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Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office
Releases 2021 Annual Report

The Bexar County Office of Criminal Justice - Medical Examiner's Office (BCMEO) has experienced extraordinary challenges in 2022 which have led to a later than usual release of the previous year's annual report. This delay is rooted in a desire to stay true to the mission of providing the residents of Bexar County with independent, high quality, accurate medical and scientific determinations of the cause and manner of death. Therefore, ongoing cases were prioritized to provide answers to pressing questions from law enforcement and families of the deceased.

Looking back at 2021, there are several noteworthy developments. The office saw an increase of approximately 10 % in deaths reported to the office and a 16% increase in deaths certified by the office (jurisdictional cases). Compared to 2019 numbers, this represents an almost 30% increase in workload over the past two years.

Homicides increased by 19% from 2020 to 2021, suicides by 25%, and accidents by 20%, including a 19% increase in overdoses.

The BCMEO certified 294 deaths as being COVID-19-related last year, more than double the number from 2020.

Another significant event that year was winter storm Uri in February 2021. The BCMEO certified 14 deaths as related to this weather incident.

A copy of the BCMEO Annual Report 2021 is attached to this release and, together with other previous reports, can also be found online at <https://www.bexar.org/3116/Annual-Reports>.

The Bexar County Office of Criminal Justice acts as a local leader for criminal justice policy, training, and technical assistance to advance the direction of justice. It also acts as a connecting point with national, state and local organizations to set policy and help broadcast information on the best practices.

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