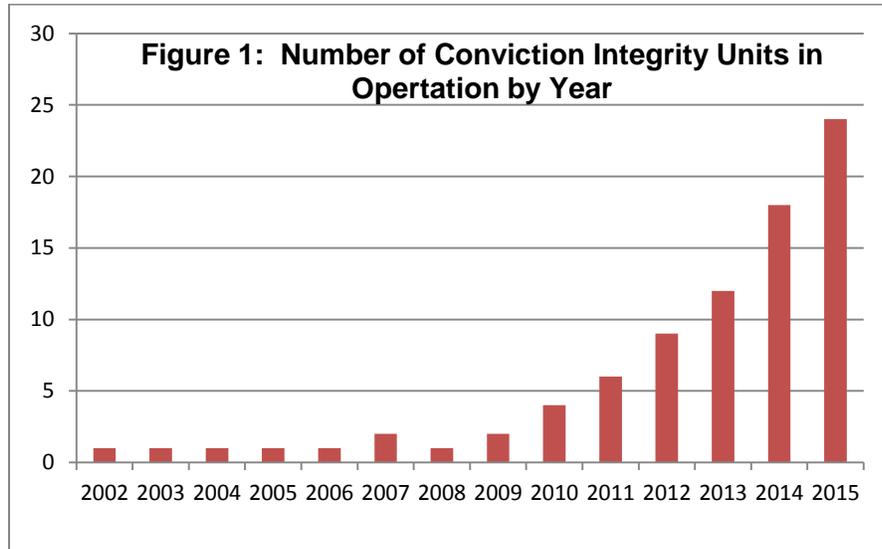


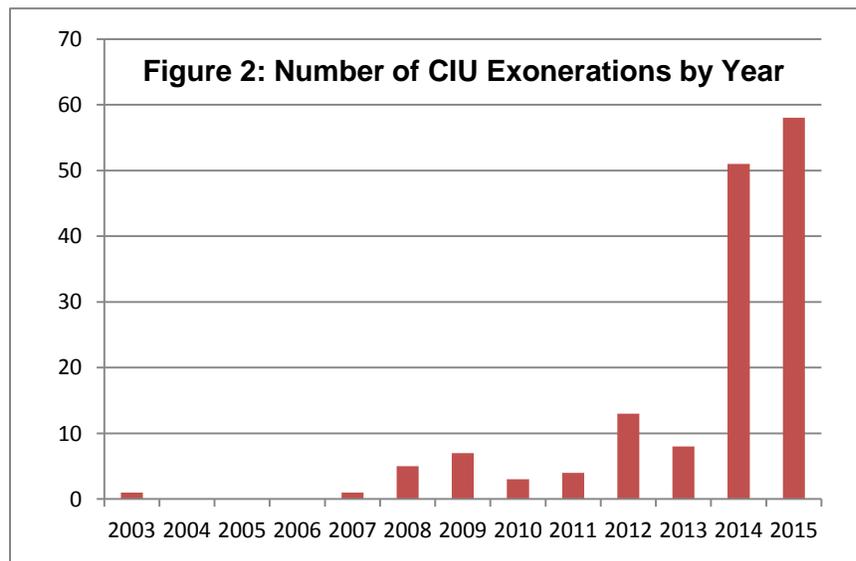
## CONVICTION INTEGRITY UNITS

A **Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU)** is a division of a prosecutorial office that works to prevent, identify and correct false convictions. We discussed CIUs in detail in our recent report [Exonerations in 2015](#), and also last year in [Exonerations in 2014](#).

The number of CIU's has grown rapidly in the past six years. There were 24 CIUs in the United States in 2015, double the number in 2013 and quadruple the number in 2011. See Figure 1:



A record **58 CIU-exonerations** took place in 2015. Overall, CIUs have helped secure **151** exonerations from 2003 through 2015. The number of CIU exonerations has shot up in the past two years. Nearly three-quarters of all CIU exonerations occurred in 2014 and 2015 (109/151). See Figure 6:



**The performance of these CIUs has been highly variable.** [Appendix Table A](#) of the Registry report [Exonerations in 2015](#) provides detailed information on the on the each CIU in the United States, including years of operation and number and types of exonerations by year. Table A reveals that:

- ◆ Nearly half of CIU exonerations come from one office (Harris County, TX) ([76/151](#))
- ◆ Almost 90% of CIU exonerations (134/151) occurred in four counties: Harris, TX; Dallas, TX; Brooklyn, NY; and Cook, IL.
- ◆ Half of all CIUs have not been involved in any exonerations—and four others have worked on one only—including several units that have existed for three to five years.
- ◆ A couple of other units worked on one or more exonerations years ago, but not since.

Table A also shows that several CIUs have no contact information that's publicly available on the web or by telephone, including some that have been in operation for years.

This is not a complete picture of the work of CIUs. Exonerating innocent defendants is not their only mission. Some units have also worked on investigative practices that may prevent false convictions from occurring. And we have no information on cases that are still pending.

What we can say is this: In a few counties, CIUs have become important, active on-going operations. For several CIUs, it's too early to say. And for others, we found no evidence that they have done anything much at all.