



**REGIONAL MEDICAL
EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

2022 Annual Report

Washoe County
Regional Medical
Examiner's Office



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Chief's Report

History and Current Status

The history of the Medical Examiner's Office can be summed up in the pre-2007 and post-2007 eras. Prior to 2007, the office was the Washoe County Coroner Office (WCCO) and was managed by a layperson coroner. Pathologists were retained on a contract basis to perform autopsies, and frequently also actively practiced hospital pathology at the same time. Effective July 1, 2007, the Board of County Commissioners approved county code changes that established a Medical Examiner system in Washoe County, and the office became known as the Washoe County Medical Examiner-Coroner Office. A forensic pathologist was the Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner, and employed a second forensic pathologist as a full-time Assistant Medical Examiner; numerous part-time locum tenens pathologists from across the country were added over time to handle the increasing regional caseload. A Deputy Chief Medical Examiner position was added in 2015 due to both caseload and the need for succession planning. Dr. Ellen Clark was the first Chief Medical Examiner of the office and retired at the end of 2016 after many years of dedicated service.

The office relocated in January 2017 to the current site, 990 East 9th Street, to a modern, state-of-the-art facility, newly constructed in 2016. The office rebranded at this time the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO).

Dr. Laura Knight, previously Deputy Chief Medical Examiner from 2015-2016, became Chief Medical Examiner and Coroner in January 2017 and remains in that position. Three Assistant Medical Examiners complete the physician staff of the office. All forensic pathologists employed by the WCRMEO are board-certified by the American Board of Pathology in Forensic Pathology.

Total deaths reported to WCRMEO in 2022 were 6,206, leveling off after having peaked at an all-time high of 6,321 in 2021. This includes Washoe County deaths and all outside referral counties. In 2022, WCRMEO pathologists performed 974 autopsies (down slightly from 1,000 full autopsies and head-only autopsies in 2021); 367 medical external examinations, and 695 consultations (medical records review and death certificate completion).

The WCRMEO played a significant role in public health surveillance during the pandemic, collecting the first swab from a deceased individual to screen for COVID-19 on March 6, 2020. WCRMEO collected nasopharyngeal and other swabs for COVID-19 testing in 273 deceased individuals in 2021, with 98 positive results. In 2022, the office collected COVID-19 testing swabs in 156 cases, with 67 of those in January and February, with an approximately 50% positivity rate in those months and declining positive rate the rest of the year (21%, March to December overall). All deaths reported to the office during the pandemic were historically screened for COVID-19 symptoms. All cases certified as due to COVID-19 had a confirmed positive laboratory test for SARS-CoV2.

The WCRMEO continued to receive grant funding in 2022 from the CDC (through the state) for data entry into the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and for toxicology testing and related expenses from the SUDORS grant. Data entry through these programs is utilized for state and national level death prevention efforts.

Continuing Excellence and Future Goals

Future goals and priorities of the office include national accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners; continuing partnerships with organ and tissue donation organizations; mass fatality preparedness; and academic partnership with the University. We will continue to be the regional referral center for high quality autopsies, providing services on a contract basis to 18 additional counties in Nevada and Northern California, and the regional center for excellence in medicolegal death investigation. We will continue to conduct high quality mass fatality training exercises, and training conferences on medicolegal death investigation for surrounding county coroners and law enforcement. We will enhance the education of medical students, through cooperation with the University of Nevada-Reno School of Medicine, hopefully recruiting future forensic pathologists to the field to combat what has become a dire workforce shortage. Finally, and most importantly, we will strive to continue to serve the citizens of Washoe County with diligence, respect, and compassion, at a time when many of them are having the worst day of their lives, having lost a loved one.

Final Words

This report represents the 7th annual statistical and informational report of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office. It is my sincere hope that other community agencies, community leaders, law enforcement, regional county coroners, and citizens may find it interesting and useful. Additionally, I hope this data may be of use in prevention efforts, as many of the deaths that come to the attention of the Medical Examiner/Coroner are ultimately preventable.

Yours in service,

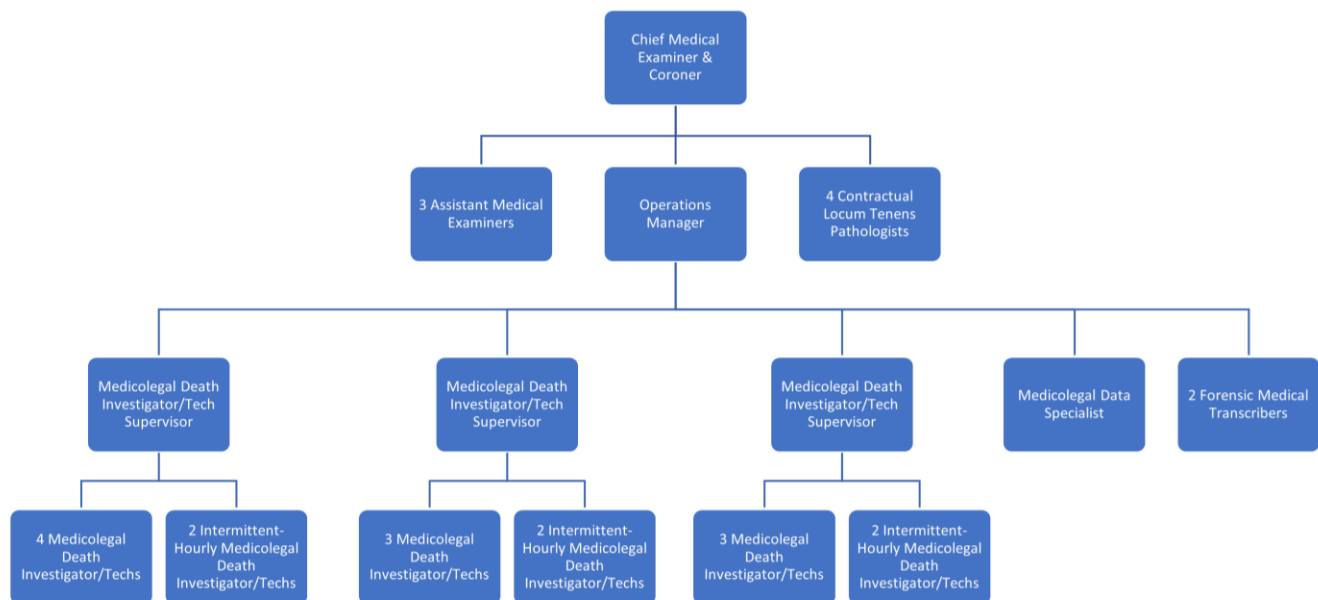


Dr. Laura D. Knight, MD
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Introduction

Organizational Chart



Mission Statement

The mission of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO) is to investigate unexpected and unexplained deaths in order to identify and report on the cause and manner of death. We apply scientific investigative techniques and medical procedures, with integrity and compassion, to serve families and public agencies impacted by sudden unexpected death.

Statutory Authority

The WCRMEO is primarily governed by Chapter 259, 440, and 451 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Chapter 35 of the Washoe County Code (WCC). NRS 259 requires that each county have a coroner and WCC 35 creates the Medical Examiner system to fulfill coroner duties.

Description

The Medical Examiner investigates sudden or unexpected deaths, traumatic deaths, and suspicious deaths. Certain categories of sudden death, by law, must be reported to and investigated by this office. All suspicious and many apparent natural death scenes in Washoe County are attended and evaluated by trained Medicolegal Death Investigators employed by the Medical Examiner's Office. Many reported deaths are ultimately determined to be due to natural causes, but a significant number of reported cases are found to be due to accidents, homicidal trauma, and suicides. Of the deaths reported to and falling within the office's jurisdiction in 2022 (not including deaths referred from outside counties on a contractual basis), 61% required autopsy or other medical examination and an additional 39% required detailed review of medical history and circumstances of death. Board-certified forensic pathologists (medical doctors specializing in forensic pathology) conduct these autopsy and medical examinations.

Responsibilities of the office include:

- Determining the cause and manner of death for jurisdictional cases
- Electronic certification of death certificates in all cases of unnatural death and in many cases of natural death
- Conducting investigations of death scenes
- Identifying, collecting and processing evidence in order to ensure scientific integrity and usefulness
- Recognizing unsuspected homicidal violence
- Recognizing and reporting communicable and dangerous diseases, poisonings, and consumer product safety concerns
- Positively identifying the dead
- Notifying the decedent's next of kin and providing proper assistance to grieving families
- Ensuring integrity of the personal property of decedents
- Providing expert legal testimony in criminal and civil matters
- Preparing for and responding to mass disasters
- Assisting in providing for burial of indigent citizens in accordance with law

Community and Academic Involvement

The WCRMEO is very active throughout the community. In 2022, WCRMEO staff made many presentations to the community including the Nevada Law Enforcement Academy, Nevada Department of Public Safety, the Peer Support Group, the Nevada Donor Network 2021 Funeral Home Symposium or Organ and Tissue Donation, and lectures to medical students at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). The office also holds a two-day conference on death scene investigation for law enforcement/coroner agencies in the region.

Most pathologists in the office have a letter of appointment to teach at the University of Nevada, Reno with a rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. In addition, the office hosted educational rotations for dozens of UNR medical students, as well as law enforcement officers, and many others.

In 2022, Dr. Laura Knight collaborated with the UNR Department of Anthropology on two scientific abstracts presented at the national conference of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences regarding estimation of the postmortem interval in high desert climates, and distribution of fracture types and locations in women stratified by menopausal status. She also was the senior author on a paper presented at the National Association of Medical Examiners in which she mentored UNR medical students studying patterns of anterior neck muscle hemorrhages in strangulation; the study was subsequently published in 2023 in the *American Journal of Forensic Medicine & Pathology*.

Staff participate in fatality review committees and other prevention efforts, including the NV State Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities, NV State Maternal Mortality Review Committee, Washoe County Child Fatality Review Team, local Substance Abuse Task Force, CDC NV Advanced Review Team for the Sudden Death in the Young project, and hospital-based peer review committees. The WCRMEO continued to receive grant funding in 2022 from the CDC (through the state) for data entry into the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) and for toxicology testing and related expenses from the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant. Data entry through these programs is utilized for state and national level death prevention efforts.

Awards and Honors

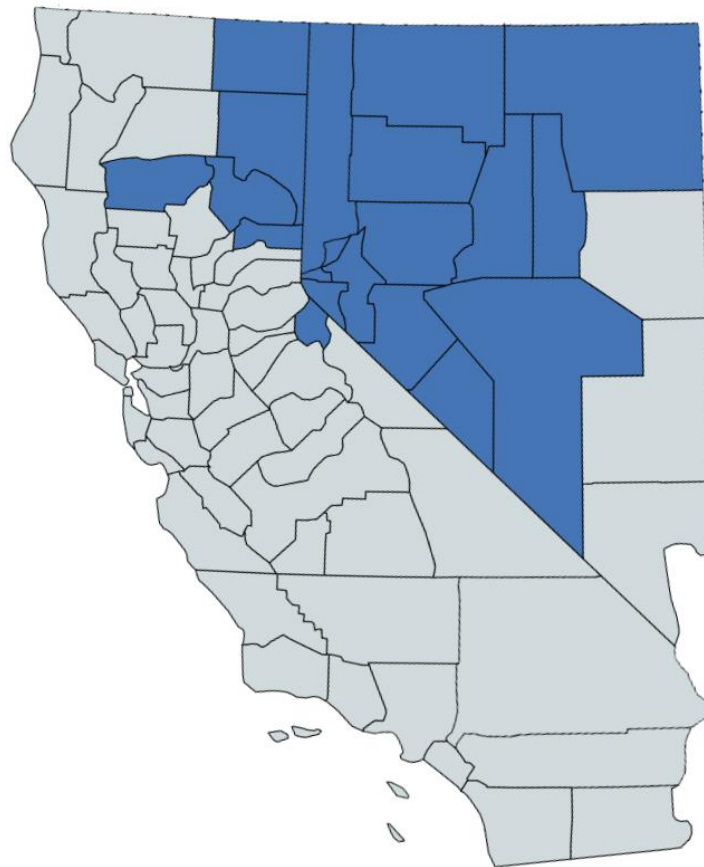
In 2022, the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office received the following awards:

- Hope Strength Life Award from Nevada Donor Network (NDN)
- The Platinum Level Partner Award from Nevada Donor Network and the US Health Resources and Services Administration
- Dr. Laura Knight was the Washoe County Woman of Achievement honoree at the Nevada Women's Fund "Salute to Women of Achievement" in June of 2022.

Jurisdiction and Service Area

The WCRMEO's primary jurisdiction is Washoe County. However, the office provides services to 13 additional Nevada counties (including the state capital) and 6 California counties through interlocal agreements.

California Counties
Alpine
Lassen
Modoc
Plumas
Sierra
Tehama



Nevada Counties
Carson City (state capital)
Churchill
Douglas
Elko
Esmeralda
Eureka
Humboldt
Lander
Lyon
Mineral
Nye
Pershing
Storey
Washoe

WCRMEO service area highlighted in blue

Examination Types and Descriptions

Autopsy	A full postmortem examination encompassing detailed examination of the exterior and interior of the body, including dissection of internal organs and structures, to determine cause of death. Specimens for additional studies, such as toxicology testing, are obtained during the autopsy.
Limited Autopsy-Head Only	An autopsy examination limited to the external examination of the entire body and internal examination of only the head. Used in select trauma or suspected trauma cases only. Toxicology specimens can be obtained during a limited autopsy.
External Examination	An examination of the exterior of the body that documents identifying features, stigmata of disease, and findings of injury, without accompanying internal dissection. Toxicology specimens such as blood can be obtained during an external examination.
Consultation	Death investigated by the WCRMEO in which no physical examination is performed because the decedent has well-documented medical condition(s) and no primary care physician, or trauma with prolonged hospitalization, determined to be the cause of death. A Medical Examiner reviews medical records and circumstances of death and completes the death certificate.
Jurisdiction Terminated	Natural death from known natural disease that is reported to the WCRMEO but does not fall within its jurisdiction

Manner of Death Types and Descriptions

Natural	Death caused by a natural disease or medical condition
Suicide	Death caused by a purposeful self-action with the intent of ending one's own life
Homicide	Death at the hands of another
Accident	Death caused by an unintentional action or external factor
Undetermined	Death in which the cause of death may or may not be known, but the circumstances in which the death came about are unknown or cannot be determined

General Statistics

In 2022, 97% of all deaths occurring in Washoe County were reported to the ME's Office

Total Cases Reported by Type

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	'21-'22 Percent Change
Autopsies	565	657	740	784	805	816	933	901	-3%
Consultations	655	641	534	527	463	578	704	695	-1%
External Exams	316	279	265	269	314	396	403	367	-9%
Head-Only Autopsy	27	54	42	48	48	48	67	73	9%
Jurisdiction Terminated	2255	2622	3103	3368	3450	4071	4214	4170	-1%
Total Cases Reported	3819	4253	4684	4996	5080	5909	6321	6206	-2%

State of Residence for All Reported Cases

Alabama	2	Louisiana	0	Ohio	2
Alaska	0	Maine	0	Oklahoma	0
Arizona	6	Maryland	0	Oregon	16
Arkansas	0	Massachusetts	1	Pennsylvania	1
California	403	Michigan	2	Rhode Island	0
Colorado	3	Minnesota	0	South Carolina	0
Connecticut	0	Mississippi	0	South Dakota	1
Delaware	0	Missouri	2	Tennessee	2
Florida	5	Montana	0	Texas	5
Georgia	0	Nebraska	1	Utah	5
Hawaii	0	Nevada	5576	Vermont	0
Idaho	4	New Hampshire	0	Virginia	0
Illinois	1	New Jersey	0	Washington	8
Indiana	2	New Mexico	2	West Virginia	0
Iowa	0	New York	1	Wisconsin	0
Kansas	0	North Carolina	0	Wyoming	0
Kentucky	1	North Dakota	0	Unknown/Other	154

Total Examination Cases* by Manner of Death

	2015**	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	'21-'22 Percent Change
Natural	288	326	431	483	511	540	615	458	-26%
Accident	237	263	358	352	369	421	483	559	16%
Suicide	137	170	165	165	191	180	210	204	3%
Homicide	34	38	46	42	42	60	49	55	12%
Undetermined	41	27	43	58	52	58	46	65	41%

*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO. Includes Washoe County and contractual cases.

**Manner of death for cases occurring outside Washoe County limits is not certified by the WCRMEO but rather the local county coroner. The majority of outside county cases are reported back to the WCRMEO by the jurisdiction agency with manner of death after the death is certified. Prior to mid-2015, cases occurring outside Washoe County returned no manner of death reporting.

Total Examination Cases* by Sex

	2022	Percentage
Male	977	73%
Female	362	27%
Unknown	2	<1%

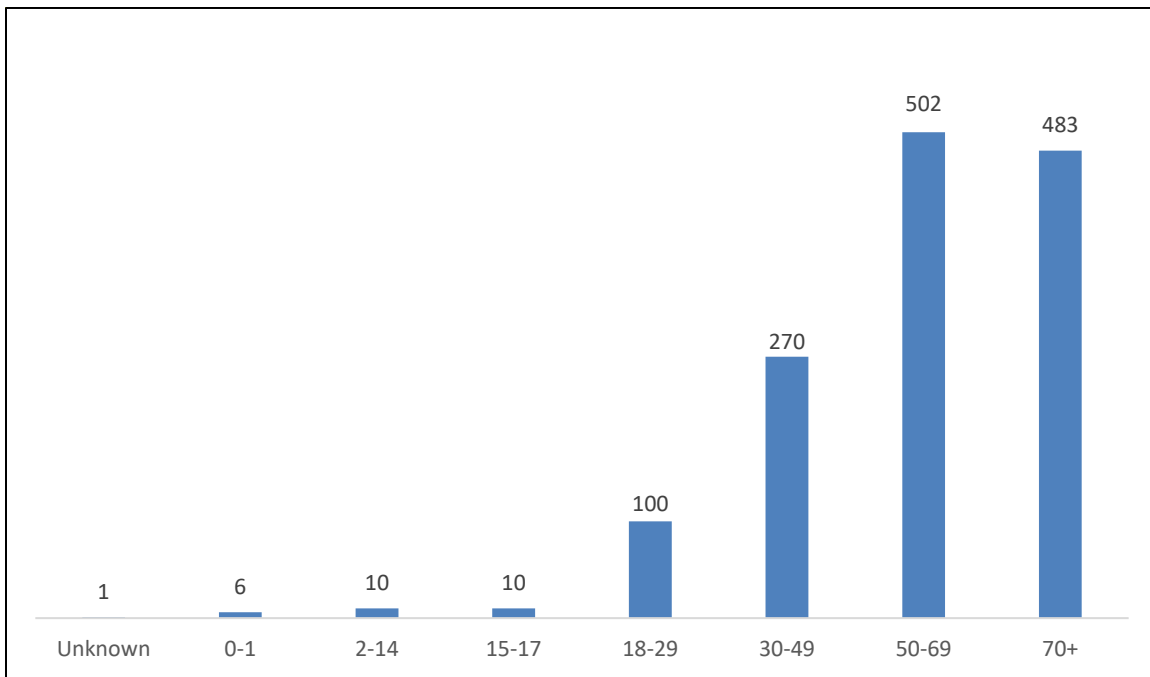
*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO. Includes Washoe County and contractual cases.

Total Examination Cases* by Race

	2022
White	1065
Hispanic/Latinx/South American	116
Black/African American	76
Asian/Pacific Islander	41
American Indian/Native American	31
Other/Unknown	16

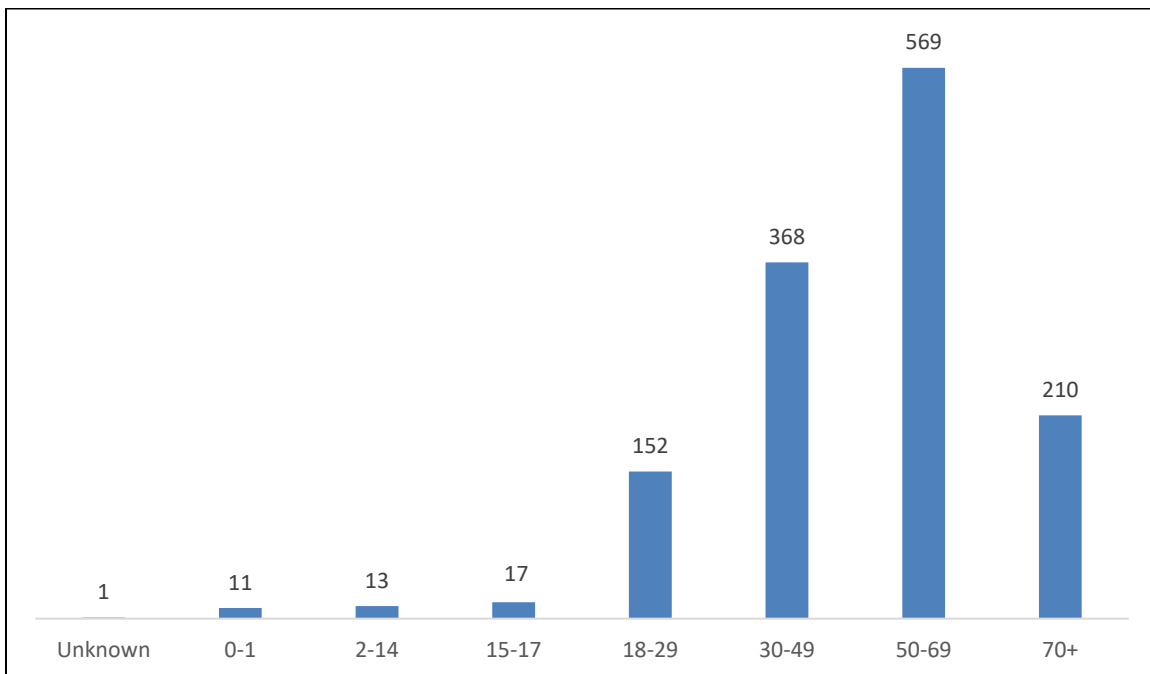
*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO. Race information is reported by next of kin. Multiple races may be reported for a single decedent. Includes Washoe County and contractual cases.

Total ME Jurisdictional Cases* by Age



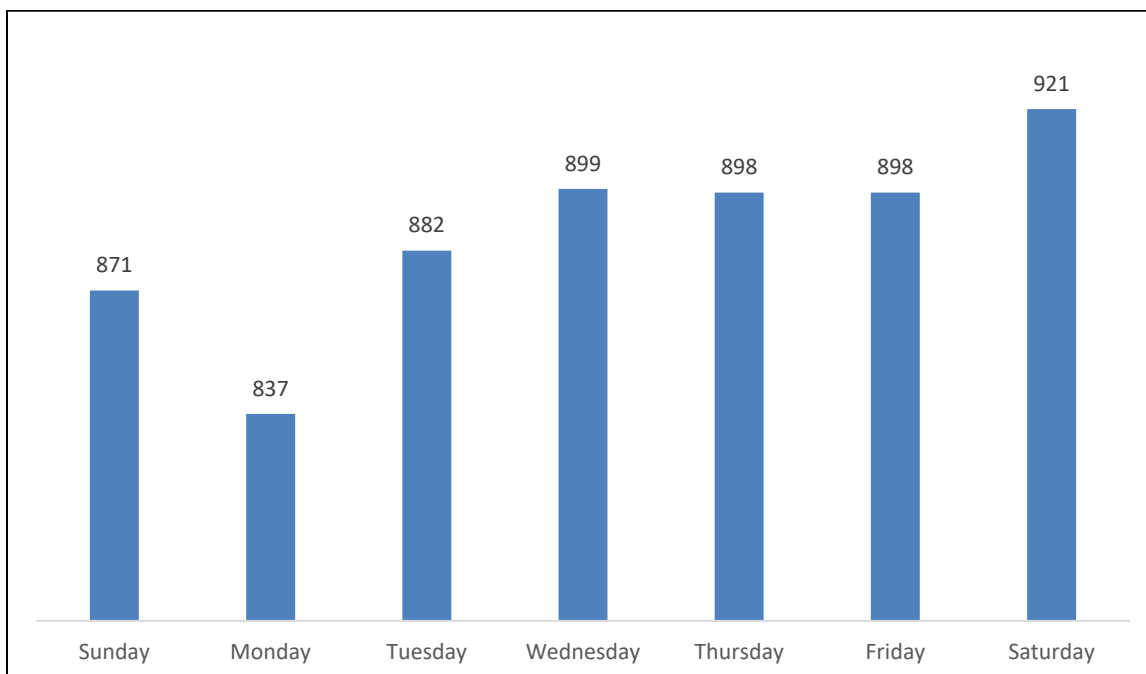
*Total Medical Examiner Jurisdictional Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, External examinations, and consultations completed by the WCRMEO. Washoe County cases only.

Total Examination Cases* by Age

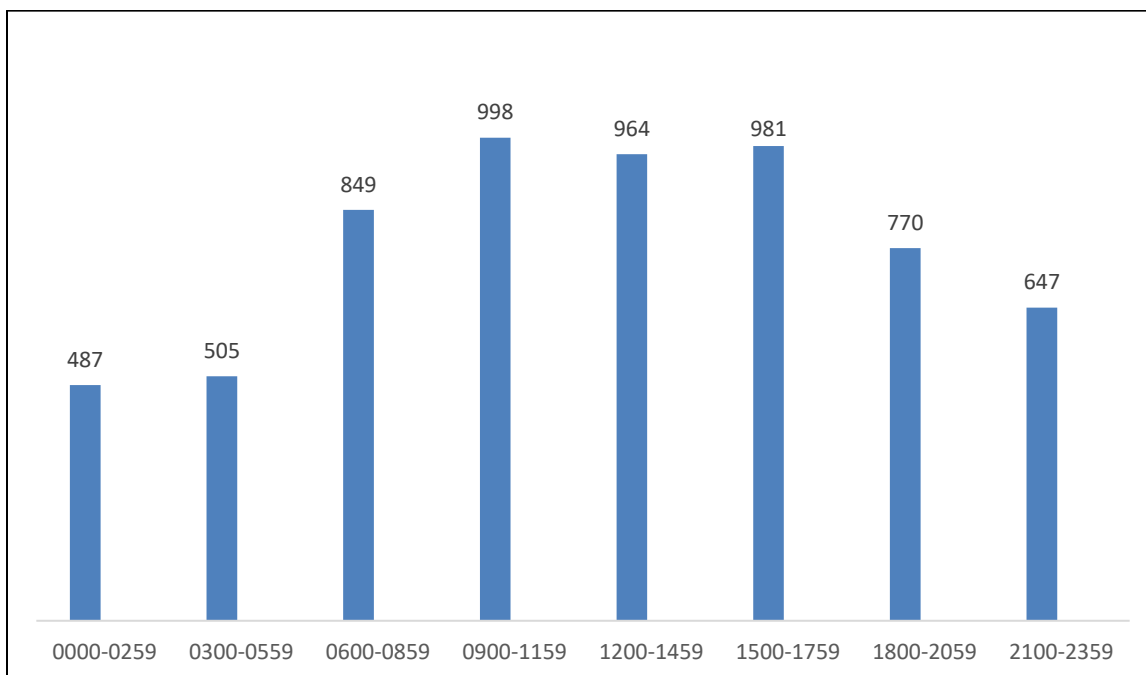


*Total Examination Cases comprises all autopsies, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations completed by the WCRMEO. Includes Washoe County and contractual cases.

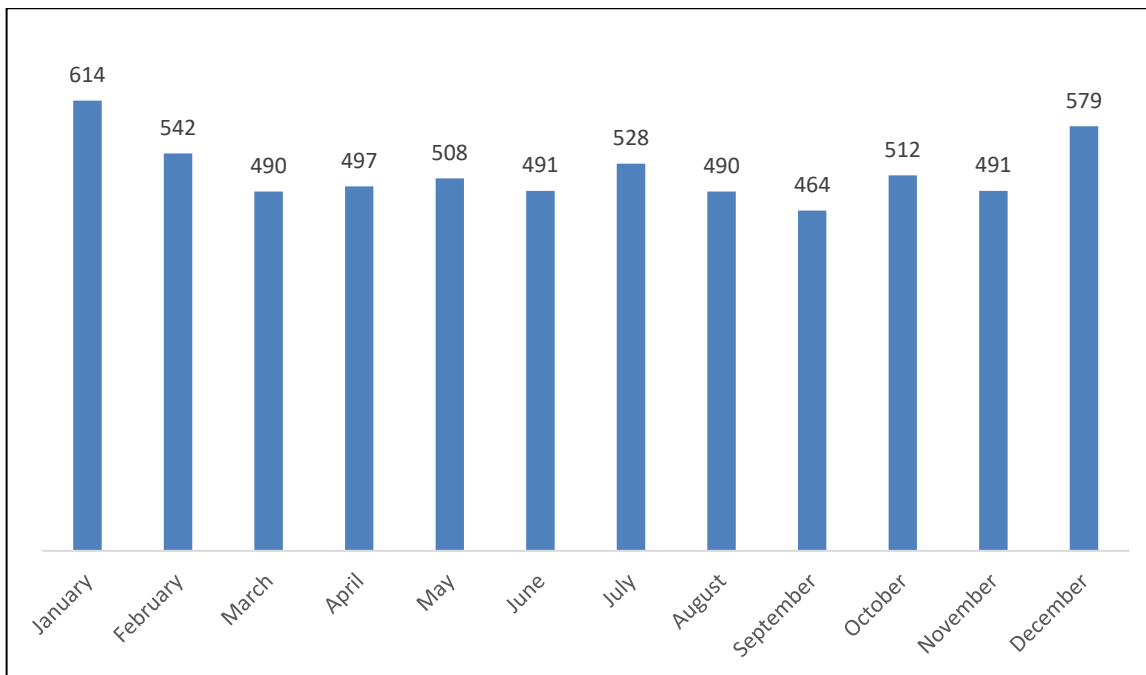
Total Reported Deaths by Day of the Week



Total Reported Deaths by Time of Death



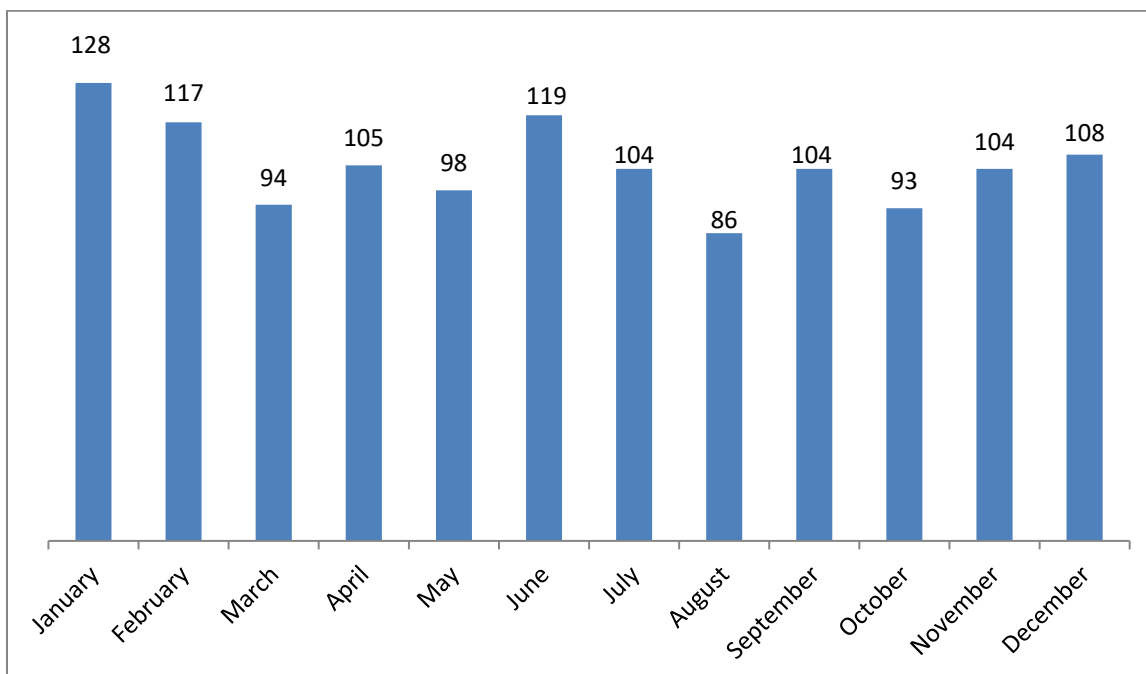
Total Reported Deaths by Month



Scene Responses by Month

1,260 total scene responses in 2022

1,214 responses in 2021, 1,094 in 2020, and 948 responses in 2019



Specific Causes & Types of Death

Major Causes of Death, for Each Manner of Death

For All* Autopsy/External Examination and Consultation Cases Performed at WCRMEO

NATURAL

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Cardiac (Atherosclerotic and/or Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease, Congestive Heart Failure, Coronary Artery Disease, Cardiomyopathy, Myocardial Infarction)	541	61%
Complications of Chronic Alcoholism	95	11%
Pulmonary Related Complications	77	9%
Cerebral/Dementia	37	4%
Other	34	4%
Cancer	31	3%
Complications of Diabetes and/or Ketoacidosis	29	3%
Gastrointestinal Related	24	3%
COVID-19*	23	3%
Total	891	100%

*It is important to note that the vast majority of COVID-19 deaths occurred in hospitals under the attendance of community physicians. Those deaths did not fall under Medical Examiner jurisdiction and are not included in this data.

ACCIDENT

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Drug/Alcohol intoxication	324	39%
Complications of blunt force injuries, fractures, & falls	300	36%
Others	95	11%
Cardiac (Atherosclerotic and/or Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease, Congestive Heart Failure, Bacterial Endocarditis, Cardiomyopathy, Myocardial Infarction)	54	7%
Drowning	21	3%
Asphyxia, various types	18	2%
Hypothermia	15	2%
Total	827	100%

SUICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Gunshot wound	130	62%
Hanging	30	14%
Drug Intoxication	21	10%
Blunt Force Injuries (Intentional)	13	6%
Sharp Force Injuries	6	3%
Other	4	2%
Drowning	3	1%
Carbon Monoxide	2	1%
Total	209	100%

HOMICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Gunshot Wound(s)	40	73%
Sharp Force Injuries	9	16%
Malnutrition	2	4%
Other	4	7%
Total	55	100%

UNDETERMINED

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Undetermined Cause	27	54%
Drug Intoxication	16	24%
Other	16	24%
Traumatic Injuries (Unexplained)	7	11%
Total	66	66

*Includes Washoe County and outside counties covered by interlocal agreement

WASHOE COUNTY HOMICIDES BY INCIDENT LOCATION*

Injury Location	Number
Reno	22
Sparks	9

* Cases included are only those where injury and death occurred in Washoe County.
If an injury occurred outside of Washoe County but they were transported to a hospital within the county and died, they would not be counted in this section

HOMICIDES BY COUNTY

Cases for counties other than Washoe are only included if the case was referred to WCRMEO by that county's coroner

County of Death	Total
Washoe*	32
Lassen	7
Elko	4
Lyon	4
Humboldt	3
Churchill	2
Carson City	1
Douglas	1
Lander	1
Eureka	0
Modoc	0
Pershing	0
Plumas	0
Storey	0

*Includes those who were injured in another county but died in a Washoe County hospital

Washoe County Transportation Deaths

There were 90 transportation-related deaths in Washoe County in 2022. There were 92 in 2021, 90 in 2020, 63 in 2019, 77 in 2018, and 76 in 2017.

Transportation Deaths, By Sex

Gender	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Percentage of Change '21 to '22
Male	66	54	58	41	71	63	68	8%
Female	22	22	19	22	19	29	22	-24%

Transportation Deaths, By Age

Age	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Percentage of Change '20 to '21
0-17	3	7	2	2	5	4	6	50%
18-29	20	12	17	13	24	17	21	24%
30-49	23	14	13	10	20	27	26	-4%
50-69	32	22	21	22	26	26	18	-31%
70+	10	21	24	16	15	18	19	6%

Transportation Deaths, By Role

Role	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Percentage of Change '20 to '21
Driver/Operator	49	47	44	35	59	47	57	21%
Pedestrian	23	15	18	16	21	24	23	-4%
Passenger	12	10	14	10	9	17	9	-47%
Cyclist	1	4	1	2	1	2	1	-50%

Washoe County Drug Intoxication Deaths

2022 saw drug intoxication deaths increase, reaching a record high of 315 deaths, up 14% from 2021, and up 86% over the 5-year period since 2018. Over half of 2022 illicit drug-related deaths involved methamphetamine, and just under half involved fentanyl, which was usually present in combination with other drugs.

Note: In this reporting, illicit, prescription, and over-the-counter drug death data was stratified in more detail beginning in 2017.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Drug Deaths (Washoe County)	125	145	109	133	110	173	169	203	239	276	315
Major Categories*											
Illicit Drugs Only	36	54	41	53	38	78	73	86	114	125	189
Illicit Drugs and Ethanol Combined						1	5	14	13	14	18
Illicit Drugs & Over-the-Counter Drugs Combined, with or without ethanol						2	1	8	9	10	9
Prescription Drugs Only						34	31	27	23	33	23
Prescription Drugs and Ethanol Combined						11	10	8	7	9	10
Prescription & Over-the-Counter Drugs Combined						8	4	8	10	4	7
Over-the-Counter Drugs Only, or Over-the-Counter Drugs and Ethanol Combined						6	3	5	5	3	3
Illicit and Prescription Drugs Combined	8	17	2	11	19	22	22	18	20	31	29
Prescription Drugs, Illicit Drugs, & Ethanol Combined						2	4	4	9	6	13
Prescription Drugs, Over-the-Counter Drugs, & Ethanol Combined						1	0	3	0	4	1
Huffing volatiles/intoxicants, with or without other drugs						1	1	11	1	1	0
Illicit Drugs, Prescription Drugs, Over-the-Counter Drugs, & Ethanol Combined								0	2	1	0
Illicit Drugs, Prescription Drugs, and Over the-Counter Drugs Combined								3	7	5	6
Unable to Determine Specific Drugs Involved						2	0	2	0	0	0
Ethanol only (acute ethanol intoxication), or ethanol & toxic alcohol									3	1	1
Long Term Effects of Chronic Drug Abuse Without Acute Intoxication						5	16	15	18	18	3
Sodium nitrate/nitrite toxicity										2	3
Illicit-involved Deaths, By Drug*											
Methamphetamine (Without Heroin)	25	50	26	43	46	69	82	90	105	123	158
Heroin (Without Methamphetamine)	11	9	12	13	16	13	10	17	7	8	2
Methamphetamine and Heroin	3	4	3	8	9	16	13	15	23	27	15
Fentanyl (Alone)							2	3	9	18	21
Fentanyl (Alone or With Others)								25	56	79	144
Fentanyl and Methamphetamine							1	8	13	29	70
Fentanyl and Heroin							0	1	2	9	10
Cocaine (Alone or With Others)	5	11	4	3	4	5	8	10	15	20	27
Nitazene								0	0	0	1
Mitragynine (Alone or With Others)								12	14	11	6

*Not inclusive of **all** intoxication deaths.

Drug Intoxication Deaths, By Age

Age	Number	Percentage
0-17	3	1%
18-29	48	15%
30-49	121	38%
50-69	127	40%
70+	16	5%

Drug Intoxication Deaths, By Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	206	65%
Female	109	35%

Methamphetamine-related Deaths, By Age

Age	Number	Percentage
0-17	0	0%
18-29	14	8%
30-49	70	39%
50-69	88	49%
70+	7	4%

Methamphetamine-related Deaths, By Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	125	70%
Female	54	30%

Heroin Intoxication Deaths, By Age

Age	Number	Percentage
0-17	0	0%
18-29	1	6%
30-49	10	56%
50-69	5	28%
70+	2	11%

Heroin Intoxication Deaths, By Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	13	72%
Female	5	28%

Fentanyl Intoxication Deaths, By Age

Age	Number	Percentage
0-17	2	1%
18-29	42	28%
30-49	69	47%
50-69	33	22%
70+	2	1%

Fentanyl Intoxication Deaths, By Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	106	72%
Female	42	28%

Washoe County Drug Death Comparison

Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Percentage of Change '20 to '21
Total Deaths	110	173	169	203	239	276	315	14%
Methamphetamine-related Deaths	55	85	85	105	127	150	179	19%
Fentanyl-related Deaths				25	56	79	148	87%
Heroin-related Deaths	25	29	23	32	30	35	18	-49%
Prescription Drug-related Deaths	62	78	71	70	74	93	127	37%

Statistics on Vulnerable Populations & Other Special Categories

Washoe County Homeless Person Deaths

Deaths of homeless individuals (persons with no fixed address or living quarters) reported to the WCRMEO are specifically tracked in the WCRMEO case database. There were 99 deaths among the homeless in 2022, which is an increase from 57 in 2021 and 49 in 2020. The vast majority of the deaths were accidental in nature or due to natural disease.

Washoe County Homeless Deaths, By Sex

Gender	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Male	23	23	32	27	38	40	83
Female	1	4	5	12	11	17	16

Washoe County Homeless Deaths, By Age

Age	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
0-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-29	1	2	1	3	3	3	11
30-49	6	7	11	14	12	26	36
50-69	14	14	23	17	26	24	44
70+	3	4	2	5	8	3	8

Washoe County Homeless Deaths, By Manner of Death

Manner	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Accident	11	12	22	19	27	36	67
Natural	9	9	7	10	15	11	24
Suicide	2	2	3	4	2	4	3
Undetermined	2	2	2	4	5	4	3
Homicide	0	2	3	2	0	2	2

Washoe County Homeless Person Deaths, by Manner of Death, Cause of Death

ACCIDENT

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Drug-related deaths	46	69%
Environmental Exposure	8	12%
Pedestrian vs Automobile	8	12%
Drowning	2	3%
Asphyxia	1	1%
Ground Level Fall	1	1%
Pedestrian vs Train	1	1%

NATURAL

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Cardiovascular Disease	11	46%
Pneumonia	6	25%
Complications of Chronic Alcoholism	4	17%
Diabetic Ketoacidosis	2	8%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	1	4%

HOMICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Multiple Gunshot Wounds	1	50%
Complications of Physical Restraint	1	50%

SUICIDE

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Blunt Force Injuries	1	33%
Pedestrian vs Automobile	1	33%
Pedestrian vs Train	1	33%

UNDETERMINED

Cause of Death	Number	Percent
Undetermined	2	67%
Drug Intoxication	1	33%

Law Enforcement-Involved Deaths in Washoe County

Type of Death	Number
In-Custody Deaths (jail or hospital) *	9
Officer-Involved Shootings **	3

*It is important to note that while all these deaths occurred within Washoe County, some will be inmates transferred to hospitals in the county from jails/prisons outside the county.

**This includes all shooting deaths in Washoe County by any law enforcement organization

Washoe County In-Custody/Detained Deaths, by Manner of Death

Manner	Number
Natural	4
Accident	4
Homicide	1
Suicide	0
Undetermined	0

Washoe County Pediatric Deaths

A total of 26 individuals aged 17 and under died under circumstances within WCRMEO jurisdiction in Washoe County in 2022.

Washoe County Pediatric Deaths, by Age

Age	Number	Percent
0	5	19%
1	1	4%
2	1	4%
3	0	0%
4	1	4%
5	0	0%
6	1	4%
7	0	0%
8	0	0%
9	0	0%
10	1	4%
11	1	4%
12	2	8%
13	0	0%
14	3	12%
15	0	0%
16	7	27%
17	3	12%

Washoe County Pediatric Deaths, by Sex

Sex	Number	Percent
Male	20	77%
Female	6	23%

Washoe County Pediatric Deaths, by Manner of Death

Manner	Number	Percent
Accident	11	42%
Suicide	6	23%
Homicide	3	12%
Natural	3	12%
Undetermined	3	12%

Washoe County Pediatric Causes of Death

Manner	Cause of Death	Number
Accident	Blunt Force	6
	Suffocation/Asphyxia	2
	Drug Intoxication	2
	Drowning	1
Suicide	Hanging	3
	Gunshot Wound	3
Homicide	Sharp Force Injuries	2
	Drug Intoxication	1
Natural	Cardiac related	1
	Complications of Cerebral Palsy	1
	Seizure related	1
Undetermined	Undetermined	3

Washoe County Senior Deaths

In 2022, there were 619 deaths at 65 years of age and older that met the criteria for Medical Examiner jurisdiction. Deaths in seniors present special challenges, such as the need to rule out neglect or abuse, and the propensity for ultimately lethal injury from simple falls.

Senior Deaths, By Sex

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	378	61%
Female	241	39%

Senior Deaths, By Manner of Death

Manner	Number	Percent
Natural	317	51%
Accident	263	42%
Suicide	34	6%
Undetermined	4	1%
Homicide	1	.2%

Causes of Death

Manner	Cause	Number
Natural	Cardiovascular related	219
	Pulmonary related	30
	Covid-19	23
	Other	45
Accident	Fall related	155
	Drug related	33
	Motor vehicle related	17
	Other	58
Suicide	Gunshot Wound	24
	Drug Related	4
	Hanging	2
	Blunt Force Injuries	2
	Other	2
Homicide	Gunshot Wounds	1
Undetermined	Drug related	2
	Undetermined	1
	Other	1

Other Statistics of Interest⁺

- 1,782 bodies were transported to and stored at the Medical Examiner's Office in 2022. 1,881 bodies in 2021, 1,672 in 2020, 1,512 in 2019, 1,495 in 2018, 1,463 in 2017 and 1,320 in 2016.
- A total of 2,048 bodies were transported on the order of the WCRMEO in 2022.
- There were 217 unclaimed and abandoned decedents reported to the WCRMEO in 2022.
- Toxicology testing was performed on 1,390 cases in 2022. (1,235 cases in 2021, 1,206 in 2020, 1,076 in 2019, 1,022 in 2018, 956 in 2017, and 809 in 2016.)
- There was 1 death in Washoe County in which a decedent remained unidentified after thorough investigation in 2022. There was 1 case in 2021, none in 2020, 1 in 2019, 1 in 2018, and none in both 2017 and 2016.
- 33 organ, 186 tissue, and 275 ocular donations were performed on Medical Examiner cases in 2022, with the full cooperation of the WCRMEO.
- The WCRMEO participated in 0 exhumations in 2022.
- 2022 examination report turnaround time within 60 days: 93%
- 2022 examination report turnaround time within 90 days: 98%

⁺Required by the National Association of Medical Examiners for accreditation purposes.