



Seeking Truth. Giving Hope. Freeing the Innocent.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- 329 People have been exonerated through DNA evidence since 1989
  - Exonerations are from 38 states and the District of Columbia
  - 20 people served time on death row
- Average length of time served is 13.5 years
  - Total number of years served is over 4,337
- Over 1,600 exonerations nationwide overall since 1989

### **HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN?**

- Eyewitness Misidentification Testimony was a factor in nearly 72% of exonerations and 80% of wrongful sexual assault convictions.
- Unvalidated or Improper Forensic Science played a role in approximately 50% of the cases.
- False confessions and incriminating statements lead to wrongful convictions in approximately 25% of cases.
- Informants and incentivized witnesses providing false testimony contributed to wrongful convictions in 19% of cases.

### **COULD THIS AFFECT ME?**

- True perpetrators have been identified in 148 DNA cases (45%)
- Additional crimes committed include 70 sex assaults, 32 murders

### **HOW CAN WE PREVENT IT?**

- Using best practices in eyewitness identification procedures
- Recording suspect custodial interrogations
- Forensic science accreditation and oversight
- Regulating informant testimony

*Join the Pennsylvania Innocence Project in our efforts to prevent innocent people from being convicted. Find out how at [innocenceprojectpa.org](http://innocenceprojectpa.org) and [act4innocents.net](http://act4innocents.net)  
Text "Innocent" to 22828 for e-mail updates & alerts.*

