

**Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online**

Table 6.75

**Number of murders and nonnegligent manslaughters, persons under death sentence, executions, and other death sentence dispositions**

United States, 1972-97

(- represents zero)

Year	Murders and nonnegligent manslaughters	Persons under death sentence	Executions under civil authority	Dispositions other than execution <sup>a</sup>
1972	18,670	334	-	391
1973	19,640	134	-	242
1974	20,710	244	-	57
1975	20,510	488	-	78
1976	18,780	420	-	317
1977	19,120	423	1	155
1978	19,560	482	-	150
1979	21,460	593	2	59
1980	23,040	691	-	100
1981	22,520	856	1	79
1982	21,010	1,050	2	68
1983	19,310	1,209	5	111
1984	18,690	1,405	21	63
1985	18,980	1,591	18	84
1986	20,610	1,781	18	73
1987	20,100	1,984	25	90
1988	20,680	2,124	11	128
1989	21,500	2,250	16	102
1990	23,440	2,356	23	108
1991	24,700	2,482	14	116
1992	23,760	2,575	31	124
1993	24,530	2,716	38	108
1994	23,330	2,890	31	112
1995	21,610	3,054	56	105
1996	19,650	3,219	45	99
1997	18,210	3,335	74	89

Note: Data for murders and nonnegligent manslaughters are from the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports. Data for persons under sentence of death and death sentence dispositions are from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

In 1972, the Supreme Court ruled that capital punishment, as administered at that time in the United States, was unconstitutional (*Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972)), thus halting further executions. In 1976, the Supreme Court upheld newly enacted death penalty laws in three related decisions (see *Gregg v. Georgia*, 428 U.S. 153 (1976); *Proffitt v. Florida*, 428 U.S. 242 (1976); and *Jurek v. Texas*, 428 U.S. 262 (1976)), thus paving the way for lifting the moratorium on executions in the United States. Executions resumed in January 1977.

<sup>a</sup>Dispositions of death sentences other than by execution included dismissal of indictment, reversal of judgment, commutation, resentencing, order of a new trial, and death.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1991*, p. 58; *1997*, p. 66 (Washington, DC: USGPO); U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Capital Punishment 1982*, National Prisoner Statistics report NCJ-91533, p. 18; *Capital Punishment 1984*, Bulletin NCJ-98399, p. 5; *1996*, Bulletin NCJ-167031, p. 6; *1997*, Bulletin NCJ-172881, p. 6 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice); U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1985*, NCJ-103957, Table 7.2; *1986*, NCJ-111611, Table 7.2; *1987*, NCJ-118762, Table 7.2; *1988*, NCJ-124280, Table 7.2; *1989*, NCJ-130445, Table 7.2; *1990*, NCJ-135946, Table 7.2; *1991*, NCJ-142729, Table 7.2; *1992*, NCJ-146413, Table 7.2; *1993*, NCJ-156241, Table 7.2; *1994*, NCJ-160091, Table 7.2; *1995*, NCJ-163916, Table 7.2 (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice); and data provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff.