

**BEXAR COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



*7337 LOUIS PASTEUR DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78229
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Prepared by:

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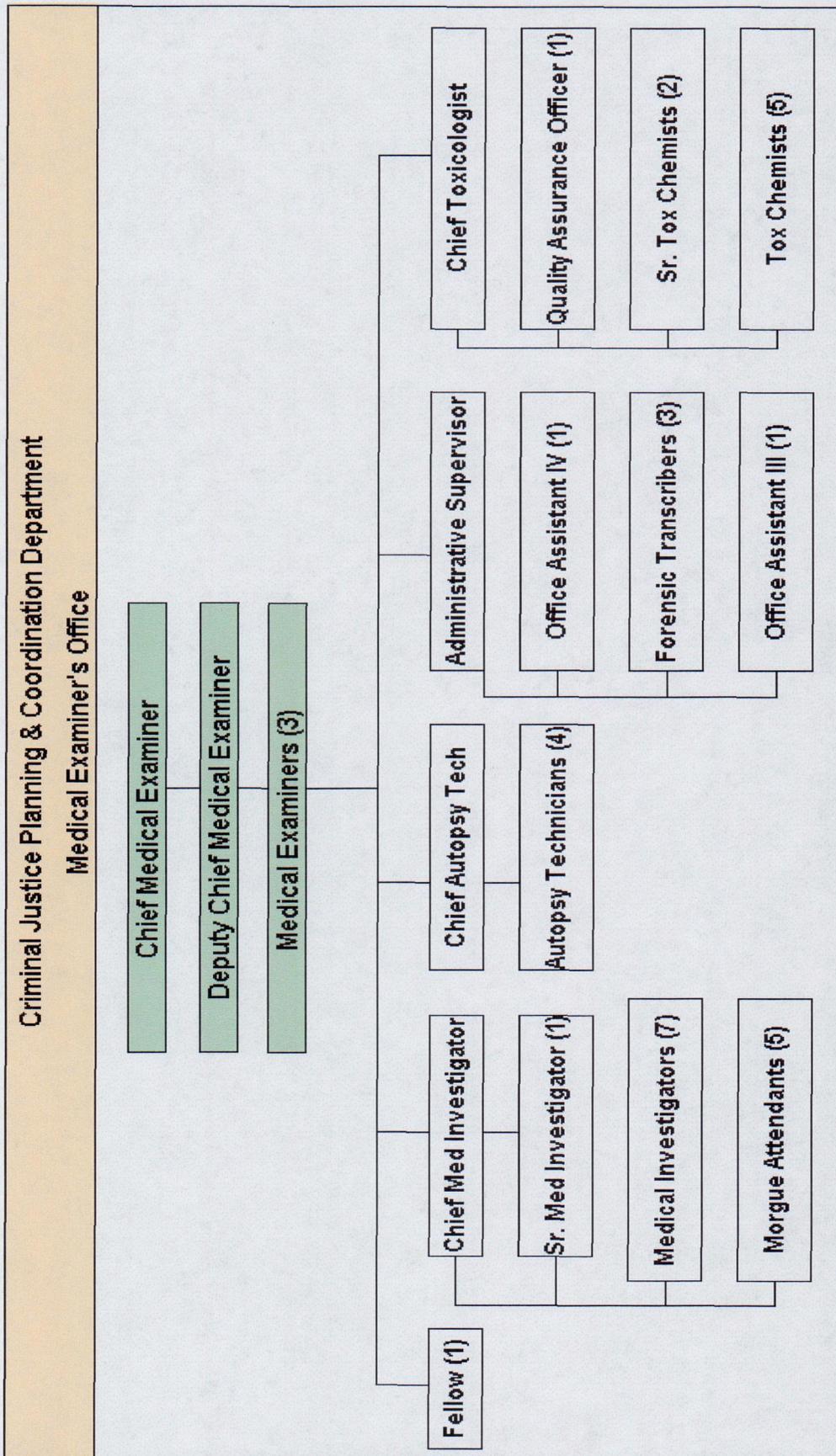
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MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Vincent J.M. DiMaio, M.D.	Chief Medical Examiner, retired 12-31-06
Randall E. Frost, M.D.	Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
Jennifer J. Rulon, M.D.	Medical Examiner
D. Kimberley Molina, M.D.	Medical Examiner
John A. Stash, D.O.	Medical Examiner
Matrina J. Schmidt, M.D.	Fellow 7/01/05 - 6/30/06
Rajesh P. Kannan, M.D.	Fellow 7/01/06 - 6/30/07

SECTION SUPERVISORS

Gloria Delgado	Administrative Supervisor
J. Rod McCutcheon	Chief Toxicologist
James R. Holguin	Chief Medical Investigator
Martin Castillo	Chief Autopsy Technician



ORGANIZATION

The Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office has four major sections: the Investigative; the Medical; the Administrative; and the Toxicologic. Total staff positions in 2006 were 40. The M.E. Staff consists of nine Investigators; five Forensic Pathologists; a Fellow (an individual training as a forensic pathologist); nine Toxicologists; five Autopsy Technicians; five Morgue Attendants; and six clerical support personnel.

DUTIES

The BCMEO is charged, by State law, with investigating the following type of deaths:

1. When a person shall die within twenty-four hours after admission to a hospital or institution or in prison or in jail;
2. When any person is killed; or from any cause dies an unnatural death, except under sentence of the law; or dies in the absence of one or more good witnesses;
3. When the body or a body part of a person is found, the cause or circumstances of death are unknown, and:
 - (A) the person is identified; or
 - (B) the person is unidentified;
4. When the circumstances of the death of any person are such as to lead to suspicion that he came to his death by unlawful means;
5. When any person commits suicide, or the circumstances of his death are such as to lead to suspicion that he committed suicide;
6. When a person dies without having been attended by a duly licensed and practicing physician, and the local health officer or registrar required to report the cause of death under Section 193.005, Health and Safety Code, does not know the cause of death. When the local health officer or registrar of vital statistics whose duty it is to certify the cause of death does not know the cause of death, he shall so notify the medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred and request an inquest;
7. When the person is a child who is younger than six years of age and the death is reported under Chapter 264, Family Code; and
8. When a person dies who has been attended immediately preceding his death by a duly licensed and practicing physician or physicians, and such physician or physicians are not certain as to the cause of death and are unable to certify with certainty the cause of death as required by Section 193.004, Health and Safety Code. In case of such uncertainty the attending physician or physicians, or the superintendent or general manager of the hospital or institution in which the deceased shall have died, shall so report to the medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred, and request an inquest.

The Medical Examiners certify the cause and manner of death in all cases in which they accept jurisdiction, performing autopsies; when necessary, to make such determinations. In 2006, the Office investigated 9,244 deaths; accepted jurisdiction in 2,255 and performed 1,253 autopsies and approximately 61,918 toxicology tests. The Office also performs autopsies for 32 adjacent Counties.

The BCMEO works with law enforcement agencies in Bexar County and approximately 32 other counties for which the BCMEO provides autopsy services, as well as State and Federal agencies. In addition, it works with the District Attorneys in these areas.

Total budget for this Fiscal year was \$3,393,008.00

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total Number of Cases Investigated	8656	9026	9244
Cases Accepted	2267	2288	2255
Scene Investigations	469	523	580
Autopsies	1199	1149	1253
Complete Autopsies	1059	1004	1104
Partial Autopsies	140	145	149
Inspections	600	631	590
Death Certificates Only	66	97	51
Storage/Voided Cases	145	148	128
² Contract Cases (Out of County)	257	263	233
Cremation Certificates Issued	2926	3051	3302
Burial Transit Permits	3202	3244	3515
¹ Autopsy Reports Requested	953	788	3322
Toxicology Tests Performed	56119	71393	61918

¹ Autopsy reports requested for 2004 and 2005 were paid records mailed out. 2006 data reflects total (paid and courtesy copies) records mailed out.

² In previous Annual Reports, the Contract cases (Out of County cases) were included in the total number of Autopsies and Inspections. For this year's Annual Report, the Contract cases were separated from the Bexar County cases to give a more accurate view of data in Bexar County's jurisdiction.

Explanation of Data

The following pages of this year's Annual Report only reflect data within the County of Bexar. Bexar County encompasses the city of San Antonio and at least a portion of the following cities:

Alamo Heights	Hill Country Village	Shavano Park
Balcones Heights	Hollywood Park	Somerset
Castle Hills	Kirby	St. Hedwig
Cibolo	Leon Springs	Terrell Hills
China Grove	Leon Valley	Timberwood Park
Converse	Live Oak	Universal City
Cross Mountain	Lytle	Von Ormy
Elmendorf	Olmos Park	Windcrest
Fair Oaks Ranch	Schertz	
Grey Forest	Scenic Oaks	
Helotes	Selma	

Abbreviations Used

Race

- W/M: White (Caucasian, including Hispanic), Male
- W/F: White (Caucasian, including Hispanic), Female
- B/M: Black, Male
- B/F: Black, Female
- O/M: Other (Asian, Native-American, etc.), Male
- O/F: Other (Asian, Native-American, etc.), Female
- Unknown: Race or Sex is not known.

MANNER OF DEATH

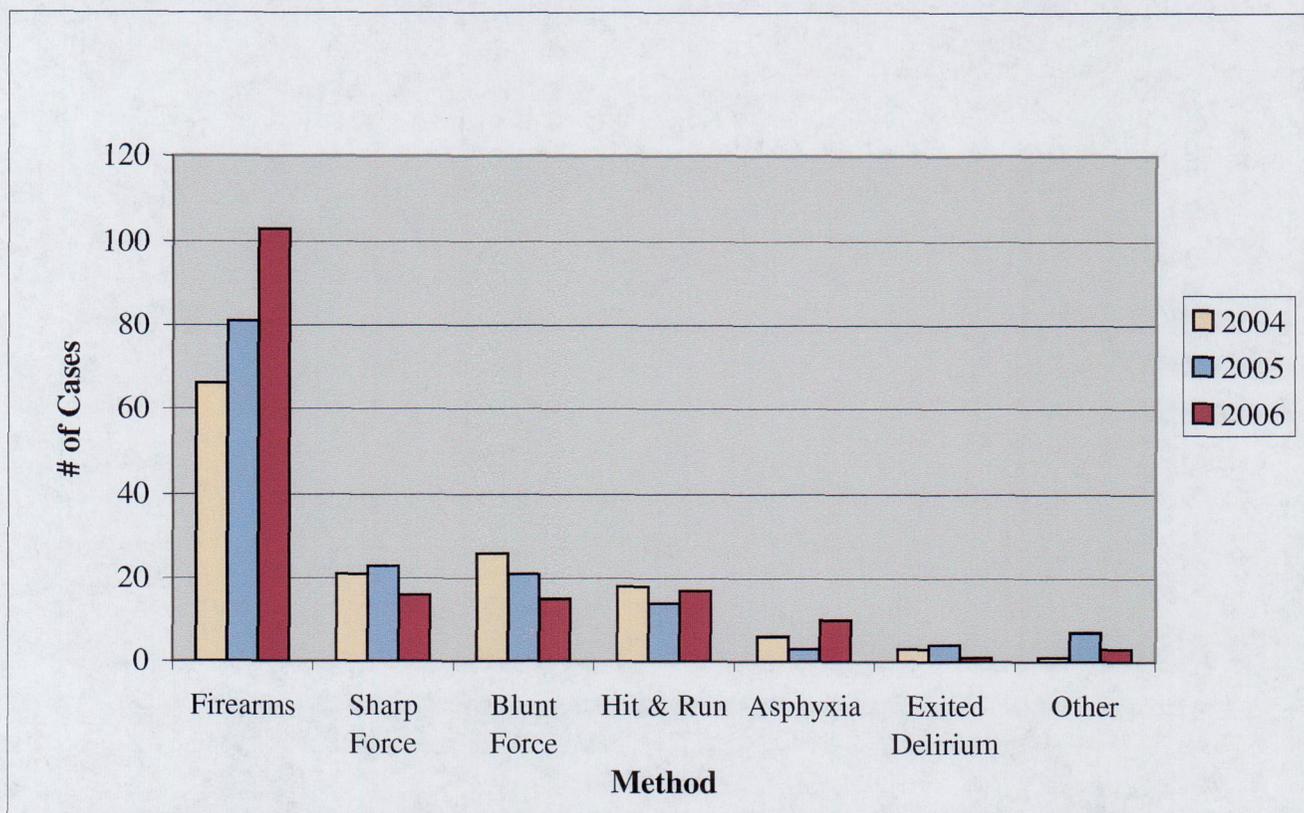
<u>Manner</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Homicide	141	153	165
Suicide	150	169	170
Accident	708	626	657
Natural	735	774	749
Undetermined	60	55	98
Unclassified	5	3	4
Total	1799	1780	1843

Percent Autopsied, by Manner - 2006

<u>Manner</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Number Autopsied</u>	<u>Percent Autopsied</u>
Homicide	165	165	100%
Suicide	170	115	68%
Accident	657	419	64%
Natural	749	457	61%
Undetermined	98	96	98%
Unclassified	4	1	25%
Total	1843	1253	68%

HOMICIDES BY METHOD

<u>Method</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Firearms	66	81	103
Sharp Force	21	23	16
Blunt Force	26	21	15
Hit & Run	18	14	17
Asphyxia	6	3	10
Exited Delirium	3	4	1
Other	1	7	3
Total	141	153	165



HOMICIDES BY AGE, RACE/SEX

<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
0-5	8	11	7
6-10	1	0	2
11-15	5	4	3
16-19	8	15	12
20-29	28	43	61
30-39	36	19	30
40-49	29	30	23
50-59	13	11	16
60-69	7	8	5
70-79	1	6	4
80-89	3	3	1
90-99	0	0	0
Unk	2	3	1
Total	141	153	165
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
W/M	98	95	98
W/F	23	30	27
B/M	14	25	31
B/F	2	3	7
O/M	1	0	2
O/F	2	0	0
Unknown	1	0	0
Total	141	153	165

HOMICIDES BY FIREARMS

<u>Type of Weapon</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Handgun	28	52	75
Centerfire Rifle	3	1	4
Rimfire Rifle	1	2	3
Shotgun	6	3	5
Unknown	28	23	16
Total	66	81	103
<u>Caliber of Handguns</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
.38/.357	8	9	14
.22	2	1	5
.25	0	0	0
.32	0	3	6
.380 ACP	2	5	2
9 mm	9	18	25
.40	3	9	17
.45 ACP	4	2	6
Other	0	5	0
Total	28	52	75

HOMICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL

<u>Alcohols/Drugs Analysis</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No Tests Performed	4	3	4
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	49	60	67
Positive for Alcohol	31	33	32
Drugs Only	37	39	36
Drugs & Alcohol	20	18	26
Total	141	153	165
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<.05	11	12	7
.05-.099	12	12	13
.10-.199	17	17	25
.20-.299	7	9	10
+.30	4	1	3
Total	51	51	58

CHILD HOMICIDES BY AGE AND METHOD - 2006

Ages 0 - 17 (years)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Firearms</i>	<i>Sharp Force</i>	<i>Blunt Force</i>	<i>Hit & Run</i>	<i>Drowning</i>	<i>Scalding</i>
Infant (under 1)	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
1 to 4	4	0	0	4	0	0	0
5 to 8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
9 to 12	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
13 to 17	7	5	1	0	1	0	0
Total	16	7	1	7	1	0	0

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS)

<i>Race/Sex</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
W/M	7	3	7
W/F	2	4	3
B/M	0	0	2
B/F	0	1	1
O/M	0	0	0
O/F	0	1	0
Total	9	9	13

SUICIDES BY METHOD, AGE, RACE/SEX

<u>Method</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Firearms	74	77	88
Drugs/Chemicals	23	29	27
Hanging	34	44	39
Carbon Monoxide	3	3	2
Sharp Force	2	6	3
Other	14	10	11
Total	150	169	170
<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<15	1	0	1
15-19	18	13	15
20-29	24	28	23
30-39	20	29	37
40-49	43	42	37
50-59	24	24	26
60-69	7	15	16
70-79	6	13	10
80-89	6	5	5
90-99	1	0	0
Total	150	169	170
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
W/M	110	127	127
W/F	33	29	33
B/M	7	8	6
B/F	0	3	2
O/M	0	1	2
O/F	0	1	
Total	150	169	170

SUICIDES BY FIREARMS

<u>Type of Weapon</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Handgun	57	59	67
Centerfire Rifle	4	2	1
Rimfire Rifle	3	3	3
Shotgun	7	11	11
Unknown	3	2	6
Total	74	77	88
<u>Caliber of Handguns</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
.38/.357	18	28	20
.22	13	9	11
.25	3	1	0
.32	4	5	9
.380 ACP	4	4	3
9mm	9	6	10
.40	2	3	6
.45 ACP	4	3	4
Other/Unknown	0	0	4
Total	57	59	67

SUICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL

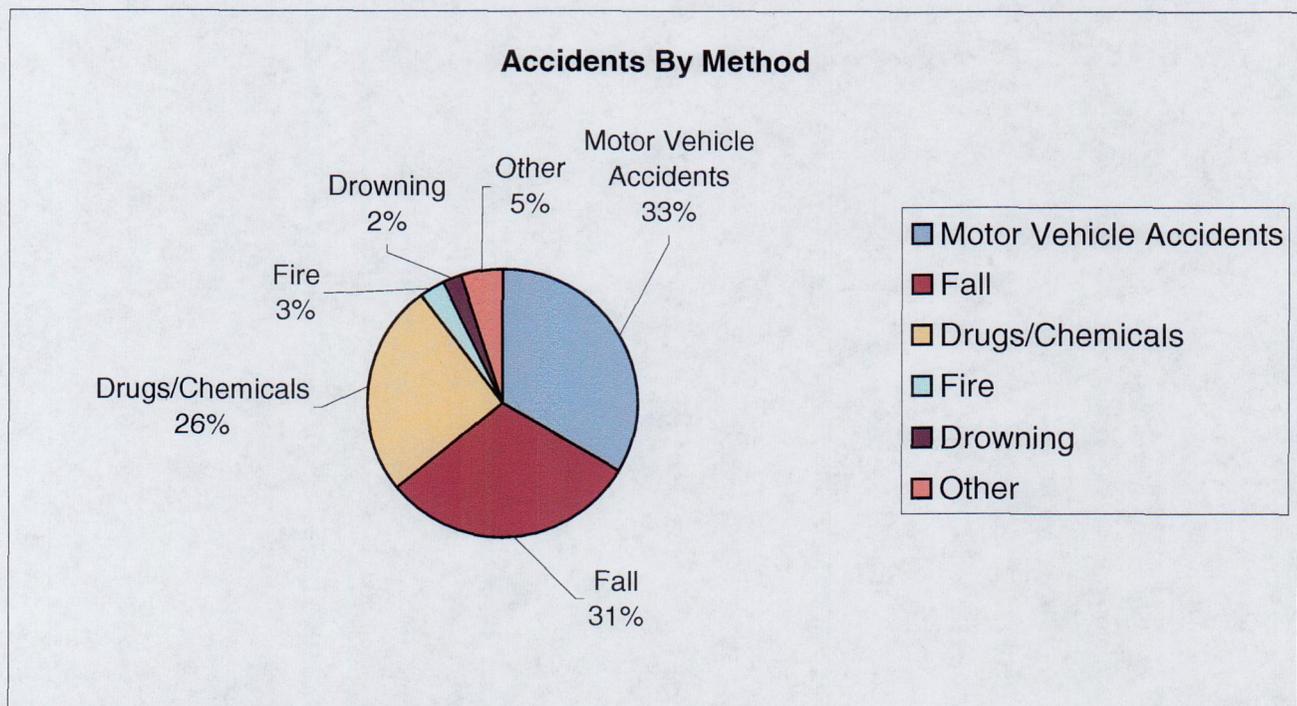
<u>Alcohols/Drugs Analysis</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No Tests Performed	2	7	1
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	48	56	50
Alcohol Only	15	26	31
Drugs Only	56	58	59
Drugs & Alcohol	29	22	29
Total	150	169	170
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<.05	3	9	8
.05-.099	11	9	11
.10-.199	18	17	24
.20-.299	9	12	15
+.30	3	1	2
Total	44	48	60

TEENAGE SUICIDES BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

Ages 13 - 19 (years)			
<u>Method</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Firearms	11	6	5
Hanging	7	4	8
Drugs	1	3	2
Other	0	0	1
Total	19	13	16
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
W/M	14	11	11
W/F	3	0	3
B/M	2	2	2
B/F	0	0	0
O/M	0	0	0
O/F	0	0	0
Total	19	13	16

ACCIDENTS BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

<i>Method</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
Motor Vehicle Accidents	248	231	219
Fall	203	179	202
Drugs/Chemicals	165	153	168
Fire	15	6	21
Drowning	21	11	15
Other	56	46	32
Total	708	626	657
<i>Race/Sex</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>
W/M	418	390	378
W/F	238	203	234
B/M	33	20	27
B/F	14	9	15
O/M	2	2	1
O/F	3	2	2
Total	708	626	657



ACCIDENTS BY AGE AND METHOD - 2006

Age (years)	Total	Method						
		MV Accidents	Fall	Drugs/ Chemicals	Asphyxia/ Choking	Drowning	Fire	Other
Infant (under 1)	4	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
1 to 4	5	2	0	0	0	1	1	1
5 to 8	6	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
9 to 12	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
13 to 16	13	8	0	3	0	1	0	1
17 to 19	26	19	1	4	0	1	1	0
20 to 24	35	19	2	14	0	0	0	0
25 to 29	35	21	1	13	0	0	0	0
30 to 34	33	16	4	12	0	0	0	1
35 to 39	39	19	0	17	1	1	0	1
40 to 44	60	12	4	40	0	0	1	3
45 to 49	59	20	1	33	2	0	1	2
50 to 54	44	11	8	18	1	1	3	2
55 to 59	37	16	8	6	1	3	1	2
60 to 64	22	9	6	5	0	0	2	0
65 to 70	21	8	8	2	2	0	1	0
over 70	215	34	159	0	6	3	7	6
Total	657	219	202	168	13	15	21	19

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - DRIVERS

<u>Alcohol/Drugs Analysis</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No Tests Performed	11	7	11
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	44	41	29
Alcohol Only	25	21	25
Drugs Only	27	19	21
Drugs & Alcohol	11	14	8
Total	118	102	94
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<.05	1	4	0
.05-.099	3	5	7
.10-.199	14	14	17
.20-.299	17	10	8
+.30	1	2	1
Total	36	35	33
<u>Seatbelt Use</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Yes	51	43	34
No	33	28	32
Unknown	34	31	28
Total	118	102	94

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - PEDESTRIANS

<u>Alcohol/Drugs Analysis</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No Tests Performed	2	4	4
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	21	20	14
Alcohol Only	12	8	4
Drugs Only	14	7	7
Drugs & Alcohol	3	2	6
Total	52	41	35
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<.05	5	0	0
.05-.099	1	3	2
.10-.199	4	1	5
.20-.299	3	5	3
+ .30	2	1	0
Total	15	10	10

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
Motorcycles and Bicycles
(Operator or Driver)

	<i>Motorcycles</i>			<i>Bicycles</i>		
<u>Alcohol/Drugs Analysis</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
No Tests Performed	1	2	3	1	0	0
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	7	11	11	4	3	1
Alcohol Only	5	2	6	0	0	0
Drugs Only	3	4	4	1	0	3
Drugs & Alcohol	2	0	5	0	2	0
Total	18	19	29	6	5	4
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<.05	2	0	1	0	0	0
.05-.099	2	0	0	0	0	0
.10-.199	3	0	7	0	0	0
.20-.299	0	2	2	0	2	0
+.30	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	7	2	11	0	2	0
<u>Helmet Use</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Yes	5	7	11	0	1	0
No	12	8	12	3	4	0
Unknown	1	4	6	3	0	4
Total	18	19	29	6	5	4

DEATHS DUE TO DRUGS/TOXIC SUBSTANCES

<u>Drug/Toxic Substance</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Heroin	40	45	32
Cocaine	31	40	40
Heroin/Cocaine	27	14	28
Methamphetamine	4	10	11
Methadone	19	15	8
Propoxyphene	3	3	8
Other Narcotics	23	10	24
Anti-Depressants/Anti-Psychotic	3	7	6
Mixed Drugs	19	29	35
Ethyl Alcohol	4	1	3
Carbon Monoxide	5	5	2
Other	25	11	14
Total	203	190	211

¹Deaths due to Drugs or Toxic Substances consist of several Manners of Death (Suicide, Accident and Undetermined).

FEE SCHEDULE**EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 01, 2005**

Code	Administrative Fees Analysis/Examination/Service Charge	Fee
1001	Reports (Autopsy, Investigation, Toxicology)	25.00
1002	Certified Report	35.00
1003	Certification of Documents	10.00
1004	Notarization of Documents	10.00
1005	Insurance/Physician Statement	20.00
1006	Copy Charge/page	.10
1007	Records Request (includes Report, notarizing documents, up to 15 copies, 1 photo CD and research)	100.00
1008	Library Facility Fee/Day	75.00
1009	Research/Statistical Reports/Questionnaires	50.00
1010	Reproduce prints, slides/each	10.00
1011	Images on CD/each	10.00
1012	Printing digital images	5.00
1013	Cremation Certifications	25.00
1014	Administration/Shipping Fees	50.00
1015	Subpoena Fees	1.00
1016	SIDS Fees (Paid by Tx Dept of Health)	500.00

Code	Autopsy Services Analysis/Examination/Service	Fee
1101	Out-of-County/Contract Autopsy or Released ME Case	2,000.00
1102	Out-of-County External Examination Case	1,000.00
1103	Morgue Facility Usage Fee	500.00
1104	Storage (non-medical examiner cases) Daily	35.00
1105	Microscopic Slides/each	20.00
1106	X-ray duplication/each	75.00

Code	Testimony/Professional Time Analysis/Examination/Service	Fee
2001	Physicians/Hour	200.00
2002	Chief Toxicologist/Hour	125.00
2003	Investigators/Hour	100.00
2004	Custodian of Records/Hour	75.00

FEE SCHEDULE (cont'd.)

Code	Toxicology Analysis/Examination/Service	Fee
3001	Alcohols	60.00
3002	Volatiles	100.00
3003	Acid/Neutral, GC or GC/MS	100.00
3004	Basic Drug Screen, GC or GC/MS	150.00
3005	Cocaine with Metabolites	150.00
3006	Narcotics GC/MS	150.00
3007	Cocaine/Opiates with Metabolites	150.00
3008	Blood Cannabinoids, GC/MS	180.00
3009	Urine Cannabinoids, GC/MS	125.00
3010	Carbon Monoxide	50.00
3011	Tissue Carbon Monoxide	100.00
3012	Cyanide Qualitative	40.00
3013	Cyanide Quantitative	90.00
3014	Metals Qualitative	90.00
3015	Metals Quantitative	90.00
3016	Pesticides GC/MS	90.00
3017	Miscellaneous Testing Level 1	40.00
3018	Miscellaneous Testing Level 2	50.00
3019	Miscellaneous Testing Level 3	75.00
3020	Miscellaneous Testing Level 4	100.00
3021	Miscellaneous Testing Level 5	150.00
3022	Quantitated Drugs in Biological Specimens	140.00
3023	Immunoassay per test	30.00
3024	Electrolytes (SMA6)	45.00

Code	Evidence Receiving	Fee
4001	Evidence Registration/Case	18.00