



Bexar County Public Information Office
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

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Contact: Tom Peine
210.335.0073/o
210.420.8694/m

The Office of Criminal Justice
Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office
Releases 2020 Annual Report

The primary function of the Medical Examiner's Office is to investigate the deaths of individuals in Bexar County who die suddenly, violently, and unexpectedly, in order to determine the cause and manner of death. As part of their mission they also compile a statistical report annually to assess these various causes and manners of death to assist social scientists and public health researchers in understanding the roles of illness and trauma in our community.

Key findings from the 2020 report include:

- An 18% increase in the total number of cases investigated in 2020 over 2019.
- A 12% increase in the total number of cases examined in 2020 over 2019.
- A 31% increase in homicides in 2020 over 2019.
- An 11% increase in natural deaths in 2020 over 2019.
- A 9% increase in drug-related deaths in 2020 over 2019.

Additionally, the annual report includes the 2020 COVID-related deaths certified by the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office:

- 138 deaths were certified by the BCMEO as being COVID-related.
- The highest numbers of COVID-related deaths were seen in July and December, mirroring the 2020 peaks of COVID-19 infection within the community.

The 2020 annual report is available on the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office website:
<https://www.bexar.org/3116/Annual-Reports>

The Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office provides the residents of Bexar County with independent, high quality, accurate medical and scientific determinations of the cause and manner of death of those individuals falling under the statutory jurisdiction of the office. Our staff works with compassion and understanding for the families and loved ones.

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