

McHenry County Coroner's Office

Dr. Michael R. Rein, D.C.



2022

Annual Report

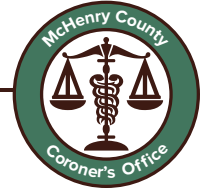


Table of Contents

Dedication 3

Personal Message 4

Introduction to McHenry County and its Population 5

McHenry County Coroner Collaborative Organizations 6-7

Organizational Chart 8

Mission Statement and Vision 9

Core Values 10

Highlights CY 2022 11

Goals CY 2023 12

Coroner Jurisdiction 13

What Does a Death Investigation Entail 14

Manner of Death Statistics 15

Types of Calls/Calls Investigated 16

Death by Sex/Death by Age 17

Additional Statistics 18

Comparing Drug Overdose Statistics 19

Toxicology Statistics 20

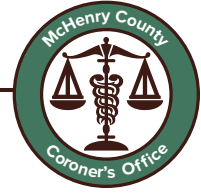
Organ Donor/Transplant Statistics 21

Covid 19 Statistics 22-23



Dedication:

We give recognition to each person within this report whose death is grieved by their beloved family, friends and community. Let us remember them in our memories, in our hearts and in our prayers. This report is dedicated to each life lost for we are their voice and justice.



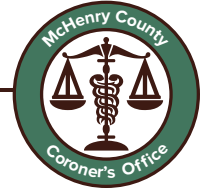
To the citizens of McHenry County,

Welcome to the first annual report that has been put forth by the McHenry County Coroner's Office. This report will show statistical analysis along with an insight into our operations and yearly activities. I want to thank my staff that continually go above and beyond to make the office what it is today. I also want to thank the citizens of McHenry County who are the beneficiaries of the office's ongoing integrity and professionalism. We are excited to show you our progress from 2022 which will help us grow and build a professional foundation for decades to come.

Michael R Rein, D.C.

McHenry County Coroner





Introduction to McHenry County and its Population

McHenry County was formed back in 1836 and encompasses an area of 611 square miles. It is located about 1.5 hours northeast of Chicago and is considered one of the 5 major collar counties, surrounding Chicago. Though McHenry County is the 6th largest county by population of 102 in Illinois, agriculture is a major economic footprint to the county. McHenry County consists of 30 different cities/towns/villages and includes Algonquin, Barrington Hills, Bull Valley, Cary, Crystal Lake, Fox Lake, Fox River Grove, Greenwood, Harvard, Hebron, Holiday Hills, Huntley, Island Lake, Johnsburg, Lake In the Hills, Lakemoor, Lakewood, Marengo, McCullom Lake, McHenry, Oakwood Hills, Port Barrington, Prairie Grove, Richmond, Ringwood, Spring Grove, Trout Valley, Union, Wonder Lake, and Woodstock. The city of Woodstock is considered the county seat of McHenry County.

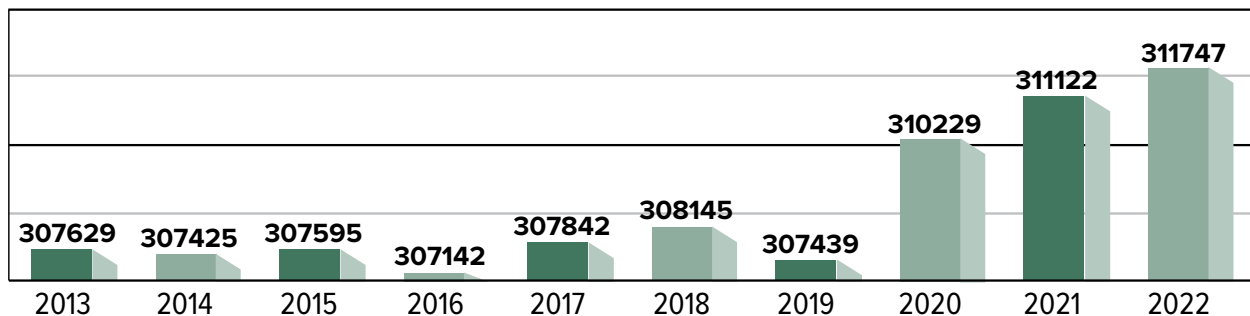
McHenry County was estimated to have approximately 311,747 residents in 2022 according to the U.S. Census. Race of McHenry County is made up of the following: Caucasian 79%, Hispanic/Latino 14.7%, Asian 3.1%, African American 1.9%, American Indian/Alaska Native 0.6%, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander 0.1%.

Age demographics consists of 18 years old and under 22.9%, 19-64 years old 61.2% and 65 years old and older 15.9%.

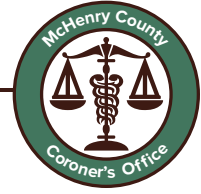
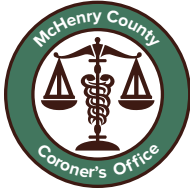
McHenry County consist of 3 hospitals with another under construction in Crystal Lake to be opened in July 2023. These consist of the following:

- Northwestern McHenry 166 beds Level II Trauma Center
- Northwestern Huntley. 128 beds Level II Trauma Center
- Mercy Harvard 50 beds
- Mercy Crystal Lake 13 beds

Estimates in Population of McHenry County over past 10 yrs.



*2013-2022 source U.S. Census Bureau and USAFacts.org

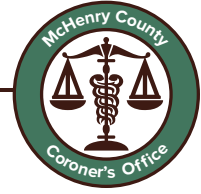


The McHenry County Coroner's Office works with many different organizations and agencies on a daily basis. Some of these organizations we are active participating members either via zoom or in person meetings. These meetings can be monthly or quarterly. We take great pride working with these organizations and helping our communities.

McHenry County Coroner Collaborative Organizations

1. Adult at Risk Fatality Review Team **(Active Member)**
2. Child Death Review Team **(Active Member)**
3. Drug Coalition of McHenry County **(Active Member)**
4. Eversight (Cornea Transplant Organization)
5. FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)
6. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
7. Fire Departments (In and Around McHenry County)
8. Funeral Homes
9. Gift of Hope (Organ and Tissue Donation Organization)
10. Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association (ICMEA) **(Active Member)**
11. International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) **(Active Member)**
12. IVDRS/SUDORS (Illinois Violent Death Reporting System/State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System) **(Active Member)**
13. Lamplight Body Donation (Medical Research not Organ Donation)
14. Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT)
15. McHenry County Clerk's Office
16. McHenry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
17. McHenry County Health Department
18. McHenry County Major Investigation Assistance Team (MIAT)
19. McHenry County Mental Health Services/Mental Health Board
20. McHenry County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) **(Active Member)**
21. McHenry County Sheriff and All Law Enforcement in the County
22. McHenry County States Attorney
23. McHenry County Suicide Prevention Task Force (MCSPTF) **(Active Member)**
24. Metra and All Railroad Companies
25. Mercy Health System
26. NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board)
27. Northwestern Medicine
28. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
29. Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC)





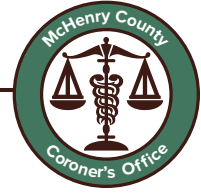
Mission Statement

The Mission of the McHenry County Coroner's Office is to provide professionalism and independently seek the truth by combining forensic science and medicolegal death investigation. To provide the people of McHenry County with a thorough investigation in the unlikely event of a death, and to ensure that the facts surrounding the death are as complete as possible to determine the cause and manner of death. To serve our community with integrity and compassion and follow the laws set forth under the County's Code, Coroner Division 55 ILCS 5/3 by the State of Illinois; and to work collaboratively with our community, the public health department, and the legal system to reduce preventable deaths in McHenry County.

Vision

To be recognized as a trustworthy source of accurate, scientifically based assessments of deaths in our community by performing industry standard death investigations as a fully accredited office through the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners (IACME).





Core Values

Service – We strive to offer effective, positive, ethical, and compassionate service to all members of the public and to one another.

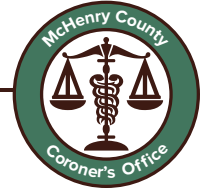
Integrity – We commit to being professional and courteous in all our interactions, both with the public we serve and each other. We commit to being honest, ethical, and diligent. We commit to being personally accountable for our words and actions and to help cultivate an organization of integrity by expecting the same of others. We do the right thing.

Compassion – We commit to being empathetic to the public we serve. To be mindful of our speech and actions in how they may affect others.

Positivity – We recognize that our perspective is critical to our attitude and commit to approaching challenges with a positive attitude.

Adaptability – We understand that nothing is constant. We commit to seeing the value of change and view it as an opportunity for improvement.

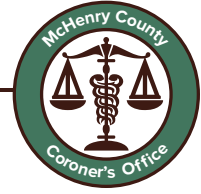
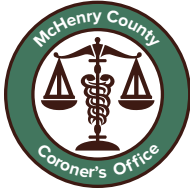
Teamwork – We acknowledge the critical importance of other members in our department and of other agencies with whom we work with. We are dedicated in cultivating a positive and solutions-oriented environment in working together to solve all situations.



The following list of highlights and goals are just a snapshot of what Coroner Rein and his staff have accomplished since he took office on December 1, 2020. The Chief Deputy Coroner, Deputy Coroners, and Deputy Coroner Secretary are the strength and have the willingness to continue to improve the Coroner's Office daily to reach out goals.

HIGHLIGHTS CY 2022

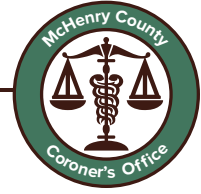
- Continued the accreditation process with the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners that will conclude in 2023.
- Attended the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Symposium.
- Became one of the first Coroner's Offices in the State of Illinois to start a new policy/procedure with Gift of Hope (GOH) that arranges for tissue and organ donations. Our office has nearly a 50% higher success rate than average, under GOH region in Illinois and Indiana, since starting the program in October 2021.
- Was awarded a \$113,175.00 DOJ grant to help upgrade coroner offices seeking accreditation – this DOJ grant has provided training, contractual services, and physical upgrades to our office.
- Participated in the inaugural Suicide Prevention Walk and Ride for Recovery (Overdose Awareness) events.
- Signed up new Deputy Coroners to become ABMDI qualified. ABMDI is the gold standard for investigators in their field.
- Sent 2 Deputy Coroners to the week long Basic Medicolegal Death Investigators Training Course in St. Louis.
- Successfully streamlined receiving medical records from Northwestern Medical Group that reduced turnaround times from up to over a week to less than 24 hours.
- Worked with and created new policies with the US Product Consumer Safety Commission regarding deaths that may be caused by consumer products.
- Continued to work with Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University on the Illinois Violent Death Reporting Systems (IVRDS) and Statewide Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)
- Remained an active member of the McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition, McHenry County Sexual Assault Response Team, McHenry County Suicide Prevention Task Force, Child Death Review Team, and Adult at Risk Fatality Review Team.
- Updated office workstations and organized storage areas for better work environment.
- Created a better process to document and destroy prescription medications collected from scenes.
- Staggered Deputy Coroners shifts to handle daily workload for better efficiencies.
- Updated many new policies and protocols as needed.



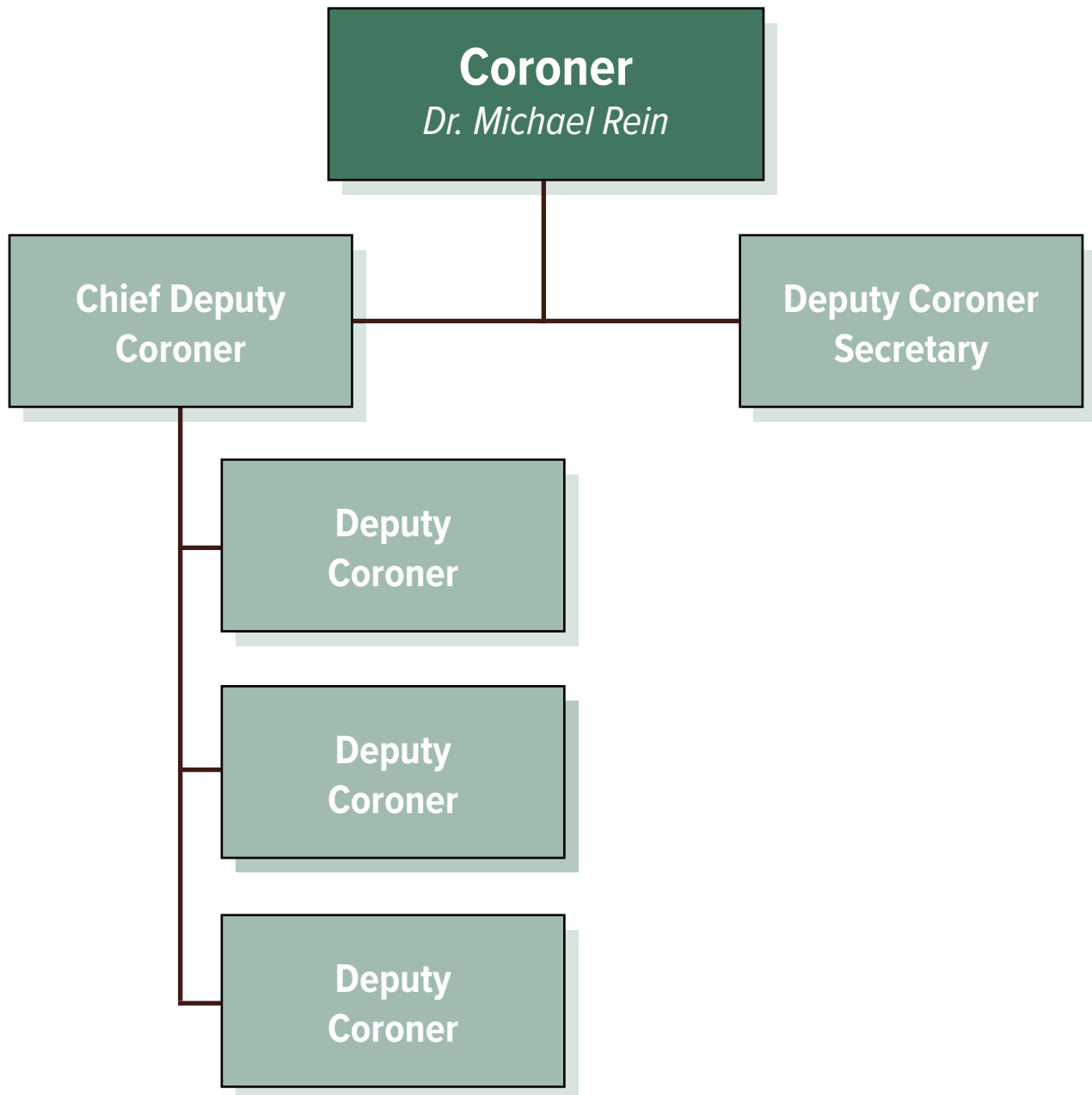
Goals CY 2023

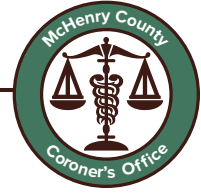
- Complete the Coroner's Office accreditation process to be only the 3rd accredited office in the State of Illinois.
- Have all case files dating as far back as 1877 to be digitally scanned, indexed, and stored within the Coroner's Office database and McHenry County's On Base System.
- Begin planning the upgrade of the morgue and autopsy suite during FY2023/2024.
- Organize new procedure when a decedent has a pet, that the pet is taken into a home the decedent arranged to go to as soon as possible.
- Purchase a new on-call vehicle that will replace an aging vehicle more than 10 years old.
- Host a day long seminar for McHenry County Funeral Directors in December.
- Continue to take part in the Basic and Masters Medicolegal Death Investigators Training Courses.
- Continue our support with local schools for presentations and tours of the Coroner's Office.
- Continue to be a leader in organ and tissue donations.
- Continue high quality assurance programs, policies, and procedures for operational effectiveness and efficiencies.
- Continue working collaboratively with law enforcement, fire departments, hospitals, and all other agencies when McHenry County.





McHenry County Coroner Organizational Chart

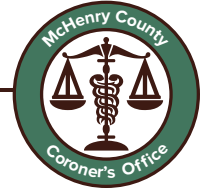




Coroner Jurisdiction:

The following list serves as a guideline as when to notify the coroner:

- Any death suspected of being a sudden or violent death, whether suicide or homicide.
- Any death where the circumstances are suspicious, obscure, mysterious, or otherwise unexplained.
- Any accidental deaths: motor vehicle accidents; anesthetic; traumatic or other forms of mechanical violence; burns; cutting or stabbing; drowning (actual or suspected); electric shock; explosion; exposure; firearms; falls or fractures; carbon monoxide-poisoning; hanging; heat exhaustion; strangulation; suffocation; poisoning.
- Any death arising out of employment.
- Any maternal or fetal death arising out of criminal or self-induced abortion.
- Any death due to a sex crime or crime against nature.
- Any death due to suspicious or unusual circumstances or unknown circumstances (body found).
- Any death resulting from domestic violence.
- Any death where addiction to alcohol or drug use may have been a contributing factor.
- Any death where the decedent is not attended by a physician, or the physician cannot be found.
- Any death of a "dead on arrival" or death within 24 hours of admission to a Health Care facility.
- Any death in state institutions (penal or mental health), wards of the state in private care Facilities and programs.
- Any death where a cremation of the remains is to take place.



What Does a Death Investigation Entail?

Cause of Death is the disease or injury that begins the process that leads to death, the “what happened” that resulted in death.

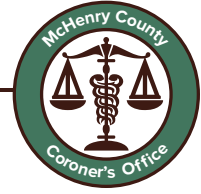
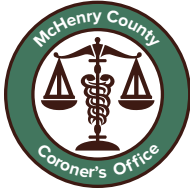
Manner of Death is the circumstances surrounding the death, the “how” did death occur. Manner of Death is classified as natural, accident, suicide, homicide or undetermined.

Many different tools are used to make these determinations that will ultimately be recorded on a permanent death certificate.

These tools include:

- **Scene Investigation** - Interviews with family, friends, witnesses, and/or first responders.
- **Medical History** - Review of medical and surgical records, interviews with treating physicians, nurses, caretakers, etc.
- **Autopsy** - An external exam and internal surgical procedure performed by a forensic pathologist. This is performed on a case-by-case basis as outlined in the Illinois State Statutes and at the discretion of the coroner. Preliminary results are available the day on which an autopsy is performed. A final report is available, generally, within 3 months. At which point, the next of kin will be notified of all findings.
- **Toxicology Testing** - Testing of bodily fluids including blood, urine, vitreous, etc. to determine the presence of drugs, both prescription and illicit. Appropriate specimens are sent to an accredited forensics laboratory. After a cause of death is determined, all testing results will be discussed with the next of kin and forwarded to the appropriate authorities.
- **Histology** - This is a microscopic examination of tissue samples collected at an autopsy. Histology is only performed at the discretion of the Pathologist and Coroner. This involves processing of tissues, preparation of slides, and interpretation of findings.
- **Other** - Many other tests and consultants may be used in a death investigation. Results of all findings will be made known to the next of kin.





Manner of Death	Total Deaths 2,023
Natural	1,867
Brain	332
Cardiac	599
Cancer	421
Lung	298
Other	217
Accident	80
Drug Overdose	29
Motor Vehicle Accident	27
Fall	13
Other	11
Suicide	45
Hanging	11
Gunshot Wound	20
Drug Overdose	8
Cutting	3
Other	3
Homicide	1
Gunshot Wound	1
Undetermined	6

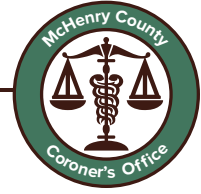
Natural: Deaths caused only by disease with no underlying contributors such as injuries or drugs.

Accident: Unnatural deaths where there is no evidence of intent.

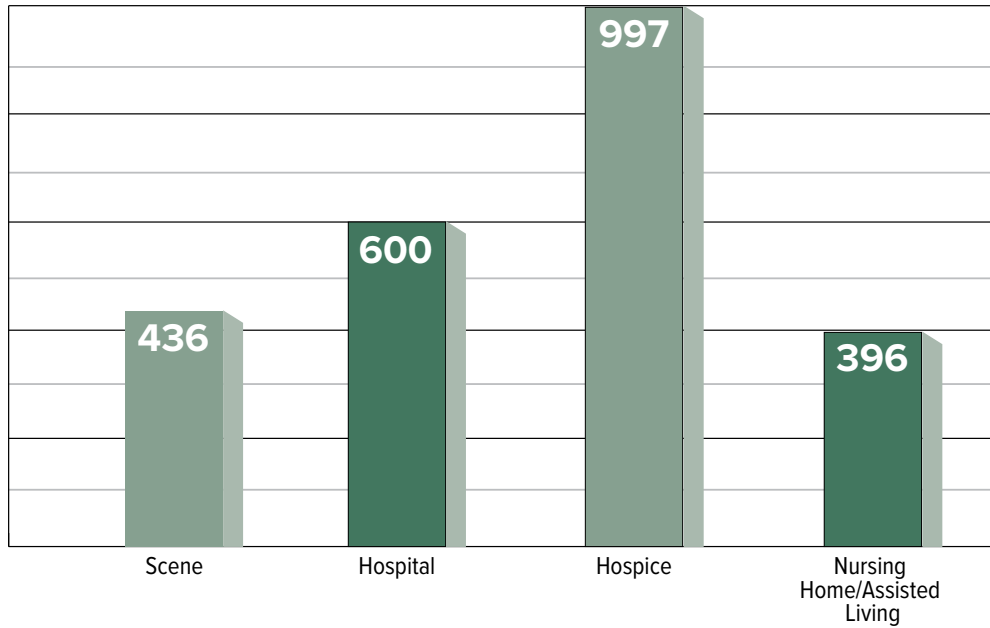
Suicide: Self-inflicted deaths where there is evidence of intent.

Homicide: Deaths resulting from injuries intentionally inflicted by another person (explicit or implicit) or inflicted on another by one's grossly reckless behavior.

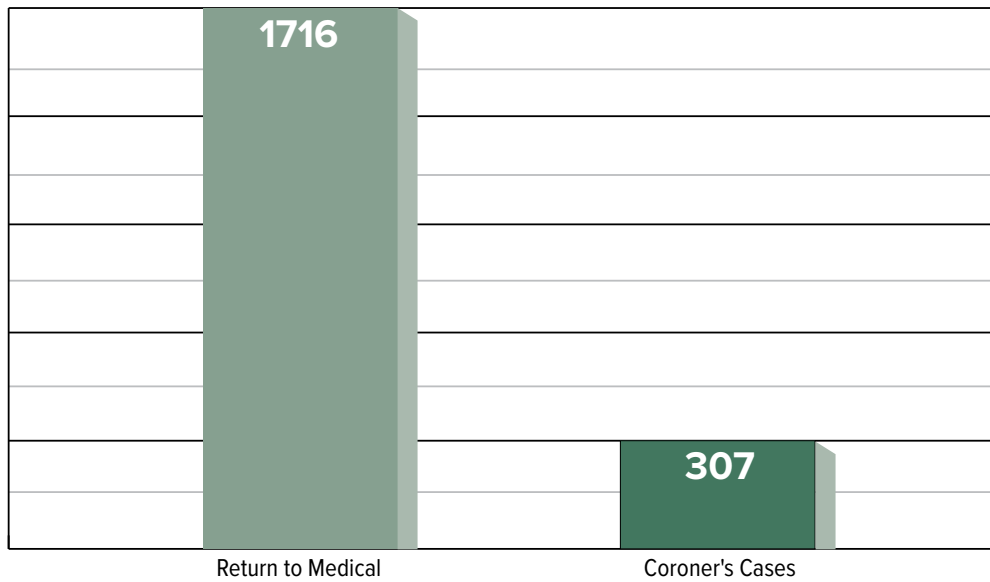
Undetermined: Deaths with insufficient or conflicting evidence of intent.

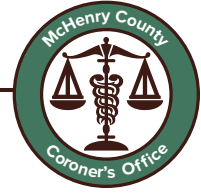


Types of Calls

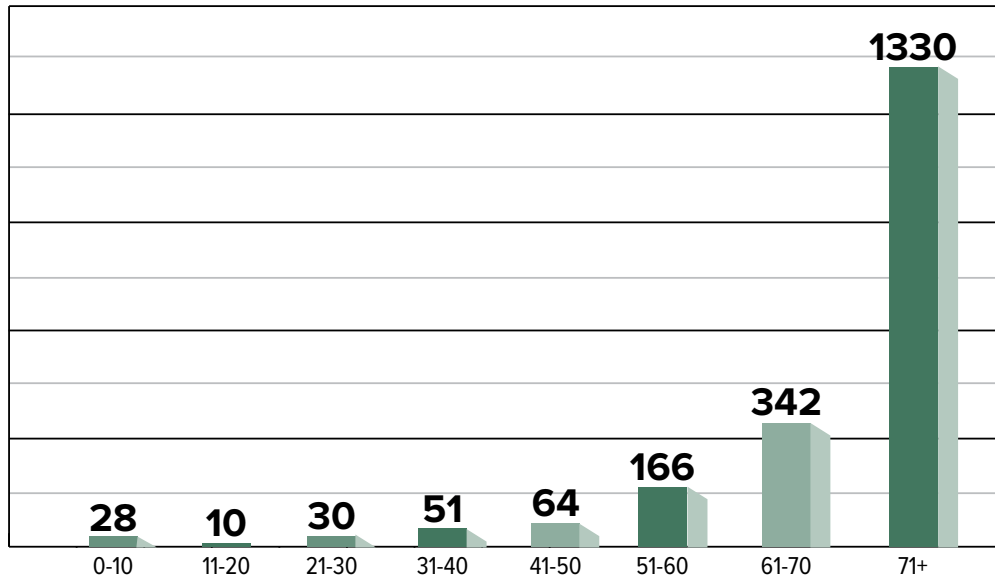


Calls Investigated

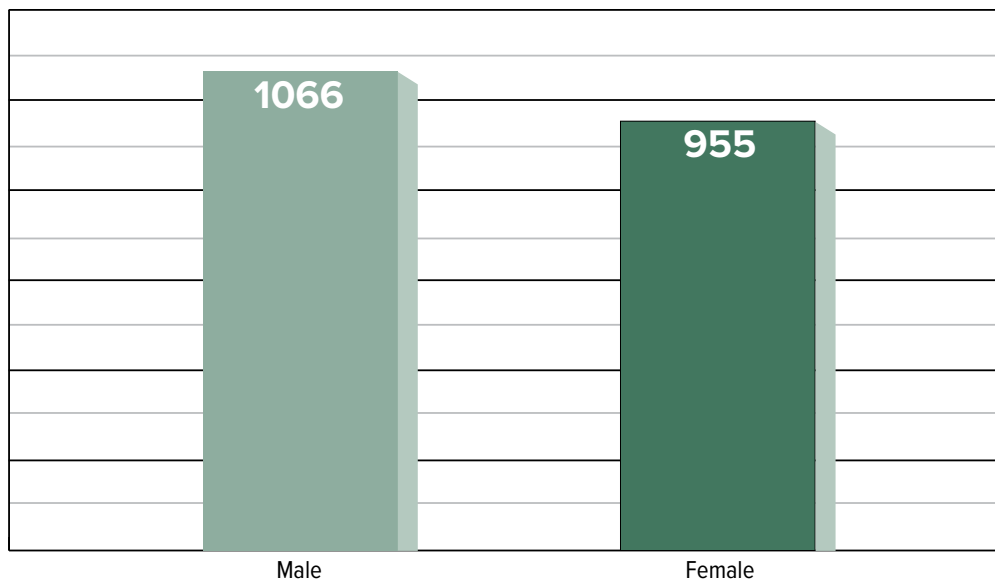


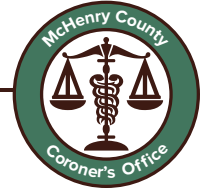


Deaths by Age



Deaths by Sex

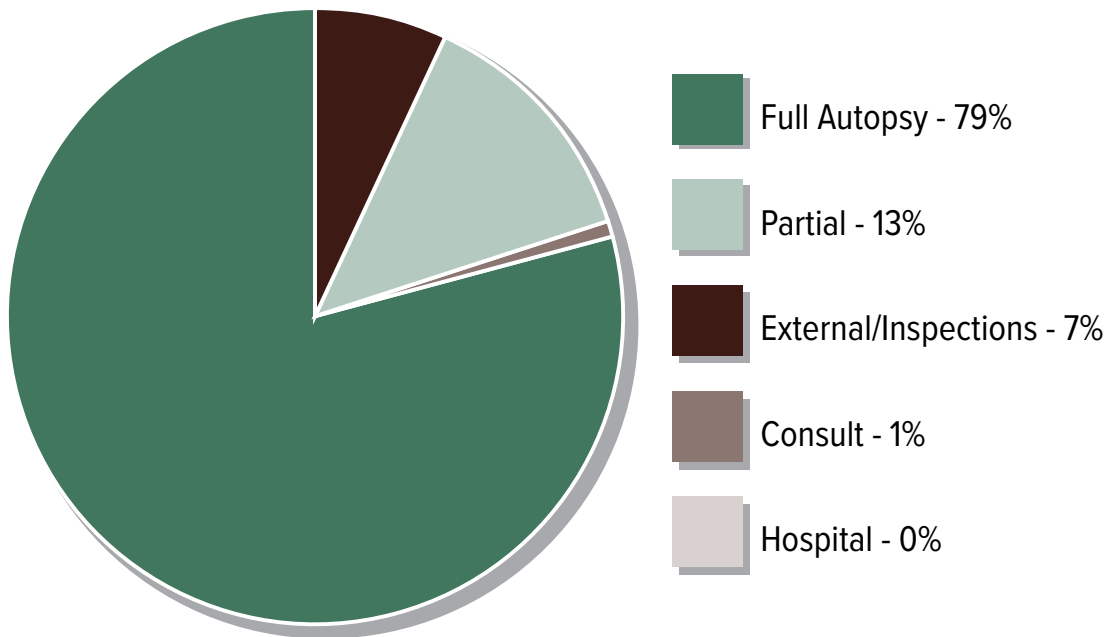


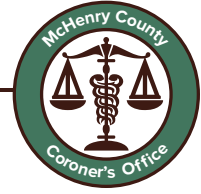
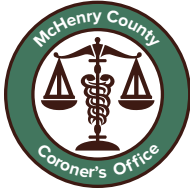


2022 Additional Statistics

Fetal Deaths	22
Unidentified Bodies	0
Unclaimed Bodies	1
Exhumations	0
Organ/Tissue Referrals	55
Bodies Transported by the MCCO	158
Bodies Transported to the MCCO	158
Hospital Autopsies under MCCO Jurisdiction	0

Autopsies



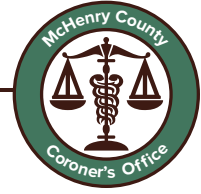


Comparing Drug Overdose Statistics

Drug Related Deaths	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fentanyl	10	11	9	10
Fentanyl + Opiates	5	4	2	2
Fentanyl + Heroin	7	8	4	2
Fentanyl + Cocaine	1	0	1	3
Fentanyl + Cocaine + Non-Opiates	0	1	3	3
Fentanyl + Cocaine + Opiates	0	0	1	0
Fentanyl + Non-Opiates	1	2	5	5
Fentanyl + Opiates + Non-Opiates	0	0	4	0
Fentanyl + Heroin + Cocaine	0	0	1	0
Fentanyl + Heroin + Cocaine + Opiates	0	1	0	0
Fentanyl + Heroin + Cocaine + Non-Opiates	0	2	0	0
Fentanyl + Heroin + Cocaine + Opiates + Non-Opiates	0	0	0	0
Fentanyl + Heroin + Opiates + Non-Opiates	0	0	1	0
Fentanyl + Heroin + Opiates	0	1	0	0
Fentanyl + Heroin + Non-Opiates	2	4	1	3
Heroin	1	2	1	0
Heroin + Cocaine	1	0	0	0
Heroin + Non-Opiates	0	1	0	1
Cocaine	2	0	1	1
Cocaine + Opiates	0	0	0	0
Cocaine + Non-Opiates	0	1	1	0
Cocaine + Opiates + Non-Opiates	0	0	2	0
Opiates	2	6	1	2
Non-Opiates	3	5	3	7
Opiates + Non-Opiates	2	3	4	1
Total	37	52	45	40

*Opiates (Hydro/Oxycodone, Tramadol, Heroin, etc.)

*Non-Opiates (Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, etc.)



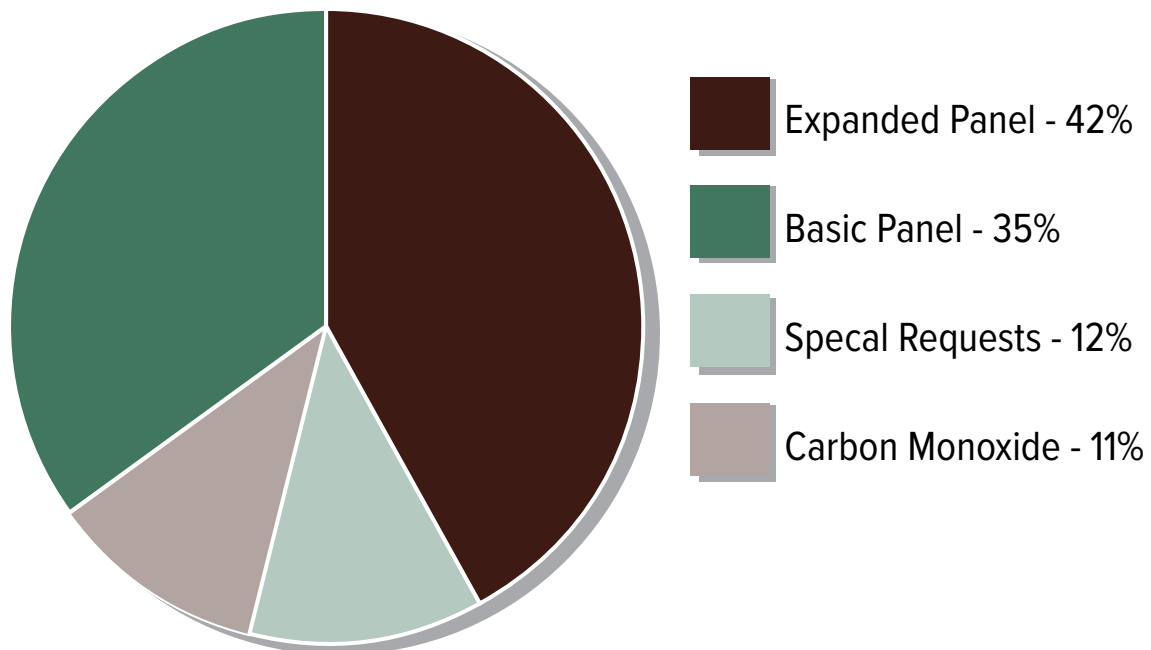
Toxicology 2022

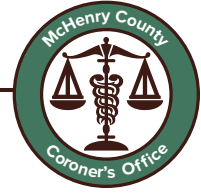
Expanded Panel: The full basic panel plus expanded coverage of prescription and illicit drugs, and prevalent designer drugs. Allows for active surveillance of NPS (Novel psychoactive Substances).

Basic Panel: Commonly abused illicit drugs, commonly abused prescription drugs, and alcohol.

Special Requests: Electrolytes and Glucose Panels

Carbon Monoxide: Carbon Monoxide Exposure Screening

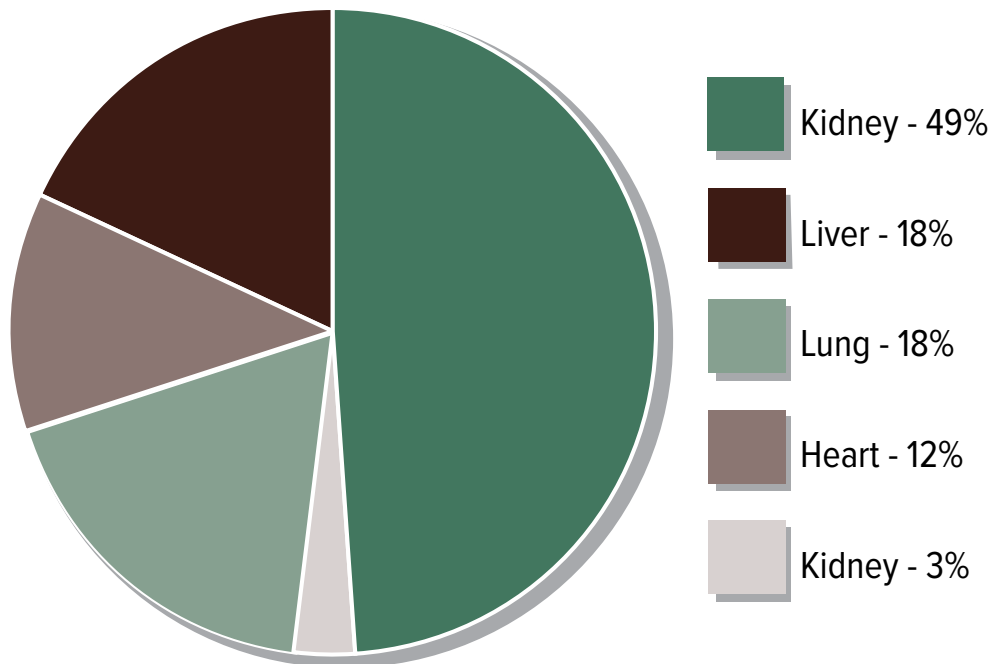


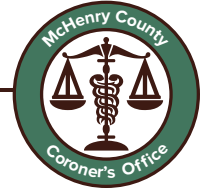


Transplanted Organs

The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act was passed in the United States in 1968, with subsequent revisions being made in 1987 and 2006. The Act has put in place a regulatory framework for the donation of corneas, tissues, organs, and other body parts. An individual can provide first person consent to be a donor prior to their death by placing themselves on the donor registry.

Otherwise after death, an individual's next-of-kin can provide authorization for recovery if they so wish. In 2022, partnering with Gift of Hope (GOH), McHenry County Coroner's Office helped coordinate 55 organ and tissue donors. There were 46 individuals who were able to harvest tissue donations, 37 were able to donate skin tissue, and 34 were able to donate bone tissue. With the high threshold for organ donation only 9 individuals were compatible for organ donation. Those 9 individuals were able to provide 35 organs. 33 of those organs were transplanted in 32 recipients. Below is a graph of the organs that were transplanted.

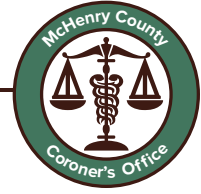
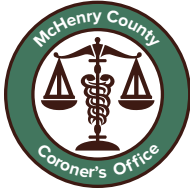




Covid-19 and the Role of McHenry County Coroner

In March of 2020 the world came to a standstill due to a new virus. A pandemic started that affected almost everyone in one way or another. It was at this time McHenry Coroner’s Office had to adapt while still providing high quality service regarding all deaths within the county. Under Sheriff Prim and Lt. Miller (acting Coroner), a new procedure and policy was implemented. This policy was simple: that any suspected COVID-19 death would be certified by the McHenry County Coroner’s Office and not by physicians, whether they were independent or under a hospital staff. If any physician stated that they felt the primary cause of death may be COVID-19, all medical records were sent to the Coroner’s Office to be reviewed. The partnership between Northwestern and Mercy, the primary medical groups in McHenry County, was exemplary. After taking office on December 1, 2020, I met with the Northwestern McHenry President and his staff and streamlined our processes in obtaining their records faster and more efficiently. Below you will see the statistics for all COVID-19 deaths that happened in McHenry County since the statistics started in March of 2020.

COVID-19 Related Deaths 2022		
Gender	Male	46
	Female	19
Ages	Under 30	1
	30-39	0
	40-49	3
	50-59	7
	60-69	13
	70-79	20
	80-89	18
	90-99	3
	100+	0
Place of Death	Hospital	51
	Nursing Home/Assisted Living	2
	Home	12
MCCO TOTAL		65



COVID-19 Related Deaths 2021		
Gender	Male	70
	Female	42
Ages	Under 30	0
	30-39	3
	40-49	3
	50-59	11
	60-69	27
	70-79	40
	80-89	19
	90-99	7
	100+	2
	Place of Death	Hospital
Nursing Home/Assisted Living		14
Home		10
MCCO TOTAL		112

COVID-19 Related Deaths 2020		
Gender	Male	81
	Female	69
Ages	Under 30	0
	30-39	0
	40-49	4
	50-59	13
	60-69	16
	70-79	37
	80-89	52
	90-99	26
	100+	2
	Place of Death	Hospital
Nursing Home/Assisted Living		45
Home		15
Other		1
MCCO TOTAL		150



McHenry County Coroner's Office

2200 N. Seminary Avenue

Woodstock, IL 60098

Office Phone: (815) 338-9392

Office Fax: (815) 334-1496

<https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov>