



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Office of the Medical Examiner

# MEDICAL EXAMINER STAFF

Amanda Thoma, Medical Examiner



Victoria Scurto, Deputy Medical Examiner

- 30 Hour, Part-time



Cara Potila, Deputy Medical Examiner

- 30 Hour, Part-time



Heidi Hansen, Deputy Medical Examiner

- Part-time On-call



Hillary Bowden, Deputy Medical Examiner

- Part-time On-call




Nina Monacelli, Deputy Medical Examiner

- Part-time On-Call





WAUSHARA



MARQUETTE

# SERVICE AREA

Waushara & Marquette Counties

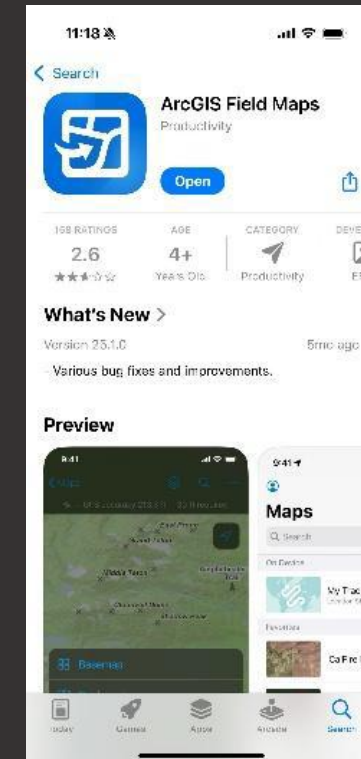
Total 1100 square miles



- App designed for First Responders
- Downloaded by all ME staff
- Monitor possible calls that would require and ME response
- Allows for preparation prior to being paged to assist in time reduction for scene response time
- The app is useful but as with all technology there are limitations

# MAP APP

- Developed by Waushara County GIS
- Due to increased coverage area
- Accessible offline
- Allows access to addresses in both counties to obtain location and township/city/village
- Provides directions to the scene



## Natural

Cause of Deaths:  
COPD  
Pneumonia  
CHF  
Atherosclerotic  
Heart Disease  
Alzheimer's  
Dementia  
MI/Hypertensive  
Heart Disease  
Cancer

## Suicide

Cause of Deaths:  
Intentional  
Overdoses  
Intentional  
Gunshot Wounds  
Intentional  
Hanging/  
Asphyxiation/  
Choking

## Accidental Deaths

Cause of Deaths:  
C/O falls with  
fractures  
Vehicle Crashes  
Unintentional  
Overdoses  
Hypothermia  
Drowning

## Homicide

Cause of Deaths:  
Gunshot Wound  
Strangulation  
Sharp Force  
Trauma

## Undetermined

Cause of Death:  
Skeletal Remains

# TYPES OF DEATHS



# 2025-MARQUETTE COUNTY

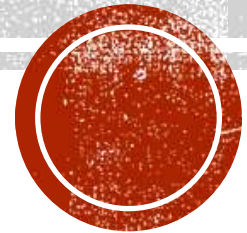
- Marquette County
  - 150 Total Cases
  - 136 ME Cases
  - 116 Natural
  - 16 Accident
  - 4 Suicide
- Autopsies
  - Marquette County-9
    - 7 Accidental
    - 2 Natural
- Listed causes of death:
  - Multidrug Toxicity
  - Multiple Injuries
  - Atherosclerotic Heart Disease
  - Drowning
  - Hemorrhagic Stroke
  - Blunt Force Injuries to pedestrian



# **SIGNING OF DEATH CERTIFICATES & CREMATION PERMITS**

Marquette County

- 119 Death Certificates
- 109 Cremation Permits



# TRI-COUNTY DEATH REVIEW

- Comprised of various departments in Waushara, Green Lake and Marquette Counties
- Meet quarterly to discuss deaths
  - Deaths are chosen by ME and Public Health based on manner of death other than natural
  - Fall meeting began discussing the increasing rates of suicides within Marquette and Waushara Counties
  - Marquette County increased from 1 in 2024 to 4 in 2025
  - Focus on suicide prevention
    - Grief support
    - Gun locks
    - Safe Storage
    - Billboards
    - Public Health Poster Information
    - VA Collaboration

**Connect with Others Who Understand Your Loss**  
FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COWORKERS AFFECTED BY SUICIDE LOSS. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

**Survivors of Suicide Loss: Peer Led Support Group**

This group is peer led and NO registration required. This group will provide opportunities to connect with other survivors of suicide loss and provide you with ongoing support every 3rd Thursday of the month.



Scan the QR code for more information or email us at [programs@communityforhope.org](mailto:programs@communityforhope.org)

**Peer-Led Drop-In Support Groups**  
For family, friends, and coworkers of those who have died by suicide.  
Minimum ages: 14.  
Led by survivors of suicide loss, these groups provide a safe space to connect and share. No registration required—just drop in.

**6-Week Suicide Loss Support Group**  
A structured grief support group led by a licensed counselor. Open to anyone who has lost someone to suicide. Groups meet weekly for 75-90 minutes.

Next Session: Tuesdays, March 3 – March 31, 2026, 6:00-7:30 PM  
Registration Required: Email [programs@communityforhope.org](mailto:programs@communityforhope.org)

**Survivors of Suicide Loss: 6-Week Support Group**

This group is based on the teachings of Dr. Alan Wolfelt and his Ten Touchstones of navigating your grief journey & will be facilitated by a Clinical Therapist. Materials & light meal provided.



Scan QR code for upcoming groups & registration details or email [programs@communityforhope.org](mailto:programs@communityforhope.org)

Location: Oakhaven Church 2175 Witzel Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54904

*"Being in a SOSL support group showed me I'm not alone in this immense pain. I found understanding, support, and hope while connecting with others who truly understand the loss of a child to suicide."*  
— Jenny W., Survivor of Suicide Loss



**SUICIDE AMONG WISCONSIN RURAL MEN**

Men aged 25 and older living in rural counties in Wisconsin have some of the highest suicide rates in the state.



**WHY ARE RURAL MEN AT ELEVATED RISK?**

- Social isolation and lack of community connection: Rural living can mean fewer social supports and greater distances between services.
- Stigma and cultural norms: Seeking help – especially for mental health – is often stigmatized, particularly among men in rural settings.
- Financial strains, job instability, and physical health issues are commonly reported circumstances contributing to suicide among rural men.
- Farming and agriculture-related pressures (weather risk, market volatility, debt) add unique stressors for men in these communities.
- Easy access to firearms – which have high lethality – contributes to the higher proportion of fatal outcomes in rural male suicide.

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS STRUGGLING:**

- Call or text 988 – available 24/7 for immediate support.
- Encourage connection with a trusted friend, family member, or health professional.
- If someone is in immediate danger, call local emergency services right away.

**AS A PREVENTION OPTION, COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN SAFELY DROP OFF FIREARMS FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE AT THE WAUSHARA POLICE DEPARTMENT OR THE WAUSHARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**



From 2023-2025, Waushara County saw a 75% increase in suicide deaths—81% of those lost were men.



**SAFE STORAGE SAVES LIVES**  
RECOGNIZING THE WAUSHARA COUNTY LIVE TODAY — PUT IT AWAY! SAFE FIREARM STORAGE PARTNERS



Live Today — Put It Away partners with firearm retailers, ranges, and law enforcement agencies to promote safe firearm storage and provide voluntary, temporary, out-of-home storage options for community members who may be going through a difficult time.

**THESE VOLUNTEER PARTNERS help prevent suicide & other gun-related crises by providing safe places to temporarily store firearms.**  
For safe storage, you can reach out directly to these local law enforcement agencies or businesses. Every safe storage location makes a difference!

**NO JUDGEMENT JUST SAFETY & SUPPORT**

**SAFE STORAGE LOCATIONS**

**WAUTOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
210 E MAIN ST  
WAUTOMA, WI 54982  
(920) 787-4044

**WAUSHARA CO. SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
430 E DIVISION ST  
WAUTOMA, WI 54982  
(920) 787-3323

**HELP SAVE LIVES IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**  
FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES & GUN RANGES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LIVE TODAY — PUT IT AWAY PROGRAM. PARTICIPANTS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO \$500 TOWARD A GUN SAFE TO SUPPORT SAFE, VOLUNTARY FIREARM STORAGE DURING A CRISIS.  
VISIT: [WWW.LIVETODAYPUTITAWAY.ORG](http://WWW.LIVETODAYPUTITAWAY.ORG)

Live Today — Put It Away



SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: DIAL 988




## Medical Examiner Strategic Plan Outline

### Waushara County Mission

We exist to build a safe, welcoming community that promotes growth and improves quality of life.

### Waushara County Vision

We will be a thriving, safe, and financially secure community that attracts businesses and people.

### Waushara County Values

Health and Safety  
Finance  
Team  
Service

#### Goal 1 - Finance

By 12/31/2026, we will have revenue agreements with at least two other counties/agencies/funeral homes for morgue space services.

- Strategies**
- 1.1 - Research and explore daily charges for cooler space, space for tissue procurement, and prolonged storage for funeral homes.
  2. - Communicate with other counties/agencies that we will have space available.
  3. - Connect with Corporation Counsel for language and contract negotiations.

#### Goal 2 - Service, Team, Health and Safety

By 6/30/2026, we will have a comprehensive list of community partners and organizations that are willing to help educate the public.

- Strategies**
- 2.1 - Solicit partners through a variety of communication means.
  - 2.2 - Collaborate specifically with public health to gather more connections.

#### Goal 3 - Service

By 5/31/2026, we will have an updated webpage.

- Strategies**
1. - Connect with IT to determine the possibilities.
  2. - Explore other medical examiner web pages to get ideas.
  3. - Connect with Corporation Counsel to maintain legal obligations.

#### Goal 4 - Health and Safety, Team

By the end of 2026, we will convene a fully comprehensive group of representatives to begin updates on a Waushara County mass fatality plan.

- Strategies**
1. - Explore the possibility of "piggybacking" on a Department Head meeting.
  2. - Work with Emergency Management to determine what currently exists and establish a list of contacts.



Version 1

# STRATEGIC PLANNING

# PRESENTATIONS

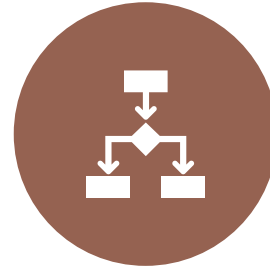
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**WAUSHARA COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT DAYS  
APRIL 25 & 30, 2025**



**MARQUETTE COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT DAYS  
APRIL 15, 2025**



**TRIAD MEETING  
OCTOBER 14, 2025**



**WAUTOMA HIGH  
SCHOOL-CJ CLASS  
MAY 2, 2025 &  
NOVEMBER 3, 2025**



**AHEAD FOR 2026**

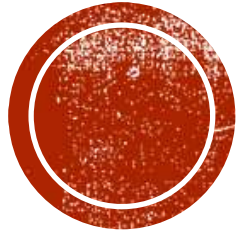


Service area will include Green Lake, Marquette & Waushara Counties

Both 30-hour part-time Deputy Medical Examiners-40 hour full-time

All staff has the I am Responding App (IAR)

Administrative Assistant to begin June 8



Renovations of current space at the Medical Examiner's Office with construction of new morgue space

Continue to evaluate the Strategic Plan completing and adding Goals and Tasks

Tri-County Death Review Team will allow for review of any available case for each county during all meetings



▪ THANK YOU!

