



# Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences Death Investigation Annual Report

2013

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Michael F. Sparks  
Director

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Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences  
Death Investigation Annual Report 2013

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**Letter to the reader:**

***This report was prepared using data generated from ADFS Departmental Laboratory Information Management Systems and manually obtained data found in regional laboratory reports. Due to the nature of Forensic Medicine, this report is considered a living document as Causes and Manners of death are subject to change with the presentation of additional evidence. Information in this document pertains to cases presented to the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences for consultation or examination and does not reflect the state of Alabama's mortality rates. Nor is the report intended to report all causes of death.***

***Totals for the five generally accepted manners of death are provided. However within those manners only major categories of cause of death are reported as are significant statistical discoveries.***

***Jefferson County is not reflected in this report as it is a County Medical Examiner's Office, separate from this department.***

**Report Prepared by:  
Scott Belton  
Quality Manager for Death Investigations**



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**ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>Medical Examiner</b>	<b>(ME)</b>
<b>Investigator</b>	<b>(INV)</b>
<b>Sudden Unexplained Infant Death</b>	<b>(SUID)</b>
<b>National Association of Medical Examiners</b>	<b>(NAME)</b>
<b>Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences</b>	<b>(ADFS)</b>
<b>Laboratory Information Management System</b>	<b>(LIMS)</b>
<b>Huntsville Medical Examiners Office</b>	<b>(HM)</b>
<b>Mobile Medical Examiners Office</b>	<b>(ME)</b>
<b>Montgomery Medical Examiners Office</b>	<b>(MM)</b>



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## Administration

**Michael F. Sparks**  
*Department Director*

.....

## Medical Directors

**Dr. Staci Turner**  
*Medical Director*  
*Mobile*

**Dr. Steven Dunton**  
*Medical Director*  
*Montgomery and Huntsville*

## Operations Directors

**Nick Carter**  
*Operations Director*  
*Montgomery*

**Gerald Howard**  
*Operations Director*  
*Huntsville*

**Sherri Saint**  
*Operations Director*  
*Mobile*

**Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences**  
**1051 Wire Road**  
**Auburn Alabama 36832**



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## 2011 General Alabama Statistics

### Population:

Population 2011	4,802,740
Population 2010	4,779,308
Annual Growth 2010-2011	7.5%
Persons under 5	307,375 (6.4%)
Persons under 18	1,138,249 (23.7%)
Persons 65 and older	633,961 (13.8%)

### Gender:

Females	2,473,411 (51.5%)
Males	2,329,328 (48.5%)

### Race:

White persons	3,289,876 (68.5%)
Black persons	1,258,317 (26.2%)
Hispanic persons	187,306 (3.9%)
Asian persons	52,830 (1.1%)
Native American persons	28,816 (.6%)
Persons with 2 or more races	72,041 (1.5%)

### Education:

Language other than English at home	235,334 (4.9%)
High School Graduates 25+ age 2006-2010	3,909,430 (81.4%)
College Graduates 25+ age 2006-2010	1,042,194 (21.7%)
Persons below poverty level 2006-2010	821,268 (17.1%)



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**System-wide Death Statistics**

<b>Cases Reported to ADFS:</b>		<b>2621</b>
<b>Consultation Cases:</b>		<b>603</b>
<b>Cases Examined:</b>		<b>2018</b>
<b>External Examinations:</b>		<b>606</b>
<b>Cases Autopsied:</b>		<b>1412</b>
<b>Scenes Attended:</b>	<b>ME: 0</b>	<b>INV: 140</b>
<b>Exhumations:</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Cases with Toxicology:</b>		<b>1744</b>

**Cause of Death**

<b>Shotgun Wound(s):</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Gunshot Wound(s):</b>	<b>394</b>
<b>Sharp Force Injury(s):</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Blunt Force Injury(s):</b>	<b>339</b>
<b>Drug Toxicity:</b>	<b>272</b>
<b>Drowning:</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Hanging:</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury(s):</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Cardiovascular Disease:</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>Ethanol Toxicity:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Strangulation:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Asphyxiation:</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:</b>	<b>64</b>



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## System wide Manner of Death Statistics

### Homicide

System wide:	316
Huntsville:	89
Mobile:	61
Montgomery:	166

### Suicide

System wide:	296
Huntsville:	50
Mobile:	106
Montgomery:	140

### Accident

System wide:	722
Huntsville:	150
Mobile:	284
Montgomery:	288

### Natural

System wide:	547
Huntsville:	75
Mobile:	269
Montgomery:	203

### Undetermined

System wide:	137
Huntsville:	57
Mobile:	16
Montgomery:	64



## System wide Cause of Death by Manner of Death

### Homicide: 316

Gunshot Wounds(s): 213  
Blunt Force Injury(s): 24  
Death by Lethal Injection: 0

Sharp Force Injury(s): 37  
Asphyxia: 14  
Drowning: 1

### Suicide: 296

Gunshot Wound(s): 174  
Hanging: 51  
Asphyxia: 5

Sharp Force Injury(s): 12  
Drug Toxicity: 15

### Accident: 722

Gunshot Wound(s): 4  
Motor Vehicle Fatality(s): 250  
Asphyxia: 15

Sharp Force Injury(s): 3  
Drug Toxicity: 273  
Drowning: 43

### Natural: 547

Cardiovascular Disease: 316  
Liver Disease: 11  
Renal Disease: 4  
Other Natural: 121

Carcinoma: 20  
Lung Disease: 16  
Chronic Ethanol: 7

### Undetermined: 137

SUID: 64  
Drug Toxicity: 6

Gunshot Wound(s): 3  
Blunt Force Injury(s): 7



## Consultation Cases and Cremation Permits

### Consultation Cases

Huntsville Medical:	10
Mobile Medical:	382
Montgomery Medical:	211
Statewide:	603

### Cremation Permits Issued:

Huntsville Medical:	0
Mobile Medical:	1017
Montgomery Medical:	0
Statewide:	1017



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## Case Distribution Statistics

### Huntsville Medical Laboratory

Total Examinations Performed:	420	
External Examinations:	89	(21%)
Autopsies:	331	(79%)
Partial Examinations:	0	

\*Average per Medical Examiner: 177 per ME (2)

### Mobile Medical Laboratory

Total Examinations Performed:	737	
External Examinations:	342	(46%)
Autopsies:	395	(54%)
Partial Examinations:	0	

\*Average per Medical Examiner: 160 per ME (3)

### Montgomery Medical Laboratory

Total Examinations Performed:	865	
External Examinations:	175	(20%)
Autopsies:	686	(80%)
Partial Examinations:	0	

\*Average per Medical Examiner: 243 per ME (3)

\* Averages are calculated using the NAME recommended 4 external examinations = 1 autopsy.



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## Medical Examiner Individual Statistics

### Dr. Emily Ward \*

Total Examinations Performed:	16	
External Examinations:	2	(13%)
Autopsies:	12	(75%)
Homicides:	13	

### Dr. Valerie Green

Total Examinations Performed:	246	
External Examinations:	51	(21%)
Autopsies:	195	(79%)
Homicides:	54	

### Dr. Staci Turner

Total Examinations Performed:	268	
External Examinations:	146	(54%)
Autopsies:	122	(46%)
Homicides:	28	

### Dr. John Krolkowski

Total Examinations Performed:	235	
External Examinations:	108	(46%)
Autopsies:	127	(54%)
Homicides:	17	



## Medical Examiner Individual Statistics

### Dr. Eugene Hart

Total Examinations Performed:	234	
External Examinations:	88	(38%)
Autopsies:	146	(62%)
Homicides:	16	

### Dr. Stephen Boudreau

Total Examinations Performed:	374	
External Examinations:	74	(20%)
Autopsies:	300	(80%)
Homicides:	92	

### Dr. Alfredo Paredes

Total Examinations Performed:	246	
External Examinations:	47	(19%)
Autopsies:	199	(81%)
Homicides:	38	

### Dr. Steven Dunton

Total Examinations Performed:	241	
External Examinations:	54	(22%)
Autopsies:	187	(78%)
Homicides:	36	

\* No longer on staff



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## Case Closure Rates

### System wide

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	35%
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	41%

### Huntsville Medical Facility

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	18%
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	24%

### Mobile Medical Facility

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	43%
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	42%

### Montgomery Medical Facility

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	33%
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	45%

\*\*\*Most Medical Examiner Reports over 60 and 90 days are due to outside testing.



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## Unclaimed/Unidentified Decedents

Month	Unclaimed Bodies			Unidentified at Exam		
	HV	MB	MM	HV	MB	MM
2012-2013						
OCT	0	7	0	0	0	1
NOV	0	9	1	0	0	1
DEC	0	8	2	0	3	0
JAN	0	15	1	0	1	1
FEB	0	12	1	0	2	0
MAR	0	20	0	0	1	0
APRIL	0	11	0	1	1	0
MAY	0	9	0	0	0	1
JUNE	0	10	0	0	0	0
JULY	0	13	0	1	0	0
AUG	0	7	1	0	0	1
SEPT	0	13	1	0	1	1



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**Decedent transports from  
10/1/2012 to 9/30/2013**

166 decedents transported from Tuscaloosa Alabama  
for examination at an ADFS Facility.



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## Anatomical Gifting Statistics

### System-wide

*Number of Decedents Gifting:* 119  
*Percentage of Cases Gifting:* 6%

### Huntsville Medical Laboratory

*Number of Decedents Gifting:* 2  
*Percentage of Cases Gifting:* .5%

### Mobile Medical Laboratory

*Number of Decedents Gifting:* 80  
*Percentage of Cases Gifting:* 11%

### Montgomery Medical Laboratory

*Number of Decedents Gifting:* 37  
*Percentage of Cases Gifting:* 4%

\*\*\*Anatomical gifting partners include the Alabama Eye Bank and the Alabama Organ Center.



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**Huntsville Medical Examiner's Office**

**Dr. Valerie Green  
Medical Examiner**

**Dr. Kathleen Enstice  
Medical Examiner**

**Gerald Howard  
Forensic Pathology Specialist, Senior  
Operations Director**

***Timothy Brown  
Forensic Investigator***

**Oscar Hayes  
*Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Katy Waldrep  
*Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Katie Adams  
*Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Selina Mooney  
*Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Patricia Blood  
*Administrative Services Assistant***

***Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences  
Huntsville Medical Examiners Office  
716 Arcadia Circle  
Huntsville Alabama 35801***



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**Huntsville Medical Laboratory Death Statistics**

<b>Cases Examined:</b>	<b>420</b>
<b>Autopsied:</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>External Examination:</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Scenes Attended:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Exhumations:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cases with Toxicology:</b>	<b>404</b>

**Causes of Death**

<b>Shotgun Wound(s):</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Gunshot Wound(s):</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Sharp Force Injuries:</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Blunt Force Injuries:</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Drug Toxicity:</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Drowning:</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Hanging:</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cardiovascular Disease:</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Ethanol Toxicity:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Strangulation:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Asphyxiation:</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:</b>	<b>31</b>

**Manners of Death**

**Homicide: 89**

<b>Gunshot wound(s): 47</b>	<b>Sharp Force Injury(s): 14</b>
<b>Blunt Force Injury(s): 12</b>	<b>Asphyxia: 8</b>



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**Mobile Medical Examiner's Office**

**Dr. Staci Turner**  
***Senior Medical Examiner***  
***Medical Director***

**Sherrie Saint**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***  
***Operations Director***

.....  
**Dr. John Krolikowski**  
***Senior Medical Examiner***

**Dr. Eugene Hart**  
***Senior Medical Examiner***

**Ashley Stanford**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Leslie Holt**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Valisa Hadley**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Olivette Fluker**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Steffon McCovery**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Roxanne Diamond**  
***Forensic Pathology Technician***

**Alan Fields**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***



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***Shantora Wallace  
Forensic Pathology Specialist***

***Wendy Wilson  
Forensic Pathology Specialist***

***Zenovia Watkins  
Administrative Services Assistant***

***Peggy Hodge  
Administrative Services Assistant***

***Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences  
Mobile Medical Examiners Office  
2451 Fillingim Street Annex C  
Mobile Alabama 36617***



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## Mobile Medical Laboratory Death Statistics

\*Including Mobile County ME Office Statistics

Cases Examined:	737
Autopsied:	395
External Examination:	342
Scenes Attended: ME: 0	INV: 94
Exhumations:	0
Cases with Toxicology:	626

### Causes of Death

Shotgun Wound(s):	9
Gunshot Wound(s):	98
Sharp Force Injuries:	7
Blunt Force Injuries:	142
Drug Toxicity:	108
Drowning:	18
Hanging:	21
Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury:	0
Cardiovascular Disease:	205
Ethanol Toxicity:	1
Strangulation:	3
Asphyxiation:	13
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:	0
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:	7

### Manners of Death

Homicide: 61

Gunshot Wound(s): 41	Sharp Force Injury(s): 3
Blunt Force Injury(s): 4	Death by Lethal Injection: 0



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**Montgomery Medical Examiner's Office**

**Dr. Steven Dunton**  
***Senior Medical Examiner***  
***Medical Director***

**Nick Carter**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***  
***Operations Director***

.....  
**Dr. Steve Boudreau**  
***Senior Medical Examiner***

**Dr. Alfredo Paredes**  
***Senior Medical Examiner***

**Dr. David Rydzewski**  
***Senior Medical Examiner***

**Tonya Pichea**  
***Forensic Investigator***

**Wayne Pittman**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Doug Griffith**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Allysa Robinson**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Alma Muchado**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Cheridie Kilpatrick**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***



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**Rebekah Jones**  
***Forensic Pathology Specialist***

**Kelli Hallman**  
***Forensic Investigator***

**Tony Vance**  
***Morgue Assistant***

**Kaye Julian**  
***Administrative Services Assistant***

**Tiffani Stroud**  
***Administrative Services Assistant***

**Kayla Johnson**  
***Administrative Services Assistant***

***Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences***  
***Montgomery Medical Examiners Office***  
***8160 AUM Drive***  
***Montgomery Alabama 36124***



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## Montgomery Medical Laboratory Death Statistics

\*Including Tuscaloosa County ME Office Statistics

<b>Cases Examined:</b>	<b>865</b>
<b>Autopsied:</b>	<b>686</b>
<b>External Examination:</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Scenes Attended:</b>	<b>ME: 0      INV: 46</b>
<b>Exhumations:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Cases with Toxicology:</b>	<b>714</b>

### Causes of Death

<b>Shotgun Wound(s):</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Gunshot Wound(s):</b>	<b>216</b>
<b>Sharp Force Injuries:</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Blunt Force Injuries:</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Drug Toxicity:</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Drowning:</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Hanging:</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury:</b>	
<b>Cardiovascular Disease:</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Ethanol Toxicity:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Strangulation:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Asphyxiation:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:</b>	<b>26</b>

### Manners of Death

**Homicide: 166**

**Gunshot Wound(s): 125**  
**Blunt Force Injury(s): 8**

**Sharp Force Injury(s): 20**  
**Asphyxia: 1**



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**2013 Juvenile Death Statistics**

**Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013**

**TOTAL CASES EXAMINED: 180**

**White: 110 Black: 63 Hispanic: 6 Unknown: 1  
Male: 104 Female: 74 Unknown: 2**

**HOMICIDES: 19**

**Age Range: Fetus to 17y**

**White: 8 Black: 10 Hispanic: 1  
Male: 15 Female: 3 Unknown: 1**

**Gunshot Wounds: 8**

**Age Range: 16y to 17y**

**White: 2 Black: 5 Hispanic: 1**

**Male: 7 Female: 1**



**2013 Juvenile Death Statistics****Abusive Head Trauma: 5**

2y wm      3y bm      4y wm      2y wm      1y wm

**Sharpe Force Injuries: 1**

1y bf

**Drowning: 2**

7y wm      8m wf

**Blunt Force Injury (excluding head trauma): 2**

7m bm      5y bm

**NON HOMICIDES: 161**

Age Range: Fetus to 17y

Youngest: 0d fetus

**Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths: 53**

Age Range: 1m to 1y

White: 30      Black: 21      Hispanic: 2

Male: 27      Female: 26



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## 2013 Juvenile Death Statistics

Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

TOTAL CASES EXAMINED: 180

White: 110 Black: 63 Hispanic: 6 Unknown: 1

Male: 104 Female: 74 Unknown: 2

### HOMICIDES: 19

Age Range: Fetus to 17y

White: 8 Black: 10 Hispanic: 1

Male: 15 Female: 3 Unknown: 1

### Gunshot Wounds: 8

Age Range: 16y to 17y

White: 2 Black: 5 Hispanic: 1

Male: 7 Female: 1



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## 2013 Juvenile Death Statistics

Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

### Abusive Head Trauma: 5

2y wm      3y bm      4y wm      2y wm      1y wm

### Sharpe Force Injuries: 1

1y bf

### Drowning: 2

7y wm      8m wf

### Blunt Force Injury (excluding head trauma): 2

7m bm      5y bm

NON HOMICIDES: 161

Age Range: Fetus to 17years

Youngest: 0d fetus

### Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths: 53

Age Range: 1m to 1y

White: 30      Black: 21      Hispanic: 2

Male: 27      Female: 26



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## 2013 Juvenile Death Statistics

Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

### Sleeping Related:

Prone sleeping: 18

Co-sleeping: 16

Other unsafe: 12

Car seat: 2

### Accidental Overdoses: 5

17y wm (Poly)	17y wm (Poly)	17y wm (Cocaine)
Fetus wm (Mother-Poly)		Fetus wu (Mother-Poly)

### Accidental Gunshot Wounds: 2

12y wm    4y bm

### Suicidal Gunshot Wounds: 5

15y wm    14y wf    17y bm    15y wm    16y wm

### Suicidal Hanging: 4

13y wf    15y wm    13y bm    15y wf

### Fire Deaths: (6)

9y wm    7y wm    6y bm    4y bm    12y wm    17y wf



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## 2013 Juvenile Death Statistics

Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

### Drowning: 7

Age Range: 2y to 7y

Pool related: 7

### Motor Vehicle Accidents: 23

Age Range: 1m to 17y

Documented passengers: 9

Documented drivers: 3

Pedestrians: 7

Ejected: 6

Lacking child restraint: 1

Documented using restraints: 3

Factors:

Racing: 1

Teenage driver (decedent) intoxicated: 1

ATV: 1 17y wm rollover, chest and neck trauma helmet unknown

High speed chase with police: 1

Driver of juvenile decedent intoxicated: 2

Driver of vehicle other than decedent's intoxicated: 1



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*Service*

*Integrity*

*Respect*

*Quality*

## 2013 Juvenile Death Statistics

**Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013**

**Unusual:**

**Aircraft Crash: 1**

**17y WM**

**Single Aircraft/Student Pilot flying without actual pilot**

**Hyperthermia: 3**

**4m wm left in vehicle while mother went to work (6 hours- August)**

**3y wm mother autistic, mother napping, child found in vehicle**

**4yo wm mother sleeping, child locks on vehicle child in vehicle**

**Swing set: 1**

**12y wf flipped swing set struck decedent on head (CHI)**

**Crushing: 1**

**2m wm grandmother fell on decedent causing severe head trauma**

**Choking: 1**

**17y wm-swallowed bag of drugs to avoid arrest**



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## 2013 Juvenile Death Statistics

Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

### Naturals: 8

4m bf	congenital heart disease
15y bf	cardio vascular disease
14y bf	enlarged heart
1mbm	sepsis (upper respiratory infection)
9m bm	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
15 hf	seizure disorder
14y wf	asthma
2y bf	lymphocytic bronchitis

Our reports generated no cases that indicated bullying as a factor.



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**Questions about this report, training requests and any other comments or questions pertaining to the Discipline of Death Investigation can be made via the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences website at:**

[www.adfs.alabama.gov](http://www.adfs.alabama.gov)

**Or by contacting the Death Investigation's Quality Manager via email at:**

[scott.belton@adfs.alabama.gov](mailto:scott.belton@adfs.alabama.gov)

This document was generated using multiple reports and data bases. As with any self report study, there is potential for error and the reality of discrepancies among the data cannot be overstated.



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