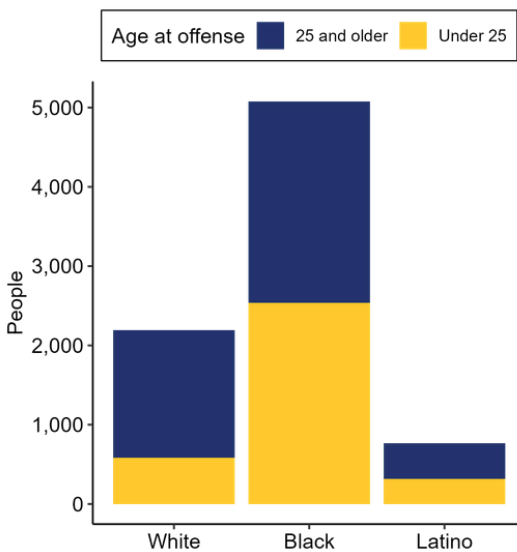
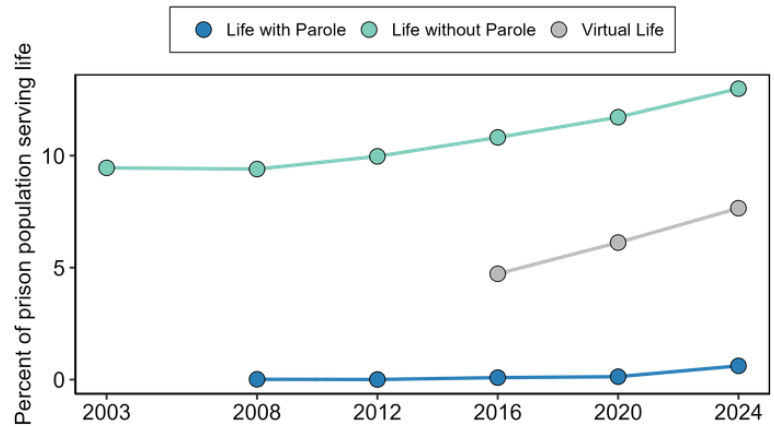
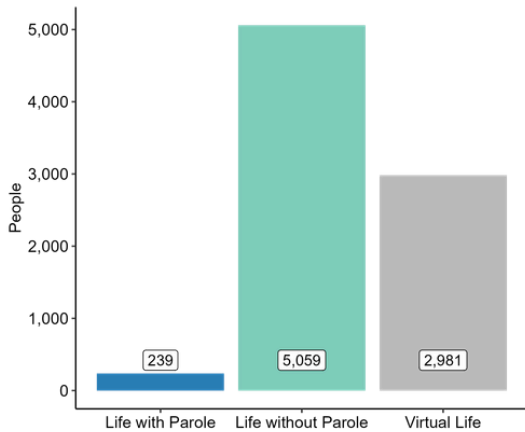


Life Imprisonment in Pennsylvania

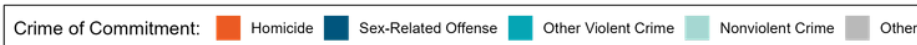
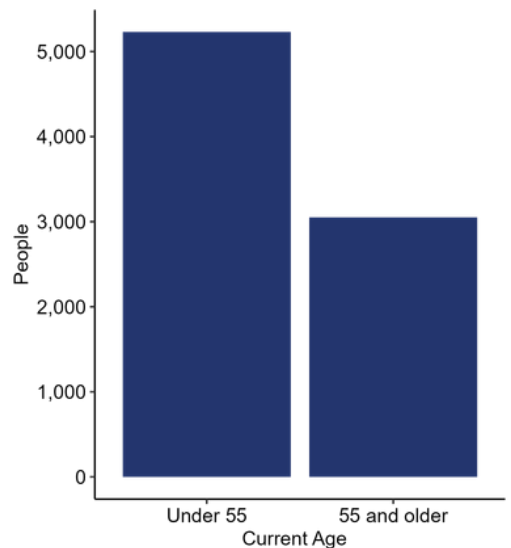


As of 2024, there were **8,279** people in Pennsylvania serving a life sentence, **21%** of the total prison population. This makes Pennsylvania the **8th** highest ranked state by proportion of incarcerated people serving life sentences.



People of color make up **25%** of the population in Pennsylvania but **73%** of people serving life sentences. **50%** of Black people and **41%** of Latinos serving life sentences were **under the age of 25** at the time of offense.

37% 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. All other life sentences in this state are imposed without an opportunity for parole. The statistics for life with parole in this state refer to people who were initially sentenced to life without parole as juveniles but were resentenced after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that their sentences were unconstitutional.