



# Medical Examiners Commission

2009

## ***ANNUAL REPORT***

Published July 2010

Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.  
Chairman

Russell S. Vega, M.D. • Honorable James S. Purdy, J.D. • Sheriff Grady C. Judd  
Jon C. Thomas, L.F.D. • Ken Jones • Honorable Robert J. Krauss, J.D. • Donna G. Hayes

## **From the Chairman of the Medical Examiners Commission**

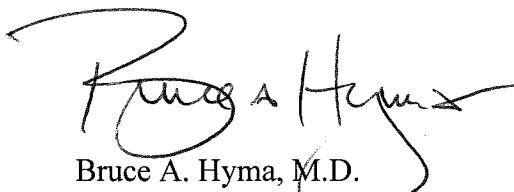
On behalf of the Medical Examiners Commission, as its Chairman, I am pleased to submit this annual report to each of our district medical examiners. While Senate Bill 1412, which was passed by the legislature this year, removed the requirement that the Medical Examiners Commission submit an Annual Workload Report to the Governor and Legislature, it was decided that we would continue to submit this report to the districts as it provides valuable information.

Throughout 2009, medical examiners continued working with the Department of Health to develop and test the upcoming Electronic Death Registration Reporting System. Due to budget issues, some delays were experienced but the project is still moving forward.

Budget challenges occurred throughout medical examiner districts in 2009. Although times have been difficult for some districts, Florida medical examiners continued to provide their consistent high standards and quality work for the citizens of Florida.

The Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons continues to include highly sought after information. This unique report continues to display the unfortunate yet increasing abuse of prescription drugs. Furthermore, the report assists Florida's state and local agencies in allocating and focusing its resources. In 2009 the Commission decided that in order to improve the accuracy of the Annual Drug Report, all data shall be submitted electronically beginning in 2010. Staff provided a database to all districts, and the first collection of the electronic data will be in September of 2010.

The Medical Examiners Commission continued in a joint initiative with the Missing & Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse to identify unidentified deceased cases in Florida. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the 24 Medical Examiner Districts are working together to resolve more than 700 unidentified deceased cases reported in our state. With new technology and advances in forensic science, the initiative is constantly evolving. This Commission will continue to encourage participation and provide access to free or low cost resources to make identifications possible.



Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.  
Chairman, Medical Examiners Commission

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Medical Examiners Act, Chapter 406, Part I, Florida Statutes, was enacted by the 1970 Legislature in order to establish minimum and uniform standards of excellence in statewide medical examiner services. This report is submitted in order to illustrate the direction taken by the Medical Examiners Commission during 2009 to ensure the maintenance of an effective and viable program of medical examiner services throughout Florida.

## **SUMMARY**

Medical examiners in Florida continue to have oversight over approximately two-thirds of the deaths in Florida (See Charts Ia and Ib). Of the 171,308 deaths in the state of Florida in 2009, 118,353 deaths came under medical examiner jurisdiction. While most of these (96,331 deaths or approximately 81 percent) were for the review of cremation requests, medical examiners accepted jurisdiction of 22,022 (18.6 percent) deaths, pursuant to Florida Statutes. Forensic autopsies were performed on 15,737 individuals before the death certificate was signed by the medical examiner.

The manner of death (See Table Ia) is a very important determination that is made by the medical examiner. Natural deaths accounted for 36 percent of the caseload of medical examiners, followed by 30 percent for non-motor vehicular accidents and 13 percent for motor vehicular accidents. Suicides, homicides, and undetermined/pending accounted for the remainder at 13 percent, 6 percent, and 2 percent respectively of the cases accepted by medical examiners.

The workload of medical examiner offices in Florida slightly increased when compared with 2008 (See Chart V). Cremation has become a frequent means of final disposition for bodies in Florida and, accordingly, their review and approval by medical examiners have increased.

## **COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCIES**

The Commission is currently in the process of filling two vacant Commission seats. The state attorney seat has been vacant since Mark E. Kohl, J.D., lost in the 2008 election. The sheriff seat became vacant when Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd's term expired in July 2009. Sheriff Judd continues to sit on the Commission until that seat is filled.

## **MEDICAL EXAMINER DISTRICTS 1-7**

In 2009, the Commission recommended that the District Medical Examiners from Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 be reappointed by the Governor for additional three-year terms. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended that Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., be appointed as District Medical Examiner in District 5. All of the following districts are still awaiting reappointment by the Governor's Office:

District 1:	Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.
District 2:	David T. Stewart, M.D.
District 4:	Margarita Arruza, M.D.
District 5:	Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.
District 6:	Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.

Surveys were sent to the constituents of District 7 for information only as that district falls under a Home Rule Charter. Marie A. Herrmann, M.D. of District 7 (Volusia County) continued as the District Medical Examiner. Surveys were also sent to the constituents of District 3 for information only as that district is cross-covered by Districts 2, 4, and 8.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

In 2009, Commission staff received 12 formal written complaints against district medical examiners or their associate medical examiners. Most of these complaints alleged misconduct regarding the findings of cause and/or manner of death, with one alleging failure to notify the next of kin of a death. Of these complaints, 10 cases were found to be legally insufficient, while two resulted in the formation of probable cause panels to consider the complaints. Of these two cases, one resulted in minor disciplinary action; i.e. a written reprimand, which is currently under appeal.

## **VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL**

Through existing partnerships with federal, state, and local law enforcement, the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council (VCDCC) continues to play an integral role in supporting initiatives to protect Florida's citizens, visitors, property and communities. Since the Council's inception in 1993, it has maintained a reputation for initiating and supporting legislation to improve the overall quality of life for the state of Florida and its citizens. The Council is composed of 14 members, including a medical examiner representative, which has been vacant awaiting gubernatorial appointment since 2007. The Council is routinely briefed on the semi-annual and annual Medical Examiners reports regarding drug-related deaths.

## **STATE CHILD ABUSE DEATH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The State Child Abuse Death Review Committee reviewed 198 cases in 2009, representing deaths that occurred in 2008 of infants and children less than 18 years of age that had been verified by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as being related to child abuse or neglect. Children five years old and younger comprised 93 percent of the cases reviewed. There had been prior reports to DCF of abuse or neglect in 40 percent of the cases, and in 22 cases (11 percent), there was an open report at the time of the death of the child.

Florida's data continues to parallel national statistics that indicate a prevalence of neglect-related deaths. Out of 198 deaths, 70 percent were neglect-related, while 30 percent were abuse-related. 109 deaths were classified as accidental. Drowning continued to be a major cause of accidental child deaths in Florida (24 percent). There was an increase in the recognition of infant deaths related to the child's sleep environment, with 54 deaths attributed to unsafe sleeping conditions. Three children died in motor vehicle crashes. One child died of hyperthermia after having been left unattended in a vehicle. This was a decrease from the ten deaths of children left in vehicles in 2004, and is believed to have resulted from the media attention given to these deaths and to related criminal prosecutions. 61 of the deaths were classified as homicides. Of these homicides, 93 percent were children under the age of five years old.

The Committee's accomplishments in 2008 included a public awareness and education campaign focusing on safe infant sleep, *Sleep Right, Sleep Tight*. The campaign included print and video training materials, which explained the safe sleep environment requirements, the importance of placing an infant in a safe sleeping environment, and the risks associated with bed sharing and co-sleeping arrangements.

The Committee's 2009 recommendations included the continuation of training professionals and parents in unsafe sleeping environments, drowning prevention and investigations, coping with crying, the role of substance abuse, and death scene investigations. Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., Interim District 5 Medical Examiner represents the Medical Examiners Commission on this committee.

## **ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference was held in Sarasota from August 12-14, 2009. The conference was hosted by the District 12 (Manatee, Sarasota, and Desoto Counties) Medical Examiners Office and the University of Florida William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine. The program consisted of a wide variety of interesting and informative lectures including prescription drug monitoring in Florida, wartime forensic pathology, national unidentified and missing persons initiative, canine search operations, investigation of electrocution deaths, and instructive cases in forensic entomology.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Death statistics in Florida reflect the total number of Certificates of Death recorded in 2009 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 1,000 recorded deaths.

Population estimates (as of April 1, 2010) for the state of Florida were 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 1,000 residents.

Information concerning autopsy numbers and other workload distribution figures are supplied by the 24 medical examiner districts in their Annual Report Workload Data Forms. These forms are filed annually with the Medical Examiners Commission staff in April or May of each year (See Tables I and Ia).

**TABLE I**  
**2009 District Demographics and Annual Workload Activity Reports**

District	A Population	B Total District Deaths	C Natural	D Accident: Motor Vehicle	E Accident: Non-Motor Vehicle	F Suicide	G Homicide	H Undetermined	I Pending	J Total Violent Deaths	K Fetal Deaths	L Human Archaeological Remains	M Non-Human Remains	N Total Cremation Approvals (CA)	O Total Cases Referred to ME	P Total Cases Accepted (incl CA)	Q Cases Referred Minus CA	R Cases Accepted Minus CA	S Jurisdiction Declined	T SIDS	U Police Custody or Penal Inst.
1	711,642	6,399	343	125	240	125	37	19	5	551	2	0	14	2,815	5,139	3,709	2,324	894	1,430	0	5
2	415,115	2,786	140	68	97	57	21	7	5	255	0	0	0	1,029	1,809	1,424	780	395	385	1	5
3	166,159	1,449	69	57	52	23	13	10	0	155	0	0	0	651	971	875	320	224	96	0	12
4	1,158,314	10,019	399	173	335	194	134	35	6	877	11	0	28	5,011	6,730	6,287	1,719	1,276	443	3	93
5	1,025,416	12,537	330	150	432	184	31	29	0	826	0	0	6	8,513	10,259	9,669	1,746	1,156	590	0	17
6	1,370,899	16,946	502	208	750	279	58	57	0	1,352	1	1	39	12,127	14,638	13,981	2,511	1,854	657	0	17
7	507,105	5,905	232	93	226	78	26	9	1	433	1	3	0	3,582	4,642	4,247	1,060	665	395	4	7
8	384,859	3,838	229	110	150	59	22	33	1	375	0	0	6	2,017	2,902	2,621	885	604	281	3	79
9	1,381,670	8,798	565	223	347	163	116	30	0	879	4	0	4	5,688	8,677	7,132	2,989	1,444	1,545	6	29
10	712,389	6,789	257	119	182	105	35	2	3	446	0	2	16	3,915	5,272	4,618	1,357	703	654	0	4
11	2,472,344	18,327	958	314	489	233	246	4	120	1,406	3	3	12	7,608	10,537	9,972	2,929	2,364	565	0	44
12	742,516	8,308	323	71	281	140	43	18	0	553	0	1	0	6,102	7,489	6,978	1,387	876	511	1	3
13	1,196,892	10,182	900	206	603	199	68	14	0	1,090	5	1	25	5,211	8,013	7,201	2,802	1,990	812	5	1
14	298,176	2,940	260	78	76	65	20	6	0	245	3	0	2	1,194	2,031	1,699	837	505	332	2	6
15	1,287,344	13,349	347	196	592	189	96	37	0	1,110	1	2	4	5,938	8,245	7,395	2,307	1,457	850	2	7
16	77,925	543	74	16	55	30	4	5	0	110	0	0	5	421	645	605	224	184	40	1	1
17	1,744,922	13,971	656	176	589	233	86	51	0	1,135	4	1	0	6,348	9,609	8,139	3,261	1,791	1,470	1	6
18	555,657	5,583	205	62	244	102	32	6	0	446	0	3	11	3,212	3,863	3,863	651	651	0	0	7
19	598,057	6,267	316	96	254	118	33	5	0	506	0	0	9	3,952	4,922	4,774	970	822	148	3	10
20	333,032	2,756	141	28	197	49	13	3	32	322	1	0	8	1,944	2,687	2,407	743	463	280	0	0
21	667,755	5,931	309	134	291	115	53	3	0	596	0	1	1	4,183	7,098	5,088	2,915	905	2,010	0	4
22	165,455	2,290	66	18	46	23	3	2	0	92	0	0	0	1,704	2,163	1,862	459	158	301	1	2
23	353,081	2,475	128	58	77	66	12	0	0	213	0	1	2	1,579	2,157	1,920	578	341	237	2	0
24	423,759	2,920	99	20	97	60	17	6	1	201	0	0	0	1,587	2,152	1,887	565	300	265	1	2
State	18,750,483	171,308	7,848	2,799	6,702	2,889	1,219	391	174	14,174	36	19	192	96,331	132,650	118,353	36,319	22,022	14,297	36	361

Note: Columns are labeled for easy reference to other tables in report.

**TABLE Ia**  
**2009 Workload by Depth of Examination**

District	Natural				Acc: Motor Veh				Acc: Non Motor Veh				Suicide				Homicide				Undetermined				Pending				Totals for Year			
	a Autopsied	b Body Inspected	c Case Investigated only	d Total	e Autopsied	f Body Inspected	g Case Investigated only	h Total	i Autopsied	j Body Inspected	k Case Investigated only	l Total	m Autopsied	n Body Inspected	o Case Investigated only	p Total	q Autopsied	r Body Inspected	s Case Investigated only	t Total	u Autopsied	v Body Inspected	w Case Investigated only	x Total	y Autopsied	z Body Inspected	aa Case Investigated only	bb Total	cc Autopsied	dd Body Inspected	ee Case Investigated only	
1	68	13	262	343	25	67	33	125	97	21	122	240	124	0	1	125	37	0	0	37	13	1	5	19	5	0	0	5	369	102	423	
2	72	56	12	140	55	9	4	68	68	22	7	97	57	0	0	57	21	0	0	21	6	1	0	7	1	3	1	5	280	91	24	
3	53	14	2	69	56	1	0	57	37	15	0	52	23	0	0	23	13	0	0	13	9	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	191	31	2	
4	333	65	1	399	129	44	0	173	215	103	17	335	194	0	0	194	134	0	0	134	32	2	1	35	6	0	0	6	1,043	214	19	
5	186	32	112	330	138	1	11	150	233	5	194	432	183	0	1	184	31	0	0	31	27	1	1	29	0	0	0	0	798	39	319	
6	258	244	0	502	166	41	1	208	517	228	5	750	279	0	0	279	58	0	0	58	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,335	513	6	
7	124	108	0	232	78	15	0	93	144	77	5	226	77	1	0	78	26	0	0	26	8	0	1	9	1	0	0	0	1	458	201	6
8	183	45	1	229	106	4	0	110	65	85	0	150	58	0	1	59	20	2	0	22	32	1	0	33	1	0	0	1	465	137	2	
9	364	201	0	565	173	50	0	223	237	110	0	347	159	4	0	163	113	3	0	116	30	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	1,076	368	0	
10	191	48	18	257	102	14	3	119	150	10	22	182	103	2	0	105	35	0	0	35	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	3	585	74	44	
11	663	272	23	958	306	8	0	314	338	74	77	489	233	0	0	233	246	0	0	246	4	0	0	4	120	0	0	120	1,910	354	100	
12	207	115	1	323	67	4	0	71	176	97	8	281	139	1	0	140	42	0	1	43	18	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	649	217	10	
13	403	471	26	900	182	24	0	206	361	48	194	603	199	0	0	199	66	2	0	68	14	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	1,225	545	220	
14	99	65	96	260	56	18	4	78	50	9	17	76	65	0	0	65	20	0	0	20	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	296	92	117	
15	190	152	5	347	135	60	1	196	397	172	23	592	188	1	0	189	96	0	0	96	37	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	1,043	385	29	
16	48	26	0	74	16	0	0	16	49	5	1	55	30	0	0	30	4	0	0	4	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	152	31	1	
17	352	296	8	656	155	20	1	176	419	157	13	589	223	10	0	233	86	0	0	86	47	3	1	51	0	0	0	0	1,282	486	23	
18	137	65	3	205	54	8	0	62	178	63	3	244	101	1	0	102	32	0	0	32	3	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	505	140	6	
19	199	114	3	316	90	6	0	96	177	43	34	254	118	0	0	118	33	0	0	33	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	622	163	37	
20	70	69	2	141	28	0	0	28	66	58	73	197	49	0	0	49	13	0	0	13	1	2	0	3	32	0	0	32	259	129	75	
21	158	151	0	309	131	3	0	134	138	153	0	291	115	0	0	115	53	0	0	53	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	598	307	0	
22	40	26	0	66	18	0	0	18	43	3	0	46	23	0	0	23	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	129	29	0	
23	33	77	18	128	52	6	0	58	66	11	0	77	64	2	0	66	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	227	96	18	
24	57	42	0	99	18	2	0	20	83	11	3	97	60	0	0	60	17	0	0	17	4	0	2	6	1	0	0	1	240	55	5	
<b>State</b>	4,488	2,767	593	7,848	2,336	405	58	2,799	4,304	1,580	818	6,702	2,864	22	3	2,889	1,211	7	1	1,219	364	15	12	391	170	3	1	174	15,737	4,799	1,486	

Note: Cases Investigated Only means the body was not viewed by a medical examiner (ME), although the case was investigated and certified by an ME.

Columns are labeled for easy reference to other tables in report.

**TABLE II**
**Cases Accepted by Medical Examiners  
Related to District Population**

Rank	Dist	Autopsies and Other Investigations	Rank	Dist	Cremation Approvals
1	16	2.361	1	22	10.299
2	14	1.694	2	6	8.846
3	13	1.663	3	5	8.302
4	8	1.569	4	12	8.218
5	20	1.390	5	7	7.064
6	19	1.374	6	19	6.608
7	21	1.355	7	21	6.264
8	6	1.352	8	20	5.837
9	3	1.348	9	18	5.781
10	7	1.311	10	10	5.496
11	1	1.256	11	16	5.403
12	12	1.180	12	8	5.241
13	18	1.172	13	15	4.613
14	15	1.132	14	23	4.472
15	5	1.127	15	13	4.354
16	4	1.102	16	4	4.326
17	9	1.045	17	9	4.117
18	17	1.026	18	14	4.004
19	10	0.987	19	1	3.956
20	23	0.966	20	3	3.918
21	11	0.956	21	24	3.745
22	22	0.955	22	17	3.638
23	2	0.952	23	11	3.077
24	24	0.708	24	2	2.479

**TABLE III**
**Autopsies Related to  
Total Deaths, Population, and Violent Deaths**

Rank	Dist	Autopsies/ Total Deaths	Rank	Dist	Autopsies/ Population	Rank	Dist	Autopsies/ Violent Deaths
1	16	0.280	1	16	1.951	1	22	1.402
2	3	0.132	2	8	1.208	2	16	1.382
3	9	0.122	3	3	1.150	3	11	1.358
4	8	0.121	4	19	1.040	4	10	1.312
5	13	0.120	5	13	1.023	5	8	1.240
6	11	0.104	6	14	0.993	6	3	1.232
7	4	0.104	7	6	0.974	7	19	1.229
8	21	0.101	8	18	0.909	8	9	1.224
9	14	0.101	9	7	0.903	9	14	1.208
10	2	0.101	10	4	0.900	10	24	1.194
11	19	0.099	11	21	0.896	11	4	1.189
12	20	0.094	12	12	0.874	12	12	1.174
13	17	0.092	13	10	0.821	13	18	1.132
14	23	0.092	14	15	0.810	14	17	1.130
15	18	0.090	15	22	0.780	15	13	1.124
16	10	0.086	16	9	0.779	16	2	1.098
17	24	0.082	17	5	0.778	17	23	1.066
18	6	0.079	18	20	0.778	18	7	1.058
19	15	0.078	19	11	0.773	19	21	1.003
20	12	0.078	20	17	0.735	20	6	0.987
21	7	0.078	21	2	0.675	21	5	0.966
22	5	0.064	22	23	0.643	22	15	0.940
23	1	0.058	23	24	0.566	23	20	0.804
24	22	0.056	24	1	0.519	24	1	0.670

TABLE IV

## Percent of Medical Examiner Cases Autopsied

District	Natural	Accident: Motor Vehicle	Accident: Non-Motor Vehicle	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined
1	19.8%	20.0%	40.4%	99.2%	100.0%	68.4%
2	51.4%	80.9%	70.1%	100.0%	100.0%	85.7%
3	76.8%	98.2%	71.2%	100.0%	100.0%	90.0%
4	83.5%	74.6%	64.2%	100.0%	100.0%	91.4%
5	56.4%	92.0%	53.9%	99.5%	100.0%	93.1%
6	51.4%	79.8%	68.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
7	53.4%	83.9%	63.7%	98.7%	100.0%	88.9%
8	79.9%	96.4%	43.3%	98.3%	90.9%	97.0%
9	64.4%	77.6%	68.3%	97.5%	97.4%	100.0%
10	74.3%	85.7%	82.4%	98.1%	100.0%	50.0%
11	69.2%	97.5%	69.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
12	64.1%	94.4%	62.6%	99.3%	97.7%	100.0%
13	44.8%	88.3%	59.9%	100.0%	97.1%	100.0%
14	38.1%	71.8%	65.8%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
15	54.8%	68.9%	67.1%	99.5%	100.0%	100.0%
16	64.9%	100.0%	89.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
17	53.7%	88.1%	71.1%	95.7%	100.0%	92.2%
18	66.8%	87.1%	73.0%	99.0%	100.0%	50.0%
19	63.0%	93.8%	69.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
20	49.6%	100.0%	33.5%	100.0%	100.0%	33.3%
21	51.1%	97.8%	47.4%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
22	60.6%	100.0%	93.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
23	25.8%	89.7%	85.7%	97.0%	100.0%	0.0%
24	57.6%	90.0%	85.6%	100.0%	100.0%	66.7%
<b>State</b>	<b>57.2%</b>	<b>83.5%</b>	<b>64.2%</b>	<b>99.1%</b>	<b>99.3%</b>	<b>93.1%</b>

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

Ranking	Dist	Mot Veh Acc/ Population	Dist	Non M-V Acc/ Population	Dist	Homicides/ Population	Dist	Suicides/ Population	Dist	Total Violent/ Population
1	3	0.343	16	0.706	4	0.116	16	0.385	16	1.412
2	8	0.286	20	0.592	11	0.100	14	0.218	6	0.986
3	14	0.262	6	0.547	9	0.084	6	0.204	8	0.974
4	16	0.205	13	0.504	21	0.079	19	0.197	20	0.967
5	21	0.201	15	0.460	3	0.078	12	0.189	3	0.933
6	7	0.183	7	0.446	15	0.075	23	0.187	13	0.911
7	1	0.176	18	0.439	14	0.067	18	0.184	21	0.893
8	13	0.172	21	0.436	12	0.058	5	0.179	15	0.862
9	10	0.167	19	0.425	18	0.058	1	0.176	7	0.854
10	23	0.164	5	0.421	8	0.057	21	0.172	19	0.846
11	2	0.164	8	0.390	13	0.057	4	0.167	14	0.822
12	9	0.161	12	0.378	19	0.055	13	0.166	5	0.806
13	19	0.161	17	0.338	1	0.052	7	0.154	18	0.803
14	15	0.152	1	0.337	16	0.051	8	0.153	1	0.774
15	6	0.152	3	0.313	7	0.051	10	0.147	4	0.757
16	4	0.149	4	0.289	2	0.051	20	0.147	12	0.745
17	5	0.146	22	0.278	17	0.049	15	0.147	17	0.650
18	11	0.127	10	0.255	10	0.049	24	0.142	9	0.636
19	18	0.112	14	0.255	6	0.042	22	0.139	10	0.626
20	22	0.109	9	0.251	24	0.040	3	0.138	2	0.614
21	17	0.101	2	0.234	20	0.039	2	0.137	23	0.603
22	12	0.096	24	0.229	23	0.034	17	0.134	11	0.569
23	20	0.084	23	0.218	5	0.030	9	0.118	22	0.556
24	24	0.047	11	0.198	22	0.018	11	0.094	24	0.474

**TABLE VI**  
Ranking of Districts by Number of Violent Deaths

Rank	Violent Deaths	District	Geographical Area of Florida with Population Ranking (#)
1	1,408	11	Miami (#1)
2	1,384	6	St. Petersburg (#4)
3	1,180	17	Ft. Lauderdale (#2)
4	1,095	13	Tampa (#6)
5	1,079	15	Palm Beach (#5)
6	963	9	Orlando (#3)
7	873	4	Jacksonville (#7)
8	786	5	Leesburg (#8)
9	588	21	Ft. Myers (#12)
10	533	1	Pensacola (#11)
11	517	10	Lakeland (#10)
12	507	12	Sarasota (#9)
13	497	18	Melbourne (#14)
14	454	19	Ft. Pierce (#13)
15	441	7	Daytona Beach (#15)
16	397	8	Gainesville (#18)
17	273	20	Naples (#20)
18	271	2	Tallahassee (#17)
19	246	14	Panama City (#21)
20	209	23	St. Augustine (#19)
21	163	24	Sanford (#16)
22	153	3	Live Oak (#22)
23	101	16	Florida Keys (#24)
24	92	22	Port Charlotte (#23)
<b>State</b>	<b>14,210</b>		

**TABLE VII**  
District Death Rates as Related to Autopsy Rates

Dist	Deaths/Population	Autopsies/Total Deaths	Autopsies/Population
1	0.90%	0.070	0.632
2	0.67%	0.119	0.797
3	0.87%	0.124	1.077
4	0.86%	0.098	0.847
5	1.22%	0.063	0.773
6	1.24%	0.079	0.972
7	1.16%	0.088	1.029
8	1.00%	0.128	1.273
9	0.64%	0.136	0.869
10	0.95%	0.089	0.845
11	0.74%	0.106	0.789
12	1.12%	0.075	0.838
13	0.85%	0.128	1.093
14	0.99%	0.073	0.724
15	1.04%	0.091	0.943
16	0.70%	0.265	1.848
17	0.80%	0.089	0.712
18	1.00%	0.095	0.952
19	1.05%	0.096	1.010
20	0.83%	0.073	0.607
21	0.89%	0.105	0.934
22	1.38%	0.055	0.755
23	0.70%	0.091	0.640
24	0.69%	0.077	0.531
<b>State</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>0.094</b>	<b>0.859</b>

**TABLE VIII**  
**Fifteen Year Comparison of SIDS Deaths**

Dist	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	3	9	7	6	8	2	5	2	6	2	3	3	0	0	0
2	5	2	6	3	6	2	1	0	2	2	0	2	0	4	1
3	2	1	2	3	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
4	13	12	10	11	8	15	7	6	9	7	8	4	3	5	3
5	5	6	7	1	9	1	6	3	2	2	8	1	2	0	0
6	6	14	16	6	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	1	7	2	4	4	6	4	2	2	4	7	5	1	2	4
8	5	5	4	6	5	3	3	6	8	7	0	5	2	9	3
9	9	12	13	9	13	3	11	17	11	8	12	10	6	5	6
10	11	10	14	8	15	10	3	5	7	7	0	0	1	0	0
11	19	18	8	11	9	8	0	4	2	0	2	5	4	1	0
12	4	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1
13	13	12	10	16	13	10	13	10	4	6	7	5	8	7	5
14	1	7	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
15	7	10	3	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	2
16	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17	13	2	7	10	4	10	9	2	8	5	3	5	5	2	1
18	5	4	3	1	0	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
19	5	7	3	3	2	2	2	4	0	2	4	2	8	1	3
20	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	2	2	2	1	2	0
21	6	3	8	6	2	5	2	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	0
22	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1
23	3	6	7	2	0	3	1	0	2	2	7	4	4	5	2
24	4	2	3	2	7	2	6	3	0	2	4	1	1	1	1
<b>State</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>36</b>

TABLE IX

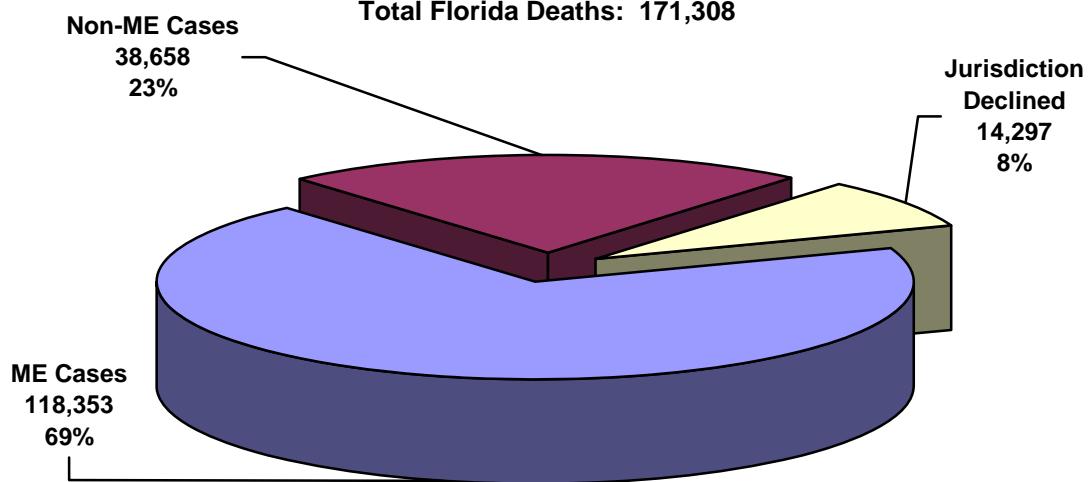
## Fifteen Year Comparison of Violent Death Rates

<b>Dist</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
1	0.581	0.564	0.597	0.583	0.574	0.517	0.576	0.664	0.714	0.763	0.787	0.867	0.831	0.811	0.805	0.807
2	0.615	0.634	0.615	0.541	0.572	0.554	0.688	0.530	0.621	0.359	0.560	0.736	0.640	0.634	0.625	0.624
3	0.802	0.689	0.670	0.723	0.681	0.660	0.749	0.690	0.976	0.773	0.848	0.981	0.910	0.990	0.975	0.975
4	0.638	0.613	0.609	0.589	0.598	0.620	0.634	0.703	0.740	0.743	0.793	0.802	0.792	0.842	0.835	0.837
5	0.676	0.685	0.618	0.648	0.702	0.587	0.702	0.784	0.796	0.755	0.711	0.792	0.782	0.699	0.690	0.685
6	0.565	0.644	0.582	0.615	0.597	0.642	0.647	0.721	0.766	0.805	0.846	0.825	0.893	0.909	0.910	0.914
7	0.673	0.663	0.626	0.716	0.705	0.724	0.652	0.670	0.814	0.769	0.838	0.867	0.810	0.823	0.818	0.824
8	0.694	0.743	0.698	0.696	0.718	0.672	0.733	0.705	0.802	0.947	0.905	1.072	1.049	1.170	1.151	1.141
9	0.639	0.669	0.657	0.582	0.691	0.664	0.621	0.655	0.615	0.617	0.695	0.730	0.721	0.702	0.693	0.697
10	0.538	0.626	0.578	0.604	0.590	0.614	0.622	0.641	0.669	0.665	0.788	0.569	0.764	0.663	0.657	0.658
11	0.705	0.730	0.720	0.684	0.670	0.648	0.598	0.585	0.615	0.586	0.584	0.608	0.621	0.611	0.607	0.608
12	0.500	0.584	0.599	0.547	0.557	0.559	0.627	0.634	0.554	0.689	0.731	0.763	0.753	0.746	0.737	0.741
13	0.776	0.783	0.729	0.743	0.793	0.818	0.795	0.797	0.896	0.879	0.847	0.864	0.908	0.908	0.902	0.905
14	0.658	0.748	0.744	0.603	0.767	0.669	0.847	0.884	0.863	0.891	0.844	0.845	0.927	0.937	0.920	0.919
15	0.651	0.614	0.641	0.623	0.651	0.659	0.660	0.700	0.691	0.789	0.774	0.792	0.833	0.904	0.904	0.910
16	0.960	0.815	0.943	1.003	0.909	1.126	0.741	1.464	1.085	1.242	1.120	1.226	1.180	1.279	1.328	1.296
17	0.597	0.613	0.636	0.638	0.596	0.625	0.544	0.609	0.649	0.641	0.646	0.693	0.666	0.675	0.677	0.683
18	0.527	0.640	0.618	0.576	0.595	0.583	0.701	0.750	0.888	0.872	0.848	1.002	0.981	0.880	0.874	0.875
19	0.686	0.677	0.604	0.575	0.650	0.622	0.675	0.858	0.867	0.897	0.951	0.827	0.835	0.764	0.754	0.759
20	0.731	0.815	0.736	0.890	0.787	0.797	0.704	0.756	0.836	0.838	0.865	0.941	0.946	0.872	0.874	0.874
21	0.868	0.772	0.822	0.834	0.874	0.927	0.912	0.956	0.941	0.929	1.082	1.113	1.047	0.993	0.979	0.991
22	0.368	0.556	0.518	0.442	0.394	0.497	0.551	0.505	0.485	0.507	0.682	0.669	0.605	0.620	0.615	0.616
23	0.653	0.723	0.625	0.759	0.738	0.735	0.723	0.630	0.694	0.680	0.695	0.649	0.624	0.663	0.645	0.643
24	0.284	0.278	0.334	0.370	0.459	0.342	0.318	0.299	0.335	0.385	0.357	0.335	0.081	0.409	0.408	0.411
<b>State</b>	<b>0.635</b>	<b>0.657</b>	<b>0.643</b>	<b>0.636</b>	<b>0.652</b>	<b>0.647</b>	<b>0.647</b>	<b>0.682</b>	<b>0.715</b>	<b>0.721</b>	<b>0.748</b>	<b>0.772</b>	<b>0.773</b>	<b>0.775</b>	<b>0.770</b>	<b>0.772</b>

## Chart Ia

2009 Medical Examiner Jurisdiction

Total Florida Deaths: 171,308



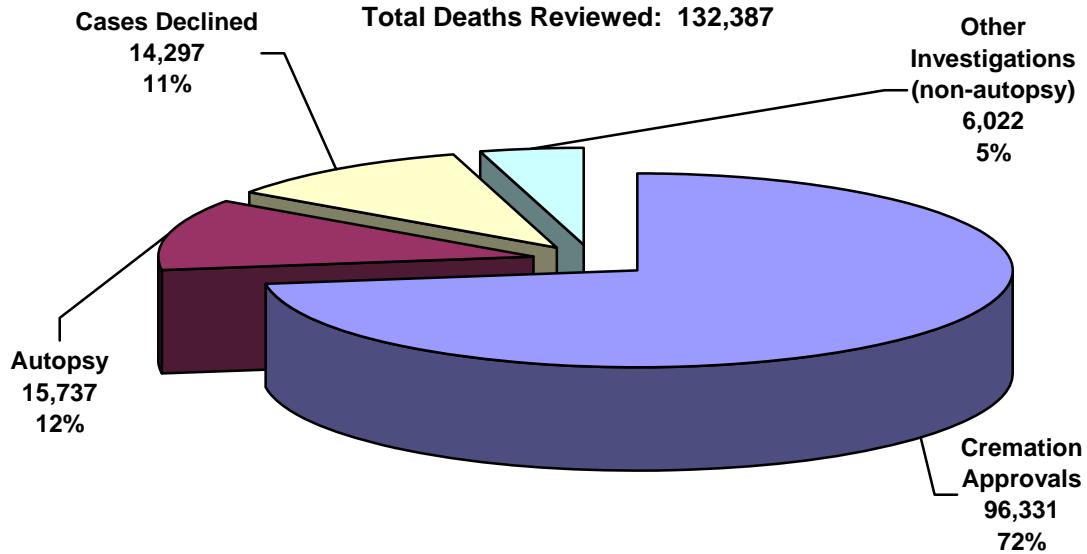
\* Total Non-ME Cases: 52,955. Includes Jurisdiction Declined Cases.

\*\* Includes Cases Accepted and Cremation Approvals

## Chart Ib

2009 Medical Examiner Workload

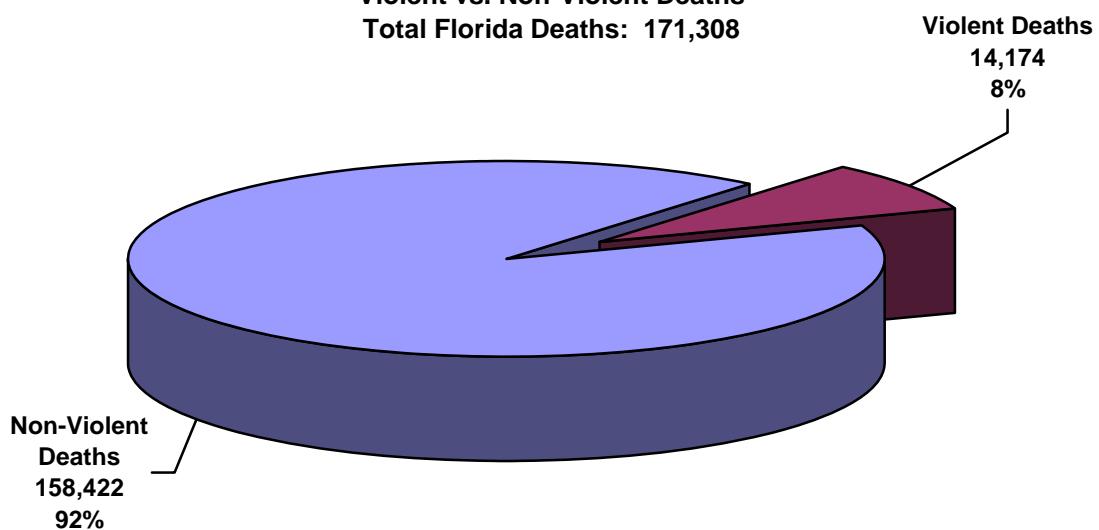
Total Deaths Reviewed: 132,387



## Chart IIa

2009

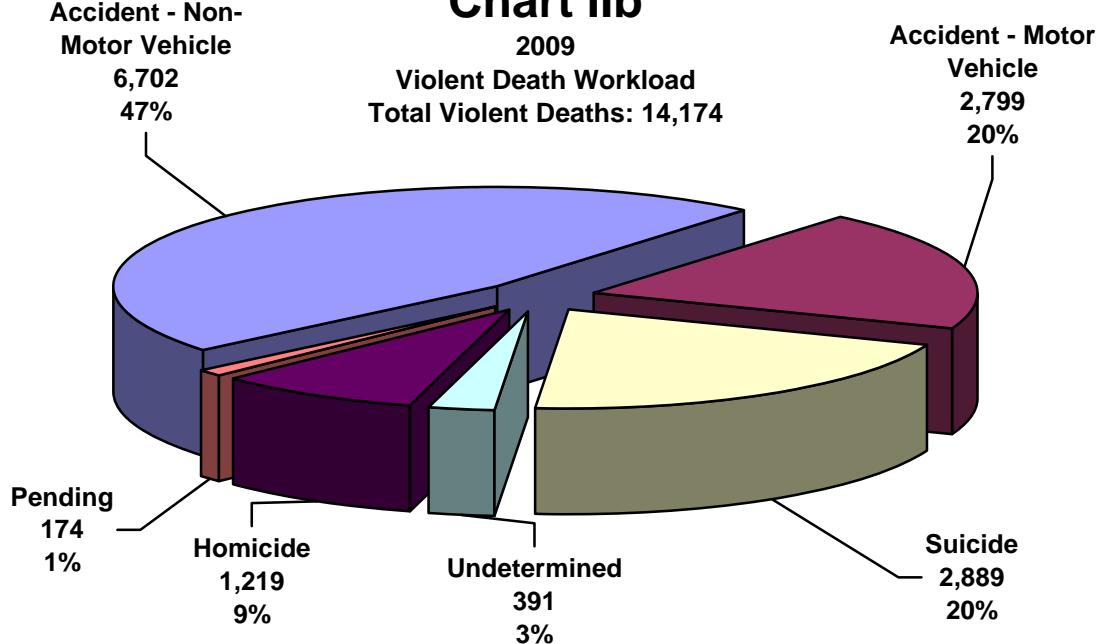
Violent vs. Non-Violent Deaths  
Total Florida Deaths: 171,308

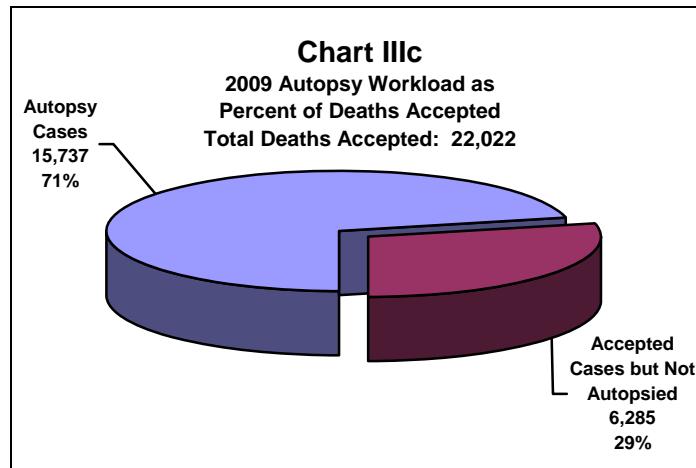
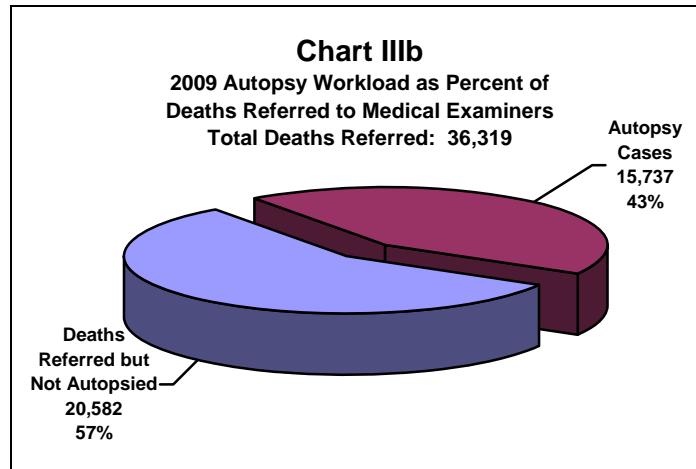
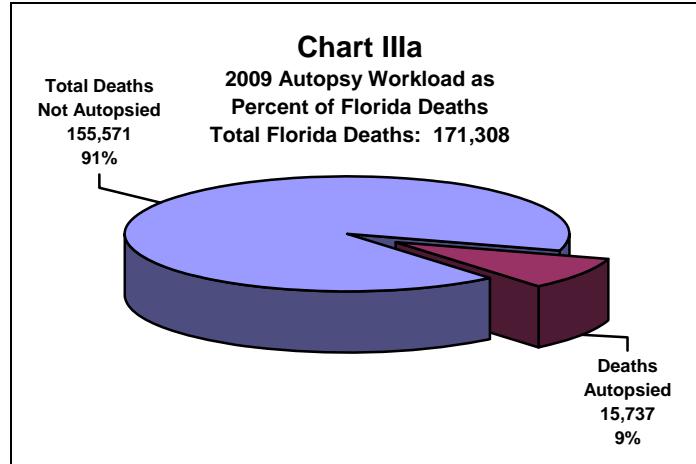


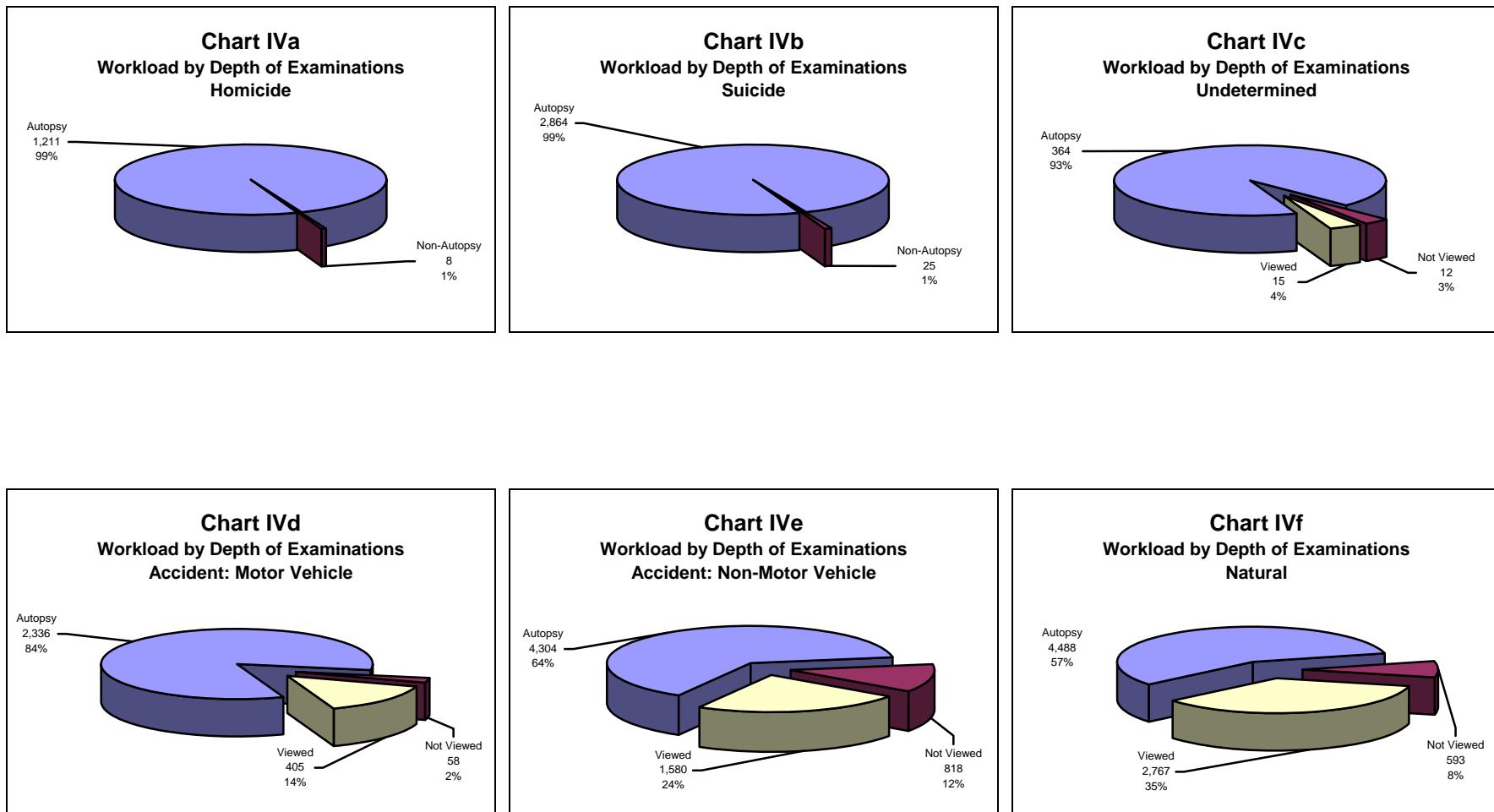
## Chart IIb

2009

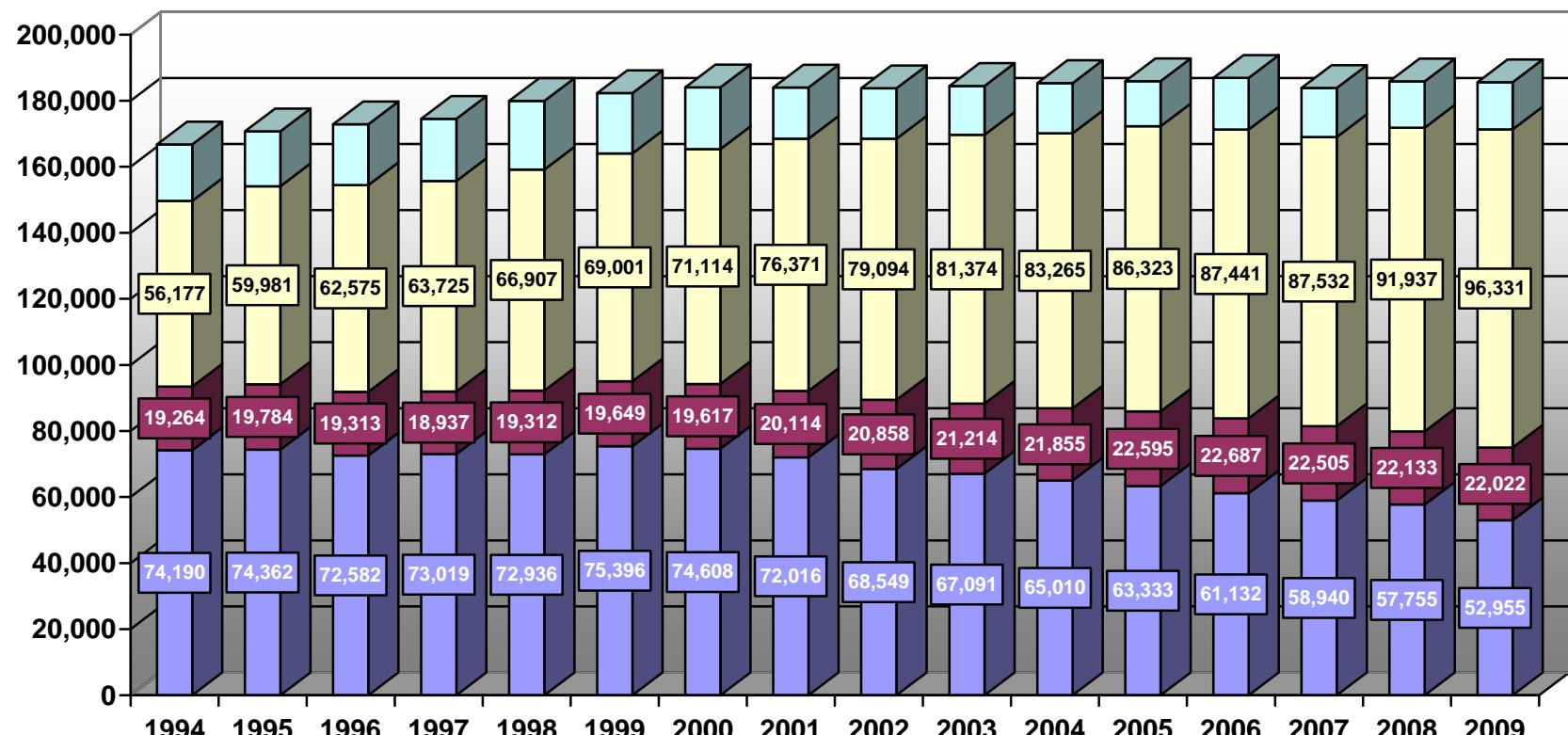
Violent Death Workload  
Total Violent Deaths: 14,174







**Chart V**  
**Historical Workload**  
**Cases Referred to Medical Examiners**  
**1994-2009**



[Legend: Non-Medical Examiner Deaths (Blue), Cases Certified by M.E. (Purple), Cremation Approval by M.E. (Yellow), Jurisdiction Declined (Teal)]

**APPENDIX 1**  
**MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION**

**Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.**

**Chairman**

District 11 Medical Examiner  
Number One on Bob Hope Road  
Miami, Florida 33136-1133  
(305) 545-2425  
FAX: (305) 545-2412  
*e-mail: bahyma@miamidade.gov*

**Russell S. Vega, M.D.**

District 12 Medical Examiner  
2001 Siesta Drive, Suite 302  
Sarasota, Florida 34239  
(941) 361-6909  
FAX: (941) 361-6914  
*e-mail: rvega@fldist12me.com*

**Honorable Grady C. Judd, Jr.**

Sheriff, Polk County  
455 North Broadway Avenue  
Bartow, Florida 33830-3916  
(863) 534-6647  
FAX: (863) 534-6390  
*e-mail: gjudd@polksheriff.org*

**Jon C. Thomas, L.F.D.**

Funeral Director  
Forest Meadows Funeral Home & Cemeteries  
2615 N.E. 17th Terrace  
Gainesville, Florida 32609  
(352) 372-1447  
FAX: (352) 377-6446  
*e-mail: jcthomas@thomaspierce.com*

**Kenneth T. Jones**

Deputy State Registrar  
Office of Vital Statistics  
Post Office Box 210  
Jacksonville, Florida 32231  
(904) 359-6900 xt. 1001  
FAX: (904) 359-6931  
*e-mail: Ken\_Jones@doh.state.fl.us*

**STAFF**

Medical Examiners Commission  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
2331 Phillips Road (32308)  
Post Office Box 1489  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302  
(850) 410-8600  
FAX: (850) 410-8621

Bureau Chief Glen Hopkins (410-8600)  
*glenhopkins@fdle.state.fl.us*

Government Analyst II Doug Culbertson (410-8609)  
*dougculbertson@fdle.state.fl.us*

Government Analyst I Branch Ocampo (410-8608)  
*branchocampo@fdle.state.fl.us*

Administrative Assistant Debbie Turvaville (410-8610)  
*debbieturvaville@fdle.state.fl.us*

## FLORIDA DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**District 1**

**Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.**  
 5151 North 9th Avenue  
 Pensacola, Florida 32504  
 Dir of Ops Jeff Martin  
 (850) 416-7200  
 FAX: (850) 416-6475  
 e-mail: [anminyard@aol.com](mailto:anminyard@aol.com)

**District 2**

**David T. Stewart, M.D.**  
 Post Office Box 14389  
 Tallahassee, Florida 32317  
 ME Secretary Lucy Bean  
 (850) 942-7473  
 FAX: (850) 219-7690  
 e-mail: [stew@polaris.net](mailto:stew@polaris.net)

**District 3**

Dixie Co. ME Service by Dt. 8  
 Madison Co. ME Service by Dt. 2  
 Remaining Co.'s Service by Dt. 4

**District 4**

**Margarita Arruza, M.D.**  
 2100 Jefferson Street  
 Jacksonville, Florida 32206  
 Operations Mgr Terri McCrackin  
 (904) 630-0977  
 FAX: (904) 630-0964  
 e-mail: [MArruza@coj.net](mailto:MArruza@coj.net)

**District 5**

**Barbara C. Wolf, M. D.**  
 Interim Medical Examiner  
 809 Pine Street  
 Leesburg, Florida 34748  
 Dir of Ops Mike Hensley  
 (352) 326-5961  
 FAX: (352) 365-6438  
 e-mail: [Michael.Hensley@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:Michael.Hensley@marioncountyfl.org)

**District 6**

**Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.**  
 10900 Ulmerton Road  
 Largo, Florida 33778  
 Chief Inv Damon Breton  
 (727) 582-6800  
 FAX: (727) 582-6820  
 e-mail: [dbreton@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:dbreton@co.pinellas.fl.us)

**District 7**

**Marie A. Herrmann, M.D.**  
 1360 Indian Lake Road  
 Daytona Beach, FL 32124-1001  
 Dir of Ops Barry Appleby  
 (386) 258-4060  
 FAX: (386) 258-4061  
 e-mail: [bappleby@co.volusia.fl.us](mailto:bappleby@co.volusia.fl.us)

**District 8**

**William F. Hamilton, M.D.**  
 606 S.W. 3rd Avenue  
 Gainesville, Florida 32601  
 Dir of Ops Larry Bedore  
 (352) 273-9292  
 FAX: (352) 273-9288  
 e-mail: [bedore@pathology.ufl.edu](mailto:bedore@pathology.ufl.edu)

**District 9**

**Jan C. Garavaglia, M.D.**  
 2350 East Michigan Street  
 Orlando, Florida 32806  
 Forensic Coord. Sheri Blanton  
 (407) 836-9400  
 FAX: (407) 836-9450  
 e-mail: [Sheri.Blanton@ocfl.net](mailto:Sheri.Blanton@ocfl.net)

**District 10**

**Stephen J. Nelson, M.A., M.D.**  
 1021 Jim Keene Boulevard  
 Winter Haven, Florida 33880  
 Ofc Mgr Sheli Wilson  
 (863) 298-4600  
 FAX: (863) 298-5264  
 e-mail: [StephenNelson@polk-county.net](mailto:StephenNelson@polk-county.net)

**District 11**

**Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.**  
 Number One on Bob Hope Road  
 Miami, Florida 33136-1133  
 Dir of Ops Larry Cameron  
 (305) 545-2400  
 FAX: (305) 545-2412  
 e-mail: [BAHyma@MiamiDade.gov](mailto:BAHyma@MiamiDade.gov)

**District 12**

**Russell S. Vega, M.D.**  
 2001 Siesta Drive, Suite 302  
 Sarasota, Florida 34239  
 Dir of Ops Pamela Simpson  
 (941) 361-6909  
 FAX: (941) 361-6914  
 email: [rveqa@fldist12me.com](mailto:rveqa@fldist12me.com)

**District 13**

**Vernard I. Adams, M.D.**  
 11025 North 46th Street  
 Tampa, Florida 33617  
 Dir of Ops Richard L. Bailey  
 (813) 914-4500  
 FAX: (813) 914-4594  
 e-mail: [adamsv@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:adamsv@hillsboroughcounty.org)

**District 14**

**Michael Hunter, M.D.**  
 3737 Frankford Avenue  
 Panama City, Florida 32405  
 ME Secretary June Williams  
 (850) 747-5740  
 FAX: (850) 747-5745  
 e-mail: [medex@baycountyfl.gov](mailto:medex@baycountyfl.gov)

**District 15**

**Michael D. Bell, M.D.**  
 3126 Gun Club Road  
 West Palm Beach, Florida 33406  
 Mgr MEO Ops. Anthony Mead  
 (561) 688-4575  
 FAX: (561) 688-4588  
 e-mail: [mbell@pbccgov.com](mailto:mbell@pbccgov.com)

**District 16**

**E. Hunt Scheuerman, M.D.**  
 P. O. Box 52327  
 Marathon Shores, Florida 33052  
 Dir of Ops Gary McCullough  
 (305) 743-9011  
 FAX: (305) 743-9013  
 e-mail: [wthh929@aol.com](mailto:wthh929@aol.com)

**District 17**

**Joshua A. Perper, M.D., LL.B.**  
 5301 S.W. 31st Avenue  
 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312  
 Div Admin Asst Sherri Baker  
 (954) 327-6500  
 FAX: (954) 327-6580  
 e-mail: [jperper@broward.org](mailto:jperper@broward.org)

**District 18**

**Sajid S. Qaiser, M.D.**  
 1750 Cedar Street  
 Rockledge, Florida 32955  
 Program Manager Nancy Slater  
 (321) 633-1981  
 FAX: (321) 633-1986  
 e-mail: [sajid.qaiser@brevardcounty.us](mailto:sajid.qaiser@brevardcounty.us)

**District 19**

**Roger E. Mittleman, M.D.**  
 2500 South 35th Street  
 Ft. Pierce, Florida 34981  
 Admin Mgr Lydia Cason  
 (772) 464-7378  
 FAX: (772) 464-2409  
 e-mail: [lcason@irsc.edu](mailto:lcason@irsc.edu)

**District 20**

**Marta U. Coburn, M.D.**  
 3838 Domestic Avenue  
 Naples, Florida 34104  
 Ofc Mgr Elizabeth Alfonso  
 (239) 434-5020  
 FAX: (239) 434-5027  
 e-mail: [naplesme@collierqov.net](mailto:naplesme@collierqov.net)

**District 21**

**Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.**  
 70 Danley Drive  
 Ft. Myers, Florida 33907  
 Admin Mgr Patti Wheaton  
 (239) 277-5020  
 FAX: (239) 277-5017  
 e-mail: [pwheaton@leeqov.com](mailto:pwheaton@leeqov.com)

**District 22**

**Riazul H. Imami, M.D., Ph.D.**  
 18130 Paulson Drive  
 Pt. Charlotte, Florida 33954  
 Office Mgr Penny Fulton  
 (941) 625-1111  
 FAX: (941) 627-0995  
 e-mail: [ai786@aol.com](mailto:ai786@aol.com)

**District 23**

**Terrence R. Steiner, M.D.**  
 4501 Avenue A  
 St. Augustine, Florida 32095  
 Office Mgr Koni Rogers  
 (904) 209-0820  
 FAX: (800) 255-8617  
 e-mail: [medex23@co.st-johns.fl.us](mailto:medex23@co.st-johns.fl.us)

**District 24**

**Marie A. Herrmann, M.D.**  
 1360 Indian Lake Road  
 Daytona Beach, FL 32124-1001  
 Dir of Ops Barry Appleby  
 (386) 258-4060  
 FAX: (386) 258-4061  
 e-mail: [bappleby@co.volusia.fl.us](mailto:bappleby@co.volusia.fl.us)

# APPENDIX 3

## FLORIDA ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINERS

### District 1

(Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
 (Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.)  
 (Frederick P. Hobin, M.D.)  
 (Michael Hunter, M.D.)

### District 2

Anthony J. Clark, M.D.  
 Lisa M. Flannagan, M.D.  
 Jerry L. Harris, M.D.  
 John P. Mahoney, M.D.  
 Charles F. Manning, M.D.  
 Margaret Havens Neal, M.D.  
 L. Stephen Sarbeck, M.D.  
 Stephen L. Sgan, M.D.  
 Benjamin M. Turner, M.D.

### District 3

Dixie Co. ME Service by Dist. 8  
 Madison Co. ME Service by Dist. 2  
 Remaining Co.'s Service by Dist. 4

### District 4

Jessie C. Giles, M.D.  
 Aurelian Nicolaescu, M.D.  
 Valerie J. Rao, M.D.  
 (E. Hunt Scheuerman, M.D.)

### District 5

Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.  
 Kyle C. Shaw, MBBS  
 (Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)  
 (Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)  
 (Noel A. Palma, M.D.)  
 (Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)  
 (Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.)  
 (Christopher I. Wilson, M.D.)

### District 6

Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.  
 Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.  
 Noel A. Palma, M.D.  
 Christopher I. Wilson, M.D.  
 (Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.)  
 (Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)  
 (Jacqueline A. Lee, M.D.)  
 (Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
 (Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.)  
 (Kyle C. Shaw, MBBS)  
 (Suzanne R. Utley, M.D.)  
 (Russell S. Vega, M.D.)  
 (Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

### District 10

George D. Leidel, M.D.  
 Vera Volnikh, M.D.  
 Jay S. Barnhart, M.D.)  
 (Susan S. Ignacio, M.D.)  
 (Wayne D. Kurz, M.D.)  
 (Roger E. Mittleman, M.D.)  
 (Noel A. Palma, M.D.)  
 (Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)  
 (Christopher I. Wilson, M.D.)

### District 11

Erin A. Barnhart, M.D.  
 Tim J. Gallagher, M.D.  
 Peter A. Gillespie, M.D.  
 Allison G. Hunt, M.D.  
 Kenneth D. Hutchins, M.D.

### District 7

Predrag Bulic, M.D.  
 (Frederick P. Hobin, M.D.)

### District 8

Martha J. Burt, M.D.  
 William H. Donnelly, M.D.  
 (Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D.)  
 (Roger E. Mittleman, M.D.)  
 (Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
 (Kyle Shaw, M.D.)  
 (Cameron Snider, M.D.)  
 (Terrence R. Steiner, M.D.)  
 (Jon R. Thogmartin, M.D.)  
 (Barbara C. Wolf, M.D.)

### District 9

Marie H. Hansen, M.D.  
 Sara H. Irrgang, M.D.  
 Joshua D. Stephany, M.D.  
 Gary L. Utz, M.D.  
 (Wendy Lavezzi, M.D.)  
 (George D. Leidel, M.D.)  
 (Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
 (Sajid Qaiser, M.D.)  
 (Kyle Shaw, M.D.)  
 (Vera Volnikh, M.D.)  
 (Barbara Wolf, M.D.)

### District 12

Wilson A. Broussard, M.D.  
 Suzanne R. Utley-Bobak, M.D.  
 (Laura S. Hair, M.D.)  
 (Frederick P. Hobin, M.D.)  
 (Robert R. Pfalzgraf, M.D.)  
 (Daniel L. Schultz, M.D.)  
 (Kyle C. Shaw, MBBS)

### District 13

Leszek Chrostowski, M.D.  
 Laura S. Hair, M.D.  
 Jacqueline A. Lee, M.D.  
 Mary K. Mainland, M.D.  
 Dollett T. White, M.D.

### District 14

(Andrea N. Minyard, M.D.)  
 (Cameron F. Snider, M.D.)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

### District 15

Glen Axelson, D.O.  
 Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.  
 Reinhard W. Motte, M.D.  
 (Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.)  
 (Manfred Borges, M.D.)  
 (Stephen J. Cina, M.D.)  
 (Marta Coburn, M.D.)  
 (Lance Davis, M.D.)  
 (Peter A. Gillespie, M.D.)  
 (Reinhard W. Motte, M.D.)  
 (Linda R. O'Neil, M.D.)  
 (Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.)  
 (Emma O. Lew, M.D.)  
 (Stuart M. Graham, M.D.)  
 (Kenneth D. Hutchins, M.D.)  
 (Lance Davis, M.D.)  
 (Peter A. Gillespie, M.D.)  
 (Reinhard W. Motte, M.D.)  
 (Linda R. O'Neil, M.D.)  
 (Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)  
 (Jennifer Park, D.O.)  
 (Joshua A. Perper, M.D., LL.B., M.Sc)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)  
 (Darin Treika, M.D.)  
 (Khalil Wardak, M.D.)

### District 16

(Glen K. Axelson, D.O.)  
 (Stephen J. Cina, M.D.)  
 (Peter A. Gillespie, M.D.)  
 (Kenneth D. Hutchins, M.D.)  
 (Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.)  
 (Emma O. Lew, M.D.)  
 (Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)  
 (Wendy A. Stroh, D.O.)

### District 17

(Iouri G. Boiko, M.D., Ph.D.)  
 (Stephen J. Cina, M.D.)  
 (Lance G. Davis, M.D.)  
 (Darin Treika, M.D.)  
 (Khalil Wardak, M.D.)  
 (Glen K. Axelson, D.O.)  
 (Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
 (Satish Chundru, D.O.)  
 (Ray Fernandez, M.D.)  
 (Peter A. Gillespie, M.D.)  
 (Kenneth Hutchins, M.D.)  
 (Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.)  
 (Gertrude M. Juste, M.D.)  
 (Emma O. Lew, M.D.)  
 (Reinhard W. Motte, M.D.)  
 (Linda R. O'Neil, M.D.)  
 (Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

### District 18

Krzysztof Podjaski, M.D.  
 (Roger E. Mittleman, M.D.)  
 (Linda R. O'Neil, M.D.)  
 (Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)  
 (Jennifer Park, D.O.)  
 (Joshua A. Perper, M.D., LL.B., M.Sc)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)  
 (Darin Treika, M.D.)  
 (Khalil Wardak, M.D.)

### District 19

Jay S. Barnhart, M.D.  
 Linda Rush O'Neil, M.D.  
 (Michael D. Bell, M.D.)  
 (Stuart M. Graham, M.D.)  
 (Frederick P. Hobin, M.D.)  
 (Stephen J. Nelson, M.D.)  
 (Krzysztof Podjaski, M.D.)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)  
 (Sajid Qaiser, M.D.)

### District 20

Manfred Borges, Jr., M.D.  
 (Glen K. Axelson, D.O.)  
 (Peter A. Gillespie, M.D.)  
 (Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D.)  
 (Kenneth D. Hutchins, M.D.)  
 (Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.)  
 (Emma O. Lew, M.D.)  
 (Marlon S. Osbourne, M.D.)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

### District 21

Robert Pfalzgraf, M.D.  
 Wendolyn Sneed, M.D.  
 (Manfred C. Borges, M.D.)  
 (Marta U. Coburn, M.D.)  
 (Riazul H. Imami, M.D., Ph.D.)  
 (Mark J. Shuman, M.D.)

### District 22

Daniel L. Schultz, M.D.  
 Peter H. K. Tan, M.D.  
 (Manfred Borges, Jr., M.D.)  
 (Suzanne Utley, M.D.)  
 (Russell S. Vega, M.D.)

### District 23

(Frederick P. Hobin, M.D.)  
 (Wendy Ann Stroh, D.O.)

### District 24

(ME Services Covered by Dist. 7)

## Florida Medical Examiner Districts

### District 1

Escambia  
Okaloosa  
Santa Rosa  
Walton

### District 2

Franklin  
Gadsden  
Jefferson  
Leon  
Liberty  
Taylor  
Wakulla

### District 3 \*Covered by

Columbia \*4  
Dixie \*8  
Hamilton \*4  
Lafayette \*4  
Madison \*2  
Suwannee \*4

### District 4

Clay  
Duval  
Nassau

### District 5

Citrus  
Hernando  
Lake  
Marion  
Sumter

### District 6

Pasco  
Pinellas

### District 7

Volusia

### District 8

Alachua  
Baker  
Bradford  
Gilchrist  
Levy  
Union

### District 9

Orange  
Osceola

### District 10

Hardee  
Highlands  
Polk

### District 11

Dade

### District 12

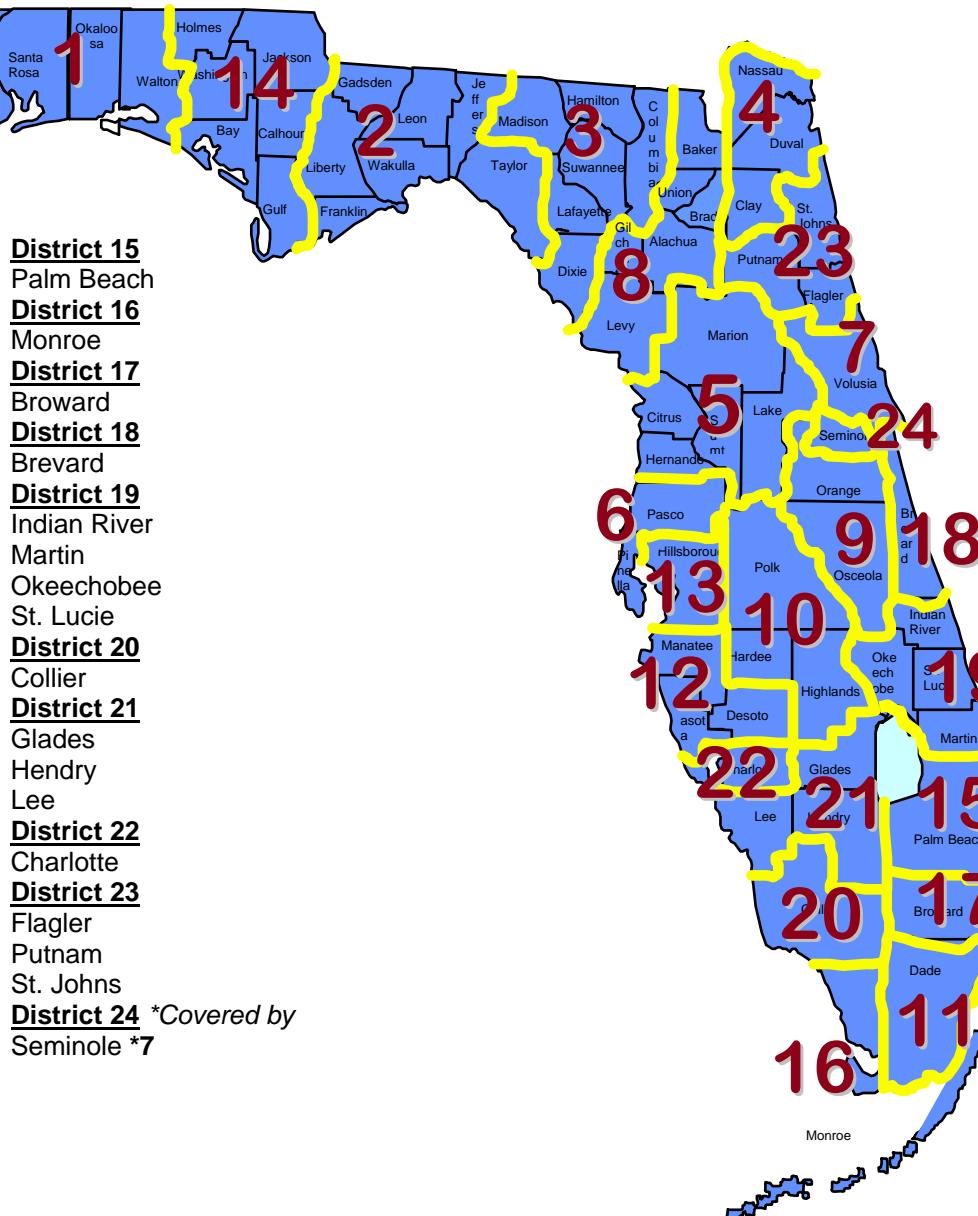
DeSoto  
Manatee  
Sarasota

### District 13

Hillsborough

### District 14

Bay  
Calhoun  
Gulf  
Holmes  
Jackson  
Washington



**MEDICAL EXAMINERS COMMISSION**

REPRESENTING	COMMISSIONER	APPOINTMENT	REAPPOINTMENT	TERM
<b>Medical Examiners</b>	Russell S. Vega, M.D.	2008	2012	2016
	Bruce A. Hyma, M.D.	2007	2011	2015
<b>State Attorneys</b>	Vacant	-	-	-
<b>Public Defenders</b>	James S. Purdy	2008	2009/2013	2017
<b>County Commissions</b>	Donna G. Hayes	2010	2014	2018
<b>Sheriffs</b>	Grady C. Judd, Jr.	2005	2009	2013
<b>Funeral Home Industry</b>	Jon C. Thomas	2008	2012	2016
<b>Attorney General</b>	Robert J. Krauss, J.D.	<b>Standing appointment with no term</b>		
<b>Department of Health</b>	Kenneth T. Jones	<b>Standing appointment with no term</b>		

**DISTRICT MEDICAL EXAMINER  
THREE YEAR TERM SCHEDULES**

DISTRICT	NEXT THREE TERM YEARS		
1	2012	2015	2018
2	2012	2015	2018
3	2012	2015	2018
4	2012	2015	2018
5	2012	2015	2018
6	2012	2015	2018
7	Home Rule Authority Began 1997		
8	2010	2013	2016
9	2010	2013	2016
10	2010	2013	2016
11	Home Rule Authority Began 1992		
12	2010	2013	2016
13	Home Rule Authority Began 1992		
14	2010	2013	2016
15	Home Rule Authority Began 1993		
16	2011	2014	2017
17	2011	2014	2017
18	2011	2014	2017
19	2011	2014	2017
20	2011	2014	2017
21	2011	2014	2017
22	2011	2014	2017
23	2011	2014	2017
24	2011	2014	2017



# Medical Examiners Commission

**www.fdle.state.fl.us**