

# MADP

Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty



## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY



### Does the death penalty deter crime? NO EVIDENCE.

23%  
lower

There is no credible information with the last 50 years of research indicating that the death penalty deters violent crime. In 2013, murder rates were 23% lower in states without the death penalty.

The last decade of reports from the FBI indicates states without the death penalty have lower murder rates than states with the death penalty.

-Death Penalty Information Center



### Does the death penalty save money? NO, IT COSTS MORE.

Legal costs, pre-trial costs, jury selection, trial, incarceration, appeals, retrial costs make the death penalty expensive.

A 2014 nonpartisan study by the Kansas Legislature found that death penalty cases cost 3-4 times more than similar cases where the death penalty is not sought.

-Death Penalty Information Center



On average in the US, "...each trial causes an increase in county spending of 1.8 percent and an increase in county revenues of 1.6 percent, implying an increase of more than \$1.6 billion in both expenditures and revenues between 1982 and 1997."

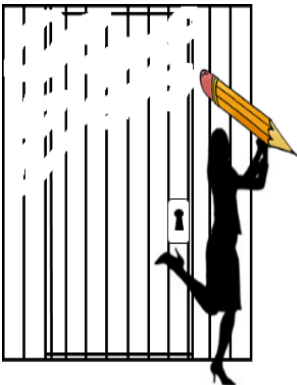
-Baiker, K., 2001. *The Budgetary Repercussions of Capital Convictions*



### Are innocent people convicted? YES, MISTAKES HAPPEN.

Since 1973, there have been at least 155 individuals in the U.S. sentenced to death and later exonerated. How many were missed?

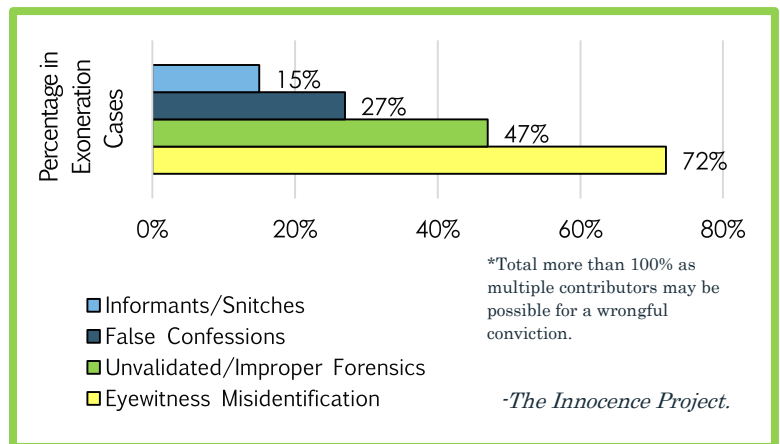
The four following Missouri exonerees spent an average of 17 years in prison:



- Clarence Dexter
- Eric Clemmons
- Joseph Amrine
- Reginald Griffin

-Death Penalty Information Center

### Reasons for Wrongful Convictions



Exculpatory DNA has overturned hundreds of wrongful convictions and as of 2015, 20 cases in the U.S. have exonerated death row inmates. Most of those wrongfully convicted spent an average of 14 years in prison.

-The Innocence Project.



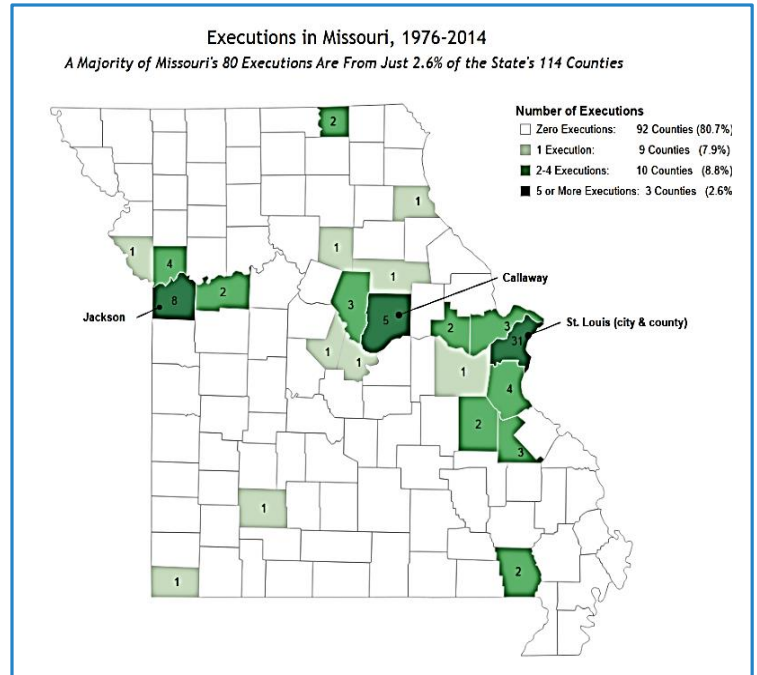


## Are executions fair? NO, THEY ARE ARBITRARY.

Factors such as geographical location, economical means, legal counsel experience, and race impact prosecution cases.

- **Geography:** Depending on the people, resources, and political atmosphere, similar crimes are prosecuted differently.
- **Economics:** Most defendants cannot afford an attorney and must rely on court-appointed attorneys.
- **Defendant Representation:** Some attorneys have limited experience with capital punishment.
- **Race:** Executions are more likely in cases where the victim is white. In Missouri, executions are seven times more likely in cases involving white victims than in cases involving black victims.

*-Death Penalty Information Center*



*-Baumgartner, F. (2015). The Impact of Race, Gender, and Geography on Missouri Executions.*



## Is there closure for victims' families with the death penalty? READ THEIR STATEMENTS.

*"We have found that killing to stop killing is insane [...]. We needed reconciliation, not vengeance."*

*-John & Reva Griffith, MO*

*"There was no healing until I could visit with the two murderers in prison. If they would have been executed, healing would have been impossible."*

*-Doris Macha, MO*

*"People should be able to try to redeem themselves," and the death penalty denies that possibility. Family members of victim, Emily Miller, reported neither closure nor relief upon the execution of Anthony LaRette in Missouri.*



## Are execution practices humane? NO.

Despite efforts to make executions appear to be a humane, medical procedure with lethal injection, 2014 was a year rife with botched executions. Inmates reportedly gasped, choked, and struggled before succumbing, long after the lethal dose was intended to take full effect. The secrecy of drug combinations, their sources, and the ability for prison staff to competently administer the lethal dose are all fraught with doubt and difficulty.

**"Executions should not be run by trial and error"**

**"BOTCHED EXECUTION RENEWS DEATH PENALTY DEBATE"**



**"Arizona inmate takes nearly two hours to die in botched execution"**



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**Justice for all.**