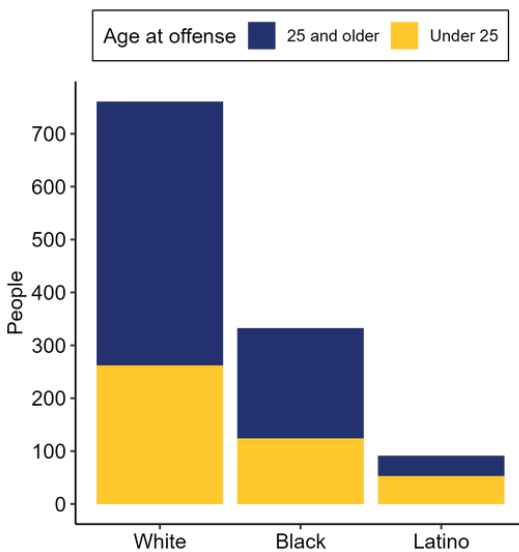
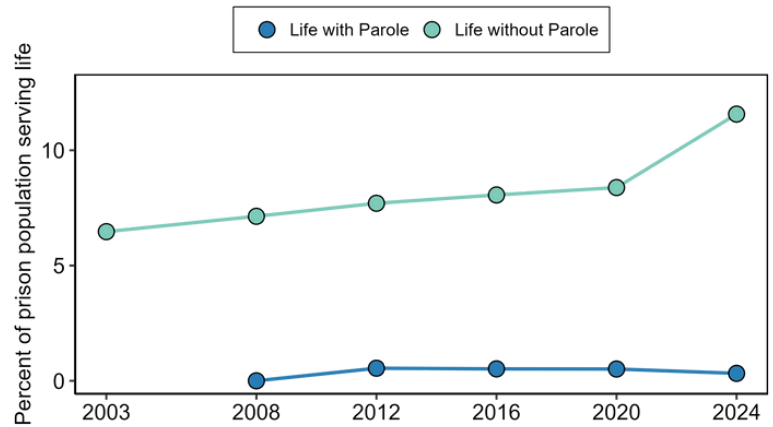
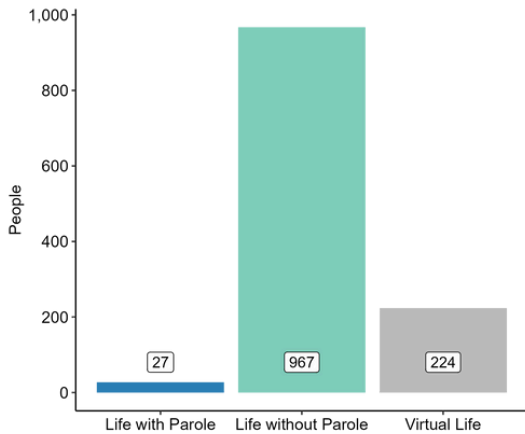


Life Imprisonment in Iowa



As of 2024, there were **1,218** people in Iowa serving a life sentence, **15%** of the total prison population. This makes Iowa the **26th** highest ranked state by proportion of incarcerated people serving life sentences.



People of color make up **15%** of the population in Iowa but **39%** of people serving life sentences. **37%** of Black people and **58%** of Latinos serving life sentences were **under the age of 25** at the time of offense.

*Data Note: Iowa eliminated life without parole for juveniles through a 2016 court decision, *State v. Sweet*. In 2015, following *Miller*, Iowa had enacted legislation that eliminated mandatory life-without-parole sentences for juveniles but gave judges the discretion to still impose these sentences. Iowa does not permit life with parole sentences for people 18 and older.

