

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. 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.
- To date in 2020, Texas juries have imposed **two new death sentences** (Collin and Harris Counties). Several other capital trials are postponed for the time being.
- Over the last five years, **more than 70% of death sentences** have been imposed on people of color.
- **Only four counties** in Texas (Harris, Smith, Tarrant and Walker) have imposed more than one death sentence in the last five years.
- Since 1973, **167 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 **569 people** since 1982, accounting for **more than one-third** of the 1,517 executions nationwide since 1977. In 2019, the State of Texas put **9 people to death** (out of **22 executions nationwide**); 9 other individuals scheduled to be executed in Texas **received reprieves from state or federal courts**.
- To date in 2020, the State of Texas has **executed two people, while three men have received stays due to the global pandemic**. Six additional execution dates remain in place despite the public health crisis.
- Currently, there are **214 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.
- **22 states** have abandoned the death penalty – most recently, Colorado – through legislation or judicial decisions. Governors in three other states have imposed moratoria on executions.
- **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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