



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
— Homer Stryker M.D. —
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEDICAL EXAMINER AND FORENSIC SERVICES

Grand Traverse County

Grand Traverse County

Year	2017
Total Deaths in the County	1,314
Deaths Reported to the MEO	380
Deaths Investigated by MEO	249
MEI Scene Investigations	122
Death Certificates signed by MEO	153
Decedents Transported to WMed	77
Complete Autopsy	56
Limited Examination	2
External Examination	19
Storage Only	0
Total Cases with Toxicology	73
Unidentified Remains After Exam	1
Referrals to Gift of Life	44
Tissue Donations	4
Cornea Donations	4
Unclaimed Decedents & Investigations	5
Exhumations	0
Cremation Permits	1,005
% of Total Deaths with Cremation	76%

Comparisons with Counties - Population and Deaths in County

County	Van Buren	Grand Traverse	Allegan	Calhoun
Population	75,353	91,807	116,447	134,128
Deaths in County	462	1,314	800	1,396
Deaths Reported	151	381	188	443
Postmortem Exams	51	77	60	151
Accident	37	93	28	86
Homicide	1	3	2	4
Acc Drug	14	19	10	44
Traffic	15	24	12	16

Medical Examiner Office - 2017

- ▶ Recruit and Retain
 - ▶ Dr. Theodore Brown - Deputy Medical Examiner
- ▶ Turn-around-time
 - ▶ 2017 Average report turn-around-time: 39 days
 - ▶ TAT monitoring and policy change in Sept 2017
 - ▶ 2018 Average report turn-around-time (to date): 23 days

2016 versus 2017 – drug related deaths

- ▶ What are opioids?
 - ▶ A class of drugs that include pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone, codeine, hydrocodone, morphine, as well as illegal drugs such as heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and the fentanyl analogs.
- ▶ 23 Drug-related deaths - 2017
 - ▶ MANNER
 - ▶ Accident: 19
 - ▶ 17 Opioids
 - ▶ 13 of the 17 - Fentanyl or fentanyl analog
 - ▶ Suicide: 4
- ▶ 22 Drug-related deaths - 2016
 - ▶ MANNER
 - ▶ Accident or Indeterminate: 16
 - ▶ 11 Opioids
 - ▶ 5 of the 11 - Fentanyl or fentanyl analog
 - ▶ Suicide: 6

Forensic Anthropology

- ▶ Identification
 - ▶ Prompt
- ▶ Is this human?



Questions or comments?