

Forensic Science Center

FY 16-17 Budget

Forensic Science Center

- Medical Examiner: Cause/Manner of Death
- Forensic Chemistry: Identify seized drugs
- Fire Debris Analysis: Detect presence of ignitable liquids
- DUI testing: Determine alcohol and drug concentrations of suspected impaired drivers
- DNA analysis: Determine DNA profile of biological samples
- Many times the results of these determinations influence criminal justice outcomes

Medical Examiner

- District Medical Examiner is appointed by the Governor
 - Contract with both Pasco and Pinellas
 - Pasco County is fee for service
 - Forensic Laboratory performs postmortem toxicology as required by FAC
 - Approaching 16 years of service



MEDICAL EXAMINER

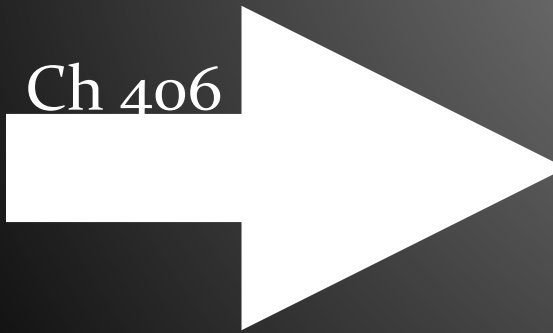
- Accredited by the National Assoc. of Medical Examiners
- All our Medical Examiners are board certified in Forensic Pathology
- Authority to perform the investigations under FSS Ch. 406
- Minimum standards of practice enforced by FAC 11G

Limits of Operation

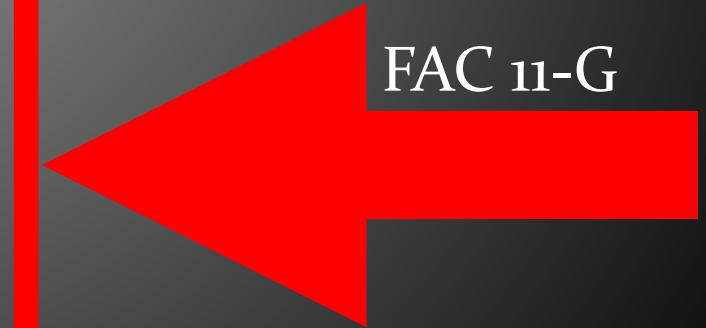
- We operate between a written set of parameters set by the State of Florida



Ch 406



FAC 11-G



Forensic Laboratory

- All laboratory staff are required to be certified
- ASCLD-LAB accreditation required by contract
- Grant funding awards (past and present) have been extensive
- Over \$300,000 in grants awarded in FY16
- Recent drug trends and legislation has increased workload of laboratory

Drugs



- Toxicology and Drug Chemistry sections have experienced significant increases in:
 - Synthetic cannabinoids “Spice”
 - Synthetic fentanyl analogs (from China)
 - Counterfeit pills containing fentanyl



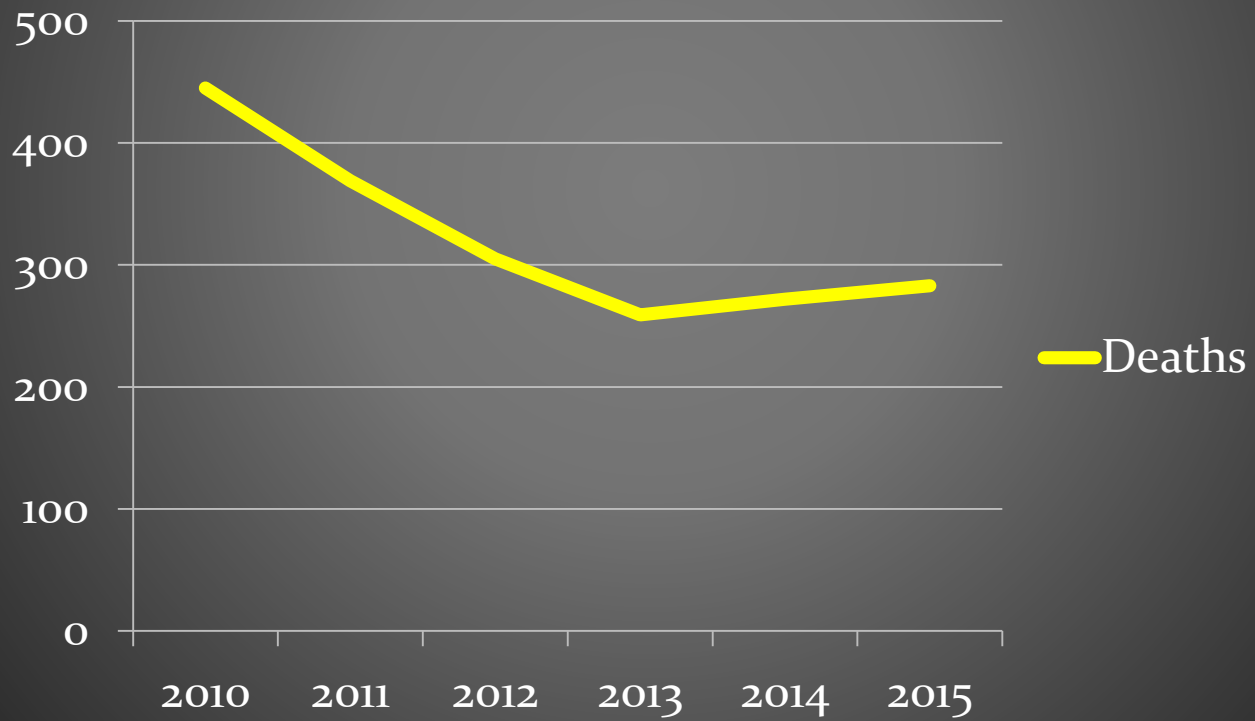
Counterfeit Xanax Contains fentanyl



Accidental Drug Deaths



Deaths



Forensic Laboratory Workload 2015-2016

Unit	Change
Chemistry (Drug Analysis)	+9%
Toxicology (DUI)	+10%
Toxicology (Medical Examiner)	+6%
DNA	+31%

Forensic Laboratory TATs

Unit	March 31, 2015	March 31, 2016
Chemistry (Drug Analysis)	15.1	19.9
Toxicology (DUI)	25.2	25.7
Toxicology (Medical Examiner)	24.7	27.2
DNA	27.4	32.6



DNA analysis fighting crime

- **"Touch" DNA tags suspected thief**
 - DNA pulled from credit card skimmer at gas station
- **St. Petersburg Police report that touch DNA has helped solve 38 percent of burglary cases**
- **DNA on water bottle links woman to 9-month-old home burglary in Clearwater**

Budget and Financials

Perspectives and
Comparisons

Organization of M.E. Offices

- Ch. 406 mandates only that the counties provide funding for the Medical Examiner
- Most counties choose a contractual relationship
- This arrangement is in alignment with Ch 406 and protects the taxpayers
- Our management model ensures a higher level of performance at lower cost

Indemnification



- Jacksonville Medical Examiner's office employee accused of theft, misconduct
- Hillsborough medical examiner's investigator arrested on theft charge
- 180 Corpses 'Stacked Up at Los Angeles County Morgue,' Medical Examiner Resigning
- Forensic Expert Says Medical Examiner Fired Her For Questioning Controversial DNA Technique
- Columbus crime-lab error might affect 38 cases

Expertise in Operations and Fiscal Efficiency

- Since 2006, five Medical Examiner Districts have consulted with us regarding operational and financial issues
- In every case, we identified operational and budget efficiencies that would benefit the taxpayers
- When implemented our recommendations always save money and/or improve the operation



D6 MEDICAL EXAMINER \$/CASE

- \$3872/Autopsy
- \$3295/Violent Death
- Violent deaths=non-natural manner and are the true measure of Medical Examiner caseload

M.E. \$/UNIT OF WORK

M.E. Office	\$/AUTOPSY	\$/violent death
DISTRICT 6 Pinellas/Pasco	3872	3295
DISTRICT 13 Hillsborough	4912	5212
<i>DISTRICT 12</i> <i>Sarasota</i>	4645	4709
<i>DISTRICT 17</i> <i>Broward</i>	6513	5077
<i>DISTRICT 11</i> <i>Miami/Dade</i>	6555	7514

D12, D17, D11 costs based on FY16 budget. D6 and D13 calculated with FY17 budget

\$ based on cost per AUTOPSY

DISTRICT 6	\$3872	\$4,511,000
	% more	Cost of Model if applied in D6
Hillsborough model	+27%	\$5,723,000
Sarasota/Manatee model	+20%	\$5,411,100
Miami model	+69%	\$7,637,068
Broward model	+68%	\$7,587,921

\$ based on cost per Violent Death

DISTRICT 6	\$3295	\$4,511,000
	% more	Cost of Model if applied in D6
Hillsborough model	+58%	\$7,134,600
Sarasota/Manatee model	+43%	\$6,447,250
Miami model	+128%	\$10,286,200
Broward model	+54%	\$6,950,050

**Apply D6 operations to other Districts
(autopsy based)**

DISTRICT 6		\$4,511,000
	actual	D6 method
Hillsborough	\$5,050,000	\$3,980,522
Sarasota/Manatee	\$3,042,316	\$2,536,227
Miami	\$11,000,000	\$6,500,000
Broward	\$6,076,850	\$3,612,700

**Apply D6 operations to other Districts
(violent death based)**

DISTRICT 6		\$4,511,000
	actual	D6 method
Hillsborough	\$5,050,000	\$3,193,000
Sarasota/Manatee	\$3,042,316	\$2,128,600
Miami	\$11,000,000	\$4,824,000
Broward	\$6,076,850	\$3,944,242

Costs for FY17

- Legislation effects regarding DNA evidence
 - Cost ~\$226,000 for FY17
 - Surge of sexual assault kits
 - More employees
 - Salary increases (matching FDLE related legislation)
- Payroll increase 3%
- Health care costs increased by \$55,000
- Machinery, Equipment and Software
 - \$216,000 total
 - \$153,000 funded by grants
 - Includes DNA analyzer, tox robotic system, and autopsy equipment

