

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

## 2021 August MONTHLY REPORT



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## MONTHLY SUMMARY

The Tippecanoe County Coroner's Office (TCCOR) intends for this information in this report to be useful to community leaders and the public at large. The data presented within this report represents the deaths occurring within Tippecanoe County, for which the TCCOR has jurisdiction. This data does not represent all deaths that occur within Tippecanoe County, nor does it reflect all deaths of Tippecanoe County residents. The decedent's place of residence or location of incident may be outside of Tippecanoe County.

### Our Values:

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

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

**EXCELLENCE.** The TCCOR 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 TCCOR conducts death investigations in an independent manner and without bias. TCCOR investigators, forensic and medicolegal, work with all law enforcement agencies to gather useful information in order to determine and accurate cause and manner of death. The TCCOR investigators also ensure legal positive identification of decedents and notification of legal next-of-kin as soon as reasonably possible.

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

# MONTHLY OVERVIEW OF CASES REPORTED AND INVESTIGATED

In August of 2021, **112 total deaths** were reported to the TCCOR. The TCCOR accepted, under its jurisdiction, **55 deaths for further investigation** this month alone. Since the beginning of 2021, the TCCOR has had **654 total deaths** reported to our office. Of these total reported deaths, the TCCOR has accepted, under its jurisdiction, **375 deaths for further investigation**.

## TCCOR August Caseload

Accepted Cases – The TCCOR has accepted, under its jurisdiction, **55 deaths for further investigation**.

Declined Cases – The TCCOR declined jurisdiction of **57 deaths**.

Autopsies – Of the 55 deaths accepted for further investigation, **34 were autopsied** to assist in determining the cause and manner of death.

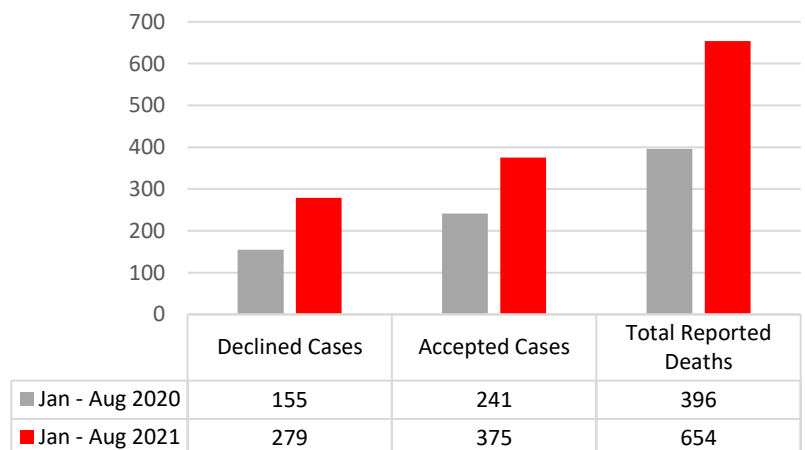
The total number of cases where jurisdiction was declined has **increased by 80%** compared to the same time last year.

The total number of cases accepted for further investigation has **increased by 56%** compared to the same time last year.

The total number of deaths reported has **increased by 65%** over the same time last year.

## Number of Cases Declined, Accepted, and Reported

Jan - Aug 2020 vs. Jan - Aug 2021



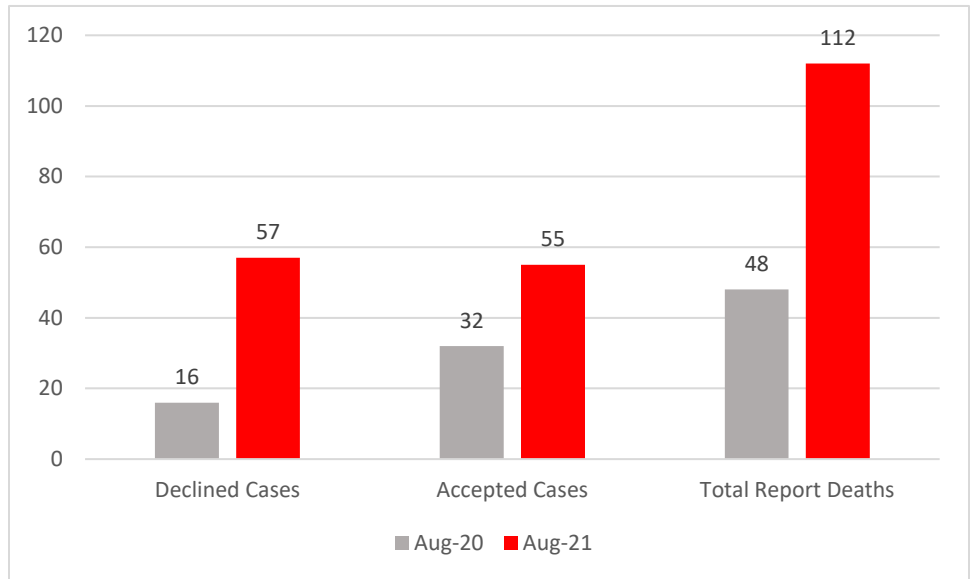
| Month     | Cases Investigated | Autopsies |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| January   | 58                 | 25        |
| February  | 36                 | 21        |
| March     | 43                 | 29        |
| April     | 47                 | 24        |
| May       | 53                 | 30        |
| June      | 45                 | 28        |
| July      | 38                 | 22        |
| August    | <b>55</b>          | <b>34</b> |
| September |                    |           |
| October   |                    |           |
| November  |                    |           |
| December  |                    |           |
| Total     |                    |           |

There was a **100% increase** in autopsies in August of 2021 compared to August of 2020. The increase in the number of autopsies performed is partly impacted by the increase in accepted cases.

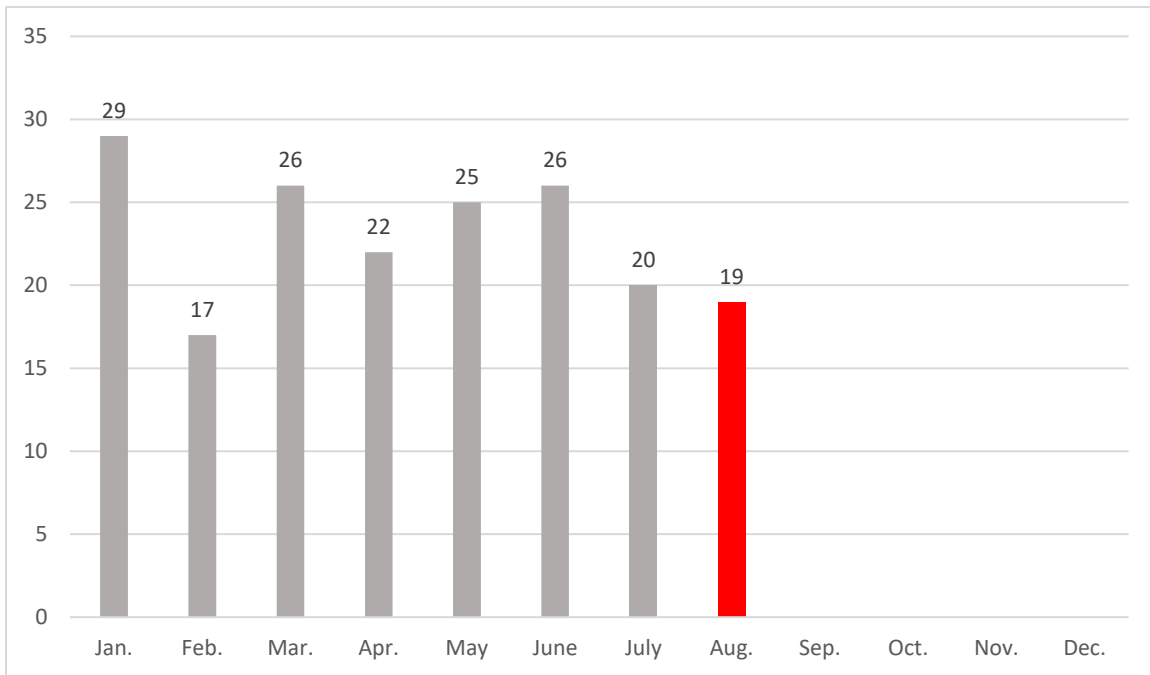
### Comparison of Deaths for August 2020 vs. August 2021

There is a **133% increase** in total deaths reported to the TCCOR in August 2021 compared to August 2020.

There is a **256% increase** in total declined cases in August 2021 compared to August 2020.



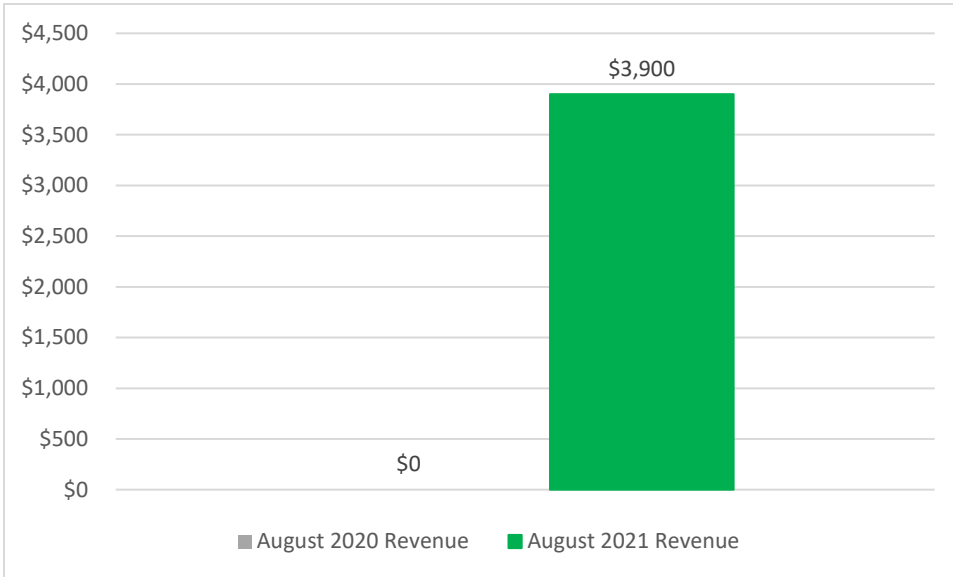
### Morgue Cooler Capacity



The morgue cooler was **at or above capacity for 184 days** out of the 242 days, or **76%** of the time, from the beginning of January to the end of August.

Since July 2020, the TCCOR has utilized a portable morgue for additional storage of decedents who are COVID-19 positive, decedents who have infectious communicable diseases that are a threat to the overall public health, and decedents who are not able to be placed in the inside morgue cooler due to limited space issues.

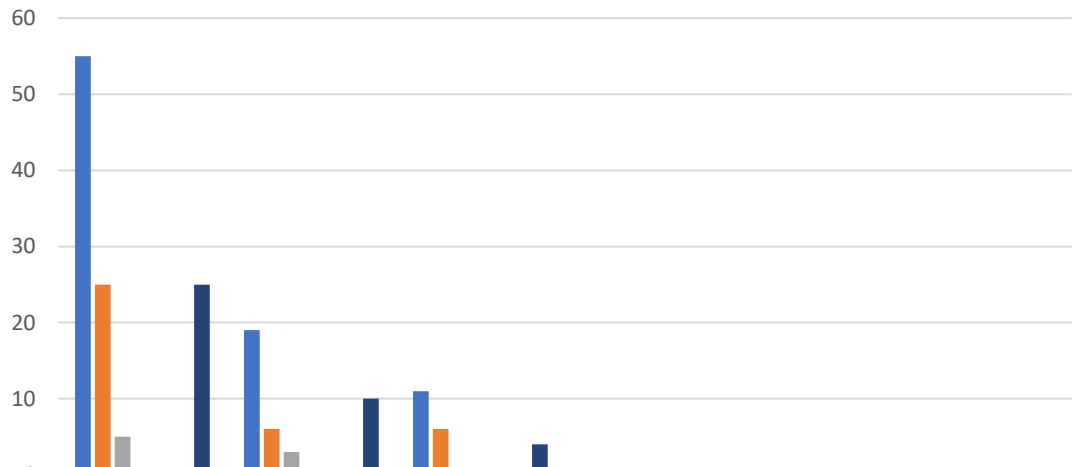
### Monthly Revenue Comparison



In August 2021, the TCCOR has generated \$3,900 in revenue that has been placed into the Tippecanoe County General Fund, compared to August 2020, in which only \$0 was generated.

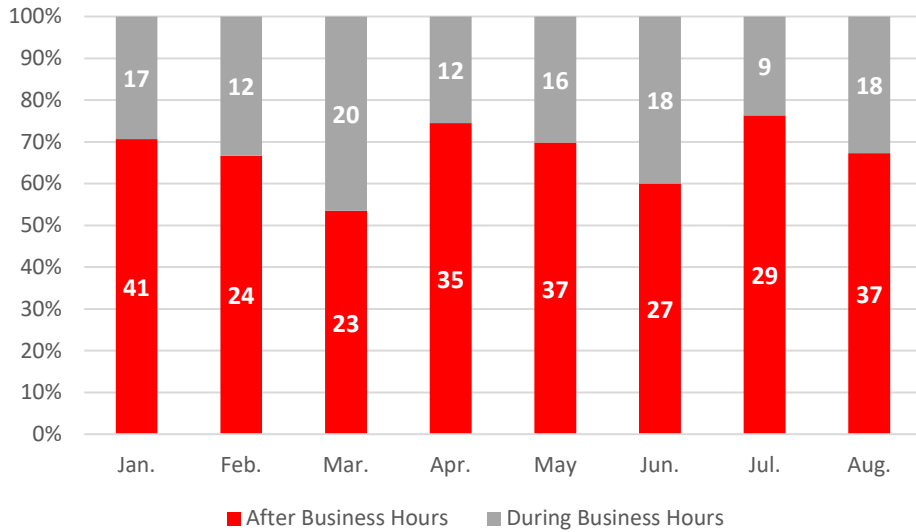
### Death Investigations by Agency

#### August 2021



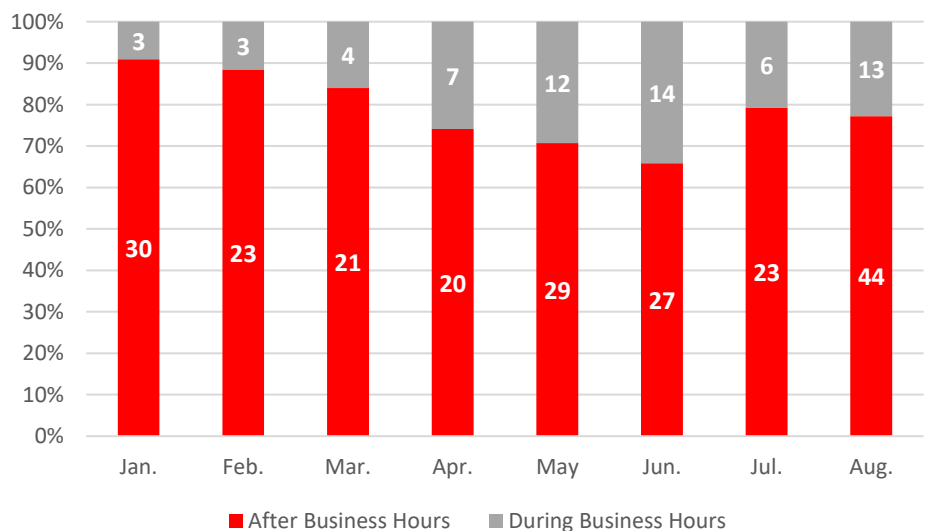
|                        | Tipp. Co. Coroner (with and without LEA) | Lafayette PD | Tipp. Co. Sheriff | W. Lafayette PD | Purdue Police | Indiana State Police |
|------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Total Cases (Accepted) | 55                                       | 19           | 11                | 1               | 0             | 1                    |
| Natural                | 25                                       | 6            | 6                 | 0               | 0             | 0                    |
| Accident               | 5  | 3            | 1                 | 0               | 0             | 0                    |
| Suicides               | 0  | 0            | 0                 | 0               | 0             | 0                    |
| Homicides              | 0  | 0            | 0                 | 0               | 0             | 0                    |
| Undetermined           | 0  | 0            | 0                 | 0               | 0             | 0                    |
| Pending                | 25                                       | 10           | 4                 | 1               | 0             | 1                    |

Number of Accepted Cases  
During Business Hours vs. After Business Hours



Sixty-seven percent of cases were accepted for further investigation after normal business hours in August 2021.

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



Seventy-seven percent of cases where jurisdiction was declined occurred after normal business hours in August 2021.