

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 have sentenced **75 people to death**.
- Although Dallas and Tarrant County remain among Texas's top sentencing counties, juries in these jurisdictions have imposed **just three new death sentences** over the last five years.
- 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 four executions currently scheduled for 2021, **two involve cases from Tarrant County**. In February, the execution of Edward Busby Jr. was stayed to review evidence of his intellectual disability. He was convicted in Tarrant County in 2004.
- Since 1973, **185 individuals** – including 16 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 intellectual disability or deficient legal counsel.
- Currently, there are 204 people on death row in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **19 were convicted in Dallas County** and **16 were convicted in Tarrant County**.

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