



Lifers' Group Inc
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WOMEN THAT HAVE SERVED 15 YEARS OR MORE
MA-DOC CRIMINALLY SENTENCED JURISDICTION POPULATION
Committed Prior to 2011, by Sentence and Age Group, January 1, 2026

Age	1st Deg DBI*		2nd Deg LWP*		>25 yrs Term		<25 yrs Term		Total by Age	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
40-49	2	16.7%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	23.8%
50-59	4	33.3%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	33.3%
60-69	3	25.0%	2	22.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	23.8%
70-79	3	25.0%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	19.0%
Total # & % of Total	12	57.1%	9	42.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	21	100.0%
Age >50 yrs	10	83.3%	6	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	16	76.2%
Age >60 yrs	6	50.0%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	42.9%

WOMEN THAT HAVE SERVED 25 YEARS OR MORE
MA-DOC CRIMINALLY SENTENCED JURISDICTION POPULATION
Committed Prior to 2001, by Sentence and Age Group, January 1, 2026

Age	1st Deg DBI*		2nd Deg LWP*		>25 yrs Term		<25 yrs Term		Total by Age	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
40-49	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%
50-59	1	16.7%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%
60-69	2	33.3%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	30.0%
70-79	3	50.0%	1	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	40.0%
Total # & % of Total	6	60.0%	4	40.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	100.0%
Age >50 yrs	6	100.0%	3	75.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	90.0%
Age >60 yrs	5	83.3%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	70.0%

* DBI = Death By Incarceration, aka Life Without Parole; LWP = Life With Parole.

NB: Note the high percentage of elderly prisoners who would have the lowest risks of recidivating if released after having served >15 or >25 years.

Dirk Greineder, May 2026 (Source: DOC Public Record Response, 4/28/26)
Lifer's Group reports available at www.realcostofprisons.org/writing

WOMEN CRIMINALLY SENTENCED IN MA-DOC JURISDICTION POPULATION
by Sentence and Age Group, January 1, 2026

Age	1st Deg DBI*		2nd Deg LWP*		>25 yrs Term		<25 yrs Term		Total by Age	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
18-19	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%	1	0.5%
20-29	2	7.7%	2	8.7%	0	0.0%	33	20.4%	37	17.4%
30-39	2	7.7%	4	17.4%	0	0.0%	59	36.4%	65	30.5%
40-49	4	15.4%	8	34.7%	2	100.0%	42	25.9%	56	26.3%
50-54	4	15.4%	2	8.7%	0	0.0%	16	9.9%	22	10.3%
55-59	5	19.2%	2	8.7%	0	0.0%	9	5.6%	16	7.5%
50-59	9	34.6%	4	17.4%	0	0.0%	25	15.4%	38	17.8%
60-69	5	19.2%	2	8.7%	0	0.0%	2	1.2%	9	4.2%
70-79	4	15.4%	3	13.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	3.3%
Total # & % of Total	26	12.2%	23	10.8%	2	0.9%	162	76.1%	213	100.0%
Age >55 yrs	14	53.8%	7	30.4%	0	0.0%	11	6.8%	32	15.0%
Age >60 yrs	9	34.6%	5	21.7%	0	0.0%	2	1.2%	16	7.5%
Served >15yr	12	46.2%	9	39.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	21	9.9%
Served >25yr	6	23.1%	4	17.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	4.7%

* DBI = Death by Incarceration, aka Life Without Parole; LWP = Life With Parole.
[See over for more >15 & >25 year data]

- >> The overall female criminally sentenced population in the MA-DOC increased a startling 24% between 2023 and 2026 (from 172 on 1/1/2023 to 213 on 1/1/2026), whereas the male population increased only 5.5%.
- >> During 2024 and 2025, 170 1st degree Death By Incarceration (DBI or LWOP) sentenced prisoners were reclassified to 2nd degree Life With Parole (LWP) sentences because of Com v Mattis, 493 Mass. 216 (2024). 167 of 1106 (15%) were men and 3 of 29 (10%) were women. As of 1/1/2026, 1 of 3 women (33%) and 37 of 48 (77%) men so far receiving hearings were granted paroles.
- >> As of 1/1/2026, 26 (12.2%) of 213 total women imprisoned by the MA-DOC were DBI-sentenced prisoners. Due to Mattis, this is down from 27 of 172 (15.7%) on 1/1/2024, which was the highest percentage in the U.S.A. (see Nellis A., "A Matter of Life" (Sentencing Project, 2025). Next highest were PA 8.9%; MI 8.5%; DE 7.8%; Vt 7.5%; LA and MS at 7.1% (Id.).
- >> Over half of women prisoners serving harsh Death By Incarceration (DBI/LWOP) sentences, which deny all hope, are aged 55yrs or older and 35% are aged 60+ years. Almost half have served 15+ years and almost a quarter have served 25+ years; the two women serving >25yrs are new since 2023.
- >> Evidence shows that prisoners aged 55+, including those convicted of homicide, who have served 15-25 years have the lowest rates of recidivism for any reason and virtually never kill again when paroled.
- >> Overall, it would appear that, over the last three years, women in the MA-DOC are being more harshly sentenced and treated than men.



Dirk Greineder, Lifer's Group Inc., May 2026
Post Office Box 43, Norfolk, MA 02056
Source: DOC Public Records Responses, 2026
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