

San Diego County Medical Examiner
Methamphetamine Related Deaths
in San Diego County

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1995</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>1996</i>	<i>124</i>
<i>1997</i>	<i>156</i>
<i>1998</i>	<i>110</i>
<i>1999</i>	<i>108</i>
<i>2000</i>	<i>140</i>
<i>2001</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>2002</i>	<i>166</i>
<i>2003</i>	<i>210</i>
<i>2004</i>	<i>205</i>
<i>2005</i>	<i>245</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>174</i>
<i>2007</i>	<i>184</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>140</i>

Methamphetamine related deaths are all deaths investigated by the County Medical Examiner in which Methamphetamine was detected in the body at the time of the death or fatal event, including all accidents, homicides and suicides in San Diego County

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2008 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Manner

<i>Manner</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of all Meth. related deaths 2008 ('07; '06, '05; '04; '03; '02)</i>	<i>% all deaths of this type 2008 '07; '06, '05; '04; '03, '02</i>
<i>Accident (Drug related)</i> <i>27 with other drugs, 16 contributing to fatal natural disease, 45 with meth alone +/- chronic disease</i>	78	56% 48%; 45%, 44%; 50%; 45%; 44%	22%
<i>Accident (Motor Vehicle)</i>	13	9% 11%; 14%, 14%; 12%; 11%; 17%	4% 6%; 7%, 10%; 7%; 7%; 8%
<i>Accident (Other)</i> <i>(3 falls from height, 1 drowning, 1 electrocution, ,1 autoerotic asphyxia, 1 environmental exposure)</i>	7	5% 4%; 5%, 6%; 6%; 6%; 5%	
<i>Natural with methamphetamine present (4 pulmonary thromboemboli)</i>	5	4% 3%; 4%, 5%; 3%; 3%; 7%	
<i>Homicide</i> <i>(Including 2 of 15 Law Enforcement shootings and 2 of 3 restraint deaths.)</i>	14	10% 16%; 15%, 17%; 15%; 17%; 13%	13% 22%; 17%, 33%; 21%; 22%, 12%
<i>Suicide</i>	19	14% 16%; 14%, 11%; 10%; 16%; 12%	5% 8%; 8%, (8.5%; 6%; 10%; 6%
<i>Other or Undetermined</i>	3	2% 0.5%; 2%, 1%; 3%; 1%; 1%	
<i>Perinatal/Fetal Death</i> <i>(ME jurisdiction assumed only in unattended deliveries or if trauma is known/suspected)</i>	1	0.5% 1%; 0%, 1%; 1%; 1%; 1%	
<i>TOTAL of cases retained under ME Jurisdiction</i>	140 184 in 2007		5% 6%; 6%, 9.4%; 7.8%; 7.9%; 6.8%

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2008 Deaths Due to Drug Intoxication
Drug Related Accidents

<i>Accident – Drug Related</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Overdose on Methamphetamine Alone</i> <i>without potentially fatal chronic disease present (one swallowed drugs)</i>	8
<i>Overdose on Another Drug(s) plus Methamphetamine*</i> <i>(Morphine/Heroin (14); Psychiatric medication (5); Benzodiazepine (3); Alcohol (3); Cocaine; Methadone; Oxycodone; Fentanyl, MDMA)</i>	17
<i>Contributing Chronic Natural Disease without other drug</i> <i>(35 with chronic cardiac disease, 1 asthma, 1 alcoholic liver disease which could account for the death even in the absence of methamphetamine)</i>	37
<i>Acutely Fatal Natural Disease with methamphetamine intoxication as a contributing factor</i> <i>(9 brain hemorrhage, 3 asthma, 2 acute cardiovascular, 1 pneumonia, 1 GI hemorrhage due to cirrhosis from chronic alcoholism)</i>	16
<i>TOTAL</i>	78

*Other drugs listed with most frequently detected drugs first. Some cases included multiple drugs. Diazepam was the most common benzodiazepine detected, Citalopram was the most common psychiatric drug detected.

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2008 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Age

<i>Age</i>	<i># Of Deaths</i>	<i>% Of Total 2008</i>	<i>% Of Total 2007</i>	<i>% Of Total 2006</i>	<i>% Of Total 2005</i>	<i>% Of Total 2004</i>	<i>% Of Total 2003</i>	<i>% Of Total 2002</i>
<i>< 1 Year</i>	1	1%	1%	0.5%	2%	2%	<1%	<1%
<i>1-19 Years</i>	6	4%	1%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
<i>20-29 Years</i>	14	10%	18%	17%	7%	18%	22%	22%
<i>30-39 Years</i>	27	19%	17%	18%	21%	25%	24%	28%
<i>40-49 Years</i>	53	38%	30%	35%	32%	30%	30%	32%
<i>50-59 Years</i>	34	24%	27%	20%	15%	20%	16%	13%
<i>60- Years</i>	5	4%	5%	3%	5%	1%	2%	1%
<i>Unknown</i>	0		0.5%	2%	-	-	-	-
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>140</i>		-		-	-	-	-

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2008 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Manner vs. Age

<i>Manner</i>	<i><1 Year</i>	<i>1-19 Years</i>	<i>20-29 Years</i>	<i>30-39 Years</i>	<i>40-49 Years</i>	<i>50-59 Years</i>	<i>60 + Years</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Accidental (Drug Related)	-	1	4	14	31	24	4	78
Accidental (Motor Vehicle)	-	1	3	-	7	2	-	13
Accidental (Other)	-	-	-	2	2	3	-	7
Natural with meth present	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	5
Homicide	-	3	2	5	1	2	1	14
Suicide	-	1	5	4	9	-	-	19
Other/Undetermined	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Fetal/Perinatal Death	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>140</i>

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2008 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – *Ethnicity and Gender*

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i># Of Deaths</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>% of Total Meth Deaths</i>
American Indian	5	3	2	4%
Black	4	3	1	3%
Filipino	1	1		0.5%
Hispanic	35	26	9	25%
Cambodian	1	1	0	0.5%
White	92	69	23	66%
Other	2	2	0	1%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>35</i>	
		<i>75%</i>	<i>25%</i>	

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2008 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Occupational Status

2008 Deaths Total Number: 140					
Trade (38)	Customer Service (26)	Other (25)	Health Care Related (4)	Unemployed	Unknown (45)
carpenter 1 construction 5 driver 4 drywaller 1 door hanger 1 electrician 1 factory worker 1 forklift driver 2 handyman 1 laborer 4 machinist 2 maintenance 1 mechanic 8 metal worker 1 painter 1 plumber 1 tile setter 1 truck driver 1 welder 1	account manager 1 auto detailer 1 bank worker 1 bartender 1 book keeper 1 business owner 1 clerical/clerk 2 cook 1 director 1 financial consultant 1 gas attendant 1 mgr 1 Quality control sup. 1 sales 3 secretary 2 specialist 1 tech support 2 waiter 4	Active duty USN 1 disabled vet 1 homemaker 12 carnival operator 1 entertainment arts 1 horse hot walker 1 Infant 1 Self employed 1 student 5 Teacher 1	Care giver 2 Resp. therapist 1 Phlebotomist 1	none 2	undetermined 15 unknown 18 unlisted 12