OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report is a summary of the activities of the San Diego County Medical Examiner for the calendar year 2010. It is designed to provide an overview of victim characteristics, and frequency, cause, and location of various types of deaths in the county using graphs, charts, maps, and tables. In addition, we highlight some of the many activities in which we participate so that we can give back to the community and keep other agencies informed. Another goal of this report is to describe in detail many aspects of our mandated day-to-day activities in order to shed some light on what is often misunderstood and shrouded in misperception: the functions and responsibilities of the San Diego County Medical Examiner.

The report is divided into three major sections: 1) and **introduction and overview**, 3) the **activities** of the Medical Examiner Department, and 3) the **data** describing the types of deaths in San Diego County.