

**LONG RANGE
PLANNING
INFORMATION**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
MEDICAL EXAMINER**

30 YEAR LEASE

FEBRUARY 24, 2025



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

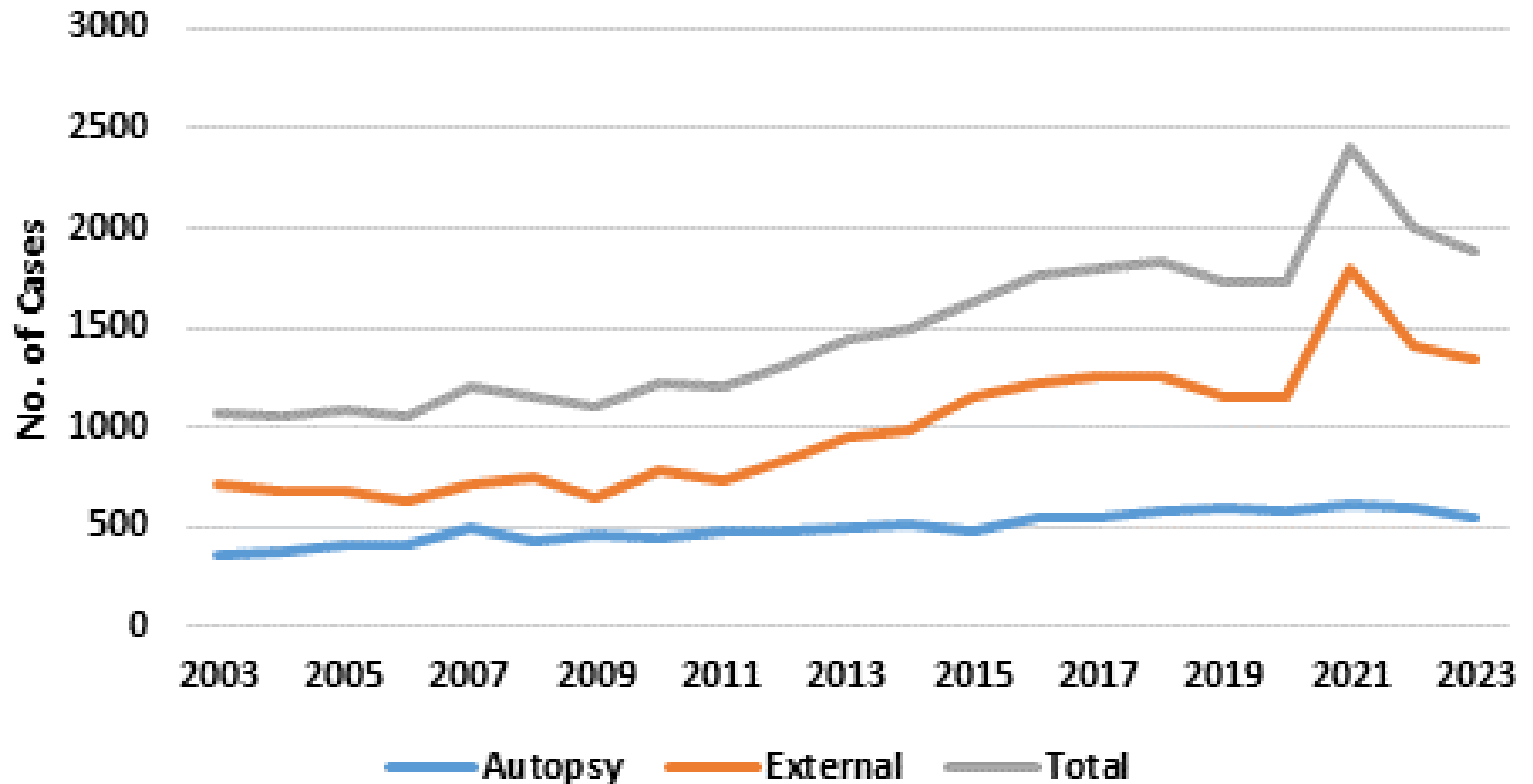
Responds to unexpected deaths in New Hampshire

- RSA 611-B:11 – must determine cause and manner of sudden, unexpected, or potentially unnatural deaths including suspected criminal acts, deaths due to recent or remote injury, unexpected child deaths, possible suicide, &/or drug-related deaths.

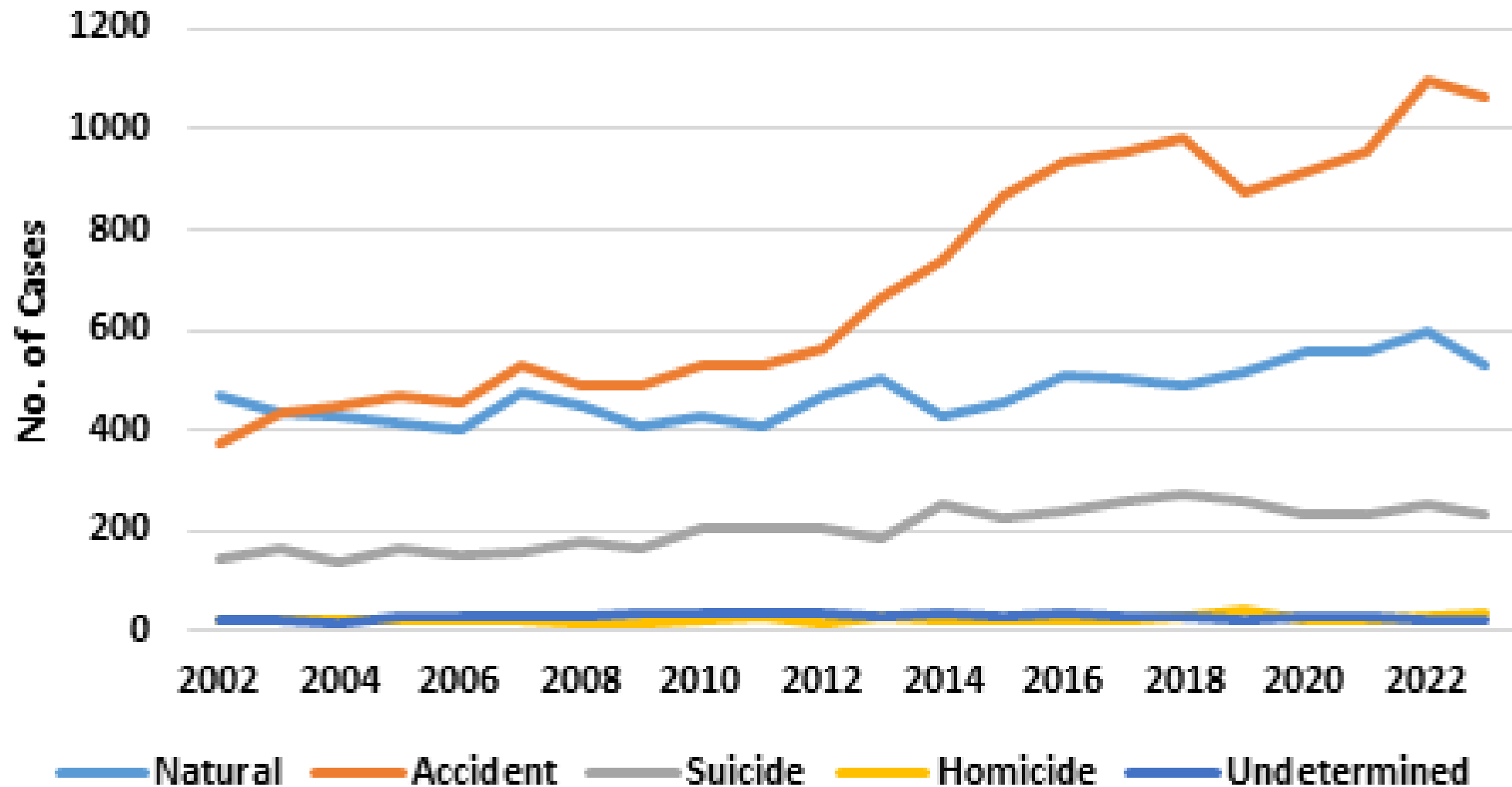
Current In-Office Staff

- Chief Medical Examiner.
- Deputy Chief Medical Examiner.
- Associate Medical Examiner.
- Chief Forensic Investigator.
- Deputy Chief Forensic Investigator.
- Two Full Time Administrative Assistants.
- One Part Time Support Staff (evidence technician).

Deaths Investigated by OCME



Deaths Investigated by OCME



Current Office Lease Ending September 30, 2026

- Lease is for 3,768 sq ft of office space on Concord Hospital campus for approximately \$118,000 annually.
- No longer adequate space for offices, meeting space, and storage (case files, evidence, biological specimens, slides, etc).
- Lack of space for learners such as medical students, college interns, and pathology residents.
- Indications are that the renewed lease of existing space may increase by approximately 40%.

Current Morgue Share Ending September 30, 2026

- Morgue space and autopsy suite (in use for 30+ years) shared with Concord Hospital on a “per autopsy rate”.
 - Current estimated costs \$417,000 annually.
- Increase in OCME autopsy cases of 30%-50% over last 10 years.
- Current morgue has only two autopsy stations, while there are often 4+ cases per day.
- Addition of third staff pathologist and second autopsy technician.
 - Concord Hospital asking to increase current rate due to increased case volume and need for second autopsy technician (paid by CH as part of lease agreement).
- Lack of adequate body storage results in *routinely* having to pay funeral homes to transport and store bodies.
- Existing space no longer adequate to keep up with OCME case volume and staff levels, resulting in delayed death determinations for stakeholders (families, law enforcement, county attorneys, insurance companies, etc).

PROPOSED OFFICE AND MORGUE LEASE

- Larger office and morgue spaces to accommodate all staff, meetings, storage, and learners.
 - Designed to meet expected OCME needs for next 30+ years
- 24/7/365 Secure drive in “drop off” cooler for bodies.
- Larger morgue for body storage.
 - Increase 20 → 40, including improved bariatric patient capacity
- Separate lab space for refrigerated and frozen toxicology specimens.
- Autopsy suite with four (4) examination stations, including modern radiology equipment.
- Two autopsy technicians and .25 FTE security staffing (to assist with after-hours body release).
- Space for family viewing of body when necessary.
- Most major autopsy equipment is supplied and replaced by CH as part of lease contract.
- Will aid with maintenance of OCME accreditation (important in criminal deaths).
- 30-year new space lease allows for comparable costs over renewed office space lease and morgue share.