

WRONGED AND IGNORED

Racial and Monetary Injustice Among the Wrongfully Convicted in Philadelphia



Philadelphia courts have historically exhibited some of the worst practices of the United States Justice system. Corrupted with systemic racism, the biased court system in Philadelphia has imprisoned countless innocent people of color. In addition to being robbed of decades of their life, they are often provided little to no financial compensation.



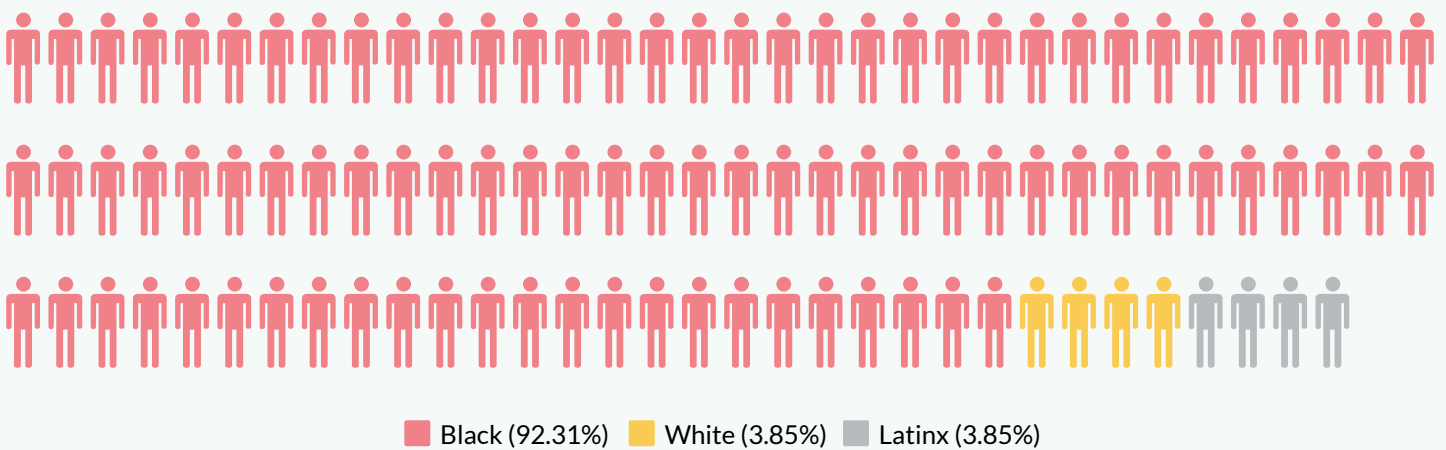
Anthony Wright--20 year old convicted of a rape and murder who was given a life sentence until being found innocent 25 years later.

Jimmy Dennis--21 year old who spent 25 years in prison for murder until found innocent and exonerated in 2017.

Ledell Lee--convicted and sentenced to death for a murder he was found innocent for 4 years later.

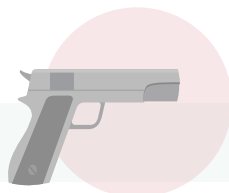
Christopher Williams--convicted of a murder that landed him 30 years in prison leading him to sue Philadelphia due to being granted no compensation for his time in jail.

Percent of Exonerated People in Philadelphia (In Terms of Race)



Murder

Black people are **7 times more likely** to be wrongfully convicted of murder than white people.



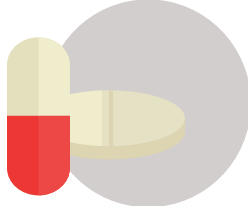
Sexual Assault

A black man convicted of sexual assault is **3.5 times more likely** to be innocent than if they are white.



Drug Cases

Innocent black people are **12 times more likely** to be convicted of drug possession than innocent white people.



Courts In Philadelphia Frequently Show Racial Bias, Especially In Interracial Cases

Race Plays A Significant Role

2/3 of all **black men** exonerated by DNA evidence had been wrongfully convicted of raping a **white woman**.

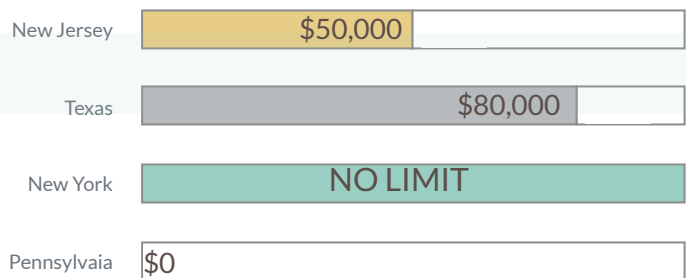


ONLY 25% OF PA EXONEREES HAVE BEEN COMPENSATED



Pennsylvania Trails Other States In Having Progressive Compensation Laws For Exonerees

Maximum Yearly Compensation for Exonerees Per State



One of the **greatest issues** within the justice system today is the amount of **wrongfully convicted citizens often imprisoned due to biases within the system itself**, and it is important that as being a state in which this is a frequent problem, **the least our state government can do would be to financially compensate those who are found to be wrongfully convicted.**



PennState

Sources: "Pennsylvania Exonerated a Record 14 People in 2019, But It Has No Laws to Compensate Those Wrongfully Convicted." *NBC10 Philadelphia*, <https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/investigation/pa-exonerated-a-record-14-people-in-2019-but-it-has-no-law-to-compensate-those-wrongfully-convicted/2286112/>. Accessed 6 Dec. 2021.
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