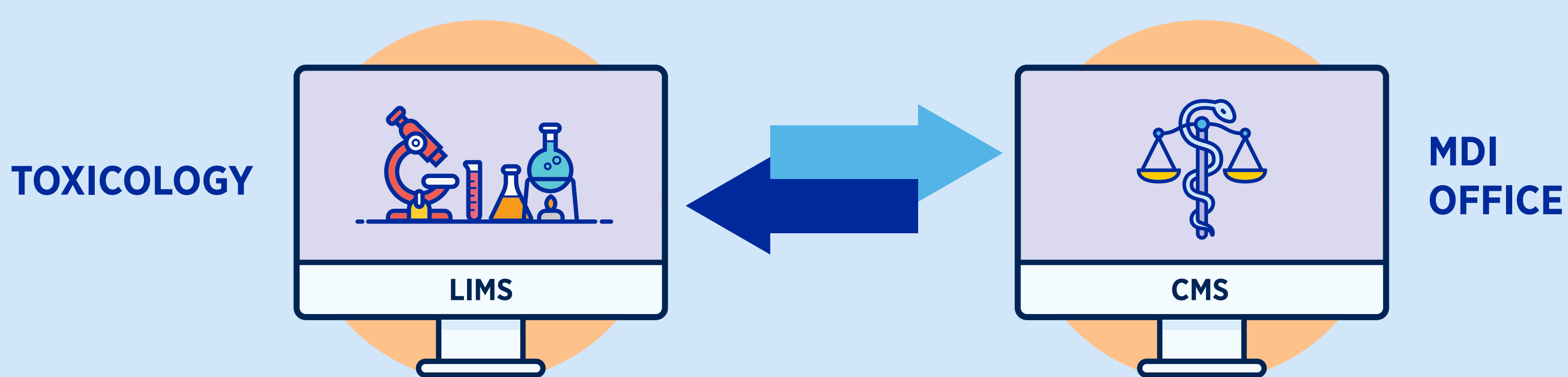# COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE (ILLINOIS)

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO) in Illinois was established in 1976, and the medical examiner is appointed by the president of the board of county commissioners. Cook County is the only county in Illinois with a medical examiner; all other Illinois counties utilize the coroner system. CCMEO serves a population of approximately 5.3 million residents which is roughly 45% of the state's population. The office investigated 20,080 deaths in 2022 and completed 4,088 autopsies.

The MDI office is populating their CMS with the postmortem toxicology results directly from the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)

TOXICOLOGY — LIMS ⇄ CMS — MDI OFFICE

Dataflow	Toxicology and MDI Case Management System (CMS)
Project Description	Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO) is upgrading their current data-sharing capabilities between their laboratory information management system, LabLynx, and the outsource toxicology laboratory, NMS Labs. This upgrade allows CCMEO to acquire additional toxicology testing data quicker on drug use. The additional data plus the current drug death data will lead to faster case closure and improved resolution for families.
MDI Connect Office	Cook County Medical Examiner's Office
CMS Vendor	Lablynx
Data Sharing Partner	NMS Labs
Data Sharing Vendor	NMS Labs in-house system
Benefits	MDI office has improved and expedited access to toxicology data Ability to serve the families with information from toxicology reports and provide more timely case closures
Challenges	Integration of project components led by different vendors involved in the project

Acronyms: • **MDI** – Medicolegal Death Investigation • **CMS** – Case Management System • **LIMS** – Laboratory Information Management System • **HL7** – Health Level 7 • **FHIR** – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

About MDI Connect: MDI Connect is a joint initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation. Through MDI Connect, medical examiner and coroner offices work together to enhance data sharing between their offices and public health, toxicology or other agencies. MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data sharing partners, vendors and Fast Healthcare Interoperability (FHIR®) subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts exchanging data with others and increase access to information for office functioning and research. **For more information visit, MDIconnecthub.org**

MDI **CONNECT**