



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 DECEMBER 2020

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of December 2020 ⁽¹⁾:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Non-Coroner's Cases ⁽²⁾ | 580 |
| Coroner's Case: ⁽³⁾ | 65 |
| Total Death Investigations: | 645 |

Total death investigations for December 2019: 458

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for December 2020 (65), 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 11 cases are still pending final disposition.
- Of the 65 Coroner's Cases a total of 60 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 645 deaths reported to the Coroner's Office, 141 were related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) where COVID-19 was a direct cause or contributory factor in the death. Of these 141 deaths 4 were Coroner Cases.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 50 toxicology test and as a result, 43 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.
 - In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 55 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 420 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in December 2020.

(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.

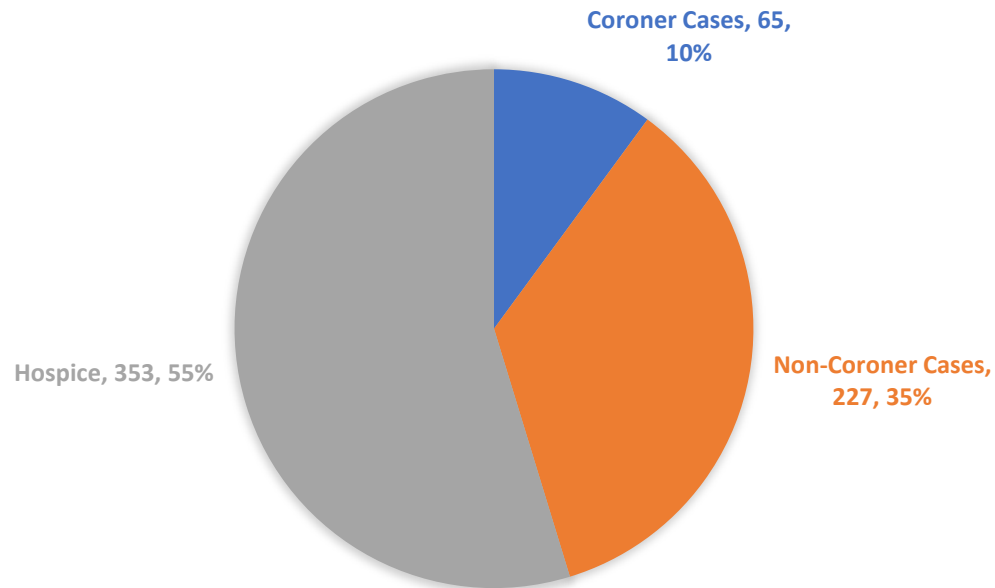


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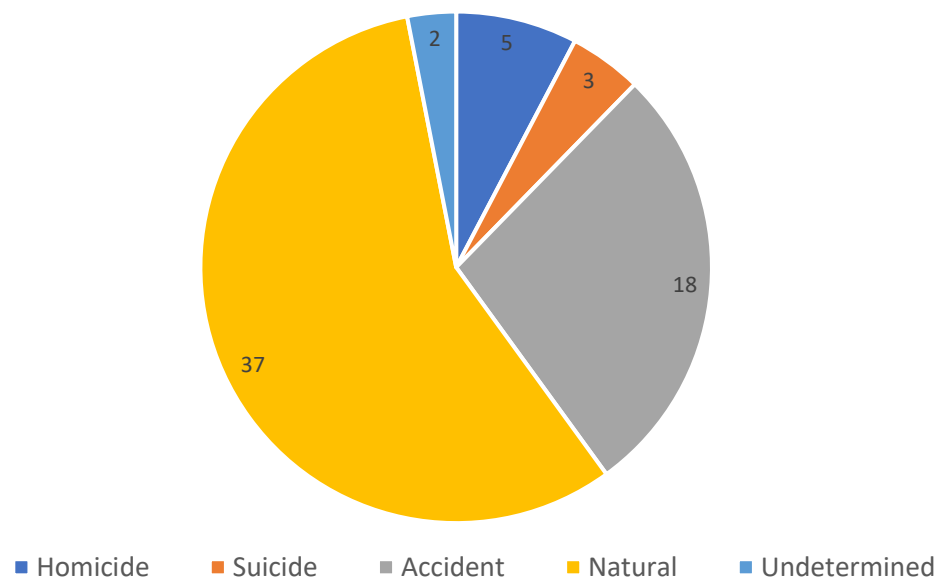
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DECEMBER 2020 OVERALL CASES



DECEMBER 2020 CORONER CASES

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



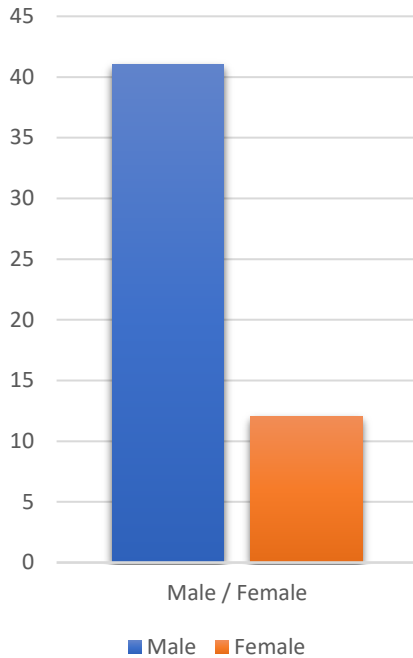


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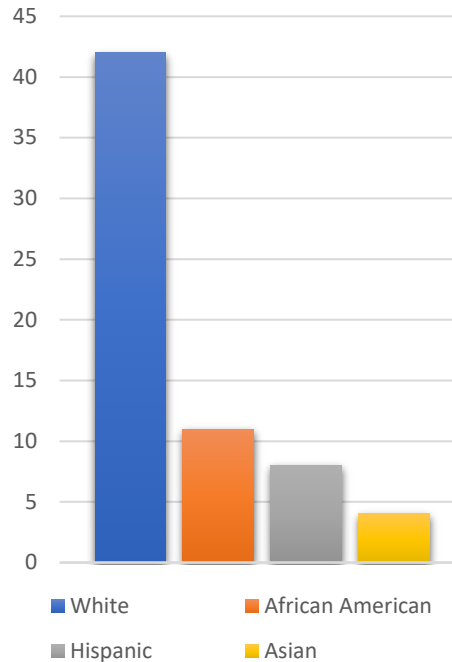
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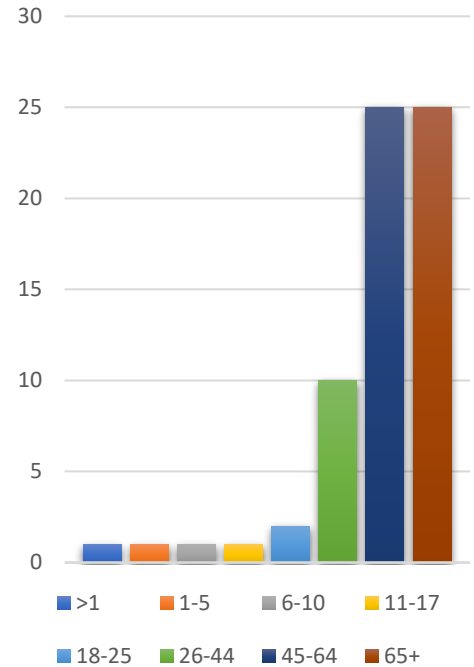
Coroner Cases/Gender



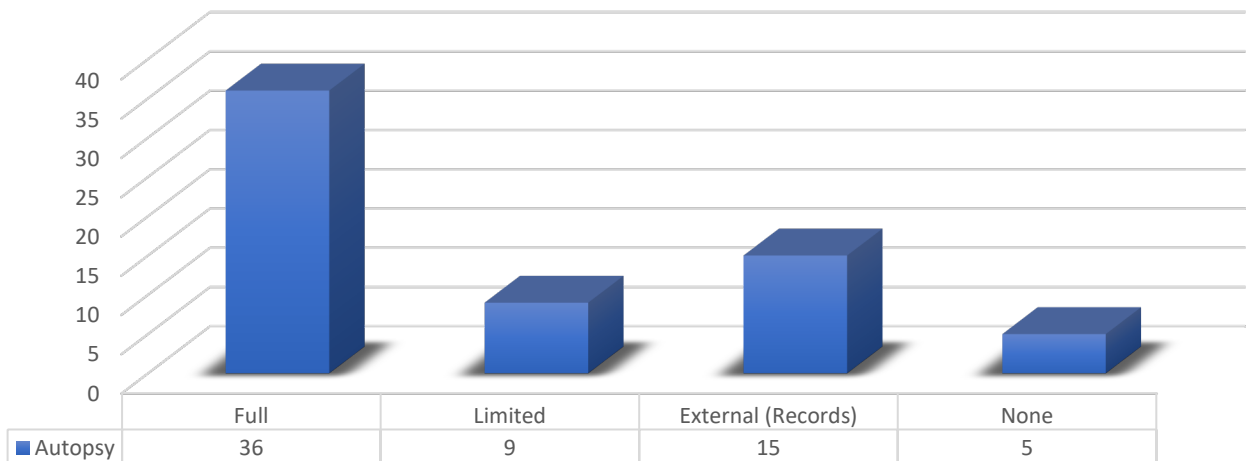
Coroner Cases/Race



Coroner Cases/Age



Autopsies December 2020



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 December 2020
141 Total

