



**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK  
DATE: MARCH 14, 2025, 2025  
RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2024

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

Non-Coroner's Cases <sup>(2)</sup>	483
<u>Coroner's Case: <sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>62</u>
<b>Total Death Investigations:</b>	<b>545</b>

*Total death investigations for December 2023: 490*

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for December 2024 (62), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 62 Coroner's Cases a total of 55 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 43 toxicology tests, and, as a result, 41 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 107 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office issued 356 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in December 2024, for a total of \$35,400 in revenue from state mandated permit fees.
- To date, Coroner Office Investigators completed and closed **87.09%** of December Cases within 60 days of the date of the case with 3 cases pending.
- In December 2024, the Coroner's Office investigated 3 deaths as a result of firearms, 1 Suicide and 2 Homicides. This brings the total number of firearm related deaths to 49 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.



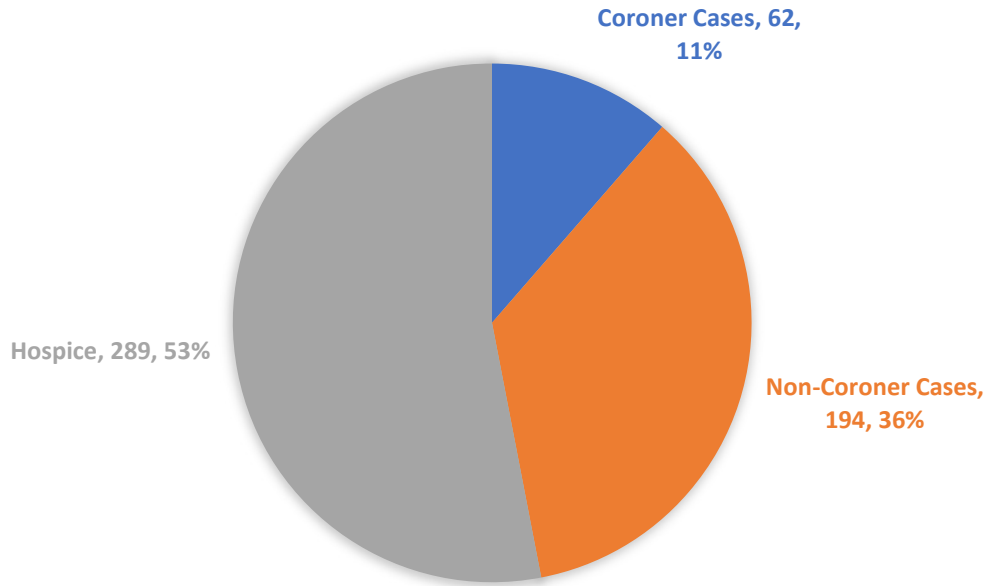
**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

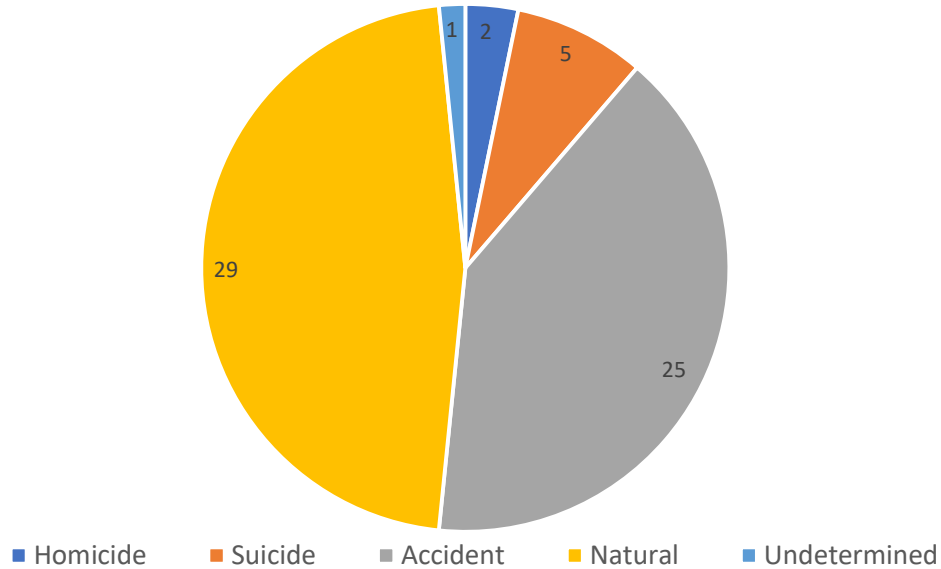
---

### DECEMBER 2024 OVERALL CASES



### DECEMBER 2024 CORONER CASES

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



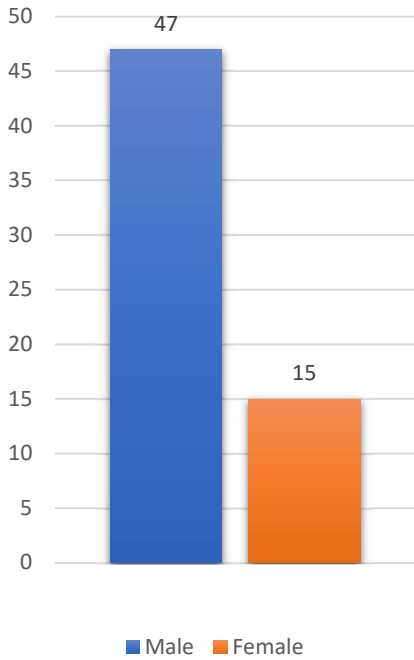


**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

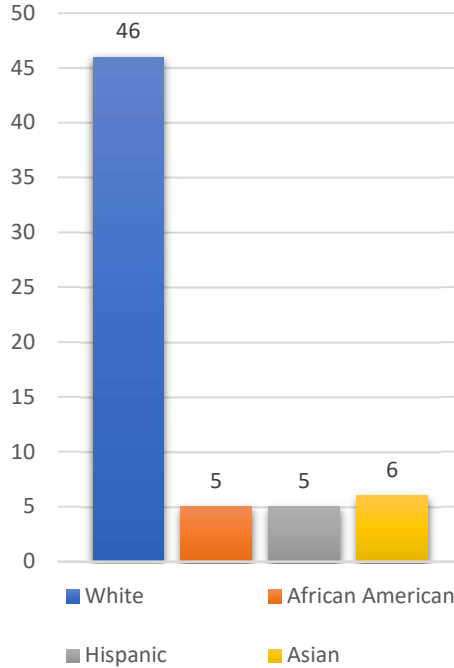
Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

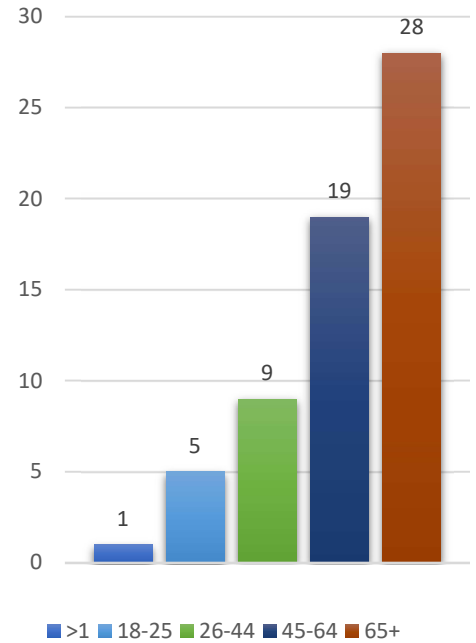
**Coroner Cases/Gender**



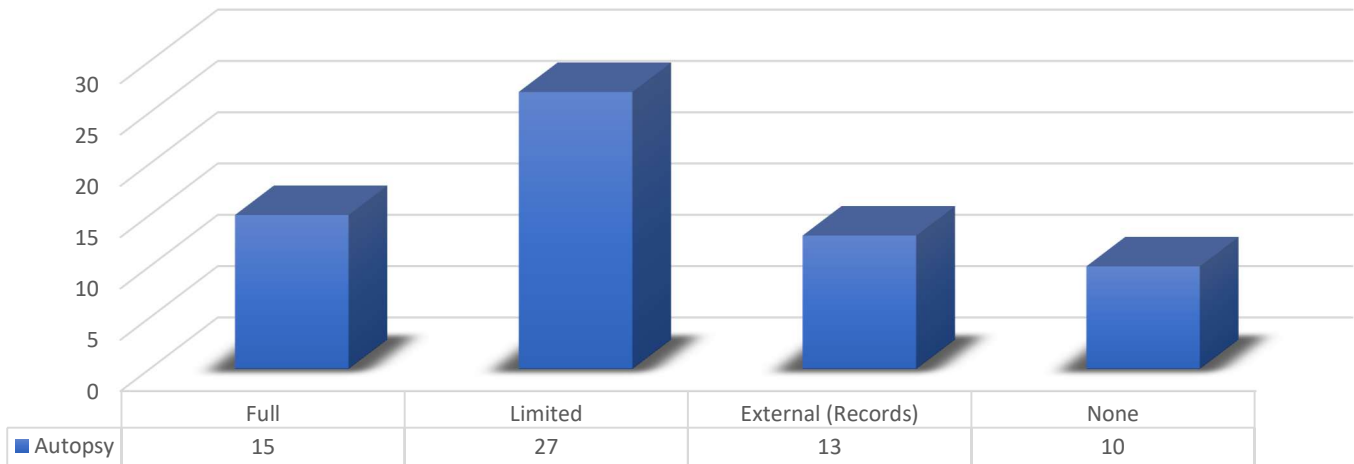
**Coroner Cases/Race**



**Coroner Cases/Age**



### Autopsies December 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.



**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

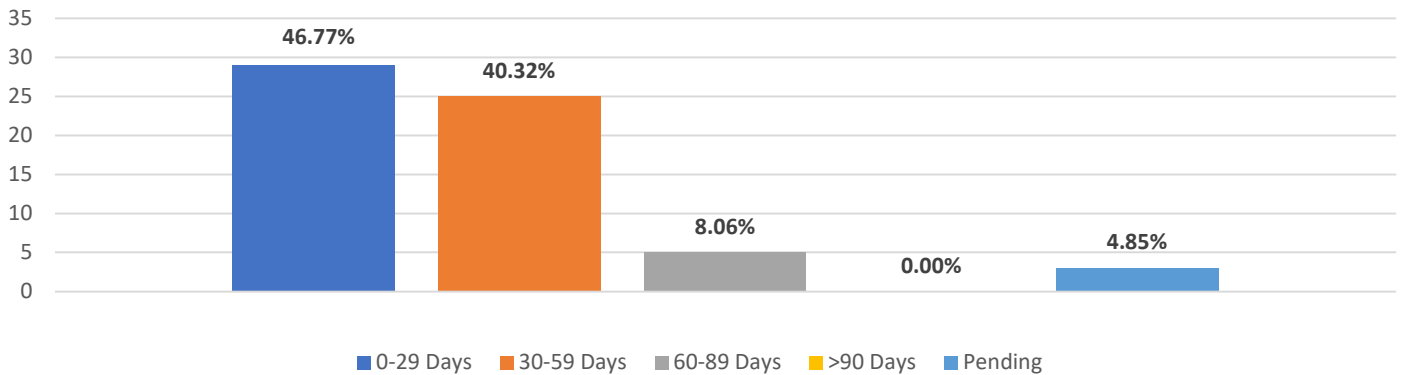
Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

---

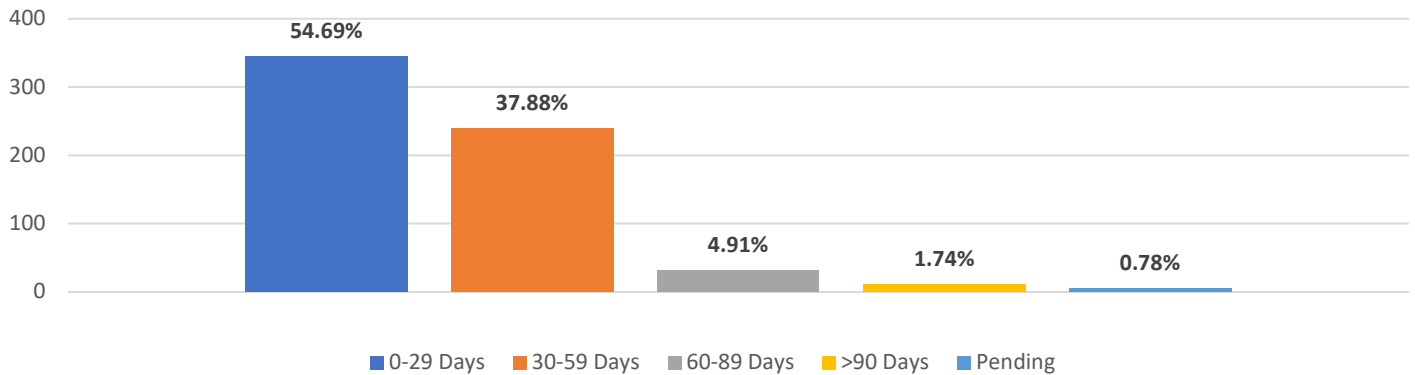
## Case Closure Status

**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024: 87.09%**



**Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024 (running): 92.57%**

### Case Closure Rates by Days





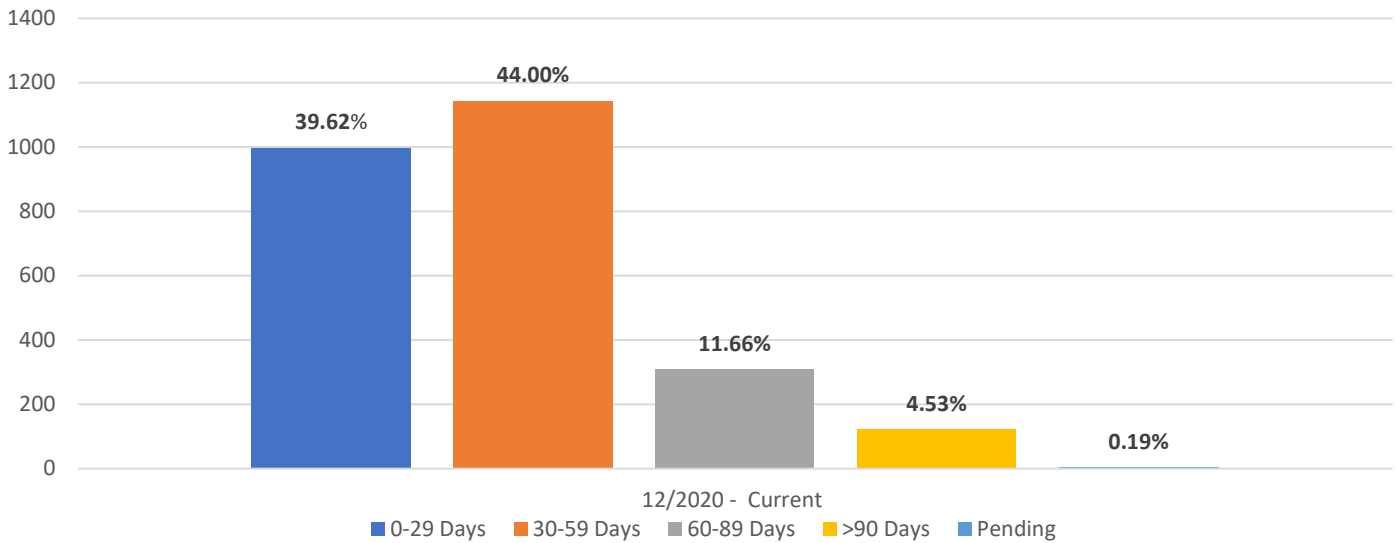
**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2024: 83.62%**

Case Closure Rates by Days



Case Closure <60 days by FY  
Average for FY24 - 92.68%

