



Facts about the Death Penalty

(As of March 1, 2017)

- New death sentences in Texas have **dropped dramatically** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. Since 2015, juries in Texas have imposed the death penalty in six cases and rejected it in five other trials.
- Just **7 counties account for 65% of new death sentences** imposed in the last five years.

Texas' Highest Sentencing Counties 2012-2016							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total 2012-2016	Total Since 1974
Harris	0	1	4	0	0	5	294
Dallas	2	3	0	0	0	5	107
Tarrant	2	0	1	0	1	4	74
McLennan	1	1	1	0	0	3	18
Brazos	1	0	0	1	0	2	17
Kaufman	0	0	1	0	1	2	3
Smith	1	0	0	1	0	2	24
Total	7	5	7	2	2	23	537
Total All Counties	9	9	11	3	3	35	1,095

- Since 1973, **157 individuals** – including 13 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction.
- The State of Texas has executed **540 people** since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,446 executions nationwide since 1977.
- In 2017, the State of Texas has put **2 people to death**, out of 4 executions nationwide.
- Currently, there are **241 people on death row** in Texas, including 6 women; this is the smallest death row population since the late 1980s.
- In Texas, the cost of an average death penalty case is **nearly three times higher** than imprisoning someone in maximum security for life.
- **30 states** have now abandoned the death penalty in law or practice.
- **140 countries** have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In 2015, the top five executing countries were China, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

The Death Penalty in Dallas County

- Dallas County has not accounted for any new death sentences since 2013.
- Overall, Dallas County is responsible for 107 death sentences in Texas (second only to Harris County).
- All nine men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2012 are African American.
- More than 40 men in Dallas County have been exonerated of serious crimes since 2001; many of those exonerations were based on DNA evidence.
- Collectively, 40 people sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County have been removed from death row; in most cases, their sentences were commuted.
- The State of Texas has executed 56 people who were convicted and sentenced to death in Dallas County (behind only Harris County). There are two execution dates set in 2017 for individuals convicted in Dallas County.

The Death Penalty in Tarrant County

- Tarrant County accounts for 4 death sentences since 2012 and 74 overall. The death sentence imposed on Amos Wells III in November 2016 was the first such verdict in more than two years.
- All nine men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2012 are African American.
- Collectively, 40 people sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County have been removed from death row; in most cases, their sentences were commuted.
- Tarrant County accounts for 39 executions since 1982, including the first execution of 2017, and it has two other execution dates set this year.