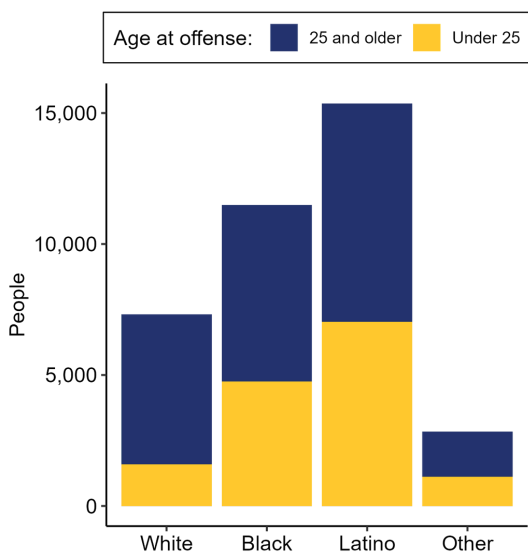
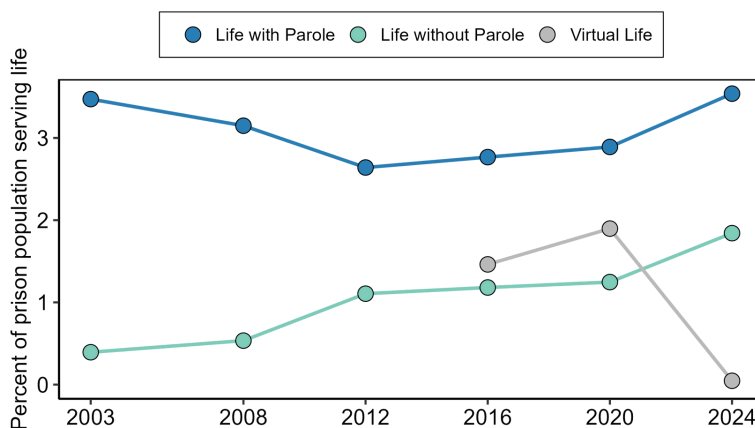
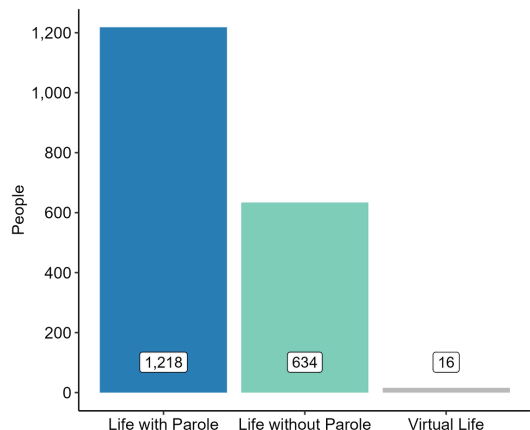


# Life Imprisonment in California

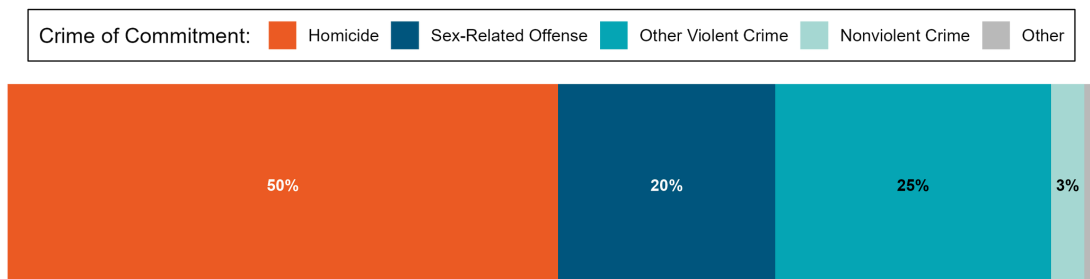
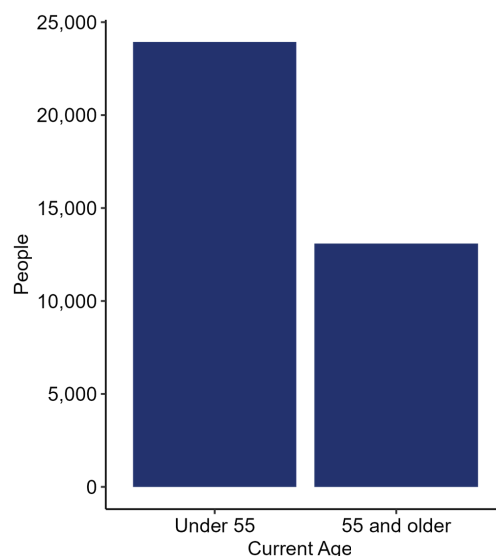


As of 2024, there were **37,022** people in California serving a life sentence, almost **40%** of the total prison population. This makes California the **1st** highest ranked state by proportion of incarcerated people serving life sentences.



People of color make up **59%** of the population in California but **80%** of people serving life sentences. **31%** of Black people and **41%** of Latinos serving life sentences were **under the age of 25** at the time of offense.

**35%** of people serving life are **55 or older.**



\*Data Note: Virtual Life is defined as a sentence of 50 years or more and this data was first collected in 2016