



**1987**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

FOR THE

**MEDICAL EXAMINER**

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OAKLAND COUNTY

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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.

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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.

## STATISTICS

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
<u>NATURAL CAUSES</u>						
Infective & Parasitic	1	1	1	2	1	4
Neoplasms	12	9	14	14	14	12
Endocrine, Nutri. & Metabolic	5	10	0	4	3	3
Blood & Blood Forming	0	1	1	1	0	1
Mental Disorders	2	1	4	7	7	7
Nervous System & Sense Organs	4	4	6	11	6	10
Circulatory System	383	347	354	336	346	365
Respiratory System	23	20	12	16	14	26
Digestive System	29	13	24	16	10	21
Genitourinary System	0	0	1	2	2	0
Compli. of Preg. & Childbirth	1	0	0	1	0	0
Muscle & Connective Tissue	0	0	0	0	1	0
Congenital Anomalies	0	0	4	1	1	1
Perinatal & Mortality	0	2	3	0	0	0
Symptoms and Ill-defined	19	21	23	23	16	27
Total	<u>479</u>	<u>429</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>434</u>	<u>421</u>	<u>477</u>
<u>ACCIDENTAL CAUSES</u>						
Railway	1	0	0	0	2	1
Motor Vehicle	167	131	147	170	149	130
Motor Vehicle, Non-Traffic	3	0	3	5	4	9
Other Road Vehicle	1	0	0	0	0	0
Water Transport	0	0	1	1	2	1
Air & Space Transport	5	3	3	1	3	2
Drugs & Medications	32	13	4	1	6	6
Solid/Liquid/Gases/Vapors	10	9	2	9	11	5
Misadv. During Surg. & Med. Care	0	1	0	0	0	0
Falls	22	28	22	28	23	32
Fires & Flames	10	11	8	21	6	21
Natural & Environmental Factors	2	4	2	3	3	3
Drowning, Suff. & Foreign Bodies	21	23	20	19	9	14
Other	15	6	10	10	13	12
Adverse Eff. in Therapeutic Use	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	<u>289</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>232</u>	<u>237</u>

-continued-

Statistics continued

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
<u>SUICIDE</u>						
Solid or Liquid Substances	21	19	19	14	20	9
Other Gases and Vapors	28	20	20	13	28	16
Hanging, Strangulation	18	17	18	25	20	16
Drowning	1	3	1	0	1	0
Firearms	57	62	64	69	64	73
Cutting & Piercing	3	2	0	2	4	4
Jumping from High Place	3	1	0	2	1	1
Other & Unspecified	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>135</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>128</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>122</u>
<u>HOMICIDE</u>						
Fight, Brawl	3	0	0	0	2	1
Drowning	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hanging, Strangulation	1	3	0	5	2	8
Firearms	25	19	28	30	27	45
Cutting & Piercing	12	13	11	10	2	8
Other & Unspecified	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>43</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>69</u>
<u>UNDETERMINED</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>TOTAL DEATHS REPORTED</u>	2786	2887	3072	2377	2468	2573
<u>TOTAL MED. EXAMINER CASES</u>	1718	1719	1843	2114	1880	2071
<u>TOTAL AUTOPSIES</u>	599	528	545	617	579	660
<u>TOTAL POSTMORTEM EXAMS</u>	78	82	116	132	95	88
<u>TOTAL CREMATIONS</u>	942	1048	1130	1312	1165	1335
<u>TOTAL COUNTY DEATHS</u>	8095	8080	8818	8593	8525	8634

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1986

Attendance at the Medicolegal Seminar on "Investigation of Death" conducted by Dr. Spitz, Wayne County Medical Examiner.

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

In collaboration with Wayne County Medical Examiner's office, a 10 year study of death due to asthma is in progress.

Sponsored a seminar which was held in the County Commissioner's auditorium. Subject was "Serial Rapists" and speaker was Special Agent James Wright from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dr. Brooks and Dr. Biedrzycki were asked to act as consultants to the County Medical Examiners of Michigan.

Dr. Biedrzycki lectured at Oakland Police Academy Seminar.

Attendance at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences convention.

Acquired plastic and styrofoam models for teaching purposes and court presentations.

Collaborating with the Mayo Clinic on investigations of fatal anaphylaxis.

Establishment of Bereaved Families Subcommittee of the Medical-Legal Committee of the Oakland Medical Society to address the needs of the families of decedents.

Pathology residents visited our facility to further their education in forensic pathology.

## GOALS 1988

Maintain a properly functioning and efficient Medical Examiner's office as provided by Michigan Statute Act 181, P.A. 1953.

Establish a data recovery system for immediate access to records and documents in the Medical Examiner's office.

Acquire State of the Art equipment to augment the analytical scope of our forensic laboratory, thereby increasing the capability of detecting and identifying trace quantities of toxic substances.

Maintain an active training and study program for our Medical Examiner investigators through exposure to the latest technological advances in the forensic field.

To continue staff participation with the various medical universities and expand to other local colleges.

To be certified by the National Association of Medical Examiners.

## 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
BAYNES, Goebel	Administrator
PREDMORE, Philip D.	Toxicologist
HUSIEN, Rifat	Histologist
BARANSKI, Irvin	Investigator
BISHOP, Bill	Investigator
HILL, Harry F.	Investigator
LAZUR, Robert (Resigned 6-5-87)	Investigator
MacDONALD, William	Investigator
OSGOOD, Mary Sue	Investigator
ROSSI, Robert	Investigator
RYBERG, Edward (Re-hired 7-20-87)	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



RETIREES

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

\*Deceased

## 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.	ZALEZNAK, Howard, M.D.

## DENTAL CONSULTANTS

FOX, Richard P, D.D.S.  
HENDERSON, Richard M., D.D.S.

\*Inactive