

OCJS Special Report

Ohio Statistical Analysis Center

11/20/2014



Capital Punishment 2012

Ohio Data

In May 2014, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released the report Capital Punishment, 2012 – Statistical Tables. This annual report characterizes persons under sentence of death and those executed between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012. The following summarizes some key findings of the report, with emphasis on Ohio data wherever possible.

In 2012, there are 19 states and the District of Columbia that did not have the death penalty and 31 states with the death penalty. The U.S. Government and the U.S. Military also have the death penalty.

National Statistics

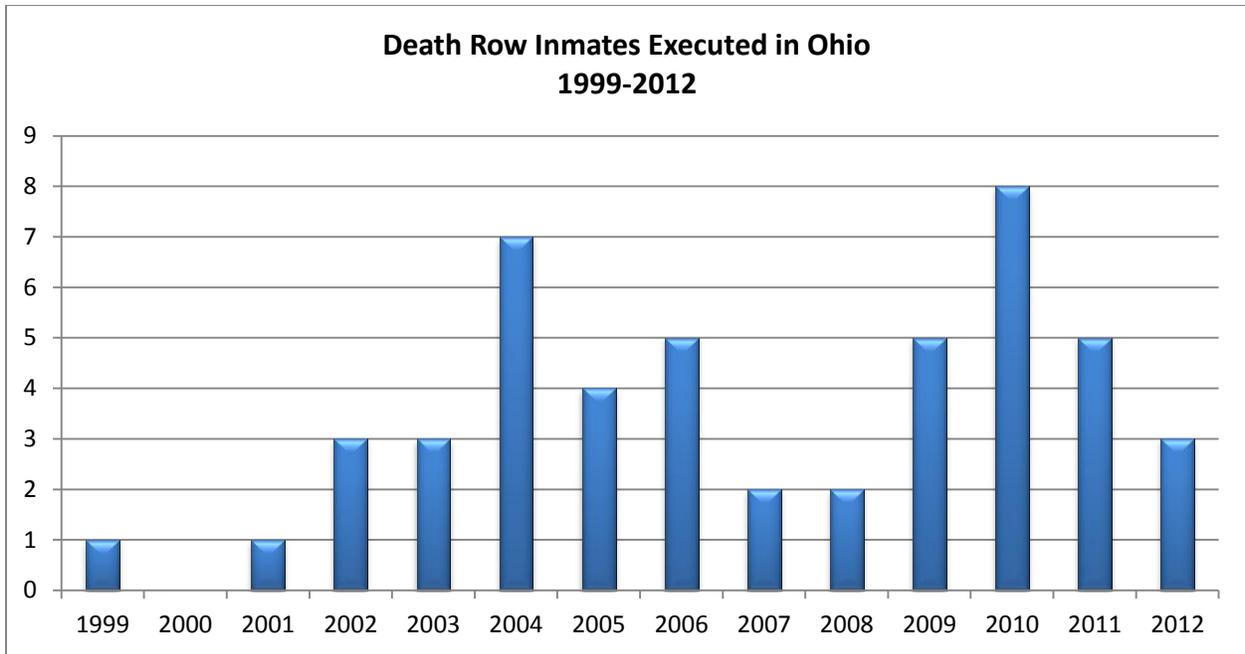
- There were 3,033 state and federal death row inmates as of yearend 2012, which were 32 fewer than at yearend 2011. This represents the twelfth consecutive year in which the number of inmates under the sentence of death has decreased.
 - California (712), Florida (403), Texas (290) and Pennsylvania (200) held more than half of all inmates on death row at yearend 2012.
- Among prisoners under the sentence of death as of December 31, 2012, 56 percent were white, 42 percent were black. Ninety-eight percent of those under the sentence of death were male and two percent were female. The race and sex of inmates under sentence of death has changed little since 2000.
- For those inmates with available legal status, 40 percent held an active criminal justice status. Less than half of these inmates were on parole, approximately 30 percent were on probation and the rest had either pending charges, were incarcerated, had escaped from incarceration or had some other criminal justice status.
- Nineteen states reported that 79 inmates were received under sentence in 2012.
 - Florida (20), California (13), Texas (9) and Pennsylvania (6) accounted for 61 percent of those sentenced to death in 2012.
- Nine states executed 43 inmates in 2012. This is compared to the 43 inmates executed in 2011 by 13 states. Those executed in 2012 had been sentenced to death on average 15 years and 10 months, which was 8 months less than those executed in 2011.

The following also includes a summarization of data related to offender and victim demographics (age, race and gender) as reported by the Office of the Ohio Public Defender.

Ohio Statistics

- In Ohio, a capital offense is indicated when the offense is aggravated murder with at least one of 10 aggravating circumstances (O.R.C. sections 2903.01, 2929.02 and 2929.04).
- The minimum age authorized for capital punishment in Ohio is 18 years at the time of the commission of the offense.
- The method of execution in Ohio is lethal injection.
- As of December 31, 2011, there were 143 inmates on death row in Ohio. By yearend 2012:
 - A total of 139 inmates remain on death row, including one female
 - Forty-seven percent white and 52 percent black
 - Five¹ death row inmates were received
 - Four black males and one white male
 - Six inmates were removed from death row (excludes executions)
 - Three black males and three white males
 - Two from natural death causes
 - Two commuted to life without parole
 - One murder charges were dismissed - inmate was released
 - One death sentence overturned by an appellate court - still awaiting for resentencing
 - Three inmates were executed in 2012, which tied for fifth highest total (along with Florida) in the U.S.
 - Average age at sentencing of the offenders executed was 23 years
 - Counties of sentencing were Portage, Belmont and Summit
 - Of the offenders executed, all 3 were white and their victims were all white (total of 4 victims)
- Ohio's death row population ranked seventh of all death penalty states in the U.S.
- Since 1973, there have been 415 offenders sentenced to death in Ohio. Of those sentenced, there have been 49 (12%) executions, 181 (44%) sentences or convictions overturned, 22 (5%) commuted sentences, 24 (6%) died from other causes and 139 (33%) remain on death row.
 - Of the 49 executions, 31 (63%) were white and 18 (37%) were black, all were male.

¹ One inmate was resentenced to death row from a 2002 original death row sentence date



- The year 1999 was the first execution performed by the state of Ohio after the death penalty was reenacted in 1974. Since 1999, the state of Ohio performed on average about 4 executions per year.

A link to the full report can be found on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' website:

<http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cp12st.pdf>

A link to additional reports for Ohio death penalty information can be found on the Office of the Ohio Public Defenders' website:

http://www.opd.ohio.gov/DP/DP_MoreInfo.htm