

Greenville County Coroner

2022 Annual Report

Greenville County Coroner's Office
715 Grove Road
Greenville, 29605

Last Revised: February 16, 2024

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Message to the Council and Citizens of Greenville County	3
Medical Examiner Staff	4
Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner	6
Greenville County Medical Examiner Cases	7
Manner of Death by Postmortem Examination	8
Deaths by Natural Causes	8
Deaths by Unnatural Causes	9
Accidental Deaths by Type	9
Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes	10
Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death	10
Suicide by Means	11
Homicide Deaths	11
Deaths by Age Group	12
Organ Procurement	12

Message to the Council and Citizens of Greenville County

The Greenville County Coroner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Greenville 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 medical examiner. 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, medical examiner staff members are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the Coroner Investigators and in partnership with the Greenville County Medical Examiners, we believe the quality of death investigations in Greenville 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 medical examiners.

Our 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. Medical examiner investigators are supplied with a pamphlet for distribution to families. The information answers common questions and facts about autopsies and provides resource information about grief counseling.

In 2022 our office transitioned from a county-built case management software to a vendor-owned software "MDI Log". MDI Log is a comprehensive investigative report/database system that enables the Medical Examiner to review death scene investigation information from a secure Internet site any time of the day. MDI Log enables Coroner Investigators to submit death scene investigation efficient reports via the Internet. MDI Log has evolved to become a valuable tool for our office.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Greenville County Council for their support of the Coroner's Office and the services we provide to the citizens of Greenville County.

Medical Examiner Staff

2022 Organizational Chart
Greenville County Coroner
Parks Evans Jr., D-ABMDI

Chief Deputy
Mike Ellis, D-ABMDI

Investigations

Sr. Deputy Coroner/Supervisor

Jennifer Cason, NREMT, D-ABMDI, FAA Part 107

Shelton England, NREMT, D-ABMDI, FAA Part 107

Kristine Strange, D-ABMDI

Deputies

Michelle Bright, D-ABMDI

Matthew Armstrong

Ryan Mahaffey, NRP

Michael Rogers, NRP

Mallory Cameron, D-ABMDI

Terra Mcabee, D-ABMDI

Jamie Richards, NREMT

Jonathan Hamilton

Jonathon Saxton

Hannah Gilstrap

Robert Parker, D-ABMDI

Madison Wright

Reserve Deputies

Jeffery Fowler, NRP, D-ABMDI

Cherrie Schooley, RN, BSN

Administrative Services

Sharon Craver, D-ABMDI

Heather Moore

Perrin Lemons

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner

The South Carolina Coroner Law, **Act 181, P.A. of 1953, as amended**, and the **Michigan Public Health Code, Act 368, P.A. of 1978, as amended**, 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 medical examiner 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, etc.)
- Death of a prisoner (e.g., deaths in any county or city jail while imprisoned or in custody).
- Suspicious Circumstances (e.g., Unidentified Bodies or events surrounding death)
- Sudden and Unexpected deaths (e.g., all deaths during a surgical procedure, in recovery, anesthesia-related, unexpected natural death, occupational-related deaths)*
- Without medical attendance within 48 hours of death:
 - In cases of chronic illness, the attending physician may sign the death certificate if s/he can be reasonably certain of the cause of death.
 - Death of a mother due to an abortion.
 - Unexpected infant deaths

The Coroner would generally order an autopsy for any of the reportable deaths listed above.

Greenville County Medical Examiner Cases

Population	491,863
Cases Reported to the Coroner's Office	5467
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	789
1. Number of Coroner Cases with Complete Autopsy	491
2. Number of Coroner Cases with External Examination	254
3. Number of Coroner Cases with Limited Examination	55
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	1126
C. Number of deaths not certified by Coroner's Office after investigation	4341

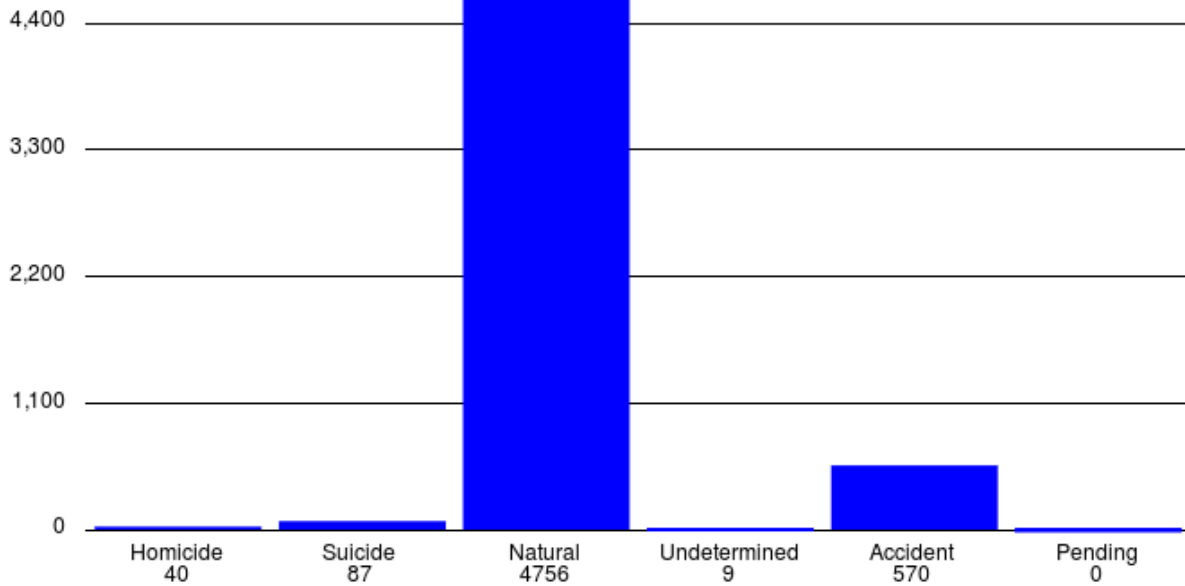
Definitions

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

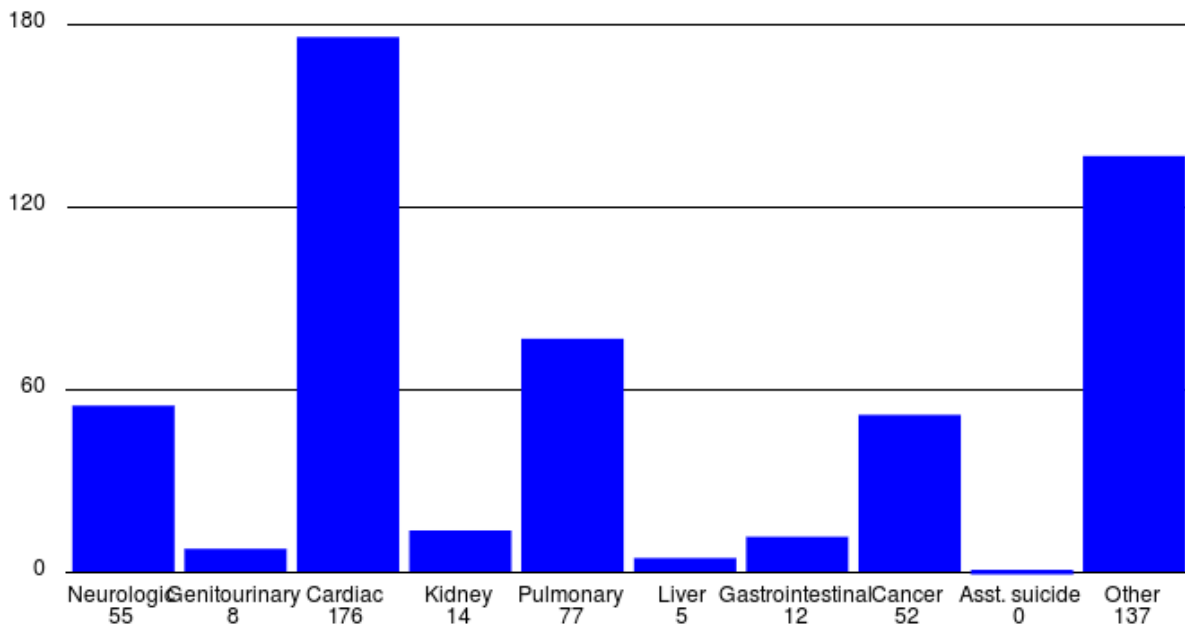
Limited Examination: An examination that is focused on a specific organ or region of the body, i.e., the heart. The limited examination also includes an external examination.

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

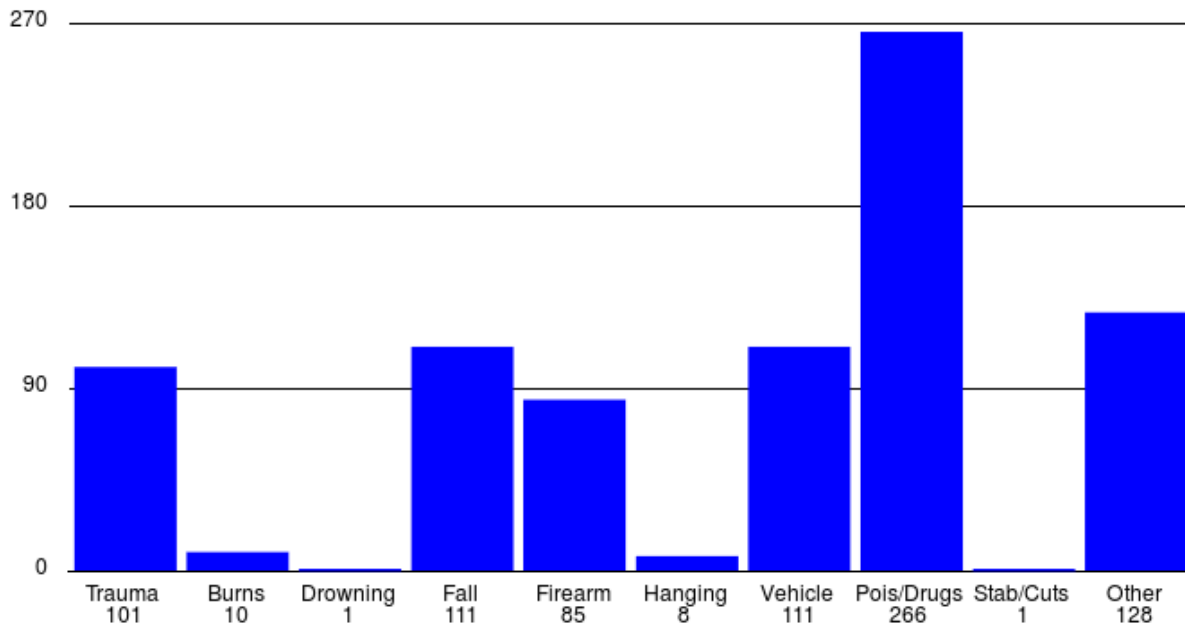
Manner of Death by Postmortem Examination



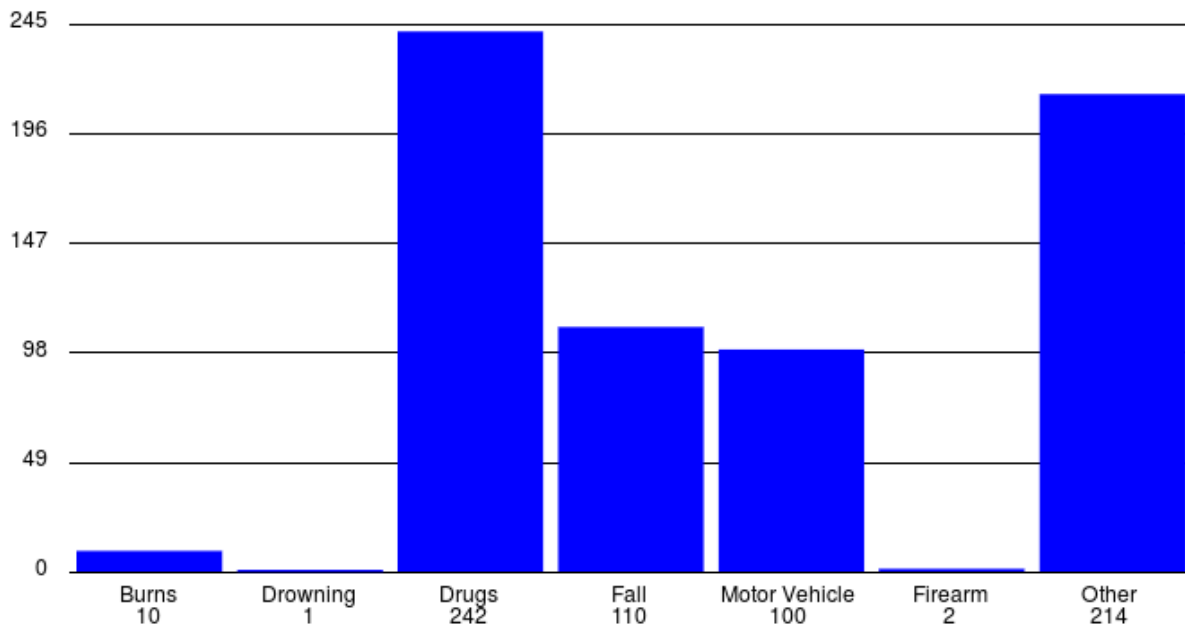
Deaths by Natural Causes



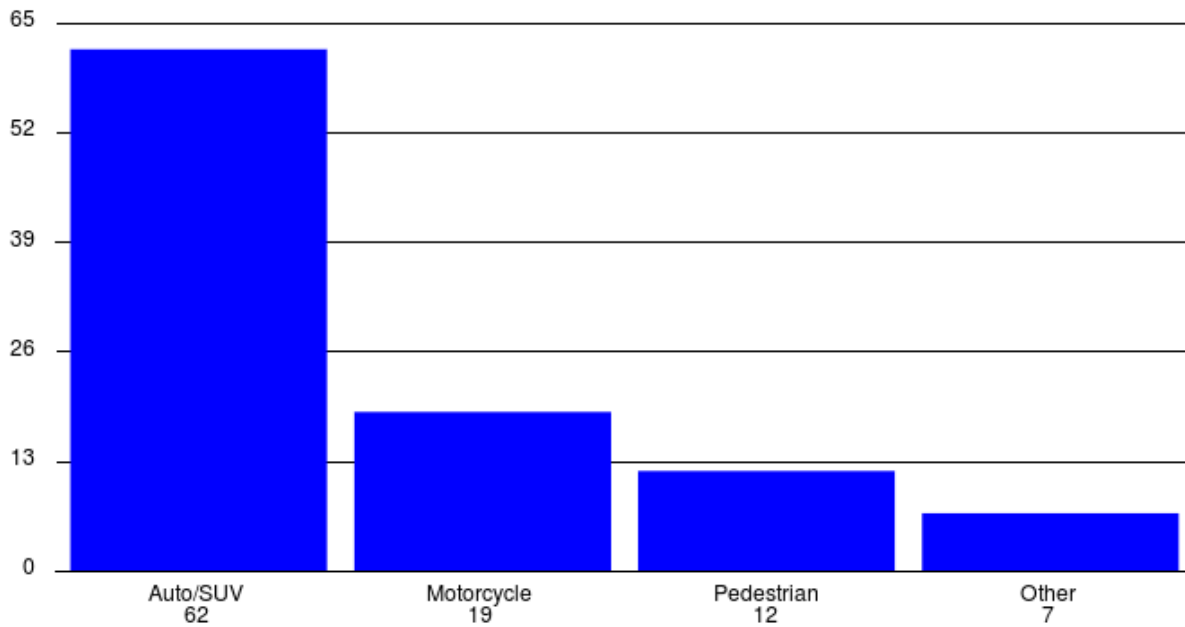
Deaths by Unnatural Causes



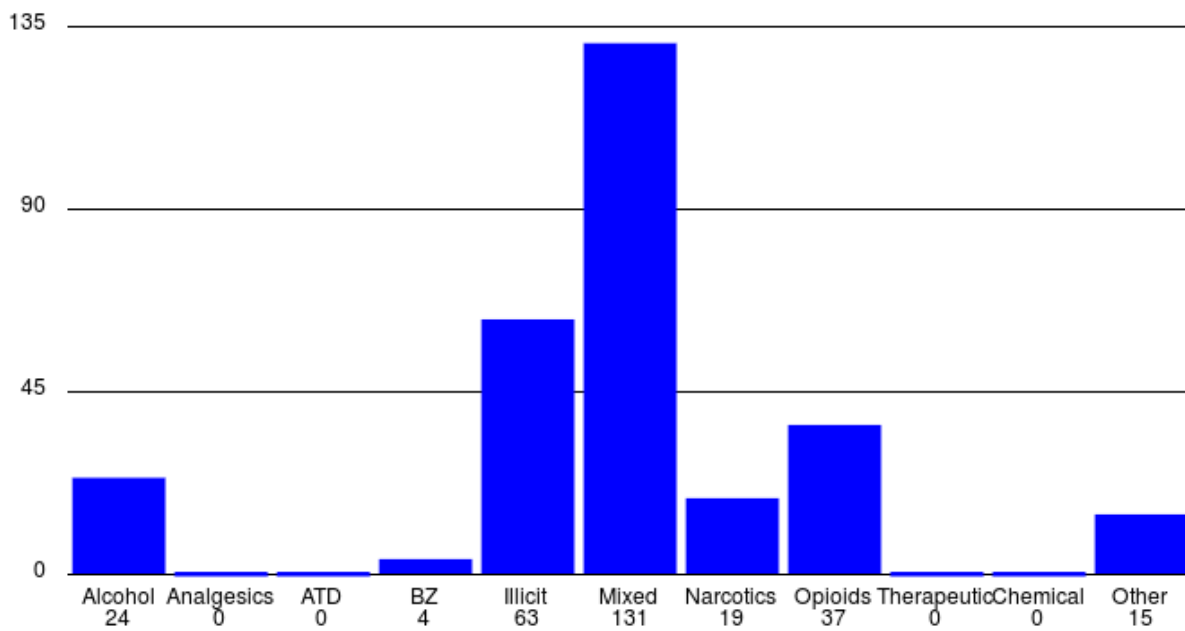
Accidental Deaths by Type



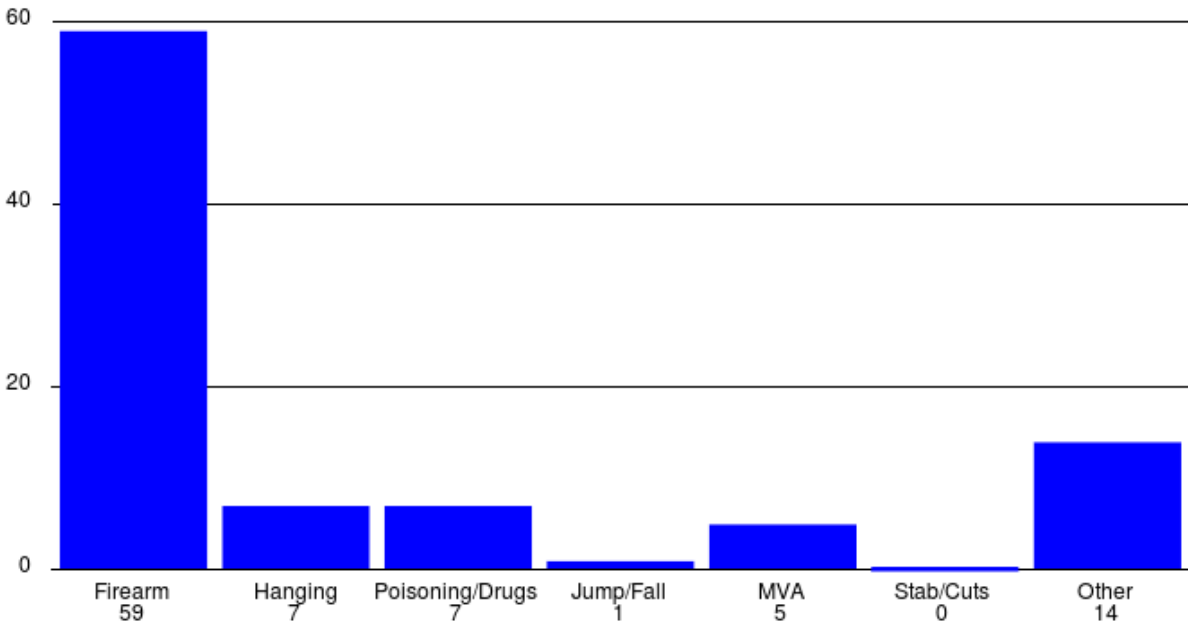
Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes



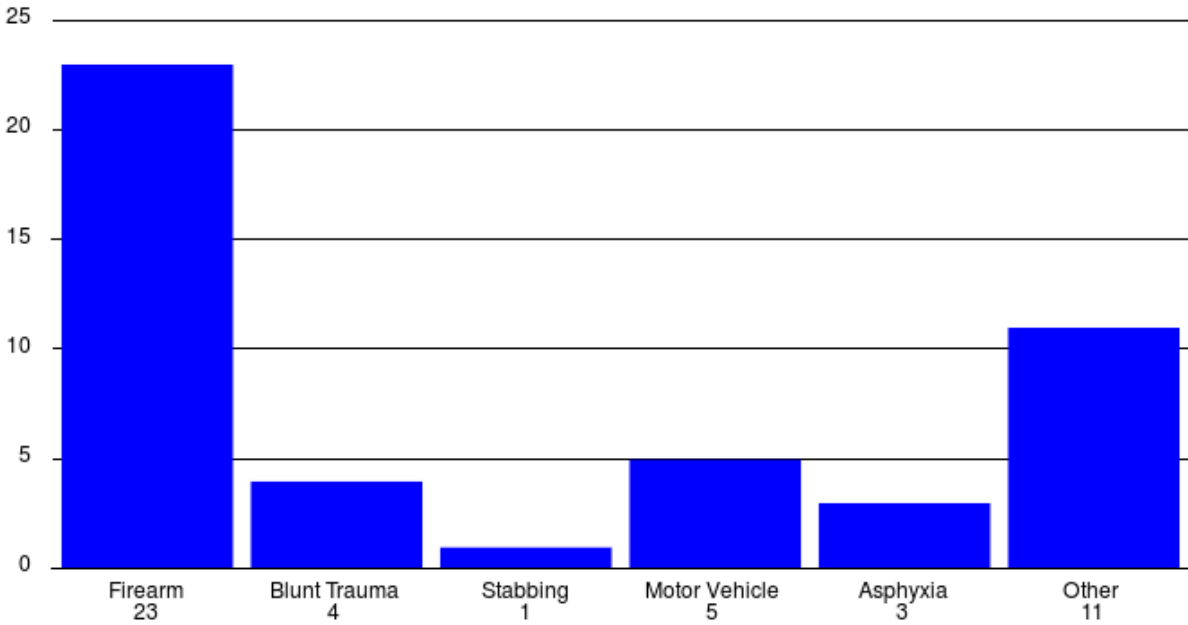
Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death



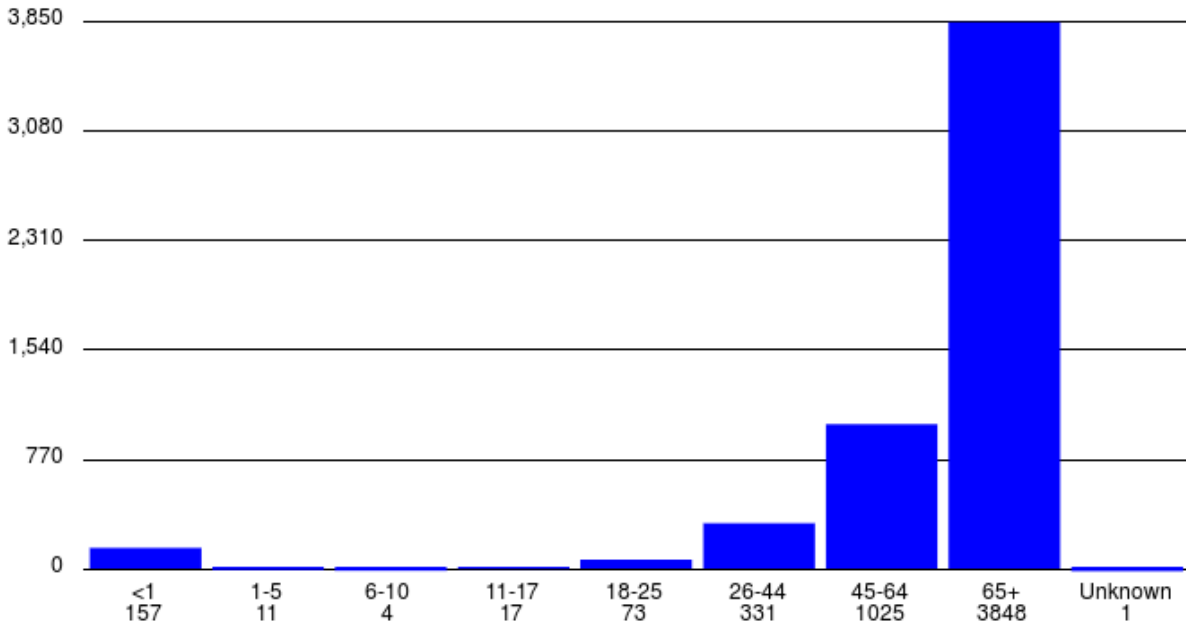
Suicide by Means




Homicide Deaths



Deaths by Age Group



Organ Procurement



206
Opportunities for Donation

159
Organ Donors

594
Organs Recovered

394
Lives Saved

97%
Coroner Approval Rate

ORGAN DONATION SUMMARY
GREENVILLE County Coroner - Parks Evans

23 opportunities for organ donation

Permission for organ donation declined
0 times


0 on donor registry | **0** not registered

Coroner Approval Rate
100%

20 Organ Donors

73 Organs Recovered

50 Lives Saved



DONOR REFERRAL LINE
800.269.9777

01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022



1898
Tissue Potential

289
Tissue Donors

4834
Tissues Recovered

21675
Lives Enhanced

93%
Coroner Approval Rate

TISSUE DONATION SUMMARY
GREENVILLE County Coroner - Parks Evans

114 opportunities for tissue donation

Permission for tissue donation declined
4
times

Pre-autopsy donation allowed
98
times

Coroner Approval Rate
96%

23
Tissue Donors

371
Tissues Recovered

0
on donor registry

4
not registered

Post-autopsy donation allowed
12
times

Thank you for calling directly with
5
on-scene referrals

1725
Lives Enhanced



DONOR REFERRAL LINE
800.269.9777

01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022