

Use of the death penalty varies dramatically by county. This is largely unrelated to the level of public opinion support or to the number of homicides.

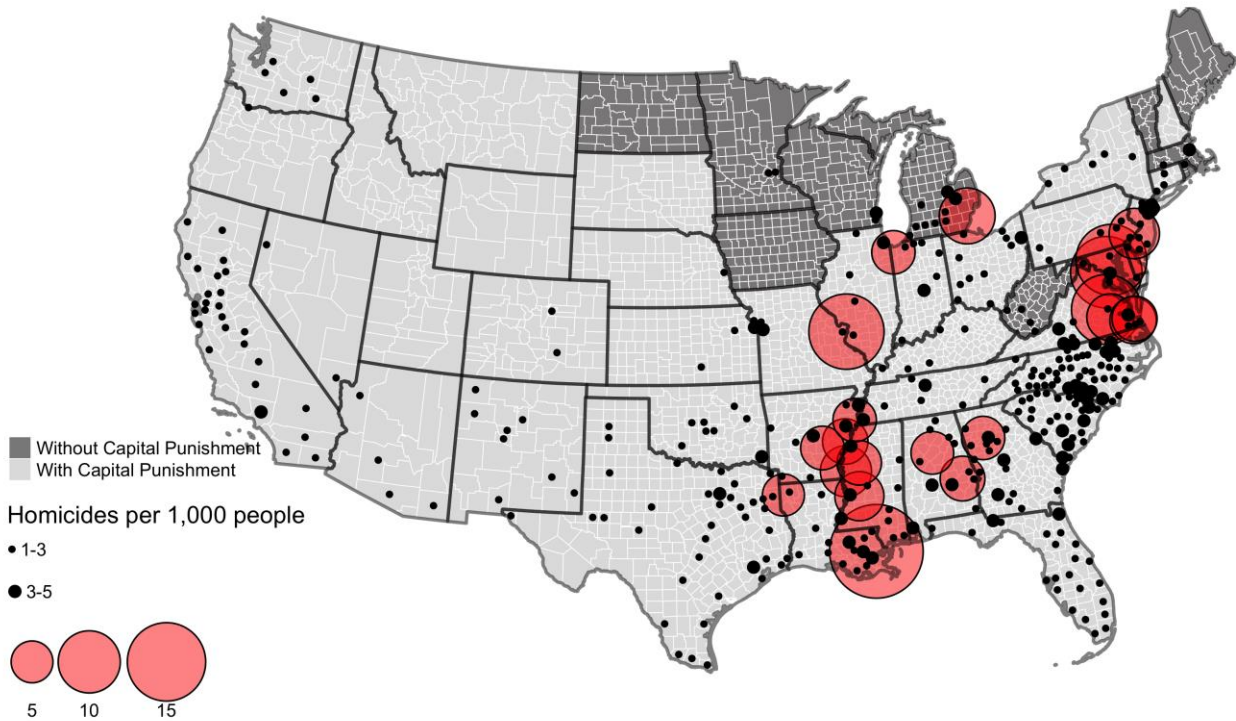
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Supplemental materials  
December 6, 2016

This document provides further information to our *Washington Post* Monkey Cage blog post referenced above.

The next two maps show homicides per population, and executions per homicide. Per-capita homicides is a widely used measure of violence, and the map shows that it is centered in New Orleans, up the Mississippi to St. Louis, and in the mid-Atlantic area from Norfolk through New York.

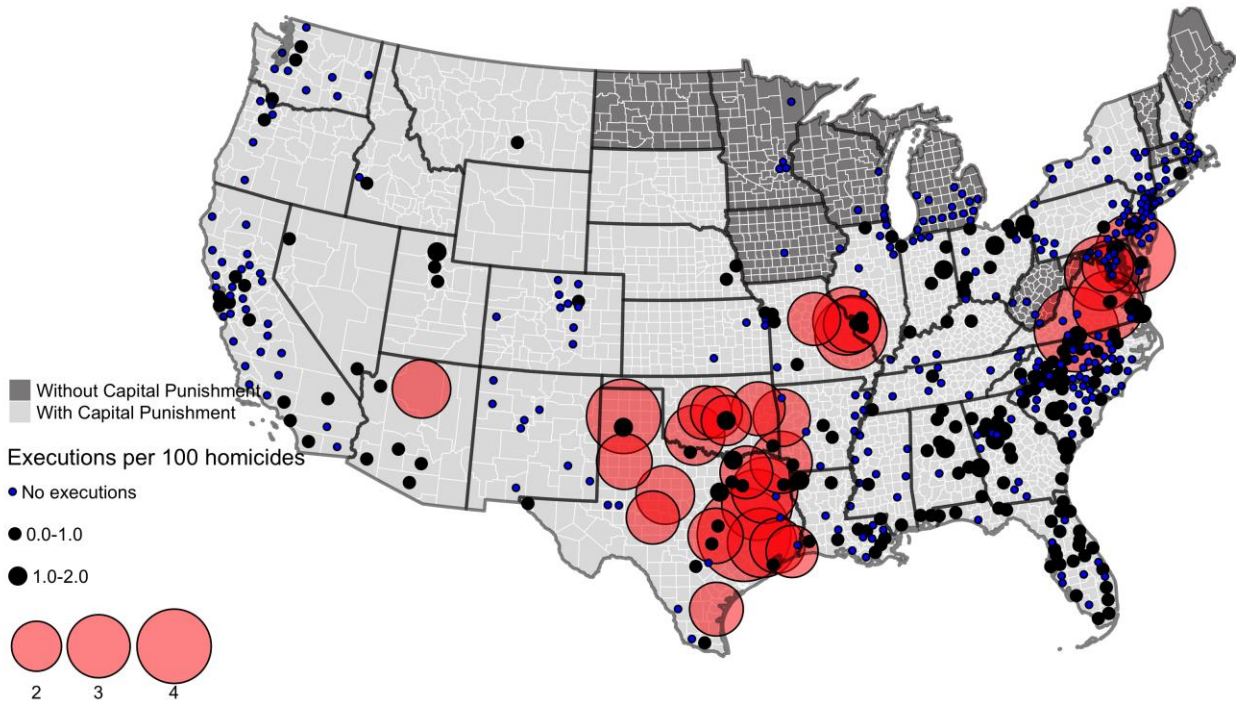
Homicides per 1,000 population



Counties with fewer than 100 homicides are left blank

Created by Nikhil Kaza

# Executions per 100 homicides

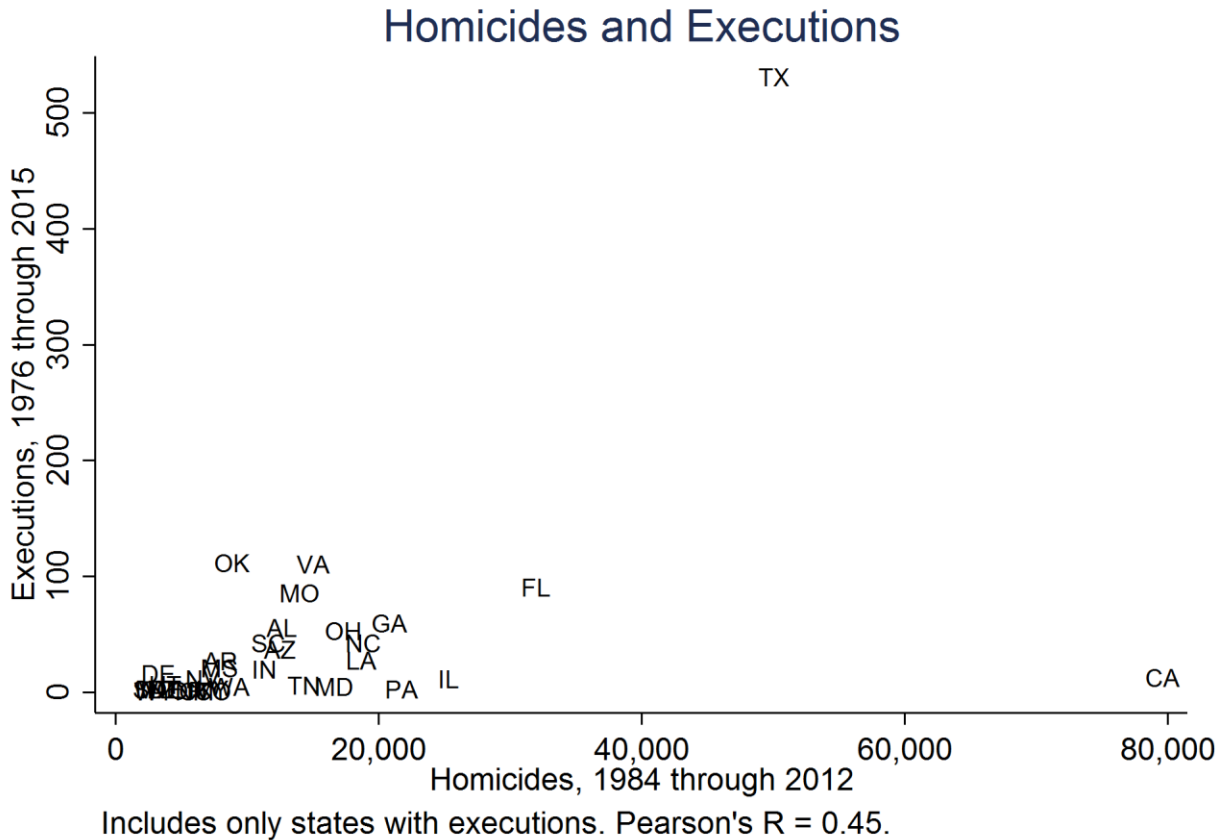


Counties with fewer than 100 homicides are left blank

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Executions per 100 homicides are concentrated in Brazos County, Texas, throughout Texas and Oklahoma, in Missouri, and in Virginia and Delaware.

Homicides and executions by state, including Texas and California:



The table below presents our state-by-state estimates of public opinion on the death penalty. We report the number of respondents across all 24 survey administrations from 1978 through 2015, and calculate the percent in support of the death penalty as a percentage of all those expressing an opinion. (That is, we ignore the neutral responses, those who say they don't know, and those who did not answer the question.) In the last column, we also present indicate the number of executions in that state. Note that the table includes all fifty states but that the number of respondents from some states (including, for example, Alaska) is very low. We highlight the states with low numbers of responses (fewer than 100) in gray, and we exclude them from the figure below. But the Table shows all of our state opinion estimates.

Death Penalty Public Opinion Data by State, 1978 to 2015

State	Pro-DP N	Anti-DP N	Directional N	Survey N	Pro-DP Percent	Executions 1976-2015
AL	271	95	366	415	74.04	57
AK	10	8	18	20	55.56	0
AR	195	55	250	269	78.00	27
AZ	280	110	390	426	71.79	37
CA	1880	778	2658	2905	70.73	13
CO	328	143	471	529	69.64	1
CT	207	105	312	345	66.35	1

DE	50	21	71	80	70.42	16
FL	1020	303	1323	1439	77.10	92
GA	521	195	721	786	72.77	61
HI	26	5	31	34	83.87	0
IA	246	88	334	365	73.65	0
ID	130	20	150	162	86.67	3
IL	758	282	1040	1147	72.88	12
IN	469	153	621	691	75.36	20
KS	210	85	295	324	71.19	0
KY	301	115	416	468	72.36	3
LA	331	85	416	458	79.57	28
MA	350	261	611	683	57.28	0
MD	334	162	496	550	67.34	5
ME	100	56	156	185	64.10	0
MI	582	282	864	967	67.36	0
MN	277	194	471	543	58.81	0
MO	423	114	537	591	78.77	86
MS	193	79	272	301	70.96	21
MT	109	29	138	154	78.99	3
NC	519	210	729	812	71.19	43
ND	50	24	74	78	67.57	0
NE	180	54	234	260	76.92	3
NH	95	35	130	145	73.08	0
NJ	536	215	751	832	71.37	0
NM	137	54	191	211	71.73	1
NV	117	31	148	159	79.05	12
NY	1130	597	1727	1905	65.43	0
OH	864	247	1111	1211	77.77	53
OK	265	64	329	365	80.55	112
OR	228	105	333	369	68.47	2
PA	1061	352	1413	1544	75.09	3
RI	76	50	126	134	60.32	0
SC	252	98	350	398	72.00	43
SD	66	20	86	93	76.74	3
TN	426	133	559	638	76.21	6
TX	1134	381	1515	1655	74.85	533
UT	211	31	242	266	87.19	7
VA	479	218	697	765	68.72	111
WA	522	179	701	758	74.47	5
WI	398	186	584	645	68.15	0
WV	165	59	224	242	73.66	0
WY	35	5	40	48	87.50	1

Pro DP, Anti DP N = total number of responses Pro or Anti DP. Directional N = Sum of previous two variables. Survey N = total number of respondents in that state, across all the surveys. This number may be larger than the Directional N because it includes people who did not respond to the question, or who gave neutral responses. Pro-DP Percent = (Pro DP x 100) / Directional N.

Executions: number of executions from 1977 to 2015. Public Opinion data is based upon 25 surveys conducted by Gallup between 1978 and 2015. Each question asks: “Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for peoples convicted of murder?”

The figure in the main article includes states that had the death penalty on the books for the bulk of the post-1976 period but excludes those which were abolitionist throughout the period, or abolished early in the period before carrying out any executions. That is, Illinois, Maryland, Connecticut and other states that abolished within the past 15 years are listed; Michigan, Minnesota, and others than never had the death penalty, or abolished before executing a single individual, as in the District of Columbia, are not listed. Further, we excluded Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming for lack of sufficient survey respondents. These are highlighted in the table above with grey shading. This leaves 35 states.

The table below gives full results from the Houston Area Survey referenced in the text.

The Death Penalty and its Alternatives, Houston Area Survey

Preferred punishment	2000	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
Death penalty	40.6	33.6	31.8	39.2	36.9	30.3	28.1
Life without parole	31.0	45.4	46.3	43.1	39.7	38.2	39.1
Life with parole after 25 years	22.3	16.6	17.4	13.1	14.1	26.5	29.4
Refused / Don't Know	6.1	4.4	4.5	4.6	9.3	4.9	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0
Total Responses	650	650	765	702	750	1266	959

Cell entries are percent of respondents giving each answer. N's are indicated in the last row.

Question text: What do you think should generally be the penalty for persons convicted of first-degree murder: the death penalty, life imprisonment with no chance for parole, or life imprisonment with a chance for parole after 25 years? Source: Houston Area Survey.

[https://kinder.rice.edu/KHAS/Death\\_Penalty/](https://kinder.rice.edu/KHAS/Death_Penalty/)