

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

## 2022 MARCH MONTHLY REPORT



Respectfully Submitted by Carrie Costello  
Tippecanoe County Coroner  
629 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901  
Phone: (765) 420-7607



## 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 March of 2022, **105 total deaths** were reported to the TCCOR. The TCCOR accepted, under its jurisdiction, **42 deaths for further investigation** this month alone. Since the beginning of 2022, the TCCOR has had **373 total deaths reported** to our office. Of those total reported deaths, the TCCOR has accepted, under its jurisdiction, **127 deaths for further investigation**.

## TCCOR March Caseload

Accepted Cases – The TCCOR has accepted, under its jurisdiction, **42 deaths for further investigation**.

Declined Cases – The TCCOR declined jurisdiction of **63 deaths**.

Autopsies/External Exams – Of the 42 deaths accepted for further investigation, **32 were autopsied** to assist in determining the cause and manner of death.

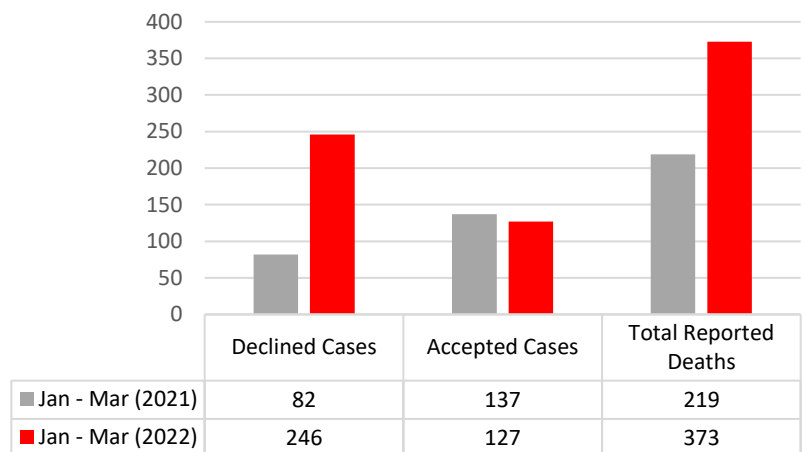
The total number of cases where jurisdiction was declined has **increased by 200%** compared to the same time last year.

The total number of cases accepted for further investigation has **decreased by 8%** compared to the same time last year.

The total number of deaths reported has **increased by 70%** over the same time last year.

## Number of Cases Declined, Accepted, and Reported

Jan - Mar 2021 vs. Jan - Mar 2022



Month	Cases Investigated	Autopsies
January	43	24
February	42	15
March	42	32
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Total		

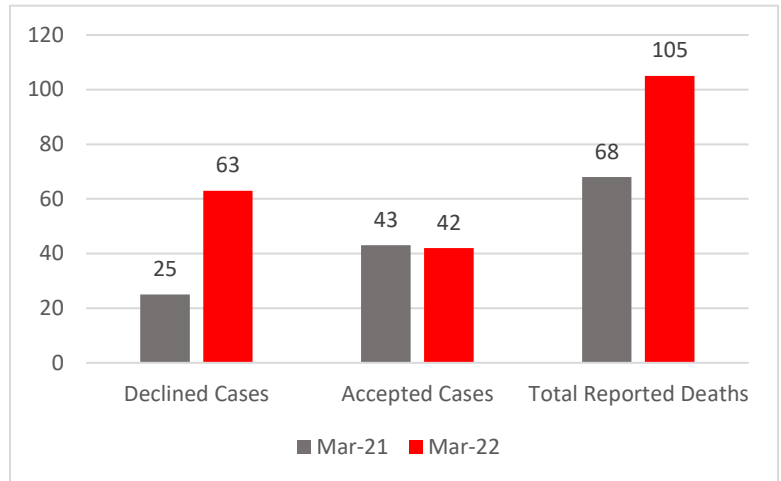
There was a **10% increase** in autopsies in March of 2022 compared to February of 2021.

## Comparison of Deaths for March 2021 vs. March 2022

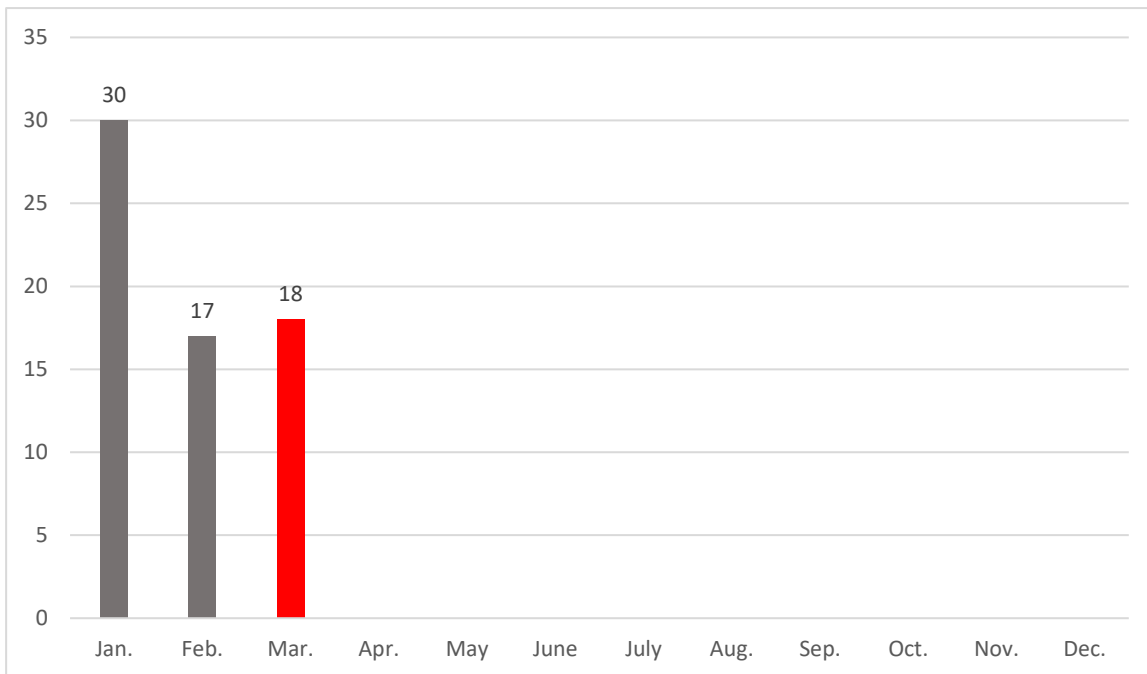
There is a **35% increase** in total reported deaths to the TCCOR in March 2022 compared to March 2021.

There is a **60% increase** in declined cases in March 2022 compared to March 2021.

There is a **2% decrease** in accepted cases in March 2022 compared to March 2021.



## Morgue Cooler Capacity



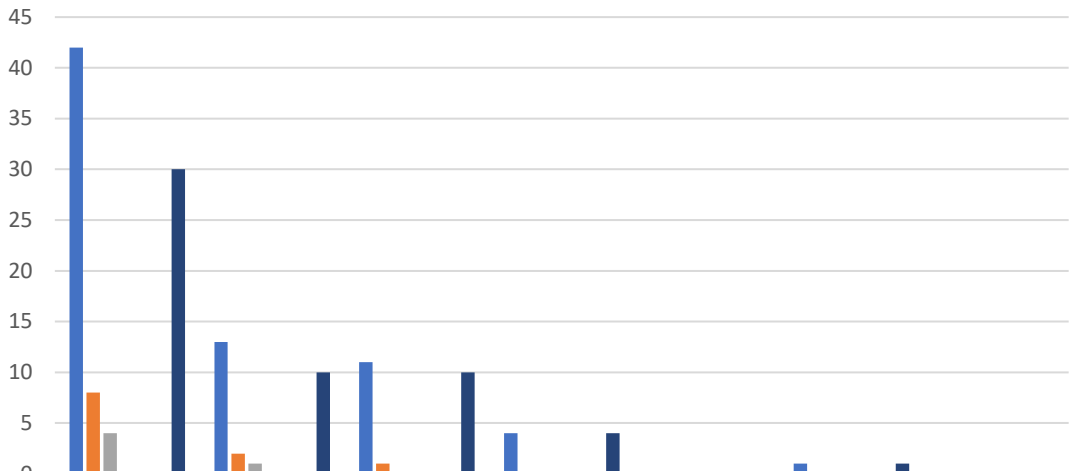
The morgue cooler was **at or above capacity for 18 days** out of the 31 days in March of 2022, or **58%** of the time, from the beginning of March to the end of March.

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.



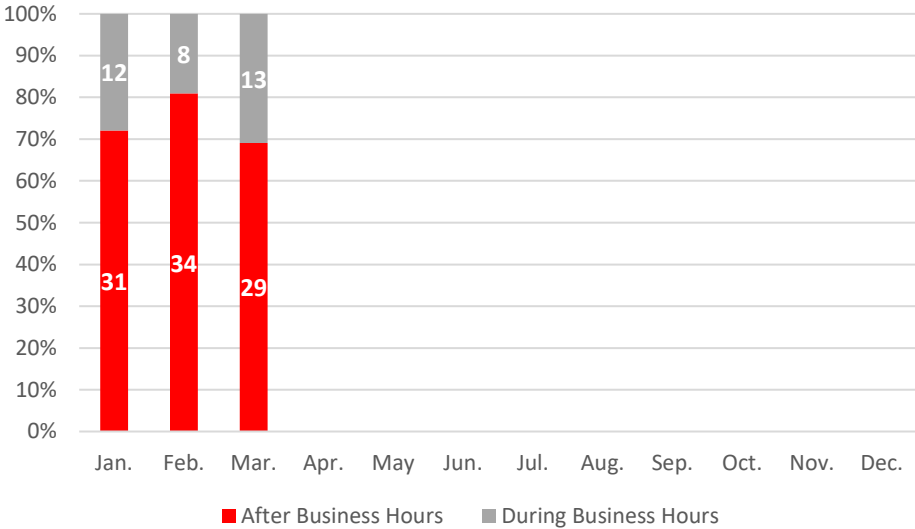
### Death Investigations by Agency

March 2022



	Tipp. Co. Coroner (with and without LEA)	Lafayette PD	Tipp. Co. Sheriff	W. Lafayette PD	Purdue Police	Indiana State Police	Other
Total Cases (Accepted)	42	13	11	4	0	1	0
Natural	8	2	1	0	0	0	0
Accident	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Suicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	30	10	10	4	0	1	0

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



Sixty-nine percent of cases were accepted for further investigation after normal business hours in March 2022.

Sixty-six percent of cases where jurisdiction was declined occurred after normal business hours in March 2022.

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

