

2024 Critical Needs Office of the Coroner

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Department's Strategic Plan Goals

- 1) Service Quality** – Reduce autopsy report turn-around time from 2022 mean of 40.5 days to less than 31 days and reduce cases over 60 days from 9.4% to less than 5% by the end of 2024
- 2) Technology Infrastructure** – Upgrade current 12-year-old *Lodox* X-ray scanner to a modern version to ensure continuity of service and increased performance in the next 2 years
- 3) Service Quality** – Ensure retention of employees and long-term sustainability of the CO's busiest coroner's office through adequate staffing of medical examiners and death investigators and development of leadership over the next 12 months
- 4) Health and Safety** – strengthen partnerships, transparency, and accountability through data and subject matter expertise sharing with government agencies, media, non-profits, and academia through deployment of the data dashboard and continued public engagement



Department's Operating Indicators

- 1) Coroner's Annual Report – includes caseloads, current staffing, trends, and performance indicators such as turn-around-times and completion %

<u>Mean TOT</u>	<u>% over 60 days</u>
2022: 40.5 days	9.4%
2021: 34.4 days	8.3%
2020: 29 days	4.7%
2019: 21 days	1%
2018 32 days	7%

- 2) National Association of Medical Examiners Laboratory Accreditation:
 - Accredited since 1989, most recent September 2023
 - 89 Accredited laboratories in US (4 in CO)
 - IACME accreditation (36 in US; 3 in CO)



Budgetary Highlights

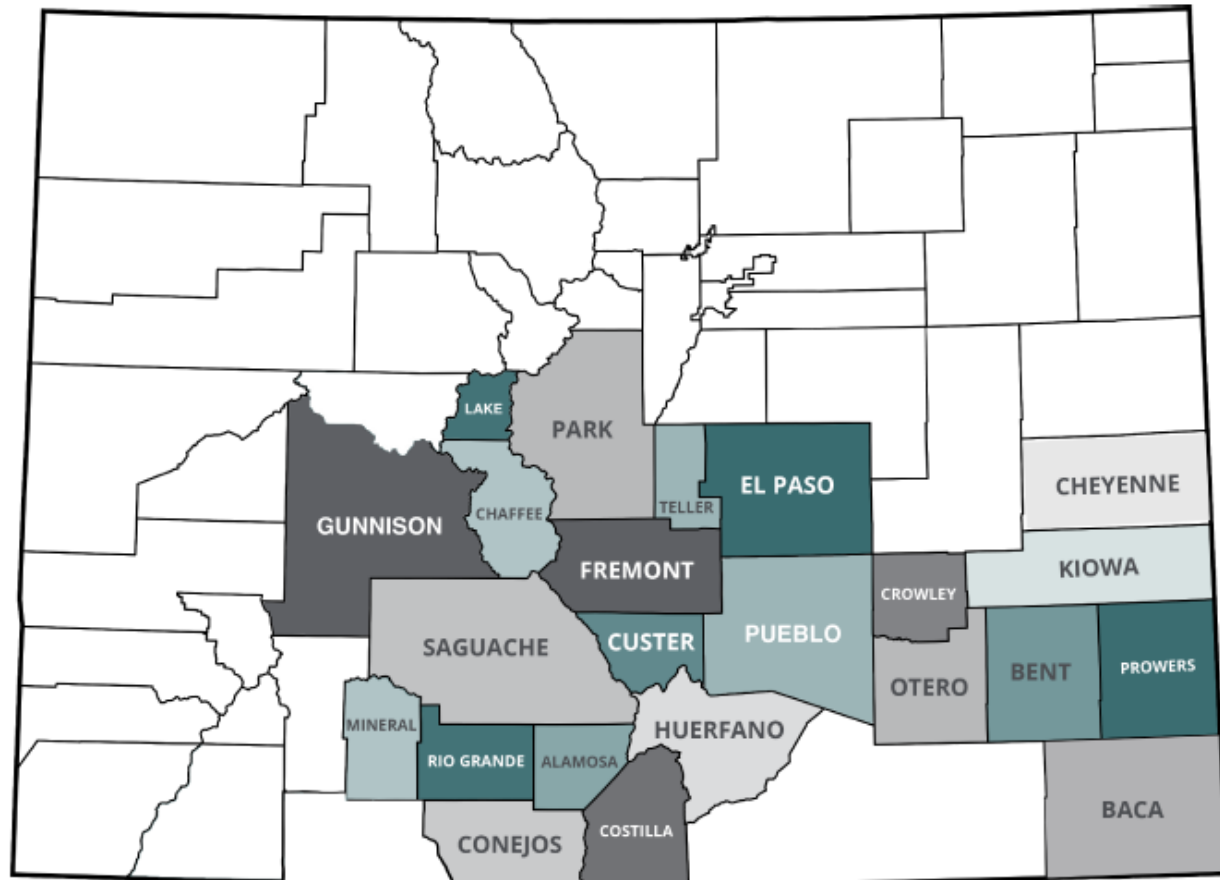
2022 Revenue for El Paso County Coroner's Office

Grant for Violent Death Reporting.....	\$4,828
Out-of-County Autopsy Fees.....	\$564,775
Out-of-County Toxicology Fees.....	\$26,090
Histology Fees.....	\$3,657
HB-21-1317 Tax Reimbursement.....	<u>\$6,975</u>
Total Revenue for 2022.....	\$606,325



Budgetary Highlights

1,464 – TOTAL CASES



ALAMOSA	30
BACA	7
BENT	12
CHAFFEE	36
CHEYENNE	8
CONEJOS	14
COSTILLA	18
CROWLEY	11
CUSTER	19
EL PASO	1039
FREMONT	87

1	GUNNISON
18	HUERFANO
3	KIOWA
16	LAKE
5	MINERAL
15	OTERO
27	PARK
17	PROWERS
1	PUEBLO
16	RIO GRANDE
16	SAGUACHE
48	TELLER



Budgetary Highlights

El Paso County Citizen Cost Breakdown

2022 Population* 740,567

Total 2022 Budget \$3,760,102

\$3,760,102 (Budget)

- \$606,325 (Revenue)

\$3,153,777 Overall Cost to Citizens

÷ 740,567 (Population)

= \$4.46 Annual cost to each El Paso County Citizen

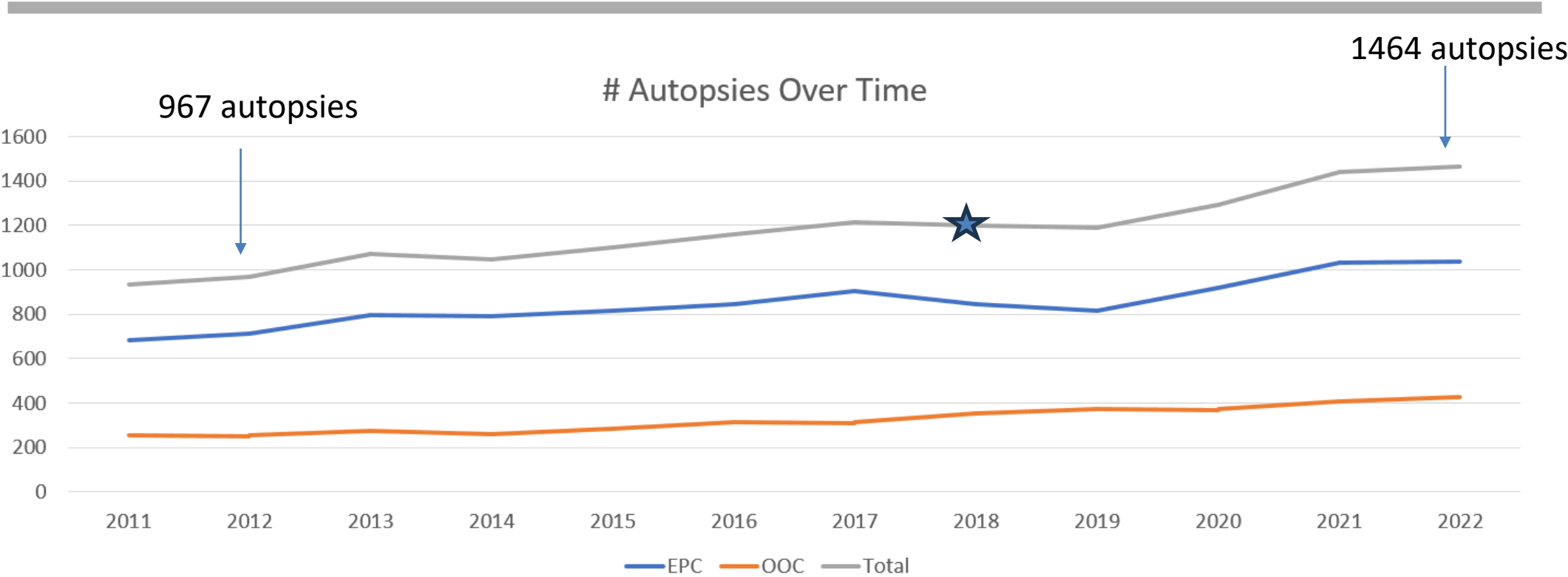
*US Census Bureau (2023)



Critical Needs and Justification

Critical Need #1: Full-Time Medical Examiner Position

12-Year Autopsy Trends for EPCCO



★ 5th Medical Examiner added



Critical Needs and Justification

Critical Need #1: Full-Time Medical Examiner Position

NAME Accreditation Case Load Requirements:

- Phase 1 violation: 250 cases/ME (recommendation)
- Phase 2 violation: 325 cases/ME (lose accreditation)

EPCCO: 1464 total autopsies (209 external exams)

= 1325 complete autopsy equivalents

= 265 cases per medical examiner

Chief and Deputy Chief deductions (4.25FTE)

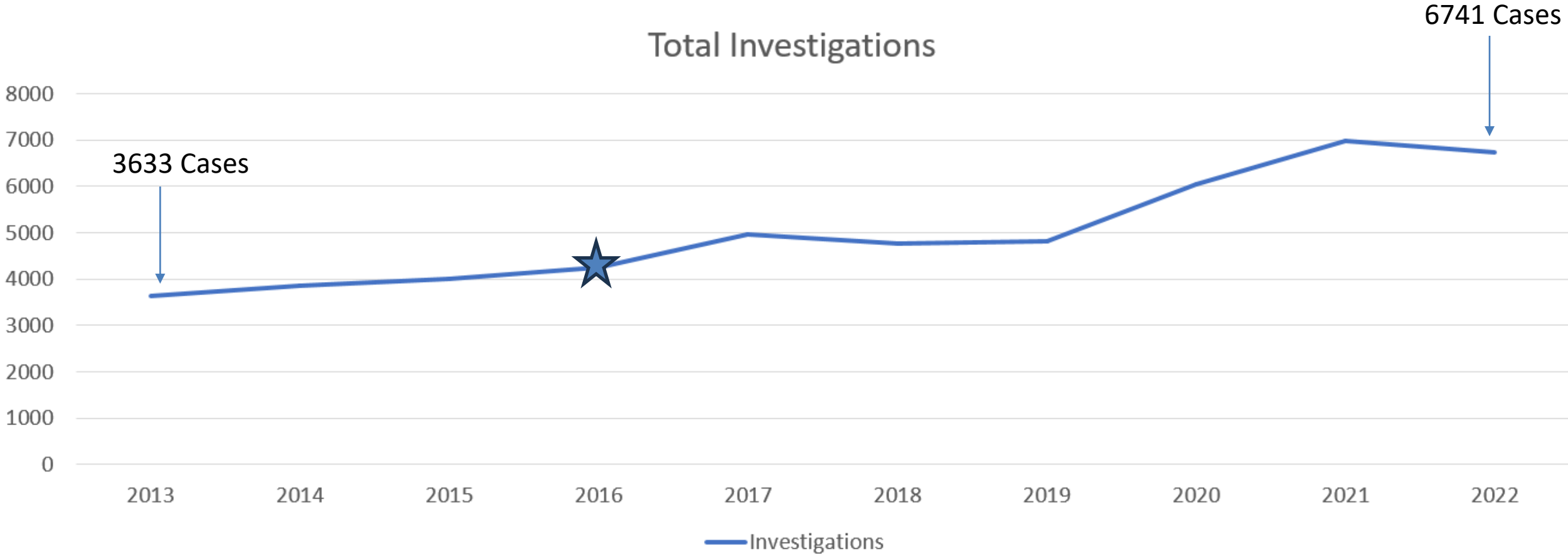
= 312 cases per medical examiner

NAME Accreditation Inspection: Phase I violation with strong recommendation to increase medical examiner staffing to ensure appropriate case loads



Base Budget & Critical Needs

Critical Need #2: Full-time Medicolegal Death Investigator



NAME Accreditation Inspection: Strong recommendation to increase death investigator staffing to ensure appropriate case loads

★ 2 Medicolegal Death Investigators Added (8 to 10)



Base Budget & Critical Needs



TOTAL CASES
INVESTIGATED
6741

TOTAL AUTOPSIES
PERFORMED
1464
(4% increase over 2021)

Medical Examiners = 5
Death Investigators = 10
Morgue/forensic staff = 7
Administrative = 3
Data = 0
Chief of Staff = 0
Toxicologists = 4



5,247
Deaths reported
Compared to 5,107 in 2021

970
Autopsies completed
Compared to 996 in 2021

Medical Examiners = 5
Death Investigators = 12
Morgue/forensic staff = 9
Administrative = 5
Data = 2
Chief of Staff = 1
Toxicologist = 0



Base Budget & Critical Needs

Critical Need #3: Updated Lodox Full Body X-ray Scanner

S/N	Quantity	Description	Price
ASP600	1	NEW Forensic-specific eXero-dr Critical Imaging System (USD) Full Body X-ray System For Rapid Assessment Forensic Pathology	\$ 498,000.00
	1	Trade in of existing Statscan VE1 system Included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Standard Configuration Components As Described Below 1 Year full factory warranty (tube pro-rata) Installation, FDA Commisioning, and Applications training 	\$ (25,000.00)
DSC23	1	Loyalty Credit Shipping and frieght to destination Total system price delivered and installed (USD)	\$ (23,000.00) \$ 450,000.00



Base Budget & Critical Needs

<u>Description</u>	<u>2024 Base Budget</u>	<u>2024 Critical Needs/Requests</u>	<u>2024 PBB</u>
Coroner	\$ 3,720,866	\$ 671,759	\$ 4,392,625

Funding Request 2024

On going:

- Medical Examiner/ Medicolegal Death Investigator (2 FTEs)

One time:

- Lodox Full Body X-Ray Scanner





Questions?