



THE FRANKLIN COUNTY FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

OFFICE OF THE CORONER



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT



FRANKLIN COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

The Franklin County Coroner's Office serves a community of nearly 1.3 million people, including the city of Columbus. There are approximately 10,000 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 a dedicated team that is committed to providing excellence, compassion and respect to every family and community member.

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.

WELCOME TO THE 2019 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 2019. 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 2019.



In general, the mortality rate for our county remained the same comparing 2018 to 2019. Our office, however, accepted jurisdiction on approximately 9.7% more cases in 2019 than in 2018. This increase translated to 20.6% more overdoses, and 4.1% more falls in 2019. We did see a 7.7% decrease in homicides as well as a 12% decrease in suicides.

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 2019 we applied for and were granted a subgrant from Franklin County Public Health and CDC to bring onboard an epidemiologist. This epidemiologist will mainly work on statistics and reports around overdose fatalities thus supporting some of the goals of the Franklin County and Columbus Addiction Plan.

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.

In 2019 we began revising the strategic plan for the agency. This will be presented more fully in next year's report. However, you will see in this report a new updated mission, vision and values.

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 2019 Annual Report for the Franklin County Coroner's Office.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anahi Ortiz M.D." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anahi Ortiz M.D.
Franklin County Coroner



ROLE OF THE CORONER'S OFFICE

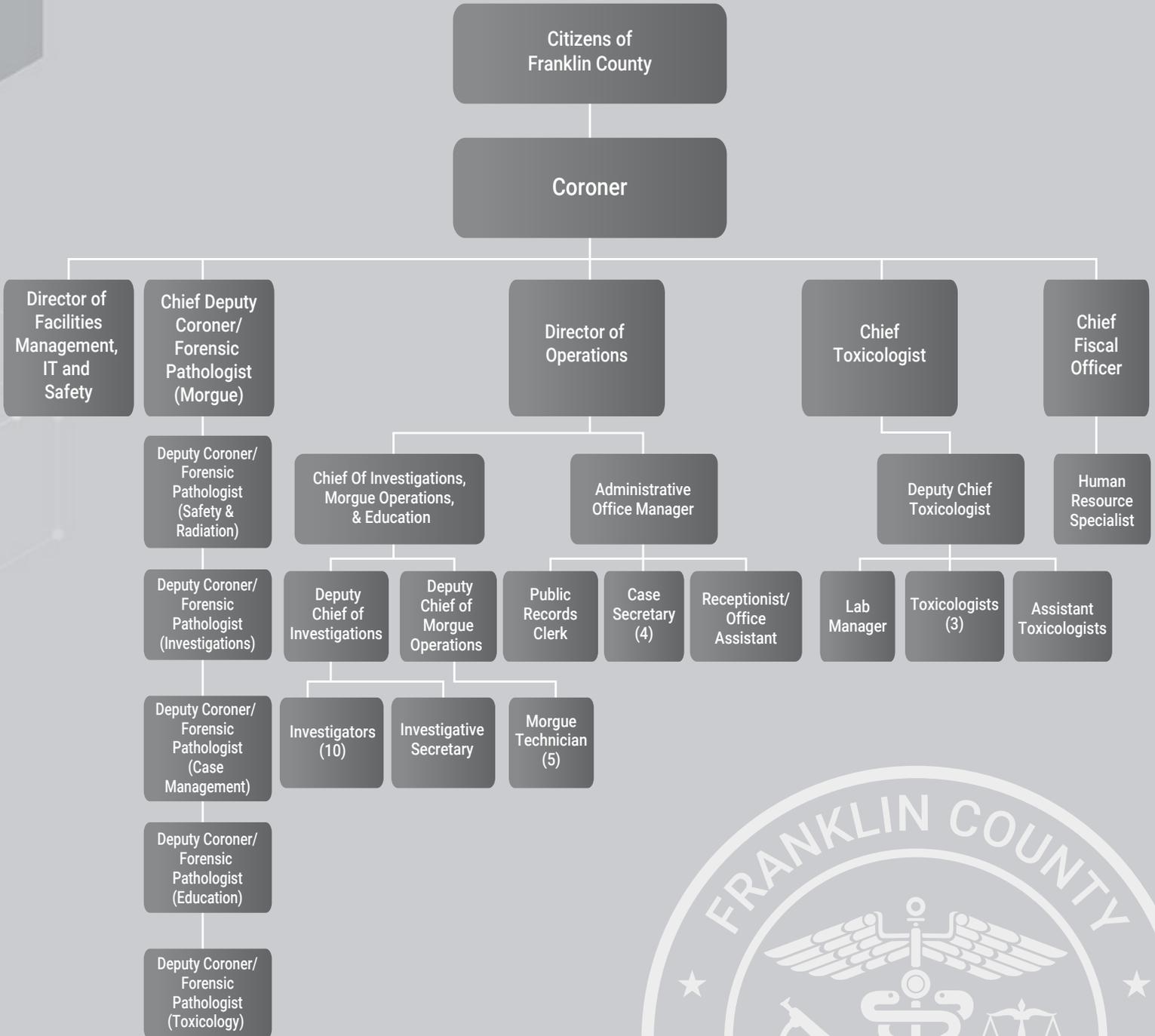
- Generates the unbiased, independent, and formal report and verdict on all deaths that fall under the coroner's jurisdiction
- Obtains information surrounding the death and determines if it falls under the jurisdiction of the Coroner
- Investigates only deaths defined in the "Coroner's Statute", Ohio 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 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 regularly 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, Catholic Social Services and 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 has brought this experience and knowledge to the Office of Coroner where she has been a voice for those who die of violent means and has helped to improve the lives of our community.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION



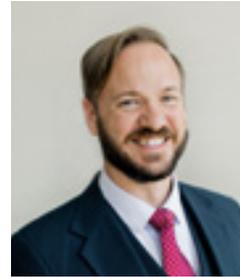
Amanda Alvarez,
B.S. /B.A., D-ABMDI
Director of Operations



Kara Cruikshank, B.S.
*Director of Facilities
Management and IT*



Beverly Harper, B.S.
Chief Fiscal Officer



David Moffett
*Front Office
Supervisor
(As of January 2020)*

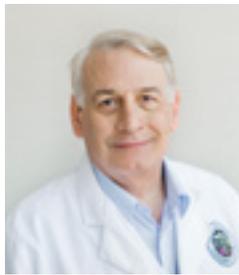


Charlie Vallance
*Human Resource
Associate*

PATHOLOGY



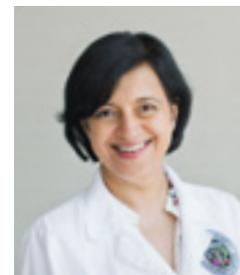
**Kevin Jenkins, M.D.,
MBA, MHA**
*Chief Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist*



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



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



Maneesha Pandey, M.D.
*Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist*



Anne Shepler, M.D.
*Deputy Coroner/
Forensic Pathologist
(As of July 2020)*

TOXICOLOGY



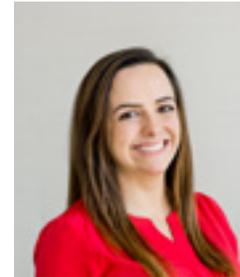
**Daniel Baker, M.S.,
F-ABFT**
Chief Toxicologist



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



Charity Detty, D-ABMDI
*Chief of Investigations
and Morgue Operations*



Erika Wrigley
*Deputy Chief of
Morgue Operations
(As of March 2020)*



**Katelyn Yoder, MA,
F-ABMDI**
*Deputy Chief of
Investigations*

MORGUE AND INVESTIGATIONS



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 of the agency. The Case Management Department is comprised of one Office Administrator and three Case Secretaries, working closely with the Receptionist and the Public Records Clerk. The main purpose is to serve the community through quality assurance and excellent customer service.

In 2019, 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 mission was carried on through 2019 and is still an active focus of the Case Management Department. In 2019, the goal was to reconstruct quality assurance measures, our goal in 2020, is to refine those newly created measures in order improve our efficiency and accuracy even further.



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.

At the Franklin County Forensic Science Center 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 with documentation of injuries and natural disease. Additional studies such as microscopic examination, 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.

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 provide unbiased expert testimony utilizing the autopsy findings 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, 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 Forensic Science Center 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, medical students, nurses, various other medical professionals, and law enforcement officers.





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 chromatograph tandem mass spectrometers and four gas chromatograph mass spectrometers, which allow the laboratory to accomplish its mission. Attesting to the toxicology staffs' ability, four of the laboratory's scientists have earned Board Certification in Forensic Toxicology by the American Board of Forensic Toxicology, based upon their personal and professional record of education and training, experience, achievement, and a formal written examination.

In 2019, 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. Additionally, in 2019, the Franklin County Coroner's Office Forensic Toxicology Laboratory was one of 14 laboratories the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) awarded with the Foresight Maximus Award, a distinction recognizing the top performing forensic laboratories in the world based on Foresight business metrics.

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

D. Baker. "Tech-IN Tidbit: Better GC/MS Searching". TOXTALK, (the official publication of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists) Volume 43, Dec. 2019, Pages 20-21.

Appointments

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

Amber Raines, B.S., Assistant Toxicologist – Elected Secretary 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 in Franklin County as well as taking calls regarding jurisdiction in hospital-reported deaths. 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 nine (9) Investigators with two (2) working supervisors along with an Investigative Secretary. 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 2020 is to increase staffing levels and creatively employ existing resources to provide the best possible service to the Franklin County Community in the context of a significant increase in novel casework and unidentified decedents. Additionally, the Investigations Department continues to use Overdose Map (ODMAP) and builds upon 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 five (5) full-time technicians, and one (1) working supervisor.

In 2019, the staffing remained at five (5) full-time technicians, one (1) morgue technician assistant and one (1) working supervisor which continued to allow the department to better serve the needs of the community. This ensures that examinations are completed in a timely manner and with the highest measure of integrity. The morgue department performed more than 1895 postmortem examinations in 2019 and case completion rate and turnaround time remained outstanding with 85% of examinations completed in less than 24 hours after arrival, and 97.3% of examinations completed in less than 48 hours after arrival. Goals for 2020 are to add additional full-time Morgue Technicians, reduce turnaround time between postmortem examinations as well as expedite identification of decedents and notification of next-of-kin.





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In addition to investigating unnatural deaths, the Franklin County Coroner's Office engages in several 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 colleges and universities but also presented to and participated in job fairs for high school and tweens through 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 also participates in different family and adult educational events through various programs within 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 2018, the City of Columbus and the Franklin County Commissioners created the Franklin County and City of Columbus Addiction Action Plan. The Franklin County Coroner's Office is a key partner in the plan. In addition, we support the plan through the continuation of DODI on a regular basis.

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

Interagency informational Sessions

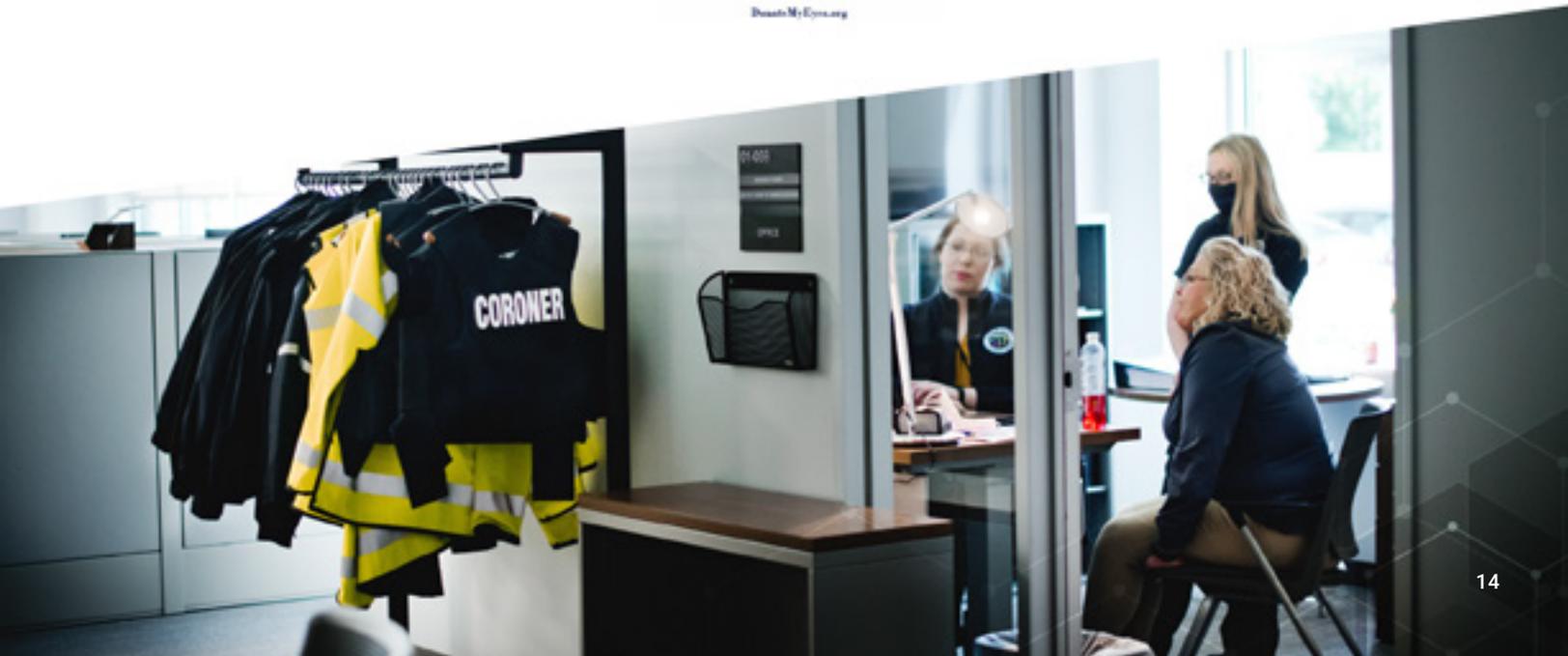
The Franklin County Coroner's Office also hosts Interagency Informational Sessions, in which outside agencies visit the coroner's office to foster positive relationships between agencies. These sessions provide an opportunity for the coroner's office to explain its role to the outside agencies worked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

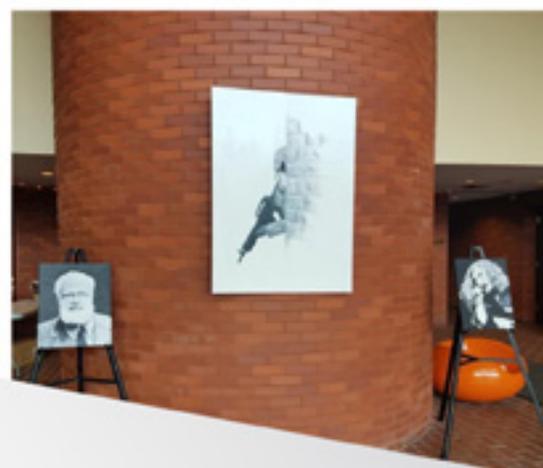
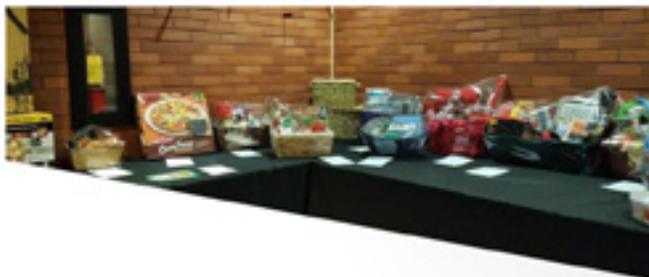
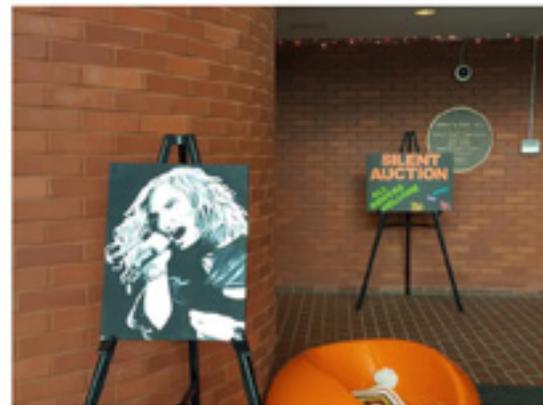
Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation

Once every 48 hours, Ohioan die 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).

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 especially in youth 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.





PUBLIC RELATIONS & EDUCATION

Honors

Dr. Ortiz received the 2019 Women of Achievement Award

Educational Opportunities

We held the following professional development series in our office in 2019:

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Muslim Family Services
- Franklin County Children Services
- Ballistic Lecture
- OSU Anthropology & Biomechanics
- CPD Criminal Intelligence
- Women's Health
- Asphyxia Lecture

Charitable Drives Participation

- Mid Ohio Foodbank Operation Feed
- Food Drive for Veterans
- Holiday Coat Drive
- Adopted a YWCA Resident
- Adopted a family
- Franklin County 5K

Community Art Shows

Every quarter we host an art show representing different groups within the community. In 2019 we had 3 Art shows. Attached are images and below are the different themes:

- March 2019 - Women's History Month
- July 2019 - Veterans and First Responders
- October 2019 - Hispanic Heritage Month

COMPLEX COORDINATED TERRORIST ATTACKS PLAN

The Franklin County Coroner's Office continues to partner with Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security including multiple agencies within Franklin County in support of preparing for and responding to complex coordinated terrorist attacks. 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

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. The Franklin County Coroner's Office continues to exercise the Franklin County Mass Fatality Plan through tabletop exercises and partnering with outside agencies to conduct full scale exercises. 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.

2019 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Franklin County Coroner's Office	2019 Original Budget	2019 Revised Budget
Staffing Services	\$3,259,996	\$3,386,767
Benefits	\$1,210,636	\$1,243,198
Materials and Services	\$961,958	\$961,958
Capital Outlays Total	\$55,792	\$55,792
Total	\$5,488,382	\$5,647,715

HUMAN RESOURCES

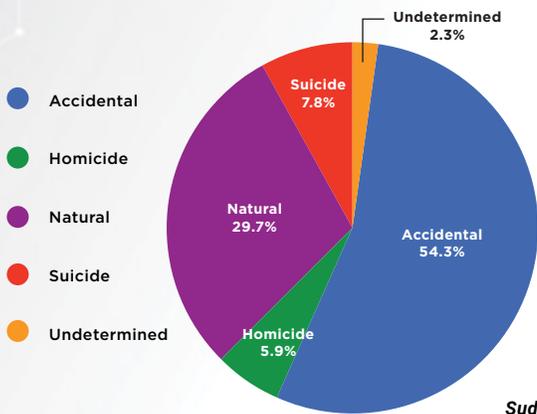
The Human Resource Associate is responsible for maintaining personnel records, FMLA leave, and payroll for the staff of the Coroner's Office. Employees are encouraged to get involved with the healthy Thrive On program through the Benefits Department. Once a month the Coroner's United Health Care Nurse Liaison, Vickie Yowell visits the Coroner's office to meet with the staff. The Coroner 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 where the precipitating incident leading to the death occurred outside Franklin County, but the death occurs in Franklin County, thus falling under the jurisdiction of the Franklin County Coroner. Consequently, the statistics appearing in this Annual Report do not necessarily agree with numbers reported by police agencies throughout the county.

Manners of Death – 2019



TOTAL REPORTED CASES 4724

Accepted as Coroner’s Cases	2278
Not Assigned as Coroner’s Cases	2446

MANNER OF DEATH AFTER INVESTIGATION

Accidental	1239
Homicide	131
Natural	675
Suicide	178
Undetermined	52
Total	2275

AUTOPSIES

Total Performed	1263
Franklin County Cases	1263
Out of County Cases	0
Total External Examinations	578
Franklin County External Examinations	578
Out of County External Exams	0
Partial Examinations	54
Death Certificates Only	398

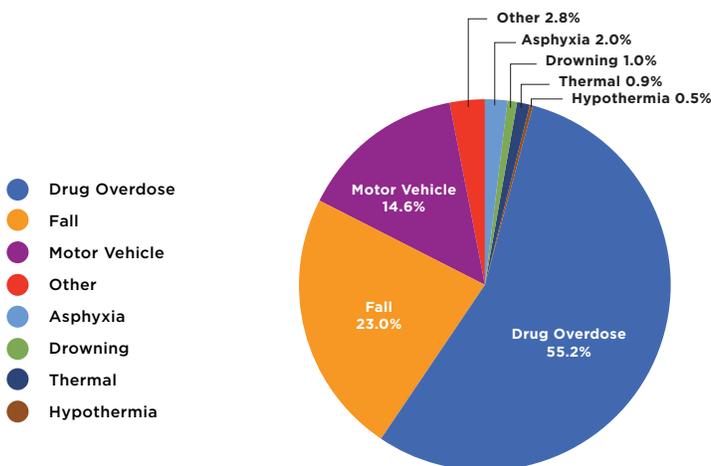
ADDITIONAL FIGURES

Bodies Transported	2005
Storage Cases	110
Scene Investigations	1423
Toxicology Performed	1928
Sudden Infant Deaths	12

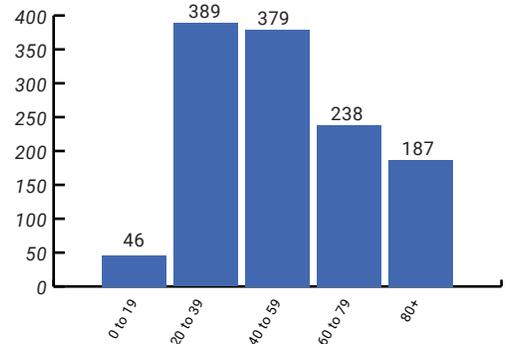
Sudden Infant Deaths were reported in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code 313.121. SID total is also reflected in the Manner of Death categories; Natural, Accidental, & Undetermined. **Present language also identifies this cause of death as Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)**

Manner of Death: Accidental

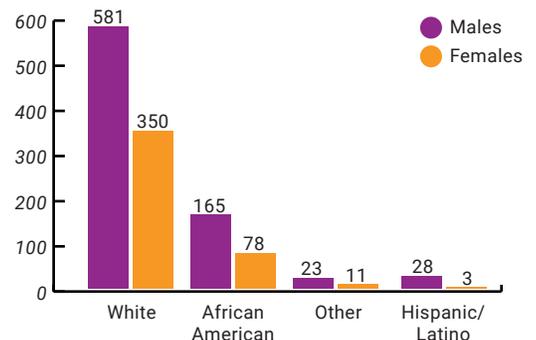
An accidental death is a result of an unnatural cause where there is no evidence of intent to cause harm and the fatal outcome was unintentional.



ACCIDENTAL DEATHS BY AGE (2019)

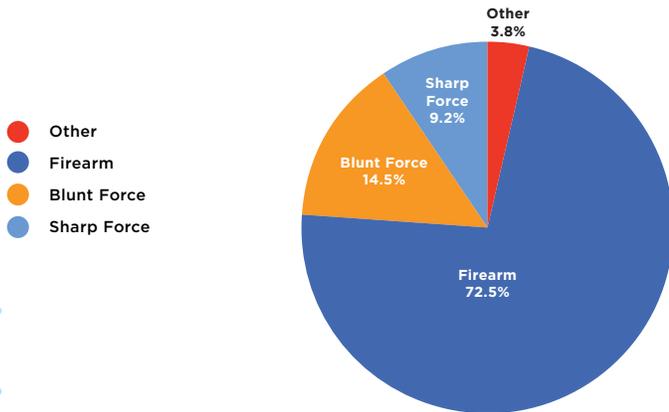


ACCIDENTAL DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2019)

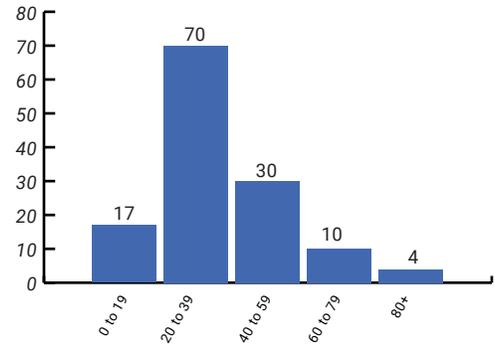


Manner of Death: Homicide

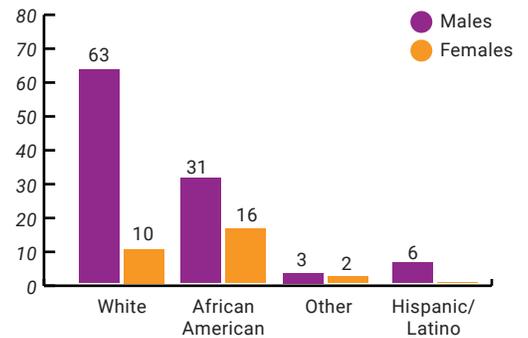
A homicide death is a death resulting from a voluntary action committed by another person. A homicide is not necessarily a murder. This classification does not necessarily indicate criminal intent, which is determined by the legal process.



HOMICIDE DEATHS BY AGE (2019)

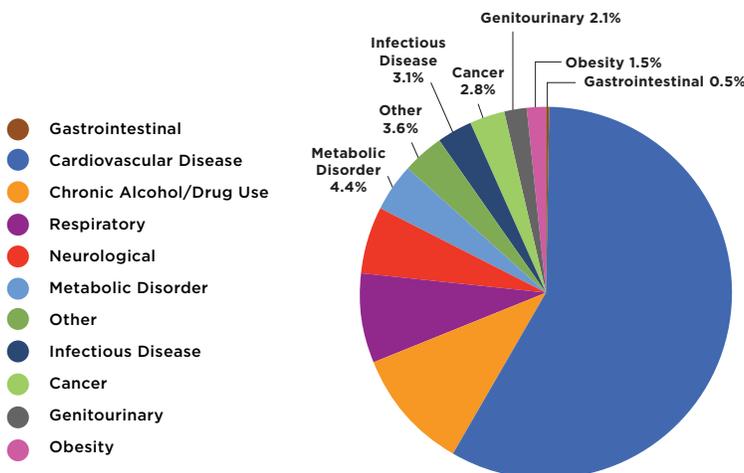


HOMICIDE DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2019)

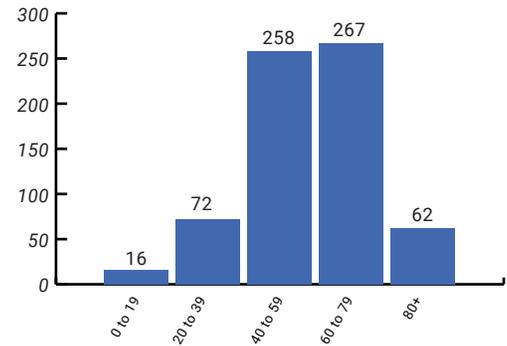


Manner of Death: Natural

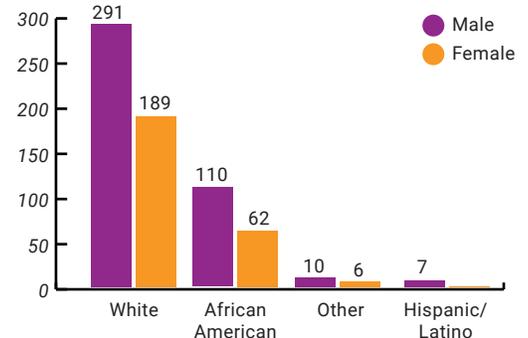
A natural death is one due to a spontaneous or naturally occurring disease or degenerative process. A death so classified can fall under the jurisdiction of the Coroner because of the sudden or unexpected nature of the death, because there was no physician with knowledge or awareness of the decedent's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



NATURAL DEATHS BY AGE (2019)

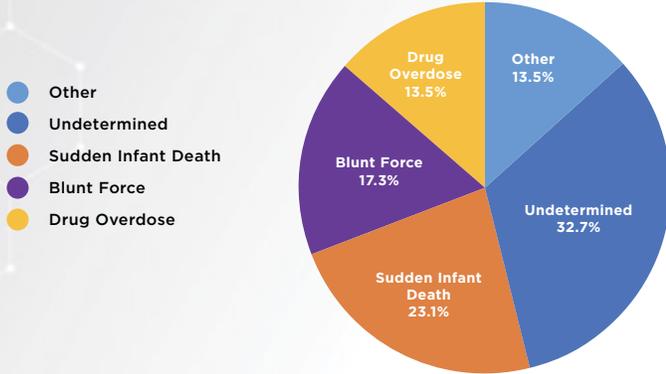


NATURAL DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2019)

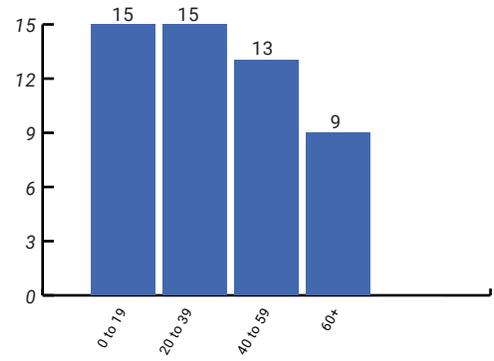


Manner of Death: Undetermined

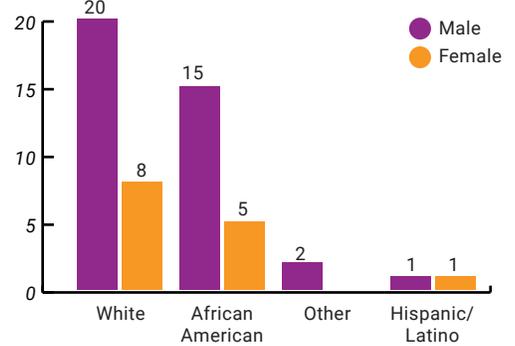
“Undetermined” is a classification used when the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than one or more other competing manners of death in thorough consideration of all available information.



UNDETERMINED DEATHS BY AGE (2019)

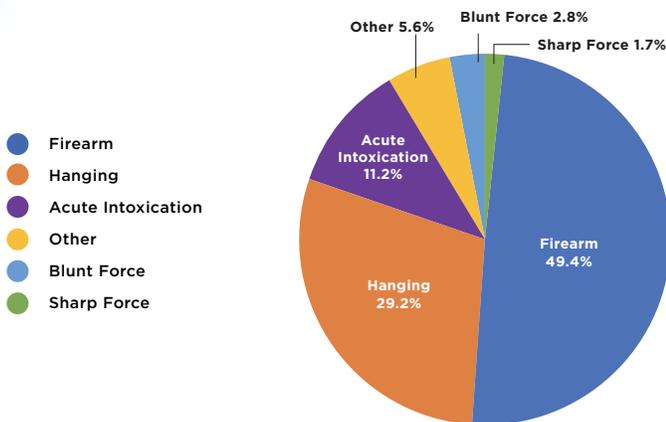


UNDETERMINED DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2019)

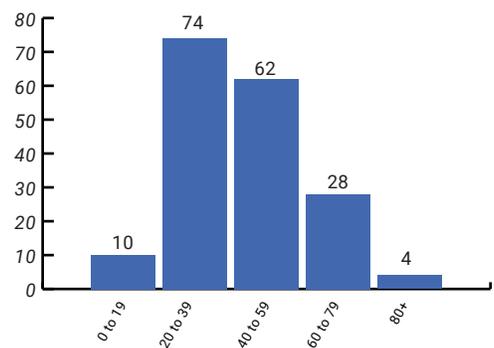


Manner of Death: Suicide

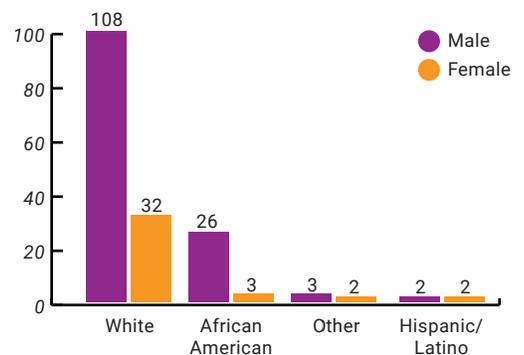
A suicide is a death resulting from a self-inflicted injury which ends one's life.



SUICIDE DEATHS BY AGE (2019)



SUICIDE DEATHS BY RACE AND GENDER (2019)





FRANKLIN COUNTY FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

In the spring of 2020, the Franklin County Coroner's Office will transition from 520 King Avenue on The Ohio State University's campus to 2090 Frank Road on the city's south side. The new Franklin County Forensic Science Center will include 8 autopsy stations, a toxicology lab, an imaging suite which will include a CT machine and Lodox, Investigators' work area, and other operational and administrative spaces that will support the agencies mission. The new facility will support the population growth in Franklin County and the surrounding counties for the next 30+ years. State-of-the-art design was created and thought out for the autopsy operations, non-invasive imaging procedures, audio-visual capability in conference spaces, designated counseling spaces and observation area and staff work areas.

Building Specifics

First Floor: 35,765 gross square feet

Second Floor: 20,889 gross square feet

Partners

Owners Representative:
Pizzuti Solutions

Design Team:
Moody Nolan, Korda Engineering,
MWL Architects, EMH&T

Construction Manger at Risk:
Corna-Kokosing-Elford (CKE)

Commissioning Agent:
Four Seasons Environmental

Construction Material Testing:
CTL

UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS

The Investigations and morgue departments 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 investigators 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 National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

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 second annual 'Ohio Missing Persons Day' event hosted by the Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigations at Battelle in July 2019. 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
17-1051	3/28/2017	Jane Doe	IDENTIFIED	17067	Human legs (female) located at a recycling facility
91-1326	5/5/1991	John Doe	IDENTIFIED	Pending	The decedent was found after a fire in Pomeroy, Meigs County. The remains were charred beyond recognition.
19-1501	4/28/2019	John Doe	IDENTIFIED	57155	An individual located the victim lying on a parking lot in the 3800 block of West Broad St.
19-1829	5/25/2019	Unknown	IDENTIFIED		Two individuals located skeletonized remains in an abandoned building in the 1000 block of Joyce Ave.
18-2587	7/20/2018	John Doe	IDENTIFIED		The decedent was found in Fairwood Park. No ID was located within belongings.



THE FRANKLIN COUNTY FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

OFFICE OF THE CORONER

2090 Frank Road,
Columbus, Ohio 43223
614-525-5290

coroner.franklincountyohio.gov