



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 MARCH 2021

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

Non-Coroner's Cases ⁽²⁾	413
Coroner's Case: ⁽³⁾	57
Total Death Investigations:	470

Total death investigations for March 2020: 506

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for March 2021 (57), 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 3 cases is still pending final disposition.
- Of the 57 Coroner's Cases a total of 53 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 43 toxicology test and as a result, 38 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.
 - In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 115 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 290 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in March 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.



Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA

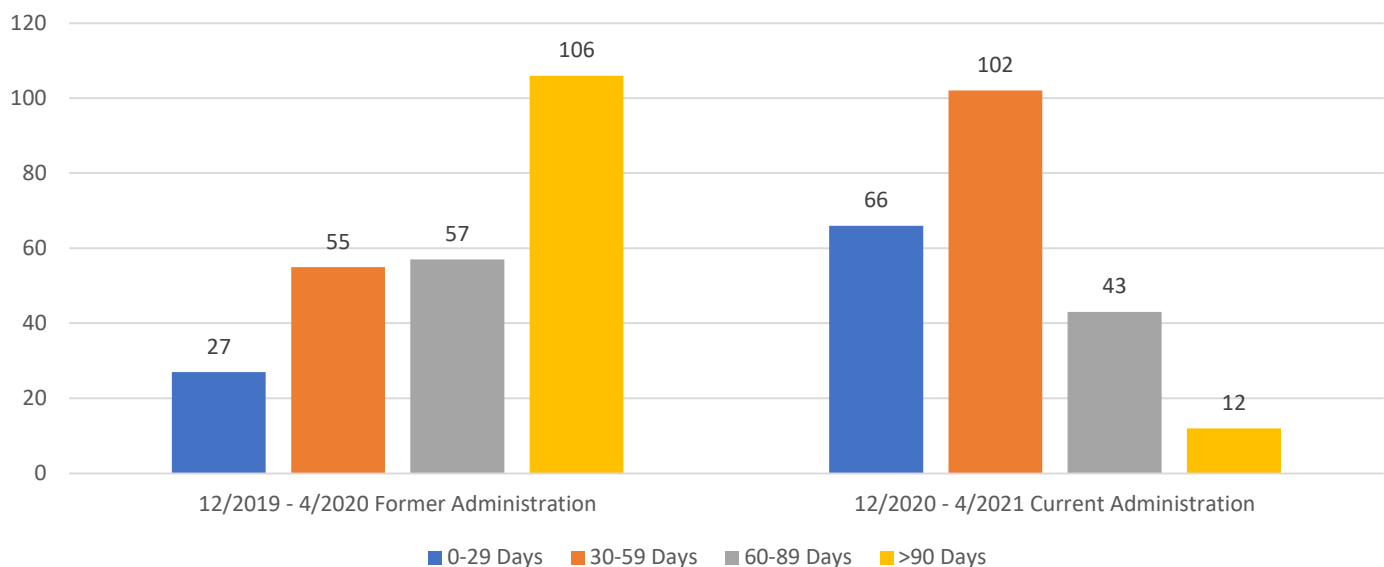
Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

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

- The chart below demonstrates the case closure rates as compared from December 1, 2019 through April 31, 2020 (Past Administration) and December 1, 2020 through April 31, 2021 (Current Administration)
 - Under past administration most of the cases handled by the Coroner's Office took over 60 to more than 90 days to close, causing a delay in the issuance of death certificates, limiting our ability to capture data accurately and promptly, and MOST importantly, negatively impacting families.
 - Of the total cases only 33% were completed within 60 days, leaving 67% open for more than 60 days. Of the cases open longer than 60 days, 43% were open over 90 Days.
 - Under the current administration, through the implementation of policy, evaluation process and accountability standards, most of the cases handled by the Coroner's Office are closed within 60 days (when the investigation is complete).
 - Of the total cases 75% have been completed within 60 days, leaving 25% open more than 60 days. Of the cases open longer than 60 days, 6% were open over 90 days.

Case Closure Rates by Days



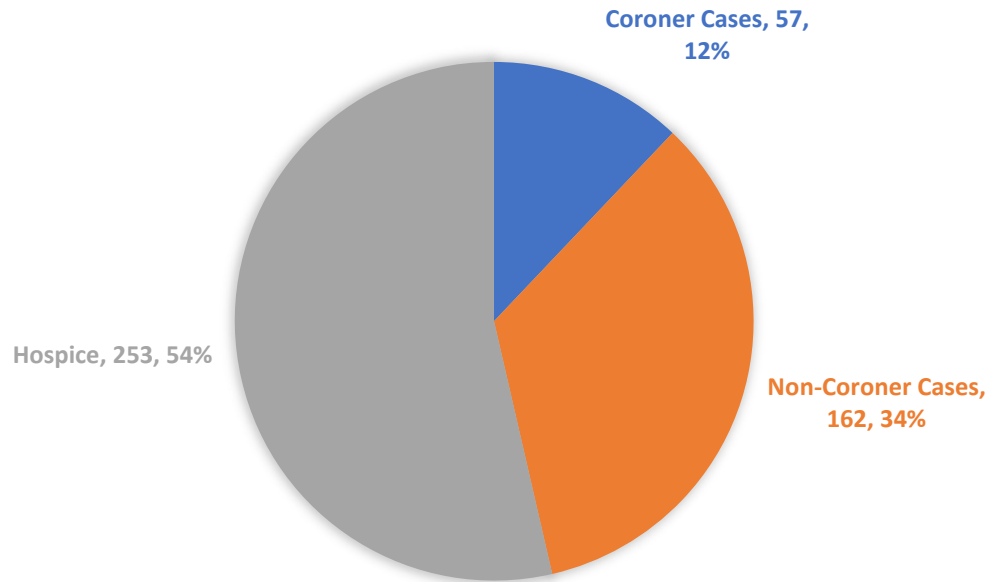


Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA

Lake County Coroner

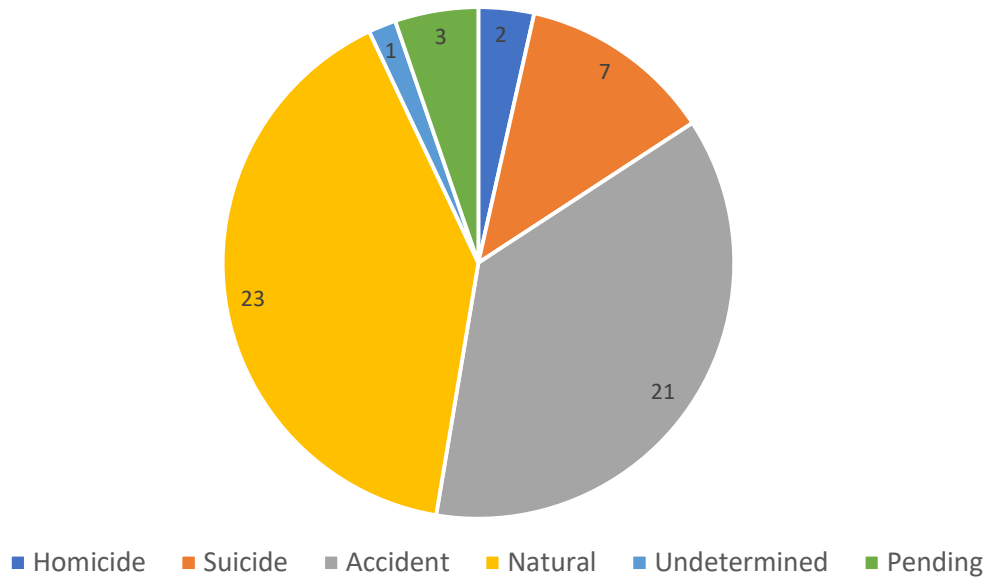
JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

MARCH 2021 OVERALL CASES



MARCH 2021 CORONER CASES

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



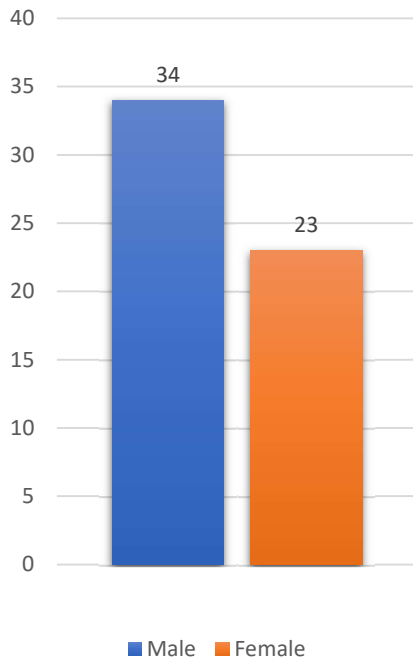


Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA

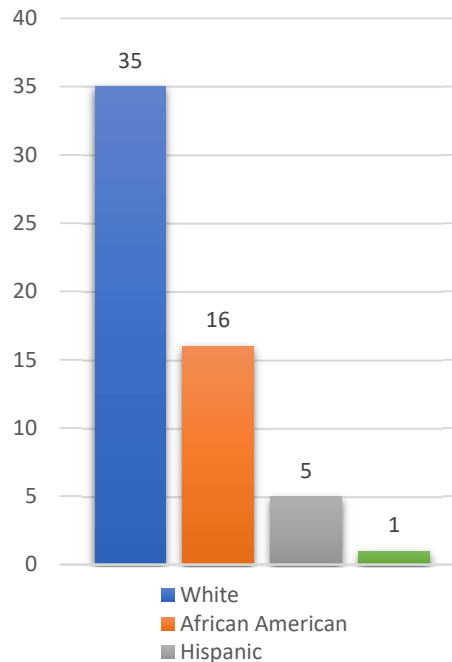
Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

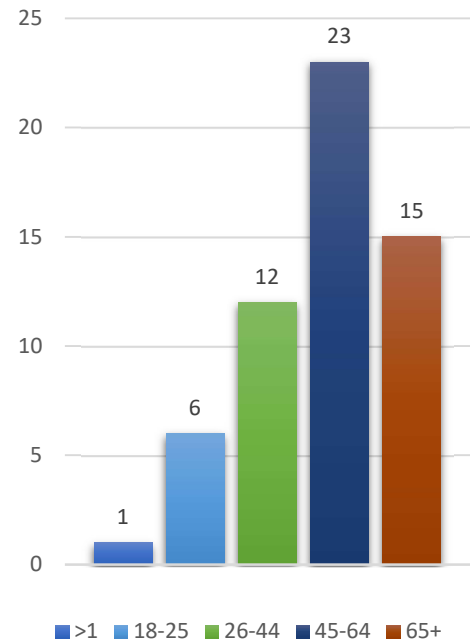
Coroner Cases/Gender



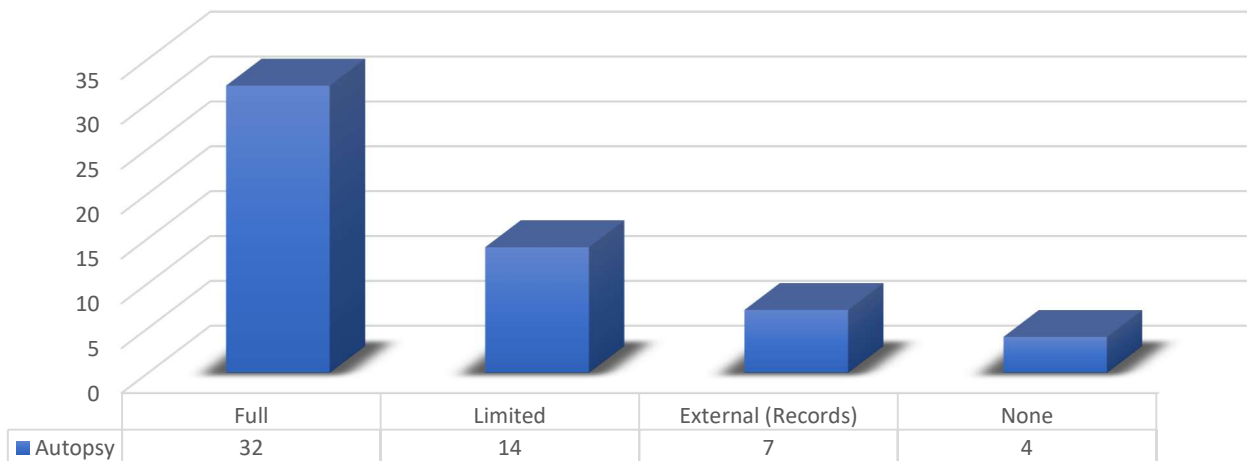
Coroner Cases/Race



Coroner Cases/Age



Autopsies March 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.