

Facts about the Death Penalty

- New death sentences in Texas have **decreased significantly** since peaking in 1999, when juries sentenced 48 people to death. **Death sentences have numbered in the single digits since 2015.**
- In 2025, juries sentenced **three people to death**: two in Harris County and one in Tarrant County. In a fourth capital case, a jury in Tarrant County rejected the death penalty.
- Texas executed **five men** in 2025. Two other individuals received stays of execution, including Robert Roberson.
- Texas judges set the **fewest execution dates** in at least **three decades** in 2025.
- Over the last five years, **over 70% of death sentences** in Texas have been imposed on people of color.
- **Jurors in just 12 counties in Texas** have imposed death sentences in the last five years. **Only two counties**—Harris and Tarrant—account for more than one death sentence in that time.
- **Six of the last nine death sentences** came from **Harris and Tarrant Counties**.
- The State of Texas has executed **596 people** since 1982, accounting for **more than one-third** of all executions nationwide since 1977.
- Currently, there are **168 people on death row** in Texas, including 7 women; this is the state's smallest death row population since 1985.
- Since 1973, more than **200 individuals who spent time on death row have been exonerated**. This includes 18 people in Texas, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.
- 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. Harris County recently spent **\$1.8 million** in taxpayer dollars just on the punishment trial of Xavier Davis.
- **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.

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