



CAPITAL PUNISHMENT 2005

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In December 2006, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the report *Capital Punishment, 2005*. This annual report characterizes persons under sentence of death and those executed between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005. The following summarizes some key findings of the report, with emphasis on Ohio data wherever possible.

National Statistics

- There were 3,254 state and federal death row inmates as of December 31, 2005, which was 66 less than the year before. One hundred twenty-eight inmates across 24 states and the federal prison system entered prison with death sentences during 2005.
 - California (23), Florida (15), Texas (14), and Alabama (12) accounted for half of those receiving a death sentence in 2005.
- As of December 31, 2005, those awaiting execution were 56 percent white and 42 percent black. Among those for whom ethnicity was known, 13 percent were of Hispanic origin. Men made up 98 percent of all prisoners under death sentence. The median educational attainment for these individuals was 11th grade. Across all death row inmates for whom date of arrest information was available, the data show that half were age 20-29 on the date of arrest, and 11 percent were age 19 or under. Less than one percent was age 55 or older.
- For those death row inmates for whom criminal history information was available, 65 percent had a prior felony conviction, including eight percent with at least one previous homicide conviction.
- During 2005, 16 states executed 60 prisoners, one more than in 2004. They had been on death row an average of 12 years and 3 months. Fifty-nine of the 60 executed were men. Thirty-eight were white, 19 were black, and three were white Hispanic. All were given lethal injection.
- Twenty-two states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons reported 109 persons whose death sentences were removed or overturned. Of these, 89 received a life sentence, four were resentenced, two were awaiting a new trial, 11 were awaiting resentencing, and one had no action taken after having the death sentence removed. The status was unknown for two inmates.

Ohio Statistics

- In Ohio, a capital offense is indicated when the offense is aggravated murder with at least one of 10 aggravating circumstances (ORC sections 2903.01, 2929.02, 2929.04). Ohio was among 27 states to exclude mentally retarded persons from capital sentencing (ORC 2929.06(A)) and to allow imposition of the death penalty in cases where an appeals court previously vacated a death sentence (ORC 2929.06(E)), effective March 23, 2005.
- The minimum age authorized for capital punishment in Ohio is 18.
- The method of execution in Ohio is lethal injection.

- As of December 31, 2004, there were 202 inmates on death row in Ohio. During 2005:
 - Five death row inmates were received.
 - Four inmates were removed from death row (*not* via execution), including two who died of natural causes and one who committed suicide.
 - Four inmates were executed.
- As of December 31, 2005, Ohio had 199 inmates on death row, the fifth largest death row population in the U.S. Forty-nine percent of those on Ohio's death row (97) were white, and fifty percent (99) were black. Six Hispanics and two females were under sentence of death.
- Since 1930, Ohio has executed 191 prisoners. Since 1977 (the year after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of revised state capital punishment laws), Ohio has executed 19 prisoners.
- A preview of 2006 data shows that Ohio had executed five prisoners by lethal injection.

Region	Death Sentence prisoners 12/31/04	Death sentence prisoners received in 2005	Prisoners removed from death row (excluding executions)*	Executed	Death sentence prisoners as of 12/31/05
U.S.	3,320	128	134	60	3,254
Ohio	202	5	4	4	199

* Includes removal or overturning of death sentence and death from natural causes or suicide

A link to the full report can be found on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' website:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cp05.pdf>.