



2024

COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ANNUAL REPORT



TONI PRECKWINKLE
President, Cook County
Board of Commissioners

ZAHRA ALI
Chief Administrative Officer

PONNI ARUNKUMAR, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE
ROBERT J. STEIN INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

2121 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612-3705
Phone: (312) 666-0500

OFFICE HOURS:

The Medical Examiner's Office operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
The office is open to the public: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on official Cook County holidays.

IDENTIFICATION HOURS:

11:00 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.
12 p.m. to 4 p.m., weekends and official Cook County holidays.

<http://www.cookcountyiil.gov/agency/medical-examiners-office>

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

Honorable Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board of Commissioners and Residents of Cook County,

Enclosed in this annual report is data detailing the breakdown of cases handled by the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) for 2024 as well as information regarding the Office's role in death investigation, the indigent disposition program, organ and tissue donation and drug-related death statistics.



In 2024, the MEO experienced a 36% decrease in total number of opioid overdose deaths compared to 2023. The number of opioid overdose deaths has returned to pre-pandemic levels. Fentanyl contributed to approximately 89% of all opioid deaths. The Office also observed an 8% decrease in gun-related homicide deaths compared to 2023. Traditionally under-resourced communities continue to be impacted at a higher rate.

The MEO maintains full accreditation with the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and is conformed to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17020 and 17025 requirements to attain the highest level of accreditation available to U.S. and international medicolegal death investigation offices.

The Office won two National Association of Counties Achievement Awards. The Cook County Unidentified Persons Project improved the process for the identification of decedents at the MEO through enhanced use of forensic methodology and technology coupled with improved collaboration with law enforcement. A second project was a joint effort between the MEO and Bureau of Technology to create the new Medical Examiner Case Archive Dashboard which provides the public with detailed information about deaths due to opioid-, gun- and temperature-related causes.

While the Office saw more than 7,000 cases in 2024, our staff handled each one with dignity and respect. I am grateful to our staff for their tireless efforts and to President Preckwinkle for her leadership and guidance throughout the year. It has been, and continues to be, an honor to serve the residents of Cook County.

Respectfully,

Ponni Arunkumar, M.D.

Ponni Arunkumar, MD
Chief Medical Examiner

COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES AT A GLANCE

Number of Deaths Investigated	15,292
Number of Cases by Manner of Death ¹	7,202
Accident	2,876
Homicide	792
Natural	2,840
Suicide	451
Undetermined	174
Homicides Autopsied	792
Suicides Autopsied	151
Non-Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths Certified	2,442
Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths Certified	428
Motor Vehicle Accidents Autopsied	91
Non-Motor Vehicle Accidents Autopsied	1,487
Drug-related Accident Deaths Certified	1,393
Drug-related Accident Deaths Autopsied	1,219
Naturals Autopsied	991
Undetermined Autopsied	165
Unidentified Autopsied	3
Opioid-Related	1,169
Gun-Related Homicides	678
Latino	147
NL White	30
NL Black	496
NL Other	5
Scene Visits	1,359
Non-Medical Examiner Cases	8,090

¹ cases without a manner of death (n=50) like non-human bones are not listed

² Benzodiazepines, opioids, methamphetamine, cocaine and xylazine

COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES AT A GLANCE

Number of Deaths in Cook County ²	41,024
Number of Bodies Transported to the Office	5,748
Number of Bodies Transported by the Office	0
External Examinations	2,313
By Physician	2,090
By Investigator	233
Partial Autopsies	274
Complete Autopsies	3,424
Hospital Autopsies under ME Jurisdiction	0
Cases Where Toxicology Was Performed	4,134
Bodies Unidentified After Examination	5
Exhumations	0
Unclaimed Bodies	340
Average number of Bodies in Storage per day	183
Organ Donations	119
Tissue Donations	165
Cornea Donations	337
Microscopic Studies	911
Formal Neuropathology Studies	129
Formal Cardiac Pathology Studies	76

COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

MISSION

The mission of the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office is to ensure public health and safety by performing autopsies and postmortem examinations to determine cause and manner of death for individuals who die in Cook County.

VISION & COMMITMENT

It is the intent of the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office to maintain a regional forensic center of excellence for the practice and advancement of forensic science for the Midwest. Through the recruitment of high-quality staff, training of current staff and improvements to the existing facility, the Medical Examiner's Office is embracing President Preckwinkle's mission to serve as good stewards of public resources, placing a special emphasis on our core values – equity, engagement and excellence.

HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

Because of a 1972 referendum, the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office was established on December 6, 1976, and the Office of the Coroner was abolished.

A medical examiner differs from a coroner in that a medical examiner is an appointed official who is required to have pertinent qualifications, while a coroner is an elected official who is not required to have any qualifications.

In Cook County, the medical examiner must be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Illinois and certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic and forensic pathology.

In Cook County, the President of the Board of Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the Board of Commissioners, appoints the medical examiner.

The Cook County office is the only Medical Examiner system in Illinois, with a jurisdiction of approximately 5.2 million people. The Medical Examiner's Office plays a vital role in the administration of justice and protection of public health.

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE OPERATIONS

JURISDICTION

Under Illinois law and local ordinance, the Medical Examiner's Office is both required and empowered to determine the cause and manner of death. The Office investigates any human death that falls within any or all the following categories:

- Criminal violence
- Suicide
- Accident
- Suddenly when in apparent good condition
- Unattended by a practicing licensed physician
- Suspicious or unusual circumstances
- Unlawful fetal death as provided in Public Act 101-0013 of the 101st General Assembly of Illinois
- Poisoning or attributable to an adverse reaction to drugs and/or alcohol
- Disease constituting a threat to public health
- Injury or toxic agent resulting from employment
- During some medical diagnostic or therapeutic procedures
- In any prison or penal institution
- When involuntarily confined in jail, prison hospitals or other institutions or in police custody
- When any human body is to be cremated, dissected or buried at sea
- When a dead body is brought into a new medico-legal jurisdiction without proper medical certification

DEPARTMENTS

The Medical Examiner's Office is organized into 8 divisions:

- Administration
- Forensic Technician
- Investigations
- Histology
- Medical Records
- Pathology
- Photography
- Radiology

PRIMARY MEDICAL EXAMINER FUNCTIONS

Death Investigations

The Investigations Division answers initial calls from mandated reporters concerning the death of an individual within the County. Investigators determine if the deceased falls within the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office and performs scene investigations when warranted.

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE OPERATIONS

Autopsies and Postmortem Examinations

Forensic pathologists perform complete autopsy examinations or external examinations as necessary to determine cause and manner of death. Forensic pathologists also provide expert testimony in criminal and civil matters at deposition or trial. Forensic pathologists meet with law enforcement, state's attorneys, public defenders and family as appropriate. Finally, forensic pathologists provide prompt notification to respective agencies, such as the Department of Health, of any death due to a reportable disease, unsafe consumer product and unsafe work environment.

Other Services Provided

Other services provided by the Medical Examiner's Office include:

- Providing Vital Statistics with cause and manner of death for inclusion on the death certificate
- Preparing or reviewing toxicology reports which list any foreign substance found in body
- Coordinating and obtaining consultations when appropriate
- Processing cremation permits for funeral directors
- Teaching medical students, pathology residents, law enforcement personnel and international observers
- Conducting award-winning research
- Providing statistics to third parties to optimize public health

Information for Families

Information for Families

In addition to its vital role in law enforcement and public health, one of the most important duties of the Medical Examiner's Office is to provide information to families who have lost a loved one – often suddenly and unexpectedly. Adding to the stress of coping with a sudden loss, this may be the first time families have dealt with the Medical Examiner's Office.

The Medical Examiner's Office works with families to assist them through the process. The Office's grief counselors, investigators and clerical staff are there to help, and forensic pathologists can help family members understand how the death occurred. In some situations, the pathologist is unable to discuss details of the case until the autopsy report is issued.

Autopsies and External Examinations

An autopsy is a thorough examination of the body, inside and out, performed to document or rule out injuries and diseases. The autopsy procedure is performed by a medical doctor with special forensic training in recognizing the appearance of injuries and the effects of diseases. An autopsy may take several hours to perform and is often followed by laboratory tests, some of which can take months to complete. In cases where an autopsy may not be warranted, an examination of only the external surfaces of the body is performed.

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE OPERATIONS

Requesting an Autopsy Report

Families may request copies of postmortem reports through the Medical Examiner's Online Portal or by contacting the Medical Records Department.

Information related to Pending Cases

After the medical examination is complete, it is sometimes necessary to perform further analysis, be it medical or investigative in nature, to determine the exact cause and manner of death. In this instance, a "Pending" Death Certificate will be issued. Disposition of the deceased may take place with this Pending Death Certificate. Once the forensic pathologist has determined the final cause of death, the Pathology Department will notify the families of the cause and manner of death. At this point, the funeral home can obtain certified copies of the final death certificate for the family through the Illinois Department of Vital Records.

Death Certificate

Families may obtain certified copies of death certificates by contacting the funeral home or the Cook County Clerk's Office. There are some suburbs which operate their own registrar. Families are advised to call the funeral home or the Medical Examiner's Office for the contact information of the registrar that handled a decedent's death certificate.

Recovering Property of Decedents

The Medical Examiner's Office inventories all personal belongings of the decedent upon arrival to the office. Property will be turned over to the funeral home retained by the legal next of kin. The Medical Examiner's Office may ask the requestor to provide a birth certificate, marriage license or other papers to prove the relationship to the deceased. Unclaimed property will be held by the Medical Examiner's Office for one year. After one year, the property is subject to sale by auction.

Virtual Cemetery

The final disposition sites of the indigents buried/cremated by the Medical Examiner's Office can now be found on the open data portal for Cook County Government.

In February 2014, the Medical Examiner's Office began utilizing cremation as a dignified alternative to burial for indigent remains. Cremated remains are kept at the Medical Examiner's Office for one year and may be picked up by the family or willing persons who are authorized to do so.

Unidentified Persons

The Medical Examiner's Office has a website to provide up-to-date descriptions of unidentified remains whose cases have been processed. Individuals may contact the Medical Examiners' Office Investigations Department regarding matching one of the unidentified bodies to the identity of a missing person.

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE OPERATIONS

Unclaimed Persons

If someone is a next of kin to an unclaimed person, they can contact our Indigent and Family Service Manager to claim that person. Unclaimed indigents will be cremated at the County's expense within 60 days of admission to the Medical Examiner's Office as dictated by the Cook County Medical Examiner Ordinance.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The National Association of Counties (NACo) recognized the Office for its accomplishments with Achievement Awards for two special projects. The Cook County Unidentified Persons Project improved the internal systems associated with the identification of decedents at the MEO. The Office worked to improve relationships with law enforcement agencies and has fine-tuned identification techniques, including enhanced use of DNA testing and new fingerprint methods, for both current and cold-case unidentified decedents, with the hope of bringing closure to families across the country. The project also improved the Office's operational efficiency by reducing the facility's cooler inventory with faster identification of decedents.

The second award involved a collaboration between the MEO and Bureau of Technology to provide the public with information about deaths due to opioid, gun and temperature related causes via an online database. First-of-their-kind interactive Medical Examiner Case Archive Dashboard was created to allow the public to visualize death trends including age, gender, race and ethnicity. The dashboard allows users to filter data by municipality, and to sort opioid-related, gun-related and temperature-related deaths using existing case archive maps. Information is updated twice daily. Publicly available information includes the cause and manner of death, demographic information, incident location, city of residence and the decedent's zip-code. The dashboard provides transparency and real-time data to public health agencies, researchers, law enforcement, journalists and the broader public.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

TWO FELLOW GRADUATES

Fellows Samantha Stephen and Keenen Smith finished their one-year forensic pathology fellowship at the MEO and stayed on as assistant medical examiners. We congratulate them on their excellent work ethic and look forward to working with them as they embark on their careers.



GRANTS

The MEO continues to administer two federal grants awarded in 2023. The first, the Medical Examiner Postmortem Toxicology Outsourcing Program Grant, was provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and administered through the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, supplying \$222,864 to support toxicology case examinations. The second, the Overdose Data to Action Grant, originated from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and was administered via the City of Chicago Department of Public Health, providing \$225,358 to enhance the MEO's capacity for tracking and developing surveillance strategies for fatal opioid cases.

Additionally, the MEO was allocated \$200,000 (through the end of August 2026) from the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant that is awarded to the County's Department of Emergency Management Regional Security for a professional contractor to provide mass fatality and continuity planning which will strengthen the Office's preparedness and resiliency.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

INDIGENT BURIAL: DIGNIFIED FINAL DISPOSITION

Since its inception in 2014, the indigent cremation program has cremated more than 4,500 indigent decedents and streamlined the process to ensure prompt disposition. The program is made possible through partnerships with the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs, Cook County Public Administrator, Cook County Sheriff's Police Department, Cook County Funeral Director Association, Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago, foreign consulates, faith organizations and support from the community. As the MEO looks forward, we will continue to cremate indigent decedents, strive to ensure prompt disposition and provide a dignified final disposition option for indigents. eliminate unnecessary wait in disposition and provide a dignified final disposition option for indigents.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

The following is a list of funeral homes, directors and other individuals who assisted the CCME0 in 2024:

Funeral Home	Director
CREMATION SOCIETY	MIKE DELGATTO, BOB STELLATO
EMANUEL'S CHAPEL	EMANUEL JONES
EVANSTON FUNERAL & CREMATION	TIM HARRINGTON, TYRA POINDEXTER, RONALD WEIS
GRACE & MERCY FS	MALISHA PORTER
HULTGREN FH	ABI DAVOUST, TIM HULTGREN
NOVA FUNERAL SERVICES	NELI NOVA
SAMBRANO FUNERAL SERVICE	LAURA SAMBRANO
WALLACE HARRISON FUNERAL HOME	NAKIA WALLACE



COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

The MEO has agreements with several universities allowing medical students and residents to participate in one- to two-month rotations to observe pathologists conducting examinations, including autopsies, to determine the cause and manner of death. The following are the institutions that participate in this program:

- American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine
- Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- Concordia University
- Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center
- Eastern Virginia Medical Center
- Loyola University Chicago Medical Center
- Malcolm X College
- Marian University
- McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University
- Midwestern University
- Poznan University of Medical Sciences
- Rosalind Franklin School of Medical Sciences
- Ross University School of Medicine
- Rush University Medical Center
- St. James School of Medicine
- State University of New York Upstate Medical University
- University of Chicago Medical Center
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Kentucky
- University of Wisconsin
- Worsham College of Mortuary Science

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

PATHOLOGIST ASSISTANT ROTATIONS

The MEO has an agreement with Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science that facilitates pathologist assistant students to observe pathologists conducting examinations and autopsies.

GRIEF COUNSELING

The MEO entered into an agreement in November 2013 with the University of Illinois Jane Addams School of Social Work that allows students to assist the families of patients by providing grief counseling.

MORTUARY SCIENCES

The MEO has agreements with Malcolm X College and Worsham College of Mortuary Science that facilitate the donation of indigent bodies for use by mortuary students to further their study of mortuary science. These agreements are in accordance with the Illinois Cadaver Act and generate lab-use fees to the Office.

PUBLIC POLICY

The MEO entered into an agreement with the University of Chicago-Harris School of Public Policy to support the Office in projects related to homicides and opioid deaths.

ILLINOIS VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

The MEO shares data with the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS). The IVDRS links data from various public health and criminal justice sources to present the fullest possible picture of the circumstances surrounding violent death in Illinois. IVDRS helps Illinois policymakers analyze violence-related deaths, identify risk factors and develop prevention efforts.

ORGAN/TISSUE DONATION

Gift of Hope

The MEO has an agreement with Gift of Hope to donate organs and tissue upon consent of the next of kin. Gift of Hope will occasionally request to procure tissues postmortem at the Office. Each organ donor can save up to seven lives and each tissue donor can improve 50 lives.

CONSULTATIONS

The Medical Examiner's Office requests radiology consultation from Forensic Radiology Group on complicated cases involving extensive radiology to determine cause and manner of death. The Office requests neuropathology and cardiac pathology consultation from Northwestern Hospital, anthropology consultation from anthropologists at Loyola University and University of Chicago and dental consultation from Dr. Jerold Smith.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

FELLOWSHIP

Each year, the MEO offers a one-year forensic pathology fellowship program for up to three graduates of an accredited residency program in general pathology. This program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

The selected fellows receive training in scene investigation, forensic toxicology, firearms, odontology, autopsy techniques, injury pattern recognition and anthropology. In addition to this training, the selected fellows each perform approximately 250 autopsies during the program.

MISSING PERSONS DAY

On April 20, 2024 the Office hosted its fourth Missing Persons Day. This is a collaborative effort where families of missing loved ones can take all steps needed with different agencies, including police departments and National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to locate their loved ones.



TOURS

The Office limits the number of tours of the facility out of respect for the deceased and their families and to avoid any disruption to daily operations. Tours are provided to students in health-related fields, fire personnel, law enforcement personnel and trainees as well as government agencies involved in the medicolegal justice system. For more information, contact Mary Marik, registered health information administrator, at (312) 997-4430.

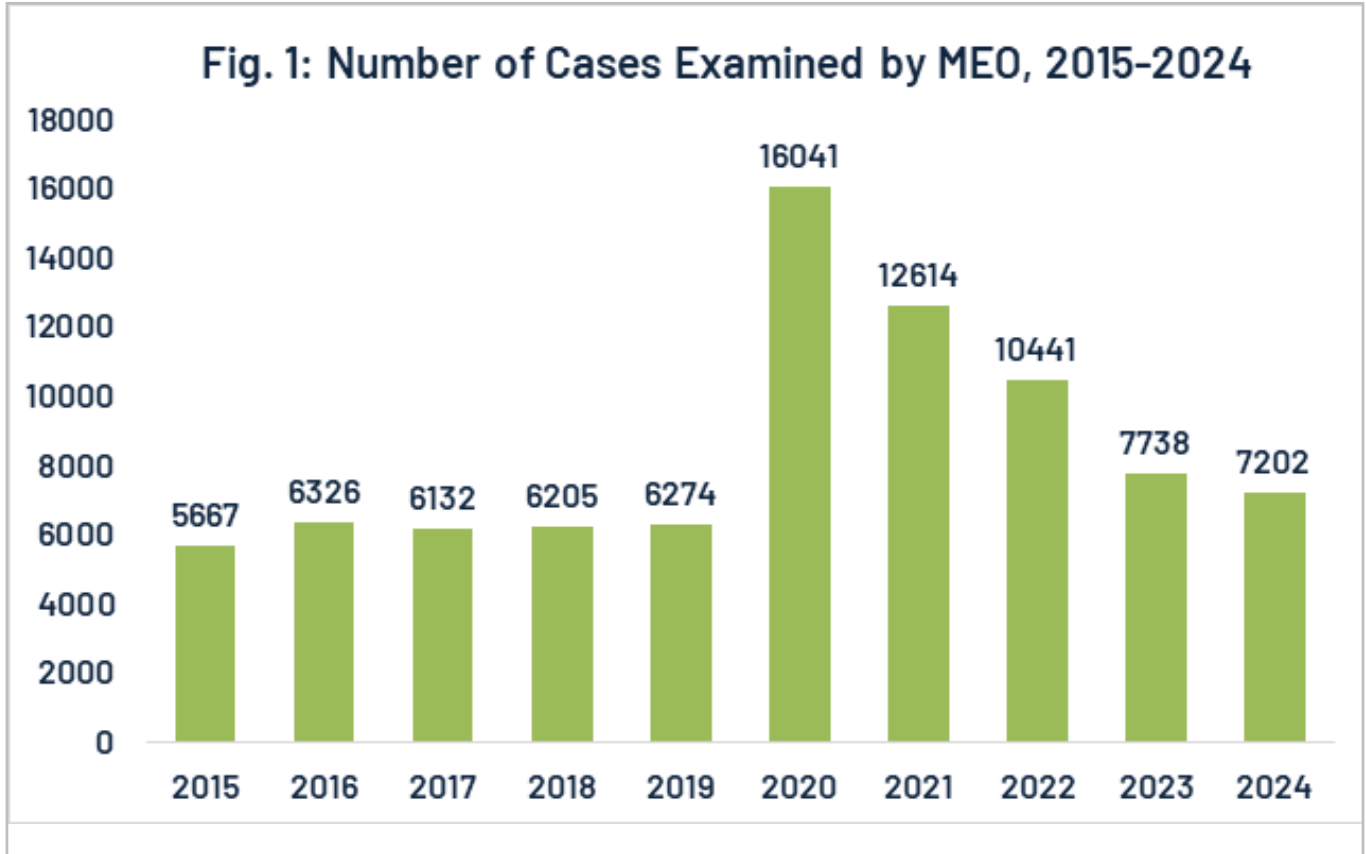
A LOOK AHEAD

The MEO is undertaking the following initiatives in 2025:

- Increase the number of assistant medical examiners to reduce the average caseload per pathologist
- Capital improvements including the renovation of the forensic technician departments and intercom expansion throughout the building
- Planning for a new state-of-the-art medical examiner facility
- Continue to work with Gift of Hope to increase organ and tissue donation throughout Cook County
- Maintain National Association of Medical Examiner's accreditation and accreditation with the International Standards Organization

**CHARTS AND GRAPHS
FOR 2024
COOK COUNTY
MEDICAL EXAMINER
OFFICE DATA**

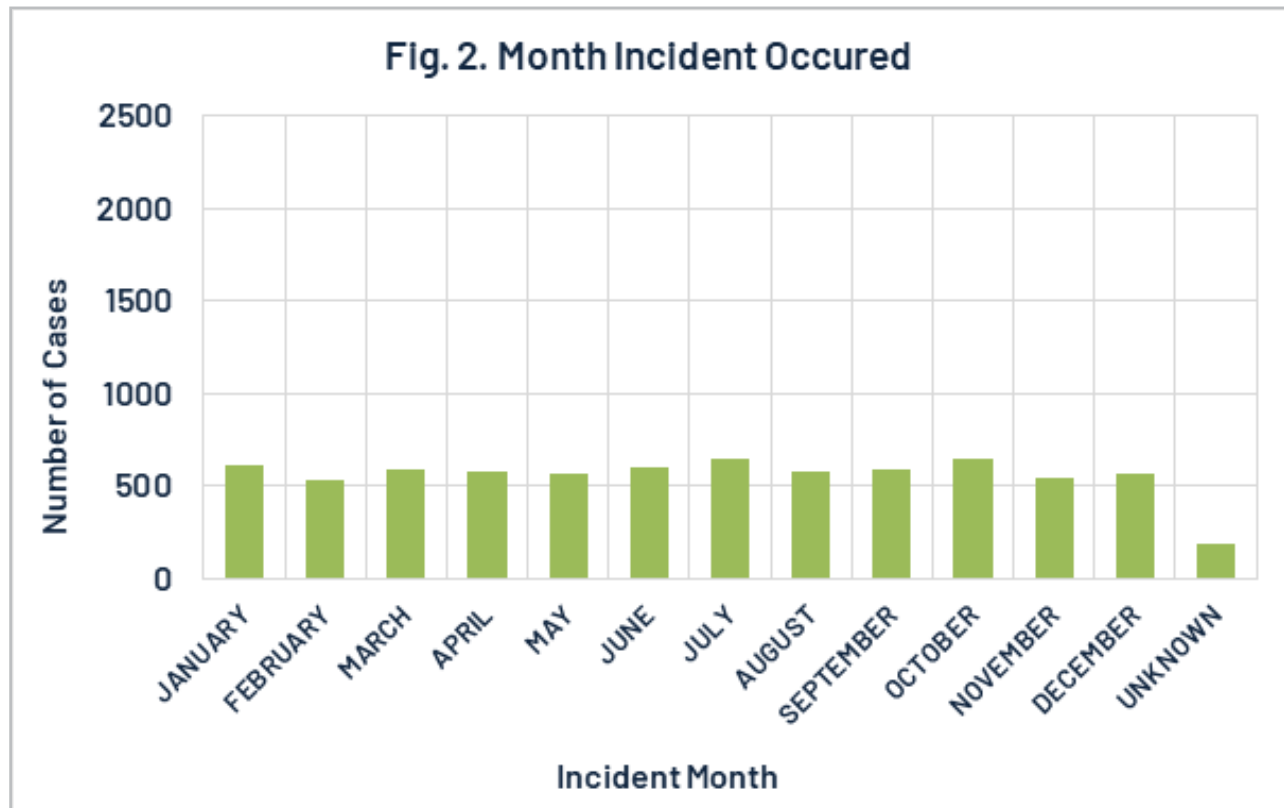
MEDICAL EXAMINER YEARLY CASE NUMBERS



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 1. MONTH WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED

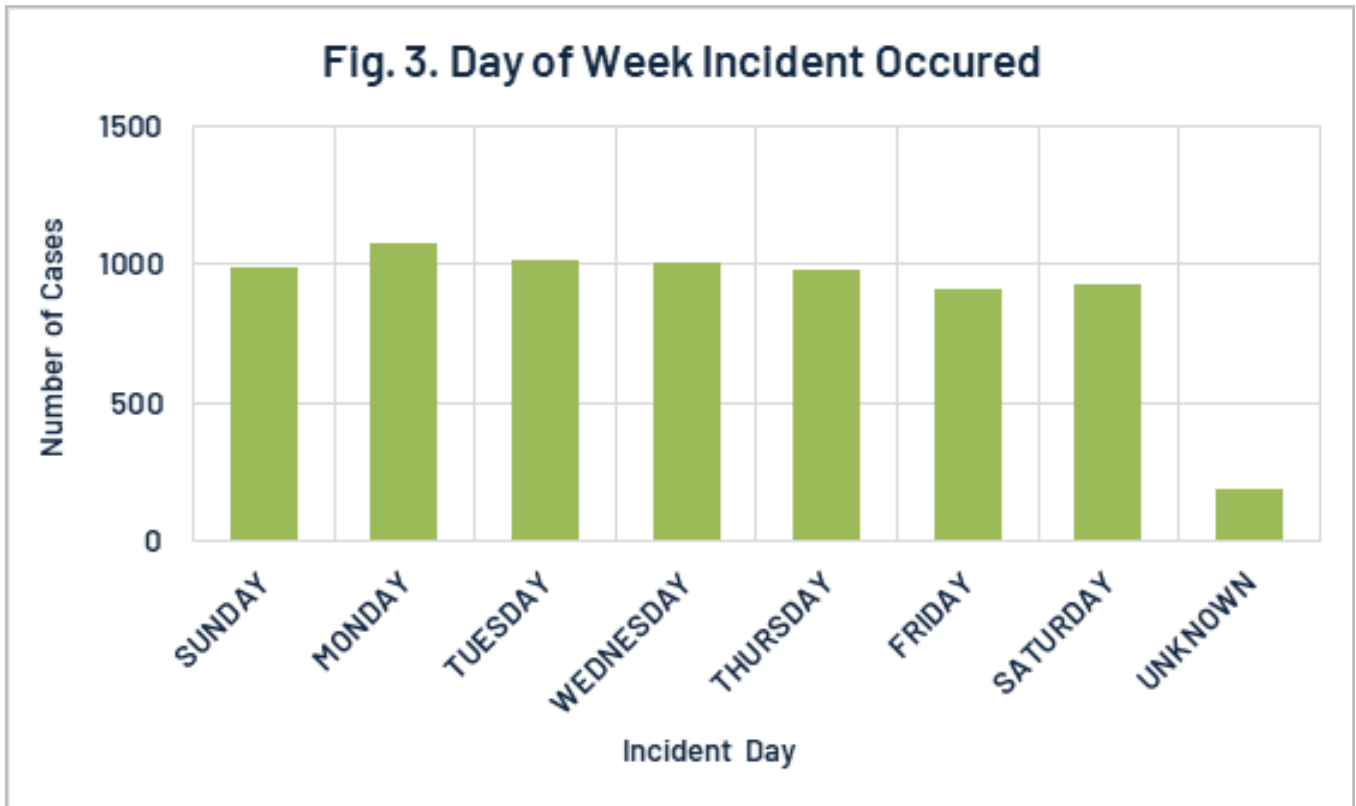
MONTH	NUMBER	PERCENT
January	613	8.51%
February	525	7.29%
March	590	8.19%
April	574	7.97%
May	563	7.82%
June	597	8.29%
July	639	8.87%
August	575	7.98%
September	592	8.22%
October	647	8.98%
November	537	7.43%
December	560	7.78%
Not Known	190	2.64%



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 2. DAY OF THE WEEK WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED

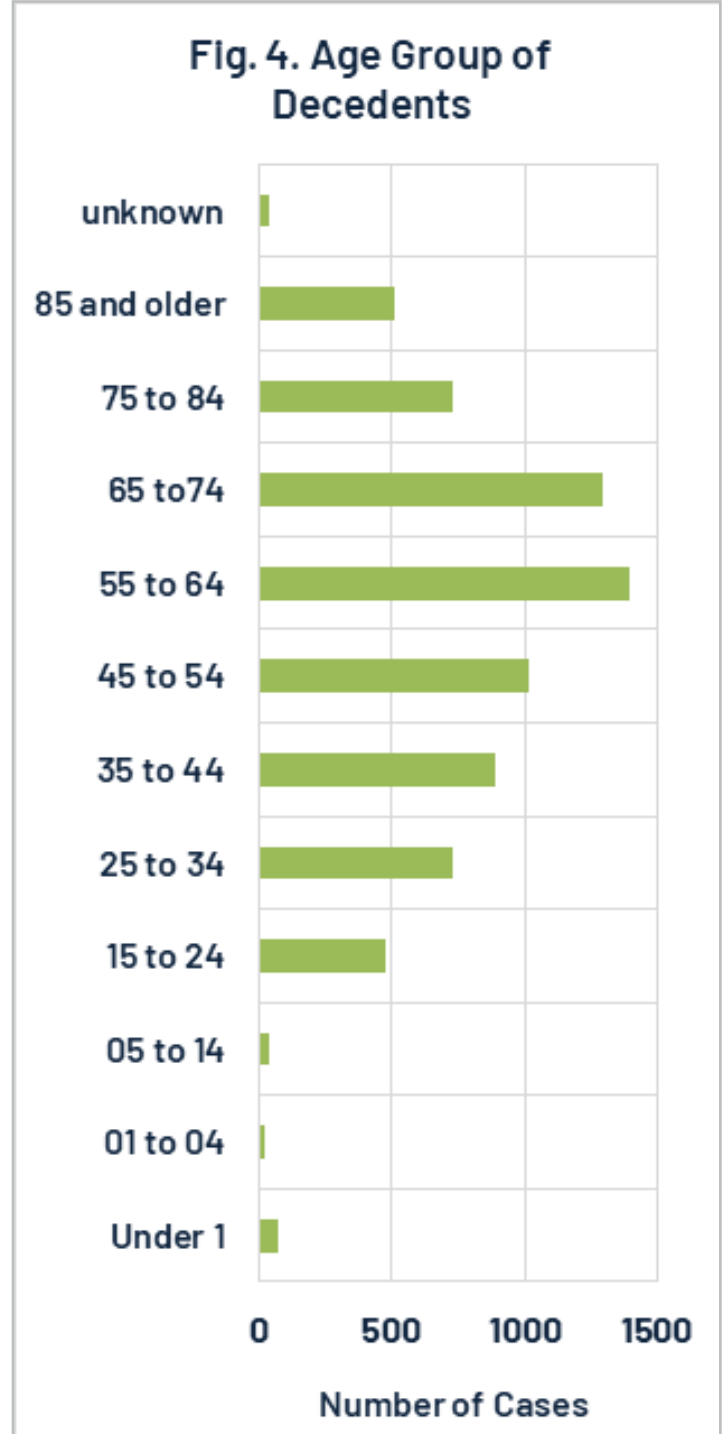
DAY	NUMBER	PERCENT
Sunday	986	13.90%
Monday	1072	15.11%
Tuesday	1017	14.33%
Wednesday	1010	14.12%
Thursday	980	13.81%
Friday	911	12.84%
Saturday	930	13.11%
Not Known	190	2.68%



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 3. AGE GROUPS of DECENDENTS

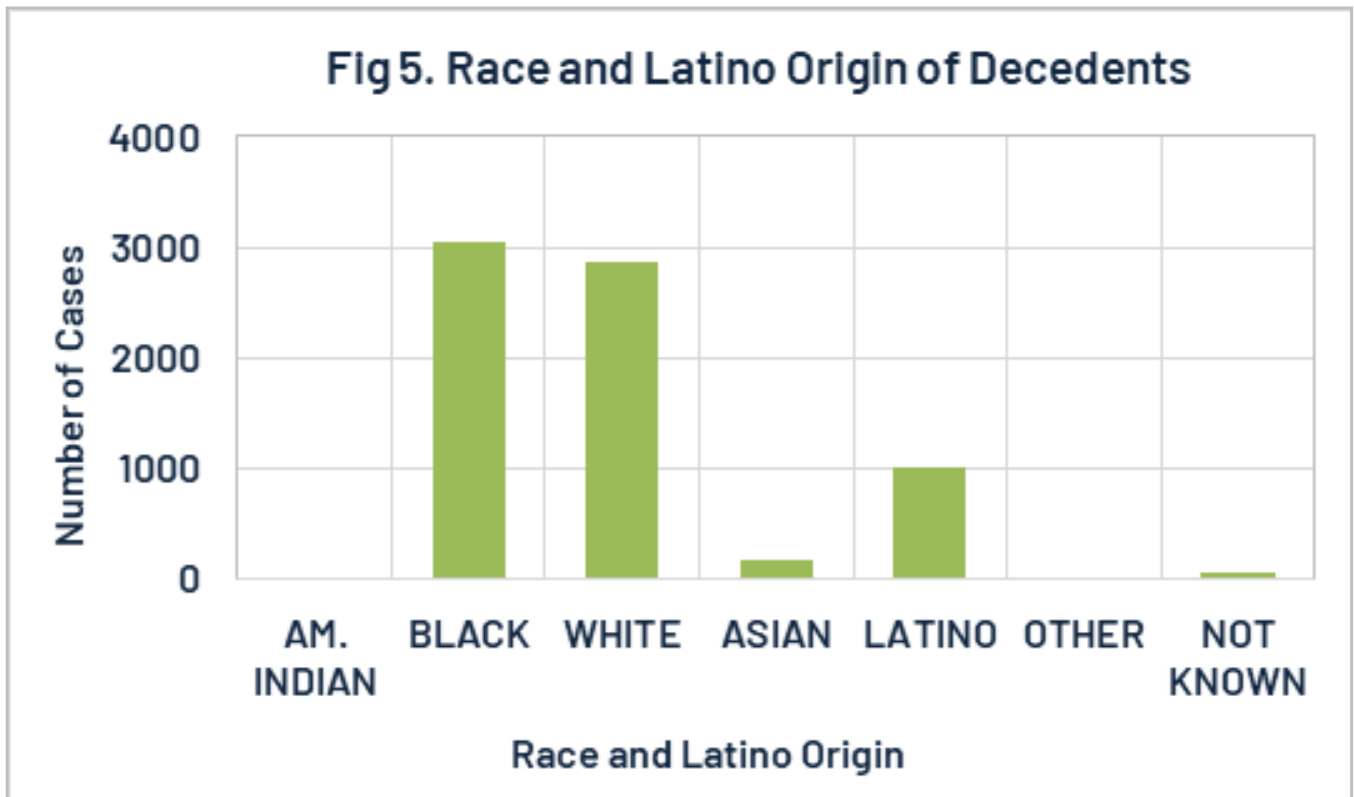
AGE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Under 1	72	1.00%
1 to 4	26	0.36%
5 to 15	40	0.56%
15 to 24	477	6.62%
20 to 34	728	10.11%
35 to 44	886	12.30%
45 to 54	1013	14.07%
55 to 64	1391	19.31%
65 to 74	1293	17.95%
75 to 84	726	10.08%
85 & older	507	7.04%
Not Known	43	0.60%



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 4. RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS

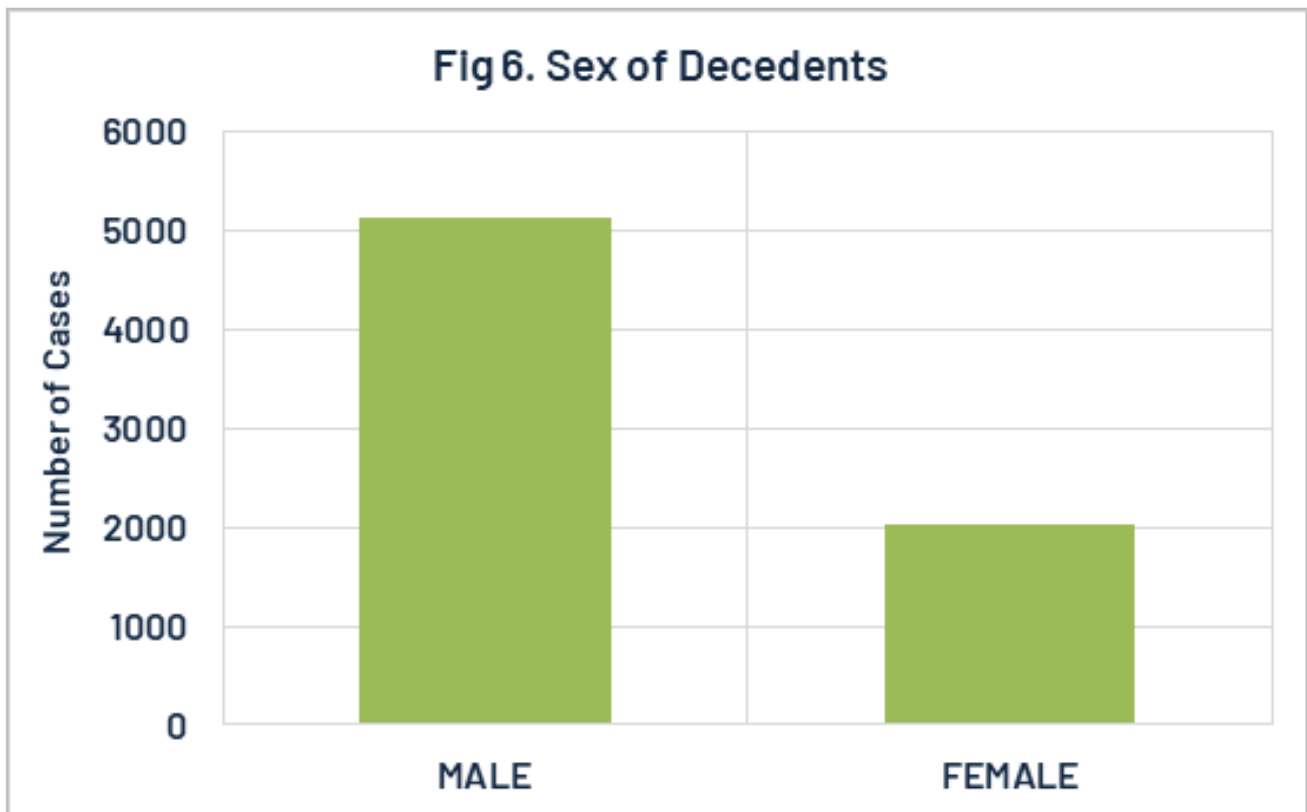
RACE	NUMBER	PERCENT
AM, INDIAN	2	0.03%
BLACK	3040	42.21%
WHITE	2857	39.67%
ASIAN	184	2.55%
LATINO	1023	14.20%
OTHER	29	0.40%
NOT KNOWN	67	0.93%



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 5. GENDER OF DECEDENTS

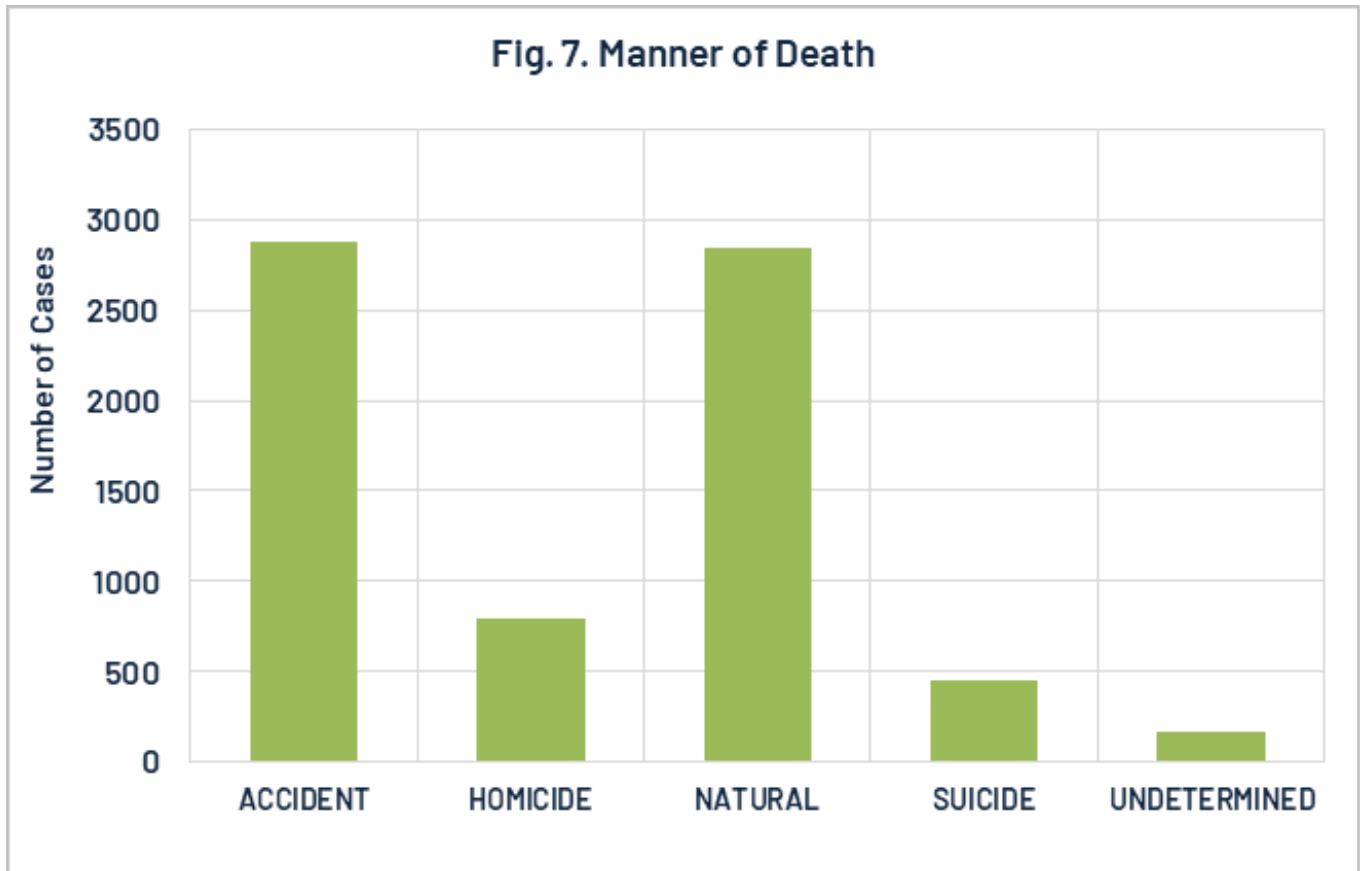
GENDER	NUMBER	PERCENT
MALE	5132	71.26%
FEMALE	2035	28.26%
NOT KNOWN	35	0.49%



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 6. MANNER OF DEATH³

MANNER	NUMBER
ACCIDENT	2876
HOMICIDE	792
NATURAL	2840
SUICIDE	451
UNDETERMINED	174

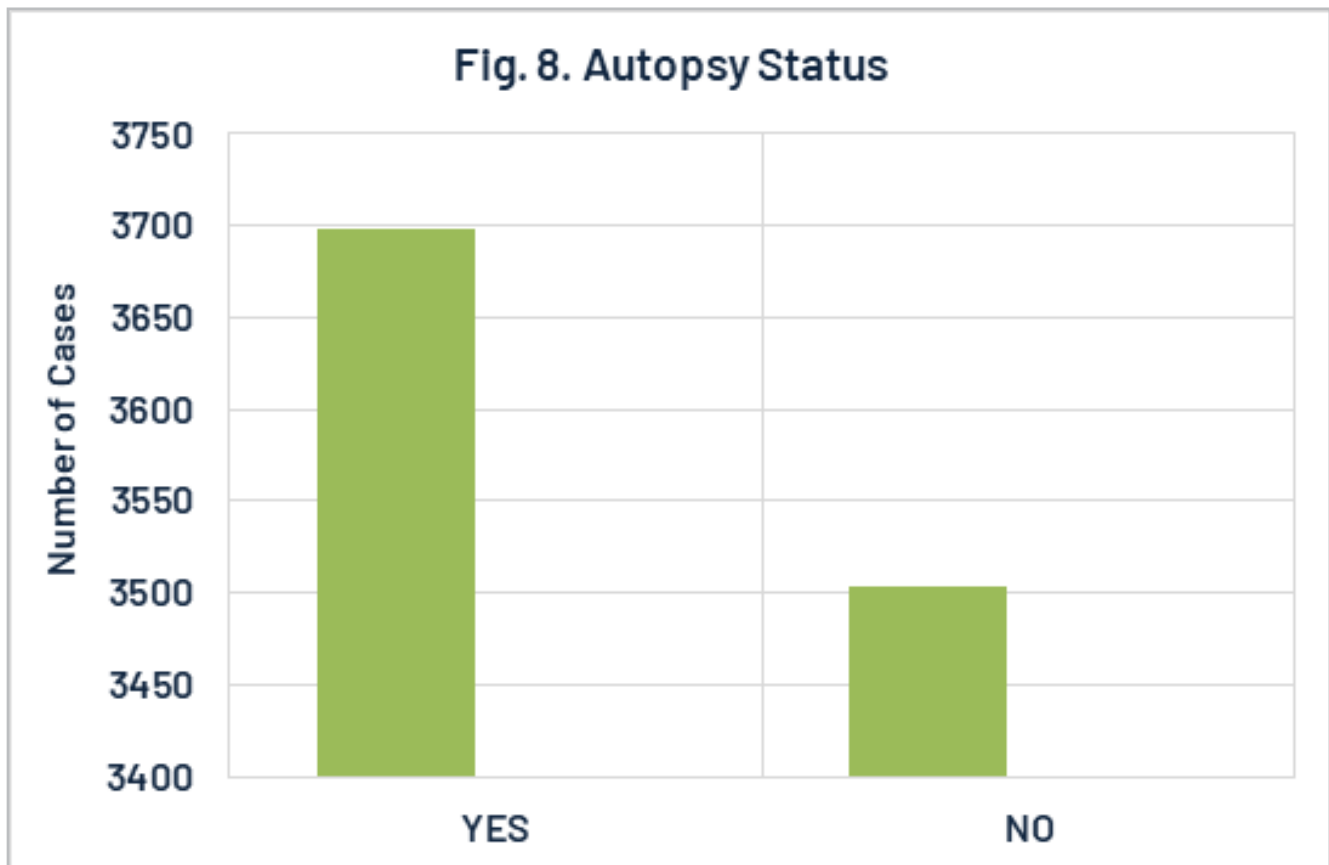


³ category of cases without manner (n=53) of death is not shown

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 7. AUTOPSY STATUS⁴

AUTOPSY	NUMBER	PERCENT
YES	3698	51.35%
NO	3504	48.65%

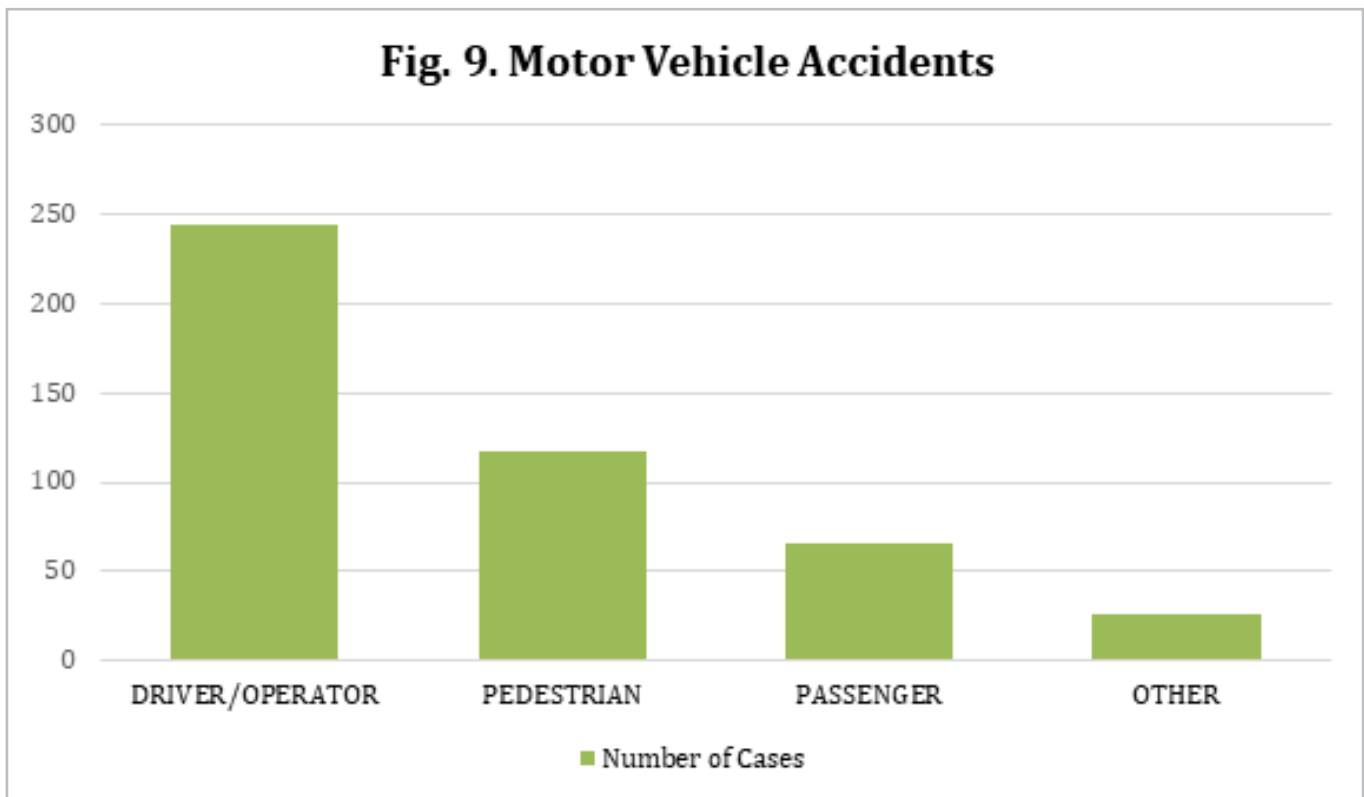


⁴ Table and graph do not show cases without manner (n=55).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 8. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

STATUS	NUMBER	PERCENT
DRIVER/OPERATOR	223	51.74%
PEDESTRIAN	120	27.84%
PASSENGER	68	15.78%
OTHER	20	4.64%



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 9. MANNER OF DEATH BY MONTH OF INCIDENT⁵

MONTH	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	TOTAL
JANUARY	245	57	261	37	11	613
FEBRUARY	218	41	208	34	21	525
MARCH	244	59	236	42	7	590
APRIL	235	50	223	33	24	574
MAY	244	74	173	49	17	563
JUNE	235	89	224	31	15	597
JULY	255	93	230	34	17	639
AUGUST	234	74	219	35	8	575
SEPTEMBER	229	71	231	42	16	592
OCTOBER	237	69	276	45	17	647
NOVEMBER	215	57	212	37	10	537
DECEMBER	214	53	250	26	8	560
NOT KNOWN	71	5	97	6	3	190
Total	2,876	792	2,840	451	174	7,202

⁵ Table does not show cases without manner (n=53).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 10. MANNER OF DEATH BY WEEKDAY OF INCIDENT⁶

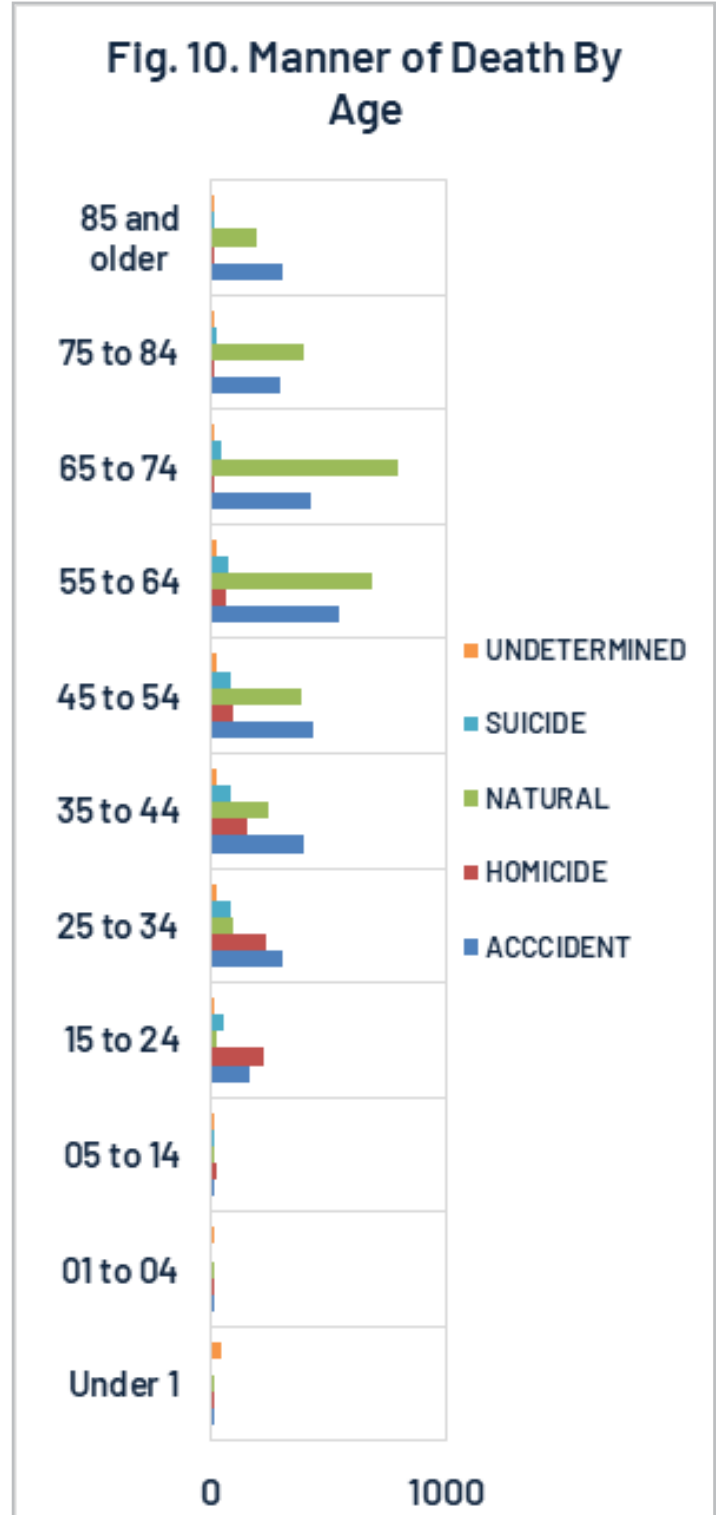
MANNER	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOT KNOWN
ACCIDENT	421	404	405	400	398	372	405	71
HOMICIDE	147	126	90	100	101	105	118	5
NATURAL	357	448	432	411	402	367	326	97
SUICIDE	61	63	67	73	59	59	63	6
UNDETERMINED	17	33	27	25	24	17	28	3
Total	1,003	1,074	1,021	1009	984	920	940	190

⁶ All cases do not have incident date, so weekday of incident cannot be determined for all cases. Table does not show cases without manner (n=53).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 11. AGE GROUP AND MANNER OF DEATH⁷

	ACCID.	HOM.	NATU.	SUIC.	UNDETER.
<1	6	6	15	0	41
1-4	10	3	7	0	6
5-14	10	17	9	2	2
15-24	163	223	25	54	12
25-34	299	228	91	86	24
35-44	396	149	238	78	22
45-54	436	90	383	80	21
55-64	542	61	688	74	18
65-74	419	11	795	46	13
75-84	295	1	394	26	7
>=85	298	3	195	5	2
NOT KNOWN	2	0	0	0	6
Total	2876	792	2840	451	174

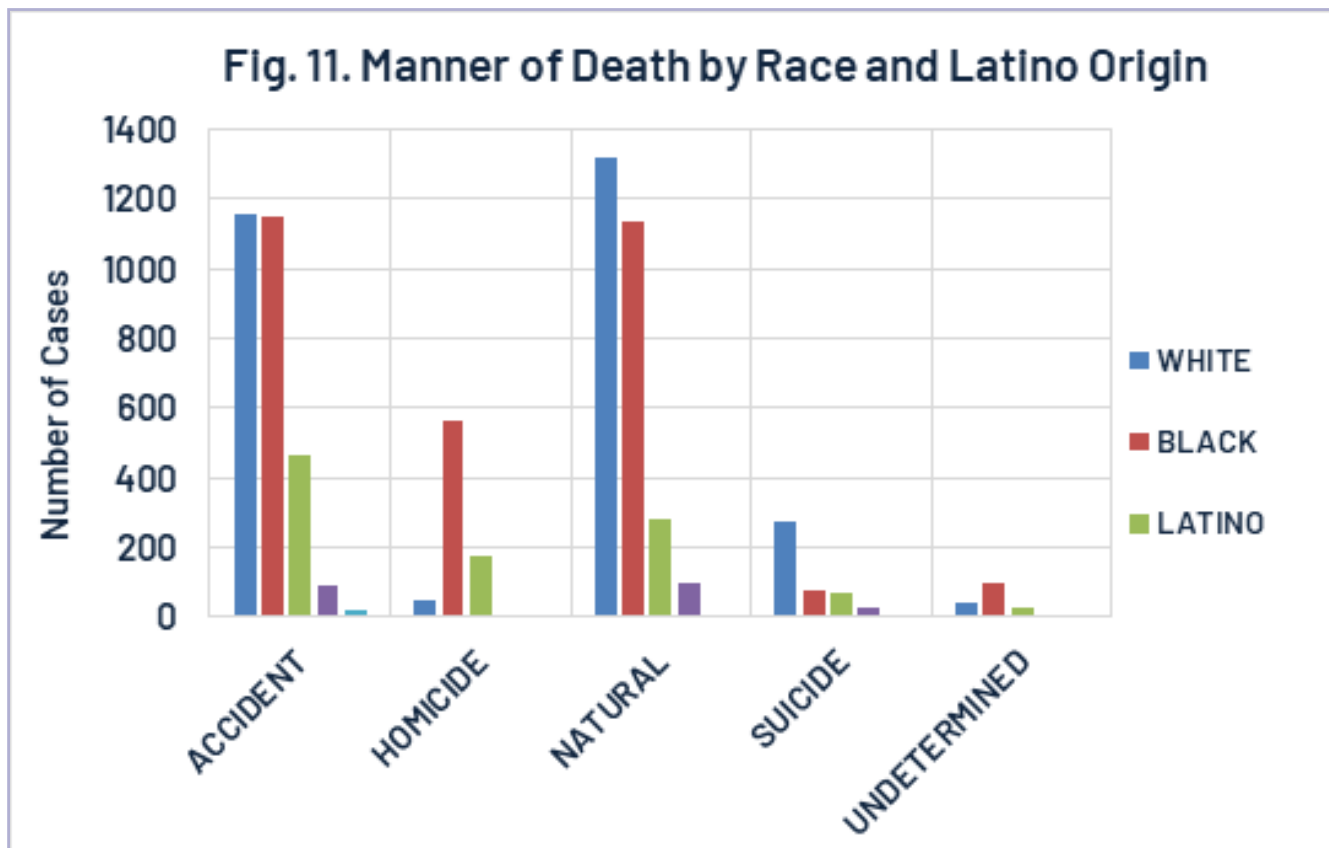


⁷ The graph and table do not show cases without manner (n=53).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 12. MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE (WHITE/BLACK) AND LATINO ORIGIN⁸

MANNER	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	NOT KNOWN
ACCIDENT	1159	1150	465	86	16
HOMICIDE	48	565	173	5	1
NATURAL	1319	1138	283	93	7
SUICIDE	276	78	70	26	1
UNDETERMINED	39	97	28	4	6
Total	2841	3028	1019	214	31

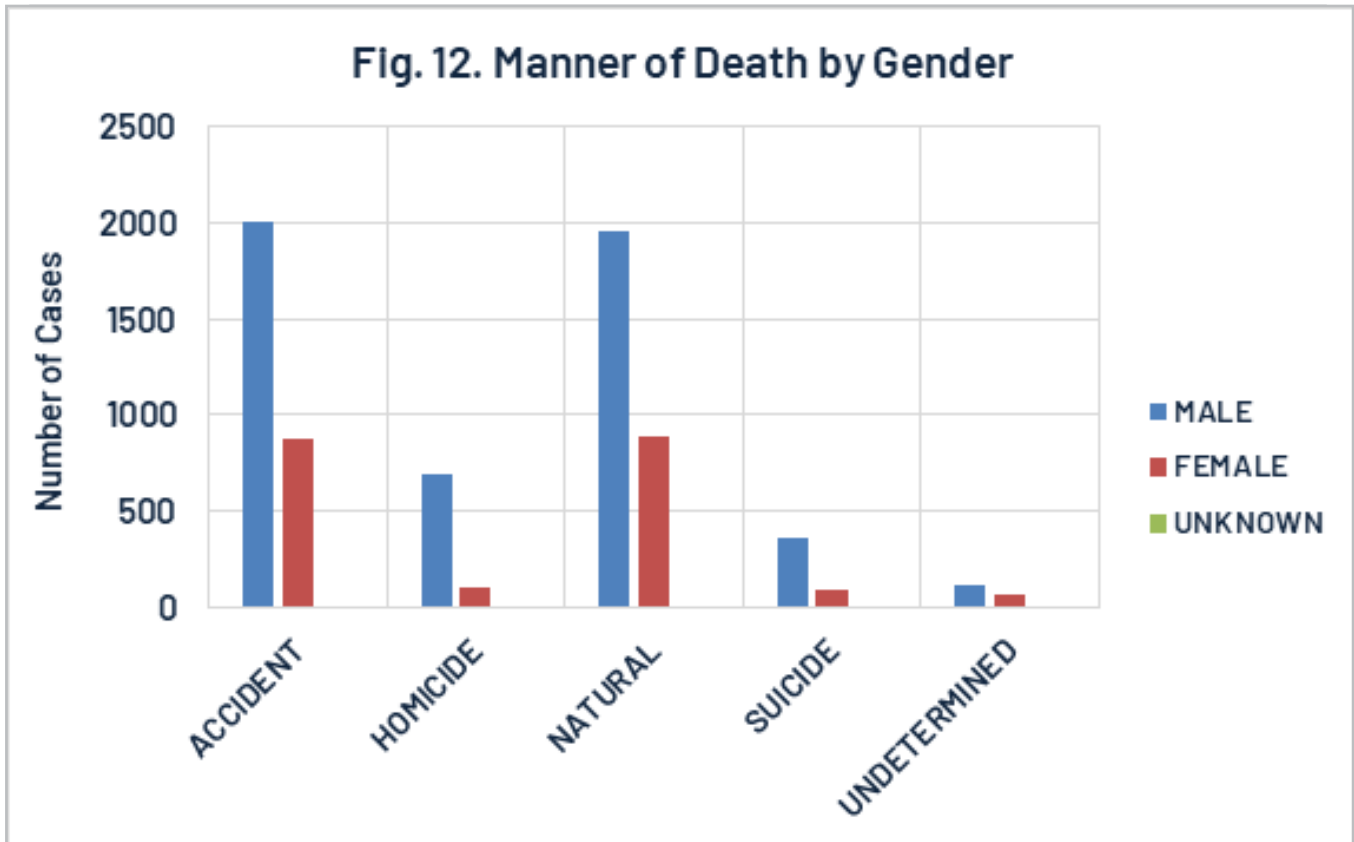


⁸ This table does not show Asian, Am. Indian, and Other Race. The graph and table do not show cases without manner (n=55).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 13. MANNER OF DEATH BY GENDER OF DECEDENT⁹

MANNER	WHITE	FEMALE	NOT KNOWN	Total
ACCIDENT	2002	874	0	2876
HOMICIDE	690	102	0	792
NATURAL	1950	890	0	2840
SUICIDE	361	90	0	451
UNDETERMINED	110	64	0	174
Total	5113	2020	0	7138



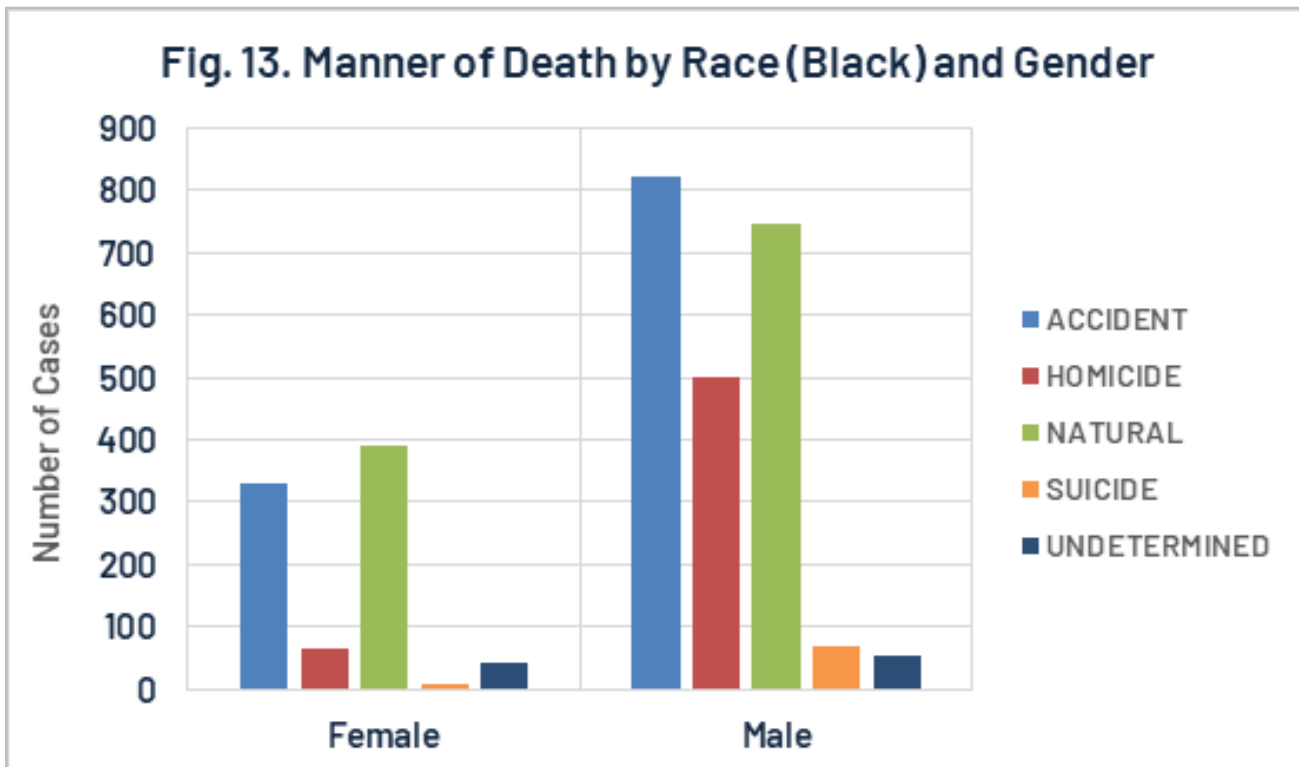
⁹ Table and graph do not show 33 unknown gender which belongs to the category of cases without manner of death.

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 14. MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN AND GENDER OF DECEDENT¹⁰

RACE: BLACK

GENDER	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	Total
Female	329	66	392	10	42	839
Male	821	499	746	68	55	2189
Total	1150	565	1138	78	97	3028



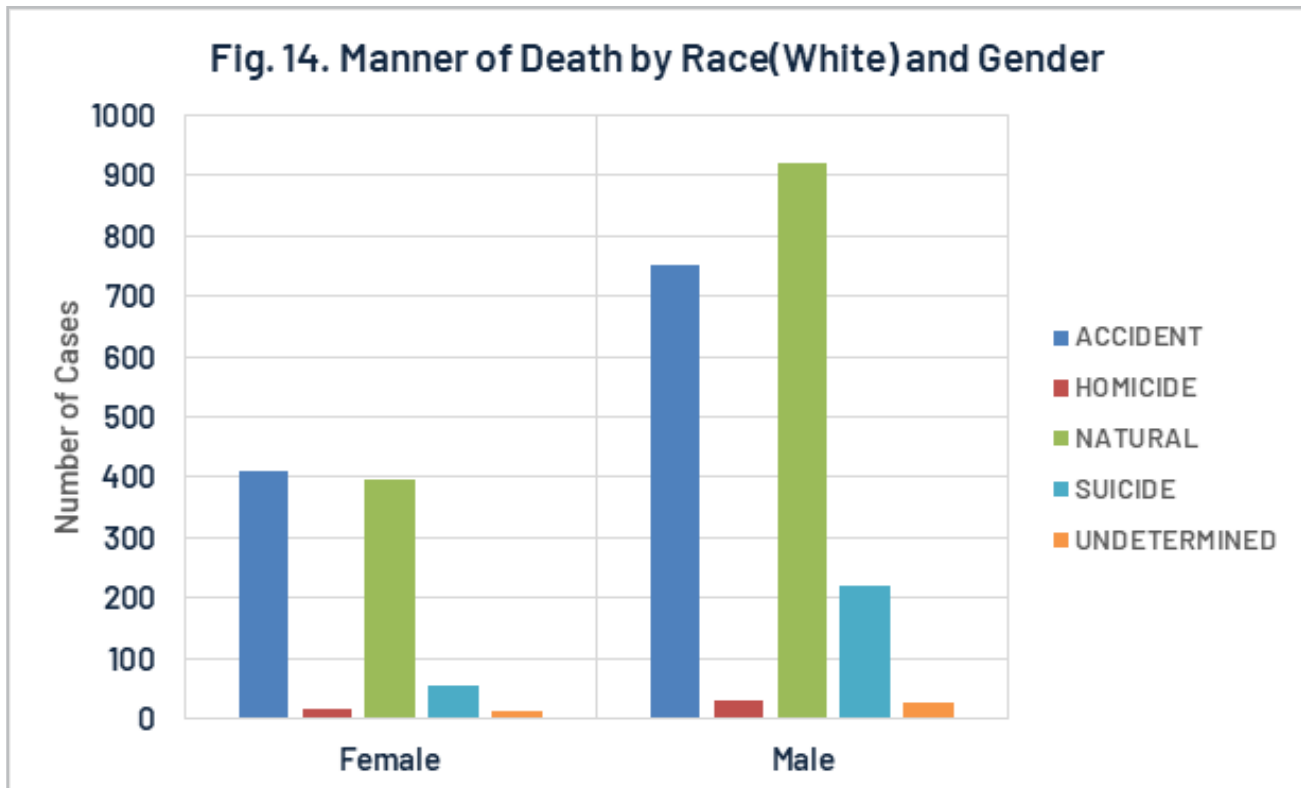
¹⁰ Table and graph do not show cases without manner of death in this category (n=4).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 15. MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN AND GENDER OF DECEDENT¹¹

RACE: WHITE

GENDER	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	Total
Female	409	18	397	56	13	893
Male	750	30	922	220	26	1948
Total	1159	48	1319	276	39	2841



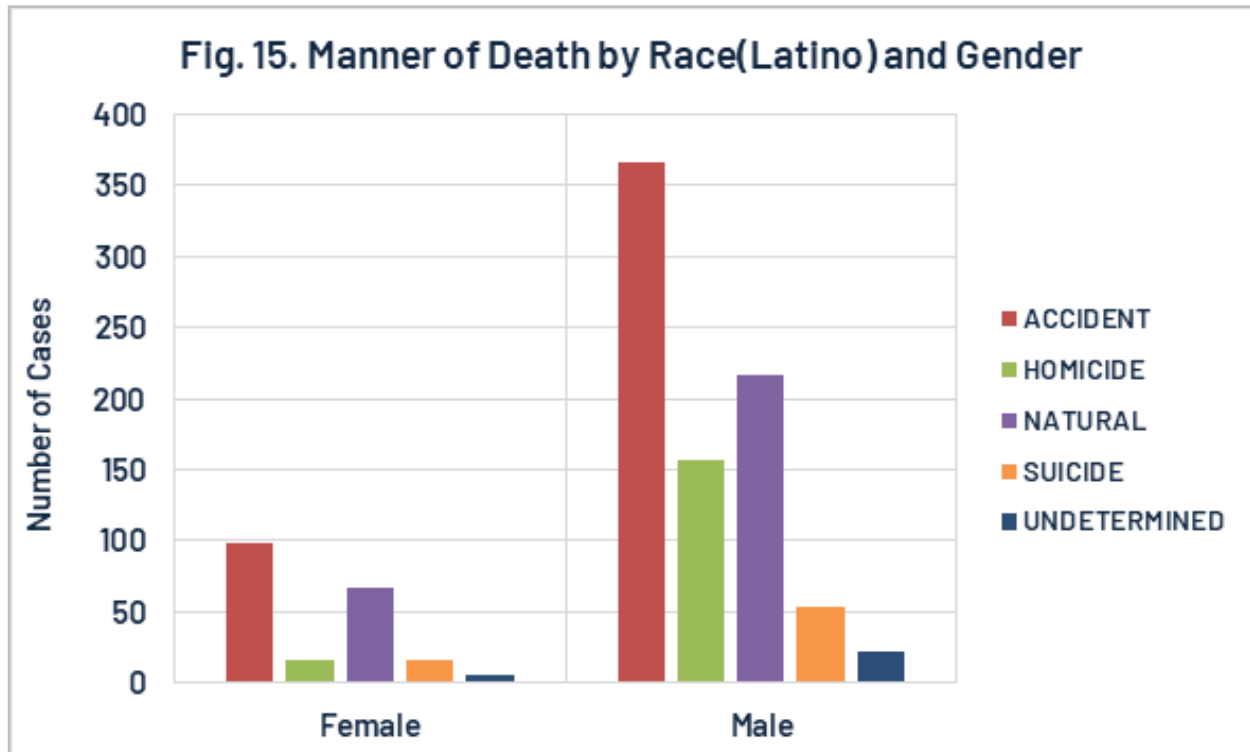
¹¹ Table and graph do not show cases without manner of death in this category (n=13).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 16. MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN AND GENDER OF DECEDENT¹²

RACE: LATINO

GENDER	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	Total
Female	99	17	67	16	6	205
Male	366	156	216	54	22	814
Total	465	173	283	70	28	1019

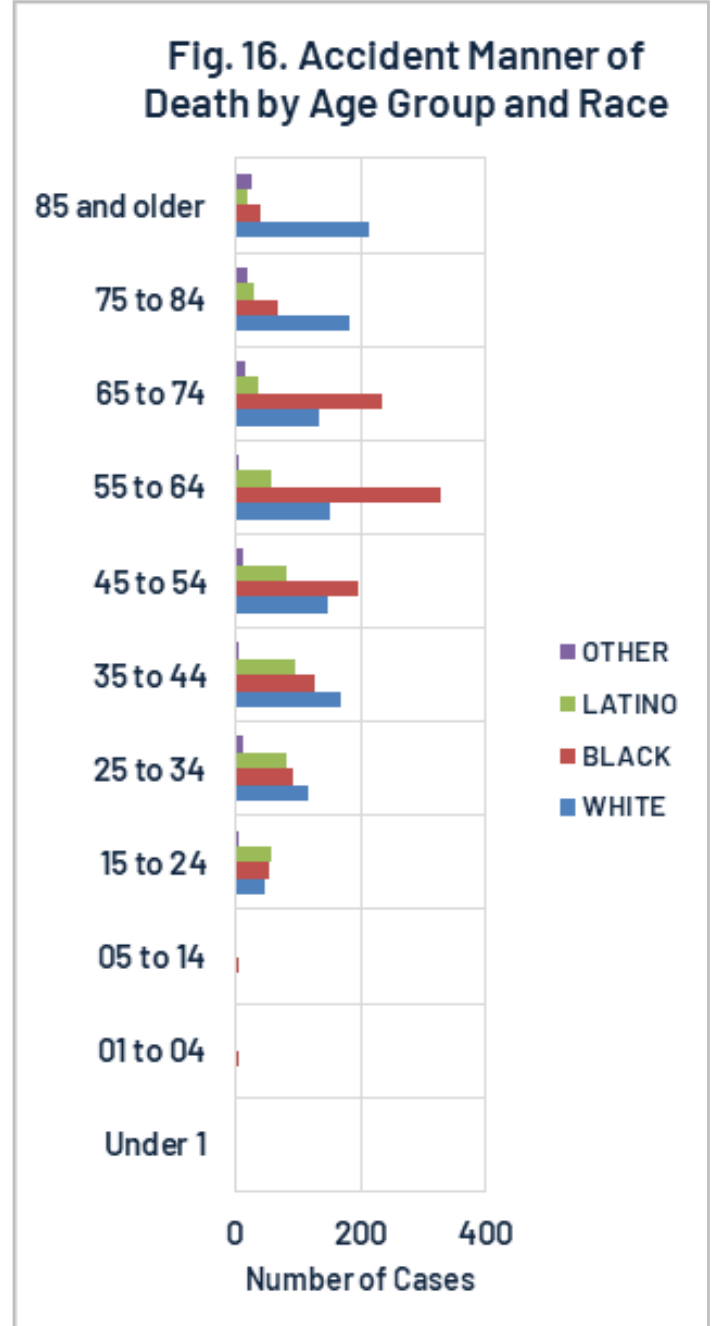


¹² Table and graph do not show cases without manner of death in this category (n=2).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 17. ACCIDENT MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE/LATINO ORIGIN AND AGE GROUP

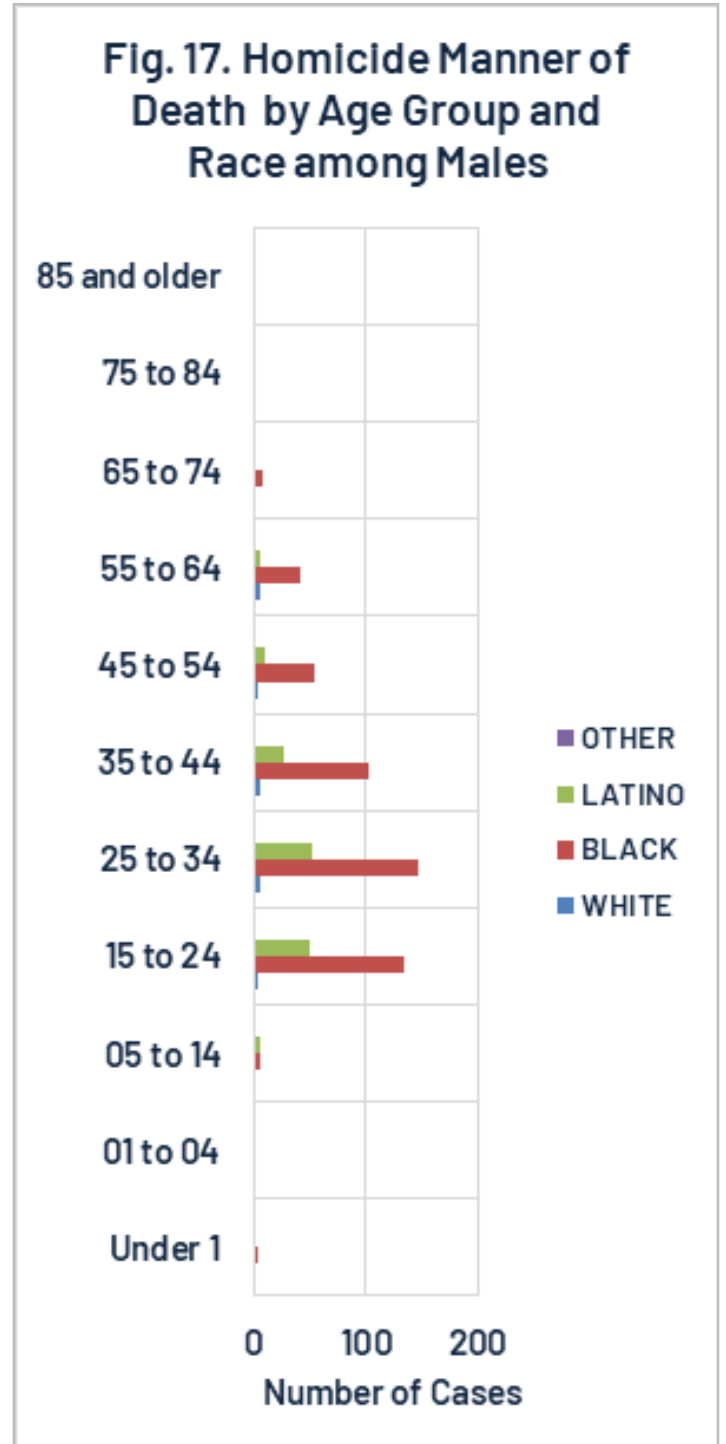
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
<1	1	2	3	1
1-4	1	5	3	1
5-14	2	5	2	1
15-24	47	54	58	4
25-34	117	91	80	11
35-44	167	127	97	5
45-54	147	196	80	13
55-64	151	329	58	4
65-74	132	233	37	17
75-84	181	68	28	18
>=85	213	40	18	27
Total	1159	1150	464	102



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 18. HOMICIDE MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE/LATINO ORIGIN AND AGE GROUP AMONG MALES

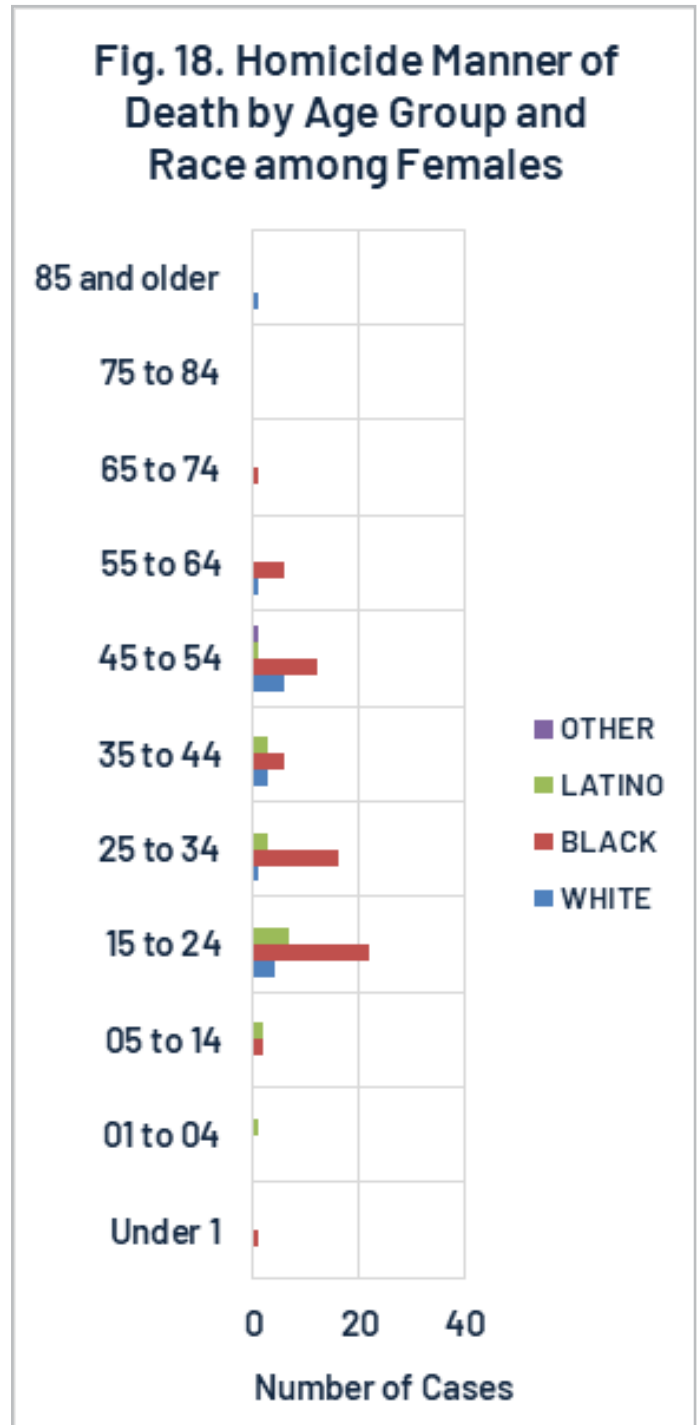
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
<1	0	3	0	0
1-4	1	0	0	0
5-14	0	7	6	0
15-24	4	135	51	0
25-34	7	147	52	2
35-44	6	102	28	1
45-54	4	54	10	2
55-64	6	41	7	0
65-74	0	9	1	0
75-84	0	1	0	0
>=85	2	0	0	0
Total	30	499	155	5



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 19. HOMICIDE MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE/LATINO ORIGIN AND AGE GROUP AMONG FEMALES

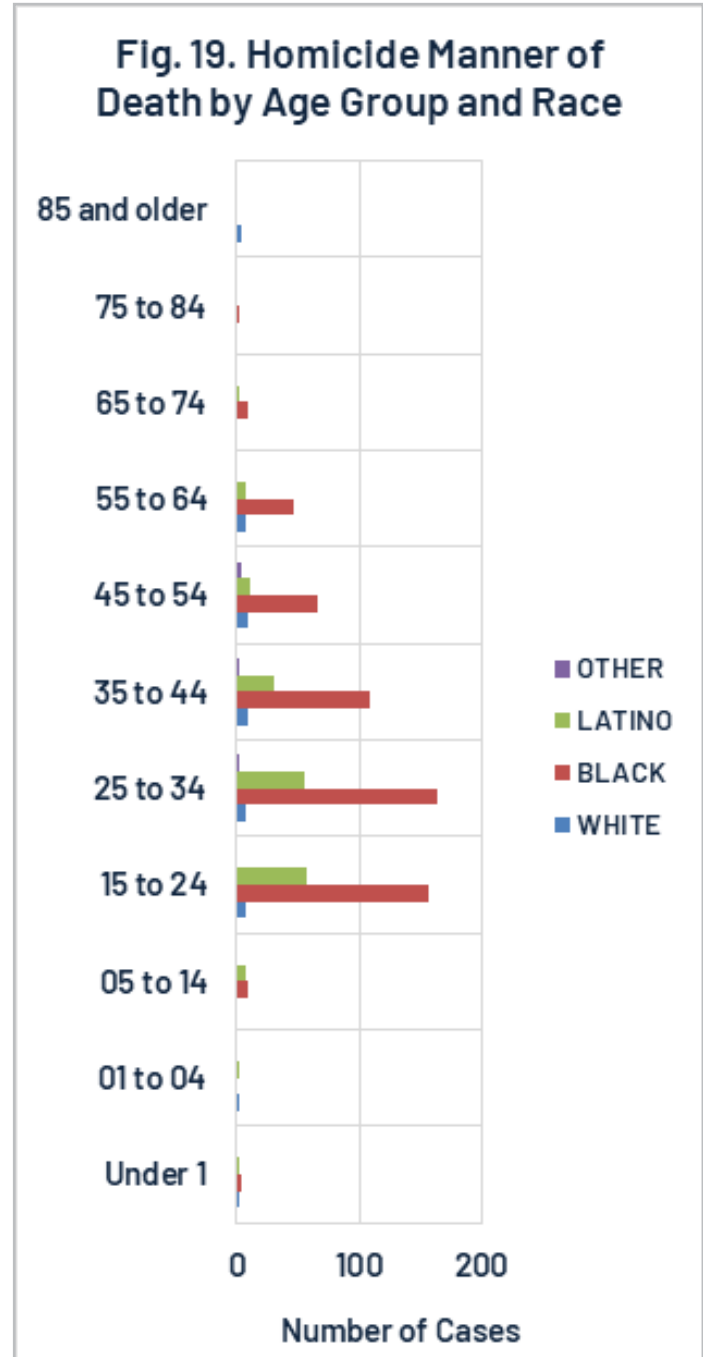
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
<1	0	1	0	0
1-4	0	0	1	0
5-14	0	2	2	0
15-24	4	22	7	0
25-34	1	16	3	0
35-44	3	6	3	0
45-54	6	12	1	1
55-64	1	6	0	0
65-74	0	1	0	0
75-84	0	0	0	0
>=85	1	0	0	0
Total	16	66	17	1



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 20. HOMICIDE MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE/LATINO ORIGIN AND AGE GROUP

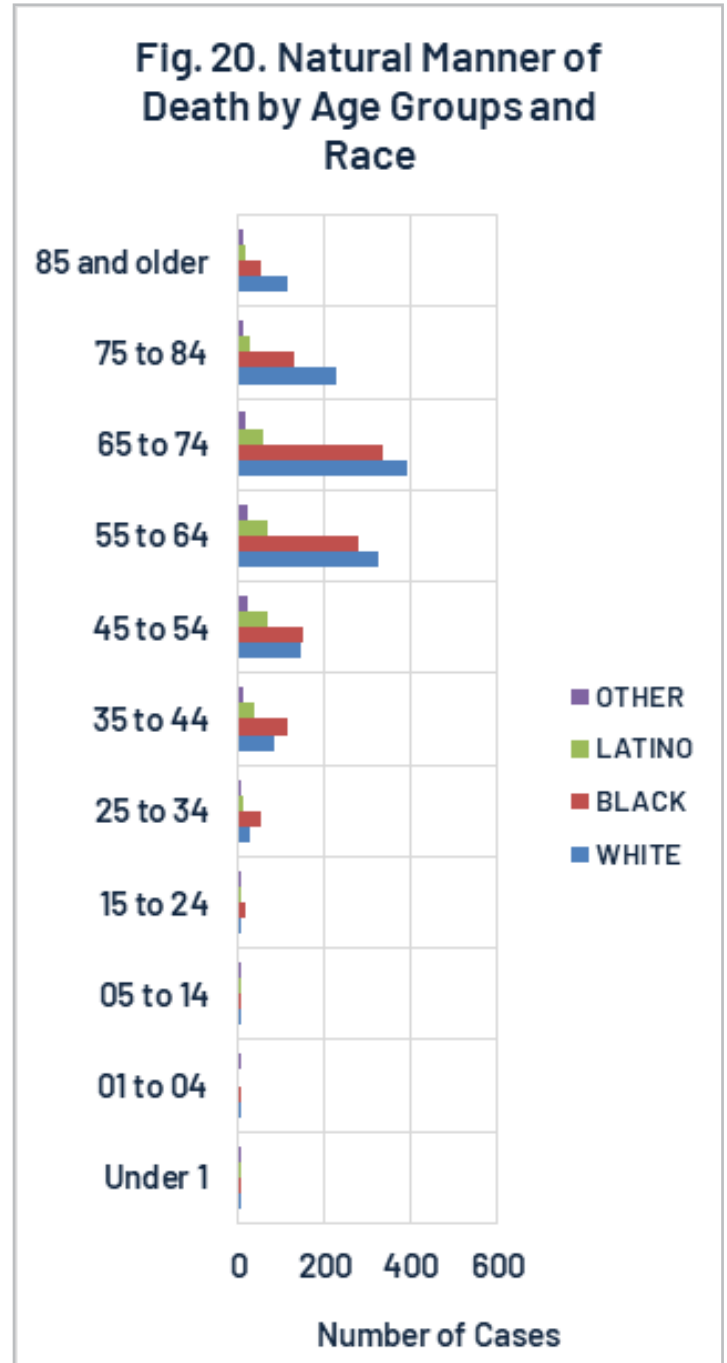
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
<1	1	4	1	0
1-4	2	0	1	0
5-14	0	9	8	0
15-24	8	157	58	0
25-34	8	163	55	2
35-44	9	108	31	1
45-54	10	66	11	3
55-64	7	47	7	0
65-74	0	10	1	0
75-84	0	1	0	0
>=85	3	0	0	0
Total	48	565	173	6



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2023 CASE DATA

TABLE 21. NATURAL MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE/LATINO ORIGIN AND AGE GROUP

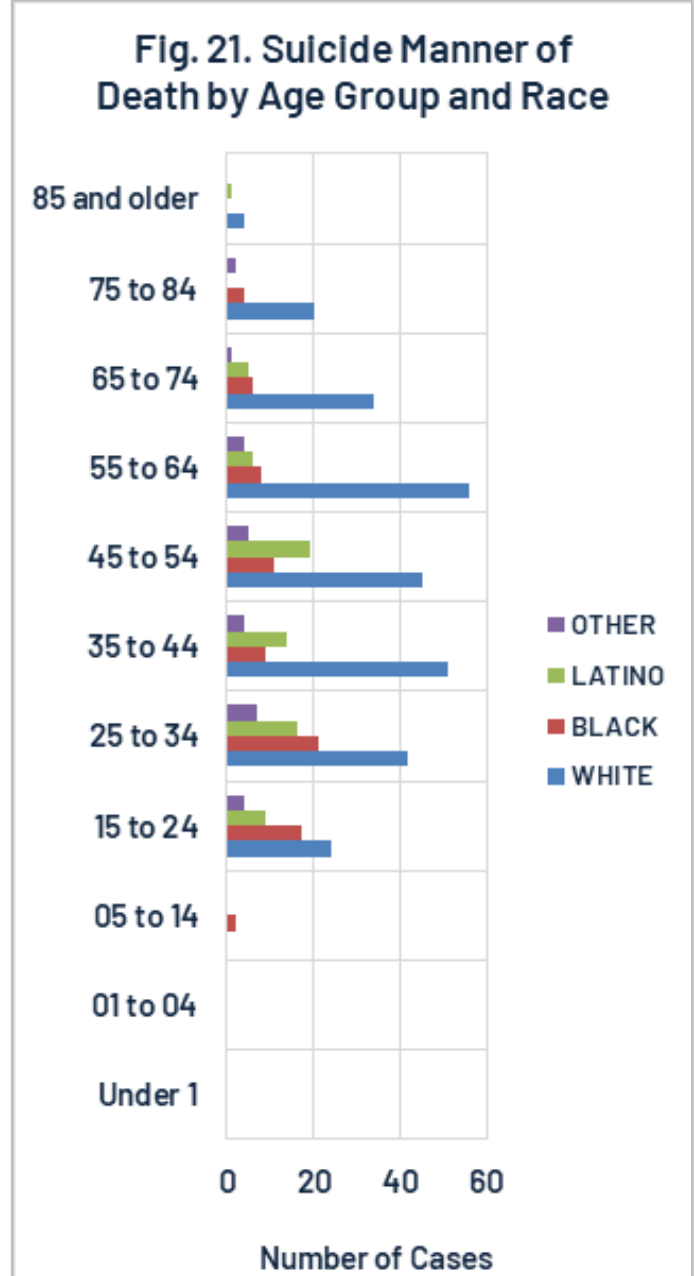
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
<1	3	6	3	3
1-4	1	5	0	1
5-14	2	3	3	1
15-24	7	14	3	1
25-34	27	49	13	2
35-44	81	114	35	8
45-54	145	151	65	22
55-64	322	277	67	22
65-74	388	336	55	16
75-84	228	131	24	11
>=85	115	52	15	13
Total	1319	1138	283	100



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 22. SUICIDE MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE/LATINO ORIGIN AND AGE GROUP

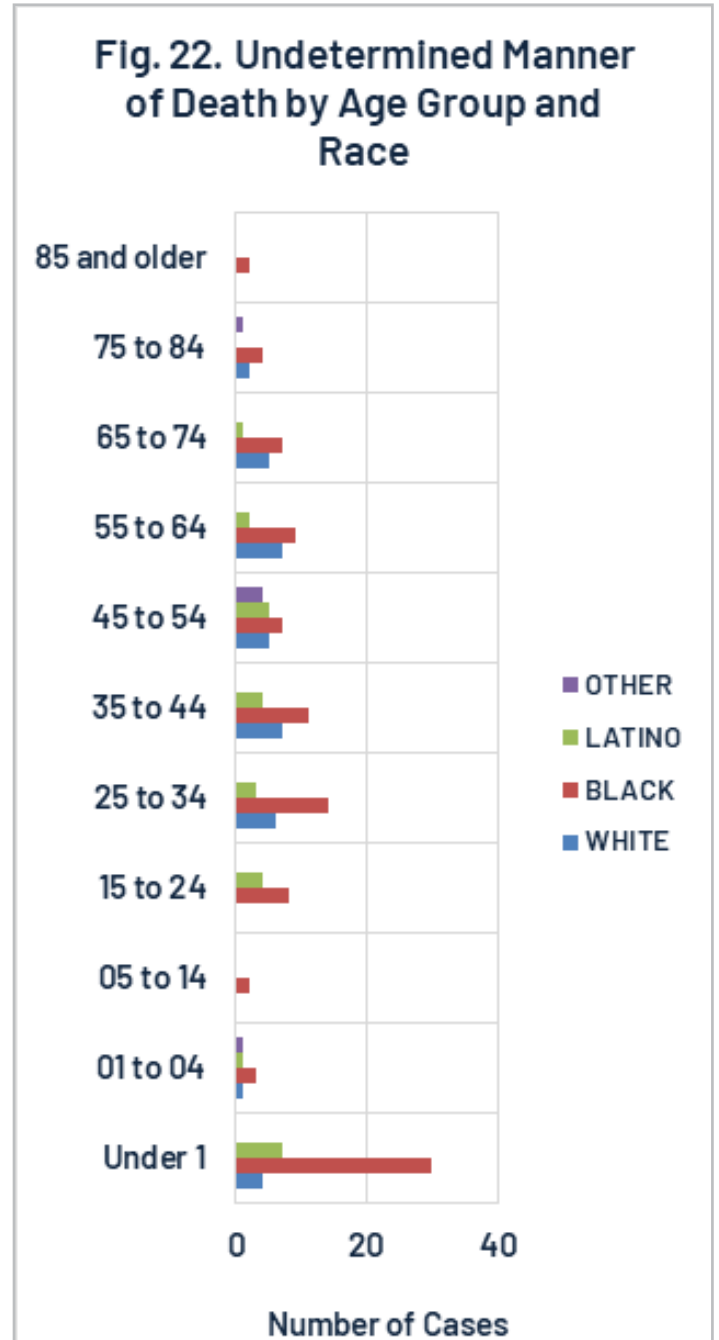
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
<1	0	0	0	0
1-4	0	0	0	0
5-14	0	2	0	0
15-24	24	17	9	4
25-34	42	21	16	7
35-44	51	9	14	4
45-54	45	11	19	5
55-64	56	8	6	4
65-74	34	6	5	1
75-84	20	4	0	2
>=85	4	0	1	0
Total	276	78	70	27



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 23. UNDETERMINED MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE/LATINO ORIGIN AND AGE GROUP

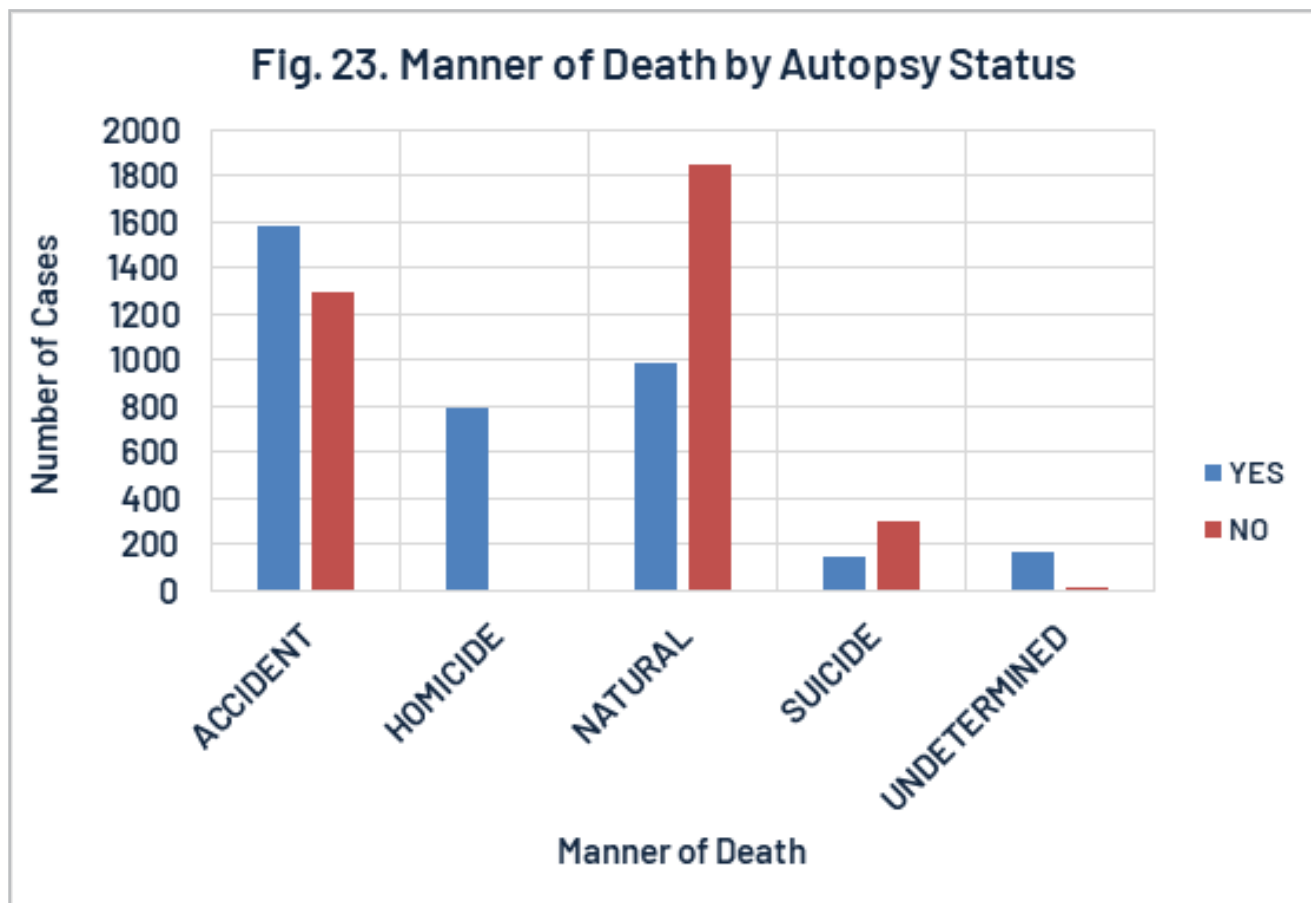
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
<1	4	30	7	0
1-4	1	3	1	1
5-14	0	2	0	0
15-24	0	8	4	0
25-34	6	14	3	0
35-44	7	11	4	0
45-54	5	7	5	4
55-64	7	9	2	0
65-74	5	7	1	0
75-84	2	4	0	1
>=85	0	2	0	0
Total	37	97	27	6



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 24. MANNER OF DEATH BY AUTOPSY STATUS¹²

MANNER	AUTOPSY YES	AUTOPSY NO	TOTAL
ACCIDENT	1582	1294	2872
HOMICIDE	792	0	792
NATURAL	991	1849	2840
SUICIDE	151	300	451
UNDETERMINED	165	9	174
Total	3667	3452	7129

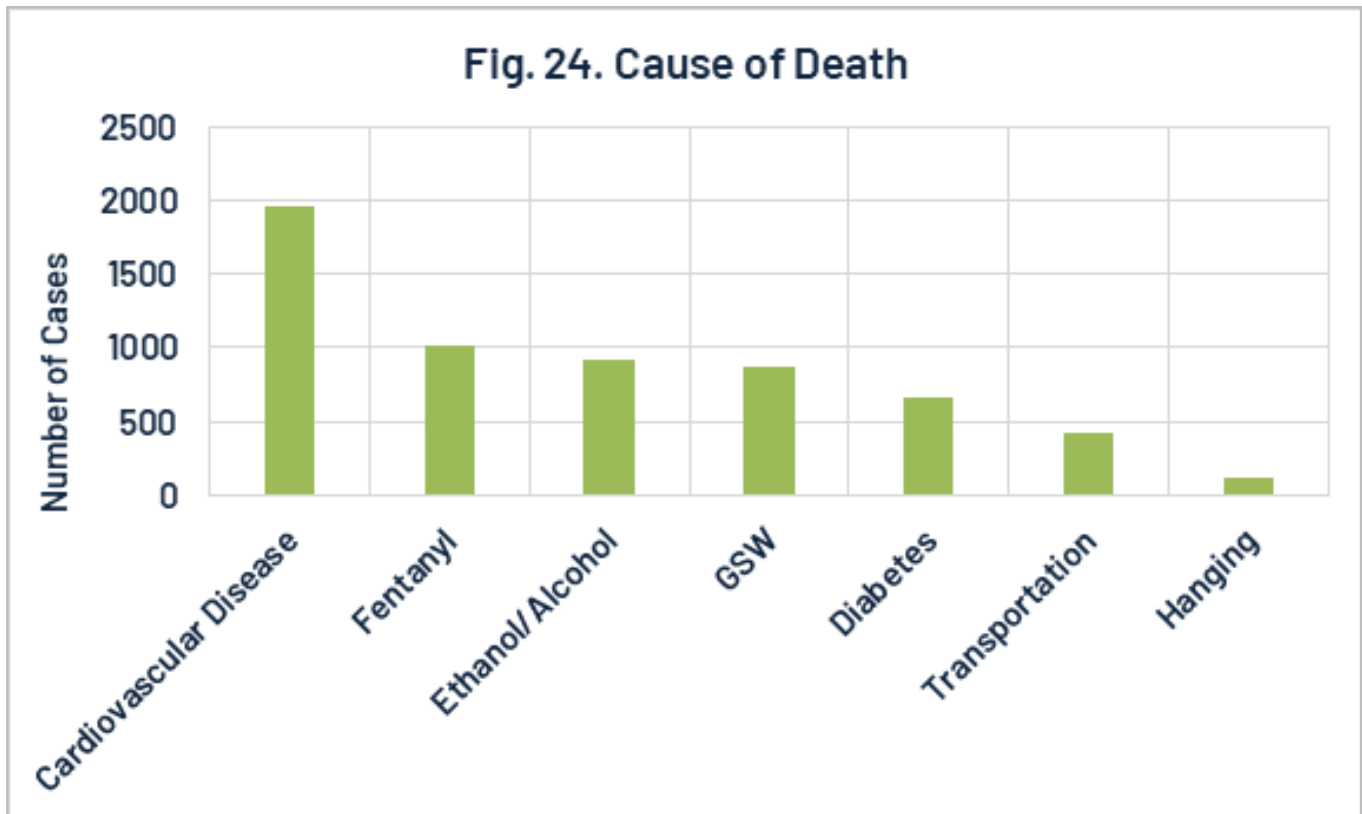


¹³ Table and graph do not show cases without manner of death in this category (n=55).

MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 25. CAUSE OF DEATH (GENERAL)

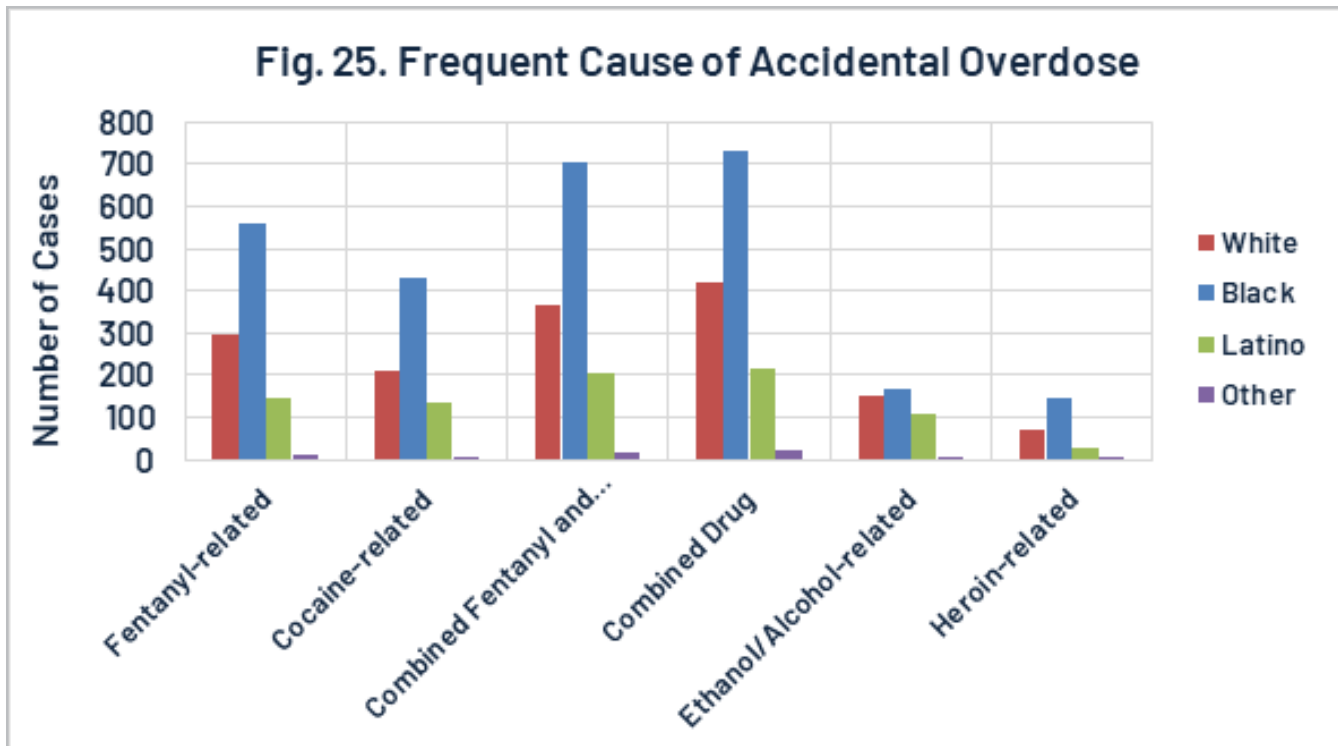
CAUSE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Cardiovascular Disease	2106	27.26%
Fentanyl	1023	14.09%
Diabetes	918	12.75%
GSW	879	12.19%
Ethanol/Alcohol	657	9.12%
Transportation	428	5.94%
Hanging	115	1.60%



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 26. FREQUENT CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

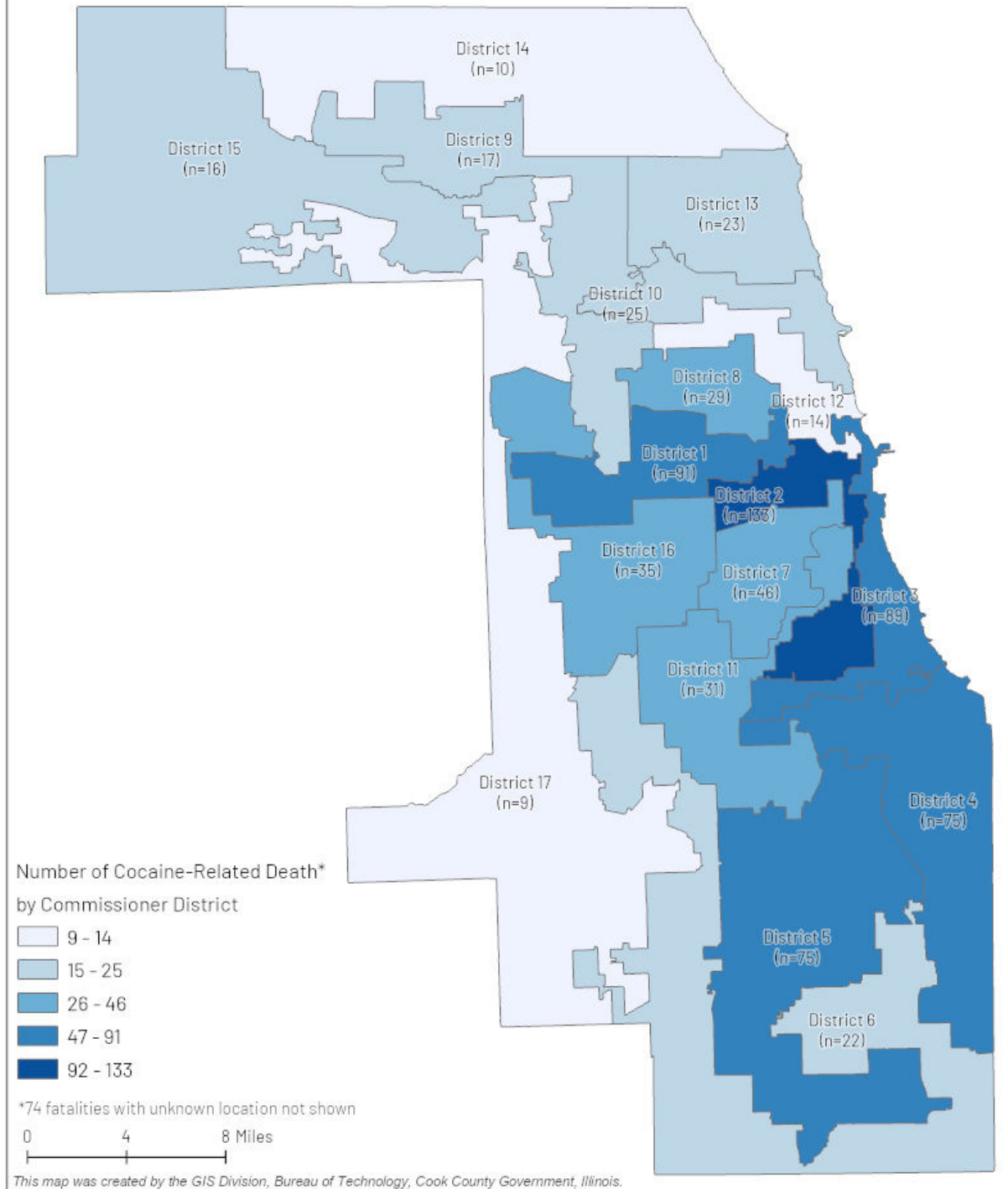
DRUG	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER
Fentanyl-related	297	561	148	13
Cocaine-related	208	432	122	8
Combined Fentanyl and Cocaine	366	1056	321	23
Combined Drug	419	734	214	24
Ethanol/Alcohol-related	150	170	108	7
Heroin-related	70	144	26	3



¹⁴ Only shows cases with accident manner of death

COCAINE DEATHS

Geographic Distribution of Cocaine-Related Death by Commissioner District in Cook County, 2024 (N=814)



MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 27. FREQUENT CAUSE OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN (HOMICIDE MANNER OF DEATH)

CAUSE	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	Total
Gunshot Wound	30	496	148	4	678
Multiple Injuries	8	22	8	1	39
Stab or Sharp Force	3	25	12	0	40
Other	7	18	4	0	29
Blunt Force	0	5	2	0	7

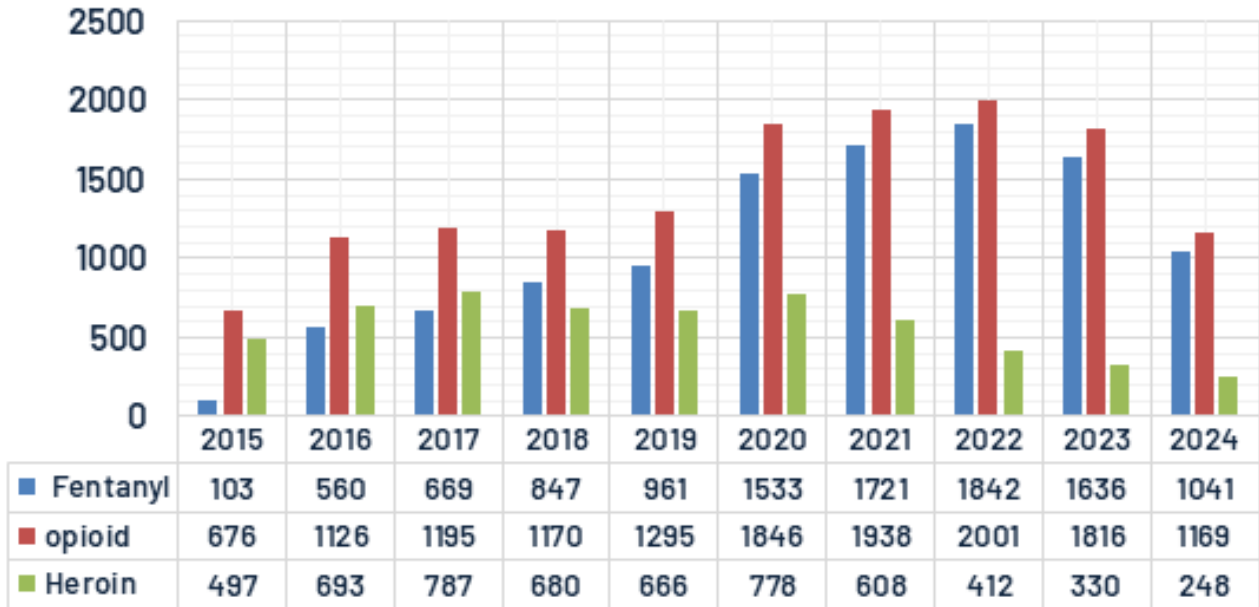
MEDICAL EXAMINER 2024 CASE DATA

TABLE 28. FREQUENCY OF HOMICIDE BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

	2023		2024	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
White	45	5.29%	48	5.69%
Black	647	76.12%	565	71.52%
Latino	151	17.76%	173	21.77%
Other	7	0.82%	6	0.76%
Total	850			790

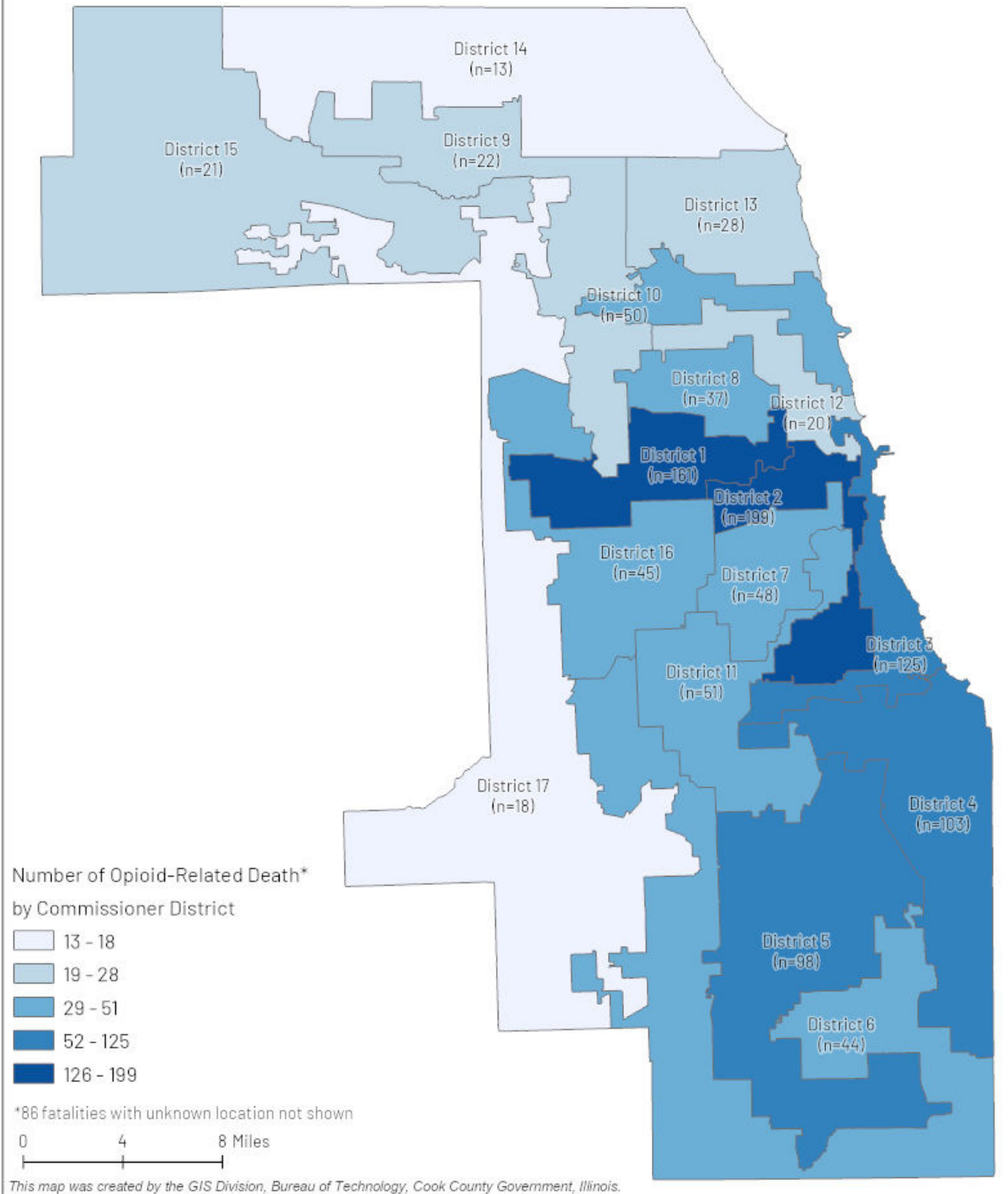
OPIOID DEATHS

Fig. 26. Number of Opioid, Fentanyl, Heroin, and Fentanyl-Involved Cases Examined by MEO, 2015-2024



OPIOID DEATHS

Geographic Distribution of Opioid-Related Death by Commissioner District in Cook County, 2024 (N=1169)



OPIOID DEATHS

DRUG	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
OPIOID	676	1126	1195	1170	1295	1846	1938	2002	1822	1167
HEROIN-RELATED	497	693	787	680	666	778	608	412	332	246
FENTANYL-RELATED¹⁵	103	560	669	847	961	1533	1721	1842	1645	1022

DEMOGRAPHICS OF OPIOID CASES

GENDER	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
MALE	486	833	909	870	967	1420	1476	1559	1438	883
FEMALE	190	293	286	300	328	426	462	443	384	284

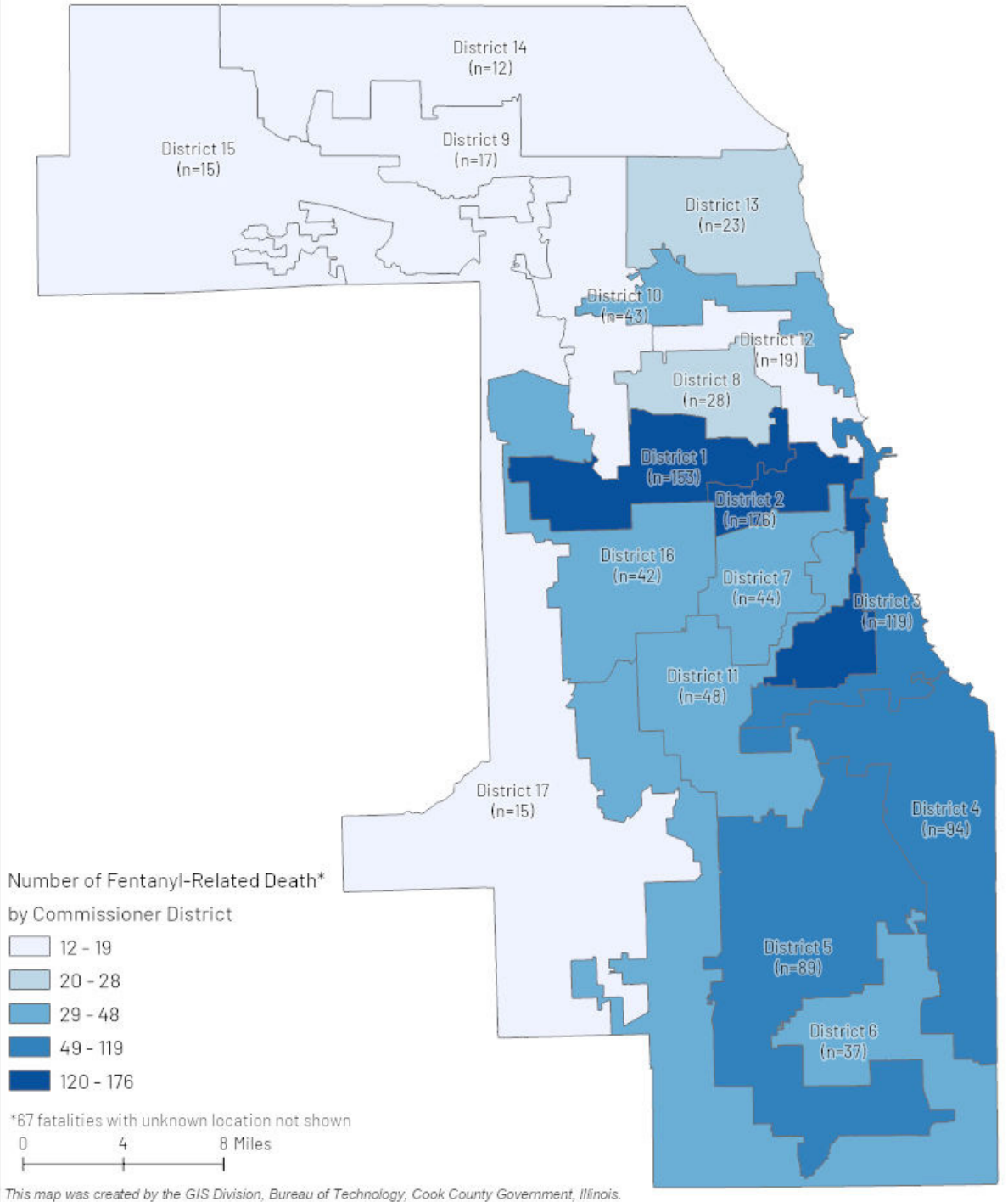
RACE/ETHNICITY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NL WHITE	409	545	578	509	534	655	601	579	485	366
NL BLACK	219	408	487	502	593	901	1032	1101	1040	618
LATINO	28	161	123	155	153	270	281	296	278	166

AGE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0
1-4	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	2
5-14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
15-24	47	86	74	73	60	95	122	106	88	59
25-34	145	251	243	235	212	314	318	337	288	155
35-44	134	240	252	240	259	378	354	386	358	232
45-54	184	311	336	304	390	481	471	452	406	264
55-64	144	206	242	269	294	438	521	529	478	299
65-74	18	26	42	46	72	124	137	176	181	143
75-84	1	4	5	3	3	12	7	13	11	12
>=85	2	2	0	0	5	3	3	0	6	1
Total	676	1126	1195	1170	1295	1846	1938	2002	1822	1167

¹⁵ Fentanyl and heroin cases are not mutually exclusive. Opioid cases frequently have a combination of opioids and other substances.

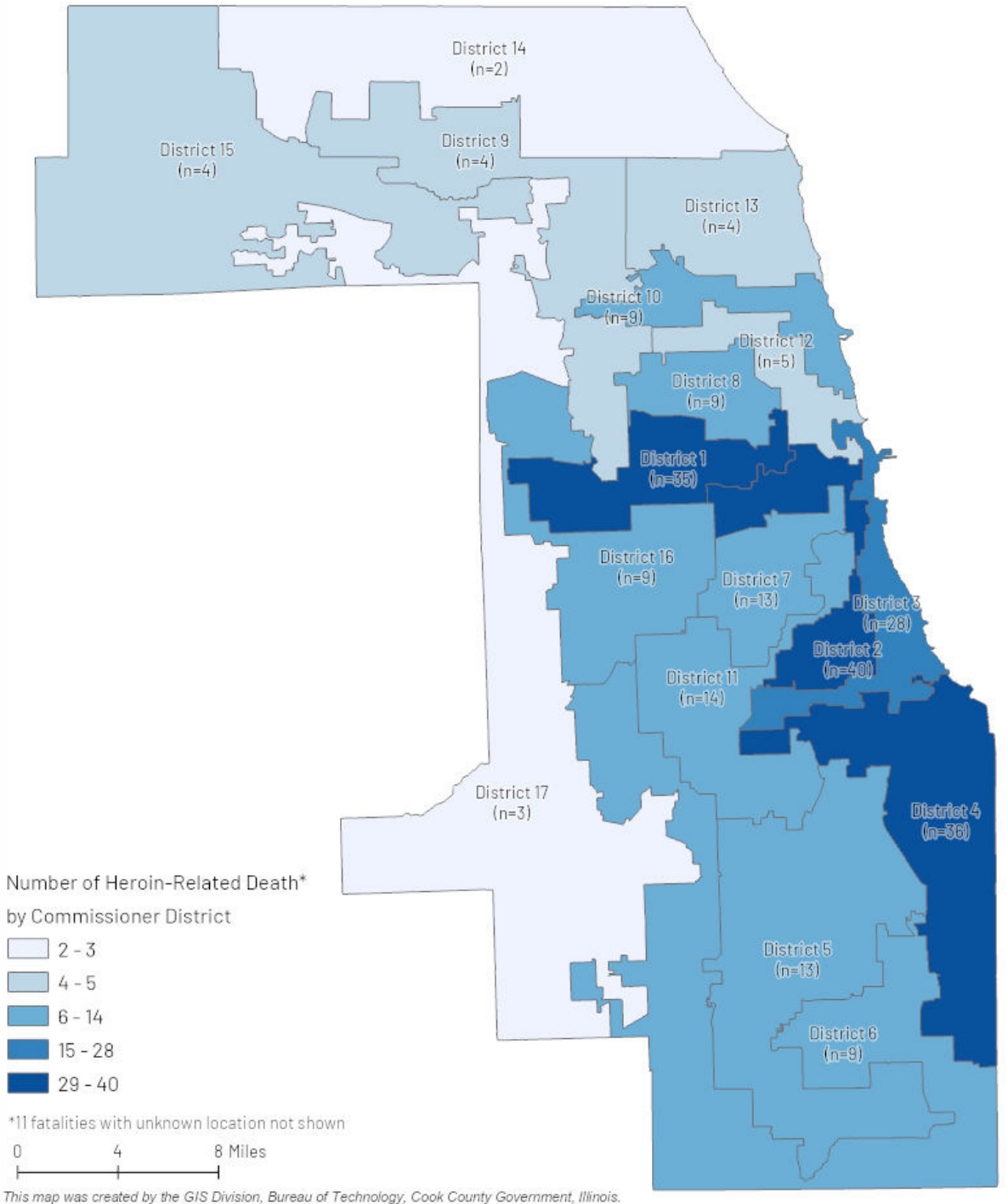
FENTANYL DEATHS

Geographic Distribution of Fentanyl-Related Death by Commissioner District in Cook County, 2024 (N=1041)



HEROIN DEATHS

Geographic Distribution of Heroin-Related Death by Commissioner District in Cook County, 2024 (N=248)



GUN HOMICIDE DEATHS

DRUG	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GUN HOMICIDE	526	809	744	601	584	884	1008	826	739	678

DEMOGRAPHICS OF GUN HOMICIDE CASES

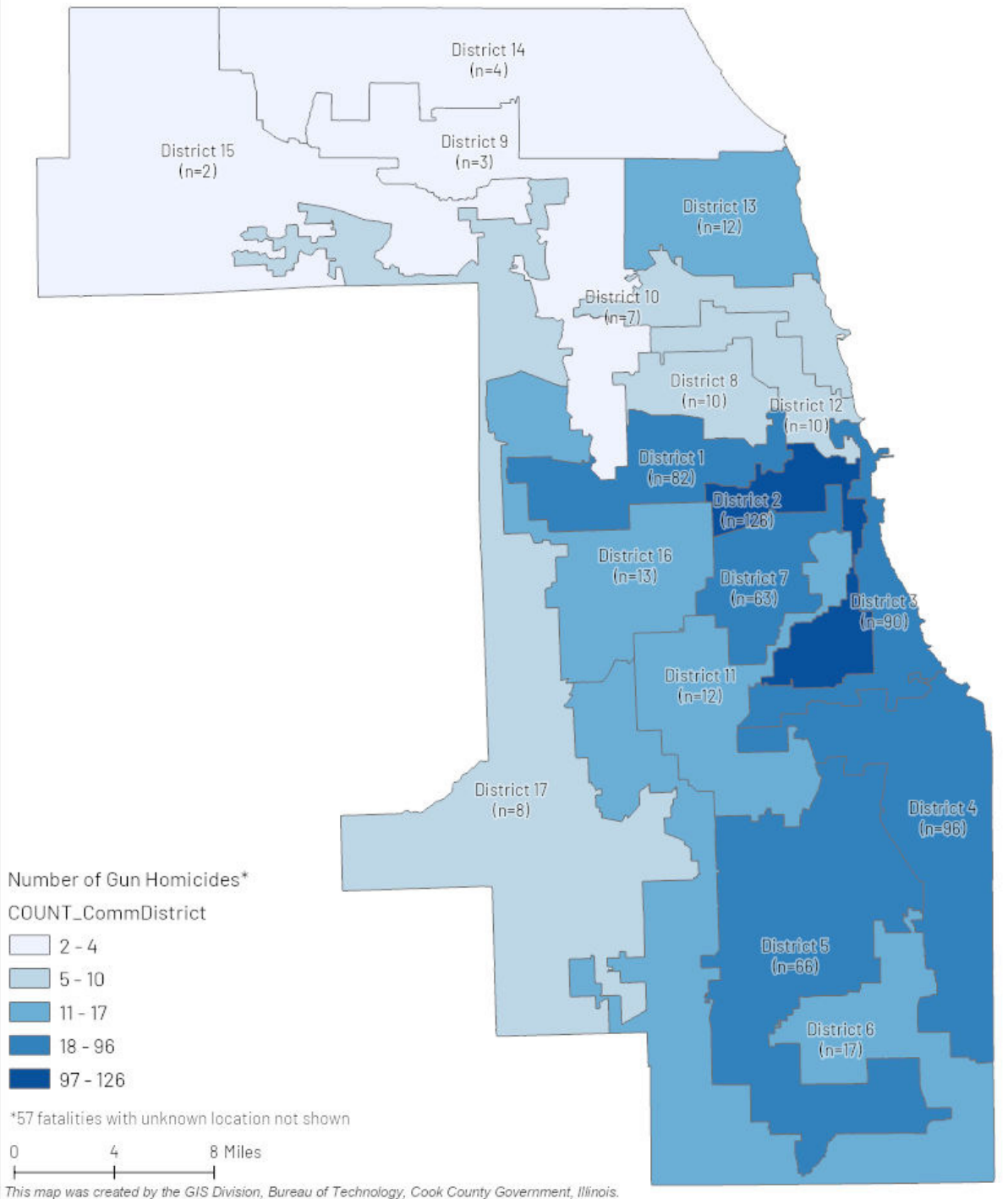
GENDER	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
MALE	496	753	680	547	524	813	902	732	651	604
FEMALE	30	56	64	54	60	71	106	94	88	74

RACE/ETHNICITY	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
NL WHITE	24	35	27	28	28	29	36	31	25	30
NL BLACK	422	644	589	492	472	702	819	650	574	496
LATINO	77	126	125	78	80	148	139	139	137	148

AGE	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
1-4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
5-14	10	4	9	9	3	11	19	20	16	11
15-24	239	371	331	221	235	280	317	254	241	206
25-34	167	249	247	212	200	344	382	295	234	210
35-44	67	112	90	89	80	159	164	161	148	129
45-54	22	42	37	36	41	48	80	49	64	76
55-64	16	22	18	20	18	27	34	31	24	39
65-74	1	4	6	10	4	6	10	11	8	6
75-84	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	0	1
>=85	2	2	2	2	0	4	1	1	4	0
Total	526	809	744	601	584	884	1008	826	739	678

GUN HOMICIDE DEATHS

Geographic Distribution of Gun Homicide by Commissioner District in Cook County, 2024 (N=678)



INFANT DEATHS

CCMEO investigated a total of 80 infant¹⁶ deaths in 2024.

TABLE 29. INFANT DEATH BY MONTH AND YEAR

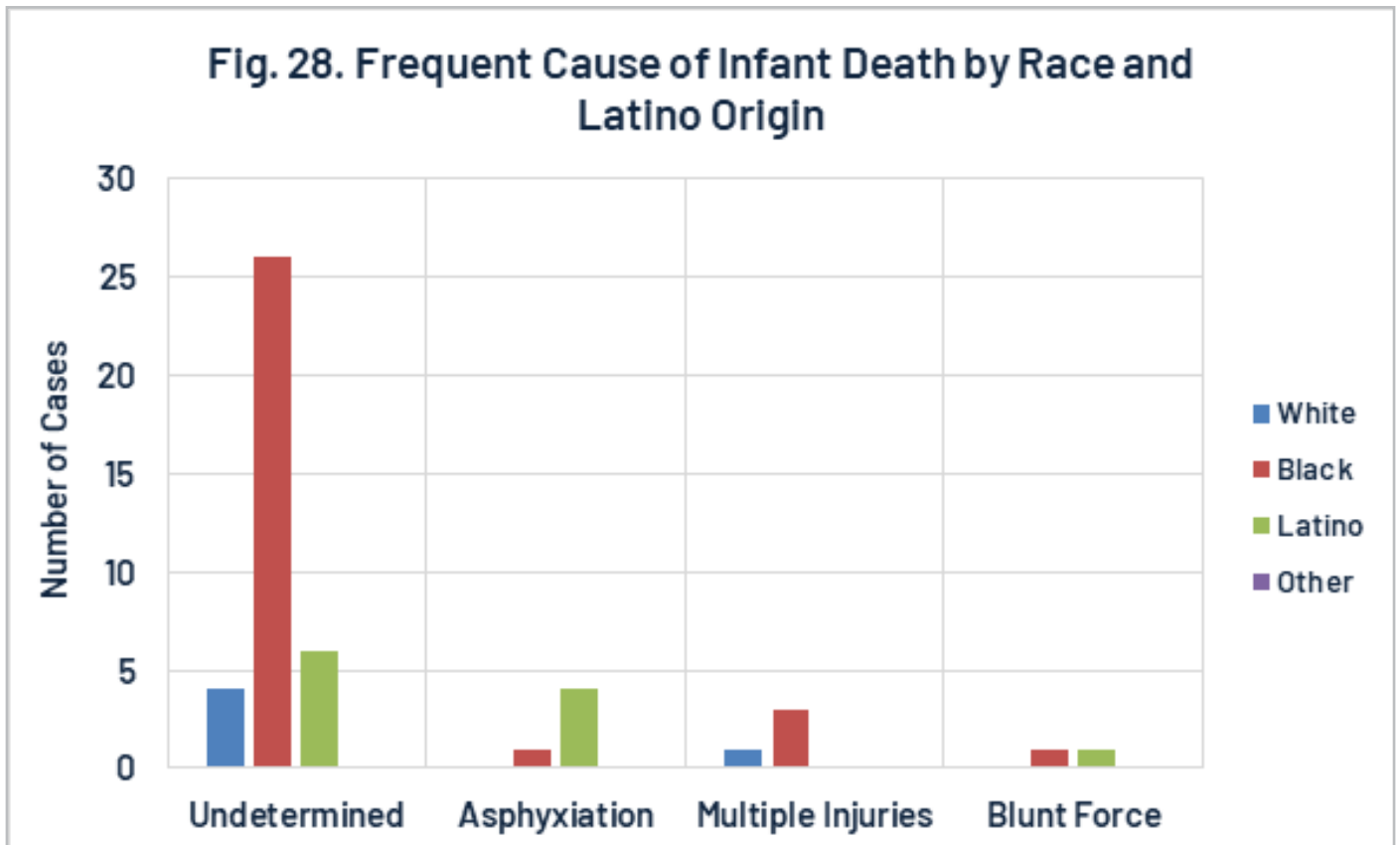
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2016	6	7	10	12	11	13	6	6	7	9	12	13	112
2017	7	7	8	3	8	8	12	11	6	8	6	12	96
2018	9	3	8	6	5	6	14	10	6	3	15	10	95
2019	10	4	8	8	8	9	9	8	3	2	5	9	83
2020	6	4	3	12	11	10	4	5	5	5	10	5	80
2021	8	6	9	3	11	10	9	7	6	7	8	6	90
2022	4	2	8	6	6	8	8	3	6	7	2	6	66
2023	5	4	8	10	7	4	5	4	6	4	8	10	75
2024	5	8	3	12	6	10	6	4	6	9	5	6	80

¹⁶ 0-1-year-old

INFANT DEATHS

TABLE 30. FREQUENT CAUSE OF INFANT DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

CAUSE	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	Total
Undetermined	4	26	6	0	54
Asphyxiation	0	1	4	0	10
Multiple Injuries	1	3	0	0	4
Blunt Force	0	1	1	0	2



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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