

Dear reader,

Happy New Year! 2010 was a terrific year for us. We had over 10 million website sessions, 120 media references, and 1,500+ schools using ProCon.org - all significant increases from 2009.

To start us off in 2011, I am proud to announce our 40th ProCon.org issue website, Teacher Tenure ProCon.org (www.teachertenure.procon.org). Today's update also contains some fascinating research on men who pay for sex, demographics on people who have been executed in the US, and the constitutionality of health care reform. Read on for details.

1. NEW ProCon.org Website! [Should teachers get tenure?](#)

Teacher tenure is the increasingly controversial form of job protection that public school teachers in all states receive after 1-7 years on the job. Proponents of tenure argue that it protects teachers from being fired for personal or political reasons, and prevents the firing of experienced teachers to hire less expensive new teachers. Opponents argue that this job protection makes the removal of poorly performing teachers so difficult and costly that most schools end up retaining their bad teachers, and that tenure is no longer needed given current laws against job discrimination. ProCon.org's 40th website explores the pros and cons of whether or not teachers should get tenure.

2. Death Penalty: New: [US Executions from 1608-2002: A Demographic Breakdown of the Executed Population](#)

Of the 15,269 people officially executed in the US from 1608-2002, 97.6% were men, 81.8% committed murder, 61.3% were hanged, 50.5% were Black, 44% were aged 20-29, 11.5% were slaves (most common occupation), and 8.9% were from Virginia (most common state). Our 10 charts and graphs on US executions illustrate the largest US death penalty study ever done and break down all executions by variables such as race, occupation, state, age, crime committed, and more.

3. Prostitution: New: [Percentage of Men \(by Country\) Who Paid for Sex at Least Once: The Johns Chart](#)

Studies have found that 80% of men in Cambodia, 45% in Italy, and 15-20% in the United States have paid for sex at least once in their lifetimes. Results from 15 countries are available in our new resource, along with additional information about the clients (johns) of prostitutes worldwide.

4. Health Care Reform:

- [Three new changes from the 2010 health care reforms take effect on Jan. 1, 2011:](#) free preventive care and additional discounts on prescription drugs for seniors on Medicare, plus customer rebates from health insurance companies that spend over 15%

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and others from the Mar. 2010 health care reforms.

- [Are the new health care reform laws constitutional?](#) - Read pro and con statements about the laws' constitutionality from the Attorney Generals of Virginia and Ohio, as well as prominent politicians, scholars, physician groups, and others.
- [23 Constitutional Challenges to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act \(PPACA\)](#) - The individual insurance mandate of the PPACA has been judged by federal courts to be constitutional twice and unconstitutional once. Read the date filed, case name, PDF of the case itself, district, parts challenged, and current standing for all 23 legal challenges to the March 2010 health care reforms.

5. At 12-31-10, ProCon.org had been used by 1,502 schools in 32 countries and all 50 US states

279 elementary and middle schools, 711 high schools, and 512 colleges and universities use the free nonpartisan research we provide to stimulate critical thinking. The newest international school using ProCon.org is in Malaysia.

Teachers and librarians, if you have not already done so, [please take two minutes to share your thoughts on ProCon.org by completing our online survey.](#)

Thank you to all our donors in 2010. We have updated our [Donors & Sponsors](#) page to recognize all the wonderful people who have supported our work. To our donors of \$100 and more, your hats are on the way.

If you have not yet donated, it is not too late. [Please make a tax-deductible donation to ProCon.org and help keep critical thinking alive.](#)

Thanks as always to our readers for your ongoing interest in our nonpartisan research. We have some great content coming up this year, so stay tuned for more updates.

Sincerely,

Kamy Akhavan
President & Managing Editor, ProCon.org
"Promoting Critical Thinking, Education, and Informed Citizenship"

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