

EXONERATION INFOGRAPHIC

1,608 Exonerated Cases in the United States to Date



Exoneration is “The removal of a burden, charge, responsibility, duty, or blame imposed by law. The right of a party who is secondarily liable for a debt, such as a surety, to be reimbursed by the party with primary liability for payment of an obligation that should have been paid by the first party.”

Average Conviction Duration (Before Exoneration)



10.54
YEARS SPENT INCARCERATED



16,956
TOTAL YEARS WRONGFULLY BEHIND BARS

States with the Most Exonerations



MOST FEDERAL:
CALIFORNIA (10)

MOST:
1. **TEXAS** (205)
2. **NEW YORK** (192)
3. **CALIFORNIA** (153)

Average Age of Exoneree's

28.23 YEARS OLD



Type of Crime (most by number)

- 1. **MURDER**
- 2. **SEXUAL ASSAULT**
- 3. **CHILD SEX ABUSE**

Contributing Factors to Exoneration in Order

- 1. **PERJURY OR FALSE ACCUSATION** (895)
- 2. **OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT** (730)
- 3. **MISTAKEN WITNESS IDENTIFICATION** (537)
- 4. **DNA** (400)
- 5. **FALSE OR MISLEADING FORENSIC EVIDENCE** (367)
- 6. **INADEQUATE LEGAL DEFENSE** (339)
- 7. **FALSE CONFESSION** (205)

Famous Exonerations

- AMANDA KNOX** - exonerated for the murder of Meredith Kercher. After more than 7 years, the 27-year-old Seattle, WA native was exonerated by Italy's highest court.
- RICKY JACKSON** – spent 39 years in prison – the longest time spent behind bars by any exoneree. He was ultimately awarded \$1 million in compensation for his time spent in incarceration.

Pennsylvania Specific Info



MOST EXONERATED CASE: **MURDER**
AVG. AGE: **28.61**
AVG. DURATION: **14.03 YEARS**

*Data from 1989 – June 2015 | Sources:
Barry, Colleen, and Frances D'Emilio. "So Grateful": Amanda Knox Saga Ends in Exoneration." The Seattle Times 27 Mar. 2015, Nation and World sec. The Seattle Times Company. Web. 5 June 2015.
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Povoledo, Elisabetta. "Amanda Knox Acquitted of 2007 Murder by Italy's Highest Court." The New York Times 27 Mar. 2015, Europe sec. The New York Times Company. Web. 5 June 2015.
Possley, Maurice. "Ricky Jackson - National Registry of Exonerations." Ricky Jackson - National Registry of Exonerations. University of Michigan Law School, 21 Nov. 2014. Web. 8 June 2015.