



Lenawee County Medical Examiner's Office

**Annual Report
2016**



Compiled by
Lenawee County Medical Examiner's Office

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OFFICE OF THE LENAWEE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

To: Lenawee County Board of Commissioners and the
Citizens of Lenawee County

The laws of the State of Michigan assign the responsibility for determining the cause and manner of unexpected deaths in each county to the medical examiner. The Lenawee County Medical Examiner upholds these laws and accepts this responsibility with full commitment to a consistent high quality service. Every reported death is investigated thoroughly, frequently with the cooperation of law enforcement agencies and health care personnel in Lenawee County. The results of these death investigations provide valuable information which is used in professional education and by the criminal justice system, public health department, families of the deceased and other concerned persons.

While the Medical Examiner and staff of investigators and support persons are primarily concerned with the circumstances surrounding unexpected deaths, our concern for the living is reflected in our regular reviews of all childhood deaths with concerned and involved state and county agencies, as well as our support for tissue and organ donations through the Gift of Life program to provide lifesaving specimens to those individuals waiting for a chance at normal living.

During 2016, we experienced a slight increase in death investigations (still approximately 1 in every 5 deaths) and anticipate that this rate will continue. Approximately 80% of the deaths reported to our office occurred in persons over the age of 50. Of the 192 reported deaths, 55% were selected for autopsy and further investigation. 60% of our reported deaths occurred at home and were caused nearly equally by either disease or injury. 15% of reported deaths were caused by accident, an increase over the previous three years. Suicides again this year numbered 18, our highest annual count; again, males far outnumbered females and more than half were by firearm. In addition, we also reviewed 487 deaths for which a cremation permit was requested.

Twenty deaths were drug-related (i.e., caused exclusively or in part by an injected or ingested substance), a decrease from 2015 but still greater than any year before 2014. Heroin and other opioid medications continue to be the most abused.

The maintenance of a properly prepared and effective death investigation system necessarily involves periodic investigator recruitment and continuing education in forensic science. These regular efforts, along with the many requirements of our combined investigator activities, are coordinated by the individual investigators and by our dedicated support staff.

I want to thank the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners and the County Administration for their encouragement and support of this program, which enables the medical examiner staff to provide this necessary and valuable service to the citizens of Lenawee County. I submit this annual report to demonstrate the expanding scope and sophistication of this professional and continued cost-effective service. I take pride in the continued development of this office and welcome the opportunity to discuss any aspect of this report with you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bader J. Cassin, M.D.

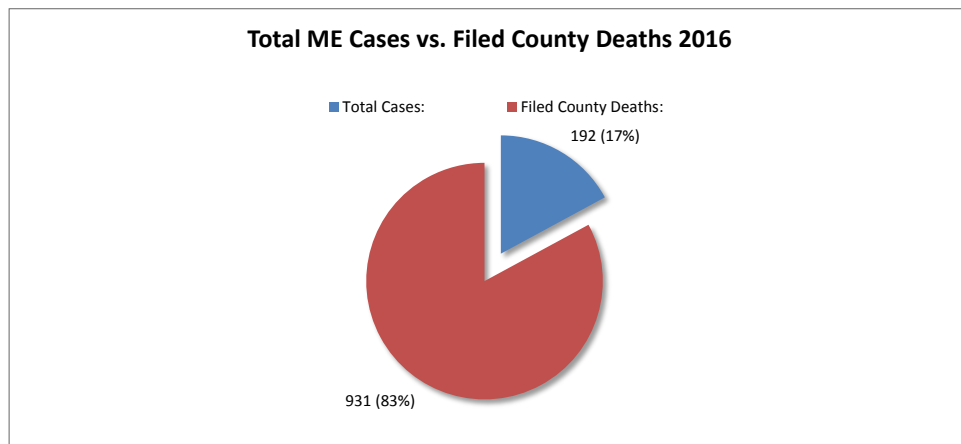
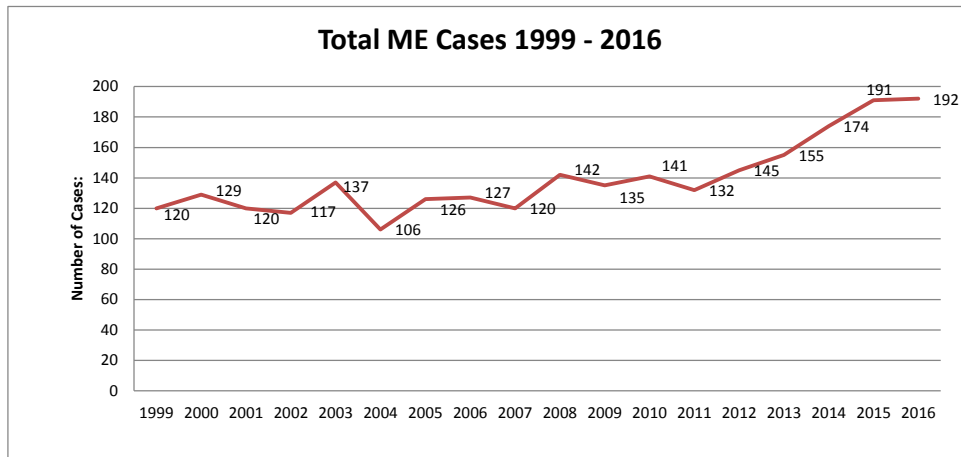
Office of the Medical Examiner

Overview of Medical Examiner Cases 2016

Total Cases: 192 Male: 126 Female: 66

Autopsies: 106 Male: 75 Female: 31

Toxicology: 106



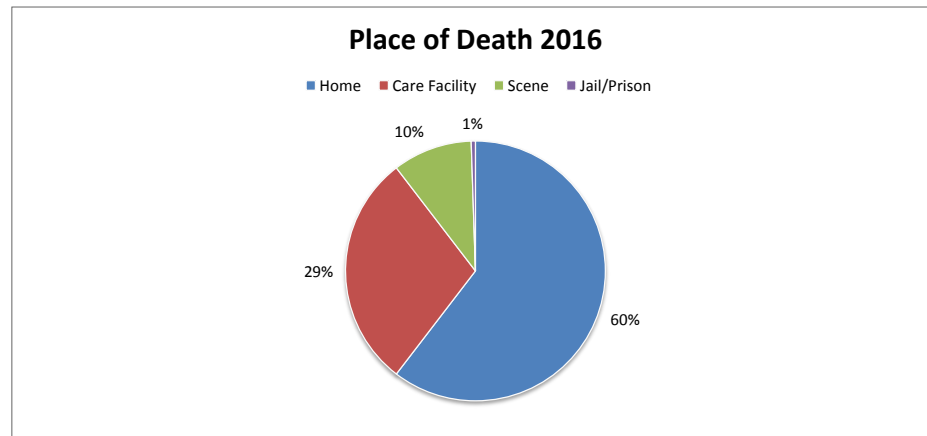
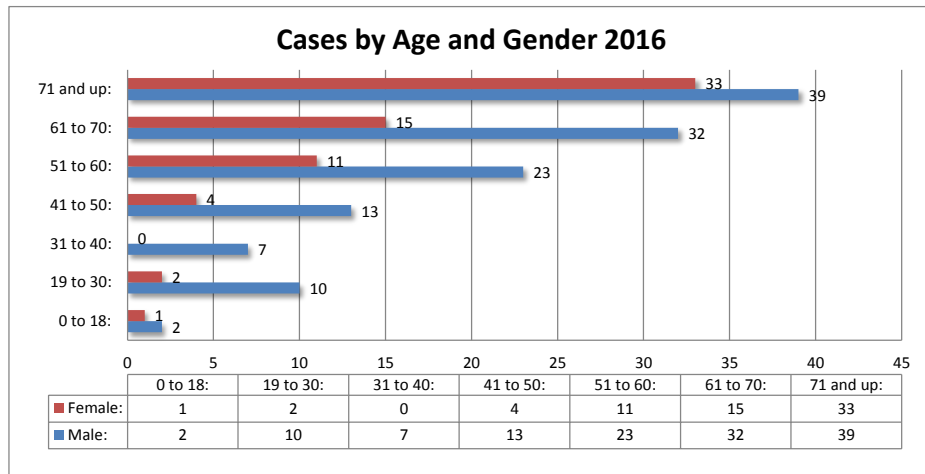
Lenawee County Medical Examiner
 Overview of Cases 2016

Cases by Age:

0 to 18:	3
19 to 30:	12
31 to 40:	7
41 to 50:	17
51 to 60:	34
61 to 70:	52
71 and up:	67
Total:	192

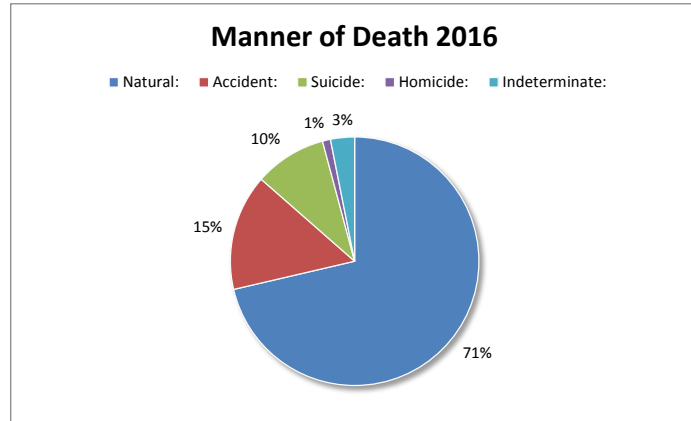
Place of Death:

Total M.E. Deaths at Home:	116
Total M.E. Deaths at Care Facility:	56
Total M.E. Deaths at Scene:	19
Total M.E. Deaths Jail/Prison:	1
Total:	192



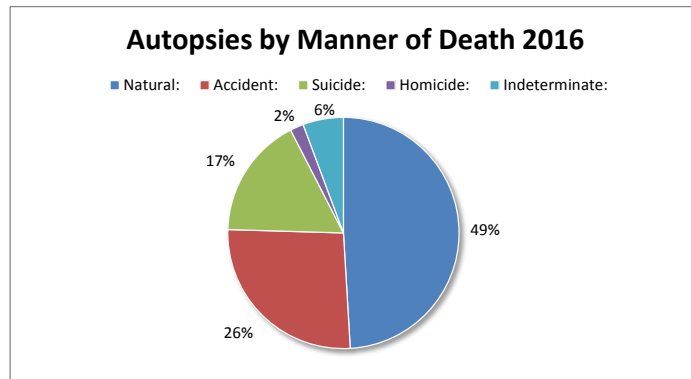
Manners of Death:

Natural:	137
Accident:	29
Suicide:	18
Homicide:	2
Indeterminate:	6
Total:	192



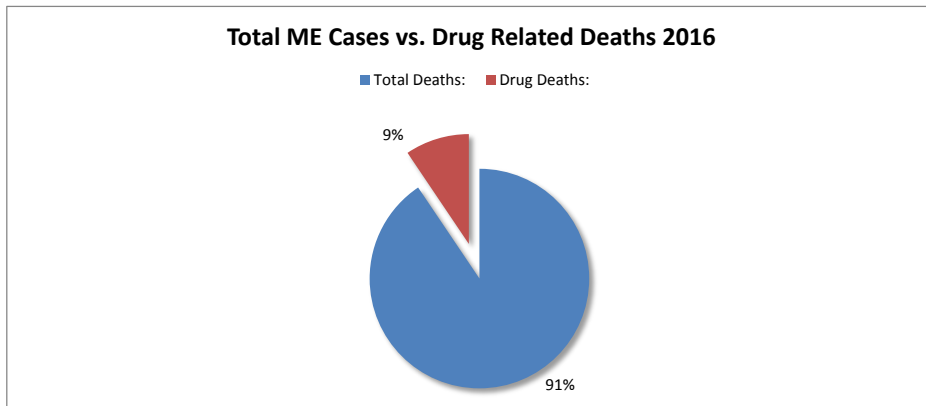
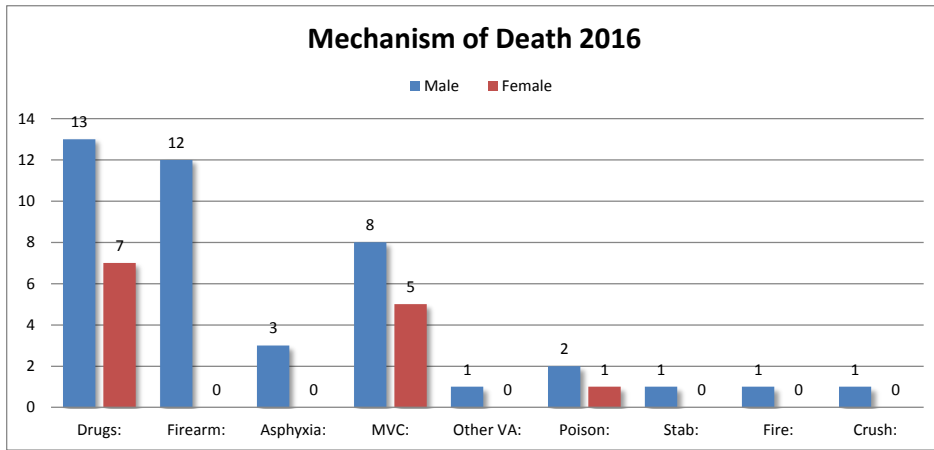
Autopsies by Manners of Death:

Natural:	52
Accident:	28
Suicide:	18
Homicide:	2
Indeterminate:	6
Total:	106



Lenawee County Medical Examiner
 Overview of Cases 2016

Mechanism of Death:	Male:	Female:
Drugs:	20	7
Firearm:	12	0
Asphyxia:	3	0
MVC:	13	5
Other VC:	1	0
Poison:	3	1
Stab:	1	0
Fire:	1	0
Crushing Injuries:	1	0
Total:	55	13



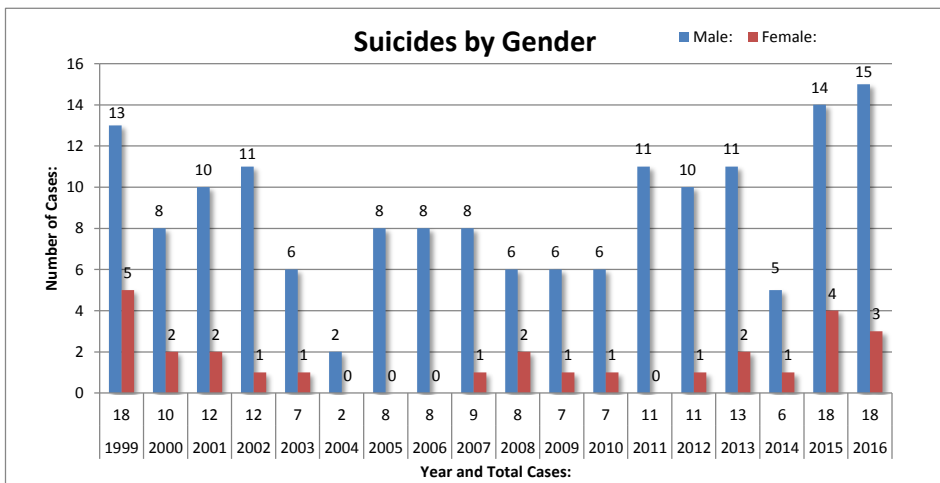
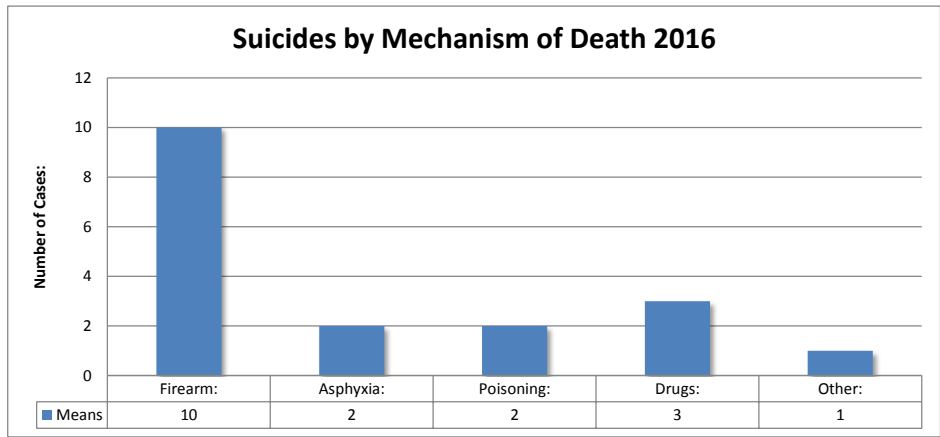
Lenawee County Medical Examiner
 Overview of Cases 2016

Suicides by Age and Gender:

	Male:	Female:
0 to 20:	1	0
21 to 40:	2	0
41 to 60:	6	1
60 and up:	6	2
Total:	15	3

Suicide by Mechanism of Death:

Firearm:	10
Asphyxia:	2
Poisoning:	2
Drugs:	3
Other:	1
Total:	18



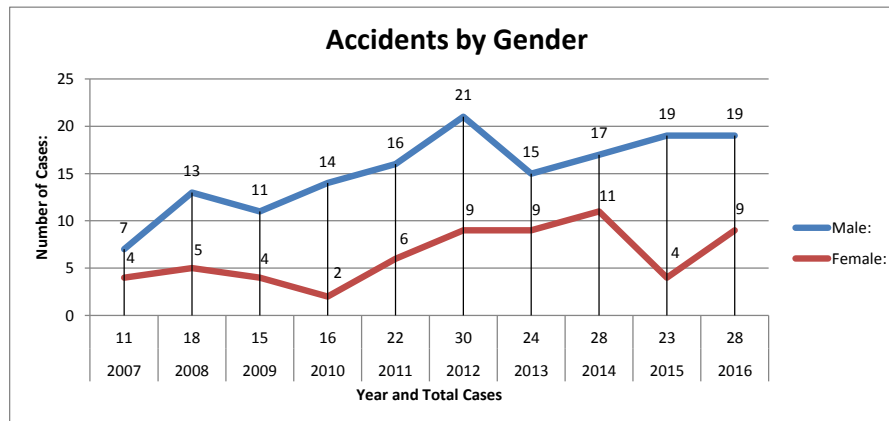
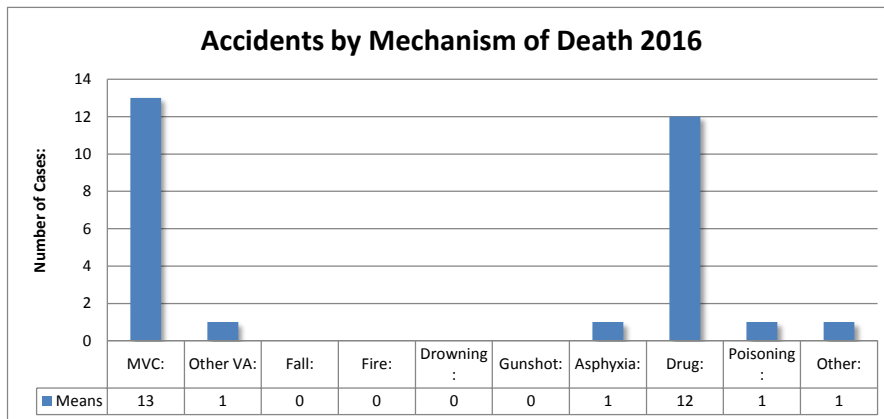
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Accidents by Age and Gender:

	Male:	Female:
0 to 20:	1	0
21 to 40:	8	1
41 to 60:	8	5
60 and up:	3	3
Total:	20	9

Accident by Mechanism of Death:

MVC:	13
Other Vehicle:	1
Fall:	0
Fire:	0
Drowning:	0
Firearm:	0
Asphyxia:	1
Drug:	12
Poisoning:	1
Other:	1
Total:	29



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 Overview of Cases 2016

Indeterminate Deaths:

	Male:	Female:
0 - 20:	1	1
21 - 40:	2	0
41 - 60:	1	0
60 and up:	1	0
Total:	5	1

Indeterminate By Mechanism of Death:

Drugs:	3
Infant Death:	2
Other:	1
Total:	6

