Office of the
Chief Medical Examiner
City and County of San Francisco

Fiscal Year 2015-2016
Annual Report
Dear Reader,

This is the Annual Report of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. This is the thirteenth edition of the Office’s Annual Report, and incorporates cases investigated during the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (includes decedent data who have died on June 30, 2015 and up to July 1, 2016).

The OCME provides forensic science services to the public and agencies of the City and County of San Francisco. These services include, but are not limited to the investigation of sudden, unexpected, and violent deaths, monitoring the health and healthcare provided within the community, and human performance drug screening.

In Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016, approximately 4251 deaths or 69% of all deaths occurring in the City and County of San Francisco were reported to the OCME. Of those deaths, 1227 or approximately 20% of all deaths with the City and County were investigated by the OCME.

The Forensic Laboratory Division of the OCME serves as the testing center for postmortem specimens from cases investigated by the OCME, as well as human performance testing in living individuals (public intoxication, driving under the influence, and drug-facilitated-sexual assaults). The Forensic Laboratory Division analyzed approximately 1699 total cases in Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016.

The aging physical plant was replaced and move-in was completed by the end of October 2017. This replacement facility has improved our day to day efficiency and increased the City’s resiliency in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Although our work is emotionally and physically challenging, we strive to offer compassionate assistance to families through times of great sorrow and stress, while completing investigations as neutral forensic scientists, producing results that are both accurate and complete.

Respectfully,

The Staff of City & County of San Francisco,  
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
During FY 2015-16, a total of 78 decedents were referred to the OCME by the City’s Public Administrator for disposition purposes only. The attending medical providers certified the Manner of Death as ‘Natural’, and filed the appropriate Cause of Death with the California Department of Public Health outlined the decedent’s death certificate. The total number of indigent decedents accepted during the FY, was added to the value of casework in which received external examinations and investigation by the Medical Examiner determined Manner of Death as ‘Natural’.

**Additionally, please note the above graphic representation includes 5 cases in which investigative findings determined these cases were administrative in nature and final disposition was handled by an outside county whom requested jurisdictional release, etc.
FY 2015-2016 Vehicular Death 10-Yr Perspective
FY 2015-2016 Vehicular Death by Method

- Bicycle v. Vehicle: 7
- Motor Vehicle Collision: 13
- Motorcycle Collision: 13
- Bike v. MUNI: 1
- Pedestrian v. Vehicle: 26
- Pedestrian v. BART: 1
- Pedestrian v. Caltrain: 2
FY 15-16 Firearms death by manner and method

Homicide
- Shot by another: 5
- OIS: 5
- Shot by other(s): 25
- Remote GSW complications: 2

Suicide
- Shot Self: 21
### FY 15-16 Suicide 10 Year Perspective

The chart above provides a 10-year perspective of suicide rates for various methods of suicide from FY 2006 to FY 2016. The chart is color-coded to indicate different methods:

- **Asphyxia**: Green
- **CO Poisoning**: Pink
- **Drowning**: Blue
- **Drug-related**: Magenta
- **Firearm**: Light Blue
- **Hanging**: Purple
- **Jump**: Orange
- **Other**: Red
- **Sharp Force Injury**: Brown

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FY 15-16 Suicide by method

- Train related
- Sharp Force Injury
- Poisoning
- Jump from Golden Gate Bridge
- Jump Building
- Jump Bridge-not GGB
- Hanging
- Firearm(s)
- Drowning
- CO Carbon Monoxide
- Asphyxia
- Drug related

The chart shows the methods used in suicides from FY 15-16, with Hanging being the most prevalent method.
FY 15-16 Childhood death by age and manner

- Accident: 3
- Natural: 4
- Homicide: 1
- Suicide: 1