



**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

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TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK  
DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2024  
RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR **SEPTEMBER 2024**

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of **September 2024** <sup>(1)</sup>:

Non-Coroner's Cases <sup>(2)</sup>	352
<u>Coroner's Case: <sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>44</u>
<b>Total Death Investigations:</b>	<b>396</b>

*Total death investigations for September 2023: 457*

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for September 2024 (44), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 44 Coroner's Cases a total of 40 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.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 32 toxicology tests, and, as a result, 29 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 115 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office issued 273 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in September 2024, for a total of \$27,200 in revenue from state mandated permit fees.
- To date, Coroner Office Investigators completed and closed **93.18%** of September Cases within 60 days of the date of the case with 3 cases pending.
- In September 2024, the Coroner's Office investigated 3 deaths as a result of firearms, 2 Suicides and 1 Homicide. This brings the total number of firearm related deaths to 37 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.



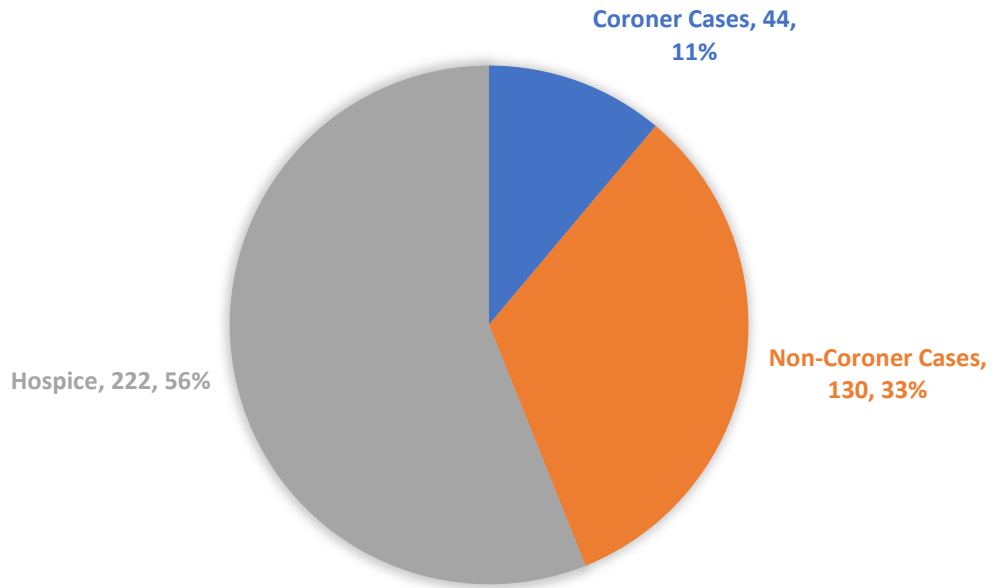
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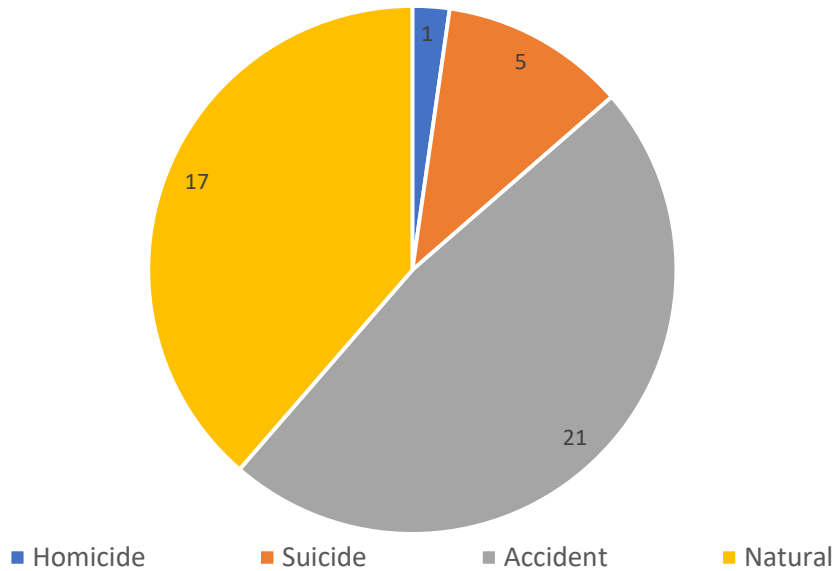
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### SEPTEMBER 2024 OVERALL CASES



### SEPTEMBER 2024 CORONER CASES

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



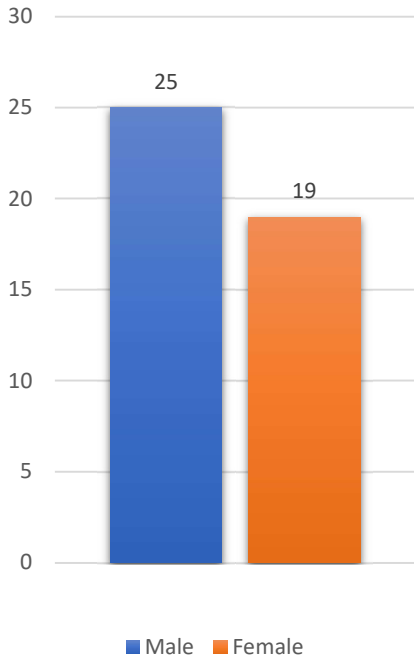


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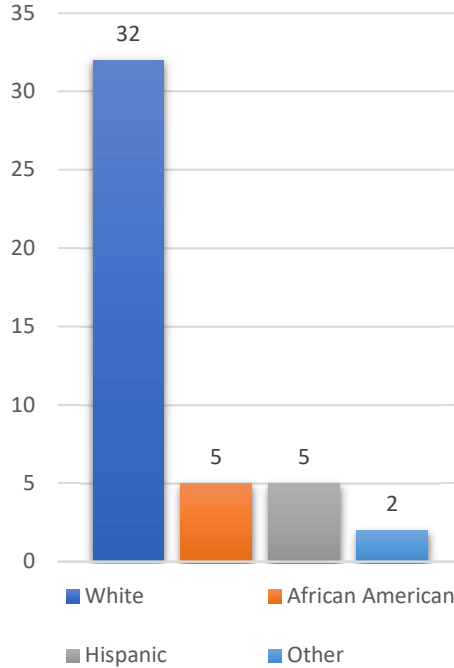
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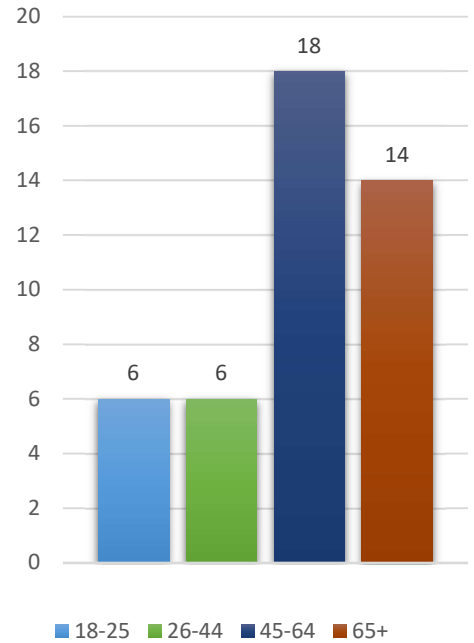
**Coroner Cases/Gender**



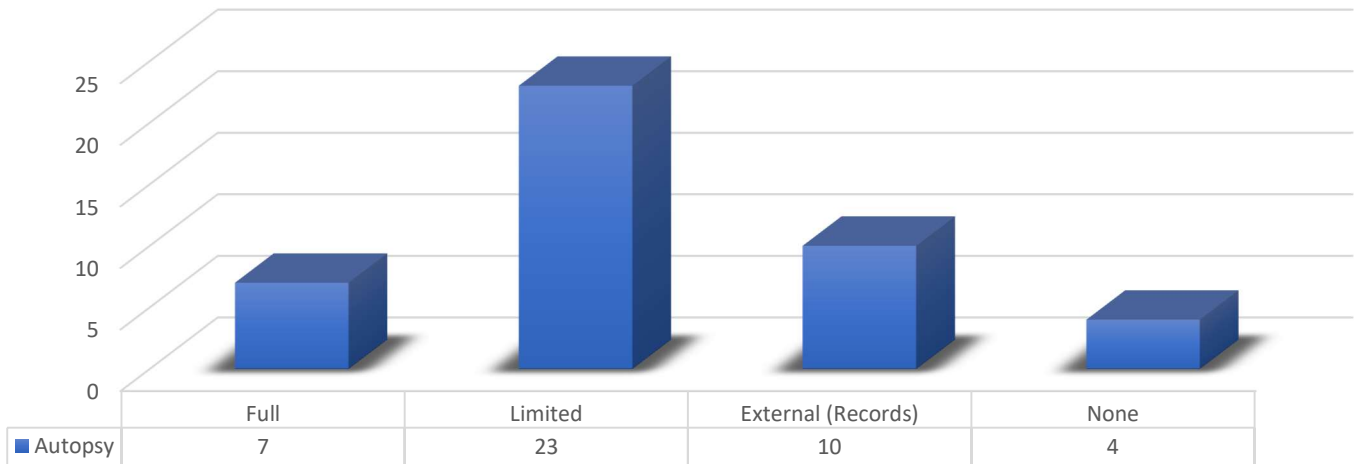
**Coroner Cases/Race**



**Coroner Cases/Age**



### Autopsies September 2024



**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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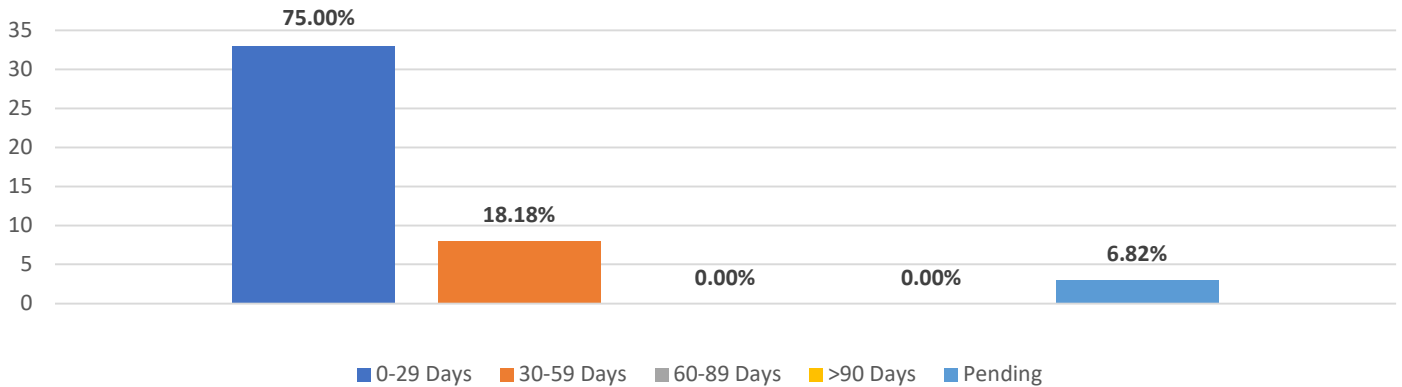
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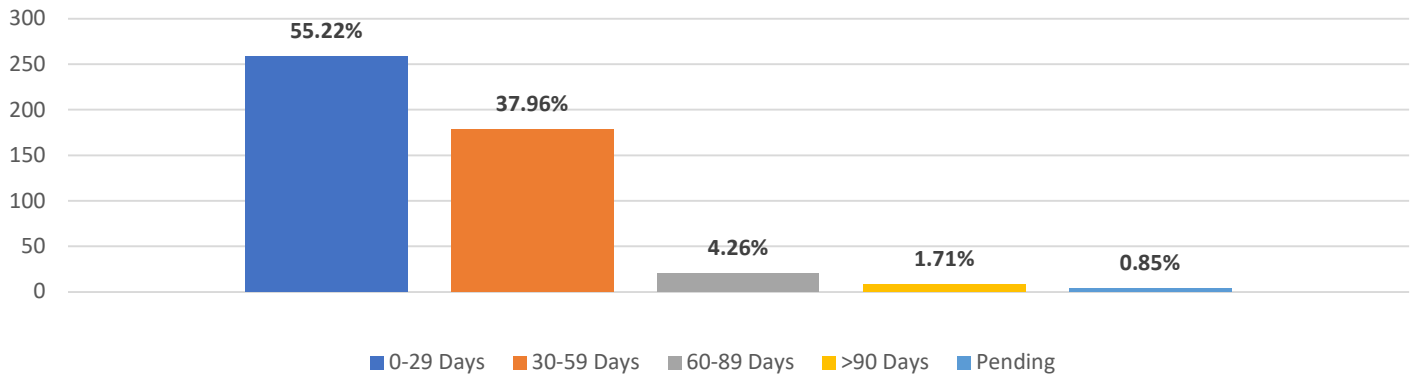
## Case Closure Status

**Coroner's Case Closure Rate September 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024: 93.18%**



**Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024 (running): 93.18%**

### Case Closure Rates by Days





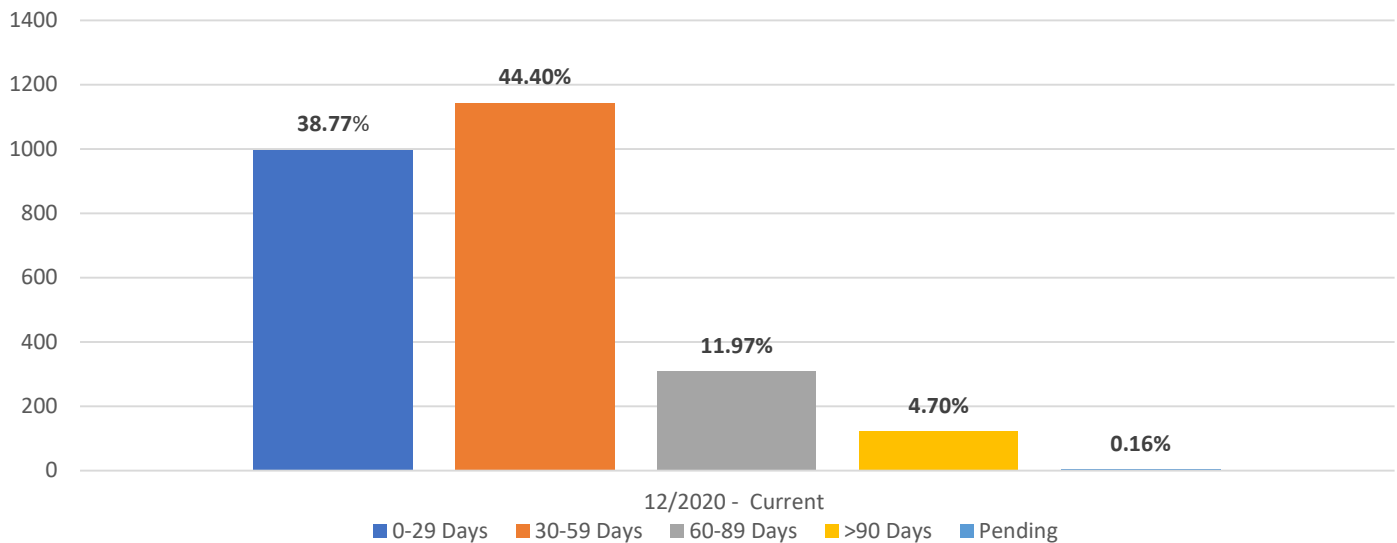
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**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – September 30, 2024: 83.17%**

Case Closure Rates by Days



Case Closure <60 days by FY  
Average for FY24 - 92.70%

