

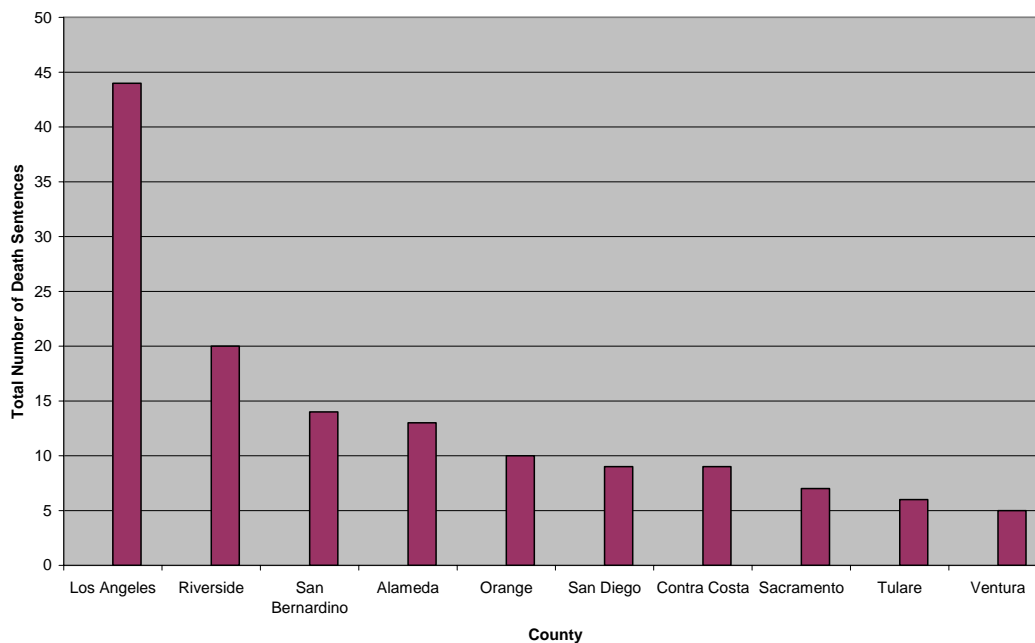
California Death Sentences Fact Sheet

Death Sentences are in Decline

- ◆ In 1996 41 people were sentenced to death; in 2006, 17 people were.
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2006, there were about half as many death sentences as in the preceding 5 year period.
- ◆ 32 counties in California have not returned a death sentence in 10 years.
- ◆ Of the 27 counties that have sent someone to death row since 2000, 18 counties sent 3 people or fewer.

Only 10 Counties Account for the Vast Majority of Death Sentences

Total Number of Death Sentences Per County 2000-2007



- ◆ 10 counties (listed above) are responsible for over 80% of death sentences since 2000.
- ◆ Those same 10 counties account for 73% of all death sentences before 2000. Though most of these counties are sentencing people at a lower rate now than they were in the 1990s, they are still using the death penalty at higher rates than the rest of the state.
- ◆ Tulare County has about half the population of Kern County, but has sentenced more than twice as many people to death since 2000.
- ◆ Tulare has sentenced a total 17 people to death since 1977, but 6 of these death sentences occurred since 2000. Santa Barbara County, of comparable size, has sentenced only 2 people to die since 2000.
- ◆ Fresno and Ventura Counties are comparable in size and both sent 8 people to death row in the 1990s. Fresno has sentenced 1 person to die since 2000, while Ventura has sent 6.

- ◆ Riverside County accounts for 5.3% of the state's total population, but 14.6% of death sentences since 2000. It is close in size to Santa Clara County, but has sentenced more than 3.5 times as many people to death row since 1990.

Sentencing Trends in the Top 10 Death Sentence Counties

	Avg. Death Sentence Per Year, 1990s	Avg. Death Sentence Per Year, 2000s	Rate Per Million, 1990's	Rate Per Million, 2000's
Tulare	1.1	0.75	2.98	2.03
Riverside	3.2	2.5	1.956	1.53
Contra Costa	0.6	1.125	0.615	1.15
Alameda	1.8	1.625	1.234	1.11
San Bernardino	2	1.75	1.132	0.99
Ventura	0.8	0.625	1.038	0.81
Sacramento	1.4	0.875	1.103	0.69
Los Angeles	9.3	5.5	0.965	0.57
Orange	2.3	1.25	0.796	0.43
San Diego	1.5	1.125	0.524	0.39

- ◆ Most of these counties are sentencing fewer people per capita, and in overall numbers, than they were in the 1990s. However, they all continue to send people to death row at rates far outpacing other counties.

Death Sentences in the 15 Largest Counties in California

	2001 Population	Total Death Sentences 1990-2007
Los Angeles	9,637,494	137
Orange	2,890,444	33
San Diego	2,862,819	24
San Bernardino	1,766,237	34
Santa Clara	1,668,309	14
Riverside	1,635,888	52
Alameda	1,458,420	31
Sacramento	1,268,770	21
Contra Costa	975,532	15
Fresno	815,734	9
San Francisco	770,723	0
Ventura	770,630	13
San Mateo	702,020	4
Kern	676,367	14
San Joaquin	595,324	6

- ◆ Tulare County is not on this list of most populous counties, but has sentenced more people to death since 2000 than 7 counties on this list.

