

## Facts about the Death Penalty

- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased precipitously** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. Since 2015, prosecutors have sought the death penalty in 24 cases, resulting in 14 new death sentences (58%). **To date in 2018, Texas jurors have sentenced four individuals to death and rejected the death penalty in two other cases.**
- 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>521</b>
<b>Total All Counties</b>	9	11	3	3	4	<b>30</b>	1,099

- Since 1973, **163 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 **555 people** since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,483 executions nationwide since 1977.
- To date in 2018, the State of Texas has put **10 people to death**, out of 18 executions nationwide.
- Currently, there are **224 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.
- **142 countries** have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In 2017, the top five executing countries were China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Pakistan.