

Peterson summarizes these findings as follows:

Even after controlling for important legally relevant factors like the presence of multiple victims or a felony, logistic regression results indicate that murders with Black and Hispanic defendants are more likely to involve a special circumstance, a death notice, and a death verdict. Moreover, cases with Black victims are less likely to result in a special circumstance, death notice, and death sentence compared to cases with White victims. Finally, these findings are especially pronounced in cases involving White victims and minority defendants, where they are more likely to result in a special circumstance, death notice, and death sentence.¹⁹

The results of the **SHR part** of the Riverside County study mimic the results of the overall California capital regime. Peterson summarizes the findings from this part of his Riverside County study as follows:

the SHR study finds that homicides with Black and Hispanic suspects are more likely to result in a death sentence even when controlling for other non-racial factors when compared to homicides with White suspects. Conversely, homicides with Black or Hispanic victims are less likely to result in a death sentence than those with White victims. Similar to the charging study, results also indicate that homicides involving White victims and minority defendants are more likely to result in a death sentence.

In other words, the Riverside study mimics the findings of the studies in Part I that examined homicide cases for the entire state of California.

6. Petersen, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Santa Clara County's Death Penalty System (Sept. 22, 2020).

Location: Santa Clara County

This report uses logistic regression to examine whether victim and suspect racial/ethnic disparities exist in Santa Clara County death sentencing trends from 1976 to 2018, and Petersen follows the same basic approach he employed in his SHR study in the previous paper. Specifically, Peterson gathers SHR data on all homicides reported to the police in Santa Clara County between 1976-2018. The SHR provides information on victim and incident characteristics. The author also uses death sentencing data from the Habeas Corpus Resource Center. The sample is restricted in several ways, only focusing on cases charged and tried in Santa Clara County, with offenders 18 years and older, and excluding homicides where an arrest did not occur. The author then uses probabilistic matching to link the two datasets. The final dataset includes 24 homicides that resulted in a death sentence and 1654 that did not.

The author also includes important homicide characteristics such as felony and multiple murder as controls. Race is coded as White vs. non-White.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 30.

