

# OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

8/30/2013



## *Capital Punishment 2011*

### Ohio Data

In December 2012, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released the report Capital Punishment, 2011. This annual report characterizes persons under sentence of death and those executed between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011. The following summarizes some key findings of the report, with emphasis on Ohio data wherever possible.

#### National Statistics

- There were 3,082 state and federal death row inmates as of December 31, 2011, which were 57 less than at yearend 2010. This marks the eleventh year in a row during which the number of inmates under sentence of death has decreased.
  - California (705), Florida (393), Texas (301), and Pennsylvania (207) held more than half of all inmates on death row at yearend 2011.
- Among prisoners under sentence of death as of December 31, 2011, 55% were white and 42% were black. Ninety-eight percent of those on death row were male, with 2% female. The sex and race of those under sentence of death have changed little since 2000.
- For those inmates with available legal status, 40% held an active criminal justice status. Less than half of these inmates were on parole, approximately 25% were on probation, and the rest had either pending charges, were incarcerated, had escaped from their incarceration, or had a different criminal justice status.
- Eighteen states reported that 80 inmates were received under sentence of death in 2011.
  - Florida (14), California (10), Texas (8), and Arizona (8) made up half of those admitted for sentence of death in 2011.
- Thirteen states executed 43 inmates in 2011. This is compared to 46 inmates in 2010. Those executed in 2011 had been sentenced to death on average 16.5 years, which was 20 months longer than those put to death in 2010.

#### 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).
- The minimum age authorized for capital punishment in Ohio is 18.
- The method of execution in Ohio is lethal injection.
- As of December 31, 2010, there were 150 inmates on death row in Ohio. During 2011:
  - Three death row inmates were received.

- Six inmates were removed from death row (not via execution).
  - Five inmates were executed, which was the third highest total in the U.S.
- As of December 31, 2011, Ohio had 142 inmates on death row, the seventh largest death row population in the U.S. Nearly forty-nine percent of those on Ohio’s death row were white (69), whereas fifty percent were black (71).
  - As of yearend 2011, Ohio had one woman under sentence of death.
  - Since 1973, Ohio has executed 46 inmates, with 303 inmates having had their sentences or convictions overturned.

Region	Death sentence prisoners as of 12/31/10	Death sentence prisoners received in 2011	Removed from death row (excluding executions)* in 2011	Executed in 2011	Death sentence prisoners as of 12/31/11
U.S.	3139	80	94	43	3082
Ohio	150	3	6	5	142

\* 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.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cp11st.pdf>