

The Death Penalty in North Texas

- With **108 total death sentences** since 1974, Dallas ranks second behind Harris County in use of the death penalty in Texas. Tarrant County juries are responsible for **75 death sentences overall**.
- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased precipitously** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2019, there were **4 new death sentences** statewide.
- Although Dallas and Tarrant County remain among Texas's top sentencing counties, juries in those jurisdictions have imposed **just three new death sentences** over the last five years.
- North Texas juries **rejected the death penalty** in 2019 in cases in Denton and Tarrant Counties. Both defendants received sentences of life in prison without the possibility of parole.
- In February 2020, a jury in **Collin County imposed the first death sentence there since 2009**.
- Of the 14 men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2010, **11 are African-American**.
- Since 1973, **167 individuals** – including 13 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction. **Randall Dale Adams** spent more than a decade in prison after he was wrongly convicted of killing a Dallas police officer; **Michael Toney** was wrongfully convicted in Tarrant County and released in 2009.
- More than **50 individuals in Dallas County** have been exonerated of serious crimes since 2001, largely on the basis of DNA evidence and/or mistaken eyewitness identification.
- Collectively, more than **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 **569 people** since 1982. This includes **62 people** who were convicted in Dallas County and **42 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.
- Three men convicted in North Texas were executed in 2019. **Four others received stays** of execution from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals or federal courts.
- Currently, there are 214 people on death row in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **22 were convicted in Dallas County** and **16 were convicted in Tarrant County**. *04/01/20*