



The Death Penalty in North Texas

- With **108 total death sentences** since 1974, Dallas ranks second overall behind Harris County in use of the death penalty in Texas. Tarrant County juries are responsible for **74 death sentences overall**.
- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased precipitously** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2018, there were **7 new death sentences** statewide.
- Although Dallas and Tarrant Counties remain among Texas' top sentencing counties, juries in those jurisdictions have imposed **just three new death sentences** over the last five years.
- In 2017, prosecutors in Dallas County pursued the death penalty in two capital murder trials; **both ended with sentences of life in prison without parole**. A Tarrant County jury also **rejected the death penalty** in a 2017 trial.
- All 10 men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2012 **are African American**.
- Since 1973, **163 individuals** – including 13 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction. This includes **Randall Dale Adams**, who spent more than a decade in prison after he was wrongfully convicted of killing a Dallas Police officer, and **Michael Toney**, who was wrongfully convicted in Tarrant County and released in 2009.
- More than **50 individuals in Dallas County** have been exonerated of other serious crimes since 2001; many of those exonerations were based on DNA evidence and/or mistaken eyewitness identification.
- 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 **558 people** since 1982. This includes **60 people** who were convicted in Dallas County and **41 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.
- Currently, there are **223 people on death row** in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **24 were convicted in Dallas County** and **16 were convicted in Tarrant County**.

For more information, please contact TCADP North Texas Outreach Coordinator Jim Webner at jwebner@tcadp.org.

1/1/2019