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Deadly Justice

A Statistical Portrait of the Death Penalty

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2015 North Carolina Executions Database: Codebook

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General information: The 2015 Executions database is a comprehensive list of each execution that has taken place in the United States in the Post-*Gregg* era up to December 31, 2015. The Database provides a variety of information relating to each executed inmate including the basic details of the crime and execution, demographic information about the inmates and their victims, and various other points of interest. The database often provides the same information several times for each inmate coded in a different way. Certain variables offer aggregate information about the inmate or his or her victims, with successive variables breaking down such information into smaller units for the purposes of conducting various analyses referenced in the text. For instance, the variable “numberandraceofvictims” provides aggregate information regarding how many individuals were killed by a particular inmate and the race of those victims (i.e. “2 White 1 Black”). Successive variables go on to specifically enumerate the number of White victims, Black victims, etc. for the purposes of conducting analyses relating to total number of victims by race. Below is a list of all of the variables included in the database with a brief explanation of what each indicates.

List of Variables

date: The date of the Inmate’s execution. Variable format: Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

name: The name of the inmate Executed. Variable format: String

fips: The FIPS code of the county where the execution took place. A FIPS code, or Federal Information Processing Standard, is a unique five digit code that identifies counties and county equivalents in the United States, certain U.S holdings, and certain freely associated states. Note: Federal executions display a FIPS code of 0. Variable format: Numeric

state: The name of the state in which the execution took place identified by state postal codes. Note: Federal executions are identified by the code 'FE'. Variable format: Alphabetical

county: The name of the county in which the execution took place. Variable format: String

age: The age of the inmate at the time of his or her execution. Variable format: Numeric

sex: The sex of the executed inmate identified by numerical indicators (1=male, 2=female). Variable format: Numeric

region: The region of the United States in which the execution occurred (S=South, M=Midwest, W=West). Variable format: Alphabetic

race: The race of the inmate executed, identified by numerical indicators (1=White, 2=Black, 3=Latino, 4=Native American, 5= Asian, 9=Other). Variable format: Numeric

numberandraceofvictims: The number of the victims killed by the executed inmate broken down by the race of the victims. Variable format: Alphabetic

numbervictims: The total number of victims killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

whitevictims: The number of White victims killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

blackvictims: The number of Black victims killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

otherracevictims: The number of victims, belonging to a race other than White or Black, killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

whmalevictims: The number of White male victims killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

blmalevictims: The number of Black male victims killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

othmalevictims: The number of male victims, belonging to a race other than White or Black, killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

whfemalevictims: The number of White female victims killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

blfemalevictims: The number of Black female victims killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

othfemalevictims: The number of female victims, belonging to a race other than White or Black, killed by the executed inmate. Variable format: Numeric

method: The method used by the state to execute the inmate. Variable format: String

other: Additional information about the individual inmate executed including whether the inmate volunteered for execution (i.e. he or she chose not to fully exhaust the appeals process and allow the execution to proceed without legal challenge), whether an inmate was a juvenile at the time he or she committed the crime resulting in their execution, whether there was evidence that the executed inmate was mentally retarded, whether the inmate was a foreign national and/or dual citizen, and whether the execution was conducted under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and whether the inmate killed an infant. Variable format: Alphabetic

volunteer: A binary indicator determining whether or not the executed inmate was a volunteer (1=volunteer, 0=not volunteer). Variable format: Numeric

mental: A binary indicator determining whether or not there was evidence that the executed inmate was mentally retarded (1=mentally retardation, 0=no mental retardation). Variable format: Numeric

juvenile: A binary indicator determining whether or not the executed inmate was a juvenile at the time his or her crime was committed (1=juvenile, 0=not juvenile). Variable format: Numeric

inmate_white: A binary indicator determining whether or not the executed inmate was White (1=White, 0=not White). Variable format: Numeric

inmate_black: A binary indicator determining whether or not the executed inmate was Black (1=Black, 0=not Black). Variable format: Numeric

inmate_othersrace: A binary indicator determining whether or not the executed inmate belongs to a race other than White or Black (1=other race, 0=not other race). Variable format: Numeric

source: A brief citation indicating any supplemental news source that was used to gather information relating to the inmate and/or his or her victim(s). Variable format: String

sourceurl: The URL's to the various webpages from which the information about particular inmates was gathered. Note: Information about certain inmates was gathered from Lexis Nexis. In these cases, a link is not included. Variable format: String

dateofcrime: The date that the crime for which the inmate was executed was committed. Variable format: Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

sourcedateofcrime: A URL to the source used in determining the date of the relevant crime committed by the inmate. Variable format: String

dateoffirstdeathsentence: The date of the first scheduled execution following the sentencing of the inmate. Variable format: Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

sourcedateoffirstconviction: A URL to the source used in determining the date of the original conviction and sentencing. Variable format: String

estimateddateofcrime: A binary indicator determining whether or not the date of the relevant crime was estimated. A '1' indicates that the date was estimated. In this circumstance, the date is estimated by taking the midpoint of the midpoint provided (i.e. for sources that list "June of 2015", we list June 15th 2015 or if the source refers to the event taking place "earlier this year", we take the midpoint between January first of that year and the day that the source was published). If two sources provide conflicting dates, we use the midpoint between the two dates. Variable format: Numeric

estimateddateoffirstdeathsentenc: A binary indicator determining whether or not the date of the first death sentence was estimated. A '1' indicates that the date was estimated. The same rules apply as in the previous variable. Variable format: Numeric

elapsedCED: The number of days that elapsed between the crime and execution of the inmate. Variable format: Numeric

elapsedCEy: The number of years that elapsed between the crime and execution of the inmate. Variable format: Numeric

elapsedSEd: The number of days that elapsed between the sentencing and execution of the inmate. Variable format: Numeric

elapsedSEy: The number of years that elapsed between the sentencing and execution of the inmate. Variable format: Numeric

elapsedCSd: The number of days that elapsed between the crime and sentencing of the inmate.

Variable format: Numeric

elapsedCSy: The number of years that elapsed between the crime and sentencing of the inmate.

Variable format: Numeric

ageatcrime_dec: The age of the inmate at the time he or she committed the relevant crime, unrounded. Note: DPIC lists the age of the inmate, in years, at the time of execution. We subtract the elapsed number of years from crime to execution to get the age at the time of crime. The age at the time of execution variable is rounded, this variable could be off by as much as one year in either direction because of rounding. Variable format: Numeric

ageatcrime_years: The age of the inmate at the time he or she committed the relevant crime, rounded to the nearest full year. Variable format: Numeric