



# The National Association of Medical Examiners®

362 Bristol Rd, Walnut Shade, MO 65771

660-734-1891 Fax: 888-370-4839 Email: [name@thename.org](mailto:name@thename.org) Website: [www.thename.org](http://www.thename.org)

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December 21, 2018

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Dear Fellow Medical Examiner or Coroner:

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The National Association of Medical Examiners encourages you to participate in the attached 2018 Census of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices (CMEC). The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), working with RTI International (RTI), is sending the CMEC to every medical examiner and coroner office in the United States with the goal of generating statistics that will develop a detailed understanding of the U.S. medicolegal death investigation system and gather information that will help address training, staffing, and jurisdictional coverage needs. **NAME and the BJS team are hoping that you will participate in this important survey effort.**

The information produced by the CMEC, which has been informed, reviewed, and vetted by an expert panel of medical examiners and coroners, will provide valuable data regarding staffing, budget, and caseload information that will be comparable to the only previous CMEC administration, which referenced 2004. The previous CMEC found, for example, that the estimated total annual budget across all MEC offices in the U.S. was \$718.5M, the average budget per office was \$387K, and the median budget per office was \$37K. The previous CMEC also determined that the average workload in 2004 was 131 reported cases and 67 average accepted cases per fulltime employee. For more information about the previous CMEC's survey results that referenced 2004, please see: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/meco04.pdf>.

**Your response to the 2018 CMEC is critical to obtain national estimates of personnel, resources, policies, and infrastructure of our community.** Since it is a census, your responses cannot be replaced. The CMEC is the only systematic survey effort of its kind to focus on our community and directly supports the NAME mission of promoting excellence in the day to day investigation of individual cases as well as improving the interaction of death investigation systems with other agencies and political entities that interact with death investigation efforts.

We know that you and your staff have many responsibilities and limited time, but we hope that you will provide the requested information and contribute to this effort. Your participation will help ensure that the 2018 CMEC is a success and that the results can be used with confidence by the federal government and by our community.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this important effort.

Sincerely,

Kim A. Collins, MD  
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Jonathan L. Arden, MD  
2018 NAME Vice President

Brian L. Peterson, MD  
2018 NAME Chairman of the Board

\*Indicates Member of Executive Committee