



## Abstract

The United States has used capital punishment since colonization. Over time some states have abolished it and others have not. There are many databases that have collected information on each states policy for the death penalty. Using these databases, I would like to take a deeper look at the death penalty in the United States as it varies from state to state. I will be using a few different death penalty databases, such as The Death Penalty Information Center, The Condemned and End of its Rope. After I gather data, using RStudio Cloud, I will analyze the data and generate statistics, graphs, and maps. The main areas I would like to look at are; which states still impose the death penalty, when did the other states abolish the death penalty and what are the different methods of execution that different states use and how has that changed over time.

## Introduction

Capital punishment has been used in the United States since colonization and is still used today in 28 out of the 50 states. The United States one of the only Western nations that uses the death penalty regularly. Throughout the world there are only 54 countries that use it. It remains a very controversial topic throughout the US and throughout the world for that

## Methods and Materials

I used many different websites to gather data and information.

After gathering that data, I used RStudio Cloud to analyze the data, generate statistics, graphs and maps

Lethal Injection	Electrocution	Firing Squad	Hanging	Gas
1337	163	3	3	11

Table 1 Execution Methods used since.

## Results

Through out the United States there are 28 states that still impose the death penalty. Those states include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming as well as the U.S. Government and the U.S. Military. Of those states the south (including Texas) have the largest numbers of members on death row, as well as the highest number of executions. There are 22 states that have abolished the death penalty. Colorado abolished it just this year. The methods of execution that are permitted have pretty much stayed the same however, the most commonly used method is lethal injection. The United States was the first to develop lethal injection as a method of execution, which has since been adopted by five other countries. There are a few different kinds of execution methods but, most states use lethal injection, as it is seen as the most civilized.

Number of Inmates on Death Row over the last 30 years

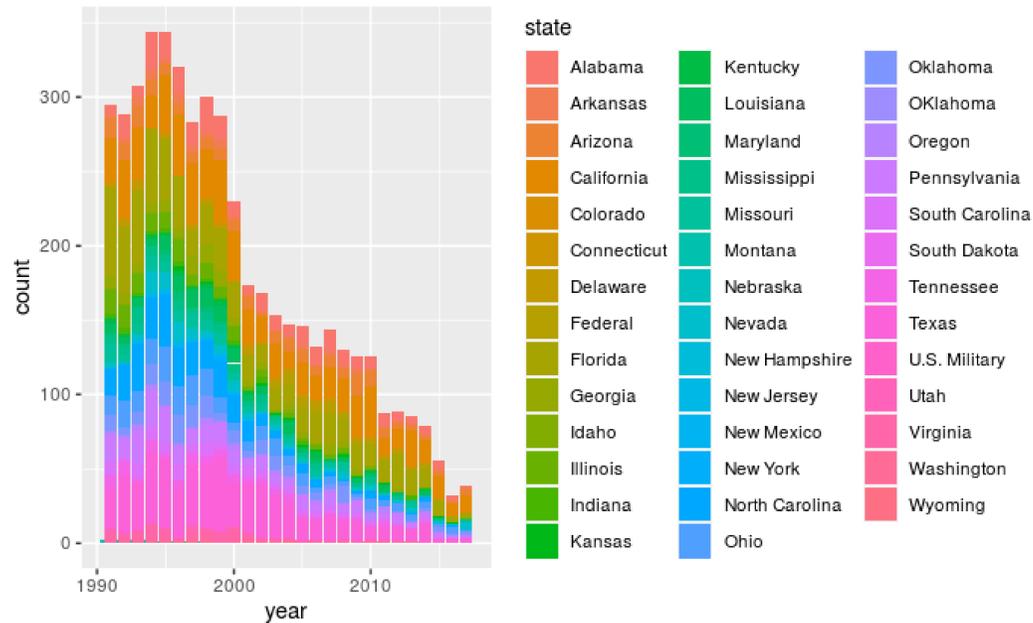


Table 2 Showing each states part in the number of death row convictions over the last 30 years.

## Conclusions

The United States is very torn on the idea of the morality of the use of the death penalty. Those opposed would argue that a life sentence in prison without the possibility of parole is enough, they would also argue that the cost to execute an inmate is very high, the risks of innocence or mistakes during trial all play a role as well. After my research The death penalty reached its peak in the 1990's and has been on a steadily declining since 1994. In addition, as of 2010 a majority (61%) of Americans would choose a different method of punishment for murder.

State	Year
Michigan	1847
Wisconsin	1853
Maine	1887
Minnesota	1911
Alaska	1957
Hawaii	1957
Iowa	1965
West Virginia	1965
Vermont	1972
North Dakota	1975
Massachusetts	1984
Rhode Island	1984
New Jersey	2007
New York	2007
New Mexico	2009
Illinois	2011
Connecticut	2012
Maryland	2013
Delaware	2016
Washington	2018
New Hampshire	2019
Colorado	2020

Table 3 States that have abolished the Death Penalty and what year.

## Interesting Facts

-The vast majority of death row is made up of men, but there have been 57 women on death row and 16 women have been executed since 1976.

-295 death sentences were imposed in the U.S. in 1998. The number of death sentences per year has dropped dramatically since then

-• Since 1973, more than 165 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence.

## Contact

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## References

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