

BRAZOS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

COMMISSIONER'S COURT MEETING

JULY 26, 2022

BRAZOS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

AGENDA

1

WHAT DOES A MEDICAL EXAMINER NEED?

2

WHO IS THIS BUILDING CONSTRUCTED FOR?

3

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?

4

HOW LARGE A FACILITY DO YOU NEED?

5

HOW MUCH WILL THE PROJECT COST?

SMITHGROUP INTRODUCTION

HAMILTON COUNTY CORONER



1,300

DEDICATED
INTERDISCIPLINARY
PROFESSIONALS

6

NATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED JUSTICE
FACILITY AWARDS
IN 6 YEARS

6

FORENSIC
ROUNDTABLES IN
THE LAST 6 YEARS

7M

SF OF FORENSIC
PROJECT
EXPERIENCE

100+

FACILITIES
DESIGNED IN LAST
10 YEARS

WHAT DOES AN ME NEED?

SPACE TYPES AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

MEDICAL EXAMINERS ARE UNIQUE

A human skeleton is laid out on a dark grey table in a forensic laboratory. The skeleton is positioned horizontally, with the head to the left and feet to the right. The ribcage is open, and the pelvic and femoral regions are clearly visible. In the background, there are dark grey cabinets and a sink area with some bones on the counter. To the left of the table, a white lab coat is draped over a black chair. To the right, a black chair with a circular logo is partially visible. The logo on the chair reads 'TARRANT COUNTY TEXAS MEDICAL EXAMINER'. The overall scene is a professional forensic environment.

UNIQUE MISSION...CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH

UNUSUAL SECTIONS...MORGUE, AUTOPSY, IMAGING, FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

EXHIBIT PROCESSING...CHAIN OF CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS

INCREASED BIO-HAZARD...PROCEDURE HAZARDS, INFECTIOUS AEROSOLS

ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS...NAME, ISO, ABFT, ASCLD-LAB

INCREASED PUBLIC SENSITIVITIES...VIEWS, ODORS, SUBJECT MATTER

PUBLIC HEALTH ROLE



IDENTIFY CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH

IDENTIFY INJURY TRENDS

IDENTIFY NEW AND EMERGING THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

EVALUATE INTERVENTIONS

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

UNIQUE SPATIAL REQUIREMENTS

TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER



TRANSPARENCY

HAMILTON COUNTY CORONER



PLAN STRATEGICALLY

ADA COUNTY CORONER



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

PIMA COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER



RESPIRE

JOHNSON COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER



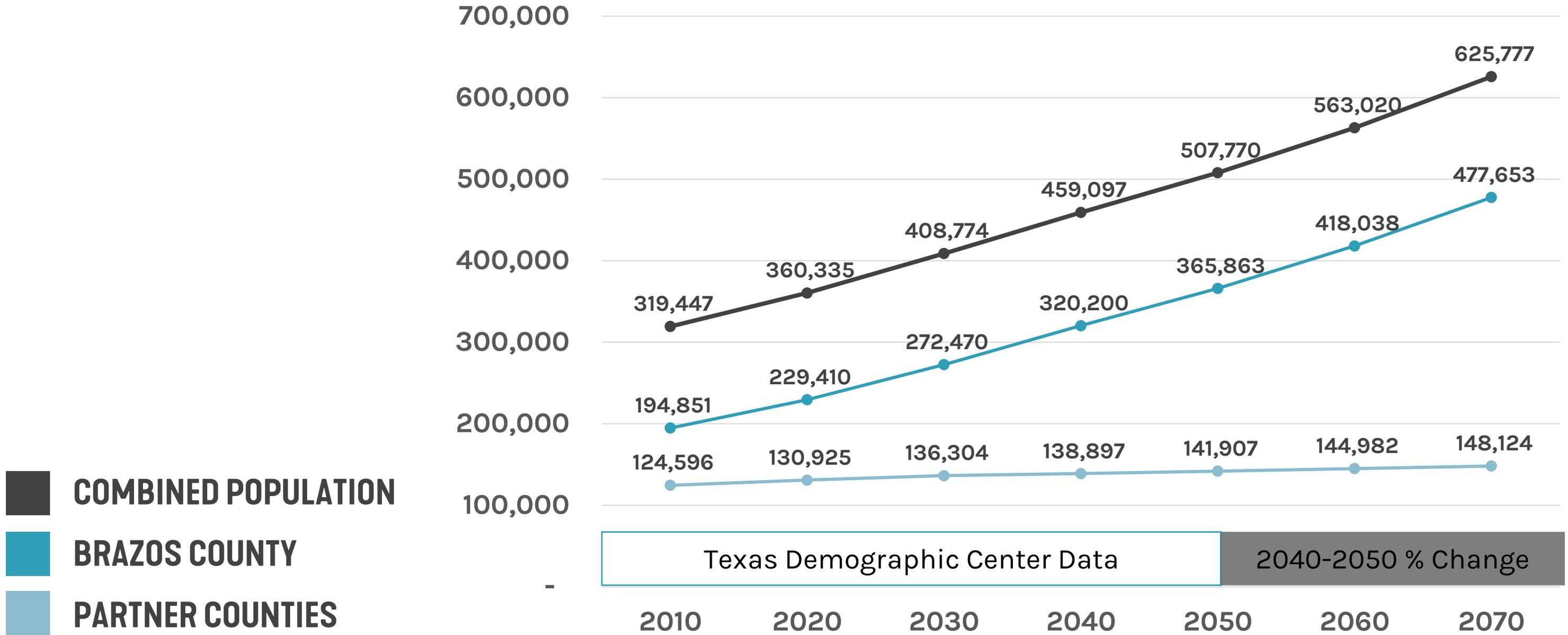
FACILITY DEMAND AND CATCHMENT

WHO IS THIS BUILDING CONSTRUCTED FOR?

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?

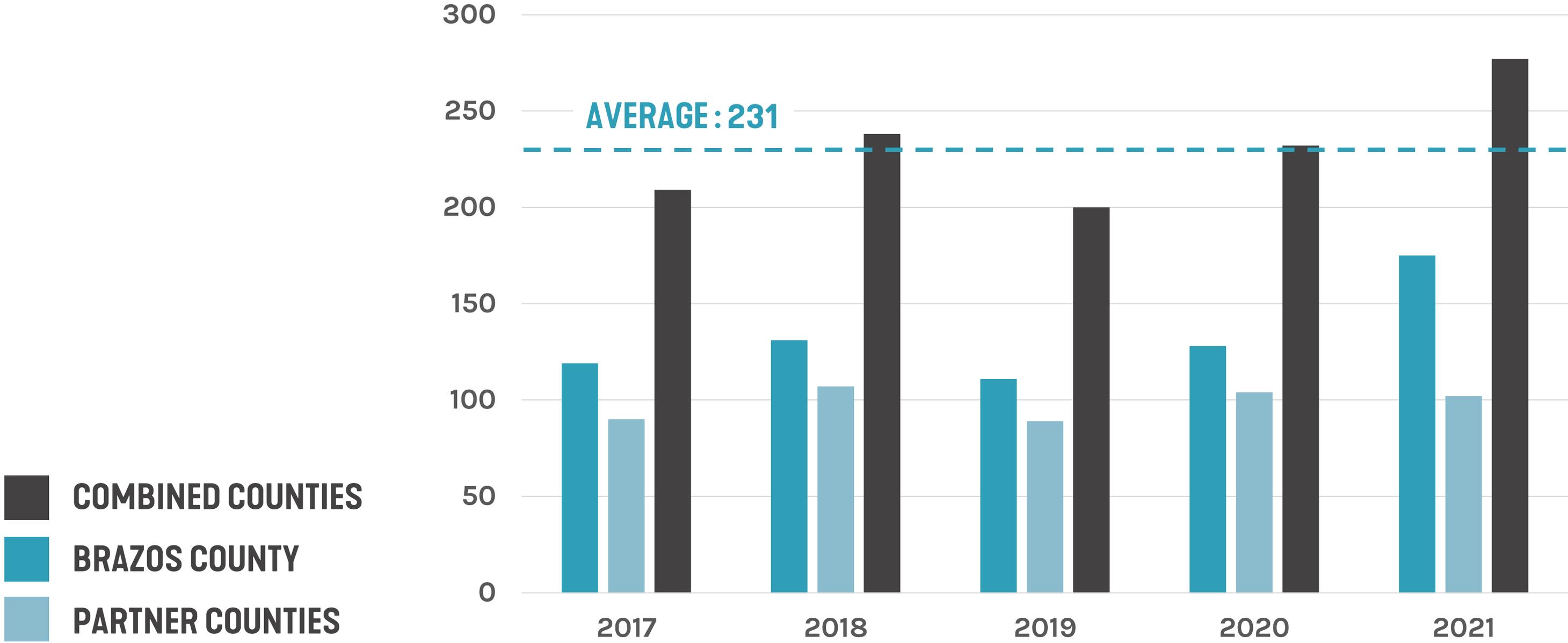
POPULATION GROWTH

BRAZOS COUNTY AND PARTNERS



HISTORICAL AUTOPSY DEMAND

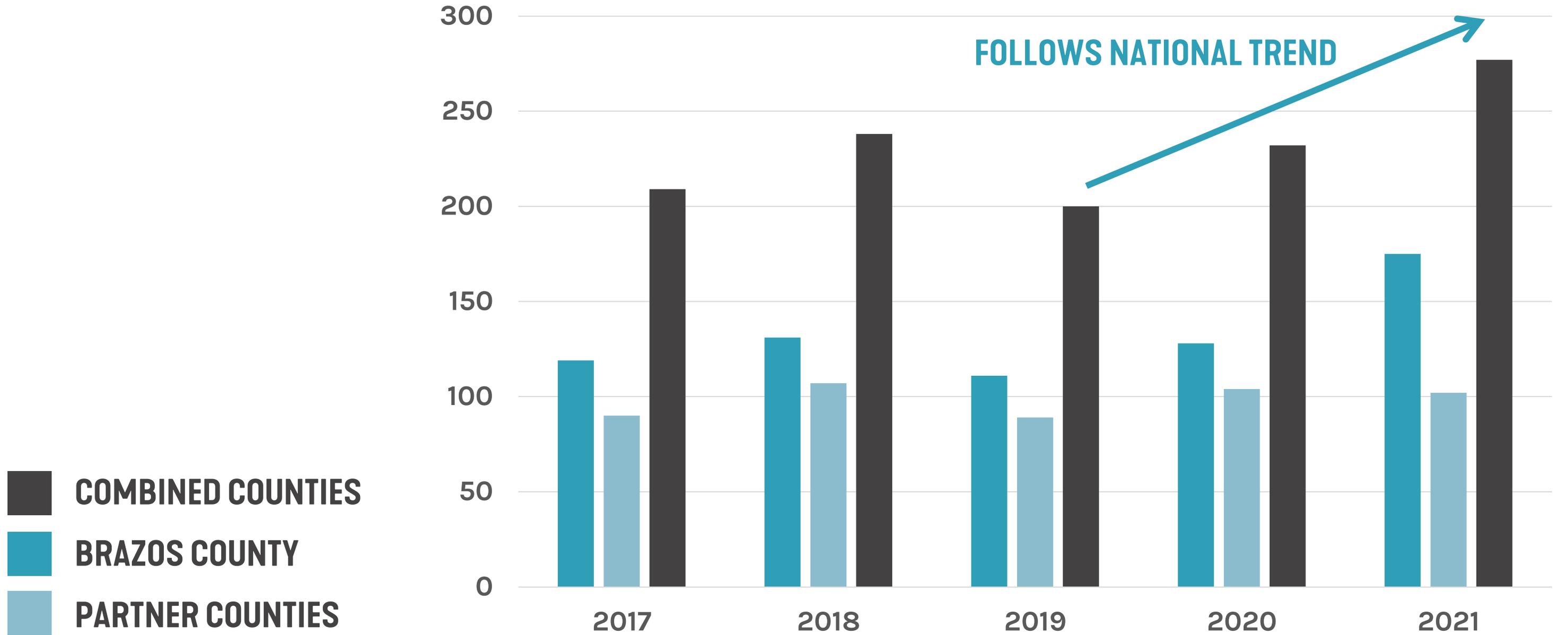
BRAZOS COUNTY AND PARTNERS



COMBINED COUNTIES
BRAZOS COUNTY
PARTNER COUNTIES

HISTORICAL AUTOPSY DEMAND

BRAZOS COUNTY AND PARTNERS

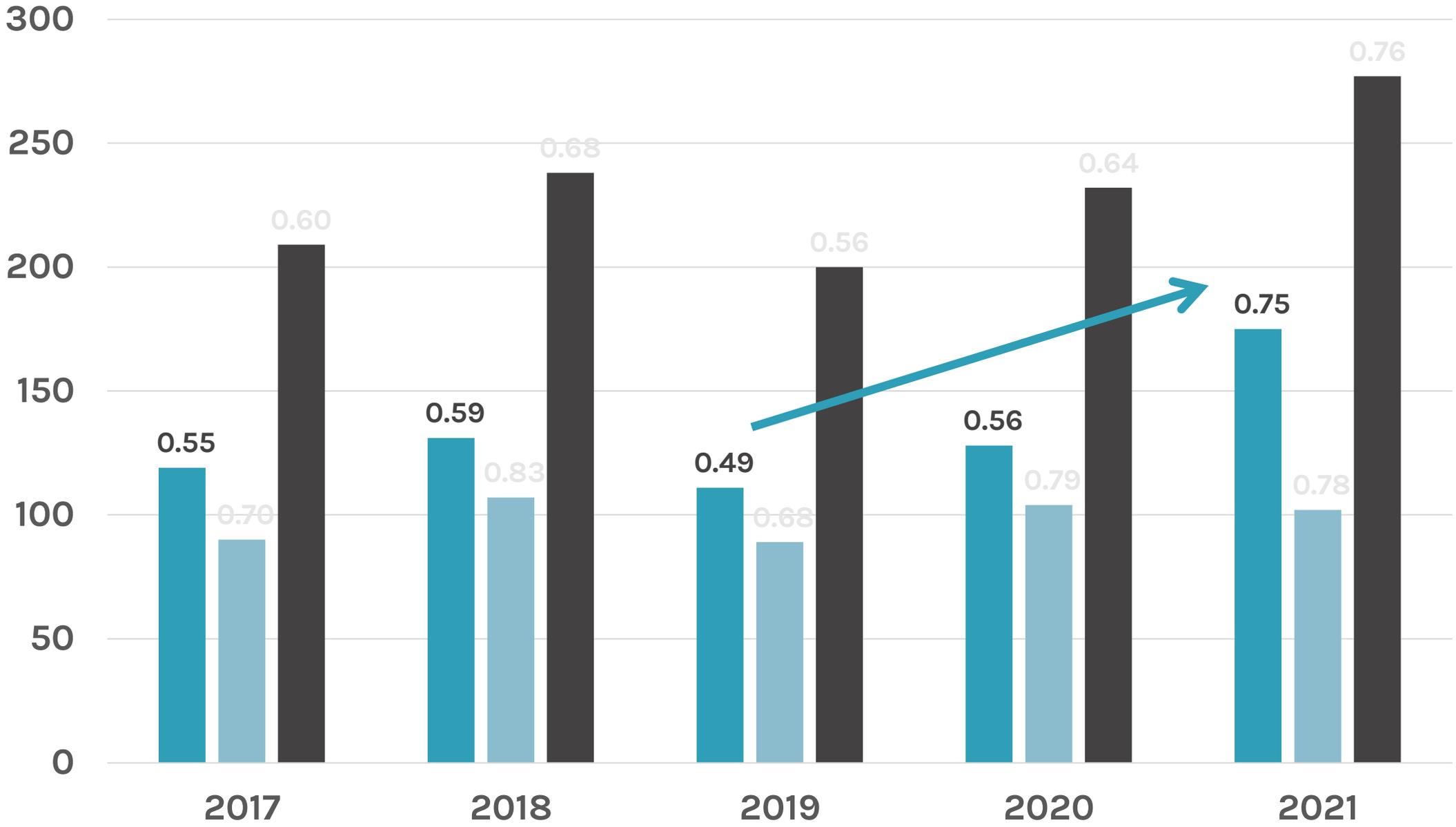


COMBINED COUNTIES
BRAZOS COUNTY
PARTNER COUNTIES

AUTOPSY RATE

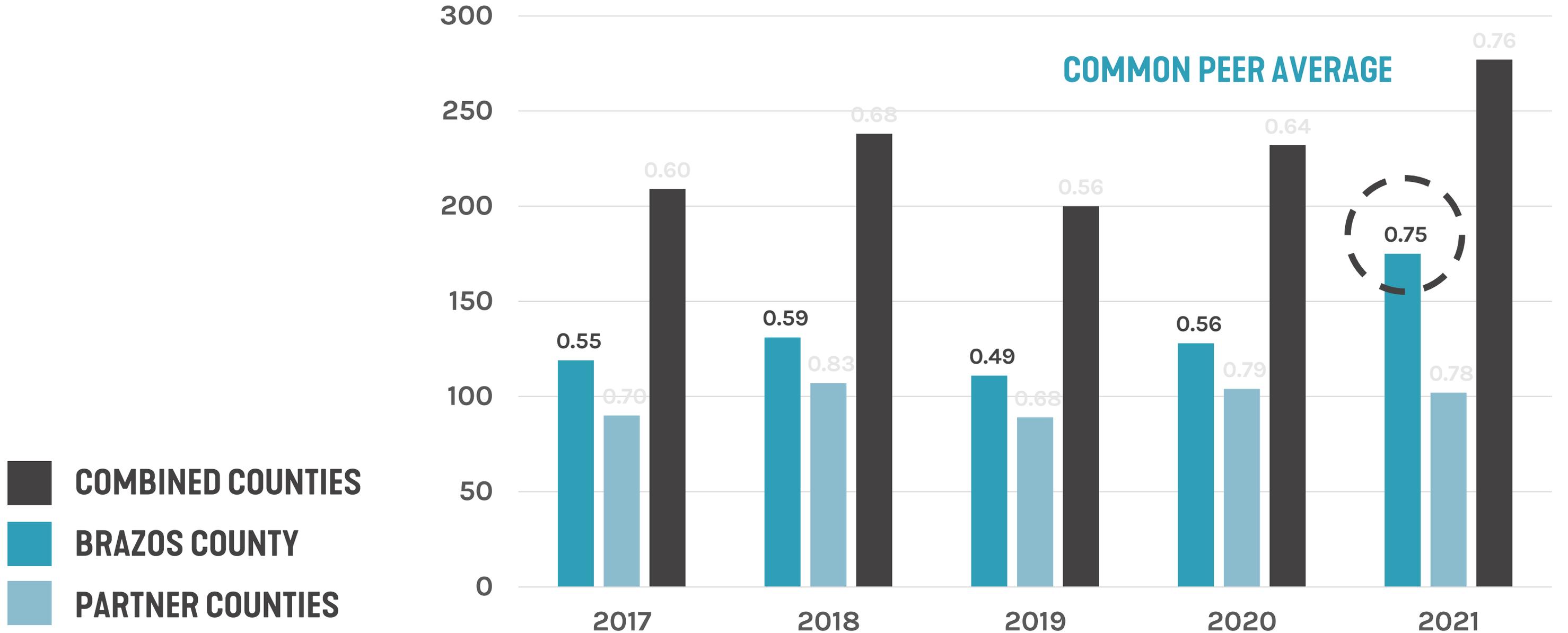
BRAZOS COUNTY

- COMBINED COUNTIES
- BRAZOS COUNTY
- PARTNER COUNTIES



AUTOPSY RATE

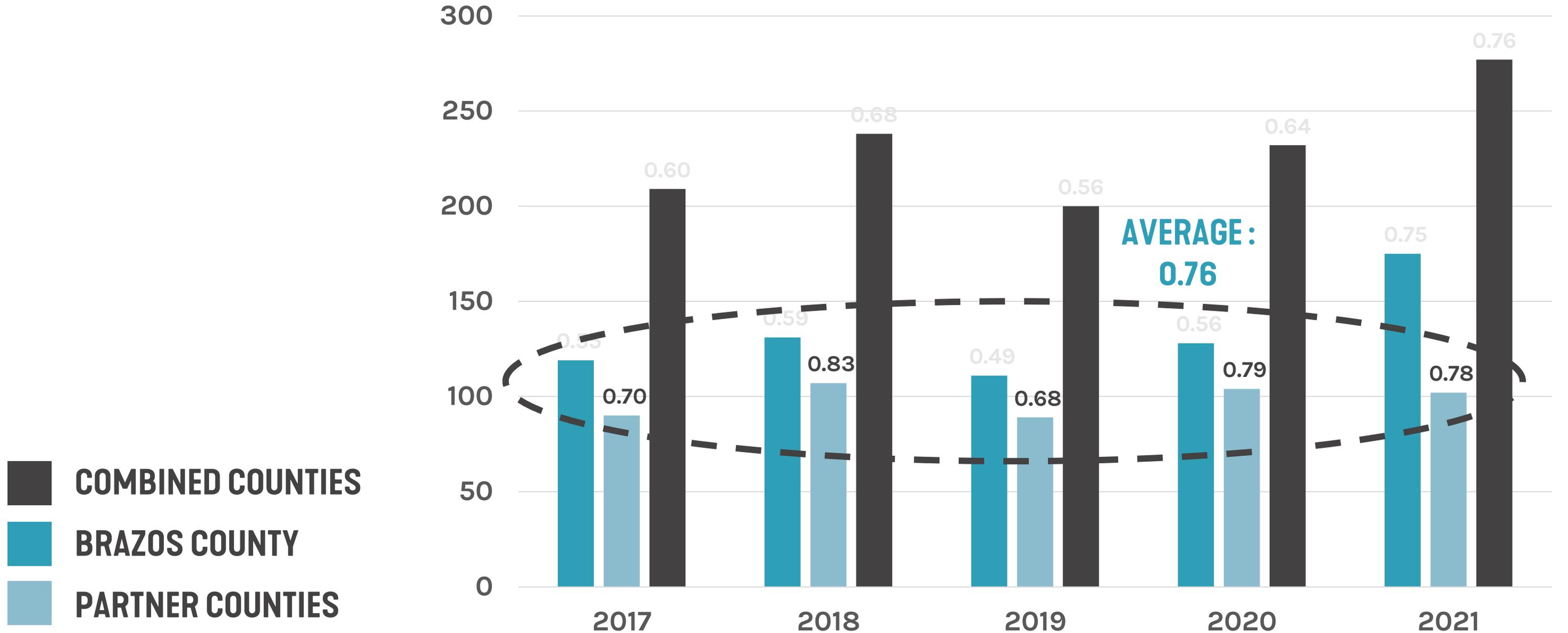
BRAZOS COUNTY



- COMBINED COUNTIES
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- PARTNER COUNTIES

AUTOPSY RATE

PARTNER COUNTIES

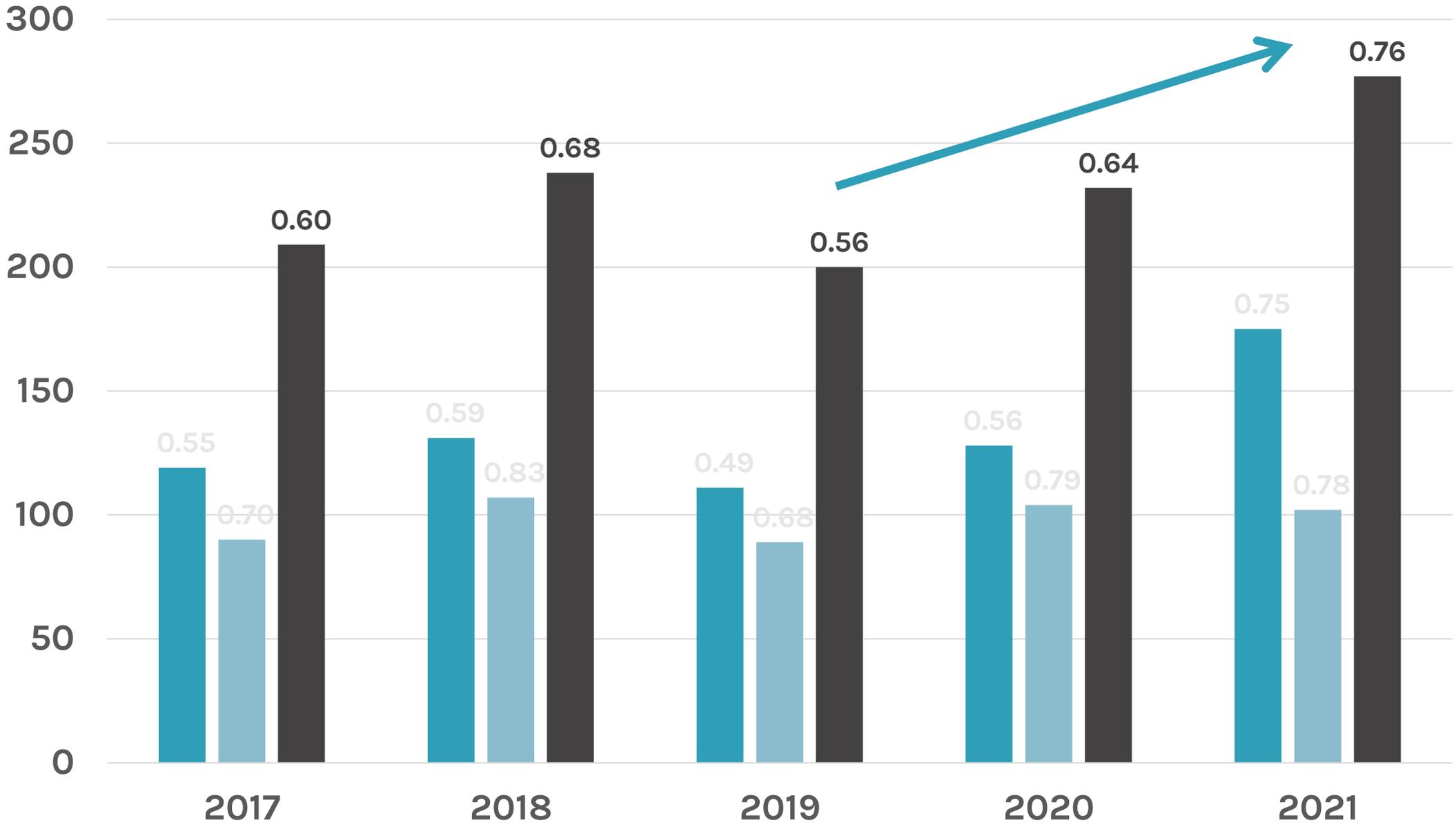


- COMBINED COUNTIES
- BRAZOS COUNTY
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AUTOPSY RATE

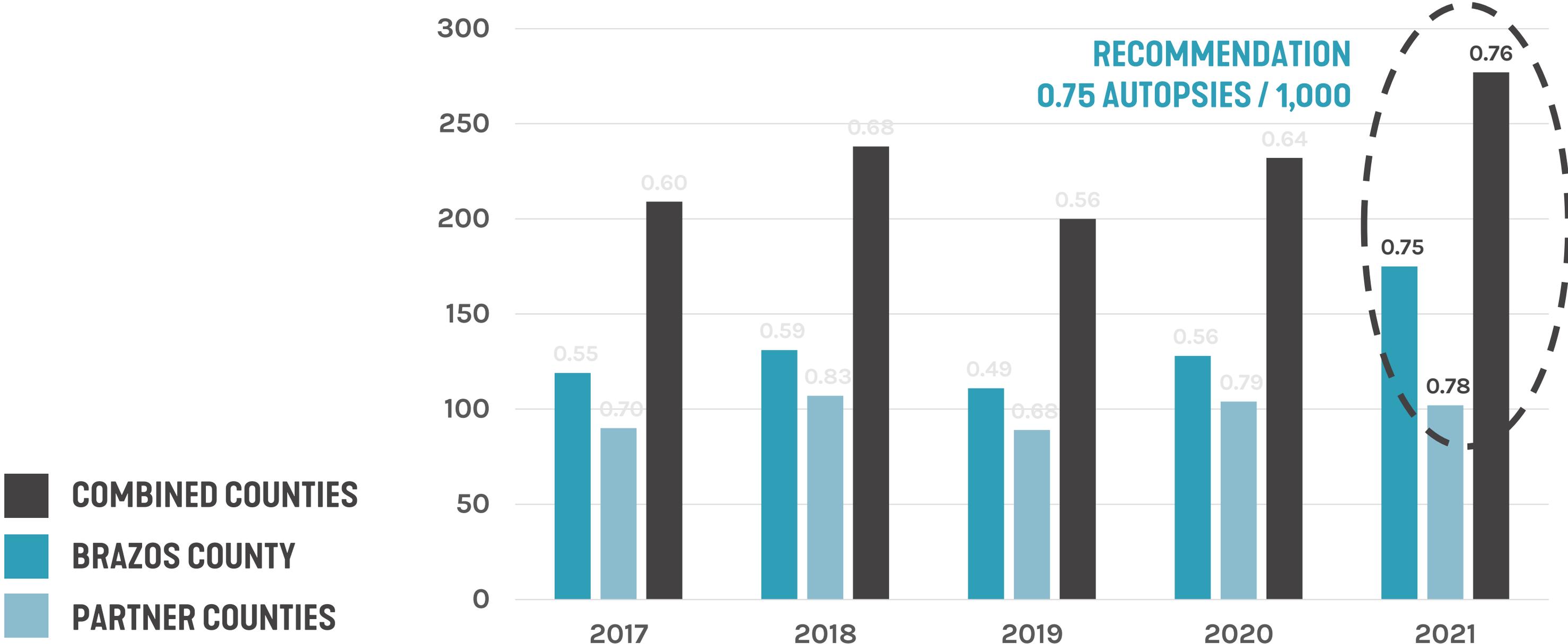
COMBINED RATE

- COMBINED COUNTIES
- BRAZOS COUNTY
- PARTNER COUNTIES



AUTOPSY RATE

RECOMMENDED COMBINED PLANNING RATE



- COMBINED COUNTIES
- BRAZOS COUNTY
- PARTNER COUNTIES

DECEDENT LOAD

HOW MANY AUTOPSIES COULD YOU EXPECT?

		2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	
		BRAZOS COUNTY TO SEE CONSISTENT AUTOPSY GROWTH						
Brazos County Population		229,410	272,470	320,200	365,863	418,038	477,653	
Autopsies		128	204	240	274	314	358	
Partner Population		130,925	136,304	138,897	141,907	144,982	148,124	
Autopsies		104	102	104	106	109	111	
Regional Population		360,335	408,774	459,097	507,770	563,020	625,777	
Total Decedent Load		232	307	344	381	422	469	
Autopsy Rate	0.75							

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FACILITY SIZE

HOW MANY STAFF AND HOW MUCH AREA IS NEEDED?

STAFFING

WHAT ROLES ARE REQUIRED?

Forensic Pathologists:

- Chief Medical Examiner
- Deputy Chief ME

Autopsy Assistants:

- Supervisor
- Autopsy Assistant

Investigators:

- Supervisor
- Investigators

Administration

STAFFING

WHAT ROLES ARE NOT REQUIRED?

Forensic Pathologists:

- Chief Medical Examiner
- Deputy Chief ME

Autopsy Assistants:

- Supervisor
- Autopsy Assistant

Outsourced Roles:

- Toxicology staff
- Histology staff
- Transcription staff

Investigators:

- Supervisor
- Investigators

Administration

AUTOPSY QUANTITY AND REQUIRED STAFF

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Total Decedent Load	232	307	344	381	422	469
Autopsy Rate	0.75	ACCREDITATION: 250 AUTOPSIES / FP MAXIMUM				
Staffing	To Open	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
Forensic Pathologist	1	2	2	2	2	2
Investigations	2	3	3	3	3	3
Autopsy Assistant	1	2	2	2	2	2
Administration	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total Staff	6	9	9	9	9	9

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STAFF REQUIRED AT FACILITY OPENING

AUTOPSY QUANTITY AND REQUIRED STAFF

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Autopsy Rate	0.75			WILL SOON NEED (2) FP'S		
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STAFF SIZE CONSISTENCY THROUGH FACILITY LIFESPAN

STAFF PROJECTIONS

TOTAL DECEDENT LOAD (TDL) TODAY AND BEYOND

▪ 202? (250 TDL) Staffing & Cost

– Forensic Pathology

- CME = 1
- Deputy CME = 0
- \$275,000

– Investigations

- 2 (\$94,000)

– Autopsy Assistants

- 1 (\$37,000)

– Administration

- 2 (\$66,000)

– Total Cost = \$472,000*

▪ 2070 (470 TDL) Staffing & Cost

– Forensic Pathology

- CME = 1
- Deputy CME = 1
- \$525,000

– Investigations

- 3 (\$141,000)

– Autopsy Assistants

- 2 (\$74,000)

– Administration

- 2 (\$66,000)

– Total Cost = \$806,000*

* Staffing cost does not include County standard benefits or escalation per year

PEER FACILITY COMPARISONS

HOW DOES BRAZOS COUNTY COMPARE?



HAMILTON COUNTY CORONER



KENTUCKY ME



PLACER COUNTY CORONER



JOHNSON COUNTY ME

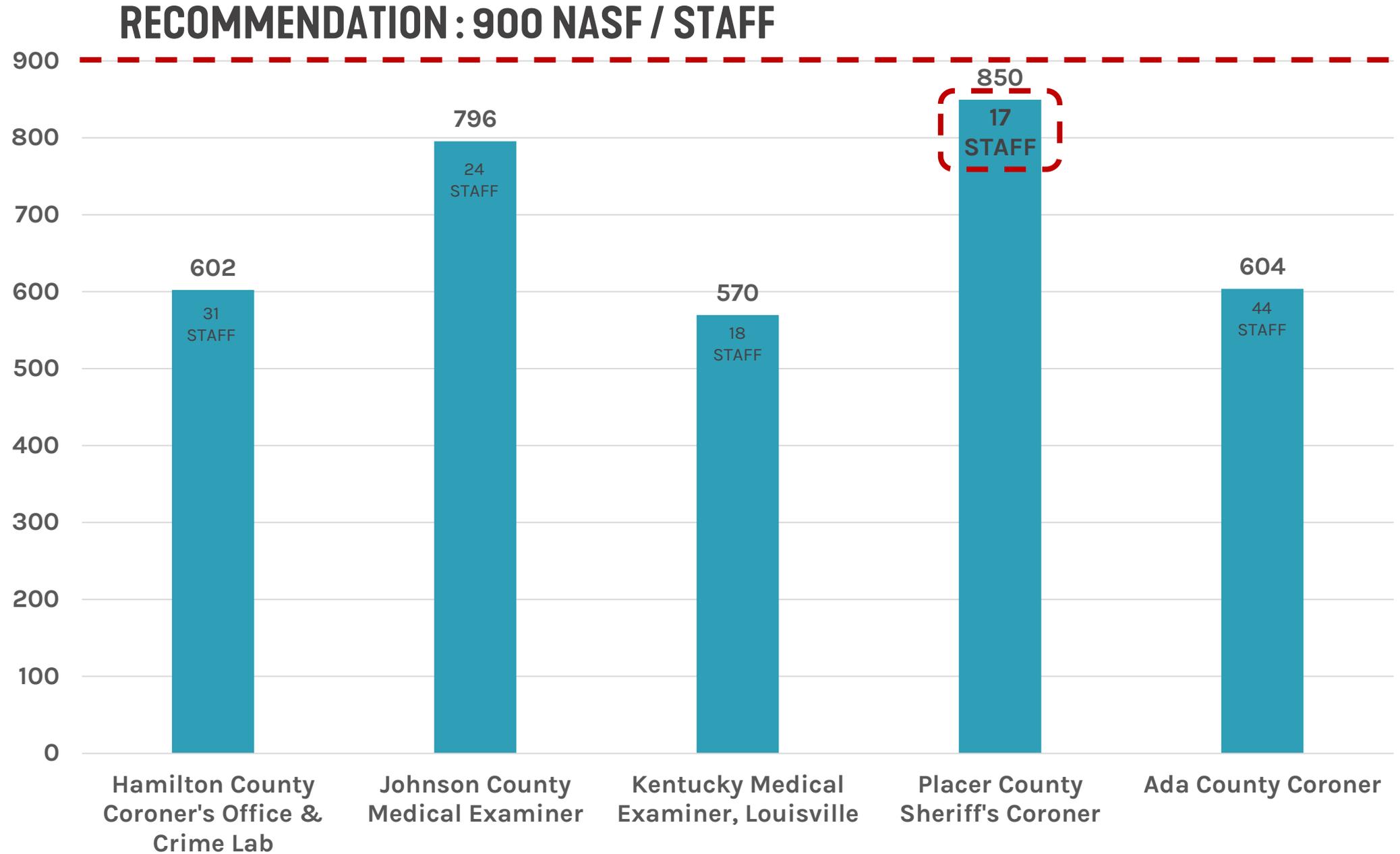


ADA COUNTY CORONER

MEDICAL EXAMINER BENCHMARKING

PEER NASF / STAFF

- Placer County is closest comparison
- All have 2-3x autopsy load
- Smaller facilities are less efficient (i.e., 9 Planned for Brazos vs. 17 Staff at Placer County)



MEDICAL EXAMINER BENCHMARKING

FACILITY SIZE

- Maximum Staff = 9
- NASF / Staff = 900
- Total NASF = 8,100
- Collaboration = 1,500
- **Total GSF = 16,000 GSF**

General Program Elements:

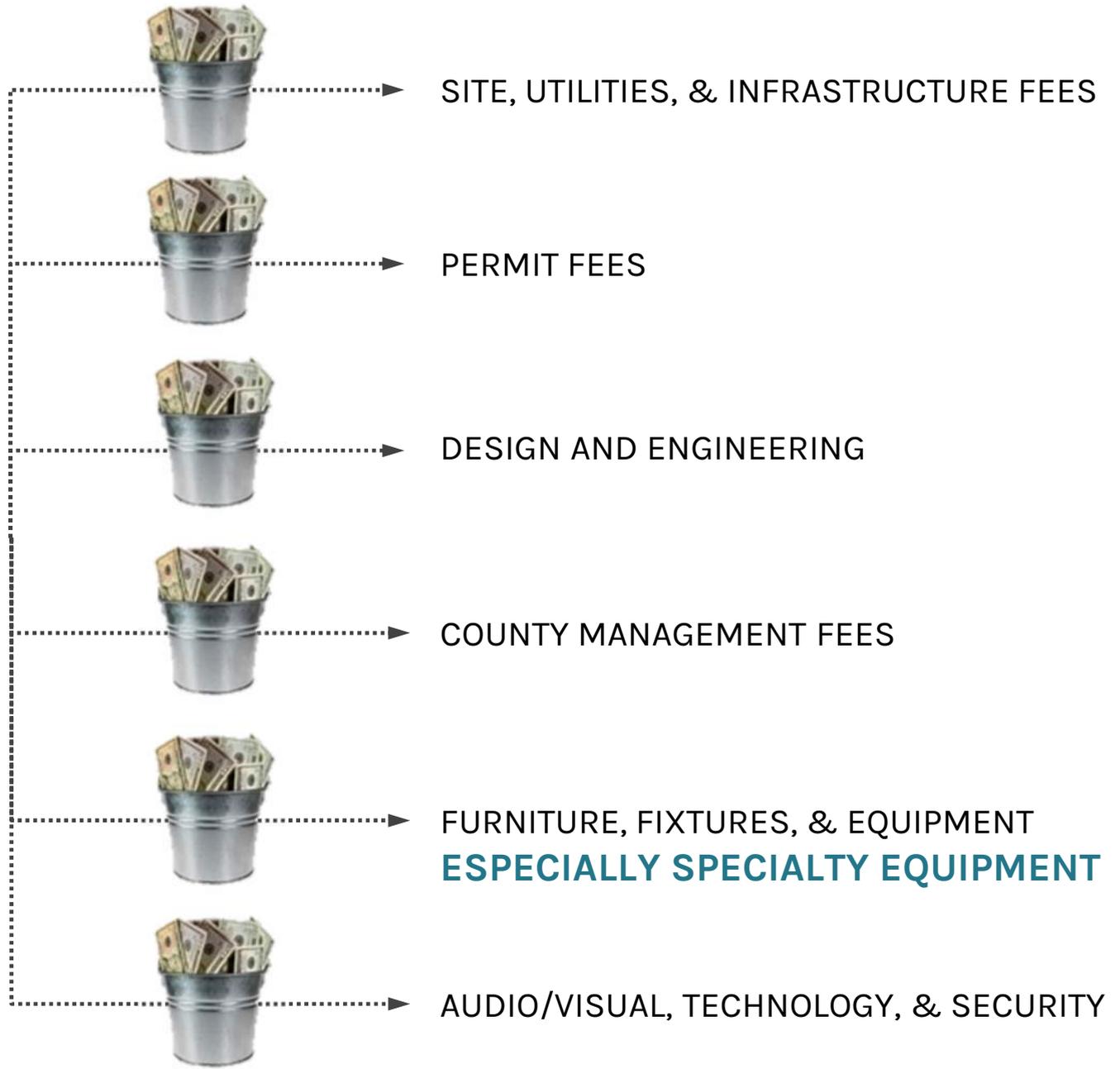
- 2 Wall-Mount autopsy stations & 1 pedestal station
- Autopsy observation for law enforcement and education
- 50 Decedents on carriers – Growing to (65) with racks
- Lobby includes family room and toilet
- Body receiving single vehicle bay is unconditioned
- 50-Person conference room

PROJECT COST

WHAT SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED?

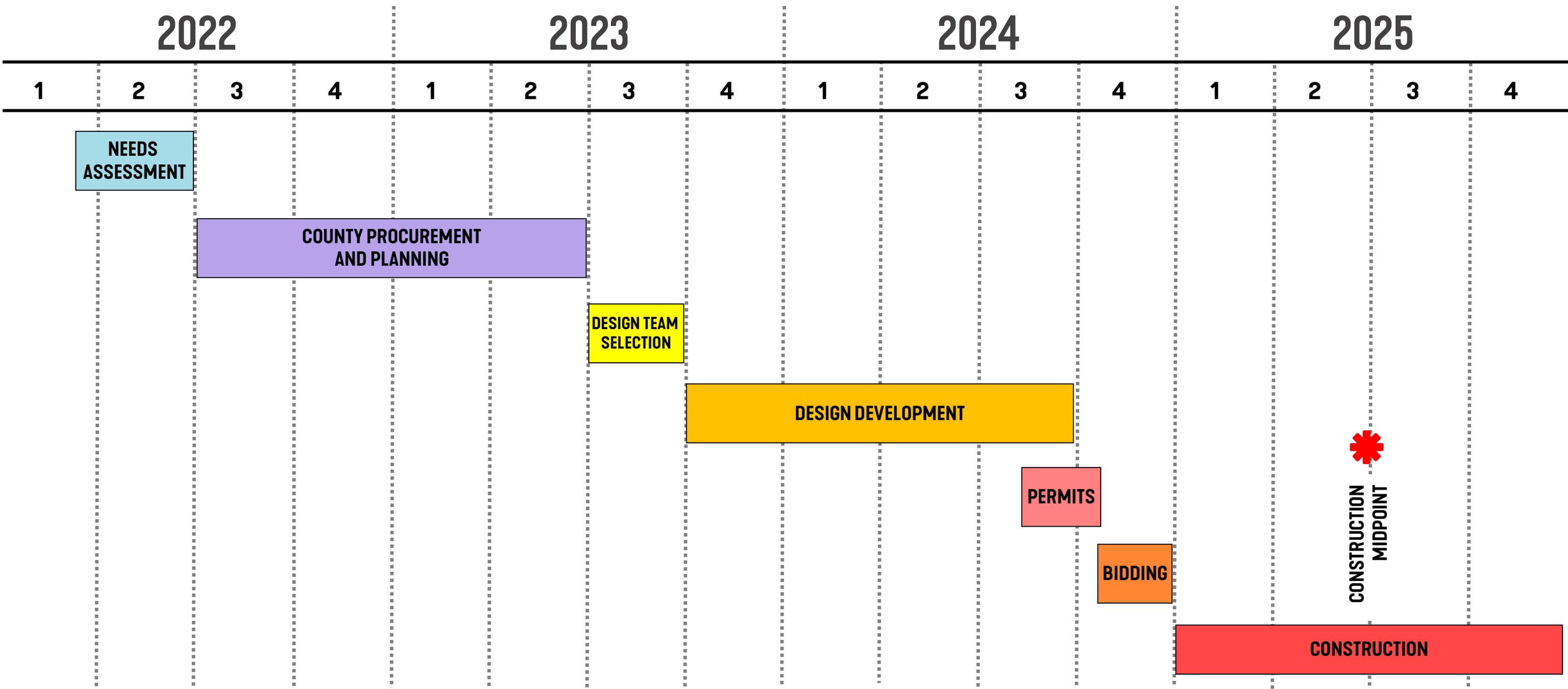
PROJECT COST BUCKETS

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET



70% - 75%

PROJECT SCHEDULE



TOTAL PROJECT COST

Construction Cost	\$10,883,000
GC Fees and Contingency	\$4,079,000
Construction Cost	\$14,962,000
Escalation (Construction Midpoint June 2025)	\$1,945,000
Total Construction Cost	\$16,907,000
Total Project Cost	\$22,540,000

QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO THIS POINT

1

WHAT DOES AN ME NEED?

HIGHLY SPECIALIZED SPACES

2

WHO IS THIS BUILDING CONSTRUCTED FOR?

PRIMARILY BRAZOS COUNTY

3

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE?

STAFF CONSISTENCY LIKELY

4

HOW LARGE A FACILITY DO YOU NEED?

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH

5

WHAT WILL THE PROJECT COST?

APPROXIMATELY \$22,500,000



THANK YOU