

INJUSTICE FOR ALL

ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY IN NEVADA

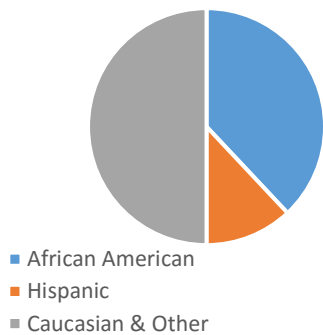


INJUSTICE: UNEVEN AND UNFAIR APPLICATION

- Many defendants are sentenced to die because they couldn't afford a better lawyer or because they live in a county, like Clark, that seeks the death penalty at a disproportionate rate.
- Clark County is one of only 16 counties in the nation with five or more death sentences between 2010 and 2015.
- 60% of capital defendants suffer from a significant mental impairment or other ailment which merits leniency.
- 44% had an intellectual disability, brain damage, or severe mental illness.
- Nearly 1 in 5 were under age 21.
- 1 in 7 death penalty cases involved prosecutorial misconduct.¹

RACIAL BIAS

Death Row By Race



- Racial bias in the application of the death penalty is particularly troubling.
- Nearly 40% of Death Row inmates in Nevada are African-American, yet African Americans comprise 9% of the total state population
- Since 1977, 77% of prisoners executed killed white victims, even though African-Americans make up about half of all homicide victims.²
- In Clark County, 71% of the victims resulting in a death sentence were white. These statistics do not lineup with the makeup of murder victims and defendants.
 - A person is more likely to receive a death sentence for killing a white person.

EXECUTING THE INNOCENT

- More than 150 innocent people have been sentenced to death in the United States.
- Two innocent individuals have been released from Nevada's Death Row after being wrongfully convicted.
- One wrongful conviction cost Clark County \$5 million in settlements.
- Replacing the death penalty with life without parole is the only way to ensure an innocent person is never executed.

HARM TO VICTIMS

- Families feel the death penalty traps them in a decades-long cycle of uncertainty, court hearings, and waiting, requiring them to relive all the horrors of their loss.
- The sentence of life without parole allows victims' families to begin the healing process and not have to wait for an execution that may never happen or deal with multiple appeals.
- The death penalty system is a false promise to victims' family members who may never see the killer executed.

¹ "Too Broken to Fix", Fair Punishment Project at Harvard, 2016

² Deathpenaltyinfo.org