



**BEXAR COUNTY  
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

**2007 ANNUAL REPORT**



*7337 LOUIS PASTEUR DRIVE  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78229  
(210) 335-4000*

Prepared by:

**Wanda S. Austin**  
**Office Assistant IV**

Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office  
(210) 335-4053  
austin@bexar.org

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Medical Examiners and Section Supervisors.....	2
Organizational Chart.....	3
Organization and Duties.....	4
General Statistics.....	5
Cases Investigated	
Cases Accepted	
Cases Autopsied/Inspected	
Cremation and Burial Transit Permits Issued	
Toxicology Tests Performed	
Explanation of Data and Abbreviations Used.....	6
Manner of Death .....	7
Percent Autopsied	
Homicides	
By Method.....	8
By Age, Race/Sex.....	9
By Firearms.....	10
Drugs/Alcohol in victim.....	11
Child Homicides.....	12
Sudden Unexpected Death In Infancy.....	12
Suicides	
By Method, Age, Race/Sex.....	13
By Firearms.....	14
Drugs/Alcohol in victim.....	15
Teenage Suicides By Method, Race/Sex.....	16
Accidents	
By Method.....	17
By Age and Method.....	18
Drugs/Alcohol in: .....	
Drivers.....	19
Pedestrians.....	20
Motorcyclists/Bicyclists.....	21
Deaths Due To Drugs/Toxic Substances.....	22
Fee Schedule.....	23

**MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

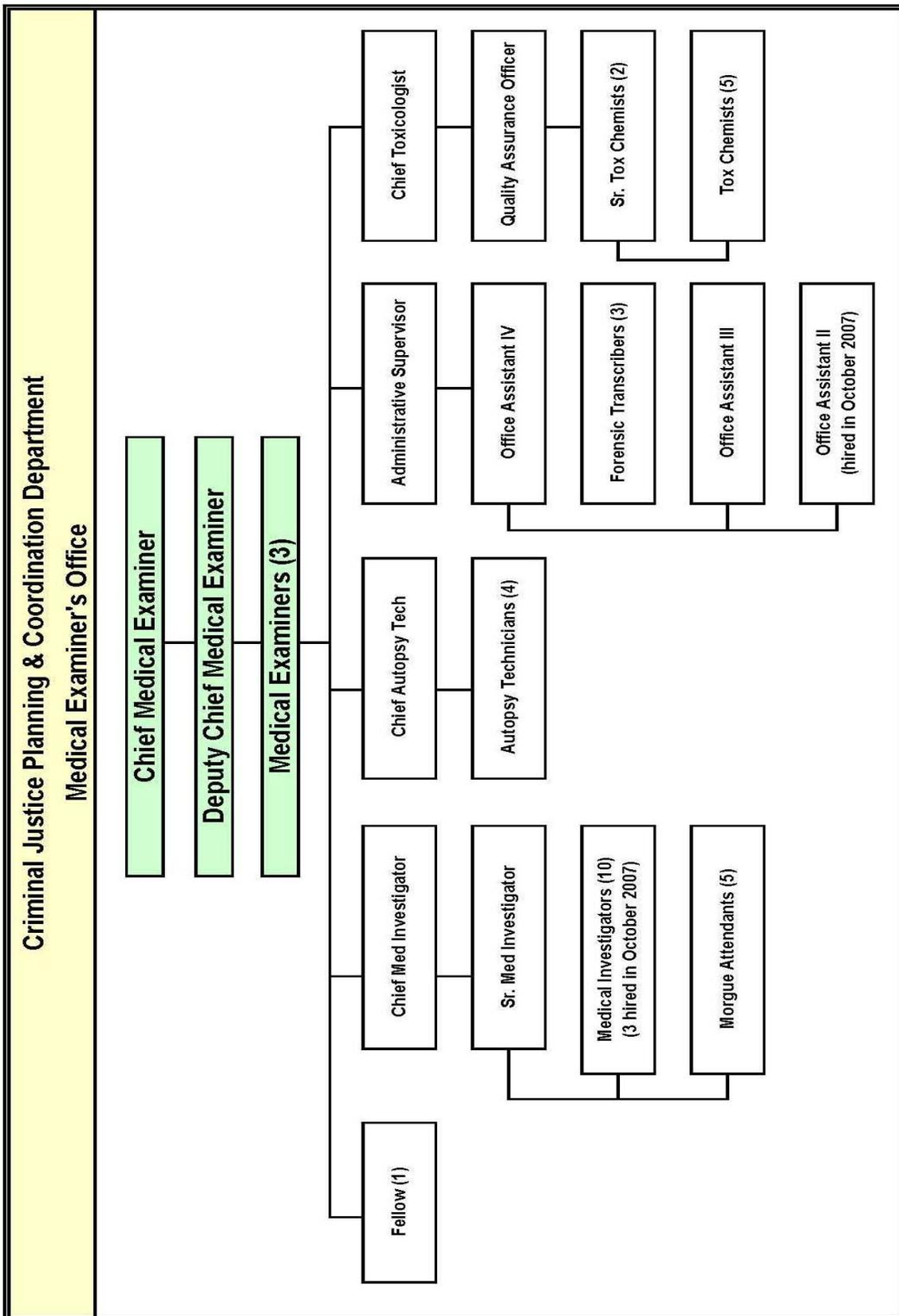
Randall E. Frost, M.D.  
Chief Medical Examiner

D. Kimberley Molina, M.D.  
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Jennifer J. Rulon, M.D.	Medical Examiner
John A. Stash, D.O.	Medical Examiner
Elizabeth A. Peacock, M.D.	Medical Examiner

**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 2007 were 44. The M.E. Staff consists of twelve Investigators; five Forensic Pathologists; a Fellow (an individual training as a forensic pathologist); nine Toxicologists; five Autopsy Technicians; five Morgue Attendants; and seven 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 2007, the Office investigated 9,304 deaths, accepted jurisdiction in 2,370, and performed 1,385 autopsies and approximately 58,945 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 \$3,787,522.00

## GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Total Number of Cases Investigated	9026	9244	9304
Cases Accepted	2288	2255	2370
Scene Investigations	523	580	648
<b>Bexar County</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2242</b>
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	1004	1104	1230
Partial Autopsies	145	149	154
Inspections	631	590	673
Death Certificates Only	97	51	45
Storage/Voided Cases	148	128	140
<sup>1</sup> Contract Cases (Out of County)	263	233	128
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	243	219	118
Partial Autopsies	6	9	5
Inspections	14	5	5
<b>Total</b>			
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	1247	1323	1348
Partial Autopsies	151	158	159
Inspections	645	595	678
Cremation Certificates Issued	3051	3302	3400
Burial Transit Permits	3244	3515	3598
<sup>2</sup> Autopsy Reports Requested	788	3322	3047
Toxicology Tests Performed	71393	61918	58945

<sup>1</sup> Contract cases (Out of County) are reported in this annual report for the purpose of performance indicators. For County statistical purposes, only Bexar County cases will be reported for the remainder of the annual report.

<sup>2</sup> Autopsy reports requested for 2005 were paid records mailed out. 2006 and 2007 data reflects total (paid and courtesy copies) records mailed out.

## **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

**MANNER OF DEATH**

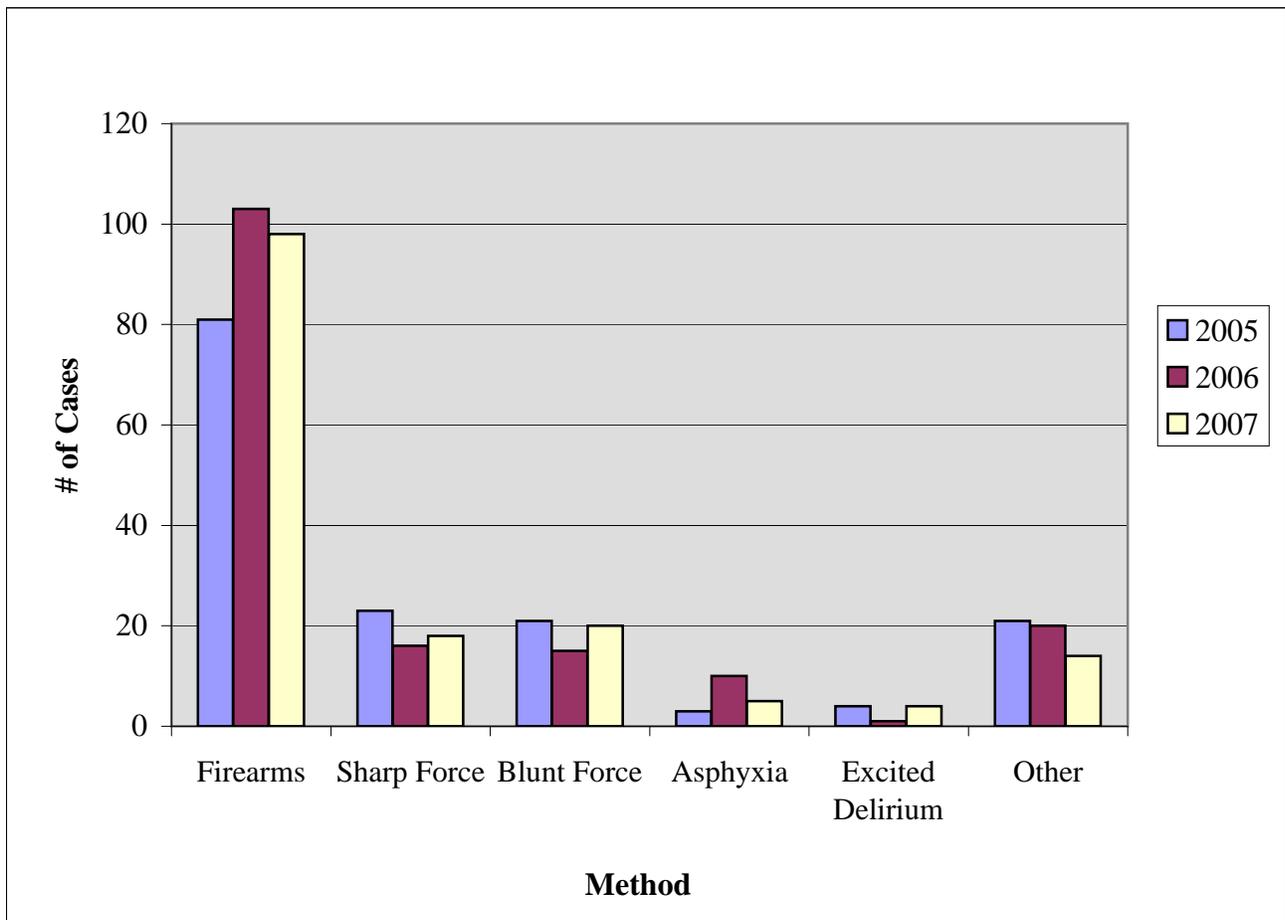
<b><u>Manner</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Homicide	153	165	159
Suicide	169	170	163
Accident	626	657	793
Natural	774	749	813
Undetermined	55	98	121
Unclassified	3	4	8
Total	1780	1843	2057

**Percent Autopsied, by Manner - 2007**

<b><u>Manner</u></b>	<b><u>Total Cases</u></b>	<b><u>Number Autopsied</u></b>	<b><u>Percent Autopsied</u></b>
Homicide	159	159	100%
Suicide	163	126	77%
Accident	793	486	61%
Natural	813	491	60%
Undetermined	121	120	99%
Unclassified	8	3	38%
Total	2057	1385	67%

## HOMICIDES BY METHOD

<b><u>Method</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Firearms	81	103	98
Sharp Force	23	16	18
Blunt Force	21	15	20
Asphyxia	3	10	5
Excited Delirium	4	1	4
Other	21	20	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>159</b>



## HOMICIDES BY AGE, RACE/SEX

<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
0-5	11	7	10
6-10	0	2	1
11-15	4	3	3
16-19	15	12	16
20-29	43	61	47
30-39	19	30	34
40-49	30	23	21
50-59	11	16	14
60-69	8	5	4
70-79	6	4	5
80-89	3	1	1
90-99	0	0	0
Unk	3	1	3
Total	153	165	159
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
W/M	95	98	97
W/F	30	27	27
B/M	25	31	25
B/F	3	7	7
O/M	0	2	1
O/F	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	2
Total	153	165	159

**HOMICIDES BY FIREARMS**

<b><u>Type of Weapon</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Handgun	52	75	68
Centerfire Rifle	1	4	3
Rimfire Rifle	2	3	1
Shotgun	3	5	8
Unknown	23	16	18
Total	81	103	98
<b><u>Caliber of Handguns</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
.38/.357	9	14	13
.22	1	5	5
.25	0	0	1
.32	3	6	2
.380 ACP	5	2	5
9 mm	18	25	21
.40	9	17	12
.45 ACP	2	6	3
Other/Unknown	5	0	6
Total	52	75	68

**HOMICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL**

<b><u>Alcohols/Drugs Analysis</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
No Tests Performed	3	4	5
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	60	67	45
Positive for Alcohol	33	32	38
Drugs Only	39	36	51
Drugs & Alcohol	18	26	20
Total	153	165	159
<b><u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
<.05	12	7	8
.05-.099	12	13	8
.10-.199	17	25	28
.20-.299	9	10	10
+.30	1	3	4
Total	51	58	58

## CHILD HOMICIDES BY AGE AND METHOD - 2007

### Ages 0 - 17 (years)

<i>Age</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Firearms</i>	<i>Sharp Force</i>	<i>Blunt Force</i>	<i>Asphyxia</i>	<i>Other</i>
Infant (under 1)	2	0	0	1	0	1
1 to 4	8	0	0	6	1	1
5 to 8	1	1	0	0	0	0
9 to 12	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 to 17	9	8	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

### \*SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN INFANCY

<u><i>Race/Sex</i></u>	<u><i>2005</i></u>	<u><i>2006</i></u>	<u><i>2007</i></u>
W/M	3	7	10
W/F	4	3	19
B/M	0	2	0
B/F	1	1	1
O/M	0	0	0
O/F	1	0	0
Total	9	13	30

\*As of January 1, 2007, the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office no longer uses the terminology "Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)". Unexplained deaths in infancy are now described with the more accurate term "Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy" with appropriate modifiers reflecting sleeping arrangements or other risk factors.

**SUICIDES BY METHOD, AGE, RACE/SEX**

<b><u>Method</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Firearms	77	88	78
Drugs/Chemicals	29	27	24
Hanging	44	39	45
Carbon Monoxide	3	2	1
Sharp Force	6	3	4
Other	10	11	11
Total	169	170	163
<b><u>Age (years)</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
<15	0	1	0
15-19	13	15	9
20-29	28	23	36
30-39	29	37	34
40-49	42	37	39
50-59	24	26	18
60-69	15	16	8
70-79	13	10	11
80-89	5	5	8
90-99	0	0	0
Total	169	170	163
<b><u>Race/Sex</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
W/M	127	127	118
W/F	29	33	34
B/M	8	6	7
B/F	3	2	0
O/M	1	2	0
O/F	1	0	4
Total	169	170	163

**SUICIDES BY FIREARMS**

<b><u>Type of Weapon</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Handgun	59	67	65
Centerfire Rifle	2	1	3
Rimfire Rifle	3	3	2
Shotgun	11	11	8
Unknown	2	6	0
Total	77	88	78
<b><u>Caliber of Handguns</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
.38/.357	28	20	26
.22	9	11	6
.25	1	0	7
.32	5	9	0
.380 ACP	4	3	7
9mm	6	10	9
.40	3	6	8
.45 ACP	3	4	1
Other/Unknown	0	4	1
Total	59	67	65

**SUICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL**

<b><u>Alcohols/Drugs Analysis</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
No Tests Performed	7	1	3
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	56	50	51
Alcohol Only	26	31	18
Drugs Only	58	59	64
Drugs & Alcohol	22	29	27
Total	169	170	163
<b><u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
<.05	9	8	4
.05-.099	9	11	6
.10-.199	17	24	24
.20-.299	12	15	10
+.30	1	2	1
Total	48	60	45

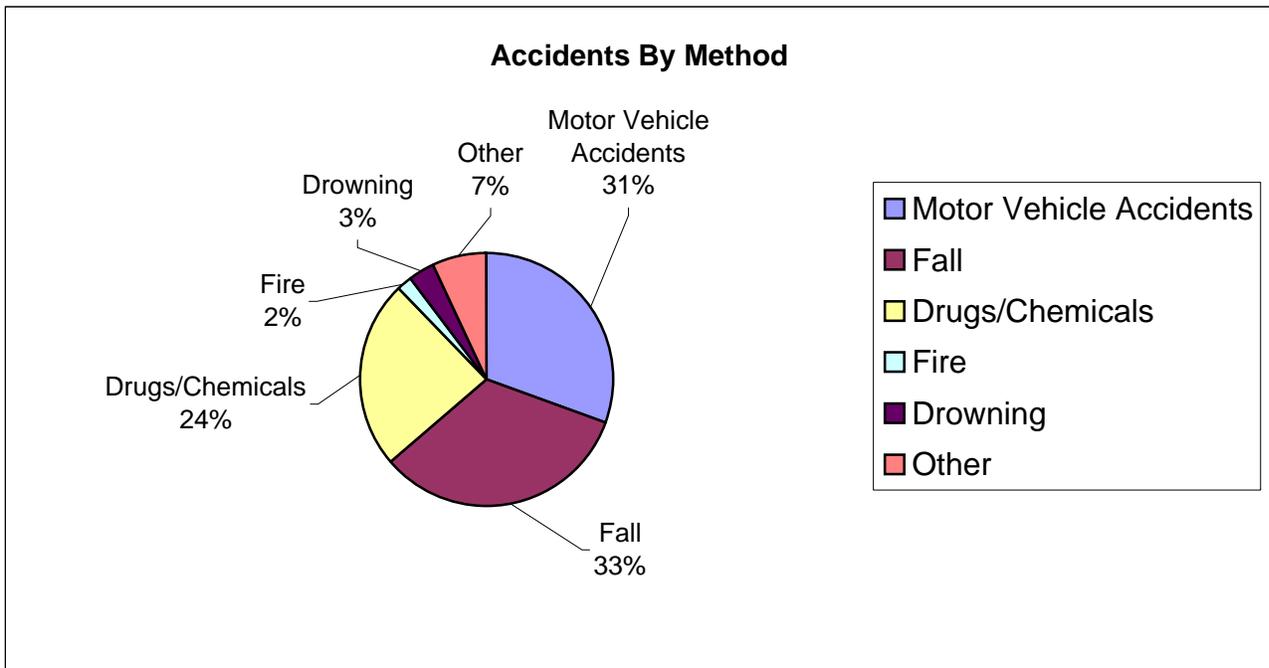
## TEENAGE SUICIDES BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

<b>Ages 13 - 19 (years)</b>			
<b><u>Method</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Firearms	6	5	7
Hanging	4	8	2
Drugs	3	2	0
Other	0	1	0
Total	13	16	9
<b><u>Race/Sex</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
W/M	11	11	5
W/F	0	3	2
B/M	2	2	1
B/F	0	0	0
O/M	0	0	0
O/F	0	0	1
Total	13	16	9

## ACCIDENTS BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

<b><u>Method</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Motor Vehicle Accidents	231	219	243
Fall	179	202	263
Drugs/Chemicals	153	168	191
Fire	6	21	16
Drowning	11	15	25
Other	46	32	56
Total	626	657	794
<b><u>Race/Sex</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
W/M	390	378	476
W/F	203	234	259
B/M	20	27	38
B/F	9	15	18
O/M	2	1	1
O/F	2	2	2
Total	626	657	794

\*Motor vehicle accidents include the following types of deaths: motor vehicle-driver; motor vehicle-passenger; motor vehicle-pedestrian; motor vehicle-fire; motorcycle/ATV; and bicycle deaths.



**ACCIDENTS BY AGE AND METHOD - 2007**

<b>Age (years)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Method</b>						
		<b>MV Accidents</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Drugs/ Chemicals</b>	<b>Asphyxia/ Choking</b>	<b>Drowning</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Other</b>
Infant (under 1)	4	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
1 to 4	11	8	0	0	1	1	0	1
5 to 8	4	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
9 to 12	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
13 to 16	6	0	0	4	0	1	0	1
17 to 19	31	17	1	8	0	2	0	3
20 to 24	68	35	3	23	0	2	0	5
25 to 29	42	23	0	14	2	2	0	1
30 to 34	38	14	2	18	2	0	0	2
35 to 39	35	16	1	17	0	0	0	1
40 to 44	54	22	2	25	1	1	0	3
45 to 49	74	16	8	39	1	2	1	7
50 to 54	52	14	8	23	2	2	0	3
55 to 59	51	16	15	11	2	3	3	1
60 to 64	38	14	12	5	1	2	2	2
65 to 70	26	10	9	3	1	1	1	1
over 70	258	35	202	1	1	3	9	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>

## MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - DRIVERS

<b><u>Alcohol/Drugs Analysis</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
No Tests Performed	7	11	19
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	41	29	24
Alcohol Only	21	25	19
Drugs Only	19	21	18
Drugs & Alcohol	14	8	10
Total	102	94	90
<b><u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
<.05	4	0	2
.05-.099	5	7	1
.10-.199	14	17	12
.20-.299	10	8	12
+.30	2	1	2
Total	35	33	29
<b><u>Seatbelt Use</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>
Yes	43	34	39
No	28	32	29
Unknown	31	28	22
Total	102	94	90

## MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - PEDESTRIANS

<u><b>Alcohol/Drugs Analysis</b></u>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>
No Tests Performed	4	4	15
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	20	14	16
Alcohol Only	8	4	6
Drugs Only	7	7	7
Drugs & Alcohol	2	6	2
Total	41	35	46
<u><b>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</b></u>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>
<.05	0	0	0
.05-.099	3	2	1
.10-.199	1	5	2
.20-.299	5	3	3
+.30	1	0	2
Total	10	10	8

**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS**  
**Motorcycles and Bicycles**  
**(Operator or Driver)**

	<i><b>Motorcycles</b></i>			<i><b>Bicycles</b></i>		
<i><b>Alcohol/Drugs Analysis</b></i>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>
No Tests Performed	2	3	5	0	0	4
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	11	11	8	3	1	0
Alcohol Only	2	6	11	0	0	0
Drugs Only	4	4	8	0	3	0
Drugs & Alcohol	0	5	5	2	0	0
Total	19	29	37	5	4	4
<i><b>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</b></i>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>
<.05	0	1	2	0	0	0
.05-.099	0	0	1	0	0	0
.10-.199	0	7	10	0	0	0
.20-.299	2	2	3	2	0	0
+.30	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	2	11	16	2	0	0
<i><b>Helmet Use</b></i>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>	<u><b>2005</b></u>	<u><b>2006</b></u>	<u><b>2007</b></u>
Yes	7	11	10	1	0	0
No	8	12	16	4	0	2
Unknown	4	6	11	0	4	2
Total	19	29	37	5	4	4

## DEATHS DUE TO DRUGS/TOXIC SUBSTANCES

<u><i>Drug/Toxic Substance</i></u>	<u><i>2005</i></u>	<u><i>2006</i></u>	<u><i>2007</i></u>
Heroin	45	32	33
Cocaine	40	40	50
Heroin/Cocaine	14	28	14
Methamphetamine	10	11	11
Methadone	15	8	15
Other Narcotics	13	32	31
Anti-Depressants/Anti-Psychotic	7	6	4
Mixed Drugs	29	35	41
Ethyl Alcohol	1	3	6
Carbon Monoxide	5	2	3
Other	11	14	23
Total	190	211	231

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

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

<b>Code</b>	<b>Administrative Fees Analysis/Examination/Service Charge</b>	<b>Fee</b>
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

<b>Code</b>	<b>Autopsy Services Analysis/Examination/Service</b>	<b>Fee</b>
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

<b>Code</b>	<b>Testimony/Professional Time Analysis/Examination/Service</b>	<b>Fee</b>
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.)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Toxicology Analysis/Examination/Service</b>	<b>Fee</b>
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

<b>Code</b>	<b>Evidence Receiving</b>	<b>Fee</b>
4001	Evidence Registration/Case	18.00