2024

Macomb County Medical Examiner Annual Report

Mary E. Pietrangelo, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner
July 10, 2025

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MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Medical Examiner's Office
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http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Home

Andrew Cox, M.P.H., R.E.H.S
Director/Health Officer

Mary E. Pietrangelo, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

Mark A. Hackel
County Executive

To the Macomb County Executive, Macomb County Board of Commissioners, and the Citizens of Macomb County:

The Medical Examiner's duty is to investigate deaths to determine the cause and manner of death for cases that fall under the medical examiner's jurisdiction. Deaths included in this report reflect both resident and non-resident deaths.

The Medical Examiner's Office investigated a total of 5,688 investigation in 2024. Forensic examinations decreased by 3.5% when compared to 2023, resulting in 608 examinations. Cremation permits issued increased from 4,946 to 5,122 in 2024, a 3.56% increase from 2023. Hospice deaths increased 12.2% when compared to 2023, with a total of 3,147 cases.

Compared to 2023, in 2024 there was a 8.4% increase in the number of deaths due to natural causes, a .3% decrease in the total number of accidental deaths, and a 13.3% decrease in the number of suicides.

The total drug-related deaths decreased in 2024 by 24.8%; although there was a significant decrease to total drug-related deaths this continues to be a public health concern, especially drug-related deaths involving fentanyl, fentanyl analogs, and prescription medications. There was a total of 151 drug-related deaths in 2024. Since 2019 the number of heroin-related deaths decreased from 41 deaths to 3 deaths. Compared to 2023, fentanyl-related decreased by 42.2% and cocaine-related deaths decreased by 31.6%.

We would like to thank the Macomb County Executive and the Board of Commissioners for their continued support, which enables the medical examiner staff to provide this valuable and necessary service to the citizens of Macomb County.

We are pleased to present you with the Macomb County Medical Examiner's 2024 Annual Report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Cox, M.P.H., R.E.H.S.
Director/Health Officer of Macomb County Health and Community Services

Organization of the Medical Examiner's Office

Macomb County Health and Community Services
Director/Health Officer
Andrew Cox, M.P.H., R.E.H.S.

Macomb County Health Department
Director
Krista Willette, R.N., M.S.A.

Medical Director
Kevin P. Lokar, M.D., M.P.H.

Epidemiolgoist
Raina Padilla, M.P.H., C.I.C.

Macomb County Medical Examiner's Office
Chief Medical Examiner
Mary E. Pietrangelo, M.D.

Deputy Medical Examiner
Cynthia Beisser, M.D.

Division Director
Dan Media, M.A., R.N., P.E.M.

Forensic Investigations Specialist
Gretchen Terebesi, D-ABMDI

Morgue Specialist
Jeff Novak
Taylor Randall
Jacina Johnson

Forensic Investigator
Erick Acre, D-ABMDI
Kevin Boaz, D-ABMDI
Kiara Brooks, D-ABMDI
Alan Gwyn, D-ABMDI
Walter Menzel
Nathan Schrader, D-ABMDI
Gabrielle Mace, D-ABMDI
Jen Skridulis, D-ABMDI

Office Assistant Senior
Jeanine Townes
Michelle Whitmore

Board Certification

The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) sets quality and process standards for death investigators. Investigators who pass the certification requirements of the ABMDI are designated as Registered Diplomats (D-ABMDI). Investigators who meet further requirements and pass an additional test are designated as Certified Fellows (F-ABMDI).Accreditation

The Macomb County Medical Examiner's Office is a fully accredited office of the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). NAME accredited offices represent the highest quality of death investigation systems demonstrated by the hard work, dedication, and leadership made by the staff of the Medical Examiner's Office. The Macomb County Medical Examiner's Office is one of five NAME fully accredited Medical Examiner offices in Michigan.

Medical Examiner's Location

Location:
43585 Elizabeth Road
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
Phone: (586) 469-5214
Fax: (586) 469-6636

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
except for official holidays
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Medical Examiner's Facility

The Medical Examiner's Office was built in 2007 and was completely remodeled with a large addition in 2020. It has over 15,200 square feet of space which is divided into an office/administrative space and an autopsy suite. The autopsy suite has a walk-in cooler, four autopsy stations, digital X-ray equipment, and a special dissection room for decomposed/ infectious cases.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Macomb County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO) is to provide medicolegal investigations into all deaths requiring a public inquiry to determine and record the cause and manner of death for all decedents' families and the legal and medical communities, in accordance with the highest level of professionalism, compassion, and efficiency.

Laws Governing the Medical Examiner's Office

Act 181 of 1953, MCL Section 52.201-52.216, requires every county in Michigan to appoint a county Medical Examiner - a physician licensed by the State of Michigan, to carry out the duties and functions specified in the Act, including "being in charge of the office of the county medical examiner and promulgating rules relative to the conduct of his office."

The primary role of a county medical examiner is to determine and certify the cause of death and the manner of death in cases where death has occurred violently, accidentally, unexpectedly, or without medical attendance, and to ascertain the identity of the decedent in order to notify the next of kin. The cause of death is the disease or injury responsible for initiating the events that directly lead to a death. The manner of death is a description of how the death came about. It is a classification designed for the categorization of deaths for public health purposes. The county medical examiner has broad powers and specific responsibilities to act under the aforementioned section of State law to carry out that mission.

2024 Budget

Revenues	Expenses
$ 3,444,440	$ 3,444,440

Activities of the Medical Examiner's Office

Macomb County residents are well served by the standards achieved through accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), a national body that sets and certifies adherence to high standards for medical examiners. Accreditation from NAME shows that the office meets professional standards and provides assurance to the community that a medical examiner's office is committed to excellence.

- **Autopsy and Investigations**: As part of the duties of the Medical Examiner's Office, autopsy and investigative reports are prepared and maintained on all cases. The work performed by the office includes, but is not limited to, death scene investigations as well as external examination of bodies, autopsies, and medical chart reviews conducted by forensic pathologists.

- **Legal Assistance**: The Macomb County Medical Examiner's Office fulfills legal obligations by testifying in criminal and civil proceedings relating to the cause and manner of death.

- **Public Health Emergencies**: Public health emergencies can take on many forms ranging from naturally occurring events (storms, floods, fires) to man-made events including delivery of weapons of mass destruction (bomb/blast, chemical, nuclear, or biological). In partnership with other county services, the Medical Examiner's Office developed the Macomb County Mass Fatality Plan, which addresses mortuary surge capacity events and methods to respond and mitigate such issues.

- **Education**: Teaching has always been an integral portion of the Medical Examiner's Office duties. The office participates in organizing forensic pathology lectures and hands-on medicolegal death investigation demonstrations for the Macomb County Community College's "Camp CSI at the PSI". The Chief Medical Examiner performs academic based autopsy demonstrations for college graduates and those interested in professional development. The MCMEO hosts the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine's Future DOcs program yearly and engages them with educational content focused on forensic pathology. The office also works with medical residents and other local professional programs to host students interested in learning more about medicolegal death investigation and forensic pathology careers.

- **Organ and Tissue Donation Referral**: The Medical Examiner's Office continues to collaborate with local organ and tissue procurement agencies to refer tissue and cornea donors.

Macomb County Demographics

Macomb County is located in southeastern Michigan and is one of three counties that comprise the Detroit Metropolitan area (one of the top 10 metro areas in the U.S.). Macomb County is the ninth smallest of Michigan's 83 counties with 479 square miles, yet it ranks third in population with 886,175 residents (2024 U.S. Census Estimate), an increase in population of 3.0% since 2014 (860,112).

Macomb County includes 27 municipalities. Three of these municipalities are included in Michigan's top ten largest cities: Warren (3rd), Sterling Heights (4th), and Clinton Township (7th).

Census Summary Profile[1,2]

	2014 Estimate		2024 Estimate			
	860,112 Population		886,175 Population		Population Growth	Percent Change
White	708,694	82.4%	648,580	73.2%	-60,114	-8.5%
Black or African American	93,015	10.8%	116,012	13.1%	22,997	24.7%
American Indian & Alaska Native	2,258	0.3%	1,305	0.1%	-953	-42.2%
Asian	31,872	3.7%	51,517	5.8%	19,645	61.6%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	437	0.0%	437	0.0%
Some other race	4,721	0.5%	9,892	1.1%	5,171	10.9%
Two or more races	19,552	2.3%	58,432	6.6%	38,880	199%
Hispanic or Latino	21,347	2.5%	29,843	3.4%	8,496	39.8%

[1] Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 B020001, 2014 B03003, 2024 B02001, 2024 B03003. Estimates from the American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

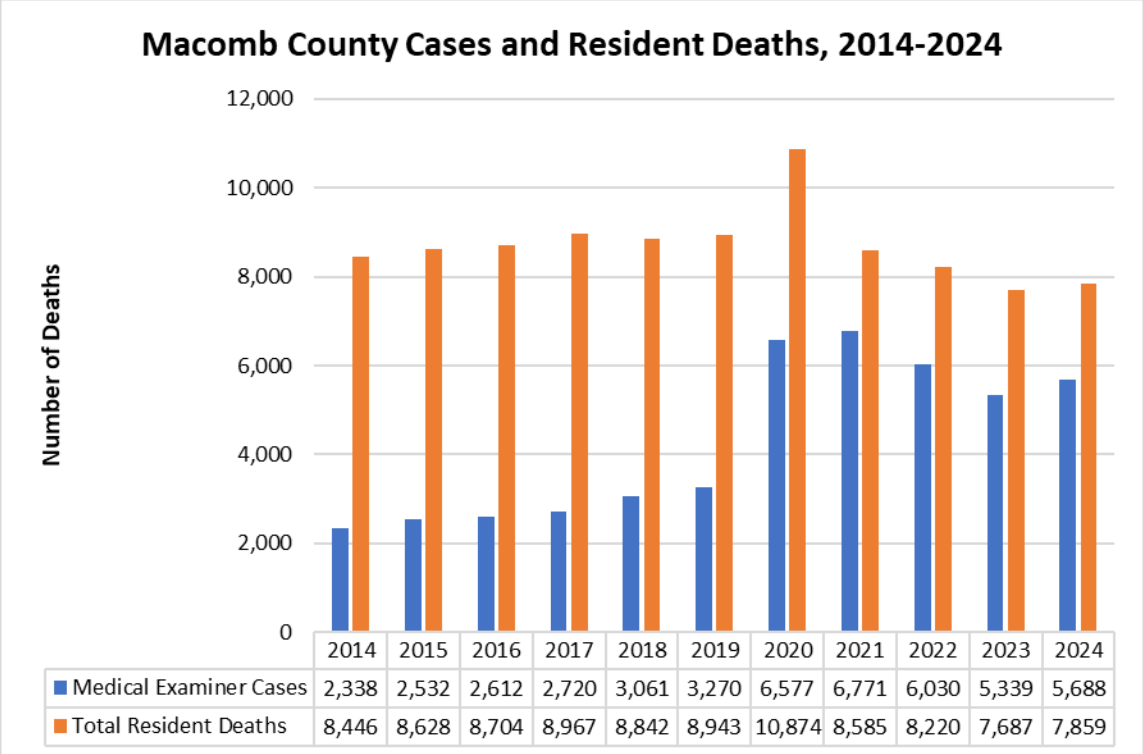
[2] Race and Ethnic groups are not mutually exclusive

Overview of Cases for 2024

Macomb County Population (2024 estimate)	**886,175**
Resident Deaths in Macomb County (estimate)	7,859
Macomb County Medical Examiner Cases	5,688
Forensic Examinations	608

Local deaths that occur within the boundaries of Macomb County and that fall under the jurisdiction of the medical examiner are transported by a contract body transport company to the Macomb County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO) for examination. In cases where a death occurs outside the presence of medical personnel, a forensic investigator attends the death scene and performs an investigation and examination of the body. The medical examiner investigative staff are on-call and available 24 hours/day, 365 days/year.

In 2024, the Macomb County Medical Examiner's Office investigated 72.3% (5,688/7,859) of all deaths that occurred in the county. The graph below illustrates the number of deaths of Macomb County residents, regardless of their location at the time of death[3].

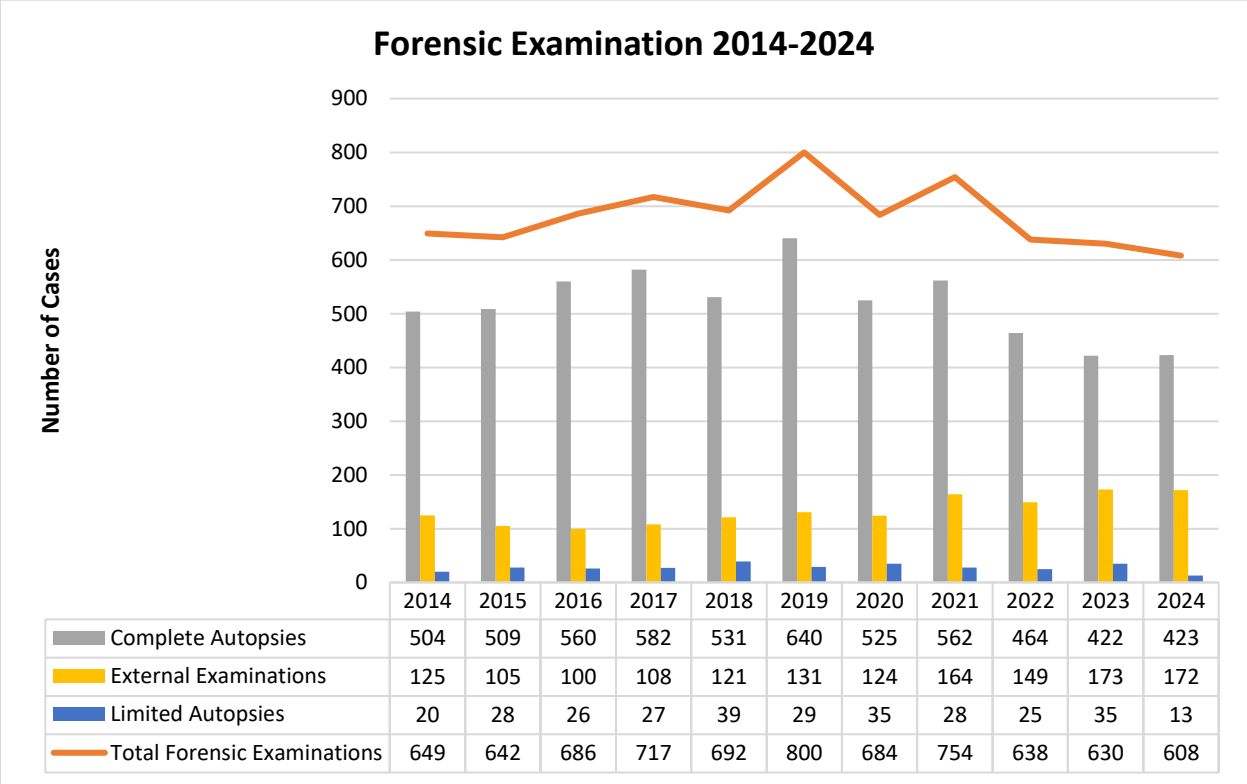


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Medical Examiner Cases	2,338	2,532	2,612	2,720	3,061	3,270	6,577	6,771	6,030	5,339	5,688
Total Resident Deaths	8,446	8,628	8,704	8,967	8,842	8,943	10,874	8,585	8,220	7,687	7,859

[3] The number of total 2024 resident deaths is provided by the Division for Vital Records & Health Statistics of The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services and is a provisional number.

Forensic Examinations

The total number of forensic examinations includes complete autopsies, limited autopsies, and external examinations. In 2024, the Medical Examiner's Office investigated 5,688 deaths, of which 608 were brought to the office for a forensic examination by a forensic pathologist. Of the 608 forensic examinations, 423 were complete autopsies, 172 were external examinations, and 13 were limited autopsies. There were 452 toxicology assessments performed as part of those examinations.

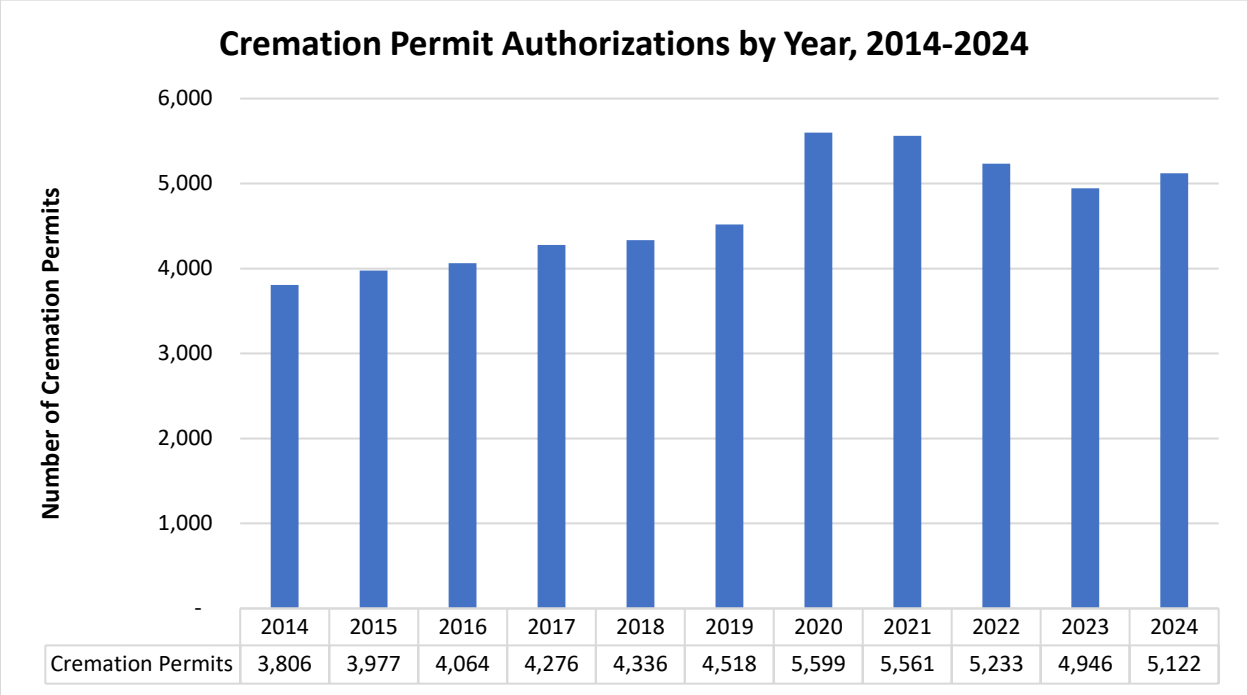


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Complete Autopsies	504	509	560	582	531	640	525	562	464	422	423
External Examinations	125	105	100	108	121	131	124	164	149	173	172
Limited Autopsies	20	28	26	27	39	29	35	28	25	35	13
Total Forensic Examinations	649	642	686	717	692	800	684	754	638	630	608

Cremation Permits

In Macomb County, the Medical Examiner's Office is required to sign cremation permit authorizations before a body is cremated. In order for a cremation permit to be issued, the death certificate is reviewed and, in some cases, a more detailed investigation is required prior to authorization.

Cremation permits issued in 2024 showed a 3.6% increase from 2023.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cremation Permits	3,806	3,977	4,064	4,276	4,336	4,518	5,599	5,561	5,233	4,946	5,122

Overview of Manner of Death[4]

Manner of death is one of the items that must be reported on the death certificate and is a classification of death based on the circumstances, autopsy findings, toxicology results, and all available information associated with the death investigation. There are five "manner" classifications: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, and indeterminate:

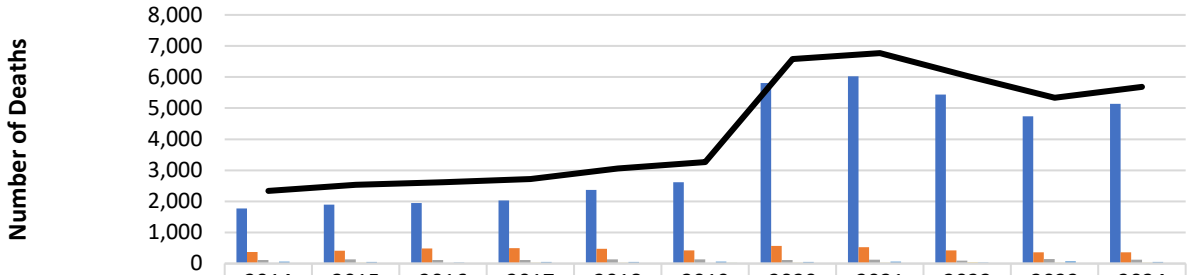
- **Natural deaths** are due solely to disease and/or the aging process.
- **Accident** applies when an injury or poisoning causes death and there is no evidence that injury or poisoning occurred with intent to harm or cause death. In essence, the fatal outcome was unintentional.
- **Suicide** results from an injury or poisoning as a result of an intentional, self-inflicted act.
- **Homicide** is a death due to the actions or inactions of another person
- **Indeterminate** is a classification used when the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than one or more other competing manners of death.

Cases by Manner of Death

Manner of Death	Number	Percent
Natural	5,135	90.3%
Accident	358	6.3%
Suicide	124	2.2%
Homicide	20	0.4%
Indeterminate	51	0.9%
Total	5,688	100.00%

[4] From this point on, the graphs and tables will only include cases examined by the Medical Examiner.

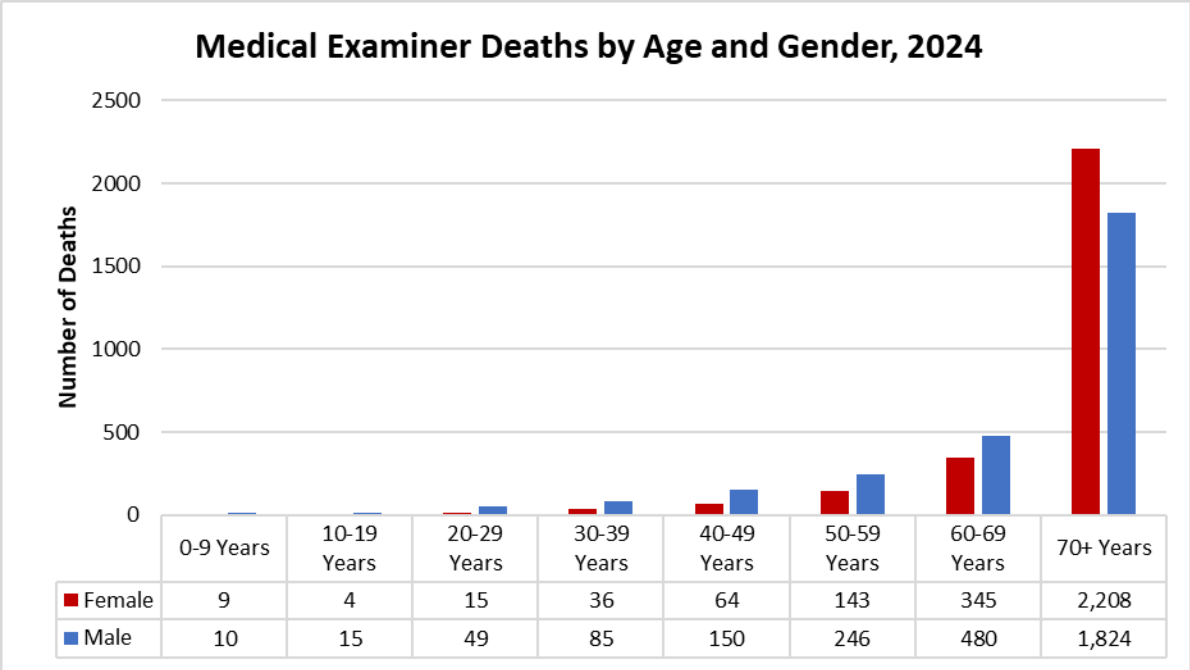
Medical Examiner Cases by Manner of Death, 2014-2024



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Natural	1,768	1,898	1,952	2,025	2,368	2,613	5,812	6,024	5,434	4,738	5,135
Accident	375	415	490	496	471	424	565	530	426	359	358
Suicide	112	133	116	120	136	140	118	125	96	143	124
Homicide	13	23	13	20	18	14	22	24	34	19	20
Indeterminate	61	55	31	52	52	61	51	61	37	75	51
Unspecified	9	8	10	7	16	18	9	7	3	5	0
Total	2,338	2,532	2,612	2,720	3,061	3,270	6,577	6,771	6,030	5,339	5,688

Cases by Age and Sex[5]

There was a total of 5,683 investigations performed in 2024; of these 2,859 (50.3%) were males, and 2,824 (49.7%) were females.

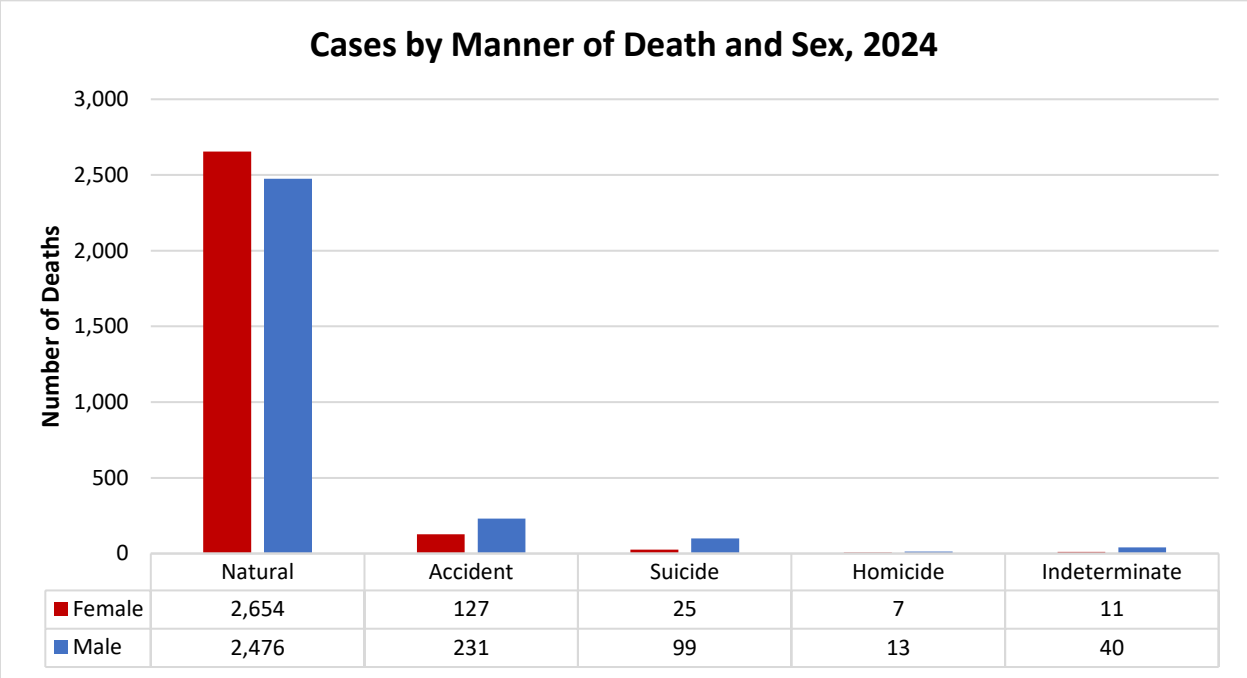


	0-9 Years	10-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60-69 Years	70+ Years
Female	9	4	15	36	64	143	345	2,208
Male	10	15	49	85	150	246	480	1,824

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
0-19 Years	13	25	38
20 Years and Older	2,811	2,834	5,645
Total	2,824	2,859	5,683

[5] The above chart only reflects investigated deaths and excludes any reported non-human bone and cremains.

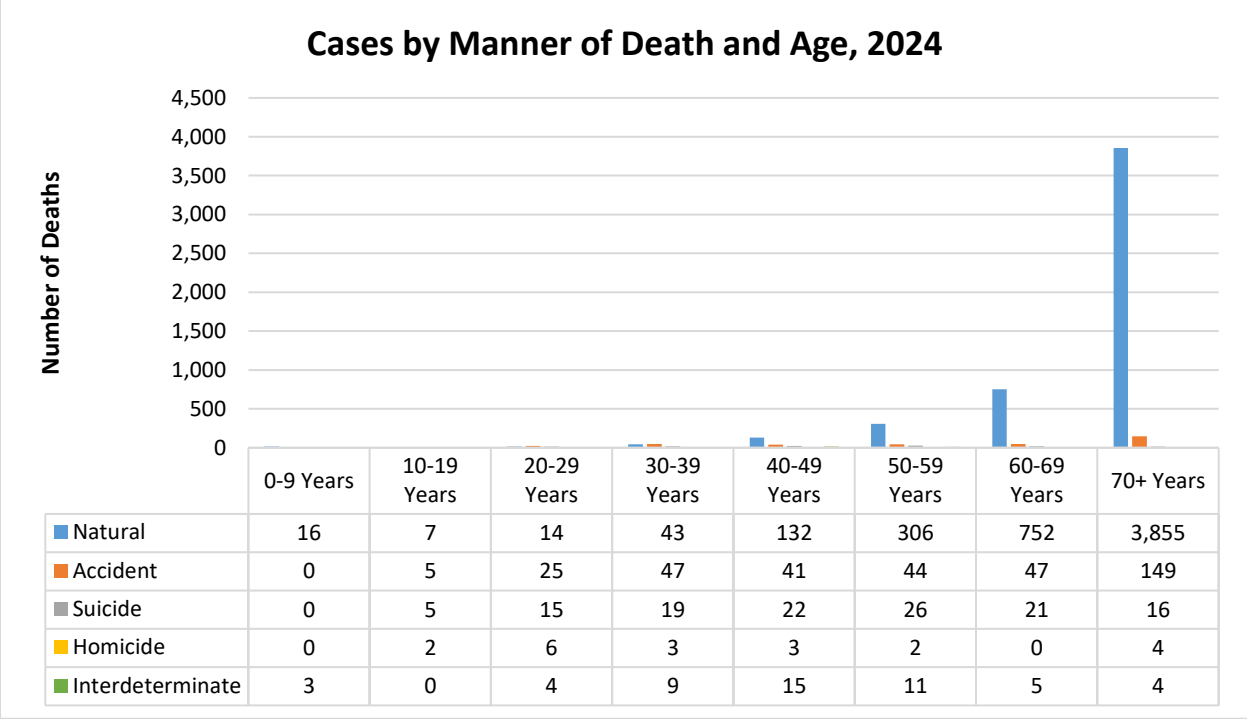
Cases by Manner of Death and Sex[6]



Manner of Death	Female	Male	Total	Percent Total
Natural	2,654	2,476	5,130	90.3%
Accident	127	231	358	6.3%
Suicide	25	99	124	2.2%
Homicide	7	13	20	0.4%
Indeterminate	11	40	51	0.9%
Total	2,824	2,859	5,683	100.0%

[6] From this point on, the graphs and tables will not include the unspecified and pending cases because they did not have a manner of death.

Cases by Manner of Death and Age[5]



	0-9 Years	10-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60-69 Years	70+ Years
Natural	16	7	14	43	132	306	752	3,855
Accident	0	5	25	47	41	44	47	149
Suicide	0	5	15	19	22	26	21	16
Homicide	0	2	6	3	3	2	0	4
Interdeterminate	3	0	4	9	15	11	5	4

Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

Race	Female	Male	Total
Asian	44	33	77
African American	290	242	532
Hispanic	5	15	20
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	1	1
Multiple Races	2	1	3
White	2,478	2,559	5,037
Total	2,819	2,851	5,670

[5] The above chart only reflects investigated deaths and excludes any reported non-human bone and cremains.

Manner of Death – Natural

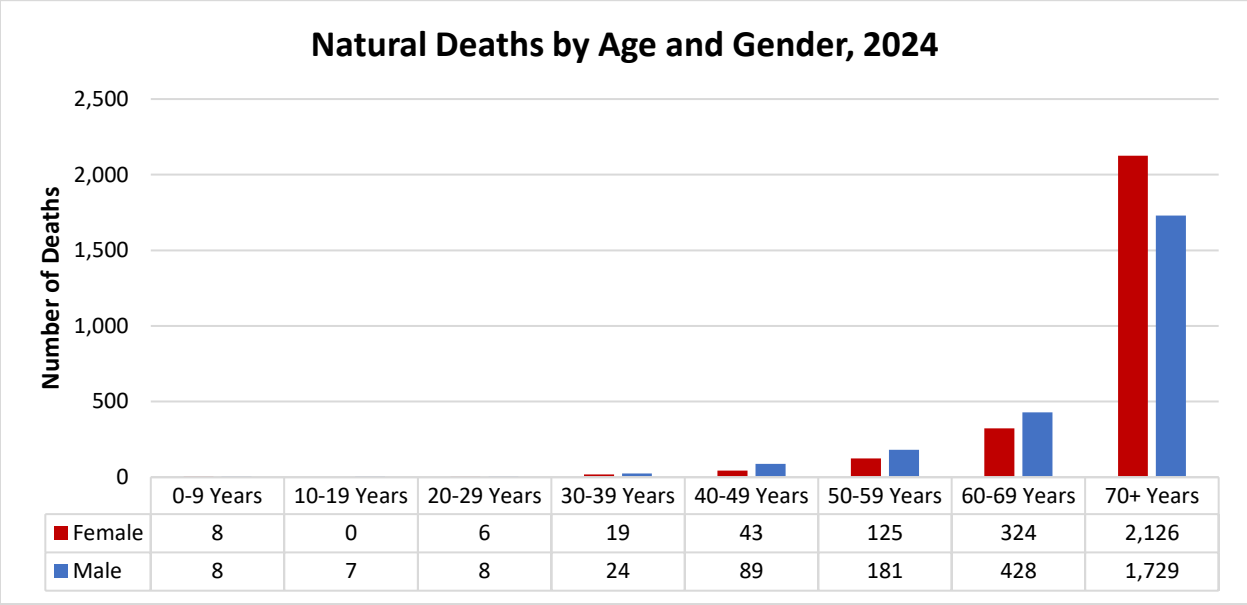
Natural deaths represented 90.3% (5,135/5,688) of all deaths that were investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Males accounted for 47.9% (2,461/5,135) of the natural deaths; females accounted for 51.5% (2,646/5,135) of the natural deaths.

The male 70+ age group accounted for 70.2% (1,729/2,461) of all male natural deaths, while the female 70+ age group accounted for 80.3% (2,126/2,646) of all female natural deaths.

The combined male/female 70+ age groups represented 75.1% (3,855/5,153) of the natural deaths.

Cases by Age and Sex[5]

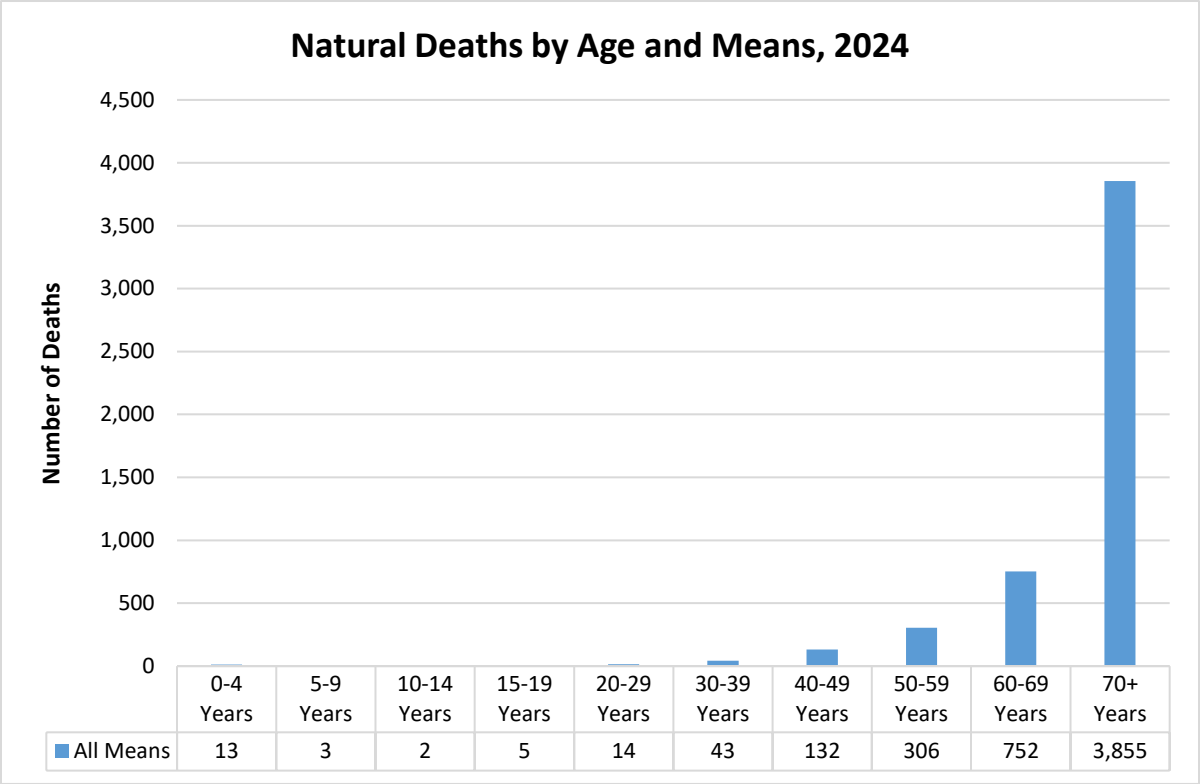


	0-9 Years	10-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60-69 Years	70+ Years
Female	8	0	6	19	43	125	324	2,126
Male	8	7	8	24	89	181	428	1,729

Age Group	Female	Male	Total
0-19 Years	8	15	23
20 Years and Older	2,643	2,459	5,102
Total	2,651	2,474	5,125

[5] The above chart only reflects investigated deaths and excludes any reported non-human bone and cremains.

Cases by Age and Means[5]



Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

Race	Female	Male	Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	1	1
Asian	42	28	70
Black	274	202	476
Multiple Races	2	1	3
White	2,327	2,230	4,557
Total	2,645	2,462	5,107

[5] The above chart only reflects investigated deaths and excludes any reported non-human bone and cremains.

Manner of Death – Accident

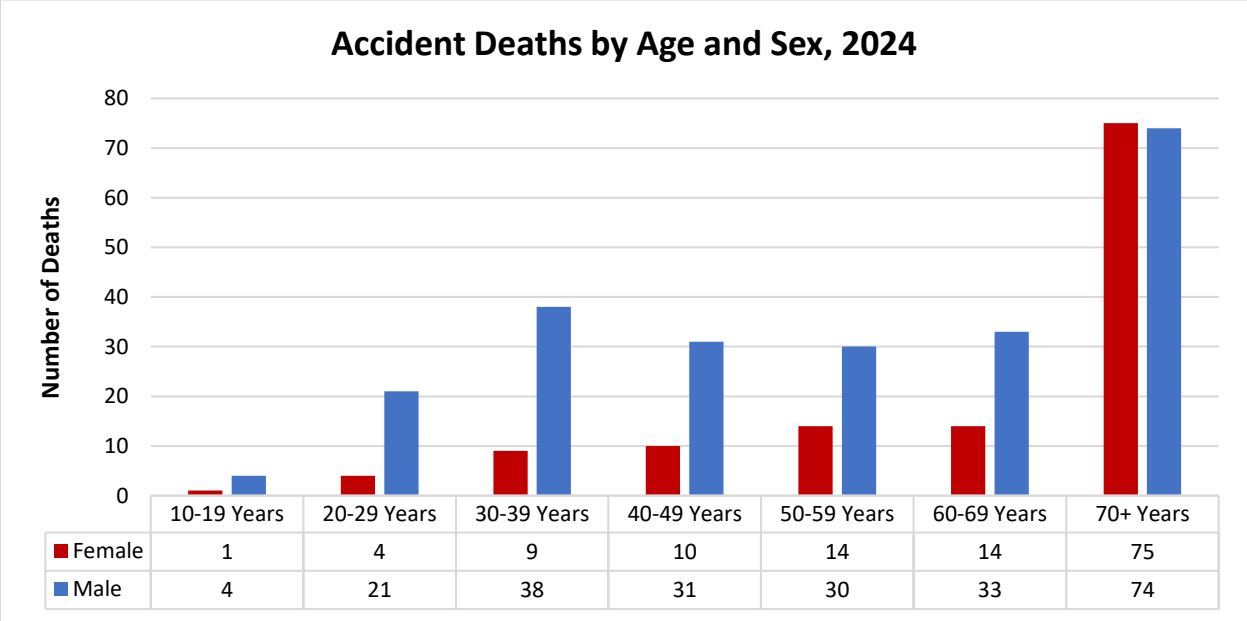
Accidental deaths represented 6.3% (358/5,688) of all deaths investigated by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Males accounted for 64.5% (231/358) of the accidental deaths; females accounted for 35.5% (127/358) of the accidental deaths.

The female 70+ age group accounted for 59.1% (75/127) of all female accidental deaths, while the male 70+ age group accounted for 32.0% (74/231) of all male accidental deaths.

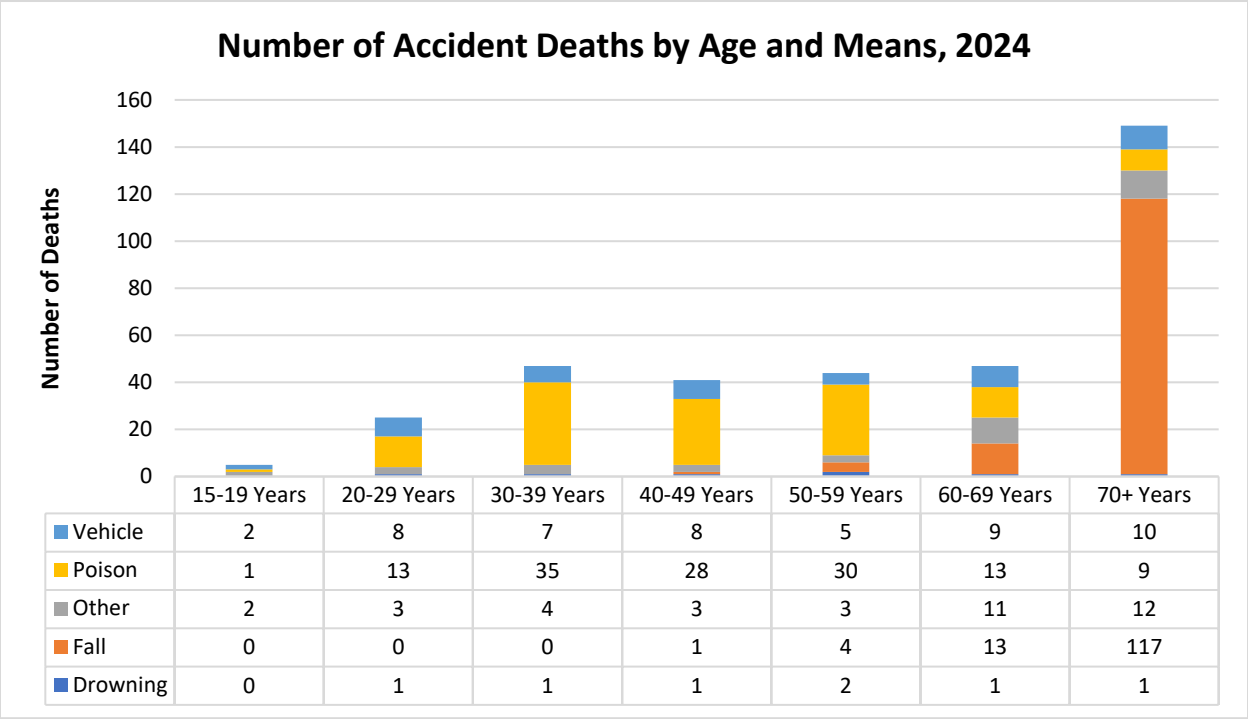
The combined male/female 70+ age groups represented 41.6% (149/358) of the accidental deaths.

Cases by Age and Sex



Age Group	Female	Male	Total	Percent
0-19 Years	1	4	5	1.40%
20 Years and Older	126	227	353	98.60%
Total	127	231	358	100.00%

Cases by Age and Means

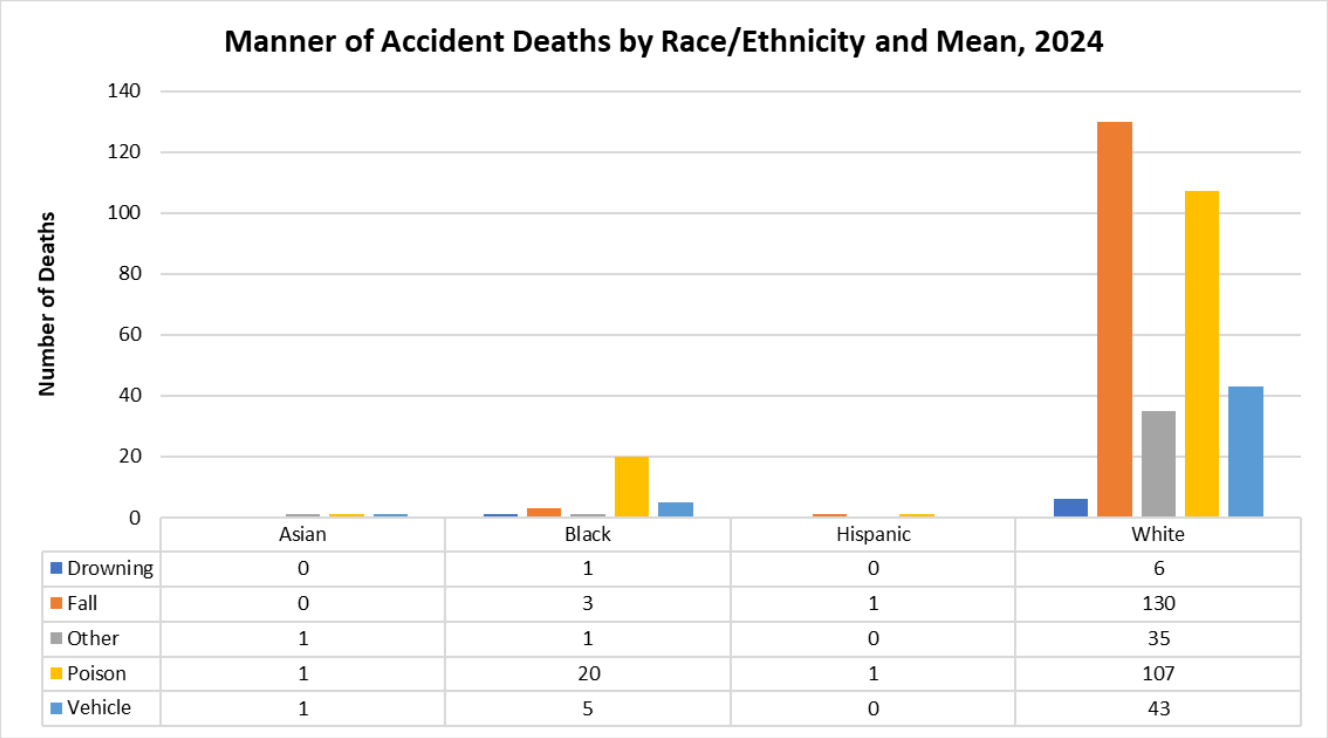


	15-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60-69 Years	70+ Years
Vehicle	2	8	7	8	5	9	10
Poison	1	13	35	28	30	13	9
Other	2	3	4	3	3	11	12
Fall	0	0	0	1	4	13	117
Drowning	0	1	1	1	2	1	1

Poison accounted for 36.0% (129/358) of all accidental death cases, with the 30-39 age group having the highest number of all accidental poisoning deaths (35).

Falls accounted for the highest percentage of accidental deaths at 37.7% (135/358), with most deaths occurring in the 70+ age group (117).

Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Means[5]



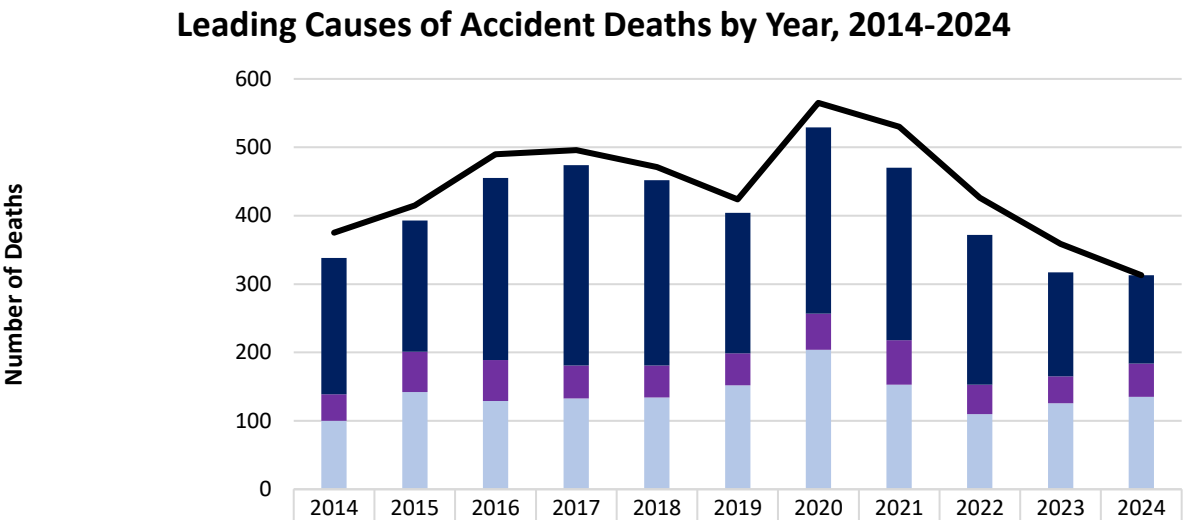
	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
Drowning	0	1	0	6
Fall	0	3	1	130
Other	1	1	0	35
Poison	1	20	1	107
Vehicle	1	5	0	43

Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

	Female	Male	Total
Asian	1	2	3
African American	7	23	30
Hispanic	0	2	2
White	119	204	323
Total	127	231	358

[5] The above chart only reflects investigated deaths and excludes any reported non-human bone and cremains.

Specific Means of Death by Year



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Poison	199	192	266	293	271	205	272	252	219	152	129
Vehicle	39	59	60	48	47	47	53	65	43	39	49
Fall	100	142	129	133	134	152	204	153	110	126	135
Total Accident Deaths	375	415	490	496	471	424	565	530	426	359	313

Between 2014 and 2024, there was a 35.0% increase in the number of accident deaths by falls, a 25.64% increase in the number of vehicular deaths, and a 35.18% decrease in the number of accident deaths by poison. There was a 12.8% decrease in total accident deaths compared to 2023.

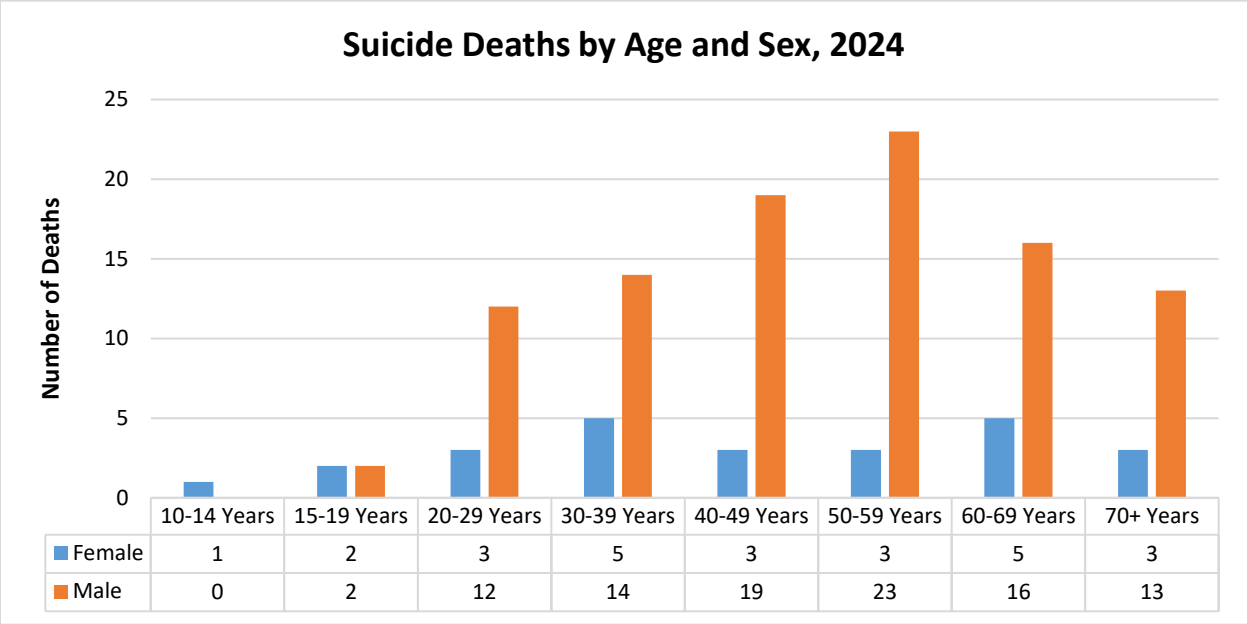
Manner of Death – Suicide

Suicide deaths represented 2.2% (124/5,688) of all medical examiner cases.

Males accounted for 79.8% (99/124) of the suicide deaths; females accounted for 20.2% (25/124) of the suicide deaths.

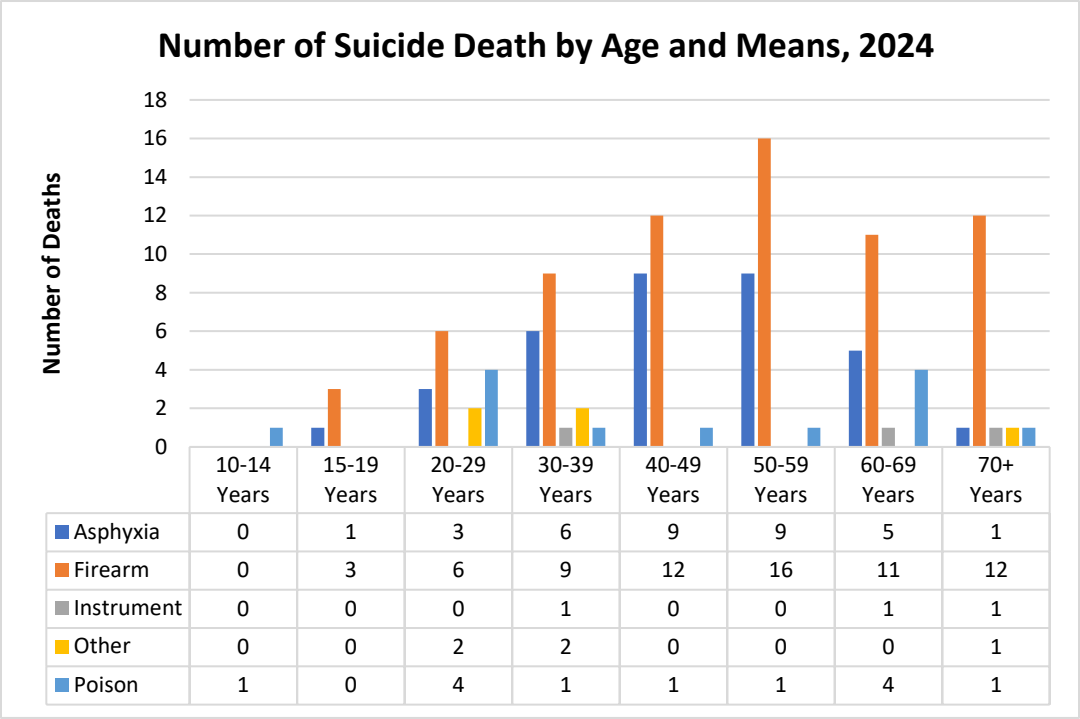
The male 50+ age group accounted for 52.5% (52/99) of all male suicide deaths, while the female 50+ age group accounted for 21.2% (11/25) of all female suicide deaths.

Cases by Age and Sex



Age Group	Female	Male	Total	Percent
0-19 Years	3	2	5	4.03%
20 Years and Older	22	97	119	95.97%
Total	25	99	124	100.00%

Cases by Age and Means

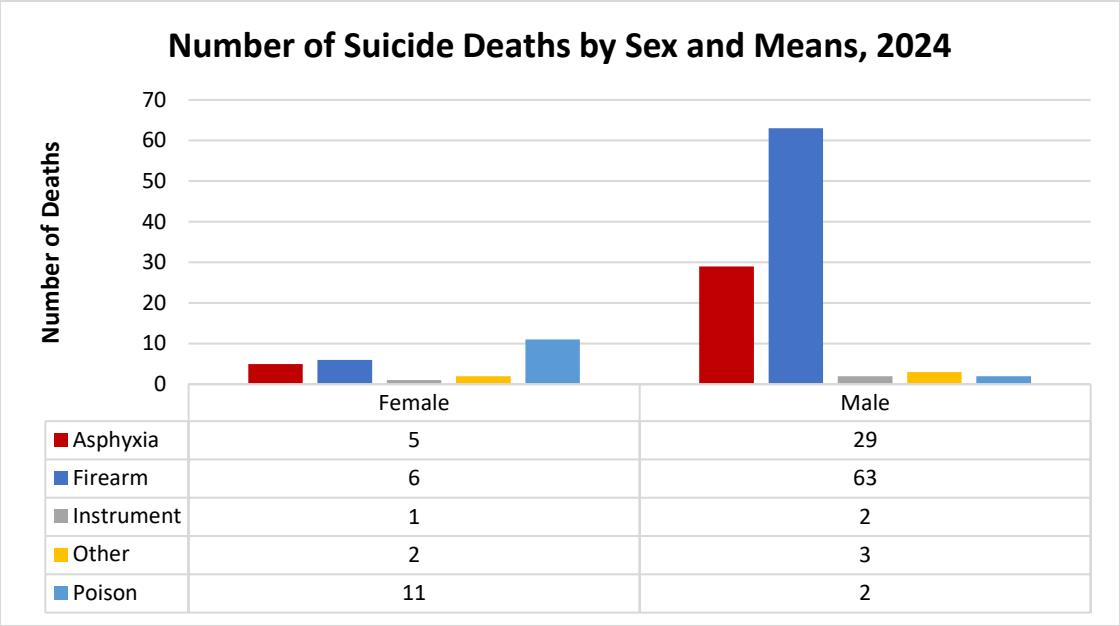


	10-14 Years	15-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60-69 Years	70+ Years
Asphyxia	0	1	3	6	9	9	5	1
Firearm	0	3	6	9	12	16	11	12
Instrument	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
Poison	1	0	4	1	1	1	4	1

Firearm suicide cases accounted for 55.6% (69/124) of all suicide death cases, with many deaths occurring in the 50-59 age group (16).

Asphyxia (34/124, 27.4%) and poison (13/124, 10.4%) accounted for the second and third highest percentages of suicides.

Cases by Sex and Means

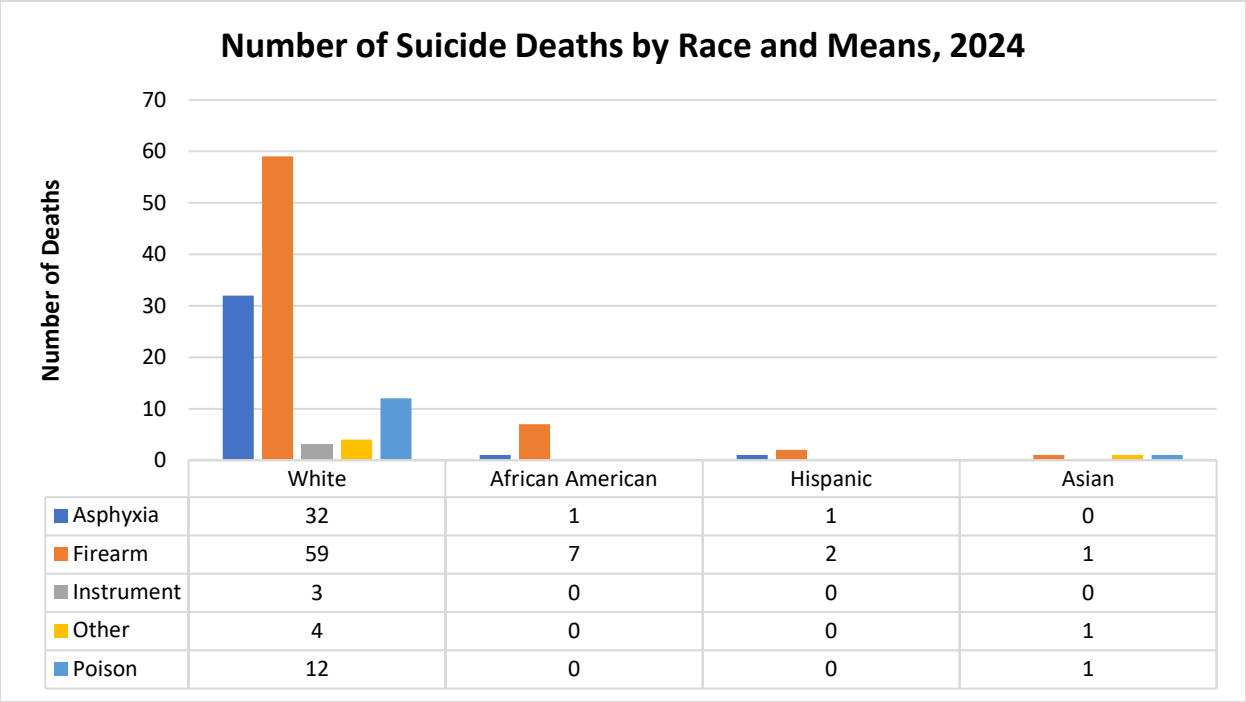


	Female	Male
Asphyxia	5	29
Firearm	6	63
Instrument	1	2
Other	2	3
Poison	11	2

Suicide by firearm accounted for the greatest percentage of suicide deaths in males at 63.6% (63/99), while suicide by asphyxia accounted for the second greatest percentage of suicide deaths in males at 29.3% (29/99).

Suicide by poison accounted for the greatest percentage of suicide deaths in females at 44.0% (11/25), while suicide by firearm (6/25, 24.0%) and asphyxia (5/25, 20.0%) accounted for the second and third greatest percentage of suicide deaths in females.

Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Means[7]



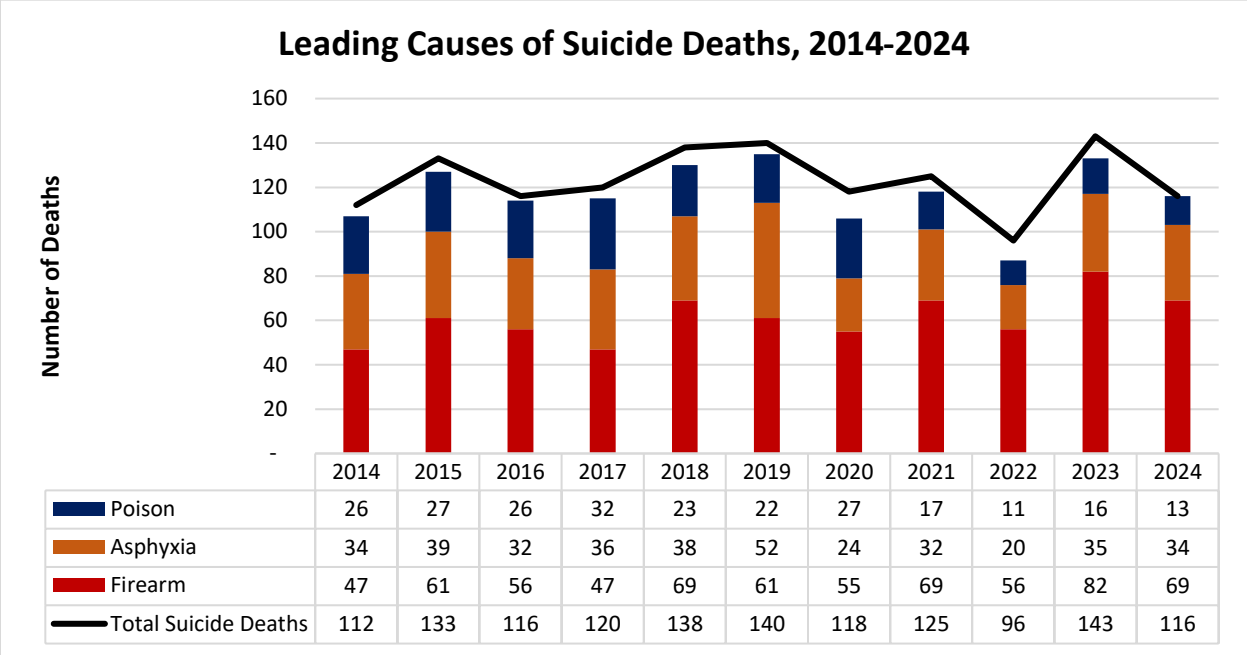
	White	African American	Hispanic	Asian
Asphyxia	32	1	1	0
Firearm	59	7	2	1
Instrument	3	0	0	0
Other	4	0	0	1
Poison	12	0	0	1

Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

	Female	Male	Total
Asian	1	2	3
African American	2	6	8
Hispanic	0	3	3
White	22	88	110
Total	25	99	124

[7] American Indian and Other race categories did not have a means of suicide recorded and were excluded from the chart.

Specific Means of Death by Year[8]



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Poison	26	27	26	32	23	22	27	17	11	16	13
Asphyxia	34	39	32	36	38	52	24	32	20	35	34
Firearm	47	61	56	47	69	61	55	69	56	82	69
Total Suicide Deaths	112	133	116	120	138	140	118	125	96	143	116

Between 2014 and 2024, there was a 46.8% increase in the number of suicide deaths by firearm, 50.0% decrease in the number of poison deaths, and no change in the number suicides by asphyxia. Overall, there was a 3.57% increase in deaths by suicide since 2014. Compared to 2023 there was a 18.9% decrease in death by suicide.

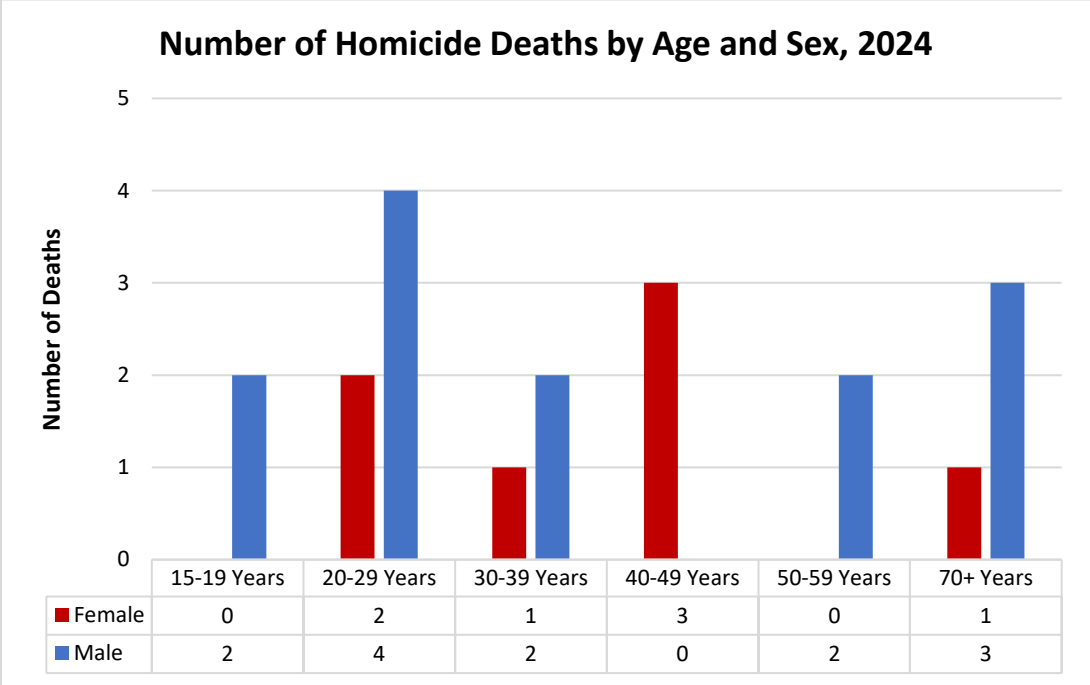
[8] This graph highlights the top three predominant means of death within the suicide classification. The black line shows the total number of deaths by suicide. There are other means of death not shown in this graph.

Manner of Death – Homicide

Homicide deaths represented 0.4% (20/5,688) of all medical examiner cases.

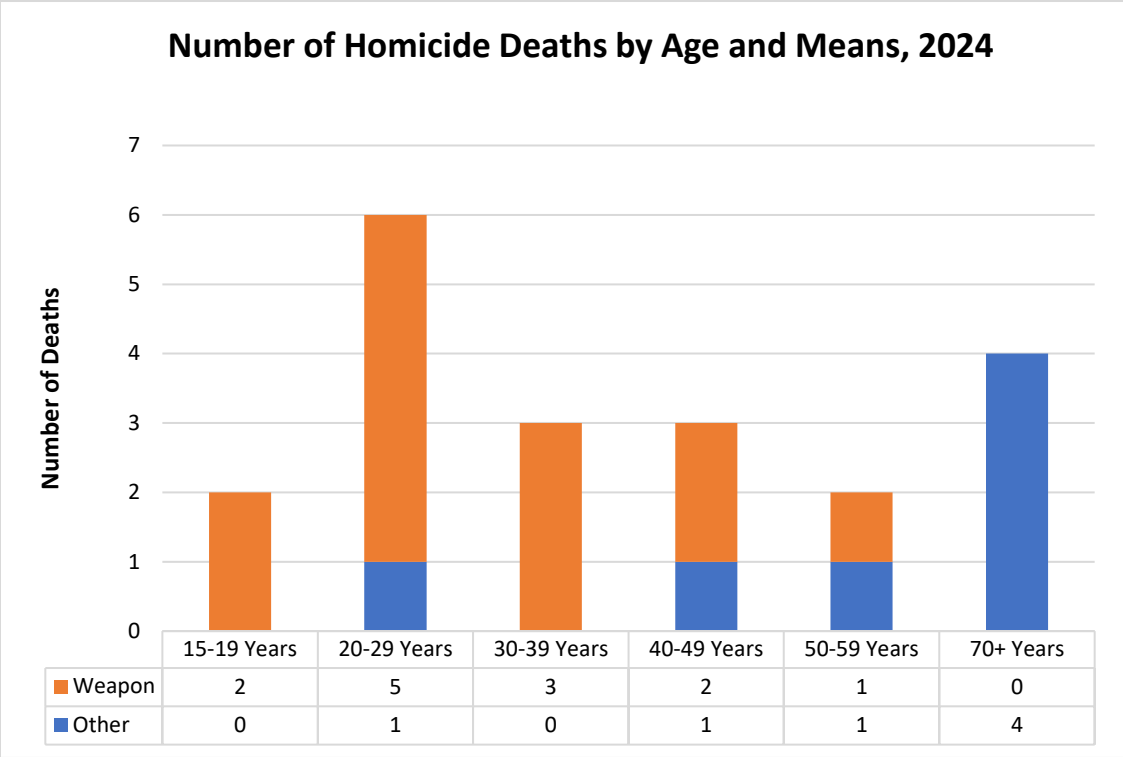
Males accounted for 65.0% of homicide deaths (13/20) and females accounted for 35.0% (7/20).

Cases by Age and Sex



Age Group	Female	Male	Total	Percent
0-19 Years	0	2	2	10.00%
20 Years and Older	7	11	18	90.00%
Total	7	13	20	100.00%

Cases by Age and Means[9]

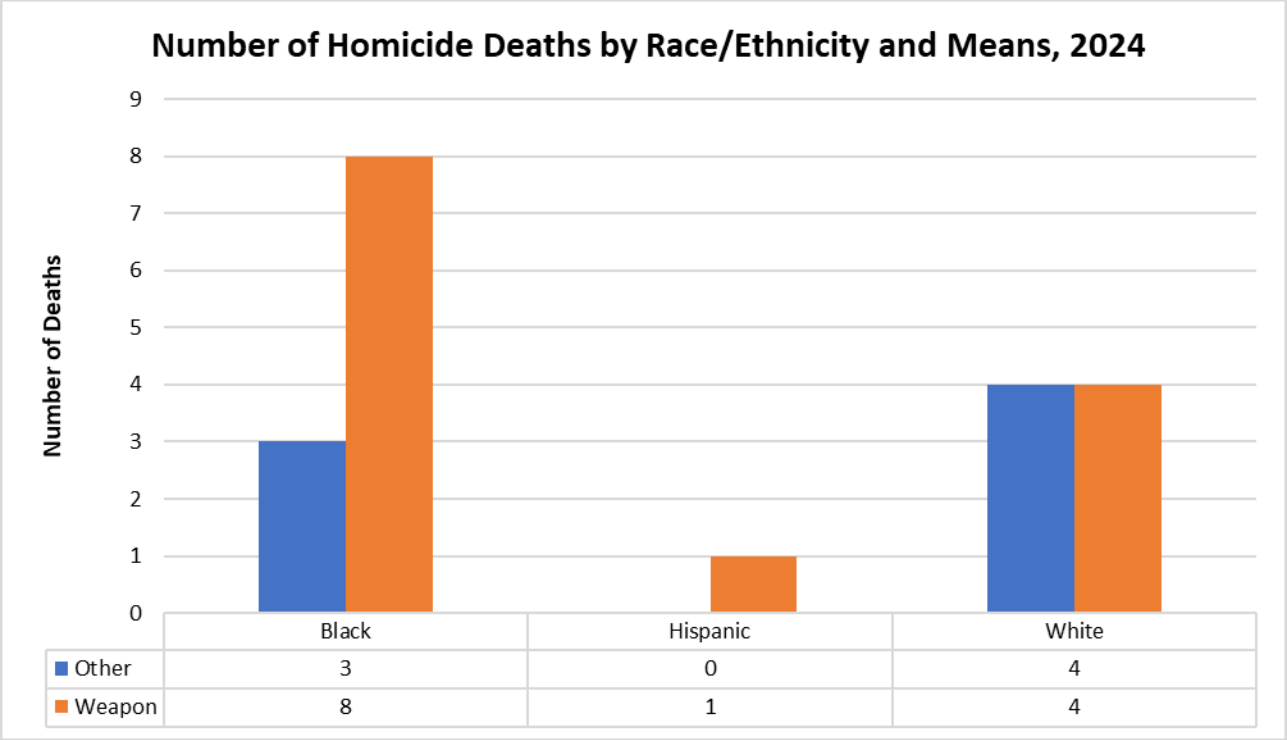


	15-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	70+ Years
Weapon	2	5	3	2	1	0
Other	0	1	0	1	1	4

Homicide by weapon accounted for 65.0% (13/20) of all homicide death cases, with most homicide deaths occurring in the 20-29 age group (6).

[9] Per the Quincy Medical Examiner and Coroner Data Management System regarding means of death: the other category can be a blunt, sharp or unknown object.

Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Means[9]

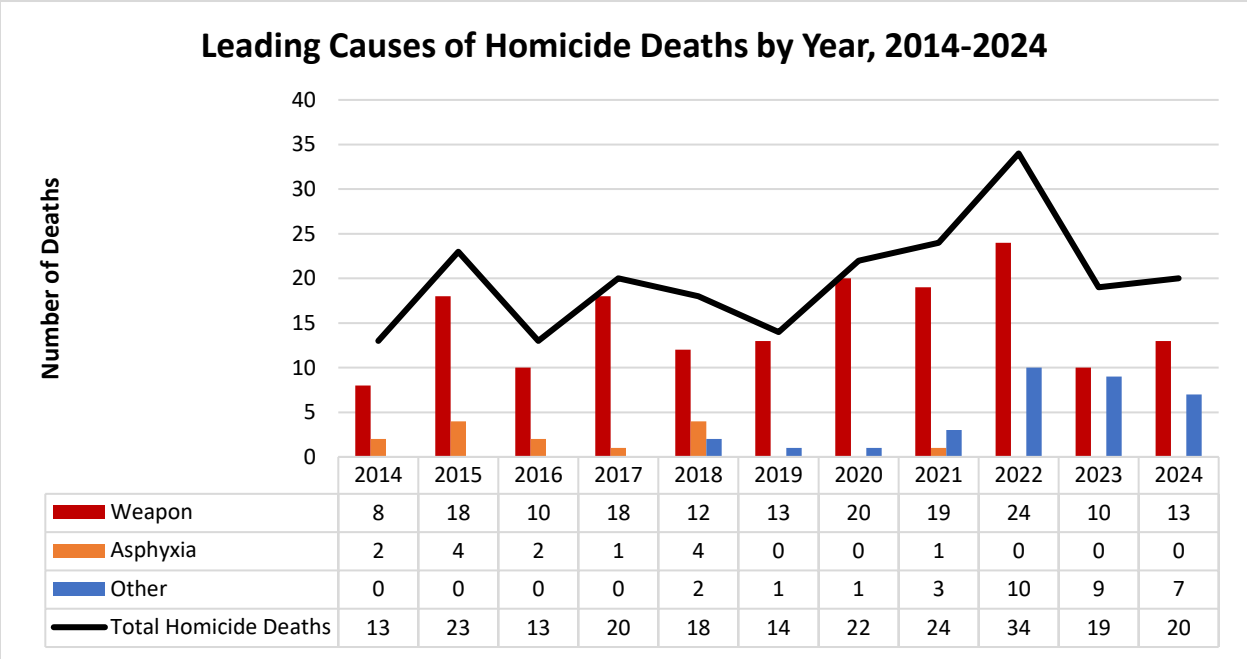


Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

	Female	Male	Total
Black	4	7	11
Hispanic	0	1	1
White	3	4	7
Total	7	13	20

[9] Per the Quincy Medical Examiner and Coroner Data Management System regarding means of death: The instrument category can be a blunt, sharp, or unknown object.

Specific Means of Death by Year[9,10]



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Weapon	8	18	10	18	12	13	20	19	24	10	13
Asphyxia	2	4	2	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	3	10	9	7
Total Homicide Deaths	13	23	13	20	18	14	22	24	34	19	20

Between 2014 and 2024, there was a 62.5% increase in the number of homicide deaths by weapon. There was a 5.26% increase in total homicide deaths compared to 2023.

[9] Per the Quincy Medical Examiner and Coroner Data Management System regarding means of death: The instrument category can be a blunt, sharp, or unknown object.

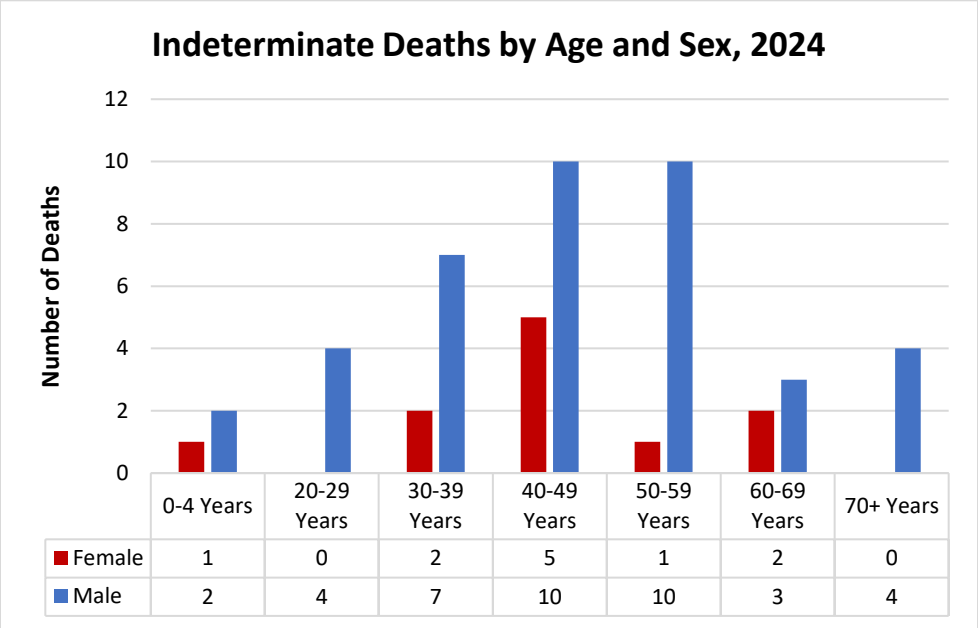
[10] This graph highlights the top three predominant means of death within the homicide classification. The black line shows the total number of homicidal deaths. There are other means of death not shown in this graph.

Manner of Death – Indeterminate

Indeterminate is a classification used when the information pointing to one manner of death is no more compelling than one or more other competing manners of death. Indeterminate deaths represented .9% (51/5,688) of all medical examiner cases.

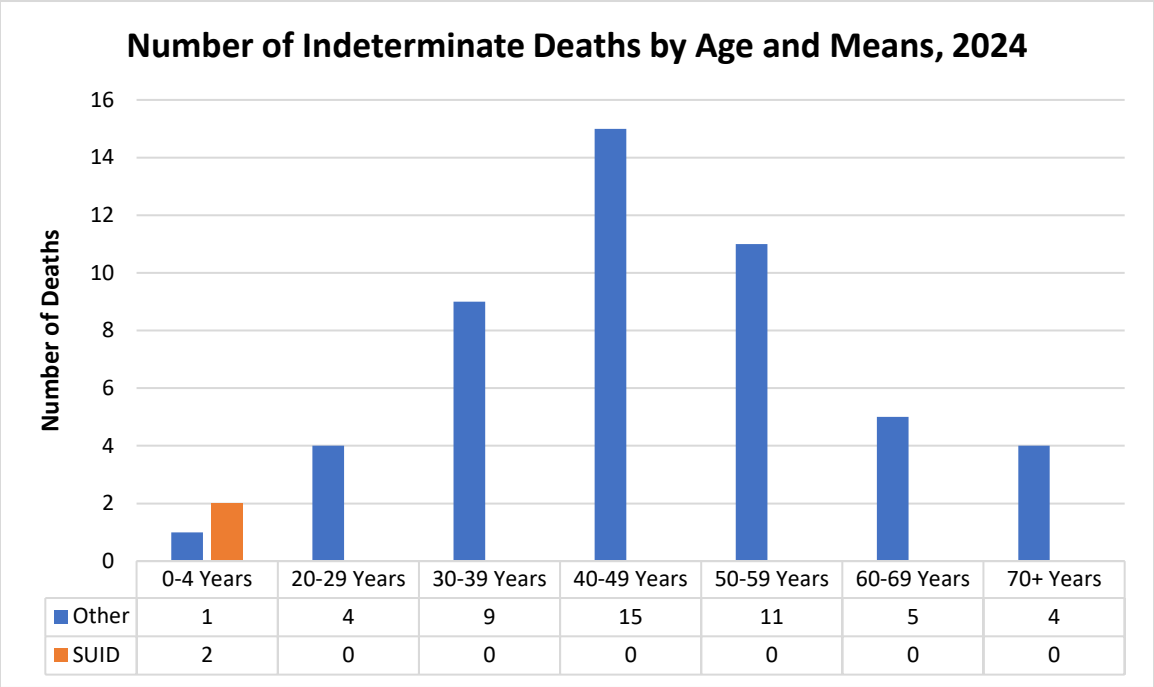
Males accounted for 78.4% (40/51) of the indeterminate deaths; females accounted for 21.6% (11/51) of the indeterminate deaths.

Cases by Age and Sex



Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Percent
0-19 Years	1	2	3	5.88%
20 Years and Older	10	38	48	94.12%
Total	11	40	51	100.00%

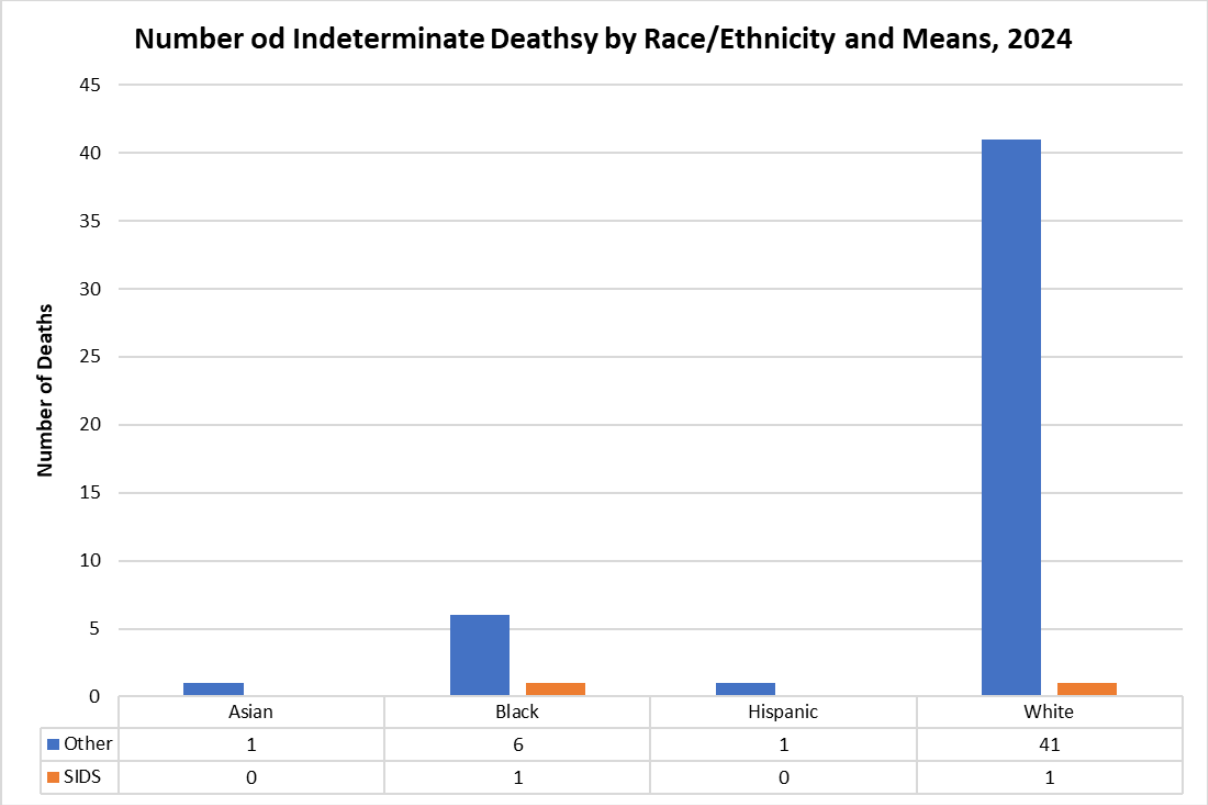
Cases by Age and Means



	0-4 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60-69 Years	70+ Years
Other	1	4	9	15	11	5	4
SUID	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Majority of indeterminate deaths occurred within in the 40-49 age group (15).

Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Means[11]



Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

	Female	Male	Total
Asian	0	1	1
Black	3	4	7
Hispanic	0	1	1
White	8	34	42
Total	11	40	51

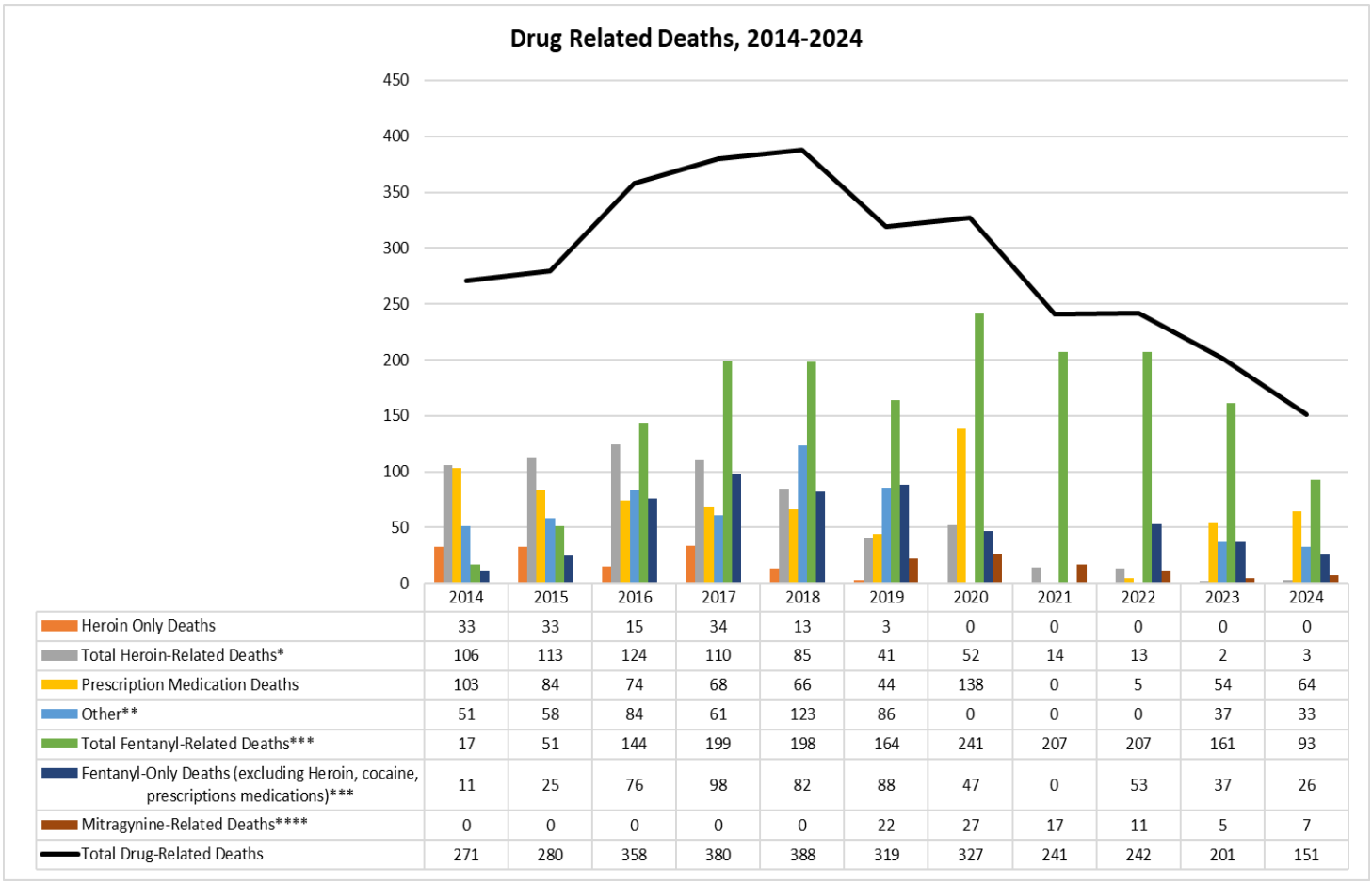
[11]There were no indeterminate deaths recorded for American Indian, Asian Pacific and Multiracial race and ethnicity categories and therefore they were excluded from this char

Drug-Related Deaths[12]

Toxicology analysis using various body fluids and tissues continues to be a very important aspect of death investigations occurring under the Macomb County Medical Examiner's jurisdiction.

There is concern with regard to the rise in the number of drug-related deaths, particularly heroin and controlled prescription drug abuse deaths involving drugs like Methadone, Oxycodone, Fentanyl, Hydrocodone, Valium and Xanax, which can be detected with toxicological analysis. Alcohol in combination with drugs can also be a contributory factor.

In 2024, total drug-related deaths decreased 24.8% (compared to 2023), with a total of 151 deaths. Compared to 2023, fentanyl deaths decreased by 42.2% and cocaine-related deaths decreased by 31.6%. Please note that total drug deaths are not a sum of the drug classifications.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Heroin Only Deaths	33	33	15	34	13	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total Heroin-Related Deaths*	106	113	124	110	85	41	52	14	13	2	3
Prescription Medication Deaths	103	84	74	68	66	44	138	0	5	54	64
Other**	51	58	84	61	123	86	0	0	0	37	33
Total Fentanyl-Related Deaths***	17	51	144	199	198	164	241	207	207	161	93
Fentanyl-Only Deaths (excluding Heroin, cocaine, prescriptions medications)***	11	25	76	98	82	88	47	0	53	37	26
Mitragynine-Related Deaths****	0	0	0	0	0	22	27	17	11	5	7
Total Drug-Related Deaths	271	280	358	380	388	319	327	241	242	201	151

[12] *From 2011-2013 Fentanyl Deaths were included in Prescription Medication Deaths. **Heroin-related deaths are deaths due to heroin alone or heroin in combination with other drugs or alcohol. ***The "Other category are deaths due to illicit drugs (excluding heroin), prescription drugs in combination with other drugs or alcohol (excluding heroin), and other ingested, injected or inhaled substances ****Mitragynine is a recreational drug known as kratom. Recording of Mitragynine-related deaths began in 2019.