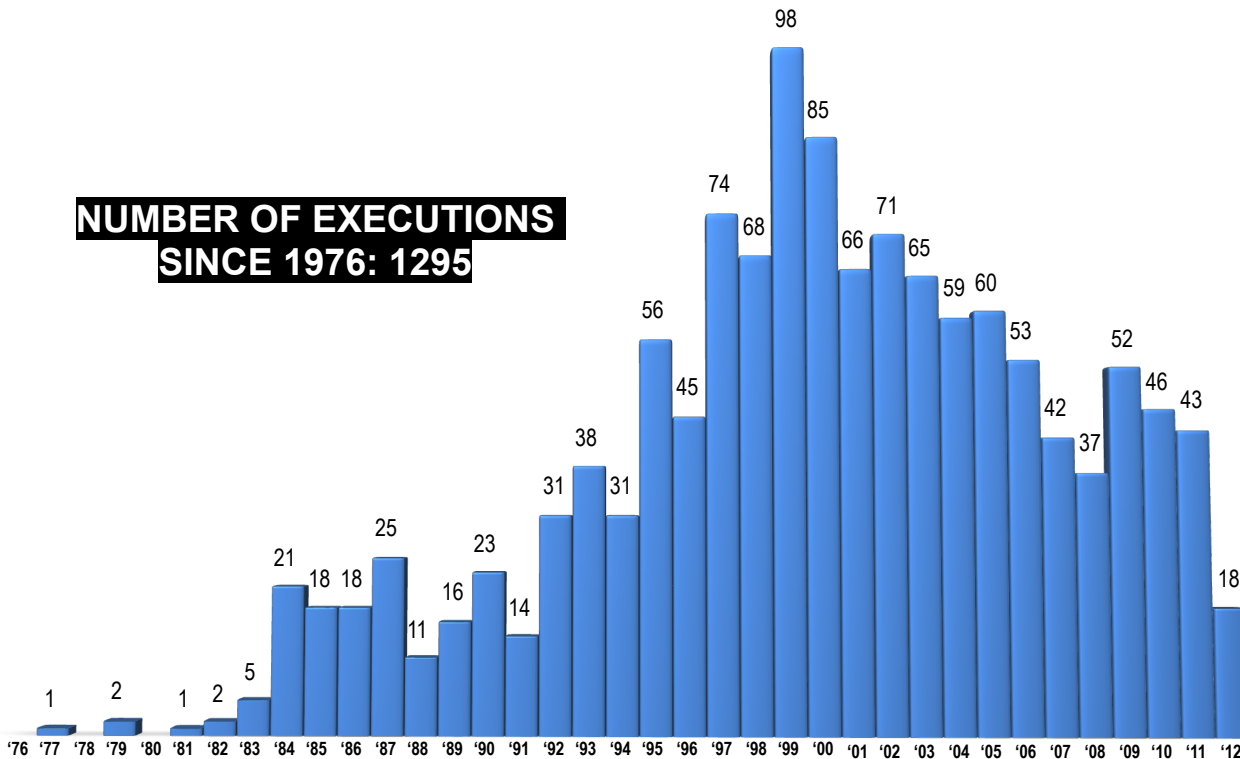


DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER

Facts about the Death Penalty

Updated: May 2, 2012

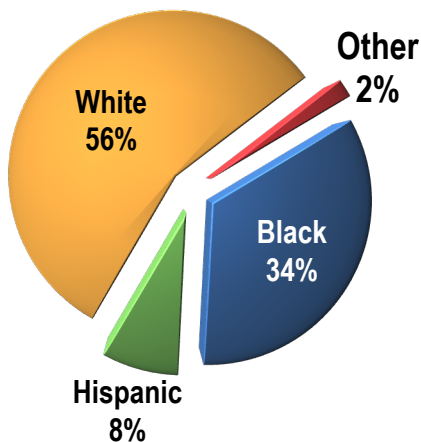
NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS SINCE 1976: 1295



DEATH PENALTY STATES (33)

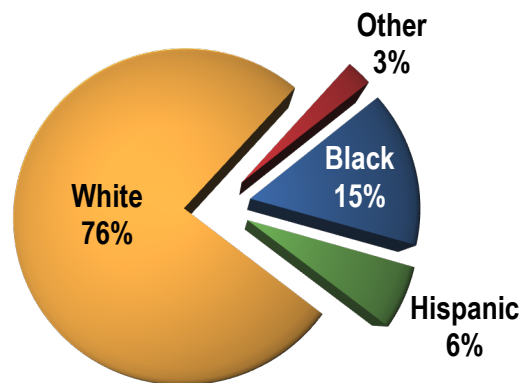
- Alabama
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wyoming
- U.S. Gov't
- U.S. Military

Race of Defendants Executed



- White: 728
- Black: 444
- Hispanic: 99
- Other: 24

Race of Victims in Death Penalty Cases



Over 75% of the murder victims in cases resulting in an execution were white, even though nationally only 50% of murder victims generally are white.

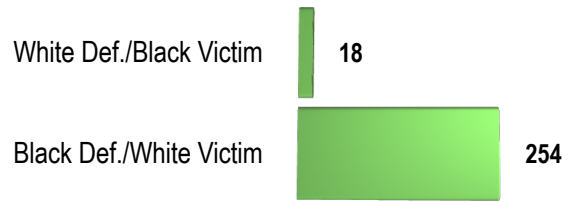
NON-DEATH PENALTY STATES (17)

- Alaska
 - Connecticut*
 - Hawaii
 - Illinois
 - Iowa
 - Maine
 - Massachusetts
 - Michigan
 - Minnesota
 - New Jersey
 - New Mexico*
 - New York
 - North Dakota
 - Rhode Island
 - Vermont
 - West Virginia
 - Wisconsin
 - District of Columbia
- *Inmates remain on death row.

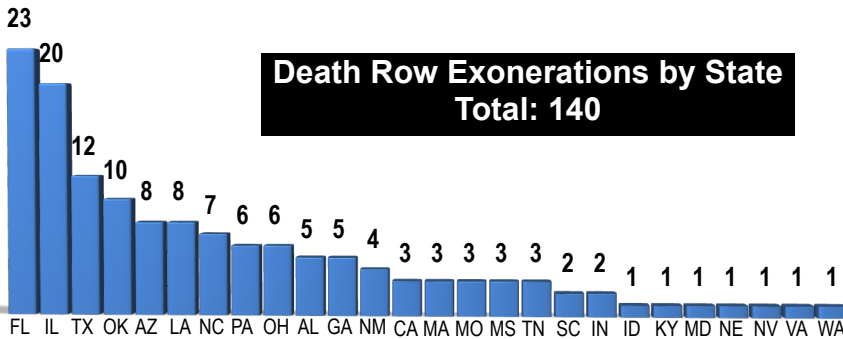
RECENT STUDIES ON RACE

- In Louisiana, the odds of a death sentence were 97% higher for those whose victim was white than for those whose victim was black. (Pierce & Radelet, Louisiana Law Review, 2011).
- A study in California found that those who killed whites were over 3 times more likely to be sentenced to death than those who killed blacks and over 4 times more likely than those who killed Latinos. (Pierce & Radelet, Santa Clara Law Review, 2005).
- A comprehensive study of the death penalty in North Carolina found that the odds of receiving a death sentence rose by 3.5 times among those defendants whose victims were white. (Prof. Jack Boger and Dr. Isaac Unah, University of North Carolina, 2001).
- In 96% of states where there have been reviews of race and the death penalty, there was a pattern of either race-of-victim or race-of-defendant discrimination, or both. (Prof. Baldus report to the ABA, 1998).
- 98% of the chief district attorneys in death penalty states are white; only 1% are black. (Prof. Jeffrey Pokorak, Cornell Law Review, 1998).

Persons Executed for Interracial Murders

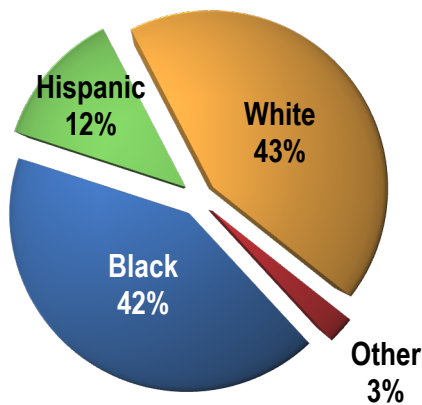


INNOCENCE



- Since 1973, over 130 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence. (Staff Report, House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil & Constitutional Rights, Oct. 1993, with updates from DPIC).
- From 1973-1999, there was an average of 3 exonerations per year. From 2000-2011, there has been an average of 5 exonerations per year.

DEATH ROW INMATES BY RACE



DEATH ROW INMATES BY STATE: January 1, 2012

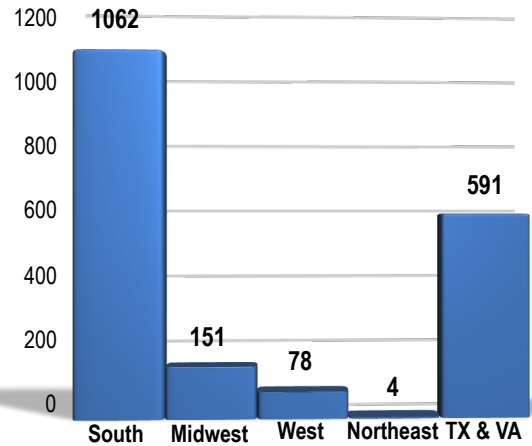
California	723	U.S. Gov't	60	Connecticut	11
Florida	402	S. Carolina	58	Kansas	10
Texas	312	Mississippi	56	Utah	9
Pennsylvania	211	Missouri	47	Washington	9
Alabama	202	Arkansas	40	U.S. Military	6
N. Carolina	166	Oregon	37	Maryland	5
Ohio	151	Kentucky	35	Colorado	4
Arizona	153	Delaware	19	S. Dakota	4
Georgia	99	Idaho	14	Montana	2
Louisiana	89	Indiana	14	New Mexico	2
Tennessee	88	Virginia	12	Wyoming	1
Nevada	80	Nebraska	11	N. Hampshire	1
Oklahoma	70				
			TOTAL: 3,189		

Race of Death Row Inmates and Death Row Inmates by State Source: NAACP Legal Defense Fund, "Death Row USA" (January 1, 2012). When added, the total number of death row inmates by state is slightly higher than the given total because some prisoners are sentenced to death in more than one state.

NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS BY STATE SINCE 1976

	Total	2011	2012		Total	2011	2012
Texas	482	14	5	Nevada	12	0	0
Virginia	109	1	0	Utah	7	0	0
Oklahoma	99	2	3	Tennessee	6	0	0
Florida	73	2	2	Maryland	5	0	0
Missouri	68	1	0	Washington	5	0	0
Alabama	55	6	0	Nebraska	3	0	0
Georgia	52	4	0	Pennsylvania	3	0	0
Ohio	47	5	1	Kentucky	3	0	0
North Carolina	43	0	0	Montana	3	0	0
South Carolina	43	1	0	U.S. Gov't	3	0	0
Arizona	31	4	3	Oregon	2	0	0
Louisiana	28	0	0	Idaho	2	1	0
Arkansas	27	0	0	Connecticut	1	0	0
Indiana	20	0	0	New Mexico	1	0	0
Mississippi	18	2	3	Colorado	1	0	0
Delaware	16	1	1	Wyoming	1	0	0
California	13	0	0	South Dakota	1	0	0
Illinois	12	0	0				

EXECUTIONS BY REGION*



*Federal executions are listed in the region in which the crime was committed.

DEATH SENTENCING

The number of death sentences per year has dropped dramatically since 1999.

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Sentence	312	315	266	294	277	224	158	165	151	139	139	125	120	121	118	104	78*

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics: "Capital Punishment, 2010." *Projected, based on DPIC's research.

MENTAL DISABILITIES

- **Intellectual Disabilities:** In 2002, the Supreme Court held in *Atkins v. Virginia* that it is unconstitutional to execute defendants with 'mental retardation.'
- **Mental Illness:** The American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and the American Bar Association have endorsed resolutions calling for an exemption of the severely mentally ill.

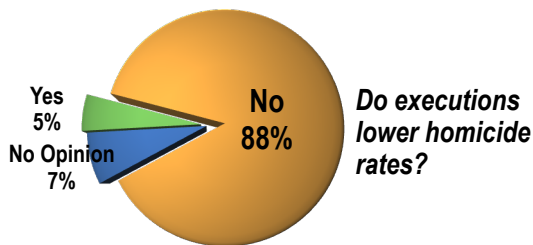
JUVENILES

- In 2005, the Supreme Court in *Roper v. Simmons* struck down the death penalty for juveniles. 22 defendants had been executed for crimes committed as juveniles since 1976.

WOMEN

- There were 62 women on death row as of January 1, 2012. This constitutes less than 2% of the total death row population. 12 women have been executed since 1976. (NAACP Legal Defense Fund, January 1, 2012).

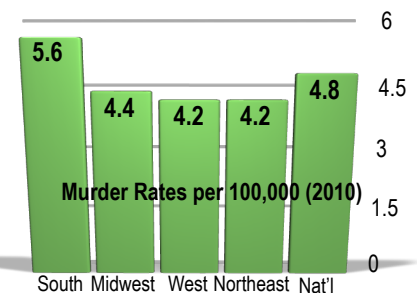
DETERRENCE



- According to a survey of the former and present presidents of the country's top academic criminological societies, 88% of these experts rejected the notion that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder. (Radelet & Lacock, 2009)

- A report by the National Research Council, titled *Deterrence and the Death Penalty*, stated that studies claiming that the death penalty has a deterrent effect on murder rates are "fundamentally flawed" and should not be used when making policy decisions (2012).

- Consistent with previous years, the 2010 FBI Uniform Crime Report showed that **the South had the highest murder rate. The South accounts for over 80% of executions.** The Northeast, which has less than 1% of all executions, tied with the West for the lowest murder rate.



EXECUTIONS SINCE 1976 BY METHOD USED

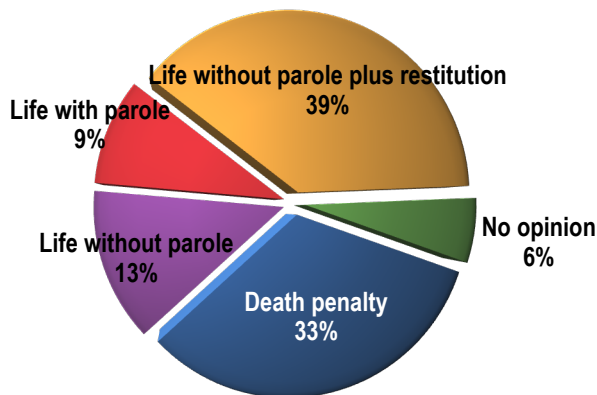
1121	Lethal Injection	35 states plus the US government use lethal injection as their primary method. Some states utilizing lethal injection have other methods available as backups. Though New Mexico abolished the death penalty in 2009, the act was not retroactive, leaving two prisoners on death row and its lethal injection protocol intact.
157	Electrocution	
11	Gas Chamber	
3	Hanging	
3	Firing Squad	

FINANCIAL FACTS ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY

- A new study in California revealed that the cost of the death penalty in the state has been over \$4 billion since 1978. Study considered pre-trial and trial costs, costs of automatic appeals and state habeas corpus petitions, costs of federal habeas corpus appeals, and costs of incarceration on death row. (Alarcon & Mitchell, 2011).
- In Maryland, an average death penalty case resulting in a death sentence costs approximately \$3 million. The eventual costs to Maryland taxpayers for cases pursued 1978-1999 will be \$186 million. Five executions have resulted. (Urban Institute, 2008).
- In Kansas, the costs of capital cases are 70% more expensive than comparable non-capital cases, including the costs of incarceration. (Kansas Performance Audit Report, December 2003).
- Enforcing the death penalty costs Florida \$51 million a year above what it would cost to punish all first-degree murderers with life in prison without parole. Based on the 44 executions Florida had carried out since 1976, that amounts to a cost of \$24 million for each execution. (Palm Beach Post, January 4, 2000).
- The most comprehensive study in the country found that the death penalty costs North Carolina \$2.16 million per execution over the costs of sentencing murderers to life imprisonment. The majority of those costs occur at the trial level. (Duke University, May 1993).
- In Texas, a death penalty case costs an average of \$2.3 million, about three times the cost of imprisoning someone in a single cell at the highest security level for 40 years. (Dallas Morning News, March 8, 1992).

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE DEATH PENALTY

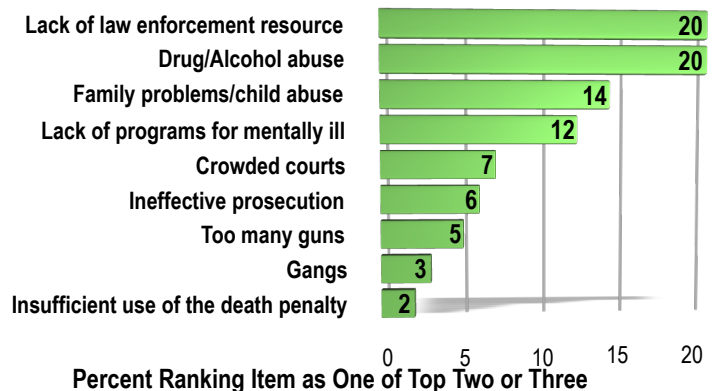
Support for Alternatives to the Death Penalty



- A 2010 poll by Lake Research Partners found that **a clear majority of voters (61%) would choose a punishment other than the death penalty for murder.**

- A 2009 poll commissioned by DPIC found police chiefs ranked the death penalty **last** among ways to reduce violent crime. The police chiefs also considered the death penalty the least efficient use of taxpayers' money.

What Interferes with Effective Law Enforcement?



The Death Penalty Information Center has available more extensive reports on a variety of issues, including:

- "The Death Penalty in 2011: Year-End Report" (December 2011)
- "Struck By Lightning: The Continuing Arbitrariness of the Death Penalty 35 Years After Its Reinstatement in 1976" (June 2011)
- "The Death Penalty in 2010: A Year End Report" (December 2010)
- "Smart on Crime: Reconsidering the Death Penalty in a Time of Economic Crisis" (October 2009)
- "A Crisis of Confidence: Americans' Doubts About the Death Penalty" (2007)
- "Blind Justice: Juries Deciding Life and Death with Only Half the Truth" (2005)
- "Innocence and the Crisis in the American Death Penalty" (2004)
- "International Perspectives on the Death Penalty: A Costly Isolation for the U.S." (1999)
- "The Death Penalty in Black & White: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides" (1998)
- "Innocence and the Death Penalty: The Increasing Danger of Executing the Innocent" (1997)