

## Facts about the Death Penalty

- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased significantly** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. In 2022, new death sentences remained in the **single digits** for the eighth year in a row. Two people were sentenced to death in Texas in 2022.
- Juries in Harris and Bowie counties accounted for the **two new death sentences** in Texas in 2022.
- Death sentences continue to be imposed disproportionately on people of color. Over the last five years, **72% of death sentences** in Texas have been imposed on people of color.
- **Only two counties** in Texas (Harris and Smith) have imposed more than one death sentence in the last five years.
- Since 1973, **190 individuals who spent time on death row have been exonerated**. This includes 16 people convicted and sentenced to death in Texas, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.
- The State of Texas has executed **578 people** since 1982, accounting for **more than one-third** of all executions nationwide since 1977.
- **In 2022, the State of Texas executed five people**, a slight increase from the number of executions in 2021 and 2020.
- Several of the men put to death in 2022, including 78-year-old Carl Wayne Buntion, suffered from **physical or mental impairments or histories of childhood trauma**, while two maintained their innocence of the crimes for which they were convicted.
- Currently, there are **191 people on death row** in Texas, including 7 women; this is the state's smallest death row population since 1985.
- In Texas, the cost of an average death penalty case is **nearly three times higher** than imprisoning someone for life without the possibility of parole.
- **23 states** (most recently, Virginia) have abandoned the death penalty through legislation or judicial decisions. Governors in three other states have imposed a moratorium on executions.
- At least **144 countries** have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. In 2021, the top five executing countries were, China, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.