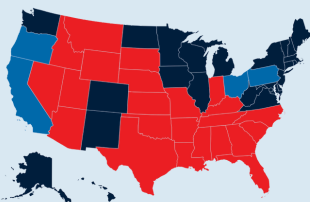


# THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE U.S.

## THE DEATH PENALTY IS BROKEN.

It is ineffective, costly, and deeply flawed.

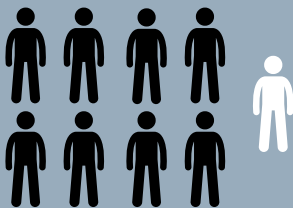


**23 states** have abolished the death penalty

**27 states** retain the death penalty, **4** of which have paused executions by executive action

Currently there are more than **2,000 people sentenced to death** across the United States.

The death penalty does not deter crime. In fact, *the states that use the death penalty consistently report the highest murder rates.*



## INNOCENCE

For every eight people executed in the U.S., one person has been exonerated.

**200 people** have been exonerated since 1972.

Data from Death Penalty Information Center

## RACIALLY BIASED

Capital punishment is rooted in a legacy of racism and born from a history of racial terror lynchings.

Today, people of color are overrepresented among death row populations when compared to the total population across the country.

## COST \$\$\$

Research across multiple states demonstrates that the **death penalty costs significantly more than other sentences of incarceration** due to court proceedings, solitary confinement, and execution protocols.

## EXECUTION METHODS

### Lethal Injection



### Lethal Gassing



### Firing Squad

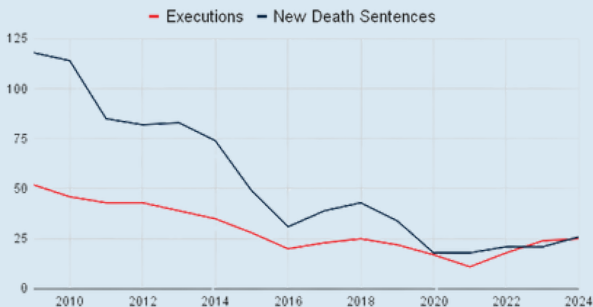


As pharmaceutical companies make it hard to procure lethal drugs for executions, **some states have brought back old execution methods, and developed new ones.**

# THE MOVEMENT TOWARD ABOLITION

The American population is moving away from the death penalty. **Progress is on our side.**

The rates of both state-level executions and new death sentences have been **steadily declining** over the past decades.



Data from Death Penalty Information Center

## 37 FEDERAL COMMUTATIONS

Before leaving office, **President Biden commuted the sentences of 37 individuals on federal death row**, saving their lives from the threat of execution.



## PUBLIC OPINION

**Only 53% of Americans support the death penalty.** That's the *lowest* recorded support since the 1970s.

Gen Z and Millennials are driving this change.

Data from 2024 Gallup Crime Survey

## CATHOLICS' OPINIONS

From the 1970s to 2022, **Catholic support for the death penalty fell from 74% to 61%, a larger decline than any other religious group.**

This decline was even greater among those who regularly attended Mass, demonstrating that what the Catholic Church teaches, matters.

Data from Association of Religion Data Archives

## CHURCH TEACHING

"...the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that **'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person'**, [1] and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

—(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2267)

Revised in 2018



**CATHOLIC  
MOBILIZING  
NETWORK**

[catholicsmobilizing.org](https://catholicsmobilizing.org)  
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Learn how you can  
get involved in death  
penalty abolition.



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