

Pre-Booking Deaths: A General Analysis

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Darla Wandji	Senior	Exercise Science
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Olalekan Adisa	Sophomore	Comp. Science



ABOUT TJI

TEXAS JUSTICE INITIATIVE (TJI) is a nonprofit organization that collects, analyzes, publishes and provides oversight for criminal justice data throughout Texas.

Website: www.texasjusticeinitiative.org



2014

Michael Brown was shot and killed by former officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson Missouri. Brown's death lead to Americans realizing the **dismal state of data-collection** on officer-involved shootings.

2015

Texas lawmakers passed legislation that required **agencies to report shootings to the state**. Paired with a [decades-old law](#) that mandates deaths by officer-involved shootings and in any other type of law enforcement custody are reported to the state, the laws set Texas apart from most other states in requiring such reporting by police.

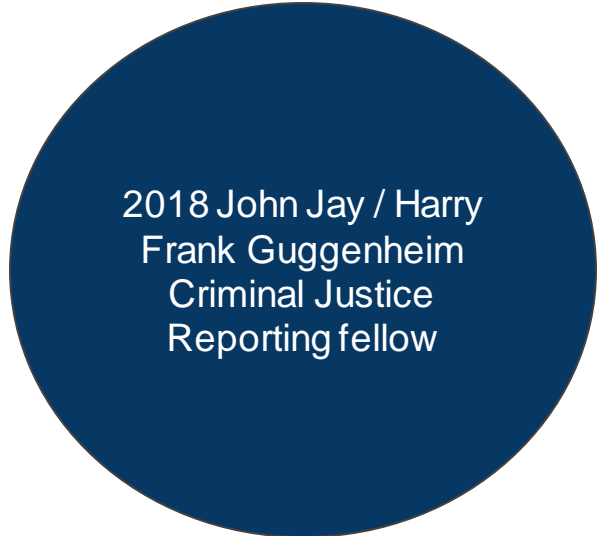
2016

Amanda Woog and Eva Ruth Moravec joined forces and **co-founded** the **Texas Justice Initiative** to build a portal for criminal justice data.


MENTOR - EVA RUTH MORAVEC



Executive Director and
co-founder of the
Texas Justice Initiative



2018 John Jay / Harry
Frank Guggenheim
Criminal Justice
Reporting fellow



Freelance reporter
who covers criminal
justice topics in Texas
and beyond.

TJI's Theory of Change is 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.



RESEARCH QUESTION

WHAT IS THE STATE OF PRE-BOOKING DEATHS IN TEXAS
SINCE 2005?

Out of all Texas custodial deaths, 1,858 of deaths occur before the criminal suspect is even booked. It's important for us to reveal the treatment of individuals by police officers before, during and immediately after an arrest is made, before a criminal suspect is even booked.



CUSTODIAL VS PRE-BOOKING DEATHS

Custodial deaths occurs when a person dies during an arrest, suicides in state and local lockups and deaths by natural causes, like an illness or disease while in any form of police custody.

Pre-booking deaths is a subcategory of custodial deaths. Pre-booking deaths simply means any deaths before the police booking process has finished.

WHAT DOES BOOKING MEAN?

After an arrest, a criminal suspect is taken into police custody and “booked,” or “processed.” During booking, a police officer undergoes a series of procedures before incarcerating an individual. The following is a list of those procedures:

1. VITAL INFORMATION IS RECORDED
2. MUG SHOT
3. CLOTHING AND PERSONAL PROPERTY CONFISCATED
4. FINGERPRINTING
5. FULL-BODY SEARCH
6. CHECK FOR WARRANTS
7. HEALTH CHECK
8. INCARCERATION

HOW LONG DOES THE BOOKING PROCESS TAKE?

At its slowest, the booking process may take hours to complete. How long it takes depends on:

- How many of the standard booking procedures are conducted
- The number of arrestees being booked at the same time
- The number of police officers involved in the booking process

RELATED RESEARCH

FINDINGS	PUBLISHER
Maryland and Texas are the only 2 US states of the 50 and the District of Columbia that have legislation requiring centralized reporting data.	Bureau of Justice Statistics
Deaths due to legal intervention 1960-2010: 15,699 Deaths of men age 15-34: 9,934 (63.3%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Among these, 5,489 (55.3%) were white and 4,202 (42.3%) were black US population 1960: 88.6% white & 10.5% black US population 2010: 72.4% white & 12.6% black	Harvard Public Health Review
Profile of individual at high risk for sudden in-custody death event from 162 reports. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Male, under the age of 44 years2. Exhibition of bizarre behavior such as: various stages of nudity, incoherence and delirium, violence, running in traffic, & paranoia3. Use / abuse of illicit drugs	Western Journal of Emergency Medicine

WHAT RESEARCH APPROACH DID WE USE?

QUANTITATIVE

WHY?

All of our data had discrete numbers or could be converted into discrete numbers. There was no interview, testimonial, or any other qualitative data included in our research.

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THIS DATA TOO!!

EXPLORE THE DATA

This data portal enables you, the user, to filter our data sets the way you want to. **First, select the data set that interests you from the drop-down menu below. Next, select the filters on the right to customize the data set you seek.** For instance, filter our data to find information in a specific county, related to a specific agency, during a certain year or years, or by demographic characteristics. **The charts will change based on your selections, and also populate filtered, full data sets that you may then download.** Our raw data sets are available via [data.world](#). Agencies have 30 days to file reports; the charts below reflects reports filed through: 11/12/2019

'Because the charts may become very large, this page is best viewed on a desktop or laptop screen. Got feedback? Please [let us know](#) how we can improve.

Select a Dataset: deaths in custody ▾

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

Total number of filtered incidents: **9813**

Download (CSV)

→ CHART FILTERS

Year ▾

[Select All](#) / [Unselect All](#)

- ☒ 2005
- ☒ 2006
- ☒ 2007
- ☒ 2008
- ☒ 2009
- ☒ 2010
- ☒ 2011
- ☒ 2012
- ☒ 2013
- ☒ 2014
- ☒ 2015
- ☒ 2016
- ☒ 2017
- ☒ 2018
- ☒ 2019

Race ▾

[Select All](#) / [Unselect All](#)

- ☒ Black
- ☒ Hispanic
- ☒ Other
- ☒ White

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WE GOT THE DATA FROM TJI... BUT WHERE DID TJI GET DATA FROM?

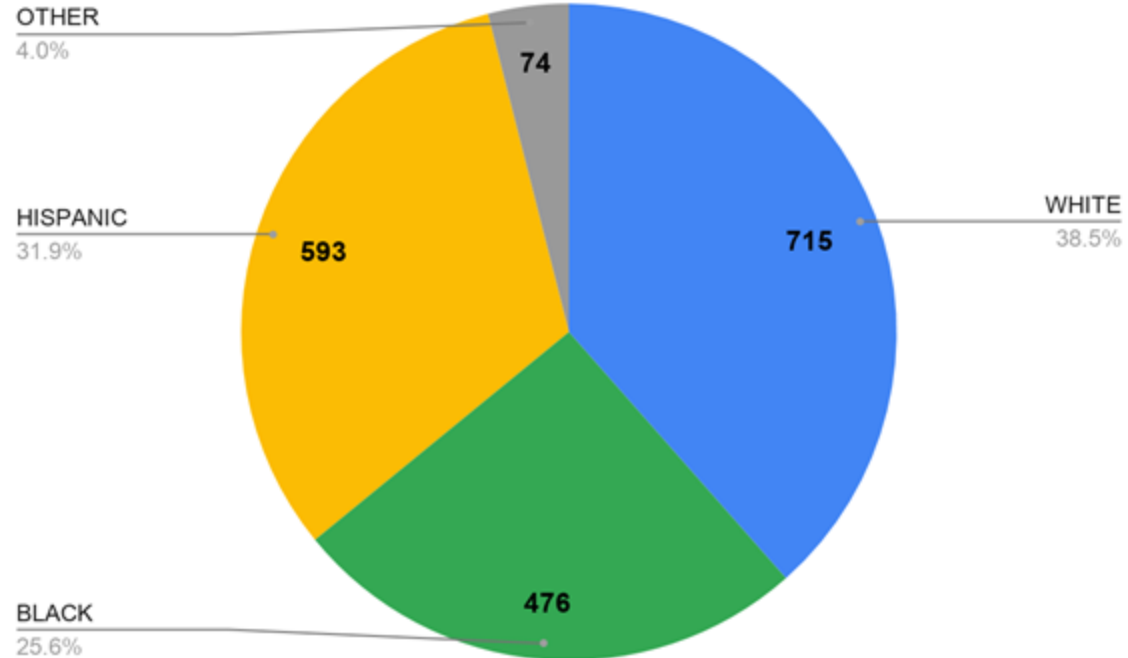
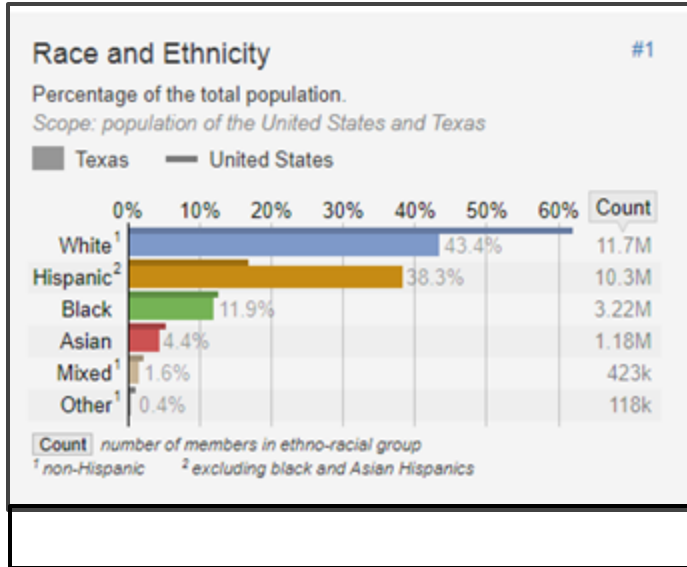
- Office of the Attorney General
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Texas Commission on Jail Standards
- Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
- U.S. Census Bureau



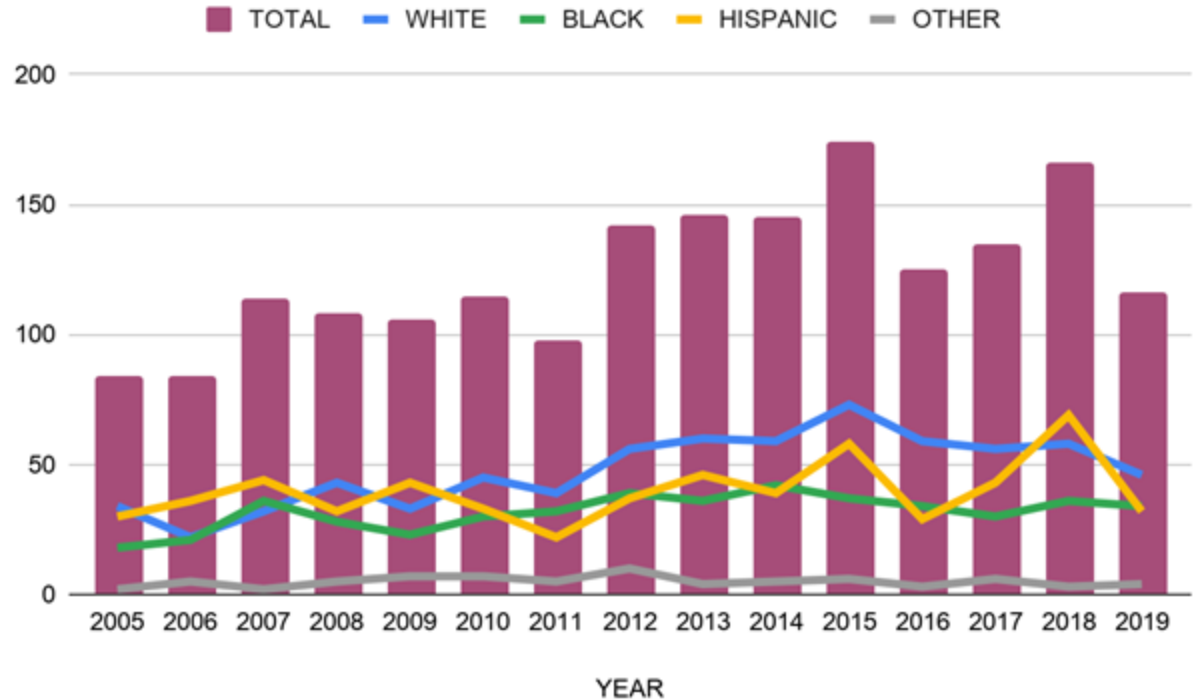
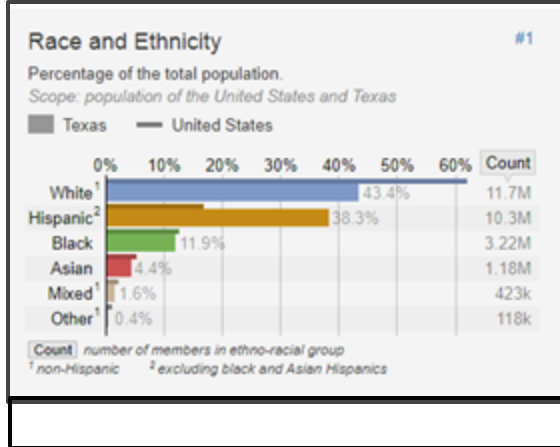
PRIVACY OF DATA

State laws allow anyone to get a good glimpse at the criminal justice system. Through open records requests, TJI has obtained data from various governmental agencies. The data does not pose any threat to privacy as it is available to the public, however, in our research we refrained from including any of the names that were in the data set.

HOW MANY PRE-BOOKING DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED BY RACE?



HOW MANY PRE-BOOKING DEATHS PER YEAR?



HOW MANY PRE-BOOKING DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED BY SEX?

Texas gender population and ratio

Total Population:

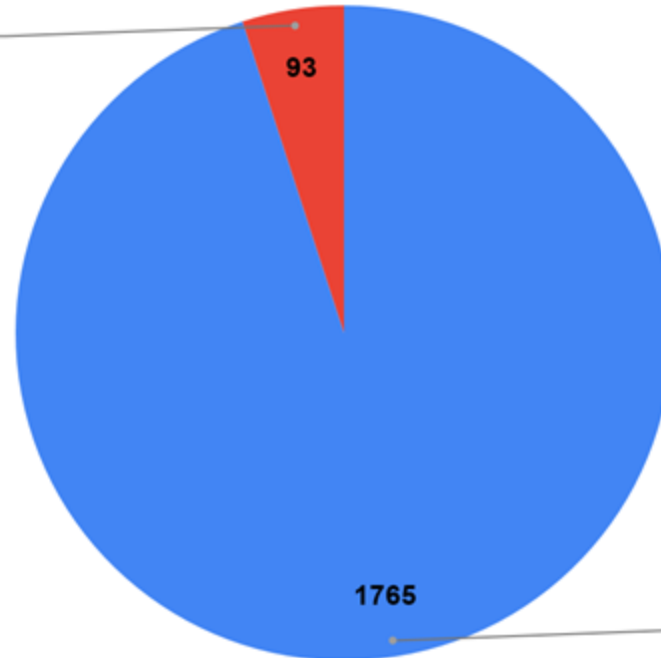
i 13,382,386 13,574,572
Men Women

Gender Ratio:

99 : **100**
Men Women

Based off 2018 US Census data

FEMALE
5.0%



MALE
95.0%

HOW MANY PRE-BOOKING DEATHS PER YEAR BY SEX?

Texas gender population and ratio

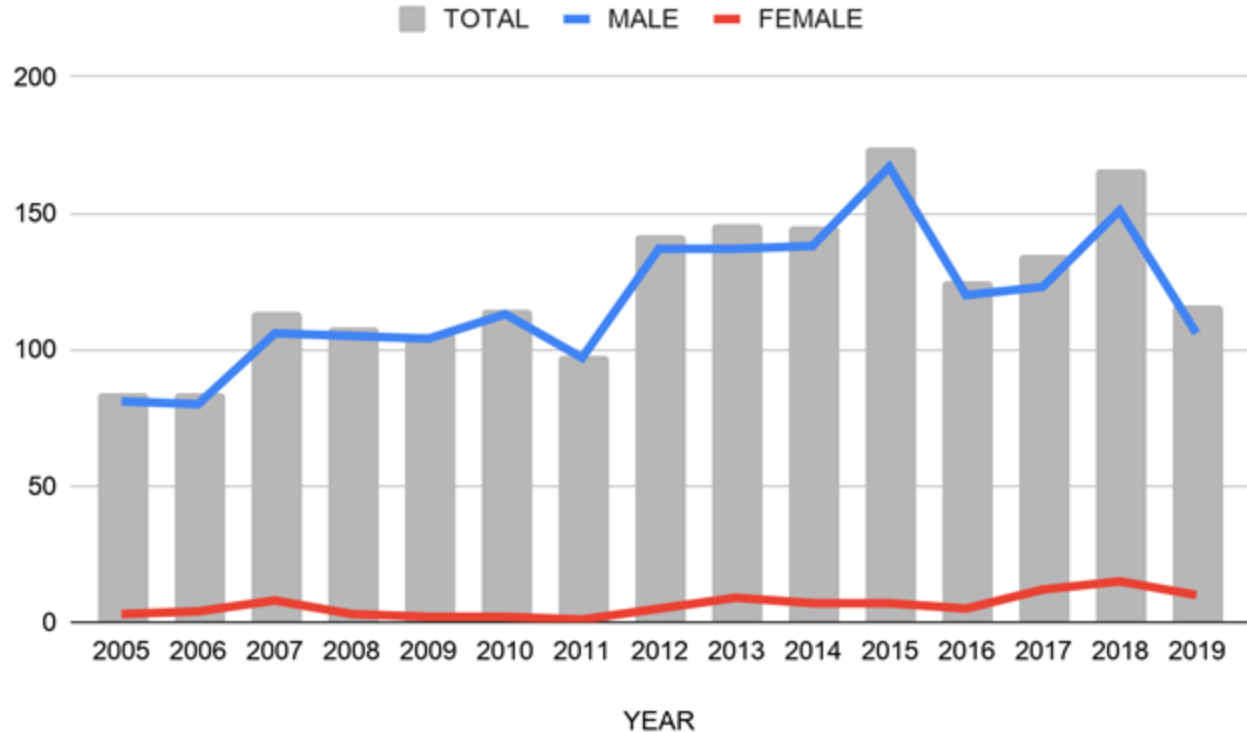
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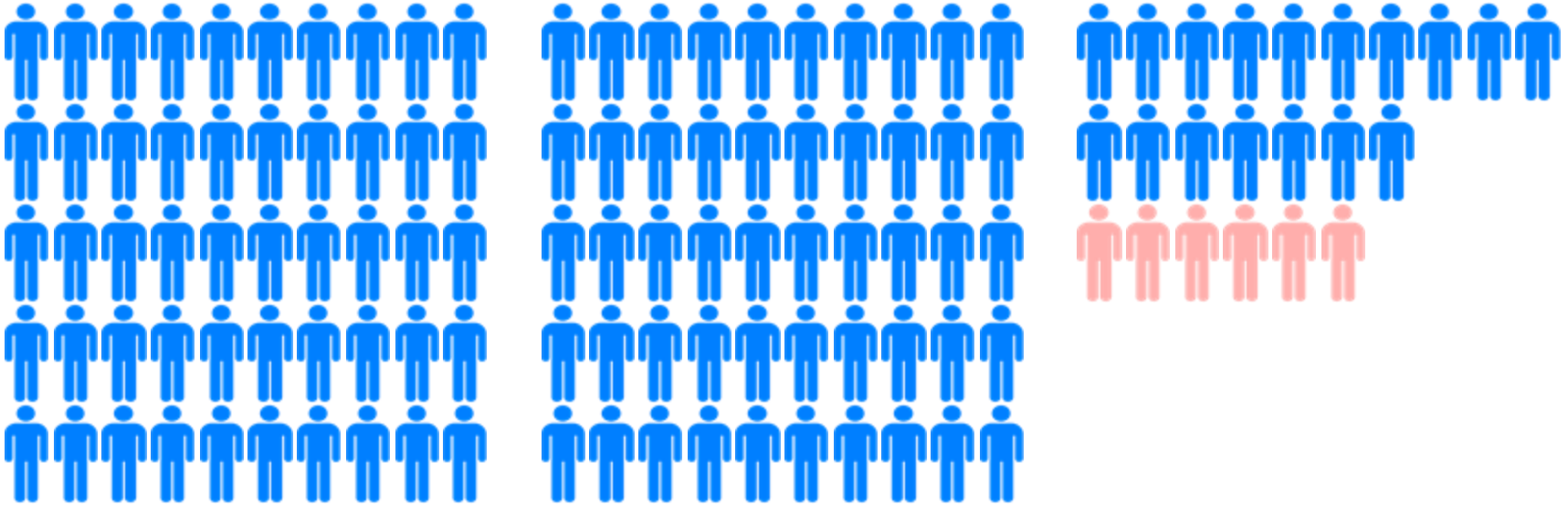
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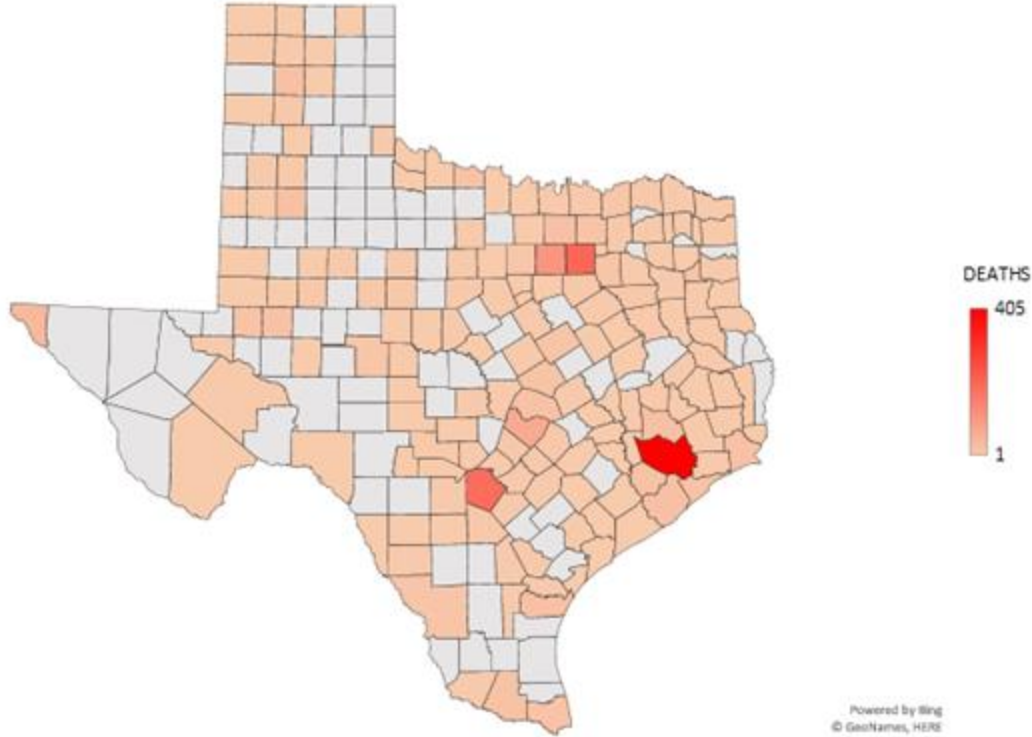


Since 2005, there have been on average **123 pre-booking Texan deaths per year**. Of that amount, there are **117 men** and **6 women**.



NUMBER OF PRE-BOOKING DEATHS BY COUNTY?

PRE-BOOKING DEATHS IN TEXAS SINCE 2005



	COUNTY	DEATHS ▼
1	HARRIS	405
2	DALLAS	199
3	BEXAR	188
4	TARRANT	108
5	TRAVIS	64
6	EL PASO	37
7	DENTON	23
8	MONTGOMERY	23
9	LUBBOCK	22
10	NUECES	21

In most cases, the higher the county population, the more pre-booking deaths occurred. When taking into account population, Harris County itself was ranked #63 within Texas.

1 death for about every 11,600

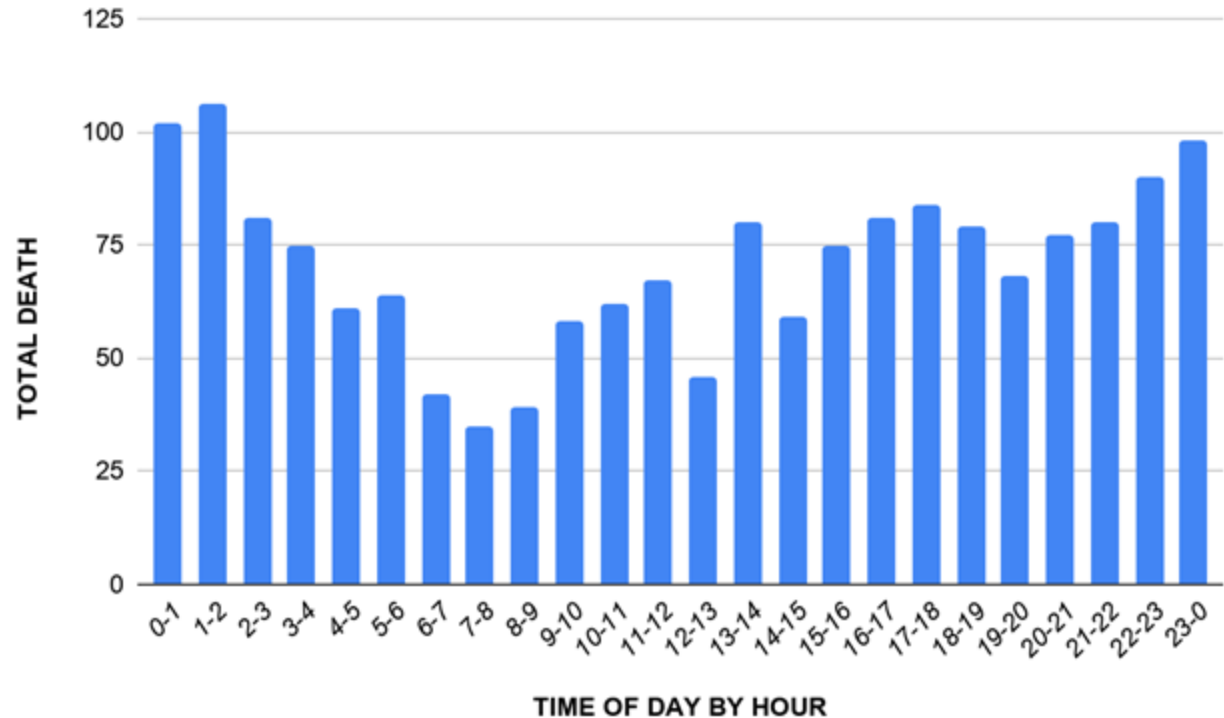
WHAT POLICE AGENCY HAS THE MOST PRE-BOOKING DEATH REPORTS?

NAME OF AGENCY	AMOUNTS OF REPORTED DEATHS ▼
HOUSTON POLICE DEPT	241
SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPT	159
DALLAS POLICE DEPT	128
TEXAS DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	112
HARRIS CO SHERIFFS OFFICE	102
FORT WORTH POLICE DEPT	71
AUSTIN POLICE DEPT	57
EL PASO POLICE DEPT	34
AMARILLO POLICE DEPT	24
BEXAR CO SHERIFFS OFFICE	23
GARLAND POLICE DEPT	21
CORPUS CHRISTI POLICE DEPT	20
LUBBOCK POLICE DEPT	18
PASADENA POLICE DEPT	18
MONTGOMERY CO SHERIFFS OFFICE	17
IRVING POLICE DEPT	16
ARLINGTON POLICE DEPT	15
HARRIS CO CONST PCT 4	15
MIDLAND POLICE DEPT	14
WICHITA FALLS POLICE DEPT	13
LAREDO POLICE DEPT	12
DALLAS CO SHERIFFS OFFICE	11
FORT BEND CO SHERIFFS OFFICE	10

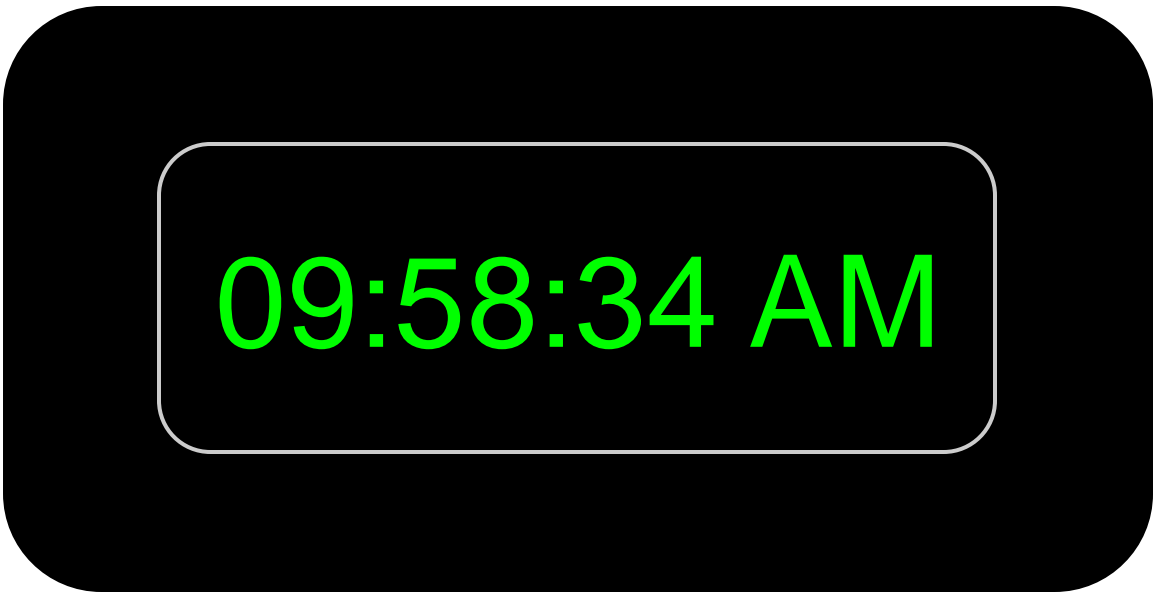
There are hundreds of police agencies in Texas, each mandated by state law to report custodial deaths. These are only the names of those who have 10 and over pre-booking death reports to account for.

WHEN DO MOST PRE-BOOKING DEATHS OCCUR?

Most deaths
occurred
between
1AM to 2AM



WHAT IS THE AVERAGE TIME WHEN MOST PRE-BOOKING DEATHS OCCUR?



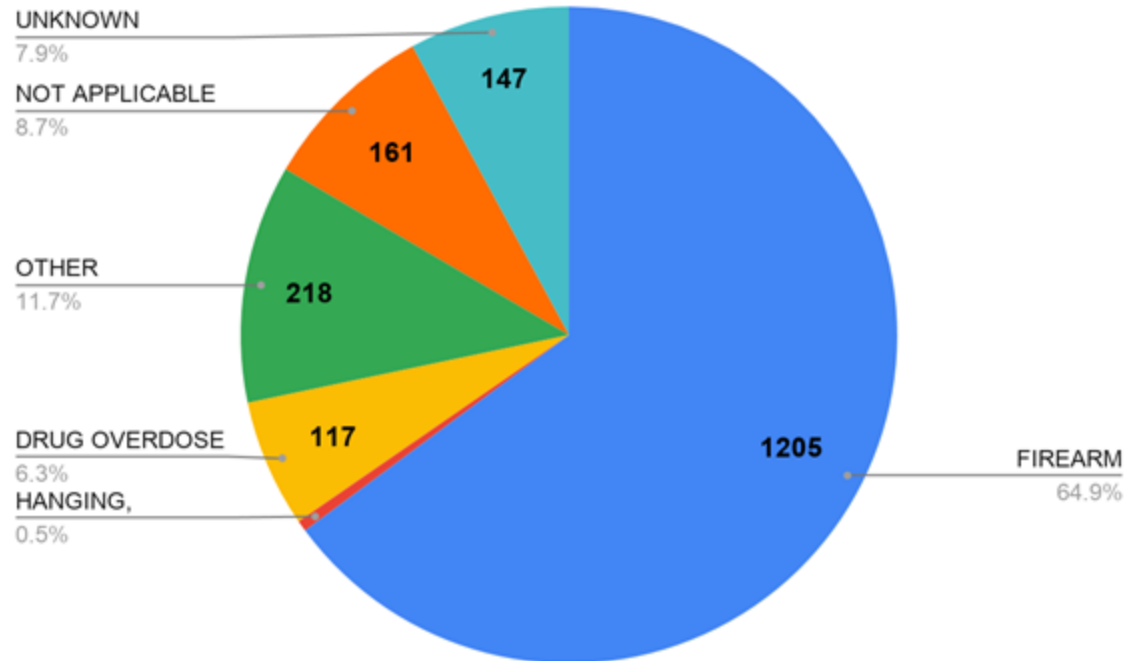
09:58:34 AM

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE AT TIME OF DEATH?



RANGE
Youngest 6 Oldest 93

WHAT CAUSED THE DEATH?





CONCLUSION



The total number of pre-booking deaths (1,858) is a burden to bear by the state of Texas. There has to be action to fix this issue which is why we thought the best way to come up with a solution is to outreach with police departments with the most pre-booking deaths and their community to find what is causing so many deaths. If we can discover the problem, we can work with both parties to find solutions.

**FUTURE
WORK**

**DEATHS OF INDIVIDUALS
IN TEXAS PRISONS SINCE 2005**



ACTION PLAN

MONTH 1 - JANUARY



- Begin analyzing data from the TJI data portal about deaths in prison.
- Create an interview outline to be used for all of our possible interviews.
- Reach out to Texas prison officers and justice activists for possible interviews about prison culture, inmate health, and possible explanations for prison deaths.



ACTION PLAN

MONTH 2 - FEBRUARY

- Visualize the data from the TJI data portal.
- Device a privacy of data guideline to follow for interviews.
- Travel and meet with officers who accepted being interviewed.
- Record and log data that we gathered into a document.



ACTION PLAN

MONTH 3 - MARCH

- All TJI portal data to be converted into graphs or tables by March 1st.
- Finish interviews hopefully by mid-March.
- If possible, analyze interview findings and integrate with TJI portal data.



ACTION PLAN

MONTH 4 - APRIL

- Revise and edit our report draft repeatedly.
- Ask TJI staff and / or other qualified personnel to peer-review our report draft.
- Present our final report to Texas Justice Initiative staff.



BUDGET OUTLINE

Keeping that in mind that Texas is the biggest state in the US, most of the money we receive with the mini grant will probably be spent on travel expenses such as:

- Gasoline
- Hotel stay
- Meals

Other possible expenses include:

- Expenditures on records
- Interview equipment
- Interview incentives
- Food accommodations for interviewees





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THANK
YOU!! :)

