

PRESS RELEASE—

MARIN COUNTY CORONER

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Gate Bridge Suicide Death Toll:

At Least 35 in 2007—

Marin County Coroner Ken Holmes today released figures showing at least 35 suicide deaths from the Golden Gate Bridge in 2007. “The figure could go higher for two reasons. In some cases, we have no body, yet there is good reason to believe a jump occurred. In addition, other jurisdictions have bodies with injuries consistent with a bridge jump, yet the place of death has not been finally determined.

Here is the toll—

- 35 bodies recovered by the Coast Guard and delivered to the Marin Coroner
- One body found in another jurisdiction and known to be the remains of an individual who jumped from the bridge
- One additional individual is believed to have jumped—yet no body has been

recovered.

“The magnitude of this problem on the Golden Gate Bridge is really troubling. I believe in the 70 years the span has been open we have seen at least 1,300 suicides. No other structure or public building in the world has come close to that figure. In addition to the deaths, published reports citing the Bridge District officials tell of at least 80 suicidal individuals taken by the CHP off the bridge last year. Many of these people were literally talked back over the short railing,” Holmes noted.

Over the last ten years, Bay Area residents accounted for more than 85% of the Golden Gate Bridge suicides seen in the Marin Coroner’s office. In 2007, 80% of those who jumped from the bridge were Bay Area residents and over 50% resided in the counties that make up the Golden Gate Bridge District. The total deaths reported in previous years have often excluded figures from other jurisdictions and observed jumps where no body was found. As a result year-to-year comparisons are not reliable.

The Golden Gate Bridge is an attractive suicide site because it is easy to access and features a short railing along the pedestrian walkway. In almost seventy years, only 27 people have survived a jump from the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Marin Coroners Office is responsible for determination of the cause and manner of death for individuals who die in Marin County. His office receives the bodies of most Bridge suicides after the Coast Guard recovers the remains in the Bay. Bodies that the Coast Guard does not find may subsequently wash to shore in other jurisdictions, whose authorities are then responsible for determination of the cause and manner of death. Still others are never found.