

# **COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORONER**



**2007**

MIKE KANALAKIS  
SHERIFF-CORONER

MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
1414 NATIVIDAD ROAD  
SALINAS, CA 93906

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**COUNTY OF MONTEREY  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORONER  
2007**

**SHERIFF-MARSHAL-CORONER**

MIKE KANALAKIS

**DIVISION COMMANDER**

GREG CLARK

**INVESTIGATIVE SERGEANT**

MIKE RICHARDS

**CORONER INVESTIGATORS**

THOMAS JENKINS      RUBEN GARCIA  
J.D. DAVIDSON      GARY WHEELUS

**CORONER SECRETARIES**

DIANE JOHNSON  
VIRGINIA COSNOWSKI

**FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST**

JOHN R. HAIN, M.D.

**FORENSIC TECHNICIAN**

TAMEKA MOORE  
MICHELE GOLDITCH

**TOXICOLOGY**

CENTRAL VALLEY TOXICOLOGY

**FORENSIC ODONTOLOGIST**

DR. KEVIN G. LANDON, D.D.S.

**FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST**

ALISON GALLOWAY

## **2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORONER**

In Monterey County, the Sheriff-Marshall-Coroner is one and the same. This multi-position was initiated in January, 1982. The Coroner's Division is comprised of one (1) Division Commander, one (1) Investigative Sergeant, four (4) Deputy Coroner Investigators, one (1) Forensic Autopsy Technician and one Medical Transcriptionist and one (1) part-time office assistant. Personnel from this office are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for Coroner investigations, family contact and assistance, as well as disaster situations.

The County of Monterey covers an area of 3,325 square miles. The State mandates that only the Coroner or his duly appointed deputy has jurisdiction over the deceased person at any death scene, as well as the deceased's property, pending lawful disposition. In the year 2007, the Division's investigating Deputy Coroner's drove a total of approximately 30,194 miles in the course of their duties.

In calendar year 2007, 2,213 deaths were recorded in Monterey County. Of these recorded deaths, 986 were reported to the Coroner's Office. Those cases were reported pursuant to California Government Code Section 27491 and California Health and Safety Code Section 102850, which direct the Coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of those deaths.

After investigations, 278 of the cases reported to the Coroner were kept as full Coroner cases with the final cause of death signed by the Coroner or his designated authority. In 192 of these cases, it was necessary to perform a postmortem examination (autopsy) in order to determine the cause of death. With follow-up investigation, the remaining 708 cases reported to the Coroner revealed the person died as a result of "natural" causes and these cases were referred to the attending physician of record to certify the cause of death.

Occasionally the Coroner's Division employs the services of a Forensic Odontologist and/or a Forensic Anthropologist. These services are necessary to determine positive identification through dental comparison as well as ascertaining causes of death through the study of skeletal remains. All unidentified deceased persons are listed in Coroner's records as either a John Doe or Jane Doe depending on their sex. Dental information and x-rays are forwarded to the California State Department of Justice in Sacramento for possible matching with dental records of reported missing persons. In 2007 the Coroner's Office investigated the deaths of 1 John Doe with none of the John Does remaining unidentified. This year there were three Jane Does with all of them identified.

This Annual Report of the Coroner provides a summary of the cases reported and investigated by the Coroner's Division and a statistical breakdown of types of deaths that occurred within Monterey County.

Government Code, State of California, Section 27491 and Health and Safety Code, State of California, Section 102850, directs the Coroner to investigate into and determine the Circumstances, Manner, and Cause of the following deaths that are immediately reportable.

1. No physician in attendance.
2. Medical attendance less than 24 hours (hospital or residence).
3. Wherein the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the 20 days prior to death.
4. Wherein the physician is unable to state the cause of death.
5. Known or suspected homicide.
6. Known or suspected suicide.
7. Involving any criminal action or suspicion of a criminal act.
8. Related to or following a known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion.
9. Associated with a known or alleged rape of crime against nature.
10. Following an accident or injury, old or recent, (primary or contributory, occurring immediately or at some remote time.)
11. All deaths due to Drowning, Fire, Hanging, Gunshot, Stabbing, Cutting, Starvation, Exposure, Acute Alcoholism, Drug Addiction, Strangulation or Aspiration.
12. Accidental poisoning, (Food, Chemical Agent, Drug or Therapeutic Agent).
13. Occupational disease or occupational hazards.
14. Known or suspected contagious disease constituting a public health hazard, **INCLUDING AIDS.**
15. All deaths in operating rooms.
16. All deaths where the patient has not fully recovered from an anesthetic whether in surgery, recovery room or elsewhere.

**REPORTABLE DEATHS TO THE CORONER (CONTINUED)**

17. All deaths wherein the patient expired within 24 hours of an operation or surgical procedure.
18. All deaths in which the patient was comatose throughout the period of the physician's attendance, whether at home or hospital.
19. All solitary deaths.
20. All deaths of unidentified persons.
21. All deaths where the suspected cause of death is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (Crib Death).
22. All deaths in prison, jails or of persons under the control of a law enforcement agency.
23. All deaths of patients in state mental hospitals.
24. Wherein there is no known next of kin.

## SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS

2007

	<u>INVESTIGATIONS CORONER</u>	<u>INVESTIGATIONS *PHYSICIAN CERTIFIED</u>	<u>AUTOPSIES PERFORMED</u>	<u>INVESTIGATIONS TOTAL</u>
JAN	24	75	19	99
FEB	28	55	18	83
MAR	22	68	13	90
APR	19	54	13	73
MAY	19	55	13	74
JUN	23	39	17	62
JUL	19	73	10	92
AUG	22	50	12	72
SEP	29	56	20	85
OCT	20	51	16	71
NOV	26	62	21	88
DEC	27	70	20	97
TOTAL:	278	708	192	986

\*After thorough investigation by the Coroner's Office, it was determined that these deaths were due to natural causes. The attending physician signed the death certificates without an autopsy by the Coroner's office.

**STATISTICS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007**

	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Accident</u>	<u>Suicide</u>	<u>Pending</u>	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Undetermined</u>	<u>Accident (Vehicle)</u>	<u>Natural (Cancer)</u>	<u>Month Total</u>
<b>January</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>99</b>
February	59	5	4	0	2	1	5	7	83
<b>March</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>90</b>
April	50	2	3	0	4	0	2	12	73
<b>May</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>74</b>
June	45	4	4	0	1	0	2	6	62
<b>July</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>92</b>
August	48	5	2	0	1	1	6	9	72
<b>September</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>85</b>
October	53	4	2	0	4	1	3	4	71
<b>November</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88</b>
December	70	6	4	0	3	0	7	7	97
<b>Totals</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>986</b>

**GENERAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF DEATHS HANDLED BY THE CORONER**  
**2007**

NATURAL.....	97
SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS).....	3
MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS.....	50
ACCIDENT.....	45
SUICIDE.....	46
HOMICIDE.....	31
UNDETERMINED.....	5
PENDING.....	1
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b> .....	<b>278</b>

**CORONER INVESTIGATIONS 2001 – 2007**

**CLASSIFICATIONS**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
<b>NATURAL</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>SIDS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>ACCIDENT</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>HOMICIDE</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>SUICIDE</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>UNDETERMINED</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PENDING</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**INVESTIGATIONS**

	<b>CORONER CERTIFIED</b>	<b>PHYS. CERT.</b>	<b>TOTAL INVEST.</b>	<b>TOTAL AUTOPSIES</b>	<b>TOTAL EXTERNALS</b>	<b>TOTAL PC AUT.</b>
2007	278	708	986	192	58	0
2006	288	766	1054	226	47	1
2005	319	724	1043	251	48	2
2004	380	759	1139	306	69	4
2003	346	789	1135	286	58	3
2002	308	864	1172	245	48	1
2001	328	827	1155	246	49	2

**NATURAL DEATHS – 2007**

**NATURAL DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX**

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
00-11 (MOS)	3	1	4
01-10 (YRS)	0	0	0
11-20	0	0	0
21-30	1	0	1
31-40	7	2	9
41-50	13	6	19
51-60	21	3	24
61-70	8	4	12
71-80	7	6	13
81-90	2	6	8
91-100	3	4	7
101-105	0	0	0
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b>	65	32	97

**NATURAL DEATHS BY MONTH**

JAN	13	JUL	3
FEB	11	AUG	7
MAR	8	SEP	9
APR	8	OCT	6
MAY	4	NOV	10
JUN	12	DEC	6

**SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME – 2007**

MONTH	MALE	FEMALE	AGE
JUNE		X	1 MONTH
AUGUST	X		2 MONTH
SEPTEMBER	X		4 MONTH

**2007 TOTAL:** 3

**SIDS DEATHS IN RECENT YEARS**

2006	1
2005	3
2004	7
2003	7
2002	5
2001	1

## SIDS (BASIC FACTS)

SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), commonly known as “crib death,” is the number one cause of death in infants after the first week of life. SIDS is not a rare disease. SIDS causes approximately 6,000 to 7,000 babies to die each year in the United States. SIDS occurs in about two out of every 1,000 live births.

SIDS most commonly occurs in infants between the ages of four weeks and seven months, but occasionally an older or younger baby may die of SIDS, some even as old as 14 months.

A minor illness such as a common cold may precede the death, but many victims display no observable symptoms. A typical case is when an infant is put to bed without any suspicion that things are out of the ordinary. Upon checking the infant later, he or she is discovered unresponsive.

An autopsy may reveal, at most, a minor degree of inflammation of the upper respiratory tract, but no lesion sufficient to account for the death. Often the autopsy reveals absolutely no evidence of illness.

SIDS occurs among families of all social and economic strata. For the typical SIDS victim, there are currently no sure preventive measures to be taken.

**2007 – MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES**

OPERATORS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.....	27
PASSENGERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.....	9
PEDESTRIANS.....	8
MOTORCYCLIST.....	4
SCOOTER.....	1
BICYCLIST.....	1

**TOTAL: 50**

The Coroner’s Office as well as the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where a motor vehicle fatality occurs, conduct a thorough investigation. A suspected traffic fatality can sometimes be the end result of natural causes that can be determined in many cases at time of autopsy. The death may be determined to be a “natural” death due to a heart attack for example, as opposed to an “accidental” death from traumatic injuries as a result of a crash. A traffic fatality might also be ruled a suicide, accident or even a homicide.

**MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES – 2007**

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
0-11 (MOS)			
01-10 (YRS)			
11-20	3	2	5
21-30	11	3	14
31-40	4	2	6
41-50	7		7
51-60	3	5	8
61-70	4	1	5
71-80	3	5	8
81-90	3	1	4
91-100		1	1

**TOTAL: 50**

**BY MONTH**

JAN	4	JUL	4
FEB	5	AUG	6
MAR	6	SEP	6
APR	2	OCT	3
MAY	2	NOV	3
JUN	2	DEC	7



2007 – TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

**TOTAL ACCIDENTAL DEATHS: 45**

**BY ACCIDENT TYPE**

<b>GUNSHOT:</b> .....	1
<b>DROWNINGS:</b> .....	7
BATHTUB.....	2
SWIMMING POOL.....	1
HOT TUB.....	1
OCEAN.....	1
LAKE.....	1
SCUBA.....	1
<b>FALLS:</b> .....	15
DITCH.....	1
HOSPITAL.....	1
RESIDENCE.....	9
SIDEWALK.....	2
BANK.....	1
THERAPIST OFFICE.....	1
<b>OVERDOSE:</b> .....	20
ALCOHOL.....	4
ALCOHOL/DRUG.....	2
DRUG.....	1
DRUGS MULTIPLE.....	0
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.....	5
ILLICIT DRUGS.....	8
<b>MISCELLANEOUS:</b> .....	2
CHOKED ON MEAT.....	1
PINNED BY BULLDOZER.....	1

## 2007 – ACCIDENTS

### ACCIDENTS BY AGE AND SEX

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1-10(YRS)	1		1
11-20			
21-30	3	1	4
31-40	9		9
41-50	5	3	8
51-60	5	1	6
61-70	3	2	5
71-80	1	3	4
81-90	4	2	6
91-100	1	1	2

TOTAL: 45

### ACCIDENTS BY MONTH

JAN	2	JUL	1
FEB	5	AUG	5
MAR	4	SEP	4
APR	2	OCT	4
MAY	4	NOV	4
JUN	4	DEC	6

**TYPES OF HOMICIDES - 2007**

ASPHYXIA.....	3
GUNSHOT.....	21
STABBED.....	4
TRAUMA/BLUNT FORCE.....	3
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b> .....	31

**OF THE 31 HOMICIDE CASES, 11 WERE DETERMINED TO BE GANG RELATED**

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<b><u>TYPES OF HOMICIDES:</u></b>	<b><u>2001</u></b>	<b><u>2002</u></b>	<b><u>2003</u></b>	<b><u>2004</u></b>	<b><u>2005</u></b>	<b><u>2006</u></b>
DRUG INTOXICATION	0	0	0	1	0	0
ASPHYXIATION	0	0	0	2	2	2
ASSAULT	1	0	0	1	0	1
STABBING	4	2	2	2	4	4
GUNSHOT (GSW)	23	24	19	27	9	11
GSW/STABBED	1	0	0	4	0	0
UNDETERMINED	0	0	0	0	0	0
STRANGULATON	1	0	4	0	0	0
TRAUMA/BLUNT FORCE	3	0	0	3	3	1
RUN OVER BY CAR						1
<b><u>TOTAL HOMICIDES:</u></b>	33	26	27	40	18	20

**2007 – HOMICIDE VICTIMS BY AGE AND SEX**

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
0-11 (MOS)			
1-10			
11-20	7	1	8
21-30	8	2	10
31-40	4		4
41-50	2		2
51-60	4	1	5
61-70		1	1
71-80			
81-90	1		1

**TOTAL: 31**

**HOMICIDES BY MONTH**

JAN 2	JULY 3
FEB 2	AUG 1
MAR 2	SEP 1
APR 4	OCT 4
MAY 4	NOV 4
JUN 1	DEC 3

**SUICIDES - 2007**

**SUICIDES BY TYPE**

ASPHYXIA.....	4
DRUG OVERDOSE.....	9
GUNSHOT.....	15
HANGING.....	13
JUMPED.....	3
SMOKE INHALATION.....	1
VEHICLE.....	1

**TOTAL: 46**

**2007 SUICIDE VICTIMS BY AGE AND SEX**

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1-10 (YRS)			
11-20			
21-30	6	3	9
31-40	6	1	7
41-50	10	3	13
51-60	11	3	14
61-70		1	1
71-80			
81-90	2		2
<b><u>TOTAL: 46</u></b>			

**SUICIDES BY MONTH**

JAN 3	JUL 7
FEB 4	AUG 2
MAR 2	SEP 7
APR 3	OCT 2
MAY 4	NOV 4
JUN 4	DEC 4

**2007 - UNDETERMINED DEATH MODES**

<u>MONTH REPORTED</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>AGE</u>
FEBRUARY	M	84 YEARS
AUGUST	F	25 YEARS
OCTOBER	F	43 YEARS
NOVEMBER	M	55 YEARS
	M	42 YEARS

**TOTAL: 5**

**2007 - INDIGENT CREMATION**

JAN 1	MAY 1	SEP
FEB	JUN 1	OCT 1
MAR 1	JUL 1	NOV
APR	AUG	DEC

**TOTAL: 6**

\*By Monterey County resolution, cremation is the method of final disposition for indigent remains.

**INDIGENT CREMATIONS IN PREVIOUS YEARS**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2001	17
2002	13
2003	9
2004	13
2005	9
2006	9