



## FY 2017 Request for full-time Medical Examiner & Autopsy Assistant

- **1987:** Dr. Rohr, full-time office opens.
- **2008:** a part-time pathologist added due to growing expense of sending examinations to Dallas County in Dr. Rohr's absence.

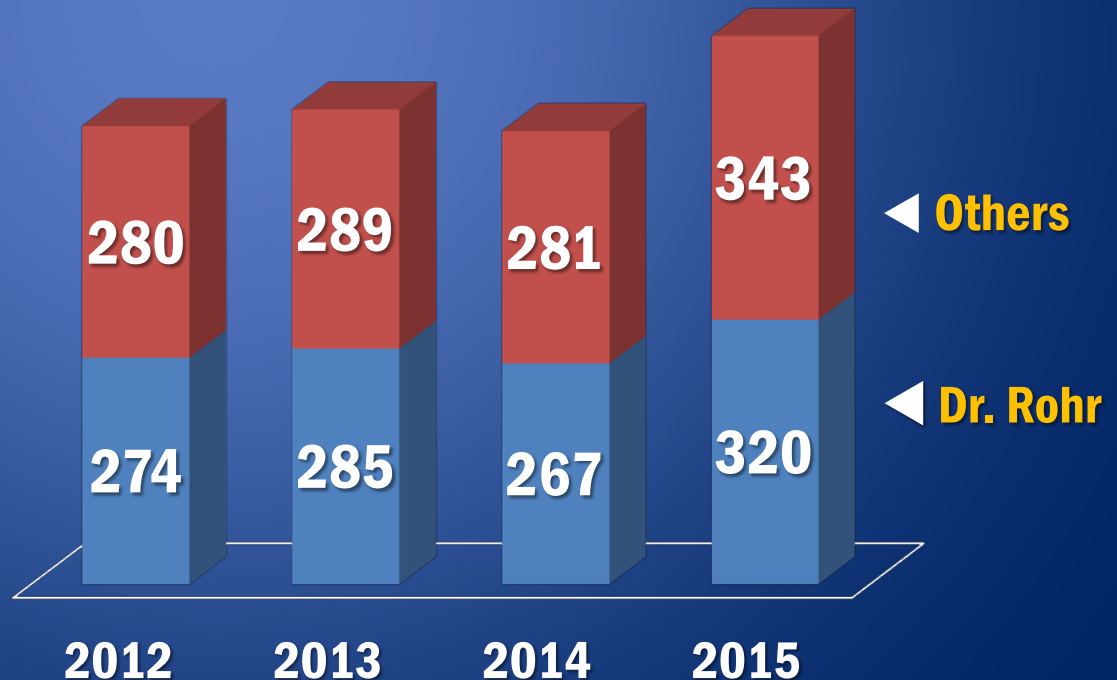


## Workload

- Staffing requirements (and accreditation) are determined by the **National Association of Medical Examiners**, which states: Caseload should not be greater than **250** per year.
- Accreditation is lost when caseload exceeds **325** per year.
- July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016: Dr. Rohr has done **320 cases**.

Year	Total
2012	554
2013	574
2014	548
2015	663

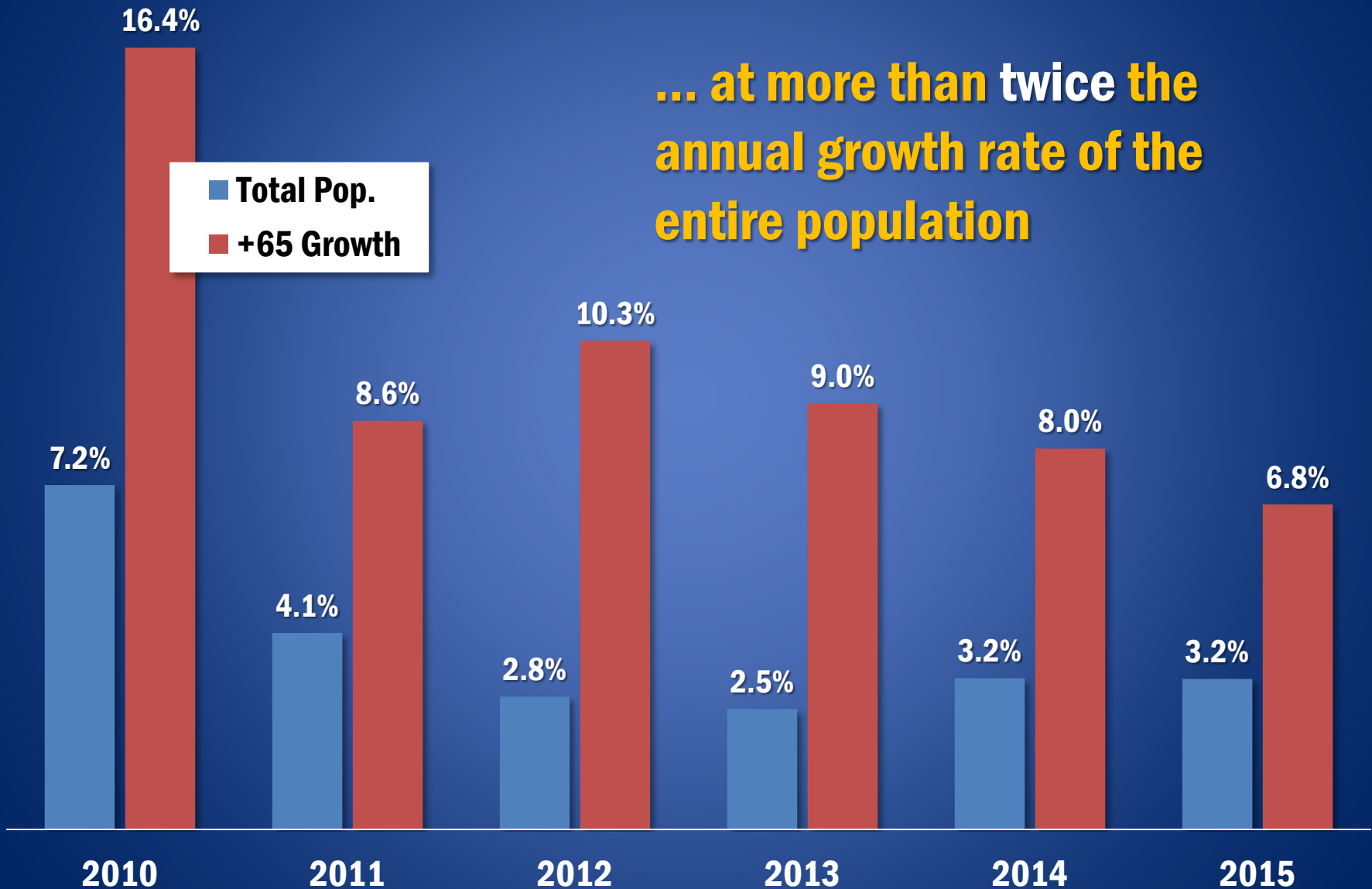
'12-'15: **+20%**





# What's Happening?

... at more than twice the annual growth rate of the entire population





- **Hospitals affecting intake:**
  - **Medical Center of Plano upgraded to Level 2 (Major) Trauma center**
  - **Methodist Richardson Medical Center opens new facility (209 beds) inside Collin County line**
- **20% increase in cases since 2012**
- **Demographic/Population Changes**



- **Accreditation loss** from NAME, due to caseload
- Part-time Pathologist leaving effective **Oct. 1**
- At least two month recruitment to hire new pathologist
- Challenge of finding new full-time pathologist without a “Diener,” or **autopsy assistant**
- Cost of having bodies sent **Dallas County** for autopsy: \$2,050-\$2,500 per case
  - Additional **Expert witness fees** on related criminal cases: \$725 per half-day.
- **Cost of contract** Diener/assistant to Pathologist: \$23,000 in FY16.



## ME's recommendations

- A **full-time autopsy technician** will attract & retain a new, full-time medical examiner. It's unlikely an individual will be found willing to work without a technician, or **"Diener."**\*
- The Diener would provide more dependable autopsy assistance than current system, which currently calls for **contract-hire technicians** from Dallas, at added expense.
- The Diener would assist new medical examiner & keep the autopsy area clean, **instead of relying on Dr. Rohr** to do this. Dr. Rohr will use technician on a limited basis.



# Cost Comparison

Position	Status	Salary w/ Benefits	Difference
Pathologist	Part-Time (FY16)	\$ 145,859	+ \$ 112,966
	Full-Time (FY17)	\$ 258,825	
Diener	Contractual (FY16)	\$ 22,390	+ \$ 38,783
	Full-Time (FY17)	\$ 61,183	
			<b>+ \$ 151,759</b>

**FY16 Total Cost: \$168,249**

**FY17 Projected Cost, w/benefits: \$320,008**

**Difference: \$151,759**



## Bottom Line:

- Request **pre-approval** for a second, **full-time pathologist** to work in ME Office in FY2017, allowing Dr. Rohr to begin to recruit a suitable candidate **now**; and,
- Request **pre-approval** for a **full-time Diener/autopsy technician** in FY2017 to assist pathologists and help keep caseloads within NAME norms.