



**1985**

**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

APR 7 1986

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## 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.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1985

(Emphasis on involvement with medical education.)

Continued the residency program established in 1984 with the University of Michigan by accepting pathology residents for 4 to 6 weeks of forensic pathology training.

Sponsored a disaster seminar dealing with the Dallas plane crash and deaths of approximately 140 persons. This lecture was attended by about 350 to 400 local police and fire EMS and disaster control persons.

Sent 3 people to Dr. Spitz's course on Medicolegal Investigation of Death.

Attendance at the International Association of Coronors and Medical Examiners convention.

Attendance at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences convention.

Selected by the FBI to attend the first Death Investigation Seminar sponsored by the FBI. This seminar fully paid for by the FBI and limited to 50 persons nationwide.

Met separately with law enforcement, funeral directors and emergency medical and hospital personnel to resolve problems in common.

In cooperation with Michigan State University, invited all their medical students to observe two autopsies per student.

The Board of Commissioners appointed Dr. Brooks as Medical Examiner for a term to run until October 31, 1989.

Dr. Brooks appointed Clinical Professor, Michigan State University.

Dr. Brooks gave several lectures at the University of Michigan Medical School, various local hospitals, and police academy.

Established a word processing system for the clerical staff.

Began performing urine drug screening formerly done by the T.A.S.C. program.

## GOALS 1986

Hire a full time Board certified forensic pathologist as Chief Deputy Medical Examiner.

Establish a data recovery system.

Implement a study and program of bacteria in tissue to assist in determining the cause of death.

Up-date instrumentation in the toxicology laboratory.

Engage in basic forensic research.

Expand the public relations program with local health care agencies.

Expand our medical library.

## STATISTICS

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
<u>NATURAL CAUSES</u>						
Infective & Parasitic	0	1	1	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasms	10	10	11	9	14	14
Benign Neoplasms	0	0	1	0	0	0
Endocrine, Nutri. & Metabolic	8	6	5	10	0	4
Blood & Blood Forming	0	0	0	1	1	1
Mental Disorders	0	0	2	1	4	7
Nervous System & Sense Organs	1	7	4	4	6	11
Circulatory System	434	438	383	347	354	336
Respiratory System	19	16	23	20	12	16
Digestive System	30	39	29	13	24	16
Genitourinary System	2	0	0	0	1	2
Compli. of Preg. & Childbirth	0	0	1	0	0	1
Congenital Anomalies	2	4	0	0	4	1
Perinatal & Mortality	2	1	0	2	3	0
Symptoms and Ill-defined	0	1	1	0	0	3
Unknown Causes	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	<u>528</u>	<u>542</u>	<u>479</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>434</u>
<u>ACCIDENTAL CAUSES</u>						
Railway	0	1	1	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle	165	158	167	131	147	170
Motor Vehicle, Non-Traffic	0	0	3	0	3	5
Other Road Vehicle	0	0	1	0	0	0
Water Transport	0	0	0	0	1	1
Air & Space Transport	4	4	5	3	3	1
Drugs & Medications	14	27	32	13	4	1
Solid & Liquid Substance	4	2	0	1	0	0
Gases & Vapors	3	6	10	8	2	9
Misadv. During Surg. & Med. Care	0	0	0	1	0	0
Falls	26	20	22	28	22	28
Fires & Flames	13	23	10	11	8	21
Natural & Environmental Factors	3	7	2	4	2	3
Drowning, Suff. & Foreign Bodies	25	32	21	23	20	19
Other	9	15	15	6	10	10
Adverse Eff. in Therapeutic Use	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>266</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>289</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>269</u>

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Statistics continued

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
<u>SUICIDE</u>						
Solid or Liquid Substances	13	20	21	19	19	14
Gases in Domestic Use	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other Gases	23	29	28	20	20	13
Hanging, Strangulation	26	16	18	17	18	25
Drowning	1	0	1	3	1	0
Firearms	54	51	57	62	64	69
Cutting & Piercing	1	3	3	2	0	2
Jumping from High Place	3	1	3	1	0	2
Other & Unspecified	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>125</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>128</u>
<u>HOMICIDE</u>						
Fight, Brawl	2	0	3	0	0	0
Drowning	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hanging, Strangulation	1	2	1	3	0	5
Firearms	22	14	25	19	28	30
Cutting & Piercing	7	6	12	13	11	10
Child Battering & Other Maltreat.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other & Unspecified	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>39</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>UNDETERMINED</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED</u>	2578	2899	2786	2887	3072	2377
<u>TOTAL MED. EXAMINER CASES</u>	1578	1797	1718	1719	1843	2114
<u>TOTAL AUTOPSIES</u>	671 *	645	599	528	545	617
<u>TOTAL POSTMORTEM EXAMS</u>		60	78	82	116	132
<u>TOTAL CREMATIONS</u>	740	969	942	1048	1130	1312
<u>TOTAL COUNTY DEATHS</u>	7256	7876	8095	8080	8818	8593

\*Postmortem examinations not reported separately.

## PERSONNEL

LOCEY, Robert P., M.D.	Director, Institutional and Human Services Department
BROOKS, Bill G., M.D.	Medical Examiner
BAYNES, Goebel	Administrator
PREDMORE, Philip D.	Toxicologist
BARNHART, Alice	Histologist
BARANSKI, Irvin	Investigator
BISHOP, Bill	Investigator
HILL, Harry F.	Investigator
LAZUR, Robert	Investigator
MacDONALD, William	Investigator
OSGOOD, Mary Sue	Investigator
ROSSI, Robert	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



## 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.	SCHER, Alan D., M.D.
BRATTON, Richard, D.O.	LePERE, Ronald R., D.O.	SCHILLINGER, E.A., D.O.
BUCHANAN, G.S., M.D.	LOPEZ, Gerald L., M.D.	SCHOEN, Paul F., D.O.
CROMMETT, William, D.O.	MAINSTER, Harris, D.O.	SHEKERJIAN, Armen, M.D.
DENTON, Allen, D.O.	MALICKE, David, D.O.	SHUMAKER, Bryan, M.D.
DOYLE, Michael Q., D.O.	MASTERNICK, Joseph, D.O.	SIKORSKI, Eugene L., D.O.
ENGELMANN, Theodore, D.O.	McINERNEY, Thomas, M.D.	SPOHN, E.W., M.D.
FRANCKOWIAK, Charles, D.O.	McNEIL, Harold G., D.O.	STOLTE, Jon L., M.D.
FRIEDMAN, Stephen, D.O.	OSTER, Claude, D.O.	WEINER, Seymour, D.O.
GABA, Leonard, 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.	