Update on the U.S. Death Penalty (and other musings)

Robin Konrad April 17, 2021



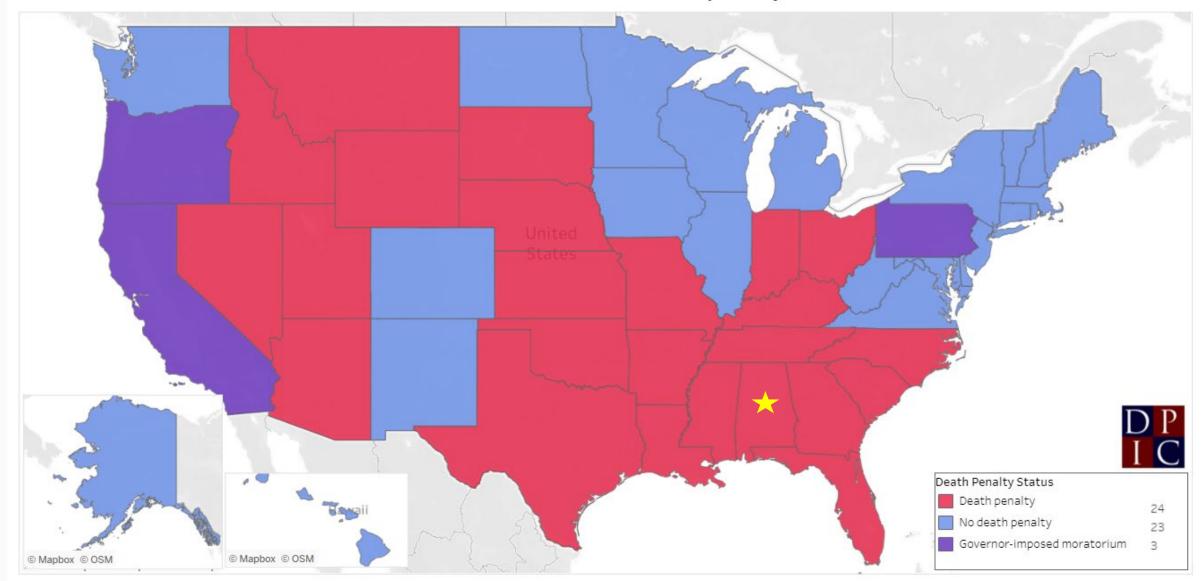


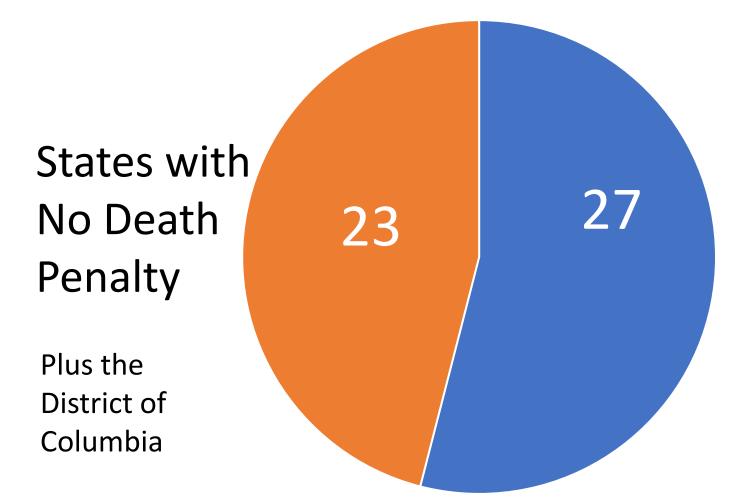
# D P DEATH PENALTY I C INFORMATION CENTER

https://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org



#### States with and without the death penalty - 2021



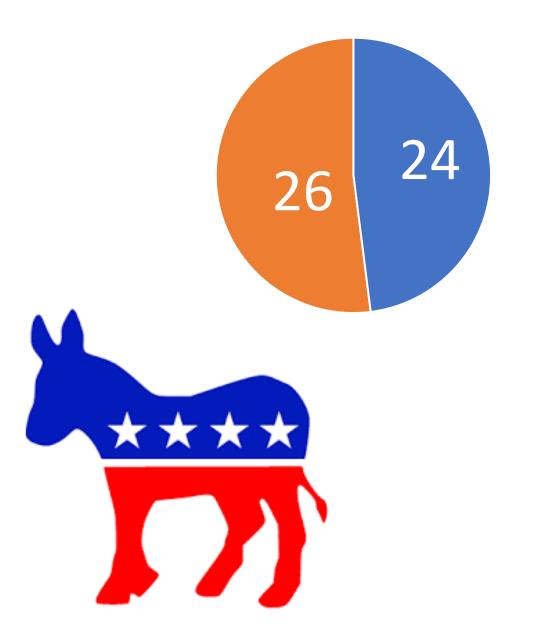


## States with Death Penalty

Plus the U.S. Government and U.S. Military

States with Governor Imposed Moratorium

- California Gov. Newsom
- Oregon Gov. Brown
- Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf



# VIRGINIA:

#### FIRST IN THE SOUTH TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.

MURDER		RAPE	ATTEMPTED	ARMED
Black 185	white 46	Black White	Black White	Black White
			20 0 ** ** ** ** ** **	;;;
		**		

#### Race Disparities in Virginia Executions from 1900-1969

Virginia provides an illustration of how much race determined who was executed for non-murder crimes. Before the Civil War, Virginia explicitly provided different penalties for white people and its enslaved population. By 1848, white people could be sentenced to death only for first-degree murder while enslaved Black people could

be executed for a number of non-homicide offenses.<sup>58</sup> Although this formal distinction was gone by the twentieth century, the state's executions showed that in practice different rules were being applied to white and Black defendants.



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## **Racial Bias**

People of color are more likely to be prosecuted for capital murder, sentenced to death, and executed, especially if the victim in the case is white.

**Related Report** 

#### Lynching in America

The death penalty is a direct descendant of racial terror lynching.



Virginia 2021

Colorado 2020

Abolition in the past decade New Hampshire 2019

Washington 2018

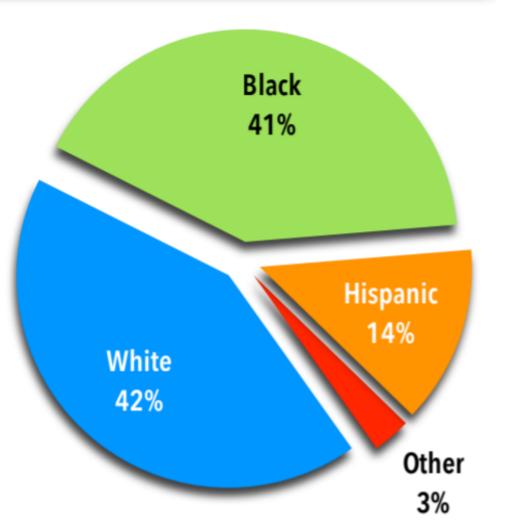
Delaware 2016

Maryland 2013

Connecticut 2012

Illinois 2011

#### DEATH ROW PRISONERS BY RACE



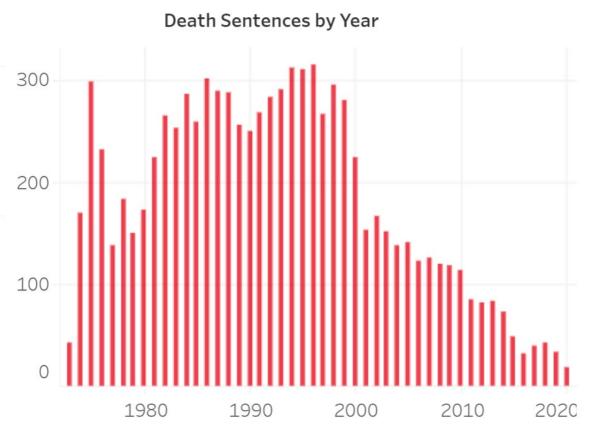
#### DEATH ROW PRISONERS BY STATE: October 1, 2020

California	711	Tennessee	51	Idaho	8
Florida	347	Oklahoma	45	Indiana	8
Texas	210	Georgia	45	Utah	7
Alabama	170	Mississippi	42	U.S. Military	4
Pennsylvania	142	South Carolina	39	Virginia	2
North Carolina	141	Arkansas	31	Montana	2
Ohio	141	Kentucky	28	New Hampshire	1
Arizona	119	Oregon	24	South Dakota	1
Nevada	70	Missouri	22	Wyoming	1
Louisiana	68	Nebraska	12		
U.S. Gov't	55	Kansas	10		
		I		TOTAL: 2,553	

**Race of Death Row Prisoners** and **Death Row Prisoners by State** Source: NAACP Legal Defense Fund, "Death Row USA" (October 1, 2020). The combined state totals are slightly higher than the reported national total. That is because a few prisoners are sentenced to death in more than one state. Those prisoners are included in each state's totals, but only once in the national total.

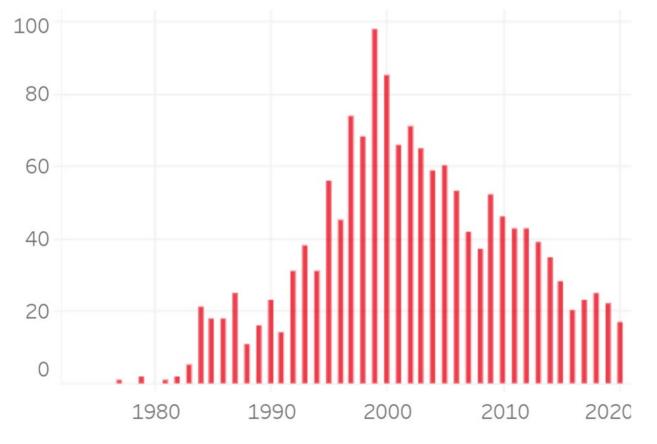
# New Death Sentences

2020 Death Sentences by State **Total Sentences** 18 United States 5 1 1 1 D P I C Mexico © 2021 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



## Executions

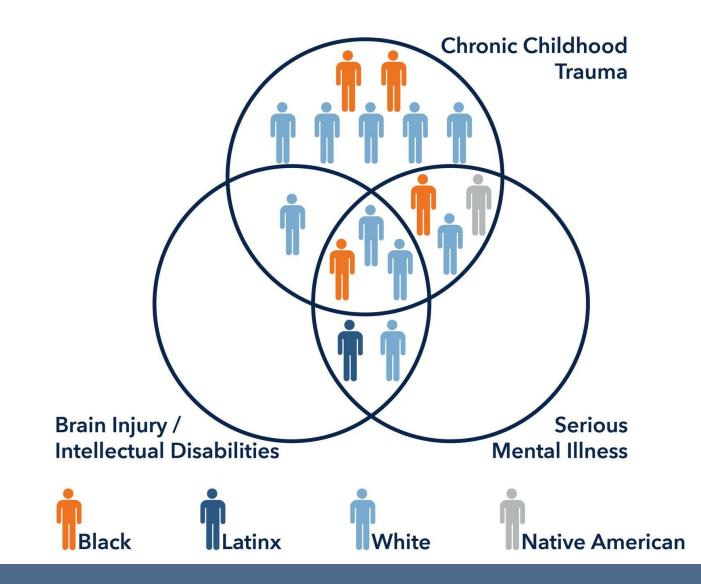
**Executions by Year** 

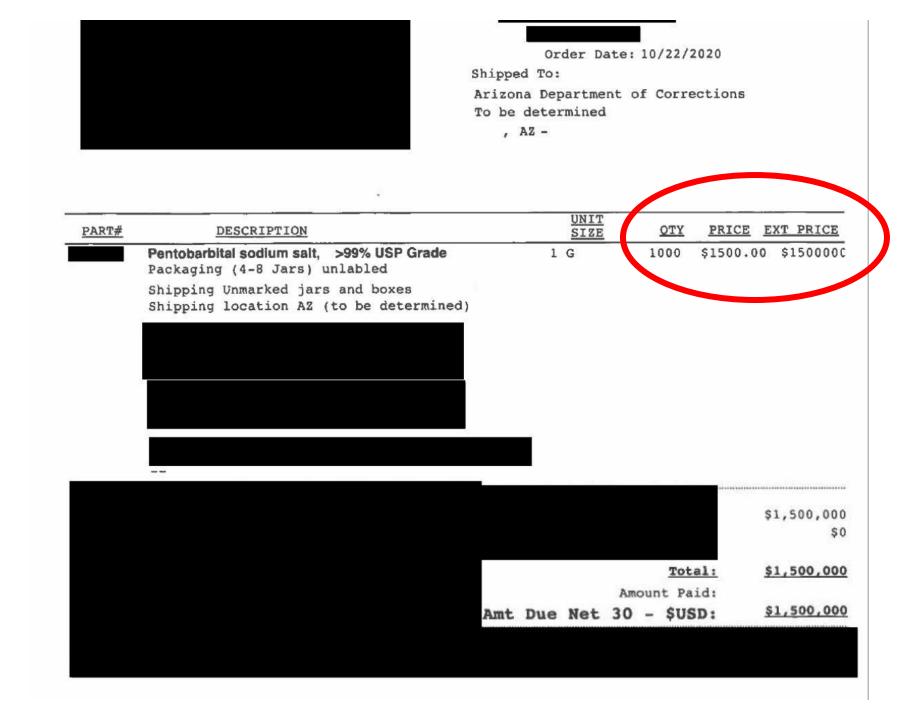


#### **Executions By State**

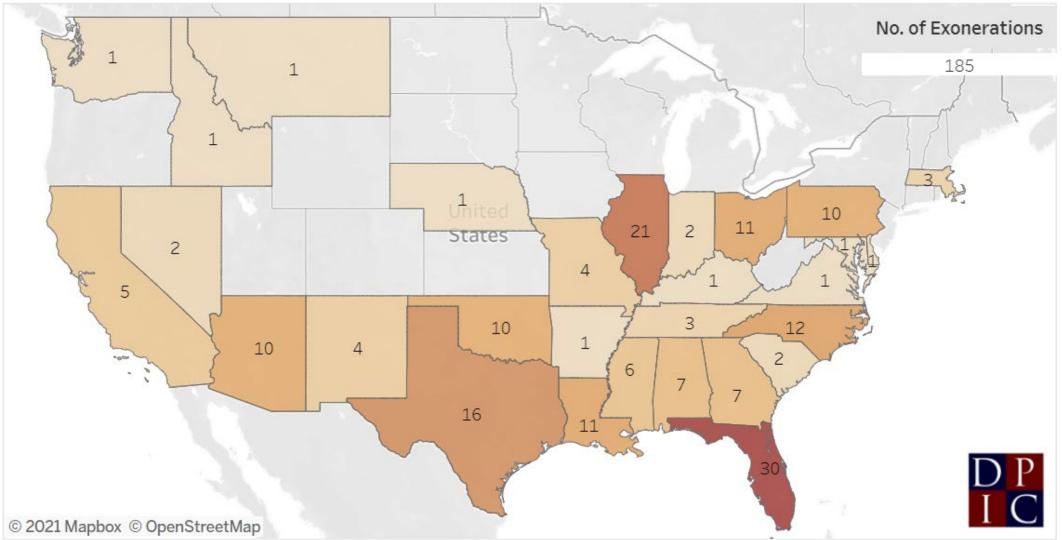
State	2020	2019
U.S. Government	10	0
Texas	3	9
Alabama	1	3
Georgia	1	3
Missouri	1	1
Tennessee	1	3
Florida	0	2
South Dakota	0	1
Total	17	22

### **PROBLEMATIC EXECUTIONS IN 2020**





**Death-Row Exonerations** 



# Will the death penalty in the U.S. be abolished?

## 1972

## Reinstated: 1976



# U.S. Supreme Court