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# Annual Report 2010

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



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

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## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

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## 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 2010

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

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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 2010

### Department Authority

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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 2008

## Glossary of Terms

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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).
Gender	The sex designation, whether male or female, of the individual being described
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 2008

### Glossary of Terms

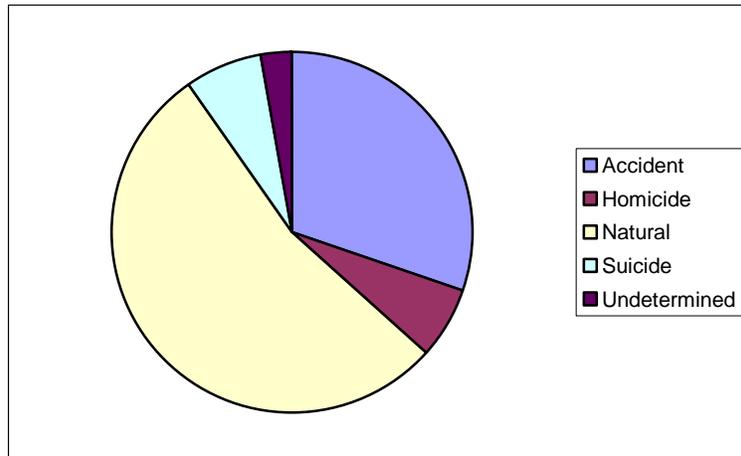
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Homicide	The death is the result of an intentional harmful act of another person, whether or not that action was intended to cause death.
Undetermined	A death is certified as undetermined when, after complete investigation, insufficient evidence remains to make a complete determination as to one of the above classifications.
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 2010

### Deaths in Milwaukee County in 2010 (by Manner of Death)

MANNER	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Natural	871	51.5%
Accident	493	29.1%
Suicide	114	6.7%
Homicide	106	6.3%
Undetermined	9	2.7%




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ME CASES JURISDICTION ACCEPTED	2,174*
CREMATION ONLY INVESTIGATIONS	2,546
JURISDICTION WAIVED	594
CASES NOT REPORTED	2,833
<b>TOTAL DEATHS, MILWAUKEE COUNTY</b>	<b>8,147</b>

There were 8,147 deaths in Milwaukee County in calendar year 2010, as reported by the Wisconsin Department of Health, Vital Statistics division.

These 8,147 deaths were distributed as described above. Of these, 5,314 were reported to the Medical Examiner's office, and jurisdiction was accepted in 2,827 cases. Autopsies were performed on 1058 of the 2,174 (45.6%) 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. 67 Autopsies were performed for outside jurisdictions and private parties.

\*Please Note: Some inconsistencies in the following totals and statistics are a result of problems encountered in assigning mode of death, such errors are being eliminated by improved use of reporting methods and education of staff regarding mode reporting.

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

Deaths by Manner:           Natural

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The majority of deaths occurring in Milwaukee County in 2010 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. 871 natural deaths certified by the medical examiner comprised 51.5% of all deaths investigated in 2010. This is a 6.1% decrease as compared to the 928 deaths so classified in 2009. While central nervous system related deaths (i.e. cerebral infarcts, tumors, and spontaneous hemorrhage) and respiratory related deaths (i.e. pneumonia and pulmonary emboli) were two of the higher causes of natural death, cardiovascular (heart disease) related death was the most frequently occurring cause of natural deaths. The largest number of categorized natural deaths were reported as cardiovascular (122 deaths), with age ranges from the 18 to 25 year old group to over 75 years. The majority of cardiovascular deaths occurred in the 56- 74 age group (40.5%), followed by the 75 and over age group (24.5%). These two age groups combined comprised 50% of the cardiovascular deaths reported. Males outnumbered females in cardiovascular deaths by a ratio of nearly 2 to 1. 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 2010

### 2010 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	19	8	2	3	6	153	272	163	626
Female	12	8	4	3	1	81	139	185	433
<b>Alcohol related</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2
<b>Cancer</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
<b>Cardiovascular</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	1	25	35	19	80
Female	0	0	0	0	1	10	14	17	42
<b>Central Nervous System</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	9	4
Female	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	4
<b>Endocrine</b>									
Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>									
Male	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Kidney Disease</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
<b>Liver Disease</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Respiratory</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	1	7
Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
<b>Other</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>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>1225</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### 2010 Natural Deaths by Sex and Race

Injury Type/Race	Asian/Pacific Islander	African American	Eastern Indian	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	Native American	Caucasian	Total
Male	5	138	0	19	1	3	457	626
Female	2	89	0	17	1	1	322	433
<b>Alcohol related</b>								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Cancer</b>								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
<b>Cardiovascular</b>								
Male	2	25	1	0	0	0	52	80
Female	0	7	0	0	0	1	34	42
<b>Central Nervous System</b>								
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	4
Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	4
<b>Endocrine</b>								
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>								
Male	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Kidney Disease</b>								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
<b>Liver Disease</b>								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Respiratory</b>								
Male	0	1	4	0	0	0	2	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
<b>Other</b>								
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>1225</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### Deaths by Manner: Accident

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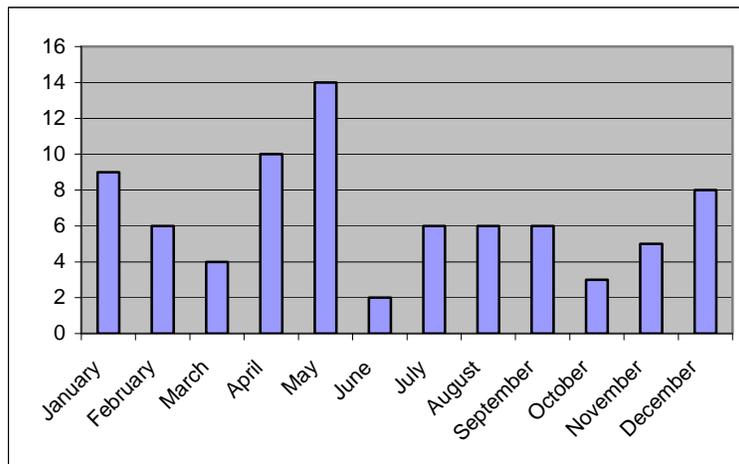
Accidental deaths refer to unintentional deaths resulting from interaction with a “hostile environment” such as drowning or fire. In Milwaukee County, 493 deaths certified as accidents in 2010 comprised 29.1% of all deaths investigated, compared to 507 in 2009.

The most frequent cause of accidental death across all age groups was falls, with 192 deaths (50.9%). The majority (154) occurred in the greater than 75 year age group (in the aging population), with differences in racial and sex distribution. The majority of fall victims were female (104 verses 88 males) and Caucasians accounted for the majority of fall-related deaths (90.6%)

The second most frequently occurring category of accidental deaths was drug-related deaths, comprising 70 (18.6%) of all reported accidental deaths. The majority (58) of drug-related deaths occurred in the 26-55 year age group. More than five times as many Caucasians died in overdoses as did African-Americans (54 Caucasians verses 10 African-Americans) and males were more than twice as likely to die in drug-related modes as females (49 men verses 21 women)

Motor vehicle fatalities were also a significant cause of accidental deaths, with 63 deaths (16.7%) attributed to accidental traffic fatalities. A majority of traffic fatality victims were male, 42 of the 53, or 66.6%, and the highest percent of these fatalities occurred within the age range 26 to 55 years.

**2010 Motor Vehicle Accident Fatalities by Month**



# Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

## 2010 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
Animal Related	Male	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	3
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Asphyxia	Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	10
Blunt force trauma	Male	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	8
	Female	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	4
Carbon Monoxide (Non-Fire)	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug-related	Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gunshot injury	Male	0	0	0	0	4	39	6	0	49
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	0	21
Environmental Exposure	Male	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Falls	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fire-related injury	Male	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	65	88
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	89	104
Motorized Vehicle Accident	Male	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
Non-Powered Vehicle	Male	0	0	3	1	10	15	7	6	42
	Female	0	1	1	1	6	9	1	3	22
Sharp Force Injury	Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Trauma NOS	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	42	54
Water-related incident	Male	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>377</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### 2010 Accidental Deaths by Race and Sex

Injury Type/Race	2010 Accidental Deaths by Race and Sex						
	Asian	African American	Hispanic	Multi-racial	Native American	Caucasian	Total
Male	0	1	0	0	0	2	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Animal Related</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Asphyxia</b>							
Male	0	1	1	0	0	8	10
Female	0	1	1	0	0	6	8
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>							
Male	1	0	0	0	0	3	4
Female	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Carbon Monoxide (Non-Fire)</b>							
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Drug-related</b>							
Male	0	8	6	0	0	35	49
Female	0	2	0	0	0	19	21
<b>Gunshot injury</b>							
Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Environmental exposure</b>							
Male	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Falls</b>							
Male	0	6	3	0	1	78	88
Female	0	8	0	0	0	96	104
<b>Fire-related injury</b>							
Male	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Female	0	2	0	0	0	2	4
<b>Motorized Vehicle Accident</b>							
Male	3	17	2	1	0	19	42
Female	1	7	1	0	0	12	21
<b>Non-Motorized Vehicle</b>							
Male	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Therapy-related</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sharp Force Injury</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Trauma NOS</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Water-related</b>							
Male	0	2	0	0	0	2	4
Female	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>377</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### Deaths by Manner: Suicide

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Suicide is defined as the intentional taking of one's own life. 114 deaths (6.7% of all deaths) were certified as suicide in Milwaukee County for the year 2010. In 2009, 100 deaths classified as suicide.

Of these deaths, approximately 77% involved males, 23% females. Firearms were the most common means of suicide in men (51.9% of male suicides). Asphyxia (including hanging) was a more common mode of suicide in women, accounting for 43.5% of deaths.

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. 26.7% percent of the total suicide deaths were asphyxial (including hanging) while 8.9% were intentional overdoses. Of those committing suicide by asphyxia, 65.5% were men. Women were more likely to die by overdose (accounting for 77.8% of overdoses).

Racial differences were notable in the suicide numbers reported in 2010 as well. The majority of suicide deaths took place in victims classified as Caucasian (74.3%), which is slightly in excess of the population distribution by race.

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### 2010 Suicidal Deaths by Age and Sex

Injury type/age category	13-17	18-25	26-55	56-74	75+	Total
<b>Asphyxia (Incl. Hanging)</b>						
Male	1	0	9	8	1	19
Female	0	3	3	3	1	10
<b>Blunt Force Trauma</b>						
Male	0	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CO Intoxication (Non-Fire)</b>						
Male	0	0	2	1	0	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drug-related</b>						
Male	0	0	2	0	0	2
Female	0	0	5	1	1	7
<b>Falls</b>						
Male	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Gunshot injuries</b>						
Male	1	7	22	9	1	40
Female	0	0	3	2	0	5
<b>Motorized Vehicle</b>						
Male	0	4	1	0	0	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sharp force injuries</b>						
Male	0	1	4	0	0	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Water-related Injuries</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Fire-related Injuries</b>						
Male	0	1	1	0	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>101</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### 2010 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	1	3	1	0	14	19
Female	2	0	1	0	7	10
<b>Blunt Force Trauma</b>						
Male	0	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CO Poisoning</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	3	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Drug-related</b>						
Male	0	0	0	0	2	2
Female	0	0	0	0	7	7
<b>Falls</b>						
Male	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Gunshot injury</b>						
Male	2	8	0	0	30	40
Female	0	1	0	0	4	5
<b>Motorized Vehicle</b>						
Male	0	0	0	1	4	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sharp object injuries</b>						
Male	0	0	2	0	3	5
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Water-related injuries</b>						
Male	0	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Fire-related Injuries</b>						
Male	1	0	0	0	1	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>101</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

Deaths by Manner:           Homicide

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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 106 cases certified as homicides in the year 2010, which comprised 6.3% all deaths investigated in 2010. This is a 21.8% increase in deaths as compared to 2009 where there were 87 deaths classified as homicide.

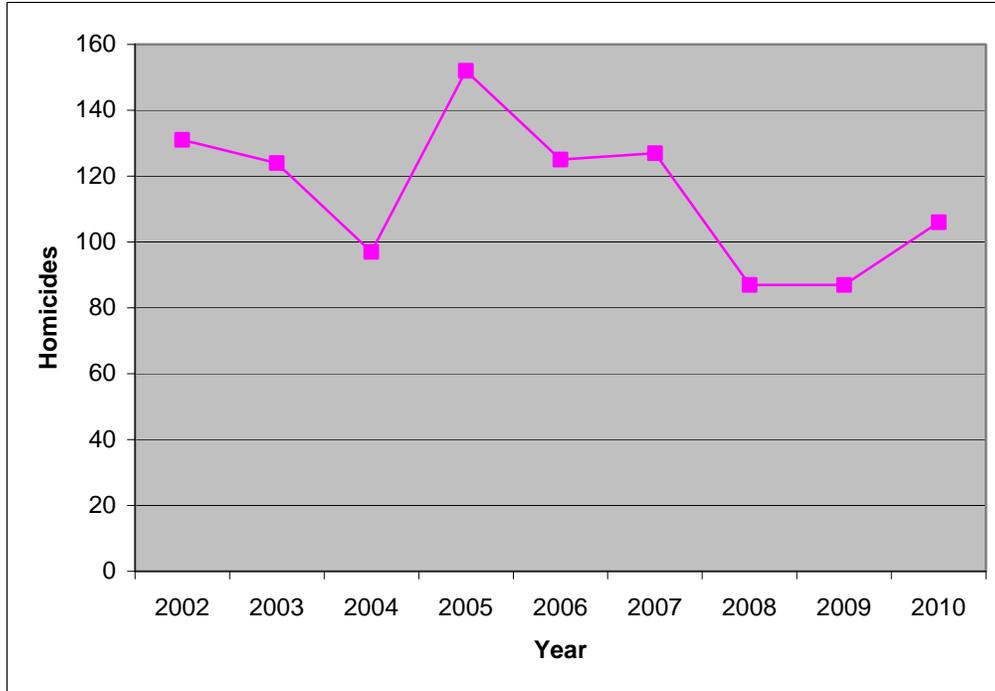
The means of injury in the majority of homicides was gunshot wounds (72, 69.2%), followed by sharp force trauma (11 cases) and blunt force trauma (10 cases). Nearly 74% of the gunshot victims were African American, followed by the Caucasian (18%) and the Hispanic (8%) groups.

The age ranges of homicide victims comprised nearly the full life span from infancy through those older than 75 years, with 26 to 55 years the most frequently occurring age range of homicide victims. Approximately eighty percent of homicide victims were between the ages of 18 and 55 years. African Americans comprised approximately 65% of Milwaukee's homicide victims in year 2010, with African Americans males comprising the largest single component (45.5%) of all homicides.

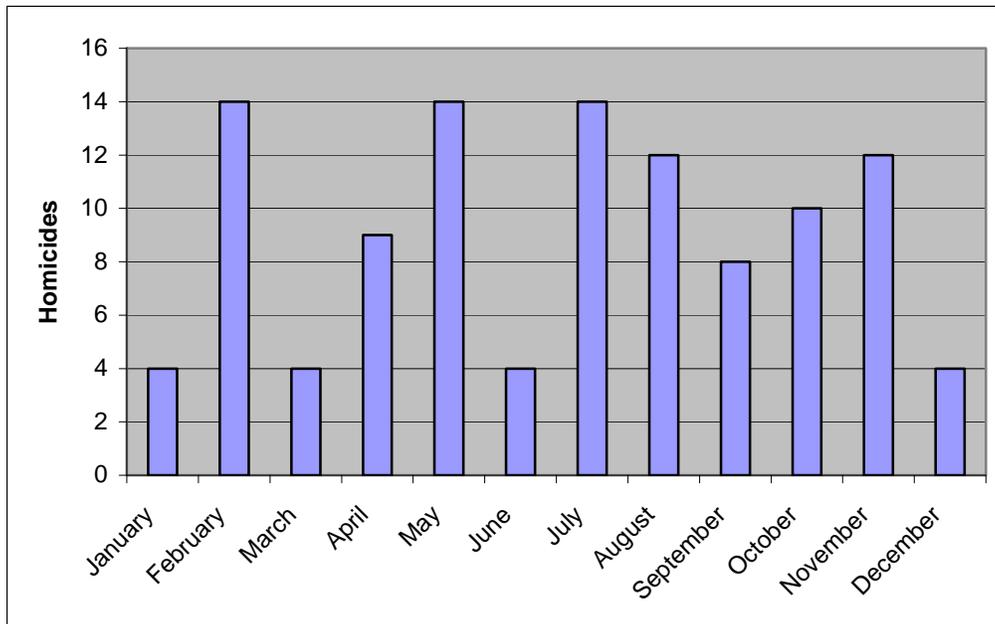
Regardless of race, men were approximately six times more likely to be the victims of homicide than were women.

**Milwaukee County Homicides By Year**

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2008



### 2010 Homicides By Month



## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### 2010 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Asphyxia</b>									
Male	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Female	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	1	6	1	0	8
Female	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Gunshot injury</b>									
Male	0	0	0	2	27	33	2	0	64
Female	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	8
<b>Motor Vehicle Pedestrian</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sharp force trauma</b>									
Male	0	0	0	1	0	4	3	0	8
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
<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	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Water-Related</b>									
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>104</b>

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## 2010 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	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Asphyxia</b>							
Male	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Female	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>							
Male	0	0	6	1	0	1	8
Female	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
<b>Gunshot injury</b>							
Male	1	0	46	6	1	9	64
Female	0	0	4	0	0	4	8
<b>Motorized Vehicle Pedestrian</b>							
Male	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sharp force injury</b>							
Male	0	0	4	1	0	3	8
Female	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
<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	1	0	0	0	1
Female	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Water-Related</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>104</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

Deaths by Manner: Undetermined

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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. 2.7% of all deaths were certified as undetermined in Milwaukee County in 2010. This is unchanged from 2009.

The 26 to 55 years age group accounted for 5 of the 8 deaths certified as undetermined. Drug related deaths represented the largest number of undetermined deaths (3) due to difficulties in understanding the decedent's purpose at the time of using a potentially lethal dose of drugs (accidental vs. suicidal overdose).

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2010

### 2010 Undetermined Deaths by Age and Sex

<b>Injury type/Age category</b>	<b>&lt; 1</b>	<b>13-17</b>	<b>18-25</b>	<b>26-55</b>	<b>56-74</b>	<b>75+</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sudden Unexpected Infant Death</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Motor Vehicle Related</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Water Related</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	1	1
<b>Blunt force trauma</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Gunshot wounds</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Drug-related</b>							
Male	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Falls</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CO Monoxide (Non-Fire)</b>							
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Trauma NOS</b>							
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

## Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Annual Report 2008

### Medical Examiner Activities

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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. Five full-time forensic pathologists, two toxicologists, 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. In addition, two post-doctoral fellows in toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring participate in a two-year training program through this office in conjunction with the Medical College of Wisconsin. The Medical Examiner's office gains the knowledge and expertise in modern toxicology methods through these fellowship programs without incurring any support costs, as these toxicology fellowship positions are funded through the Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Pathology.

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.