

# **ANDERSON COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER**



## **2024 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2025-2026 BUDGET REQUEST**



## ANDERSON COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER

GREG L. SHORE D-ABMDI

CORONER

301 CAMSON ROAD

ANDERSON SC 29625

To the Anderson County Council and the Citizens of Anderson County,

First, let me thank you for the privilege to serve you as your Coroner. It has been an honor to service our community over the last year. I am proud of the improvements in my office and the service that we have provided.

I would personally like to thank the Anderson County Administration and the Anderson County Council for your strong support of my office, for without you we would not have accomplished many of our goals and/or successes like our Drug Awareness Program.

I would also like to offer my condolences to all families in Anderson County that have suffered a loss this year. The death of a loved one is one of the most traumatic events that a family will endure. The trauma is only compounded when the death is not investigated by compassionate and professional staff. My staff will continue to strive to provide the best service to our community that is available.

We as a community must remember that the information contained in this report represents a loss to a family and to our community. To you, this report is a look at the operations of our office and the death statistics of our county. However, never lose focus that these numbers represent losses to our community and tremendous sadness for families.

Enclosed is the Anderson County Office of the Coroner 2024 Annual Report and our budget request for the upcoming year. This report provides a summary and statistical analysis of the deaths investigated by the Anderson County Office of the Coroner and reports completed by my investigative team.

As our population continue to grow, so will our deaths and those deaths will require the services of my office. I can assure you and the citizens of Anderson County we are prepared for the task.

If you should need any clarification on any part of this report and/or our budget requests, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to continuing serve you as your Coroner.

Sincerely,

*Greg L. Shore*

Greg L. Shore, D-ABMDI  
Coroner

**ANDERSON COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **Mission:**

“Our mission is to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in the field of Medicolegal Death Investigations and in accordance with the standard established by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. We are committed to determining the cause and manner of death in an accurate, timely, dignified, and compassionate manner while maintaining respect for the grieving families and the citizens of Anderson County.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner serves a population of 213,076 people. Anderson’s economy revolves around manufacturing. It has over 230 manufacturers, including 22 international companies that call Anderson County home.

We identify the deceased and notify the next-of-kin, regardless of where they may live, while ensuring that the deceased and their property are treated with the utmost respect and dignity. We accomplish our mission through the use of a forensic pathologist, consultants, and other methods of inquiry. We serve as an independent finder of fact in a manner prescribed by law.

Together with education, consultation and research through the medical, legal, academic, and law enforcement communities, the Anderson County Office of the Coroner is committed to this mission statement.”

**“WE REPRESENT THE LIVING, BUT SPEAK FOR THE DEAD”**

## **SERVICES PROVIDED:**

- The Anderson County Office of the Coroner consists of a team of experienced death investigation professionals consisting of:
  1. Coroner (Elected)
  2. Chief Deputy Coroner
  3. Deputy Coroners- (Four Full-Time and Two Part-time)
  4. Autopsy Technician/Deputy Coroner
  5. Morgue Attendant (Part-Time)
  6. Public Relations Specialist
  7. Administrative Assistant’s (Two)
  8. Forensic Pathologist (One Full-Time, who also serves as the departments Medical Director and One Part-Time).

- Working in a spirit of cooperation and communication with local law enforcement as well as other interested parties, this team has raised the standard of death investigations to a new level of excellence here in Anderson County as well as in the State of South Carolina.
- Aside from investigating deaths, the Anderson County Office of the Coroner provides education lectures and presentations to police, fire, and emergency service personnel on both local and statewide levels.
- The Anderson County Office of the Coroner also provides lectures and safety presentations to various community and civic organizations.
- The staff of the Anderson County Office of the Coroner is dedicated to exercising its duties with care, compassion and understanding towards families in a difficult time of need.
- Members of the Anderson County Office of the Coroner serve on numerous committees including, the Child Fatality Committee, Traffic Fatality Committee, Safe Kids Committee, and various others.
- The Anderson County Office of the Coroner has three functional areas of responsibility:
  1. **MEDICAL** – Review medical records, perform appropriate testing and authorize autopsies to determine cause and manner of death, which falls within the jurisdiction of the Anderson County Office of the Coroner; arrange transport and removal of the decedent; and sign death certificates.
  2. **ADMINISTRATIVE** – Maintain all records of death within Anderson County; respond to inquiries by Law Enforcement Agencies, physicians, and others with potential cases. Provide for proper custody and security of valuables, locate families, when necessary, complete written reports and notify other appropriate agencies as deemed necessary. Review medical records, preform appropriate testing and authorize autopsies.
  3. **INVESTIGATIVE** – Conduct investigations to determine cause and manner of death and/or establish identity of the deceased; conduct witness and/or family interviews; and appear at all unattended deaths unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner is considered an integral component of the death investigation team and operates as the interface between law and medicine. The ultimate responsibility for any death investigation in Anderson County is the Coroner’s Office.

In accordance with South Carolina Statue/Law, the Anderson County Office of the Coroner requires notification when any death is due to:

1. As a result of violence.
2. As a result of apparent suicide.
3. When in apparent good health.
4. When unattended by a physician.
5. In any suspicious or unusual manner.

6. While an inmate of a penal or correctional institution.
7. As a result of stillbirth when unattended by a physician.
8. The attending physician is unable or unwilling to certify the Cause of Death.
9. All cases in which trauma may be associated with the death, such as traffic accidents, gunshots, falls, fires, etc. This includes inpatients in medical facilities.
10. Deaths by poisoning, suspected poisoning, chemical or bacterial, industrial hazardous materials or radiation.
11. All industrial accidents.
12. Deaths due to contagious disease.
13. Deaths due to self-induced or unexplained abortion.
14. Operating room deaths and deaths that occur during a medical procedure.
15. All unexplained deaths (death that occur to a healthy individual).
16. All pediatric deaths (less than 18 years of age).
17. Deaths that occur within 24 hours of admission to a hospital or nursing facility.
18. Deaths in the custody of Law Enforcement.
19. Deaths of persons in the Care of a Public Institution.
20. Vulnerable adult as a result of abuse or neglect.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner must conduct a thorough investigation into any type of the above listed deaths.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner staff also performs the following duties:

- Pronounce death and determine the time of death.
- Document the scene of death and performing interviews to determine medical and social circumstances.
- Complete photographs of the scene and decedent.
- Collect specimens for analysis and storage.
- Complete various testing (environmental temperatures, drug test, etc.).
- Secure and destroy unused medications.
- Positively identify the deceased with the aid of dental records, fingerprints, and/or x-rays.
- Identify next-of-kin and notify family members in a respectful and sensitive manner.
- Request, order and attend autopsies.
- Prepare death certificates and other records once an investigation is complete.
- Provide conclusive information and records to family members, law enforcement, and health care professionals.
- Testify objectively in legal matters.
- Work with County, State and Federal agencies to proactively develop disaster/emergency plans.
- Coordinates the Indigent Cremation Process for Anderson County.

The Coroner's Office is independent, guided by State Statute, working for the deceased and families and not for physicians, hospitals, or other institutions, attorneys, or funeral homes. The coroner respectfully serves the deceased by working with law enforcement agencies and consulting with specialized medical personnel to obtain the truth about their death.

# OFFICE OF THE CORONER

## STAFF

**Greg L. Shore, D-ABMDI**  
**PMDC, PN**  
Coroner

**DONALD L. MCCOWN, D-ABMDI**  
NR-Paramedic, LEO, FF, CFI, PN  
**Chief Deputy Coroner**

**KATRINA WILLIAMSON**  
**Autopsy Technician/Deputy Coroner**

**TY BLACKWELL, C-MDI**  
AD, BS, NREMT, LEO, PN  
**Deputy Coroner**

**KYLE SHAW. MD, MBBS**  
**Forensic Pathologist**

**STACEY SULLIVAN, D-ABMDI**  
RN, MSFM, CCRN, TNCC, ENPC, SANE  
**Deputy Coroner**

**BRETT WOODARD, MD**  
**Forensic Pathologist**

**MATTHEW VOIGT**  
AD, LEO, FF, PN  
**Deputy Coroner**

**MARTI LITTLEFIELD**  
Office Manager  
**Evidence Technician**

**CORY FREEMAN**  
NR-Paramedic, CCEMTP, LEO, FF, PN  
**Deputy Coroner**

**ALYSSA WHITFIELD**  
**Public Relations Specialist**

**ROSS ABLES,**  
AD, NREMT, LEO, FF, PN  
**Deputy Coroner**

**JENNIFER BAKEMAN**  
Administrative Assistant

**MICHELLE WILLIAMS**  
RN, TNCC, ENPC  
**Deputy Coroner**

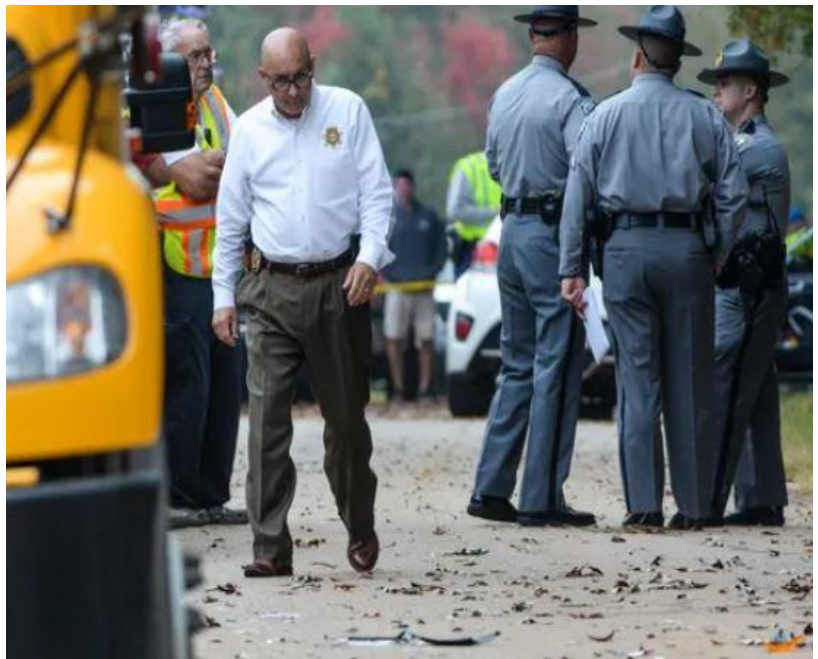
**OLIVIA JONES**  
**Morgue Attendant**

# YEARS IN COMPARISON

Year	Total	Natural	Highway	Accidental	Suicide	Homicide
2001	736	663	55	12	23	15
2002	775	648	41	36	35	15
2003	1071	963	39	31	25	13
2004	1227	1089	43	40	28	27
2005	1253	1121	46	37	31	20
2006	1317	1182	47	35	23	21
2007	1526	1355	59	71	22	17
2008	1424	1301	31	47	22	23
2009	1435	1312	38	50	36	13
2010	1582	1444	37	50	35	15
2011	1605	1455	45	52	31	18
2012	1671	1497	51	71	36	20
2013	1687	1530	29	65	35	24
2014	1737	1584	42	55	35	20
2015	1981	1783	33	76	54	27
2016	2017	1811	59	63	44	31
2017	1942	1773	36	71	36	16
2018	1973	1827	40	54	30	22
2019	1998	1790	35	112	36	24
2020	2549	2304	49	164	54	27
2021	2601	2362	53	179	34	26
2022	2541	2287	47	200	34	17
2023	2521	2275	32	168	38	18
2024	2445	2225	47	157	35	14

## VIOLENT DEATHS 2024

MONTH	ACCIDENT	HIGHWAY	SUICIDE	HOMICIDE	TOTALS
JANUARY	12	2	2	1	17
FEBRUARY	6	0	2	2	10
MARCH	11	2	2	1	16
APRIL	12	5	2	0	19
MAY	13	7	4	2	26
JUNE	9	1	4	1	15
JULY	18	7	2	1	28
AUGUST	18	4	5	4	31
SEPTEMBER	19	6	2	2	29
OCTOBER	12	6	2	0	20
NOVEMBER	11	3	2	0	16
DECEMBER	16	4	6	0	26
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>253</b>



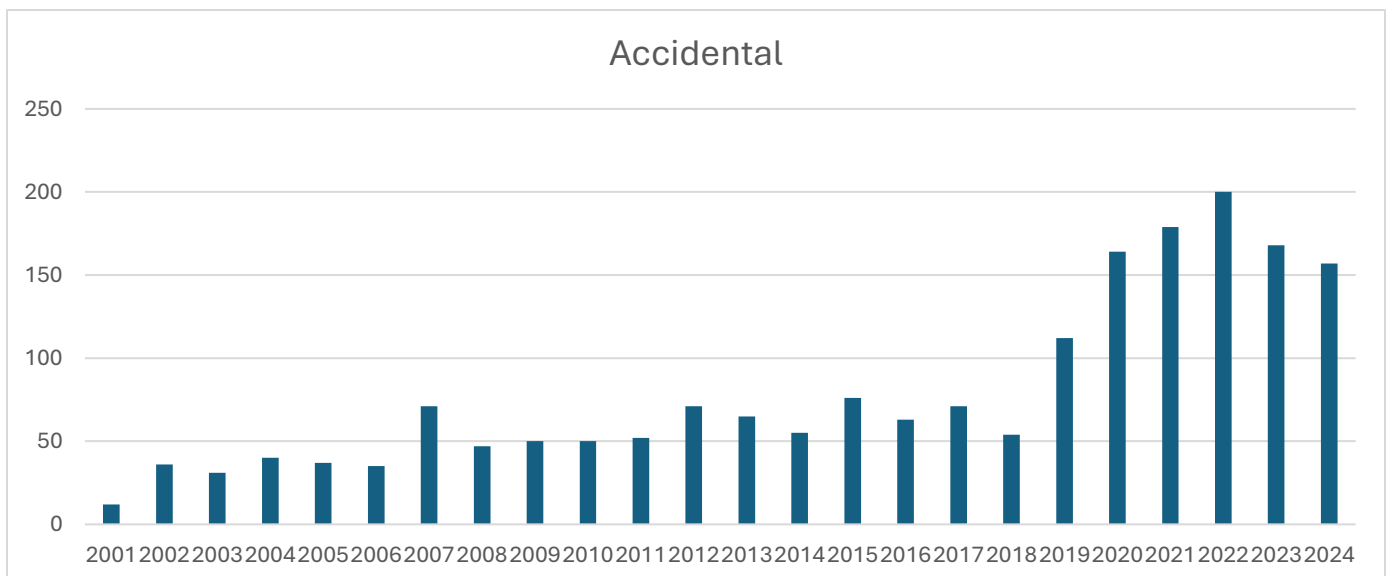
## ACCIDENTAL DEATH DEMOGRAPHICS

### 2024

**Accidental Death:** Applies when an injury or poisoning causes death and there is little or no evidence that the injury or poisoning occurred with intent to harm or cause death. In essence the fatal outcome was unintentional.

RACE/SEX	<21	>21	>50	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	7	50	53	110	70%
FEMALE	2	15	30	47	30%
BLACK MALE	3	8	2	13	8%
BLACK FEMALE	1	3	2	6	4%
WHITE MALE	3	41	51	95	61%
WHITE FEMALE	1	12	28	41	39%
HISPANIC MALE	1	1	0	2	1%
HISPANIC FEMALE	0	0	0	0	0%
OTHER MALE	0	0	0	0	0%
OTHER FEMALE	0	0	0	0	0%

Causes	Number	Percentage
Smoke/Carbon Monoxide	1	1%
Polydrug	72	46%
Asphyxia	11	7%
Fall	8	5%
Blunt Force Trauma	47	30%
Drowning	4	3%
Other	14	9%



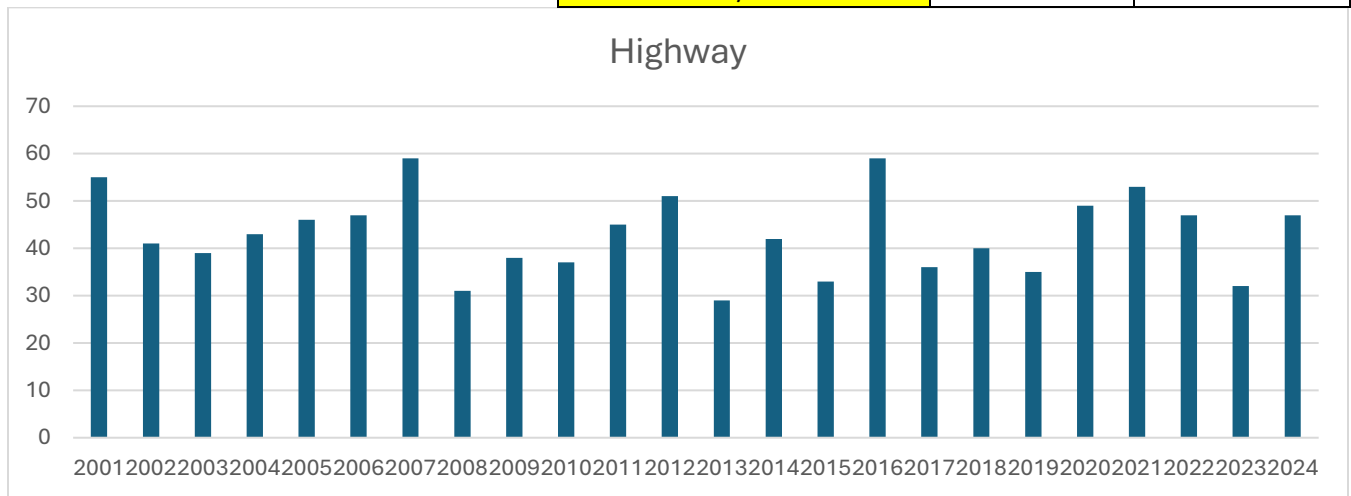
## HIGHWAY DEATH DEMOGRAPHICS

**2024**

RACE/SEX	<21	>21	>50	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	3	17	13	33	70%
FEMALE	1	5	8	14	30%
BLACK MALE	1	4	0	5	11%
BLACK FEMALE	0	2	1	3	6%
WHITE MALE	1	12	13	26	55%
WHITE FEMALE	1	3	7	11	23%
HISPANIC MALE	1	1	0	2	4%
HISPANIC FEMALE	0	0	0	0	0%
OTHER MALE	0	0	0	0	0%
OTHER FEMALE	0	0	0	0	0%



VICTIM/VEHICLE/SAFETY	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
DRIVER	34	72%
PASSENGER	5	11%
PEDESTRIAN	8	17%
CAR/TRUCK	25	53%
MOTORCYCLE/MOPED/BIKE	14	30%
ALCOHOL/DRUGS INVOLVED	21	45%
SEATBELT/HELMET	11	23%



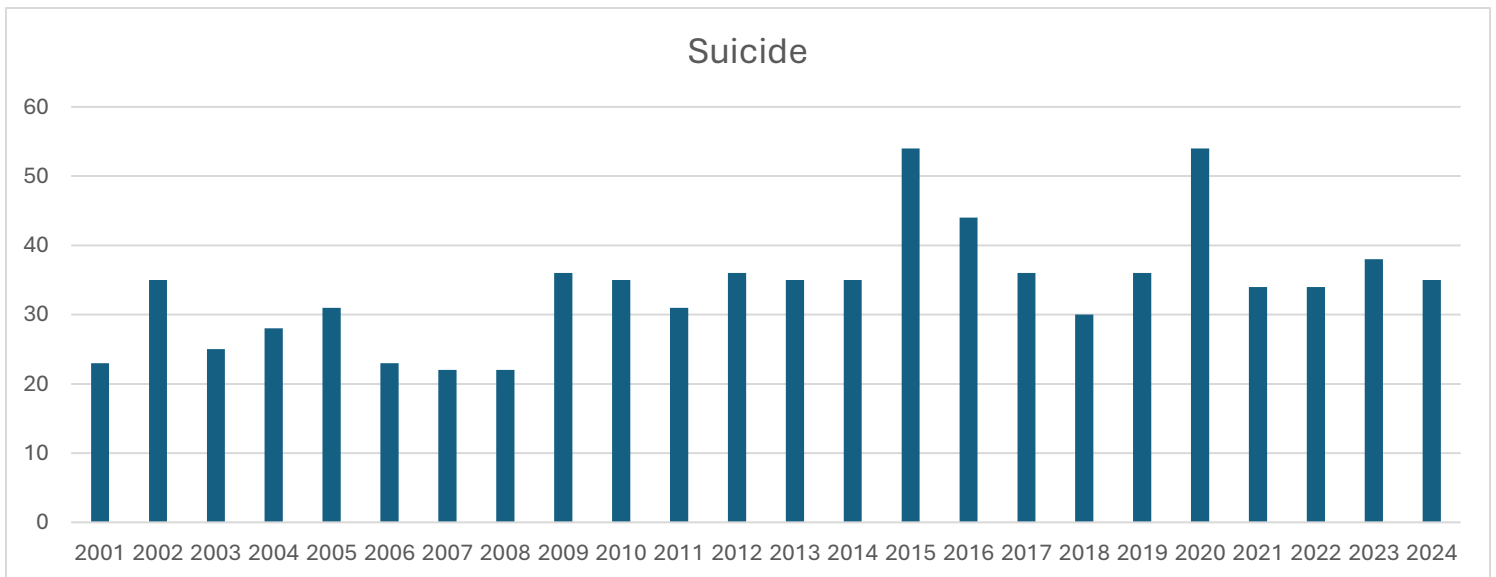
## SUICIDE DEATH DEMOGRAPHICS

**2024**

**Suicide Death:** Results from an injury or poisoning as a result of an intentional, self-inflicted act committed to do self-harm or cause the death of oneself.

RACE/SEX	<21	>21	>50	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	3	13	13	29	82%
FEMALE	0	5	1	6	18%
BLACK MALE	1	1	4	6	18%
BLACK FEMALE	0	1	0	1	3%
WHITE MALE	2	11	9	22	63%
WHITE FEMALE	0	3	1	4	11%
HISPANIC MALE	0	1	0	1	3%
HISPANIC FEMALE	0	1	0	1	3%
OTHER MALE	0	0	0	0	0%
OTHER FEMALE	0	0	0	0	0%

METHODS	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
GUNSHOT WOUND	29	78%
HANGING	7	19%
OVERDOSE	1	3%

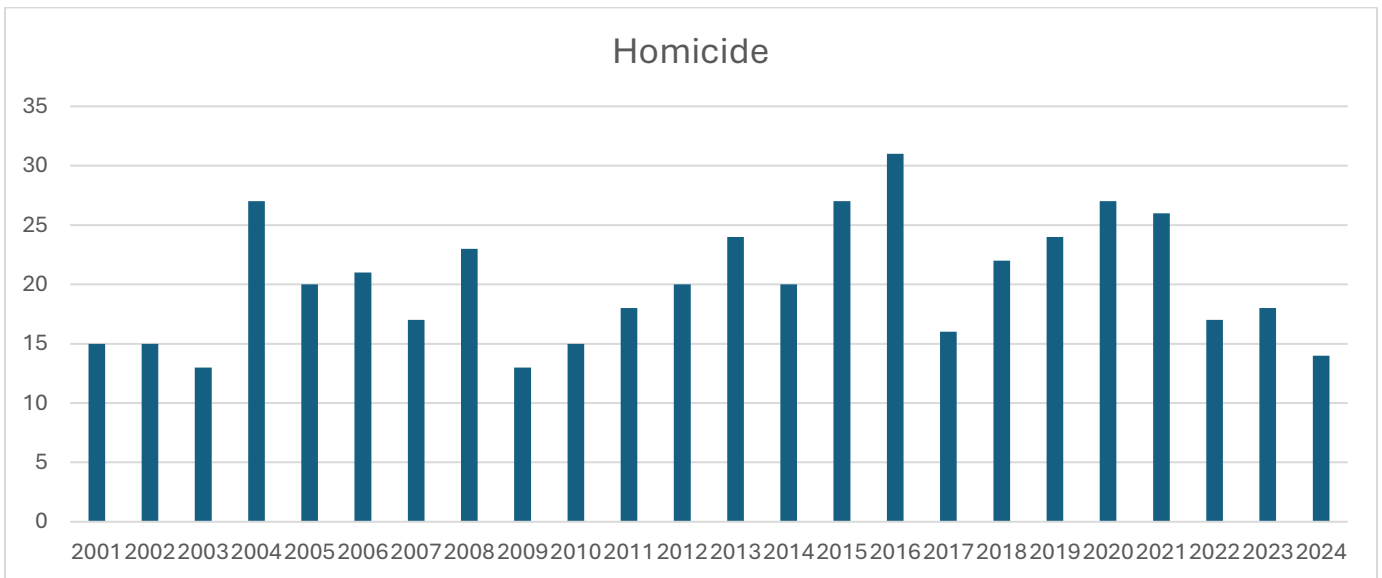


## HOMICIDE DEATH DEMOGRAPHICS 2024

**Homicide Death:** Occurs when death results from a volitional act committed by another person to cause fear, harm, or death. Intent to cause death is a common element but is not required.

RACE/SEX	<21	>21	>50	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
MALE	1	5	3	9	64%
FEMALE	1	3	1	5	36%
BLACK MALE	0	5	1	6	43%
BLACK FEMALE	0	1	0	1	7%
WHITE MALE	0	0	2	2	14%
WHITE FEMALE	1	1	1	3	21%
HISPANIC MALE	0	0	0	0	0%
HISPANIC FEMALE	0	0	0	0	0%
OTHER MALE	1	0	0	1	7%
OTHER FEMALE	0	0	0	0	0%

METHOD	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Blunt Force Trauma	2	14%
Gunshot Wound	11	79%
Asphyxia	1	6%

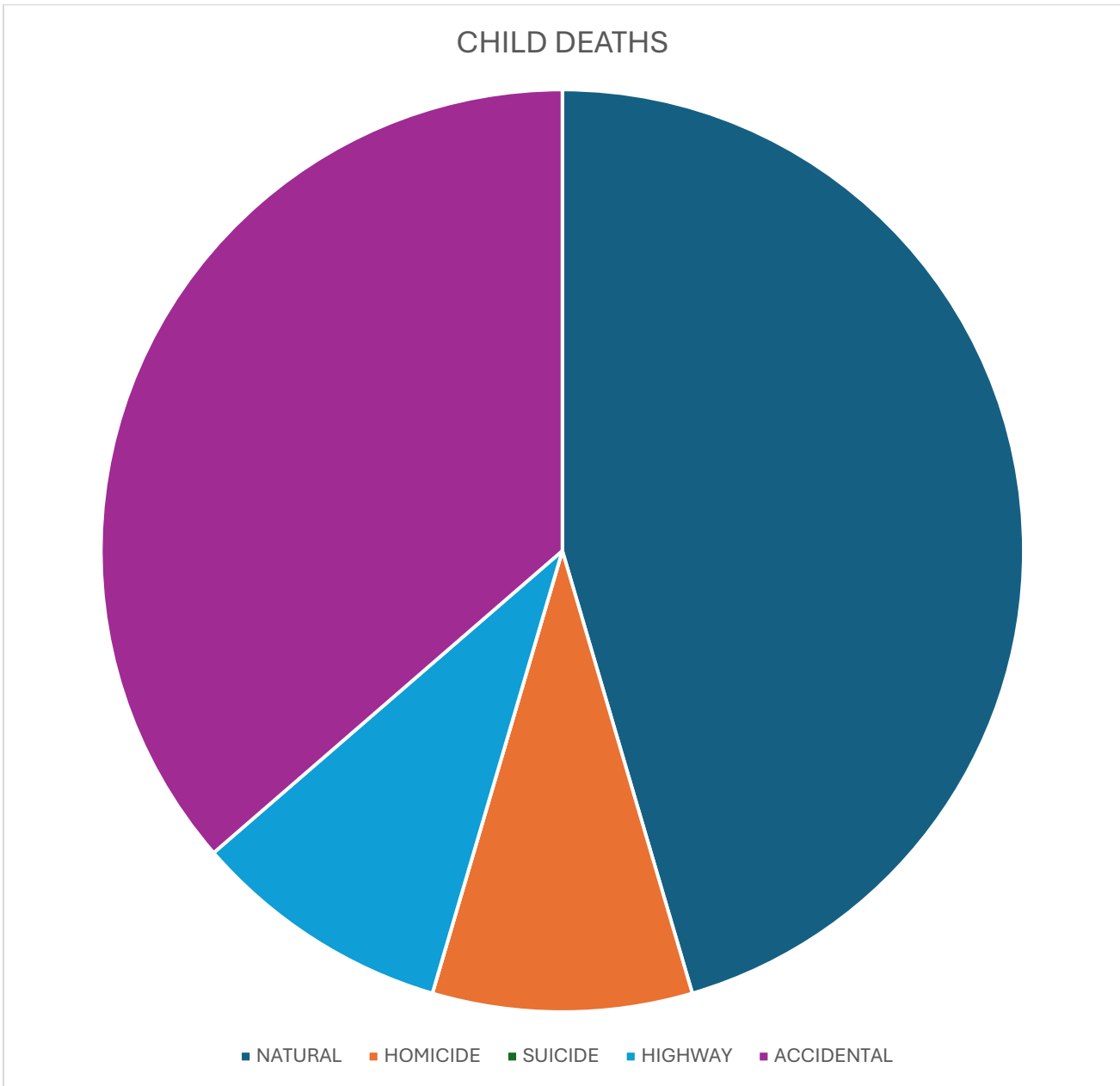


# CHILD DEATH DEMOGRAPHICS

**Child Death:** Occurs when someone under the age of 18 dies

In 2024, Anderson County Office of the Coroner responded to 11 child fatalities. The below chart breaks down the deaths by manner of death.

ACCIDENTAL	HIGHWAY	SUICIDE	HOMICIDE	NATURAL
4	1	0	1	5



## TOXICOLOGY TESTING COMPLETED IN 2024:

# 167

This number shows the total number of toxicology tests performed by the Anderson County Office of the Coroner in 2024. This number is for tests sent off for official toxicology results. Our toxicology testing is completed at the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division at no cost to Anderson County.

## ORGAN PROCUREMENT COMPLETED IN 2024:



<b>756</b> Opportunities for Donation	<b>305</b> Organ Donors	<b>1071</b> Organs Recovered	<b>694</b> Lives Saved	<b>99%</b> Coroner Approval Rate
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### ORGAN DONATION SUMMARY ANDERSON county coroner - Greg Shore

<b>12</b> opportunities for organ donation	<b>11</b> Organ Donors
Permission for organ donation declined <b>0</b> times	<div style="background-color: #004a87; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 150px; height: 150px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"><div style="text-align: center;">Coroner Approval Rate <b>100%</b></div></div>
<b>0</b> on donor registry	
<b>0</b> not registered	<b>36</b> Lives Saved

<b>DONOR REFERRAL LINE</b> 800.269.9777	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024
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## TISSUE PROCUREMENT COMPLETED IN 2024:



<b>3334</b> Tissue Potential	<b>456</b> Tissue Donors	<b>8219</b> Tissues Recovered	<b>34,200</b> Lives Enhanced	<b>98%</b> Coroner Approval Rate
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### TISSUE DONATION SUMMARY ANDERSON county coroner - Greg Shore

<b>69</b> opportunities for tissue donation	<div style="background-color: #004a87; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 150px; height: 150px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"><div style="text-align: center;">Coroner Approval Rate <b>100%</b></div></div>	<b>17</b> Tissue Donors
Permission for tissue donation declined <b>0</b> times		Pre-autopsy donation allowed <b>67</b> times
<b>0</b> on donor registry	Post-autopsy donation allowed <b>2</b> times	<b>1,275</b> Lives Enhanced
<b>0</b> not registered	On-scene referral <b>1</b> times	

<b>DONOR REFERRAL LINE</b> 800.269.9777	01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024
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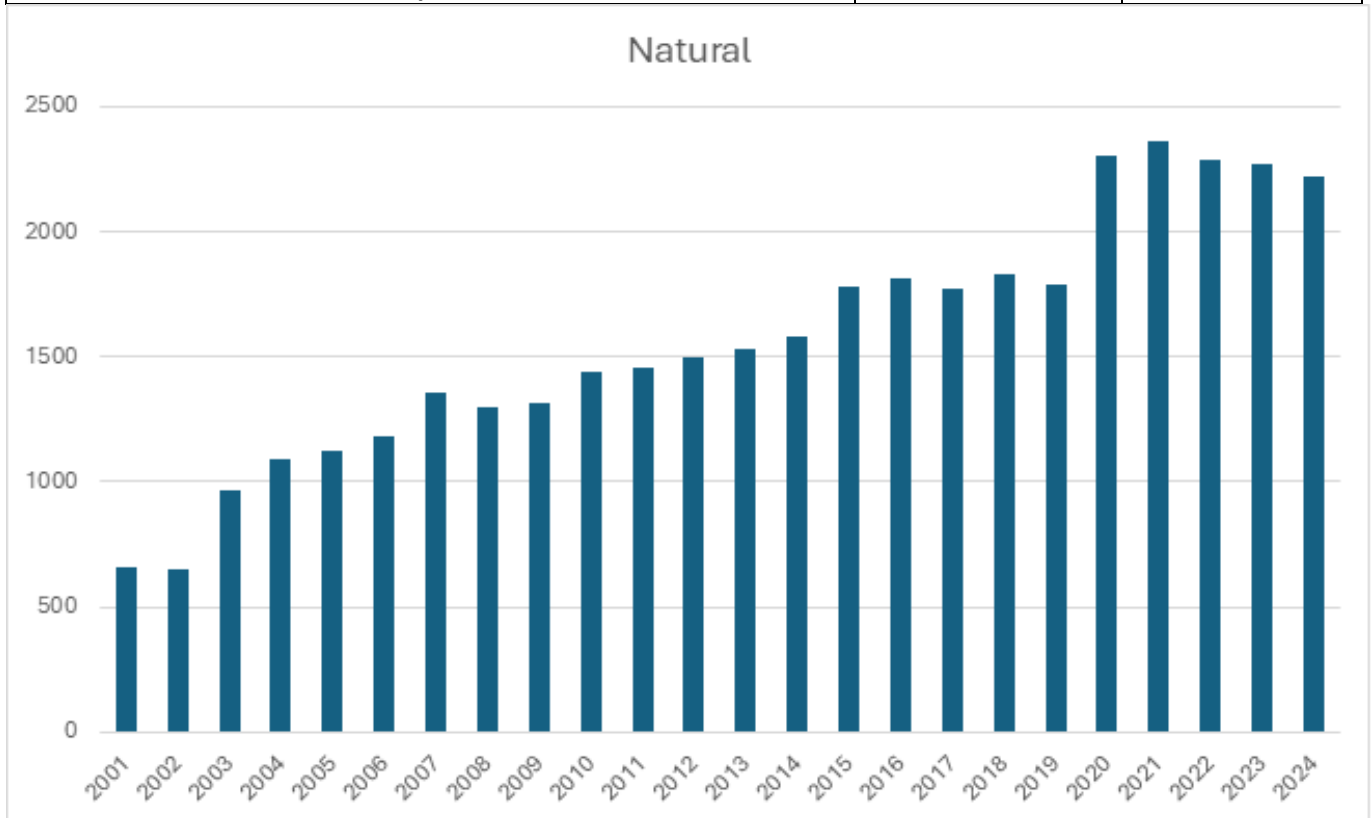
**Natural Deaths:** Are due solely or nearly totally to disease and/or aging process. Approximately 90% of all Anderson County death investigations are natural deaths.

In 2024 the Anderson County Office of the Coroner handled

## **2225 Natural Deaths.**

The chart below indicates some of the leading conditions that contributed to the deaths in Anderson County.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS	Number	Percentage
Alcoholism/Cirrhosis	44	1%
Cancer	328	14%
Cerebrovascular	55	2%
COPD	120	5%
Dementia/Alzheimers/Parkinsons	308	10%
<b>Heart</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>28%</b>
Renal/Kidney	46	2%
respiratory failure/covid	125	11%
sepsis	110	6%



# **ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS**

**2024**

<b>AUTOPSIES PERFORMED:</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>CREMATION PERMITS ISSUED:</b>	<b>1394</b>
<b>INDIGENT CREMATIONS:</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>DEATH NOTIFICATIONS (OTHER AGENCIES):</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EXHUMATIONS ORDERED:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>IN CUSTODY DEATHS:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION/SPECIAL EVENTS:</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION CONTACTS:</b>	<b>7050</b>

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner will continue to maintain the highest standards in the field of medicolegal death investigations. Our office continues to be a leader throughout the state of South Carolina and is contacted on a daily basis for assistance.

We know that deaths are inevitable in a growing community and that with population growth you will have more deaths. Our office will continue to adapt to the increase and as always strive to be more proactive in death prevention.

Our office will continue their initiatives to provide additional education on:

- **Drug and Alcohol Abuse**
- **Duties of the Coroner**
- **Suicide Prevention**
- **Seatbelt Use**
- **Safe Sleeping for Infants**
- **Texting and Driving**

## CORONERS BUDGET REQUESTS 2025-2026- SUMMARY

1. **INCREASE IN SALARY:** In my budget requests for fiscal year 2025-2026 I am requesting a \$5000 increase for each Deputy Coroner (Total \$30,000). My deputies do not receive overtime pay and typically work in excess of their work hours on a routine basis.

My office does compete with other law enforcement agencies within Anderson County and with other Coroner's Office across the state. The increase in salary helps me maintain the highest trained staff in the industry and allows me to select persons from other law enforcement agencies where it is an increase in pay to work for the Coroners Office. Since my staff cannot be utilized for things such as extra duty, this hamper's getting law enforcement applicants and is considered somewhat of a pay decrease if they leave the position. This is one of the challenges when recruiting deputies. It also helps maintain my staff without overtime benefits and the best in the industry.

2. **PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO FULL-TIME STATUS:** In my budget requests we are requesting to convert my part-time administrative assistant to full-time status. I have currently have only one administrative assistant, who also handles the duties of evidence custodian on top of her office duties.

My second administrative assistant has been moved to the position of Public Relations Specialist overseeing the drug awareness program (which she has been doing for the past year) and public speaking of our very successful program. We were very fortunate to received additional funding for the upcoming budget year to continue to program we have in place and our current numbers indicate that our drug deaths are down. We can only attribute some of this success to the many drug awareness and safety programs that we are doing on a continuous basis. My office has over 7000 public contacts since the inception of the D.E.A.D (Drugs End All Dreams) program.

3. **LINE-ITEM INCREASES:** I have asked for several line item increases due to increase in call volume, as well as the increase in my staff to handle the case load (gas, phones, uniforms, etc.).
4. **EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT:** In this year's budget requests I have asked for funds to replace several items that are at the end of the life use. We will need to replace 4 fingerprint scanners (\$2200.00 each) this budget year and all of our ballistics vests (\$1100.00 each) have expired. I will need to replace x9 vests. I would like to replace half the ballistics vests this year and the rest next fiscal year.

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2025-2026:

Measure: Maintain 100% of all case records after investigation are completed.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner was 100% compliant with this objective in 2024 – 2025 FY and will continue to ensure that all death investigations are conducted in accordance with national standards of practice.

Maintain training through continued education that exceeds state requirements and requirements established by the American Board of Medico-legal Death Investigation for death investigations.

Measure: 100% of the Deputy Coroners exceeded state training requirements and the requirement mandated by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and the State of South Carolina in 2024-2025 FY. The department completed a total of 1291.55 hours training for the 2024-2025 FY and will continue to exceed the State training requirements and the requirements mandated by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators in 2025-2026.

All of our current staff are in the process of completing their ABMDI Certification and will be in total compliance by the end of April 2025.

Measure: Maintain 100% Compliance with all State and Accreditation requirements.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner was 100% in compliant with this objective in 2024– 2025 FY and will continue to ensure that all death investigations are conducted in accordance with national standards of practice.

Maintain State mandated requirements for Medico-legal Death Investigations regarding evidence preservation.

Measure: 100% compliance is required in this standard. The department was able to meet all the standards in 2024--2025. My goal is to continue to exceed the State and National requirements.

The field of medicolegal death investigation is an ever-changing field and requires that investigators maintain up-to-date knowledge. The increase in death investigation standards necessitates appropriate training and education for my investigative staff.

Therefore, I will continue my goal of ensuring that all staff are appropriately trained and appropriately certified in various aspects of medicolegal death investigation.

My office continues to complete public relations talks to area civic organizations and Anderson County schools. We are proud of our partnership with Anderson University's Physician Assistant Pathology Program and have played a key role in the education of these individuals.

My office has been very fortunate this year, securing two major grants to facilitate our accreditation process and our public education initiative for the opioid crisis.

We have begun in 2024 initiating our Drug Awareness program (D.E.A.D) "Drugs End All Dreams" and believe we have seen some significant results of our program and the commitment of multiple agencies in working for a common goal of eradicating drug use in Anderson County.

I am proud to report that our drug deaths were down by 20 and the EMS responses for drug overdoses were down by 30% from the previous year. We believe that this is the overwhelming results of the financial support we received from the county and the opioid grants. We were able to provide education to over 7000 people with the opioid grant money we received and have been informed that we have been awarded another year of grant money to continue this very successful program. I have put a full-time employee in the role of Public Relations Specialist in order to continue our education to the community and schools. We anticipate a continuance of our very proactive education program throughout Anderson County to provide education and resources to individuals regarding the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

We will continue to reach out to our community on a daily basis to ensure that our message about drug and alcohol use is getting to the public. My office has established several committees and aligned multiple agencies together in a bi-monthly meeting that allows all agencies to come together and discuss our strategic plan for the future. This has allowed the agencies to work together to host events at the Anderson Mall and Civic Center with a primary focus on education.

In the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year, the Anderson County Office of the Coroner staff will continue to attend various training related to death investigations to ensure that we maintain the highest standards possible. This is why we must maintain a very robust education initiative and ensure that our staff are able to attend

any training available. We were very fortunate this year, as the Accreditation grant paid for the majority of the training my staff was able to attend. This will not be the case in the upcoming budget, we will be back to supporting our own education initiatives, which is why I am requesting no decrease in our training line item.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner secured an Accreditation Grant to assist our office in preparing for Accreditation through the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. It is my goal to complete the Accreditation process by June 2025. Our initial goal was to be completed by November Of 2024, However, due to reasons beyond our control, there has been difficulty with getting personnel scheduled for board certification because of issues with the agency overseeing the examination.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner will also continue to foster relationships with various County, State and Federal agencies to ensure the goals of the Anderson County Office of the Coroner are obtainable.

The Anderson County Office of the Coroner continues with the responsibility of maintaining the indigent cremation process for Anderson County. My office, as in the previous year’s continues to see a significant increase in the indigent cases.

The fiscal year 2024-2025 my office has processed and completed twenty-five (25) indigent cremations at the time of this report. I anticipate that by the end of the budget year we will have completed at a minimum of 27 cremations. Total costs associated with the indigent cremations is currently at \$8,125.00. which is not counting the other associated costs such as plaques and memorial settings.

We have not received as many families coming forward to claim the remains as we had in the past and therefore, we have not been able to recoup the costs associated with the cremations as we had in the past.

<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Actual 2024-2025</b>	<b>Goal 2025</b>	<b>Goal 2026</b>
Death investigations (workload)	2444	2575	2600
Autopsies (workload)	71	80	80

National standards are continuously changing and for Anderson County to maintain protections from potential liability, national standards must be maintained and will always be the hallmark of my office.

The above statistics do not account for the time that my investigators are making notifications for other agencies across the United States, cold case investigations and/or follow up on current cases. I also anticipate each of these areas to continue to increase.

As you can see my office continues to see a substantial increase in workload and we continue to anticipate more of an increase in the coming year, simply due to increase in our population. There is also a movement at the state level to require Coroners Offices to begin investigating Skilled Nursing Facility deaths. We do not investigate these deaths at this time unless an issue arises. If this should become law, it will cause a significant increase in death investigations by my office.

My staff also continues to provide education for various agencies throughout the State and Anderson County. Our request to provide more information on drug deaths and education to Anderson County schools have also increased significantly and due to our new Drug Awareness program, we are able to meet this demand.

All specimens for laboratory testing must be sent via united Parcel Services with a return receipt, which has increased our postage fees and necessitated a request for increase in our postage line item. Our

storage for evidence had to be increased due to the requirement for longer storage requirements and will require additional security measures during this fiscal year (i.e. cameras for office, monitoring system for evidence, etc. I have requested an increase in this budget to handle these changes, where applicable.

Our supply costs continue to increase due to increase call volume and increase in overall supply costs. An example is our body bag purchases have increased, and the costs of the body bags themselves have increased again. The costs for drug testing, covid testing, flu testing supplies as well as needles, syringes, etc. continue to increase. I anticipate a further increase as the year progresses.

We will also be needing to replace 4 fingerprint scanners this year at a cost of \$2200.00 per machine. I have asked for an increase in our medical supply line item to facilitate these replacements. I am also asking for additional funds to replace half of my staff's ballistics vest that have expired. I will request additional funding to replace the other half in next year's budget.

Our indigent cremations will continue to increase, and I anticipate we will see more and more requests for the county to handle the cremation of individuals in the coming year. I want to thank you for your continued support of our indigent cremation system. This is an extremely important program for the citizens of our county.

The biggest challenge facing my office in the next fiscal year is our building. Our current Office is an older building, and we have exceeded the space available. The building is also in need of some significant improvements and repairs to make the building more feasible for use. This has been one of my issues with proceeding with accreditation. We were not able to utilize the funds last year and it is our hope that we can this year.

I believe however with a small investment; the office will continue to meet our needs and represent Anderson County. I therefore have made a request again to the Building and Grounds Department to request \$150,000.00 to make improvements to our building. The money would be used to:

1. Remodel the office and add additional offices and storage area.
2. Replace the carpet with flooring throughout the building.
3. The roof is in desperate need of repairs and in need of new gutters.

My staff continues to work harder and have been more supportive than I could have ever imagined. We are stronger, fully staffed and more committed than ever before to our mission and the representation of Anderson County. As always, I look forward to the challenges in our next fiscal year and believe that no matter the issue the Anderson County Office of the Coroner is prepared.

As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support of my office and my staff, for without your support, we would not be able to perform the job that we do.

Each day my staff represents Anderson County in the most professional manner possible and ensures that our citizens and communities are supported and cared for.

Again, this is only through your tremendous support and confidence in our office.

Sincerely,

*Greg L. Shore*

Greg L. Shore, D-ABMDI, EMT-P  
Coroner