

TIPPECANOE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

2021 May Monthly Report



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MONTHLY SUMMARY

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

COMPASSIONATE SERVICE. TCCOR 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 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 the law enforcement agency to gather information useful to the circumstances of the death. The TCCOR investigators also ensure legal positive identification and notification of legal next-of-kin occur as quickly as possible.

As a **Public Health Agency**, the TCCOR 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 TCCOR conducts epidemiological research and partners with multiple agencies to detect, investigate, and notify novel illnesses and predict trends to better support at-risk populations.

May 2021 OVERVIEW OF CASES REPORTED AND INVESTIGATED

In May 2021, **94** deaths were reported to the Tippecanoe County Coroner's Office (TCCOR). TCCOR accepted jurisdiction on **53** decedents for further investigation. Since the beginning of 2021, the TCCOR has had **389** deaths reported to the office. Of these reported deaths, the TCCOR accepted jurisdiction on **237** deaths for further investigation.

TCCO Caseload

Accepted Cases - The TCCOR accepted jurisdiction of **53** decedent cases, of which 29 were autopsied.

Declined Cases - The TCCOR declined jurisdiction of **41** decedent cases.

Jan-May 2021

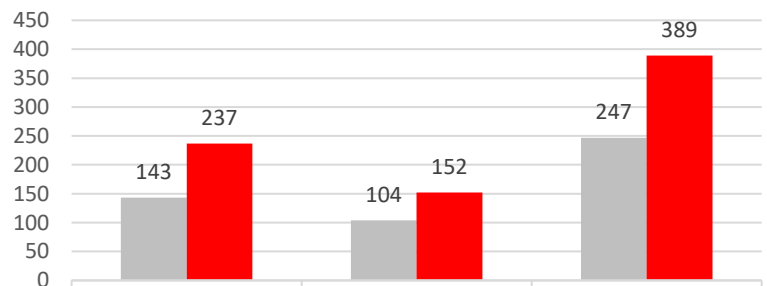
The TCCOR had a total of **389** deaths reported and accepted jurisdiction on **237** deaths for further investigation.

Jan-May 2020

The TCCOR had a total of **247** deaths reported and accepted jurisdiction on **143** deaths for further investigation.

Number of Cases Accepted, Declined, and Reported

Jan - May 2020 vs. Jan - May 2021



■ Jan - May 2020	143	104	247
■ Jan - May 2021	237	152	389

Number of Cases Autopsied

Month	Cases Investigated	Autopsies (Full, Partial & External)
January	58	25
February	36	21
March	43	29
April	47	23
May	53	29
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Total		

In May 2021, of the **94** total deaths reported to TCCO, **53** were accepted as the jurisdiction of the TCCOR.

Twenty-nine of the accepted cases were autopsied. This is an increase of **71%** compared to May 2020.

The increase in accepted cases has risen; resulting in the increase in autopsies needed.

The TCCOR has also been working with the local area hospitals to report deaths that might be accepted for further investigation, subsequently resulting in the rise of need for autopsies.

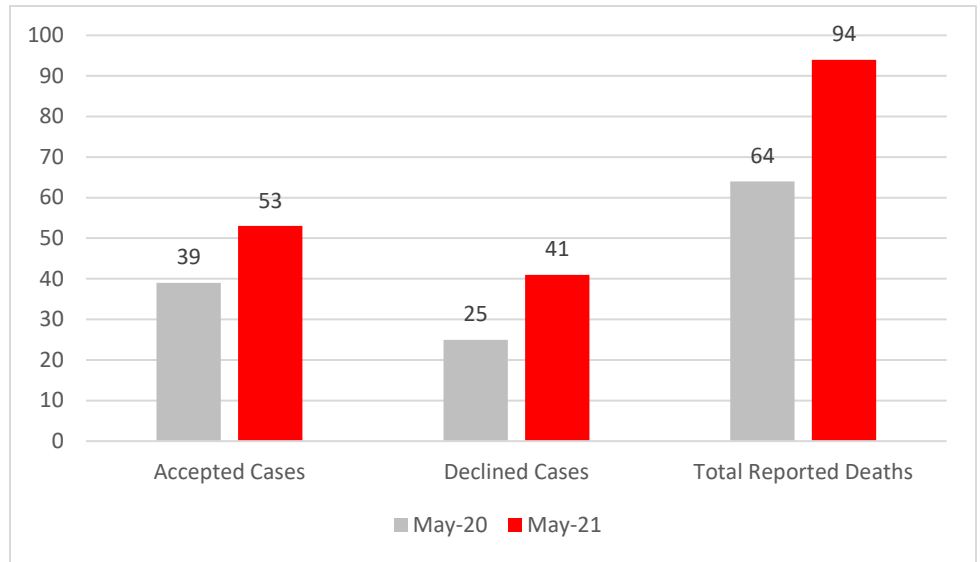
Comparison of Deaths for May 2020 vs. 2021

36% ↑

increase for the month of May 2021 in **cases accepted** for further investigation compared to May 2020.

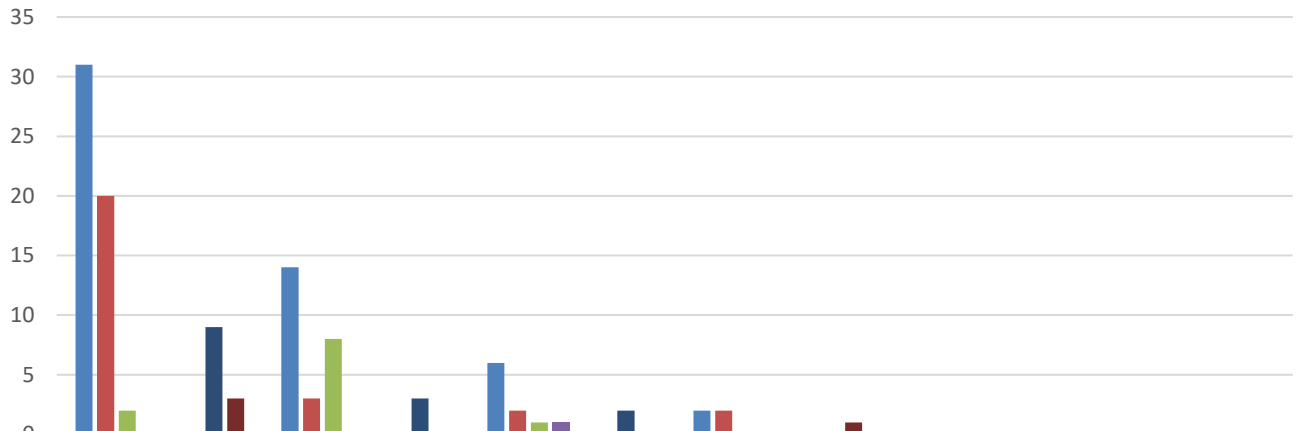
47% ↑

increase in **total deaths** reported to the TCCOR from May 2020 to May 2021.



Death Investigations by Agency

May 2021



	Tipp. Co. Coroner	Lafayette PD	Tipp. Co. Sheriff	W. Lafayette PD	Purdue PD	Indiana State Police
Total Cases	31	14	6	2	0	0
Natural	20	3	2	2	0	0
Accident	2	8	1	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	1	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suicides	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	9	3	2	0	0	0
COVID	3	0	0	1	0	0

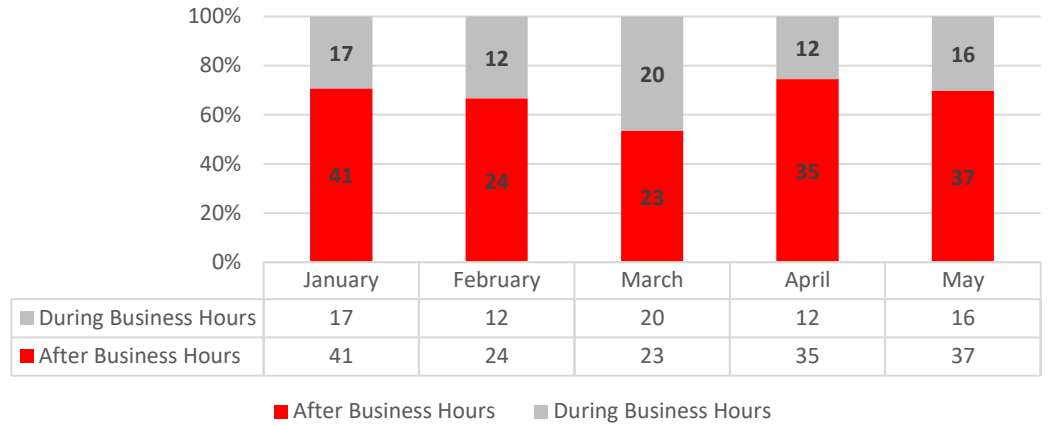
■ Total Cases
 ■ Natural
 ■ Accident
 ■ Undetermined
 ■ Homicide
 ■ Suicides
 ■ Pending
 ■ COVID

2021 Cases Accepted (January – May)

For the first five months of 2021, the total percentage of cases accepted after regular business hours was **68%**.

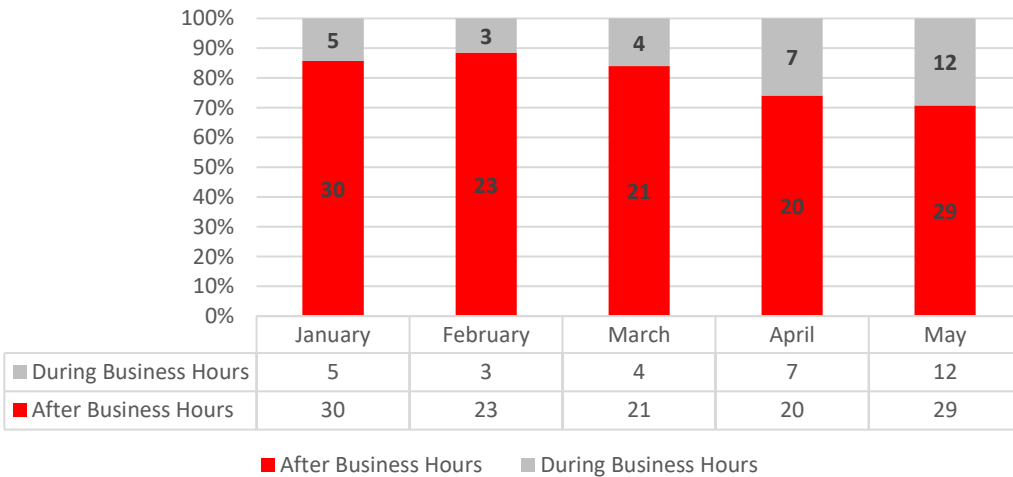
The total percentage of cases accepted during business hours was **32%**.

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



2021 Cases Declined (January – May)

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



For the first five months of 2021, the total percentage of cases declined after hours was **74%**.

The total percentage of cases declined during business hours was **26%**.

For May, the Morgue Cooler was at or above capacity for **25** of the 31 days of May, 2021.