

300 U.S. Exonerations In 2015

Three hundred exonerations in the United States in 2015 are documented in the [Innocents Database](#), which is the only database in the world that attempts to compile all known exonerations in the United States, as well as internationally. The database includes 202 international exonerations in 2015. The 2015 U.S. exonerations were greater than the 231 in 2014, and the international exonerations were almost the same as the 207 in 2014.

The Innocents Database that is linked to from [Justice Denied's](#) website, currently includes 6,184 cases — 3,782 from the U.S. and 2,402 from 116 other countries.

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In practice, judicial branch actions (e.g. hiring, firing, promotions) are not based on nepotism, cronyism, or patronage.

In practice, state-level judges recuse themselves from cases in which they may have a conflict of interest.

In practice, state-level judges adhere to the law governing private sector employment after leaving office.

Can citizens access the asset disclosure records of members of the state-level judiciary?

In practice, citizens can access the asset disclosure records of state-level judges within a reasonable time period and at no cost.

In practice, the asset disclosure records of state-level judges are complete and detailed.

In practice, asset disclosure records of state-level judges are accessible to the public in open data format.

The CPI's 2015 State Integrity Investigation is a comprehensive assessment of state government accountability and transparency conducted in partnership with [Global Integrity](#). CPI reports that the project uses extensive research by reporters in each state to grade and rank the states based on existing laws and analysis of how well they are implemented. [Click here](#) for detailed information about the CPI's State Integrity 2015 investigation, including its scorecard methodology.

Source:

[States flunk at integrity](#). By Nicholas Kusnetz, The Center for Public Integrity, November 9, 2015 (updated 11-23-2015)

[State Integrity 2015](#) Report, [www.publicintegrity.org](#)
[Global Integrity](#), [www.globalintegrity.org](#)



The 300 known U.S. exonerations in 2015 include:

- 77 Homicide cases
- 3 Homicide/Sexual assault cases
- 11 Sexual assault cases
- 10 Child sexual assault cases
- 11 Robbery/Theft/Burglary cases
- 19 Assault cases
- 65 Drug cases
- 15 Fraud/Forgery cases
- 1 Child abuse case
- 19 Cases involving violent crimes not listed above
- 69 Cases involving non-violent crimes not listed above

The Innocents Database includes 202 known exonerations in 2015 in countries other than the U.S. Those cases are:

- 53 Homicide cases
- 1 Homicide/Sexual assault cases
- 7 Sexual assault cases
- 9 Child sexual assault cases
- 13 Robbery/Theft/Burglary cases
- 13 Assault cases
- 12 Drug cases
- 22 Fraud/Forgery cases
- 10 Cases involving violent charges not listed above
- 62 Cases involving non-violent charges not listed above

It is notable that the types of cases that involved an exoneration in 2015 both in and outside the United States aren't appreciably different, except for many more drug cases in the U.S. What is extraordinary, is the additional length of time that a person in the U.S. spends incarcerated before their exoneration compared with other countries. Excluding non-violent and drug cases, in 2015 the average person was incarcerated in the U.S. for almost 12-1/2 years before their exoneration, while it was less than half that outside the U.S. — 5-1/2 years.

Although DNA exonerations get a lot of attention, there were only eight exonerations in the U.S. in 2015 based on new DNA evidence, and six others in which new DNA evidence contributed to an exoneration along with other exculpatory evidence. In 2015 there wasn't a single international exoneration that was based on new DNA evidence, or contributed to by new DNA evidence.

The state's with five or more known exonerations in 2015 are:

- Texas, 59
- New York, 29
- Illinois, 24

- North Carolina, 21
- Wisconsin, 9
- Florida, 8
- Iowa, 8
- Pennsylvania, 8
- Washington, 8
- Alaska, 6
- Connecticut, 6
- Indiana, 6
- Ohio, 6
- Alabama, 5
- California, 5
- Virginia, 5

The countries with five or more known exonerations are:

- United States 300
- United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, & Northern Ireland), 45
- India, 29
- New Zealand, 13
- Australia, 9
- Canada, 9
- Pakistan, 9
- Italy, 8
- China, 6
- Costa Rica, 6
- Bahamas, 5
- Egypt, 5
- Ireland, 5

The sortable version of the Innocents Database that [became available online](#) in December 2015, allows both user defined searches, and user defined sorts of any combination of more than 100 columns of data. The Innocents Database's homepage is at [www.forejustice.org/innocentsdatabase.htm](#).



Visit the Innocents Database

Includes details about more than 5,700 wrongly convicted people from the U.S. and other countries.

[www.forejustice.org/search_idb.htm](#)

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