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### Criminal Justice: Sentencing For Similar Crimes

Why are there different sentences for the same crime? Is it because of race? Some researchers came to a conclusion and found out that African Americans spend more jail time than white people. African Americans get 60% longer times in jail than white people. A white man could spend time in jail for 2 years and a black man 5 years. (Brinkerhoff, Wallechinsky) Different sentences for the same crime should stop because blacks and whites could do the same crime but also get different sentences. It is unfair for people doing the same crime and getting different amounts of sentences because of race.

The racial gap for the different sentences for the same crime is worsening. The racial gap has gotten worse and the amount of sentencing extended more. In the article "Racial Gap in Men's Sentencing" it states "The racial gap has widened since the Supreme Court restored judicial discretion in sentencing in 2005, according to the Sentencing Commission's findings, which were submitted to Congress last month..."(Palazollo). In this article Palazollo, stated that the racial gap in sentencing has gotten bigger since 2005 and it's also getting worse by the minute. In another article, "U.S. racial wage gap 'worse now' than it was nearly 40 years ago, report finds" it states, "The Economic Policy Institute also found that young black women are being hit the hardest. This gap remains even after controlling for factors like education, experience, or geography..." (Whack). This quote from the article explains how even other

people said that the gap was getting worse than how it already was before and also explained how only black people are getting hit the most out of everyone else.

Three people, Brock Turner, Brian Banks, and Corey Batey were prosecuted for the same crime. But Banks never did commit the crime. Turner was sentenced for 6 months in jail, but only spent 3 months because of good behavior, and his sentence was light because it would have a “severe” and bad impact on him. Banks was accused of rape when he was 16 years old and tried as an adult and also received more than five years in prison. (Noman). Another person who had the same case as Turner, was Corey Batey, a football player who did the same crime, but in Batey’s case, he was sentenced to for 15-25 years in prison. On the other hand Turner, who witnesses actually saw committing the crime, only received 6 months in jail, and in the article it states, “...Turner was guilty. Eyewitnesses actually caught him in the act as he sexually assaulted an unconscious woman behind a dumpster...found guilty of multiple felony rape charges.” (King). Turner had multiple felony charges while Batey only had 3 felony counts and wasn’t caught in the action. There is a huge difference in sentences because in the Turner case, he was sentenced for 6 months. But he only got 3 months of jail time, while a black person like Batey, was sentenced to 12-25 years in prison. Another important point is that Turner never even went to prison but stayed in jail over that period of time. (King)

Equal treatment by the criminal justice system should be a priority. People who do the same crime shouldn’t be getting different sentences for race. It is unfair for people to get a longer sentence than other people. Everyone should get an equal sentence, and race shouldn’t matter. No man should get 10 years and someone else 2 years for the same crime. There should be an equal amount of sentences for everyone. Most people think that the criminal justice system won’t

affect us but it will affects us all because people that were locked up are going to be released back into society.

In conclusion, blacks and whites would do the same crime but get different sentences. It is unfair for people doing the same crime and getting different amounts of sentences because of race. Overall from the evidence that I have found, there is a huge difference in sentences because in a case, like the Brock Turner case, he was sentenced for 6 months. But he had only got 3 months of jail time while a black person like Corey Batey was sentenced to 12-25 years in prison. Another thing is that Turner never even went to prison but stayed in jail over that time.

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