

Delaware County Coroner's Office
2009 Annual Report



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The Delaware County Coroner's Office is proud to release its 2009 Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to provide information to the County Commissioners, local law enforcement agencies and the general public regarding the activities of the Coroner's Office and mortality trends in Delaware County.

Due to a number of factors, case loads have increased significantly for County Coroners in the state of Ohio over the past several years. The number of cases reported to the Delaware County Coroner's Office has roughly doubled in the past five years. We have worked hard to adapt the office to keep up with the rising volume of cases while providing timely response to law enforcement and local citizens. With the support of the County Commissioners, we were able to hire a Board Certified Investigator for 2010 which will greatly assist our efforts.

Completing Medico-legal Death Investigations is an endeavor that requires staff members to be available 24 hours a day, year round. The ever increasing changes in society have made the Coroner's Office significantly more important in the role of solving criminal and civil cases, Consumer Product and Safety issues, OSHA cases, and insurance investigations. Our office also interacts with the Delaware General Health District as well as local emergency response and disaster preparedness teams. Finally, we plan to increase our role in providing community safety education by interacting with local schools, civic clubs, and law enforcement agencies.

In summary, the goal of the Delaware County Coroner's Office is to continue to provide the highest quality of professionalism and integrity while serving the citizens of Delaware County.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Hickman, M.D.
Delaware County Coroner

Duties of the Coroner's Office

Duties of the Delaware County Coroner's Office include:

- To be available to respond as required 24 hours a day, everyday.
- To determine the cause and manner of death.
- To complete a thorough investigation of the death.
- To positively identify the decedent.
- To accurately document the death scene.
- To determine whether an autopsy is required.
- To complete interviews pertaining to the death.
- To order transport and have the decedent removed from the scene in a dignified manner.
- To work with Law Enforcement to make sure that a decedent's Next of Kin is notified.
- To complete death certificates and other related documents.

Reportable Deaths

By law, the County Coroner is directed to conduct death investigations on all deaths that are sudden and unexpected. The following is a list of deaths that need to be reported to the County Coroner's Office:

- Homicides
- Suicides
- Accidental deaths
- Sudden Deaths: The death of anyone in apparent good health or any death which is suspicious or unusual in manner.
- The death of anyone in the custody of a law enforcement agency.
- All hospital deaths that occur within 24 hours of the individual being admitted to the hospital.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, REPORT THE CASE.**

Delaware County Demographics

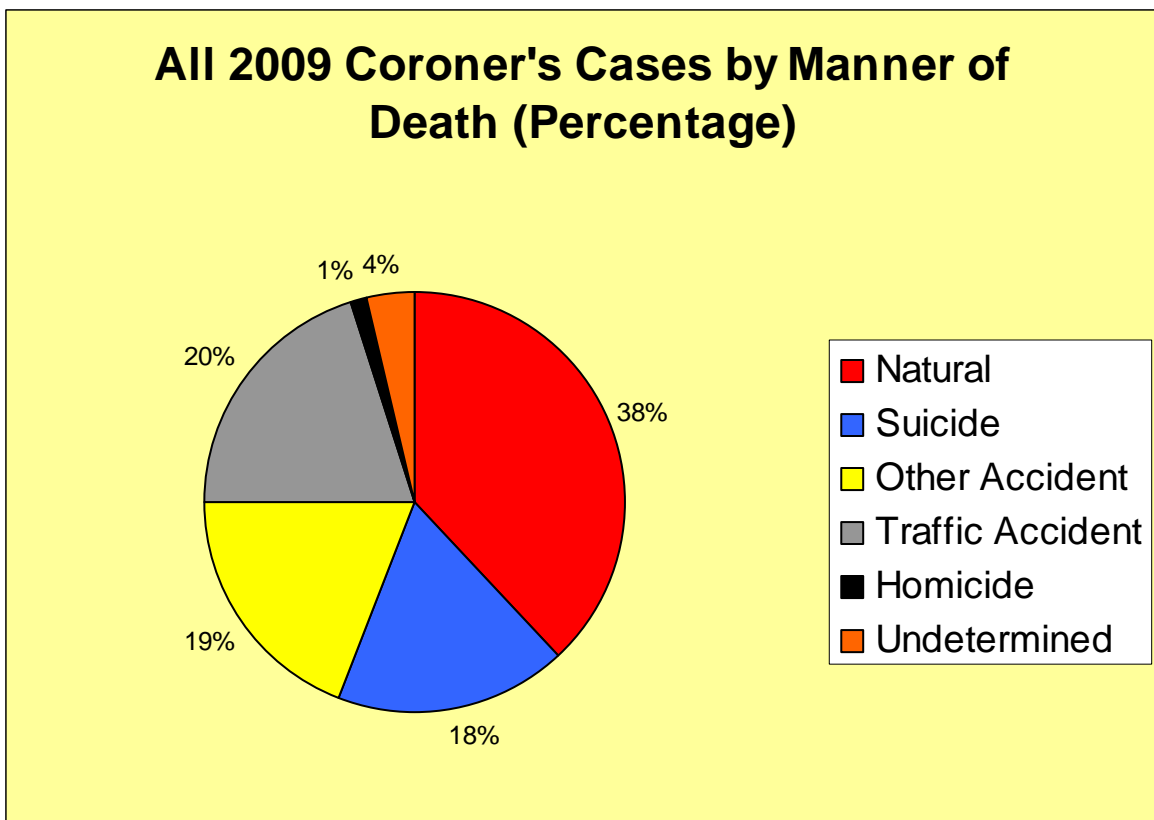
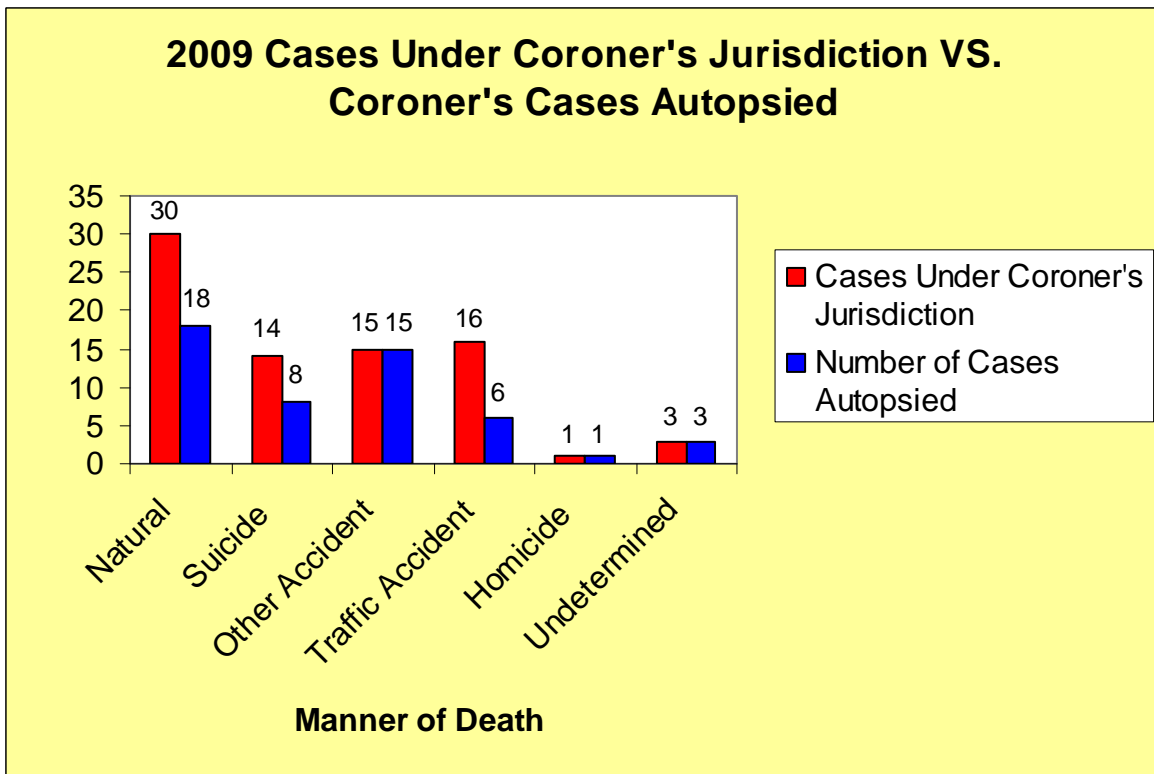
Delaware County is located in Central Ohio and as of the 2000 census had a population of 109,989. The Census Bureau estimates its 2004 population to be 142,503 which makes Delaware County the fastest growing county in Ohio and the 11th fastest in the U.S. from 2000 to 2004. The 2007 estimated population for Delaware County was 160,865.



The county has a total area of 456 square miles. The county seat is Delaware with a 2007 population estimate of 32,986. It borders six counties: Morrow, Knox, Licking, Franklin, Union, and Marion. There are several cities within Delaware County including: Ashley, Delaware, Dublin, Galena, Ostrander, Powell, Sunbury, Westerville, Kilbourne, Lewis Center, and Radnor.

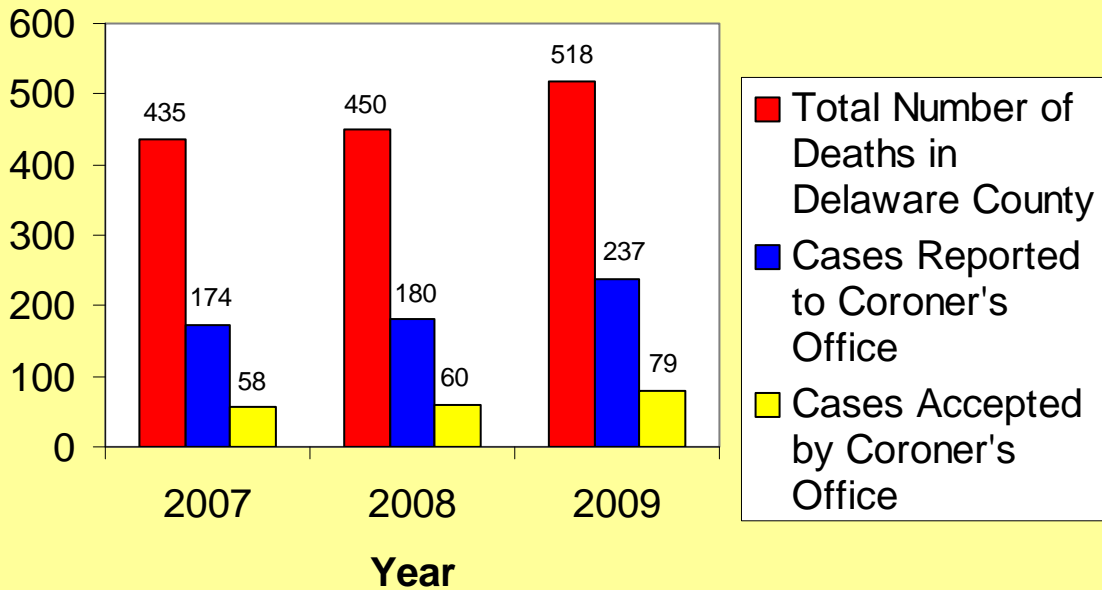
There are also several Townships including: Berkshire, Berlin, Brown, Concord, Delaware, Genoa, Harlem, Kingston, Liberty, Marlboro, Orange, Oxford, Porter, Scioto, Thompson, Trenton, and Troy.

2009 Delaware County Coroner's cases



Delaware County Deaths 2007 - 2009

Summary of Delaware County Deaths from 2007 - 2009



3 Year Comparison Manner of Death: 2007 - 2009

