



Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA

Lake County Coroner

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TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK
DATE: MARCH 15, 2023
RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2022

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of **DECEMBER 2022** ⁽¹⁾:

Non-Coroner's Cases ⁽²⁾	443
Coroner's Case: ⁽³⁾	58
Total Death Investigations:	501

Total death investigations for December 2021:537

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for December 2022 (58), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 58 Coroner's Cases a total of 54 had further forensic examination (Autopsy) conducted by the Lake County Coroner's Forensic Pathologist, Eimad Zakariya, M.D., in conjunction with the Lake County Coroner's Autopsy Technician and Deputy Coroner Investigators.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 42 toxicology tests and, as a result, 36 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative or expanded testing.
 - In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 142 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 320 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in December 2022.
- Coroner Office Investigators completed and closed 90.57% of December Cases within 60 days of the date of the case. As of December 31, 2022, case closure rates within 60 days are 83.45% for the calendar year.
 - Case closure statistics outlined on following pages.

(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 months 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.

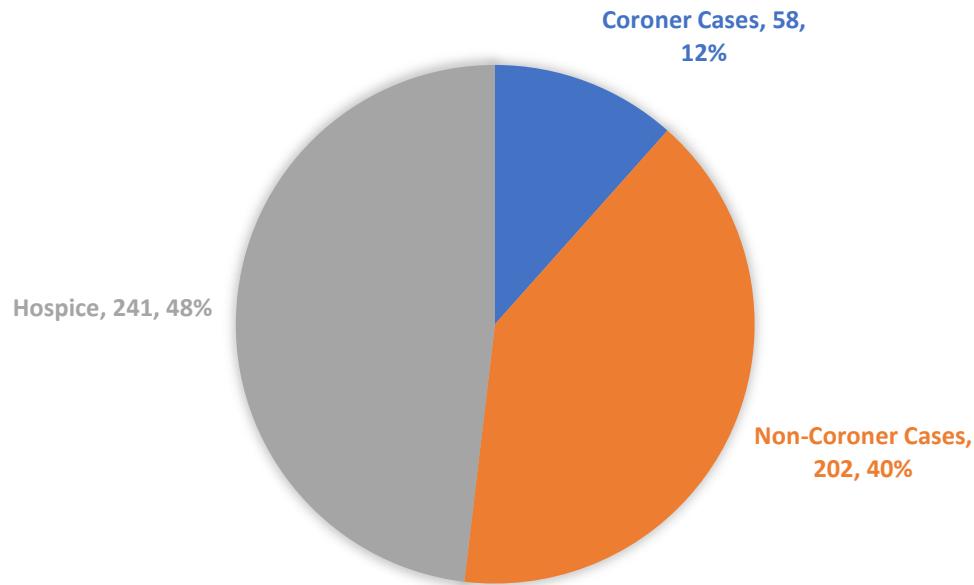


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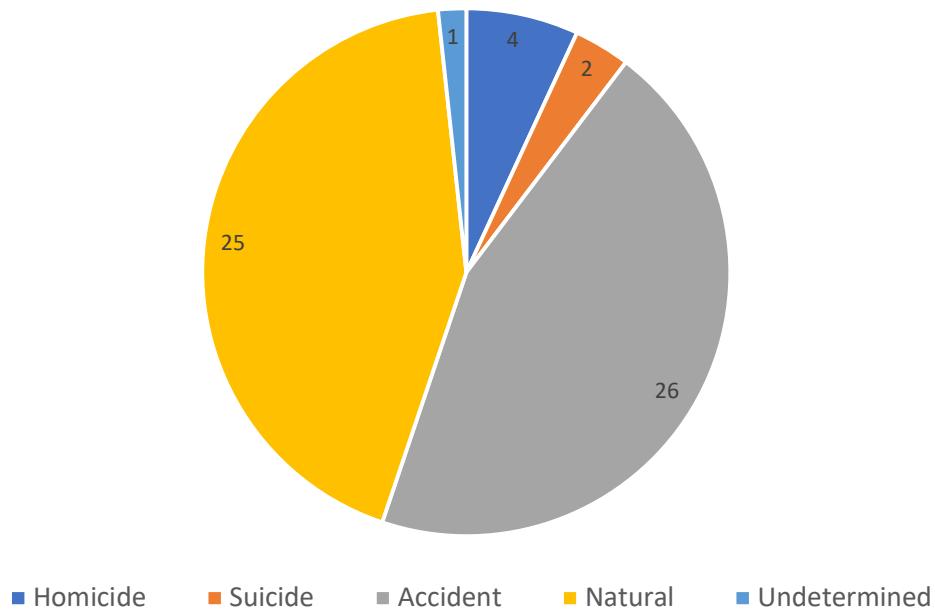
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DECEMBER 2022 OVERALL CASES



DECEMBER 2022 CORONER CASES

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



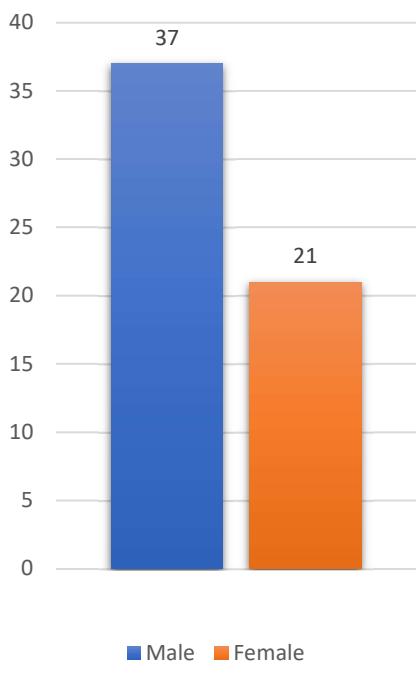


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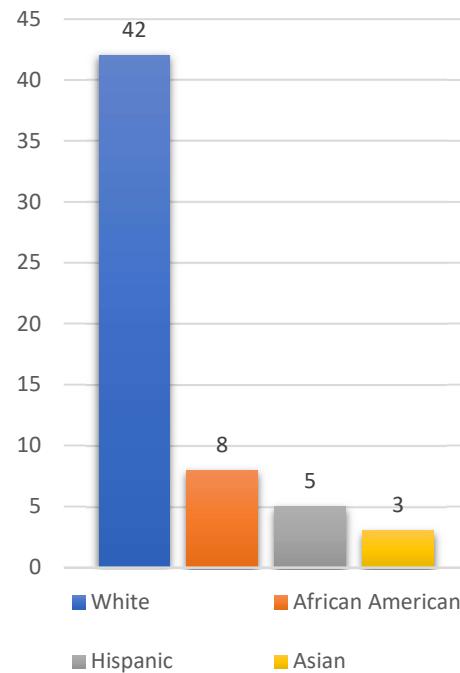
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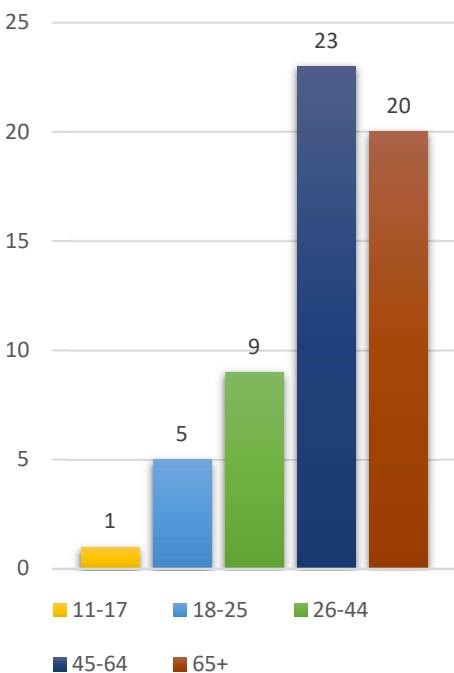
Coroner Cases/Gender



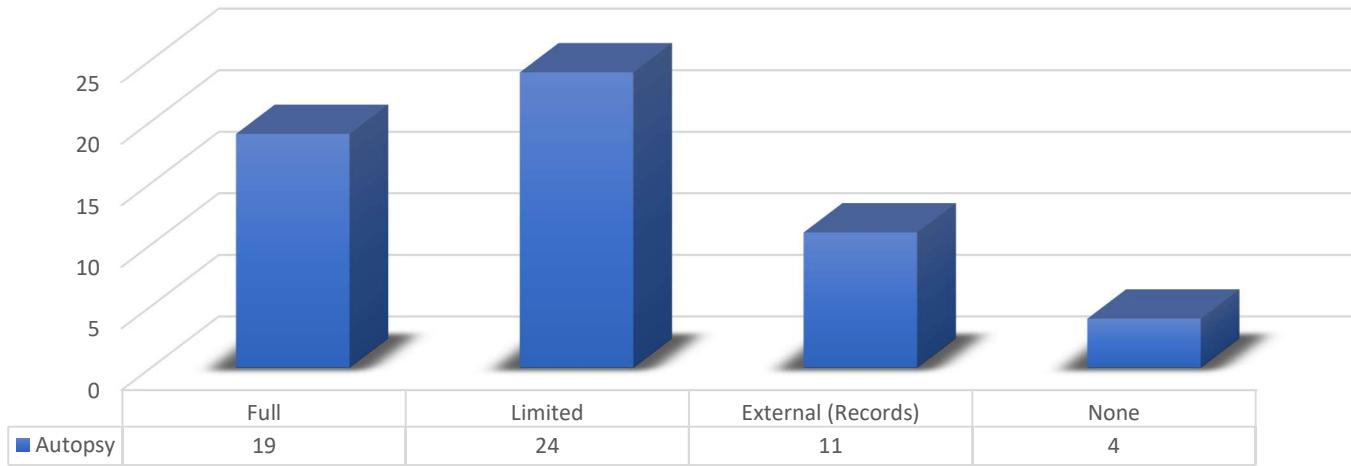
Coroner Cases/Race



Coroner Cases/Age



Autopsies December 2022



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.



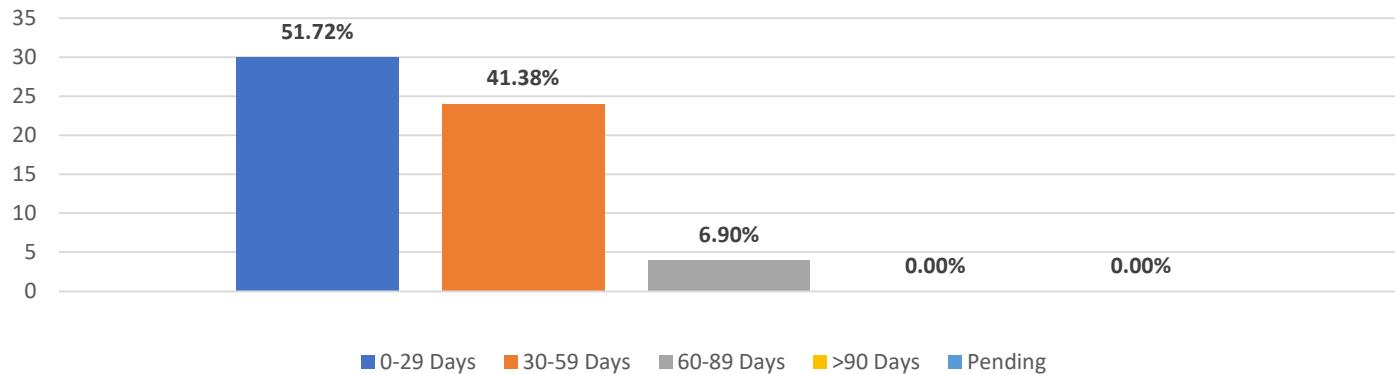
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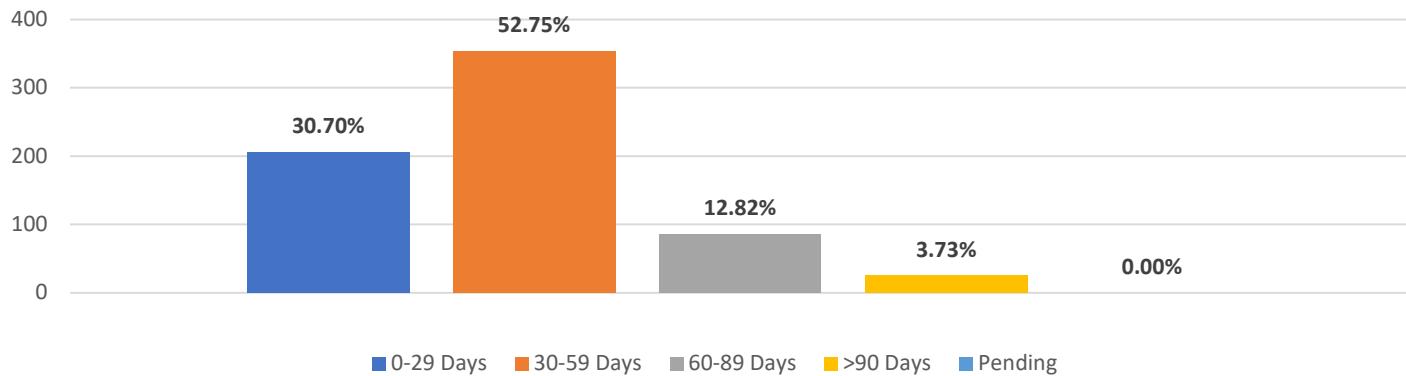
Case Closure Status

Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022:



Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Case Closure Rates by Days





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Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022:

