



# Capital Punishment, 2019 – Statistical Tables

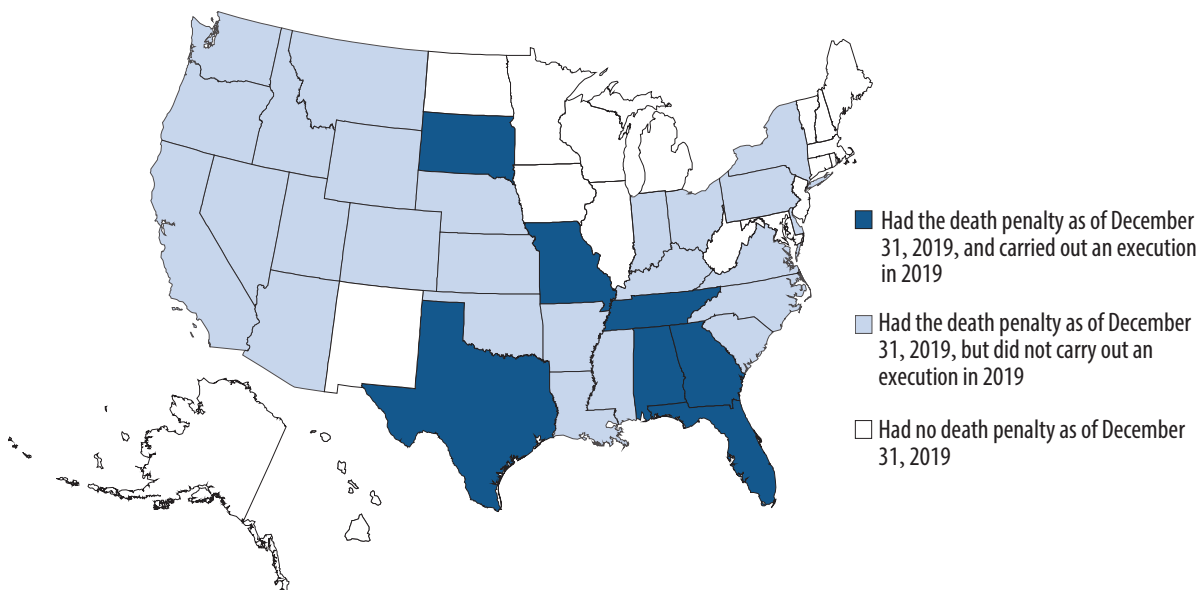
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At year-end 2019, a total of 29 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) held 2,570 prisoners under sentence of death, which was 56 (2%) fewer than at year-end 2018. During 2019, the number of prisoners under sentence of death declined for the 19th consecutive year. California (28%), Florida (13%), and Texas (8%) held about half of the prisoners under sentence of death in the United States on December 31, 2019. The BOP held 61 prisoners under sentence of death at year-end.

Seven states executed a total of 22 prisoners in 2019. Texas executed 9 prisoners, which accounted for 41% of the executions carried out in 2019.

This report presents statistics on persons who were under sentence of death or were executed in 2019, and on state and federal death penalty laws. At year-end 2019, a total of 32 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty (**map 1**).

**MAP 1**  
States with and without death penalty statutes, year-end 2019



Note: See table 2 for details on states that authorized the death penalty.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

# Highlights

- Eleven states and the BOP received a total of 31 prisoners under sentence of death in 2019.
- Twenty-one states and the BOP removed a total of 65 prisoners from under sentence of death by means other than execution.
- The New Hampshire legislature repealed the death penalty provision of the capital murder statute, but the repeal was prospective, leaving one male prisoner under a previously imposed sentence of death.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court declared the state capital statute unconstitutional, and the two prisoners under sentence of death were resentenced to life.
- The largest decline in the number of prisoners under sentence of death in 2019 occurred in California (down 11 prisoners), followed by Pennsylvania (down 8), Texas (down 7), and Tennessee (down 6).
- During 2019, the number of prisoners held under sentence of death increased in three states: North Carolina (up 3), Ohio (up 2), and South Carolina (up 1).
- Ninety-eight percent of prisoners under sentence of death were male.
- Among prisoners under sentence of death at year-end 2019, about 56% were white and 41% were black.
- Among prisoners under sentence of death at year-end 2019 with a known ethnicity, 15% were Hispanic.
- As of December 31, 2019, prisoners under sentence of death had been on death row for an average of 18.7 years.
- Prisoners executed during 2019 had been on death row for an average of 22 years.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953–2019**



Note: Data on the number of prisoners under sentence of death at year-end have been collected since 1953. See appendix table 2 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1953–2019.

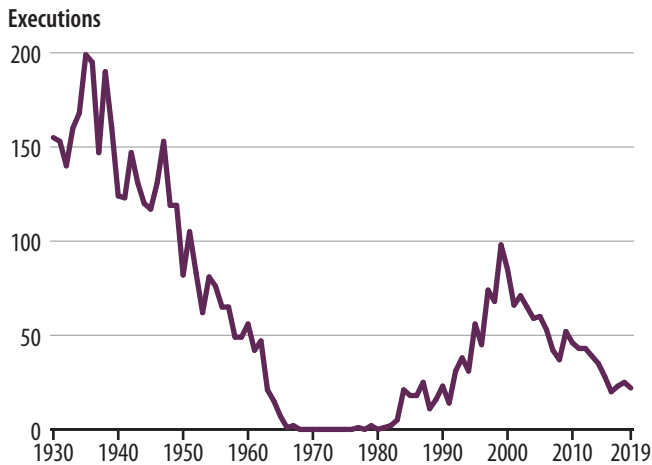
**FIGURE 2**  
**Admissions to and removals from under sentence of death, 1973–2019**



Note: Removals can be due to any cause, including execution, other death, or appeal. See appendix table 3 for counts.

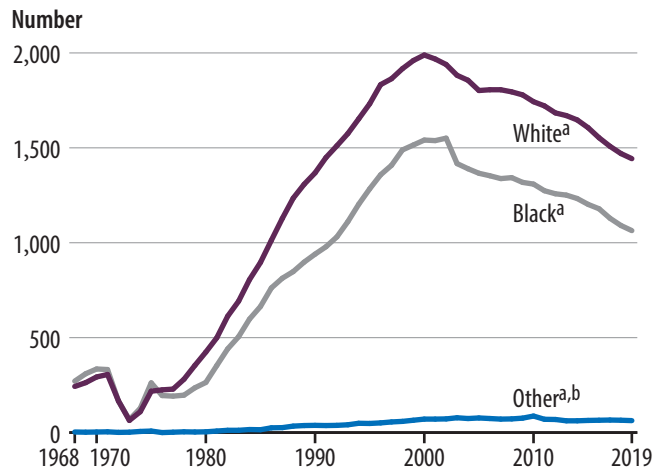
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1973–2019.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Number of prisoners executed under civil authority in the United States, 1930–2019**



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), 1930–2019.

**FIGURE 4**  
**Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2019**



Note: Data on Hispanic origin was not collected prior to 1977. See appendix table 5 for counts.  
<sup>a</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic origin.  
<sup>b</sup>Includes 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), 1968–2019.

## 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 Congress or a state legislature.

**Capital statutes**—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 implementation and enforcement of 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 who was previously under sentence of death and is no longer included in the count of persons under sentence of death. 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 which authorizes the state to execute a convicted offender.

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## Status of the death penalty in 2019

As of December 31, 2019, a total of 32 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. During 2019, one state repealed its death penalty statute, one had its statute ruled unconstitutional by the state's highest court, and five revised statutes related to the death penalty.

In 2019, the New Hampshire legislature repealed the death penalty (HB 455), effective May 30, 2019. Because the repeal was prospective, it did not affect the previously imposed death sentence of one male prisoner.

The New Mexico Supreme Court invalidated the state's death penalty statute on June 28, 2019. The court found in *Fry v. Lopez* (2019-NMSC-013, 447 P.3d 1086) that, by allowing the death penalty for murders committed prior to the enactment date but not for similar murders committed after the enactment date, imposition of a death sentence conflicted with the proportionality provision of the same statute. The ruling effectively removed the state's two remaining prisoners from under sentence of death.

During 2019, Alabama revised statutory provisions relating to its death penalty. The legislature added murder of any first responder operating in an official capacity (Ala. Code § 13A-5-40(a)(21)) to the list of offenses eligible for the death penalty. It also added two aggravating circumstances: the victim was a law enforcement or correctional officer murdered while on duty or for reasons related to their job; and the victim was a first responder who was operating in an official capacity (Ala. Code § 13A-5-49 (13), (14)). These changes became effective October 1, 2019.

Arizona amended the list of aggravating circumstances required to make a murder eligible for the death penalty (A.R.S. § 13-751(F)). The state's legislature removed elements from the statute: that the defendant

knowingly created a grave risk of death to persons other than the murder victim (A.R.S. § 13-751(F)(3)); committed the offense in a cold, calculated manner without pretense of moral or legal justification (A.R.S. § 13-751(F)(13)); or used a stun gun (A.R.S. § 13-751(F)(14)). The changes resulted in a total of 10 possible aggravating circumstances and became effective on August 27, 2019.

Arkansas revised its code of criminal procedure to prohibit disclosure of information or documents related to the execution process and participants (Ark. Code Ann. § 5-4-617), effective July 24, 2019.

The Oregon legislature revised several elements of the statute related to the state's death penalty (SB 1013 (2019)), which became effective September 29, 2019. Oregon revised the definition of aggravated murder. The changes allow for the death penalty in only the following circumstances: murder of two or more persons for the purpose of influencing the public or government through intimidation or coercion; murder committed by an inmate or someone with a prior conviction for aggravated murder; premeditated murder of a child age 13 or younger; and murder of police, correctional, probation, or parole officers when the murder was related to their official duties. The changes also added a new offense: first-degree murder, which encompasses elements previously classified as aggravated murder, which is punishable by life without the possibility of parole.

Tennessee revised two statutory provisions related to the death penalty. The specified aggravating circumstances were amended to include knowingly selling or distributing fentanyl or other opiates with the intent to commit murder (Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-204(i)(18)). The state also revised the code of criminal procedure to provide that when a judgment has become final in trial court, the conviction and the sentence of death will be automatically reviewed by the Tennessee Supreme Court instead of requiring the defendant to file a direct appeal from the trial court to the state's Court of Criminal Appeals (Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-206(a)-(c)). The changes became effective July 1, 2019.

**TABLE 1**  
**Status of the death penalty, December 31, 2019**

Executions in 2019	Number of prisoners under sentence of death	Jurisdictions with no death penalty (19)		
Texas	9	California	724	Alaska
Alabama	3	Florida	340	Connecticut
Georgia	3	Texas	216	District of Columbia
Tennessee	3	Alabama	175	Hawaii
Florida	2	North Carolina	143	Illinois
Missouri	1	Ohio	139	Iowa
South Dakota	1	Pennsylvania	134	Maine
		Arizona	116	Maryland
		Nevada	71	Massachusetts
		Louisiana	68	Michigan
		Federal Bureau of Prisons	61	Minnesota
		Tennessee	52	New Hampshire
		Georgia	46	New Jersey
		Oklahoma	46	New Mexico
		Mississippi	40	North Dakota
		South Carolina	36	Rhode Island
		Arkansas	30	Vermont
		Oregon	29	West Virginia
		Kentucky	27	Wisconsin
		Missouri	22	
		Nebraska	12	
		Kansas	10	
		Idaho	9	
		Indiana	8	
		Utah	7	
		Colorado	3	
		Virginia	2	
		Montana	2	
		New Hampshire <sup>a</sup>	1	
		South Dakota	1	
Total	22	Total <sup>b</sup>	2,570	

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 its death penalty statute, effective May 30, 2019. As of December 31, 2019, 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, 2019.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**TABLE 2****Capital offenses, by state, 2019**

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.
Colorado	First-degree murder with at least 1 of 17 aggravating factors; first-degree kidnapping resulting in death; and treason.
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 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 with aggravating circumstances (La. R.S. 14:30); 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).
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 premeditated murder accompanied by 1 of 15 aggravating circumstances (VA Code § 18.2-31(A)(1-15)).
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 male prisoner 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), 2019.



**TABLE 3**  
**Federal capital offenses, 2019**

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), 2019.

### Authorized methods of execution in 2019

Methods of execution are defined by statute and vary by jurisdiction. In 2019, all 32 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), hanging (2), firing squad (3), and nitrogen hypoxia (3).

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. Five states authorized alternative methods if lethal injection was ruled to be unconstitutional: 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 CFR 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 2020

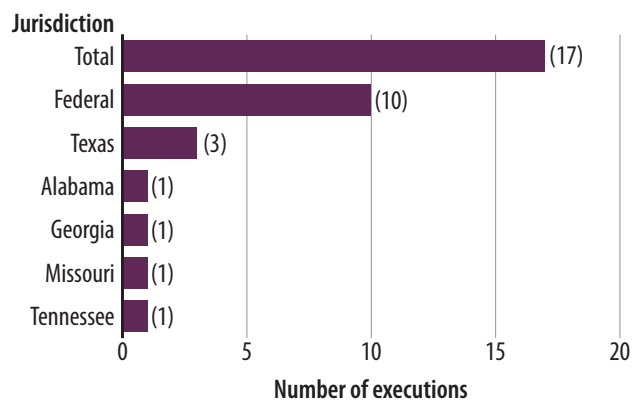
The Bureau of Justice Statistics gathers information following each execution to provide the most recent data on capital punishment in advance of the annual data collection. The data include the date, jurisdiction, and method of execution, and the race and Hispanic origin for each person executed.

From January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020, five states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) executed 17 prisoners, which was 5 fewer than the number executed in 2019 (figure 5). The BOP executed the largest number of prisoners (10) during this period, followed by Texas (3).

Sixteen of the executions in 2020 were by lethal injection, while 1 (in Tennessee) was by electrocution. Ten of those executed were white, 5 were black, 1 was Hispanic, and 1 was American Indian. No females were executed during this period.

Complete data for 2020 will appear in *Capital Punishment, 2020*. 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, 2020, as well as those removed from under sentence of death during the year.

**FIGURE 5**  
Advance count of executions, January 1, 2020–December 31, 2020



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**TABLE 4**  
**Authorized method of execution, by state, 2019**

Jurisdiction	Lethal injection <sup>a</sup>	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging <sup>a</sup>	Firing squad	Nitrogen hypoxia
Total	32	9	3	2	3	3
Alabama	■	■				■
Arizona <sup>b</sup>	■		■			
Arkansas <sup>c</sup>	■	■				
California <sup>d</sup>	■					
Colorado	■					
Delaware <sup>e</sup>	■			■		
Florida	■	■				
Georgia	■					
Idaho	■					
Indiana	■					
Kansas	■					
Kentucky <sup>f</sup>	■	■				
Louisiana	■					
Mississippi <sup>g</sup>	■	■			■	■
Missouri	■		■			
Montana	■					
Nebraska	■					
Nevada	■					
New York	■					
North Carolina	■					
Ohio	■					
Oklahoma <sup>g</sup>	■	■			■	■
Oregon	■					
Pennsylvania	■					
South Carolina	■	■				
South Dakota <sup>h</sup>	■					
Tennessee <sup>i</sup>	■	■				
Texas	■					
Utah <sup>j</sup>	■				■	
Virginia	■	■				
Washington	■			■		
Wyoming <sup>k</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 persons sentenced after November 23, 1992. Prisoners sentenced before that date may select lethal injection or gas.

<sup>c</sup>Authorizes lethal injection for persons whose offense occurred on or after July 4, 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.

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

<sup>g</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>h</sup>Any person sentenced to death prior to July 1, 2017, may choose to be executed in the manner provided by South Dakota law at the time of the person's conviction or sentence.

<sup>i</sup>Authorizes 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.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program (NPS-8), 2019.

## 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 [www.bjs.ojp.gov](http://www.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.

**TABLE 5****Prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2018 and 2019**

Region and jurisdiction	Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/18			Received under sentence of death, 2019			Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2019 <sup>a</sup>			Executed, 2019			Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/19		
	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>	2,626	1,470	1,091	31	20	11	65	32	31	22	15	7	2,570	1,443	1,064
Federal <sup>d</sup>	61	35	25	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	61	35	25
State	2,565	1,435	1,066	30	20	10	64	32	30	22	15	7	2,509	1,408	1,039
<b>Northeast</b>	143	65	75	1	1	0	9	2	6	0	0	0	135	64	69
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	142	65	74	1	1	0	9	2	6	0	0	0	134	64	68
<b>Midwest</b>	195	101	93	6	3	3	7	5	2	2	2	0	192	97	94
Indiana	9	7	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	6	2
Kansas	10	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	3
Missouri	25	18	7	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	22	15	7
Nebraska	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	9	3
Ohio	137	58	78	6	3	3	4	2	2	0	0	0	139	59	79
South Dakota	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
<b>South</b>	1,248	652	578	21	14	7	28	10	17	20	13	7	1,221	643	561
Alabama	176	88	88	3	2	1	1	0	1	3	2	1	175	88	87
Arkansas	31	16	15	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	30	15	15
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	344	215	128	6	5	1	8	5	2	2	2	0	340	213	127
Georgia	50	23	27	1	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	3	46	23	23
Kentucky	30	25	5	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	27	24	3
Louisiana	69	23	46	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	68	23	45
Mississippi	43	18	24	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	40	17	22
North Carolina	140	56	77	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	58	78
Oklahoma	47	22	21	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	46	22	20
South Carolina	35	16	19	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	36	17	19
Tennessee	58	29	28	0	0	0	3	1	2	3	3	0	52	25	26
Texas	223	121	98	5	4	1	3	1	2	9	6	3	216	118	94
Virginia	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
<b>West</b>	979	617	320	2	2	0	20	15	5	0	0	0	961	604	315
Arizona	116	89	20	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	116	89	20
California	735	436	268	1	1	0	12	8	4	0	0	0	724	429	264
Colorado	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Idaho	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	0
Montana	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Nevada	74	46	26	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	71	44	25
New Mexico	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oregon	30	27	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	29	26	2
Utah	8	6	1	0	0	0	1	1	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 year-end 2018 are revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2018 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 254786, BJS, September 2020). 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, 2018 (1 each in the Nebraska, Tennessee, and Nevada). The revised counts exclude 5 prisoners who were relieved of a death sentence before December 31, 2018 (2 in Nevada and 1 each in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and California).

<sup>a</sup>Includes 15 deaths from natural causes (6 in California, 2 in Mississippi, and 1 each in Ohio, Florida, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, and Utah), 2 deaths by suicide (1 each in California and Nevada), and 3 deaths resulting from acute drug toxicity (2 in California and 1 in Oklahoma).

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders.

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

<sup>d</sup>Excludes 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), 2019.

**TABLE 6****Demographic characteristics of prisoners under sentence of death, 2019**

Demographic characteristic	Total, 12/31/19	Admissions	Removals
<b>Total</b>	2,570	31	87
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	98.0%	96.8%	98.9%
Female	2.0	3.2	1.1
<b>Race</b>			
White <sup>a</sup>	56.1%	64.5%	54.0%
Black <sup>a</sup>	41.4	35.5	43.7
American Indian/ Alaska Native <sup>a</sup>	0.8	0.0	0.0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>a,b</sup>	1.6	0.0	2.3
<b>Ethnicity<sup>c</sup></b>			
Hispanic	15.1%	11.1%	10.3%
Non-Hispanic	84.9	88.9	89.7
<b>Age</b>			
18–19	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
20–24	0.1	0.0	0.0
25–29	1.4	19.4	0.0
30–34	4.7	22.6	1.1
35–39	8.4	32.3	8.0
40–44	13.7	9.7	10.3
45–49	16.8	9.7	25.3
50–54	16.5	3.2	12.6
55–59	15.9	3.2	12.6
60–64	11.3	0.0	9.2
65 or older	11.1	0.0	20.7
<b>Average age</b>			
Mean	51 yrs.	36 yrs.	54 yrs.
Median	51	36	52
<b>Education<sup>d</sup></b>			
8th grade or less	11.8%	31.3%	17.1%
9th–11th grade	34.8	18.8	27.6
High school graduate/GED	44.3	37.5	43.4
Any college	9.1	12.5	11.8
<b>Median education level</b>	12th grade	12th grade	12th grade
<b>Marital status<sup>e</sup></b>			
Married	21.3%	22.2%	22.5%
Divorced/separated	19.6	27.8	17.5
Widowed	3.6	0.0	3.8
Never married	55.5	50.0	56.3

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.

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes 36 Asians and 6 Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders at year-end 2019. Two Asian prisoners were removed during 2019.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes 232 prisoners from total year-end, 4 admissions, and 9 removals because ethnicity was unknown.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes 547 prisoners from total year-end, 15 admissions, and 11 removals because education level was unknown.

<sup>e</sup>Excludes 376 prisoners from total year-end, 13 admissions, and 7 removals because marital status was unknown.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**TABLE 7****Female prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2018 and 2019**

Region and jurisdiction	Female prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/18 <sup>a</sup>			Received under sentence of death, 2019			Removed from death row, 2019			Female prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/19		
	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>	52	39	10	1	0	1	1	1	0	52	38	11
Federal	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
State	51	38	10	1	0	1	1	1	0	51	37	11
<b>Midwest</b>	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
<b>South</b>	22	14	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	23	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	0	0	0	1	0	1	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	0	0	0	3	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
<b>West</b>	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	1	1	0	22	17	3
Idaho	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Oregon	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

<sup>a</sup>Counts of female prisoners under sentence of death at year-end 2018 have been revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2018 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 254786, BJS, September 2020). The revised counts exclude one female prisoner in Indiana who was relieved of a death sentence before December 31, 2018.

<sup>b</sup>Includes American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders.

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**TABLE 8****Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, by region and jurisdiction, 2018 and 2019**

Region and jurisdiction	Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/18	Received under sentence of death, 2019	Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2019	Executed, 2019	Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/19
<b>U.S. total</b>	359	3	7	1	354
Federal	7	0	0	0	7
State	352	3	7	1	347
<b>Northeast</b>	16	0	2	0	14
Pennsylvania	16	0	2	0	14
<b>Midwest</b>	10	0	0	0	10
Nebraska	6	0	0	0	6
Ohio	4	0	0	0	4
<b>South</b>	96	2	2	1	95
Alabama	1	0	0	0	1
Arkansas	1	0	1	0	0
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	2	1	1	61
<b>West</b>	230	1	3	0	228
Arizona	24	0	0	0	24
California	193	1	2	0	192
Idaho	1	0	0	0	1
Nevada	7	0	1	0	6
Oregon	3	0	0	0	3
Utah	2	0	0	0	2

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.



**TABLE 9**  
**Criminal history of prisoners under sentence of death, by race or ethnicity, 2019**

	All prisoners <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic
<b>U.S. total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Prior felony convictions<sup>c</sup></b>				
Yes	67.8%	64.0%	73.1%	65.4%
No	32.2	36.0	26.9	34.6
<b>Prior homicide convictions<sup>d</sup></b>				
Yes	9.5%	9.4%	10.1%	9.1%
No	90.5	90.6	89.9	90.9
<b>Legal status at time of capital offense<sup>e</sup></b>				
Charges pending	8.3%	9.9%	7.6%	5.9%
Probation	11.3	10.0	11.4	14.2
Parole	16.0	13.7	17.8	17.6
On escape	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.9
Incarcerated	4.4	5.8	3.5	3.4
Other status	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3
None	58.8	59.0	58.8	57.6

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

<sup>a</sup>Includes American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Excludes 202 prisoners because data were not reported.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes 33 prisoners because data were not reported.

<sup>e</sup>Excludes 296 prisoners because data were not reported.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**TABLE 10****Prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2019, by year of sentencing**

Jurisdiction	Year of sentence for prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/2019													Under sentence of death, 12/31/19	Average years under sentence of death, 12/31/19
	1976-1980	1981-1984	1985-1988	1989-1992	1993-1996	1997-2000	2001-2004	2005-2008	2009-2012	2013-2016	2017	2018	2019		
U.S. total	21	85	151	244	397	419	288	342	308	208	36	40	31	2,570	18.7
Florida	8	17	20	45	48	51	22	40	44	29	3	7	6	340	19.5
California	5	39	59	94	115	126	59	71	81	61	9	4	1	724	20.4
Texas	4	1	8	12	20	35	41	28	27	25	4	6	5	216	16.0
Nevada	1	7	8	3	17	10	3	6	6	5	4	1	0	71	21.0
Kentucky	1	4	4	1	3	7	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	27	24.4
Arizona	1	3	4	12	16	6	10	18	32	7	4	2	1	116	16.4
Arkansas	1	0	0	2	7	3	3	5	2	4	1	2	0	30	16.5
Ohio	0	3	14	14	19	19	19	13	13	14	1	4	6	139	18.2
Pennsylvania	0	2	11	15	23	19	15	17	17	11	2	1	1	134	18.9
Tennessee	0	2	5	9	8	9	7	3	6	2	0	1	0	52	21.4
Alabama	0	2	4	10	24	31	19	36	24	17	2	3	3	175	16.2
South Carolina	0	2	0	1	2	6	9	11	2	1	0	0	2	36	16.6
Missouri	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	11	2	3	0	1	0	22	14.4
Mississippi	0	1	0	4	6	5	8	3	7	3	1	2	0	40	16.8
Montana	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	:
Louisiana	0	0	4	4	12	22	8	6	8	3	0	1	0	68	19.2
Georgia	0	0	3	3	7	11	4	10	5	2	0	0	1	46	18.4
Utah	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	:
North Carolina	0	0	1	7	51	39	19	13	7	3	0	0	3	143	20.4
Idaho	0	0	1	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	:
Oklahoma	0	0	1	1	3	5	10	14	3	5	2	1	1	46	13.8
Oregon	0	0	0	2	6	7	3	4	7	0	0	0	0	29	17.8
Federal	0	0	0	0	3	5	17	18	7	6	2	2	1	61	13.3
Indiana	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	8	:
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	2	0	1	2	0	12	11.5
Colorado	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	:
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	10	11.4
Virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	:
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	:
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	:

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

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**TABLE 11****Prisoners removed from under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and method of removal, 2019**

Region and jurisdiction	Total	Execution	Other death*	Sentence commuted	Appeals court or higher court overturned—		
					Capital statute	Capital conviction	Death sentence
<b>U.S. total</b>	87	22	20	2	2	19	22
Federal	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
State	86	22	20	2	2	19	21
<b>Northeast</b>	9	0	0	0	0	1	8
Pennsylvania	9	0	0	0	0	1	8
<b>Midwest</b>	9	2	1	0	0	1	5
Indiana	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Missouri	3	1	0	0	0	0	2
Ohio	4	0	1	0	0	1	2
South Dakota	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>South</b>	48	20	7	2	0	14	5
Alabama	4	3	0	0	0	1	0
Arkansas	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Florida	10	2	1	0	0	7	0
Georgia	5	3	0	0	0	0	2
Kentucky	3	0	0	2	0	1	0
Louisiana	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mississippi	3	0	2	0	0	1	0
Oklahoma	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tennessee	6	3	1	0	0	1	1
Texas	12	9	1	0	0	1	1
<b>West</b>	20	0	12	0	2	3	3
Arizona	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
California	12	0	9	0	0	1	2
Nevada	3	0	1	0	0	1	1
New Mexico	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Oregon	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Utah	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

\*In 2019, other deaths were due to natural causes, suicide, and acute drug toxicity.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**TABLE 12****Average elapsed time between sentencing and execution, 1977–2019**

Year <sup>a</sup>	Executions	Average elapsed time from sentence to execution <sup>b</sup>
Total	1,512	146 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

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 matters previously held unconstitutional (*Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976) and its companion cases).

<sup>a</sup>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), 1977–2019.

**TABLE 13****Number of prisoners executed, by race or ethnicity, 1977–2019**

Year <sup>a</sup>	All executions	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>b,c</sup>
Total	1,512	850	515	133	14
1977	1	1	0	0	0
1979	2	2	0	0	0
1981	1	1	0	0	0
1982	2	1	1	0	0
1983	5	4	1	0	0
1984	21	13	8	0	0
1985	18	9	7	2	0
1986	18	9	7	2	0
1987	25	11	11	3	0
1988	11	6	5	0	0
1989	16	6	8	2	0
1990	23	16	7	0	0
1991	14	6	7	1	0
1992	31	17	11	2	1
1993	38	19	14	4	1
1994	31	19	11	1	0
1995	56	31	22	2	1
1996	45	29	14	2	0
1997	74	41	26	5	2
1998	68	40	18	8	2
1999	98	53	33	9	3
2000	85	43	35	6	1
2001	66	45	17	3	1
2002	71	47	18	6	0
2003	65	41	20	3	1
2004	59	36	19	3	1
2005	60	38	19	3	0
2006	53	25	20	8	0
2007	42	22	14	6	0
2008	37	17	17	3	0
2009	52	24	21	7	0
2010	46	28	13	5	0
2011	43	22	16	5	0
2012	43	25	11	7	0
2013	39	23	13	3	0
2014	35	12	18	5	0
2015	28	11	10	7	0
2016	20	16	2	2	0
2017	23	13	8	2	0
2018	25	14	6	5	0
2019	22	14	7	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 matters 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 persons of Hispanic origin (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic whites and “black” refers to non-Hispanic blacks).

<sup>c</sup>Includes American Indians or Alaska Natives and Asians, Native Hawaiians, or Other Pacific Islanders.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1977–2019.

**TABLE 14**  
**Number of executions, by method and jurisdiction, 1977–2019**

Jurisdiction	All methods	Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
U.S. total	1,512	1,333	162	11	3	3
Federal	3	3	0	0	0	0
Alabama	66	42	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	75	52	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	89	89	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	12	7	5	0	0	0
Texas	567	567	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 matters 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), 1977–2019.

**TABLE 15**  
**Number of executions, by jurisdiction, 1930–2019 and 1977–2019**

Jurisdiction	Since 1930	Since 1977
U.S. total	5,371	1,512
Texas	864	567
Georgia	441	75
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	201	66
Mississippi	175	21
Oklahoma	172	112
Louisiana	161	28
Pennsylvania	155	3
Missouri	151	89
Arkansas	149	31
Kentucky	106	3
Tennessee	105	12
Illinois	102	12
Arizona	75	37
New Jersey	74	0
Maryland	73	5
Indiana	61	20
Washington	52	5
Colorado	48	1
Nevada	41	12
District of Columbia	40	0
West Virginia	40	0
Federal	36	3
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), 1930–2019.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1****Demographic characteristics for prisoners under sentence of death, 2019**

Demographic characteristic	Total, 12/31/19	Admissions	Removals
Total	2,570	31	87
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	2,518	30	86
Female	52	1	1
<b>Race</b>			
White	1,443	20	47
Black	1,064	11	38
American Indian/ Alaska Native	21	0	0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	42	0	2
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	354	3	8
Non-Hispanic	1,984	24	70
Unknown	232	4	9
<b>Age</b>			
18–19	0	0	0
20–24	3	0	0
25–29	37	6	0
30–34	122	7	1
35–39	217	10	7
40–44	353	3	9
45–49	433	3	22
50–54	423	1	11
55–59	408	1	11
60–64	290	0	8
65 or older	284	0	18
<b>Education</b>			
8th grade or less	238	5	13
9th–11th grade	703	3	21
High school graduate/GED	897	6	33
Any college	185	2	9
Unknown	547	15	11
<b>Marital status</b>			
Married	467	4	18
Divorced/separated	431	5	14
Widowed	79	0	3
Never married	1,217	9	45
Unknown	376	13	7

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2019.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Counts for figure 1: Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953–2019**

Year	Prisoners	Year	Prisoners	Year	Prisoners
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	2,570
1974	244	1997	3,328		
1975	488	1998	3,465		

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1953–2019.

**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Counts for figure 2: Admissions to and removals from under sentence of death, 1973–2019**

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	166
1978	211	150	1994	330	153	2010	116	143
1979	172	61	1995	325	171	2011	84	155
1980	202	101	1996	323	155	2012	85	124
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	122
1984	306	90	2000	235	173	2016	33	99
1985	292	130	2001	164	194	2017	37	133
1986	319	109	2002	172	191	2018	41	117
1987	311	142	2003	157	348	2019	31	87
1988	317	165	2004	139	197			

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), 1973–2019.



**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Counts for figure 3: Number of prisoners executed under civil authority in the United States, 1930–2019**

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

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1930–2019.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Counts for figure 4: Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2019**

Year	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Other <sup>a,b</sup>	Year	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Other <sup>a,b</sup>
1968	243	271	3	1994	1,653	1,203	49
1969	263	310	2	1995	1,732	1,284	48
1970	293	335	3	1996	1,833	1,358	51
1971	306	332	4	1997	1,864	1,408	56
1972	167	166	1	1998	1,917	1,489	59
1973	64	68	2	1999	1,960	1,515	65
1974	110	128	6	2000	1,989	1,541	71
1975	218	262	8	2001	1,968	1,538	71
1976	225	195	0	2002	1,939	1,551	72
1977	229	192	2	2003	1,882	1,417	78
1978	281	197	4	2004	1,856	1,390	74
1979	354	236	3	2005	1,802	1,366	77
1980	424	264	4	2006	1,806	1,353	74
1981	499	353	8	2007	1,806	1,338	71
1982	613	441	12	2008	1,795	1,343	72
1983	692	505	12	2009	1,779	1,318	76
1984	806	598	16	2010	1,743	1,309	87
1985	896	664	15	2011	1,721	1,274	70
1986	1,013	762	25	2012	1,684	1,258	69
1987	1,128	813	26	2013	1,670	1,251	62
1988	1,235	848	34	2014	1,647	1,233	62
1989	1,308	898	37	2015	1,606	1,202	64
1990	1,368	940	38	2016	1,553	1,179	65
1991	1,449	979	37	2017	1,508	1,129	66
1992	1,511	1,031	38	2018	1,470	1,091	65
1993	1,575	1,111	41	2019	1,443	1,064	63

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

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes 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), 1968–2019.



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