



1988 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

MEDICAL EXAMINER

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FUNCTION

The Medical Examiner is the County official responsible for investigating and determining the cause and manner of death of persons who died suddenly, unexpected, accidentally, violently, or as the result of any suspicious circumstances, without medical attendance during the 48 hours preceding death, or abortion; or in the case of any prisoner in custody.

The results of these investigations provide evidence relating to injuries for prosecutions and settlement of estates. It also provides public health authorities with information relating to communicable disease and other causes of mortality, for program direction purposes.

OAKLAND COUNTY

JUN 15 1980

Reference Library

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PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48341-0455

PROCEDURE

Act 181, P.A. 1953, as amended, provides for the Medical Examiner to investigate and determine "the cause and manner of death in all cases of persons who have come to their death" under any of the following circumstances:

VIOLENCE - Asphyxiation, shooting, stabbing, poisoning, etc.

ACCIDENT - Traffic, falls, drownings, industrial, drugs.

WHILE IN CUSTODY - Prisoners.

ABORTION - Under any circumstances.

SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED - Where deceased was in apparent good health.

WITHOUT MEDICAL ATTENDANCE WITHIN 48 HOURS PRIOR THERETO - In cases of chronic illness the attending physician may sign the death certificate if he can be reasonably certain of the cause of death. However, he should examine the body to satisfactorily determine that no foul play is involved.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES - Including unidentified bodies.

ADMINISTRATION OF DRUGS, THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES, ANESTHESIA, ETC.

All the above must be reported immediately to the Medical Examiner.

Evaluation and disposition will be made by the Medical Examiner. The need for autopsy examination in certain cases will be determined by the Medical Examiner.

Transfer, removal and release of the body will be made by the Medical Examiner.

It is a misdemeanor to remove a body without permission of the Medical Examiner.

A body may not be removed until permission for removal is received from the Medical Examiner.

Immediate reporting of any Medical Examiner case is required by the statute.

PERSONNEL

LOCEY, Robert P., M.D.	Director, Institutional and Human Services Department
BROOKS, Bill G., M.D.	Medical Examiner
BIEDRZYCKI, Lynda, M.D.	Chief Deputy Medical Examiner
MacDONALD, William	Administrator
PREDMORE, Philip D.	Toxicologist
BARANSKI, Irvin	Investigator
BISHOP, Bill	Investigator
BOWERS, Paul	Investigator
OSGOOD, Mary Sue	Investigator
PODEZWICK, Michael	Investigator
ROSSI, Robert	Investigator
RYBERG, Edward	Investigator
SMITH, Charles	Supv. Autopsy Attendant
KILLIANE, Curtis	Autopsy Attendant
O'SHAUGHNESSY, Roxanne	Autopsy Attendant
HOYES, Thomas	Morgue Attendant
HILL, Pamela	Secretary
STINSON, Mary Lou	Account Clerk
CONRAD, Michele	Typist
DAVENPORT, Robertson, M.D. (Contractual)	Pathologist
DANEILSON, Marge	Histologist
HUSIEN, Rifat (resigned 8-88)	Histologist

MEETINGS AND SEMINARS ATTENDED

International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners, San Diego, CA.

American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Philadelphia, PA.

National Association of Medical Examiners, Boston, Mass.

National Association of Clinical Pathologists, Las Vegas, Nevada

Michigan Association of Medical Examiners.

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, San Antonio, Texas

American Society of Clinical Pathologists, Kansas City, MO.

Medical Symposium, Columbus, Ohio

Photography Seminar, F.B.I. Quantico Base

Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police

Hewlett-Packard Seminar

Homicide Investigation Seminar, Ann Arbor, MI.

Medico-Legal Seminar, Wayne County, MI.

LECTURES, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Brooks and Dr. Biedrzycki lectured at the Oakland Community College Forensic Seminar.

Dr. Brooks lectured on "Electrocution Deaths" at the University of Michigan, Pathology Dept.

Dr. Biedrzycki was guest speaker for the Michigan Bar Association Meeting in Nassau

Dr. Biedrzycki lectured at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak

Dr. Biedrzycki lectured at the Oakland Police Academy

Dr. Biedrzycki was named to the Legislative Committee at the Michigan Association of M.E.'s

Dr. Biedrzycki received the "Physician's Recognition Award in Continuing Medical Education" from the American Medical Association.

The Office received a plaque from the Commission on Continuing Education, American Society of Clinical Pathologists

STATISTICS

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
<u>NATURAL CAUSES</u>						
Infective & Parasitic	1	1	2	1	4	5
Neoplasms	9	14	14	14	12	12
Endocrine, Nutri. & Metabolic	10	0	4	3	3	9
Blood & Blood Forming	1	1	1	0	1	0
Mental Disorders	1	4	7	7	7	8
Nervous System & Sense Organs	4	6	11	6	10	8
Circulatory System	347	354	336	346	365	371
Respiratory System	20	12	16	14	26	22
Digestive System	13	24	16	10	21	18
Genitourinary System	0	1	2	2	0	2
Compli. of Preg. & Childbirth	0	0	1	0	0	0
Muscle & Connective Tissue	0	0	0	1	0	1
Congenital Anomalies	0	4	1	1	1	2
Perinatal & Mortality	2	3	0	0	0	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	<u>429</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>434</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>477</u>	<u>474</u>
<u>ACCIDENTAL CAUSES</u>						
Railway	0	0	0	2	1	2
Motor Vehicle	131	147	170	149	130	147
Motor Vehicle, Non-Traffic	0	3	5	4	9	1
Other Road Vehicle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Transport	0	1	1	2	1	1
Air & Space Transport	3	3	1	3	2	4
Drugs & Medications	13	4	1	6	6	2
Solid/Liquid/Gases/Vapors	9	2	9	11	5	3
Misadv. During Surg. & Med. Care	1	0	0	0	0	0
Falls	28	22	28	23	32	17
Fires & Flames	11	8	21	6	21	5
Natural & Environmental Factors	4	2	3	3	3	3
Drowning, Suff. & Foreign Bodies	23	20	19	9	14	18
Other	6	10	10	13	12	14
Adverse Eff. in Therapeutic Use	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>229</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>220</u>

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Statistics continued

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
<u>SUICIDE</u>						
Solid or Liquid Substances	19	19	14	20	9	16
Other Gases and Vapors	20	20	13	28	16	21
Hanging, Strangulation	17	18	25	20	16	20
Drowning	3	1	0	1	0	2
Firearms	62	64	69	64	73	76
Cutting & Piercing	2	0	2	4	4	1
Jumping from High Place	1	0	2	1	1	2
Other & Unspecified	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>140</u>
<u>HOMICIDE</u>						
Fight, Brawl	0	0	0	2	1	1
Drowning	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hanging, Strangulation	3	0	5	2	8	3
Firearms	19	28	30	27	45	36
Cutting & Piercing	13	11	10	2	8	3
Other & Unspecified	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>38</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>UNDETERMINED</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>59</u>
<u>TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED</u>	2887	3072	2377	2468	2573	2704
<u>TOTAL MED. EXAMINER CASES</u>	1719	1843	2114	1880	2071	2253
<u>TOTAL AUTOPSIES</u>	528	545	617	579	660	619
<u>TOTAL POSTMORTEM EXAMS</u>	82	116	132	95	88	118
<u>TOTAL CREMATIONS</u>	1048	1130	1312	1165	1335	1531
<u>TOTAL COUNTY DEATHS</u>	8080	8818	8593	8525	8634	8356

GOALS

To operate a Medical Examiner's system as required by Michigan Statute, Act 181, P.A. 1953 in the most efficient and economical way to better serve the needs of the citizens of Oakland County.

To continue the replacement of testing equipment in the Forensic Laboratory.

To expand our forensic video and medical library.

To maintain and strengthen our safety procedures through educational training and proper protective clothing and equipment.

To maximize the efficiency of the in-house and scene photography.

To employ innovative approaches directed toward the on-going improvement in public relations with other agencies.

OAKLAND COUNTY REFERENCING UNIT
1200 W TELEGRAPH ROAD
PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48041-0463

DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

ARANOSIAN, Robert D.O..	HERSCHMAN, Barry, M.D.	*REY, Jaime L., M.D.
BERNSTEIN, Jay, M.D.	*HUDDLE, Luther, Sr., D.O.	RIGGS, Harry L., M.D.
BERRY, Andrew H., D.O.	INWALD, Samson, D.O.	ROSELLA, John A., D.O.
BIEDRZYCKI, Lynda, M.D.	ISAAC, Herbert, M.D.	SAR, Alan M., D.O.
*BORIS, Henry, D.O.	LAGERVELD, Ronald, D.O.	*SAUDER, Marilyn A.J., M.D.
BOXMAN, Donald, D.O.	LASSER, Howard S., M.D.	SCHILLINGER, E.A., D.O.
BRATTON, Richard, D.O.	LePERE, Ronald R., D.O.	SCHOEN, Paul F., D.O.
*BUCHANAN, G.S., M.D.	LOPEZ, Gerald L., M.D.	*SHEKERJIAN, Armen, M.D.
*DENTON, Allen, D.O.	MAINSTER, Harris, D.O.	*SHUMAKER, Bryan, M.D.M.D.
DOYLE, Michael Q.,D.O.	MALICKE, David, D.O.	SIKORSKI, Eugene L., D.O.
ENGELMANN, Theodore, D.O.	MASTERNICK, Joseph, D.O.	SPOHN, E.W., M.D.
FRANCKOWIAK, Charles, D.O.	McINERNEY, Thomas, M.D.	STOLTE, Jon L., M.D.
* FRIEDMAN, Stephen, D.O.	*OSTER, Claude, D.O.	WEINER, Seymour, D.O.
GOLICZ, Gregory, D.O.	PEARL, Conrad, D.O.	WILLYERD, Gary L., D.O.
GRADOLPH, Paul L., M.D.	PENN, William, D.O.	*WORSTER, Merton, D.O.
*HAMILTON, Alfred S., D.O.	PETINGA, Thomas J., M.D.	WYLIN, Robert, M.D.
HAYDEN, John C., D.O.	PURSLEY, C. Scott, D.O.	ZALEZNAK, Howard, M.D.

DENTAL CONSULTANTS

FOX, Richard P, D.D.S.	WARNICK, Allan J., D.D.S.
HENDERSON, Richard M., D.D.S.	

*Inactive

RETIREES

BAYNES, Goebel	Administrator
BOLAND, John	Investigator
BURTON, John	Medical Examiner
GARTON, Robert	Investigator
HILL, Harry	Investigator
JUBELT, Elmer*	Investigator
PIOTROWSKI, William	Investigator
STANIEC, Chester	Investigator
VOORHEES, Betty*	Typist II
WHALEY, Howard	Administrator

*Deceased

HISTORY

The coroner's office originated in the 10th century because of the need for a new method to protect and collect the Crown revenue. Over the years the coroner's office changed in many ways and the sheriff took over many functions of the coroner until finally the coroner's duties were largely confined to the determination of causes and manner of deaths under certain circumstances. Coroner's jury and inquest procedure were retained and the procedure incorporated both legal and medical determination. The Medical Examiner's system originated in the 13th-16th centuries in Italy. Qualified physicians were considered expert in legal medicine.

As permitted by 1945 Legislative Act 143, the Oakland County Board of Supervisors in 1946 abolished the **elected** office of coroner and transferred the duties to the County Health Officer who became Chief Medical Examiner. The Medical Examiner Division was established within the Health Department. The Medical Examiner Law, Act 181, was passed in 1953. This law allowed each county to establish and **appoint** a Medical Examiner. On November 5, 1968 the Oakland County Health Officer was appointed as Medical Examiner.

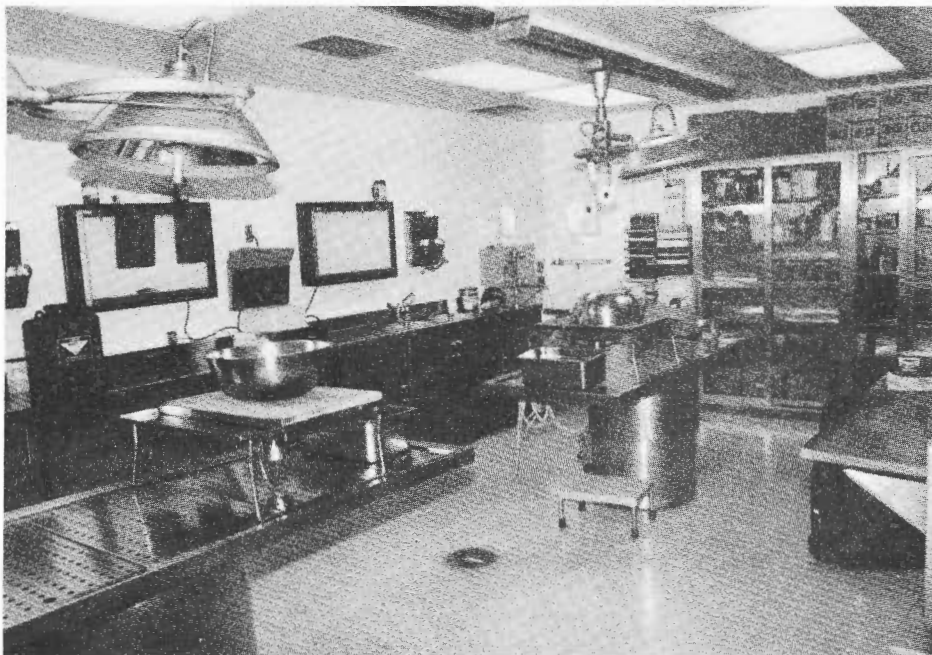
Most Medical Examiner cases were taken to local hospital where service space and facilities were limited due to regular hospital cases. Many doctors were reluctant to perform Medical Examiner autopsies. The establishment of a central County Morgue Facility was essential. Provisions were made in the new Law Enforcement Complex, which was under construction, for a central County Morgue. On July 1, 1970, an interim office was established at the Pontiac State Hospital on Elizabeth Lake Road in Pontiac. In July 1972 the move was made to the new facility at the Oakland County Service Center, Law Enforcement Complex.

In December 1978 a reorganization of the Medical Examiner's office was undertaken. Since the Chief Pathologist was performing all of the duties of the Medical Examiner, a resolution was passed which discharged the Public Health Director and appointed the Chief Pathologist as Medical Examiner for Oakland County. This appointment took effect January 1, 1979.



TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY

HISTOLOGY LABORATORY



AUTOPSY ROOM

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