

# DHMH - Public Health Services - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

## MISSION

The mission of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is to: provide competent, professional, thorough, and objective death investigations in cases mandated in Maryland statute, thus assisting State's attorneys, courts, law enforcement agencies and especially families in understanding related issues; strengthen partnerships between federal, State and local governments, and the business community through the training and education of physicians, other health professionals, members of the legal and law enforcement profession, as well as other individuals involved in death investigations; cooperate with and support research programs directed at increasing knowledge of the pathology of disease and other conditions contributing to injury and death in our communities; and protect and promote the health of the public and assist the development of programs to prevent injury and death whenever possible.

## VISION

The vision of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is a world class and professional death investigation system grounded in the principles of quality, accountability, efficiency, objectivity, and sensitivity towards each victim's family members.

## KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Goal 1. Provide timely death investigation with sensitivity and balance towards family members.

**Obj. 1.1** During fiscal year 2016, 99 percent of all medical examiner cases requiring further examination will be examined and ready for release within 24 hours of admission to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Total deaths investigated	10,067	9,872	10,556	11,020	11,547	12,200	12,800
Cases examined	3,892	3,702	3,915	4,116	4,402	4,650	4,900
Percent of cases released within 24 hours	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%

### Goal 2. Provide State's Attorneys with autopsy reports on all medical examiner cases where further investigation is deemed advisable.

**Obj. 2.1** By fiscal year 2016, 90 percent of all autopsy reports will be completed and forwarded, when necessary, to the State's Attorney's office within 60 working days following the investigation.

Performance Measures	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Examinations performed	3,892	3,702	3,915	4,116	4,402	4,650	4,900
Number of Medical Examiners (full-time equivalent)	15.1	15.0	14.0	14.0	15.0	15.0	16.0
Percent of reports completed within 60 days	67%	64%	65%	70%	73%	90%	90%
Ratio of autopsies to Medical Examiners	258	247	280	294	293	310	306