

MA-DOC CRIMINALLY SENTENCED 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%	6	0.2%	6	0.1%
20-29	22	2.3%	64	8.6%	3	1.3%	788	20.0%	877	15.0%
30-39	122	13.0%	175	23.4%	30	13.5%	1403	35.6%	1730	29.6%
40-49	200	21.4%	156	20.9%	52	23.4%	945	24.0%	1353	23.1%
50-54	125	13.4%	98	13.1%	36	16.2%	282	7.2%	541	9.3%
55-59	138	14.7%	57	7.6%	28	12.6%	225	5.7%	448	7.7%
50-59	263	28.1%	155	20.7%	64	28.8%	507	12.9%	989	16.9%
60-69	193	20.6%	130	17.4%	53	23.9%	230	5.8%	606	10.4%
70-79	112	12.0%	60	8.0%	18	8.1%	51	1.3%	241	4.1%
80-89	24	2.6%	8	1.0%	2	0.9%	7	0.2%	41	0.7%
Total # & % of Total	936	16.0%	748	12.8%	222	3.8%	3937	67.4%	5843	100.0%
Age >55 yrs	467	49.9%	255	34.1%	101	45.5%	513	13.0%	1336	22.9%
Age >60 yrs	329	35.1%	198	26.5%	73	32.9%	288	7.3%	888	15.2%
Served >15yr	586	62.6%	376	50.3%	110	49.5%	65	1.7%	1137	19.5%
Served >25yr	355	37.9%	220	29.4%	38	17.1%	8	0.2%	621	10.6%

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

- >> With the reclassification of some 1st degree Death By Incarceration (DBI or LWOP) sentenced prisoners to 2nd degree Life With Parole (LWP) sentences because of Com v Mattis, 493 Mass. 216 (2024), the DBI (LWOP) population decreased from 1055 on 1/1/2024 to 936 on 1/1/2026; the LWP numbers went from 732 (on 1/1/2024) to 827 (on 1/1/2025) to 748 (on 1/1/2026), fluctuations due to Mattis and the mostly successful paroling of this cohort.
- >> The overall criminally sentenced population continues to increase for the third year, from 5507 on 1/1/2023 to 5843 on 1/1/2026, a 6.1% increase.
- >> Even though the percentage of Massachusetts DBI (LWOP) prisoners has decreased from 18.6% on 1/1/2024 to 16.0% on 1/1/2026 after Mattis, this percent continues as the highest in the USA and still holds 1 in 6 prisoners under harsh Death By Incarceration (DBI) sentences that deny all hope.
- >> Half (49.9%) of DBI prisoners are now aged 55+ and almost two-thirds (62.6%) have already served 15+ years; over one-third of DBI prisoners are aged 60+ and have served 25+ years.
- >> 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.



D. Greineder, for Lifer's Group Inc., April 2026
 Post Office Box 43, Norfolk, MA 02056
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 Lifer's Group reports are available at
www.realcostofprisons.org/writing



Lifers' Group Inc
P.O. Box 43
Norfolk, MA 02056

PRISONERS 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	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
30-39	9	1.5%	25	6.6%	1	0.9%	5	7.7%	40	3.5%
40-49	85	14.5%	88	23.4%	18	16.4%	16	24.6%	207	18.2%
50-59	194	33.1%	103	27.4%	33	30.0%	30	46.2%	360	31.7%
60-69	173	29.5%	102	27.1%	41	37.3%	11	16.9%	327	28.8%
70-79	105	17.9%	51	13.6%	16	14.5%	2	3.1%	174	15.3%
80-89	20	3.4%	7	1.9%	1	0.9%	1	1.5%	29	2.5%
Total # & % of Total	586	51.5%	376	33.1%	110	9.7%	65	5.7%	1137	100.0%
Age >50 yrs	492	84.0%	263	69.9%	91	82.7%	44	67.7%	890	78.3%
Age >60 yrs	298	50.9%	160	42.6%	58	52.7%	14	21.5%	530	46.6%

PRISONERS 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	5	1.4%	17	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	22	3.5%
50-59	116	32.7%	79	35.9%	8	21.1%	3	37.5%	206	33.2%
60-69	124	34.9%	68	30.9%	17	44.7%	5	62.5%	214	34.5%
70-79	92	25.9%	50	22.7%	12	31.6%	0	0.0%	154	24.8%
80-89	18	5.1%	6	2.7%	1	2.6%	0	0.0%	25	4.0%
Total # & % of Total	355	57.2%	220	35.4%	38	6.1%	8	1.3%	621	100.0%
Age >50 yrs	350	98.6%	203	92.3%	38	100.0%	8	100.0%	599	96.5%
Age >60 yrs	234	65.9%	124	56.4%	30	78.9%	5	62.5%	393	63.3%

* 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.

D. Greineder, April 2026 (Source: DOC Public Record Response, 3/30/26)
Lifer's Group reports available at www.realcostofprisons.org/writing