The Death Penalty in Philadelphia

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Death Penalty Information Center

The Death Penalty Information Center provides information and analysis of death-penalty issues, DPIC does not take a position for or against the death penalty itself, but is critical of the manner in which it is administered.
Philadelphia Death-Penalty Outcomes, 1978-2018

- **201 death sentences** since 1978
- **134 death sentences overturned**
- **112 prisoners resentenced to life or less**
- **3 exonerations**
- **20 died on death row**
- **1 execution**
The Decline of the Death Penalty in Philadelphia

Annual Average of Philadelphia Death Sentences (by Term)
Philadelphia Death Penalty Trial Dispositions, 2011-2017

- Death Penalty: 1.33%
- Non-Death Penalty: 98.67%
Status of Philadelphia Death Sentences (Imposed since 1978)

- **Active Death Sentence**: 48
- **Resentenced to Life or Less**: 112
- **Exonerated**: 3
- **Reversed (Final Disposition Pending)**: 9
- **Died on Death Row**: 20
- **Executed**: 1

Case Status:
- Active Death Sentence
- Resentenced to Life or Less
- Exonerated
- Reversed (Final Disposition Pending)
- Died on Death Row
- Executed
In the past two decades, 83% of defendants sentenced to death in Philadelphia have been Black.

Of the 46 defendants sentenced to death in Philadelphia since 1997, 44 have been people of color.

Estimated Probability ($\hat{p}$) of a Death Sentence

Defendant Culpability Index and Scale Score Estimated in a Logistic Regression Analysis
In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, black defendants tried for killing white victims were twice as likely to be sentenced to death if they had “stereotypically” African facial features.
Innocence and the Death Penalty
Innocence and the Death Penalty

Since 1973, 164 people have been exonerated and freed from death row.
Photos by Loren Santow
Innocence in Philadelphia

Exonerated:
Harold Wilson, William Nieves, Neil Ferber
Innocence in Philadelphia

Should Be Exonerated:
Fred Thomas, Jimmy Dennis, Daniel Dougherty, Walter Ogrod