

Table 6.79.2004

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

United States, 1972-2004

|      | Murders and nonnegligent manslaughters | Prisoners under sentence of death | Executions under civil authority | Dispositions other than execution <sup>a</sup> |
|------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1972 | 18,670                                 | 334                               | 0                                | 391  |
| 1973 | 19,640                                 | 134                               | 0                                | 242  |
| 1974 | 20,710                                 | 244                               | 0                                | 57   |
| 1975 | 20,510                                 | 488                               | 0                                | 78   |
| 1976 | 18,780                                 | 420                               | 0                                | 317  |
| 1977 | 19,120                                 | 423                               | 1                                | 155  |
| 1978 | 19,560                                 | 482                               | 0                                | 150  |
| 1979 | 21,460                                 | 593                               | 2                                | 59   |
| 1980 | 23,040                                 | 691                               | 0                                | 100  |
| 1981 | 22,520                                 | 856                               | 1                                | 79   |
| 1982 | 21,010                                 | 1,050                             | 2                                | 68   |
| 1983 | 19,308                                 | 1,209                             | 5                                | 111  |
| 1984 | 18,692                                 | 1,405                             | 21                               | 63   |
| 1985 | 18,976                                 | 1,591                             | 18                               | 84   |
| 1986 | 20,613                                 | 1,781                             | 18                               | 73   |
| 1987 | 20,096                                 | 1,984                             | 25                               | 90   |
| 1988 | 20,675                                 | 2,124                             | 11                               | 128  |
| 1989 | 21,500                                 | 2,250                             | 16                               | 102  |
| 1990 | 23,438                                 | 2,356                             | 23                               | 108  |
| 1991 | 24,703                                 | 2,482                             | 14                               | 116  |
| 1992 | 23,760                                 | 2,575                             | 31                               | 124  |
| 1993 | 24,526                                 | 2,716                             | 38                               | 108  |
| 1994 | 23,326                                 | 2,890                             | 31                               | 112  |
| 1995 | 21,606                                 | 3,054                             | 56                               | 105  |
| 1996 | 19,645                                 | 3,219                             | 45                               | 99   |
| 1997 | 18,208                                 | 3,335                             | 74                               | 89   |
| 1998 | 16,974                                 | 3,465                             | 68                               | 93   |
| 1999 | 15,522                                 | 3,540                             | 98                               | 112  |
| 2000 | 15,586                                 | 3,601                             | 85                               | 76   |
| 2001 | 16,037                                 | 3,577                             | 66                               | 109  |
| 2002 | 16,229                                 | 3,562                             | 71                               | 108  |
| 2003 | 16,528                                 | 3,378                             | 65                               | 267  |
| 2004 | 16,137                                 | 3,315                             | 59                               | 129  |

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 prisoners under sentence of death and death sentence dispositions are from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. These data exclude prisoners held under Armed Forces jurisdiction with a military death sentence for murder. Some data have been revised by the Source and will differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK.

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 include dismissal of indictment, reversal of judgment, commutation, resentencing, order of a new trial, and death by natural causes or suicide.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 1991*, p. 58; *2004*, p. 72 (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; *1998*, Bulletin NCJ 179012, p. 6; *1999*, Bulletin NCJ 184795, p. 6; *2000*, Bulletin NCJ 190598, p. 6; *2001*, Bulletin NCJ 197020, p. 6; *2002*, Bulletin NCJ 201848, p. 5; *2003*, Bulletin NCJ 206627, p. 5; *2004*, Bulletin NCJ 211349, p. 5 (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.