

# Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office 2022 Annual Report

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**2022 Annual Report**  
**Jackson County Medical Examiner' s Office**

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The Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office (JCMEO) is a National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) Accredited Medical Examiner's Office in the State of Missouri.

The office is staffed with American Board of Pathology (ABP) Certified Forensic Pathologists, American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) registered and certified Death Investigators, Forensic Technicians, and trained Administrative Staff who handle pathologists' dictations, death certificates, case files, and medical records.

Services offered by the Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office include expert pathology examination, death scene investigations, medical records review, locating next of kin, court testimony, body examinations, and police and attorney consultation. Accredited by the American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), JCMEO also provides pathology residency rotations as well as a 1-year Forensic Pathology Fellowship program to train future Forensic Pathologists.

Toxicology, Radiology, and Histology are additional services that assist in determining the cause & manner of death. Forensic services provided include expert Forensic Anthropology, Odontology, and Entomology consultations for cases where identification and time of death cannot be made by normal means. The JCMEO also takes reports of all Hospice and Nursing Home deaths and many attended hospital deaths that occur in Jackson County.

The JCMEO provides 24/7 coverage and death scene investigation to Jackson County by medicolegal death investigators with prompt contract transportation services, and completion of autopsy reports and death certificates within a timely manner. JCMEO is a state-of-the-art resource for the Kansas City Metro area and also provides referral autopsy services to assist other counties in Missouri. The JCMEO supports recovery of organ and tissue donations, and works closely with the Child Death Review Board with documentation of all child deaths, and also works closely with Health Departments to report all potential and confirmed heat and cold related deaths.

The Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office is the lead agency for the Kansas City Regional Mortuary Operational Response Group (KCRMORG), a group created by the JCMEO in conjunction with the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) in the area of Mass Fatality preparedness and response. A Mass Fatality Incident is described as any occurrence of multiple deaths that overwhelm the usual routine capacity of the local Medical Examiner or Coroner. KCRMORG consists of volunteer professionals from several aspects of forensic investigation. This team is responsible for the response and management of a mass fatality event and can be deployed by the Medical Examiner or Coroner to the incident area.

The Medical Examiner has direct jurisdiction for Jackson County and is required by Missouri State Statutes # RSMo 58.720 to investigate deaths as a result of:

Violence by homicide, suicide, or accident

Thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiation injury

Criminal abortions, including those self-induced

Disease thought to be of hazardous and contagious nature or which might constitute a threat to public health

Any person that dies suddenly when in apparent good health

When unattended by a physician, chiropractor, or an Accredited Christian Science practitioner, during a period of thirty-six hours immediately preceding death

While in custody of the law, or while an inmate in a public institution

In any unusual or suspicious manner

All child deaths, involving individuals below the age of eighteen years

Our office is staffed by:

(1) Full Time Board Certified Interim Chief Medical Examiner

(2) Full Time Board Certified Deputy Medical Examiners

(1) Forensic Pathology Fellow

(1) Chief of Forensic Operations and Investigations

(1) Deputy Chief Investigator

(10) Full Time Medicolegal Death Investigators

(1) Full Time Forensic Supervisor

(3) Full Time Forensic Technicians

(1) Executive Assistant to the Chief Medical Examiner

(3) Full Time Administrative Staff

## 2022 Summary

A total of 7,775 deaths were reported to our office in 2022.

These include accepted jurisdiction, declined jurisdiction, and nursing home and hospice cases. The majority of those reported deaths were reported from nursing home and hospice. Nursing home and hospice deaths accounted for 3,381 of those reported.

The Medical Examiner's Office performed a complete autopsy on 1,038 cases.

The manner of death on those 1,038 cases were determined as:

225 Homicides

78 Suicides

28 Traffic Deaths

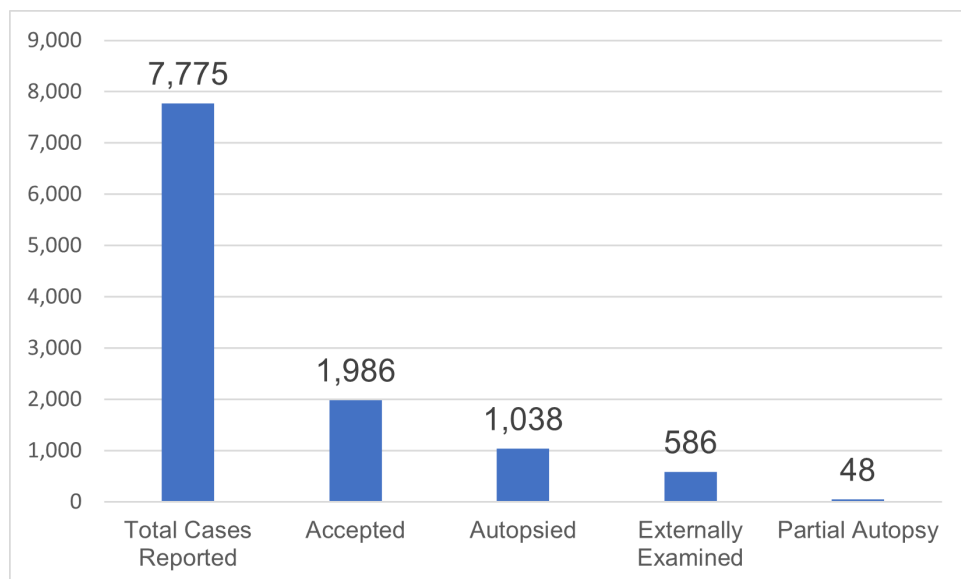
345 Accidental Deaths

316 Natural Deaths

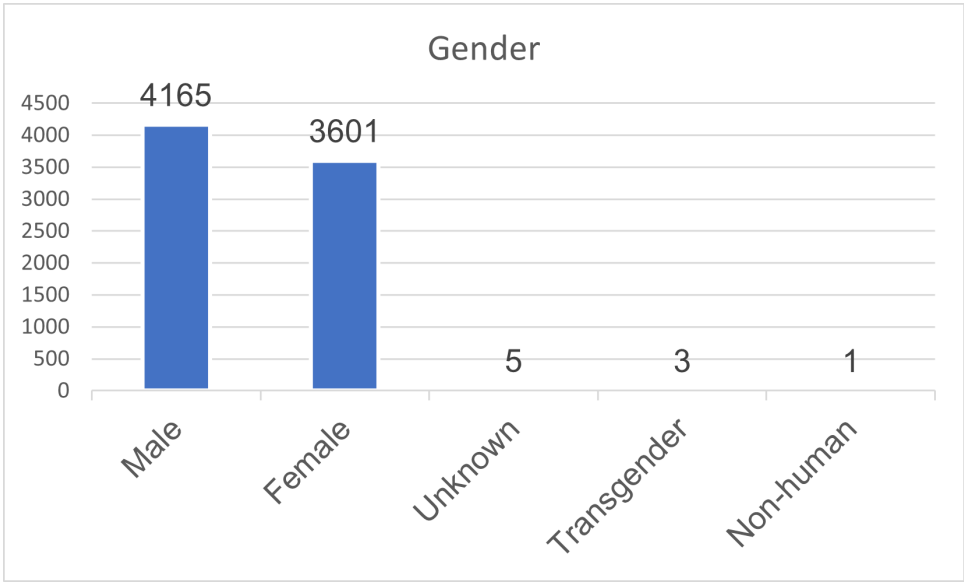
45 deaths due to undetermined causes

1 cases still remain pending at the time of this report

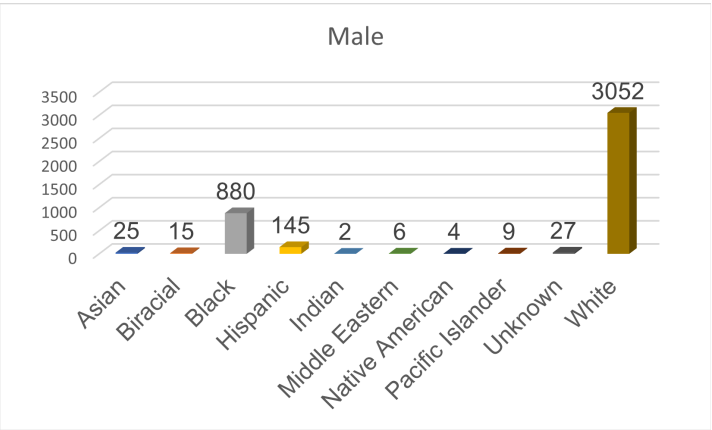
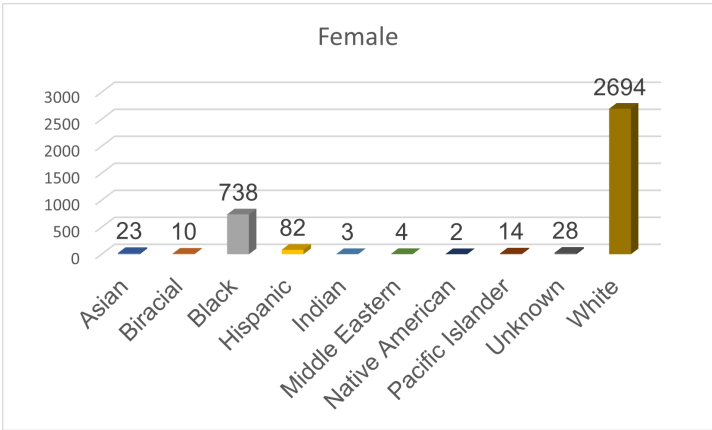
Does the office prepare an annual report tabulating total cases reported, accepted, examined, and autopsied, and the major causes of death sorted by each manner of death category?



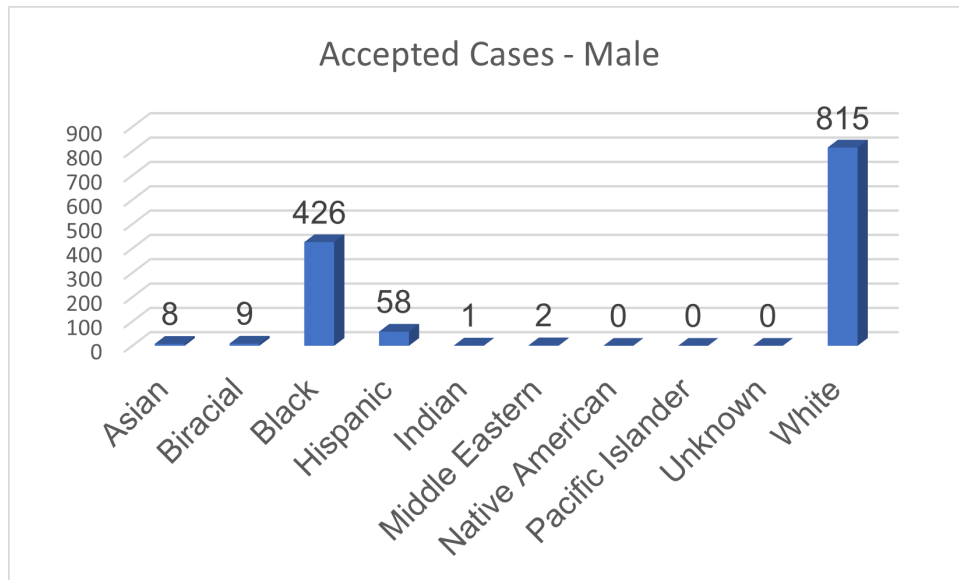
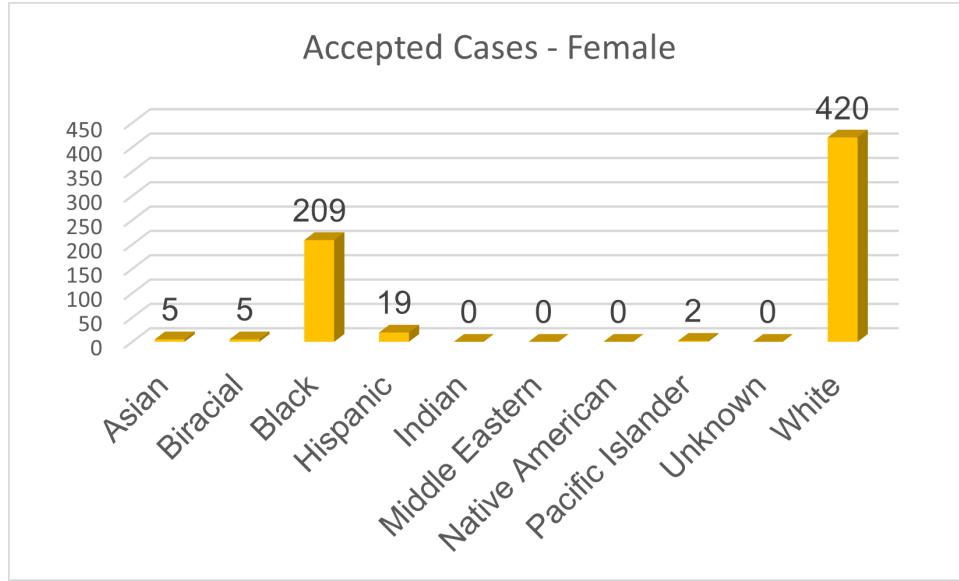
Does the office annually compile statistical data on deaths reported?



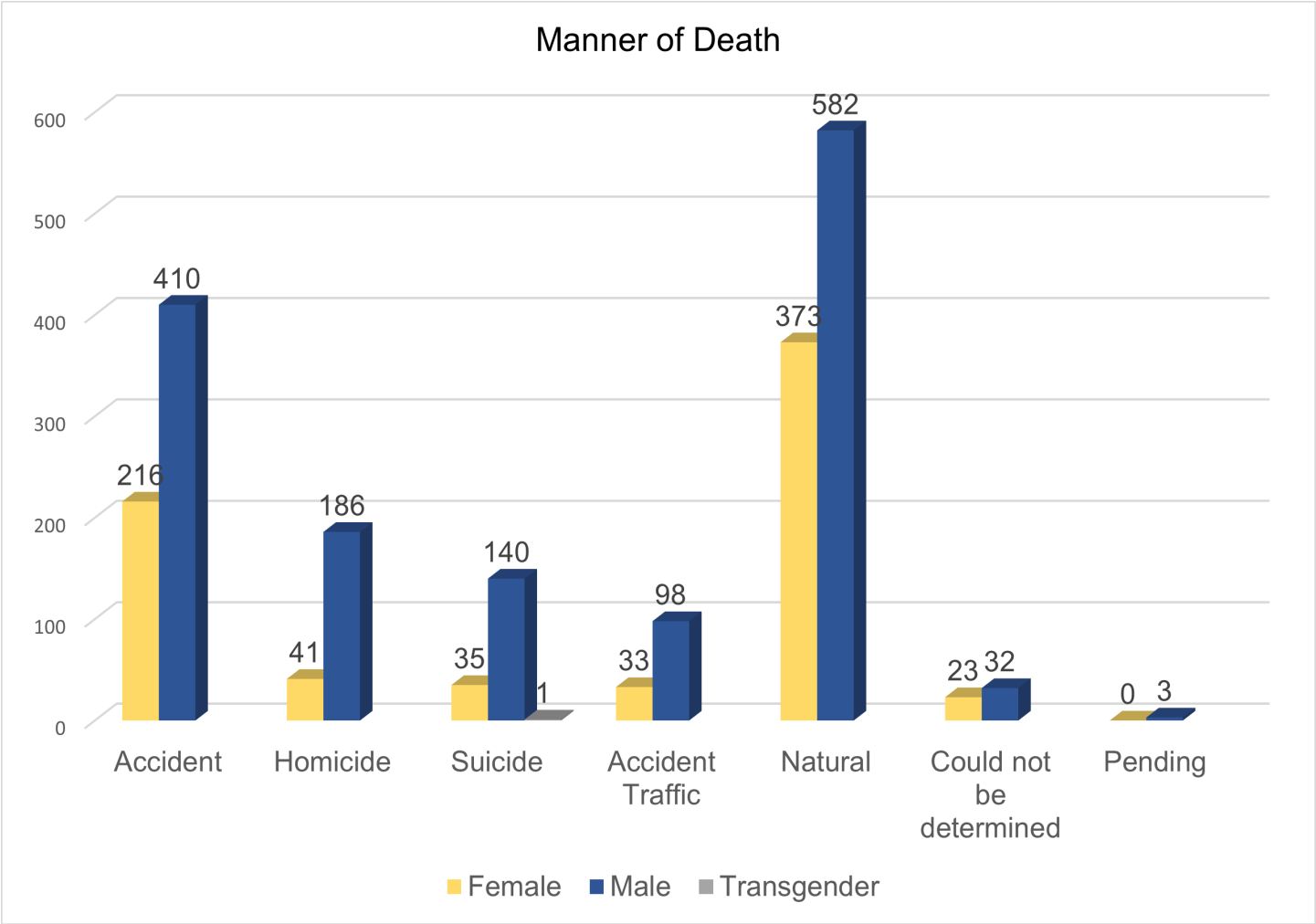
	Asian	Biracial	Black	Hispanic	Indian	Middle Eastern	Native American	Pacific Islander	Unknown	White
Female	23	10	738	82	3	4	2	14	28	2694
Male	25	15	880	145	2	6	4	9	27	3052
Transgender										3
Unknown									9	



Does the office annually compile statistical data on cases accepted?

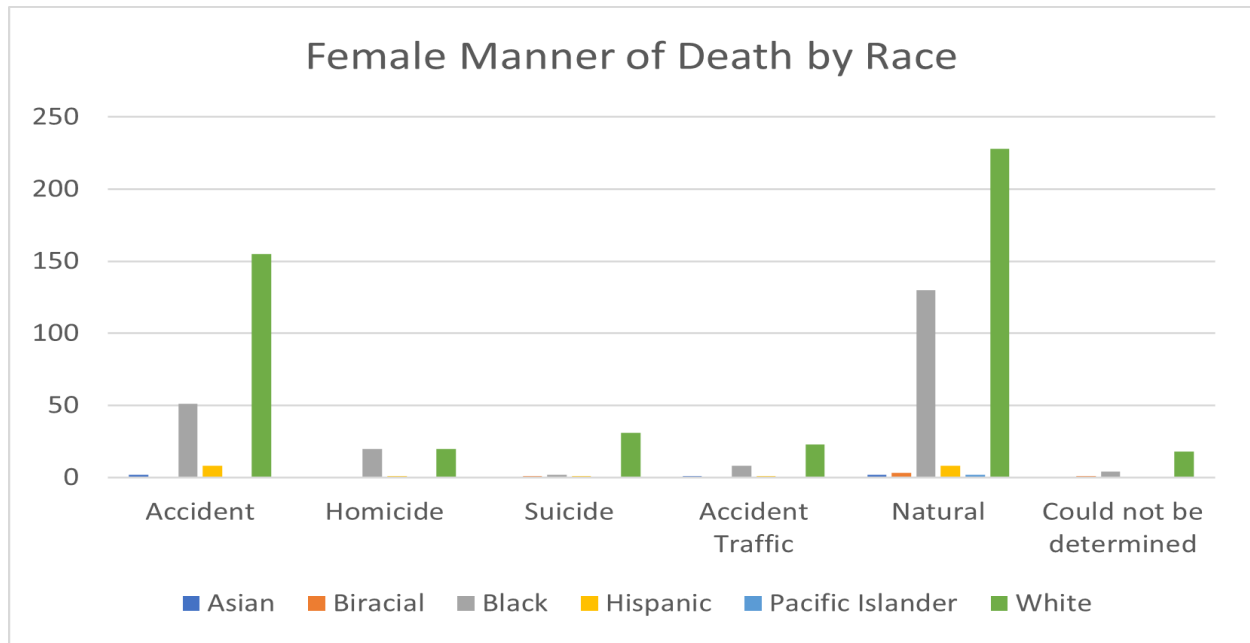


Does the office annually compile statistical data on manners of death?

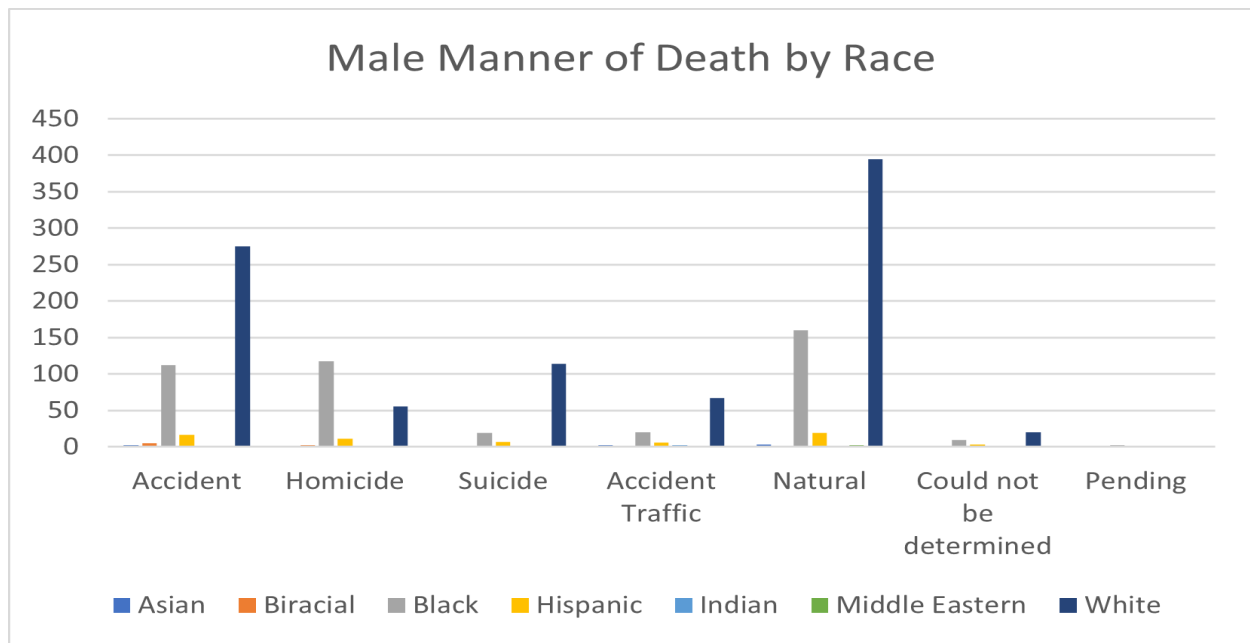


2 pending unknown as of	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Accident Traffic	Natural	Could not be determined	Pending
Female	216	41	35	33	373	23	0
Male	410	186	140	98	582	32	3
Transgender			1				





	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Accident Traffic	Natural	Could not be determined
Asian	2	0	0	1	2	0
Biracial	0	0	1	0	3	1
Black	51	20	2	8	130	4
Hispanic	8	1	1	1	8	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	2	0
White	155	20	31	23	228	18



	Accident	Homicide	Suicide	Accident Traffic	Natural	Could not be determined	Pending
Asian	2	1	0	2	3	0	0
Biracial	5	2	0	1	1	0	0
Black	112	117	19	20	160	9	2
Hispanic	16	11	7	6	19	3	0
Indian	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Middle Eastern	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
White	275	55	114	67	395	20	1

**MOD- Accident**

Alcohol / Drug related	309
Hemorrhage / Hematoma	57
Fall / Fracture	46
Asphyxia	28
Heart / Lung related	26
Blunt force injuries	20
Congestive heart failure	9
Smoke / Thermal	9
Drowning	8
Hypothermia	8
Sepsis / Septic shock	8
Head / Chest / Spine injury	6
Head trauma	5
Multiorgan failure	5
Anaphylactic shock	3
Gunshot	3
Intrauterine fetal demise	2
Advanced Age	1
Airway obstruction by food bolus	1
Cerebrovascular event	1
Chop wound of the neck	1
Chronic kidney disease	1
Chronic seizure disorder	1
Extreme prematurity	1
Necrotizing fascitis of the leg	1
Electrocution	1
End stage dementia	1
Failure to thrive	1
Hepatic cirrhosis	1
Peritonitis	1

**MOD - Traffic**

Blunt force injuries / trauma	100
Head trauma	4
Fractures	3
Thermal	3
Hemorrhage	2
Sepsis / Septic shock	2
Bronchopneumonia	1

**MOD - Suicide**

Firearm	79
Asphyxia	28
Alcohol / Drug related	18
Hanging	10
Blunt force	7
Sharp force	2
Suffocation	2
Carbon monoxide poisoning	1
Exsanguination	1
Thermal injuries	1

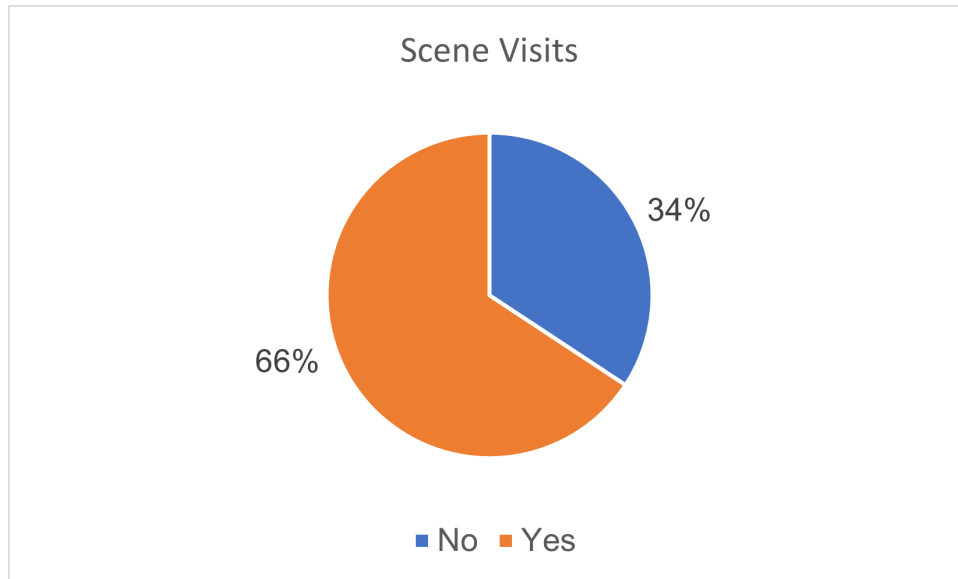
**MOD - Natural**

Heart / Lung related	606
Alcohol / Drug related	48
Renal	27
Hemorrhage / hematoma	25
Diabetes	24
Cancer	21
COVID-19 related	20
Liver	15
Dementia	8
Sepsis	8
Brain related	5
Failure to thrive	5
Fetal	4
Morbid obesity	4
Multiorgan failure	4
Advanced age	3
Influenza A	3
Malnutrition	2
Cellulitis	1
HIV	1
Pancreatitis	1
Perforated gastric ulcer	1
Peritonitis	1
Remote bowel perforation	1

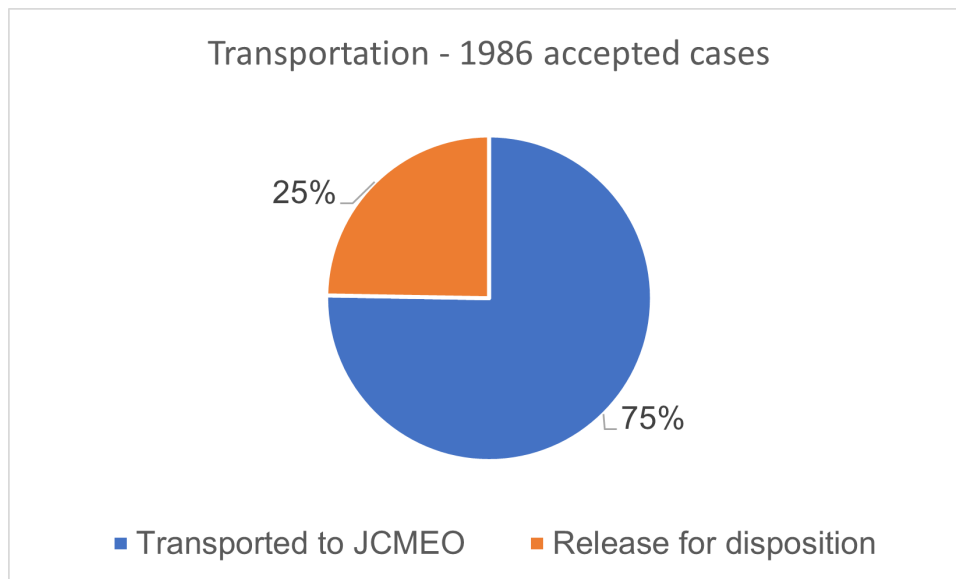
**MOD - Homicide**

Firearm	188
Piercing Wounds	9
Blunt Force	6
Smoke / Thermal / CO2	2
Bilateral pulmonary thromboemboli	1
Head and neck trauma	1
Multiple shotgun/stab wounds	1
Subarachnoid hemorrhage	1

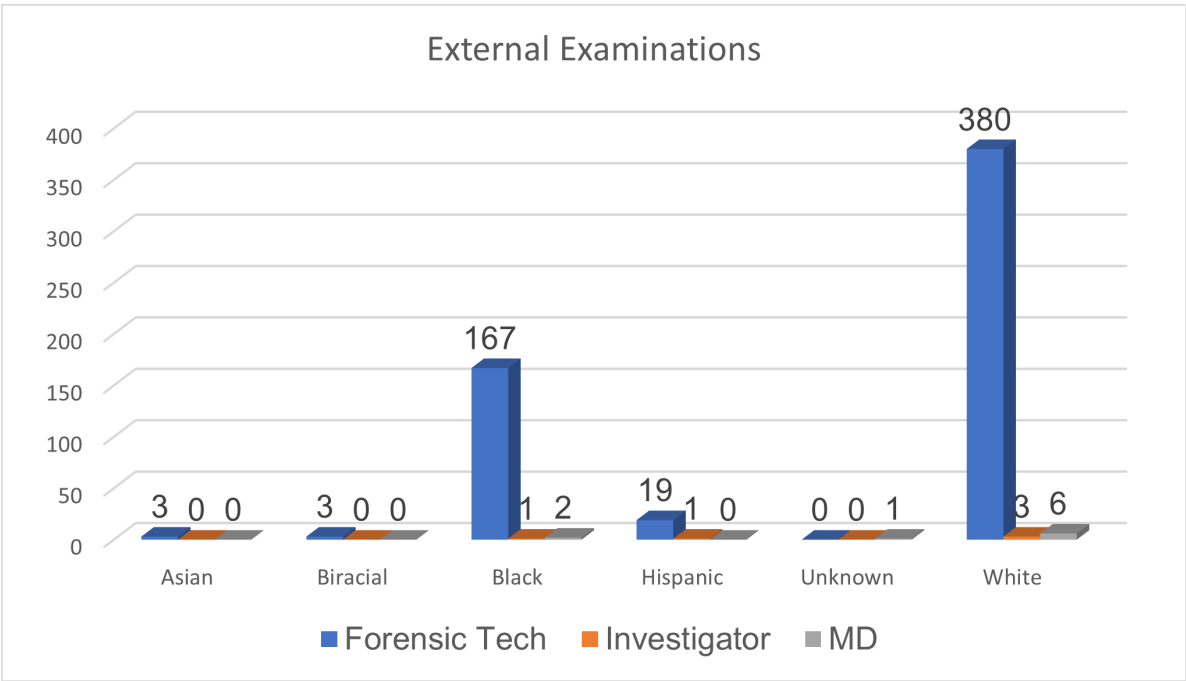
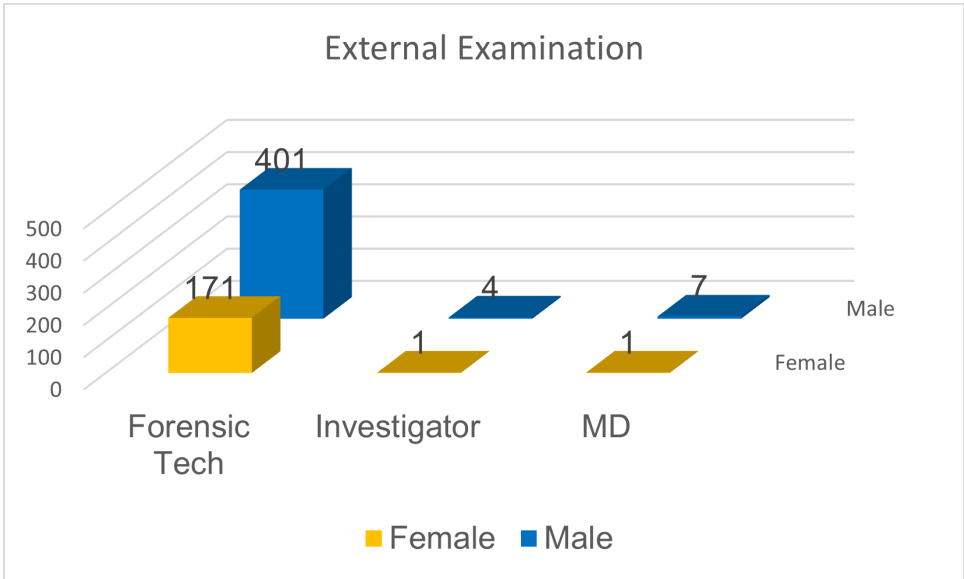
Does the office annually compile statistical data on scene visits by medical examiners or medical examiner investigators?



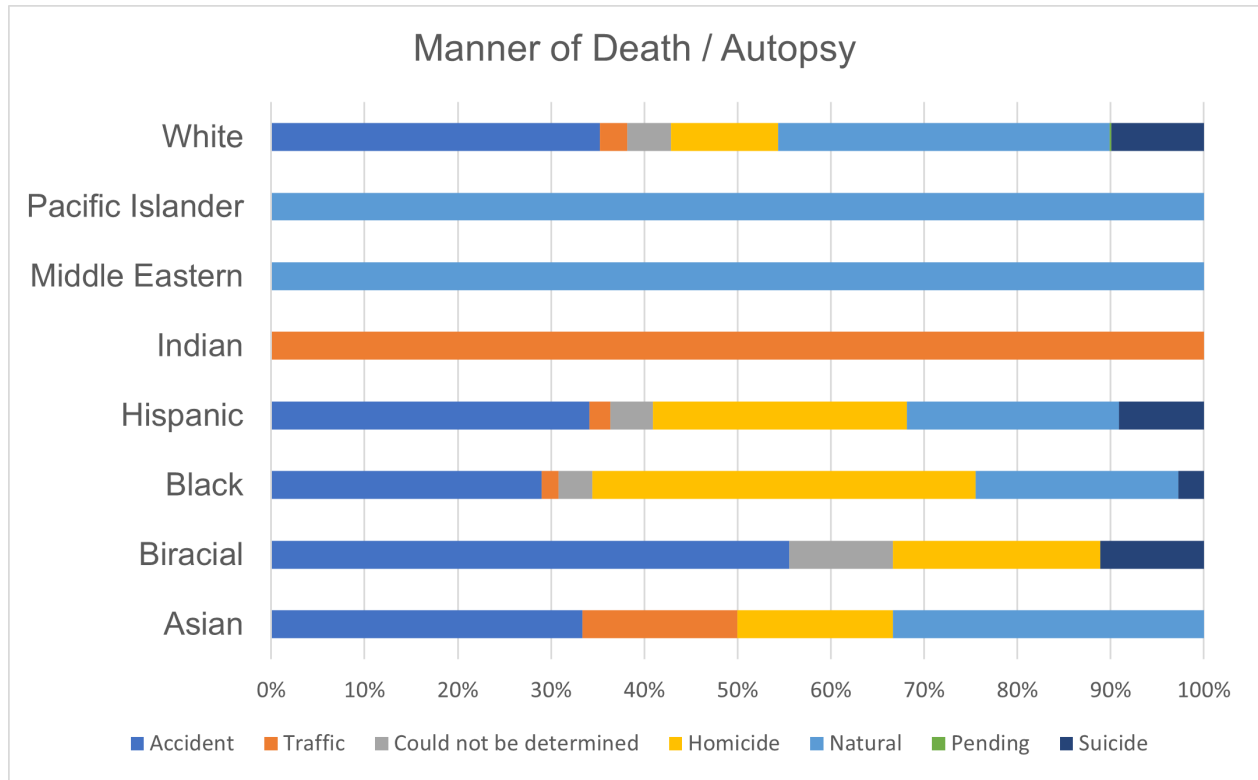
Does the office annually compile statistical data on bodies transported by office or by order of the office?



Does the office annually compile statistical data on external examinations?

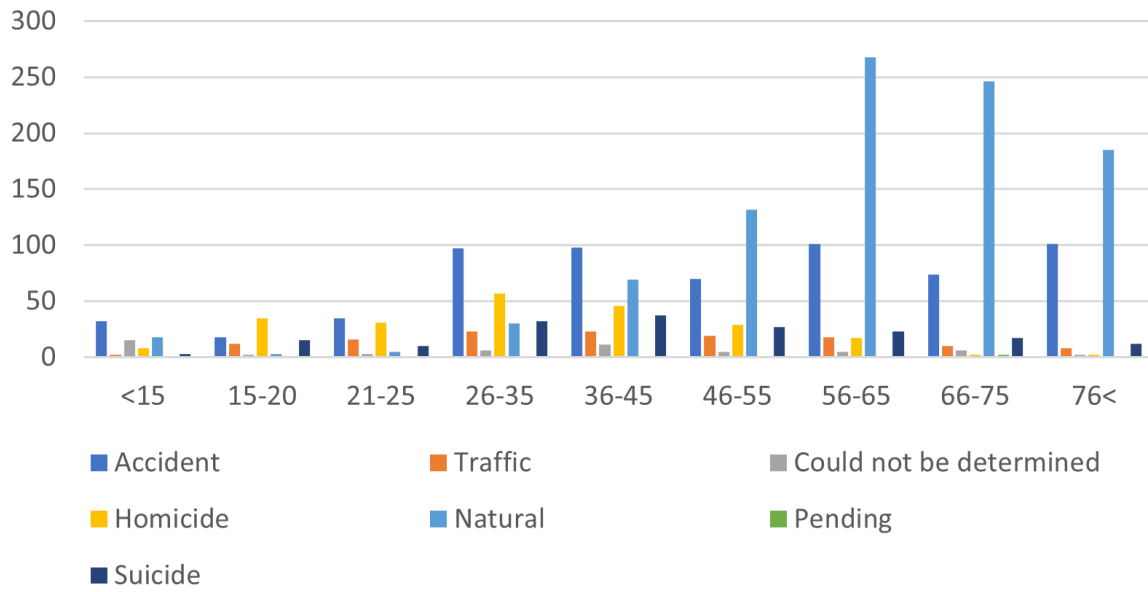


## Does the office annually compile statistical data on complete autopsies?



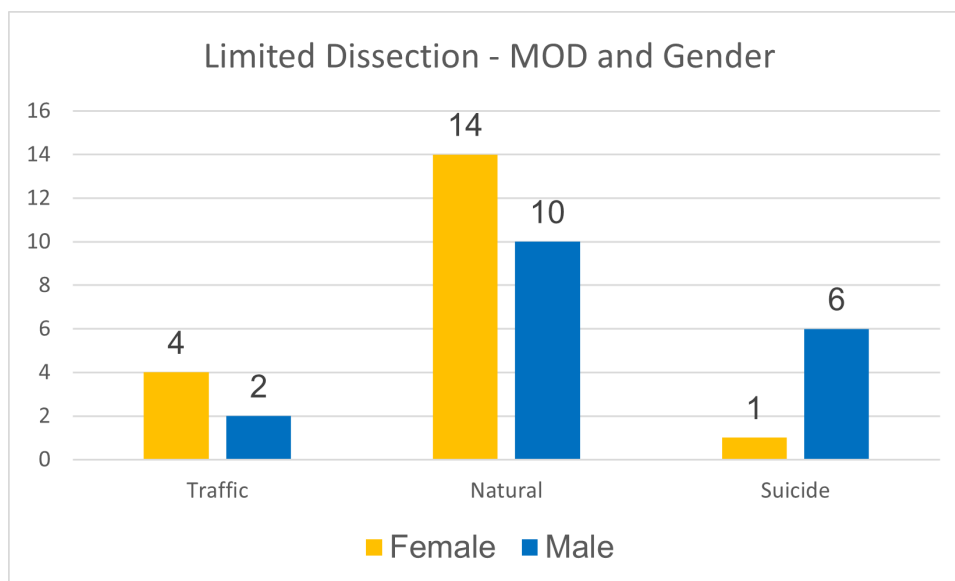
	Asian	Biracial	Black	Hispanic	Indian	Middle Eastern	Pacific Islander	White
Accident	2	5	96	15	0	0	0	227
Traffic	1	0	6	1	1	0	0	19
Could not be determined	0	1	12	2	0	0	0	30
Homicide	1	2	136	12	0	0	0	74
Natural	2	0	72	10	0	1	2	229
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Suicide	0	1	9	4	0	0	0	64

## Manner of Death by Age



	<15	15-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	76<
Accident	32	18	35	97	98	70	101	74	101
Traffic	2	12	16	23	23	19	18	10	8
Could not be determined	15	2	3	6	11	5	5	6	2
Homicide	8	35	31	57	46	29	17	2	2
Natural	18	3	5	30	69	132	268	246	185
Pending	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Suicide	3	15	10	32	37	27	23	17	12

Does the office annually compile statistical data on partial autopsies?



Does the office annually compile statistical data on hospital autopsies retained under ME jurisdiction?

*The Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office does not conduct nor take jurisdiction of hospital autopsies.*

*All autopsy activity takes place in our own facility.*

Does the office annually compile statistical data on cases where toxicology is performed?

*All cases where jurisdiction is accepted are submitted to toxicological studies in accordance with the*

*"Specimen and Evidence Procurement and Handling and Disposal" policy.*

Does the office annually compile statistical data on bodies unidentified after examination?

*In 2022, 3 bodies handled remained unidentified after examination.*



Does the office annually compile statistical data on organ and tissue donations?

<b>Organ Donors</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Cornea</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Dermis</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Blood Vessels</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Bone</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Bone Marrow</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Bone Other</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Heart Valve</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Other Musculoskeletal</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pericardium</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Whole Globe /Sclera</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Referrals</b>	<b>438</b>

Does the office annually compile statistical data on unclaimed bodies?

*In 2022, 86 bodies were unclaimed and processed for indigent cremation, 3 bodies handled remained unidentified after examination and are therefor unclaimed.*

Does the office annually compile statistical data on exhumations?

*Exhumation requests are submitted by interested parties and stored in the file room at the medical examiner's office.*

Does the office annually compile statistical data on infant deaths (age live birth to one year) including numbers of infant deaths certified, number of infants autopsied and categories of cause and manner of death?

Of the 155 reported infant deaths, 37 were full autopsy.

Accident	Complications of extreme prematurity
	Complications of fentanyl intoxication
	Intrauterine fetal demise
	Positional asphyxia
Could not be determined	Acute bronchopneumonia
	Complications of anoxic brain injury of unknown etiology
	Intrauterine fetal demise
	Undetermined
Homicide	Gunshot wound to head
	Head and neck trauma
Natural	Acute chorioamnionitis and funisitis
	Anencephaly
	Complications of chorioamnionitis and funisitis
	Complications of viral pneumonia
	Fetal demise
	Intrauterine fetal demise
	Respiratory failure