

DEATH PENALTY AT-A-GLANCE

TIMELINE: MARYLAND'S DEATH PENALTY

- 1987 Maryland prohibits the death penalty for juvenile offenders. Legislators provide the option of life without parole for cases involving capital crimes.
- 1989 Maryland bans the execution of individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- 1993 Kirk Bloodsworth is exonerated and freed from Maryland's death row when DNA testing excluded him from the crime scene. Bloodsworth becomes the first death row inmate in the United States to be exonerated by DNA evidence.
- 2002 Governor Parris Glendening declares a moratorium on executions until a death penalty study regarding racial bias is completed and the legislature has had an opportunity to review its findings. The moratorium was lifted a year later by the new governor, Robert Ehrlich.
- 2003 A governor-commissioned death penalty study conducted at the University of Maryland finds that race and geography play a significant role in who faces a death sentence in the state. The study, one of the most comprehensive official reviews on race and the death penalty, concluded that defendants who killed white victims were more likely to be sentenced to death than those who killed black victims.
- 2008 A study released by the Urban Institute found that Maryland taxpayers are paying \$186 million dollars for a system that has resulted in five executions since 1978, when the state reenacted the death penalty. The study estimates that the average cost to Maryland taxpayers for reaching a single death sentence is \$3 million - \$1.9 million more than the cost of a non-death penalty case.
- In December, the Maryland Commission on Capital Punishment releases its final report and recommends abolition of the death penalty. After an extensive study, the Commission found that racial and jurisdictional disparities exist in Maryland's capital sentencing system, that the costs associated with cases in which a death sentence is sought are substantially higher than the costs associated with cases in which a sentence of life without parole is sought, and that there is no persuasive evidence that the death penalty deters homicides in Maryland.
- 2009 Maryland institutes the tightest death penalty restrictions in the country. The law limits capital cases to those with biological or DNA evidence of guilt, a videotaped confession, or a videotape linking the defendant to a homicide.

RECENT NATIONAL TRENDS

Death Sentences

- The number of new death sentences in 2012 was the second lowest since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. Seventy-eight (78) people were sentenced to death in 2012, representing a 75% decline since 1996 when there were 315 sentences.
- Death sentences were primarily imposed in a few areas, with four states (Florida, California, Texas, and Pennsylvania) accounting for almost two-thirds (65%) of the nation's death sentences.

DEATH PENALTY STATISTICS	2012	2010	2000
Executions	43	46	85
New Inmates Under Death Sentence	78	104	224
Death Row population (as of Oct. 1, 2012)	3,146	3,242	3,703

Executions

- Executions have steadily decreased nationwide, with 43 in 2012 and in 2011, representing a 56% decline since 1999, when there were 98.
- Only nine states carried out executions last year, equaling the fewest number of states to do so in 20 years.
- Just four states (Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Arizona) were responsible for over three-quarters of executions nationwide.

Other Trends

- Over the last decade, the total population of state and federal death rows has decreased significantly, from 3,703 inmates in 2000 to 3,146 as of October 2012.
- Prior to 2007, no legislature had abolished the death penalty since the 1960s. Six states in the last six years have abandoned capital punishment. Maryland (2013), Connecticut (2012), Illinois (2011), New Mexico (2009) and New Jersey (2007) all voted to abolish the death penalty. New York's death penalty law was declared unconstitutional in 2004, and the last inmate was removed from death row in 2007.
- Other states, including Colorado, Delaware, and Nebraska are considering efforts to abolish the death penalty in the future.