

2023 Annual Report



County of Los Angeles
Department of Medical Examiner
Dr. Odey Ukpo
Chief Medical Examiner

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



**Supervisor Hilda Solis
First District**

**Supervisor Holly Mitchell
Second District**

**Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
Third District**

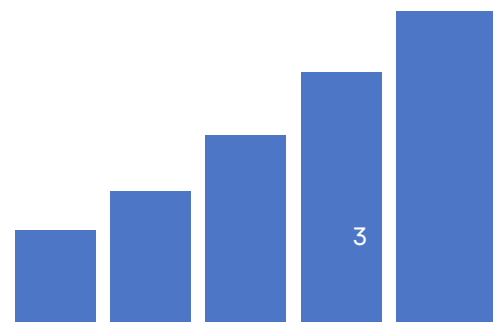
**Supervisor Janice Hahn
Fourth District**

**Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Fifth District**



Table Of Contents

About the Department of Medical Examiner	4
Mission and Vision	5
Jurisdiction	5
Department Highlights 2023	6
Divisions	11
Statistics	17



About the Department of Medical Examiner

The County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner is an independent investigative agency performing medicolegal death investigation of over 13,000 cases annually involving certain types of deaths in the community – any suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental deaths – to determine the circumstances, manner and cause of death. These also include any natural death where there either is no physician to sign a death certificate, or the physician is unwilling or legally prohibited from doing so. The goal of these investigations is to determine the medical cause (disease and/or injury) of the death for the protection of the public's health and safety.

Medical Examiner systems require the Chief Medical Examiner to be a physician, certified by the American Board of Pathology in the medical specialty of Forensic Pathology and experienced in the forensic sciences. The department's mission is to provide independent, quality, death investigation using advanced forensic science with compassion and objectivity for families, communities, and public health and safety, as well as to work collaboratively to reduce preventable deaths.



Mission and Vision

Mission

To provide independent, quality, death investigation using advanced forensic science with compassion and objectivity for families, communities, and public health & safety; working collaboratively to reduce preventable deaths.

Vision

To be the premier medicolegal death investigation agency, nationally recognized as a leader in the forensic science community.

Jurisdiction

State law instructs the Department of Medical Examiner (DME) to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all sudden, violent, or unusual deaths, and those deaths where the decedent has not been seen by a physician 20 days prior to death. In such cases, the deceased may be taken to the DME facility and examined by a deputy medical examiner to determine the cause of death. The DME determines the cause and manner of death but **does not issue death certificates**, which are completed by the state in collaboration with mortuaries. Occasionally, more extensive testing and studies are required after an examination. In those cases, the DME provides the information to produce an interim or deferred death certificate, allowing the family to make funeral arrangements. The DME will update the information at the completion of the case.

Department Highlights 2023

The Department Removes “Coroner” from Name and Position Titles

On June 27, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to approve the official name change to the County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner (Department).

The removal of “coroner” was needed to reinforce the Department's role as an unbiased and independent investigative entity, unattached to any law enforcement agency. Medical Examiner

systems require the Chief Medical Examiner to be a physician, certified by the American Board of Pathology in the medical specialty of Forensic Pathology and experienced in the forensic sciences.

The Department remains committed to providing independent, quality death investigation using advanced forensic science to the community and families served. The name change offers clarity the Department’s identity, solidifying our independence from any law enforcement agency and emphasizes our deputy medical examiners as physicians with appropriate training to determine the cause and manner of death for decedents.

The name change has been in the works since Supervisor Hilda L. Solis’ November 2019 motion, directing the Board to commence the process of changing the Department’s name and updating position titles.

The Department also updated its seal to remove “coroner” and signage in and around the facility.

For more information about the name change and the new position titles, please review the [Department Name Change Fact Sheet](#).



New Medical Examiner Appointed

On March 7, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. Odey C. Ukpo as Chief Medical Examiner to lead one of the most prominent medical examiner's offices in the nation.

Dr. Ukpo is the first African American to serve as Chief Medical Examiner since the office was established in 1850. He leads a workforce of 260 staff with an annual budget of nearly \$50 million and a case load of more than 13,000 per year.

He joined the department in 2014 and served as a Senior Deputy Medical Examiner before being named Medical Director in June 2022. He was appointed interim Chief Medical Examiner in November 2022.

Dr. Ukpo succeeded Dr. Jonathan R. Lucas, who led the department for five years prior to his departure in November 2022.



New Case Management System Launches

On April 24, the County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner deployed a new case management system to replace a 20-year-old legacy system that no longer met business needs.

The transition to the system also allowed the Department to create, develop and produce electronic medical examiner reports. The digital reports provide uniformity amongst medical reports completed within the Department, enhance transparency between divisions, and improve performance management. Previously, paper-based medical reports were drafted and maintained within paper case files preventing medical examiners, investigators and laboratory personnel from having visibility on diagnoses identified during examination. The Department also eliminated the paper waste as reports are not routinely printed until requested by stakeholders.

Bereavement Rooms Open at the DME

Grieving families now have a private, welcoming space to wait or speak with Department staff about their loved one's case when visiting the DME. The Department converted a previously unoccupied space off the lobby into two private spaces for families to meet with investigators or doctors and receive property.

The project was funded by support of the Los Angeles County Board through the budget process and through the use of Department savings.



Art Project at the DME

The Department of Medical Examiner partnered with the Department of Arts & Culture to develop an art plan at the facility. This partnership developed while exploring employee ‘well-being through the arts’ strategies during a countywide workgroup led by the Department of Human Resources.

The Department completed small workgroup sessions with an art consultant to get an idea of the types of artwork staff would like displayed in and around the facility. The project will be completed next year and the selected artwork unveiled.

DC Captain Robot Project Wins Productivity Award

The Forensic Data Information Systems (FDIS) unit, along with ISD, won the Traditional Plaque Award by the Quality & Productivity Commission for the work to develop the DC Captain Robot project.

To address the critical challenge in processing an increasing volume of death certificates during the COVID-19 pandemic, FDIS and ISD implemented an automation to extract data from the Department’s case management system to write the information into the state Electronic Death Certificate System (EDRS) web application. The implementation eliminated manual data entry and encoding errors, increased accuracy, improved employee satisfaction, and boosted productivity by completing more cases in less time. The project resulted in an estimated savings of 890 hours in manual labor annually, allowing Department staff to focus on other important tasks. The implementation made a significant positive impact on the Department’s operations and inspired similar transformations in other County organizations facing similar challenges.



Veteran Suicide Review Team

Suicide is a public health crisis that affects every resident in Los Angeles County (LA County), especially the veteran community. LA County is home to one of the highest number of veterans of any county in the country. Due to the increase in suicides among veterans, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion in May 2021, which laid the groundwork to create the Los Angeles County Veteran Suicide Review Team (VSRT). The VSRT is made up of multiple county, state and federal partners with the co-chairs being the Veterans Administration and the following County Departments: Medical Examiner, Mental Health, and Public Health – Office of Violence Prevention.

The team evaluates the circumstances leading to and surrounding the suicide deaths of veterans who died in LA County to develop and enhance system-level intervention and prevention measures to prevent suicide among veterans. It has been a lengthy process of developing procedures, approving information sharing among agencies, and strategizing outreach efforts to the families of veterans who have committed suicide.

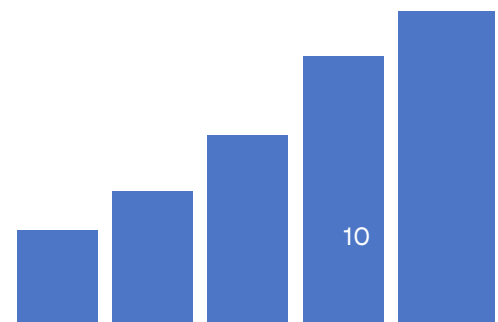
The key component to the VSRT process is the information obtained by our investigators during the suicide death investigations, including identifying risk factors, recent crisis experienced by the veteran and other circumstances surrounding the events leading up to the death. This information aids VSRT in better understanding veteran suicide deaths in LA County, and therefore help the County in prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies.

The VSRT began reviewing cases in 2023. LA County intends to build from this model developed for veterans to eventually scale to all residents in the county, with our investigative information being the cornerstone of the suicide review process.

PIF Grant Funding for Video Project

On August 28, the Quality and Productivity Commission awarded the Department of Medical Examiner \$50,000 to fund the creation of information videos and handouts in Spanish, traditional Chinese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, and Eastern and Western Armenian.

These videos and handouts will support grieving families to navigate the Department's processes of death investigation.



Divisions

The Department is comprised of five sections, including the Investigations and Transportation Division, Forensic Medicine Division, Forensic Sciences Laboratories Division, Public Services Division, and the Administrative Services Division.

Forensic Medicine Division

The Forensic Medicine Division is comprised of board-certified forensic pathologists who are full-time, permanent staff. Commonly referred to as deputy medical examiners, the forensic pathologists are responsible for the professional medical investigation and determination of the cause and manner of death in the cases handled by the Department.

The forensic pathologists are experts in the evaluation of sudden, unexpected, natural, and unnatural deaths. They are frequently called to court to testify on their determinations, medical findings and interpretations, particularly in homicide cases.

The Forensic Medicine Division also uses computed tomography, commonly known as a CT scanner, to improve the accuracy of diagnoses and turnaround time by conducting virtual autopsies, minimizing operational costs. The Department is one of a few medical examiner offices in the nation utilizing a CT scanner. The CT scanner also is utilized for cases where there is a religious objection to an examination.

The deputy medical examiners utilize consultants in forensic neuropathology, odontology, anthropology, anesthesiology, pediatrics, ophthalmologic pathology, pulmonary pathology, cardiac pathology, psychiatry, psychology, and radiology to assist in evaluating their cases as needed.

The Department also employs forensic technicians who assist doctors during autopsy and are responsible for taking photographs and x-rays of decedents.

Forensic Pathology Fellowship Opportunities Increase

Local funding for this one-year program provides for one fellow per year. However, the ACGME has approved the Department to train up to six fellows per year. Funding has never permitted six fellows; there is thus untapped potential in this fellowship program.

Award of this funding allowed the DME to train one additional forensic pathology

fellow in 2024-25. The Department typically retains at least one trained Forensic Pathology Fellow on staff as a Physician Specialist (Medical Examiner) allowing the Department an opportunity to fill Physician Specialist vacancies (currently 80% of Physician Specialists on staff have been retained from the Forensic Pathology Fellowship program).

Forensic Pathology fellows train to perform the post-mortem pathological examinations and medical determination of the cause of death of all violent, sudden, accidental, traumatic, or unusual deaths; unattended deaths; deaths in which a criminal act is suspected; and other deaths as provided in the statutes.

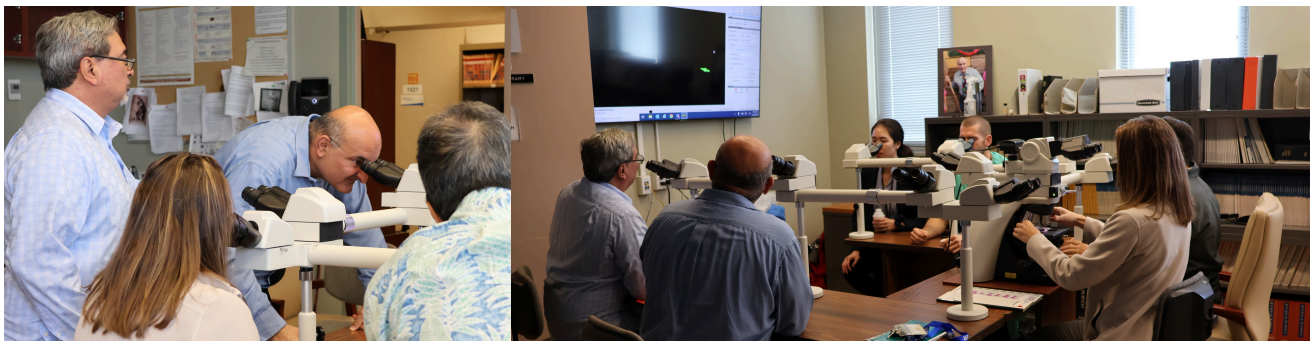
Since 1965, the office has had an ACGME-accredited forensic pathology fellowship program. In the past 30 years, the program has trained 60 forensic pathology fellows, most of whom are currently in practice.

New Multi-head Microscope and HiRes TV Monitor

On October 26, the Medical Division tested out the new multi-head microscope in the Medical Library. Histology (the microscopic examination of tissue under the microscope) is utilized by forensic pathologists to determine microscopic diagnoses. Sometimes clues may be seen with the naked eye, but other times, these diagnoses are unable to be determined without the aid of a microscope.

The new and improved 10-headed microscope with a big screen television attached is also an important teaching resource. This allows more than one person to sit at the microscope and view what the “driver” is also seeing. There are arrows on the microscope to allow the driver to highlight areas of tissue and point out specific findings to trainees, colleagues, and others. Additionally, the camera on the microscope directly broadcasts from the microscope to the television so that viewers not seated at the multi-head microscope may also see the microscopic view and learn from the experience. This camera also allows for real-time photographs of the microscopic view to be utilized for presentations or manuscripts.

The Department also purchased three additional single-head microscopes due to increased staffing to fully upgrade all offices, including those of trainees, with upgraded, quality microscopes.



Anthropology Incubator

On October 27, the Department plugged in the new Heratherm Microbiological Incubator. This long-awaited machine transforms the way anthropological cases are processed and dramatically improves the workflow for cases with advanced decomposition.

There are many cases in Los Angeles County involving marked decomposition which poses a significant challenge to identifying and analyzing those decedents. In these cases, the decomposed soft tissue often must be removed to examine the decedent for indicators of biological profile which aid in identification as well as trauma of the skeleton. This is a process known as maceration. Maceration has historically been achieved at DME in small containers that did not allow for exact temperature control or continuous heat for long periods of time. The previous containers and heating devices required constant monitoring and multiple days of hands-on work to skeletonize remains. The new incubator makes it possible to maintain a safe, constant temperature to effectively remove soft tissue, skeletonizing the remains in less time with greater success. The large size of the incubator will allow for multiple cases to be processed at once. This will speed maceration, reduce hands-on processing time, ensure safety of skeletal remains during processing, and ultimately speed results for anthropology cases.

In its first use, what would normally have taken 72 staff hours active time only took 19 staff hours active time to complete. The bones look better and cleaner, which allows for a more complete analysis. Storage of remains will also be easier.



Hydraulic Tables

The Department purchased six hydraulic exam tables to enhance ergonomic safety for forensic pathologists, forensic technicians, and other staff to raise or lower the height of the table upon which decedents lie for examination.

Forensic Sciences Laboratories Division

The Forensic Sciences Laboratories Division is responsible for the identification, collection, preservation, and analysis of physical and medical evidence associated with Medical Examiner cases. The Laboratories Division includes the following units: Toxicology, Histology, Human Genomics/DNA, Scanning Electron Microscope lab (which includes gunshot residue and toolmark analysis), Field Criminalistics, and Evidence Control.

The Laboratories Division conducts comprehensive scientific investigation through the chemical and instrumental analysis of physical and medical evidence to provide medical examiners, families of decedents, and outside legal and law enforcement agencies with timely, accurate, and advanced forensic analyses; and to provide expert interpretation of these analyses through testimony and deposition.

Additionally, the Forensic Sciences Laboratories Division is fully accredited by the prestigious ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) in the following forensic science disciplines: Biology, Firearms and Toolmarks, Materials (Trace), Seized Drugs and Toxicology.

Division Highlights

- Secured a vendor to develop a Laboratory Information Management System as part of the supplemental budget process.
- Upgraded Sciex OS software on LC tandem MS instruments, improving data processing and security of analytical test results.
- Implemented new method validations: Phencyclidine (PCP) method on a new instrument; and sympathomimetic amines (SMAs) and cocaine and on new instrument.
- Submitted a case analysis for submission to the Research & Publication committee for review and approval to submit to the Journal of Analytical Toxicology (JAT). The title of manuscript submission is “Double Designers: Detection of Bromazolam and Metonitazene in Postmortem Casework.”

Investigations Division

The Investigations Division is responsible for providing direct services of investigations and decedent services through a 24-hours-a-day, and 7-days-a-week operation.

In the Investigations Unit, medical examiner investigators respond to death scenes throughout the County. As part of their death investigation, they conduct a physical examination of the deceased, collect evidence and personal property, take photographs, and conduct interviews. They also are tasked with identifying the deceased and notifying the next of kin. Reports made by medical examiner investigators aid the forensic pathologist in determining of the cause and manner of death.

The Decedent Services Unit is responsible for the transportation, processing, storage, and release of decedents' bodies. This includes the weighing and measuring of bodies, the collection of personal effects and physical and medical evidence, and fingerprinting and tagging of the decedent.

Additionally, the Investigations and Transportation Division oversees the Special Operations Response Team (SORT), emergency and disaster planning, homeland security grants, fleet management, and other ancillary programs, such as regional offices and the court-mandated hospital and crypt program.

Public Services Division

The Public Services Division offers compassionate, responsive, and efficient technical decedent processing services to the affected family members, involved law enforcement, mortuaries, medical personnel, and other county departments. Staff in the division often handle sensitive functions related to the initial, midpoint, and close-out of Medical Examiner cases. They offer these functions with utmost professionalism and in a caring manner.

The Public Services Division also manages the Medical Examiner case records management and safekeeping and release of decedent personal property. Moreover, the division oversees decedent billing, responds to law enforcement agency inquiries, manages civil and criminal subpoena requirements, and issues death certificates to the mortuaries.

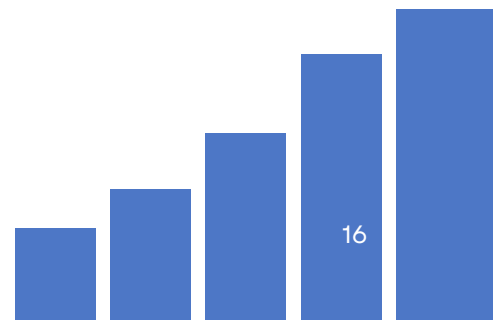
Internal departmental support services include expeditious transcription of all dictated autopsy reports, neuropathology reports, microscopic reports and clerical support to Deputy Medical Examiners.

Administrative Services Division

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for all departmental financial operations, departmental budget preparation, fiscal reports, personnel, payroll, procurement, accounting, revenue collection, marketing, volunteer services, contracts and grants, public records request processing, information technology, workfare programs, facilities management, and other related functions.

Budget Gains for Fiscal Year 2023-24

- 16 permanent on-going positions secured including a medical transcriber typist, a staff assistant II, two senior typist clerks, and an administrative services manager II.



2023 Statistics



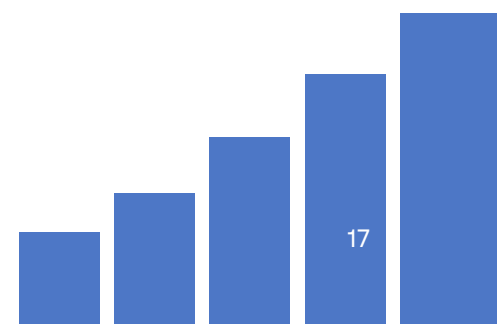
Deaths reported	20,359
Cases accepted	12,315

Number of cases by manner of death

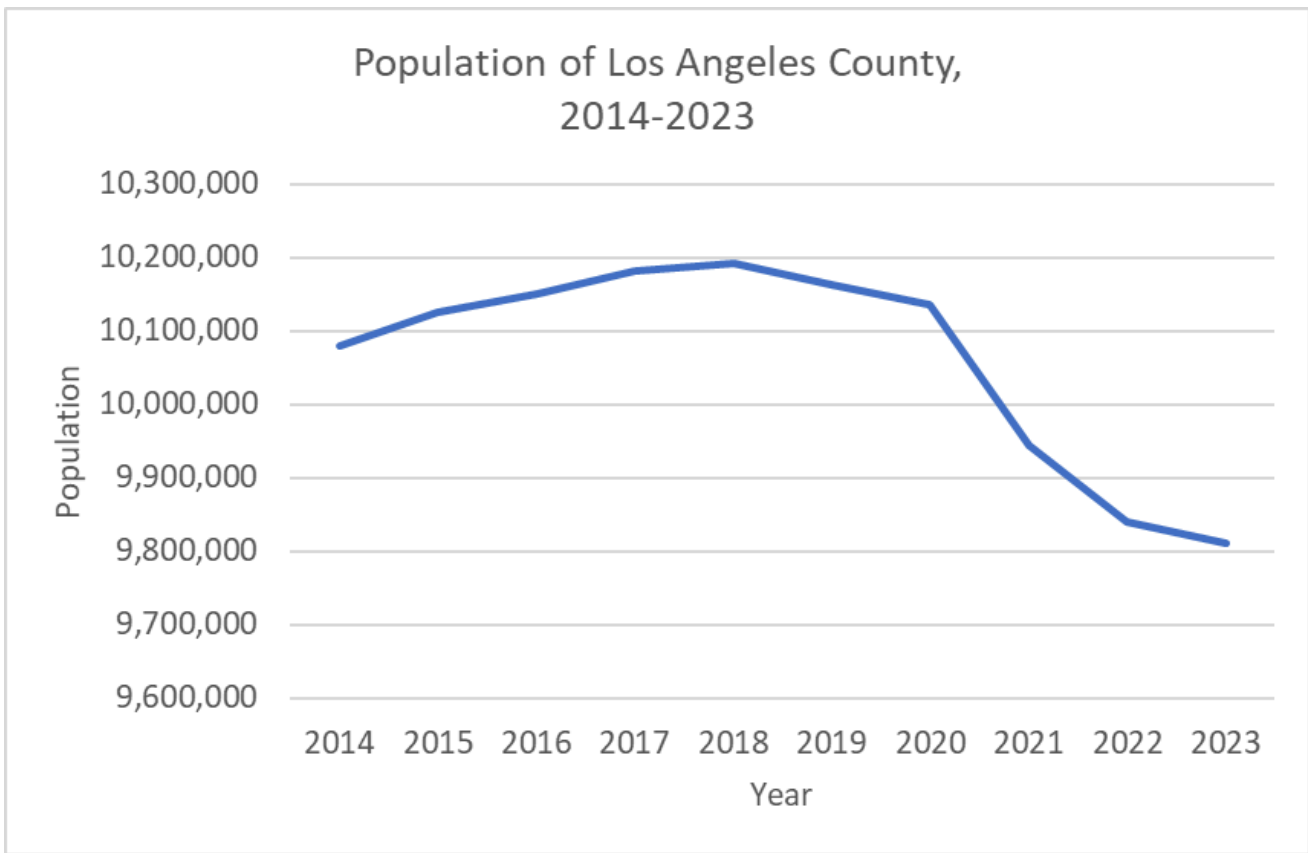
	Count ^a	Percent ^b
Accident	5,429	44%
Homicide	753	6%
Natural	5,114	42%
(of which COVID-19)	35	<1%
Suicide	903	7%
Undetermined	116	1%

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.



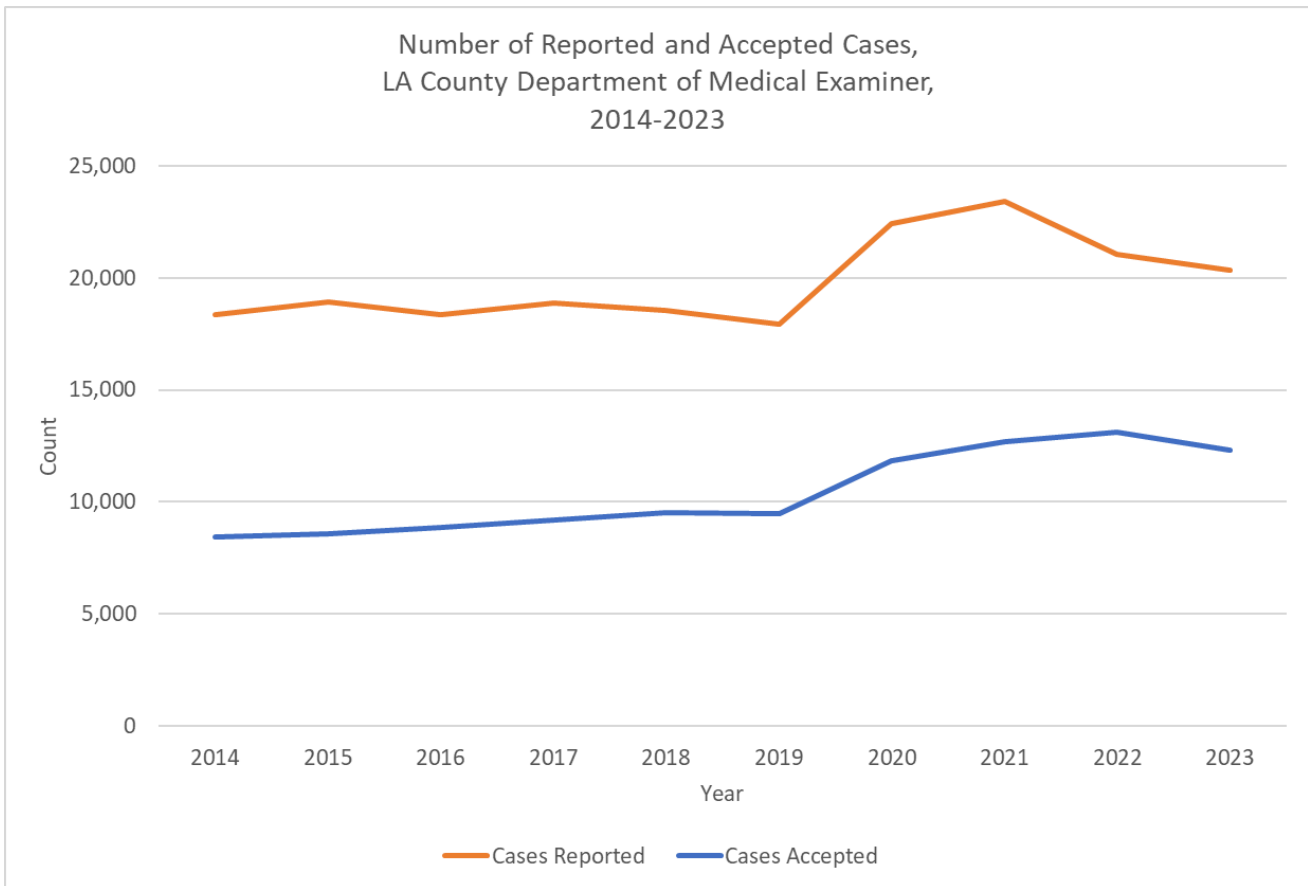
LA County Population 2014-2023



YEAR	POPULATION
2014	10,078,942
2015	10,124,800
2016	10,150,386
2017	10,181,162
2018	10,192,593
2019	10,163,139
2020	10,135,614
2021	9,944,653
2022	9,839,078
2023	9,811,463

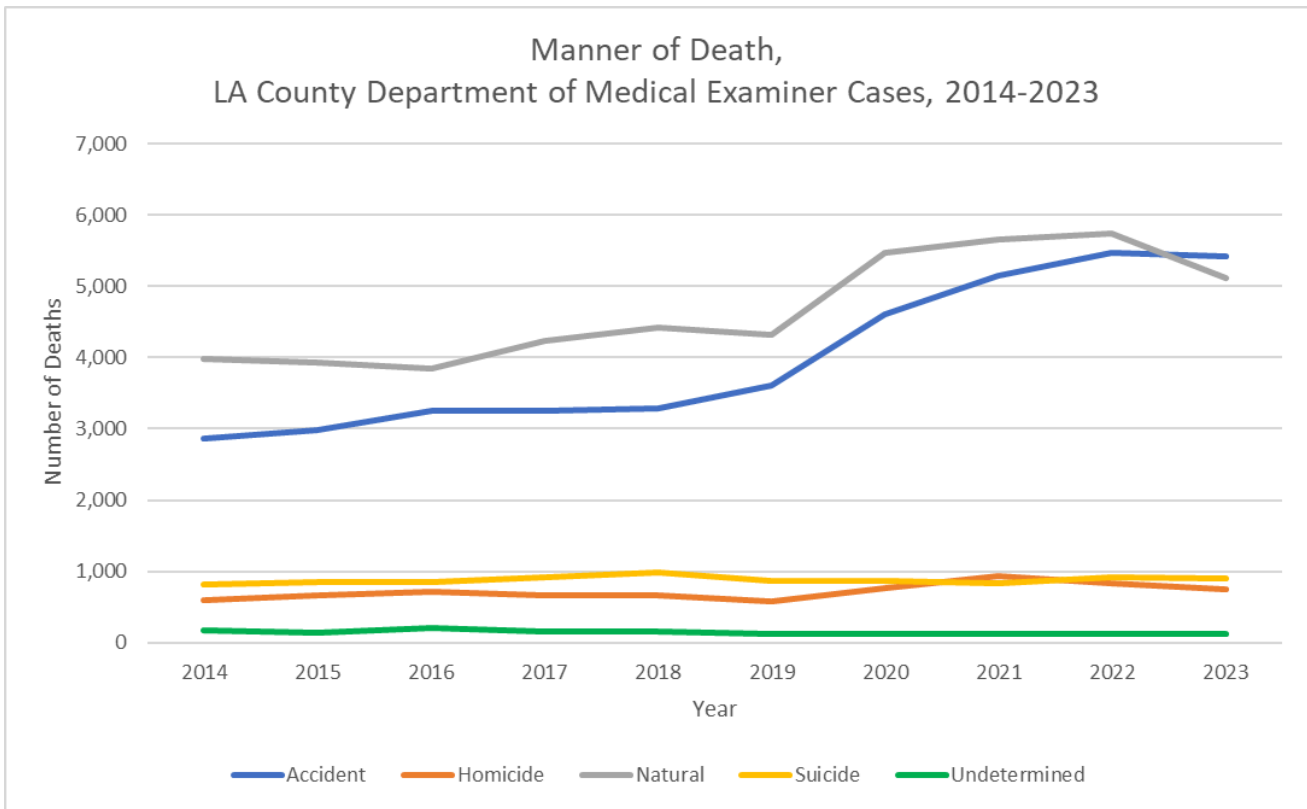
Source: California State Department of Finance

Cases Reported and Accepted 2014-2023



Year	Cases Reported	Cases Accepted
2014	18,365	8,428
2015	18,913	8,578
2016	18,367	8,856
2017	18,892	9,204
2018	18,551	9,523
2019	17,940	9,489
2020	22,445	11,836
2021	23,415	12,698
2022	21,065	13,102
2023	20,359	12,315

Manner of Death 2014-2023

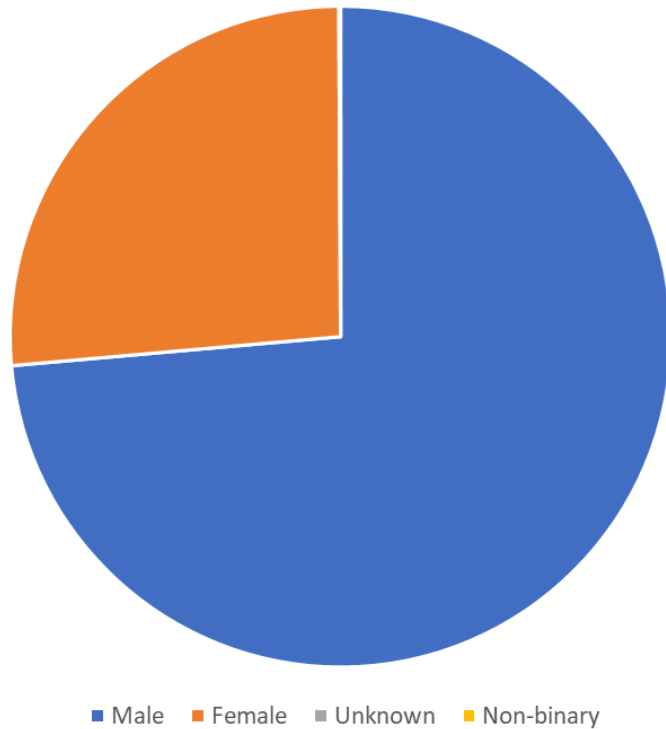


Year	Manner of Death ^a				
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined
2014	2,871	587	3,981	813	176
2015	2,987	664	3,936	845	146
2016	3,247	707	3,842	846	214
2017	3,251	656	4,233	917	147
2018	3,296	656	4,429	989	153
2019	3,608	571	4,319	871	120
2020	4,603	770	5,476	866	121
2021	5,156	934	5,654	836	118
2022	5,477	832	5,111	920	123
2023	5,429	753	5,114	903	116

^a Manner of death determinations reflect only accepted cases in the corresponding year.

Deaths by Gender/Sex 2023

Gender/Sex of Deaths,
LA County Department of Medical Examiner Cases, 2023



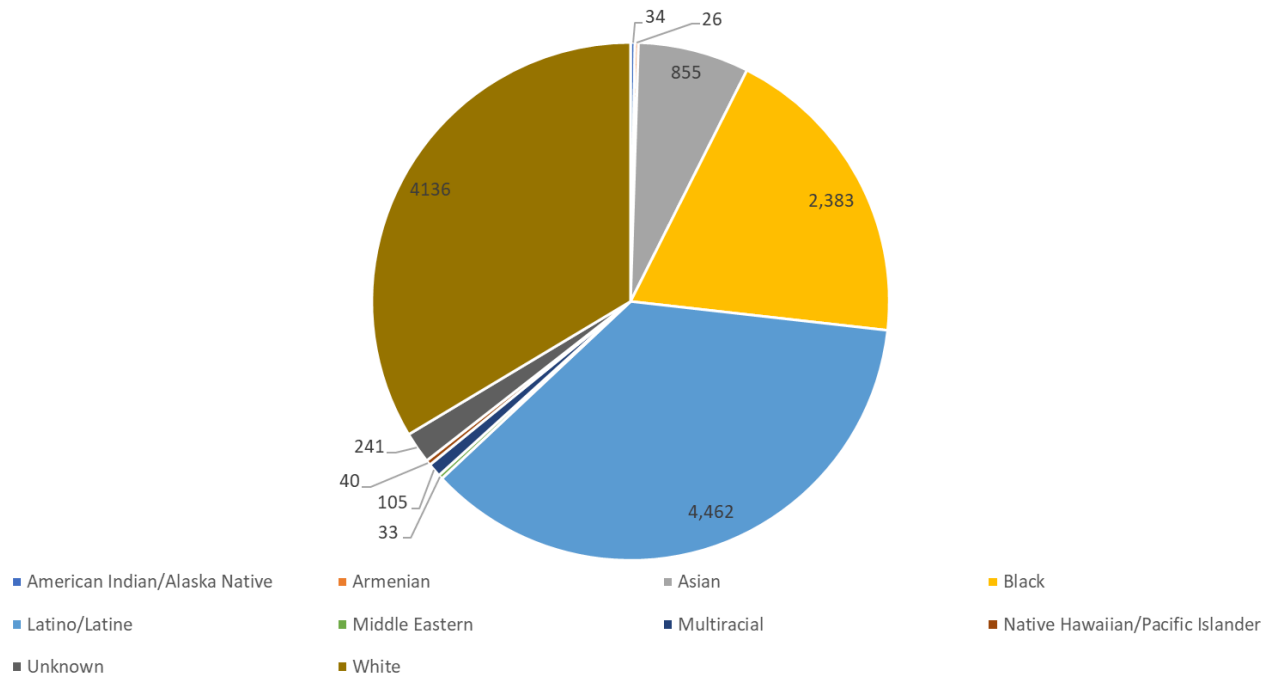
Gender/Sex	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
Male	9,064	74%
Female	3,241	26%
Unknown	9	<1%
Non-binary	1	<1%
Total	12,315	

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

Deaths by Race/Ethnicity 2023

Race/Ethnicity of Deaths,
LA County Department of Medical Examiner Cases, 2023

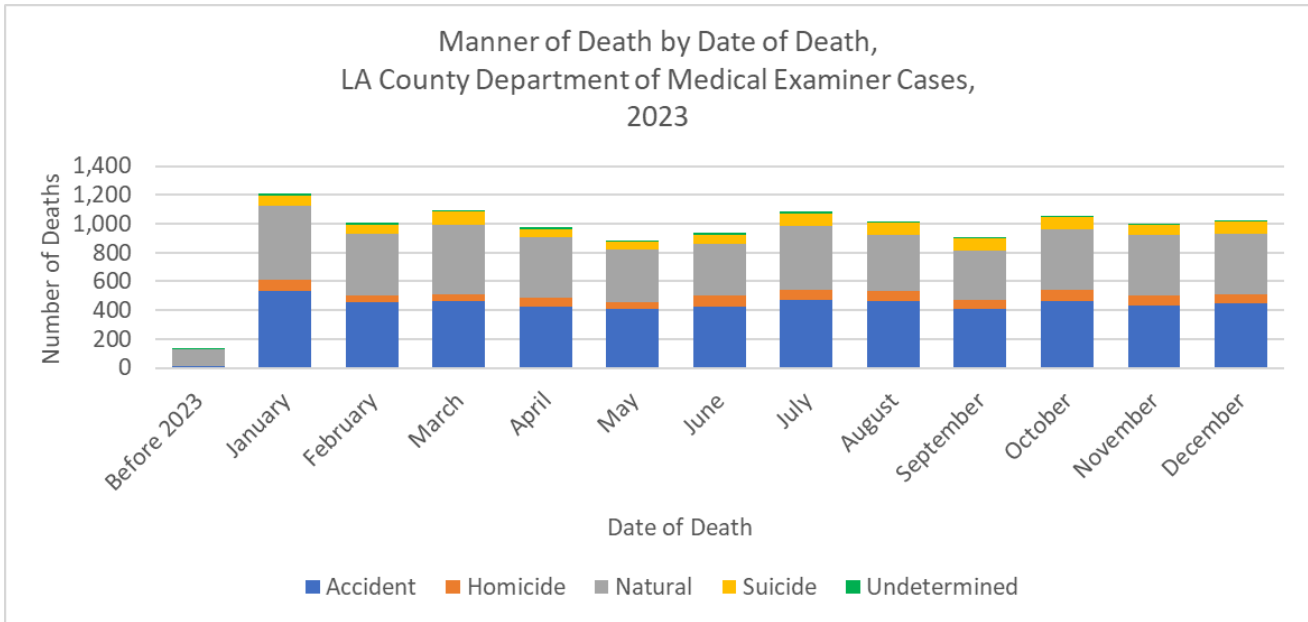


Race/Ethnicity	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
American Indian/Alaska Native	34	<1%
Armenian	26	<1%
Asian	855	7%
Black	2,383	19%
Latino/Latine	4,462	36%
Middle Eastern	33	<1%
Multiracial	105	1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	40	<1%
Unknown	241	2%
White	4,136	34%
Total	12,315	

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

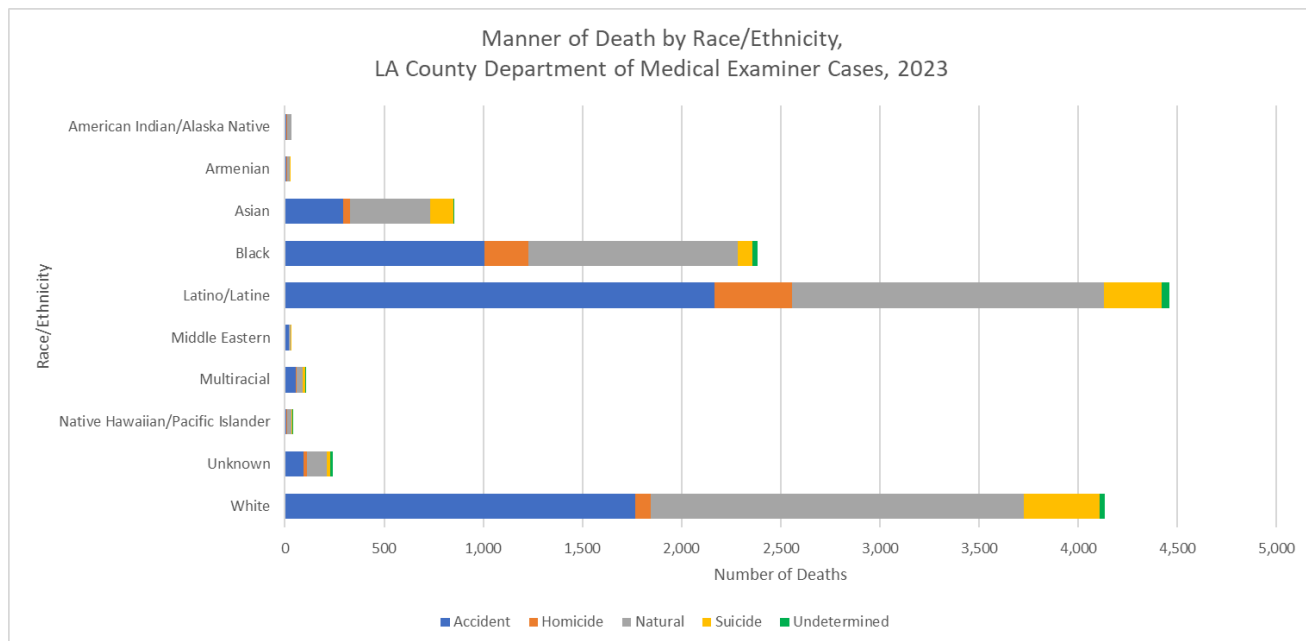
Manner of Death by Date of Death 2023



Date of Death	Manner of Death ^a					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	
Before 2023	16	1	110	0	1	128
January	534	77	513	68	15	1,207
February	459	46	422	66	14	1,007
March	462	50	481	96	3	1,092
April	427	60	419	59	8	973
May	413	40	368	55	10	886
June	428	75	360	62	9	934
July	468	74	439	92	11	1,084
August	465	69	389	82	14	1,019
September	410	60	344	83	10	907
October	465	75	419	87	5	1,051
November	433	68	425	67	8	1,001
December	449	58	425	86	8	1,026
Total	5,429	753	5,114	903	116	12,315

^a Manner of death determinations are based on accepted cases from 2023.

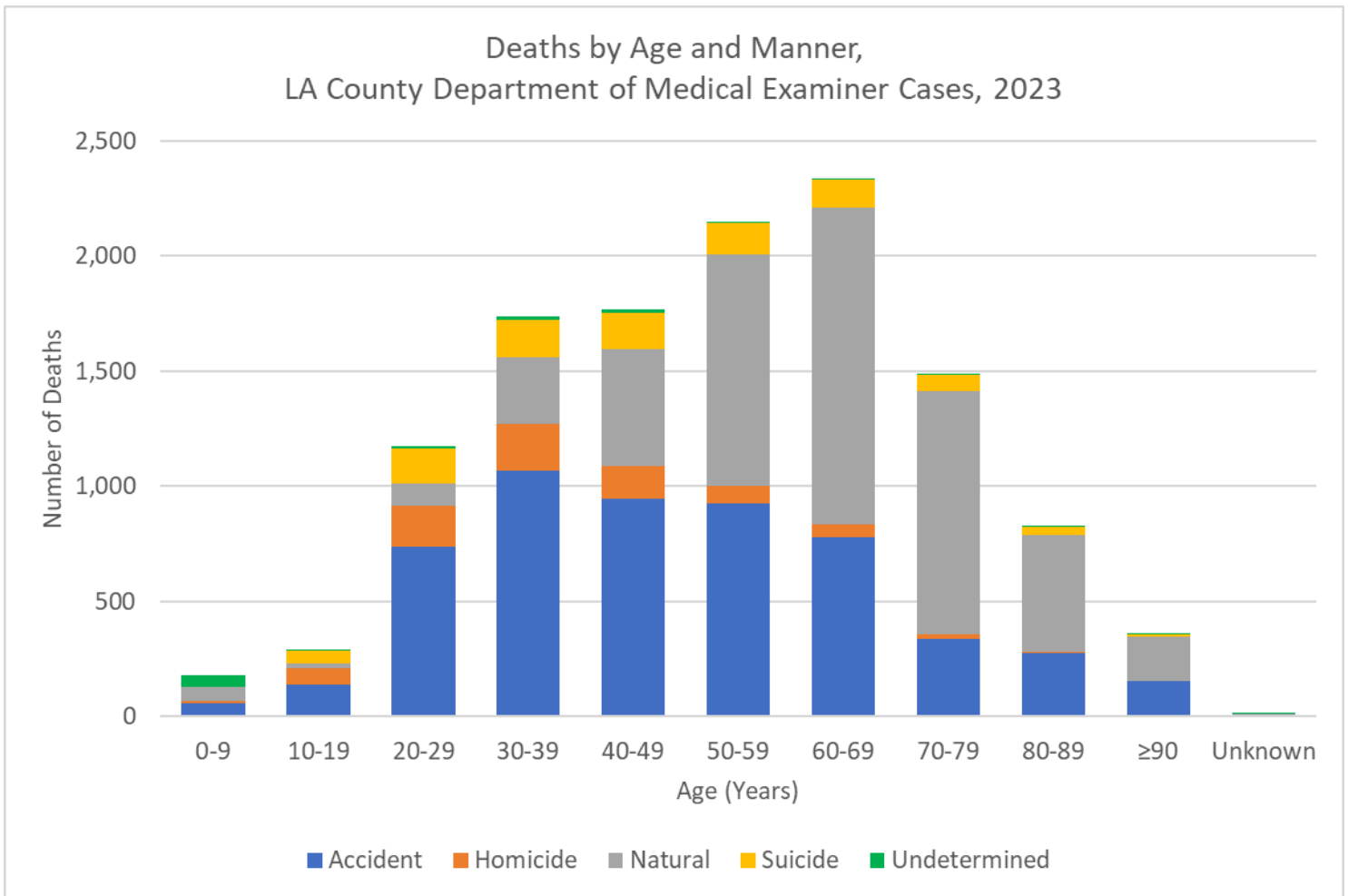
Manner of Death by Race/Ethnicity 2023



Race/Ethnicity	Manner of Death ^a					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	
American Indian/ Alaska Native	9	2	23	0	0	34
Armenian	8	4	11	3	0	26
Asian	295	35	404	114	7	855
Black	1,005	221	1,057	76	24	2,383
Latino/Latine	2,167	392	1,569	293	41	4,462
Middle Eastern	18	1	11	3	0	33
Multiracial	56	4	31	10	4	105
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	9	1	23	6	1	40
Unknown	95	14	103	18	11	241
White	1,767	79	1,882	380	28	4,136
Total	5,429	753	5,114	903	116	12,315

^a Manner of death determinations are based on accepted cases from 2023.

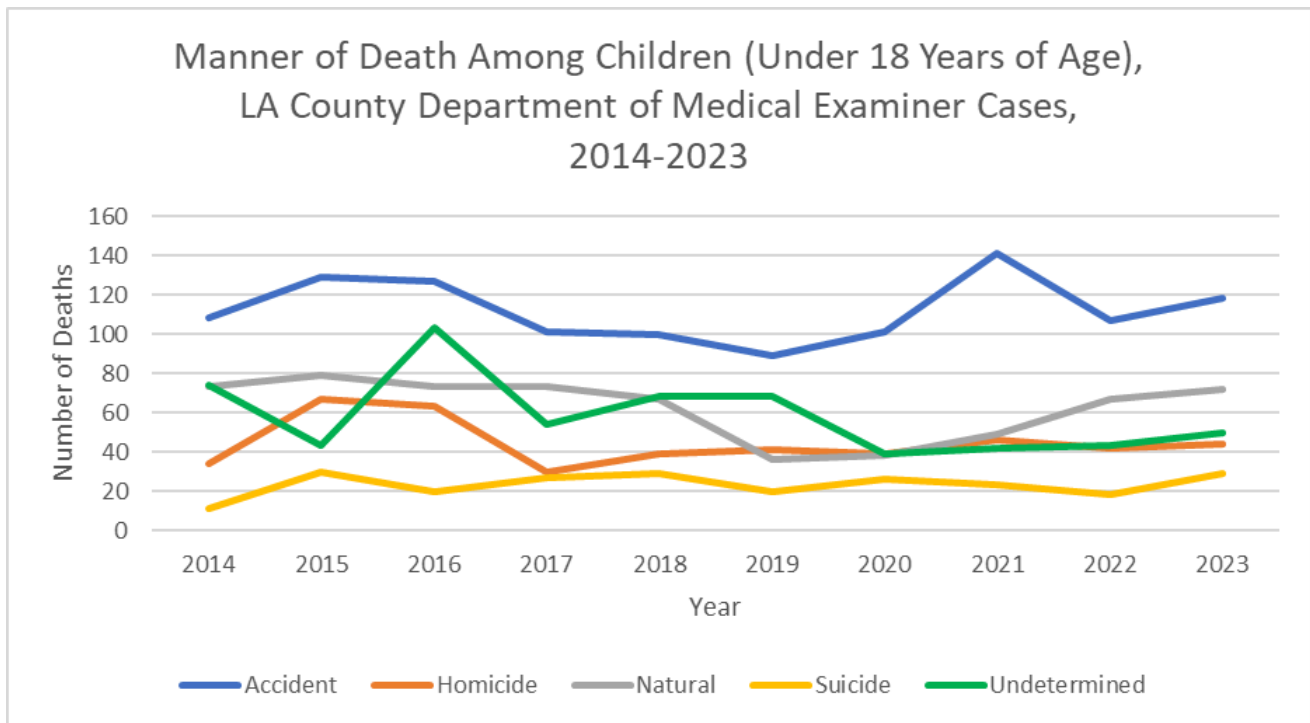
Deaths by Age and Manner 2023



Manner of Death	Age (Years) ^a										
	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	≥90	Unknown
Accident	58	137	740	1,070	947	925	779	336	275	155	7
Homicide	11	73	173	199	141	77	53	19	5	1	1
Natural	58	20	98	290	507	1,004	1,377	1,057	509	192	2
Suicide	0	55	151	161	158	138	123	70	37	9	1
Undetermined	50	2	11	16	13	5	5	5	2	1	6
Total	176	287	1,173	1,736	1,766	2,149	2,337	1,487	828	358	18

^a Age breakdown of deaths is based on accepted cases from 2023.

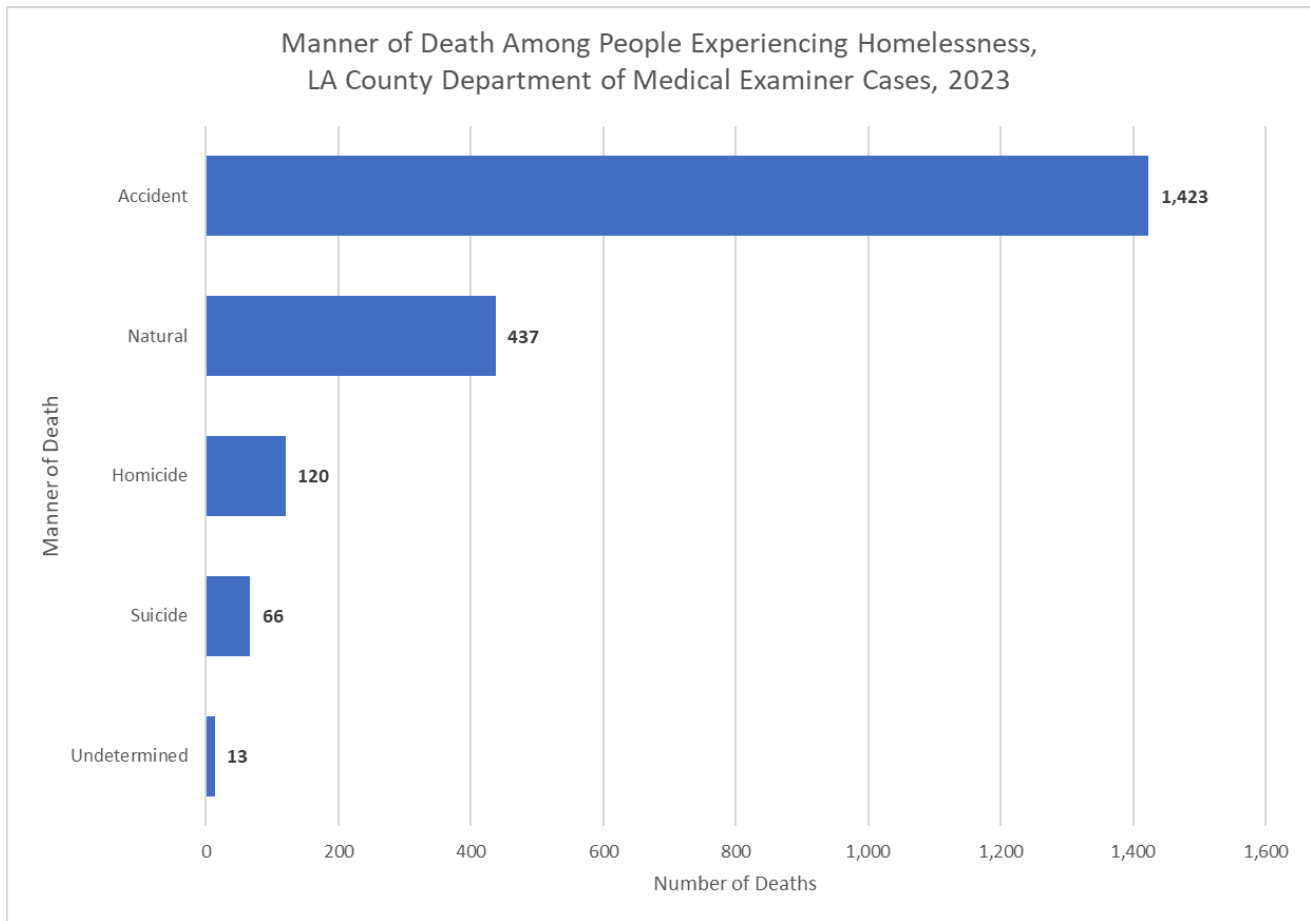
Manner of Death Among Children 2014-2023



Year	Manner of Death ^a				
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined
2014	108	34	73	11	74
2015	129	67	79	30	43
2016	127	63	73	20	103
2017	101	30	73	27	54
2018	100	39	67	29	68
2019	89	41	36	20	68
2020	101	39	38	26	39
2021	141	46	49	23	42
2022	107	42	67	18	43
2023	118	44	72	29	50

^a Manner of death determinations reflect only accepted cases in the corresponding year.

Manner of Death Among People Experiencing Homelessness 2023*



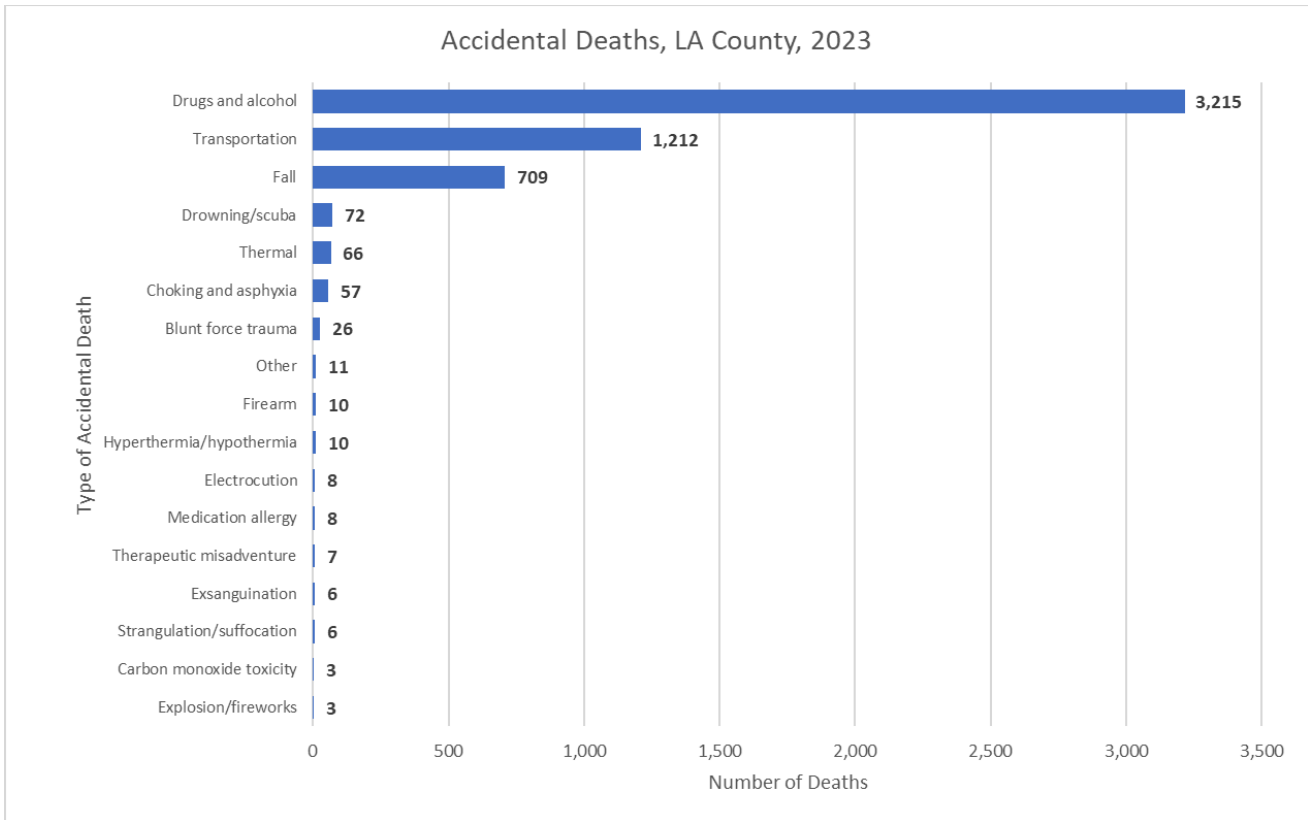
Manner of Death	Count ^a	Percent ^b
Accident	1,423	69%
Natural	437	21%
Homicide	120	6%
Suicide	66	3%
Undetermined	13	1%
Total	2,059	

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

* The LA County Department of Public Health (DPH) releases its annual report on mortality among people experiencing homelessness. That DPH report contains official, final numbers and the information contained above is not a substitute, as it cannot be portrayed as complete.

Accidental Deaths 2023



Type of Accidental Death	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
Drugs and alcohol	3,215	59%
Transportation	1,212	22%
Fall	709	13%
Fall from standing height	582	
Fall from great height	75	
Fall from bed	12	
Fall down stairs	38	
Fall from horse	2	

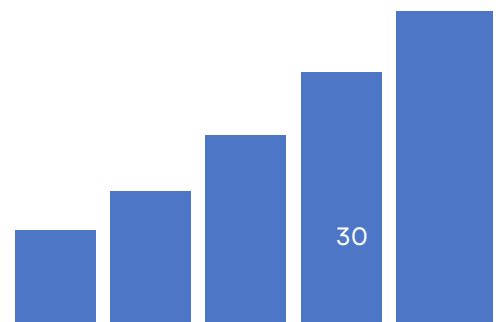
Drowning/scuba	72	1%
Drowning	71	
Drowning complicated by head trauma	1	
Thermal	66	1%
Thermal injuries and inhalation of products of combustion	61	
Other thermal	5	
Choking and asphyxia	57	1%
Blunt force trauma	26	<1%
Crushed or struck by objects	22	
Other blunt force trauma	4	
Other	11	<1%
Hand sanitizer ingestion	2	
Allergic reaction, NOS	1	
Chemical exposure	1	
Chlorine dioxide ingestion	1	
Drone vs pedestrian	1	
Insect bite allergic reaction	1	
Insulin allergic reaction	1	
Jellyfish sting	1	
Terpineol ingestion	1	
Wheel cleaner ingestion	1	
Firearm	10	<1%
Hyperthermia/hypothermia	10	<1%
Hyperthermia	6	
Hypothermia	4	

Electrocution	8	<1%
Medication allergy	8	<1%
Therapeutic misadventure	7	<1%
Exsanguination	6	<1%
Strangulation/suffocation	6	<1%
Suffocation	4	
Hanging	2	
Carbon monoxide toxicity	3	<1%
Explosion/fireworks	3	<1%
Explosion	2	
Fireworks	1	
Total	5,429	

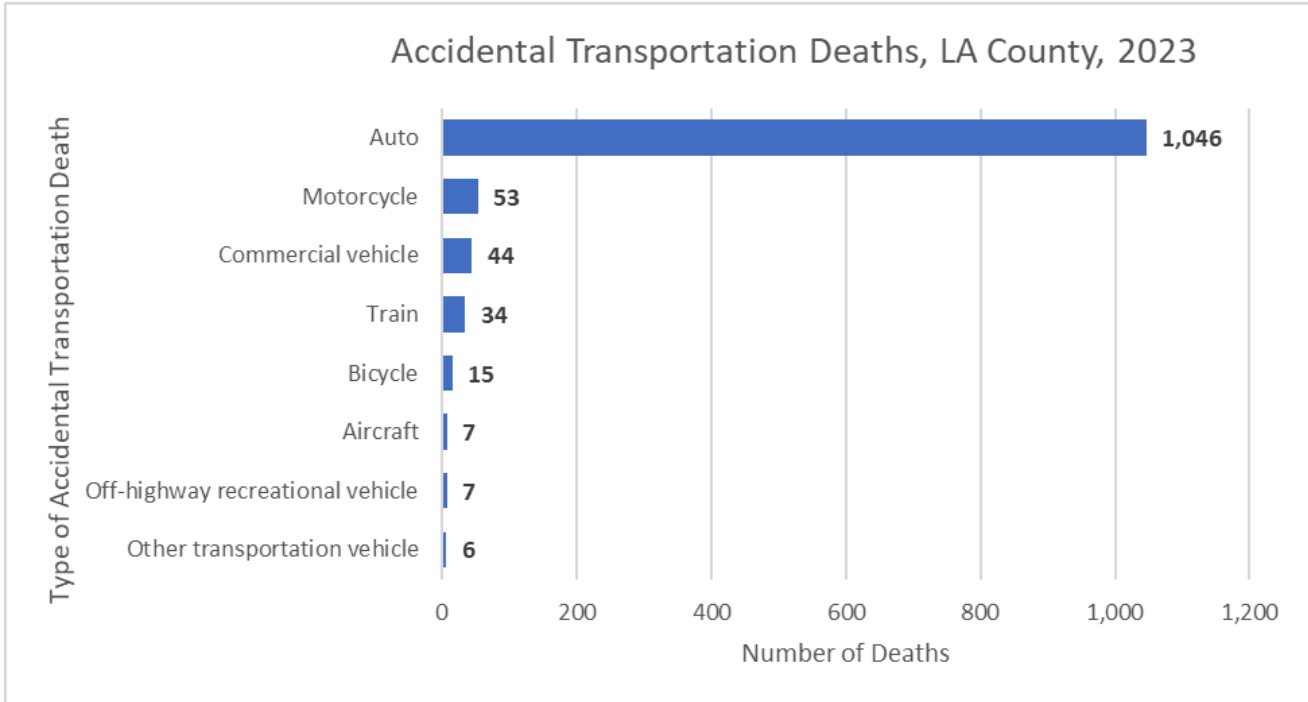
NOS = not otherwise specified; vs = versus

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.



Accidental Transportation Deaths 2023



Type of Accidental Transportation Death	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
Auto	1,046	86%
Auto vs pedestrian	423	
Auto vs auto	241	
Auto vs fixed object	192	
Auto vs motorcycle	107	
Auto vs bicycle	41	
Auto, NOS	14	
Auto vs scooter	8	
Auto vs auto vs fixed object	7	
Auto vs electric bicycle	3	
Auto vs wheelchair	3	
Auto vs mini bike	2	

Auto vs moped	2	
Auto vs ATV	1	
Auto vs skateboard	1	
Auto, fall from great height	1	
Motorcycle	53	4%
Motorcycle vs fixed object	40	
Motorcycle vs pedestrian	7	
Motorcycle, NOS	4	
Motorcycle vs motorcycle	2	
Commercial vehicle	44	4%
Semi-trailer truck vs auto	17	
Semi-trailer truck vs pedestrian	4	
Bus vs auto	2	
Bus vs motorcycle	2	
Bus vs pedestrian	2	
Semi-trailer truck vs bicycle	2	
Semi-trailer truck vs motorcycle	2	
Box truck vs auto	1	
Box truck vs pedestrian	1	
Cement truck vs auto	1	
Dump truck vs auto	1	
Food truck vs pedestrian	1	
Garbage truck vs pedestrian	1	
Mail truck vs motorcycle	1	

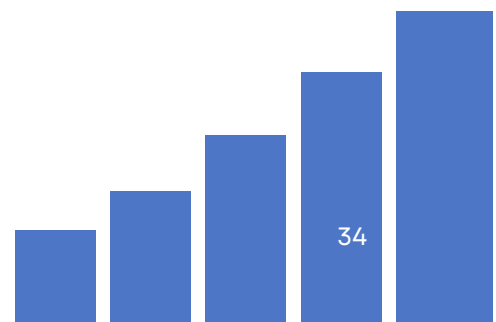
Semi-trailer truck vs semi-trailer truck	1	
Service truck vs auto vs fixed object	1	
Street sweeper truck vs auto	1	
Tanker truck vs auto	1	
Tanker truck vs fixed object	1	
Tow truck vs auto	1	
Train	34	3%
Train vs pedestrian	28	
Train vs auto	6	
Bicycle	15	1%
Bicycle vs fixed object	8	
Bicycle vs pedestrian	3	
Bicycle vs bicycle	1	
Bicycle vs electric scooter	1	
Bicycle, NOS	1	
Electric bicycle vs pedestrian	1	
Aircraft	7	1%
Airplane vs fixed object	6	
Paraglider vs fixed object	1	
Off-highway recreational vehicle	7	1%
ATV vs fixed object	3	
Dirt bike vs fixed object	1	
Golf cart vs fixed object	1	
Mini bike vs fixed object	1	
Pocket bike vs fixed object	1	

Other transportation vehicle	6	<1%
Scooter vs fixed object	2	
Horse buggy vs fixed object	1	
Scooter vs pedestrian	1	
Scooter, NOS	1	
Skateboard vs fixed object	1	
Total	1,212	

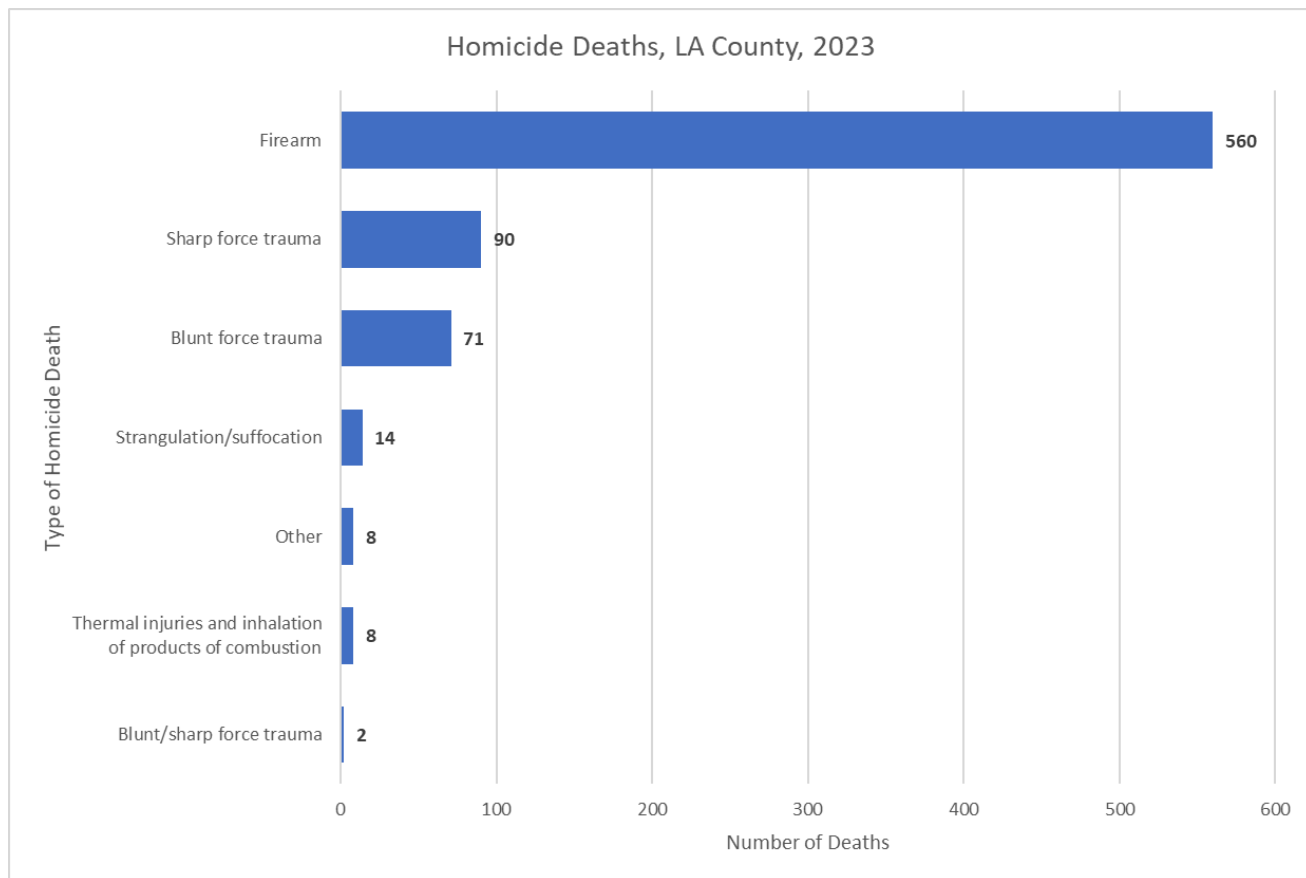
Auto = automobile; vs = versus; NOS = not otherwise specified; ATV = all-terrain vehicle

^a *Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.*

^b *Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.*



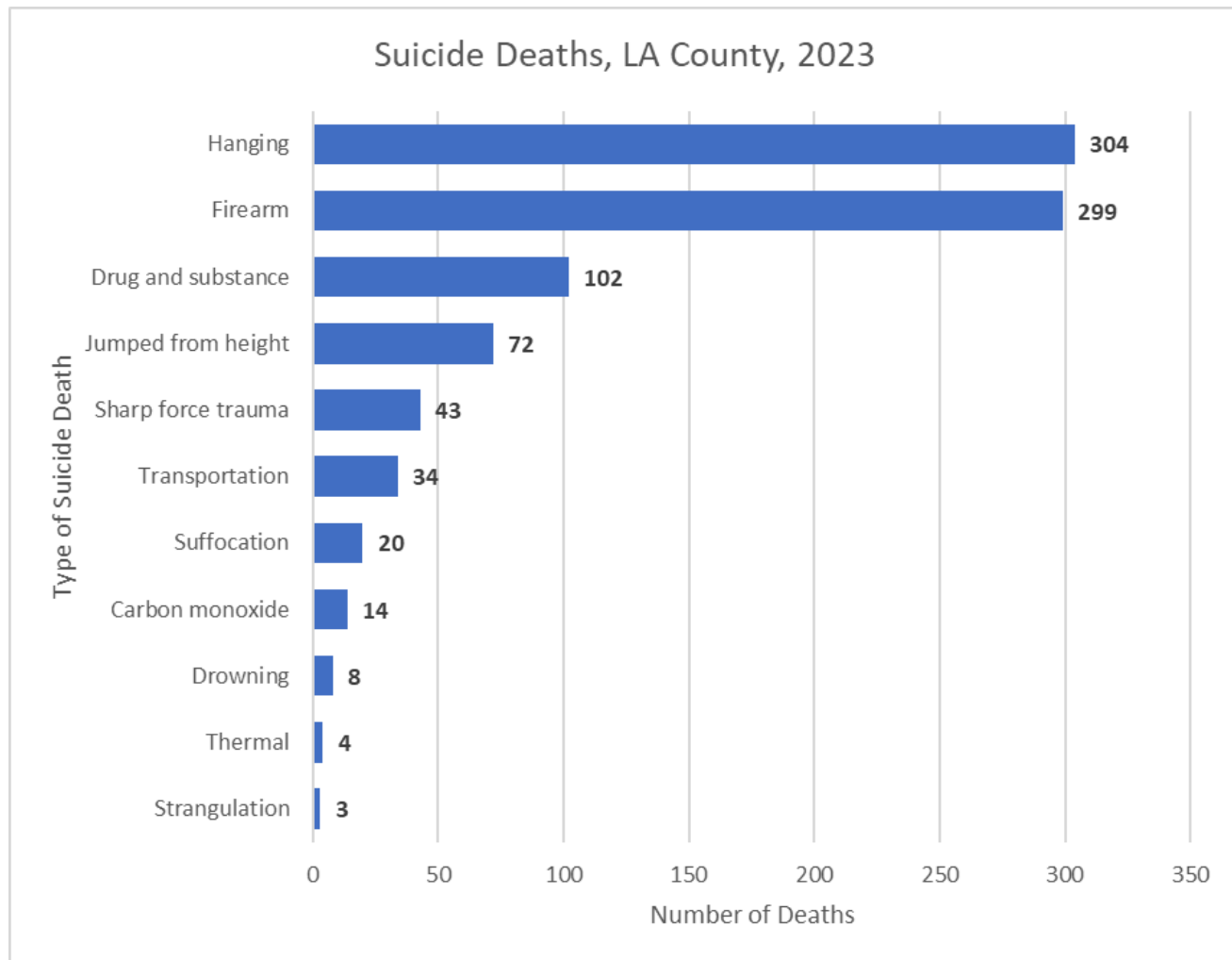
Homicide Deaths 2023



Type of Homicide Death	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
Firearm	560	74%
Sharp force trauma	90	12%
Blunt force trauma	71	9%
Strangulation/suffocation	14	2%
Other	8	1%
Thermal injuries and inhalation of products of combustion	8	1%
Blunt/sharp force trauma	2	<1%
Total	753	

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.



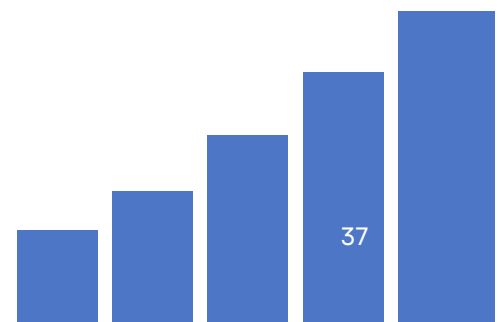
Type of Suicide Death	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
Hanging	304	34%
Firearm	299	33%
Drug and substance	102	11%
Other drug toxicity	80	
Sodium nitrite toxicity	17	
Ingestion of other toxic substance	4	
Acetaminophen toxicity	1	
Jumped from height	72	8%
Sharp force trauma	43	5%

Transportation	34	4%
Train vs pedestrian	20	
Auto vs pedestrian	4	
Semi-trailer truck vs pedestrian	3	
Auto vs fixed object	2	
Other auto related	2	
Auto, fall from great height	1	
Bus vs pedestrian	1	
Semi-trailer truck vs auto	1	
Suffocation	20	2%
Carbon monoxide	14	2%
Drowning	8	1%
Thermal injuries and inhalation of products of combustion	4	<1%
Strangulation	3	<1%
Total	903	

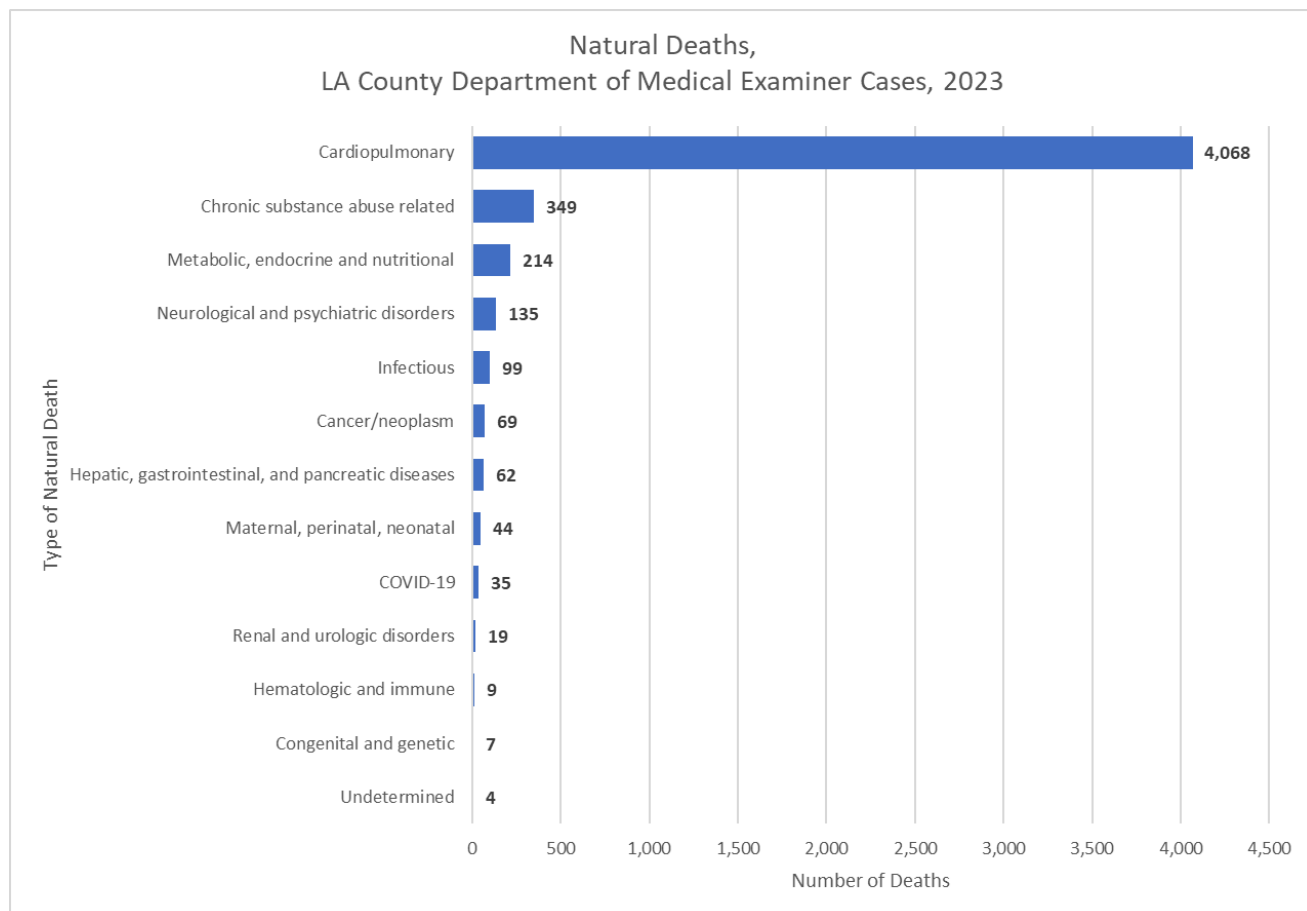
vs = versus; Auto = automobile

^a *Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.*

^b *Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.*



Natural Deaths 2023



Type of Natural Death	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
Cardiopulmonary^c	4,068	80%
Chronic substance abuse related	349	7%
Metabolic, endocrine and nutritional	214	4%
Neurological and psychiatric disorders	135	3%
Infectious^d	99	2%
Cancer/neoplasm	69	1%
Hepatic, gastrointestinal, and pancreatic diseases	62	1%
Maternal, perinatal, neonatal	44	1%
COVID-19	35	1%

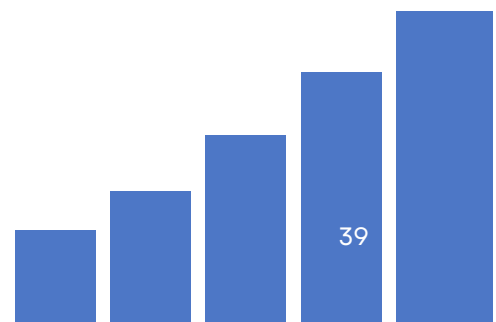
Renal and urologic disorders	18	<1%
Hematologic and immune	9	<1%
Congenital and genetic	7	<1%
Undetermined	4	<1%
Total	5,114	

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

^c Consolidation of primary cardiac and pulmonary causes of death and is distinct from the common mechanistic term 'cardiopulmonary arrest'.

^d Excludes COVID-19 deaths.



Accidental Drug-Related Deaths 2023

Type of Accidental Drug Death	Number of Cases ^a	Percent ^b
Acetaminophen	2	<1%
Acute ethanol toxicity	73	2%
Alprazolam/oxycodone	1	<1%
Amphetamine/phencyclidine	1	<1%
Benzodiazepine	8	<1%
Benzodiazepine/ethanol	1	<1%
Buprenorphine/benzodiazepine	1	<1%
Bupropion/ethanol	1	<1%
Clozapine	1	<1%
Cocaine	195	6%
Cocaine/heroin	2	<1%
Cocaine/methamphetamine	2	<1%
Diphenhydramine	2	<1%
Diphenhydramine/olanzapine	1	<1%
Doxepin	1	<1%
Drug toxicity, NOS	9	<1%
Ethanol/alprazolam	1	<1%
Fentanyl	595	19%
Fentanyl/bromazolam	2	<1%
Fentanyl/cocaine	215	7%
Fentanyl/ethanol	1	<1%
Fentanyl/heroin	7	<1%
Fentanyl/inhalant	1	<1%

Fentanyl/ketamine	3	<1%
Fentanyl/methamphetamine	1,162	36%
Fentanyl/phencyclidine	1	<1%
Fentanyl/xylazine	1	<1%
Fluoxetine	1	<1%
Heroin	14	<1%
Heroin/alprazolam	1	<1%
Heroin/cocaine	1	<1%
Heroin/methamphetamine	24	1%
Hydrocodone	4	<1%
Hydrocodone/benzodiazepine	1	<1%
Hydromorphone	1	<1%
Inhalant	18	1%
Ketamine	3	<1%
MDMA	6	<1%
Methadone	4	<1%
Methamphetamine	758	24%
Methamphetamine/phencyclidine	2	<1%
Methorphan	1	<1%
Metonitazine/bromazolam	1	<1%
Mitragynine	2	<1%
Morphine	5	<1%
Morphine/alprazolam/sertaline	1	<1%
Morphine/olanzapine	1	<1%
Nortriptyline	1	<1%

Olanzapine	1	<1%
Olanzapine/venlafaxine/diazepam	1	<1%
Opioid	2	<1%
Other mixed drugs^c	12	<1%
Oxycodone	3	<1%
Oxycodone/benzodiazepine	1	<1%
Oxycodone/ethanol	1	<1%
Oxycodone/oxymorphone	1	<1%
Phencyclidine	13	<1%
Quetiapine	4	<1%
Sertraline	1	<1%
Tramadol	1	<1%
Undetermined drug^d	34	<1%
Total	3,215	

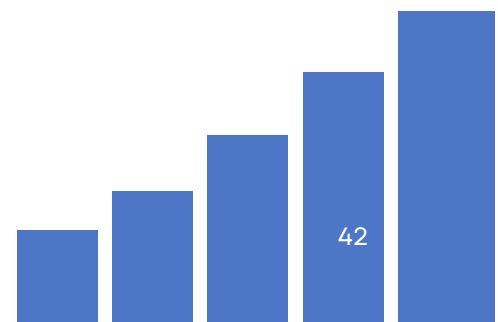
NOS = not otherwise specified

^a Number of cases are based on accepted cases from 2023.

^b Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

^c Numerous drugs were involved with death.

^d Timeframe precluded specific drug testing, such as during prolonged hospitalization before death.



Contact Us



(323) 343-0512



info@me.lacounty.gov



me.lacounty.gov



1104 N. Mission Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90033

