

Jefferson Parish Coroner



2016 Annual Report

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



Accredited by the
National Association of
Medical Examiners

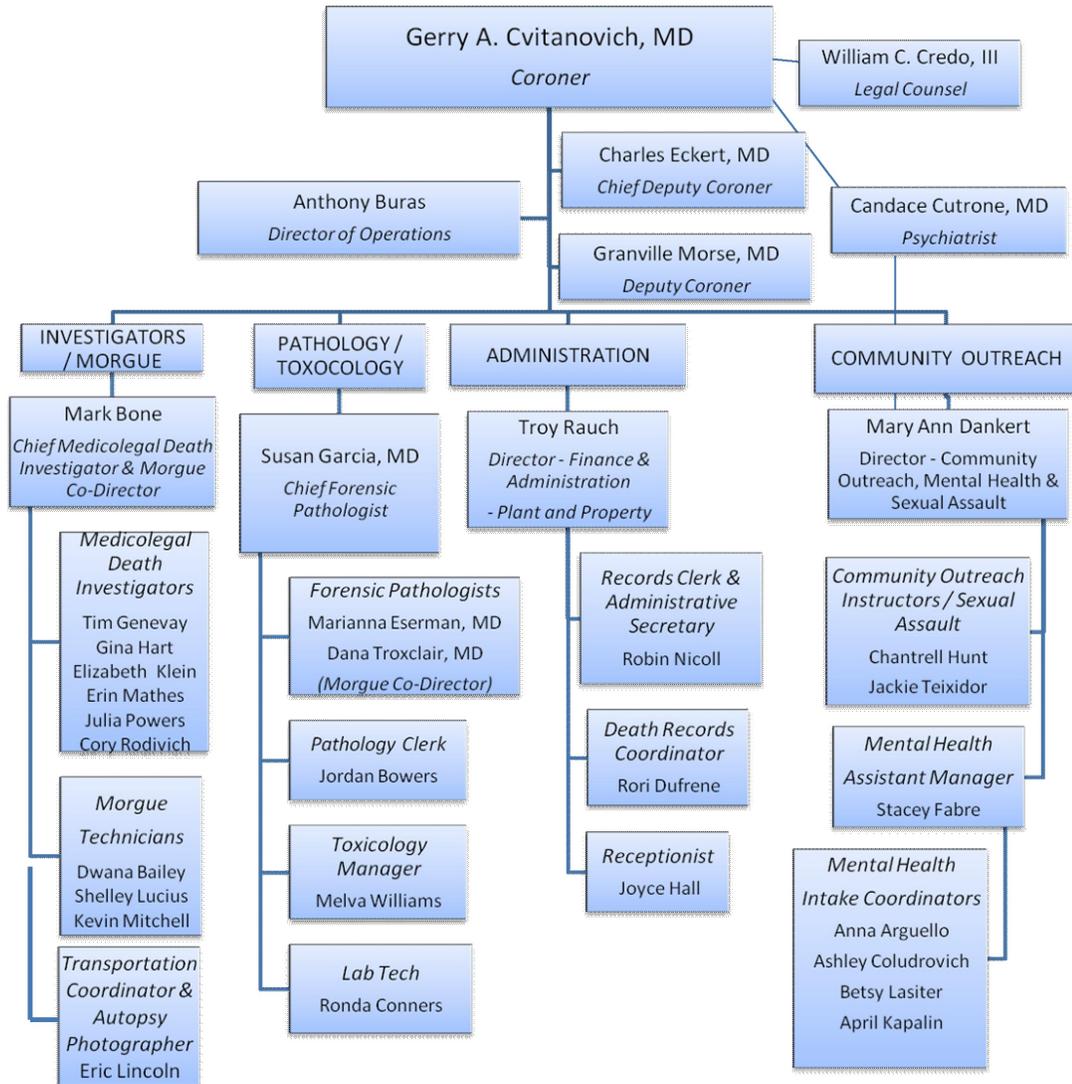
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Organizational Chart

JEFFERSON PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 2017



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Brief Summary 2016

Population (est. 2016)	436,523
Cases Reported to the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office	3337
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	500
1. Number of Coroner Cases with Complete Autopsy	442
2. Number of Coroner Cases with External Examination	57
3. Number of Coroner Cases with Limited Examination	1
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	397
C. Number of death scene investigations	452

The Coroner's Office serves the living by investigating sudden expected and unexpected deaths, in particular, those under violent or suspicious circumstances. Our role is that of a neutral scientific investigative body to determine How, When and Why the death occurred. The Coroner is responsible for signing all the death certificates in cases involving unnatural deaths, persons with no attending physician or if the treating physician refuses to sign the death certificate. Other expanded duties performed by the Coroner include the examination of sex crime victims and the examination of involuntary mental commitments.

The office was established in 1825 and is directed by Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich, who was first elected Coroner in 2011. This office has been accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiner's since 2009 and boasts an entire death investigation staff certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

The 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.

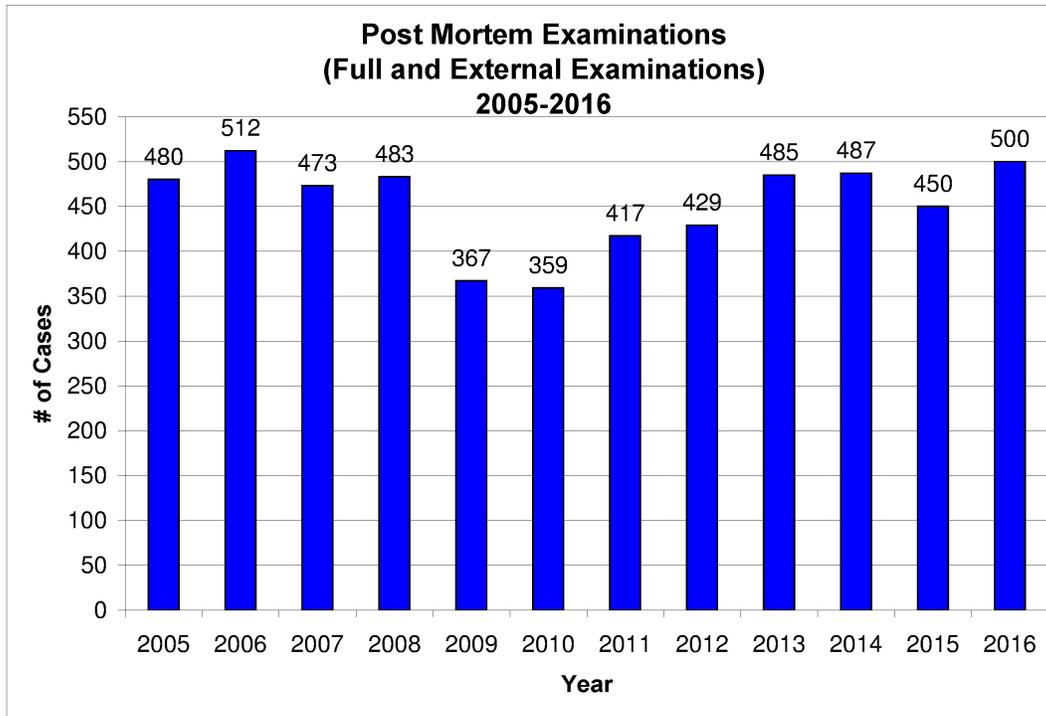
Types of Deaths Reportable to the Coroner's Office

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 2006-2016

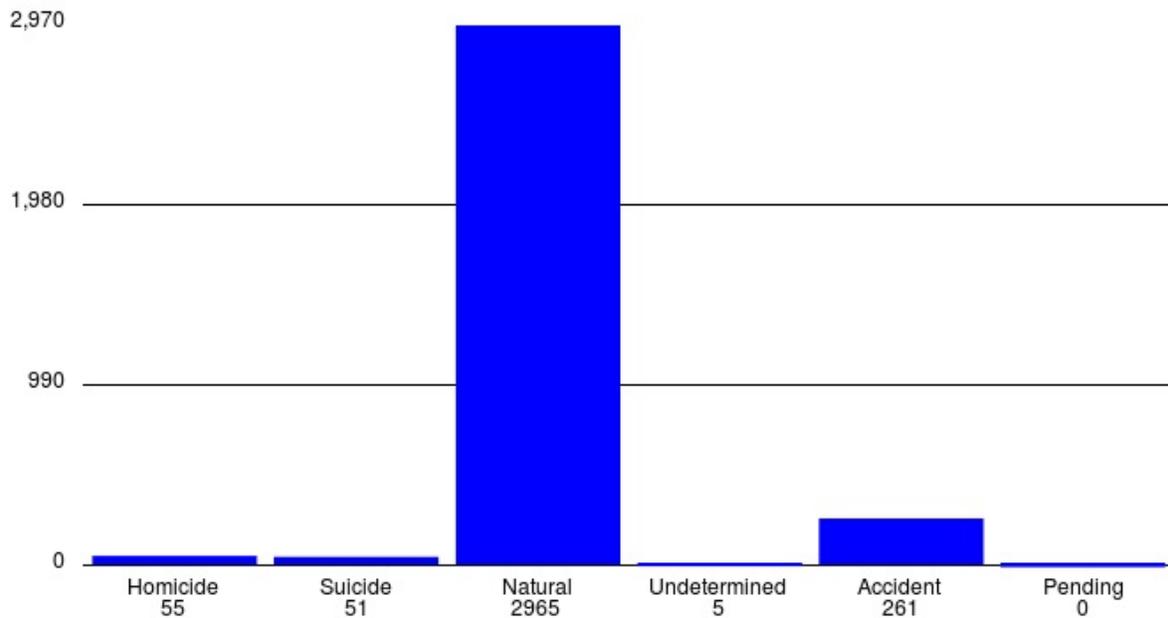


In 2016, The Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office accepted jurisdiction in 3337 cases. Of those, 500 were autopsied. This graph depicts the number of post mortem exams performed over the last 11 years. The office also performed 77 autopsies for other Coroner agencies in the State

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.

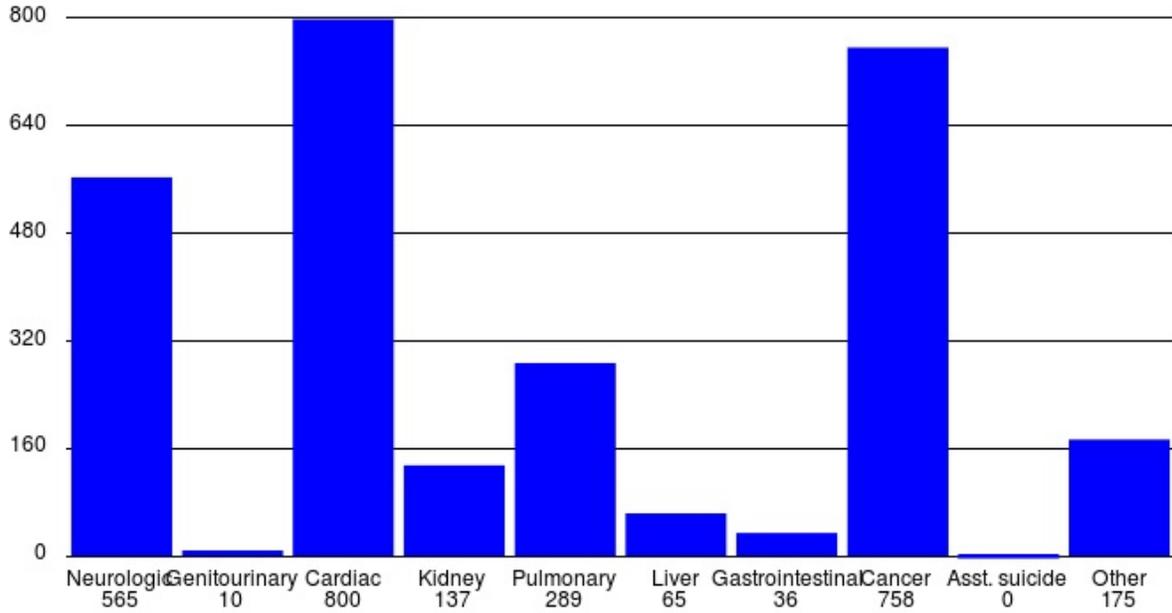
Suicide: Death as a result of intentional injury to self.

Natural: Deaths due to major disease process or aging.

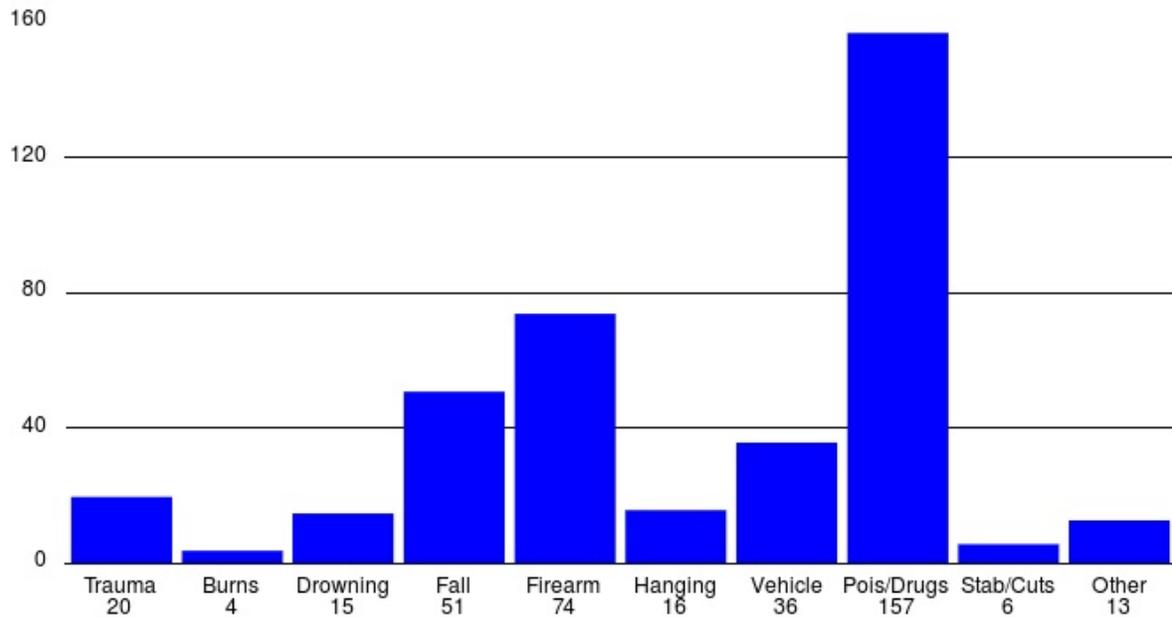
Undetermined: Insufficient information surrounding the death or when the cause of death is unknown.

Accident: Unintended and essentially unavoidable death.

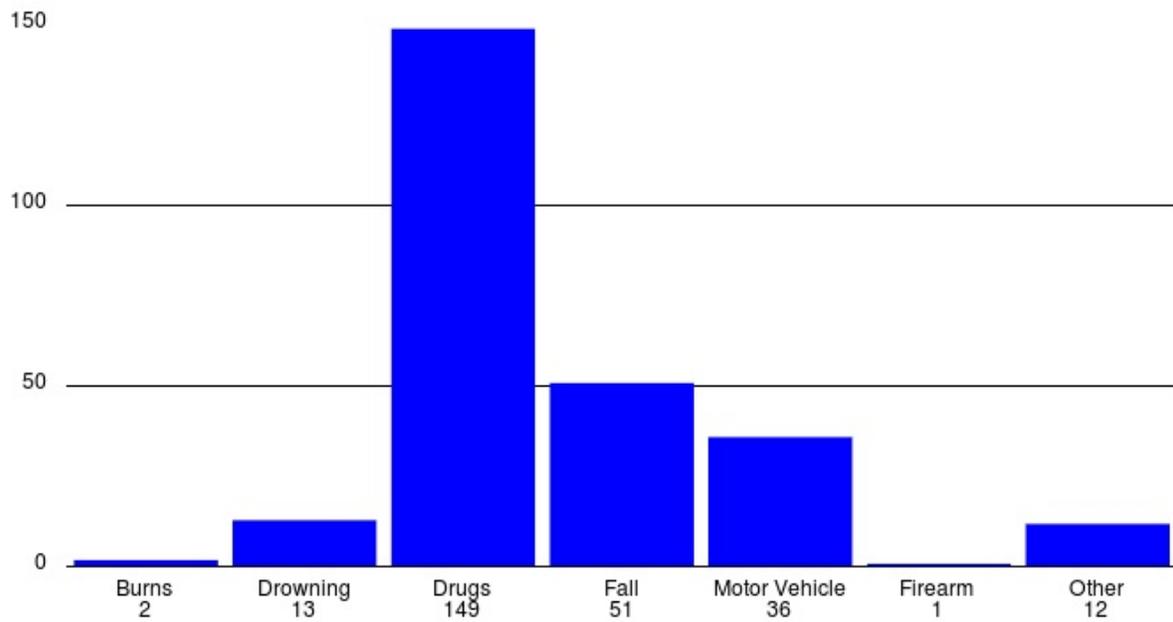
Deaths by Natural Causes



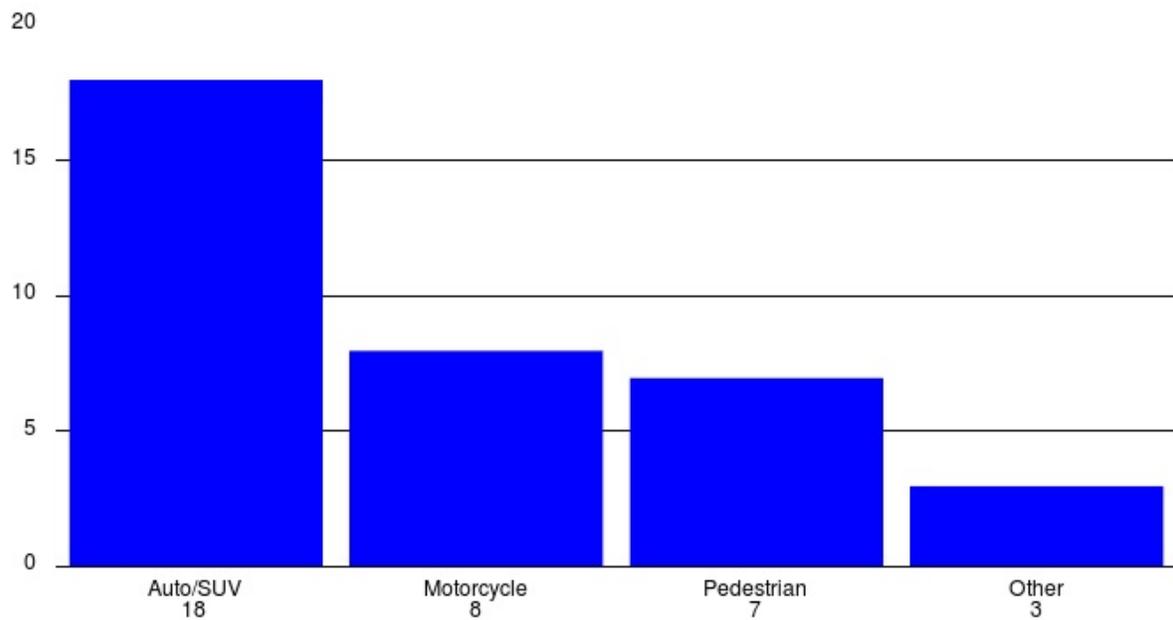
Deaths by Unnatural Causes



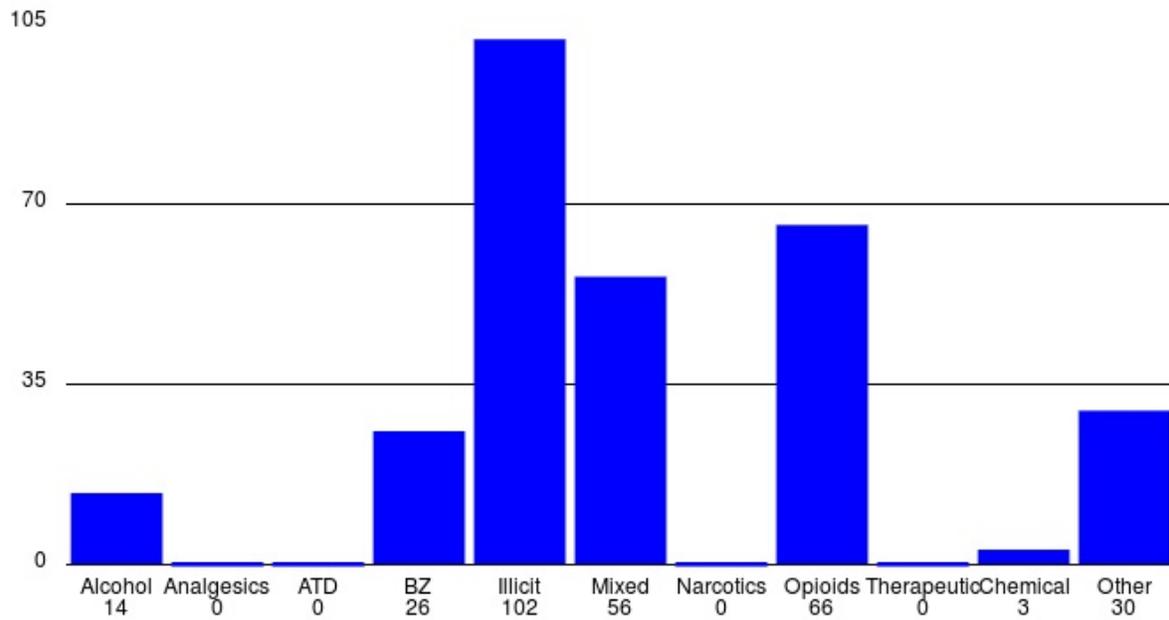
Accidental Deaths by Type



Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes



Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death



BZ= Benzodiazepines

* Analgesics, Anti Depressants (ATD), Narcotics and Thereputic were not categorized

Heroin Related Deaths 2013-2016

2013

HEROIN	66
HEROIN/ACETYL FENTANYL	1
ACETYL FENTANYL	5

2014

HEROIN	65
HEROIN/FENTANYL	1
FENTANYL	3
ACETYL FENTANYL	4

2015

HEROIN	64
HEROIN/ACETYL FENTANYL	1
FENTANYL	3
ACETYL FENTANYL	5
ACETYL FENTANYL/ FENTANYL	6

2016

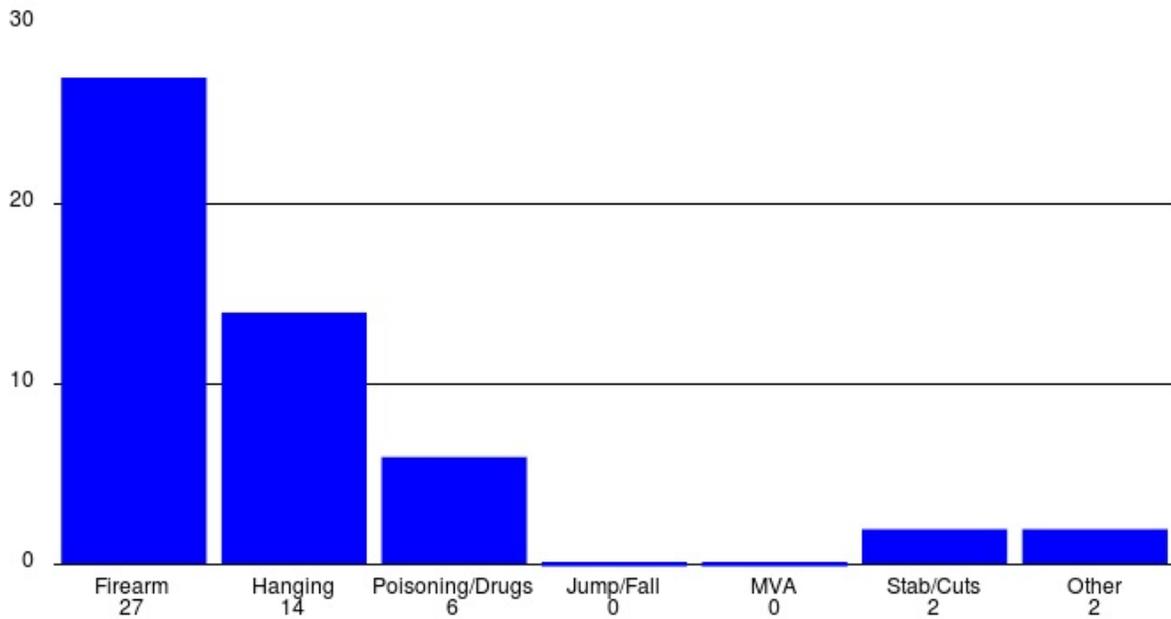
HEROIN	54
HEROIN/FENTANYL	7
FENTANYL	8
ACETYL FENTANYL/ FENTANYL	7
HEROIN/ACETYL FENTANYL/ FENTANYL	3
FURANYL FENTANYL	1

Concomitant ingestion of other substances identified in fatalities associated with heroin use

	2013 (n= 66)* n (%)	2014 (n= 65)* n (%)	2015 (n= 64)* n (%)	2016 (n=54)* n (%)
Fentanyl (licit or illicit)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.6)	8 (14.8)
Cocaine	11 (16.7)	12 (18.5)	18 (28.1)	15 (27.8)
Benzodiazepine	21 (31.8)	17 (26.2)	20 (31.3)	19 (35.2)
Opiates	13 (19.7)	17 (26.2)	18 (28.3)	11(20.4)
Ethanol	17 (25.8)	17 (26.2)	13 (20.3)	11(20.4)

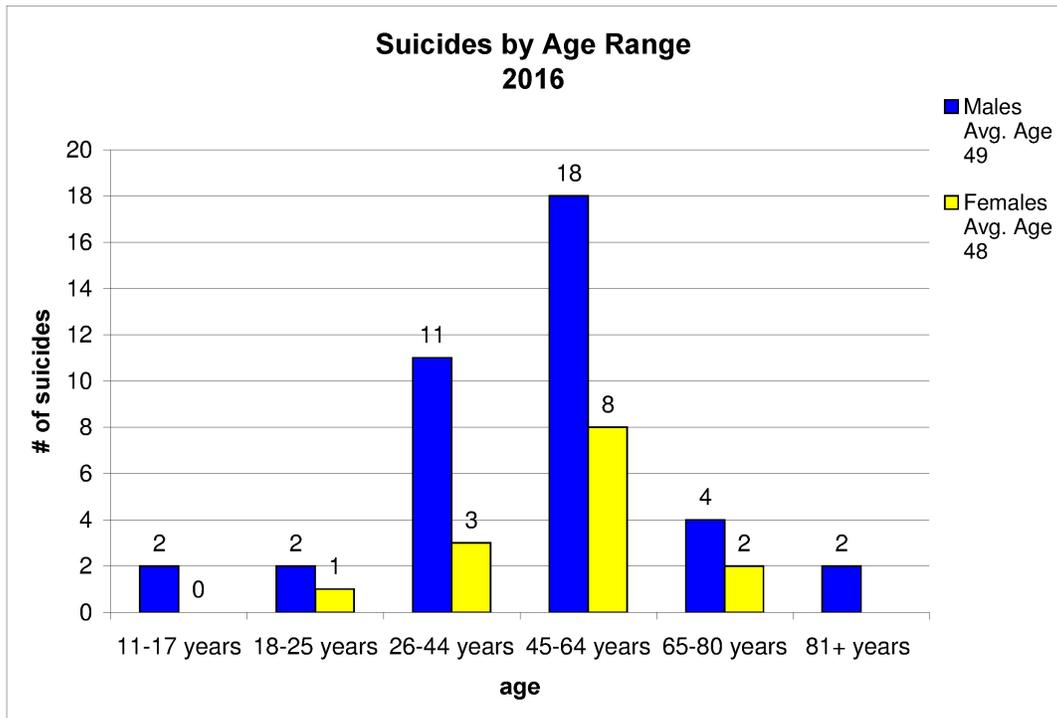
*Total heroin deaths

Suicide by Means

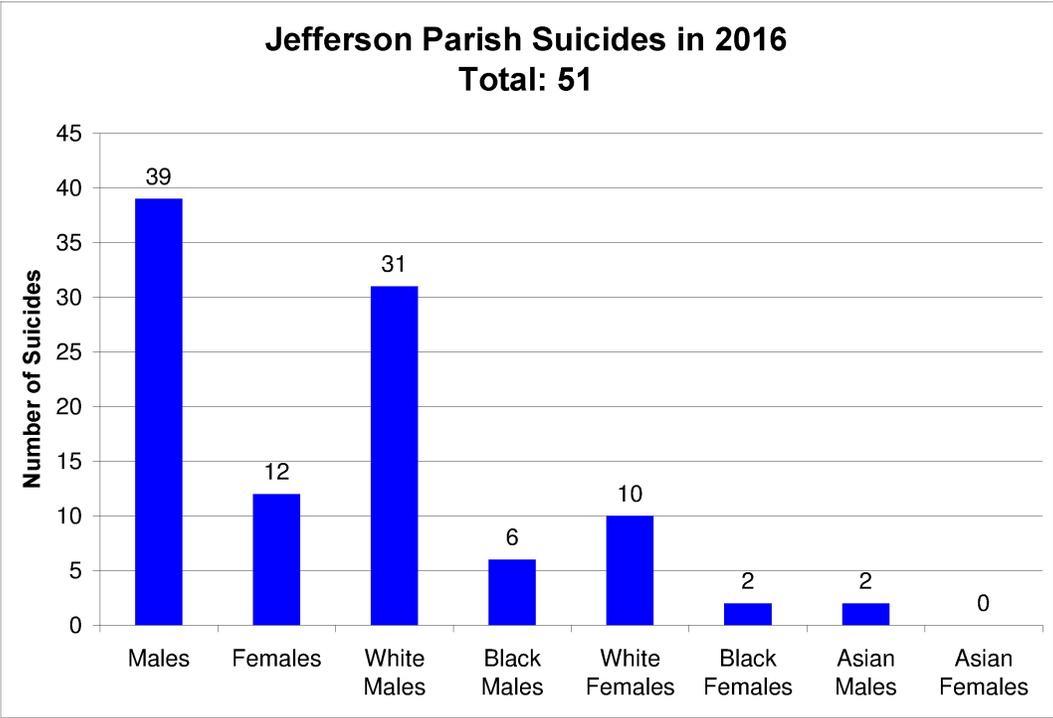


71 % of the deaths tested positive for drugs or alcohol.

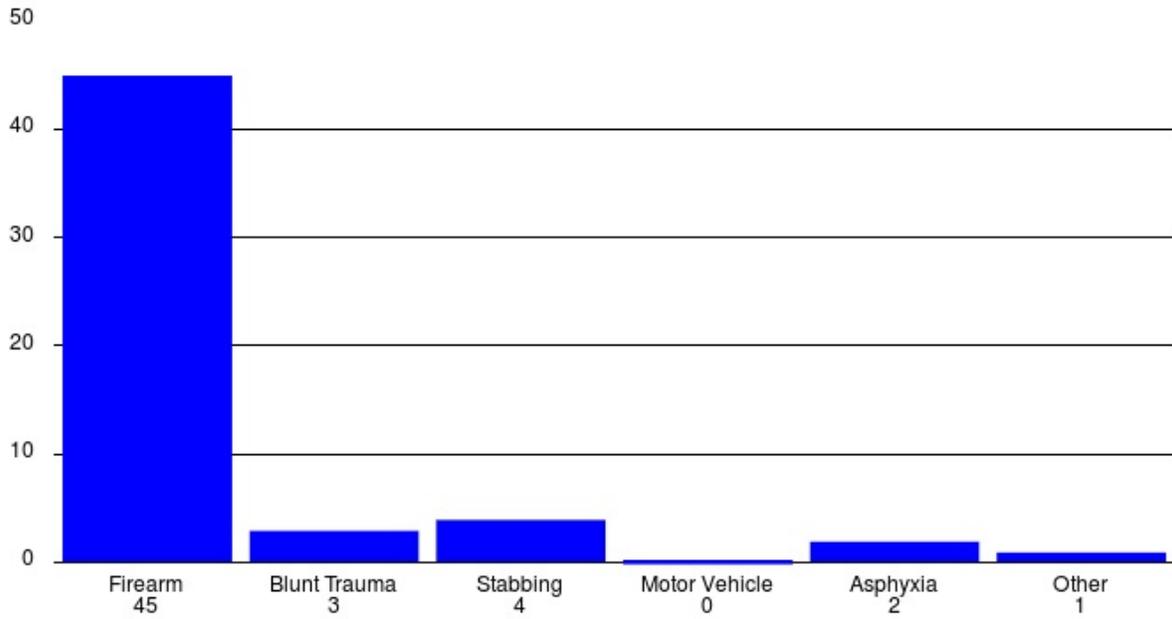
Number of Suicides By Age Range



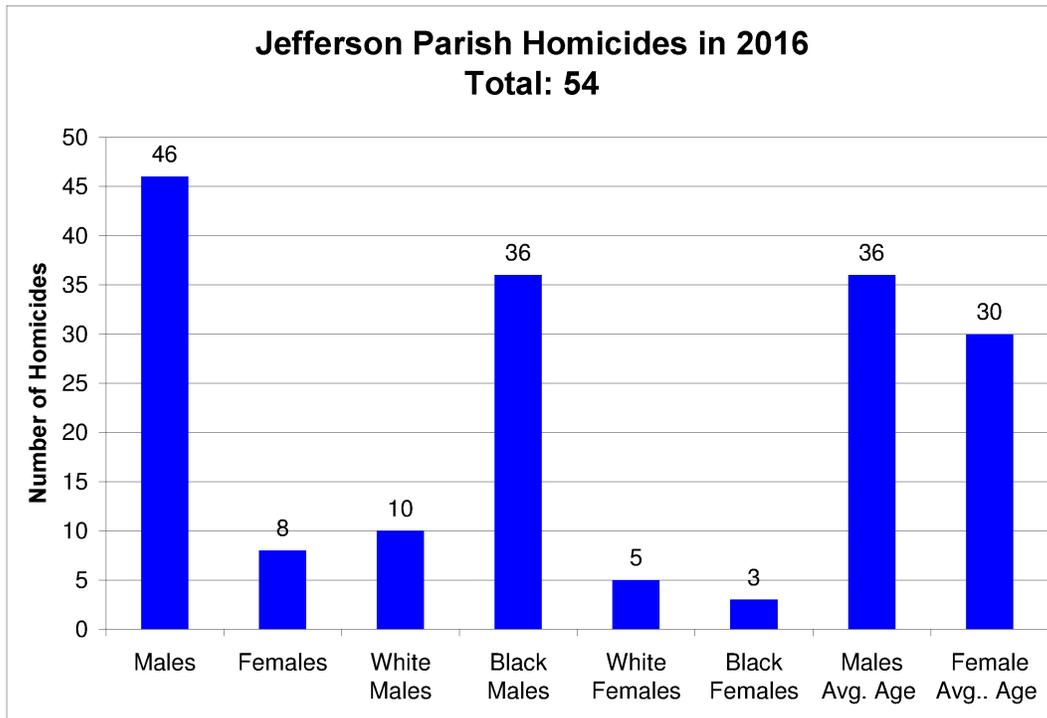
Suicides By Gender and Race



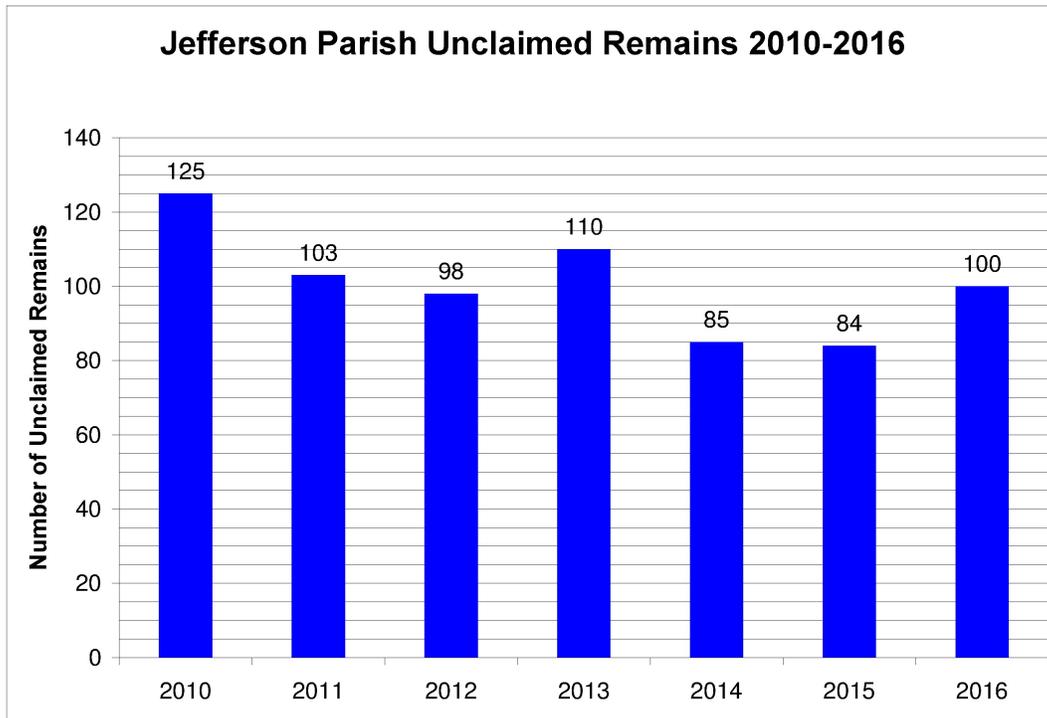
Homicide Deaths by Means



Homicides By Gender, Race and Average Age

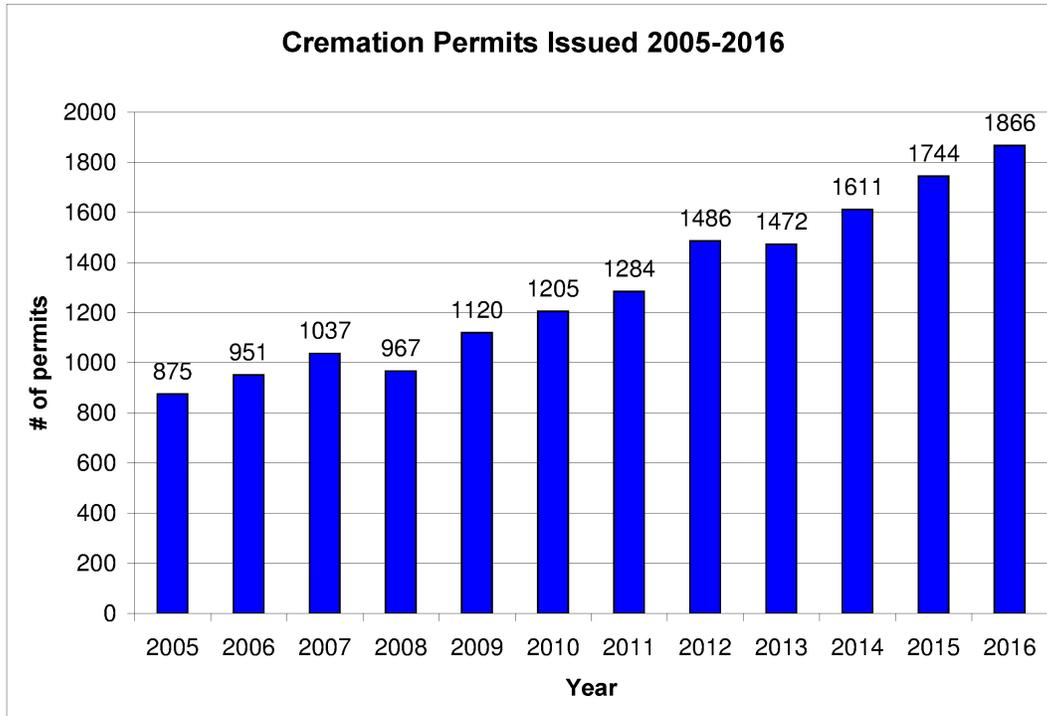


Pauper/Unclaimed Remains: 2010-2016



The Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office (JPCO) is required by law to dispose of all unclaimed dead bodies 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. When a body is unclaimed or abandoned in Jefferson Parish, it becomes the responsibility of the JPCO to initiate a diligent search for a family member or concerned party willing to claim the body for final disposition. If after 30 days of death and the body is still unclaimed, the JPCO may dispose of the body in accordance with the law. In 2016, **100** bodies were cremated as unclaimed/abandoned, compared to **48** in 2001. The graph above depicts the unclaimed bodies cremated from 2010-2016 costing tax payers approximately 38,000 per year.

Cremation Permits Issued: 2006-2016



In the State of Louisiana, as per LA R.S. 13:5716, the Coroner is charged with the investigation in all deaths if the body is to be cremated. If, after the necessary investigation, the coroner is satisfied that there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, he shall issue a permit for cremation. The investigation involves the confirmation that the death certificate is appropriately executed and no further circumstances exist which may have contributed to the death. If the investigation reveals suspicious circumstances or the reasonable probability of the commission of a crime, the coroner shall deny the permit. If the cause of death is unclear or falls under the jurisdiction of the Coroner, a postmortem exam and issuance of a revised death certificate may be required. The above graph illustrates the steady increase over the past 12 years.

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 2016

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	Jefferson Parish	Out of Parish	Total All Parishes
OPC - Order for Protective Custody	392	2	394
PEC - Request for Coroner's Examination	4,106	2,666	6,772
CEC -Coroner's Emergency Certificate	1,930	1,370	3,300

Sexual Assault Department Statistics

Sexual Assault Department 2016

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JUVENILES (18 years & younger)	Sexual Assaults
Male	77
Female	405

ADULTS (17 years & older)	Sexual Assaults Reported		Sexual Assaults Un-Reported		Sexual Assaults	
	IP*	OOP**	IP	OOP	Report	Un-Rep
Male	0	1	0	0	3	1
Female	29	0	3	2	32	2

*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 2016*

*Programs are taught in Jefferson Parish Public & Private Schools

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

HIGH SCHOOL	Students	Classes	Referrals
JAN – MAY 2016	112	6	9
AUG – DEC '16	416	26	33
2016 H.S. TOTAL	528	32	42

MIDDLE SCHOOL	Students	Classes	Referrals
JAN – MAY 2016	1,041	14	6
AUG – DEC 2016	1,002	22	23
2016 M.S. TOTAL	2,043	36	29

Teens, Sex, and the Law (TSAL)

HIGH SCHOOL	Students	Classes
JAN – MAY 2016	1,069	16
AUG – DEC 2016	803	18
2016 H.S. TOTAL	1,872	34

MIDDLE SCHOOL	Students	Classes
JAN – MAY 2016	893	17
AUG – DEC 2016	3,239	37
2016 M.S. TOTAL	4,132	54

2016 GRAND TOTAL	Students	Classes	Referrals
Signs Of Suicide	2,571	68	71
Teen, Sex, & the Law	6,004	88	0

Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency/ Southern Eye Bank Statistics for Coroner Cases

LOPA

Organ Donors: **16**

Lives Saved: **56**

Tissue Donors: **48**

Lives Enhanced: **3360**

SEB

Total number of eye donors received from the Jefferson Parish Coroner's office:
25

22% of ocular tissue donations in Jefferson Parish were provided by the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office

One donor can provide the gift of sight to two people and enhance vision for an additional four people.