COUNTY OF COLLIN
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER
FY 2014

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OUR MISSION

To uphold Article 49.25 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.

This includes establishment of a competent cause and manner of death for all reported cases to the office. The Medical Examiner is also tasked with the issuance of cremation permits, facilitating organ and tissue procurement, as well as meeting the needs of families, law enforcement, the District Attorney, Homeland Security, medical and legal communities and funeral directors.

HISTORY

The Collin County Medical examiner's Office was created in 1986 and opened on January 1, 1987. Under the requests and orders of the Commissioners Court, William B. Rohr M.D. was appointed as the County Medical Examiner who retains this position to this day. The Office has full accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners. Sheila Spotswood M.D. was added as an assistant October 2008. This enabled Dr. Rohr to maintain a personal workload acceptable for accreditation in a cost-effective manner yet still conduct autopsy services for Grayson and Fannin counties. The office operated on an annual budget of $1,267,384 FY 2014. Growing population and the re-opening of services outside of Collin County has increased the caseload handled by this office in terms of pathology, toxicology, investigation, evidence / property storage and disposal, transportation of bodies and courtroom testimony. Adult and Child Fatality Review Teams continue to be active. Both are chaired by Dr. Rohr.

Information presented in this annual report has been compiled on the deaths reported to the Collin County Medical Examiner's Office during FY 2014. It is meant to reflect workload and Office activity rather than public health concerns.

To understand just what these charts and graphs represent a glossary is included:

DEATH REPORT: Any reported death.

NO CASE: A reported death in which the attending physician is allowed to sign the death certificate. The death must meet four criteria.

1. Death in the presence of a good witness.
2. There is a physician able and willing to sign the death certificate.
3. Death not under confinement by law enforcement or a mental health institution.
4. Death unrelated to any possible trauma.

CASE: A death not meeting all of the above four criteria and requiring an examination by the medical examiner. The medical examiner always signs the death certificate.

ABSENTIA (IN ABSENTIA): A death not meeting all four of the above criteria but not undergoing an examination by the medical examiner. The medical examiner always signs the death certificate.

EXAMINED: Another term for case. There are two types of examination by the medical examiner. INSPECTION in which the body is only examined externally. AUTOPSY in which there is an external and internal examination of the body. Body fluids are obtained externally for further testing in either type of examination.

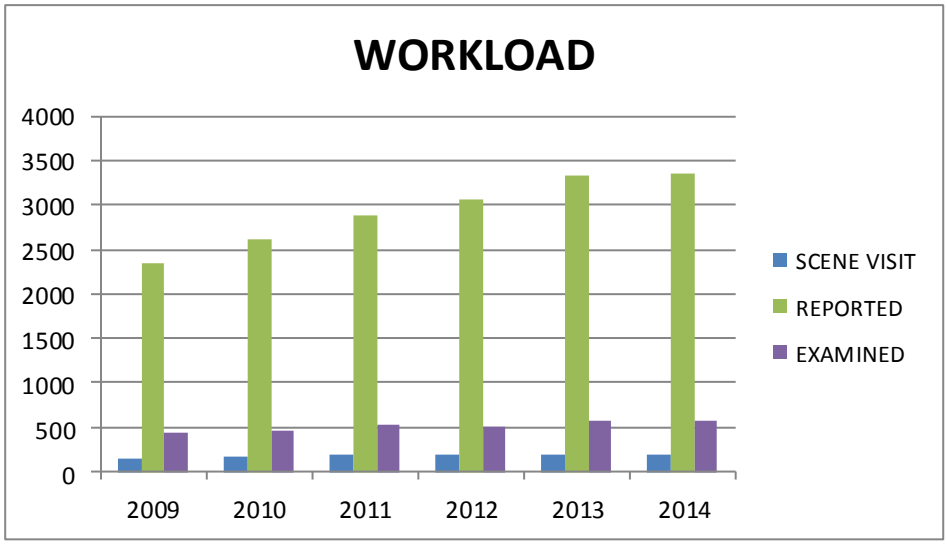
SCENE: The field agent travels to the scene of death to gather further information for the medical examiner and to assist law enforcement with their investigation. A medical examiner attends in select cases.

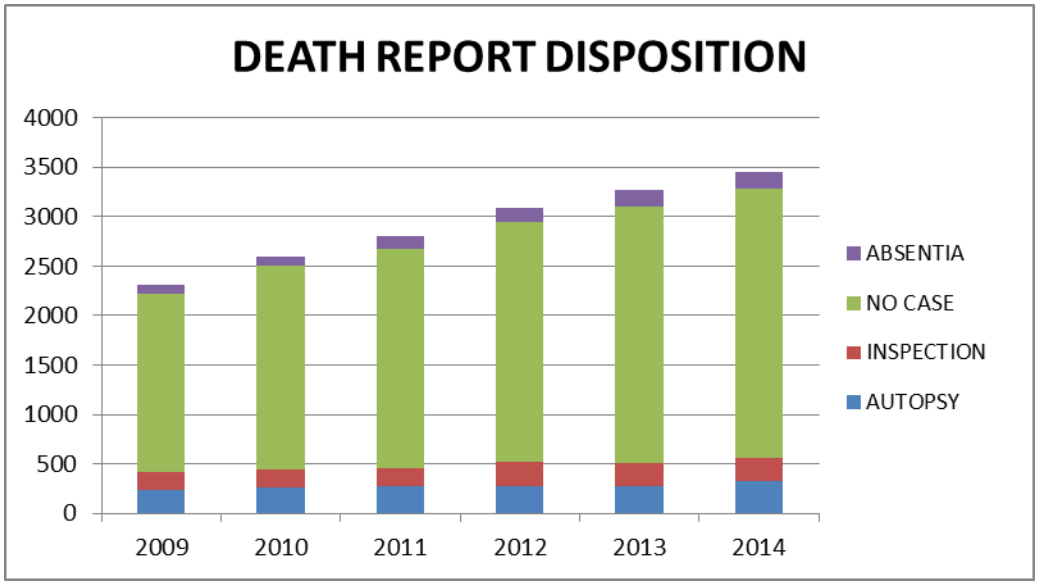
CREMATION PERMIT: A certificate issued by the medical examiner allowing a cremation to go forward. The certificate is required by the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Authorization for the cremation always comes from the family. A short informal investigation is always undertaken by the Office before the certificate (permit) is signed. A few requests require a more significant

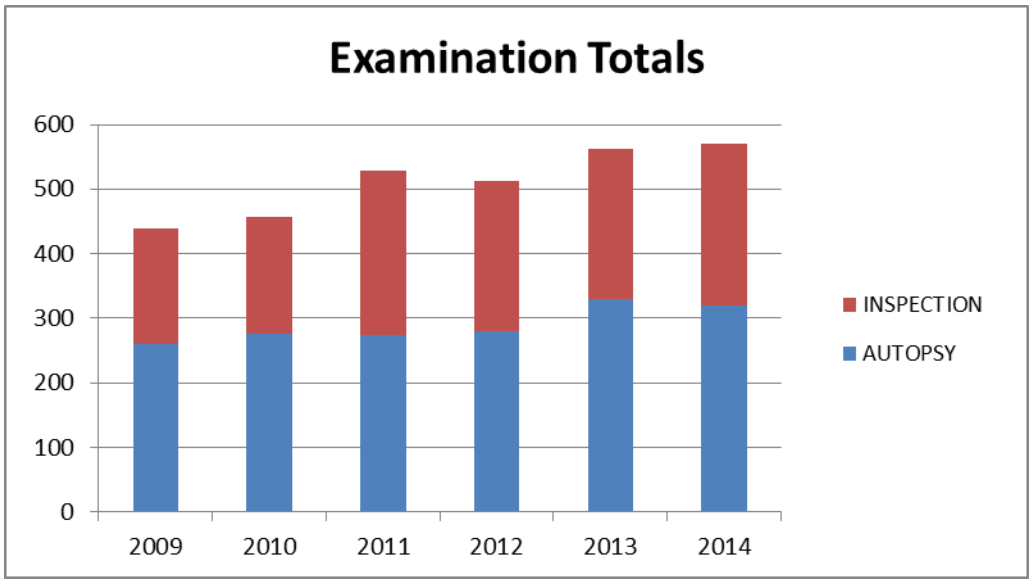
investigation including full autopsy. There is a fee of $25 charged for every permit issued.

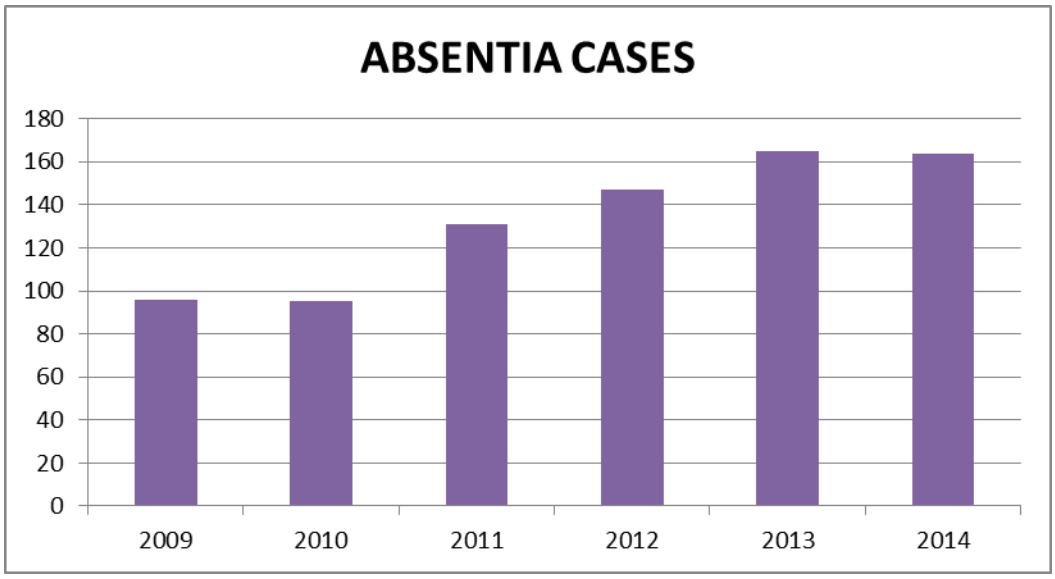
MANNER OF DEATH: This is the fashion about which death occurred. The medical examiner is required to make this determination for each death reported to the Office. There are several choices for manner of death. NATURAL is a death completely unrelated to trauma. ACCIDENT is when a death is in any way related to trauma. SUICIDE is a special type of traumatic death in which one dies at their own hand. HOMICIDE is a special type of traumatic death in which one dies at the hand of another. UNDETERMINED is when the medical examiner lacks sufficient information to make one of the above four determinations.

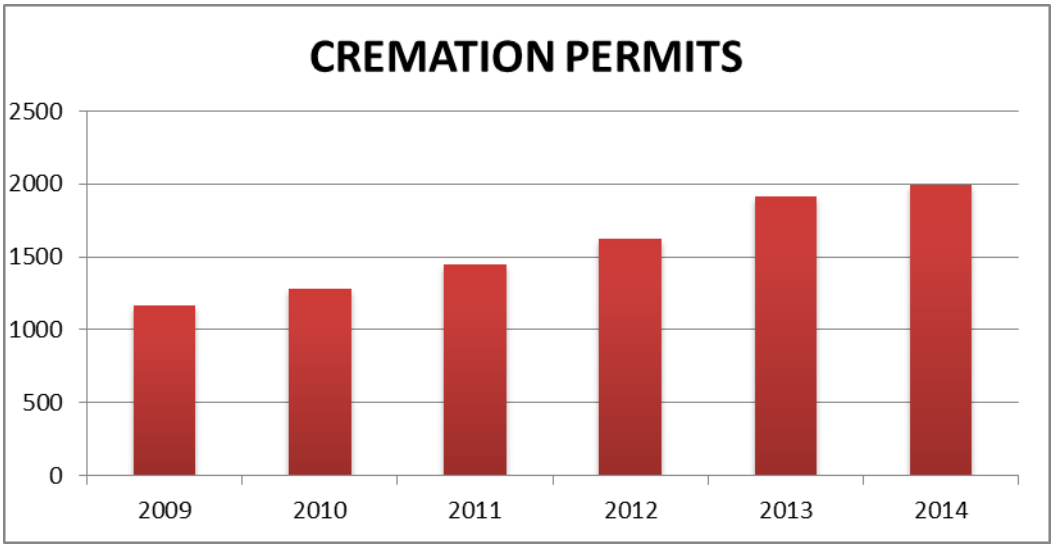
Years are fiscal years, not calendar years.

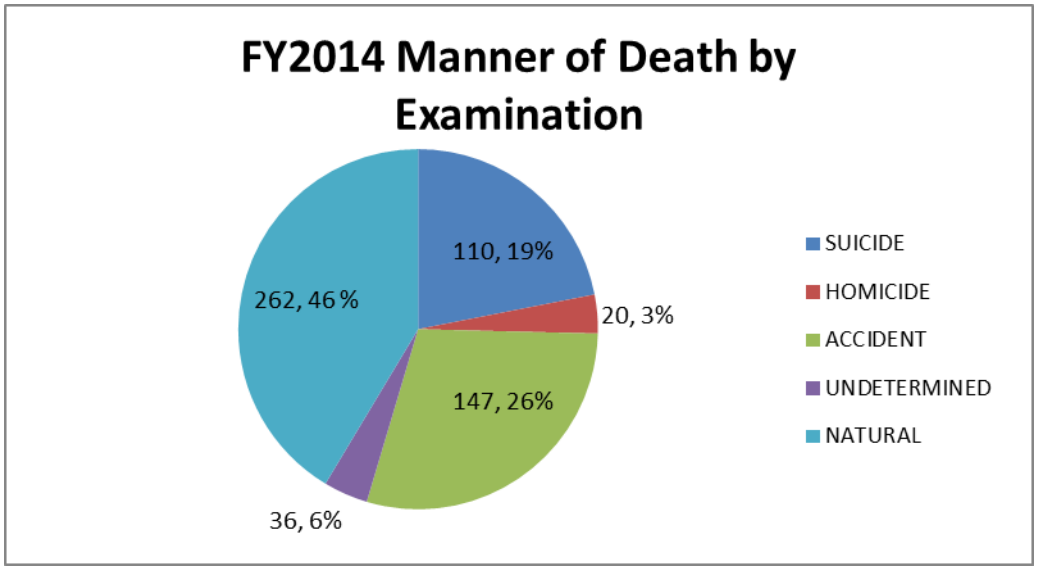



DEATH REPORT DISPOSITION
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
ABSENTIA
NO CASE
INSPECTION
AUTOPSY


Examination Totals
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
INSPECTION
AUTOPSY


ABSENTIA CASES
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014


CREMATION PERMITS
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014



Homicide examinations generally create the most work. Natural deaths generally create the least amount of work. Homicides are almost always autopsied. The manner of death least likely to result in an autopsy is natural.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
SUICIDE	62	83	89	100	110	110
HOMICIDE	13	12	15	16	20	20
UNDETERMINED	14	30	31	29	23	36
CREMATIONS	1169	1283	1446	1623	1911	2727
ABSENTIA	96	95	131	147	165	164
SCENE VISIT	155	169	200	195	202	203
REPORTED	2335	2613	2877	3066	3327	3362
EXAMINED	440	457	528	512	575	575
ACCIDENT EXAMINED	84	94	116	145	168	147
NON-TRAUMA EXAMINED	267	238	277	222	238	262
AUTOPSY	261	276	275	281	330	325
INSPECTION	179	181	253	231	232	250
NO CASE	1799	2061	2218	2415	2587	2727

ADULT FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Adult Fatality Review Team meets on the last Friday of every month at the Collin County Medical Examiner's Office. The team members are:

Dr. William Rohr – Chief Medical Examiner (Collin County)

Dr. Lynn A. Salzberger - Deputy Medical Examiner (Collin County)

Sue Schultz, LPC, LMFT – Collin County CFRT Coordinator

Sabina Stern – CFRT Member

Jawaid Asghar MBBS, MHA– Epidemiologist - Collin County Healthcare

Representatives from the following organizations also in attendance:

Texas Health Resources of Plano
Plano Police Department

The purpose of the Collin County Adult Fatality Review Team is to review all deaths of adults in Collin County from a public health perspective and to enhance the skills of those investigating death in Collin County, especially the Medical Examiner, Epidemiology, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health.

The interaction that takes place among these agencies during the Review Team meetings gives insight to everyone involved and helps them to understand why these deaths take place with a focus on prevention.

CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

The Child Fatality Review Team meets the first Friday of every month at the Collin County Medical Examiner's Office. The team members are:

Dr. William Rohr – Chief Medical Examiner (Collin County)

Dr. Lynn A. Salzberger - Deputy Medical Examiner (Collin County)

Sue Schultz, LPC, LMFT – Collin County CFRT Coordinator

Sabina Stern – CFRT Member

Susan Etheridge - CASA of Collin County

Jawaid Asghar MBBS, MHA– Epidemiologist - Collin County Healthcare

Dr. Brad Tate - Pediatric Hospital

Dr. Jessica Williams - ED Physician

Dr. Kristen N. Reeder, Reach Program

Representatives from the following organizations also in attendance:

Collin County District Attorney's Office
Collin County Child Protective Services
Collin County Advocacy Center
Collin County Substance Abuse
Plano Fire Department
Plano Police Department
Allen Police Department
McKinney Police Department
McKinney Fire Department
Frisco Police Department
Medical Center of Plano
Presbyterian Health Hospital of Plano
Texas Health Resources of Plano

The purpose of the Collin County Child Fatality Review Team is to review all deaths of children in Collin County from a public health perspective and to enhance the skills of those investigating death in Collin County, especially the Medical Examiner, law enforcement and Child Protective Services. The interaction that takes place among these agencies during the Review Team meetings gives insight to everyone involved and helps them to understand why these deaths take place with a focus on prevention.

Organizational Chart (2015)