

# Forensic Science Center

FY 19-20 Budget



# Forensic Science Center

**MEDICAL EXAMINER  
PASCO AND PINELLAS**

**FORENSIC LABORATORY  
PINELLAS COUNTY**

**DEATH  
INVESTIGATIONS**

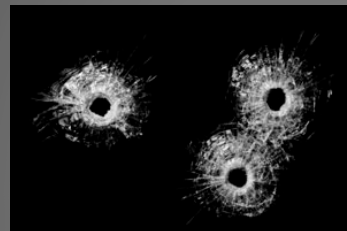
DNA ANALYSIS

SEIZED DRUG ANALYSIS

FIRE DEBRIS ANALYSIS

DUI TOXICOLOGY

POST MORTEM TOXICOLOGY



# 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 19 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



# 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 FY19
- Synthetic Opioids and other novel drugs have increased workload



# Forensic Lab Workload

- Laboratory workload up 16% overall for 2018
  - Up 20% so far for FY19
- Seized drug submissions up 7%
  - With 24% increase last 4 years
- Toxicology: suspected overdoses up 15%



# Medical Examiner Workload

- Opioids continue to kill
- Medical Examiner autopsies up 6.8%
- Pinellas autopsies up 6.6%
- Pasco autopsies up 7.3%
  - Pasco fees to Pinellas up ~17%
- Highest number of cases measured in CY18



# 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

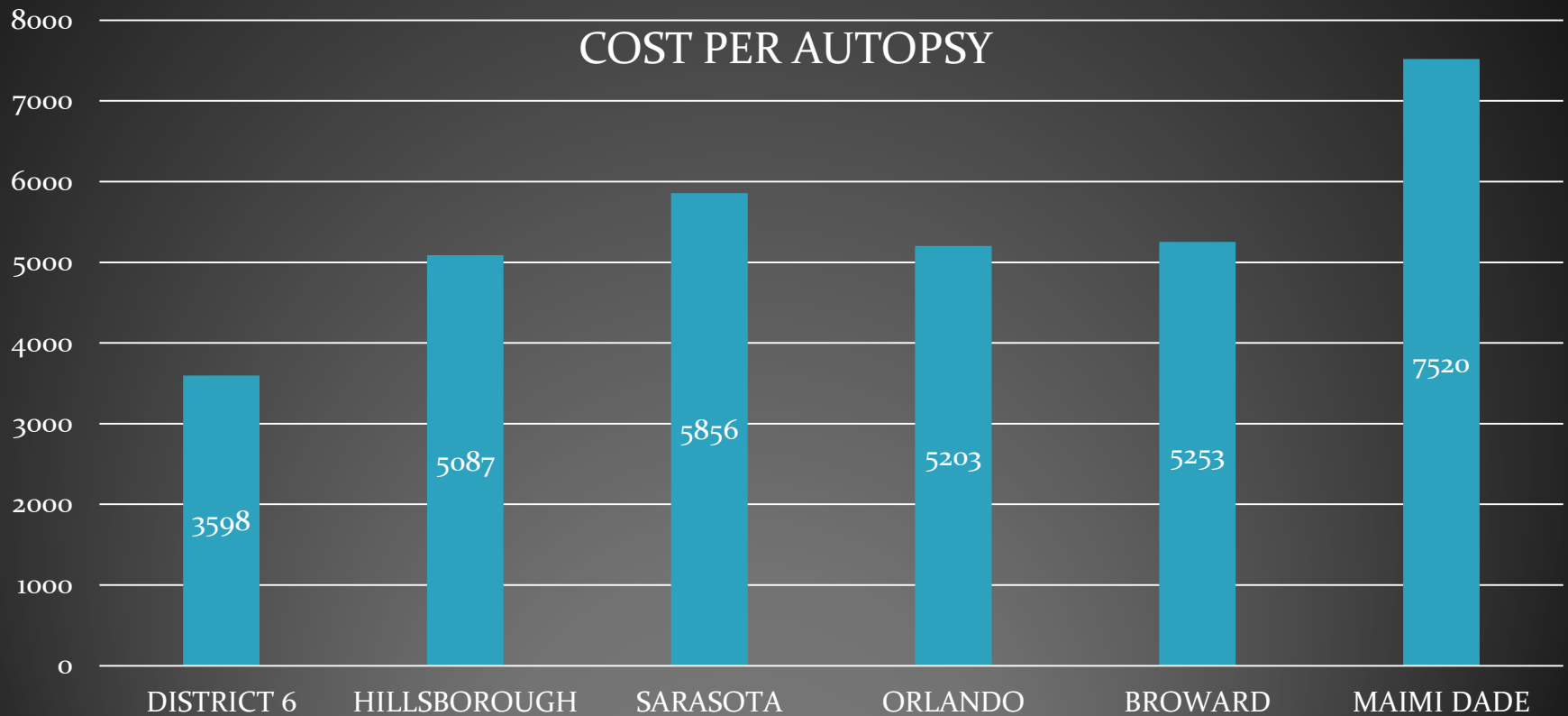


# M.E. \$/UNIT OF WORK

M.E. Office	Total cost (millions)	\$/AUTOPSY	\$/violent death
<b>DISTRICT 6</b>	<b>\$5.07</b>	<b>\$3598</b>	<b>\$3231</b>
DISTRICT 13 Hillsborough	<b>\$5.85</b>	<b>\$5087</b>	<b>\$5347</b>
DISTRICT 12 Sarasota	<b>\$4.8</b>	<b>\$5856</b>	<b>\$5533</b>
DISTRICT 17 Broward	<b>\$7.1</b>	<b>\$5253</b>	<b>\$4036</b>
DISTRICT 11 Miami-Dade	<b>\$13.88</b>	<b>\$7520</b>	<b>\$8313</b>
DISTRICT 9 Orlando	<b>\$5.62</b>	<b>\$5203</b>	<b>\$5251</b>

# Cost Comparison by District

## Cost per Autopsy



# Budget Issues for FY20



- Medical Examiner workload highest to date
- Pinellas FY20 contract increase \$82,000 1.4%(excluding decision package)
- Medical Examiner Database decision package
  - Replace unsupported Oracle database ~\$331,000
    - Covers cost of program and support

