

## 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 2023, new death sentences remained in the **single digits** for the ninth year in a row.
- Texas juries sent **three new people** to death row in 2023. In two other capital trials, jurors **rejected the death penalty** and sentenced the defendants to life in prison without parole.
- Death sentences continue to be imposed disproportionately on people of color. Over the last five years, **more than 50% of death sentences** in Texas have been imposed on people of color.
- **Jurors in just 11 counties in Texas** have imposed death sentences in the last five years. Of these, **only two counties** (Harris and Smith) have imposed more than one death sentence in that time.
- Since 1973, **196 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 **586 people** since 1982, accounting for **more than one-third** of all executions nationwide since 1977.
- In 2023, **Texas put eight people** to death. Six of these men had **significant intellectual or mental health impairments**.
- Currently, there are **180 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 **112 countries** have abolished the death penalty for all crimes. In 2022, the top five executing countries were, China, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, according to Amnesty International.