

# Jefferson Parish Coroner



## 2015 Annual Report

Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office  
2018 8th Street  
Harvey, 70058



Accredited by the  
National Association  
of  
Medical Examiners

Last Revised: July 16, 2020

## Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Brief Summary 2015	3
Organizational Chart	4
Types of Deaths Reportable to the Coroner's Office	5
Post Mortem Exams Performed 2005-2015	6
Manner of Death After Postmortem Examination and/or Death Investigation	7
Deaths by Natural Causes	8
Deaths by Unnatural Causes	8
Accidental Deaths by Type	9
Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes	9
Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death	10
Heroin Related Deaths	11
Suicide by Means	12
Number of Suicides: By Age Range	13
Suicides: Gender, Race and Average Age	14
Homicide Deaths	15
Pauper/Unclaimed Remains	16
Cremation Permits issued 2005-2015	16
Body Transportation Costs	17
Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency Statistics (Coroner cases)	18
Other Coroner Responsibilities	18
Mental Health Department Statistics	19
Sexual Assault Department Statistics	20
Community Outreach Department Statistics	21

## Brief Summary 2015

---

Population (est. 2015)	436,275
Cases Reported to the Coroner's Office	2956
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	450
1. Number of Coroner Cases with Complete Autopsy	394
2. Number of Coroner Cases with External Examination	56
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem Examination	351
C. Number of deaths not certified by the Coroner's Office after investigation	2156
D. Number of death scene investigations	437
E. Number of unidentified bodies after investigation	0
F. Number of cremation permits issued	1744

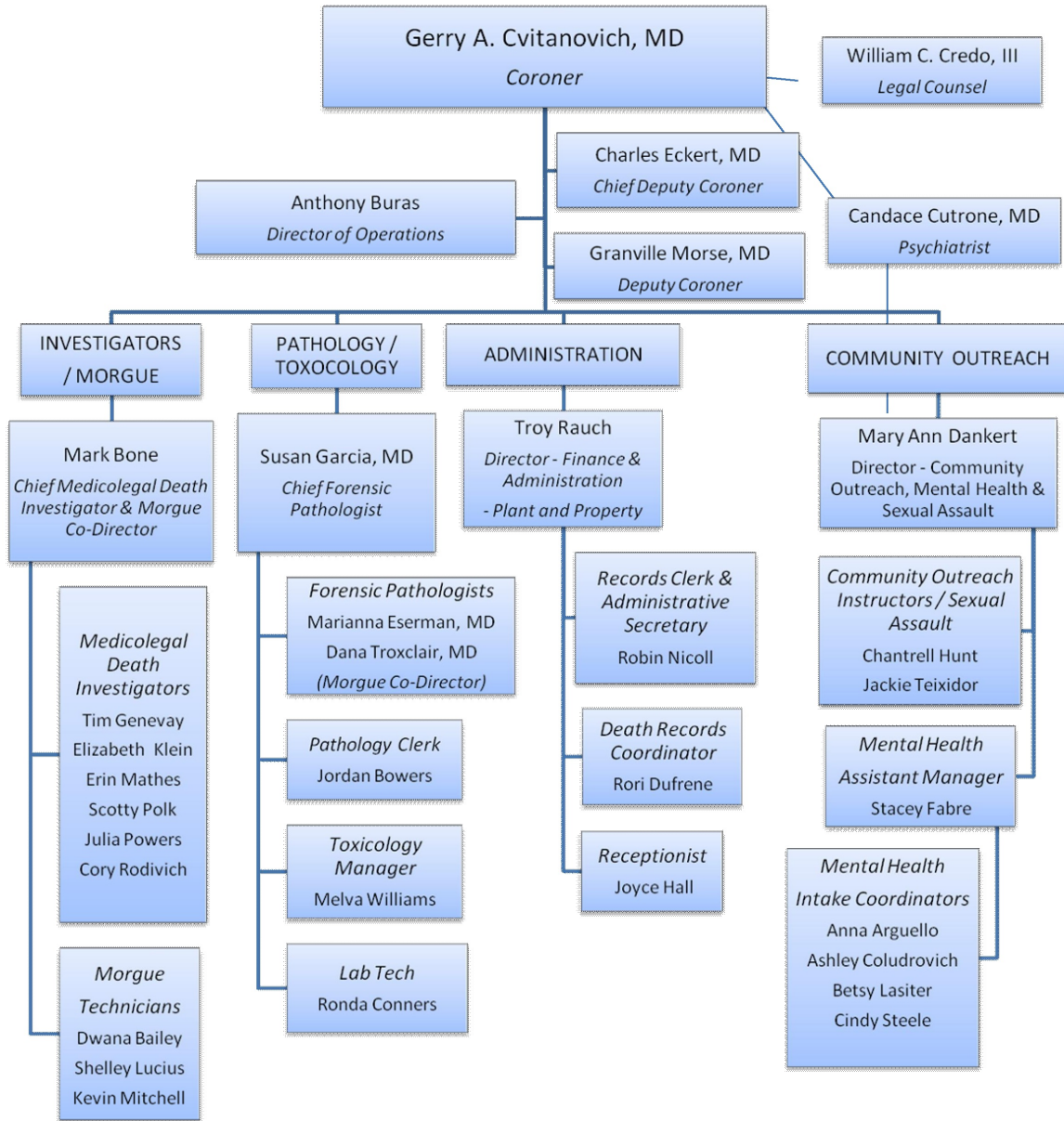
The Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office is an independent and autonomous office which was established in 1825. The Coroner's Office main function is to investigate or view bodies of several classifications of death, to determine How, When and Why the death occurred. Our role is that of a neutral scientific investigative body that has no bias towards the prosecution or the defense in any case. Other expanded duties performed by the Coroner include the examination of sex crime victims and the examination of involuntary mental commitments.

This office has been accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiner's since 2009 and is directed by Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich, who was first elected Coroner in 2011.

This Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office will continue to provide timely, accurate determinations of the cause and manner of death by maintaining the highest standards in the field of death investigation, as well as providing guidance, dignity and compassion to the mentally ill and their families and to protect all victims of sexual assault.

# Organizational Chart

## JEFFERSON PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2015



# **Types of Deaths Reportable to the Coroner's Office**

---

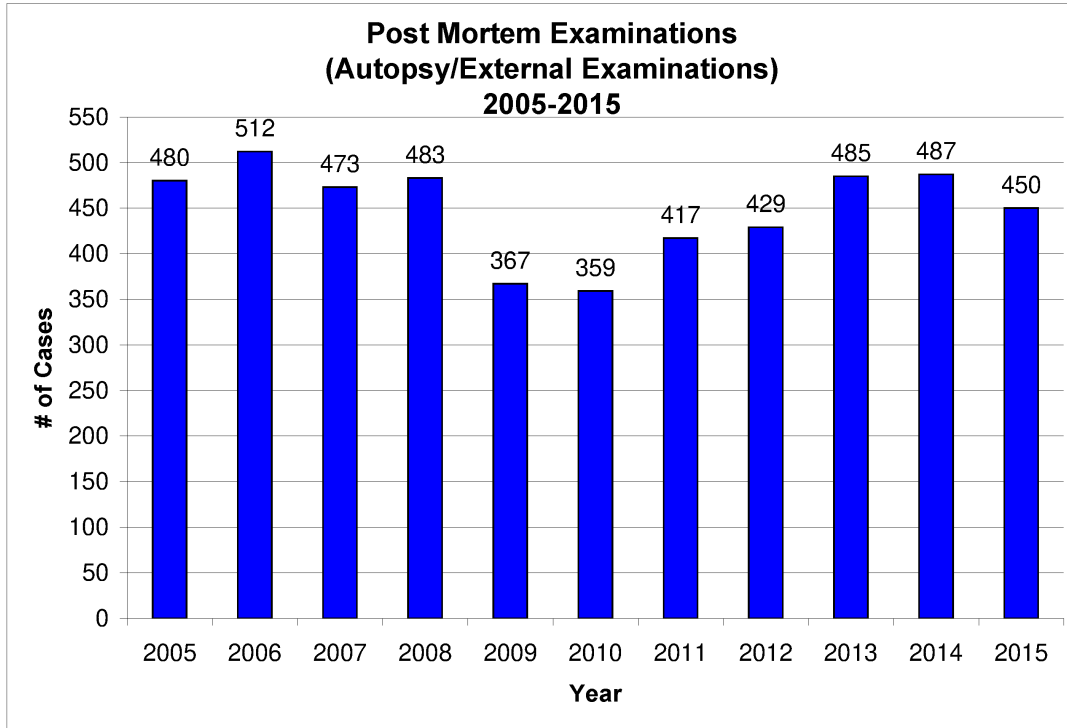
**As per Louisiana R.S. 13:5713 (A), The coroner shall either view the body or make an investigation into the cause and manner of death in all cases involving the following:**

- (1) Suspicious, unexpected, or unusual deaths.
- (2) Sudden or violent deaths.
- (3) Deaths due to unknown or obscure causes or in any unusual manner.
- (4) Bodies found dead.
- (5) Deaths due to suspected suicide or homicide.
- (6) Deaths in which poison is suspected.
- (7) Any death from natural causes occurring in a hospital under twenty-four hours admission.
- (8) Deaths following an injury or accident either old or recent.
- (9) Deaths due to drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cutting, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, addiction, tetanus, strangulation, suffocation, or smothering.
- (10) Deaths due to trauma from whatever cause.
- (11) Deaths due to criminal means or by casualty.
- (12) Deaths in prison or while serving a sentence.
- (13) Deaths due to virulent contagious disease that might be caused by or cause a public hazard, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

**As per Louisiana R.S. 13:5713 (B,C): There are two circumstances in Louisiana when an autopsy must be performed: 1) In the case of any death where there is a reasonable probability that the violation of a criminal statute has contributed to the death 2) Any infant under the age of one year dies unexpectedly without explanation with no underlying disease process.**

# Post Mortem Exams Performed 2005-2015

---



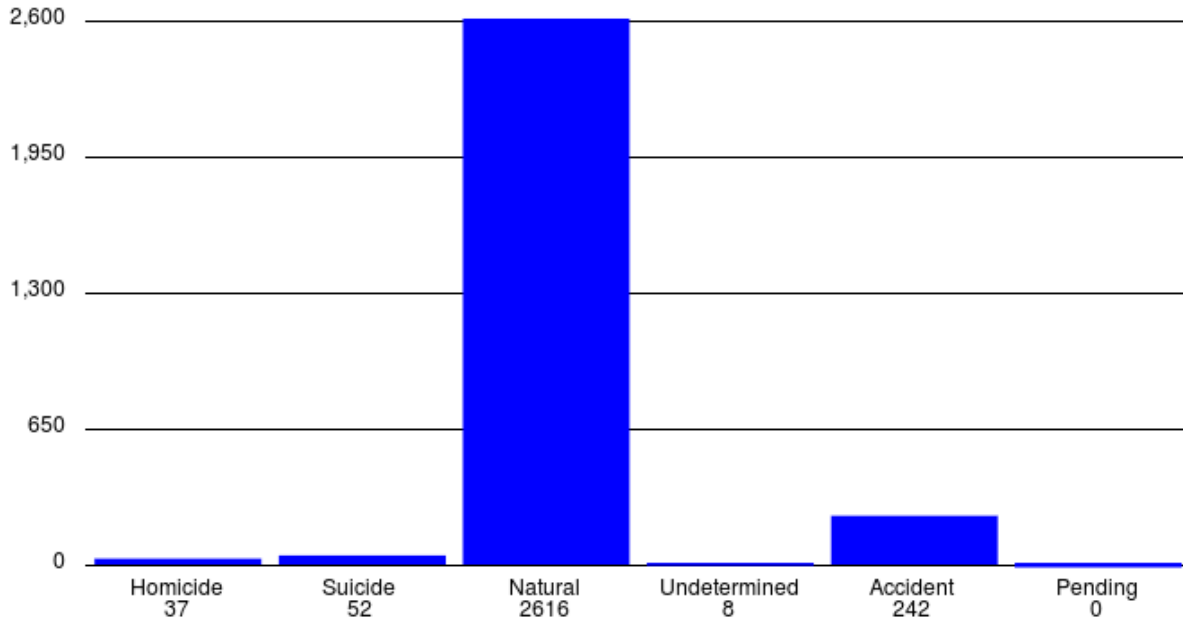
In 2015, The Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office accepted jurisdiction in 2956 cases. Of those, 450 were autopsied. This graph depicts the number of post mortem exams performed over the last 11 years.

**Full Autopsy:** A complete external and internal examination of a decedent with toxicological analysis.

**External Examination:** An examination of the exterior of a decedent with toxicological analysis.

# Manner of Death After Postmortem Examination and/or Death Investigation

---



**Definitions:**

**Homicide:** Death by the hands of another. Someone else caused the victims death.

**Suicide:** Death as a result of intentional injury to self.

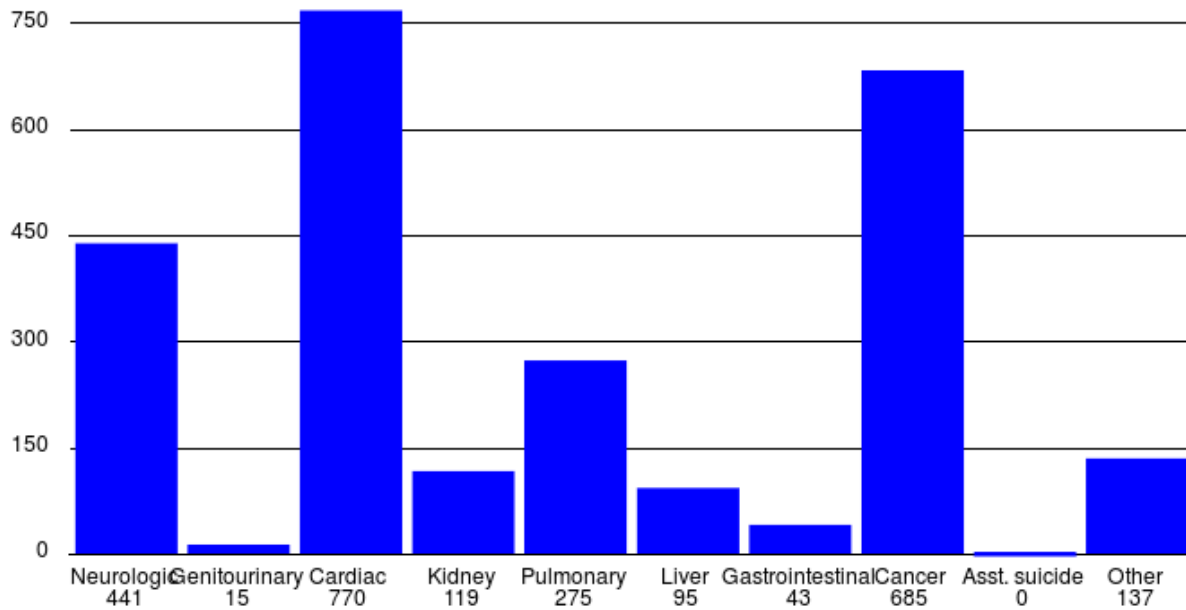
**Natural:** Deaths due to major disease process or aging.

**Undetermined:** Insufficient information surrounding the death or when the cause of death is unknown.

**Accident:** Unintended and essentially unavoidable death.

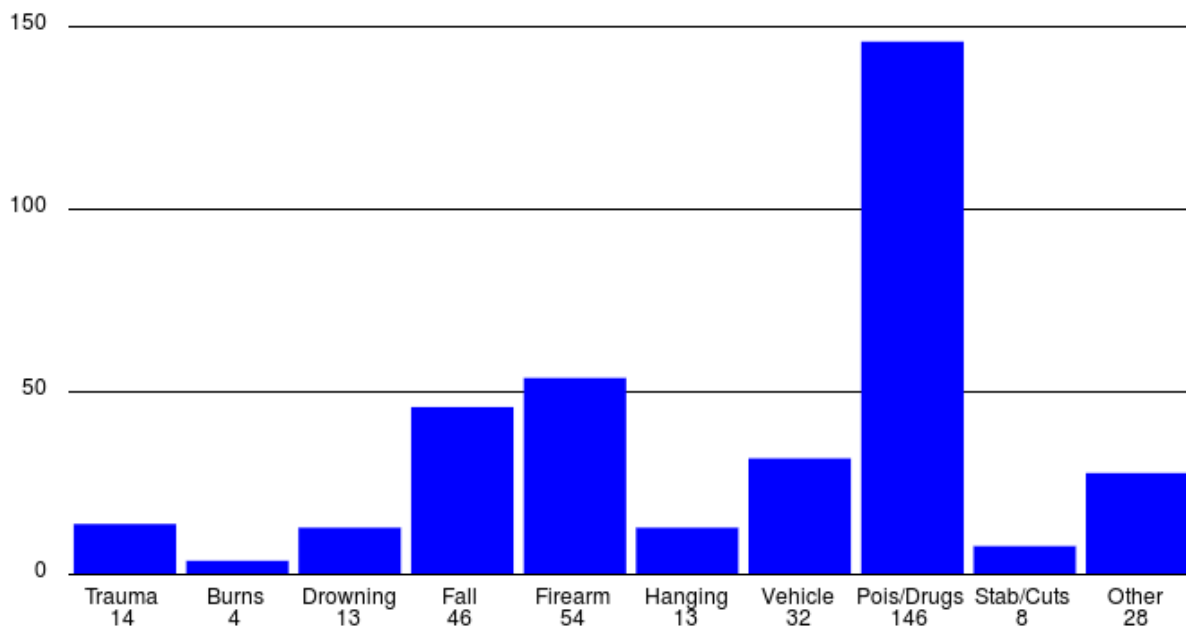
## Deaths by Natural Causes

---



## Deaths by Unnatural Causes

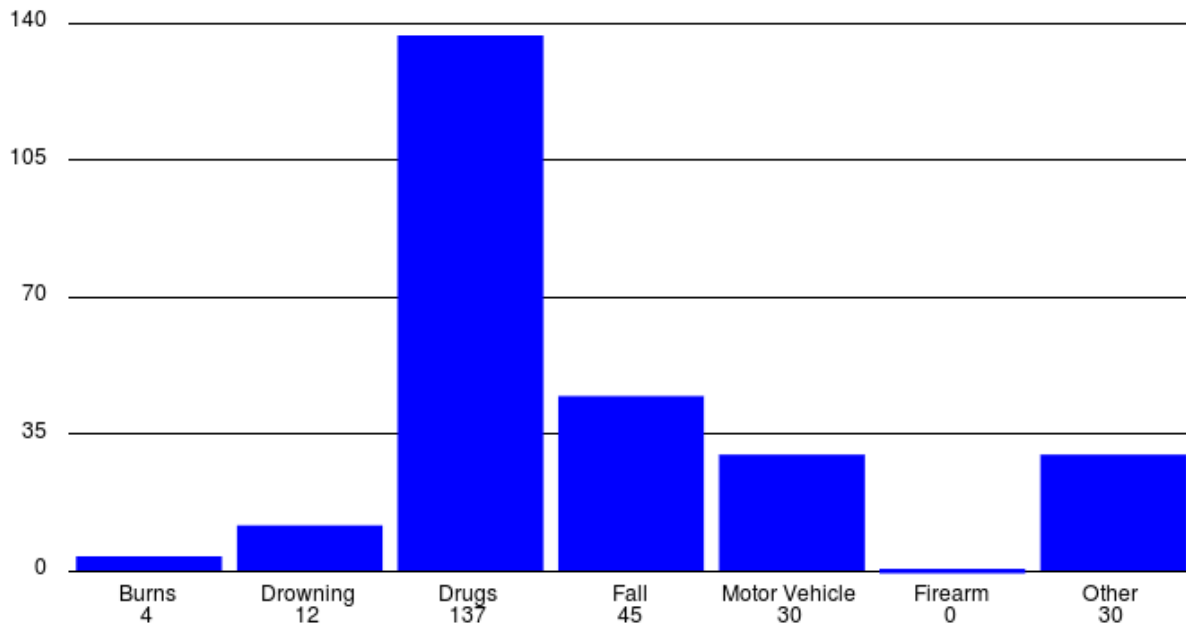
---





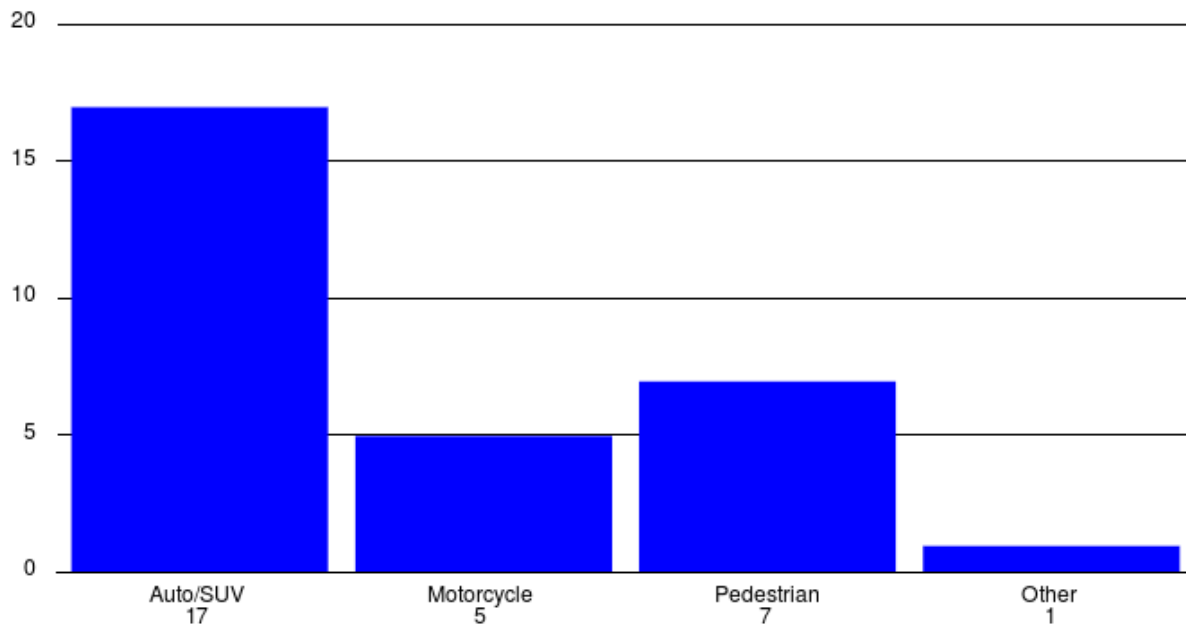
## Accidental Deaths by Type

---



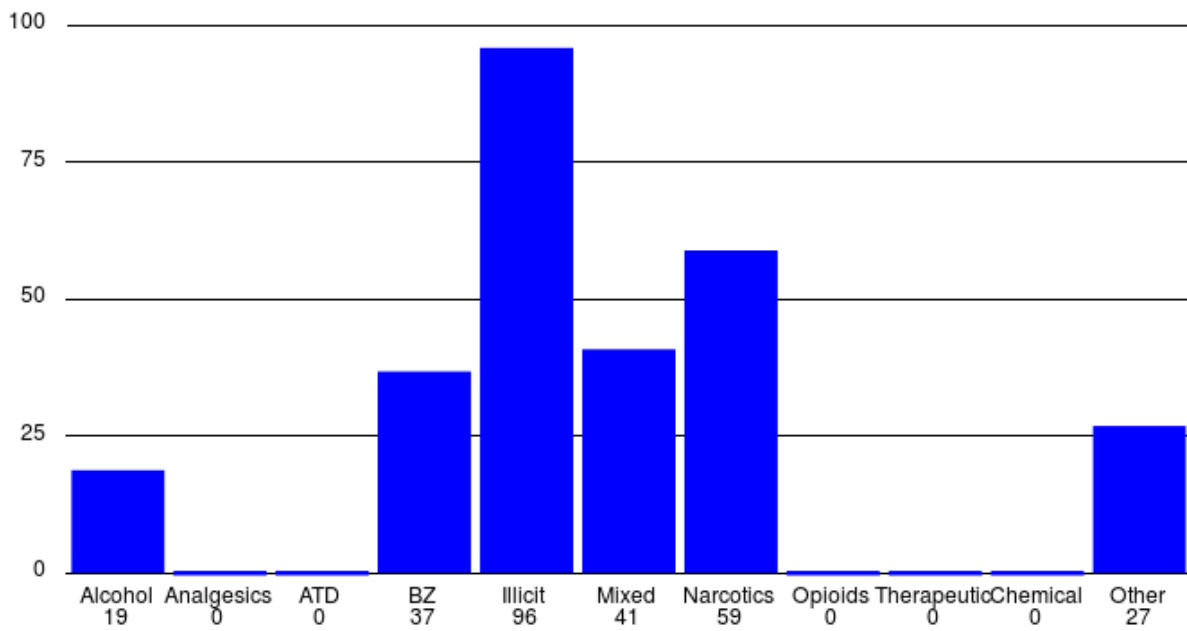
## Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes

---



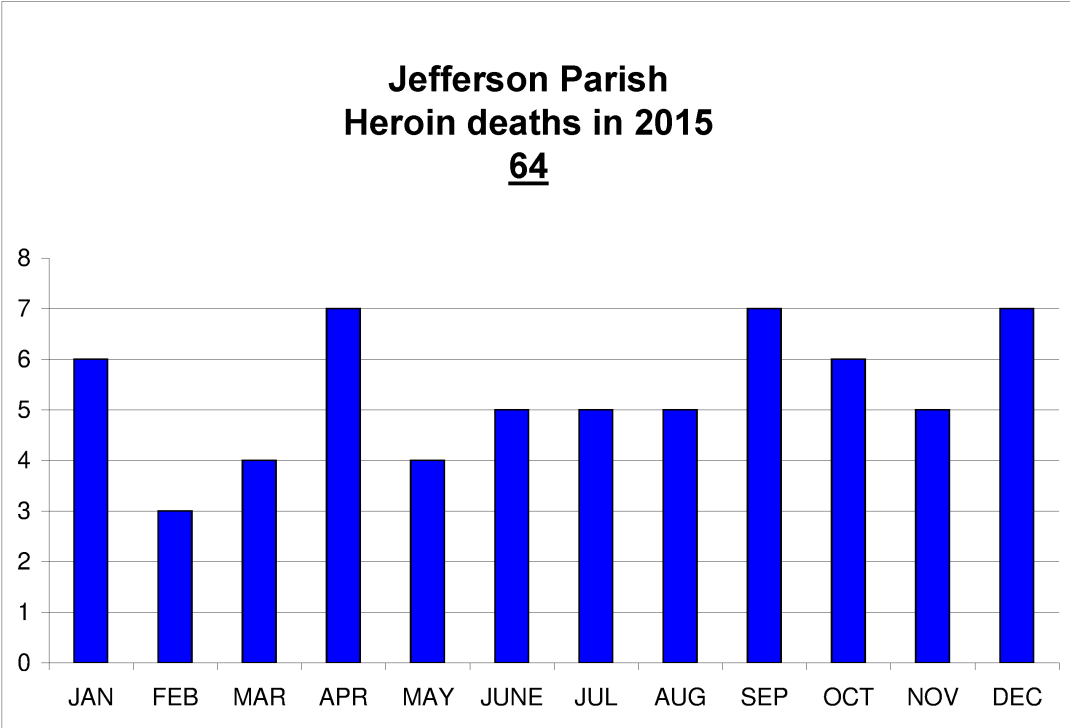
## Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death

---



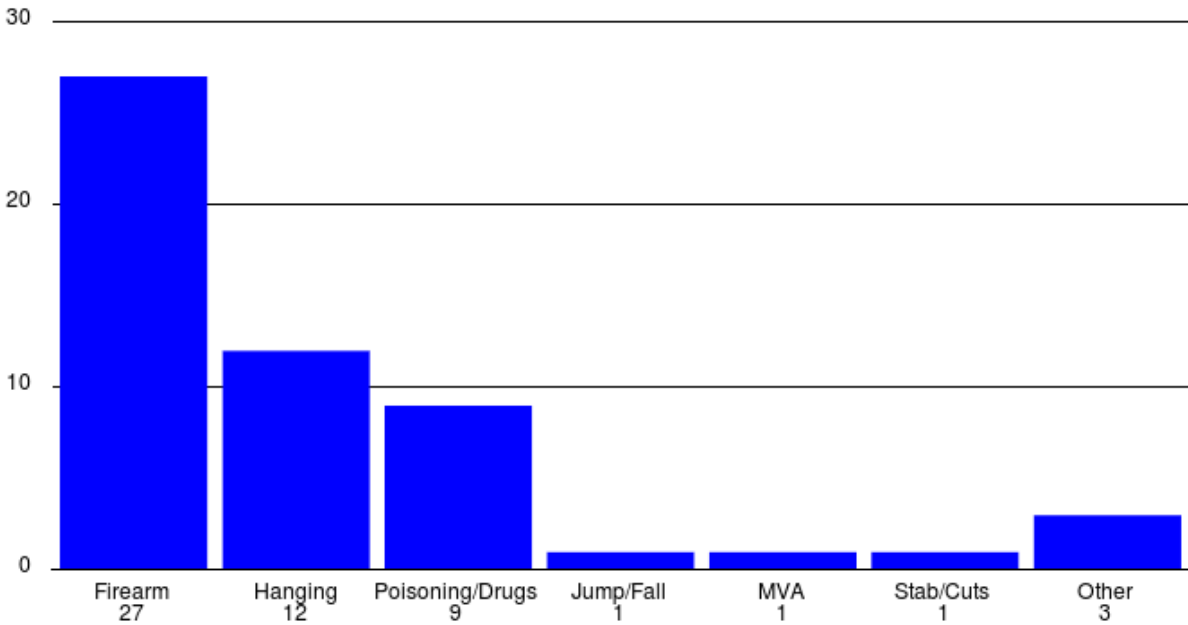
# Heroin Related Deaths

---



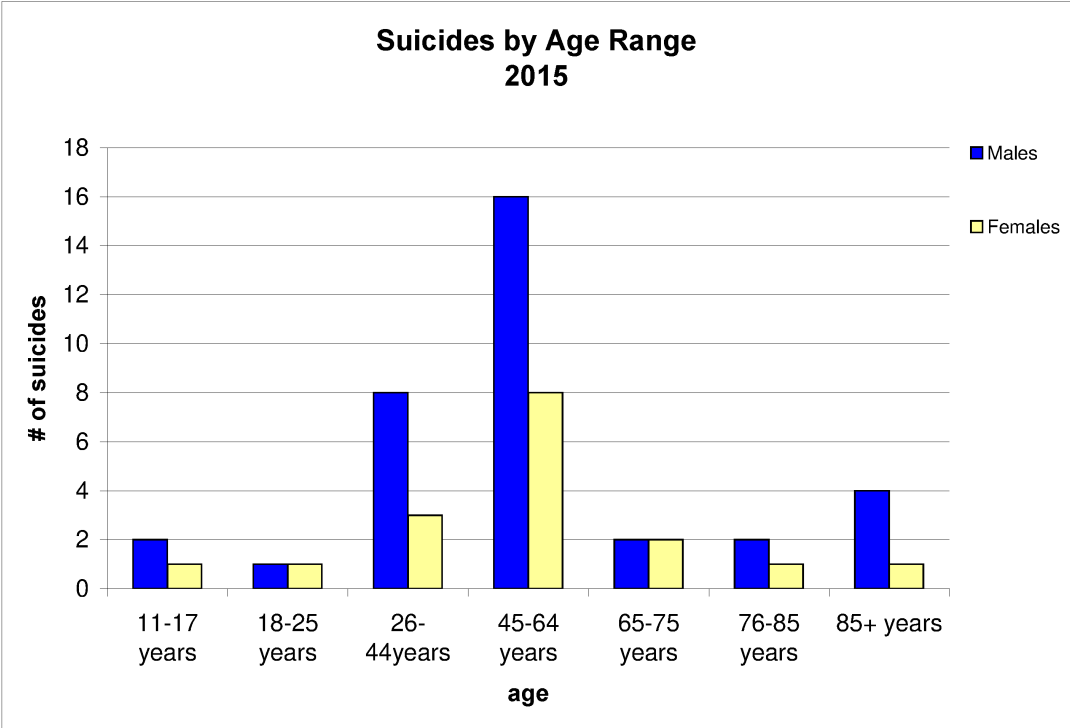
# Suicide by Means

---



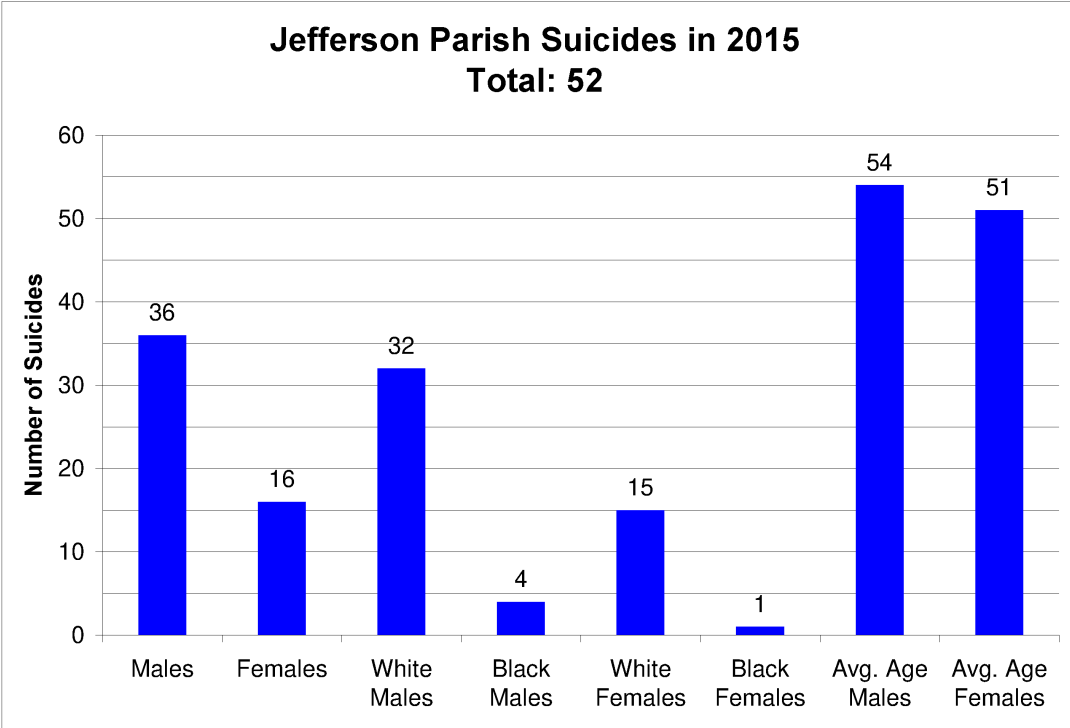
# Number of Suicides: By Age Range

---



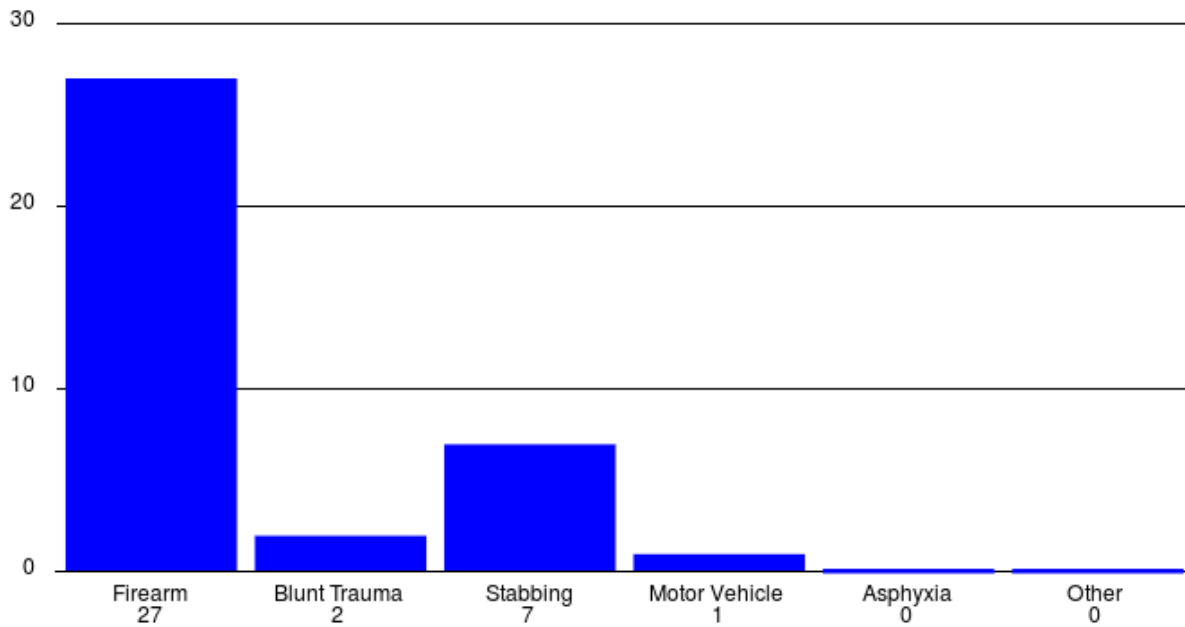
# Suicides: Gender, Race and Average Age

---



# Homicide Deaths

---

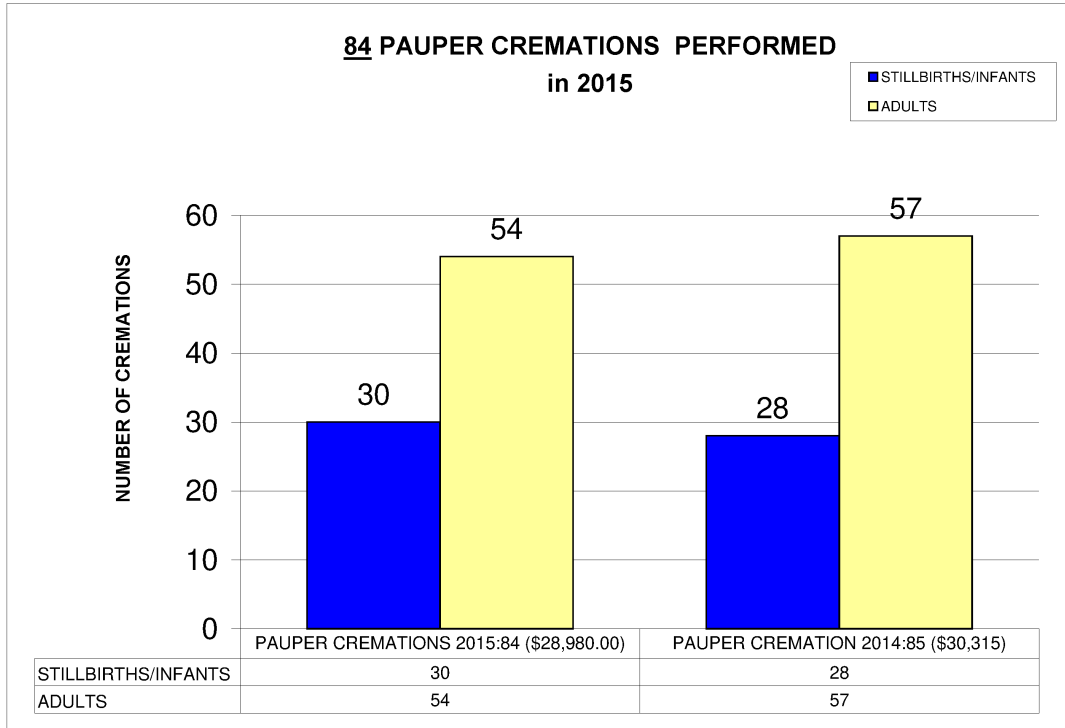


**Homicide Methods Used by Age:**

Age	<1	1-5	6-10	11-17	18-25	26-44	45-64	65+
Firearm	0	0	0	3	13	5	6	0
Blunt Trauma	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stabbing	0	2	0	0	2	2	1	0
Motor Vehicle	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	0	4	0	3	16	7	7	0

# Pauper/Unclaimed Remains

---

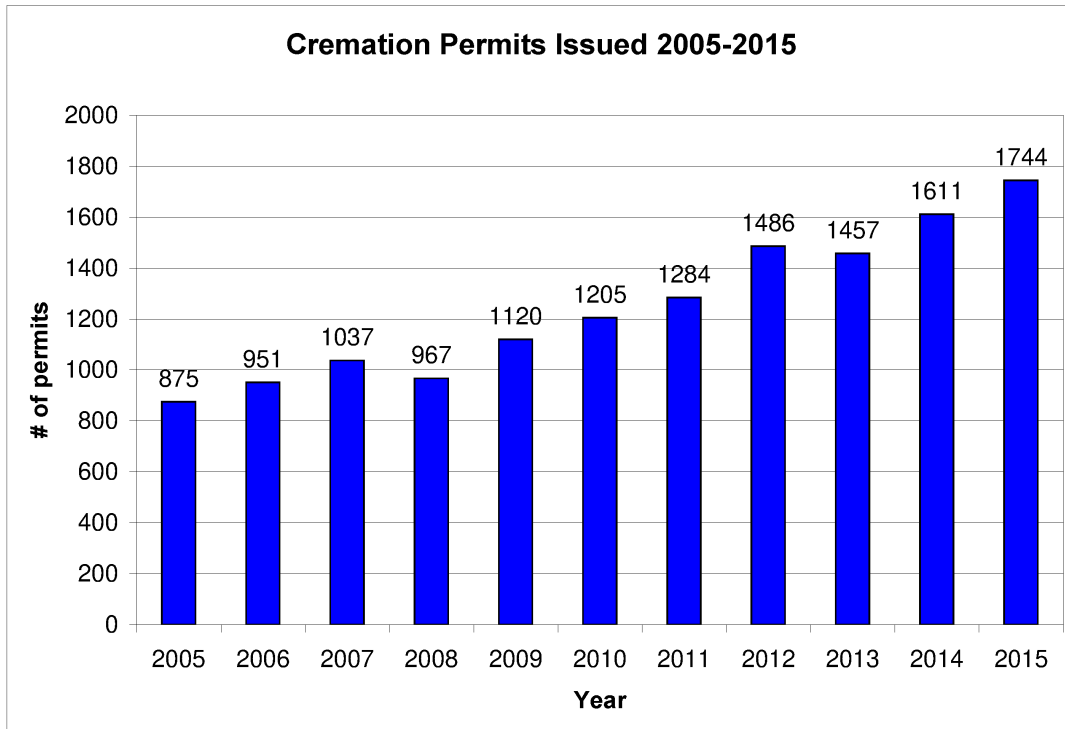


The Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office (JPCO) is required by law to bury or cremate all unclaimed persons who die in Jefferson Parish. In accordance with the law, a procedure has been established by the JPCO to facilitate the necessary arrangements for final disposition of the remains. The JPCO maintains an agreement with a local funeral home to handle the final disposition of the remains. Following notification of an unclaimed body in Jefferson Parish, it becomes the responsibility of the JPCO death investigator to initiate a diligent search for a family member or concerned party willing to claim the body. If after 30 days of death and the body is still unclaimed, the JPCO may dispose of the body in accordance with the law. There has been an exponential increase in the number of unclaimed bodies in Jefferson Parish. In 2015, **84** bodies were cremated as unclaimed/abandoned, compared to **48** in 2001. The death investigator will spend a tremendous amount of time conducting a search for the next of kin, other family or any concerned party to claim the body for final disposition.

## Cremation Permits issued 2005-2015

---





In the State of Louisiana, as per LA R.S. 13:5716, the Coroner is charged with the investigation of death if the body is to be cremated. The investigation involves confirmation that the death certificate is appropriately executed and no further circumstances exist which may have contributed to the death. This involves interviews with medical personnel, families and/or a review of medical records. If the cause of death is unclear or falls under the jurisdiction of the Coroner, a post mortem exam and issuance of a revised death certificate may be required. The above graph illustrates the steady increase over the past 11 years.

## **Body Transportation Costs**

---

2015: **478** body transfers costing \$ 93,521

In late 2015, the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office began in house transportation of bodies.

2014: **567** body transfers costing \$111,220

2013: **558** body transfers costing \$108,860

2012: **507** body transfers costing \$101,000

## **Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency Statistics (Coroner cases)**

---

Organ Donors: **21**

Lives Saved: **63**

Tissue Donors: **48**

Lives Enhanced: **3360**

## **Other Coroner Responsibilities**

---

**Mental Health:** The Coroner is responsible for the involuntary commitment of those persons who are either mentally ill or suffering from substance abuse and are in need of immediate treatment to protect themselves or others from physical harm.

**Sexual Assault Services:** The Coroner or his designee shall examine all alleged victims of rape, carnal knowledge, sexual battery, incest and crime against nature.

# Mental Health Department Statistics

---

## Mental Health Department 2015

	Jefferson Parish	Out of Parish	Total All Parishes
Order for Protective Custody (OPC)	379	6	385
Request for Coroner's Examination (PEC)	4,030	2,719	6,749
Coroner's Emergency Certificate (CEC)	1,943	1,497	3,440

# Sexual Assault Department Statistics

## Sexual Assault Department 2015

<b>JUVENILES (18 years &amp; younger)</b>	<b>Sexual Assaults</b>
Male	40
Female	136

<b>ADULTS (17 years &amp; older)</b>	<b>Sexual Assaults Reported</b>		<b>Sexual Assaults Un-Reported</b>		<b>Sexual Assaults</b>	
	IP*	OOP**	IP	OOP	Report	Un-Rep
Male	0	3	0	0	3	0
Female	29	10	4	6	39	10

\*IP – In Jefferson Parish

\*\*OOP – Out of Parish (These were completed at University Medical Center in Orleans Parish.)

# Community Outreach Department Statistics

## Community Outreach Department 2015\*

\*Programs are taught in Jefferson Parish Public & Private Schools

### **S.O.S. Signs of Suicide - Suicide Prevention Program**

<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Classes</b>	<b>Referrals</b>
JAN – MAY 2015	112	6	9
SEPT – DEC '15	972	34	160
<b>2015 H.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>169</b>

<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Classes</b>	<b>Referrals</b>
JAN – MAY 2015	1,041	14	6
SEPT – DEC 2015	603	15	49
<b>2015 M.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>55</b>

### **Teens, Sex, and the Law (TSAL)**

<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Classes</b>
JAN – MAY 2015	1,069	16
SEPT – DEC 2015	1,440	48
<b>2015 H.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>2,509</b>	<b>64</b>

<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Classes</b>
JAN – MAY 2015	1,962	33
SEPT – DEC 2015	1,163	19
<b>2015 M.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>3,125</b>	<b>52</b>

<b>2015 GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Classes</b>	<b>Referrals</b>
<b>Signs Of Suicide</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>224</b>

<b>Teen, Sex, &amp; the Law</b>	<b>5,634</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>0</b>
---------------------------------	--------------	-----------	----------