



Office of the State Medical Examiner

Why is the state medical examiner important to Iowans?

Iowa has more than 28,000 deaths each year. Of these deaths, approximately 5,000 need a death investigation by the county medical examiner, deputy medical examiner, investigators and/or the state office.

Approximately 1,500 deaths per year require autopsy. Of those autopsies, over 1,100 are performed at the State Medical Examiner facility in Ankeny, Iowa.

State Medical Examiner forensic pathologists provide expert witness testimony at depositions, grand juries, and state and federal criminal and civil trials. The Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner has been accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) since 2008.

Did you know?

The physicians employed by the Office of the State Medical Examiner (OSME) are all board certified in anatomic, clinical and forensic pathology.

A focus on health equity

OSME staff travel to provide training to county medical examiner personnel around the state. This training emphasizes core principles and procedures for both rural and urban medicolegal death investigation. OSME staff are partnering with the Bureau of Vital Statistics to construct upgrades to the electronic death registry system for online medical examiner reporting.

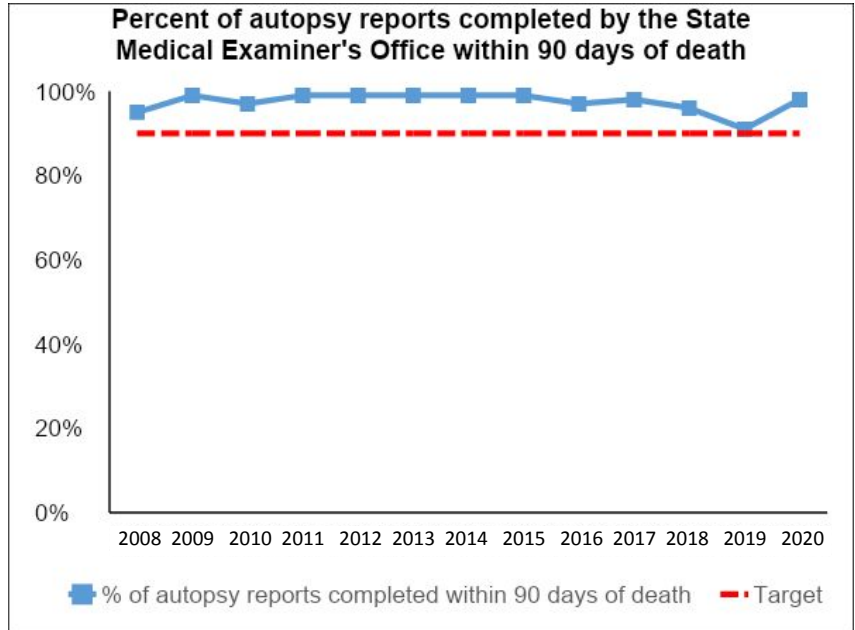
What does the department do?

- Provides 24/7 consultation to all counties pertaining to death investigations.
- Performs over 1,100 autopsies and reviews over 5,000 reports annually.
- Provides funding for county medical examiners and/or medicolegal death investigators to attend training.
- Provides lectures, tours and presentations to schools, professional groups and other government agencies.
- Provides internships for investigators, radiology technologists, clinical laboratory scientists and medical office specialists from many schools throughout Iowa.
- Maintains a database of medical examiner cases statewide.
- Forensic pathologists provide lectures to medical students, residents, mortuary science students, and county medical examiners and their investigators.
- Provides basic death investigation training sessions across the state to county level investigators and medical examiners.
- Provides clinical rotations for medical students and internships for undergraduate students.
- Coordinates and leads the state's Disaster Response Team for mass fatality incidents.
- Oversee the state's Child Death Review Team.



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How do we measure our progress?



What can Iowans do to help?

- Every Iowan can view the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner as an independent and objective investigative agency.
- Appreciate the value that independent, high-quality death investigation brings to public health and safety, and fairness to the judicial system.

Resources

	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Actual	SFY 2021 Estimate
State Funds	\$822,084	\$814,769	\$814,769
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$39,250
Other Funds	\$2,164,019	\$3,586,837	\$3,086,640
Total Funds	\$2,986,103	\$4,401,606	\$3,940,929
FTEs	17.61	20.24	14.00