

# ANNUAL REPORT



CRAWFORD COUNTY CORONER

2025

**Page Blank**

# Table of Contents

Message from Coroner	5
Coroner Staff	7
2025 Accomplishments	8
Community Events and Programs	10
2025 Revenue	11
2025 Budget -Expense	12
Reportable Death Description	13
Statistical Data	14-15
Death by Cause, Manner and Type	16 - 23

---

## Contact Information

[CrawfordMoCoroner.com](http://CrawfordMoCoroner.com)  
email: [admin@crawfordmocoroner.com](mailto:admin@crawfordmocoroner.com)

Phone: 573-775-4250

PO Box U  
Cuba, Mo. 65453

**Page Blank**

# Message to the Citizens of Crawford County

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,



Darren Dake  
Coroner

**Page Blank**

# CORONER OFFICE STAFF



**DARREN DAKE**  
Coroner



**HILLARY BAKER**  
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

## INVESTIGATORS



**AMBER SCOTT**  
Chief Deputy



**LEAH NILGES**  
Deputy Coroner



**TAMMY PEART**  
Deputy Coroner

## FORENSIC STAFF



**TATIANA BIHUN**  
PATHOLOGIST



**KATIE FOX HANSON**  
PATHOLOGIST



**AIMEE JONES**



**KIM FORRESTER**

RADIOLOGY TECHNICIANS



**MARK WALLACE**



**UNFILLED**

AUTOPSY TECHNICIANS

## SUPPORT TEAM



**HUNTER PHILLIPS**



**TODD HOLMAN**



**UNFILLED**



**UNFILLED**

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# 2025



**Award of Accreditation**  
Only Coroners office in Missouri

**Contract Agreement with**  
**DOC for Autopsies**



**Harm Reduction Vending**

**Facility Approved for Forensic**  
**Examination of children**



# PRESCRIPTION DRUG Take Back Day

AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2025  
10 am - 2 pm



## Drive-Thru Drop Off

*Never Have to Leave Your Car!*

Bring unused, unwanted, or expired medication for safe disposal.

### We Accept

- ✓ Vitamins
- ✓ Prescription Medication
- ✓ Prescription Patches
- ✓ Prescription Ointments
- ✓ Over-the-Counter-Medication

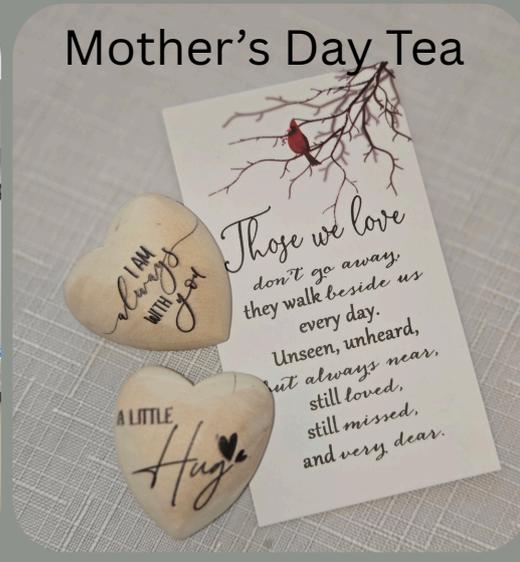
### ✗ We Do Not Accept

- ✗ Needles
- ✗ Inhalers
- ✗ Thermometers
- ✗ Aerosol Cans
- ✗ Hydrogen Peroxide

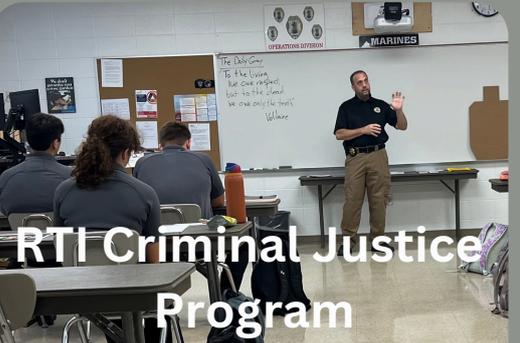
## Summer Intern Program with RTI



## Mother's Day Tea



## Steelville High School Government Class



## RTI Criminal Justice Program



## Cuba High School Career Fair

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## 2025

## HIV, Syphilis & Hep C

**When: May 17th, 2025**

10AM-2PM

**Where: Crawford County Coroner Office**

501 E Washington Blvd. Cuba, MO



## Health Screening



## Cuba High School Career Fair



## Senior Citizen Expo



## Shop-with-a-Cop with Cuba Police



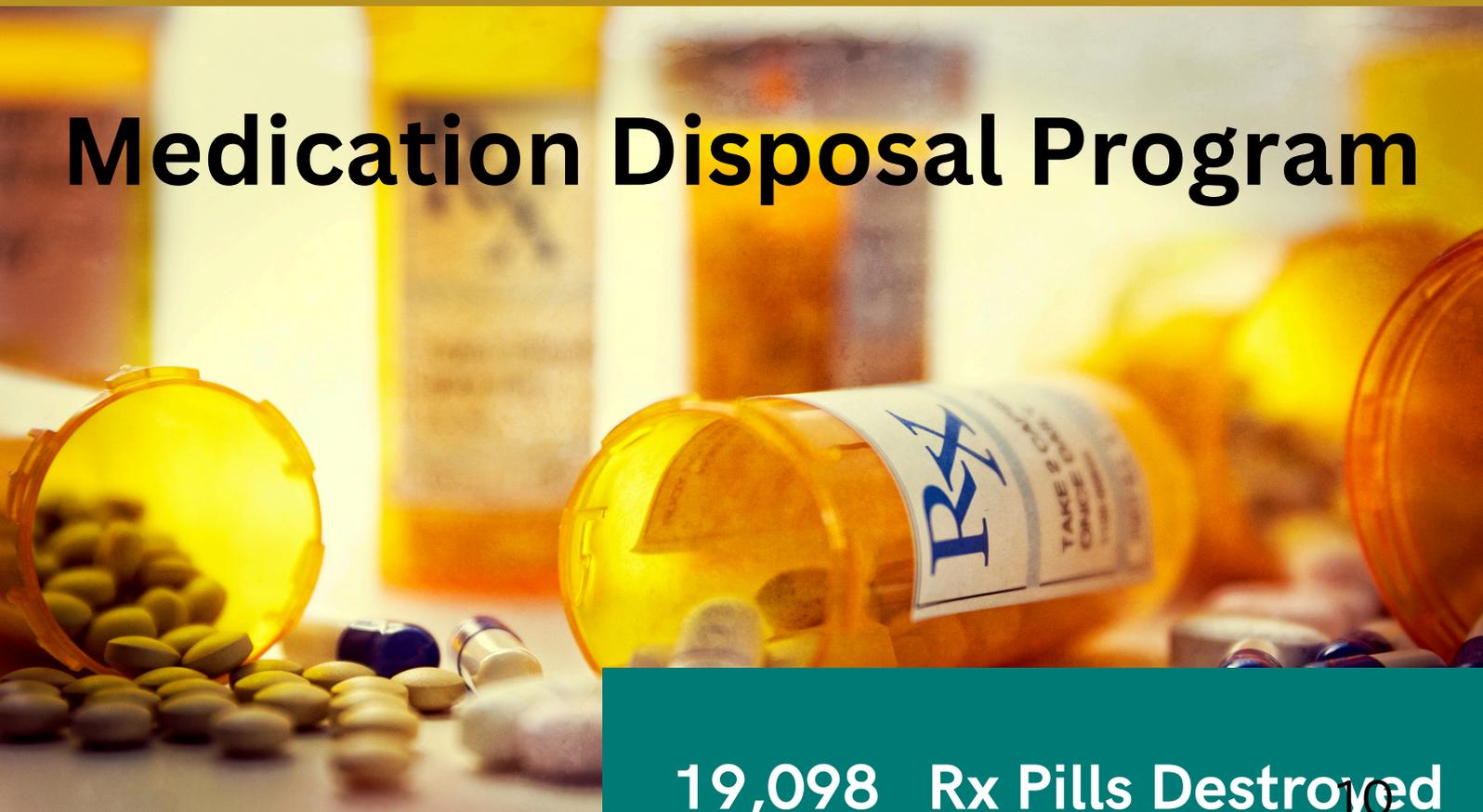
## Donated Supplies 2025

62	Vials of Insulin
181	Insulin Pens
3380	Syringes
600	Test Strips
400	Lancets
15	Monitoring Devices



**INSULIN FOR LIFE** USA

**Diabetic Supplies and Equipment**

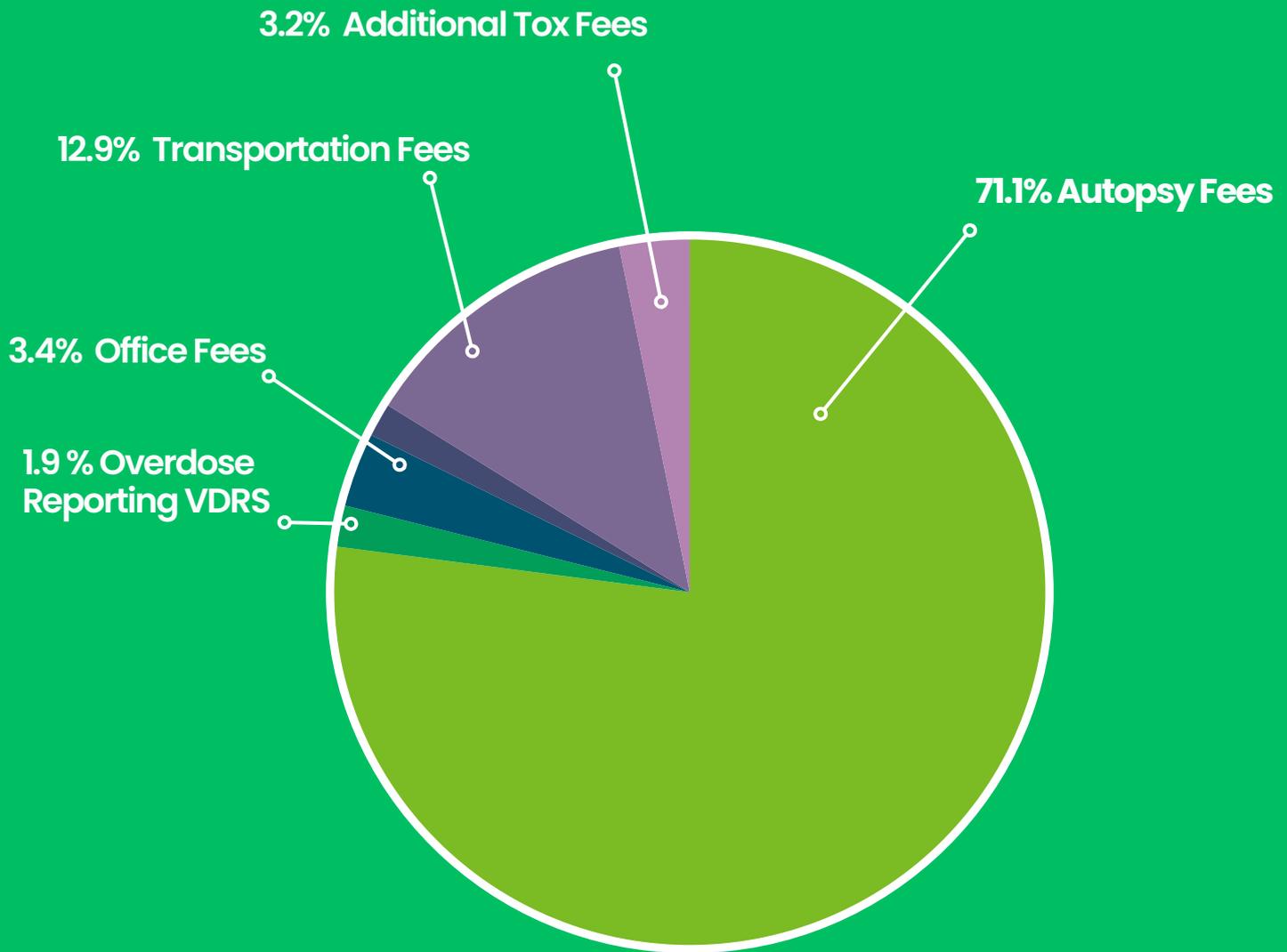


# Medication Disposal Program

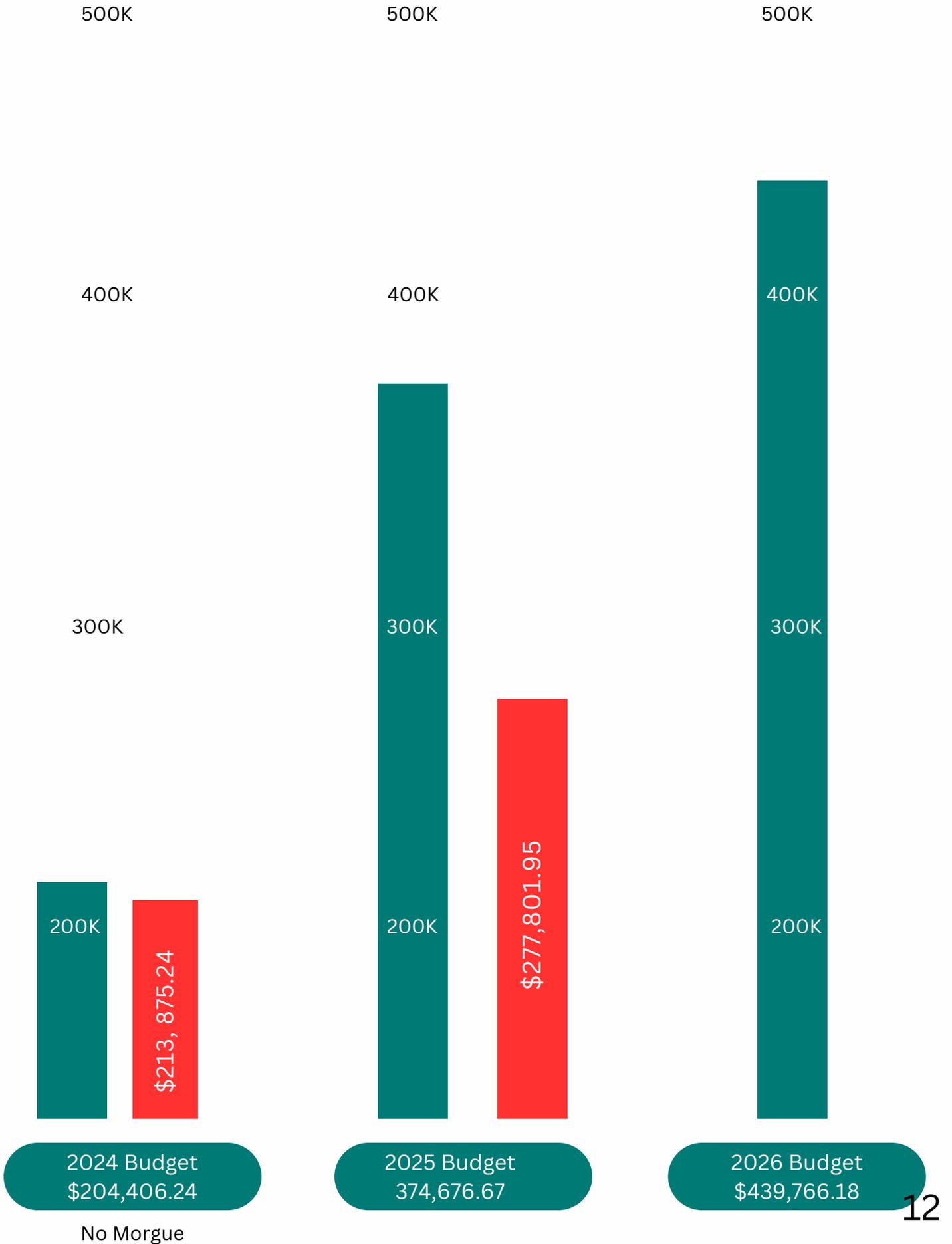
**19,098 Rx Pills Destroyed**

# 2025 REVENUE

## \$ 79,621.50



# Coroner's Office Budget vs. Expense (including morgue) 2024 - 2026



# **Deaths Reportable to the Coroner**

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

## **Deaths Reportable to the Coroner:**

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

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

# Crawford County Coroner Cases

Population 23,000

Number of cases reported to Coroner's office 302

## Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination

Number of Coroner cases with complete autopsy 35

Number of cases with MDI External Examination 112

Number of cases with Pathologist Limited Examination 3

Number of deaths with Toxicology only 31

## Definitions

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

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

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

# Crawford County Coroner Cases

## Other Statistical Data 2025

### Investigations

Total Deaths Reported to Coroner	302
Number of deaths investigated	289
Number of scene investigations	112
Number of decedents transported to facility	98

### Unidentified and indigent

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

### Organ Donation Referrals

Number of organ donation referrals	56
Number of referrals accepted	3

### Other Activity

Number of approved cremations	67
Number of exhumations ordered by Coroner	0
Number of direct death notifications	3

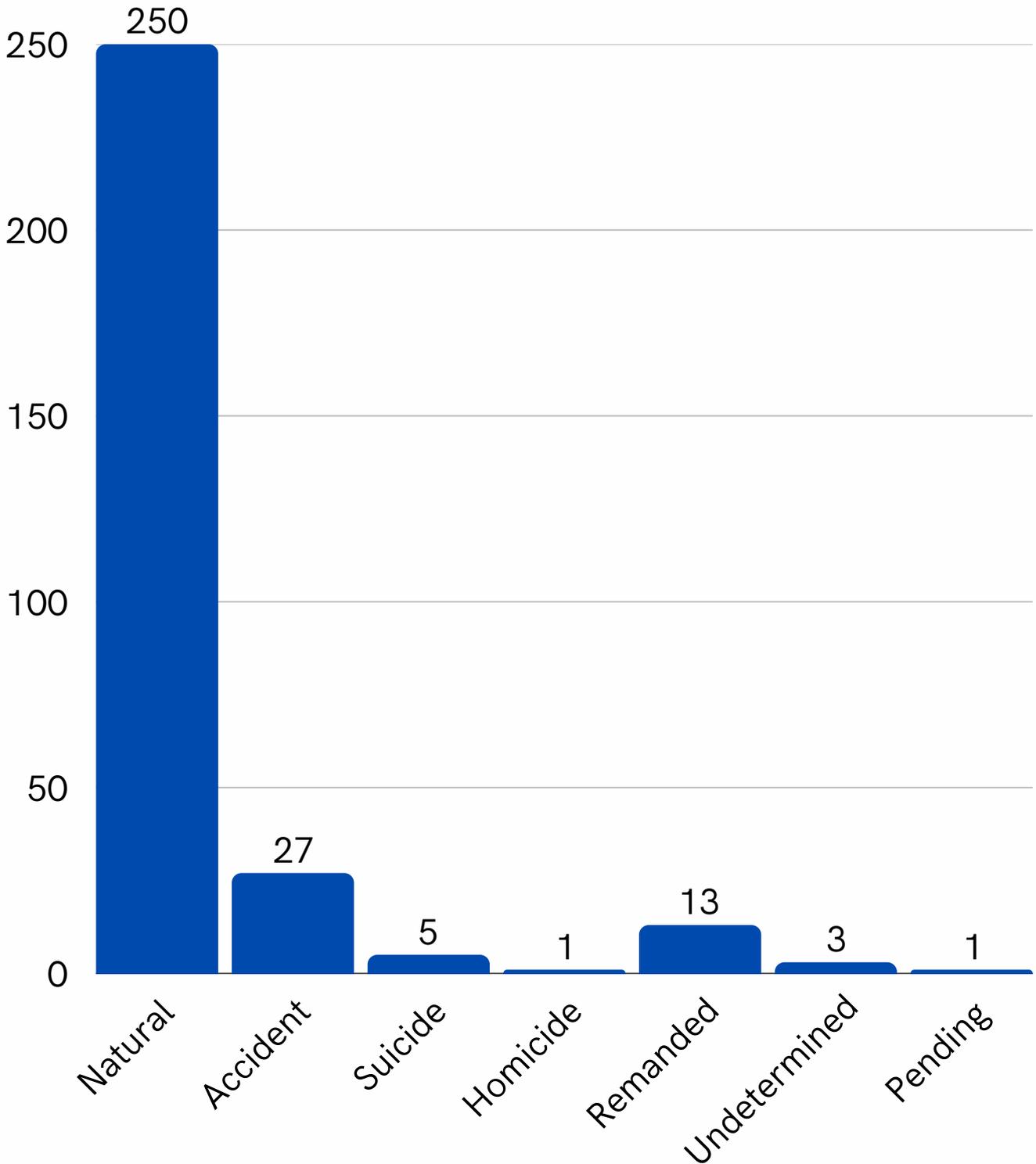
### Total Number of Autopsies

Crawford County Cases	38
Other County / State Cases	21

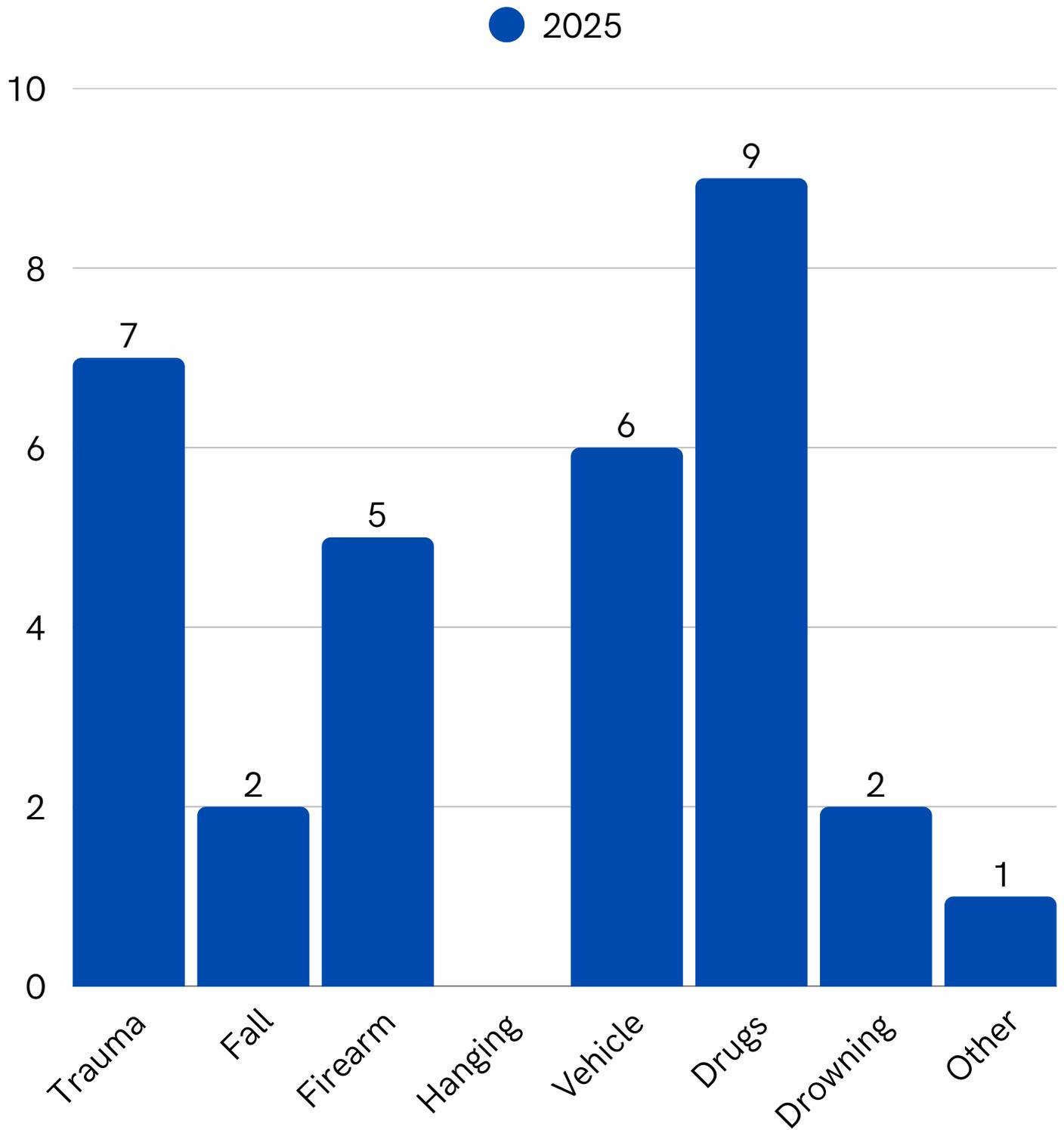
15

# Death By Manner

● 2025

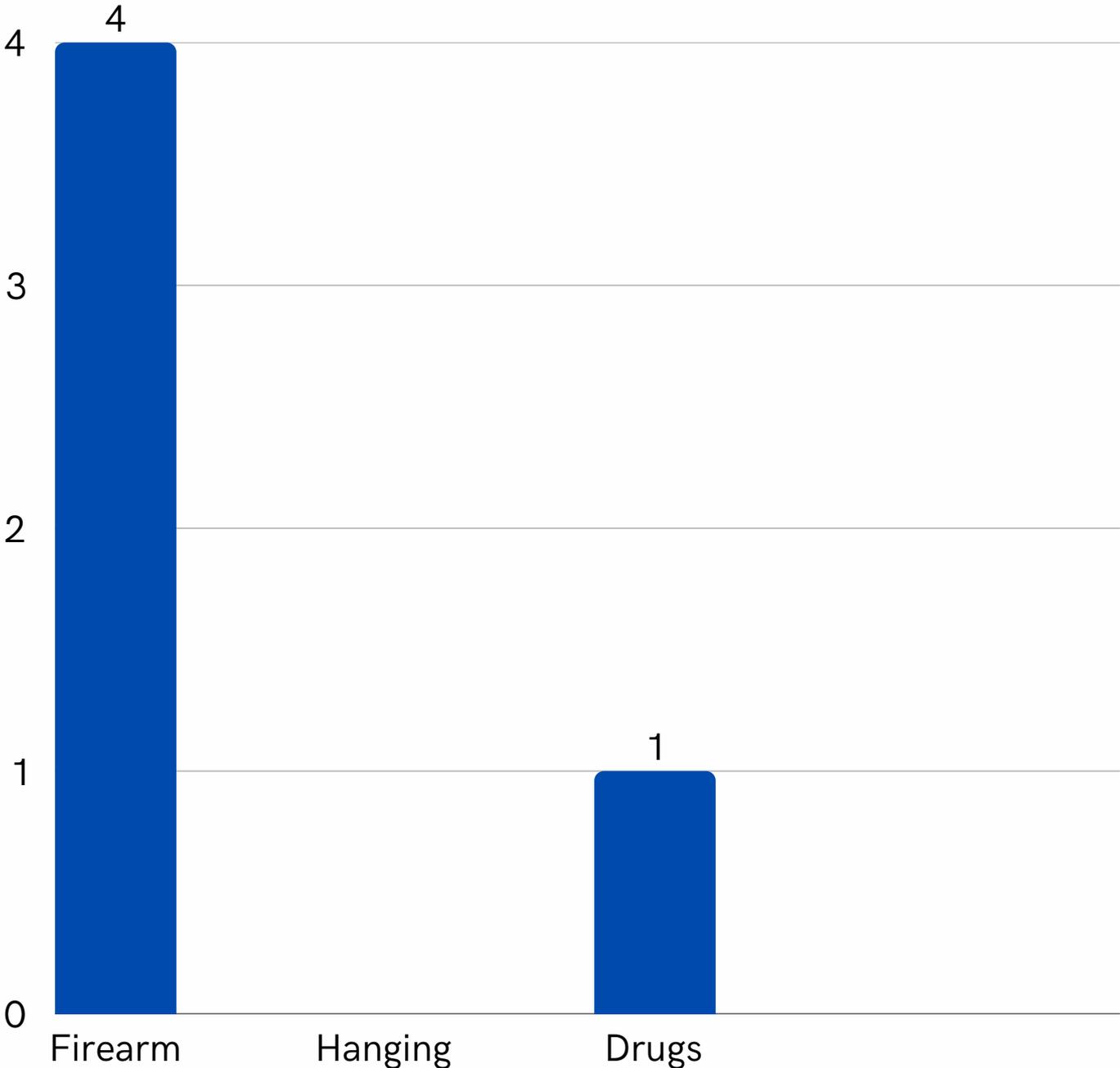


# Unnatural Death by Type



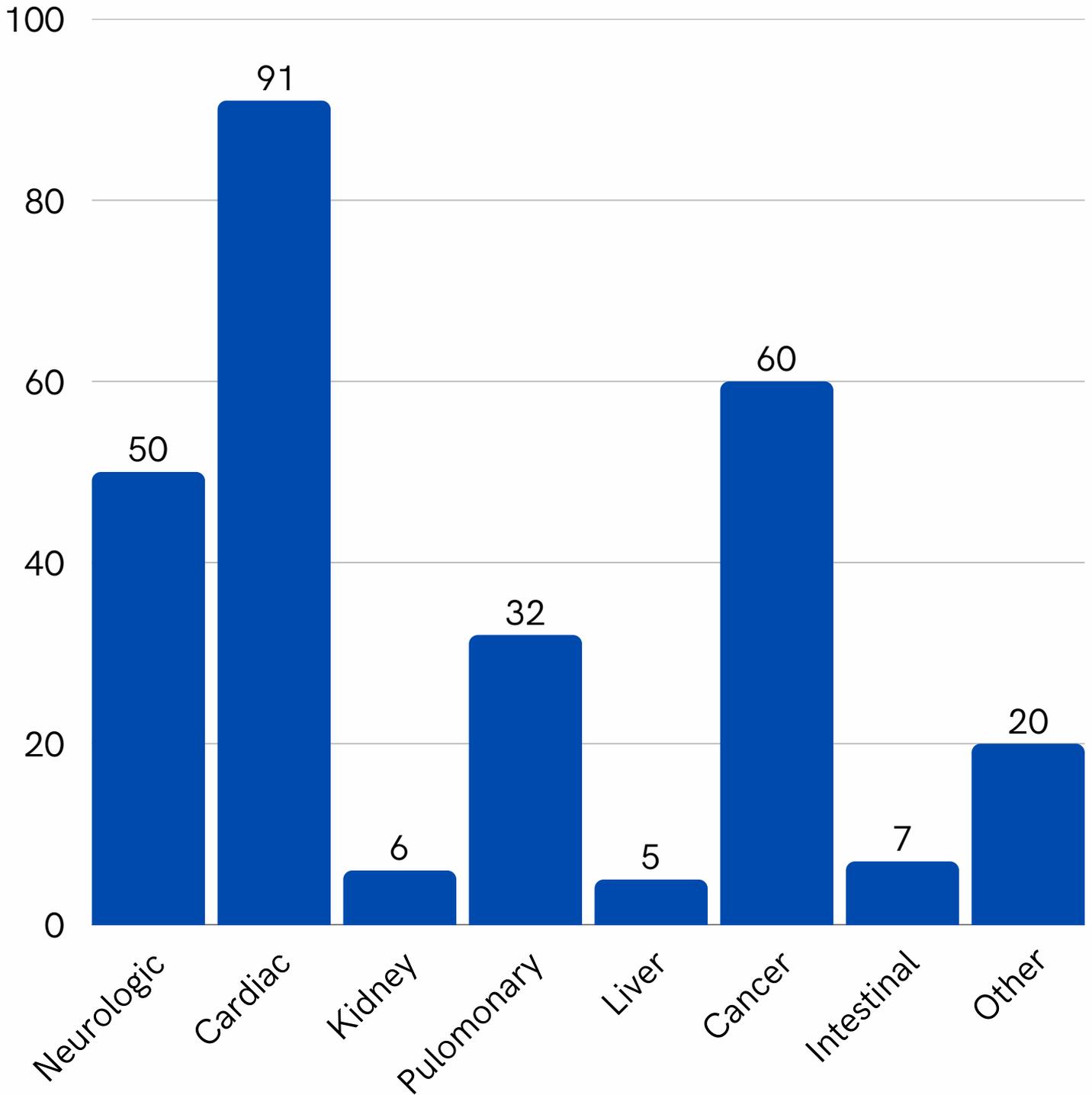
# Suicide Death by Cause

● 2025

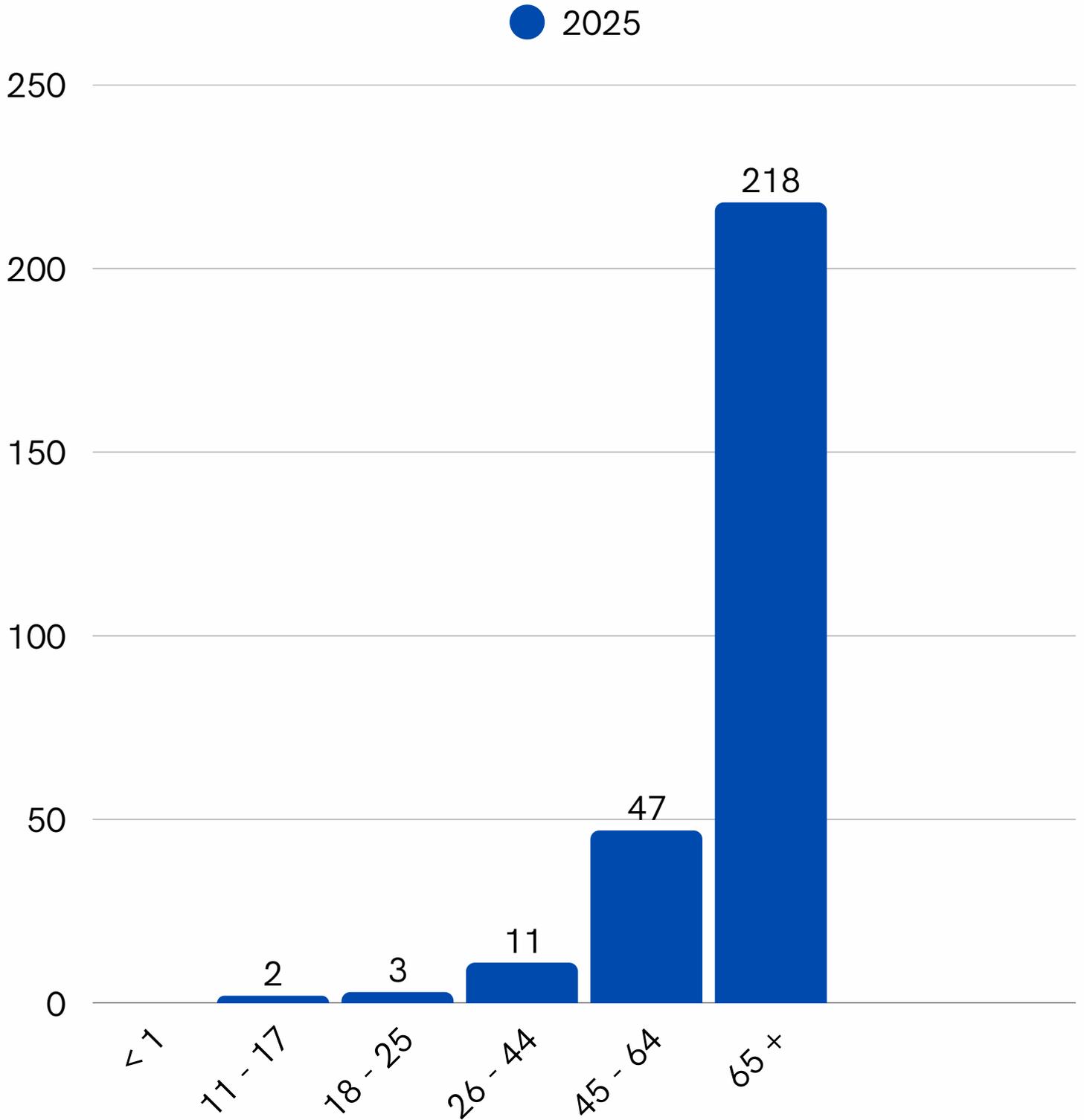


# Natural Death Involving

● 2025

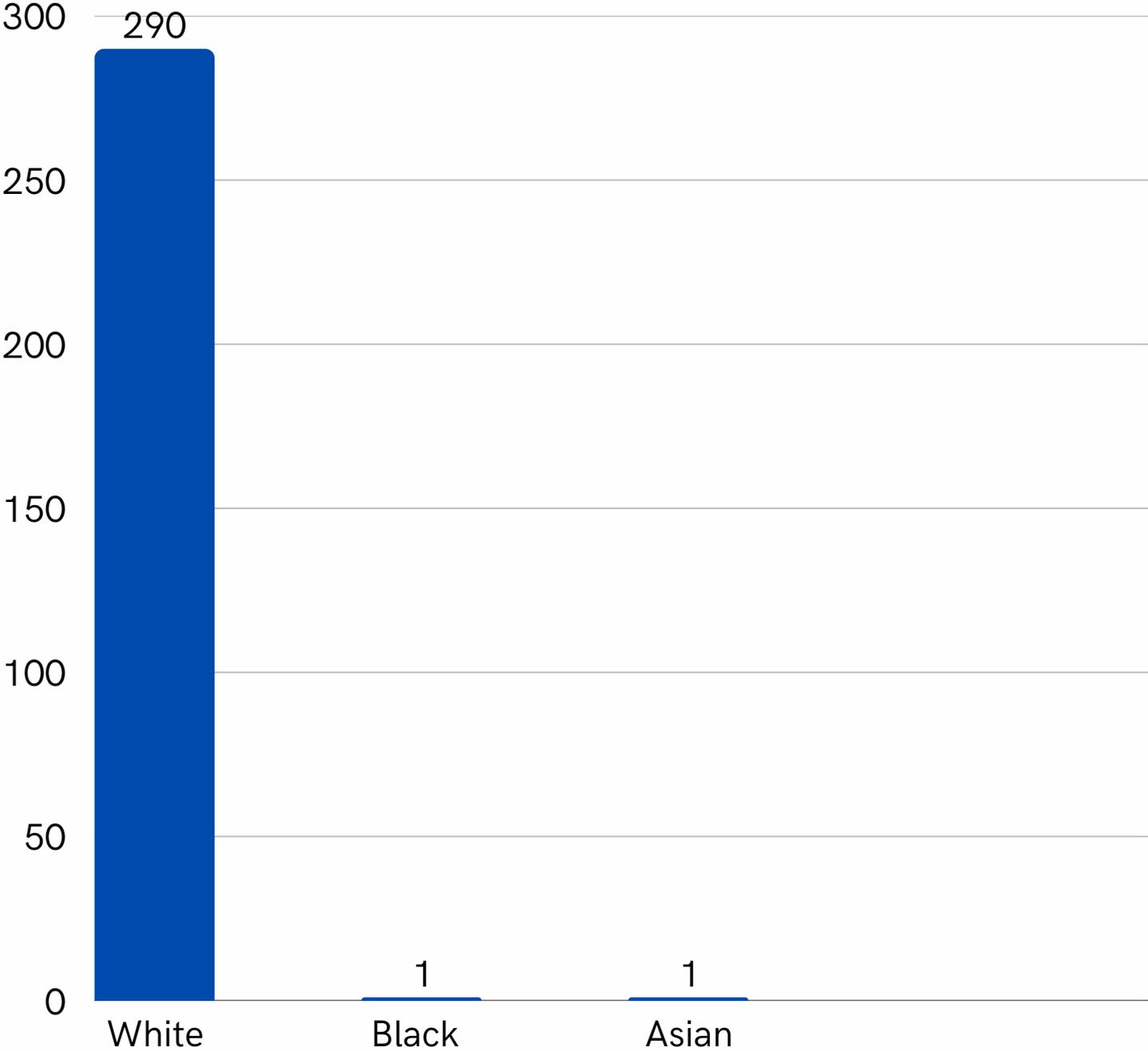


# Death by Age



# Death by Race

● 2025



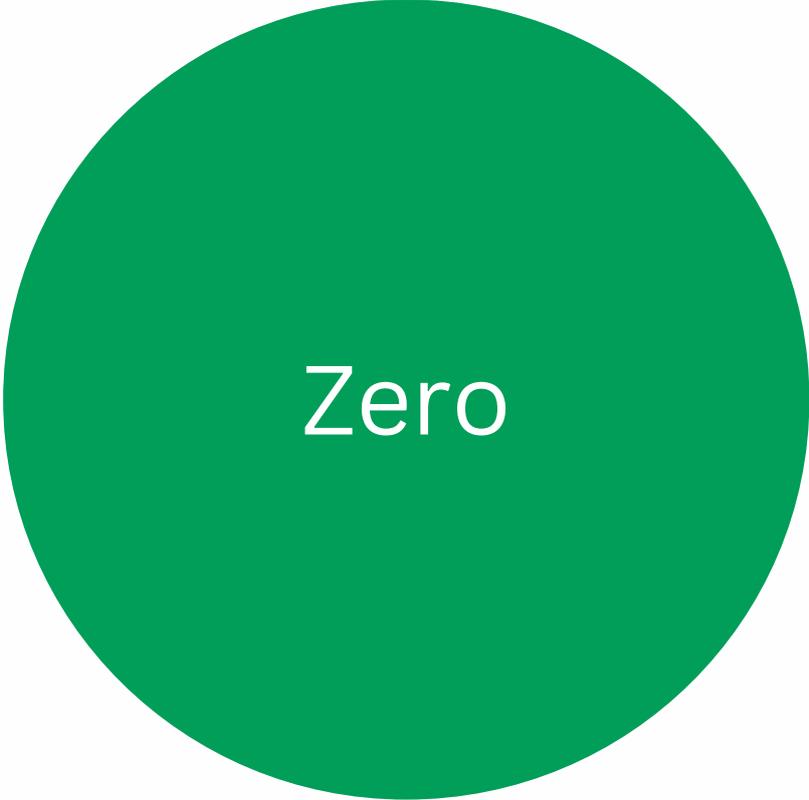
# Infant - Child Death by Age and Cause

2025



# In Custody and Law Enforcement Involved Deaths

2025



Zero

**Page Blank**

