



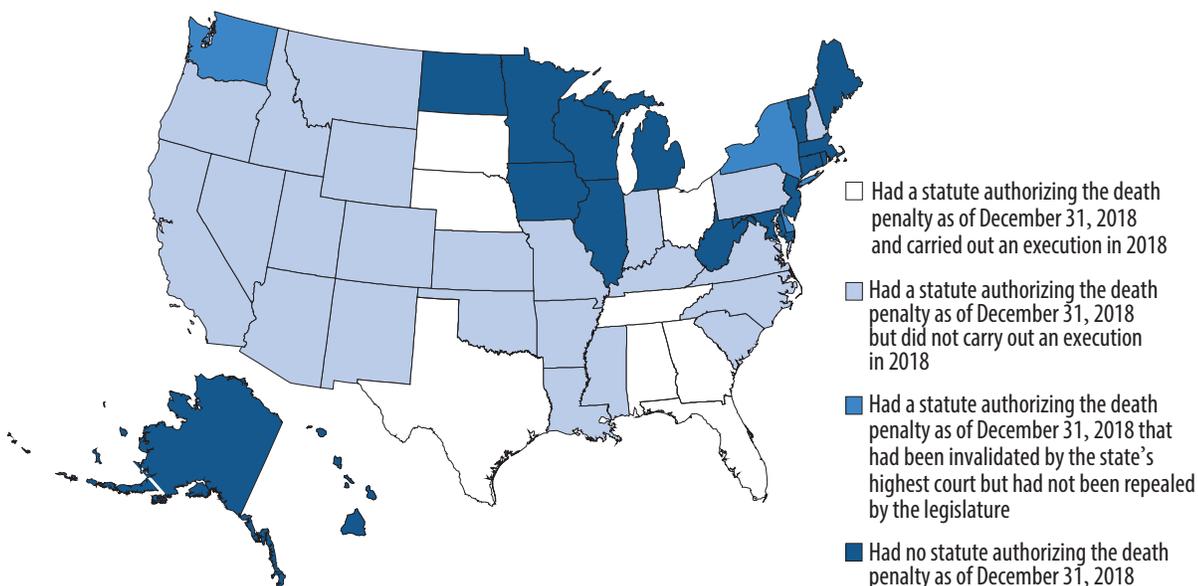
# Capital Punishment, 2018 – Statistical Tables

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At year-end 2018, a total of 30 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) held 2,628 prisoners under sentence of death, which was 75 (3%) fewer than at year-end 2017. In 2018, the number of prisoners under sentence of death declined for the 18th consecutive year. Thirteen states and the BOP received a total of 38 prisoners in 2018 who were under death sentences. California (28%), Florida (13%), and Texas (8%) held about half of the prisoners under death sentences in the United States at year-end 2018. Eight states executed a total of 25 prisoners in 2018, with Texas accounting for more than half (13) of the executions.

This report presents statistics on persons who were under sentence of death or were executed in 2018, and on state and federal death-penalty laws. At year-end 2018, a total of 34 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty (**map 1**). Each jurisdiction determines the offenses for which the death penalty can be imposed. Once a person has been convicted of a capital offense, a separate sentencing hearing is held. During the sentencing hearing, a jury will consider aggravating and mitigating factors as defined by state or federal law. Before a person can be sentenced to death, a jury must find that at least one aggravating factor is present and that mitigating factors do not outweigh the aggravating factor(s).

**MAP 1**  
States with and without death-penalty statutes, year-end 2018

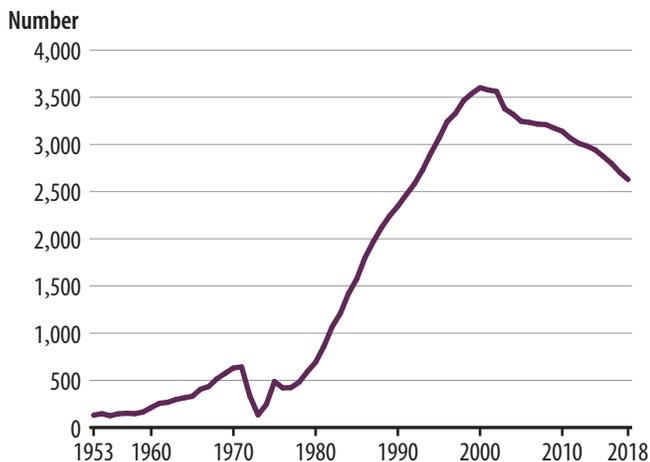


Note: See table 2 for details on states that authorized the death penalty.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

# Highlights

- Nineteen states had a decrease in the number of prisoners held under sentence of death from year-end 2017 to year-end 2018, while 2 states and the BOP had an increase.
- Eighteen states and the BOP removed a total of 88 prisoners from being under sentence of death in 2018 by means other than execution.
- In 2018, the Washington Supreme Court ruled that the state's death-penalty law was unconstitutional, and eight prisoners under sentence of death were re-sentenced to life without parole.
- During 2018, Delaware removed its remaining death-row prisoner from a previously imposed death sentence.
- The largest declines in the number of prisoners under death sentences in 2018 were in Pennsylvania and Texas (down 11 prisoners each), followed by Washington (down 8) and then Alabama, Florida, California, and Nevada (down 6 each).

**FIGURE 1**  
Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953-2018



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), 1953-2018.

- From year-end 2017 to year-end 2018, the number of prisoners held under sentence of death in Arkansas increased by two, while the BOP and Missouri each increased their number by one.
- At year-end 2018, 56% of prisoners under death sentences were white and 42% were black.
- Among prisoners under a death sentence at year-end 2018 with a known ethnicity, 15% were Hispanic.
- Ninety-eight percent of prisoners under sentence of death were male.
- In three of the four (Census) regions in the country (the West, Midwest, and South), more white prisoners than black prisoners were under sentence of death at year-end 2018.
- The average elapsed time from sentencing to execution almost tripled from 1988 (6.7 years) to 2018 (19.8 years).

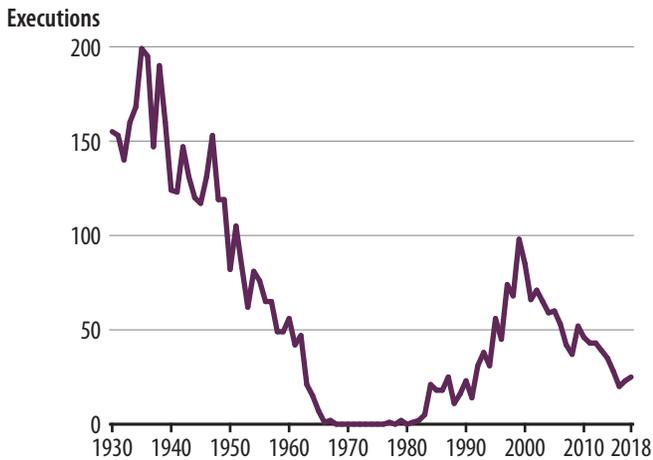
**FIGURE 2**  
Admissions to and removals from a sentence of death, 1973-2018



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

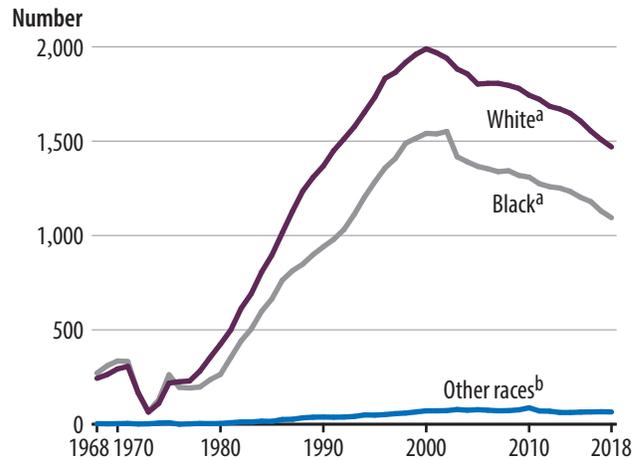
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1973-2018.

**FIGURE 3**  
**Number of prisoners executed under civil authority in the United States, 1930-2018**



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), 1930-2018.

**FIGURE 4**  
**Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968-2018**



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 Asians, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and persons for whom only ethnicity was identified.  
 Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968-2018.

## 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. These can also be 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 that may be 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 if a crime is eligible for a death sentence are defined by statute and are prescribed by Congress or a state legislature.

**Capital statute**—A state or federal law dictating specific crimes that are eligible for a death sentence and specific procedures to be followed in carrying out such a sentence.

**Civil authorities**—For the purposes of this report, the state or federal entities 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 for life or to a term of years.

**Death row**—A slang term referring to the area of a prison in which prisoners under sentence of death are 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 they are sentenced to death by a court.

**Removal from being under sentence of death**—The removal of a prisoner who was previously sentenced to death from 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 that authorizes the state to execute a convicted offender.

**Year-end**—As of December 31 of the calendar year.

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## Status of the death penalty in 2018

At year-end 2018, a total of 34 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty for certain offenses (tables 1, 2, and 3). Although New Mexico repealed its death penalty in 2009 (2009 N.M. Laws, ch. 11 § 5), the repeal was not retroactive, and offenders charged with a capital offense committed prior to the repeal date may be eligible for a death sentence. As of December 31, 2018, New Mexico held two men under death sentences.

The Washington State Supreme Court declared the state's death-penalty statute unconstitutional on October 11, 2018. The court found in *State v. Gregory* (192 Wash. 2d 1, 427 P.3d 621 (2018)) that the death penalty was administered in an "arbitrary and racially biased manner" and, therefore, violated the state constitution. The ruling resulted in the removal of eight prisoners from being under sentence of death in Washington. The state's legislature has not acted to repeal the statute.

During 2018, the Alabama state legislature revised statutory provisions for the death penalty. They added murder committed in the presence of a child younger than age 14 when the murder victim was a parent to that child (Ala. Stat. Ann. § 13A-5-40(a)(20)) to the list of offenses eligible for a death sentence. The state also added as aggravating factors the murder committed either against a victim younger than age 14 or in the presence of a child younger than age 14 when the murder victim was a parent to that child (Ala. Stat. Ann. § 13A-5-49 (11) and (12)). These changes became effective August 1, 2018.

South Dakota amended its code of criminal procedure to prohibit persons with severe mental illness from being sentenced to death (SDCL §§ 23A-27A-26.1 to 23A-27A-26.7). Persons deemed prior to trial to have severe mental illness whose offenses occurred after the law's enactment will be sentenced to life imprisonment if convicted. The law became effective July 1, 2018.

**TABLE 1**  
**Status of the death penalty, December 31, 2018**

Executions in 2018		Number of prisoners under sentence of death in states with a death-penalty statute		States with death-penalty statute invalidated by state's highest court but not repealed by legislature	Jurisdictions with no statute authorizing the death penalty (17)
Texas	13	California	736	Delaware	Alaska
Tennessee	3	Florida	344	New York	Connecticut
Alabama	2	Texas	223	Washington	District of Columbia
Florida	2	Alabama	176		Hawaii
Georgia	2	Pennsylvania	143		Illinois
Nebraska	1	North Carolina	140		Iowa
Ohio	1	Ohio	137		Maine
South Dakota	1	Arizona	116		Maryland
		Nevada	75		Massachusetts
		Louisiana	69		Michigan
		Federal Bureau of Prisons	61		Minnesota
		Tennessee	57		New Jersey
		Georgia	50		North Dakota
		Oklahoma	47		Rhode Island
		Mississippi	43		Vermont
		17 other states*	211		West Virginia
Total	25	Total	2,628		Wisconsin

Note: See table 2 for information on statutes.

\*New Mexico repealed its death penalty for capital offenses committed on or after July 1, 2009. As of December 31, 2018, two males in New Mexico were under previously imposed death sentences. The other states with prisoners under sentence of death were Ark., Colo., Idaho, Ind., Kan., Ky., Mo., Mont., Neb., N.H., Ore., S.C., S.D., Va., and Utah. Wyoming held no prisoners under sentence of death during 2018.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**TABLE 2****Capital offenses, by state, 2018**

State	Offense
Alabama	Intentional murder (Ala. Stat. Ann. § 13A-5-40(a)(1)-(20)) with 12 aggravating factors (Ala. Stat. Ann. § 13A-5-49).
Arizona	First-degree murder, including pre-meditated murder and felony murder, accompanied by at least 1 of 14 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 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 18 aggravating circumstances (I.C. 35-50-2-9).
Kansas	Intentional and pre-meditated 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	Capital murder with 1 of 9 aggravating circumstances (Mont. Code Ann. § 46-18-303); aggravated kidnapping resulting in death of victim or rescuer; felony murder; aggravated assault or aggravated 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 Hampshire	Murder committed in the course of rape, kidnapping, drug crimes, or home invasion; killing of a police officer, judge, or prosecutor; murder for hire; and murder by a prisoner while serving a sentence of life without parole (R.S.A. 630:1, R.S.A. 630:5).
New Mexico <sup>b</sup>	First-degree murder with at least 1 of 7 aggravating factors (N.M.S.A. 1978 § 31-20A-5).
New York <sup>c</sup>	First-degree murder with 1 of 13 aggravating factors (NY Penal Law §125.27).
North Carolina	First-degree murder (N.C.G.S. §14-17) with the finding of at least 1 of 11 statutory aggravating circumstances (N.C.G.S. § 15A-2000).
Ohio	Aggravated murder with at least 1 of 10 aggravating circumstances (O.R.C. 2903.01, 2929.02, and 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 (§ 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 15 aggravating circumstances (Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-204).
Texas	Criminal homicide with 1 of 9 statutory aggravators (Tex. Penal Code § 19.03).
Utah	Aggravated murder (Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-202).
Virginia	Pre-meditated murder with 1 of 15 aggravating circumstances (VA Code § 18.2-31(1-15)).
Washington <sup>d</sup>	Aggravated first-degree murder.
Wyoming	First-degree 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)).

<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>New Mexico enacted a prospective repeal of its capital statute as of July 1, 2009. Offenders who committed capital offenses on or before that date are eligible for the death penalty.

<sup>c</sup>The New York Court of Appeals held that a portion of New York's death-penalty-sentencing statute (CPL 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>d</sup>The Washington Supreme Court has declared the state's death-penalty statute unconstitutional (*State v. Gregory*, 192 Wash. 2d 1, 427 P.3d 621 (2018)). No legislative action has been taken to repeal the statute.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**TABLE 3**  
**Federal capital offenses, 2018**

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 a law enforcement official.
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), 2018.

## Authorized methods of execution in 2018

Methods of execution are defined by statute and vary by jurisdiction. In 2018, all 34 states with a death-penalty statute authorized lethal injection as a method of execution (**table 4**). Sixteen states authorized one or more alternative methods of execution: electrocution (9 states), lethal gas (3), hanging (3), firing squad (3), and nitrogen hypoxia (3).

In states that authorized multiple methods of execution, the condemned prisoner could usually select 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. New Hampshire authorized hanging only if lethal injection could not be given. 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 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 dictates the method used (18 U.S.C. § 3596).

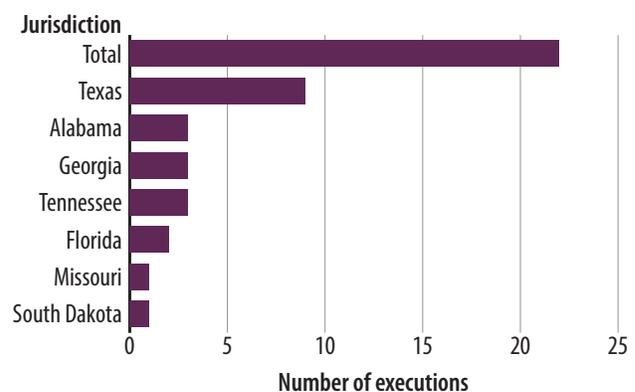
## Advance count of executions in 2019

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, 2019 to December 31, 2019, seven states executed 22 prisoners, which was 3 fewer than the number executed in 2018 (**figure 5**). Texas (9 prisoners) executed the largest number of prisoners during this period, followed by Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee (3 prisoners each). Twenty of the executions in 2019 were by lethal injection, while 2 (in Tennessee) were by electrocution. Fourteen of those executed were white, 7 were black, and 1 was Hispanic. No females were executed during this period.

Final counts for 2019 will appear in *Capital Punishment, 2019*. 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, 2019, as well as those removed from being under sentence of death during the year.

**FIGURE 5**  
Advance count of executions, January 1, 2019-  
December 31, 2019



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**TABLE 4**  
**Authorized methods of execution, by state, 2018**

Jurisdiction	Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad	Nitrogen hypoxia
Total	34	9	3	3	3	3
Alabama	■	■				■
Arizona <sup>a</sup>	■		■			
Arkansas <sup>b</sup>	■	■				
California <sup>c</sup>	■					
Colorado	■					
Delaware <sup>d</sup>	■			■		
Florida	■	■				
Georgia	■					
Idaho	■					
Indiana	■					
Kansas	■					
Kentucky <sup>e</sup>	■	■				
Louisiana	■					
Mississippi <sup>f</sup>	■	■			■	■
Missouri	■		■			
Montana	■					
Nebraska	■					
Nevada	■					
New Hampshire <sup>g</sup>	■			■		
New Mexico <sup>h</sup>	■					
New York	■					
North Carolina	■					
Ohio	■					
Oklahoma <sup>f</sup>	■	■			■	■
Oregon	■					
Pennsylvania	■					
South Carolina	■	■				
South Dakota <sup>i</sup>	■					
Tennessee <sup>j</sup>	■	■				
Texas	■					
Utah <sup>k</sup>	■				■	
Virginia	■	■				
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>Authorizes lethal injection for persons sentenced after November 23, 1992. Prisoners sentenced before that date may select lethal injection or gas.

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

<sup>e</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>f</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>g</sup>Authorizes hanging only if lethal injection cannot be given.

<sup>h</sup>Authorizes lethal injection for persons whose capital offense occurred prior to July 1, 2009.

<sup>i</sup>Any person sentenced to death before 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>j</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>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), 2018.

## 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.gov](http://www.bjs.gov)

The NPS-8 covers all persons under a state or federal civil sentence of death at any time during the year. 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****Movement of prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2017 and 2018**

Region and jurisdiction <sup>a</sup>	Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/17			Received under sentence of death, 2018			Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2018 <sup>b</sup>			Executed, 2018			Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/18		
	Total <sup>c</sup>	White <sup>d</sup>	Black <sup>d</sup>	Total <sup>c</sup>	White <sup>d</sup>	Black <sup>d</sup>	Total <sup>c</sup>	White <sup>d</sup>	Black <sup>d</sup>	Total <sup>c</sup>	White <sup>d</sup>	Black <sup>d</sup>	Total <sup>c</sup>	White <sup>d</sup>	Black <sup>d</sup>
<b>U.S. total</b>	2,703	1,508	1,129	38	28	9	88	48	38	25	19	6	2,628	1,469	1,094
Federal <sup>e</sup>	60	33	26	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	61	35	25
State	2,643	1,475	1,103	36	26	9	87	48	37	25	19	6	2,567	1,434	1,069
<b>Northeast</b>	155	71	81	1	1	0	12	7	5	0	0	0	144	65	76
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	154	71	80	1	1	0	12	7	5	0	0	0	143	65	75
<b>Midwest</b>	196	102	93	6	4	2	4	3	1	3	3	0	195	100	94
Indiana	10	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	3
Kansas	10	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	7	3
Missouri	24	17	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	18	7
Nebraska	11	8	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	11	8	3
Ohio	138	60	77	4	2	2	4	3	1	1	1	0	137	58	78
South Dakota	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0
<b>South</b>	1,286	668	600	22	16	5	39	16	22	22	16	6	1,247	652	577
Alabama	182	88	93	3	3	0	7	1	5	2	2	0	176	88	88
Arkansas	29	14	15	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	16	15
Delaware	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	350	215	134	7	6	1	11	4	7	2	2	0	344	215	128
Georgia	55	25	30	0	0	0	3	2	1	2	0	2	50	23	27
Kentucky	32	27	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	30	25	5
Louisiana	71	23	48	1	1	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	69	23	46
Mississippi	43	19	23	2	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	43	18	24
North Carolina	143	58	78	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	140	56	77
Oklahoma	48	22	23	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	47	22	21
South Carolina	35	16	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	16	19
Tennessee	60	32	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	57	29	27
Texas	234	128	102	6	3	3	4	1	3	13	9	4	223	121	98
Virginia	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
<b>West</b>	1,006	634	329	7	5	2	32	22	9	0	0	0	981	617	322
Arizona	120	94	19	2	0	2	6	5	1	0	0	0	116	89	20
California	742	438	272	5	5	0	11	7	3	0	0	0	736	436	269
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	81	50	29	0	0	0	6	4	2	0	0	0	75	46	27
New Mexico	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Oregon	30	27	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	27	2
Utah	9	7	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	6	1
Washington	8	5	3	0	0	0	8	5	3	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 2017 are revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2017: Selected Findings* (NCJ 253060, BJS, July 2019). The revised counts include 5 prisoners who were reported late to the National Prisoner Statistics program or were not in the custody of state correctional authorities on December 31, 2017 (1 in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 1 in Florida, 1 in Mississippi, and 2 in Oklahoma). The revised counts exclude 5 prisoners who were relieved of a death sentence before December 31, 2017 (3 in Mississippi and 2 in Nevada).

<sup>a</sup>Based on U.S. Census Bureau's regions and divisions of the United States. [https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us\\_regdiv.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf)

<sup>b</sup>Includes 16 deaths from natural causes (2 each in Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, and Pennsylvania and 1 each in Florida, Kentucky, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, and Utah); 4 deaths by suicide (2 in California and 1 each in Alabama and Oklahoma); 3 deaths from acute drug toxicity (California), and 1 death from murder by another prisoner (California).

<sup>c</sup>Includes Asians, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and persons for whom only ethnicity was identified.

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

<sup>e</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), 2018.

**TABLE 6**  
**Demographic characteristics of prisoners under sentence of death, 2018**

Demographic characteristic	Total year-end	Admissions	Removals
Total	2,628	38	113
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	98.0%	100%	100%
Female	2.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Race</b>			
White <sup>a</sup>	55.9%	73.7%	59.3%
Black <sup>a</sup>	41.6	23.7	38.9
Other <sup>a,b</sup>	2.5	2.6	1.8
<b>Ethnicity<sup>c</sup></b>			
Hispanic	15.0%	23.7%	14.2%
Non-Hispanic	85.0	76.3	85.8
<b>Age</b>			
18-19	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
20-24	0.2	2.6	0.0
25-29	1.9	15.8	0.9
30-34	4.9	21.1	6.2
35-39	9.4	18.4	9.7
40-44	14.1	13.2	8.8
45-49	18.0	7.9	17.7
50-54	15.8	7.9	12.4
55-59	15.6	7.9	14.2
60-64	9.8	5.3	12.4
65 or older	10.2	0.0	17.7
<b>Average age</b>			
Mean	50 yrs.	40 yrs.	53 yrs.
Median	50	38	51
<b>Education<sup>d</sup></b>			
8th grade or less	11.8%	0.0%	14.8%
9th-11th grade	34.6	38.9	33.0
High-school graduate/GED	44.2	50.0	42.0
Any college	9.3	11.1	10.2
<b>Median education level</b>	12th grade	12th grade	12th grade
<b>Marital status<sup>e</sup></b>			
Married	21.3%	26.1%	16.3%
Divorced/separated	19.5	17.4	28.3
Widowed	3.6	8.7	5.4
Never married	55.5	47.8	50.0

Note: Percentages are based on prisoners for whom data were reported. Details may not sum to 100% due to rounding. See appendix table 1 for counts.

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes 38 Asians, 6 Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders, and 21 American Indians or Alaska Natives (AIANs) at year-end 2018. One AIAN prisoner was admitted and 2 Asian prisoners were removed during 2018.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes 238 prisoners from total year-end and 7 removals because ethnicity was unknown.

<sup>d</sup>Excludes 541 prisoners from total year-end, 20 admissions, and 25 removals because education level was unknown.

<sup>e</sup>Excludes 368 prisoners from total year-end, 15 admissions, and 21 removals because marital status was unknown.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**TABLE 7****Female prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race, 2017 and 2018**

Region and jurisdiction <sup>a</sup>	Under sentence of death, 12/31/17			Received under sentence of death, 2018	Removed from death row, 2018	Under sentence of death, 12/31/18		
	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>	53	39	11	0	0	53	39	11
Federal	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
State	52	38	11	0	0	52	38	11
<b>Midwest</b>	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	1
Indiana	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Ohio	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>South</b>	22	14	7	0	0	22	14	7
Alabama	5	4	1	0	0	5	4	1
Florida	3	1	2	0	0	3	1	2
Kentucky	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Louisiana	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Mississippi	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
North Carolina	3	1	1	0	0	3	1	1
Oklahoma	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Tennessee	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Texas	6	4	2	0	0	6	4	2
<b>West</b>	28	23	3	0	0	28	23	3
Arizona	3	3	0	0	0	3	3	0
California	23	18	3	0	0	23	18	3
Idaho	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Oregon	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0

<sup>a</sup>Based on U.S. Census Bureau's regions and divisions of the United States. [https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us\\_regdiv.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf)

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

<sup>c</sup>Includes persons of Hispanic origin. Counts may differ from other tables in this report.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**TABLE 8****Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death, by region and jurisdiction, 2017 and 2018**

Region and jurisdiction*	Under sentence of death, 12/31/17	Received under sentence of death, 2018	Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2018	Executed, 2018	Under sentence of death, 12/31/18
<b>U.S. total</b>	365	9	10	5	359
Federal	7	0	0	0	7
State	358	9	10	5	352
<b>Northeast</b>	17	0	1	0	16
Pennsylvania	17	0	1	0	16
<b>Midwest</b>	9	1	0	0	10
Nebraska	5	1	0	0	6
Ohio	4	0	0	0	4
<b>South</b>	100	3	2	5	96
Alabama	1	0	0	0	1
Delaware	1	0	0	0	1
Florida	23	1	1	1	22
Georgia	2	0	0	0	2
Louisiana	2	0	0	0	2
Mississippi	1	0	0	0	1
North Carolina	4	0	1	0	3
Oklahoma	1	0	0	0	1
South Carolina	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee	1	0	0	0	1
Texas	63	2	0	4	61
<b>West</b>	232	5	7	0	230
Arizona	24	0	0	0	24
California	193	5	5	0	193
Idaho	1	0	0	0	1
Nevada	8	0	1	0	7
Oregon	3	0	0	0	3
Utah	3	0	1	0	2

\*Based on U.S. Census Bureau's regions and divisions of the United States. [https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us\\_regdiv.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf)  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**TABLE 9**  
**Criminal history of prisoners under sentence of death, by race or ethnicity, 2018**

	All prisoners <sup>a</sup>	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic
U.S. total	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Prior felony conviction<sup>c</sup></b>				
Yes	67.8%	63.9%	73.1%	65.8%
No	32.2	36.1	26.9	34.2
<b>Prior homicide conviction<sup>d</sup></b>				
Yes	9.4%	9.2%	10.1%	9.0%
No	90.6	90.8	89.9	91.0
<b>Legal status at time of capital offense<sup>e</sup></b>				
Charge pending	8.1%	9.7%	7.4%	5.5%
Probation	11.2	10.2	11.1	14.4
Parole	16.3	14.0	18.1	17.7
On escape	1.2	1.7	0.8	0.9
Incarcerated	4.0	5.2	3.1	3.1
Other status	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3
None	59.1	59.2	59.3	58.1

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

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

<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 200 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), 2018.

**TABLE 10****Prisoners removed from being under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and method of removal, 2018**

Region and jurisdiction <sup>a</sup>	Total	Execution	Other death <sup>b</sup>	Sentence commuted	Appeals court or higher court overturned—		
					Capital statute	Capital conviction and sentence	Death sentence only
<b>U.S. total</b>	113	25	24	3	9	10	42
Federal	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
State	112	25	24	3	9	10	41
<b>Northeast</b>	12	0	2	0	0	4	6
Pennsylvania	12	0	2	0	0	4	6
<b>Midwest</b>	7	3	1	2	0	1	0
Nebraska	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	5	1	1	2	0	1	0
South Dakota	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>South</b>	61	22	9	1	1	3	25
Alabama	9	2	3	0	0	0	4
Delaware	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Florida	13	2	1	0	0	0	10
Georgia	5	2	2	0	0	0	1
Kentucky	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
Louisiana	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
Mississippi	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
North Carolina	3	0	1	0	0	0	2
Oklahoma	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Texas	17	13	0	1	0	1	2
Virginia	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>West</b>	32	0	12	0	8	2	10
Arizona	6	0	2	0	0	0	4
California	11	0	8	0	0	1	2
Nevada	6	0	1	0	0	1	4
Utah	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Washington	8	0	0	0	8	0	0

<sup>a</sup>Based on U.S. Census Bureau's regions and divisions of the United States. [https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us\\_regdiv.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf)

<sup>b</sup>In 2018, other deaths were due to natural causes, suicide, acute drug toxicity, and homicide by another prisoner.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**TABLE 11**  
Average elapsed time between sentencing and execution, 1977-2018

Year <sup>a</sup>	Executions	Average elapsed time from sentence to execution <sup>b</sup>
Total	1,490	144 mos.
1977	1	3
1979	2	42
1981	1	13
1982	2	53
1983	5	71
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

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>Average time was calculated from the most recent sentencing date.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1977-2018.

**TABLE 12**  
Number of prisoners executed, by race or ethnicity, 1977-2018

Year <sup>a</sup>	All executions	White <sup>b</sup>	Black <sup>b</sup>	Hispanic	Other <sup>b,c</sup>
Total	1,490	836	508	132	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

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1977-2018.

**TABLE 13**  
**Number of executions, by method and jurisdiction, 1977-2018**

Jurisdiction	All methods	Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
U.S. total	1,490	1,313	160	11	3	3
Federal	3	3	0	0	0	0
Alabama	63	39	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	97	53	44	0	0	0
Georgia	72	49	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	88	88	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	4	4	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	9	6	3	0	0	0
Texas	558	558	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), 1977-2018.

**TABLE 14****Cumulative number of executions at year-end 2018,  
by jurisdiction, since 1930 and since 1977**

Jurisdiction	Since 1930	Since 1977
U.S. total	5,349	1,490
Texas	855	558
Georgia	438	72
New York	329	0
North Carolina	306	43
California	305	13
Florida	267	97
Ohio	228	56
Virginia	205	113
South Carolina	205	43
Alabama	198	63
Mississippi	175	21
Oklahoma	172	112
Louisiana	161	28
Pennsylvania	155	3
Missouri	150	88
Arkansas	149	31
Kentucky	106	3
Illinois	102	12
Tennessee	102	9
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 system	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
Idaho	6	3
South Dakota	5	4
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), 1930-2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 1****Demographic characteristics for prisoners under sentence of death, 2018**

Demographic characteristic	Total year-end	Admissions	Removals
Total	2,628	38	113
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	2,575	38	113
Female	53	0	0
<b>Race</b>			
White	1,469	28	67
Black	1,094	9	44
Other	65	1	2
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic	359	9	15
Non-Hispanic	2,031	29	91
Unknown	238	0	7
<b>Age</b>			
18-19	0	0	0
20-24	6	1	0
25-29	49	6	1
30-34	130	8	7
35-39	248	7	11
40-44	370	5	10
45-49	473	3	20
50-54	415	3	14
55-59	410	3	16
60-64	258	2	14
65 or older	269	0	20
<b>Education</b>			
8th grade or less	247	0	13
9th-11th grade	723	7	29
High-school graduate/GED	923	9	37
Any college	194	2	9
Unknown	541	20	25
<b>Marital status</b>			
Married	482	6	15
Divorced/separated	441	4	26
Widowed	82	2	5
Never married	1,255	11	46
Unknown	368	15	21

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953-2018**

Year	Prisoners	Year	Prisoners
1953	131	1986	1,800
1954	147	1987	1,967
1955	125	1988	2,117
1956	146	1989	2,243
1957	151	1990	2,346
1958	147	1991	2,465
1959	164	1992	2,580
1960	212	1993	2,727
1961	257	1994	2,905
1962	267	1995	3,064
1963	297	1996	3,242
1964	315	1997	3,328
1965	331	1998	3,465
1966	406	1999	3,540
1967	435	2000	3,601
1968	517	2001	3,577
1969	575	2002	3,562
1970	631	2003	3,377
1971	642	2004	3,320
1972	334	2005	3,245
1973	134	2006	3,233
1974	244	2007	3,215
1975	488	2008	3,210
1976	420	2009	3,173
1977	423	2010	3,139
1978	482	2011	3,065
1979	593	2012	3,011
1980	692	2013	2,983
1981	860	2014	2,942
1982	1,066	2015	2,872
1983	1,209	2016	2,797
1984	1,420	2017	2,703
1985	1,575	2018	2,628

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), 1953-2018.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Admissions to and removals from a sentence of death, 1973-2018**

Year	Admissions	Removals	Year	Admissions	Removals
1973	44	240	1996	323	155
1974	161	55	1997	282	187
1975	318	67	1998	312	175
1976	249	317	1999	287	220
1977	159	156	2000	235	173
1978	211	150	2001	164	194
1979	172	61	2002	172	191
1980	202	101	2003	157	348
1981	249	84	2004	139	197
1982	287	79	2005	143	216
1983	266	123	2006	126	145
1984	306	90	2007	129	140
1985	292	130	2008	122	138
1986	319	109	2009	118	166
1987	311	142	2010	116	143
1988	317	165	2011	84	155
1989	275	149	2012	85	124
1990	270	152	2013	85	118
1991	284	159	2014	70	116
1992	300	173	2015	54	122
1993	299	162	2016	33	99
1994	330	153	2017	37	132
1995	325	171	2018	38	113

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), 1973-2018.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Number of prisoners executed under civil authority in the United States, 1930-2018**

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

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1930-2018.

**APPENDIX TABLE 5****Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968-2018**

Year	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Other races <sup>b</sup>	Year	White <sup>a</sup>	Black <sup>a</sup>	Other races <sup>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	-	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	1,469	1,094	65
1993	1,575	1,111	41				

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes Asians, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and persons for whom only ethnicity was identified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968-2018.



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. Jeffrey H. Anderson is the director.

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