

New York State's New Death Penalty

Prior to 1972, when the US Supreme Court outlawed the death penalty, New York ranked second in most executions of any state in the country, executing 1130 people over a 364 year period. Since the state began collecting data in 1976 on people dying in custody, 7,504 people have died behind bars in New York State. **This is seven times the number of deaths of those who were executed by the state.** Black people have consistently made up a large portion of overall deaths and in recent decades, the deaths of older people and those serving 15 years or more has skyrocketed.

1 in 2

Roughly 1 in 2 New Yorkers who die behind bars is Black. Black people are overrepresented, making up 48% of the incarcerated population, but only 18% of NYS residents.

In the last decade...

56%

of deaths behind bars were of people 55 and older

1 in 3

people who died behind bars had served at least 15 years in prison

1,278

people died in NYS prisons. This is more than the number of people executed during NY's 300-year use of the death penalty

Every 3 Days

Today, every three days someone dies behind bars, compared to 1 every 12 days in 1976.

Recommendations

- ▶ *Address aging in prison through the Elder Parole bill, that will give people 55 and older who have already served 15 years a chance for parole*
- ▶ *Address long sentences through the Fair & Timely Parole bill and by changing the composition of the Parole Board to assess who people are today*
- ▶ *Use clemency to protect incarcerated people during the Covid-19 pandemic and as a means to reduce the overall prison population*
- ▶ *Reunite and support families by creating more opportunities for release*