

The Death Penalty is on the Decline

- Death sentences are on a steady decline in North Carolina. Death sentences have declined steadily since the 1990's when North Carolina juries were sentencing an average of a little over 9 people to death per year. For the last 10 years, North Carolina has increased its death row inmate population by only 2 inmates per year. ¹
- Death sentences are on a steady decline across the nation. Death sentences are at a 41 year low, with only 47 death sentences imposed in the entire country in 2015. ²
- Innocent people have been sentenced to death in North Carolina. As of October 2015, 156 people sentenced to death have been exonerated nationwide. Nine of the 156 were in North Carolina, with 4 of the 9 being exonerated in the last 8 years. ³
- The North Carolina homicide rate has decreased as executions have declined. North Carolina has not executed anyone since 2006. The North Carolina Homicide rate per 100,000 people decreased from 6.1 in 2006 to 5.5 in 2014, the last year for which data is available. The North Carolina Homicide rate is at one of the lowest points in the last 50 years. ⁴
- The number of executions across the country has decreased. In the last 17 years, the country has seen a constant decrease in the number of people put to death. In 1999, America put 98 people to death. But, by 2015, executions were down to only 28 for the year. ⁵
- Most states are not executing death row inmates. Just 2 states, Texas and Missouri, carried out most of the executions in 2015.⁶ Twenty-seven states, plus 3 jurisdictions (District of Columbia, Federal Government, and Military) have not executed one person in the last ten years. ⁷
- Just sixteen counties account for 14% (191 executions) of the executions in the U.S. for the last 30 years. These counties represent less than 1% of the total number of counties in the country, and less than 1% of the total number of counties in states with the death penalty. The majority of states do not carry out executions.⁸

1. "Death Penalty Information Center Facts about the Death Penalty," accessed March 30, 2016, <http://www.ncdps.gov/Adult-Corrections/Prisons/Death-Penalty/Death-Row-Roster>
2. "Death Penalty Information Center Facts about the Death Penalty," accessed March 30, 2016, <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>
3. "Death Penalty Information Center Innocence Database," accessed March 30, 2016, http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/innocence?inno_name=&exonerated=&state_innocence=36&race=All&dna=All&=Apply
4. "North Carolina Department of Justice," accessed March 30, 2016, <http://www.ncdoj.gov/Crime/View-Crime-Statistics.aspx>
5. "Death Penalty Information Center Facts about the Death Penalty," accessed March 30, 2016, <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>
6. "Death Penalty Information Center Facts about the Death Penalty," accessed March 30, 2016, <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/execution-list-2015>
7. "Death Penalty Information Center Facts about the Death Penalty," March 30, 2016, <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/jurisdictions-no-recent-executions>
8. "Death Penalty Information Center Facts about the Death Penalty," March 30, 2016, <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/executions-county>