



TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S DISTRICT

❖ *Serving Tarrant, Denton, Johnson, and Parker Counties* ❖

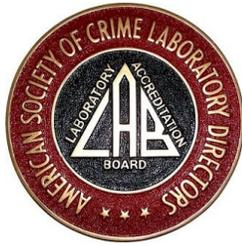


2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Current Accreditations



National Association of Medical Examiners (N.A.M.E.)



American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/
Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)



Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
(ACGME)

TARRANT COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
AND FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES

200 Feliks Gwozdz Pl., Fort Worth, TX 76104-4919

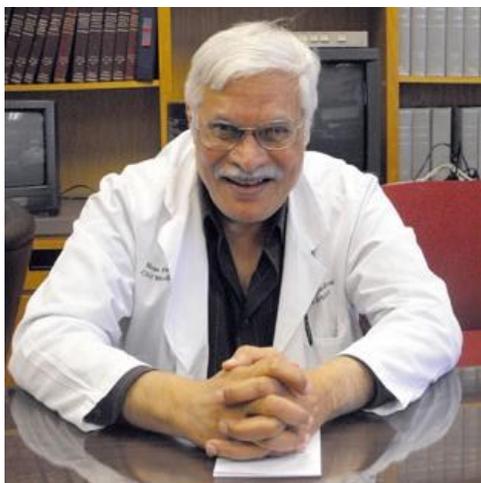
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<http://www.tarrantcounty.com/emedicalexaminer>

From the Office of the Tarrant County Chief Medical Examiner

Whenever we are called upon to assist, even if it is outside our defined jurisdiction, beyond the scope of our duties, or otherwise removed from our responsibilities under the law, it is our general policy to help people reach the appropriate person or agency who can assist them. This is not only our philosophy, but our commitment to those we serve.

The primary purpose of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office is to assist the public and law enforcement agencies in determining the cause of death when death occurs without medical attention, from unnatural causes, or following violence. We are proud and grateful to be able to carry out our mission using state of the art laboratory and forensic science facilities.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a black background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "R. Bailey".

Chief Medical Examiner

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The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office was originally established in 1965 to serve Tarrant County alone. Today, it also serves Denton, Johnson, and Parker counties, with a total district population exceeding 2.8 million. This area is experiencing dramatic growth, and the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office is committed to continuing to provide the highest quality of service to the loved ones of the deceased and to the legal system.

The staff at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office understand the need to keep up with developments in the rapidly expanding subjects of anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and biology, and they routinely apply their knowledge in these areas to the science of determination of the cause of death. Our staff's outstanding qualifications, our state-of-the-art equipment, our strict compliance with statutes and regulations, and our accreditation by both the National Association of Medical Examiners and the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board, all contribute to making the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office one of the premier medical examiner offices in the nation.

In addition to a staff of five highly trained, board certified forensic pathologists, the office boasts a 24-hour investigative staff and a full complement of support services, including Human Identification, Toxicology, Criminalistics, and Forensic Photography laboratories.

The wealth of information available at the office, combined with our staff's passion to educate, create regular knowledge-sharing opportunities such as the Tuesday Morning Forensic Rounds, the annual Current Trends in Forensic Science conference, a 12-month forensic pathology fellowship, monthly autopsy classes, periodic training sessions with Physicians for Human Rights, and training at the International Forensic Science Center to provide advanced forensic training to scholars from abroad. Members of the staff are frequently invited to provide services, give lectures, and perform consultations both nationally and internationally.

With this report, we aim to impart an appreciation for the depth of our commitment to excellent quality and service. Every day presents new challenges for us. We are always seeking to develop and implement new services and procedures to better serve you and the community.

Our History

1965

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court establishes the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. T.C. Terrell, M.D. is named Chief Medical Examiner

1969

Feliks Gwozdz, M.D. is named Chief Medical Examiner

1979

After Dr. Gwozdz's unexpected death, Nizam Peerwani, M.D. is appointed Chief Medical Examiner

1980

The first county-wide central morgue is established on the campus of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (now University of North Texas Health Science Center)

1982

Toxicology and histology laboratories are added; shortly afterwards, forensic dentistry is added to the office to assist in human identification

1986

Parker County officially joins the Medical Examiner's Office, creating the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District

1989

Denton County joins the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District

1989

The TCME District moves into a new, state-of-the-art facility at 200 Feliks Gwozdz Place, renamed in honor of the late Dr. Gwozdz

1993

The TCME District provides the death scene investigation and medical examiner services for McLennan County in the aftermath of the Branch Davidian incident at Mt. Carmel, Texas

2003

Forensic Anthropologist becomes a full-time dedicated position, making the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District the only such office in Texas with a full-time Forensic Anthropologist

2007

The Human Identity Section is established at the TCME District, comprising a Forensic Odontologist, Forensic Anthropologist, and Latent Fingerprint Examiner

2008

Johnson County joins the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District

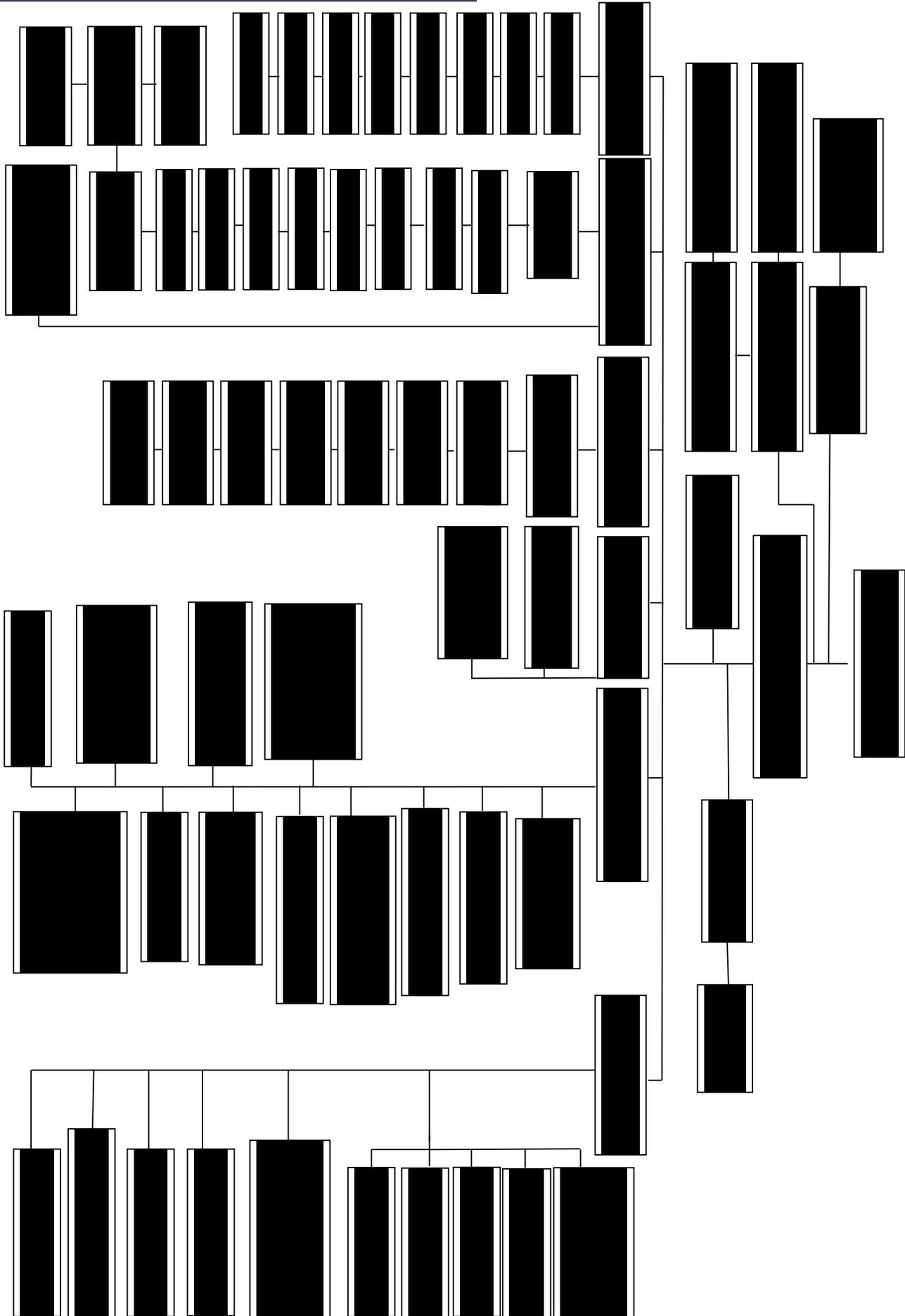
2011

Construction is completed on new building expansion

2014

Renovation of old building completed, expanding administrative areas and classrooms facilities

Our Organization



Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office and Forensic Laboratories



Cathy Adolph



Linda Anderson



Dana Austin



Jamie Becker



Tamara Benton



John Briggs



Brittany Carnley



Sue Ellen Brown



Kristen Casteleiro



Charles Clow



Robert Corley



Christina Coucke-Garza



Christina Danforth



Susan Daniel



Glynn Dill



Joe D. English



ShaVonda K. Epps



Cynthia Esparza



Kyle Finney



Michael Floyd



Mark Fondren



Richard Fries



Tasha Greenberg



James Greenwell



Esther Gutierrez



Vicki Hall



John Harris



Leanne Hazard



Chris Heartsill



Burshauna Hill



Susan Howe



Robert Johnson



Deatra Keele



Marsy Key



Anne Koettel



Heather Kramer

Photos



Marc Krouse



Beryl Landry



Carol Lawson



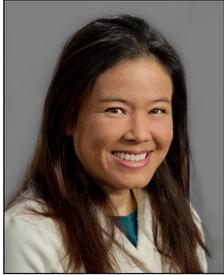
Peggy Le



Connie Lewis



Jun Lumadilla



Aria McCall



Jimmy McDonald



Jamie McKinney



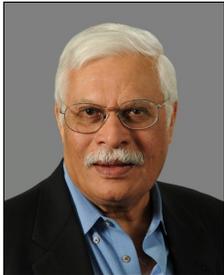
Roger Metcalf



Michelle O'Neal



Constance Patton



Nizam Peerwani



Tracye Poirier



Michael Pollard



Ronnie Redic



Amy Renfro



Larry Reynolds



Susan Roe



Ron Singer



Sarah Skiles



Christie Smith



Mike Smith



Larry Steffler



David Stephen



Kira Tillman



Jennifer Valentine



Carolyn VanWinkle



Tracy Vancil



Bill Walker



LeRon Warren



Cheryl Wheeler



Christopher White



Steve White



Tarr Jae Wilson



Traci Wilson

Medical Examiners

Nizam Peerwani, M.D.	Chief Medical Examiner
Marc A. Krouse, M.D.	Deputy Chief Medical Examiner
Tasha Z. Greenberg, M.D.	Deputy Medical Examiner
Susan J. Roe, M.D.	Deputy Medical Examiner
Richard C. Fries, D.O.	Deputy Medical Examiner
David J. Stephen, D.O.	Forensic Fellow

Administration

Nizam Peerwani, M.D.	Chief Medical Examiner
Ronald L. Singer, M.S.	Technical Administrative Director
Daniel C. Heartsill, B.S.	Quality Control Manager
Tracye Poirier, M.B.A.	Business Manager
Linda F. Anderson	Exec. Asst./Public Information Officer
Marsy Key	Bookkeeper

Forensic Death Investigation

Tarrant County

Michael Floyd, B.S.	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
John Briggs	Supervisory Investigator
Jimmy McDonald	Forensic Death Investigator II
Larry Steffler	Forensic Death Investigator II
Stephen White	Forensic Death Investigator II
Robert Corley	Forensic Death Investigator I
Kyle Finney, B.A.	Forensic Death Investigator I
James Greenwell	Forensic Death Investigator I
Michael Pollard, B.A.S.	Forensic Death Investigator I
Amy Renfro, B.S.	Forensic Death Investigator I
Brittany Camley	Investigative Clerk
Paul Krieg	Investigative Clerk
Jamie McKinney	Investigative Clerk
Tracy Vancil, B.S.	Investigative Clerk

Departments

Denton County

Troy Taylor, B.S.	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
Bill Mills, Jr., B.S.	Forensic Death Investigator
Robert Murphy	Forensic Death Investigator
Julie Carriker, R.N.	Forensic Death Investigator
Terry Martin, B.A.	Forensic Death Investigator
Janan Kline	Executive Assistant

Johnson County

Gary Morris	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
Liesl Hoover	Forensic Death Investigator
Jamie Smith	Forensic Death Investigator
Cassie Clewis	Forensic Death Investigator
Heather Brasier	Forensic Death Investigator

Parker County

Bryan Wright	Chief Forensic Death Investigator
Jim Nichols	Forensic Death Investigator
Rachel Doyle	Forensic Death Investigator
Kevin Lanham	Forensic Death Investigator

Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology Laboratory

Robert Johnson, Ph.D.	Chief Toxicologist
Aria McCall, B.S.	Senior Toxicologist/Technical Lead
Beryl Landry, B.S.	Senior Forensic Toxicologist
Connie Lewis, B.S.	Senior Forensic Toxicologist
Cheryl Wheeler, B.S.	Senior Forensic Toxicologist
Leanne Hazard, B.S.	Forensic Toxicologist
John Harris, M.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist/Technical Lead
Christina Coucke-Garza, M.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist
Mark Fondren, M.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist
Michelle O'Neal, B.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist
Sarah Skiles, B.S.	Senior Forensic Chemist

Criminalistics Laboratory

Susan Howe, D.V.M., Ph.D.	Crime Laboratory Director
Constance Patton, B.S.	DNA Tech. Lead CODIS Administrator
Carolyn Van Winkle, M.S.	Senior Forensic Biologist
Peggy Le, B.S.	Senior Forensic Biologist
Heather Kramer, M.S.	Forensic Biologist/Backup CODIS Admin.
Kira Tillman, B.S.	Forensic Biology Specialist
Vicki Hall, M.S.	Senior Trace Analyst/Trace Tech. Lead
Anne Koettel, M.S.	Senior Trace Analyst
Jamie Becker, B.S.	Sr. Criminalist, Firearms & Tool Marks
Charles M. Clow, M.A.	Sr. Criminalist, Firearms & Tool Marks
William Walker	Latent Fingerprint Examiner
Larry Reynolds	Forensic Photographer

Histology

Mike Smith, B.S.	Forensic Histotechnician
Joe D. English, Jr.	Forensic Histotechnician

Human Identification Laboratory

Roger Metcalf, D.D.S.	Chief of Identification Services
Dana Austin, Ph.D.	Senior Forensic Anthropologist
ShaVonda Epps	Latent Fingerprint Examiner

Morgue/Evidence Services

Traci Wilson	Director of Morgue/Evidence Services
Ronnie Redic	Senior Autopsy Technician
Cynthia Esparza	Autopsy Technician
Esther Gutierrez	Autopsy Technician
Burshauna Hill	Autopsy Technician
LeRon Warren	Autopsy Technician
Christopher White	Autopsy Technician
Rufus Glynn Dill	Autopsy Technician

Secretarial Services

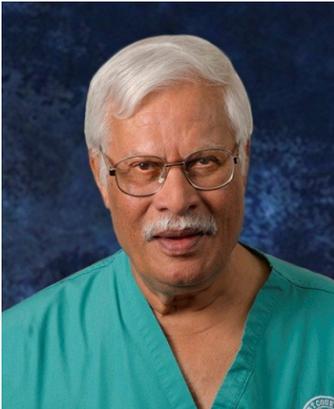
Linda Anderson	Exec. Asst./Public Information Officer
Cathy Adolph	Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Kristen Casteleiro	Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Susan Daniel	Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Deatra Keele	Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist (Lab)
Carol Lawson	Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist
Tarr Jae Wilson	Records Manager
Tamara Benton	Records Secretary
Christie Smith	Vital Statistics Secretary

Building Superintendent

Jun Lumadilla



Nizam Peerwani, M.D. – Chief Medical Examiner



Dr. Peerwani is a graduate of the American University of Beirut (M.D. in 1976). He completed his residency in pathology at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and is board certified in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology.

Currently, Dr. Peerwani is the Chief Medical Examiner for Tarrant, Denton, Johnson, and Parker counties, in the state of Texas, and has held this position since July 1979. He is an advocate of child safety and served on the Texas Child Fatality Review Committee as an expert in Forensic Medicine. Dr. Peerwani is also an advocate of human rights and serves as an expert consultant for Physicians for Human Rights, with completed assignments in Rwanda, Bosnia, Indonesia, Cyprus, Afghanistan, Israel, and Bahrain, investigating genocide and human rights violations under the auspices of the United Nations Tribunal. Appointed by

Governor Rick Perry in 2009, Dr. Peerwani currently serves on the Texas Forensic Science Commission and on the expert panel for the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Marc A. Krouse, M.D. – Deputy Chief Medical Examiner



Dr. Krouse graduated from Texas A & M University with a B.S. degree (1974) in zoology and from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School with his M.D. (1977). He completed his pathology residency at Baylor University Medical Center, and is board certified in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology.

Dr. Krouse began his career here as a Deputy Medical Examiner (1978-1985), and is currently serving as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner (1985-present).

Dr. Krouse is a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and has served two terms on their Board of Directors, as well as on various committees through the years. He is a member of the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine, and also serves on the Tarrant County Disaster Response Program, which assists in planning responses to acts of

terrorism, natural disasters, and accidents.

Susan J. Roe, M.D. – Deputy Medical Examiner



Dr. Roe graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a B.S. in Nursing (1977) and from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Medical School with an M.D. (1983). In 1988, she completed her post graduate training in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and forensic pathology at Indiana University, Hennepin County Medical Center, and the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office.

Dr. Roe is board certified in anatomic, clinical, and forensic pathology. She worked as a Forensic Pathologist at the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office, the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office, and the Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner's Office from 1988 through 2011. Additionally, she was a Bush Foundation Medical Fellow, Class of 2003, and worked at the Jesse E. Edwards

Registry of Cardiovascular Disease from 2005 through 2011. Dr. Roe joined the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District in December 2011 as a Deputy Medical Examiner.

Biographies

Tasha Z. Greenberg, M.D. – Deputy Medical Examiner

Dr. Greenberg earned her B.S. in kinesiology from the University of California – Los Angeles in 1989, after which she attended graduate school at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, where she majored in neuroscience prior to her matriculation to medical school. After graduating from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas (1996), Dr. Greenberg completed a residency in pathology. Her first year of study was at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, after which she returned to Baylor for the remaining four years, with her final year concentrated on pediatric pathology under the tutelage of Edmund Donoghue, M.D., at the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office in Chicago, Illinois.



She worked in the Medical Examiner’s Office in Baltimore, Maryland for over six years. During her tenure there, Dr. Greenberg was active in child fatality review at the local and state levels. She also conducted lectures and training for local universities and the Medical Examiner’s homicide course, speaking primarily on pediatric forensics.

In April 2008, Dr. Greenberg accepted the position of Medical Director of the Autopsy Service for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Parkland Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and in September 2012, she was appointed a deputy medical examiner for the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s District.

Richard C. Fries, D.O. – Deputy Medical Examiner

After graduating with honors from the University of Texas Dallas with a B.S. in Biology (2004), Dr. Fries went on to receive his D.O. from the University of North Texas Health Science Center – Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2008. Dr. Fries then completed his residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Medical College of Virginia Hospitals in Richmond, Virginia.



In July 2012, Dr. Fries accepted a fellowship in Forensic Pathology at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office in Fort Worth, Texas. After completing this one-year program, he took and passed the board exam in Forensic Pathology.

Dr. Fries joined the staff of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s District in July 2013. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME).

David J. Stephen, D.O. – Forensic Fellow

Dr. Stephen earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia, in 2009. After graduation, he completed an internship year at the Montgomery Regional Medical Center in Blacksburg, and his residency training in Pathology at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago.



Prior to medical training, Dr. Stephen enjoyed a successful career in the pharmaceutical industry, working in sales, marketing, and research, and exercised his entrepreneurial talents founding MedChatSolutions. Dr. Stephen plans to join the management team of his family’s durable medical equipment business, Armor Medical, based in Northern Virginia with current plans of further expansion within the Southeastern United States.

Administration

Ronald Singer, M.S.—*Technical and Administrative Director*

Ronald Singer received a B.S. degree from Tulane University and an M.S. degree from Loyola University of New Orleans. A forensic scientist since 1972, he has served as President of the International Association of Forensic Sciences. He is also a Distinguished Fellow and Past President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, a Distinguished Member and Past President of the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners, an Emeritus Member and Past Secretary of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, and a member of numerous other forensic associations and committees. He has been an invited speaker on forensic issues throughout the U.S., Hungary, Bosnia, England, Portugal, Turkey, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka.



Mr. Singer is a recipient of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Criminalistics Section Outstanding Service Award, the Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners Member of the Year Award, the Gold Medal of the Mediterranean Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the Distinguished Fellow Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Tracye Poirier, M.B.A.—*Business Manager*

Tracye Poirier received her B.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Arlington. She came to work here in 2000 as a Senior Forensic Toxicologist. She also served as a Senior Forensic Chemist before assuming her current role as the Business Manager. Her background in the sciences provides her with unique insight into managing a Medical Examiner office.



Ms. Poirier earned her M.B.A. degree with an emphasis in Strategic Leadership in April 2010 from the University of Dallas. She is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists.

D. Chris Heartsill, B.S.—*Quality Control Manager*

Chris Heartsill received his B.S. degree in Chemistry from East Central University in 1991. Chris has been working in analytical chemistry for over 20 years, with more than 19 years of forensic toxicology experience, including the areas of human performance forensic toxicology and postmortem forensic toxicology. Prior to coming to Tarrant County in 2013, he served as an analytical chemist, toxicologist, quality manager, and breath testing technical supervisor.



He is currently certified by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology as a Forensic Toxicology Specialist. He is an active member of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the Scientific Working Group for Toxicology, and the Association of Forensic Quality Assurance Managers. Chris is also actively involved in the accreditation of forensic laboratories through volunteer activities with the American Society of Laboratory Directors—Laboratory Accreditation Board.

Administration



Linda F. Anderson — Executive Assistant/Public Information Officer

Accepting employment as a medical secretary in 1994, Ms. Anderson is currently the Executive Assistant for the Chief Medical Examiner and supervises Secretarial Services. She is responsible for scheduling pathologists for morgue duty, directing scheduling of physicians for court appearances and professional engagements, training of secretarial staff, and interacting with families and the general public. In addition to these responsibilities, Ms. Anderson serves as Public Information Office for the Tarrant County Medical Examiner. Her previous employment history includes Office Manager/Procurement Technician for Harris Methodist Tissue Services, and Court Clerk with the City of Fort Worth Municipal Court.

Criminalistics Laboratory



Susan R. Howe, D.V.M., Ph.D. — Crime Laboratory Director

Dr. Howe received a B.S. and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Illinois, and a Ph.D. in Toxicology from Texas A & M University. A forensic scientist since 1996, she is an active member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, and the Southwestern Association of Forensic Toxicologists.

Dr. Howe is board certified in Forensic Toxicology by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, and has published a number of scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals in the field of molecular toxicology.

Human Identification Services



Roger Metcalf, D.D.S., J.D. — Chief of Human Identification Services

Roger Metcalf is a graduate of Baylor University and Baylor College of Dentistry. He completed a fellowship in Forensic Odontology at the Center for Education and Research in Forensics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School under Dr. David Sinn. He received his J.D. degree from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in 2009.

Dr. Metcalf has been a member of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Mass Fatality Dental Identification Team since it was established in 1980, and participated in the identification of victims from the Delta 191 and 1141 crashes at D/FW Airport, and from the

Mt. Carmel incident in Waco, TX. Since joining the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District in 2004, Dr. Metcalf has supervised the forensic identification of more than 300 unidentified bodies per year.

Forensic Chemistry and Toxicology Laboratory

Robert Johnson, Ph.D. — Chief Forensic Toxicologist

Dr. Johnson graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry in 2004. Certified as a forensic toxicologist by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, he joined the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office in 2011. He is active in several professional societies, including the Society of Forensic Toxicologists, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and the Southwestern Association of Toxicologists.

Dr. Johnson has published over 50 scientific articles in his career, all of which deal specifically with forensic toxicology.



Morgue/Evidence Services

Traci Wilson — Chief of Morgue/Laboratory Services

Traci Wilson began her employment with the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office as a Forensic Autopsy Technician in 1995. Prior to moving to Fort Worth, she had worked in Bossier City, Louisiana as a Forensic Pathologist Assistant. Ms. Wilson attended Northeast Louisiana University Monroe (ULM), where she majored in Business Administration/Business Law.

In 2009, Ms. Wilson assumed the duties of Chief of Morgue/Laboratory Services, and has since worked hard to implement new policies to streamline recordkeeping and evidence handling.



Forensic Death Investigation — Tarrant County

Michael Floyd, B.S. — Chief Forensic Death Investigator

Michael Floyd began working for the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District in 1990 as a Medical Investigator assigned to Parker County. He transferred to Tarrant County in 1993. In 1997, he was promoted to Senior Forensic Investigator, became the Supervisory Investigator in 2009, and was appointed the Chief Forensic Investigator in 2010.

Prior to his employment at TCME, Michael was a Texas-certified EMT-Paramedic for 16 years. He also holds a TCOLE Master Peace Officer certificate and instructor license, and has been a commissioned peace officer since 1981.

In 1994, he earned an Associate Degree from Weatherford College, and in 1996, a B.S. degree from Texas Wesleyan University. Michael is a Diplomate of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.



Forensic Death Investigation – Denton County



Troy Taylor, B.S. — Chief Forensic Death Investigator

Mr. Taylor started his career in 1990 at the Denton County Medical Examiner’s Office. After multi-year tenures in Denton and Tarrant County, he transferred back to the Denton office in 2003. Troy teaches medical examiner law, wound patterning, and decomposition changes for intermediate crime scene classes, as well as basic peace officer certification classes. He has attended medico-legal death investigation training and psychological profiling schools.

Mr. Taylor was promoted to Chief Forensic Death Investigator of Denton County in 2007.

Forensic Death Investigation – Johnson County



Gary Morris — Chief Forensic Death Investigator

Gary Morris began his service with the Johnson County Medical Examiner’s Office as a Reserve Investigator in 2006. He served in several positions with the Johnson County Medical Examiner’s Office before advancing to his current position as Chief Forensic Death Investigator , a position he has held since 2011.

Mr. Morris has attended Forensic Death Investigation training in Fort Worth, St. Louis, Arizona, and New York.

Forensic Death Investigation – Parker County



Bryan Wright — Chief Forensic Death Investigator

Bryan Wright began his employment with the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s District shortly after Parker County became the first member of the district system in 1986, and worked as a medical investigator for 13 years. During that time, Bryan was also a peace officer with the Weatherford Police Department, retiring honorably as a Lieutenant in 2009, having earned a Master Peace Officer certification, among other awards and honors, and having completed 60 college hours. He also worked with and administrated the Cross Timbers Narcotics Task Force, comprised of 18 member law enforcement agencies, during his time as a medical investigator.

Upon retiring, Bryan was sought out and hired by the Parker County Sheriff’s Office due to his extensive experience and background. He has a cumulative 30 years of peace officer experience.

2014 saw continued growth in the responsibilities of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District. To meet the increased demand for services, six new employees were brought aboard. These included Forensic Biology Specialist **Kira Tillman, B.S.**; Toxicologist **Leanne Hazard, B.S.**; Forensic Histotechnician **Joe English**; Tarrant County Forensic Death Investigations Clerk **Sue Ellen Brown**; and two Medical Secretaries, **Susan Daniel** and **Kristen Casteleiro**.

Also in 2014, the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District bid a fond farewell to **Novella Young**, who retired as Records Manager after 19 years of dedicated service.

The following pages present a statistical analysis, beginning with an introductory overview and progressing to more finely detailed case data, to acquaint you with both the increasing needs of the communities we serve, and the ways in which those needs were met by the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District in 2014.

Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District

2014 Statistical Summary

Statistical Summary

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
Reported Deaths	10,744		
Jurisdiction terminated	7,347	68%	
Jurisdiction accepted	3,397	32%	
Bodies brought to facility	3,455	32%	
Scenes investigated	1,329	12%	
Medical Procedures	3,298		
External examination	1,238	38%	
Partial autopsy	421	13%	
Complete autopsy	1,639	50%	
Deaths Certified	3,308		
Natural	1,300	39%	
Accident	747	23%	
<i>Motor vehicle</i>	505	68%	<i>of accidents</i>
<i>Non-motor vehicle</i>	242	32%	<i>of accidents</i>
Suicide	307	9%	
Undetermined	103	3%	
Homicide	98	3%	
Non-human remains	6	0.2%	
Human Identification	562		
Identified (total)	554	99%	
<i>by fingerprints</i>	478	86%	<i>of identifications</i>
<i>by anthropology</i>	13	2%	<i>of identifications</i>
<i>by odontology</i>	22	4%	<i>of identifications</i>
<i>by observation (visual)</i>	21	4%	<i>of identifications</i>
<i>by DNA</i>	18	3%	<i>of identifications</i>
<i>by other means</i>	2	0.4%	<i>of identifications</i>
Pending identification	8	1%	

Manner of Death by County



2014 Tarrant County Deaths		
MANNER	CASES	PERCENTAGE
Natural	1006	14%
Accident	579	8%
Suicide	214	3%
Homicide	85	1%
Undetermined	75	1%
Non-human remains	6	0.1%
Jurisdiction terminated	5201	73%
TOTAL	7166	100%

2014 Denton County Deaths		
MANNER	CASES	PERCENTAGE
Natural	163	9%
Accident	103	6%
Suicide	60	3%
Homicide	7	0.4%
Undetermined	16	1%
Non-human remains	0	0%
Jurisdiction terminated	1432	80%
TOTAL	1781	100%



2014 Johnson County Deaths		
MANNER	CASES	PERCENTAGE
Natural	59	12%
Accident	34	7%
Suicide	19	4%
Homicide	3	0.6%
Undetermined	6	1%
Non-human remains	0	0%
Jurisdiction terminated	379	76%
TOTAL	500	100%

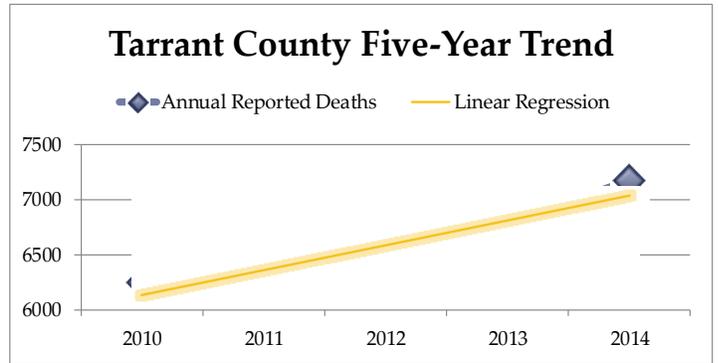
2014 Parker County Deaths		
MANNER	CASES	PERCENTAGE
Natural	72	15%
Accident	31	7%
Suicide	14	3%
Homicide	3	1%
Undetermined	6	1%
Non-human remains	0	0%
Jurisdiction terminated	341	73%
TOTAL	467	100%



Certified Deaths by County, 2010-2014

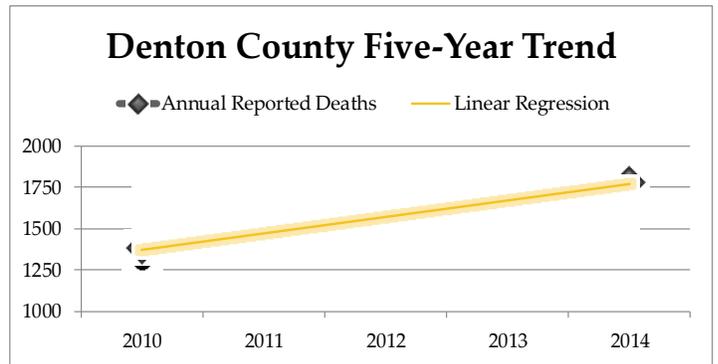
Tarrant County, 2010-2014

Manner of Death	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Natural	843	915	818	900	1006
Accidental	464	518	506	513	579
Suicide	200	190	222	222	214
Homicide	140	138	104	127	85
Undetermined	47	57	64	68	75
Non-human remains	11	16	9	13	6
Jurisdiction terminated	4541	4519	4644	4932	5201
Total	6246	6353	6367	6775	7166



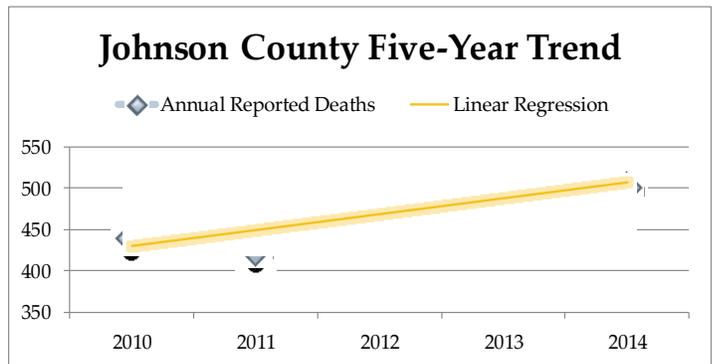
Denton County, 2010-2014

Manner of Death	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Natural	140	159	136	173	163
Accidental	90	95	103	108	103
Suicide	58	66	66	63	60
Homicide	15	11	9	7	7
Undetermined	14	11	7	8	16
Non-human remains	4	4	3	1	0
Jurisdiction terminated	1059	1140	1206	1317	1432
Total	1380	1486	1530	1677	1781



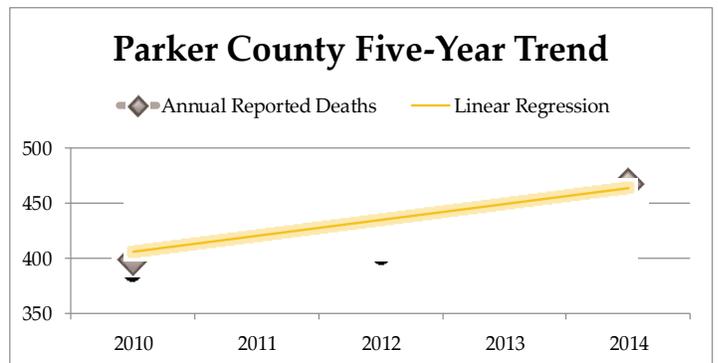
Johnson County, 2010-2014

Manner of Death	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Natural	60	57	73	60	59
Accidental	29	26	28	31	34
Suicide	29	12	13	27	19
Homicide	1	4	7	2	3
Undetermined	1	3	4	6	6
Non-human remains	2	0	3	1	0
Jurisdiction terminated	317	323	354	370	379
Total	439	425	482	497	500



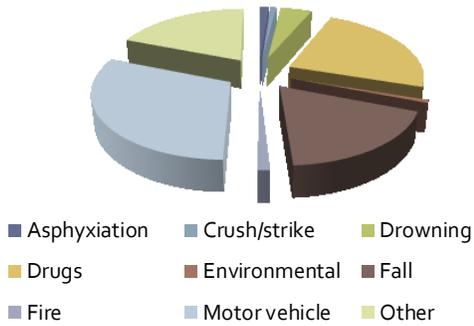
Parker County, 2010-2014

Manner of Death	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Natural	50	72	46	54	72
Accidental	32	29	36	28	31
Suicide	18	25	15	12	14
Homicide	1	0	5	3	3
Undetermined	1	2	2	3	6
Non-human remains	0	3	0	0	0
Jurisdiction terminated	296	312	310	350	341
Total	398	443	414	450	467



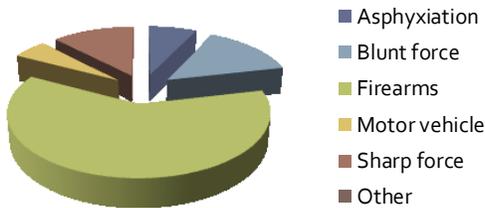
Accidents, Homicides, and Suicides

Accidents by Method



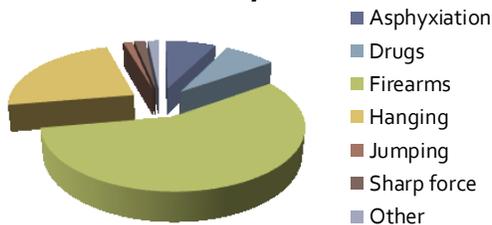
	Tarrant	Denton	Johnson	Parker	Total	%
Asphyxiation	8	1	1	0	10	1%
Crush/strike	5	2	0	0	7	1%
Drowning	20	15	2	0	37	4%
Drugs	148	29	10	12	199	24%
Environmental	5	1	0	0	6	1%
Fall	130	16	1	6	153	18%
Fire	10	0	0	0	10	1%
Motor vehicle	204	28	15	11	258	31%
Other	118	25	10	7	160	19%
Total					840	

Homicides by Method



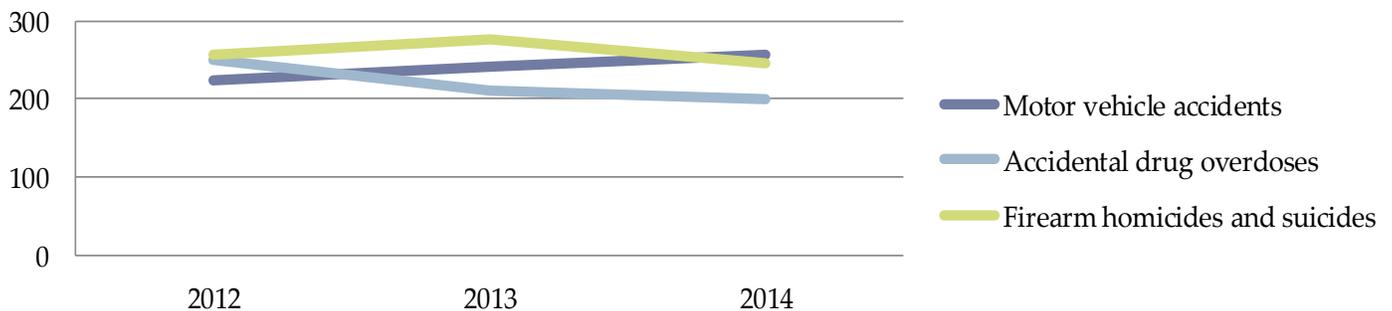
	Tarrant	Denton	Johnson	Parker	Total	%
Asphyxiation	4	1	2	0	7	7%
Blunt force	13	0	0	1	14	14%
Firearms	54	5	0	1	60	61%
Motor vehicle	4	0	0	1	5	5%
Sharp force	10	1	1	0	12	12%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Total					98	

Suicides by Method

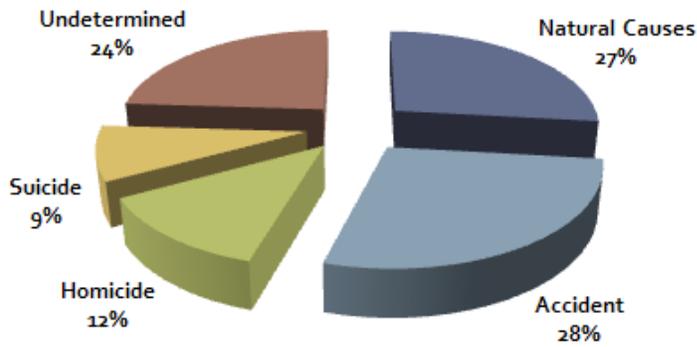


	Tarrant	Denton	Johnson	Parker	Total	%
Asphyxiation	19	3	1	0	23	7%
Drugs	13	10	0	1	24	8%
Firearms	120	31	15	9	175	57%
Hanging	53	12	3	3	71	23%
Jumping	4	0	0	0	4	1%
Sharp force	3	2	0	0	5	2%
Other	2	2	0	1	5	2%
Total					307	

2012-2014 (All Counties)



Child Fatalities by Cause, 2010-2014



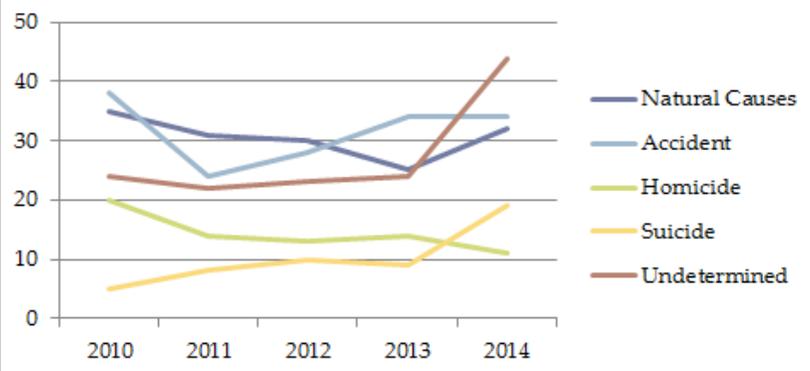
Illness, neoplastic disease, birth defect, and other natural causes account for over one out of four child fatalities in Tarrant County. As devastating as such deaths can be, it is perhaps when children die from non-natural causes that the

larger community is most profoundly affected. Tragically, the greatest risk of death from abuse or neglect occurs among the youngest children who, because of their age, have an absolute dependence on their caretakers.

In 1995, the Texas Legislature amended Chapter 264 of the Family Code to include language outlining the establishment and continuance of a state child fatality review team committee and local child fatality review teams, as well as the formation of a statewide analytical evaluation of all collected and reported child death information. The ultimate goal of the project is to identify trends to reduce the number of preventable childhood deaths. Including staff from the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, approximately 30 representatives from local advocacy, public health, and law enforcement agencies have been appointed to the Child Fatality Review Team serving Tarrant County. Participating organizations include the Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services; Cook Children's Medical Center; and the Tarrant County District Attorney.

Through case reviews, the Child Fatality Review Team identifies community trends, creates prevention strategies, and promotes public awareness. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office is proud to contribute to these efforts.

Child Fatalities, 2010-2014



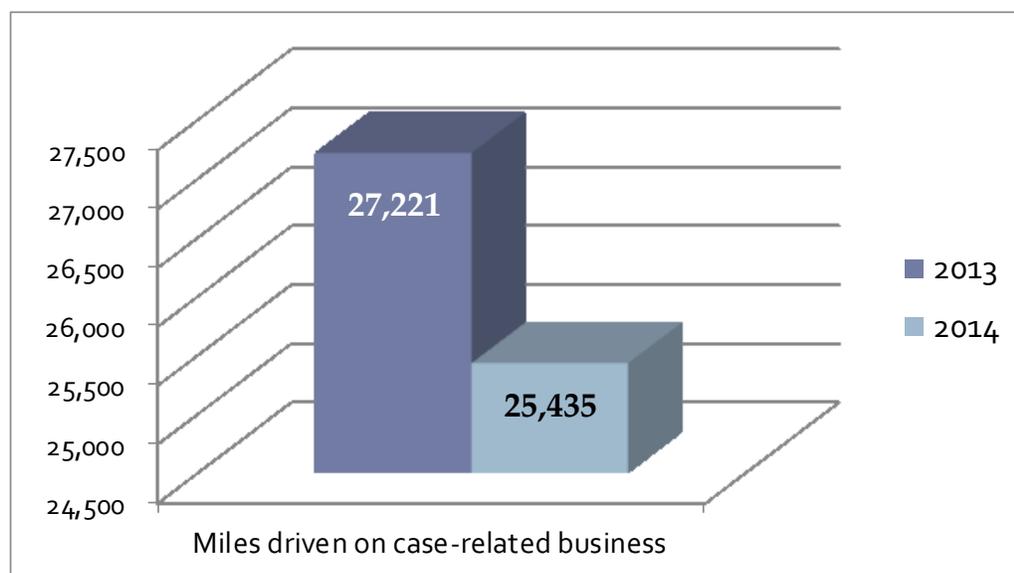
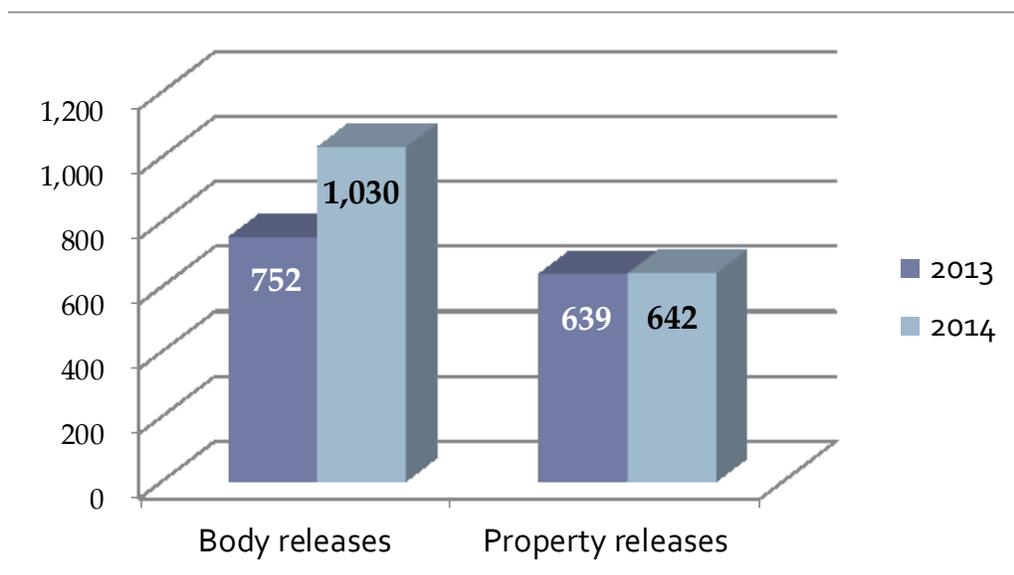
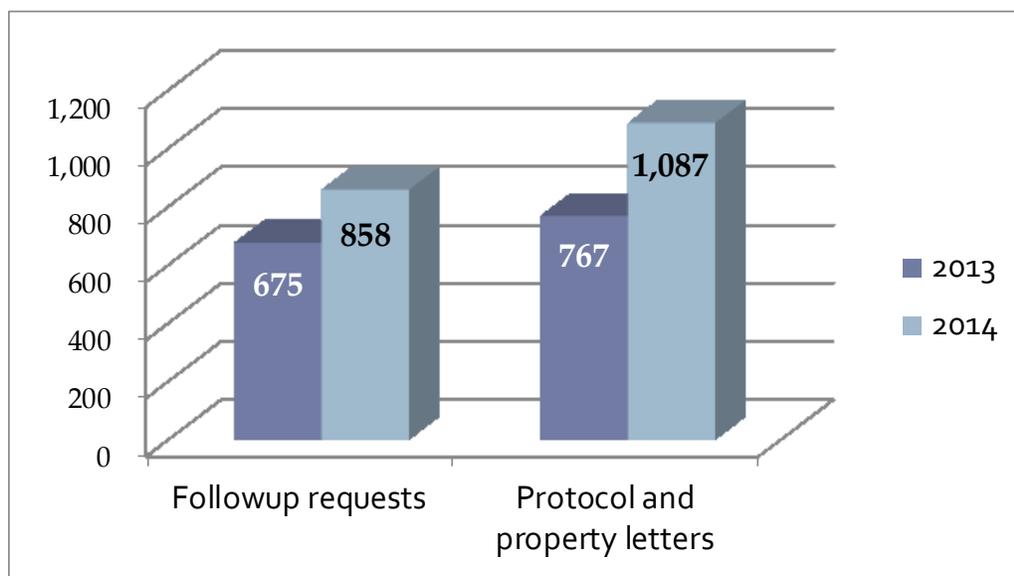
Forensic Death Investigation conducts investigations into the cause and manner of deaths occurring within its jurisdiction of Tarrant, Denton, Johnson, and Parker counties. Staffed around-the-clock, the department is responsible for initiating a formal response to all reportable cases—a total of **10,744** in 2014 alone.

Trained across multiple disciplines, forensic investigators boast a distinctive array of knowledge, including criminal investigation techniques, relevant aspects of forensic medicine, crime scene processing skills, and methods of maintaining case integrity. Moreover, each investigator must be able to conduct effective interviews, locate and notify next-of-kin, and interact appropriately with law enforcement personnel.

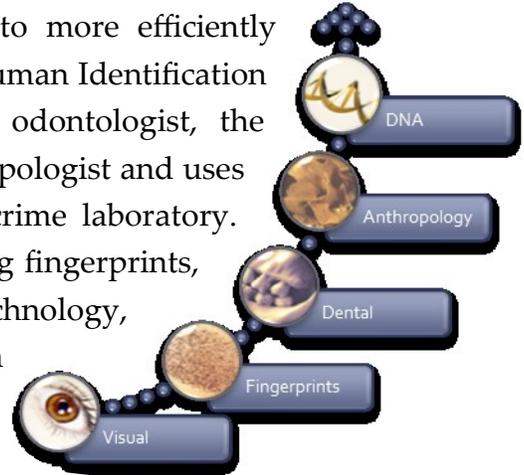
Once a jurisdictional death is reported, the investigator attends the scene or hospital where death occurred. After conducting the initial investigation, the investigator prepares a detailed case report containing biographical data on the decedent, a narrative of the events leading up to the time of death or discovery of the decedent, and a summary of all analyses and leads.

Investigators also coordinate with health care providers, members of law enforcement, employers, families, and other pertinent sources to gather information that might be of value in determining cause and manner of death.





Identification of unidentified remains is a primary function of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. In order to more efficiently accomplish this task, the office has created the Human Identification Laboratory. Headed by a full-time forensic odontologist, the laboratory staff also includes a full-time forensic anthropologist and uses the talents of fingerprint examiners assigned to the crime laboratory. Unidentified remains are systematically examined using fingerprints, dental records, anthropological studies, and DNA technology, and local, state, and national databases are searched in the effort to identify the deceased and provide closure to their families.



FORENSIC ODONTOLOGY



Forensic dentists deal with medico-legal problems in which the identification of human remains is a central activity. The postmortem dental examination of human remains usually involves charting dental and cranial features, documenting these features on x-ray, and summarizing the findings in forensic reports. Forensic odontology plays a particularly important role in identifying victims of natural disasters, terrorist activities, and catastrophic events in which alternative means of identification cannot be used.

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Bones comprise the structural framework of the human body. Bones decompose more slowly than many other tissues and organs; thus, they are often capable of providing clues that assist examiners in determining the cause and manner of death. Skeletal remains can provide information such as the race, stature, weight, age, and gender of the decedent. Evidence of trauma or natural disease may also be identified. X-ray comparisons can help establish scientifically the identity of a body. Samples of DNA can also be obtained from bone; thus, in cases where decomposition is advanced significantly, DNA analysis can still be of value. Tarrant County has the only comprehensive forensic anthropology laboratory attached to a medical examiner's office in Texas.



Morgue and Evidence Services

The heart of activity of any medical examiner's facility, the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office morgue was dedicated in 1989 and employs a design which centralizes all morgue activity, effectively connecting interrelated morgue functions while isolating it from other work areas of the building.

The main morgue consists of four workstations, each designed to further a dynamic work environment in which examinations can be carried out with maximum efficiency. A separate major case morgue, a teaching morgue capable of seating 45 students, and a two-station isolation/biohazard morgue were included in the new construction. The morgue also contains two holding areas, each capable of holding fifty bodies; one of the areas is dedicated to incoming cases only, while the other holds bodies awaiting release.

Classroom instruction is an integral component of any medical education program. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office participates in the academic and practical training of students from the entire North Texas area by offering once-a-month autopsy classes.

In addition to the medical examiners, the morgue is staffed by autopsy technicians (deiners) who assist in forensic examinations. Each autopsy technician is responsible for obtaining photographs, radiographs (x-rays), fingerprints, and biological samples from the decedent before autopsy. Because the identification of foreign bodies in or on a decedent is vitally important to a comprehensive examination, the medical examiner's office relies on radiography tools like the C-arm fluoroscope, which enables imaging of the body without prior removal from the transport gurney. Other tools include a fixed flat plate device and articulated dental radiography equipment.

Evidence handling is another key morgue function. In order to preserve evidentiary integrity, each piece of evidence collected by or submitted to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office must be paired with a detailed chain-of-custody log. Forensic technicians with expertise in evidentiary preservation maintain and secure chain-of-custody to ensure that all evidence is handled and stored properly.



Forensic chemists analyze drugs submitted by other agencies. Drug types received commonly range from clandestine chemical substances to therapeutic or prescribed medications. Cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and amphetamines, all drugs of abuse, represent the most common products received for chemical assay. Daily, law enforcement agencies within the medical examiner's district are faced with the challenge of identifying drugs found following an arrest or search warrant execution.

INTOXILYZER PROGRAM

An intoxilyzer instrument measures a determinable levels of alcohol objective, scientific means of testing police to have been alcohol. In 1994, the Texas

the program was the TCME

program, forensic intoxilyzer test sites, equipment, and train intoxilyzer operators, police agencies.



sample of breath for concentration, providing an someone who is suspected by driving under the influence of using grant funds supplied by

Department of Transportation, intoxilyzer

established at

Office. Under the chemists establish calibrate and maintain which benefits local

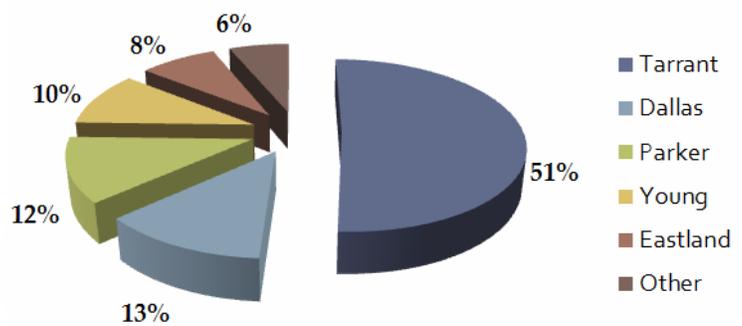
FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

Established at the TCME's office in 1983, the toxicology laboratory has subsequently expanded to include mass spectrometry, gas chromatography, and high-pressure liquid chromatography analysis. The toxicology laboratory provides drug testing to assist the medical examiners in determining the cause and manner of death by isolating, identifying, and determining the level of chemicals in specimens. The forensic toxicology laboratory also participates regularly in established analytical proficiency testing and quality assurance programs.

Drug Chemistry Cases

2014 proved to be a challenging year for both the Forensic Toxicology and Drug Chemistry laboratories. Although the initial audit by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors/ Laboratory Accreditation Board-

2014 Chemistry Cases by County

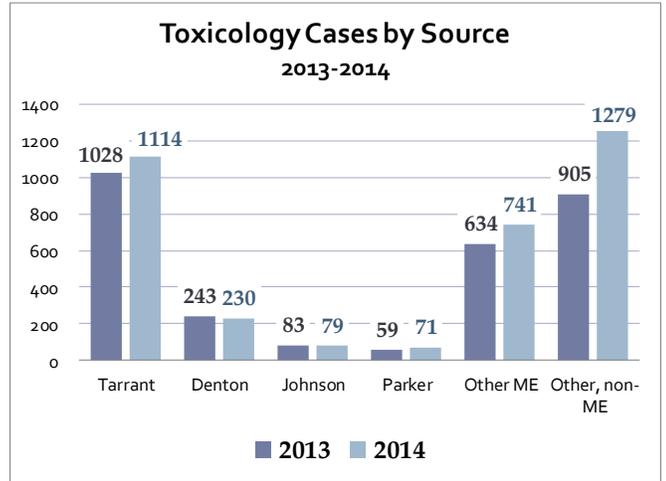
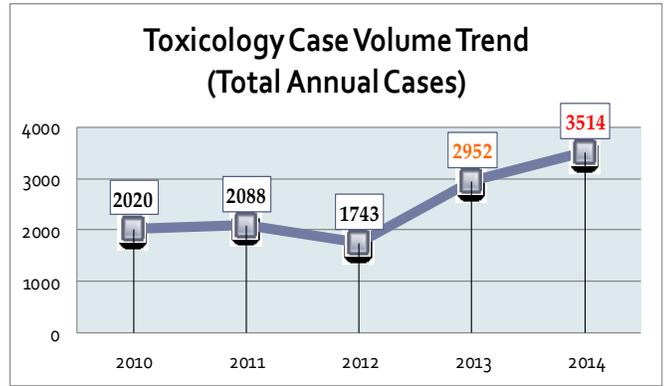


International (ASCLD/LAB-International) was a tremendous success in both sections, with inspectors noting **zero deficiencies**, personnel shortages continued to contribute to case backlog.

In 2013, Drug Chemistry entered into a contractual agreement with Dallas County to analyze their backlogged drug possession cases. Analysis of these cases continued through mid-2014, then ceased. Due to the elimination of that source of cases early in the year, the total number of cases in the section decreased from 2013, while the aforementioned personnel issues caused an increase in turnaround time over 2013, from 27 days to 28, despite a corresponding decrease in the number of cases (shown below).

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
JAN	153	149	191	72	132
FEB	115	171	218	83	199
MAR	175	219	139	165	131
APR	169	139	140	182	126
MAY	183	118	151	226	148
JUN	230	156	168	102	111
JUL	178	254	155	223	126
AUG	170	171	147	160	93
SEP	177	181	88	134	107
OCT	148	125	139	244	119
NOV	181	210	66	82	74
DEC	141	195	141	221	131
TOTAL	2020	2088	1743	1894	1497

	2013										2014				
	Tarrant	Denton	Johnson	Parker	Other		TOTAL	Tarrant	Denton	Johnson	Parker	Other		TOTAL	
					ME	Non-ME						ME	Non-ME		
JAN	81	23	10	5	52	145	316	104	24	7	5	62	64	266	
FEB	66	10	4	4	44	90	218	77	18	8	11	63	137	314	
MAR	101	15	5	4	46	132	303	99	12	5	4	59	77	256	
APR	71	17	8	4	40	115	255	85	18	3	4	58	160	328	
MAY	84	22	6	3	72	42	229	100	16	5	5	68	89	283	
JUN	83	20	2	5	43	71	224	86	16	9	4	72	102	289	
JUL	101	14	10	7	52	37	221	88	13	6	8	59	102	276	
AUG	93	20	8	3	58	48	230	102	20	6	5	51	93	277	
SEP	89	34	10	6	66	58	263	70	28	8	4	54	121	285	
OCT	76	25	4	6	53	43	207	91	25	5	4	70	117	312	
NOV	96	20	7	3	54	55	235	97	16	12	7	69	115	316	
DEC	87	23	9	9	54	69	251	115	24	5	10	56	102	312	
YEAR	1028	243	83	59	634	905	2952	1114	230	79	71	741	1279	3514	



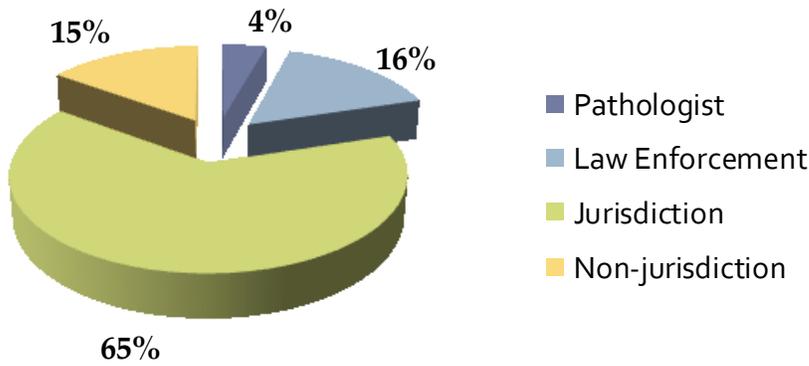
As this data shows, nearly 1500 chemistry cases fell within the TCME District’s jurisdiction in 2014. With over 700 nonjurisdiction and nearly 1300 outside agency cases added to the jurisdictional total, Toxicology completed a total of 3,514 cases in 2014.

It should be noted that the number of outside cases, billed at a rate set by the County according to service requested, increased over 40% last year, from 905 in 2013 to 1,279 in 2014. This dramatic increase translates to much more work being done by the laboratory and is reflected in the increased average turnaround time for reports to 31 days, up from 15 days in 2013.

Criminalistics Laboratories

Since 1989, the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s District has operated a full-service crime laboratory, serving not only the needs of the medical examiners, but of law enforcement agencies and district attorney’s offices in North Central Texas and throughout the United States.

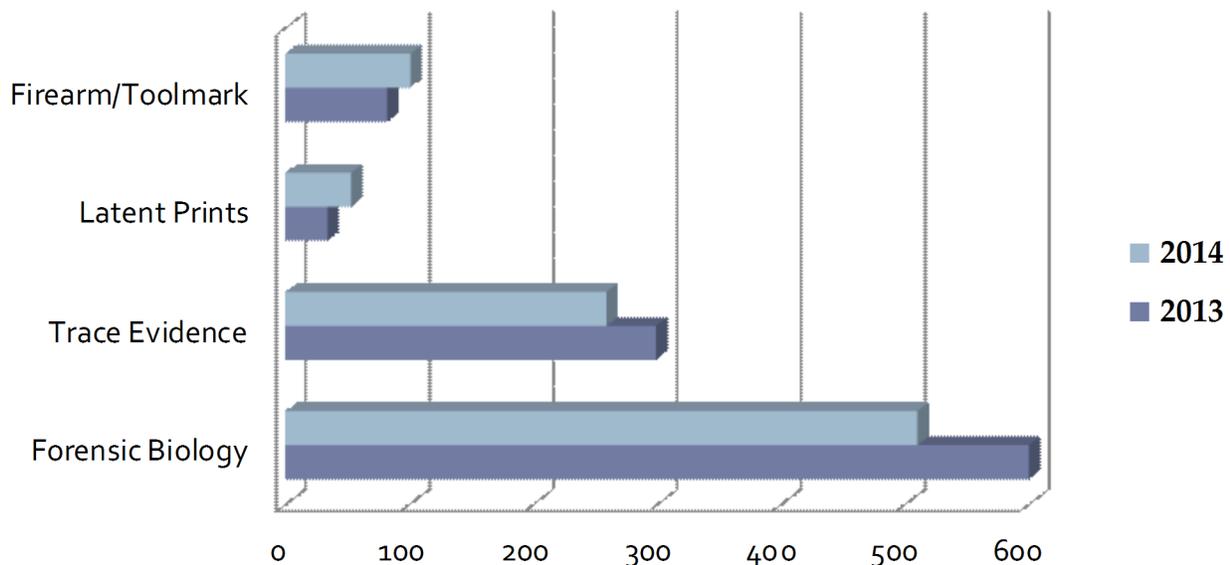
2014 Criminalistics Cases by Source



Equipped with modern analytical instrumentation, the various sections of the crime laboratory combine scientific technology with an experienced professional staff.

The specialized sections of the crime laboratory—Forensic Biology, Trace Evidence, Latent Prints, Firearm/Toolmark, and Photography—identify, analyze, and report on such forms of evidence as DNA, blood spatter, trace materials, chemical compounds, firearms, tool marks, and latent fingerprints.

Cases by Laboratory, 2013-2014

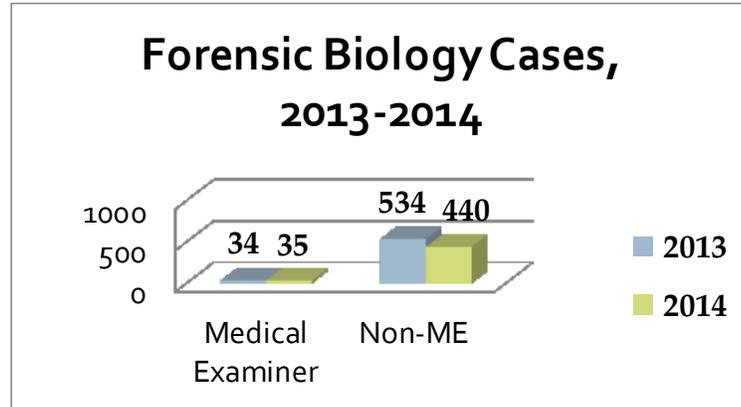


FORENSIC BIOLOGY

DNA analysis provides the ability to restrict potential population of persons to which a biological sample might belong to a much smaller subset of suspects.

Such a determination is useful in identifying the source and subsequently connecting it to a particular death or crime scene.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s DNA unit is a designated CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) laboratory.

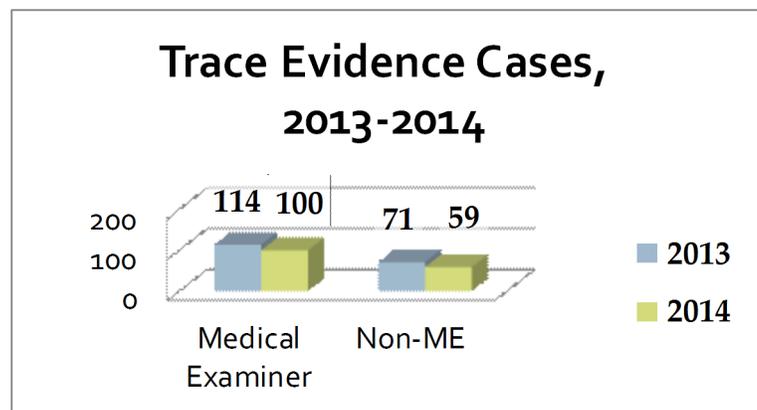


CODIS is the FBI’s DNA database that ultimately links all 50 states and 18 countries as a means of comparing forensic case work profiles. The database search may result in linking unsolved cases to a single perpetrator and can provide significant investigative leads.

Forensic Biology issued **475 reports** in 2014—down 16% from 2013—with 35 of these completed for Tarrant County Medical Examiner cases and 440 of them for non-ME cases.

TRACE EVIDENCE

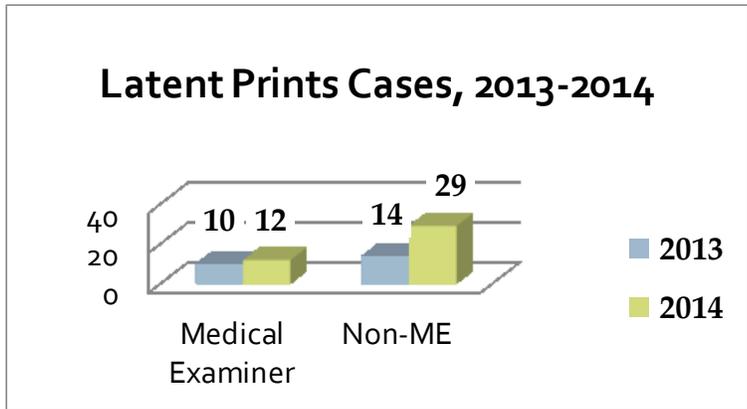
Trace evidence is material that can be easily transferred from one site to another, because of its size or weight. Gunshot residue, hair, glass, paint, and fibers are commonly submitted for examination. Trace analysis uses advanced technology and instrumentation to obtain chemical profiles of materials in order to relate them, to each other or to a common source.



Trace evidence issued **159 reports** in 2014—down 14% from 2013—with 100 of these completed for Tarrant County Medical Examiner cases and 59 of them for non-ME cases.

LATENT FINGERPRINTS

A fundamental tool of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office, latent fingerprint examination helps to identify bodies that arrive to the morgue



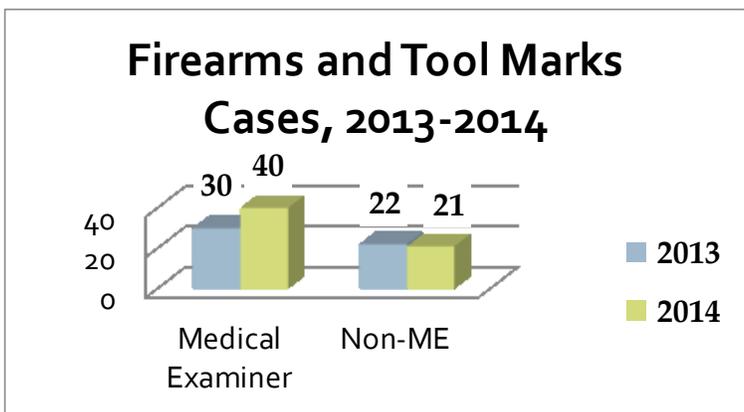
unidentified. Latent prints can also be retrieved from submitted evidence and used to assist in identifying a criminal suspect. Using the newest technology and considerable expertise, the latent print examiner achieves remarkable results in lifting

prints from various substrates.

Latent Fingerprints issued **41 reports** in 2014—up 71% from 2013—with 12 of these completed for Tarrant County Medical Examiner cases and 29 of them for non-ME cases.

FIREARMS AND TOOL MARKS

This laboratory examines and analyzes firearms, projectiles, ballistics, and markings imparted by any form of tool. Firearms submitted are examined for inherent characteristics, unique identifiers, and safety-related factors; they can be test fired to obtain reference material that can subsequently be compared to submitted evidence. The lab is also able to carry out range-of-fire determinations within its 40-foot indoor range.



Firearms and Tool Marks issued **61 reports** in 2014—up 17% from 2013—with 40 of these completed for Tarrant County Medical Examiner cases and 21 of them for non-ME cases.

FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

A fully equipped forensic photography laboratory was added to the crime laboratory in 1994. By 2005, the laboratory had replaced all film processing with digital photography.

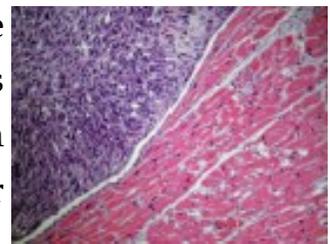


In addition to more traditional photography, the lab is capable of making photographs using ultraviolet and infrared techniques. Image enhancement can also be performed. Pictures, enlargements, and other services are provided to medical examiners, courts, and individuals for educational or research-based presentations.

In 2014, the photo lab produced **142,058 autopsy and scene photographs** (averaging almost 12,000 images a month) and worked on a total of **1,865 cases**.

FORENSIC HISTOLOGY

Many cause of death determinations rely upon the examination of decedent tissues and organs. Special stains and fixation methods are employed to assist the physician in identifying disease processes and tissue changes that occur in response to trauma, lifestyle habits, or other variables.



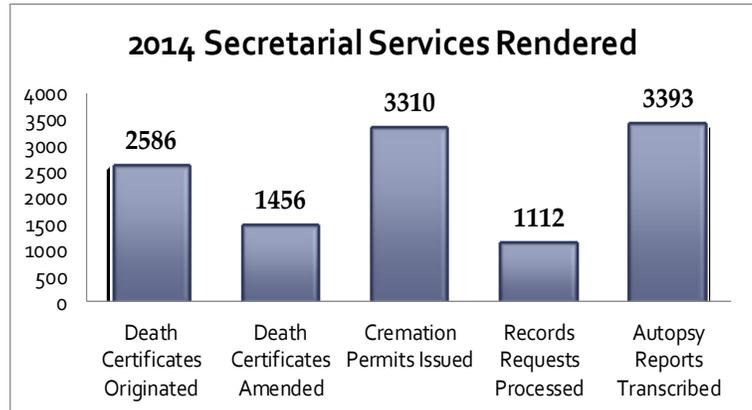
In 2014, Forensic Histology provided **42,953 services** (averaging over 3500 monthly) and worked on a total of **2553 cases**.

Secretaries for the medical examiner's office work directly with the public, assisting bereaved families, law enforcement personnel, judicial authorities, healthcare providers, and funeral directors through what many people understandably find to be a difficult and perplexing time.

Each medical examiner is assigned a secretary, who provides the administrative support services necessary to the daily operation of business.

Additional services provided by the secretarial team include issuing death certificates and medical amendments, preparing

and distributing cremation permits, transcribing autopsy reports, managing case records, documenting continuing medical education (CME) credits, and producing other business reports.



BUSINESS OFFICE

The Business Office was established to meet the increasing complexities of the day-to-day management of the business aspects of the TCME. The Business Manager and Bookkeeper comprise the office and carry out budgeting, contracting, financial reporting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, personnel timekeeping, and other related fiscal tasks. The Business Office also maintains inventory of all supplies, office equipment, and scientific equipment, and ensures all service warranties are current. The Transportation of Human Remains contract, a key requirement of business operation, is also supervised by the Business Manager.

BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT

Responsible for all general maintenance of the building, the Building Superintendent oversees vendors and contractors to ensure work is performed properly, and supervises work release individuals assigned to janitorial and grounds duties. This role is especially vital in maintaining the ventilation and air conditioning requirements unique to a medical examiner's office, with its inherent biohazards and significant investment in scientific instruments that cannot tolerate temperature changes.

Current Trends in Forensic Science



- This annual conference presents current and new developments in the forensic disciplines
- The Zachariah Award of Excellence, named for former administrator Dr. Nannepaga Zachariah, is given each year to someone nominated by their peers for excellence in forensics

Forensic Education Program



- The TCME extends educational opportunities, including the chance to observe an autopsy, to local law enforcement, healthcare, and higher education agencies
- Agencies served include Texas Wesleyan University, local police and fire academies, and Weatherford College Nursing School

Forensic Pathology Fellowship



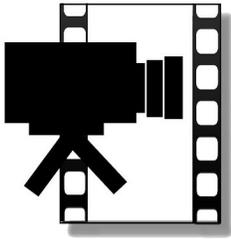
- Fully accredited by the ACGME
- Fellows work with the medical examiners and scientific staff for twelve months
- Upon completion, fellows graduate and become eligible to sit for their board examinations in forensic pathology

International Forensic Science Center



- The Center provides education available at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office to forensic scholars from abroad
- Visits typically last two weeks, during which time the TCME staff arrange both lectures and practical sessions for students

Public Service Professionals Seminar



- A one-day seminar on the operations of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office for the education of local media personnel, funeral industry professionals, and other specialized groups

- Presentation includes a tour of the facility's forensic science laboratories

Student Volunteers and Interns



- Any student who is over 18 and seeking exposure to medical examiner activities may apply for a volunteer position

- Background checks and appropriate immunizations may be required before beginning an assignment

Grand Rounds



- Meets most Tuesday mornings of the year. Presentations may be given by invited speakers or staff, and cover a wide range of topics in the fields of forensics, health, and medicine

- Audiences include medical students, health care providers, and law enforcement personnel

