

San Diego County Medical Examiner
History of 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>
<i>2009</i>	<i>138</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>157</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>171</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>217</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>267</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>262</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>311</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>377</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.

In 2016, the youngest methamphetamine-related death examined by the ME was 3 month old girl that died while bed sharing and being exposed to methamphetamine. The oldest was a 77-year-old man who died of COPD, heart disease, and diabetes mellitus while on methamphetamine.

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2016 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Manner

<i>Manner</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of all Meth. related deaths</i>					<i>% of all deaths of this type</i>				
		<i>16</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Accident (Drug related)</i>	240	64%	67%	65%	72%	65%	49%	45%	39%	36%	26%
<i>Accident (Motor Vehicle)</i>	27	7%	8%	10%	8%	7%	9%	8%	9%	9%	6%
<i>Accident (Other)</i>	13	3%	4%	2%	1%	3%					
<i>Natural with Methamphetamine Present</i>	10	3%	4%	3%	2%	0.2%					
<i>Homicide</i>	38	10%	8%	8%	8%	13%	30%	23%	20%	24%	22%
<i>Suicide</i>	44	12%	8%	12%	9%	9%	10%	5%	7%	5%	5%
<i>Other or Undetermined</i>	5	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%					
<i>TOTAL of cases retained under ME Jurisdiction</i>	377						12%	10%	9%	9%	7.7%

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2016 Deaths Due to Drug Intoxication
Accidental Drug Related Cases

Accident – Drug Related	Total
Overdose on Methamphetamine Alone (without contributing disease present or other meds/drugs)	31 (19 in 2015)
Overdose on Methamphetamine plus Another Drug/Med(s)* Heroin (32); Non-heroin opiates (17) – [methadone (9), fentanyl (3), oxycodone (2), morphine (2), hydrocodone (1), tramadol (1)]; benzodiazepine (15); gabapentin (5); cocaine (4); others (11)	53 (46 in 2015)
Methamphetamine Alone in combination with Natural Disease Cardiovascular disease (94) – [CV disease alone (76), Acute cardiovascular event (6)]; Acute cerebrovascular events (12); Respiratory disease (7); Obesity (1); Diabetes mellitus (2); Others (8)	112 (102 in 2015)
OD on Meth plus Another Drug(s) in combo with Natural Disease* <u>Disease</u> : Cardiovascular disease (23); Other (12) <u>Drug/Meds</u> : Heroin (12); Non-heroin opiates (16) – [methadone (5), oxycodone (3), tramadol (3), hydrocodone (2), opiate NOS (2), fentanyl (1), morphine (1)], Benzodiazepine (6); Cocaine (3); Antidepressants (3); Alcohol (4)	35 (32 in 2015)
Combination of Drowning and Methamphetamine (+/- another drug/med)	3
Combination of Trauma and Methamphetamine	2 (1 in 2015)
Combination of Trauma, Another Drug/Med, and Methamphetamine	2 (1 in 2015)
Combination of Methamphetamine, Another Drug/Med and Environmental Exposure	1
Combination of Methamphetamine, Another Drug/Med, and Choking	1
TOTAL Accidental Deaths with methamphetamine as part of cause of death	240 (205 in 2015)

*Numbers do not sum as many drugs/meds included more than one additional substance.

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2016 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – Age

More than 46% of Meth Deaths Are Persons between 40 & 60 Years of Age

Age	# Of Deaths 2016	% Of Total 2016	% Of Total 2015	% Of Total 2014	% Of Total 2013	% Of Total 2012	% Of Total 2011
< 1 Year	1	0.3%	0.6%	-	0.7%	-	-
1-19 Years	4	1.1%	9.6%	0.8%	0.4%	1%	2%
20-29 Years	53	14.1%	13.8%	15.3%	11%	18%	8%
30-39 Years	83	22.0%	13.5%	14.5%	18%	14%	15%
40-49 Years	66	17.5%	22.5%	19.1%	29%	29%	32%
50-59 Years	109	28.9%	33.4%	38.5%	33%	32%	30%
60+ Years	60	15.9%	14.8%	11.8%	8%	6%	11%
Unknown	1	0.3%	0.3%	-	-	-	1%
TOTAL Number	377	100%	311	262	267	217	171

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2016 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>60-80 Years</i>	<i>Unk</i>	TOTAL
Accidental (Drug Related)			23	32	47	87	51		240
Accidental (Motor Vehicle)			5	9	5	7	1		27
Accidental (Other)			2	4	2	4	1		13
Natural with meth present			1		2	3	4		10
Homicide		1	10	17	5	4	1		38
Suicide		3	11	20	5	4	1		44
Other/Undetermined	1		1	1				1	5
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>377</i>

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2016 Methamphetamine Related Deaths – *Ethnicity and Gender*

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>% of Meth deaths</i>	<i>Ethnicity % of population</i>
American Indian	10	6	4	2.7%	0.4%
Black	37	31	6	9.8%	4.8%
Asian	17	15	2	4.5%	11.9%
Hispanic	76	67	9	20.2%	33.4%
White	222	164	58	58.9%	46.3%
Other	15	11	4	4.0%	3.2%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>377</i>	<i>294</i>	<i>83</i>		