



**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK  
DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2024  
RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of **December 2023** <sup>(1)</sup>:

Non-Coroner's Cases <sup>(2)</sup>	431
<u>Coroner's Case: <sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>59</u>
<b>Total Death Investigations:</b>	<b>490</b>

*Total death investigations for December 2022: 501*

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for December 2023 (59), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 59 Coroner's Cases a total of 51 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, 38 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 125 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office issued 329 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in December 2023, for a total of \$32,600 in revenue from state mandated permit fees.
- To date, Coroner Office Investigators completed and closed **88.13%** of December Cases within 60 days of the date of the case with 4 cases pending.
- In December 2023, the Coroner's Office investigated 4 deaths as a result of firearms, 1 homicide and 3 suicides. This brings the total number of firearm related deaths to 65\* for the calendar year.  
\* Final 2023 number including recent inquest ruling which added one case to the overall number.

(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.

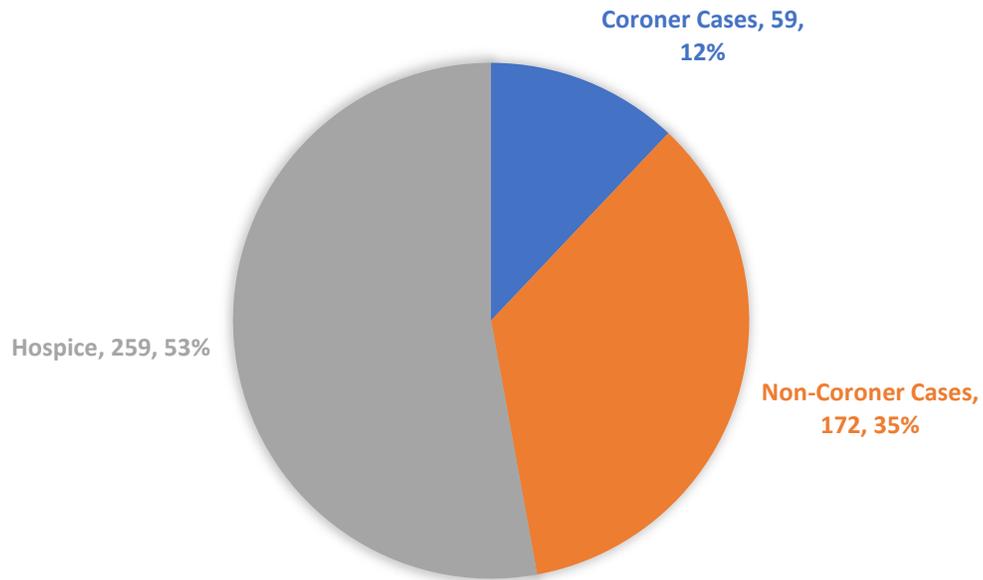


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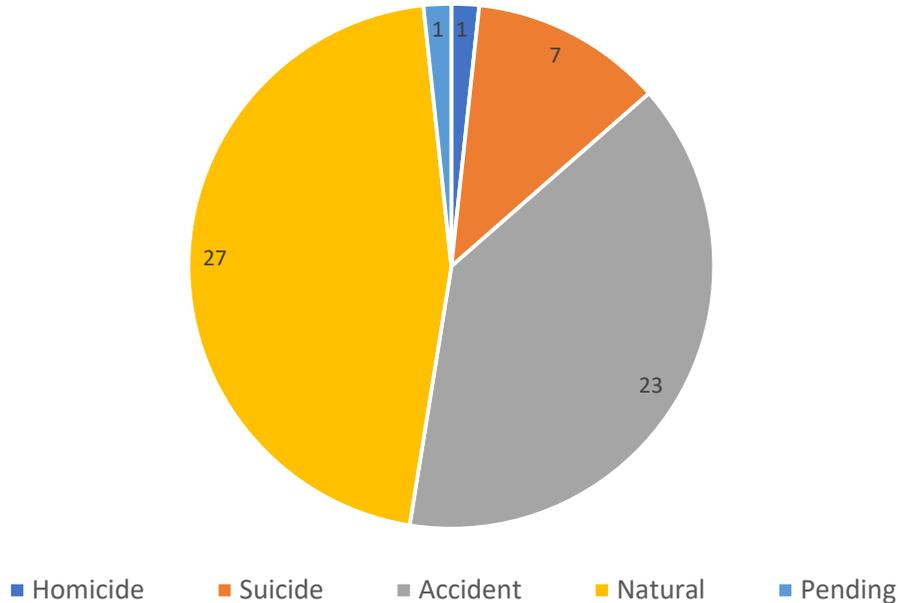
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## DECEMBER 2023 OVERALL CASES



## DECEMBER 2023 CORONER CASES

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



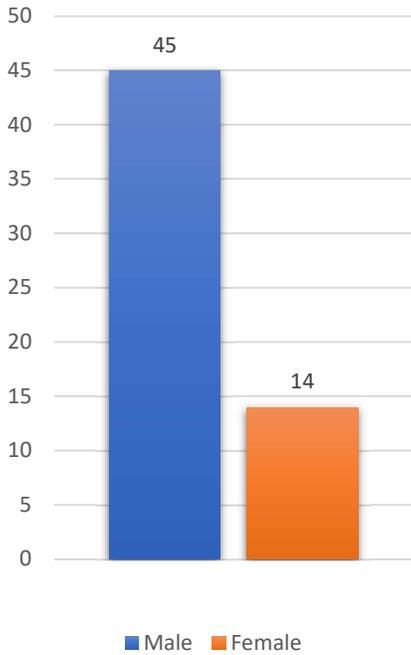


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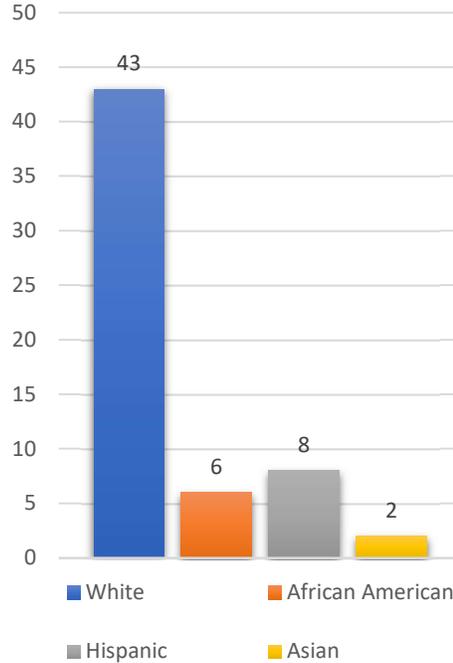
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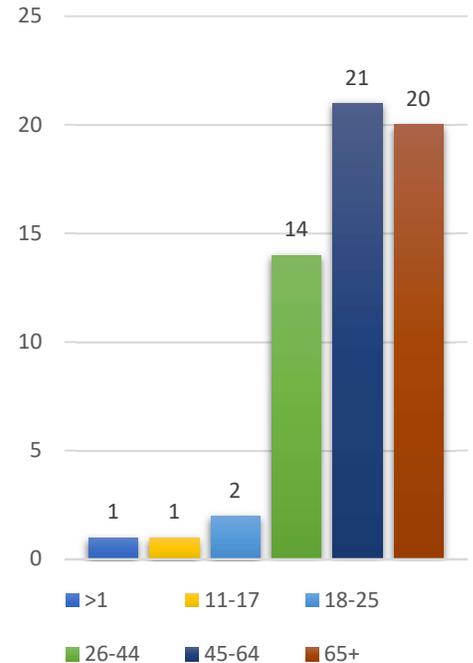
**Coroner Cases/Gender**



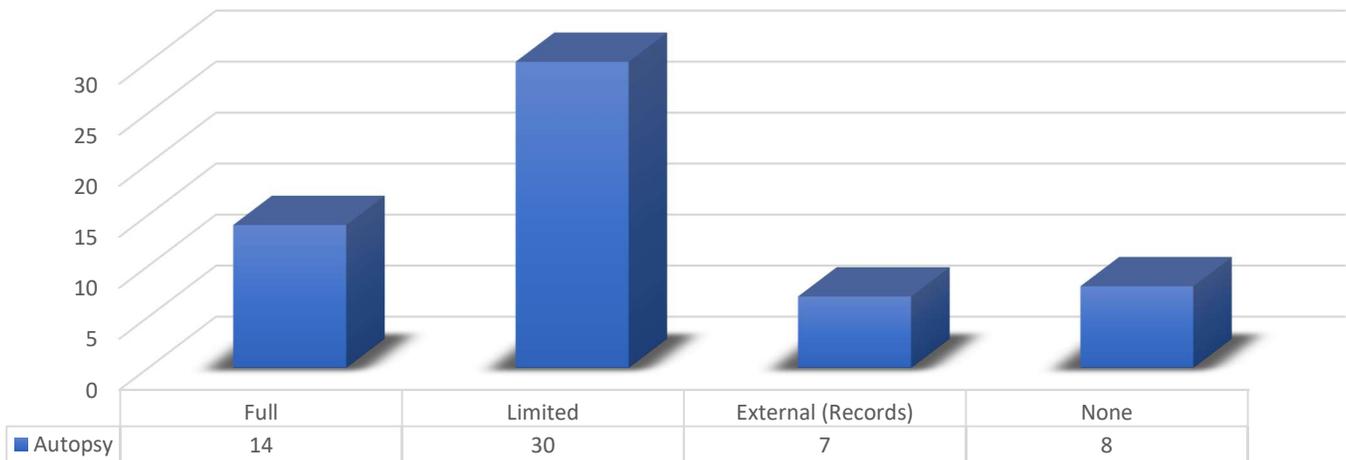
**Coroner Cases/Race**



**Coroner Cases/Age**



### Autopsies December 2023



**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.



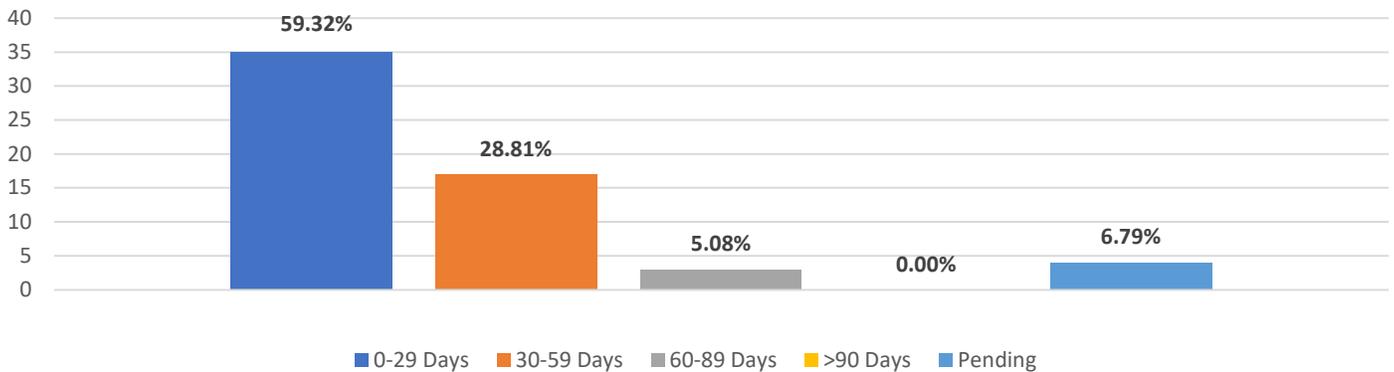
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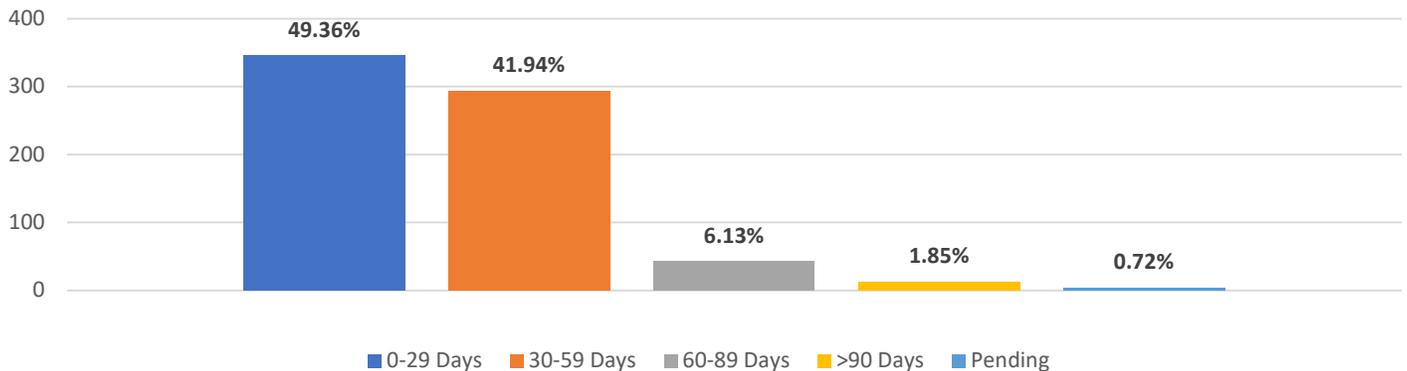
## Case Closure Status

**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023: 88.13%**



**Coroner's Case Closure Rate January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023 (running): 91.30%**

### Case Closure Rates by Days





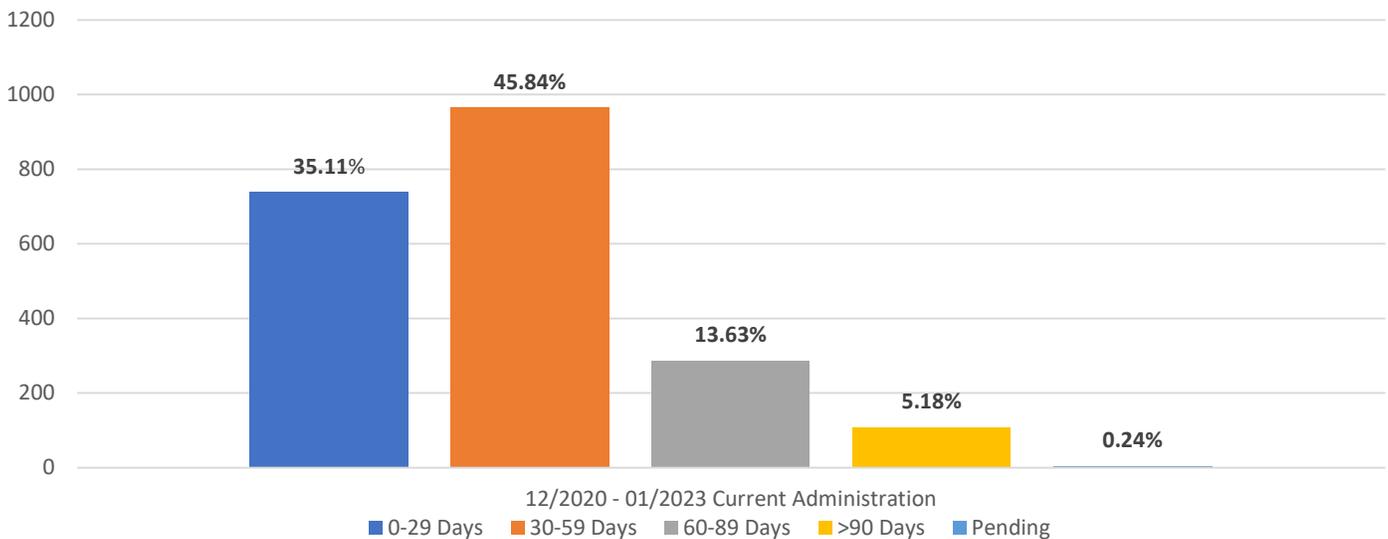
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**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2023: 80.95%**

Case Closure Rates by Days



Case Closure <60 days by FY  
Average for FY23 - 91.69%

