1975–76, 1976–77

BIENNIAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner
County of Los Angeles

County of Los Angeles

BIENNIAL REPORT

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Thomas T. Noguchi, M.D.

Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

FISCAL YEARS

July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Peter F. Schabarum...First District
Kenneth Hahn.....Second District
Edmund D. Edelman....Third District
James A. Hayes.....Fourth District
Baxter Ward.....Fifth District

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Harry L. Hufford

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER
1104 NO. MISSION RD., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033
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(213) 226 8001 AFTER HOURS

THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, M.D.
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Gentlemen:

Submitted herewith is the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner's Biennial Report, covering fiscal years 1975-1976 and 1976-1977.

As the report indicates, the Department's heavy workload continued, but this has also been a period of change and considerable progress.

During this time, 117,911 deaths were recorded in Los Angeles County of which 31,767 were inquired into by this Office.

The Los Angeles County Department of Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner is regarded as one of the most effective and professional coroner's offices in the United States and is known throughout the world. This reputation is invaluable in maintaining our high level of scientific expertise through a close interchange of information and current developments in forensic science.

Our reputation also enables us to attract excellent personnel. Their hard work and enthusiasm is reflected in this report.

With the continuing support of the Board and the Chief Administrative Office, we will continue to progress in our unrelenting efforts to serve the people of Los Angeles County.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas T. Noguchi, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

TTN:vw
Enc.

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

It is difficult to account accurately for the early history of this Department. Our oldest records date from 1888, and the oldest budget on record is for 1954.

1850 - Coroner's Office was established. The law said little about jurisdiction or procedure, except that the Coroner must keep "records." The County population was 3,530.

1852 - Coroner's Office was merged as an ex-officio office under the Public Administrator.

1888 - The law defined what records the Coroner must keep and that this "Coroner's File" was to be a public record. The population of the County had grown to approximately 100,000.

1905 - Death certificates became required by law. Embalming was established as a practice by morticians enabling bodies to be held longer before examination. Inquests were the principal method by which the Coroner determined the cause, manner, and responsibility of death. Occasional autopsies were done where cause of death was unknown or where the presence of heavy metals, cyanide, strychnine, morphine, opium, and other poisons was suspected. As a result, the Coroner occasionally enlisted the services of a chemist. The population was now approximately 350,000.

1915 - Paperwork began to mount (e.g. Coroner's file, inquest records, photographs, autopsy and chemical analysis records, reports of certain deaths to various public agencies, etc.). Population was now at 700,000.

1916 to 1930 - This was a period of significant growth for the Department. A Central Coroner's Office was opened with facilities to process cases in a more desirable scientific environment. Autopsy tables, embalming tables, instruments, cameras, dark rooms, refrigeration, vehicles, inquest room, and routine office spaces were provided. The full-time staff increased to include autopsy surgeons, inquest deputies, deputy coroners, technicians, and a clerical staff. Inquests were still the main method by which cause and manner of death were determined. Testimony was sought as to the autopsy, chemical, and police investigative findings. Toxicological tests were performed by the County Health Department. In 1930, the population was 2,208,492, and the number of Coroner's cases was 3,894.

1942 - A toxicologist, his staff and laboratory were administratively transferred from the Health Department to the Coroner. Alcohol blood tests and other tests became almost routine for the Coroner to conduct. An increase

1942 - Cont'd in traffic deaths and occasional drug overdoses resulted in a growing workload for the Department. Questions arose involving liability, insurance payments, etc. which called for careful investigation on the part of the Coroner's staff. Population was now approximately 2,800,000, and Coroner's cases now numbered about 5,500 per year.

1956 - Los Angeles County voted a Charter Amendment which separated the Public Administrator and Coroner's Office. According to the new law the Coroner now had to be a Pathologist and the Department was designated "Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner." Due to the level of expertise increasingly demanded by the courts, the medical staff shifted from autopsy surgeons to forensic pathologists. Documentation of Coroner's work became more demanding as the judicial world changed. Identification, notification, and storage problems increased as larger and larger numbers of transient and migratory people began dying in the County. Narcotic and other deaths began to increase, calling for a larger number of autopsies on unembalmed bodies. This necessitated bringing more bodies into the Central Facility from "outside" districts. Population was now more than 5,000,000, and Coroner's cases were about 10,000 per year.

1961 - Drug deaths, suicides, homicides, and traffic deaths increased above normal population increases. New state law took effect stating that a death was reportable to the Coroner when a physician had not been in attendance during the 10 days prior to death. As a result of this law, approximately one-third more cases became reportable to the Coroner. Population was now over 6,000,000, and there were approximately 11,000 Coroner's cases per year.

1962 to 1970 - This was a period of civil disobedience and one in which the drug culture flourished. There occurred an alarming increase in homicides, suicides, and drug-involved deaths. Court time demanded by the District Attorney and Public Defender increased as well as their need, and the need of other agencies (e.g. law enforcement, insurance, etc.), for increased documentation of records, evidence, microscopic slides, tissue, photographs, x-rays, clothing, etc. Security and chain-of-evidence procedures were strengthened. In 1965 the Department established specialists/professionals in the investigation of Coroner's cases. These positions were entitled Coroner's Investigators. During this time the Department began experiencing a new demand--a demand for information. Requests came from local, state, and federal agencies, the press, educational institutions, private citizens, etc. These demands have continued and increased to the present time. By 1969 the population had increased to over 7,000,000, and the number of Coroner's cases increased to over 14,000.

1970 to 1972 - During this period the Department opened two substations. One in 1970 in Long Beach and a second in San Fernando Valley in 1972. In 1972 the Department moved into the new Forensic Science Center (Central Facility) on the grounds of the LAC/USC Medical Center. (See description, page 10.) At this time approximately 50% of the autopsies were performed in the Center and 50% in the mortuaries.

1973 - The Scanning Electron Microscopy Laboratory was established and began full operation.

1974 to 1977 - This was a period of increasing budgetary restrictions. As a result, the substations were closed in 1975. All autopsies in the County, with the exception of the upper desert, were now performed in the Forensic Science Center. The Coroner's Investigators were given authority to certify cause of death at mortuaries in those cases where an autopsy was not required. By law, the Department became responsible for investigating nursing home deaths. A new state law took effect stating that a death was reportable to the Coroner when a physician had not been in attendance during the 20 days prior to death (in 1961 it was 10 days prior to death). Whereas the County population stabilized at its 1969 level--approximately 7,000,000, the number of Coroner's cases increased to approximately 16,000.

Whereas the number of traffic deaths, drug deaths, and suicides decreased during that eight-year period, the number of homicides and accidents increased. Overall, the Coroner's workload increased due to an increase in the number of cases of a complex nature, particularly those involving new and exotic drugs, and to the additional effort required to satisfy the demands of the courts.

MAJOR SECTIONS OF LAW THAT DESCRIBE DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND AUTHORITY

JURISDICTION OF A DEATH BY THE CORONER

Government Code Section 27491

In substance, it shall be the duty of the Coroner to determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all deaths, other than natural. However, said section also requires that the Coroner take jurisdiction of all deaths occurring from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, deaths of those awaiting sentence, deaths from contagious disease that constitute a public hazard, and deaths from occupational disease or hazard.

Health & Safety Code Section 10250

This section requires that every physician, funeral director, or other person immediately notify the Coroner of certain specific types of deaths such as where suicide is suspected or that the death was suspected to have been caused by criminal means.

Health & Safety Code Section 10251

Places a duty upon the Coroner, when notified of those deaths set forth under 10250 of the Health & Safety Code, to ascertain as many as possible of the facts required by Chapter 5, Division 9, of the Health & Safety Code of the State of California.

AUTOPSY BY THE CORONER

Government Code Section 27491.4

Grants the Coroner the discretionary power to autopsy, analyze such things as stomach contents, blood, organs, et cetera, and requires said results and findings to be put in writing.

Government Code Section 27520

Requires that the Coroner shall perform an autopsy when requested to do so by the next-of-kin, even though the case originally was not a Coroner's case. However, it further provides that the cost of said autopsy shall be borne by said next-of-kin.

Health & Safety Code Section 7114

Sets forth under what circumstances persons other than the Coroner could be prosecuted for a misdeameanor if an autopsy is performed without authorization. States this section is not applicable to the Coroner.

California Labor Code No. 5706

The Labor Commission can require an autopsy by the Coroner on a case the commission is hearing and over which the Coroner has jurisdiction. If the Coroner has already autopsied or does not require one, the commission then has the right to order a reexamination or autopsy by a physician the commission names.

NON-AUTOPSY DUTIES WITH THE BODY

Government Code Section 27491.25

Provides that the Coroner shall run an alcohol and barbiturate level on all traffic deaths over 15 years of age who die within 24 hours. Gives the Coroner discretion to run the same tests to determine possible amphetamine level. Further provides that said tests shall also be run on persons 15 years of age or under if the surrounding circumstances indicate the possibility of alcohol, barbituric acid, and amphetamine derivative consumption.

Government Code Section 27471

Authorizes the Coroner under certain circumstances, to embalm a body and charge a fee of $100 for said embalming when prior permission of the next-of-kin has been obtained for said embalming. Without said permission he may charge a fee of $30. Restricts the complete application of this section to counties above a certain population.

Penal Code Section 11113

The Coroner shall furnish fingerprints on each Coroner's case to be sent to the State of California State Bureau of Identification and Investigation.

CORONER DOCUMENTS

Health & Safety Code Section 10252

The Coroner shall within 3 days after examining the body deliver the death certificate to the attending funeral director. Cause, antecedent causes, other significant conditions contributing to death, and such other medical and health section data as required, shall be completed.

Health & Safety Code Section 10410

The Coroner shall register with the local registrar all known data concerning the decedent.

Health & Safety Code Section 10411

Pertains to amending death certificates.

Government Code Section 27491.5 - Investigation Only

States in substance that the cause of death appearing on a death certificate shall be in conformity with the Coroner's findings. And further states how the Coroner may complete the death certificate without holding an inquest or autopsy.

Health & Safety Code Sections 10175,80,85,86, & 90

Fetal death registration. All fetal deaths that cannot be attested to by a physician, that have reached the 20th week of uterogestation will be certified by the Coroner.

Health & Safety Code Section 10203

States that the medical and health section data of the death certificate shall be certified by the Coroner.

Health & Safety Code Section 10204

The Coroner must certify the medical and health data listed on the certificate of death within 3 days after assuming jurisdiction over the decedent.

Government Code Section 27463

The Coroner shall keep an official register.

Government Code Section 27463.5

After the completion of the Coroner's investigation, the Coroner may photograph or microfilm said file and destroy the original copy.

Government Code Section 27491.4

Sets standards which Coroner must follow for inquiring into a Coroner's case.

PROPERTY

Government Code Section 27461

The Coroner may sell personal property to pay burial expenses if approved by the Superior Court.

Government Code Section 27462

The Coroner is to file with the Clerk of Court a statement showing the amount of property and the monetary result of the sale. If there is not sufficient property belonging to the estate to pay the burial expenses, the expenses are a legal charge against the County.

Government Code Section 27464

Any note, letter, document, etc. directing disposition of property or remains are to be filed with the County Clerk. A facsimile copy shall be placed in the Coroner's records and the original to the addressee. If an inquest be held, a true copy shall be read into the record and transcribed.

Government Code Section 27465

Within 30 days after an inquest, the Coroner shall deliver to the legal representatives of the deceased, any money or other property found upon the body.

Government Code Section 27466

Unclaimed property (found on decedent) after 30 days is to be sold and delivered to the Treasurer with an affidavit.

Government Code Section 27491.3

In any death into which the Coroner is to inquire, he may take charge of any and all personal effects, valuables and property at the scene of death, hold and safeguard until lawful disposition is made; lock and seal the premises, but not to interfere with law enforcement if under investigation.

INDIGENTS

Health & Safety Code Section 7104

No matter where death occurs, the Coroner shall inter decedents as indigent when no one can be found to claim the body, and if at the time of death the decedent can be proved a resident of the Coroner's County.

INQUESTS

Government Code Section 68092 & 68095

Sets forth standards for interpreters, translators fees, witness fees, and mileage fees for Coroner's jury.

Government Code Section 27491.6

Coroner must hold an inquest when requested to do so by: Sheriff, City Prosecutor, City Attorney, District Attorney, Attorney General, or Chief of Police in a City of a County in which the Coroner has jurisdiction.

In all other cases, however, Coroner may inquest at his discretion.

Government Code Section 27491.7

The Coroner, his authorized deputy, or a hearing officer shall conduct the inquest.

DISINTERMENTS

Government Code Section 27491.4

Pertains to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; possession of body; autopsy; exhumation; preservation of medical findings; record of death.

UNIFORM ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT

Health & Safety Code Sections 7150-7153.5

Pertains to gift of body tissue and/or organs, qualification to make such gifts and qualification to receive same.

AGENCIES TO NOTIFY

Government Code Section 27491.1

In deaths where criminal means are suspected, the police must be notified immediately by phone and supplied with a written report.

Vehicle Code, 20001l

A written report shall be sent to the Department of Highway Patrol before the 10th day of each month of all traffic fatalities and the circumstances.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER'S FACILITY

(FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER)

The Forensic Science Center, located at 1104 N. Mission Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90033, is a modern facility dedicated to the science of Forensic Medicine. The full-time staff numbers 130 employees.

The four-story, 55,000 sq. ft. building which houses the Center was dedicated in April 1972 and cost approximately three and one-half million ($3,500,000.00) dollars including equipment. Leased equipment brought the dollar value of the property much higher.

The building design and its instruments are unique because the total operation is tailored around a specific function--death investigation. For example, the facility contains a closed-circuit television system that works in relation to extremely tight security measures. The exterior doors of the Security Floor where the autopsies are performed permit exit only; only the elevator permits entry to this floor, and then one must have the appropriate key. Throughout the building, cameras scan the hallways and monitor all outside doors. The same TV system is tied into video tape- recording facilities and a microfilm system. Thus, part of the system can video tape medico-legal examinations and play back micro-filmed information on file in the building's library.

Still another part of the system is used to ease the shock to family and friends having to identify the deceased. The identifying person enters a room where the deceased is viewed on a color television screen. Experience has shown that this environment creates less emotional trauma for the viewer.

Among the more significant equipment housed in the facility is a scanning electron microscope which allows examination of specimens at magnifications up to 300,000 times. Other equipment includes the x-ray instrumentation with its accompanying hoists and special turning table which permits operation from virtually any angle; and an automated photo lab, which consists of printers, enlargers, processors, driers, etc. Approximately 100,000 photographic documents are produced each year.

In the laboratories on the Second Floor are the gas chromatographs, spectrometers and automated infra-red and ultra violet spectrophotometers, all used in the identification of toxic substances in blood and tissue.

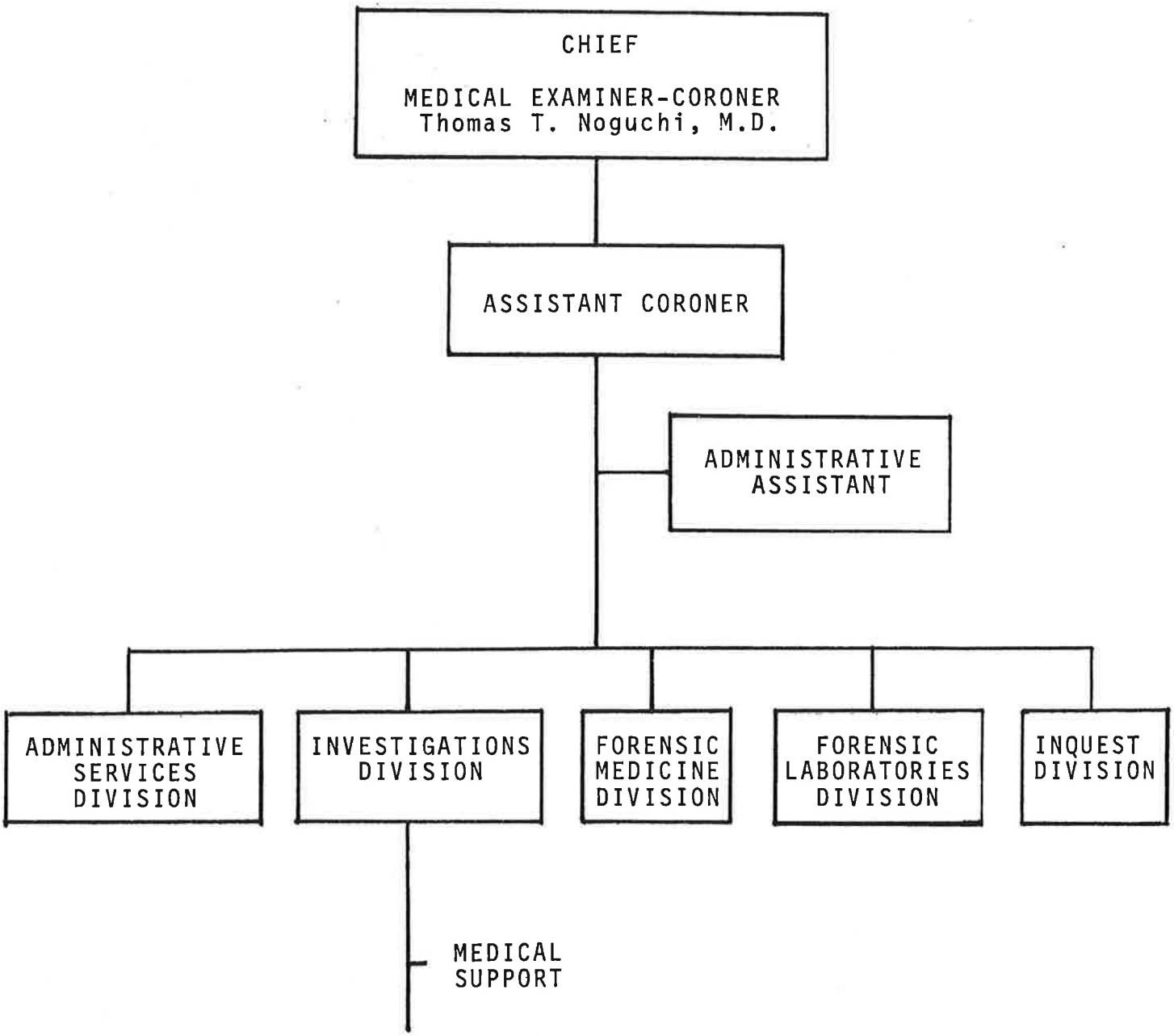
Depending on the function of a room, some doors within the building are opened by "seeing eye" light scanners and others have push button or elbow-high wall-plunger electric door openers.

An elaborate exhaust system is set into autopsy tables, as well as into walls and ceilings to help control disagreeable odors and unhealthy exposure to microorganisms. Some of these exhausts have the withdrawn air burned at roof-top level by incineration. This is particularly important when working with victims of highly contagious disease.

While three floors of the building are open only during business hours, the Security Floor is open 24-hours a day to handle the approximate 16,000 reported deaths in Los Angeles County yearly. Some 7,000 autopsies and postmortem examinations are performed in the Forensic Science Center to determine the cause and mode of death.

The Coroner's Inquest Division is located within the Criminal Courts Building, 210 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. It has a staff of three, to wit: the Chief of the Division, the Hearing Reporter, and Transcriber. It averages approximately eight to ten inquests per month which constitute an estimated 190 sessions a year.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE CHIEF
MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER'S OFFICE



CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

The Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner is responsible for investigating and determining the circumstances, manner, and cause of all sudden, violent, or unusual deaths which occur in the County of Los Angeles.

ASSISTANT CORONER

The Assistant Coroner is responsible to the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner for the administrative and operational functions of the Department, other than direct medical supervision. The Assistant Coroner is the Executive Officer of the Department and is in charge in the Department Head's absence.

INQUEST DIVISION

The Chief of the Inquest Division is responsible for setting, preparing, conducting, reporting, and transcribing all formal inquests heard in Los Angeles County. Inquests are set for hearing at the discretion of the Coroner, and also at the request of any of the individuals set forth under 27491.6 of the Government Code. The purpose of the inquest is to determine a mode of death when this cannot be properly accomplished without a formal hearing. Further, the inquest serves as a fact-finding process. Approximately two to four inquests are conducted each week. By law, the hearing must be open to the public.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for personnel, payroll, accounting, and procurement services; transcription of autopsy reports; sale of public documents; handling public inquiries; preparation and provision of case documents in response to subpoenas; control, maintenance, and microfilming of Coroner's permanent records; and the protective storage and proper release or disposal of personal property of decedents.

INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Investigation Division is responsible for the investigative operations of the Department of Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner. Its personnel work closely with all law enforcement and other governmental agencies in the on-the-scene medicolegal investigations of Coroner's cases. This division also assumes custody of personal property found on the person of the deceased, secures evidence, writes reports, takes at-scene photographs, and transports or causes to be transported to the Coroner's facility or specific mortuaries the cases coming under the Coroner's jurisdiction. Technical support services are in this division, such as photography, x-ray, and allied services.

FORENSIC MEDICINE DIVISION

The Forensic Medicine Division is responsible for the professional medical investigation and determination of the cause and mode of each death handled by the Department. The physicians in the Forensic Medicine Division are forensic pathologists who are experts in interpretation of sudden unexpected natural deaths, gunshot wounds, cutting and stabbing wounds, and patterns of blunt force injuries. The physicians are frequently called into court to explain their autopsy findings and interpretations, particularly in homicide cases.

FORENSIC LABORATORIES DIVISION

This Division consists of four sections:

Toxicology - This laboratory is responsible for conducting qualitative and quantitative analysis on blood and other tissue specimens and medical evidence to determine the presence or absence of poisons, drugs, or other chemicals.

Histopathology - This laboratory is responsible for processing tissues and preparing slides for microscopic examination.

Microanalysis - This laboratory is responsible for the examination of specimens such as gunshot residues, electrocution burns, toolmarks, and heavy metals in tissues, etc. by scanning electron microscopy and x-ray spectrophotometry.

Serology - This laboratory is responsible for blood typing, the testing of smears for seminal fluid, and the typing of saliva.

All laboratories are responsible for related duties such as the interpretation of various tests and testifying in court.

The statistical work of the Department is administered through this Division.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

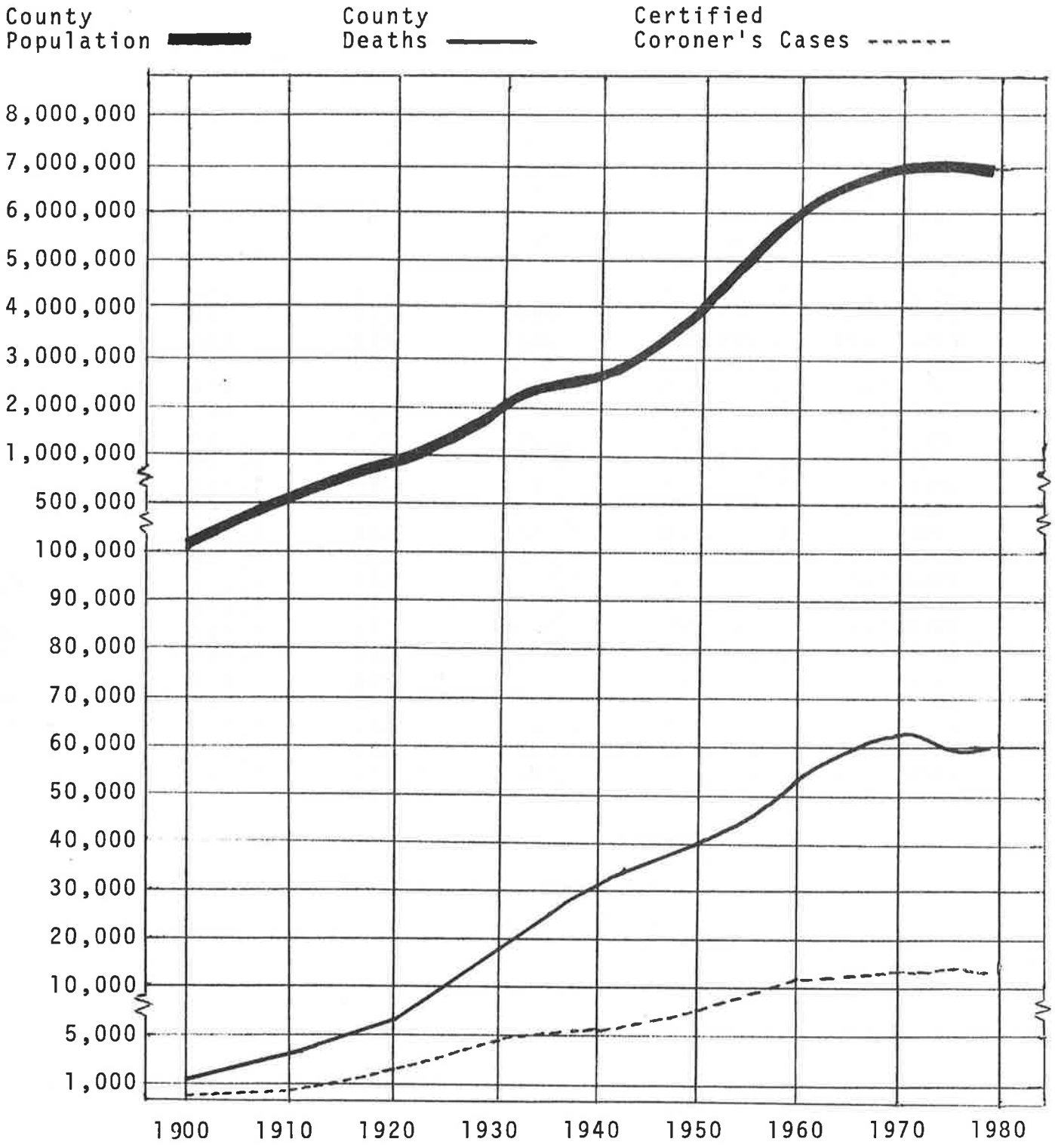
	July 1, 1975 June 30, 1976	July 1, 1975 June 30, 1976
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries & Employee Benefits	$2,237,117.00	$2,353,589.00
Services and Supplies	350,733.00	339,503.00
Fixed Assets	4,466.00	2,329.00
Total	$2,592,316.00	$2,695,421.00
INCOME		
Embalming Fees	$ 169,996.50	$ 113,000.12
Sale of Documents	40,937.86	12,365.93
Witness Fees	4,736.25	6,948.13
Grand Funds		19,449.00
Autopsies	4,302.98	4,403.79
Other Revenue	24,370.24	16,033.50
Total	$ 244,343.83	$ 172,200.47

COMPARISON STATISTICS 1900 - 1977

Year	Los Angeles County Population	Total County Deaths	Total Certified Coroner's Cases	Percentage of County Deaths Which are Coroner's Cases	Rate of Coroner's Cases per 100,000 Population
1900	170,298	*NA	339	*NA	199.1
1910	540,131	NA	646	NA	128.1
1920	936,455	NA	1,552	NA	165.7
1930	2,208,492	NA	3,894	NA	176.3
1940	2,785,643	31,068	5,456	17.56%	195.9
1950-51	4,172,220	40,602	7,774	19.15%	186.3
1955-56	5,085,864	48,258	9,450	19.58%	185.8
1960-61	6,068,148	54,307	10,825	19.93%	178.4
1965-66	6,814,000	59,638	13,128	22.01%	192.7
1970-71	7,032,075	62,561	13,715	21.92%	195.0
1971-72	7,090,452	62,194	13,238	21.29%	186.7
1972-73	7,098,826	61,575	13,241	21.50%	186.5
1973-74	7,000,679	61,008	15,148	24.83%	216.4
1974-75	6,992,299	59,973	15,735	26.24%	225.0
1975-76	7,018,603	58,955	15,030	25.49%	214.1
1976-77	7,042,538	57,353	13,515	23.56%	191.9

*NA - County death totals not available.

COMPARISON STATISTICS 1900-1977

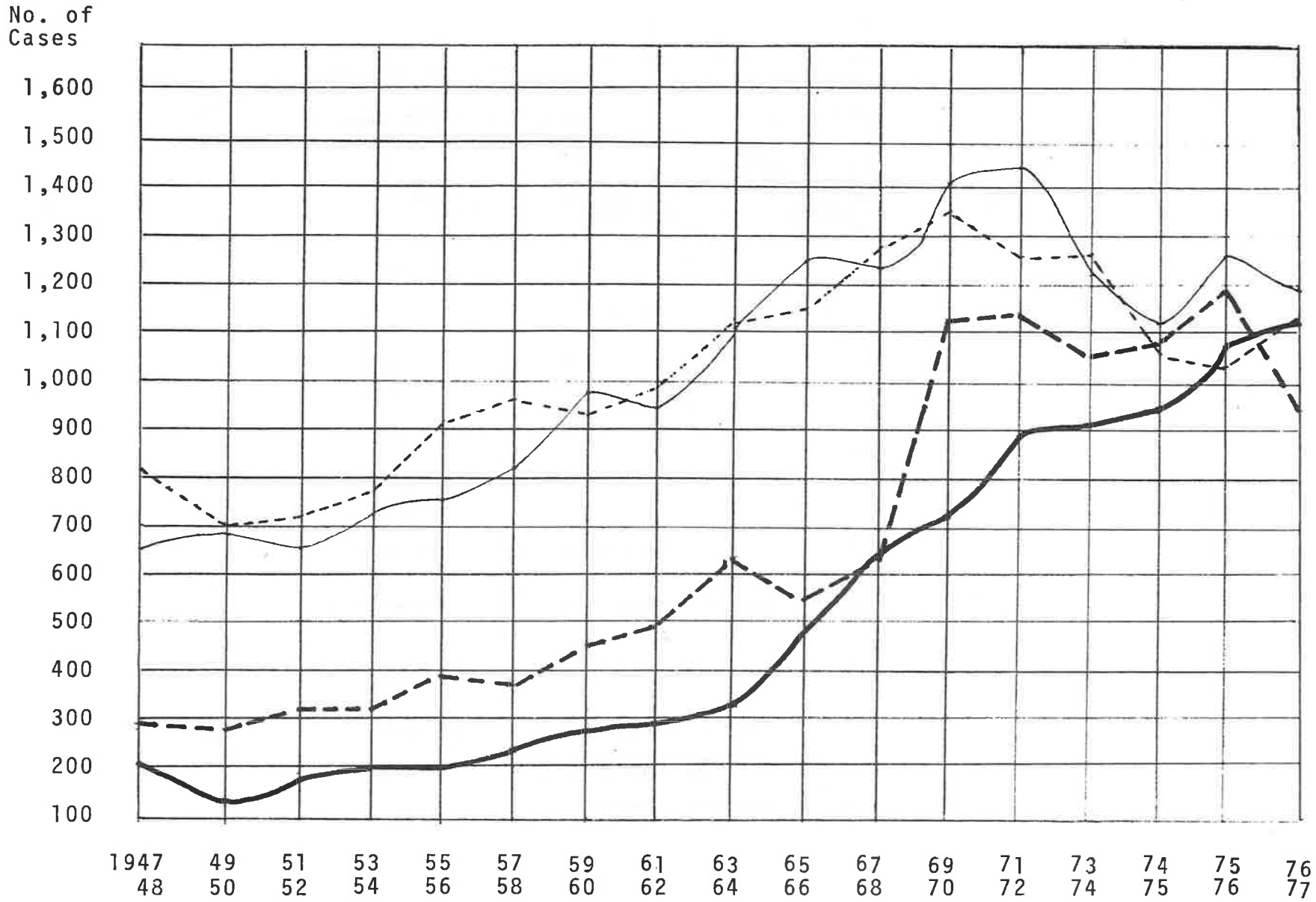


THIRTY-YEAR COMPARISON OF SOME SPECIFIC DEATHS

Fiscal Yr.	County Population	Suicides	Homicides	Vehicular Accidents	Drugs & Poisons
1947-1948	3,747,000	667	203	833	297
1948-1949	3,952,000	675	132	745	347
1949-1950	4,090,000	695	136	700	280
1950-1951	4,172,220	692	135	709	311
1951-1952	4,302,415	667	172	724	328
1952-1953	4,511,737	715	152	887	333
1953-1954	4,676,863	723	193	777	320
1954-1955	4,890,567	741	163	792	398
1955-1956	5,085,864	753	193	927	393
1956-1957	5,290,246	718	235	1,052	417
1957-1958	5,507,429	818	233	961	384
1958-1959	5,709,011	861	229	908	395
1959-1960	5,919,368	973	282	935	453
1960-1961	6,068,148	937	296	918	396
1961-1962	6,337,000	949	291	998	491
1962-1963	6,469,000	1,136	330	1,064	605
1963-1964	6,604,000	1,102	331	1,120	634
1964-1965	6,723,000	1,161	393	1,171	629
1965-1966	6,814,000	1,258	484	1,153	558
1966-1967	6,880,000	1,197	503	1,218	507
1967-1968	6,941,000	1,239	633	1,286	630
1968-1969	7,001,000	1,113	683	1,306	*1,044
1969-1970	7,044,721	1,407	718	1,344	1,139
1970-1971	7,032,075	1,519	782	1,154	1,359
1971-1972	7,090,452	1,442	897	1,261	1,152
1972-1973	7,098,826	1,332	966	1,218	1,045
1973-1974	7,000,679	1,225	902	1,262	1,060
1974-1975	6,992,299	1,022	944	1,060	1,080
1975-1976	7,018,603	1,263	1,083	1,039	1,195
1976-1977	7,042,538	1,196	1,125	1,133	943

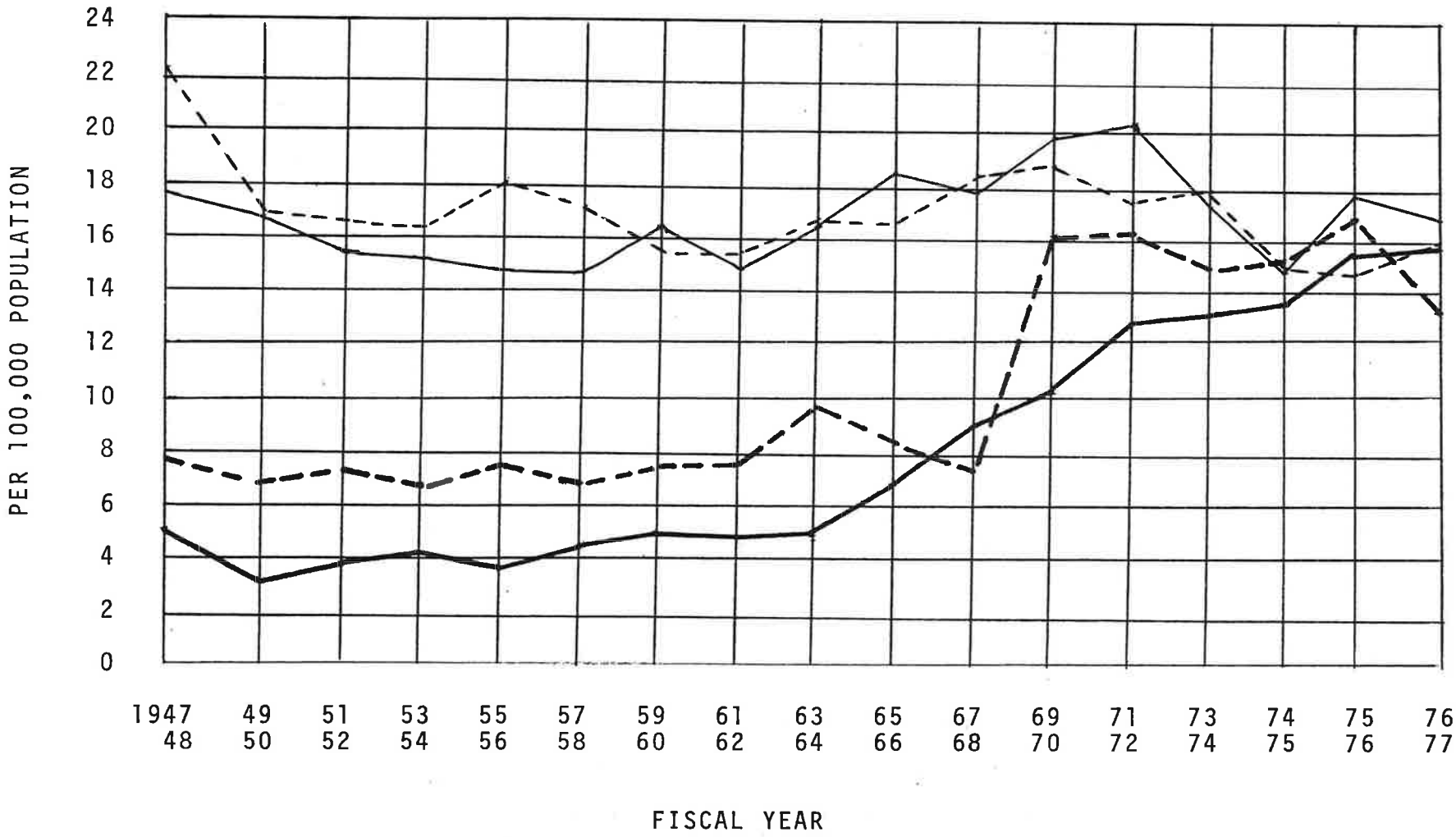
*Narcotics first reported in 1968.

THIRTY-YEAR COMPARISON OF SOME SPECIFIC DEATHS



THIRTY-YEAR RATES OF SOME SPECIFIC DEATHS

PER 100,000 POPULATION



WORKLOAD COMPARISON 1970-1977

Fiscal Yr.	Reported/ Investigated Cases	Certified Cases	Coroner Autopsies	Toxicology Tests	Histo-pathology Slides
1970-1971	13,821	13,715	7,534	20,419	14,845
1971-1972	13,981	13,238	6,342	27,312	10,891
1972-1973	17,658	13,241	6,321	36,581	11,008
1973-1974	19,102	15,148	6,615	37,904	9,560
1974-1975	16,423	15,735	6,937	45,623	12,507
1975-1976	16,182	15,030	7,139	49,431	16,153
1976-1977	15,549	13,515	6,443	45,607	13,079

INVESTIGATED DEATHS BY MONTH

July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Month	Natural	Suicide	Homicide	Accidents Excluding *Vehicular	Vehicular Accidents	Unde-ter-mined	Inquiry	Non-Coroner	TOTALS
July	695	99	93	222	87	1	-	73	1,270
August	708	125	95	193	78	1	-	76	1,276
September	688	98	88	218	107	2	18	105	1,324
October	750	93	106	233	83	6	1	112	1,384
November	756	103	93	186	99	6	8	95	1,346
December	843	111	87	193	80	6	27	88	1,435
January	929	94	102	176	87	2	-	26	1,416
February	836	85	82	169	73	4	-	64	1,313
March	895	107	77	186	89	3	-	92	1,449
April	753	115	69	193	90	5	-	94	1,319
May	658	109	92	182	78	3	-	130	1,252
June	758	124	99	181	88	5	33	110	1,398
TOTALS	9,269	1,263	1,083	2,332	1,039	44	87	1,065	16,182

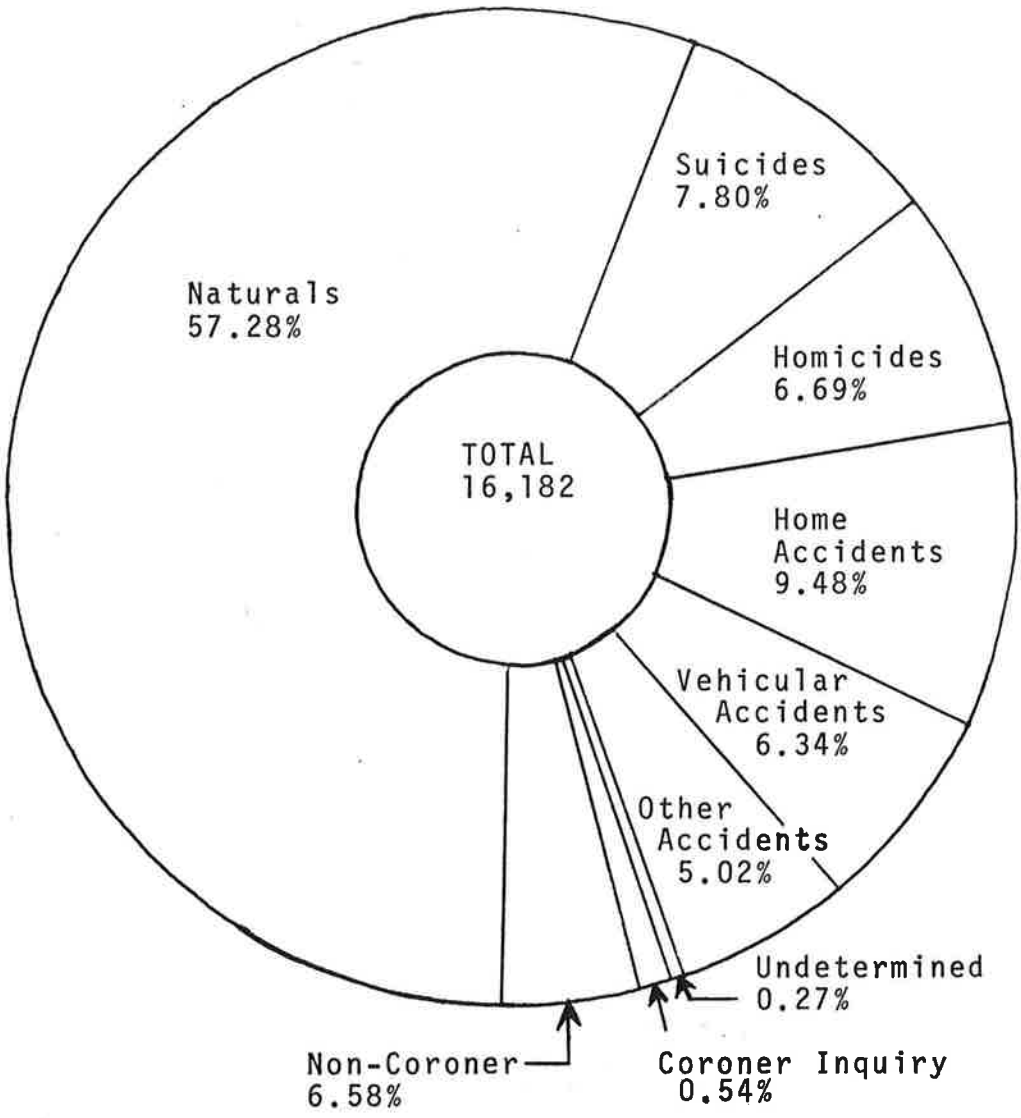
*Includes the 9 aircraft accidents.

CASELOAD AND POPULATION RATES
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Mode of Death	Total Cases Reported/Investigated	Percent of Total	Rate per 100,000 *Population
Naturals	9,269	57.28	132.0
Suicides	1,263	7.80	17.9
Homicides	1,083	6.69	15.4
Accidents	3,371	20.84	48.0
Home	(1,534)	(9.48)	(21.9)
Vehicular	(1,025)	(6.34)	(14.6)
Occupational	(60)	(0.37)	(0.9)
Therapeutic	(39)	(0.24)	(0.5)
Railway	(14)	(0.09)	(0.2)
Aircraft	(9)	(0.06)	(0.1)
Other	(690)	(4.26)	(9.8)
Undetermined	44	0.27	0.6
Coroner Inquiry	87	0.54	1.2
Non-Coroner	1,065	6.58	15.1
TOTAL	16,182	100.00%	230.2

*Based on the Los Angeles County population of 7,018,603 residents (January 1, 1976, population estimate Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department/Population and Human Resources).

MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER CASELOAD
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976



TOTAL CASES BY AGE GROUP, SEX, AND MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

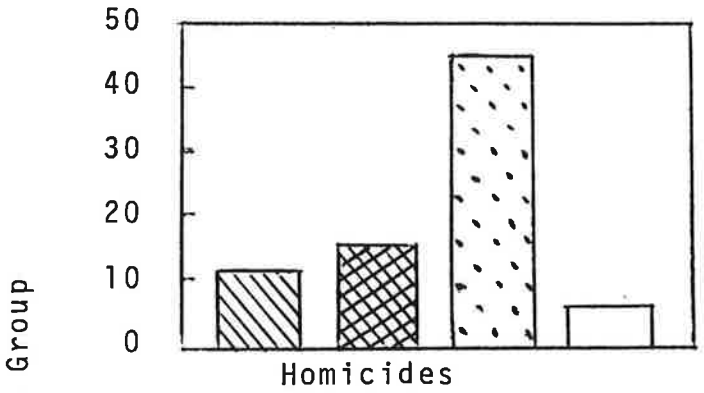
Mode of Death	Sex	AGE GROUPS									Sub Total	Total
		0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unknown Age		
	M											
*Naturals	F											9269
	M	1	47	209	139	131	138	87	80		832	
Suicides	F		16	87	70	82	79	52	45		431	1263
	M	19	107	306	162	100	87	34	26	1	842	
Homicides	F	17	20	63	46	22	26	20	27		241	1083
ACCIDENTS: Vehicular	M	61	122	230	94	66	70	47	70		760	
	F	32	29	52	28	24	25	35	54		279	1039
Aircraft	M		1		2	1	5				9	9
	F											
	M	62	81	352	225	139	139	130	273		1401	
Other	F	44	32	119	80	62	68	76	441		922	2323
Undetermined	M	4	4	7	2	1	1			1	20	
	F	3		9	3	4	3			1	23	
	U									1	1	44
	M	147	362	1104	624	438	440	298	449	2	3864	
SUB TOTAL	F	96	97	330	227	194	201	183	567	1	1896	5761
	U									1	1	
TOTAL		243	459	1434	851	632	641	481	1016	4	5761	15050

*Natural deaths were not tabulated as to age, sex, race, or cause.

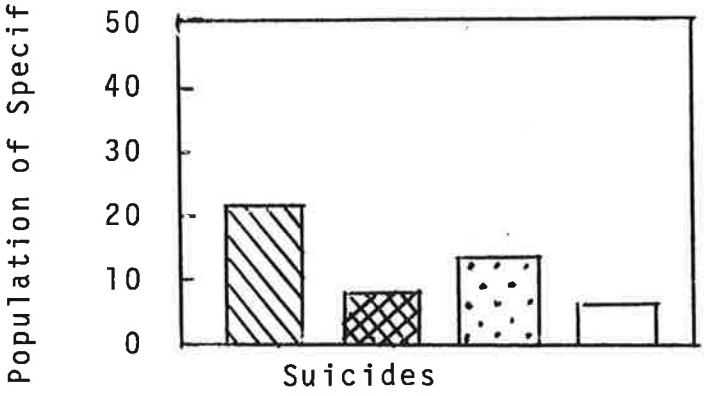
LOS ANGELES COUNTY POPULATION & ETHNIC CLASSIFICATION
July 1975 - June 1976

Ethnic Group	LA County Population	*Percent of Total
White	4,244,851	60%
Spanish Surname	1,657,794	24%
Black (Negro)	833,810	12%
Other Minorities	282,148	4%
TOTAL	7,018,603	100%

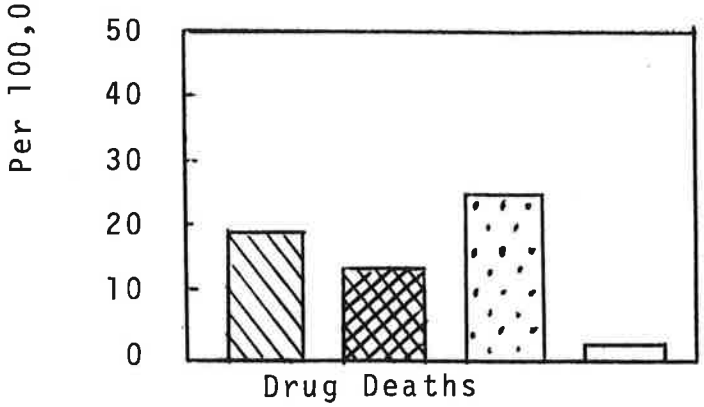
*Estimated update of census obtained from the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission.



White	475
Spanish Surname	201
Black	388
Other	19
TOTAL	1,083



White	1,053
Spanish Surname	98
Black	93
Other	19
TOTAL	1,263



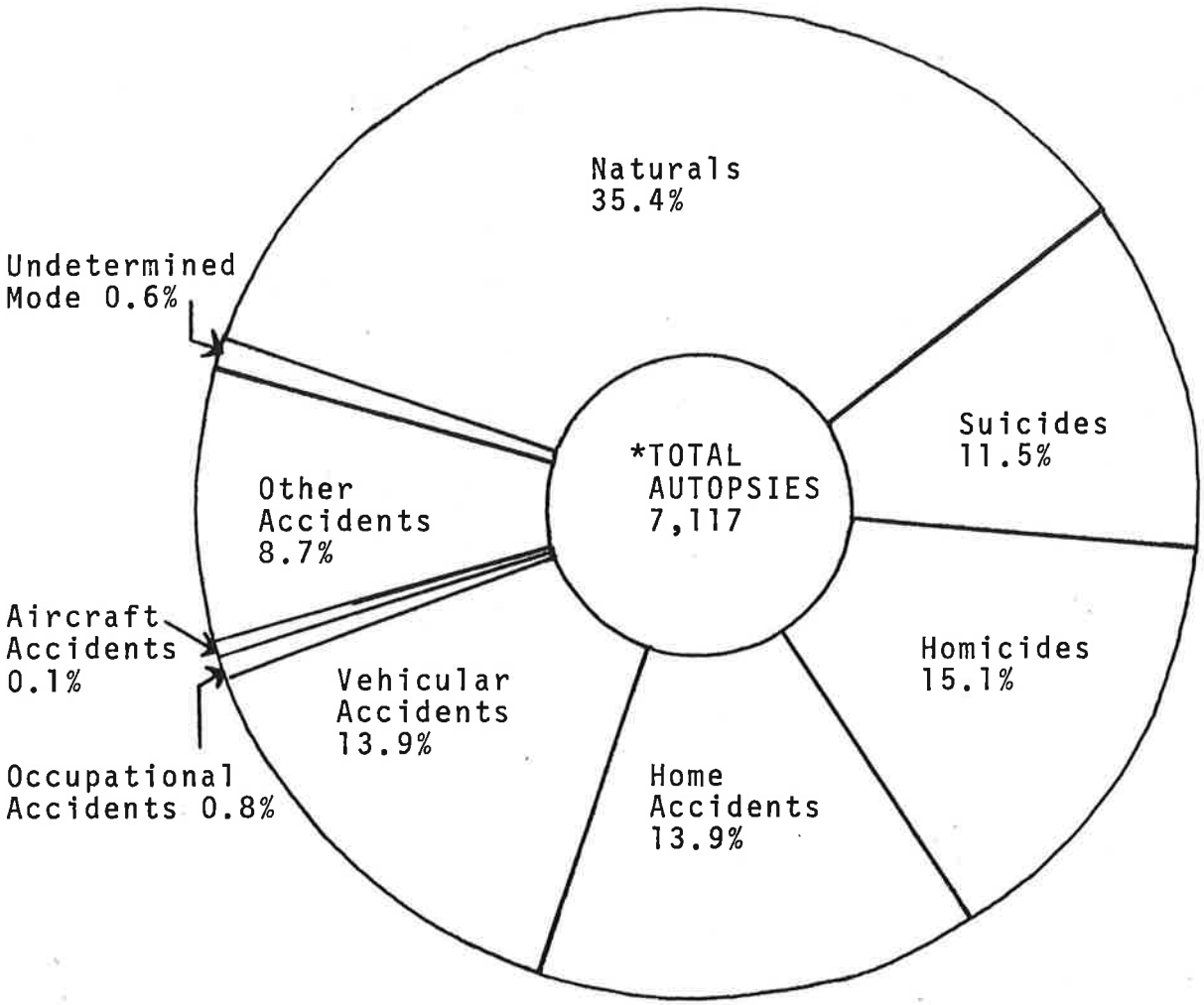
White	830
Spanish Surname	179
Black	181
Other	5
TOTAL	1,195

AUTOPSIED CASES BY MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Mode of Death	Total Cases as Certified	Number Autopsied	Percent Autopsied of Specific Mode	Percent of Total Autopsied
Naturals	9,269	2,517	27.2	35.4
Suicides	1,263	819	64.8	11.5
Homicides	1,083	1,074	99.2	15.1
Accidents	3,371	2,664	79.0	37.4
Home	(1,534)	(991)	(64.6)	(13.9)
Vehicular	(1,039)	(990)	(95.3)	(13.9)
Occupational	(60)	(58)	(96.7)	(0.8)
Aircraft	(9)	(9)	(100.0)	(0.1)
Other	(729)	(616)	(84.5)	(8.7)
Undetermined	44	43	97.7	0.6
TOTAL	15,030	7,117	47.4%	100.0%

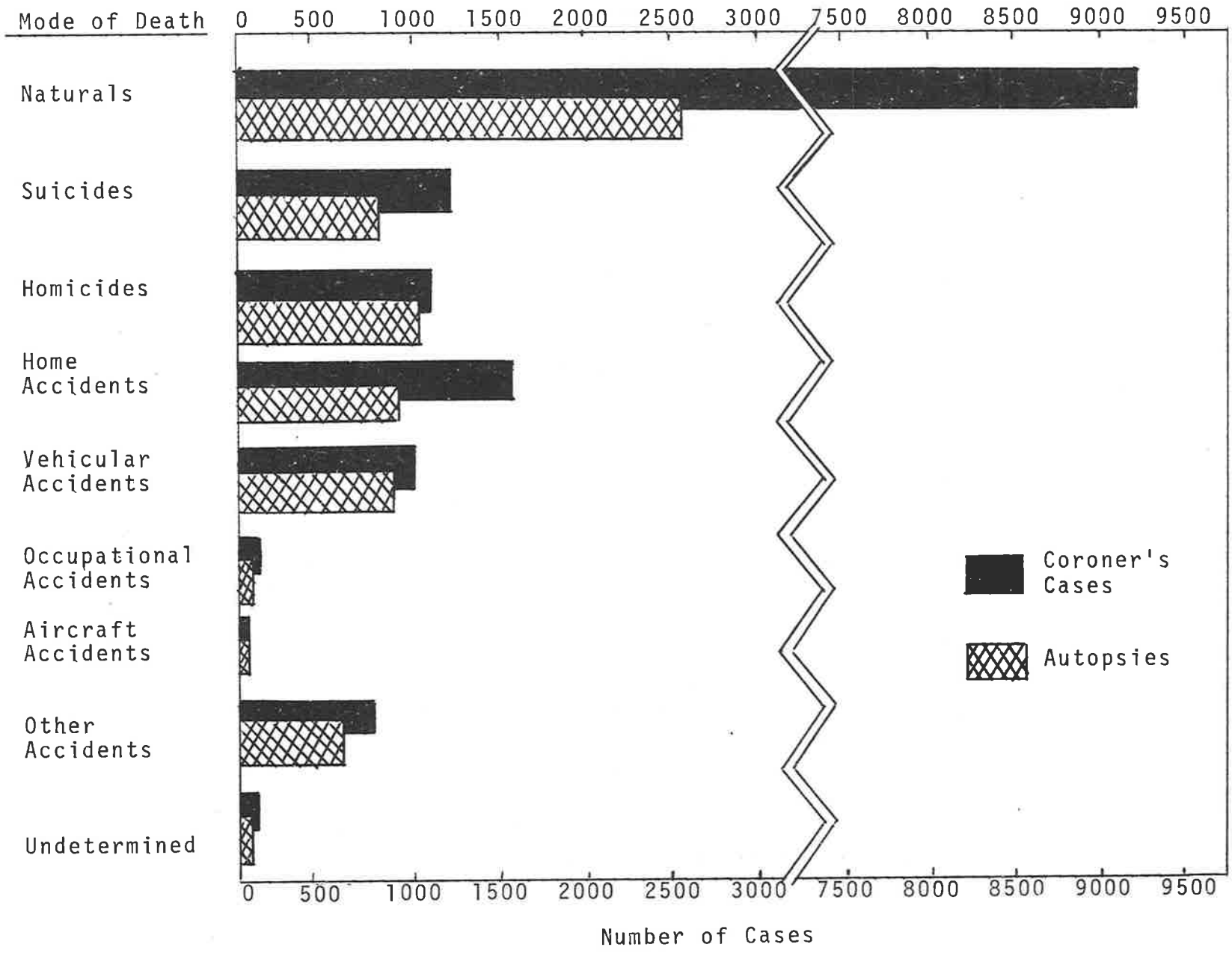
Total private autopsies handled in addition to regular caseload	22
TOTAL autopsies for year	7,139

AUTOPSIED CASES BY MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

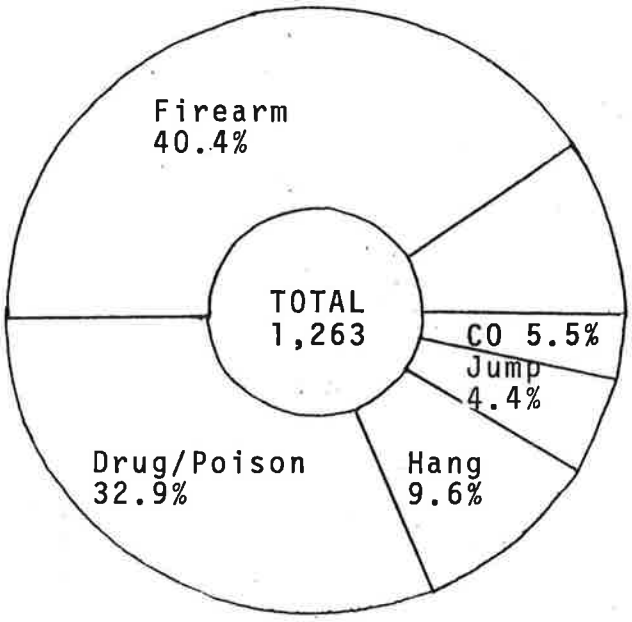


*An additional 22 private autopsies not included in total.

AUTOPSIES AND CORONER'S CASES BY MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976



SUICIDES
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

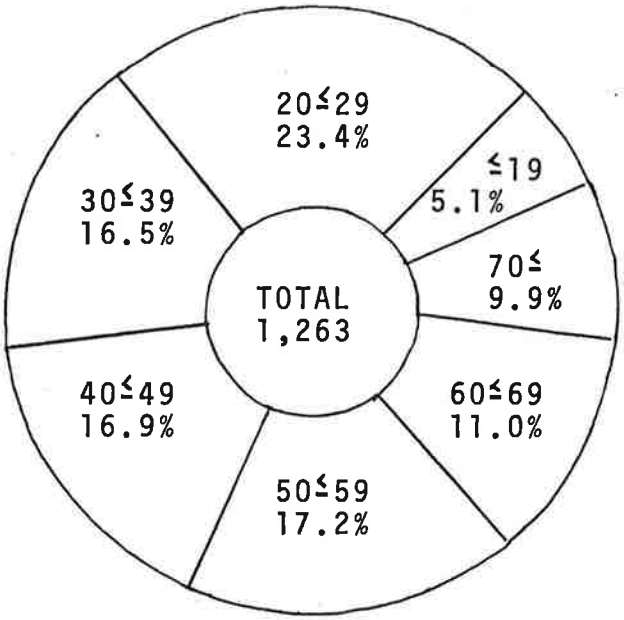


METHOD OF SUICIDE

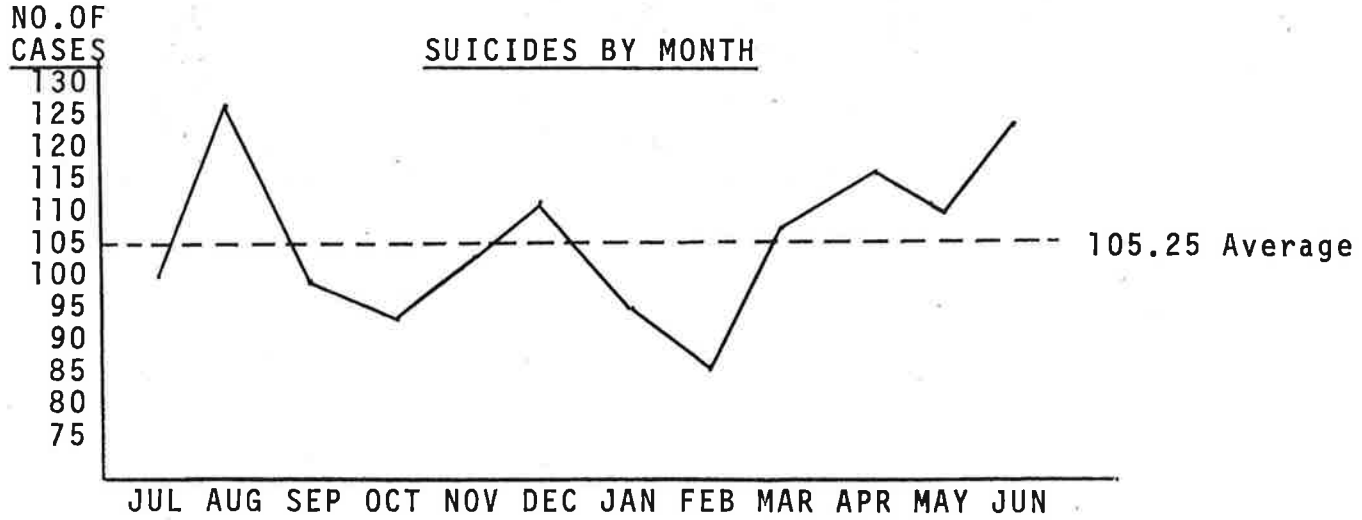
Firearm	510
Drug/Poison	416
Hanging	121
Jumping	56
Carbon Monoxide	69
Other	91
TOTAL	1,263

AGE GROUPS

≤ 19	64
20 ≤ 29	296
30 ≤ 39	209
40 ≤ 49	213
50 ≤ 59	217
60 ≤ 69	139
70 ≤	125
TOTAL	1,263



SUICIDES BY MONTH



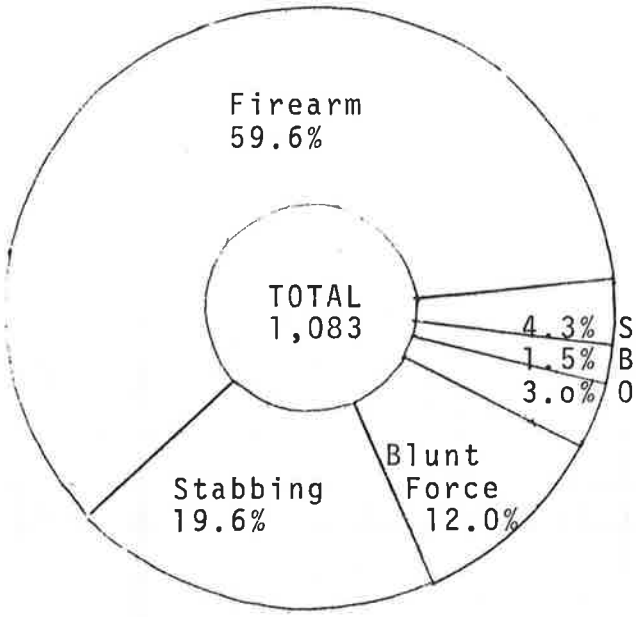
SUICIDES
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Type of Suicide	Sex	AGE GROUPS									Sub Total	Total
		0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤ 79	80 ≤		
Firearms	M	1	32	108	69	62	71	39	28	9	419	510
	F		5	25	18	15	11	11	6		91	
Drugs/ Poisons	M		3	39	31	30	29	20	14	2	168	416
	F		9	46	39	49	54	28	13	10	248	
Hanging	M		9	24	17	15	16	12	3	3	99	121
	F		1	3	6	3	2	3	2	2	22	
Jumping	M		1	13	5	2	4	2	4	1	32	56
	F			9	2	4	3	2	2	2	24	
Carbon Monoxide Auto	M			11	5	12	10	2	2		42	60
	F			1	5	5	3	3	1		18	
Drown- ings	M			4	1	1	1		2		9	16
	F			1		1	1	2	1	1	7	
Suffoca- tions	M			5	2	1		2	1	3	14	25
	F		1				3	3		4	11	
Sharp Instru- ment	M			2	3	5	5	4	4	1	24	28
	F					2	1		1		4	
Burns	M		2		3	1		2	1		9	12
	F			1		2					3	
Vehicle	M			1	2		1	3		1	8	10
	F			1		1					2	
Carbon Monoxide Other	M			2	1	2	1	1	1		8	9
	F						1				1	
Sub Total	M	1	47	209	139	131	138	87	60	20	832	1,263
	F		16	87	70	82	79	52	26	19	431	
TOTAL		1	63	296	209	213	217	139	86	39	1,263	

SUICIDES
(Ethnic group, Sex, and Type)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Method of Suicide	White		Spanish Surname		Black		Japa-nese		Chi-nese		Other		Sub Total		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Firearms	346	76	32	6	36	9	2		1		2		419	91	510
Drugs: Barbs	67	117	8	9	4	8	1			1			80	135	215
Narco	10	5				1							10	6	16
Barbs & Narco		1												1	1
Other Drugs	61	91	4	4	4	7							69	102	171
Poisons	7	4	1				1						9	4	13
Hanging	75	18	12	1	10		1			2	1	1	99	22	121
Jumping	23	18	5	2	3	2	1	1				1	32	24	56
Carbon Monoxide Vehicle	40	15	2	1		1				1			42	18	60
Carbon Monoxide Other	6	1	1		1								8	1	9
Drown	8	5		2	1								9	7	16
Suffo-cation	10	11	1		2						1		14	11	25
Sharp Instrument	18	4	6										24	4	28
Burn	8	2			1	1							9	3	12
Vehicle	4	2	1		2						1		8	2	10
Sub Total	683	370	73	25	64	29	6	1	1	4	5	2	832	431	1,263
TOTAL	1,053		98		93		7		5		7		1,263		

HOMICIDES
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

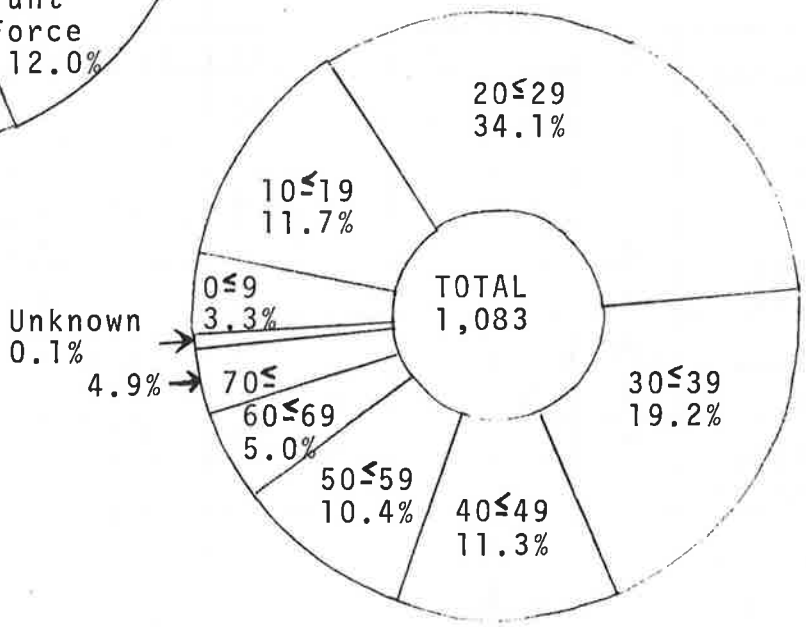


METHOD OF HOMICIDE

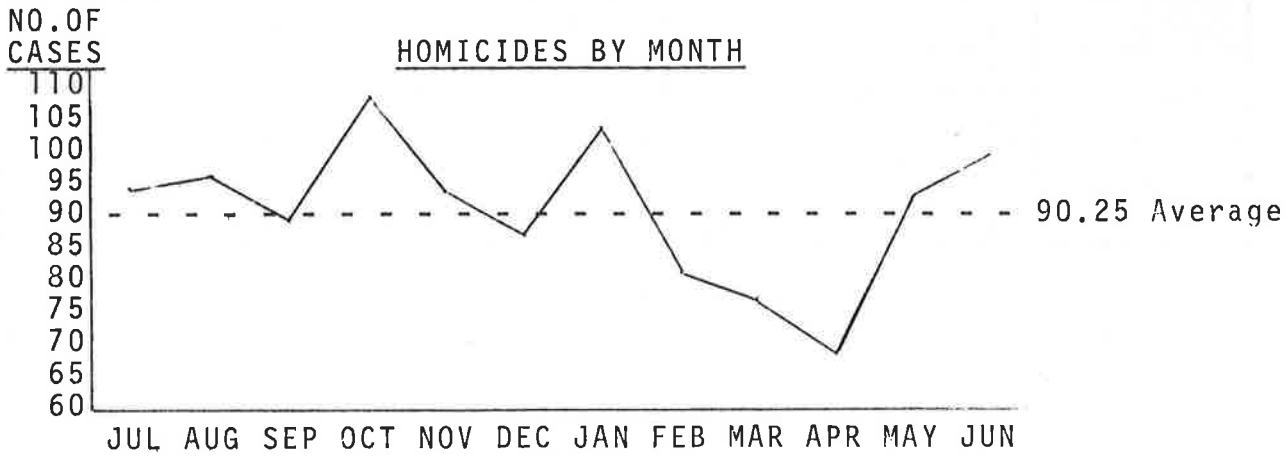
Firearm	646
Stabbing	212
Blunt Force	130
Strangulation	47
Battered Child	16
Other	32
TOTAL	1,083

AGE GROUPS

0 ≤ 9	36
10 ≤ 19	127
20 ≤ 29	369
30 ≤ 39	208
40 ≤ 49	122
50 ≤ 59	113
60 ≤ 69	54
70 ≤	53
Unknown	1
TOTAL	1,083



HOMICIDES BY MONTH



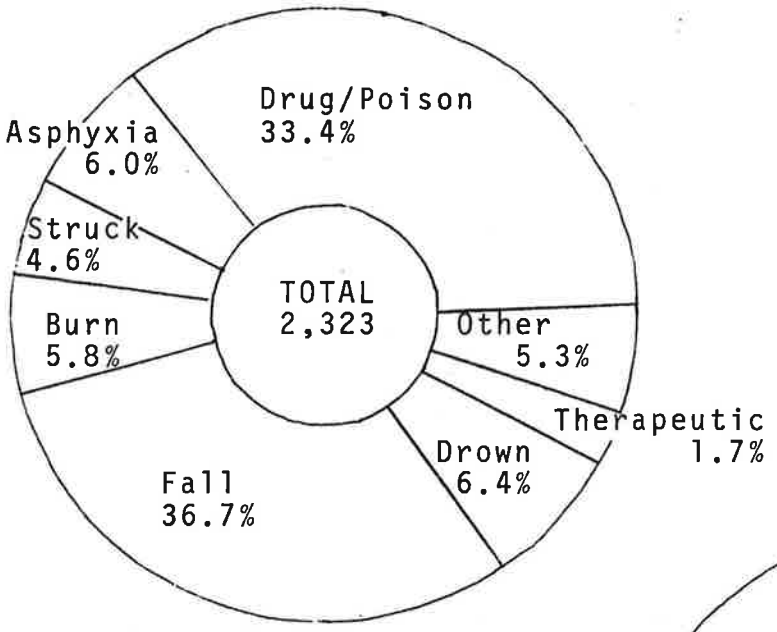
HOMICIDES
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

		AGE GROUP										
Type of Homicide	Sex	0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk.	Sub Total	Total
Firearms	M	4	88	219	106	61	45	16	9	1	549	646
	F	3	8	30	25	9	12	9	1		97	
Stabbings	M	1	10	63	41	19	17	6	4		161	212
	F	1	3	18	10	6	2	3	8		51	
Blunt Force/ Assault	M	3	7	17	9	18	21	10	12		97	130
	F	4	2	4	4	3	2	3	11		33	
Strangulation	M			2	1	1	2	1	1		8	47
	F	1	4	7	5	4	8	4	6		39	
Suffocation	M				1						1	4
	F	1		1				1			3	
Vehicle Involved	M			3	1	1					5	7
	F		1				1				2	
Drownings	M											1
	F			1							1	
Battered Child	M	9									9	16
	F	7									7	
Other	M	2	2	2	3		2	1			12	20
	F		2	2	2		1		1		8	
Sub-Total	M	19	107	306	162	100	87	34	26	1	842	1083
	F	17	20	63	46	22	26	20	27		241	
TOTAL		36	127	369	208	122	113	54	53	1	1083	1083

HOMICIDES
(Type and Ethnic Group)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Type of Homicide	White	Black	Spanish Surname	Chinese	Japanese	Other	Total
Firearms	241	249	145	-	2	9	646
Stabbings	98	77	34	1	-	2	212
Blunt Force Assault	79	33	13	1	1	3	130
Strangulation	33	11	3	-	-	-	47
Burns	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
Suffocation	3	-	1	-	-	-	4
Involved Vehicle	5	2	-	-	-	-	7
Drownings	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Battered Child	6	7	3	-	-	-	16
Other	9	9	2	-	-	-	20
TOTAL	475	388	201	2	3	14	1,083

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

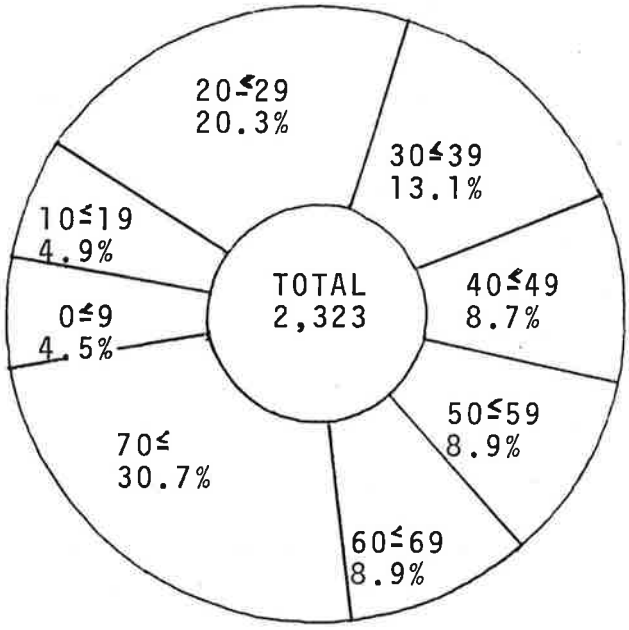


TYPE OF ACCIDENTS

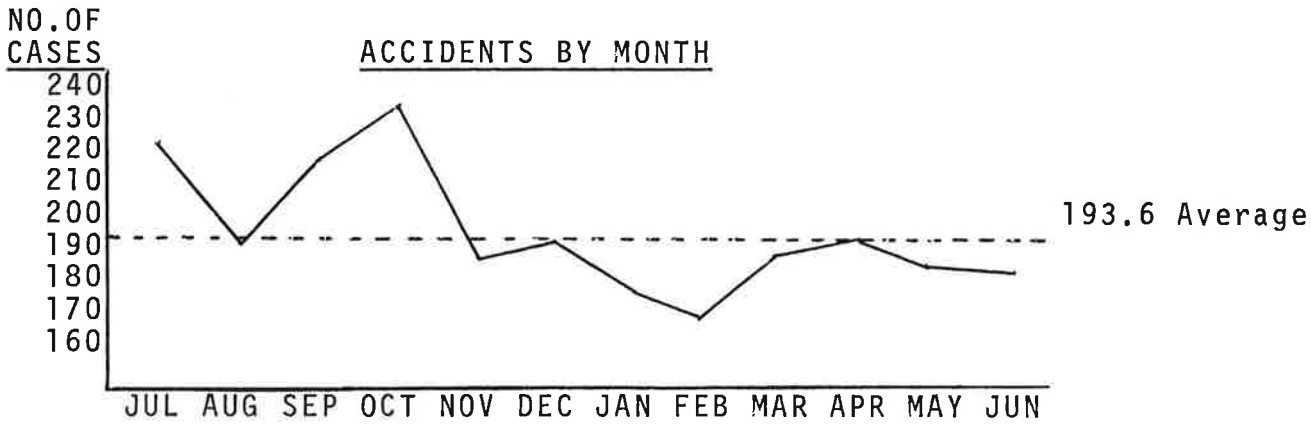
Fall	853
Drug/Poison	776
Drowning	149
Aspiration/ Asphyxia	140
Struck/Crush/ Blunt Injury	107
Burn	136
Therapeutic	39
Other	123
TOTAL	2,323

AGE GROUPS

0 ≤ 9	106
10 ≤ 19	113
20 ≤ 29	471
30 ≤ 39	305
40 ≤ 49	201
50 ≤ 59	207
60 ≤ 69	206
70 ≤	714
TOTAL	2,323



ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



ACCIDENTAL DEATHS
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Type of Accident	Home	Occupational	Other Locations	Total
Aspiration-Food	47	-	17	64
Aspiration-Foreign Body	13	-	5	18
Mechanical Suffocation	5		3	8
Hanging	9			9
Struck by Objects	3	3	4	10
Crushed by Objects	7	9	5	21
Burns	118	7	11	136
Carbon Monoxide	50	1	7	58
Falls	628	7	218	853
Drownings	104	-	45	149
Electrocutions	7	1	2	10
Explosions	2	9	6	17
Cut or Puncture	3	1	1	5
Firearms	18	-	8	26
Blunt Force	18	4	54	76
Drugs	494	-	278	772
Poisons	-	-	4	4
Therapeutic	-	-	39	39
Industrial Fumes, Dust	-	18	-	18
Other	8	-	22	30
TOTAL	1,534	60	729	2,323

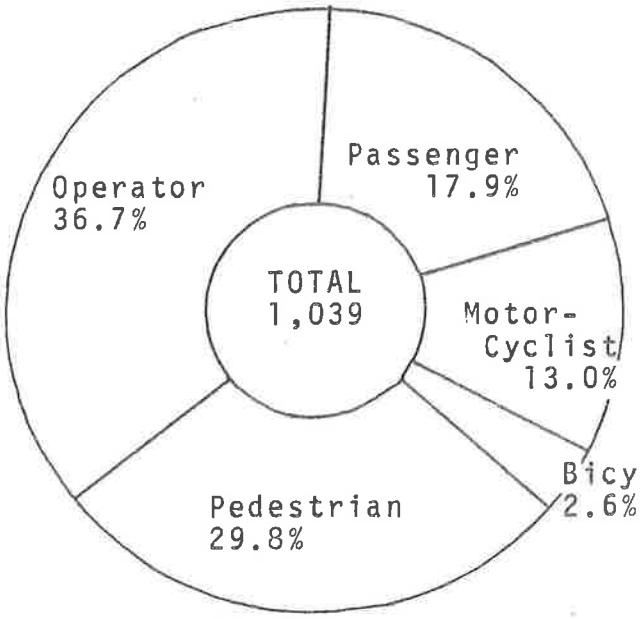
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Type of Accident	Sex	AGE GROUPS 0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk.	Sub Total	Total
Aspiration Asphyxia/ CO	M	12	6	11	13	12	11	16	11		92	140
	F	7	3	5	3	2	7	8	13		48	
Suffocation/ Hanging	M	5	2	3	1	1		1			13	17
	F	1		1					2		4	
Struck/ Crushed & Blunt Tr.	M	5	2	15	14	10	24	10	6		86	107
	F	1	1		1	3	4	4	7		21	
Burns	M	5	2	11	9	7	13	18	14		79	136
	F	7	3	5	1	3	6	16	16		57	
Falls	M	4	9	19	17	29	47	54	217		396	853
	F		3	2	9	7	17	32	387		457	
Drownings	M	25	17	20	9	7	10	7	2		97	149
	F	18	4	11	6	2	4	2	5		52	
Electrocutions	M	1		1	1	2	2		1		8	10
	F	2									2	
Explosions	M			2	4	3	2	1			12	17
	F	1				1		2	1		5	
Firearms	M	1	5	8	3	3		1	3		24	26
	F			2							2	
Drugs/ Poisons	M	3	33	262	150	59	19	9	4		539	776
	F	4	16	86	55	39	23	9	5		237	
Therapeutic	M				1	1	5	7	2		16	39
	F	1	1	5	5	3	6		2		23	
Other	M	1	5		3	5	6	6	13		39	53
	F	2	1	2		2	1	3	3		14	
Sub-Total	M	62	81	352	225	139	139	130	273		1401	2323
	F	44	32	119	80	62	68	76	441		922	
TOTAL		106	113	471	305	201	207	206	714		2323	

ACCIDENTAL DROWNINGS
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Place of Drowning	Number of Deaths
Swimming Pool	83
Bathtub	27
Ocean - Swimming	6
Boat Fatality	7
Slipped from Rocks Near Ocean Shore	1
River	1
Reservoir	6
Lake	8
Fell from Dock	2
Scuba Diving	3
Vehicle into Ocean	2
Found Floating	3
TOTAL	149

VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

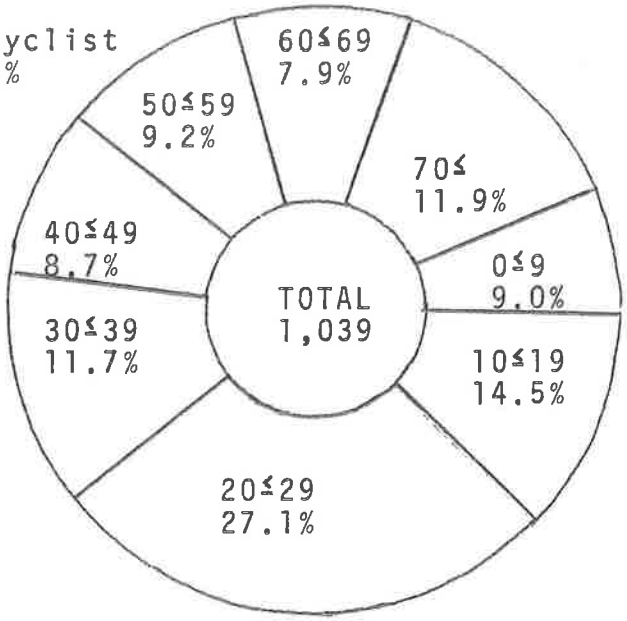


CLASSIFICATION OF VICTIMS

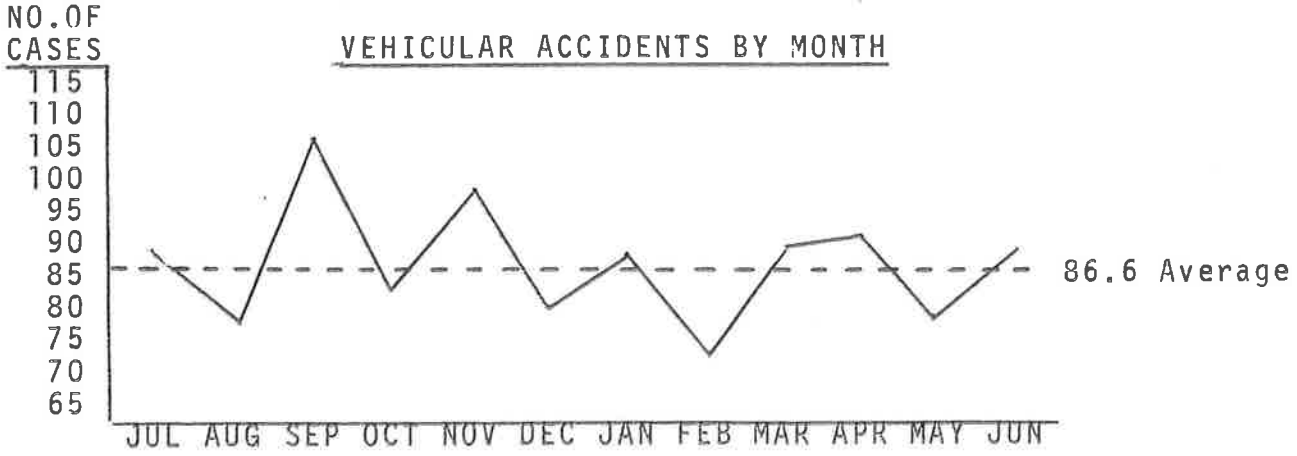
Pedestrian	310
Operator	381
Passenger	186
Motorcyclist	135
Bicyclist	27
TOTAL	1,039

AGE GROUPS

0 ≤ 9	93
10 ≤ 19	151
20 ≤ 29	282
30 ≤ 39	122
40 ≤ 49	90
50 ≤ 59	95
60 ≤ 69	82
70 ≤	124
TOTAL	1,039



VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
(Type and Age)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Type of Accident	AGE GROUPS								
	0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Total
Auto vs. Auto	12	29	46	24	15	29	22	26	203
Auto vs. Bus, Truck	3	13	15	4	10	7	4	4	60
Auto vs. Train	1	1	3	2	1	1			9
Auto vs. Motor-cycle		8	32	11	5	1			57
Auto vs. Fixed object	5	27	57	27	22	7	15	9	169
Auto Out-Of-Control	2	17	43	15	7	7	5	3	99
Truck vs. Truck		1	1		1				3
Truck vs. Motor-cycle		6	6	1			1		14
Truck vs. Fixed object			2	2	1				5
Bicycle vs. Auto	4	6	5	1		2		1	19
Bicycle vs. Truck or Bus	1	1						2	4
Bicycle Out-Of-Control		1			1		1	1	4
Pedestrian vs. Auto	59	17	33	15	21	37	29	72	283
Pedestrian vs. Bus	1			1		1		1	4
Pedestrian vs. Truck	4	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	17
Pedestrian vs. Motorcycle									
Pedestrian vs. Train		1		1	2		1		5
Bus vs. Fixed Object		1			1				2
Motorcycle Out-Of-Control		14	35	12	1	1			63
Other Combination	1	6	3	5	1	1	1	1	19
TOTAL	93	151	282	122	90	95	82	124	1039

VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
(Position in vehicle, Age and Sex)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Age	Sex	Operator	Passenger	Pedestrian	Motorcycle Operator	Unknown Position	Sub Total	Total
0≤9	M	4	17	40			61	93
	F	1	6	25			32	
10≤19	M	53	29	9	27	4	122	151
	F	5	11	11	2		29	
20≤29	M	105	32	26	67		230	282
	F	28	8	9	7		52	
30≤39	M	49	12	12	21		94	122
	F	16	5	6	1		28	
40≤49	M	37	8	14	7		66	90
	F	12	3	9			24	
50≤59	M	34	7	27	2		70	95
	F	7	6	12			25	
60≤69	M	19	5	22	1		47	82
	F	16	8	11			35	
70≤	M	18	9	43			70	124
	F	8	11	35			54	
Sub Total	M	319	119	193	125	4	760	1,039
	F	93	58	118	10		279	
TOTAL		412	177	311	135	4	1,039	

BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL IN VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS AS TO AGES
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

	AGE OF VICTIM								
Blood Alcohol Level	0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤ over	Totals
Not Tested	86	36	62	29	24	28	23	51	339
Negative	7	83	105	46	32	44	42	60	419
Positive	-	32	115	47	34	23	17	13	281
0.01%≤0.04%	-	3	11	4	4	4	2	4	32
0.05%≤0.09%	-	10	28	3	2	3	6	4	56
0.10%≤0.14%	-	5	19	9	3	-	1	3	40
0.15%≤0.19%	-	9	26	9	8	6	3	1	62
0.20%≤0.24%	-	4	21	14	7	5	3	-	54
0.25%≤0.29%	-	1	7	3	4	4	2	-	21
0.30%≤0.34%	-	-	2	3	6	1	-	1	13
0.35% and over	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL TESTS	7	115	220	93	66	67	59	73	700
TOTAL CASES	93	151	282	122	90	95	82	124	1039

BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL IN VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Blood Alcohol Level	Operator	Passenger	Pedestrian	Motor-Cycle Operator	Unknown Position	Total
Not Tested	98	71	140	30	-	339
Negative	174	62	120	60	3	419
Positive	136	49	50	45	1	281
0.01%≤0.04%	13	7	6	6	-	32
0.05%≤0.09%	25	14	10	7	-	56
0.10%≤0.14%	17	9	4	10	-	40
0.15%≤0.19%	35	7	9	11	-	62
0.20%≤0.24%	28	9	6	10	1	54
0.25%≤0.29%	11	1	8	1	-	21
0.30%≤0.34%	6	2	5	-	-	13
0.35%≤	1	-	2	-	-	3
Total Tests	310	111	170	105	4	700
Total Cases	408	182	310	135	4	1,039

UNDETERMINED MODE DEATHS
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

Cause of Death	Sex	AGE GROUPS									Sub Total	Total
		0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk.		
Drugs	M			1	2						3	12
	F			4	2	2	1				9	
Blunt Force	M			1		1	1				3	8
	F	1		2		1	1				5	
Firearms	M			1							1	1
	F											
Burns	M		1								1	2
	F			1							1	
Diet In-Appropriate	M	1									1	1
	F											
Undetermined Cause After Autopsy	M	3	3	4						1	11	20
	F	2		2	1	1	1			1	8	
	U									1	1	
Sub Total	M	4	4	7	2	1	1			1	20	44
	F	3		9	3	4	3			1	23	
	U									1	1	
TOTAL		7	4	16	5	5	4			3	44	

DRUG DEATHS
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1975 - June 30 1976

Drugs	Sex	AGE GROUPS								Sub Total	Total
		0 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk.		
Barbiturates	M	6	29	30	20	17	16	12		130	311
	F	5	39	22	37	38	22	18		181	
Narcotics	M	19	212	116	37	11	4	2		397	503
	F	8	61	23	9	13	2	1		106	
Combined Barbiturate And Narcotic	M		11		2					13	22
	F		3	1	2	2	1			9	
Tranquilizers	M	1	5	7	9	6	3			31	66
	F		5	8	16	5	1			35	
Analgesics	M	2	7	4	5	2	2	1		23	43
	F	2	3	6	5	3	1			20	
Hypnotics	M		5	4	2	5	5			21	45
	F		8	6	3	4	3			24	
Anaesthetics	M										
	F							1		1	1
Stimulants	M										
	F				1	1				2	2
Ethanol Only	M	2	6	6	1	4	1			20	28
	F		1	2	4			1		8	
Multiple Drugs	M	5	18	11	9	5	3	1		52	116
	F	4	17	17	8	12	5	1		64	
Other Drugs And Poisons	M	2	9	6	2	7	1	3		30	49
	F	5	3	4	2	3	2			19	
Unknown Drugs	M	2	3	1						6	9
	F		3							3	
Sub Total	M	39	305	185	87	57	31	19		723	1195
	F	24	143	89	87	70	37	22		472	
TOTAL		63	448	274	174	127	68	41		1195	

DRUG DEATHS
(Ethnic Group, Sex, and Type)
July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

		ETHNIC GROUPS					
Drugs	Sex	White	Black	Spanish Surname	Asian	Sub Total	Total
Barbiturates	M	107	11	11	1	130	311
	F	157	12	10	2	181	
Narcotics	M	205	78	113	1	397	503
	F	68	32	6		106	
Combined Barbiturates and Narcotics Overdose	M	4	5	4		13	22
	F	6	3			9	
Tranquilizers	M	23	4	4		31	66
	F	28	4	3		35	
Analgesics	M	17	3	3		23	43
	F	12	4	4		20	
Hypnotics	M	20		1		21	45
	F	23	1			24	
Anaesthetics	M						1
	F	1				1	
Stimulants	M						2
	F	2				2	
Ethanol Only	M	15	2	3		20	28
	F	7	1			8	
Multiple Drugs	M	37	6	9		52	116
	F	49	12	3		64	
Other Drugs and Poisons	M	26	2	1	1	30	49
	F	15	2	2		19	
Unknown Overdose	M	5		1		6	9
	F	3				3	
Sub Total	M	459	111	150	3	723	1,195
	F	371	70	29	2	472	
TOTAL		830	181	179	5	1,195	

INVESTIGATED DEATHS BY MONTH
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

	Natural	Suicide	Homicide	Accidents Excluding *Vehicular	Vehicular Accidents	Undetermined	Inquiry	Non-Coroner	TOTALS
July	625	117	78	182	95	9	15	127	1,248
August	676	87	89	166	107	5	10	154	1,294
September	625	92	100	148	91	8	12	141	1,217
October	670	94	94	164	113	6	38	103	1,282
November	663	91	91	193	82	7	71	102	1,300
December	741	104	105	175	81	3	79	88	1,376
January	710	98	110	169	87	5	100	90	1,369
February	661	90	86	113	83	4	77	81	1,195
March	730	111	93	156	111	8	82	84	1,375
April	661	107	111	151	97	4	90	89	1,310
May	667	106	80	154	90	8	111	97	1,313
June	635	99	88	154	96	5	94	99	1,270
TOTALS	8,064	1,196	1,125	1,925	1,133	72	779	1,255	15,549

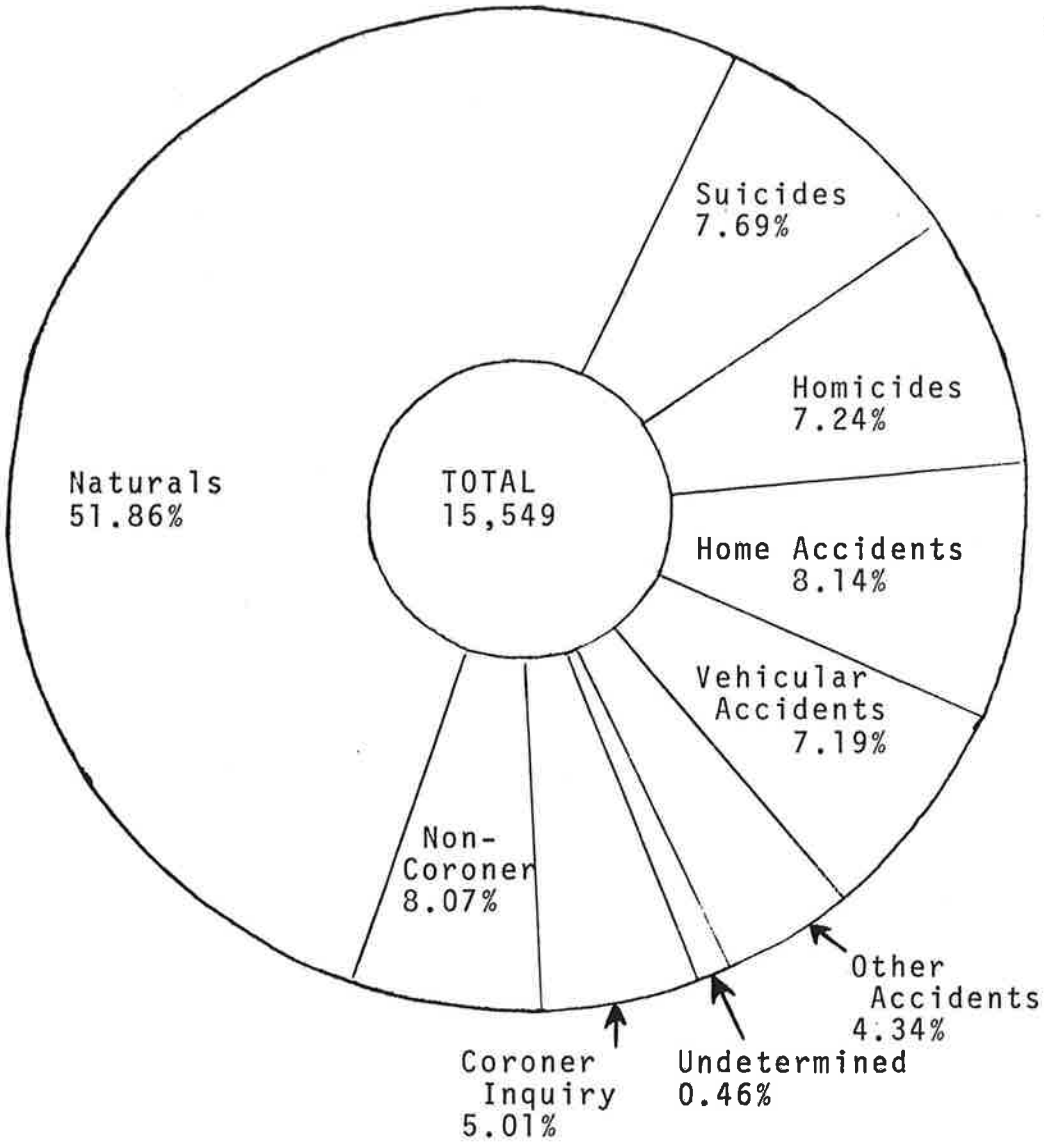
*Includes the 10 Aircraft accidents.

CASELOAD AND POPULATION RATES
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Mode of Death	Total Cases Reported/Investigated	Percent of Total	Rate per 100,000 *Population
Naturals	8,064	51.86%	114.5
Suicides	1,196	7.69%	17.0
Homicides	1,125	7.24%	16.0
Accidents:	3,058	19.67%	43.4
Home	(1,266)	(8.14%)	(18.0)
Vehicular	(1,118)	(7.19%)	(15.9)
Occupational	(69)	(0.44%)	(0.9)
Therapeutic	(28)	(0.18%)	(0.4)
Railway	(15)	(0.10%)	(0.2)
Aircraft	(10)	(0.07%)	(0.2)
Other	(552)	(3.55%)	(7.8)
Undetermined	72	0.46%	1.0
Coroner Inquiry	779	5.01%	11.1
Non-Coroner	1,255	8.07%	17.8
TOTAL	15,549	100.00%	220.8

*Based on the Los Angeles County population of 7,042,538 residents, (January 1, 1977, population estimate Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department/Population and Human Resources).

MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER CASELOAD
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977



TOTAL CASES BY AGE GROUP, SEX, AND MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

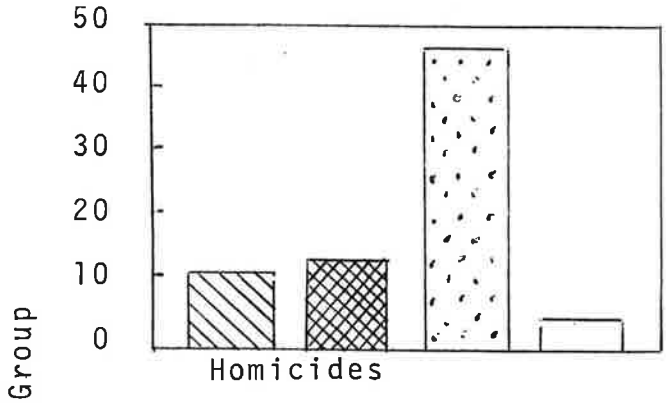
Mode of Death	Sex	AGE GROUPS 0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk. Age	Sub Total	Total
*Naturals	M											8064
	F											
Suicides	M		52	245	130	94	85	81	103		790	1196
	F		17	87	63	74	81	47	37		406	
Homicides	M	18	128	310	189	114	63	35	26	1	884	1125
	F	17	31	81	32	31	16	9	24		241	
ACCIDENTS: Vehicular	M	71	136	260	105	79	60	51	52		814	1133
	F	38	49	75	26	26	23	23	59		319	
Aircraft	M		1	2	2	2	1				8	10
	F			2							2	
Other	M	91	65	276	155	113	96	96	240	2	1134	1915
	F	46	26	95	62	55	77	58	362		781	
Undetermined	M	4	4	12	5	8	3	2			38	72
	F	6	3	7	5	3	6	2	1		33	
	U									1	1	
Sub Total	M	184	386	1105	586	410	308	265	421	3	3668	5451
	F	107	126	347	188	189	203	139	483		1782	
	U									1	1	
TOTAL		291	512	1452	774	599	511	404	904	4	5451	13515

*Natural deaths were not tabulated as to age, sex, race, or cause.

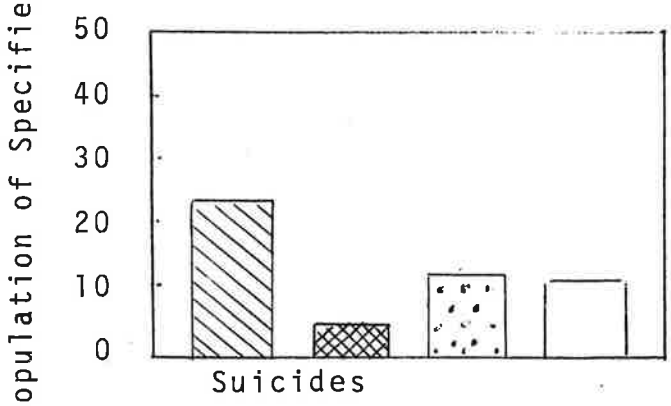
LOS ANGELES COUNTY POPULATION & ETHNIC CLASSIFICATION
July 1976 - June 1977

Ethnic Group	LA County Population	*Percent of Total
White	4,259,327	60%
Spanish Surname	1,663,447	24%
Black (Negro)	836,654	12%
Other Minorities	283,110	4%
TOTAL	7,042,538	100%

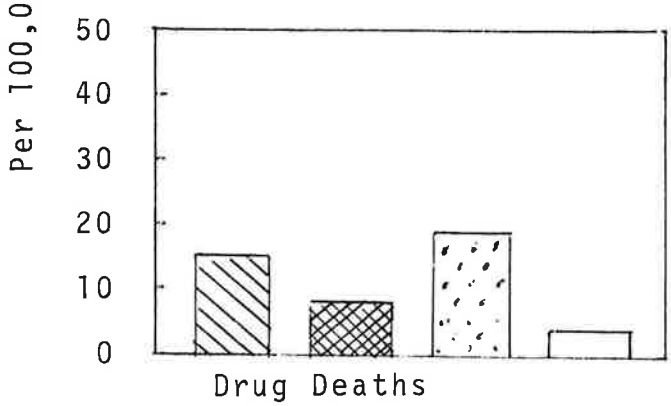
*Estimated update of census obtained from the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission.



White	471
Spanish Surname	236
Black	402
Other	16
TOTAL	1,125



White	970
Spanish Surname	89
Black	104
Other	33
TOTAL	1,196



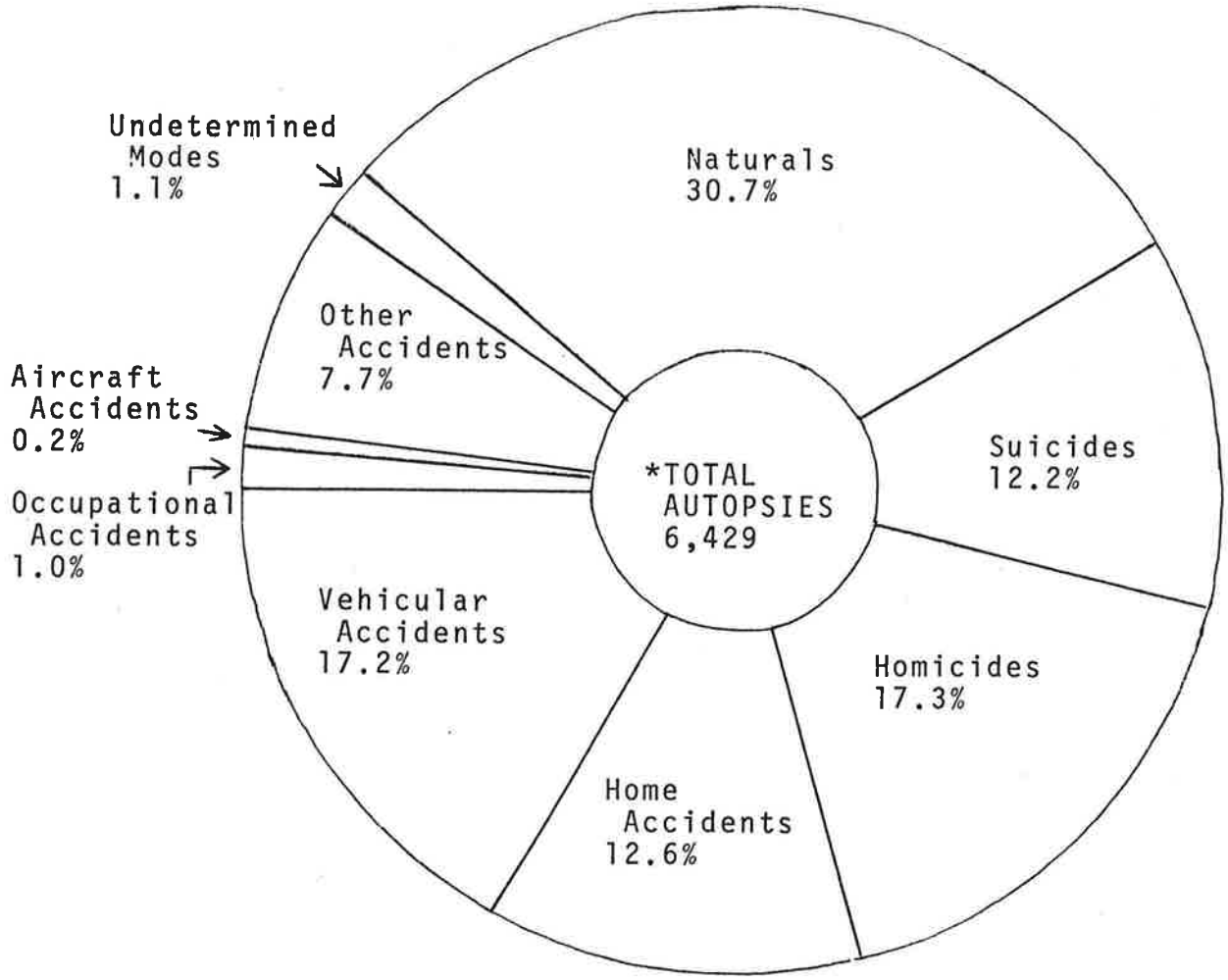
White	675
Spanish Surname	106
Black	147
Other	15
TOTAL	943

AUTOPSIED CASES BY MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Mode of Death	Total Cases as Certified	Number Autopsied	Percent Autopsied of Specific Mode	Percent of Total Autopsied
Naturals	8,064	1,972	24.5%	30.7%
Suicides	1,196	786	65.7%	12.2%
Homicides	1,125	1,115	99.1%	17.3%
Accidents:	3,058	2,487	81.3%	38.7%
Home	(1,266)	(811)	(64.1%)	(12.6%)
Vehicular	(1,133)	(1,103)	(97.4%)	(17.2%)
Occupational	(69)	(67)	(97.1%)	(1.0%)
Aircraft	(10)	(10)	(100.0%)	(0.2%)
Other	(580)	(496)	(85.5%)	(7.7%)
Undetermined	72	69	95.8%	1.1%
TOTAL	13,515	6,429	47.6%	100.0%

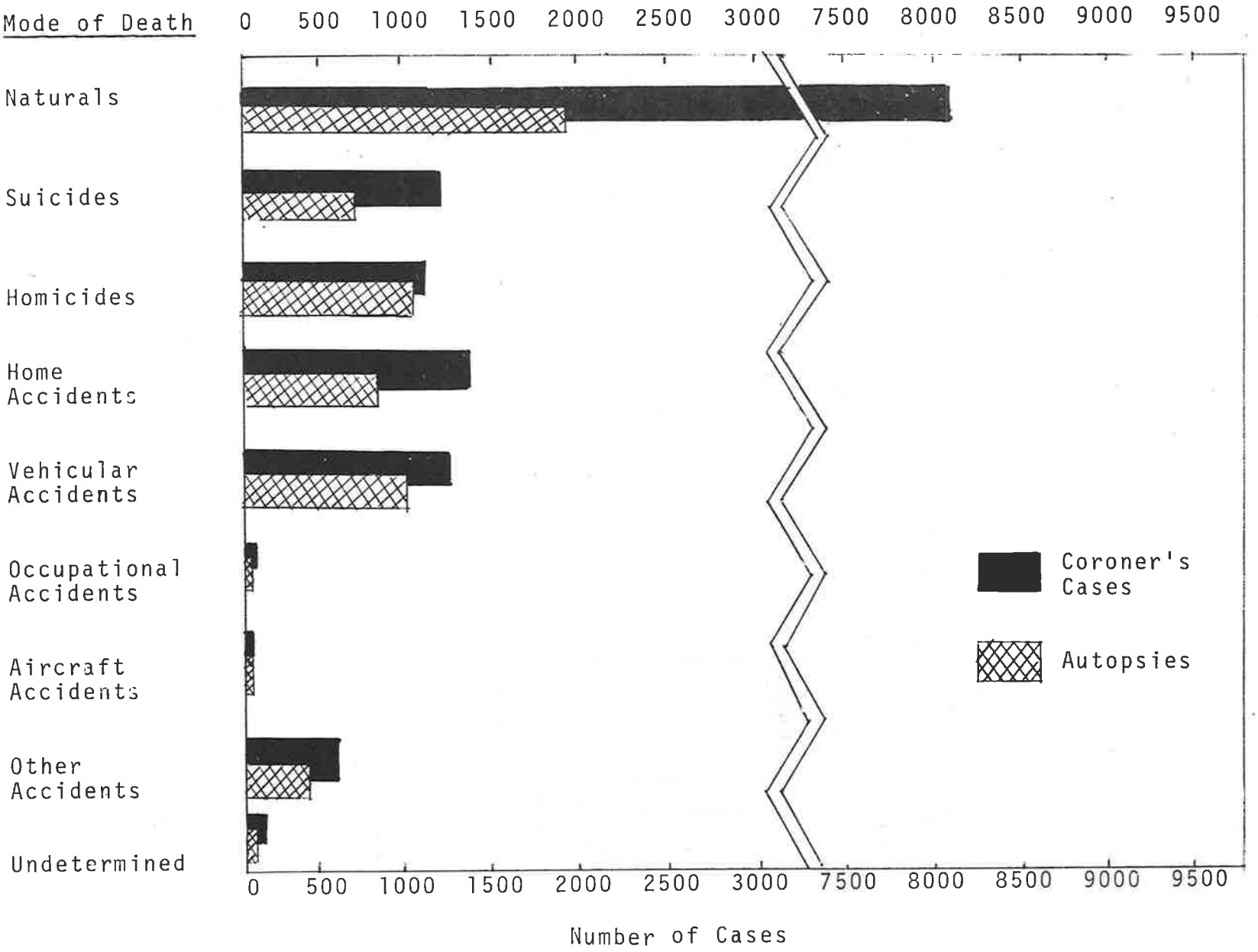
Total private autopsies handled in addition to regular caseload	14
Total autopsies for the year	6,443

AUTOPSIED CASES BY MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

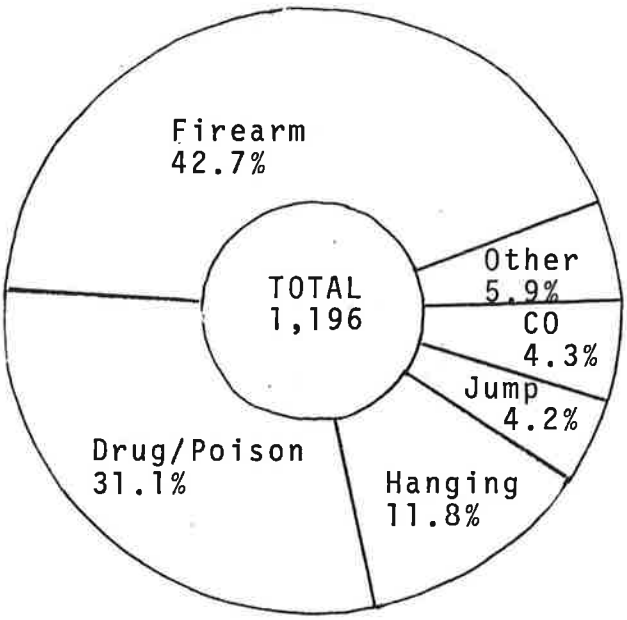


*An additional 14 private autopsies not included in total.

AUTOPSIES AND CORONER S CASES BY MODE OF DEATH
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977



SUICIDES
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

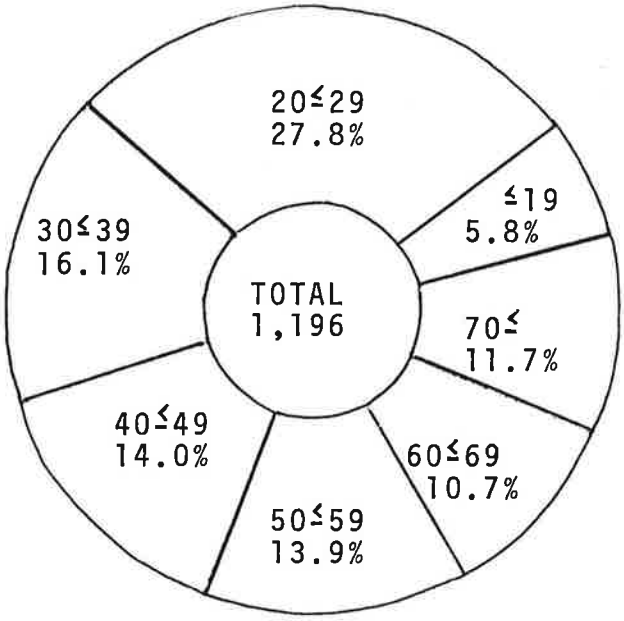


METHOD OF SUICIDE

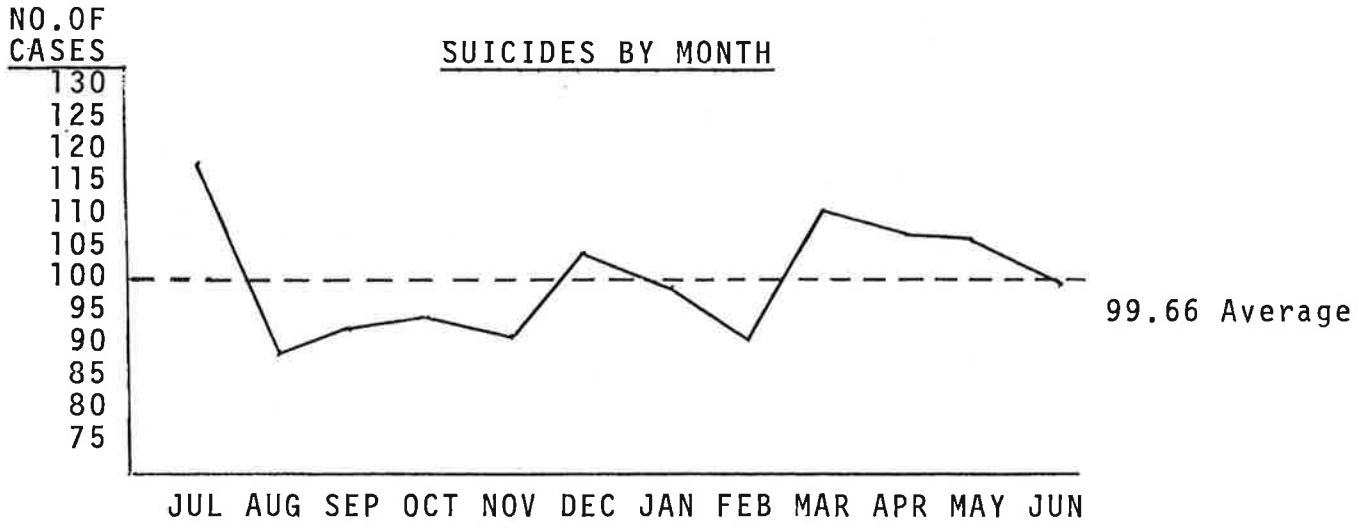
Firearm	511
Drug/Poison	372
Hanging	141
Jumping	50
Carbon Monoxide	51
Other	71
TOTAL	1,196

AGE GROUPS

≤ 19	69
20 ≤ 29	332
30 ≤ 39	193
40 ≤ 49	168
50 ≤ 59	166
60 ≤ 69	128
70 ≤	140
TOTAL	1,196



SUICIDES BY MONTH



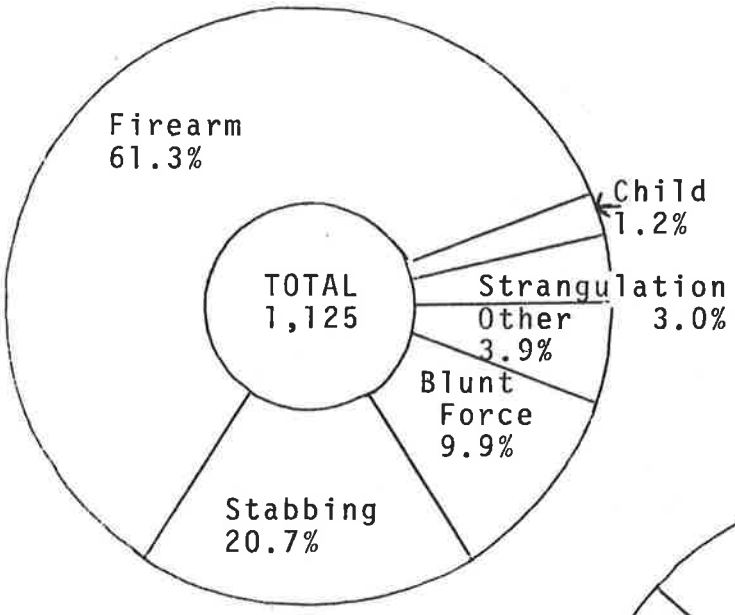
SUICIDES
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Type of Suicide	Sex	AGE GROUPS									Sub Total	Total
		0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤ 79	80 ≤		
Firearms	M		27	126	72	42	42	39	38	27	413	
	F		7	23	15	21	20	10	2		98	511
Drugs/ Poisons	M		6	41	24	30	16	17	8	4	146	
	F		6	52	37	37	44	27	15	8	226	372
Hanging	M		11	39	14	13	12	13	8	3	113	
	F		3	7	5	4	5	2	1	1	28	141
Jumping	M		2	16	4	3	2	6	1	2	36	
	F		1	2	2	2	4	1	2		14	50
Carbon Monoxide Auto	M		2	5	9	3	4	4	3		30	
	F				3	6	2	3	1		15	45
Drownings	M		1	3						1	5	
	F			1			3	2	2		8	13
Suffoca- tions	M		1	2						1	4	
	F					2	1	1		2	6	10
Sharp Instru- ments	M		2	4	4	1	6	1	4	1	23	
	F			2				1		2	5	28
Burns	M			2	2		1			2	7	
	F				1	1	1			1	4	11
Vehicle	M			6			1				7	
	F					1	1				2	9
Carbon Monoxide Other	M			1	1	2	1	1			6	
	F											6
Sub Total	M		52	245	130	94	85	81	62	41	790	
	F		17	87	63	74	81	47	23	14	406	1196
TOTAL			69	332	193	168	166	128	85	55	1196	

SUICIDES
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Method of Suicide	White		Spanish Surname		Black		Japanese		Chinese		Other		Sub Total		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Firearms	329	79	35	7	40	9	6	1	3	1		1	413	98	511
Drugs:															
Barbs	48	76	2	7	4	10							54	93	147
Narco	10	8	1			1							11	9	20
Barbs & Narco	2	2			1								3	2	5
Other Drugs	60	92	4	8	2	11	1	1		2	2	1	69	115	184
Poisons	7	5	1	1	1					1			9	7	16
Hanging	77	24	13	3	14		1		4	1	4		113	28	141
Jumping	30	13			6	1							36	14	50
Carbon Monoxide Vehicle	30	14		1									30	15	45
Carbon Monoxide Other	6												6		6
Drown	5	7				1							5	8	13
Suffo-cation	3	6	1										4	6	10
Sharp Insrument	17	4	2		2				1	1	1		23	5	28
Burn	6	4			1								7	4	11
Vehicle	4	2	3										7	2	9
Sub Total	634	336	62	27	71	33	8	2	8	6	7	2	790	406	1,196
TOTAL	970		89		104		10		14		9		1,196		

HOMICIDES
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

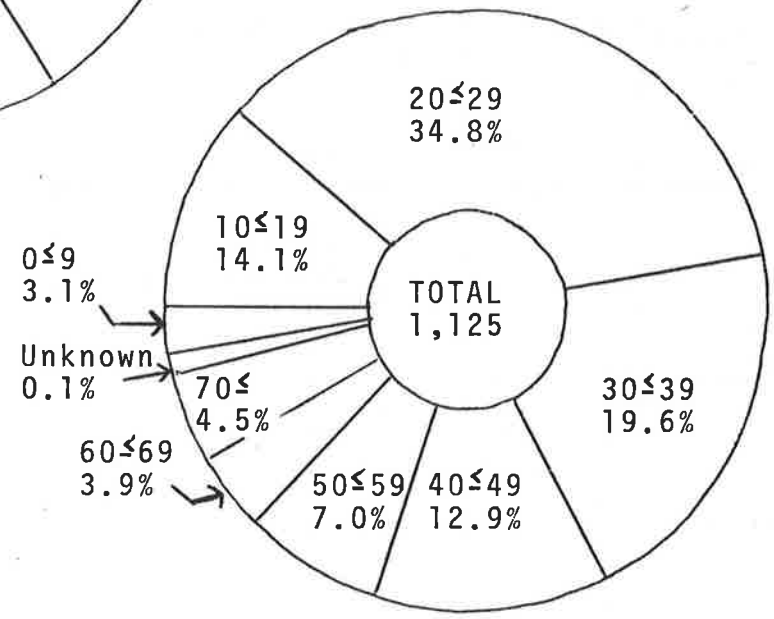


METHOD OF HOMICIDE

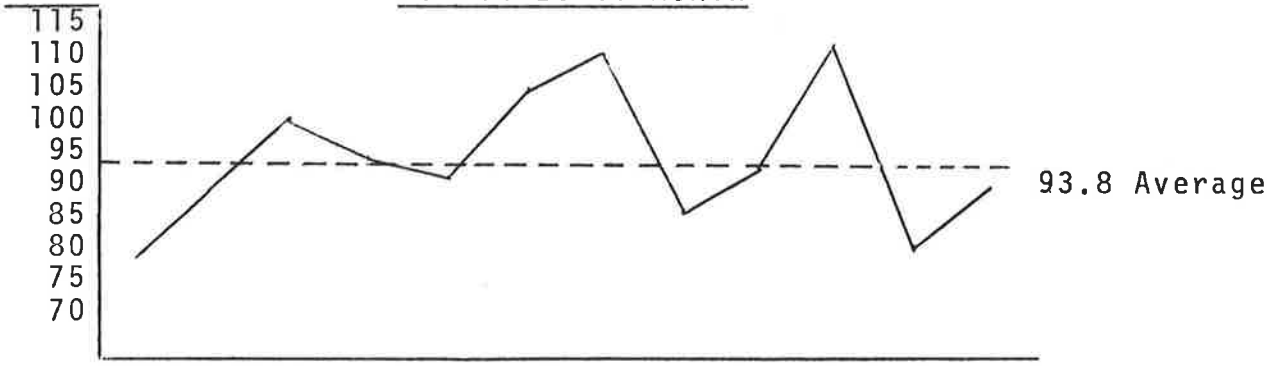
Firearm	690
Stabbing	233
Blunt Force	111
Strangulation	34
Battered Child	13
Other	44
TOTAL	1,125

AGE GROUPS

0 ≤ 9	35
10 ≤ 19	159
20 ≤ 29	391
30 ≤ 39	221
40 ≤ 49	145
50 ≤ 59	79
60 ≤ 69	44
70 ≤	50
Unknown	1
TOTAL	1,125



HOMICIDES BY MONTH



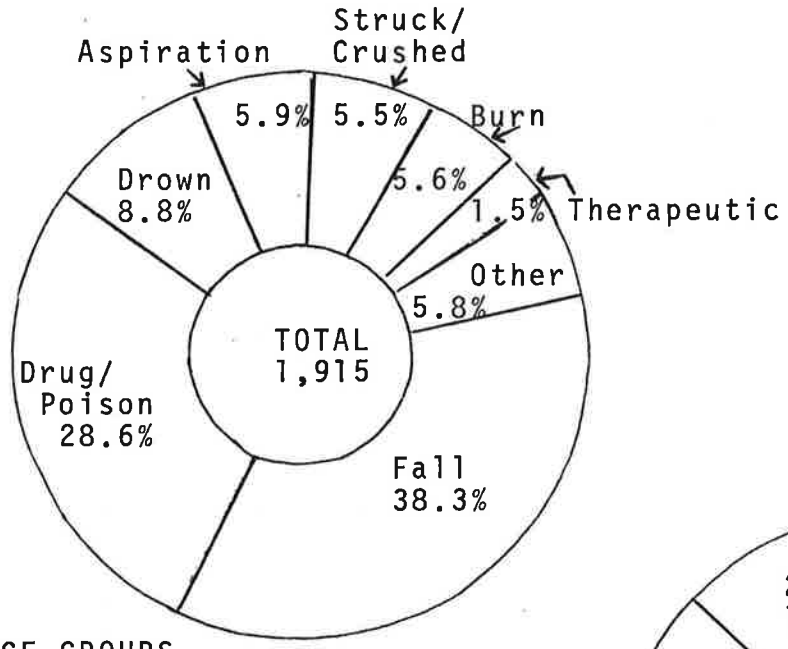
HOMICIDES
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Type of Homicide	Sex	AGE GROUPS									Sub Total	Total
		0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk		
Firearms	M	4	91	221	138	72	34	14	7		581	690
	F	3	15	36	20	19	8	3	5		109	
Stabbing	M	1	31	63	40	28	11	8	7		189	233
	F	1	3	29	3	5			3		44	
Blunt Force Assault	M	2	4	15	9	10	12	13	10		75	111
	F	3	4	4	8	5	3	1	8		36	
Strang-ulation	M	1		2	1		2				6	34
	F	1	4	9	1		4	4	5		28	
Burns	M			1							1	7
	F	2		2		1	1				6	
Suffo-cation	M	1	2	1					1		5	9
	F							1	3		4	
Vehicle Involved	M	1		1	1	1					4	5
	F	1									1	
Drowning	M			1			1				2	3
	F		1								1	
Battered Child	M	8									8	13
	F	5									5	
Other	M			5		3	3		1	1	13	20
	F	1	4	1		1					7	
Sub Total	M	18	128	310	189	114	63	35	26	1	884	1,125
	F	17	31	81	32	31	16	9	24		241	
TOTAL		35	159	391	221	145	79	44	50	1	1,125	

HOMICIDES
(Type and Ethnic Group)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Type of Homicide	White	Black	Spanish Surname	Chinese	Japanese	Other	Total
Firearms	258	268	153	5	2	4	690
Stabbing	95	79	58	1	-	-	233
Blunt Force Assault	59	32	17	-	-	3	111
Strang-ulation	21	9	3	-	-	1	34
Burns	6	-	1	-	-	-	7
Suffo-cation	5	3	1	-	-	-	9
Vehicle Involved	4	-	1	-	-	-	5
Drowning	1	2	-	-	-	-	3
Battered Child	7	6	-	-	-	-	13
Other	15	3	2	-	-	-	20
TOTAL	471	402	236	6	2	8	1,125

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

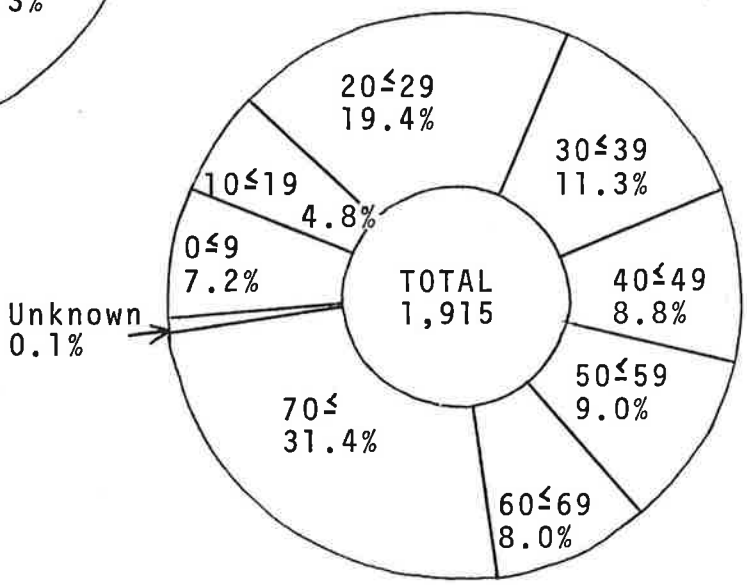


TYPE OF ACCIDENTS

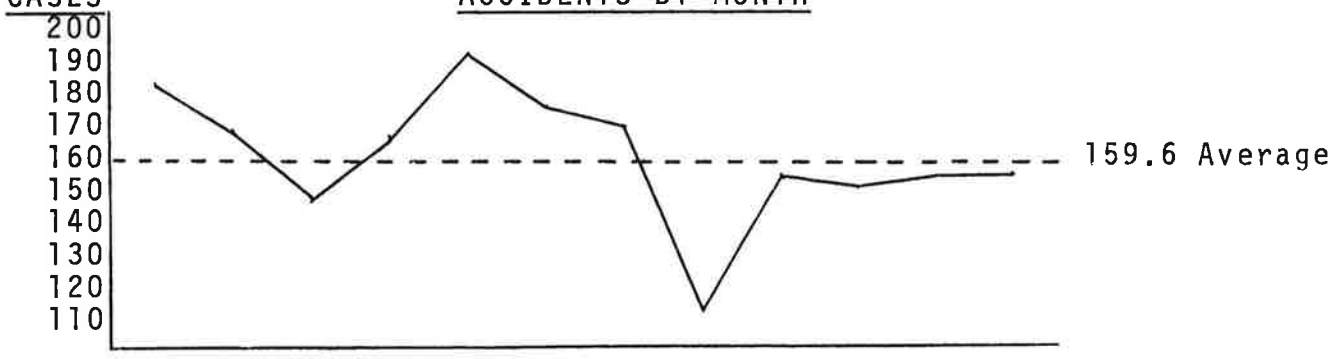
Fall	734
Drug/Poison	547
Drowning	169
Aspiration/ Asphyxia	113
Struck/Crush/ Blunt Injury	106
Burn	107
Therapeutic	28
Other	111
TOTAL	1,915

AGE GROUPS

0 ≤ 9	137
10 ≤ 19	91
20 ≤ 29	371
30 ≤ 39	217
40 ≤ 49	168
50 ≤ 59	173
60 ≤ 69	154
70 ≤	602
Unknown	2
TOTAL	1,915



ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



ACCIDENTAL DEATHS
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Type of Accident	Home	Occupational	Other Locations	Total
Aspiration-Food	38	-	7	45
Aspiration-Foreign Body	17	-	9	26
Mechanical Suffocation	5	-	2	7
Hanging	6	-	2	8
Struck by Objects	4	7	4	15
Crushed by Objects	6	15	9	30
Burns	100	1	6	107
Carbon Monoxide	38	-	4	42
Falls	550	7	177	734
Drownings	105	-	64	169
Electrocutions	10	4	5	19
Explosions	4	13	1	18
Cut or Puncture	-	-	1	1
Firearms	15	-	6	21
Blunt Force	9	1	51	61
Drugs	350	1	187	538
Poisons	6	1	2	9
Therapeutic	-	-	28	28
Industrial Fumes, Dust	-	19	-	19
Other	3	-	15	18
TOTAL	1,266	69	580	1,915

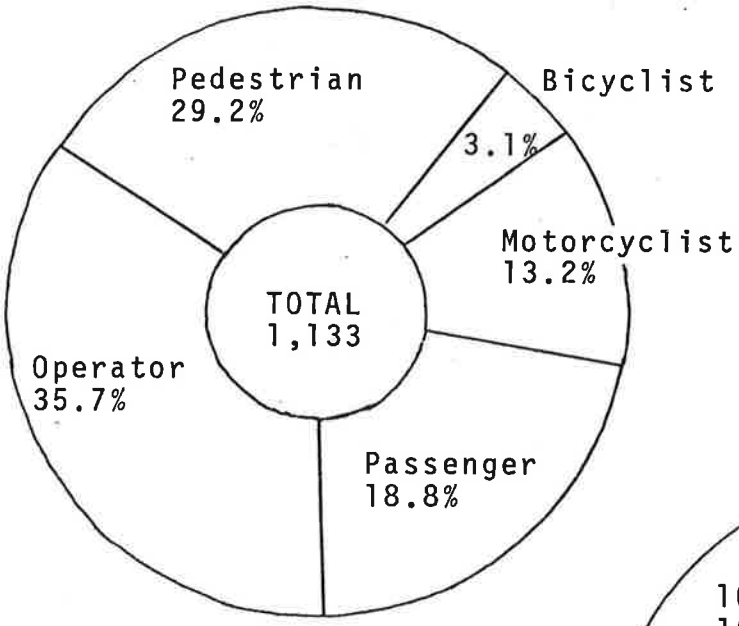
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Type of Accident	Sex	AGE GROUPS 0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk.	Sub Total	Total
Aspiration Asphyxia/CO	M	14	2	14	2	9	2	12	8		63	113
	F	8	2	4	3	5	11	7	10		50	
Suffocation Hanging	M	6	3	4				1			14	15
	F	1									1	
Struck/Crushed and Blunt Trauma	M	3	9	13	16	15	10	11	5		82	106
	F	2	1	4	3	2	3	3	6		24	
Burns	M	9	1	7	3	3	16	8	13		60	107
	F	7		2		5	10	7	16		47	
Falls	M	5	9	15	19	27	36	47	186		344	734
	F	9	4	4	6	9	19	26	313		390	
Drownings	M	43	14	24	10	11	5	4	11		122	169
	F	9	5	6	9	3	1	4	10		47	
Electrocutions	M	3	3	4	3	2					15	19
	F	2			1		1				4	
Explosions	M			4	4	1	2		2	2	15	18
	F	2				1					3	
Firearms	M	2	10	4	1	1		1			19	21
	F		1	1							2	
Drugs/Poisons	M	4	11	183	91	40	19	4	2		354	547
	F	4	12	73	38	27	26	7	6		193	
Therapeutic	M	1	2		2	3	2	3	1		14	28
	F	2	1		1		5	4	1		14	
Other	M	1	1	4	4	1	4	5	12		32	38
	F			1	1	3	1				6	
Sub Total	M	91	65	276	155	113	96	96	240	2	1134	
	F	46	26	95	62	55	77	58	362		781	1915
TOTAL		137	91	371	217	168	173	154	602	2	1915	

ACCIDENTAL DROWNINGS
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Place of Drowning	Number of Deaths
Swimming Pool	88
Bathtub	26
Ocean-Swimming	9
Boat Fatality	8
Slipped from Rocks Near Ocean Shore	3
River	3
Reservoir	5
Lake	8
Pond	1
Scuba Diving	7
Snorkling	2
Toilet Bowl	1
Street-Flash Flood	1
Vehicle into Ocean	1
Found Floating	6
TOTAL	169

VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

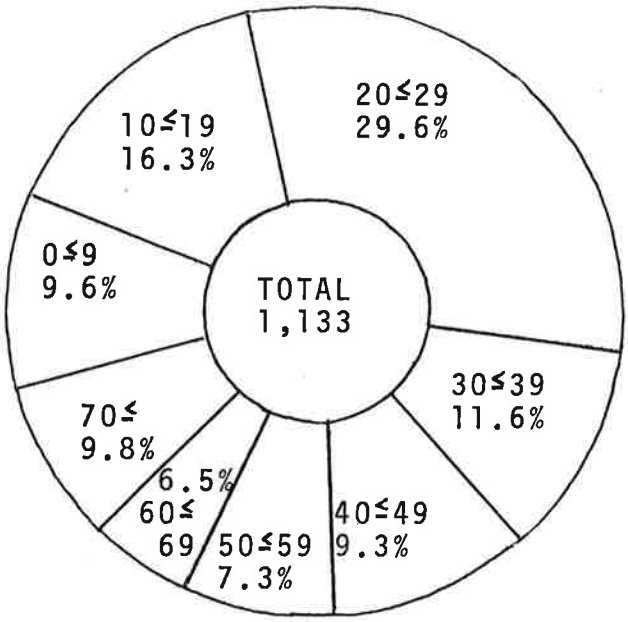


CLASSIFICATION OF VICTIMS

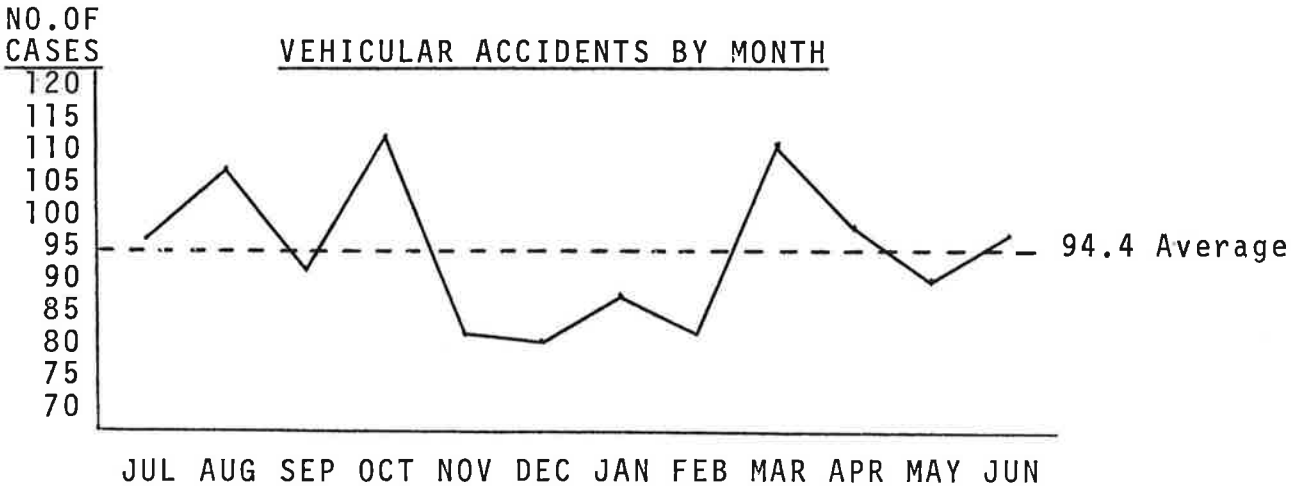
Pedestrian	331
Operator	404
Passenger	213
Motorcyclist	150
Bicyclist	35
TOTAL	1,133

AGE GROUPS

0 ≤ 9	109
10 ≤ 19	185
20 ≤ 29	335
30 ≤ 39	131
40 ≤ 49	105
50 ≤ 59	83
60 ≤ 69	74
70 ≤	111
TOTAL	1,133



VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS BY MONTH



VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
(Type and Age)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Type of Accident	AGE GROUPS								TOTAL
	0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	
Auto vs. Auto	17	33	58	41	25	21	20	27	242
Auto vs. Bus, Truck	2	8	13	7	7	3	2	3	45
Auto vs. Train		3	5		1			1	10
Auto vs. Motor-cycle		17	43	18	7	3	2		90
Auto vs. Fixed object	6	32	69	15	17	8	6	10	163
Auto Out-Of-Control	3	32	58	14	9	5	1	2	124
Truck vs. Truck			2		1	1			4
Truck vs. Motor-cycle		4	8	3	2			1	18
Truck vs. Fixed object		3	1		1	2			7
Bicycle vs. Auto	7	9	4		1	3	1	2	27
Bicycle vs. Truck or Bus		3	3		1				7
Bicycle Out-Of-Control	1								1
Pedestrian vs. Auto	68	21	33	26	29	30	35	57	299
Pedestrian vs. Bus			3			1		3	7
Pedestrian vs. Truck	5	3	1		1	3	3	3	19
Pedestrian vs. Motorcycle							1	1	2
Pedestrian vs. Train		1	2		1	1			5
Bus vs. Fixed Object					1		1		2
Motorcycle Out-Of-Control		16	31	6	1	2			56
Other Combinations			1	1			2	1	5
TOTAL	109	185	335	131	105	83	74	111	1133

VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
(Position in vehicle, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Age	Sex	Operator	Passenger	Pedestrian	Motorcycle Operator	Sub Total	Total
0≤ 9	M	5	17	49	--	71	109
	F	3	11	24	--	38	
10≤19	M	57	33	13	33	136	185
	F	13	26	10	--	49	
20≤29	M	122	34	31	73	260	335
	F	39	28	7	1	75	
30≤39	M	54	9	16	26	105	131
	F	8	8	10	--	26	
40≤49	M	42	7	21	9	79	105
	F	6	10	10	--	26	
50≤59	M	28	5	22	5	60	83
	F	7	3	13	--	23	
60≤69	M	22	3	24	2	51	74
	F	4	4	15	--	23	
70≤	M	20	3	28	1	52	111
	F	9	12	38	--	59	
Sub Total	M	350	111	204	149	814	1,133
	F	89	102	127	1	319	
TOTAL		439	213	331	150	1,133	

BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL IN VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS AS TO AGES
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

	AGE OF VICTIM								
Blood Alcohol Level	0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Totals
Not Tested	102	27	55	17	11	16	19	46	293
Negative	7	109	130	59	49	44	38	63	499
Positive	-	49	150	55	45	23	17	2	341
0.01%≤0.04%	-	14	18	10	6	4	5	1	58
0.05%≤0.09%	-	9	17	4	6	3	2	-	41
0.10%≤0.14%	-	7	47	7	10	3	2	-	76
0.15%≤0.19%	-	12	27	11	8	3	1	1	63
0.20%≤0.24%	-	5	26	15	8	6	2	-	62
0.25%≤0.29%	-	1	13	5	3	3	4	-	29
0.30%≤0.34%	-	-	-	3	4	1	-	-	8
0.35%≤	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	4
Total Tests	7	158	280	114	94	67	55	65	840
Total Cases	109	185	335	131	105	83	74	111	1,133

BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVELS IN VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Blood Alcohol Level	Operator	Passengers	Pedestrians	Motorcyclists	Total
Not Tested	74	68	122	29	293
Negative	196	84	151	68	499
Positive	169	61	58	53	341
0.01%≤0.04%	17	19	15	7	58
0.05%≤0.09%	20	9	3	9	41
0.10%≤0.14%	36	12	8	20	76
0.15%≤0.19%	36	10	8	9	63
0.20%≤0.24%	35	8	13	6	62
0.25%≤0.29%	20	1	7	1	29
0.30%≤0.34%	5	1	1	1	8
0.35%≤	2	1	1	-	4
Total Tests	365	145	209	121	840
Total Cases	439	213	331	150	1,133

UNDETERMINED MODE DEATHS
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Cause of Death	Sex	AGE GROUPS										Total
		0 ≤ 9	10 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤	Unk.	Sub Total	
Drugs	M	1	1	1	3	3	2	2			13	22
	F	1		3	1	2	2				9	
Blunt Force	M		2	2	1	3					8	13
	F	3					2				5	
Firearms	M											
	F											
Asphyxia	M											1
	F						1				1	
Undetermined Cause After Autopsy	M	3	1	9	1	2	1				17	36
	F	2	3	4	4	1	2	1			18	
	U									1	1	
Sub Total	M	4	4	12	5	8	3	2			38	72
	F	6	3	7	5	3	6	2	1		33	
	U									1	1	
TOTAL		10	7	19	10	11	9	4	1	1	72	

DRUG DEATHS
(Type, Age, and Sex)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

Drugs	Sex	AGE GROUPS							Sub Total	Total
		0 ≤ 19	20 ≤ 29	30 ≤ 39	40 ≤ 49	50 ≤ 59	60 ≤ 69	70 ≤		
Barbiturates	M	3	39	21	15	5	8	6	97	245
	F	6	38	25	17	24	22	16	148	
Narcotics	M	4	115	63	26	11	2	2	223	284
	F	4	30	13	6	5	3		61	
Combined Barbiturate and Narcotic	M		2	5	1				8	16
	F		2	2	3	1			8	
Tranquilizers	M		6	5	3	2	1		17	72
	F	1	13	10	13	10	3	5	55	
Analgesics	M	1	17	4	1	5			28	51
	F	2	10	5	2	3	1		23	
Hypnotics	M	1	5	4	5	4	2	2	23	47
	F	1	6	2	7	6	1	1	24	
Anaesthetics	M		6	2					8	10
	F	1			1				2	
Stimulants	M			1					1	6
	F		2	3					5	
Ethanol Only	M	1	4	3	1	1	1		11	18
					2	3	2		7	
Multiple Drugs	M	2	14	11	11	7	4	1	50	112
	F	1	20	10	10	16		5	62	
Other Drugs And Poisons	M	7	11	8	6	4	2	1	39	69
	F	3	11	5	3	5	1	2	30	
Unknown Drugs	M		5				1		6	13
	F	2	1	3		1			7	
Sub Total	M	19	224	127	69	39	21	12	511	943
	F	21	133	78	64	74	33	29	432	
TOTAL		40	357	205	133	113	54	41	943	

DRUG DEATHS
(Ethnic group, Sex, and Type)
July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977

		ETHNIC GROUPS					
Drugs	Sex	White	Black	Spanish Surname	Asian	Sub Total	Total
Barbiturates	M	81	11	5		97	245
	F	109	28	8	3	148	
Narcotics	M	133	37	51	2	223	284
	F	38	20	3		61	
Combined Barbiturates And Narcotics Overdose	M	2	3	3		8	16
	F	5	2	1		8	
Tranquilizers	M	15		1	1	17	72
	F	47	6	2		55	
Analgesics	M	24	2		2	28	51
	F	16	3	4		23	
Hypnotics	M	21	2			23	47
	F	17	1	4	2	24	
Anaesthetics	M	5	2	1		8	10
	F	2				2	
Stimulants	M	1				1	6
	F	4		1		5	
Ethanol Only	M	7		4		11	18
	F	5	1	1		7	
Multiple Drugs	M	44	4		2	50	112
	F	39	15	7	1	62	
Other Drugs And Poisons	M	29	4	4	2	39	69
	F	22	4	3	1	30	
Unknown Overdose	M	4	1	1		6	13
	F	5	1	1		7	
Sub Total	M	366	66	70	9	511	943
	F	309	81	35	7	432	
TOTAL		675	147	105	16	943	