

ANNUAL REPORT



CRAWFORD COUNTY CORONER

2024

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Contact Information

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Message to the Citizens of Crawford County

The Crawford County Coroner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Crawford County. The office of the Coroner certifies death after investigation and postmortem examination and issues the death certificate as required by law. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families and law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

The main duties of the Office of the Coroner are to determine the cause and manner of death, and certify deaths that are reported to the Coroner. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that resulted in death. There are thousands of diseases and injuries that may result in death. The manner of death is a classification in which a determination is made regarding whether the death resulted from natural causes, homicide, suicide, or an accident. On occasion, the manner of death is classified as indeterminate.

Information collected during the investigation helps clarify the circumstances, such as the sequence of events prior to death. Evidence collected during an investigation and/or postmortem examination may help lead to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in a homicide case. Because deaths occur around the clock, Coroner Investigation staff are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the Coroner investigators and board-certified forensic pathologists, we believe the quality of death investigations in Crawford County are among the best in the State. The death scene investigation reports filed by the investigators are very thorough and supply comprehensive information to the Coroner and Pathologist.

Our Coroner and investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Coroner investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstances of the death. Investigators are supplied with a pamphlet for distribution to families. The information provides answers to common questions and facts about autopsies and also provides resource information pertaining to grief counseling.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Crawford County Board of Commissioners for their support of the Coroner's office and the services we provide to the citizens of Crawford County.

Respectfully,

Darren Dake
Coroner

CORONER OFFICE STAFF



DARREN DAKE
Coroner



HILLARY BAKER
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

INVESTIGATORS



AMBER SCOTT
Chief Deputy



ABIGAIL ROBINSON
Deputy Coroner



UNFILLED
Deputy Coroner

FORENSIC STAFF



TATIANA BIHUN
PATHOLOGIST



KATIE FOX HANSON
PATHOLOGIST



AIMEE JONES



KIM FORRESTER

RADIOLOGY TECHNICIANS

SUPPORT TEAM



HUNTER PHILLIPS



TODD HOLMAN



MALISA TODDY



UNFILLED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2024



Completion of New
Autopsy Facility



Rx Drug Disposal Site



Opioid Toxicology Grant

Began the Accreditation
Preinspection Process



Block Party Cuba



Child Safety Seat Inspection



Trunk or Treat 2024 Steelville



Halloween in the Hood Hood Park 2024



Rolla Tech High School Criminal Justice

COMMUNITY EVENTS 2024

Senior Citizen Expo Sullivan, Mo.



Mo. Crunch-Off Challenge



Rolla Tech High School Criminal Justice

Crawford County Coroner

Senior Citizen Expo Cuba, Mo.



Trunk or Treat Cuba, Mo.





Donated Supplies 2024

- 9 Vials of Insulin
- 11 Insulin Pens
- 230 Syringes



INSULIN FOR LIFE USA

Diabetic Supplies and Equipment

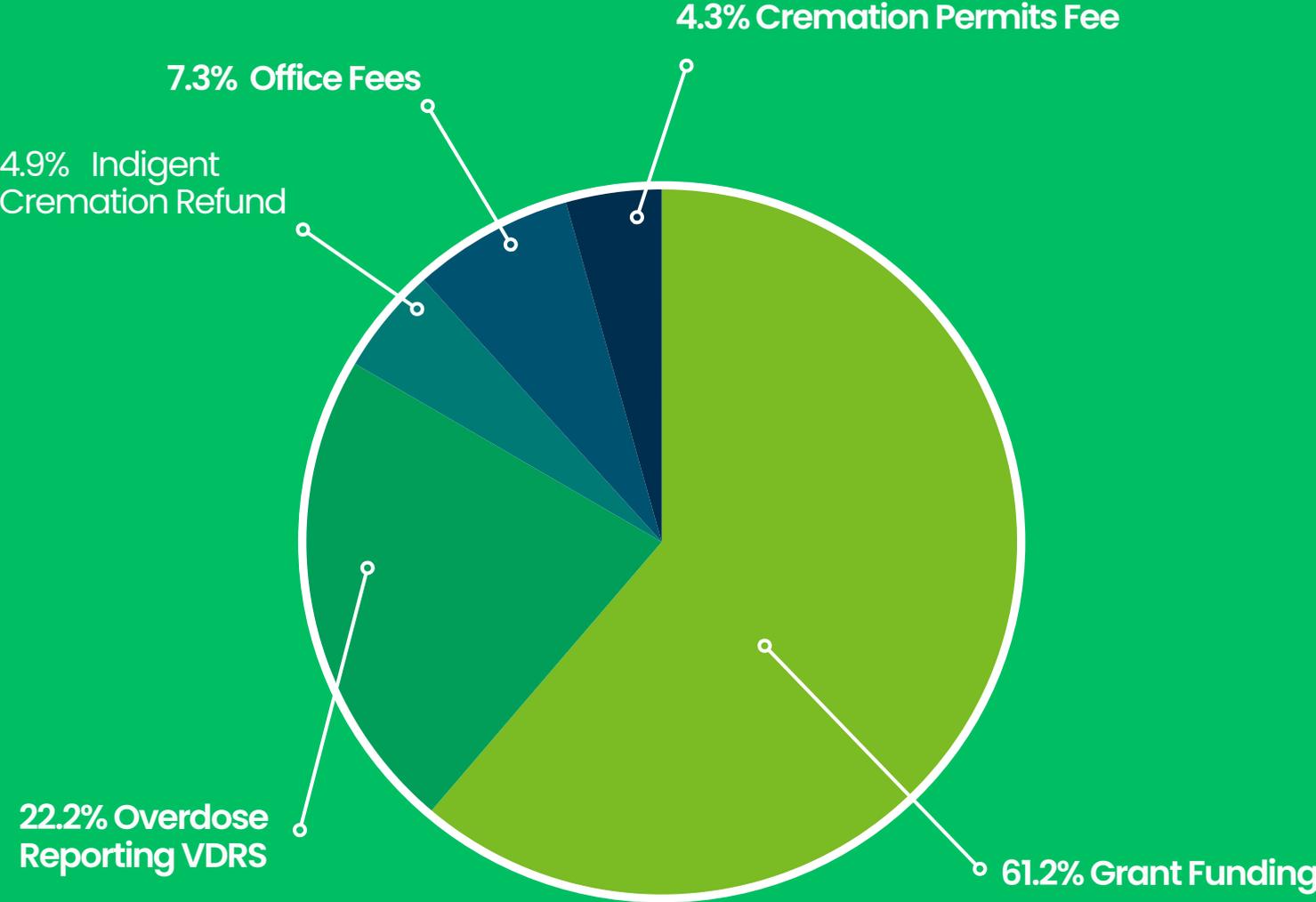


Medication Disposal Program

4,374 Rx Pills Destroyed

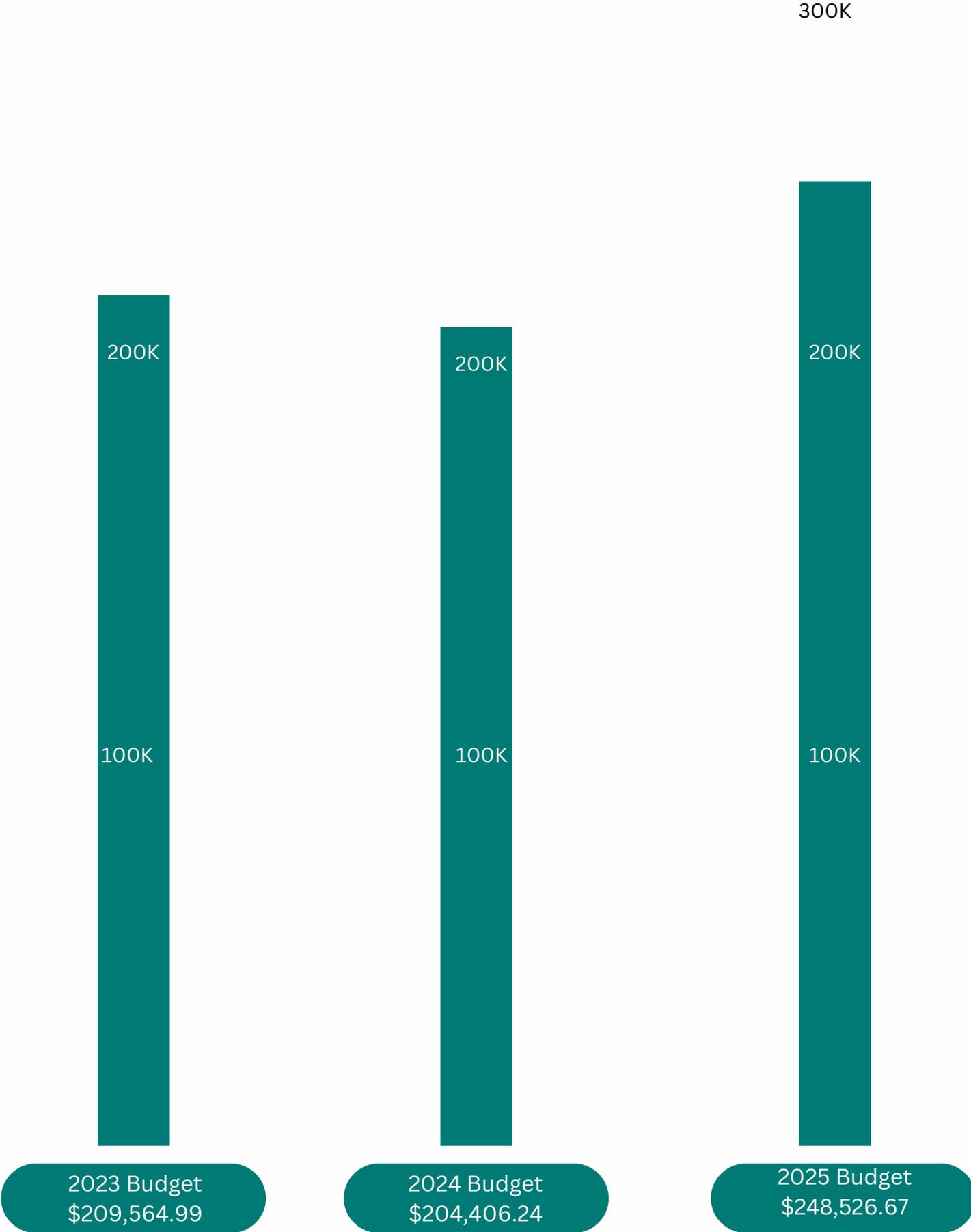
2024 REVENUE

\$16,337.50



Budget and Expense

2023 - 2025



Deaths Reportable to the Coroner

Missouri state law mandates that specific types of death be referred to the Coroner for investigation (see list below). These deaths include sudden and unexpected deaths, accidental deaths, and violent deaths. The Coroner has the authority under these Acts to order an autopsy at any time it is deemed necessary to determine or confirm the cause and manner of death.

Deaths Reportable to the Coroner:

- Violent death (e.g., strangulation, gunshot, stabbing, poisoning, etc.)
- Accidental deaths (e.g., falls, drowning, motor vehicle collisions, burns, overdose)
- Death of a prisoner (e.g., deaths in any county or city jail or while in custody)
- Suspicious Circumstances (e.g., Unidentified bodies or events surrounding deaths)
- Sudden and Unexpected deaths (e.g., all deaths during a surgical procedure, in recovery, anesthesia-related, unexpected natural death, occupational-related deaths)*
- Without medical attendance 48 hours preceding death: In cases of chronic illness, the attending physician may sign the death certificate if s/he can be reasonably sure of the cause of death.
- Death of a mother due to an abortion
- Criminal Abortions
- Infant and Child deaths
- All deaths that occur in a Nursing Home
- All Hospice deaths.

The Coroner would generally order an autopsy for any of the reportable deaths listed above. Autopsy and Toxicology examinations are decided based on standardized policy.

Crawford County Coroner Cases

Population 24,526

Number of cases reported to Coroner's office 312

Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination

Number of Coroner cases with complete autopsy 22

Number of cases with MDI External Examination 109

Number of cases with Pathologist Limited Examination 1

Number of deaths with Toxicology only 32

Definitions

Full Autopsy: A complete external and internal examination of a decedent

Limited Examination: An examination focused on a specific organ or region of the body, i.e., the heart. The limited examination also includes an external examination.

External Examination: An examination of only the exterior of a decedent

Remanded: These are deaths where the injury originated in another county, but the person died in our county. Missouri law requires the case to be remanded to the county of original in certain circumstances,

Crawford County Coroner Cases

Other Statistical Data 2024

Investigations

Total Deaths Reported to Coroner	312
Number of deaths investigated	300
Number of scene investigations	109
Number of decedents transported to facility	52

Unidentified and indigent

Number of remaining unidentified persons	0
Number of remaining unclaimed decedents	8
Number of indigent cremations/burials	2

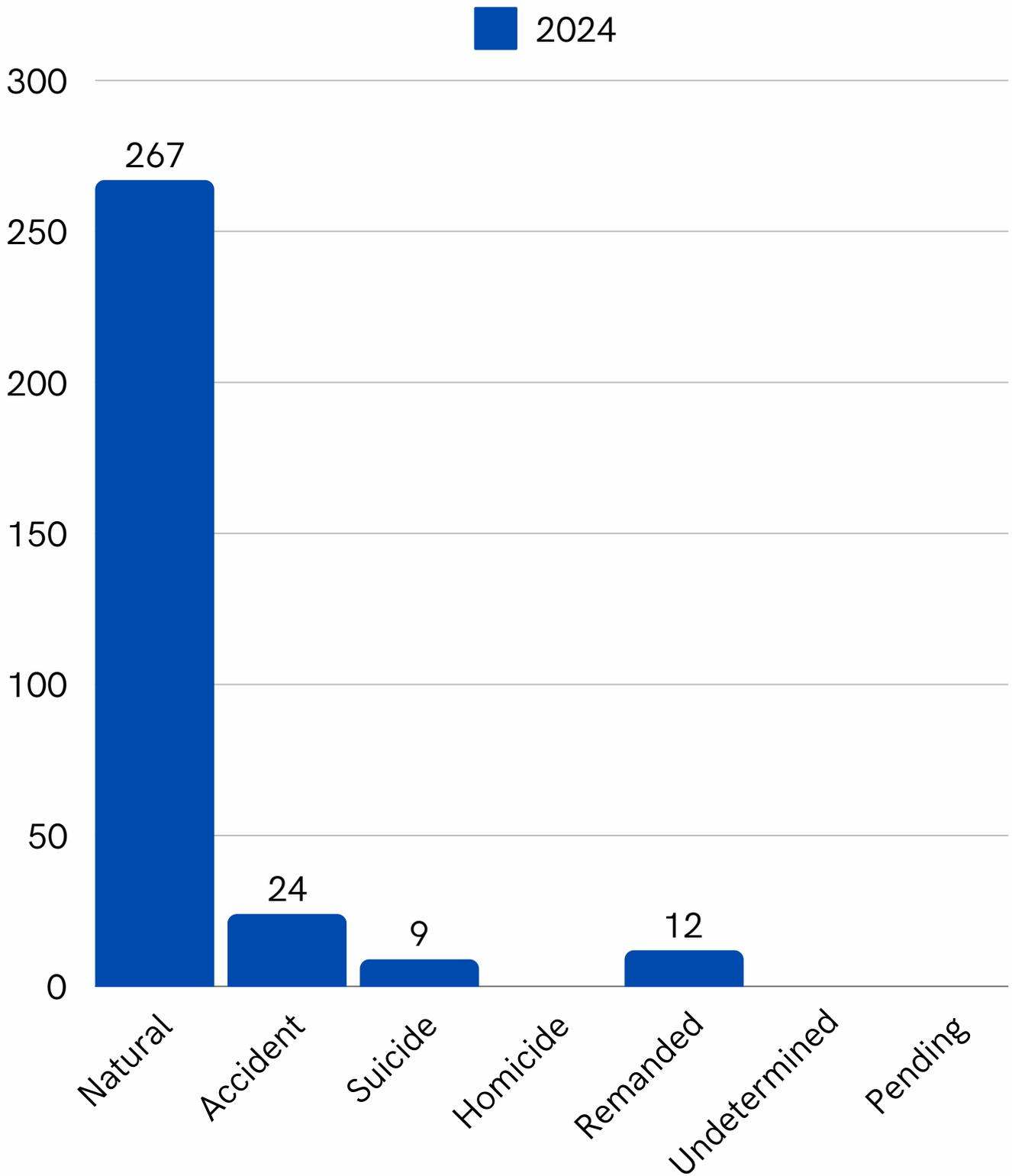
Organ Donation Referrals

Number of organ donation referrals	32
Number of referrals accepted	2

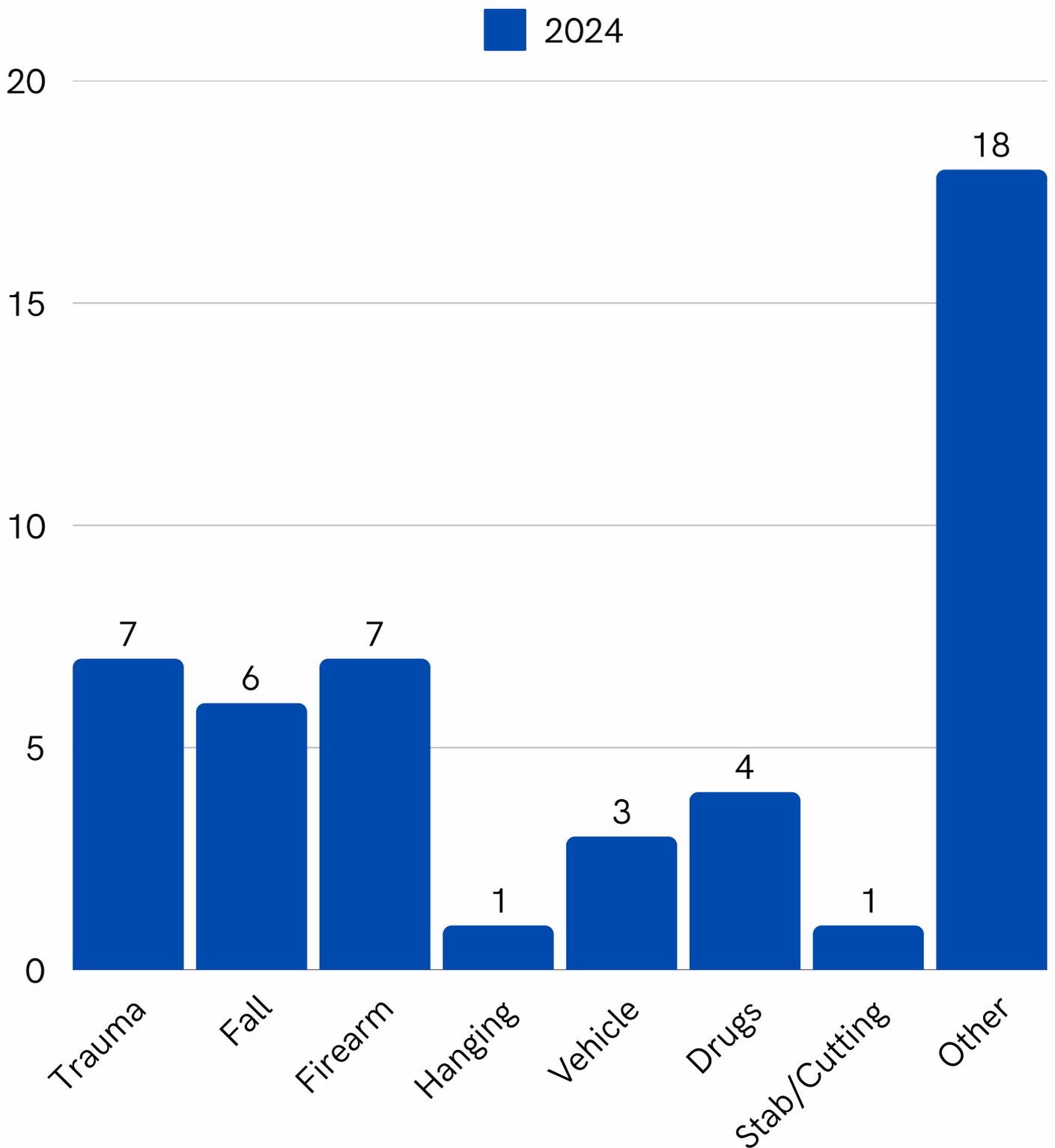
Other Activity

Number of approved cremations	53
Number of exhumations ordered by Coroner	0
Number of direct death notifications	5

Death By Manner

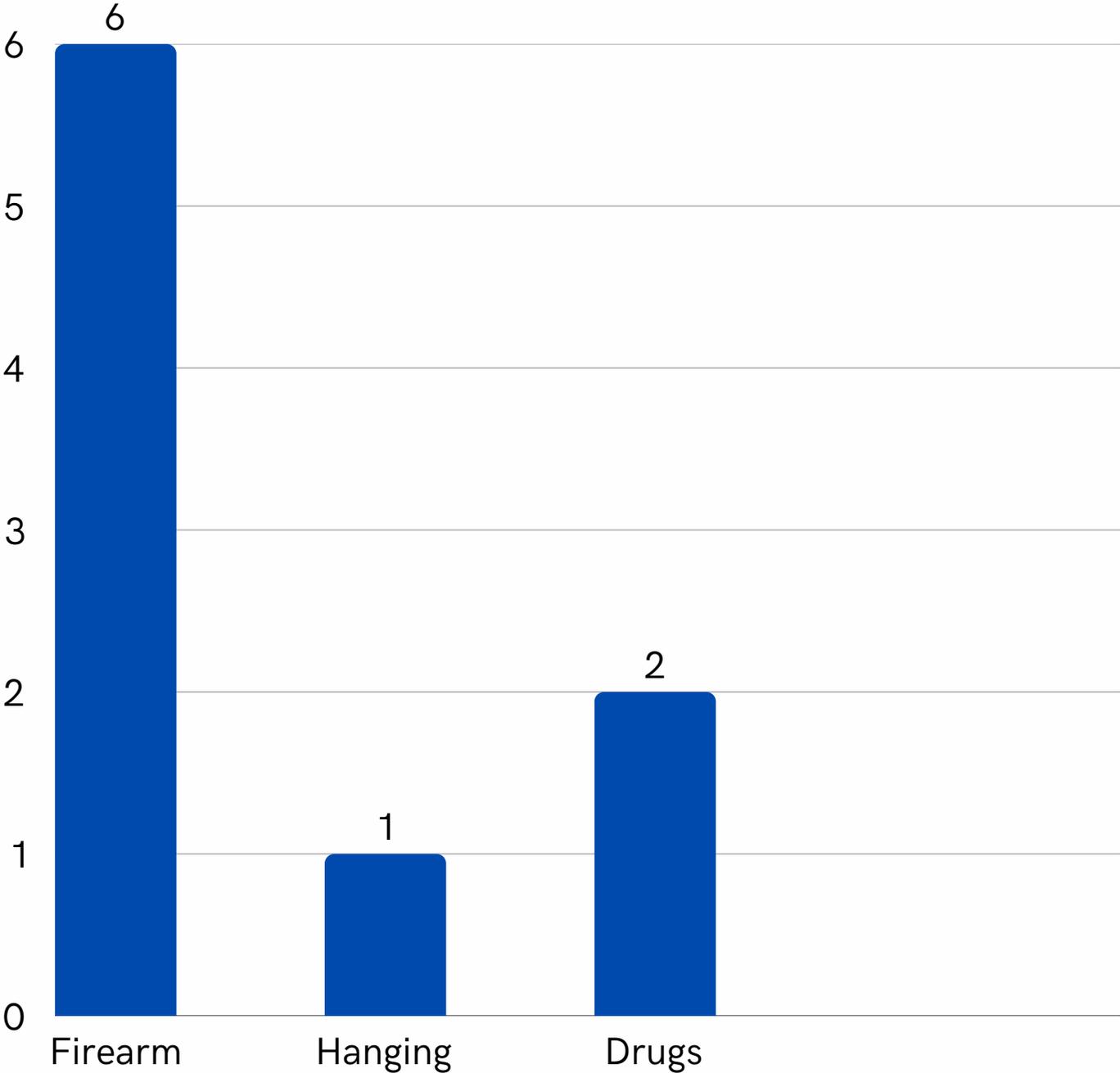


Unnatural Death by Type



Suicide Death by Cause

2024



Natural Death Involving

2024

100

86

80

62

60

41

38

20

12

3

0

Neurologic

Cardiac

Kidney

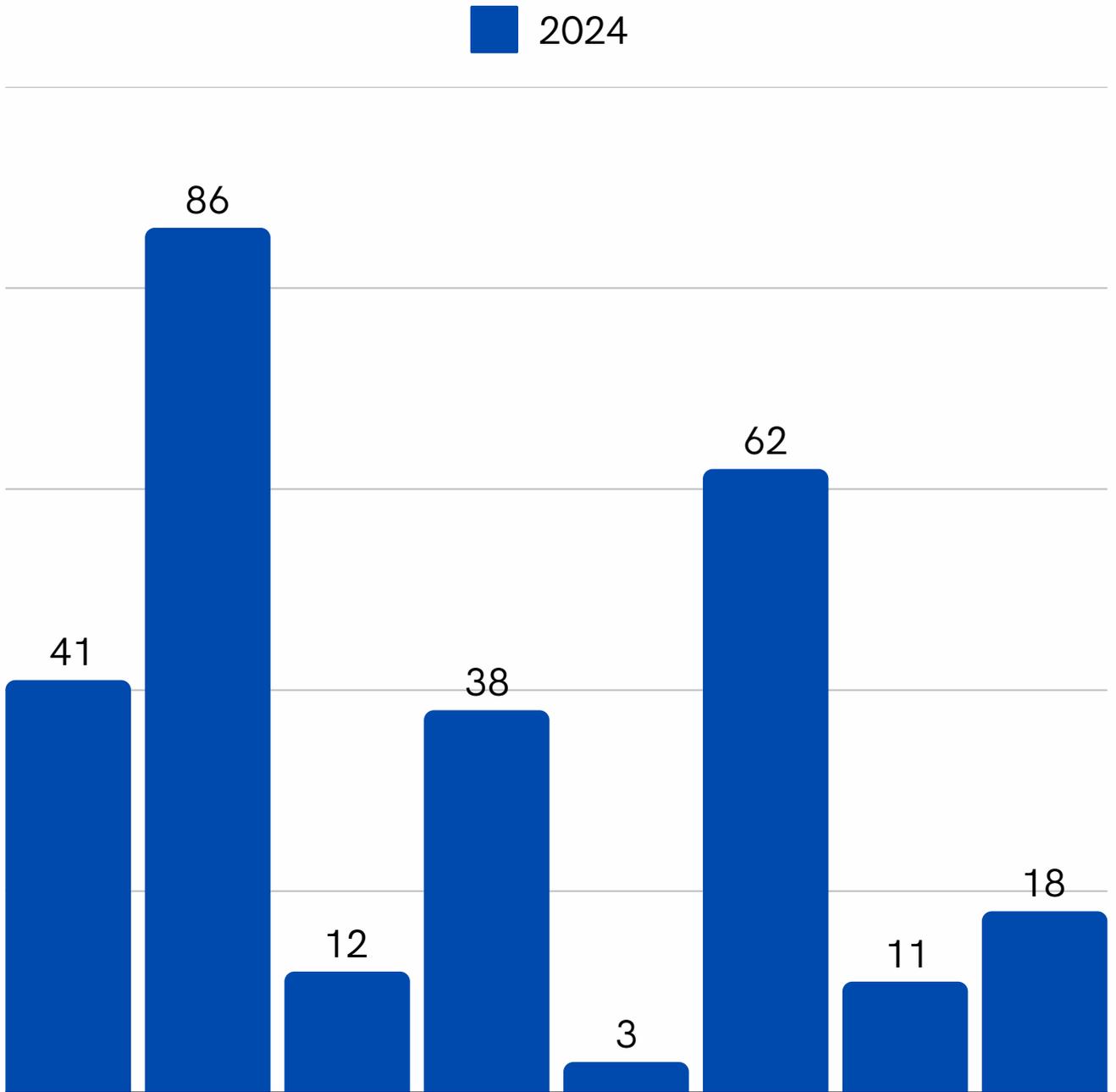
Pulmonary

Liver

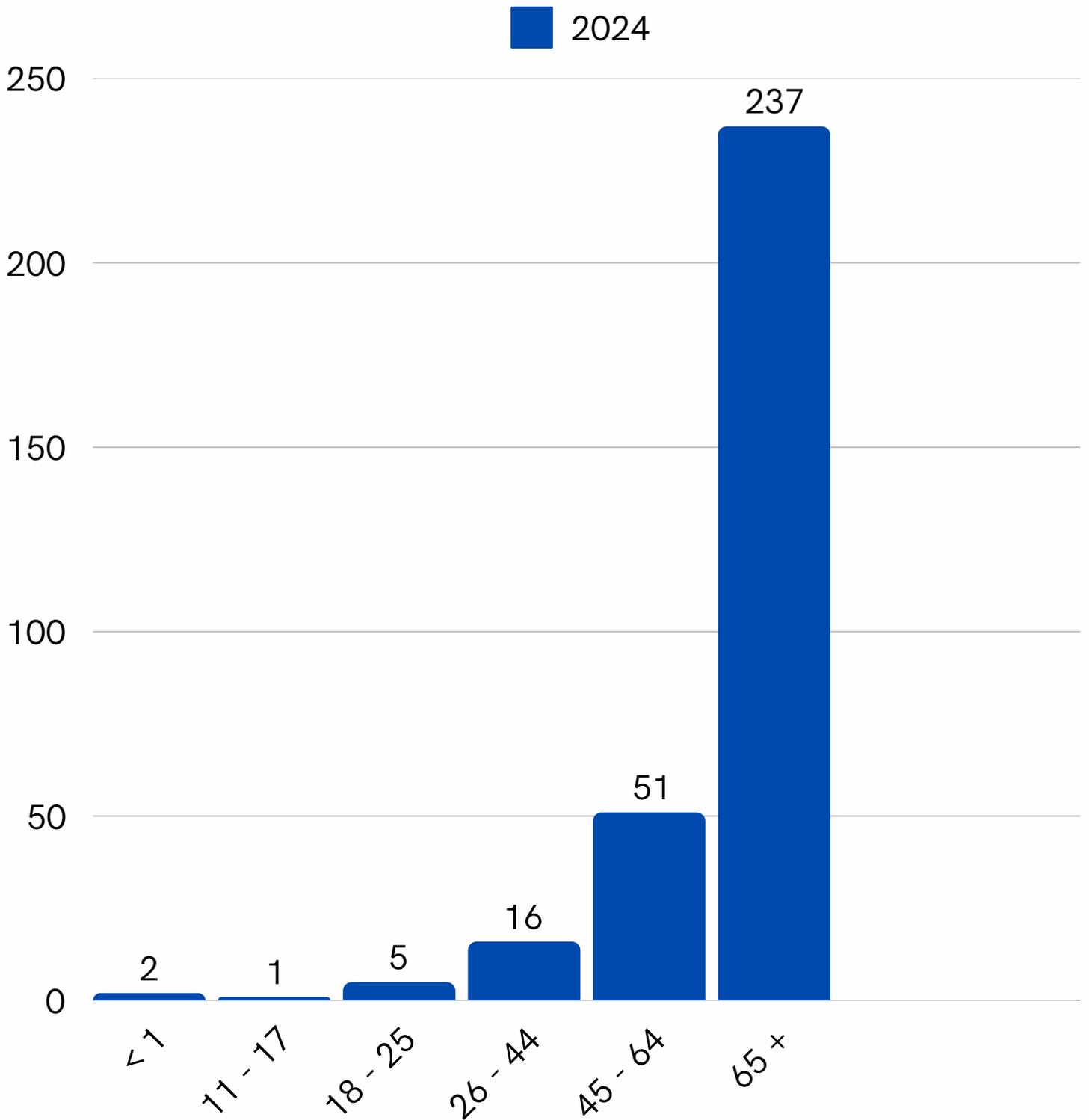
Cancer

Intestinal

Other

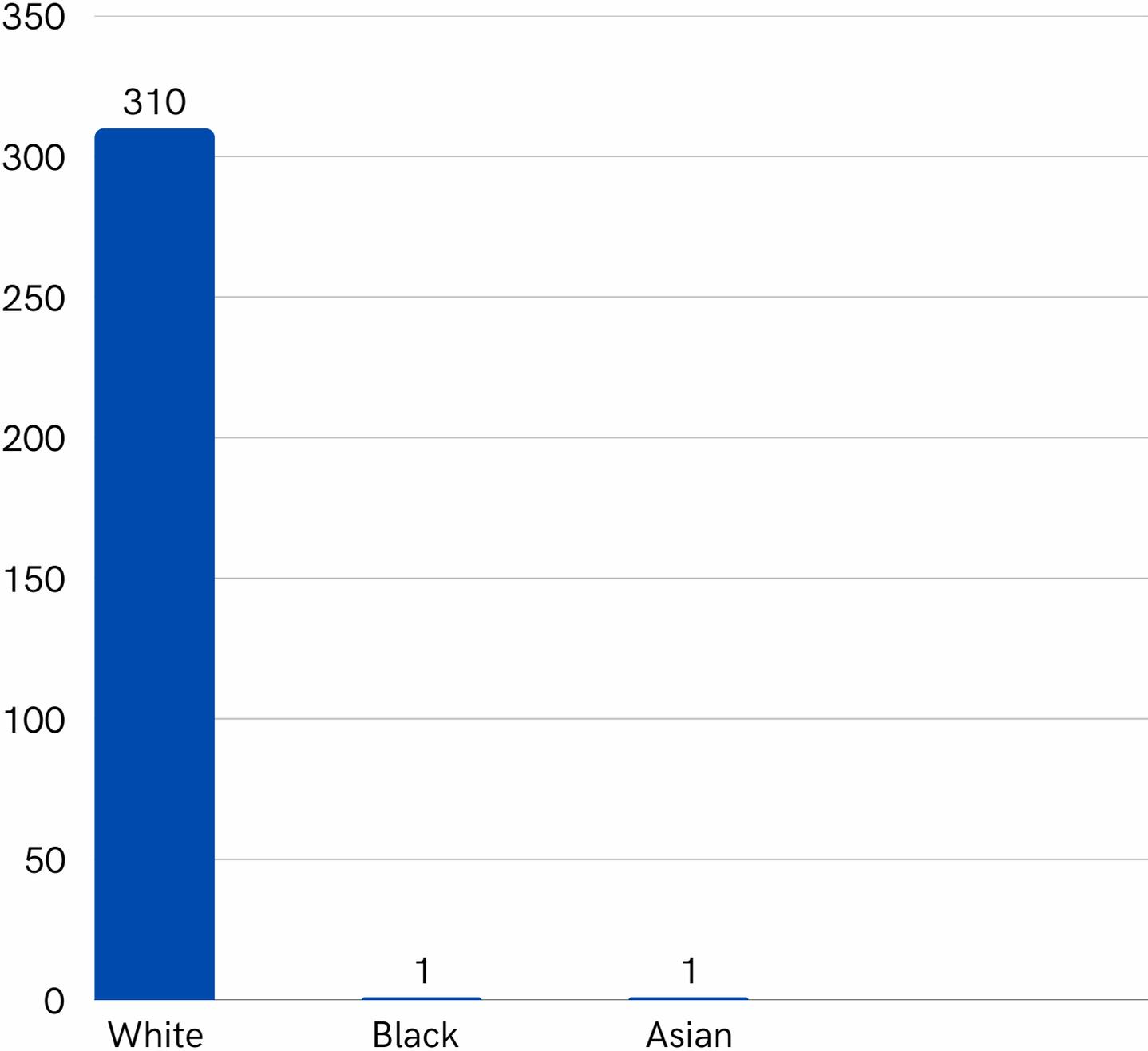


Death by Age

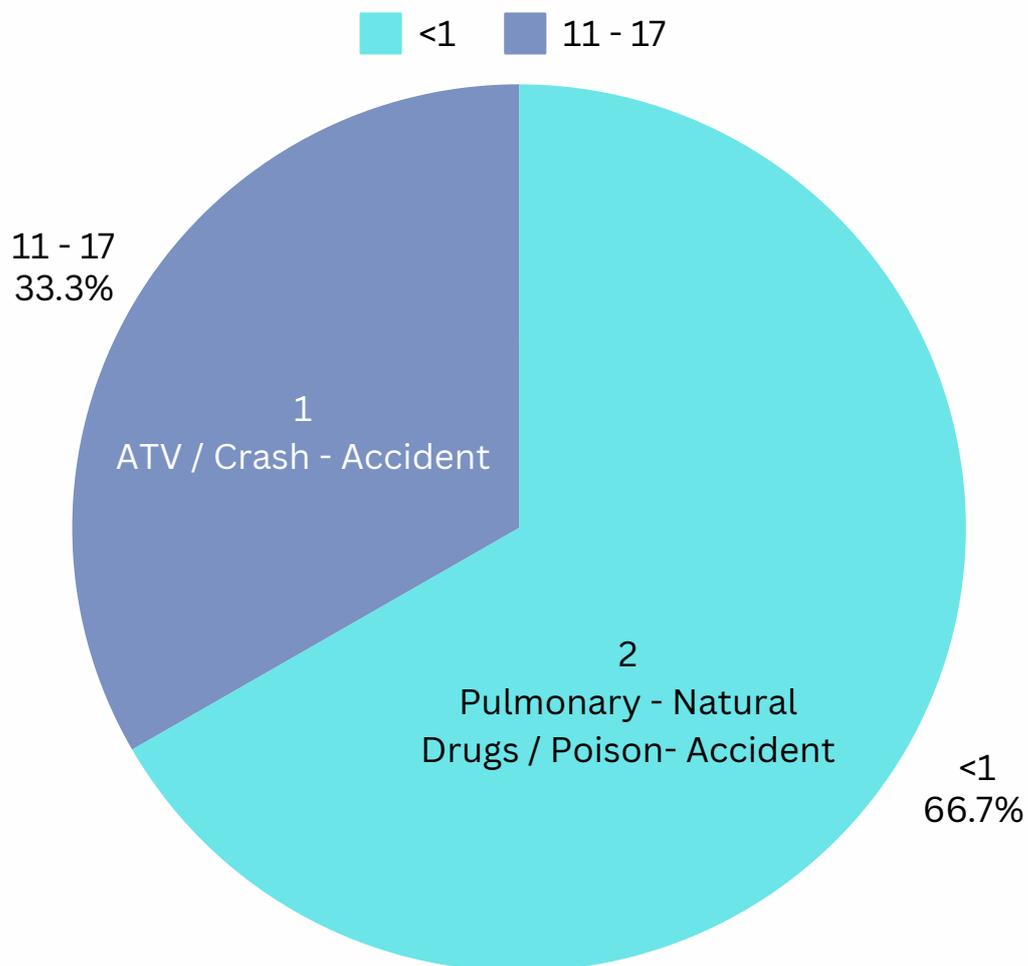


Death by Race

2024



Infant - Child Death by Age and Cause



In Custody and Law Enforcement Involved Deaths

■ In Custody



In Custody
100%

