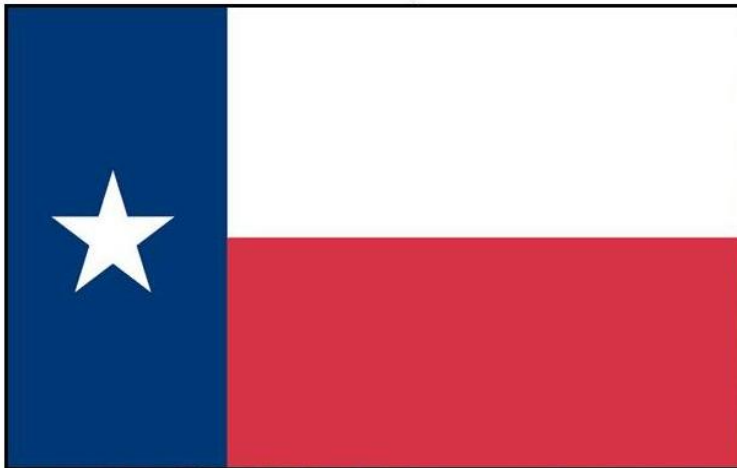


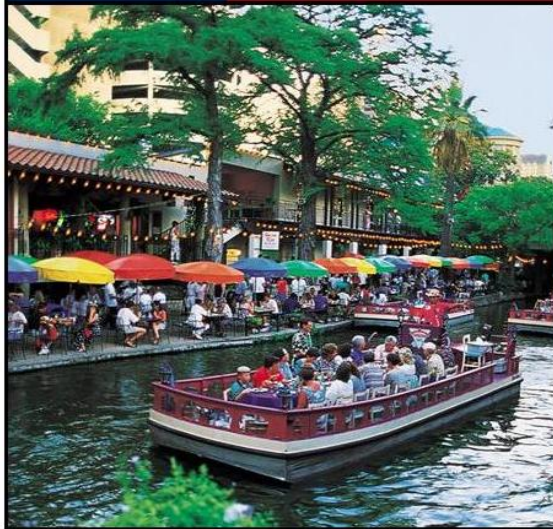


**BEXAR COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

Texas Flag



Texas Bluebonnets



San Antonio Riverwalk



The Alamo

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

www.bexar.org/medicalexaminer

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MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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

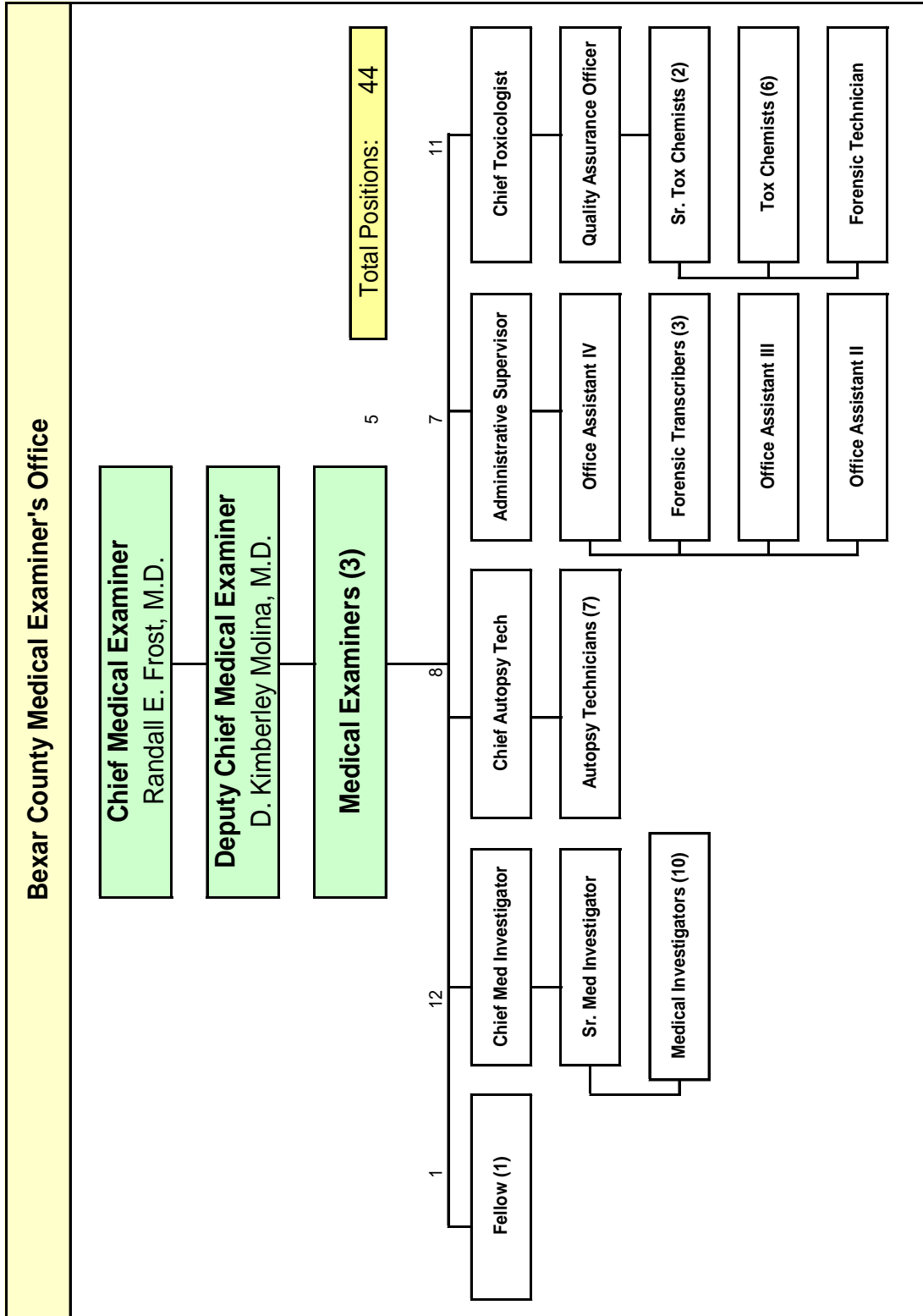
D. Kimberley Molina, M.D.
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Jennifer J. Rulon, M.D.	Deputy Medical Examiner
Elizabeth A. Peacock, M.D.	Deputy Medical Examiner
Rajesh P. Kannan, M.D.	Deputy Medical Examiner
Masahiko Kobayashi, M.D.	Assistant Medical Examiner

ANNUAL REPORT PREPARED BY

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For additional information and previous annual reports,
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www.bexar.org/medicalexaminer



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 2009 were 44. The M.E. Staff consists of twelve Investigators; five Forensic Pathologists; a Fellow (an individual training as a forensic pathologist); eleven Toxicologists; eight Autopsy Technicians; 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 2009, the Office investigated 9,557 deaths, accepted jurisdiction in 2,215, and performed 1,353 autopsies and approximately 63,413 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 \$4,112,167.00

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total Number of Cases Investigated	9304	9500	9557
Cases Accepted	2370	2273	2215
Scene Investigations	648	772	760
¹ Bexar County	2242	2192	2012
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	1230	1227	1150
Partial Autopsies	154	124	128
Inspections	673	678	734
Death Certificates Only	45	38	28
Storage/Voided Cases	140	125	99
² Contract Cases (Out of County)	128	81	76
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	118	76	71
Partial Autopsies	5	4	4
Inspections	5	1	1
Total			
Autopsies			
Complete Autopsies	1348	1303	1221
Partial Autopsies	159	128	132
Inspections	678	679	735
Hospital autopsies retained under ME jurisdiction	11	15	6
Unidentified Bodies	5	5	2
Exhumations	0	0	0
Bodies Transported	2164	2106	2077
Donations			
Organ	N/A	33	20
Corneal	N/A	200	216
Tissue	N/A	156	184
County Burials	N/A	49	48
Cremation Certificates Issued	3400	3846	3963
Burial Transit Permits Issued	3598	3981	4025
Autopsy Reports Requested	3047	2721	4500
Toxicology Tests Performed	58945	63358	63413

¹ Includes Autopsies (Complete and Partial) and Inspections only.

² 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

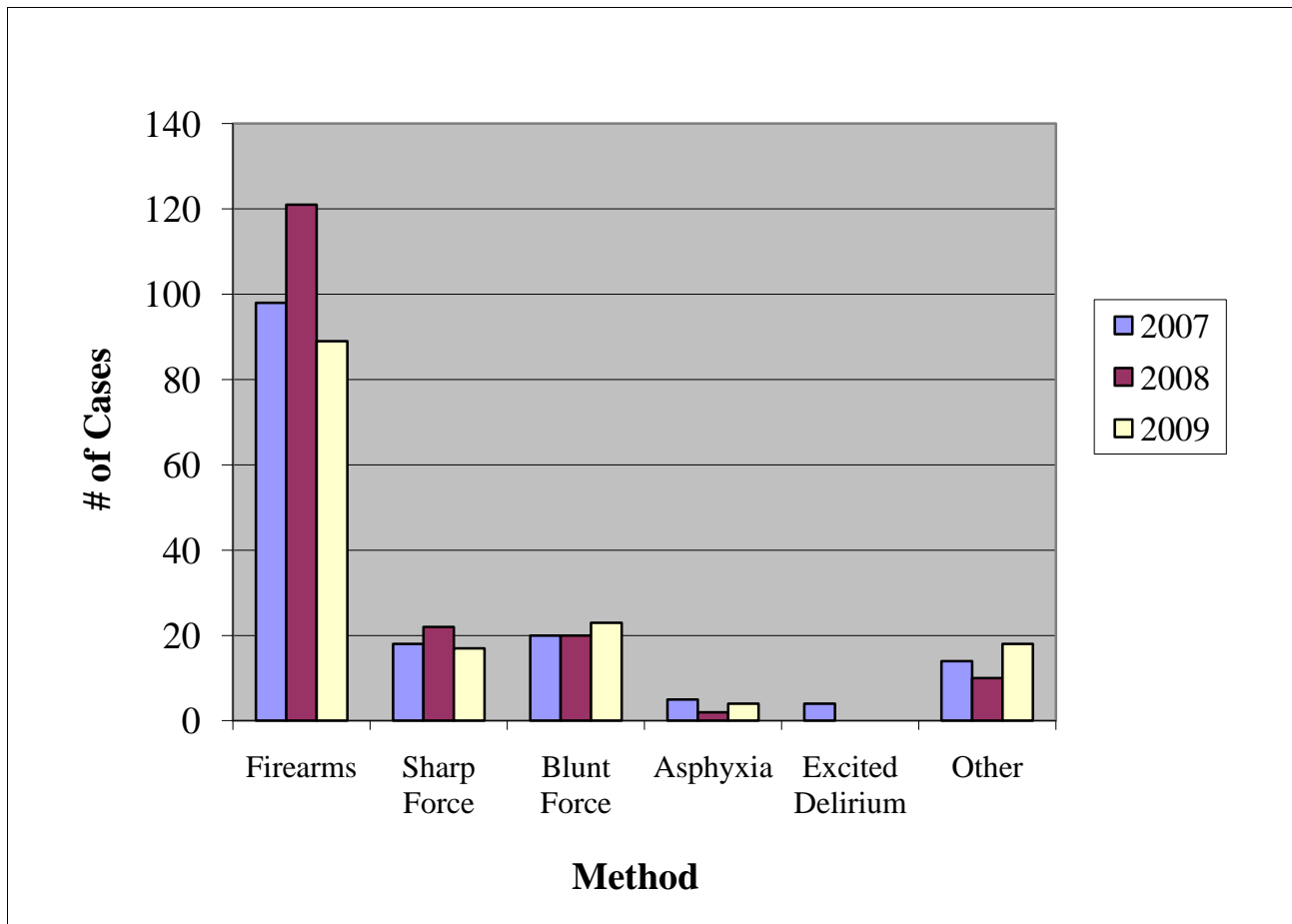
<u>Manner</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Homicide	159	175	151
Suicide	163	172	204
Accident	793	850	779
Natural	813	747	805
Undetermined	121	78	70
Unclassified	8	7	3
Total	2057	2029	2012

Percent Autopsied, by Manner - 2009

<u>Manner</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Number Autopsied</u>	<u>Percent Autopsied</u>
Homicide	151	151	100%
Suicide	204	149	73%
Accident	779	445	57%
Natural	805	462	57%
Undetermined	70	69	99%
Unclassified	3	2	67%
Total	2012	1278	64%

HOMICIDES BY METHOD

<u>Method</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Firearms	98	121	89
Sharp Force	18	22	17
Blunt Force	20	20	23
Asphyxia	5	2	4
Excited Delirium	4	0	0
Other	14	10	18
Total	159	175	151



HOMICIDES BY AGE, RACE/SEX

<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
0-5	10	8	10
6-10	1	1	1
11-15	3	1	1
16-19	16	18	19
20-29	47	62	43
30-39	34	26	31
40-49	21	29	16
50-59	14	20	14
60-69	4	4	7
70-79	5	4	4
80-89	1	2	2
90-99	0	0	2
Unk	3	0	1
Total	159	175	151
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>
W/M	97	103	81
W/F	27	37	30
B/M	25	31	25
B/F	7	4	10
O/M	1	0	4
O/F	0	0	0
Unknown	2	0	1
Total	159	175	151

HOMICIDES BY FIREARMS

<u>Type of Weapon</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Handgun	68	71	60
Centerfire Rifle	3	6	7
Rimfire Rifle	1	5	1
Shotgun	8	6	8
Other/Unknown	18	33	13
Total	98	121	89
<u>Caliber of Handguns</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
.38/.357	13	9	12
.22	5	1	3
.25	1	2	1
.32	2	0	3
.380 ACP	5	3	2
9 mm	21	20	13
.40	12	17	15
.45 ACP	3	8	6
Multiple/Other/Unknown	6	11	5
Total	68	71	60

HOMICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
No Tests Performed	5	5	6
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	45	52	48
Alcohol Only	38	33	24
Drugs Only	51	53	50
Drugs & Alcohol	20	32	23
Total	159	175	151
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
<.05	8	12	4
.05-.099	8	12	8
.10-.199	28	23	24
.20-.299	10	16	10
.30+	4	2	1
Total	58	65	47

CHILD HOMICIDES BY AGE AND METHOD - 2009

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)	5	0	0	3	0	2
1 to 4	5	1	0	4	0	0
5 to 8	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 to 12	2	0	0	1	0	1
13 to 17	7	4	1	2	0	0
Total	19	5	1	10	0	3

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN INFANCY

<i>Race/Sex</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>
W/M	10	18	5
W/F	19	6	7
B/M	0	3	6
B/F	1	2	0
O/M	0	0	0
O/F	0	0	0
Total	30	29	18

SUICIDES BY METHOD, AGE, RACE/SEX

<u>Method</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Firearms	78	94	103
Drugs/Chemicals	24	22	30
Hanging	45	37	56
Carbon Monoxide	1	1	3
Sharp Force	4	3	4
Other	11	15	8
Total	163	172	204
<u>Age (years)</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
<15	0	1	3
15-19	9	7	15
20-29	36	38	38
30-39	34	29	35
40-49	39	34	30
50-59	18	30	39
60-69	8	22	24
70-79	11	7	13
80-89	8	3	6
90-99	0	1	1
Total	163	172	204
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
W/M	127	118	148
W/F	33	34	42
B/M	6	7	9
B/F	2	0	3
O/M	2	0	2
O/F	0	4	0
Total	170	163	204

SUICIDES BY FIREARMS

<u>Type of Weapon</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Handgun	65	74	76
Centerfire Rifle	3	4	7
Rimfire Rifle	2	7	6
Shotgun	8	9	14
Unknown	0	0	0
Total	78	94	103
<u>Caliber of Handguns</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
.38/.357	26	27	25
.22	6	9	10
.25	7	2	3
.32	0	7	7
.380 ACP	7	3	2
9mm	9	9	13
.40	8	7	7
.45 ACP	1	3	8
Other/Unknown	1	7	1
Total	65	74	76

SUICIDES - DRUGS/ALCOHOL

<u><i>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</i></u>	<u><i>2007</i></u>	<u><i>2008</i></u>	<u><i>2009</i></u>
No Tests Performed	3	13	11
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	51	42	52
Alcohol Only	18	27	34
Drugs Only	64	59	75
Drugs & Alcohol	27	31	32
Total	163	172	204
<u><i>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</i></u>	<u><i>2007</i></u>	<u><i>2008</i></u>	<u><i>2009</i></u>
<.05	4	7	5
.05-.099	6	12	12
.10-.199	24	22	32
.20-.299	10	15	15
+.30	1	2	2
Total	45	58	66

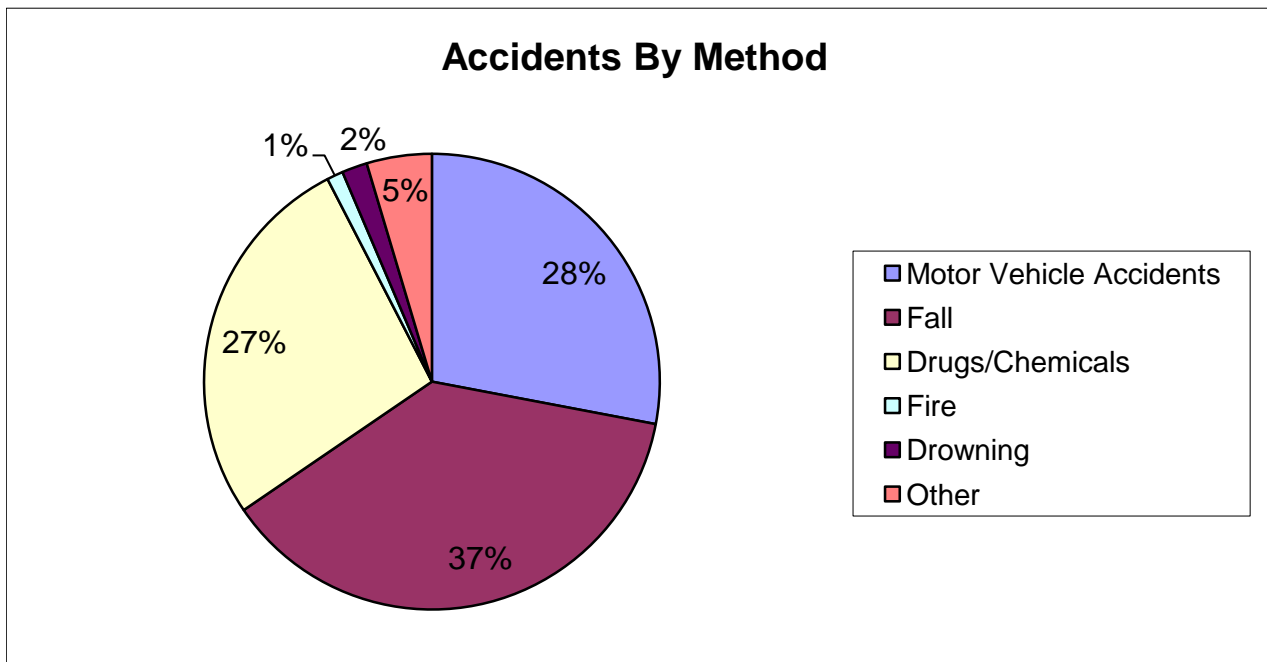
TEENAGE SUICIDES BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

Ages 13 - 19 (years)			
<u>Method</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Firearms	7	3	5
Hanging	2	4	11
Drugs	0	0	1
Other	0	0	0
Total	9	7	17
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
W/M	5	2	14
W/F	2	2	2
B/M	1	2	0
B/F	0	0	1
O/M	0	1	0
O/F	1	0	0
Total	9	7	17

ACCIDENTS BY METHOD, RACE/SEX

<u>Method</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Motor Vehicle Accidents	243	254	218
Fall	263	302	292
Drugs/Chemicals	191	215	210
Fire	16	7	9
Drowning	25	16	14
Other	56	55	36
Total	794	849	779
<u>Race/Sex</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
W/M	476	518	479
W/F	259	292	265
B/M	38	23	19
B/F	18	11	12
O/M	1	2	1
O/F	2	3	3
Total	794	849	779

*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 - 2009

Age (years)	Total	Method						
		MV Accidents	Fall	Drugs/ Chemicals	Asphyxia/ Choking	Drowning	Fire	Other
Infant (under 1)	0							
1 to 4	14	1	0	0	5	4	2	2
5 to 8	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
9 to 12	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
13 to 16	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
17 to 19	20	12	0	7	0	1	0	0
20 to 24	49	29	1	19	0	0	0	0
25 to 29	49	22	1	23	0	1	0	2
30 to 34	46	19	2	22	0	0	1	2
35 to 39	42	17	2	22	0	0	0	1
40 to 44	67	21	2	39	1	0	0	4
45 to 49	56	19	3	27	1	1	2	3
50 to 54	53	17	6	23	0	3	1	3
55 to 59	37	12	5	18	1	1	0	0
60 to 64	35	10	15	8	0	1	0	1
65 to 70	25	8	14	1	1	0	0	1
over 70	274	23	241	1	3	0	3	3
Total	779	218	292	210	12	14	9	24

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - DRIVERS

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
No Tests Performed	19	15	14
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	24	39	20
Alcohol Only	19	26	25
Drugs Only	18	16	14
Drugs & Alcohol	10	11	14
Total	90	107	87
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
<.05	2	2	3
.05-.099	1	5	2
.10-.199	12	14	16
.20-.299	12	15	15
+.30	2	1	3
Total	29	37	39
<u>Seatbelt Use</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Yes	39	53	37
No	29	26	27
Unknown	22	28	23
Total	90	107	87

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS - PEDESTRIANS

<u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
No Tests Performed	15	3	3
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	16	20	20
Alcohol Only	6	15	6
Drugs Only	7	10	6
Drugs & Alcohol	2	3	5
Total	46	51	40
<u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
<.05	0	1	0
.05-.099	1	0	0
.10-.199	2	5	4
.20-.299	3	7	4
+.30	2	5	3
Total	8	18	11

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS
Motorcycles and Bicycles
(Operator or Driver)

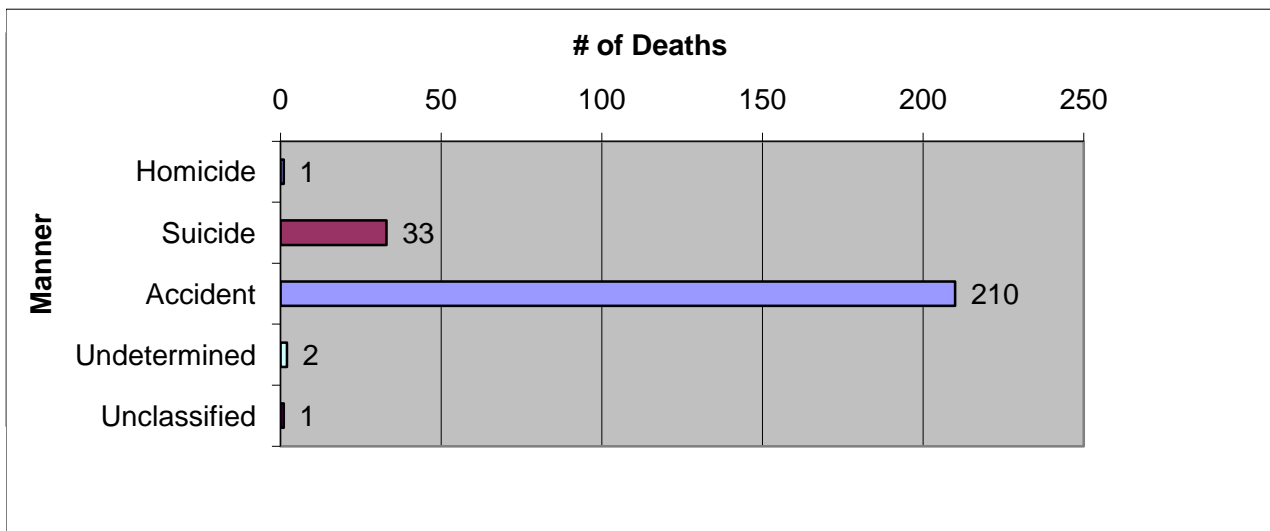
	<i>Motorcycles</i>			<i>Bicycles</i>		
<i><u>Drugs/Alcohol Analysis</u></i>	<i><u>2007</u></i>	<i><u>2008</u></i>	<i><u>2009</u></i>	<i><u>2007</u></i>	<i><u>2008</u></i>	<i><u>2009</u></i>
No Tests Performed	5	12	8	4	1	0
Negative for Drugs & Alcohol	8	15	19	0	1	4
Alcohol Only	11	11	10	0	0	1
Drugs Only	8	6	8	0	4	0
Drugs & Alcohol	5	5	7	0	0	0
Total	37	49	52	4	6	5
<i><u>Alcohol Levels (g/dL)</u></i>	<i><u>2007</u></i>	<i><u>2008</u></i>	<i><u>2009</u></i>	<i><u>2007</u></i>	<i><u>2008</u></i>	<i><u>2009</u></i>
<.05	2	0	2	0	0	0
.05-.099	1	1	3	0	0	0
.10-.199	10	10	10	0	0	0
.20-.299	3	4	2	0	0	1
+.30	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	16	16	17	0	0	1
<i><u>Helmet Use</u></i>	<i><u>2007</u></i>	<i><u>2008</u></i>	<i><u>2009</u></i>	<i><u>2007</u></i>	<i><u>2008</u></i>	<i><u>2009</u></i>
Yes	10	18	20	0	0	2
No	16	19	25	2	1	1
Unknown	11	12	7	2	5	2
Total	37	49	52	4	6	5

DEATHS DUE TO DRUGS/TOXIC SUBSTANCES¹

<u>Drug/Toxic Substance</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Heroin	33	58	47
Cocaine	50	36	35
Heroin/Cocaine	14	28	21
Methamphetamine	11	6	7
Methadone	15	12	13
Other Narcotics	31	32	25
Anti-Depressants/Anti-Psychotic	4	3	8
Mixed Drugs	41	43	61
Ethyl Alcohol	6	2	3
Carbon Monoxide	3	3	7
Other Sedatives	N/A	N/A	3
Other	23	20	17
Total	231	243	247

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

DEATHS DUE TO DRUGS/TOXIC SUBSTANCES BY MANNER



FEE SCHEDULEEFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 01, 2009

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 Complicated Cases (as determined by Chief Medical Examiner)	2,500.00
1103	Out-of-County/Contract External Examination or Partial Autopsy	1,000.00
1104	Morgue Facility Usage Fee	500.00
1105	Storage Fee (after 24 hours of notification that case is ready)	35.00
1106	Microscopic Slides/each	20.00

Code	Testimony/Professional Time (Analysis/Examination/Service)	Fee
2001	Physicians/Hour (minimum of 3 hours)	500.00
2002	Chief Toxicologist/Hour (minimum of 3 hours)	300.00
2003	Investigators/Hour	150.00
2004	Custodian of Records/Hour	75.00

BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
 FEE SCHEDULE
 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10-01-2009
 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	20.00