

TIPPECANOE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

2022 DECEMBER MONTHLY REPORT



Respectfully Submitted by Carrie Costello
Tippecanoe County Coroner
629 N. 6th 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 December of 2022, **93 total deaths** were reported to the TCCOR. The TCCOR accepted, under its jurisdiction, **24 deaths for further investigation** this month alone. Since the beginning of 2022, the TCCOR has had **1,147 total deaths reported** to our office. Of those total reported deaths, the TCCOR has accepted, under its jurisdiction, **459 deaths for further investigation**.

TCCOR December Caseload

Accepted Cases – The TCCOR has accepted, under its jurisdiction, **24 deaths for further investigation**.

Declined Cases – The TCCOR declined jurisdiction of **69 deaths**.

Autopsies/External Exams – Of the 24 deaths accepted for further investigation, **11 were autopsied** to assist in determining the cause and manner of death.

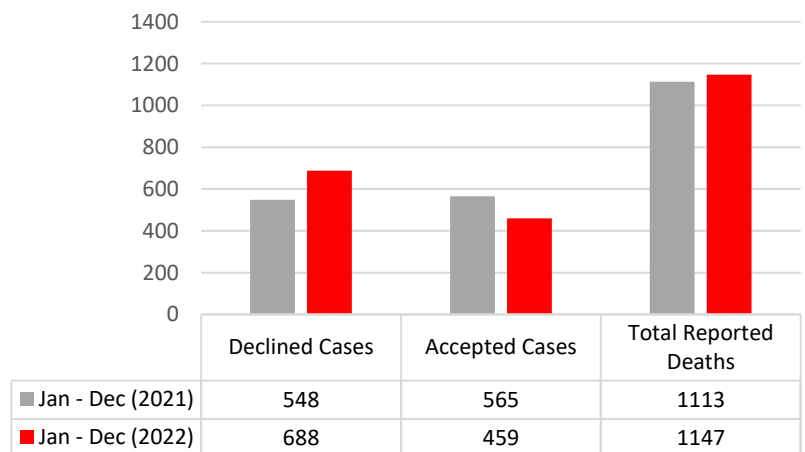
The total number of cases where jurisdiction was declined has **increased by 26%** compared to the same time last year.

The total number of cases accepted for further investigation has **decreased by 19%** compared to the same time last year.

The total number of deaths reported has **increased by 3%** over the same time last year.

Number of Cases Declined, Accepted, and Reported

Jan - Dec 2021 vs. Jan - Dec 2022



Month	Cases Investigated	Autopsies
January	43	24
February	42	15
March	42	32
April	43	22
May	41	18
June	44	28
July	54	31
August	34	18
September	36	17
October	34	17
November	22	14
December	24	11
Total		

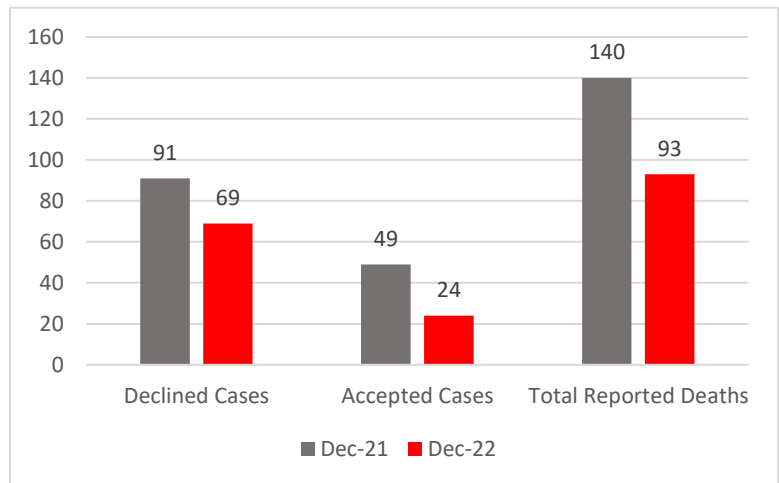
There was a **50% decrease** in autopsies in December of 2022 compared to December of 2021.

Comparison of Deaths for December 2021 vs. December 2022

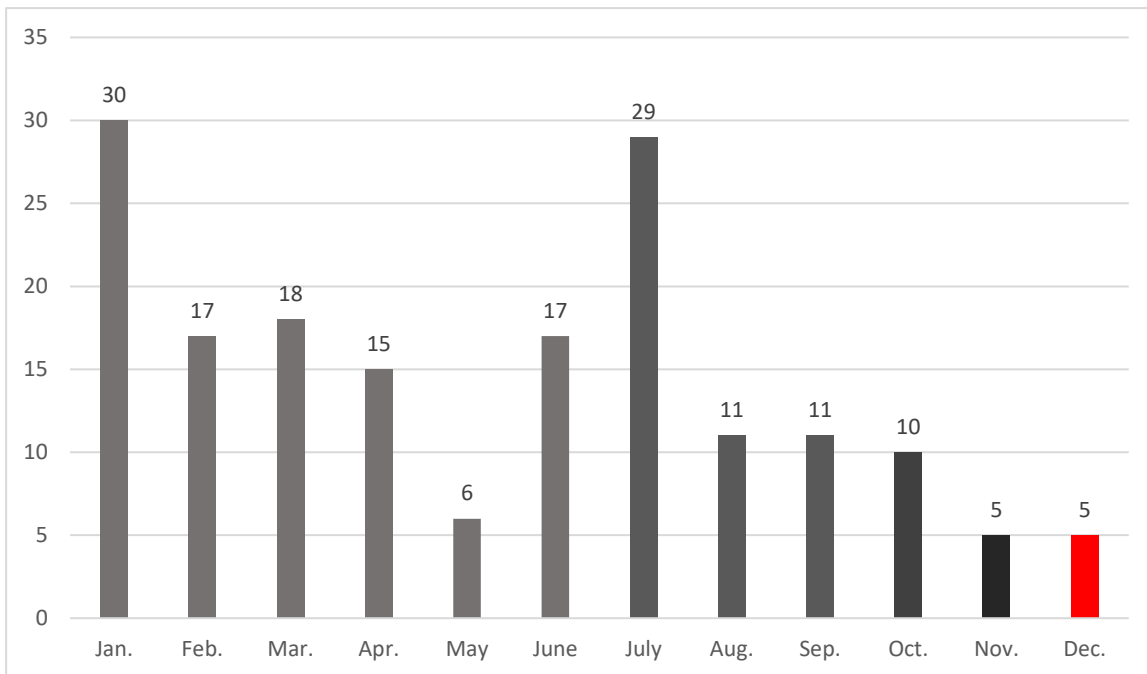
There is a **34% decrease** in total reported deaths to the TCCOR in December 2022 compared to December 2021.

There is a **24% decrease** in declined cases in December 2022 compared to December 2021.

There is a **51% decrease** in accepted cases in December 2022 compared to December 2021.



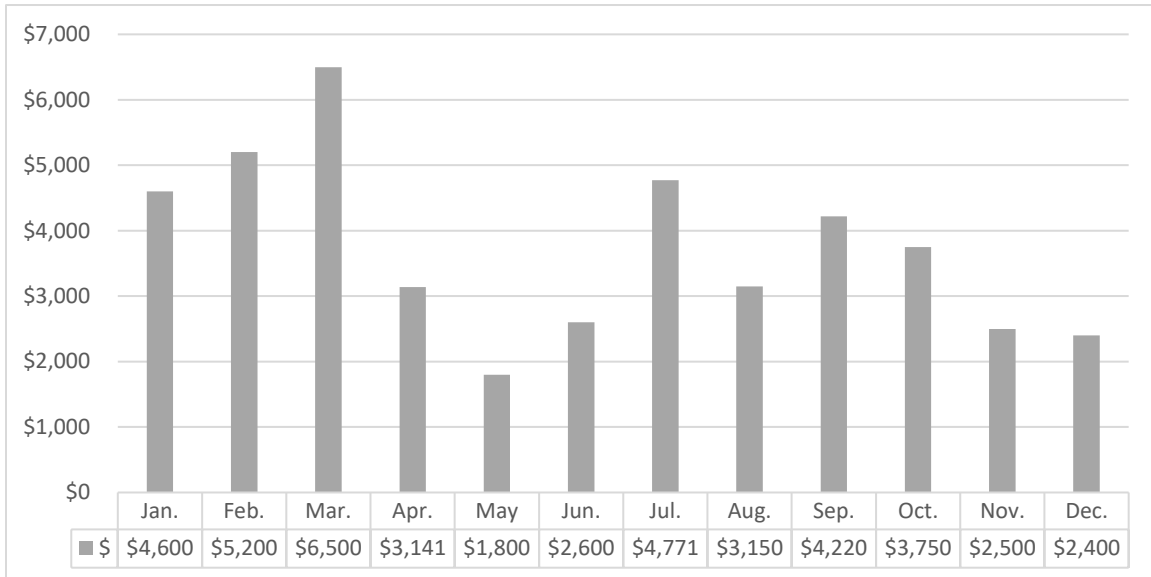
Morgue Cooler Capacity



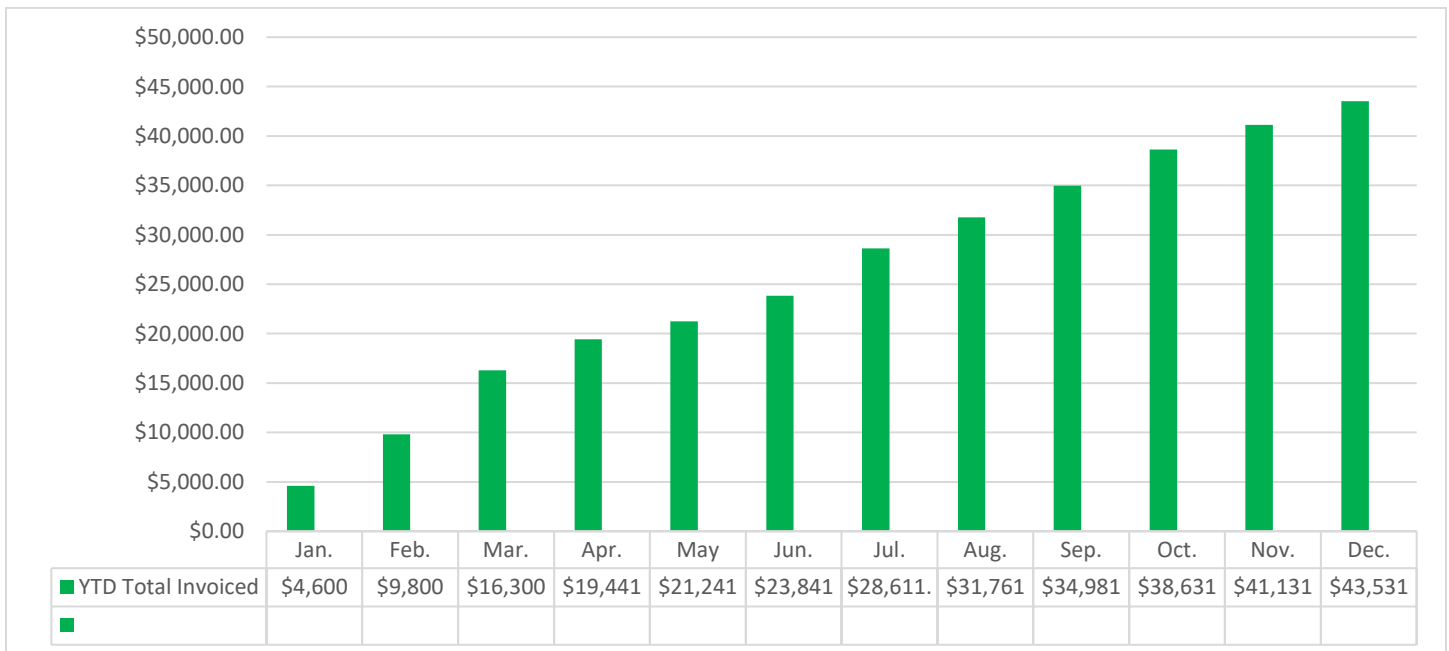
The morgue cooler was **at or above capacity for 5 days** out of the 31 days in December of 2022, or **16%** of the time, from the beginning of December to the end of December.

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 Invoice Comparison

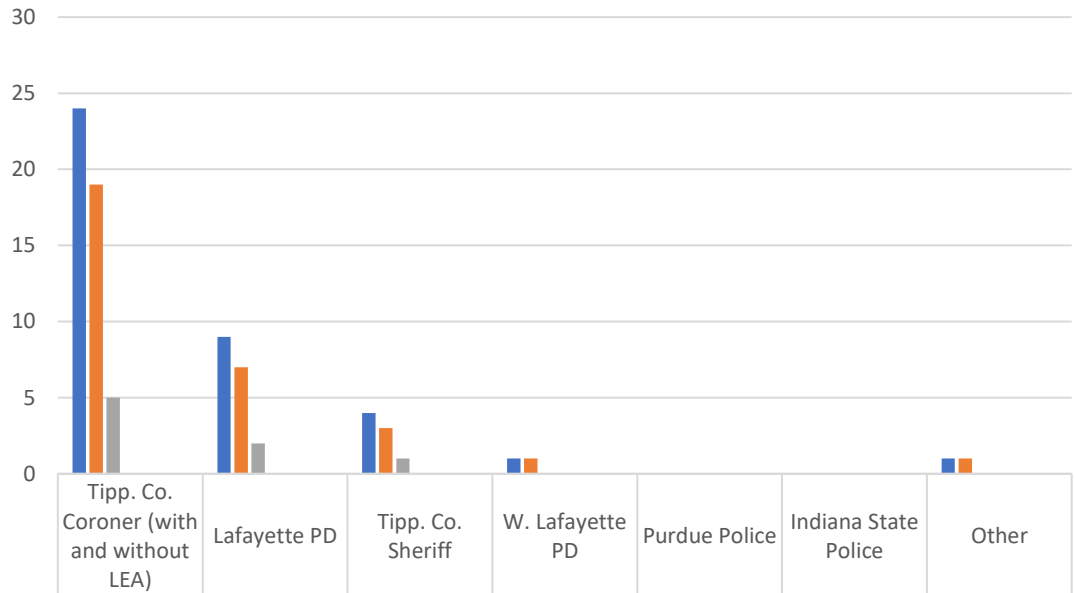


Year to Date Total Invoiced



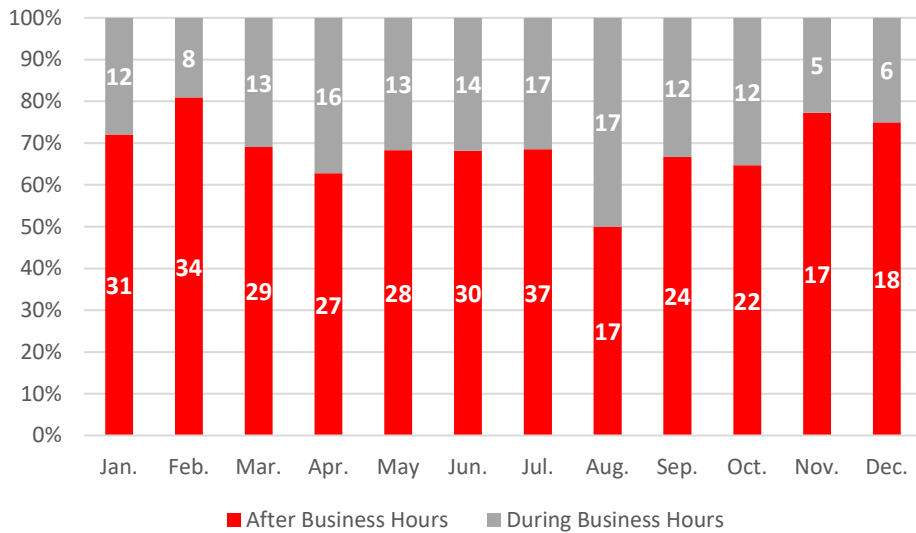
Death Investigations by Agency

December 2022



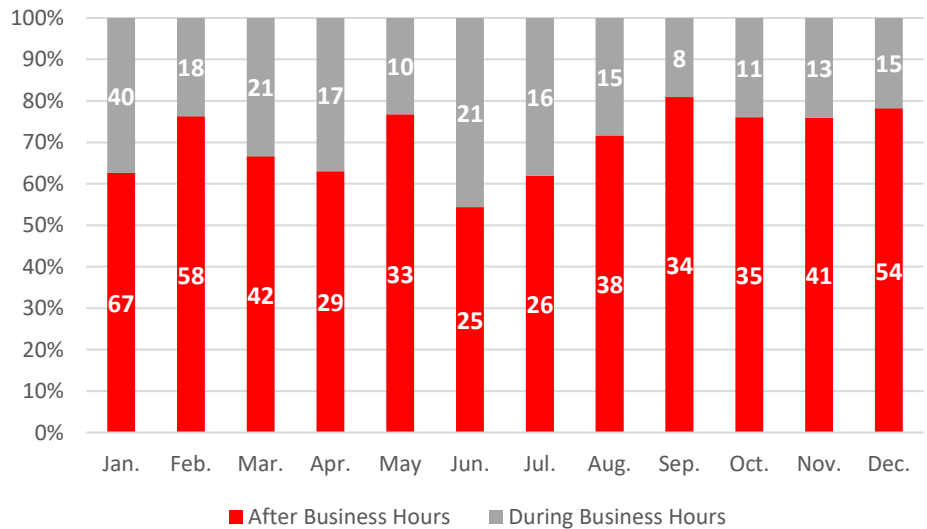
	Tipp. Co. Coroner (with and without LEA)	Lafayette PD	Tipp. Co. Sheriff	W. Lafayette PD	Purdue Police	Indiana State Police	Other
Total Cases (Accepted)	24	9	4	1	0	0	1
Natural	19	7	3	1	0	0	1
Accident	5	2	1	0	0	0	0
Suicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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



Seventy-five percent of cases were accepted for further investigation after normal business hours in December 2022.

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



Seventy-Eight percent of cases where jurisdiction was declined occurred after normal business hours in December 2022.