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Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin

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Capital Punishment 2001

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Fifteen States and the Federal Government executed 66 prisoners during 2001. The number executed was 19 fewer than in 2000. Those executed during 2001 had been under sentence of death an average of 11 years and 10 months, 5 months more than that for inmates executed in 2000.

At yearend 2001, 3,581 prisoners were under sentence of death. California held the largest number on death row (603), followed by Texas (453), Florida (372), and Pennsylvania (241). Nineteen people were under a Federal death sentence.

During 2001, 27 States and the Federal prison system received 155 prisoners under sentence of death. Texas (26 admissions), California (24), Florida (15), and North Carolina (14) accounted for more than half of those sentenced in 2001.

During 2001, 63 men and 3 women were executed: 48 whites, 17 blacks, and 1 American Indian. The executed inmates included 3 Hispanics (all white). All of the executions were carried out by lethal injection.

From January 1, 1977, to December 31, 2001, 749 inmates were executed by 32 States and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Nearly two-thirds of the executions occurred in 5 States: Texas (256), Virginia (83), Missouri (53), Florida (51), and Oklahoma (48).

Highlights

Status of death penalty, December 31, 2001

Executions during 2001*		Number of prisoners under sentence of death		Jurisdictions without a death penalty
Oklahoma	18	California	603	Alaska
Texas	17	Texas	453	District of Columbia
Missouri	7	Florida	372	Hawaii
North Carolina	5	Pennsylvania	241	Iowa
Georgia	4	North Carolina	216	Maine
Federal Government	2	Ohio	203	Massachusetts
Indiana	2	Alabama	186	Michigan
Delaware	2	Illinois	158	Minnesota
Virginia	2	Arizona	126	North Dakota
Ohio	1	Georgia	116	Rhode Island
Arkansas	1	Oklahoma	113	Vermont
Florida	1	Tennessee	96	West Virginia
California	1	Louisiana	88	Wisconsin
Nevada	1	Nevada	86	
New Mexico	1			
Washington	1	24 other jurisdictions	524	
Total	66	Total	3,581	

• At yearend 2001, 37 States and the Federal prison system held 3,581 prisoners under sentence of death, 20 fewer than at yearend 2000.

• The 155 inmates received under sentence of death represent the smallest number of admissions since 1973.

Persons under sentence of death

	1991	2001
White	1,464	1,969
Black	987	1,538
American Indian	25	28
Asian	14	33
Unknown race	1	13

• The 358 Hispanic inmates under sentence of death accounted for 11% of inmates with a known ethnicity.

• At yearend the youngest death row inmate was 19; the oldest was

• Fifty-one women were under sentence of death in 2001, up from 36 in 1991.

• The number of executions declined in 2001 for the second straight year and was the lowest since 1996.

• Of the 6,754 people under sentence of death between 1977 and 2001, 11% were executed, 4% died by causes other than execution, and 32% received other dispositions.

• The number of States authorizing lethal injection increased from 22 in 1991 to 36 in 2001. In 2001, all executions were by lethal injection, compared to half in 1991.

• Since 1977, 584 of the 749 executions (78%) were by lethal injection.

EXHIBIT K Senate Committee on Judiciary

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