

Race and the Death Penalty in North Carolina

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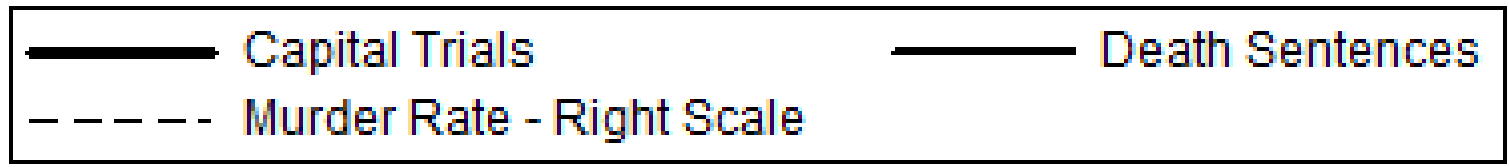
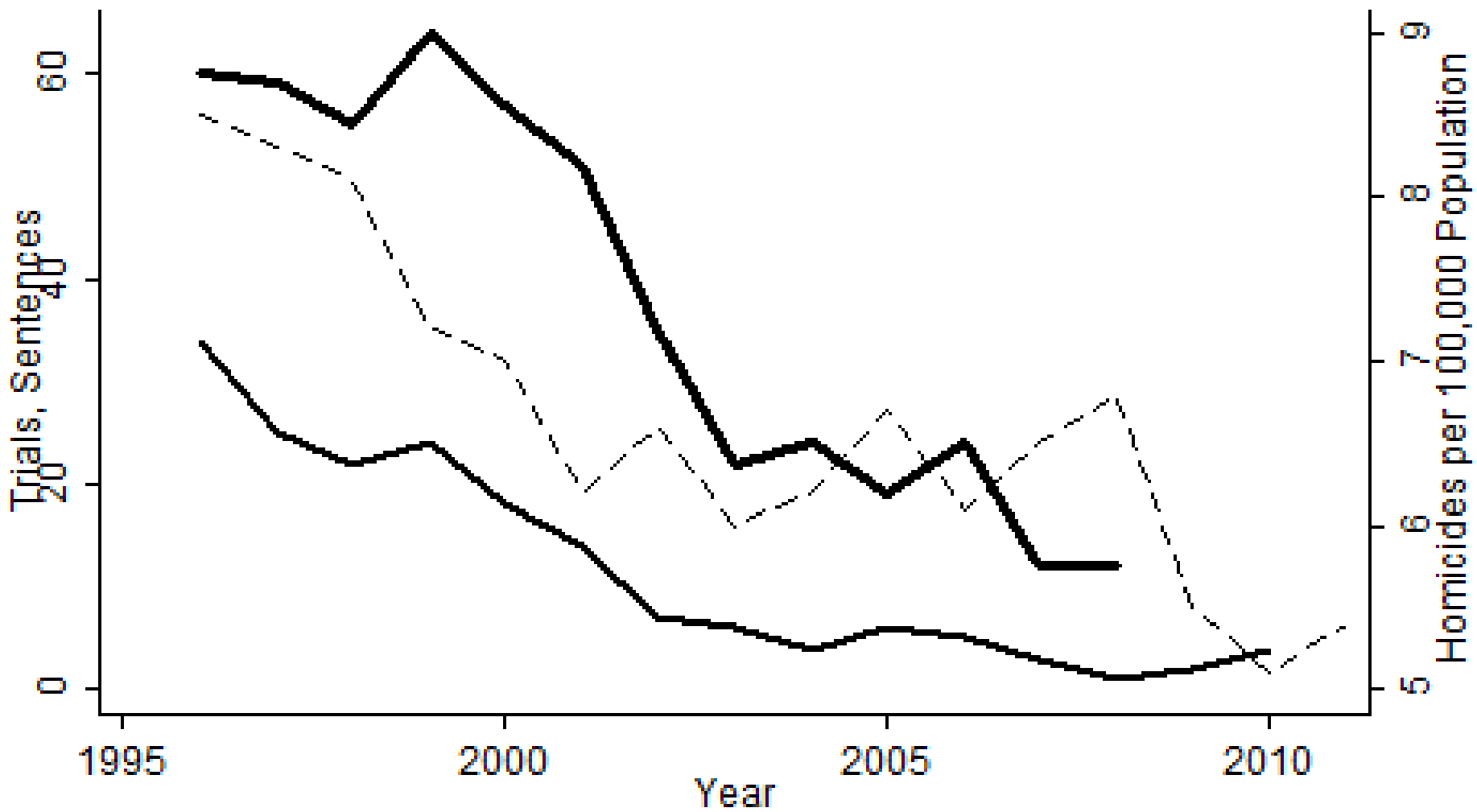
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Outline

- Race in the history of the death penalty
 - US, NC
- Geography of use of the death penalty
 - US, NC
- Which victims are more valued?
 - US, NC
- Racial Justice Act and its revisions

NC Murder Rates and Death Penalty Trends, 1996 to 2011



African-Americans in NC

- Percent of Population: 21.6
- Percent of those sentenced to death: 48.7
- Percent of those currently on death row: 53.8
- Percent of those executed: 32.6
- African-American Men:
- Percent of all homicide victims: 42.4
- Percent of all victims of murder for whom the killer was later executed: 2.3

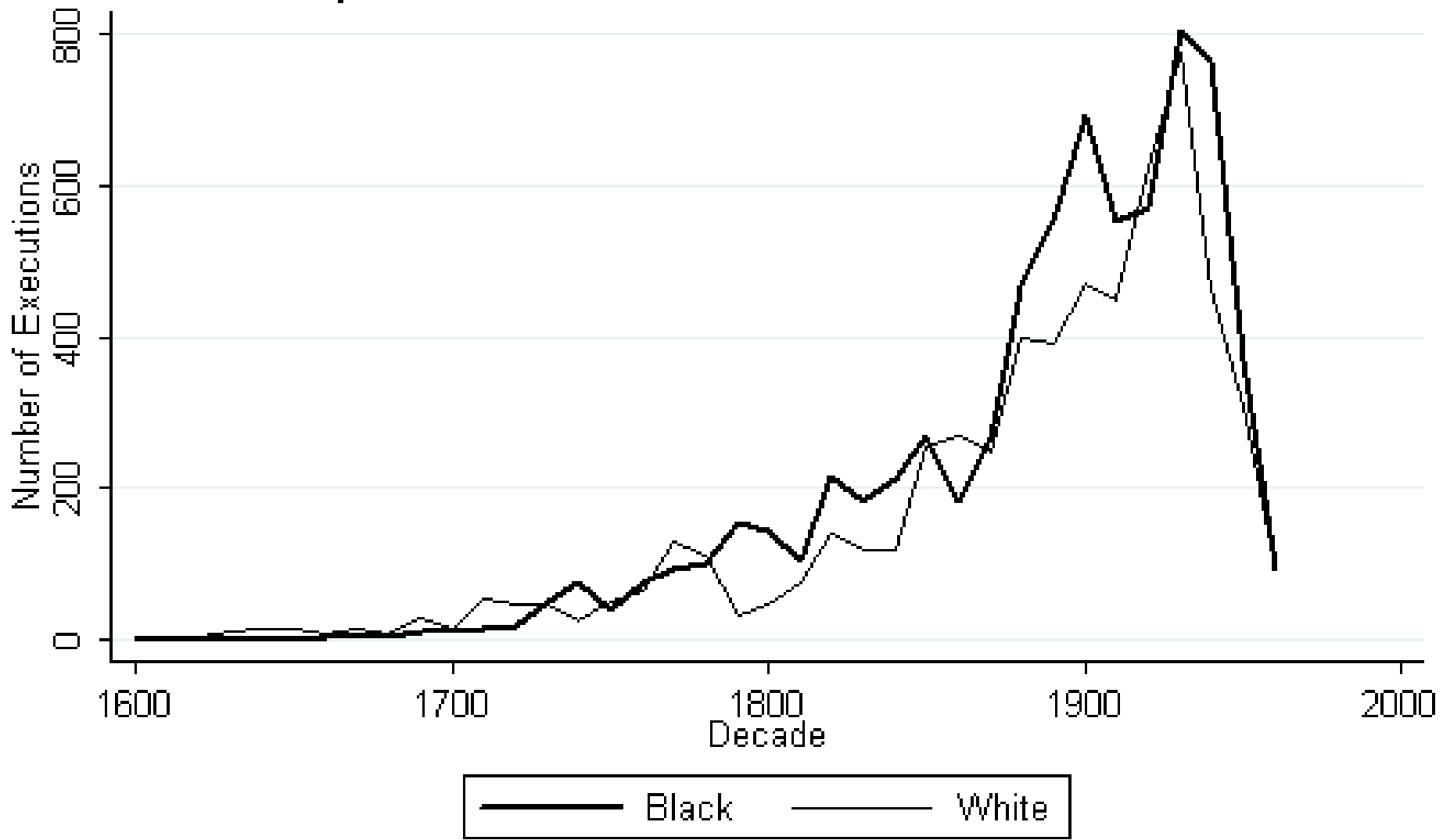
Executions by Race 1680 - 1960



— Black — White

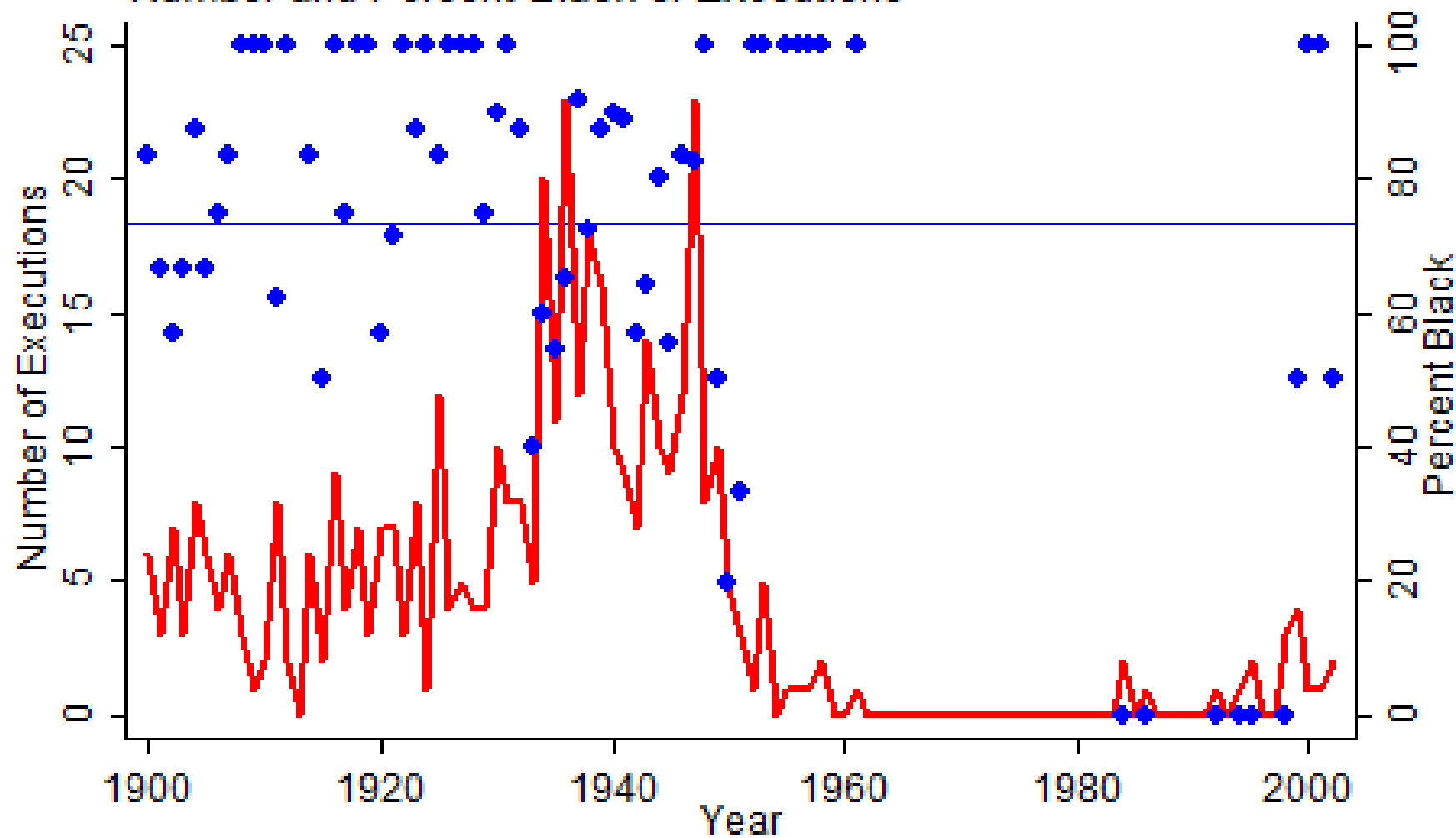
North Carolina

Executions by Race 1680 - 1960



United States

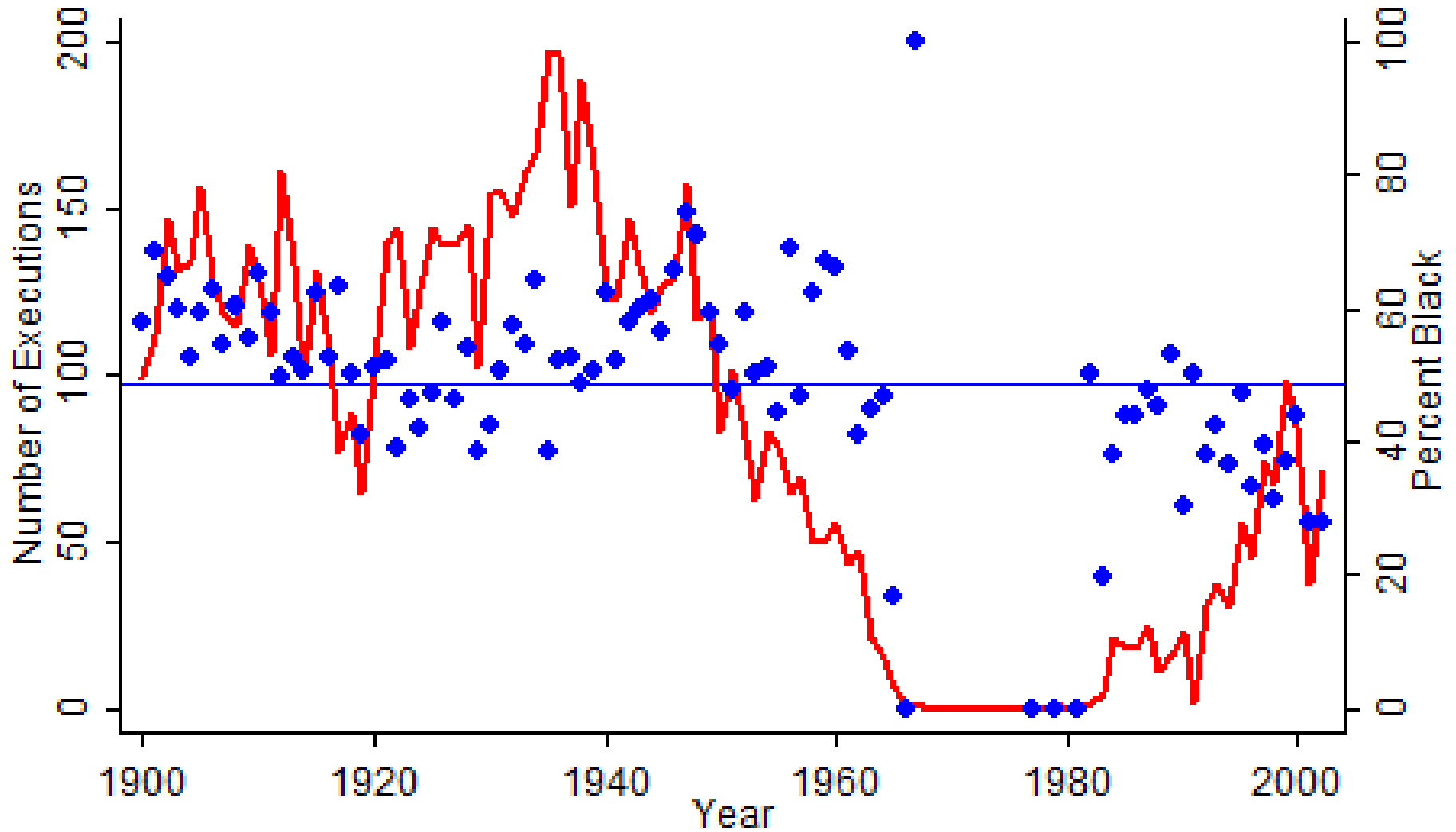
Number and Percent Black of Executions



— Executions ♦ Percent Black

North Carolina: Average Percent Black: 73.31

Number and Percent Black of US Executions



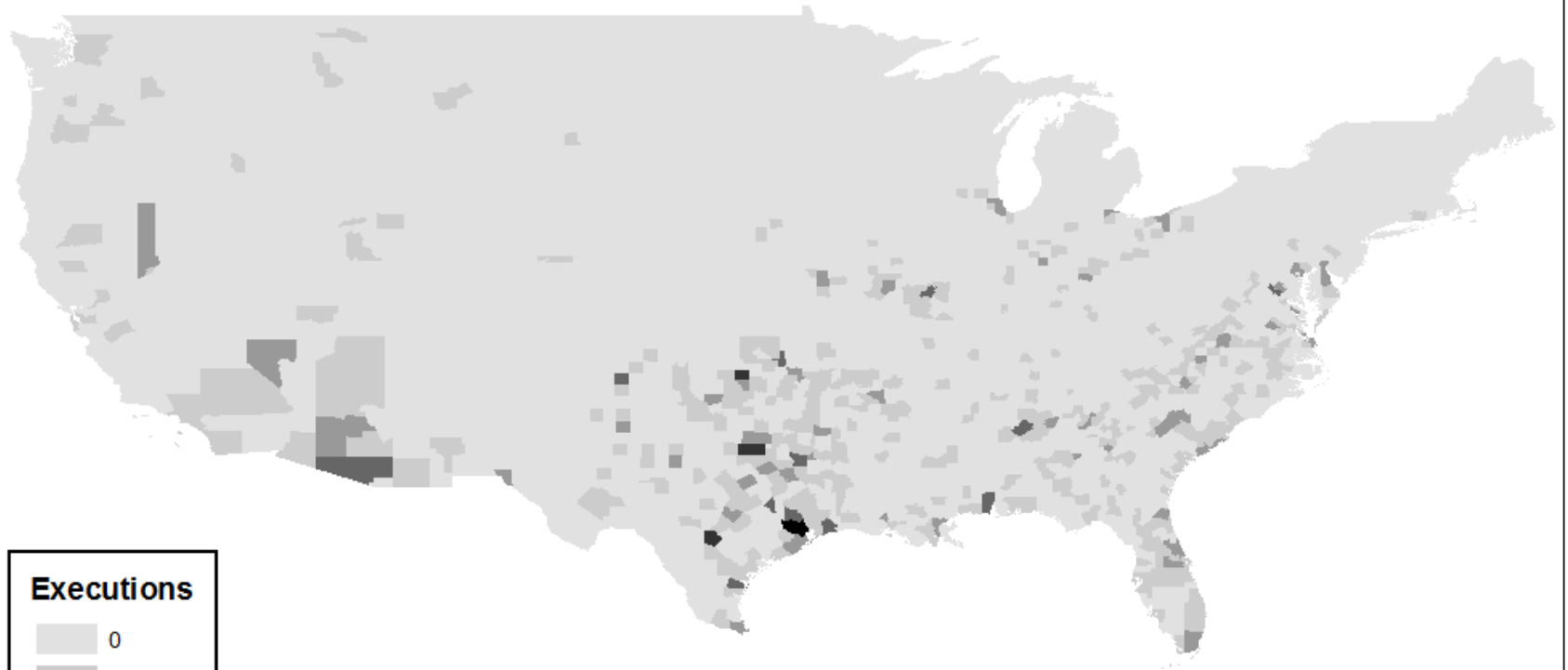
— Executions ◆ Percent Black

Average percent black: 48.9.

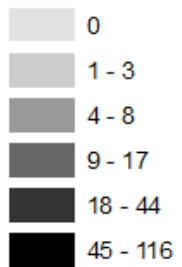
Geography, “states’ rights,” “local control”

- Certain legal jurisdictions simply don’t execute
- Jurisdictions with high minority populations are significantly more likely to execute their citizens
- NC is similar to other southern states.
- However, NC is changing rapidly: The Racial Justice Act is important in this regard.

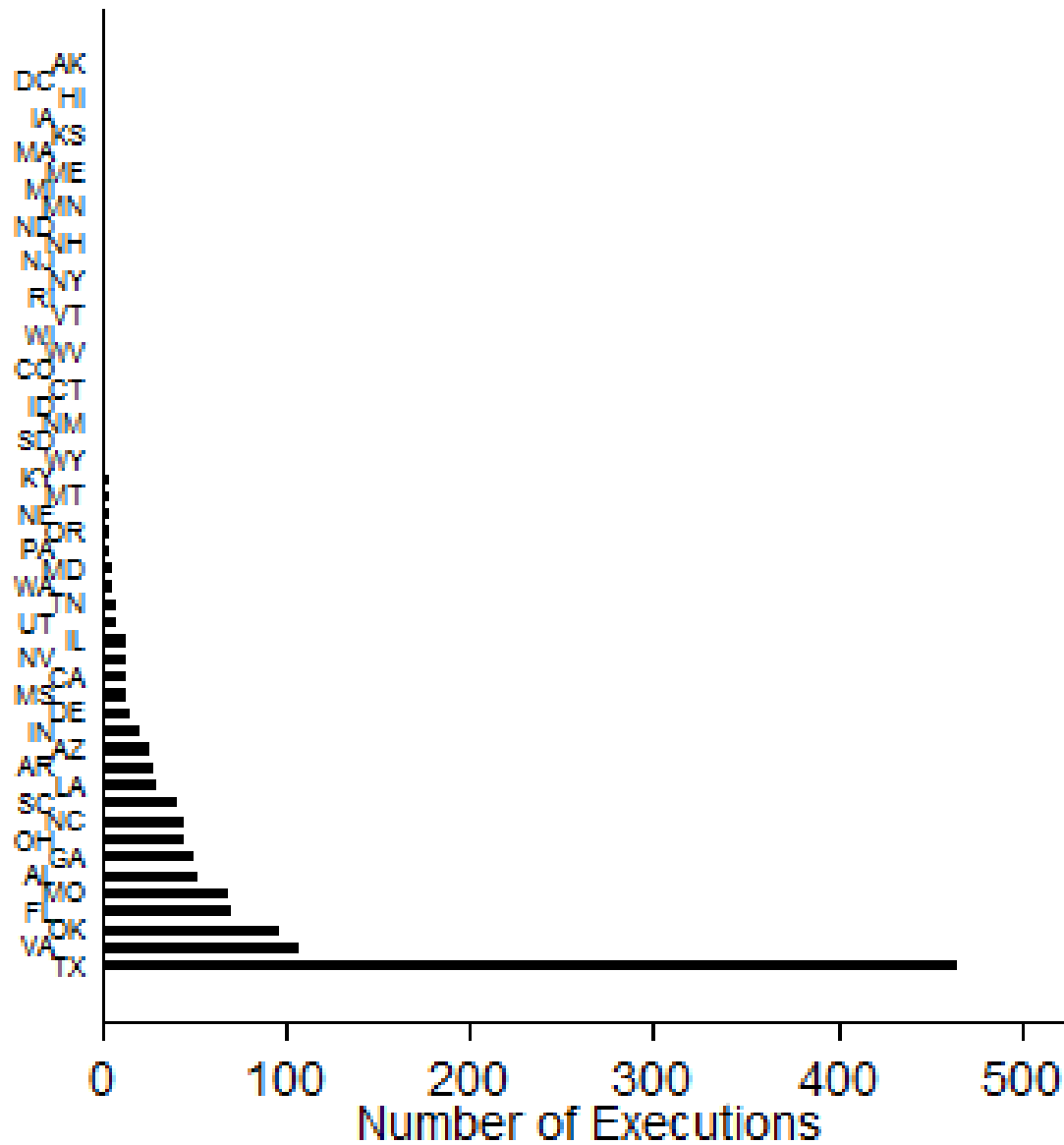
Number of executions per county since 1976



Executions

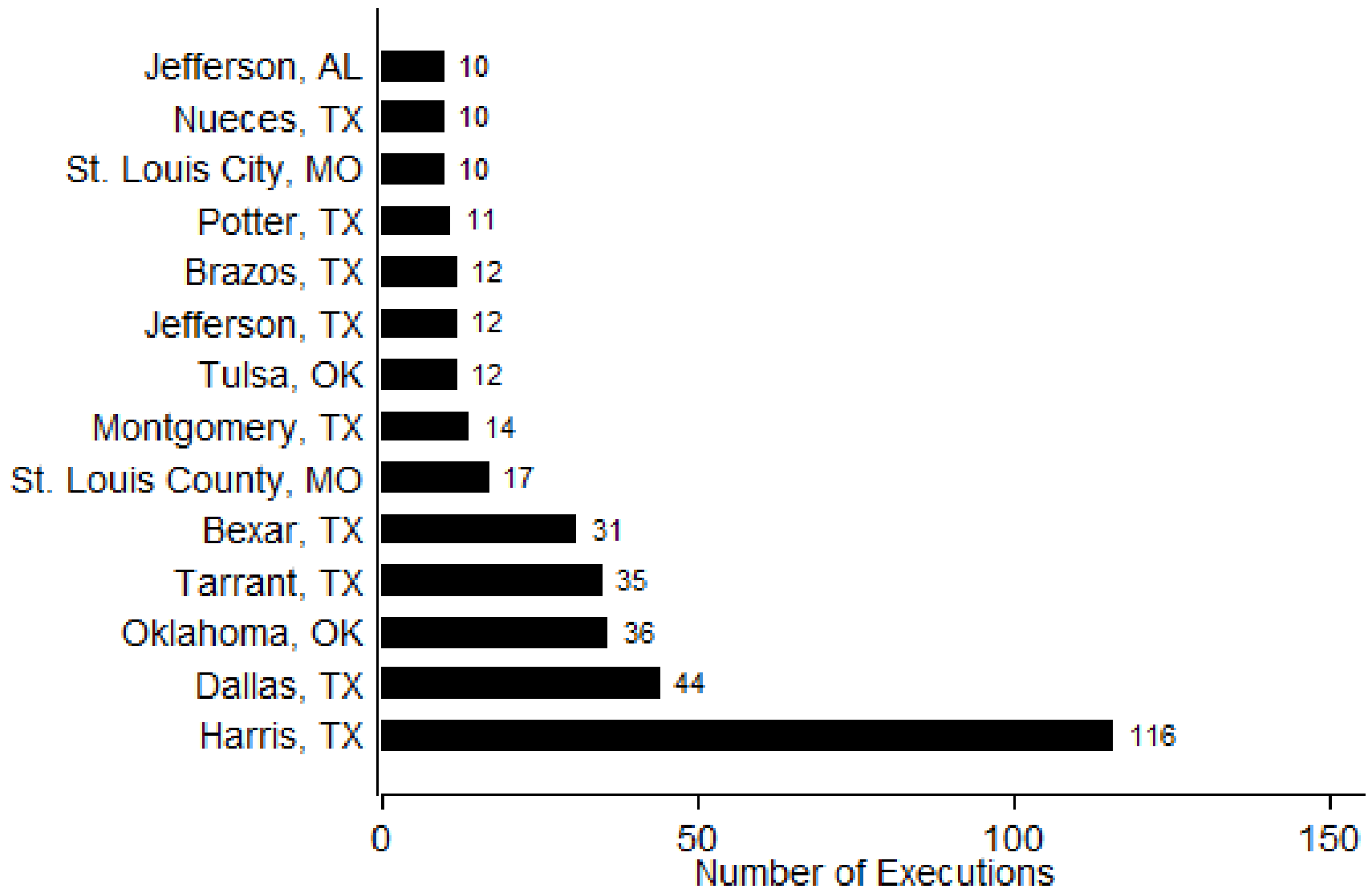


Executions by State



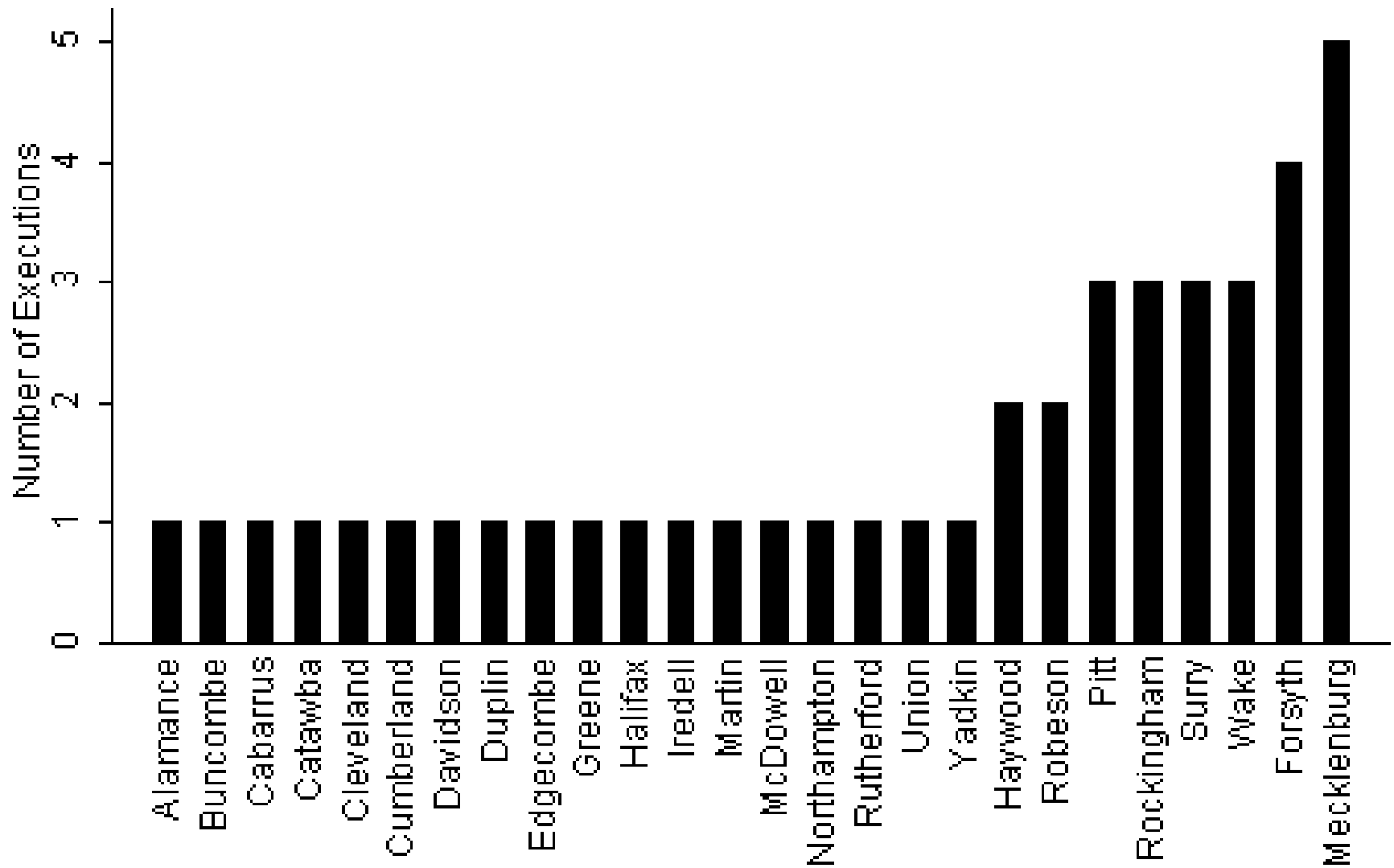
Based on 1,239 executions from 1976 to June 2011.

US counties with 10 or more executions since 1977



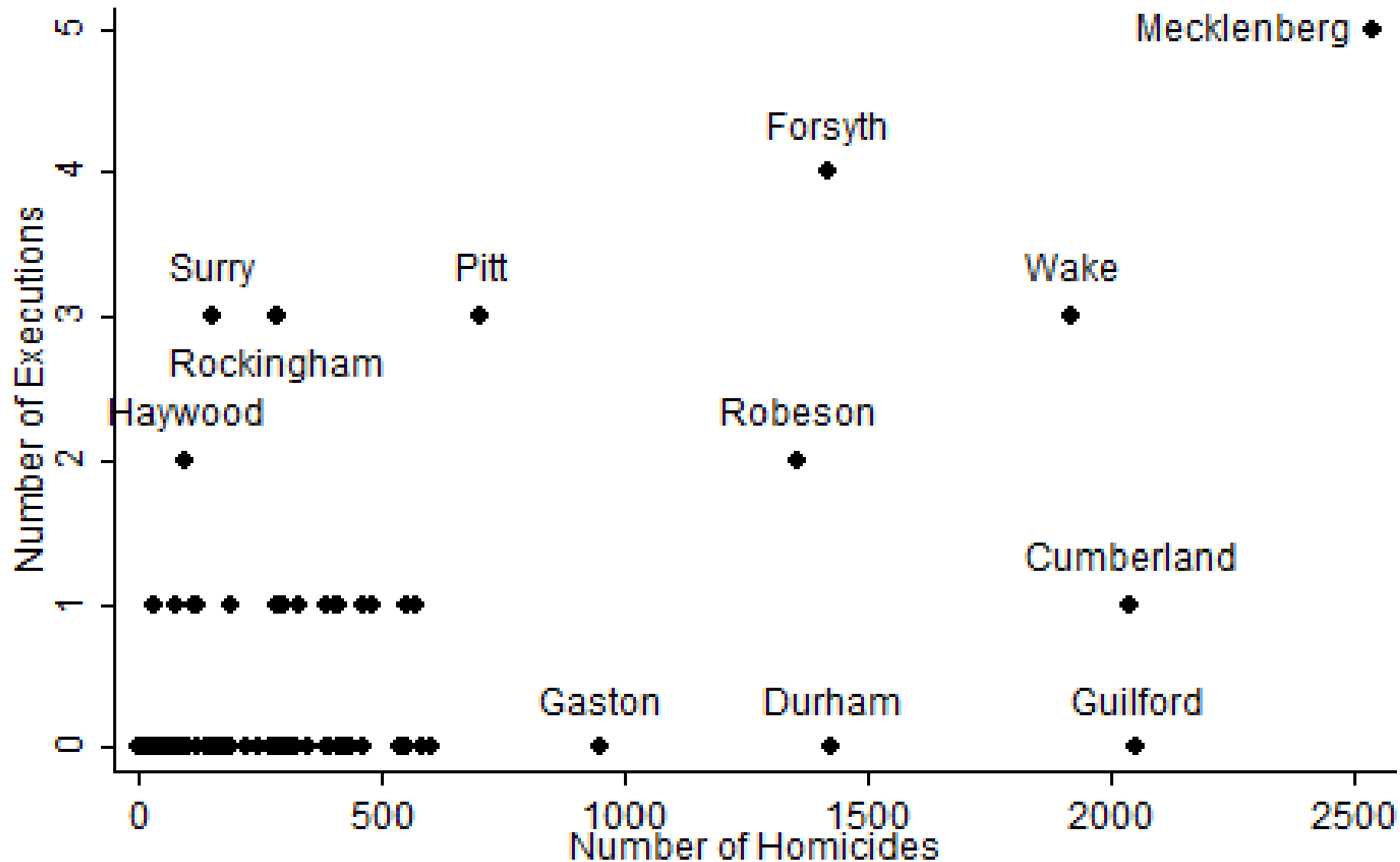
Includes counties with 10 or more executions from 1977 to April 10 2011.

Executions by County in North Carolina 1977 to 2011



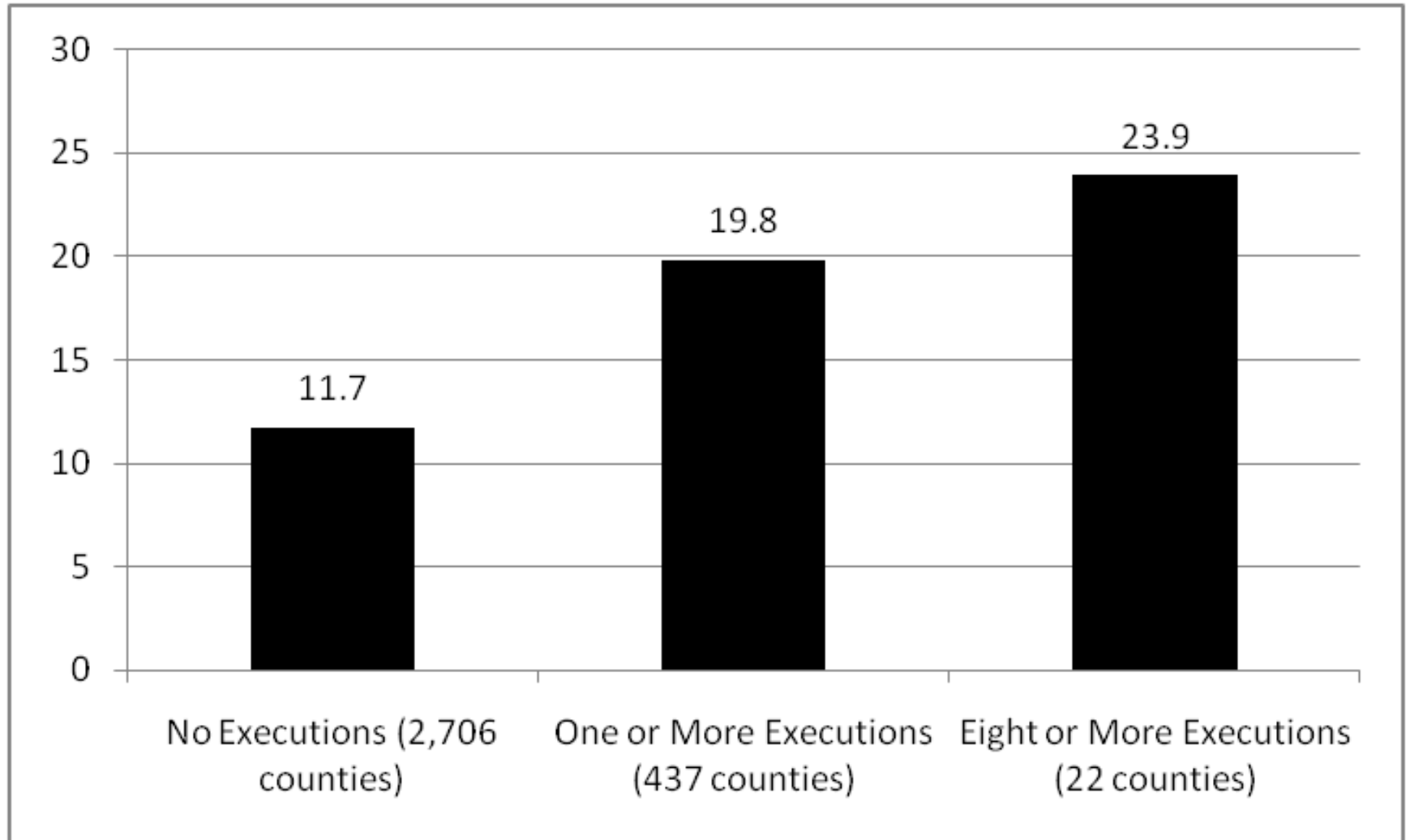
Note: 74 of the 100 counties in North Carolina have had no executions.

Homicides and Executions



$R^2 = .31$.

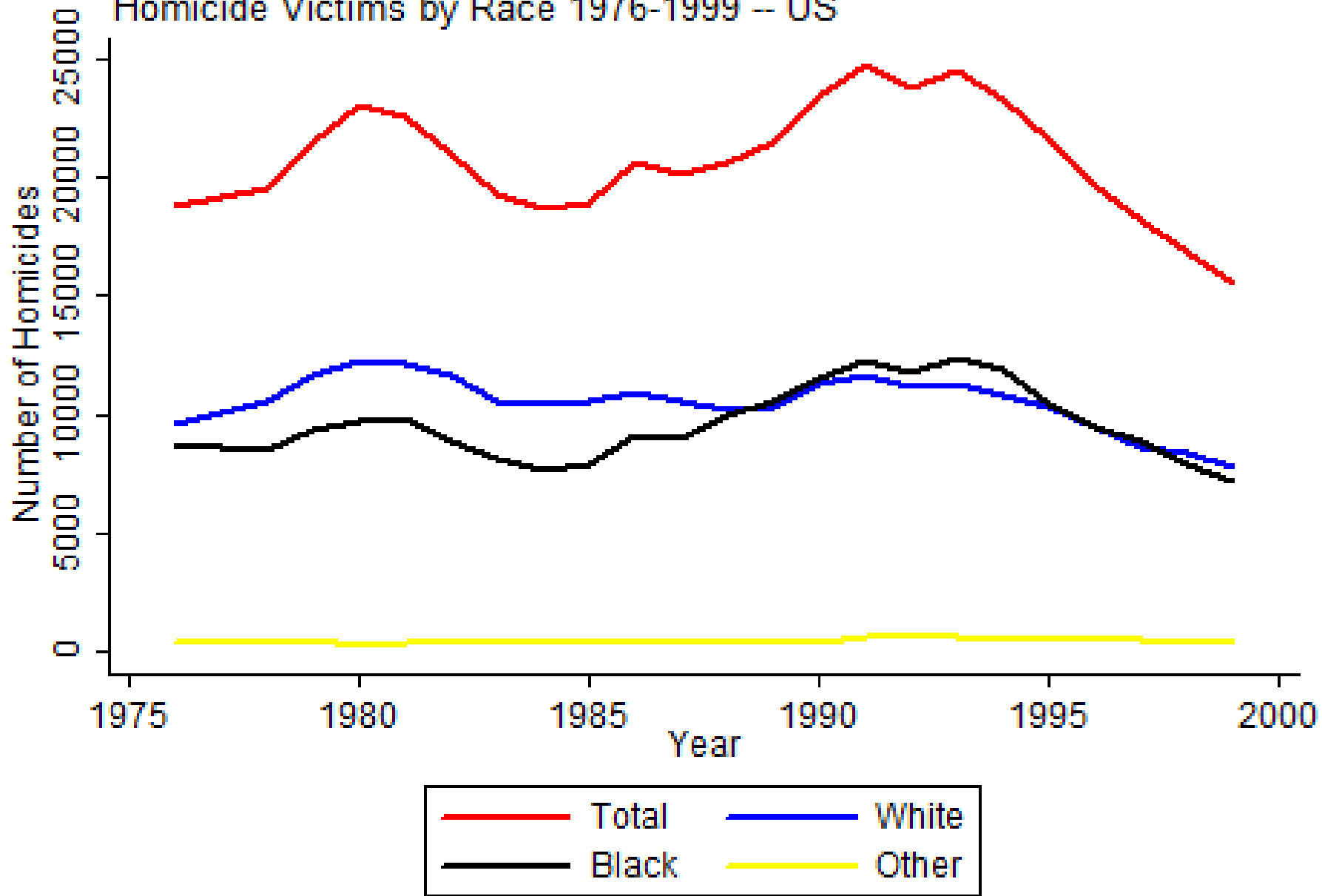
Percent Minority Population



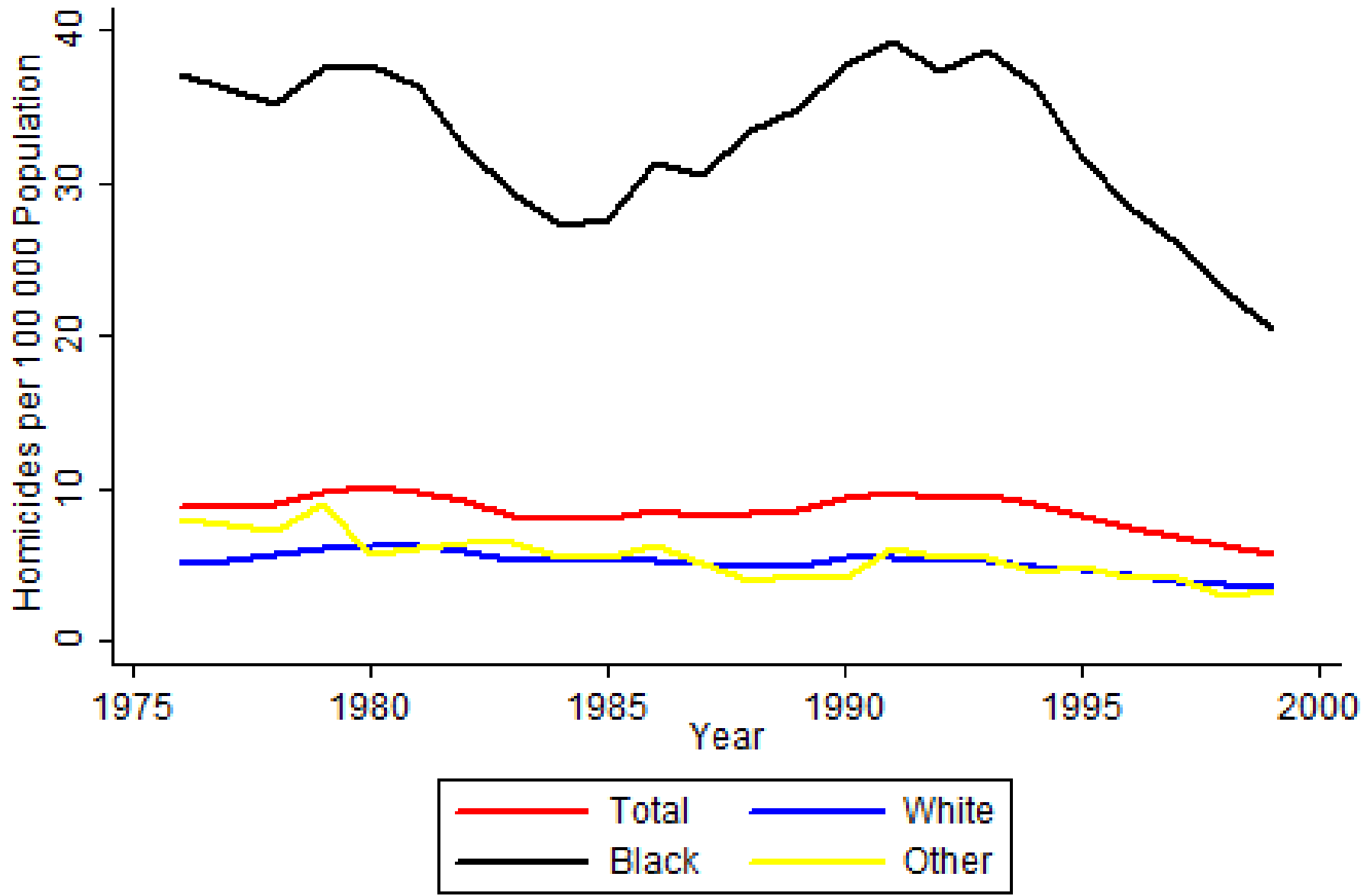
Victims of Homicide, Victims of Execution: Whose Lives are More Precious?

- Following slides show numbers and rates per 100 000 population of being a victim of homicide
- Blacks, especially young black males, are the victims
- These crimes very rarely lead to death sentences

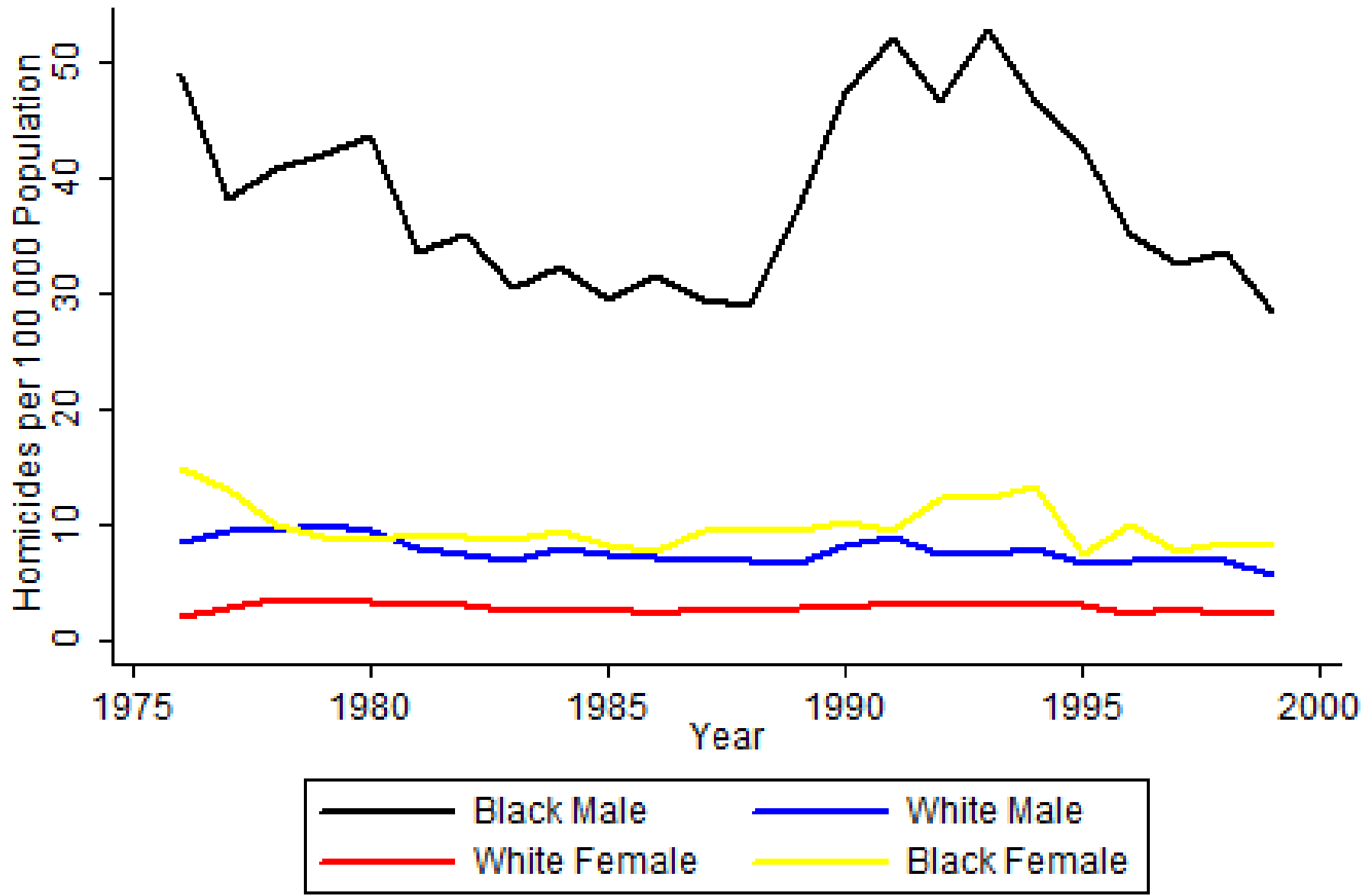
Homicide Victims by Race 1976-1999 - US



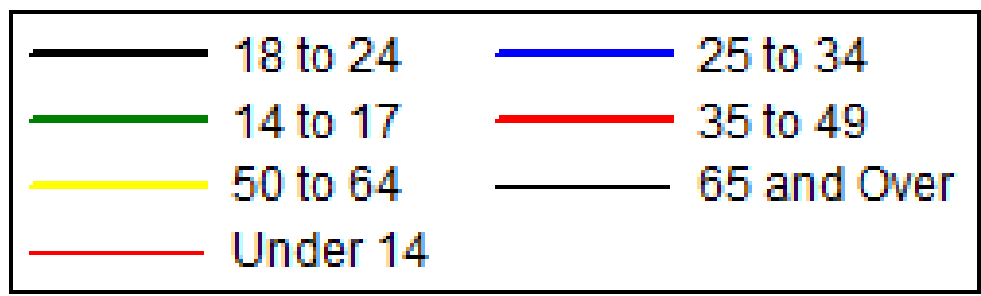
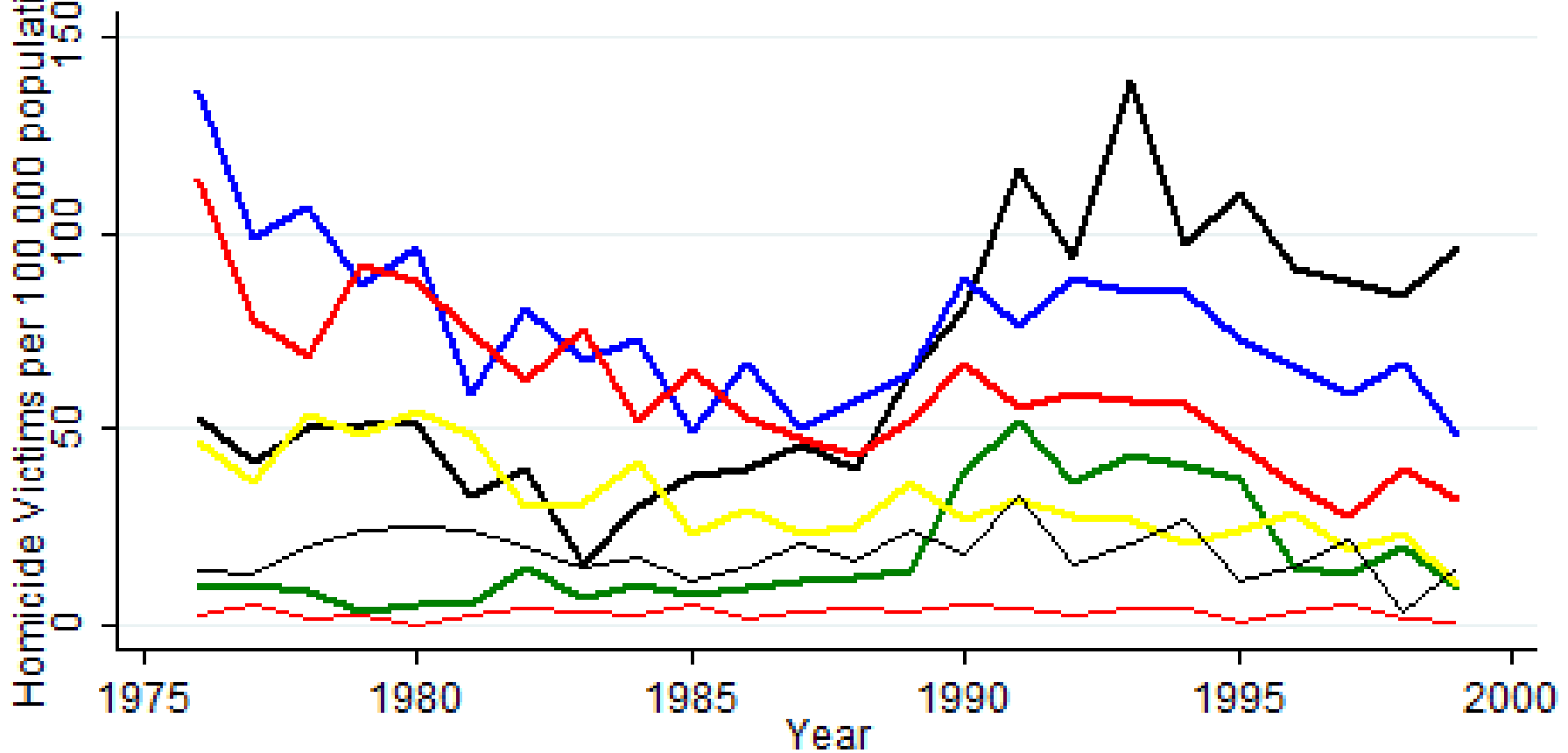
Homicide Victimization Rates by Race 1976-1999 -- US



Homicide Victimization Rates by Race and Gender 1976-1999 – NC



Homicide Victimization Rates for Black Males 1976-1999 – North Carolina



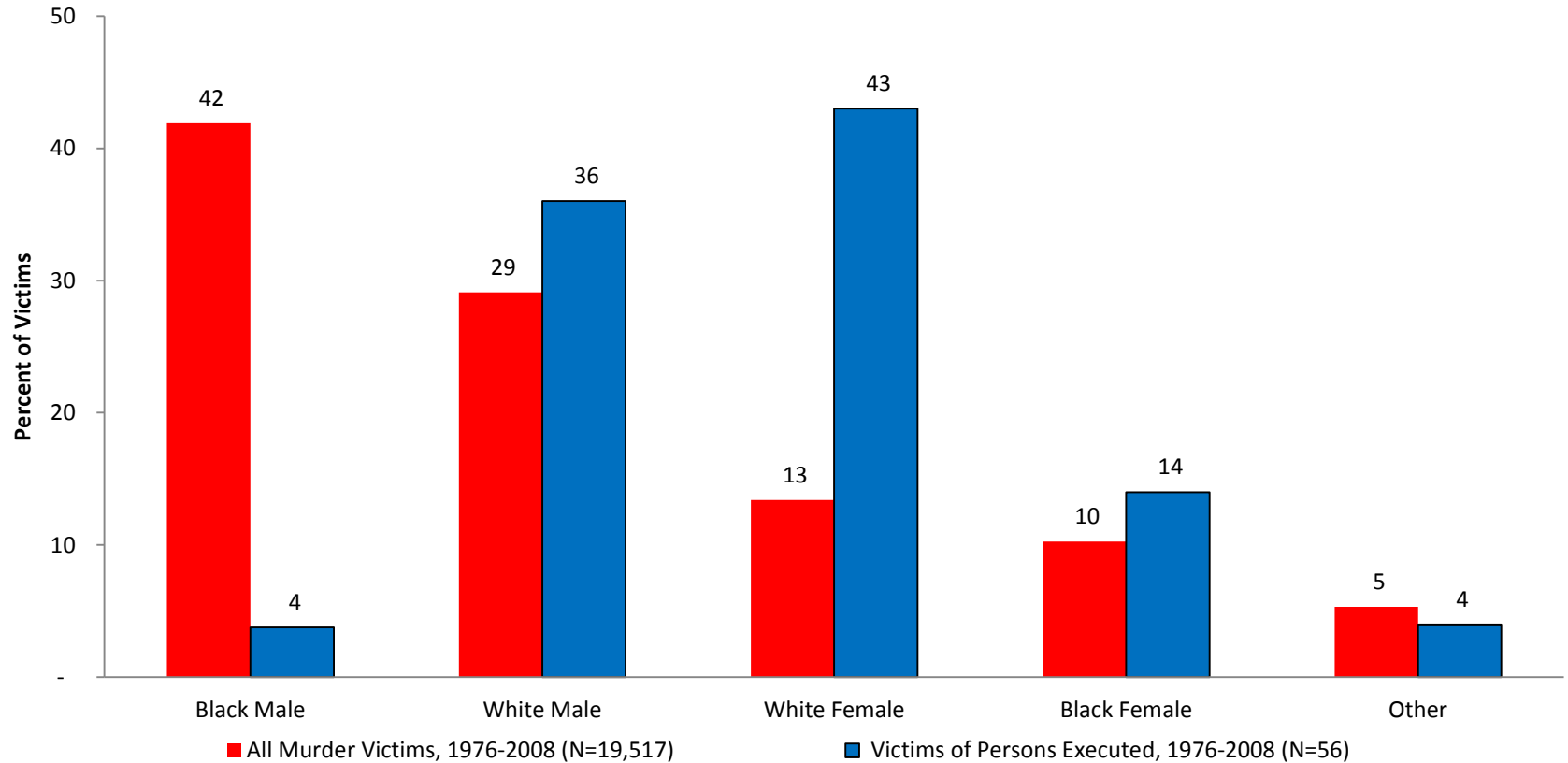
Executions in North Carolina since 1977

- 43 executions
- 56 victims, as a few had multiple victims
- 44 (79 percent) of the victims were white
- Just one person was executed for the crime of killing an African-American man
- A second person killed a black man in a triple slaying, and he was also executed

Victims of homicide

Victims of those executed

Race and Gender of NC Homicide Victims, by Execution Status



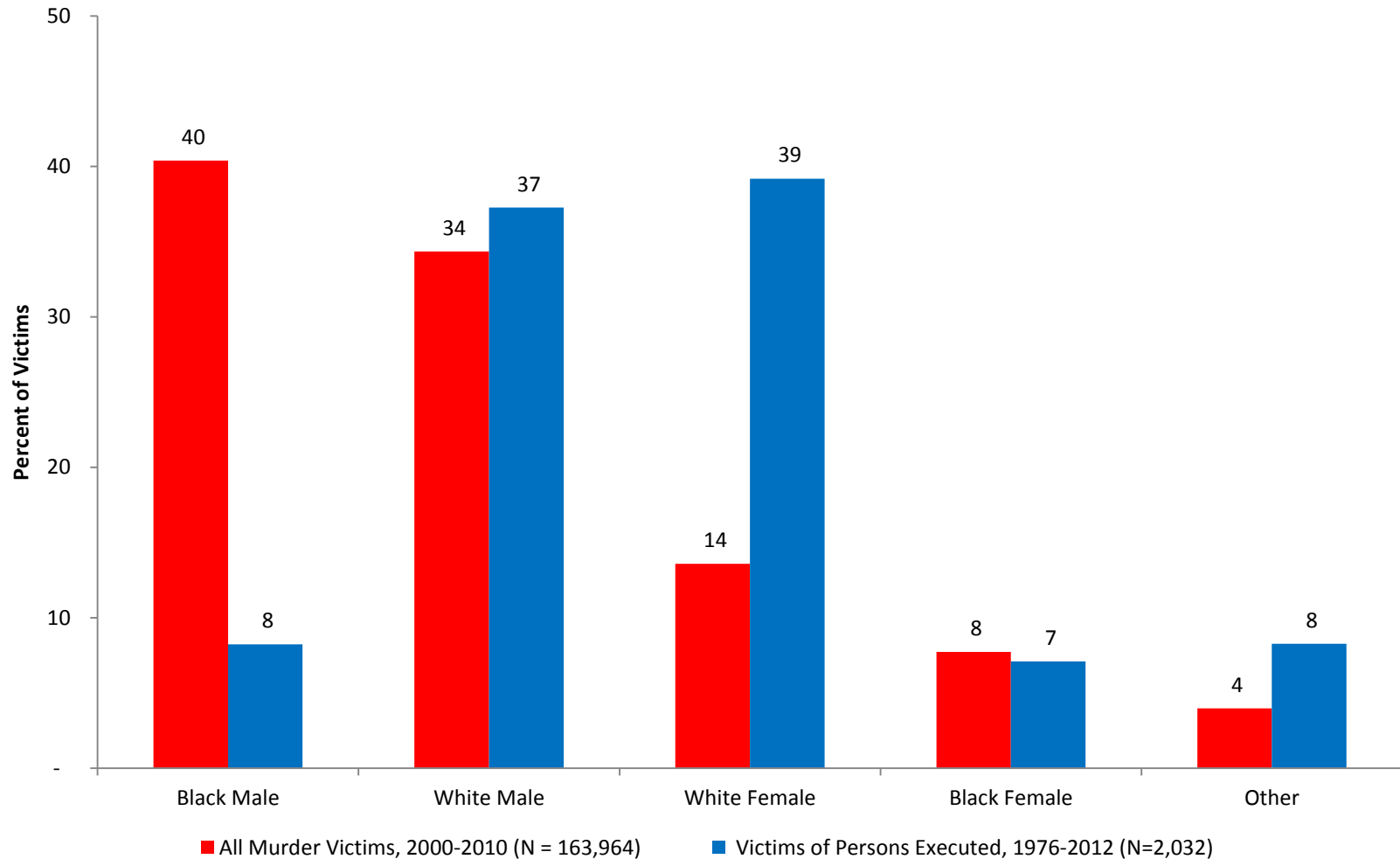
Executions nationwide since 1977

- 1,306 executions
- 2,032 victims overall
- 76 percent of the victims were white
- Trends are almost the same as in NC

Victims of homicide

Victims of those executed

Race and Gender of US Homicide Victims, by Execution Status



Racial Justice Act

- Initial Act:
 - **Statistical Discrepancies** May lead to Move from Death Row to Life Without the Possibility of Parole
 - Race of Inmate
 - Race of Victim
 - Selection of Jurors
 - No Need to Demonstrate Intent to Discriminate
 - Patterns may be State-Wide, by County, or by Judicial District
- Revision
 - Must Demonstrate **Intention to Discriminate** or Statistical Trends in the **Individual Case**
- We Do Not Know Where the Revised Legislation Will Lead