

Delaware County Coroner's Office
2010 Annual Report



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The Delaware County Coroner's Office is proud to release its 2010 Annual Report. The purpose of the report is to inform the County Commissioners, Law Enforcement, the Delaware County Health Department, and the general public about the activities of the office, and data of deaths with-in the county.

Over the past few years the case loads have increased significantly for County Coroners in the state of Ohio. National recommendations for staffing are as follows: One Full-Time Investigator for every 75,000 individuals residing in the County. The approval of the 2010 budget allowed the Coroner's Office to hire a Full-Time Board Certified Investigator, and we would like to extend our thanks to the Delaware County Commissioners for taking the time to review and approve the needs of the office.

Completing Medico-legal Death Investigations is an endeavor that requires staff members to be available 24 hours a day, year round. Staff members complete continuing education and our Board Certified Investigator is required to recertify every 5 years through the American Board of Medico-legal Death Investigators.

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. The Delaware County Coroner's Office would also like to be more involved in community education by interacting with high school and college classes, civic clubs, presentations for Law Enforcement, and participating in mock disaster events.

The main goal of the Delaware County Coroner's Office is to provide the highest quality of professionalism, and integrity to Death Investigations and to be respectful to the living as well as the deceased.

Sincerely,

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

Duties of the Coroner's Office

Duties of the Delaware County Coroner's Office include:

- Be available to respond as required 24 hours a day, everyday.
- 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 complete interviews pertaining to the death.
- To order transport and have the decedent removed from the scene in a dignified manor.
- To make sure that Next of Kin is notified.
- To determine whether an autopsy should be performed and make arraignments for the autopsy.
- To provide the residents of Delaware County with the highest quality of death investigations in a timely manner.

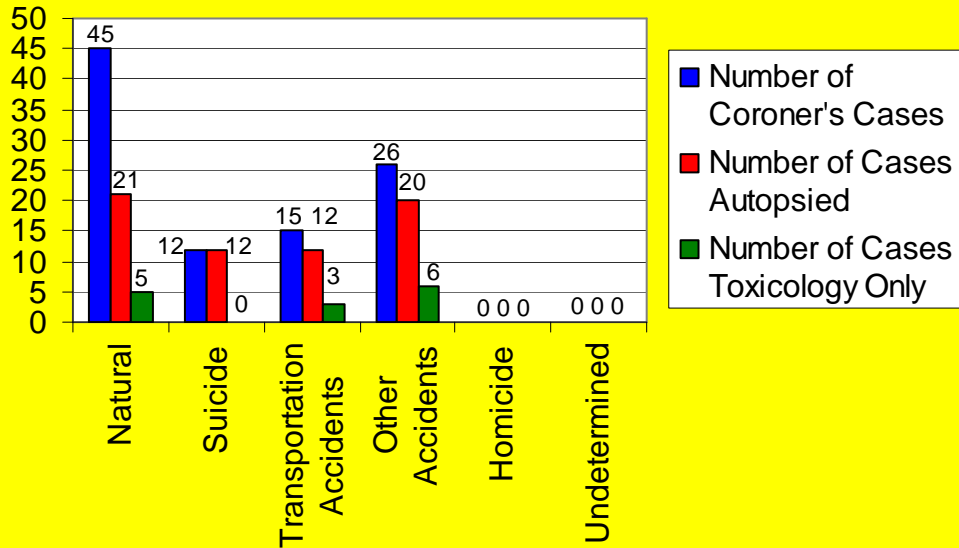
Reportable Deaths

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:

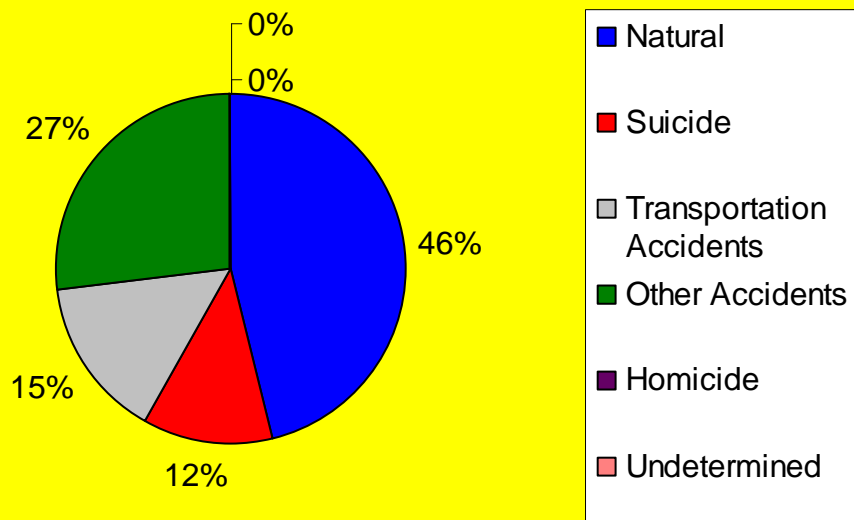
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Accident
- Sudden Death: When the death occurs while in apparent good health or in any suspicious or unusual manner.
- In-Custody death.
- Unknown.
- When in doubt report the case.

2010 Coroner's cases

2010 Coroner's Cases Accepted vs. Number of Autopsies/Toxicology Only

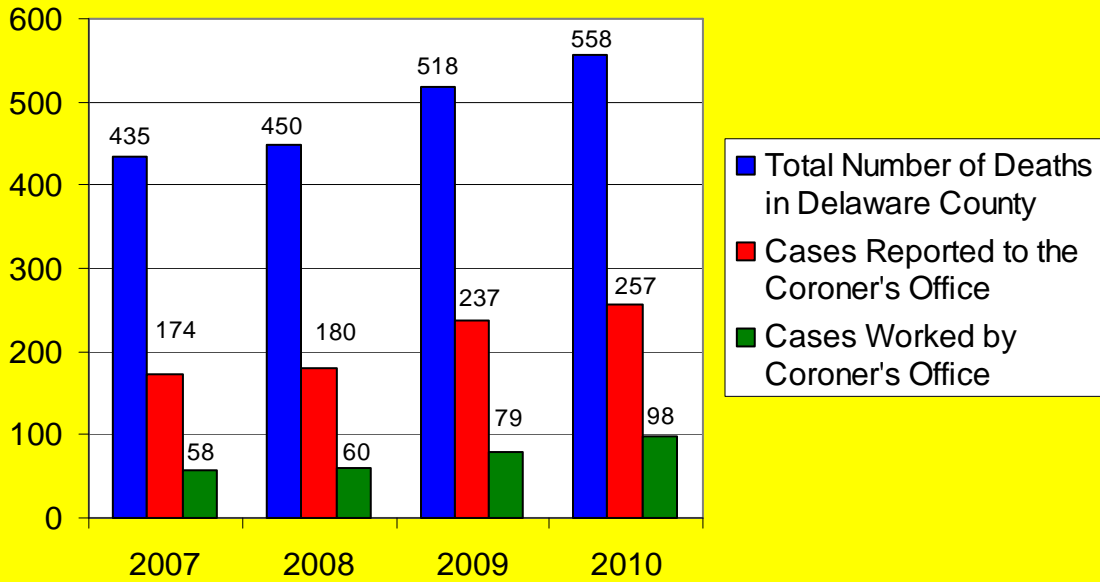


2010 Cases by Manner of Death: (Percentage)

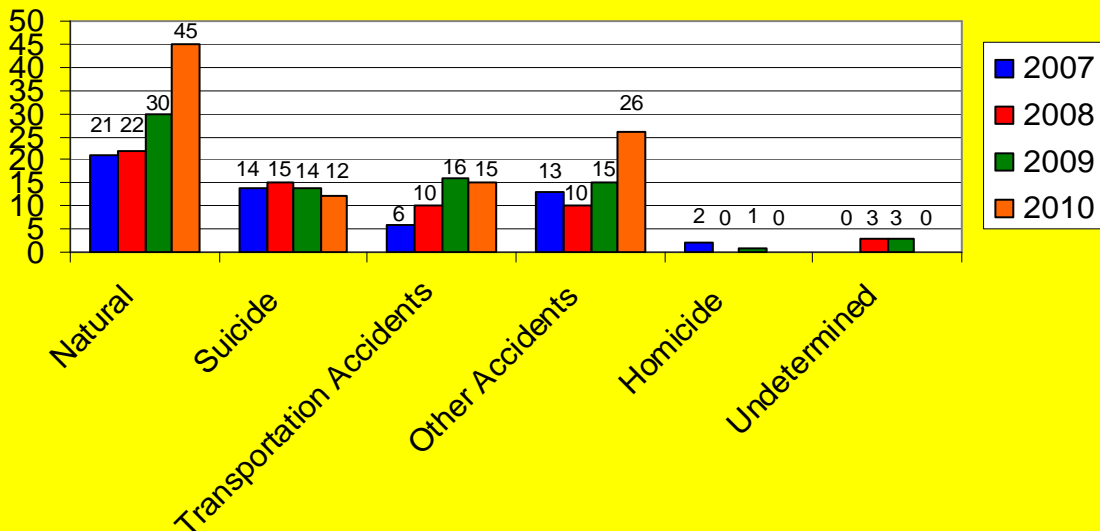


Delaware County Deaths 2007 – 2010

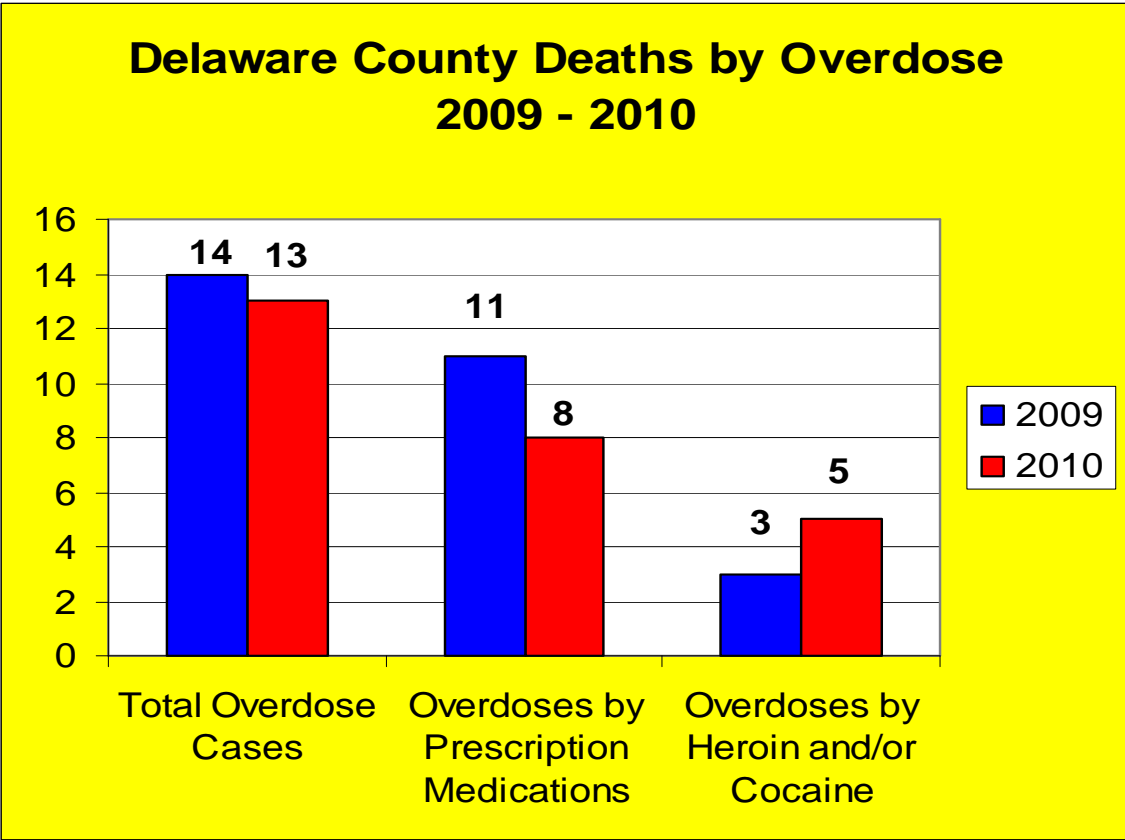
Summary of Delaware County Deaths from 2007 - 2010



4 Year Comparison Manner of Death: 2007 - 2010



Delaware County Overdose Deaths 2009 - 2010



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 2010 estimated population for Delaware County was 174,214.



The county has a total area of 456 square miles. The county seat is Delaware with a 2008 population estimate of 33,719. 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.