



6. Number of inmates whose death sentences have been confirmed (Since 1950)

The following statistics are based on the “Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Gyokei-Tokei)” (“行刑統計年報”, 1950-1959) and the “Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Kyosei-Tokei)” (“矯正統計年報”1960 to present).

Year		Total number of death row inmates with confirmed death sentences at the end of year	Number of death row inmates whose death sentences were confirmed prior to this year	Number of death row inmates whose death sentences were newly confirmed this year	Reasons for inmates leaving death row					remarks	Sources	
					released	executed	death sentence commuted	died	escaped			
Showa 25	1950	73	82	25		31	2	1			Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Gyokei-Tokei)	1950, Table 53, p.174
Showa 26	1951	81	73	32		24						1951, Table 52, p.174
Showa 27	1952	92	81	41		18	11*		1	*Pardon		1952, Table 49, p.202
Showa 28	1953	93	92	25		24						1953, Table 49, p.208
Showa 29	1954	80	93	21		30	4*			*Commuted to life imprisonment by pardon		1954, Table 49, p.208
Showa 30	1955	62	80	14		32						1955, Table 50, p.222
Showa 31	1956	75	62	24		11						1956, Table 54, p.208
Showa 32	1957	62	75	27		39		1*		*Dead by disease		1959, Table 22, p.66
Showa 33	1958	76	62	21		7						1958, Table 22, p.66
Showa 34	1959	57	76	12		30		1*		*Dead by disease		1959, Table 22, p.66
Showa 35	1960	51	57	33		39					Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Kyosei-Tokei)	
Showa 36	1961	69	51	25*		6			1	*Includes detained escapee		1962, Table 23, p.72
Showa 37	1962	56	69	13		26						
Showa 38	1963	61	56	17		12						1964, Table 23, p.72
Showa 39	1964	70	61	9								
Showa 40	1965	72	70	7		4		1				1965, Table 17, p.41
Showa 41	1966	81	72	13		4						1966, Table 17, p.41
Showa 42	1967	71	81	14		23		1				1967, Table 17, p.41
Showa 43	1968	82	71	11								1968, Table 17, p.41
Showa 44	1969	71	82	10		18	1	2				1969, Table 11, p.37
Showa 45	1970	58	71	14		26	1				1970, Table 11, p.37	
Showa 46	1971	48	58	7		17					1975, Table 12, p.41	
Showa 47	1972	47	48	7		7		1				
Showa 48	1973	49	47	5		3					1976, Table 12, p.41	

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Showa 49	1974	46	49	2		4		1			1978, Table 11, p.37
Showa 50	1975	29	46	3		17	1	2			
Showa 51	1976	18	29	1		12					
Showa 52	1977	16	18	3		4		1			
Showa 53	1978	17	16	0		3					
Showa 54	1979	20	17	4		1					
Showa 55	1980	26	20	7		1					
Showa 56	1981	28	26	3		1					
Showa 57	1982	28	28	1		1					
Showa 58	1983	27	28	1	1	1					
Showa 59	1984	27	27	3	2	1					
Showa 60	1985	26	27	2		3					
Showa 61	1986	24	26			2					
Showa 62	1987	28	24	7		2		1			
Showa 63	1988	38	28	12		2					
Showa 64 / Heisei 1	1989	40	38	5	1	1		1			
Heisei 2	1990	46	40	6							
Heisei 3	1991	51	46	5							
Heisei 4	1992	56	51	5							
Heisei 5	1993	56	56	7		7					
Heisei 6	1994	57	56	3		2					

1996 Table 11, p.39

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Heisei 7	1995	54	57	3		6					2001 Table 16, p.81
Heisei 8	1996	51	54	3		6					
Heisei 9	1997	51	51	4		4					
Heisei 10	1998	52	51	7		6					
Heisei 11	1999	50	52	4		5		1			
Heisei 12	2000	53	50	6		3					
Heisei 13	2001	55	53	4		2					
Heisei 14	2002	57	55	4		2					
Heisei 15	2003	56	57	2		1		2			
Heisei 16	2004	66	56	13		2		1			
Heisei 17	2005	77	66	12		1					
Heisei 18	2006	94	77	21		4					
Heisei 19	2007	107	94	23		9		1			
Heisei 20	2008	100	107	10		15		2			
Heisei 21	2009	104*	100	15		7		4	*106. in "Annual Report of Statistics on Prosecution"		
Heisei 22	2010	111	104	11		2		2			
Heisei 23	2011	128	111	20				3			
Heisei 24	2012	133	128	12		7					
Heisei 25	2013	130	133	8		8		3			
Heisei 26	2014	127	130	6	1	3		5			
Heisei 27	2015	126	127	3		3		1			
Heisei 28	2016	128	126	7		3		2			

2016 Table 16.

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Heisei 29	2017	122	128	2		4		4			2017 Table 16.
Heisei 30	2018	109	122	2		15					2018 Table 16.
Heisei 31/ Reiwa 1	2019	110	109	5		3	1*			*the category of “commuted” means transfer to another category other than being sentenced to death for reasons such as pardon (see note1 below)	2019 Table 16.
Reiwa 2	2020	109	110	3				4			2020 Table 16.
Reiwa 3	2021	107	109	4		3		3			2021 Table 16.
Reiwa 4	2022	106	107			1					2022 Table 16.
Reiwa 5	2023	106	106	3				3			2023 Table 16.

Note 1: In the Glossary of Terms of “Annual Report of Statistics on Correction (Kyosei-Tokei)”, a “commutation” is defined as “transfer to a category other than death-row convict, on grounds such as pardon”. According to the “Annual Report of Statistics on Rehabilitation” (“保護統計”) of 2019, routine pardons (“常時恩赦”) were not granted to any death-row inmates. Other categories of commutations such as pardons by cabinet order (“政令恩赦”) and pardons by special standards (“特別基準恩赦”) were not available for death row inmates. Accordingly, it may be presumed that the one person who was “commuted” in FY2019 in fact withdrew his appeal against death sentence by trial court and then refuted its validity and effectiveness, and that the report categorised this transfer of status from “death-row convict” to “unsentenced inmate” as a “commutation”. However, in that case, the number of death row inmates at the end of 2019 should be 110, as indicated in this statistics, which is inconsistent with the Minister of Justice’s extraordinary press conference on Thursday, December 26, 2019, where the number of inmates on death row in custody was stated to be 111.

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