

OFFICE of the MEDICAL EXAMINER

Courthouse Building
P.O. Box 400
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-0400
Telephone (715) 369-6196
Fax (715) 369-6272

Medical Examiners report for 2023

This report is designed to inform members of the Public Safety Committee, County Board and interested citizens about the operation of the Medical Examiner's Office.

The year 2023 was again a busy year for the Medical Examiner's Office. For the year 2023, the OCME office had 874 deaths reported, conducted 20 autopsies, signed 388 death certificates and issued 730 cremation permits.

The following is a breakdown of the deaths that occurred in Oneida, Vilas and Forest Counties.

Oneida-

540 deaths total

8 autopsies

208 cases investigated/ death certificates signed

38 removals billed

461 cremation permits issued

11 covid-19 related deaths

Cases the OCME took jurisdiction-

Natural deaths- 128

Snowmobile crashes- 4 (3 alcohol involved)

Falls at home- 36

Fall at nursing facility- 12

Fall at other location- 2

Hypothermia- 1

Suicide with gun- 8

Suicide by ligature hanging- 1

Accidental asphyxiation- 1

Structure Fire- 1

Overdose fentanyl- 4

Overdose other drug- 1

Motor vehicle fatalities- 6 (2 alcohol involved)

Protracted labor, infant death- 1

Vehicle fell on top of person- 1

John Doe 1980 identified as Norman Grasser.

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Vilas-

240 deaths total

6 autopsies

121 cases investigated/ death certificates signed

37 removals billed

202 cremation permits issued

6 covid-19 related deaths

Cases the OCME took jurisdiction-

Natural deaths- 85

Snowmobile crashes- 6 (4 alcohol involved)

Falls at home-9

Fall at nursing facility- 1

Fall at other location- 2

Fall while skateboarding- 1

Suicide with gun- 2

Suicide by ligature hanging- 1

Overdose fentanyl- 5

Hypothermia-2

Motor vehicle fatalities- 3 (3 alcohol involved)

Historical find- 1

Homicide- 1

Structure Fire- 1

Struck by machinery- 1

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Forest-

94 deaths total

6 autopsies

59 cases investigated/ death certificates signed

11 removals billed

67 cremation permits issued

3 covid-19 related deaths

Cases the OCME took jurisdiction-

Natural deaths- 44

Falls at home- 5

Fall at nursing facility- 1

Suicide by ligature strangulation- 1

Overdose fentanyl- 2

Motor vehicle fatalities- 3 (2 alcohol involved)

UTV crash- 1

Infant death- 1

Boat crash- 1 (alcohol involved)

Crystal L Schaub

Medical Examiner

Oneida, Forest & Vilas Counties

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2023

Month	Oneida							Vilas							Forest						
	Death	Aut.	Pch	Call- C	Call-B	Burial	Crem	Death	Aut.	Pch	Call- C	Call-B	Burial	Crem	Death	Aut.	Pch	Call- C	Call-B	Burial	Crem
Jan	50	1	5	16	4	2	28	16	0	3	8	2	2	4	12	0	1	4	6	0	2
Feb	38	1	8	16	3	2	17	28	1	7	12	1	1	14	7	0	1	2	1	0	4
Mar	56	4	6	14	5	8	29	22	0	5	12	0	1	9	9	0	0	4	1	2	2
Apr	46	0	4	15	2	4	25	25	0	5	9	4	2	10	5	1	2	2	1	0	2
May	45	1	4	18	3	3	21	16	0	2	7	1	2	6	9	1	2	4	0	2	3
Jun	49	0	5	17	2	4	26	22	2	5	7	2	2	11	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Jly	39	0	2	7	3	4	25	18	1	4	8	1	2	7	11	2	5	7	3	0	1
Aug	37	0	2	10	4	4	19	21	1	5	11	1	2	7	9	0	2	7	0	2	0
Sep	53	1	6	15	3	4	31	15	0	1	3	3	0	9	9	0	1	1	2	2	4
Oct	36	0	3	10	3	4	19	22	1	4	9	5	2	6	10	2	2	6	1	2	1
Nov	50	0	6	21	2	2	25	19	0	5	9	0	0	10	8	0	1	3	1	1	3
Dec	41	0	0	13	2	2	24	16	0	2	5	1	1	9	3	0	1	1	0	0	2
Total	540	8	51	172	36	43	289	240	6	48	100	21	17	102	94	6	18	43	16	11	24

Grand Totals:

Deaths: 874
 Autopsies: 20
 Pouches: 117
 Calls with cremations: 315
 Calls with burials: 73
 Burials: 71
 Cremations: 415
 Signed DC's: 388
 Cremation permits issued: 730

Month	Oneida										Vilas										Forest									
	Death	Aut.	Pch	Call-C	Call-B	Burial	Crem	Death	Aut.	Pch	Call-C	Call-B	Burial	Crem	Death	Aut.	Pch	Call-C	Call-B	Burial	Crem									
Jan	61	0	1	24	4	5	28	15	2	5	9	0	1	5	11	0	1	5	2	1	3									
Feb	58	1	3	22	6	3	27	29	0	3	9	2	3	15	7	2	3	5	1	0	1									
Mar	37	0	2	14	4	4	15	14	0	2	6	1	1	6	9	0	0	3	1	0	5									
Apr	47	1	2	11	0	4	32	18	1	1	7	2	2	7	7	0	0	1	1	0	5									
May	39	1	4	15	0	5	19	17	1	4	4	3	2	8	7	1	1	2	1	2	2									
Jun	47	0	6	19	2	3	23	23	2	5	11	2	3	7	8	0	0	1	2	2	3									
Jly	44	0	1	14	4	3	23	19	0	1	5	1	11	2	7	0	0	3	0	2	2									
Aug	61	0	6	18	3	5	35	17	0	1	6	1	2	8	5	1	1	2	1	1	1									
Sep	32	0	1	10	2	4	16	21	0	5	14	1	0	6	9	0	0	1	2	0	6									
Oct	48	1	3	19	3	9	17	16	1	3	7	2	2	5	8	0	0	3	0	2	3									
Nov	37	0	3	10	4	4	19	24	1	3	4	6	2	12	10	0	1	6	2	0	2									
Dec	47	1	4	15	1	5	26	23	1	1	13	1	2	7	11	0	2	4	1	3	3									
Total	558	5	36	191	33	54	280	236	9	34	95	22	31	88	99	4	9	36	14	13	36									

Grand Totals:

- Deaths: 893
- Autopsies: 18
- Pouches: 79
- Calls with cremations: 322
- Calls with burials: 69
- Burials: 98
- Cremations: 404

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<u>Deaths Due to:</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Natural Causes	293	257
Falls at home	30	50
Falls at nursing facility	17	14
Falls at other location	5	4
Suicide by gun	7	10
Suicide by hanging	1	3
Suicide by overdose	0	0
Suicide by knife	1	0
Accident with gun	1	0
Accidental asphyxiation	0	1
Drowning	2	0
Choking	2	0
Fall from Bicycle	0	0
Fall from tree stand	1	0
Overdose Fentanyl	11	11
Overdose other drug	2	1
Motor Vehicle Fatalities	7	12
UTV/ATV Fatalities	1	1
Boat fatalities	1	1
Snowmobile	6	10
Homicide	0	2
Shaken Baby Syndrome	0	0
Unidentified Body	0	1
Unidentified Body Identified	0	1
Infant death	0	2
Garage Explosion	1	0
Electrocution	2	0
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1	0
Anaphylactic shock	1	0
Hypothermia	0	3
Structure Fire	0	2
Crushed by vehicle	0	1
Fall while skateboarding	0	1
Struck by machinery	0	1

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Oneida County annual comparable

<u>Deaths Due to:</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Natural Causes	171	128
Snowmobile fatalities	1	4
Boat fatality	1	0
Motor vehicle fatalities	3	6
Falls at home or nursing facility	36	48
Fall at other location	1	2
Accident with gun	1	0
Suicide with gun	5	8
Suicide by ligature strangulation	0	1
Accidental asphyxiation	0	1
Hypothermia	0	1
Overdose fentanyl	5	4
Overdose other drug	1	1
Drowning	1	0
Garage explosion	1	0
Structure fire	0	1
Vehicle falling onto person	0	1
Infant death	0	1
Autopsies	5	8

Notable cases: 2023- 1980 Oneida County John Doe identified as Norman Grasser

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Vilas County annual comparable

<u>Deaths Due to:</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Natural Causes	85	85
Snowmobile	3	6
UTV/ATV fatality	1	0
Motor vehicle fatalities	3	3
Falls at home or nursing facility	13	10
Falls at other location	0	3
Electrocution	2	0
Suicide with gun	1	2
Suicide with knife	1	0
Suicide by ligature strangulation	0	1
Overdose fentanyl	4	5
Overdose other drug	1	0
Carbon monoxide poisoning	1	0
Anaphylactic shock	1	0
Cold water drowning	1	0
Hypothermia	0	2
Historical find	0	1
Structure fire	0	1
Struck by machinery	0	1
Infant death	1	0
Homicide	0	1
Autopsies	4	6

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Forest County annual comparable

<u>Deaths Due to:</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Natural Causes	37	44
Snowmobile	2	0
Falls at home or nursing facility	4	6
Choking on food	1	0
Suicide with gun	1	0
Suicide by ligature strangulation	1	1
Overdose fentanyl	3	2
Motor vehicle fatalities	1	3
UTV fatality	0	1
Boat fatality	0	1
Infant death	0	1
Autopsies	4	6