
**STUDY FINDINGS:**

**Adult LWOP Sentencing in NC, 1995-2017**

- Beginning in 1995, LWOP sentences quickly increased in numbers.
- During that time, homicide rates steadily declined in NC.
- Death sentences also steadily declined in NC after 1999.

**COUNTIES & PROSECUTORS:**

**Number of LWOP Sentences in Each NC County**

- 65% of NC counties have zero LWOP sentences in each year.

**DEMOGRAPHICS:**

**Race of Persons Serving LWOP Sentences in NC**

- There are 1,627 offenders currently serving LWOP sentences.
- 1,543 men and 84 women.
- 1,551 were convicted of first or second degree murder.
- 64 were convicted of violent habitual felonies.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- We find that prior LWOP sentences strongly predict LWOP sentences at the county level, suggesting inertia in local prosecution practices.
- We find fewer LWOP sentences as the homicide rate increases within a county.
- We find that fewer LWOP sentences are predicted to occur as the number of black victim homicides increase in a county.
- No such relationship is found when considering the number of white victim homicides.

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