

Table I: Bible Belt Executions under the Modern American Death Penalty

The Bible-belt churches are relatively unaffected by the secular statistics and studies which have influenced much of the rest of the country on the death penalty. Their position is that secular reporting of the problems with the American death penalty has no bearing on God’s will as reflected in God’s Word. As opposed to moving away from the death penalty, like the rest of Americans, the conservative evangelical Christians in the Bible-belt are digging in to defend the veracity of the Bible by defending the American death penalty.

“... In the summer of 2000, even as other conservatives voiced their doubts, the increasingly fundamentalist Southern Baptist Convention explicitly endorsed capital punishment for the first time ...”^a

This religious fervor is significant. The death penalty, as practiced in America today, is a Bible-belt phenomenon.”^b

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Executions</u>	<u>Number of Executions In the Bible-belt</u>	<u>Percentage in Bible-belt*</u>
1999-2005	504	437 ^c	91.6%
2006	53	44 ^d	83%
2007	42	36 ^e	86%
2008	37	35 ^f	95%
2009	52	46 ^g	89%
2010	46	35 ^h	76%
2011	43	32 ⁱ	74%
2012	43	30 ^j	70%
2013	39	34 ^k	87%
2014	35	33 ^l	94%
2015	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u> ^m	<u>100%</u>
Sixteen Year Total	922	790	85.7%
1976 – 2015ⁿ	1,419	1,218^o	85.8%

Over 85% of the 1,419 executions that have taken place at the state level in the U.S. since 1976 have taken place in the Bible-belt. (* All percentages are rounded to nearest whole number.)

^a Berg, “Religious Conservatives,” 33, at note 11, referring to “2000 Southern Baptist Convention Resolution on Capital Punishment Passed in Orlando, Florida in June, 2000 (reproduced in Appendix C to the book below).

^b Recinella, Dale S., *The Biblical Truth about America’s Death Penalty* (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 2004), p. 10. © 2004 Dale S. Recinella. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

^c Bible-belt Executions (1999-2005): TX 191, VA 35, OK 66, MO 34, FL 17, NC 28, GA 16, SC 15, AL 17, LA 3, AR 10, MS 3, TN 1, and KY 1: **Total 437**.

^d Bible-belt Executions (**2006**): TX 24, VA 4, OK 4, FL 4, NC 4, SC 1, AL 1, MS 1 and TN 1: **Total 44**.

- e Bible-belt Executions (2007): TX 26, OK 3, GA 1, SC 1, AL 3 and TN 2: **Total 36.**
- f Bible-belt Executions (2008): TX 18, VA 4, OK 2, FL 2, GA 3, SC 3, MS 2 and KY 1: **Total 35.**
- g Bible-belt Executions (2009): TX 24, VA 3, OK 3, FL 2, MO 1, GA 3, SC 2, AL 6 and TN 2: **Total 46.**
- h Bible-belt Executions (2010): TX 17, AL 5, VA 3, OK 3, MS 3, GA 2, FL 1 and LA 1: **Total 35.**
- i Bible-belt Executions (2011): TX 13, AL 6, VA 1, OK 2, MS 2, GA 4, FL 2, SC 1 and MO 1: **Total 32.**
- j Bible-belt Executions (2012): TX 15, OK 6, MS 6, and FL 3: **Total 30.**
- k Bible-belt Executions (2013): TX 16, VA 1, OK 6, FL 7, MO 2, GA 1, AL 1: **Total 34.**
- l Bible-belt Executions (2014): TX 10, OK 3, FL 8, MO 10, GA 2: **Total 33.**
- m Bible-belt Executions (2015): TX 13, VA 1, OK 1, FL 2, MO 6, GA 5: **Total 28.**
- n During this period, three (3) executions have occurred at the Federal level.
- o **Bible-belt Executions (from 1976 thru 2015): TX 531, OK 112, VA 111, FL 91, MO 86, AL 56, GA 60, NC 43, SC 43, LA 28, AR 27, MS 21, TN 6 and KY 3: Total 1,218.**

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