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Heather D. Evans* (hdevans@uw.edu), University of Washington, Dept of Sociology, 211 Savery Hall, Box 353340, Seattle, WA 98195, and **Katherine Beckett**. *Race, Death, and Justice: Capital Sentencing in Washington State, 1981-2014*.

Our study examined the role of race in the application of the death penalty in Washington State in the wake of the Furman v. Georgia decision. Although contemporary death penalty statutes were designed to reduce arbitrariness and discrimination in capital sentencing, many studies indicate that race continues to play a significant role in determining which capital defendants live and which die in the post-Furman era. Ours is the first published study to examine the role of race in capital sentencing in Washington State, where the statutory framework reduces the number of homicide cases that are eligible for capital punishment and prosecutorial discretion is therefore comparatively circumscribed. The findings indicate special sentencing proceedings that took place from 1981-2014 involving Black defendants were between 3.5 and 4.6 times as likely to result in a death sentence as proceedings involving non-Black defendants after the impact of the other variables included in the model were taken into account. Moreover, the impact of defendant race (i.e. Blackness) was greater than the impact of three additional aggravating circumstances. It is thus clear that the race of the defendant has had a powerful and substantial impact on capital sentencing outcomes in Washington State. (Received March 09, 2021)