

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

## 2021 March Monthly Report



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## MONTHLY SUMMARY

The TCCO intends for the information in the report to be useful to community leaders and the public at large. The data presented within this report represents deaths occurring within Tippecanoe County, for which the TCCO has jurisdiction. The data does not represent ALL deaths of Tippecanoe County residents. The decedent's place of residence or location of injury may be outside of the county.

### Our Values:

**INTEGRITY.** The TCCO shows integrity through an office culture founded on pride and peer accountability, where members will maintain the highest ethical standards.

**COMPASSIONATE SERVICE.** TCCO employees are committed to building an effective team to serve the local community as an advocate for the deceased and their families in times of need and sorrow. Our employees are committed to providing law enforcement professionals with the tools needed to prosecute offenders and protect the community.

**EXCELLENCE.** The TCCO is a proud, professional organization emphasizing continuous personal and professional education, training, improvement, and growth.

The office of the Tippecanoe County Coroner has a dual role: Public Safety and Public Health

As a Public Safety Agency, the TCCO conducts death investigations in an independent manner and without bias. TCCO investigators, forensic and medicolegal, work with the law enforcement agency to gather information useful to the circumstances of the death. The TCCO investigators also ensure legal positive identification and notification of legal next-of-kin occur as quickly as possible.

As a Public Health Agency, the TCCO provides information on the state of health of Tippecanoe County residents and alert appropriate agencies of deaths that may present an immediate threat to its population. The TCCO conducts epidemiological research and partners with multiple agencies to detect, investigate, and notify novel illnesses and predict trends to better support at-risk populations.

# MONTHLY OVERVIEW OF CASES REPORTED AND INVESTIGATED

In March 2021, **68** deaths were reported to the Tippecanoe County Coroner's Office (TCCO). TCCO accepted jurisdiction on **43** decedents for further investigation. Since the beginning of 2021, the TCCO has had **221** deaths reported to the office. Of these reported deaths, the TCCO accepted jurisdiction on **137** deaths for further investigation.

## TCCO Caseload

**Accepted Cases** - The TCCO accepted jurisdiction of **43** decedent cases, of which 29 were autopsied.

**Declined Cases** - The TCCO declined jurisdiction of **25** decedent cases.

### Jan-Mar 2021

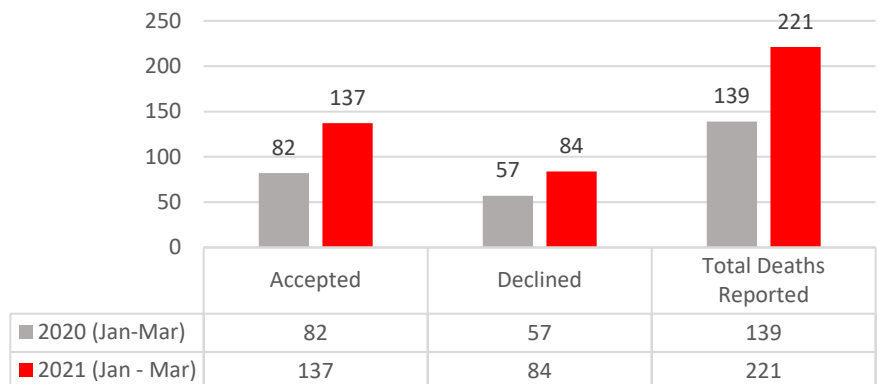
The TCCO had a total of **221** deaths reported and accepted jurisdiction on **137** deaths for further investigation.

### Jan-Mar 2020

The TCCO had a total of **139** deaths reported and accepted jurisdiction on **82** deaths for further investigation.

### Number of Cases Reported, Accepted, and Declined

(Jan-Mar 2020 vs Jan-Mar 2021)



## Number of Cases Autopsied

Month	Cases Investigated	Autopsies (Full, Partial & External)
January	58	25
February	36	21
March	<b>43</b>	<b>29</b>
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
<b>Total</b>		

In March 2021, of the **68** total deaths reported to TCCO, **43** were accepted as the jurisdiction of the TCCO.

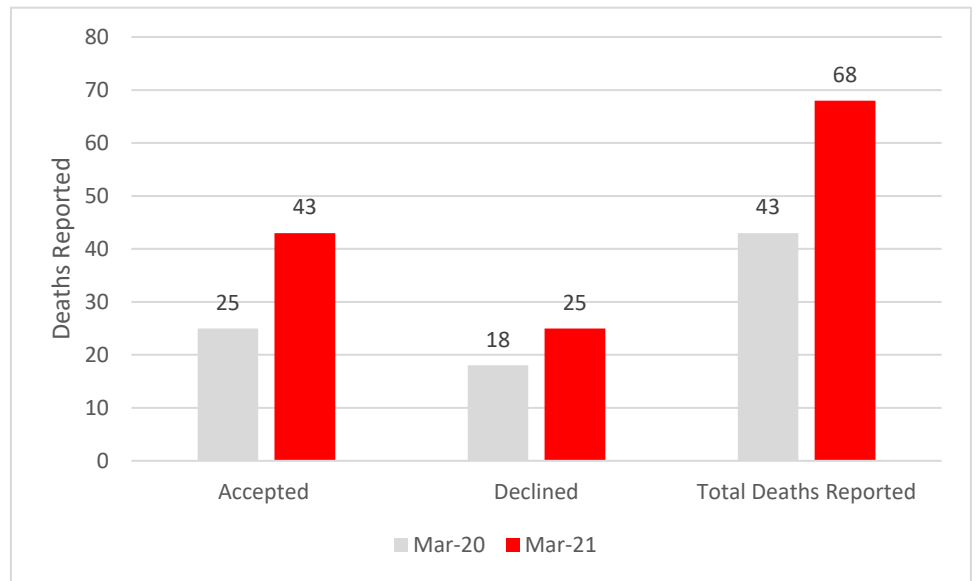
**Twenty-nine** of the accepted cases were autopsied. This is an increase of **314%** compared to March 2020.

Some of this increase is due to COVID restrictions in March 2020. Also, the increase in accepted cases has also risen resulting in the increase in autopsies needed.

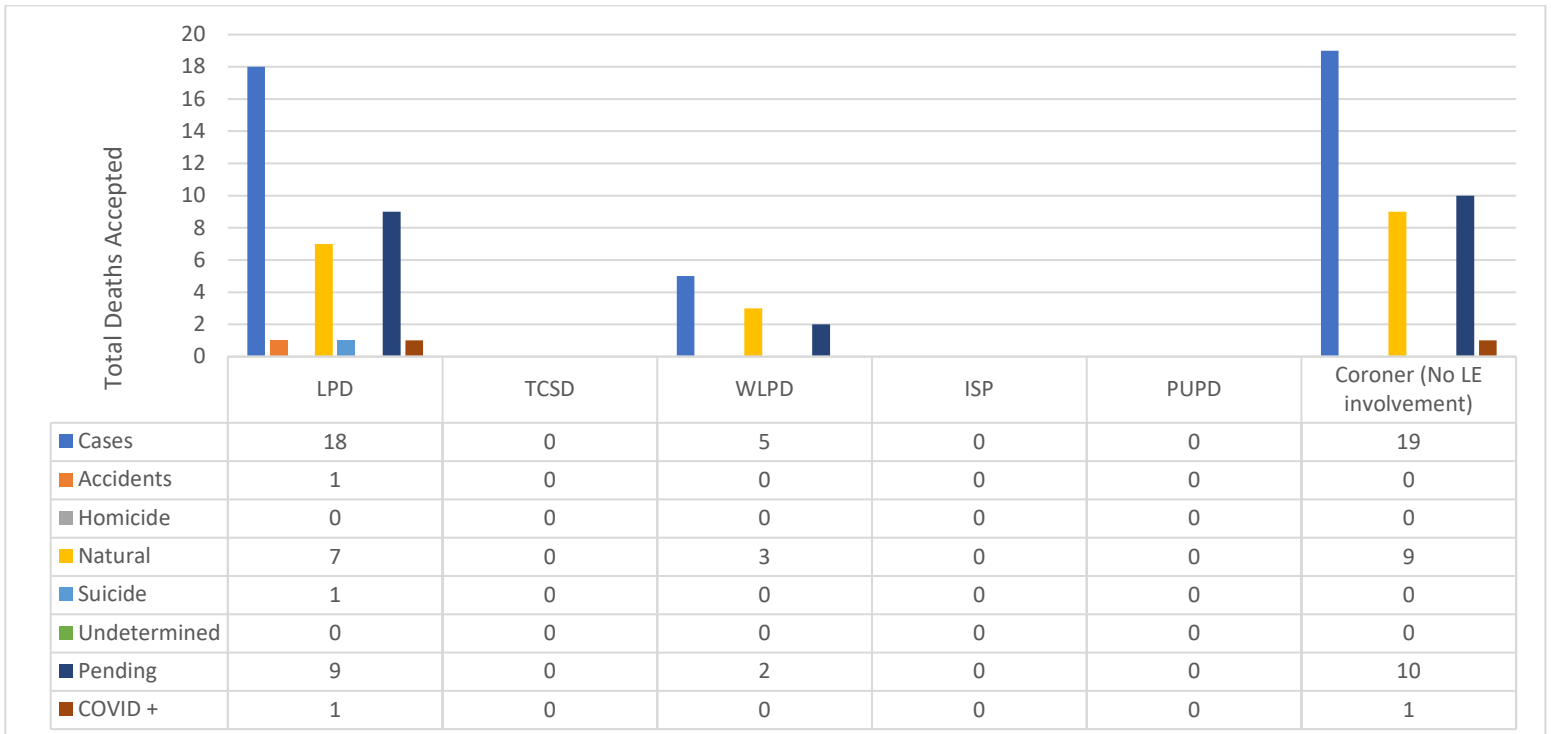
## Comparison of Deaths for March 2020 vs. 2021

**72%↑**  
increase for the month  
of March in **cases  
accepted** for further  
investigation.

**58%↑**  
increase in **total  
deaths** reported to  
TCCO from 2020 to  
2021.



## Death Investigations by Agency (March 2021)

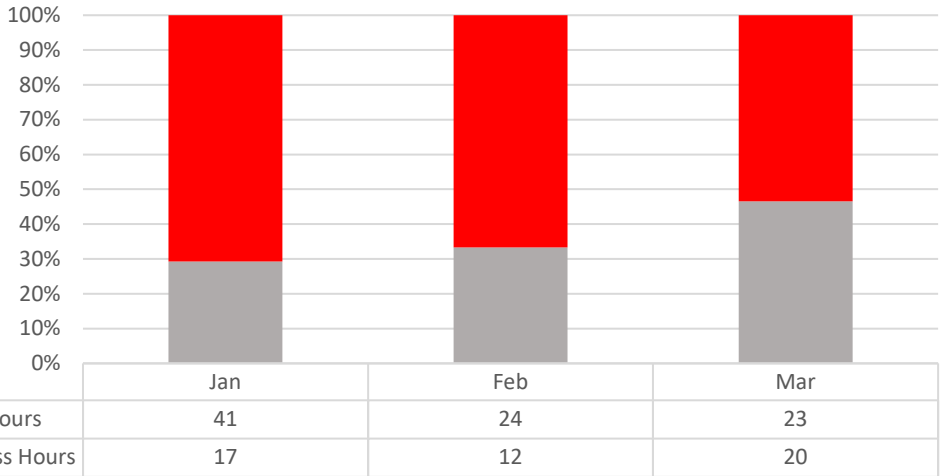


## 2021 Cases Accepted (January – March)

For the first three months of 2021, the total percentage of cases accepted after hours was **65%**.

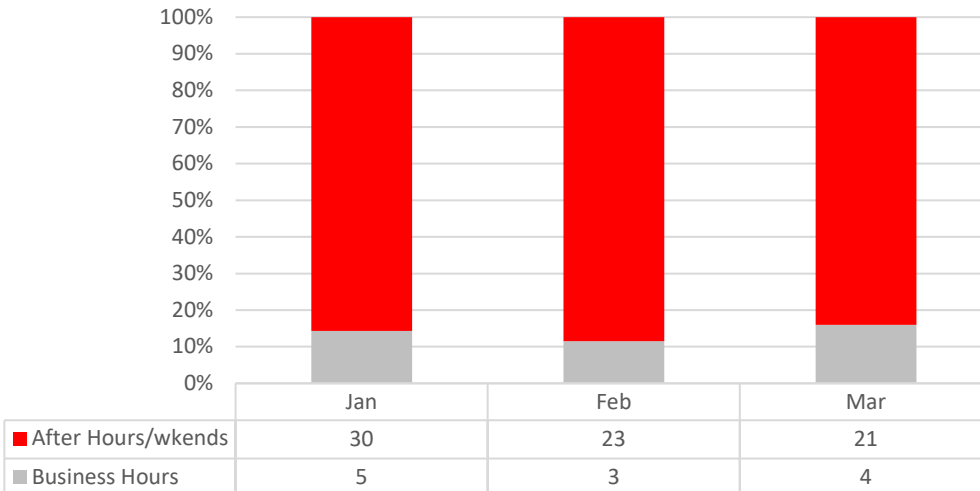
The total percentage of cases accepted during business hours was **35%**.

Percentage of Cases Accepted for Further Investigation During Business Hours vs. After Business Hours



## January – March 2021 Cases Decline

Percentages of Cases Declined During Business Hours vs. After Business Hours



For the first three months of 2021, the total percentage of cases declined after hours was **86%**.

The total percentage of cases declined during business hours was **14%**.

For March the Morgue Cooler was at or above capacity for **26** of the 31 days of March, 2021