

December 31, 2009

Name
Title
Respondent Agency
Address 1
Address2
City, State, Zip Code

Dear Name:

Once again it is time to collect information pertaining to the status of State and Federal death penalty statutes. The information that you and others provide makes it possible for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to publish its annual report on capital punishment. In addition to providing statistics on persons under sentence of death and executions, the report tracks changes in death penalty laws over time.

The enclosed questionnaire refers to death penalty laws enacted in your jurisdiction during the period January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. We have developed an online version of the form. We anticipate that this will be more convenient and less time-consuming for many of our respondents. The online version will be available at <https://respond.census.gov/nps8ag> beginning January 19, 2010. When you are ready to submit, please contact Colette Heiston or Steve Bittner at 1-800-221-1829, so they can provide you with the *survey key* you will need to access the online forms. We would greatly appreciate your participation and any feedback that you can provide.

If submitting your form online is not feasible, please FAX your forms to (301) 763-3930. Please include both the front and back pages.

Regardless of which submission option you choose, we would like to receive your form no later than **February 12, 2010**. If you have questions or any need assistance, call Colette Heiston at the Census Bureau at (800) 221-1829.

The Census Bureau collects these data for BJS, under the authority of Title 42, U.S.C. § 3732. Your participation is voluntary; however, your cooperation is extremely important in helping us assemble an accurate picture of capital punishment in the United States.

We would like to thank you for your participation in this data collection program. If we can assist you in meeting your information needs, feel free to explore our web site at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov> or call us directly at (202) 307-0765.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Snell, *Statistician*
Corrections Statistics Program

William J. Sabol, Ph.D., *Chief*
Corrections Statistics Program

Enclosure