

A Statistical Analysis of Capital Punishment

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Abstract

The proportion of African Americans on death row and the proportion of African Americans sentenced to the death penalty are significantly different. A two sample z test of significance clearly shows that African Americans constitute a significant proportion of the population of death row but a much smaller proportion of the population of the United States. Between Non-African Americans and African Americans on death row, a two sample z test shows that the population of Non-African Americans on death row is not significantly different than the population of African Americans. The disproportionate amount of African Americans on death row to the population size can be related in part to socioeconomic data. The distribution of incomes among African Americans in the United States is shown in a skewed right histogram. The mean income of African Americans is also significantly less than the income of Non-African Americans as shown in a two sample z test.