

Dane County Medical Examiner 2025 Budget



Jurisdiction

- WI State Statutes Chapter 979 Investigation of Death
- To investigate and determine the cause of a death, and the circumstances under which the death occurred (Manner)

Role of the Medical Examiner - Examination

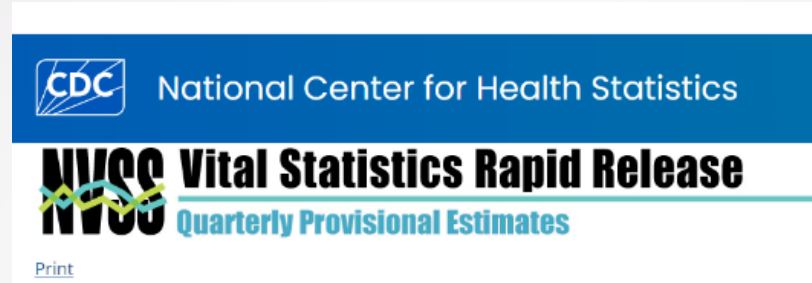


The Autopsy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp
-Rembrandt 1632

- External Examination
- Autopsy
- Ancillary Testing
 - COVID/Virology/ Microbiology swabs
 - Toxicology
 - Radiographic imaging
 - Histology
 - Anthropology

Role of the Medical Examiner

- Gather vital record statistics
 - Violent death reporting
 - Death statistic
- Public health surveillance and statistics
 - Initial HIV/AIDS surveillance
 - Legionnaire's disease outbreak in NY
 - Influenza surveillance



N.Y. / REGION

Hospital Alters Conclusions in Patient Death

By THOMAS J. LUECK and ANAHAD O'CONNOR APRIL 27, 2005

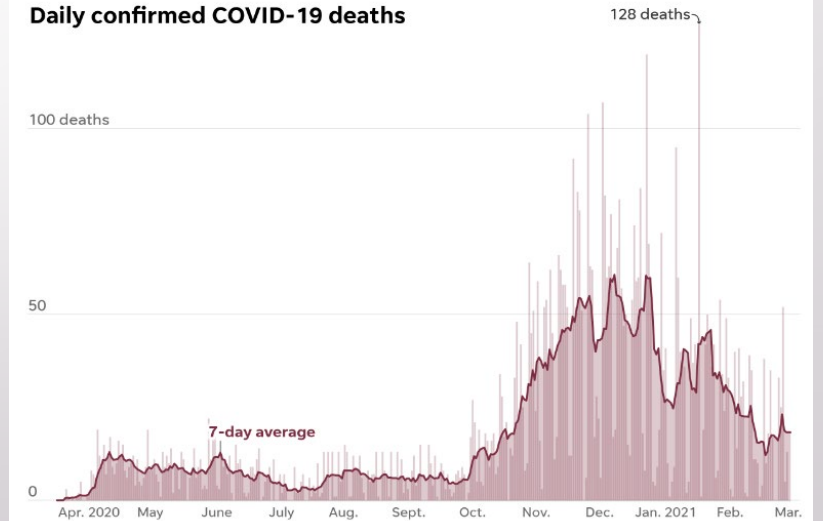
Correction Appended

Days after NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia Hospital said that a patient's death last month had not been caused by Legionnaires' disease, it reversed itself yesterday, saying that an autopsy showed that the disease had indeed led to the death. The hospital also said that the bacteria associated with the disease were found yesterday at a large inpatient center that it operates more than 100 blocks from the building where the case occurred.

In a formal statement yesterday, the hospital said that the disease was the "primary factor" in the death of the patient, whose identity it would not disclose, at its Milstein Hospital building in Washington Heights. It also said that the bacteria had been detected in the water supply of its Greenberg Pavilion at the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell hospital, on the Upper East Side.

The hospital said it had no idea why the two buildings' water supplies, both provided by the city's water system and routinely treated to kill the bacteria,

Daily confirmed COVID-19 deaths



Role of the Medical Examiner

CDC Home Search Health Topics A-Z

CDC

MMWR

Dispatch

March 23, 2006 / 55(Dispatch);1-2

Persons using assistive technology might not be able to fully access information in this file. For assistance, please send e-mail to: mmwrq@cdc.gov. Type 508 Accommodation and the title of the report in the subject line of e-mail.

Death of a Child After Ingestion of a Metallic Charm --- Minnesota, 2006

- Consumer product safety

FIGURE. Heart-shaped charm bracelet that is the subject of the voluntary recall announced March 23, 2006, by Reebok International Ltd. and the Consumer Product Safety Commission



Photo/Consumer Product Safety Commission

Role of the Coroner/Medical Examiner

- Mass disaster preparedness and response



Role of the Coroner/Medical Examiner

- Tissue Donation

Uniform Anatomical Gift Act; 1998:

- All hospitals must have a relationship with an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO)
- Allows families to make *informed* decision at the end of life



Role of the Medical Examiner -Assisting the Family

- Discuss the autopsy procedure
 - Understanding need and extent
 - Understanding respect towards the decedent
 - Objections/requests
- Social services/support groups
- Timeline of procedures, “next steps”
- Media release



County Executive Requirements

- No additional reliance on GPR beyond personnel and contractual costs
- Apply revenue to any shortfall of GPR in other expenditure lines
- Limited capital spending
- Increase revenue

Overview

- MEDX-MEDX-1: Personnel and Operations budget
- MEDX-MEDX-2: Contractual Obligations
- MEDX-MEDX-3: Cremation Permit Increases
- MEDX-MEDX-3: Cremation Permit Fee Increase
- MEDX-MEDX-4: Adjustment to Rock County IGA

MEDX 1– Adjustment to Personnel and Operational Budget expenses

- Adjustment to more accurately reflect expenses
- Increase of \$97,169 (revenue) to meet budget needs:
 - Overtime, Limited Term Employees, Pre-employee Physicals
 - Salary increases (COLA)
 - Longevity credits
 - Holidays/accrued vacations – increase with staff retention



MEDX 2-Contractual Obligations

- NMS (Toxicology)
 - 3% - increase in cost in 2025; increasing complexity of cases and novel substances
- St. Mary's Hospital (SSM) Testing-
 - Department of Public Health (DPH)/Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) no longer accepting postmortem samples, except to confirm/determine cause of death; required to pursue permission from DPH for each other case
 - \$100 per COVID test
- Conveyances – Funeral Home transportation to morgue
 - 5% cost increase per transport following contract-based service

MEDX-3 Cremation Permits

- Conservatively estimate increase of 116 paid cremation permits
 - Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program (WiFCAP)

- [BadgerCare Plus](#) — Refer to section 1.3 of the [Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program Manual](#)
- [Wisconsin Works \(W-2\)](#) — Paid placement only
- [Medicaid for Elderly, Blind, or Disabled \(EBD\)](#) — Categorically needy recipients
- [Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver](#) — Groups A, B and B+
- [Family Care](#)
- [Tuberculosis-related Medicaid](#)
- [Katie Beckett Medicaid](#)
- [Supplemental Security Income in Wisconsin](#)
- [Supplemental Security Income](#) — State Supplemental Program
- [Supplemental Security Income](#) — Medicaid recipient who was a Wisconsin resident

- Cremation continues to rise in popularity as means of final disposition
- New ecologically sound cremation methods (“flameless cremation”, “chemical cremation”) is expected to attract more families in future
- WiFCAP-State funded assistance program; fee waiver for qualified applicants

Anticipated 2025 revenue: \$40,453

MEDX-3 Cremation Permit Fee Increase

- Increase fee by \$12
 - Anticipated revenue increase \$45,630.00
 - Work with PP&J to propose an ordinance amendment for this increase
 - Anticipated **increase** : \$86,083
- §59.36 enacted in 2015
 - Allows a fee increase based on the increase or decrease in CPI (consumer price index)
 - Per § 979, deaths must be investigated before cremation permit
 - Documentation of injuries, recent surgical procedures, medical record review and follow-up, physician case review
 - Ensure accuracy of death certificate data
 - Associated costs of travel to funeral homes, wages, personal protective equipment (PPE), mileage, vehicle and equipment expenses

MEDX-4 Adjustments to Rock County Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

- IGA adjustment resulting in a base **increase** of \$11,085 dollars
- Minor adjustments to revenue – admin salary, physician
 - COLA increase
 - Doctors salary & administrative oversight

Summary

- Meet the 2025 Budget Guidelines:
 - No increase in general purpose revenue outside personnel and contractual obligations
 - With ordinance amendment will increase revenue
 - Revenue applied to other expenditure lines
 - No new capital improvements

Hic locus est ubi mors gaudet succurrere vitae

"Just wanted to share with you all, since we don't get to see this side of our cases very often. This is a gentleman who was [in our care] for almost two years and it was very challenging to get in touch with his family in China. A local Chinese organization was instrumental in helping get in touch with and communicating with his family; they honored Mr. Lee by keeping his ashes here, at the request of Lee's family, in the city he loved so much. Mr. Tao shared these with me after he was able to sprinkle Mr. Lee's ashes into Lake Mendota yesterday.

Kari" May 28, 2023



Thank you

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