

Oakland County Medical
Examiner's Office
Pontiac, Michigan



Annual Report
2018

2018 Oakland County Medical Examiner Annual Report

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners and to the citizens of Oakland County:

In accordance with Public Act 181 of 1953 commonly referred to as the Medical Examiners Act, the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office is charged with determining the cause and manner of death in any violent, sudden, unexpected, suspicious or otherwise unexplained death, inclusive of all jail deaths and deaths in police custody occurring in Oakland County.

This report includes statistical data from the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office for 2018 and the previous 3 years. The total number of cases increased for 2018 while the number of autopsies and inspections remained relatively the same as 2017. Oakland County experienced slight decreases in the number of natural, accidental, and undeterminable deaths while seeing an increase in the number of homicide and suicide deaths.

The Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office hosts several multi-jurisdictional meetings to discuss specific types of cases where deaths may have been preventable. A prime example is the child death review meeting held monthly. Any death involving a child under the age of 18 is reviewed by the forensic pathologists, prosecutor's office, law enforcement, protective services, forensic psychiatrists, area pediatricians, State Department of Public Health, a Consumer Product Safety Commission representative and any other appropriate specialty depending on the circumstances unique to that case. Similar teams review drug related deaths as well as any deaths resulting from domestic violence.

The Medical Examiner's Office continues to partner with educational as well as government organizations for instruction and training. Presentations on cause and manner of death and tours are conducted for: basic police academies, advanced police crime scene training, detective schools, auxiliary and reserve police academies, several community citizen police academies and more. Along with hosting several medical students in 2018 the Medical Examiner's Office continued the partnership with Wayne State University and the DMC. Each year several pathology residents will spend about a month here in the final stages of their training before testing to become board-certified pathologists.

I hope you find this report informative. It is my pleasure to present to you the 2018 Annual Report for the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office.

Respectfully submitted,



Ljubisa J. Dragovic, M.D., FCAP, FAAFS, FNAME
Chief Forensic Pathologist/Medical Examiner

“Show me the manner in which a nation or a community cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals”

Gladstone

Medical Examiner Staff

Forensic Pathologists

Ljubisa J. Dragovic, M.D.
Chief Forensic Pathologist/Medical Examiner

Kanubhai Virani, M.D.
Deputy Chief Forensic Pathologist

Ruben Ortiz-Reyes, M.D.
Deputy Forensic Pathologist

Bernardino Pacris, M.D.
Deputy Forensic Pathologist

Andrew Hanosh, M.D.
Deputy Forensic Pathologist

Toxicology

Li Wang, PhD.
Diana Schell

Autopsy Attendants

Christina Grammatico, Supervisor
Danielle Jamieson
April Leder
Jennifer Guthrie
Melissa Ohlrich

Administrative

Casimir Miarka, Administrator
Corrine Runyan, ME Office Supervisor
Dana Campbell, ME Office Assistant
Joyce Alexander, ME Office Assistant
Debbie Hall, ME Office Assistant
Laura Alegre, ME Office Assistant
D'Arcy McAvoy, ME Office Assistant

Investigators

William Presley, Chief Investigator
Marlene Rodgers
Arthur McNamara
Raymond Jankowski
Keith Batchelor
James Martinez
Mark Giroux
Mitchell Brown
Jeffrey Collins

Histology

Karen Goldsworthy-Darnell
Donna Green

The Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office serves nearly 1.3 million county residents by providing 24/7 services. Staffing is adjusted to handle most business, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Autopsies are conducted 7 days a week and reports of death are taken 24/7.

All cremations occurring within Oakland County are approved by the Medical Examiner. The number of requests for cremation permits increased significantly (23%) from 2011 to 2014 but the number has stabilized since then.

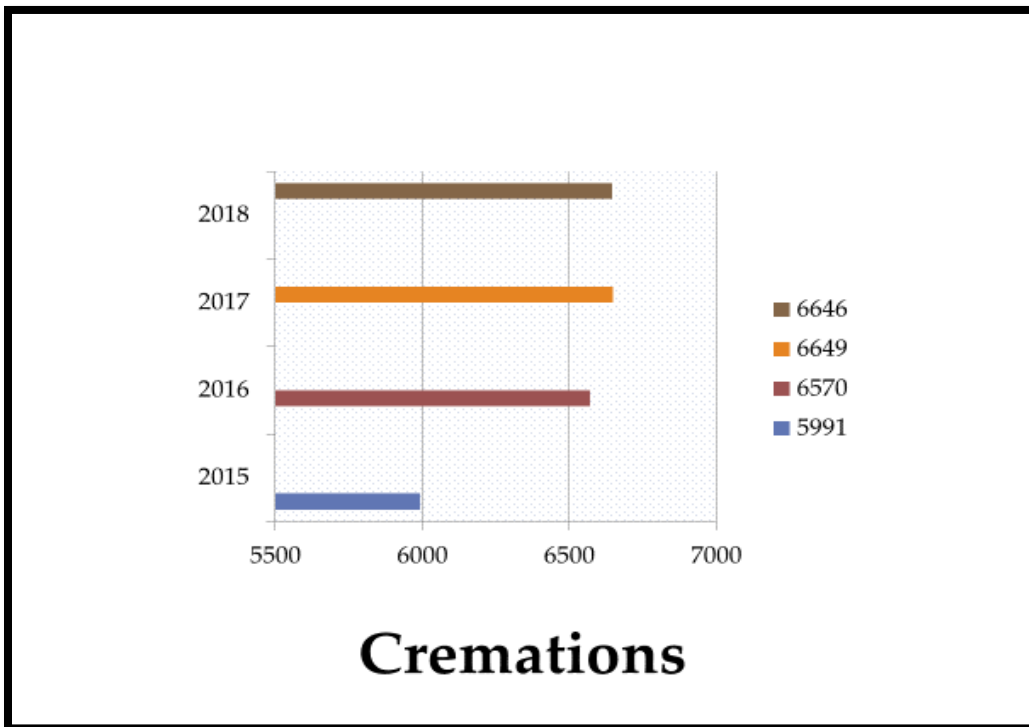
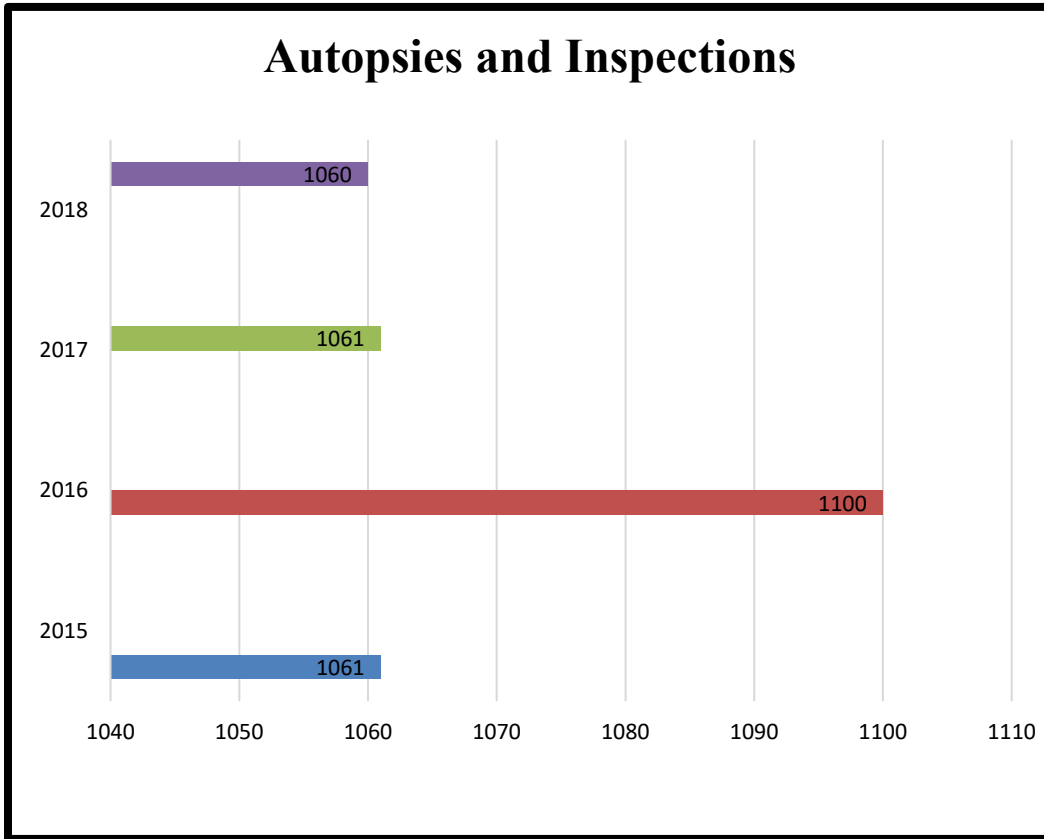
Autopsies are conducted to determine cause and manner of death for reported deaths occurring within Oakland County that meet the medical examiner case reporting criteria. This includes a complete internal and external examination, investigation, cytopathology and toxicological analysis when necessary. The final work product is the autopsy report.

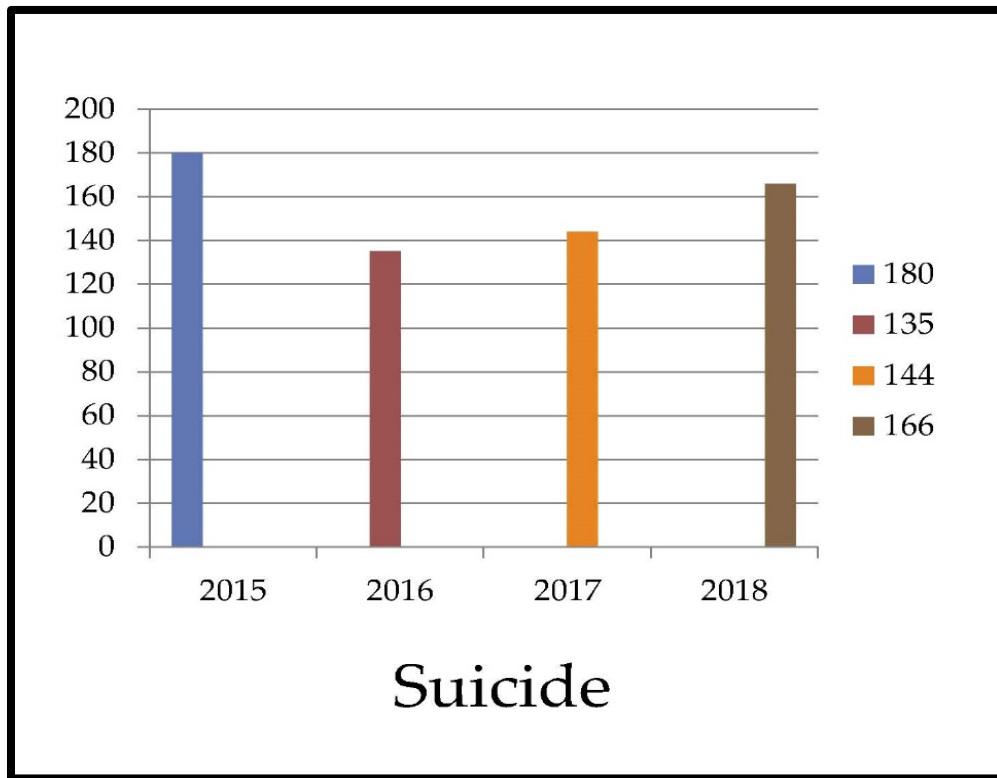
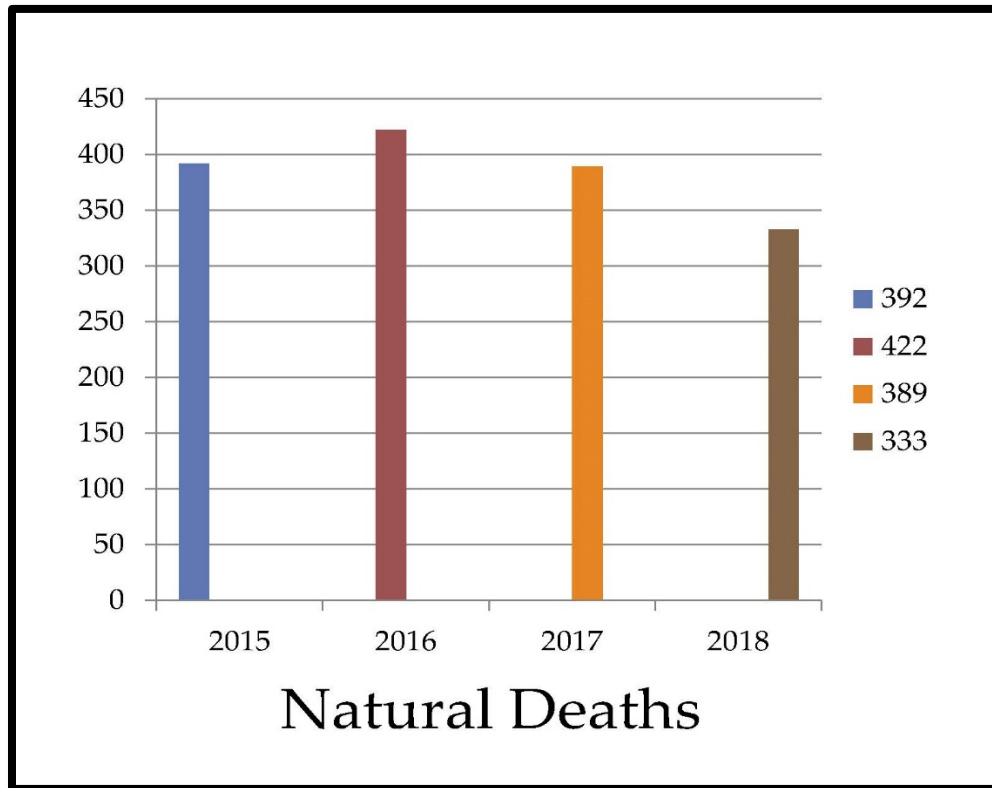
Report turnaround time is case dependent. Normal turnaround time can vary from 30 days to months depending on the specific merits and complexities of each case.

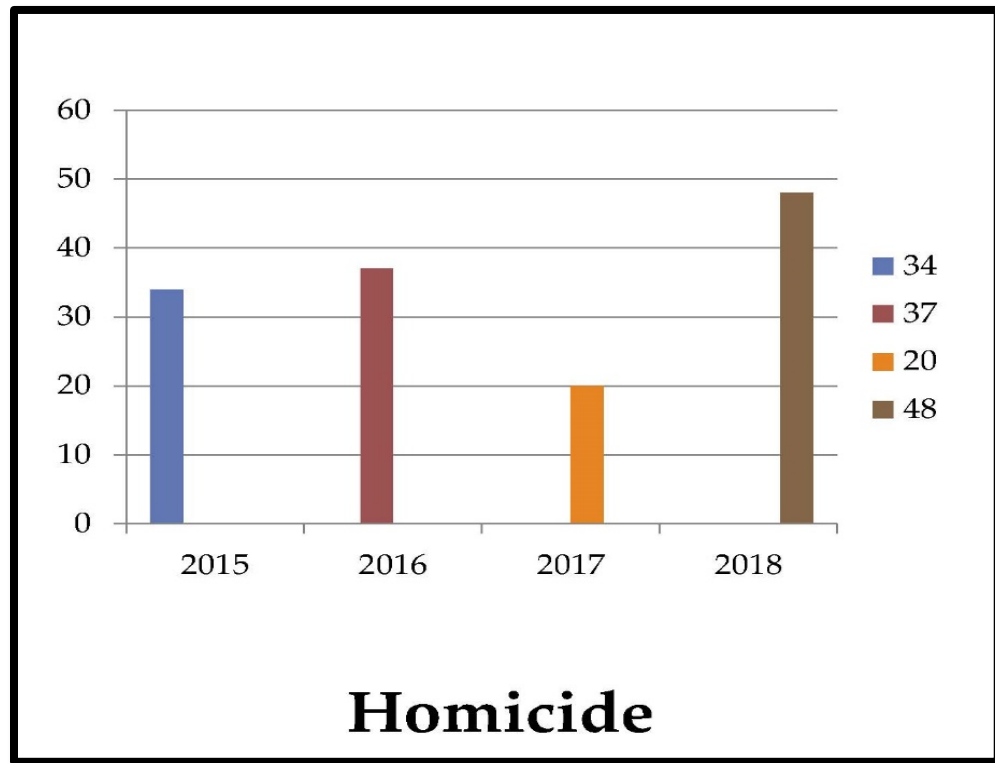
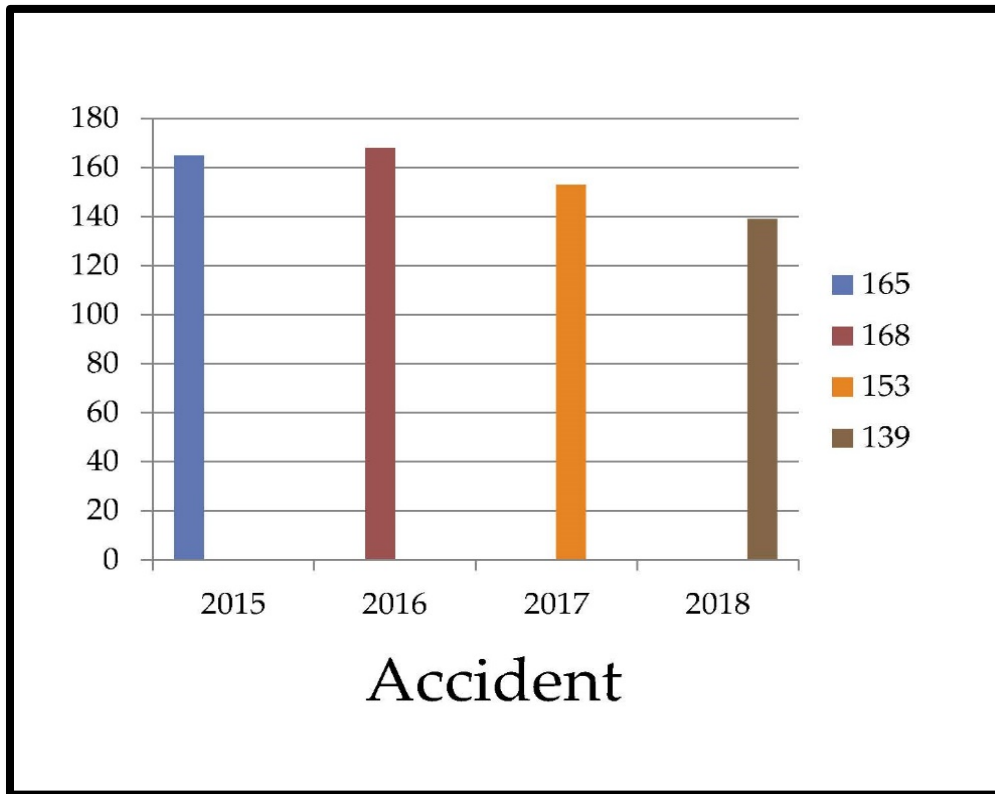
There is no charge for one copy of the autopsy report to the immediate Next of Kin. Autopsy reports are public record and requests to obtain copies of autopsy reports by parties who are not the immediate next of kin, are handled by Freedom of Information Act guidelines.

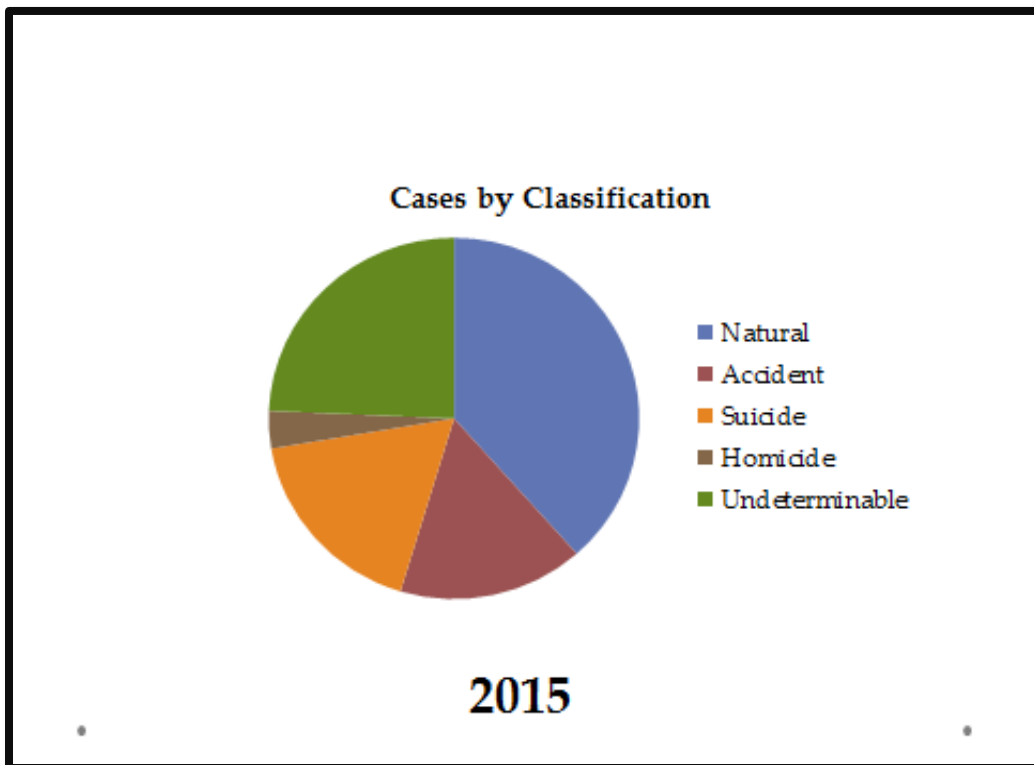
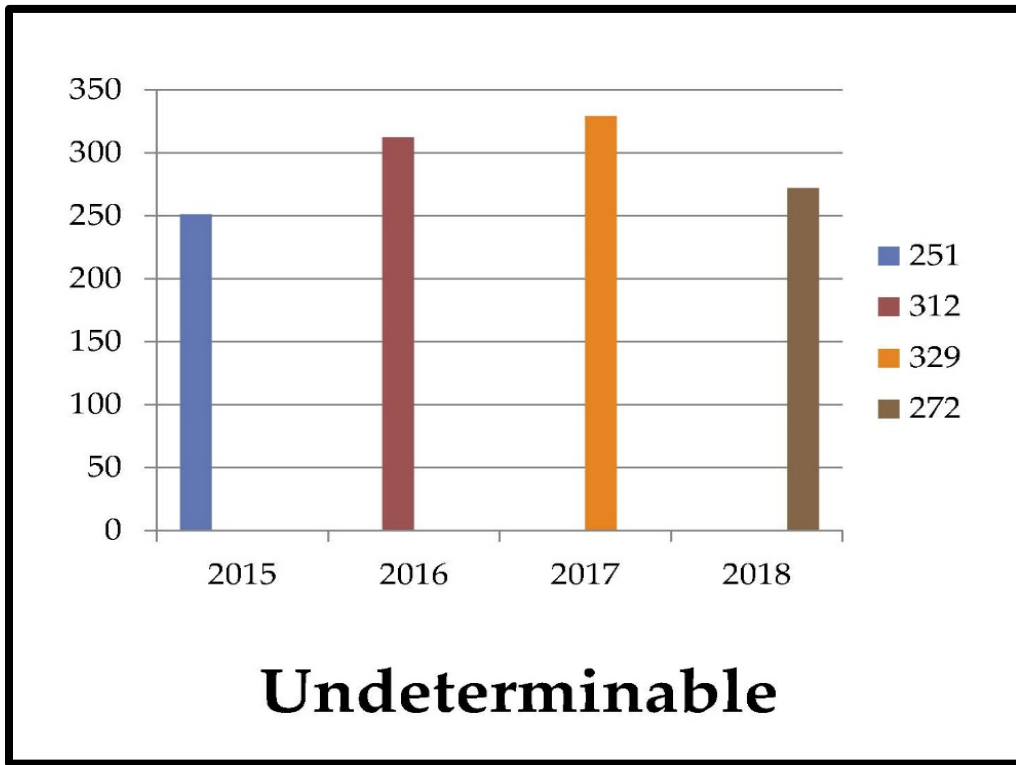
Performance Measures

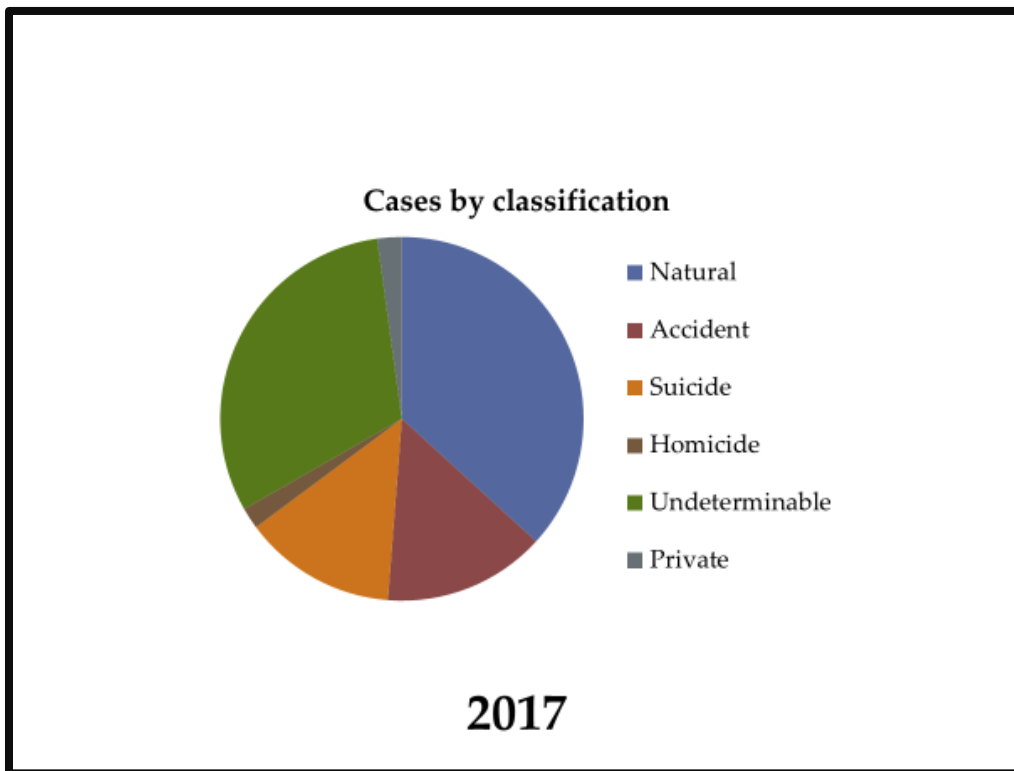
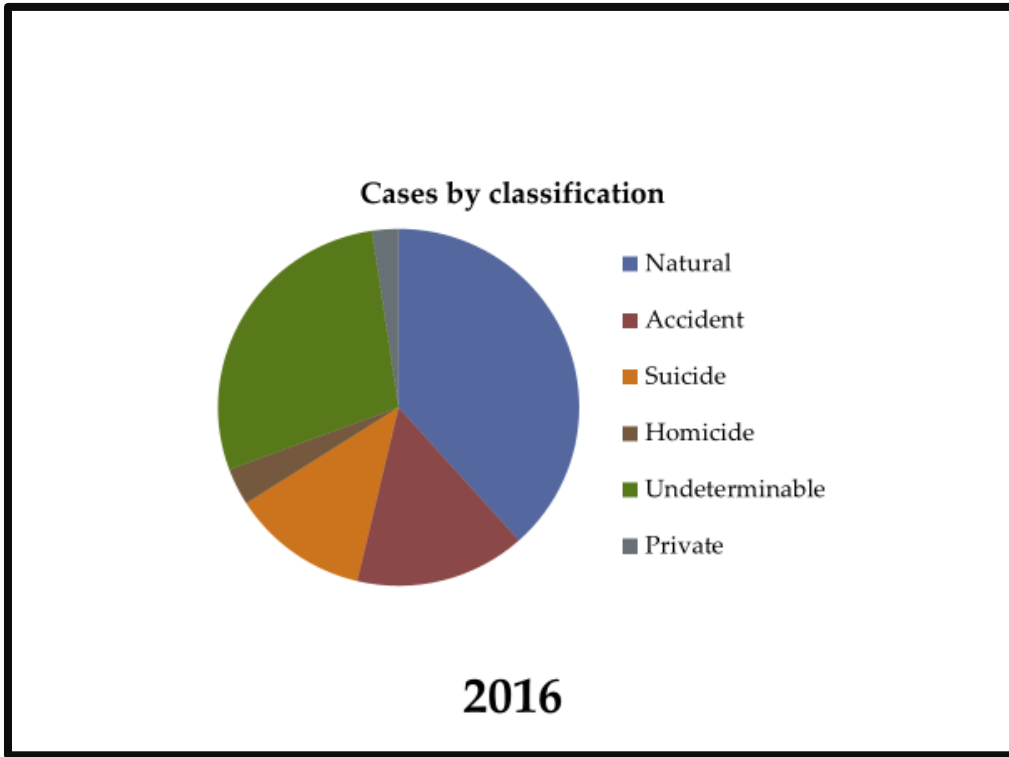
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Cases	7093	7445	7555	7693
Cases Reported & Released	5351	5615	5633	5850
Inspections	131	144	160	159
Autopsies	930	956	901	901

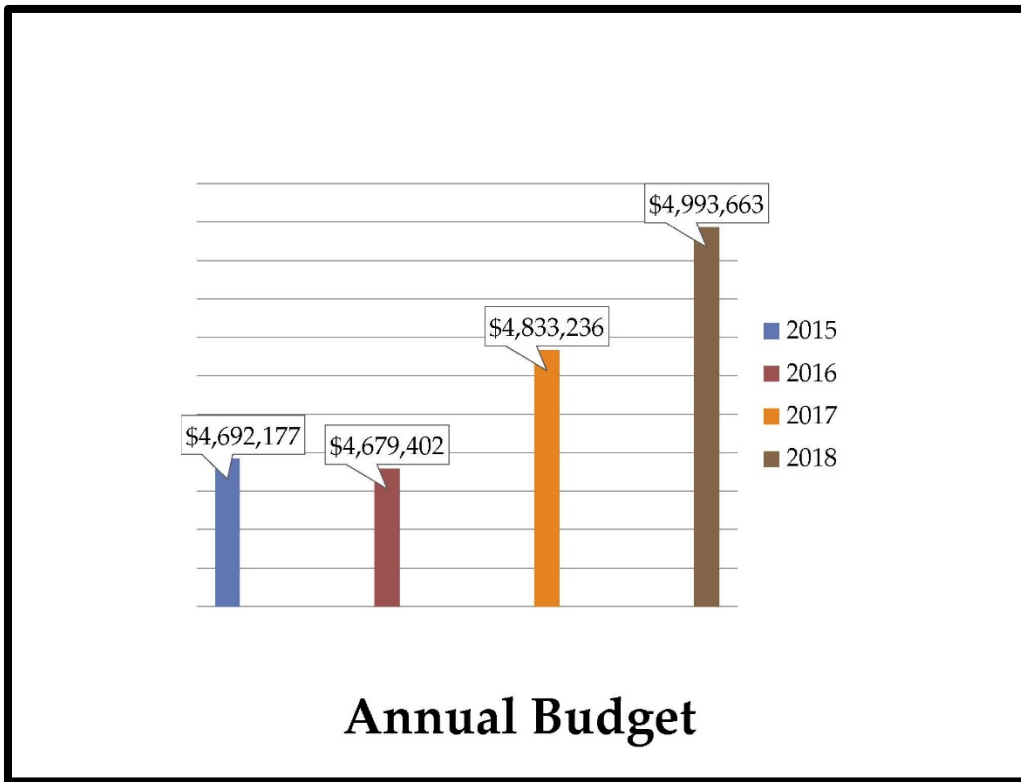
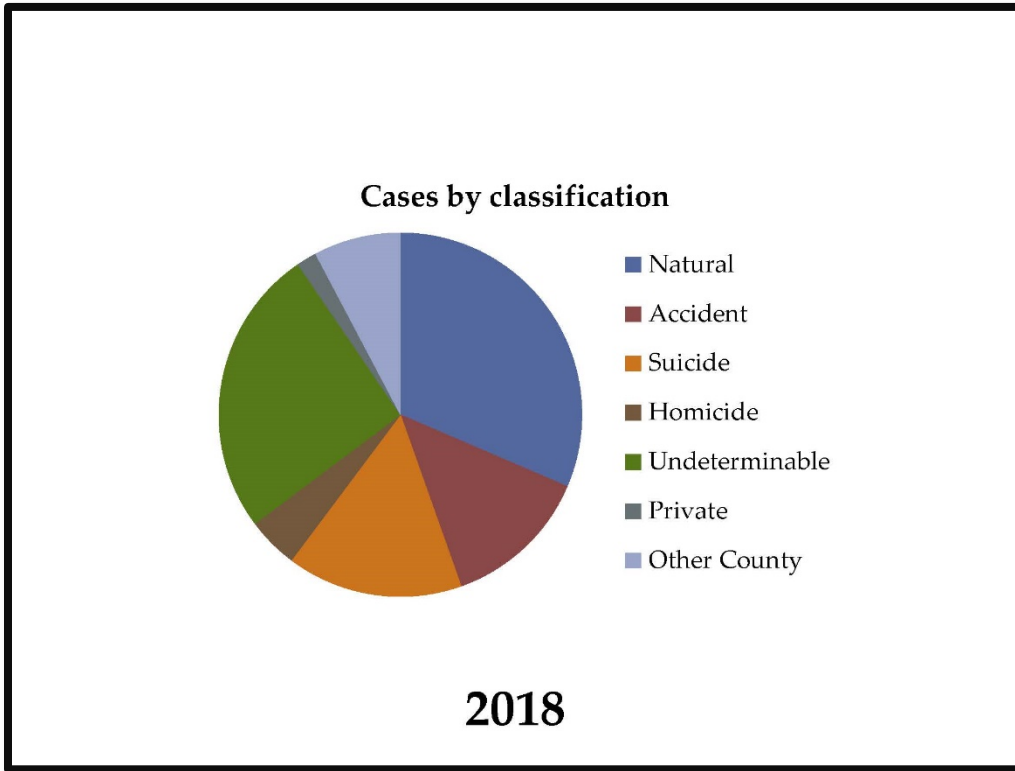


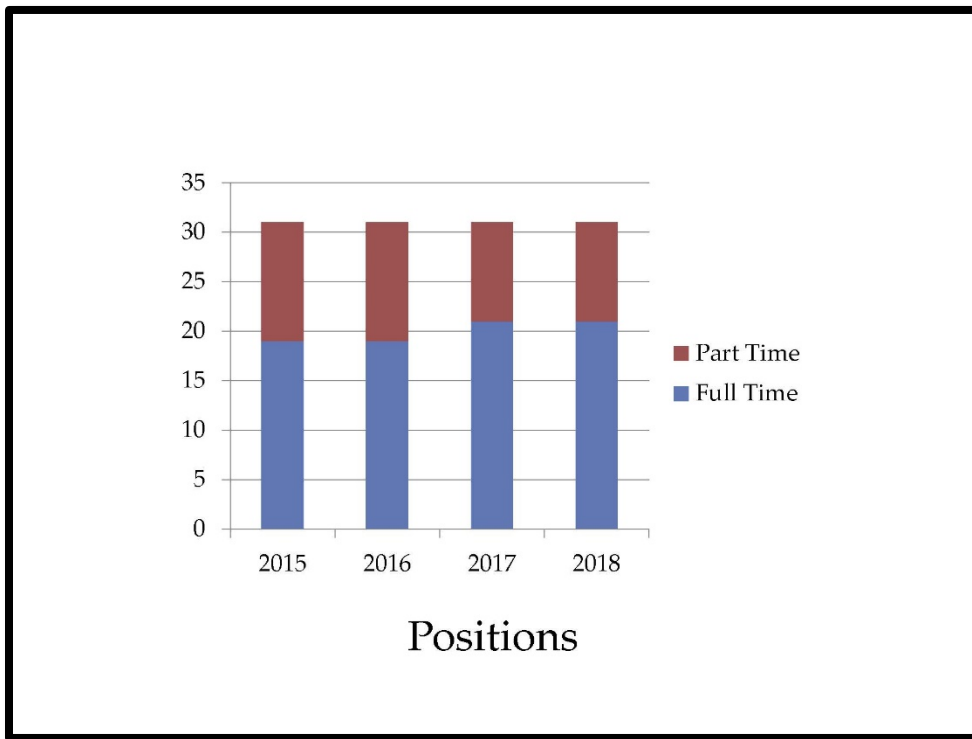
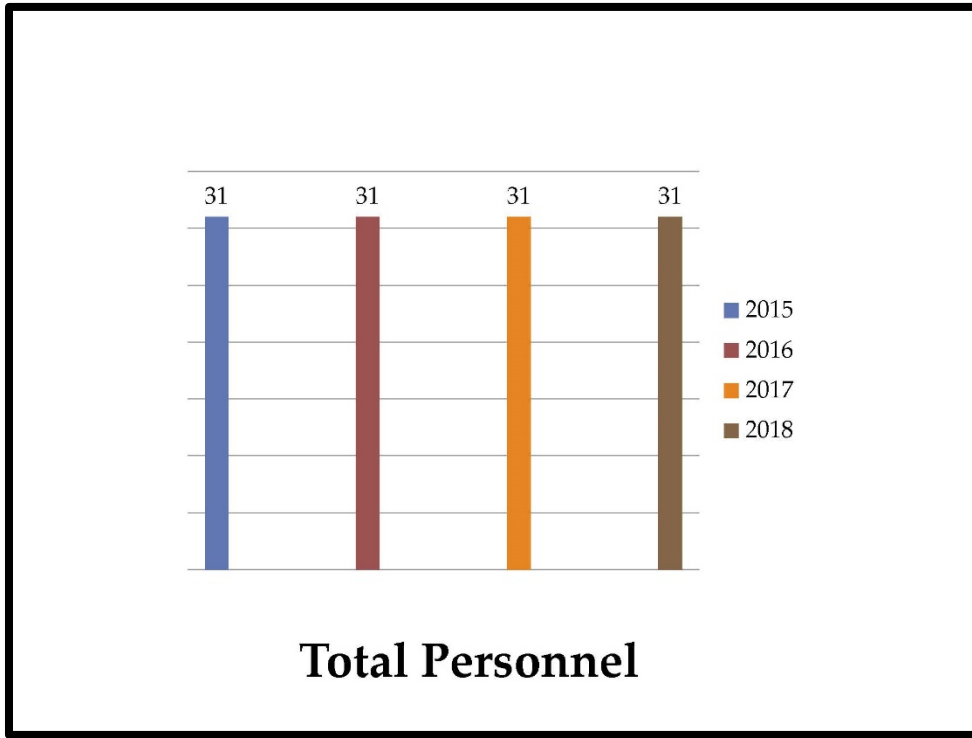












Miscellaneous 2018 Data

Death Scenes Responded to:	695
Bodies Transport to Morgue	1079
Unclaimed Bodies	31
Number of Cases Toxicology Performed	729
Un-Identified Bodies	0
Exhumations	0