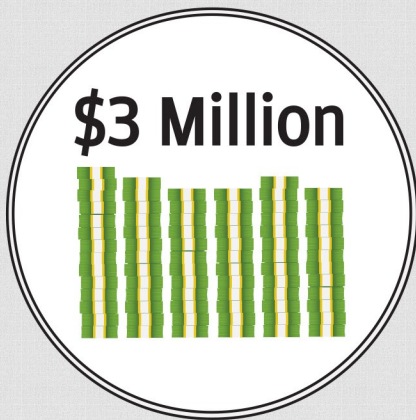


# Ohio Death Penalty Factsheet: Cost

The majority of the death penalty's high costs never appear as line items in any budget. The costs are buried in the thicket of legal proceedings and hours of time spent by judges, clerks, prosecutors and other law enforcement agencies. Did you know that the death penalty is more expensive than other sentencing options? Additional experts, investigation, and evidence are necessary for the sentencing phase; a death sentence requires multiple appeals that can last years or decades; and housing on death row is more expensive than a maximum security prison cell.

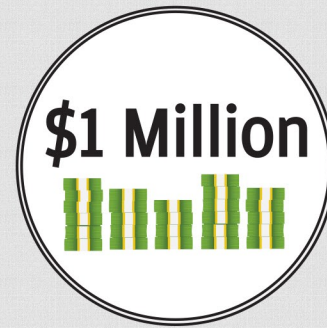
**How much more expensive is the death penalty than alternative sentencing options?**

## The Death Penalty



(The Cost of the average death penalty case in Ohio, including execution, per inmate. Source: WHIO)

## Life Without Parole



(The cost of the average life without parole sentence for an inmate in Ohio. Source: WHIO)

**OR**

## Better Ways to Spend \$16.8 Million

In February of 2014, the *Dayton Daily News* conducted a preliminary investigation into the annual costs of Ohio's entire death penalty system. The results were staggering: \$16,872,000 every year went to maintaining the death penalty. Furthermore, the newspaper cautioned that additional unknown costs exist. A comprehensive study is needed to determine the full cost of the death penalty, but

**What could Ohioans do with the \$16,872,000 being spent on our state's death penalty system?**

**299 More  
Police Officers**

Police officers keep our state safe by preventing tragedies before they happen.

**+3.47% Increase  
in Mental Health  
Funding**

Rather than continue to cut funding for mental health services, Ohio could use these funds to reverse the trend.

**368 More  
Social Workers**

Social workers address the physical and emotional needs of those who are most at risk in our state.

**\$803k in Services  
for Each Family of a  
Murder Victim**

In 2013, 21 families of murder victims could have each received almost \$1 million in counseling, paid leave from work, and funeral expenses.