

Introduction

What is capital punishment? In the United States capital punishment or also known as the death penalty is a governed sanctioned practice of killing a person for committing a serious crime, in most cases murder. This practice is legal at the federal level and in 27 states. According to the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) over 70% of the world's nations have abolished this practice.

The Data

The Death Penalty Information Center is a comprehensive website and data center focusing on all issues related to the death penalty in the United States. This data set is from the executions database which is an open source record of all executions since 1976 to 2023 January, that includes race, sex, state, foreign national, execution date, juvenile, number of victims and race of victims. Also data related to states with and without the death penalty.

Objective

Analyze the death penalty in the United States, the current status, who is getting executed and which states have the highest rates of execution.

Death penalty rates are higher in the south compared to other regions of the US.

Storyboard Outline

Introduction: data, objective

Which states are the death penalty legal?

Who is getting executed: race, gender, juvenile

Number of victims and race correlation: analysis and results, why I chose a different approach

How many people are getting executed?

Where are people getting executed?

Conclusion: summary, limitations, further analysis, resources

Guiding questions

1. **Who is it for?** The general public and activists interested in human rights, specifically incarceration and death penalty in the United States
2. **Why is it being built?** To educate and inform and ultimately bring awareness to the human rights of people on death row and to bring change to these policies
3. **What will it consist of?** Overview of death penalty in the US and current statistics on death penalty and why certain areas (states/regions) have higher rates of execution than others
4. **When will it be used?** Used as an overview when researching to educate, inform and change policy in the US regarding death penalty
5. **Where will it be hosted?** Tableau Public

Further analysis

In analyzing this data, the topic of the death penalty is not just a moral question, but an examination on a nation's history, culture, power, development, government, punishment, and overall human rights. The following questions come to mind:

Why not rehabilitation instead of punishment?

Does the death penalty deter serious crime?

Who benefits from the death penalty?

Does the death penalty bring justice?

Other areas to consider relating to capital punishment

- fair trial
- race
- innocence
- exonerations
- family wishes
- crime deterrence
- mental illness
- state rights / overreach of power
- governor / politics / pardons