



December 2021, NCJ 302729

Capital Punishment, 2020 – Statistical Tables

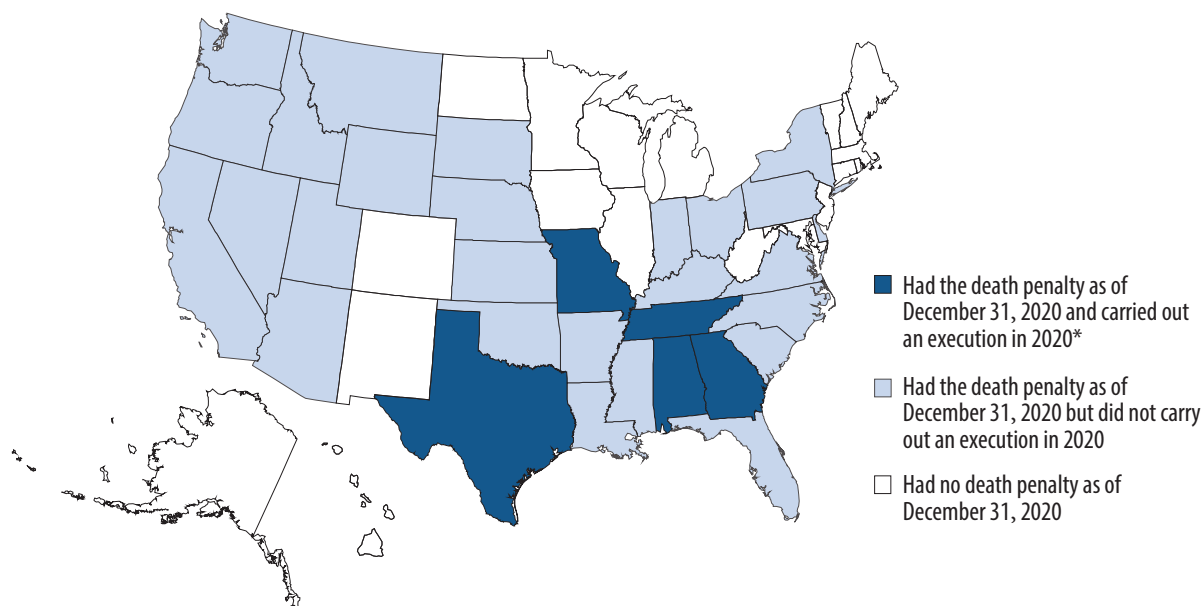
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At yearend 2020, a total of 28 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) held 2,469 prisoners under sentence of death, which was 94 (4%) fewer than at yearend 2019. During 2020, the number of prisoners under sentence of death declined for the twentieth consecutive year. California (28%), Florida (14%), and Texas (8%) held half of the prisoners under sentence of death in the United States on December 31, 2020. The BOP held 51 prisoners under sentence of death at yearend.

Five states and the BOP executed a total of 17 prisoners in 2020. The BOP executed 10 prisoners, which accounted for 59% of the executions carried out in 2020.

This report presents statistics on persons who were under sentence of death in 2020, state and federal death penalty laws in 2020, and historical trends in executions. At yearend 2020, a total of 31 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty ([map 1](#)).

MAP 1
States with and without death penalty statutes, yearend 2020



Note: See table 2 for details on states that authorized the death penalty.

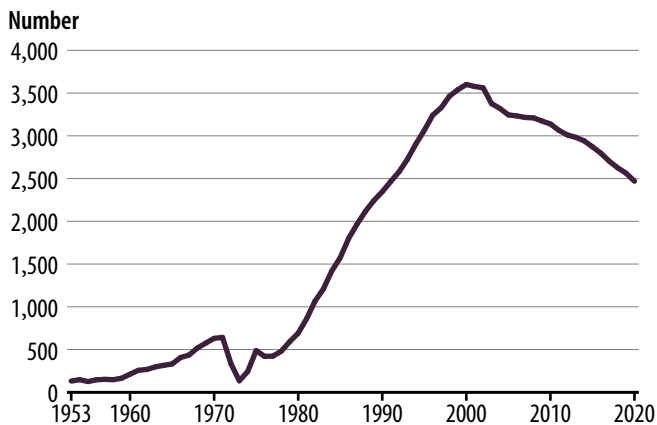
*Not shown: Federal Bureau of Prisons, which carried out 10 executions in 2020. See table 1 for executions by jurisdiction.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

Highlights

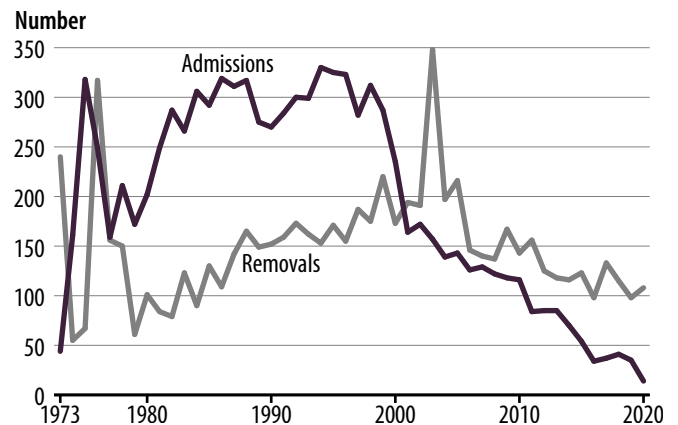
- Colorado repealed the death penalty provision of its first-degree murder statute in July 2020, and the governor commuted the death sentences of the three prisoners under previously imposed sentences of death to life without the possibility of parole.
- Seven states received a total of 14 prisoners under sentence of death in 2020, the smallest annual number reported since the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated capital punishment statutes in several states in 1972 (see *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)).
- Nineteen states removed a total of 91 prisoners from under sentence of death by means other than execution in 2020.
- During 2020, 17 states and the BOP reported a decrease in the number of prisoners held under sentence of death, 16 states reported no change, and no states reported an increase in the number of prisoners held under sentence of death.
- The largest declines in the number of prisoners under sentence of death in 2020 occurred in California (down 24 prisoners) and Pennsylvania (down 14).
- The majority (98%) of prisoners under sentence of death were male.
- At yearend 2020, about 56% of prisoners under sentence of death were white and 41% were black.
- Among prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2020 with a known ethnicity, 15% were Hispanic.
- Prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2020 had been on death row for an average of 19.4 years.
- Prisoners executed during 2020 had been on death row for an average of 18.9 years.

FIGURE 1
Number of persons under sentence of death,
1953–2020



Note: Data on the number of prisoners under sentence of death at yearend have been collected since 1953. See appendix table 2 for counts.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1953–2020.

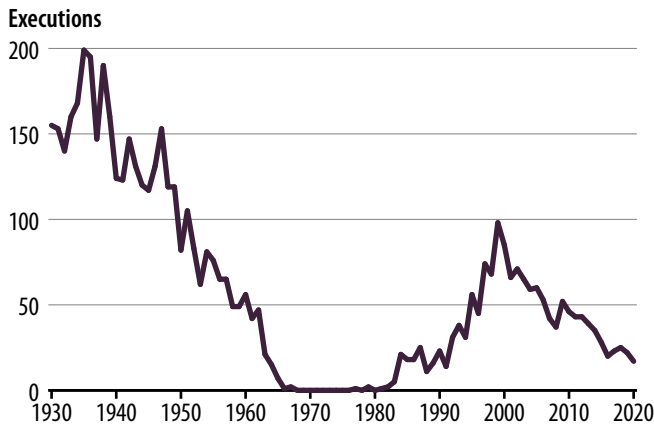
FIGURE 2
Admissions to and removals from under sentence of
death, 1973–2020



Note: Removals can be due to any cause, including execution, other death, or appeal. See appendix table 3 for counts.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1973–2020.

FIGURE 3

Number of persons executed in the United States, 1930–2020

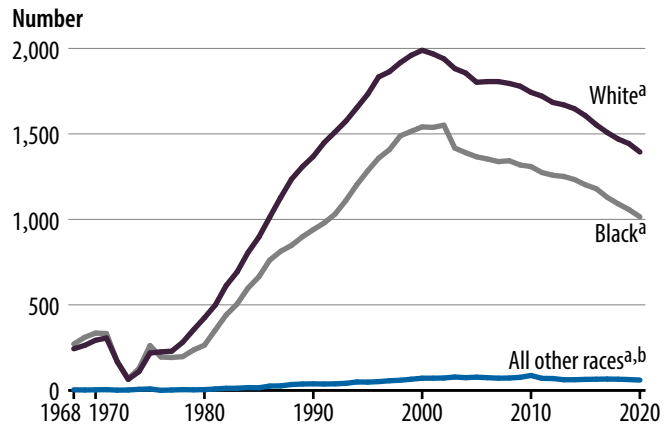


Note: Excludes 160 executions carried out by military authorities from 1930 to 1961. See appendix table 4 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1930–2020.

FIGURE 4

Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2020



Note: Data on Hispanic origin was not collected prior to 1977. See appendix table 5 for counts.

^aIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^bIncludes American Indians or Alaska Natives; Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders; and persons for whom only ethnicity was identified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968–2020.

Terms and definitions

Aggravating factor—Specific elements of a crime defined by statute. When present, these factors may allow a jury to impose a death sentence for a person convicted of a capital offense. Sometimes these are also called aggravating circumstances.

Capital conviction—A formal declaration that a defendant is guilty of a capital offense, made by the verdict of a jury, the decision of a judge or a panel of judges, or a guilty plea by the defendant in a court of law.

Capital offense—A criminal offense punishable by death. Offenses that are eligible for a death sentence are defined by statute in each jurisdiction that authorizes capital punishment. The most common is first-degree murder accompanied by at least one aggravating factor.

Capital punishment—The process of sentencing convicted offenders to death for the most serious crimes and carrying out that sentence. The specific offenses and circumstances that determine whether a crime is eligible for a death sentence are defined by statute and are prescribed by the U.S. Congress or a state legislature.

Capital statute—State or federal laws dictating specific crimes that are eligible for a death sentence and specific procedures to be followed in carrying out such sentences.

Civil authority—The state or federal entity responsible for implementing and enforcing capital punishment laws, excluding military authorities.

Commutation—Reduction of a death sentence by the president (federal) or by a governor or a board of advisors empaneled to review sentences (state). Criteria for granting a commutation vary by state. The new sentence can be a life sentence or a term of years.

Death row—A slang term that originally referred to the area of a prison in which prisoners under sentence of death were housed. Usage of the term “death row” continues despite the fact that many states do not maintain a separate unit or facility for prisoners under sentence of death.

Received under sentence of death—The admission of a person to prison after being sentenced to death by a court.

Removal from under sentence of death—The removal of a prisoner from the count of persons under sentence of death because the sentence is no longer in effect. A prisoner can be relieved of a death sentence by several methods: execution, death by causes other than execution, commutation, or an overturned capital conviction or sentence.

Sentence of death—A sentence imposed by a court for a capital offense that authorizes the state to execute a convicted offender.

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Status of the death penalty in 2020

As of December 31, 2020, a total of 31 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty (tables 1, 2, and 3). While the Washington Supreme Court declared the state death penalty statute unconstitutional, as applied, on October 11, 2018 (*State v. Gregory*, 192 Wash. 2d 1, 427 P.3d 621 (2018)), the Washington state legislature has neither revised nor repealed the statute.

In 2019, New Hampshire repealed the death penalty (HB 455), effective May 30, 2019. The repeal did not affect previously imposed death sentences, and as of

December 31, 2020, New Hampshire held one male prisoner under sentence of death.

In 2020, the Colorado legislature repealed the death penalty for first-degree murder charged on or after July 1, 2020 (Senate Bill 20-100). The bill, which was signed into law on March 23, 2020, specified that the repeal was prospective and did not affect the sentences of the three male prisoners under previously imposed death sentences. However, the death sentences for the three prisoners were commuted to life without the possibility of parole by the governor on the same date the repeal bill was enacted.

TABLE 1
Status of the death penalty, December 31, 2020

Executions in 2020		Number of prisoners under sentence of death		Jurisdictions with no death penalty (20)
Federal Bureau of Prisons	10	California	703	Alaska
Texas	3	Florida	337	Colorado
Missouri	1	Texas	206	Connecticut
Alabama	1	Alabama	170	District of Columbia
Georgia	1	Ohio	137	Hawaii
Tennessee	1	North Carolina	137	Illinois
		Pennsylvania	118	Iowa
		Arizona	116	Maine
		Nevada	67	Maryland
		Louisiana	66	Massachusetts
		Federal Bureau of Prisons	51	Michigan
		Tennessee	50	Minnesota
		Oklahoma	45	New Hampshire
		Georgia	40	New Jersey
		Mississippi	40	New Mexico
		South Carolina	36	North Dakota
		Arkansas	29	Rhode Island
		Kentucky	26	Vermont
		Oregon	24	West Virginia
		Missouri	20	Wisconsin
		Nebraska	12	
		Kansas	10	
		Idaho	8	
		Indiana	8	
		Utah	7	
		Virginia	2	
		Montana	2	
		New Hampshire ^a	1	
		South Dakota	1	
		New York	0	
		Delaware	0	
		Washington	0	
		Wyoming	0	
Total	17	Total ^b	2,469	

Note: While the Washington Supreme Court has declared the state's death penalty statute unconstitutional as applied (*State v. Gregory*, 192 Wash. 2d 1, 427 P.3d 621 (2018)), no legislative action has been taken to revise or repeal the statute. The state continues to report that the death penalty is authorized. See table 2 for information on statutes.

^aNew Hampshire repealed its death penalty statute, effective May 30, 2019. As of December 31, 2020, one male prisoner remained under a previously imposed sentence of death.

^bNew York, Delaware, Washington, and Wyoming held no inmates under sentence of death on December 31, 2020.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 2**Capital offenses, by state, 2020**

State	Offense
Alabama	Intentional murder (Ala. Stat. Ann. § 13A-5-40(a)(1)-(21)) with 14 aggravating factors (Ala. Stat. Ann. § 13A-5-49).
Arizona	First-degree murder, including premeditated murder and felony murder, accompanied by at least 1 of 10 aggravating factors (A.R.S. § 13-703(F)).
Arkansas	Capital murder (Ark. Code Ann. § 5-10-101) with a finding of at least 1 of 10 aggravating circumstances; and treason (Ark. Code Ann. § 5-51-201).
California	First-degree murder with special circumstances; military sabotage; train wreck causing death; treason; perjury resulting in the execution of an innocent person; and fatal assault by a prisoner serving a life sentence.
Delaware ^a	First-degree murder (11 Del. C. § 636) with at least 1 statutory aggravating circumstance (11 Del. C. § 4209).
Florida	First-degree murder with aggravating factors; felony murder; and capital drug-trafficking felonies.
Georgia	Murder with aggravating circumstances; rape, armed robbery, or kidnapping with bodily injury or ransom when the victim dies; aircraft hijacking; and treason (O.C.G.A. § 17-10-30).
Idaho	First-degree murder with aggravating factors; first-degree kidnapping; and perjury resulting in the execution of an innocent person.
Indiana	Murder with 1 or more of 18 aggravating circumstances (I.C. 35-50-2-9).
Kansas	Intentional and premeditated killing of a person in 1 or more of 7 different circumstances (K.S.A. 21-5401).
Kentucky	Capital murder with the presence of at least 1 statutory aggravating circumstance; and capital kidnapping (K.R.S. 532.025).
Louisiana	First-degree murder (La. R.S. 14:30) with aggravating circumstances (La. C.Cr.P. 905.4); and treason (La. R.S. 14:113).
Mississippi	Capital murder with aggravating circumstances (Miss. Code Ann. § 97-3-19(2)); and aircraft piracy (Miss. Code Ann. § 97-25-55(1)).
Missouri	First-degree murder with at least 1 statutory aggravating circumstance (565.020 R.S.M.O. 2000).
Montana	Deliberate homicide, including felony murder, with 1 of 9 aggravating circumstances (Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-303); aggravated kidnapping resulting in death of victim or rescuer; attempted deliberate homicide; aggravated assault or kidnapping while in detention; and capital sexual intercourse without consent (Mont. Code Ann. § 45-5-503).
Nebraska	First-degree murder with a finding of 1 or more statutory aggravating circumstances.
Nevada	First-degree murder with at least 1 of 15 aggravating circumstances (N.R.S. 200.030, 200.033, 200.035).
New York ^b	First-degree murder with 1 of 13 aggravating factors (NY Penal Law § 125.27).
North Carolina	First-degree murder (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-17) with the finding of at least 1 of 11 statutory aggravating circumstances (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 15A-2000).
Ohio	Aggravated murder with at least 1 of 10 aggravating circumstances (O.R.C. 2903.01, 2929.02, 2929.04).
Oklahoma	First-degree murder (21 O.S. § 701.7) in conjunction with a finding of at least 1 of 8 statutorily defined aggravating circumstances (21 O.S. § 701.12).
Oregon	Aggravated murder (O.R.S. 163.095).
Pennsylvania	First-degree murder (18 Pa.C.S.A. § 2502(a)) with 18 aggravating circumstances (42 Pa.C.S.A. § 9711).
South Carolina	Murder with at least 1 of 12 aggravating circumstances (S.C. Code § 16-3-20(C)(a)).
South Dakota	First-degree murder (S.D.C.L. 22-16-4) with 1 of 10 aggravating circumstances (S.D.C.L. 23A-27A-1).
Tennessee	First-degree murder (Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-202) with 1 of 18 aggravating circumstances (Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-204).
Texas	Capital murder, defined as criminal homicide with 1 of 9 statutory aggravators (Tex. Penal Code § 19.03).
Utah	Aggravated murder (Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-202).
Virginia	Capital murder, defined as the willful, deliberate, and premeditated murder accompanied by 1 of 15 aggravating circumstances (VA Code § 18.2-31(A)(1-15)).
Washington ^c	Aggravated first-degree murder.
Wyoming	First-degree murder, including premeditated murder and murder during the commission of sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor, arson, robbery, burglary, escape, resisting arrest, kidnapping, or abuse of a minor younger than age 16 (W.S.A. § 6-2-101(a)).

Note: New Hampshire repealed its death penalty effective May 30, 2019. One man remains under a previously imposed sentence of death.

^aThe Delaware Supreme Court held that a portion of Delaware's death penalty sentencing statute (11 Del. C. § 4209) was unconstitutional (*Rauf v. State*, 145 A.3d 430 (Del. 2016)). No legislative action has been taken to amend the statute. As a result, capital cases are no longer pursued in Delaware.

^bThe New York Court of Appeals held that a portion of New York's death penalty sentencing statute (C.P.L. 400.27) was unconstitutional (*People v. Taylor*, 9 N.Y.3d 129 (2007)). No legislative action has been taken to amend the statute. As a result, capital cases are no longer pursued in New York.

^cThe Washington Supreme Court has declared the state's death penalty statute unconstitutional as applied (*State v. Gregory*, 192 Wash. 2d 1, 427 P.3d 621 (2018)). No legislative action has been taken to revise or repeal the statute.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 3
Federal capital offenses, 2020

Federal statute	Offense
8 U.S.C. § 1342	Murder related to the smuggling of aliens.
18 U.S.C. §§ 32–34	Destruction of aircraft, motor vehicles, or related facilities resulting in death.
18 U.S.C. § 36	Murder committed during a drug-related drive-by shooting.
18 U.S.C. § 37	Murder committed at an airport serving international civil aviation.
18 U.S.C. § 115(b)(3) [by cross-reference to 18 U.S.C. § 1111]	Retaliatory murder of a member of the immediate family of law enforcement officials.
18 U.S.C. §§ 241, 242, 245, 247	Civil rights offenses resulting in death.
18 U.S.C. § 351 [by cross-reference to 18 U.S.C. § 1111]	Murder of a member of Congress, an important executive official, or a U.S. Supreme Court justice.
18 U.S.C. § 794	Espionage.
18 U.S.C. §§ 844(d), (f), (i)	Death resulting from offenses involving transportation of explosives, destruction of government property, or destruction of property related to foreign or interstate commerce.
18 U.S.C. § 924(i)	Murder committed by the use of a firearm during a crime of violence or a drug-trafficking crime.
18 U.S.C. § 930	Murder committed in a federal government facility.
18 U.S.C. § 1091	Genocide.
18 U.S.C. § 1111	First-degree murder.
18 U.S.C. § 1114	Murder of a federal judge or law enforcement official.
18 U.S.C. § 1116	Murder of a foreign official.
18 U.S.C. § 1118	Murder by a federal prisoner.
18 U.S.C. § 1119	Murder of a U.S. national in a foreign country.
18 U.S.C. § 1120	Murder by an escaped federal prisoner already sentenced to life imprisonment.
18 U.S.C. § 1121	Murder of a state or local law enforcement official or other person aiding in a federal investigation; or murder of a state correctional officer.
18 U.S.C. § 1201	Murder during a kidnapping.
18 U.S.C. § 1203	Murder during a hostage taking.
18 U.S.C. § 1503	Murder of a court officer or juror.
18 U.S.C. § 1512	Murder with the intent of preventing testimony by a witness, a victim, or an informant.
18 U.S.C. § 1513	Retaliatory murder of a witness, a victim, or an informant.
18 U.S.C. § 1716	Mailing of injurious articles with intent to kill or resulting in death.
18 U.S.C. § 1751 [by cross-reference to 18 U.S.C. § 1111]	Assassination or kidnapping resulting in the death of the U.S. president or U.S. vice president.
18 U.S.C. § 1958	Murder for hire.
18 U.S.C. § 1959	Murder involved in a racketeering offense.
18 U.S.C. § 1992	Willful wrecking of a train resulting in death.
18 U.S.C. § 2113	Murder or kidnapping related to bank robbery.
18 U.S.C. § 2119	Murder related to a carjacking.
18 U.S.C. § 2245	Murder related to rape or child molestation.
18 U.S.C. § 2251	Murder related to sexual exploitation of children.
18 U.S.C. § 2280	Murder committed during an offense against maritime navigation.
18 U.S.C. § 2281	Murder committed during an offense against a maritime fixed platform.
18 U.S.C. § 2332	Terrorist murder of a U.S. national in another country.
18 U.S.C. § 2332a	Murder by the use of a weapon of mass destruction.
18 U.S.C. § 2340	Murder involving torture.
18 U.S.C. § 2381	Treason.
21 U.S.C. § 848(e)	Murder related to a continuing criminal enterprise or related murder of a federal, state, or local law enforcement officer.
49 U.S.C. §§ 1472–1473	Death resulting from aircraft hijacking.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

Authorized methods of execution in 2020

Methods of execution are defined by statute and vary by jurisdiction. In 2020, all 31 states with a death penalty statute authorized lethal injection as a method of execution (**table 4**). Fifteen states also authorized an alternative method of execution: electrocution (9 states), lethal gas (3), firing squad (3), nitrogen hypoxia (3), and hanging (2). In states that authorized multiple methods of execution, the condemned prisoner usually selected the method. Five states (Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Utah) stipulated which method must be used depending on the date of either the offense or sentencing. Six states

authorized alternative methods if lethal injection was ruled to be unconstitutional: Arkansas authorized electrocution; Delaware authorized hanging; Mississippi and Oklahoma authorized electrocution, firing squad, or nitrogen hypoxia; Utah authorized firing squad; and Wyoming authorized lethal gas.

Federal prisoners are executed by lethal injection, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Part 26. For offenses prosecuted under the federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the law of the state in which the conviction took place determines the method used (18 U.S.C. § 3596).

Advance count of executions in 2021

The Bureau of Justice Statistics gathers information following each execution to provide the most recent data on capital punishment in advance of the annual data collection. The data include the date, jurisdiction, and method of execution and the race and ethnicity (Hispanic origin) of each person executed.

From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, five states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) executed 11 prisoners (**figure 5**), which was 6 fewer than the number executed in 2020. The BOP and Texas executed the largest number of prisoners (three each) during this period.

All of the executions in 2021 were by lethal injection. Six of the prisoners executed were black, and five were white. One female was executed (by the BOP) during this period.

Complete data for 2021 will appear in *Capital Punishment, 2021*. This annual report will consist of data collected from state and federal correctional agencies. The report will cover all persons under sentence of death on December 31, 2021, as well as those removed from under sentence of death during the year.

FIGURE 5

Advance count of executions, January 1, 2021–December 31, 2021



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 4**Authorized method of execution, by state, 2020**

Jurisdiction	Lethal injection ^a	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging ^a	Firing squad	Nitrogen hypoxia
Total	31	9	3	2	3	3
Alabama	■	■				■
Arizona ^b	■		■			
Arkansas ^c	■	■				
California ^d	■					
Delaware ^e	■			■		
Florida	■	■				
Georgia	■					
Idaho	■					
Indiana	■					
Kansas	■					
Kentucky ^f	■	■				
Louisiana	■					
Mississippi ^g	■	■			■	■
Missouri	■		■			
Montana	■					
Nebraska	■					
Nevada	■					
New York	■					
North Carolina	■					
Ohio	■					
Oklahoma ^g	■	■			■	■
Oregon	■					
Pennsylvania	■					
South Carolina	■	■				
South Dakota ^h	■					
Tennessee ⁱ	■	■				
Texas	■					
Utah ^j	■				■	
Virginia	■	■				
Washington	■			■		
Wyoming ^k	■		■			

Note: The method of execution of federal prisoners is lethal injection, pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Part 26. For offenses prosecuted under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the execution method is that of the state in which the conviction took place (18 U.S.C. § 3596).

^aCounts exclude New Hampshire, which repealed the death penalty effective May 30, 2019. The one male prisoner remaining under sentence of death is subject to execution by lethal injection or by hanging if lethal injection cannot be given.

^bAuthorizes lethal injection for persons sentenced after November 23, 1992. Prisoners sentenced before that date may select lethal injection or gas.

^cAuthorizes lethal injection for persons whose offense occurred on or after July 4, 1983 (Act 774 of 1983). Prisoners whose offense occurred before that date may select lethal injection or electrocution. Electrocution is the authorized method if lethal injection is invalidated by an unappealable court order (Ark. Code Ann. § 5-4-617).

^dBoth lethal injection and lethal gas are authorized by statute (Cal. Pen. Code 3604). However, use of lethal gas was invalidated by a federal court (*Fierro v. Terhune*, 147 F.3d 1158, 1160 (9th Cir. 1998)).

^eAuthorizes hanging if lethal injection is held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction.

^fAuthorizes lethal injection for persons sentenced on or after March 31, 1998. Prisoners sentenced before that date may select lethal injection or electrocution.

^gAuthorizes nitrogen hypoxia if lethal injection is held to be unconstitutional, electrocution if both lethal injection and nitrogen hypoxia are held to be unconstitutional, and firing squad if all other methods are held to be unconstitutional.

^hAny person convicted of a capital offense or sentenced to death prior to July 1, 2017 may choose to be executed by lethal injection or in the manner provided by South Dakota law at the time of the person's conviction or sentence.

ⁱAuthorizes lethal injection for persons whose capital offense occurred after December 31, 1998. Prisoners whose offense occurred before that date may select electrocution by written waiver. Electrocution is the authorized method if a court or the commissioner of corrections determines that lethal injection cannot be given. If both methods are ruled unconstitutional, state law allows for the use of any method that is constitutional.

^jAuthorizes firing squad if lethal injection is held unconstitutional. Prisoners who selected execution by firing squad prior to May 3, 2004 may still be entitled to execution by that method.

^kAuthorizes lethal gas if lethal injection is held to be unconstitutional.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 5**Prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2019 and 2020**

Region and jurisdiction	Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/19			Received under sentence of death, 2020			Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2020 ^a			Executed, 2020			Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/20		
	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c
U.S. total	2,563	1,443	1,057	14	8	6	91	46	43	17	11	5	2,469	1,394	1,015
Federal ^d	61	35	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	4	51	30	21
State	2,502	1,408	1,032	14	8	6	91	46	43	7	6	1	2,418	1,364	994
Northeast	133	64	67	1	0	1	15	5	10	0	0	0	119	59	58
New Hampshire	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
New York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	132	64	66	1	0	1	15	5	10	0	0	0	118	59	57
Midwest	194	99	94	0	0	0	5	1	4	1	1	0	188	97	90
Indiana	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	2
Kansas	10	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	3
Missouri	22	15	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	20	13	7
Nebraska	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	9	3
Ohio	141	61	79	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	137	61	75
South Dakota	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
South	1,217	642	558	11	6	5	38	18	18	6	5	1	1,184	625	544
Alabama	175	88	87	0	0	0	4	1	3	1	0	1	170	87	83
Arkansas	30	15	15	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	29	14	15
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	338	212	126	7	4	3	8	5	3	0	0	0	337	211	126
Georgia	44	23	21	0	0	0	3	2	1	1	1	0	40	20	20
Kentucky	27	24	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	26	23	3
Louisiana	68	23	45	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	66	22	44
Mississippi	40	17	22	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	40	17	22
North Carolina	143	58	78	0	0	0	6	0	5	0	0	0	137	58	73
Oklahoma	46	22	20	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	45	23	19
South Carolina	36	17	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	17	19
Tennessee	52	25	26	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	50	23	26
Texas	216	118	94	2	1	1	9	6	3	3	3	0	206	110	92
Virginia	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
West	958	603	313	2	2	0	33	22	11	0	0	0	927	583	302
Arizona	116	89	20	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	116	89	20
California	727	432	264	1	1	0	25	17	8	0	0	0	703	416	256
Colorado	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	0
Montana	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Nevada	69	44	23	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	67	42	23
Oregon	26	23	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	24	21	2
Utah	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	1
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Some counts for yearend 2019 are revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2019 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 300381, BJS, June 2021). The revised counts include 5 prisoners who were either reported late to the National Prisoner Statistics program or were not in the custody of state correctional authorities on December 31, 2019 (4 in California and 1 in Ohio). The revised counts exclude 13 prisoners who were relieved of a death sentence before December 31, 2019 (3 in Oregon; 2 each in Pennsylvania, Florida, Georgia, and Nevada; and 1 each in California and Idaho). Data for December 31, 2019 also include 1 prisoner in Ohio who was erroneously reported as being removed from under sentence of death in a previous year.

^aIncludes 38 deaths from natural causes (17 in California; 4 in Florida; 3 in Ohio; 2 each Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas; and 1 each in Pennsylvania, Missouri, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon), 3 deaths by suicide (1 each in Alabama, Florida, and California), and 1 death from an undetermined cause (California).

^bIncludes American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders.

^cIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^dExcludes persons held under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Armed Forces with a military death sentence for murder.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 6**Demographic characteristics of prisoners under sentence of death, 2020**

Demographic characteristic	Total, 12/31/20	Admissions	Removals
Total	2,469	14	108
Sex			
Male	97.9%	100%	98.1%
Female	2.1	0	1.9
Race			
White ^a	56.5%	57.1%	52.8%
Black ^a	41.1	42.9	44.4
American Indian/ Alaska Native ^a	0.7	0	2.8
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander ^{a,b}	1.7	0	0
Ethnicity^c			
Hispanic	15.3%	0%	15.2%
Non-Hispanic	84.7	100	84.8
Age			
18–19	0%	0%	0%
20–24	0	0	0.9
25–29	1.2	14.3	0.9
30–34	4.4	7.1	0.9
35–39	7.5	21.4	4.6
40–44	12.8	14.3	13.9
45–49	16.3	14.3	15.7
50–54	17.7	14.3	9.3
55–59	15.9	7.1	15.7
60–64	11.9	7.1	13.9
65 or older	12.2	0	24.1
Average age			
Mean	52 yrs.	43 yrs.	55 yrs.
Median	52	41	56
Education^d			
8th grade or less	11.6%	0%	14.8%
9th–11th grade	34.9	66.7	35.2
High school graduate/GED	44.4	33.3	40.9
Any college	9.2	0	9.1
Median education level	12th grade	:	12th grade
Marital status^e			
Married	21.1%	18.2%	27.2%
Divorced/separated	20.0	18.2	14.1
Widowed	3.5	9.1	6.5
Never married	55.4	54.5	52.2

Note: Percentages are based on prisoners for whom data were reported. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. See appendix table 1 for counts.

:Not calculated.

^aIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^bIncludes 36 Asians and 6 Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders at yearend 2020.

^cExcludes 221 prisoners from total yearend and 9 removals because ethnicity was unknown.

^dExcludes 535 prisoners from total yearend, 11 admissions, and 20 removals because education level was unknown.

^eExcludes 365 prisoners from total yearend, 3 admissions, and 16 removals because marital status was unknown.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 7**Female prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2019 and 2020**

Region and jurisdiction	Female prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/19 ^a			Received under sentence of death, 2020			Removed from death row, 2020			Female prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/20		
	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c	Total ^b	White ^c	Black ^c
U.S. total	53	39	11	0	0	0	2	1	0	51	38	11
Federal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
State	52	38	11	0	0	0	2	1	0	50	37	11
Midwest	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Ohio	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
South	23	14	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	22	14	8
Alabama	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1
Florida	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2
Georgia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kentucky	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Louisiana	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mississippi	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
North Carolina	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1
Oklahoma	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Tennessee	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Texas	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	2
West	28	23	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	27	22	3
Arizona	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
California	23	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	18	3
Idaho	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Oregon	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

^aCounts of female prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2019 have been revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2019 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 300381, BJS, June 2021). The revised counts include one prisoner in California who was originally reported as a male prisoner. Following sex reassignment surgery, she is now housed in a female facility and included in the count of female prisoners.

^bIncludes American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders.

^cIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 8**Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, by region and jurisdiction, 2019 and 2020**

Region and jurisdiction	Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/19	Received under sentence of death, 2020	Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2020	Executed, 2020	Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/20
U.S. total	358	0	14	1	343
Federal	7	0	0	0	7
State	351	0	14	1	336
Northeast	14	0	0	0	14
Pennsylvania	14	0	0	0	14
Midwest	10	0	0	0	10
Nebraska	6	0	0	0	6
Ohio	4	0	0	0	4
South	95	0	6	1	88
Alabama	1	0	0	0	1
Florida	22	0	0	0	22
Georgia	2	0	0	0	2
Louisiana	2	0	0	0	2
Mississippi	1	0	0	0	1
North Carolina	3	0	0	0	3
Oklahoma	1	0	0	0	1
South Carolina	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee	1	0	0	0	1
Texas	61	0	6	1	54
West	232	0	8	0	224
Arizona	24	0	1	0	23
California	196	0	7	0	189
Idaho	1	0	0	0	1
Nevada	6	0	0	0	6
Oregon	3	0	0	0	3
Utah	2	0	0	0	2

Note: Counts of Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2019 have been revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2019 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 300381, BJS, June 2021). The revised counts include four prisoners in California who were not included in the counts for December 31, 2019.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 9**Criminal history of prisoners under sentence of death, by race or ethnicity, 2020**

	All prisoners	White ^a	Black ^a	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native ^a	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^a
U.S. total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Prior felony convictions^b						
Yes	67.6%	63.8%	72.8%	65.4%	68.8%	56.8%
No	32.4	36.2	27.2	34.6	31.3	43.2
Prior homicide convictions^c						
Yes	9.5%	9.8%	9.6%	9.1%	5.6%	5.0%
No	90.5	90.2	90.4	90.9	94.4	95.0
Legal status at time of capital offense^d						
Charges pending	7.9%	9.6%	7.0%	5.8%	6.3%	5.6%
On probation	11.4	9.9	11.5	14.8	18.8	13.9
On parole	16.0	13.7	17.9	17.4	25.0	13.9
On escape	1.2	1.7	0.8	1.0	0	0
Incarcerated	4.6	5.9	3.7	3.5	12.5	0
Other status	0.1	0	0.1	0.3	0	0
None	58.8	59.2	58.9	57.2	37.5	66.7
Number of prisoners	2,469	1,062	1,006	343	18	40

Note: Percentages are based on prisoners for whom data were reported. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., "white" refers to non-Hispanic whites and "black" refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

^bExcludes 191 prisoners because data were not reported.

^cExcludes 31 prisoners because data were not reported.

^dExcludes 285 prisoners because data were not reported.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 10**Prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2020, by year of sentencing and jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction	Year of sentence for prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/20													Under sentence of death, 12/31/20	Average years under sentence of death, 12/31/20
	1976-1980	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-1995	1996-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	2011-2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
U.S. total	20	106	208	398	513	360	421	293	30	34	39	33	14	2,469	19.4
Florida	8	18	35	66	58	30	50	47	3	3	7	5	7	337	20.2
California	5	46	88	125	156	76	106	72	10	9	4	5	1	703	21.2
Texas	3	1	7	21	42	43	33	35	4	4	6	5	2	206	16.6
Nevada	1	11	5	10	16	5	8	5	1	4	1	0	0	67	21.9
Arizona	1	4	8	18	10	16	34	16	1	4	2	1	1	116	17.2
Kentucky	1	3	4	4	7	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	26	24.9
Arkansas	1	0	0	7	5	5	4	5	0	0	2	0	0	29	18.0
Ohio	0	6	15	21	26	23	16	15	4	1	4	6	0	137	19.1
Tennessee	0	3	8	8	13	6	6	5	0	0	1	0	0	50	22.2
Pennsylvania	0	2	15	18	24	16	18	21	1	2	0	0	1	118	19.3
Louisiana	0	2	3	10	25	11	7	7	0	0	1	0	0	66	20.1
South Carolina	0	2	1	1	7	11	11	1	0	0	0	2	0	36	17.6
Missouri	0	2	1	0	0	4	8	4	0	0	1	0	0	20	15.6
Alabama	0	1	9	22	37	30	36	24	4	1	3	3	0	170	17.2
Mississippi	0	1	3	6	5	8	7	6	0	1	2	0	1	40	17.4
Utah	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	:
North Carolina	0	1	1	44	47	23	13	4	1	0	0	3	0	137	21.3
Oklahoma	0	1	0	1	6	13	13	6	0	2	1	1	1	45	14.2
Montana	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	:
Georgia	0	0	2	4	12	7	10	4	0	0	0	1	0	40	18.2
Idaho	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	:
Oregon	0	0	0	4	8	3	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	24	19.0
Federal	0	0	0	2	3	16	19	6	0	2	2	1	0	51	13.5
Indiana	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	8	:
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	1	5	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	12	12.5
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	12.4
Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	:
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	:
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	:

Note: For persons sentenced to death more than once, numbers are based on the year of the most recent death sentence.

:Not calculated. A reliable average could not be calculated from fewer than 10 cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 11**Prisoners removed from under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and method of removal, 2020**

Region and jurisdiction	Total	Execution	Other death*	Sentence commuted	Appeals court or higher court overturned—	
					Capital conviction	Death sentence
U.S. total	108	17	42	4	11	34
Federal	10	10	0	0	0	0
State	98	7	42	4	11	34
Northeast	15	0	1	0	2	12
Pennsylvania	15	0	1	0	2	12
Midwest	6	1	4	0	0	1
Missouri	2	1	1	0	0	0
Ohio	4	0	3	0	0	1
South	44	6	15	1	6	16
Alabama	5	1	3	0	1	0
Arkansas	1	0	0	0	0	1
Florida	8	0	5	0	1	2
Georgia	4	1	1	1	1	0
Kentucky	1	0	1	0	0	0
Louisiana	2	0	2	0	0	0
Mississippi	1	0	0	0	1	0
North Carolina	6	0	0	0	1	5
Oklahoma	2	0	0	0	1	1
Tennessee	2	1	1	0	0	0
Texas	12	3	2	0	0	7
West	33	0	22	3	3	5
Arizona	1	0	1	0	0	0
California	25	0	19	0	3	3
Colorado	3	0	0	3	0	0
Nevada	2	0	1	0	0	1
Oregon	2	0	1	0	0	1

*In 2020, other deaths were due to natural causes, suicide, and unspecified causes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 12**Average elapsed time between sentencing and execution, 1977–2020**

Year ^a	Executions	Average elapsed time from sentence to execution ^b
Total	1,529	147 mos.
1977	1	:
1979	2	:
1981	1	:
1982	2	:
1983	5	:
1984	21	74
1985	18	71
1986	18	87
1987	25	86
1988	11	80
1989	16	95
1990	23	95
1991	14	116
1992	31	114
1993	38	113
1994	31	122
1995	56	134
1996	45	125
1997	74	133
1998	68	130
1999	98	143
2000	85	137
2001	66	142
2002	71	127
2003	65	131
2004	59	132
2005	60	147
2006	53	145
2007	42	153
2008	37	139
2009	52	169
2010	46	178
2011	43	198
2012	43	190
2013	39	186
2014	35	218
2015	28	195
2016	20	204
2017	23	243
2018	25	238
2019	22	264
2020	17	227

Note: In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated capital punishment statutes in several states (*Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)), effecting a moratorium on executions. Executions resumed in 1977 when the court found that revisions to statutes in several states had effectively addressed the issues previously held unconstitutional (*Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976) and its companion cases).

:Not calculated. A reliable average cannot be calculated from fewer than 10 cases.

^aNo executions were carried out in 1978 or 1980.

^bAverage time was calculated from the most recent sentencing date.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 13
Number of prisoners executed, by race or ethnicity, 1977–2020

Year ^a	All executions	White ^b	Black ^b	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native ^b	Asian/ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ^b
Total	1,529	860	520	134	9	6
1977	1	1	0	0	0	0
1979	2	2	0	0	0	0
1981	1	1	0	0	0	0
1982	2	1	1	0	0	0
1983	5	4	1	0	0	0
1984	21	13	8	0	0	0
1985	18	9	7	2	0	0
1986	18	9	7	2	0	0
1987	25	11	11	3	0	0
1988	11	6	5	0	0	0
1989	16	6	8	2	0	0
1990	23	16	7	0	0	0
1991	14	6	7	1	0	0
1992	31	17	11	2	1	0
1993	38	19	14	4	1	0
1994	31	19	11	1	0	0
1995	56	31	22	2	0	1
1996	45	29	14	2	0	0
1997	74	41	26	5	1	1
1998	68	40	18	8	1	1
1999	98	53	33	9	1	2
2000	85	43	35	6	1	0
2001	66	45	17	3	1	0
2002	71	47	18	6	0	0
2003	65	41	20	3	1	0
2004	59	36	19	3	0	1
2005	60	38	19	3	0	0
2006	53	25	20	8	0	0
2007	42	22	14	6	0	0
2008	37	17	17	3	0	0
2009	52	24	21	7	0	0
2010	46	28	13	5	0	0
2011	43	22	16	5	0	0
2012	43	25	11	7	0	0
2013	39	23	13	3	0	0
2014	35	12	18	5	0	0
2015	28	11	10	7	0	0
2016	20	16	2	2	0	0
2017	23	13	8	2	0	0
2018	25	14	6	5	0	0
2019	22	14	7	1	0	0
2020	17	10	5	1	1	0

Note: In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated capital punishment statutes in several states (*Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)), effecting a moratorium on executions. Executions resumed in 1977 when the court found that revisions to statutes in several states had effectively addressed the issues previously held unconstitutional (*Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976) and its companion cases).

^aNo executions were carried out in 1978 or 1980.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g. "white" refers to non-Hispanic whites and "black" refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 14
Number of executions, by method and jurisdiction, 1977–2020

Jurisdiction	All methods	Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
U.S. total	1,529	1,349	163	11	3	3
Federal	13	13	0	0	0	0
Alabama	67	43	24	0	0	0
Arizona	37	35	0	2	0	0
Arkansas	31	30	1	0	0	0
California	13	11	0	2	0	0
Colorado	1	1	0	0	0	0
Connecticut	1	1	0	0	0	0
Delaware	16	15	0	0	1	0
Florida	99	55	44	0	0	0
Georgia	76	53	23	0	0	0
Idaho	3	3	0	0	0	0
Illinois	12	12	0	0	0	0
Indiana	20	17	3	0	0	0
Kentucky	3	2	1	0	0	0
Louisiana	28	8	20	0	0	0
Maryland	5	5	0	0	0	0
Mississippi	21	17	0	4	0	0
Missouri	90	90	0	0	0	0
Montana	3	3	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	4	1	3	0	0	0
Nevada	12	11	0	1	0	0
New Mexico	1	1	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	43	41	0	2	0	0
Ohio	56	56	0	0	0	0
Oklahoma	112	112	0	0	0	0
Oregon	2	2	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	3	3	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	43	36	7	0	0	0
South Dakota	5	5	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	13	7	6	0	0	0
Texas	570	570	0	0	0	0
Utah	7	4	0	0	0	3
Virginia	113	82	31	0	0	0
Washington	5	3	0	0	2	0
Wyoming	1	1	0	0	0	0

Note: In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated capital punishment statutes in several states (*Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)), effecting a moratorium on executions. Executions resumed in 1977 when the court found that revisions to statutes in several states had effectively addressed the issues previously held unconstitutional (*Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976) and its companion cases).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

TABLE 15**Number of executions, by jurisdiction, 1930–2020 and 1977–2020**

Jurisdiction	Since 1930	Since 1977
U.S. total	5,388	1,529
Texas	867	570
Georgia	441	76
New York	329	0
North Carolina	306	43
California	305	13
Florida	270	99
Ohio	228	56
Virginia	205	113
South Carolina	205	43
Alabama	202	67
Mississippi	175	21
Oklahoma	172	112
Louisiana	161	28
Pennsylvania	155	3
Missouri	152	90
Arkansas	149	31
Tennessee	106	13
Kentucky	106	3
Illinois	102	12
Arizona	75	37
New Jersey	74	0
Maryland	73	5
Indiana	61	20
Washington	52	5
Colorado	48	1
Federal system	46	13
Nevada	41	12
District of Columbia	40	0
West Virginia	40	0
Delaware	28	16
Massachusetts	27	0
Connecticut	22	1
Oregon	21	2
Utah	20	7
Iowa	18	0
Kansas	15	0
Montana	9	3
New Mexico	9	1
Nebraska	8	4
Wyoming	8	1
South Dakota	6	5
Idaho	6	3
Vermont	4	0
New Hampshire	1	0

Note: Excludes 160 executions carried out by military authorities between 1930 and 1961. The federal government has collected data on executions under civil authority annually since 1930.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1930–2020.

Methodology

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) collects information about capital punishment each year through the National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8). BJS collects this data series in two parts:

- Data on persons under sentence of death are obtained from the department of corrections in each jurisdiction that authorizes capital punishment.
- The status of death penalty statutes is obtained from the Office of the Attorney General in each of the 50 states, the Office of the U.S. Attorney in the District of Columbia, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons for the federal government.

Data collection forms are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.

The NPS-8 covers all persons under sentence of death at any time during the year who were held in a state or federal nonmilitary correctional facility. This includes capital offenders transferred from prison to

a mental institution and those who may have escaped from custody. It excludes persons sentenced to death under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and those whose death sentences have been overturned by a court or an executive action, regardless of their current incarceration status. Statistics in this report may differ from data collected by other organizations for various reasons:

- The NPS-8 adds prisoners to the population under sentence of death at the time they are admitted to a state or federal correctional facility, not at the time they are sentenced.
- If prisoners entered prison under a death sentence or were reported as being relieved of a death sentence in one year but the admission or removal occurred in a previous year, counts are adjusted to reflect the actual date of sentence or removal.
- NPS-8 counts are for the last day of the calendar year and will differ from counts for more recent periods.

APPENDIX TABLE 1**Demographic characteristics for prisoners under sentence of death, 2020**

Demographic characteristic	Total, 12/31/20	Admissions	Removals
Total	2,469	14	108
Sex			
Male	2,418	14	106
Female	51	0	2
Race			
White	1,394	8	57
Black	1,015	6	48
American Indian/ Alaska Native	18	0	3
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	42	0	0
Ethnicity			
Hispanic	343	0	15
Non-Hispanic	1,905	14	84
Unknown	221	0	9
Age			
18–19	0	0	0
20–24	0	0	1
25–29	30	2	1
30–34	109	1	1
35–39	184	3	5
40–44	315	2	15
45–49	403	2	17
50–54	438	2	10
55–59	393	1	17
60–64	295	1	15
65 or older	302	0	26
Education			
8th grade or less	225	0	13
9th–11th grade	674	2	31
High school graduate/GED	858	1	36
Any college	177	0	8
Unknown	535	11	20
Marital status			
Married	443	2	25
Divorced/separated	421	2	13
Widowed	74	1	6
Never married	1,166	6	48
Unknown	365	3	16

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 2**Counts for figure 1: Number of persons under sentence of death, 1953–2020**

Year	Number of prisoners under sentence of death	Year	Number of prisoners under sentence of death	Year	Number of prisoners under sentence of death
1953	131	1976	420	1999	3,540
1954	147	1977	423	2000	3,601
1955	125	1978	482	2001	3,577
1956	146	1979	593	2002	3,562
1957	151	1980	692	2003	3,377
1958	147	1981	860	2004	3,320
1959	164	1982	1,066	2005	3,245
1960	212	1983	1,209	2006	3,233
1961	257	1984	1,420	2007	3,215
1962	267	1985	1,575	2008	3,210
1963	297	1986	1,800	2009	3,173
1964	315	1987	1,967	2010	3,139
1965	331	1988	2,117	2011	3,065
1966	406	1989	2,243	2012	3,011
1967	435	1990	2,346	2013	2,983
1968	517	1991	2,465	2014	2,942
1969	575	1992	2,580	2015	2,872
1970	631	1993	2,727	2016	2,797
1971	642	1994	2,905	2017	2,703
1972	334	1995	3,064	2018	2,626
1973	134	1996	3,242	2019	2,563
1974	244	1997	3,328	2020	2,469
1975	488	1998	3,465		

Note: Data on the number of prisoners under sentence of death at yearend have been collected since 1953.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1953–2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 3**Counts for figure 2: Admissions to and removals from under sentence of death, 1973–2020**

Year	Admissions	Removals	Year	Admissions	Removals	Year	Admissions	Removals
1973	44	240	1989	275	149	2005	143	216
1974	161	55	1990	270	152	2006	126	146
1975	318	67	1991	284	159	2007	129	140
1976	249	317	1992	300	173	2008	122	137
1977	159	156	1993	299	162	2009	118	167
1978	211	150	1994	330	153	2010	116	143
1979	172	61	1995	325	171	2011	84	156
1980	202	101	1996	323	155	2012	85	125
1981	249	84	1997	282	187	2013	85	118
1982	287	79	1998	312	175	2014	70	116
1983	266	123	1999	287	220	2015	54	123
1984	306	90	2000	235	173	2016	34	98
1985	292	130	2001	164	194	2017	37	133
1986	319	109	2002	172	191	2018	41	115
1987	311	142	2003	157	348	2019	35	98
1988	317	165	2004	139	197	2020	14	108

Note: Removals can be due to any cause, including execution, other death, or appeal.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1973–2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 4**Counts for figure 3: Number of persons executed in the United States, 1930–2020**

Year	Executions	Year	Executions	Year	Executions
1930	155	1961	42	1992	31
1931	153	1962	47	1993	38
1932	140	1963	21	1994	31
1933	160	1964	15	1995	56
1934	168	1965	7	1996	45
1935	199	1966	1	1997	74
1936	195	1967	2	1998	68
1937	147	1968	0	1999	98
1938	190	1969	0	2000	85
1939	160	1970	0	2001	66
1940	124	1971	0	2002	71
1941	123	1972	0	2003	65
1942	147	1973	0	2004	59
1943	131	1974	0	2005	60
1944	120	1975	0	2006	53
1945	117	1976	0	2007	42
1946	131	1977	1	2008	37
1947	153	1978	0	2009	52
1948	119	1979	2	2010	46
1949	119	1980	0	2011	43
1950	82	1981	1	2012	43
1951	105	1982	2	2013	39
1952	83	1983	5	2014	35
1953	62	1984	21	2015	28
1954	81	1985	18	2016	20
1955	76	1986	18	2017	23
1956	65	1987	25	2018	25
1957	65	1988	11	2019	22
1958	49	1989	16	2020	17
1959	49	1990	23		
1960	56	1991	14		

Note: Excludes 160 executions carried out by military authorities from 1930 to 1961.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1930–2020.

APPENDIX TABLE 5**Counts for figure 4: Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2020**

Year	White ^a	Black ^a	All other races ^{a,b}	Year	White ^a	Black ^a	All other races ^{a,b}
1968	243	271	3	1995	1,732	1,284	48
1969	263	310	2	1996	1,833	1,358	51
1970	293	335	3	1997	1,864	1,408	56
1971	306	332	4	1998	1,917	1,489	59
1972	167	166	1	1999	1,960	1,515	65
1973	64	68	2	2000	1,989	1,541	71
1974	110	128	6	2001	1,968	1,538	71
1975	218	262	8	2002	1,939	1,551	72
1976	225	195	0	2003	1,882	1,417	78
1977	229	192	2	2004	1,856	1,390	74
1978	281	197	4	2005	1,802	1,366	77
1979	354	236	3	2006	1,806	1,353	74
1980	424	264	4	2007	1,806	1,338	71
1981	499	353	8	2008	1,795	1,343	72
1982	613	441	12	2009	1,779	1,318	76
1983	692	505	12	2010	1,743	1,309	87
1984	806	598	16	2011	1,721	1,274	70
1985	896	664	15	2012	1,684	1,258	69
1986	1,013	762	25	2013	1,670	1,251	62
1987	1,128	813	26	2014	1,647	1,233	62
1988	1,235	848	34	2015	1,606	1,202	64
1989	1,308	898	37	2016	1,553	1,179	65
1990	1,368	940	38	2017	1,508	1,129	66
1991	1,449	979	37	2018	1,470	1,091	65
1992	1,511	1,031	38	2019	1,443	1,057	63
1993	1,575	1,111	41	2020	1,394	1,015	60
1994	1,653	1,203	49				

Note: Data on Hispanic origin was not collected prior to 1977.

^aIncludes persons of Hispanic origin.

^bIncludes American Indians or Alaska Natives; Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders; and persons for whom only ethnicity was identified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968–2020.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Doris J. James is the acting director.

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