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# Capital Punishment, 2021 – Statistical Tables

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At yearend 2021, a total of 27 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) held 2,382 prisoners under sentence of death, which was 79 (3%) fewer than at yearend 2020 (**table 1, figure 1**). California (29%), Florida (14%), and Texas (8%) held more than half of the prisoners under sentence of death in the United States on December 31, 2021. The BOP held 42 prisoners under sentence of death at yearend.

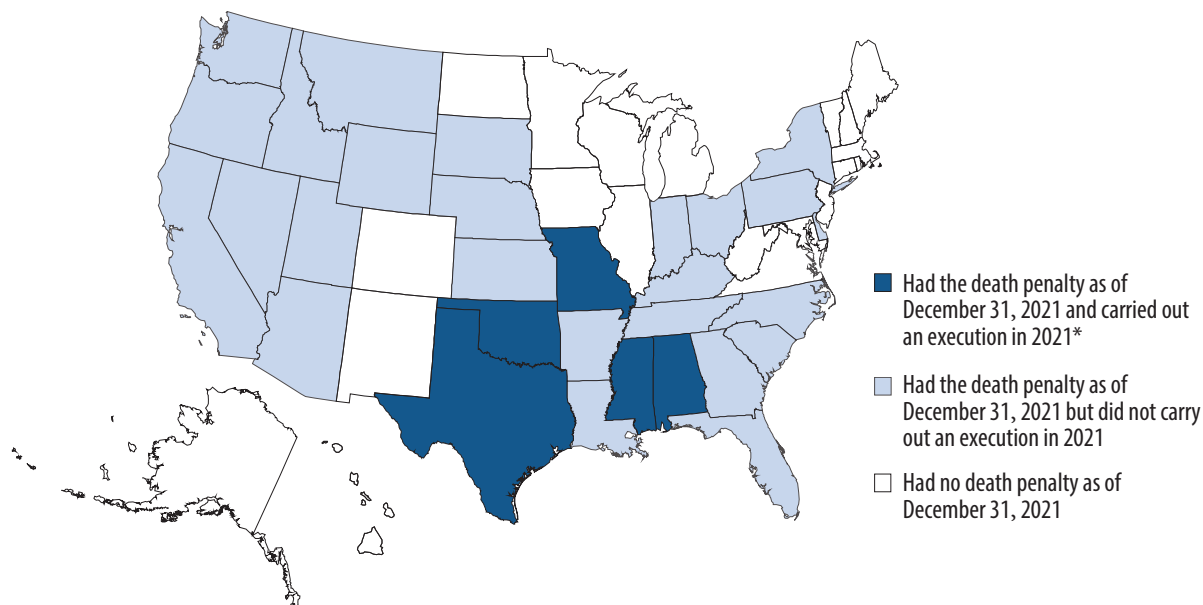
At yearend 2021, 30 states and the federal government had death penalty statutes (**map 1**). In July 2021, Virginia abolished the state's capital murder offense (see *Status of the death penalty in 2021*), leaving a total of 20 states and

the District of Columbia with no death penalty statute in force on December 31, 2021.

Five states (Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Alabama, and Mississippi) and the BOP executed a total of 11 prisoners in 2021. Among the prisoners executed, 10 were male and 1 was female (not shown in tables). Texas and the BOP each executed three prisoners, which accounted for more than half of the executions carried out in 2021.

This report presents statistics on prisoners who were under sentence of death in 2021, a summary of state and federal death penalty laws in 2021, and historical trends in executions.

**MAP 1**  
States with and without death penalty statutes, yearend 2021



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

\*Not shown: Federal Bureau of Prisons, which carried out three executions in 2021. See table 1 for executions by jurisdiction.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

**TABLE 1****Status of the death penalty, December 31, 2021**

Executions in 2021		Number of prisoners under sentence of death		Jurisdictions with no death penalty (21)
Federal Bureau of Prisons	3	California	690	Alaska
Texas	3	Florida	324	Colorado
Oklahoma	2	Texas	198	Connecticut
Missouri	1	Alabama	169	District of Columbia
Alabama	1	North Carolina	136	Hawaii
Mississippi	1	Ohio	132	Illinois
		Arizona	114	Iowa
		Pennsylvania	111	Maine
		Louisiana	62	Maryland
		Nevada	61	Massachusetts
		Tennessee	47	Michigan
		Oklahoma	44	Minnesota
		Federal Bureau of Prisons	42	New Hampshire
		Georgia	38	New Jersey
		Mississippi	36	New Mexico
		South Carolina	34	North Dakota
		Arkansas	28	Rhode Island
		Kentucky	26	Vermont
		Oregon	23	Virginia
		Missouri	19	West Virginia
		Nebraska	12	Wisconsin
		Kansas	9	
		Idaho	8	
		Indiana	8	
		Utah	7	
		Montana	2	
		New Hampshire <sup>a</sup>	1	
		South Dakota	1	
Total	11	Total <sup>b</sup>	2,382	

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.

<sup>a</sup>New Hampshire repealed the death penalty effective May 30, 2019. As of December 31, 2021, one male prisoner remained under a previously imposed sentence of death.

<sup>b</sup>New York, Delaware, Washington, and Wyoming held no inmates under sentence of death on December 31, 2021.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

## Terms and definitions

**Aggravating factors**—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 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 to life 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 prisoners under sentence 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, an overturned capital conviction or sentence, or a change in the statute defining capital punishment.

**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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## Key findings

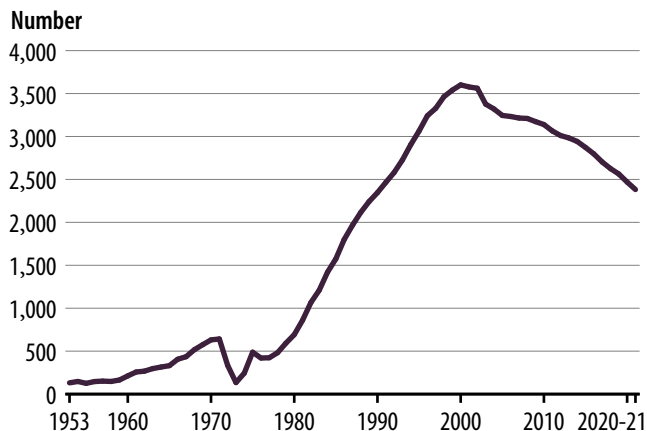
- During 2021, the number of prisoners under sentence of death declined for the 21st consecutive year (**figure 1**). (See *Status of the death penalty in 2021*.)
- A total of 16 prisoners were received under sentence of death in 2021, one more than was reported in 2020 (**figure 2**).
- Twenty states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) removed a total of 84 prisoners from under sentence of death by means other than execution in 2021 (**table 5**).
- Among jurisdictions with prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2021, 19 states and the BOP reported a decrease in the number of prisoners held under

sentence of death, 8 states reported no change, and no states reported an increase in the number of prisoners held under sentence of death. Four states held no prisoners under sentence of death during 2021.

- The largest declines in the number of prisoners under sentence of death in 2021 occurred in California (down 14 prisoners) and Florida (down 11).
- Almost all (98%) prisoners under sentence of death were male (**table 6**).
- Among prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2021 with a known ethnicity, about 16% were Hispanic.

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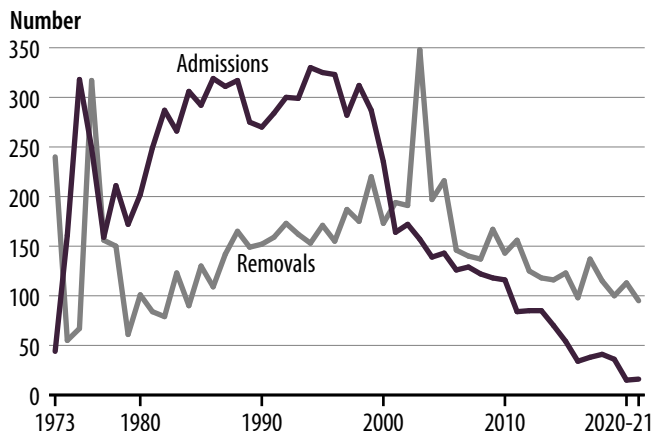
**FIGURE 1**  
Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953–2021



Note: Data on the number of prisoners under sentence of death at yearend have been collected since 1953. See appendix table 3 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1953–2021.

**FIGURE 2**  
Admissions to and removals from under sentence of death, 1973–2021



Note: Removals can be due to any cause, including execution, other death, or appeal. See appendix table 4 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1973–2021.

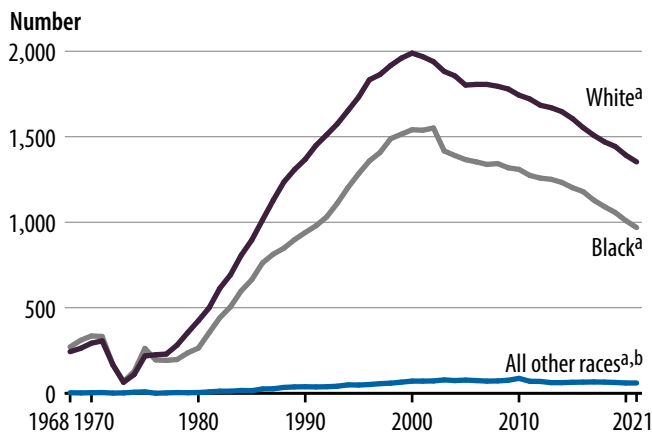
## Key findings (*continued*)

- At yearend 2021, 1,353 (57%) prisoners under sentence of death were white and 969 (41%) were black (**figure 3**).
- At yearend 2021, 14 states held 50 female prisoners under sentence of death, one fewer than was reported in 2020 (**table 7**).
- Eighteen states and the BOP held 336 Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2021 (**table 8**).
- Among prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2021 with a known criminal history, two-thirds (68%) had a prior felony conviction (**table 9**).
- Prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2021 had been on death row for an average of 20.2 years (**table 10**).
- Fifteen states and the BOP reported 45 prisoners whose convictions or sentences were vacated or overturned during 2021 (**table 11**).
- Prisoners executed during 2021 had been on death row for an average of 19.4 years (**table 12**).
- Between 1977 and yearend 2021, 34 states and the federal government executed 1,540 prisoners (**table 13**).<sup>1</sup>
- Between 1930, when the federal government began collecting annual execution statistics, and yearend 2021, a total of 5,393 persons were executed under civil authority (**table 13, figure 4**).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1976 approval of revised statutes in some states (*Gregg v. Georgia* and its companion cases), executions of inmates resumed in 1977.

<sup>2</sup>Military authorities carried out an additional 160 executions between 1930 and 1961, which are not included in this report.

**FIGURE 3**  
Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2021



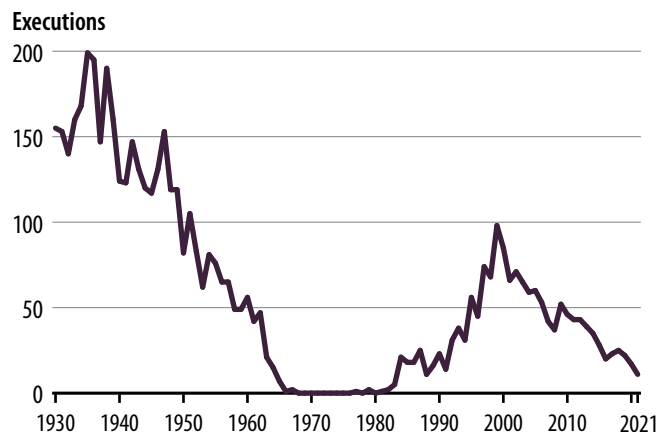
Note: Data on Hispanic origin was not collected prior to 1977. See appendix table 5 for counts.

<sup>a</sup>Includes prisoners of Hispanic origin.

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners; Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander prisoners; and prisoners for whom only ethnicity was identified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968–2021.

**FIGURE 4**  
Number of prisoners executed in the United States, 1930–2021



Note: Excludes 160 executions carried out by military authorities from 1930 to 1961. See appendix table 6 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1930–2021.

## Status of the death penalty in 2021

As of December 31, 2021, a total of 30 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty (**tables 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, 2021, New Hampshire held one male prisoner under sentence of death.

In 2021, the Virginia legislature repealed the death penalty, replacing the crime of capital murder with aggravated murder (2021 Va. Acts chs. 344, 345, Spec. Sess. I). The amended law provided that all prisoners under previously imposed death sentences (2) would have their sentences changed to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, effective July 1, 2021.

Oregon recently revised the definition of aggravated murder (Or. Laws 2019, ch. 365), which substantially reduced the scope of offenses eligible for the death penalty. (See *Status of the death penalty in 2019 in Capital Punishment, 2019 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 300381, BJS, June 2021).) On October 7, 2021, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that the change in the law may be applied retroactively (*State v. Bartol*, 368 Or 598 (2021)). As a result, prisoners sentenced to death prior to September 2019 may be entitled to have their death sentences vacated since those sentences are now in violation of Article 1, Section 16 of the Oregon Constitution.

During 2021, Ohio amended its code of criminal procedure to prohibit imposition of the death penalty for aggravated murder when the offender had a serious mental illness at the time of the offense (O.R.C. § 2929.025). An offender who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, and/or delusional disorder and proves that the condition(s) impaired the offender's capacity at the time

of the offense will be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole if convicted. The amendments became effective April 12, 2021.

South Carolina amended its death penalty statute to authorize a firing squad as a method of execution (S.C. Code § 24-3-530), effective May 14, 2021.

Tennessee established a mechanism to allow defendants who were sentenced to death prior to the statute's enactment date and whose conviction is final on direct review to petition the trial court to determine if the defendant is intellectually disabled (Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-203). The change became effective May 18, 2021.

### Authorized methods of execution in 2021

Methods of execution are defined by statute and vary by jurisdiction. In 2021, all 30 states with a death penalty statute authorized lethal injection as a method of execution (**table 4**). Fourteen states also authorized an alternative method of execution: electrocution (8 states), firing squad (4), lethal gas (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).

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## Status of the death penalty in 2021 (continued)

**TABLE 2**  
**Capital offenses, by state, 2021**

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; trainwreck causing death; treason; perjury resulting in the execution of an innocent person; and fatal assault by a prisoner serving a life sentence.
Delaware <sup>a</sup>	First-degree murder (11 Del. C. § 636) with at least 1 statutory aggravating circumstance (11 Del. C. § 4209).
Florida	First-degree murder, defined as premeditated murder, felony murder, and death resulting from capital drug-trafficking felonies (Fla Stat. § 782.04(1)(a)) accompanied by aggravating factors (Fla Stat. § 921.141(6)).
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	Intentional 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 <sup>b</sup>	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(e)).
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 (Or. Rev. Stat. 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).
Washington <sup>c</sup>	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.

<sup>a</sup>The 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.

<sup>b</sup>The 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.

<sup>c</sup>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.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

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## Status of the death penalty in 2021 *(continued)*

**TABLE 3**  
**Federal capital offenses, 2021**

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), 2021.

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## Status of the death penalty in 2021 (continued)

**TABLE 4**  
**Authorized method of execution, by state, 2021**

Jurisdiction	Lethal injection <sup>a</sup>	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging <sup>a</sup>	Firing squad	Nitrogen hypoxia
Total	30	8	3	2	4	3
Alabama	■	■				■
Arizona <sup>b</sup>	■		■			
Arkansas <sup>c</sup>	■	■				
California <sup>d</sup>	■					
Delaware <sup>e</sup>	■			■		
Florida <sup>f</sup>	■	■				
Georgia	■					
Idaho	■					
Indiana	■					
Kansas	■					
Kentucky <sup>g</sup>	■	■				
Louisiana	■					
Mississippi <sup>h</sup>	■	■			■	■
Missouri	■		■			
Montana	■					
Nebraska	■					
Nevada	■					
New York	■					
North Carolina	■					
Ohio	■					
Oklahoma <sup>h</sup>	■	■			■	■
Oregon	■					
Pennsylvania	■					
South Carolina	■	■			■	
South Dakota <sup>i</sup>	■					
Tennessee <sup>j</sup>	■	■				
Texas	■					
Utah <sup>k</sup>	■				■	
Washington	■			■		
Wyoming <sup>l</sup>	■		■			

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).

<sup>a</sup>Counts 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.

<sup>b</sup>Authorizes lethal injection for prisoners sentenced after November 23, 1992. Prisoners sentenced before that date may select lethal injection or gas.

<sup>c</sup>Authorizes lethal injection for prisoners 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).

<sup>d</sup>Both 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)).

<sup>e</sup>Authorizes hanging if lethal injection is held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction.

<sup>f</sup>Authorizes "any constitutional method of execution" if electrocution or lethal injection is held to be unconstitutional (Fla. Stat. § 105(3)).

<sup>g</sup>Authorizes lethal injection for prisoners sentenced on or after March 31, 1998. Prisoners sentenced before that date may select lethal injection or electrocution.

<sup>h</sup>Authorizes 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.

<sup>i</sup>Any 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.

<sup>j</sup>Authorizes lethal injection for prisoners 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.

<sup>k</sup>Authorizes 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.

<sup>l</sup>Authorizes lethal gas if lethal injection is held to be unconstitutional.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

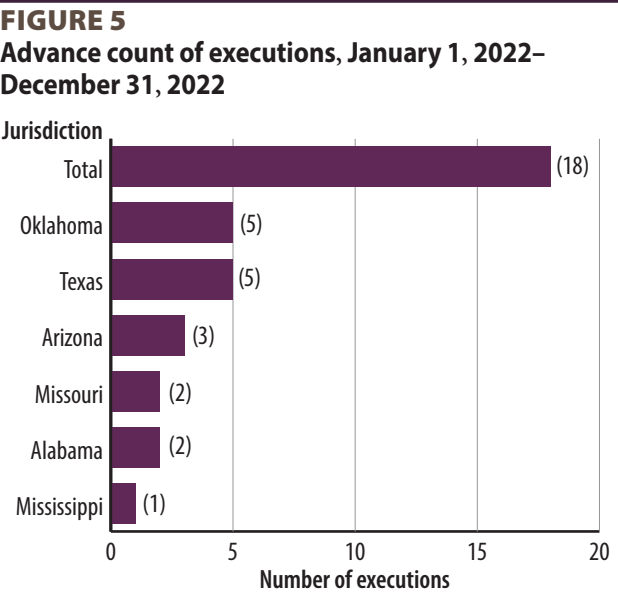
## Advance count of executions in 2022

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, 2022 to December 31, 2022, six states executed 18 prisoners (**figure 5**), which was 7 more than the number executed in 2021. Oklahoma and Texas (5 each) executed the largest number of prisoners during this period.

All of the executions in 2022 were by lethal injection. Eleven of the prisoners executed were white, five were black, one was American Indian, and one was Asian. No females were executed during this period.

Complete data for 2022 will appear in *Capital Punishment, 2022*. This annual report will consist of data collected from state and federal correctional agencies. The report will cover all prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2022, as well as those removed from under sentence of death during the year.



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

**TABLE 5****Prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2020 and 2021**

Region and jurisdiction	Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/20			Received under sentence of death, 2021			Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2021 <sup>a</sup>			Executed, 2021			Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/21		
	Total <sup>b</sup>	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>	Total <sup>b</sup>	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>	Total <sup>b</sup>	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>	Total <sup>b</sup>	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>	Total <sup>b</sup>	White <sup>c</sup>	Black <sup>c</sup>
<b>U.S. total</b>	2,461	1,392	1,009	16	10	6	84	44	40	11	5	6	2,382	1,353	969
Federal <sup>d</sup>	51	30	21	0	0	0	6	4	2	3	1	2	42	25	17
State	2,410	1,362	988	16	10	6	78	40	38	8	4	4	2,340	1,328	952
<b>Northeast</b>	118	58	58	0	0	0	6	2	4	0	0	0	112	56	54
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	117	58	57	0	0	0	6	2	4	0	0	0	111	56	53
<b>Midwest</b>	187	97	89	1	1	0	6	4	2	1	0	1	181	94	86
Indiana	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	2
Kansas	10	7	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	9	6	3
Missouri	20	13	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	19	13	6
Nebraska	12	9	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	12	10	2
Ohio	136	61	74	0	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	0	132	58	73
South Dakota	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>South</b>	1,179	625	539	13	8	5	43	22	21	7	4	3	1,142	607	520
Alabama	170	87	83	4	3	1	4	0	4	1	0	1	169	90	79
Arkansas	29	14	15	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	28	14	14
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	335	212	123	1	1	0	12	9	3	0	0	0	324	204	120
Georgia	40	20	20	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	38	19	19
Kentucky	26	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	23	3
Louisiana	66	22	44	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	62	20	42
Mississippi	39	16	22	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	36	14	21
North Carolina	137	58	73	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	136	57	73
Oklahoma	45	23	19	4	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	1	44	23	18
South Carolina	36	17	19	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	34	17	17
Tennessee	50	23	26	1	1	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	47	22	24
Texas	204	110	90	3	1	2	6	5	1	3	2	1	198	104	90
Virginia	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>West</b>	926	582	302	2	1	1	23	12	11	0	0	0	905	571	292
Arizona	116	89	20	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	114	87	20
California	704	417	256	2	1	1	16	7	9	0	0	0	690	411	248
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	65	40	23	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	61	38	21
Oregon	24	21	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	23	20	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 2020 are revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2020 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 302729, BJS, December 2021). The revised counts include 3 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, 2020 (1 each in Florida, California, and Idaho). The revised counts exclude 11 prisoners who were relieved of a death sentence before December 31, 2020 (3 in Florida; 2 each in Texas and Nevada; and 1 each in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Mississippi, and Idaho).

<sup>a</sup>Includes 32 deaths from natural causes (8 in California; 4 in Florida; 3 each in the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Nevada; 2 each in Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas; and 1 each in Kansas, Nebraska, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina), 2 deaths by suicide (1 each in Mississippi and California), 1 death resulting from a murder committed by another prisoner (Arizona), and 1 death from an unspecified cause (Texas).

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners; and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander prisoners.

<sup>c</sup>Includes prisoners of Hispanic origin.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes prisoners 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), 2021.

**TABLE 6****Demographic characteristics for prisoners under sentence of death, 2021**

Demographic characteristic	Total, 12/31/21		Admissions		Removals	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Total	100%	2,382	100%	16	100%	95
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	97.9%	2,332	100%	16	98.9%	94
Female	2.1	50	0	0	1.1	1
<b>Race</b>						
White <sup>a</sup>	56.8%	1,353	62.5%	10	51.6%	49
Black <sup>a</sup>	40.7	969	37.5	6	48.4	46
American Indian/Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	0.8	18	0	0	0	0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <sup>a,b</sup>	1.8	42	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	15.5%	336	6.7%	1	10.9%	10
Non-Hispanic	84.5	1,828	93.3	14	89.1	82
Unknown		218		1		3
<b>Age</b>						
18-19	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
20-24	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-29	0.8	20	6.3	1	0	0
30-34	3.7	89	12.5	2	2.1	2
35-39	7.0	166	37.5	6	6.3	6
40-44	12.2	291	6.3	1	12.6	12
45-49	16.0	380	25.0	4	10.5	10
50-54	17.6	420	0	0	13.7	13
55-59	16.2	385	6.3	1	14.7	14
60-64	12.6	300	6.3	1	15.8	15
65 or older	13.9	331	0	0	24.2	23
<b>Average age</b>						
Mean		53 yrs.		41 yrs.		56 yrs.
Median		52		38		57
<b>Education</b>						
8th grade or less	11.7%	218	11.1%	1	11.0%	8
9th-11th grade	35.0	652	11.1	1	30.1	22
High-school graduate/GED	44.1	823	55.6	5	53.4	39
Any college	9.2	172	22.2	2	5.5	4
Unknown		517		7		22
<b>Median education level</b>		12th grade		:		12th grade
<b>Marital status</b>						
Married	21.1%	426	37.5%	3	23.2%	19
Divorced/separated	19.9	403	12.5	1	22.0	18
Widowed	3.5	70	12.5	1	4.9	4
Never married	55.6	1,124	37.5	3	50.0	41
Unknown		359		8		13

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

: Not calculated.

<sup>a</sup>Includes prisoners of Hispanic origin.

<sup>b</sup>Includes 36 Asian prisoners and 6 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander prisoners at yearend 2021.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

**TABLE 7****Female prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2020 and 2021**

Region and jurisdiction	Female prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/20			Received under sentence of death, 2021			Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2021			Executed, 2021			Female prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/21		
	Total <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Total <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Total <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Total <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Total <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>
<b>U.S. total</b>	51	38	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	50	37	11
Federal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
State	50	37	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	37	11
<b>Midwest</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Ohio	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>South</b>	22	14	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	14	8
Alabama	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	1
Florida	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2
Georgia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kentucky	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Louisiana	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mississippi	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
North Carolina	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Oklahoma	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Tennessee	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Texas	6	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	2
<b>West</b>	27	22	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	22	3
Arizona	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
California	23	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	18	3
Idaho	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

<sup>a</sup>Includes American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners; and Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander prisoners.

<sup>b</sup>Includes prisoners of Hispanic origin.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

**TABLE 8****Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, by region and jurisdiction, 2020 and 2021**

Region and jurisdiction	Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/20*	Received under sentence of death, 2021	Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2021	Executed, 2021	Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/21
<b>U.S. total</b>	345	1	10	0	336
Federal	7	0	1	0	6
State	338	1	9	0	330
<b>Northeast</b>	14	0	1	0	13
Pennsylvania	14	0	1	0	13
<b>Midwest</b>	10	0	0	0	10
Nebraska	6	0	0	0	6
Ohio	4	0	0	0	4
<b>South</b>	89	1	2	0	88
Alabama	1	0	0	0	1
Florida	23	0	0	0	23
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	1	0	0	2
South Carolina	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee	1	0	1	0	0
Texas	54	0	1	0	53
<b>West</b>	225	0	6	0	219
Arizona	23	0	1	0	22
California	190	0	4	0	186
Idaho	1	0	0	0	1
Nevada	6	0	1	0	5
Oregon	3	0	0	0	3
Utah	2	0	0	0	2

Note: Counts of Hispanic prisoners are based on prisoners for whom data were reported.

\*Counts of Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2020 have been revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2020 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 302729, BJS, December 2021). The revised counts include one prisoner in Florida and one prisoner in California who were not included in the counts for December 31, 2020.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.



**TABLE 9****Criminal history of prisoners under sentence of death, by race or ethnicity, 2021**

	All prisoners	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <sup>a</sup>
<b>U.S. total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Prior felony convictions<sup>b</sup></b>						
Yes	67.8%	63.8%	73.2%	65.7%	68.8%	56.8%
No	32.2	36.2	26.8	34.3	31.3	43.2
<b>Prior homicide convictions<sup>c</sup></b>						
Yes	10.4%	10.8%	10.5%	9.7%	6.3%	5.4%
No	89.6	89.2	89.5	90.3	93.8	94.6
<b>Legal status at time of capital offense<sup>d</sup></b>						
Charges pending	7.6%	9.1%	6.9%	5.6%	6.3%	5.6%
On probation	11.7	9.9	12.0	15.2	18.8	13.9
On parole	16.0	13.7	17.9	17.5	25.0	13.9
On escape	1.1	1.8	0.7	0.7	0	0
Incarcerated	4.6	5.8	3.7	3.6	12.5	0
Other status	0.1	0	0.1	0.3	0	0
None	58.8	59.7	58.6	57.1	37.5	66.7
<b>Number of prisoners</b>	2,382	1,027	961	336	18	40

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

<sup>a</sup>Excludes prisoners of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white prisoners and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black prisoners).

<sup>b</sup>Excludes 189 prisoners because data were not reported.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes 221 prisoners because data were not reported.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes 290 prisoners because data were not reported.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

**TABLE 10****Prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2021, by year of sentencing and jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction	Year of sentence for prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/21										Under sentence of death, 12/31/21	Average years under sentence of death, 12/31/21
	1976–1980	1981–1985	1986–1990	1991–1995	1996–2000	2001–2005	2006–2010	2011–2015	2016–2020	2021		
U.S. total	18	99	196	387	499	340	399	283	145	16	2,382	20.2
Florida	8	16	35	65	56	28	44	45	26	1	324	21.2
California	5	46	82	122	153	73	105	72	30	2	690	22.0
Texas	2	1	6	20	40	41	32	33	20	3	198	17.1
Nevada	1	8	5	10	15	5	8	5	4	0	61	22.8
Kentucky	1	3	4	4	7	2	4	1	0	0	26	25.9
Arkansas	1	0	0	6	5	5	4	5	2	0	28	18.7
Ohio	0	6	14	21	25	22	16	14	14	0	132	20.2
Arizona	0	3	8	19	10	16	34	16	8	0	114	18.0
Tennessee	0	3	6	8	13	5	6	4	1	1	47	22.6
Pennsylvania	0	2	14	16	22	15	17	21	4	0	111	20.0
Louisiana	0	2	3	9	25	10	6	6	1	0	62	21.3
Missouri	0	2	1	0	0	4	7	4	1	0	19	16.6
Alabama	0	1	8	21	36	30	35	24	10	4	169	17.7
Mississippi	0	1	3	6	5	7	7	4	3	0	36	19.2
Utah	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	7	:
North Carolina	0	1	1	44	47	23	12	4	4	0	136	22.4
South Carolina	0	1	1	1	6	11	11	1	2	0	34	17.9
Oklahoma	0	1	0	1	5	10	12	6	5	4	44	13.4
Montana	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	:
Georgia	0	0	2	4	12	7	8	4	1	0	38	19.5
Idaho	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	8	:
Oregon	0	0	0	4	8	3	6	2	0	0	23	20.2
Federal	0	0	0	1	3	13	15	6	4	0	42	14.2
Indiana	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	8	:
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	0	3	1	12	12.0
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	1	0	9	:
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	:
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	:

Note: For prisoners 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), 2021.

**TABLE 11****Prisoners removed from under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and method of removal, 2021**

Region and jurisdiction	Total	Execution	Other death <sup>a</sup>	Sentence commuted	Appeals court or higher court overturned—		Other <sup>b</sup>
					Capital conviction	Death sentence	
<b>U.S. total</b>	95	11	36	1	6	39	2
Federal	9	3	3	0	1	2	0
State	86	8	33	1	5	37	2
<b>Northeast</b>	6	0	0	0	1	5	0
Pennsylvania	6	0	0	0	1	5	0
<b>Midwest</b>	7	1	4	0	0	2	0
Kansas	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Missouri	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ohio	4	0	2	0	0	2	0
<b>South</b>	50	7	16	1	2	22	2
Alabama	5	1	0	0	0	4	0
Arkansas	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Florida	12	0	4	0	0	8	0
Georgia	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Louisiana	4	0	1	0	0	3	0
Mississippi	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Oklahoma	5	2	2	1	0	0	0
South Carolina	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
Tennessee	4	0	2	0	0	2	0
Texas	9	3	3	0	1	2	0
Virginia	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>West</b>	23	0	13	0	2	8	0
Arizona	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
California	16	0	9	0	2	5	0
Nevada	4	0	3	0	0	1	0
Oregon	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

<sup>a</sup>In 2021, other deaths were due to natural causes, suicide, homicide, and unspecified causes.

<sup>b</sup>In 2021, two prisoners in Virginia were removed from under sentence of death as a result of the state's repeal of capital punishment.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

**TABLE 12****Average elapsed time between sentencing and execution,  
1977–2021**

Year <sup>a</sup>	Executions	Average elapsed time from sentence to execution <sup>b</sup>
Total	1,540	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
2021	11	233

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.

<sup>a</sup>No executions were carried out in 1978 or 1980.

<sup>b</sup>Average time was calculated from the most recent sentencing date.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.

**TABLE 13****Number of executions, by jurisdiction, 1930–2021 and 1977–2021**

Jurisdiction	Since 1930	Since 1977
U.S. total	5,393	1,540
Texas	870	573
Georgia	441	76
New York	329	0
North Carolina	306	43
California	305	13
Florida	269	99
Ohio	228	56
Virginia	205	113
South Carolina	205	43
Alabama	203	68
Mississippi	177	22
Oklahoma	176	114
Louisiana	161	28
Pennsylvania	155	3
Missouri	153	91
Arkansas	149	31
Kentucky	106	3
Tennessee	105	13
Illinois	102	12
Arizona	75	37
New Jersey	74	0
Maryland	73	5
Indiana	61	20
Washington	52	5
Colorado	48	1
Federal system	42	16
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), 1930–2021.

## 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 prisoners 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 <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/capital-punishment-nps-8#surveys-0>.

The NPS-8 covers all prisoners 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 prisoners 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****Number of prisoners executed, by race or ethnicity, 1977–2021**

Year <sup>a</sup>	All executions	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>b</sup>	Asian/ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>
Total	1,540	865	526	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
2021	11	5	6	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).

<sup>a</sup>No executions were carried out in 1978 or 1980.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes prisoners of Hispanic origin (e.g. "white" refers to non-Hispanic white prisoners and "black" refers to non-Hispanic black prisoners).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2021.



**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Number of executions, by method and jurisdiction, 1977–2021**

Jurisdiction	All methods	Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
U.S. total	1,540	1,360	163	11	3	3
Federal	16	16	0	0	0	0
Alabama	68	44	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	22	18	0	4	0	0
Missouri	91	91	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	114	114	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	573	573	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), 2021.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Counts for figure 1: Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953–2021**

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	2,461
1975	488	1998	3,465	2021	2,382

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), 1953–2021.

**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Counts for figure 2: Admissions to and removals from under sentence of death, 1973–2021**

Year	Admissions	Removals	Year	Admissions	Removals	Year	Admissions	Removals
1973	44	240	1990	270	152	2007	129	140
1974	161	55	1991	284	159	2008	122	137
1975	318	67	1992	300	173	2009	118	167
1976	249	317	1993	300	163	2010	116	143
1977	159	156	1994	330	153	2011	84	156
1978	211	150	1995	326	171	2012	85	125
1979	172	61	1996	323	155	2013	85	118
1980	202	101	1997	282	187	2014	70	116
1981	249	84	1998	312	175	2015	54	123
1982	287	79	1999	287	221	2016	34	98
1983	266	123	2000	235	173	2017	38	137
1984	306	90	2001	164	194	2018	41	115
1985	292	130	2002	172	191	2019	36	100
1986	319	109	2003	157	348	2020	15	113
1987	311	142	2004	140	197	2021	16	95
1988	317	165	2005	143	216			
1989	274	149	2006	126	146			

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), 1973–2021.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Counts for figure 3: Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2021**

Year	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	All other races <sup>a,b</sup>	Year	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	All other races <sup>a,b</sup>
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	1,392	1,009	60
1994	1,653	1,203	49	2021	1,353	969	60

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

<sup>a</sup>Includes prisoners of Hispanic origin.

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners; Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander prisoners; and prisoners for whom only ethnicity was identified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968–2021.

**APPENDIX TABLE 6****Counts for figure 4: Number of prisoners executed in the United States, 1930–2021**

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	2021	11
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), 1930–2021.



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. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

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