

December 11, 2025

Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner (ME/C) System Program Discussion Forum

ME/C Office Annual Reports

Facilitated by:

Kelly Keyes

ME/C TTA Coach
Research Forensic Scientist
RTI International



Disclaimer

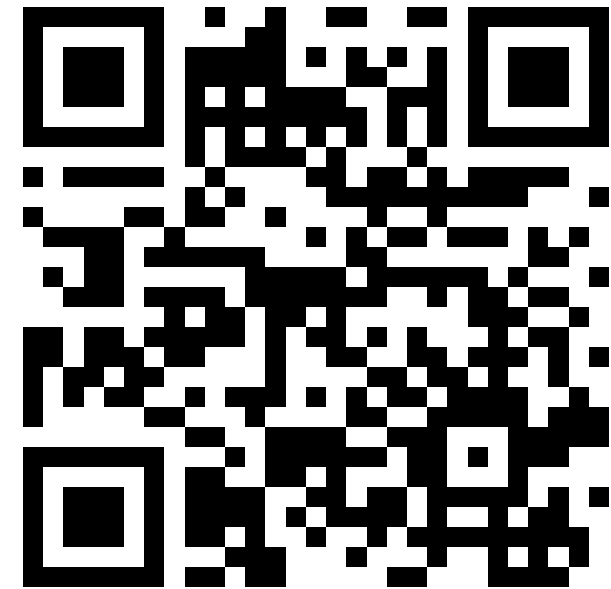
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Today's Agenda: Discussion Forum

- Introductions and Updates
- Developing an Annual Report, Gina Carver
- Getting the Most Out of Your Annual Report, Alfarena (Alfie) McGinty
- Open Discussion

Forensics Training and Technical Assistance (Forensics TTA) Program

- Led by RTI International in partnership with subject matter experts, practitioners, and researchers
- Provides TTA in support of grantees' strategic goals and objectives across forensic disciplines
- Proactively engages grantees to develop materials based upon agency needs
- Supports sustainability through TTA surrounding the implementation of new policies/practices and enhancement of existing policies/practices



ForensicsTTA.org

New Forensics TTA Resource Now Available!

Accreditation Document Repository for ME/C Offices

- This web-based repository features policies, procedures, and other documents necessary for ME/C office accreditation
- International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners (IACME) and National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accredited offices can share their documents to support offices seeking accreditation
- Features **annual reports**, mass fatality plans, family resource documents, and more
- More documents being added soon!



Scan to access the
Accreditation Document
Repository!

BJA – ME/C Team



Alan Spanbauer
Senior Policy Advisor



Monte Evans
State Policy Advisor



Lindsay DePalma
Associate Contractor

Updates from the BJA ME/C Team

- We need your help – we ask grantees to please continue to contact us with your success stories! Also, continue to make us aware of any webinar or annual virtual grantee training topics of interest.
- Remember that your views are important to enhancing other grantees' efforts, and the overall ME/C Program as well.



Developing an Annual Report

Gina Carver, D-ABMDI
Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office
Elkhorn, WI

Gina Carver, D-ABMDI

- 2005: Joined the medicolegal death investigation field as the Office Manager at the Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office in Wisconsin
- 2009: Promoted to Chief Deputy Medical Examiner
- 2010: Diplomate with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (D-ABMDI)
- 2015: Accepted the Lead Investigator position at the Walworth County Medical Examiner's Office, WI
- 2020: Appointed as the Walworth County Medical Examiner



Benefits of an Annual Report

- Highlights achievements
- Allows for community education
- Helps to identify trends to inform public health initiatives
- Assists in identifying systemic issues
- Documents financial performance
- Transparency

Both NAME and IACME have specific documented requirements for Annual Report content

Examples of Accreditation Requirements

- Available to the public
- Description of geographic area and population served
- Applicable governing statutes
- Statistical Data
 - Total jurisdictional deaths
 - Cases investigated
 - Cause and manner of death
 - Scene investigations
 - Decedents transported to office
 - Autopsies performed
 - Toxicology testing
 - Law-enforcement involved / in-custody deaths
 - Organ and tissue donation referrals
 - Unclaimed decedents
 - Exhumations

Where to Start?

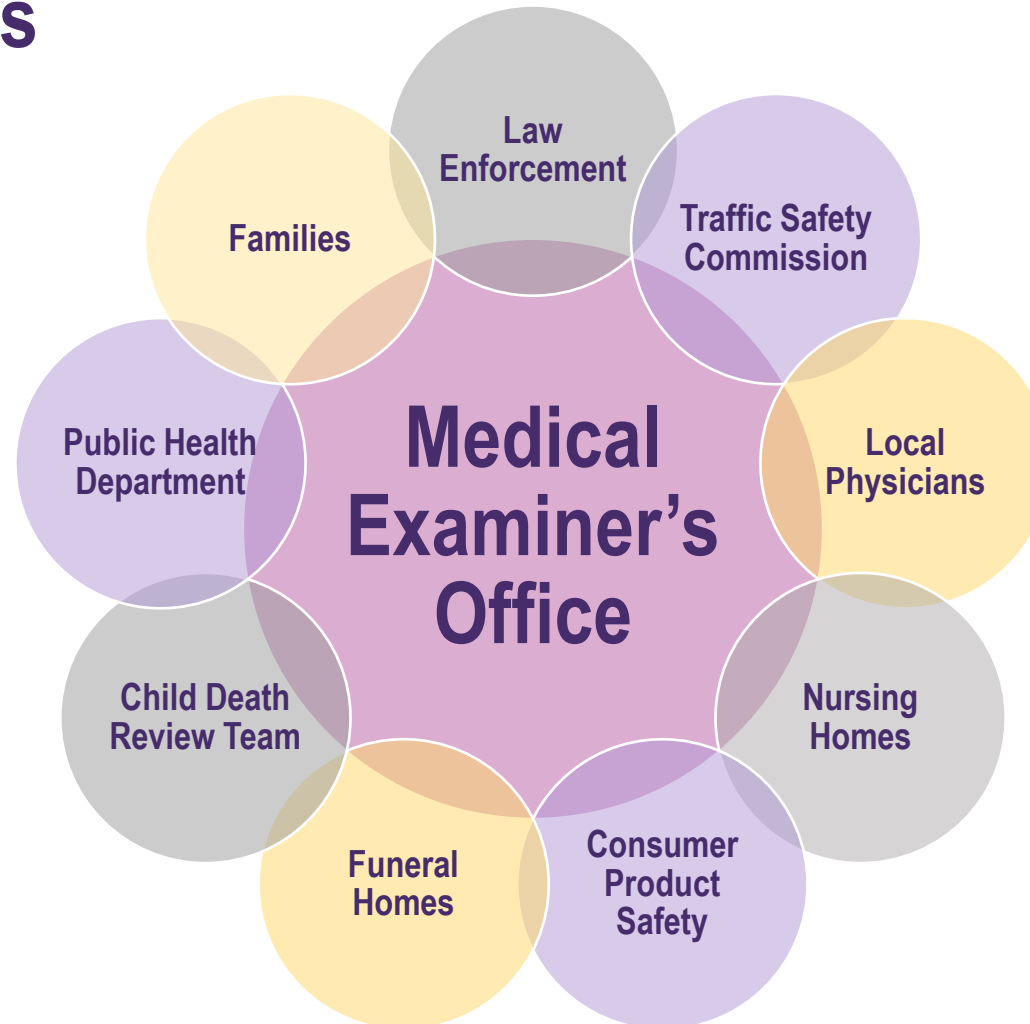
- Check out established templates
- Identify your mission
- Brag
- What do you want your community to know?
- Statistics – cull out the interesting
- Discuss the budget and where taxpayer money is utilized

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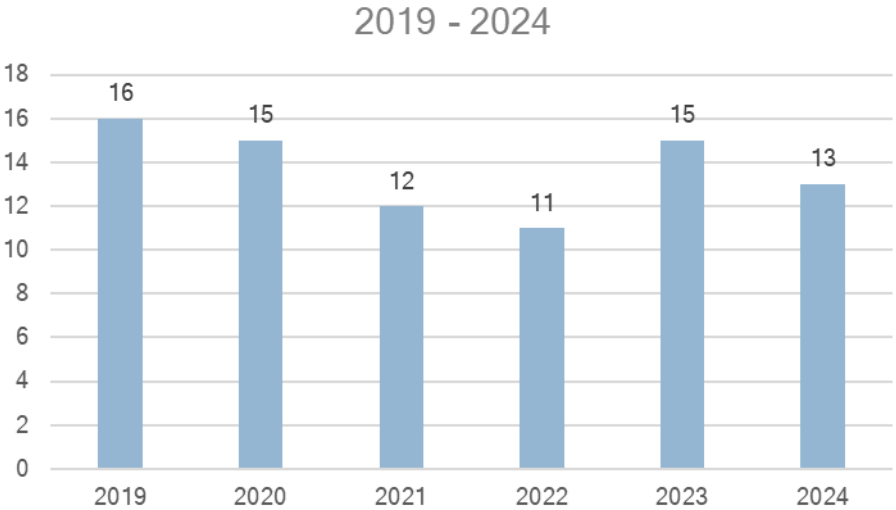
Image provided by the presenter

Highlight Community Partnerships and Work Performed Behind the Scenes

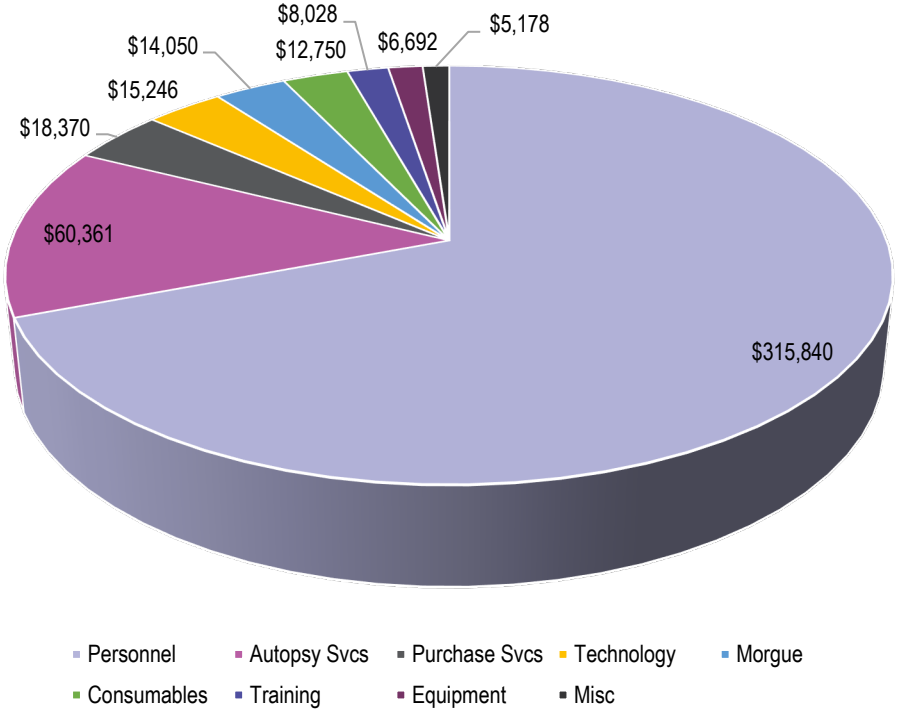


Add Varied Visuals Along with Narrative

In 2024, 13 motor vehicle-related fatalities included 6 motorcyclists. The average age was 60 with 77% being male. Decedent intoxication decreased from 64% in 2023 to 17% in 2024. Deaths of those 65 and older doubled from 3 in 2023 to 6 in 2024.



Images provided by the presenter



Contact Information

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Getting the Most Out of Your Annual Report

Alfarena (Alfie) McGinty, MBA
Marion County Coroner's Office
Indianapolis, IN

Alfarena (Alfie) McGinty, MBA

- Elected in **2024**; over **28 years** of service with the agency
- **Chief Deputy Coroner for 18 years**; Indiana-certified Medicolegal Death Investigator
- Oversees **3,000+ death investigations annually** and manages a **\$7M budget** with **\$3M in grants**
- Guided agency response to multiple **mass casualty events**, including the **2021 FedEx Facility shooting**
- Serves on Boards of **Overdose Lifeline, Mental Health America Indianapolis, and IACME**
- **Adjunct Faculty** at Indiana University, mentoring future death investigators
- **Advocate for opioid awareness and compassionate leadership** following the loss of her son, Jimmy



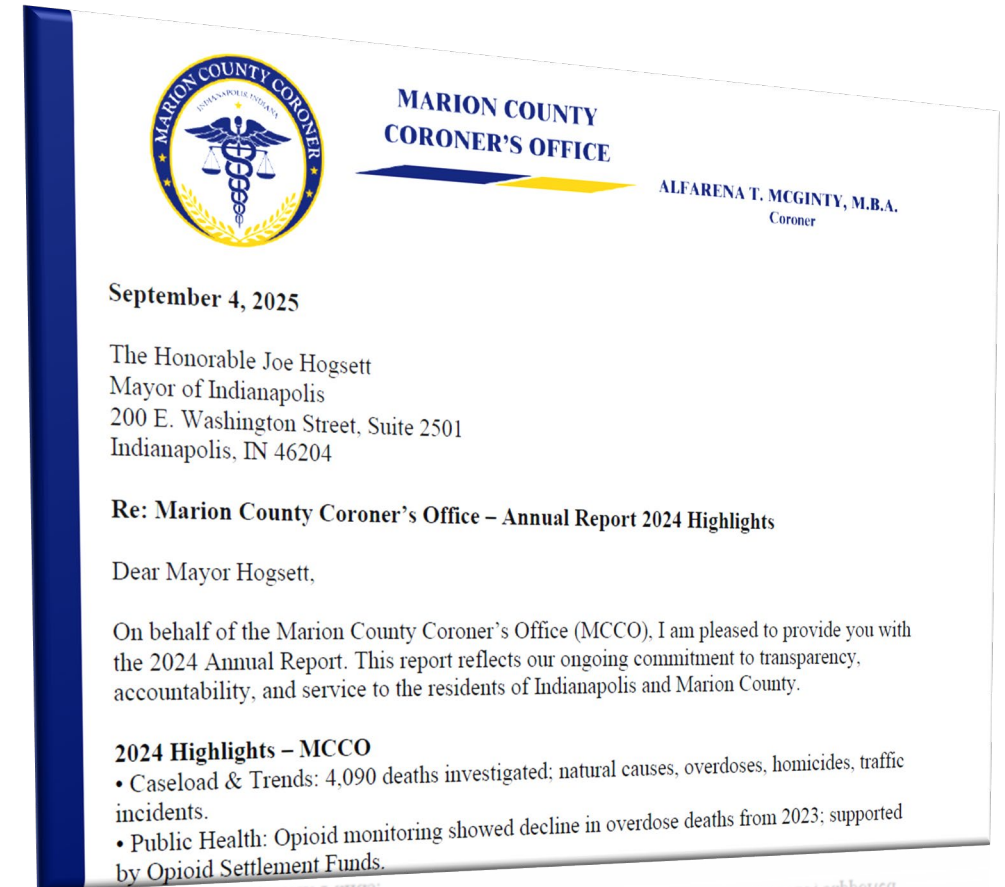
Why Do Annual Reports Matter?

- Build public trust
- Guide prevention – data to action
- Educate communities
- Strengthen partnerships
- Recruitment tool



Image provided by the presenter

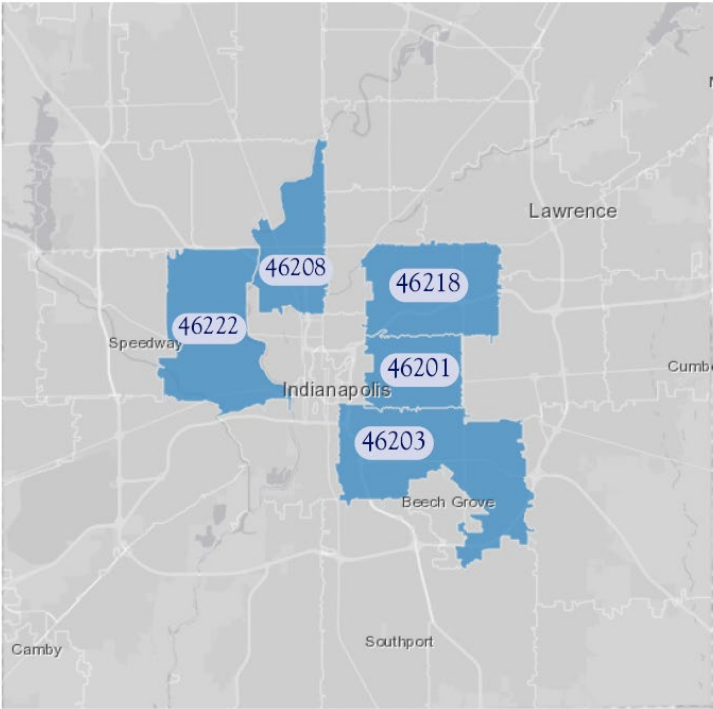
Build Public Trust – Share Your Work



Images provided by the presenter

Guide Prevention – Data to Action

2024 Drug Intoxication Deaths by Zip Code



There was a shift in the most impacted zip codes when compared to the prior year. In the prior two years, 46219 had been present in the top zip codes. However, in CY24 it fell out of the top ranking and was replaced by 46208. For three years in a row, 46201, 46203 and 4622 have consistently ranked as the top impacted zip codes within Marion County.

Zip Code	Total Count
46201	56
46218	34
46203	34
46222	29
46208	29
TOTAL	182



Images provided by the presenter

Educate Communities



Images provided by the presenter

Strengthen Partnerships

He Knows
Your
Name

“

The Marion County Coroner's Office, along with He Knows Your Name Ministry, is changing the way our city honors those who have been unclaimed in death.

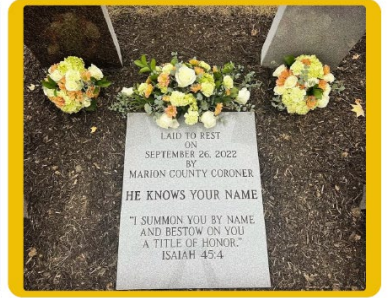
I believe coroners and their teams are the unsung heroes of our county. They see so many hard things, have so many hard conversations, their dedication is incredible.

The MCCO is leading the way in effecting changes in policy to make sure that all are given dignified burial and celebration of life.

*-Linda Zhnacko
Founder and Author*

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Images provided by the presenter



Unclaimed Decedents

**Special
REPORTS**

2024

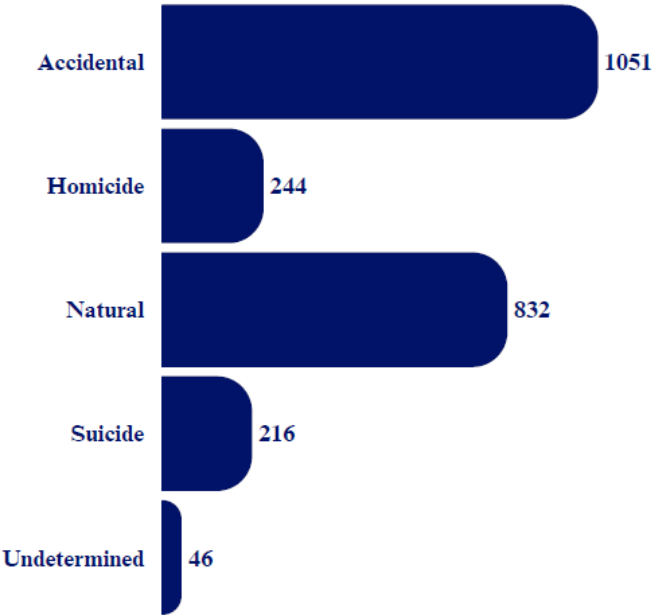
Recruit Forensic Professionals

Annual Report Executive Summary

Data presented in this report resulted from the 4,090 deaths that were reported and/or investigated during the calendar year (CY) 2024, a .4% decrease from the previous calendar year.

Annual Highlight
Accepted Cases: 2,411 <i>Cases accepted for further forensic investigation</i>
Autopsies: 1,429 <i>Total performed includes full, partial and external exams</i>
Annual Budget: \$6.9mil Increase of \$1.1mil from prior fiscal year <i>\$976k of increase due to grant funding (federal and state)</i>

Totals in All Manners of Death
2024



- Forensic Pathologist
- Forensic Fellows
- Death Investigators

Percentage of Accepted Cases

When compared to total reported:
-1% change from the prior year

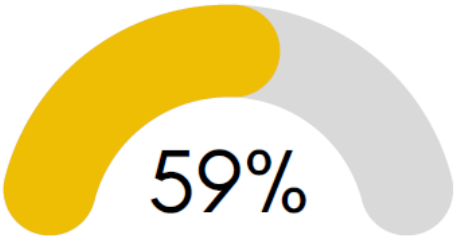


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Scan the QR code to
visit our website

Open Discussion



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