

Oakland County Medical
Examiner's Office
Pontiac, Michigan



Annual Report
2019

2019 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 the years 2016 to 2019. The total number of cases reported increased for 2019 while the number of autopsies and inspections remained relatively the same as 2018. Oakland County experienced a 45.83% decrease in the number of homicides reported. The Medical Examiner's Office also experienced a 29.45% decrease in the number of deaths where drug abuse, drug intoxication, or medication intoxication are the primary cause of death. The Medical Examiner's Office reached the peak of cases in 2017.

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 2019 the Medical Examiner's Office continued the partnership with Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center. 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 2019 Annual Report for the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office.

Respectfully submitted,



Ljubisa J. Dragovic, M.D., FCAP, FAFS, 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

Bernardino Pacris, M.D.
Deputy Forensic Pathologist

Andrew Hanosh, M.D.
Deputy Forensic Pathologist

Patrick Cho, M.D.
Deputy Forensic Pathologist

Shauna Bryan, 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
D'Arcy McAvoy, ME Office Assistant
Amber Lofton, 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.

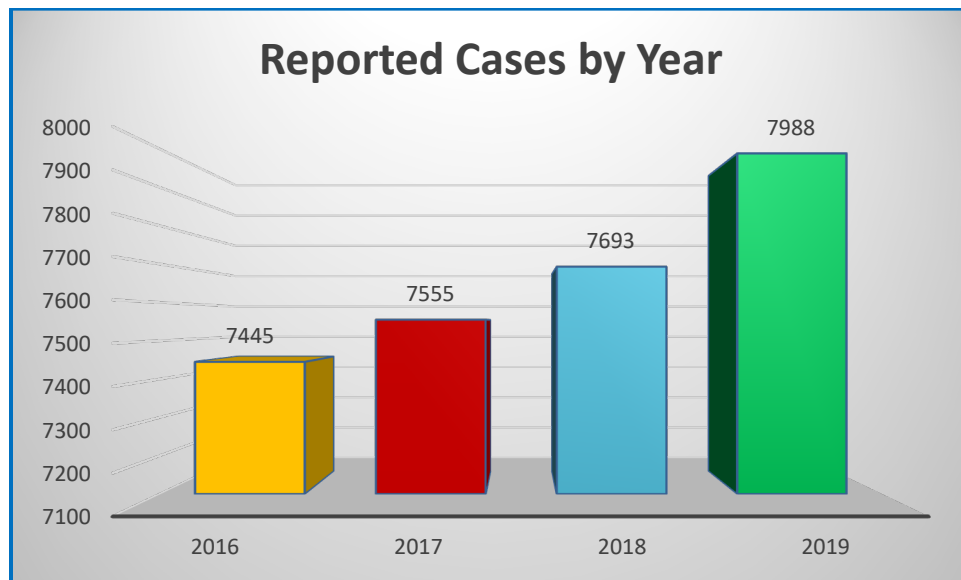
All cremations occurring within Oakland County are approved by the Medical Examiner. The number of requests for cremation permits has remained steady since 2016, only seeing a slight increase of 5.84% compared to 2019.

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. Public records can be obtained by visiting the FOIA Request Center at Oakgov.com

TOTAL REPORTED CASES



CASES BY MANNER OF DEATH

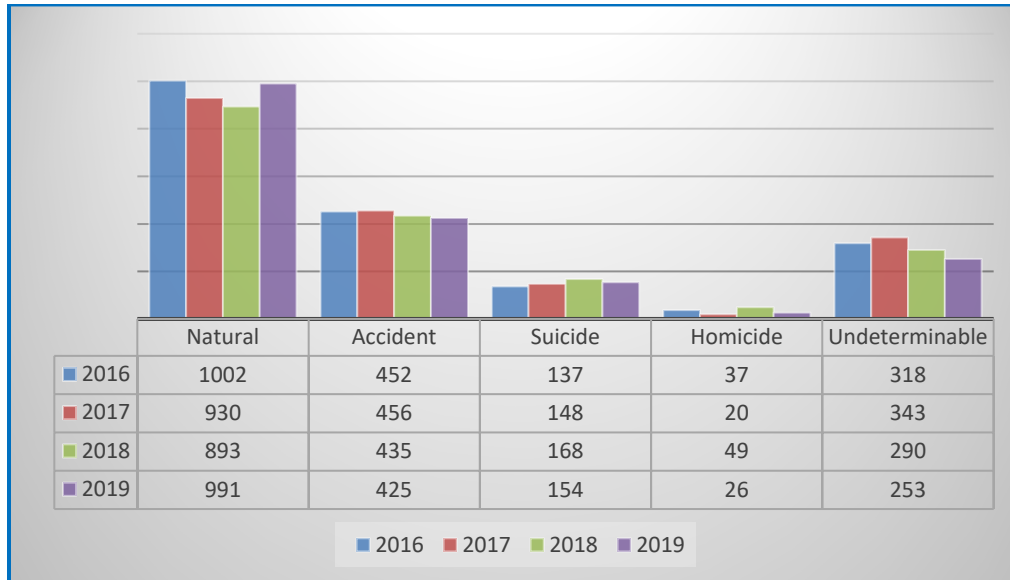
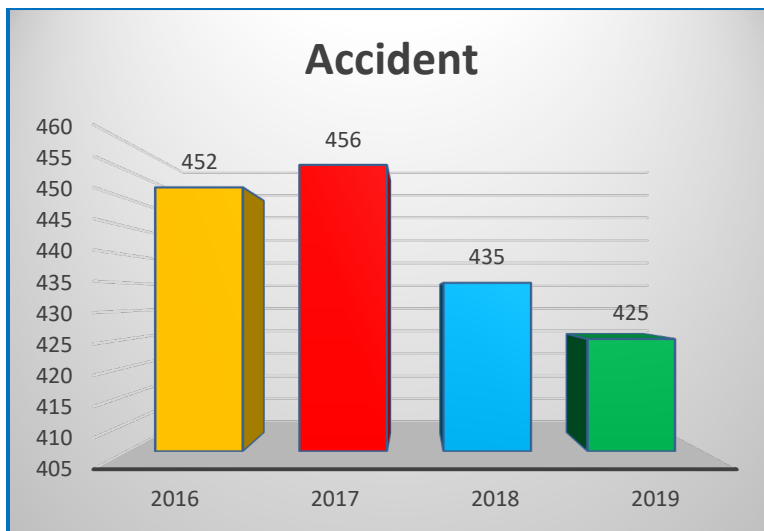
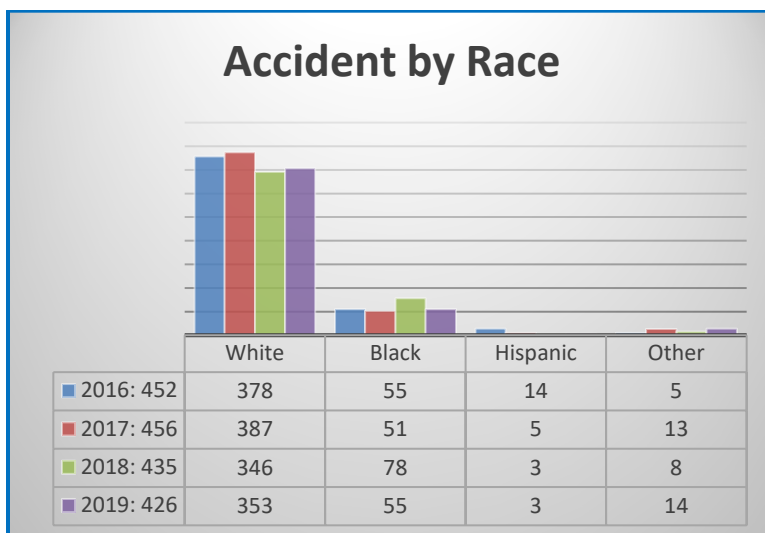
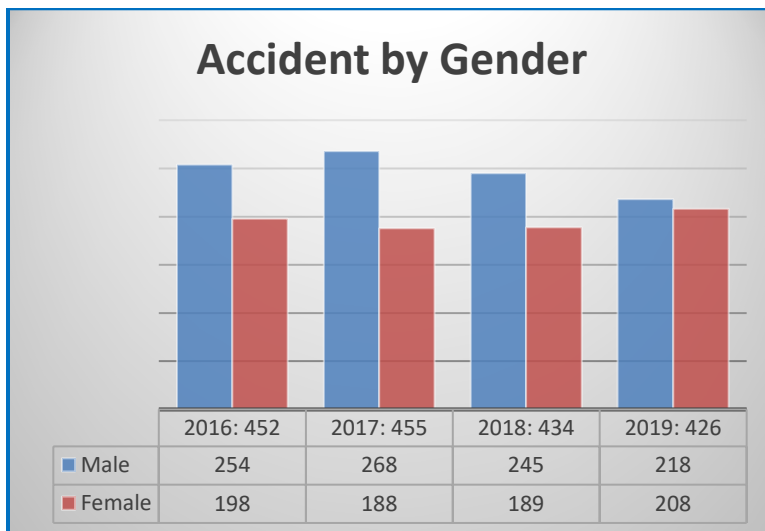
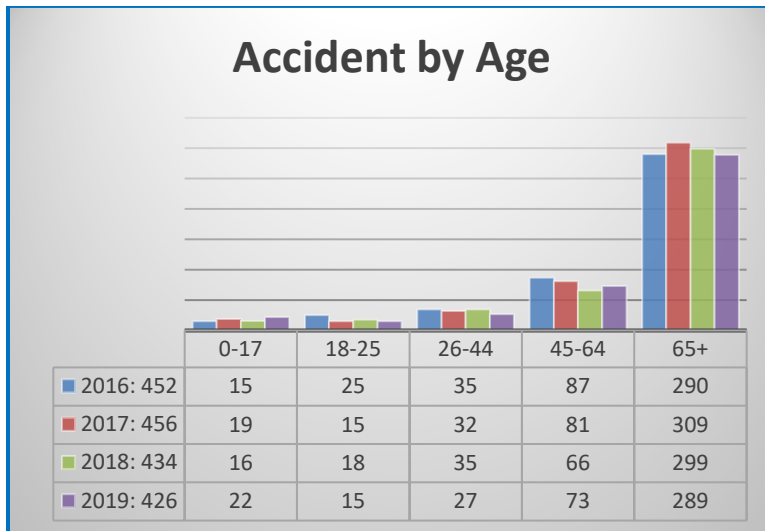


Table 1: Private Autopsies and Other County Cases referred to the Oakland County Medical Examiner

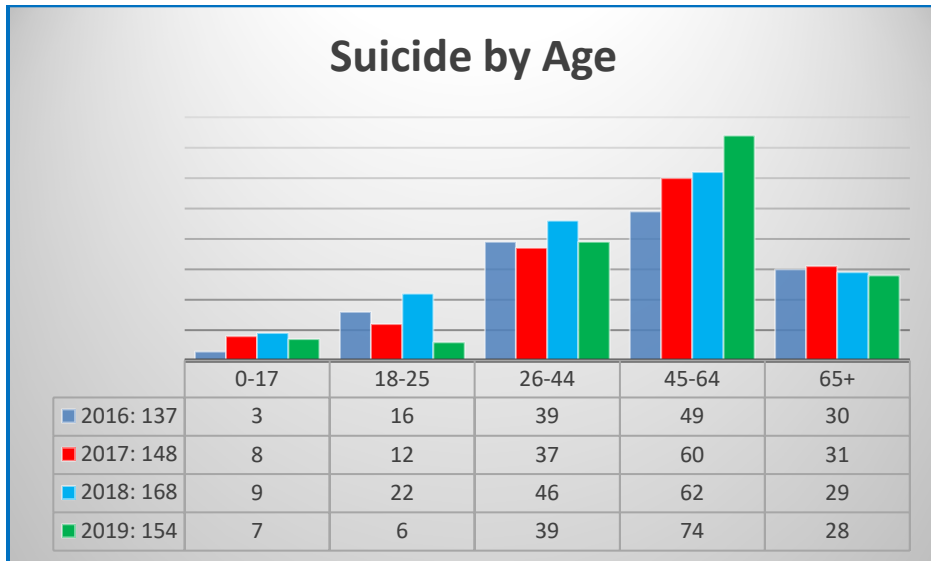
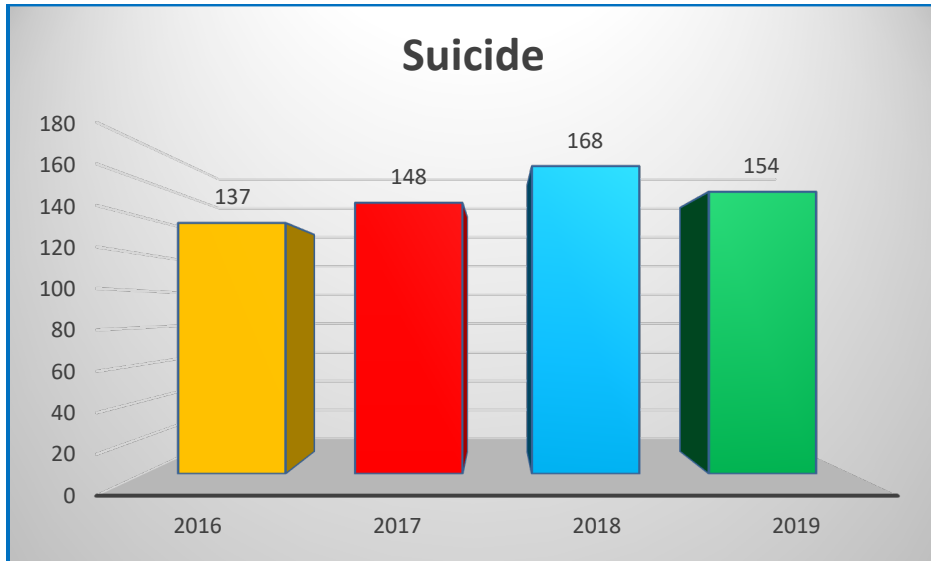
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Private Autopsy	26	23	19	32
Other County			82	59

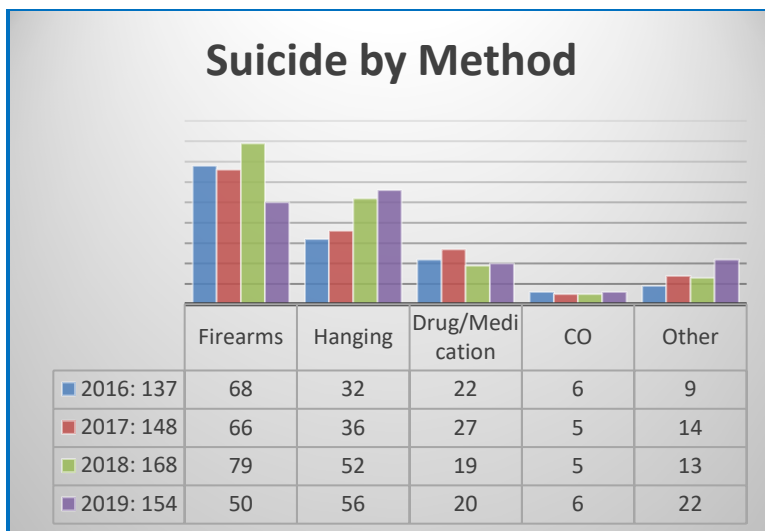
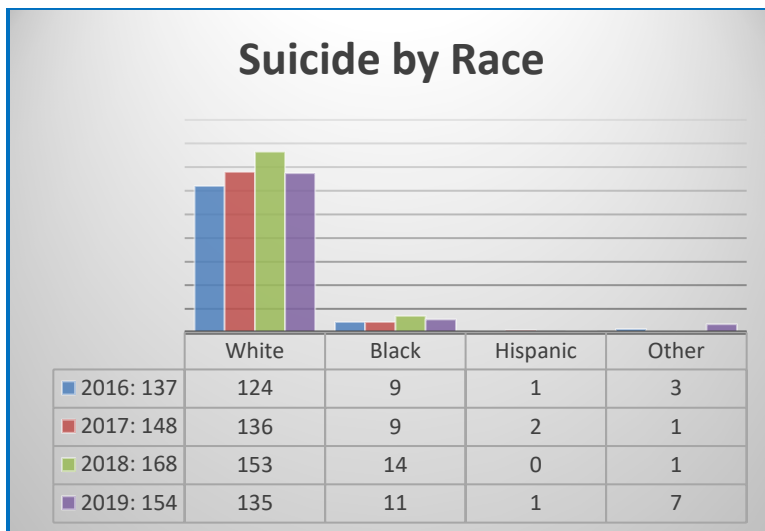
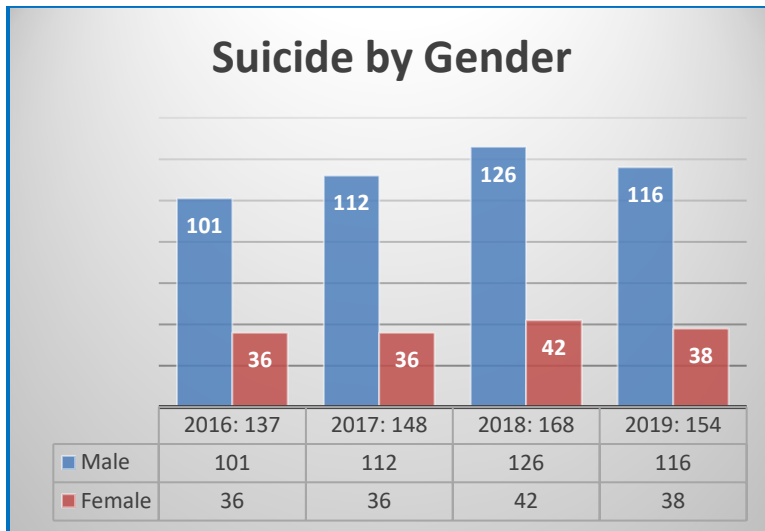
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS



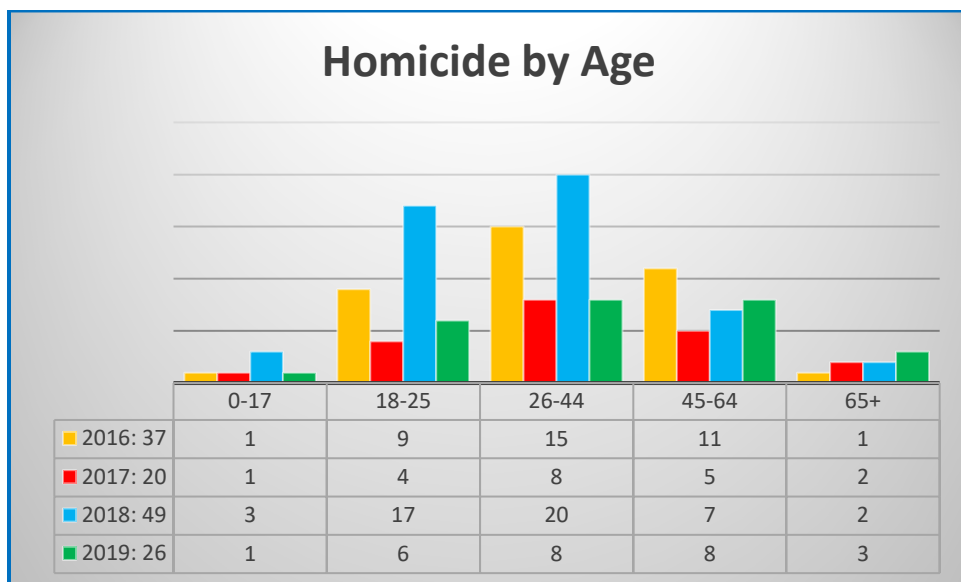
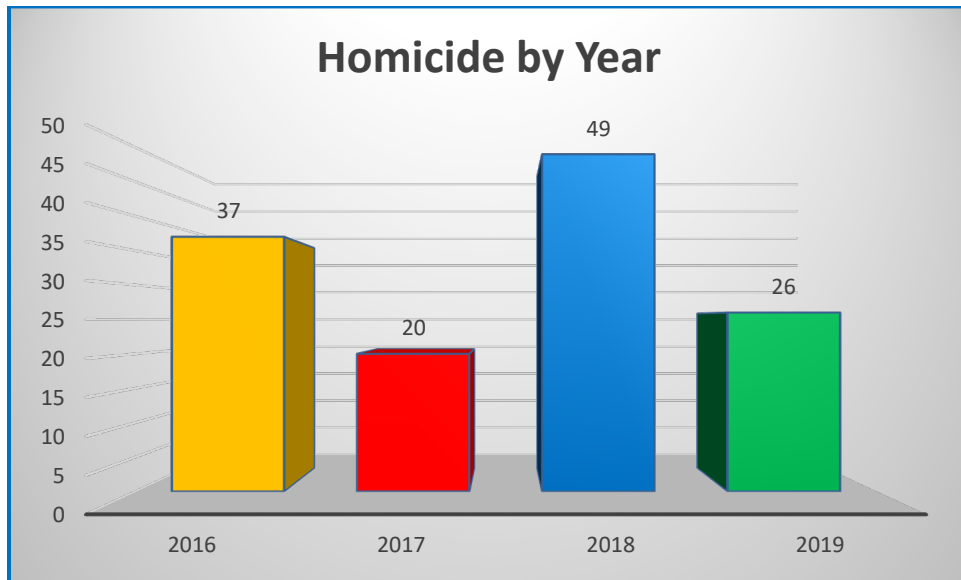


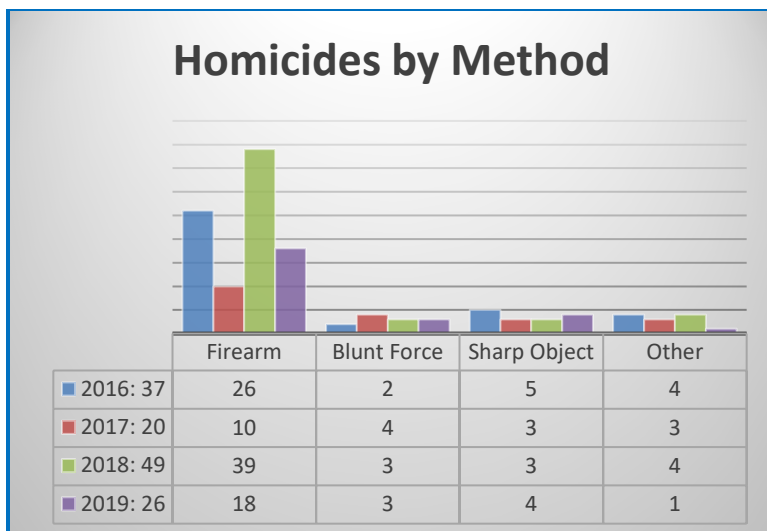
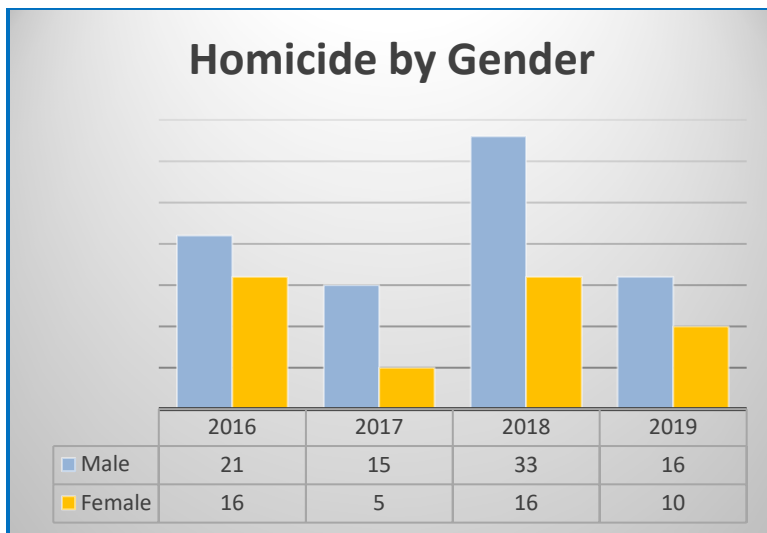
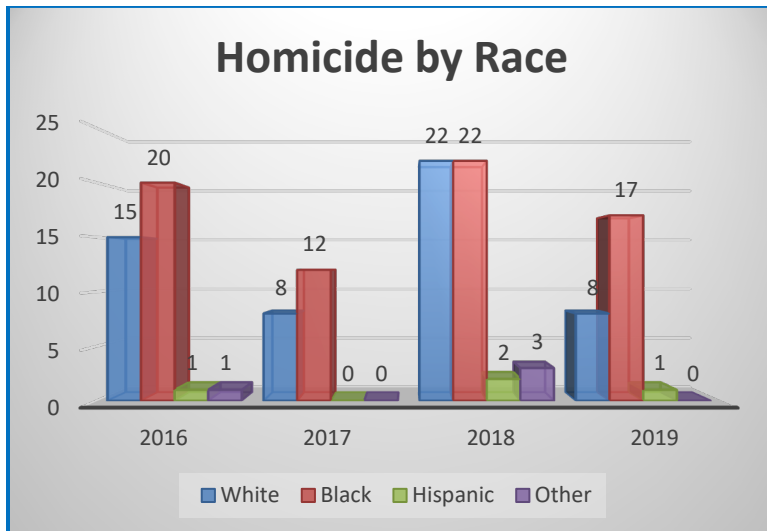
SUICIDE





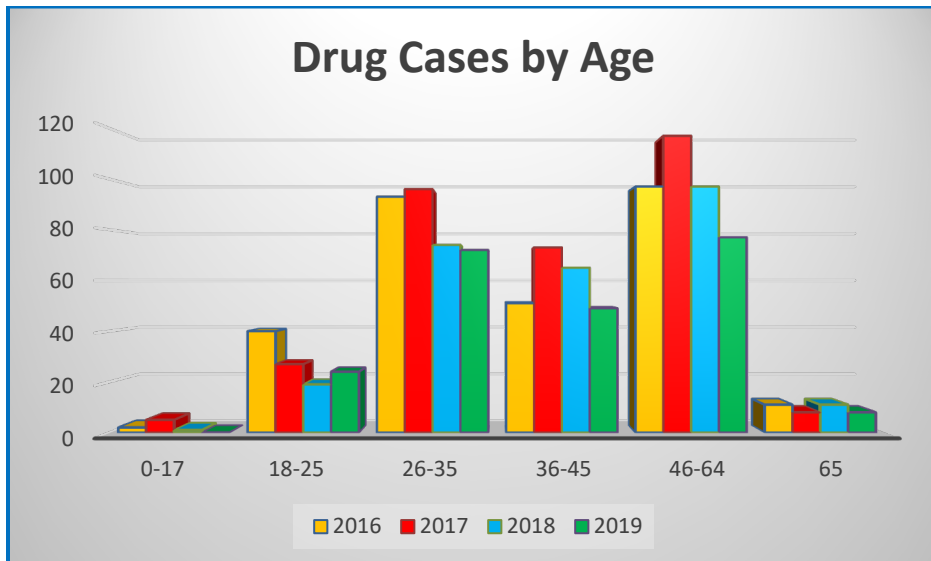
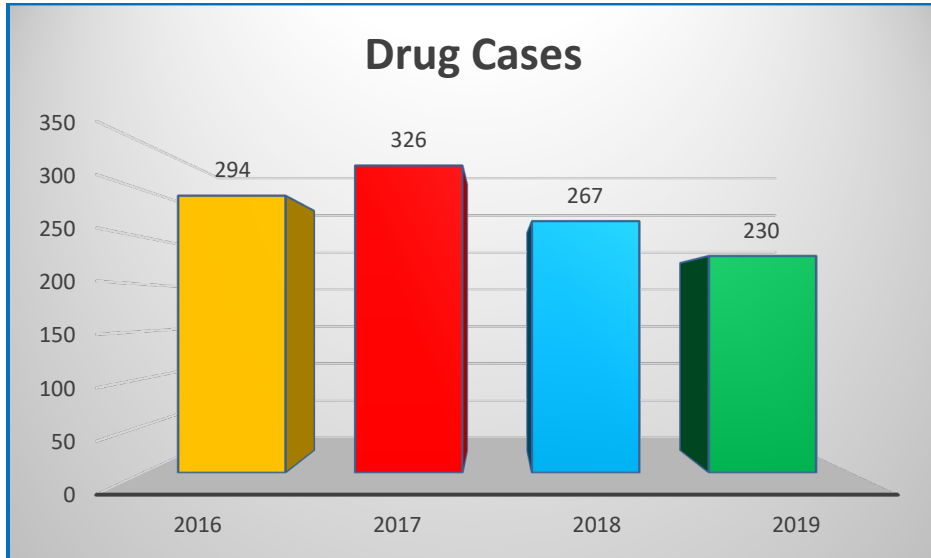
HOMICIDE

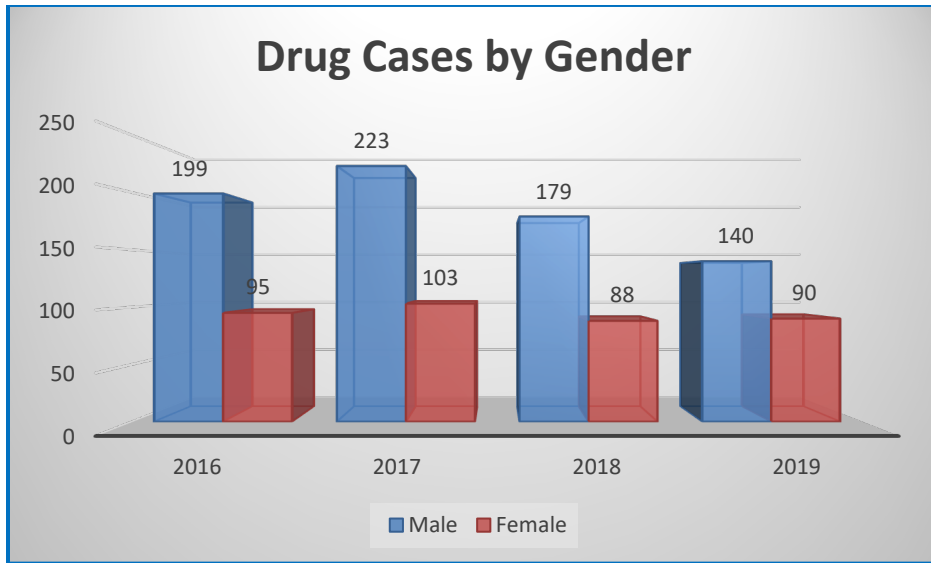
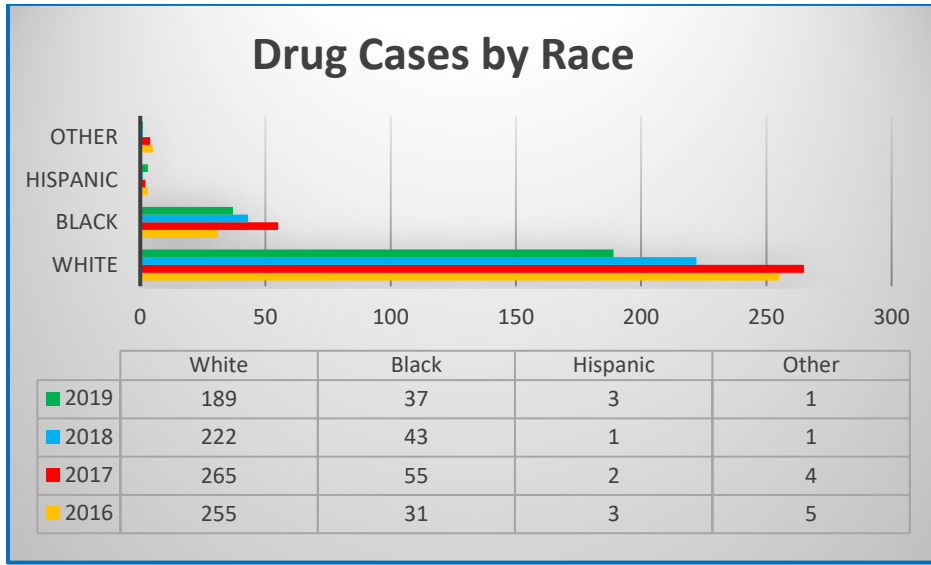




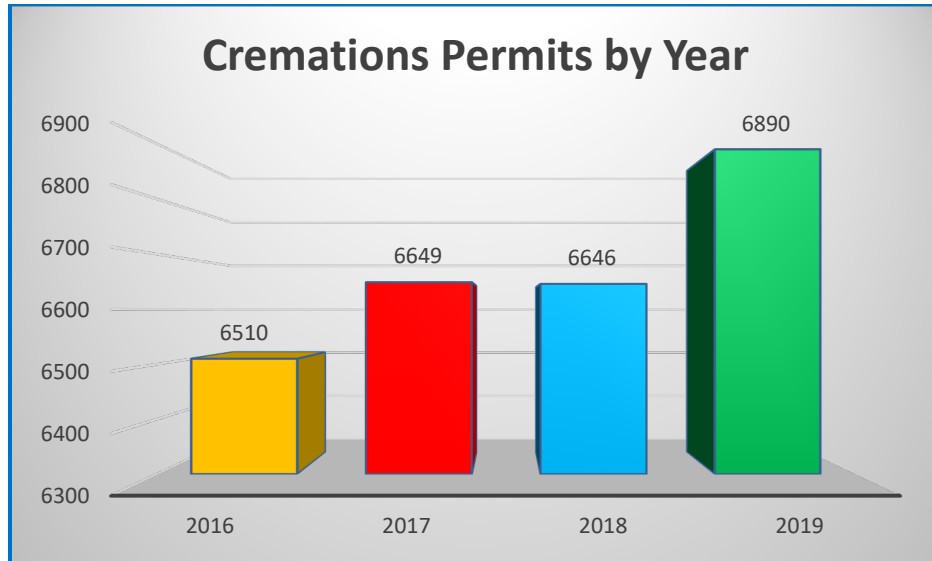
DRUG CASES

The following charts represent the number of cases where Drug Abuse, Drug Intoxication, or Medication Intoxication was listed as the primary cause of death.

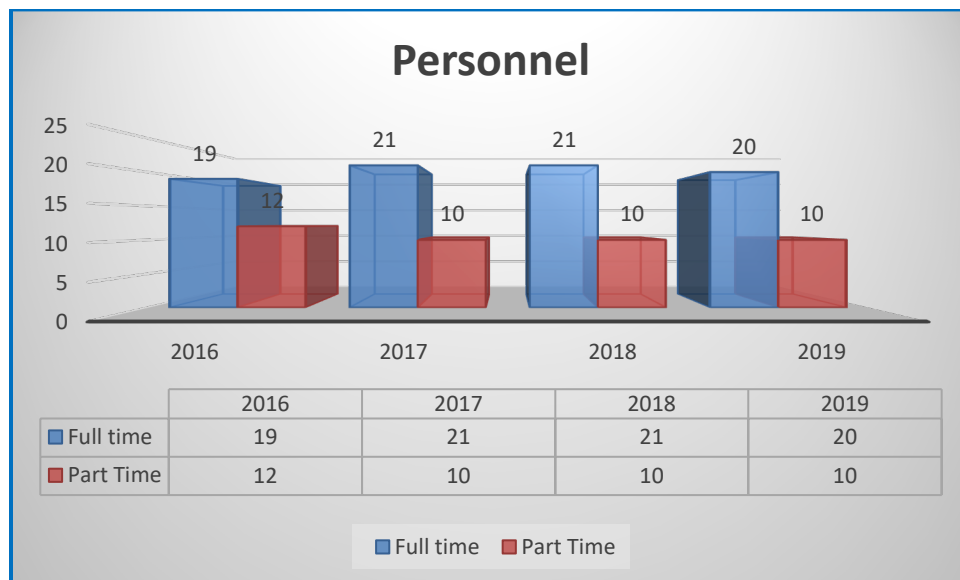




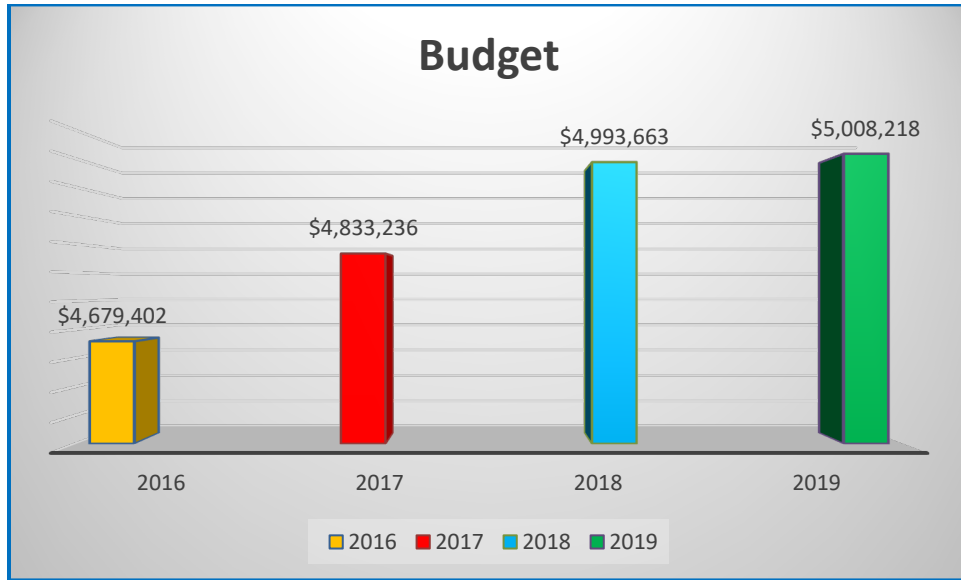
CREMATION PERMITS



Total Personnel



BUDGET



Miscellaneous 2019 Data

Death Scenes Responded to:	668
Bodies Transport to Morgue	1052
Unclaimed Bodies	41
Number of Cases Toxicology Performed	729
Un-Identified Bodies	1
Exhumations	0