



Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA

Lake County Coroner

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TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK
DATE: February 12, 2026
RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR **DECEMBER 2025**

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of **December 2025** ⁽¹⁾:

Non-Coroner's Cases ⁽²⁾	435
<u>Coroner's Case: ⁽³⁾</u>	<u>55</u>
Total Death Investigations:	490

Total death investigations for December 2024: 545

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for December 2025 (55), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 55 Coroner's Cases a total of 52 had further forensic examination (Autopsy) conducted by Lake County Coroner's Forensic Pathologist, Eimad Zakariya, M.D., in conjunction with the Lake County Coroner's Forensic Technician and Deputy Coroner Investigators.
- Toxicology reporting is currently unavailable for the Month of December 2025.
 - This information will be communicated in a future report.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office issued 335 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in December 2025, for a total of \$33,500 in revenue from state mandated permit fees.
- To date, Coroner Office Investigators completed and closed **85.37%** of **NOVEMBER** Cases within 60 days of the date of the case with 0 cases pending. ⁽⁴⁾
- In December 2025, the Coroner's Office investigated 2 deaths as a result of firearms, 2 suicides. This brings the total number of firearm related deaths to 41 for the calendar year.

(1) As forensic reports such as Autopsy Reports, Toxicology Reports and other investigative agency reports may take 4 – 8 weeks for completion, Coroner Banek is presenting statistical data that is more complete than the previous month's data.

(2) Non-Coroner's Cases:

Cases reported to the Office of Coroner where Minimal Investigation is needed; primarily consisting of review of medical history, medical records, and discussion with health care providers involved in the case.

(3) Coroner's Cases

Thorough investigation as to the cause of death, with subsequent Case Conference to determine the manner of death (i.e., homicide, suicide, accidental, or undetermined). Where required and mandated by Illinois Statute by type of death, select cases may be sent to an Inquest by Jury.

(4) Data reported is from the month prior to the reporting month to allow more complete data.

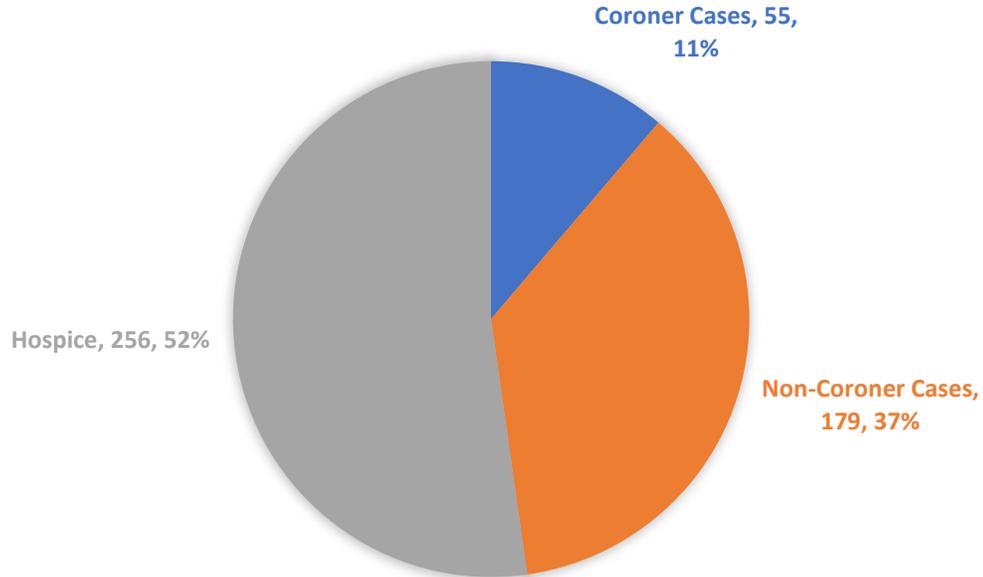


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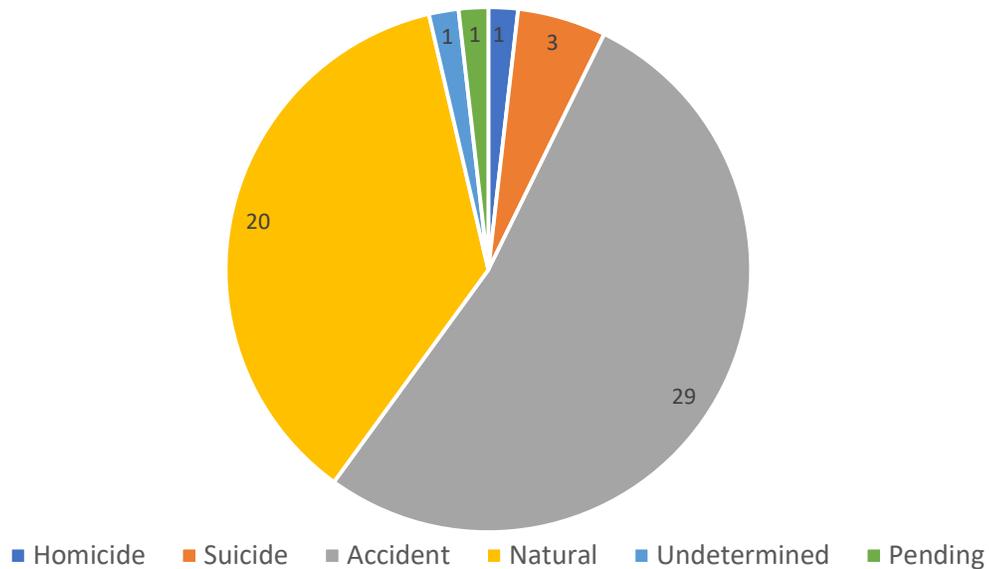
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DECEMBER 2025 OVERALL CASES



DECEMBER 2025 CORONER CASES

This data includes Suspected Manner of Death in Cases still pending finalization.



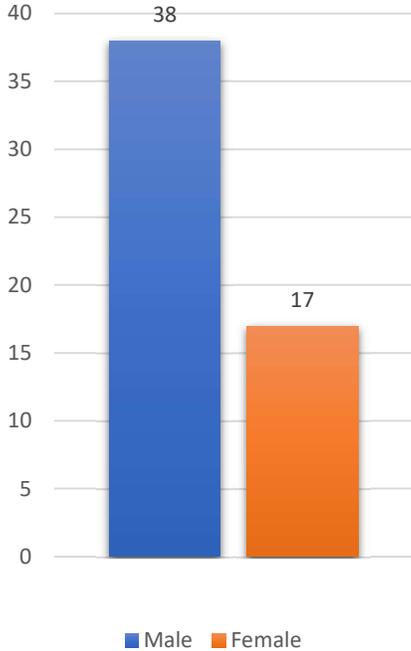


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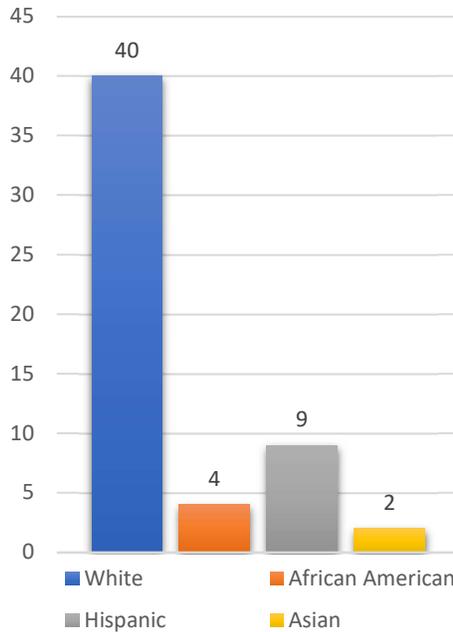
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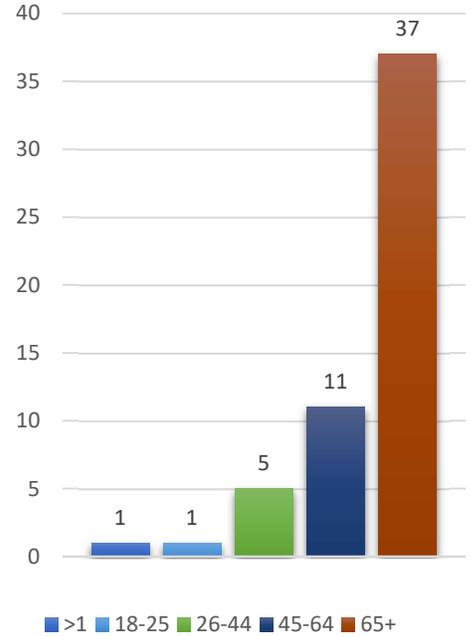
Coroner Cases/Gender



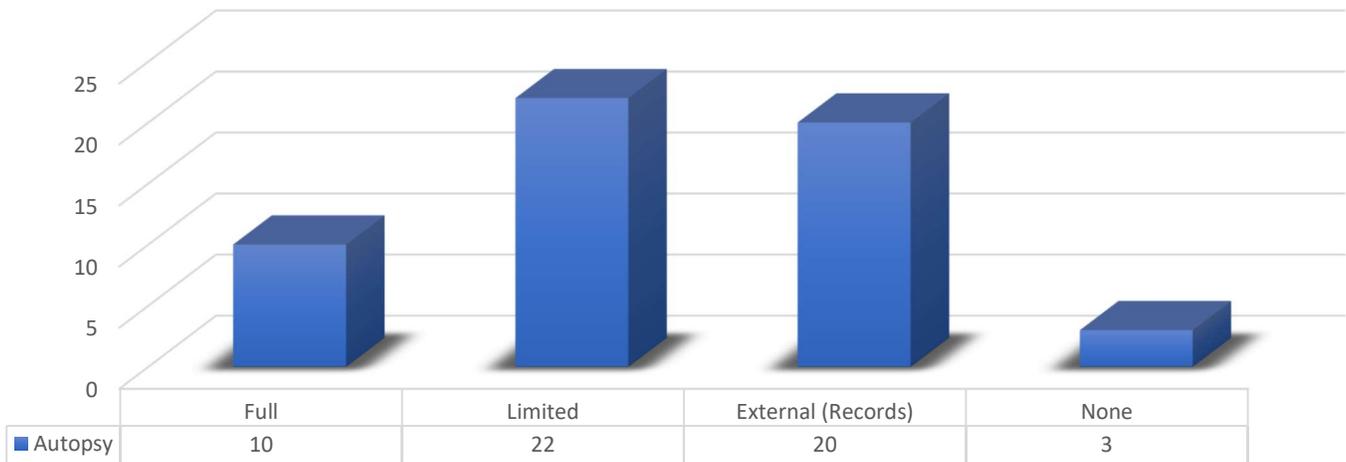
Coroner Cases/Race



Coroner Cases/Age



Autopsies December 2025



Autopsy Types:
Full – A complete external and internal examination is completed by the Forensic Pathologist with a written report.
Limited – A Complete external, and in some cases limited internal examination, is completed by the Forensic Pathologist with a written report.
External – No Physical examination is completed, however medical records from an external agency (hospital, nursing facility or physician) are reviewed by the Forensic Pathologist with a written report.
None – No physical examination or medical record review is necessary. Most of these cases are signed by the deceased's physician however family or physician information is not available at the time of death warranting a response from the Coroner's Office.



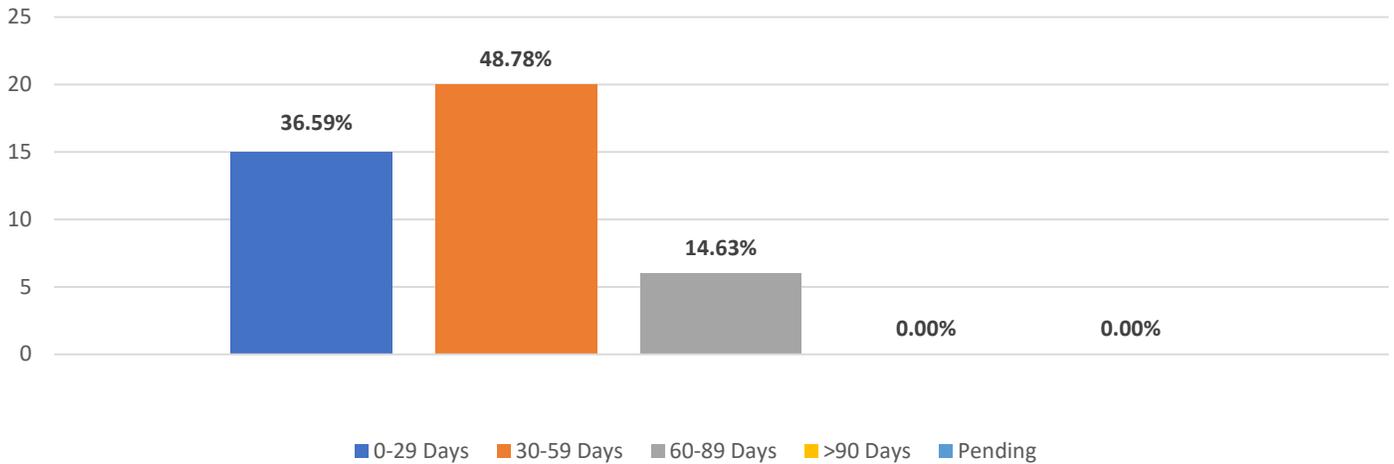
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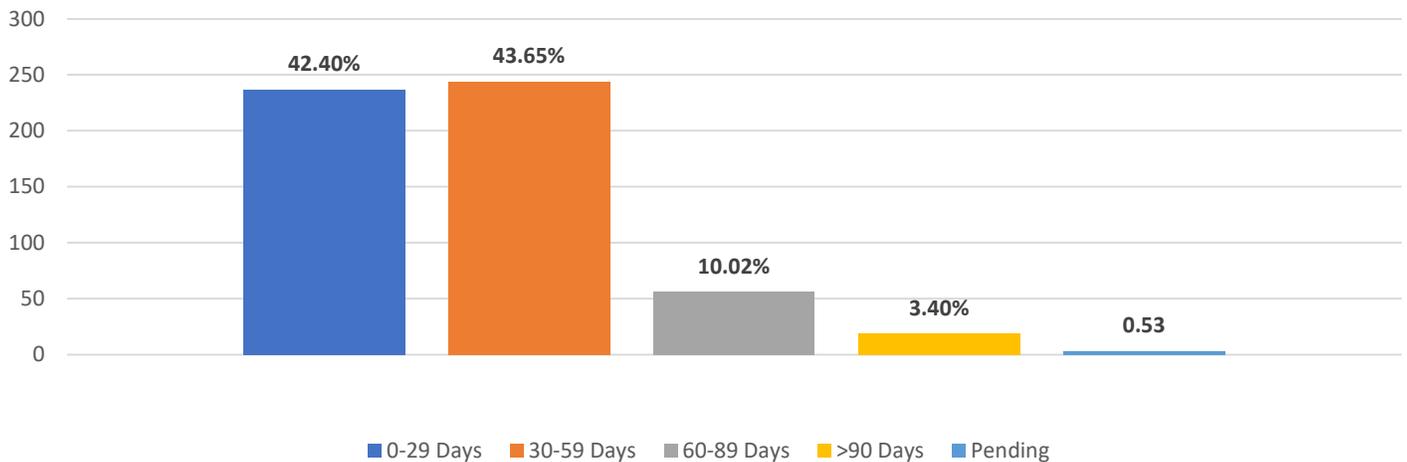
Case Closure Status

Coroner's Case Closure Rate November 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025: 85.37% ⁽⁴⁾



Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2025 – November 30, 2025 (running): 86.05% ⁽⁴⁾

Case Closure Rates by Days





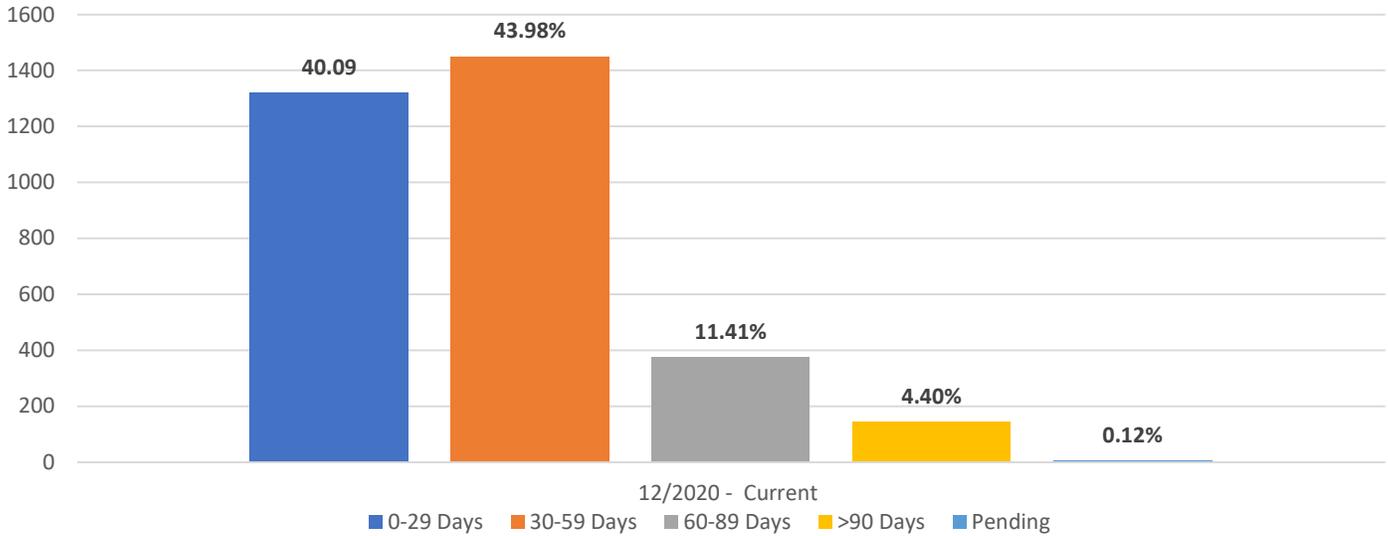
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Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – November 30, 2025: 84.07% ⁽⁴⁾

Case Closure Rates by Days



Case Closure <60 days by FY
Average for FY25 - **86.88%**⁽⁴⁾

