



Coroner's Office

LAKE COUNTY, IL

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Message to the County Board

The Lake County Coroner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Lake County. 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 Coroner are to determine the cause and manner of death and certify deaths that are reported to the Lake County Coroner's Office. 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, Deputy Coroner Investigators are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the medical examiner investigators and board-certified forensic pathologists, we believe the quality of death investigations in Lake 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 Lake County Coroner's Office.

Our Coroner and Deputy Coroner Investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Deputy 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. Deputy Coroner 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.

In 2017 our office contributed significant input toward the implementation of a web based death investigation report system. After providing assistance to Occupational Research and Assessment, Inc. of Big Rapids, Michigan, the Medicolegal Death Investigation Log or, MDI Log was launched in June of 2017. MDI Log is a comprehensive investigative report/database system that enables the Coroner to review death scene investigation information from a secure Internet site any time of the day. MDI Log enables Deputy Coroner Investigators to submit death scene investigation reports via the Internet in an efficient manner. MDI Log has evolved to become a valuable tool for our office and it is now available to ME / Coroner offices across the country.

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



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Biography of the Coroner

Dr. Howard I. Cooper graduated in 1991, from Loyola University of Chicago, School of Dentistry. Since graduation, he has accomplished more than most in Dentistry. One of his most important attributes is his passion for knowledge, which aids him in treating his patients with the most up to date techniques available.

He has earned Fellowship and Mastership awards from the Academy of General Dentistry and was one of three people in the world to earn the Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition award the first year it was given. These awards can only be attained after taking thousands of hours of continuing dental education and passing a lengthy examination. He has also received Fellowship awards from the Academy of Dentistry International, the International Congress of Oral Implantologists, the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists and the Misch International Implant Institute. He has received both Mastership and Diplomate Awards from the International Congress of Oral Implantologists, as well.

Dr. Cooper is also involved in organized dentistry. He has held multiple positions in many dental societies, including the position of President for the Lake County Dental Society, the Chicago Academy of General Dentistry, and the Illinois Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Cooper has also served his country by being a part of two federal government teams: Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) and Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team Weapons of Mass Destruction (DMORT WMD All Hazards).

The morning of September 11, 2001, Dr. Cooper was activated, along with other members of DMORT, and the following day were flown on an Air Force C-130 from O'Hare Airport to New York. The team had many functions, but Dr. Cooper worked at Ground Zero and at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner helping to identify victims of the horrific attack.

After Hurricane Katrina, he was activated as part of the DMORT WMD All Hazards team. His task at this event was victim recovery, decontamination, and identification. Dr. Cooper spent 5 weeks in the New Orleans area helping to bring closure to the victim's families.

In 2011, Dr. Cooper was awarded the Response Team Distinguished Member of the Year Award from the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS).

Dr. Cooper is also a published author on the topic of forensic dentistry and bioterrorism and lectures on those topics across the country.

As the Lake County Coroner, Dr. Cooper enjoys working with and helping the families of Lake County, as well as, the fire and law enforcement communities. He also has a large presence in the community talking with high school students about making good choices in life.

When Dr. Cooper finds some spare time, he spends it traveling and photographing the U.S. in his motorhome with his wonderful family.



Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Creed

Birth and death are the only two universal human experiences.

Birth is the most important biological event in the life of any human being. If it does not occur, there is no being. If there is no person, no legal rights and duties arise, for the law relates to rights and duties of the living people, not inanimate objects.

Death, on the other hand, is the most important legal event for all human beings. When it occurs, all legal rights and duties devolving upon the person during his life span in a civilized jurisdiction are terminated. All persons with whom the deceased had legal relations at that moment in time are also directly affected by the occurrence of death. Moreover, both the decedent and the survivors may be greatly affected legally by how the death occurred, what actually happened, why it occurred, and precisely when it occurred. Above all, who dies must be absolutely determined, and where death occurred is positively required for legal jurisdiction over the decedent is based upon a geographical location.

The law becomes extremely active when a person dies. Wealth is redistributed. Contracts are altered. A wrongful death may give rise to tortuous claims. Tax obligations are always present. Public social benefits and private insurance policies are paid. Criminal laws may be invoked. Creditors must be satisfied, and debtors located. Spouse and children, heirs, and next-of-kin have their attachments rearranged. It is not surprising that for centuries the sovereign state has had an overriding interest in the death of its subjects or citizens. The ancient office of Coroner, or the modern office of Medical Examiner, along with the state-licensed physician is legally charged with significant duties in answering the pertinent questions relating to death: Who, Where, When, What, How, Why. Only when these questions have been answered correctly, can all the proper legal issues arising at death be effectively handled for the proper administration of justice.

Although the legal aspects of death are most important, certainly the religious and humanitarian heritages of a civilized society also command a deep concern over the death of a human being. The spiritual faith in a religion as well as the humanitarian concern for a fellow human being demand correct answers to the questions of death: who, where, how, when, and why. Human death obligates the living to acquire accurate facts on which to apply just laws for each deceased member of the human race.

The obligation for proper death investigation is mandatory for legal and religious humanitarian satisfactions in the human society. Let those responsible for death investigations take heed that they labor not only for the State but, also, for God.

Our commitment ... care of the Deceased; Concern for the Living ...

Permission given to ICA by Kenneth S. Field, M.B., Chairman, Board of Trustees, The Forensic Sciences Foundation, April 22, 1988.



Lake County Coroner's Mission Statement

The mission of the Lake County Coroner's Office is to conduct honest and independent death investigations based on the facts and evidence, to protect and serve those who have gone before us, their families, and the general public.

Lake County Coroner's Core Values

The strategic plan for accomplishing the Lake County Coroner's Office mission must begin by identifying core values which need to be preserved and defended by the Lake County Coroner's Office in performing its statutory mission.

Those values are: rigorous obedience of the Constitution of these United States; respect for the dignity of all those we serve; compassion; fairness; and uncompromising personal and institutional integrity. These values do not exhaust the goals which we wish to achieve, but they capsulize them as well as can be done in a few words. Our values must be fully understood, practiced, shared, vigorously defended, and preserved.

Observance of these core values is our guarantee of excellence and propriety in performing the Lake County Coroner's Office Mission and Medico-legal investigative functions. Rigorous obedience to constitutional principles ensures that we always remember that constitutional guarantees are more important than the outcome of any single interview, search for evidence, or investigation. Respect for the dignity of all whom we serve reminds us to wield power with restraint. Fairness and compassion ensure that we treat everyone with the highest regard for dignity and respect for civil and human rights. Personal and institutional integrity reinforce each other and are owed to the County in exchange for the sacred trust and great authority conferred upon us.

We who serve the community must regard this trust as the authorization for our power. Because the success of the Lake County Coroner's Office in accomplishing its mission is directly related to the support and cooperation of the Citizens of Lake County, these core values are the fiber which holds together the vitality of our institution.



What is the duty of the Coroner as mandated by Illinois Compiled Statute?

Chapter 55; 5/3-3007: Each Coroner shall be the conservative of the peace of his County, and in the performance of his/her duties shall have the same powers as the Sheriff.

What are the responsibilities of the Coroner?

The responsibilities of the Coroner are to ensure that the proper scientific studies are performed:

- Autopsy
- Toxicology tests
- Microscopic examinations
- Bacteriology
- X-rays
- Fingerprinting
- Taking and gathering reports
- Notification of death to families
- On-scene investigation
- Photographing
- Transportation of victims assuring chain of evidence security
- Evidence collecting
- Dental examination and identification
- Meeting with survivors
- Presiding at inquests
- Issuance of Death Certificates and Cremation Permits
- Cooperating with:
 - Medical agencies
 - Funeral Directors
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Fire & Rescue Departments
- And others...



Who Reports the Death to the Coroner?

Section 5/3-3020: Every law enforcement official, funeral director, ambulance attendant, hospital director or administrator or person having custody of the body and any physician in attendance upon such a decedent at the time of his/her death, shall notify the Coroner promptly. Any such person failing to do so shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Coroner:

Chapter 55; Section 5/3-3013, as amended, mandates that specific types of death be referred to the Coroner's Office for investigation and determining cause and manner of death (see list below). These deaths include sudden and unexpected deaths, accidental deaths, and violent deaths. The Coroner has the authority under this Law shall go to the place where the dead body is and take charge of same and shall make a preliminary investigation into the circumstances of the 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, etc.)*
- *Death of a prisoner (e.g., deaths in any county or city jail while imprisoned or in custody).*
- *Suspicious Circumstances (e.g., Unidentified Bodies or events surrounding death)*
- *Sudden and Unexpected deaths (e.g., all deaths during a surgical procedure, in recovery, Occupational related deaths)*
- *anesthesia-related, unexpected natural death*
- *Without medical attendance within 24 hours of death:*
- *In cases of chronic illness, the attending physician may sign the death certificate if s/he can be reasonably certain of the cause of death.*
- *Unexpected infant deaths*

Who Signs the Death Certificate?

Section 5/3-3018: Every Coroner, as soon as he/she shall have completed his/her investigation of the cause and circumstances to death coming within his/her jurisdiction, shall issue a death certificate.

What Authority Does the Coroner Have in Regard to Investigation into the Circumstances of the Death?

Section 5/3-3013: In cases of apparent suicide, homicide or accidental death, the Coroner may...summon a jury of 6 persons... and conduct an inquest into the manner of death. All deaths in State institutions and all deaths of wards of the State in private care facilities... shall be reported to the Coroner of the County in which the facility is located.



What Authority Does the Coroner Have in Regard to the Dead Human Body?

Section 5/3-3019: No dead body...or the personal property of such a deceased person, shall be handled, moved, disturbed, embalmed or removed from the place of death by any person, except with the permission of the Coroner. Any person knowingly violating the provisions of this Section is guilty of Class A misdemeanor.

Section 5/3-3015: Where a death has occurred and the circumstances concerning the death are suspicious, obscure, mysterious and the cause of death cannot be established definitely except by autopsy, it shall be the duty of the Coroner to cause an autopsy to be performed.

Section 5/3-3021: The Coroner shall release the body of the decedent to the next-of-kin or to the funeral director selected by such persons. Authorization of appropriate next-of-kin is required by the Lake County Coroner's Office.



The History of the Lake County Coroner's Office

The Office of Coroner developed in England approximately 800 to 900 years ago. Coroners were originally referred to as "crowners", the name deriving from the fact that they were appointed by the Crown to represent the King's interest in the investigation of violent, unexplained or suspicious deaths, and in the disposition of any personal or real property that became available under the existing laws following a homicide or suicide. The Latin word for crown is "corona" and, hence, in later years, the name of the office came to be called

"CORONER"

Certainly, any history requires one to "reflect" on the past and the year 2018 is no exception to that. Unfortunately, there is so little historical data concerning the Office of the Lake County Coroner.

We do know that Starr Titus was the first Lake County Coroner, having been elected to office in 1839. It is unknown how long he served in that capacity, but we do know that Doc Taylor began his 45-year tenure in 1901 and served until 1946. Following Taylor was Gar Leaf, Paddy White, Pat Clavey, Oscar Lind, Mickey Babcox, Barbara Richardson (1982-2003), Jim Wipper, Richard Keller, Artis Yancy, and Tom Rudd. The current Lake County Coroner is Dr. Howard I. Cooper. In his time as Coroner, he has made many incredible positive changes in his strive for excellence.

The first morgue for Lake County, approved in 1968, was located in the lower level, commonly known as the basement, of the southwest corner of the courthouse. Then in 1980, it was moved to a county-converted service station at the corner of Utica and Washington Streets, becoming a "state-of-the-art" forensic science facility with the addition of a toxicology laboratory along with the morgue. This facility was a first for coroners throughout the State of Illinois.

The last chapter of Lake County history to date was written in 1994 when blueprints were turned into a renovation building project and the entire operation of the Lake County Coroner's Office, administrative and deputy offices, morgue and laboratory moved into the newly-renovated building at 26 North Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Waukegan.



Howard I. Cooper, D.D.S., M.A.G.D.
Coroner



Jason Patt, D-ABMDI
Chief



Tammy Williams, D-ABMDI
Sr. Deputy Coroner / Investigator



Mike Reid, D-ABMDI
Deputy Coroner / Investigator



Steve Carroll, D-ABMDI
Deputy Coroner / Investigator



Robert James, D-ABMDI
Deputy Coroner / Investigator



Sarah Pendley, D-ABMDI
Deputy Coroner / Investigator



Dana Dingman
Deputy Coroner / Investigator



James Ashworth
Deputy Coroner / Investigator



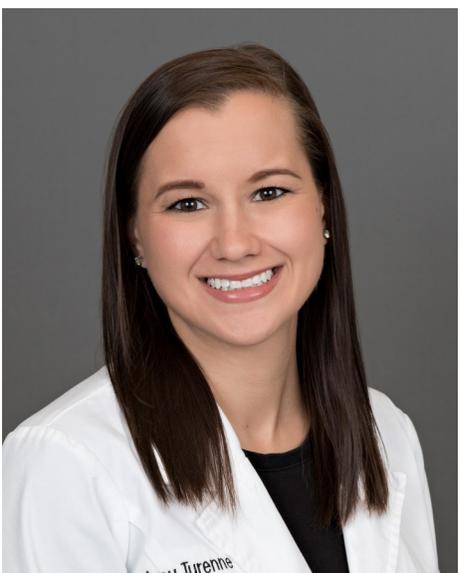
Kiersten Reif

Deputy Coroner / Investigator



Alex Reynosa

Executive Administrative Assistant



Amy Turenne

Forensic Toxicologist

Not pictured : **Sarah Spannraft** Autopsy Technician



K9 Bones

K9 Bones is a 2 1/2 year old Belgian Malinois. He came to us via grant funds from DAS Charitable Fund. We are in our first year with Bones, and he has been a tremendous resource to the citizens of Lake County, along with our neighboring counties. K9 Bones is used for missing persons searches, cadaver searches, firearm related item recoveries, and at times grief assistance.





2018 Office Accomplishments

Since the election of our current Coroner, Dr. Howard Cooper, there have been several new accomplishments and additions to the office. These additions have impacted both operations and employees, as well as benefiting the public.

8th Deputy Coroner Position

An 8th Deputy Coroner/Investigator position was approved in 2018 and filled in January 2019.

In 2018 7 Deputy Coroner/ Investigators were assigned 710 death investigations per Deputy. The approval for an 8th Deputy is expected to reduce the case load by 100 cases per Deputy.

This position will assist in providing more opportunities for the Deputies to maintain our commitment to excellence by having the time to attend yearly mandated training, participate more in community events and opportunities to present in educational programs.



Part-Time Autopsy Technician Position

A part-time autopsy technician position was created and filled. This position assists the case Deputy and Pathologist with the duties of autopsies. This new position has proven to enhance the service, productivity and operation of this office.

American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigator (ABMDI) Certification for Qualified Deputy Coroner

This certification demonstrates the high standards of professional practice and ethical conduct when performing all death investigations.

It is an Honor and Quite an Accomplishment to say that All Deputy Coroner/Investigators that are Board eligible have passed the Boards, which is a first in the history of The Lake County Coroner's Office.





2018 Office Accomplishments

Removal Service

In January of 2017, the Lake County Coroner's Office began a contract with Superior Ambulance. Superior now handles all of the removals for the Coroner's Office. Deputy Coroners no longer do the removals in the field, nor are the deceased transported in County vehicles.



New Morgue Tables

The office obtained new tables for use in both the Morgue and Autopsy. The tables include adjustable morgue tables, as well as low sided autopsy tables. A large Autopsy table was also purchased.

Pill Counter

Another addition to the office was the purchase of an automated pill counter. The Coroner's Office regularly collects medications from the scene. In the past, the investigator would hand count the pills as part of the inventory. This pill counter saves countless hours previously spent counting medications.



Modern and Updated Case Management Database

MDI Log, a new secured web-based database allows Deputies to input case details while on scene, upload case photos and even track statistics all in ease.



2018 Office Accomplishments

Class "A" Uniforms

For the first time, the deputies in the office were provided with dress uniforms. These uniforms are used at various functions from Police and other memorials and funerals. The uniforms help show the proper respect to these functions.



Annual Police and Fire Appreciation Night

An evening where Lake County Coroner's Office staff host a dinner to show our appreciation for all of our police and fire departments in Lake County.





Commitment to Excellence

In addition to Dr. Howard Cooper's commitment to **PROTECT LIFE and PREVENT DEATH** through his presentations at local schools, municipal fire, rescue, police and educational agencies, members of the Coroner's staff currently are involved with different committees and coalitions, one of which is the Lake County Opioid Initiative Program, a Lake County based coalition to coordinate comprehensive drug abuse prevention efforts in Lake County. Plans are in place for staff to continue to play an active role in Emergency Management and other safety coalitions.



Illinois Coroners and Medical Examiners Association



American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators, Inc.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES



Society of Medicolegal Death Investigators





Community Outreach

In 2018, the Coroner's Office continued to provide outreach and education to the public. The Coroner's Office is committed to providing the public with information and education on both statistical information, and the workings of the office. The office also allowed numerous job shadow opportunities for individuals interested in possibly pursuing a career in forensics.

Staff from the office also provided education to students at various schools in both classroom instruction, and Career Fairs.



In 2018 the Office conducted 23 group tours. The tours were given to High School classes, Youth Leadership Organizations, and the Boy Scouts, to name a few. The tours explain the duties of the Coroner's office and tour of our building. Dr Cooper also speaks about opioid deaths and making good choices.





Community Outreach

In July of 2018, the Coroner's Office provided further public contact with a booth at the Lake County Fair. Coroner Office staff interacted with the public by answering questions and providing general information. The Staff also offered fingerprint demonstrations and fingerprinting of children.



In September of 2018, the Coroner's Office participated in the Vernon Hills Law Enforcement Expo. The event was held at the Hawthorn Shopping Center. The office provided a booth and one of the Coroner Vehicles. The booth was manned by Coroner's Office staff. The staff provided information to the general public, as well as, handed out promotional items.





Community Outreach

The Coroner's Office, in conjunction with the Lake County Sheriff's Office, participated in the Shop With A Sheriff event in Round Lake Beach. Coroner Dr. Howard Cooper stated "We love being in the community volunteering our time, helping those in need." This was the seventh year that this event took place.





Community Outreach Plan

- ◆ Make the annual report available again to the public.

The last time a Coroner's Annual Report was published in Lake County was in 2004.

- ◆ Focus on our local hospitals who provide a partnership, support, compassion and care to Lake County
- ◆ Focus on Outreach – Locally and Beyond
 - ◇ Opioid Initiative Task Force
 - ◇ Medical Examiner & Coroner
 - ◇ Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Syndrome (SUIDS)
 - ◇ Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
 - ◇ National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
 - ◇ Police, Fire & Rescue Departments
 - ◇ Hospice Agencies
 - ◇ Lake County Health Department (LCHD)
 - ◇ Lake County Schools
 - ◇ Local Hospitals
 - ◇ OSHA
 - ◇ IL Association of Property Evidence Management



What is an autopsy?

What is an autopsy?

An autopsy is a surgical procedure (internal and external examination of the body) used to aid the Coroner in establishing a cause of death in those cases where the cause cannot be established with a reasonable degree of certainty without an autopsy or mandated by State Statute. An autopsy is performed by a licensed forensic pathologist who has been certified by the State of Illinois.

Does the family need to consent to an autopsy before the Coroner may authorize that one be performed?

No. The Coroner may order an autopsy to be performed in any case deemed necessary. In matters of death investigation, the Coroner has absolute and complete authority and unlimited powers to:

- ◆ Investigate
- ◆ Make chemical analysis of body tissues
- ◆ Subpoena
- ◆ Arrest

	2018	2017
AUTOPSIES PERFORMED	364	280



What is an inquest?

Coroner Inquests were the standard for every case, until the law changed in 2007, giving the Coroner the ability to determine Cause and Manner of Death without a jury. The last Coroner's Inquest in Lake County was held in 2006.

In 2017, Dr. Howard Cooper resurrected Inquests for all officer-involved deaths, deaths in custody, and any deaths in which the manner of death is questionable. This insures transparency of the entire investigation. In 2018, 3 inquests were conducted to determine manner of death.

	CASE TYPE	JURY RULED MANNER OF DEATH
09/28/2018	Officer Involved	Accident
10/25/2018	Officer Involved	Homicide
12/13/2018	In Custody	Natural

What is an INQUEST?

A Coroner's Inquest is neither a civil nor a criminal trial proceeding. It is simply an inquiry or investigation into the manner and cause of death of an individual.

An Inquest is conducted by Dr. Cooper, the Coroner, with a court reporter and six jurors present. Two alternate jurors are also selected and will be present. The jurors are citizens of Lake County, the County in which the death occurred.

The purpose of the Inquest is to present pertinent information concerning the victim's death in order for the jury to arrive at a cause and manner of death. The cause of death may have already been determined from available medical evidence, including toxicology and autopsy results. Upon completion of the testimony, the Coroner's Jury will deliberate in private. They may request additional testimony, evidence, or conference, as they deem necessary. When the jury has concluded their deliberation, they will issue a verdict through the Foreman as to the cause and manner of death. The real responsibility of the jury is to establish the manner of death (Natural, Homicide, Suicide, Accident, or Undetermined).

The Coroner will summon to the Inquest those individuals who have pertinent information concerning the incident. This often includes but is not limited to the person who found the deceased, witnesses to the incident, those involved, police officers and investigators, and, in some cases, a direct relative. Reports such as Autopsy, Toxicology, Accident Investigation Reports and diagrams may be presented at the time.

All information and testimony at the Inquest is recorded and/or transcribed verbatim in the Inquest transcript. The testimony presented at the Inquest is sworn and under oath.



LCCO Activities

01/01/2018—12/31/2018

DEATH CALLS REPORTED TO LCCO:		
TOTAL DEATH REPORTS	RELEASED TO MEDICAL	ACCEPTED CORONER CASES
4974	4462	512

DEATH CALLS- CORONER CASES			
TOTAL SCENE RESPONSES	TOTAL REMOVALS	TOTAL AUTOPSIES	LCCO SIGNED DC
347	419	364	150

MANNER OF DEATH (Coroner Cases)					
HOMICIDE	SUICIDE	ACCIDENT	NATURAL	UNDETERMINED	PENDING CASES
33	68	180	227	3	1

CORONER CASE CAUSES OF DEATH							
NEUROLOGIC	CARDIAC	KIDNEY	PULMONARY	LIVER	CANCER	GASTRO	OTHER CAUSES
8	136	2	19	16	10	11	25
ASPHYXIA DEATHS	DROWNING DEATHS	DRUG/ALCOHOL/POISON	FIRE RELATED DEATHS	FIREARM RELATED DEATHS	INJURIES DUE TO A FALL	VEHICULAR RELATED DEATHS	OTHER CAUSES
38	14	98	1	40	36	45	13



LCCO Activities

01/01/2018—12/31/2018

TOXICOLOGY REPORT STATUS-		
CORONER CASES- TOXICOLOGY TESTING	URINE DROP TOXICOLOGY TESTING (Non-Coroner Cases)	TOTAL NUMBER OF TESTS RUN FOR URINE DROP TOXICOLOGY TESTING (Non – Coroner Cases)
393	3069	5205

AUTOPSY CASES					
FULL (Signed by Pathologist)	EXTERNAL (Medical Record Review Signed by Pathologist)	LIMITED (Signed by Pathologist)	TOXICOLOGY ONLY	NONE	External Exams by Deputy
319	35	10	41	107	94

DEMOGRAPHICS								
AGE	1-5	6-10	11-17	18-25	26-44	45-64	65+	Pending ID
	4	2	9	39	106	206	145	1

RACE	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	OTHER	Pending ID
	429	64	14	5	0

GENDER	FEMALE	MALE	Pending ID
	148	364	0



Accidental Deaths (Non– MVA or Drugs)

In 2018, the Lake County Coroner's Office investigated 59 accidental deaths.
(Not motor vehicle or drug related)

Sex	
Female	22
Male	37
Total	59

Race	
Asian	1
Black	3
Hispanic	8
White	47
Total	59

Age Range	
0-10	1
11-20	4
21-30	2
31-40	1
41-50	3
51-60	6
61+	42
Total	59

Month of Occurrence	
January	7
February	2
March	3
April	4
May	3
June	3
July	4
August	9
September	5
October	5
November	8
December	6
Total	59

Type	
Drowning	13
Fall	35
Choking	4
Other	7
Total	59

Incident Location	
Antioch	1
Barrington	3
Beach Park	1
Buffalo Grove	1
Deer Park	1
Gages Lake	1
Grayslake	1
Gurnee	2
Highland Park	6
Highwood	2
Inverness	1
Lake Villa	1
Lake Bluff	1
Libertyville	7
Lincolnshire	1
Long Grove	1
Mundelein	1
North Chicago	1
Round Lake	1
Round Lake Beach	1
Round Lake Park	1
Wauconda	3
Waukegan	5
Wildwood	1
Zion	1
Unknown	1
Other (Non-Lake Co)	12
Total	59



LCCO Homicide Deaths

In 2018, the Lake County Coroner's Office investigated a total of 33 homicide deaths.

Sex	
Female	9
Male	24
Total	33

Month of Occurrence	
January	3
February	3
March	2
April	0
May	1
June	1
July	3
August	7
September	4
October	2
November	1
December	6
Total	33

Location	
Deerfield	1
Grayslake	1
Gurnee	1
Lake Forest	1
Lake Villa	1
Lakemoor	1
Lindenhurst	1
North Chicago	2
Round Lake	3
Waukegan	15
Zion	6
Total	33

Race	
Asian	1
Black	16
Hispanic	5
White	11
Total	33

Type	
Assault	3
Child Abuse	1
Motor Vehicle	7
Shooting	18
Stabbing	4
Total	33

Age Range	
0-10	2
11-20	3
21-30	9
31-40	9
41-50	4
51-60	4
61+	2
Total	33

Toxicology	
Positive	22
Negative	10
Not Tested	1
Total	33



LCCO Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths

In 2018, the Lake County Coroner's Office investigated a total of 37 motor vehicle accident deaths.

Sex	
Female	10
Male	27
Total	37

Race	
Other	3
Black	6
Hispanic	7
White	21
Total	37

Incident Time	
AM	14
PM	23
Total	37

Type	
Motor Vehicle Driver	15
Motor Vehicle Passenger	2
Pedestrian Vs MV	12
Motorcycle	3
Pedestrian vs Train	2
Golf Cart	1
Bicycle vs MV	2
Total	37

Toxicology	
Positive	16
Negative	21
Total	37

Age Range	
0-10	0
11-20	2
21-30	5
31-40	2
41-50	4
51-60	7
61+	17
Total	37

Month of Occurrence	
January	3
February	3
March	4
April	3
May	2
June	3
July	5
August	3
September	3
October	2
November	1
December	5
Total	37

Incident Location					
Antioch	2	Libertyville	2	Wadsworth	1
Beach Park	1	Lindenhurst	1	Wauconda	1
Fox Lake	2	Long Grove	1	Waukegan	2
Grayslake	1	Mundelein	3	Zion	2
Green Oaks	1	North Chicago	2	Total	37
Gurnee	5	Round Lake Beach	2		
Highland Park	1	Round Lake Park	1		
Ingleside	1	Spring Grove	1		
Kildeer	1	Vernon Hills	1		
Lake Barrington	1	Volo	1		



LCCO Natural Deaths

In 2018, the Lake County Coroner's Office investigated a total of 227 natural deaths.

Sex	
Female	68
Male	159
Total	227

Natural Cause	
Neurologic	8
Genitourinary	1
Cardiac	136
Kidney	2
Pulmonary	19
Liver	16
Gastrointestinal	11
Cancer	10
Other	24
Total	227

Storage
40

Race	
Asian	8
Black	26
Hispanic	22
White	171
Total	227

Age Range	
0-10	1
11-20	2
21-30	5
31-40	12
41-50	27
51-60	63
61-70	60
71-80	36
81-90	17
91-100	4
100+	0
Total	227



LCCO Suicide Deaths

In 2018, the Lake County Coroner's Office investigated a total of 68 suicide deaths.

Sex	
Female	17
Male	51
Total	68

Race	
Asian	5
Black	3
Hispanic	5
White	55
Total	68

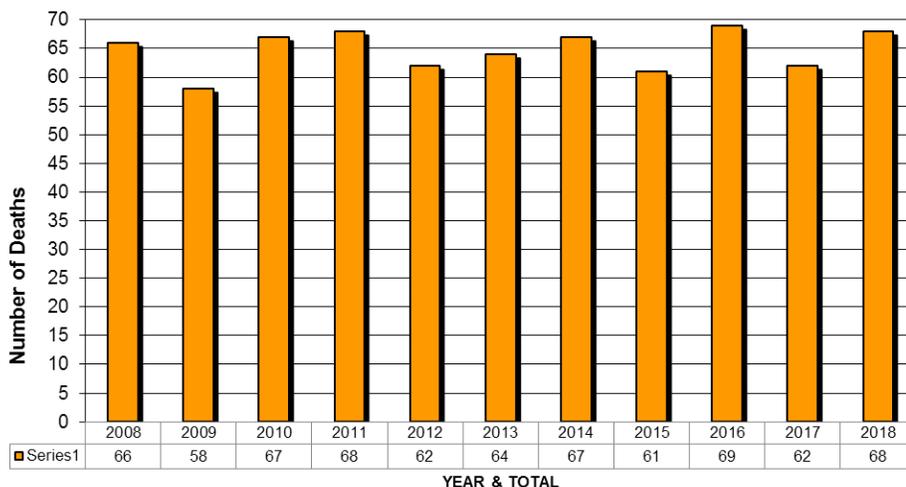
Age Range	
0-10	0
11-17	4
18-25	7
26-44	19
45-64	31
65+	7
Total	68

Month of Occurrence	
January	3
February	2
March	4
April	5
May	5
June	5
July	12
August	8
September	7
October	10
November	5
December	2
Total	68

Type	
Firearm	22
Hanging	28
Drugs	12
Jump/Fall	1
Stab/Cut	2
Other	3
Total	68

Police Jurisdiction	
Antioch	1
Buffalo Grove	3
Deerfield	2
Fox Lake	3
Grayslake	2
Gurnee	1
Highland Park	4
Highwood	1
Lake Bluff	1
Lake County	9
Lake Forest	5
Lakemoor	2
Lake Villa	1
Lake Zurich	3
Libertyville	2
Mundelein	1
North Chicago	1
Round Lake	2
Round Lake Beach	3
Round Lake Park	1
Vernon Hills	5
Wauconda	2
Waukegan	7
Zion	2
LC Forest Preserve	2
None	2
Total	68

10 YEAR COMPARISON



Toxicology	
Positive	44
Negative	24
Total	68



LCCO Unclaimed Bodies

The Lake County Coroner's Office made the removal of 28 decedents from Nursing Homes, Hospital and Residence that either had no family, were UNCLAIMED by family or family did not have a Funeral Home at time of death. This is only an increase of 1 from 2017. 6 of the 28 cases were UNCLAIMED Veterans an increase of 100% from 2017. There was a 71.4% increase in State Public Aid cases and County Cremations from 2017. The number of non-coroner case removals of unclaimed bodies from nursing homes and hospitals increased by 200% from 2017 and the number of non-coroner case removals from residence decreased by 77.3 %. The Lake County Coroner's Office staff was able to work with 11 families to provide disposition with an average of 60-90 days of storage in the county morgue. There is 1 UNIDENTIFIED body which is pending FBI DNA Analysis.

Sex	
Female	3
Male	25
Total	28

Manner of Death	
Natural	20
Pending	3
Accident	3
Homicide	2
Total	28

Month of Occurrence	
January	3
February	3
March	0
April	3
May	3
June	2
July	0
August	1
September	3
October	3
November	1
December	6
Total	28

Type of Investigation	
Coroner Case	11
Primary Care Physician	17
Total	28

Race	
Asian	0
Black	6
Hispanic	1
White	21
Total	28

Autopsies	
	9

Coroner Disposition	
County Cremation	4
State Public Aid	8
Veteran Burial	5

Removals	
Non -Coroner Cases	
Hospital	3
Nursing Home	9
Residence	5

Residence City			
Beach Park	1	Libertyville	2
Barrington	1	Mundelein	1
Cook County	2	North Chicago	1
Fox Lake	1	Riverwoods	1
Gages Lake	1	Round Lake Beach	1
Highland Park	2	Wadsworth	1
Lake Bluff	1	Waukegan	12
		Total	28

Disposition Status		Disposition Time Frame	15-30	31-60	61-90	91-120	+121
			Days	Days	Days	Days	Days
No Family	11			1	4	2	4
Family Abandoned Body	5			1	1	2	1
Family Claimed Body	11		1	2	2	4	2
Public Administrator Case	1			1			
UNIDENTIFIED	1						1

Age	0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81+	Total
	0	0	0	1	2	6	9	8	2	28



LCCO Undetermined Deaths

In 2018, the Lake County Coroner's Office investigated a total of 3 undetermined deaths.

Sex	
Female	0
Male	3
Total	3

Month of Occurrence	
January	1
February	0
March	0
April	0
May	0
June	1
July	0
August	1
September	0
October	0
November	0
December	0
Total	3

Location	
Waukegan	2
North Chicago	1
Total	3

Race	
Asian	0
Black	2
Hispanic	1
White	0
Total	3

Toxicology	
Positive	1
Negative	2
Total	3

Age Range	
0-10	2
11-20	1
21-30	0
31-40	0
41-50	0
51-60	0
61+	0
Total	3

Type	
Baby	2
Child	0
Teen	1
Adult	0
Total	3



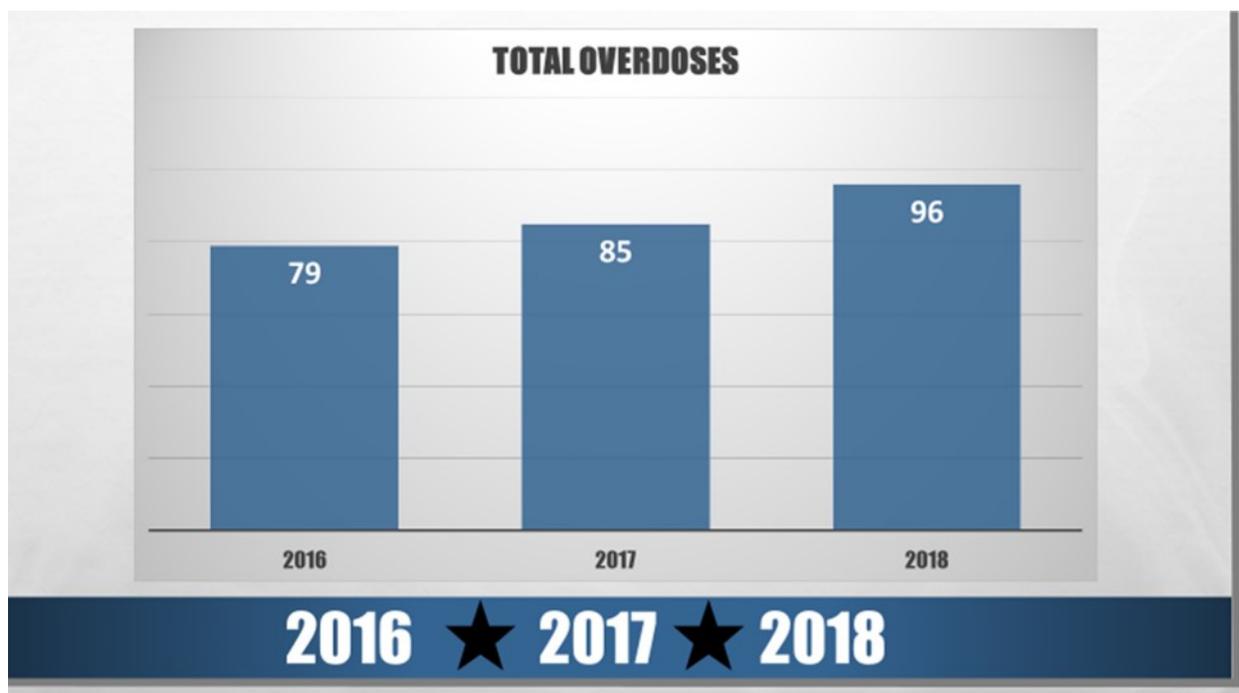
LCCO Comparative Data

The following chart shows the breakdown of deaths investigated by the Lake County Coroner's Office for each year shown.

HISTORICAL COMPARATIVE DATA				
	2018	2017	2002	1992
Total Deaths Investigated	4974	4967	3352	2243
Deaths Returned to Medical Professional	4462	4568	2840	1721
MANNERS OF DEATH				
Natural Deaths Investigated	227	160	314	365
Accidental Deaths	180	161	129	89
Homicides	33	25	14	17
Suicide Deaths	68	62	43	40
Undetermined Deaths	3	11	12	11
CAUSES OF DEATH				
Drowning Deaths	14	3	5	5
Poisoning/Drug Related Deaths	98	85	49	11
Fire Deaths	1	4	8	7
Firearm Related Deaths	40	36	n/a	n/a
Baby Deaths (0-2yo)	6	9	n/a	n/a
Vehicular Deaths	45	55	46	49
OFFICE ACTIVITIES				
Inquests Conducted	3	1	179	157
Autopsies	364	280	187	171
Cremation Permits Issued	2984	2884	1365	937



LCCO Drug Related Deaths



FENTANYL YEARLY BREAKDOWN

2016

- FENTANYL
- ACETYL FENTANYL
- FURANYL FENTANYL

2018

- FENTANYL
- ACETYL FENTANYL
- CYCLOPROPYL FENTANYL
- DESPROPIONYL FENTANYL

2017

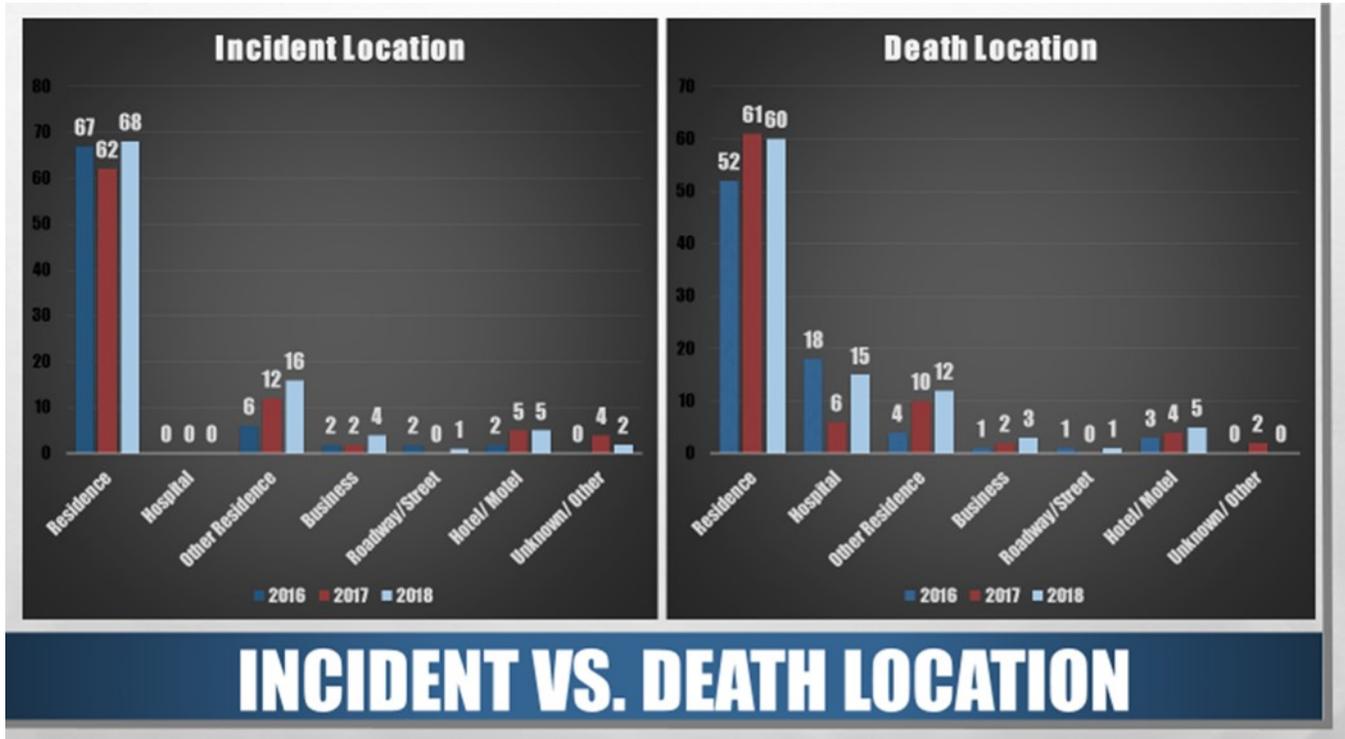
- FENTANYL
- FURANYL FENTANYL
- ACRYL FENTANYL
- U-47700
- PARAFLUOROBUTYRYL FENTANYL
- ACETYL FENTANYL
- CYCLOPROPYL FENTANYL
- DESPROPIONYL FENTANYL

2019

- FENTANYL
- CYCLOPROPYL FENTANYL
- VALERYL FENTANYL
- DESPROPIONYL FENTANYL
- ACETYL FENTANYL



LCCO Drug Related Deaths





LCCO Drug Related Deaths

In 2018, the Lake County Coroner's Office investigated a total of 96 drug related deaths.

Gender	
Male	65
Female	31
Total	96

Time of Occurrence	
AM	53
PM	43
Total	96

Incident Location	
Residence	68
Other Residence	16
Hospital	0
Roadway	1
Hotel/Motel	5
Business	4
Unknown	2
Total	96

Race	
White	78
Black	10
Hispanic	7
Asian	1
Total	96

Manner of Death	
Accident	85
Suicide	11
Homicide	0
Total	96

Death Location	
Residence	60
Other Residence	12
Hospital	14
Roadway	1
Hotel/Motel	6
Business	3
Total	96

Age Range	
0-19	1
20-29	27
30-39	28
40-49	20
50-59	13
60+	7
Total	96

Known Cases Naloxone Used
OVERDOSE CASES - 14
NATURAL CASES - 12
OTHER UNNATURAL CASES - 2



LCCO Drug Related Deaths

2018 Drug Related Deaths

Fentanyl - 6
Fentanyl + Heroin - 11
Fentanyl + Prescription Medication - 4
Fentanyl + Heroin + Cocaine - 4
Fentanyl + Heroin + Prescription Medication - 3
Fentanyl + Heroin + Cocaine + Prescription Medication - 3
Fentanyl + Cocaine + Prescription Medication - 3
Fentanyl + Heroin + Prescription Medication + Diphenhydramine - 1

Heroin - 4
Heroin + Cocaine - 5
Heroin + Prescription Medication - 2
Heroin + Cocaine + Prescription Medication - 4

Cocaine - 5
Cocaine + Prescription Medication - 1

Prescription Medication - 24
Prescription Medication + Ibuprofen - 3
Prescription Medication + Diphenhydramine - 3
Prescription Medication + Imodium - 1
Prescription Medication + Ibuprofen + Diphenhydramine - 1
Diphenhydramine - 2

Difluoroethane - 2
GHB - 1
Other Substances - 3
TOTAL = 96

Alcohol was a direct result of death in 19 of the cases listed above.



Lake County Coroner's Office Toxicology Laboratory

The Lake County Coroner's office is the only Coroner's office in the state of Illinois with an in-house toxicology lab. The lab performs work on blood and urine samples collected at autopsy and tests for common drugs of abuse along with blood alcohol content (BAC). The lab can test and produce results for casework in under an hour for streamlined case decision making.

In addition to testing Coroner case toxicology samples, the toxicology lab also cooperatively works with other agencies within Lake County Government and agencies in surrounding Lake County areas. Within Lake County Government, the Toxicology lab does all confirmatory testing for the Community Based Corrections programs through the Lake County Sheriff's office and all the confirmatory testing for Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation and Pretrial departments in the 19th Judicial Circuit Court. Within the surrounding communities, the lab works with Oxford Houses, Moore Houses, The City of Waukegan along with various other in and out of state probation departments to drug test for their clients.

Coroner Toxicology Cases Tested

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
370	371	393

Outside Agency Urine Drops Tested

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
3347	3574	3064

Total Number of Tests Run in Coroner Laboratory

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
6108	7229	6384



Highlight Case — The Dig

On September 17, 2018 around 7:00 PM the Lake County Coroner's Office responded to a scene where human bones were discovered by a homeowner who was landscaping in her backyard. The homeowner assumed they were human because the jawbone didn't have fangs. She called 911 and the Lake County Sheriff's Office responded. The Sheriff's Deputy, in turn, called Dr. Cooper to confirm the bones were human. Dr. Cooper dispatched Chief Deputy Coroner Patt and Bones, a one-year-old Belgian Malinois trained as a cadaver dog, to the scene to do a full search. After Bones found more human remains, the Coroner's Office decided to come back in the morning, with additional resources, and perform a full search and recovery operation for the remaining human bones.

The Lake County Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and NCIS were called to help. The area where Bones had found the human remains was sectioned off and everyone concentrated in that area to search. We set up a complete archeologic dig and 6 hours later we recovered approximately 75% of a human skeleton.

Anthropologist Dr. Erin Waxenbaum from Northwestern University also responded to the scene where she cleaned, measured, and evaluated the bones. The bones did not indicate there were any signs of foul play. She believed they may be Native American in origin and recommended that we send them to The Illinois State Museum Research and Collection Center for further examination. After careful examination, they determined that the remains were of a 20 to 30-year-old Prehistoric American Indian male. The bones have been estimated to be 800–1000 years old and will be repatriated back to a tribe in the future.





Gift of Hope

In 2002, the organization known as ROBI (Regional Organ Bank of Illinois) became known as Gift of Hope. The Lake County Coroner's Office is proud to work with Gift of Hope in their mission "To save and enhance the lives of as many people as possible through organ and tissue donation." Gift of Hope is a not-for-profit organ procurement organization that coordinates organ and tissue donations and provides public education on donation in Illinois and northwest Indiana.

The Lake County Coroner's Office continues to make organ and tissue procurement a top priority. In 2018, we were able to coordinate with Gift of Hope in approximately 200 donations. According to Gift of Hope, organs and tissues from a single donor can benefit as many as 25 to 30 recipients. The Lake County Coroner's Office continues to support awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donations. With our coordinating efforts, lives can continue to be saved through the donations of those who are tragically lost.

Here is a breakdown of donors based on hospital:

Condell:	55
Good Shepherd:	24
Lake Forest:	8
Vista:	51
Highland Park:	7



CASE STUDY:

HOMICIDE VICTIM SAVES FOUR LIVES

While some cases are released for donation with ease, others, like homicides, present challenges. But these are welcome challenges that provide opportunities for Gift of Hope and its forensics partners to strengthen their roles in the shared donation process.



HOWARD COOPER, DDS
LAKE COUNTY CORONER

Lake County Illinois Coroner Howard Cooper, DDS, who has practiced forensic dentistry for 26 years, believes homicides are challenging when it comes to donation because of conflicting protocols that forensics and donation professionals must follow to do their respective jobs. "There are other entities involved in the investigative process like law enforcement and the State's Attorney, and that process cannot be jeopardized in any way. The smallest mistake could mean a criminal will run free."

Cooper, who was elected into office in November 2016, recently worked with Gift of Hope on a donor referral that stemmed from a homicide involving a head injury. The rest of the victim's body did not sustain any trauma, and no other contributing factors led to death. Once the victim's family authorized donation, the coroner's office communicated what was needed to honor their donation decision. As a result, the lives of four people were saved.

"Communication is key," stressed Cooper. "We know not every situation will be perfect, but if we maintain open and frequent communication we can figure out how to help each other and the families."

As a dentist, much of the oral surgery Cooper still performs uses bone recovered from donors. "We use it almost every day," he said. "If it wasn't for donation, I wouldn't be able to do what I do. Donation helps people in several ways. We just need to take careful measures to maintain the integrity of our investigative process, especially with homicides."

Cooper's extensive forensics background includes helping to identify victims of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. In his new role as coroner, he wants to raise awareness about the ongoing heroin epidemic. "I want to talk to kids about the dangers and consequences of drug abuse, specifically heroin," Cooper said. "Seeing so many young lives taken by this drug was a big motivator for me to run for office. This problem is out of control, and I want to work with my county to make a difference."

HERE IS THE PROCESS THAT LED TO THIS SUCCESSFUL DONATION OUTCOME:

1. Gift of Hope provided coroner with admit blood and admit urine
2. Deputy coroner examined body at the hospital
3. Gift of Hope called coroner's office as soon as possible with operating room time
4. Photos of organs provided to coroner before recovery
5. Photos of organs (front and back) provided to coroner after recovery
6. Surgeon documented any trauma to organs and shared results in operative report
7. Gift of Hope communicated cross-clamp time to coroner
8. In accordance with chain of custody, body remained with hospital/Gift of Hope until transportation of body to coroner's office coordinated



Lake County, Illinois

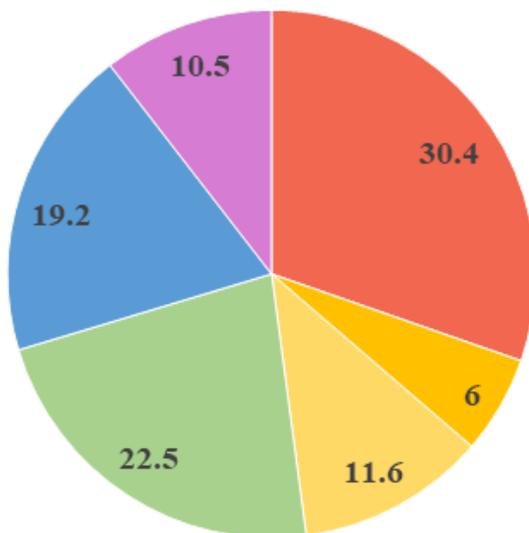


Lake County consists of 18 townships, shown in the map above. The total population of Lake County is 703,462 people.



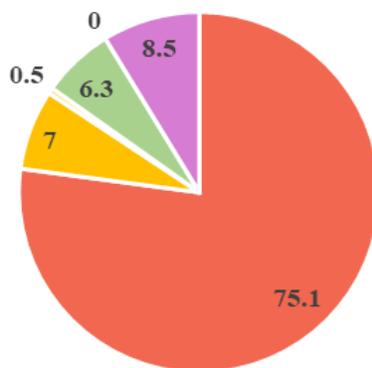
Lake County, Illinois

Lake County Population by Age



■ Under 19 ■ 20-24 ■ 25-34 ■ 35-49 ■ 50-64 ■ 65 and up

Lake County Population by Race



■ White
■ Black or African American
■ American Indian and Alaska Native
■ Asian
■ Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
■ Some Other Race