

# Annual Report 2016

# CCMEO

Cook County Medical Examiner's Office



**Toni Preckwinkle**  
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**Martha Martinez**  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Ponni Arunkumar, M.D.**  
Chief Medical Examiner

**MAIN OFFICE:**

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

**HOURS:**

The Medical Examiner's Office operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.  
The office is open to the general public: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday,  
except for official Cook County holidays.

**IDENTIFICATION HOURS:**

11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekends and official Cook County holidays.

[www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/medical-examiner](http://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/medical-examiner)

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# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER



The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Board, Cook County, IL  
The Board of Commissioners, Cook County, IL  
The Cook County Medical Examiner's Advisory Committee  
The Residents of Cook County

In January 2016, the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office regained full accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners. We continue to improve policies and procedures and are working towards attaining accreditation by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

In 2017 we will continue to apply for grant funding for the office in an effort to save money for the taxpayers of Cook County. In 2016, we were awarded a federal grant to obtain a document management software solution that will improve the office efficiency and will help lead to further accreditation.

Several epidemics in Cook County in 2016 gained significant attention, especially gun violence and opioid-related deaths. Our forensic pathologists and staff actively participate in the local and regional task forces created to address these crises. The office also maintains detailed data, which is released to the public and policy-makers, in an attempt to inform residents and those seeking to curb these epidemics. Detailed information is included in the tables and maps in this report.

In 2017, the office has partnered with the Cook County Bureau of Technology to provide detailed data on the public-facing website for use by the public, policymakers, partner agencies, researchers and media.

I am forever grateful to the hard work and dedication of our staff. It has been and continues to be an honor to serve the residents of Cook County.

Respectfully,

*Pooni Arunkumar, M.D.*

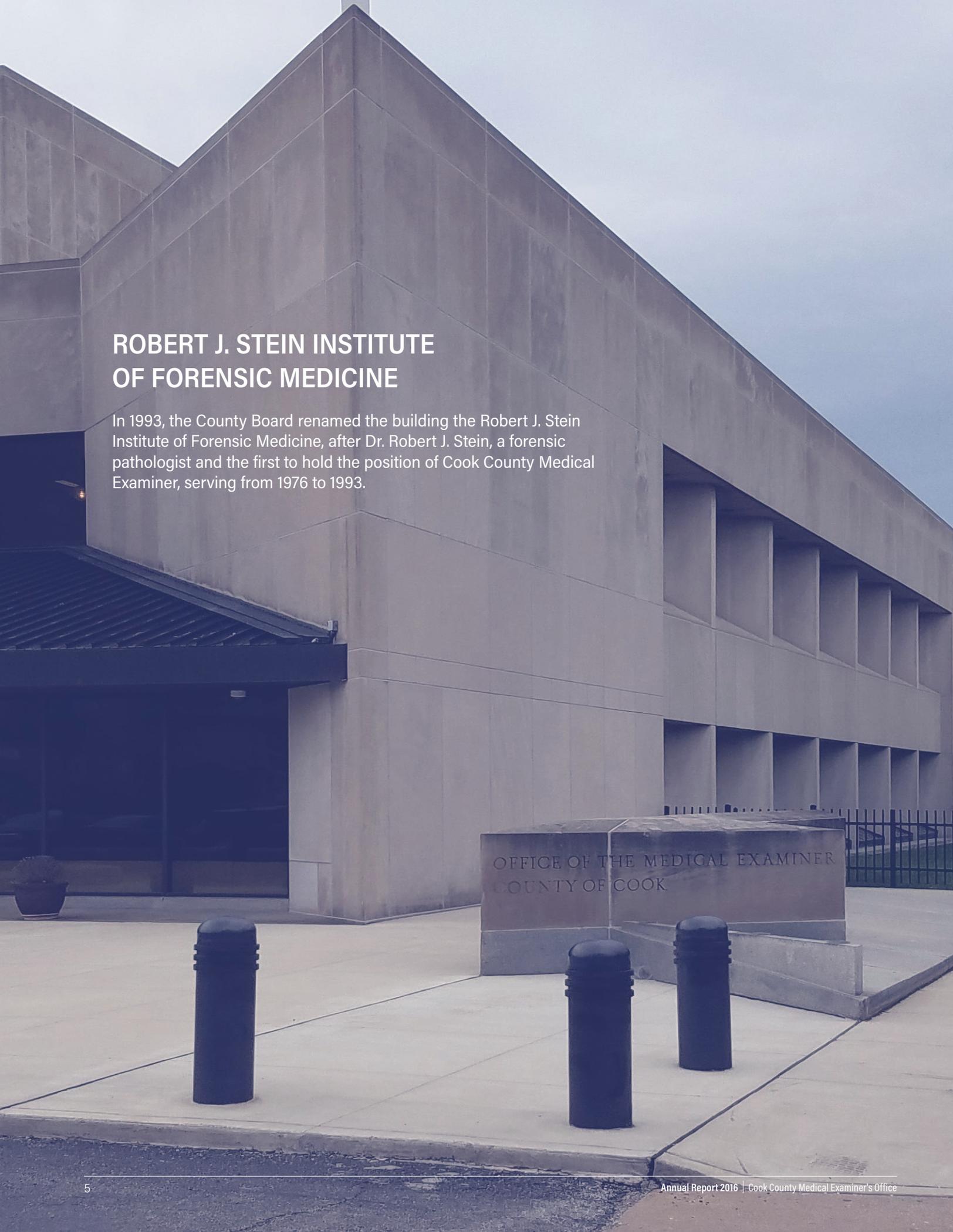
Pooni Arunkumar, MD, FCAP  
Chief Medical Examiner



# 2016 AT-A-GLANCE

## COOK COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES

Number of Deaths Investigated		13,482
Number of Medical Examiner Cases		6,326
Number of Cases by Manner of Death:		
	Accident	2,238
	Homicide	924
	Natural	2,498
	Suicide	434
	Undetermined	163
Homicides Autopsied		922
Suicides Autopsied		165
Non Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths Certified		1,960
Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths Certified		278
M Vehicle Accidents Autopsied		66
Non-MVA Accidents Autopsied		1,296
Naturals Autopsied		960
Undetermined Autopsied		152
Unidentified Autopsied		12
Gun Related Homicides		805
	White	35
	Black	644
	Latino	126
	Other	4
Scene Visits		1,118
Number Non-Medical Examiner Case		7,232
Number of Deaths in Cook County		41,398
Number of Bodies Transported to the Office		5,074
Number of Bodies Transported by the Office		0
External Examinations:	By Physician	1,629
	By Investigator	575
Partial Autopsies		168
Complete Autopsies		3,537
Hospital Autopsies under ME Jurisdiction		0
Cases Where Toxicology Was Performed		3,668
Bodies Unidentified after Examination		12
Exhumations		0
Unclaimed Bodies		280
Average Number of Bodies in Storage per Day		195
Organ Donations		116
Tissue Donations		93
Cornea Donations		395
Microscopic Studies		1,729
Formal Neuropathology Studies		126
Formal Cardiac Pathology Studies		107
Fetal Death Certificates Issued		163



## ROBERT J. STEIN INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE

In 1993, the County Board renamed the building the Robert J. Stein Institute of Forensic Medicine, after Dr. Robert J. Stein, a forensic pathologist and the first to hold the position of Cook County Medical Examiner, serving from 1976 to 1993.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER  
COUNTY OF COOK

# THE OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

## OUR 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 create 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 vision of fiscal responsibility, innovative leadership, transparency and accountability, and improved services.

## HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

As a result of a 1972 referendum, the Office of the Medical Examiner of Cook County 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 particular 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 5.3 million people. The Office of the Medical Examiner 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 is both required and empowered to determine the cause and manner of death. The Medical Examiner investigates any human death that falls within any or all of the following categories:

- Criminal violence
- Suicide
- Accident
- Suddenly when in apparent good condition
- Unattended by a practicing licensed physician
- Suspicious or unusual circumstances
- Criminal abortion
- 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 in ten (10) divisions:

- Administration
- Autopsy
- Intake
- Investigations
- Histology
- Medical Records
- Pathology
- Photography
- Radiology
- Toxicology

## PRIMARY 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 jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's Office and performs scene investigations.

### 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 pathologies 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 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

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.

# PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

The Medical Examiner's Office works with families to assist them through the process. The Medical Examiner's Office investigators and clerical staff are there to help, and the staff of forensic pathologists can assist family members trying to understand how the death occurred. In some situations, the Medical Examiner will not be able 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 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.

## **REQUESTING AN AUTOPSY REPORT**

Families can request copies of postmortem reports through the Medical Examiner's Office, 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 Medical Records Department will notify the funeral home. 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 CERTIFICATES**

Families can 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. Families can recover personal effects (money, jewelry, wallets, etc.) that belong to the deceased by contacting the Medical Examiner's Office. Property will be turned over to the executor, Power of Attorney (POA), legal next of kin or the funeral home retained by the legal next of kin. A photo ID is required to recover property. 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 are able to contact the Medical Examiners' Office Investigations Department regarding matching one of the unidentified bodies to the identity of a missing person.

## **UNCLAIMED PERSONS**

If someone is a next of kin to an unclaimed person, they can contact our Indigent Coordinator to claim that person. Unclaimed decedents will be cremated at the County's expense according to the Cook County Medical Examiner Ordinance.

# COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

The Medical Examiner's Office has agreements with several universities in which medical students and residents participate in one- to three-month rotations to observe pathologists conducting examinations, including autopsies, in order to determine the cause and manner of death.

The following are the institutions that participate in this program:

- Loyola University Chicago Medical Center
- Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University
- Midwestern University
- Rush University Medical Center
- University of Chicago Medical Center
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

## CLINICAL MEDICAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS

The Medical Examiner's Office has an agreement with Des Moines University for students with interest in forensic medicine observe autopsies and learn about the practice of Forensic Medicine.

The Medical Examiner's Office also has an agreement with Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, Concordia University and Eastern Virginia Medical School for medical students to observe pathologists conduct examinations including autopsies, in order to determine the cause and manner of death.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The Medical Examiner's Office has an agreement with the University of Rome, Department of Anatomy, Histology, Forensic Medicine and Orthopedics and the Medical University of Gdansk (Gdansk, Poland) that allows visiting professors to rotate through the Medical Examiner's Office and gain valuable experience on examinations, especially in the examination of gunshot victims – a process that is not common in other countries.

### PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT ROTATIONS

The Medical Examiner's Office has an agreement with Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science that facilitates pathologists' assistant students to observe pathologists conducting examinations, including autopsies.

## MORTUARY SCIENCES

The Medical Examiner's Office has agreements with Malcolm X College and Worsham College of Mortuary Science that facilitates 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 Medical Examiner's Office.

## GRIEF COUNSELING

The Medical Examiner's Office 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.

## PUBLIC POLICY

The Medical Examiner's Office entered into an agreement with the University of Chicago-Harris School of Public Policy to support the Medical Examiner's Office.

## ILLINOIS VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

The Medical Examiner's Office 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 policy makers analyze violence-related deaths, identify risk factors and develop prevention efforts.

## ORGAN/TISSUE DONATION

### ANATOMICAL GIFT ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

The Medical Examiner's Office and the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois facilitate donations of indigent bodies for medical teaching in accordance with the Illinois Cadaver Act.

### GIFT OF HOPE

The Medical Examiner's Office 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 Medical Examiner's 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 John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County on complicated cases involving extensive radiology as a means to determine cause and manner of death.

The Medical Examiner's Office offers annually a one-year forensic pathology fellowship program for three graduates of an accredited residency program in general pathology. This program is accredited by the Accreditation Council

## FELLOWSHIP

for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

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.

## TOURS

The Medical Examiner's 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, and government agencies involved in the medicolegal justice system. For more information, contact Mary Marik, Registered Health Information Administrator, at (312) 997-4430.



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# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## Appointment of Dr. Ponni Arunkumar as Chief Medical Examiner

In July 2016, Dr. Ponni Arunkumar was appointed as Chief Medical Examiner. Previously, she had served as the Assistant Chief Medical Examiner.

## 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Office of the Medical Examiner in Cook County

On December 6, 1976, following the Black Panther raid investigation, the Office of the Coroner was abolished and the Office of the Medical Examiner was established.

## Recruitment of a Forensic Compliance Officer

A Forensic Compliance Officer was recruited to oversee quality assurance for the office and help gear toward NAME-ISO accreditation during the next on-site inspection in 2019.



# A LOOK AHEAD

The Medical Examiner's Office has the following initiatives in 2017:

- Become fully staffed with assistant medical examiners and fellows to reduce the average caseload per pathologist.
- Complete capital improvements including installation of perimeter gates to improve security, renovate autopsy rooms, intercom expansion throughout the building and replace the built-in toxicology walk-in refrigerator/freezer.
- Continue to work with Gift of Hope to increase organ and tissue donation throughout Cook County.
- Install a low dose x-ray machine that would take x-rays of the whole body in seconds.
- Introduction of a document management software solution to maintain up-to-date policies and procedures and track changes to help the office gear toward ISO accreditation.
- Streamline toxicology testing to improve turnaround time and provide closure to families expeditiously.



## INDIGENT BURIAL: DIGNIFIED FINAL DISPOSITION

Traditionally, the Medical Examiner's Office buried all indigents at the County's expense. However, in early 2014, Cook County ceased this practice and, after much collaboration and dialogue with a variety of stakeholders, introduced cremation as the primary means of dignified final disposition. The process of declaring a deceased individual as indigent involves a partnership with support agencies such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, foreign consulates, the Illinois Department of Corrections and the Cook County Public Administrator, among others. In 2015, the Medical Examiner's Office hired a full-time Indigent Coordinator to manage the indigent disposition process. The County will continue to bury unidentified and fetal remains.

*The Medical Examiner's Office expresses  
a special thank you to  
Roman F. Szabelski, Executive Director,  
Catholic Cemeteries, Archdiocese of Chicago,  
for all his assistance with the  
indigent burials at  
Mt. Olivet Cemetery.*

*Thanks to all the funeral directors  
who continue to assist the Medical  
Examiner's Office in laying to rest decedents  
in a dignified manner through their  
professionalism and compassion.*

*Thank you!*

**The following is a list of funeral homes, directors and other individuals who assisted the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office in 2016:**

AA Rayner and Sons Funeral Home, S. Childs

AquaGreen Dispositions LLC, Ryan Cattoni

Blake Lamb Funeral Home, Jim Herzog

Calahan Funeral Home, Edward Calahan, Sr.

Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home, Jody Wojciechowski

Conley Funeral Home, Ben Conley

Cooper Funeral Service, David B. Cooper

Cremation Society of Illinois, Gerald Sullivan

Susan Dyer, Funeral Director

Evans Funeral Home, Doris York

Evanston Funeral & Cremation, Roland Weis

Golden Gate Funeral Home, Anthony Holmes

House of Branch Funeral Home, Shelia Reid

John G. Ligda, Funeral Director

Nabors Family Funeral Home, Lillie Nabors

Northern Illinois Funeral Services, Cathy Daniel

Palos-Gaidas Funeral Home, David Gaidas

Pietryka Funeral Home, Robert Pietryka

Sacred Memories Funeral Home, Tiwana Collins

Solon-Telford Funeral Home, Jason J. Telford

Warren Funeral Home, David Sullivan

Woods Funeral Home, Melvin T. Woods

YGee Funeral Service, A. Yvette Green

Zielinski Funeral Service, Leonard Zielinski

# CASE OVERVIEW 2016



Trends



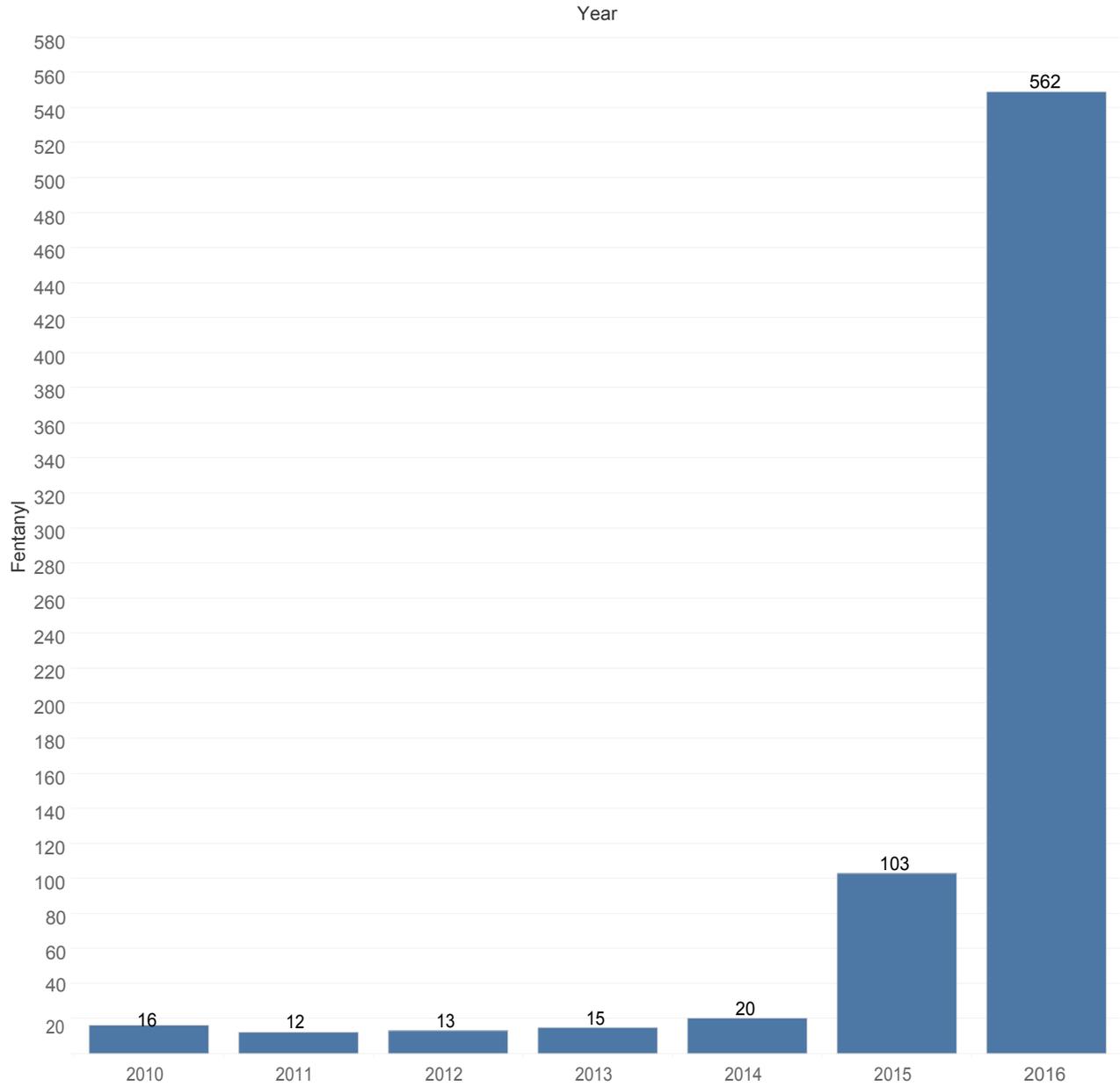
Maps



Charts

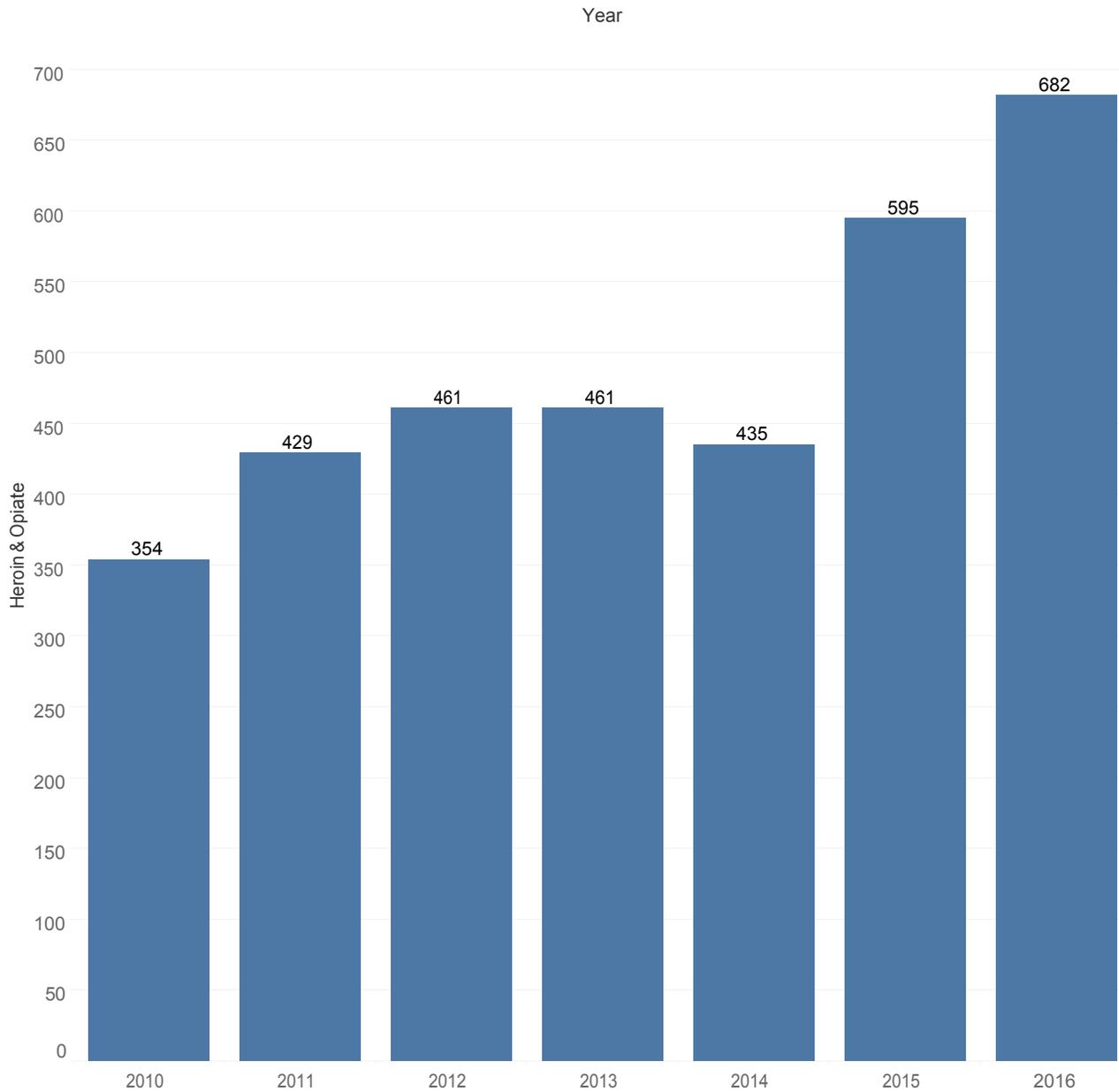
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# 2010-2016 TRENDS FENTANYL



Sum of Fentanyl for each Year. The marks are labeled by Fentanyl.

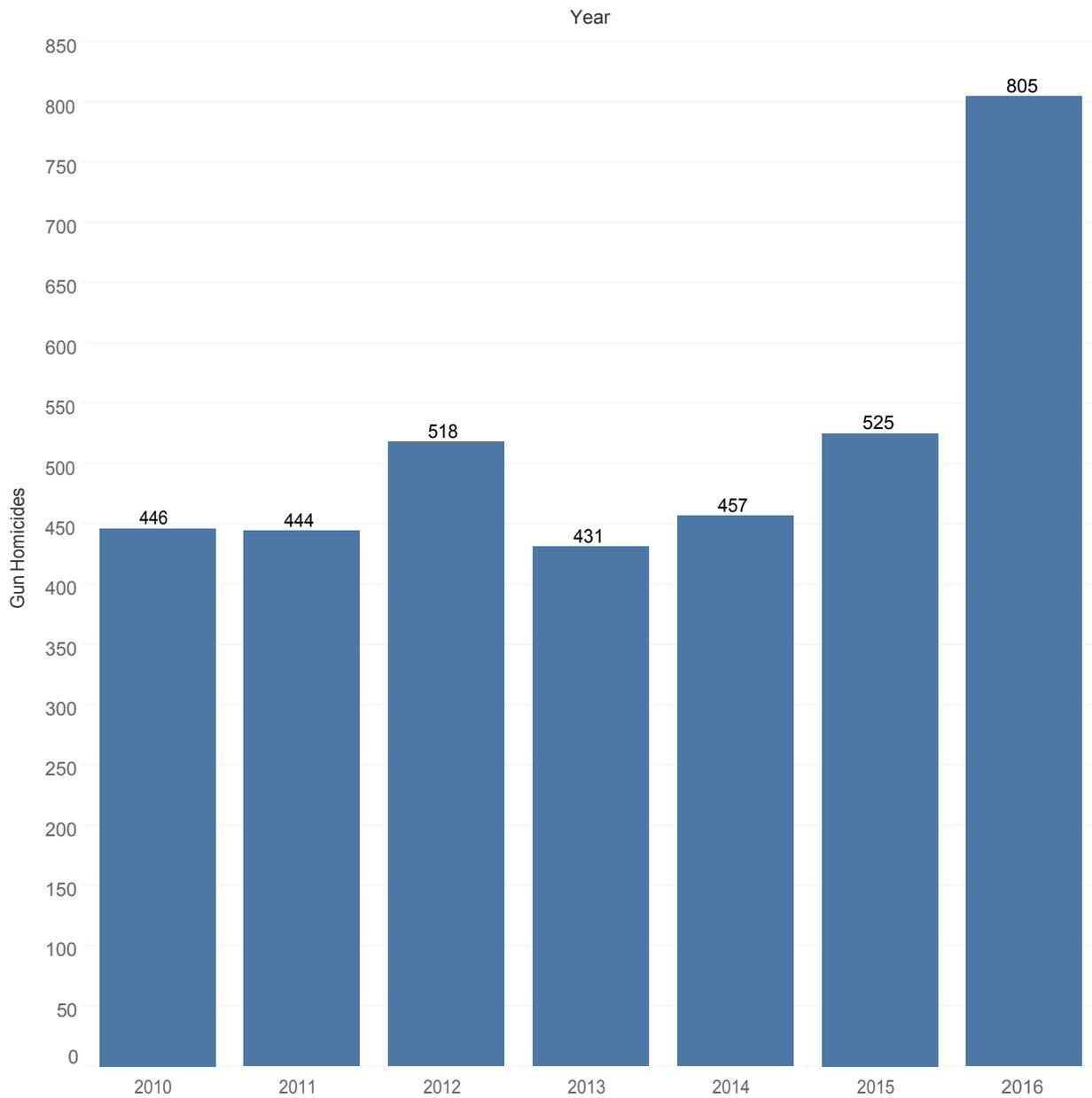
# 2010-2016 TRENDS HEROIN AND OPIATE



Sum of Heroin & Opiate for each Year. The marks are labeled by sum of Heroin & Opiate.

# 2010-2016 TRENDS GUN HOMICIDES

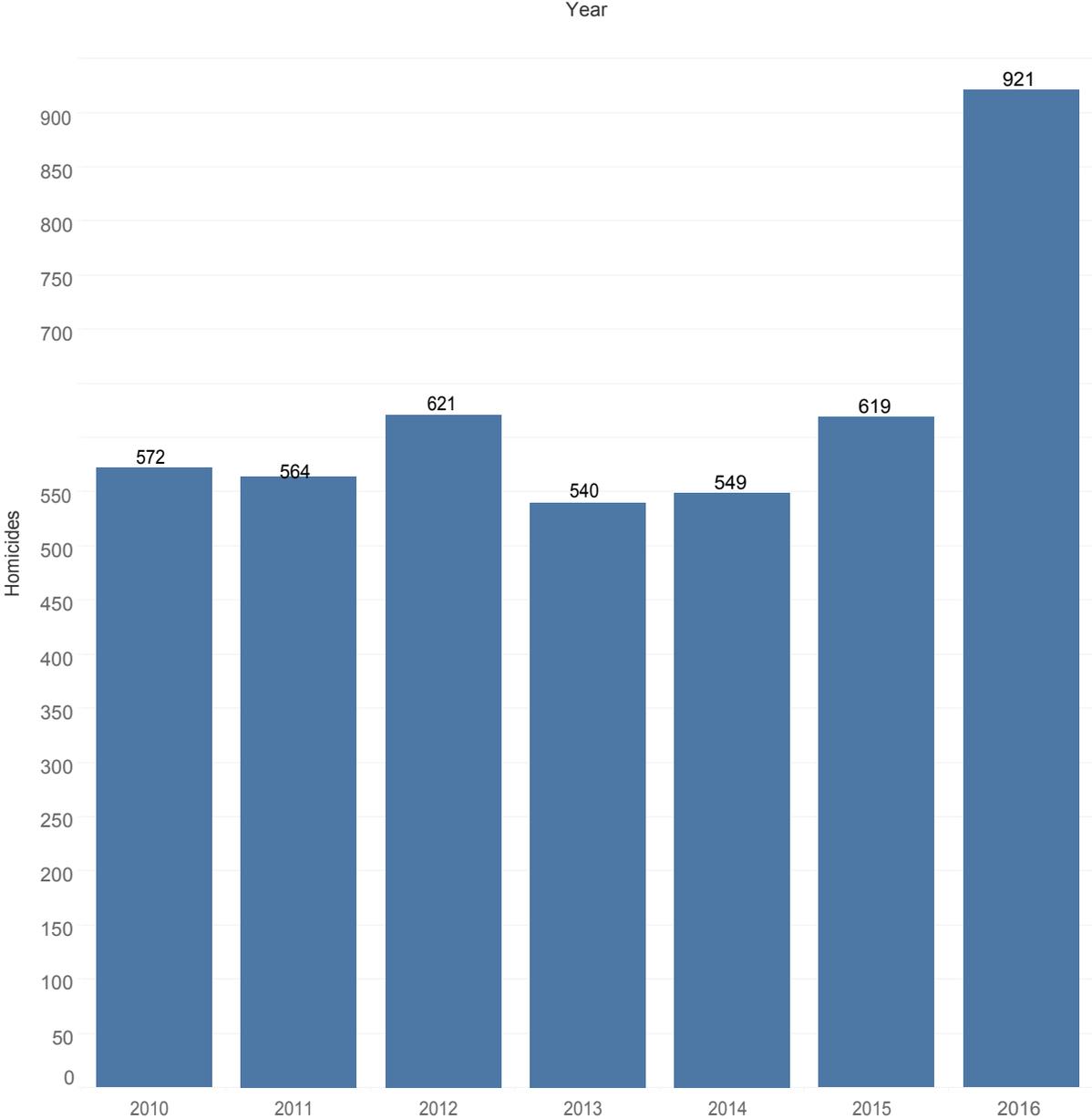
## Gun Homicides



Sum of Gun Homicides for each Year. The marks are labeled by sum of Gun Homicides.

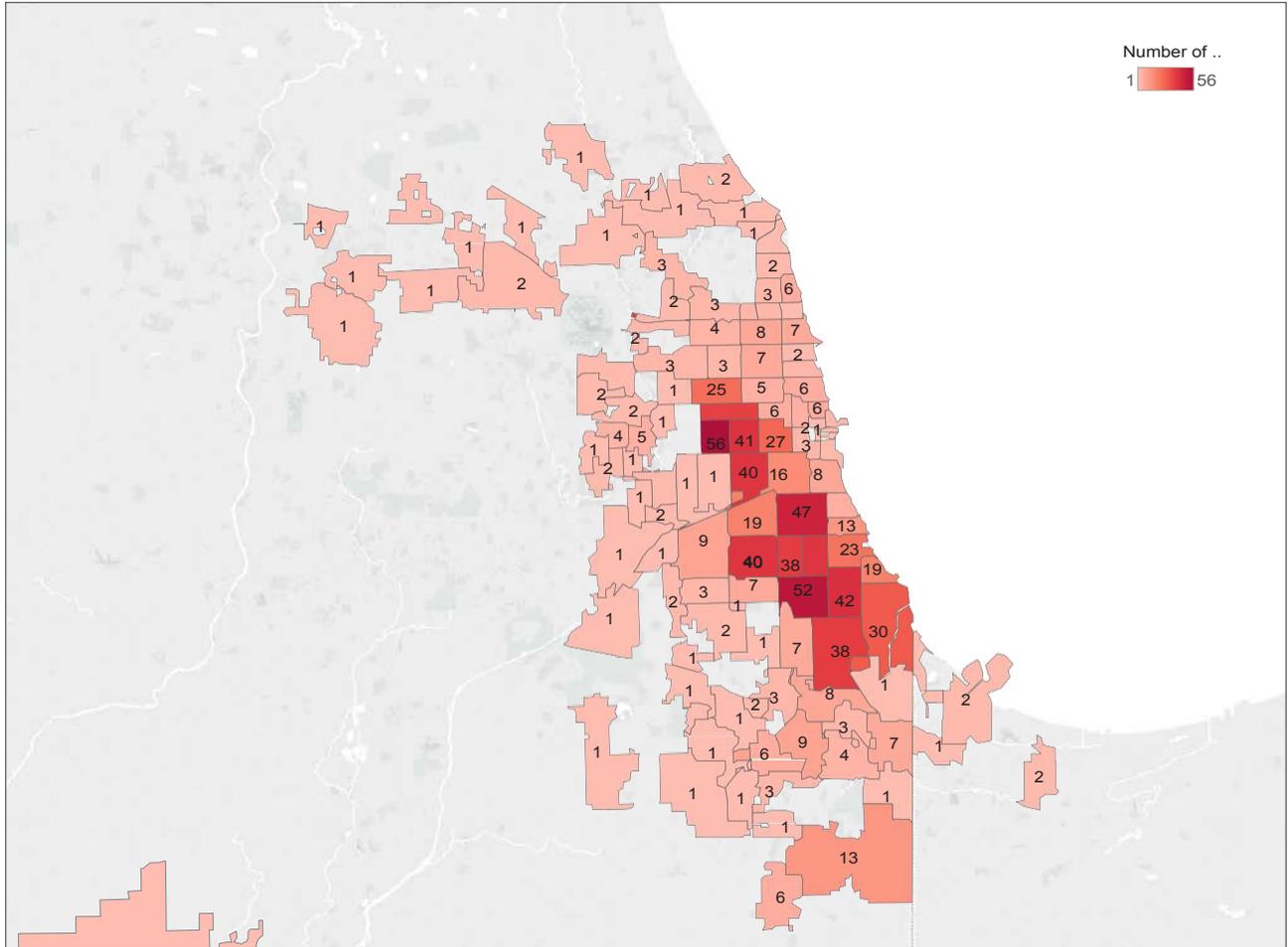
# 2010-2016 TRENDS HOMICIDES

## Homicides



Sum of Homicides for each Year. The marks are labeled by sum of Homicides.

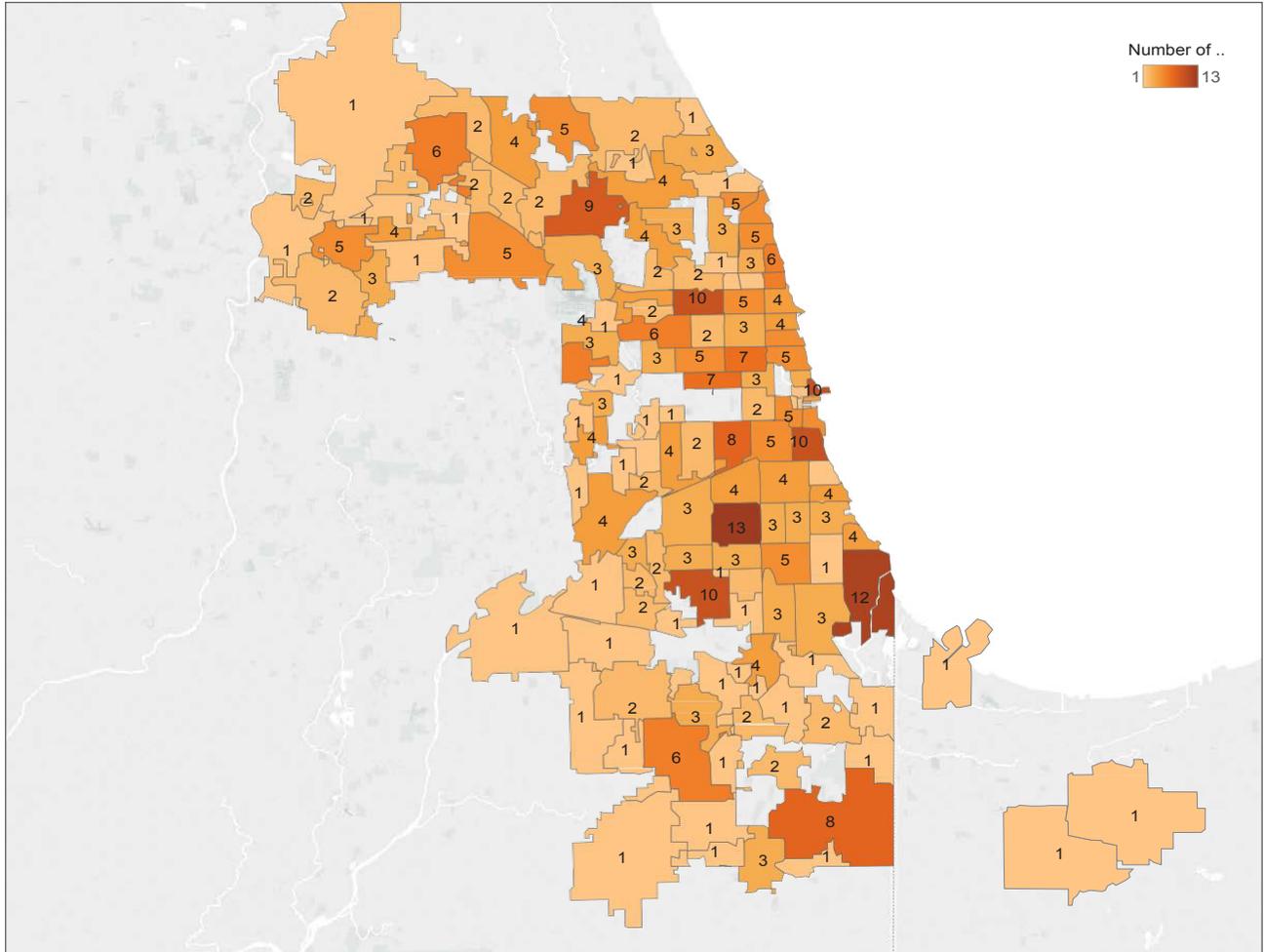
# GUN DEATHS MAP



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on INCIDENT\_DATE Year and Gun. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016. The Gun filter keeps Gun. The view is filtered on Latitude (generated) and Longitude (generated). The Latitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only. The Longitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only.

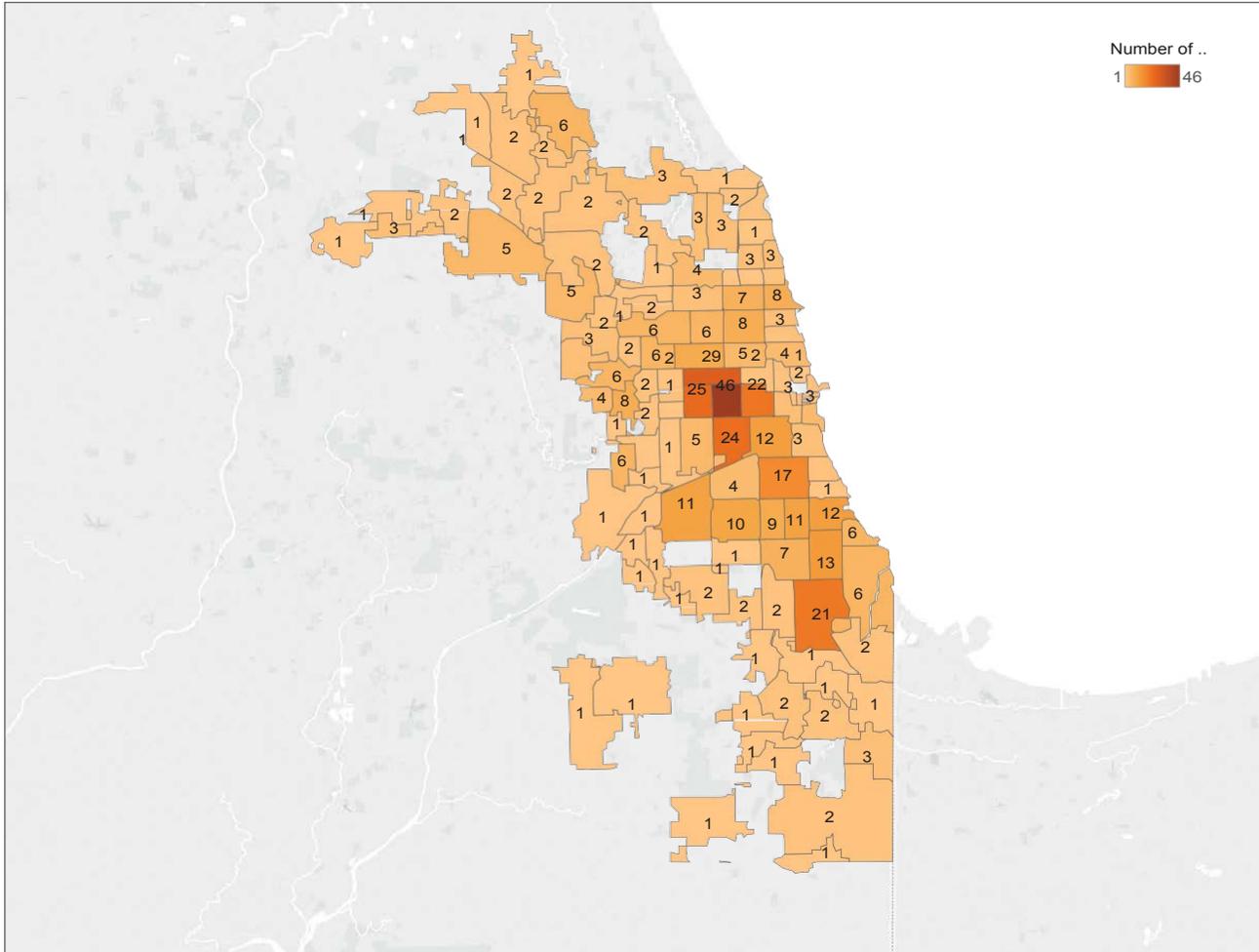


# SUICIDE DEATHS MAP



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on INCIDENT\_DATE Year and MANNERNAME. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016. The MANNERNAME filter keeps SUICIDE. The view is filtered on Longitude (generated), which keeps non-Null values only.

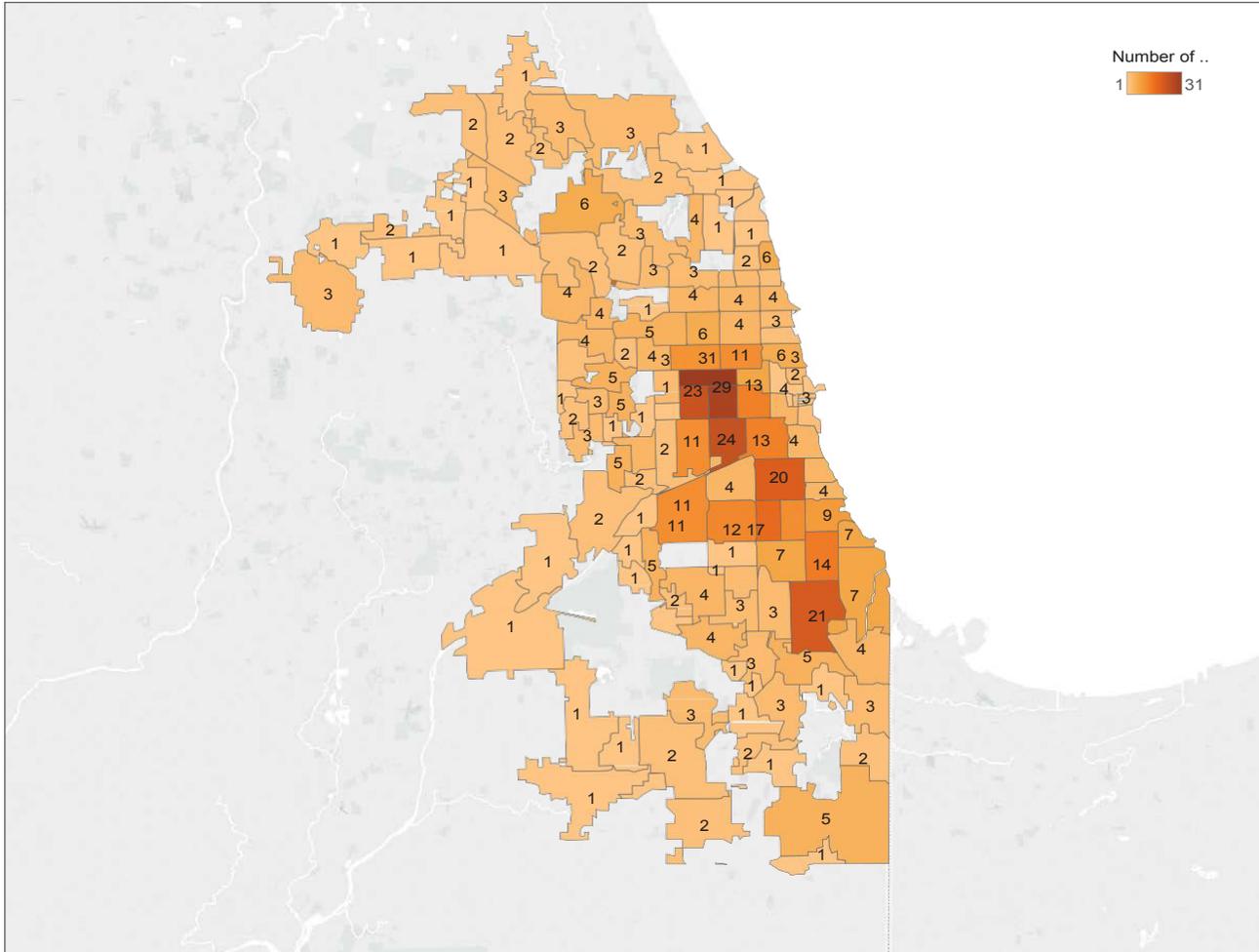
# FENTANYL DEATHS MAP



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on Fentanyl and INCIDENT\_DATE Year. The Fentanyl filter keeps Fentanyl. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016.

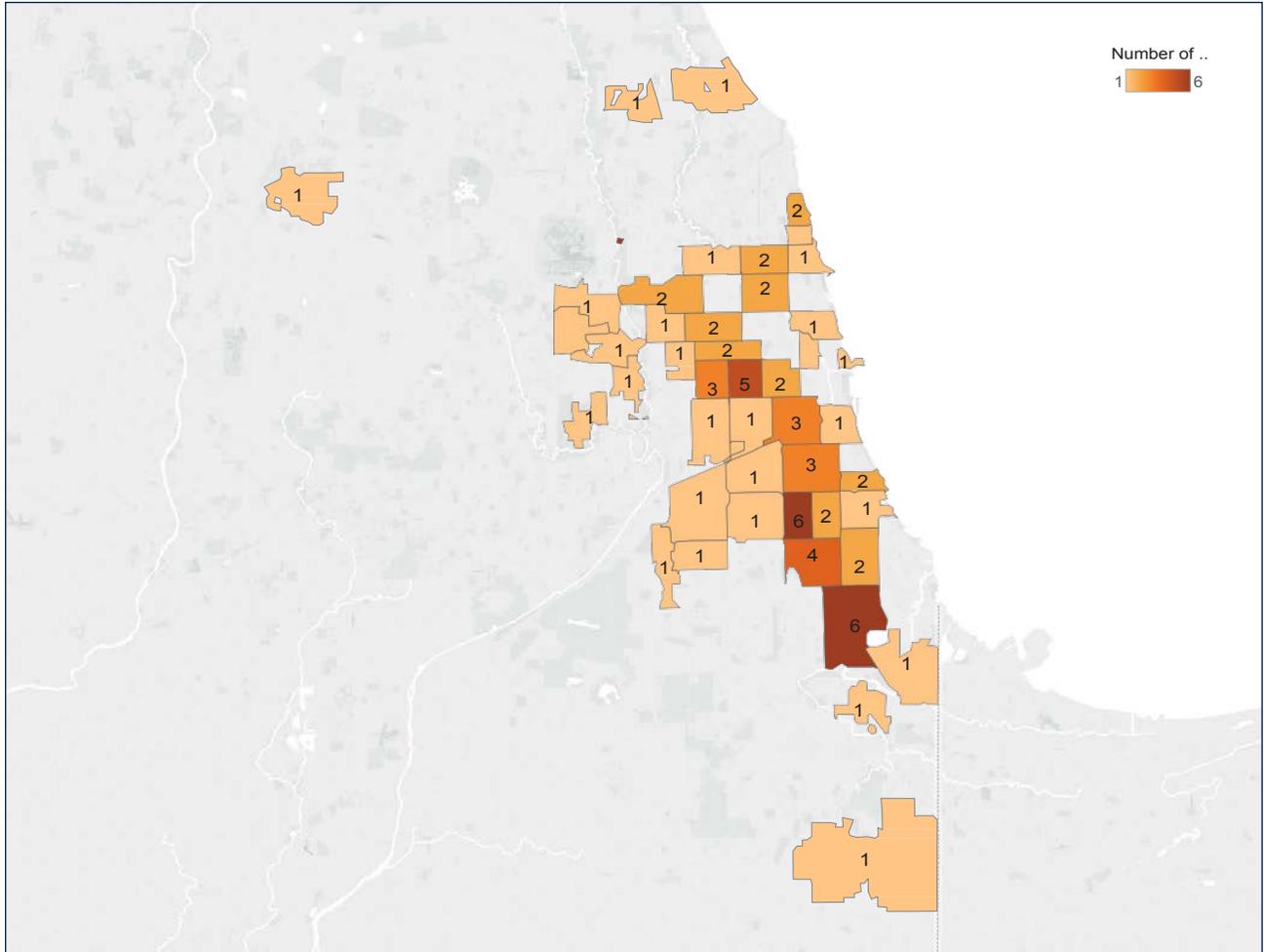


# HEROIN DEATHS MAP



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on INCIDENT\_DATE Year and Heroin. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016. The Heroin filter keeps Heroin. The view is filtered on Latitude (generated) and Longitude (generated). The Latitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only. The Longitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only.

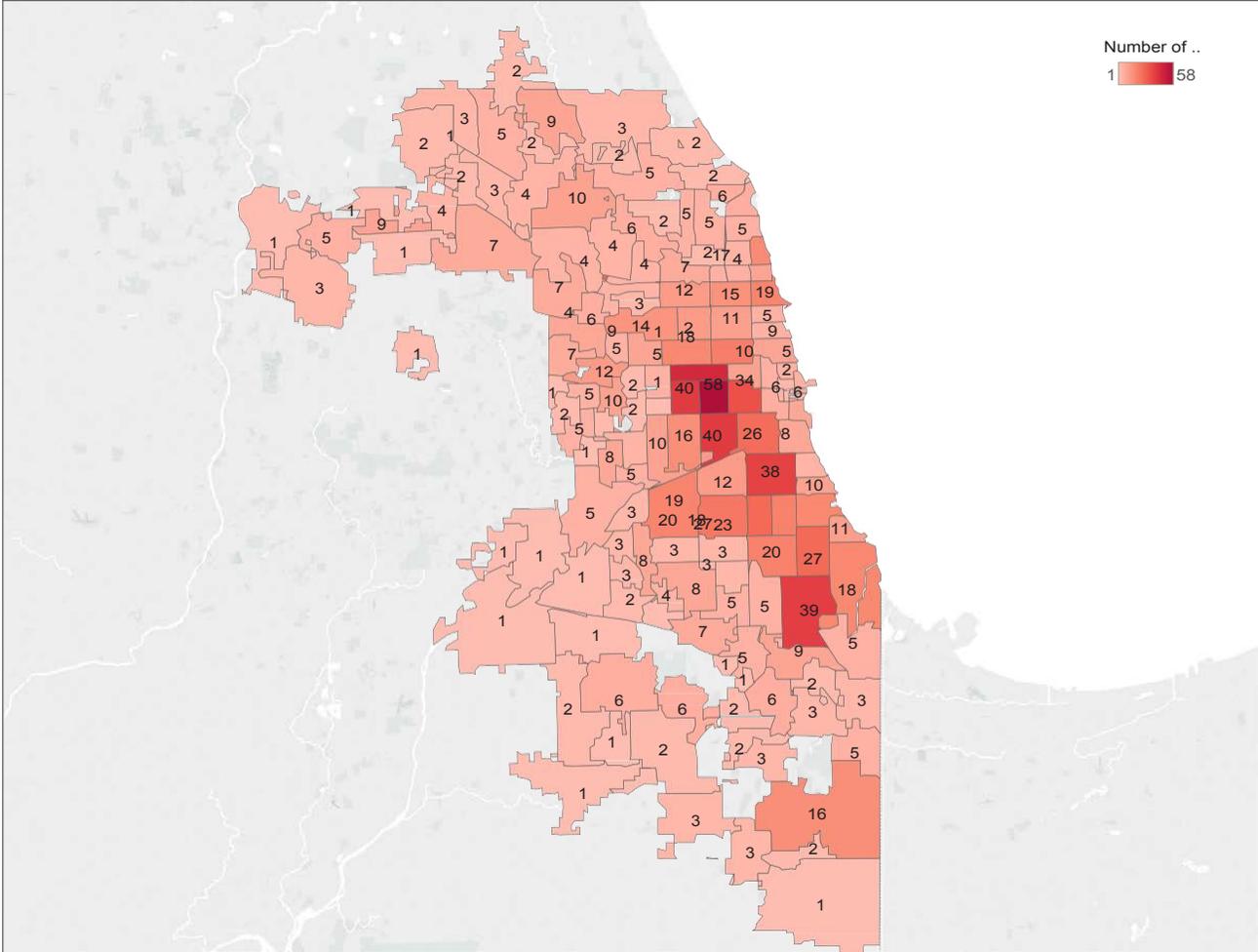
# OPIATE DEATHS MAP



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on INCIDENT\_DATE Year and Opiate. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016. The Opiate filter keeps Opiate. The view is filtered on Latitude (generated) and Longitude (generated). The Latitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only. The Longitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only.

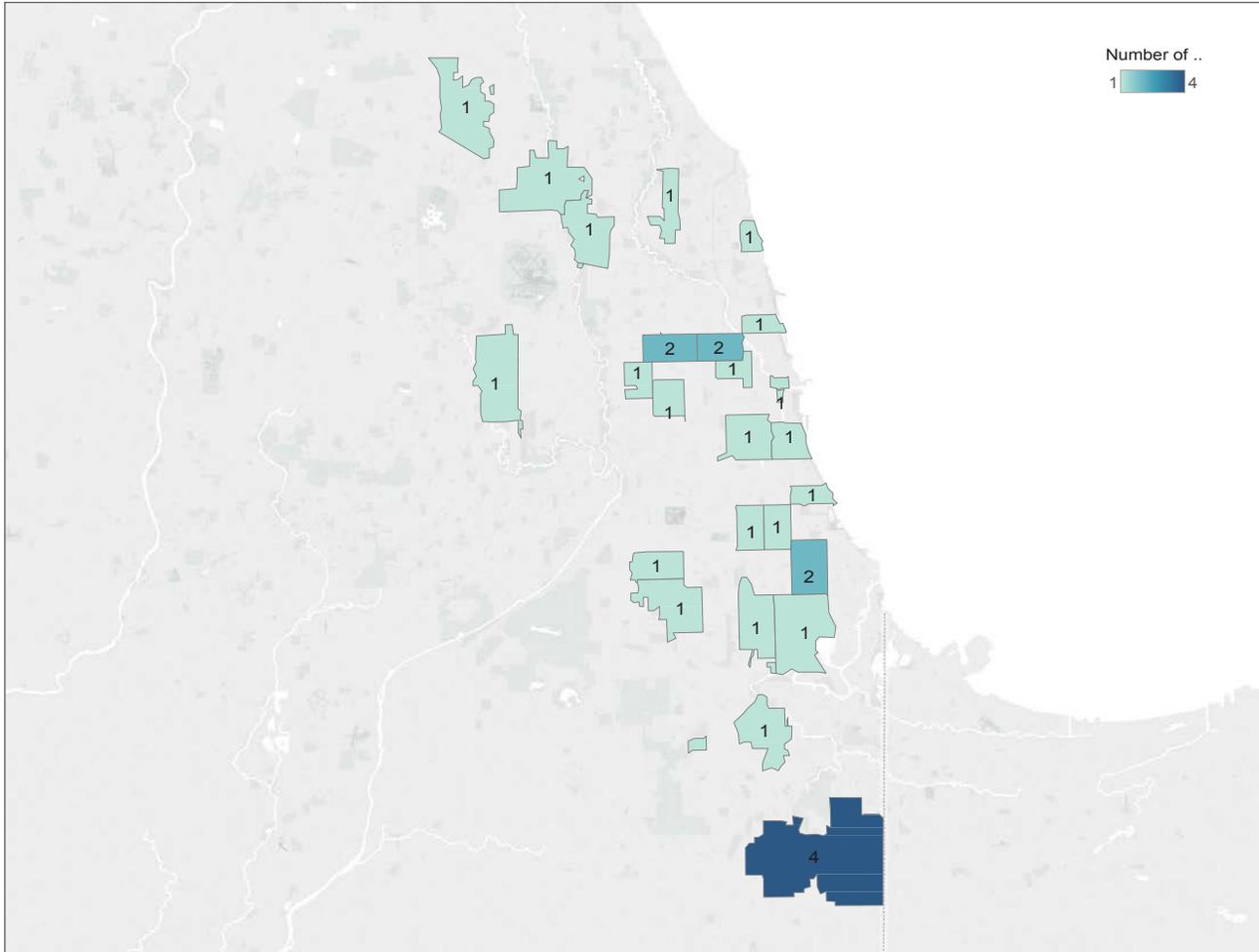


# TOXICITY DEATHS MAP



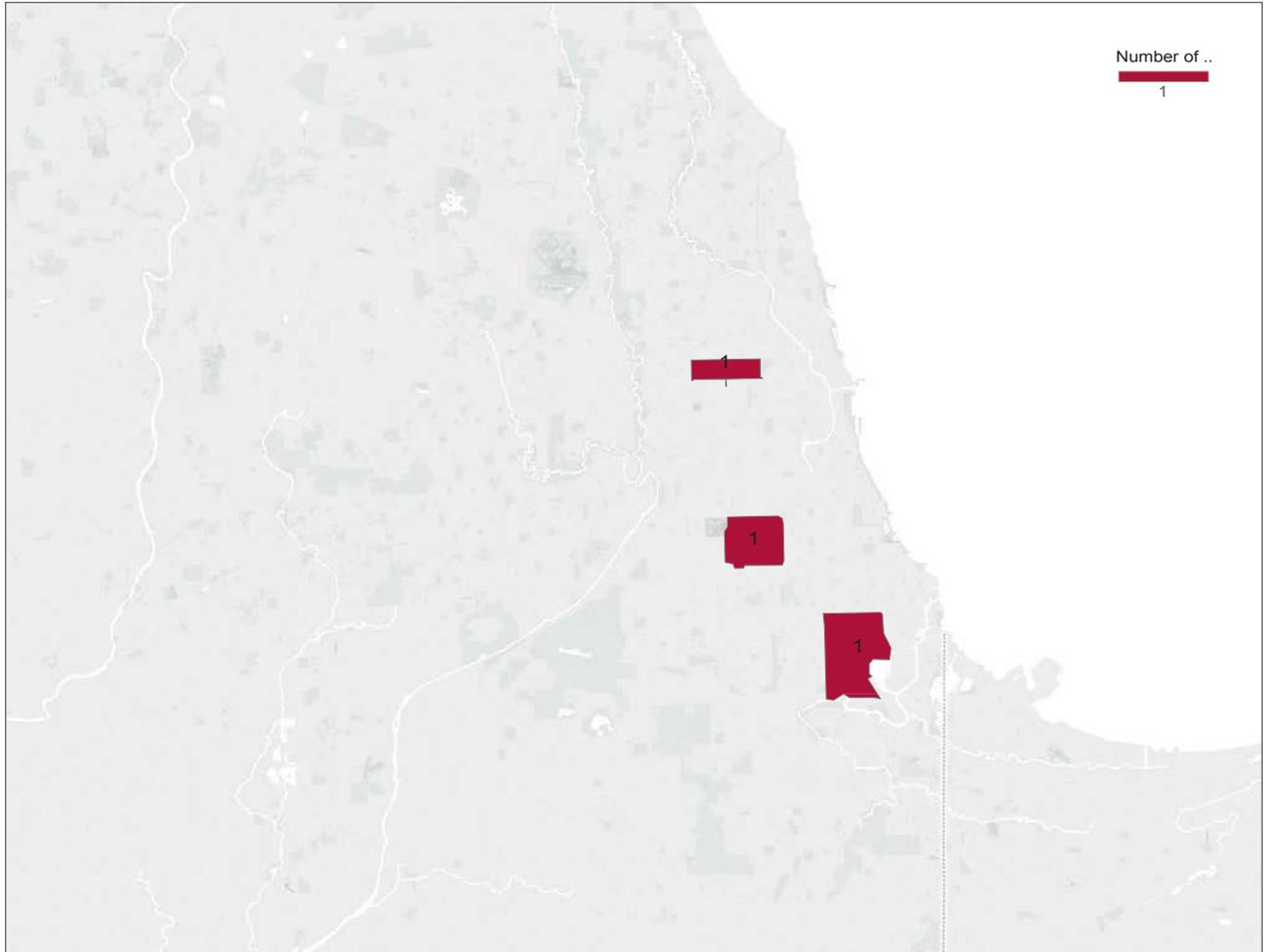
Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on INCIDENT\_DATE Year and Toxicity. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016. The Toxicity filter keeps Toxicity. The view is filtered on Longitude (generated), which keeps non-Null values only.

# COLD DEATHS MAP



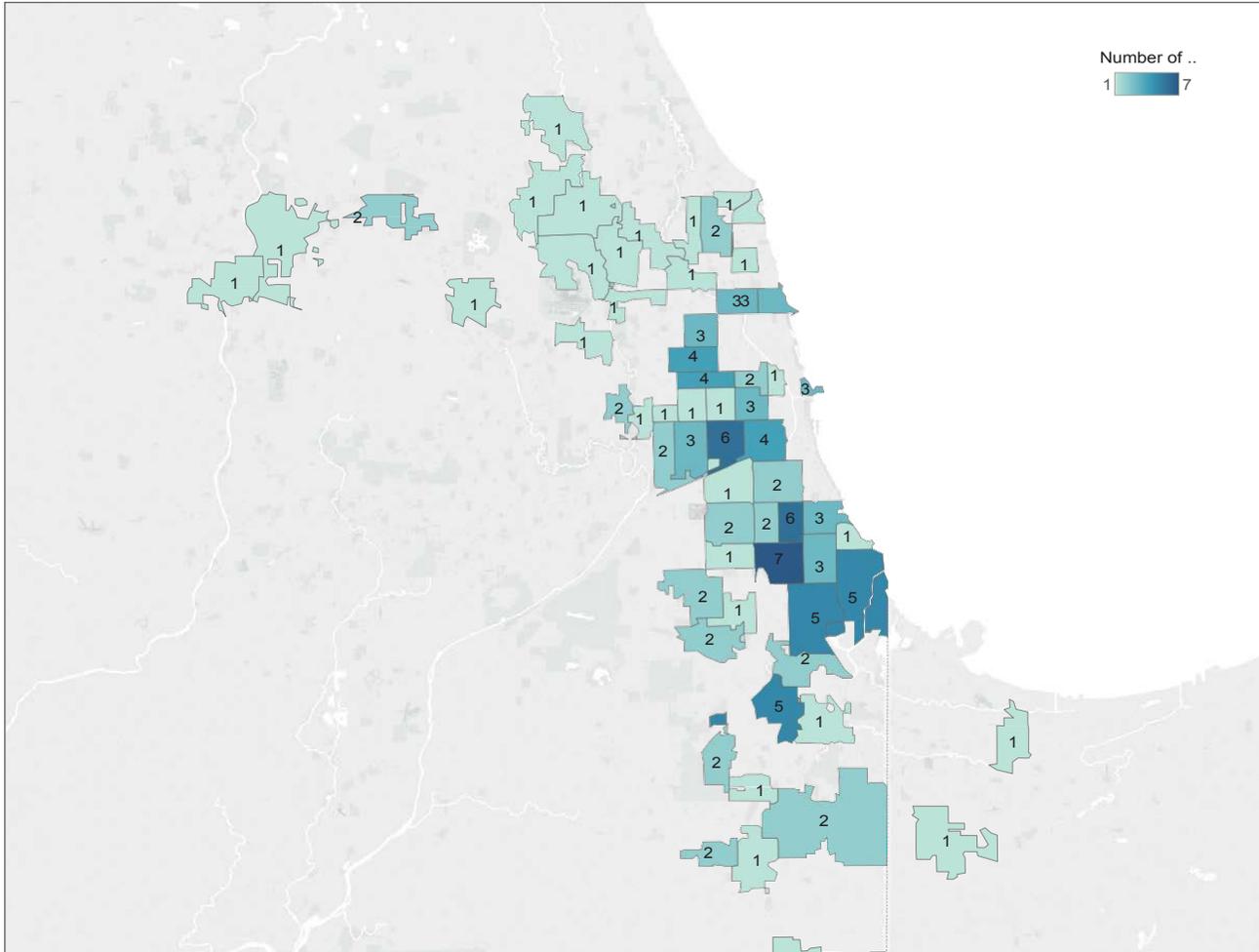
Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on INCIDENT\_DATE Year and coldrelated. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016. The coldrelated filter keeps True. The view is filtered on Longitude (generated), which keeps non-Null values only.

# HEAT RELATED DEATHS MAP



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Number of Records. The marks are labeled by sum of Number of Records. Details are shown for INCIDENTZIP. The data is filtered on INCIDENT\_DATE Year and heatrelated. The INCIDENT\_DATE Year filter keeps 2016. The heatrelated filter keeps True. The view is filtered on Longitude (generated), which keeps non-Null values only.

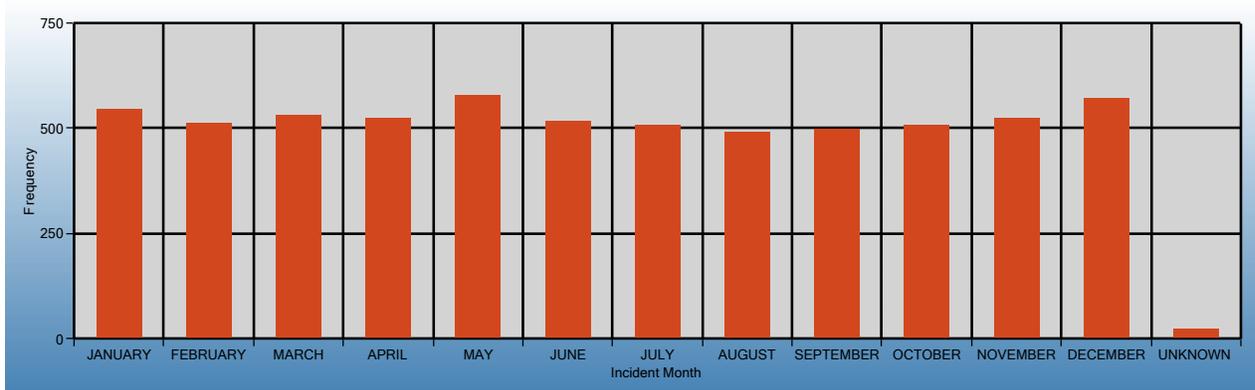
# INFANT DEATHS MAP



# TABLE 1

## MONTH WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED

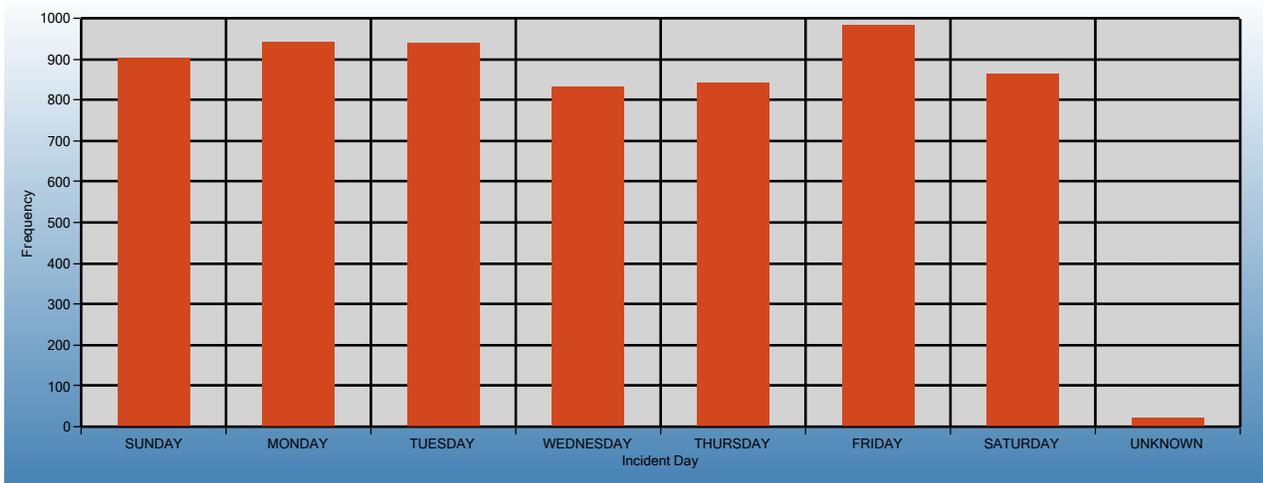
MONTH	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
JANUARY	544	8.60%	544	8.60%
FEBRUARY	511	8.08%	1,055	16.68%
MARCH	532	8.41%	1,587	25.09%
APRIL	524	8.28%	2,111	33.37%
MAY	578	9.14%	2,689	42.51%
JUNE	517	8.17%	3,206	50.68%
JULY	507	8.01%	3,713	58.69%
AUGUST	491	7.76%	4,204	66.46%
SEPTEMBER	499	7.89%	4,703	74.34%
OCTOBER	507	8.01%	5,210	82.36%
NOVEMBER	524	8.28%	5,734	90.64%
DECEMBER	570	9.01%	6,304	99.65%
UNKNOWN	22	0.35%	6,326	100.00%



# TABLE 2

## DAY OF THE WEEK WHEN INCIDENT OCCURRED

DAY	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
SUNDAY	902	14.26%	902	14.26%
MONDAY	943	14.91%	1,845	29.17%
TUESDAY	940	14.86%	2,785	44.02%
WEDNESDAY	832	13.15%	3,617	57.18%
THURSDAY	842	13.31%	4,459	70.49%
FRIDAY	982	15.52%	5,441	86.01%
SATURDAY	863	13.64%	6,304	99.65%
UNKNOWN	22	0.35%	6,326	100.00%



# TABLE 3 AGE OF DECEDENTS

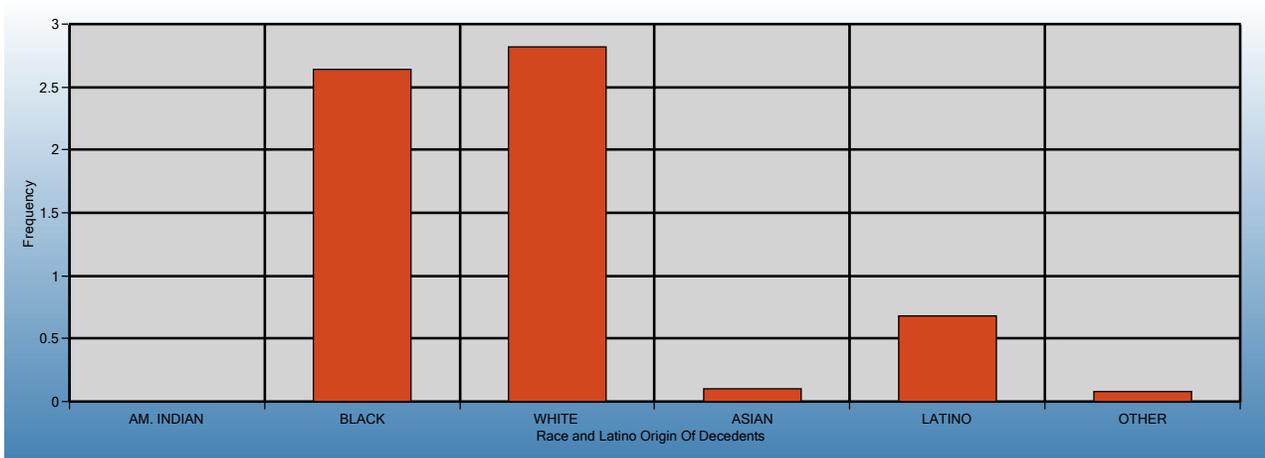
AGE	Frequency	Percent
UNDER 1	103	1.63%
01 to 04	29	0.46%
05 to 09	12	0.19%
10 to 14	16	0.25%
15 to 19	236	3.73%
20 to 24	413	6.53%
25 to 29	416	6.58%
30 to 34	388	6.13%
35 to 39	380	6.01%
40 to 44	383	6.05%
45 to 49	478	7.56%
50 to 54	603	9.53%
55 to 59	691	10.92%
60 to 64	621	9.82%
65 to 69	423	6.69%
70 to 74	288	4.55%
75 to 79	245	3.87%
80 to 84	205	3.24%
85 & OLDER	342	5.41%
UNKNOWN	54	0.85%



# TABLE 4

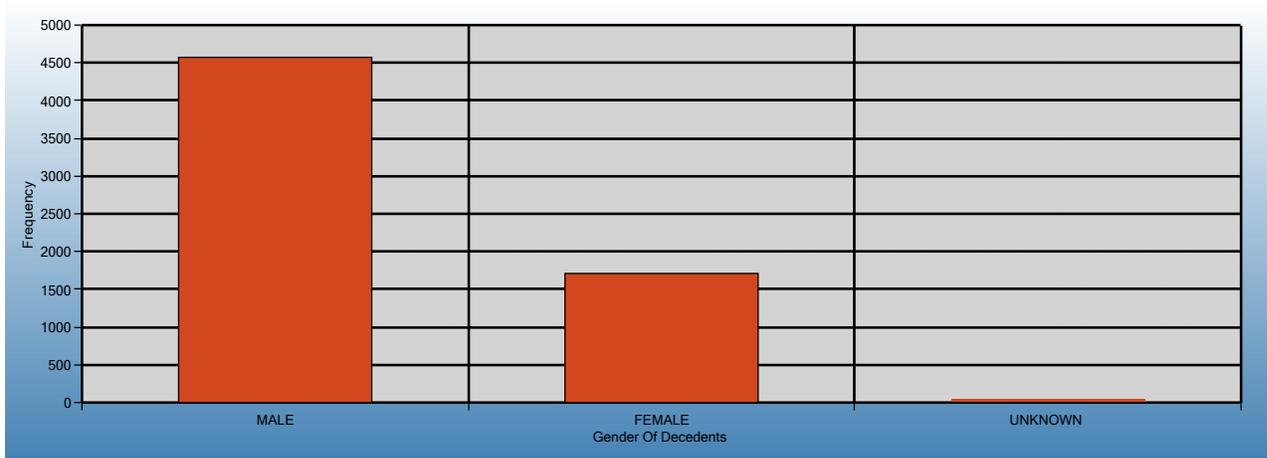
## RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS

RACE/ORIGIN	Frequency	Percent
AM. INDIAN	3	0.05%
BLACK	2,641	41.75%
WHITE	2,819	44.56%
ASIAN	102	1.61%
LATINO	681	10.77%
OTHER	80	1.26%



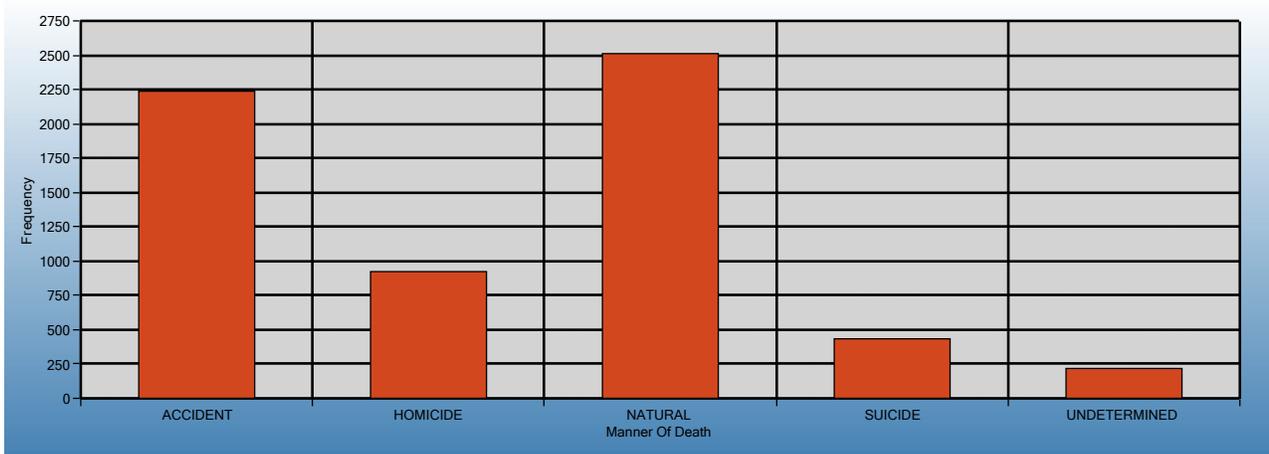
# TABLE 5 GENDER OF DECEDENTS

GENDER	Frequency	Percent
MALE	4,574	72.30%
FEMALE	1,711	27.05%
UNKNOWN	41	0.65%



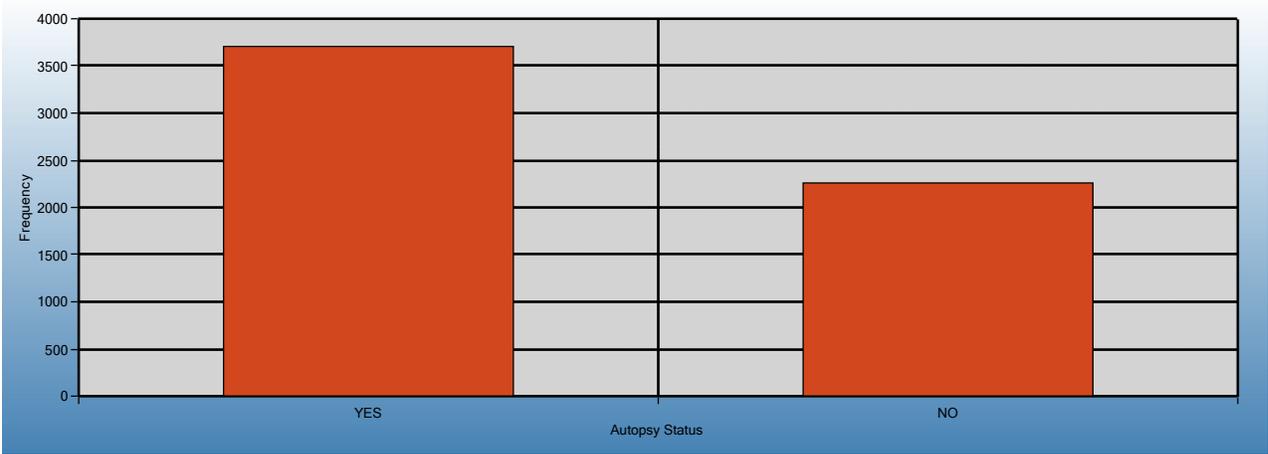
# TABLE 6 MANNER OF DEATH

MANNER	Frequency	Percent
ACCIDENT	2,238	35.38%
HOMICIDE	924	14.61%
NATURAL	2,512	39.71%
SUICIDE	434	6.86%
UNDETERMINED	218	3.45%



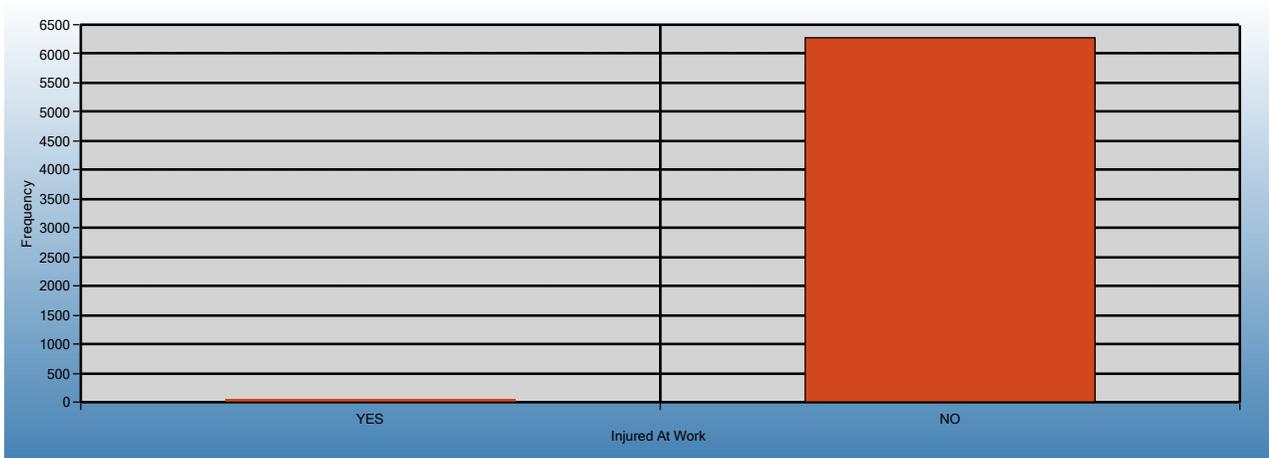
# TABLE 7 AUTOPSY STATUS

AUTOPSY	Frequency	Percent
YES	3,707	62.13%
NO	2,260	37.87%



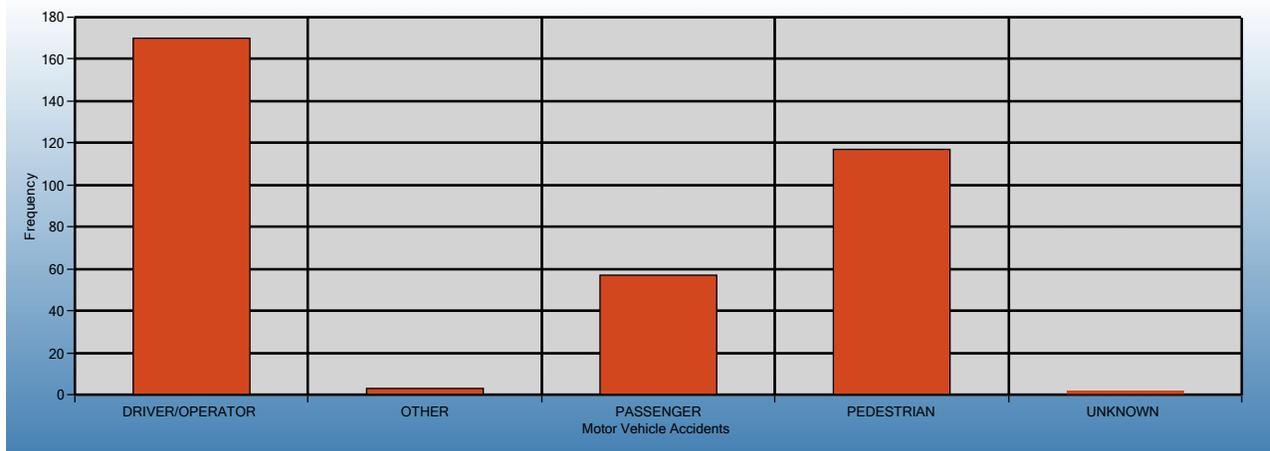
# TABLE 8 INJURED AT WORK

WORK INJURY	Frequency	Percent
YES	49	0.77%
NO	6,277	99.23%



# TABLE 9 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

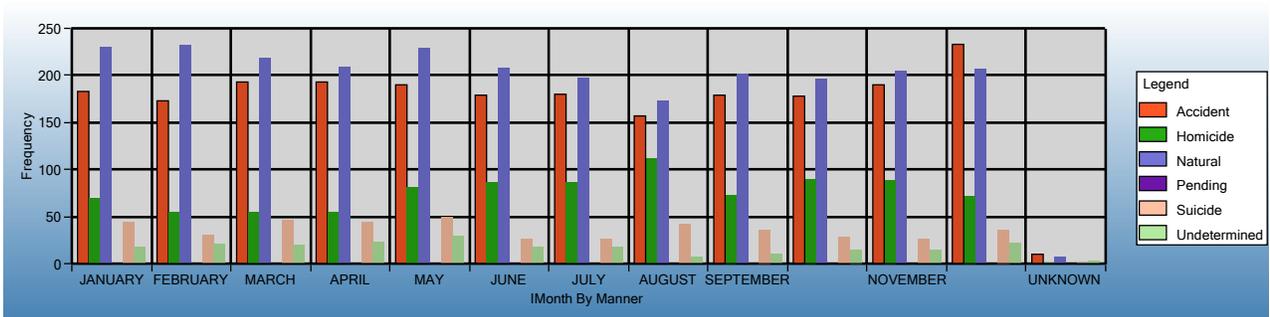
STATUS	Frequency	Percent
DRIVER/OPERATOR	170	48.85%
OTHER	3	0.86%
PASSENGER	57	16.38%
PEDESTRIAN	117	33.62%
UNKNOWN	2	0.57%



# TABLE 10

## MANNER OF DEATH BY MONTH OF INCIDENT

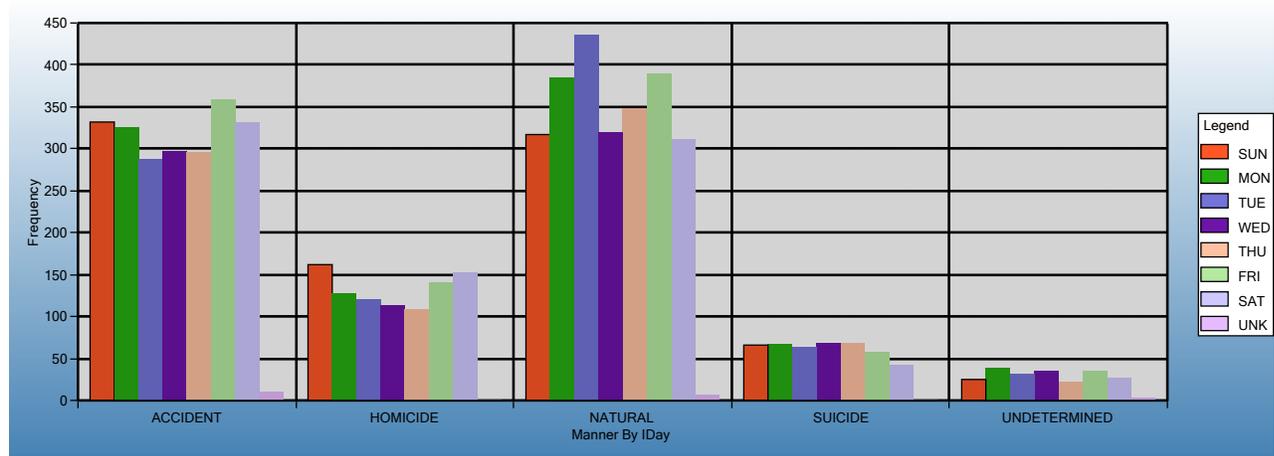
MONTH	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	PENDING	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	Total
JANUARY	183	69	230	0	44	18	544
FEBRUARY	173	55	232	0	30	21	511
MARCH	193	55	218	0	46	20	532
APRIL	193	55	209	0	44	23	524
MAY	190	81	229	0	49	29	578
JUNE	179	86	208	0	26	18	517
JULY	180	86	197	0	26	18	507
AUGUST	157	112	173	0	42	7	491
SEPTEMBER	179	73	201	0	36	10	499
OCTOBER	178	90	196	0	28	15	507
NOVEMBER	190	89	205	0	26	14	524
DECEMBER	233	72	207	0	36	22	570
UNKNOWN	10	1	7	0	1	3	22
Total	2,238	924	2,512	0	434	218	6,326



# TABLE 11

## MANNER OF DEATH BY WEEKDAY OF INCIDENT

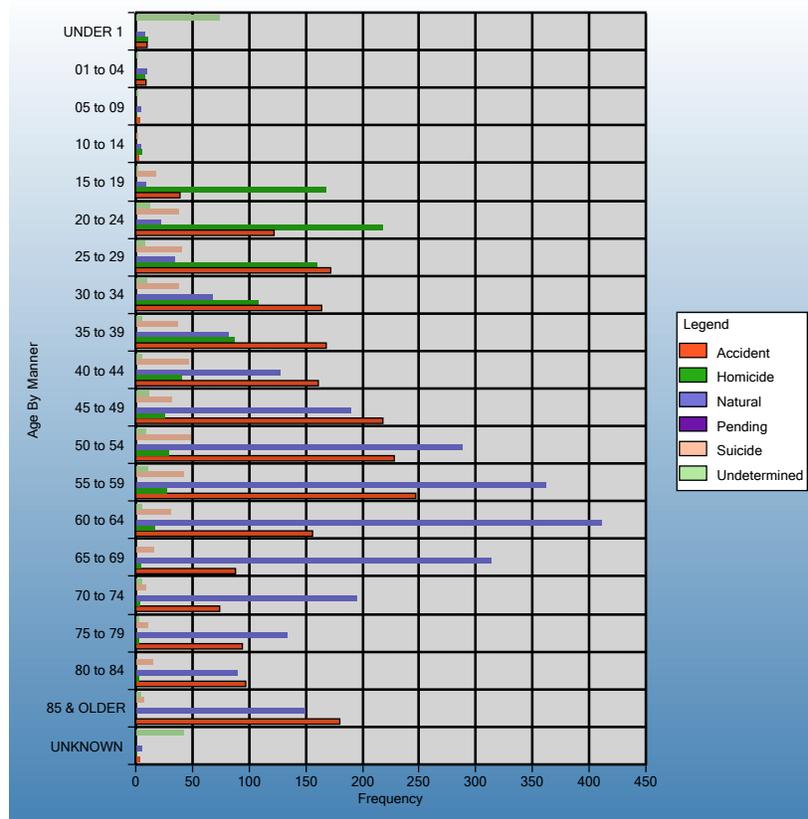
MANNER	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	UNKNOWN	Total
ACCIDENT	332	325	288	297	296	359	331	10	2,238
HOMICIDE	162	127	120	113	108	141	152	1	924
NATURAL	317	385	436	319	348	389	311	7	2,512
SUICIDE	66	67	64	68	68	58	42	1	434
UNDETERMINED	25	39	32	35	22	35	27	3	218
Total	902	943	940	832	842	982	863	22	6,326



# TABLE 12

## MANNER OF DEATH BY AGE OF DECEDENT

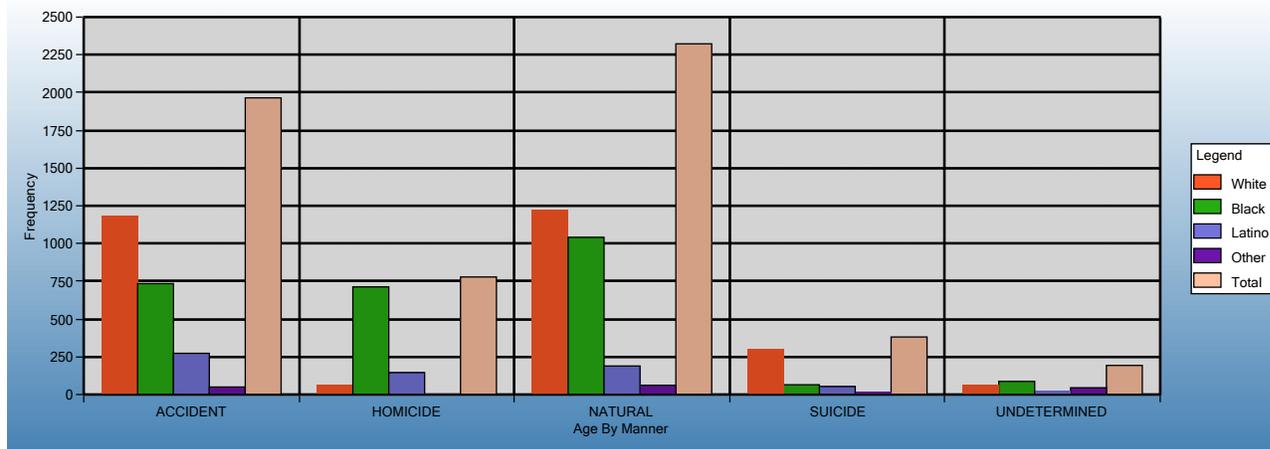
AGE	MANNER						Ttl
	ACC	HOM	NAT	PEN	SUI	UND	
UNDER 1	10	11	8	0	0	74	103
01 to 04	9	8	10	0	0	2	29
05 to 09	4	1	5	0	0	2	12
10 to 14	3	6	5	0	2	0	16
15 to 19	39	168	9	0	18	2	236
20 to 24	122	218	22	0	38	13	413
25 to 29	172	160	35	0	41	8	416
30 to 34	164	108	68	0	38	10	388
35 to 39	168	87	82	0	37	6	380
40 to 44	161	41	128	0	47	6	383
45 to 49	218	26	190	0	32	12	478
50 to 54	228	29	288	0	49	9	603
55 to 59	247	28	362	0	43	11	691
60 to 64	156	17	411	0	31	6	621
65 to 69	88	5	314	0	16	0	423
70 to 74	74	4	195	0	9	6	288
75 to 79	94	3	134	0	11	3	245
80 to 84	97	3	90	0	15	0	205
85 & OLDER	180	0	150	0	7	5	342
UNKNOWN	4	1	6	0	0	43	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>2,512</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>6,326</b>



# TABLE 13

## MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

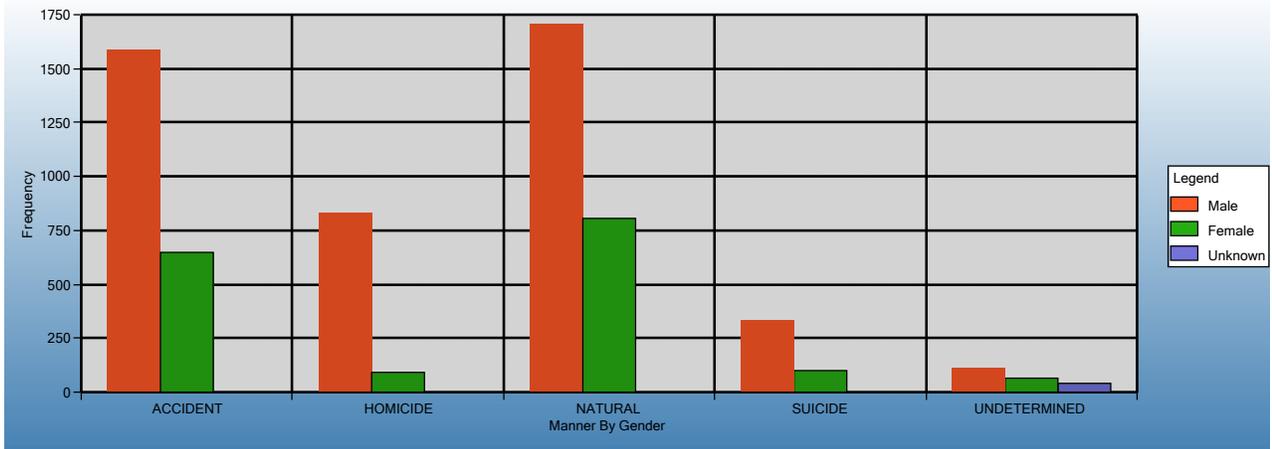
RACE/ORIGIN					
MANNER	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	Total
ACCIDENT	1,180	735	273	50	1,965
HOMICIDE	60	713	145	6	779
NATURAL	1,221	1,041	189	61	2,323
SUICIDE	297	65	53	19	381
UNDETERMINED	61	87	25	45	193
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,819</b>	<b>2,641</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>5,641</b>



# TABLE 14

## MANNER OF DEATH BY GENDER OF DECEDENT

MANNER	GENDER			Total
	MALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN	
ACCIDENT	1,590	648	0	2,238
HOMICIDE	832	92	0	924
NATURAL	1,706	806	0	2,512
SUICIDE	334	100	0	434
UNDETERMINED	112	65	41	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,574</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>6,326</b>

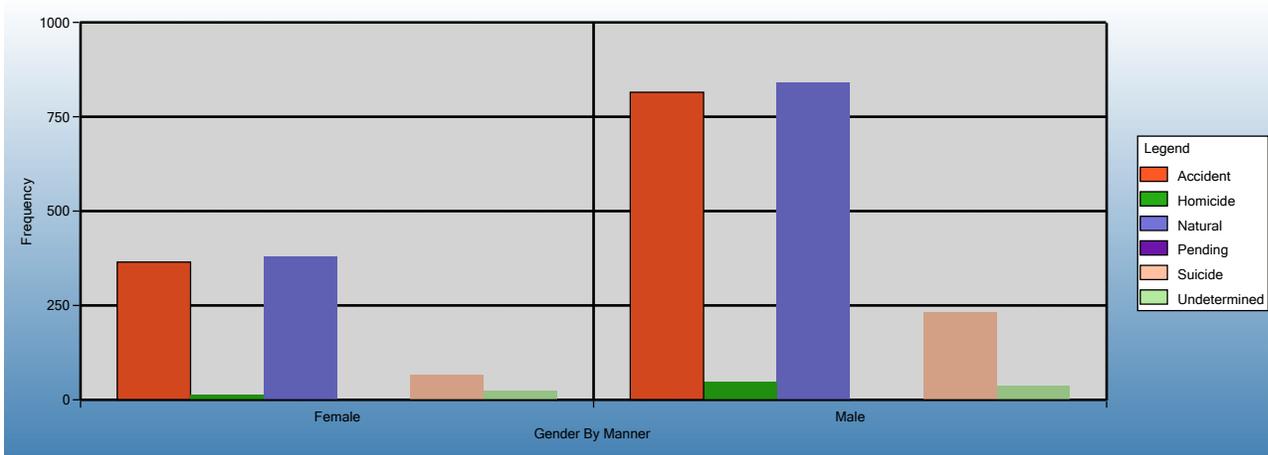


# TABLE 15a

## MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN AND GENDER

RACE: WHITE

GENDER	MANNER						Total
	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	PENDING	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	
Female	365	13	380	0	66	23	847
Male	815	47	841	0	231	38	1972
Total	1180	60	1221	0	297	61	2819

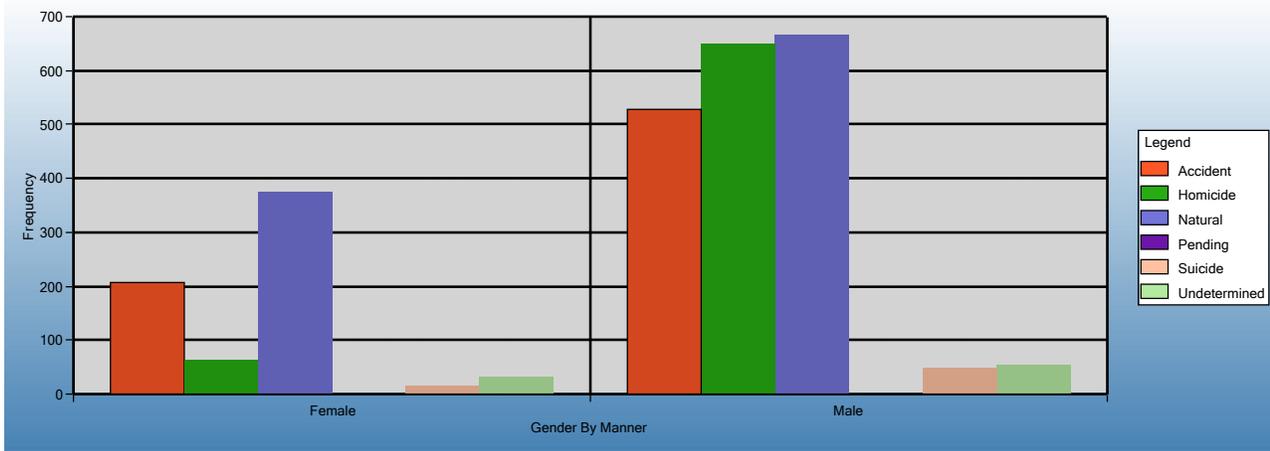


# TABLE 15b

## MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN AND GENDER

RACE: BLACK

		MANNER						
GENDER	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	PENDING	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	Total	
Female	207	63	375	0	16	32	693	
Male	528	650	666	0	49	54	1947	
Total	735	713	1041	0	65	86	2640	

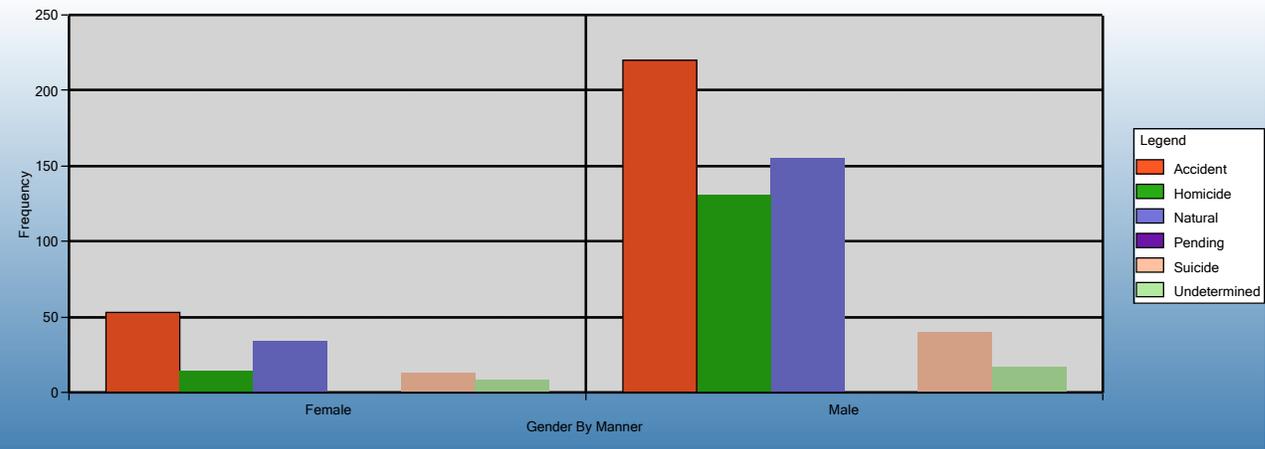


# TABLE 15c

## MANNER OF DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN AND GENDER

RACE: LATINO

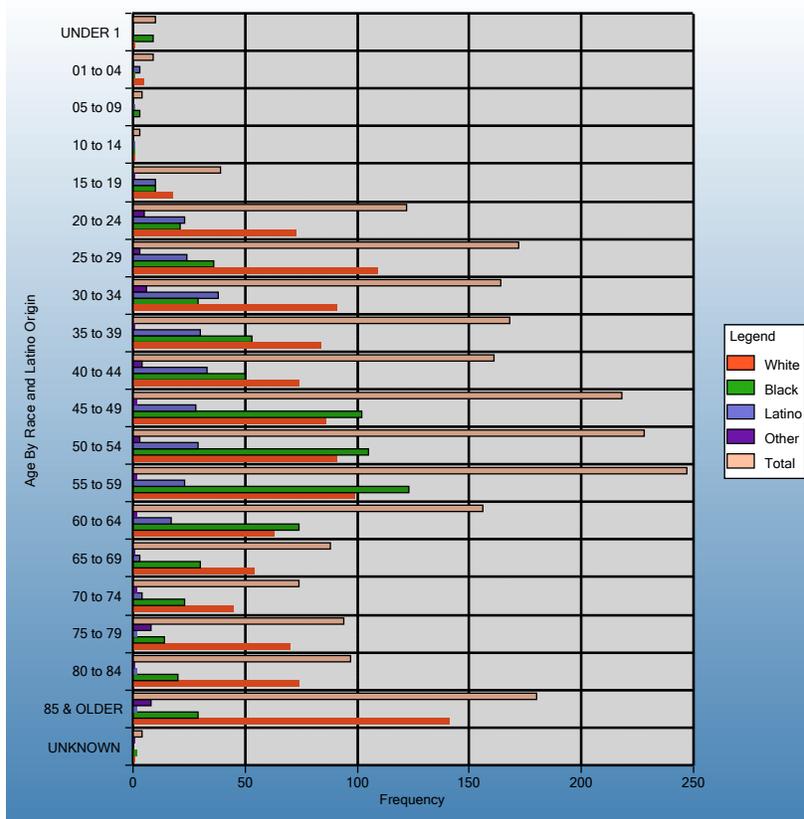
		MANNER						
GENDER	ACCIDENT	HOMICIDE	NATURAL	PENDING	SUICIDE	UNDETERMINED	Total	
Female	53	14	34	0	13	8	122	
Male	220	131	155	0	40	17	563	
Total	273	145	189	0	53	25	685	



# TABLE 16a

## AGE AND RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS BY GENDER

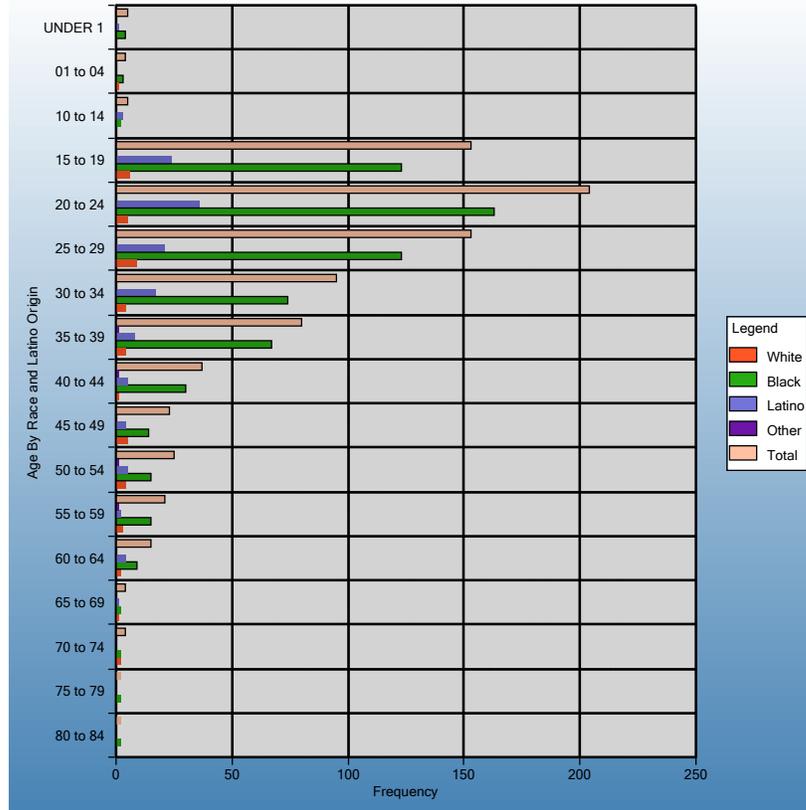
Manner	ACCIDENT	Gender				ALL
AGE	RACE/ORIGIN				TTL	
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER		
UNDER 1	1	9	0	0	10	
01 to 04	5	1	3	0	9	
05 to 09	0	3	1	0	4	
10 to 14	1	1	1	0	3	
15 to 19	18	10	10	1	39	
20 to 24	73	21	23	5	122	
25 to 29	109	36	24	3	172	
30 to 34	91	29	38	6	164	
35 to 39	84	53	30	1	168	
40 to 44	74	50	33	4	161	
45 to 49	86	102	28	2	218	
50 to 54	91	105	29	3	228	
55 to 59	99	123	23	2	247	
60 to 64	63	74	17	2	156	
65 to 69	54	30	3	1	88	
70 to 74	45	23	4	2	74	
75 to 79	70	14	2	8	94	
80 to 84	74	20	2	1	97	
85 & OLDER	141	29	2	8	180	
UNKNOWN	1	2	0	1	4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2,238</b>	



# TABLE 16b

## AGE AND RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS BY GENDER

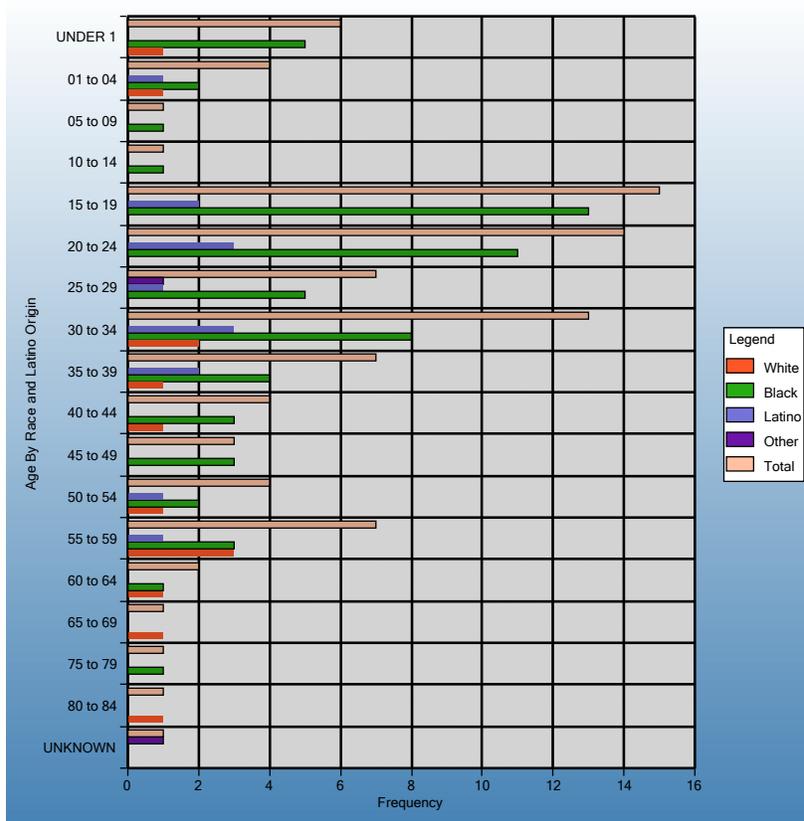
Manner	HOMICIDE	Gender				MALE
		RACE/ORIGIN				
AGE	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	TTL	
UNDER 1	0	4	1	0	5	
01 to 04	1	3	0	0	4	
10 to 14	0	2	3	0	5	
15 to 19	6	123	24	0	153	
20 to 24	5	163	36	0	204	
25 to 29	9	123	21	0	153	
30 to 34	4	74	17	0	95	
35 to 39	4	67	8	1	80	
40 to 44	1	30	5	1	37	
45 to 49	5	14	4	0	23	
50 to 54	4	15	5	1	25	
55 to 59	3	15	2	1	21	
60 to 64	2	9	4	0	15	
65 to 69	1	2	1	0	4	
70 to 74	2	2	0	0	4	
75 to 79	0	2	0	0	2	
80 to 84	0	2	0	0	2	
Total	47	650	131	4	832	



# TABLE 16c

## AGE AND RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS BY GENDER

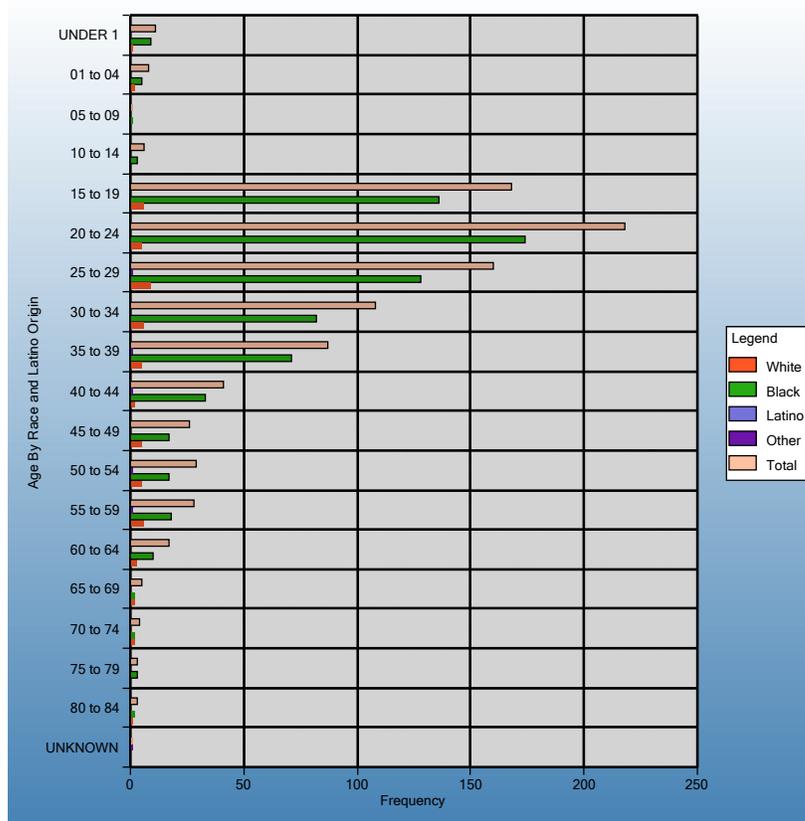
Manner	Gender FEMALE				
	RACE/ORIGIN				
AGE	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	TTL
UNDER 1	1	5	0	0	6
01 to 04	1	2	1	0	4
05 to 09	0	1	0	0	1
10 to 14	0	1	0	0	1
15 to 19	0	13	2	0	15
20 to 24	0	11	3	0	14
25 to 29	0	5	1	1	7
30 to 34	2	8	3	0	13
35 to 39	1	4	2	0	7
40 to 44	1	3	0	0	4
45 to 49	0	3	0	0	3
50 to 54	1	2	1	0	4
55 to 59	3	3	1	0	7
60 to 64	1	1	0	0	2
65 to 69	1	0	0	0	1
75 to 79	0	1	0	0	1
80 to 84	1	0	0	0	1
UNKNOWN	0	0	0	1	1
Total	13	63	14	2	92



# TABLE 16d

## AGE AND RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS BY GENDER

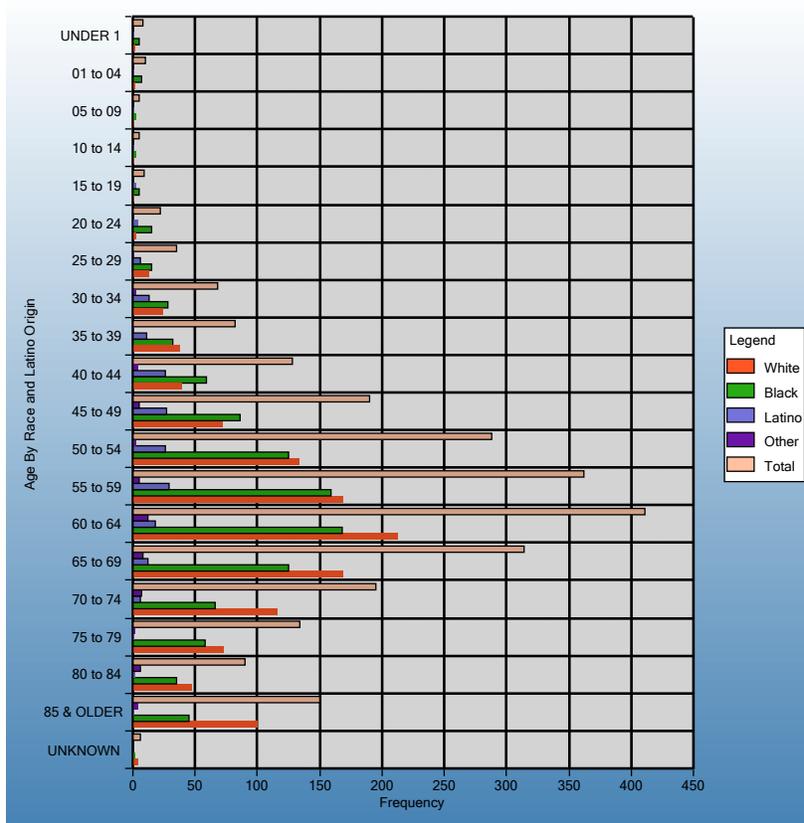
Manner	HOMICIDE	Gender			ALL	
		WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	TTL
AGE						
UNDER 1	1	9	1	0	0	11
01 to 04	2	5	1	0	0	8
05 to 09	0	1	0	0	0	1
10 to 14	0	3	3	0	0	6
15 to 19	6	136	26	0	0	168
20 to 24	5	174	39	0	0	218
25 to 29	9	128	22	1	0	160
30 to 34	6	82	20	0	0	108
35 to 39	5	71	10	1	0	87
40 to 44	2	33	5	1	0	41
45 to 49	5	17	4	0	0	26
50 to 54	5	17	6	1	0	29
55 to 59	6	18	3	1	0	28
60 to 64	3	10	4	0	0	17
65 to 69	2	2	1	0	0	5
70 to 74	2	2	0	0	0	4
75 to 79	0	3	0	0	0	3
80 to 84	1	2	0	0	0	3
UNKNOWN	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	60	713	145	6	0	924



# TABLE 16e

## AGE AND RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS BY GENDER

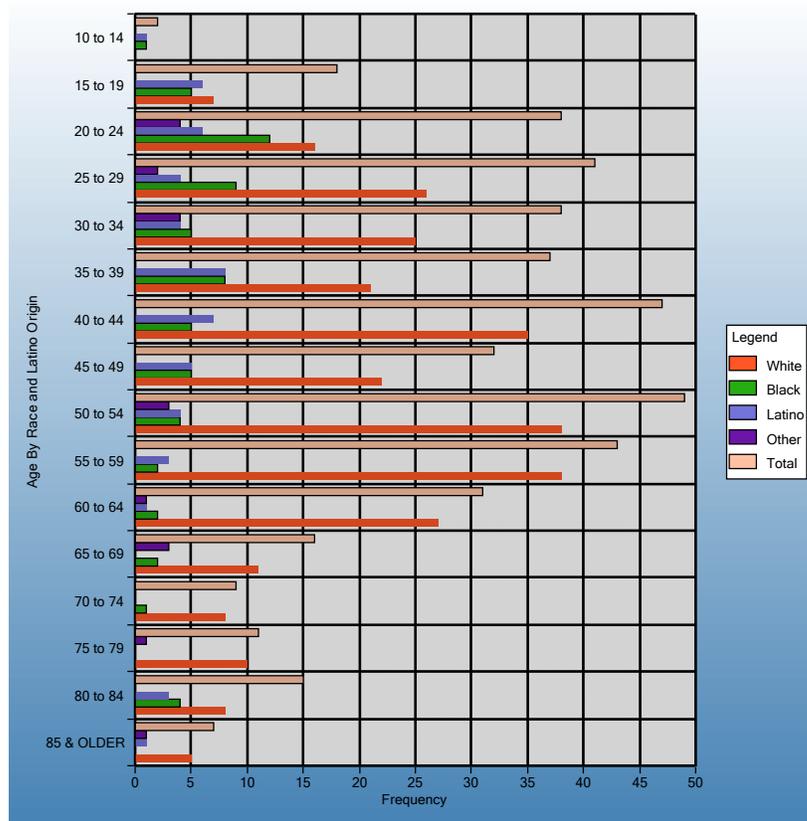
Manner	RACE/ORIGIN				TTL
NATURAL	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	
AGE					
Gender ALL					
UNDER 1	2	5	1	0	8
01 to 04	2	7	1	0	10
05 to 09	1	3	1	0	5
10 to 14	1	3	1	0	5
15 to 19	1	5	3	0	9
20 to 24	3	15	4	0	22
25 to 29	13	15	6	1	35
30 to 34	24	28	13	3	68
35 to 39	38	32	11	1	82
40 to 44	39	59	26	4	128
45 to 49	72	86	27	5	190
50 to 54	134	125	26	3	288
55 to 59	169	159	29	5	362
60 to 64	213	168	18	12	411
65 to 69	169	125	12	8	314
70 to 74	116	66	6	7	195
75 to 79	73	58	1	2	134
80 to 84	47	35	2	6	90
85 & OLDER	100	45	1	4	150
UNKNOWN	4	2	0	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,221</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2,512</b>



# TABLE 16f

## AGE AND RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN OF DECEDENTS BY GENDER

Manner	Gender				ALL
AGE	RACE/ORIGIN				TTL
	WHITE	BLACK	LATINO	OTHER	
10 to 14	0	1	1	0	2
15 to 19	7	5	6	0	18
20 to 24	16	12	6	4	38
25 to 29	26	9	4	2	41
30 to 34	25	5	4	4	38
35 to 39	21	8	8	0	37
40 to 44	35	5	7	0	47
45 to 49	22	5	5	0	32
50 to 54	38	4	4	3	49
55 to 59	38	2	3	0	43
60 to 64	27	2	1	1	31
65 to 69	11	2	0	3	16
70 to 74	8	1	0	0	9
75 to 79	10	0	0	1	11
80 to 84	8	4	3	0	15
85 & OLDER	5	0	1	1	7
Total	297	65	53	19	434

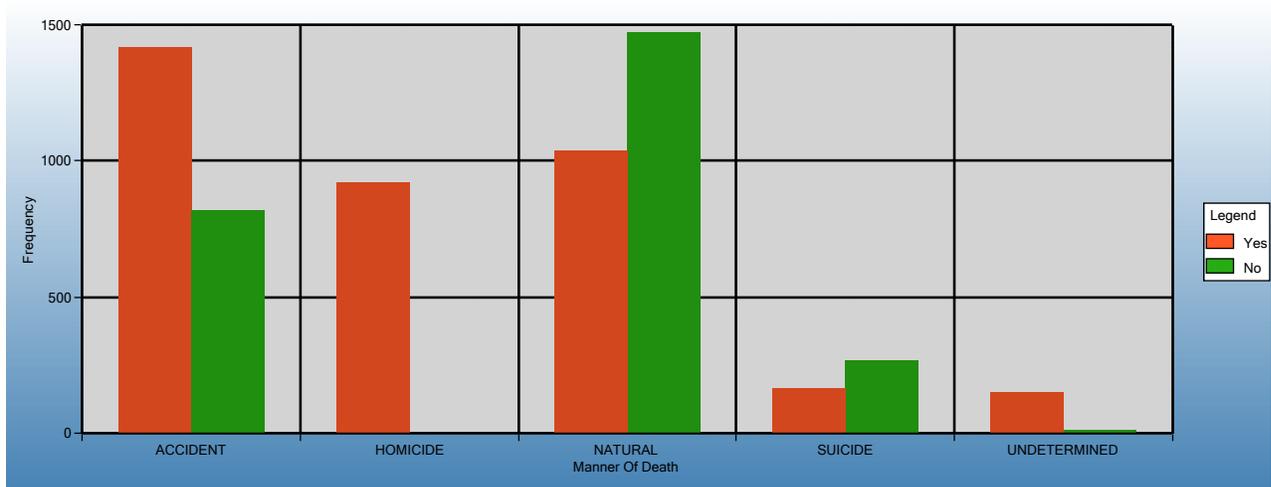




# TABLE 17

## MANNER OF DEATH BY AUTOPSY STATUS

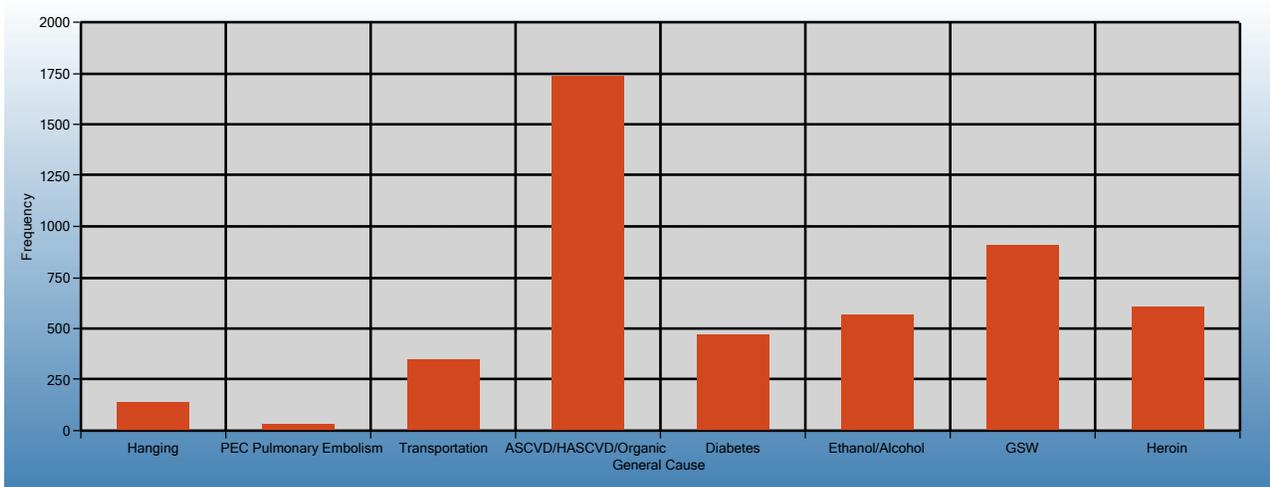
MANNER	AUTOPSY		Total
	YES	NO	
ACCIDENT	1,417	821	2,238
HOMICIDE	923	1	924
NATURAL	1,040	1,472	2,512
SUICIDE	165	269	434
UNDETERMINED	152	11	163
Total	3,697	2,574	6,271



# TABLE 18

## CAUSE OF DEATH (GENERAL)

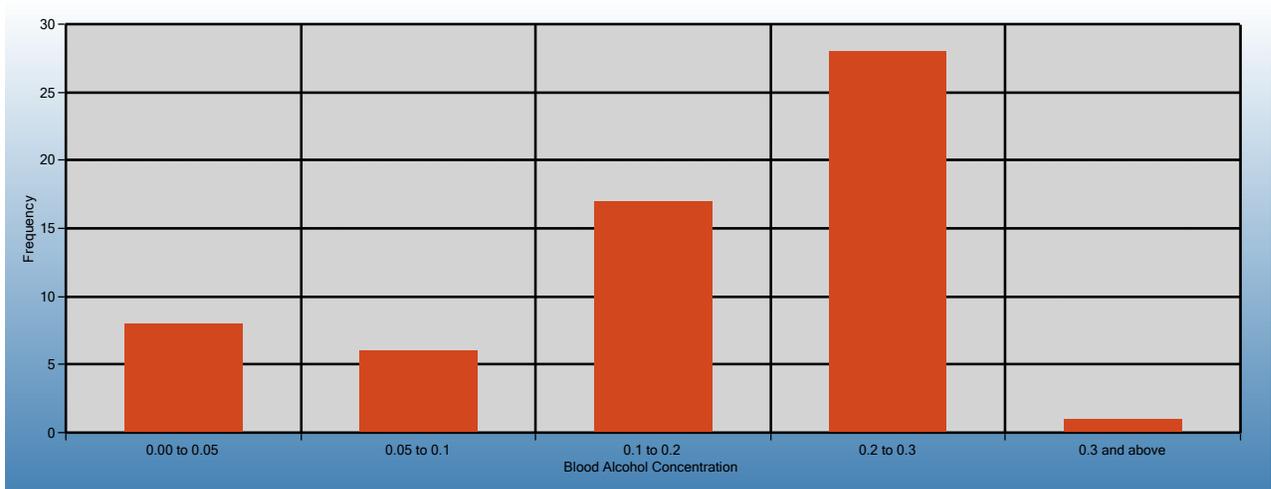
Cause	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
ASCVD/HASCVD/Organic	1,735	27.43%	27.43%
GSW	907	14.34%	41.76%
Heroin	606	9.58%	51.34%
Ethanol/Alcohol	567	8.96%	60.31%
Diabetes	468	7.40%	67.70%
Transportation	348	5.50%	73.21%
Hanging	139	2.20%	75.40%
PEC Pulmonary Embolism	31	0.49%	75.89%



# TABLE 19

## DRIVER BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

BAC	Frequency	Percent
0.00 to 0.05	8	5.19%
0.05 to 0.1	6	3.90%
0.1 to 0.2	17	11.04%
0.2 to 0.3	28	18.18%
0.3 and above	1	0.65%

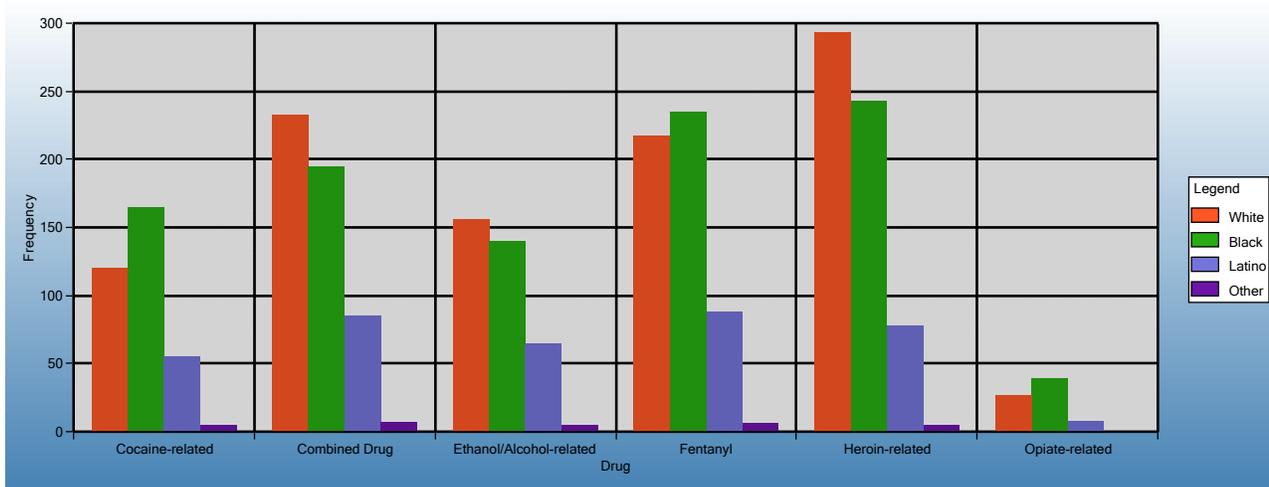


# TABLE 20

## FREQUENT CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

DRUG	White	Black	Latino	Other	Total
Cocaine-related	121	165	55	5	346
Combined Drug	233	195	85	7	520
Ethanol/Alcohol-related	156	140	65	5	366
Fentanyl	217	235	88	6	546
Heroin-related	293	243	78	5	619
Opiate-related	27	39	8	0	74

\* Note: Some deaths may be counted twice (e.g. heroin and alcohol toxicity)

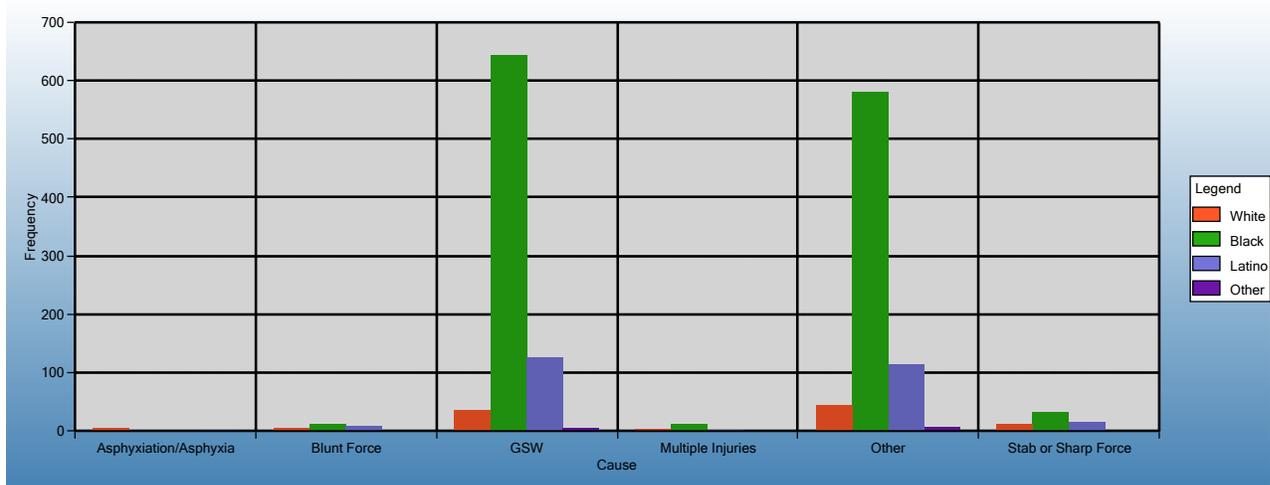


# TABLE 21

## FREQUENT CAUSES OF DEATH FOR HOMICIDE BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

CAUSE	White	Black	Latino	Other	Total
Asphyxiation/Asphyxia	4	0	0	1	5
Blunt Force	5	12	7	0	24
GSW	35	644	126	4	809
Multiple Injuries	3	11	1	0	15
Other	44	581	113	6	744
Stab or Sharp Force	11	31	15	0	57

Note: There are cases counted under both Stab or Sharp Force and Blunt Force causes

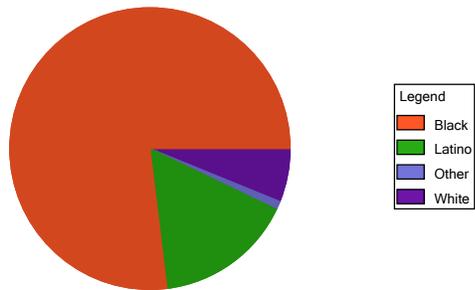


# TABLE 22

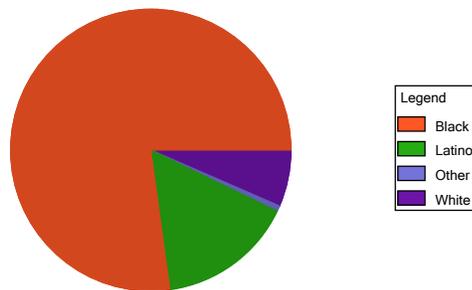
## FREQUENCY OF HOMICIDES BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

	2015		2016	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
White	38	6.13%	60	6.49%
Black	477	76.94%	713	77.16%
Latino	99	15.97%	145	15.69%
Other	6	0.97%	6	0.65%
Total	620	100%	924	100%

2015 HOMICIDES



2016 HOMICIDES



# TABLE 23

## FREQUENCY OF GUNSHOT WOUND HOMICIDES BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

	2015		2016	
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total
White	24	4.56%	35	4.33%
Black	422	80.23%	644	79.60%
Latino	77	14.64%	126	15.57%
Other	3	0.57%	4	0.49%
Total	526	100%	809	100%

# TABLE 24

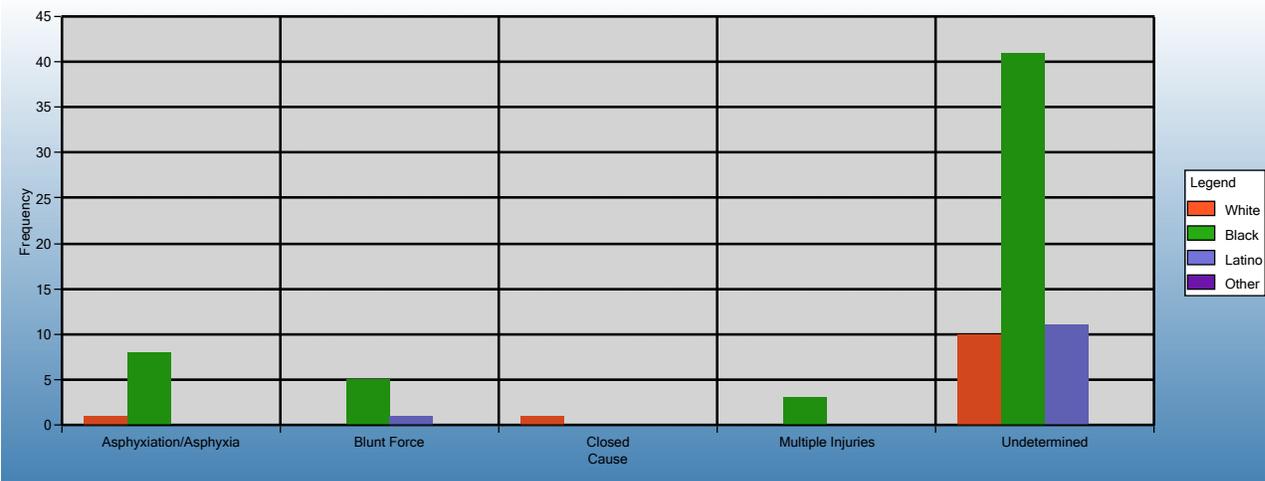
## FREQUENCY OF HOMICIDES FROM GUNSHOT WOUND BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

	2015	2016
	% of Total	% of Total
White	2.45%	2.14%
Black	43.11%	39.32%
Latino	7.87%	7.69%
Other	0.31%	0.24%
Total	53.73%	49.39%

# TABLE 25

## FREQUENT CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH BY RACE AND LATINO ORIGIN

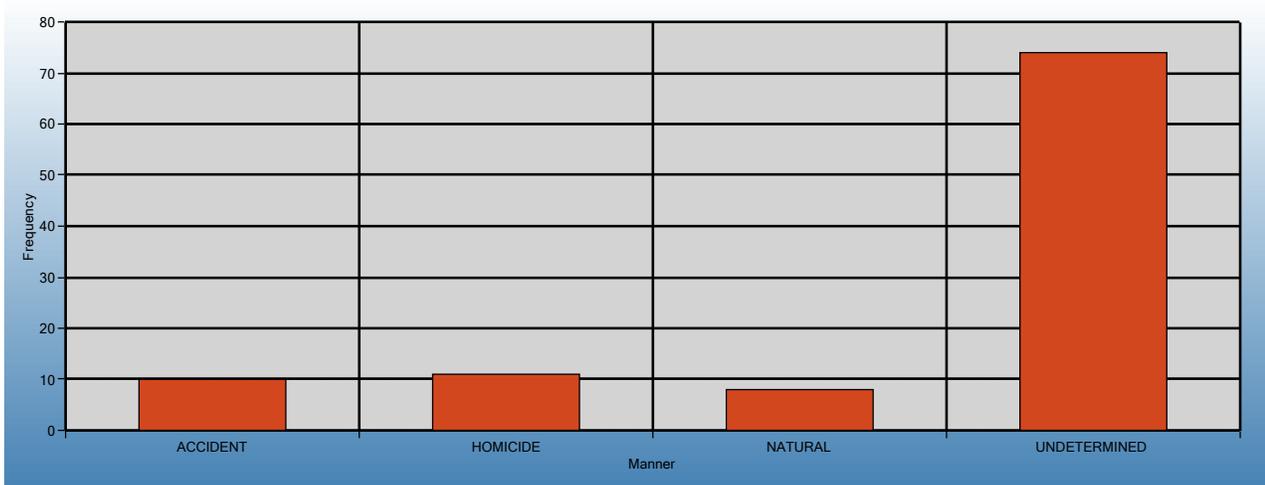
CAUSE	White	Black	Latino	Other	Total
Asphyxiation/Asphyxia	1	8	0	0	9
Blunt Force	0	5	1	0	6
Closed	1	0	0	0	1
Multiple Injuries	0	3	0	0	3
Undetermined	10	41	11	0	62



# TABLE 26

## INFANT DEATHS BY MANNER

MANNER	Frequency
ACCIDENT	10
HOMICIDE	11
NATURAL	8
UNDETERMINED	74
Total	103



# MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Medical Professor

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Vice-Chairman  
Cook County Sheriff's Office Representative

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Secretary  
Licensed Funeral Director

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Clergyperson

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MARK RIZZO  
Licensed Funeral Director

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Cook County Board of Commissioners, 16<sup>th</sup> District

RABBI MOSHE WOLF  
Clergyperson

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\*The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office is located in the 2nd District of Cook County, which had been represented by Commissioner Steele.

We send his family and friends our condolences on his passing.

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