



Tarrant County Jail 2025 Fact Sheet

The number of in-custody deaths at the Tarrant County Jail must be viewed in context. Tarrant County is the third-largest county in Texas, and the jail ranks fifth in the number of custodial deaths in the state.

The Tarrant County Jail is seeing a DOWNWARD trend in the number of custodial deaths.

Half of the people entering the jail have chronic medical conditions, and about 65% have mental health issues, **making the jail the county's largest psychiatric facility.**

“These deaths have increasingly been framed as a political issue, but the reality is we’re dealing with a medical and behavioral health crisis. This isn’t just a Tarrant County problem, Sheriff’s statewide are facing the same challenges as they manage a high-needs population in facilities never designed to function as healthcare or mental health institutions”.

—Sheriff Bill Waybourn



Tarrant County Jail

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The Tarrant County Jail operates similar to a small city.
Municipalities with comparable populations average 5 times more deaths annually.

Hearne pop. 4,544	42 deaths
Tulia pop. 4,473	34 deaths
Lavon pop. 4,469	44 deaths

5,015 bed capacity (@4700 active beds)	4,300 average daily inmates	44,985 inmates annually booked
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2025 FAST FACTS:

- Total Meals served - 5,291,323
- Kosher meals - 21,900
- Provider Clinic visits - 20,873
- Telehealth visits - 600
- Dental visits - 2,409
- Total doses of medications given - 4,072,896
- MHMR referrals - 92,128
- Suicide interventions - 282
- Chaplain visits - 10,977
- Number of religious books provided - 7,268
- Requests for faith-based reading material - 13,650
- Number of religious meal requests - 6,008



Jail Deaths By Texas Counties

*since 2017

County Capacity/Beds	Harris 10,466	Dallas 7,552	Bexar 5,108	Tarrant 5,015	Travis 3,631	El Paso 2,976
2017	10	6	6	0	3	5
2018	11	5	6	2	5	4
2019	9	5	10	6	3	3
2020	16	7	14	17 (11 Covid)	1	7
2021	21	8	17	13	6	6
2022	26	12	14	11	6	10
2023	19	13	18	9	3	8
2024	9	9	13	9	4	4
2025	19	12	11	6	1	10
Total	140	77	109	73	32	57



TARRANT COUNTY JAIL

Inmate Cause of Death (since 2017)

(52) NATURAL/MEDICAL

(20) cardiac (6) advanced cancer (1) sickle cell (2) seizure (11) COVID (1) HIV related complications
(2) natural-non-specific (3) hypernatremia (1) Ischemic Bowel (1) Sepsis due to diabetes complications
(1) unknown/undetermined (1) pulmonary thromboembolism (1) dehydration/malnutrition (1) Peritonitis

07 SUICIDE *282 suicides were prevented in 2025

07 TOXICITY (alcohol and/or drugs)

03 ACCIDENTAL * 2 from falls, 1 drug overdose

02 HOMICIDE

01 GUNSHOT (*inmate died at Medical City Arlington from injuries following shootout with US Marshals that occurred before he could be booked)

01 PENDING

*6 deaths in custody in 2025

*a/o 12/31/2025



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5,015 bed capacity (@4700 active beds)

4,300 average daily inmates

44,985 inmates booked in annually

45% enter the facility with chronic illness

67% have mental health conditions

38% on mental health meds

John Peter Smith (JPS) is the medical provider for Tarrant County Inmates.

Tarrant County Detention Officers (TCDO) do not provide medical advice or care.

TCDO do not administer medication—not even an aspirin.

My Health My Resources (MHMR) is the mental health provider for Tarrant County Inmates

As with nearly all in-custody deaths, there are investigations occurring simultaneously by one or more agencies:

The Tarrant County Sheriff's Office jail staff

The TCSO Criminal Investigations Division

An outside, independent law enforcement agency

JPS Medical Staff

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office

The Texas Attorney General's Office