

---

# Annual Report 2009

---

Protecting the interests of deceased individuals, their  
loved ones and the community



Milwaukee County Medical Examiner  
933 West Highland Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

---

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

Table of Contents	Page
MISSION STATEMENT	3
PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	4
DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY	5
GLOSSARY OF TERMS	6
SUMMARY DATA – MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES	8
DEATHS BY MANNER	
NATURAL	9
ACCIDENT	12
SUICIDE	15
HOMICIDE	18
UNDETERMINED	22
MEDICAL EXAMINER ACTIVITIES	24



---

## Mission Statement

- To promote and maintain the highest professional standards in the field of death investigation;
- To provide timely, accurate and legally defensible determinations as to the cause and manner of death;
- To enhance public health and safety through reducing the incidence of preventable deaths;
- To foster public awareness and support the advancement of professional medical and legal education; and,
- To protect the interests of deceased individuals, their loved ones, and the communities we serve.

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### The Purpose and Function of the Medical Examiner's Office

---

The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office is charged with investigating and determining the cause, circumstances and manner in each case of sudden, unexpected or unusual death. Additional activities important to the public health and safety function of the Medical examiner include:

- Detect tuberculosis, hepatitis, meningitis and other infectious diseases to assist in prevention against the spread of communicable disease;
- Coordinate with other public health and safety organizations and entities to reduce the incidence of preventable deaths;
- Participate as part of the governmental response team for emergency management services;
- Issue death certificates for deaths investigated by this office;
- Conduct cremation investigations for all Milwaukee County deaths in which cremation is selected as a means of disposition;
- Maintain a forensic toxicology (drug) laboratory for testing blood and body fluid specimens for the presence of drugs, poisons or other toxic agents; and,
- Host an annual seminar designed to educate pathologists, coroners, attorneys, law enforcement officers, and other health professionals on a variety of topics related to forensic science.

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### Department Authority

---

Section 979.01 Wisconsin Statutes requires that any person having knowledge of an unexplained, unusual, or suspicious death, or a death due to homicide, or suicide, or a death following an accident, whether the injury is or is not the primary cause of death, a death without a physician in attendance within 30 days preceding death, a death in which the attending physician refuses to sign the death certificate, etc., shall report such death to the medical examiner for investigation. Investigations are conducted by the office for certifying cause and manner of death. Furthermore, if a death appears to be a result of unlawful means, it is reported to the District Attorney pursuant to §979.04 (2), as well as the appropriate local law enforcement agency, for further investigation, and possible criminal prosecution.

Additional investigative responsibilities described in §979.10 direct the medical examiner to view the remains, and make an investigation into the cause and manner of all deaths in which the next-of-kin selected cremation for disposition.

# Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

## Glossary of Terms

---

Coroner	An elected official charged with investigating deaths in a county.
Cremation	A means for the disposition of human remains after death, consisting of the application of heat to reduce the remains to ashes. A document authorizing the cremation of human remains is required under the law prior to cremation. The medical examiner/coroner for the county in which the cremation is to be performed must authorize such disposition upon review and investigation of the death.
Death certificate	A document signed by a physician, medical examiner or coroner testifying that the circumstances and cause of death as contained in the certificate are verified by the certifier. This certification process is used for legal and evidentiary purposes in matters pertaining to the estate of the decedent, as well as for public health and vital records purposes.
Drug	Medication or substance other than food used for therapeutic or other (recreational) use. A <i>therapeutic</i> drug is a medication or substance used in the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of a disease or symptom. A <i>recreational</i> drug is a substance used for its personal stimulation, euphoria or mood-altering properties (includes alcohol).
Forensic Pathologist	A physician with specialty (pathology) and subspecialty (forensic pathology) training.
Jurisdiction	The medical examiner accepts jurisdiction on all deaths properly reported to this office under WI Statute §979, as described in the Department Authority section of this report. Not all deaths occurring in Milwaukee County are “reportable deaths” within the jurisdiction of the medical examiner.
Manner of death	The classification of circumstances surrounding the cause of death of an individual, as determined by the medical examiner and certified on the death certificate. The standard manners of death as used in death certification include: natural, accident, suicide, homicide and undetermined.
Natural	The cause of death is a physical disease of the body, ultimately resulting in cessation of bodily functions.
Accident	The cause of death is an unintentional injury, caused by a condition or agent external to the decedent.
Suicide	The death is the result of a purposeful action toward the intentional taking of one’s own life.

# Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

## Glossary of Terms

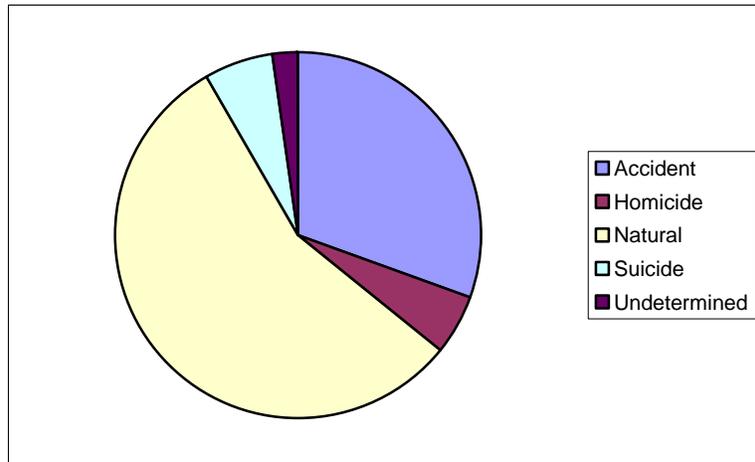
---

Homicide	The death is the result of an intentional harmful act of another person, whether or not that action was intended to cause death.
Undetermined	A death is certified as undetermined when, after complete investigation, insufficient evidence remains to make a complete determination as to one of the above classifications.
Medical Examiner	An appointed (by the County Executive) official charged with investigating deaths in a county. In Wisconsin, a medical examiner may or may not be a physician. In counties with population over 500,000, the medical examiner must be a forensic pathologist.
Poison	A “toxin” is a substance that can harm an organism by other than mechanical means. “Poison” simply means “too much,” as even therapeutically useful substances can cause harm when given at high levels.
Race	The ethnic category to which an individual is assigned for vital statistics reporting. The categories used in this report are: African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Caucasian, Eastern Indian, Hispanic, Multi-racial, and Native American.
Trauma NOS	This is trauma with a cause that is not otherwise specified or does not meet the definitions of other categories.

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### Deaths in Milwaukee County in 2009 (by Manner of Death)

MANNER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Natural	928	42.6%
Accident	507	23.3%
Suicide	100	4.6%
Homicide	87	4%
Undetermined	9	2.7%




---

ME CASES JURISDICTION ACCEPTED	2,827*
CREMATION ONLY INVESTIGATIONS	2,354
JURISDICTION WAIVED	600
CASES NOT REPORTED	2,874
<b>TOTAL DEATHS, MILWAUKEE COUNTY</b>	<b>8,655</b>

There were 8,655 deaths in Milwaukee County in calendar year 2009, as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Health, Vital Statistics division.

These 8,655 deaths were distributed as described above. Of these, 5,181 were reported to the Medical Examiner's office, and jurisdiction was accepted in 2,827 cases. Autopsies were performed on 959 of the 2,827 (34%) deaths in which the Medical examiner accepted jurisdiction. Autopsies were not performed in deaths where the reported circumstances, scene investigation, medical history, or external examination offered information sufficient to certify the death. All suicides, homicides and most accidental deaths underwent autopsy. 78 Autopsies were performed for outside jurisdictions and private parties.

\*Please Note: Some inconsistencies and discrepancies in the following totals and statistics are a result of problems encountered in assigning mode of death during the implementation of a new (computerized) method of statistical summaries, such errors will be reduced in subsequent annual reports by improved logging of the mode of death.

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

Deaths by Manner:           Natural\*

---

The majority of deaths occurring in Milwaukee County in 2009 were classified as “natural” deaths. Natural deaths come under jurisdiction of the medical examiner when they are sudden or unexpected, when the decedent has not been under the care of a health care provider, or when there are suspicious circumstances surrounding the death. 928 natural deaths certified by the medical examiner comprised 43% of all deaths investigated in 2009. This is a 28.8% decrease as compared to the 1,305 deaths so classified in 2008. While alcohol related deaths (cirrhosis, steatohepatitis, varices, withdrawal) and respiratory related deaths were two of the higher causes of natural death, cardiovascular (heart disease) related death was the most frequently occurring cause of natural deaths. Almost three quarters of the natural deaths (70.5%) were classified as cardiovascular, with age ranges from less than one year to over 75 years. The majority of cardiovascular deaths occurred in the 56- 74 age group (46%), followed by the 26- 55 age group (28%). These two age groups combined comprised 74% of the cardiovascular deaths reported. Males outnumbered females in cardiovascular deaths in the 26 to 55 years and 56 to 74 years age group, but after age 75 years, females outpaced males. 15% of cardiovascular deaths occurred in females over the age of 75 years. As in prior years, there were no distinctive racial/ethnic differences in natural deaths that could not be attributable to general population distribution.

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Natural Deaths by Sex and Age

<b>Injury Type/Age Category</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>1 - 5</b>	<b>6 - 12</b>	<b>13 - 17</b>	<b>18 - 25</b>	<b>26 - 55</b>	<b>56 - 74</b>	<b>75+</b>	<b>Total</b>
Male	18	1	2	3	11	159	238	156	588
Female	16	0	0	2	4	80	123	176	401
<b>Alcohol related</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	2	10
Female	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	8
<b>Cancer</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	6
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Cardiovascular</b>									
Male	1	0	0	0	0	31	54	17	103
Female	0	0	0	0	0	12	17	22	51
<b>Central Nervous System</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
<b>Endocrine</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>									
Male	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Female	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Kidney Disease</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Liver Disease</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Respiratory</b>									
Male	1	0	1	0	2	4	2	0	10
Female	0	0	0	1	0	5	4	1	11
<b>Undetermined</b>									
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>1207</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Natural Deaths by Sex and Race

Injury Type/Race	Asian/Pacific Islander	African American	Eastern Indian	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	Native American	Caucasian	Total
Male	3	128	5	24	2	2	423	588
Female	4	101	3	13	2	3	274	401
<b>Alcohol related</b>								
Male	1	2	0	0	0	0	7	10
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
<b>Cancer</b>								
Male	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	6
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Cardiovascular</b>								
Male	0	20	0	1	1	0	78	103
Female	1	13	0	4	0	0	36	51
<b>Central Nervous System</b>								
Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
<b>Endocrine</b>								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>								
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Respiratory</b>								
Male	0	5	0	1	0	0	4	11
Female	0	5	0	0	0	0	6	10
<b>Other</b>								
Male	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Undetermined</b>								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>1207</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### Deaths by Manner: Accident

---

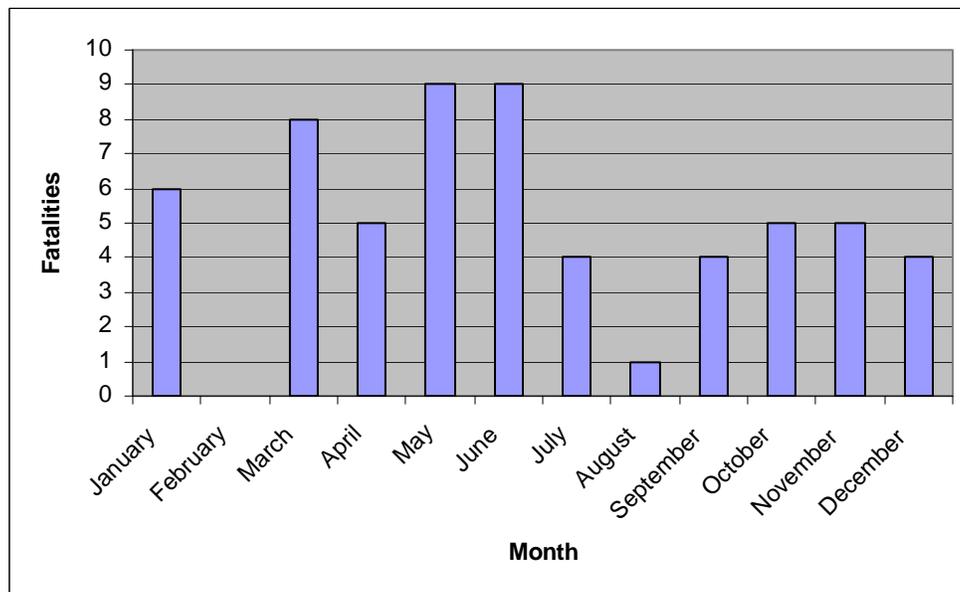
Accidental deaths refer to unintentional deaths resulting from interaction with a “hostile environment” such as drowning or fire. In Milwaukee County, 507 deaths certified as accidents in 2009 comprised 23% of all deaths investigated, compared to 515 in 2008.

The most frequently occurring category of accidental deaths was falls, comprising 173 (34.1%) of all reported accidental deaths. Falls were most prevalent in the aging population, with the greatest proportion (79.1%) of these in people over 75 years of age. Of the 173 fall-related deaths, 89.5% of the victims were Caucasian; and the slightly more women died in falls than men (women represented 56% of fall victims).

The second most frequent cause of accidental death across all age groups was drug overdose, with 55 deaths (10.8%). The majority (43) occurred in the 26 to 55 year age group, with significant race and sex differences. More than six times as many Caucasians (45) as African Americans (7) died accidentally due to medications/poisons/drugs, and males were approximately twice as likely as females to have died in this manner in 2009.

Motor vehicle fatalities were also a significant cause of accidental deaths, with 54 deaths (10.7%) attributed to accidental traffic fatalities. A majority of traffic fatality victims were male, 37 of the 54, or 68.5%, and the highest percent of these fatalities occurred within the age range 26 to 55 years.

**2009 Motor Vehicle Accident Fatalities by Month**



## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Accidental Deaths by Age and Sex

Injury Type/ Age Category	<1	1-5	6-12	13-17	18-25	26-55	56-74	75+	Total
<b>Asphyxia</b>									
Male	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	7
Female	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	5
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>									
Male	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	6
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Carbon Monoxide (not fire)</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Drug-related</b>									
Male	0	0	0	1	7	28	1	0	37
Female	0	0	0	0	2	15	1	0	18
<b>Gunshot injury</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Environmental Exposure</b>									
Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
<b>Falls</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	81	97
<b>Fire-related injury</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Female	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	4
<b>Motorized Vehicle Accident</b>									
Male	0	0	0	3	8	17	6	3	37
Female	0	0	0	0	3	8	1	4	16
<b>Therapy-related</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Trauma NOS</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Water-related incident</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>317</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Accidental Deaths by Race and Sex

Injury Type/Race	Asian	African American	Hispanic	Multi-racial	Native American	Caucasian	Total
<b>Asphyxia</b>							
Male	0	1	2	0	0	4	7
Female	0	2	0	0	0	3	5
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>							
Male	0	2	1	0	0	3	6
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Carbon Monoxide (not fire)</b>							
Male	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Drug-related</b>							
Male	0	5	3	0	0	29	37
Female	0	2	0	0	0	16	18
<b>Gunshot injury</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Environmental exposure</b>							
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Falls</b>							
Male	0	7	1	0	1	67	76
Female	3	5	0	0	1	88	97
<b>Fire-related injury</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Female	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
<b>Motorized Vehicle Accident</b>							
Male	0	11	6	1	0	19	37
Female	0	6	1	0	0	10	17
<b>Therapy-related</b>							
Male	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Trauma NOS</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Water-related</b>							
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Female	0	1	1	0	0	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>317</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

Deaths by Manner: Suicide

---

Suicide is defined as the intentional taking of one's own life. 100 deaths (6% of all deaths) were certified as suicide in Milwaukee County for the year 2009. In 2008, 117 deaths classified as suicide.

Of these deaths, 63 (63%) involved males, 37 (37%) females. Firearms were the most common means of suicide in men and women (equal to suicides by asphyxia in women) (34% of all suicides).

The largest category of suicide victims was Caucasian males between 26 and 55 years of age with gunshot wounds as a cause of death.

Asphyxia and drug-related deaths were the other two most common mechanisms of suicide. 26% percent of the total suicide deaths were asphyxia (mostly hanging) while 8% were intentional overdoses. Of those committing suicide by asphyxia, 80% were men.

Racial differences were notable in the suicide numbers reported in 2009 as well. The majority of suicide deaths took place in victims classified as Caucasian (57%).

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Suicidal Deaths by Age and Sex

<b>Injury type/age category</b>	<b>6-12</b>	<b>13-17</b>	<b>18-25</b>	<b>26-55</b>	<b>56-74</b>	<b>75 +</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Asphyxia (Incl. Hanging)</b>							
Male	2	2	4	10	3	0	21
Female	0	0	0	3	1	1	5
<b>CO Intoxication (not fire)</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Female		0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drug-related</b>							
Male	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
Female	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
<b>Falls</b>							
Male	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Female	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Gunshot injuries</b>							
Male	0	1	6	15	7	0	29
Female	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
<b>Motorized Vehicle</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sharp force injuries</b>							
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
<b>Water-related Injuries</b>							
Male	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Fire-related Injuries</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Trauma NOS</b>							
Male	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>80</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Suicidal Deaths by Race and Sex

<b>Injury Type/Race</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>African American</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Multi-Racial</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Asphyxia (Incl. Hanging)</b>						
Male	0	4	2	0	15	21
Female	0	0	0	0	5	5
<b>Carbon Monoxide (not fire)</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	2	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drug-related</b>						
Male	0	1	1	0	3	5
Female	0	1	0	0	2	3
<b>Falls</b>						
Male	0	1	0	1	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Gunshot injury</b>						
Male	1	7	0	0	21	29
Female	0	1	0	0	4	5
<b>Motorized Vehicle</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sharp force injuries</b>						
Male	0	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Water-related injuries</b>						
Male	0	3	0	0	0	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Fire-related Injuries</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Trauma NOS</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>80</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### Deaths by Manner:           Homicide

---

For the purpose of this report, homicide is defined as death resulting from injuries inflicted by another person. The medical examiner determination of homicide rests solely on the medical evidence present at the time of the investigation, and is independent of the legal definition, which often includes the concept of intent. Milwaukee County had 87\* cases certified as homicides in the year 2009 which comprised 4% of all deaths investigated in 2009. This is unchanged as compared to 2008 where there were 87 deaths classified as homicide.

The means of injury in the majority of homicides was gunshot wounds (60 of 87, 68.9%), followed by an even number of sharp force trauma, blunt force trauma, and abuse/neglect (5 each). 80% of the gunshot victims were African American, followed by the Caucasian (8 of 60, 13.3%) and the Hispanic (4 of 60, 6.6%) groups.

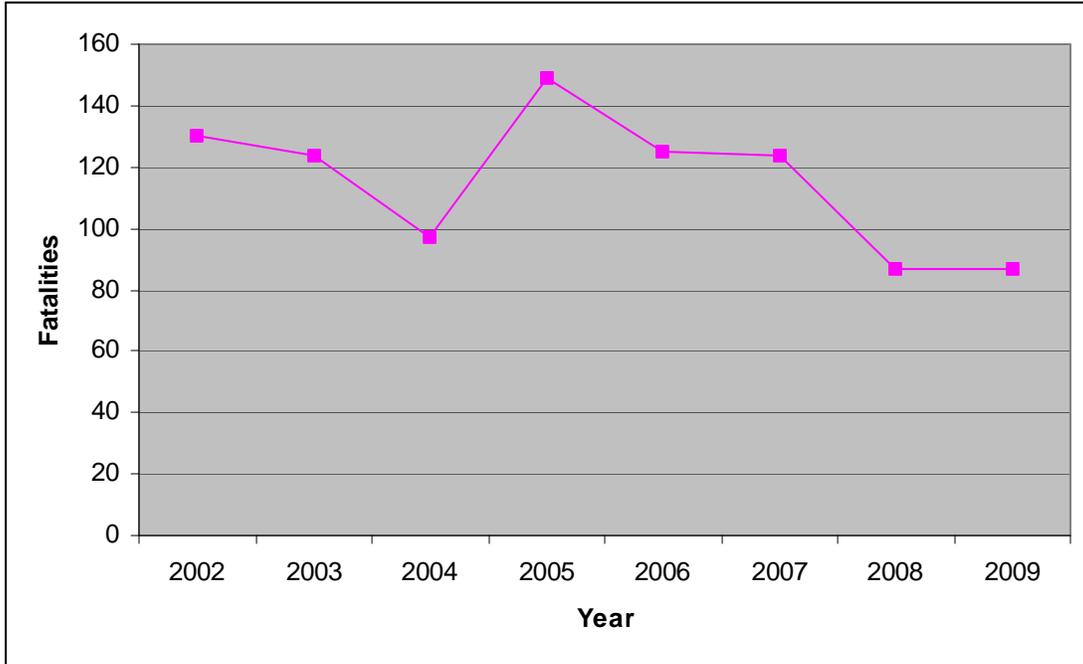
The age ranges of homicide victims comprised nearly the full life span from infancy through more than 75 years, with 26 to 55 years the most frequently occurring age range of homicide victims. Almost eighty percent (62 of 87) of homicide victims were between the ages of 18 and 55 years. African Americans comprised 70% of Milwaukee's homicide victims in year 2009 (61 of 87), with African Americans males comprising the largest single component (43 of 87, 49.3%) of all homicides.

Regardless of race, men were approximately four times more likely to be the victims of homicide than were women.

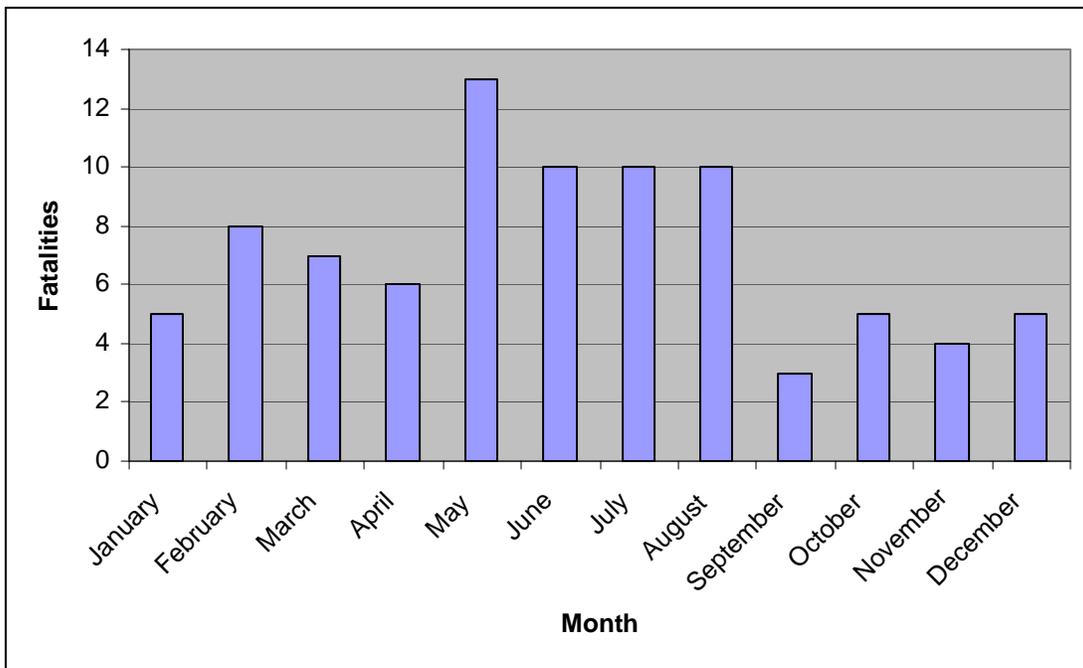
\*Discrepancies with this number and the numbers listed in the subsequent tables are a result of the previously described problem encountered involving computer death modality entry.

# Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

## Milwaukee County Homicides By Year



## 2009 Homicides By Month



## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Homicide Deaths by Age and Sex

Injury type/Age category	< 1	1-5	6-12	13-17	18-25	26-55	56-74	75+	Total
<b>Abuse/Neglect</b>									
Male	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Asphyxia</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Falls</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Gunshot injury</b>									
Male	0	0	0	3	21	26	1	2	53
Female	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	7
<b>Sharp force injury</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Fire-related injury</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Trauma NOS</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Water-Related</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>78</b>

Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

## 2009 Homicide Deaths by Race and Sex

Injury type/ Race	Native American	Asian	African American	Hispanic	Multi-racial	Caucasian	Total
<b>Abuse/Neglect</b>							
Male	0	0	3	1	0	1	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Asphyxia</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>							
Male	0	0	3	0	0	2	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Falls</b>							
Male	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
<b>Gunshot injury</b>							
Male	0	0	43	4	0	6	53
Female	0	0	5	0	0	2	7
<b>Sharp force injury</b>							
Male	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Fire-related injury</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Trauma NOS</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Water-Related</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	0	0	61	5	0	12	<b>78</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

Deaths by Manner: Undetermined

---

A death certified as undetermined is one in which manner cannot be determined based on a full investigation. Circumstances in which the investigation may not reveal adequate findings include those in which there is a time delay between death and discovery of the body, or where there is no information as to the source or nature of the injuries or medical condition of the decedent prior to death. A death is certified as undetermined only after a complete investigation is concluded, including autopsy. There were 36 deaths (1.7% of all deaths) certified as undetermined in Milwaukee County in 2009. There were four times as many deaths classified as undetermined as compared to 2008 where there were 9 deaths classified as undetermined

Deaths classified as undetermined were spread relatively evenly across all age groups from less than 1 year to older than 75 years. There were three instances of undetermined death in which water related incidents were listed as the causative factors and other undetermined deaths were related to blunt force injury, falls, gunshot injury, and trauma (not otherwise specified).

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2009

### 2009 Undetermined Deaths by Age and Sex

<b>Injury type/Age category</b>	<b>&lt; 1</b>	<b>18-25</b>	<b>26-55</b>	<b>56-74</b>	<b>75+</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Water Related</b>						
Male	0	1	1	0	0	2
Female	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Asphyxia</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>						
Male	0	0	0	1	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Gunshot wounds</b>						
Male	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drug-related</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Falls</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Carbon Monoxide (not fire)</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Trauma NOS</b>						
Male	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2008

### Medical Examiner Activities

---

In addition to conducting death scene investigations, cremation investigations, autopsies and toxicology studies, a number of other activities are performed by medical examiner personnel as part of the death investigation process. These functions include:

- Death certification;
- Testifying at legal proceedings;
- Death notifications to next-of-kin;
- Body identification;
- Protection and legal disposition of property belonging to decedents;
- Burial arrangements for unclaimed bodies;
- Disinterment authorization; and,
- Lectures to law enforcement personnel, medical students, etc.

The statutory duties and responsibilities of the office are performed by the Medical Examiner, a licensed physician trained and board-certified in forensic pathology. Four full-time forensic pathologists, one toxicologist, three forensic chemists, a staff of eleven forensic investigators, as well as additional clerical, autopsy, and managerial personnel support the medical examiner function. A forensic pathology fellowship program through the Medical College of Wisconsin trains one to two pathologists annually in forensic pathology through the Medical Examiner's Office.

Professional consultants in the specialized fields of forensic odontology (dentistry), forensic radiology, forensic anesthesiology, adult and pediatric cardiac pathology, and forensic neuropathology provide additional support. An autopsy facility and toxicology laboratory provide a secure facility for staff, visitors and evidence entrusted to our care.

The release and dissemination of medical and other information collected or retained by this office is another important activity. Autopsy reports, investigative reports and related data from individual investigations are provided to interested parties such as families, community-based health care providers, insurers, law enforcement, attorneys and others for their use. In addition, agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, City of Milwaukee Health Department, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Firearms Injury Reporting System and Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) also receive periodic information from this office to further the data analysis and reporting of deaths investigated in Milwaukee County.