

**BEXAR COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



7337 LOUIS PASTEUR DRIVE
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MEDICAL EXAMINERS

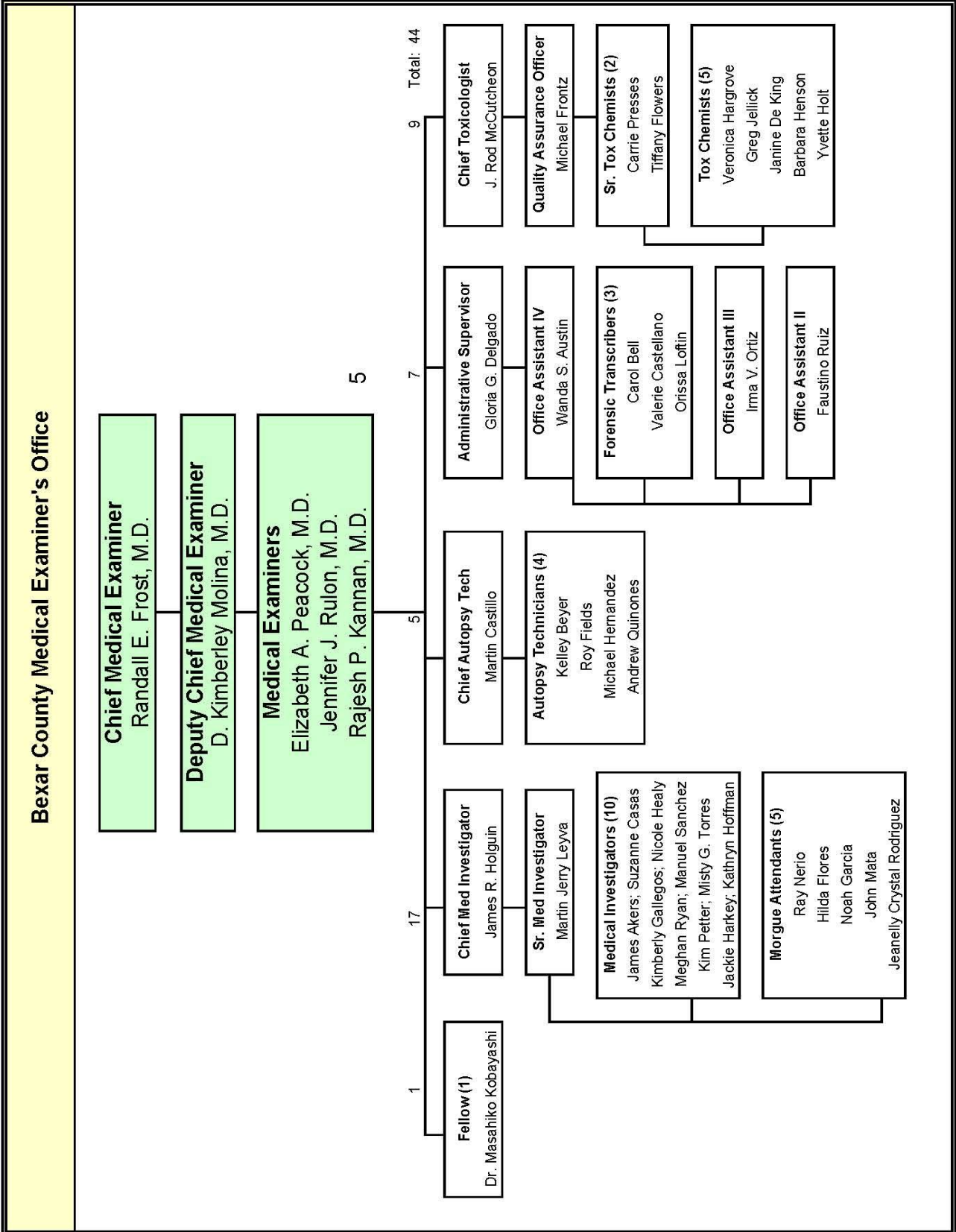
Randall E. Frost, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

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

Jennifer J. Rulon, M.D.	Medical Examiner
Rajesh P. Kannan, M.D.	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 2008 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 2008, the Office investigated 9,500 deaths, accepted jurisdiction in 2,273, and performed 1,431 autopsies and approximately 63,358 toxicology tests.

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.

The total budget for this Fiscal year was \$4,130,932.00

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Total Number of Cases Investigated	9244	9304	9500
Cases Accepted	2255	2370	2273
Scene Investigations	580	648	772
Bexar County	2022	2242	2192
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	1104	1230	1227
Partial Autopsies	149	154	124
Inspections	590	673	678
Death Certificates Only	51	45	38
Storage/Voided Cases	128	140	125
¹ Contract Cases (Out of County)	233	128	81
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	219	118	76
Partial Autopsies	9	5	4
Inspections	5	5	1
Total			
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	1323	1348	1303
Partial Autopsies	158	159	128
Inspections	595	678	679
Hospital Deaths	7	11	15
Unidentified Bodies	4	5	5
Exhumations	0	0	0
Bodies Transported	1934	2164	2106
Donations			
Organ	N/A	N/A	33
Corneal	N/A	N/A	200
Tissue	N/A	N/A	156
County Burials	N/A	N/A	49
Cremation Certificates Issued	3302	3400	3846
Burial Transit Permits Issued	3515	3598	3981
Autopsy Reports Requested	3322	3047	2721
Toxicology Tests Performed	61918	58945	63358

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

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	Terrell Hills
China Grove	Leon Valley	Universal City
Cibolo	Live Oak	Von Ormy
Converse	Lytle	Windcrest
Elmendorf	Olmos Park	
Fair Oaks Ranch	Saint Hedwig	
Grey Forest	Schertz	
Helotes	Selma	

Abbreviations Used

BCMEO: Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office

ME Staff: Medical Examiner Staff

D.A.: District Attorney

OOC: Out of County

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

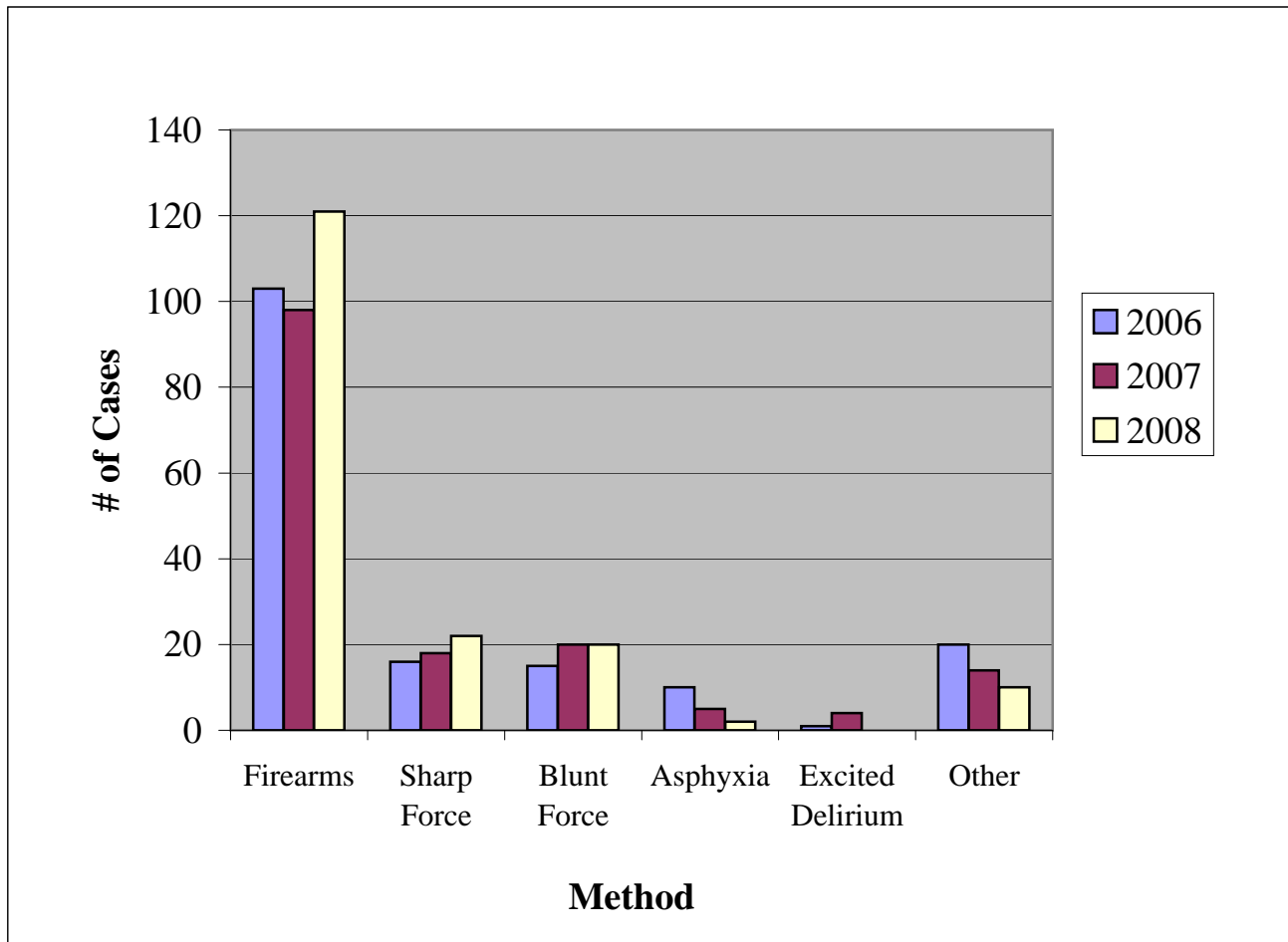
<u>Manner</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Homicide	165	159	175
Suicide	170	163	172
Accident	657	793	850
Natural	749	813	747
Undetermined	98	121	78
Unclassified	4	8	7
Total	1843	2057	2029

Percent Autopsied, by Manner - 2008

<u>Manner</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Number Autopsied</u>	<u>Percent Autopsied</u>
Homicide	175	175	100%
Suicide	172	134	78%
Accident	850	499	59%
Natural	747	462	62%
Undetermined	78	74	95%
Unclassified	7	7	100%
Total	2029	1351	67%

HOMICIDES BY METHOD

<i>Method</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
Firearms	103	98	121
Sharp Force	16	18	22
Blunt Force	15	20	20
Asphyxia	10	5	2
Excited Delirium	1	4	0
Other	20	14	10
Total	165	159	175



HOMICIDES BY AGE, RACE/SEX

<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
0-5	7	10	8
6-10	2	1	1
11-15	3	3	1
16-19	12	16	18
20-29	61	47	62
30-39	30	34	26
40-49	23	21	29
50-59	16	14	20
60-69	5	4	4
70-79	4	5	4
80-89	1	1	2
90-99	0	0	0
Unk	1	3	0
Total	165	159	175
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
W/M	98	97	103
W/F	27	27	37
B/M	31	25	31
B/F	7	7	4
O/M	2	1	0
O/F	0	0	0
Unknown	0	2	0
Total	165	159	175

HOMICIDES BY FIREARMS

<u>Type of Weapon</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Handgun	75	68	71
Centerfire Rifle	4	3	6
Rimfire Rifle	3	1	5
Shotgun	5	8	6
Other/Unknown	16	18	33
Total	103	98	121
<u>Caliber of Handguns</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
.38/.357	14	13	9
.22	5	5	1
.25	0	1	2
.32	6	2	0
.380 ACP	2	5	3
9 mm	25	21	20
.40	17	12	17
.45 ACP	6	3	8
Multiple/Other/Unknown	0	6	11
Total	75	68	71

HOMICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
No Tests Performed	4	5	5
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	67	45	52
Alcohol Only	32	38	33
Drugs Only	36	51	53
Drugs & Alcohol	26	20	32
Total	165	159	175
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<.05	7	8	12
.05-.099	13	8	12
.10-.199	25	28	23
.20-.299	10	10	16
.30+	3	4	2
Total	58	58	65

CHILD HOMICIDES BY AGE AND METHOD - 2008

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	1	0
1 to 4	6	1	0	5	0	0
5 to 8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 to 12	1	0	0	0	0	1
13 to 17	7	6	0	0	1	0
Total	16	7	0	6	2	1

*SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN INFANCY

<i>Race/Sex</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
W/M	7	10	18
W/F	3	19	6
B/M	2	0	3
B/F	1	1	2
O/M	0	0	0
O/F	0	0	0
Total	13	30	29

*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

<u>Method</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Firearms	88	78	94
Drugs/Chemicals	27	24	22
Hanging	39	45	37
Carbon Monoxide	2	1	1
Sharp Force	3	4	3
Other	11	11	15
Total	170	163	172
<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<15	1	0	1
15-19	15	9	7
20-29	23	36	38
30-39	37	34	29
40-49	37	39	34
50-59	26	18	30
60-69	16	8	22
70-79	10	11	7
80-89	5	8	3
90-99	0	0	1
Total	170	163	172
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
W/M	127	118	119
W/F	33	34	37
B/M	6	7	10
B/F	2	0	1
O/M	2	0	4
O/F	0	4	1
Total	170	163	172

SUICIDES BY FIREARMS

<u>Type of Weapon</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Handgun	67	65	74
Centerfire Rifle	1	3	4
Rimfire Rifle	3	2	7
Shotgun	11	8	9
Unknown	6	0	0
Total	88	78	94
<u>Caliber of Handguns</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
.38/.357	20	26	27
.22	11	6	9
.25	0	7	2
.32	9	0	7
.380 ACP	3	7	3
9mm	10	9	9
.40	6	8	7
.45 ACP	4	1	3
Other/Unknown	4	1	7
Total	67	65	74

SUICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
No Tests Performed	1	3	13
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	50	51	42
Alcohol Only	31	18	27
Drugs Only	59	64	59
Drugs & Alcohol	29	27	31
Total	170	163	172
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<.05	8	4	7
.05-.099	11	6	12
.10-.199	24	24	22
.20-.299	15	10	15
+.30	2	1	2
Total	60	45	58

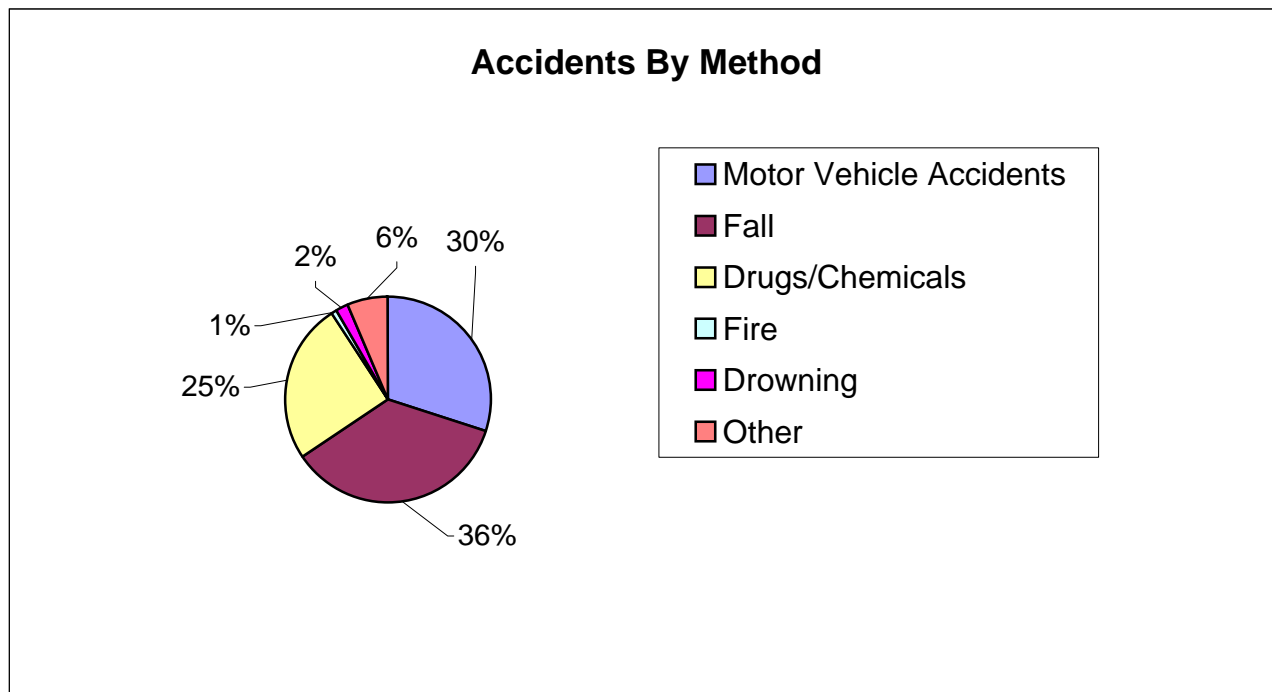
TEENAGE SUICIDES BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

Ages 13 - 19 (years)			
<u>Method</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Firearms	5	7	3
Hanging	8	2	4
Drugs	2	0	0
Other	1	0	0
Total	16	9	7
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
W/M	11	5	2
W/F	3	2	2
B/M	2	1	2
B/F	0	0	0
O/M	0	0	1
O/F	0	1	0
Total	16	9	7

ACCIDENTS BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

<u>Method</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Motor Vehicle Accidents	219	243	254
Fall	202	263	302
Drugs/Chemicals	168	191	215
Fire	21	16	7
Drowning	15	25	16
Other	32	56	55
Total	657	794	849
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
W/M	378	476	518
W/F	234	259	292
B/M	27	38	23
B/F	15	18	11
O/M	1	1	2
O/F	2	2	3
Total	657	794	849

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



ACCIDENTS BY AGE AND METHOD - 2008

Age (years)	Total	Method						
		MV Accidents	Fall	Drugs/ Chemicals	Asphyxia/ Choking	Drowning	Fire	Other
Infant (under 1)	11	1	0	0	9	1	0	0
1 to 4	9	2	1	0	1	4	0	1
5 to 8	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
9 to 12	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 to 16	12	5	2	3	0	1	0	1
17 to 19	31	20	1	7	1	0	0	2
20 to 24	55	27	1	23	0	2	0	2
25 to 29	53	22	0	28	1	1	0	1
30 to 34	36	20	2	11	0	0	0	3
35 to 39	52	13	3	31	2	0	1	2
40 to 44	68	18	4	39	1	1	0	5
45 to 49	52	19	8	21	2	1	0	1
50 to 54	62	22	5	32	1	1	0	1
55 to 59	38	14	9	10	2	0	1	2
60 to 64	39	17	15	5	1	0	0	1
65 to 70	51	17	25	2	2	1	1	3
over 70	275	33	226	3	5	2	4	2
Total	849	254	302	215	28	16	7	27

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - DRIVERS

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
No Tests Performed	11	19	15
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	29	24	39
Alcohol Only	25	19	26
Drugs Only	21	18	16
Drugs & Alcohol	8	10	11
Total	94	90	107
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<.05	0	2	2
.05-.099	7	1	5
.10-.199	17	12	14
.20-.299	8	12	15
+.30	1	2	1
Total	33	29	37
<u>Seatbelt Use</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Yes	34	39	53
No	32	29	26
Unknown	28	22	28
Total	94	90	107

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - PEDESTRIANS

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
No Tests Performed	4	15	3
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	14	16	20
Alcohol Only	4	6	15
Drugs Only	7	7	10
Drugs & Alcohol	6	2	3
Total	35	46	51
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<.05	0	0	1
.05-.099	2	1	0
.10-.199	5	2	5
.20-.299	3	3	7
+.30	0	2	5
Total	10	8	18

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
Motorcycles and Bicycles
(Operator or Driver)

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<i>Motorcycles</i>			<i>Bicycles</i>		
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
No Tests Performed	3	5	12	0	4	1
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	11	8	15	1	0	1
Alcohol Only	6	11	11	0	0	0
Drugs Only	4	8	6	3	0	4
Drugs & Alcohol	5	5	5	0	0	0
Total	29	37	49	4	4	6
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<.05	1	2	0	0	0	0
.05-.099	0	1	1	0	0	0
.10-.199	7	10	10	0	0	0
.20-.299	2	3	4	0	0	0
+.30	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	11	16	16	0	0	0
<u>Helmet Use</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Yes	11	10	18	0	0	0
No	12	16	19	0	2	1
Unknown	6	11	12	4	2	5
Total	29	37	49	4	4	6

DEATHS DUE TO DRUGS/TOXIC SUBSTANCES

<u>Drug/Toxic Substance</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Heroin	32	33	58
Cocaine	40	50	36
Heroin/Cocaine	28	14	28
Methamphetamine	11	11	6
Methadone	8	15	12
Other Narcotics	32	31	32
Anti-Depressants/Anti-Psychotic	6	4	3
Mixed Drugs	35	41	43
Ethyl Alcohol	3	6	2
Carbon Monoxide	2	3	3
Other	14	23	20
Total	211	231	243

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

FEE SCHEDULEEFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 01, 2008

Code	Administrative Fees (Analysis/Examination/Service Charge)	Fee
1001	Reports (Autopsy & Toxicology or Investigation Report)	25.00
1002	Certified Reports	35.00
1003	Certification of Documents (Affidavits)	10.00
1004	Notarization of Documents	10.00
1005	Insurance/Physician Statement, including Autopsy Report	45.00
1006	Copy Charge/page	.10
1007	Records Request (includes Autopsy 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/hr	50.00
1010	Drug Report (DR screen)	5.00
1011	Photos/X-rays on CD	10.00
1012	Printed 8x10 images/each	5.00
1013	Cremation Certifications	25.00
1014	Administration/Shipping Fees	50.00
1015	Subpoena Fees	1.00

Code	Autopsy Services (Analysis/Examination/Service)	Fee
1101	Out-of-County/Contract Complete Autopsy	2,000.00
1102	Out-of-County/Contract External Examination or Partial Autopsy	1,000.00
1103	Morgue Facility Usage Fee	500.00
1104	Storage Fee (after 24 hours of notification that case is ready)	35.00
1105	Microscopic Slides/each	20.00

Code	Testimony/Professional Time (Analysis/Examination/Service)	Fee
2001	Physicians/Hour	250.00
2002	Chief Toxicologist/Hour	175.00
2003	Investigators/Hour	100.00
2004	Custodian of Records/Hour	75.00

BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
 FEE SCHEDULE
 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10-01-2008
 PAGE 2

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