

## The Death Penalty in Bexar County

- New death sentences in Texas have **dropped significantly** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2020, new death sentences remained in the **single digits** for the sixth year in a row.
- Bexar County is responsible for the **third highest number of death sentences** (76 total) imposed by juries since 1974, behind Harris and Dallas counties. Bexar County juries have imposed **just two new death sentences** since 2009, however.
- Between 2009 and 2012, juries in **Bexar County rejected the death penalty** in four capital murder cases. The defendants were sentenced to life in prison without parole.
- Bexar County accounts for **46 of the 570 executions** carried out by the State of Texas since 1982. It falls behind only Harris and Dallas counties in the number of executions.
- There are **7 individuals still on death row** who were convicted in Bexar County; five are Hispanic and two are Black.
- **22 people** sentenced to death in Bexar County have been removed from death row; in most cases, their sentences were commuted.
- Since 1973, **more than 170 individuals** – including 13 people in Texas – have been released from death rows nationwide due to evidence of their wrongful conviction.
- **14 people** in Bexar County have been **exonerated of serious crimes** since 2011; many of those exonerations were based on perjury or false accusations.
- There is strong evidence that Ruben Cantu was **wrongfully executed** by the State of Texas on August 24, 1993. Cantu's conviction by a Bexar County jury was based largely on the testimony of a single eyewitness who later changed his story. Cantu was 17 years old at the time of the crime.

For information about TCADP's activities in San Antonio, contact coordinator Mardi Baron at [mardibaron@gmail.com](mailto:mardibaron@gmail.com).

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