



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 JANUARY 2021

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of January 2021 ⁽¹⁾:

Non-Coroner's Cases ⁽²⁾	460
Coroner's Case: ⁽³⁾	54
Total Death Investigations:	514

Total death investigations for January 2020: 515

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for January 2021 (54), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages. Due to pending finalization of Autopsy reports, Toxicology reports, and Investigative Agency reports, a total of 2 cases are still pending final disposition.
- Of the 54 Coroner's Cases a total of 45 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.
- Of the 514 deaths reported to the Coroner's Office, 73 were related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) where COVID-19 was a direct cause or contributory factor in the death. Of these 73 deaths 4 were Coroner Cases.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 35 toxicology test and as a result, 29 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.
 - 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 324 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in January 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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Coroner's Office News December 2020 – March 2021:

- Since December of 2020, the Coroner's Office has been working to establish/re-establish partnerships with various agencies and organizations throughout the county. These include but are not limited to the Lake County Opioid Initiative, the Lake County Suicide Prevention Task Force, Live4Lali, the Coalition for Healthy Communities and the Youth Advisory Board.
- Coroner Banek has met with various Local, State and Federal investigative agencies not only establish a rapport and address potential concerns, but also to assure that there is an established working relationship with these agencies.
- Coroner Banek is currently in the process of working with Lake County Human Resources to establish a review process for Coroner's Office employees which has not been a standard practice for several years.
- During the course of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 an over-flow site was established that the Waukegan Airport in a hangar that house 3 refrigerated trailers that were capable of housing 93 additional decedents.
 - The rental for the Hangar at the Waukegan Airport was an expenditure of over **\$13,000/month** that was paid by Lake County through the Cares Act funding.
 - After review of this arrangement, it was determined that other means could be available and that could result in a per month savings of over \$13,000.
 - A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was drafted to utilize an over-flow storage site with a local funeral service, in the event it is needed, with no cost upfront, and minimal costs in the event of a mass fatality incident.
 - The Coroner's Office worked with State and Local Emergency Management Agencies to decommission the Airport site which was successfully closed on March 12, 2021.

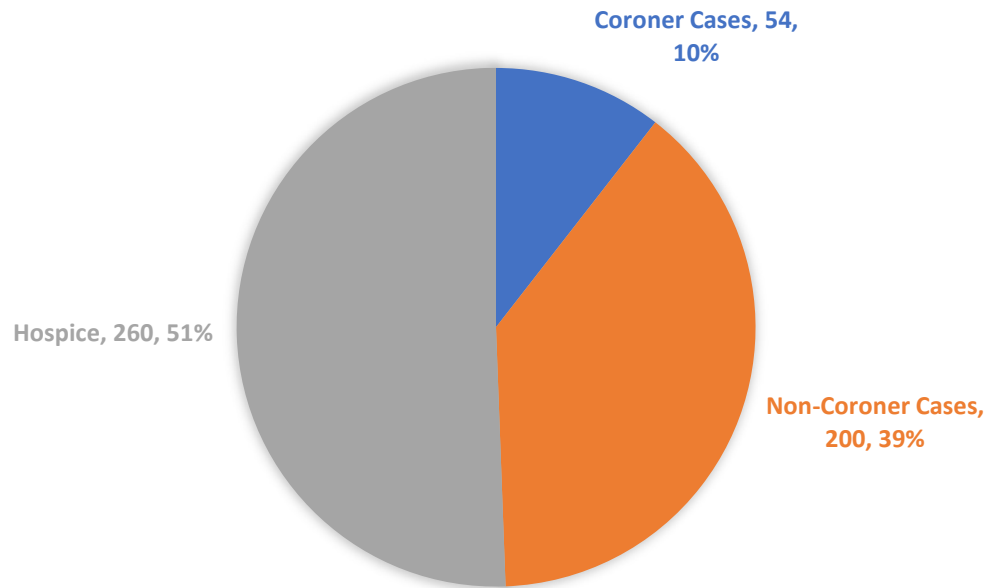


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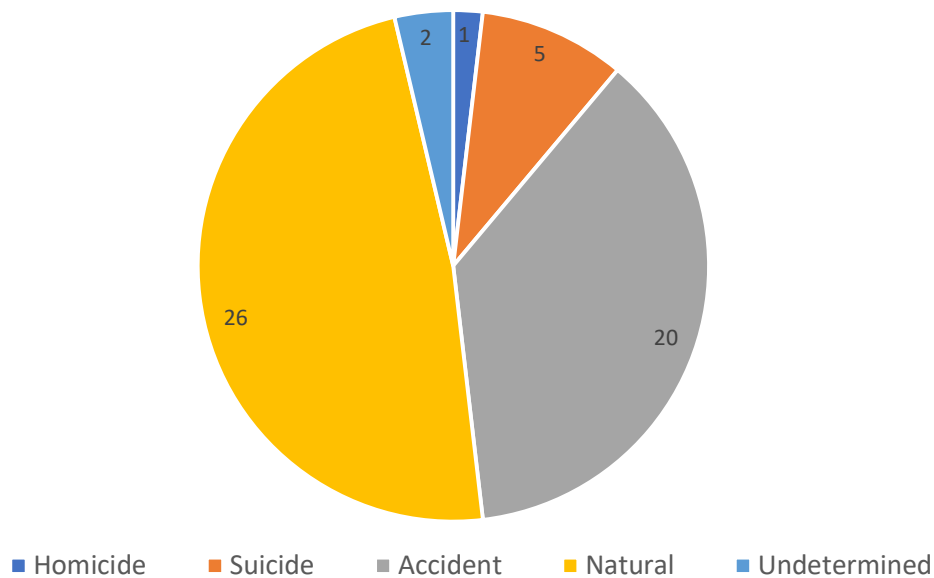
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JANUARY 2021 OVERALL CASES



JANUARY 2021 CORONER CASES

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



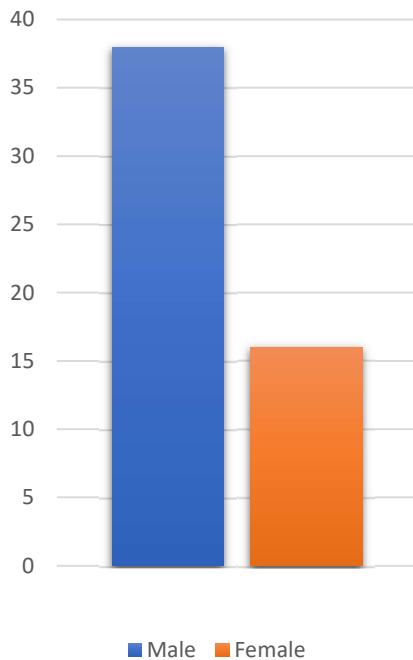


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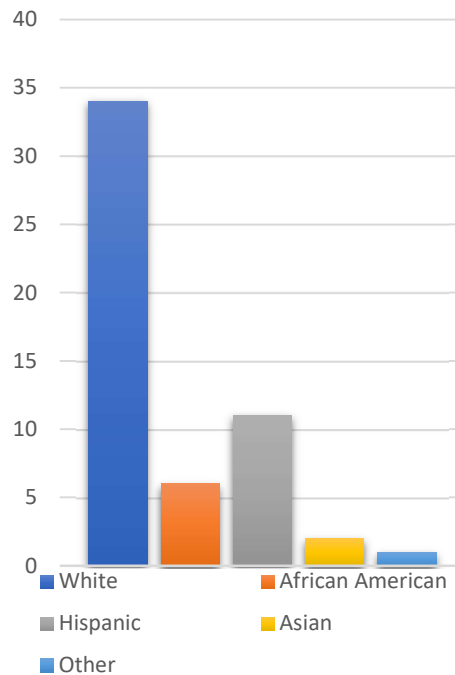
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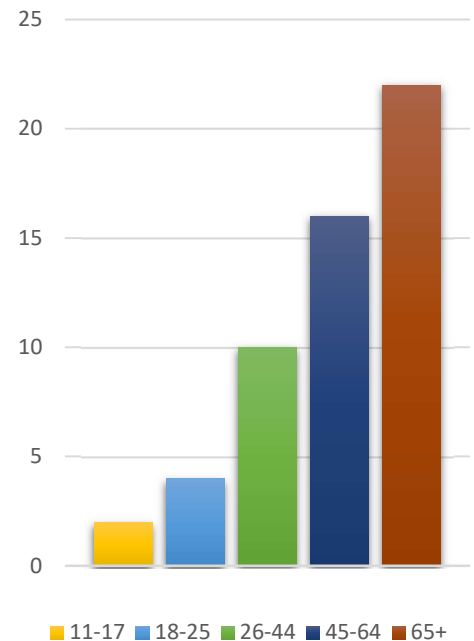
Coroner Cases/Gender



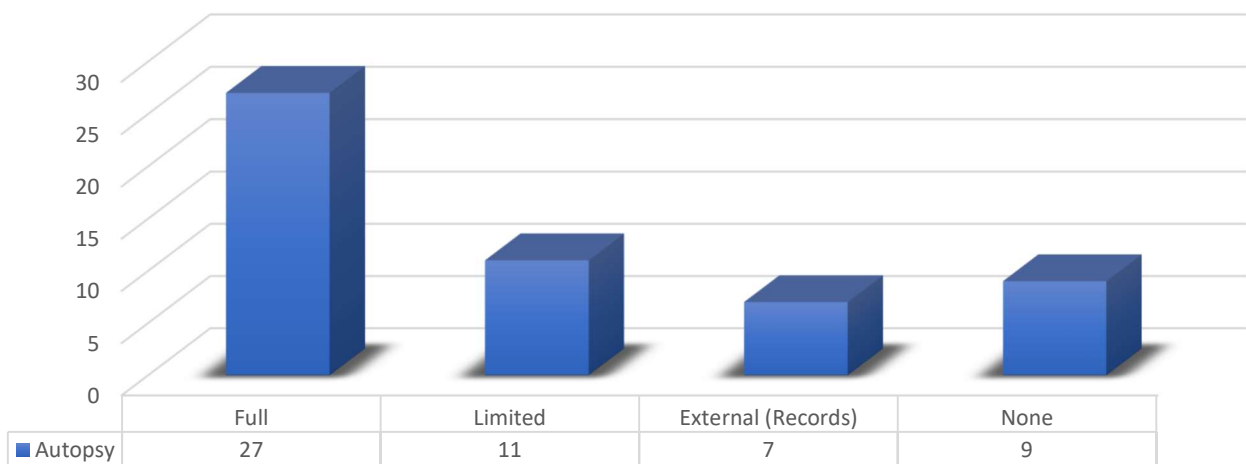
Coroner Cases/Race



Coroner Cases/Age



Autopsies January 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.



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Novel coronavirus SARS-CoV2 COVID-19 Deaths January 2021

73 Total

