

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORONER



2005

MIKE KANALAKIS
SHERIFF-CORONER

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

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SHERIFF-CORONER-PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

MIKE KANALAKIS

DIVISION COMMANDER

GREGORY CLARK

INVESTIGATIVE SERGEANT

STACIE MCGRADY

CORONER INVESTIGATORS

**THOMAS JENKINS ANDREW KOPICKI
ALFRED MARTINEZ J.D. DAVIDSON**

CORONER SECRETARIES

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FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST

JOHN R. HAIN, M.D.

FORENSIC TECHNICIAN

ANGELA FRAHER

TOXICOLOGY

CENTRAL VALLEY TOXICOLOGY

FORENSIC ODONTOLOGIST

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

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST

ALISON GALLOWAY

DEPUTY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

MARTHA HERNANDEZ

2005 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CORONER

In Monterey County, the Sheriff-Coroner and Public Administrator are 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 and one-half (1 ½) Coroner's Clerks. 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 a deceased person at any death scene, as well as the deceased's property, pending lawful disposition. In the year 2005, the Division's investigating Deputy Coroner's drove a total of approximately 35,000 miles in the course of their duties.

During the 2005 calendar year, 2239 deaths were recorded in Monterey County. Of these recorded deaths, 1043 were reported to the Coroner's Office pursuant to California Government Code Section 27491 and California Health and Safety Code Section 102850, which directs the Coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner and cause of those reportable deaths.

After investigation, 319 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 251 of these cases, it was necessary to perform a postmortem examination in order to determine the cause of death. The remaining 724 cases initially reported to the Coroner, with follow-up investigation, revealed the person expired of obvious "Natural" causes and were referred to their attending physician of record for certification of the 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 persons are listed with the Coroner's Records as either a John Doe or Jane Doe, depending on the sex. The dental records and x-rays are forwarded to the California State Department of Justice in Sacramento for possible future match with the dental records of reported missing persons. In 2005, the Coroner's Office investigated the deaths of 4 John Does with no John Doe's remaining unidentified. There were no Jane Does reported in 2005.

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

DEATHS REPORTABLE TO THE CORONER

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.

DEATHS REPORTABLE 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

2005

INVESTIGATIONS <u>CORONER</u>	INVESTIGATIONS <u>*PHYSICIAN CERTIFIED</u>	AUTOPSIES <u>PERFORMED</u>	INVESTIGATIONS <u>TOTAL</u>
JAN 28	68	19	96
FEB 36	55	35	92
MAR 24	62	17	86
APR 26	56	20	82
MAY 34	65	29	99
JUN 24	45	19	69
JUL 28	53	22	81
AUG 22	57	17	79
SEP 25	60	16	85
OCT 18	65	13	83
NOV 32	70	25	102
DEC 22	68	19	90
<u>TOTAL: 319</u>	724	251	1043

* After thorough investigation by the Coroner's Office, it was determined that these deaths were due to natural causes. The Attending Physician signed out the death certificates without them being completed as full Coroner's cases. Our office required no autopsies be conducted.

STATISTICS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005

	<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>
January	66	8	3	0	4	0	4	11	96
February	55	8	5	0	1	1	10	11	91
March	56	8	1	0	1	0	4	16	86
April	60	11	3	0	1	0	3	4	82
May	71	8	2	0	4	1	4	9	99
June	45	5	7	0	1	2	4	5	69
July	58	7	3	0	0	2	3	8	81
August	59	6	3	0	0	2	2	7	79
September	57	5	4	0	1	1	7	11	86
October	54	4	0	0	1	2	8	14	83
November	78	8	1	1	2	1	4	6	101
December	66	9	1	1	0	0	5	8	90
Totals	725	87	33	2	18	10	58	110	1043

GENERAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF DEATHS HANDLED BY THE CORONER

2005

NATURAL.....	108
SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS).....	3
MOTOR VEHICLE DEATHS.....	58
ACCIDENT.....	87
SUICIDE.....	33
HOMICIDE.....	18
UNDETERMINED.....	10
PENDING.....	2
<u>TOTAL:</u>	319

CORONER INVESTIGATIONS 1999 – 2005

CLASSIFICATIONS

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
NATURAL	108	118	105	102	121	118	115
SIDS	3	7	7	5	1	5	2
MOTOR VEHICLE	58	93	62	61	61	56	46
ACCIDENT	87	72	74	77	67	49	80
HOMICIDE	18	40	27	26	32	29	32
SUICIDE	33	38	61	28	34	21	27
UNDETERMINED	10	12	10	9	4	6	4
PENDING	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

INVESTIGATIONS

	CORONER CERTIFIED	PHYS. CERT.	TOTAL INVEST.	TOTAL AUTOPSIES	TOTAL EXTERNALS	TOTAL PC AUT.
2004	380	759	1139	306	69	2
2003	346	789	1135	286	58	3
2002	308	864	1172	245	48	1
2001	328	827	1155	246	49	2
2000	284	798	1082	232	29	1
1999	309	820	1129	273	12	8

NATURAL DEATHS – 2005

NATURAL DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
00-11 (MOS)	2	0	2
01-10 (YRS)	0	0	0
11-20	1	0	1
21-30	5	1	6
31-40	5	1	6
41-50	20	5	25
51-60	22	5	27
61-70	10	7	17
71-80	8	4	11
81-90	3	9	12
91-100	0	0	0

TOTAL: 108

NATURAL DEATHS BY MONTH

JAN	7	JUL	12
FEB	13	AUG	9
MAR	9	SEP	7
APR	8	OCT	3
MAY	15	NOV	13
JUN	7	DEC	5

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS) – 2005

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>AGE</u>
JANUARY	0	1	1 MONTH
MARCH	1	0	8 MONTHS
JULY	0	1	2 DAYS

TOTAL: 3

SIDS DEATHS IN RECENT YEARS

2004	7
2003	7
2002	5
2001	1
2000	5
1999	2

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 happens 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.

2005 – MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES

OPERATORS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.....	31
PASSENGERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.....	16
PEDESTRIANS.....	5
BICYCLIST.....	1
MOTORCYCLIST.....	4
WHEELCHAIR.....	1
TOTAL.....	58

The Coroner’s Office, as well as the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the fatality occurred, conduct a thorough investigation in cases of motor vehicle related fatalities. A suspected traffic fatality can sometimes be the result of natural causes which can be disclosed, in most cases, at time of autopsy as opposed to death by traumatic injuries. Also, a traffic fatality may be ruled a suicide, accident or homicide.

MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES – 2005

BY AGE AND SEX

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
0-11 (MOS)	0	0	0
01-10 (YRS)	0	0	0
11-20	9	7	16
21-30	13	2	15
31-40	3	2	5
41-50	4	2	6
51-60	5	4	9
61-70	1	2	3
71-80	3	1	4
81-90	0	0	0
91-100	0	0	0

TOTAL: 58

BY MONTH

JAN	4	JUL	3
FEB	10	AUG	2
MAR	4	SEP	7
APR	3	OCT	8
MAY	4	NOV	4
JUN	4	DEC	5

2005 – TRAFFIC FATALITY – ALCOHOL/DRUG TOXICOLOGY

The Coroner investigates suspected traffic fatalities. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 27491.25, the Coroner’s Pathologist takes available blood and urine samples from the deceased to make appropriate related chemical tests to determine the alcoholic and/or drug related derivative contents, if any, in the body. In some cases, the traffic victims are hospitalized for a lengthy period of time prior to expiration and therefore blood and urine samples are not available for testing.

ALCOHOL

Not tested: 1
Negative: 35
Alcohol present: 22

<u>ALCOHOL PRESENT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
.00 TO .05	2
.06 TO .09	2
.10 TO .15	7
.16 TO .20	5
.21 TO .30	4
.31 TO .40	2
.41 TO .50	0

VEHICLE RELATED DEATH - DRUG SCREENS

<u>Not tested:</u> 1	<u>Drugs Found:</u>
<u>Negative:</u> 40	delta-9-THC, Methamphetamine, Methadone
<u>Drug Positive</u> 17	Methadone, Cocaine, Diazepam, Citalopram, Diphenhydramine, Fluoxetine, Acetaminophen

2005 – TYPES OF FATAL ACCIDENTS

TOTAL ACCIDENTAL DEATHS: 87

BY ACCIDENT TYPE

ASPHYXIATION.....	5
ELECTROCUTION.....	3
THERAPEUTIC MISADVENTURE.....	1
DROWNINGS.....	10
BOATING (RIVER).....	2
POND.....	1
RIVER.....	2
SCUBA.....	3
BATHTUB.....	2
FALLS:.....	24
RESIDENCE.....	10
HORSE.....	1
CLIFF.....	1
SKILLED NURSING FACILITY.....	4
SIDEWALK.....	2
PARK.....	1
PARKING LOT.....	2
MOTEL.....	1
WHEELCHAIR.....	1
INDUSTRIAL (PALLETS).....	1
OVERDOSE:.....	43
ALCOHOL.....	2
ALCOHOL/DRUG.....	9
DRUGS MULTIPLE.....	17
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.....	15
UNDETERMINED.....	1

2005 – ACCIDENTS

ACCIDENTS BY AGE AND SEX

<u>AGE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
0-11 (MOS)	1	1	2
0-10 (YRS)	1	0	1
11-20	2	0	2
21-30	6	2	8
31- 40	13	1	14
41-50	15	4	19
51- 60	14	4	18
61-70	5	2	7
71- 80	2	1	3
81- 90	3	4	7
91-100	1	5	6

TOTAL: 87

ACCIDENTS BY MONTH

JAN	8	JUL	7
FEB	8	AUG	6
MAR	8	SEP	5
APR	11	OCT	4
MAY	7	NOV	9
JUN	5	DEC	9

TYPES OF HOMICIDES - 2005

ASPHYXIA.....	2
STABBED.....	3
GUNSHOT.....	9
STABBED/BEAT.....	1
TRAUMA-BLUNT FORCE.....	3
TOTAL.....	18

8 OF THE 18 HOMICIDE CASES WERE GANG RELATED

<u>TYPES OF HOMICIDES:</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
DRUG INTOXICATION	0	0	0	0	0	1
ASPHYXIATION	1	0	0	0	0	2
ASSAULT	0	0	1	0	0	1
STABBED	3	4	4	2	2	2
GUNSHOT	23	24	23	24	19	27
GSW/STABBED	0	0	1	0	0	4
MALNUTRITION	0	0	0	0	1	0
UNDETERMINED	1	0	0	0	0	0
STRANGULATON	1	1	1	0	4	0
TRAUMA/BLUNT FORCE	1	3	3	0	0	3
THERMAL BURN	0	0	0	0	1	0
<u>TOTAL HOMICIDES:</u>	29	32	33	26	27	40

2005 - HOMICIDES

HOMICIDES BY AGE AND SEX

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

TOTAL: 18

HOMICIDES BY MONTH

JAN	4	JUL	0
FEB	1	AUG	2
MAR	1	SEP	1
APR	1	OCT	1
MAY	4	NOV	2
JUN	1	DEC	0

2005 SUICIDES

SUICIDES BY TYPE

DROWNING..... 2

DRUG OVERDOSE (ILLICIT) 3

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS 1

GUNSHOT..... 11

HANGING..... 10

INCISED WOUNDS..... 1

POISONING..... 1

SMOTHERING..... 1

TRACTOR..... 1

VEHICLE..... 2

TOTAL: 33

2005 SUICIDES

BY AGE AND SEX

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

TOTAL: 33

SUICIDES BY MONTH

JAN	3	JUL	3
FEB	5	AUG	3
MAR	1	SEP	4
APR	3	OCT	0
MAY	2	NOV	1
JUN	7	DEC	1

UNDETERMINED MODES OF DEATH – 2005

<u>MONTH REPORTED</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>AGE</u>
FEBRUARY	F	89
MAY	F	58
JUNE	M	30
	M	30
JULY	F	15
	F	2 MONTHS
SEPTEMBER	M	34
OCTOBER	M	47
	M	38
NOVEMBER	M	2

TOTAL: 10

2005 INDIGENT CREMATIONS

BY MONTH

JAN	0	MAY	0	SEP	0
FEB	1	JUN	1	OCT	0
MAR	0	JUL	0	NOV	3
APR	1	AUG	2	DEC	1

TOTAL: 9

***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>
1998	26
1999	11
2000	20
2001	17
2002	13
2003	4
2004	13