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Office of the Medical Examiner State of Kentucky 2018 Annual Report

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Overview

Introduction

The Office of the Medical Examiner investigates deaths occurring in the state of Kentucky, as authorized by Kentucky's elected coroners. The staff assists Kentucky coroners and law enforcement agencies in all aspects of death investigations by determination of the cause and manner of death, identification of the deceased, and collection and interpretation of trace evidence. The Medical Examiner Division performed services for approximately 2,199 deaths. A detailed summary of the case distribution is delineated in this report. It should be noted that this annual report does not include all deaths occurring in Kentucky, but rather those cases investigated by the Kentucky Medical Examiner Program. For total numbers of deaths occurring in the state, please contact:

Office of Vital Statistics
275 E. Main St. 1EA
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-4212

The following report is presented in two sections. The first section summarizes the activity of the Medical Examiner's Office. The second section presents data routinely collected by the Medical Examiner's Office in regards to medicolegal death investigations performed. The graphs and figures presented are designed to be self-explanatory and provide the reader with a brief understanding of the types of cases completed within this Division.

Overview—Office of the Medical Examiner – 2018

The Medical Examiners Office performs death investigations and postmortem examinations at four separate regional offices around the state:

- The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Louisville, KY
- The Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner in Frankfort, KY
- The Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office in Madisonville, KY
- The Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office in Ft. Thomas, KY

There are six basic functions of the Office of the Medical Examiner:

- determine the cause and manner of death of individual decedents in a timely fashion
- identify the dead with a high degree of certainty and written documentation
- prepare and maintain accurate, thorough and timely reports regarding examinations and opinions
- safeguard and account for evidence and personal property
- maintain confidentiality of case information
- base expert opinions on logical conclusions after considering all historical and physical evidence available, in light of current scientific and medical knowledge

All medical examiner offices in Kentucky are staffed by board certified and/or board eligible forensic pathologists. These forensic pathologists are physicians who have undergone at least five years of postgraduate training to become proficient in the subspecialty of forensic pathology. The forensic pathologists routinely perform postmortem examinations; consult with law enforcement officials and attorneys regarding aspects of investigations including blood spatter analysis, crime scene investigation and toxicology interpretation; meet with decedents' families; and provide expert testimony in courts throughout Kentucky.

Our Mission

The mission of the Kentucky Medical Examiners Office is to serve the public by:

- providing accurate, thorough and efficient medical legal investigations of death, thereby,
- ensuring justice, and
- providing solace, comfort and protection to the living

Reportable Deaths

KRS 72.025 Circumstances requiring post-mortem examination to be performed by coroner.

Coroners shall require a post-mortem examination to be performed in the following circumstances:

- (1) When the death of a human being appears to be caused by homicide or violence;
- (2) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of suicide;
- (3) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of the presence of drugs or poisons in the body;
- (4) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of a motor vehicle accident and the operator of the motor vehicle left the scene of the accident or the body was found in or near a roadway or railroad;
- (5) When the death of a human being occurs while the person is in a state mental institution or mental hospital when there is no previous medical history to explain the death, or while the person is in police custody, a jail or penal institution;
- (6) When the death of a human being occurs in a motor vehicle accident and when an external examination of the body does not reveal a lethal traumatic injury;
- (7) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of a fire or explosion;
- (8) When the death of a child appears to indicate child abuse prior to the death;
- (9) When the manner of death appears to be other than natural;
- (10) When human skeletonized remains are found;
- (11) When post-mortem decomposition of a human corpse exists to the extent that external examination of the corpse cannot rule out injury or where the circumstances of death cannot rule out the commission of a crime;
- (12) When the death of a human being appears to be the result of drowning;
- (13) When the death of an infant appears to be caused by sudden infant death syndrome in that the infant has no previous medical history to explain the death;
- (14) When the death of a human being occurs as a result of an accident;
- (15) When the death of a human being occurs under the age of forty (40) and there is no past medical history to explain the death;
- (16) When the death of a human being occurs at the work site and there is no apparent cause of death such as an injury or when industrial toxics may have contributed to the cause of death;
- (17) When the body is to be cremated and there is no past medical history to explain the death;
- (18) When the death of a human being is sudden and unexplained; and
- (19) When the death of a human being occurs and the decedent is not receiving treatment by a licensed physician and there is no ascertainable medical history to indicate the cause of death.

Effective: July 15, 1998

Kentucky's Combined Coroner-Medical Examiner System

- (1) The coroner determines whether the case becomes a medical examiner case.
- (2) "Post-mortem examination" as discussed in KRS 72, is not defined as an autopsy. Not all circumstances defined by KRS 72.025 will be referred to the State Medical Examiners System, rather they will be investigated solely by the Coroner.
- (3) The medical examiner and the coroner may discuss whether a complete autopsy, a focused examination, or external inspection with toxicology specimen acquisition is warranted on certain cases. The Medical Examiner makes a MEDICAL DECISION regarding the type and amount of examination done to render a medicolegal opinion and thus provide assistance to the coroner. In all cases submitted by a coroner with an authorization, a report including a final opinion is generated.
- (4) In the rare event that the coroner declines to authorize an examination by the Medical Examiner's office in a case in which law enforcement investigators conclude that ME involvement is crucial, then law enforcement may obtain and authorize an examination by the ME office by procuring a court order through the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.
- (5) In any case undergoing examination by a Kentucky ME, the ME performing the examination renders an official opinion regarding both cause and manner of death.

Statutory Duty

72.210 Purpose of Division of Kentucky State Medical Examiners Office.

In enacting legislation establishing a Division of Kentucky State Medical Examiners Office for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, it is not the intention of the General Assembly to abolish or interfere with the coroner in his role as a constitutionally elected peace officer. It is the intention of the General Assembly for the office to aid, assist, and complement the coroner in the performance of his duties by providing medical assistance to him in determining causes of death.

Effective: July 15, 1998

History: Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 65, sec. 4, effective July 15, 1998. -- Created 1968 Ky. Acts ch. 114, sec. 1.

Medical Examiner Regional Offices

Kentucky has four regional medical examiner offices throughout the Commonwealth. Each office provides coverage to counties within their designated region. These four medical examiners offices together performed 2,199 postmortem examinations in 2018.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

Physician/Doctorate Staff

- Darius Arabadjief, MD
- Amy Burrows-Beckham, MD
- Randall Falls, DO
- **William Ralston, MD**
 - Chief Medical Examiner
- Jeffrey Springer, MD
- Donna Stewart, MD

Mailing Address

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)
Bingham Building, 1st Floor
10511 LaGrange Rd,
Louisville, KY 40223

Phone Numbers

Telephone: (502) 489-5209
Fax: (502) 489-5213

Regional Coverage

The OCME covers the following **CENTRAL** counties in Kentucky:

Adair, Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Butler, Carroll, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Henry, Jefferson, Larue, Marion, Meade, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Oldham, Russell, Shelby, Simpson, Spencer, Taylor, Trimble, and Warren.

The OCME also provides coverage for the following Southern Indiana counties:

Southern Indiana counties: Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Dubois, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Ohio, Orange, Perry, Scott, Spencer, Switzerland, Warrick, and Washington.

****As of May 2018, the OCME no longer provides medical examiner coverage for any Southern Indiana county.**

The Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office (EKME)

Physician/Doctorate Staff

- Meredith Frame, MD
- Lauren Lippincott, DO

Mailing Address

Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office (EKME)
Central Laboratory Facility
100 Sower Blvd, STE 202
Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone Numbers

Telephone: (502) 564-4545

Fax: (502) 564-1699

Regional Coverage

The EKME covers the following **EASTERN** counties:

Anderson, Bath, Bell, Bourbon, Boyle, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clark, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Garrard, Harlan, Harrison, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Scott, Washington, Wayne, Whitley, Wolf, and Woodford.

The Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office (WKME)

Physician/Doctorate Staff

- Christopher Kiefer, MD

Mailing Address

Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WKME)

25 Brown Badgett Loop

Madisonville, KY 42431

Phone Numbers

Telephone: (270) 824-7048

Fax: (270) 824-7092

Regional Coverage

The **WKME** in Madisonville office covers the following **WESTERN** counties:

Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Todd, Trigg, Union, and Webster.

Weekend, holiday, and vacation coverage for the WKME office is provided by the OCME.

The Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office (NKME)

Physician Doctorate/Staff

- No physician staff during 2018
 - This office was covered by the OCME and EKME for all of 2018.

Mailing Address

Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office (NKME)

85 North Grand Avenue

Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

Phone Numbers

Telephone: (859) 572-3559

Fax: (859) 572-3558

The **NKME** in Ft. Thomas office covers the following **NORTHERN** counties:

The NKME was not staffed during 2018. The office accepted cases only a few days a month in which the Chief Medical Examiner performed the examinations. All other days, cases from counties served by the NKME were sent to the EKME or OCME for examination.

Figure 1. Regional Medical Examiner Office County Coverage

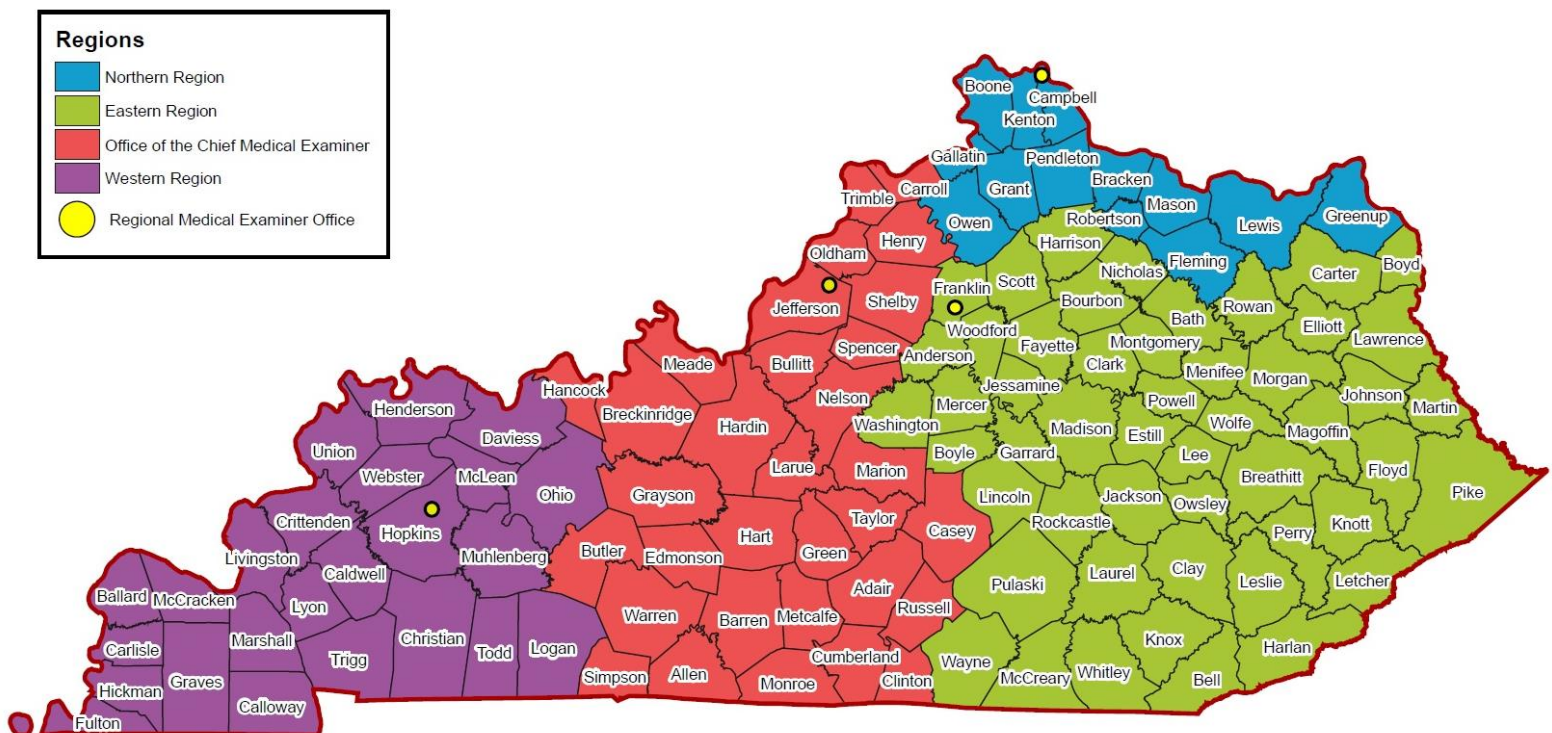
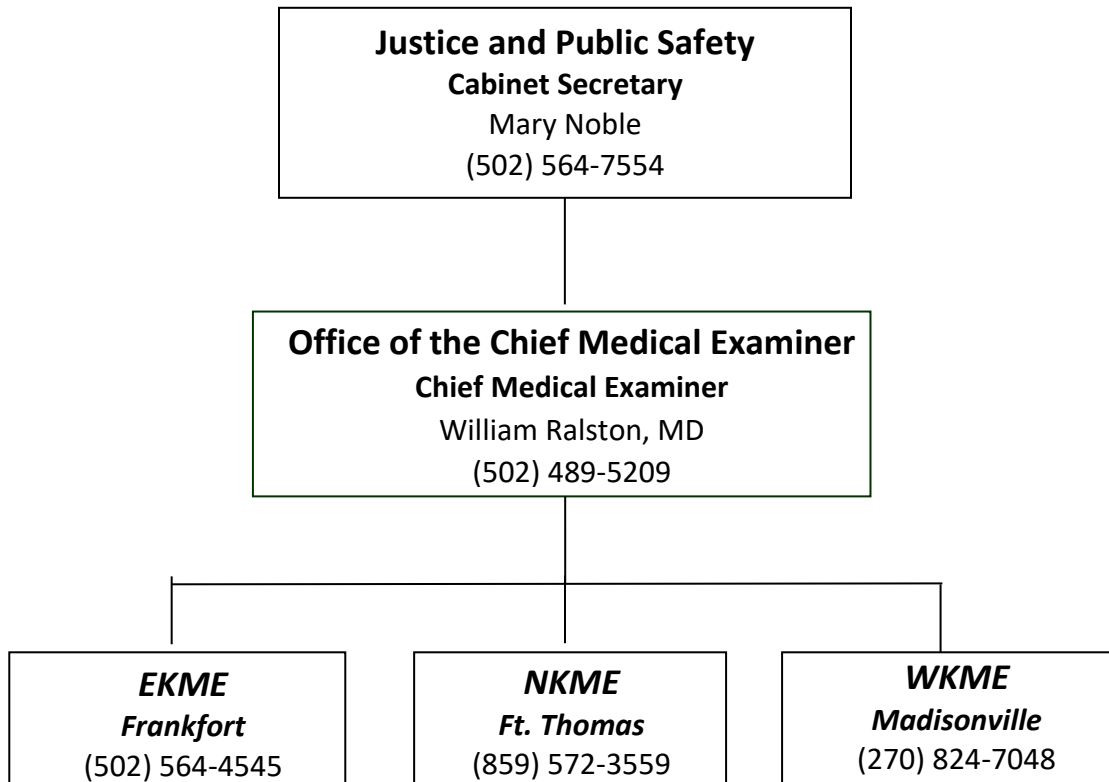


Figure 2. Office of the Medical Examiner Organizational Chart *

*The Office of the Medical Examiner organizational chart reflects staff at time of publishing June 24, 2020. Work for 2018 may have been performed under a different administration.

Training and Education

The Medical Examiner's Division provides educational instruction in death investigation to coroners, law enforcement, medical, and social service agencies throughout the state. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner plays an active role in the University of Louisville Department of Pathology educational programs and activities. Staff pathologists participate in the training of medical students, residents and fellows. Furthermore, the Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiners Office plays an active role in the University of Kentucky, Department of Pathology.

Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program

The University of Louisville Division of Forensic Pathology Fellowship program is a one-year extensive training program in the subspecialty of forensic pathology. The trainee works with all of the attending physicians, gaining exposure to a wide spectrum of cases with various histories, causes, manners and mechanisms of death. The trainee is always supervised by one of the attending physicians in the autopsy room. The gross findings are discussed during the dissection, dictated at the table, and are signed out at the end of dissection. Case discussions are initiated prior to autopsy, and continued with staff and investigators through the multi-step process to the final report. The trainee is supervised throughout the process of interpretation of radiographs, microscopic slides, and toxicologic analysis. An attending pathologist always co-signs the final autopsy report with the trainee.

Accreditation

The Kentucky State Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Louisville, KY is fully accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) through December 2018.

The University of Louisville Division of Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Louisville, KY is fully accredited by The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) through April 2018.

Disclaimer

This report will present selected data routinely collected by the Medical Examiner Offices. The graphs and tables summarize data collected on all cases performed at the four regional offices.

This report does not represent all deaths occurring in Kentucky, nor all coroner reportable deaths, but rather only the cases investigated by the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Regional Offices. The coroners' offices only request medical examiner assistance on some, but not all coroner reportable deaths. Therefore, this report shall not be used for statewide fatality totals. For statewide totals, please contact:

Office of Vital Statistics
275 E. Main St. 1EA
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-4212



Statewide Medical Examiner Data

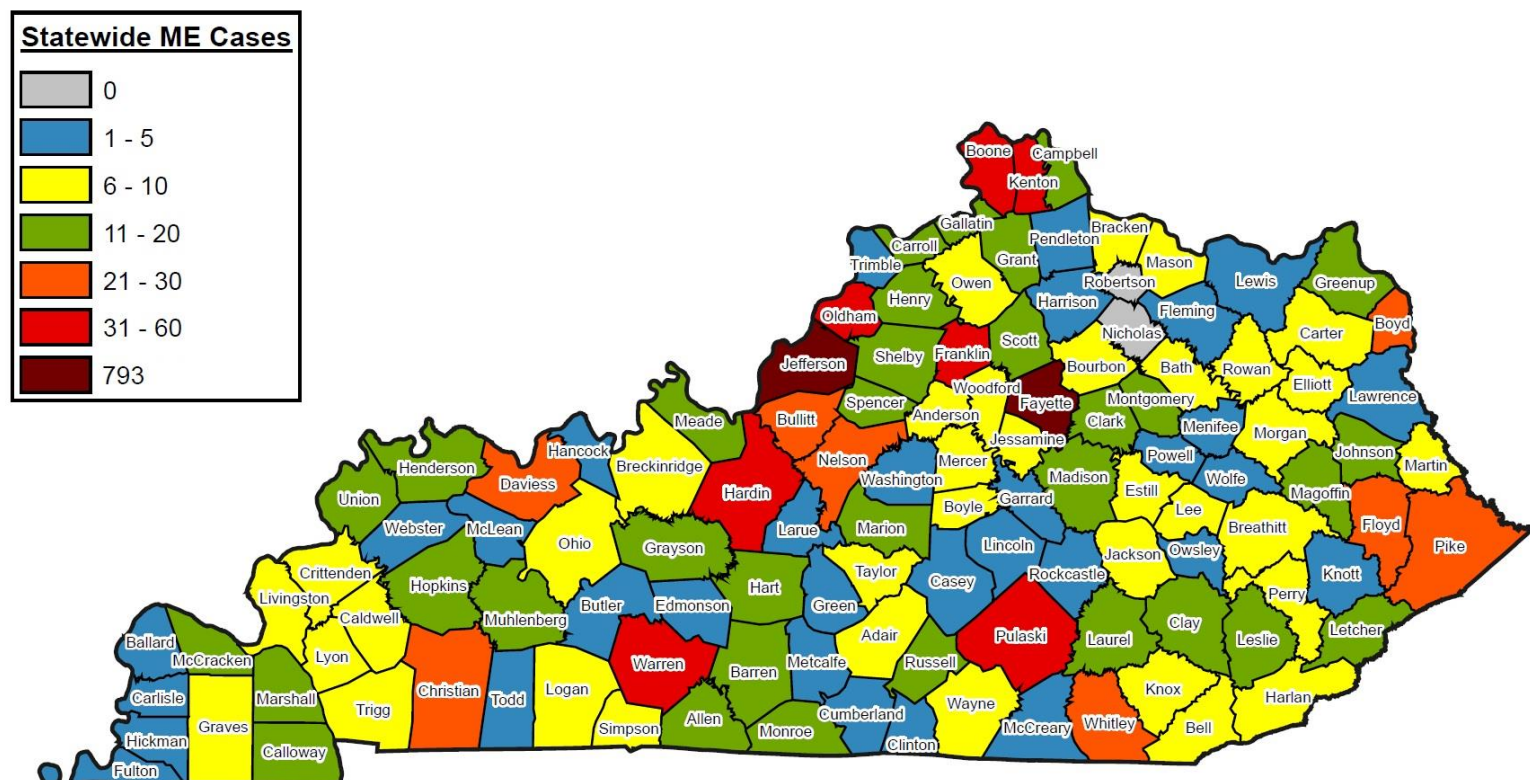
Table 1. Total Medical Examiner (ME) Cases, 2018

Region	Count
OCME Louisville	1,296
EKME Frankfort	743
WKME Madisonville	157
NKME Ft. Thomas	3
State	2,199

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Figure 3. Statewide ME Cases Sent for Autopsy by Locality of Death, 2018



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Figure 4. Statewide ME Cases by Year of Autopsy, 2000-2018

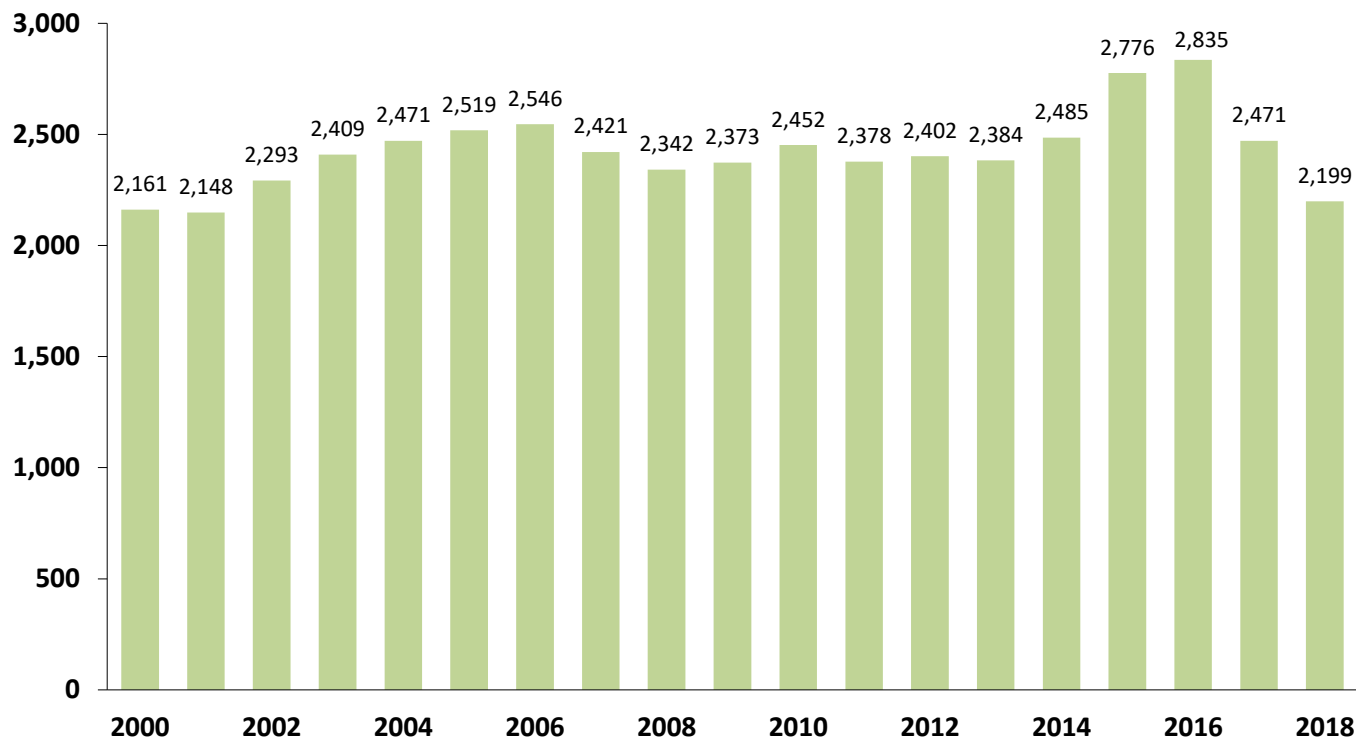
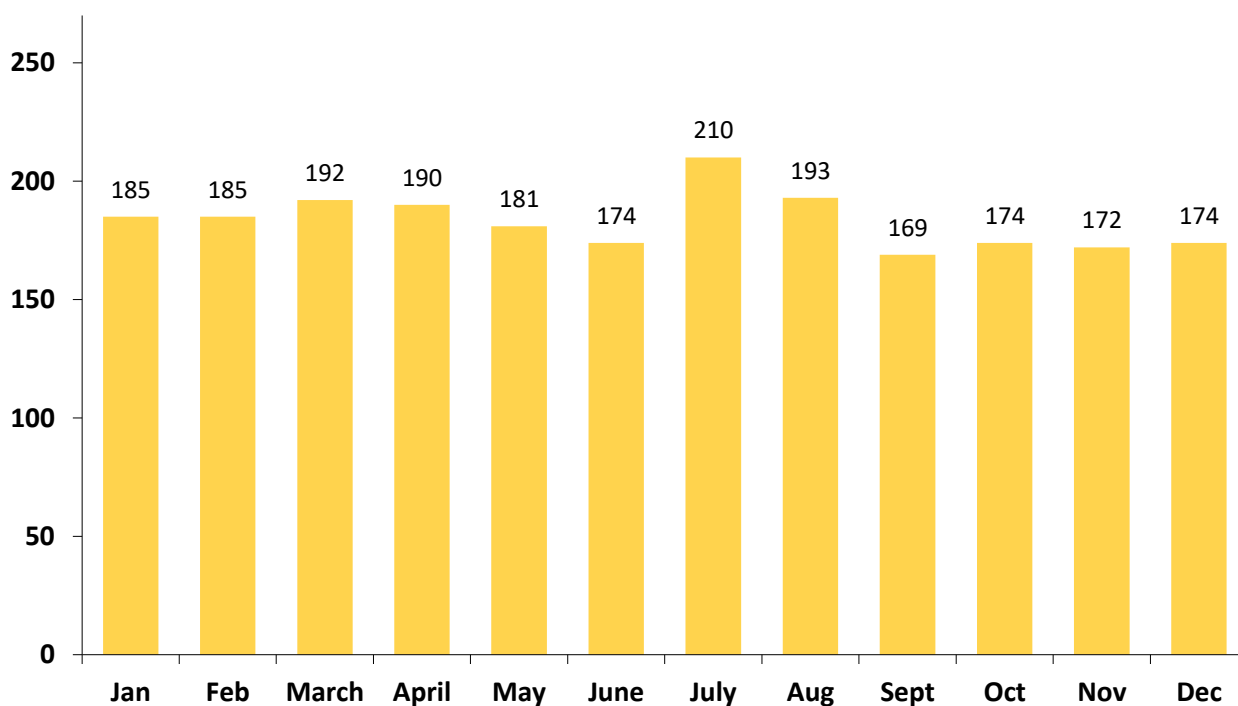


Figure 5. Statewide ME Cases by Month of Autopsy, 2018



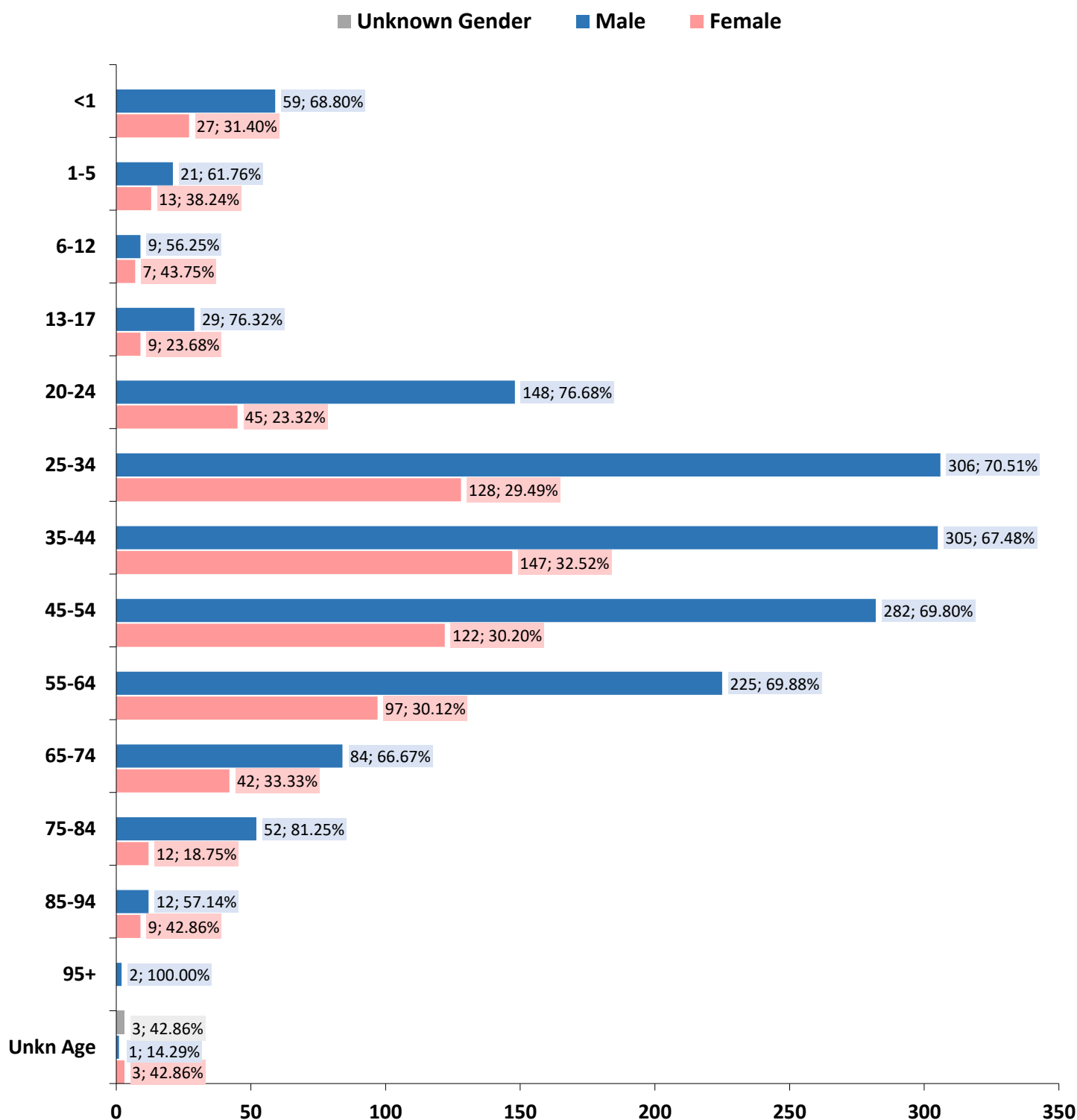
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Table 2. Statewide ME Cases by Demographics, 2018

Category	Total	Percentage
Gender		
Male	1535	69.80%
Female	661	30.06%
Unknown	3	0.14%
Age		
<1	86	3.91%
1-5	34	1.55%
6-12	16	0.73%
13-17	38	1.73%
18-24	193	8.78%
25-34	434	19.74%
35-44	452	20.55%
45-54	404	18.37%
55-64	322	14.64%
65-74	126	5.73%
75-84	64	2.91%
85-94	21	0.95%
>95	2	0.09%
Unknown	7	0.32%
Race		
White	1800	81.86%
Black	300	13.64%
Hispanic	48	2.18%
Asian	8	0.36%
Multi-Racial	15	0.68%
Other	14	0.64%
Unknown	14	0.64%

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 6. Statewide ME Cases by Age and Gender, 2018



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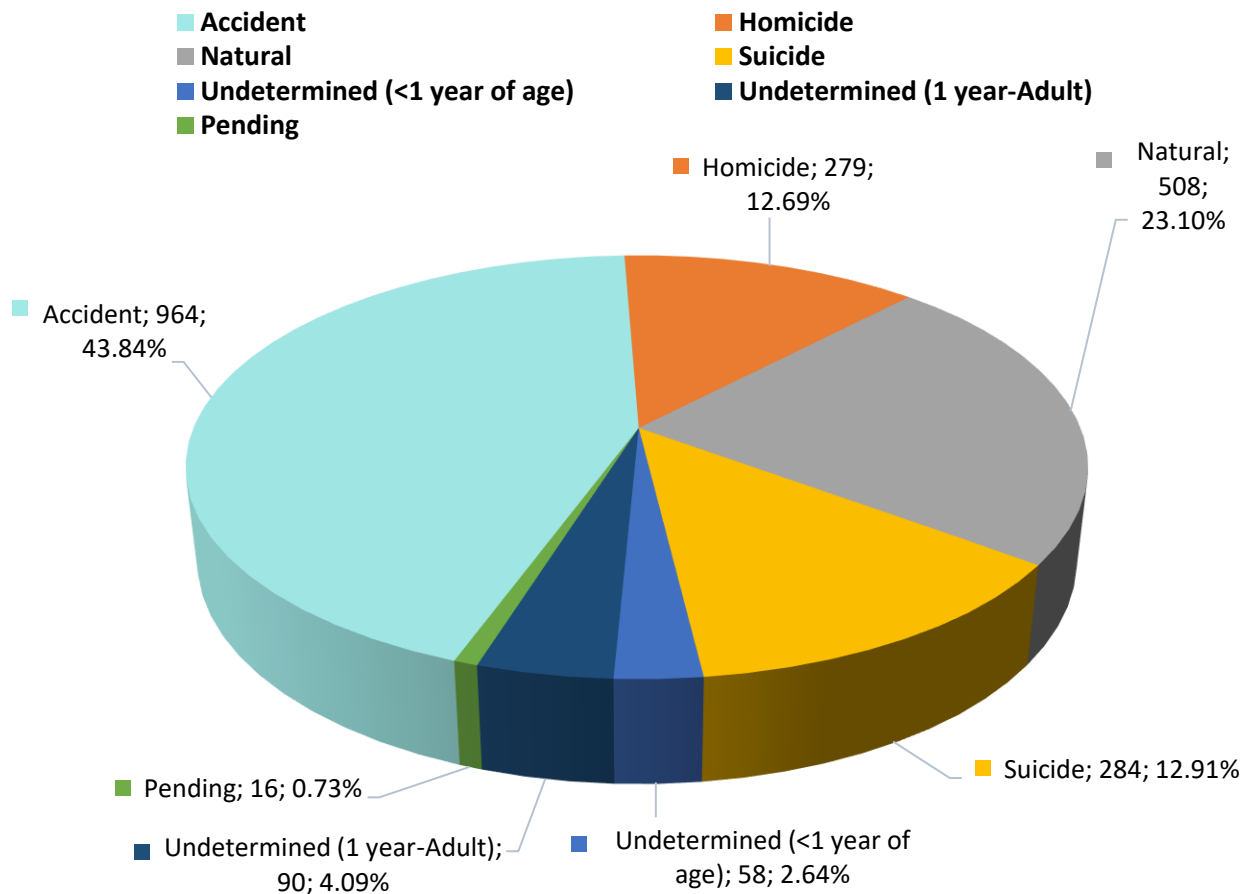
Table 3. Statewide ME Cases by Manner of Death, 2018

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	964	43.84%
Homicide	279	12.69%
Natural	508	23.10%
Suicide	284	12.91%
Undetermined (<1 year of age)	58	2.64%
Undetermined (1 year – Adult)	90	4.09%
Pending	16	0.73%
Skeletal remains of no forensic significance ¹	3	0.14%
TOTAL	2,199	

¹Skeletal remains of no forensic significance are not included in the total forensic caseload.

Figure 7. Statewide ME Cases by Manner of Death, 2018

N=2,199



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

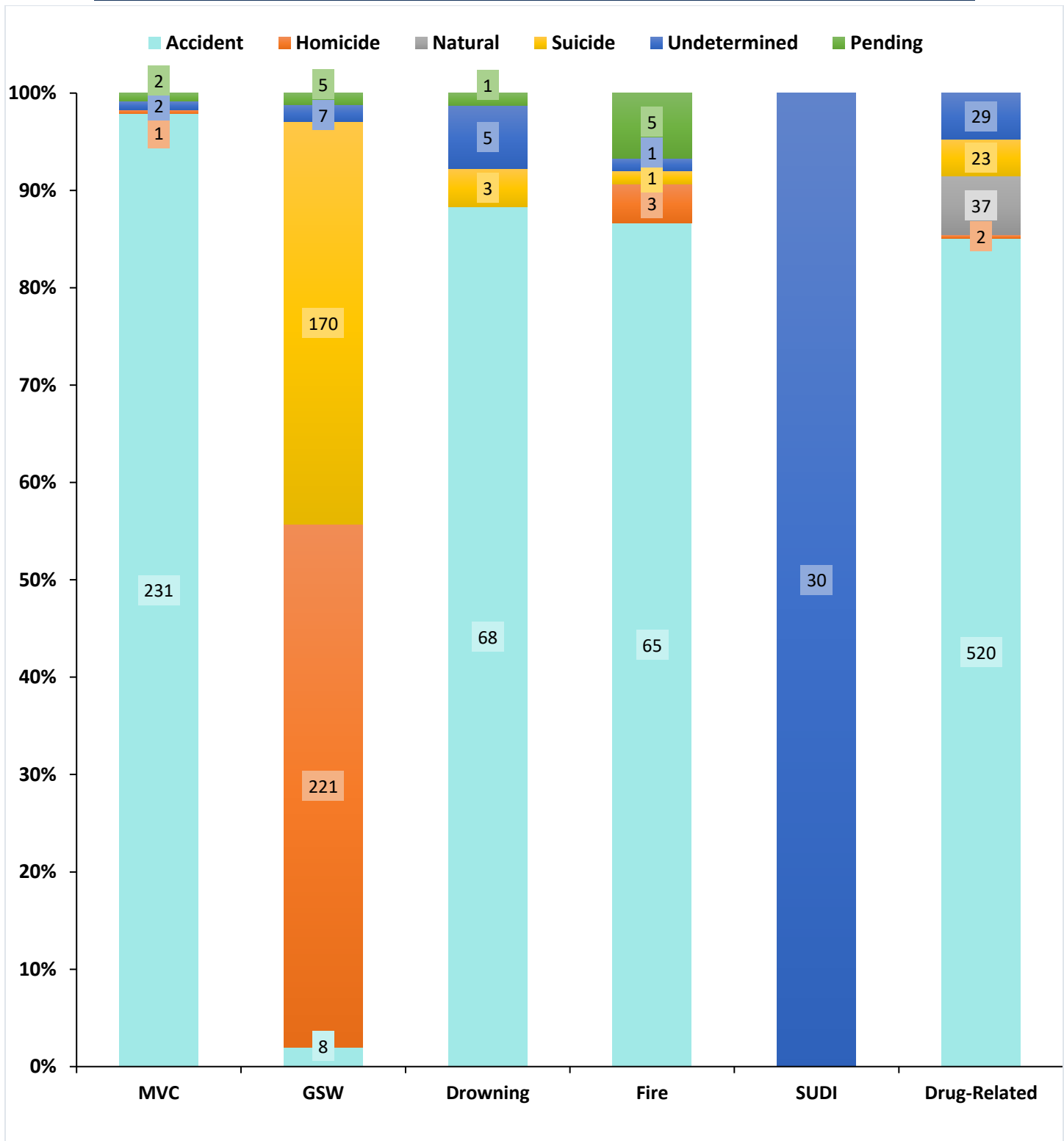


Table 4. Statewide ME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2018

Cause of Death¹	Total	Percentage
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	236	10.73%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	411	18.69%
Drowning	77	3.50%
Fire	75	3.41%
SUID	30	1.36%
Drug-Related	611	27.79%
<i>...Involving Heroin</i>	119	19.48%
<i>...Involving Fentanyl and Analogs</i>	336	54.99%
<i>...Involving Methamphetamine</i>	280	45.83%

¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 8. Statewide ME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2018¹⁻²

¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

²Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Table 5. Statewide ME Adult (>18) Homicides by Cause of Death, 2018

N=258

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage ¹
Gunshot Wound	212	82.17%
Blunt Force Injury	20	7.75%
Sharp Force Injury	19	7.36%
Asphyxia	11	4.26%
Fire	3	1.16%
Drug	3	1.16%
Natural Event ²	2	0.78%
Neglect	1	0.39%

¹Percentage is calculated using the total number of adult homicide deaths, n=258. Percentage may be >100% as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

²Natural events and complications thereof occurring during or following an altercation/assault. Natural event may or may not be in the setting of natural disease.

Table 6. Statewide ME Adult (>18) Suicides by Cause of Death, 2018

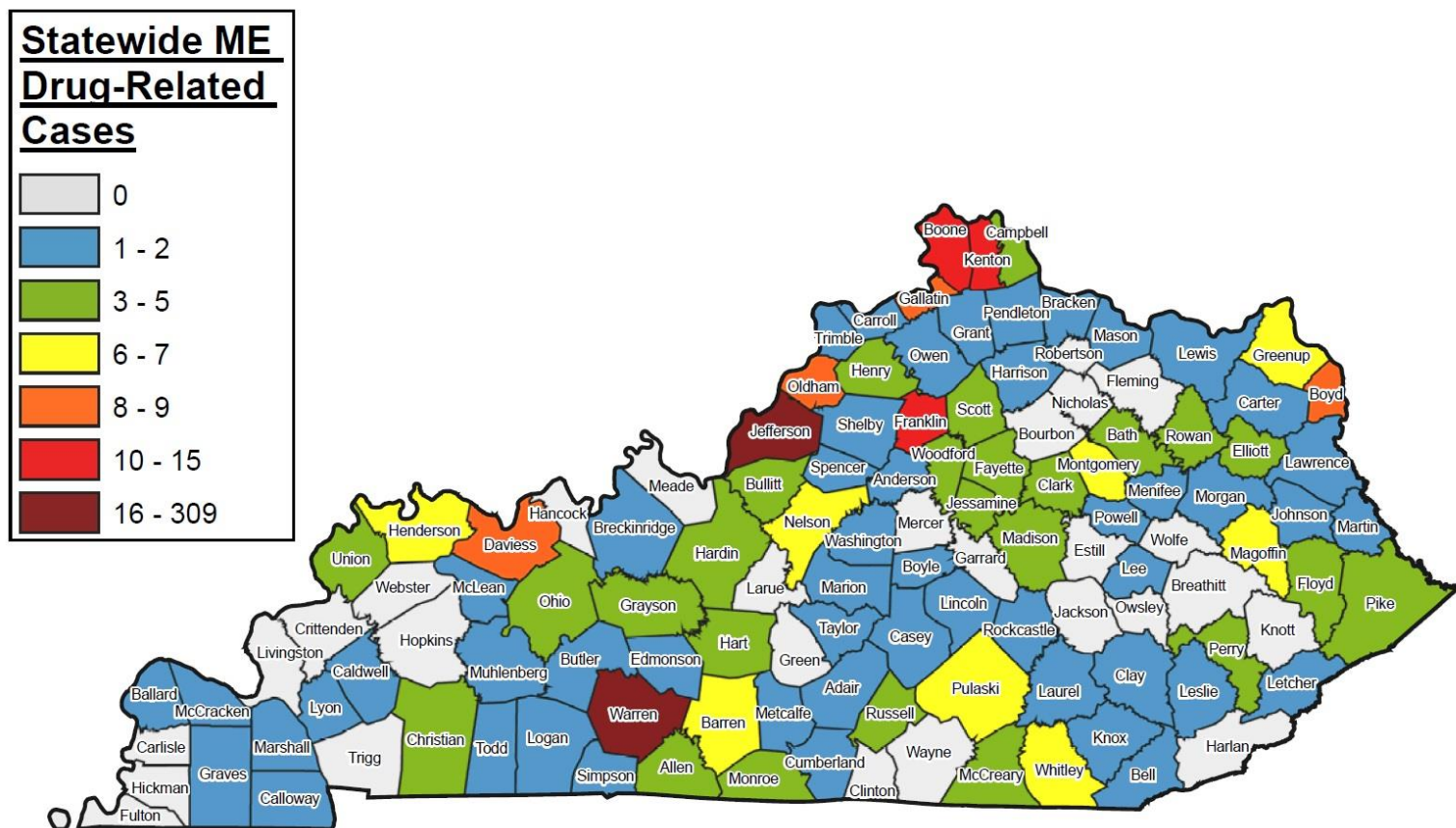
N=273

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage ¹
Gunshot Wound	165	60.44%
Asphyxia	71	26.01%
Drug-Related	22	8.06%
Blunt Force Injury	7	2.56%
Sharp Force Injury	5	1.83%
Drowning	3	1.10%
Alcohol-Related	2	0.73%
Fire	1	0.37%
Train	1	0.37%

¹Percentage is calculated using the total number of adult suicide deaths, n=273. Percentage may be >100% as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 9. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases by Locality of Death, 2018



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Table 7. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases by Manner of Death, 2018

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	520	85.11%
Homicide	2	0.33%
Natural ¹	37	6.06%
Suicide	23	3.76%
Undetermined	29	4.75%
Pending	0	0.00%
TOTAL	611	

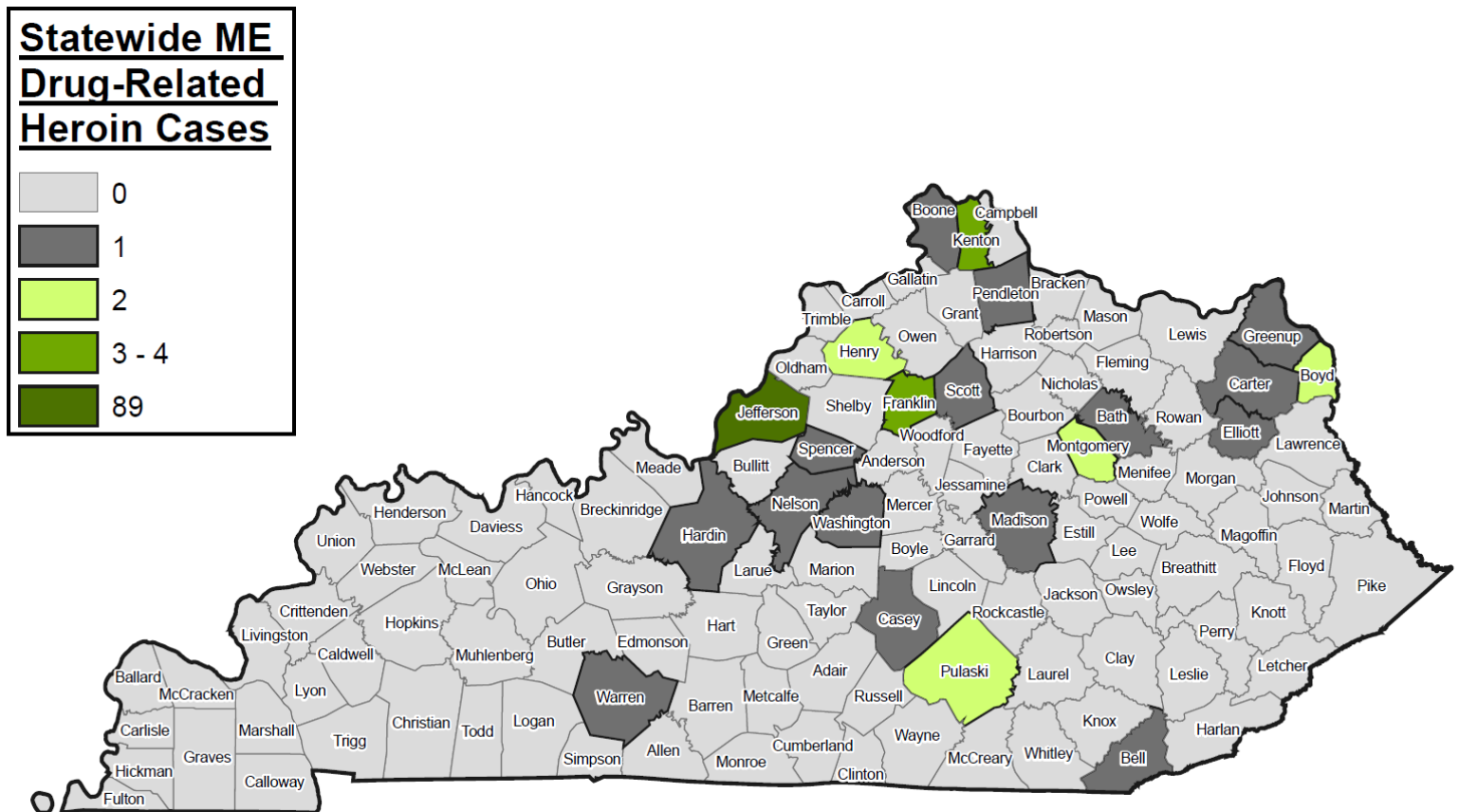
¹Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.

Table 8. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases by Demographics, 2018

Category	Total	Percentage
Gender		
Male	396	64.81%
Female	215	35.19%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Age		
<17	2	0.33%
18-24	52	8.51%
25-34	181	29.62%
35-44	177	28.97%
45-54	119	19.48%
55-64	72	11.78%
65-74	6	0.98%
75-84	1	0.16%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	1	0.16%
Race		
White	538	88.05%
Black	58	9.49%
Hispanic	8	1.31%
Asian	2	0.33%
Multi-Racial	1	0.16%
Other	3	0.49%
Unknown	1	0.16%

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 10. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Heroin by Locality of Death, 2018



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Table 9. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Heroin by Manner of Death, 2018

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	111	93.28%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural ¹	1	0.84%
Suicide	1	0.84%
Undetermined	6	5.04%
Pending	0	0.00%
TOTAL	119	

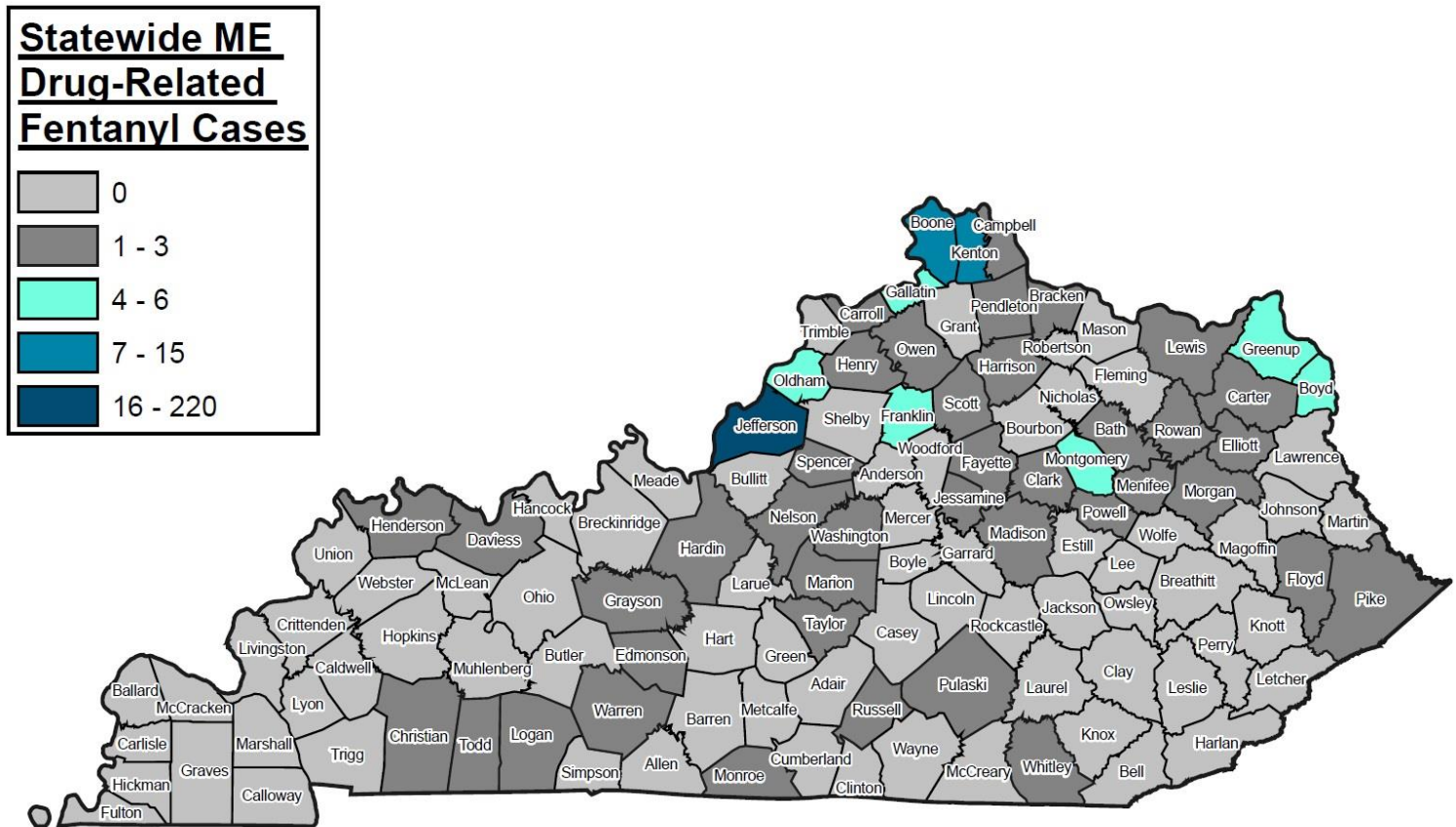
¹Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.

Table 10. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Heroin by Demographics, 2018

Category	Total	Percentage
Gender		
Male	89	74.79%
Female	30	25.21%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Age		
<17	0	0.00%
18-24	18	15.13%
25-34	43	36.13%
35-44	34	28.57%
45-54	14	11.76%
55-64	9	7.56%
65-74	1	0.84%
75-84	0	0.00%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Race		
White	102	85.71%
Black	13	10.92%
Hispanic	2	1.68%
Asian	0	0.00%
Multi-Racial	0	0.00%
Other	2	1.68%
Unknown	0	0.00%

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Figure 11. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Fentanyl and Analogs by Locality of Death, 2018



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Table 11. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Fentanyl and Analogs by Manner of Death, 2018

Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	310	92.26%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural ¹	7	2.08%
Suicide	1	0.30%
Undetermined	18	5.36%
Pending	0	0.00%
TOTAL	336	

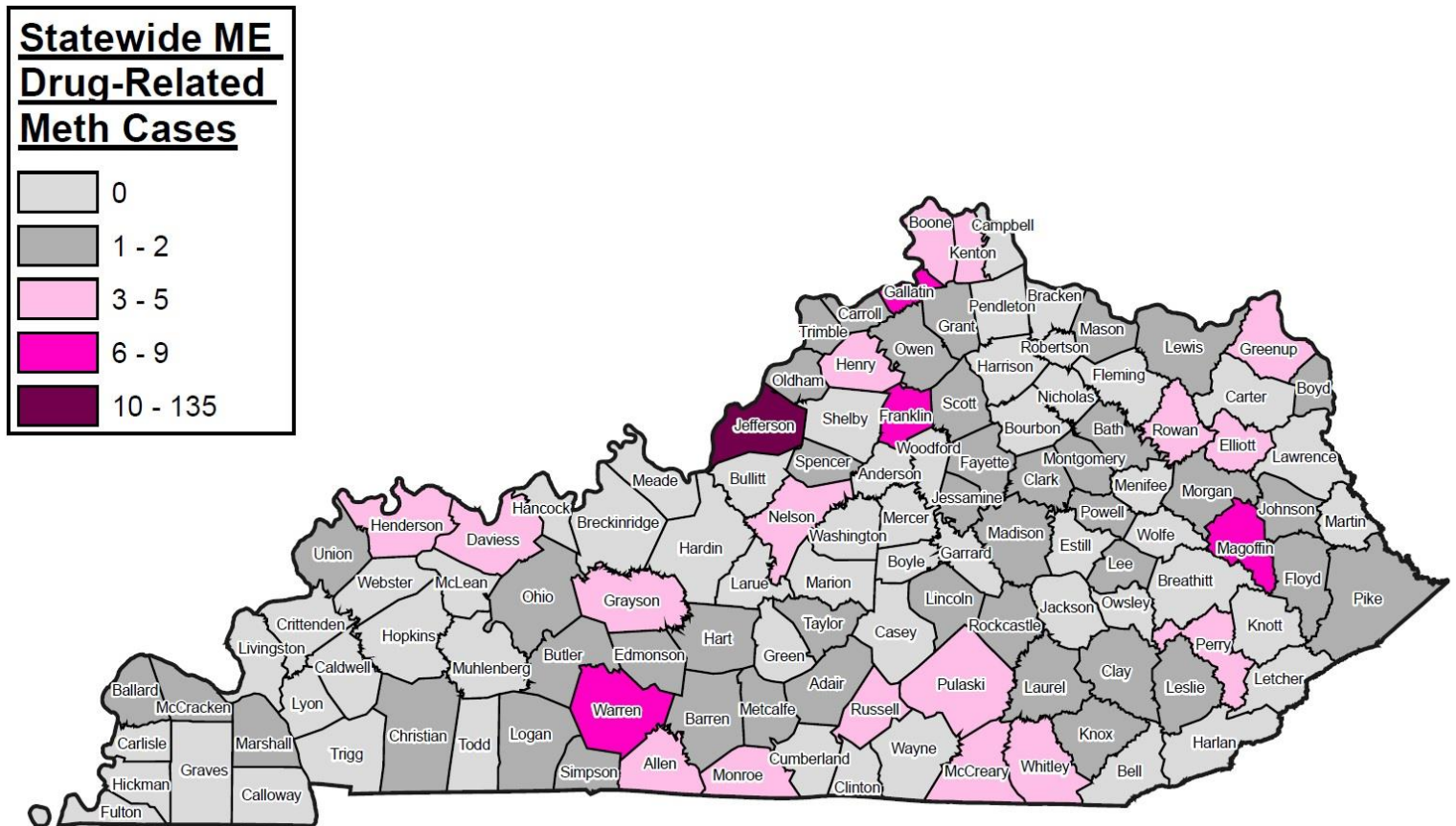
¹Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.

Table 12. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Fentanyl and Analogs by Demographics, 2018

Category	Total	Percentage
Gender		
Male	231	68.75%
Female	105	31.25%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Age		
<17	1	0.30%
18-24	34	10.12%
25-34	120	35.71%
35-44	95	28.27%
45-54	46	13.69%
55-64	36	10.71%
65-74	3	0.89%
75-84	0	0.00%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	1	0.30%
Race		
White	293	87.20%
Black	34	10.12%
Hispanic	4	1.19%
Asian	2	0.60%
Multi-Racial	0	0.00%
Other	2	0.60%
Unknown	1	0.30%

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 12. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Methamphetamine by Locality of Death,
2018



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Table 13. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Methamphetamine by Manner of Death,
2018

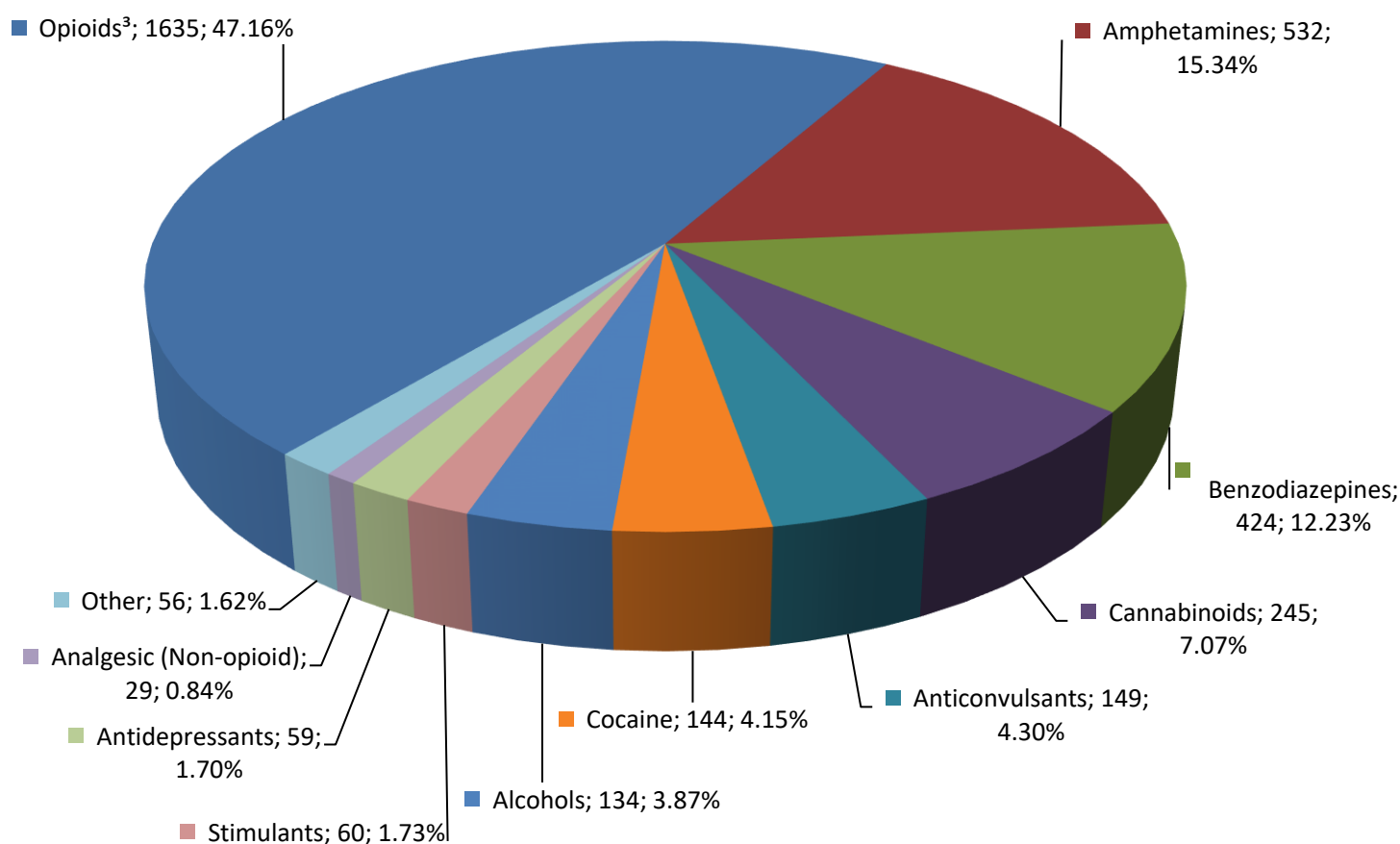
Manner	Total	Percentage
Accident	258	92.14%
Homicide	2	0.71%
Natural ¹	9	3.21%
Suicide	2	0.71%
Undetermined	9	3.21%
Pending	0	0.00%
TOTAL	280	

¹Natural manner of death involves individuals with chronic substance use and complications thereof.

Table 14. Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases Involving Methamphetamine by Demographics,
2018

Category	Total	Percentage
Gender		
Male	178	63.80%
Female	101	36.20%
Unknown	0	0.00%
Age		
<17	2	0.72%
18-24	21	7.53%
25-34	91	32.62%
35-44	92	32.97%
45-54	45	16.13%
55-64	26	9.32%
65-74	1	0.36%
75-84	0	0.00%
85-94	0	0.00%
>95	0	0.00%
Unknown	1	0.36%
Race		
White	260	92.86%
Black	16	5.71%
Hispanic	1	0.36%
Asian	1	0.36%
Multi-Racial	1	0.36%
Other	1	0.36%
Unknown	0	0.00%

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 13. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²

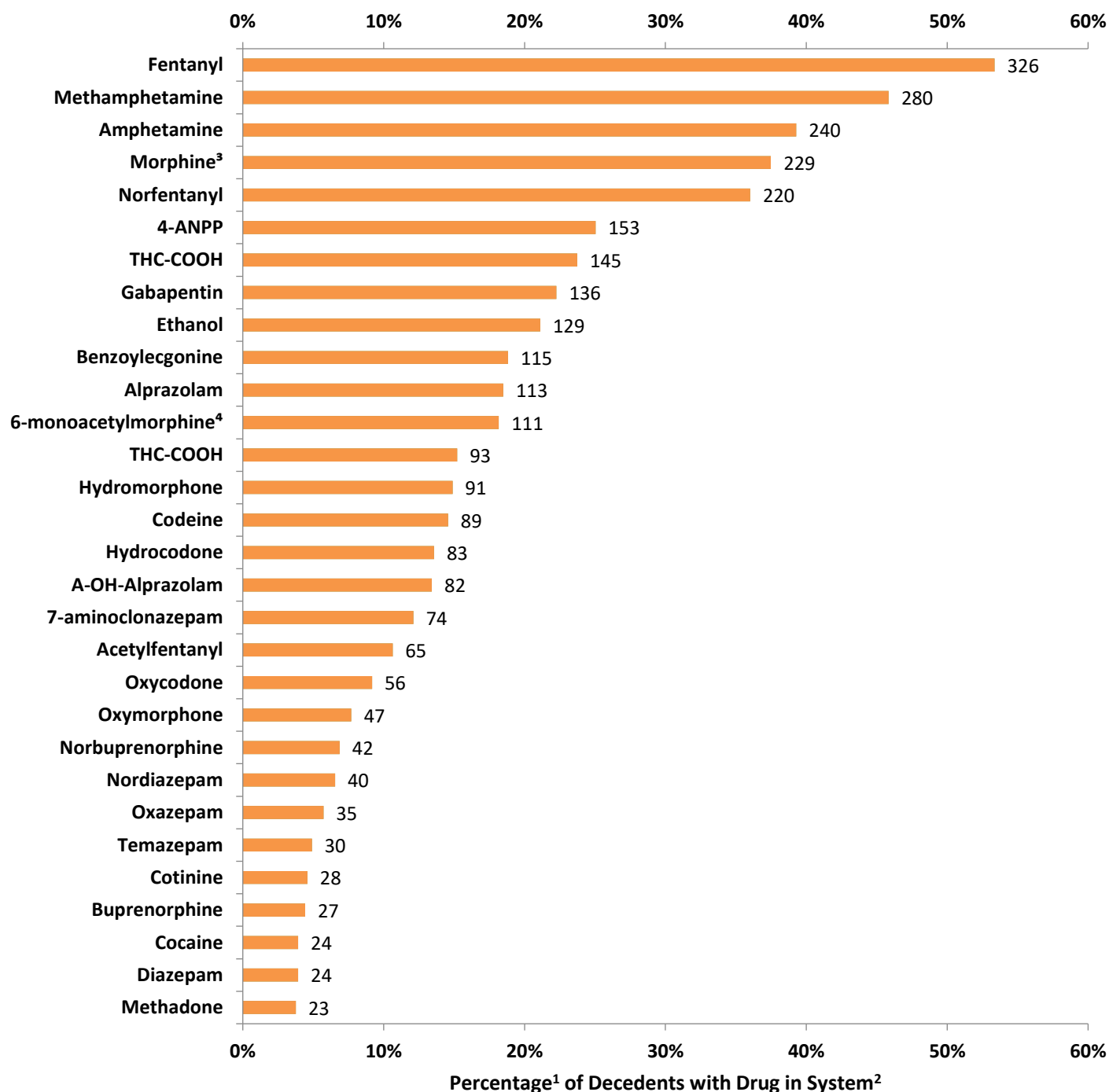
¹Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all statewide ME drug-related cases (n=3,467).

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

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Figure 14. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in Statewide ME Drug-Related Cases, 2018



¹Percentage is based off the total number of statewide ME drug-related cases (n=611). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

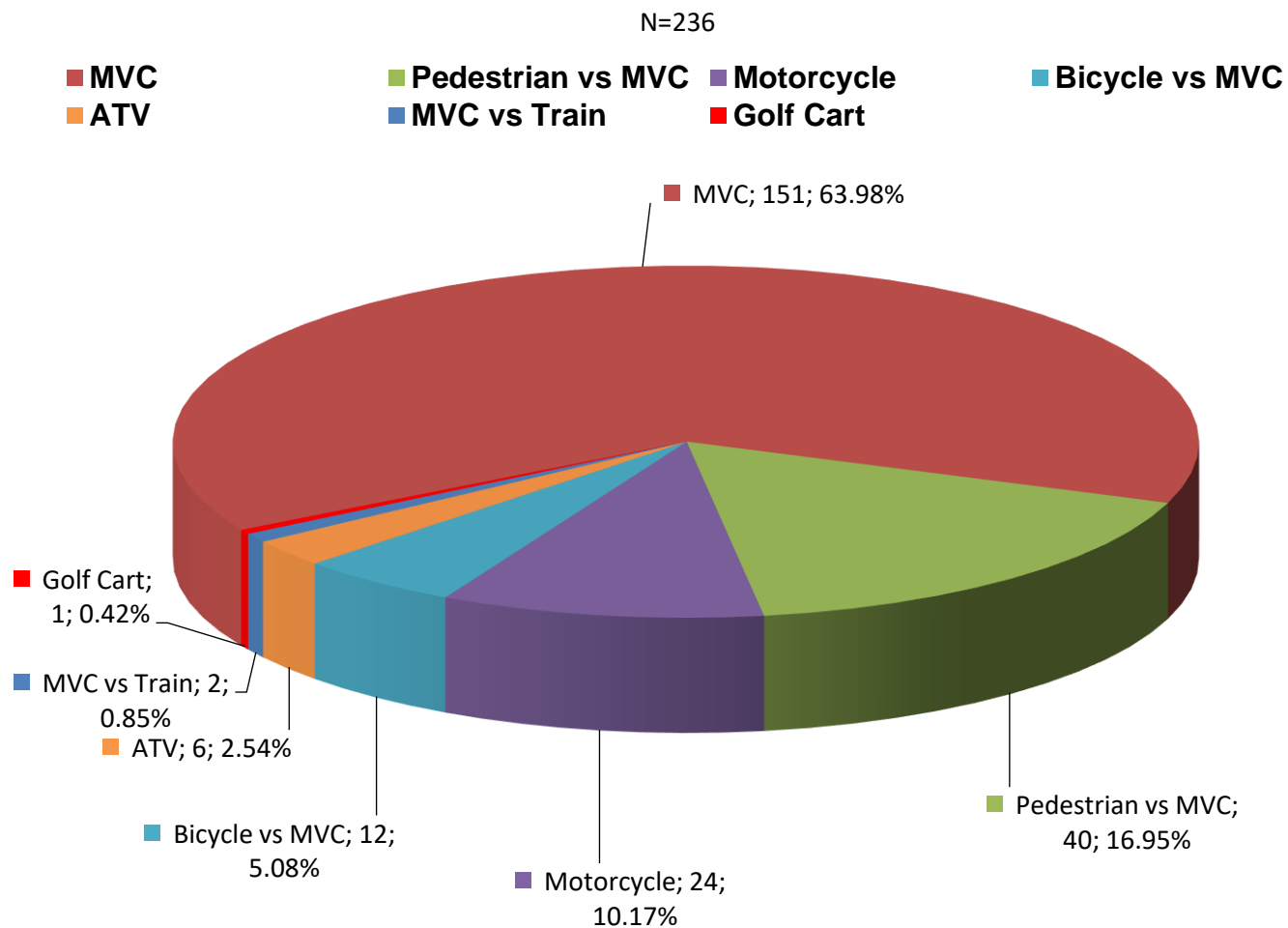
²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

⁴8 heroin cases do not have 6-monoacetylmorphine present in postmortem toxicology.

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Figure 15. Statewide ME Motor Vehicle Collision Cases by Type, 2018

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Table 15. Statewide ME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2018

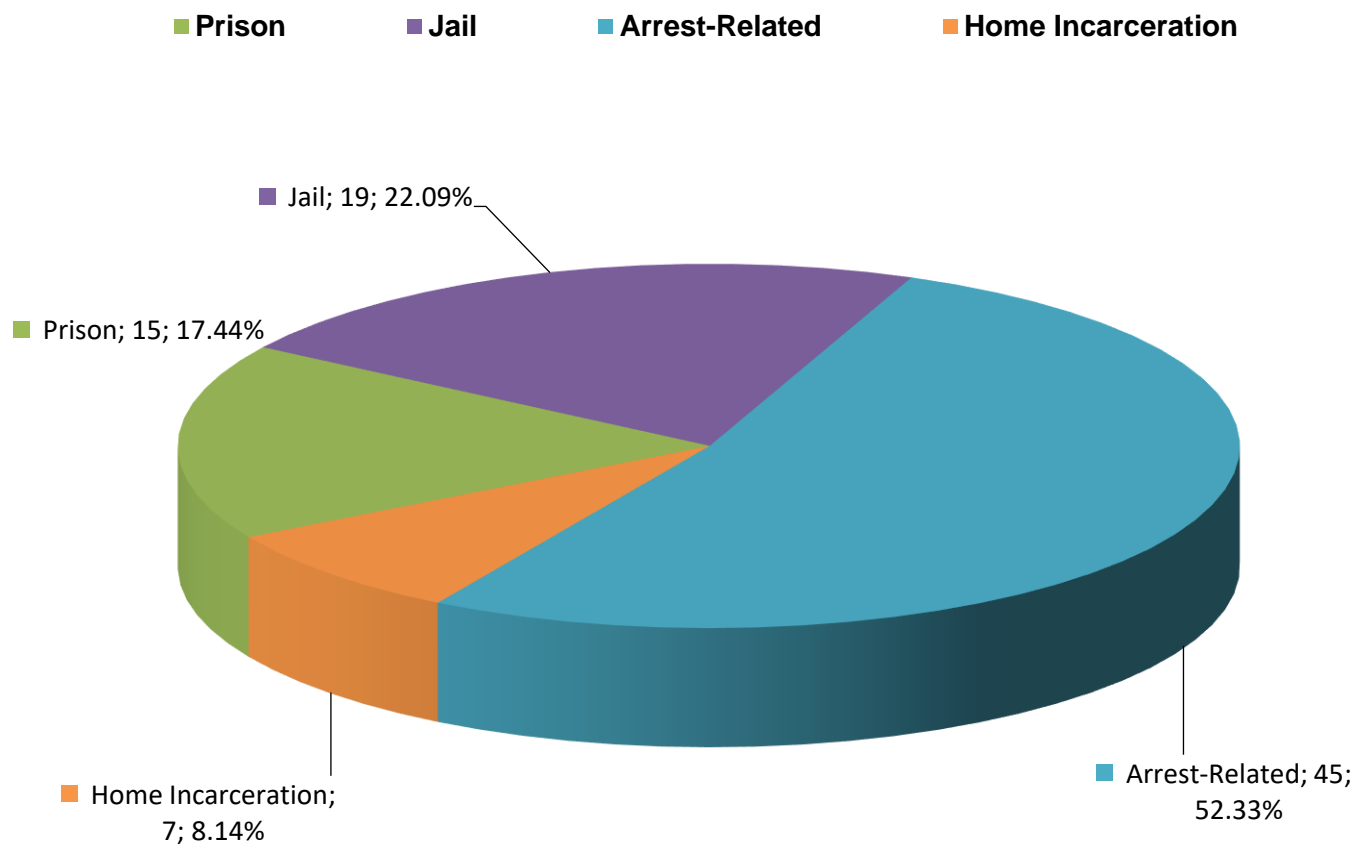
Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
Work-Related	27	1.23%
Accident	22	81.48%
Homicide	1	3.70%
Natural	3	11.11%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	1	3.70%
Police-Involved	86	3.91%
Accident	28	32.56%
Homicide	24	27.91%
Natural	21	24.42%
Suicide	11	12.79%
Undetermined	2	2.33%
Pending	0	0.00%
Domestic Abuse	34	1.55%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	28	82.35%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	5	14.71%
Undetermined	1	2.94%
Pending	0	0.00%
Child Abuse	7	0.32%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	7	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Nursing Home	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

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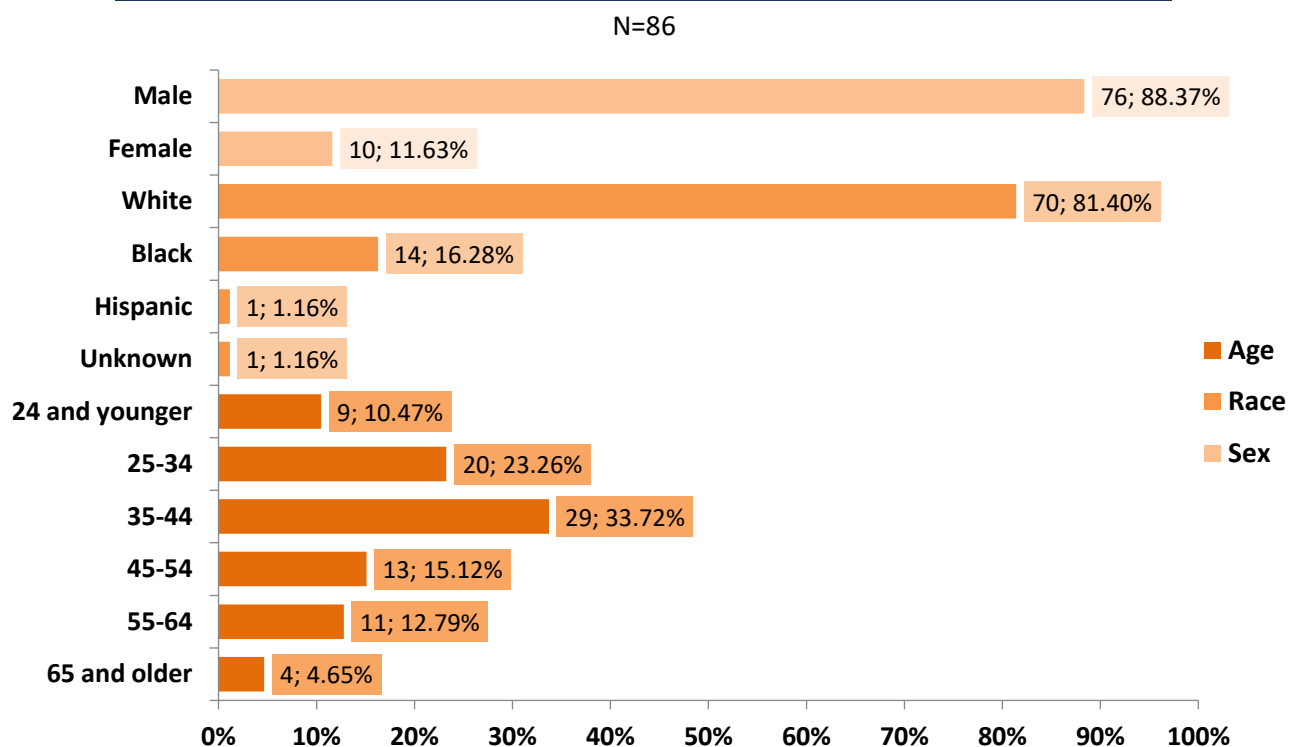
Figure 16. Statewide ME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2018

N=86



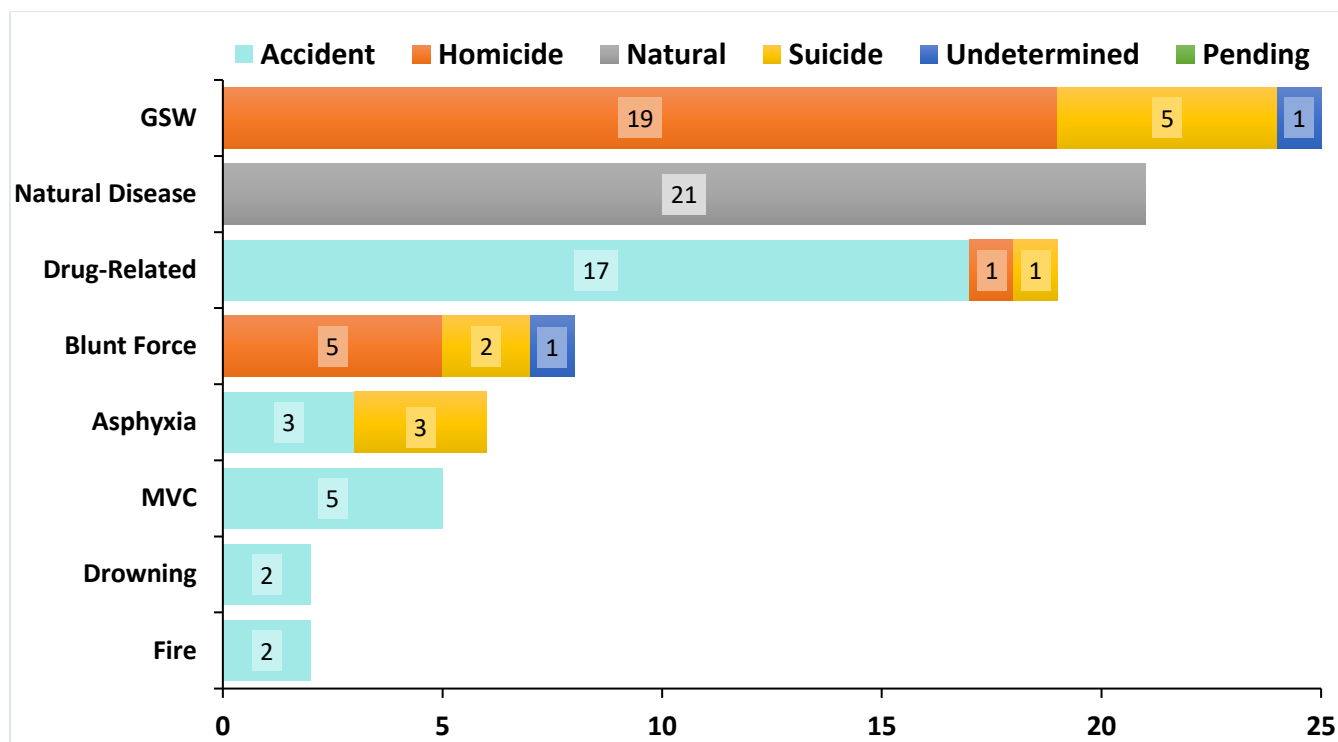
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 17. Statewide ME Police-Involved Cases by Demographics, 2018

Figure 18. Statewide ME Police-Involved Cases by Cause and Manner, 2018¹

N=86

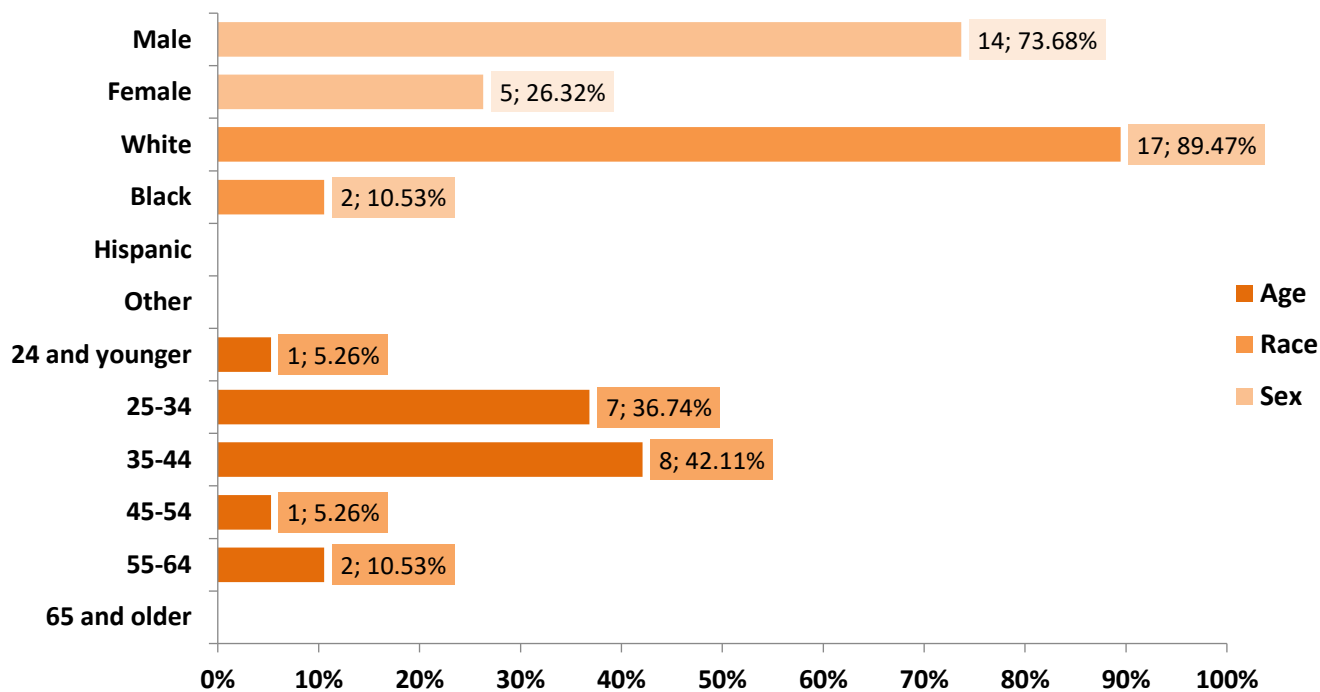
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



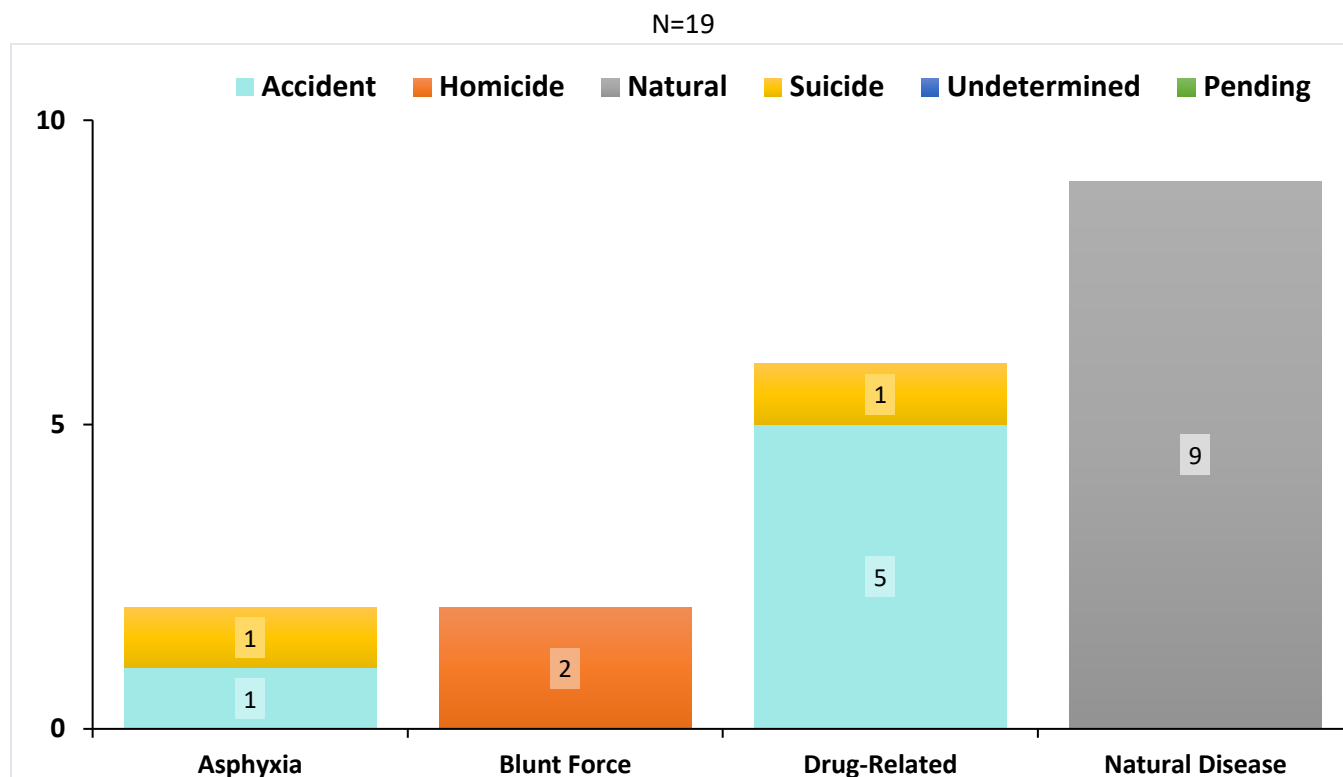
¹Three cases had multiple cause of death types (Drowning/MVC, Drowning/Drug-Related, and Asphyxia/Blunt Force)

Figure 19. Statewide ME Jail Cases by Demographics, 2018

N=19



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 20. Statewide ME Jail Cases by Cause and Manner, 2018Figure 21. Statewide ME Prison Cases by Demographics, 2018

N=15

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

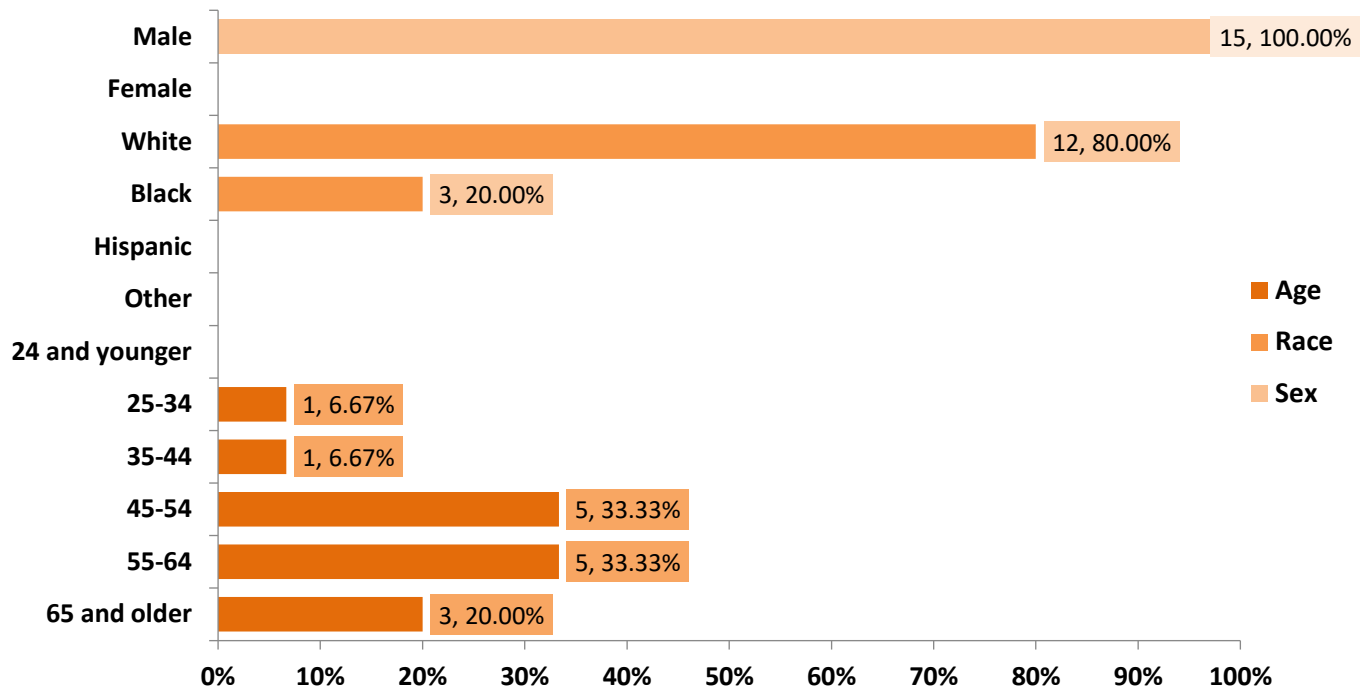
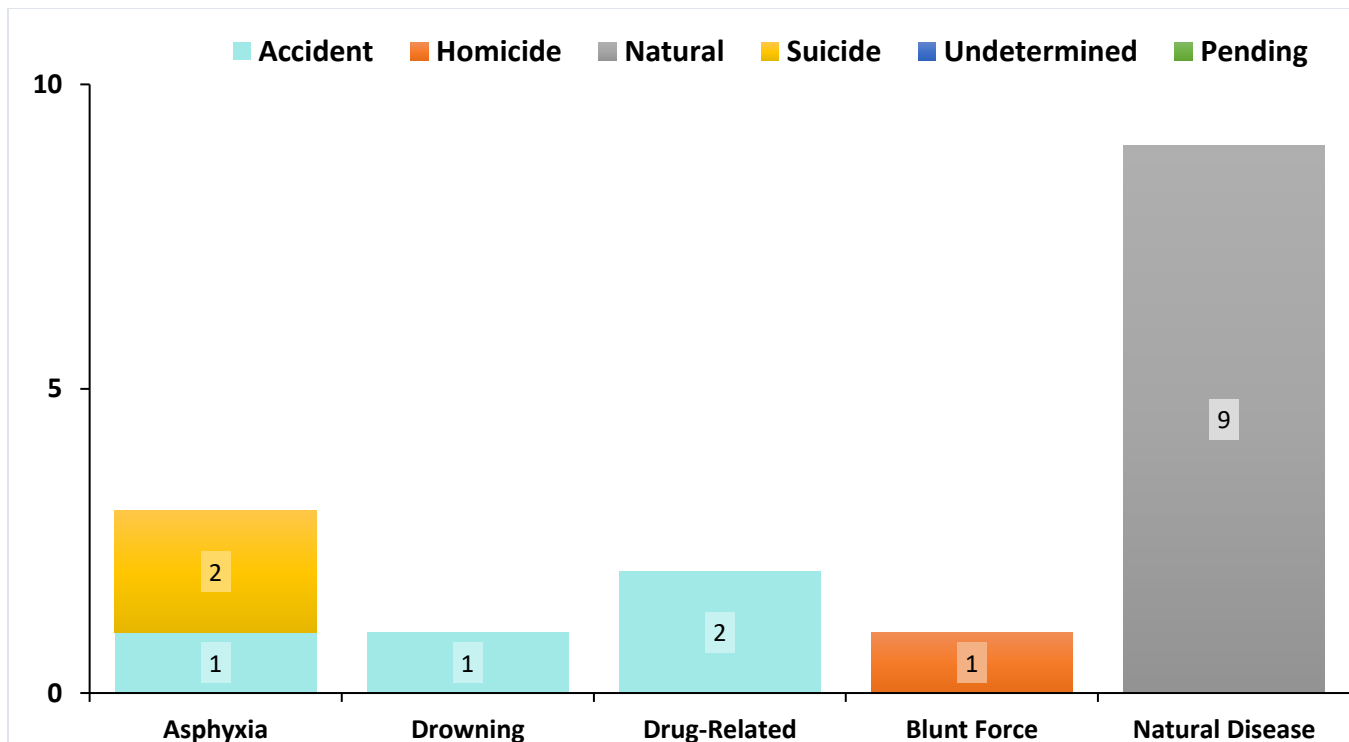


Figure 22. Statewide ME Prison Cases by Cause and Manner, 2018¹

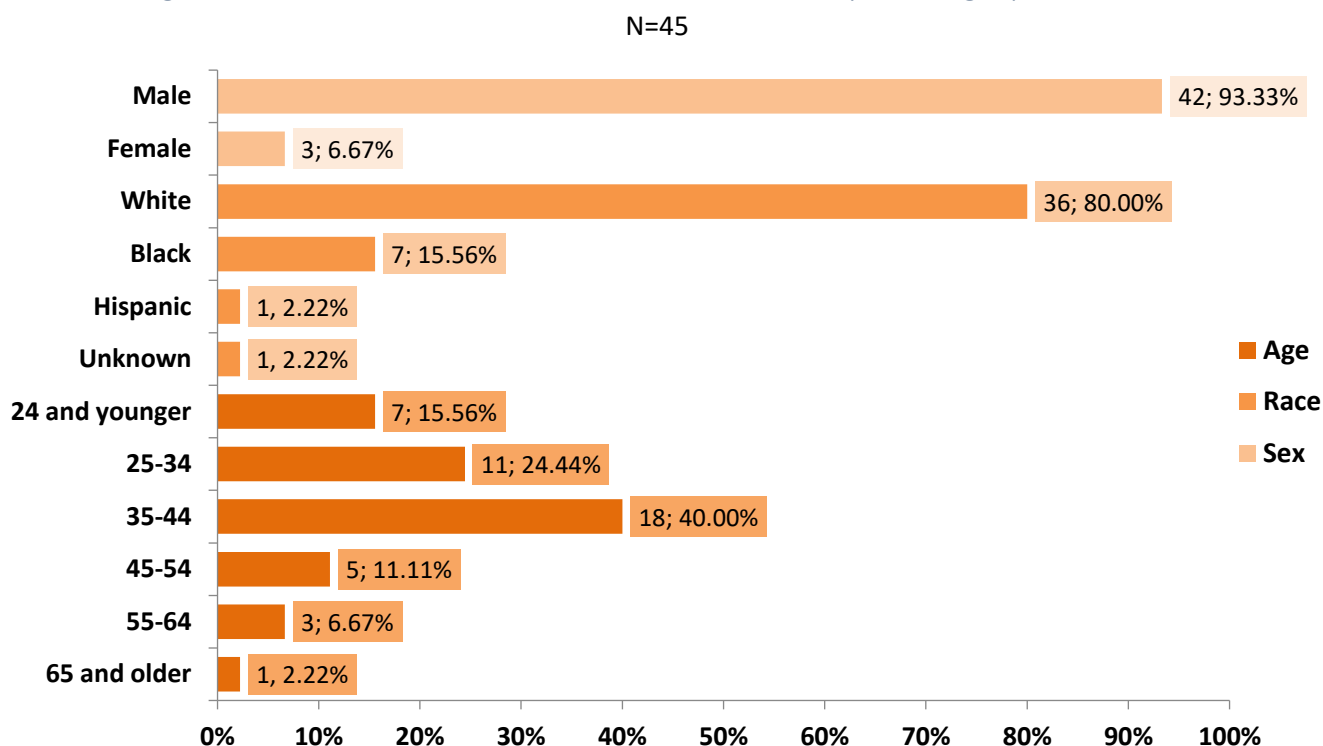
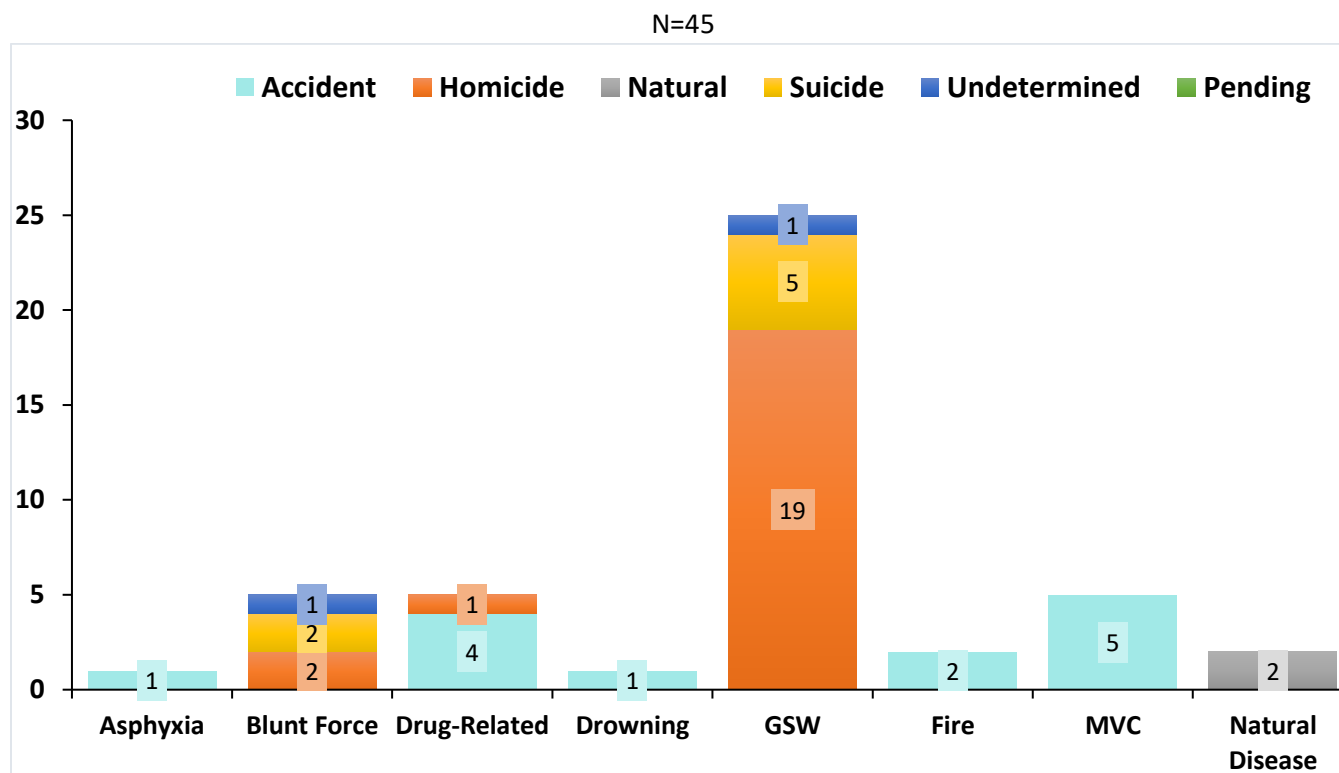
N=15



¹One case had multiple cause of death types (Asphyxia/Drowning)

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 23. Statewide ME Arrest-Related Cases by Demographics, 2018

Figure 24. Statewide ME Arrest-Related Cases by Cause and Manner, 2018¹

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

¹One case had multiple cause of death types (Drug-Related/Blunt-Force)

Figure 25. Statewide ME Home Incarceration Cases by Demographics, 2018

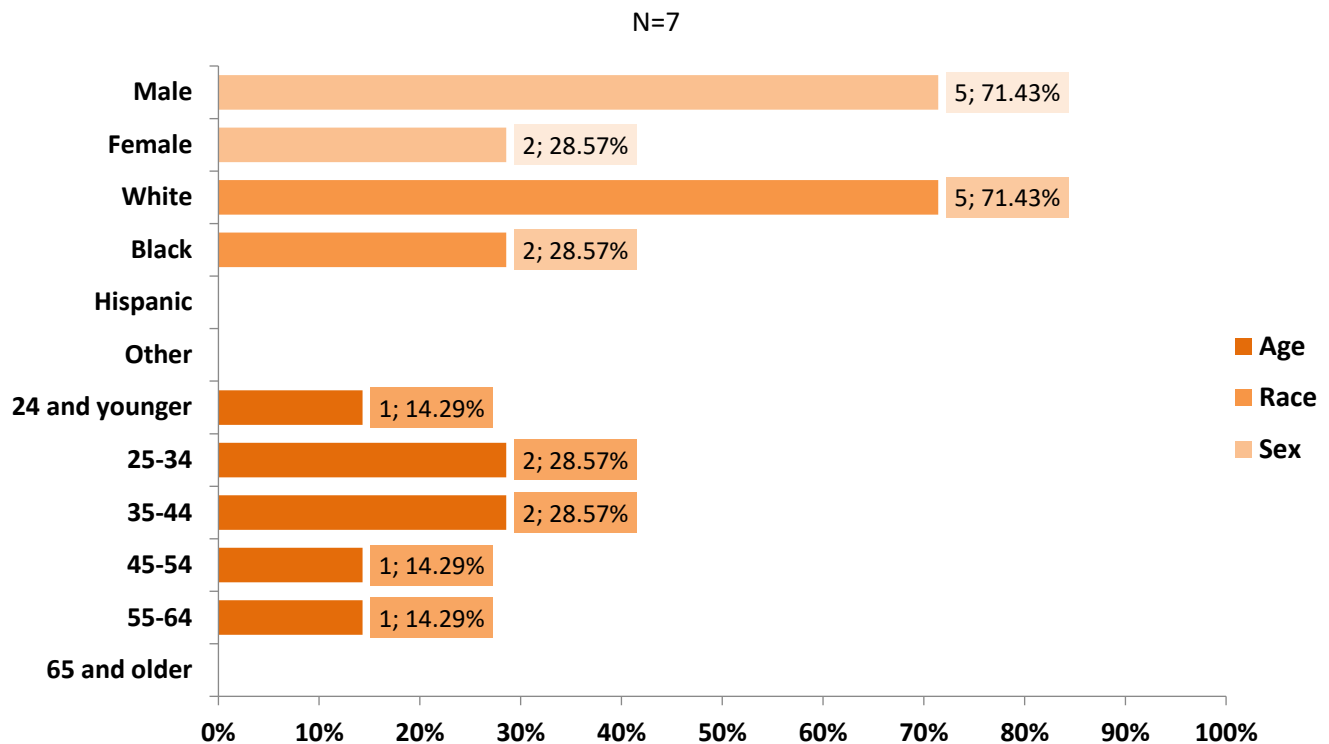
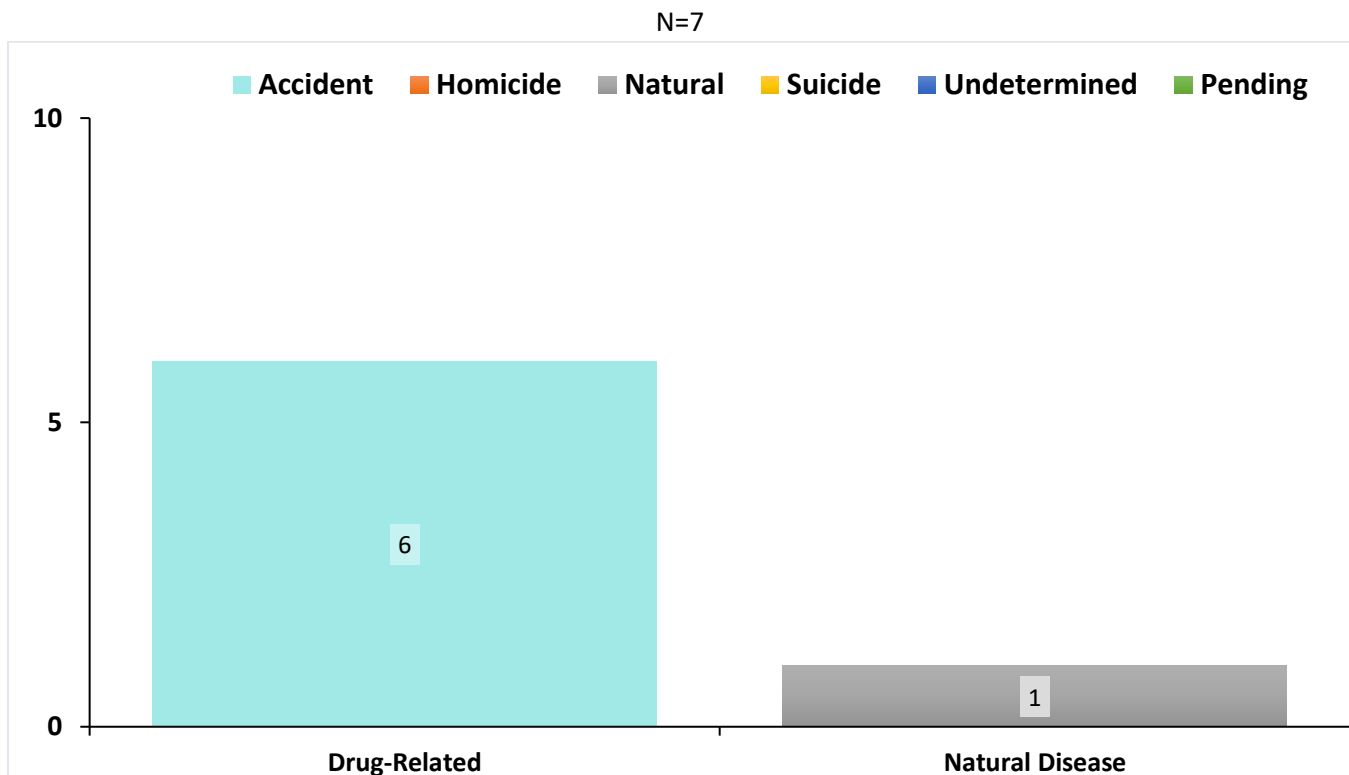


Figure 26. Statewide ME Home Incarceration Cases by Cause and Manner, 2018



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Medical Examiner Data of Children (Birth – 17 years)

Table 16. Statewide ME Child (<18) Accidents by Cause of Death, 2018

N=58

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage ¹
Asphyxia	15	25.86%
Drowning	11	18.97%
Motor Vehicle Collision	10	17.24%
Fire	7	12.07%
Gunshot Wound	6	10.34%
Pedestrian v MVC	3	5.17%
Hyperthermia	3	5.17%
Drug-Related	2	3.45%
Bicycle v MVC	1	1.72%
Blunt Force Injury	1	1.72%
Electrocution	1	1.72%

¹Percentage is calculated using the total number of child accident deaths, n=58. Percentage may be >100% as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

Table 17. Statewide ME Child (<18) Homicides by Cause of Death, 2018

N=21

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage ¹
Gunshot Wound	9	42.86%
Blunt Force Injury	4	19.05%
Closed Head Injury	3	14.29%
Asphyxia	2	9.52%
Motor Vehicle Collision	1	4.76%
Sharp Force Injury	1	4.76%
Undetermined ²	1	4.76%

¹Percentage is calculated using the total number of child homicide deaths, n=21.

²Undetermined cause of death, manner of death determined to be homicide based on circumstances.

Table 18. Statewide ME Child (<18) Suicides by Cause of Death, 2018

N=11

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage ¹
Asphyxia	6	54.55%
Gunshot Wound	4	45.45%

¹Percentage is calculated using the total number of child suicide deaths, n=11.

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Table 19. Statewide ME Child (<18) Undetermined Deaths by Cause of Death, 2018

N=64

Cause of Death	Count	Percentage ¹
Consistent with SUDI	29	45.31%
Undetermined	29	45.31%
Attributed to SUDI	1	1.56%
Congenital ²	1	1.56%
Drowning	1	1.56%
Fire	1	1.56%
Hyperthermia	1	1.56%
Pedestrian v MVC	1	1.56%

¹Percentage is calculated using the total number of child undetermined deaths, n=64.

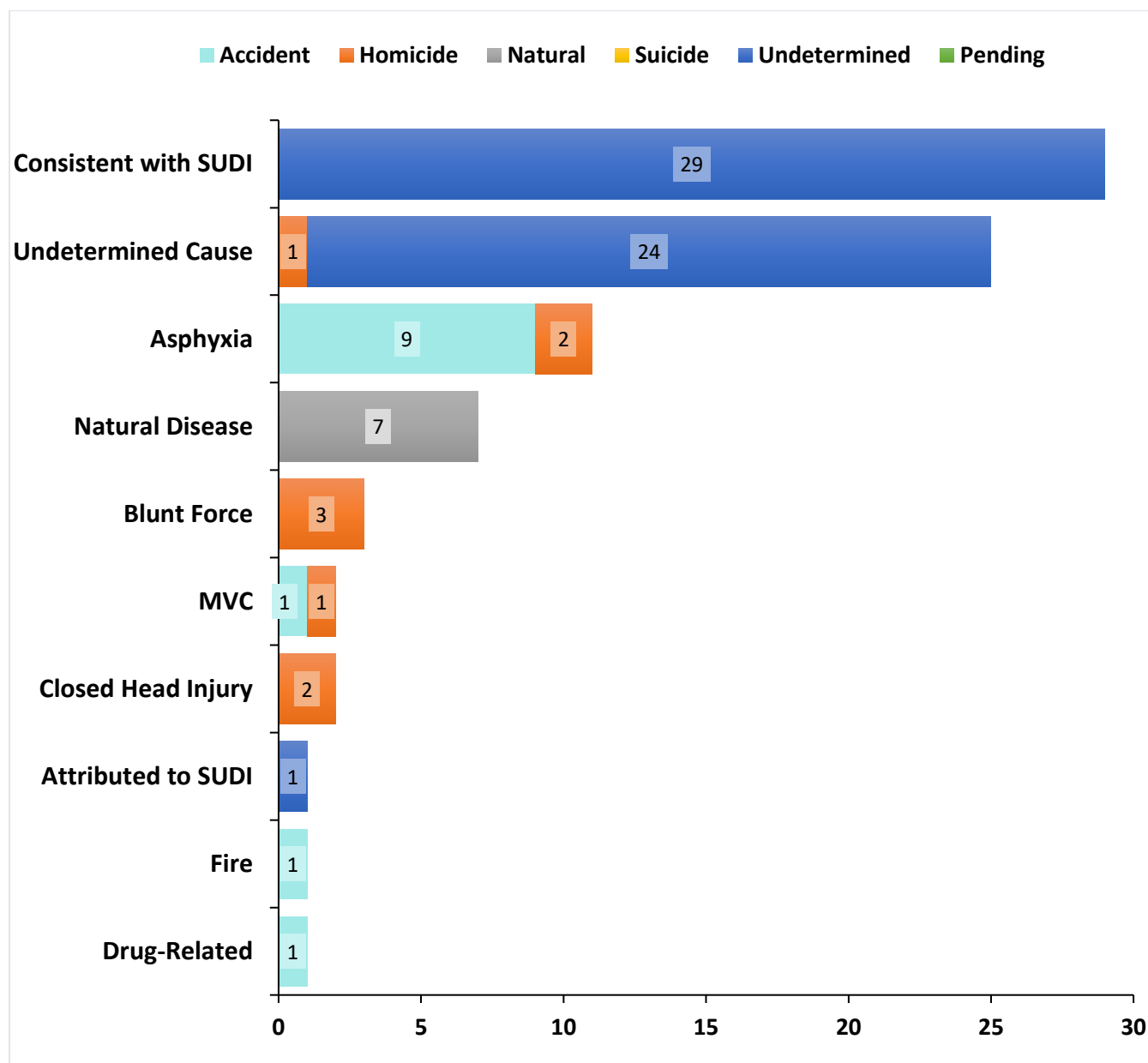
²It is unknown if other circumstances surrounding death contributed to cause of death, therefore manner is undetermined.

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Figure 27. Statewide ME Child (<1 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2018

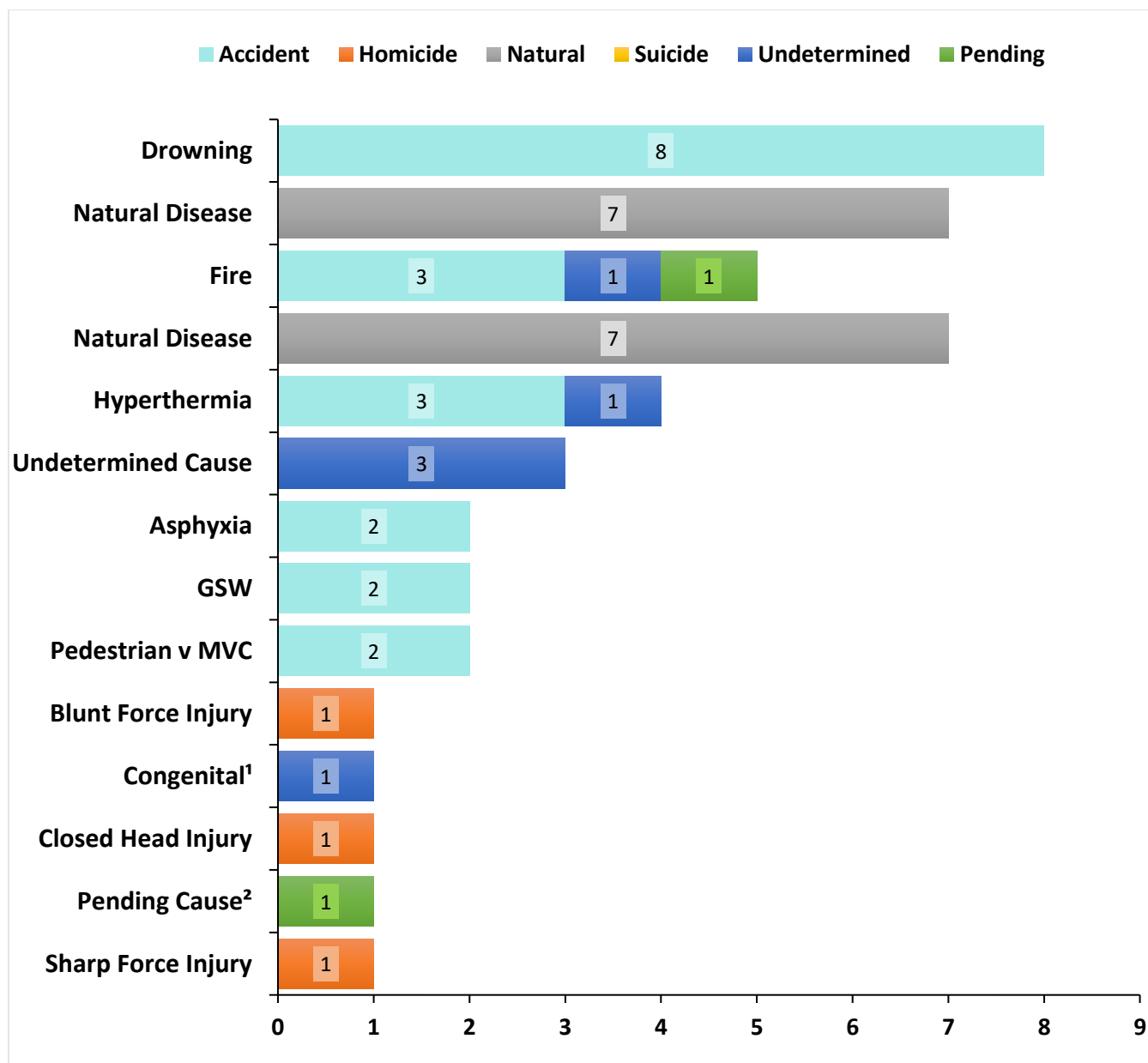
N=82



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 28. Statewide ME Child (1-5 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2018

N=38



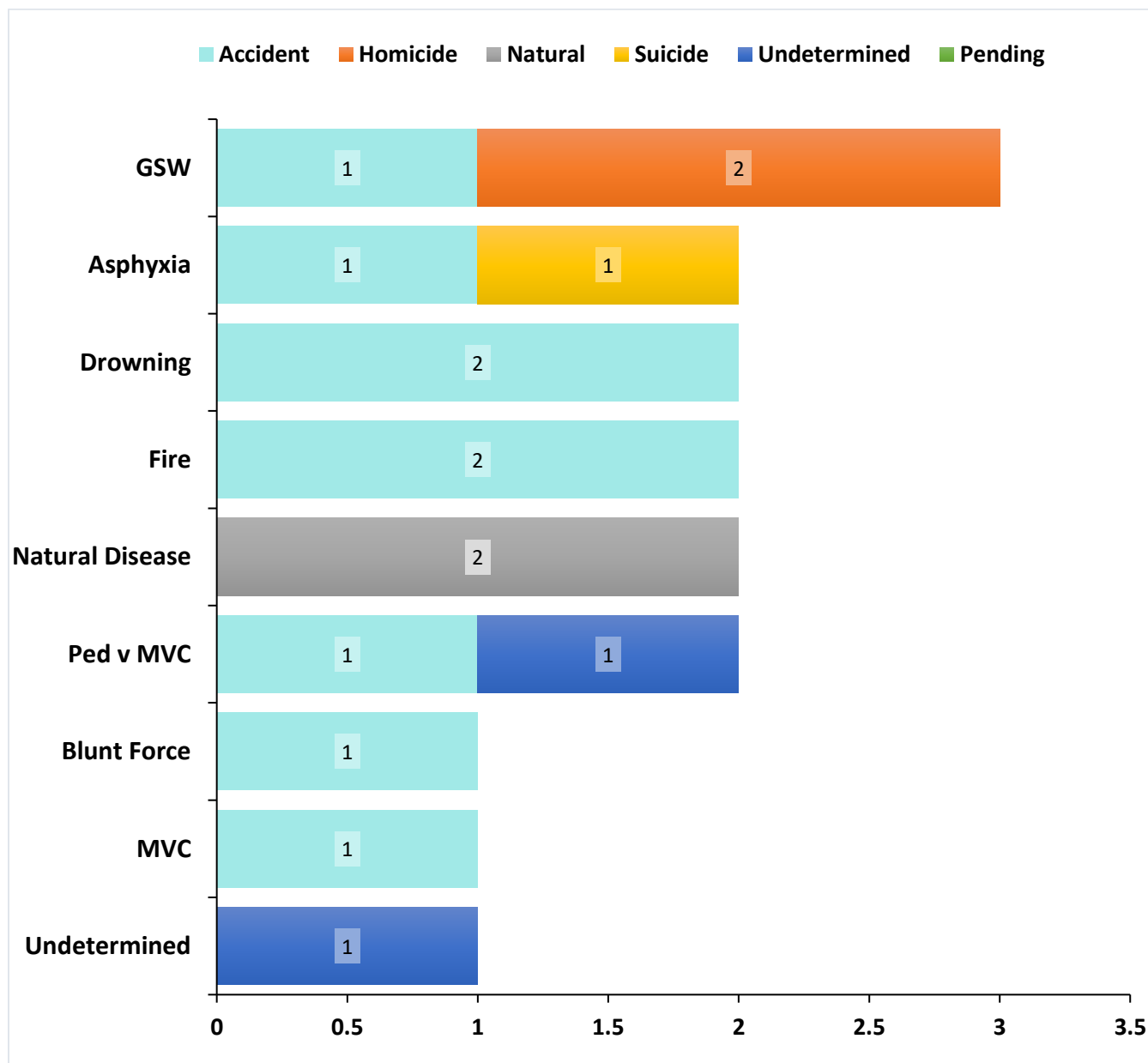
¹It is unknown if other circumstances surrounding death contributed to cause of death, therefore manner is undetermined.

²Awaiting results of additional studies, therefore cause of death remains pending.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 29. Statewide ME Child (6-12 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2018

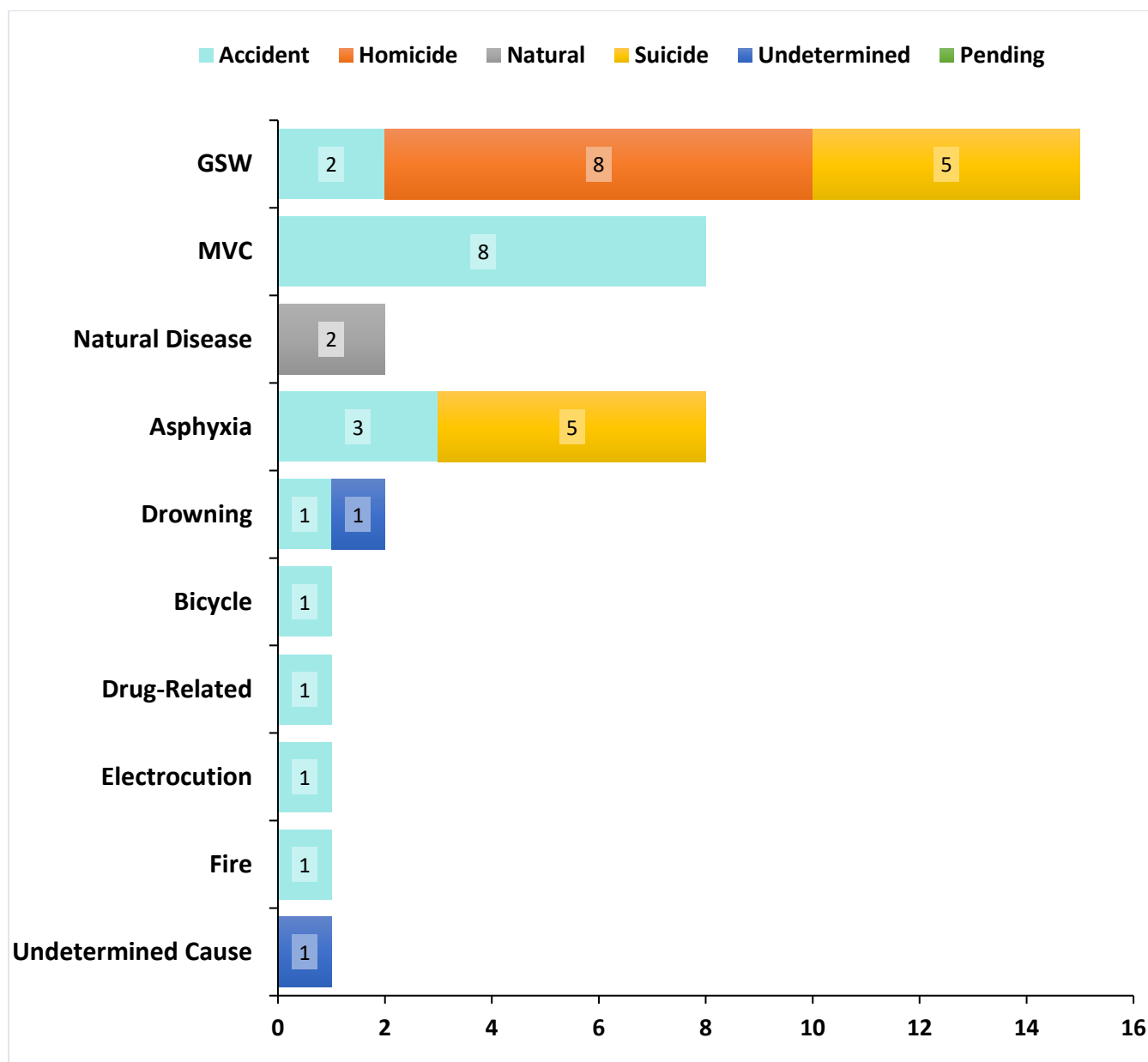
N=16



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 30. Statewide ME Child (13-17 years) Cases by Causes of Death and Manner, 2018¹

N=38



¹Count may be greater than n=38, as some decedents may have more than one type of injury indicated as cause of death.

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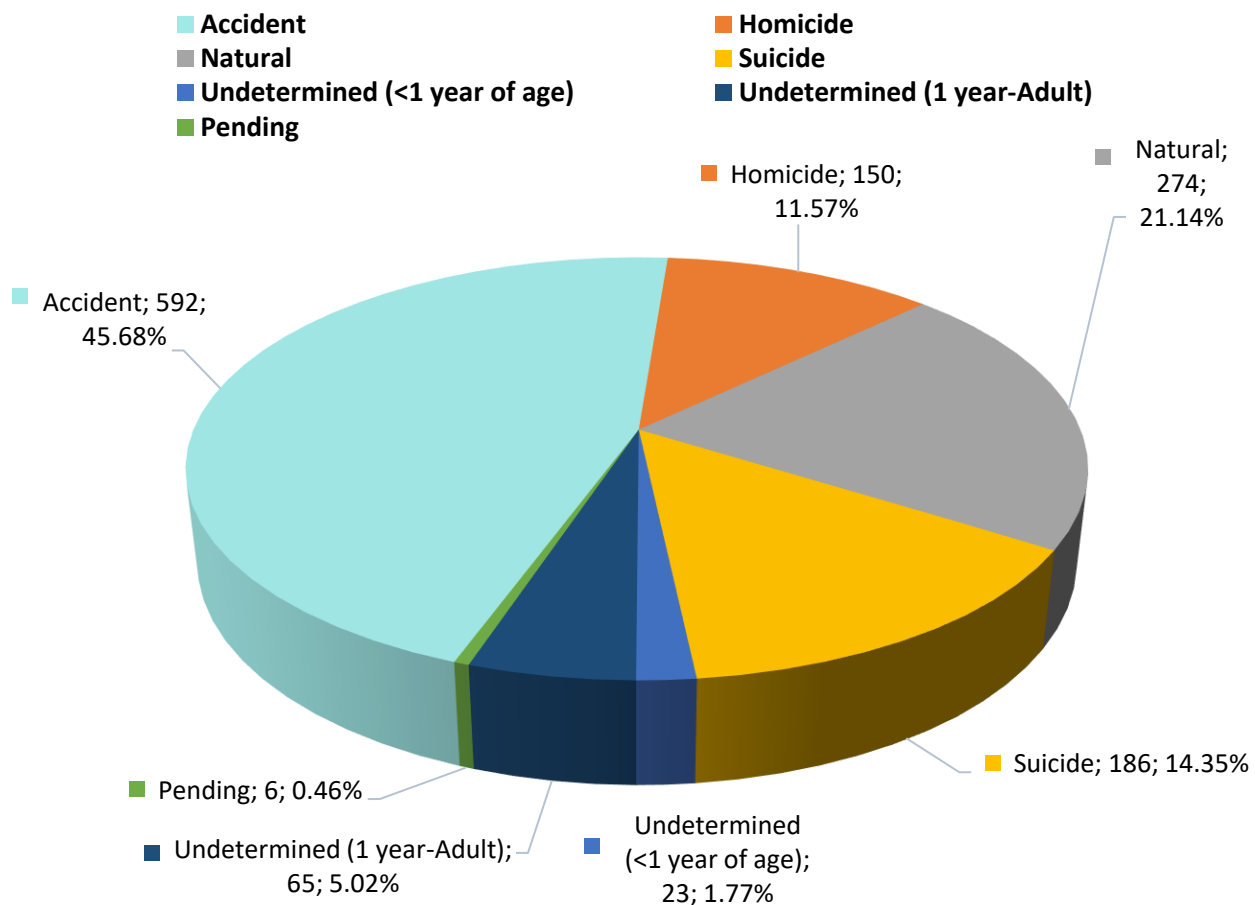
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Data



Figure 31. OCME Cases by Manner of Death, 2018

N=1,296



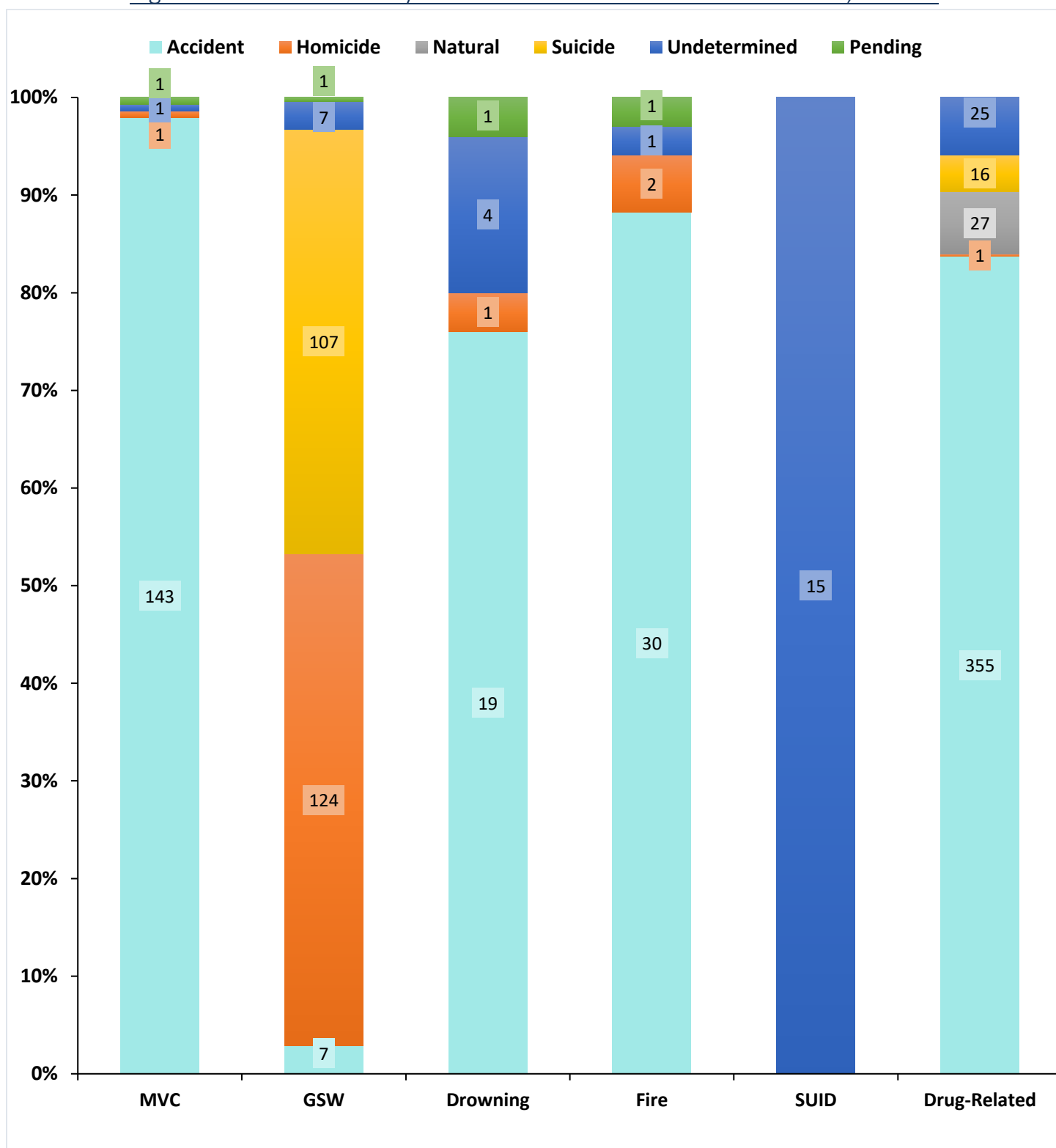
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Table 20. OCME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2018

Cause of Death ¹	Total	Percentage
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	146	11.27%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	246	18.98%
Drowning	25	1.93%
Fire	34	2.62%
SUID	14	1.08%
Drug-Related	424	32.72%
...Involving Heroin	97	22.88%
...Involving Fentanyl and Analogs	261	61.56%
...Involving Methamphetamine	191	45.05%

¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 32. OCME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2018¹⁻²

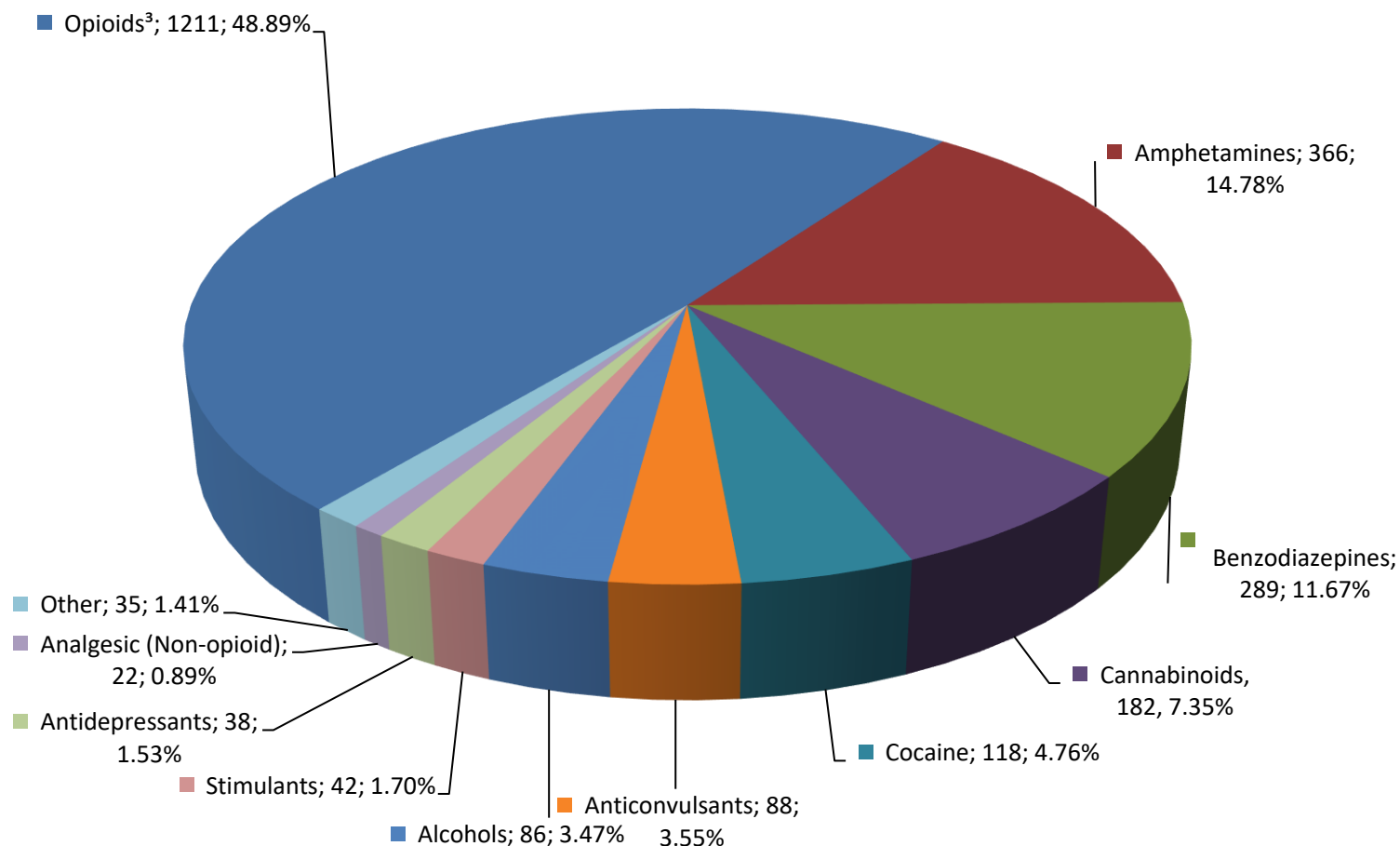
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

²Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

Figure 33. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in OCME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²



¹Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all OCME drug-related cases (n=2,477).

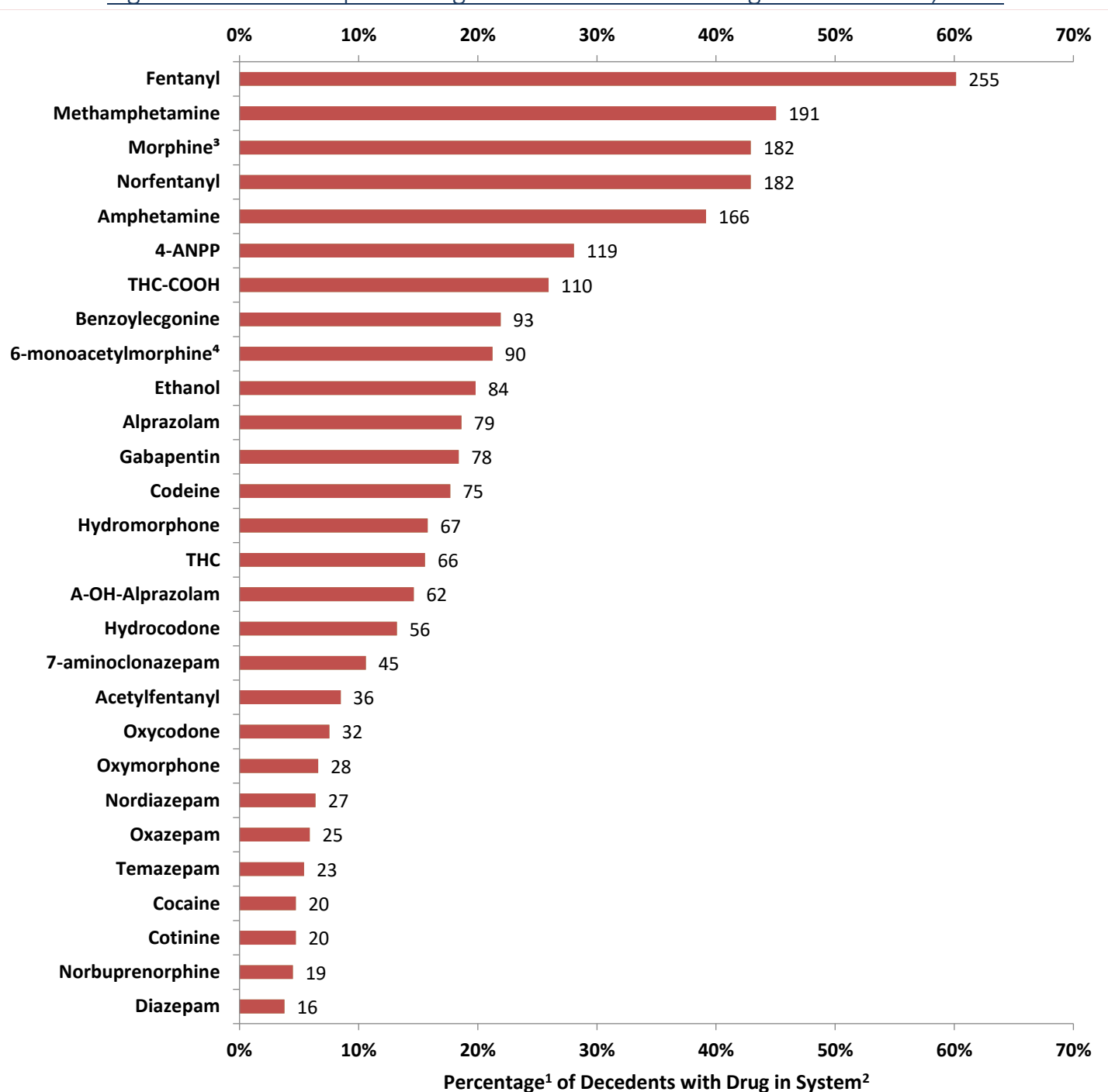
²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Figure 34. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in OCME Drug-Related Cases, 2018



¹Percentage is based off the total number of OCME drug-related cases (n=424). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



³Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.⁴7 heroin cases do not have 6-monoacetylmorphine present in postmortem toxicology.Table 21. Additional Drugs Detected in OCME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²

Drug Name	Total	Percentage	Drug Name	Total	Percentage
1,1-Difluorethane	1	0.24%	Ibuprofen	2	0.47%
10-Monohydroxyoxcarbazepine	1	0.24%	Lamotrigine	3	0.71%
5F-ADB	5	1.18%	Levetiracetam	1	0.24%
5F-MDMB-PINACA	1	0.24%	Lidocaine	1	0.24%
Acetaminophen	7	1.65%	Lorazepam	6	1.42%
Acetone	2	0.47%	MDMA	3	0.71%
Acrylfentanyl	1	0.24%	Meprobamate	1	0.24%
Amiodarone	3	0.71%	Methadone	13	3.07%
Amitriptyline	3	0.71%	Methoxyacetylfentanyl	1	0.24%
Amlodipine	2	0.47%	Metoprolol	2	0.47%
Baclofen	1	0.24%	Mitragynine	1	0.24%
Buprenorphine	10	2.36%	Naloxone	7	1.65%
Butyrylfentanyl	2	0.47%	Nicotine	12	2.83%
Caffeine	10	2.36%	Nordoxepin	1	0.24%
Cetirizine	1	0.24%	Norfluoxetine	1	0.24%
Chlordiazepoxide	2	0.47%	Norsertraline	2	0.47%
Chlorophenylpiperazine	5	1.18%	Nortramadol	3	0.71%
Cis-3-Methylfentanyl	1	0.24%	Nortriptyline	4	0.94%
Citalopram	4	0.94%	O-Desmethyltramadol	8	1.89%
Clonazepam	3	0.71%	O-Desmethylvenlafaxine	4	0.94%
Cocaethylene	5	1.18%	Olanzapine	2	0.47%
Cyclobenzaprine	2	0.47%	Oxcarbazepine	1	0.24%
Cyclopropylfentanyl	1	0.24%	Para-Fluorobutyrylfentanyl	1	0.24%
Despropionylfentanyl	1	0.24%	Promethazine	1	0.24%
Dextromethorphan	2	0.47%	Propranolol	1	0.24%
Dihydrocodeine	2	0.47%	Pseudoephedrine	5	1.18%
Diltiazem	1	0.24%	Quetiapine	2	0.47%
Diphenhydramine	7	1.65%	Salicylates	1	0.24%
Doxylamine	3	0.71%	Sertraline	2	0.47%
Duloxetine	4	0.94%	Tizanidine	1	0.24%
EDDP	12	2.83%	Topiramate	4	0.94%
Ephedrine	1	0.24%	Tramadol	12	2.83%
Etizolan	1	0.24%	Trazodone	4	0.94%
Fluoxetine	1	0.24%	Venlafaxine	3	0.71%
Furanylfentanyl	1	0.24%	Warfarin	1	0.24%
Hydroxyzine	1	0.24%	Zolpidem	4	0.94%

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

¹Percentage is based off the total number of OCME drug-related cases (n=424). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

Table 22. OCME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2018

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
Work-Related	13	1.00%
Accident	11	84.62%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	2	15.38%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Police-Involved	43	3.32%
Accident	13	30.23%
Homicide	12	27.91%
Natural	9	20.93%
Suicide	7	16.28%
Undetermined	2	4.65%
Pending	0	0.00%
Domestic Abuse	28	2.16%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	22	78.57%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	5	17.86%
Undetermined	1	3.57%
Pending	0	0.00%
Child Abuse	3	2.16%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	3	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Nursing Home	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%

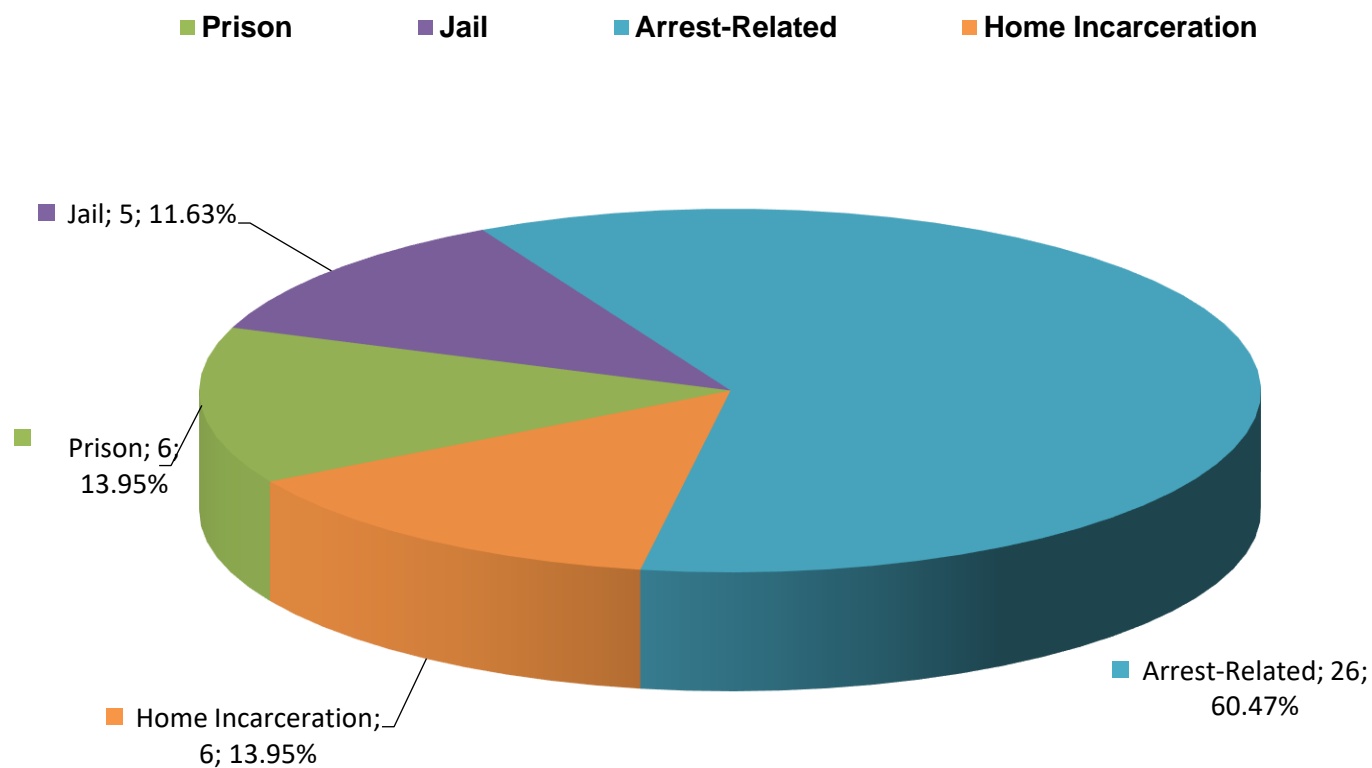
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

Figure 35. OCME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2018

N=43



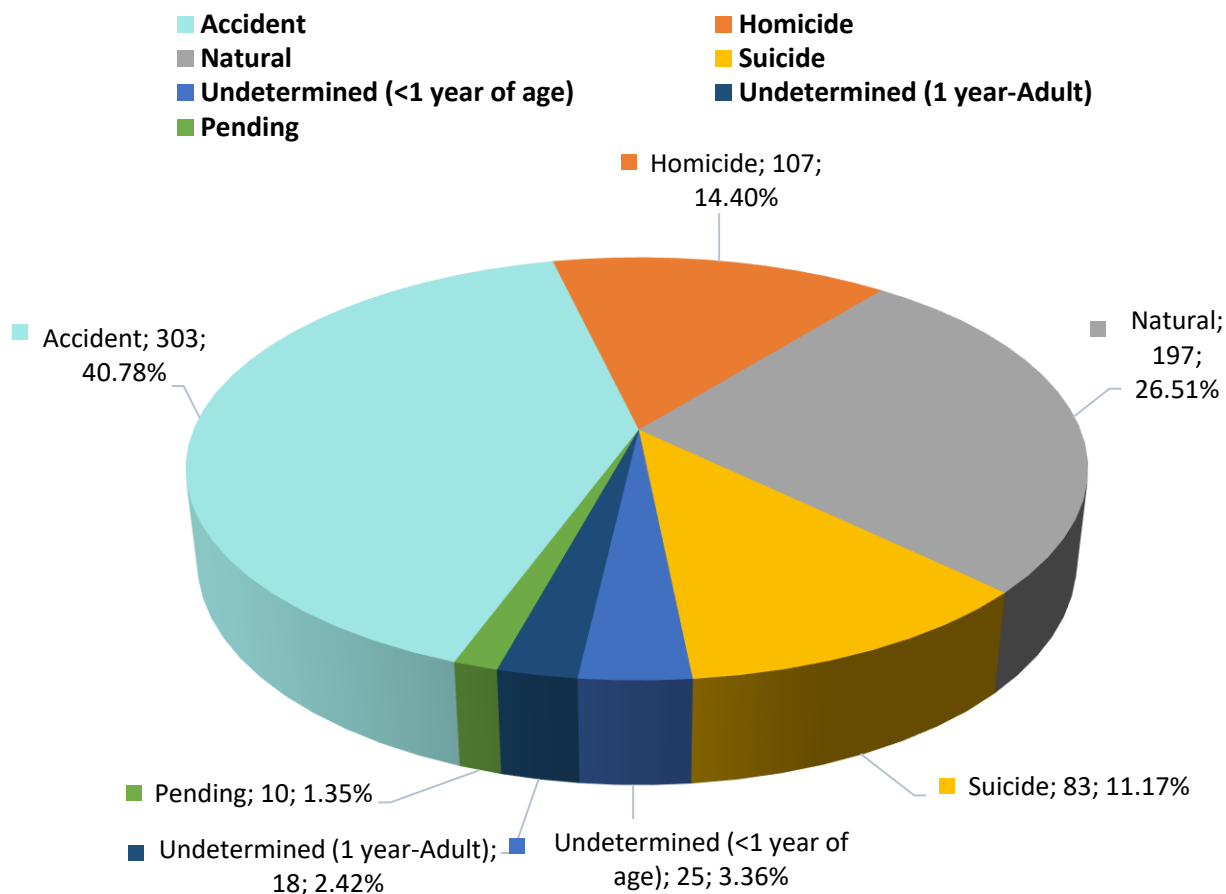
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Eastern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner Data

Figure 36. EKME Cases by Manner of Death, 2018

N=743



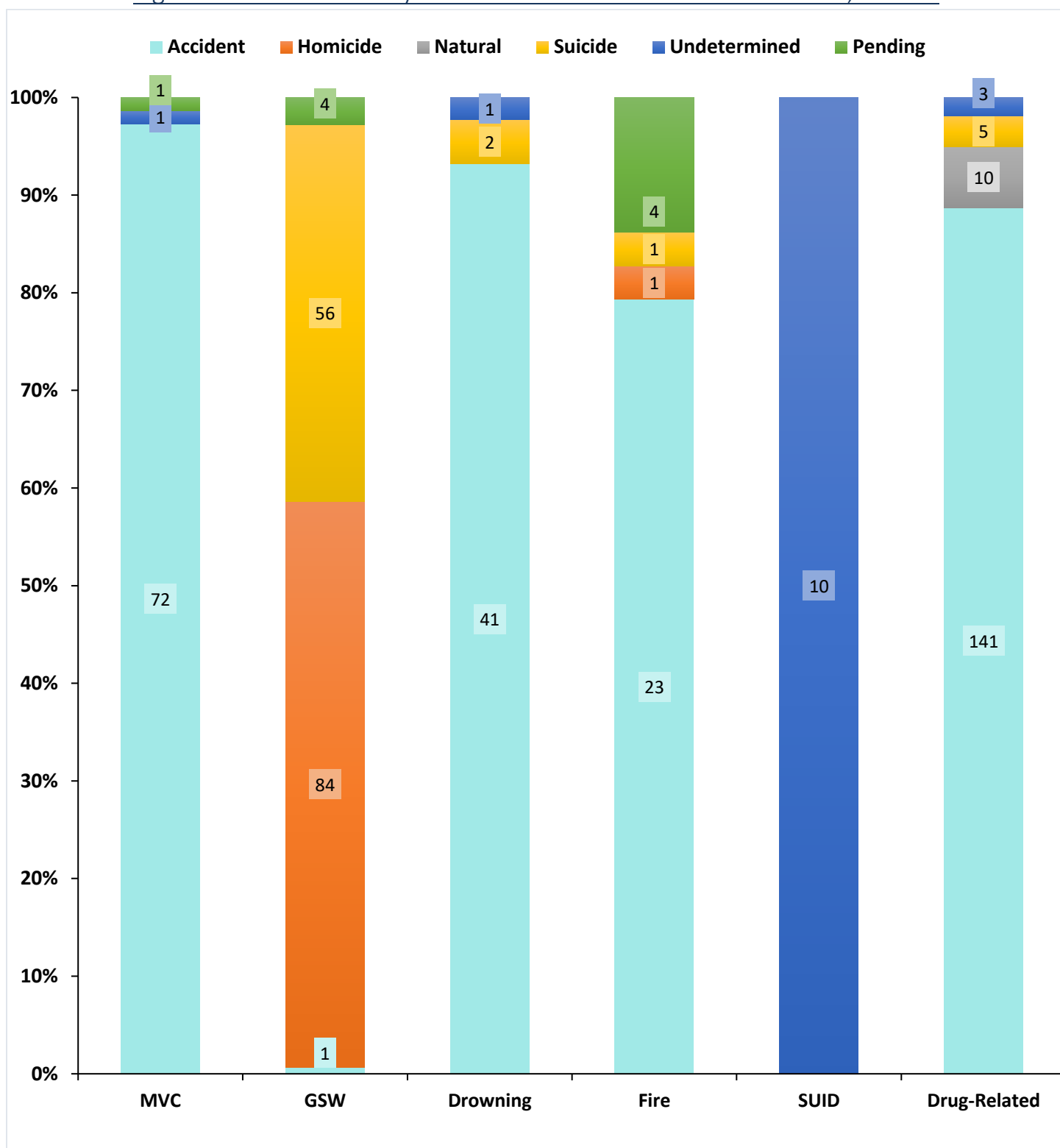
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Table 23. EKME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2018

Cause of Death ¹	Total	Percentage
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	74	9.96%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	145	19.52%
Drowning	44	5.92%
Fire	29	3.90%
SUID	10	1.35%
Drug-Related	159	21.40%
...Involving Heroin	22	13.84%
...Involving Fentanyl and Analogs	67	42.14%
...Involving Methamphetamine	78	49.06%

¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 37. EKME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2018¹⁻²

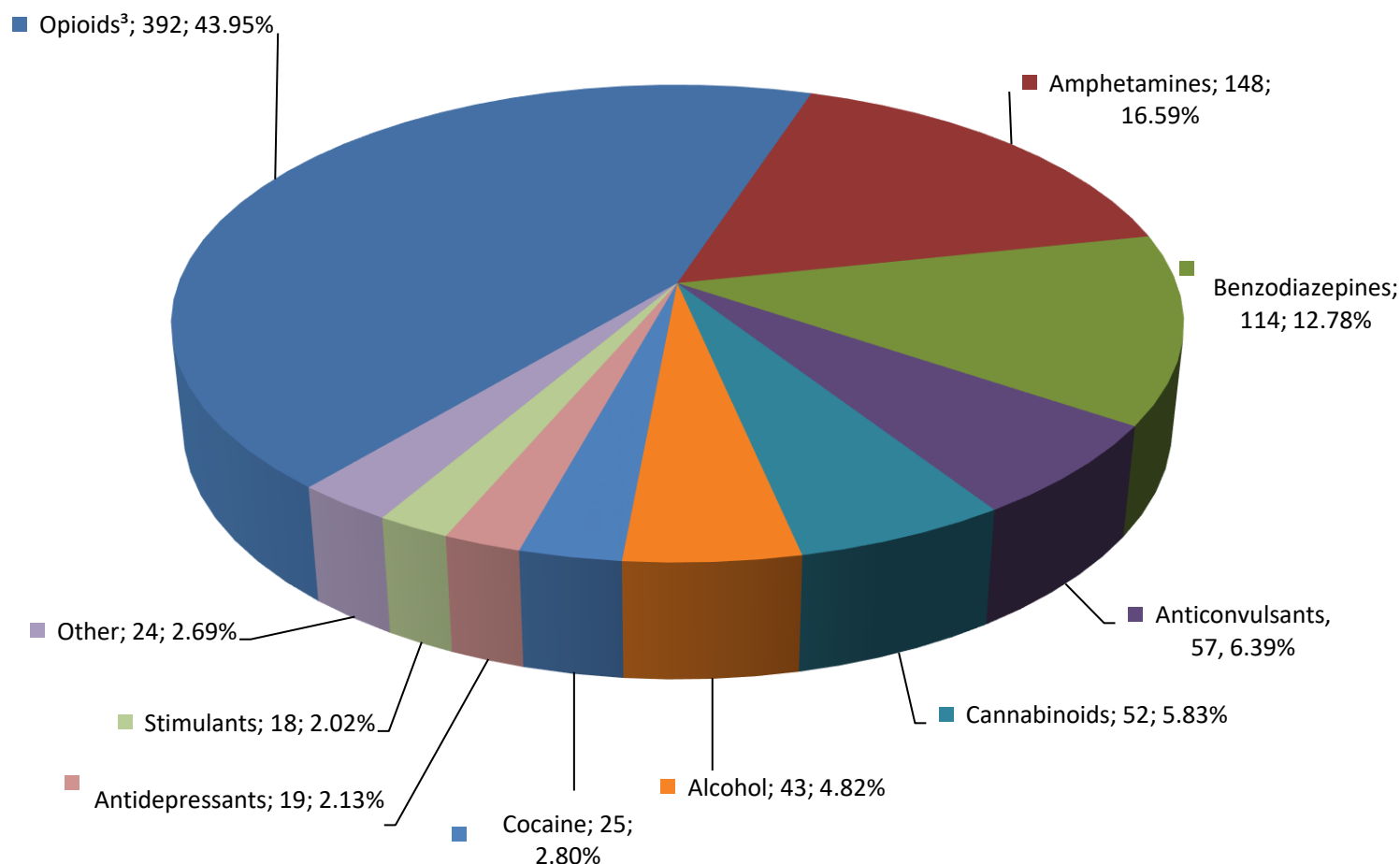
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

²Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

Figure 38. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in EKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²



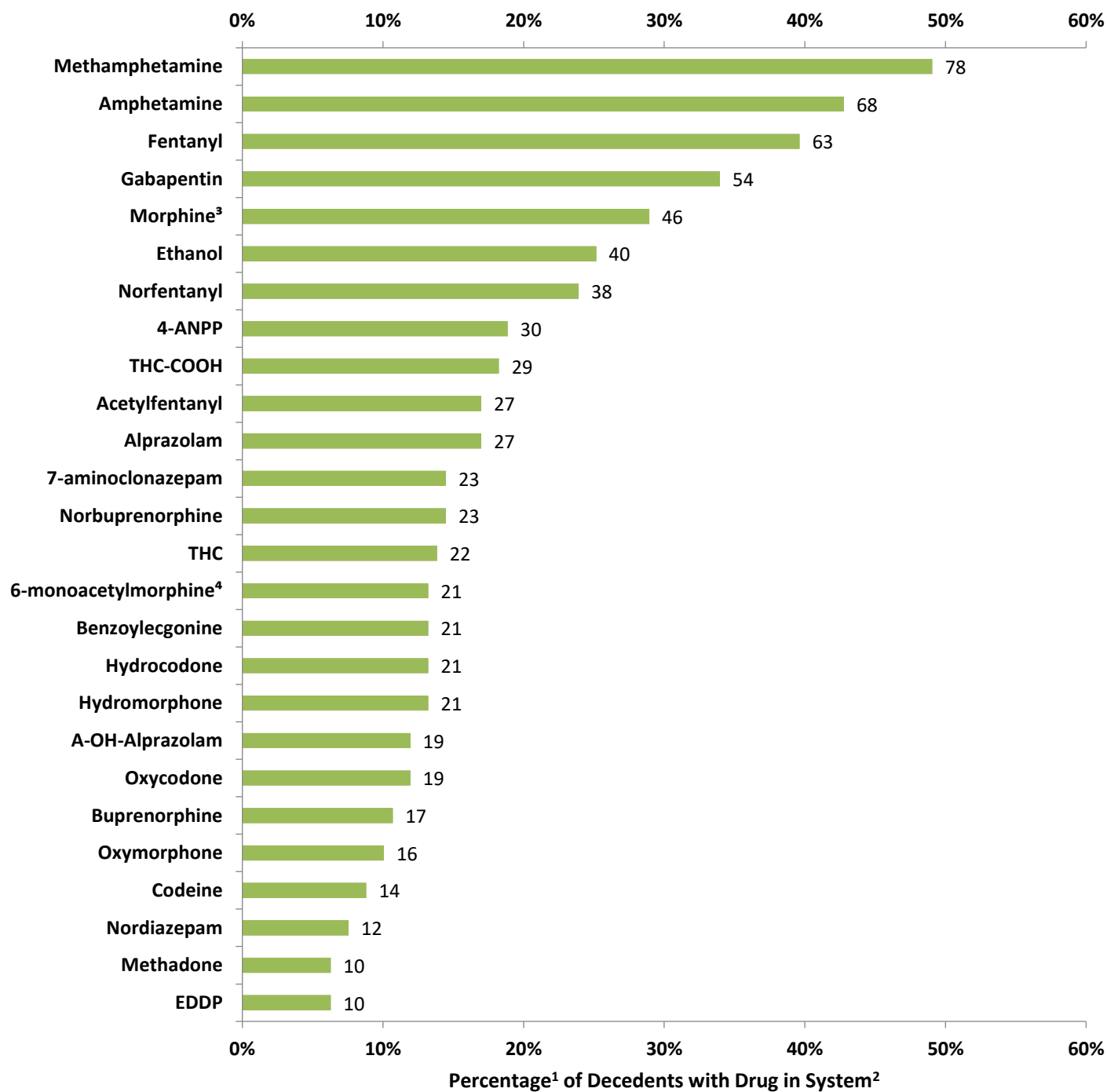
¹Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all EKME drug-related cases (n=892).

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 39. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in EKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



¹Percentage is based off the total number of EKME drug-related cases (n=159). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

⁴1 heroin case does not have 6-monoacetylmorphine present in postmortem toxicology.

Table 24. Additional Drugs Detected in EKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²

Drug Name	Total	Percentage	Drug Name	Total	Percentage
1,1-difluorethane	1	0.63%	MDMA	1	0.63%
5F-ADB	1	0.63%	Meprobamate	1	0.63%
Acetaminophen	1	0.63%	Mirtazapine	1	0.63%
Acetone	1	0.63%	Naloxone	2	1.26%
Amitriptyline	1	0.63%	Nicotine	4	2.52%
Amlodipine	2	1.26%	Norfluoxetine	3	1.89%
Benzotropine	1	0.63%	Norpropoxyphene	1	0.63%
Caffeine	6	3.77%	Norsertraline	2	1.26%
Chlorpheniramine	1	0.63%	Nortramadol	1	0.63%
Citalopram	2	1.26%	Nortriptyline	2	1.26%
Clonazepam	6	3.77%	O-desmethyltramadol	5	3.14%
Cocaine	4	2.52%	O-desmethylvenlafaxine	1	0.63%
Cotinine	8	5.03%	Oxazepam	9	5.66%
Cyclobenzaprine	1	0.63%	Para-fluorobutyrylfentanyl	1	0.63%
Cyclopropylfentanyl	1	0.63%	Paroxetine	1	0.63%
Dextromethorphan	3	1.89%	Pregabalin	1	0.63%
Diazepam	8	5.03%	Pseudoephedrine	1	0.63%
Diphenhydramine	4	2.52%	Quetiapine	1	0.63%
Ethylene glycol	1	0.63%	Sertraline	2	1.26%
Fluoxetine	3	1.89%	Temazepam	7	4.40%
Hydroxychloroquine	1	0.63%	Tizanidine	1	0.63%
Hydroxyzine	1	0.63%	Topiramate	1	0.63%
Isopropanol	1	0.63%	Tramadol	7	4.40%
Levetiracetam	1	0.63%	Venlafaxine	1	0.63%
loperamide	1	0.63%	Zolpidem	2	1.26%
Lorazepam	3	1.89%			

¹Percentage is based off the total number of EKME drug-related cases (n=159). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Table 25. EKME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2018

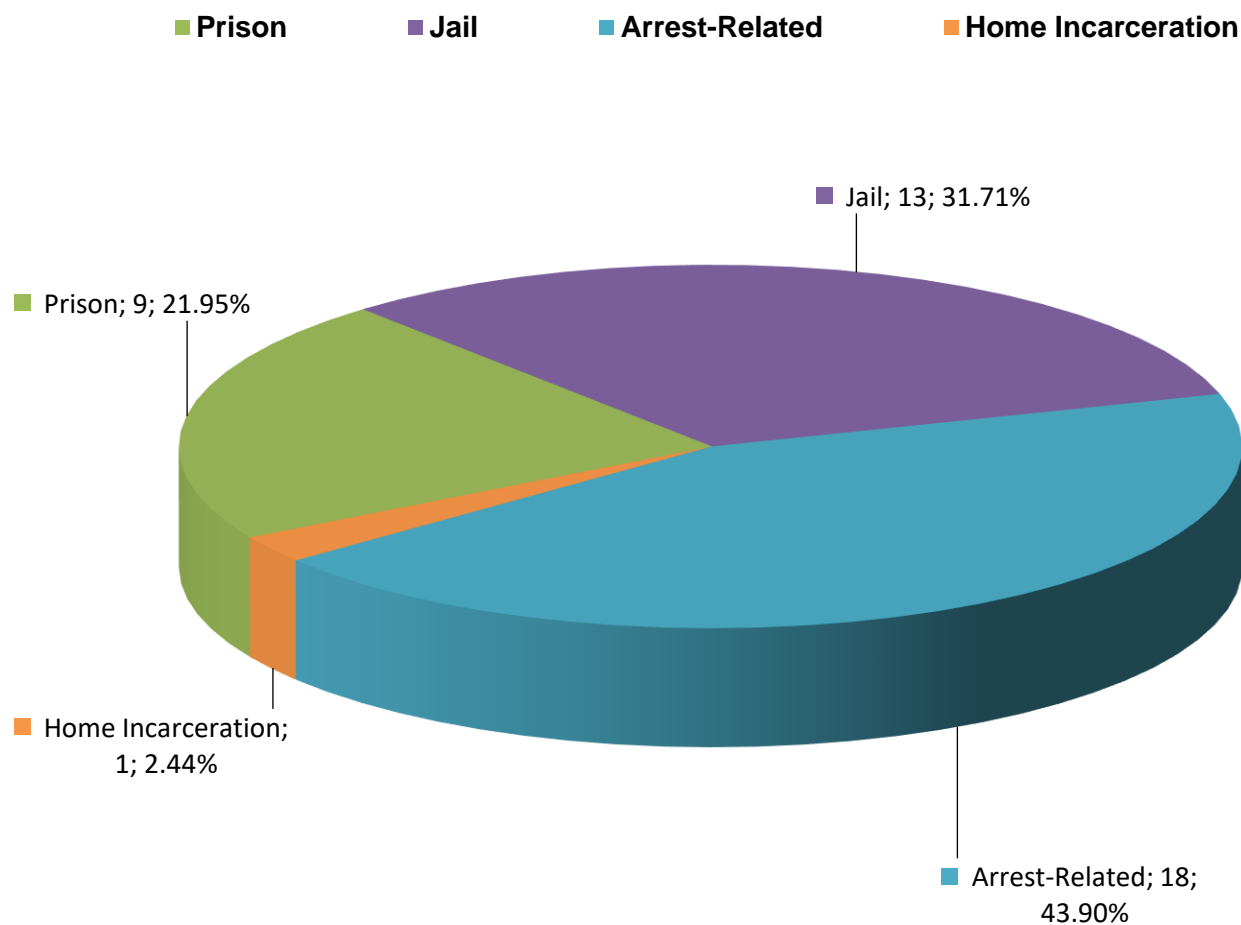
Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
Work-Related	13	1.75%
Accident	10	75.92%
Homicide	1	7.69%
Natural	1	7.69%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	1	7.69%
Police-Involved	41	5.52%
Accident	14	34.15%
Homicide	11	26.83%
Natural	12	29.27%
Suicide	4	9.76%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Domestic Abuse	3	0.40%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	3	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Child Abuse	3	0.40%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	3	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Nursing Home	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

Figure 40. EKME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2018

N=41



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

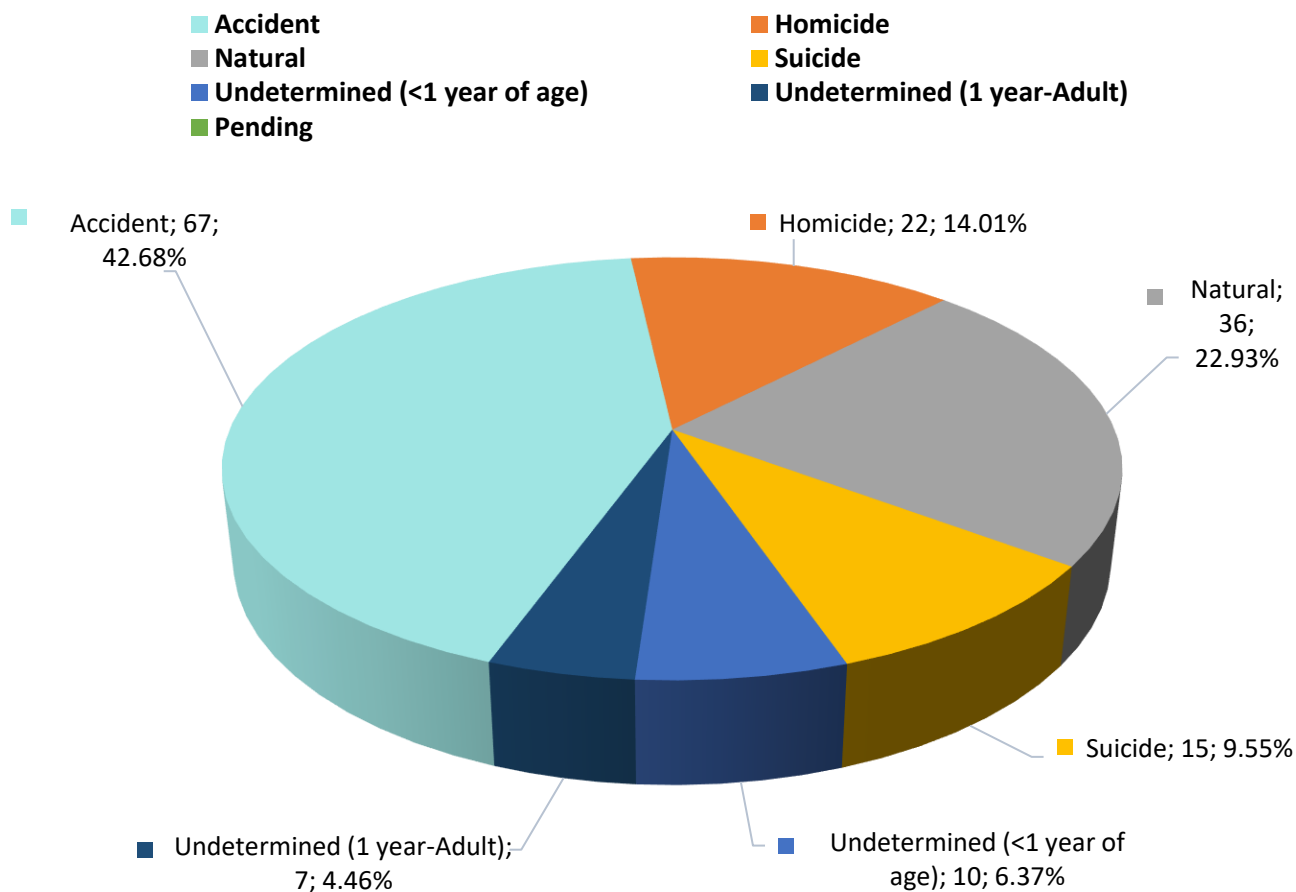


This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Western Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner Data

Figure 41. WKME Cases by Manner of Death, 2018

N=157



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

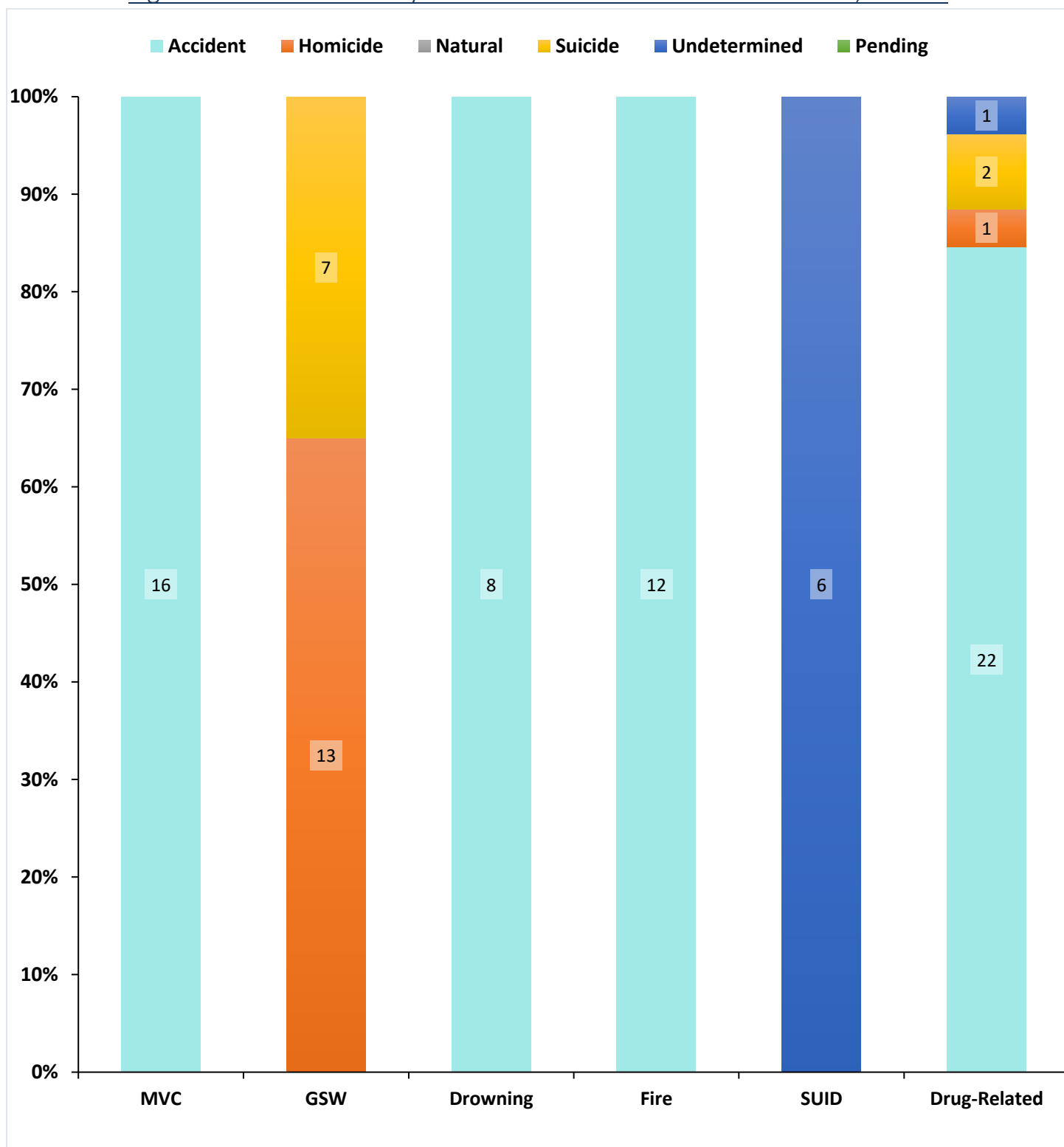


Table 26. WKME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2018¹

Cause of Death ¹	Total	Percentage
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	16	10.19%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	20	12.74%
Drowning	8	5.10%
Fire	12	7.64%
SUID	3	1.61%
Drug-Related	26	16.56%
...Involving Heroin	0	0.00%
...Involving Fentanyl and Analogs	6	23.08%
...Involving Methamphetamine	11	42.31%

¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 42. WKME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2018¹⁻²

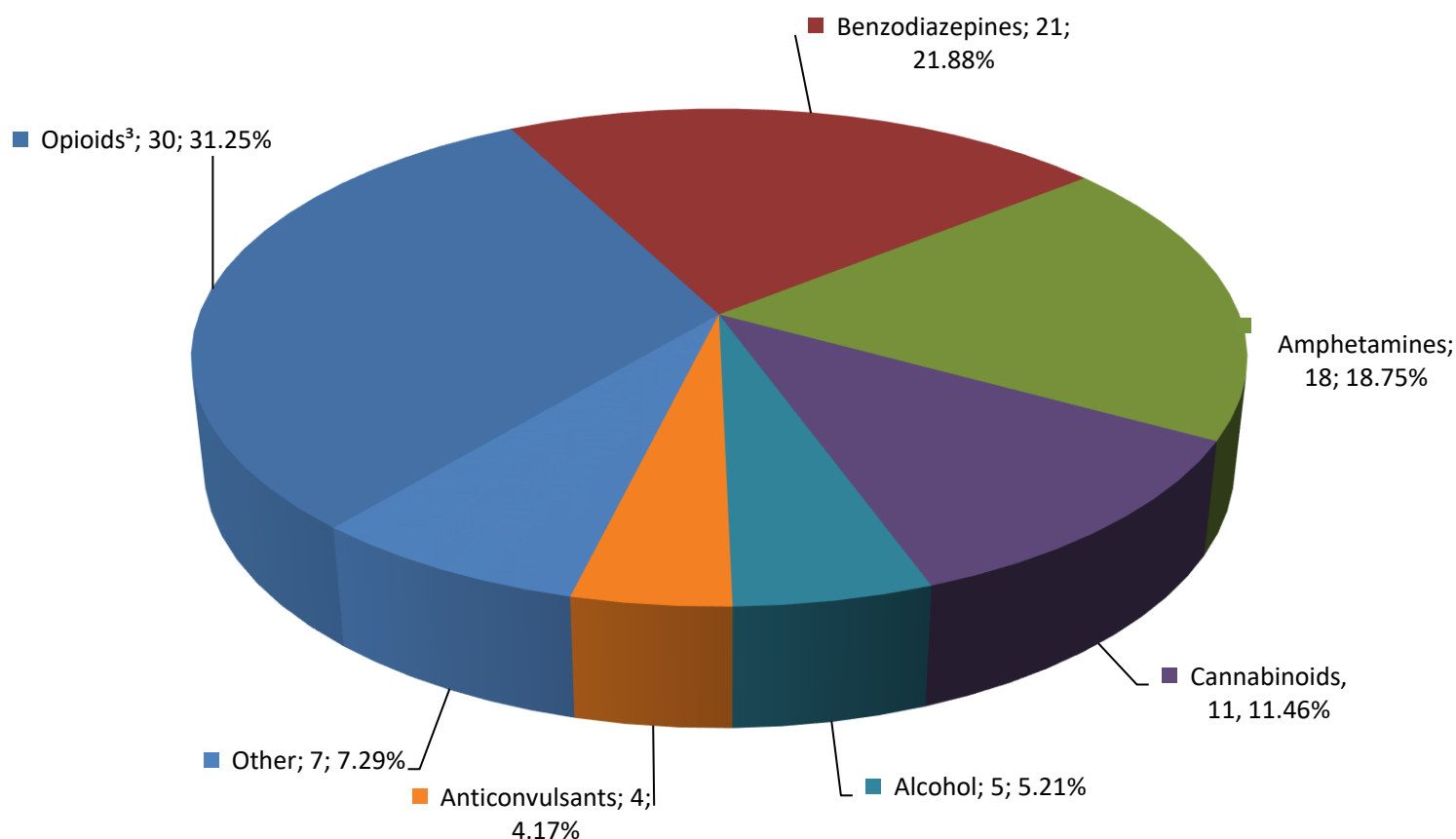
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

²Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

Figure 43. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in WKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²

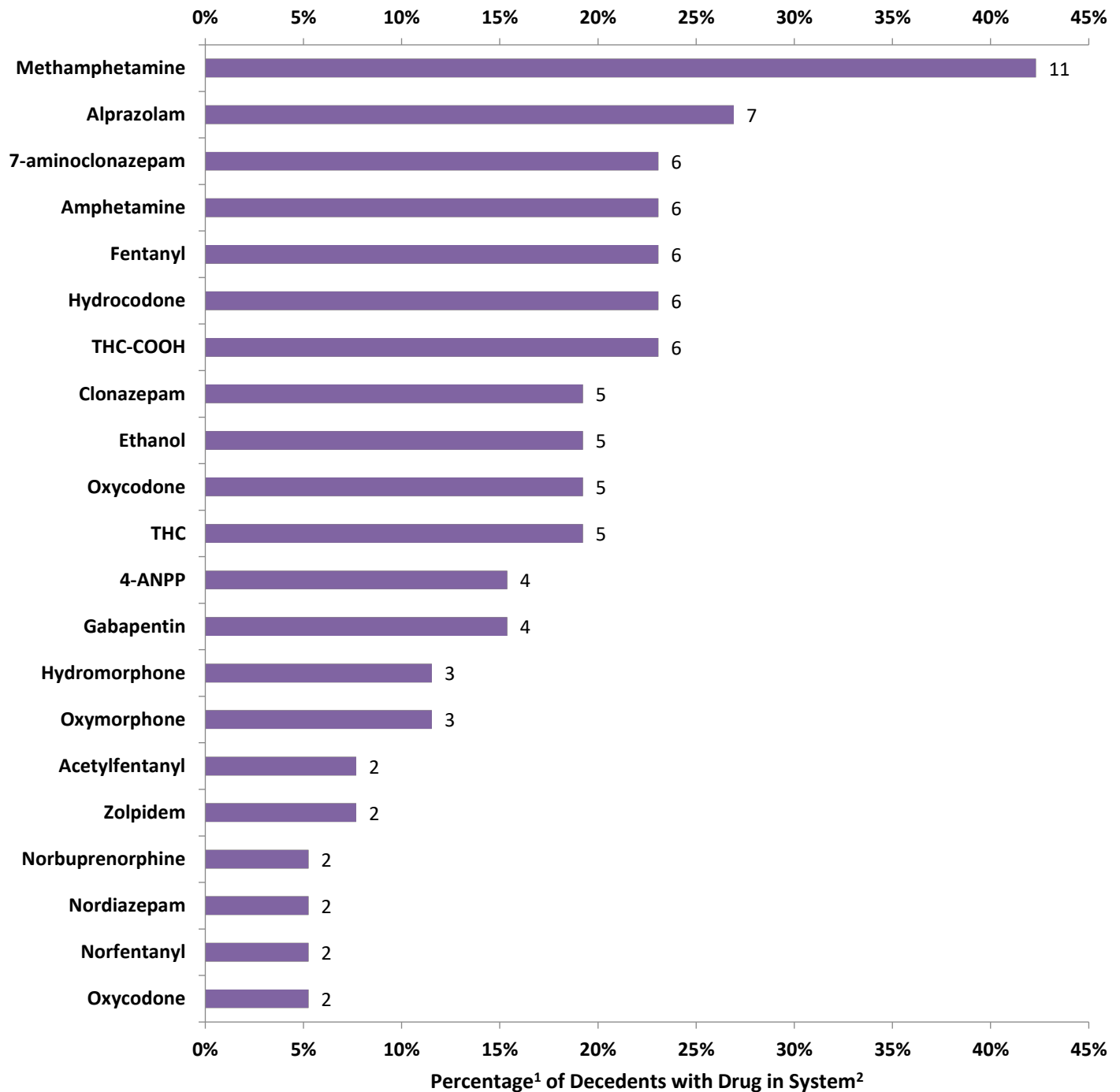


¹Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all WKME drug-related cases (n=96).

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 44. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in WKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²

¹Percentage is based off the total number of WKME drug-related cases (n=26). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

Table 27. Additional Drugs Detected in WKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻³

Drug Name	Total	Percentage
1,1-difluorethane	1	3.85%
A-OH-Alprazolam	1	3.85%
Benzoyllecgonine	1	3.85%
Bupropion	1	3.85%
Butalbital	1	3.85%
MDMA	1	3.85%
Morphine ³	1	3.85%
Nordiazepam	1	3.85%
Oxazepam	1	3.85%
Trazodone	1	3.85%

¹Percentage is based off the total number of WKME drug-related cases (n=26). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Morphine represents true drug and/or metabolite of heroin.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Table 28. WKME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2018

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
Work-Related	1	0.64%
Accident	1	100.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Police-Involved	2	1.27%
Accident	1	50.00%
Homicide	1	50.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Domestic Abuse	3	1.91%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	3	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Child Abuse	1	0.64%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	1	100.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Nursing Home	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%

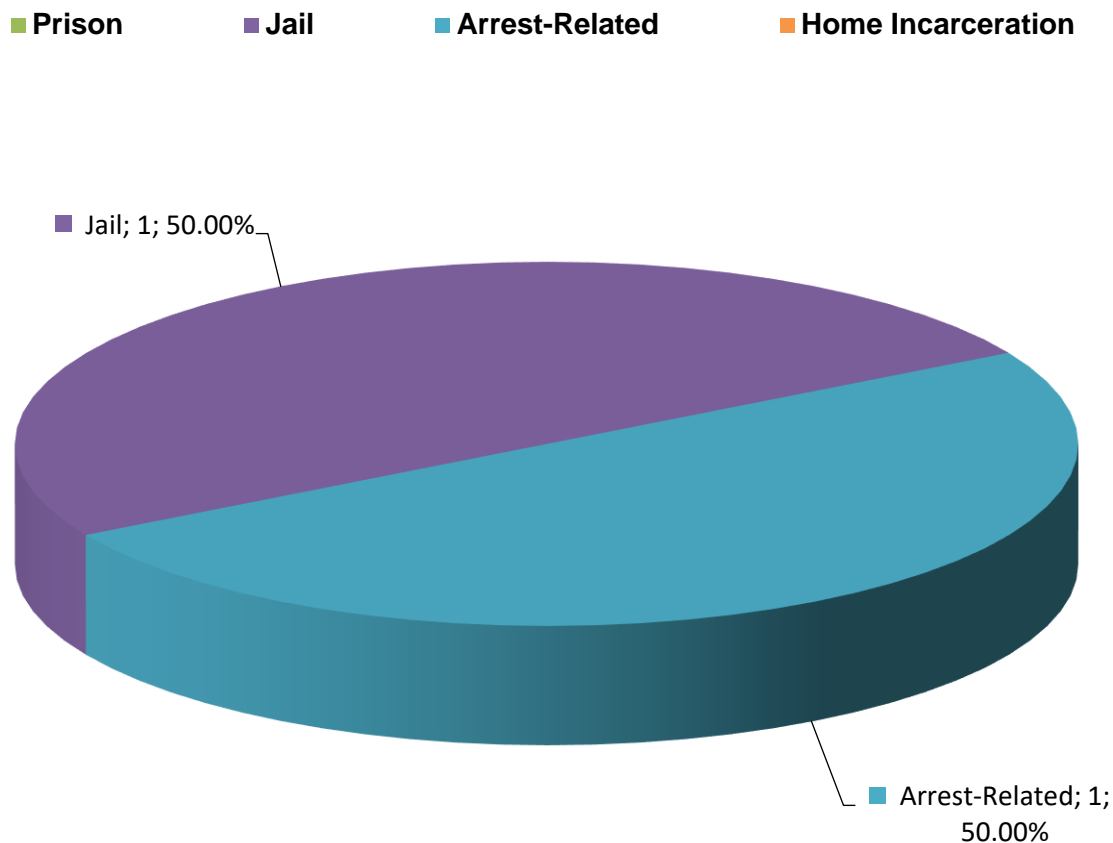
This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Pending	0	0.00%
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Figure 45. WKME Police-Involved Cases by Type of Police Involvement, 2018

N=2



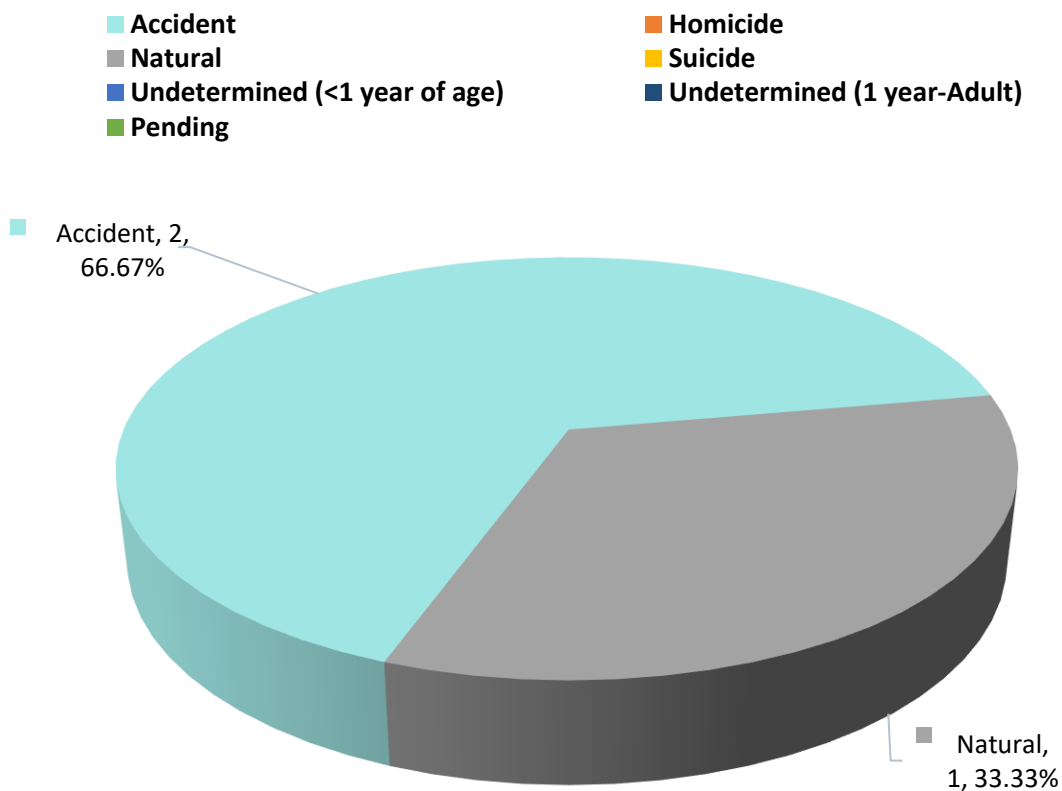
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Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner Data

Figure 46. NKME Cases by Manner of Death, 2018

N=3



This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

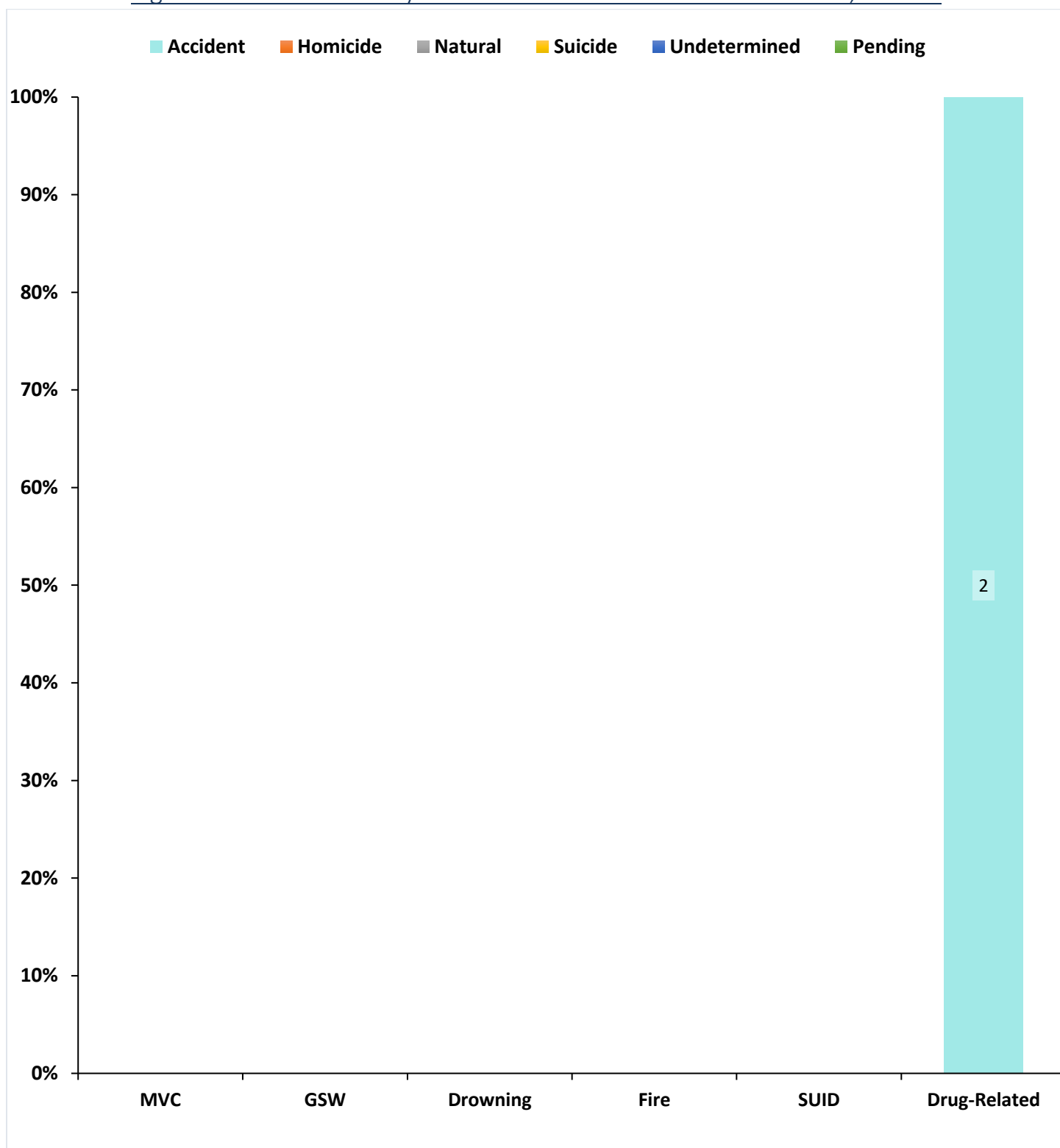


Table 29. NKME Cases by Common Causes of Death, 2018

Cause of Death ¹	Total	Percentage
Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)	0	0.00%
Gunshot Wound (GSW)	0	0.00%
Drowning	0	0.00%
Fire	0	0.00%
SUID	0	0.00%
Drug-Related	2	33.33%
...Involving Heroin	0	0.00%
...Involving Fentanyl and Analogs	2	100.00%
...Involving Methamphetamine	0	0.00%

¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

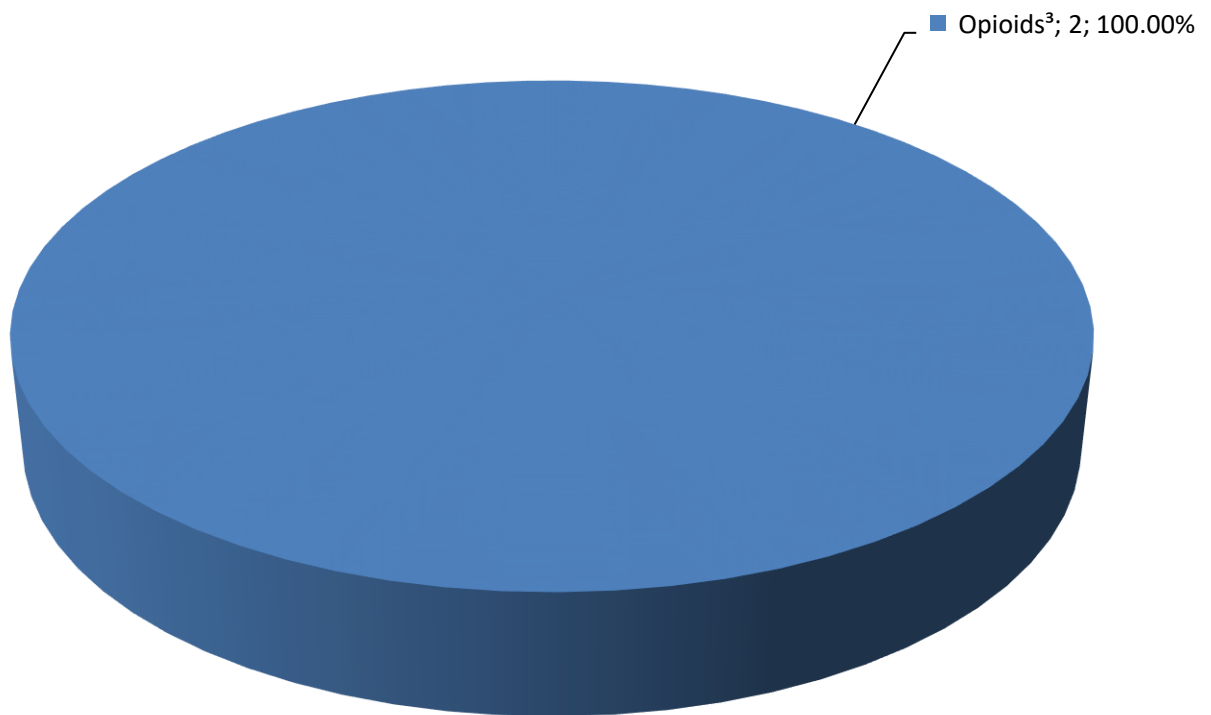
Figure 47. NKME Cases by Common Causes of Death and Manner, 2018¹⁻²

¹The above causes of death are only representative of common causes and does not include all possible causes of death.

²Some decedents may have more than one cause of death; therefore, those decedents may be represented multiple times in chart.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.

Figure 48. Most Common Drug Classes Detected in NKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018¹⁻²



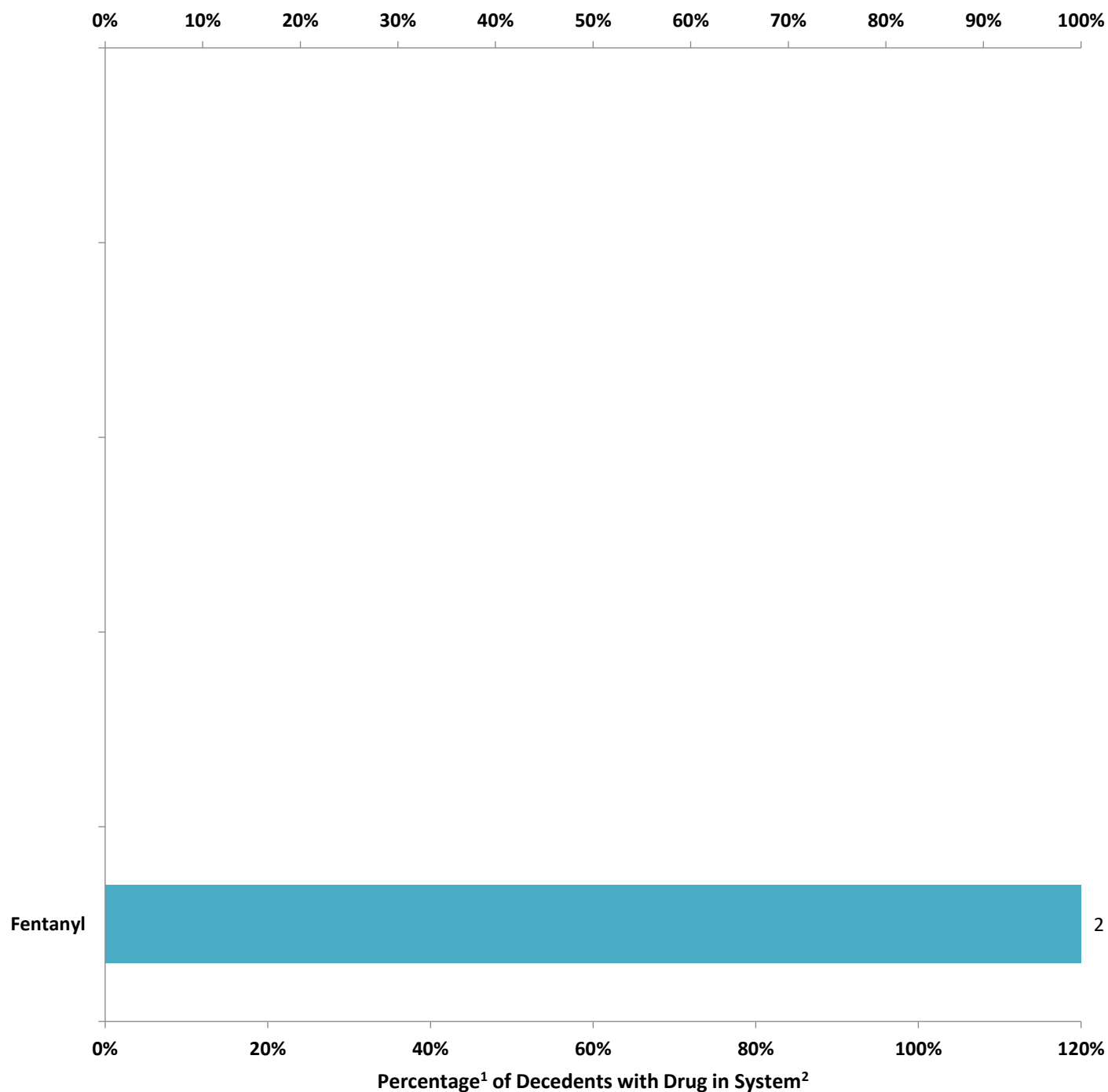
¹Percentage is based off of the total number of drugs identified across all NKME drug-related cases (n=2).

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

³Opioids includes all opium-like substances (including natural opiates and synthetic opioids).

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Figure 49. Most Frequent Drugs Detected in NKME Drug-Related Cases, 2018

¹Percentage is based off the total number of NKME drug-related cases (n=2). Total Percentage >100% as cases may have more than one drug detected.

²Detected drugs were found in blood, urine, and/or vitreous fluids.

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Table 30. Statewide ME Cases with Special Circumstances by Manners of Death, 2018

Fatal Event	Total	Percentage
Work-Related	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Police-Involved	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Domestic Abuse	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Child Abuse	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%
Nursing Home	0	0.00%
Accident	0	0.00%
Homicide	0	0.00%
Natural	0	0.00%
Suicide	0	0.00%
Undetermined	0	0.00%
Pending	0	0.00%

This full report should not be used for statewide fatality counts. The above data represents cases referred to the Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office only. Similarly occurring deaths not referred to the Medical Examiner's office would not be included in this report.



Additional Information

Additional Data for 2018

Scene Visits

In Kentucky, the county coroners and their deputies conduct the death investigations and scene visits. Kentucky's Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) trains coroners and deputy coroners. Scene visits by medical examiner regional offices are at the request of local law enforcement and/or county coroner.

- The OCME attended two (2) scenes.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office attended zero (0) scenes.
- The Western Kentucky Office attended one (1) scene.
- The Northern Kentucky Office attended zero (0) scenes.

Decedents Transported

Due to the combined Coroner/Medical Examiner system, no regional Medical Examiner Office transports decedents or arranges/orders the transport of decedents. This duty falls under the purview of the county coroner in which the death occurred. Therefore, zero (0) decedents were transported by any regional office.

Hospital Autopsies

Due to the combined Coroner/Medical Examiner system, the Regional Medical Examiner's Offices do not have jurisdiction over hospital deaths and autopsies. There were zero (0) hospital autopsies retained under ME jurisdiction.

Organ and Tissue Donation

- Of the 1,296 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the OCME, 10 were organ donations, 33 were tissue donations, and 6 were both organ and tissue donations.
- Of the 743 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the Eastern Kentucky Office, 5 were organ donations, 10 were tissue donations, and 1 was both organ and tissue donations.
- Of the 157 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the Western Kentucky Office, 1 was organ donation, 5 were tissue donations, and 1 was both organ and tissue donation.
- Of the 3 cases undergoing postmortem examinations by the Northern Kentucky Office, 0 were organ donation, 0 were tissue donation, and 0 were both organ and tissue donation.

Unclaimed Decedents

Due to the combined Coroner/Medical Examiner system, the Regional Medical Examiner's Offices do not have responsibility over unclaimed decedents. This is the duty of the county coroner. Therefore, there were zero (0) unclaimed decedents in 2018.

Type of Postmortem Examination

Exhumations

- The OCME had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2018.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2018.
- The Western Kentucky Office had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2018.
- The Northern Kentucky Office had zero (0) postmortem examinations from an exhumation in 2018.

Complete Autopsies

- The OCME performed 966 complete autopsies in 2018.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 555 complete autopsies in 2018.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 126 complete autopsies in 2018.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 2 complete autopsies in 2018.

Focused Examinations

- The OCME performed 88 focused examinations in 2018.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 74 focused examinations in 2018.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 11 focused examinations in 2018.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 0 focused examinations in 2018.

External Autopsies

- The OCME performed 235 external examinations in 2018.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 108 external examinations in 2018.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 16 external examinations in 2018.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 1 external examination in 2018.

Skeletal Remains Examinations

- The OCME performed 7 skeletal remains examinations.
- The Eastern Kentucky Office performed 6 skeletal remains examination.
- The Western Kentucky Office performed 4 skeletal remains examinations.
- The Northern Kentucky Office performed 0 skeletal remains examinations.

Glossary

Autopsy – A detailed postmortem external and internal examination of a body to determine cause of death.

Manner of Death – The general category of the condition, circumstances or event, which causes the death. The categories are *accident, homicide, natural, suicide, pending, and undetermined*.

Accident – The *manner of death* used when, in other than *natural deaths*, there is no evidence of intent. The death occurs as a result of an unforeseen event.

Homicide – The *manner of death* used when, an act or omission directed at another person results in death. The medical examiner does not determine whether or not a criminal act has occurred.

Natural – The *manner of death* used when solely a disease causes death. If death is hastened by an injury, the *manner of death* is not considered natural.

Suicide – The *manner of death* in which death results from intentional act by one's self.

Pending – The *manner of death* is deferred because an ongoing investigation cannot be determined until ongoing investigation procedures immediately due to ongoing investigation procedures and is deferred until the investigation is complete.

Undetermined – The *manner of death* for deaths in which there is no clear determination of one manner over another.

Office of the Medical Examiner - the Office of the Medical Examiner investigates deaths occurring in the state of Kentucky, as authorized by Kentucky's elected coroners. The staff assists Kentucky coroners and law enforcement agencies in all aspects of death investigations by determining the cause and manner of death, identification of the deceased, and collection and interpretation of trace evidence.

Special Circumstances – When the death occurs in a special location or circumstance, such as deaths occurring in an institution, at the workplace, or in police custody.