



Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA

Lake County Coroner

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TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK

RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of SEPTEMBER 2021 ⁽¹⁾:

Non-Coroner's Cases ⁽²⁾	386
Coroner's Case: ⁽³⁾	64
Total Death Investigations:	450

Total death investigations for August 2020: 424

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for September 2021 (64), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 64 Coroner's Cases a total of 51 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 38 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 187 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 284 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in September 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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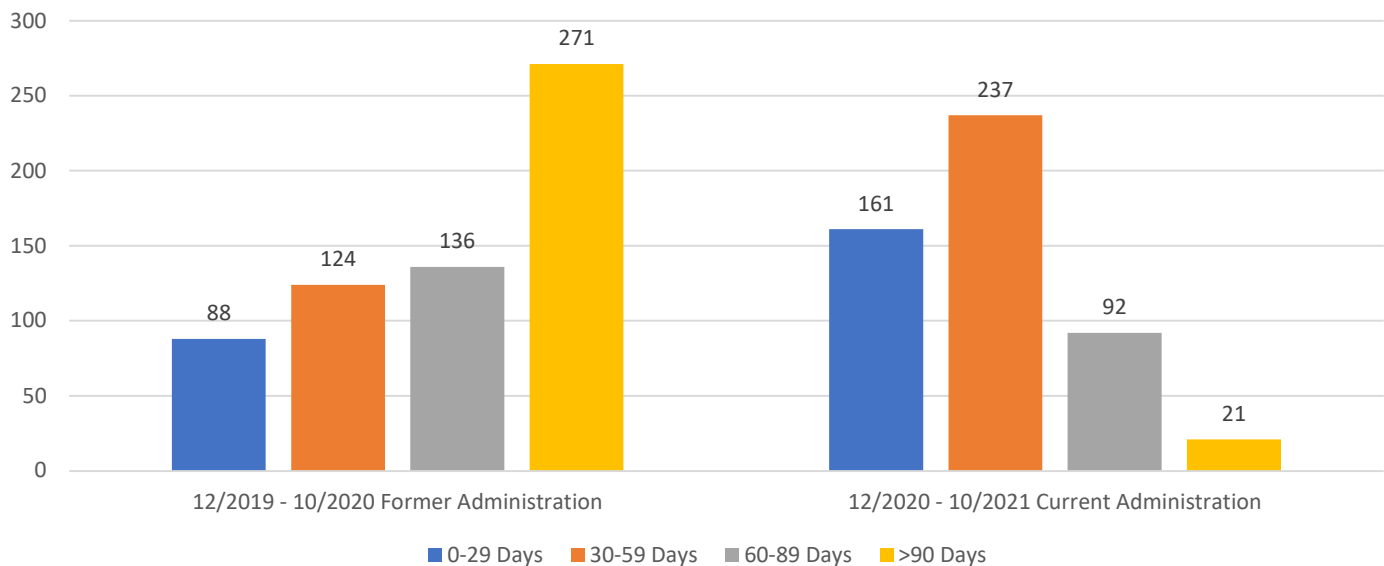
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Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1 – September 30:

- The chart below demonstrates the case closure rates as compared from December 1, 2019, through October 31, 2020, (Past Administration) and December 1, 2020, through October 31, 2021 (Current Administration)
 - December 2019 – October 2020
 - Of the total cases only 34% were closed within 60 days, leaving 66% open for more than 60 days. Of the total cases, 43% were open over 90 Days.
 - December 2020 – October 2021 (Current Administration)
 - Of the total cases 65% have been closed within 60 days, leaving 35% open more than 60 days. Of the total cases, 3% were open over 90 days.

Case Closure Rates by Days





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September 2021

- ***Grayslake Police Department Tour***

- The Lake County Coroner's Office hosted a tour and overview of our office for Evidence Technicians of the Grayslake Police Department. It is important that our partner agencies throughout the county have an understanding of the processes at the Lake County Coroner's Office as it relates to death investigations, especially when it comes to potential criminal matters.

- ***Meeting with Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County***

- Coroner Banek and Chief Deputy Newton met with the Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County to discuss the services they offer and how they could be beneficial to families of Veterans who die within Lake County.

- ***Meeting with LEAD***

- Coroner Banek and Chief Deputy Newton met with the CEO and CAO from LEAD (Linking Efforts Against Drugs) to evaluate opportunities for the organization and the Lake County Coroner's Office. LEAD™ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to parents and other adults and their role in the promotion of healthy family relationships and the prevention of alcohol, drug use, and other risky behavior by youth. LEAD has served the Lake Forest, Lake Bluff and Knollwood, IL communities for nearly 30 years, and now conducts trainings, workshops, and presentations for both youth and adults all over the country. Lead is also a part of the "TextForHelp.app", The only youth-focused mental health crisis text hotline in the country that is available 24/7, fully anonymous, and staffed by licensed mental health counselors.

- ***Multi-jurisdictional Mass Fatality Drill***

- Coroner Banek and staff of the Lake County Coroner's Office joined numerous law enforcement and fire/recue agencies, from the local to federal level, at the U.S. Naval Training Center at Great Lakes multi-jurisdictional mass fatality drill. The drill simulated a real time response and management of a mass fatality incident occurring on the Naval Base.

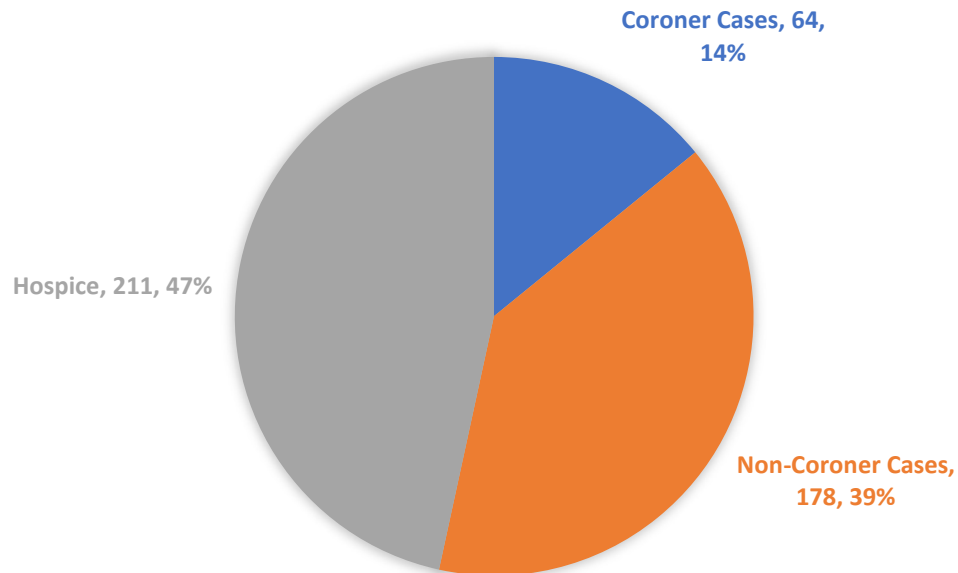


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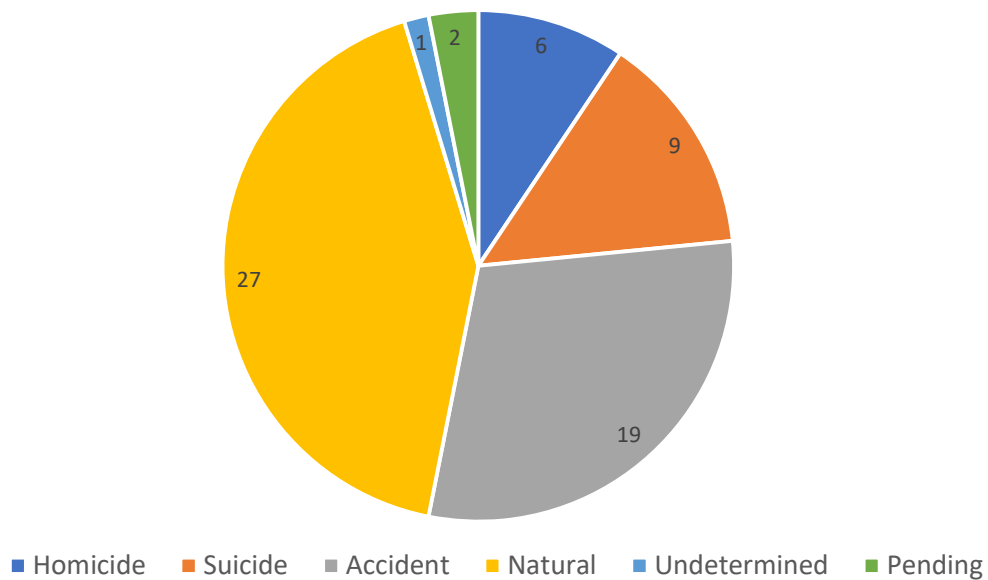
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SEPTEMBER 2021 OVERALL CASES



SEPTEMBER 2021 CORONER CASES

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



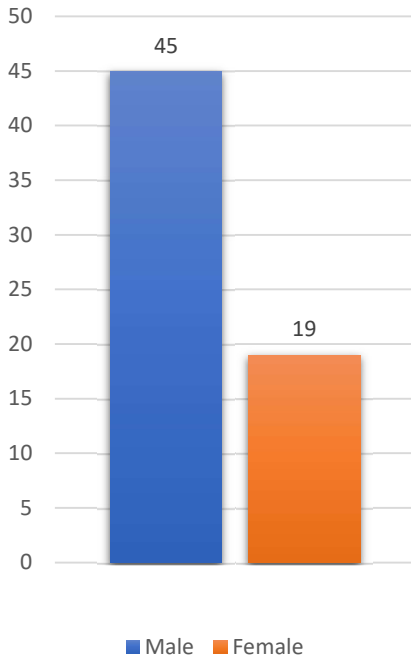


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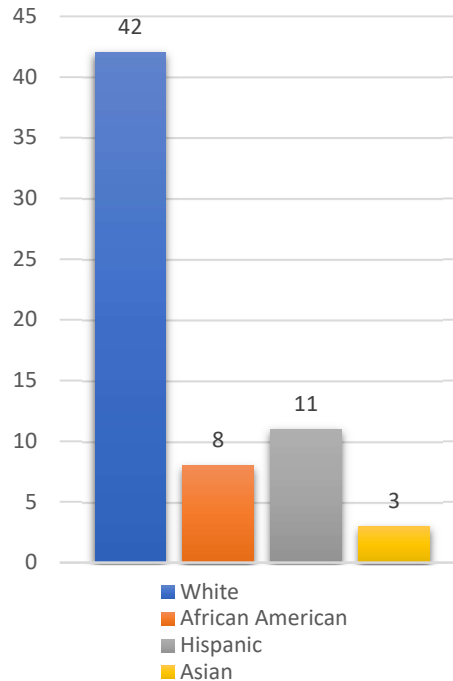
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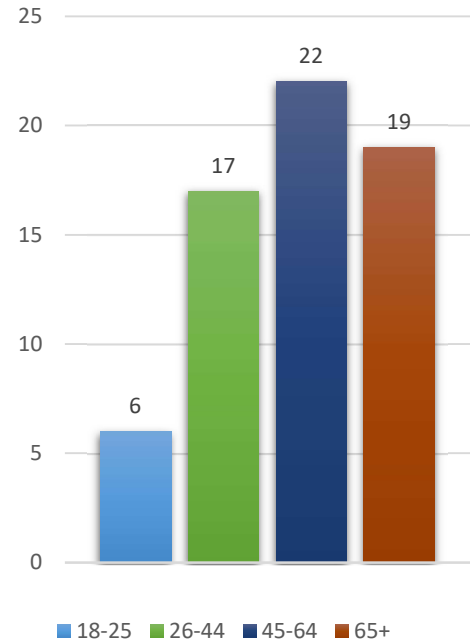
Coroner Cases/Gender



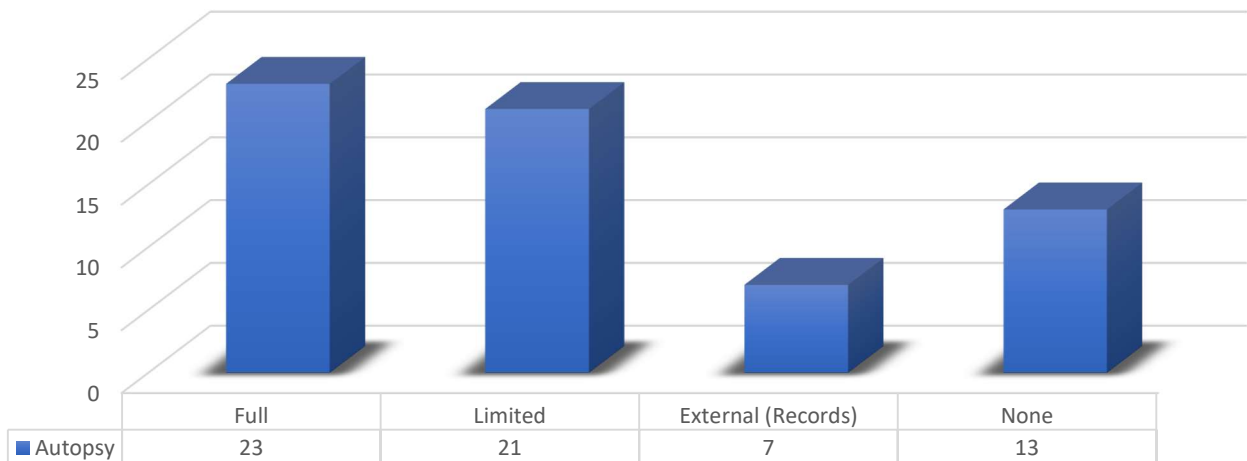
Coroner Cases/Race



Coroner Cases/Age



Autopsies September 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.