

D23 Medical Examiner FY 2025 Budget

4501 Avenue A

St. Augustine, FL 32095

Presented by:

Wendolyn Sneed, MD

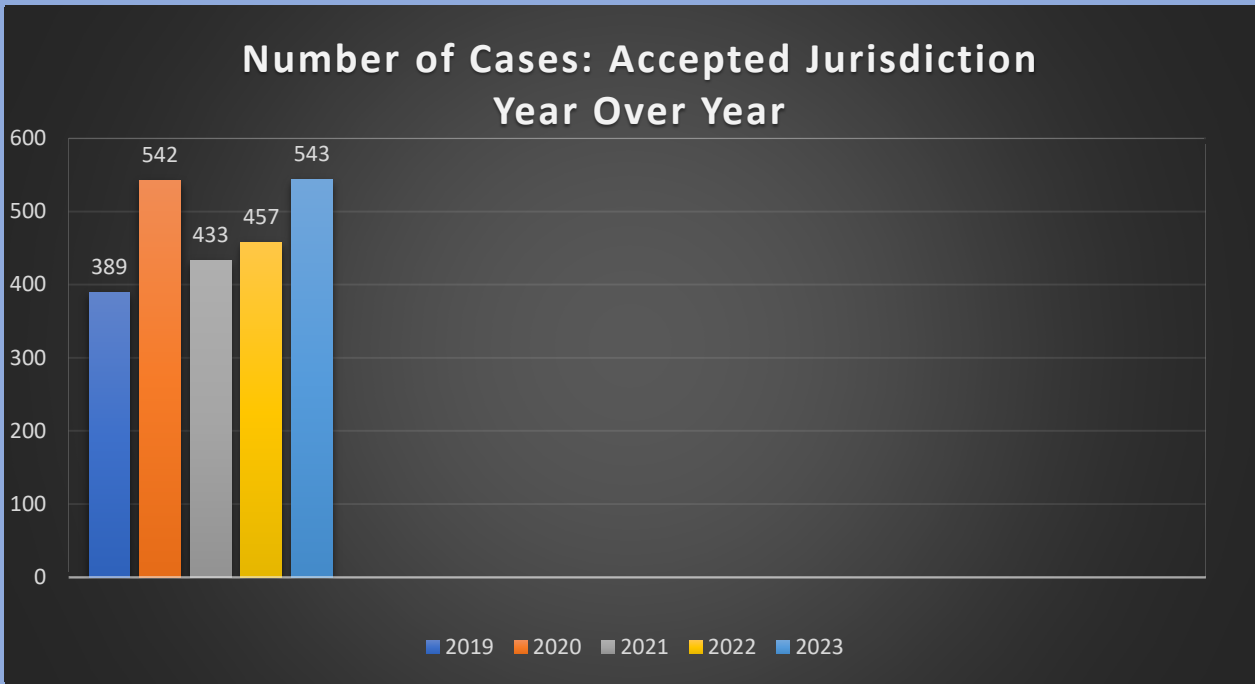
Chief Medical Examiner

Kelly Boulos

Operations Manager

Introduction to the D23 Medical Examiners Office

- Our function:
 - Investigate deaths that fall under Medical Examiner Jurisdiction as established by Florida Statute 406
- District 23 MEO serves:
 - St. Johns County
 - Flagler County
 - Putnam County
- The office has twelve staff members:
 - Chief Medical Examiner
 - Associate Medical Examiner
 - Operations Manager
 - Administrative Coordinator
 - Administrative Assistance
 - Four forensic investigators
 - One forensic investigator/forensic technician
 - Two forensic technicians
- The D23MEO follows best practices and is accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners

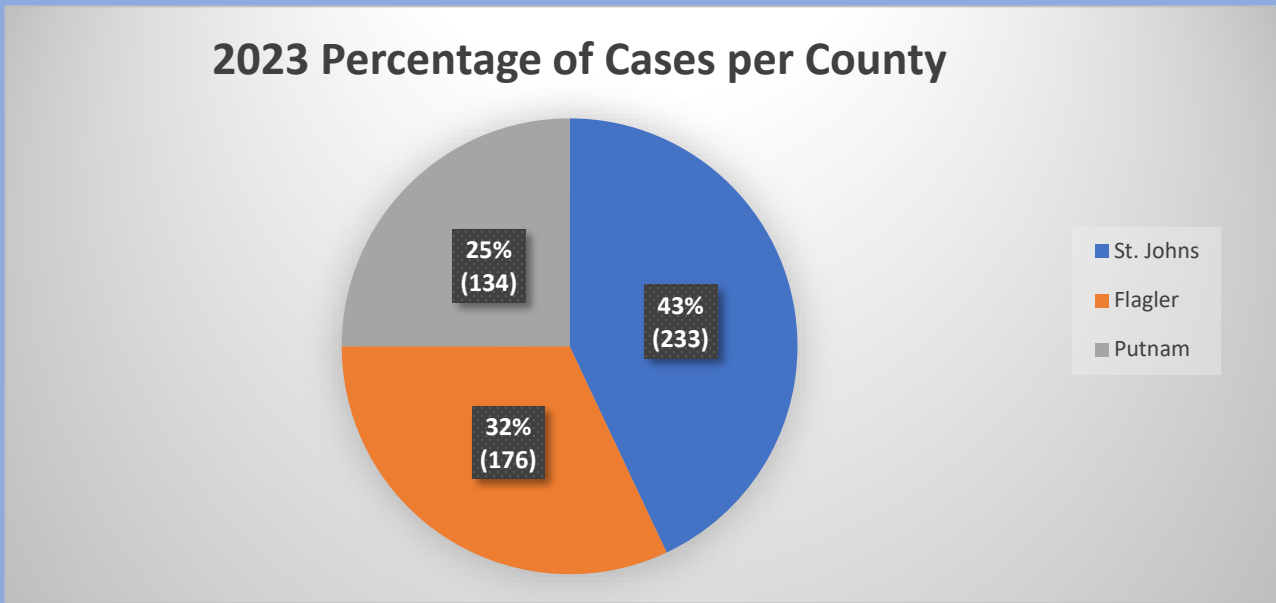


2023

Number of cases reported:
1,000

Number of cases investigated:
730

Cases with accepted jurisdiction:
543



D23MEO Budget

- FY 2023 Actual Operating Budget \$ 1,976,608
 - St. Johns: \$993,270
 - Flagler: \$509,196
 - Putnam: \$474,142

- FY 2024 Adopted Operating Budget \$ 2,361,478
 - St. Johns: \$ 1,259,238 (-\$57,700)
 - Flagler: \$ 598,894
 - Putnam: \$ 561, 046

- FY 2025 Requested Operating Budget \$ 2,955,271
 - St. Johns \$1,463,086 (-\$11,440)
 - Flagler \$791,086
 - Putnam \$712,539

St. Johns County is reimbursed by Flagler and Putnam Counties for the services based on percentage of cases

Revenue

- The Medical Examiner Office charges a death certificate review fee on all decedents to be dissected, cremated, or buried at sea.
- Total payments for 2023: \$163,370

2025 Budget Request

- To maintain existing level of service
 - One (1) associate medical examiner
 - Medical Examiner Case Management Software (Forensic database)

Request Associate Medical Examiner

Nobody can predict death

- Based on population increases and caseload trend the MEO expects a higher caseload within the next two years that will meet or exceed the threshold of cases recommended by the accrediting agency (NAME)
- The D23MEO has two Medical Examiners which certified 543 cases in 2023 (271.5 cases per doctor)
- NAME recommends 225 case equivalents /doctor
 - Case equivalent: autopsied bodies, inspected bodies \div 3
 - The equivalence does not take into account for cases certified but which the bodies are not examined at the office (a total of 92 cases in 2023)
- The number of case equivalent per doctor is 191

Medical Examiner positions are highly competitive and hard to fill positions. It may take months or years to find a qualified physician.

CONGRESSMAN
**EMANUEL
CLEAVER**
representing the 5th district of Missouri

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Cleaver, Guest, Cornyn, Murphy Introduce Bill to Address Shortage of Medical Examiners

April 18, 2024 Press Release

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, U.S. Representatives Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO) and Michael Guest (R-MS), along with U.S. Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Chris Murphy (D-CT), introduced the *Strengthening the Medical Examiner and Coroner System Act*, which would help increase the number of board-certified forensic pathologists nationwide by encouraging qualified medical graduates to enter the field and providing support to accredited medical schools and providers in their recruitment efforts.

NEWS

Cuyahoga County -- like the whole country needs more forensic pathologists

Updated: Mar. 23, 2024, 5:29 a.m. | Published: Mar. 23, 2024, 5:27 a.m.

Rhode Island **Current**

EDUCATION ENERGY + ENVIRONMENT HEALTH CARE TRANSPORTATION POLITICS + JUSTICE ELECTION 2024

HEALTH CARE

After eight years of searching, why can't Rhode Island hire a permanent chief medical examiner?

A national shortage of trained pathologists has stalled the Department of Health's search for a permanent chief medical examiner and other staff.

BY: JONNY WILLIAMS - MARCH 25, 2024 5:45 AM

Associate Medical Examiner

- Salary: \$362,941
- Office Attire to include: \$12,371
 - Desktop
 - Monitors (x2)
 - Laptop
 - Microscope
 - Desk phone

Medical Examiner Case Management Software (Forensic Database)

- Replaces the outdated existing database with a web based (portable), secure system
 - Reduce data entry efforts for death certification processes
 - Decreases effort for exchanging data with appropriate stakeholders
 - Can search records on information we are wanting to sort
 - Provides the ability to timestamp information as it is entered into each record
 - Tracks office functions and performance indicators
 - Checklists enables employees to see what tasks are pending and check them off as they are completed
 - Can search statistics to help at budget time, media releases, and request of public record
 - Upload case photos into the file
 - Ability to e-mail selected reports right from the program
 - Allows communication with law enforcement and funeral homes in real time

Medical Examiner Case Management Software

Database	\$10,470 / year
Set up	\$4,250 (one time fee)
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Total	\$14,720

Addition or increases to existing expenses

	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Request 2025
• Personnel and Salaries			
On call	\$2,975	\$1,500	\$18,900
Overtime	\$8,900	\$8,500	\$53,500
• Transportation Charges	\$94,500	\$135,000	\$150,000
• Lab expense-Toxicology	\$107,315	\$107,600	\$118,000
• Vehicle Maintenance	\$7,052	\$8,000	\$13,160
• Refuse	\$5,450	\$7,250	\$7,920
• Operating supplies			
• Water cooler	\$1,860	\$1,860	\$3,720
• Investigator cameras photography supplies	\$0	\$0	\$8,200
• Uniforms	\$2,899	\$2,850	\$4,000
• Building Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$50,000 (Transferred from Building Maintenance Budget)

Cost Savings

	2024	2025
• Professional Services	\$80,052	\$60,000
• Travel and Per Diem	\$10,000	\$0
• Continuing Education	\$45,000	\$25,000
• Lexis/Nexis	\$1,800	\$0
• Professional Services used to include Locum Tenens, testimony deposition fees, and professional services during the absence of the Chief Medical Examiner. The decrease in expenses results from being fully staffed.		

Questions?

