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 2019, new death sentences remained in the single digits for the fifth year in a row.

- In 2019, Texas juries imposed four new death sentences. In four other capital trials, jurors rejected the death penalty and sentenced the defendants to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

- Two out of the four men sentenced to death in Texas in 2019 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 567 people since 1982, accounting for more than one-third of the 1,512 executions nationwide since 1977. In 2019, the State of Texas put 9 people to death (out of 22 executions nationwide).

- In 2019, nine individuals scheduled to be executed received reprieves from state or federal courts.

- The State of Texas has scheduled seven executions for the first few months of 2020.

- Currently, there are 213 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 decisions.

- 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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