

## 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.
- To date in 2019, a Texas jury has imposed **one new death sentence**. A jury in Nueces County sentenced Gary David Green to death for killing Upton County deputy Billy “Bubba” Kennedy in 2013. The case was moved from West Texas. Earlier this year, a Nueces County jury rejected the death penalty for Arturo Garza.
- 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.
- **Only four counties** in Texas have imposed more than one death sentence in the last five years.
- Since 1973, **166 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 **561 people** since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,500 executions nationwide since 1977. In 2018, the State of Texas put **13 people to death** (out of 25 executions nationwide).
- Texas is responsible for **three of the ten executions nationwide** this year. **Four scheduled executions were stayed** by state or federal courts. **At least eight executions** currently are scheduled to take place in Texas in the second half of 2019.
- Currently, there are **220 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.
- **21 states** have now abandoned the death penalty through legislation or judicial action.
- **142 countries** have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In 2018, the top five executing countries were China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Viet Nam, and Iraq.

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