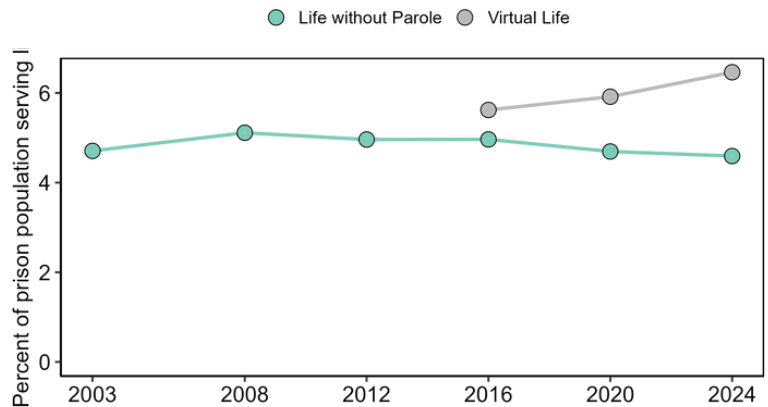
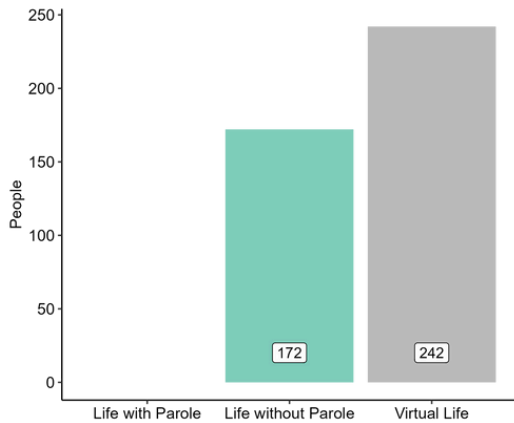


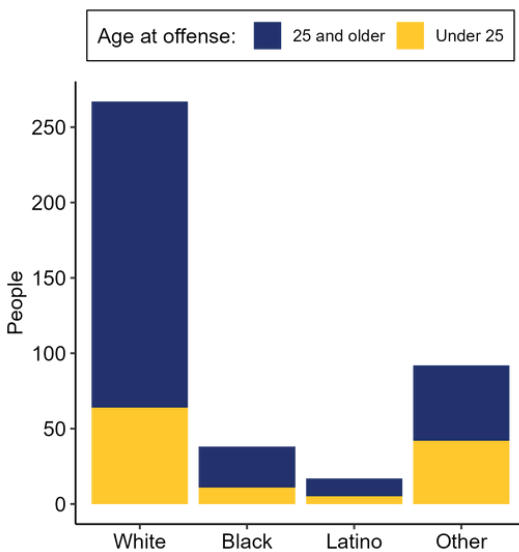
Life Imprisonment in South Dakota



As of 2024, there were **414** people in South Dakota serving a life sentence, **11%** of the total prison population. This makes South Dakota the **37th** highest ranked state by proportion of incarcerated people serving life sentences.

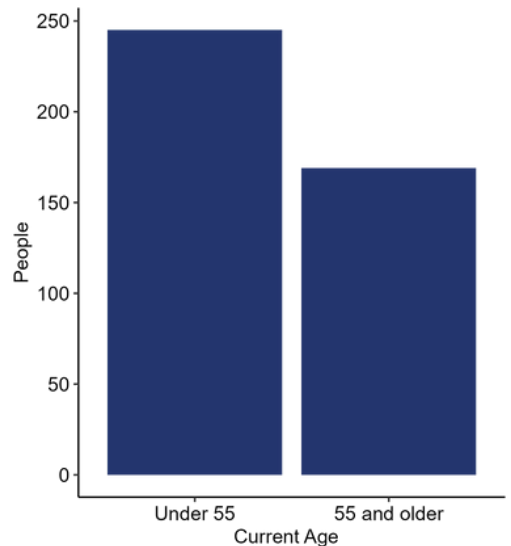


*Note: South Dakota does not permit life sentencing with the possibility of parole



People of color make up **19%** of the population in South Dakota but **35%** of people serving life sentences. People of color in South Dakota with life sentences were more likely than white people to be **under the age of 25** at the time of offense.

41% of people serving life are **55 or older**.



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