

MASSACHUSETTS JUVENILE FIRST-DEGREE MURDERERS
HAVE NOT RE-OFFENDED WHEN PAROLED (2015-2025)

ENDNOTES

Data Sources:

Haas G. "Parole Decisions for Lifers" Annual Reports for the years 2014 to 2024 (Lifer's Group Inc., Norfolk MA); Greineder D. Massachusetts Juveniles Convicted of First-Degree Murder Have Not Re-offended When Paroled (Lifer's Group Inc., Norfolk MA, March 2023); Doherty A. Public Records Request response, July 7, 2025 from MA Parole Board (Natick MA); listing all the juvenile first-degree murder convicted prisoners aged under 18 years at time of murder paroled through July 1, 2025. Cost calculations include costs through 12/31/2025, and were computed by multiplying time from the date of release by the annual cost for each year reported in Greineder D. "Ever Increasing Incarceration Costs in the Massachusetts Department of Correction" for FY2016-FY2025 (Lifer's Group Inc. June 2025). Cost for 2015 is from Forman B & Widmer M. "Getting Tough on Spending" (MassINC, Boston, MA, 2017). Costs for the parolees whose exact dates of release are not listed were computed as of the following year. (Lifer's Group reports are available at www.realcostofprisons.org/writing).

References

1. Diatchenko v District Attorney for the Suffolk District, 466 Mass. 655 (2013).
2. Haas G. "Parole Decisions for Lifers" (see Sources).
3. Greineder D. "The Cruel Aging of Massachusetts Life-Sentenced Prisoners" ppl6-19 (Lifer's Group Inc.); Durose MR, Cooper AD, Snyder HN. "Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 2005" (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, DC, 2014); Hunt KS & Dumville R. "Recidivism Among Federal Offenders" (U.S. Sentencing Commission, 2016); Langan PA & Lavin DJ. "Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994" (Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, DC 2002).
4. See all references in note 3. See also Nellis A. "No End In Sight" (2021); Nellis A & Bishop B. "New Lease on Life" (2021); Ghandnoosh N. "A Second Look At Injustice" (2021) (all 3 from The Sentencing Project, Washington, DC).
5. See Sources.
6. Greineder D. "Ever Increasing Incarceration Costs..." (see Sources) and Forman & Widmer, "Getting Tough on Spending" (see Sources).
7. Wildeman C. "Parental Imprisonment, the Prison Boom, and the Concentration of Childhood Disadvantage" *Demography* (2009) 46:265-280; McLaughlin M, Pettus-Davis C, Brown D, et al. "The Economic Burden of Incarceration in the US" (Wash. Univ. Inst. Adv. Just. #AJI072016 (2026); Greineder D. "The Cruel Aging..." ppl3-15 (note 3).
8. Alliance for Safety and Justice. "Crime Survivors Speak: National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice" (2022 and 2016); Clarke M. "Polls Show People Favor Rehabilitation Over Incarceration" (Prison Legal News, Nov 2018); Sered D. "Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and A Road to Repair" (The New Press, NY, 2019).



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Lifer's Group Fast Facts: MASSACHUSETTS JUVENILE FIRST-DEGREE MURDERERS HAVE NOT RE-OFFENDED WHEN PAROLED (2015-2025)

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Paroled Juveniles Convicted of First- Degree Murder	
Released	Status
03/19/2015	On parole
05/14/2015	On parole
09/29/2015	Deported
10/02/2015	On parole
10/28/2015	On parole
11/06/2015	On parole
12/08/2015	On parole
01/15/2016	On parole
03/02/2016	On parole
05/11/2016	On parole
08/19/2016	On parole
06/20/2017	On parole
08/10/2018	On parole
08/30/2018	On parole
01/24/2019	On parole
09/24/2019	On parole
01/08/2020	On parole
05/05/2020	On parole
05/26/2020	On parole
07/10/2020	On parole
11/04/2020	On parole
04/29/2021	On parole
05/19/2021	On parole
08/18/2021	On parole
10/06/2021	On parole
11/19/2021	Deported
01/07/2022	On parole
04/01/2022	On parole
06/15/2022	Parole Viol
08/03/2022	Deported
11/30/2022	On parole
2022	On parole
2022	On parole
01/10/2023	Deported
01/19/2023	On parole
02/13/2023	On parole
03/23/2023	On parole
08/31/2023	On parole
10/19/2023	On parole
12/13/2023	On parole
2023	On parole
2023	On parole
2023	On parole
2023	On parole
02/14/2024	On parole
08/20/2024	On parole
2024	On parole
02/28/2025	On parole
03/19/2025	On parole
04/30/2025	On parole
05/01/2025	On parole

Over the last 11 years 51 juveniles, once convicted of first-degree murder for murders committed between the ages of 14-17 and sentenced to Life Without Parole (LWOP) have been released into the community on lifetime parole. Not one of them, long considered to be among the highest risk offenders, has committed another crime. They became eligible for lifetime parole after a decision of the Supreme Judicial Court (1), which declared LWOP sentences unconstitutional for those who had not attained the age of 18 at the time of the murder. Although all become eligible for parole after serving 15 years not all those eligible have as yet been granted parole.

- >> Not one of the 51 paroled murderers has re-offended or committed a new crime since release.
- >> 3 have been briefly returned for technical violations, typically for minor offenses like using alcohol or lying to parole officers (2).
- >> It is notable that 33 of these parolees have been out of prison for more than 3 years and 21 have been out for more than 5 years without re-offending.
- >> Evidence shows that risk of recidivism decreases each year after release with rates substantially lower after 3 years and more so after 5 years (3).
- >> Independent evidence has shown that murderers have the lowest rates of recidivism compared to all other prisoners when released from prison (4).
- >> Paroling these 51 juvenile LWOP prisoners saved over 28 Million dollars since 2015 (5). Costs per prisoner have skyrocketed from \$50,000/year to \$141,062/year between FY2015 to FY2025 (6).

This evidence confirms that paroling even first-degree murderers originally sentenced to LWOP is based on valid principles and saves substantial money without decreasing public safety. This should provide incentives to expand the release of long-incarcerated LWOP prisoners.

Possibly more important in terms of public safety and humanitarian ideals, these 51 persons have been returned to their families and communities without any increase in crime. Such re-integration has been shown to strengthen families and communities while also reducing crime and collateral costs and improving public safety (7). Evidence also shows that public opinion as well as crime survivors support emphasizing rehabilitation and appropriate granting of second chances over increased incarceration (8).

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Dirk Greineder for Lifer's Group Inc.
 P.O. Box 43, Norfolk MA 02056
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