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Navigating the Storm of 2025: How Communications Planning Can Anchor Vital Records Success

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Learning Objectives

- Lessons learned in communication through our successes and failures
- The importance of communication in rolling out a new Vital Records registration system
- The implications of department development and growth regarding quality/timeliness, policy, accreditation, and stakeholder management

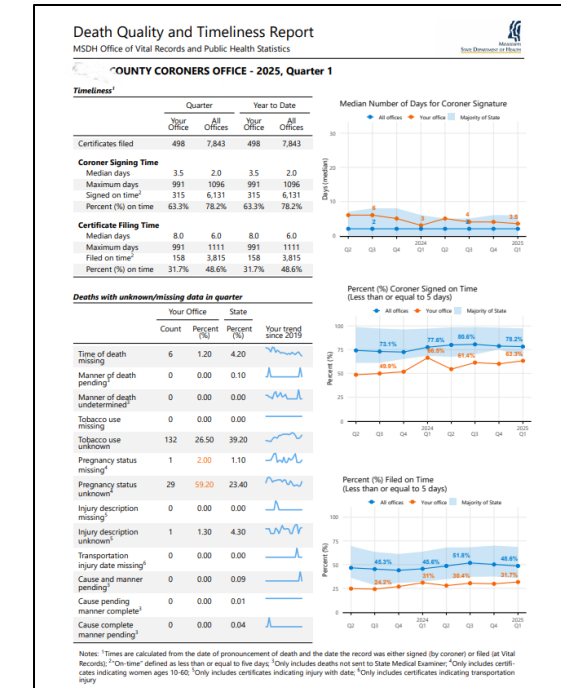
Take time for the "time of death"

MORTALITY NOT CLASSIFIABLE AND UNKNOWN DATA FOR 2022 TO 2024

ITEM	2022 MED(%)	2022 STAND*	MS		
			2022	2023	2024
Time of Death	0.35	1.00	3.61	4.35	4.01

Third Quarter Data 2024
Christmas Video
First Quarter Data results

Deaths with unknown/missing data in quarter				
	Your Office		State	Your trend since 2019
	Count	Percent (%)	Percent (%)	
Time of death missing	16	3.50	4.90	
Time of death missing	6	1.20	4.20	



2024, quarter 4
2025, quarter 1





Happy Holidays
from the MSDH
Office of Vital Records





How to Train Your Coroner



Arrested Development

WJTV News Politics Weather Sports Pine Bluff

STATE



Mississippi coroner and his aunt accused of submitting fraudulent invoices

by: [Kaitlin Howell](#)
Posted: Jan 30, 2025 / 03:58 PM CST
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QUITMAN COUNTY, Miss. ([WJTV](#)) – The Quitman County coroner and his aunt have been arrested by special agents from the State Auditor’s Office.

State Auditor Shad White said Randy Hester and his aunt, Brenda Pittman, submitted fraudulent invoices to Quitman County under the guise of a fictitious business name for services he did not provide.



Mississippi State Medical Examiner’s Office

Subject: Required MDILog entry of death records

This letter informs you that as a Coroner, under Mississippi Statute §41-61-63, you must enter the County’s deaths into MDILog.

Upon receipt of notification of a death affecting the public interest, make inquiries regarding the cause and manner of death, reduce the findings to writing and promptly make a full report to the State Medical Examiner on forms prescribed for that purpose.

For your convenience, we have provided below, a 2024 case input comparison that shows how many deaths your county has entered Death Certificates for in EDRS and the number of cases entered in MDILog.

A new coroner in town



- Know your state laws, rules and regulations for processing deaths.
- Know your Coroners' Numbers.
- Know your Coroners (How do you communicate with them?)
- Know when it's time to get some one else involved.
- Know what the community, media and families are saying about your coroner.
- Know the **new coroner in town** (phone call, lunch, offer support and watch the numbers).

Conclusions

Communication is not a single method or event

“Different strokes for different folks” but include all folks

Start early and strive for consistency

Our Mission

Thank You!

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TO
**protect &
advance
THE health,
wellbeing,
AND safety
of everyone
in Mississippi.**

MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH