

# Race and the Death Penalty

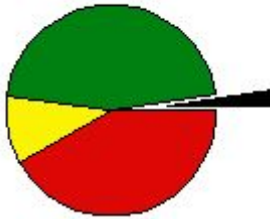
The following compilation of statistics is courtesy of Death Penalty Information Center and Death Penalty Focus.

*"We simply cannot say we live in a country that offers equal justice to all Americans when racial disparities plague the system by which our society imposes the ultimate punishment."*

- Senator Russ Feingold, 2003

## RACE OF PRISONERS CURRENTLY ON DEATH ROW

### RACE OF DEATH ROW INMATES



BLACK: 1,411 (41.9%)  
HISPANIC: 354 (10.5%)  
WHITE: 1,527 (45.3%)  
OTHER: 78 (2.3%)

Source: Death Row Population Figures from NAACP-LDF "Death Row USA (April 1, 2006)"

## RACE OF DEFENDANTS EXECUTED IN THE U.S. SINCE 1976

### RACE OF DEFENDANTS

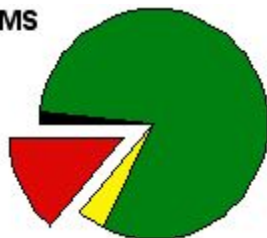


BLACK: 352 (34%)  
HISPANIC: 68 (6%)  
WHITE: 591 (57.1%)  
OTHER: 24 (2.3%)

Source: Death Penalty Information Center

## RACE OF VICTIMS\* SINCE 1976

### RACE OF VICTIMS



BLACK: 218 (14%)  
HISPANIC: 72 (4.0%)  
WHITE: 1225 (80%)  
OTHER: 32 (1.9%)

\*NOTE: Number of Victims refers to the victims in the underlying murder in cases where an execution has occurred since the restoration of the death penalty in 1976. There are more victims than executions because some cases involve more than one victim.

Source: Death Penalty Information Center

## RACIAL BREAKDOWN OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS IN DEATH PENALTY STATES (1998)

Fig. 1: Racial Breakdown of District Attorneys\* in U.S. Death Penalty States



White DAs

(each hand equals approximately 10 DAs)



DAs

= 22 Black



DAs

= 22 Hispanic

\*Chief prosecuting officials with discretionary power to determine if a jury needs

Source: "The Death Penalty in Black and White: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides", Death Penalty Information Center, 1998