



**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

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TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK  
RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR AUGUST 2021

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of AUGUST 2021 <sup>(1)</sup>:

Non-Coroner's Cases <sup>(2)</sup>	416
Coroner's Case: <sup>(3)</sup>	65
<b>Total Death Investigations:</b>	<b>481</b>

*Total death investigations for August 2020: 471*

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for August 2021 (65), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 65 Coroner's Cases a total of 55 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 41 toxicology tests and, as a result, 31 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.
  - In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 116 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 301 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in August 2021.

(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 more recent 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.



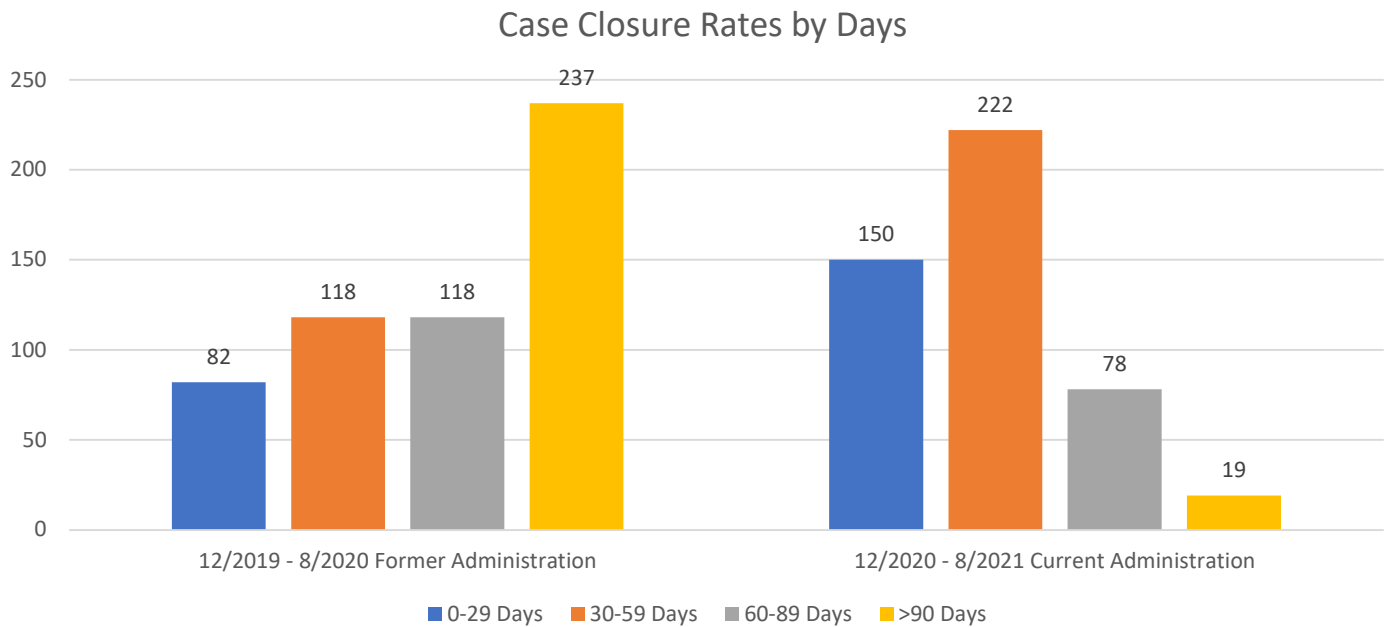
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**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1 – September 30:**

- The chart below demonstrates the case closure rates as compared from December 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020, (Past Administration) and December 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021 (Current Administration)
  - December 2019 – September 2020
    - Of the total cases only 36% were closed within 60 days, leaving 64% open for more than 60 days. Of the total cases, 42% were open over 90 Days.
  - December 2020 – September 2021 (Current Administration)
    - Of the total cases 68% have been closed within 60 days, leaving 32% open more than 60 days. Of the total cases, 3% were open over 90 days.





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## **August 2021**

- ***Deputy Coroner Candidate Final Interviews***

- Through the beginning of August 7 second interviews were completed with candidates and on August 25, 2021, an offer of employment was extended and accepted by one of the final candidates. The Lake County Coroner's Office welcomes Emmanuel Jabastin. Mr. Jabastin served a number of years in the United States Marine Corps and comes to us from the Grayslake Fire Protection District where he was employed as a Firefighter/Paramedic.

- ***Coffee with the Coroner***

- Coroner Banek hosted a "Coffee with the Coroner" in Mundelein aimed at meeting with local community partners, such as funeral directors, to introduce herself and obtain feedback on the relationship with the Coroner's Office. During this open house type of event the Coroner provided guests with statistical data on the office as well as the case closure rates, which impact the funeral homes and families.

- ***Meeting with Gift of Hope***

- Coroner Banek and staff met with staff from the "Gift of Hope". Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network is proud to serve as the federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) that coordinates organ and tissue donation and services to families of donors in the northern three-quarters of Illinois and northwest Indiana. Staff met and discussed the ongoing relationship with the Lake County Coroner's Office as well as potential future technology advances that will assist in Deputies coordinating Gift of Hope contact with family members.

- ***Missing Pieces follow up***

- Missing Pieces staff met with the Coroner and Chief Deputy to discuss the ongoing partnership and to gauge the response from families who have been touched by this partnership. Missing Pieces partners with Chicagoland organizations to support people after a child dies. We want to help everyone who has experienced the loss of a child from perinatal through young adult deaths. including deaths from medical problems, trauma, suicide, homicide, or overdose.



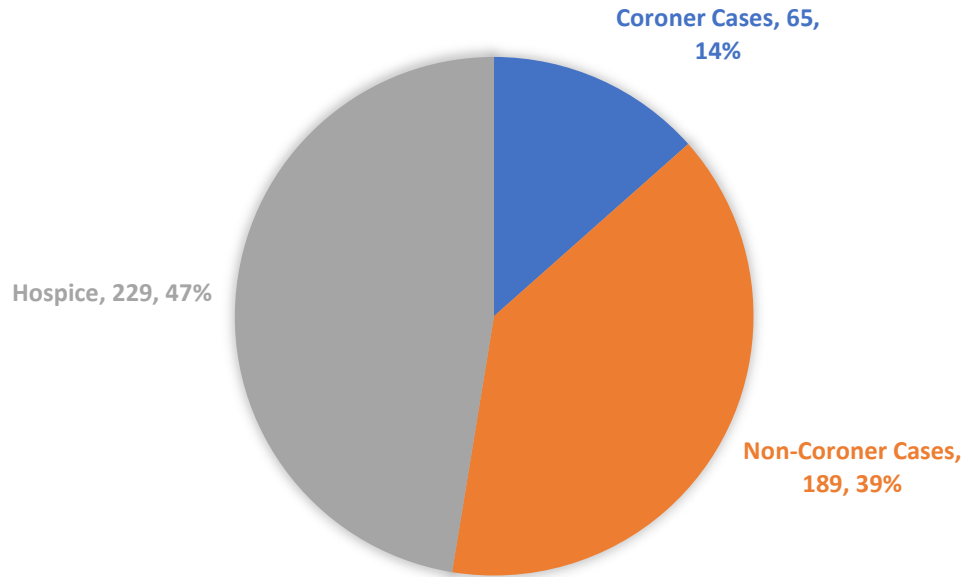
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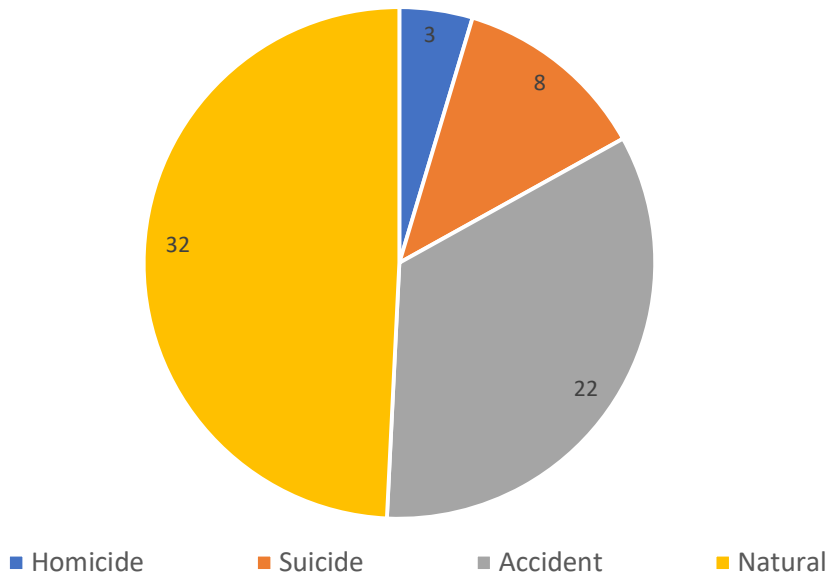
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### AUGUST 2021 OVERALL CASES



### AUGUST 2021 CORONER CASES

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



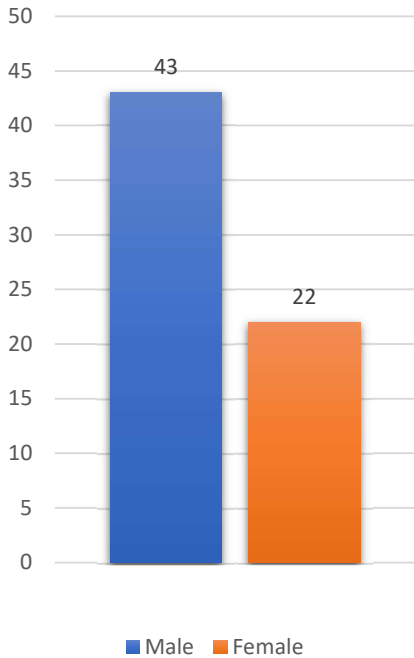


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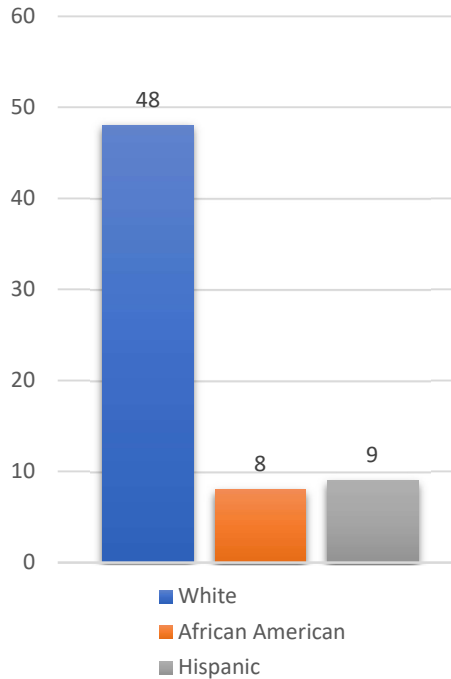
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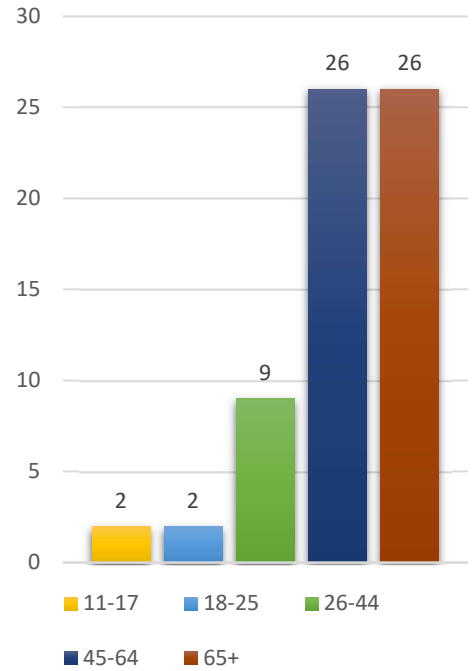
**Coroner Cases/Gender**



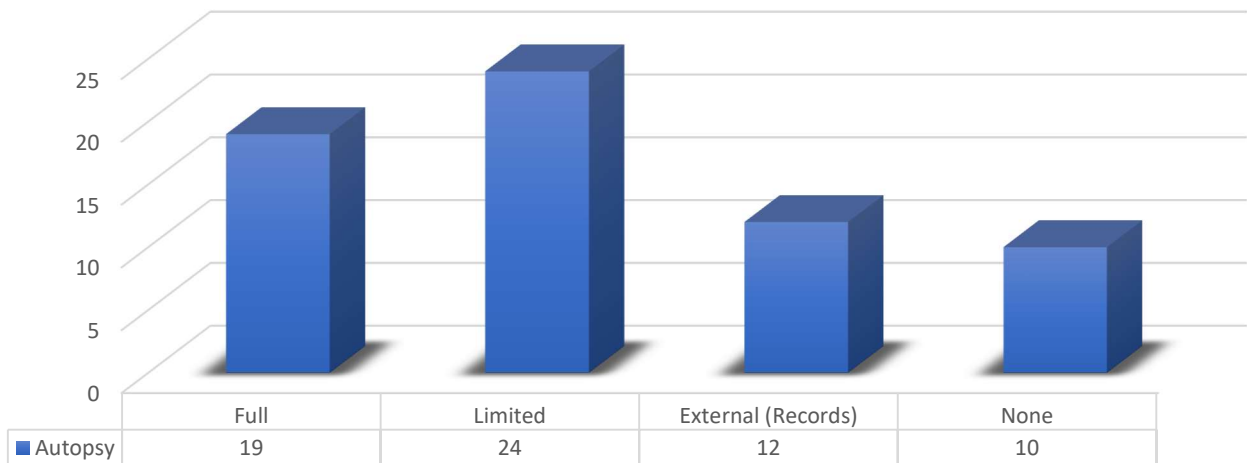
**Coroner Cases/Race**



**Coroner Cases/Age**



### Autopsies August 2021



**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.