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, where juries have sentenced **75 people to death,** ranks fourth.

- Although Dallas and Tarrant County remain among Texas's top sentencing counties, juries in these jurisdictions have imposed **just two 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 **573 people** since 1982. This includes **62 people** who were convicted in Dallas County and **44 people** who were convicted in Tarrant County.

- **Two of the three people** put to death by the State of Texas in 2021 – **Quintin Jones and John Hummel** – were convicted in Tarrant County.

- Since 1973, **186 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**.

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