



Facts about the Death Penalty

(As of January 1, 2018)

- New death sentences in Texas have **dropped dramatically** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2017, prosecutors sought death in seven cases, resulting in four new death sentences.
- Just **6 counties account for more than 50% of new death sentences** imposed in the last five years.

Texas' Highest Sentencing Counties 2013-2017							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total 2012-2016	Total Since 1974
Harris	1	4	0	0	0	5	294
Dallas	3	0	0	0	0	3	107
Tarrant	0	1	1	1	1	2	74
Jefferson	1	0	0	0	1	2	25
McLennan	1	1	0	0	0	2	18
Kaufman	0	1	0	1	0	2	3
Total	6	7	0	2	1	16	521
Total All Counties	9	11	3	3	4	30	1,099

- Since 1973, **160 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 **545 people** since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,465 executions nationwide since 1977.
- In 2017, the State of Texas put **7 people to death**, out of 23 executions nationwide.
- Currently, there are **234 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.
- **141 countries** have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In 2016, the top five executing countries were China, Iran, Viet Nam, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. This marks the first time since 2006, and only the second time since 1991, that the United States is not among the world's five biggest executioners.