

Baumgartner, POLI 203

Spring 2016

The Geography of the Death Penalty

March 2, 2016

Reminders

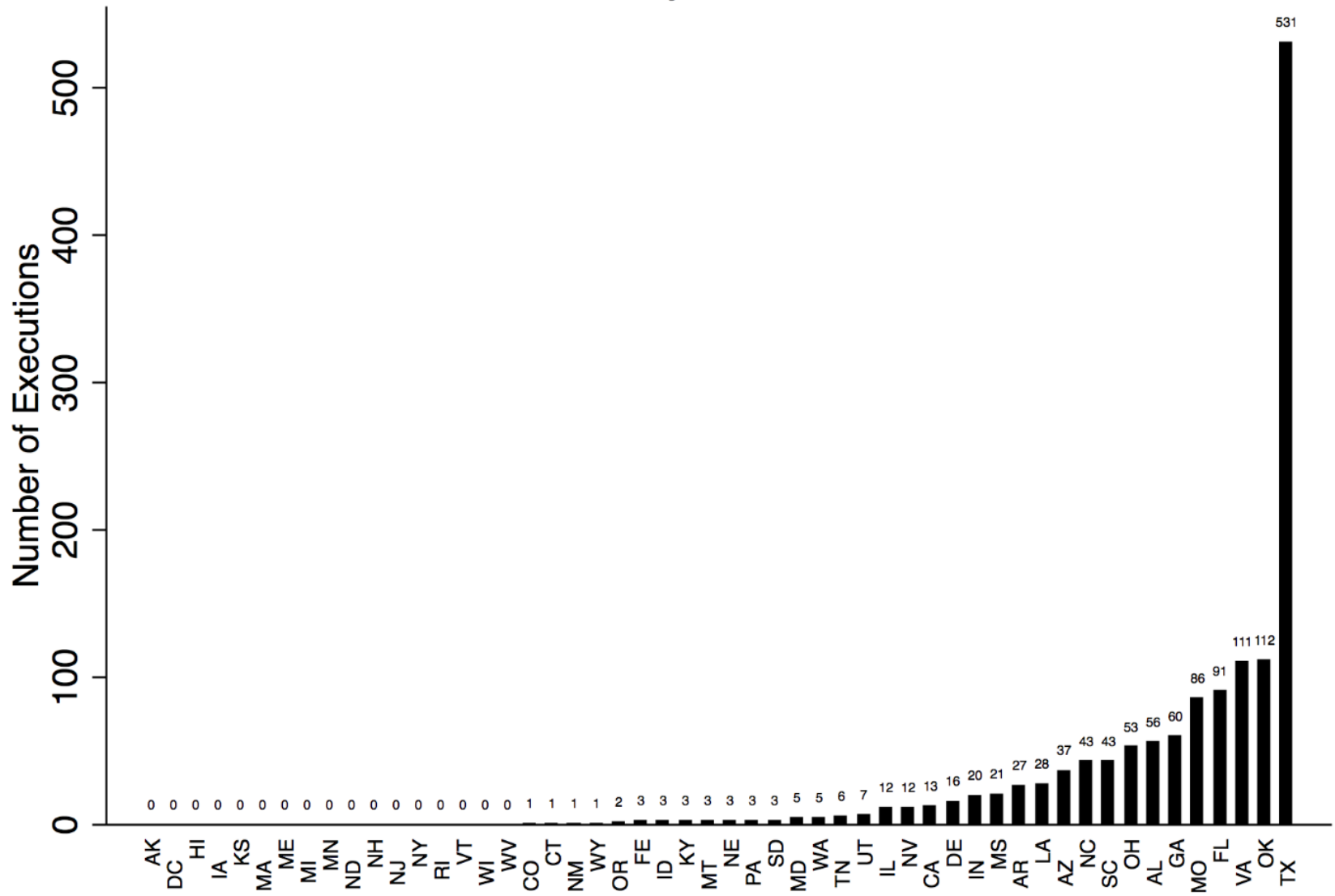
- Central Prison visit tidbits: Can of coke costs \$0.61, not bad. But the pay scale is \$0.40, \$0.70, or \$1.00 per DAY. And if you are on death row or in segregation (punishment), you can't have a job.

For more detail

- Read this paper if you want more detail on geography:
- <http://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/papers/Baumgartner-DeathPenaltyGeography-19Feb2016.pdf>
- Go here for the four maps, with a hover-over tool that shows the data:
- http://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/teaching/POLI203_Sp16/slides/FourMaps-Aug2015/index.html

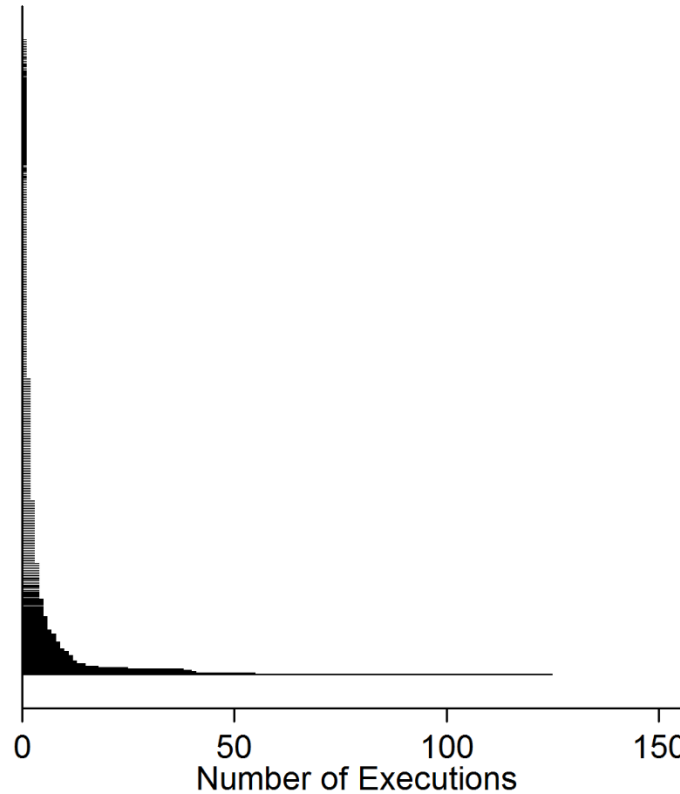
Executions by State, 1977-2015

Executions by State, 1977-2015



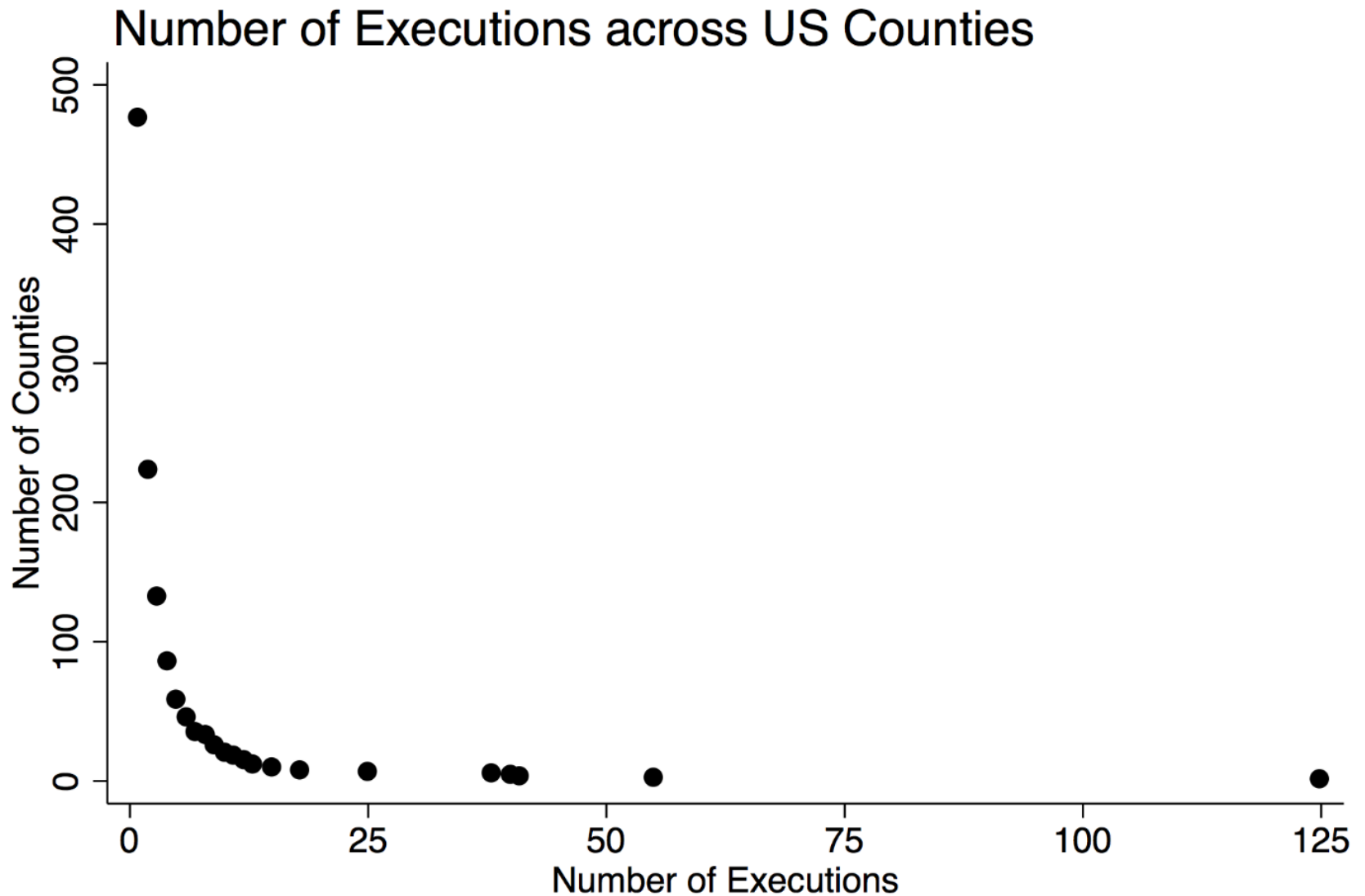
3,144 counties in the US, 474 have any executions...

Executions by County, 1977-2015



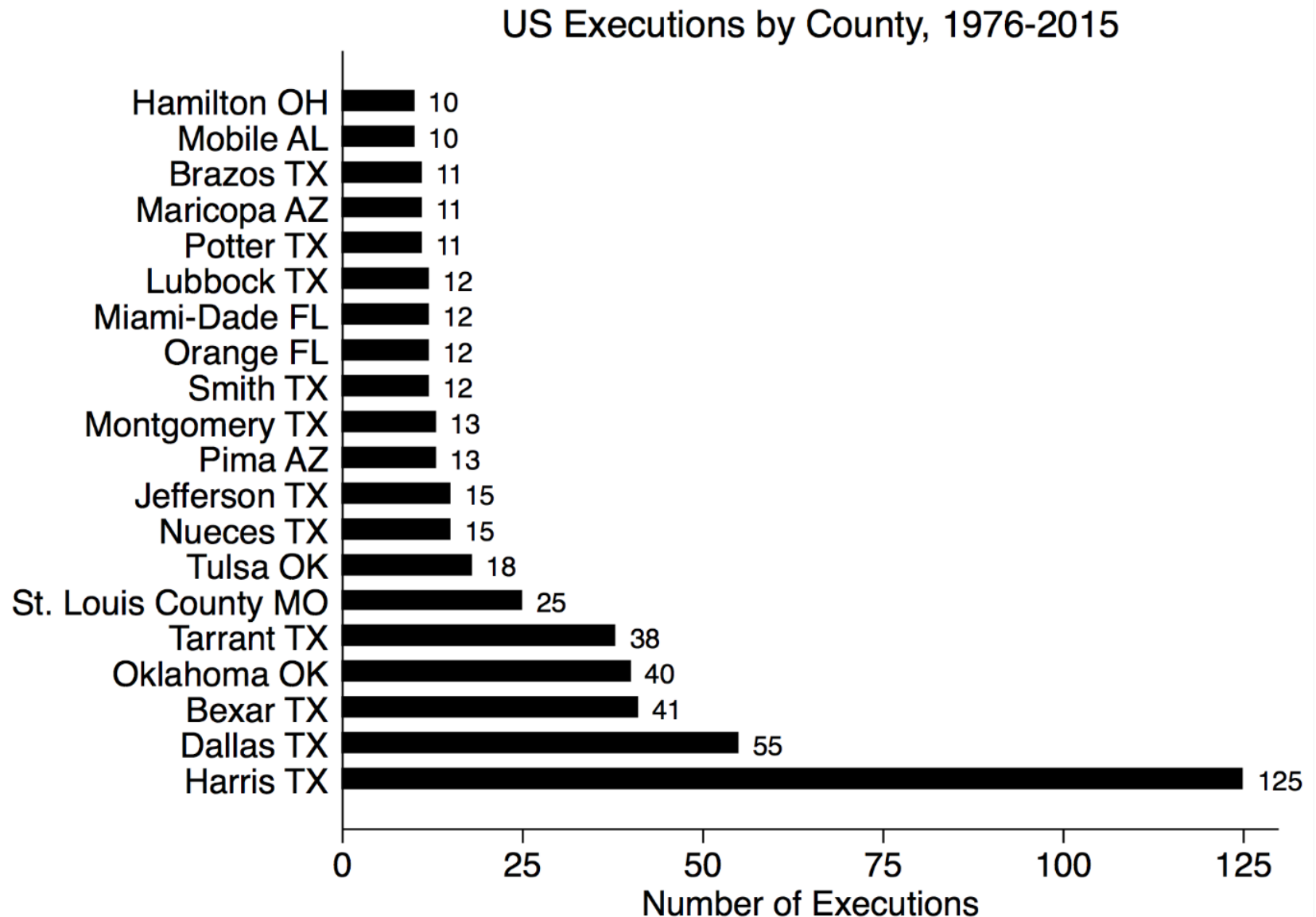
Data through December 31, 2015 with a total of 1,422 executions.

Counties: Only 474 of 3,144 have executed



Excludes counties with no executions.

Just 20 counties have had 10 executions (in 40 years)



Homicides, Executions, and Population by County

Number of Executions	Number of Counties	Cum Pct Executions	Cum Pct Homicides	Cum Pct Population
125+	1	9	3	2
38+	5	21	7	4
10+	20	35	12	9
5+	57	52	24	17
3+	130	69	34	25
2+	221	82	48	36
1+	474	100	63	50

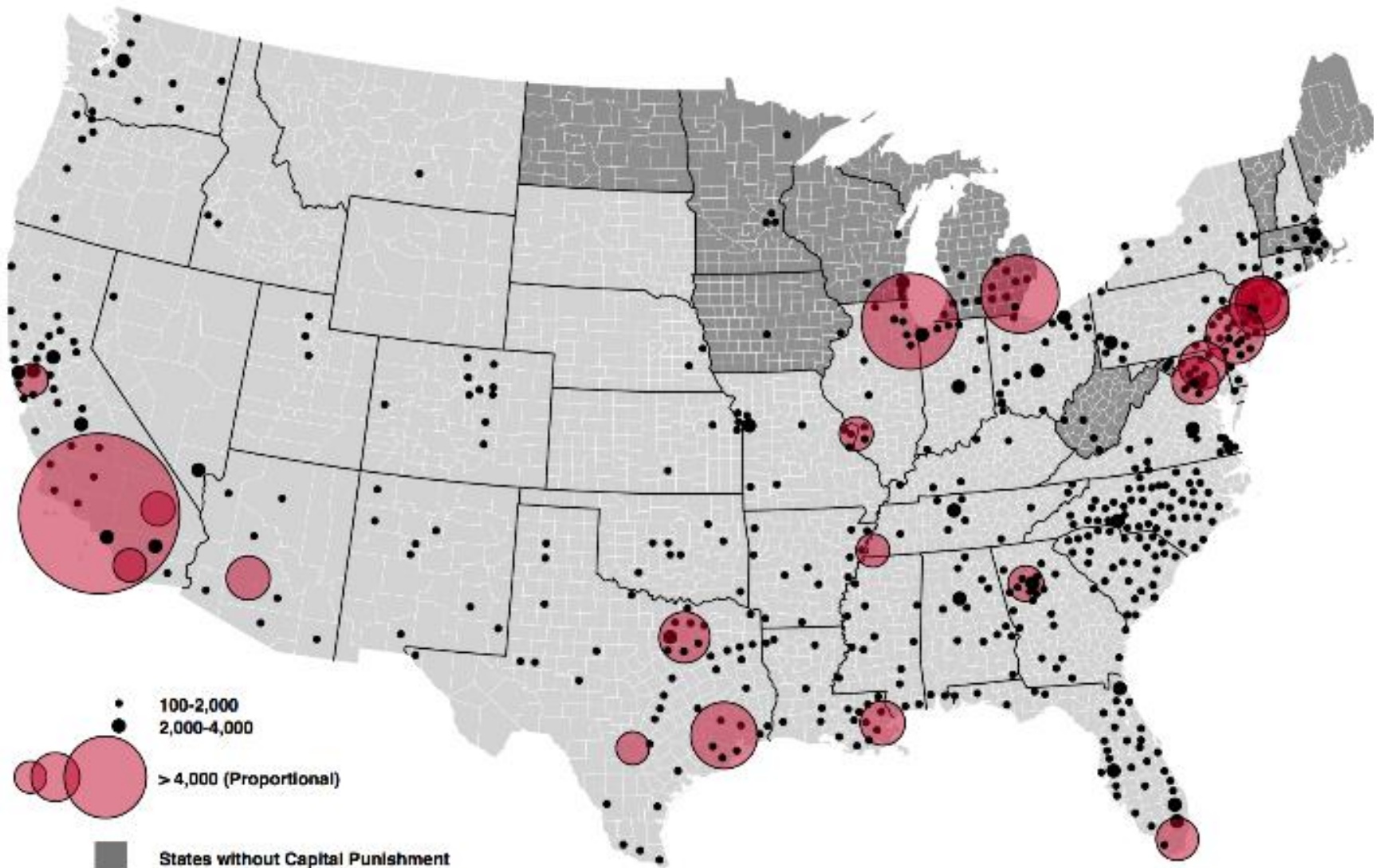


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States with Death Penalty Only

Homicides: LA, Chicago, Detroit, Phila-NY

Total Number of Homicides by County (1984 - 2012)

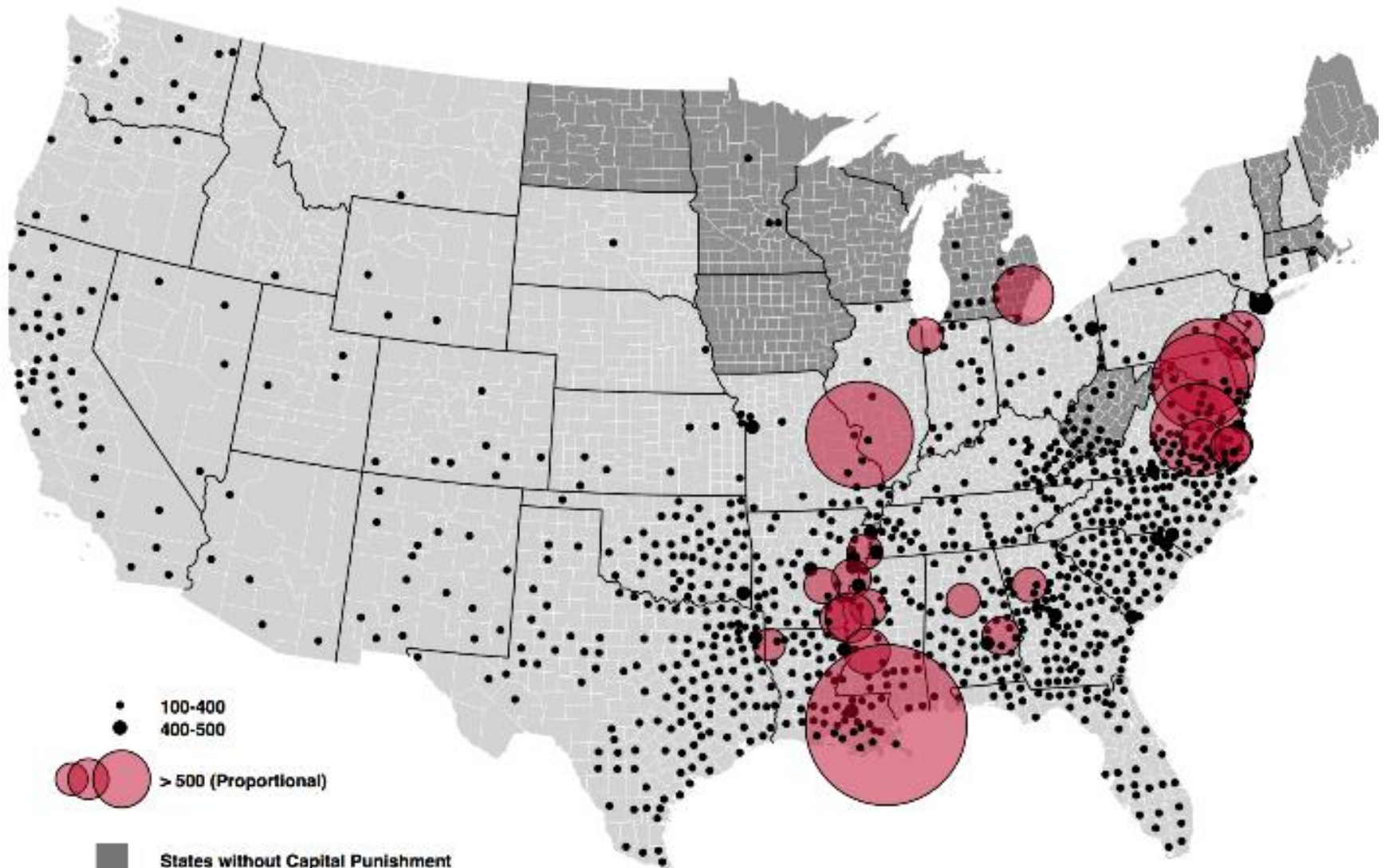


Counties with fewer than 100 homicides are not marked with a dot.

created by Nikhil Kaza

Homicides per Capita: Note Texas.

Homicide Rate: Homicides per 100,000 people

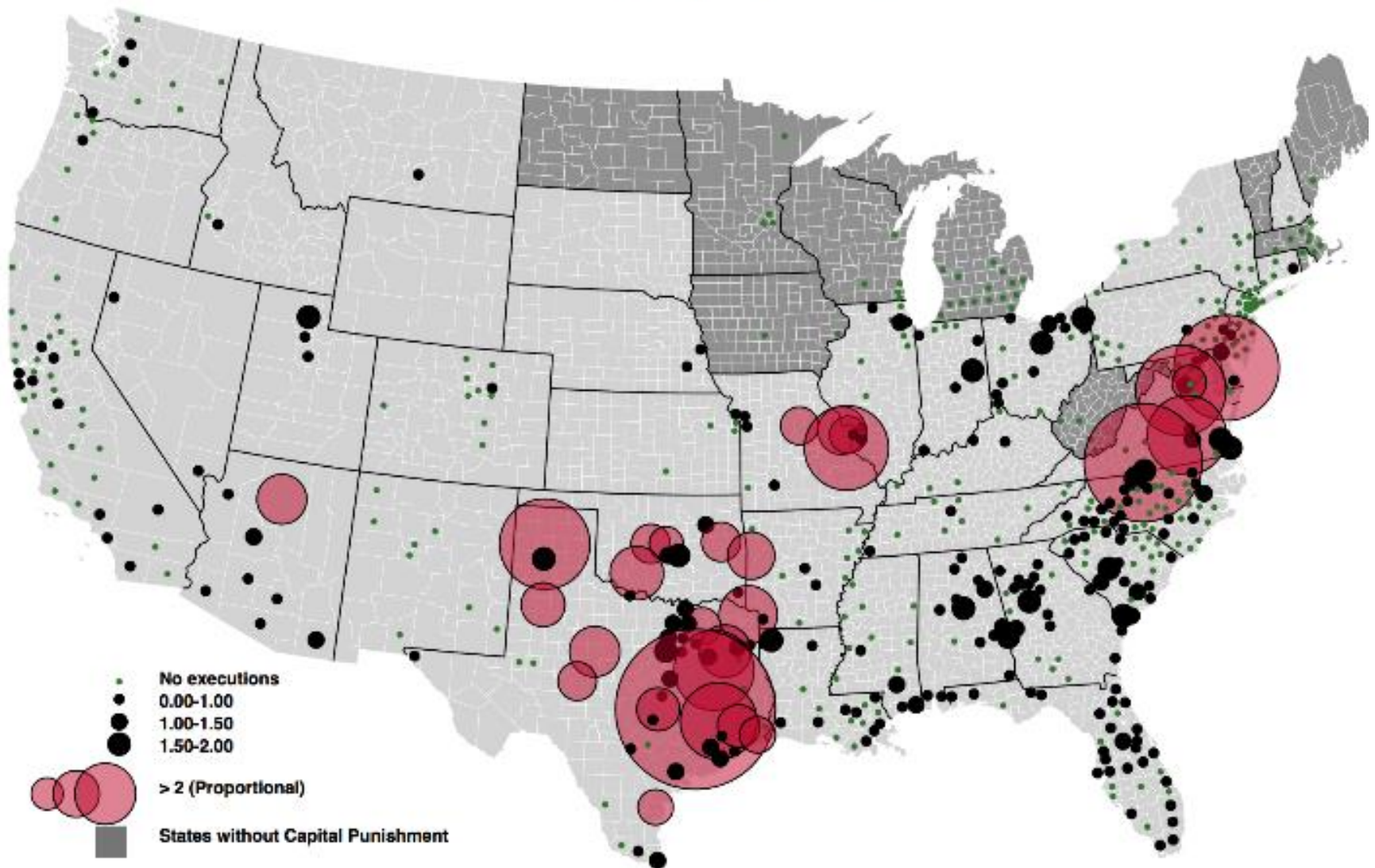


Many US counties have fewer than 10,000 people. Some have fewer than 100 homicides. For these counties no rate is calculated and therefore have no dot.

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Executions per 100 Homicides

Execution Rate: Executions per 100 Homicides

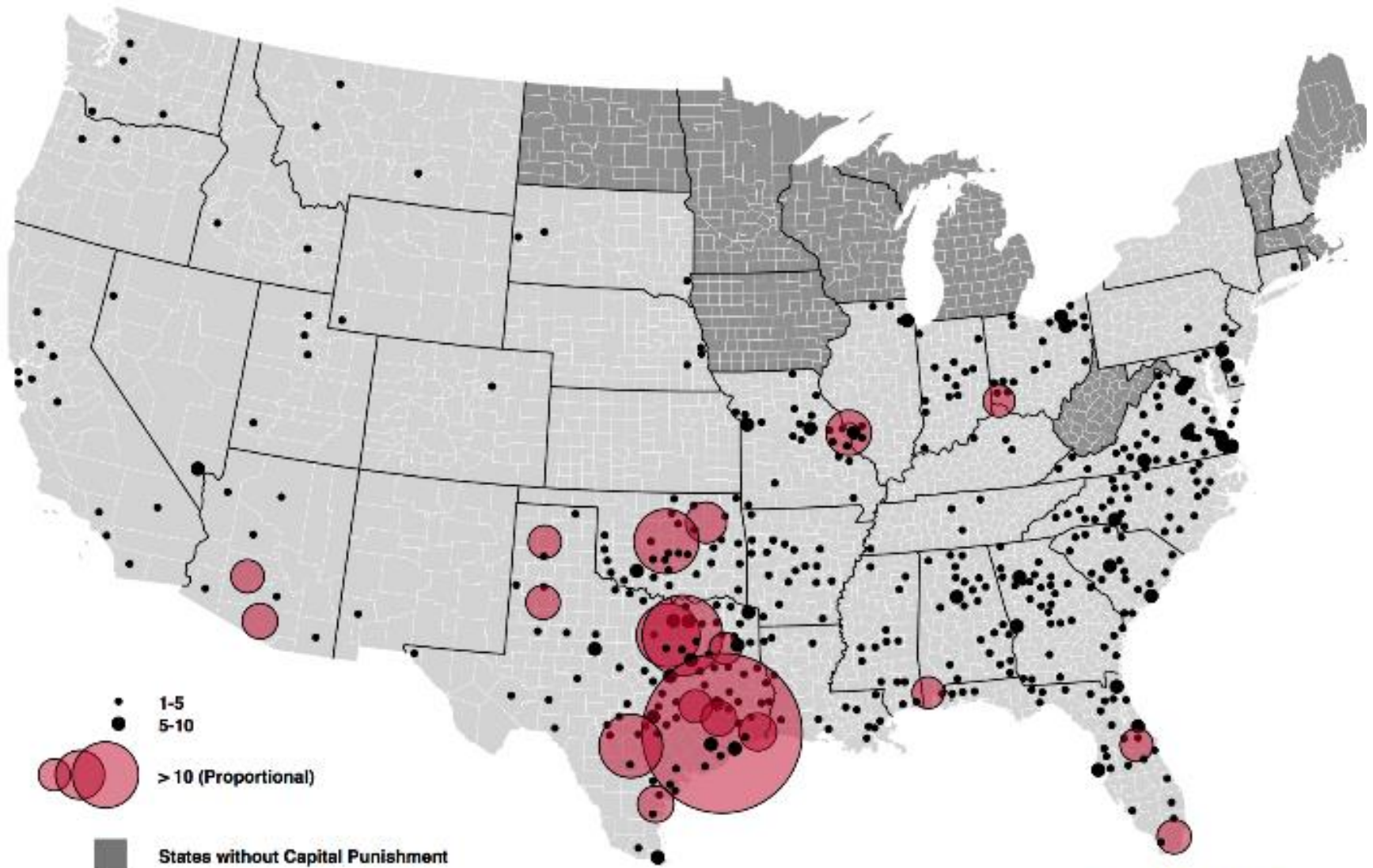


Only Counties with more than 100 homicides are shown.

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Executions

Total Number of Executions (1977-2014)



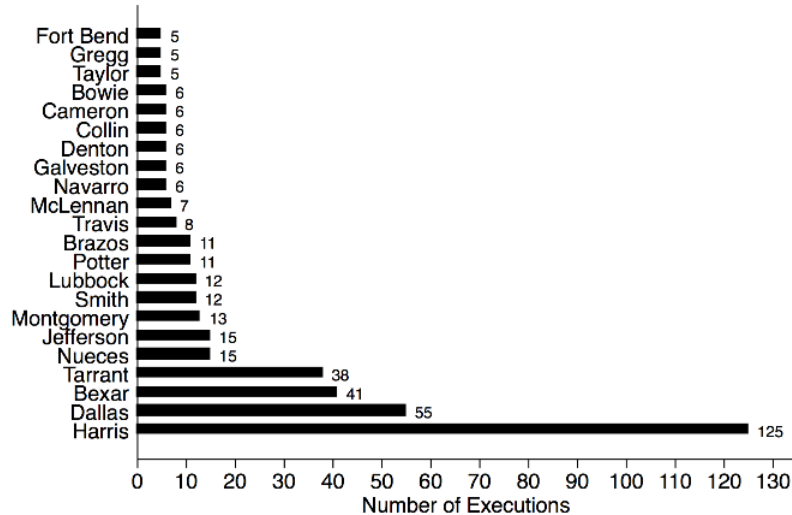
Correlations

- Homicides and Executions: 0.31
- Homicide Rates and Executions: 0.06
- Homicide Rates and Execution Rates: -0.26
- (Homicides and Executions correlated because of population size)
- All are limited to counties with > 100 homicides over the period, in states with the death penalty throughout the bulk of the post-*Gregg* period.



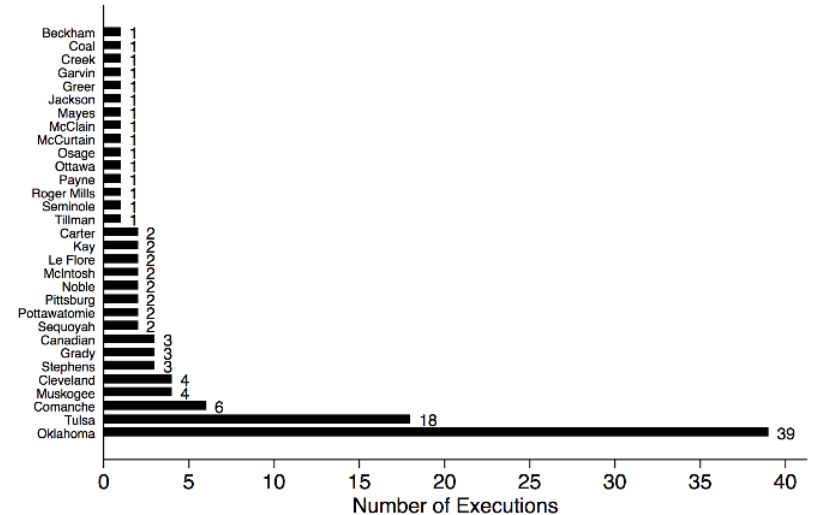
Concentration high within individual states: Texas, Oklahoma

Texas Counties with Five or More Executions



Texas carried out 531 executions across 92 counties from 1976 through 2015.

Oklahoma counties with executions



Oklahoma carried out 111 executions from 1976 through 2014.



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Some comparisons

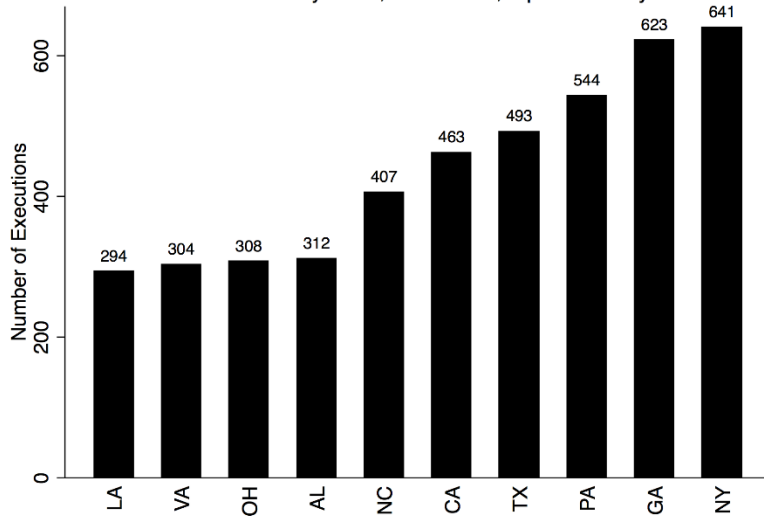
County	Population (2010)	Homicides (1984-2012)	Executions (1976- 2015)	Homicides per 1,000 population	Executions Per 100 Homicides
St. Louis County	998,954	1,008	25	1.01	2.480
St. Louis City	319,294	4,462	8	13.97	0.179
Orleans Parish	343,829	7,040	4	20.48	0.057
Jefferson Parish	432,552	1,340	4	3.10	0.299
Baltimore Cty	805,029	864	4	1.07	0.463
Baltimore City	620,961	7,846	0	12.64	0.000



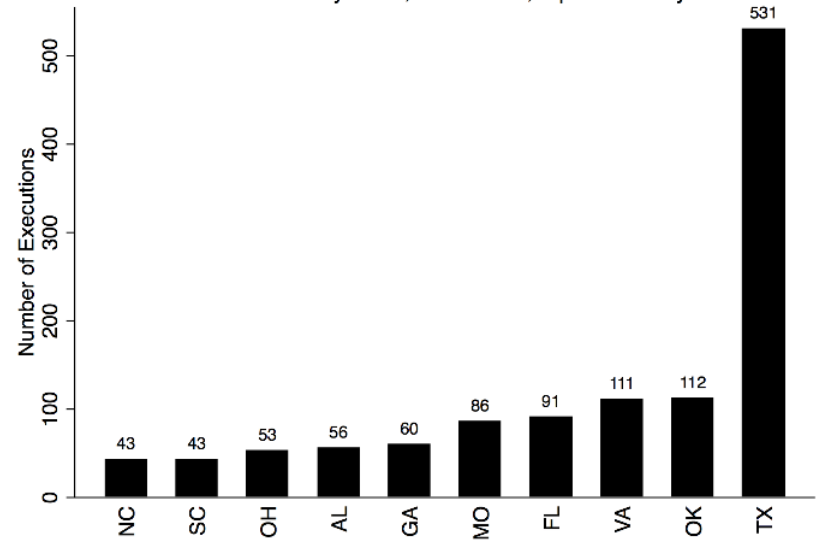
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Pre-Furman and Post-Gregg

Executions by State, 1900-1972, top states only



Executions by State, 1977-2015, top states only



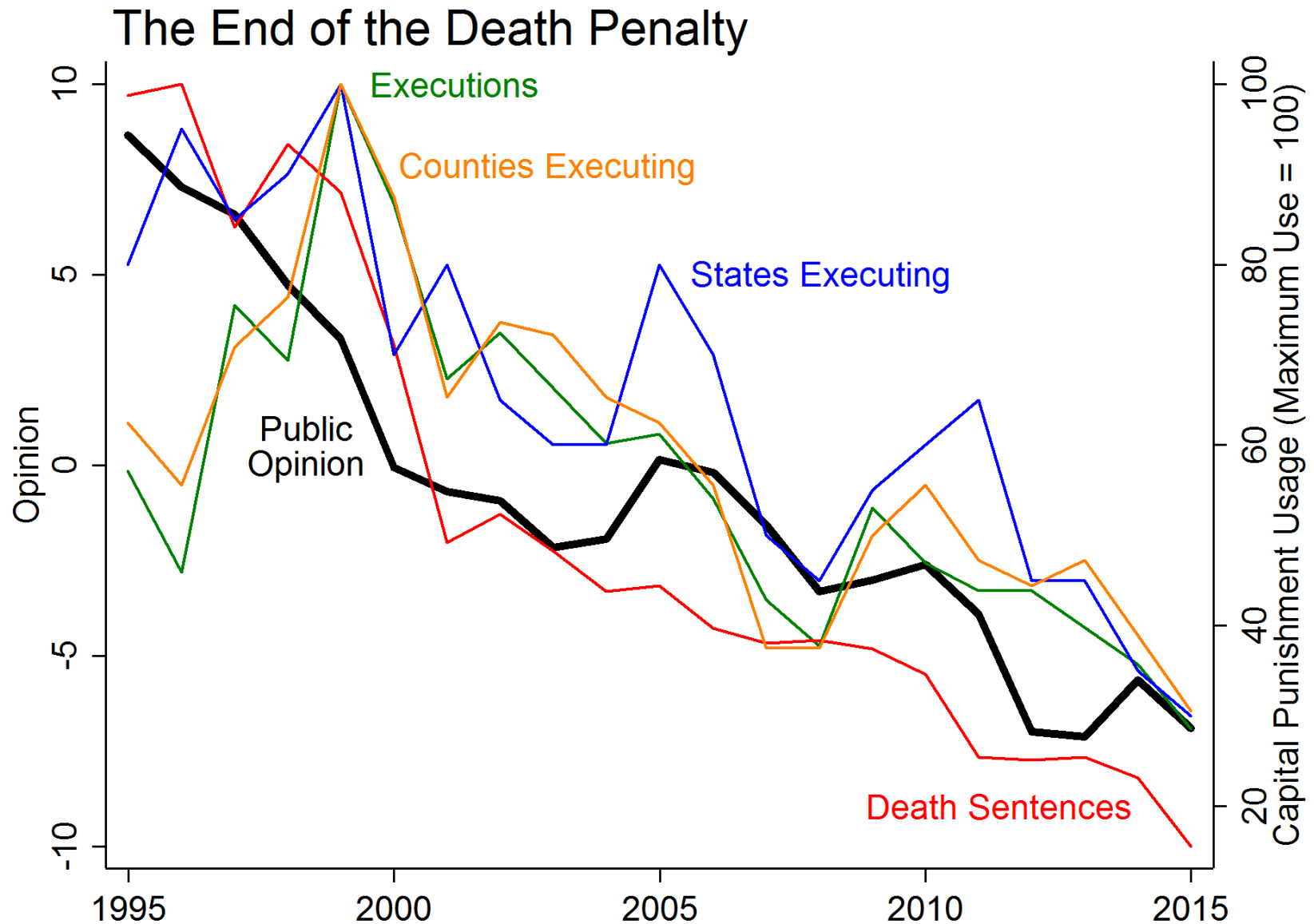
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Post-Gregg compared to historical data

- More concentrated by state
- More southern
- More concentrated by county
- 1900-1972, Index of concentration: 0.046
- 1977-2015, Index of concentration: 0.168



More and more concentrated in a few places



DPIC 2% report

- High concentration, same data as I just showed you. 2 percent of the counties, 50 percent of the executions.
- Same for Executions and for Death Sentences
- But: Pennsylvania and California are high on the Death Sentences, low on Executions

Donohue study of Connecticut

- Every death-eligible homicide in the state from 1973 through 2007
- 4,700 total murders
- 205 death-eligible
 - Law enforcement; for gain; prior murder; killer in prison; aggravated by kidnapping or rape, multiple victims, victim under 16
- 141 charged capitally
 - 49 plead to lesser penalty
 - 26 acquitted
 - 66 guilty
 - 28 sentencing hearings
 - 12 sentenced to death
 - 9 death sentences sustained after appeals
 - 1 execution (2005)

Donohue

- Code each homicide for “egregiousness”
- Look for legally relevant and irrelevant factors
- Major findings:
 - Geography highly determinant, just a few DA’s do it.
 - Race and gender combinations of victim, offender
- This study is similar to the Baldus study of Georgia argued in the US Supreme Court in 1987.
- In both cases, the courts rejected the statistical arguments (Conn. Supreme Court)

Scheidegger

- If local elections produce DA's with hard-on-crime philosophies, so be it.
- If some local juries don't give death, that is their prerogative.
- No limits to local variation: a "normal and unremarkable" aspect of the US court system.
- This is a strong tradition in the US. Otherwise, why have juries, why elect DA's, and why be a DA if you don't have discretion?