

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.
- In the two death penalty cases that have gone to trial in 2023, one resulted in a new death sentence after the defendant decided to represent himself. In the other, **a Lubbock County jury rejected the death penalty for Hollis Daniels**.
- 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, **191 individuals who spent time on death row have been exonerated**. This includes 16 people wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death in Texas, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.
- The State of Texas has executed **583 people** since 1982, accounting for **more than one-third** of all executions nationwide since 1977.
- **To date in 2023, the State of Texas has executed five people**. The State carried out five executions total in 2022.
- Currently, there are **184 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.

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