

# **Medical Examiner and Justice of the Peace Survey Results and Feedback**

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Online Survey Software | x

Secure | <https://tti.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV1...0mkDS21rYvX>

**Texas A&M  
Transportation  
Institute**

In an effort to improve Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) reporting, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has a grant to determine the needs of Justice of the Peace (JP) offices. TTI is obtaining logistical and procedural information relating to toxicology testing from JP offices in the State of Texas, as well as identifying suggestions for educational activities. The information gathered from JP offices assists TxDOT in identifying measures that can improve the current system of reporting toxicology information to their agency as required by statute.

Which county do you serve?

Are you always notified of a fatal crash in your jurisdiction?

Yes

No

→

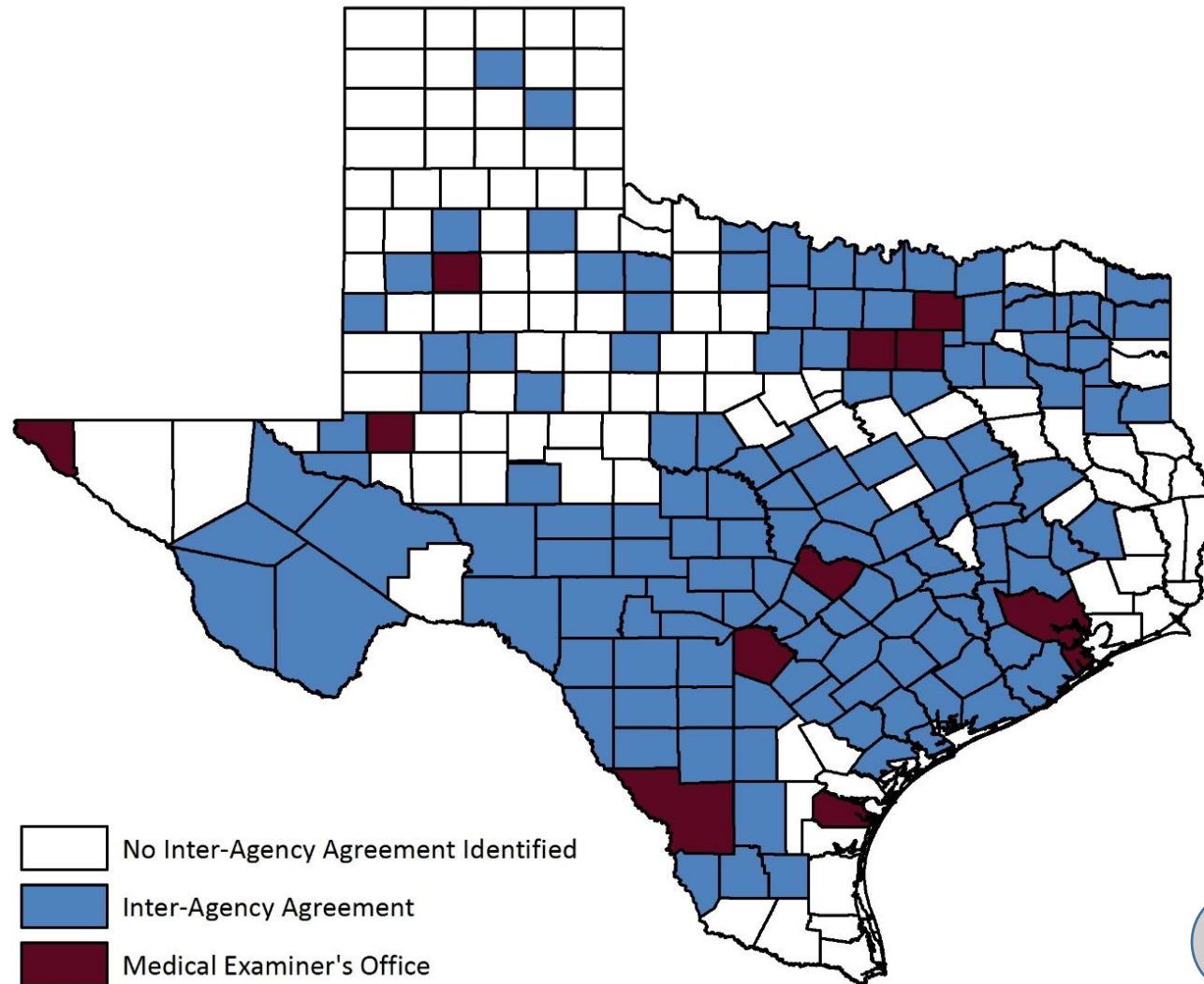
# Methodology

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- Online survey and analytics software
- Distributed to Justices of the Peace with help from Texas Justice Court Training Center
- Distributed to Medical Examiners by contacting the twelve offices throughout the state directly
- Received 148 responses from JP's, representing 103 counties
- Received responses from all twelve Medical Examiner offices

# Inter-Agency Agreements

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# Notification of Fatal Crashes

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- 75% of JP's are notified when a fatal crash occurs
  - Many responses indicate that the JP that is on call is the only one that is notified
- 94% of JP's report that if they are notified, they do visit the scene of the crash

Fatal crash occurs in precinct or county



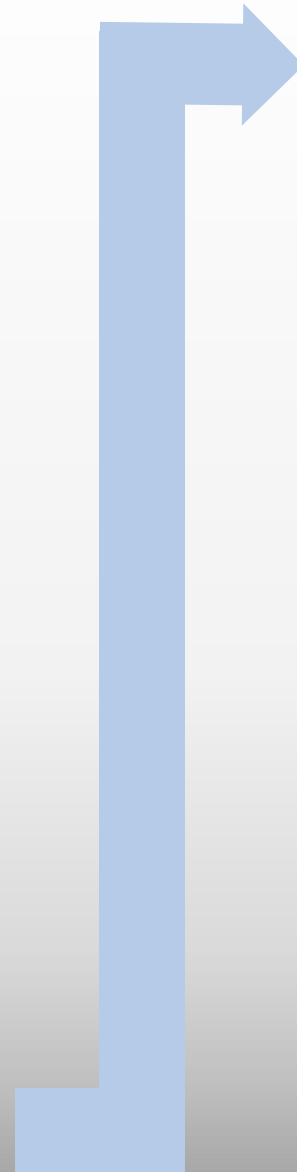
Justice of the Peace (or one on call) is notified of the crash by law enforcement



Justice of the Peace visits the crash scene to determine cause and manner of death



Justice of the Peace orders an autopsy and/or toxicology test be conducted on the driver\*



Decedent's body is transported to the medical contracted lab for autopsy and toxicology testing



Results of the autopsy are toxicology testing are sent to the Justice of the Peace's office



Toxicology results are made available to TxDOT

# The Cost of Reporting

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- 77% of the responses state that their JP office has an agreement with a Medical Examiner office or private laboratory to conduct testing
  - Of those that have an agreement, approximately 52% have their agreement with a Medical Examiner office, 46% use a private laboratory, and the remainder use the Department of Public Safety
- Toxicology-only testing averages around \$201 - \$2,700
- Autopsy costs range from \$600 - \$4,500, with an average cost of around \$2,400
- 84% of the respondents say the county bears the cost burden. The rest are divided into law enforcement, JP offices, ME offices, and unknown

# The Wait for Toxicology Results: Survey Options

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- Less than 2 weeks
- 3 – 4 weeks
- 5 – 6 weeks
- 2 – 3 months
- 4 -6 months



Round 1

XXX



5 – 6 weeks 24%

3 – 4 weeks 13%

2 – 3 months 19%

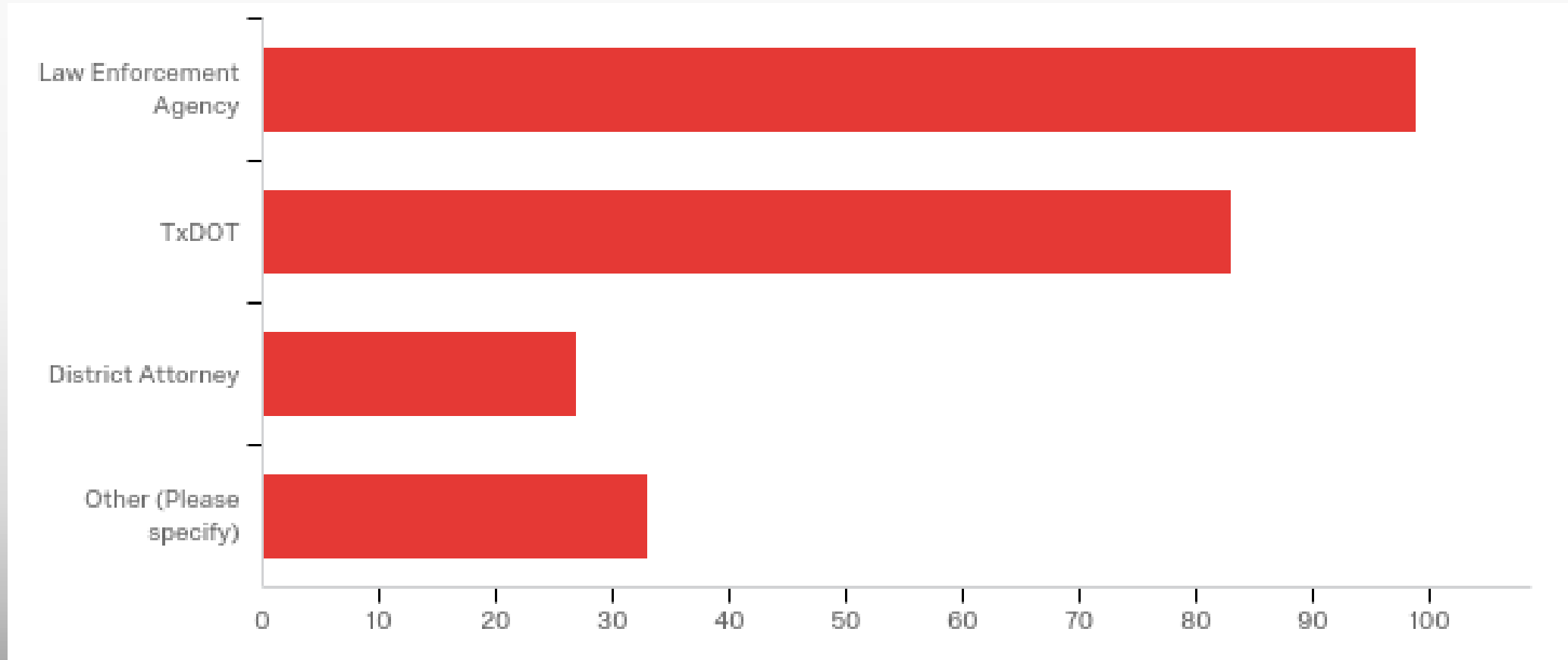
<2 weeks 5%

4 – 6 months 17%

7 – 8 weeks 15%



# Where do the toxicology reports go once received?



# How do I find the toxicology form?

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Let's Google it!

# Reporting Discussion Open Topics

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- 11<sup>th</sup> Day Rule
- Improvements to reporting process
- CR-1001
- Open discussion