



**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyl.gov

TO: THE LAW AND JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

FROM: CORONER JENNIFER BANEK

RE: CORONER'S INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR JUNE 2021

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

Non-Coroner's Cases <sup>(2)</sup>	355
Coroner's Case: <sup>(3)</sup>	54
<b>Total Death Investigations:</b>	<b>409</b>

*Total death investigations for May 2020:* 492

- Of the total Coroner's Cases for June 2021 (54), the Manner of Death (or suspected Manner of Death) is outlined in the following pages.
- Of the 54 Coroner's Cases a total of 47 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 48 toxicology tests and, as a result, 32 samples were sent to an outside laboratory for further quantitative/qualitative testing.
  - In addition, the Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory conducted 126 toxicology tests for various outside agencies including the Lake County Jail and Probation Services.
- The Lake County Coroner's Office Issued 263 Permits for Cremation to area funeral homes in June 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**

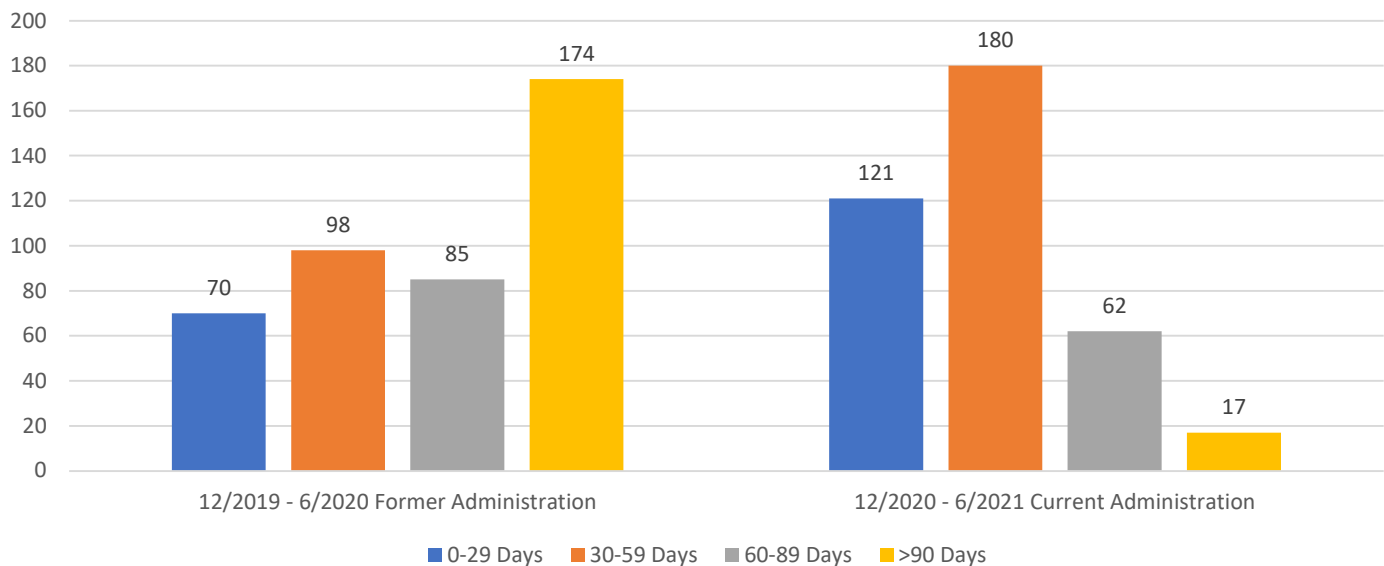
Lake County Coroner

[JBanek@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:JBanek@lakecountyil.gov)

**Coroner's Case Closure Rate December 1 – July31:**

- 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 July 31, 2021 (Current Administration)
  - December 2019 – July 2020
    - Of the total cases only 38% were closed within 60 days, leaving 62% open for more than 60 days. Of the total cases, 40% were open over 90 Days.
  - December 2020 – July 2021 (Current Administration)
    - Of the total cases 71% have been closed within 60 days, leaving 29% open more than 60 days. Of the total cases, 4% were open over 90 days.

Case Closure Rates by Days





**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

JBanek@lakecountyil.gov

---

## **June 2021**

- ***Staff meeting with Gift of Hope.***

- Gift of Hope is a not-for-profit organization providing organ & tissue donation services with donor family services & public education. Representatives from Gift of Hope visited the Coroner's Office and met with staff discussing the importance of the Coroner's Office involvement in the organ and tissue donation process.

- ***Cook County Ecumenical Indigent Burial.***

- Coroner Banek, Chief Deputy Coroner Newton, Senior Deputy Coroner Mayer and Deputy Coroner James joined the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, attended and participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Indigent Burial held in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Chicago. At this ceremony 323 Indigent persons were laid to rest in a respectful service that honored their lives.

- ***Intern Tours.***

- Coroner Banek hosted multiple tours of the Lake County Coroner's Office for the current interns of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit as well as the Lake County State's Attorney's Office.

- ***Youthful Offenders Program.***

- Coroner Banek reinstated the tour program for the Youthful Offenders Program through probation. 12 persons in this program have received a tour of the Coroner's Facility and spoke to staff about harm reduction.

- ***IVDRS and SUDORS Advisory Committee meeting.***

- Coroner Banek attended (virtually) the Advisory Committee meeting for the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)



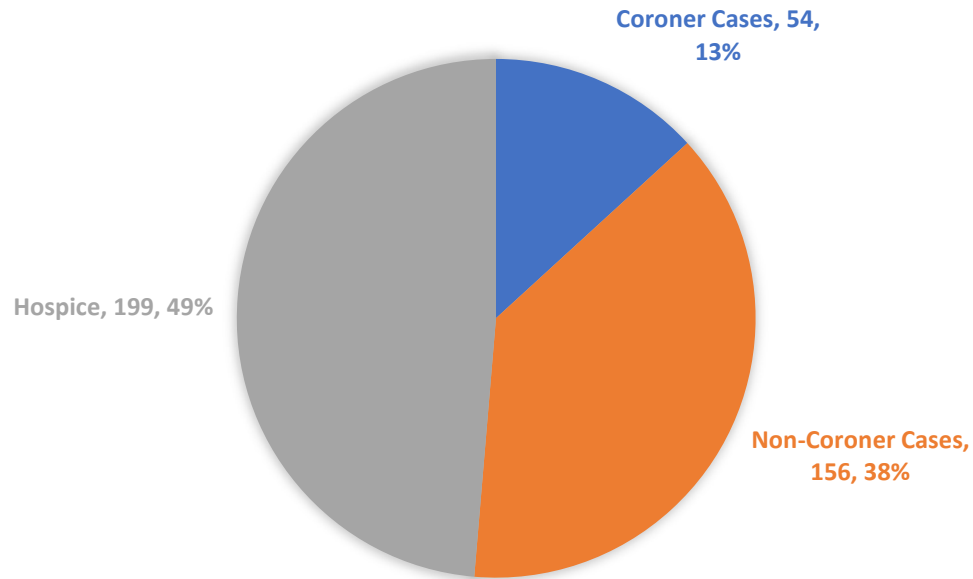
**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

Lake County Coroner

[JBanek@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:JBanek@lakecountyil.gov)

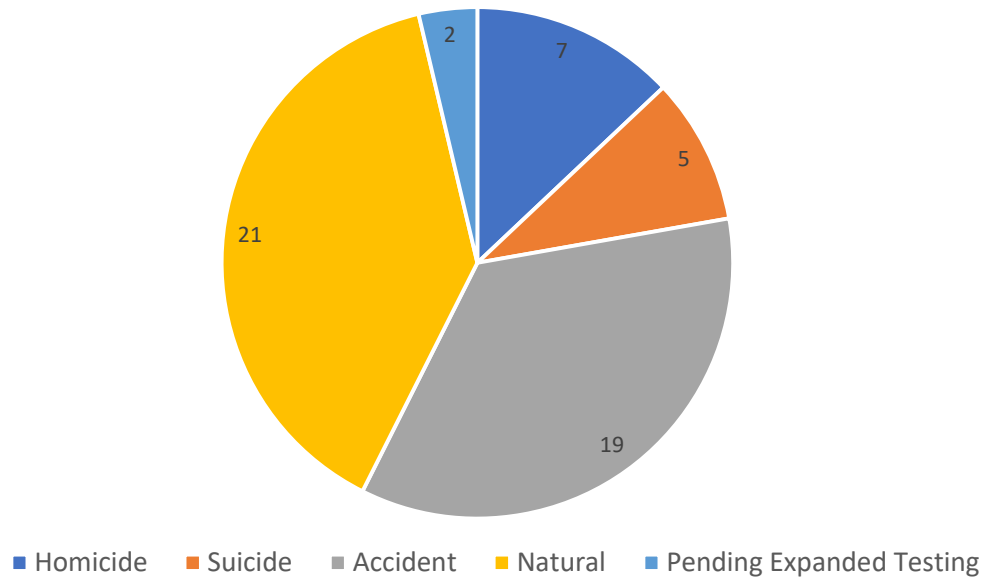
---

## JUNE 2021 OVERALL CASES



## JUNE 2021 CORONER CASES

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



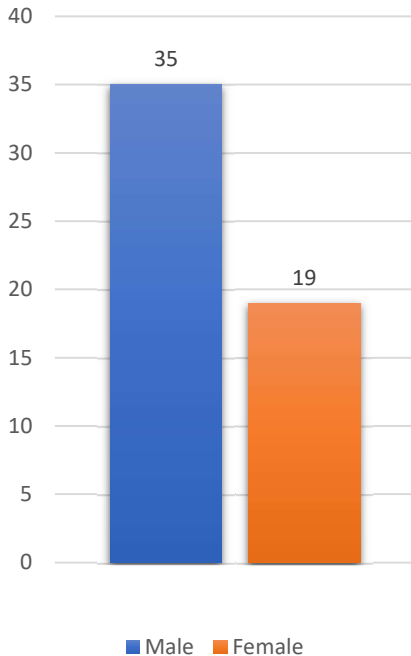


**Jennifer Banek, MS, CRNA**

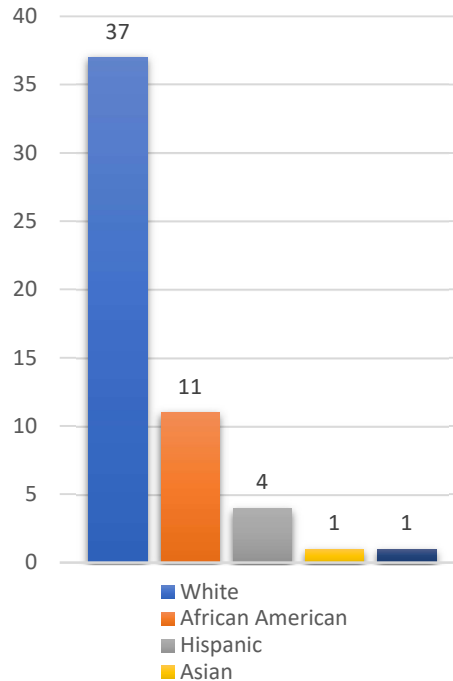
Lake County Coroner

[JBanek@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:JBanek@lakecountyil.gov)

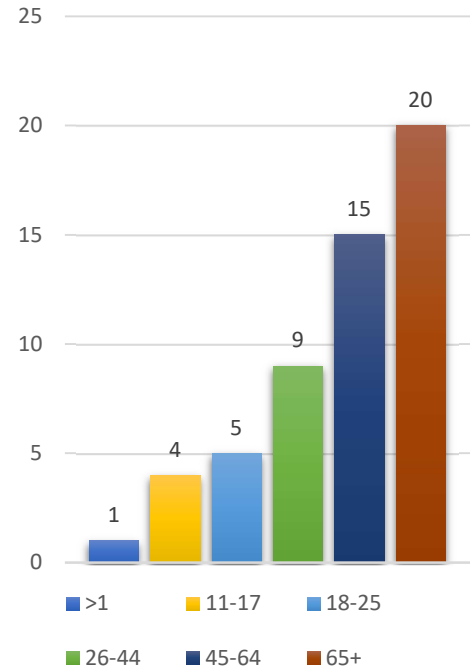
**Coroner Cases/Gender**



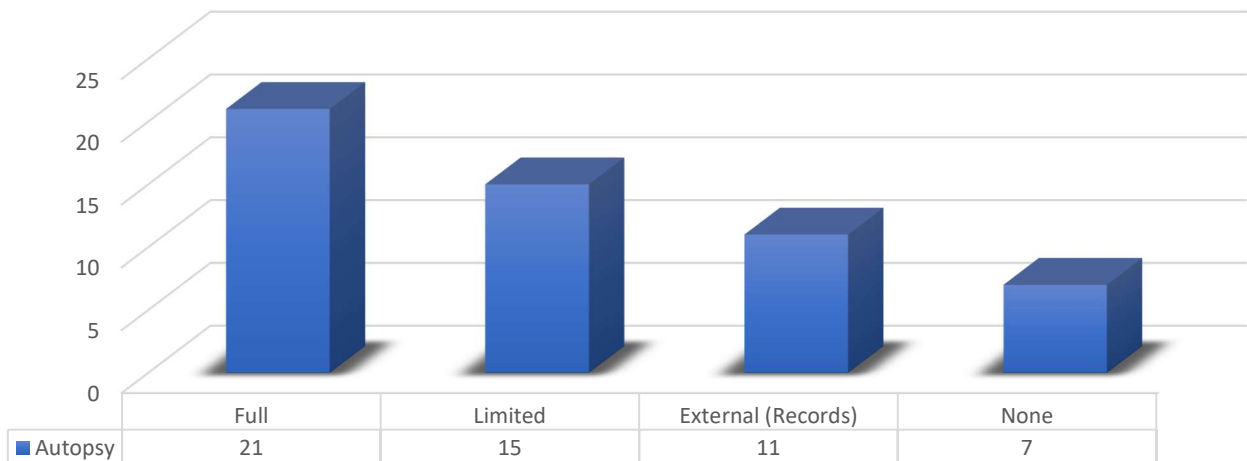
**Coroner Cases/Race**



**Coroner Cases/Age**



**Autopsies June 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.