

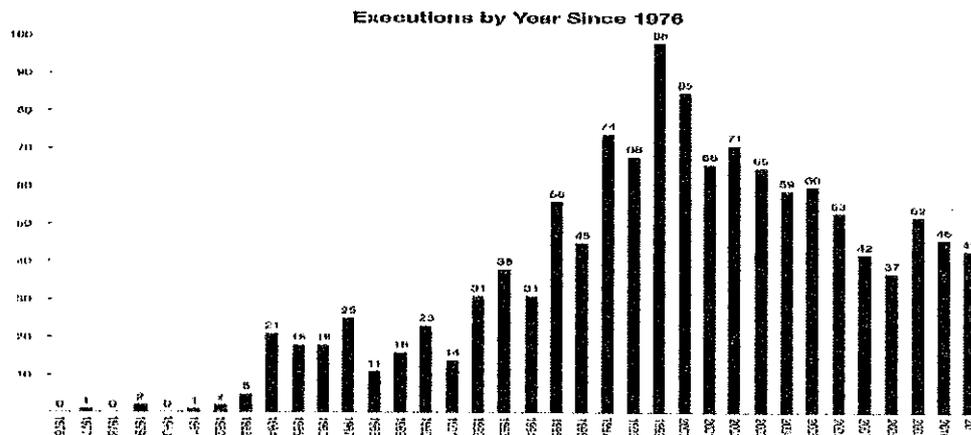
Capital Punishment

Background

Utah ranks 20th among all states for the number of executions carried out since 1977 with 7 executions. However, Utah ranks third among all states based on the execution rate (the number of executions carried out divided by the number of death sentences imposed since 1977).

There are currently 3,205 prisoners on death row, nationally. Utah has 9 prisoners on death row.

States that do not impose the death penalty: Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin. Washington D.C. also has banned the use of capital punishment.



Issues

What is the fiscal cost of imposing the death penalty?

- Law enforcement
- Trial/attorneys expenses
- Incarceration and decades of appeals
- Execution

What is the on-going impact on victim's families?

What is the impact on guards and executioners?

How many prisoners on death row have been wrongly convicted?

How effective is capital punishment as a deterrence?

Has public opinion regarding the death penalty changed over the past thirty years?