

## 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.
- Of the 14 men sentenced to death in Dallas or Tarrant County since 2010, **11 are Black**.
- Dallas voters strongly support alternatives to the death penalty, according to a poll conducted in June 2021 by the independent research firm Public Policy Polling. When asked which punishment they prefer for people convicted of first-degree murder, **75% of respondents opted for a sentence of life in prison with a possibility of parole after 20 or 40 years or life in prison without parole**. Only 14% of all respondents prefer the death penalty.
- The State of Texas has executed **572 people** since 1982. This includes **62 people** who were convicted in Dallas County and **44 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.
- Both people put to death by the State of Texas in 2021 – **Quintin Jones and John Hummel** – were convicted in Tarrant County. Another person from Tarrant County, Edward Busby, Jr., has faced two execution dates over the past year but has received stays from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.
- 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.
- **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.
- Currently, there are 199 people on death row in Texas, including 6 women. Of these, **18 were convicted in Dallas County** and **14 were convicted in Tarrant County**.

07/01/21