

## The “Value-Added” Forensic Autopsy: Public Health, Other Uses, and Relevance to Forensic Pathology’s Future

Hanzlick 2015

“Value-added” forensic autopsy

- autopsy performed in cases that might otherwise not have been autopsied
- a more extensive or complete autopsy that might otherwise have been performed

“value-added”, not in the financial context, but rather the societal context with potential public benefit

Reminder that *forensic* means *forum* or *public* - not *crime* or *science*

Value of forensic pathology information has been increasingly recognized by a number of sources

Something must be done with information to make it useful, such as share it with the relevant entities and interested parties:

Entities which rely upon ME/C data:

SUDY (Sudden Death in the Young)

*CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and NIH (National Institute of Health)*

HIDTA (Officer of National Drug Control Policy High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program)

CFR (Child Fatality Reviews)

CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission)

MECAP (Medical Examiner Coroner Alert Program)

MECISP (Medical Examiner Coroner Information Sharing Program)

*Now COMEC (Collaborating Office of Medical Examiners and Coroners)*

NCHS (National Center for Health Statistics)

*CDC*

FDA (Food and Drug Administration)

FRA (Federal Railroad Administration)

*US DOT (Department of Transportation)*

NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health)

NTOF (National Traumatic Occupational Fatality Surveillance System)

NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System)

NAME (National Association of Medical Examiners) Death Registry\*

PedTox (Pediatric Toxicology Registry)

NVDRS (National Violent Death Reporting System)

EDR (Electronic Death Reporting)

SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death) Registry

EDRT (Elder Abuse and Exploitation Review Programs)

Users/Beneficiaries

Public Health Programs and Services for the homeless and substance abusing population

Cancer registries

Users of the Abbreviated Injury Scale

Uses of the Haddon Matrix for trauma audits and injury prevention strategies

Civil or criminal attorneys involved in motor vehicle collision cases

Families, civil case, genetic conditions

Civil plaintiff and defense attorneys

State licensing boards

State protective service agencies

Surgical trauma audits

Morbidity/mortality conferences

Researchers to identify new defects from genetic conditions