Medical Examiner
Department Management Report
June 2020

Overview

In April, the Medical Examiner's Office (ME) performed 63 autopsies. These included 39 (62 percent) autopsies of Mecklenburg County residents and 24 (38 percent) autopsies of residents of the five other counties within the ME's regional catchment area. Of the 63 total autopsies, 27 (43 percent) were to rule out overdoses; 17 (63 percent) of the overdose cases were for Mecklenburg residents. There were also 12 (19 percent) cases related to homicide, 8 (67 percent) were for Mecklenburg residents.

FY2020-FY2022 Strategic Business Plan Update

During the month of April, the ME's Office continued its efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The department instituted alternating schedules for staff to be in office and provided County laptops and cell phones to all ME Investigators and Pathologists for teleworking purposes which aligns to Goal 1, Objectives 1.1-1.3 of the Strategic Business Plan.

Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	FY20 YTD	FY19 YTD	Change YTD
Death Investigations	213	216	231	250	2,051	1,965	4.4%
Mecklenburg Autopsies	27	23	36	40	299	295	1.4%
Regional Autopsies	14	17	15	25	170	176	-3.4%
External Exams	56	44	56	58	526	468	12.4%
Other Death Investigations	116	132	124	127	1,056	1,026	2.9%

Context for Key Performance Indicators

- Regional autopsies are performed for Gaston, Cabarrus, Anson, Union, and Cleveland Counties.
- External Examinations are cases in which the Medical Examiner evaluates the medical history of the decedent and performs an external physical examination to determine the cause and manner of death.
- Other Death Investigations consist of storage cases, and any deaths reported to the office that do not fall under Medical Examiner jurisdiction. Each case type requires a different level of investigation, but it is important that each one is carefully reviewed to determine the correct disposition.
- Of the 65 total autopsies performed in March 30 were due to suspected overdoses (12 of the autopsies of Mecklenburg County residents were due to suspected overdoses).