



**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 MAY 2021

Coroner's Monthly Report of Investigations conducted for the month of May 2021 <sup>(1)</sup>:

Non-Coroner's Cases <sup>(2)</sup>	369
Coroner's Case: <sup>(3)</sup>	49
<b>Total Death Investigations:</b>	<b>418</b>

*Total death investigations for May 2020:* 632

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for May 2021 (49), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 49 Coroner's Cases a total of 37 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 30 toxicology test and as a result, 20 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.
  - In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 167 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 259 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in May 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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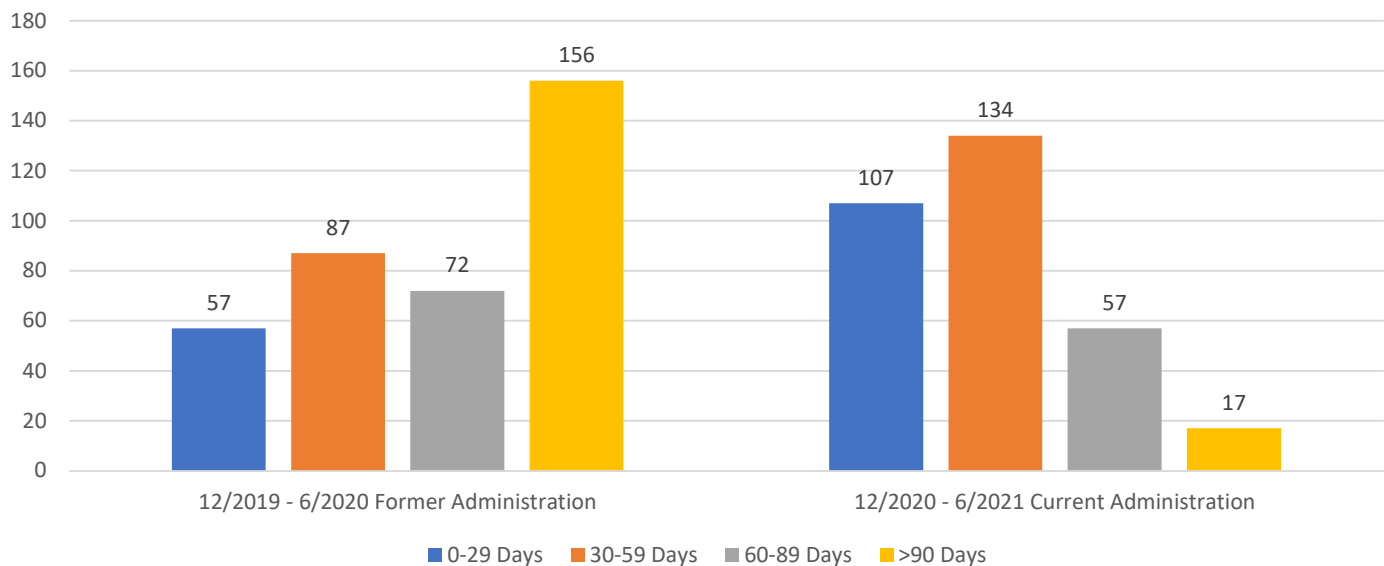
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**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1 – June 30:**

- The chart below demonstrates the case closure rates as compared from December 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 (Past Administration) and December 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (Current Administration)
  - December 2019 – June 2020
    - Of the total cases only 38% were completed within 60 days, leaving 62% open for more than 60 days. Of the cases open longer than 60 days, 68% were open over 90 Days.
  - December 2020 – June 2021 (Current Administration)
    - Of the total cases 77% have been completed within 60 days, leaving 23% open more than 60 days. Of the cases open longer than 60 days, 4% were open over 90 days.

Case Closure Rates by Days





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## **May 2021**

- ***Major Crash Assistance Team Annual Training.***

- Coroner Banek and Chief Deputy Newton attended the one-day Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT) Annual Training held in Lincolnshire which covered various topics of how MCAT interacts with various agencies throughout Lake County.

- ***Missing Pieces Partnership.***

- Coroner Banek initiated a meeting with the organization Missing Pieces. Missing Pieces partners with Chicagoland organizations to support people after a child dies. Following the death of a child, The Lake County Coroner's Office submits a referral to Missing Pieces who then reach out to the family and provide them with a multitude of resources. To date the Lake County Coroner's Office has submitted 9 referrals since the partnership was formed.

- ***Paramedic Class.***

- Coroner Banek and Chief Deputy Newton attended the Paramedic Class held at Advocate Condell Medical Center and gave a presentation about the Office of Coroner and how the Office interacts with Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services.

- ***Staff Presentation.***

- Deputy Coroner Kiersten Reif presented to the 2021 Women in Criminal Justice Summit series where she discussed the topic of "Death Investigation: A law enforcement team effort."



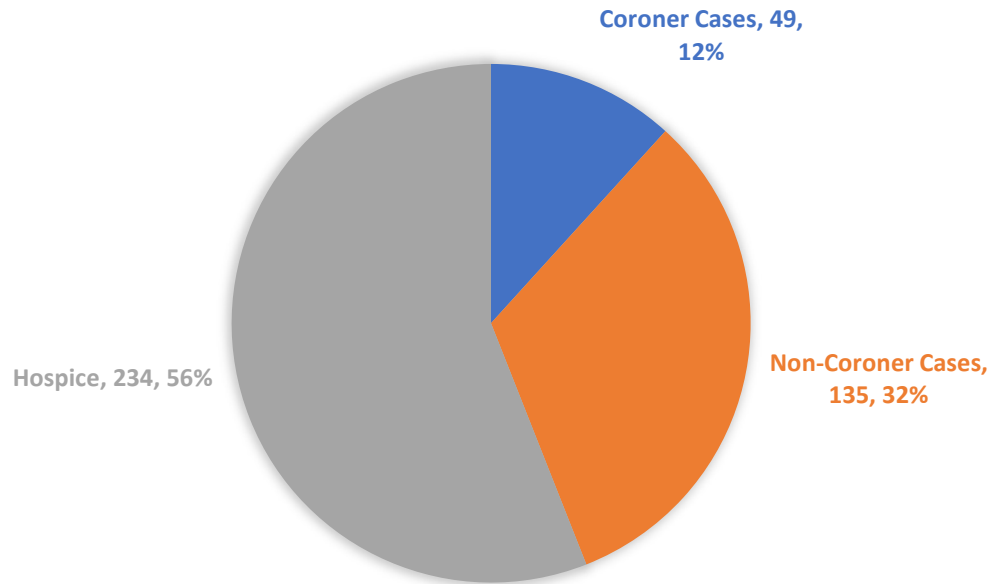
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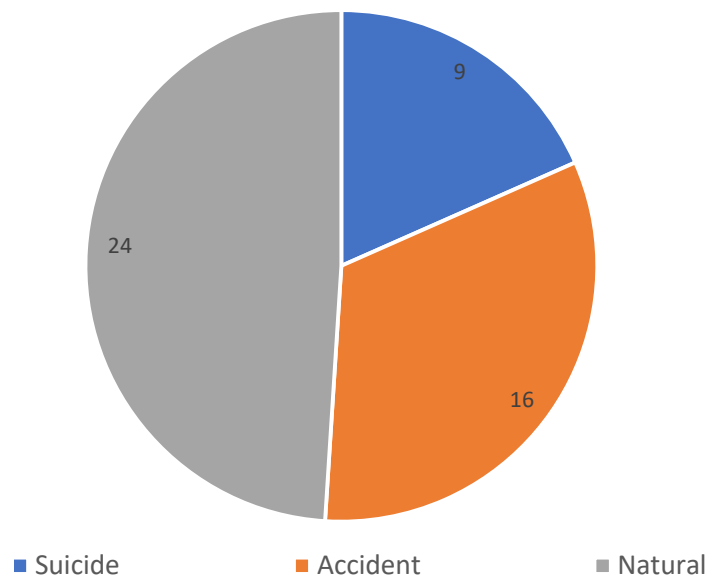
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## MAY 2021 OVERALL CASES



## MAY 2021 CORONER CASES

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



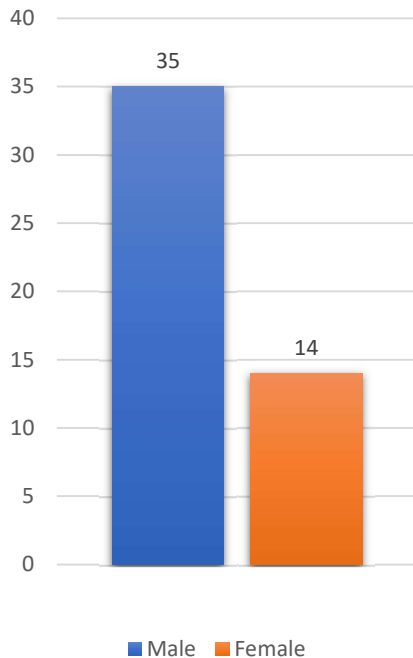


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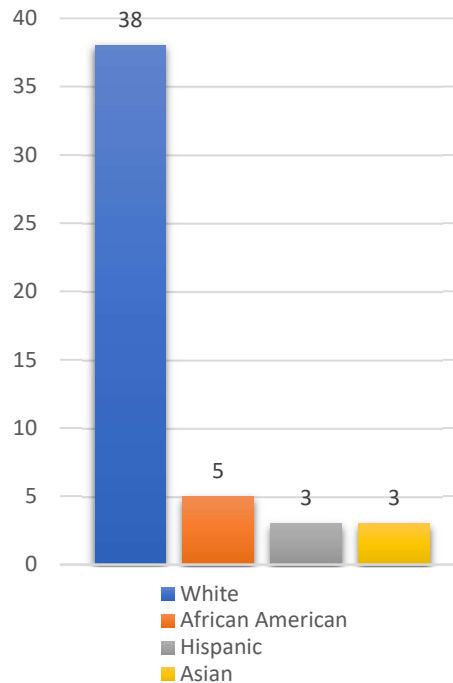
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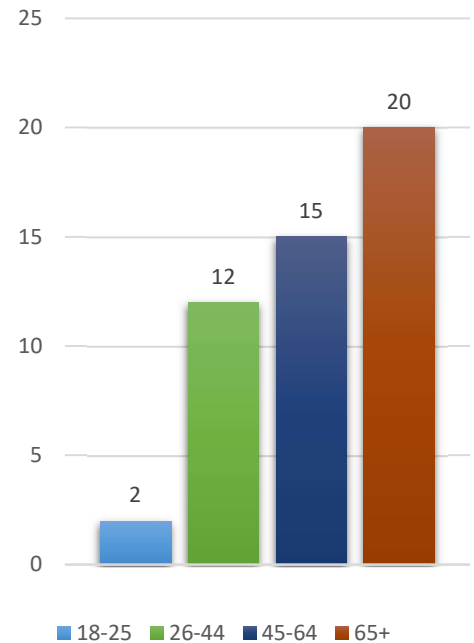
**Coroner Cases/Gender**



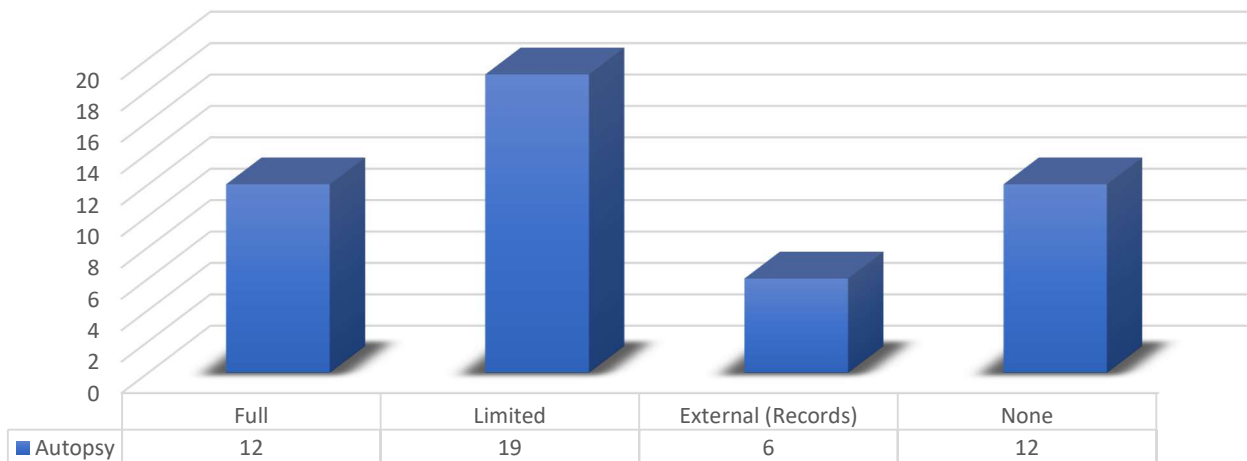
**Coroner Cases/Race**



**Coroner Cases/Age**



**Autopsies May 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.