



Prison Deaths: A General Analysis

<u>Group Member</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Major</u>
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PARTNERED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION





TJI'S THEORY OF CHANGE

To collect, vet and publicly release information on criminal justice and policing in Texas while pushing for improved transparency to empower organizations and individuals so they may push for change based on real data.



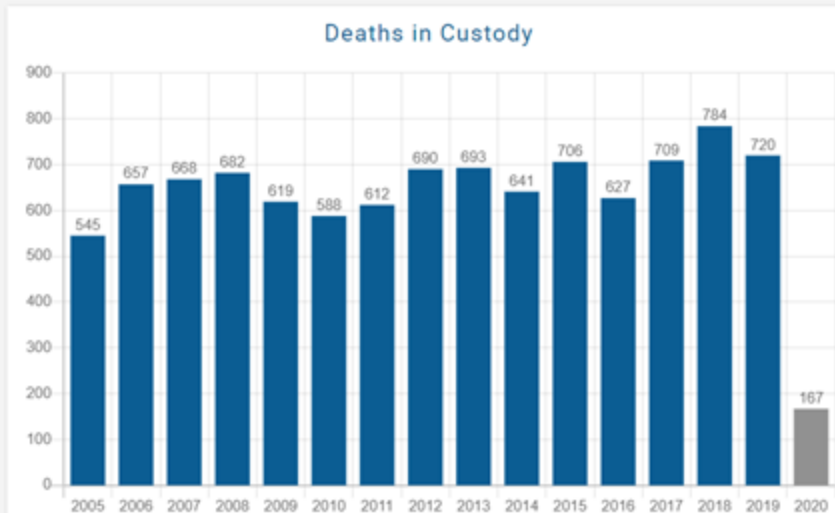
WHERE TO FIND OUR DATA SET

The data set we used for all of our data analysis can be found on the Texas Justice Initiative website.

[TexasJusticeInitiative.org](https://texasjusticeinitiative.org)

Click on the “EXPLORE THE DATA” tab on top of the page and press the blue “Download (CSV)” button.

Texas Justice Initiative is a nonprofit organization that collects, analyzes, publishes and provides oversight for criminal justice data throughout Texas.

[Deaths In Custody](#)[Civilians Shot](#)[Officers Shot](#)

FILTER DATA



Use the options below to narrow down the data and view more specific trends.

Year ▲

Race ▲

Sex ▲

Manner Of Death ▲

Age Group ▲

Type Of Custody ▲

Death Location Type ▲

Means Of Death ▲

Agency Name ▲

Death Location County ▲

Explore The Data



Deaths In Custody



Civilians Shot



Officers Shot

Deaths in Custody

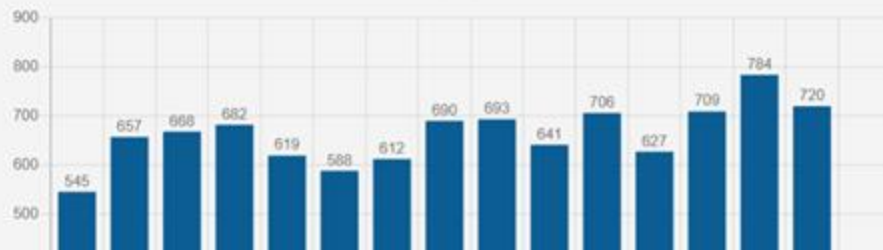
Last updated: 4/1/2020

All deaths in custody in Texas since 2005, as reported to the Office of the Attorney General.

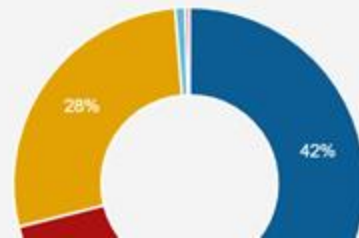
Total Incidents: 10,108

[Download \(CSV\)](#)

YEAR



RACE





WHERE DOES TJI GET THEIR DATA FROM?

TJI obtains their data through different sources, some of them including:

- Office of the Attorney General
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards
- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
- U.S. Census Bureau

PREVIOUS WORK (FALL 2019)

GOAL:

Examine pre-bookings deaths in Texas since 2005 using a quantitative research approach.





PREVIOUS WORK TAKEAWAYS

PROS:

- We won the \$10,000 mini-grant for our research.
- Worked and communicated well with each other.
- Kept building up consistently on our research up to the day of the final presentation..

CONS:

- Had problems at the beginning trying to choose a question to focus our research on.
- Time management needed to improve.
- Data visualisation could improve.



CURRENT WORK

GOAL: Examine prisons deaths in Texas from the last 10 years using the mixed methods research approach.

We will be focusing on data over a 10 year interval based on death of inmates spanning from from the start of 2010 to the end of 2019.



MIXED METHODS

QUANTITATIVE:

Team Olalekan and Javier

Duties included cleaning up the custodial deaths data, and visualizing our new updated data set.

QUALITATIVE:

Team Darla and Nangah

Duties included creating interview / survey questions and strategy.



DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS

Adopted Jupyter Notebooks after our Fall 2019 research project.

(Google Sheets will be used in the instance that our Jupyter Notebooks code isn't finished.)





Data Visualization

The following are graphs and numbers gathered from Olalekan and I's analysis of our prison deaths data set. We have also included a comparison of the general population of Texas for some to act as a reference to our graphs.

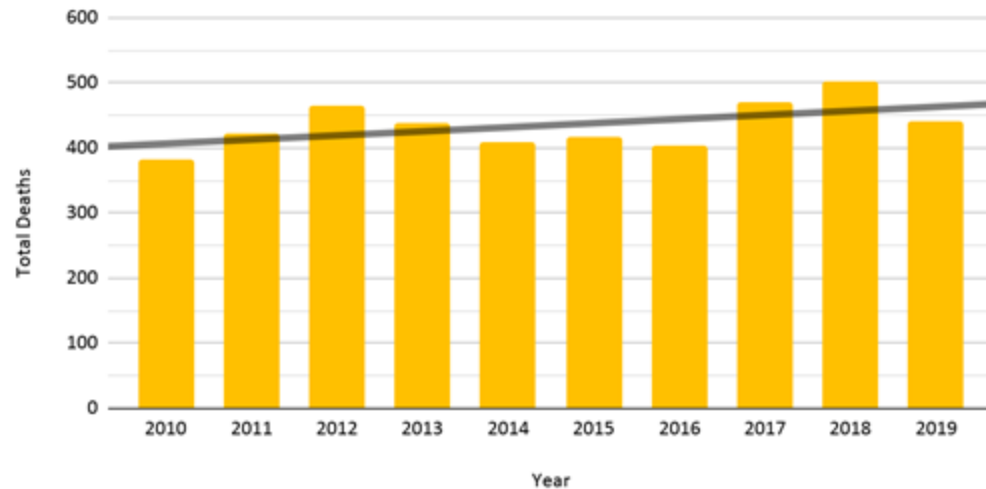
Let's start with a basic graph of deaths by year. This bar graph focuses on the total prison deaths since the start of 2010 until the end of 2019.

The black line represents the trend line and here we can see clearly that it's steadily increasing.

From this data set, the average time from the start of an inmate's sentence to their death is just under 10 years.

Texas Prison Deaths

2010 - 2020

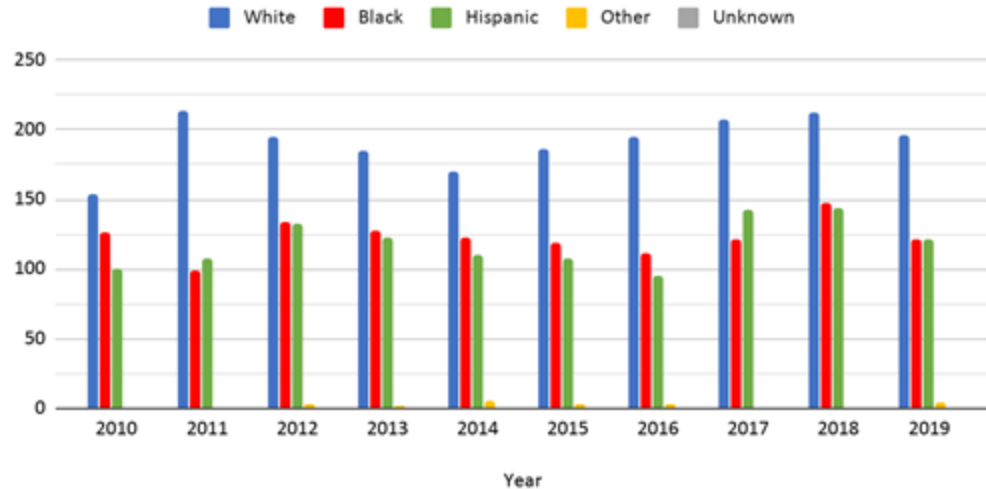


Next on the list is our chart of deaths by race in Texas separated by year. At the moment you will notice that white inmates have definitely died more than any other race in Texas.

On the following slide we will show you the same type of data, only that it will be a total count of deaths by race with a reference to the total Texas population by race.

Texas Prison Deaths

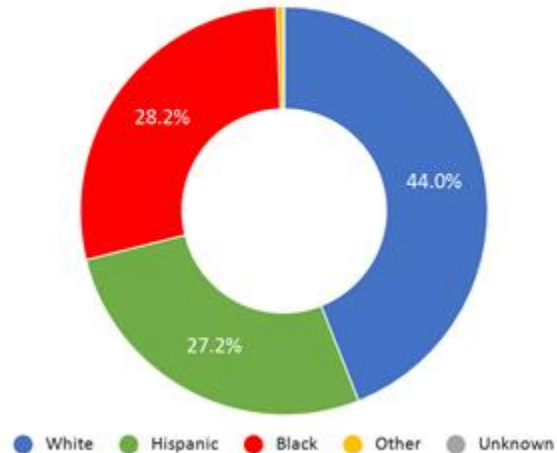
2010 - 2020



When looking at the total prison deaths pie chart, we can still observe that white inmates are still dying the most in Texas prisons. However, when we take into consideration the total Texas population, we can see that black inmates are highly overrepresented in the prison deaths chart.

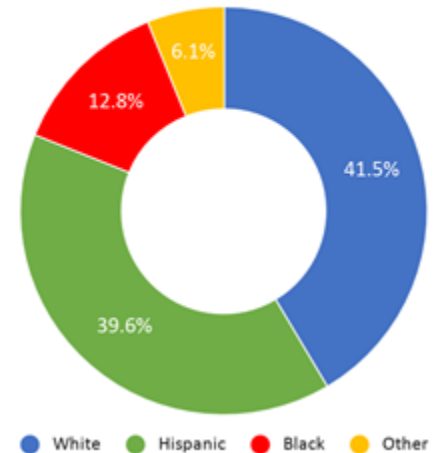
Texas Prison Deaths


2010 - 2020



Texas Population (U.S. Census Bureau)

July 1, 2019



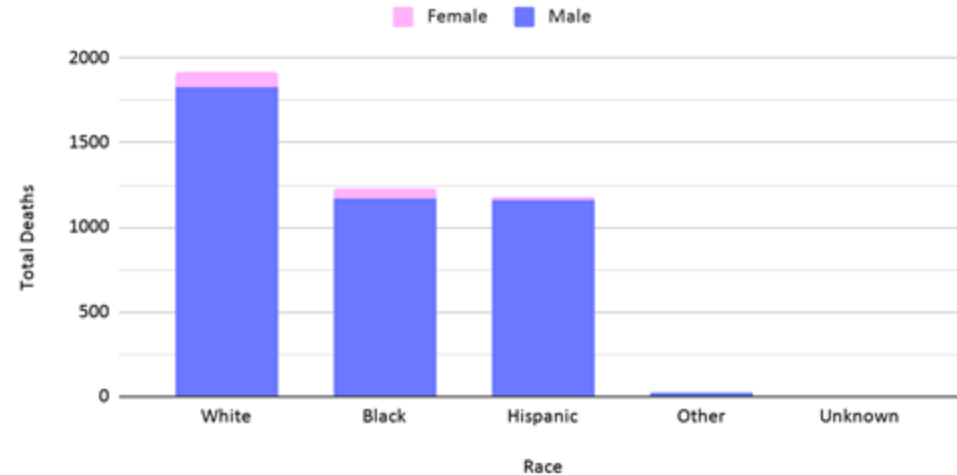


The following column chart shows us another interesting piece of information. Here it shows many possibilities all pointing towards hardship towards men in prison a landslide more than women.

Some causes may be longer prison sentences for men in courts, harsher treatment from prison guards, harsher prison environments, etc.

Texas Prison Deaths

2010 - 2020

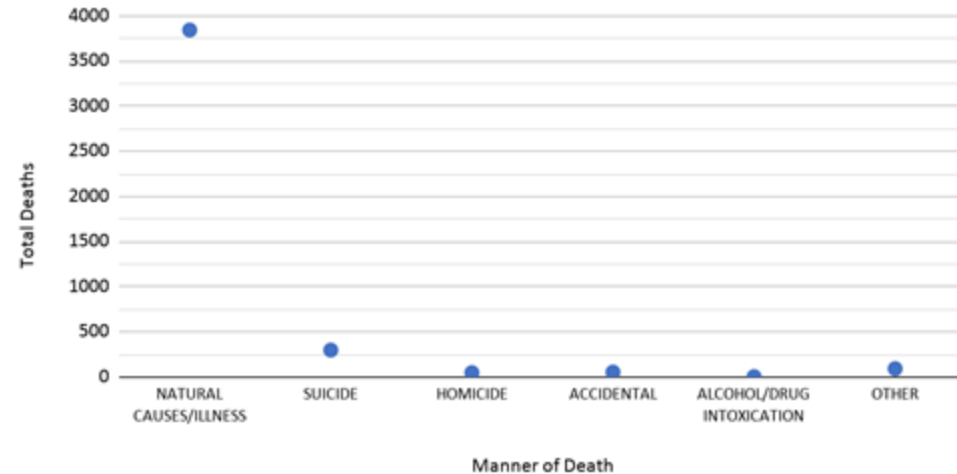



Natural causes / illness is the no. 1 cause of death of inmates in Texas prisons by a landslide. The second leading cause being suicide.

More inmates have died of natural causes / illness than any other manner combined.

Texas Prison Deaths

2010 - 2020



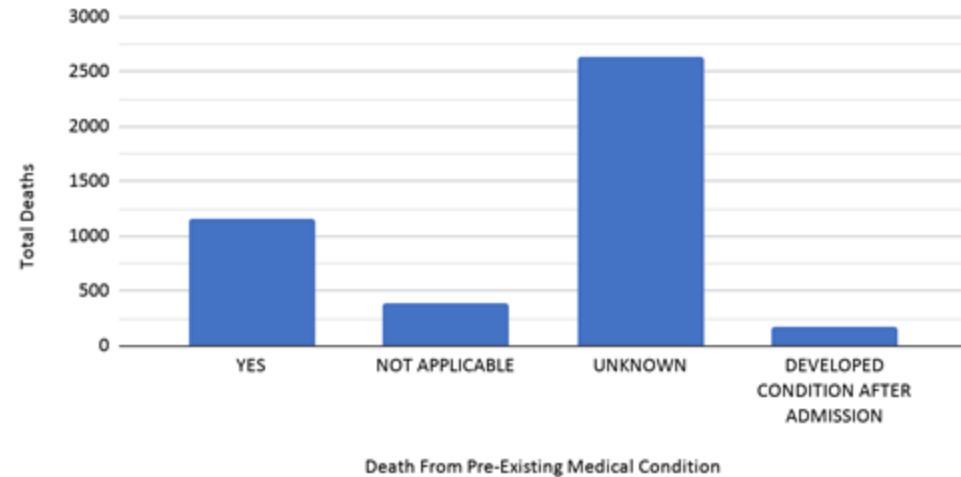



The main takeaway from the column chart to our right is that there is not a good enough track of medical conditions between prisons and their inmates.

There are 2,636 cases for unknown knowledge of prisoner pre-existing medical condition.

Texas Prison Deaths

2010 - 2020



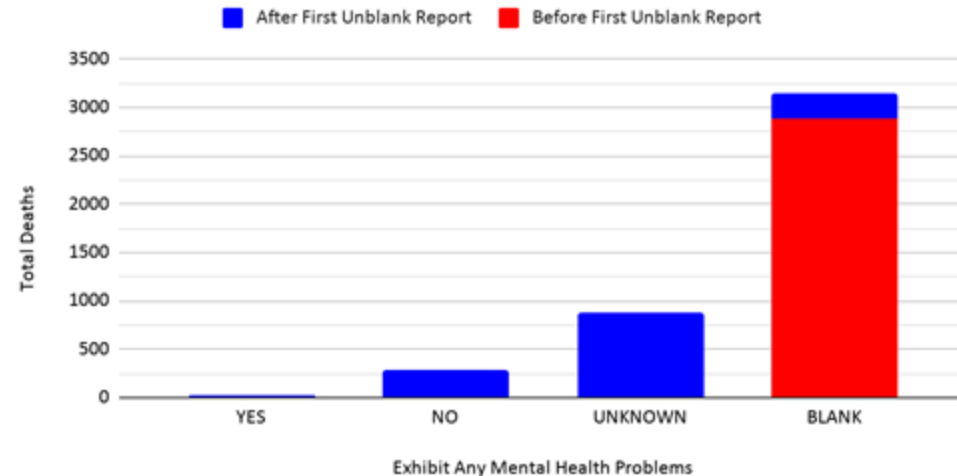


Similar to the last chart of pre-existing medical conditions, there is not a good enough track of mental health problems in Texas prisons.

Just to give you some perspective on this issue, the first report that didn't have a blank for mental health issues on the data set was on November 21, 2016, and even then it was marked "UNKNOWN". Keep in mind, our data set is focused from the beginning of 2010 until the end of 2019.

Texas Prison Deaths

2010 - 2020





WORKS CITED

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/TX>