

Delaware County Coroner's Office
2013 Annual Report



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The Delaware County Coroner's Office is pleased to release its 2013 Annual Report.

The purpose of this report is to inform local governmental, law enforcement and public health agencies about the duties and services of our office. In addition, it serves as a review of Delaware County mortality statistics coming under the jurisdiction of our office for 2013.

Completing Medico-legal death investigations requires a well trained staff that is readily available for service. Our team members complete continuing education annually and our Board Certified Investigator maintains certification through the American Board of Medico-legal Death Investigators. Our training is designed to allow us to provide the highest level of forensic service to the community.

The Coroner's Office, through its chief duties of death investigation and public health education, is involved in the community through a variety of activities. Recent mortality trends in Delaware County have made our office significantly more active in working with local law enforcement agencies to solve criminal and civil cases as well as supply data related to the recent rise in drug related overdose deaths. In addition, we provide data for Consumer Product and OSHA cases as well as assist in insurance investigations.

Our office continues to be committed to community education and public health involvement. Over the past year, we provided a number of presentations and trainings to public schools, civic clubs and local law enforcement agencies. We serve on a number of task forces and are active on several committees at the Delaware General Health District. In addition, we participated in mock disaster trainings and worked with Delaware County Emergency Management Services on disaster preparedness planning.

The mission of our office is to provide the highest level of professionalism and integrity in performing death investigations and to contribute to the public health efforts in our community.

Sincerely,

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

Duties of the Coroner's Office

Duties of the Delaware County Coroner's Office include:

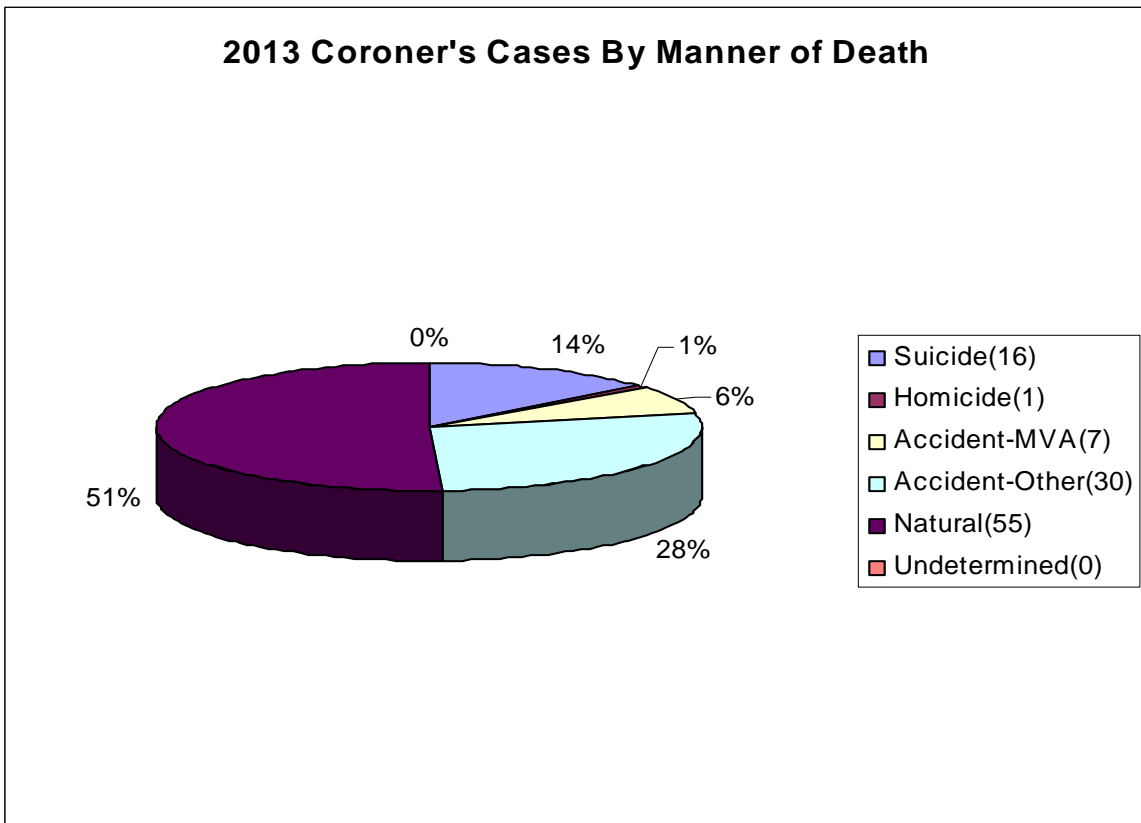
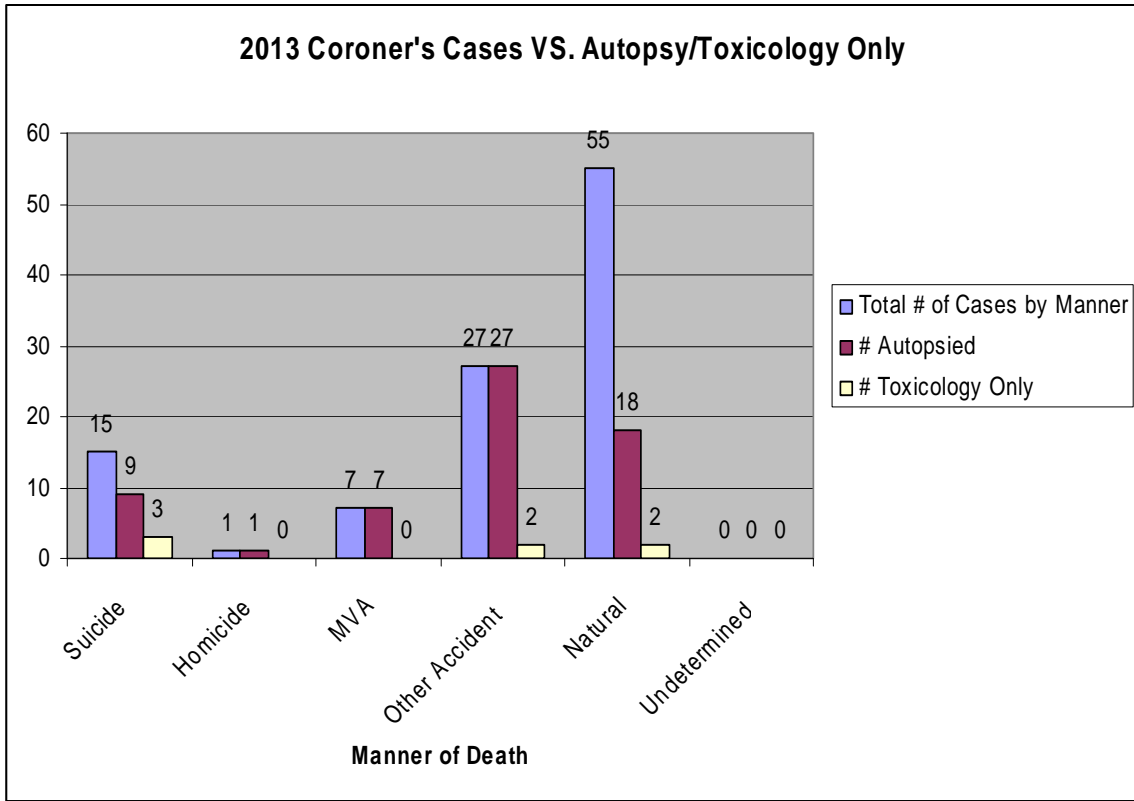
- Be available to respond as required 24 hours a day, everyday.
- Determine the cause and manner of death.
- To complete a thorough investigation of the death.
- To positively identify the decedent.
- To accurately document the death scene.
- To complete interviews pertaining to the death.
- To order transport and have the decedent removed from the scene in a dignified manner.
- To insure 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 death investigation performed in a timely manner.

Reportable Deaths

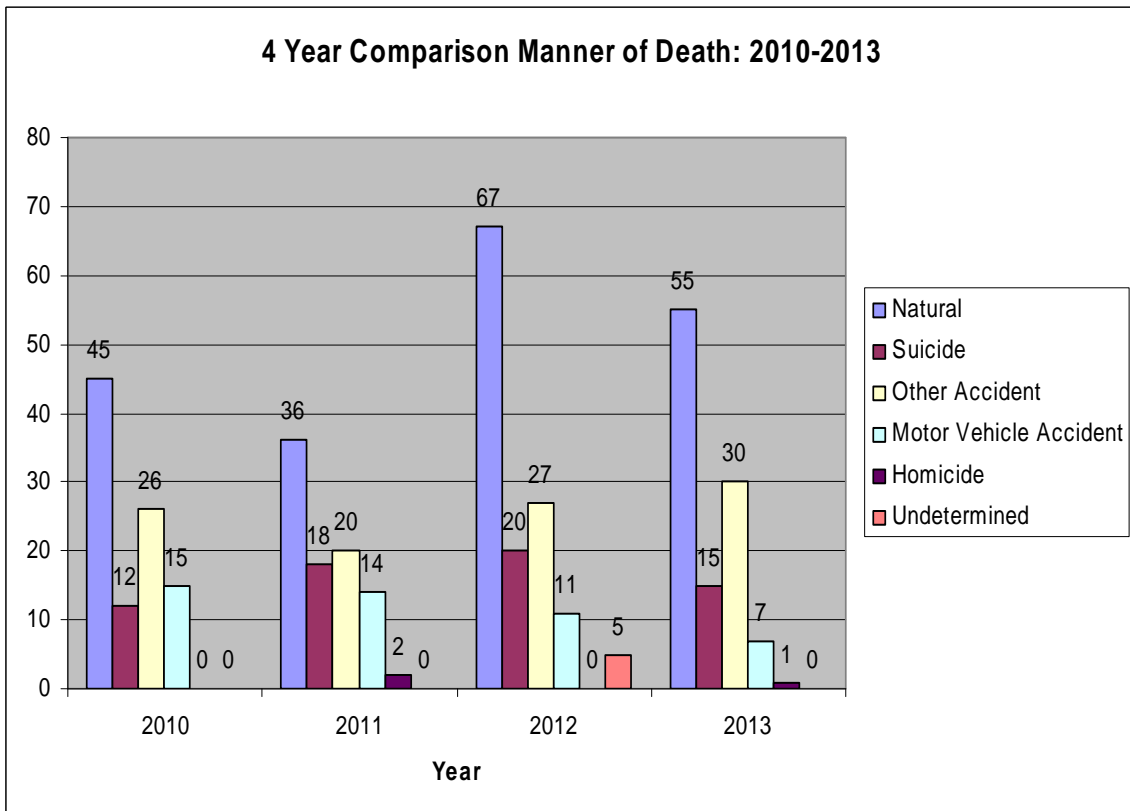
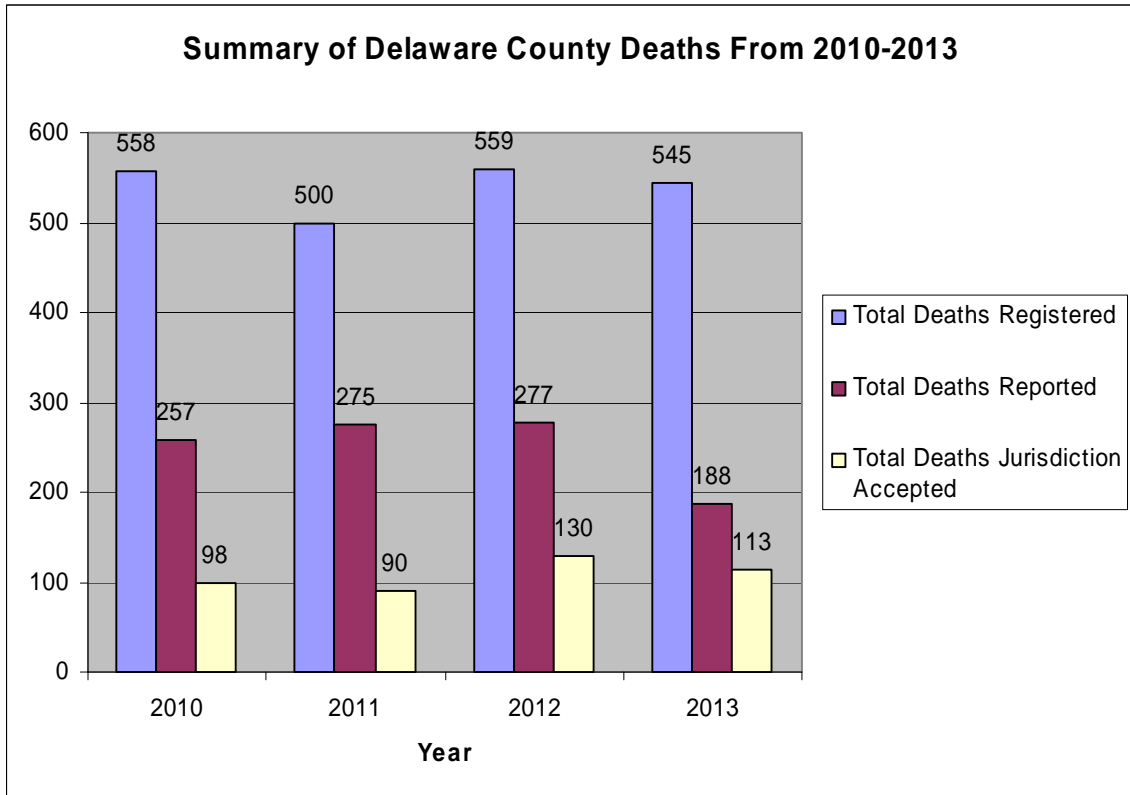
Per Ohio Revised Code Section 313, the County Coroner is directed to conduct death investigations on all deaths that are sudden and unexpected. The following is a list of deaths that need to be reported to the County Coroner's Office:

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Accident
- Sudden Death: When the death occurs while in apparent good health including children less than 24 months of age, or a death occurring in any suspicious or unusual manner.
- In-Custody death.
- Deaths occurring under unknown circumstance
- When any mentally retarded or developmentally disabled person dies regardless of the circumstances.

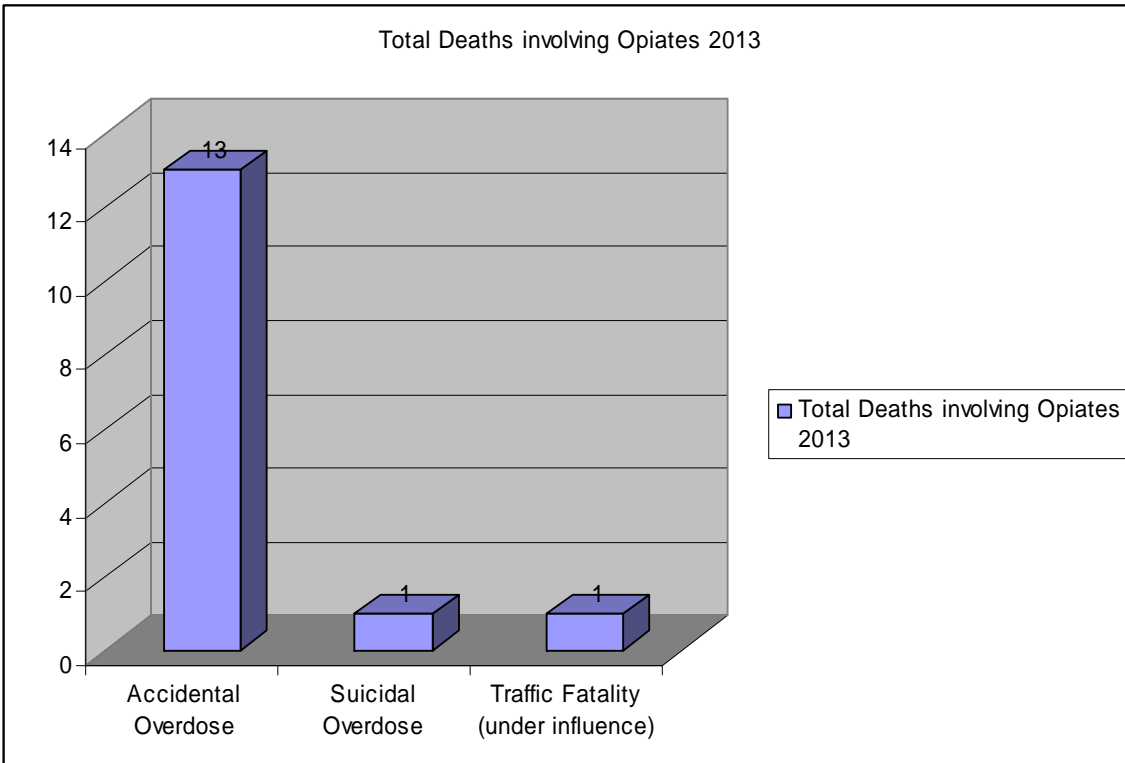
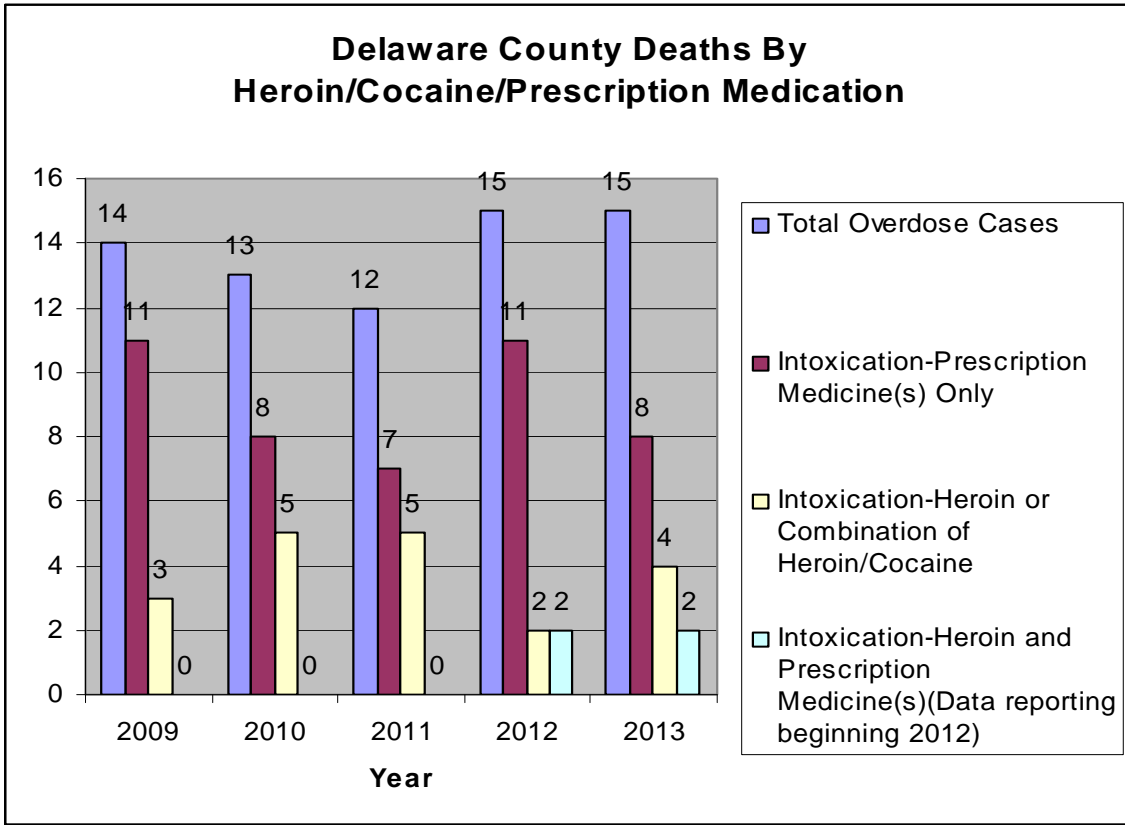
2013 Coroner's cases



Delaware County Deaths 2010 – 2013



Delaware County Overdose Deaths 2009 – 2013



Delaware County Demographics

Delaware County is located in Central Ohio and as of the 2010 census had a population of 178,341.



The county has a total area of 443.10 square miles. The county seat is the city of Delaware, with an estimated 2011 census population of 34,753*, and total estimated 2012 county population of 181,061.* Delaware County borders six Ohio counties: Morrow, Knox, Licking, Franklin, Union, and Marion. Delaware County contains all or a portion of the following cities: 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, Radnor, Scioto, Thompson, Trenton, and Troy.

*<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/39/39041.html>