

**Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics Online**

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Table 6.87.2007

**Methods of execution in States authorizing the death penalty**

By State, 2007

Lethal injection	Electrocution	Lethal gas	Hanging	Firing squad
Alabama <sup>a</sup>	Alabama <sup>a</sup>	Arizona <sup>a,b</sup>	Delaware <sup>a,c</sup>	Idaho <sup>a</sup>
Arizona <sup>a,b</sup>	Arkansas <sup>a,d</sup>	California <sup>a</sup>	New Hampshire <sup>a,e</sup>	Oklahoma <sup>a,f</sup>
Arkansas <sup>a,d</sup>	Florida <sup>a</sup>	Missouri <sup>a</sup>	Washington <sup>a</sup>	Utah <sup>a,g</sup>
California <sup>a</sup>	Illinois <sup>a,h</sup>	Wyoming <sup>a,i</sup>		
Colorado	Kentucky <sup>a,j</sup>			
Connecticut	Nebraska			
Delaware <sup>a,c</sup>	Oklahoma <sup>a,f</sup>			
Florida <sup>a</sup>	South Carolina <sup>a</sup>			
Georgia	Tennessee <sup>a,k</sup>			
Idaho <sup>a</sup>	Virginia <sup>a</sup>			
Illinois <sup>a,h</sup>				
Indiana				
Kansas				
Kentucky <sup>a,j</sup>				
Louisiana				
Maryland				
Mississippi				
Missouri <sup>a</sup>				
Montana				
Nevada				
New Hampshire <sup>a,e</sup>				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina				
Ohio				
Oklahoma <sup>a,f</sup>				
Oregon				
Pennsylvania				
South Carolina <sup>a</sup>				
South Dakota				
Tennessee <sup>a,k</sup>				
Texas				
Utah <sup>a,g</sup>				
Virginia <sup>a</sup>				
Washington <sup>a</sup>				
Wyoming <sup>a,i</sup>				

Note: Thirty-eight States and the Federal Government had death penalty statutes in effect during 2007, however New Jersey enacted legislation repealing the death penalty, effective Dec. 17, 2007. The U.S. military also has a death penalty provision, but the Bureau of Justice Statistics does not collect data for persons under military death sentence. The method of execution of Federal prisoners is lethal injection, pursuant to 28 CFR, Part 26. For offenses under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the method is that of the State in which the conviction took place, pursuant to 18 USC 3596.

<sup>a</sup> Authorizes more than one method of execution.

<sup>b</sup> Arizona authorizes lethal injection for persons whose capital sentence was received after Nov. 15, 1992; for those who were sentenced before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or lethal gas.

<sup>c</sup> Delaware authorizes lethal injection for those whose capital offense occurred on or after June 13, 1986; for those whose offense occurred before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or hanging.

<sup>d</sup> Arkansas authorizes lethal injection for those whose capital offense occurred on or after July 4, 1983; for those whose offense occurred before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or electrocution.

<sup>e</sup> New Hampshire authorizes hanging only if lethal injection cannot be given.

<sup>f</sup> Oklahoma authorizes electrocution if lethal injection is held unconstitutional, and firing squad if both lethal injection and electrocution are held unconstitutional.

<sup>g</sup> Utah authorizes firing squad if lethal injection is held unconstitutional. Prisoners who selected firing squad prior to May 3, 2004 may still be entitled to that method.

<sup>h</sup> Illinois authorizes electrocution only if lethal injection is held illegal or unconstitutional.

<sup>i</sup> Wyoming authorizes lethal gas if lethal injection is held unconstitutional.

<sup>j</sup> Kentucky authorizes lethal injection for persons whose capital sentence was received on or after Mar. 31, 1998; for those sentenced before that date, the condemned prisoner may select lethal injection or electrocution.

<sup>k</sup> Tennessee authorizes lethal injection for those whose capital offense occurred after Dec. 31, 1998; for those whose offense occurred before that date, the condemned prisoner may select electrocution by written waiver.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Capital Punishment, 2007 Statistical Tables*, NCJ 224528, Table 2 [Online]. Available: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/html/cp/2007/tables/cp07st02.htm> [Jan. 5, 2009].