

# News Release



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## MEDIA CONTACT

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## Charleston County Coroner's Office Receives 1 Million Dollars for a 5-year Cooperative Agreement with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The Charleston County Coroner's Office has been awarded a five-year Cooperative Agreement from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which provides \$219,060.00 annually totaling \$1,095,300.00 over the five-year award period.

The CDC has awarded the Charleston County Coroner's Office (CCCO) funds to expand and improve child death investigations for those under the age of 18 by advancing the utilization of child death reviews in Charleston and our neighboring five counties. Funds will ensure the timely entry of child death data into the National Center of Fatality Review and Prevention (NCFRP), the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), and the Sudden Death in the Young (SDY) databases. Funds will also be used to expand biological and genetic testing for these difficult cases and to expand epidemiology services to ensure accurate data for public health surveillance.

So far for 2023, there have been 66 child deaths reported to the Coroner's Office. Of this number, 12 deaths were accidental and 9 were undetermined. This funding will provide additional support and resources for the Coroner's Office to assist families with finding answers to the death of their child.

"The death of a child is particularly hard on families and communities. The CCCO has been a leader in how these complicated deaths are investigated. This Cooperative Agreement allows the CCCO to expand its reach and to ensure that the most up-to-date research and resources are utilized to provide answers for families. This information is also important as we try to determine how to prevent these childhood deaths from occurring. We are honored to be 1 of only 32 agencies in the nation supported by the CDC to focus on the specific needs of infant and child death investigations" said Coroner Bobbi Jo O'Neal.

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- Visit our website: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/coroner/index.php>
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*-written by the Charleston County Coroner's Office-*