

Bob Dixon  
Presiding Commissioner

Rusty MacLachlan  
1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner

John C. Russell  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner



Shane Schoeller  
Clerk of the Commission

Christopher J. Coulter, AICP  
County Administrator

Megan Applegate  
Executive Assistant

**COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**Greene County, Missouri**  
**(417) 868-4112**

**Greene County Commission  
Commission Briefing Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**  
9:30 AM  
Commission Conference Room  
1443 N. Robberson, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

PLEASE CHECK & RETURN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CC1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CC2

**\*\*Meeting Information**

Meeting link: <https://ocmo.webex.com/join/mapplegate> Access code: 2499 501 7983

**More ways to join**

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0001 Access code: 2499 501 7983

**Attendees:** Bob Dixon, Rusty MacLachlan, John Russell, Chris Coulter, Megan Applegate, Natalie Gomez, Deiter Duff and Mayor Short.

**Virtual Attendees:** Mike Cagle, Cindy Stein, Jeff Bassham, Allen Icet, Jeff Scott, Jess Kerr and Allen Criger and Jim Arnott

**Informational Items**

**IS-Jess Kerr**

- Move almost complete

**Pre-Trial-Natalie Gomez**

- Update on supervision.

**Medical Examiner-Dr. Deiter Duff**

- Highlighted 2023 summary.
- Highlighted four year comparison.

**Items for Consideration and Action by the Commission**

**Other:**

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

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**Greene County Commission**  
**Commission Briefing Agenda**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**  
9:30 AM  
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Informational Items

IS  
Purchasing  
Pre-Trial  
Medical Examiner

Items for Consideration and Action by the Commission

Other:



## GREENE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE

916 N. Campbell Avenue

SPRINGFIELD, MO 65802

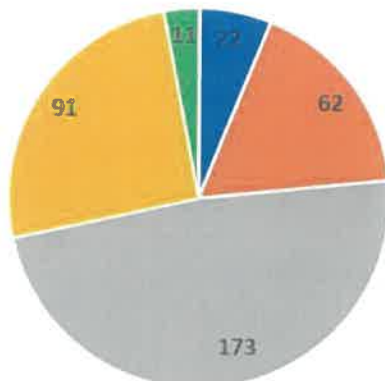
TELEPHONE (417) 868-4822

FAX (417) 868-4823

## 2023 Summary

- **4,287 calls** reporting deaths to Medical Examiner's Office; investigators on call 24/7 to receive calls and respond to scenes
- **382 scene calls**
- **1,024 death certificates** signed (603 certified as natural deaths)
- 35 toxicology only cases
- **363 postmortem examinations**
  - 215 full autopsies
  - 132 external examinations
  - 16 partial autopsies
  - **275 autopsy equivalents** (considers 3 external examinations equivalent to the work of 1 autopsy)
- **Turnaround time** for postmortem reports
  - **58 days average** completion time
  - 91% of reports completed within 60 days
  - 99% of reports completed within 90 days

### Manner of Death for Postmortem Exam Cases (Only Includes Greene Co Cases)



### Notable Subcategories of Postmortem Cases

- 111 drug intoxication deaths
- 54 gunshot wound deaths (includes homicides and suicides)
- 39 motor vehicle fatalities
- 8 pedestrian deaths
- 12 deaths age 1-17
- 7 infant deaths (up to 12 months)

■ Homicide ■ Suicide ■ Accident ■ Natural ■ Undetermined

# 2023 Additional Data

- Greene County Population: 304,611 (U.S. Census Bureau estimate)
- Total deaths in Greene County (provisional data received from Springfield Greene County Health Dept)
  - Greene county residents: 3,117
  - Greene county recorded deaths: 4,529
- Percentage of deaths in Greene County reported to GCMEO: 95%
- Average turnaround time for death certificates: 16 days (includes postmortem exams and record review only cases)
- Turnaround time for performance of postmortem examinations:
  - Percentage of autopsies and external examinations performed within 48 hours from time that ME jurisdiction or coroner's authorization is granted or within 48 hours of receipt of decedent for an externally referred autopsy (excludes weekends and holidays): 96%
  - Percentage of autopsies and external examinations performed within 72 hours from time that ME jurisdiction or coroner's authorization is granted or within 72 hours of receipt of decedent for an externally referred autopsy (excludes weekends and holidays): 3%
- Postmortem examinations performed for outside jurisdictions 23
  - Webster County: 2
  - U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners: 21
- Bodies brought to facility: 502
- Bodies transported to facility which were paid for by or transported by the ME office: 500 (outside counties pay for their own transportation)
- Postmortem examinations per pathologist
  - DD
    - 194 full autopsies
    - 118 external examinations
    - 14 partial autopsies
    - 247 autopsy equivalents (considers 3 external examinations equivalent to the work of 1 autopsy)
  - LP
    - 21 full autopsies
    - 14 external examinations
    - 2 partial autopsies
    - 28 autopsy equivalents (considers 3 external examinations equivalent to the work of 1 autopsy)

- Microscopic studies: 72
- Formal neuropathologic studies: None
- Formal cardiac pathology studies: 15
- Suicides autopsied: 62 postmortem exams (4 full; 8 partial; 50 external)
- Drug-related accidental deaths certified: 130
- Drug-related accidental deaths autopsied: 107 postmortem exams (86 full; 21 external)
- Non-MVA, non-drug related accidents certified: 20
- Non-MVA, non-drug related accidents autopsied: 20 postmortem exams (18 full; 2 external)
- Non-MVA, non-drug related deaths autopsied: 203 postmortem exams (114 full; 14 partial; 75 external)
- MVA accidental deaths certified: 74 (includes 12 pedestrians)
- MVA accidents autopsied: 39 postmortem exams (8 full; 2 partial; 29 external) +8 pedestrian (4 full; 4 external)
- Deaths certified as natural: 603
- Percentage of suspected homicide cases autopsied: 100%
- Natural deaths autopsied: 91 postmortem exams (59 full; 26 external; 6 partial)
- Undetermined cause of death autopsied: 6
- Percentage of undetermined cause of death autopsied: 86% (6/7) (One case certified as undetermined natural causes, elderly person, record review case only)
- Unidentified bodies: None
- Unidentified bodies autopsied: None
- Organ donations: 31
- Corneal and other tissue donations: 33
- Average number of bodies in storage at the facility per day: 6 estimated (average 2 in decomposition cooler and 4 in regular cooler); number tracked beginning in 2024
- Hospital autopsies retained under ME jurisdiction: None
- Total number of toxicology cases: 356

- Total number of exhumations: None
- Infant deaths
  - Number of infants certified: 7
  - Number of infants autopsied: 7
  - Categories of infant cause of death:
    - Asphyxiation (unsafe sleep) 3
    - Unexplained or undetermined 4
  - Categories of infant manner of death
    - Accident: 3
    - Natural: 0
    - Undetermined: 4
    - Homicide: 0
- Toxicology
  - Percentage of toxicology examinations completed within 90 calendar days of case submission: data requested from NMS Labs
  - Percentage of toxicology examinations completed within 60 days of case submission: data requested from NMS labs

**Four Year Comparison**  
**Greene County Medical Examiner's Office**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Calls reporting deaths	4,062	5,174	4,523	4,287
Death certificates signed	868	1,149	1,134	1,024
Postmortem exams	331	376	356	363

\*Note the following are from postmortem cases, not all deaths in Greene Co

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Homicides	33	37	24	22
Suicides	67	66	79	62
Accidents	139	187	225	173
Natural	82	78	78	91
Undetermined manner	9	6	8	11
Drug intoxication deaths	107	135	165	111
Motor vehicle fatalities	34	29	28	39