

Kitsap County Medical Examiner



2023 Annual Report

Kitsap County Medical Examiner
5010 NW Linden Street
Bremerton, 98312

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Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Kitsap County

The Kitsap County Medical Examiner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Kitsap County. The Office of the Medical Examiner certifies death after investigation and postmortem examination and issues the death certificate as required by law. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families and law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

The main duties of the Office of the Medical Examiner are to determine the cause and manner of death and certify deaths that are reported to the medical examiner. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that resulted in death. There are thousands of diseases and injuries that may result in death. The manner of death is a classification in which a determination is made regarding whether the death resulted from natural causes, homicide, suicide, or an accident. On occasion, the manner of death is classified as indeterminate.

Information collected during the investigation helps clarify the circumstances, such as the sequence of events prior to death. Evidence collected during an investigation and/or postmortem examination may help lead to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in a homicide case. Because deaths occur around the clock, medical examiner staff members are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the medical examiner investigators and board-certified forensic pathologists, we believe the quality of death investigations in Kitsap County are among the best in the State. The death scene investigation reports filed by the investigators are very thorough and supply comprehensive information to the medical examiners.

Our medical examiners and investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Medical examiner investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstances of the death. Medical examiner investigators are supplied with a pamphlet for distribution to families. The information provides answers to common questions and facts about autopsies and also provides resource information pertaining to grief counseling.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners for their support of the medical examiner program and the services we provide to the citizens of the Kitsap County.

Medical Examiner Staff

Lindsey Harle M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

Amanda Maskovyak
Medical Examiner

Destiny McKeever
Medicolegal Death Investigator

James Bosley
Autopsy Tech

Kyle Davison
MDI

Heidi Dombrock
Fiscal Tech

Nathan Edwards
MDI

Troy Graunke
MDI

Michelle Hagle
Records management

Aaron Davis
MDI

Dale Johnson
MDI

Matt Lacy
Forensic Pathologist

Micheline Lubin
Forensic Pathologist

Samantha Sakowski
Autopsy Technician

Virgil Pentz
MDI

Rebecca Wildes
MDI

James Porter
MDI

Jeff Wallis
MDI program supervisor

Nicole Yarid
Forensic Pathologist

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner

The following is Washington State law, regarding jurisdictional cases for the medical examiner:

RCW 68.50.010 Coroner's/Medical Examiner's jurisdiction over remains. The jurisdiction of bodies of all deceased persons who come to their death suddenly when in apparent good health without medical attendance within the thirty-six hours preceding death; or where the circumstances of death indicate death was caused by unnatural or unlawful means; or where death occurs under suspicious circumstances; or where a coroner's/medical examiner's autopsy or postmortem or inquest is to be held; or where death results from unknown or obscure causes, or where death occurs within one year following an accident; or where the death is caused by any violence whatsoever, or where death results from a known or suspected abortion; whether self-induced or otherwise; where death apparently results from drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cuts, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, narcotics or other addictions, tetanus, strangulations, suffocation or smothering; or where death is due to premature birth or still birth; or where death is due to a violent contagious disease or suspected contagious disease which may be a public health hazard; or where death results from alleged rape, carnal knowledge or sodomy, where death occurs in a jail or prison; where a body is found dead or is not claimed by relatives or friends, is hereby vested in the county coroner or medical examiner, which bodies may be removed and placed in the morgue under such rules as are adopted by the coroner or medical examiner with the approval of the county commissioners, having jurisdiction, providing therein how the bodies shall be brought to and cared for at the morgue and held for the proper identification where necessary.

In Summary, our office will assume jurisdiction in any case where the cause of death is not immediately identifiable, or where it is known or suspected to be from anything other than natural causes.

Kitsap County Medical Examiner Cases

Population	260,131
Cases Reported to Medical Examiner	605
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	227
1. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Complete Autopsy	109
2. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with External Examination	87
3. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Limited Examination	31
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	68
C. Number of deaths not certified by Medical Examiner's Office after investigation	294

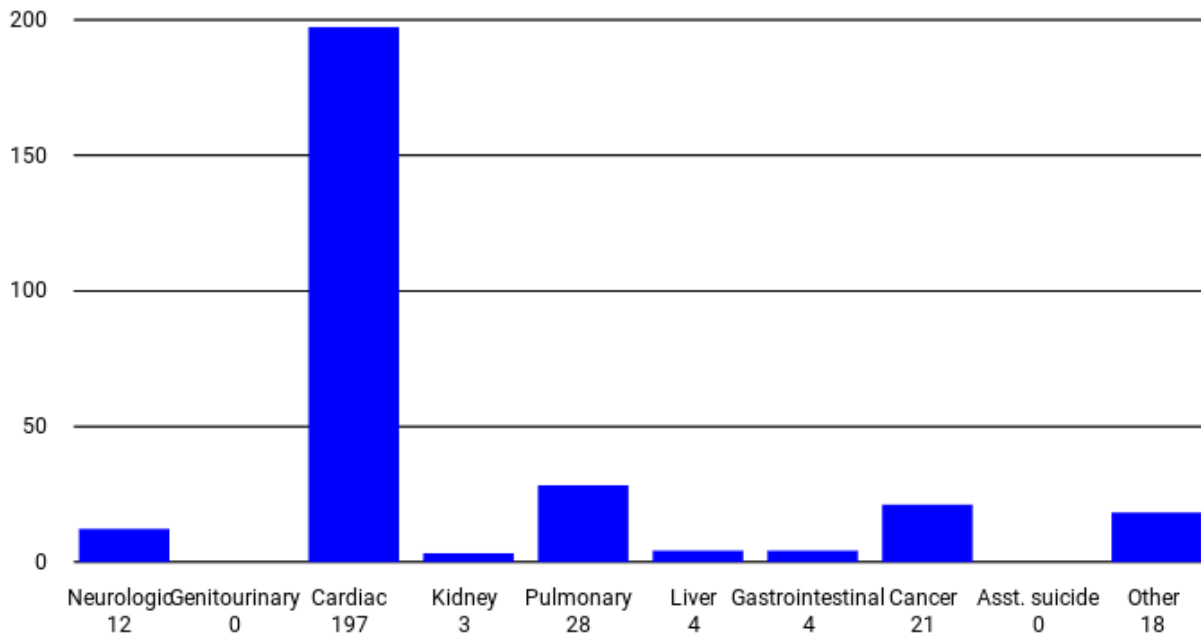
Definitions

Full Autopsy: A complete external and internal examination of a decedent

Limited Examination: An examination which is focused on a specific organ or region of the body, i.e., heart. The limited examination also includes an external examination.

External Examination: An examination of the exterior of a decedent.

Deaths by Natural Causes



Deaths by Unnatural Causes

Deaths by Age Group

