

Hypotheses:

The Death Penalty has little to no deterrent effect.

- Should it be abolished?
- Should it remain legal?
- Is it inhumane?

Argument Analysis

Anti-death penalty argument:

- The penalty does not deter crime
- It is inhumane to legally murder
- The risk of sentencing innocent people is too high

Pro-death penalty argument:

- It does deter crime to a degree
- Crime must have equal punishment

Statistics

Death Penalty State – More Than 10 Executions: 16 states

Death Penalty State – Fewer Than 10 Executions: 8

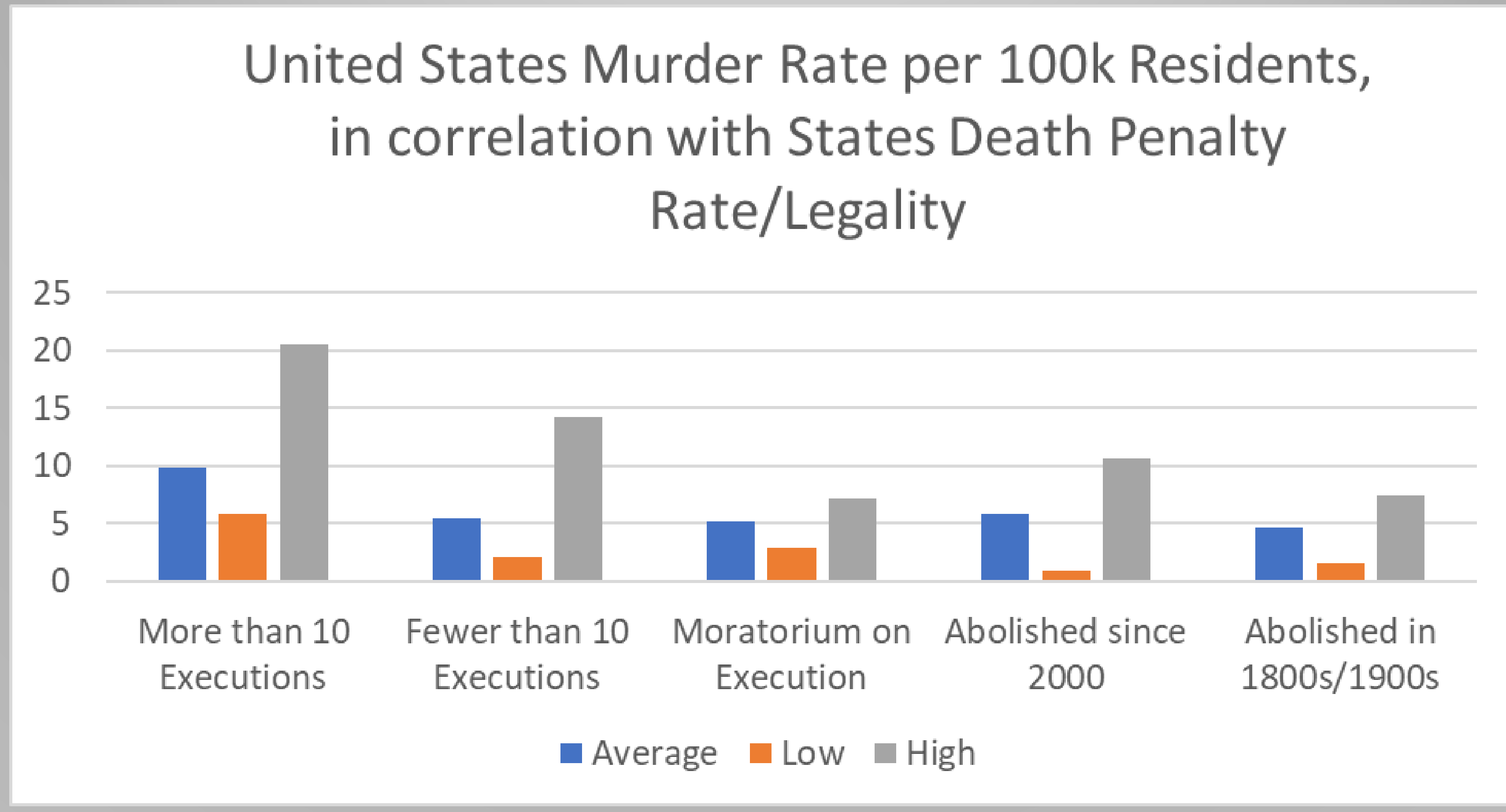
Death Penalty State – Moratorium on Executions: 3

Non-Death Penalty State – Abolished since 2000: 11

Non-Death Penalty State – Abolished since 1800s or 1900s: 12

Deterring Crime with the Death Penalty: Effective or Inhumane

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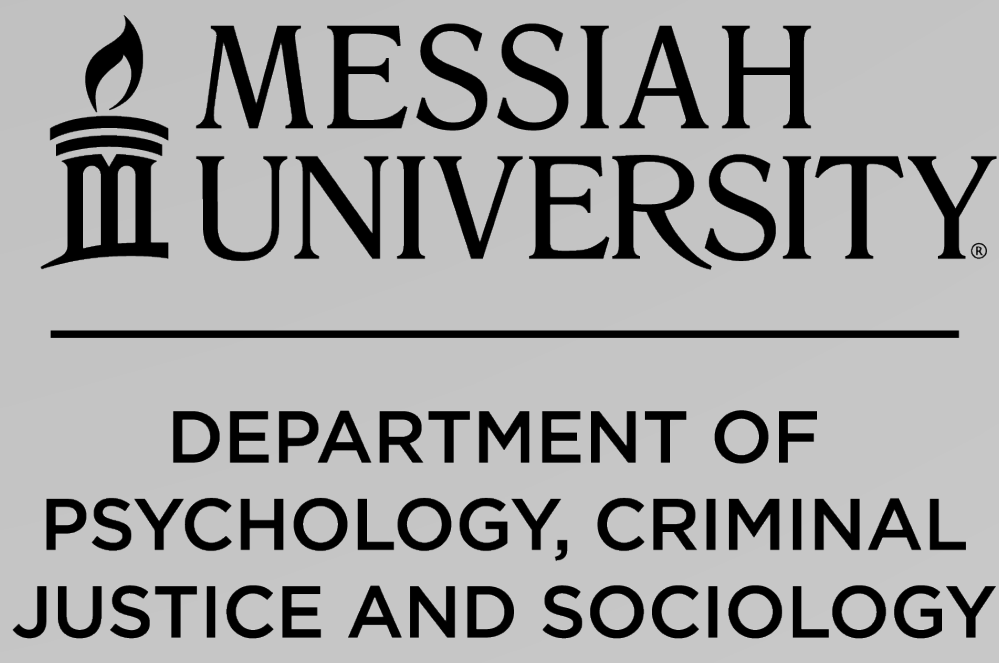
Sources:

Davis, M. (1990). *The death penalty, civilization, and inhumaneness*. *Social Theory and Practice*, 16(2), 245–259. <https://doi.org/10.5840/soctheorpract199016210>

Rubin, P. H. (2009). *Don't scrap the death penalty*. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 8(4), 853–859. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1745-9133.2009.00598.x>

DPIC analysis: pandemic murder rates highest in death penalty states. Death Penalty Information Center. <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/stories/dpic-analysis-pandemic-murder-rates-highest-in-death-penalty-states>

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Literature Review:

Crime deterrence is marginally effective.

Capital punishment is reserved for the “worst of the worst” cases. The penalty is imposed for crimes of homicide, treason, and espionage.

The measurement of deterrence is inconclusive through criminology research... given that criminologists study crime and criminals; one cannot measure the lack of crime.

Crime should be reduced with other methods not including capital punishment or sever punishment, but through swift and direct punishment and cognitive-behavioral treatment, mentoring, bolstering employment opportunities, and job skills training.

Trust in police is a huge murder deterrent. Trusting a situation will be delt with justly motivates people to not take justice into their own hands.

“Ethnographic research suggests these individuals are more likely to focus on the potential gains of their crimes rather than on the costs” (Kovandzic, 2009, Don’t scrap the death penalty).