

Delaware County Coroner's Office

2020 Annual Report



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May 6 , 2021

The Delaware County Coroner's Office is proud to release its 2020 Annual Report.

The purpose of this report is to inform local government, law enforcement and public health agencies about the duties and services provided by our office. In addition, this report serves as a review of Delaware County mortality statistics coming under the jurisdiction of our office for 2020. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, our office still served the citizens of Delaware County with the same level of service, using CDC guidelines, to keep our staff, and the community we serve, safe during this time.

Completing medicolegal death investigations requires a well trained staff, which is readily available for response and duty. Our team members complete annual continuing education and our Board Certified Investigator maintains certification through the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. Our training is focused to allow us to provide the highest level of forensic service to the community.

The Coroner's Office, through its primary duties of death investigation and public education, is involved in the community through a variety of activities. Recent mortality trends in Delaware County have made our office significantly more active in working with local law enforcement agencies to solve criminal and civil cases as well as supply data related to drug overdose cases as well as violent death cases. In addition, we report Consumer Product and Occupational death related cases and our reports supplement insurance related claims.

The Delaware County Coroner's office continues to be committed to community education for all ages and public health surveillance. Over the past year, we have provided numerous educational presentations to public schools, civic clubs and law enforcement. We serve on the Suicide Prevention Coalition, Child Fatality Review, Adult Protective Services Interdisciplinary team, Traffic Fatality Review Board and other important committees interacting with prosecutors, all divisions of law enforcement/public safety, health district representatives, drug abuse and suicide prevention agencies, mental health and hospital staffs.

Our constant mission is to provide the highest level of professionalism and integrity in performing death investigations and to contribute to the benefit of public health efforts in Delaware County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Hickman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark A. Hickman, M.D., D-ABMDI
Delaware County Coroner

Duties of the Coroner's Office

Duties of the Delaware County Coroner's Office include:

- » Provide response 24 hours a day, everyday.
- » Determine the cause and manner of death.
- » To complete a thorough investigation of the death.
- » To positively identify the decedent.
- » To accurately document the death scene.
- » To complete interviews pertaining to the death.
- » To order transport and have the decedent removed from the scene in a dignified manner.
- » To insure that Next of Kin is notified.
- » To determine whether an autopsy should be performed and make arraignments for the autopsy.
- » To provide the residents of Delaware County with the highest quality of death investigations performed in a timely manner.

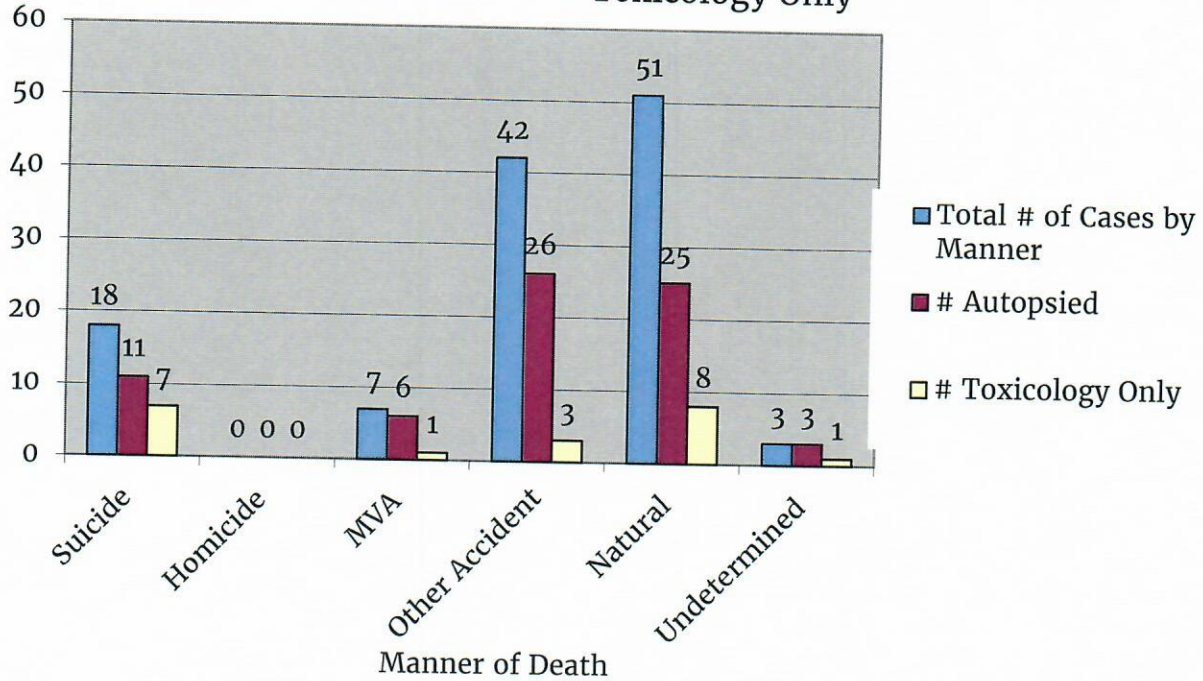
Reportable Deaths

Per Ohio Revised Code Section 313, the County Coroner is directed to conduct death investigations on all deaths that are sudden and unexpected. The following is a list of deaths that need to be reported to the County Coroner's Office:

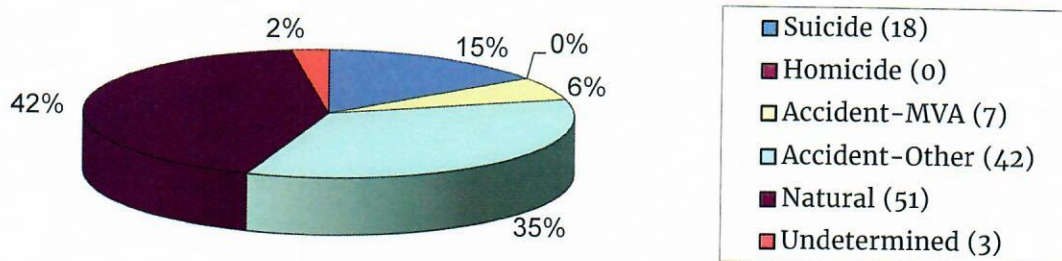
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Accident
- Sudden Death: When the death occurs while in apparent good health including a child less than 24 months of age, or a death occurring in any suspicious or unusual manner.
- In-Custody death.
- Unknown circumstances.
- When any developmentally disabled person dies regardless of the circumstances.

2020 Coroner's cases

2020 Coroner's Cases VS. Autopsy with Toxicology and Toxicology Only

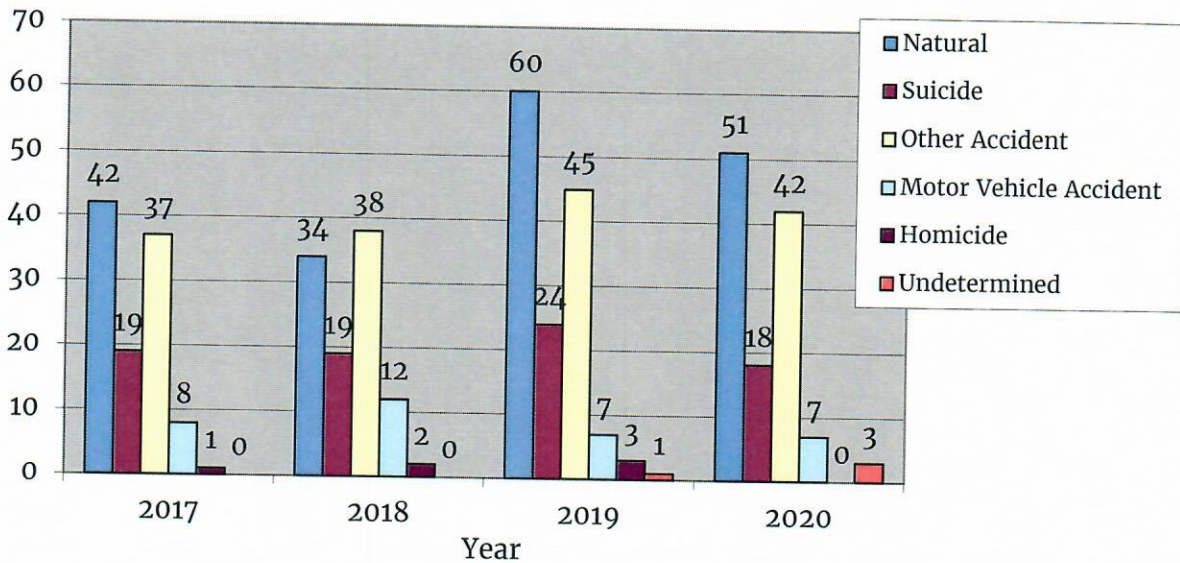


2020 Coroner's Cases By Manner of Death (%)

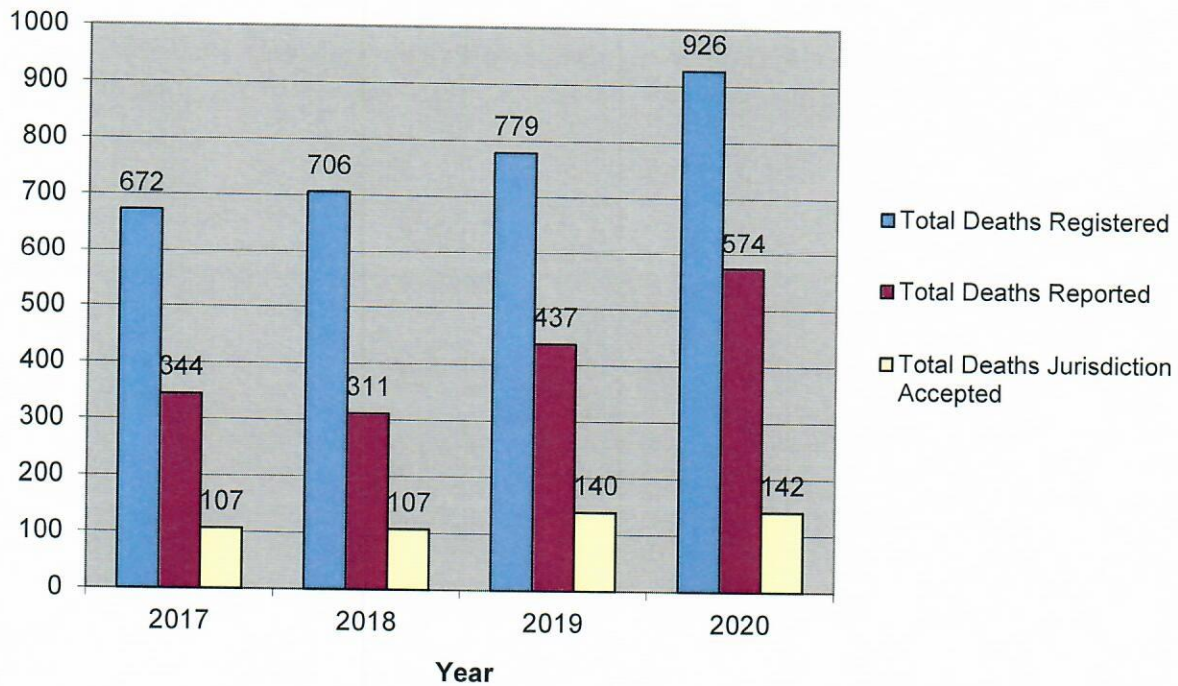


Delaware County Deaths 2017 – 2020

4 Year Comparison Manner of Death: 2017-2020

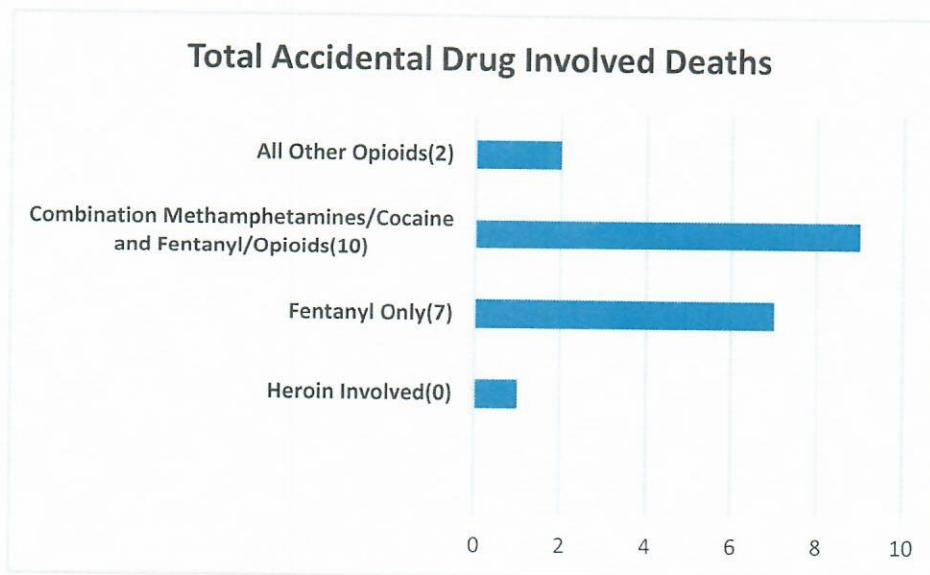
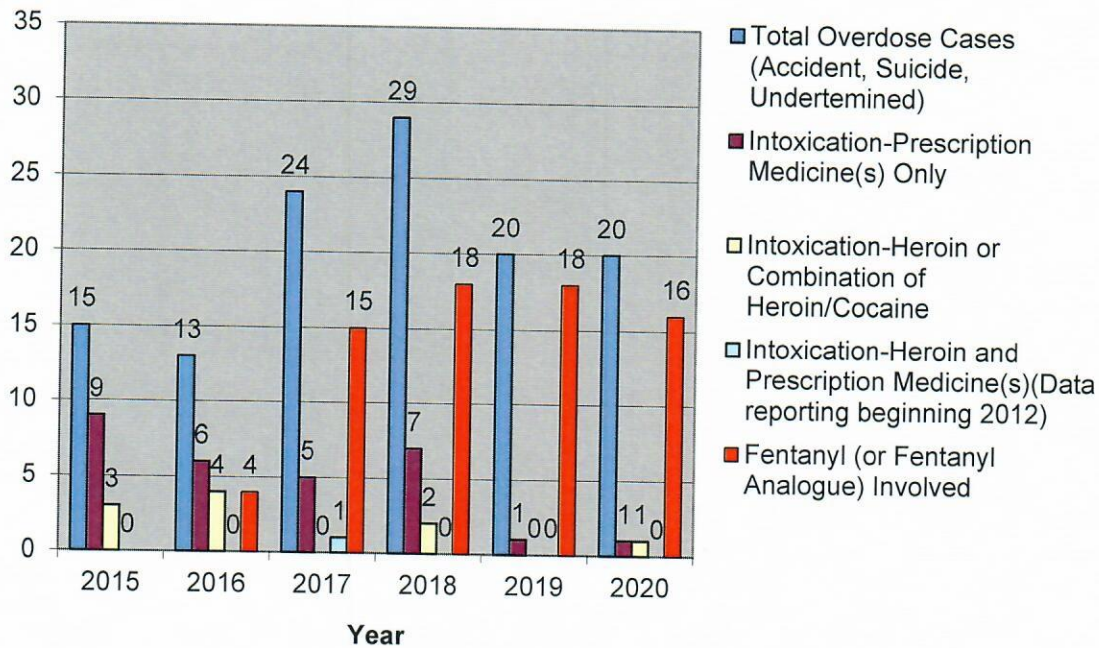


Summary of Delaware County Deaths From 2017-2020



Delaware County Overdose Deaths 2015 – 2020

Delaware County Drug Intoxication Deaths By Heroin/Fentanyl/Cocaine/Prescription Medication



Spectrum of Drugs detected in above chart include:

Fentanyl, Cocaine, Heroin, Morphine, Methadone, Acetyl Fentanyl, Oxycodone, Nordiazepam, Mirtazapine, Trazadone, Verapamil, Hydrocodone, Duloxetine, Sertraline, Methamphetamines

Delaware County Demographics

Delaware County is located in Central Ohio and as of the 2010 census had a population of 178,341.



The county has a total area of 443.10 square miles. The county seat is the city of Delaware, with an estimated 2019 census population of 39,930*, and total estimated 2019 county population of 209,177*. Delaware County borders six Ohio counties: Morrow, Knox, Licking, Franklin, Union, and Marion. Delaware County contains all or a portion of the following cities/villages: Ashley, Columbus, Delaware, Dublin, Galena, Ostrander, Powell, Shawnee Hills, Sunbury, Westerville, Kilbourne, Lewis Center, and Radnor.

There are 18 townships: Berkshire, Berlin, Brown, Concord, Delaware, Genoa, Harlem, Kingston, Liberty, Marlboro, Orange, Oxford, Porter, Radnor, Scioto, Thompson, Trenton, and Troy.

* <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/delawarecountyohio>