



# Capital Punishment, 2023 – Statistical Tables

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At yearend 2023, a total of 26 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) held 2,192 prisoners under sentence of death, which was 73 (3%) fewer than at yearend 2022 (figure 1). This represented the 23rd consecutive year in which the number of inmates under sentence of death declined. California (30%), Florida (13%), and Texas (8%) collectively held more than half of the prisoners under sentence of death in the United States on December 31, 2023 (table 1). The FBOP held 41 prisoners under sentence of death at yearend.

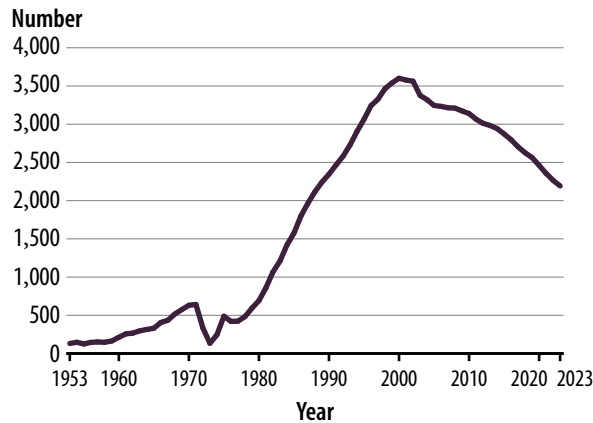
At yearend 2023, 29 states and the federal government had death penalty statutes. In April 2023, Washington state repealed the death penalty provisions of the sentencing statute for aggravated first-degree murder. A total of 21 states and the District of Columbia had no death penalty statute in force on December 31, 2023.

Five states (Texas, Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Alabama) executed a total of 24 prisoners in 2023. All executed prisoners were male. Texas (8) and Florida (6) accounted for 58% of the executions carried out in 2023.

This report presents statistics on prisoners who were under sentence of death in 2023 and historical trends in executions. For information on changes in state and federal capital statutes, see supplemental document, *Status of Death Penalty Laws in 2023*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Visit the report detail page for *Capital Punishment, 2023 — Statistical Tables* to access this and the following supplemental documents: *Supplemental Table 1. Capital offenses, by state, 2023*; *Supplemental Table 2. Federal capital offenses, 2023*; *Supplemental Table 3. Method of execution, by state, 2023*; and *Supplemental Table 4. Prisoners executed under civil authority in the United States, by year, region, and jurisdiction, 1977-2024*.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953–2023**



Note: Data on the number of prisoners under sentence of death at yearend have been collected annually since 1953. See appendix table 1 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1953–2023.

**TABLE 1****Number of executions and prisoners under sentence of death, by jurisdiction, 2023**

Executions in 2023		Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/2023	
Texas	8	California	653
Florida	6	Florida	287
Missouri	4	Texas	180
Oklahoma	4	Alabama	158
Alabama	2	North Carolina	136
		Ohio	120
		Arizona	111
		Pennsylvania	96
		Louisiana	60
		Nevada	52
		Tennessee	45
		Federal Bureau of Prisons	41
		Georgia	37
		Mississippi	36
		Oklahoma	36
		South Carolina	32
		Arkansas	27
		Kentucky	26
		Missouri	12
		Nebraska	11
		Kansas	9
		Idaho	8
		Indiana	8
		Utah	7
		Montana	2
		New Hampshire <sup>a</sup>	1
		South Dakota	1
		Oregon	0
		Delaware <sup>b</sup>	0
		New York <sup>c</sup>	0
		Wyoming	0
Total	24	Total	2,192

Note: On December 31, 2023, 29 states and the federal government had death penalty statutes. Twenty-two jurisdictions did not authorize the death penalty at yearend: Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. For information on specific state and federal capital statutes in force at yearend 2023, see tables 1 and 2 in *Status of Death Penalty Laws in 2023*.

<sup>a</sup>New Hampshire repealed the death penalty effective May 30, 2019. As of December 31, 2023, one male prisoner remained under a previously imposed sentence of death.

<sup>b</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)). As of yearend 2023, no legislative action had been taken to amend the statute and capital cases were no longer pursued in Delaware.

<sup>c</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)). As of yearend 2023, no legislative action had been taken to amend the statute and capital cases were no longer pursued in New York.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2023.

## Terms and definitions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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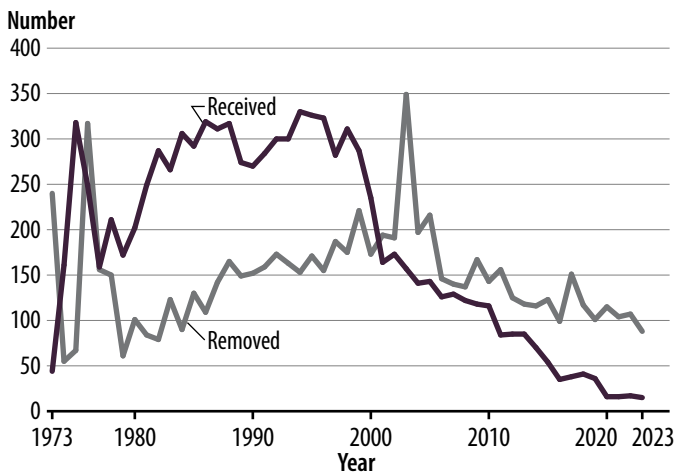
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## Key findings

- Five states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) received a total of 15 prisoners under sentence of death in 2023 (table 2).
- Fourteen states and the FBOP removed a total of 64 prisoners from under sentence of death by means other than execution in 2023.
- Among jurisdictions with prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2023, 13 states reported a decrease in the number of prisoners held under sentence of death, 13 states and the FBOP reported no change, and no states reported an increase in the number of prisoners held under sentence of death. Four states with death penalty statutes held no prisoners under sentence of death at any time during 2023.
- The largest declines in the number of prisoners under sentence of death in 2023 occurred in Florida (down 18) and Texas (down 10).
- The number of inmates received under sentence of death in 2023 (15) was the smallest reported since 1973, following the invalidation by the U.S. Supreme Court of capital statutes in several states (see *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)) (figure 2).

**FIGURE 2**  
Number of prisoners received and removed from under sentence of death, 1973–2023



Note: Removals could be due to any cause, including execution, other death, or appeal. See appendix table 2 for counts.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1973–2023.

- Almost all (98%) prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2023 were male (table 3).
- During 2023, one female prisoner was removed from under sentence of death, decreasing the total number of female prisoners under sentence of death at yearend to 47.
- Among prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2023 for whom ethnicity was reported, 16% were Hispanic.
- Seventeen states and the FBOP held 317 Hispanic prisoners under sentence of death at yearend 2023.
- At yearend 2023, 1,243 (57%) prisoners under sentence of death were white and 895 (41%) were black (figure 3).
- Among prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2023, for whom criminal history was reported, more than two-thirds (69%) had a prior felony conviction (table 4).
- Prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2023, had been on death row for an average of 22 years (table 5).
- Of the 64 prisoners removed from under sentence of death by methods other than execution in 2023, 34 (11 states) were removed due to convictions or sentences being overturned, and 30 prisoners (12 states and the FBOP) died by means other than execution (table 6).
- Prisoners executed during 2023 had been on death row for an average of 279 months (table 7).
- Between 1977 and yearend 2023, 34 states and the federal government executed 1,582 prisoners (table 8).<sup>2</sup>
- Between 1930, when the federal government began collecting annual execution statistics, and yearend 2023, a total of 5,441 persons were executed under civil authority (figure 4).<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 1976 approval of revised statutes in some states (*Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976) and its companion cases), executions of inmates resumed in 1977.

<sup>3</sup>Military authorities carried out an additional 160 executions between 1930 and 1961, which are not included in this report.

**TABLE 2****Prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race or ethnicity, 2022 and 2023**

Region and jurisdiction	Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/22 <sup>a</sup>				Received under sentence of death, 2023				Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2023 <sup>b</sup>				Executed, 2023				Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/23			
	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic
<b>U.S. total</b>	2,265	969	917	325	15	11	2	2	64	30	25	7	24	15	6	3	2,192	935	888	317
Federal <sup>d</sup>	41	18	17	6	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	41	19	16	6
State	2,224	951	900	319	14	10	2	2	63	30	24	7	24	15	6	3	2,151	916	872	311
<b>Northeast</b>	102	43	47	11	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	97	42	45	9
New Hampshire	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
New York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	101	43	46	11	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	96	42	44	9
<b>Midwest</b>	173	80	82	10	0	0	0	0	8	4	3	1	4	3	1	0	161	73	78	9
Indiana	8	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	2	0
Kansas	9	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6	3	0
Missouri	18	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	3	1	0	12	8	4	0
Nebraska	11	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3	2	6
Ohio	126	51	70	4	0	0	0	0	6	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	120	49	67	3
South Dakota	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
<b>South</b>	1,104	500	503	87	11	8	2	1	35	18	15	1	20	12	5	3	1,060	478	485	84
Alabama	163	86	76	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	158	82	75	1
Arkansas	27	14	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	14	13	0
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	305	173	110	22	5	5	0	0	17	9	7	1	6	5	1	0	287	164	102	21
Georgia	38	17	19	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	37	17	18	2
Kentucky	26	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	23	3	0
Louisiana	62	19	41	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	60	19	39	2
Mississippi	36	12	22	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	12	22	1
North Carolina	136	53	74	3	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	136	52	75	3
Oklahoma	40	17	17	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	1	36	15	16	2
South Carolina	34	16	17	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	32	15	16	1
Tennessee	47	22	24	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	45	21	23	0
Texas	190	48	87	52	3	1	1	1	5	2	2	0	8	3	3	2	180	44	83	51

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**TABLE 2 (continued)****Prisoners under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and race or ethnicity, 2022 and 2023**

Region and jurisdiction	Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/22 <sup>a</sup>				Received under sentence of death, 2023				Removed from death row (excluding executions), 2023 <sup>b</sup>				Executed, 2023				Prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/23			
	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	Total <sup>c</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic
West	845	328	268	211	3	2	0	1	15	7	4	3	0	0	0	0	833	323	264	209
Arizona	111	67	17	21	3	2	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	111	67	17	21
California	661	220	230	182	0	0	0	0	8	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	653	215	228	181
Idaho	8	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	7	0	1
Montana	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Nevada	56	29	20	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	52	29	18	4
Oregon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utah	7	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	1	2
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Counts for white and black prisoners exclude prisoners of Hispanic origin, which differs from the way race was presented in previous capital punishment reports.

<sup>a</sup>Some total counts for yearend 2022 are revised from those reported in *Capital Punishment, 2022 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 309498, BJS, December 2024). The revised counts include 2 prisoners who either were reported late to the National Prisoner Statistics program or were not in the custody of state correctional authorities on December 31, 2022 (1 each in Missouri and Florida). The revised counts exclude 8 prisoners who were relieved of a death sentence before December 31, 2022 (6 in California, and 1 each in Pennsylvania and Nevada). Data for December 31, 2022 also include 1 prisoner in Arizona who was erroneously reported as being removed from under sentence of death in a previous year.

<sup>b</sup>Includes 25 deaths from natural causes (6 in Florida; 5 in California; 2 each in Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Nevada; and 1 each in Pennsylvania, Missouri, Ohio, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas), 2 deaths by suicide (1 each in Texas and the Federal Bureau of Prisons), 1 death resulting from a drug overdose (Missouri), and 2 deaths by unidentified causes (California).

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

<sup>d</sup>Excludes prisoners held under 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), 2023.

**TABLE 3****Demographic characteristics of prisoners under sentence of death, 2023**

Demographic characteristic	Total, 12/31/23		Received in 2023		Removed in 2023	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	2,192	100%	15	100%	88	100%
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	2,145	97.9%	15	100%	87	98.9%
Female	47	2.1	0	0.0	1	1.1
<b>Race<sup>a</sup></b>						
White	1,243	56.7%	13	86.7%	55	62.5%
Black	895	40.8	2	13.3	31	35.2
American Indian/Alaska Native	16	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander <sup>b</sup>	38	1.7	0	0.0	2	2.3
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	317	15.9%	2	13.3%	10	12.0%
Non-Hispanic	1,674	84.1	13	86.7	73	88.0
Unknown	201		0		5	
<b>Age</b>						
18–19	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20–24	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
25–29	8	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
30–34	63	2.9	1	6.7	0	0.0
35–39	130	5.9	2	13.3	5	5.7
40–44	230	10.5	5	33.3	6	6.8
45–49	314	14.3	1	6.7	8	9.1
50–54	397	18.1	2	13.3	15	17.0
55–59	345	15.7	1	6.7	18	20.5
60–64	321	14.6	3	20.0	18	20.5
65 or older	384	17.5	0	0.0	18	20.5
<b>Average age</b>						
Mean	54 yrs.		47 yrs.		57 yrs.	
Median	54		43		59	
<b>Education</b>						
8th grade or less	197	11.3%	0	0.0%	13	18.3%
9th–11th grade	611	35.1	4	50.0	23	32.4
High school graduate/GED	777	44.6	3	37.5	28	39.4
Any college	158	9.1	1	12.5	7	9.9
Unknown	449		7		17	
<b>Median education level</b>	12th grade		:		11th grade	
<b>Marital status</b>						
Married	393	20.8%	1	7.7%	20	25.0%
Divorced/separated	375	19.9	1	7.7	17	21.3
Widowed	65	3.4	1	7.7	5	6.3
Never married	1,055	55.9	10	76.9	38	47.5
Unknown	304		2		8	

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

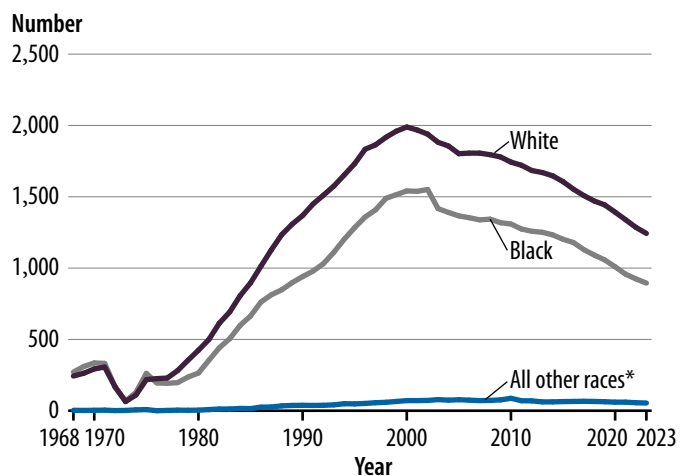
:Not calculated. A reliable average could not be calculated from fewer than 10 cases.

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

<sup>b</sup>Includes 33 Asian and 5 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander prisoners at yearend 2023. One Asian and 1 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander prisoner were removed during 2023.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2023.



**FIGURE 3****Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2023**

Note: Data on Hispanic origin were not collected prior to 1977. White, black, and all other races include prisoners of Hispanic origin. See appendix table 3 for counts.

\*Includes American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners; Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander prisoners; and prisoners for whom only ethnicity was identified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968–2023.

**TABLE 4****Criminal history of prisoners under sentence of death, by race or ethnicity, 2023**

	All prisoners	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander
<b>U.S. total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Prior felony convictions<sup>a</sup></b>						
Yes	68.6%	65.4%	73.1%	66.4%	64.3%	60.6%
No	31.4	34.6	26.9	33.6	35.7	39.4
<b>Prior homicide convictions<sup>b</sup></b>						
Yes	10.8%	11.1%	10.9%	10.1%	7.1%	6.1%
No	89.2	88.9	89.1	89.9	92.9	93.9
<b>Legal status at time of capital offense<sup>c</sup></b>						
Charges pending	7.6%	9.1%	6.9%	5.5%	7.1%	6.3%
On probation	11.3	9.2	12.0	14.8	21.4	15.6
On parole	15.2	13.1	17.2	16.2	14.3	12.5
On escape	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.0
Incarcerated	4.9	6.4	3.7	4.1	14.3	0.0
Other status	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0
None	59.9	60.7	59.6	58.4	42.9	65.6
<b>Number of prisoners</b>	2,192	935	888	317	16	36

Note: Race excludes persons of Hispanic origin, unless specified (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white prisoners and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black prisoners). Percentages are based on prisoners for whom data were reported. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

<sup>a</sup>Excludes 153 prisoners because data were not reported.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes 179 prisoners because data were not reported.

<sup>c</sup>Excludes 231 prisoners because data were not reported.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2023.

**TABLE 5****Prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2023, by year of sentencing and jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction	Year of sentence for prisoners under sentence of death, 12/31/23												Under sentence of death, 12/31/23	Average years under sentence of death, 12/31/23
	1976–1980	1981–1985	1986–1990	1991–1995	1996–2000	2001–2005	2006–2010	2011–2015	2016–2020	2021	2022	2023		
U.S. total	16	83	170	351	450	310	356	268	141	16	16	15	2,192	21.7
Florida	7	13	33	59	48	23	31	38	24	1	5	5	287	22.6
California	4	40	71	113	145	70	104	72	31	2	1	0	653	23.5
Texas	2	1	4	15	37	39	24	31	19	3	2	3	180	18.3
Nevada	1	6	4	9	13	3	8	5	3	0	0	0	52	24.4
Kentucky	1	3	4	4	7	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	26	27.9
Arkansas	1	0	0	6	4	5	4	5	2	0	0	0	27	20.4
Ohio	0	4	11	19	23	21	15	13	14	0	0	0	120	21.6
Pennsylvania	0	2	10	12	16	15	15	21	4	0	1	0	96	20.9
Arizona	0	2	7	17	10	15	32	16	8	0	1	3	111	18.9
Tennessee	0	2	6	8	12	5	6	4	1	1	0	0	45	24.2
Missouri	0	2	1	0	0	2	3	2	1	0	1	0	12	19.2
Alabama	0	1	6	20	32	30	32	23	10	4	0	0	158	19.4
Louisiana	0	1	3	9	23	9	6	6	1	0	1	1	60	22.3
Mississippi	0	1	3	6	5	6	7	4	3	0	1	0	36	20.6
Utah	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	:
North Carolina	0	1	1	42	46	22	12	4	4	0	2	2	136	23.6
South Carolina	0	1	1	1	6	9	11	1	2	0	0	0	32	19.9
Montana	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	:
Oklahoma	0	1	0	1	3	6	9	6	5	4	1	0	36	13.7
Georgia	0	0	2	4	12	6	8	4	1	0	0	0	37	21.5
Idaho	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	:
Federal	0	0	0	1	2	12	15	6	4	0	0	1	41	15.5
Indiana	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	8	:
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	0	2	1	0	0	11	14.8
Kansas	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	9	:
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	:
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	:

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

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2023.

**TABLE 6****Prisoners removed from under sentence of death, by region, jurisdiction, and method of removal, 2023**

Region and jurisdiction	Total	Execution	Other death*	Sentence commuted	Appeals court or higher court overturned—	
					Capital conviction	Death sentence
<b>U.S. total</b>	88	24	30	0	4	30
Federal	1	0	1	0	0	0
State	87	24	29	0	4	30
<b>Northeast</b>	5	0	1	0	1	3
Pennsylvania	5	0	1	0	1	3
<b>Midwest</b>	12	4	3	0	2	3
Missouri	6	4	2	0	0	0
Ohio	6	0	1	0	2	3
<b>South</b>	55	20	16	0	1	18
Alabama	5	2	2	0	0	1
Florida	23	6	6	0	0	11
Georgia	1	0	1	0	0	0
Louisiana	3	0	2	0	1	0
North Carolina	2	0	2	0	0	0
Oklahoma	4	4	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	2	0	0	0	0	2
Tennessee	2	0	1	0	0	1
Texas	13	8	2	0	0	3
<b>West</b>	15	0	9	0	0	6
Arizona	3	0	0	0	0	3
California	8	0	7	0	0	1
Nevada	4	0	2	0	0	2

\*Other deaths were due to natural causes, suicide, drug overdose, and unspecified causes.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2023.

**TABLE 7****Prisoners executed, by race or ethnicity, 1977–2023**

Year <sup>a</sup>	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Asian/Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	All executions	Average elapsed time from sentence to execution <sup>b</sup>
Total	890	537	138	10	7	1,582	151 mos.
1977	1	0	0	0	0	1	:
1979	2	0	0	0	0	2	:
1981	1	0	0	0	0	1	:
1982	1	1	0	0	0	2	:
1983	4	1	0	0	0	5	:
1984	13	8	0	0	0	21	74
1985	9	7	2	0	0	18	71
1986	9	7	2	0	0	18	87
1987	11	11	3	0	0	25	86
1988	6	5	0	0	0	11	80
1989	6	8	2	0	0	16	95
1990	16	7	0	0	0	23	95
1991	6	7	1	0	0	14	116
1992	17	11	2	1	0	31	114
1993	19	14	4	1	0	38	113
1994	19	11	1	0	0	31	122
1995	31	22	2	0	1	56	134
1996	29	14	2	0	0	45	125
1997	41	26	5	1	1	74	133
1998	40	18	8	1	1	68	130
1999	53	33	9	1	2	98	143
2000	43	35	6	1	0	85	137
2001	45	17	3	1	0	66	142
2002	47	18	6	0	0	71	127
2003	41	20	3	1	0	65	131
2004	36	19	3	0	1	59	132
2005	38	19	3	0	0	60	147
2006	25	20	8	0	0	53	145
2007	22	14	6	0	0	42	153
2008	17	17	3	0	0	37	139
2009	24	21	7	0	0	52	169
2010	28	13	5	0	0	46	178
2011	22	16	5	0	0	43	198
2012	25	11	7	0	0	43	190
2013	23	13	3	0	0	39	186
2014	12	18	5	0	0	35	218
2015	11	10	7	0	0	28	195
2016	16	2	2	0	0	20	204
2017	13	8	2	0	0	23	243
2018	14	6	5	0	0	25	238
2019	14	7	1	0	0	22	264
2020	10	5	1	1	0	17	227
2021	5	6	0	0	0	11	233
2022	10	5	1	1	1	18	249
2023	15	6	3	0	0	24	279

Note: Race excludes persons of Hispanic origin, unless specified (e.g., “white” refers to non-Hispanic white prisoners and “black” refers to non-Hispanic black prisoners). In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated capital punishment statutes in several states (*Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)), effecting a moratorium on executions. Executions resumed in 1977, when the court found that revisions to statutes in several states had effectively addressed the issues previously held unconstitutional (*Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976) and its companion cases).

:Not calculated. A reliable average could not 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), 2023.

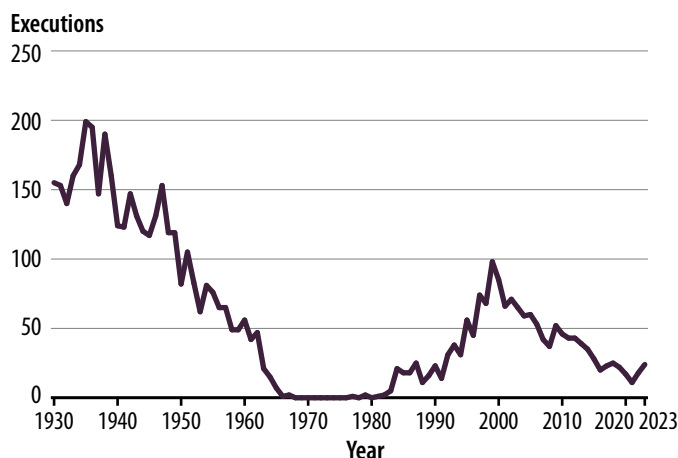
**TABLE 8****Number of executions, by method and jurisdiction, 1977–2023**

Jurisdiction	All methods	Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
U.S. total	1,582	1,402	163	11	3	3
Federal	16	16	0	0	0	0
Alabama	72	48	24	0	0	0
Arizona	40	38	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	105	61	44	0	0	0
Georgia	76	53	23	0	0	0
Idaho	3	3	0	0	0	0
Illinois	12	12	0	0	0	0
Indiana	20	17	3	0	0	0
Kentucky	3	2	1	0	0	0
Louisiana	28	8	20	0	0	0
Maryland	5	5	0	0	0	0
Mississippi	23	19	0	4	0	0
Missouri	97	97	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	123	123	0	0	0	0
Oregon	2	2	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	3	3	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	43	36	7	0	0	0
South Dakota	5	5	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	13	7	6	0	0	0
Texas	586	586	0	0	0	0
Utah	7	4	0	0	0	3
Virginia	113	82	31	0	0	0
Washington	5	3	0	0	2	0
Wyoming	1	1	0	0	0	0

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2023.

**FIGURE 4**  
Number of prisoners executed in the United States, 1930–2023



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), 1930–2023.

## Advance count of executions in 2024

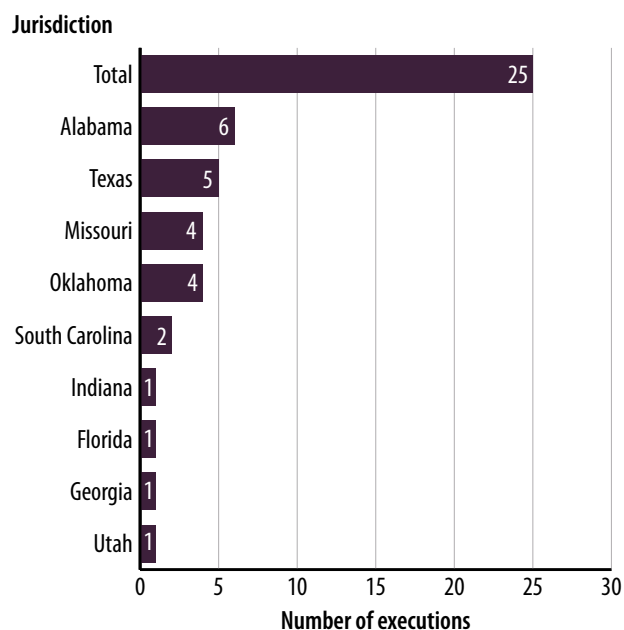
The Bureau of Justice Statistics gathers information following each execution to provide the most recent data on capital punishment in advance of the annual data collection. The data include the date, jurisdiction, method of execution, and race and ethnicity (Hispanic origin) of each person executed.

From January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, nine states executed 25 prisoners (**figure 5**), which was 1 more than the number executed in 2023. Alabama executed the largest number of prisoners (6) during this period, followed by Texas (5).

Twenty-two of the executions in 2024 were carried out by lethal injection, while three were by nitrogen hypoxia. Thirteen of the prisoners executed were white, nine were black, two were Hispanic, and one was American Indian. No female prisoners were executed during this period (not shown in figure).

Complete data for 2024 will appear in *Capital Punishment, 2024*. The annual report will consist of data collected from state and federal correctional agencies and will cover all prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 2024, as well as those removed from under sentence of death during the year.

**FIGURE 5**  
Advance count of executions, January 1, 2024–December 31, 2024



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 2023.

## Methodology

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

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

Data collection forms are available on the BJS website at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/capital-punishment-nps-8#1-0>.

The NPS-8 covers all prisoners under sentence of death at any time during the year who were held in a state or federal nonmilitary correctional facility. This includes

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

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

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**APPENDIX TABLE 1****Counts for figure 1: Number of prisoners under sentence of death, 1953–2023**

Year	Number of prisoners under sentence of death	Year	Number of prisoners under sentence of death
1953	131	1989	2,243
1954	147	1990	2,346
1955	125	1991	2,465
1956	146	1992	2,580
1957	151	1993	2,727
1958	147	1994	2,905
1959	164	1995	3,064
1960	212	1996	3,242
1961	257	1997	3,328
1962	267	1998	3,465
1963	297	1999	3,540
1964	315	2000	3,601
1965	331	2001	3,577
1966	406	2002	3,562
1967	435	2003	3,377
1968	517	2004	3,320
1969	575	2005	3,245
1970	631	2006	3,233
1971	642	2007	3,215
1972	334	2008	3,210
1973	134	2009	3,173
1974	244	2010	3,139
1975	488	2011	3,065
1976	420	2012	3,011
1977	423	2013	2,983
1978	482	2014	2,942
1979	593	2015	2,872
1980	692	2016	2,797
1981	860	2017	2,703
1982	1,066	2018	2,626
1983	1,209	2019	2,563
1984	1,420	2020	2,461
1985	1,575	2021	2,356
1986	1,800	2022	2,265
1987	1,967	2023	2,192
1988	2,117		

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1953–2023.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 2****Counts for figure 2: Number of prisoners received and removed from under sentence of death, 1973–2023**

Year	Received	Removed	Year	Received	Removed
1973	44	240	1999	287	221
1974	161	55	2000	235	173
1975	318	67	2001	164	194
1976	249	317	2002	173	191
1977	159	156	2003	157	349
1978	211	150	2004	141	197
1979	172	61	2005	143	216
1980	202	101	2006	126	146
1981	249	84	2007	129	140
1982	287	79	2008	122	137
1983	266	123	2009	118	167
1984	306	90	2010	116	143
1985	292	130	2011	84	156
1986	319	109	2012	85	125
1987	311	142	2013	85	118
1988	317	165	2014	70	116
1989	274	149	2015	54	123
1990	270	152	2016	35	99
1991	284	159	2017	38	151
1992	300	173	2018	41	117
1993	300	163	2019	36	101
1994	330	153	2020	16	115
1995	326	171	2021	16	104
1996	323	155	2022	17	107
1997	282	187	2023	15	88
1998	311	175			

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1973–2023.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 3****Counts for figure 3: Number of prisoners under sentence of death, by race, 1968–2023**

Year	White	Black	All other races*	Year	White	Black	All other races*
1968	243	271	3	1996	1,833	1,358	51
1969	263	310	2	1997	1,864	1,408	56
1970	293	335	3	1998	1,917	1,489	59
1971	306	332	4	1999	1,960	1,515	65
1972	167	166	1	2000	1,989	1,541	71
1973	64	68	2	2001	1,968	1,538	71
1974	110	128	6	2002	1,939	1,551	72
1975	218	262	8	2003	1,882	1,417	78
1976	225	195	0	2004	1,856	1,390	74
1977	229	192	2	2005	1,802	1,366	77
1978	281	197	4	2006	1,806	1,353	74
1979	354	236	3	2007	1,806	1,338	71
1980	424	264	4	2008	1,795	1,343	72
1981	499	353	8	2009	1,779	1,318	76
1982	613	441	12	2010	1,743	1,309	87
1983	692	505	12	2011	1,721	1,274	70
1984	806	598	16	2012	1,684	1,258	69
1985	896	664	15	2013	1,670	1,251	62
1986	1,013	762	25	2014	1,647	1,233	62
1987	1,128	813	26	2015	1,606	1,202	64
1988	1,235	848	34	2016	1,553	1,179	65
1989	1,308	898	37	2017	1,508	1,129	66
1990	1,368	940	38	2018	1,470	1,091	65
1991	1,449	979	37	2019	1,443	1,057	63
1992	1,511	1,031	38	2020	1,392	1,009	60
1993	1,575	1,111	41	2021	1,339	957	60
1994	1,653	1,203	49	2022	1,285	924	56
1995	1,732	1,284	48	2023	1,243	895	54

Note: Data on Hispanic origin were not collected prior to 1977. White, black, and all other races include prisoners of Hispanic origin.

\*Includes American Indian or Alaska Native prisoners; Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander prisoners; and prisoners for whom only ethnicity was identified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1968–2023.

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**APPENDIX TABLE 4****Counts for figure 4: Number of prisoners executed in the United States, 1930–2023**

Year	Executions	Year	Executions	Year	Executions
1930	155	1962	47	1994	31
1931	153	1963	21	1995	56
1932	140	1964	15	1996	45
1933	160	1965	7	1997	74
1934	168	1966	1	1998	68
1935	199	1967	2	1999	98
1936	195	1968	0	2000	85
1937	147	1969	0	2001	66
1938	190	1970	0	2002	71
1939	160	1971	0	2003	65
1940	124	1972	0	2004	59
1941	123	1973	0	2005	60
1942	147	1974	0	2006	53
1943	131	1975	0	2007	42
1944	120	1976	0	2008	37
1945	117	1977	1	2009	52
1946	131	1978	0	2010	46
1947	153	1979	2	2011	43
1948	119	1980	0	2012	43
1949	119	1981	1	2013	39
1950	82	1982	2	2014	35
1951	105	1983	5	2015	28
1952	83	1984	21	2016	20
1953	62	1985	18	2017	23
1954	81	1986	18	2018	25
1955	76	1987	25	2019	22
1956	65	1988	11	2020	17
1957	65	1989	16	2021	11
1958	49	1990	23	2022	18
1959	49	1991	14	2023	24
1960	56	1992	31		
1961	42	1993	38		

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

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics program (NPS-8), 1930–2023.

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

This report was written by Tracy L. Snell. Emily D. Buehler, PhD, Stephanie Mueller, and Lauren G. Beatty verified the report.

Joshua Hickman edited the report. Jeffrey Link produced the report.

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