

Alpena County Medical Examiner



2023 Annual Report

MidMichigan Medical Examiner Group
2141 Plett Rd.
PMB#111
Cadillac, 49601

Last Revised: January 18, 2024

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Alpena County	3
Medical Examiner Staff	4
Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner	5
Alpena County Medical Examiner Cases	6
Manner of Death by Month	7
Manner of Death by Age	8
Natural Deaths	9
Natural Deaths (Continued)	10
Accidental Deaths	11
Transportation Accidental Type	12
Suicidal Deaths	13
Mention of Drugs in Cause of Death	14

Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Alpena County

The mission of the Mid Michigan Medical Examiner Group (MMMEG) is to provide competent, quality, and compassionate service in determining the cause and manner of death in all unexpected circumstances. MMMEG serves all those who die in Alpena County, their families, and other associated agencies in the investigation of unusual and unexplained deaths.

This past year Alpena County also experienced a reduction in suicides but an increase in accidents over the past year. All other manner of death categories remained similar to previous years.

We would like to thank the Board of Commissioners and Administration of Alpena County for its continuous support in this department and the service provided.

Medical Examiner Staff

Dr. Paul Wagner
Chief Medical Examiner

David G. Turner, F-ABMDI
Chief Investigator

Lisa Kaspriak
Administrator Assistant

Nicole H
Administrator Assistant

Jennifer S
Administrator Assistant

Sally Momany, D-ABMDI
Medical Examiner Investigator

Nick Harrison
Medical Examiner Investigator

Lauren Kirby
Medical Examiner Investigator

Douglas Krueger
Medical Examiner Investigator

Linnessa Mellberg
Medical Examiner Investigator

John Mattson
Medical Examiner Investigator

Amber Lewandowski
Medical Examiner Investigator

Rory Sherwood
Medical Examiner Investigator

Stephen Orlandi
Medical Examiner Investigator

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Medical Examiner

The Michigan County Medical Examiner 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 Medical Examiner 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 Medical Examiner:

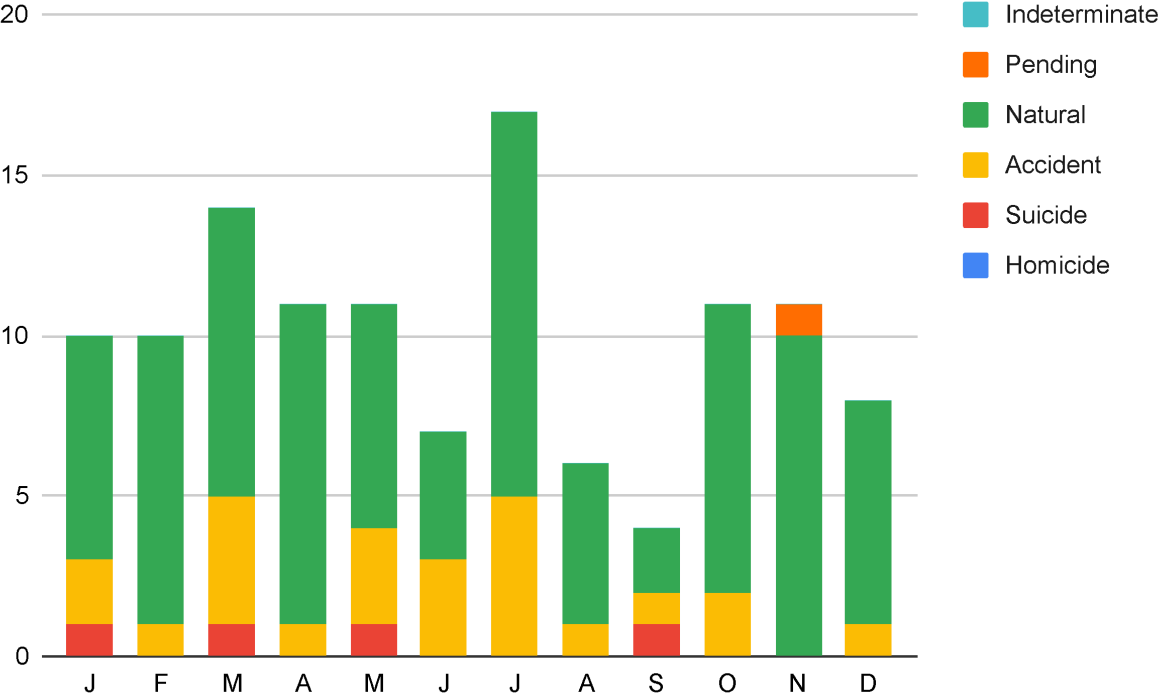
- Violent death (e.g., strangulation, gunshot, stabbing, poisoning, etc.)
- Accidental deaths (e.g., falls, drowning, motor vehicle collisions, burns, overdose, etc.)
- Death of a prisoner (e.g., deaths in any county or city jail while imprisoned or in custody).
- Suspicious Circumstances (e.g., Unidentified 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 medical examiner may order an autopsy for any of the reportable deaths listed above.

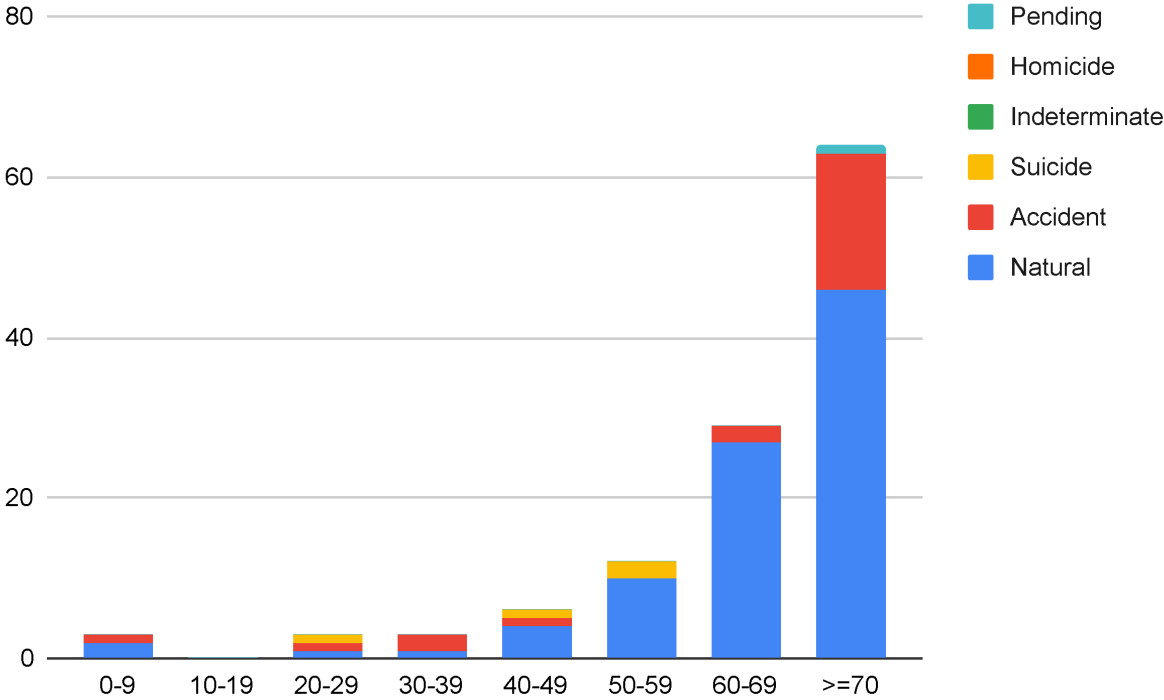
Alpena County Medical Examiner Cases

Population	28,803
Cases Reported to Medical Examiner	120
Number of Deaths Certified after Autopsy	7
Number of Deaths Certified after Toxicology	28
Cases reviewed for cremation release	340
Unclaimed Bodies	4
Unidentified Bodies	0
Exhumations	0

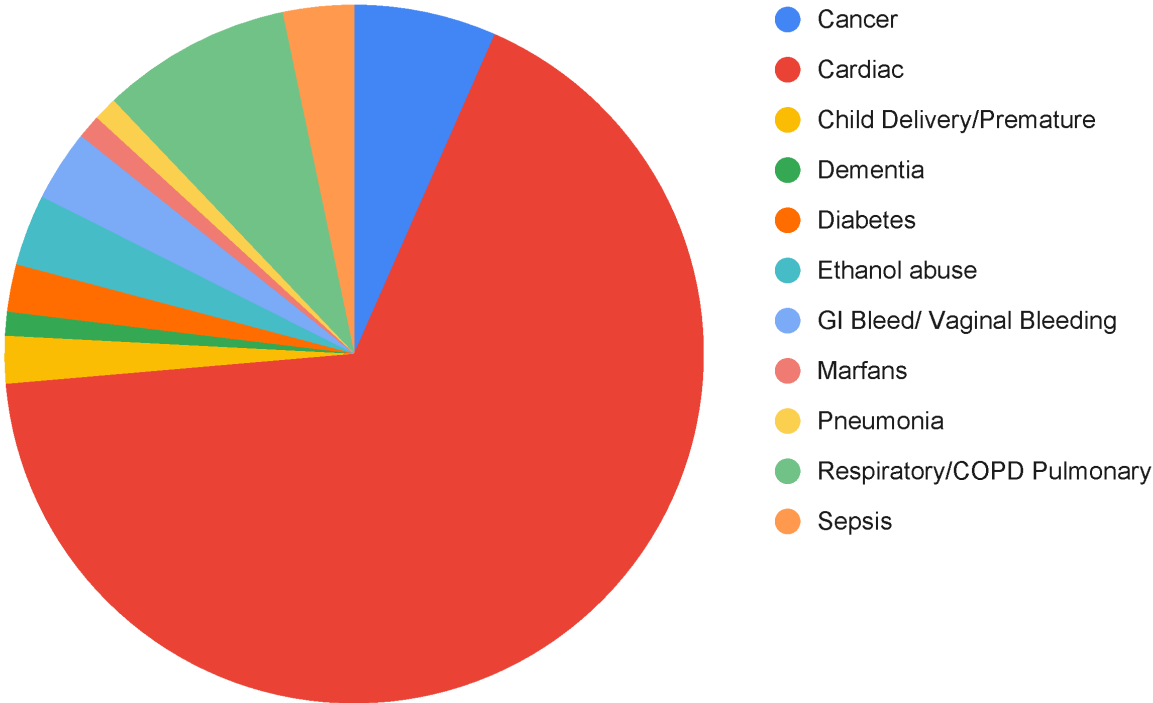
Manner of Death by Month



Manner of Death by Age



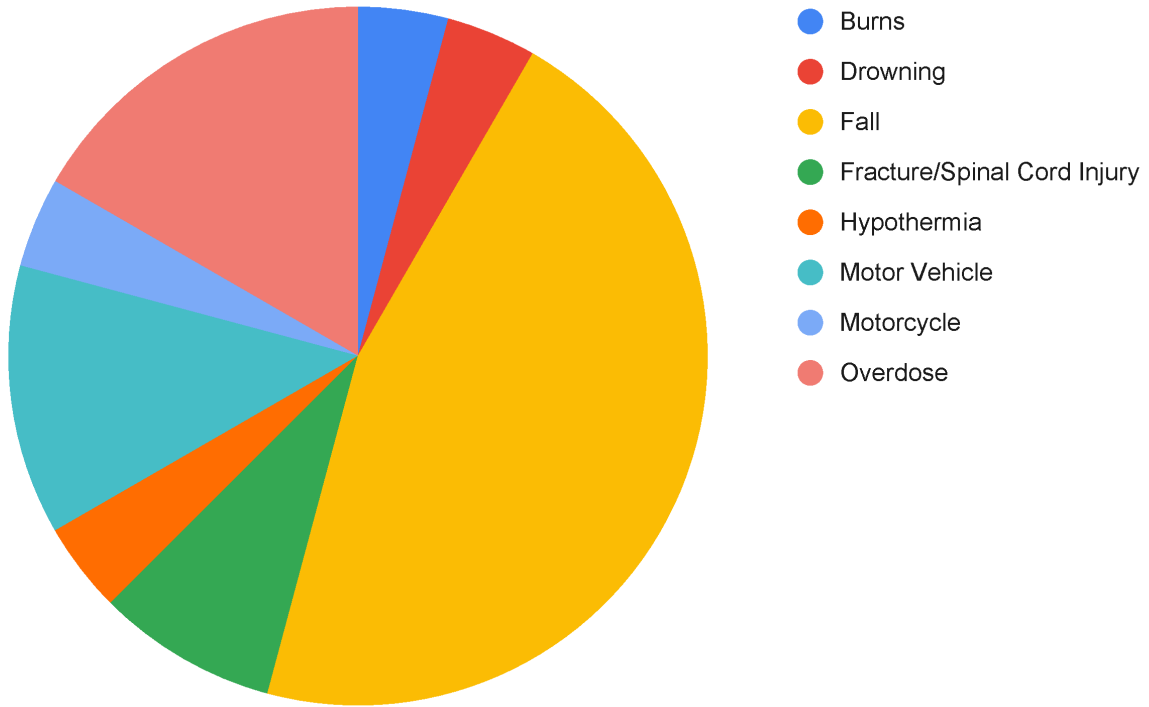
Natural Deaths



Natural Deaths (Continued)

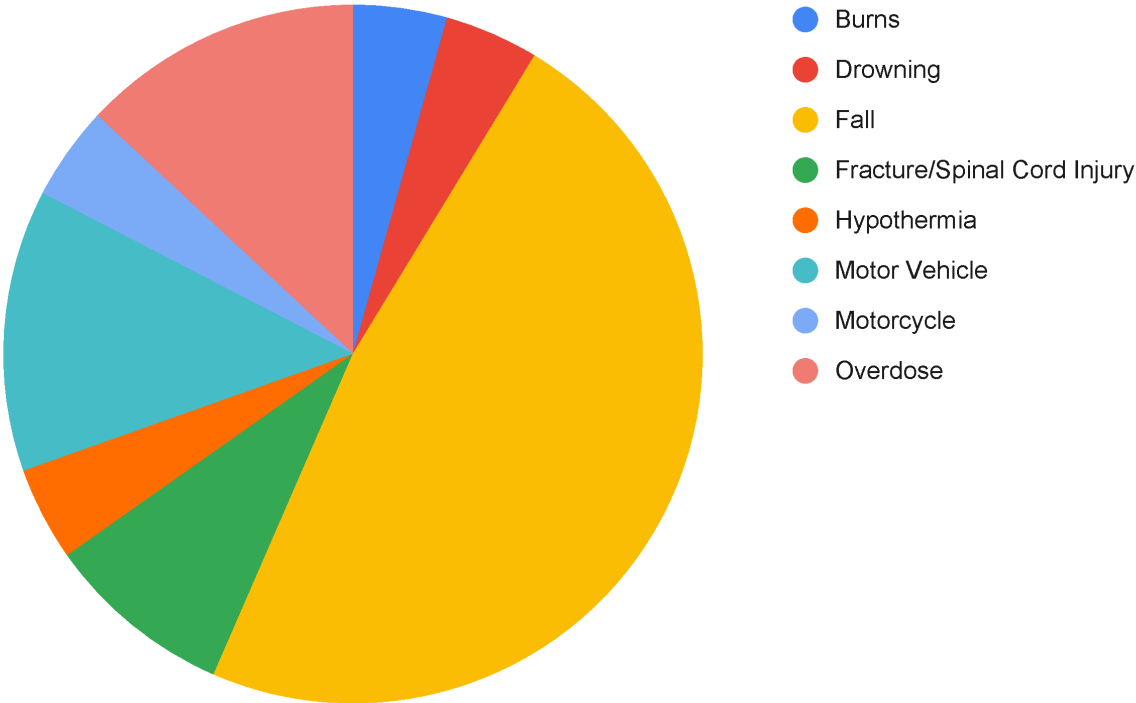
Natural Deaths by Type	# of Cases	Percentage
Cancer	6	7%
Cardiac	61	67%
Child Delivery/Premature	2	2%
Dementia	1	1%
Diabetes	2	2%
Ethanol abuse	3	3%
GI Bleed/ Vaginal Bleeding	3	3%
Marfan's	1	1%
Pneumonia	1	1%
Respiratory/COPD Pulmonary	8	9%
Sepsis	3	3%
Total	91	100%

Accidental Deaths



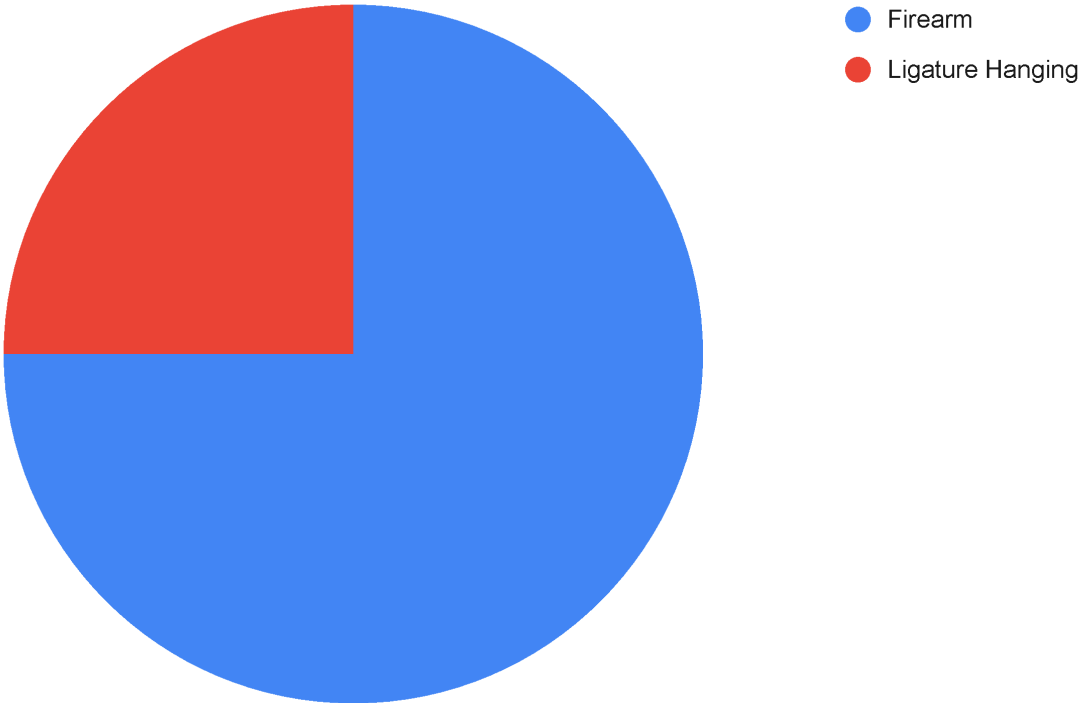
Accidental Death by Type	# of Cases	Percent
Burns	1	4%
Drowning	1	4%
Fall	11	46%
Fracture/Spinal Cord Injury	2	8%
Hypothermia	1	4%
Motor Vehicle	3	13%
Motorcycle	1	4%
Overdose	4	17%
Total	24	100%

Transportation Accidental Type



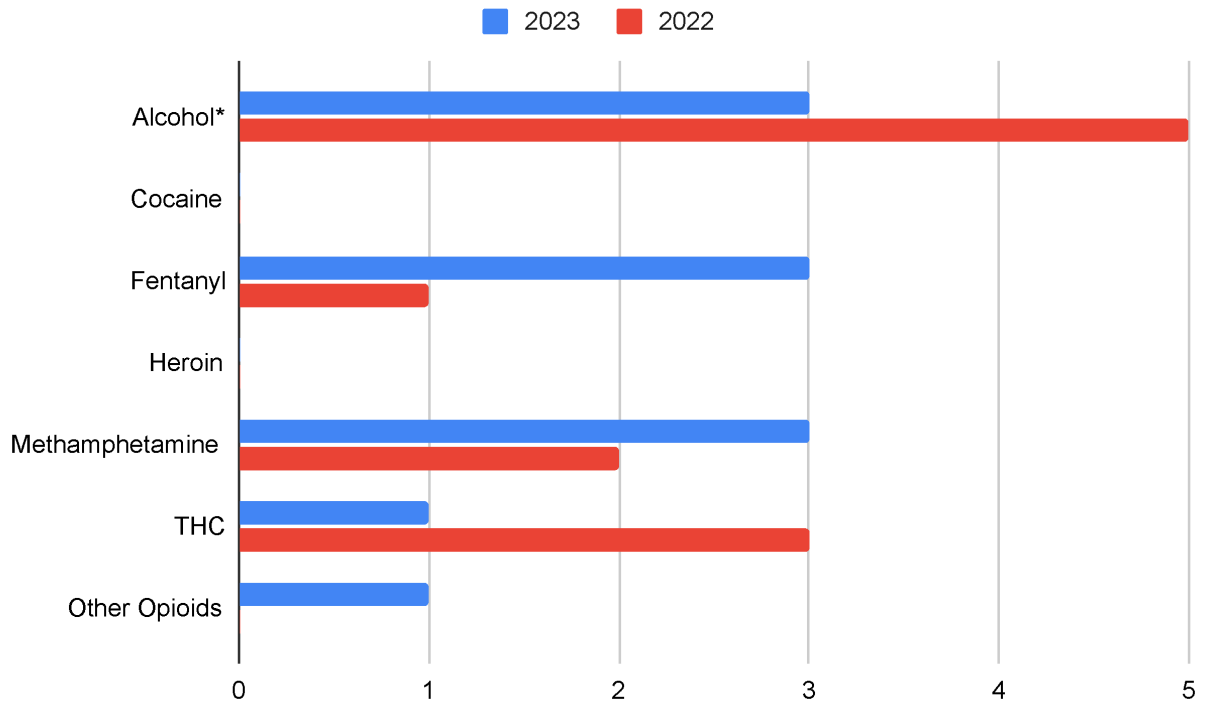
Transportation Accident Type	# of Cases	Percentage
Auto Vehicle	3	75%
Motorcycle	1	25%
Total	4	100%

Suicidal Deaths



Suicidal Deaths	# of Cases	Percentage
Firearm	3	75%
Ligature Hanging	1	25%
Total	4	100%

Mention of Drugs in Cause of Death



*Alcohol reporting only if over limit on confirmed cases

*THC reporting only if added as a contributory factor on confirmed reports

* Reported as confirmed causes of or contributory factors of death

Alpena County “2”
Successful Qualifiers for
Donation in 2023

ONE organ & tissue
donor can
SAVE 8 LIVES
and **RESTORE** health
to over **75** others

2



