



Facts about the Death Penalty

(As of February 1, 2013)

THE BIG PICTURE

- The State of Texas has executed **492 people** since 1982, out of more than 1,300 executions nationwide since 1977. Thirteen executions took place in 2011, the lowest number in 15 years.
- **Fifteen executions** took place in Texas in 2012 – 5 from Dallas County and 1 from Tarrant County – out of 43 nationwide.
- There currently are **290 people on death row** in Texas, including 10 women; this is the lowest the death row population has been since at least 1989, according to research by TCADP.
- Since 1973, 142 individuals – including 12 in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction.
- **New death sentences in Texas have dropped more than 75% since 2002.** In 2010 and 2011, new death sentences reached a historic low level, when eight people were sentenced to death statewide. Nine new death sentences were imposed in 2012, including two in Dallas County, two in Tarrant County, and one in Johnson County.
- In Texas, the cost of an average death penalty case is nearly three times higher than imprisoning someone in maximum security for 40 years. (*Dallas Morning News*)
- Five states – New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, Illinois, and, most recently, Connecticut – have abandoned the death penalty in recent years. A total of 17 states and the District of Columbia do not allow the death penalty.
- 139 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In 2011, the top five executing countries were China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

LOCALLY

Only 22 Texas counties have imposed new death sentences in the last 5 years; of these, only 11 counties have done so in the last 2 years.

Texas' Highest Sentencing Counties, 2008-2012							
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total 2008-2012	Total Since 1976
Dallas	3	1	2	0	2	8	104
Tarrant	2	1	0	1	2	6	72
Harris	0	0	2	3	0	5	289
Travis	0	1	1	1	0	3	19
Brazos	0	1	1	0	1	3	17
Total	5	4	6	5	5	25	501
Total All Counties	12	9	8	8	9	46	1,072