

WHATCOM COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER Annual Report 2018



1500 North State Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Medical Examiner is a physician qualified to perform forensic investigations, authorized by Whatcom County, Washington, to investigate sudden unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. The purpose of the Medical Examiner program is to bring trained medical evaluation to the investigation of deaths that are of concern to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2018 the Whatcom County Medical Examiner's office assumed jurisdiction in 129 death investigations that involved forensic autopsies, toxicological examinations, viewing and summary reporting. In addition, 231 other additional cases were reported and investigated and no jurisdiction was assumed (NJA).

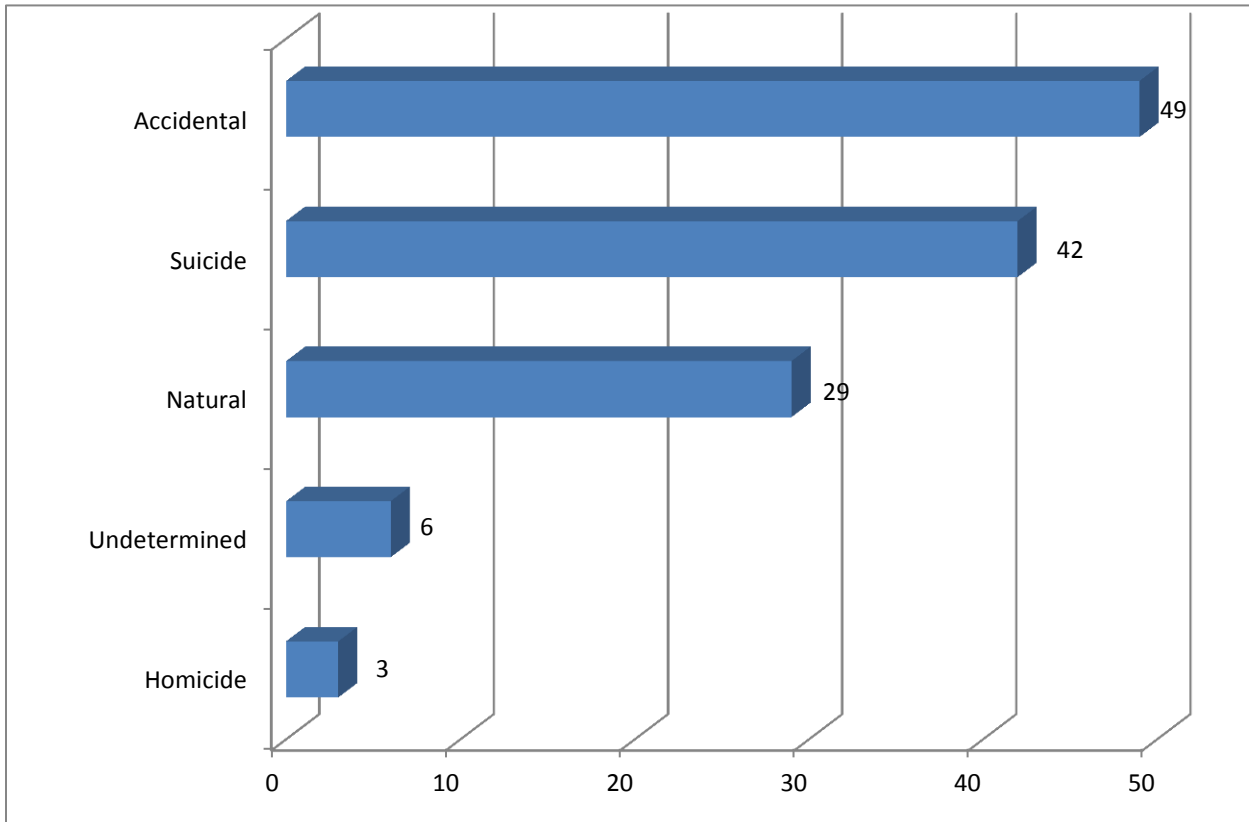
Local agencies brought miscellaneous bones to the Medical Examiner to determine if they were of human origin.

Teaching and public relations are also an important part of the Medical Examiner's office. Consulting was ongoing with the fire and police departments of the county and St. Joseph's Hospital. In addition, college and high school classes toured the morgue facility. The Medical Examiner also represented the office on numerous occasions to various civic organizations and gave multiple lectures.

Gary Goldfogel, MD
Whatcom County Medical Examiner

2018 OVERVIEW

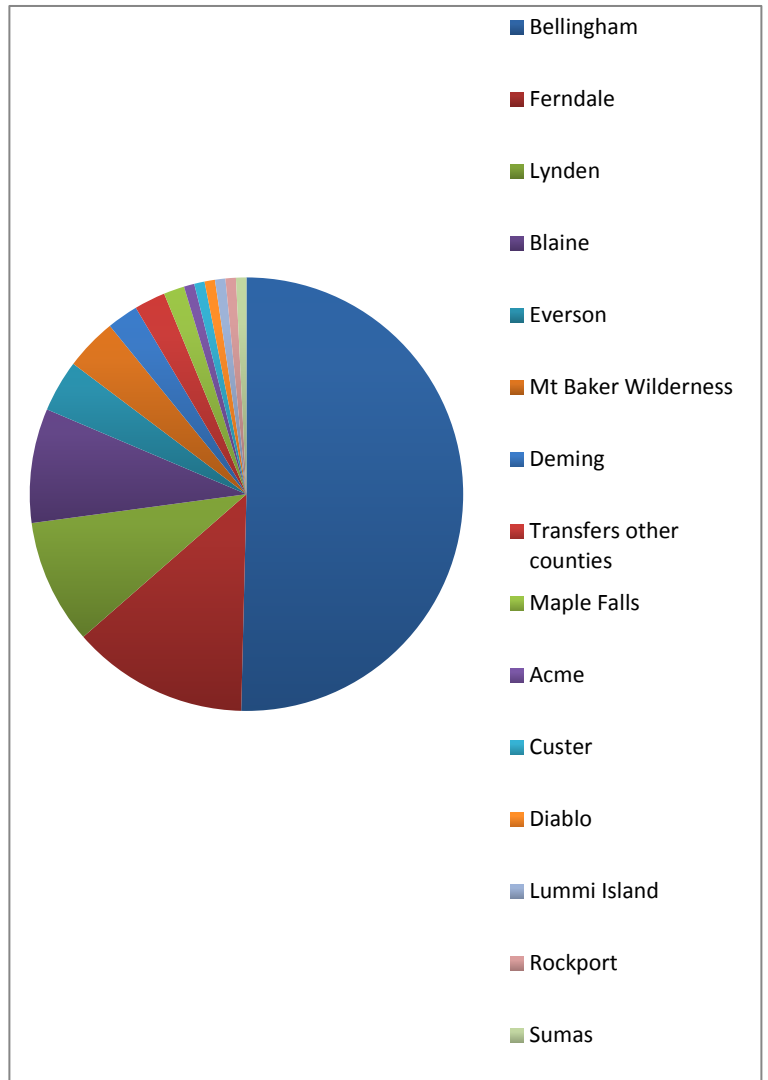
During 2018 the Whatcom County Medical Examiner's Office conducted 129 forensic death investigations. Those investigations were grouped in to one of five categories based on manner of death (see breakdown below). The statistics and graphs later on in this report show the breakdown of the various causes of the deaths and the age and sex of those who died.



GEOGRAPHIC JURISDICTION

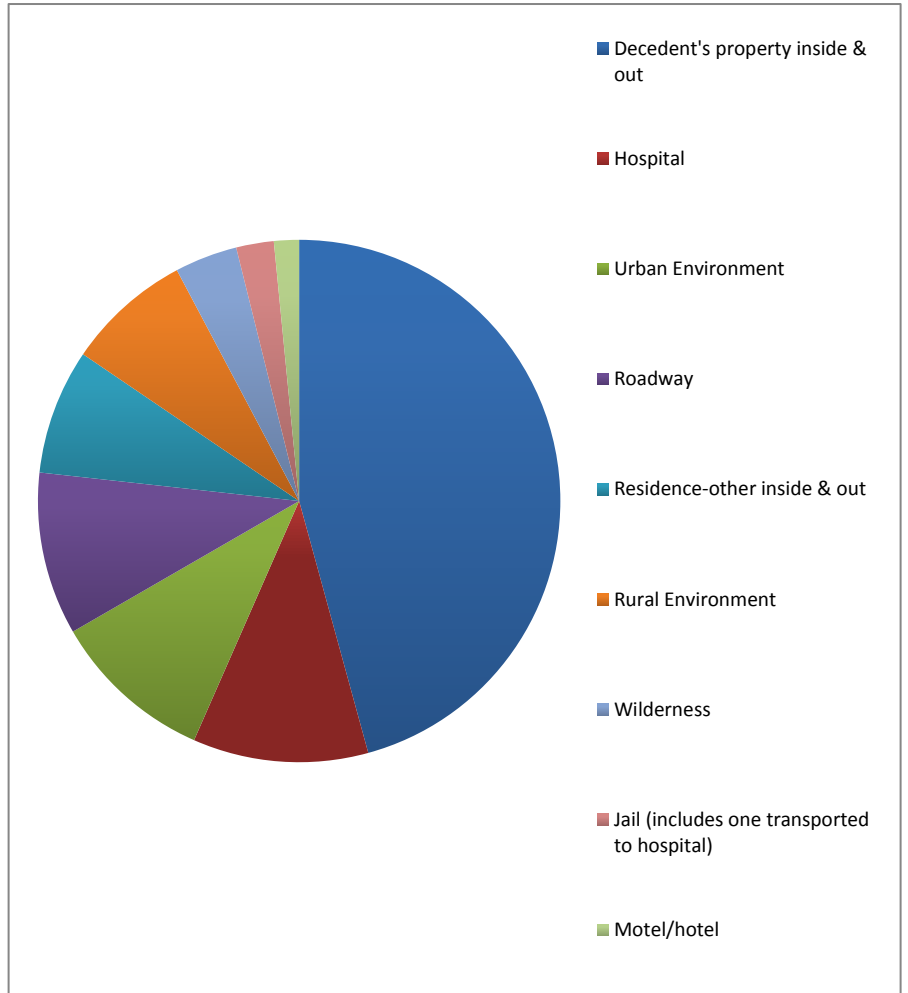
The Whatcom County Medical Examiner has jurisdiction over deaths within the county. The following section contains figures about where deaths occurred, how they were referred to the ME’s office, and breakdowns of case numbers by month.

Cities/both in & out of city limits	
Bellingham	65
Ferndale	17
Lynden	12
Blaine	11
Everson	5
Mt Baker Wilderness	5
Deming	3
Transfers from other counties	3
Maple Falls	2
Acme	1
Custer	1
Diablo	1
Lummi Island	1
Rockport	1
Sumas	1
Total	129



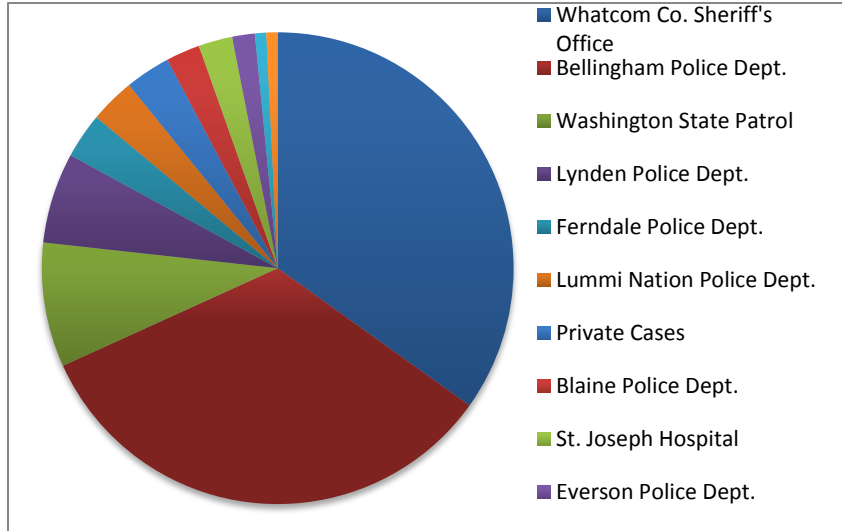
The medical examiner investigated cases reported from each of the cities listed in the figures above.

Locations	
Decedent's property inside & out	59
Hospital	14
Urban Environment	13
Roadway	13
Residence-other inside & out	10
Rural Environment	10
Wilderness	5
Jail (includes one transported to hospital)	3
Motel/hotel	2
Total	129



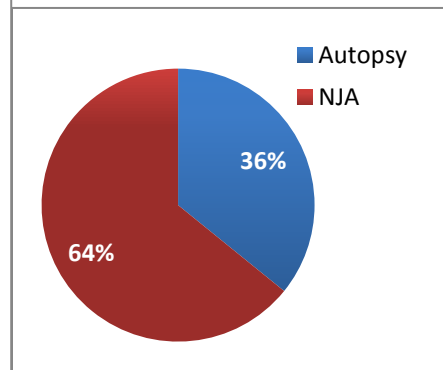
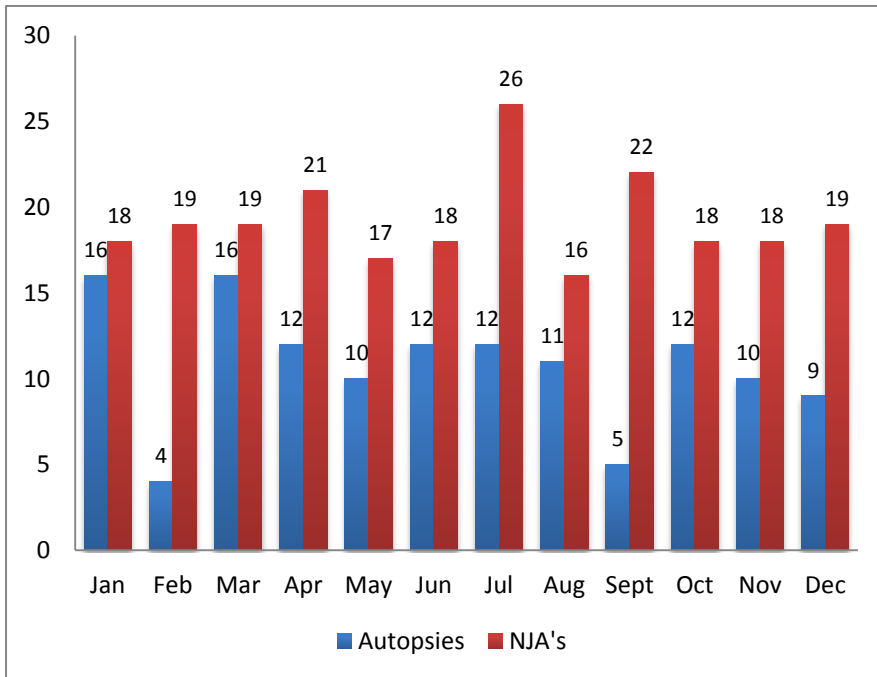
Bodies were found at the locations listed above.

Referring Agency	
Whatcom Co. Sheriff's Office	45
Bellingham Police Dept.	43
Washington State Patrol	11
Lynden Police Dept.	8
Ferndale Police Dept.	4
Lummi Nation Police Dept.	4
Private Cases	4
Blaine Police Dept.	3
St. Joseph Hospital	3
Everson Police Dept.	2
Sumas Police Dept.	1
Other/out of county	1



Of the 129 cases investigate by the ME's office, 15 were in a state of decomposition, and 7 were known transient or homeless.

The ME office was presented with 450 deaths in 2018, and claimed jurisdiction over 129 of them. NJA stands for "no jurisdiction assumed."



NATURAL

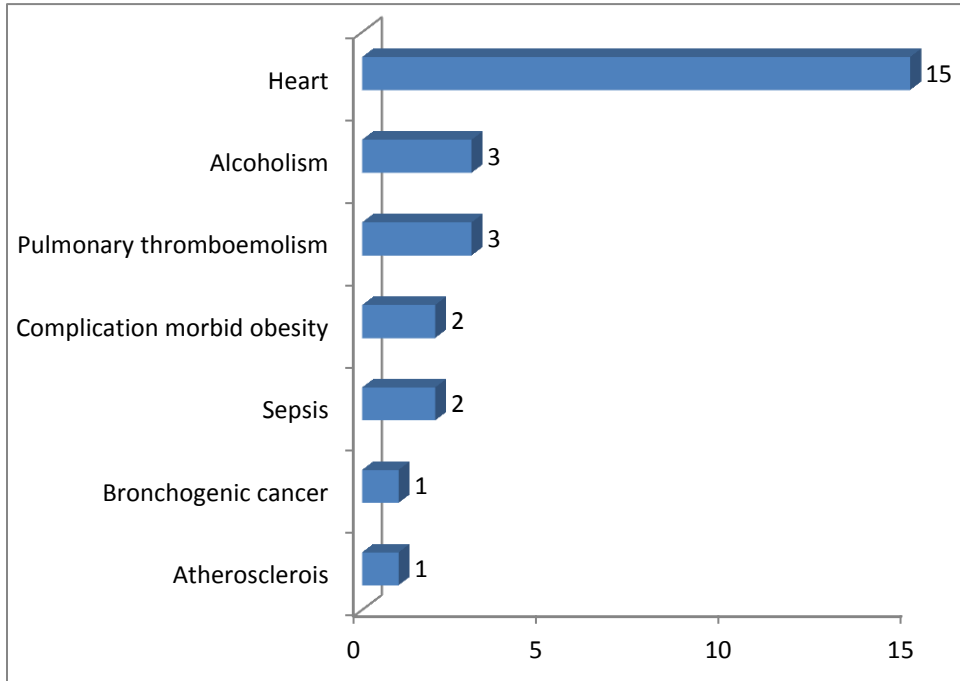
There were 29 total investigated natural deaths of which 17 were male and 12 females. The cause of death was as follows: Heart (15), Alcoholism (3) Pulmonary thromboembolism (3), Pneumonia (2), Complication morbid obesity (2), Sepsis (2), Bronchogenic cancer (1), and Atherosclerosis (1).

Alcohol was present in 20% (6) cases with 2 at 0.20, 2 at 0.09 and the other 2 with 0.02 or 0.03 g/100 mL reading.

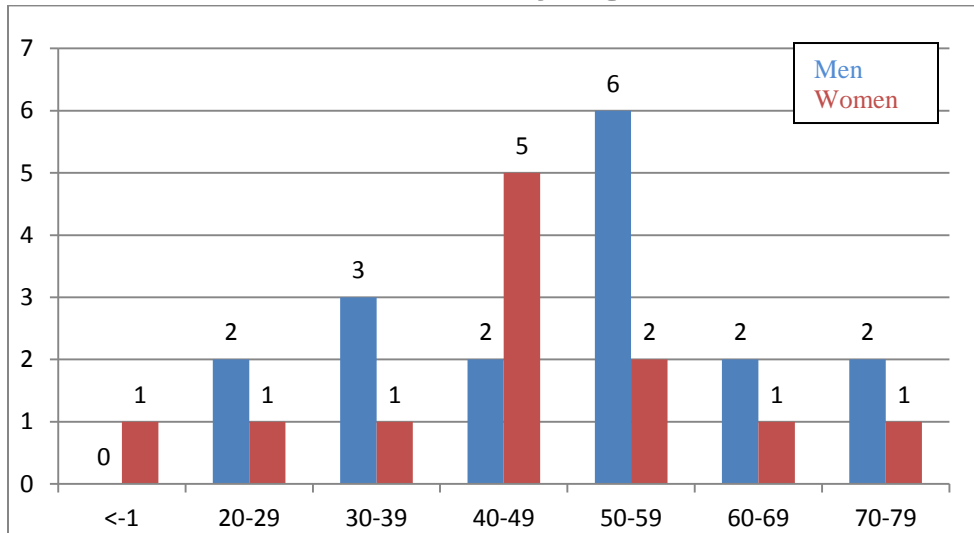
Drugs were present in 43% of the cases and included benzodiazepines, opiates, fentanyl, methamphetamine, amphetamine, methadone, cocaine, lidocaine, midazolam, antidepressants, and marijuana and other prescribed medication.

By age, approximately 4% were less than one year old, 10% between 20-29, 14% between 30-39, 24% between 40-49, 28% between 50-59 and 10% between 60-69, 10% between 70-79 years of age.

Natural Deaths by Cause



Natural Deaths by Age and Sex



ACCIDENTAL

There were 49 total investigated accidental deaths of which 37 were male and 12 female. The cause of death was as follows: Drugs (20), Traffic (9), Fall (5), Snowboarding (4), Drowning (3), Alcohol (2), Pedestrian/MV (2), Plane crash (1), Fire (1), Anoxic Encephalopathy (1) and Hypothermia (1).

By age, approximately 6% (3) were between 16-19, 18% (9) between 20-29, 27% (13) between 30-39, 19% (9) between 40-49, 16% (8) between 50-59, 8% (4) between 60-69, 4% (2) between 70-79 and 2% (1) between 90-99 years of age.

Acute alcohol intoxication in 3 cases, with alcohol being present in 17 of all accidental deaths.

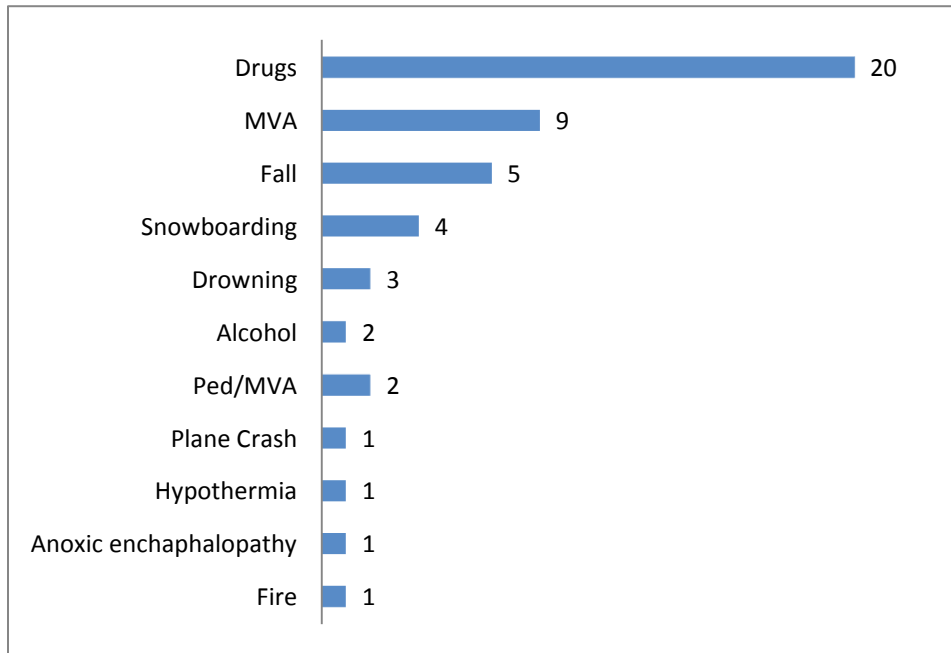
In the 11 traffic deaths (includes pedestrian/motor vehicle accidents), alcohol was present 36% of the time with an average blood alcohol concentration of 0.13 gm%. Seatbelts were not worn in 66% of the automobile deaths. Helmets were worn in both motorcycle deaths. In the traffic deaths, marijuana was found in four cases, methamphetamine and amphetamine found in two cases, fentanyl, kratom and diphenhydramine and doxylamine in one, and one victim of pedestrian/motor vehicle collision was also positive for benzodiazepine.

In the 20 drug overdose deaths, heroin was present 35% (7), fentanyl 25% (5), methamphetamine 60% (12), cocaine 15% (3), benzodiazepines 5% (1), cannabinoids 20% (4) and other drugs 41% (9) of the time.

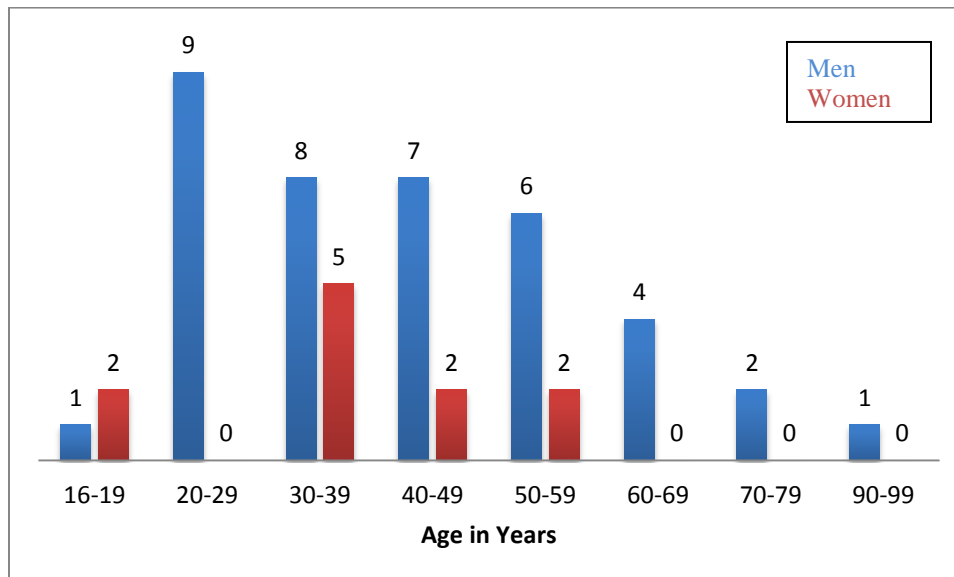
One of the five who died from a fall showed acute alcohol intoxication, with two others showing levels of 0.05 gm%, cannabinoids were present in two cases with one also showing benzoyllecgonine.

Of the three fresh water drowning two had alcohol concentration of 0.20 gm% or higher with one also showing oxycodone, the other drowning victim showed methamphetamine and amphetamine usage.

Accidental Deaths



Accidental Deaths by Age and Sex



Note: One accidental death was a transgender woman, listed under female in the age bracket 40-49.

SUICIDE

There were 42 total investigated suicide deaths of which 35 were male and 7 female. The cause of death was as follows: Gunshot (25), Hanging (10), Drugs (2), Drowning (1), Asphyxia (1), Inhalation automobile exhaust (1), knife wounds (1), and pedestrian-train collision (1).

By age, approximately 2% (1) were between 16-19, 19% (8) between 20-29, 29% (12) between 30-39, 5% (2) between 40-49, 21% (9) between 50-59, 7% (3) between 60-69, 15% (6) between 70-79 and 2% (1) between 80-89 years of age.

Alcohol was present in 38% (16) of all suicide deaths with an average blood alcohol reading of 0.17 gm%.

In the drug overdose death, dietary amphetamine and alcohol were present in one case and diltiazem and alcohol in the other.

In the 25 gunshot suicides, handguns were used 84% (21) of the time, shotguns 8% (2) and rifles 8% (2). Alcohol was present in 36% (9) of the gunshot victims with an average reading of 0.22 gm%. Drugs were present 25% (7) of the time and included alprazolam (toxic level), diltiazem (toxic level), diphenhydramine, quetiapine, tramadol, desmethylserraline, sertraline, midazolam, lorazepam, benzodiazepines, methamphetamine, opiates and cannabinoids.

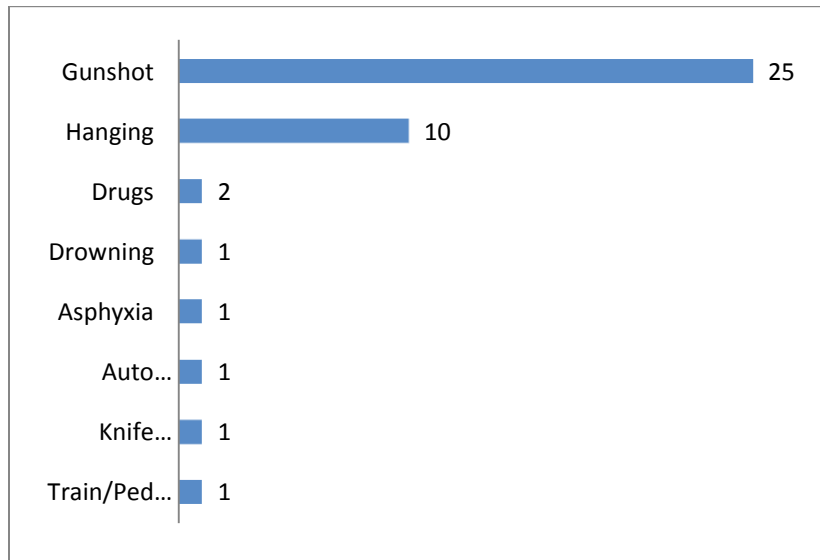
Four of the ten ligature hangings showed alcohol readings with an average of 0.09 gm%. Drugs were present in three of the cases including bupropion (toxic range), methamphetamine, benzodiazepine, amphetamine, tricyclic antidepressants, diphenhydramine, and quetiapine.

Of the 42 suicide cases ideation was present in 52% (22) not present in 33% (14) and unknown in 14% (6). A suicide note was left in 19% (8), no note left in 79% (33) and unknown in 2% (1) of our cases. History of prior attempts in 9 cases, 24 had no prior attempts and in 9 cases it is unknown.

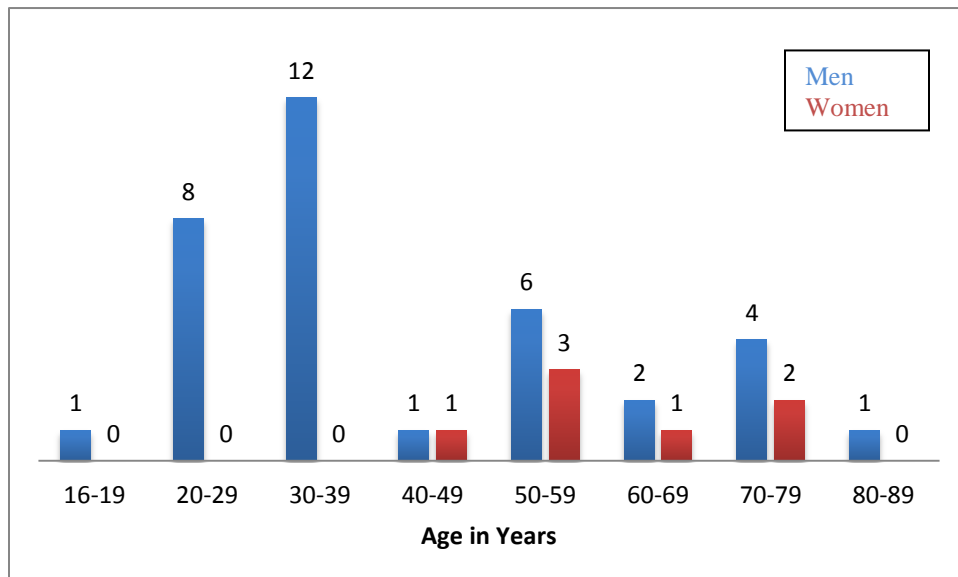
More than one stressor may be identified in suicide cases.

Depression was listed in 12 of our cases, 6 cases associated with failing health issues, mental illness 8, alcoholism 7, relationship problems 8, lost job, eviction or financial problems 5, illicit drug use 4, legal problems 3, loneliness 1, and untreated workplace stress 1.

Suicide Deaths by Mechanism of Injury



Suicide Deaths by Age and Sex



HOMICIDE

There were three homicide cases, one male and two female victims. One had a combination of sharp force injury, blunt head trauma and strangulation, another multiple handgun shot wounds and the last multiple stab wounds. Two knew their assailant and one did not. There was no alcohol present in any of the victims.

By age, one was between 30-39, one was between 60-69, and one was between 70-79 years of age.

UNDETERMINED

There were six investigated deaths whose manner of death was listed as undetermined. One was unsafe sleeping surface with suspicion for "overlying" with respiratory obstruction is high. One case was ingestion of methanol where it could not be determined if it was accidental or a suicide. One delayed demise case which may have been due to alleged inflicted trauma. One decedent snorted white powder (Clozapine) and it could not be determined if it was accidental or a suicide. Another case was a 12th floor unwitnessed fall in which was unclear if accidental or intentional. We also had a sudden cardiac demise with uncertain etiology.

Five cases were male and one female. By age, one less than one year of age, two between 20-29, one between 40 and 49, one between 50-59 and one between 60-69 years of age.

MEDICAL EXAMINER RESPONSIBILITIES

Adapted from the Medical Examiner Contract for Services Agreement with Whatcom County, and King County Medical Examiner's Office Annual Report.

The Medical Examiner (ME) is a physician certified in anatomic pathology who is authorized to investigate sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. The office and function of the ME is established by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 68.50. There are several reasons why a ME is to be utilized in the determination of the cause and manner of death. They include: (1) murder shall be determined and recognized; (2) the innocent shall be exonerated; (3) criminal and civil court proceedings will be provided with documented and impartial medical advice; (4) unrecognized hazards to public health shall be revealed; and (5) industrial and/or workplace hazards shall be made known to the public.

In order to reach and provide these services, the ME by statute assumes jurisdiction over human remains in these cases. The ME, after a thorough investigation, is to determine the cause and manner of death. The postmortem examination on each decedent includes the preservation of various body fluids and tissues for microscopic and toxicologic analysis. Photographs are taken of the external and internal portions of the examination, which are available for review at a later date if needed. Photographic documentation is also an essential item in those cases where the pathologist must provide court testimony.

The ME is available personally or will provide any coverage for 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. They shall perform the following functions and have the following authority:

1. Arrange the transportation of bodies.
2. Investigate all deaths as previously described in this paragraph.
3. Be available to law-enforcement and in turn have access to law-enforcement expertise, experience and personnel and assistance.
4. Create and file such medical records as are needed or required by statute and good medical procedure.
5. Extend and receive the full cooperation from all levels of county government appropriate to the investigation of death as determined by the ME.
6. Authority and duty to serve as a representative, if desired, to the trauma quality assurance committee of St. Joseph Hospital.
7. Teach paramedics and emergency technicians, police and fire department trainees regarding any techniques and or requirements of death investigations.

8. Liaison and work with the County Health Department regarding issues of public health, infectious diseases, toxins and poisons.
9. Be a representative, if desired, on the Whatcom County Disaster Management Committee.
10. Courtroom testimony and consultation services for the prosecuting attorney, public defender, and law-enforcement agencies on autopsies, interpretation of injuries on both living and deceased, toxicology testing and interpretation (including legal ethanol analyses).
11. Maintain and oversee the personnel, equipment, supplies, etc. to perform the duties of the Medical Examiner Office.
12. Obtain and oversee substitute professional coverage when the ME is unavailable for any reason. Any such coverage shall be consistent with this contract and the standards of the College of American Pathology for autopsies.
13. Administration of indigent cremation burial program on behalf of Whatcom County.
14. Create and maintain all documents, reports, and evidence necessary to perform the function of the Medical Examiner Office in accordance with relevant legal and professional standards.
15. Maintain current certification, stature, and licensure to perform the duties of Medical Examiner.
16. Maintain and oversee the morgue facility.
17. Makes recommendations as necessary as a member of the Child Death Review Committee along with DSHS, Health Department, schools, courts, Prosecutor, Sheriff, and Police Department.

In all cases investigated by the Medical Examiner, it is essential that the decedent's identity is established and the next-of-kin is located and notified regarding the death. Notification of next-of-kin is the responsibility of law-enforcement. The ME shall not have authority or responsibility over the personal effects of the deceased or the responsibility or authority of notifying the next-of-kin to the deceased. These functions shall remain with the appropriate police and/or law-enforcement agency. The ME shall not have authority or responsibility for making probate arrangements of the deceased.

MEDICAL EXAMINER OFFICE PATHOLOGISTS

Gary Goldfogel, MD, Whatcom County (Washington) Medical Examiner: 1990-present

Education

- Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon. BS in Biology with Minor in Chemistry. Magna Cum Laude, 1980.
- Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia. M.D., 1984

Postgraduate Training

- University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals, Seattle Washington.
- Internship and Residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, 1984 to 1988.
- Providence Medical Center, Seattle, Washington. Fellowship in Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Administration, 1987 to 1988.
- US Army War College, National Security Seminar, 1998
- Advanced Forensics Practicum, FBI/AFIP, Quantico, VA 2000

Qualifications

- Washington State Medical Examiner's License, 1984—present
- American Board of Pathology: Anatomical Pathology (AP) 1988, Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine (CP) 1988, Forensic Pathology (FP) 2001

Academic Appointments

- Western Washington University, Adjunct Professor, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2005 to present.
- Western Washington University, Guest Instructor, Colleges of Business and Economics, Science and Technology, Huxley College of the Environment, and Fairhaven College, 1988 to present.
- University of Washington, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pathology, 1988 to present.
- University of Washington, Assistant Clinical Professor of Laboratory Medicine, 1988 to present.
- University of Washington, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medical Education, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, 1988 to present.
- Recipient of Excellence in Teaching Award, Medex NW 2008, 2010, 2015, 2016. University of Washington.

Teaching Responsibilities

- Course Director/Instructor, Health Care for the 21st Century HLED 297, Western Washington University, 2007 to 2010.

- Course Co-Director/Instructor, Systemic Pathology H5452 to Physician Assistants, University of Washington Medex Program, 1984 to 2000. Consultant and Guest Lecturer to course 2000 to present.
- Annual Guest Lecturer, Western Washington University, 1989 to present; Fairhaven College 1989 to present: Departments of Biology, Anthropology, Environmental Science, Adult Education, Business, Humanities.
- Annual Guest Lecturer, Bellingham High School, Sehome High School, Squalicum High School, Forensics Course, 2007-present.
- Instructor, Human Biology 520, University of Washington School of Medicine, 1984 to 1994.
- Instructor, Respiratory Pathology, University of Washington School of Medicine, 1984 to 1988.
- Instructor, Cardiovascular Pathology, University of Washington School of Medicine, 1984 to 1988.
- Instructor, Cancer - Rehab 320, University of Washington Schools of Nursing, Rehabilitation, and Physical Therapy, 1985 to 1988.
- Instructor, National Annual Physician Assistant Recertification course, 1989 to 2017.
- Multiple Community Lectures, Seminars on topics including drug testing, strangulation, AIDS, SIDS, Bioterrorism, Community Emergency Management, Crime Scene Investigation, Strangulation, Death Investigation. Gun Control Violence. 1999-present.

Professional Experience

- Locum tenens: Dr. Robert Gibb, Whatcom Pathology Laboratory, Bellingham, Washington 1987 to 1988.
- Associate Director of Whatcom Pathology Laboratory, Bellingham, Washington, July 1, 1988 to December 31, 1988.
- Medical Director, Whatcom Pathology Laboratory, Bellingham, Washington, January 1, 1989 to 1993.
- Pathologist and Medical Director, Whatcom Pathology Laboratory division of National Health Laboratories, Inc., 1993 to 1996.
- Whatcom County Medical Examiner, July 1, 1992 to present.
- Locum tenens: Saint Joseph Hospital; Department of Pathology, Bellingham, Washington, 1998-present. Member of Department 1988-present.
- Medical Staff Appointment: Active I Category; Saint Joseph Hospital, Bellingham, Washington 1988-present. Member of multiple hospital committees 1988-present.

Professional Affiliations

- National Association of Medical Examiners.
- Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners
- Pacific Northwest Forensic Society.

- American Academy of Forensic Sciences.
- Washington State Society of Pathologists.
- Pacific Northwest Society of Pathologists.
- American Society of Clinical Pathology.
- College of American Pathologists.
- Hogan Western Eye Pathology Study Group.
- American Medical Association.
- Whatcom County Medical Society.
- Washington State Medical Association.

Community and Professional Board Positions

- **Northwest Washington (Blue Shield) Medical Bureau:** Physician Liaison, 1989 to 1991, Board of Trustees, 1996 to 1998. Advisory Board of Trustees 1998-1999.
- **Regence Blue Shield Insurance Company:** Advisory Board, 2000 to 2006.
- **Whatcom County Medical Society:** Board of Trustees, 1988 to 2005, 2007 to present. Executive Committee 1993 to 2005. Secretary 1993, 2001; President Elect 1994, 2002; President 1995, 2003. State Representative Trustee 1996-2001, Legislative Chairman, 1990 to 2005.
- **Washington State Medical Association:** 2nd Vice President 1997-1998, Vice president 1998-1999. Executive Committee, 1997 to 1999. Interspeciality Council Representative, 1992 to 2000, Interspecialty Co-Chairman 1997-1999. Unified Counties Task Force, 1991-1993. MD/DO Task Force, 1992 to 1993. Nominating Committee, 1993-1995.
- **United Way** of Whatcom County: 1990 to 1996.
- **Mt. Baker Theater:** Board of Directors, 1990 to 1996.
- **Bellingham Rotary:** Member 1989 to present. Chairman of Social Committee, 1989-1992, 1998-2000, 2007. Board of Trustees, 1992 to 1994. Program Chair and Vice President 2018-2019.
- **Chamber of Commerce and Industry:** Bellingham/Whatcom County. Board of Governors, 1993 to 1994.
- **Gang Nail Truss Co.:** Chairman of Board of Directors, 1996 to 1999.
- **Bellingham City Council:** Political Candidate 1997, lost in final election.
- **Saturna Investment:** Sextant Mutual Funds Board of Directors, 1995 to present. Chairman of Board of Directors 2017-present.
- **Boy Scouts of America:** Mt. Baker Council Executive Board of Directors 1999 to 2006, Chairman Health and Safety, 1999-2001, Vice President for Properties 2001 to 2006. Attended Camp Philmont Health Safety/Risk Management Seminar 2001.
- **Northwest Business Club:** President 2000 to present.

Professional Presentations and Abstracts

- "Contraception and Abortion in Post-Revolution Portugal. Compilation of Six Month Field Study." Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon, three sessions, 1979 to 1980.
- "Hydrogel Contact Lenses and Permeability." Emory University Medical Student Research Day, Atlanta, Georgia, 1981.
- "Immunocytochemical Identification of Vulvar Melanoma and Distinction from Vulvar Paget's Disease." International Society of Gynecologic Oncologists Annual Meeting, Palm Springs, California, February 4, 1986.
- "Prostatic Carcinoma Metastatic to the Orbit." Conjoint Canadian Ocular Pathology Study Group and Hogan Eye Pathology Society Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, June 21, 1986.
- "Radiologic Contrast Agents and Results of Laboratory Tests." Laboratory Medicine Grand Rounds, University of Washington, October 22, 1986.
- "Retrospective Diagnosis of a Second Malignancy Following Histologic Examination of the Eye." Hogan Eye Pathology Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, December 13, 1986.
- "Postmortem Vitreous Humor Determination of Alpha-1-Acid-Glycoprotein." American College of Laboratory Physicians and Scientists Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1987. Recipient of Young Investigator Award.
- "Malignant Lymphoma of the Conjunctiva with Immunophenotypic and Immunogenotypic Analysis." Updates in Technology. Hogan Eye Pathology Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, October 18, 1987.
- "CK-MB Determination in the Diagnosis of Acute Myocardial Infarction." American College of Laboratory Physicians and Scientists Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio, June, 1988.
- "Recognizing Infectious Endocarditis." Washington Association of Physician Assistants Annual Fall Continuing Medical Education Meeting, Orcas Island, Washington, October 15, 1988.
- "Clinical Chemistry - Updates in Technology." Washington Association of Physician Assistants Continuing Medical Education Meetings, Seattle, Washington, 1989 - 1997.
- "Anemia." Washington Association of Physician Assistants Continuing Medical Education Meetings, Seattle Washington, 1989 to present.
- "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome." Whatcom County Medical Managers, Bellingham, Washington, March 15, 1989, 1990, 1992-1996.
- "Drug Testing -The Issues." STAR (Straight Talk About Responsibility) Annual Conference, Bellingham, Washington, March 17, 1989, 1993.

Publications and Research

- Goldfogel, G.A., Sewell, D.L.: Preparation of sputum smears for acid-fast microscopy. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. 1981; 14:460 -462.

- Teefey, S., Montana, M.R., Goldfogel, G.A., Shuman, W.P.: Ultrasonic diagnosis of neutropenic colitis. *American Journal of Radiology*. 1987; 149:731-733.
- Abdel-Nabi, H., Schwartz, A.N., Goldfogel, G.A., Ortinati-Nabi, J.A., Matsuka, D.M., Unger, M.W., Wechter, D.: External scintigraphy of colorectal tumors with IN- 111-anti CEA monoclonal antibody: Correlation with surgical, histopathological and immunohistochemical findings. *Radiology*. 1988; 166:747 -752.
- Bacchi, C.E., Goldfogel, G.A., Greer, B.: Paget's disease and melanoma of the vulva. *Gynecologic Oncology*. 1992; 46:216-221.
- Gibb, R.P., Cockerham, H., Goldfogel, G.A., Yawson, G.M., Raisys, V.A.: Substance abuse testing of urine by GC/MS in scanning mode evaluated by proficiency studies, TLC/GC and EMIT. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. 1993; 38:124 - 133.
- Logan B, Goldfogel G, Hamilton R, Kuhlman J. J . Five Deaths Resulting from Abuse of Dextromethorphan Sold Over the Internet. *Anal Tox* 33; 227-231:2009.
- Logan, K, Yeakel, JK, Goldfogel, G, Frost, P., Sandstrom, AA, Wickham, DJ: Dextromethorphan Abuse Leading to Assault, Suicide, or Homicide. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*. 2012: 1388-1394.

Jan C. Garavaglia, MD; Whatcom County Forensic Pathologist, January 2016—present

Education and Training:

- **College:** St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri; A.B., magna cum laude, 1978
- **Medical School:** St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri; M.D., 1982
- **Internship:** Internal Medicine, St. Louis University Hospitals June 1982 – June 1983
- **Residency:** Anatomic/Clinical Pathology, St. Louis University Hospital; July 1983 – June 1987
- **Fellowship:** Forensic Pathology, Dade County Medical Examiner's Office, Miami, Florida; July 1987 – June 1988

Certification

- Diplomate, American Board of Pathology in Combined Anatomic and Clinical Pathology; November 1988
- Diplomate, American Board of Pathology in Forensic Pathology; September 1989

Professional Affiliations

- American Society of Clinical Pathologists; 1984 – 1989
- Fellow, National Association of Medical Examiners
- Fellow, American Academy of Forensic Sciences
- National Association of Medical Examiners Foundation

Community and Professional Board Positions

- National Association of Medical Examiners Foundation; Board of Trustees; 2014 – present
- National Association of Medical Examiners; Elected to Board of Directors; 2004 – 2010
- Central Florida Disaster Medical Coalition, Inc.; Board of Directors; April 2014 – June 2015
- Advisory Board; TransLife Organ, Tissue and Transplant Services; Medical Examiner representative 2004-2015
- Harbor House of Central Florida Board of Advisors 2004-2015

Awards

- Orange County Commissioner's recognition award and proclamation of "Dr. G Day", June 3, 2015" for service to the county
- Translife, Central Florida Tissue and Organ Procurement Organization, award for work in encouraging tissue and organ transplantation, June 2015
- St. Cloud Police Department, Osceola County Florida Recognition Award for service to the department, 2014

- Distinguished Humanitarian Award, presented by the Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, New Jersey, November 5th 2012
- Orlando Police Department, Good Citizens Award for service to the department, presented by Police Chief Val Demmings, 2010
- Sheriff's Citation Medal presented January 17, 2006, by Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary "in recognition of outstanding service to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Orange County."
- Hidalgo Award presented on November 14, 2000, by Bexar
- County Commissioners Court for "Outstanding work assisting agencies and providing forensic science services during a multi-jurisdictional capital murder investigation."

Media:

- Host of the "Dr. G Medical Examiner Series" - Discovery Health Network, 2003 – 2012
- Winner of the International Health and Medical Media Award for Best Health Series, "Freddie Award," 2008

Guest Appearances:

- CNN, Don Lemon Show, 2016
- CNN, Legal View with Ashleigh Banfield,
- Several appearances, 2014, 2015, 2016
- Anderson Live, with Anderson Cooper, v appearances in 2012
- Dr. David Drew Pinsky, television show, multiple appearances in 2012
- Today Show, December 2011
- Dr. Oz television show; 6 appearances, 2009-2011
- Rachel Ray television talk show, January and April 2009
- Good Morning America, December 2008
- Larry King Live, December 2005
- Oprah Winfrey Show and Oxygen Network, "After the Show," October 2003
- Featured in article – "Florida Trend" magazine, "Icon" famous Floridian series, 2010
- Subject of "Mayor's Author Talk" for Tampa, Florida television show, 2009
- Subject of Documentary for French Television, 2002
- Featured in article – "Redbook" magazine, 1997

Publications

- Yu L, Garavaglia J, Wallace MR. "Infectious Causes of Death in the Medical Examiner's Office." American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology, March 2016; Vol 36: 36-38
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