

# A Broken System: Error Rates in Capital Cases

## State Report Card

WASHINGTON, 1977-1995

### History

<b>First Death Sentence</b>	1977
First Direct Appeal	1979
First Consensual Execution	1993
First Non-Consensual Execution	1994

### Sentences and Executions

<b>Total Number of Death Sentences</b>	40
Total Number of Executions	2
Percentage of Death Sentences Carried Out	5%

### Error Rates

#### State Direct Appeal

Number Reviewed on Direct Appeal	22
Number Reversed on Direct Appeal	10
Percentage Reversed on Direct Appeal	45%
Number Awaiting Direct Appeal	18
Percentage Awaiting Direct Appeal	45%
Number Forward to State Post-Conviction	12

#### State Post-Conviction

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

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

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

Number Reviewed on Habeas Corpus	3
Number Reversed on Habeas Corpus	1
Percentage Reversed on Habeas Corpus	33%

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

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

## Time

Time From First Death Sentence to First Non-Consensual Execution	17.00
Average Time from Sentence to Execution	7.50
Average Time from Sentence to Final Federal Relief	9.00

## Sentencing and Execution Rates

<b>Death Sentences per 1000 Homicides</b>	8.37
Death Sentences per 100,000 Population	0.90
Death Sentences per 1000 Prison Population	5.90
Non-Consensual Executions per 1000 Homicides	0.21
Non-Consensual Executions per 100,000 Population	0.02
Non-Consensual Executions per 1000 Prison Population	0.15

## Demographic Information

<b>Average Population</b>	4,368,610
Average Homicides	216
Average Homicide Rate per 100,000 Population	4.94
Average Prison Admissions	2,558
Average Prison Population	6,781
Percentage Population Non-White	10%

## Court Factors

Political Pressure (judicial elections)	8
Party Competition (gubernatorial elections)	1
State Court Criminal Caseload per 1000 Population	19.47
Expenditures per Capita on Courts	40.40

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