



Facts about the Death Penalty

(As of April 1, 2015)

THE BIG PICTURE

- The State of Texas has executed **522 people** since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,404 executions nationwide since 1977.
- In 2014, the State of Texas carried out **10 executions**, out of 35 nationwide. It was the fewest executions in the state since 1996.
- Currently, there are **268 people on death row** in Texas, including 7 women; this is the lowest the death row population has been since the late 1980s.
- Since 1973, **152 individuals** – including 12 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction.
- New death sentences in Texas have **dropped nearly 80%** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2010, new death sentences fell to a historic low level, when juries sentenced 8 people to death statewide.
- In Texas, the cost of an average death penalty case is **nearly three times higher** than imprisoning someone in maximum security for life. (*Dallas Morning News*)
- Six states – New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, Illinois, Connecticut, and Maryland – have abandoned the death penalty in recent years. A total of **18 states and the District of Columbia** do not allow the death penalty.
- **140 countries** have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In 2014, the top five executing countries were China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

LOCALLY

Just **5 counties** account for **60% of new death sentences** imposed in the last five years.

Texas' Highest Sentencing Counties Since 2010							Total Since 1976
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014	
Harris	2	3	0	1	4	10	294
Dallas	2	0	2	3	0	7	106
Tarrant	0	1	2	0	1	4	73
Travis	1	1	0	0	1	3	20
McLennan	0	0	1	1	1	3	18
Total:	5	5	5	5	7	27	511
Total All Counties:	8	8	9	9	11	45	1,087

There have been no new death sentences to date in 2015.