

## Facts about the Death Penalty

- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased significantly** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. **For the past nine years, death sentences have numbered in the single digits.**
- To date in 2024, Texas juries have imposed **three new death sentences**. In a fourth trial this year, a jury in Midland County rejected the death penalty.
- Even as they decline, 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 13 counties in Texas** have imposed death sentences since 2019. **Only three counties** (Harris, Smith, and Tarrant) account for more than one death sentence in that time.
- Since 1973, **200 individuals who spent time on death row have been exonerated**. This includes 18 people in Texas, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.
- The State of Texas has executed **591 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**. **To date in 2024, Texas has executed five men**, including one who maintained his innocence.
- Currently, there are **174 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 and the District of Columbia** have abandoned the death penalty through legislation or judicial decisions. Governors in four other states have imposed a moratorium on executions.
- At least **112 countries** have abolished the death penalty for all crimes. In 2023, the top five executing countries were China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and the United States according to Amnesty International.

10/02/24