YEAR END REPORT 24
Methodology

Death Penalty Information Center

A brief description of the process used to compile data for this report.

Each year, DPI's Year End Report is backstopped by research that attempts to fill in numerous gaps in the death penalty landscape. Reliable information about the death penalty is often difficult to access, including information on current and historical instances where the death penalty was sought, the demographics of defendants and victims, and even certain information regarding the death row population itself. DPI's methodology makes every attempt to ensure the robustness of our quantitative and qualitative findings, triangulating the data wherever possible with judicial, governmental, and scholarly resources, and collaborating with established academics in the field as well as reputable advocacy or media sources.

DPI collects information on new sentences, executions, or exonerations throughout the year, along with data on re-sentencing, the deaths of death row prisoners, death sentences imposed for different crimes on the same person, and demographic data on victims and defendants. DPI also continuously collects information on reported executions across the globe.

In preparation for our annual report, each fall DPI corroborates our findings with respective state contacts within the legal community, including public defenders working in active death penalty jurisdictions or state Departments of Corrections.

DPI also relies on an in-house tool, the DPI Death Penalty Census Database, compiled in 2022 and continuously updated throughout the year. Each entry in our Census Database is rigorously verified by two independent sources for our central data fields, including the names of defendants and victims, alleged charges, sentencing, appellate procedure, and any further case developments such as exoneration or execution. This data is stored on a secure drive accessible only to DPI staff members. Specific documents are available to researchers and the public upon request.

Each year, we are delighted to provide you with as much comprehensive data as we can; nonetheless, we are always ready to learn from your suggestions and invite you to actively shape our database by contributing to the DPI Death Penalty Census. We are very grateful to the many individuals and organizations that have helped make us a reliable source of information on death penalty trends and developments. This report is thanks in large part to those generous contributions of time, insight, and information.