

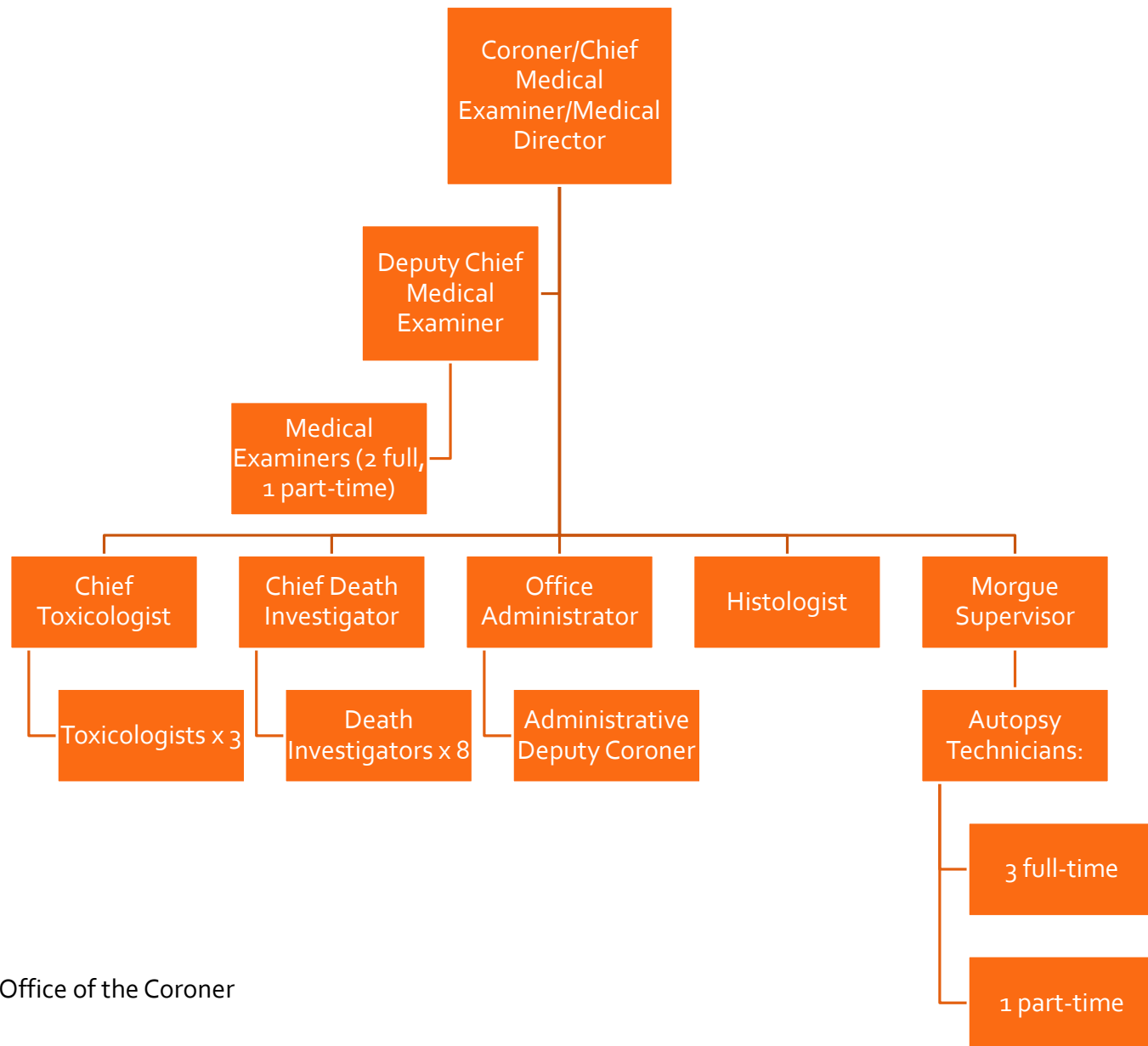


# 2021 Budget Presentation Office of the Coroner

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Coroner/Chief Medical Examiner/Medical Director

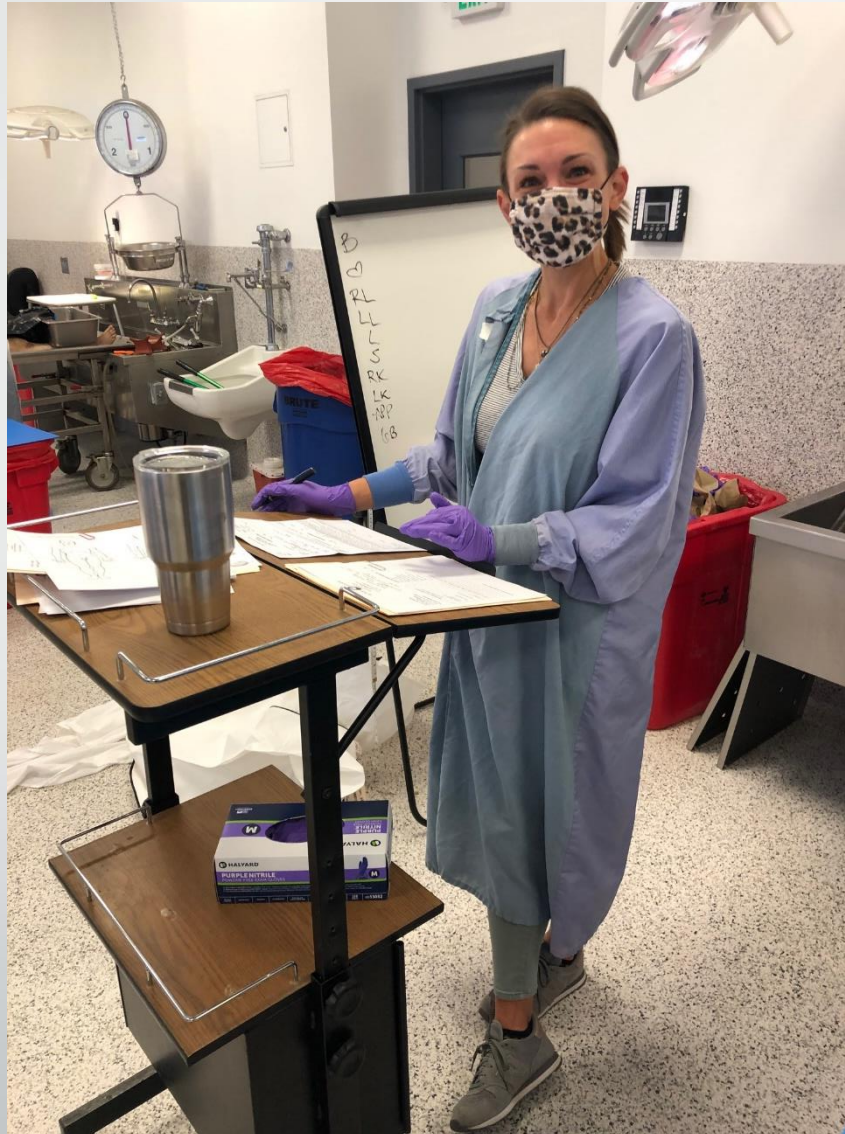
Oct 20, 2020



Office of the Coroner



# Medical Examiners



# Death Investigators



Office of the Coroner



# Administrative



# Autopsy Technicians



# Histology





# Toxicology





# CRS: 30-10-606

- The Coroner shall... make all proper inquiry respecting the cause and manner of death of any person in his/her jurisdiction who has died under any of the following circumstances:
  - From external violence, unexplained cause, or under suspicious circumstances
  - Where no physician is in attendance or where though in attendance, the physician is unable to certify the cause of death
  - From thermal, chemical, or radiation injury
  - From disease which may be hazardous or contagious or which may constitute a threat to the health of the general public
  - While in custody of law enforcement officials or while incarcerated in a public institution
  - When the death was sudden and happened to a person who was in good health
  - From an industrial accident



# CRS: 30-10-606

## ❖ Statutory Responsibilities:

- Rule CAUSE and MANNER of death
- Pronouncement of death
- Identify the decedent
- Determination of how injury occurred
- Collect evidence from body used to prove or disprove an individual's guilt or innocence
- Confirm or deny the account of how the death occurred
- Document any natural disease
- Determine or exclude other contributory or causative factors to the death
- Provide expert testimony in criminal and civil proceedings
- Grant or deny tissue for harvest



# Strategic Plan Goals, Operating Indicators, Capital Projects

- Continue to assist Public Health and El Paso County agencies and leadership in our continued COVID-19 response
- Development and deployment on updated/upgraded VertiQ Medical Examiner Laboratory information system
  - Capital expense \$176,162.92
    - Funded with unspent and re-appropriated from previously unfilled Medical Examiner salary
    - \$20,055 annual hosting cost allowing the termination of outdated county servers and cloud remote access
- Recruitment and hiring for currently or soon to be unfilled positions





TOTAL DEATHS  
INVESTIGATED

4816

TOTAL AUTOPSIES  
PERFORMED

1191

Average time to completion

The average number of days from autopsy to report completion during 2019 was **21 days**. This is a decrease from 32 days in 2018. **14 cases** (1%) took **greater than 60 days** to complete due to their complexity or ongoing investigation. This surpasses the national standard of >90% of cases completed within 60 days.

206

206 cases in 2019 were **"external only"** examinations, in which the cause and manner are well established by the external examination\* and a thorough medical history.

13

13 of the 2019 examinations were **partial autopsies** and typically consisted of "head only" examinations to ensure that head trauma didn't cause or contribute to death.

972

972 Examinations included a full internal exam in which each organ and body cavity is examined and is considered a **complete autopsy**.

91%

91% of cases had **toxicology testing** performed. Samples are nearly always collected, but testing may not be performed at the discretion of the physician

588

588 El Paso County deaths required **death scene investigation**

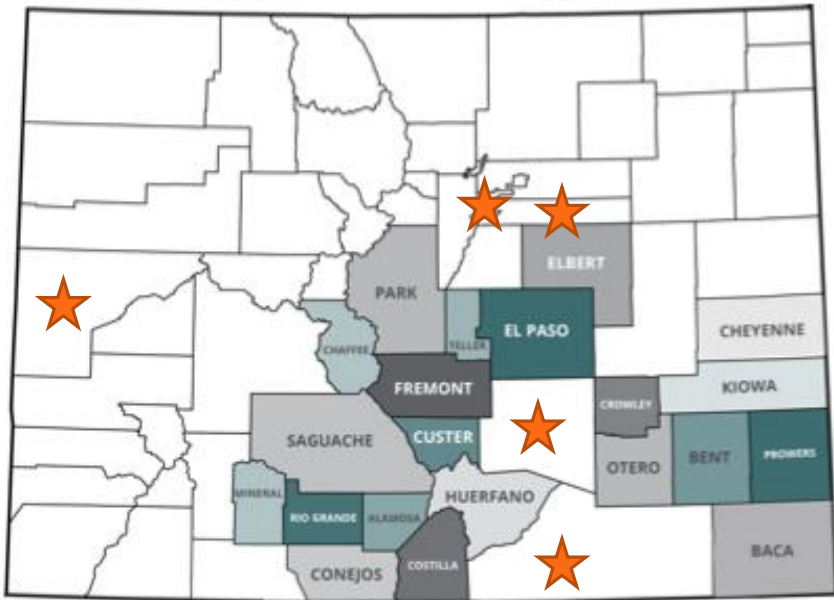


El Paso County Coroner's Office does not perform **Hospital Autopsies**.



The El Paso County Coroner's Office did not perform any **exhumations** in 2019

# Breakdown of Autopsies Performed



ALAMOSA	29
BACA	2
BENT	18
CHAFFEE	40
CHEYENNE	2
CONEJOS	14
COSTILLA	16
CROWLEY	7
CUSTER	12
EL PASO	816
ELBERT	20

59	FREMONT
14	HUERFANO
2	KIOWA
6	MINERAL
28	OTERO
22	PARK
11	PROWERS
19	RIO GRANDE
17	SAGUACHE
37	TELLER

**1,191 – TOTAL CASES**



## 2019 Revenue for El Paso County Coroner's Office

Grant for Violent Death Reporting .....	\$1,850
Out-of-County Autopsy Fees .....	\$546,750
Out-of-County Toxicology Fees .....	\$143,900
Histology Fees .....	\$2,395
Miscellaneous Fees .....	\$155.39
Total Revenue for 2018 .....	<u>\$695,050.39<sup>†</sup></u>



## El Paso County Citizen Cost Breakdown

2019 Population*	720,403
Total 2019 Budget	\$2,852,324
\$2,852,324	(Budget)
- \$695,050.39	(Revenue)
<hr/>	
\$2,157,273.61	Overall Cost to Citizens
÷ 720,403	(Population)
<b>= \$2.99</b>	Annual cost to each El Paso County Citizen

\*US Census Bureau (2019)

†This represents an 21% increase in revenue over 2018

# 2020 Revenues

(Autopsy, Toxicology, Clinical Studies)

	2019	2020
Year to date (10/8)	\$564,560	\$603,381
Total for year	\$695,050.39	\$720,000 (estimate)*

\* 4 % increase over 2019 and 25% increase over 2018



# 2020 Statistics

	Autopsy YTD	Out of County YTD	Investigations
2019	933	284	3951
2020	1006 (8% increase)	286	4561 (15% increase)



# Base Budget and Critical Needs

- No Critical Needs
- 2020 OAB: \$2,980,002
- 2021 Proposed OAB: \$2,988,953
  - \$8,951 adjustment from 27<sup>th</sup> paycheck borrowed from 2021 budget



# Questions?

