

The Death Penalty in Philadelphia



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Death Penalty Information Center

The Death Penalty Information Center provides information and analysis of death-penalty issues. DPIC does not take a position for or against the death penalty itself, but is critical of the manner in which it is administered.

Philadelphia Death-Penalty Outcomes, 1978-2018

201 death sentences since 1978

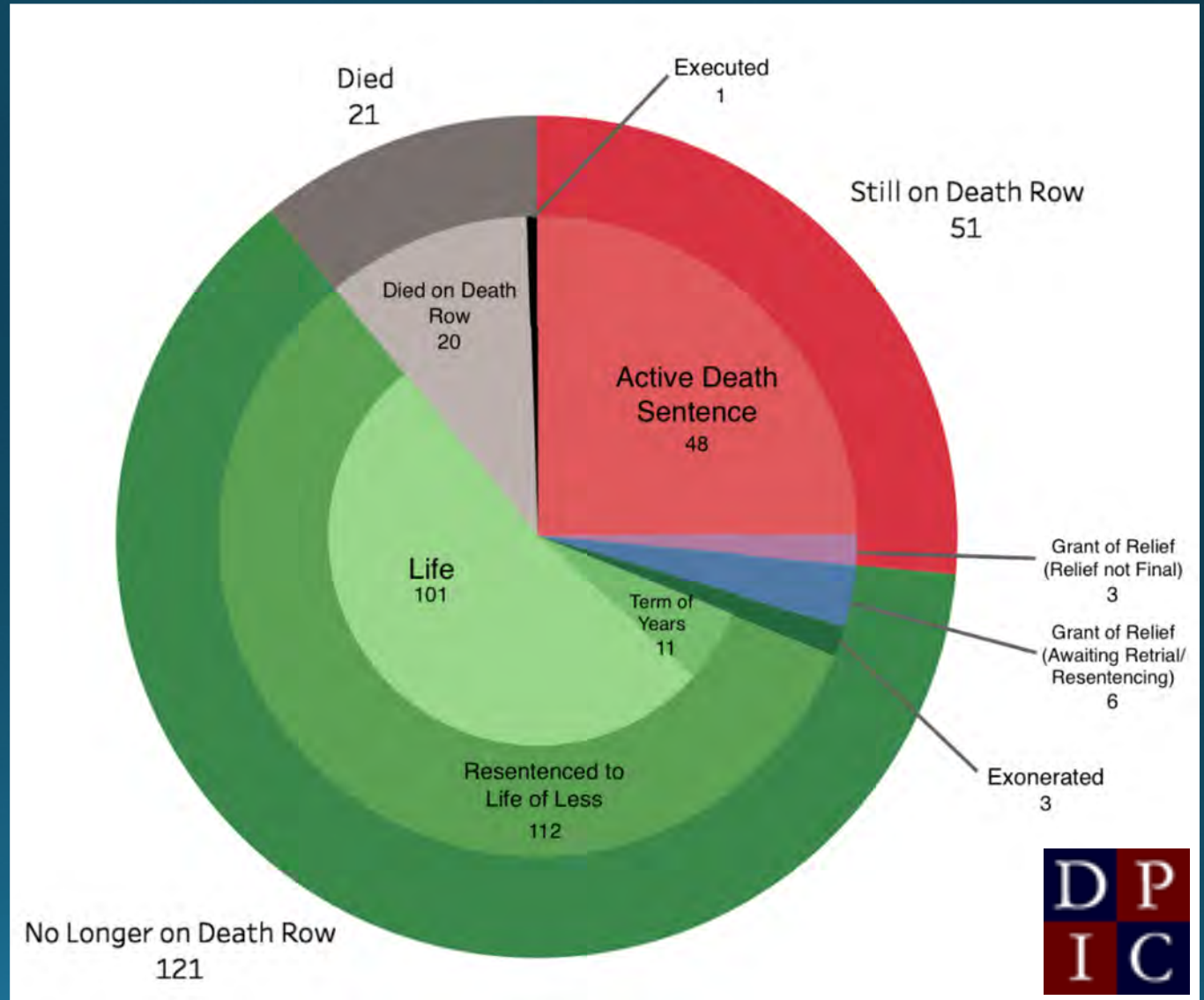
134 death sentences overturned

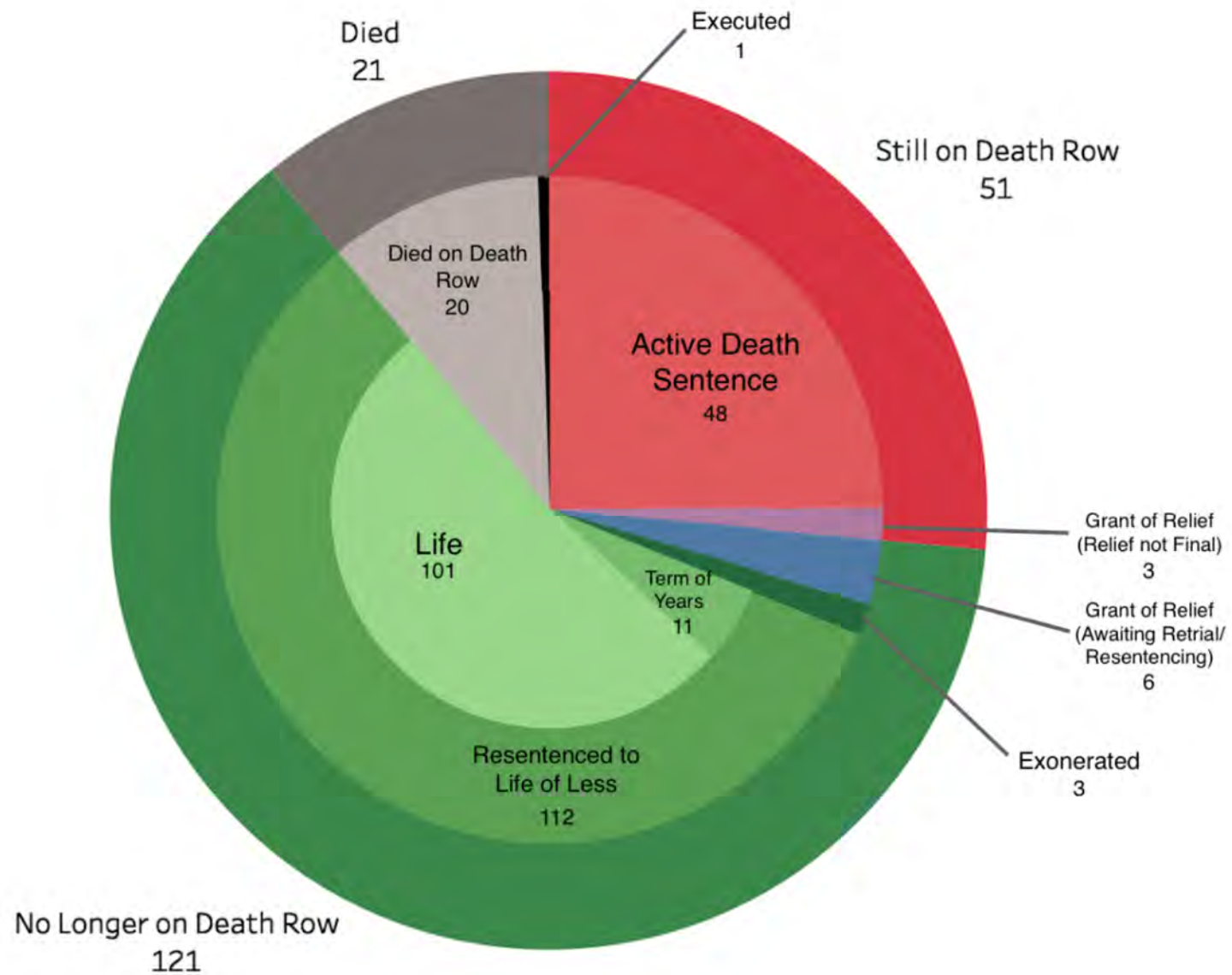
112 prisoners resentenced to life or less

3 exonerations

20 died on death row

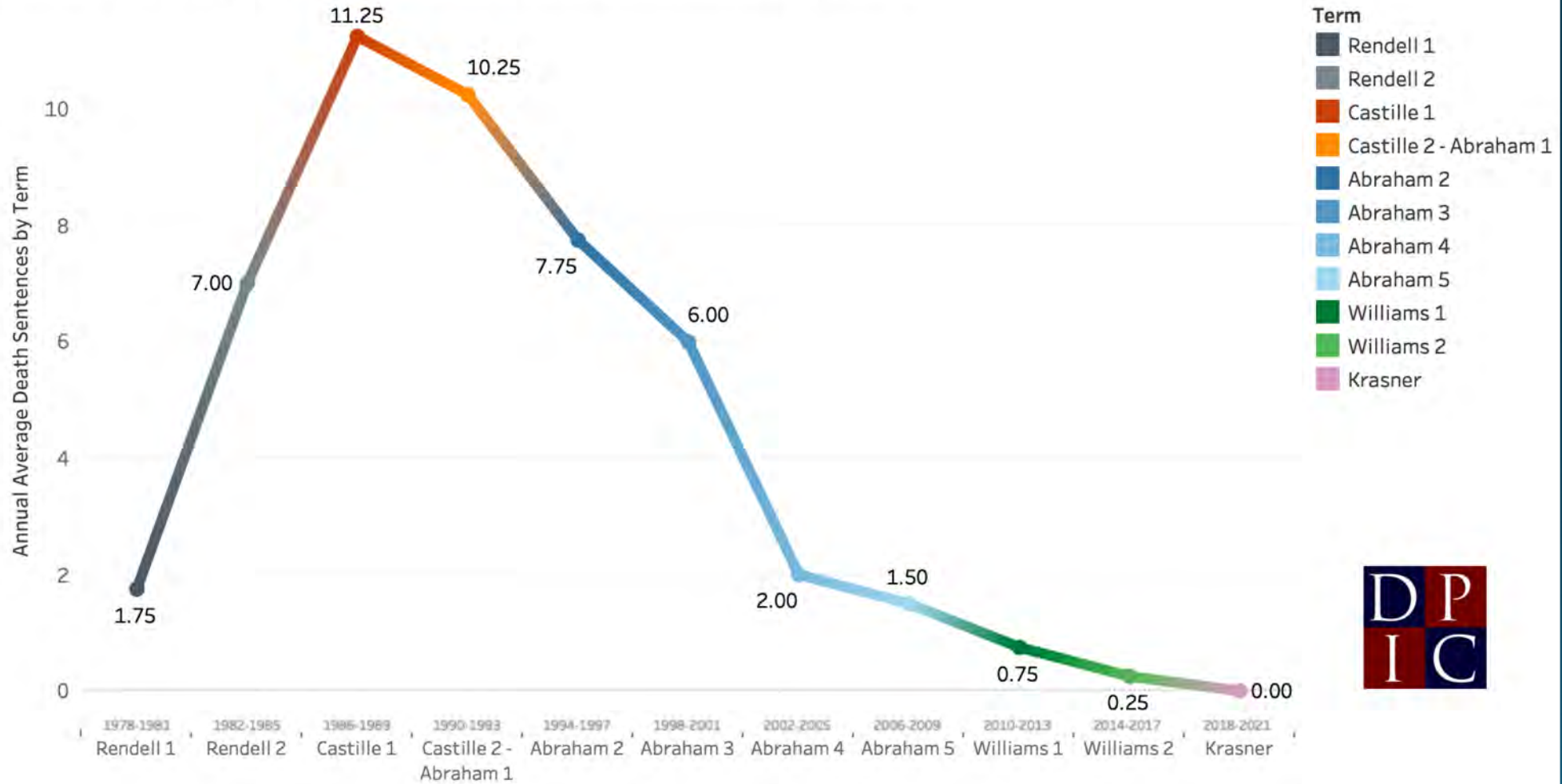
1 execution





The Decline of the Death Penalty in Philadelphia

Annual Average of Philadelphia Death Sentences (by Term)



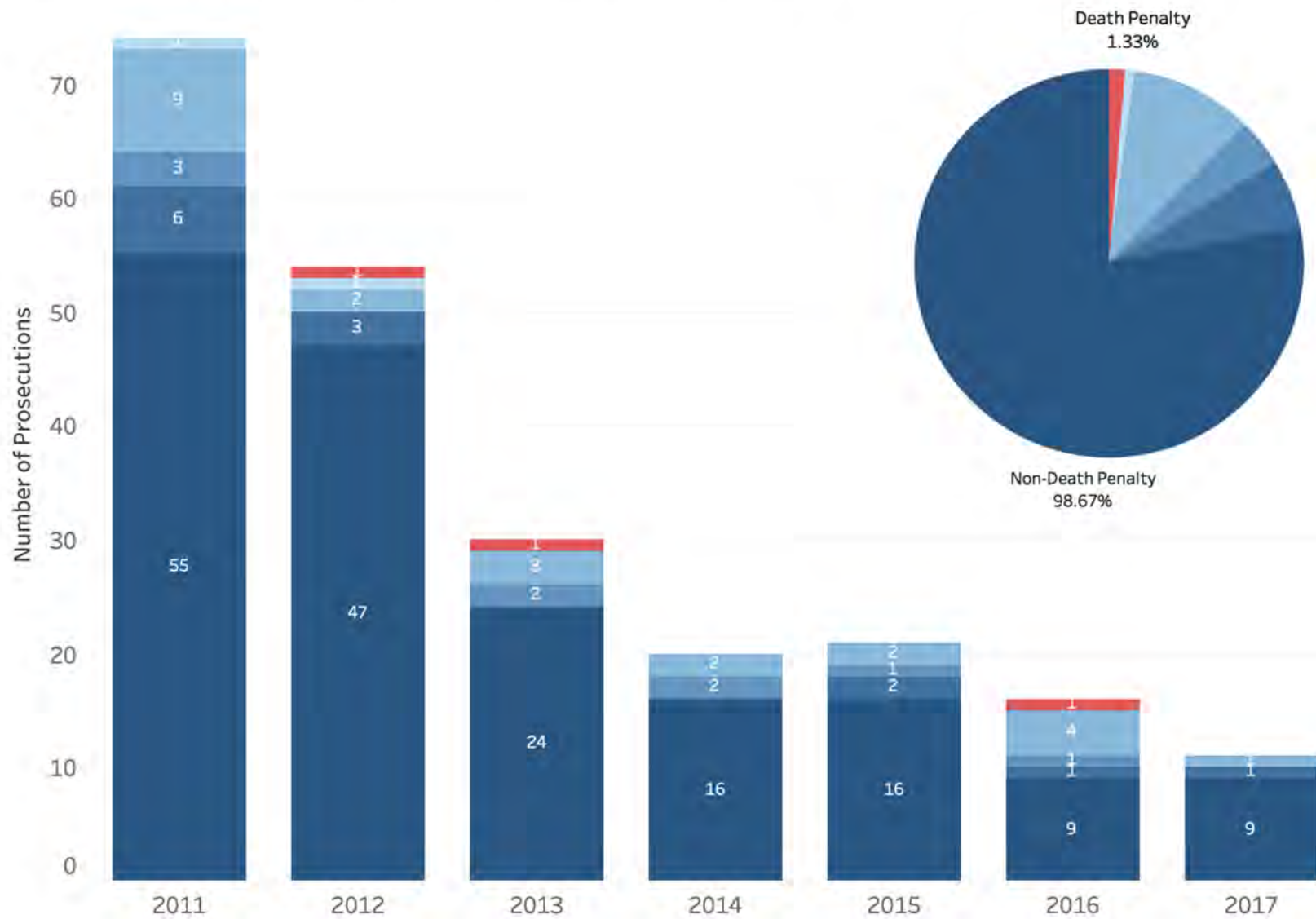
Philadelphia Death Penalty Trial Dispositions, 2011-2017



Case Disposition
■ Death Penalty
■ Non-Death Penalty



Philadelphia Outcome of Capital Prosecutions by Year

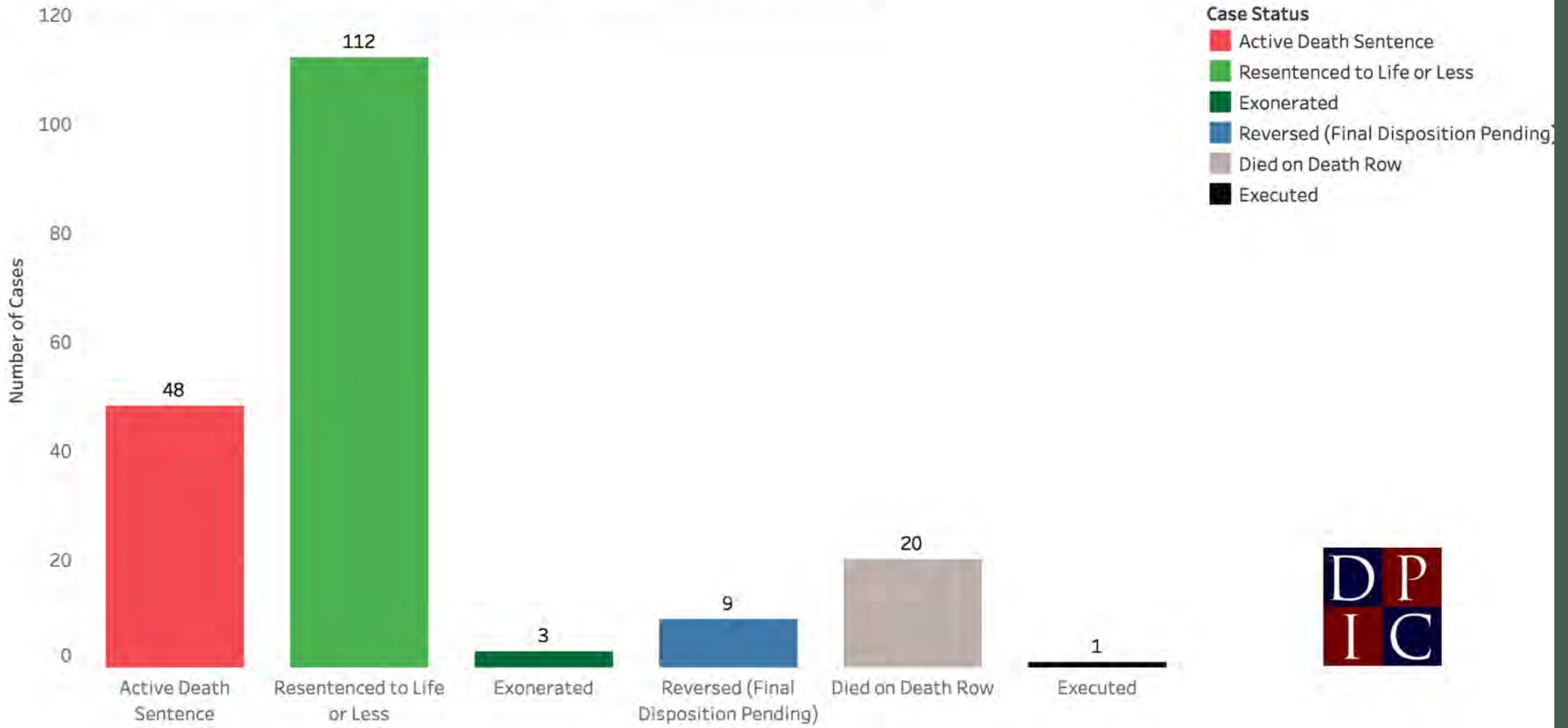


Case Disposition

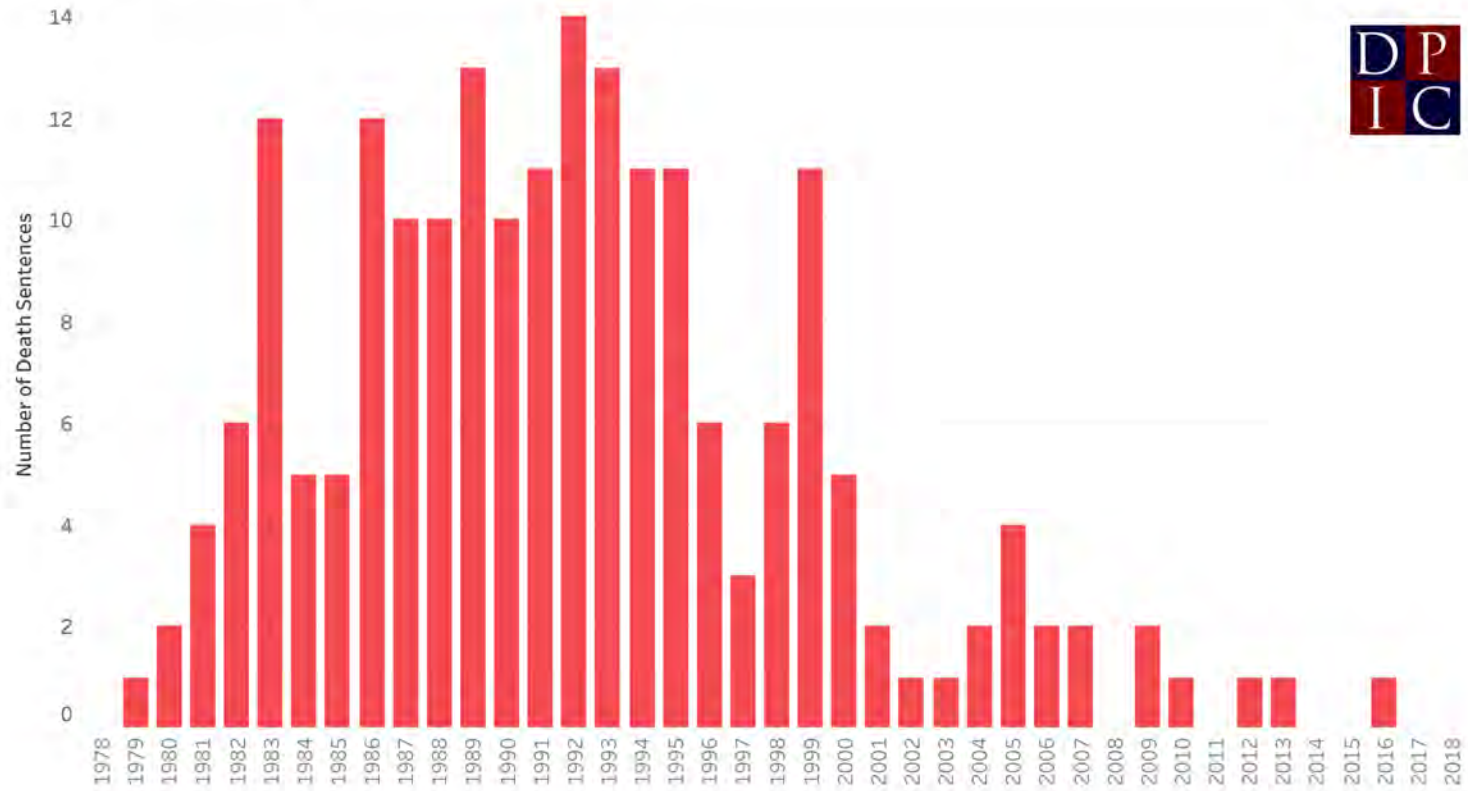
- (6) Death Penalty
- (5) Other Non-Capital Disposition
- (4) Trial: Non-Death Outcome
- (3) Guilty Plea - Less Than 1st-Degree Murder
- (2) Guilty Plea - 1st-Degree Murder
- (1) Voluntarily Decapitalized



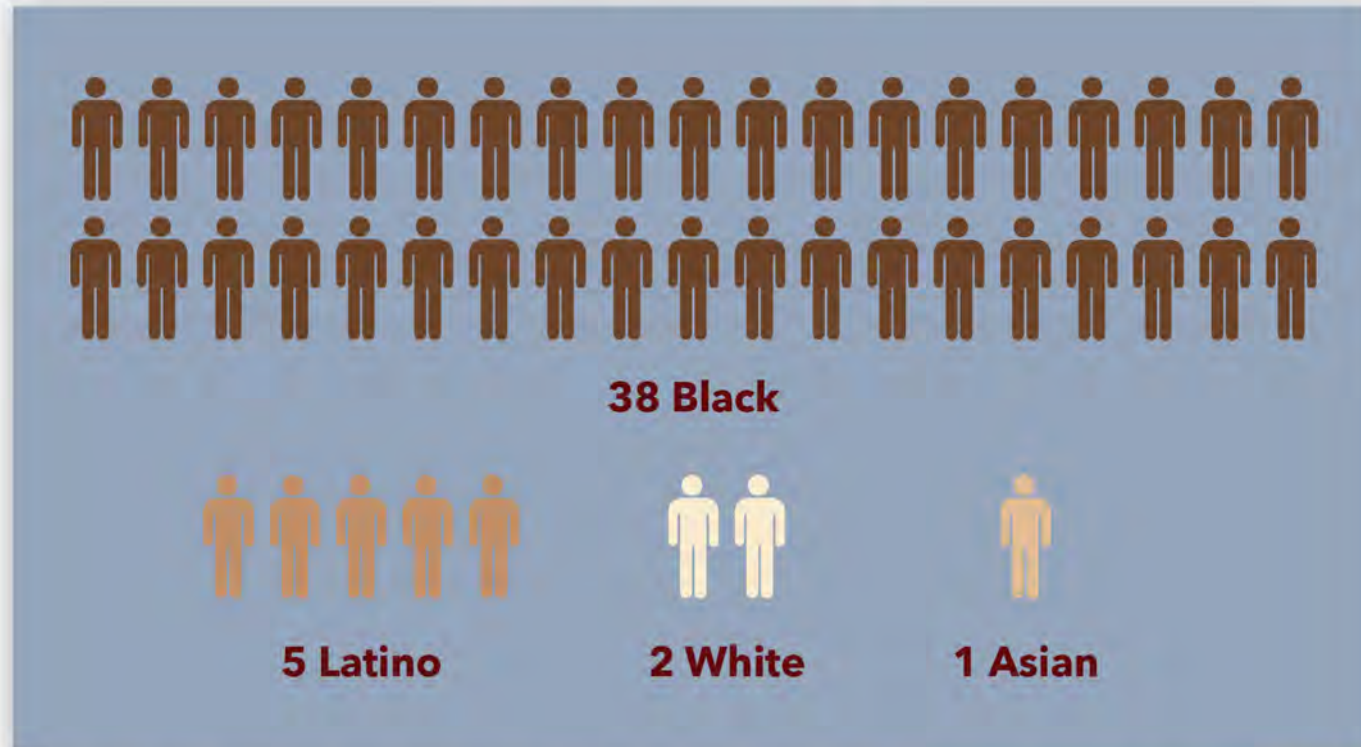
Status of Philadelphia Death Sentences (Imposed since 1978)



Philadelphia Death Sentences (by Year)



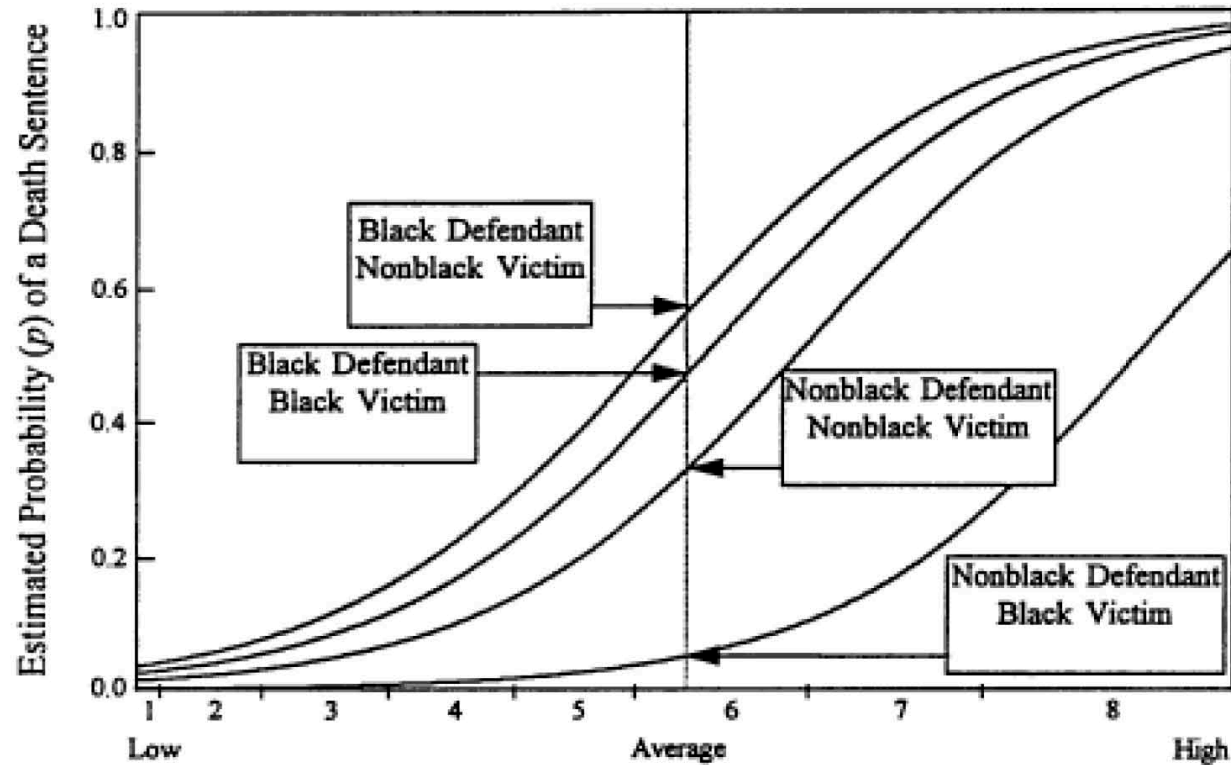
**In the past two decades,
83% of defendants sentenced to death in Philadelphia
have been Black.**



**Of the 46 defendants sentenced to death in Philadelphia since 1997,
44 have been people of color.**



Estimated Race of Defendant and Race of Victim Effects
in Jury Death Sentencing Decisions Among All Death Eligible Cases
Philadelphia 1983-93



Defendant Culpability Index and Scale Score
Estimated in a Logistic Regression Analysis

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, black defendants tried for killing white victims were twice as likely to be sentenced to death if they had "stereotypically" African facial features.

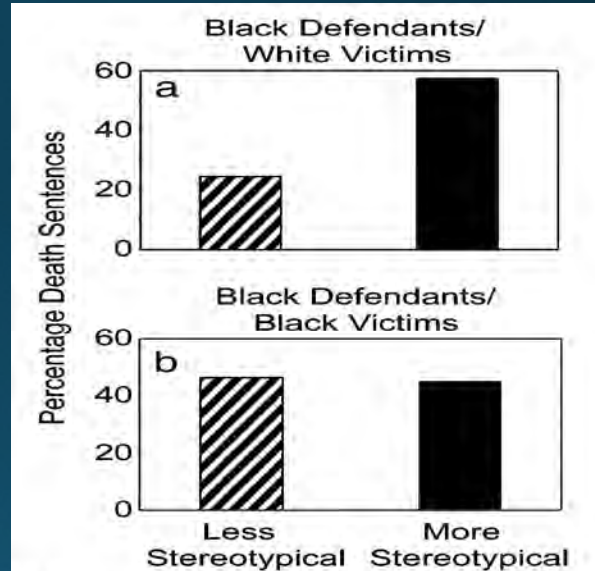
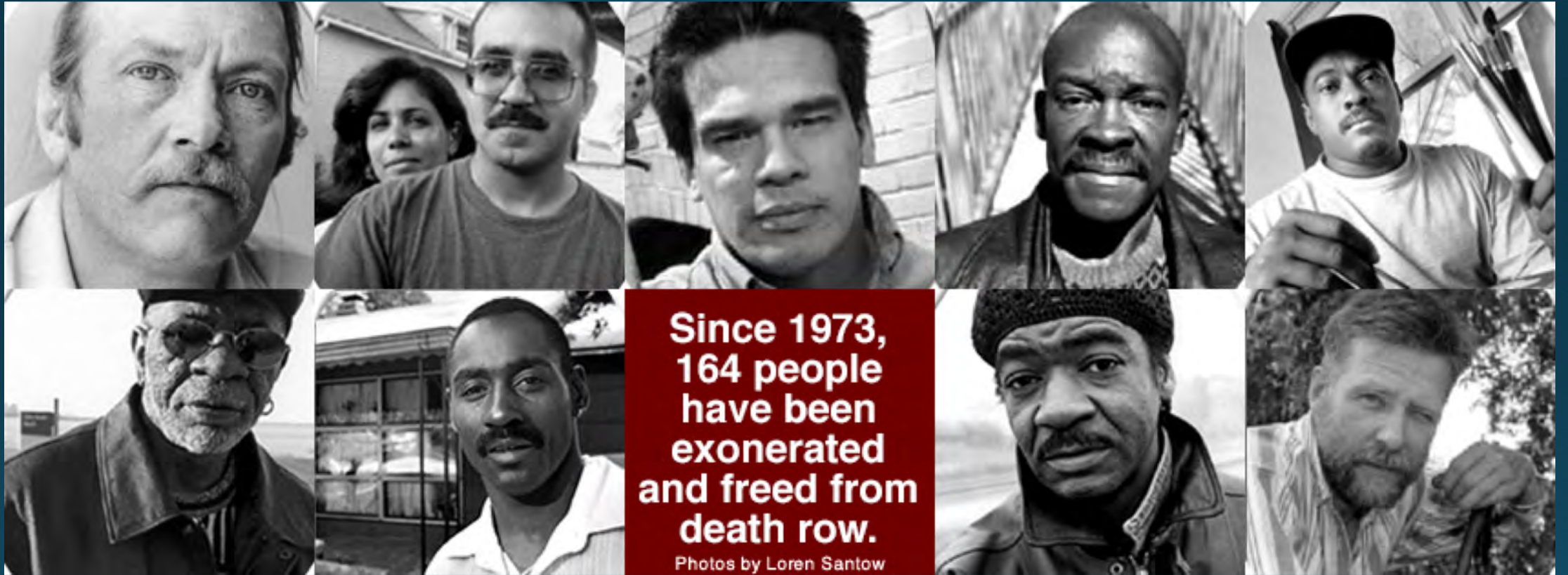


Fig. 2. Percentage of death sentences imposed in (a) cases involving White victims and (b) cases involving Black victims as a function of the perceived stereotypicality of Black defendants' appearance.

Innocence and the Death Penalty



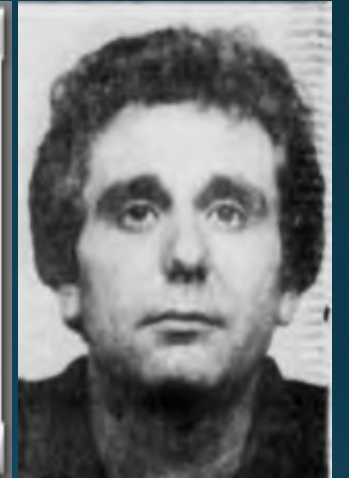
Innocence and the Death Penalty



Innocence in Philadelphia

Exonerated:

Harold Wilson, William Nieves, Neil Ferber



Innocence in Philadelphia

Should Be Exonerated:

Fred Thomas, Jimmy Dennis, Daniel Dougherty, Walter Ograd

