

TIPPECANOE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

January – April 2021 Monthly Report



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January – April 2021 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.

JANUARY - APRIL 2021

OVERVIEW OF CASES

REPORTED AND INVESTIGATED

From January through April 2021, **295** deaths were reported to the Tippecanoe County Coroner's Office (TCCO). TCCO accepted jurisdiction on **184** decedents for further investigation. This is an **increase of 77%** over the same time as 2020. We have declined jurisdiction on **111** deaths reported to the TCCO.

TCCO Caseload

Accepted Cases - The TCCO accepted jurisdiction of **184** decedent cases, of which 96 were autopsied.

Declined Cases - The TCCO declined jurisdiction of **111** decedent cases.

Jan-Apr 2021

The TCCO had a total of **295** deaths reported and accepted jurisdiction on **184** deaths for further investigation.

Jan-Apr 2020

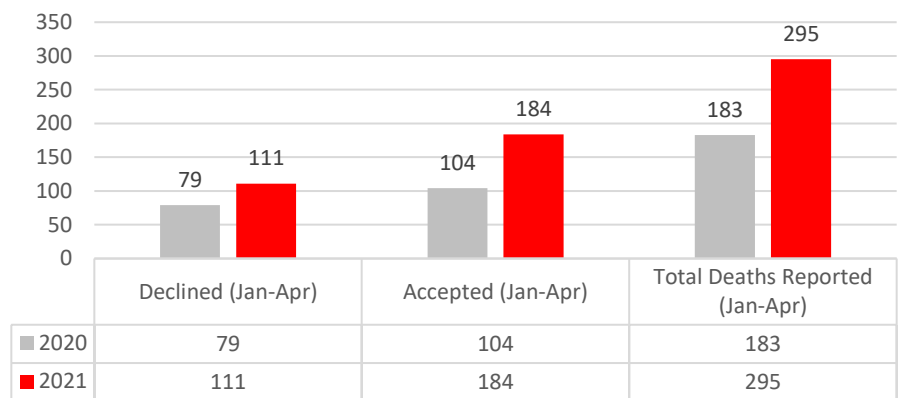
The TCCO had a total of **183** deaths reported. TCCO accepted jurisdiction on **104** deaths for further investigation.

2020 vs 2021

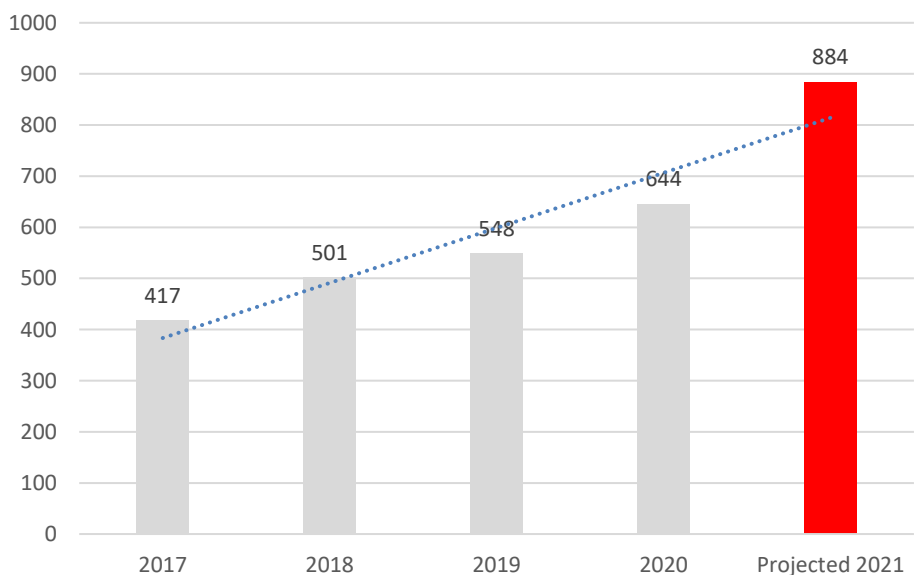
61% ↑ in **total deaths** reported to the TCCO in the first four months of 2021 vs. same time in 2020.

77% ↑ in deaths the TCCO **accepted jurisdiction** in the first four months of 2021 vs. same time in 2020.

Number of Cases Reported, Accepted, and Declined
(Jan-Apr 2020 vs. Jan-Apr 2021)



Total Deaths Reported Trends and Projections



During the first four months of 2021, the TCCO office is receiving, on average, **76** deaths reported per month. If this trend continues, the 2021 projected deaths reported would need to increase to **915**. Not 884 as noted in this graph for 2021.

Number of Cases Autopsied

| Month | Cases Investigated | Autopsies (Full, Partial & External) |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January | 58 | 25 |
| February | 36 | 21 |
| March | 43 | 29 |
| April | 47 | 23 |
| May | | |
| June | | |
| July | | |
| August | | |
| September | | |
| October | | |
| November | | |
| December | | |
| Total | | |

In April 2021, of the 74 total deaths reported to TCCO, 47 were accepted as the jurisdiction of the TCCO.

Twenty-three of the accepted cases were autopsied. This is an increase of **2,200%** compared to April 2020 (1 autopsy performed).

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

Comparison of Deaths for

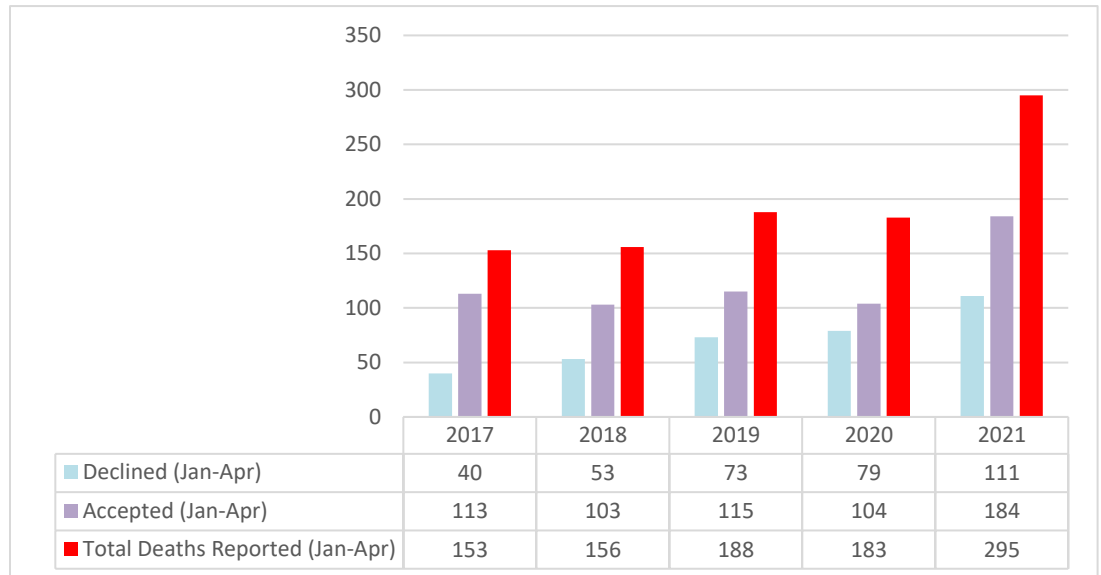
Jan - Apr 2017 through Jan - Apr 2021

63% ↑

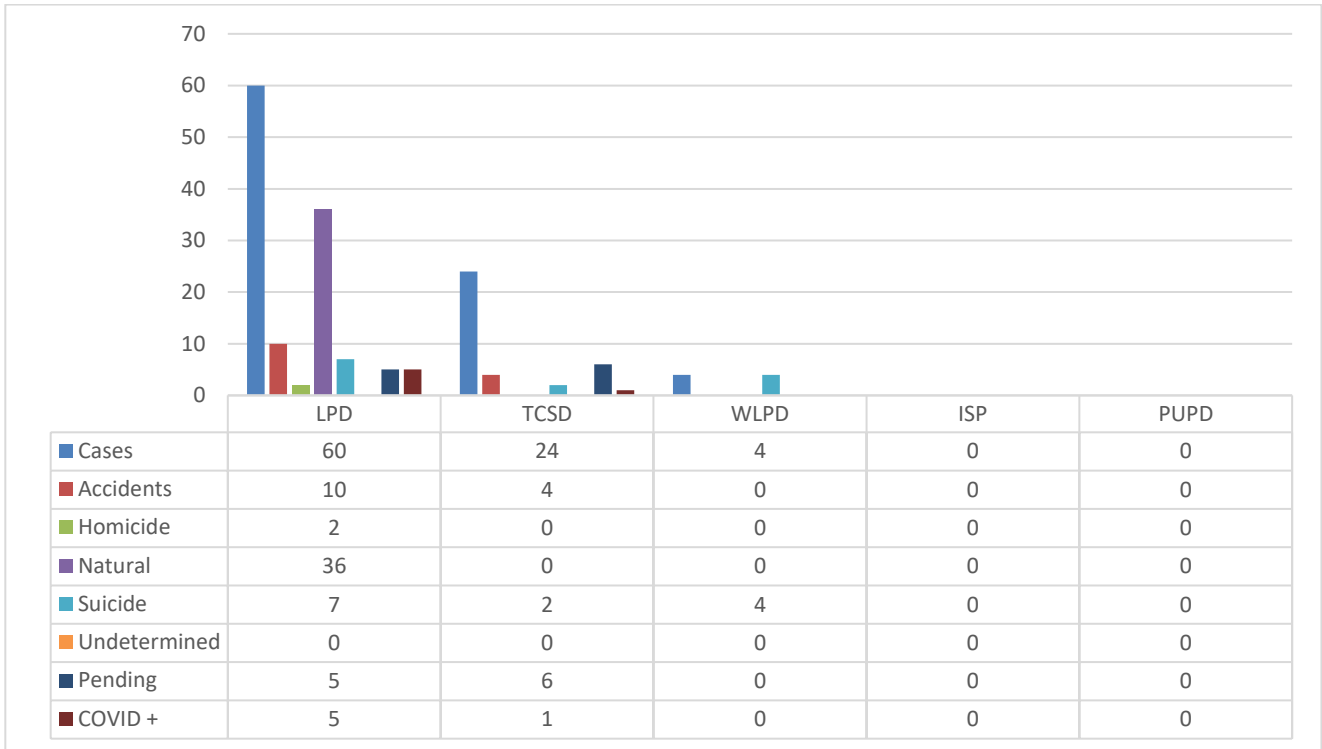
Increase in cases accepted in the first four months of 2021 compared to the first four months of 2017.

93% ↑

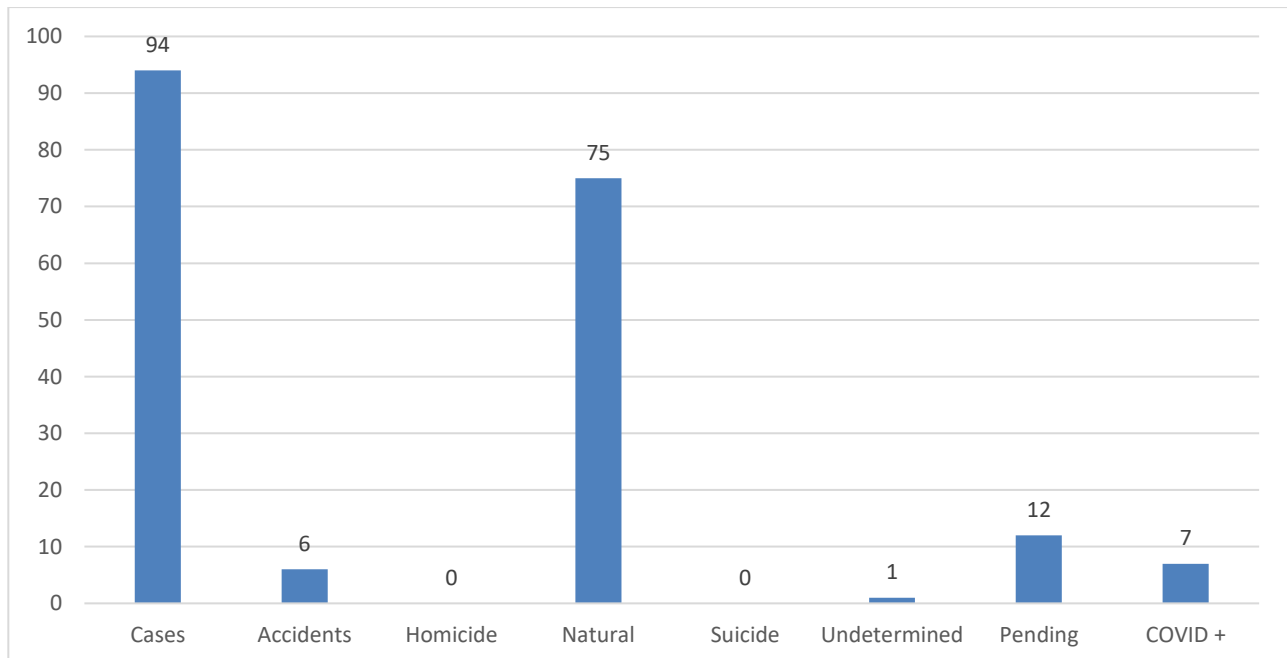
Increase in total deaths reported in the first four months of 2021 compared to the first four months of 2017.



Death Investigations by Agency (January - April 2021)

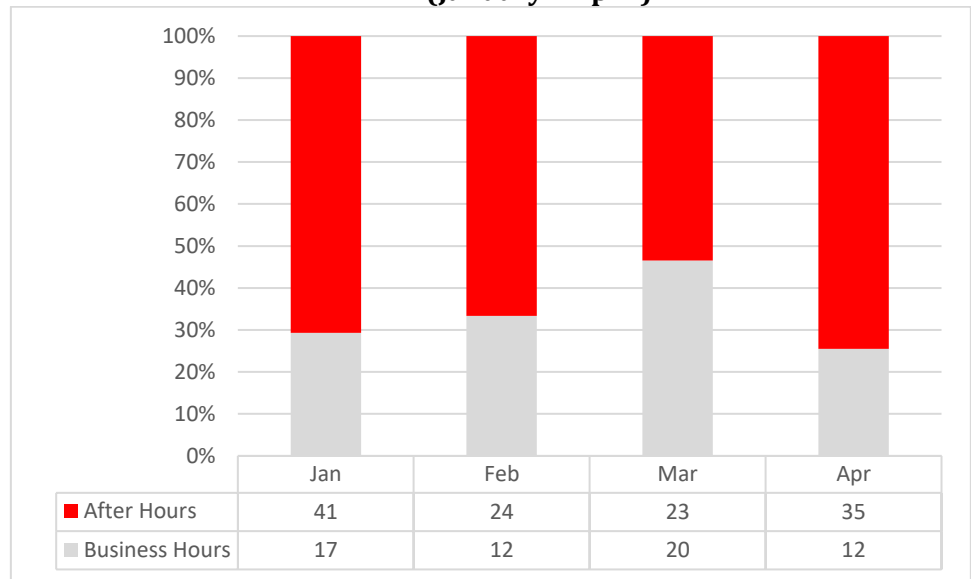


Death Investigations by TCCO (non-law enforcement involvement) (January - April 2021)

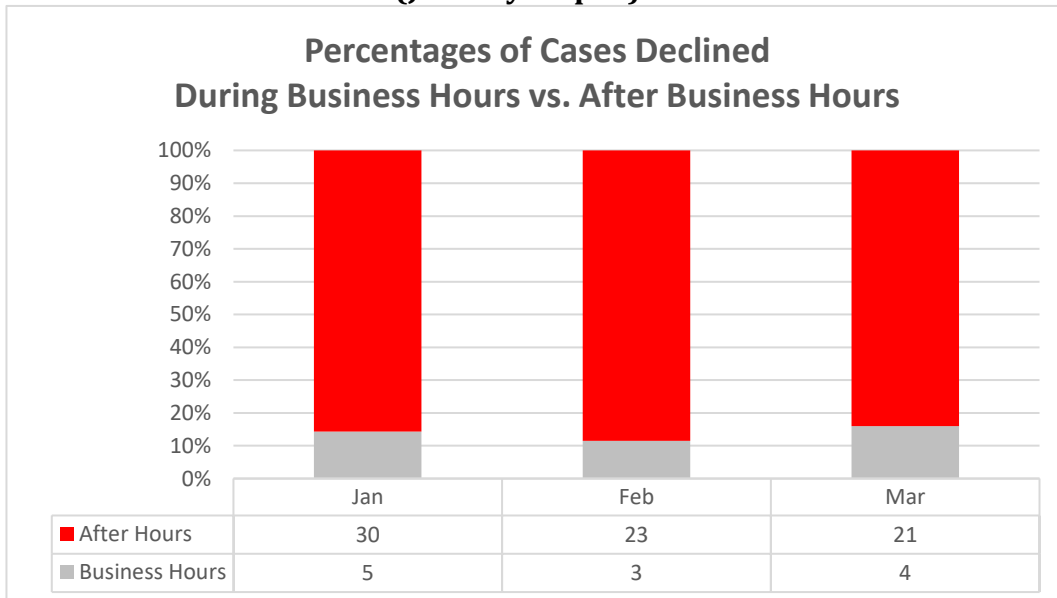


2021 Cases Accepted (January - April)

67% of the **total cases accepted** during the first four months of 2021 occurred **after business hours**.



2021 Cases Declined (January - April)



65% of the **total cases declined** during the first four months of 2021 occurred **after business hours**.

The Morgue Cooler was at or above capacity for **22** of the 30 days of April, 2021. This month (thanks to the Commissioners) we increased our cooler capacity from 7 to 12 spaces.