Abstract:
For the millions of tourists and locals that enjoy winter activities in Vermont, tragically, each year several lose their lives, most often in traumatic accidents. As mandated by Vermont law, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is required to investigate deaths that occur, “From violence; suddenly, when in apparent good health…in any unusual, unnatural or suspicious manner; or in circumstances involving a hazard to public health, welfare, or safety (VSA185205).” Using digital OCME records from 2001 to 2015, deaths due to winter activities were reviewed. Winter activities include deaths related to skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, hiking, sledding, cross-country skiing, and falling through the ice. Through qualitative analyses, this presentation will provide a review of accidental deaths attributed to winter activities in Vermont over the last fourteen years.