Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents .................................................................................................................... 1
Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Washtenaw County ............ 2
Medical Examiner Office Staff ............................................................................................. 3
Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner .................................................... 4
Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Cases ................................................................. 5
Manner of Death by Postmortem Examination ................................................................. 6
Deaths by Natural Causes ................................................................................................. 6
Deaths by Unnatural Causes ............................................................................................... 7
Accidental Deaths by Type ............................................................................................... 7
Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes ................................................................. 8
Suicide by Means ............................................................................................................. 9
Homicide Deaths ............................................................................................................... 9
Deaths by Age Group ....................................................................................................... 10
Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death ........................................................................... 10
Total Opiate Overdose Deaths from 2011-2014 .......................................................... 11
2012-2014 Emergency Admissions from Opiate Overdoses ....................................... 12
2014 Opiate Related deaths average age ..................................................................... 13
2014 Opiate Related Deaths and ED Admissions – Per Month ................................. 14
Cremation Permits ......................................................................................................... 15
Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Washtenaw County

The Washtenaw County Medical Examiner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Washtenaw County. The Office of the Medical Examiner certifies death after investigation and postmortem examination and issues the death certificate as required by law. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families and law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

The main duties of the Office of the Medical Examiner are to determine the cause and manner of death, and certify deaths that are reported to the medical examiner. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that resulted in death. There are thousands of diseases and injuries that may result in death. The manner of death is a classification in which a determination is made regarding whether the death resulted from natural causes, homicide, suicide, or an accident. On occasion, the manner of death is classified as indeterminate.

Information collected during the investigation helps clarify the circumstances, such as the sequence of events prior to death. Evidence collected during an investigation and/or postmortem examination may help lead to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in a homicide case. Because deaths occur around the clock, medical examiner staff members are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the medical examiner investigators and board-certified forensic pathologists, we believe the quality of death investigations in Washtenaw County are among the best in the State. The death scene investigation reports filed by the investigators are very thorough and supply comprehensive information to the medical examiners.

Our medical examiners and investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Medical examiner investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstances of the death. Medical examiner investigators are supplied with a pamphlet for distribution to families. The information provides answers to common questions and facts about autopsies and also provides resource information pertaining to grief counseling.

In 2008 our office contributed significant input toward the implementation of a web
based death investigation report system. After providing assistance to Occupational Research and Assessment, Inc. of Big Rapids, Michigan, the Medicolegal Death Investigation Log or, MDI Log was launched in June of 2008. MDI Log is a comprehensive investigative report/database system that enables the Medical Examiner to review death scene investigation information from a secure Internet site any time of the day. MDI Log enables Medical Examiner Investigators to submit death scene investigation reports via the Internet in an efficient manner. MDI Log has evolved to become a valuable tool for our office and it is now available to medical examiner offices across the country.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for their support of the medical examiner program and the services we provide to the citizens of the Washtenaw County.

Medical Examiner Office Staff
Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner

The Michigan County Medical Examiner Law, Act 181, P.A. of 1953, as amended, and the Michigan Public Health Code, Act 368, P.A. of 1978, as amended, mandates that specific types of death be referred to the Medical Examiner for investigation (see list below). These deaths include sudden and unexpected deaths, accidental deaths, and violent deaths. The medical examiner has the authority under these Acts to order an autopsy at any time it is deemed necessary to determine or confirm the cause and manner of death.

Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner:

- Violent death (e.g., strangulation, gunshot, stabbing, poisoning, etc.)
- Accidental deaths (e.g., falls, drowning, motor vehicle collisions, burns, overdose, etc.)
- Death of a prisoner (e.g., deaths in any county or city jail while imprisoned or in custody).
- Suspicious Circumstances (e.g., Unidentified Bodies or events surrounding death)
- Sudden and Unexpected deaths (e.g., all deaths during a surgical procedure, in recovery,
- anesthesia-related, unexpected natural death, occupational-related deaths)*
- Without medical attendance within 48 hours of death:
- In cases of chronic illness, the attending physician may sign the death certificate if s/he can be reasonably certain of the cause of death.
- Death of a mother due to an abortion.
- Unexpected infant deaths

The medical examiner would generally order an autopsy for any of the reportable deaths listed above.
Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>322,895</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases Reported to Medical Examiner</td>
<td>934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Complete Autopsy</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with External Examination</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Limited Examination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Number of deaths not certified by Medical Examiner's Office after investigation</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definitions

Full Autopsy: A complete external and internal examination of a decedent

Limited Examination: An examination which is focused on a specific organ or region of the body, i.e., heart. The limited examination also includes an external examination.

External Examination: An examination of the exterior of a decedent.
Manner of Death by Postmortem Examination

Deaths by Natural Causes
Deaths by Unnatural Causes

Accidental Deaths by Type
Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes

- Auto/SUV: 35
- Motorcycle: 11
- Pedestrian: 8
- Other: 7
Suicide by Means

Homicide Deaths
Deaths by Age Group

Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death
Total Opiate Overdose Deaths from 2011-2014
2012-2014 Emergency Admissions from Opiate Overdoses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unintentional Heroin Overdose**</th>
<th>Unintentional Prescription Opiate Overdose***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2014 Opiate Related deaths average age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Heroin</th>
<th>Prescription Opiates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED Admissions</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2014 Opiate Related Deaths and ED Admissions – Per Month

- Deaths: 6
- ED Admissions: 9
Cremation Permits

Cremation Permits issued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Permits Issued</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>