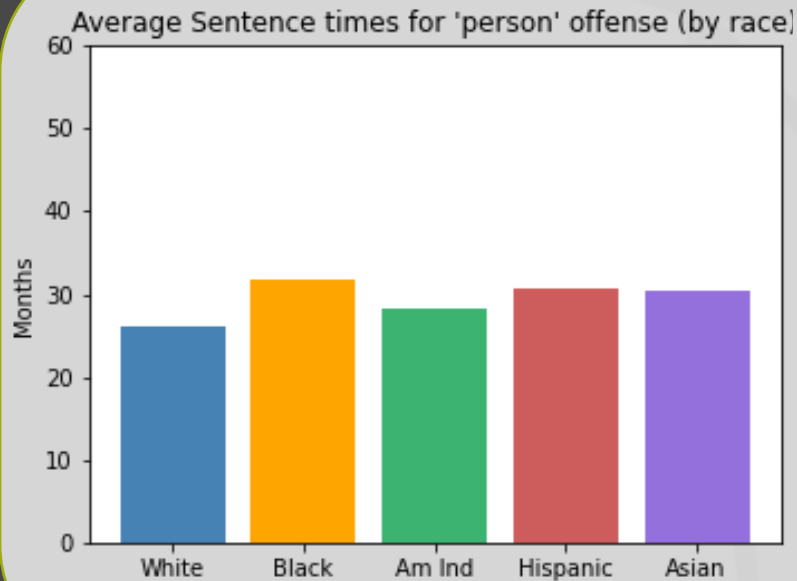


Figure1: Average sentence for "person" offense

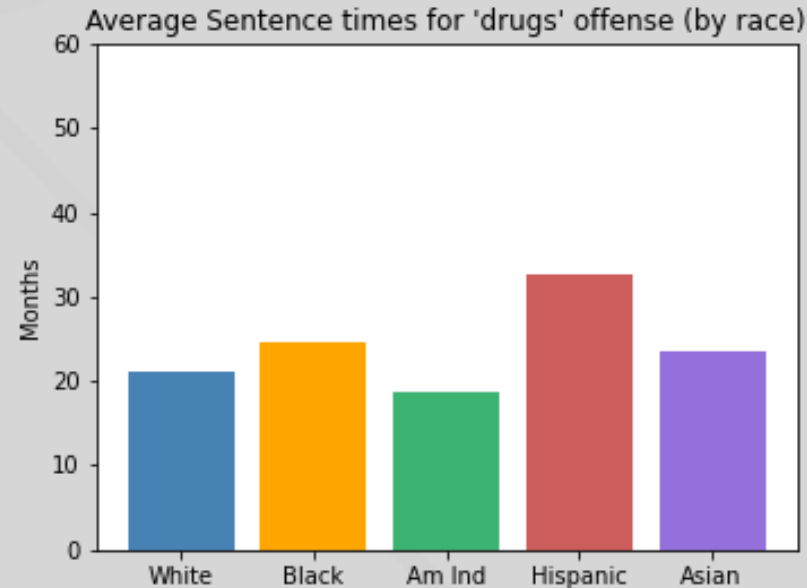


Figure2: Average sentence for "drugs" offense

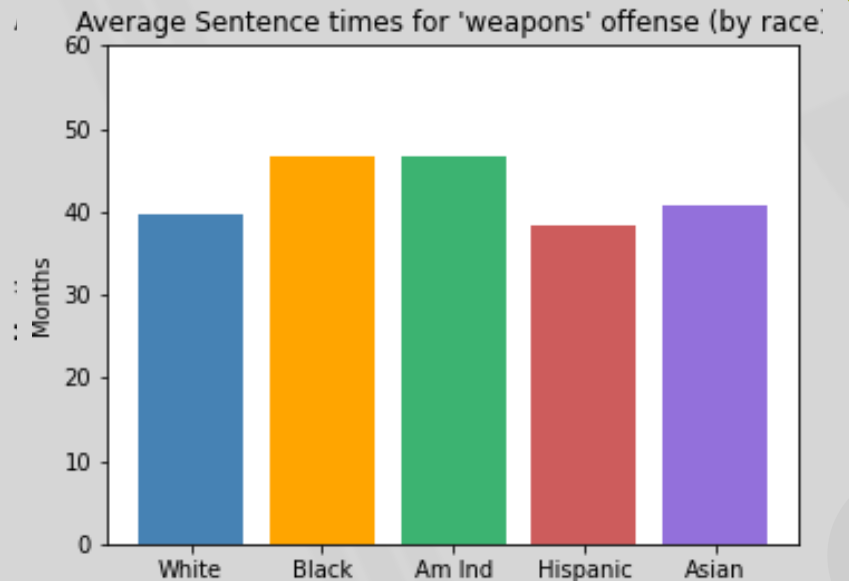


Figure3: Average sentence for "weapons" offense

Average Sentence Period By Offence (by Sex)



- Further investigation included repeating the same procedure as above, but this time we grouped the average sentences by sex, instead of race. We saw that females, on average, will receive lower sentences for committing the same crimes. While we are unsure of all the factors that go into this result, we thought it was interesting to point out.

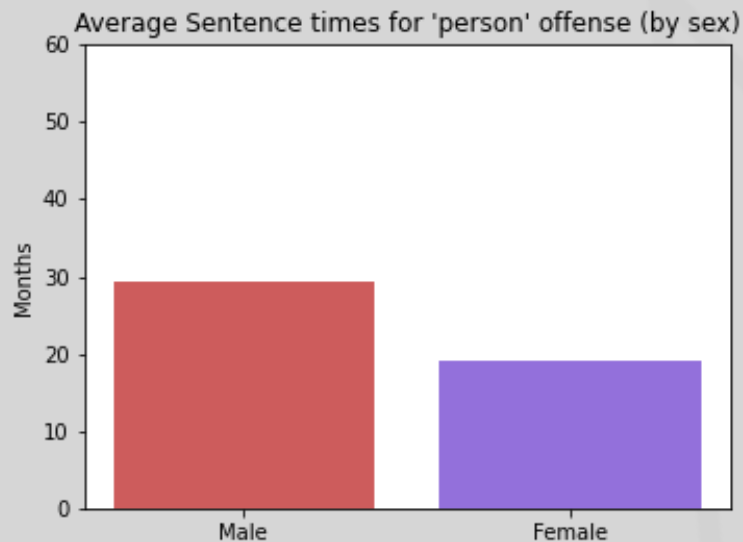


Figure1: Average sentence for "person" offense

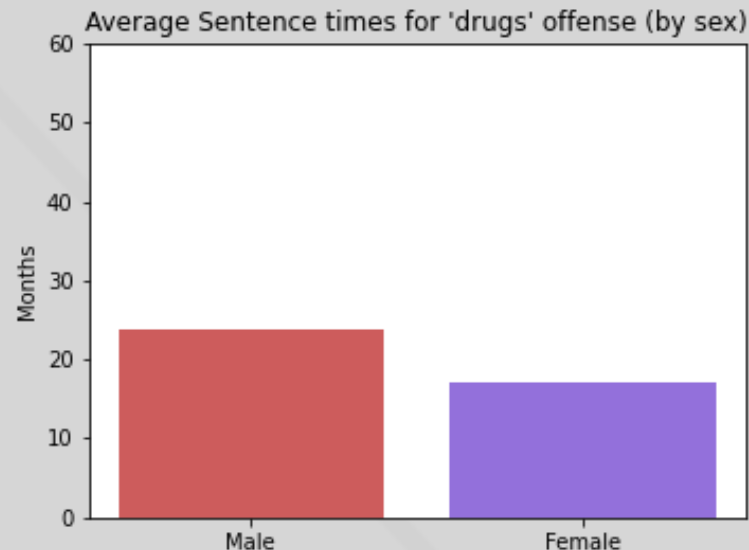


Figure2: Average sentence for "drugs" offense

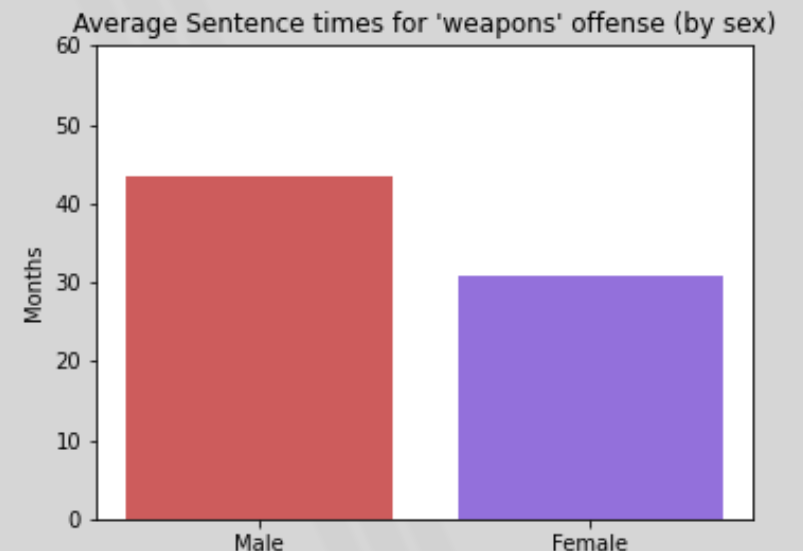


Figure3: Average sentence for "weapons" offense

Effect of Plea on Sentence Period



- We analyzed the results of the defendant's plea on their sentence. We know judges and juries usually give lower sentences to defendants who plead guilty before the court proceeds. We just wanted to visualize just how much of a difference that makes.
- While our findings are consistent with that fact, the interesting thing is by how much the sentence increases for assault and drug related crimes. Assaults crime sentences have an increase of **174%** if the defendant pleads not guilty, while drug sentences increase by **113%**.

