

### 4. Number of death sentences in Supreme court (Since 1956)

The following statistics are based on the "Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') ("司法統計年報," from FY1956 to the present)".

| YEAR                |      | Total number of sentences in Supreme Court | Outcomes of Supreme Court proceedings in cases of death sentences imposed by High Courts |                                |               |                                     |                  |                      |                  | Sources  |   |   |
|---------------------|------|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|---|---|
|                     |      |  | Number of appeals  | High Court judgments reversed  |               | Supreme Court remanded/tr ansferred | Appeal dismissed | Indictment dismissed | Appeal withdrawn | Supreme Court substituted lesser sentence of High Court court with death penalty | Results of the Supreme court in case of death penalty sentenced by High Courts: Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') II(Criminal) | Reversed by High Courts and imposed the death penalty                                       |
|                     |      |  |  | Supreme Court imposed sentence | death penalty |                                     |                  |                      |                  |  |   |   |
| Showa 31            | 1956 | 17   | 17   |                                |               |                                     | 17               |                      |                  | -  | 1956 vol.2, p.420-1, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 6)   | See the "5. Number of death sentences and life imprisonment sentences by trial level" page. |
| Showa 32            | 1957 | 19   | 23   |                                |               | 4                                   | 19               |                      |                  |  | 1957 vol.2, p.386-7, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)   |   |
| Showa 33            | 1958 | 17   | 17   |                                |               |                                     | 17               |                      |                  |  | 1958 vol.2, p.304-5, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)   |   |
| Showa 34            | 1959 | 12   | 17   |                                |               | 5                                   | 12               |                      |                  |  | 1959 vol.2, p.304-5, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)   |   |
| Showa 35            | 1960 | 31   | 32   |                                |               |                                     | 31               |                      | 1                |  | 1960 vol.2, p.308-9, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)   |   |
| Showa 36            | 1961 | 16   | 16   |                                |               |                                     | 16               |                      |                  |  | 1961 vol.2, p.308-9, Cases of Criminal Appeals(Table 7)   |   |
| Showa 37            | 1962 | 13   | 13   |                                |               |                                     | 13               |                      |                  |  | 1962 vol.2, p.310-1   |   |
| Showa 38            | 1963 | 13   | 13   |                                |               |                                     | 13               |                      |                  |  | 1963 vol.2, p.278-9, (Table 93)   |   |
| Showa 39            | 1964 | 10   | 10   |                                |               |                                     | 10               |                      |                  |  | 1964 vol.2, p.278-9, (Table 93)   |   |
| Showa 40            | 1965 | 5  | 6  |                                |               |                                     | 5                | 1                    |                  |  | 1965, p.566-7, (Table 89)   |   |
| Showa 41            | 1966 | 9  | 10   |                                |               |                                     | 9                |                      | 1                |  | 1966, p.566-7, (Table 88)   |   |
| Showa 42            | 1967 | 12   | 12   |                                |               |                                     | 12               |                      |                  |  | 1967, p.554-5, (Table 87)   |   |
| Showa 43            | 1968 | 8  | 9  |                                | 1(acquitted)  |                                     | 8                |                      |                  |  | 1968, p.542-3, (Table 87)   |   |
| Showa 44            | 1969 | 9  | 9  |                                |               |                                     | 9                |                      |                  |  | 1969, p.554-5, (Table 87)   |   |
| Showa 45            | 1970 | 9  | 10   |                                |               | 1                                   | 9                |                      |                  |  | 1970, p.552-3, (Table 87)   |   |
| Showa 46            | 1971 | 6  | 7  |                                |               |                                     | 6                |                      | 1                |  | 1971, p.556-7, (Table 87)   |   |
| Showa 47            | 1972 | 6  | 6  |                                |               |                                     | 6                |                      |                  |  | 1972, p.580-1, (Table 87)   |   |
| Showa 48            | 1973 | 3  | 4  |                                |               |                                     | 3                |                      | 1                |  | 1973, p.588-9, (Table 82)   |   |
| Showa 49            | 1974 | 1  | 2  |                                |               |                                     | 1                |                      | 1                |  | 1974, p.586-7, (Table 82)   |   |
| Showa 50            | 1975 | 2  | 2  |                                |               |                                     | 2                |                      |                  |  | 1975, p.358-9, (Table 72)   |   |
| Showa 51            | 1976 | 1  | 1  |                                |               |                                     | 1                |                      |                  |  | 1976, p.368-2, (Table 72)   |   |
| Showa 52            | 1977 | 2  | 2  |                                |               |                                     | 2                |                      |                  |  | 1978, p.368-2, (Table 72)   |   |
| Showa 53            | 1978 | 4  | 5  |                                |               | 1                                   | 4                |                      |                  |  | 1979, p.350-1, (Table 69)   |   |
| Showa 54            | 1979 | 4  | 4  |                                |               |                                     | 4                |                      |                  |  | 1979, p.350-1, (Table 69)   |   |
| Showa 55            | 1980 | 4  | 4  |                                |               |                                     | 4                |                      |                  |  | 1980, p.350-1, (Table 69)   |   |
| Showa 56            | 1981 | 3  | 3  |                                |               |                                     | 3                |                      |                  |  | 1981, p.350-1, (Table 69)   |   |
| Showa 57            | 1982 |  |  |                                |               |                                     |                  |                      |                  |  | 1982, p.350-1, (Table 69)   |   |
| Showa 58            | 1983 |  |  |                                |               |                                     |                  |                      |                  |  | 1983, p.346-7, (Table 69)   |   |
| Showa 59            | 1984 | 3  | 3  |                                |               |                                     | 3                |                      |                  |  | 1984, p.346-7, (Table 69)   |   |
| Showa 60            | 1985 | 1  | 1  |                                |               |                                     | 1                |                      |                  |  | 1985, p.348-9, (Table 70)   |   |
| Showa 61            | 1986 |  |  |                                |               |                                     |                  |                      |                  |  | 1986, p.348-9, (Table 70)   |   |
| Showa 62            | 1987 | 6  | 6  |                                |               |                                     | 6                |                      |                  |  | 1987, p.348-9, (Table 70)   |   |
| Showa 63            | 1988 | 7  | 9  |                                |               |                                     | 7                |                      | 2                |  | 1988, p.348-9, (Table 70)   |   |
| Showa 64 / Heisei 1 | 1989 | 5  | 7  |                                |               | 1                                   | 5                |                      | 1                |  | 1989, p.360-1, (Table 70)   |   |
| Heisei 2            | 1990 | 7  | 7  |                                |               |                                     | 7                |                      |                  |  | 1990, p.360-1, (Table 70)   |   |
| Heisei 3            | 1991 | 4  | 4  |                                |               |                                     | 4                |                      |                  |  | 1991, p.368-9, (Table 70)   |   |

### 4. Number of death sentences in Supreme court (Since 1956)

The following statistics are based on the "Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') ("司法統計年報," from FY1956 to the present)".

| YEAR                  | Total number of sentences in Supreme Court | Outcomes of Supreme Court proceedings in cases of death sentences imposed by High Courts |                                |               |                                     |                  |                      |                  | Sources  |   |   |   |
|-----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|---|---|---|
|                       |  | Number of appeals  | High Court judgments reversed  |               | Supreme Court remanded/tr ansferred | Appeal dismissed | Indictment dismissed | Appeal withdrawn | Supreme Court substituted lesser sentence of High Court court with death penalty | Results of the Supreme court in case of death penalty sentenced by High Courts: Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') II(Criminal) | Reversed by High Courts and imposed the death penalty |   |
|                       |  |  | Supreme Court imposed sentence | death penalty |                                     |                  |                      |                  |  |   |   | sentence other than death penalty   |
| Heisei 4              | 1992                                       | 4  | 5                              |               |                                     |                  | 4                    | 1                |  |   | 1992, p.368-9, (Table 70)                             | See the "5. Number of death sentences and life imprisonment sentences by trial level" page. |
| Heisei 5              | 1993                                       | 5  | 6                              |               |                                     |                  | 5                    |                  | 1  |   | 1993, p.370-1, (Table 70)                             |   |
| Heisei 6              | 1994                                       | 2  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 2                    |                  | 1  |   | 1994, p.370-1, (Table 70)                             |   |
| Heisei 7              | 1995                                       | 3  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 3                    |                  |  |   | 1995, p.370-1, (Table 70)                             |   |
| Heisei 8              | 1996                                       | 4  | 5                              |               | 1 (life imprisonment)               |                  | 4                    |                  |  |   | 1996, p.370-1, (Table 70)                             |   |
| Heisei 9              | 1997                                       | 4  | 4                              |               |                                     |                  | 4                    |                  |  |   | 1997, p.370-1, (Table 68)                             |   |
| Heisei 10             | 1998                                       | 5  | 5                              |               |                                     |                  | 5                    |                  |  |   | 1998, p.370-1, (Table 68)                             |   |
| Heisei 11             | 1999                                       | 4  | 4                              |               |                                     |                  | 4                    |                  |  |   | 1999, p.114-5, (Table 63)                             |   |
| Heisei 12             | 2000                                       | 3  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 3                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2000, p.114-5, (Table 63)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 13             | 2001                                       | 4  | 4                              |               |                                     |                  | 4                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2001, p.114-5, (Table 63)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 14             | 2002                                       | 2  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 2                    | 1                |  |   | <a href="#">2002, p.114-5, (Table 63)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 15             | 2003                                       | 0  | 2                              |               |                                     |                  |                      | 1                | 1  |   | <a href="#">2003, p.114-5, (Table 63)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 16             | 2004                                       | 13   | 14                             |               |                                     |                  | 13                   | 1                |  |   | <a href="#">2004, p.114-5, (Table 63)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 17             | 2005                                       | 10   | 10                             |               |                                     |                  | 10                   |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2005, p.116-7, (Table 64)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 18             | 2006                                       | 16   | 16                             |               |                                     |                  | 16                   |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2006, p.128-9, (Table 72)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 19             | 2007                                       | 18   | 19                             |               |                                     |                  | 18                   |                  | 1  |   | <a href="#">2007, p.128-9, (Table 72)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 20             | 2008                                       | 8  | 10                             |               |                                     |                  | 8                    | 1                | 1  |   | <a href="#">2008, p.128-9, (Table 72)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 21             | 2009                                       | 16   | 17                             |               |                                     |                  | 16                   |                  | 1  |   | <a href="#">2009, p.134-5, (Table 77)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 22             | 2010                                       | 7  | 8                              |               |                                     | 1                | 7                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2010, p.140-1, (Table 80)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 23             | 2011                                       | 22   | 22                             |               |                                     |                  | 22                   |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2011, p.140-1, (Table 80)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 24             | 2012                                       | 9  | 10                             |               |                                     |                  | 9                    |                  | 1  |   | <a href="#">2012, p.140-1, (Table 80)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 25             | 2013                                       | 6  | 6                              |               |                                     |                  | 6                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2013, p.140-1, (Table 80)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 26             | 2014                                       | 6  | 6                              |               |                                     |                  | 6                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2014, p.140-1, (Table 80)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 27             | 2015                                       | 3  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 3                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2015, p.140-1, (Table 80)</a>             |   |
| Heisei 28             | 2016                                       | 6  | 6                              |               |                                     |                  | 6                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2016, Table 80</a>                        |   |
| Heisei 29             | 2017                                       | 3  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 3                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2017, Table 80</a>                        |   |
| Heisei 30             | 2018                                       | 2  | 2                              |               |                                     |                  | 2                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2018, Table 80</a>                        |   |
| Heisei 31/<br>Reiwa 1 | 2019                                       | 3  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 3                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2019, Table 80</a>                        |   |
| Reiwa 2               | 2020                                       | 1  | 1                              |               |                                     |                  | 1                    |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2020, Table 80</a>                        |   |
| Reiwa 3               | 2021                                       | 2  | 3                              |               |                                     |                  | 2                    |                  | 1  |   | <a href="#">2021, Table 80</a>                        |   |
| Reiwa 4               | 2022                                       | 0  |                                |               |                                     |                  |                      |                  |  |   | <a href="#">2022, Table 80</a>                        |   |

Hyphens ("-") mean that no statistical data exists.

The statistics on the number of death sentences issued by the High Courts and the Supreme Court, as compiled by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, "Considering the Abolition of the Death Penalty([https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/activity/criminal/deathpenalty/shiryou.html#data02\\_1](https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/activity/criminal/deathpenalty/shiryou.html#data02_1))", were calculated using the following formulas:

[total sentences in High Courts] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered] + [withdrawal]  
 [total sentences in Supreme Court] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered] + [withdrawal]

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|------|--|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|--|---|---|
|      |  | Number of appeals  | High Court judgments reversed  |                                     | Appeal dismissed | Indictment dismissed | Appeal withdrawn |  | Results of the Supreme court in case of death penalty sentenced by High Courts: Annual Report of Judicial Statistics ('Shiho-Tokei') II(Criminal) | Reversed by High Courts and imposed the death penalty |
|      |  |  | Supreme Court imposed sentence | Supreme Court remanded/tr ansferred |                  |                      |                  |  |   |   |
|      |  |  | death penalty                  | sentence other than death penalty   |                  |                      |                  |  |   |   |

We calculated these same statistics by using the following formulas:

[total sentences in High Courts] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered]

[total sentences in Supreme Court] = [dismissal] + [reversed and rendered]

Recommended citation: "Number of death sentences in Supreme court(crimeinfo.jp)"