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.

*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 (Washington, DC: USGPO), p. 58: 2005, Table 1 [Online]. Available: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_01.html [Dec. 27, 2006]; U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Correctional Populations in the United States, 1980-1996, Table 7.2; 1980, 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.