



## The Death Penalty in the U.S. (1976-2008)

As of April 1, 2008, the Death Penalty was authorized by 37 states, the Federal Government, and the U.S. Military. Those jurisdictions without the Death Penalty include 13 states and the District of Columbia. (Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin).

In 2008, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that the use of the electric chair as a method of execution violated the Nebraska Constitution. With no alternative method of execution on the books, Nebraska is practically without a death penalty. In 2004, the New York Supreme Court ruled that the existing death penalty procedures violated the New York Constitution. The New York legislature has made no effort to change the procedures, effectively eliminating the death penalty in the state.

**U. S. EXECUTIONS SINCE 1976: 1,099 (as of April 1, 2008)**

**ON DEATH ROW IN THE U. S.: 3,263 (as of Jan 1, 2008)**

Jurisdiction	Executions (As of 4/1/08)	On Death Row (As of 1/1/08)
Texas	405	370
Virginia	98	20
Oklahoma	86	82
Missouri	66	45
Florida	64	388
North Carolina	43	166

Georgia	40	107
Alabama	38	201
South Carolina	37	58
Louisiana	27	85
Arkansas	27	38
Ohio	26	186
Arizona	23	114
<b>Indiana</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>
Delaware	14	19
California	13	669
Illinois	12	13
Nevada	12	83
Mississippi	08	65
Utah	06	10
Maryland	05	05
Tennessee	04	96
Washington	04	08
Federal Government	03	50
Nebraska	03	10
Pennsylvania	03	228
Montana	03	02
Oregon	02	35
Kentucky	02	39
New Mexico	01	01
Idaho	01	19
South Dakota	01	03
Wyoming	01	02
Colorado	01	01
New York	00	00
Connecticut	01	09
New Hampshire	00	00
New Jersey	00	00

Kansas	00	10
U.S. Military	00	06
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>3,263</b>

### U.S. EXECUTIONS BY YEAR

1977 - 01	1985 - 18	1993 - 38	2001 - 66
1978 - 00	1986 - 18	1994 - 31	2002 - 71
1979 - 02	1987 - 25	1995 - 56	2003 - 65
1980 - 00	1988 - 11	1996 - 45	2004 - 59
1981 - 01	1989 - 16	1997 - 74	2005 - 60
1982 - 02	1990 - 23	1998 - 68	2006 - 53
1983 - 05	1991 - 14	1999 - 98	2007 - 42
1984 - 21	1992 - 31	2000 - 85	4/1/08 - 00

### U.S. EXECUTIONS BY RACE AND GENDER

White	630 (57%)	Male	1,088 (99%)
Black	377 (34%)	Female	011 (01%)
Hispanic	076 (07%)		
Native Am	014 (01%)		
Asian	008 (01%)		

### WOMEN EXECUTED SINCE 1976

Velma Barfield (North Carolina) 11-02-84  
Karla Faye Tucker (Texas) 02-03-98  
Judy Buenoano (Florida) 03-30-98  
Betty Lou Beets (Texas) 02-24-2000  
Christina Riggs (Arkansas) 05-02-2000  
Wanda Jean Allen (Oklahoma) 01-11-2001  
Marilyn Plantz (Oklahoma) 05-01-2001  
Lois Nadean Smith (Oklahoma) 12-04-2001  
Lynda Lyon Block (Alabama) 05-10-2002  
Aileen Wuornos (Florida) 10-09-2002  
Frances Elaine Newton (Texas) 09-14-2005

### U.S. EXECUTIONS SINCE 1930

1930-1939	1,690	1970-1979	003
1940-1949	1,284	1980-1989	117
1950-1959	717	1990-1999	518
1960-1969	191	2000-4/1/08	501
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4,958</b>

**As of January 1, 2008, 3,350 convicted murderers were awaiting execution on Death Row in the U.S., including 44/09 on Federal / Military Death Row.**

### **CURRENT DEATH ROW BY RACE**

White	1,517 (45%)
Black	1,397 (42%)
Hispanic	359 (11%)
Asian	039 (01%)
Native Am	037 (01%)
Unknown	001 (0.3%)

### **CURRENT DEATH ROW BY GENDER**

Male	3,291 (98.2%)
Female	59 (01.8%)

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### **Of the 3,320 convicted murderers on Death Row as of January 1, 2005:**

- ▶ 65.0% had a prior felony conviction at the time of the murder.
- ▶ 08.4% had a prior homicide conviction at the time of the murder.
- ▶ 07.8% had criminal charges pending at the time of the murder.
- ▶ 26.7% were on probation or parole at the time of the murder.
- ▶ 4.9% were incarcerated or had escaped from incarceration.
- ▶ 14% had accumulated more than one death sentence.
- ▶ 22% were married, 21% divorced, and 03% widowed.
- ▶ 54% were never married.
- ▶ 46% were high school/GED graduates.
- ▶ 39% were under the age of 25 at arrest; 1.9% are under 25 now.
- ▶ 0.2% were 60+ years at arrest; 4.2% are 60+ years now.
- ▶ The average age was 42 years. (27 at sentencing)
  
- ▶ The youngest inmate is Devin Thompson (DOB: 05-15-85), sentenced to death in Alabama in October 2005 at the age of 19 years, and as of 01-01-06 was 20 years, 07 months old.
  
- ▶ The oldest inmate is Viva Leroy Nash (DOB: 09-10-15), sentenced to death in Arizona in June 1983 at the age of 67 years, 09 months, and as of 01-01-06 was 90 years, 3 months old.

### **Sources:**

**Capital Punishment 2005**  
Department of Justice  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

**Death Row U.S.A., Winter 2007**

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