

Lehigh County Coroner's Office and Forensics Center



Eric D. Minnich, D-ABMDI
Coroner



Coroner Eric D. Minnich, D-ABMDI

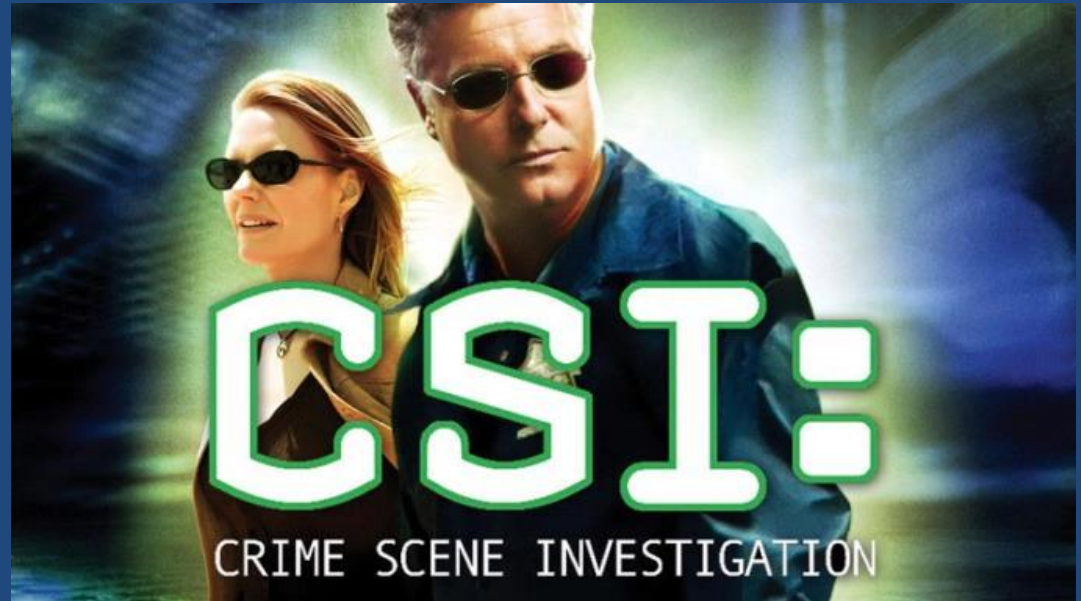
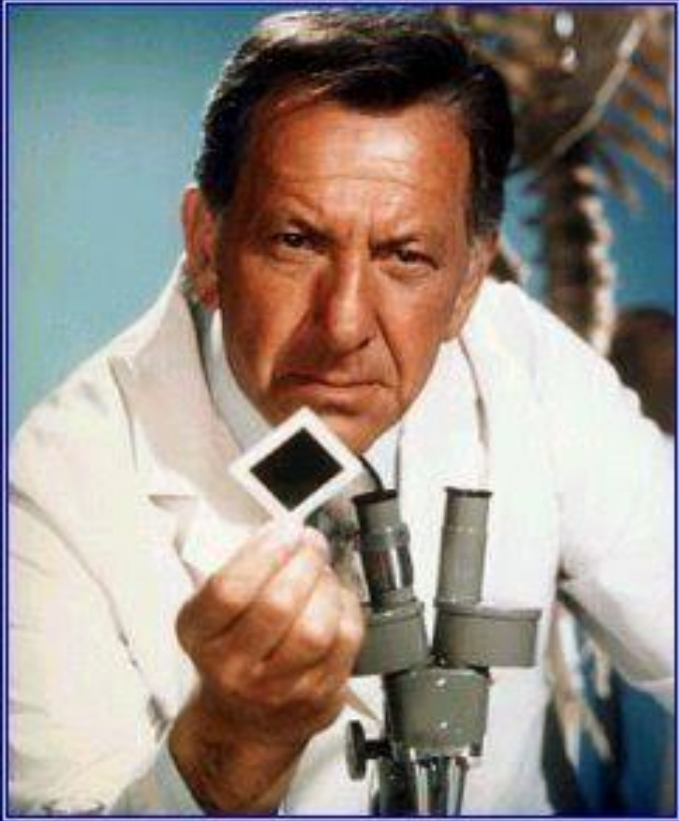
- With the office for 15 years
- First Deputy Coroner since 2012
- Coroner since March 2019
- Almost 30 years of emergency services experience (Paramedic and Firefighter)



Staff

- In addition to Coroner Minnich, our staff consists of 14 full time employees (Supervisory, Administrative, Morgue and Investigations)
- 7 part time employees (Investigations and Morgue)
- All investigative staff members are state certified. Over 75% are also nationally certified or in the process of attaining national certification







Role of the Coroner's Office

- Six basic functions
 - Determine Cause & Manner of Death
 - Identify the decedent
 - Notify the legal next of kin
 - Prepare a report regarding the investigation
 - Account for and safeguard property of the decedent.
 - Provide assistance to families



Role of the Coroner's Office

- PA Law regarding Coroners
 - Title 16 § 1218-B
 - Coroner shall have view of the body and investigate deaths that occur in the County, regardless of where the Cause occurred
 - Determines need for an autopsy
 - Indicates types of deaths that shall be investigated (sudden / unexplained, violent / traumatic, drug related, in custody, public health concerns, child death, deaths to be cremated).



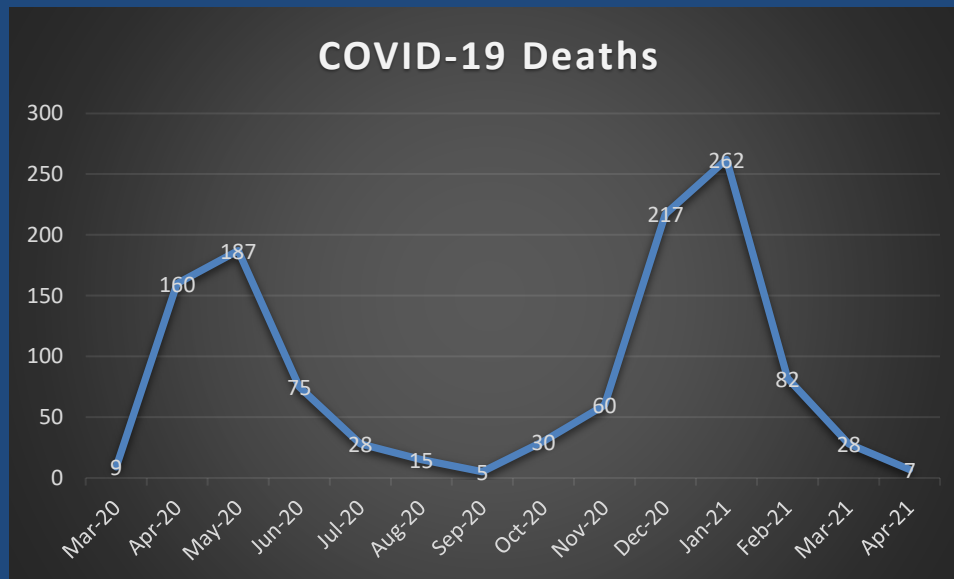
Statistics

- 2020 Total Investigations – 8,886 (20.5% increase from 2019)
 - 1,159 scene / hospital cases
 - 4,221 referrals from hospitals, hospice and nursing homes
 - 3,506 cremations
 - 326 autopsies performed
 - 15% of scene / hospital cases are drug related
 - 5% of scene / hospital cases are suicides



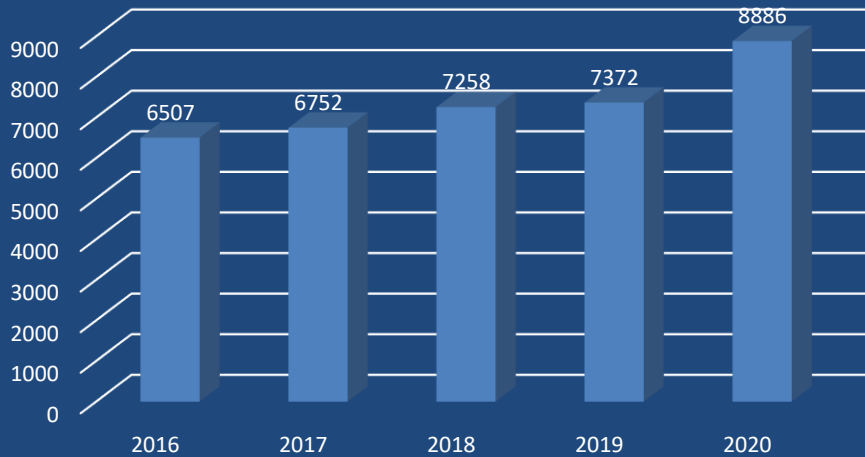
COVID 19 Impact

- 1,165 total COVID deaths reported to our office
- 750 county residents died of COVID-19
- 61% of county residents lived in LTC

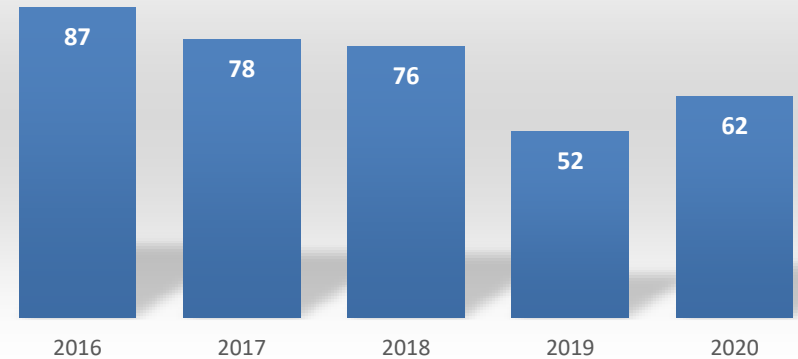


5 Years Stats

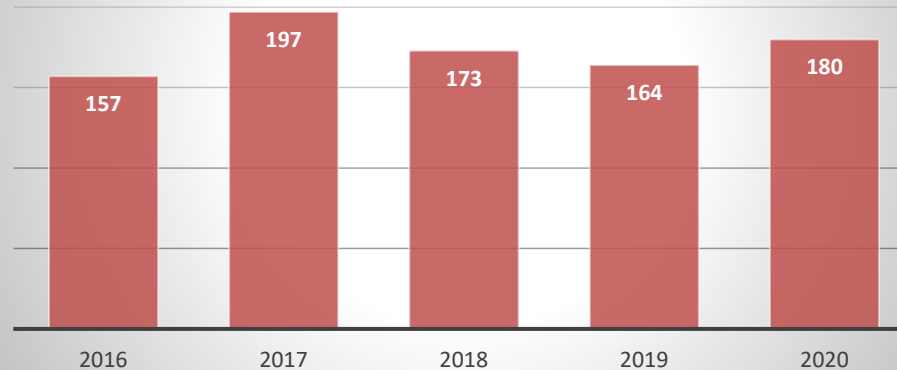
Total Investigations



Suicides



Drug Related Deaths



Outreach, Prevention & Education

- SADD Demonstrations at local schools
- Child Death Review / prevention committees
- Drug death prevention groups
- Internship program
- Preparedness drills



Forensics Center



Forensics Center

- Groundbreaking – February 2013
- Forensics Center opened in October 2014
- Shared facility with Cetronia Ambulance Corps, Lehigh County Coroner's Office, Lehigh County District Attorney's Office Ballistics Lab and Lehigh County Special Operations Team



Forensics Center

- State of the art forensics facility with capability to store over 40 decedents
- Ability to perform 3 simultaneous autopsies
- Secure storage of evidence and personal effects
- Ability to perform digital x-rays onsite
- Ability to view decedents to families as means of identification



Forensics Center Virtual Tour

General Office Area



Lobby



Forensics Center Virtual Tour

Family Viewing Room



Law Enforcement
Observation Room



Forensics Center Virtual Tour



Evidence Lockers



Intake Area



Digital X-Ray



Forensics Center Virtual Tour



Main Cooler



Main Cooler



Forensics Center Virtual Tour



Main Autopsy Suite



Autopsy Station



Forensics Center Virtual Tour



Isolated Autopsy Room



Isolated Autopsy Room

