

NEWS 2/10/2025

Hello President Waltman,

I hope you are doing well and 2025 is off to a pleasant start for you! I am reaching out in regarding the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Census of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices (CMEC). RTI International sent this national survey to all medical examiner and coroner offices in October 2024 on behalf of BJS to collect important information on their resources and operations during 2023.

Currently, New York is at a 30% response rate. We know that it is with your support that we will be able to increase the response rate and produce the data you need to discuss the important issues coroner and medical examiners are facing with your local and state policy makers. This survey will make it possible to have updated data to support your requests for more funding and resources.

In our conversations with other state association presidents, they have mentioned wanting to be able to share with their association the purpose and the goals of the CMEC. To support those efforts, I have attached an excerpt that you could use to base your conversations with your members around this topic on, including our contact information so they can reach out and get their log in information.

Census of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices

A few months ago, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (or BJS) and RTI International, launched a new national survey for the Census of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices (or CMEC, for short). BJS and RTI greatly thank the offices that have already responded. For those who have not had the opportunity to complete the survey yet, there's still time to participate so your important work is included in the national statistics. If anyone has questions about the CMEC or needs your office's log in information, please contact RTI by email at CMEC@rti.org or give us a call at 1-866-509-7470.

The purpose of this current CMEC is to produce national statistics on the workloads, policies, and resource needs (e.g., funding and training) among the more than 2,000 state and local medical examiner and coroner offices in 2023. The survey captures emerging issues relevant to these offices and will provide much-needed statistics on changes and trends since the CMEC was last conducted in 2018.

Findings from the 2018 CMEC are available in the BJS publication *Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices, 2018* at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/medical-examiner-and-coroner-offices-2018>.

Given the critical role of these offices to our Nation's public health and public safety communities, it is time to update our understanding of their funding, operations, and resources available nationwide.

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