



Medical Examiners Commission

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D. Chairman

Valerie J. Rao, M.D. Honorable Bruce Colton, J.D. Sheriff Harrell Reid Mariana Caballero, L.F.D.

Robin Giddens Sheppard Honorable Herman D. Laramore, J.D. Robert J. Krauss, J.D.

Honorable Jeb Bush *Governor*

Honorable Katherine Harris Secretary of State

Honorable Robert A. Butterworth Attorney General

 ${\bf Honorable\ Robert\ F.\ Milligan} \\ {\it Comptroller}$

Honorable Tom Gallagher Treasurer

Honorable Charles H. Bronson Commissioner of Agriculture

Honorable Charlie Crist Commissioner of Education

James T. Moore

Commissioner

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

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MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION

2001

ANNUAL REPORT

Published June, 2002

INTRODUCTION

The Medical Examiners Act, Chapter 406, Florida Statutes, was enacted by the 1970 Legislature in order to establish minimum and uniform standards of excellence in statewide medical examiner services. Section 406.02(4)(a), Florida Statutes, requires a report to the Governor and to the Legislature correlating and setting forth the activities and findings of the several district medical examiners. This report is submitted in compliance with the requirement cited above and illustrates the direction taken by the Medical Examiners Commission during 2001 to assure the maintenance of an effective and viable program of medical examiner services throughout Florida.

FORWARD

Statistical data in this report is based on the year-end workload inputs from the twenty-four districts for the year 2001 which were submitted to the Commission staff in the early part of 2002. Other reference material is current as of publication.

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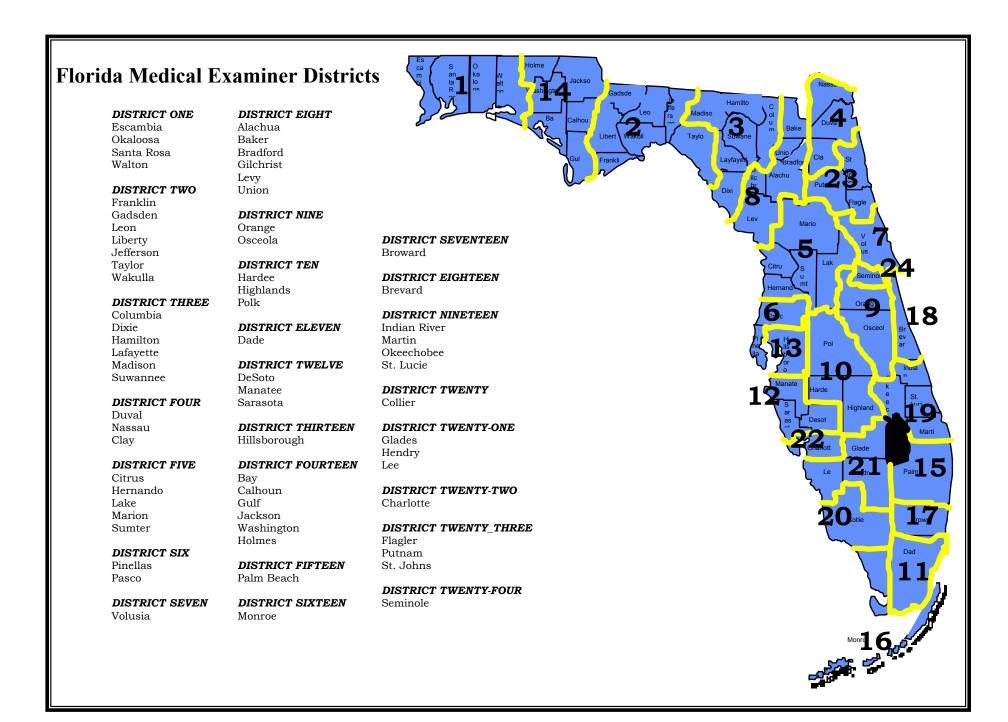
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Jerry L. Harris, M.D.
Benjamin M. Turner, M.D.
John P. Mahoney, M.D.
Margaret Havens Neal, M.D.
L. Stephen Sarbeck, M.D.
David J. Dolson, M.D.
Lynn H. Dolson, M.D.
Charles F. Manning, M.D.
Gregory V. Scott, M.D., M.B.A.
Thomas P. Wood, M.D.

District 3

(M E Services Covered by District 4)

District 4

Matthew L. Areford, M.D.

District 5

Steven C. Cogswell, M.D. Julia V. Martin, M.D.

District 6

Charles F. Siebert, M.D. Noel A. Palma, M.D. Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.

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Thomas R. Parsons, M.D. (Terrence R. Steiner, M.D.) (Paulino O. Vasallo, M.D.) (Charles A. Diggs, M.D.) (Steven C. Cogswell, M.D.) (Daniel J. Spitz, M.D.) (Frederick P. Hobin, M.D.)

District 8

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District 10

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District 11

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District 12

Wilson A. Broussard, Jr., M.D. Michael Hunter, M.D.

District 13

Lee R. Miller, M.D. Russell S. Vega, M.D. Christena Langee, M.D. Daniel Spitz, M.D. Laura S. Hair, M.D. Sam P. Gulino, M.D. Jacqueline A. Lee, M.D. (Julia V. Martin, M.D.)

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(Ray Fernandez, M.D.)
(Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.)
(Emma O. Lew, M.D.)
(Reinhard W. Motte, M.D.)
(Roger E. Mittleman, M.D.)

District 18

Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D. (Charles A. Diggs, M.D.)

District 19

Charles A. Diggs, M.D.
Jay S. Barnhart, M.D.
(Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)
(Alexander Melamud, M.D.)
(George Leidel, M.D.)
(Lisa Flannagan, M.D.)
(Noel Palma, M.D.)
(Paulino Vasallo, M.D.)
(Sajid Qaiser, M.D.)

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Peter H. K. Tan, M.D. (Manfred Borges, Jr., M.D.)

District 23

(Frederick P. Hobin, M.D.) (Thomas R. Beaver, M.D.) (Thomas R. Parsons, M.D.)

District 24

(M E Services Covered by District 7)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Medical Examiners Commission, as its Chairman, I am pleased to submit this annual report to the Governor and the Florida Legislature, "...setting forth the activities and findings of the several district medical examiners." A copy of this annual report is also provided to each board of county commissioners, as it is county government which provides the funding for Florida's 24 medical examiner districts.

Personnel changes were far fewer in 2001 than in recent years past. Our Commission continued to be ably served when Governor Bush reappointed the Hon. J. Harrell Reid, the Hamilton County Sheriff, to another four year term, and he also appointed the Hon. Robert H. Dillinger, the Public Defender from the 6th Judicial Circuit to a full four year term, succeeding the Hon. Herman D. Laramore the Public Defender from the 14th Judicial Circuit. In 2001, Governor Bush also appointed Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D. as the District 21 Medical Examiner, for the remainder of the unexpired term of her predecessor, to serve Lee, Hendry and Glades counties. And the District 12 Medical Examiners Office in Sarasota achieved acclaim for its accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners, adding another office to Florida's growing list of accredited medical examiner facilities.

In response to the much-publicized death of NASCAR racing legend Dale Earnhardt (#3), Florida Statutes §406.135 became law and is retroactive. It now prevents Florida's medical examiners from presenting autopsy photos as part of their extensive public health-related teaching, performed in the public's interest upon request. Florida's medical examiners will no longer be making photograph and slide presentations at national and international meetings in which Florida u\autopsy findings would be shown and evaluated. However, "...a local governmental entity, or a state or federal agency, in furtherance of its official duties, pursuant to a written request, may view or copy a photograph or video or may listen to or copy an audio recording of an autopsy...provided that the identity of the deceased shall remain confidential and exempt, but private institutions of higher learning are excluded. A court of competent jurisdiction may, upon a showing of good cause, issue an order authorizing any person to view or copy a photograph or video recording of an autopsy or to listen to or copy an audio recording of an autopsy and may prescribe any restriction or stipulation that the court deems appropriate. In determining good cause, the court shall consider whether such disclosure is necessary for the public evaluation of governmental performance; the seriousness of the intrusion in the family's right to privacy and whether such disclosure is the least intrusive means available; and the availability of similar information in other public records, regardless of form. In all cases, the viewing, copying, listening to or other handling of a photograph or video or audio recording of an autopsy must be under the direct supervision of the custodian of the record or his or her designee. A surviving of an autopsy must be under the direct supervision of the custodian of the record or his or her designee. A surviving spouse shall be given reasonable notice of a petition filed with the court to view or copy a photograph or video recording of an autopsy or a petition to listen to or copy an audio recording, a copy of such petition, and reasonable notice of the opportunity to be present and heard at any hearing on the matter. If there is no surviving spouse then such notice must be given to the deceased's parents, and if the deceased has no living parent, then to the adult children of the deceased." We all live by the rule of law and will continue to do so.

The devastation of September 11, 2001 will forever be etched in our memories. Though obviously disappointed by the Federal governments diminished funding of the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Act, it is nonetheless a tangible starting point. For the widespread carnage which occurred in lower Manhattan, at the Pentagon near our Nation's Capital, and in rural Pennsylvania are precisely why the Act was written and passed – to improve our national forensic science capabilities – it remains largely an under funded mandate. We can only continue to voice our concerns in the hopes that sufficient appropriations will be passed and find their way to the end-users.

Florida's medical examiners continue to bear increasing administrative duties in requests for expanded data collection and analysis from both the legislative and executive branches of State government. Here in Florida, drug abuse continues to generate great concern among many. In our morgues, the body count rises from an everexpanding list of controlled substances and from familial homicide-suicide. With the lack of a centralized, State-wide computer network and/or web site for dissemination of this valuable data and linking our 24 district medical examiner offices with our Medical Examiners Commission office here in Tallahassee, or ability to statistically analyze this data continues to be handicapped. We have long ago anticipated our growing role, but we now need to be prepared with adequate funding fur such a system.

The workload data contained on these pages demonstrates the dedication of our medical examiners to forensic pathology and the healthy and vibrant Florida communities in which they live and work.

Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D., F.C.A.P. Chairman Medical Examiners Commission

MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

After having served two terms as the Public Defender Representative, Mr. Herman Laramore's eight years of service on the Medical Examiners Commission ended on June 30, 2001. A resolution thanking him for his contributions to the Commission and the medical examiner system of Florida was read at the October meeting. The newly appointed Public Defender Representative is Mr. Robert H. Dillinger, the elected Public Defender from the Sixth Judicial Circuit which includes Pasco and Pinellas Counties.

Sheriff Harrell Reid, the Hamilton County Sheriff, was reappointed by the Governor to represent the Florida sheriffs and other law enforcement concerns on the Commission for another four year term.

DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINER REAPPOINTMENTS

The District Medical Examiners from Districts 8, 9, 10, and 12 were reappointed by the Governor for additional three year terms:

District 8: Dr. William F. Hamliton

District 9: Dr. Shashi Gore
District 10: Dr. Stephen J. Nelson
District 12: Dr. W. Pearson Clack

DISTRICT 11

Dr. Bruce A. Hyma has accepted the position of District Medical Examiner for District 11 (Dade County) vacated by the resignation of Dr. Roger E. Mittleman who is now the District 19 Medical Examiner. Since Dade County has exercised their option as a home rule county, their District Medical Examiner position is not a gubernatorial appointment.

DISTRICT 16

Dr. Robert Nelms resigned his position as the District 16 Medical Examiner effective June 1, 2001. The Associate Medical Examiner for the District, Dr. Zhiming Li, was appointed Acting Medical Examiner by the local State Attorney until a Search Committee could be formed to find a replacement.

DISTRICT 21

Dr. Carol J. Huser resigned her position effective April 21, 2001 as the District 21 Medical Examiner to take a position in Colorado. The local Search Committee nominated Dr. Rebecca A. Hamilton who had worked for Dr. Huser as an Associate Medical Examiner. Her name was accepted by the Commission and forwarded to the Governor. Dr. Hamilton was subsequently appointed by the Governor to fill the unexpired term, which ends on June, 30, 2002.

2001 LEGISLATION AFFECTING MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Chapter 406 was changed by the 2001 Florida Legislature when the bill commonly known as the *Dale Earnhardt Bill* passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor. This law exempts autopsy photographs from public record unless a court order is obtained to show just cause for their release. This law is also retroactive, in that it applies to all past and future cases.

WILLIAM R. MAPLES CENTER FOR FORENSIC MEDICINE

The William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine had its formal dedication in August of 2001. It is a joint initiative of the Colleges of Medicine and Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida. It was created in 1999 by the Board of Reagents to honor the memory of Dr. William R. Maples, an internationally recognized pioneer in the field of forensic anthropology. The mission of the Maples Center is fourfold - Education, Research, Service, and Outreach. The Center utilizes its extensive expertise in forensic medicine to provide comprehensive services and innovative programs that relate to medicolegal death investigation. The Maples Center has the responsibility of maintaining central laboratories for diagnostic anthropology and toxicology for the examination and diagnosis of forensic cases for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, medical examiners, and attorneys. Educational programs are provided to law enforcement, medical examiners, and other healthcare professionals throughout the state. The 30th Annual Medical Examiner Conference will be jointly sponsored in 2002 by the Maples Center and the District Eight Medical Examiners Office.

VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL

Dr. Marta Coburn is the Commission's Representative on the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council. The 2001 Legislature amended Chapter 943.031, Florida Statutes, renaming Florida Violent Crime Council as the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council. The newly created Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council membership is comprised of fourteen members to advise the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Commissioner and make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of initiatives to combat violent crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering. The Violent Crime Investigative Emergency and Drug Control Strategy Implementation Account provides funding to state and local law enforcement agencies involved in complex violent crime investigations and trials; drug-related investigations; and investigations of significant money laundering activities. Since its inception, the Council has awarded more than \$4 million to local criminal justice agencies for violent crime investigations. During this fiscal year (2001/2002), the Council provided Florida law enforcement agencies with more than \$1.8 million in funding for drug investigations that would strain the resources of the agencies without the help of the Council.

STATE CHILD FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dr. Michael Bell is the Commission's representative on the The Florida Child Abuse Death Review Program and was also its Chairman in 2001. This Committee was established by statute in s. 383.402, F.S., in 1999, and is administered by the Florida Department of Health. It utilizes state and local multidisciplinary teams to conduct detailed reviewed of the facts and circumstances surrounding child abuse and neglect deaths in which at least one report of abuse or neglect was accepted by the Florida Abuse Hotline Information System within the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The purpose of the program is to develop and implement data-driven recommendations for reducing child abuse and neglect deaths. To that end, the committee has made several recommendations for guidelines in child death investigation as well as establishing a datasheet for generating a database for use by Child Abuse Death Review Teams. The Committee recommends that medical examiners become active in their local Child Death Review Teams.

ORGAN AND TISSUE PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Marta Coburn is also the Commission's Representative on the Organ and Tissue Procurement and Transplantation Advisory Board, which met twice in 2001. Among the topics of discussion was the debate over the safety of the process of tissue pooling to produce allografts. It was decided that further study and discussion would be necessary on this topic. Funds were approved in 2001 for the scanning of donor wills into the data base known as the Florida Donor Registry. Finally, the Board generated language for proposed legislation that will state that the next of kin may not prevent organ and tissue donation or modify the wishes of a family member who has previously declared the desire to become a donor.

ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 29th Annual Medical Examiners Educational Conference was held this year in Daytona Beach, Florida (Volusia County) and began on October 31, 2001. The conference was hosted by Dr. Thomas R. Beaver and the District 7 Medical Examiner's Office. The theme was *The Dawning of a New Age in Forensics*. The program had nearly 100 attendees and the program faculty were:

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Anthony B. Falsetti, Ph.D. Director C. A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory University of Florida Gainesville, Florida John W. Ludlow, Ph.D. Director

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Robin Giddens Sheppard Government Analyst I Office of Vital Statistics Jacksonville, Florida Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D.
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The Honorable Stephen M. Oelrich Sheriff, Alachua County Gainesville, Florida

Nancy Rathman Sr. Crime Laboratory Analyst FDLE Orlando Orlando, Florida

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Introduction to Tables, Charts and Graphs

Methods

Death numbers in Florida reflect the total number of Certificates of Death recorded in 2001 by local county registrars of Vital Statistics. These include both resident and non-resident deaths. This data was obtained from the Office of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health. Rates related to deaths in this report *are medical examiner cases per every one thousand recorded deaths*.

2001 Population Estimates (as of April 1, 2001) for the State of Florida provided by the Finance & Economic Analysis Section of the Executive Office of the Governor. Unless otherwise noted, rates related to population in this report are *deaths for every one thousand residents*.

Information concerning autopsy numbers and other workload distribution figures are supplied by the twenty-four Medical Examiner Districts in their Annual Report Workload Data Forms. These forms are filed annually with the Medical Examiners Commission staff by April or May of the following year. (See Tables I and I-A).

Discussion

Tables

Table I 2001 District Demographics and Annual Workload Activity Reports provides a summary of 2001 workload activity reports from the offices of the twenty-four Medical Examiner Districts in Florida. Each district's population estimate and total number of recorded deaths are also included. Columns are labeled in upper case A through U for easy reference in formulas used in the other tables throughout the report.

Table IA Workload by Depth of Examination shows the depth of examination of deaths which were: Natural, Accidental (Motor Vehicle), Accidental (Non-Motor Vehicle), Suicide, Homicide, Undetermined and Pending. The levels of examination are: Autopsied, External Examination (Body Inspected), and Case Investigated Only (with no body inspection by the medical examiner). Columns in this table are labeled in lower case *a* through *ee*.

Table II Cases Accepted in 2001 by Medical Examiners Related to District Population shows the overall investigative effort required of the medical examiner in each part of the State. It also gives a clear indication as to the demand for cremations in particular areas.

Table III Autopsies Related to Population, Total Deaths and Violent Deaths shows the comparative ranking of autopsy rates in the first instance to total deaths per district, secondly to district population, and lastly to violent deaths in that district.

Table IV Percent of Medical Examiner Cases Autopsied shows the percentage of cases in which the autopsy was used by the medical examiner in making the determination for each category of manner of death. Statewide averages show that natural and non-motor vehicle accidents were the least autopsied cases, whereas, homicides, suicides, undetermined and motor vehicle accidents were the most autopsied cases. (Table I-A furnishes the raw data for this table.)

Table V Ranking of Violent Death Rates (Related to Population) compares the ranking of the different <u>rates</u> for each of the categories of violent deaths as well as the rate for total violent deaths for each district in the State.

Table VI Ranking of Districts by Number of Violent Deaths ranks the actual numbers of violent deaths per district. Not surprisingly, the most densely populated areas of the State have the highest numbers of violent deaths. Also depicted is the geographical area for each district and its population ranking among the districts.

Table VII District Death Percentages As Related to Autopsy Rates shows each district's death rate (percentage of deaths per population) and displays the two different autopsy rates for each district: autopsies per total deaths and autopsies per population.

Table VIII Thirteen Year Comparison of SIDS Deaths shows the number of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) Deaths by district and statewide since 1989.

Table IX Thirteen Year Comparison of Violent Death Rates shows how the violent death rates have changed by district and statewide since 1989.

Charts and Graphs

Chart Ia Medical Examiner Jurisdiction in 2001 indicates that of the 168,501 deaths in Florida in 2001, 96,485 (or 57%) came under the jurisdiction of the medical examiners.

Chart Ib Cases Reviewed by Medical Examiners in 2001 divides up the cases reviewed by medical examiners into cremation approvals, autopsies and other investigations. There were also cases which were reviewed but ultimately did not fall under the Medical Examiners' jurisdiction.

Chart IIa Violent vs. Non-Violent Deaths in 2001 shows the percentage of violent deaths compared to all deaths in Florida.

Chart IIb Violent Death Workload in 2001 views the distribution of the different manners of violent deaths.

Chart IIIa Autopsy Workload as Percent of Total Population shows how the number of autopsied cases compares to population.

Chart IIIb Autopsy Workload as Percent of Total Deaths shows how the number of autopsied cases compares to total deaths.

Chart IIIc Autopsy Workload as Percent of Deaths Referred shows how the number of autopsied cases compares to the deaths referred to the medical examiner.

Chart IIId Autopsy Workload as Percent of Deaths Accepted shows how the number of autopsied cases compares to the deaths accepted by the medical examiner.

Chart IVa Workload by Depth of Examination - Homicide shows the percent of homicide cases autopsied.

Chart IVb Workload by Depth of Examination - Suicide shows the percent of suicide cases autopsied.

Chart IVc Workload by Depth of Examination - Undetermined shows the percent of undetermined cases autopsied.

Chart IVd Workload by Depth of Examination - Accident Motor Vehicle shows the percent of motor vehicle accident cases autopsied.

Chart IVe Workload by Depth of Examination - Accident Non-Motor Vehicle shows the percent of non-motor vehicle accident cases autopsied.

Chart IVf Workload by Depth of Examination - Apparent Natural shows the percent of apparent natural cases autopsied.

Chart V Historical Workload – Cases Referred to Medical Examiners shows the seven year trend of the numbers of cases referred to Medical Examiners: for cremation approval, for investigation and certification, and the number of cases where jurisdiction was declined by the Medical Examiners.

Appendices

Appendix 1 is a copy of the current Chapter 406, Florida Statutes, which establishes the Medical Examiners System in Florida.

Appendix 2 is the most recent version of Rule Chapter 11G, Florida Administrative Code, which directly applies to the Medical Examiners Commission and to District Medical Examiner activities in Florida.

Appendix 3 contains the two pages from the <u>Florida Department of State's General Schedule for Law Enforcement Agencies, Correctional Facilities, & District Medical Examiner. Also known as GS-2, these are the approved retention schedules for records kept by Medical Examiner Offices.</u>

Appendix 4 lists the appointment terms of the Medical Examiners Commission members.

Appendix 5 lists the appointment terms of the District Medical Examiners.

Appendix 6 is the 2001 MEC Drug Report.

TABLE I
2001 District Demographics and Annual Workload Activity Reports

District	Population	Total District Deaths	Natural	Accident: Motor Vehicle	Accident: Non-Motor Vehicle	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Pending	Total Violent Deaths	Fetal Deaths	Human Archaeological Remains	Non-Human Remains	Total Cremation Approvals (CA)	Total Cases Referred to ME	Total Cases Accepted (incl CA)	Cases Referred Minus CA	Cases Accepted Minus CA	Jurisdiction Declined	Sals	Police Custody or Penal Inst
	4	m	U	Ω) Liu	L	Ø	Ξ	-	r	¥		Σ	Z	0	4	σ	œ	Ø	-	3
1 2 3 4 5	634,071 364,192 146,470 996,145 794,765	5,735 2,595 1,434 9,292 10,717	463 160 66 405 425	121 69 43 200 185	180 51 21 242 242	73 38 24 136 146	34 23 9 95 44	13 7 4 26 6	0 5 0 1 0	421 193 101 700 623	0 0 0 3 4	2 0 0 7 2	7 0 0 17 3	1,682 541 423 3,366 6,040	3,901 1,401 654 4,785 7,839	2,566 894 590 4,471 7,088	2,219 860 231 1,419 1,799	884 353 167 1,105 1,048	1,335 507 64 314 751	5 1 1 7 6	10 15 2 39 13
6 7 8 9 10	1,281,588 452,050 334,915 1,109,568 611,245	18,503 5,810 3,569 8,830 6,303	473 164 205 548 420	247 107 90 269 143	361 83 55 214 108	234 84 51 131 99	63 21 23 78 37	19 8 12 10 5	0 0 5 25 0	924 303 236 727 392	4 0 0 3 2	0 3 1 1	23 4 0 1 6	11,506 3,228 1,390 3,993 2,870	14,399 4,026 1,981 6,223 4,005	12,903 3,695 1,831 5,268 3,682	2,893 798 591 2,230 1,135	1,397 467 441 1,275 812	1,496 331 150 955 323	0 4 3 11 3	6 9 89 11 5
11 12 13 14 15	2,285,869 637,530 1,026,906 265,958 1,154,464	19,972 8,229 9,703 2,725 13,560	1,673 329 902 216 351	347 102 236 94 211	499 168 339 86 353	231 107 158 35 169	220 24 75 17 56	1 3 10 3 19	40 0 0 0	1,338 404 818 235 808	2 0 8 0 1	3 1 3 2 2	11 4 25 6 11	7,383 3,334 4,509 700 5,451	10,595 4,496 6,990 1,518 7,913	10,394 4,067 6,229 1,151 6,610	3,212 1,162 2,481 818 2,462	3,011 733 1,720 451 1,159	201 429 761 367 1,303	0 1 13 0 1	50 4 11 6 12
16 17 18 19 20	80,588 1,649,925 485,178 478,989 264,475	643 15,492 5,133 5,624 2,542	74 705 250 367 151	17 214 88 129 55	78 432 131 160 93	14 241 91 81 42	3 91 17 38 10	6 18 37 3 0	0 9 0 0	118 1,005 364 411 200	1 2 0 1	0 1 1 1 0	2 21 15 11 2	420 5,860 2,575 2,843 1,486	642 9,393 4,197 4,050 1,939	612 7,570 3,189 3,621 1,837	222 3,533 1,622 1,207 453	192 1,710 614 778 351	30 1,823 1,008 429 102	1 9 1 2 1	2 6 4 5 0
21 22 23 24 State	501,832 144,571 252,485 377,960 16,331,739	5,554 2,116 2,147 2,273 168,501	305 103 138 75 8,968	161 15 76 27 3,246	206 27 32 40 4,201	78 24 30 35 2,352	28 5 19 7 1,037	7 2 2 4 225	0 0 0 0	480 73 159 113	6 0 2 0 40	2 3 1 0	6 4 1 2	3,285 1,397 1,112 977 76,371	6,164 1,924 1,512 1,440 111,987	4,070 1,573 1,409 1,165 96,485	2,879 527 400 463 35,616	785 176 297 188 20,114	2,094 351 103 275 15,502	2 1 1 6 80	5 1 2 0 307

TABLE I-A
2001 Workload by Depth of Examination

		Nat	ural		1	Acc: M	otor Ve	eh	Ac	c: Non	Motor	Veh		Sui	cide			Hon	nicide			Undet	ermine	d		Per	nding		Tota	als for Y	Year
District	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only	Total	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only	Total	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only	Total	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only	Total	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only	Total	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only	Total	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only	Total	Autopsied	Body Inspected	Case Investigated only
_	_					_				_		•	E				Ì						3				aa	. qq	8	pp	99
1	260	<u>م</u> 142	ပ 61	463	υ 120	0	<u>ත</u>	121	146	19	15	180	71	2	0	73	33	0	<u>σ</u>	34	13	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	643	163	78
2	82	5	73	160	64	2	3	69	34	1	16	51	36	1	1	38	23	0	Ó	23	5	1	1	7	4	1	0	5	248	11	94
3	32	34	0	66	41	2	0	43	17	3	1	21	24	0	0	24	9	0	0	9	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	127	39	1
4	224	179	2	405	155	42	3	200	171	46	25	242	130	4	2	136	95	0	0	95	26	0	0	26	0	0	1	1	801	271	33
5	329	96	0	425	185	0	0	185	198	0	44	242	146	0	0	146	44	0	0	44	3	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	905	99	44
6	200	273	0	473	216	31	0	247	250	111	0	361	227	7	0	234	62	1	0	63	18	1	0	19	0	0	0	0	973	424	0
7	146	17	1	164	106	1	0	107	81	1	1	83	84	0	0	84	21	0	0	21	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	446	19	2
8	141	64	0	205	77	11	2	90	25	24	6	55	50	1	0	51	23	0	0	23	11	1	0	12	4	0	1	5	331	101	9
9	168	380	0	548	259	10	0	269	184	30	0	214	130	1	0	131	78	0	0	78	7	3	0	10	25	0	0	25	851	424	0
10	220	200	0	420	140	3	0	143	99	9	0	108	99	0	0	99	37	0	0	37	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	600	212	0
11	1,017	651	5	1,673	341	6	0	347	403	9	87	499	228	2	1	231	220	0	0	220	1	0	0	1	40	0	0	40	2,250	668	93
12	158	170	1	329	89	11	2	102	110	53	5	168	107	0	0	107	24	0	0	24	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	490	235	8
13	527	369	6	902	233	2	1	236	267	66	6	339	157	1	0	158	72	1	2	75	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	1,266	439	15
14	141	72	3	216	90	1	3	94	62	15	9	86	35	0	0	35	16	0	1	17	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	347	88	16
15	244	106	1	351	198	13	0	211	281	70	2	353	167	2	0	169	56	0	0	56	18	0	1	19	0	0	0	0	964	191	4
16	57	17	0	74	17	0	0	17	72	6	0	78	13	1	0	14	3	0	0	3	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	168	24	0
17	526	176	3	705	211	3	0	214	380	46	6	432	236	4	1	241	90	1	0	91	16	1	1	18	9	0	0	9	1,468	231	11
18	162	88	0	250	87	1	0	88	110	14	7	131	90	0	1	91	17	0	0	17	37	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	503	103	8
19	173	193	1	367	120	8	1	129	136	19	5	160	81	0	0	81	38	0	0	38	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	551	220	7
20	81	66	4	151	52	3	0	55	45	15	33	93	42	0	0	42	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	230	84	37
21	114	190	1	305	158	3	0	161	123	79	4	206	77	1	0	78	28	0	0	28	6	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	506	274	5
22	51	52	0	103	14	1	0	15	24	1	2	27	23	1	0	24	5	0	0	5	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	117	57	2
23	43	33	62	138	73	3	0	76	26	6	0	32	29	1	0	30	19	0	0	19	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	191	43	63
24	72	3	0	75	26	1	0	27	40	0	0	40	35	0	0	35	7	0	0	7	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	184	4	0
State	5,16 <u>8</u>	3,576	224	8,968	3,072	158	16	3,246	3,284	643	274	4,201	2,317	29	6	2,352	1,030	3	4	1,037	207	14	4	225	82	1	2	85	15,160	4,424	530

TABLE II

Cases Accepted by Medical Examiners Related to District Population

(R/.001A) (N/.001A)

		(R/.001A)			(N/.001A)
		Autopsies and			
		Other			Cremation
Rank	Dist	Investigations	Rank	Dist	Approvals
,	1 40	0.000	4	20	0.000
1	16	2.382	1	22	9.663
2	14	1.696	2	6	8.978
3	13	1.675	3	5	7.600
4	19	1.624	4	7	7.141
5	21	1.564	5	21	6.546
6	1	1.394	6	19	5.935
6 7	10	1.328	7	20	5.619
			8	18	
8	20	1.327			5.307
9	5	1.319	9	12	5.230
10	11	1.317	10	16	5.212
11	8	1.317	11	15	4.722
12	18	1.266	12	10	4.695
13	22	1.217	13	23	4.404
14	23	1.176	14	13	4.391
15	12	1.150	15	8	4.150
13	12	1.130	13	O	4.130
16	9	1.149	16	9	3.599
17	3	1.140	17	17	3.552
18	4	1.109	18	4	3.379
19	6	1.090	19	11	3.230
20	17	1.036	20	3	2.888
21	7	1.033	21	1	2.653
22	15	1.004	22	14	2.632
23	2	0.969	23	24	2.585
24	24	0.497	24	2	1.485

TABLE III

Autopsies Related to Population, Total Deaths and Violent Deaths

		(cc/B) Autopsies/			(cc/.001A) Autopsies/			(cc/J) Autopsies/
Rank	Dist	Deaths	Rank	Dist	Population	Rank	Dist	Violent Deaths
	1010101010101010101010101010101							
1	16	0.261	1	16	2.085	1	11	1.682
2	13	0.130	2	14	1.305	2	24	1.628
3	14	0.127	3	13	1.233	3	22	1.603
4	11	0.113	4	19	1.150	4	13	1.548
5	1	0.112	5	5	1.139	5	10	1.531
6	18	0.098	6	18	1.037	6	1	1.527
6 7	19	0.098	7	1	1.037	7	14	1.527
8			<i>7</i> 8	-		<i>7</i> 8	7	
9	9	0.096		21	1.008			1.472
	2	0.096	9	8 7	0.988	9	17	1.461
10	10	0.095	10	/	0.987	10	5	1.453
11	17	0.095	11	11	0.984	11	16	1.424
12	8	0.093	12	10	0.982	12	8	1.403
13	21	0.091	13	17	0.890	13	18	1.382
14	20	0.090	14	20	0.870	14	19	1.341
15	23	0.089	15	3	0.867	15	2	1.285
16	3	0.089	16	15	0.835	16	3	1.257
17	4	0.086	17	22	0.809	17	12	1.213
18	5	0.084	18	4	0.804	18	23	1.201
19	24	0.081	19	12	0.769	19	15	1.193
20	7	0.077	20	9	0.767	20	9	1.171
	'	3.011	20		0.707	20		1.17
21	15	0.071	21	6	0.759	21	20	1.150
22	12	0.060	22	23	0.756	22	4	1.144
23	22	0.055	23	2	0.681	23	21	1.054
24	6	0.053	24	24	0.487	24	6	1.053

			TABLE IV										
Percent of Medical Examiner Cases Autopsied (a/d) (e/h) (i/l) (m/p) (q/t) (u/x)													
	(a/d)			•	(q/t)	(u/x)							
District	Natural	Accident: Motor Vehicle	Accident: Non- Motor Vehicle	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermine							
1	56.2%	99.2%	81.1%	97.3%	97.1%	100.0%							
2	51.3%	92.8%	66.7%	94.7%	100.0%	71.4%							
3	48.5%	95.3%	81.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%							
4	55.3%	77.5%	70.7%	95.6%	100.0%	100.0%							
5	77.4%	100.0%	81.8%	100.0%	100.0%	50.0%							
6	42.3%	87.4%	69.3%	97.0%	98.4%	94.7%							
7	89.0%	99.1%	97.6%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%							
8	68.8%	85.6%	45.5%	98.0%	100.0%	91.7%							
9	30.7%	96.3%	86.0%	99.2%	100.0%	70.0%							
10	52.4%	97.9%	91.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%							
11	60.8%	98.3%	80.8%	98.7%	100.0%	100.0%							
12	48.0%	87.3%	65.5%	100.0%	100.0%	66.7%							
13	58.4%	98.7%	78.8%	99.4%	96.0%	100.0%							
14	65.3%	95.7%	72.1%	100.0%	94.1%	100.0%							
15	69.5%	93.8%	79.6%	98.8%	100.0%	94.7%							
16	77.0%	100.0%	92.3%	92.9%	100.0%	100.0%							
17	74.6%	98.6%	88.0%	97.9%	98.9%	88.9%							
18	64.8%	98.9%	84.0%	98.9%	100.0%	100.0%							
19	47.1%	93.0%	85.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%							
20	53.6%	94.5%	48.4%	100.0%	100.0%	N/A							
21	37.4%	98.1%	59.7%	98.7%	100.0%	85.7%							
22	49.5%	93.3%	88.9%	95.8%	100.0%	0.0%							
23	31.2%	96.1%	81.3%	96.7%	100.0%	50.0%							
24	96.0%	96.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%							

78.2%

98.5%

99.3%

92.0%

57.6%

State

94.6%

TABLE V Ranking of Violent Death Rates (Per Population / 1000)

(D/.001A) (E/.001A) (G/.001A) (F/.001A) (J/.001A)

		(D/.001A)		(E/.001A)		(G/.001A)		(F/.001A)		(J/.001A)
	Mot Veh Acc/ Dist Population Dist			Non M-V Acc/		Homicides/		Suicides/		Total Violent/
Ranking	Dist	Population	Dist	Population	Dist	Population	Dist	Population	Dist	Population
				_		-				
1	14	0.353	16	0.968	11	0.096	18	0.188	16	1.464
2	21	0.321	21	0.410	4	0.095	7	0.186	21	0.956
3	23	0.301	20	0.352	19	0.079	5	0.184	14	0.884
4	3	0.294	19	0.334	23	0.075	6	0.183	19	0.858
5	19	0.269	13	0.330	13	0.073	16	0.174	13	0.797
6	8	0.269	14	0.323	9	0.070	19	0.169	5	0.784
7	9	0.242	15	0.306	8	0.069	12	0.168	20	0.756
8	7	0.237	5	0.304	14	0.064	22	0.166	18	0.750
9	10	0.234	1	0.284	2	0.063	3	0.164	6	0.721
10	5	0.233	6	0.282	3	0.061	10	0.162	8	0.705
11	13	0.230	18	0.270	10	0.061	20	0.159	4	0.703
12	16	0.211	12	0.264	21	0.056	21	0.155	15	0.700
13	20	0.208	17	0.262	5	0.055	13	0.154	3	0.690
14	4	0.201	4	0.243	17	0.055	8	0.152	7	0.670
15	6	0.193	11	0.218	1	0.054	15	0.146	1	0.664
16	1	0.191	9	0.193	6	0.049	17	0.146	9	0.655
17	2	0.189	22	0.187	15	0.049	4	0.137	10	0.641
18	15	0.183	7	0.184	7	0.046	14	0.132	12	0.634
19	18	0.181	10	0.177	20	0.038	23	0.119	23	0.630
20	12	0.160	8	0.164	12	0.038	9	0.118	17	0.609
21	11	0.152	3	0.143	16	0.037	1	0.115	11	0.585
22	17	0.130	2	0.140	18	0.035	2	0.104	2	0.530
23	22	0.104	23	0.127	22	0.035	11	0.101	22	0.505
24	24	0.071	24	0.106	24	0.019	24	0.093	24	0.299

TABLE VI Ranking of Districts by Number of Violent Deaths

(J)

	(J)		
Rank	Violent Deaths	District	Geographical Area of Florida with Population Ranking (#)
1	1338	11	Miami (# 1)
2	1005	17	Ft. Lauderdale (# 2)
3	924	6	St. Petersburg (# 3)
4	818	13	Tampa (# 6)
5	808	15	Palm Beach (# 4)
6	727	9	Orlando (# 5)
7	700	4	Jacksonville (# 7)
8	623	5	Leesburg (# 8)
9	480	21	Ft. Myers (# 12)
10	421	1	Pensacola (# 10)
11	411	19	Ft. Pierce (# 14)
12	404	12	Sarasota (# 9)
13	392	10	Lakeland (# 11)
14	364	18	Melbourne (# 13)
15	303	7	Daytona Beach (# 15)
16	236	8	Gainesville (# 18)
17	235	14	Panama City (# 19)
18	200	20	Naples (# 20)
19	193	2	Tallahassee (# 17)
20	159	23	St. Augustine (# 21)
21	118	16	Florida Keys (# 24)
22	101	3	Live Oak (# 22)
23	73	22	Port Charlotte (# 23)
24	113	24	Sanford (# 16)
State	11,146		

TABLE VII District Death Rates as Related to Autopsy Rates

(B/A)% (cc/B) (cc/.001A)

Dist	Deaths/ Population	Autopsies/ Total Deaths	Autopsies/ Population
1	0.90%	0.112	1.014
2	0.71%	0.096	0.681
3	0.98%	0.089	0.867
4	0.93%	0.086	0.804
5	1.35%	0.084	1.139
6	1.44%	0.053	0.759
7	1.29%	0.077	0.987
8	1.07%	0.093	0.988
9	0.80%	0.096	0.767
10	1.03%	0.095	0.982
11	0.87%	0.113	0.984
12	1.29%	0.060	0.769
13	0.94%	0.130	1.233
14	1.02%	0.127	1.305
15	1.17%	0.071	0.835
16	0.80%	0.261	2.085
17	0.94%	0.095	0.890
18	1.06%	0.098	1.037
19	1.17%	0.098	1.150
20	0.96%	0.090	0.870
21	1.11%	0.091	1.008
22	1.46%	0.055	0.809
23	0.85%	0.089	0.756
24	0.60%	0.081	0.487
State	1.03%	0.090	0.928

TABLE VIII

Thirteen Year Comparison of SIDS Deaths

(T)

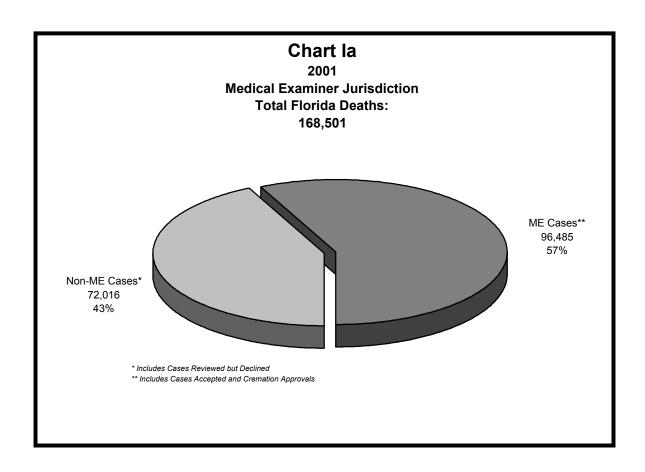
													(1)
Dist	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
							_	_		_	_	_	_
1	10	12	11	13	11	11	3	9	7	6	8	2	5
2	6	8	12	8	1	8	5	2	6	3	6	2	1
3	3	6	1	2	4	4	2	1	2	3	1	3	1
4	18	15	24	12	19	10	13	12	10	11	8	15	7
5	13	10	4	3	10	6	5	6	7	1	9	1	6
6	15	11	9	8	14	11	6	14	16	6	7	7	0
7	3	3	3	2	5	4	1	7	2	4	4	6	4
8	5	3	9	7	8	5	5	5	4	6	5	3	3
9	13	20	18	12	11	18	9	12	13	9	13	3	11
10	14	25	12	12	22	10	11	10	14	8	15	10	3
	1-7	20	12	12	22	10		10	1-7	J	10	10	O
11	36	32	29	27	24	18	19	18	8	11	9	8	0
12	4	6	9	10	4	5	4	0	3	1	0	1	1
13	21	16	11	18	10	10	13	12	10	16	13	10	13
14	4	6	4	4	1	1	1	7	1	1	2	0	0
15	17	11	12	3	9	5	7	10	3	2	2	1	1
16	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
17	15	18	19	9	19	10	13	2	7	10	4	10	9
18	3	6	2	4	5	10	5	4	3	1	0	5	1
19	5	4	7	5	5	5	5	7	3	3	2	2	2
20	0	2	2	1	3	3	1	2	0	2	0	_ 1	_ 1
21	7	8	7	5	6	1	6	3	8	6	2	5	2
22	2	2	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	1
23	3	3	6	6	7	2	3	6	7	2	0	3	1
24	10	13	5	6	1	3	4	2	3	2	7	2	6
State	227	241	217	179	200	160	144	151	137	115	118	102	80

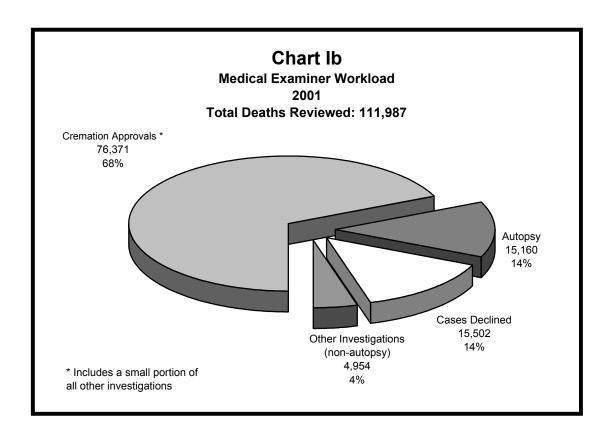
TABLE IX

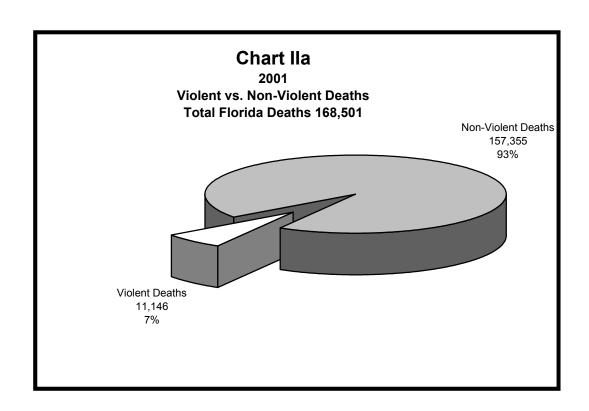
Thirteen Year Comparison of Violent Death Rates

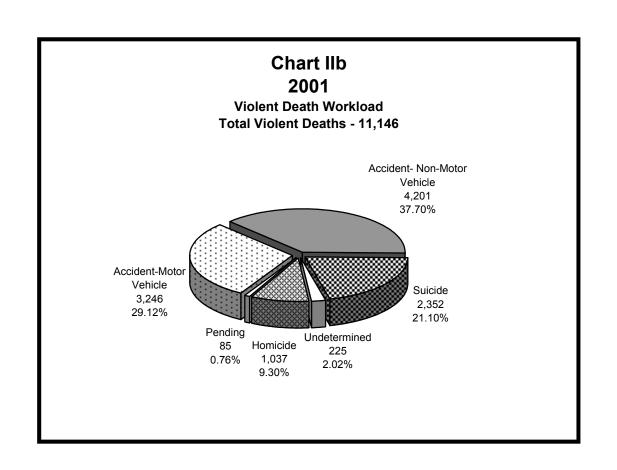
(J/.001A)

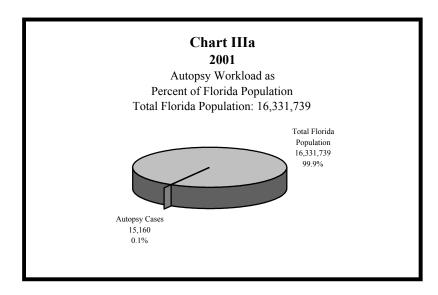
Dist	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	(37.001A) 2001
1	0.589	0.573	0.580	0.577	0.592	0.581	0.564	0.597	0.583	0.574	0.517	0.576	0.664
2	0.667	0.604	0.705	0.651	0.666	0.615	0.634	0.615	0.541	0.572	0.554	0.688	0.530
3	0.909	1.110	1.152	0.662	0.832	0.802	0.689	0.670	0.723	0.681	0.660	0.749	0.690
4	0.774	0.767	0.683	0.659	0.628	0.638	0.613	0.609	0.589	0.598	0.620	0.634	0.703
5	0.798	0.813	0.692	0.672	0.739	0.676	0.685	0.618	0.648	0.702	0.587	0.702	0.784
6	0.582	0.559	0.528	0.542	0.545	0.531	0.618	0.557	0.601	0.598	0.637	0.647	0.721
7	0.658	0.645	0.725	0.594	0.728	0.673	0.663	0.626	0.716	0.705	0.724	0.652	0.670
8	0.711	0.844	0.788	0.764	0.780	0.694	0.743	0.698	0.696	0.718	0.672	0.733	0.705
9	0.750	0.750	0.629	0.601	0.584	0.639	0.669	0.657	0.582	0.691	0.664	0.621	0.655
10	0.744	0.624	0.548	0.638	0.645	0.538	0.626	0.578	0.604	0.590	0.614	0.622	0.641
11	0.920	0.826	0.787	0.741	0.811	0.705	0.730	0.720	0.684	0.670	0.648	0.598	0.585
12	0.636	0.633	0.461	0.497	0.523	0.500	0.584	0.599	0.547	0.557	0.559	0.627	0.634
13	0.712	0.765	0.752	0.710	0.738	0.776	0.783	0.729	0.743	0.793	0.818	0.795	0.797
14	0.696	0.536	0.774	0.563	0.694	0.658	0.748	0.744	0.603	0.767	0.669	0.847	0.884
15	0.706	0.683	0.651	0.631	0.610	0.651	0.614	0.641	0.623	0.651	0.659	0.660	0.700
16	1.127	0.817	1.132	0.840	0.881	0.960	0.815	0.943	1.003	0.909	1.126	0.741	1.464
17	0.607	0.369	0.541	0.534	0.628	0.597	0.613	0.636	0.638	0.596	0.625	0.544	0.609
18	0.682	0.598	0.559	0.563	0.597	0.527	0.640	0.618	0.576	0.595	0.583	0.701	0.750
19	0.875	0.754	0.706	0.635	0.622	0.686	0.677	0.604	0.575	0.650	0.622	0.675	0.858
20	1.188	0.878	0.885	0.837	0.802	0.731	0.815	0.736	0.890	0.787	0.797	0.704	0.756
21	0.890	0.875	0.752	0.910	0.782	0.868	0.772	0.822	0.834	0.874	0.927	0.912	0.956
22	0.574	0.715	0.476	0.590	0.559	0.368	0.556	0.518	0.442	0.394	0.497	0.551	0.505
23	0.947	0.957	0.739	0.686	0.717	0.653	0.723	0.625	0.759	0.738	0.735	0.723	0.630
24	0.327	0.311	0.278	0.301	0.289	0.284	0.278	0.334	0.370	0.459	0.342	0.318	0.299
State	0.753	0.709	0.688	0.642	0.666	0.635	0.657	0.643	0.636	0.652	0.647	0.647	0.682

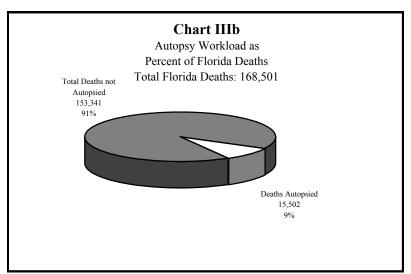


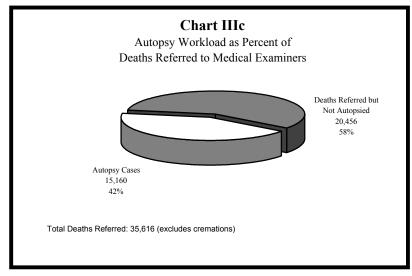


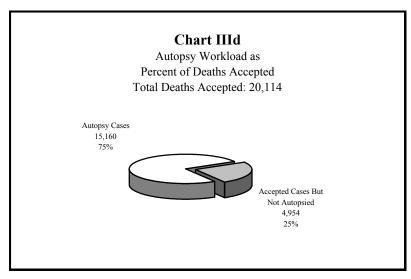


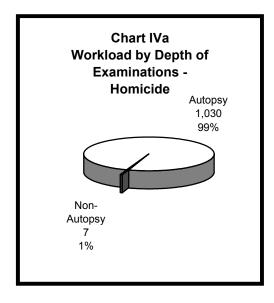


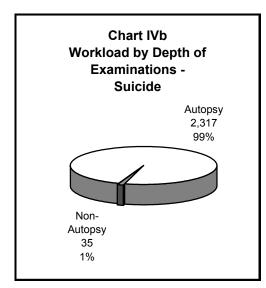


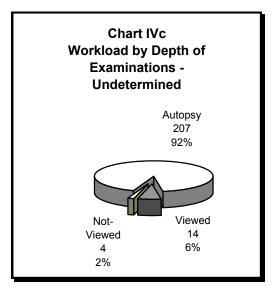


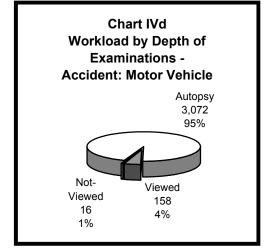


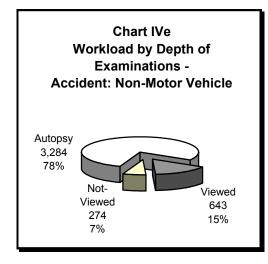


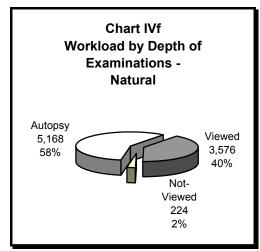


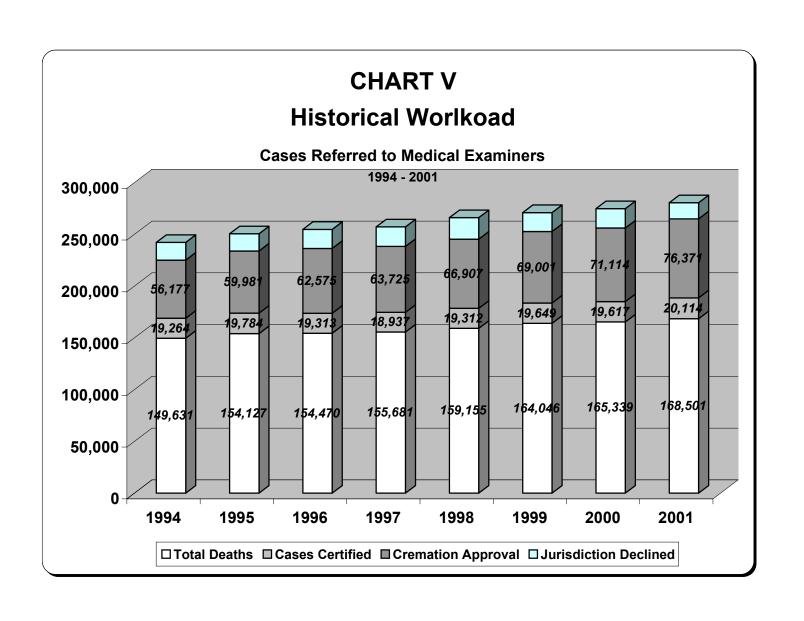












APPENDIX 1 - MEC Enabling Legislation

Chapter 406, Florida Statutes

APPENDIX 2 – Rule Chapter for Medical Examiners CommissionChapter 11-G, Florida Administrative Code

APPENDIX 3 – Record Retention for Medical Examiner Records

GS-2 General Record Retention Schedule

APPENDIX 4 – Appointment Terms for M E C Members Medical Examiners Commission Four Year Term Schedules

APPENDIX 5 – Appointment Terms for District Medical Examiners

District Medical Examiners Three Year Term Schedules

APPENDIX 6 – 2001 MEC Drug Report 2001 MEC Drug Report

APPENDIX 4

Medical Examiners Commission

Representing	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Medical Examiners	Х				Х				Х	Dr. Rao			X				Х	
Medical Examiners		Х				Х		Dr. l	Nelson	Х				Х				Х
State Attorneys	Х				Х				X N Colton				X				Х	
Public Defenders			Х				X				X Mı Dilling				X			
County Commissions				X				Х				X Mr. Rees				Х		
Sheriffs			Х					neriff eid			Х				X			
Funeral Home Industry		Х				Х					Mrs. allero			X				Х
Attorney General Rep.	Standi no terr		ointme		Mr. Kra	auss												
HRS Rep.	Standi no terr	•	ointme		Mrs. Shepp	ard												

APPENDIX 5 DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINER

Three Year Term Schedules

District	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1																		
2																		
3																		
4																		
5																		
6																		
7							Home Rule Appointment Authority Began											
8																		
9																		
10																		
11		Home R Authority	ule Appo y Began	intment														
12																		
13		Home R Authority	ule Appo y Began	intment														
14																		
15			Home R Authority	ule Appo / Began	intment													
16																		
17																		
18																		
19																		
20																		
21				-				-					-					
22																		
23																		
24																		

Return to Appendix