The Death Penalty Information Center
2023 Year End Media Coverage Report

The Death Penalty Information Center’s 2023 Year End Report was released on December 1, 2023, and received extensive favorably framed coverage in hundreds of print, online, television, and radio outlets across the United States and internationally. On the same day, DPIC released “Compromised Justice: How A Legacy of Racial Violence Informs Missouri’s Death Penalty Today,” which helped drive attention to both reports in Missouri.

Despite increases in executions and death sentences in 2023, DPIC was able to focus the weight of the coverage around the geographic isolation of the death penalty; the Gallup poll finding, for the first time, that more Americans believe the death penalty is administered unfairly than fairly; and the fact that 2023 marked the ninth consecutive year where fewer than 30 people were executed and fewer than 50 people were sentenced to death.

The lead of the Associated Press story, which ran in hundreds of outlets nationwide, read: “More Americans now believe the death penalty, which is undergoing a yearslong decline of use and support, is being administered unfairly, a finding that is adding to its growing isolation in the U.S., according to an annual report on capital punishment.” This on-message framing was a significant accomplishment, given that the Gallup poll was released a month earlier and the news could have been disregarded as “old” or previously reported.

Nearly all the headlines and articles echoed these favorably-framed themes, including United Press International (“U.S. executions in 2023 were concentrated in the South, group says”); Law360 (“Executions Concentrated in 5 States as Fairness Doubts Grow”), and Bloomberg Law (“Number of states carrying out death sentences hits 20-year low”). Yahoo News, which has been named the number one most popular news website in the U.S. with 175 million unique monthly visitors, featured two deeply researched stories with the headlines: “Report: U.S. states carrying out death penalties in 2023 hit new 20-year low; Just five states accounted for all 24 U.S. executions this year, according to the Death Penalty Information Center” and “Video: Why the death penalty is less popular than it has been in decades.”

The National Public Radio story, which was heard on nearly 100 stations nationwide, noted that “U.S. executions are significantly down from 1999 when they peaked around 100. This year, just five states were responsible for every execution” and concluded with “29 states have now either abolished or paused the death penalty.” In a widely-carried interview, DPIC executive director Robin M. Maher told CBS Radio, “I think Americans are starting to question whether the death penalty is effective, whether it keeps them safe, and whether it’s fair and just. The long-term trend has been away from usage of the death penalty in the United States.”

“Compromised Justice” received coverage in Missouri’s leading outlets, including the state’s largest newspapers: St. Louis Post-Dispatch (“Report: Missouri has long history of racial discrimination in death sentences”) and Kansas City Star (“Is ‘overrepresentation of white victim cases’ why Missouri uses death penalty so much?”). Tiana Herring, DPIC’s Data Storyteller and the lead author of the report, was repeatedly quoted throughout the Kansas City Star’s editorial page editor’s column,
which was reposted on the high-traffic Yahoo News website. “The past isn’t as far in the past as we think it is. Legacies of discrimination and violence are built into the foundation of the systems we have today,” she explained.

A selection of notable coverage follows.

**Top Tier Print, News Wires, and Online Media (in alphabetical order)**

**Associated Press**
[https://apnews.com/article/death-penalty-apply-edepunishment-fa998133f8b0be2b80b21c08534f5](https://apnews.com/article/death-penalty-apply-edepunishment-fa998133f8b0be2b80b21c08534f5)
Note: The AP story was carried in hundreds of outlets, including The Boston Globe, Fox News, Kentucky Today, Lincoln Journal Star, Newsday, Omaha World-Herald, NBCNews.com, PBS NewsHour, Seattle Times, Tulsa World, U.S. News & World Report, Voice of America, and WTOP (D.C. radio). It ran in the Gribo with the headline “Following George Floyd’s murder, more believe death penalty applied unfairly.”

**The Guardian**
Florida’s revival of death penalty fuels rise in US executions in 2023 (Dec. 1, 2023) by Ed Pilkington

**Hearst Media**
Death Penalty: Texas and Florida lead in executions in 2023 (Dec. 1, 2023) by Robin Bradshaw
Pick up in Houston Chronicle

**National Public Radio**
Executions are on the rise in the U.S., even as public support wanes (Dec. 1, 2023) by Vanessa Romo

**United Press International**
U.S. executions in 2023 were concentrated in the South, group says (Dec. 1, 2023) by Doug
Cunningham

USA Today
Catholics call out DeSantis, pray for end to death penalty after rapid-fire executions (Dec. 1, 2023)
James Call

Yahoo News
Report: U.S. states carrying out death penalties in 2023 hit new 20-year low
Just five states accounted for all 24 U.S. executions this year, according to the Death Penalty Information Center (Dec. 1, 2023) by Marquise Francis
Note: According to one analysis, Yahoo News is the number one most popular news website in the U.S. with 175 million unique monthly visitors. The story was also carried by WPXI TV (Pittsburgh)

Yahoo News
Video: Why the death penalty is less popular than it has been in decades (Dec. 1, 2023)

Editorials, Columns and Op Eds (in alphabetical order)

Kansas City Star / Yahoo News
Is ‘overrepresentation of white victim cases’ why Missouri uses death penalty so much? (Dec. 1, 2023) by Yvette Walker

Justia Verdict
Supreme Court’s Hands-Off Attitude Contributes to Growing Public Doubts about the Death Penalty (Dec. 4, 2023) by Austin Sarat

Ohio Capital Journal
Is the death penalty dying? Sentences, executions remain low (Dec. 11, 2023) by Marty Schladen
Republised in various places, including https://stateline.org/2023/12/12/number-of-states-imposing-death-sentences-carrying-out-executions-at-a-20-year-low/

Orlando Sentinel
Florida 1 of only 5 states that executed anyone this year (Dec. 8, 2023) by Scott Maxwell
https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/12/08/death-penalty-florida-2023-maxwell/
As Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch pushes for execution dates for a pair of death row inmates, most of the country is moving away from capital punishment over concerns about its fairness. A Gallup poll in October found that 50% of American now believe that capital punishment is applied unfairly, a couple of points higher than those who think it’s fairly applied. (lead of a guest editorial before a paywall)

**Local and Regional Coverage (in alphabetical order)**

**Al.com / Birmingham News / Huntsville Times / Press-Register**
Only 4 states besides Alabama have carried out executions in 2023 (Dec. 1, 2023) by Mike Cason

**Austin Chronicle**
Death Watch: As Execution Falls Out of Favor Nationwide, Texas Accelerates
State continues to execute priests and the intellectually disabled (Dec. 8, 2023) by Brant Bingamon

**Axios Nashville**
Death penalty opinions shift as Tennessee reworks protocol (Dec. 5, 2023) by Adam Tamburin
https://www.axios.com/local/nashville/2023/12/06/death-penalty-views-gallup and

**Beaumont Enterprise (Texas)**
Death penalty: Texas and Florida lead in executions in 2023
(Hearst Newspapers)

**Hastings Tribune (Nebraska)**
Missouri 'an outlier state' in using death penalty. Only 4 others held executions in 2023

**Kansas City Star**
Just 5 states carried out executions in 2023 as public support wanes. Missouri was one (Dec. 1, 2023) by Katie Moore
https://www.kansascity.com/news/state/missouri/article282481098.html (paywall; PDF available here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oWYntL1h78ZmlL_mx5lXz3r2DMmbtpQgi8or5-XzRF8/edit?usp=sharing.)
Second mention on Dec. 13, 2023:

Riverfront Times (St. Louis, Missouri)
Michelle Smith Advocates for People on Death Row, Yet She Feels Hope (Dec. 13, 2023)
Note: Mention of Missouri statistics.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Report: Missouri has long history of racial discrimination in death sentences (Dec. 1, 2023) by Dana Rieck
(paywall; PDF available here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/14ohMa6698rpCc7JWR2akRttq_vgcCo1czwey0Wl4vQ0/edi?usp=sharing)

Tallahassee Democrat / USA Today Network
Executions climb across U.S. because of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, report shows (Dec. 1, 2023) by John Kennedy

USA TODAY Network – Florida

Specialty Coverage (in alphabetical order)

ABA Journal
Only 7 states imposed new death sentences in 2023; 1 of them has passed new laws likely to expand number (Dec. 5, 2023) by Debra Cassens Weiss

Baptist News Global
Testimony of exonerees is best way to sway opinion on death penalty (Dec. 15, 2023)
https://baptistnews.com/article/testimony-of-exonerees-is-best-way-to-sway-opinion-on-death-penalty/
Note: Mention of year end statistics.

**Baptist Standard**
Texas in the minority in regard to capital punishment (Dec. 1, 2023) by Ken Camp

**Bloomberg Law**
Number of states carrying out death sentences hits 20-year low (Dec. 1, 2023) by Lydia Wheeler

**Catholic News Agency**
Data shows most states moving away from use of death penalty (December 7, 2023) by Daniel Payne

**The Crime Report**
Report: US Support for, Trust in Death Penalty Continues to Decline
More Americans now believe the death penalty, which is undergoing a years-long decline of use and support, is being administered unfairly (Dec. 1, 2023)
https://thecrimereport.org/2023/12/01/more-americans-now-believe-the-death-penalty-which-is-undergoing-a-years-long-decline-of-use-and-support-is-being-administered-unfairly/

**The Davis Vanguard**
Lowest number of states involved in executions in 20 years claims Death Penalty Information Center annual report (Dec. 3, 2023)

**Governing**
Missouri among just five states that held executions in 2023 (reprint of Kansas City Star)
https://www.governing.com/policy/missouri/among-just-five-states-that-held-executions-in-2023

**Jurist**
More Americans disagree with death penalty, despite increasing number of death sentences: Death Penalty Information Center (Dec. 1, 2023) by Elizabeth Haigh

**Law360**
Executions Concentrated in 5 States as Fairness Doubts Grow (Dec. 1, 2023) by Marco Poggio

Law360
https://www.law360.com/articles/1773332/the-biggest-access-to-justice-issues-of-2023

Law Dork
This year, only five states carried out executions. (Nov. 30, 2023) by Chris Geidner
https://www.lawdork.com/p/twenty-four-executions-in-2023

Our Sunday Visitor
Report: Fewer states use capital punishment but more prisoners executed in 2023
https://catholicreview.org/report-fewer-states-use-capital-punishment-but-more-prisoners-executed-in-2023/ (Published by the Catholic Review)

Our Sunday Visitor
Five years after catechism update, activist sees 'renewed momentum' to end death penalty (Dec. 15, 2023)
https://catholicreview.org/five-years-after-catechism-update-there-is-renewed-momentum-to-end-capital-punishment-catholic-activist-says/

The Tablet
Catholic Leader: Use of Death Penalty in U.S. Is ‘On Its Way Out’ (Dec. 4, 2023) by Carol Zimmermann

Wonkette
Half Of Americans Now Aware That The Death Penalty Is Unfairly Applied (Dec. 4, 2023) by Robyn Pennacchia
https://www.wonkette.com/p/half-of-americans-now-aware-that

International Coverage (in alphabetical order)

The Daily Mail
The annual number of death penalties has declined by more than 80 percent in the last two decades (Dec. 14, 2023).
https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-12865025/jurors-death-penalty-looks.html
**Voice of America**


**Agence France Press**


Pick up in Raw Story

Pick up in Barron’s of truncated version with statistics from report

**Television and Radio (in alphabetical order)**

**National**

**CBS Radio**

Interview with Robin Maher - December 1, 2023
[http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20wZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXN1cldlEPTE2MTQwMSZSNRFEPTIwNjM4NzA2Jk1EU2VlZD03OTcmVHZiVWhwZT1NZWRpYQ%3D%3D](http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20wZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXN1cldlEPTE2MTQwMSZSNRFEPTIwNjM4NzA2Jk1EU2VlZD03OTcmVHZiVWhwZT1NZWRpYQ%3D%3D)

Note: The CBS story features an interview with Robin and was carried on several outlets, including KCBS-AM (San Francisco, CA), WBBM-AM (Chicago, IL), WCPT (Chicago, IL), WBZ (Boston, MA) WCBS (New York, NY), KFGO (Fargo, ND), WTOP-DC (Washington, D.C.).

**CBS Radio**

December 1, 2023
[http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20wZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXN1cldlEPTE2MTQwMSZSNRFEPTIwNjI3OTI1Jk1EU2VlZD03OTUjIRJ5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D](http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20wZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXN1cldlEPTE2MTQwMSZSNRFEPTIwNjI3OTI1Jk1EU2VlZD03OTUjIRJ5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D)

Note: The CBS story was carried on several outlets, including KNX-AM (Los Angeles, CA), WBBM (Chicago, IL), WUTQ (Utica, NY), KRLD (Dallas, TX), WKHT (Norfolk, VA), Northwest News Radio (Seattle, WA).

**Fox News Radio**

December 1, 2023
[http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20wZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXN1cldlEPTE2MTQwMSZSNRFEPTIwNjM4NyZlJk1EU2VlZD0xMjJjIRJ5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D](http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20wZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXN1cldlEPTE2MTQwMSZSNRFEPTIwNjM4NyZlJk1EU2VlZD0xMjJjIRJ5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D)

Note: The Fox News story was carried on several outlets, including KCOL (Denver, CO), WJR-AM (Detroit, MI), 99.1 FM Talk (Reno, NV), WTAQ-AM (Green Bay, WI).

**NPR**

December 1, 2023
Note: The NPR story was carried on nearly one hundred stations.

See also NPR website

Executions are on the rise in the U.S., even as public support wanes - December 1, 2023
https://www.npr.org/2023/12/01/1215757307/executions-death-penalty-report-increase

Alabama
WDHN (ABC) - Dothan, AL
WDHN Daytime at 11:00 AM, December 1, 2023
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldEPTE2MTQwMSZNRkEPTIwNjUzNjEyJk1EU2VIZD04NDI5JlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
General coverage of the report, some Alabama specific ties.

WDFX (FOX) - Dothan, AL
Fox 34 News @ Nine
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldEPTE2MTQwMSZNRkEPTIwNjI3OTk3Jk1EU2VIZD04MDg5JlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
Mention of Alabama data in the report.

WHNT (CBS) - Huntsville, AL
WHNT News 19 This Morning at 6:30 AM, December 1, 2023
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldEPTE2MTQwMSZNRkEPTIwNjI1OTY1Jk1EU2VIZD02ODIwJlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
Mention of Alabama data in the report.

California
KGO-SF (ABC) - San Francisco, CA
Midday Live 11 AM, December 1, 2023
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldEPTE2MTQwMSZNRkEPTIwNjI4NDM2Jk1EU2VIZD04Mjk5JlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
Focus on how most people think it was administered unfairly.

KNX-AM (Radio) - Los Angeles, CA
6 AM News December 1, 2023 (Also Ran at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 12 Noon)
Station Reach: 550,100
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldEPTE2MTQwMSZNRkEPTIwNjI1OTk1Jk1EU2VIZD0yNTkxJlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
Focus on how most people think it was administered unfairly, add in CA angle and Newsom.

Connecticut
Florida
Central Florida News 6 and 13 - Orlando, FL
News 6 and 13 Your Evening News at 5, December 1, 2023 (also ran at 7 PM, 8 PM, 9 PM, 11 PM)
News at Midnight, December 2, 2023 (also ran at 1 AM, 2 AM, 3 AM, 4 AM, 5 AM)
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxyYWRnYXRld2FSLmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldlEPTE2MTQwMSZNREIEPTIwNjUzNTk1Jk1EU2VlZD04ODc0JlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
General overview of the report.

Focused on Florida data.

Indiana
WSJV (FOX) - South Bend, IN
Wanted: Dead or Alive at 7:00 AM, December 1, 2023
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxyYWRnYXRld2FSLmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldlEPTE2MTQwMSZNREIEPTIwNjUzNTc2Jk1EU2VlZD05NTUmVHlwZTINZWRpYQ%3D%3D
Brief data mention as part of the Oklahoma execution.

Focused on Florida data.

Kentucky
Spectrum News (Louisville) - Louisville, KY
Spectrum News at 5 PM, December 1, 2023 (also ran at 7 PM, 8 PM, 9 PM, 10 PM, 11 PM)
News at 1 AM, December 2, 2023 (also ran at 2 AM, 3 AM, 4 AM, 5 AM)
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxyYWRnYXRld2FSLmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldlEPTE2MTQwMSZNREIEPTIwNjI4MDYjJk1EU2VlZD0xNjczJlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
Focus on how most people think it was administered unfairly with link to KY data.

KFVS (CBS) - Paducah, KY
The Breakfast Show at 5 AM, December 1, 2023
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bmxyYWRnYXRld2FSLmFzcHg%2FVXNlcldlEPTE2MTQwMSZNREIEPTIwNjI0ODY1Jk1EU2VlZD04NzE4JlR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
Focus on how most people think it was administered unfairly.
Michigan
WWJ-AM - Detroit, MI
Noon News, December 1, 2023
Station Reach: 211,900
https://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXljcy5jbiB20vZG93bmRnbXRlZ2F5LmFzczHg%2FVXNlcklEPTE2MTQwMSZNRE1EPTwNjI4MDE3Jk1EU2VlZD03ODUyIjR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
General report coverage.

Missouri
KCUR-FM, Kansas City, MO
Missouri was one of the few states to execute people this year, even as public support wanes December 1, 2023
Localized version of national NPR Story by Vanessa Romo

KCUR, NPR station in Kansas City

KTRS-AM, St. Louis, MO
December 2, 2023 at 6 AM
December 4, 2023 at 8 AM (also ran at 5 AM, 6 AM)
An annual report on capital punishment says more Americans now believe the death penalty is administered unfairly. A report by the DC-based Death Penalty Information Center was released Friday. It says 2023 was the 9th consecutive year in which fewer than 50 people received death sentences.

New York
WINS-AM - New York, NY
1:00 PM News, December 1, 2023
Station Reach: 727,700
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXljcy5jbiB20vZG93bmRnbXRlZ2F5LmFzczHg%2FVXNlcklEPTE2MTQwMSZNRE1EPTwNjI4MzY2Jk1EU2VlZD04MTMwIjR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
General report coverage.

North Carolina
NewsRadio 680 WPTF - Raleigh, NC
News at 5 pm, Dec 1, 2023(also ran at 6 PM)
News at 1 AM, December 2, 2023 (also ran at 5 AM)
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXljcy5jbiB20vZG93bmRnbXRlZ2F5LmFzczHg%2FVXNlcklEPTE2MTQwMSZNRE1EPTwNjM4NDc4Jk1EU2VlZD02Mdc1IjR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D
General overview of report.

Spectrum News Triad - Greensboro, NC
Spectrum News at 5 PM December 1, 2023
Focus on how most people think it was administered unfairly.

**Ohio**
Spectrum News Columbus
News at 11 PM, December 1, 2023
News at Midnight, December 2, 2023 (also ran at 1 AM, 3 AM, 5 AM)
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllyzcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRlZ2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcklEPTE2MTQwMTk2NjU4NTU4Jk1EU2VlZD03MTg1JlR5cGU9TWVxaWE%3D
Focus on how most people think it was administered unfairly.

**South Carolina**
WCSC-CHS (CBS) - Charleston, SC
Live 5 News at 4:30am, December 1, 2023
http://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL21lZGlhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllyzcy5jb20vZG93bmxvYWRnYXRlZ2F5LmFzcHg%2FVXNlcklEPTE2MTQwMTk2NjU4NTU4Jk1EU2VlZD0yNDUxJlR5cGU9TWVxaWE%3D
Brief data mention as part of the Oklahoma execution.

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