

Texas earns a D+ for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Low bar to forfeit: Prosecutors must prove by preponderance of the evidence that property is connected to a crime.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property.
- Large profit incentive: Up to 70% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement in cases where property is forfeited by default; up to 100% where forfeiture is contested.

Recent Reforms

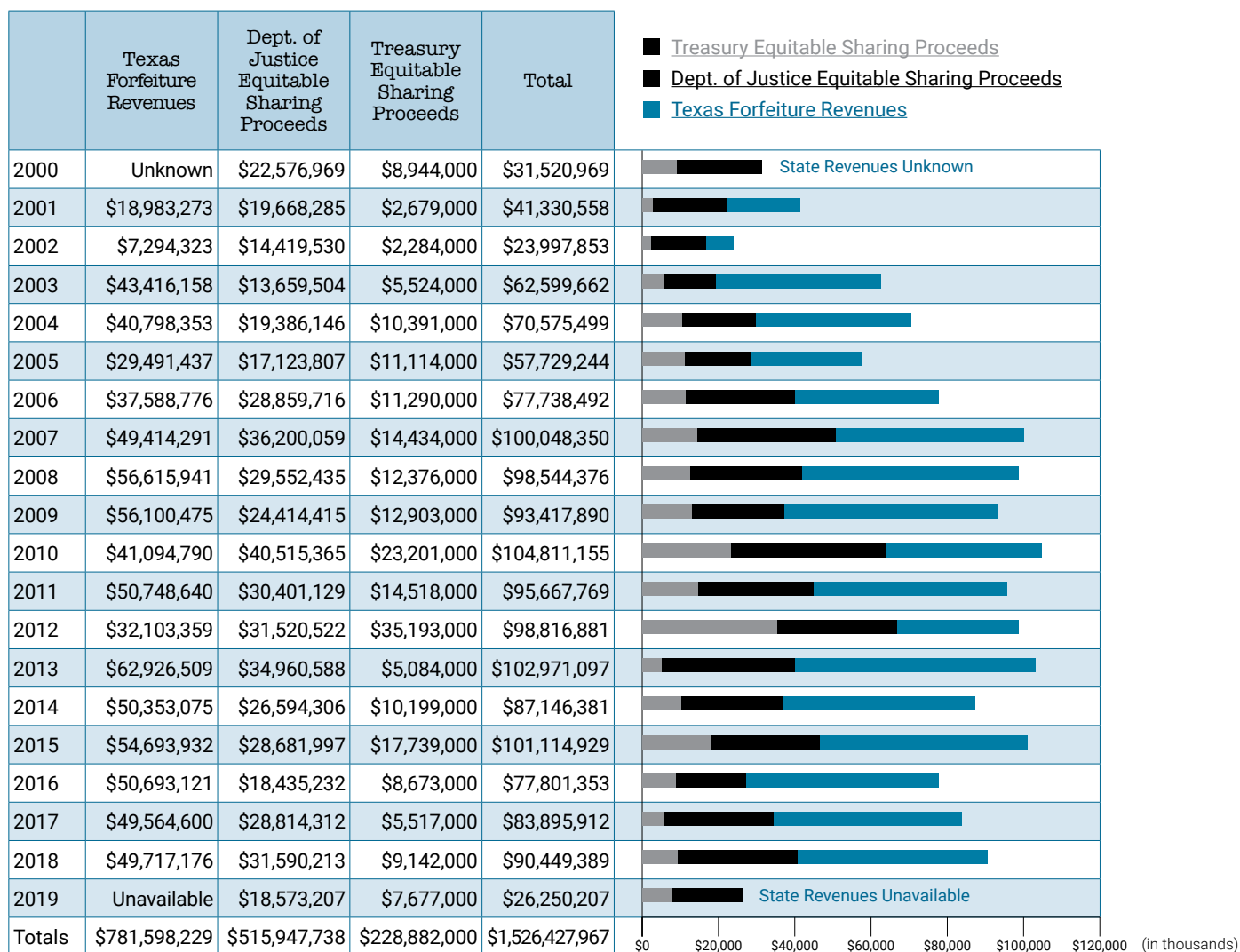
- None.

State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

Between 2001 and 2018, Texas law enforcement agencies forfeited more than \$781 million under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$744 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$1.5 billion in forfeiture revenue. Texas ranks 47th for its participation in the Department of Justice's equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$1.5 billion
in state and federal
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

Texas' Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	D	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	A
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	A	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	C*
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	D	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	A

* Agencies must file even when they have nothing to report.

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards.

Forfeitures Under Texas Law: Key Facts

Median Value



Texas does not report property-level data necessary to calculate median forfeiture value.

Property Types

UNKNOWN

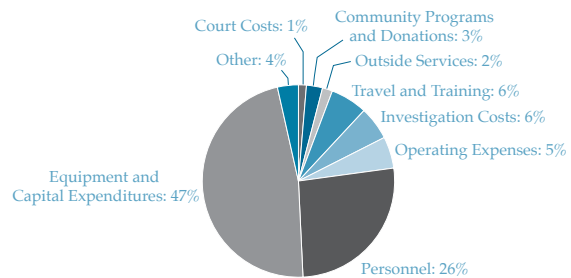
Texas does not report the types of property forfeited.

Civil vs. Criminal

UNKNOWN

Texas does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

Expenditures



From 2013 to 2018, Texas law enforcement spent \$266 million from forfeiture funds—nearly half on equipment and capital expenditures and another quarter on personnel.

Data Notes

Agency-level forfeiture data were obtained via public records requests to the Texas Attorney General. Figures represent cash and proceeds of sold property. All figures are in the reporting agencies' respective fiscal years. Figures for 2008 through 2018 exclude interest. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state or cover the same 12-month period as the federal data.