## The death penalty and juveniles



In the United States, the death penalty is an issue because of its controversies. Some people see it as a punishment. Some people say " an eye for an eye," and believe this is the way to stop youth offenders from following the path of crimes such as murders. This does not only pertain to the youth but also to the adults. Others believe the death penalty to be cruel and unusual punishment even for the adults. In the law, juveniles are no different when considering the death penalty. These people believe a juvenile should be sentenced to death for murder. Then there are those who believe juveniles should not be sentenced to death. Proposal

The intent of this report is to collect the available data and information on the death penalty for juvenile offenders. This is not to argue about the pros and cons of the death penalty and juveniles, but to give data it can inform the controversial argument to focus on the Death Penalty and Juveniles. This is important to the general area under study because it will give a clearer view on the opinions of each person on the death penalty and juveniles.

The intent is to provide details of death penalty and juveniles, whereas to give an understanding of what causes these young offenders to commit a crime and why the law agrees with the death penalty on juveniles with no difference from the adults. Additional studies show the death penalty used with juveniles may perhaps appear to be civilized or not. Sentencing a juvenile to death could lead to asking questions for instance Is the Death Penalty something we should really use on juveniles? What is the cost to keep the juveniles incarcerated for their lives? What would the cost be to execute them?

How would the world respond to a mistake happening during an execution involving a juvenile? How can we execute juveniles in a manner people would deem acceptable? How can we consider killing a juvenile when we have so many people die in ways he or she were not intended to during their executions?

The most important reason and focus on the juvenile system was to hold juveniles responsible for their delinquent's acts with the use of rehabilitation. Though the delinquent acts of the juveniles have escalated from theft to killings making there behavioral acts more violent than before. The issues emerging from the death penalty on juveniles are the human rights, financial cost and unconstitutional cruelty. Another emerged issue was on how implementing the death penalty on children is "immoral and uncivilized" (Montaldo, 2011). Rational

The system should make many changes if the only options are killing a juvenile at such a young age. Killing a juvenile is very serious so we should be quick to do this no matter what their crime. If it does not work correctly they can suffer and no one wants this to happen. The problem with killing a person for crimes is worse if a child suffered during an execution. The system needs to find a method to work or a way to improve the system so it begins to rehabilitate those inside.

The manipulations/variations is a test of the number of juveniles are rehabilitated compared to those not while serving sentences or on probation for whatever reason and see if the cost would make it worth continuing or let these juveniles be given the death sentence. The variation would be the

deciding factor in either continuing the rehabilitation or just saying well these children are costing too much money lets sentence them like adults commit the same crime (no matter what the age) and call it a day. Another variation could be monitored for juveniles are the facts on rehabilitation and those released from prison.

Are these children followed to see if they progress on with a normal life without any kind of criminal history or are they on a path of destruction almost from the start of leaving prison? It would be interesting for statistics if there were numbers to look at and compare.

All motivation would be for education and rehabilitation the more the inmate would apply themselves to seek both help and knowledge the easier doing the time would be. Executing this juvenile without any type of rehabilitation or looking at other types of treatment would be just giving up on them and saying their lives are nothing. Acts of regression and noncompliance without education would make stimulus sentences much more difficult for the progress or to lighten their sentence. If an inmate would happen to be put on death row and await execution they could still be rehabilitated for such purposes of an inmate granted a stay of execution by the governor. Inmates must follow the requirements to progress in their rehab.

If inmates are not progressing they are failing. If an inmate who is in rehabilitation and they fail they are costing tax payers more money and may add to their sentence no reducing it, which in turn is adding to their sentences if they are not on death row they are just making it more difficult

for themselves. An inmate could advance and conform if they listened and obeyed the rules. Make the most of prison life is all they could do if they are on death row awaiting for nothing other than to die. Doing this to juveniles without seeing if it is more conceivable to rehabilitate is giving up on our youth today. Just say death row for every child who kills an abuser or has a mental problem and commits a heinous crime! Is this what we want for our youth of America?

The statistics of how rehabilitation works on juveniles being looked at for the death penalty compared to those just looked at for a prison term and may be subjected to a stricter rehabilitation in hopes of making these young people become model citizens someday. This will give proof rehabilitation could work or no longer works on prisoners regardless of race, religion, background and poverty level. The system itself should be classified as failures. All inmates treated the same and when evaluations come up all areas in an inmate's time in prison should be examined. Social therapy, exercise, basically all aspects would need to be controlled to have uniformity and equal opportunity. To make sure all prisoners have the chance to rehabilitate and make a possible future if the death penalty were to not be an issue.

The death penalty will be at the forefront of all issues with the young criminals until someone sees how he or she do with the rehabilitation and make it known there is hope for our youth. There would be variable differences from model inmates to the mad dog killer type of criminals and all personalities in the middle. The types of personalities are different before entering the criminal justice system. There is no way to control the effect if all subjects are treated equal then the effects would be minimal. If all

inmates have the same effects then the system may be flawed. Inmates are different no matter what crime they have committed they have to be treated for each individual case. If all are treated the same you will not know how to protect or how they are going to actually act to treatment.

## **Background Information**

The reasons individuals kill others are blurred by race, gender and age but they should really be made clear making it with no issues on people can claim as biased. The system also needs to find a method possessing no flaws in it making a person suffer. The prison system has failed us because for more than two hundred years we believed it was working, but it is not true. The prisons have more people than ever before and the people are not coming out of the system rehabilitated. The ways people die in our system are cruel and unusual punishment and this is because of the mistakes made during the routine methods he or she performs during an execution.

The mistakes have killed people slowly and with the wrong drugs in their system at the wrong time and some case they have caught fire and been burned although they are still alive (Radelet, 2010). The ways we use cannot be considered on a child as long as he or she have flaws may make a child suffer because this would have the wrong effect on the way the system works.