
Racial Resentment and Public Opinion on the Death Penalty

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Appendix E. State Comparisons

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August 30, 2026

In Section 8 of our Element, we assessed the connection between state opinion and levels of use of the death penalty. Forty states have had the death penalty during the post-*Furman* time period, but some adopted as late as 1994 (Kansas) and over a dozen states have abolished, at different years starting in 2006. In calculating the rates of death sentencing, we included only those years when a death sentence was legally possible: when there was a legally valid statute on the books. Racial resentment and levels of support for the death penalty were, however, calculated across the full time period where estimates were available. Here we provide alternative presentations of Figures x, y, and z from the main text excluding from our opinion calculations those years when there was no legal option for capital punishment.

Because there are more states that have abolished in recent years than there were states slow to adopt initially, generally speaking public opinion was less supportive of the death penalty during periods when the states had no legally valid capital punishment system. However, all of our analyses are even stronger when we exclude opinion estimates from those years. That is, the conclusions that our analyses support would not change from the main text; if anything, they would be slightly stronger if we had made different choices.

Figure E1 shows the link between average levels of support for the death penalty and racial resentment by state, excluding years without capital punishment. This corresponds to Figure 14 in the Element, which showed a correlation of .49. Here, the correlation drops to .22, and the N to 38.

Figure E1. Replication of Figure 14 excluding Years without a Death-penalty Statute.

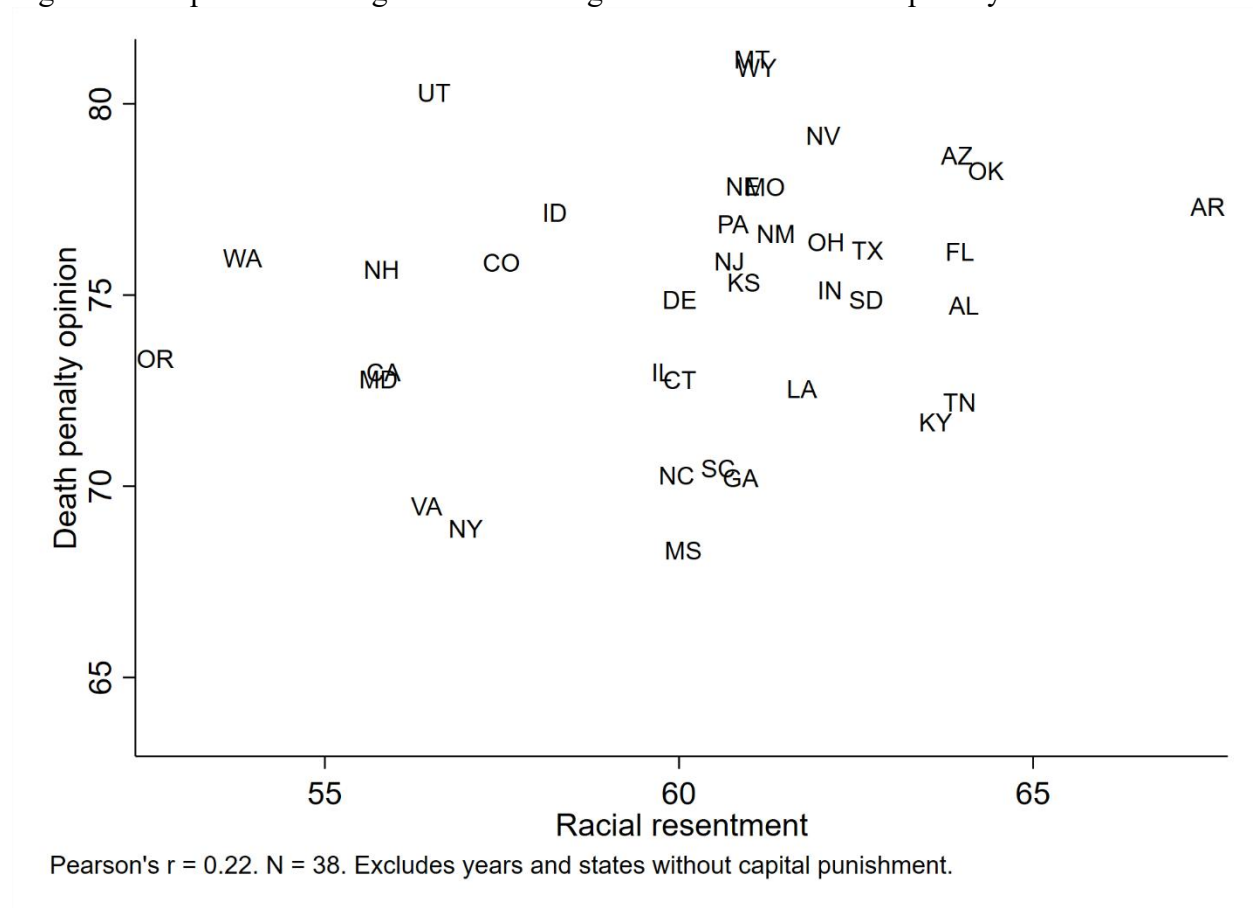


Figure 15 in the main text showed the connection between public support for the death penalty and the rate of death sentencing per 100 homicides. Figure E2 replicates that analysis while excluding years with no valid death-penalty statute from the opinion estimates.

Figure E2. Replication of Figure 15 excluding Years without a Death-penalty Statute.

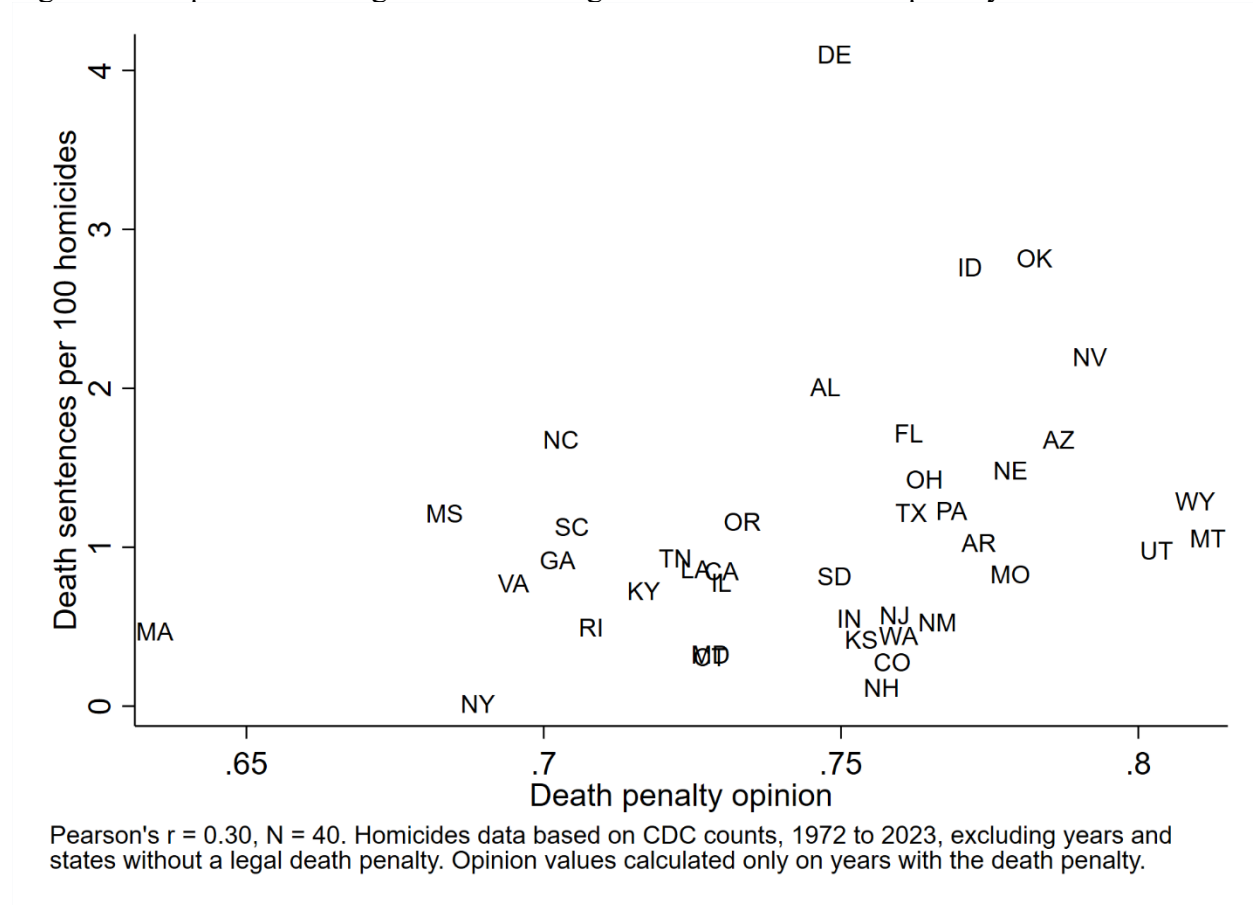


Figure E3 replicates the same Figure in the main text showing the number of death sentences rather than the rate per 100 homicides. The original Figure showed a correlation of 0.34, but this correlation drops to -0.002 when absolute numbers of death sentences are used.

Figure E3. Replication of Figure 15 using Number rather than Rate of Death Sentences.

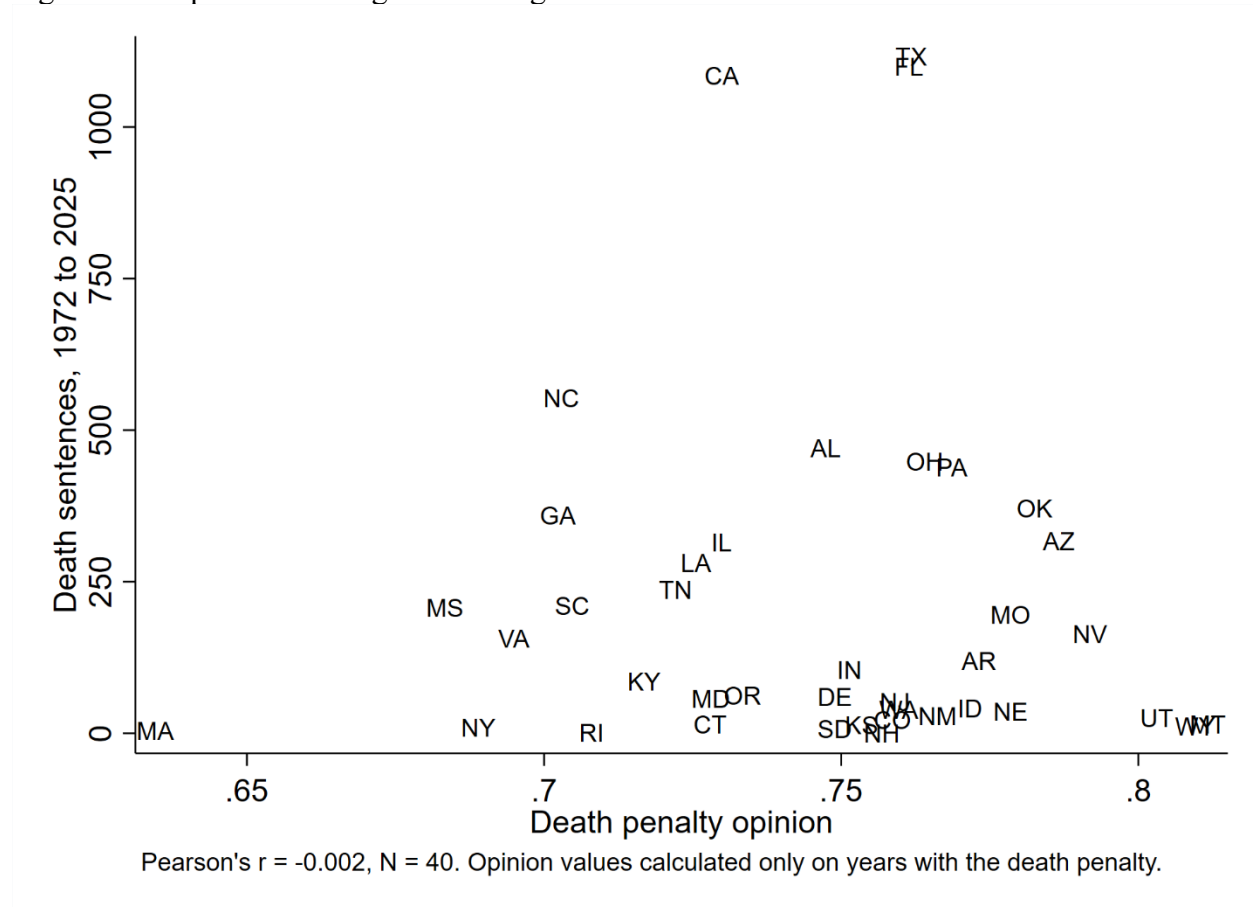


Figure 16 in the main text showed the correlation between racial resentment and death-sentencing rates; this value was 0.36. Figure E4 replicates that analysis while excluding years with no death penalty from the racial resentment measure. The correlation drops to 0.29.

Figure E4. Replication of Figure 16 excluding Years without a Death-penalty Statute.

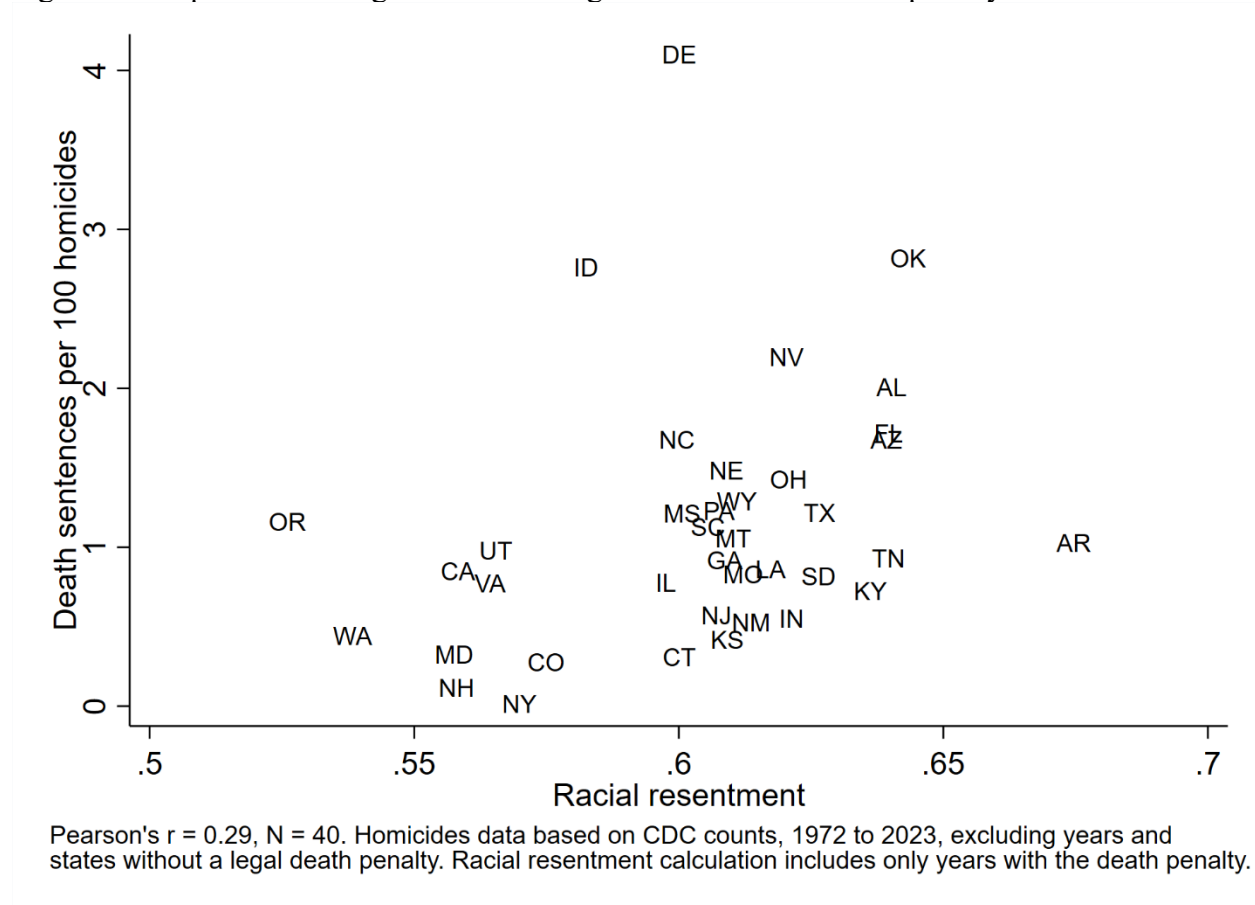
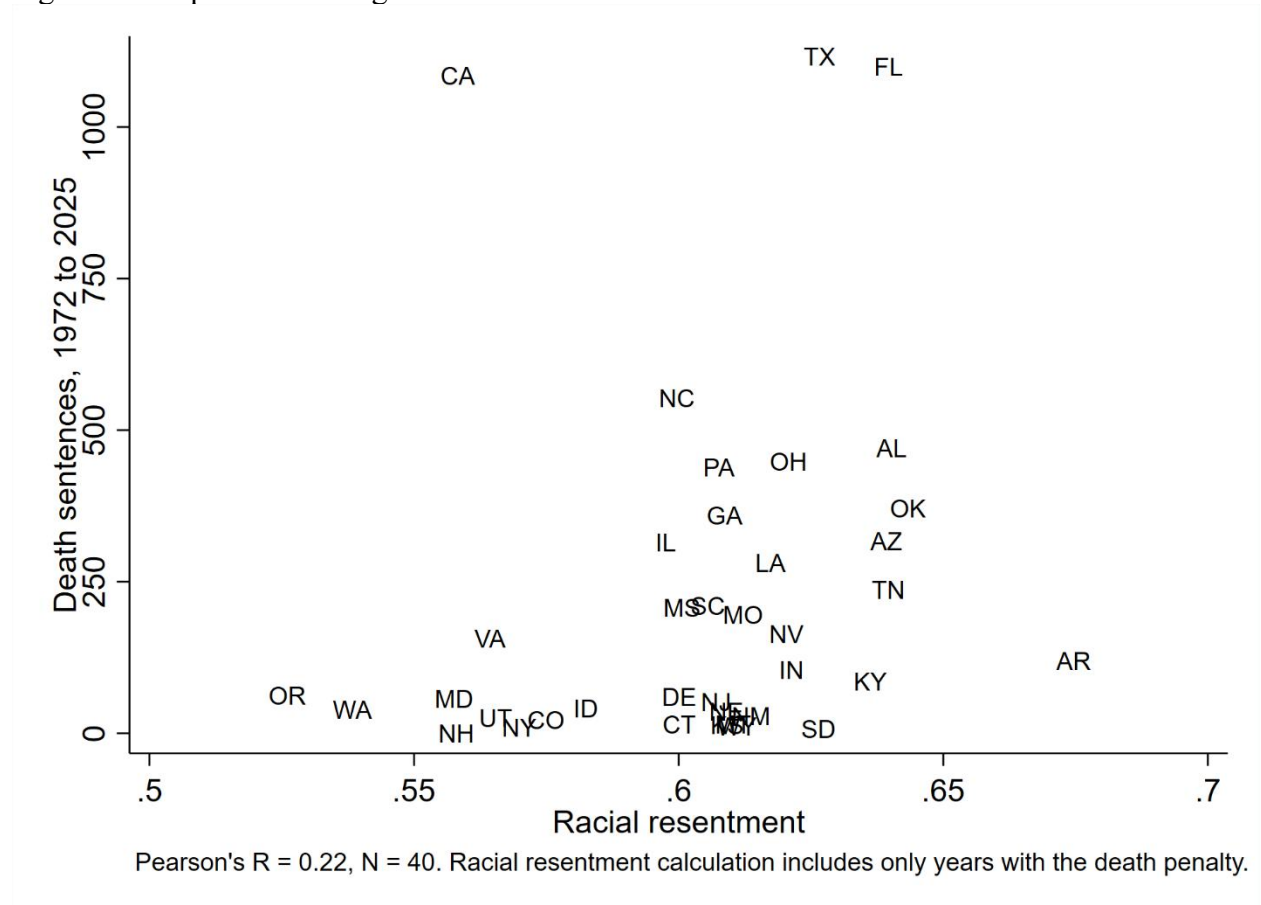


Figure E5 replicates the analysis from Figure E4 but substitutes the number of death sentences for the rate. The correlation drops even further, to 0.22.

Figure E5. Replication of Figure 16 with Number rather than Rate of Death Sentences.



Finally, Figure E6 replicates the data shown in Figure 17 in the main text, eliminating as before years without a valid death-penalty statute from the opinion estimates. Note that for the ten states with no death sentences, this revision would generate no opinion estimates at all, so the original data are presented there. The revised estimates affect groups 2, 3, and 4.

Figure E6. Replication of Figure 17 excluding Years without a Death-penalty Statute.

