

2006 Annual Report

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

State of Maryland

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July 1, 2007

The Honorable Martin O'Malley Governor State House 1 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of the Post Mortem Examiners' Commission and the employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) of the State of Maryland I am pleased to present for your information the 68th Annual Report analyzing the death investigations carried out by this Office in 2006.

In carrying out its duties under Health-General §5-309, the OCME investigated 9672 cases. 6148 of these cases were determined to be within the jurisdiction of the OCME. There were 4323 autopsies performed to allow an accurate cause of death to be determined.

Homicides in Maryland decreased to 584 in 2006 compared to 595 in 2005. Firearm homicides decreased from 443 deaths in 2005 to 442 in 2006. Suicides increased to 500 in 2006 from 487 in 2005.

In this report we included information regarding the involvement of alcohol and drugs in homicides, suicides, transportation accidents, and drownings as well as data regarding illicit drugs used in fatal drug intoxications.

The Honorable Martin O'Malley July 1, 2007 Page 2

The information developed in this report is being shared with various programs at the local, state and federal levels. This office provides assistance not only on a short or occasional basis, but also participates in ongoing projects as well. A few of the many requests for data and statistics were received from: The Maryland State Medical Society Maternal and Child Health Committee, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Environmental and Occupational Health Division, Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health – Department of Epidemiology and School of Nursing, Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), Child Fatality Review Board, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Capital Gazette, Homeland News, The Baltimore Sun for Anne Arundel County, Office of Public Health Anne Arundel County, Harford County Department of Community Services, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Health Quest, Harborview Medical Center, Worchester County Health Department, The Carroll County Public School System, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, National Drug Intelligence Center, Washington Post Newspaper, Baltimore Sun Newspaper, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Baltimore City Health Department, Department of Justice, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the University of Maryland National Study Center.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Fowler, M.D. Chief Medical Examiner

DRF/skw

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Inspection at Autopsy **Field Inspection** Approval Decline Inquiry

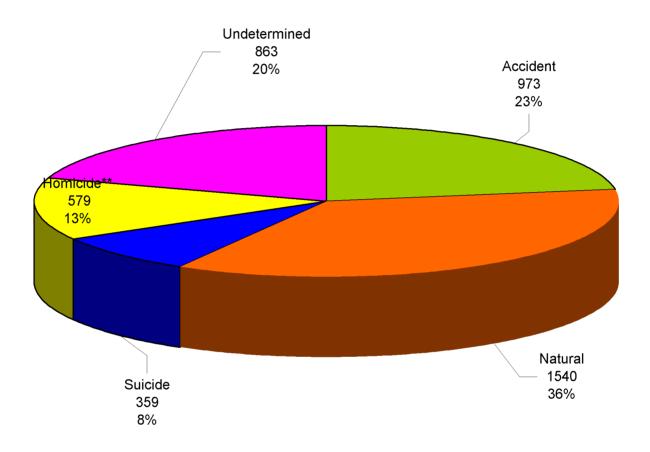
Cases Reported to OCME - 2006 Action Taken

9672 Total Cases

OCME

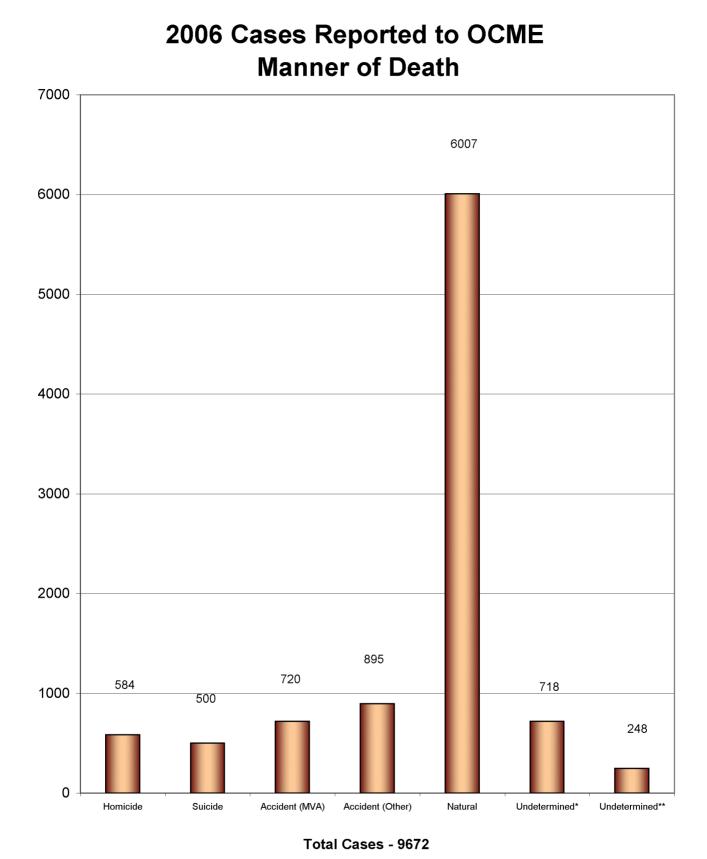
2006 Medical Examiner Cases Autopsied*

*Nine cases were classified as "not applicable"



** Five homicides were not autopsied due to final disposition prior to Medical Examiner notification.

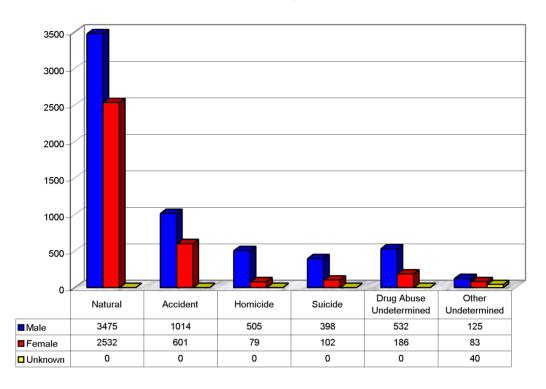
Total Cases Autopsied - 4323

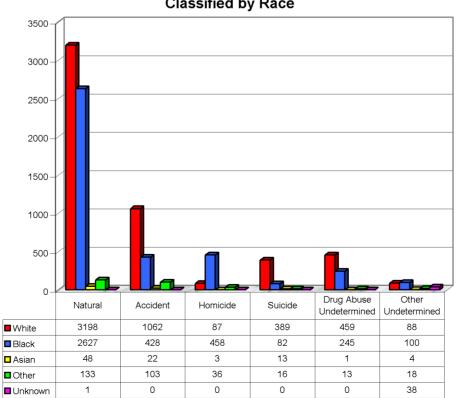


*Undetermined Manner: Drugs/Narcotics **Undetermined Manner: Other

Manner of Death - 2006

Classified by Sex





Classified by Race

Medical Examiner Cases – 2006 Cause and Manner of Death

Infectious diseaseimage $Infectious disease1212AIDS1212Other2121Malignant neoplasms (Cancer)392292Endocrine and metabolic disease57Diabetes5757Other257Mental Disorders110Alcohol abuse110110Other00Nervous system disease4242Other4249Circulatory system disease10471047Hypertensive cardiovascular disease10471047Arterioselerotic cardiovascular disease1051047Respiratory system disease$	Cause of Death	Manner of Death					Total
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Cause of Death	Manner of Death					Total	
	Natural	Homicide	Suicide	Accident	Undeter- Mined		
Traumatic injury							
Head/Chest injuries	-	3	-	204	13	220	
Multiple injuries	-	2	27	633	16	678	
Blunt force	-	27	-	1	-	28	
Gunshot wound	-	442	241	-	4	687	
Sharp force/cutting	-	68	11	-	-	79	
Fracture	-	-	-	93	-	93	
Other trauma		-	-	3	-	3	
Poisoning							
Alcohol intoxication	-	-	-	3	30	33	
Drug intoxication/abuse	-	-	31	-	74	105	
Alcohol and drug intoxication	-	-	5	-	29	34	
Carbon monoxide	-	-	5	7	1	13	
Cocaine intoxication	-	-	-	5	90	95	
Cocaine and alcohol intoxication	-	-	-	-	22	22	
Cocaine and narcotic intoxication	2	-	-	-	152	154	
Narcotic intoxication	3	-	4	1	305	313	
Narcotic and alcohol intoxication	1	-	-	-	46	47	
Inhalant intoxication	-	-	2	-	4	6	
Asphyxiation							
Airway obstruction/Aspirated stomach							
content	_	-	-	32	-	32	
Hanging	_	-	115	1	3	119	
Smoke inhalation	-	1	-	14	-	15	
Strangulation/Asphyxiation	_	33	28	-	-	61	
Suffocation	_	-	-	-	-	-	
Drowning	-	-	16	78	16	110	
Unspecified type of asphyxia	_	-	-	35	-	35	
Hypothermia	-	-	-	38	1	39	
<i>Hyperthermia</i>	-	-	-	41	-	41	
Thermal Injuries (Burns)	-	_	2	32	3	37	
Electrocution	_	_		7	-	7	
Other non-natural cause	_	8	13	377	47	445	
Other natural cause	81	-	-	-		81	
Unknown cause	-	-	_	-	16	16	
Non-human remains		-	-	-	33	33	
Accident during surgery					- 35		
TOTAL	6007	584	500	1615	- 966	9672	

Manner of Death - 3 Year Comparison

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2006

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	6007	62.1
Homicide	584	6.0
Suicide	500	5.2
Accident	1615	16.7
Undetermined	966	10.0
Total	9672	100.0*

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2005

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	5337	60.8
Homicide	595	6.8
Suicide	487	5.5
Accident	1549	17.6
Undetermined	814	9.3
Total	8782	100.0*

Medical Examiner Cases: Manner of Death, Maryland 2004

Manner of Death	Number	%
Natural	5107	60.6
Homicide	545	6.5
Suicide	506	6.0
Accident	1464	17.4
Undetermined	807	9.6
Total	8429	100.0*

*Because of rounding, percentages do not necessarily total 100.

Medical Examiner Cases – 2006

Manner and Jurisdiction

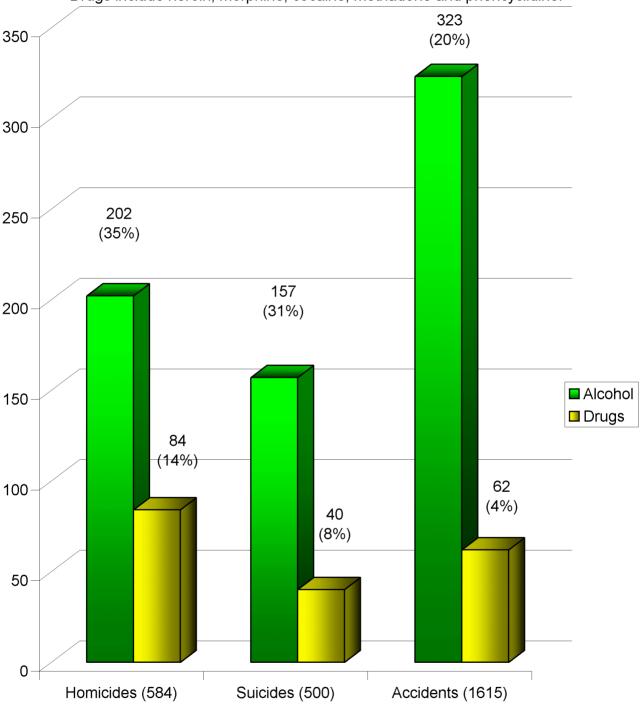
County	Natural	Accident	<u>Homicide</u>	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
Allegany	111	35	1	16	16	179
Anne Arundel	327	84	25	53	64	553
Baltimore County	494	158	29	77	103	861
Calvert	76	22	3	7	5	113
Caroline	11	19	2	4	2	38
Carroll	73	36	0	13	19	141
Cecil	71	35	2	12	25	145
Charles	63	35	5	12	7	122
Dorchester	24	12	1	4	9	50
Frederick	65	41	10	24	23	163
Garrett	25	7	3	3	4	42
Harford	176	41	9	22	42	290
Howard	63	30	5	16	18	132
Kent	24	10	0	3	1	38
Montgomery	571	143	22	48	78	862
Prince George's	1257	237	137	50	75	1756
Queen Anne's	8	8	0	6	2	24
St. Mary's	57	20	7	12	8	104
Somerset	18	5	2	2	5	32
Talbot	38	11	1	5	4	59
Washington	115	63	4	15	23	220
Wicomico	140	53	11	11	28	243
Worcester	51	22	0	3	15	91
Baltimore City	2149	488	305	82	390	3414
Total	6007	1615	584	500	966	9672

Type and Jurisdiction

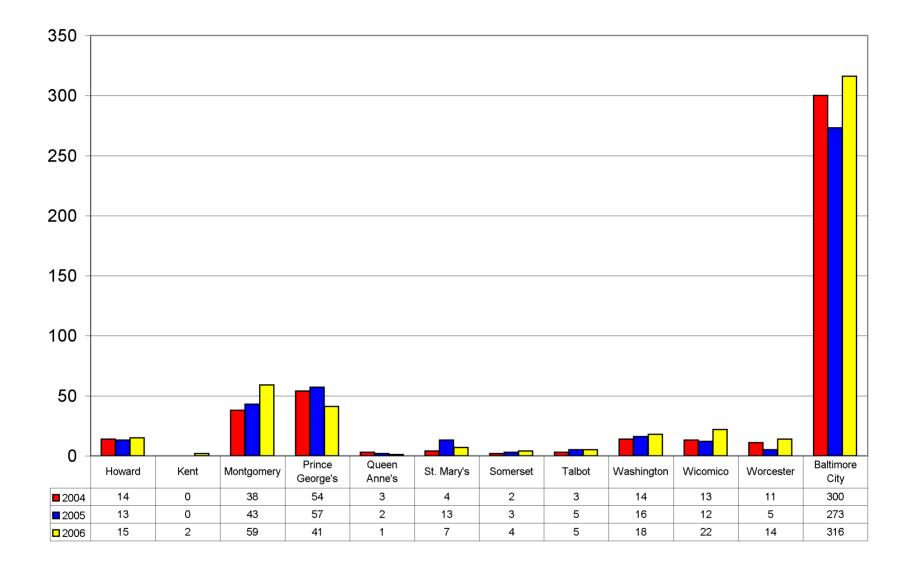
County		OCME	Field				
	<u>Autopsy</u>	Inspections	Inspections	<u>Inquiry</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>Decline</u>	<u>Total</u>
Allegany	88	4	26	3	15	43	179
Anne Arundel	298	10	73	4	22	146	553
Baltimore County	447	21	98	8	76	211	861
Calvert	47	0	14	1	5	46	113
Caroline	23	4	4	0	4	3	38
Carroll	77	1	19	1	10	33	141
Cecil	94	5	16	0	8	22	145
Charles	84	0	17	2	4	15	122
Dorchester	29	3	5	1	4	8	50
Frederick	107	4	24	1	7	20	163
Garrett	21	1	12	1	1	6	42
Harford	146	7	27	9	11	90	290
Howard	83	4	18	1	6	20	132
Kent	20	0	4	0	4	10	38
Montgomery	370	12	65	5	55	355	862
Prince George's	666	23	153	6	54	854	1756
Queen Anne's	16	1	3	0	2	2	24
St. Mary's	63	2	11	0	5	23	104
Somerset	18	2	8	0	0	4	32
Talbot	26	0	13	4	3	13	59
Washington	104	4	27	3	29	53	220
Wicomico	108	2	50	6	16	61	243
Worcester	49	4	17	0	2	19	91
Baltimore City	1339	143	158	28	279	1467	3414
Total	4323	257	862	84	622	3524	9672

2006 Toxicology Testing # of Cases Positive for Alcohol and/or Drugs* (Percentage of the Manner of Death)

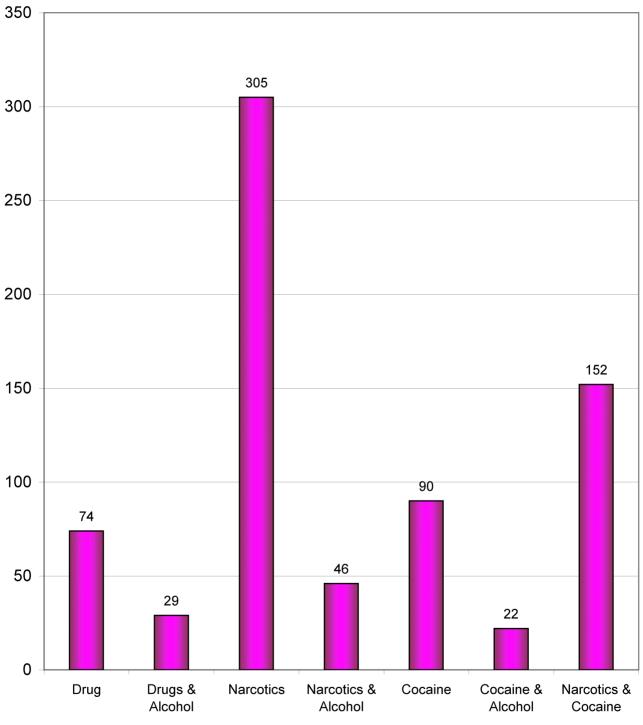
* Drugs include heroin, morphine, cocaine, methadone and phencyclidine.



Manner of Death

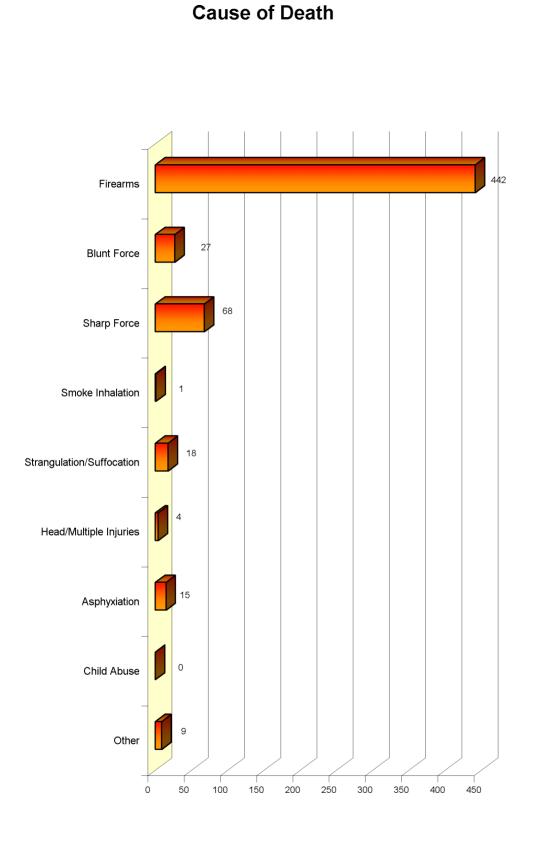


2006 Drug Abuse Deaths Undetermined Manner



Narcotics include Heroin, Morphine, Methadone, Phencyclidine Drugs include Prescription Medications

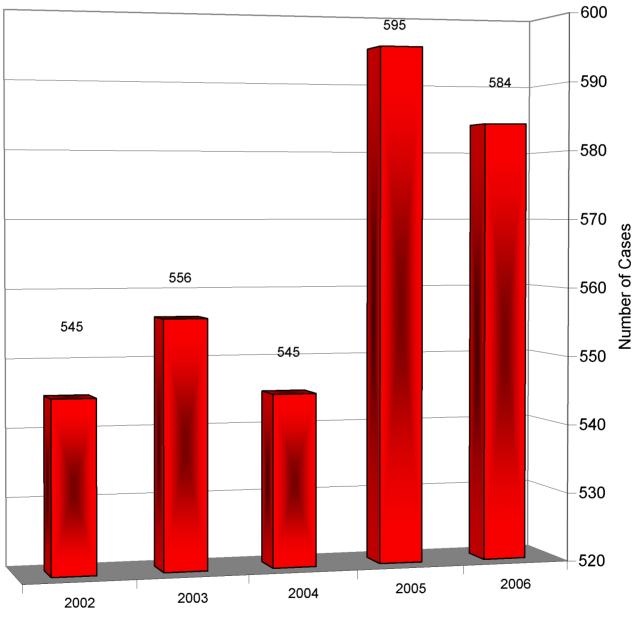
Total Cases - 718

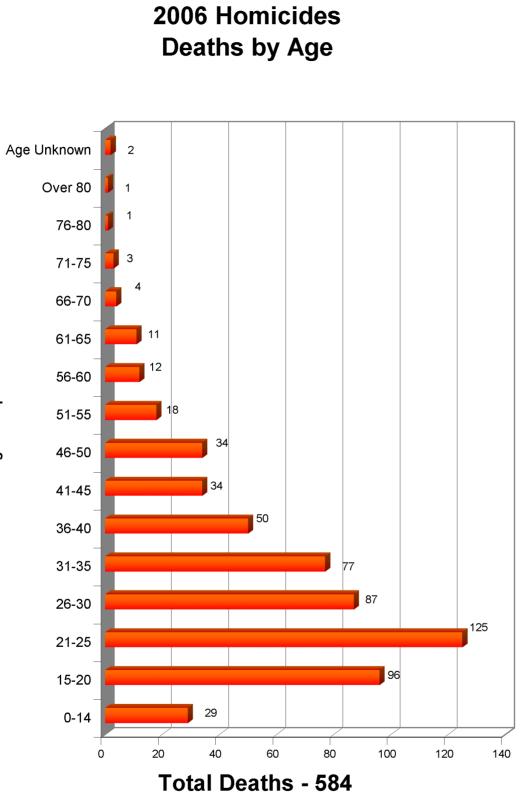


2006 Homicide Deaths

Total Deaths - 584

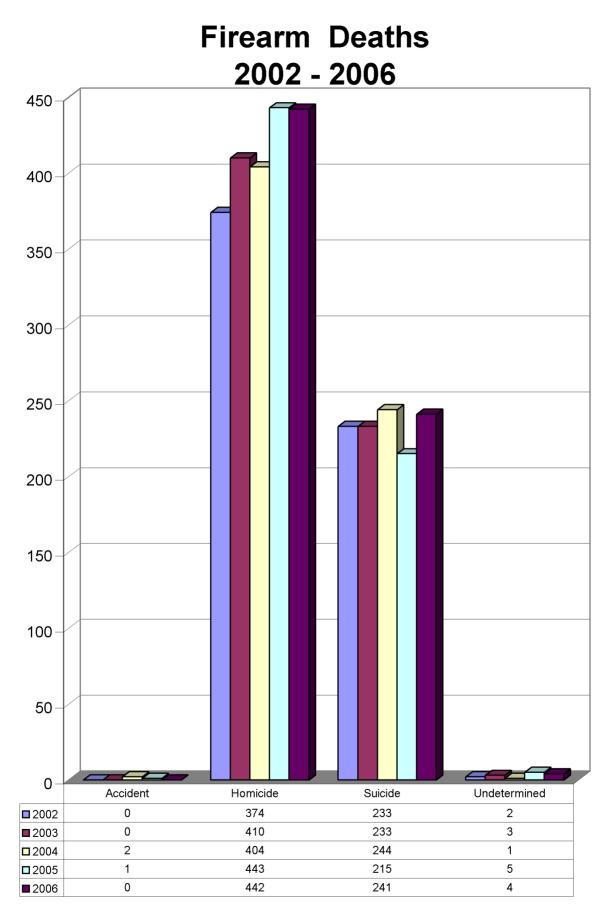
Homicides 5 Year Comparison 2002 - 2006



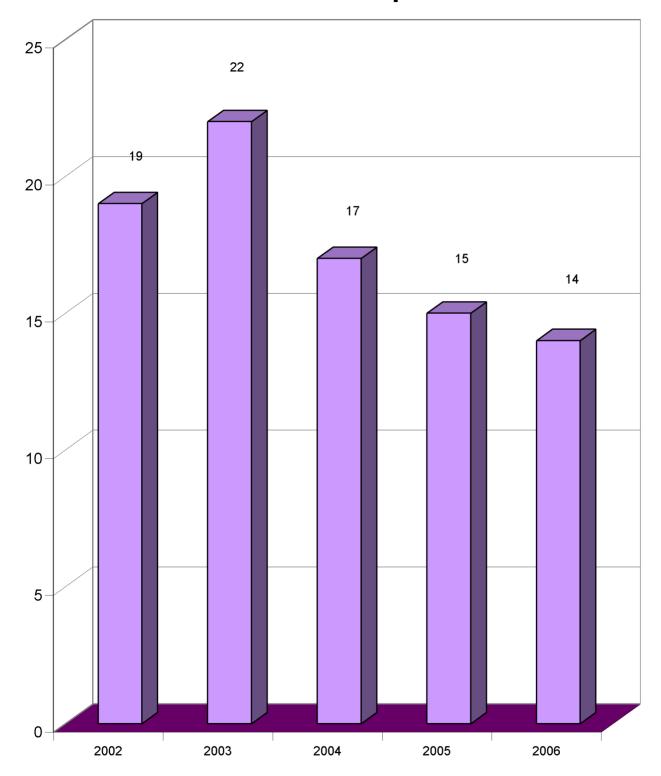




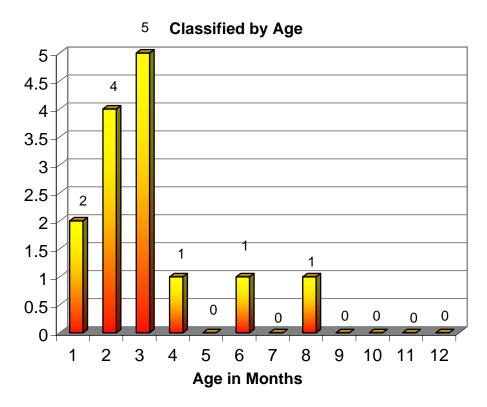
-14-



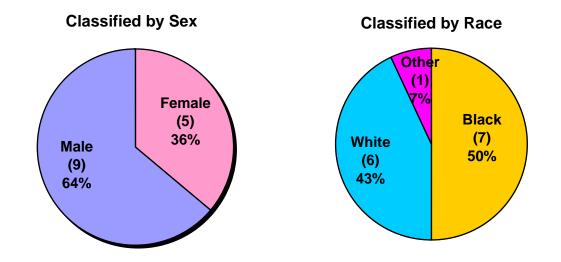
SIDS Deaths 2002 - 2006 Comparison



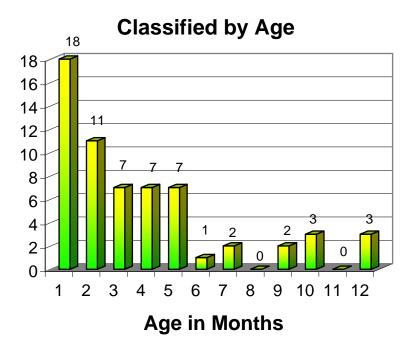
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome 2006



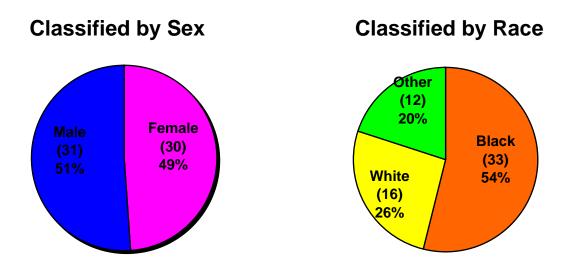
Total of 14 Deaths

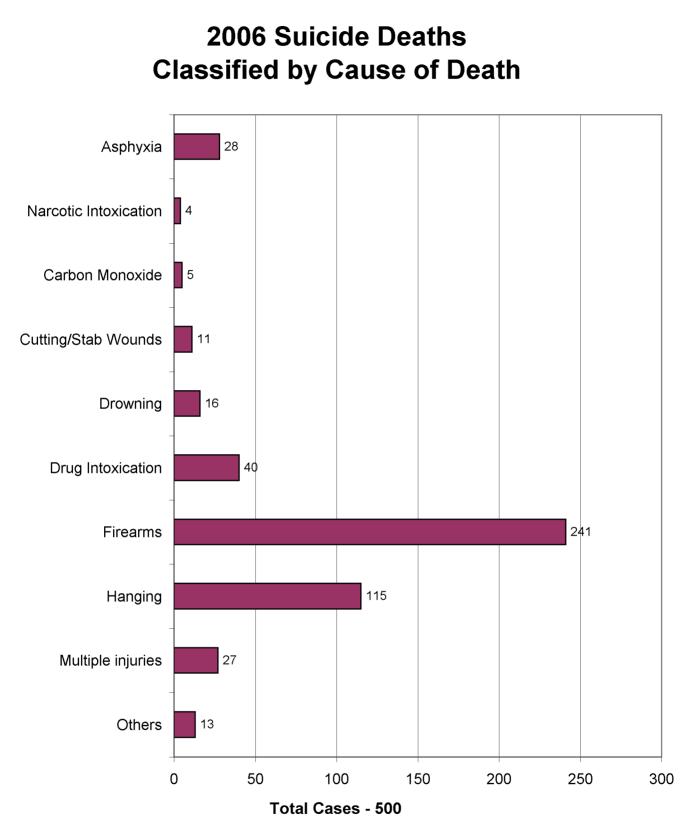


Sudden Unexplained Death In Infancy 2006



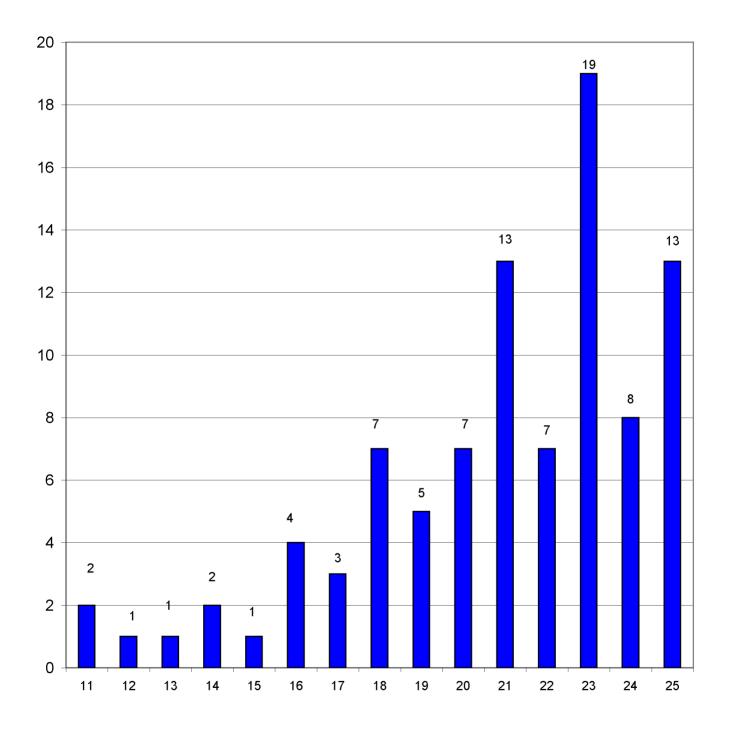




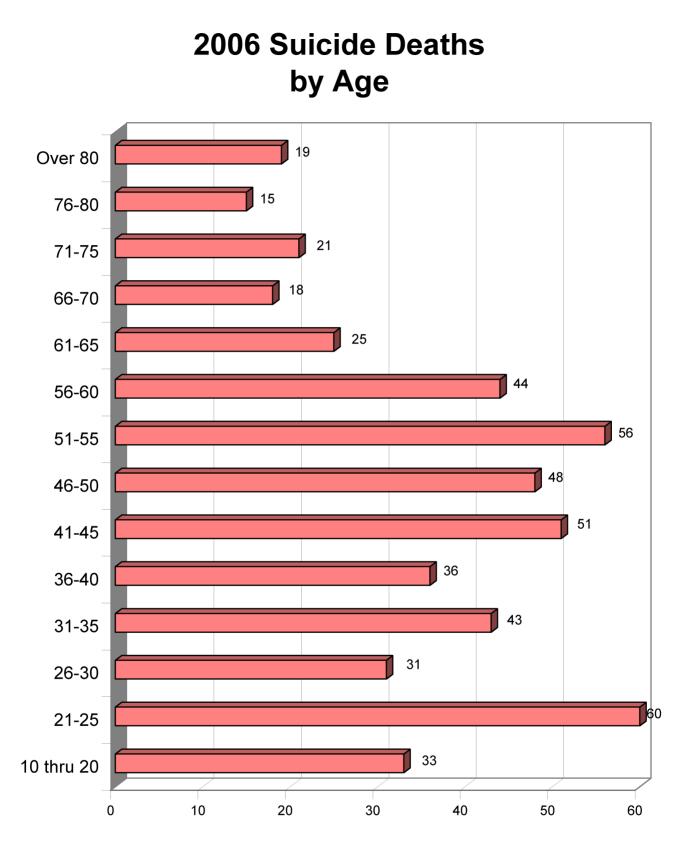


-18-

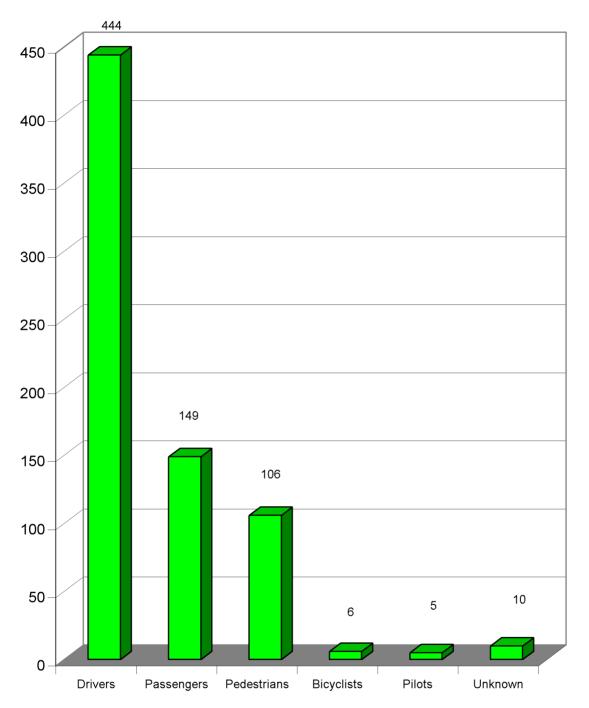
2006 Youth Suicides 25 Years of Age and Under



Age Total Cases - 93



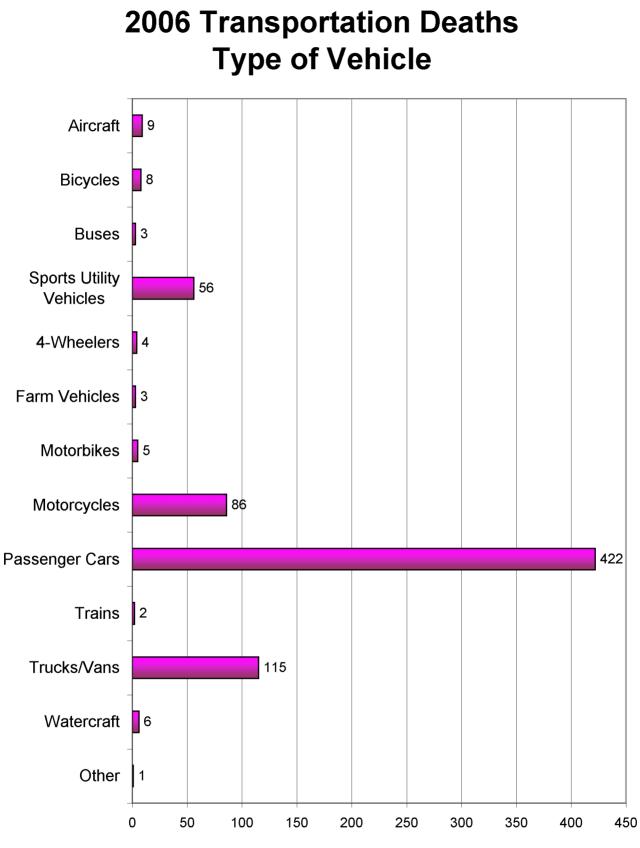
Total Deaths - 500



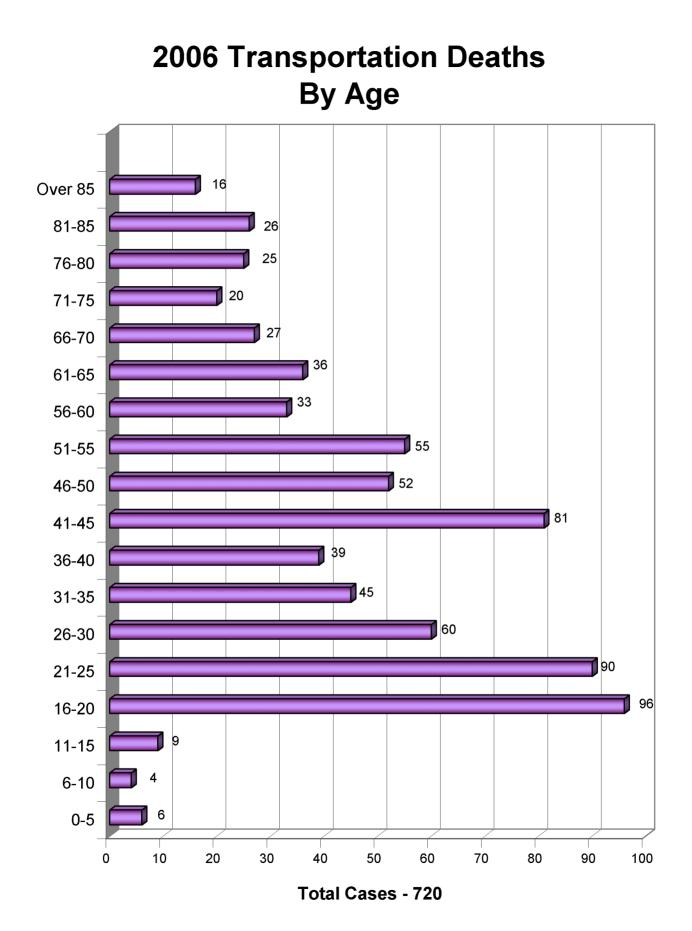
2006 Transportation Accidents* Classified by Activity

*Includes motor vehicles, boats, planes. bicycles, and trains

Total Cases - 720

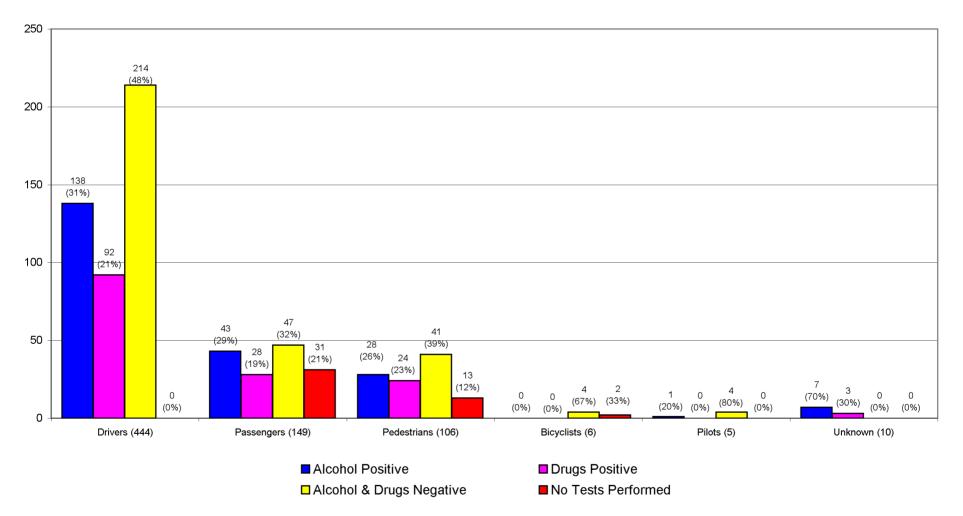


Total Cases - 720



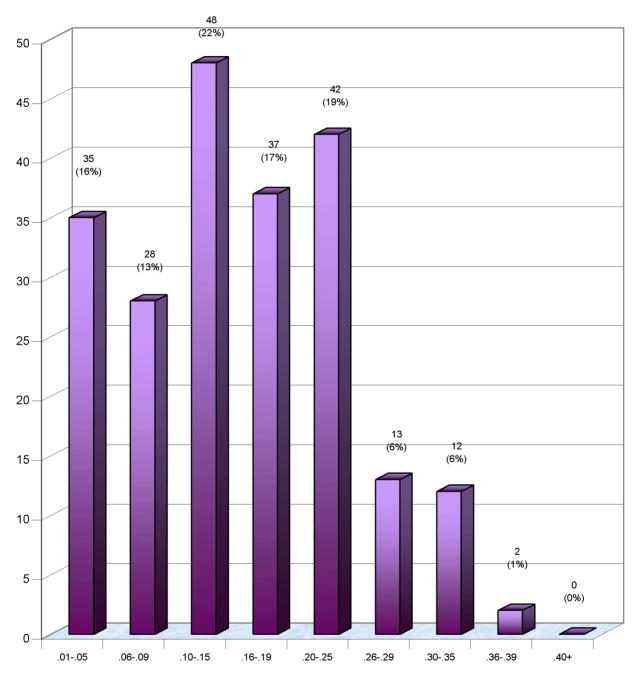
-23-

2006 Transportation Accidents Alcohol/Drug Results



720 Transportation Deaths

2006 Transportation Deaths Blood Alcohol Concentration in 217 Cases 34%* Tested Positive



720 Transportation Deaths 429 Negative for Alcohol 46 No Testing Performed

*Percent based on total cases tested for alcohol