

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>1995</i>	150
<i>1996</i>	124
<i>1997</i>	156
<i>1998</i>	110
<i>1999</i>	108
<i>2000</i>	140
<i>2001</i>	150
<i>2002</i>	166
<i>2003</i>	210
<i>2004</i>	205
<i>2005</i>	245
<i>2006</i>	174
<i>2007</i>	184
<i>2008</i>	140
<i>2009</i>	138
<i>2010</i>	157

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

In 2010, the youngest methamphetamine-related death examined by the ME was a 17 yr old homicide victim, and the oldest was a 72 yr old man who had coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and died with a small amount of methamphetamine in his system.

San Diego County Medical Examiner
2010 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Manner

Manner	Total	% of all Meth. related deaths						% of all deaths of this type					
		08	07	06	05	04	03	02	08	07	06	05	04
Accident (Drug related) <i>26 with other drugs, 28 contributing to fatal natural disease, 56 with meth alone +/- chronic disease</i>	110	2010: 70% 2009: 59%						2010: 29% 2009: 22%					
		56%	48%	45%	44%	50%	45%	44%					
Accident (Motor Vehicle)	14	2010: 9% 2009: 7%						2010: 6% 2009: 4%					
		9%	11%	14%	14%	12%	11%	17%	4%	6%	7%	10%	7%
Accident (Other) <i>(2 drownings, 2 falls from height, 1 struck by falling tree)</i>	5	2010: 3% 2009: 5%											
		5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%	5%					
Natural with methamphetamine present <i>(2 pulmonary thromboemboli, 4 upper GI bleed)</i>	6	2010: 4% 2009: 4%											
		4%	3%	4%	5%	3%	3%	7%					
Homicide <i>(Including 1 LE homicidal restraint death.)</i>	6	2010: 4% 2009: 12%						2010: 7% 2009: 15%					
		10%	16%	15%	17%	15%	17%	13%	13%	22%	17%	33%	21%
Suicide	15	2010: 10% 2009: 12%						2010: 4% 2009: 5%					
		4%	16%	14%	11%	10%	16%	12%	5%	8%	8%	8.5%	6%
Other or Undetermined	1	2010: 1% 2009: 1%											
		2%	0.5%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%					
Perinatal/Fetal Death <i>(ME jurisdiction is assumed only in unattended deliveries or if trauma is known/suspected)</i>	0	2010: 0% 2009: 0%											
		0.5%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%					
TOTAL of cases retained under ME Jurisdiction	157 138 in 2009							2010: 6% 2009: 5%					
								5%	6%	6%	9.4%	7.8%	7.9%

San Diego County Medical Examiner
2010 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 (1 ingestion of meth.)</i>	8 (7 in 2009) (8 in 2008)
<i>Overdose on Another Drug(s) plus Methamphetamine*</i> <i>Heroin (16); Alcohol (7); Benzodiazepine (2); Methadone (2); Cocaine (2); MDMA (2), Tramadol (2), Oxycodone (1) and “opiate” (1)</i>	26 (31 in 2009) (17 in 2008)
<i>Contributing Chronic Natural Disease without other drug</i> <i>(46 with chronic cardiac disease, 1 AIDS, and 1 metastatic cancer which could account for the death even in the absence of methamphetamine)</i>	48 (27 in 2009) (37 in 2008)
<i>Acutely Fatal Natural Disease with methamphetamine intoxication as a contributing factor</i> <i>(15 brain hemorrhage, 7 acute cardiovascular, 3 diabetes with ketoacidosis, 2 GI hemorrhage due to cirrhosis from chronic alcoholism, 1 asthma)</i>	28 (16 in 2009) (in 2008)
<i>TOTAL</i>	110 (80 in 2009) (78 in 2008)

*Other drugs listed with most frequently detected drugs first. Numbers do not add up as one third included more than one additional substance.

San Diego County Medical Examiner
2010 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Age

<i>Age</i>	<i># Of Deaths 2010</i>	<i>% Of Total 2010</i>	<i>% Of Total 2009</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>	0	-	-	1%	1%	0.5%	2%	2%	<1%	<1%
<i>1-19 Years</i>	3	2%	2%	4%	1%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
<i>20-29 Years</i>	19	12%	12%	10%	18%	17%	7%	18%	22%	22%
<i>30-39 Years</i>	28	18%	22%	19%	17%	18%	21%	25%	24%	28%
<i>40-49 Years</i>	45	29%	32%	38%	30%	35%	32%	30%	30%	32%
<i>50-59 Years</i>	49	31%	22%	24%	27%	20%	15%	20%	16%	13%
<i>60+ Years</i>	13	8%	9%	4%	5%	3%	5%	1%	2%	1%
<i>Unknown</i>	0	-	1%	-	0.5%	2%	-	-	-	-
<i>TOTAL number</i>	<i>157</i>		<i>138</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>245</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>166</i>

San Diego County Medical Examiner
2010 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>60-70 Years</i>	TOTAL
Accidental (Drug Related)	-	1	10	17	36	37	9	110
Accidental (Motor Vehicle)	-	-	3	3	4	3	1	14
Accidental (Other)	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	5
Natural with meth present	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	6
Homicide	-	2	2	-	1	1	-	6
Suicide	-	-	3	5	1	5	1	15
Other/Undetermined	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Fetal/Perinatal Death		-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>TOTAL</i>	0	3	19	31	45	49	13	157

San Diego County Medical Examiner
2010 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	3	2	1	2%
Black	10	7	3	6%
Filipino	4	3	1	3%
Hispanic	25	21	4	16%
White	108	80	28	69%
Other (Korean, Laotian, Pacific Islander, “other”)	7	3	4	4%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>41</i>	
		74%	26%	

San Diego County Medical Examiner
2010 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Occupational Status

2010 Deaths Total Occupations Identified to date: 139					
Trade (44)	Customer Service (34)	Other (22)	Health Care Related (4)	Unemployed (11)	Unknown (25)
Carpenter:4 Construction: 9 Driver: 3 Electrician: 1 Flooring: 2 Handyman: 1 Laborer: 2 Machinist: 1 Mason: 1 Maintenance: 2 Mechanic: 7 Painter: 3 Tile setter: 2 Welder: 6	Business Owner:2 Cashier: 2 Computer Tech: 2 Custodian: 1 Dispatcher: 1 Food /Cook: 3 Gas Attendant: 1 Hair Stylist: 1 Hospitality: 1 Janitor: 1 Mgr : 3 Produce: 2 Receptionist: 1 Sales: 7 Security Guard: 1 Stocking Clerk: 1 Supervisor:1 Yard/Gardener: 3	Aircraft Attend:1 Designer: 1 Diver: 1 Engineer: 1 Instructor: 1 Meteorologist: 1 Paralegal;; 1 Poet: 1 Student : 3 Vet Asst.: 1 Homemaker (10)	Care giver: 2 Medical Asst.:1 Phy. Fitness: 1	None: 9 Unemployed: 1 Disabled: 1	Undetermined 11 Unknown: 14