

# A Broken System: Error Rates in Capital Cases

## State Report Card

ILLINOIS, 1977-1995

### History

<b>First Death Sentence</b>	1977
First Direct Appeal	1980
First Consensual Execution	1990
First Non-Consensual Execution	1994

### Sentences and Executions

<b>Total Number of Death Sentences</b>	262
Total Number of Executions	7
Percentage of Death Sentences Carried Out	3%

### Error Rates

#### State Direct Appeal

Number Reviewed on Direct Appeal	221
Number Reversed on Direct Appeal	86
Percentage Reversed on Direct Appeal	39%
Number Awaiting Direct Appeal	41
Percentage Awaiting Direct Appeal	16%
Number Forward to State Post-Conviction	135

#### State Post-Conviction

Number Reviewed on Post-Conviction	Unknown
Number Reversed on Post-Conviction	10
Percentage Reversed on Post-Conviction	7%
Number Forward to Federal Habeas Corpus	Unknown

#### State Direct Appeal and State Post-Conviction Combined

Overall Rate of Error Found by State Courts	43%
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#### Federal Habeas Corpus

Number Reviewed on Habeas Corpus	10
Number Reversed on Habeas Corpus	4
Percentage Reversed on Habeas Corpus	40%

### Overall Rates Including [and Excluding] State Post-Conviction

Overall Error Rate	66% [63%]
Overall Success Rate	34% [37%]

### Timing

Time From First Death Sentence to First Non-Consensual Execution	17.00
Average Time from Sentence to Execution	13.38
Average Time from Sentence to Final Federal Relief	8.50

### Sentencing and Execution Rates

<b>Death Sentences per 1000 Homicides</b>	9.89
Death Sentences per 100,000 Population	2.29
Death Sentences per 1000 Prison Population	12.99
Non-Consensual Executions per 1000 Homicides	0.23
Non-Consensual Executions per 100,000 Population	0.05
Non-Consensual Executions per 1000 Prison Population	0.30

### Demographic Information

<b>Average Population</b>	11,454,333
Average Homicides	1,152
Average Homicides/ Average Population	10.06
Average Prison Admissions	9,200
Average Prison Population	20,172
Percentage Population Non-White	19%

### Court Factors

Political Pressure (judicial elections)	5
Party Competition (gubernatorial elections)	2
State Court Criminal Caseload per 1000 Population	54.39
Expenditures per Capita on Courts	36.91

Sources: DRCen; Death Row U.S.A., Winter 2000; DADB; HCDB; Appendix C; USCen; UCRDB; USCen; PrisCen; PolPres; CtCaLd; CtExpen