

Table 6.62

**Prisoners under sentence of death**

By demographic characteristics, prior felony conviction history, and legal status, United States, on Dec. 31, 1995

Total number	3,054
<u>Sex</u>	
Male	98.4%
Female	1.6
<u>Race</u>	
White	56.6
Black	41.7
Other	1.6
<u>Ethnicity</u>	
Hispanic	8.5
Non-Hispanic	91.5
<u>Age<sup>a</sup></u>	
17 years or younger	0.0
18 to 19 years	0.8
20 to 24 years	9.7
25 to 29 years	16.1
30 to 34 years	20.9
35 to 39 years	21.6
40 to 44 years	12.9
45 to 49 years	9.8
50 to 54 years	4.7
55 to 59 years	2.1
60 years and older	1.5
<u>Education</u>	
Grade 8 or less	14.7
Grades 9 to 11	37.2
High school graduate/GED	37.8
Any college	10.3
<u>Marital status</u>	
Married	25.6
Divorced or separated	21.6
Widowed	2.5
Never married	50.3
<u>Prior felony conviction history</u>	
Prior felony convictions	66.3
No prior felony convictions	33.7
<u>Legal status at time of capital offense</u>	
Charges pending	6.9
Probation	10.0
Parole	20.4
Prison escapee	1.6
Prison inmate	2.4
Other status	1.2
None	57.5

Note: Thirty-eight States and the Federal Government had death penalty statutes in effect on Dec. 31, 1995. Data on ethnicity were not reported for 257 prisoners; age, 393 prisoners; education, 422 prisoners; marital status, 247 prisoners; prior felony conviction history, 208 prisoners; legal status at time of capital offense, 314 prisoners.

<sup>a</sup>The youngest person under sentence of death was a white male in Nevada born in January 1977 and sentenced to death in November 1994. The oldest person under sentence of death was a white male in Arizona born in September 1915 and sentenced to death in June 1983.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Capital Punishment 1995*, Bulletin NCJ-162043 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, December 1996), p. 8, Tables 6 and 7; p. 9, Table 8. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.