



American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators

December 9, 2019

Dear Fellow MDI:

On behalf of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, I write to encourage your office to participate in the attached 2018 Census of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices (CMEC), which is sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and conducted by RTI International. ABMDI's mission is to promote the highest standards of practice for medicolegal death investigators, which dovetails with BJS' CMEC goals to collect information that will identify the key training, staffing, and jurisdictional coverage needs of our community. **ABMDI and the BJS team are hoping that your office will participate in this important survey effort.**

The CMEC is the only survey of its kind, and as such, provides key information about the infrastructure (e.g., staffing, salary, and budget) in place to handle our Nation's death investigations and support our MDIs. The 2004 survey documented that:

- Among the offices reporting details on accepted death case procedures performed in 2004, about 62% of accepted cases included a death scene investigation.
- Offices serving jurisdictions of less than 250,000 conducted death scene investigations in a greater percentage of accepted cases (72%), compared to jurisdictions serving 250,000 or more (42%).
- The average number of cases reported to coroners and medical examiners ranged from 40 to 70 in offices serving small jurisdictions to over 3,500 among offices serving large jurisdictions.

More information about the findings from the previous CMEC survey may be found on BJS's website (<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/meco04.pdf>). The 2018 CMEC has been revised to emphasize assessing "access" to resources (investigative teams, technology, and services) to better identify our community's needs.

Since the CMEC is a census, your office cannot be replaced or replicated. If your office has not responded, please do so as soon as possible. The CMEC is an important opportunity to have our voices heard and provide crucial information about the state of the death investigation community and our needs. We thank you in advance for your participation in this important study.

Sincerely,

Lauri McGivern, F-ABMDI
President