



**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK

RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2021

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

Non-Coroner's Cases <sup>(2)</sup>	398
Coroner's Case: <sup>(3)</sup>	64
<b>Total Death Investigations:</b>	<b>462</b>

*Total death investigations for October 2020:* 472

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for October 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 56 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, 33 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.
  - In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 147 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 286 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in October 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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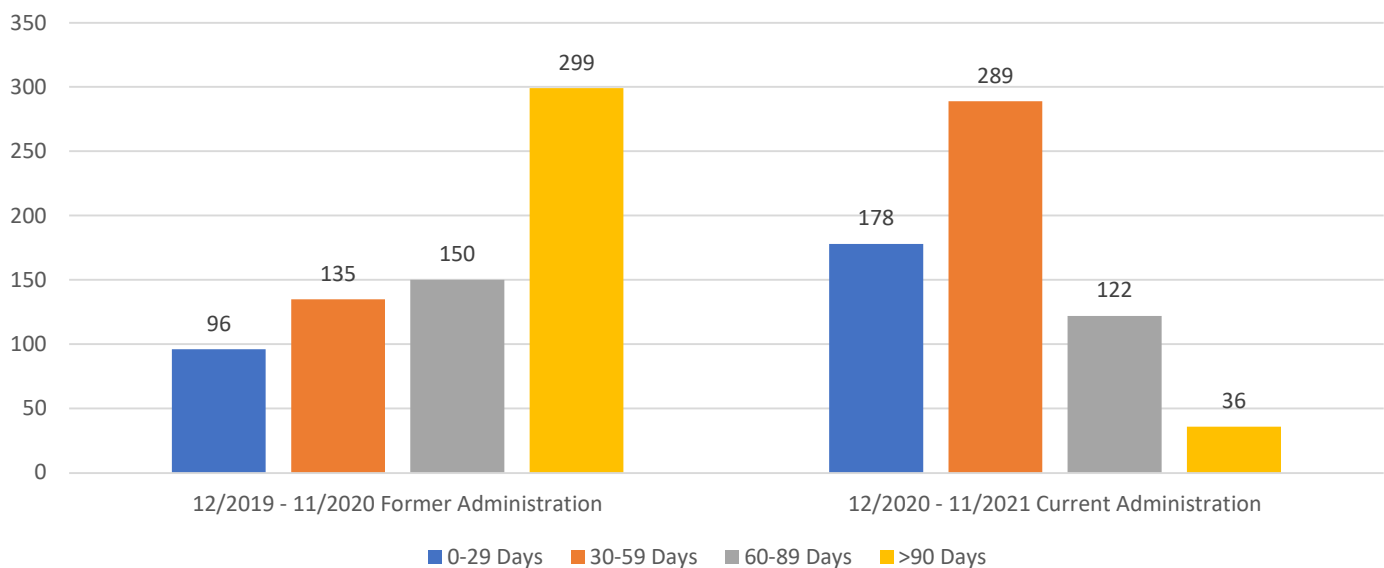
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**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1 – November 30:**

- The chart below demonstrates the case closure rates as compared from December 1, 2019, through November 30, 2020, (Past Administration) and December 1, 2020, through November 30, 2021 (Current Administration)
  - December 2019 – November 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 – November 2021 (Current Administration)
    - Of the total cases 75% have been closed within 60 days, leaving 25% open more than 60 days. Of the total cases, 5% were open over 90 days.

Case Closure Rates by Days



**\*\*There are currently 53 cases pending closure for the specified time frame. Of these 53 pending cases 32% are within 60 days.**



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- **Removal and transportation services**

- Throughout the month of October Coroner Banek and Chief Deputy Newton worked closely with the purchasing department to initiate the bid process for the Body Removal and Transportation services for the Coroner's Office.

- **School Outreach**

- In the month of October Coroner Banek and Chief Deputy Newton met with representatives of the Mundelein Police Department to discuss a partnership as it relates to outreach to high school aged children. Additionally, Coroner Banek held follow-up meetings with representatives of District 120, Mundelein High School in an effort to move forward on outreach projects within the school.

- **Budget Preparation**

- Throughout the month of October Coroner Banek and Chief Deputy Newton worked closely with Finance and Administrative Services to prepare the 2022 Lake County Coroner's Office Budget.

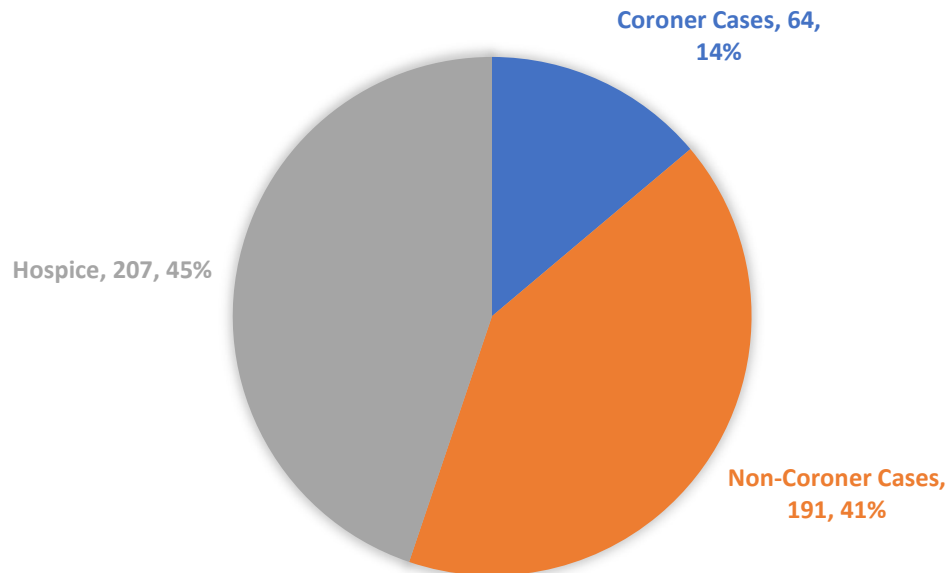


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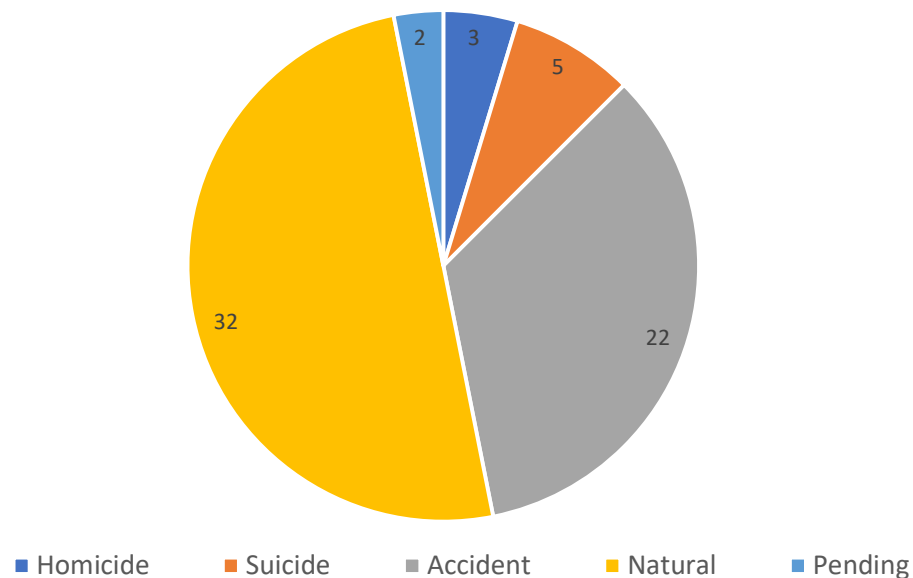
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## OCTOBER 2021 OVERALL CASES



## OCTOBER 2021 CORONER CASES

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



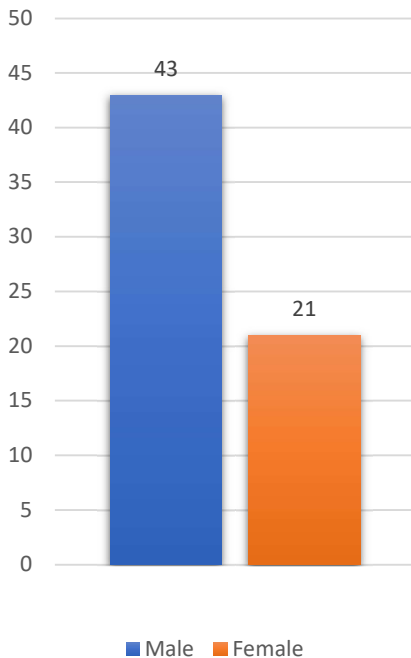


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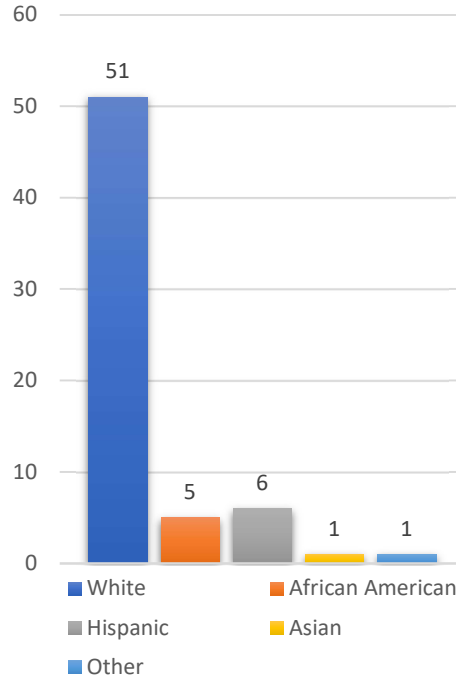
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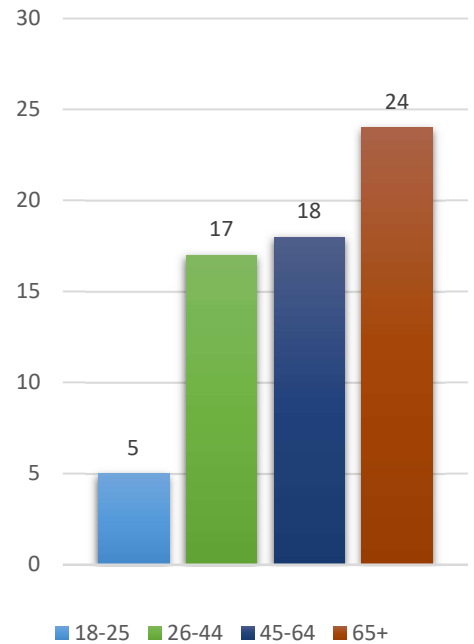
**Coroner Cases/Gender**



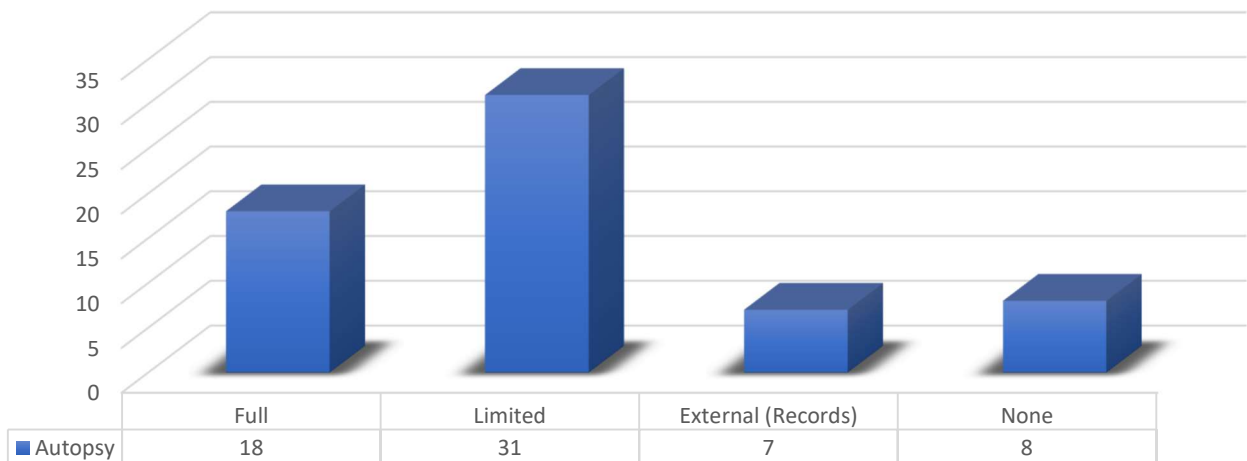
**Coroner Cases/Race**



**Coroner Cases/Age**



## Autopsies October 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.