



ADA COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Message from Coroner Riffle	3
About Ada County	8
About Ada County Coroner's Office	9
Authority of the County Coroner	14
Annual Statistics	15
Idaho Coroner Statutes	27

Contact Information

The office is currently located at 5550 Morris Hill Road in Boise, Idaho, and can be reached by calling 208-287-5556 or fax at 208-287-5579.



ADA COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

SERVING WITH COMPASSION, INTEGRITY, AND RESPECT

RICHARD D. RIFFLE, CORONER

Brett E. Harding, MBA, F-ABMDI, Chief Deputy

Tonia Fleming, Chief Administration Officer

Greetings,

I was sworn into office in January of 2023. In very short order, I have come to admire the staff of this office. No matter what sights they see, the odors they smell, or the grieving families they console, all staff members greet every day with courage and integrity. They handle every case with respect and help every family member with the deepest compassion, all without regard to social or personal biases. I hold them all in the highest esteem. Their professionalism, commitment, and hard work are outstanding and unparalleled, functioning as a family that cares deeply for each other. I am honored and blessed to work with everyone at this office. None of the functions and activities contained in this report, and certainly those many more not addressed, could have been accomplished without the hard work and input of the ACCO staff. By seeking input from my employees, not only is decision-making more informed, but it also strengthens employee ownership, morale, and retention within the workplace.

As expected, my first year came with changes that were certainly disruptive and, at times, stressful. However, I'm happy to report that everyone seems to be handling these modifications without difficulty. One of my first directives was empowering supervisors with the ability to take a more active role in leading their respective divisions. This was met with enthusiasm as they are now taking more ownership of their division's continuing development and this office's operations as a whole.

I stress the importance of efficient operations. With limited funding, I felt it important to identify and either eliminate or minimize inefficiencies. Something all staff are encouraged and supported in doing. Following are a few examples of changes made this year towards a more efficient operation: no longer taking cases that are outside of our legal mandate, which stretches those resources that are already thin; no longer manually inputting and tracking data that may be otherwise monitored and maintained through current software; no longer warehousing evidence, property, and items identified to be under the appropriate jurisdiction of the investigating law enforcement agency, or determined to be without medicolegal significance in determining cause and manner of death.

The following are additional notable accomplishments that were implemented in 2023.

Mission – Vision – and Values

We analyzed and revised our vision, mission, and value statements to better serve the community and serve as guidance in our operations. I am proud to say that these updates came from the staff.

Mission:

“To provide services with compassion, integrity, and respect.”

Vision:

“The Ada County Coroner’s Office will aim to provide the highest standard in medicolegal death investigation, forensic analysis, pathology services, and administration. The Office will continue to seek new ways to increase quality of work while maintaining fiscal responsibility.”

Values:

Family: Striving to maintain the well-being of our family by balancing personal and professional goals.

Respect: Serving our community with intentional care, concern, and consideration of their needs.

Integrity: To serve with steadfast consistency and uncompromising adherence to moral and ethical principles.

Compassion: Serving with awareness and sensitivity to the emotional needs of others.

Teamwork: Interdependent divisions working collectively towards shared and common objectives.

Pathology Agreement Audit

One of my first official duties was to request an audit relating to our out-of-county pathology agreement. Based on the audit and conferring with staff, I eliminated the miscellaneous fees to help keep the billed amount to a minimum resulting in an overall increase of \$300.00. This increase was only the fourth in nearly 20 years and is expected to be in place for the next five years. I intend to reevaluate the costs after we take possession of our new building. It is anticipated that there will be several cost-saving efficiencies that will certainly be passed on.

New Logo

A new logo was designed with the input of ACCO staff, demonstrating another area where employee ownership and morale were strengthened.

Mass Fatality Management Plan

This plan was written and finalized through coordination with local partners, Ada County Emergency Management and Community Resilience, and our own Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. The plan was written in tandem with the Mass Casualty Incident Plan and Ada County Paramedics. We continue to build, support, and strengthen Ada County Coroner's Office response operations and coordination efforts in a mass casualty/fatality event.

Data Sharing

The Ada County Coroner's Office is dedicated to working with other agencies and organizations to make our community a better place. One way we do this is through data sharing. Data sharing allows state agencies and organ procurement organizations (OPO) to report limited data more efficiently, enhancing resource management and timely organ and tissue donation processes.

I authorized limited access of our reporting system (MDILog) to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Violent Death Reporting System (IdVDRS) and the Sudden Unintended Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) strengthening the efficiency and accuracy of their reports to the CDC, other IDHW departments, and the public.

Working directly with the Idaho State Police Forensics laboratory on their toxicology pilot program, they are now able to directly obtain toxicology results. This data will be used to confirm their toxicology screening (a very limited test that can be used as a tool in investigations). The goal is to be able to provide the screenings to coroners across the state at no cost. A related program administered by ISP, the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP), is growing across the country. ODMAP is being utilized to assist with resource management for local, state, and federal agencies relating to illicit drug trafficking and overdose prevention measures.

As a leading referral agency to organ and tissue procurement organizations, we launched an automated referral system so these agencies can be more proactive in their efforts to save lives. We are very supportive of these efforts and are quite pleased that we can participate. Although this program was fully implemented late in the year, we have already seen a significant increase in referrals.

2023 Cascade Life Alliance Hope Award

In recognition of the efforts the ACCO takes to support organ donations, we were honored to receive the 2023 Cascade Life Alliance Hope Award. Cascade Life Alliance is the regional organ procurement organization.

Cover to Cover Policy Review

We have nearly completed a cover-to-cover rewrite of our policies to document our compliance more easily and efficiently with our two accreditations – the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners and the National Association of Medical Examiners. We are proud of these accreditations and work hard to maintain operations utilizing the best practices of the industry.

Community Outreach / Liaison Team

This office has long participated in community education programs. However, to formalize many of the activities, and expand the other areas, a community outreach/liaison team was created. For example, we launched a series of roundtable events with local and state law enforcement agencies. These were very well received and are planned to be ongoing. In addition to educational presentations, this team is responsible for participating in community events and taking the lead in setting up future roundtable events with additional stakeholders, such as care facilities and funeral homes, to improve communications and operations between this office and our professional partners. More information is contained in this report.

The Ada County Coroner's staff continues to work diligently to provide education to entities the office works closely with, such as hospice providers, funeral homes, doctors, and hospital employees. The goal of this education is to provide a strong working knowledge of the types of cases that fall under the Coroner's jurisdiction and to facilitate proper reporting. This effort ensures that although a death may ultimately be deemed a natural manner of death, the case was correctly reported and duly investigated pursuant to Idaho Statutes and the decedent, their families, friends, and the public receive the answers and pursuit of justice each deserves.

Organization Restructure – No mass exodus, no cleaning house, just a bit of fine-tuning

I created the executive position of Chief Administration Officer. This position allowed for more authority over all administrative systems office-wide and has proven to be quite valuable as we work to streamline administrative functions and further our goals of office efficiency. I have also moved some positions around to accommodate the five distinct divisions – details to follow.

Ossuary

Along with the Ada County Treasurer's Office, the ACCO is responsible for the final disposition of abandoned and unclaimed decedents. The current mausoleum at Cloverdale Funeral Home of Boise has reached its maximum capacity and it has been proposed that a new ossuary would be necessary to respectfully accommodate the needs of Ada County. The proposal was accepted by the Board of Commissioners and site improvement is set to begin in early 2024.

Records Digitization

Upon my arrival, I inquired as to why this office kept paper files on cases dating as far back as the late 1970's. A proposal was submitted to have these records digitized providing a much safer storage option than the fire/safety hazard we had. That project is well underway with plans of digitizing all appropriate records greater than the current year plus two years.

New Facility

This will be a topic for the 2024 annual report. We've been met with numerous construction delays and look forward to taking occupancy in the late spring of 2024.

Goals and Objectives

The Ada County Coroner's Office will continue to provide the highest level of services to this community and beyond by maintaining our national accreditations. We will seek state-of-the-art training to increase the skills of all members of this office. We will continue to expand our community educational efforts and enhance our community involvement by participating in local events.

I want to thank the County Commissioners, elected officials, department heads, and all employees of Ada County that I've had the pleasure to work with. Your patience, understanding, and guidance have been greatly appreciated. I look forward to continuing our work to improve operations, enhance communications, and provide the highest level of service possible to our community.

Respectfully,



Richard D. Riffle
Ada County Coroner

About Ada County

Ada County is the largest county by population in Idaho, home to approximately 25% of the state's residents. Ada County is more than one thousand square miles of high desert beauty, peppered with foothills and a glistening river that winds through urban and rural landscapes. Ada County includes Idaho's capital city Boise, and it is home to five other distinct municipalities: Star, Eagle, Meridian, Garden City, and Kuna.

The county is known for its rich agricultural heritage and open spaces for recreation. Thousands of acres of open space make the county an exceptional place to live and work. It is also the state's commerce and industry hub and boasts a vibrant and diverse arts scene. EXPO Idaho in Ada County hosts the annual Western Idaho Fair, one of the biggest events each year in Southwest Idaho. While the county is projected to be just shy of 700,000 by 2040, protecting Ada County's quality of life and unique heritage in a fiscally responsible manner remains paramount for leaders across the county.

Interesting Ada County Facts:

- Ada County was established on December 22, 1864
- Ada County was named after Ada Riggs, the daughter of Idaho Territorial Legislator H.C. Riggs, one of the founders of Boise.
- The surface area of Ada County is 1054.99 square miles.
- Average commute time to work in Ada County is under 20 minutes.

Ada County Demographics

Population	518,897
0 to 4 years of age	26,005
5 to 19 years of age	100,369
20 to 34 years of age	105,344
35 to 49 years of age	108,022
50 to 64 years of age	94,460
65+ years of age	84,697



About Ada County Coroner's Office

The Ada County Coroner's Office serves our community by conducting complete and thorough medicolegal death investigations which lead to accurate determinations of the cause and manner of death. This work is accomplished through comprehensive investigations and complete forensic pathology review and autopsy. Our work extends to other government agencies and private organizations which enhances all related services by providing timely information that can be utilized in the allocation of resources and the procurement of tissues and organs, which saves lives.

In Idaho, the office of Coroner is a constitutional, elected position. The Ada County Coroner's Office was established in 1864 and the Idaho Constitution was approved in 1890. Richard Riffle is the current Ada County Coroner, having been elected to that position by the residents of Ada County in November 2022. Coroner Riffle was sworn in to serve a four-year term that began on January 9, 2023. Coroner Riffle can be reached via email at rriffle@adacounty.id.gov.



The Ada County Coroner's Office is currently located and is housed in a building constructed in 1966. Remodeling occurred in 1974 and again in 2002 when a morgue area was added.

We are expected to move to the new facility in the late spring of 2024, with no ancillary or satellite offices/facilities.

The Ada County Coroner's Office was established with a jurisdiction coextensive with Ada County, receiving death reports and responding to scenes throughout the entire county with an area of nearly 1055 square miles with approximately 518,907 residents.



The field of forensic pathology and medicolegal death investigation is a dynamic industry, which is constantly changing to meet the needs of the community and ever-changing technological and research advancements. The Ada County Coroner's Office has been an industry leader in Idaho as we strive to maintain accreditations and deliver top-level services to the residents of the community we serve. The services provided to our community and beyond are the highest of industry standards, as evidenced by being one of approximately five agencies in the country that are proudly accredited by both the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) and the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME).

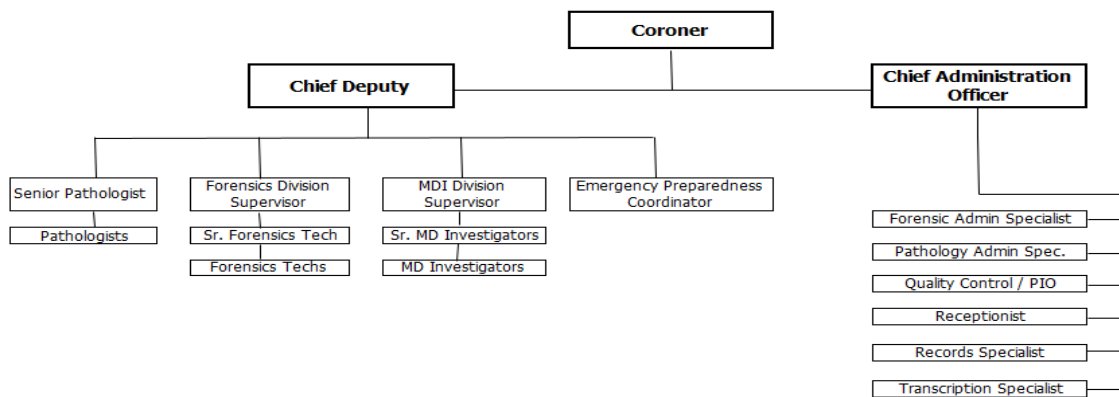
The Ada County Coroner's Office is an independent office of the county government. The office works closely with all government offices and departments and operates under Idaho State Statutes with the

primary obligation of investigating deaths to determine their cause and manner, securing and protecting the deceased's personal property, and identifying, locating, and notifying the legal next of kin. In determining jurisdictional authority and the appropriate county coroner's involvement, Idaho recognizes the location of death not the residency of the deceased. Visitors, crash victims, and hospital transfers account for many of these cases.

To illustrate one example of office independence, photographs taken on a scene by a medicolegal death investigator are separate and different from photographs taken by law enforcement agencies. The MDI set of photographs is used to assist the forensic pathologist with the determination of the cause and manner of death rather than if a crime has been committed. In conjunction with the MDI report, photographs are used to assist the forensic pathologist in determining the appropriate level of examination or autopsy required.

This office is under the leadership of the coroner, functioning as the Chief Executive Officer, and the following two executive officers: the Chief Deputy Coroner and the Chief Administration Officer. The Chief Deputy Coroner is responsible for the direct supervision of the Pathology, Forensic, Medicolegal Death Investigation (MDI), and Emergency Preparedness divisions. The Chief Administration Officer is responsible for the direct supervision of the Administration Division and all office-wide administrative functions.

Organizational restructuring was completed in 2023 with the designation of five distinct divisions: Pathology, Administration, Forensic, Medicolegal Death Investigation, and Emergency Preparedness. Ada County Coroner's Office employs over 30 individuals who are highly trained in their respective fields. In addition to providing services to the community of Ada County, the Ada County Coroner's Office supports and maintains contracts with over 30 Idaho counties to provide pathologic services (autopsies). The office also provides anthropology and forensic inspection services with additional ancillary options available including, histology and genetic testing through support services.



Divisions

Pathology Division

The Pathology Division is comprised of three Board Certified Forensic Pathologists. The role of a Forensic Pathologist is to determine the cause and manner of death. The pathologists here at Ada County are all certified through the American Board of Pathology as Forensic Pathologists. These highly trained doctors collectively hold certifications in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and neuropathology. Working as a team, the Forensic Pathology Division provides the highest level of knowledge, skill, and experience in their field. They conduct over 700 autopsies of various levels per year. Including those pathology services rendered to out-of-county coroners.

Administrative Division

Our Administrative Division ensures the efficiency of daily operations as well as taking on the responsibility of troubleshooting the numerous unique situations presented to the office. Our administrative staff support all divisions. In addition to multi-divisional support, they also manage record requests, process death certificate information, and cremation authorizations, as well as coordinate the annual Remembering With Dignity Service. Managing these responsibilities and situations requires the ability to balance objectivity and empathy, while also possessing a deep understanding of medicolegal practices.

Forensic Division

The Forensic Division employs highly trained subject matter experts. Their primary function is to provide technical autopsy assistance to Forensic pathologists in the determination of the cause and manner of death. In addition, the Forensic staff are responsible for forensic photography, specimen and evidence collection, chain of custody maintenance, and forensic radiography. They work closely with contracted counties, law enforcement agencies, specialized laboratories, and funeral homes.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Division

The Medicolegal Death Investigation Division is staffed 24 hours a day and responds to all deaths within Ada County that meet the jurisdictional guidelines set by Idaho State Statute. Investigators responding to scenes conduct a thorough investigation and determine if the death falls within the jurisdiction of the Ada County Coroner's Office. Decedents may be transported to the ACCO facility for further examination by the Forensic and Forensic Pathology Divisions. Investigators complete extensive reports, locate and notify legal next of kin, and work closely with the families of the decedents as well as allied agencies including law enforcement agencies, physicians, and health care facilities. All Investigation Staff are ABMDI certified (American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators) or are required to become certified within two years of

employment. ABMDI sets the highest national standards of practice for medicolegal death investigation. As of December 31, 2023, all current medicolegal investigators have passed the national registry exam or are actively pursuing registration. The Ada County Coroner's Office will continue to mandate the ABMDI registry to all new medicolegal investigation staff.

Emergency Preparedness Division

The Emergency Preparedness Division aims to prepare the Ada County Coroner's Office for emergencies that affect the community in order to respond effectively and efficiently, while concurrently supporting grieving family members and contributing to the restoration of the Ada County community. By following industry standards and best practice recommendations in medicolegal emergency response from entities such as NAME, IACME, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), and the Academy Standards Board (ASB); the Ada County Coroner's Office strives to offer the same level of service to the community and families of victims of a mass disaster, as it does during its day-to-day operations.

Additional Information

Policy and Procedure Manual

A Policy and Procedure Manual is maintained by the Ada County Coroner's Office, both physically and electronically, with updates completed as necessary throughout the year. The manual is always available to staff.

Budget

The Ada County Coroner Office reports to the Ada County Board of Commissioners for budget purposes only and worked with the fiscal year 2023 budget of \$4,672,453. These funds are based upon anticipated per capita property tax contributions as set by the Ada County Board of Commissioners, revenues from forensic services, and student rotations from the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine.

How is the budget for the ACCO set and what is the basic structure of the system?

The Ada County Board of County Commissioners mandates the Ada County budget, under a general line-item model. Each office/department has its set budget that is brought before the Board and approved on an annual basis. This line-item model allows Ada County to get an exact idea of where money is going, how it is being spent, and allows the budget to stay within the ceiling of revenues. This makes answering questions much easier when numbers are recorded down to the level of specific expenditures.

All budgets are divided into “A” and “B” budgets. The “A” budget includes all personnel and benefits. The “B” budget covers the cost of all operations within the office/department. For the Coroner’s Office, the budget includes but is not limited to, all operations, morgue operations, equipment and supplies, vehicles (including fuel and maintenance), toxicology testing, and expert analysis.

Support Services

In addition to Ada County Coroner’s Office services, the office relies on several outside entities for support services. These include:

Toxicology Lab:	NMS Labs, Pennsylvania
Radiologic Facilities:	Saint Alphonsus Medical Center (MRI Services)
Histology Facilities:	Saint Alphonsus Medical Center
Forensic Science Lab:	Idaho State Police, Idaho State Crime Lab
Forensic Dentistry:	Dr. Richard Hartley Fixott, DDS, DABFO
Forensic Anthropology:	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Medical Waste:	Larson Miller Medical Waste
Body Transport:	N/A

Educational Partnerships

The Ada County Coroner’s Office values community education and partnerships. Many of the Coroner’s Office employees participate in education and outreach programs, school speaking engagements, and community, professional, and civic events. This Office has enjoyed a long-standing working relationship with area school districts to provide an opportunity for members of the public and students to learn the purpose and functions of the Coroner’s Office regarding death investigations, pathology, and forensic anthropology.

Additionally, the Ada County Coroner’s Office has developed partnerships with Idaho colleges and universities to support and promote collaboration between students, university and college faculty, and the medicolegal field. For example, students at Boise State University (BSU) have the opportunity to participate in a semester-long internship program with the ACCO in either the Medicolegal Investigation or Forensic Divisions. The Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM) offers a clinical rotation for third and fourth-year students, providing valuable experience in the area of forensic pathology.

Many of the students that participate in these programs go on to obtain postgraduate degrees while others are hired directly into the ACCO family.

Authority of the County Coroner

The jurisdiction of the coroner includes deaths that: result from traumatic injuries, whether by homicide, suicide, or accident; when the death occurred under suspicious or unknown circumstances; stillborn children or any child if there is a reasonable articulable suspicion to believe that the death occurred without a known medical disease to account for the stillbirth or child's death; violent or non-natural deaths of children under 18 years of age with no significant medical history; and those deaths that are unattended by a primary care provider.

For deaths occurring within the boundaries of Ada County, Idaho, and within the Ada County Coroner's jurisdiction; the Ada County Coroner's Office operates under the statutory obligation of determining cause and manner of death, along with identifying the deceased, securing the decedent's personal property, and locating and notifying their legal next of kin.

The Idaho statutes listed in Appendix A address the legal duties and responsibilities of the Ada County Coroner.

Annual Statistics

According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Vital Statistics, preliminary data as of February 9, 2024, there were 16,494 deaths reported state-wide. Of those, 4,546 (28%) were in Ada County.

Of the total deaths occurring within Ada County in 2023, 4033 jurisdictional cases were reported to the Ada County Coroner's Office by hospitals, dispatch, and others. Since Ada County is a regional hub for healthcare, business, and recreational events, some deaths occurring in Ada County, and therefore investigated by this office, are cases where the decedent lived in a different county within Idaho, a different state, or a different country. Non-resident cases totaled 766.

Medicolegal Death Investigators investigated a total of 1522 deaths resulting in 761 total autopsy procedures (as defined later in this report): 260 full autopsies, 52 limited autopsies, 293 external examinations, and 156 remote examinations. There were 16 homicides, 141 suicides, 351 accidental deaths, 943 natural deaths, 16 undetermined deaths, and 55 deaths pending determination (at the time of this writing). This office received and processed 3670 cremation authorization requests and received notifications of 51 stillbirth deaths. Declined cases totaled 397 as non-jurisdictional.

The Ada County Coroner's Office had one (1) unidentified decedent case and processed 36 Ada County Public Administrator cases wherein the decedent had no identified or located next-of-kin or was abandoned by next-of-kin.

Definitions

Medicolegal Case Investigations

The Ada County Coroner's Office Medicolegal Investigation Division is staffed 24/7 to serve our community. Cases reported to the ACCO generally fall under several categories, each receiving an appropriately complete investigation and are documented.

Agency Assists: These cases are provided as a courtesy and are primarily generated from funeral homes. Occasionally, funeral homes will ask for assistance to locate additional family members on behalf of the next of kin, or in the event the next of kin denies responsibility.

Next of Kin Notifications: Medicolegal investigators will often be called to help out-of-county agencies notify legal next of kin who live in Ada County.

NJR (Non-Jurisdictional Rule): Upon an investigation, the determination is made that the case does not fall within the Ada County Coroner's jurisdiction. Cases assigned to this category are found to have a significant medical history with no suspicious (accidental, criminal, or suicidal) circumstances. Primary care providers are responsible for the completion of the death certificates.

Declined Cases: After an appropriate investigation the case is determined to be outside the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office.

Stillbirth and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Cases: These cases are primarily completed via a phone call. Circumstances are provided and all medical records are requested for review.

Medical Records Review: These cases are generally referred to ACCO when the investigation determines that transport and autopsy would not be necessary. Such cases involve elderly persons with extensive medical history, but now indications of trauma (broken hip, substantial injury, etc.), or other cases that may be out of the control of ACCO, and only medical records are available to investigate the cause of and manner of death.

All Other Jurisdictional Cases: All cases that fall under the jurisdiction of the Ada County Coroner's Office such as homicides, suicides, accidents, unexplained deaths, etc.

Cremation: The Coroner's Office reviews all death cases reported within the county, including those outside of office jurisdiction. The listed cause and manner of death are reviewed before authorizing. These cases may become full investigation cases should the cause of death be determined to be non-natural (falls, fractures, etc.).

Pathology

Ada County categorizes its case examinations into four primary groups. All cases falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office are reviewed and discussed by the pathology division with further input being given by the investigative division during the daily case briefing. The four groups consist of: 1. Full Autopsy, 2. Limited Autopsy, 3. External Examination, and 4. Remote Examination.

Full Autopsy: A full autopsy is the most extensive postmortem examination of a decedent and is performed when deemed necessary by the Forensic Pathologist or current forensic standards. The autopsy will reveal information needed in the determination of cause and manner of death. In addition to the actual autopsy procedure, ancillary studies such as toxicology, histology, radiology, or genetic studies may be required.

Limited Autopsy: A limited autopsy is performed when there is sufficient medical history to warrant a sudden natural death, but reported circumstances or identified injuries require a limited internal examination to address the potential of a fatal injury. This procedure is almost exclusively limited to the examination of the brain but may involve other areas of the body.

External Examination: An external examination is a thorough examination of the external portions of a decedent's body. This examination may be conducted by the Forensic Pathologist if there is sufficient documented medical history to account for the sudden death, if the decedent is of advanced age and there is no evidence to suggest an unnatural death, or if there is sufficient trauma identified on the external examination to explain the death. Additionally, there may be cases that involve individuals who have died as a result of complications of or following trauma, sometimes months or even years after the initial injury. In these cases, when the circumstances surrounding the death are benign, the Forensic Pathologist may then elect to perform an external examination.

Remote Examination: A remote examination, like an external examination, is conducted when there is sufficient medical history present to warrant a death. The body is released from the scene and the Forensic Pathologist will then review the medical records, investigators' report, and photographs, before certifying the cause and manner of death. The body is held at a funeral home or cremation service until the Forensic Pathologist can review the facts of the case. As before, these types of deaths involve individuals with significant medical history or individuals of advanced age without an attending physician.

Additional Studies

Anthropology: In cases where only skeletal remains are present, the body will undergo a radiologic examination, inventory of the number of remains, and examination of the remains by the forensic staff and Forensic Pathologist. This examination will differentiate between remains of forensic significance, faunal remains, and historical remains. If the remains are historical, the state archeologist or appropriate entity is contacted for final disposition. If trauma analysis is required, the remains will undergo further examination by a consulting forensic anthropologist. Faunal remains may be retained for inclusion in the Ada County Coroner Office's comparative anthropology collection or destroyed.

Psychological Autopsy: This examination is a tool utilized by the Forensic Pathologist to determine the manner of death in equivocal cases. A psychological autopsy is an attempt to examine the mental state of a decedent at the time of their death. This examination is completed utilizing interviews from multiple individuals who knew the decedent. It is performed by a board-certified psychological autopsy investigator and involves a semi-structured interview methodology. Upon completion of the analysis, the findings and conclusions will be reviewed by the Forensic Pathologist to conclude the manner of death.

ADA COUNTY DATA 2023

The following data and statistics are based on jurisdictional coroner cases and reflect the activity of the Ada County Coroner's Office. The data presented is retrieved through our report writing system (MDILog) and is subject to change. This reported data may differ from previous reports due to differences in search criteria and case closures.

Total Deaths Reported



Notes and Comments relating to Deaths Reported to the Ada County Coroner's Office:

Total Deaths Reported: **4114**

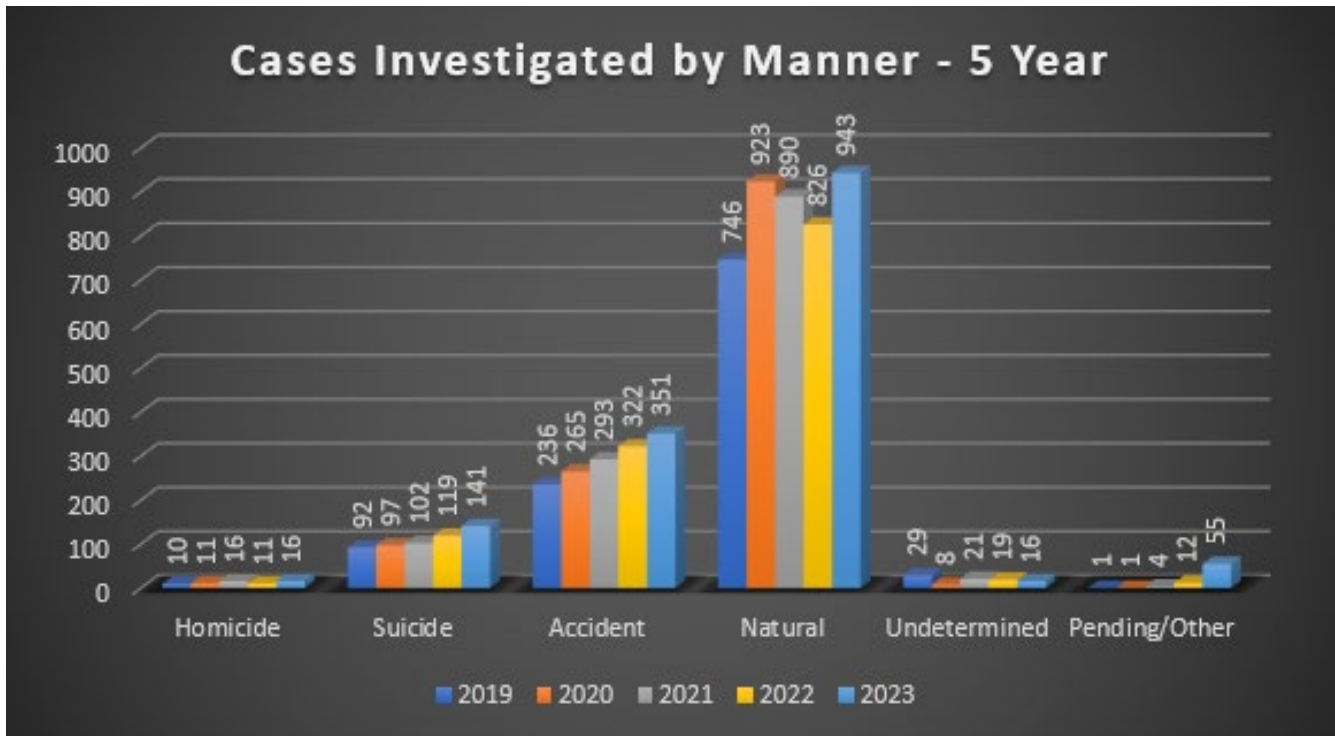
This data captures all deaths reported to this office. Those include cremation authorizations and out-of-county cases. Many cremation authorizations do not fall under the coroner's jurisdiction for investigation but are processed and authorized by this office.

Ada County Coroner's Office has investigated and/or processed an average of 4128 reported deaths over the past five years.

Of the deaths reported to this office in 2023, 937 were accepted for an appropriate level of autopsy. This includes 176 out-of-county cases.

Of the total deaths reported 1103 required on-site medicolegal investigation.

Cases Investigated by Manner



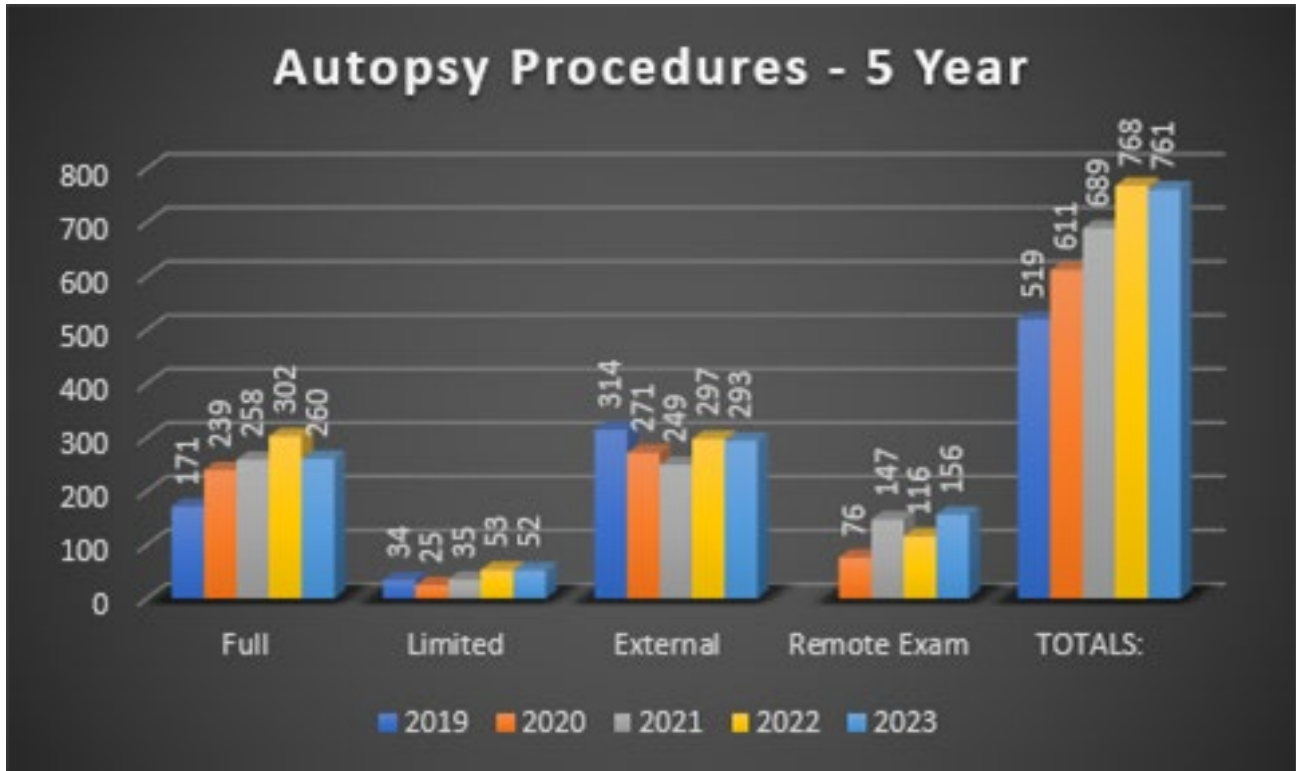
Notes and Comments relating to Manner of Death for Ada County Investigated Deaths:

This number represents Ada County Coroner jurisdiction cases broken down to the manner of death.

Most categories of manners of death should be self-explanatory. The undetermined deaths represent a manner of death generally due to a combination of factors where the manner, such as suicide versus accident, cannot be clearly attributed to one or the other—for example, a single-vehicle crash. The driver has recently expressed a suicidal desire, with no previous history of attempts or known reason at this time. Testing shows a high level, though non-fatal, of alcohol. This case may be an undetermined manner as it may be an accident or suicide.

The Pending/Other Manner data in years 2022 and 2023 represent those death cases where the investigation into the cause and manner of death is ongoing, at the time of this writing. Older cases are under review and may be reclassified.

Autopsy Procedures



Notes and Comments relating to Autopsy Procedures for Ada County Cases:

Ada County Case Related Autopsy Procedures: **761**

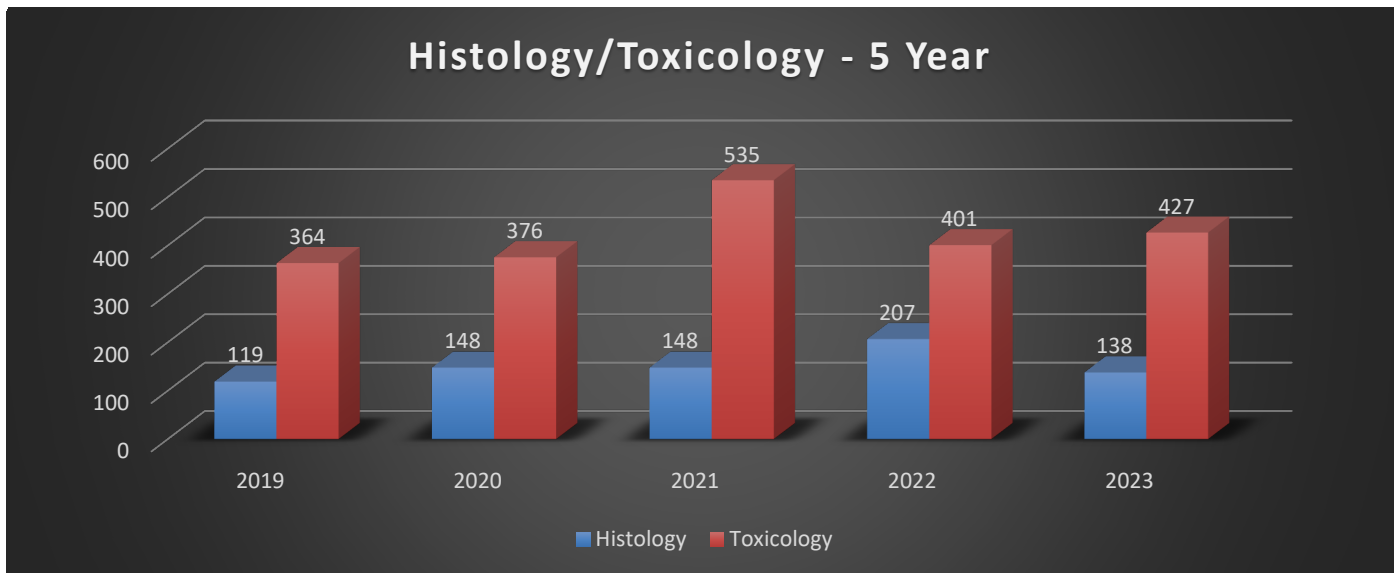
Out-of-County related autopsies: **176**. Out-of-county cases averaged 165 over the past five years.

Total autopsy procedures conducted by Ada County: **937**

It is the policy of the Ada County Coroner's Office to require that a Forensic Pathologist determine through investigation, visual examination, and/or mandate, the nature of autopsy procedures, to be performed, including any toxicology and/or histology tests needed.

Note: Remote examinations are previously defined. The data included is the total remote examinations conducted. For accreditation purposes, these procedures are reported at a reduced number calculated at 3 to 1.

Histology and Toxicology



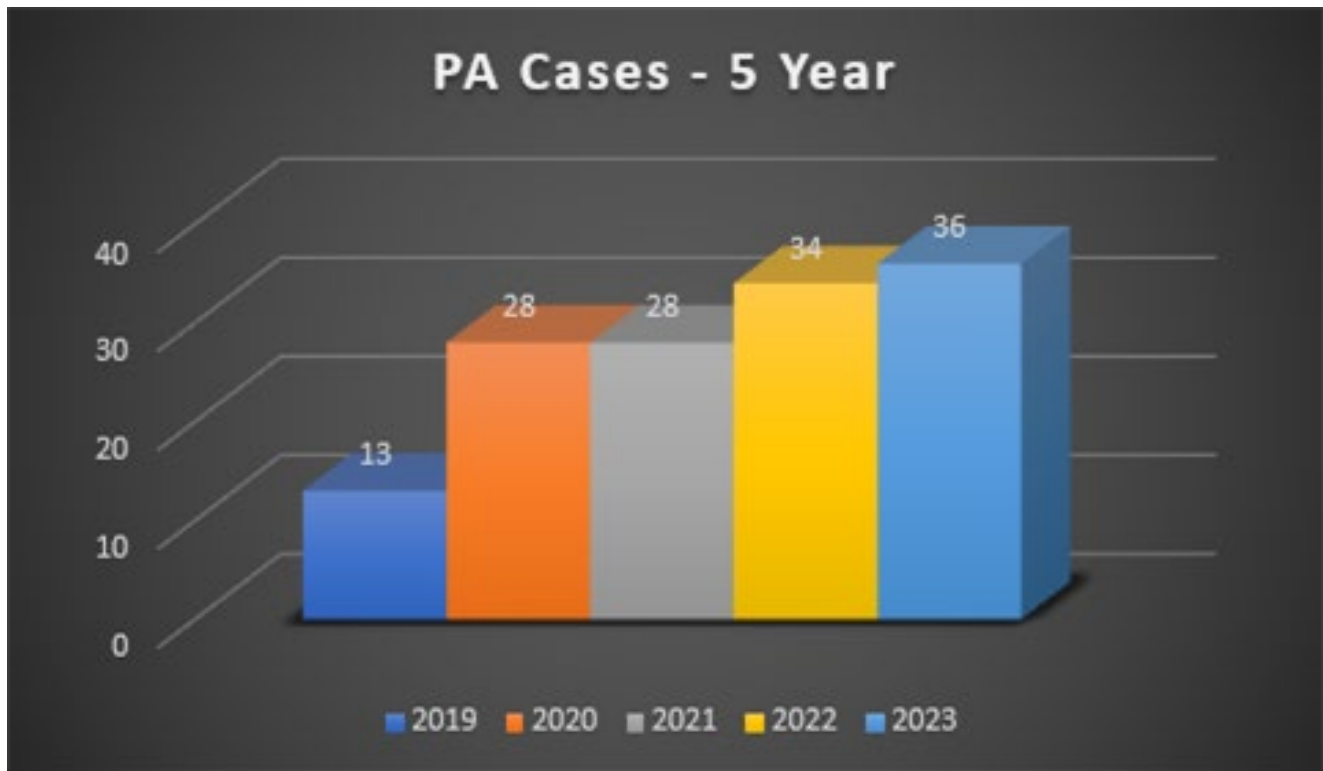
Notes and Comments relating to Ada Histology and Toxicology Case Data:

Histology is the study of the microscopic anatomy of biological tissues. Forensic pathologists examine tissue samples under a microscope to help determine the cause of death.

Toxicology is the forensic examination of body fluids to aid in the determination of poisoning and drug use related to the cause of death.

The data captured above includes all samples submitted for examination and testing, including out-of-county cases.

Unidentified and Abandoned Cases

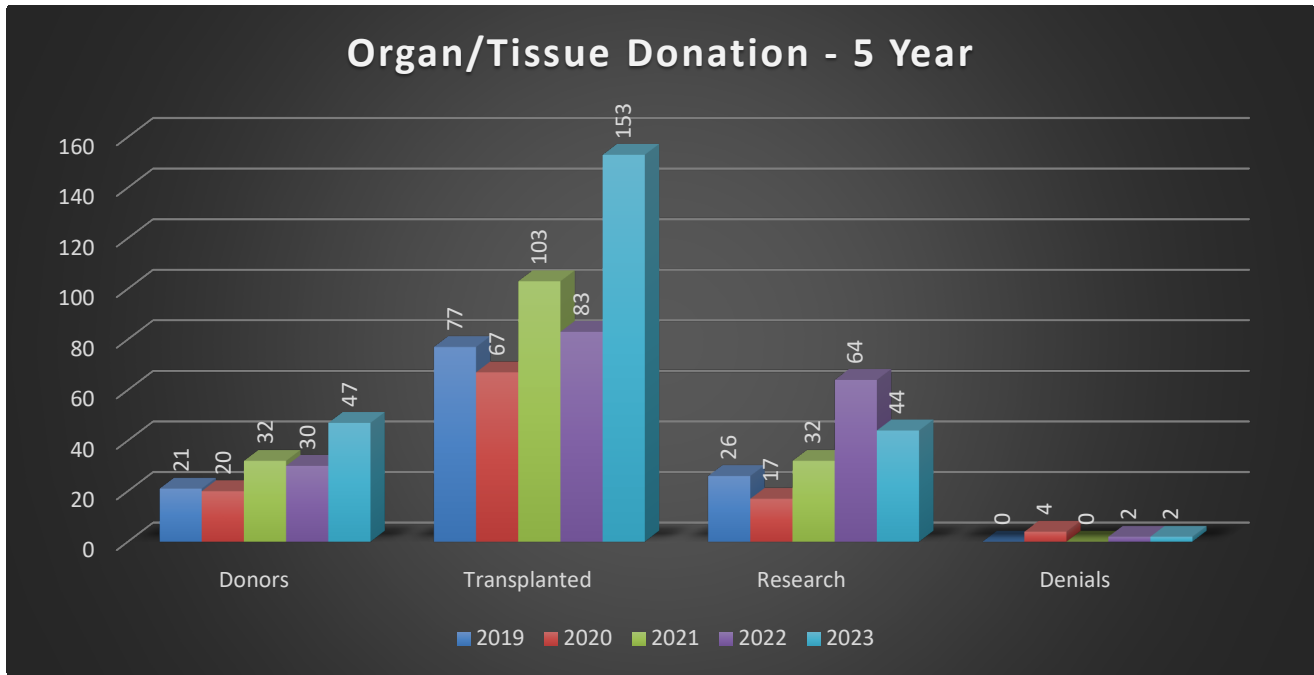


Notes and Comments relating to Ada County Unidentified and/or Abandoned Cases:

Public Administration (PA) cases are those where our office has not been able to locate a living legal next of kin (LNOK), or the decedent's LNOK is unwilling or unable to claim and take care of the body. In these cases, the deceased is considered abandoned. If a body is abandoned, the jurisdiction falls to the county (Treasurer's Office) to inter or cremate the body under Idaho Code § 31-2802.

Ada County has had no unidentified bodies in 2023.

Organ and Tissue Donations



Notes and Comments relating to Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donations:

The chart above reflects only organ donation information. Eye and tissue information is limited to referrals only, not actual donations.

The Ada County Coroner’s Office coordinates with organ and tissue procurement organizations when the family of the decedent, or pre-authorized by the decedent, agrees to donate organs or tissue. Ada County Coroner’s Office Forensic Pathologists authorize the procurement, we are not involved in the actual procedure.

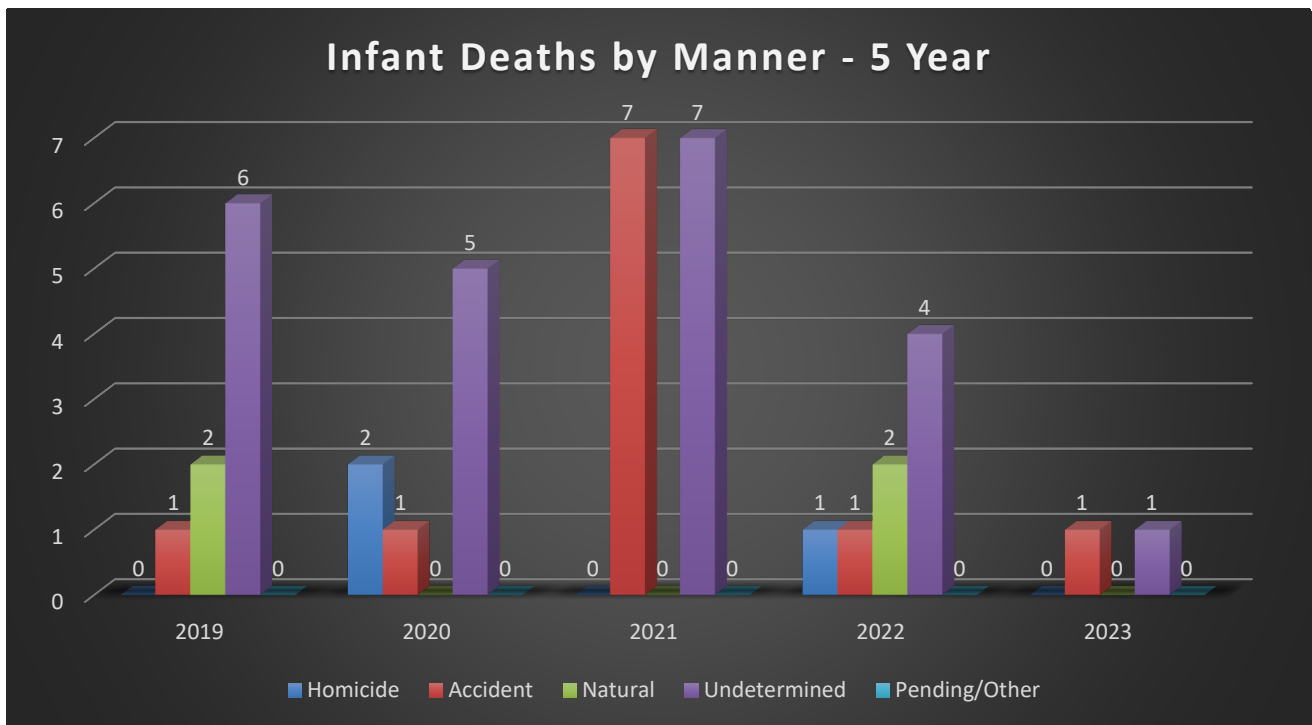
Total 2023 Organ Donors reported by Cascade Live Alliance: **47**

Total 2023 Organ Donations (transplanted organs and research) reported by Cascade Life Alliance: **197**

This data has been provided by the procurement organizations and represents the information available to the Ada County Coroner’s Office as of the time of this report preparation.

In 2023 Solvtia (tissue procurement) reported a total of 60 referrals for donation. Of note, November and December saw a dramatic increase in referrals due to the implementation of automatic notifications from the Ada County Coroner’s Office. Envision Eye Bank reported a total of 55 referrals.

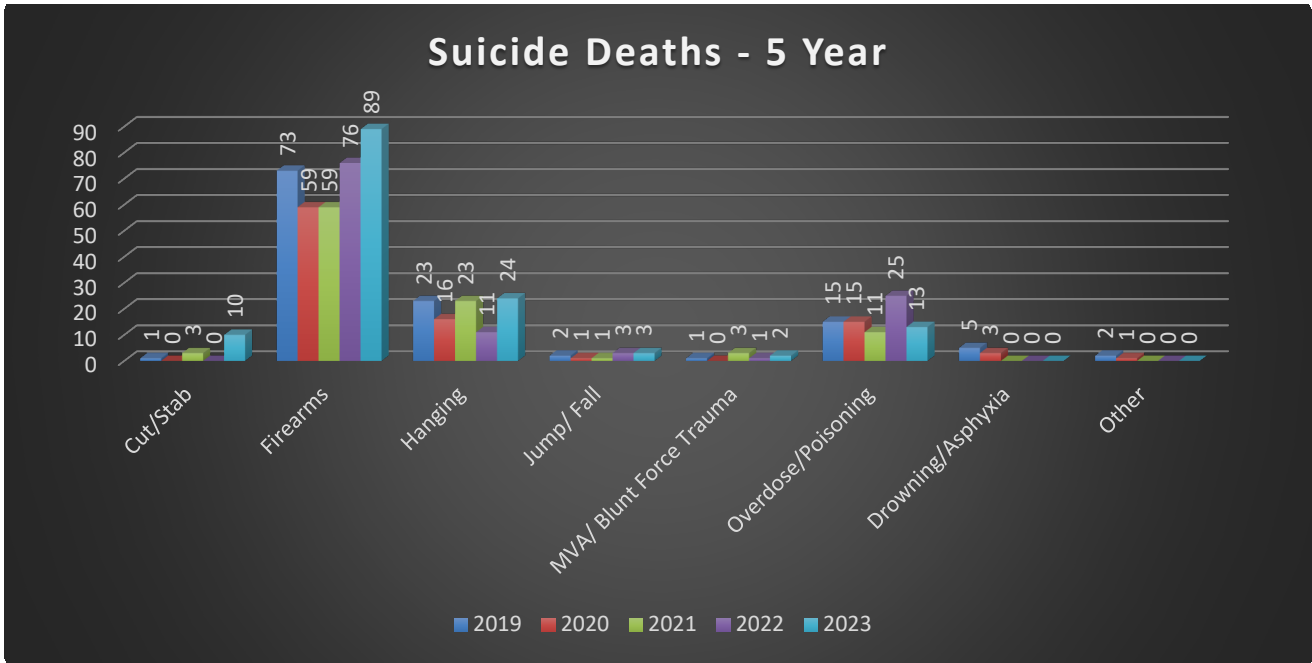
Infant Deaths



Notes and Comments relating to Ada County Infant Deaths Data:

Infant, less than one year old, deaths fall under the Coroner's jurisdiction. These cases are complicated and take considerable time to examine and evaluate. In many cases, the manner of death is undetermined as the manner can not be definitively defined. For example, many of these cases are a result of suspected, though not proven, unsafe sleeping environments.

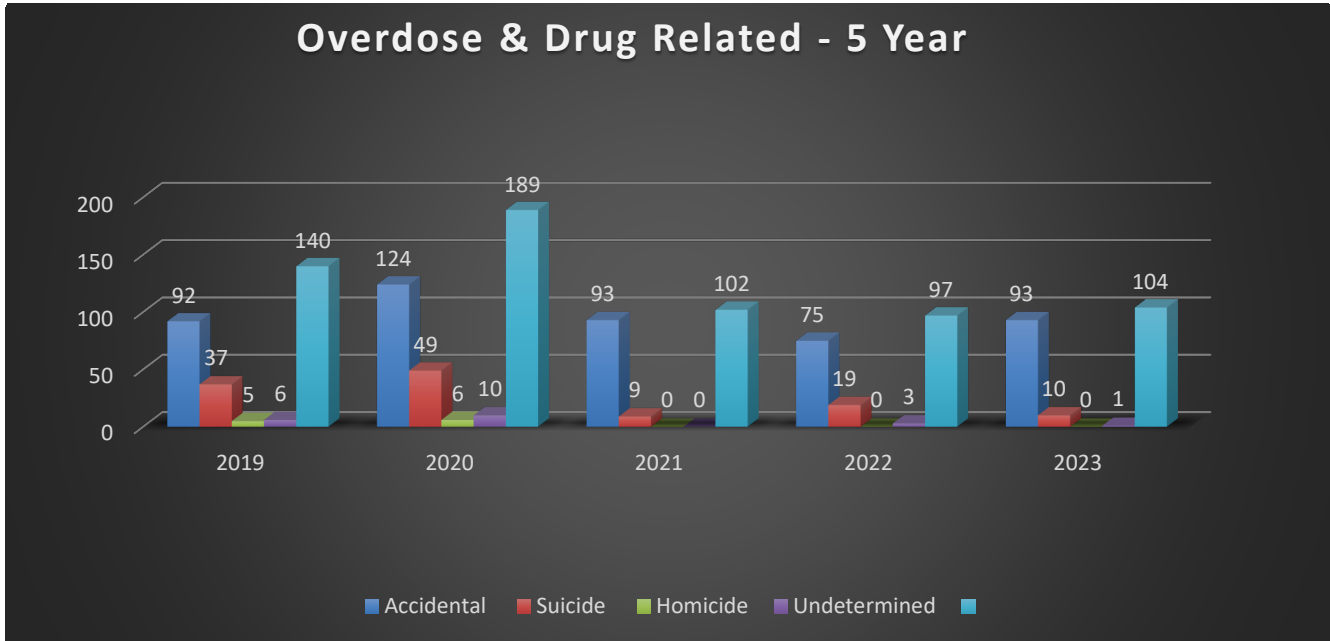
Suicide Deaths



Notes and Comments relating to Ada County Suicide Data:

Total Suicide Cases Investigated in Ada County: **141**. 63% from the use of a firearm, 17% by hanging, and 9% by overdose,

Overdose and Drug-Related Cases



Notes and Comments relating to Ada County Overdose Deaths Data:

Total 2023 Overdose Death Cases Investigated in Ada County: **104**

Caution needs to be taken when addressing overdose deaths. Abundant news articles and segments are reporting illicit drug use and abuse. The current hot topic is fentanyl. This is, indeed, a problem in the United States, to which Ada County is not immune. When accuracy matters, there needs to be clarification on fentanyl's role in death investigations. Like all illicit drugs and various diseases, such as COVID, it is important to denote if the person died *of* the drug or ailment or died *with* the drug or ailment. Fentanyl is a therapeutic medication and is quite commonly used for medical treatments. So, to say fentanyl is a "problem," we urge caution. We have quite many cases where the toxicology report indicates fentanyl. The question a forensic pathologist needs to answer is if the level indicated was fatal, contributory, or therapeutic. The above data indicates deaths where drugs are the cause of death, not contributory or therapeutic.

Idaho Coroner Statutes

Idaho Constitution

Id. Const. Art XVIII, § 6. County Officers

The legislature by general and uniform laws shall commencing with the general election in 1986, provide for the election biennially, in each of the several counties of the state, of the county commissioners and for the election of a sheriff, a county assessor, a county coroner, and a county treasurer, who is ex-officio public administrator, every four years in each of the several counties of the state. All taxes shall be collected by the officer or officers designated by law. The clerk of the district court shall be ex-facto auditor and recorder. No other county offices shall be established, but the legislature by general and uniform laws shall provide for such township, precinct, and municipal officers as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office. The legislature shall provide for the strict accountability of county, township, precinct, and municipal officers for all fees which may be collected by them, and for all public and municipal moneys which may be paid to them, or officially come into their possession. The county commissioners may employ counsel when necessary. The sheriff, county assessor, county treasurer and ex-officio tax collector, auditor, recorder and clerk of the district court shall be empowered by the county commissioners to appoint such deputies and clerical assistants as the business of their office may require, said deputies and clerical assistants to receive such compensation as may be fixed by the county commissioners.

Idaho Code

Idaho Code §2-106. JURY OF INQUEST DEFINED.

A jury of inquest is a body of men or women, or both, summoned from the citizens of a particular county, before the sheriff, Coroner, or other ministerial officer to inquire of particular facts.

Idaho Code §19-4301. COUNTY CORONER TO INVESTIGATE DEATHS.

- (1) When a county Coroner is informed that a person has died, the county Coroner shall investigate the death if:
 - (a) The death occurred as a result of violence, whether apparently by homicide, suicide or by accident; or
 - (b) The death occurred under suspicion or unknown circumstances; or
 - (c) The death is of a stillborn child or any child if there is a reasonable articulable suspicion to believe that the death occurred without a known medical disease to account for the stillbirth or child's death.

- (2) If a death occurs that is not attended by a physician and the cause of death cannot be certified by a physician, the Coroner must refer the investigation of the death to the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the city in which the incident causing the death occurs or, if such county or city is unknown, to the sheriff or chief of police of the county or city where the body was found. The investigation shall be the responsibility of the sheriff or chief of police. Upon the completion of the investigation, a written report shall be provided to the Coroner of the county in which the death occurred or, if such county is unknown, to the Coroner of the county where the body is found.
- (3) A Coroner in the county where the incident causing the death occurred or, if such county is unknown, the Coroner in the county where the body was found, may conduct an inquest if there are reasonable grounds to believe as a result of the investigation that the death occurred as provided in subsection (1) of this section.
- (4) If an inquest is to be conducted, the Coroner shall summon six (6) persons qualified by law to serve as jurors for the inquest.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the tenets of any church or religious beliefs.

Idaho Code § 19-4301A. DEATHS TO BE REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND CORONER.

- (1) Where any death occurs which would be subject to investigation by the Coroner under section 19-4301(1), Idaho Code, the person who finds or has custody of the body shall promptly notify the appropriate law enforcement agency, or a law enforcement officer or agency, which shall notify the Coroner. Pending arrival of a law enforcement officer, the person finding or having custody of the body shall take reasonable precautions to preserve the body and body fluids and the scene of the event shall not be disturbed by anyone until authorization is given by the law enforcement conducting the investigation.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, any person who fails to notify the Coroner or law enforcement pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by up to one (1) year in the county jail or by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000), or by both such imprisonment and fine.
- (3) Any person who, with the intent to prevent discovery of the manner of death, fails to notify or delays notification to the Coroner or the law enforcement pursuant to subsection (1) of this sections, shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a term not to exceed ten (10) years or by a fine not to exceed fifty thousand (\$50,000) or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Idaho Code § 19-4301B. PERFORMANCE OF AUTOPSIES.

The Coroner may in the performance of his duties under this chapter summon a person authorized to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Idaho to inspect the body and give a professional opinion as to the cause of death. The Coroner or prosecuting attorney may order an autopsy performed if it is deemed necessary accurately and scientifically to determine the

cause of death. When an autopsy has been performed, pursuant to an order of a Coroner or a prosecuting attorney, no cause of action shall lie against any person, firm or corporation for participating in or requesting such autopsy.

Idaho Code § 19-4301C. RELEASE OF BODY.

Where a body is held for investigation or autopsy under this act, the Coroner shall, if requested by next of kin, release the body for funeral preparation not later than 24 hours after death or discovery of the body, whichever is later. Any district judge may ex parte order the 24-hour period extended upon showing a reasonable cause by the prosecuting attorney by petition supported by affidavit.

Idaho Code § 19-4301D. CORONER TO MAKE REPORTS.

When the cause and manner of death is established under the provisions of this chapter the Coroner shall make and file a written report of the material facts concerning the cause and manner of death in the office of the clerk of the district court. The coroner shall promptly deliver to the prosecuting attorney each county having criminal jurisdiction over the case copies of all records relating to every death as to which further investigation may be advisable. Any prosecuting attorney or other law enforcement official may upon request secure copies of the original of such records or other documents or pertinent objects or information deemed necessary by him to the performance of his official duties.

Idaho Code § 19-4302. JURORS TO BE SWORN.

When six (6) or more jurors attend, they must be sworn by the Coroner to inquire who the person was, and when, where and by what means he came to his death, and into the circumstances attending his death, and to render a true verdict thereon, according to the evidence offered them.

Idaho Code § 19-4303. EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES.

Coroners may issue subpoenas for witnesses, returnable forthwith, or at such time and place as they may appoint, which may be served by any competent person. They must summon and examine as witnesses every person who, in their opinion, or that of any of the jury, or the prosecuting attorney, has any knowledge of the facts.

Idaho Code § 19-4304. COMPELLING ATTENDANCE OF WITNESSES.

A witness served with a subpoena may be compelled to attend and testify, or punished by the Coroner for disobedience, in like manner as upon a subpoena issued by a justice of the peace.

Idaho Code § 19-4305. VERDICT OF JURY.

After hearing the testimony, the jury must render their verdict and certify the same by an inquisition in writing, signed by them, and setting forth who the person killed is, and, when,

where and by what means he came to his death; and if he was killed, or his death occasioned by the act of another, by criminal means, who is guilty thereof.

Idaho Code § 19-4306. REDUCTION OF TESTIMONY TO WRITING.

The testimony of the witnesses examined before the Coroner's jury must be reduced to writing by the Coroner, or under his direction, and forthwith filed by him with the inquisition, in the office of the clerk of the district court of the county.

Idaho Code § 19-4307. TRANSMISSION OF TESTIMONY TO MAGISTRATE.

If, however, the person charged with the commission of the offense is arrested before the inquisition can be filed, the Coroner must deliver the same, with the testimony taken, to the magistrate before whom such person may be brought, who must return the same, with the depositions and statement taken before him, to the office of the clerk of the district court of the county.

Idaho Code § 19-4308. WARRANT FOR ARREST OF ACCUSED.

If the jury finds that the person was killed by another, under circumstances not excusable or justifiable by law, or that his death was occasioned by the act of another by criminal means, and the party committing the act is ascertained by the inquisition, and is not in custody, the coroner must issue a warrant, signed by him, with his name of office, into one (1) or more counties, as may be necessary, for the arrest of the person charged.

Idaho Code § 19-4309. FORM OF WARRANT.

The Coroner's warrant must be in substantially the following form:

County of

The state of Idaho, to any sheriff, constable, marshal, or policeman in this state:

An inquisition having been this day found by a Coroner's jury before me, stating that A.B. has come to his death by the act of C.D., by criminal means (or as the case may be, as found by the inquisition), you are therefore commanded forthwith to arrest the above named C.D., and take him before the nearest or most accessible magistrate in this county.

Given under my hand this day of,

E.F., Coroner of the County of

Idaho Code § 19-4310. SERVICE OF WARRANT.

The Coroner's warrant may be served in any county, and the officer serving it must proceed thereon, in all respects, as upon a warrant of arrest on an information before a magistrate; when served in another county it need not be indorsed by a magistrate of that county.

Idaho Code § 31-2117. DISPOSAL OF MONEY OR PROPERTY FOUND ON DEAD BODY.

The Coroner or other public official must notify the county treasurer, within forty-eight (48) hours of knowledge of a death, of money or other property found on or with a dead body. The treasurer, upon receiving such funds must deposit them to the credit of the county. On receiving other property in a like manner he must, within thirty (30) days, sell it at public action upon reasonable public notice, and must in like manner deposit the proceeds to the credit of the county.

Idaho Code §31-2118. MONEY FOUND ON DEAD BODIES – DEMAND BY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES.

If the money in the treasury is demanded within six (6) years by the legal representatives of the decedent, the treasurer must pay it to them, after deducting the fees and expenses of the Coroner and of the county in relation to the matter, or the same may be so paid at any time thereafter upon the order of the board of commissioners.

Idaho Code § 31-2801. INQUESTS.

The Coroner must hold inquests as prescribed in the Penal Code.

Idaho Code § 31-2802. BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED BODIES.

When no person takes charge of a body of the deceased, the Coroner must cause the body to be decently interred; and if there is not sufficient property belonging to the estate of the deceased to pay the necessary expenses of the burial, the expenses are a legal charge against the county.

Idaho Code §31-2803. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY FOUND ON CORPSE.

The Coroner must within thirty (30) days after an inquest upon a dead body, deliver to the county treasurer or the legal representatives of the deceased, any money or property found upon the body.

Idaho Code § 31-2804. VERIFIED STATEMENTS REQUIRED OF CORONER.

Before auditing or allowing the accounts of the Coroner, the commissioners must require him to file with the clerk of the board a statement in writing, verified by his affidavit, showing:

1. The amount of money or other property belonging to the estate of a deceased person which has come into his possession since his last statement.
2. The disposition made of such property.

Idaho Code § 31-2808. MAKING FINAL DISPOSITION OF DEAD HUMAN BODIES PROHIBITED.

No Coroner or person acting as Coroner who is a licensed funeral director or a licensed mortician, owner, proprietor or employee of any establishment engaged in making final disposition of dead human bodies, and no establishment with which such Coroner or person acting as Coroner is associated, shall, except for ambulance services, perform any of the services

of a funeral director or mortician or furnish any materials connected with or incidental to the final disposition of the body of any person whose death is required by law to be investigated by such Coroner or other person acting in that capacity. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not be applicable in counties wherein there is only one (1) licensed funeral establishment.

Idaho Code § 31-2809. CORONER MAY APPOINT DEPUTIES.

A Coroner may appoint a deputy or deputies as he deems necessary. Deputy Coroners shall be paid at a rate fixed by the county commissioners.

Idaho Code § 31-3412. INDIGENT BURIAL.

It shall be the duty of the board to provide for burial or cremation of any deceased indigent person. The amount paid by the obligated county shall not in any case exceed the established or negotiated rate set by each board. If the Coroner, mortician or other responsible parties are unable to establish next of kin or other resources, they may make application to the board. Application must be made prior to services rendered and pursuant to terms of negotiated agreements. The county shall be free from any liability for said burial or cremation.

Idaho Code § 39-260. REGISTRATION OF DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS.

- (1) A certificate of each death which occurs in this state shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the death occurs, or as otherwise directed by the state registrar, within five (5) days after the occurrence. However, the board shall, by rule and upon such conditions as it may prescribe to assure compliance with the purposes of the vital statistics act, provide for the filing of death certificates without medical certifications of cause of death in cases in which compliance with the applicable prescribed period would result in undue hardship; but provided, however, that medical certifications of cause of death shall be provided by the certifying physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or coroner to the vital statistics unit within fifteen (15) days from the filing of the death certificate. No certificate shall be deemed complete until every item of information required shall have been provided or its omission satisfactorily accounted for. When death occurs in a moving conveyance in the United States and the body is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in this state and the place where the body is first removed shall be considered the place of death. When a death occurs on a moving conveyance while in international airspace or in a foreign country or its airspace and the body is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in this state, but the certificate shall show the actual place of death insofar as can be determined. If the place of death is unknown but the dead body is found in this state, the certificate of death shall be completed and filed in accordance with this section. The place where the body is found shall be shown as the place of death. If the date of death is unknown, it shall be determined by approximation.

The person in charge of interment or removal of the body from the district shall be responsible for obtaining and filing the certificate. Said person shall obtain the required information from the following persons, over their respective signatures:

- (a) Personal data shall be supplied by the person best qualified to supply them; and
- (b) Except as otherwise provided, medical data shall be supplied by the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse who attended the deceased during the last illness, who shall certify the cause of death according to his best knowledge, information and belief within seventy-two (72) hours from time of death. In the absence of the attending physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse or with said person's approval the certificate may be completed and signed by said person's associate, who must be a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, the chief medical officer of the institution in which death occurred, or the physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, provided such individual has access to the medical history of the case, views the deceased at or after death, and death is due to natural causes.

(2) The person in charge of interment or of removal of the body from the district shall refer the following cases to the Coroner who shall make an immediate investigation, supply the necessary medical data, and certify to the cause of death:

- (a) When no physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse was in attendance during the last illness of the deceased; or
- (b) When the circumstances suggest that the death occurred as a result of other than natural causes; or
- (c) When death is due to natural causes and the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse who attended the deceased during the last illness or said person's designated associate who must be a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, is not available or is physically incapable of signing.

(3) When a death is presumed to have occurred within this state but the body cannot be located, a death certificate may be prepared by the state registrar upon receipt of an order of a court of record of this state, which shall include the finding of facts required to complete the death certificate. Such a death certificate shall be marked "presumptive" and shall show on its face the date of registration and shall identify the court and the date of decree.

(4) Each stillbirth, defined as a spontaneous fetal death of twenty (20) completed weeks gestation or more, based on a clinical estimate of gestation, or a weight of three hundred fifty (350) grams (twelve and thirty-five hundredths (12.35) ounces) or more, which occurs in this state shall be registered on a certificate of stillbirth within five (5) days after delivery with the local registrar of the district in which the stillbirth occurred. All induced terminations of pregnancy shall be reported in the manner prescribed in section 39-261, Idaho Code, and shall not be reported as

stillbirths. No certificate shall be deemed complete until every item of information required shall have been provided or its omission satisfactorily accounted for:

- (a) When a stillbirth occurs in an institution, the person in charge of the institution or a designated representative shall prepare the certificate, obtain the signature of the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse in attendance, except as otherwise provided in subsection (5) of this section, who shall provide the medical data, and forward the certificate to the mortician or person acting as such. In the absence of the attending physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse or with said person's approval the certificate may be completed and signed by said person's associate, who must be a physician, physician's assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, the chief medical officer of the institution in which the stillbirth occurred, or the physician who performed an autopsy on the stillborn fetus, provided such individual has access to the medical history of the case and views the fetus at or after stillbirth. The mortician or person acting as such shall provide the disposition information and file the certificate with the local registrar.
- (b) When a stillbirth occurs outside an institution, the mortician or person acting as such shall complete the certificate, obtain the medical data from and signature of the attendant at the stillbirth, except as otherwise provided in subsection (5) of this section, and file the certificate. If the attendant at or immediately after the stillbirth is not a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, the Coroner shall investigate and sign the certificate of stillbirth.
- (c) When a stillbirth occurs in a moving conveyance in the United States and the stillborn fetus is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the stillbirth shall be registered in this state and the place where the stillborn fetus is first removed shall be considered the place of stillbirth. When a stillbirth occurs in a moving conveyance while in international airspace or in a foreign country or its airspace and the stillborn fetus is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the stillbirth shall be registered in this state, but the certificate shall show the actual place of stillbirth insofar as can be determined.
- (d) When a stillborn fetus is found in this state and the place of stillbirth is unknown, it shall be reported in this state. The place where the stillborn fetus was found shall be considered the place of stillbirth.
- (e) The name of the father shall be entered on the certificate of stillbirth as provided by section 39-255, Idaho Code.

(5) The person responsible for the preparation or completion of the stillbirth certificate as stated in subsection (4) (a) and (b) of this section shall refer the following cases to the coroner who shall make an immediate investigation, supply the necessary medical data and certify to the cause of stillbirth:

- (a) When the circumstances suggest that the stillbirth occurred as a result of other than natural causes, excepting legally induced abortions, as defined by section 39-241, Idaho Code; or
- (b) When death is due to natural causes and the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse in attendance at or immediately after the stillbirth or said person's designated associate is not available or is physically incapable of signing.

Idaho Code § 39-268. Authorization for Final Disposition.

- (1) The mortician or person acting as such who first assumes possession of a dead body or stillborn fetus shall make a written report to the registrar of the district in which death or stillbirth occurred or in which the body or stillborn fetus was found within twenty-four (24) hours after taking possession of the body or stillborn fetus, on a form prescribed and furnished by the state registrar and in accordance with rules promulgated by the board. Except as specified in subsection (2) of this section, the written report shall serve as permit to transport, bury or entomb the body or stillborn fetus within this state, provided that the mortician or person acting as such shall certify that the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death or stillbirth has been contacted and has affirmatively stated that said physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse or the designated associate according to section 39-260(1)(b) or (4)(a), Idaho Code, will sign the certificate of death or stillbirth.
- (2) The written report as specified in subsection (1) of this section shall not serve as a permit to:
 - (a) Remove a body or stillborn fetus from this state; or
 - (b) Cremate the body or stillborn fetus; or
 - (c) Make disposal or disposition of any body or stillborn fetus in any manner when inquiry is required under chapter 43, title 19, Idaho Code, or section 39-260(2) or (5), Idaho Code.
- (3) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, the mortician or person acting as such who first assumes possession of a dead body or stillborn fetus shall obtain an authorization for final disposition prior to final disposal or removal from the state of the body or stillborn fetus. The physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse or Coroner responsible for signing the death or stillbirth certificate shall authorize final disposition of the body or stillborn fetus, on a form prescribed and furnished by the state registrar. If the body is to be cremated, the Coroner must also give additional authorization. In the case of stillbirths, the hospital may dispose of the stillborn fetus if the parent(s) so requests; authorization from the Coroner is not necessary unless the Coroner is responsible for signing the certificate of stillbirth.

- (4) When a dead body or stillborn fetus is transported into the state, a permit issued in accordance with the law of the state in which the death or stillbirth occurred or in which the body or stillborn fetus was found shall authorize the transportation and final disposition within the state of Idaho.
- (5) A permit for disposal shall not be required in the case of a dead fetus of less than twenty (20) weeks gestation and less than three hundred fifty (350) grams or twelve and thirty-five hundredths (12.35) ounces where disposal of the fetal remains is made within the institution where the delivery of the dead fetus occurred.

Idaho Code § 39-269 DISINTERMENT -- RULES.

No body or stillborn fetus shall be disinterred within the state of Idaho except upon a permit granted by the state registrar of vital statistics. The forms of disinterment permits shall be prepared by the state registrar. Disinterment and removal must be done under the personal supervision of a licensed mortician, and only upon verified application of the person or persons having the highest authority under the provisions of section 54-1142, Idaho Code. Only such persons as are actually necessary shall be present. The coffin shall not be opened either at place of disinterment or place of destination, except special permit be issued by the state registrar. And in case of disinterment of bodies dead by reason of contagious and infectious diseases, as shown by the certificate of death given by the certifying physician or coroner, the sexton and all other persons engaged in such removal or being present shall immediately thereafter change and disinfect their clothing and properly disinfect their hands, head and face, provided, that such disinterment may also be governed by rules promulgated by the state board of health and welfare and a synopsis of the same shall be printed on the back of every permit. In case of any contagious and infectious disease where remains are to be shipped to points in other states, permission must first be obtained from the state health officer of such state. The state registrar may also issue a special disinterment permit for legal purposes. This permit for legal purposes shall be granted only upon application of a prosecuting attorney, the attorney general of this state, or the Coroner of the county in which the body is interred, stating therein such facts which make it evident to the state registrar that the ends of justice require that disinterment be permitted. Such special disinterment for legal purposes shall be governed by rules promulgated by the state board of health and welfare and a synopsis of the same shall be printed on the back of every such special disinterment permit for legal purposes. Bodies in a receiving vault when prepared by a licensed mortician shall not be regarded as disinterred bodies until after the expiration of thirty (30) days.

Idaho Code § 39-3405. MANNER OF MAKING ANATOMICAL GIFT BEFORE DONOR'S DEATH.

- (1) A donor may make an anatomical gift:
 - (a) By authorizing a statement or symbol indicating that the donor has made an anatomical gift to be imprinted on the donor's driver's license or identification card;
 - (b) In a will;

- (c) During a terminal illness or injury of the donor, by any form of communication addressed to at least two (2) adults, at least one (1) of whom is a disinterested witness; or
 - (d) As provided in subsection (2) of this section.
- (2) A donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under section 39-3404, Idaho Code, may make a gift by a donor card or other record signed by the donor or other person making the gift or by authorizing that a statement or symbol indicating that the donor has made an anatomical gift be included on a donor registry. If the donor or other person is physically unable to sign a record, the record may be signed by another individual at the direction of the donor or other person and must:
- (a) Be witnessed by at least two (2) adults, at least one (1) of whom is a disinterested witness, who have signed at the request of the donor or the other person; and
 - (b) State that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection.
- (3) Revocation, suspension, expiration or cancellation of a driver's license or identification card upon which an anatomical gift is indicated does not invalidate the gift.
- (4) An anatomical gift made by will takes effect upon the donor's death whether or not the will is probated. Invalidation of the will after the donor's death does not invalidate the gift.

Idaho Code § 39-3412. PERSONS THAT MAY RECEIVE ANATOMICAL GIFT -- PURPOSE OF ANATOMICAL GIFT.

- (1) An anatomical gift may be made to the following persons named in the document of gift:
- (a) A hospital; accredited medical school, dental school, college, or university; organ procurement organization; or other appropriate person, for research or education;
 - (b) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, an individual designated by the person making the anatomical gift if the individual is the recipient of the part;
 - (c) An eye bank or tissue bank.
- (2) If an anatomical gift to an individual under subsection (1)(b) of this section cannot be transplanted into the individual, the part passes in accordance with subsection (7) of this section in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the person making the anatomical gift.
- (3) If an anatomical gift of one (1) or more specific parts or of all parts is made in a document of gift that does not name a person described in subsection (1) of this section but identifies the purpose for which an anatomical gift may be used, the following rules apply:
- (a) If the part is an eye and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, the gift passes to the appropriate eye bank.

- (b) If the part is tissue and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, the gift passes to the appropriate tissue bank.
 - (c) If the part is an organ and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, the gift passes to the appropriate organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.
 - (d) If the part is an organ, an eye, or tissue and the gift is for the purpose of research or education, the gift passes to the appropriate procurement organization.
- (4) For the purpose of subsection (3) of this section, if there is more than one (1) purpose of an anatomical gift set forth in the document of gift but the purposes are not set forth in any priority, the gift must be used for transplantation or therapy, if suitable. If the gift cannot be used for transplantation or therapy, the gift may be used for research or education.
- (5) If an anatomical gift of one (1) or more specific parts is made in a document of gift that does not name a person described in subsection (1) of this section and does not identify the purpose of the gift, the gift may be used only for transplantation or therapy, and the gift passes in accordance with subsection (7) of this section.
- (6) If a document of gift specifies only a general intent to make an anatomical gift by words such as "donor," "organ donor" or "body donor," or by a symbol or statement of similar import, the gift may be used only for transplantation or therapy, and the gift passes in accordance with subsection (7) of this section.
- (7) For purposes of subsections (2), (5) and (6) of this section, the following rules apply:
- (a) If the part is an eye, the gift passes to the appropriate eye bank.
 - (b) If the part is tissue, the gift passes to the appropriate tissue bank.
 - (c) If the part is an organ, the gift passes to the appropriate organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.
- (8) An anatomical gift of an organ for transplantation or therapy, other than an anatomical gift under subsection (1)(b) of this section, passes to the organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.
- (9) If an anatomical gift does not pass pursuant to subsections (1) through (8) of this section or the decedent's body or part is not used for transplantation, therapy, research or education, custody of the body or part passes to the person under obligation to dispose of the body or part.
- (10) A person may not accept an anatomical gift if the person knows that the gift was not effectively made under section [39-3405](#) or [39-3410](#), Idaho Code, or if the person knows

that the decedent made a refusal under section 39-3407, Idaho Code, that was not revoked. For purposes of this subsection, if a person knows that an anatomical gift was made on a document of gift, the person is deemed to know of any amendment or revocation of the gift or any refusal to make an anatomical gift on the same document of gift.

(11) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (1)(b) of this section, nothing in this chapter affects the allocation of organs for transplantation or therapy.

Idaho Code § 49-1307. ACCIDENT REPORT FORMS.

- (1) The department shall prepare and upon request supply to police departments, Coroners, sheriffs, garages, and other suitable agencies or individuals, forms for written accident reports required by this chapter, appropriate with respect to the persons required to make those reports and the purposes to be served. Written reports shall call for sufficiently detailed information to disclose with reference to a traffic accident the cause, conditions then existing, and the persons and vehicles involved.
- (2) Every accident report required to be made in writing shall be made on the appropriate form approved by the department, and shall contain all of the information required on the form unless not available.

Idaho Code § 49-1309. CORONERS TO REPORT.

Every Coroner or other official performing like functions shall, on or before the 10th day of each month, report in writing to the department the death of any person within his jurisdiction during the preceding calendar month as the result of a traffic accident, giving the time and place of the accident and the circumstances relating to it.

Idaho Code § 49-1314. TESTING BLOOD OF PERSONS KILLED IN ACCIDENTS.

- (1) The director of the Idaho State Police, jointly with the various county Coroners, shall provide a system and procedure whereby all Coroners in Idaho shall obtain blood samples from all pedestrians and motor vehicle operators who have died as a result of and contemporaneously with an accident involving a motor vehicle.
- (2) All investigating peace officers shall report traffic fatalities to the county Coroner or follow the procedure established by the joint action of the director of the Idaho State Police and the various Coroners.
- (3) The blood sample, or result of blood testing, with any information as may be required, shall be delivered to the director of the Idaho State Police or his designee. Upon receipt of the sample

the director will cause all tests as may be required to determine the amount of alcohol, narcotics and dangerous drugs that may be contained in the sample.

- (4) The results of such tests shall be used for statistical purposes and shall be subject to disclosure according to chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code.