

UNT Center for Human Identification

University of North Texas & University of North Texas Health Science Center

Texas Border Region: Analysis and Identification of Unidentified Human Remains

TX Missing Persons DNA Database
Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology

2010 through 2016



INSTITUTE OF APPLIED GENETICS

CENTER FOR HUMAN IDENTIFICATION

Summary of DNA Casework for <u>Unidentified Human Remains</u>, State of Texas and the Texas Border Region, 2010 through 2016								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Statewide submissions for DNA analysis of unidentified remains cases	135	170	179	194	238	238	306	1325
Submissions from unidentified remains cases recovered in Texas Border Counties**	41	62	74	87	118	112	219*	672
Statewide DNA Associations leading to identifications	39	46	52	102	69	71	115	455
DNA Associations leading to identifications in Texas Border Counties	4	1	3	8	16	24	58	110

* Includes a large number of submissions for remains exhumed from the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Brooks County in 21013 and 2104

Notes regarding cases submissions and identifications for DNA cases arising from the Texas border counties:

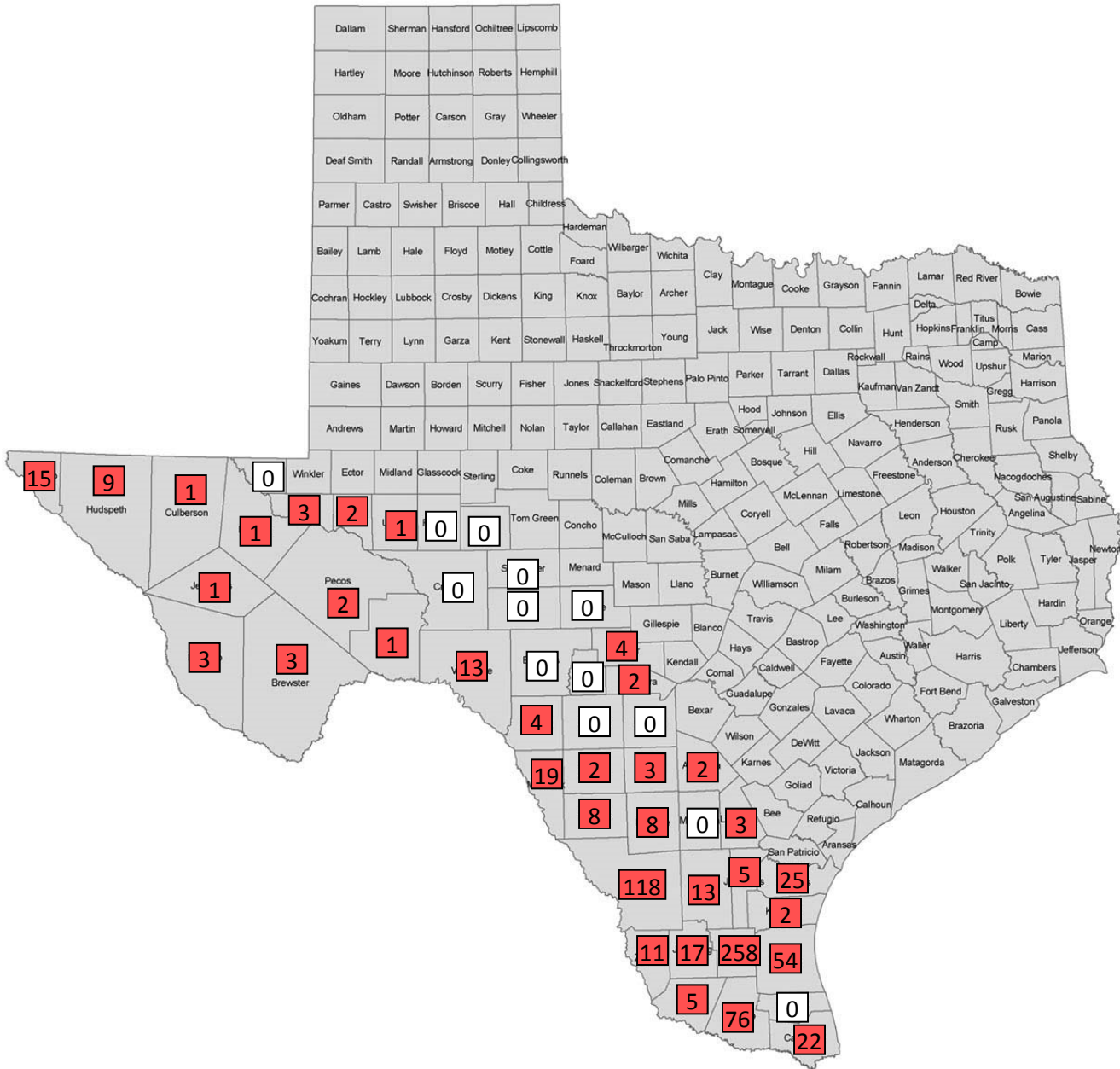
- Unidentified remains cases from Brooks County are a combination of current cases processed by the Webb County Medical Examiner and the UNTCHI Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology as well as cases previously buried and exhumed from the Sacred Heart Cemetery.
- **38** of the associations have been made between remains recovered near the border and Family References submitted to the UNT Center for Human Identification by foreign consulate offices (Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Brazil, and Guatemala). Of these, **21** occurred in 2016 alone.
- **29** of the associations have been made between remains recovered near the border and Convicted Offender profiles within CODIS (Texas, Michigan, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Federal). Of these, **13** occurred in 2016 alone.
- The Webb County Medical Examiner’s Office continues to serve additional counties near the border, submitting **300** cases over the period, 2010 through 2016.
- The Nueces County Medical Examiner’s Office continues to serve additional counties near the border, submitting **97** cases over the period, 2010 through 2016.

UNT Center for Human Identification, TX Missing Persons DNA Database

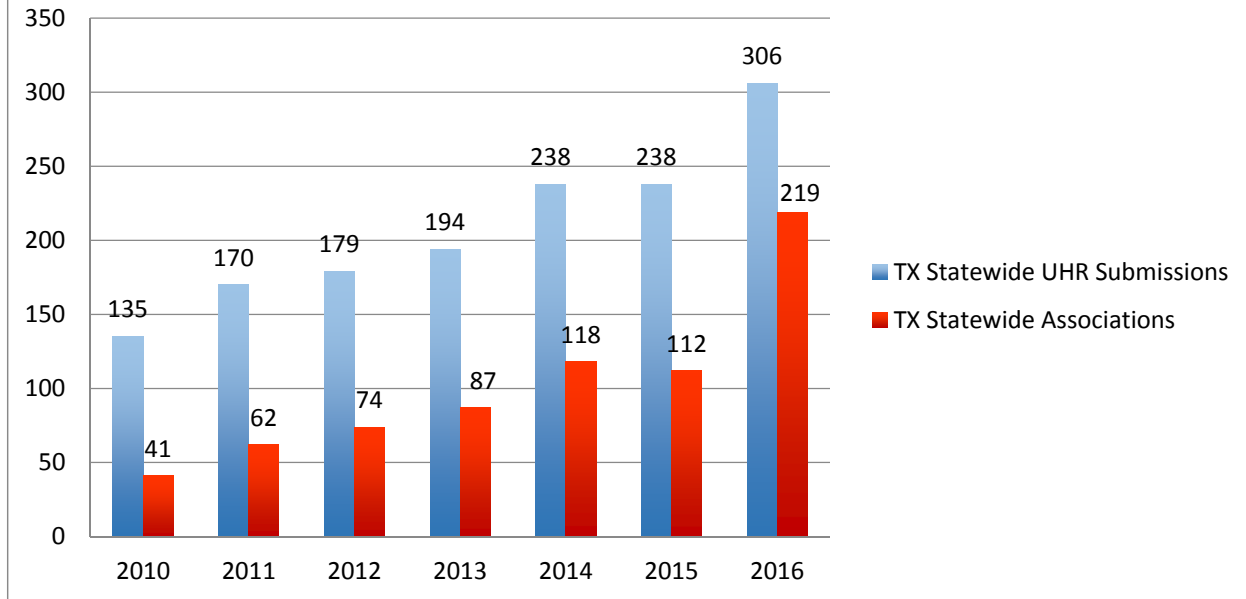
Unidentified Remains Submissions for DNA analysis from Texas Border Counties, 2010 - 2016								
County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Atascosa					1		1	2
Bandera		2						2
Brewster				3				3
Brooks		1	1	11	60	56	129*	258
Cameron	5		2	1	1	3	10	22
Crane				1	1			2
Crockett								0
Culberson	1							1
Dimmit	1	2	2		1	1	1	8
Duval	2	4	2	1	2	1	1	13
Edwards								0
El Paso	4		2	2	3	2	2	15
Frio						3		3
Hidalgo		7	33	21	5	4	6	76
Hudspeth	1			2	3	1	2	9
Irion								0
Jeff Davis							1	1
Jim Hogg			1	1	5	5	5	17
Jim Wells			1	1	3			5
Kenedy	5	8	3	5	12	4	17	54
Kerr		1					3	4
Kimble								0
Kinney	1		2			1		4
Kleberg							2	2
La Salle		1	1	3		3		8
Live Oak			1				2	3
Loving								0
McMullen								0
Maverick	2	1	3	3	1	6	3	19
Medina								0
Nueces		7		9	2	2	5	25
Pecos		1			1			2
Presidio	1			1		1		3
Real								0
Reeves		1						1
Regan								0
Schleicher								0
Starr	1	1					3	5
Sutton								0
Terrell	1							1
Upton			1					1
Uvalde								0
Val Verde	3	1	1	3	2	3		13
Ward						1	2	3
Webb	12	21	16	17	14	15	23	118
Willacy								0
Zapata		2	2	2	1	1	3	11
Zavala	1	1						2
Total	41	62	74	87	118	113	221	716

* Includes a large number of submissions for remains exhumed from the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Brooks County in 21013 and 2104

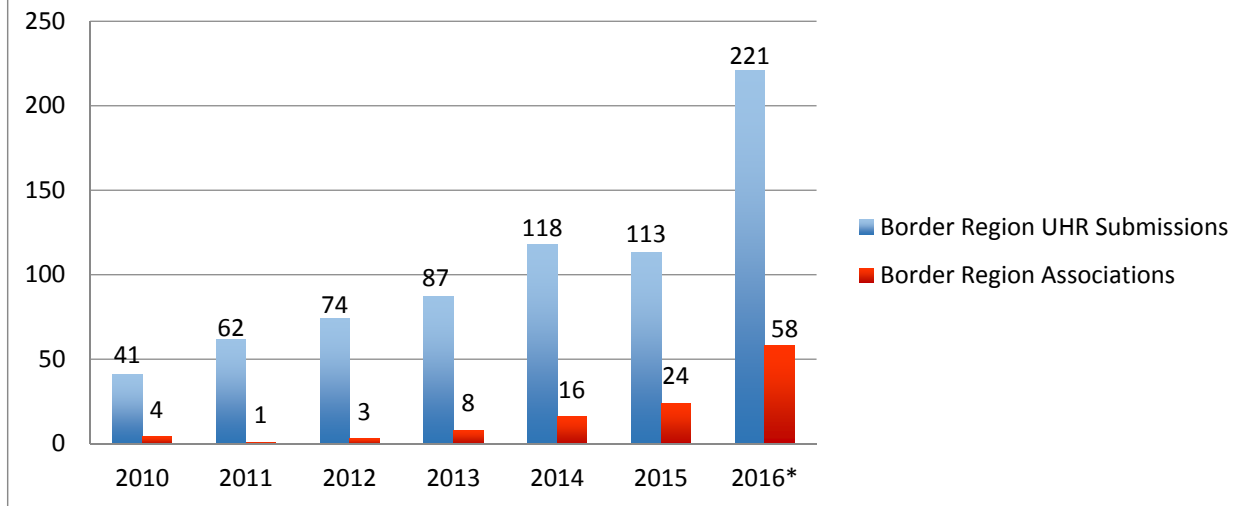
Unidentified Remains Submissions for DNA analysis from Texas Border Counties, 2010 through 2016



UNTCHI TX Statewide DNA UHR Submissions and Associations



UNTCHI TX Border Region DNA Submissions and Associations



* Includes a large number of submissions for remains exhumed from the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Brooks County in 21013 and 2104

Summary of forensic anthropology casework for all <u>Texas State Agencies</u>, 2010 through 2016								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Total cases submitted to the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology	57	92	88	105	114	123	130	709
Total cases analyzed by the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology	56	114	78	84	106	89	108	635
Cases determined to be non-human and not medicolegally significant	11	28	27	24	25	21	31	167
Cases determined to be human but not medicolegally significant (archaeological/historical)	7	15	5	9	5	5	4	50
Total Cases determined to be medicolegally significant	38	71	46	51	76	63	73	418
Medicolegally significant cases positively identified by the CHI-LFA	2	10	4	8	6	3	7	40
Medicolegally significant cases with perimortem skeletal trauma*	7	12	10	10	7	14	10	70
Medicolegally significant cases classified as "Presumed Border Crossers"	8	15	19	24	48	54	58	226
Field search and/or recovery efforts	0	3	4	6	2	3	3	21
Court Testimony	0	2	2	5	2	2	0	13

* This number does not reflect the true incidence of perimortem trauma in these decedents which is likely to be much higher. The underestimation of perimortem trauma in anthropological cases is due to the incomplete and/or scavenged nature of skeletal remains in many cases and, the fact that not all trauma involves the hard tissue of the skeleton.

Current Backlog of Anthropological Cases (as of 3/17/2017):
33 Texas cases are pending analysis
22 of these cases are from the defined border region and are classified as presumed border crossers (15 Brooks, 1 Cameron, 1 Kleberg, 2 Maverick, 1 Starr, 2 Webb)

Summary of forensic anthropology casework for remains recovered within <u>Texas Border Counties</u>, 2010 through 2016								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Total cases submitted to the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology	26	34	39	49	67	67	69	351
Total cases analyzed by the Laboratory of Forensic Anthropology	27	47	36	35	63	70	74	352
Cases determined to be non-human and not medicolegally significant	1	3	2	3	1	2	3	15
Cases determined to be human but not medicolegally significant (archaeological/historical)	5	3	1	2	2	2	1	16
Total Cases determined to be medicolegally significant	21	41	33	30	60	66	70	321
Medicolegally significant cases positively identified by the CHI-LFA	2	6	0	2	2	0	0	12
Medicolegally significant cases with perimortem skeletal trauma*	3	4	5	3	3	7	4	29
Medicolegally significant cases classified as "Presumed Border Crossers"	8	15	19	20	48	54	58	222
Field search and/or recovery efforts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Court Testimony	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* This number does not reflect the true incidence of perimortem trauma in these decedents, which is likely to be much higher. The underestimation of perimortem trauma in anthropological cases is due to the incomplete and/or scavenged nature of skeletal remains in many cases and, the fact that not all trauma involves the hard tissue of the skeleton.

Forensic anthropology submissions for remains recovered within <u>Texas Border Counties</u> 2010 through 2016								
County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Atascosa				1	2		1	4
Bandera		2						2
Brewster				1				1
Brooks				13	24	28	29	94
Cameron	2	3	4	4	3	4	1	21
Crane								0
Crockett					1			1
Culberson	1						2	3
Dimmit	1	1	2			1	1	6
Duval	1	2	1	1	2		1	8
Edwards								0
El Paso	3	2	1	1	4	2	1	14
Frio						3		3
Hidalgo		1	5	3	1	2	1	13
Hudspeth	1			3	2	1	2	9
Irion								0
Jeff Davis								0
Jim Hogg			2	2	4	4	2	14
Jim Wells		1	1	2	2	1		7
Kenedy	4	3	2	4	4	1	12	30
Kerr								0
Kimble								0
Kinney		1	1					2
Kleberg				1			1	2
La Salle		1	2					3
Live Oak							2	2
Loving								0
McMullen								0
Maverick	2	2	1	1		6		12
Medina					1	1		2
Nueces	1		2	2	3	1		9
Pecos	1				1	1		3
Presidio				1				1
Real								0
Reeves		1						1
Regan								0
Schleicher								0
Starr								0
Sutton								0
Terrell	1				1			2
Upton			1					1
Uvalde								0
Val Verde			1		2	1		4
Ward							2	2
Webb	7	12	13	9	9	9	11	70
Willacy							1	1
Zapata	1	1			1	1	1	5
Zavala		1						1
Total	26	34	39	49	67	67	71	353

Forensic anthropology submissions for remains recovered within Texas Border Counties, 2010 through 2016

