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 APRIL 2022

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of APRIL 2022 [1]:

Non-Coroner's Cases [2]	370
Coroner's Case: [3]	57
Total Death Investigations:	**427**

Total death investigations for April 2021:   417

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for April 2022 (57), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.

- Of the 57 Coroner's Cases a total of 49 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 42 toxicology tests and, as a result, 35 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.

  o In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 159 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 April 2022.

- In April 2022 the Lake County Coroner's Office completed 2 artifact investigations. An artifact investigation occurs when bones, or potential remains, are located in Lake County. Coroner's Staff work with Coroner's Forensic Anthropologist Dr. Erin Waxenbaum to determine if the artifacts are human in nature, which would require further death investigation. If artifacts are deemed non-human, a research case is created, and they do not get reported as a Coroner's Case. The 2 cases investigated in April were determined to be non-human.

(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.
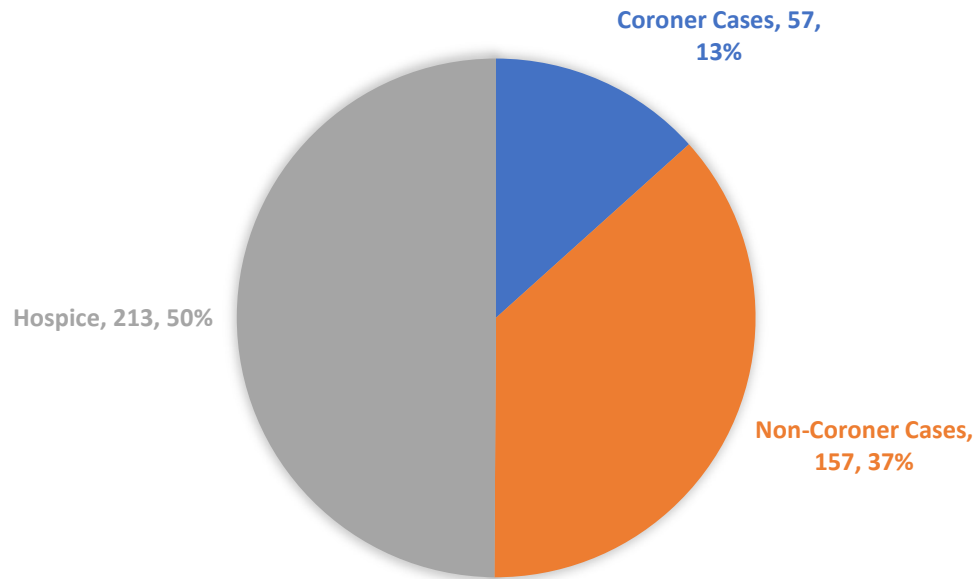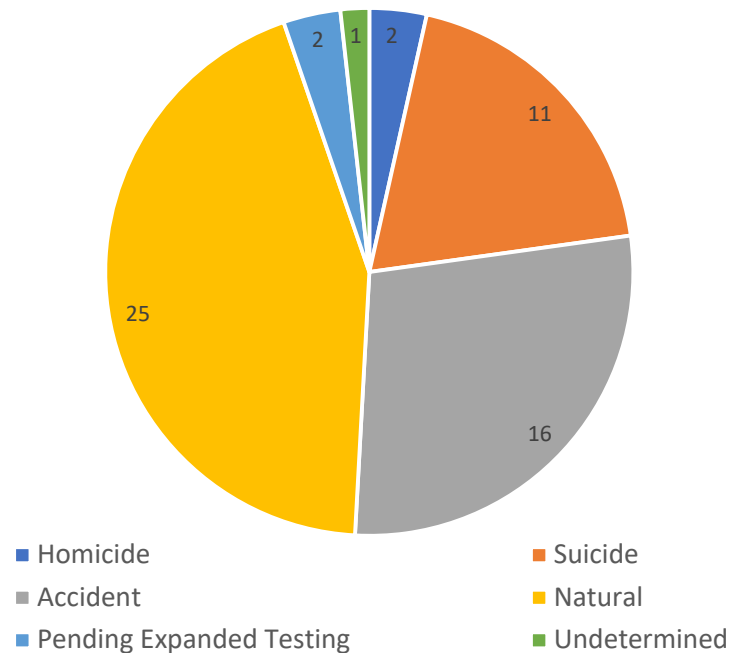
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APRIL 2022 OVERALL CASES

Coroner Cases, 57, 13%

Hospice, 213, 50%

Non-Coroner Cases, 157, 37%

APRIL 2022 CORONER CASES

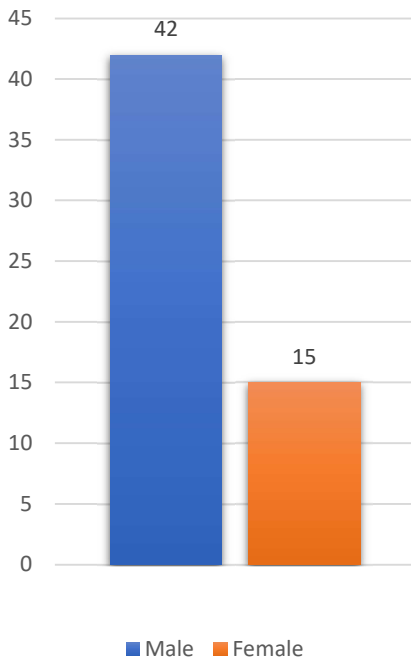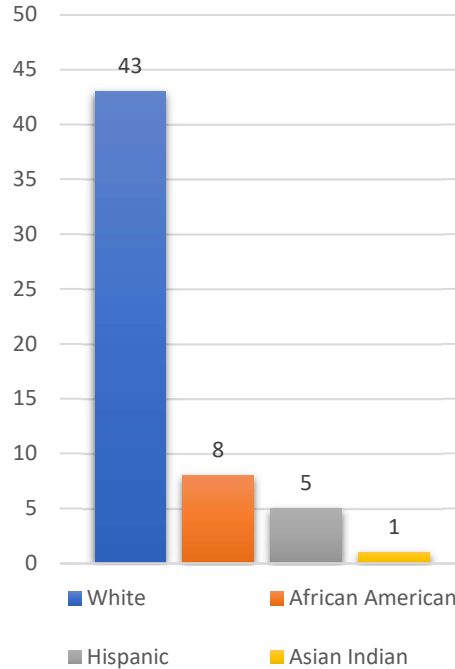This data includes Suspected Manner of Death in Cases still pending finalization.

2
1
2
11
25
16

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Accident
- Natural
- Pending Expanded Testing
- Undetermined

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Coroner Cases/Gender

Coroner Cases/Race

Coroner Cases/Age

Autopsies April 2022

	Full	Limited	External (Records)	None
Autopsy	15	27	7	8
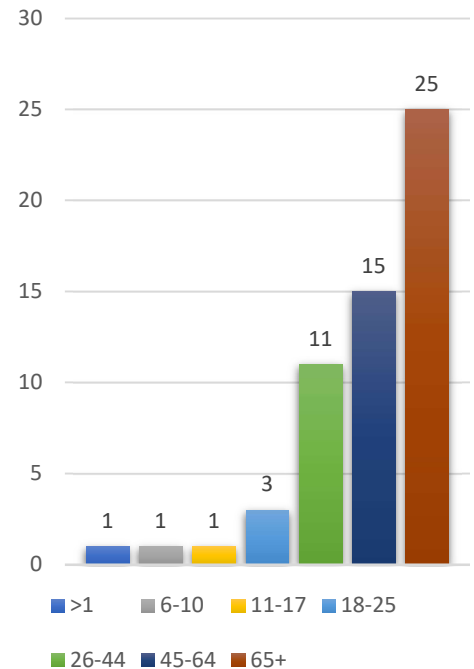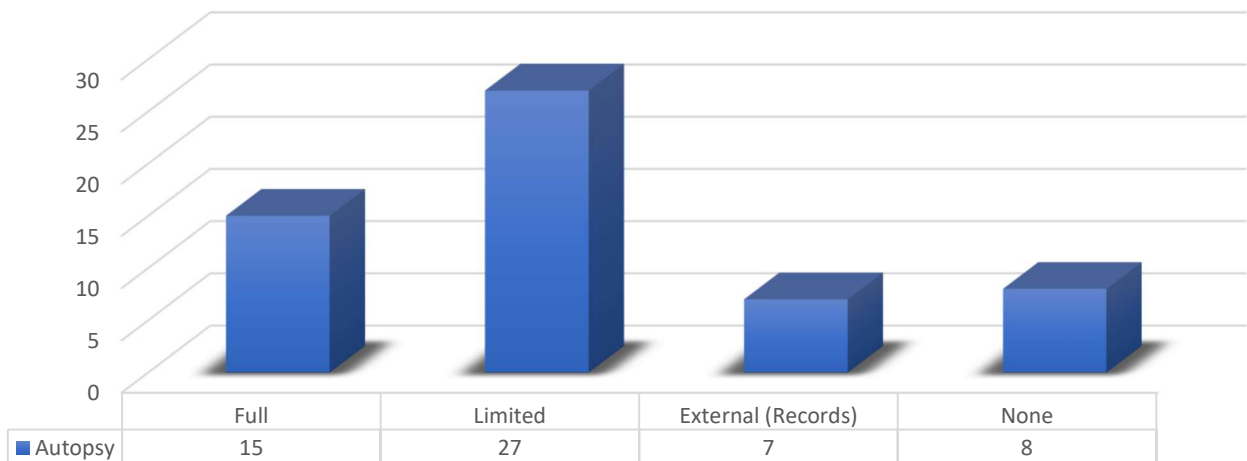
Autopsy Types: **Full** – A complete external and internal examination is completed by the Forensic Pathologist with a written report.

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.
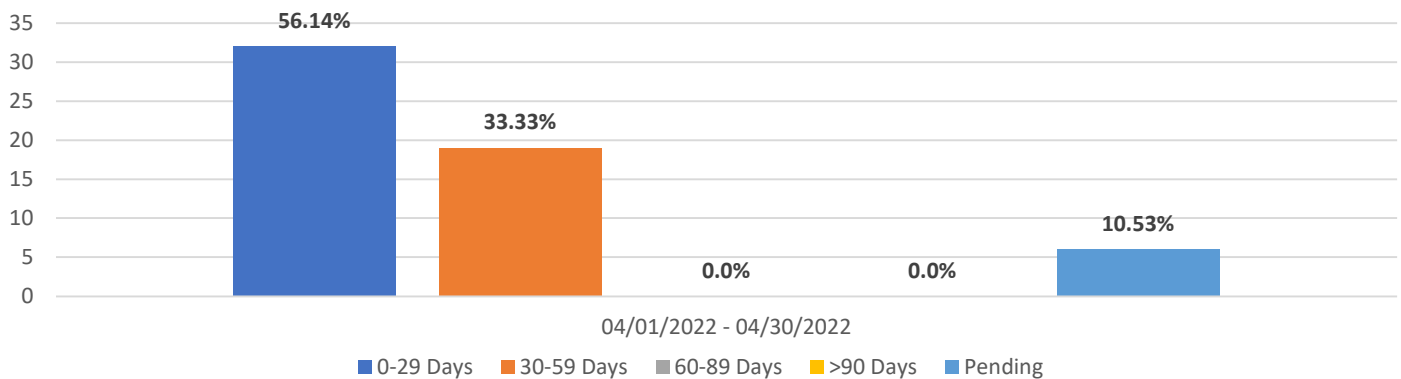
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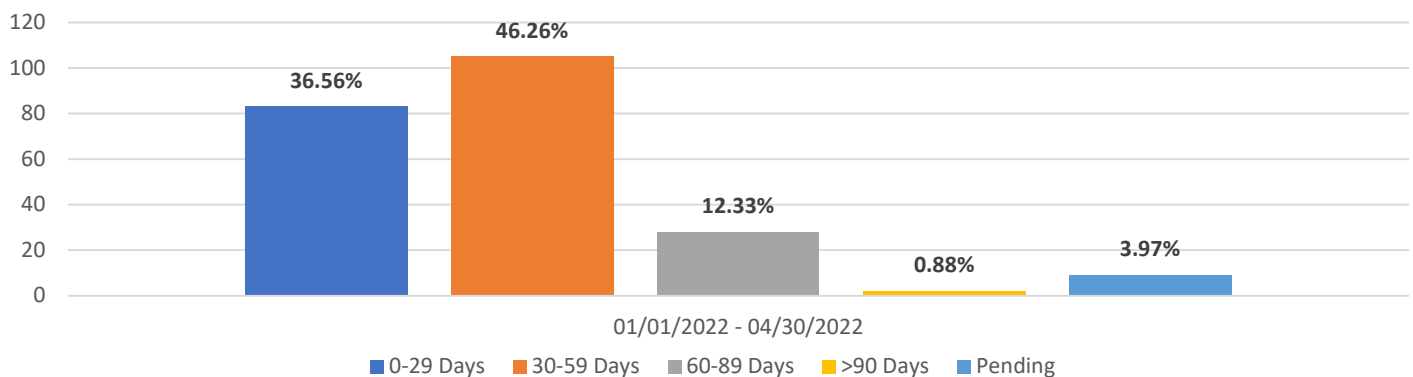Lake County Coroner
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Case Closure Status

Coroner's Case Closure Rate April 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022:

Case Closure Rates by Days

04/01/2022 - 04/30/2022

■ 0-29 Days ■ 30-59 Days ■ 60-89 Days ■ >90 Days ■ Pending

56.14%   33.33%   0.0%   0.0%   10.53%

Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022

Case Closure Rates by Days

01/01/2022 - 04/30/2022

■ 0-29 Days ■ 30-59 Days ■ 60-89 Days ■ >90 Days ■ Pending

36.56%   46.26%   12.33%   0.88%   3.97%

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Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – April 30, 2022:

Case Closure Rates by Days

12/2020 - 04/2022 Current Administration

■ 0-29 Days ■ 30-59 Days ■ 60-89 Days ■ >90 Days ■ Pending