



Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences Death Investigation Annual Report 2012



Michael F. Sparks
Director

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Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences
Death Investigation Annual Report 2012

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Note 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

Medical Examiner	(ME)
Investigator	(INV)
Sudden Unexplained Infant Death	(SUID)
National Association of Medical Examiners	(NAME)
Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences	(ADFS)
Laboratory Information Management System	(LIMS)
Huntsville Medical Laboratory	(HV)
Mobile Medical Laboratory	(MB)
Montgomery Medical Laboratory	(MM)



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Administration

Michael F. Sparks
Department Director

Dr. Kathleen Enstice
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
Region I

Dr. Staci Turner
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
Region IV

Dr. Stephen Boudreau
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
Region III

Dr. Valerie Green
Medical Examiner
Region I

Dr. John Krolikowski
Medical Examiner
Region IV

Dr. Alfredo Paredes
Medical Examiner
Region III

Robert Griffith
Office Manager
Region I

Dr. Eugene Hart
Medical Examiner
Region IV

Dr. Steven Dunton
Medical Examiner
Region III

Sherri Saint
Office Manager
Region IV

Kaye Julian
Office Manger
Region III

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%)



System-wide Death Statistics

Cases Reported:	2428	
Cases Examined:	2028	
Cases Autopsied:	1411	
Scenes Attended:	167	INV: 167
Exhumations:	0	
Cases with Toxicology:	1686	

Cause of Death

Shotgun Wound(s):	36
Gunshot Wound(s):	389
Sharp Force Injury(s):	43
Blunt Force Injury(s):	328
Drug Toxicity:	356
Drowning:	62
Hanging:	63
Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury(s):	48
Cardiovascular Disease:	337
Ethanol Toxicity:	2
Strangulation:	4
Asphyxiation:	23
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:	0
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:	62



System-wide Death Statistics

Cause of Death by Manner of Death

Homicide: 305

Gunshot Wounds(s): 205
Blunt Force Injury(s): 24
Death by Lethal Injection: 0

Sharp Force Injury(s): 38
Asphyxia: 5
Drowning: 1

Suicide: 309

Gunshot Wound(s): 180
Hanging: 56
Asphyxia: 5

Sharp Force Injury(s): 5
Drug Toxicity: 34

Accident: 730

Gunshot Wound(s): 3
Motor Vehicle Fatality(s): 240
Asphyxia: 28

Sharp Force Injury(s): 0
Drug Toxicity: 299
Drowning: 56

Natural: 541

Cardiovascular Disease: 336
Liver Disease: 9
Renal Disease: 1
Other Natural: 94

Carcinoma: 16
Lung Disease: 28
Chronic Ethanol: 13

Undetermined: 136

SUID: 62
Drug Toxicity: 9

Gunshot Wound(s): 2
Blunt Force Injury(s): 3



Manner of Death Statistics

Homicide

System wide:	305
Huntsville:	76
Mobile:	78
Montgomery:	151

Suicide

System wide:	307
Huntsville:	53
Mobile:	131
Montgomery:	123

Accident

System wide:	688
Huntsville:	133
Mobile:	285
Montgomery:	270

Natural

System wide:	912
Huntsville:	46
Mobile:	661
Montgomery:	205

Undetermined

System wide:	118
Huntsville:	20
Mobile:	25
Montgomery:	73



Unclaimed/Unidentified Decedents

Month	Unclaimed Bodies			Unidentified at Exam		
	HV	MB	MM	HV	MB	MM
2010-2011						
OCT	0	10	0	1	1	1
NOV	0	9	0	0	0	1
DEC	0	9	0	1	0	1
JAN	0	8	1	0	1	1
FEB	0	9	0	0	0	2
MAR	0	6	1	0	0	1
APRIL	0	14	0	0	0	0
MAY	0	6	1	0	0	0
JUNE	0	7	0	0	0	2
JULY	0	13	0	0	0	0
AUG	0	7	0	0	0	0
SEPT	0	3	0	1	0	0
END OF YEAR	0	3	0	1	0	0



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Decedents Transported

2010-2011 Month	Transported Decedents			Monthly Totals
	HV	MB	MM	
OCT	0	0	3	3
NOV	0	0	10	10
DEC	0	0	20	20
JAN	0	0	10	10
FEB	0	0	2	2
MAR	0	0	8	8
APRIL	0	0	6	6
MAY	0	0	8	8
JUNE	0	0	9	9
JULY	0	0	9	9
AUG	0	0	16	16
SEPT	0	0	19	19
END OF YEAR TOTALS	0	0	120	120



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Huntsville Medical Laboratory

Dr. Kathleen Enstice
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

Dr. Valerie Green
Medical Examiner

Robert Griffith
Office Manager
Forensic Investigator

Timothy Brown
Forensic Investigator

Gerald Howard
Forensic Pathology Technician

Kathryn Adams
Forensic Pathology Technician

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

Cases Reported:	389
Examined:	389
Autopsied:	309
External Examination:	80
Scenes Attended:	0
Exhumations:	0
Cases with Toxicology:	367

Causes of Death

Shotgun Wound(s):	4
Gunshot Wound(s):	80
Sharp Force Injuries:	12
Blunt Force Injuries:	55
Drug Toxicity:	76
Drowning:	11
Hanging:	13
Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury:	4
Cardiovascular Disease:	31
Ethanol Toxicity:	0
Strangulation:	0
Asphyxiation:	10
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:	0
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:	15

Manners of Death

Homicide: 79

Gunshot wound(s):	45	Sharp Force Injury(s):	11
Blunt Force Injury(s):	8	Asphyxia:	3



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Mobile Medical Laboratory

Dr. Staci Turner
Laboratory Director
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

.....

Dr. John Krolikowski
Medical Examiner

Dr. Eugene Hart
Medical Examiner

Sherrie Saint
Office Manager
Forensic Investigator

Ashley Stanford
Forensic Investigator

Leslie Holt
Forensic Investigator

Olivette Fluker
Forensic Pathology Technician



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Steffon McCovery
Forensic Pathology Technician

Roxanne Diamond
Forensic Pathology Technician

Alan Fields
Photographer

Zenovia Watkins
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 Reported:	1200
Examined:	814
Autopsied:	456
External Examination:	358
Scenes Attended:	107
Exhumations:	0
Cases with Toxicology:	637

Causes of Death

Shotgun Wound(s):	14
Gunshot Wound(s):	122
Sharp Force Injuries:	12
Blunt Force Injuries:	142
Drug Toxicity:	139
Drowning:	28
Hanging:	25
Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury:	1
Cardiovascular Disease:	223
Ethanol Toxicity:	0
Strangulation:	1
Asphyxiation:	11
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:	0
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:	13

Manners of Death

Homicide: 74

Gunshot Wound(s): 55	Sharp Force Injury(s): 8
Blunt Force Injury(s): 2	Death by Lethal Injection: 0



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Montgomery Medical Laboratory

Dr. Stephen Boudreau
Laboratory Director
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

.....

Dr Alfredo Paredes
Medical Examiner

Dr. Steven Dunton
Medical Examiner

Kaye Julian
Administrative Assistant
Office Manager

Tonya Pichea
Forensic Investigator

Kelli Hallman
Forensic Investigator

Marlon Gladden
Forensic Investigator



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Wayne Pittman
Forensic Pathology Technician

Shafeqah Anderson
Forensic Pathology Technician

Allysa Andrews
Forensic Pathology Technician

Tony Vance
Morgue Assistant

Betty File
Administrative Services Assistant

Tiffani Stroud
Administrative Services Assistant

Debra Calhoun
Administrative Services Assistant
Receptionist

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

Cases Reported:	839
Examined:	822
Autopsied:	654
External Examination:	168
Scenes Attended:	60
Exhumations:	0
Cases with Toxicology:	682

Causes of Death

Shotgun Wound(s):	18
Gunshot Wound(s):	187
Sharp Force Injuries:	19
Blunt Force Injuries:	131
Drug Toxicity:	141
Drowning:	23
Hanging:	25
Smoke Inhalation and Thermal Injury:	43
Cardiovascular Disease:	83
Ethanol Toxicity:	2
Strangulation:	0
Asphyxiation:	2
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome:	0
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy:	34

Manners of Death

Homicide: 152

Gunshot Wound(s): 105

Blunt Force Injury(s): 12

Sharp Force Injury(s): 19

Asphyxia: 0



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Laboratory Case Distribution Statistics

Huntsville Medical Laboratory

Total Examinations Performed:	389	
External Examinations:	80	(20%)
Autopsies:	309	(80%)
Partial Examinations:	0	

*Average per Medical Examiner: 167 per ME (2)

Mobile Medical Laboratory

Total Examinations Performed:	814	
External Examinations:	358	(44%)
Autopsies:	456	(56%)
Partial Examinations:	0	

*Average per Medical Examiner: 191 per ME (3)

Montgomery Medical Laboratory

Total Examinations Performed:	822	
External Examinations:	168	(20%)
Autopsies:	654	(80%)
Partial Examinations:	0	

*Average per Medical Examiner: 236 per ME (3)

* Averages are calculated using the NAME recommended 3 external examinations = 1 autopsy.



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Medical Examiner Individual Statistics

Dr. Emily Ward *

Total Examinations Performed:	180	
External Examinations:	45	(25%)
Autopsies:	135	(75%)
Homicides:	41	

Dr. Valerie Green

Total Examinations Performed:	183	
External Examinations:	33	(18%)
Autopsies:	150	(82%)
Homicides:	35	

Dr. Staci Turner

Total Examinations Performed:	291	
External Examinations:	162	(56%)
Autopsies:	129	(44%)
Homicides:	33	

Dr. John Krolikowski

Total Examinations Performed:	218	
External Examinations:	99	(45%)
Autopsies:	119	(55%)
Homicides:	17	



Medical Examiner Individual Statistics

Dr. Eugene Hart

Total Examinations Performed:	203	
External Examinations:	86	(42%)
Autopsies:	117	(58%)
Homicides:	28	

Dr. Stephen Boudreau

Total Examinations Performed:	372	
External Examinations:	63	(17%)
Autopsies:	309	(83%)
Homicides:	79	

Dr. Alfredo Paredes

Total Examinations Performed:	226	
External Examinations:	52	(23%)
Autopsies:	174	(77%)
Homicides:	24	

Dr. Cameron Snider *

Total Examinations Performed:	4	
External Examinations:	1	(25%)
Autopsies:	3	(75%)
Homicides:	3	

* No longer on staff



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Medical Examiner Individual Statistics

Dr. Steve Dunton

Total Examinations Performed:	216	
External Examinations:	52	(24%)
Autopsies:	164	(76%)
Homicides:	38	



Case Closure Rates

Systemwide

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	<i>37%</i>

Huntsville Medical Laboratory

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	<i>29%</i>

Mobile Medical Laboratory

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	<i>39%</i>

Montgomery Medical Laboratory

<i>Cases closed in under 60 days:</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>Cases closed in under 90 days:</i>	<i>39%</i>

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



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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

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



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



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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Anatomical Gifting Statistics

System-wide

<i>Number of Decedents Gifting:</i>	135
<i>Percentage of Cases Gifting:</i>	5.5%

Huntsville Medical Laboratory

<i>Number of Decedents Gifting:</i>	0
<i>Percentage of Cases Gifting:</i>	0

Mobile Medical Laboratory

<i>Number of Decedents Gifting:</i>	104
<i>Percentage of Cases Gifting:</i>	8.6%

Montgomery Medical Laboratory

<i>Number of Decedents Gifting:</i>	31
<i>Percentage of Cases Gifting:</i>	3.6%

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



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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

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

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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