

Facts about the Death Penalty

- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased significantly** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2018, new death sentences remained in the single digits for the ninth time in ten years.
- All seven men sentenced to death in Texas in 2018 are people of color. Over the last five years, **more than 70% of death sentences** have been imposed on people of color.
- In the first capital murder trial involving the death penalty in Texas this year, a Nueces County jury **sentenced Arturo Garza to life in prison without parole**. He had pled guilty to killing his pregnant girlfriend, Susanna Eguia, in 2015. This is the **third consecutive time** since 2015 that a Nueces County jury has rejected the death penalty in a capital case.
- **Only four counties** in Texas have imposed more than one death sentence in the last five years.
- Since 1973, **165 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 **560 people** since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,493 executions nationwide since 1977. In 2018, the State of Texas put **13 people to death**.
- Texas is responsible for **two of the three executions nationwide** thus far in 2019. **Two executions have been stayed** (one by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and one by the U.S. Supreme Court). **Five executions** currently are scheduled to take place in Texas through September.
- Currently, there are **221 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 for life without the possibility of parole.
- **20 states** have now abandoned the death penalty through legislation or judicial action.
- **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. *04/01/19*