



Facts about the Death Penalty

(As of April 1, 2017)

- New death sentences in Texas have **dropped dramatically** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2016, juries in Texas imposed the death penalty in 3 cases.
- 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 **542 people** since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,448 executions nationwide since 1977.
- In 2017, the State of Texas has put **4 people to death**, out of 6 executions nationwide.
- Currently, there are **239 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.
- **31 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.