

## 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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