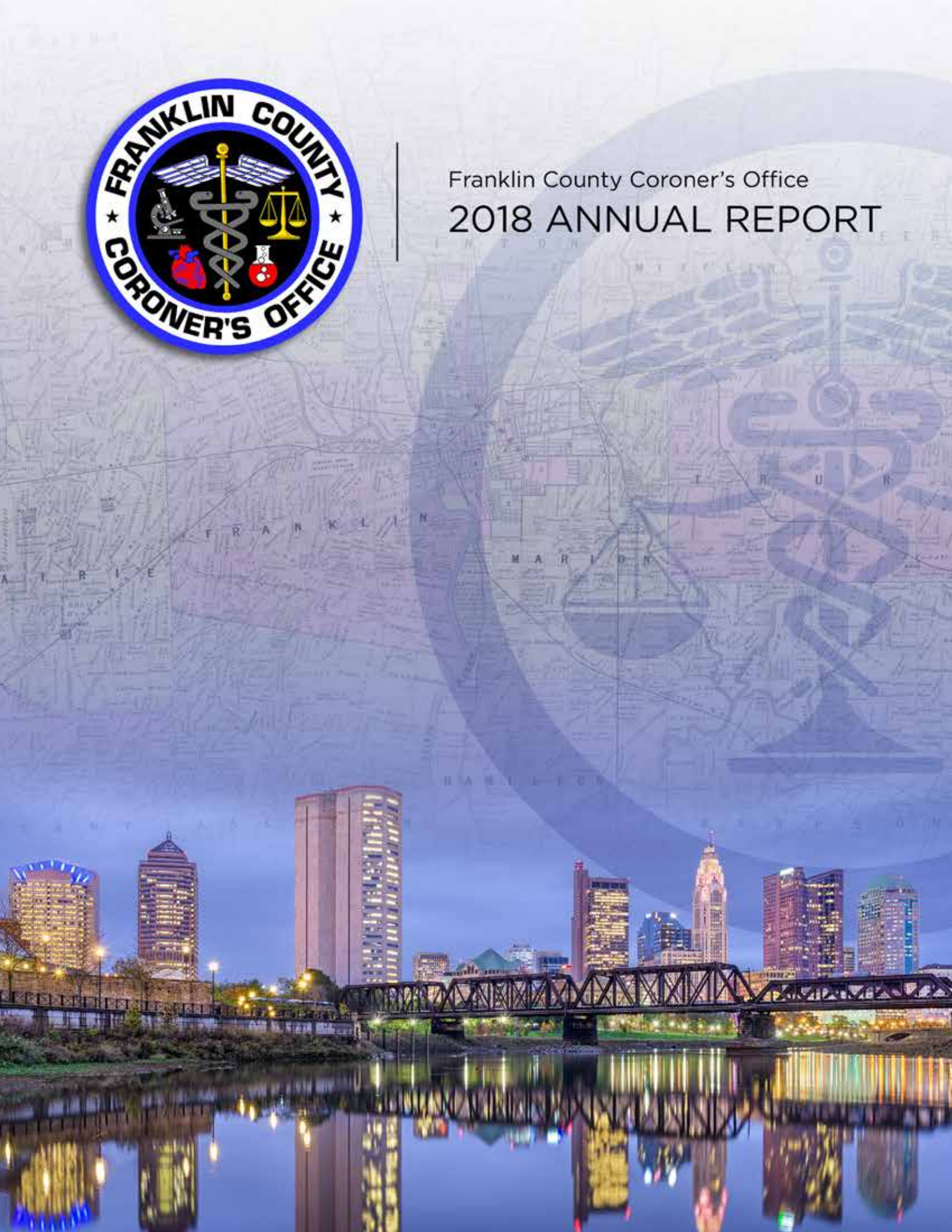




Franklin County Coroner's Office
2018 ANNUAL REPORT





Franklin County Coroner's Office

DEDICATION

We recognize that each case within this report represents the death of a person whose absence is grieved by beloved family, friends, and our community. To those individuals, their loved ones, and to all the citizens of Franklin County who share in the loss, this report is dedicated.

The Franklin County Coroner's Office serves a community of nearly 1.3 million people, including the city of Columbus. There are approximately 11,000 deaths per year. The Coroner's Office investigates all deaths by violence, criminal means, suicide, infant deaths, and prisoner deaths or any unattended death whatever the cause. The Coroner's Office provides identification, performs autopsies or medical examinations, and carries out any other requirements in regard to deaths which fall in the categories mentioned above.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Franklin County Coroner's Office is to serve and protect the interests of the community by maintaining the highest standard of professionalism and integrity in determining the cause and manner of death. We are dedicated as a team to provide services in an efficient and courteous manner, respecting the needs of the families involved. We want the citizens of Franklin County to know, by our words and actions that we are sincere and loyal to them, and will deal respectfully with each and every death.



Welcome to the 2018 Annual Report for the Franklin County Coroner's Office



Our goal for this report is to provide our partners and the residents of Franklin County with up-to-date information on the services we provided to the county in 2018. I dedicate this report to those families and friends who have suffered a loss and had their loved ones come to our office. This report, although full of statistics and numbers, signifies the countless times when many of our residents have suffered through the worst and last day of their lives. We are here to not only investigate their deaths but to provide some semblance of closure and peace to their loved ones. Below are some highlights of the report that represent key areas for 2018.

In general, the mortality rate for our county increased approximately 1% from 2017 to 2018. Our office, however, accepted jurisdiction on approximately 6.5% more cases in 2018 than in 2017. This increase translated to 9% more overdoses, 7% more motor vehicle fatalities and 8% more suicides than in 2017. We did see an 11% decrease in homicides.

Through this report you will get a sense of how our office functions. What I hope you will also discern is the amount of data our office collects and its importance to the county, the state, and the nation. Our data is used to evaluate child and infant deaths, suicides, motor vehicle accidents, occupational accidents, and overdose deaths. We partner with various agencies to work on preventive measures against addiction, violence, and mental health issues.

An effort many in our county are unaware of is mass fatality planning. If we had a situation like the Las Vegas mass shooting or the Parkland school shooting, how would our county respond? The Franklin County Emergency Management Agency would be in charge of coordinating a mass critical event and our agency would be the lead on a mass fatality response along with situational related partners.

I am proud to assure the residents of Franklin County that we have a comprehensive plan in place and have had frequent staff trainings and exercises to review the plan.

In 2018, we continued to work on a regional, coordinated plan through a grant from 2017.

Our continued work with Lifeline of Ohio and the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank on organ and tissue recovery has helped to save many lives in our community as well as nationally.

My charge as Coroner of Franklin County is to continue to provide the residents of our county excellence in service through integrity, transparency, accountability and communication. We are here to not only care for those who have died, but to also save lives.

Again, please welcome to the 2018 Annual Report for the Franklin County Coroner's Office.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anahi Ortiz MD'.

Anahi Ortiz M.D.
Franklin County Coroner



Role of the Coroner's Office

- Generates the unbiased, independent, and formal report and verdict on all deaths that fall under the coroner's jurisdiction
- Obtains information surrounding the death and determines if it falls into the jurisdiction of the Coroner
- Investigates only deaths defined in the "Coroner's Statute", Ohio Revised Code 313.12 that are mandated to be investigated by the Coroner

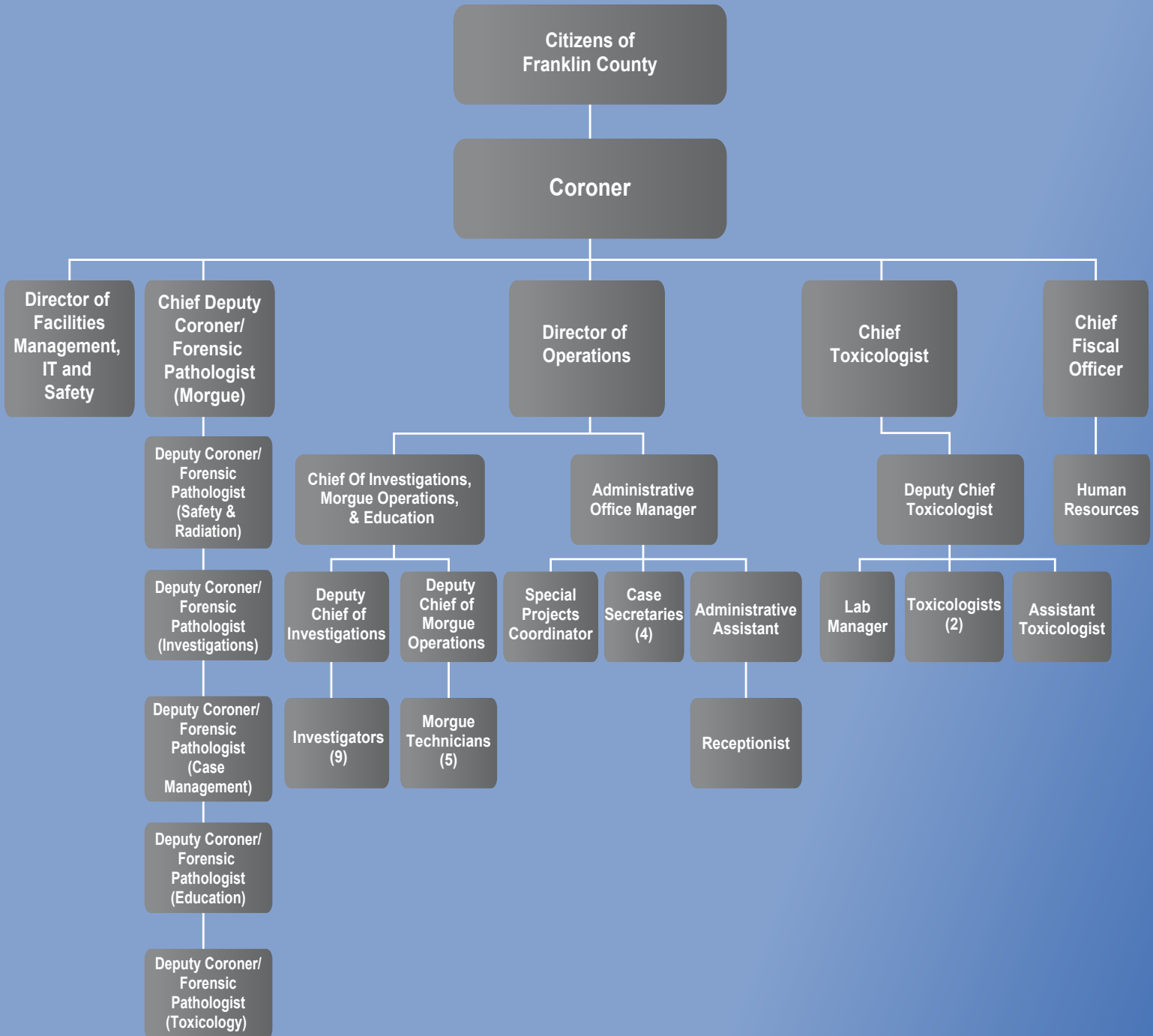
In Ohio, the Coroner is the only physician who may certify deaths that are not due to natural disease

Departments of the Franklin County Coroner's Office

- Administration
- Case Management
- Toxicology
- Pathology
- Investigations
- Morgue/Histology



Organizational Chart



About Dr. Anahi M. Ortiz

Dr. Anahi Ortiz was born in New York, New York. She graduated from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, a six year BS/MD program, at City College of New York. She then received her medical degree from Downstate Medical College in Brooklyn. Dr. Ortiz decided on pediatrics as her focus and did her residency at St. Luke's - Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan.

After residency, her career has focused on providing care to the underserved communities of New York City and eventually those in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Ortiz moved to the central Ohio area in 1996 where she has worked as a pediatrician at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Westside Community Health Center, and North Community Counseling. She has always been a proponent of volunteering in the community. She currently volunteers for several non-profits, including Timmy Global Health Care.

She was appointed to the Office of Franklin County Coroner in November of 2014. Since then she has worked towards streamlining the process for more timely production of death certificates, professionally interpreting several forms for families of decedents whose primary language is not English, and educating the medical community on completing death certificates. She has highlighted cultural sensitivity as a priority of the Coroner's Office and brought in several educational sessions on cultural sensitivity for the staff. As of April of 2018, she has added a paid FMLA program for employees.

In March of 2015, Dr. Ortiz convened the Franklin County Drug Overdose Death Initiative (DODI). This group currently meets quarterly to look at the rising rate of drug use and deaths in our county and how we can intervene. Since then she has hosted the



Franklin County Opiate Crisis Summit in March of 2016 and again in 2017. She has also worked on a Community Action Plan towards the opiate crisis and launched the Franklin County Opiate Crisis Task Force in August of 2016.

Dr. Ortiz is on the Board of Netcare as well as the Board of the National Violent Death Reporting System. She is a member of the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Medical Advisory Board of YMCA Head Start. She has also spoken to numerous community groups, as well as professional organizations on suicide, infant mortality, and addiction/opiate crisis.

Dr. Anahi Ortiz has almost 30 years of experience in working with high risk communities in the medical field. She brings this experience and knowledge to the Office of Coroner where she will be a voice for those who die of violent means and help improve the lives of our community.

Executive Administration



Amanda Alvarez, B.S. /B.A., D-ABMDI
*Director of Operations
(As of August 2019)*



Beverly Harper, B.S.
Chief Fiscal Officer



Kara Cruikshank
*Director of Facilities
Management and IT
(As of April 2019)*



Kevin Jenkins, M.D., MBA, MHSA
*Chief Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist*

Pathology



John Daniels, M.D.
*Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist*



Donald Pojman, M.D.
*Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist*



Bruce Wainer, M.D.
*Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist*



Andrew Sexton, D.O.
*Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist*



Maneesha Pandey, M.D.
*Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist
(As of May 2019)*

Toxicology



Daniel Baker, M.S., F-ABFT
Chief Toxicologist



Rebecca DeRienz, M.S., D-ABFT-FT
*Deputy Chief
Toxicologist*



Charity Detty, D-ABMDI
*Chief of Investigations
and Morgue Operations
(As of 8/19/19)*



Brandon Perry, B.S., D-ABMDI
*Deputy Chief of
Morgue Operations*



Katelyn Yoder, MA, F-ABMDI
*Deputy Chief of
Investigations
(As of 8/19/19)*

Case Management



Andrea Jarvis-Galvin, B.A.s, A.T.S.
*Case Secretary
Unit Supervisor*



Samantha Sambois
*Front Office
Administrative
Assistant
(As of August 2019)*



Charlie Vallance
*Human Resource
Associate*



Tracy Baker
*Special Projects
Coordinator*

Administrative Staff



Case Management Department

The Case Management Department is responsible for processing case files and death certificates, assuring quality of data, as well as fulfilling requests for public records. This department also provides ancillary support, such as coordinating with transcription services for the pathology staff and technical support for the agency. The Case Management Department is comprised of one Supervisor and four Case Secretaries, working closely with the Front Office Administrative Assistant and Special Projects Coordinator. The main purpose is to serve the community through quality assurance and excellent customer service.

In 2018 the Case Management Department processed over 2000 cases, many of which required more than one death certificate to be processed by the time the case was completed. In 2018 the mission to increase productivity and efficiency was initiated. This was accomplished by closely examining existing processes and procedures to identify strengths and weaknesses. This mission was successfully furthered through 2018 and into 2019. In 2018, the Case Management Department implemented new procedures to streamline the case completion process and expedite case closure. The department also increased staff from three to four full-time Case Secretaries in 2018. The goal in 2019 is to reconstruct quality assurance measures to continue to improve productivity to better serve our community.

Special Projects Coordinator

In 2018, the Special Projects Coordinator position was restructured to provide support to staff with the goal of maintaining the highest standard of providing excellent customer service. Responsibilities included overseeing a records management project that will convert current and archived records to more accessible storage mediums, and fulfilling public records requests for legal and law enforcement agencies. Additional responsibilities include preparing the annual report and assisting with the National Association of Medical Examiners certification process.



Pathology Department

Forensic Pathology is the study of how injury and/or disease affect a person resulting in death. An autopsy is a detailed medical examination of the body, performed by a Forensic Pathologist, to determine the presence, nature, and extent of any disease or injury in order to ascertain the cause and manner of death.

In the Franklin County Coroner's Office there are six Forensic Pathologists who, as Deputy Coroners, analyze the circumstances surrounding the death and determine whether an autopsy is indicated. Autopsies are performed at the discretion of the team of pathologists. For cases in which an autopsy is not indicated, an external examination is performed. An autopsy consists of the gross external and internal examination of a body, documenting evidence of disease and injury. Additional studies such as microscopic examination of tissue sections, immunohistochemistry, special tissue staining, toxicology, bacterial and viral cultures, molecular testing, sexual assault examinations, and analyses for inborn errors of metabolism are utilized as needed.

Autopsies on victims of homicides assist in evidence collection that help the Franklin

County Prosecutor's Office to convict the guilty party or help to exonerate the innocent. Investigations of deaths in childhood help to confirm or allay any suspicions of abuse in cases of Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID). If the manner of death is certified as a homicide, the Forensic Pathologist may be asked to testify at the Grand Jury or in the Court of Common Pleas. Regardless of the manner of death, the Forensic Pathologist may be required to give expert testimony in civil trials and proceedings as to the specific cause of death; for example, wrongful deaths, auto accidents or work-related accidents.

Not all autopsies reveal the cause of death even after thorough medical and police investigations are concluded. These cases are certified "undetermined" and can occur for a variety of reasons. Some causes of natural deaths, such as

abnormal heart beat, do not leave anatomical clues and may be difficult or impossible to document after death.

The Forensic Pathologists participate in meetings at the Columbus Department of Public Health where they present specific case findings during the Traffic Fatality Review, Child Fatality Review, and SUID Review. These reviews occur quarterly to monthly and help to look for patterns that may be used to decrease mortality in our community. The Franklin County Coroner's Office has formal agreements with Nationwide Children's Hospital, The Ohio State University, and Ohio University for teaching purposes. The Forensic Pathologists play a vital role in teaching future pathologists, nurses, various other medical professionals, and law enforcement officers.



FROM THE COMMUNITY

"Yesterday afternoon, the defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of Involuntary Manslaughter (F1). I wanted to say a special thank you for your hard work on this particularly complicated case, and one of our first Carfentanil cases here. I know you all worked very hard and spent a lot of time educating us about Carfentanil. After two years of defense lawyers and defense experts trying to find a way out for him, they have seen the light and realize they can't beat the case. Our office greatly appreciates your continued efforts on these overdose cases. Thank you again."

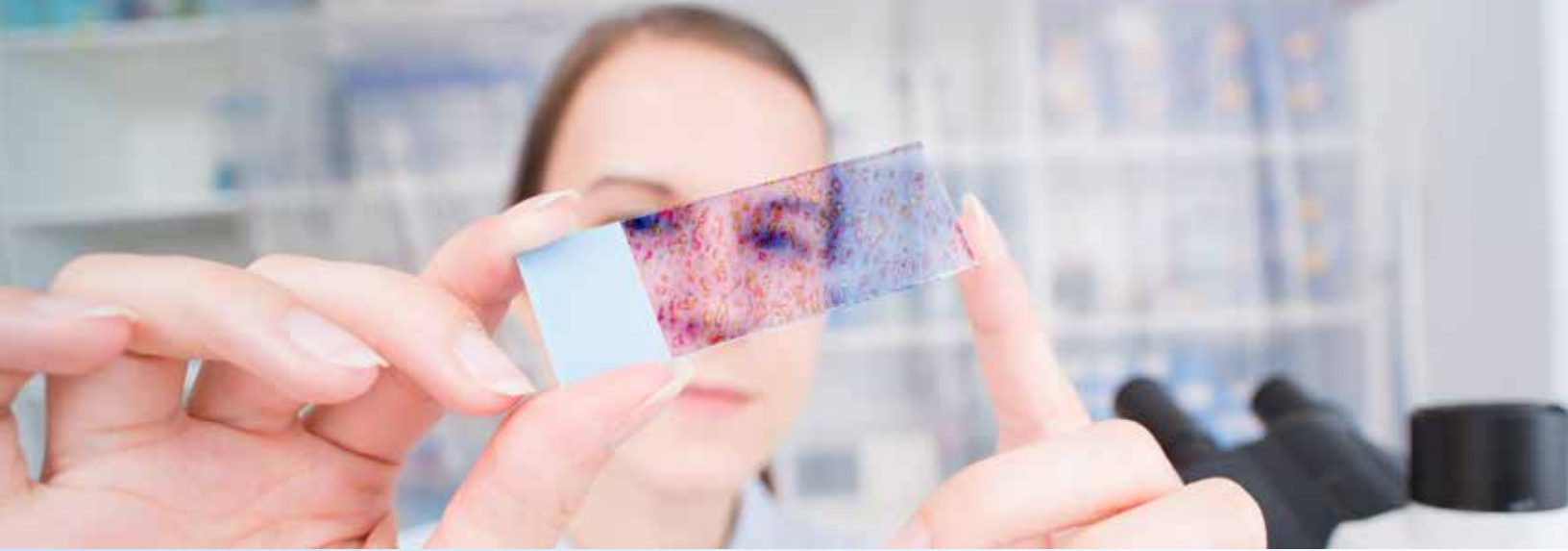
Toxicology Department

Toxicology is the scientific study of the adverse effects of drugs and chemicals on living things. Forensic toxicology is that application where the adverse toxicological effects have medicolegal consequences and the findings are likely to be used in a court of law.

The Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory determines the presence or absence of drugs and chemicals in human tissues and fluids. Such investigations assist the Forensic Pathologist in the evaluation of toxicological implications regarding the death of an individual.

The Forensic Toxicology Laboratory's mission is "To provide thorough, accurate and timely toxicology testing results for the Forensic Pathologist of the Franklin County Coroner's Office, as well as regional coroners, law enforcement agencies, and to apply our collective resources and abilities to assist in the solution or interpretation of forensic toxicology problems and issues."

The Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory is an industry leader in testing scope ensuring thorough and comprehensive results.



The Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory is accredited by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology that is based upon compliance with professional standards as assessed by peer review, including onsite inspections and successful achievement in proficiency testing programs. The Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory provides timely results by exceeding the National Association of Medical Examiner's toxicology completion time guidelines.

The Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory is equipped with two liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometers and four gas chromatography mass spectrometers, which allow the laboratory to accomplish its mission. Attesting to the toxicology staffs' ability, all eligible Franklin County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory scientists have earned Board Certification in Forensic Toxicology by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, based upon the candidate's personal and professional record of education and training, experience, achievement, and a formal written examination.

In 2018, the Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology lab was awarded The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program. The Coverdell Program awards grants to states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services.

Toxicologists at the Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory are available full time for consultation with Forensic Pathologists for interpretation of results, ordering additional tests, and ultimately documenting the scientific truth.

Toxicology Publications, Presentations and Appointments:

Publication

R. DeRienz, D. Baker, N. Kelly, A. Mullins, R. Barnett, J. Hobbs, J. Daniels, K. Harshbarger, A. Ortiz; *Child Fatalities Due to Heroin/Fentanyl Exposure: What the Case History Missed*, *Journal of Analytical Toxicology*, Volume 42, Issue 8, 1 October 2018, Pages 581-585.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jat/bky052>

Presentation

Rebecca DeRienz, M.S., D-ABFT-FT, Deputy Chief Toxicologist - R. DeRienz, D. Baker, J. Hogue, R. Yinger, N. Kelly, A. Mullins.
"An Efficient Screening Approach for Fentanyl Analogs Using a Single Extraction Sequential GC/MS and LC/MS/MS Analysis"
Presented on October 11, 2018 at the Society of Forensic Toxicologists annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN.

Appointments

Jennifer Hobbs, M.S., D-ABFT-FT, Toxicologist - Elected Vice President of the Midwestern Association of Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring.



Investigations Department

The Investigations Department is responsible for conducting death scene investigations for unnatural and unexplained deaths for Franklin County. Members of this department serve the community and are a part of the process to determine cause and manner of death. In addition to death investigation, the Investigators process bodies, and communicate with law enforcement, medical professionals, and families. There are eight Investigators with two working supervisors. The coroner's office is staffed with investigators 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Investigators are required to complete a certification process with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI).



The Franklin County Coroner's Office goal for 2019 is to increase the investigation staff level by adding an additional investigator. Additionally, revision of standards with archiving longstanding evidence and implementation of a database for evidence management have been completed. We continue to use Overdose Map (ODMAP) and build upon our growing partnerships which provides real-time overdose surveillance data across jurisdictions. This effort supports public safety and health efforts to mobilize an immediate response to an overdose spike.

Morgue Department

The Morgue Department is responsible for assisting the Forensic Pathologists in postmortem examinations, forensic processing, evidence collection, postmortem radiology, and facilitating communication between law enforcement, funeral directors, and families. The postmortem examination is of vital importance in helping the pathologists determine cause and manner of death. Careful examination of the decedent is performed, and samples for toxicological and microscopic analysis are obtained. The department is staffed 7 days a week, with four full-time technicians and one working supervisor.

In 2018, the staffing level remained at four full-time Forensic Technicians which continued to allow the department to better serve the needs of the community. This ensured that examinations were completed in a timely manner and with the highest measure of integrity. The morgue department performed more than 1,700 postmortem examinations in 2018 and case completion rate and turnaround time remained outstanding with 92.6% of examinations completed in less than 24 hours after arrival, and 100% of examinations completed in less than 48 hours after arrival. Goals for 2019 are to add a 5th full-time Forensic Technician, expand rapid identification of decedents with an upgrade to digital fingerprinting, and reduce turnaround time between postmortem examinations.



FROM THE COMMUNITY

“I wanted to thank you very much for the opportunity to shadow the dedicated practitioners at the Franklin County Coroner’s Office Morgue. It was an amazing experience for me and truly has helped to further support my hopes for practice as a physician’s assistant. In addition to thanking you, I wanted to say that everyone who was working that day was welcoming and inclusive in the sharing of their daily work experiences. Once again, thank you for arranging this opportunity.”

— Student

Community Outreach



In addition to investigating unnatural deaths, the Franklin County Coroner's Office engages in a number of community outreach initiatives. These include educational opportunities, Interagency Informational Sessions, Drug Overdose Death Initiative, and conferences. In addition the Coroner, if requested, will give presentations on a variety of topics to organizations in the community.

Educational Opportunities

The purpose of the 'Professional Development Series' is to broaden and develop our team members through information and education, self-awareness and development, professionalism, and networking. The presenters are local community members and professionals that live, work or support the community of Franklin County. This series is held monthly for one hour at the Franklin County Coroner's Office.



Additionally, the Franklin County Coroner's Office has not only presented to eight colleges and universities but also presented off campus to high school and tweens night at the Columbus Public Library branches. Internships and shadowing opportunities are offered year round to college and university students with emphases in forensic science or the medical field. The Franklin County Coroner's Office has participated in seven different adult education events through various programs in the county.

Opiate Crisis

In March of 2015, the Franklin County Coroner's Office initiated a poison death review of decedents who had died of overdoses. This was due to the increase in deaths observed since 2014. The review became known as the Drug Overdose Death Initiative or DODI. Members of the review are from multiple disciplines and work on providing information on decedents to look for patterns.

In addition to DODI, the Franklin County Coroner's Office hosted the Opiate Crisis Summit in 2016 and 2017. The Summit provided people from multiple disciplines information on the opiate crisis, especially on a local level. The 2017 Summit had over 600 attendees.

In 2017, the City of Columbus and the Franklin County Commissioners with ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board) created the Franklin County Opiate Action Plan. The Franklin County Coroner's Office supports the plan through the continuation of DODI now on a quarterly basis. In addition, the Coroner is chair of the Recovery Committee for the Opiate Action Plan and is a partner in the community Naloxone trainings, along with both Franklin County and Columbus Public Health agencies.

To keep the residents of Franklin County informed on the crisis, the Franklin County Coroner's Office posts quarterly statistics of overdose deaths on its website.

Interagency Informational Sessions

The Franklin County Coroner's Office also hosts Interagency Informational Sessions, in which outside agencies visit the coroner's office to foster positive relationships between agencies. These sessions provide an opportunity for the coroner's office to explain its role to the outside agencies worked with, as well as ask questions about their protocols and procedures.

Organ, Tissue and Eye Donation

Once every 48 hours, an Ohioan dies waiting for a life-saving organ transplant. In the last ten years, more than 2,000 Ohioans have died waiting. As transplantation of hearts, kidneys, lungs, pancreas and livers has emerged as the preferred and most successful treatment of many life-threatening diseases, the need for these life-saving gifts has increased. Today there are more than 117,000 Americans on the transplant waiting list, with more than 2,900 waiting in Ohio. Franklin County Coroner's Office continues to support organ, tissue and eye donation with its partners, the Central Ohio Lion's Eye Bank and Lifeline of Ohio (LOOP). Dr. Ortiz advises LOOP as a medical board member, a long-standing tradition of the Coroner's Office.

Suicide Prevention

Suicide is a major public health concern. Suicide is among the leading causes of death in the United States. Based on recent nationwide surveys, suicide in some populations is on the rise. A report, released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), showed that rates of death by suicide in the United States have risen by roughly 25% in the last couple decades. Franklin County Coroner's Office continues to support Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) in providing grief support for those impacted by suicide. In addition, the Coroner is a member of the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition.



EVENTS

January 7, 2018
Opiate Talk
Broad Street
Church

January 14, 2018
Opiate Talk
Gethsemane
Lutheran Church

January 29, 2018
**Ohio Habla Podcast
Interview Episode 10
Opioid Crisis**
Photo 10

March 2, 2018
Recovery Event
Homes and
Subcommittee

March 9, 2018
**Women Coming
Together Panel
(Today's Issues
Facing Women)**
24th Annual
Conference
Photo 1

March 26, 2018
**Recognizing Women
in Public Services/
Government**
ODJFS Air Center
Photo 2

April 4, 2018
Hot Topics
Audience: Faith
Based Community
Photo 7
(Dr. Ortiz with
James Ragland)

April 6, 2018
**Ohio Health Lecture
- The Opiate Crisis**
Photo 11

April 10, 2018
**Ohio Latino Affairs
Commission,
Hispanic Legislative
Visit Day** Audience:
Legislators,
Non-Profit Leaders,
Community
Advocates, Hispanic
Business Leaders

June 8, 2018
**Ohio Family Care
Association 42nd
Annual Conference**
Audience: Leaders
in Ohio's child
welfare and juvenile
justice agencies

July 20, 2018
**Pathways to
Womens Healthy
Living Opiate Panel**
Franklin County
Correctional Center -
Jackson Pike

August 14, 2018
**Panel/ Byron Potts
-Opiate Crisis in the
African American
Community**

August 16, 2018
**Panel on
Multicultural
Inclusion**

August 29, 2018
**Big Table on
Mentoring Young
Latino Men**
Columbus
Foundation
Photo 3

August 30, 2018
**Impact Community
Action Ripple of
Hope Awards -
Awardee**
Photo 8

September 13, 2018
**UMADAOP
Conference**

September 18, 2018
Art Exhibit Opening
Franklin County
Coroner's Office
Photo 6

September 19, 2018
**Behavioral Health
Latino Implications**

September 24, 2018
**Presentation
to Columbus
Rotary Club**
Photo 5

September 25, 2018
**Panel Hispanic
Heritage** ODH

September 26, 2018
**Enlightened
Kaleidoscope Award
Reception - Honoree**

September 27, 2018
**Disrupting Inequity
Panel: MACC**

October 10, 2018
**"Not in Vein"
Documentary
Premier**
Photo 12

October 10, 2018
**OD Presentation-
Central Ohio
Chapter of Critical
Care Nurses**

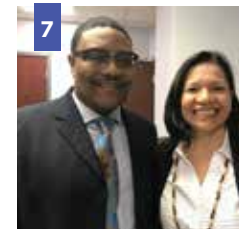
October 25, 2018
**APDS 30th
Celebration
and Awards**
Audience: Medical
Professionals
Photo 4
(APDS award
recipient 2018 with
Jerry Saunders)

November 1, 2018
**Recovery Event-
Homelessness**

November 25, 2018
**Hilltop Event --
Photo 9
(Dr. Ortiz with
Esther Flores)**

November 28, 2018
Poverty Workgroup

PUBLIC RELATIONS & EDUCATION





Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks Plan

The Franklin County Coroner's Office continues to partner with Franklin County Homeland Security and Justice in support of preparing for and responding to complex coordinated terrorist attacks. Recent terrorist incidents highlight an emerging threat known as complex coordinated terrorist attacks where a violent assault, or series of assaults, that employs one or more types of weapons, intends to injure or kill large numbers of people. To effectively respond to an attack requires comprehensive planning and preparation. The Coroner's Office will work with all public safety services agencies within Franklin County to develop a plan, conduct training and exercises, and purchase equipment necessary to support this type of incident.

Fatality Management Response Plan

The Franklin County Coroner's Office has partnered with Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security to co-lead the planning efforts to support a comprehensive revision to the Franklin County Mass Fatality Plan. Fatality management is the ability to coordinate with other organizations (e.g., law enforcement, healthcare, emergency management, and medical examiner/coroner) to ensure the proper recovery, handling, identification, transportation, tracking, storage, and disposition of human remains and personal effects, certify cause of death, and facilitate access to mental/behavioral health services to the family members, responders, and survivors of an incident. Fatality Management Services is 1 of the 32 Federal Core Capabilities in support of the National Preparedness Goal.

Fiscal Department

The Franklin County Coroner’s Fiscal Department strives to assure that tax dollars are spent prudently and judiciously while assuring that all identified needs are met as cost effectively as possible. It oversees all financial and purchasing matters of the Coroner’s Office including annual performance-based budgets, payroll, expenditures, and revenue.

2018 Budget Overview

Franklin County Coroner’s Office	2018 Original Budget	2018 Revised Budget
Staffing Services	\$2,743,245	\$2,815,651
Benefits	\$1,135,849	\$1,147,697
Materials and Services	\$836,756	\$955,864
Capital Outlays Total	\$109,800	\$109,800
Total	\$4,825,650	\$5,029,012

Human Resources

The Human Resource Associate is responsible for maintaining personnel records, FMLA leave, and payroll for the staff of the Coroner’s Office. We have encouraged employees to get involved with our healthy Thrive On program through our Benefits Department. Once a month we have our United Health Care Nurse Liaison, Vickie Yowell visit our office to meet with our staff. Our office has started programs to offer brown bag seminars, social events to help build moral, and visits two times a month from local food trucks.

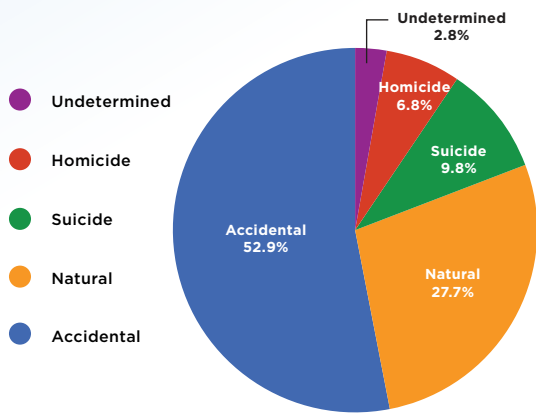
Statistics

Overview

A number of major hospitals and trauma centers serve Franklin County: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, OhioHealth, and Mount Carmel Health Systems. There are numerous deaths in Franklin County each year wherein the precipitating incident leading to death occurred outside Franklin County, but the death occurs in Franklin County, thus falling under the jurisdiction of Franklin County Coroner. Consequently the statistics appearing in this Annual Report do not necessarily agree with numbers reported by police agencies throughout the county.

The Franklin County Coroner’s office provides forensic services to surrounding counties on a fee-for-service basis.

Manners of Death – 2018



TOTAL REPORTED CASES 4538

Accepted as Coroner’s Cases.....	2077
Not Assigned as Coroner’s Cases.....	2461

MANNER OF DEATH AFTER INVESTIGATION

Accidental.....	1098
Homicide.....	142
Natural.....	576
Suicide.....	203
Undetermined.....	58

AUTOPSIES

Total Performed.....	1145
Franklin County Cases.....	1104
Out of County Cases.....	41
External Examinations.....	582
External Exams Out of County.....	1
Partial Examinations.....	21

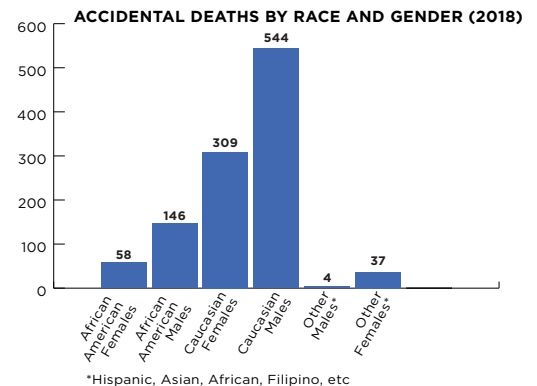
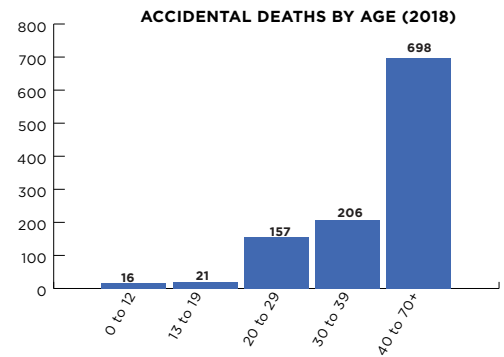
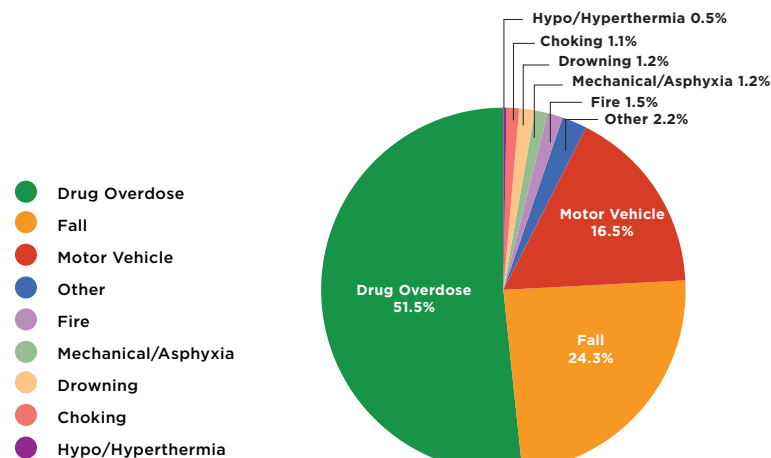
ADDITIONAL FIGURES

Bodies Transported.....	1892
Storage Cases.....	126
Scene Investigations.....	1333
Toxicology Performed.....	1781
Sudden Infant Deaths.....	22

Sudden Infant Deaths were reported in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code 313.121. SID total is also reflected in the Manner of Death categories; Natural, Accidental, & Undetermined. Present language also identifies this cause of death as Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)

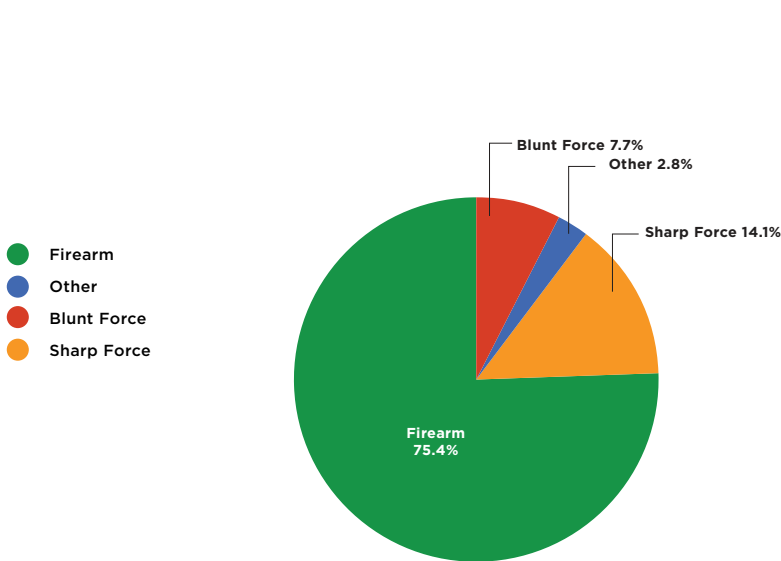
Manner of Death: Accidental

An accidental death is a result of an unnatural cause where there is no evidence of intent to cause harm and the fatal outcome was unintentional.

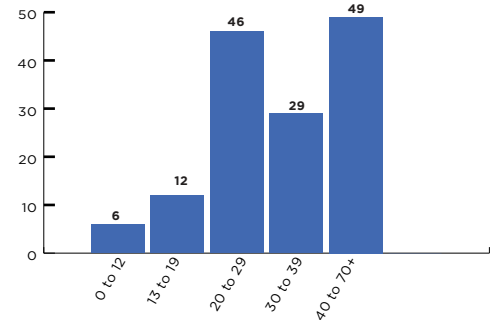


Manner of Death: Homicide

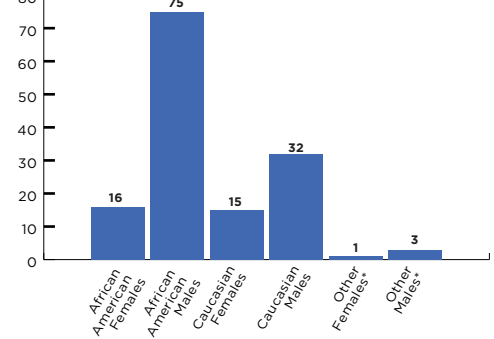
A homicide death is a death resulting from a voluntary action committed by another person. A homicide is not necessarily a murder. This classification does not necessarily indicate criminal intent, which is determined by the legal process.



HOMICIDE DEATHS BY AGE (2018)



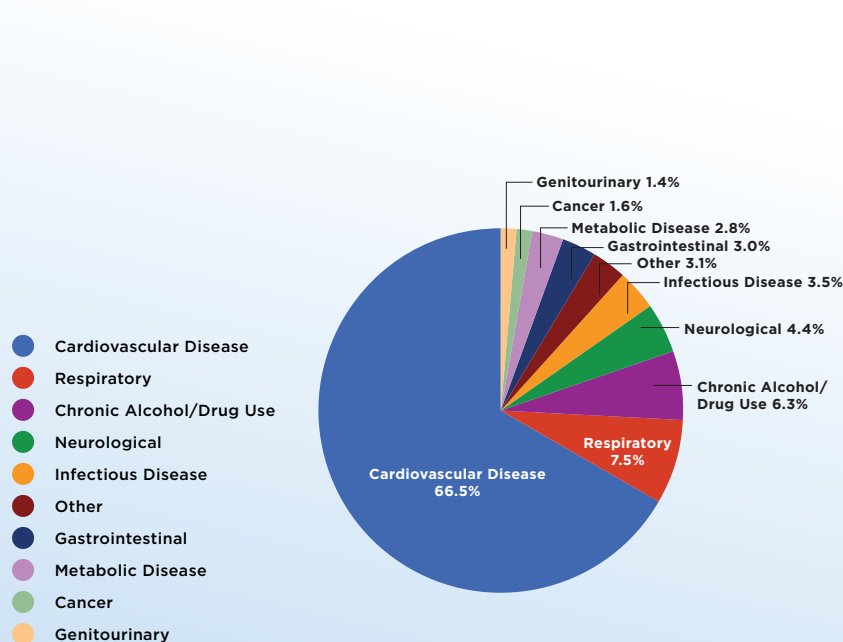
HOMICIDE DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2018)



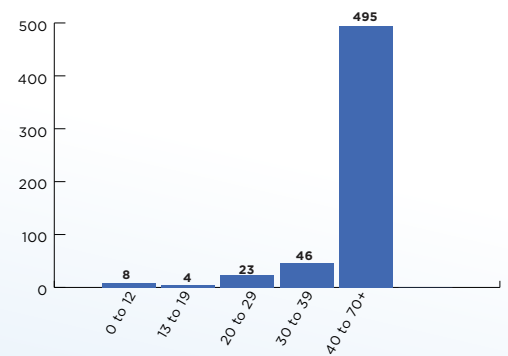
*Hispanic, Asian, African, Filipino, etc

Manner of Death: Natural

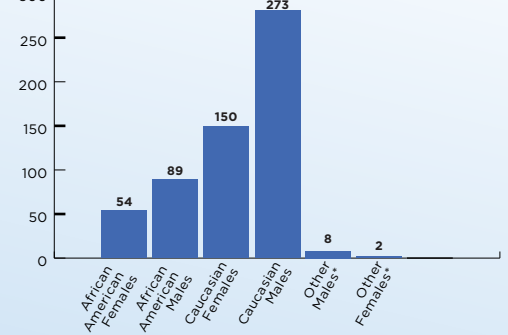
A natural death is one due to a spontaneous or naturally occurring disease or degenerative process. A death so classified can fall under the jurisdiction of the Coroner because of the sudden or unexpected nature of the death, because there was no physician with knowledge or awareness of the decedent's condition, or when circumstances surrounding the death arouse suspicion.



NATURAL DEATHS BY AGE (2018)



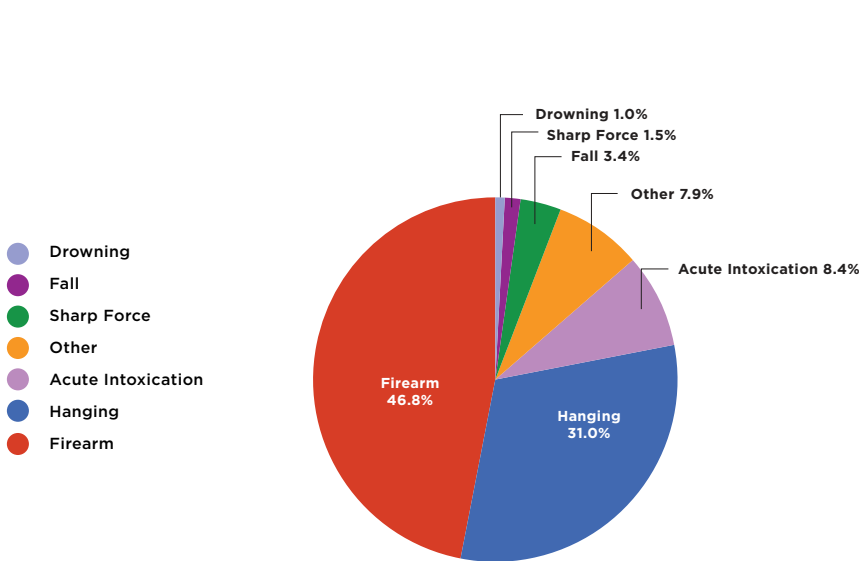
NATURAL DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2018)



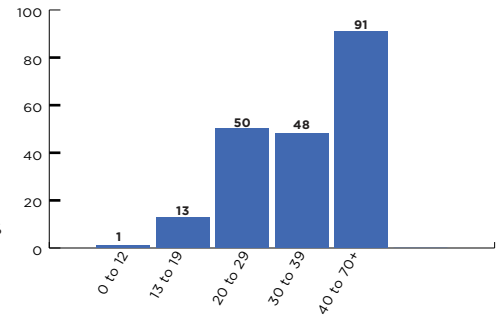
*Hispanic, Asian, African, Filipino, etc

Manner of Death: Suicide

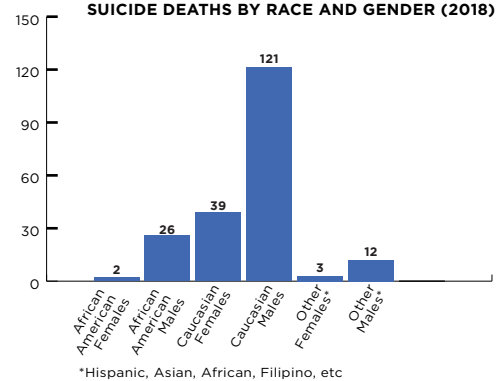
A suicide is a death resulting from a self-inflicted injury which ends one's life.



SUICIDE DEATHS BY AGE (2018)

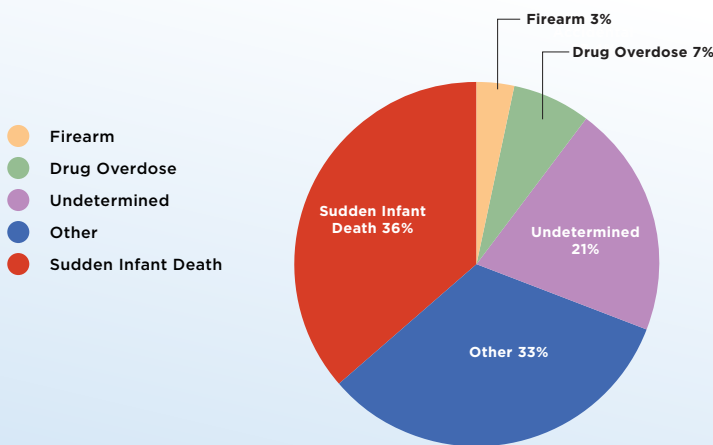


SUICIDE DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2018)

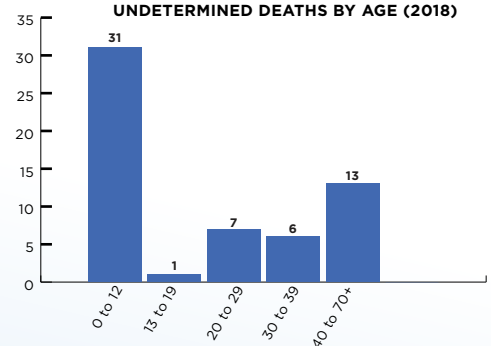


Manner of Death: Undetermined

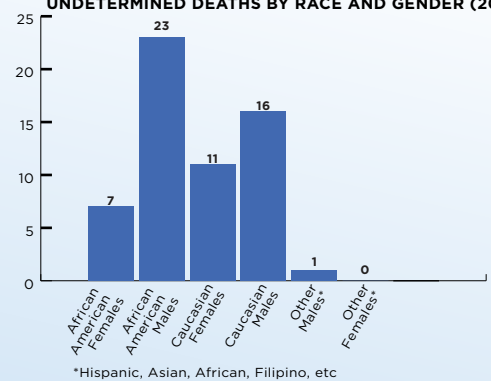
“Undetermined” is a classification used when the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than one or more other competing manners of death in thorough consideration of all available information.



UNDETERMINED DEATHS BY AGE (2018)



UNDETERMINED DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2018)



The New Franklin County Forensic Science Center

The Franklin County Coroner's Office facility will be relocating to 2090 Frank Road, in the southwestern part of the county. The new 55,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility will offer improved resources to further the mission of the Franklin County Coroner's Office. We are excited to be adding diagnostic imaging capabilities to allow virtual and other autopsy techniques to our facility. With the new efficiencies, a reduction in time to complete an autopsy and determination of the cause and manner of death will occur. The facility will have respite and family support areas to help people who are grieving. The ground breaking ceremony took place in September 2018 and the final beam was placed in early March 2019. Transition to the new facility is projected to start in the spring of 2020.



Unidentified Individuals

The Investigations department of the Franklin County Coroner's Office is responsible for identifying any person under the jurisdiction of the Coroner. Immediate response is made by forensic technicians and law enforcement to initiate identification. Initial presumptive information may lead to the identity of the decedent. Available fingerprints along with dental and medical documentation of unique identifying anatomical features are beneficial characteristics for an identification to be made. In situations where there is no presumptive identification upon arrival on scene, next steps are to coordinate with law enforcement to have a DNA sample submitted to The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI), as well as NamUs (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System).

Returning unidentified individuals to their loved ones is a priority and it is a continuous process. For additional information on these cases please visit our website www.coroner.franklincountyohio.gov.

The Franklin County Coroner's Office participated in the first 'Ohio Missing Persons Day' event hosted by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigations at Battelle in May 2018. The event was for law enforcement and families to remember their missing loved ones. Families that came to the event brought police reports, photos, dental records and x-rays to help with their cases, some even supplied a DNA sample for comparisons. The Franklin County Coroner's Office was there not just in support of the missing persons, but to bring awareness to those individuals who have not been identified so their family members can have closure.

FCCO Case #	Date Located	John or Jane Doe	BCI Unidentified #	NamUs #	Notes
89-2994	11/3/1989	John Doe	2005	14619	Body of a white male located on 11/03/1989 found on Walcutt Road.
92-2730	9/20/1992	John Doe	202	17871	Body located 09/20/1992 gunshot wound to the head.
93-2908	10/11/1993	John Doe	203	17869	The body of a black male found in woods between Alum Creek & Rt. 33 on 10/11/1993.
97-2573	8/9/1997	Jane Doe	187	17868	Remains of a black female located on the west bank of the Scioto river.
98-0402	2/1/1998	John Doe	184	4751	The remains of an elderly white male discovered along Winkler Hill Rd., Dover, OH about 2 miles northeast of I-77.
98-1632	5/17/1998	Jane Doe	183	4747	The body of a black female was found 05/17/1998 in a parking lot.
99-4013	11/28/1999	Jane Doe	185	17866	The body of a white female found in front of the 3583 East Broad Street (Kahiki Restaurant) on 11/28/1999.
06-1082	3/26/2006	John Doe	192	263	White male found in Scioto River
07-1801	5/30/2007	John Doe	1959	616	Unknown Hispanic male found in Scioto river
IDENTIFIED 17-1051	3/28/2017	Jane Doe	3009	17067	Human legs (female) located at a recycling facility
IDENTIFIED 91-1326	5/5/1991	John Doe	186	Pending	The decedent was found after a fire in Pomeroy, Meigs County. The remains were charred beyond recognition.
IDENTIFIED 19-1501	4/28/2019	John Doe		57155	An individual located the victim lying on a parking lot in the 3800 block of West Broad St.
IDENTIFIED 19-1829	5/25/2019	Unknown			Two individuals located skeletonized remains in an abandoned building in the 1000 block of Joyce Ave.
IDENTIFIED 18-2587	7/20/2018	John Doe			The decedent was found in Fairwood Park. No ID was located within belongings.



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