



Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA

Lake County Coroner

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TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2025

RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR **SEPTEMBER 2025**

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of **September 2025** ⁽¹⁾:

Non-Coroner's Cases ⁽²⁾	424
<u>Coroner's Case: ⁽³⁾</u>	<u>58</u>
Total Death Investigations:	482

Total death investigations for September 2024: 396

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for September 2025 (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 50 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 41 toxicology tests, and, as a result, 39 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 117 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office issued 311 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in September 2025, for a total of \$31,000 in revenue from state mandated permit fees.
- To date, Coroner Office Investigators completed and closed **84.44%** of **AUGUST** Cases within 60 days of the date of the case with 3 cases pending. ⁽⁴⁾
- In September 2025, the Coroner's Office investigated 3 deaths as a result of firearms, 3 suicides. This brings the total number of firearm related deaths to 34 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.

(4) Data reported is from the month prior to the reporting month to allow more complete data.

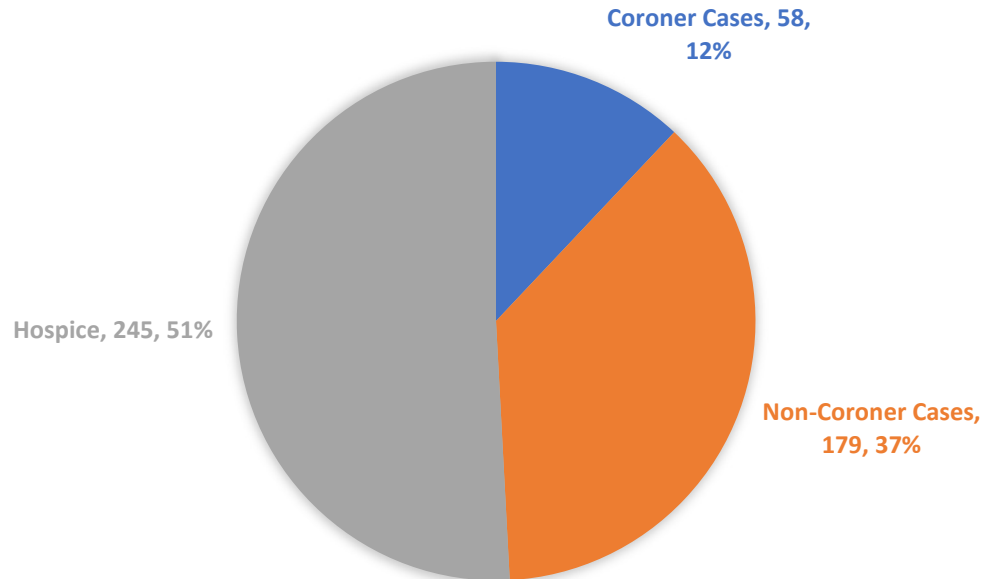


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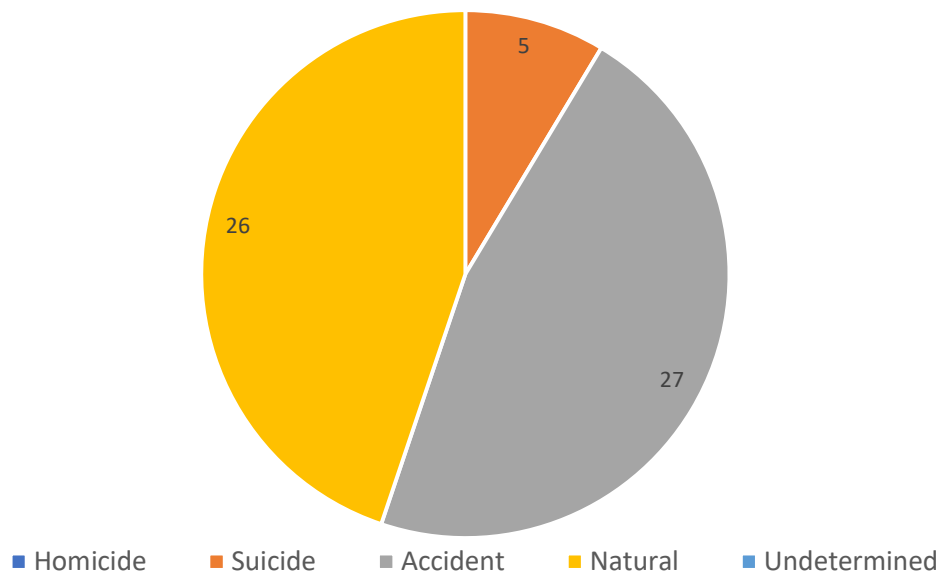
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SEPTEMBER 2025 OVERALL CASES



SEPTEMBER 2025 CORONER CASES

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



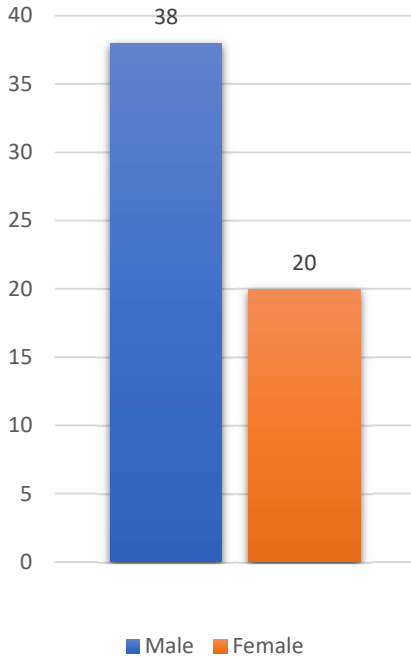


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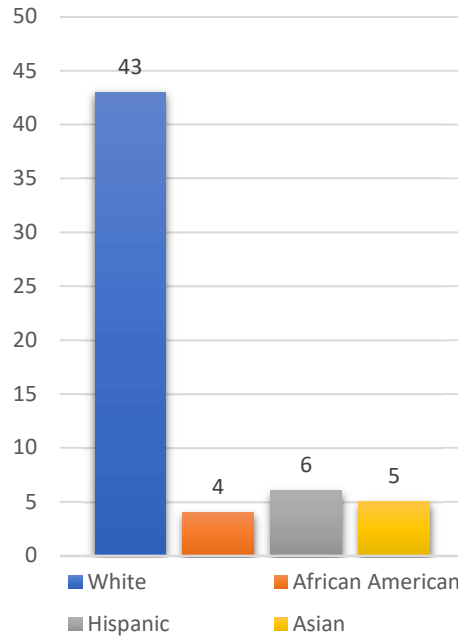
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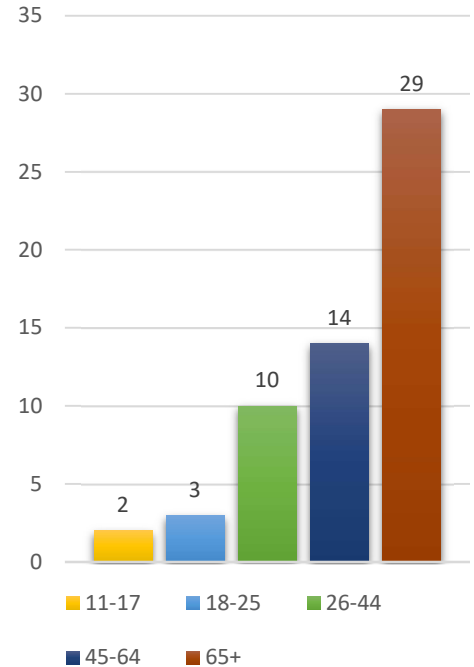
Coroner Cases/Gender



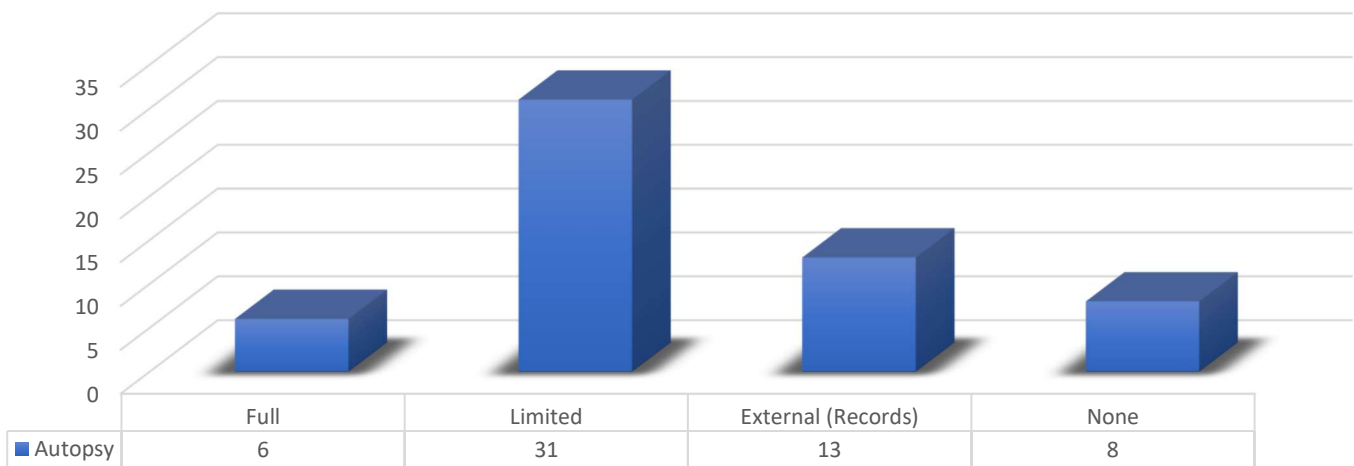
Coroner Cases/Race



Coroner Cases/Age



Autopsies September 2025



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.



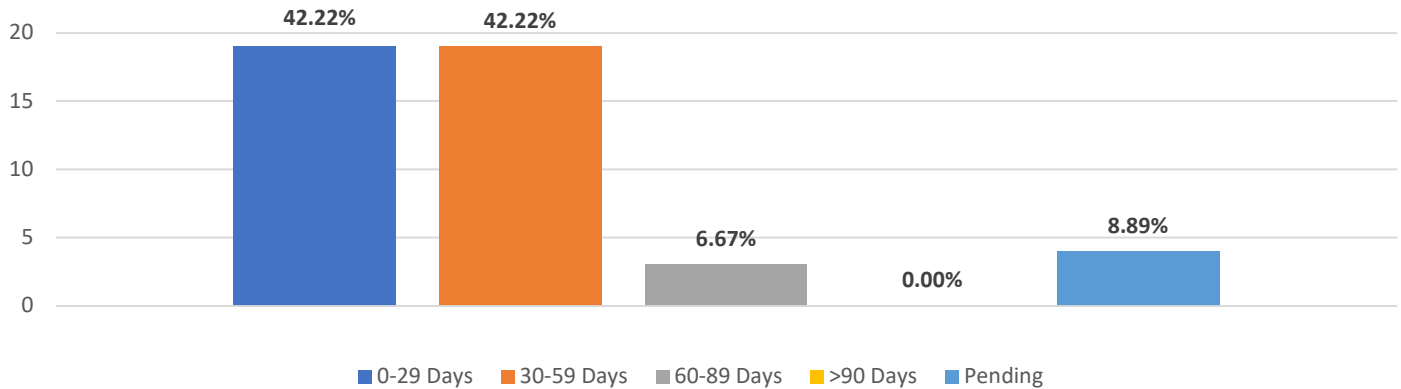
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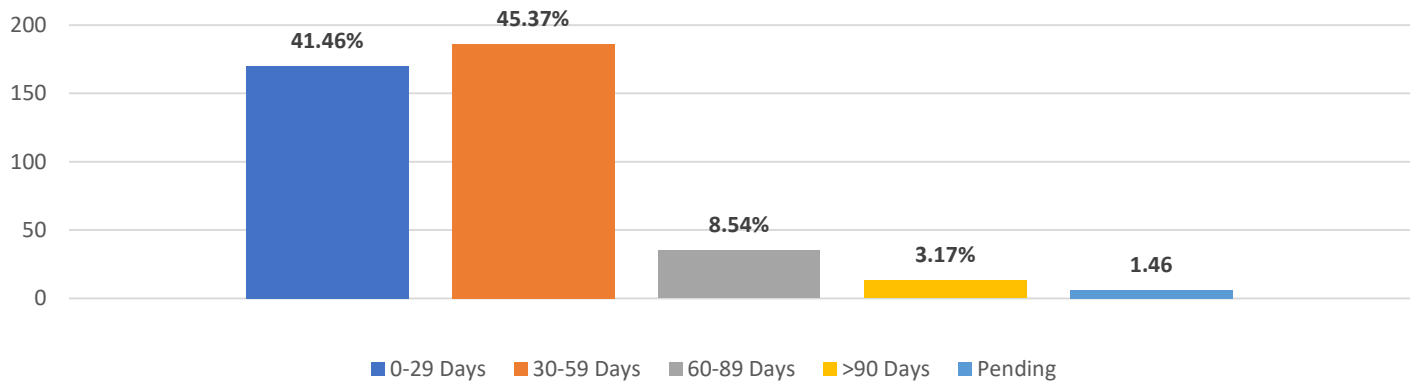
Case Closure Status

Coroner's Case Closure Rate August 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025: 84.44% ⁽⁴⁾



Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2025 – August 31, 2025 (running): 86.83% ⁽⁴⁾

Case Closure Rates by Days





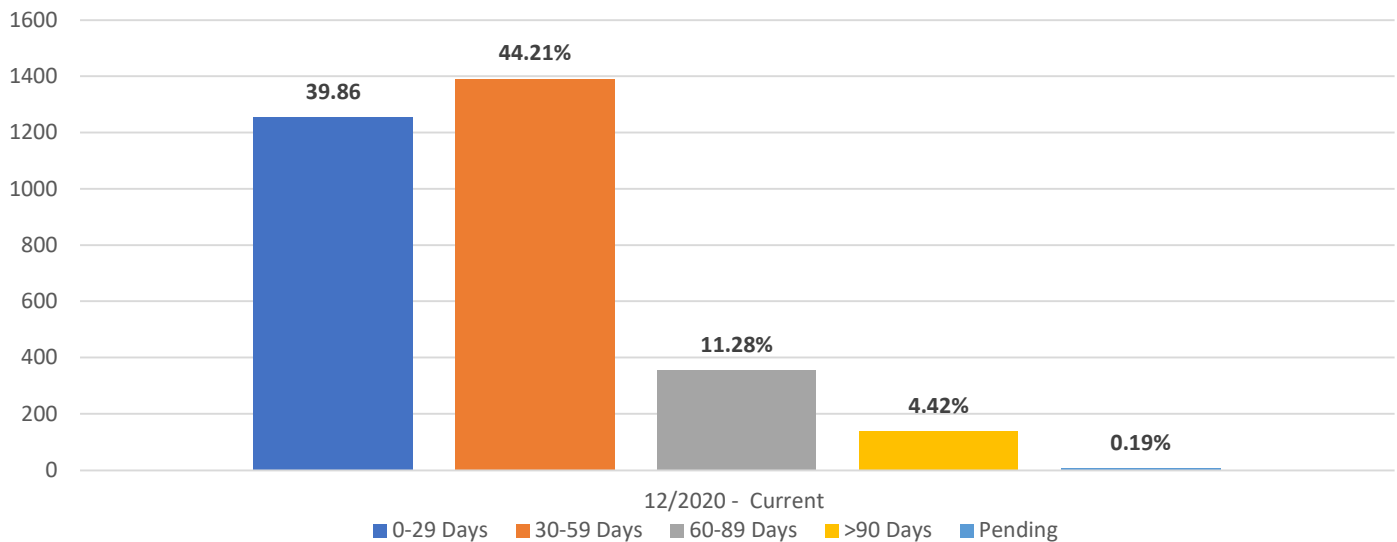
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Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – August 31, 2025: 84.07% ⁽⁴⁾

Case Closure Rates by Days



**Case Closure <60 days by FY
Average for FY25 - 86.88%⁽⁴⁾**

