



The Death Penalty in North Texas

- With **108 total death sentences** since 1974, Dallas ranks second behind only Harris County in use of the death penalty in Texas. Tarrant County juries have sentenced **75 people to death** (the fourth highest total).
- 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. Tarrant County is **one of just three counties** in Texas to account for more than one death sentence in this time period.
- 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 Black**.
- The State of Texas has executed **570 people** since 1982. This includes **62 people** who were convicted in Dallas County and **42 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.
- Of the six executions currently scheduled for 2021, **three involve cases from Tarrant County**.
- 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. **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 are no longer on death row. In most cases, their sentences were changed to life in prison or life in prison without parole or they died of natural causes.
- Three individuals convicted in Dallas County **received reduced sentences** in 2020 due to evidence of their intellectual disability or deficient legal counsel.
- Currently, there are 207 people on death row in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **19 were convicted in Dallas County** and **16 were convicted in Tarrant County**. *01/01/21*