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TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2023

RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR **SEPTEMBER 2023**

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of **SEPTEMBER 2023** [1]:

Non-Coroner's Cases [2]	385
Coroner's Case: [3]	50
Total Death Investigations:	**435**

Total death investigations for August 2022: 427

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for September 2023 (50), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.

- Of the 50 Coroner's Cases a total of 45 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 Forensic Technician and Deputy Coroner Investigators.

- The Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 35 toxicology tests and, as a result, 33 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative or expanded testing.

  o In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 138 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.

- The Lake County Coroner's Office issued 281 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in August 2023, for a total of $27,900 in revenue from state mandated permit fees.

- To date, Coroner Office Investigators completed and closed **88.00%** of September Cases within 60 days of the date of the case with 6 cases pending.

- In September 2023, the Coroner's Office investigated 6 deaths as a result of firearms, 3 were ruled Homicide, 2 were ruled Suicide, and 1 was ruled Undetermined. This brings the total number of firearm related deaths to 54 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.
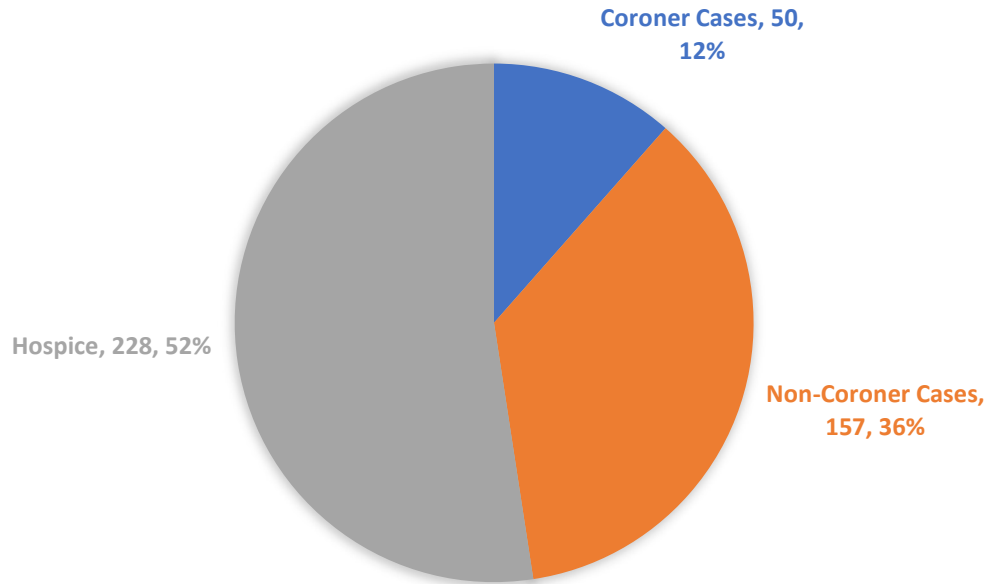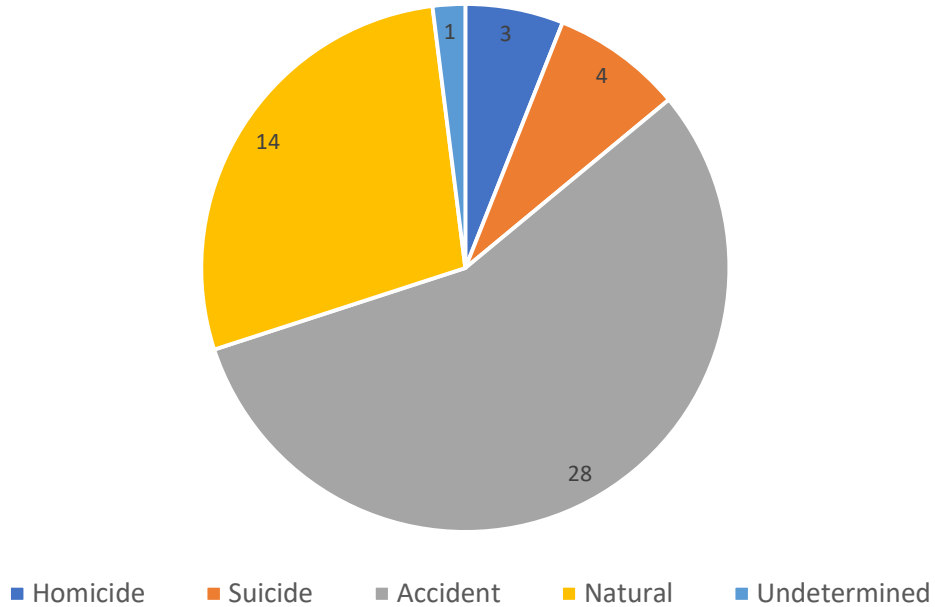
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SEPTEMBER 2023 OVERALL CASES

Coroner Cases, 50, 12%

Hospice, 228, 52%

Non-Coroner Cases, 157, 36%

SEPTEMBER 2023 CORONER CASES

This data includes <u>Suspected</u> Manner of Death in Cases still pending finalization.

3

4

1

14

28

■ Homicide ■ Suicide ■ Accident ■ Natural ■ Undetermined
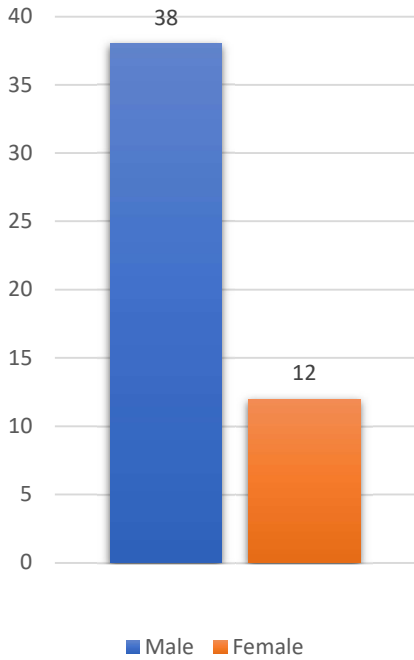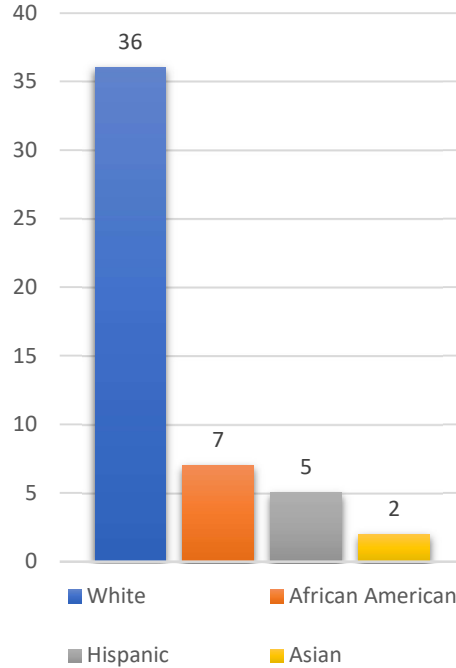
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Coroner Cases/Gender

Male	Female
38	12

Coroner Cases/Race

White	African American	Hispanic	Asian
36	7	5	2

Coroner Cases/Age

1-5	18-25	26-44	45-64	65+
1	5	8	19	17

Autopsies August 2023

	Full	Limited	External (Records)	None
Autopsy	14	20	11	5
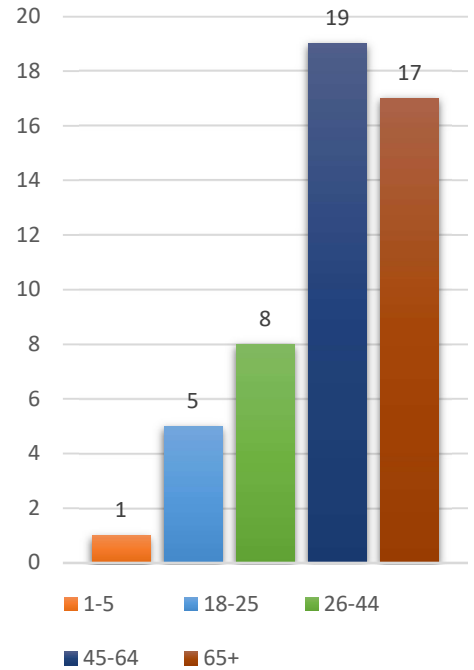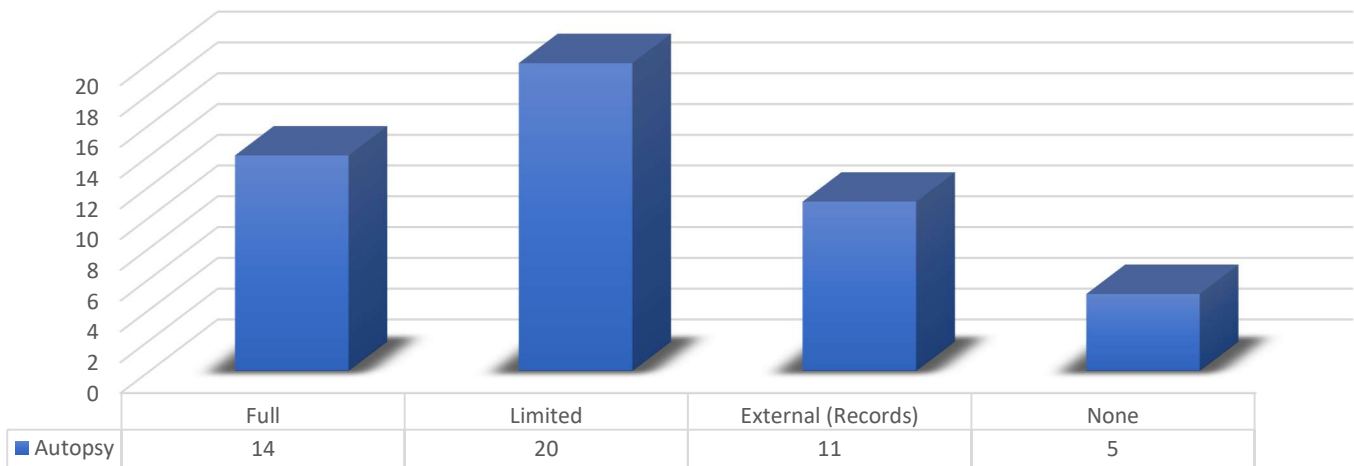
Autopsy Types: **Full** – A complete external and internal examination is completed by the Forensic Pathologist with a written report.

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.
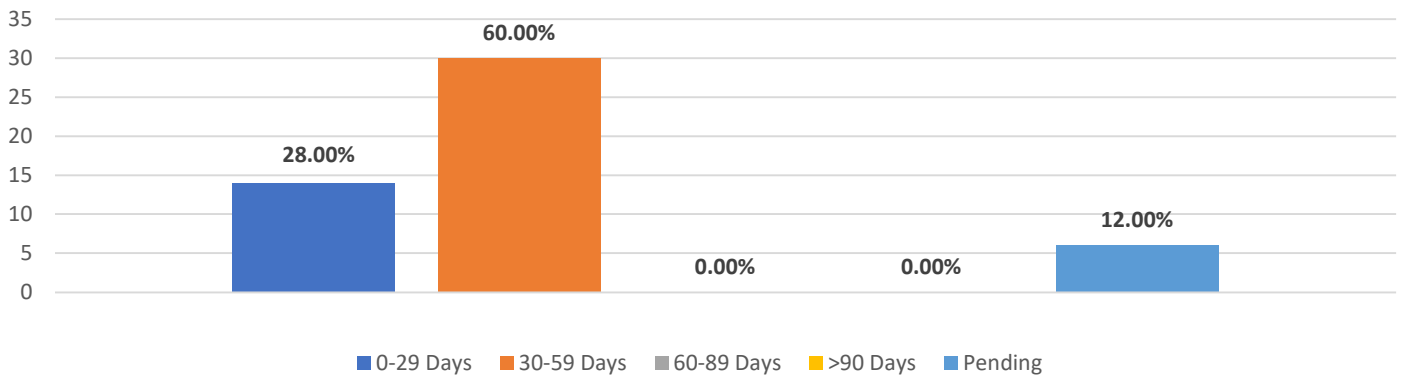
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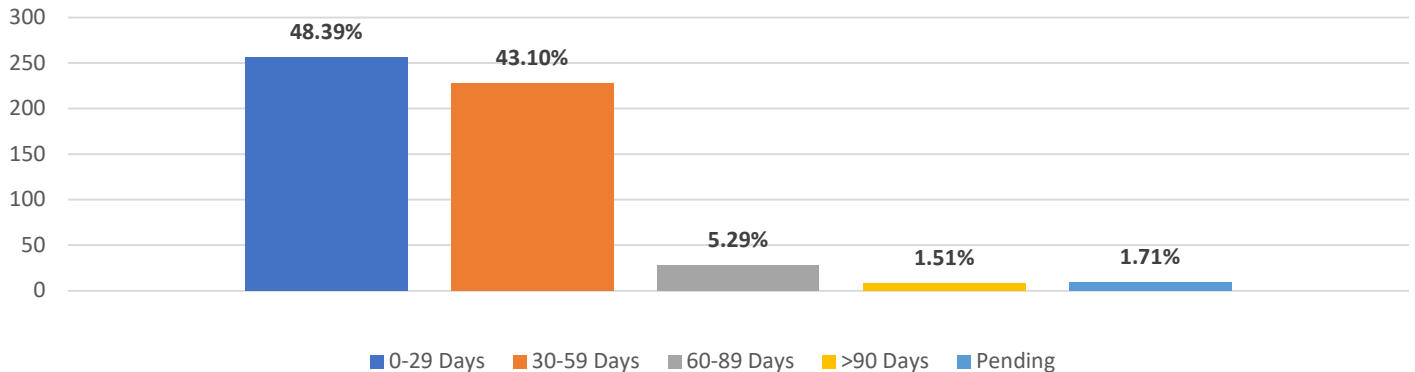
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Case Closure Status

Coroner's Case Closure Rate September 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023: 88.00%

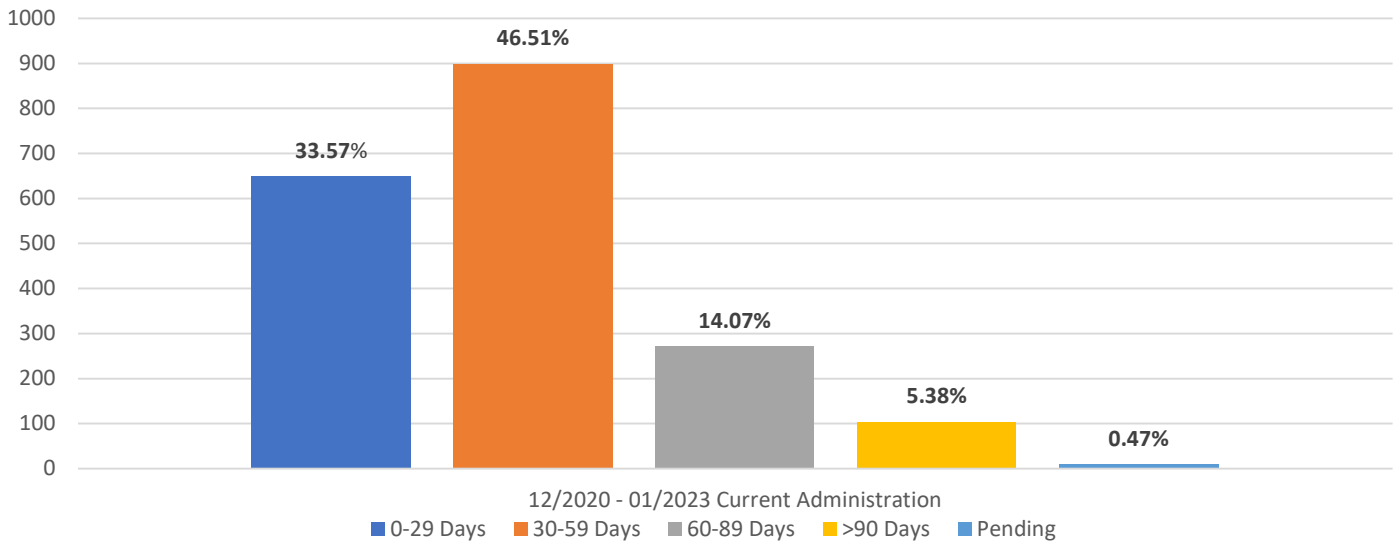**Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023 (running): 91.49%**

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Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – September 30, 2023: 80.08%

Case Closure Rates by Days

33.57%

46.51%

14.07%

5.38%

0.47%

12/2020 - 01/2023 Current Administration

■ 0-29 Days ■ 30-59 Days ■ 60-89 Days ■ >90 Days ■ Pending

Case Closure <60 days by FY

—— FY2018 —— FY2019 —— FY2020 —— FY2021 —— FY2022 —— FY2023