

Annual Report

FY 2023 - 2024



- **Baldwin County Covers over 2000 square miles**
- **FY 23-24 ~260,000 residents and approx. 7.5 million tourists**
- **2374 souls were lost in FY 23-24**
- **1005 cases were reported to our office**
 - Hospice 320
 - Non-Coroner 44
 - Coroner 641
- **641 met the criteria for investigation**
 - Medical Record Review
 - External Exam and/or Toxicology
 - Full Post-Mortem exam by a Forensic Pathologist





FY 2023-2024

- **Fentanyl Crisis: Continues**
- **Population Growth: County-Wide**

- **Biggest Challenges:**
 - Facility/Workspace
 - Mass Fatality Event: May 11th

Strategic Goal 2020: Coroner's Office Expansion

- By 2025, Baldwin County will experience a Coroner's Office that is better aligned with the County's **Functional population** and able to handle a mass casualty event.



- Lead Dr. Brian Pierce, Coroner
- Team Troy Dyess, Coroner's Office
Anthony Lowery, Sheriff's Office
Tom Tyler, BCEMA
Beth Hodges, Budget Director

What have
we
Done???

Acquired a Randox Multistat Drug Analyzer: Ability to Quantify 29 drugs of Abuse < 1 hour including Fentanyl and Xylazine

Assumed positions with S-Mort 3 to stabilize Mass Fatality response

Continue to speak with State Partners on Funding for Baldwin County Forensics: Needed facilities

Appointed by Governor Ivey to serve on the Alabama Coroners Training Commission: Serve as Chairman

And....

- Established Jurisdiction of cases originating within Baldwin County
 - Mobile, AL and Escambia, FL
- Hosted a 2-day **Child Death Re-enactment** course for Law Enforcement and ER Hospital Staff
- 2nd year to host Interns from the University of South Alabama
 - Anthropology/Forensic Science
- Hosted 1st ever **Coroner's Citizens Academy: 4 nights**
- Field Trips for our Youth; Understanding the Coroner's Office
 - Choices have Consequences

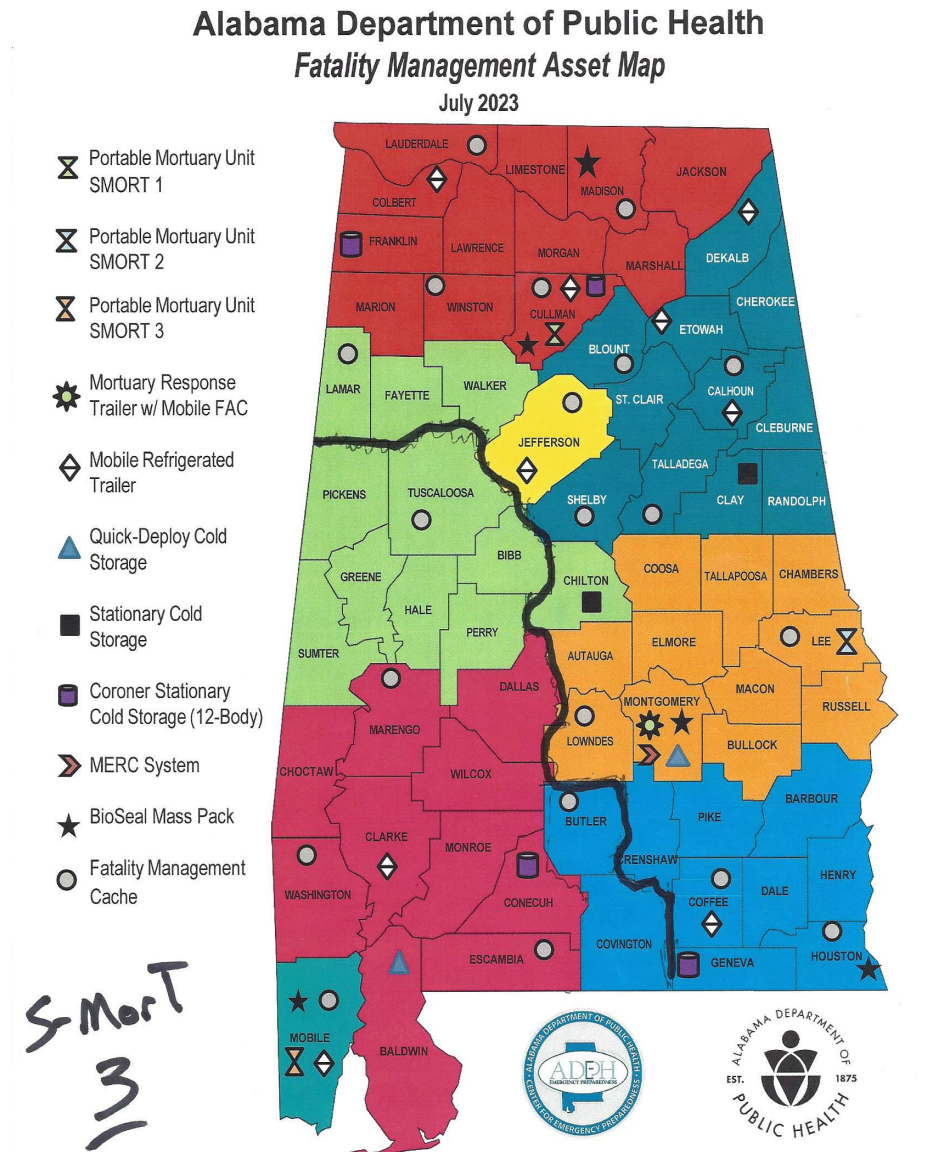
Randox Multistat Evidence Analyzer

- 29 drugs of abuse
- Quantify the amount of a drug in a decedent
- Still utilize ADFS to confirm the amount of a drug and to search for new and novel drugs
- Better product by yielding faster results and quicker decision points.
- Release decedents faster, Fewer transports out of county
- Reduced cost per test. \$400 vs \$40



S-Mort Map

SMORT is available at the request of the local jurisdiction. The team's mission is to support the county Coroner or county Medical Examiner. While deployed, the team works under the direction of local authority. SMORT is ready to assist in the location, removal, preservation, identification, and final disposition of human remains following a mass fatality incident.





Purpose of the Commission

235-X-1-.02 The Alabama Coroner's Training Commission was created to ensure that Coroners and Deputy Coroners, be they elected or appointed, receive adequate training to properly perform their duties.

ACTC: 7 Member Commission

Dr. Brian Pierce (Chair)	12/26	Governor appoints a County Coroner-3years.
Scott Henderson	1/25	Attorney General appoints District Attorney – 1 year.
Charles Adcox	4/25	ACA President appoints County Coroner- 2 years.
Rebekah Boswell	1/26	ADFS Director Appoints ME or Forensic Scientist-2years.
Jeff Chunn (vice-chair)	6/25	ACA Board of Directors appoints County Coroner –2years.
Cody Nugent (Sec/Tres)	6/25	ACA Board of Directors appoints County Coroner- 2years.
Jeremy Kilpatrick	6/25	ACA Board of Directors appoints County Coroner-2 years.

Accepted 20 Participants
for first ever Citizens
Academy

- 4 nights of instruction to understand the role a Coroner plays in a Community. The responsibilities of the office and how the Coroner relates to other Community Partners in execution of his/her Duties.

BALDWIN COUNTY
CORONER
CITIZENS ACADEMY

Dr. Brian Pierce DC, D-ABMDI: Coroner

Investigations

Troy Dyess, D-ABMDI: Chief Deputy

Greg Schnupp: MDI-1

Ashley Tackla: MDI-1

Deputy Coroners

Nick Miller, D-ABMDI

Tim Cooper

Jacob van Blake

Leslie Bishop

Administration

Brandy Byrd: Executive Assistant to the Coroner

Shanna Bonner: Administrative Support Specialist I

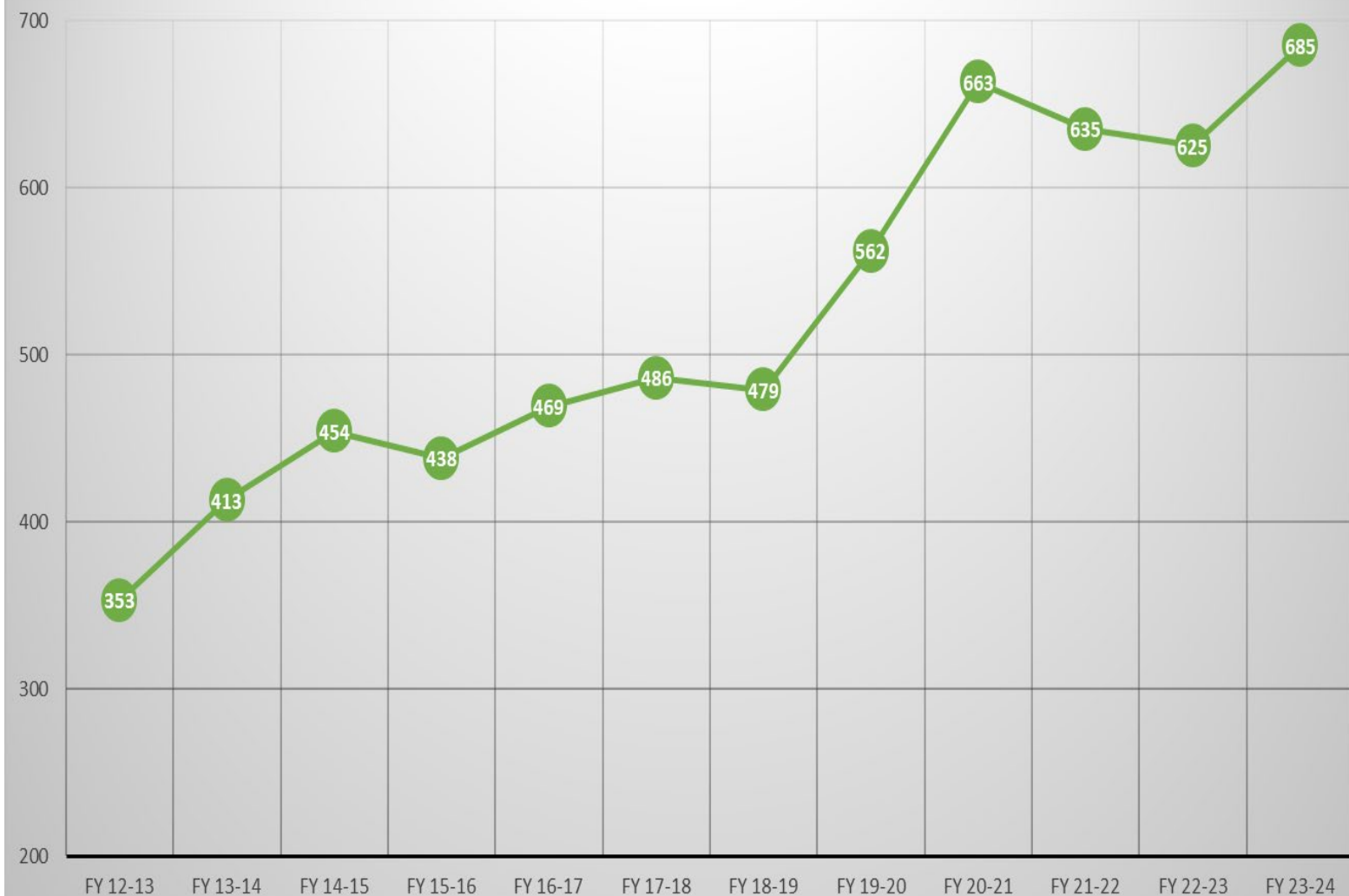


of Cases / Total Deaths

% of Deaths

FY 18-19	479/2067	= 24%
FY 19-20	562/2235	= 26%
FY 20-21	663/2689	= 25%
FY 21-22	635/2400	= 27%
FY 22-23	625/2343	= 27%
FY23-24	685/2374	= 29%

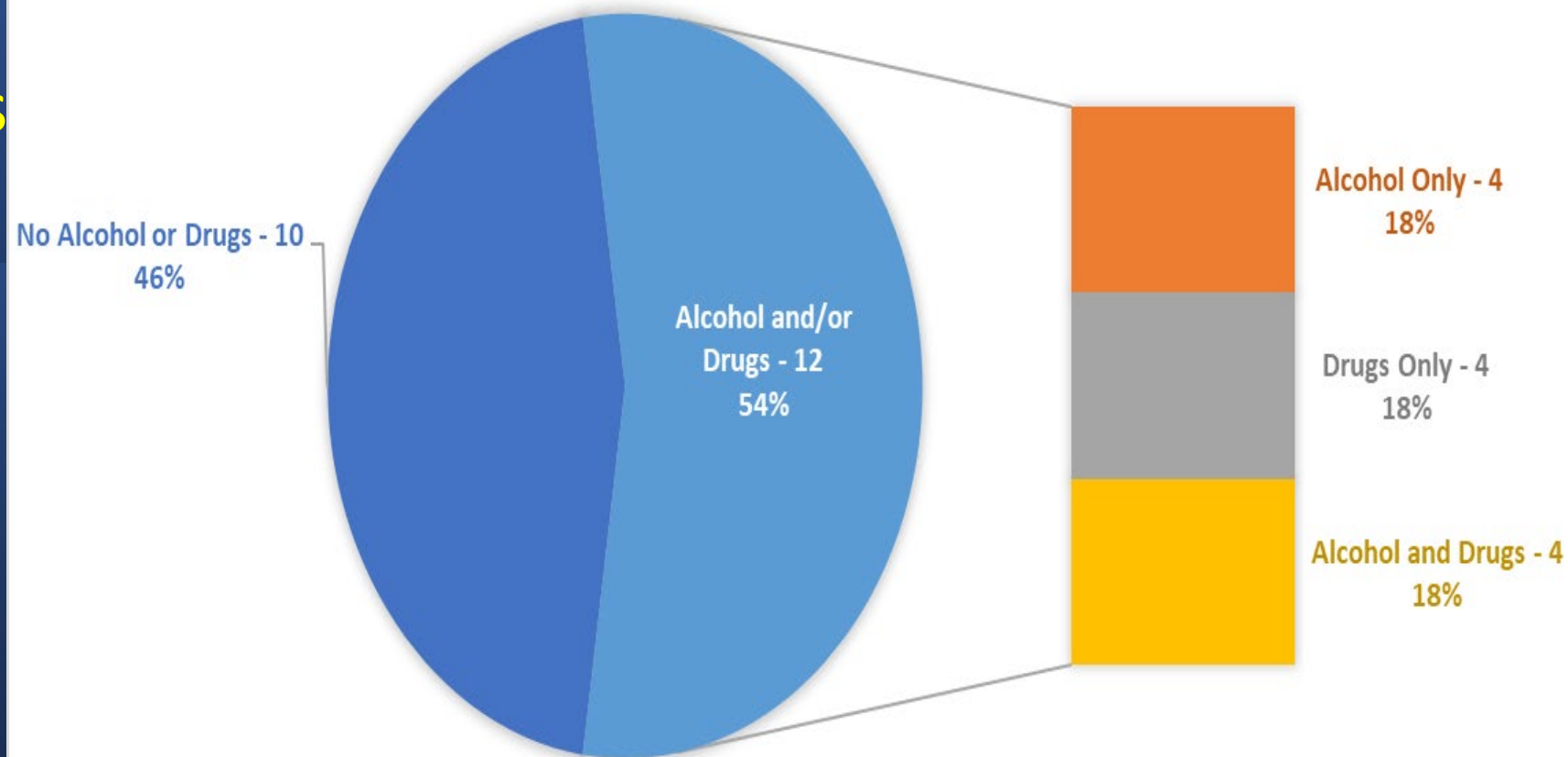
Number of Coroner Cases Per Fiscal Year



Transportation Fatalities FY 23-24

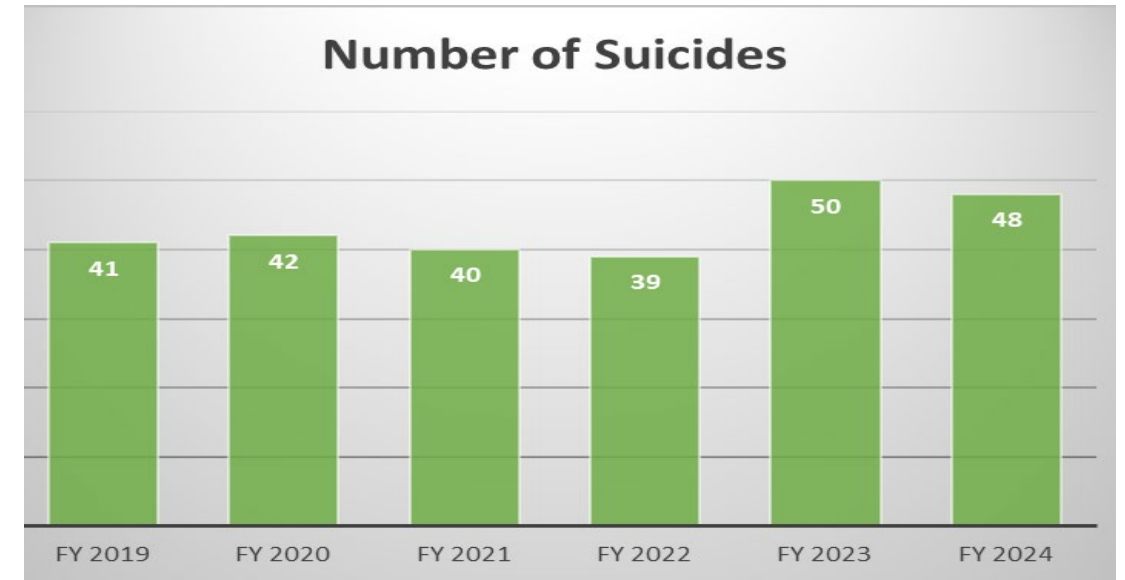
Automobile	12
Other Motorized Vehicle	4
Pedestrian	6
Total	22

TOXICOLOGY IN TRANSPORTATION FATALITY CASES

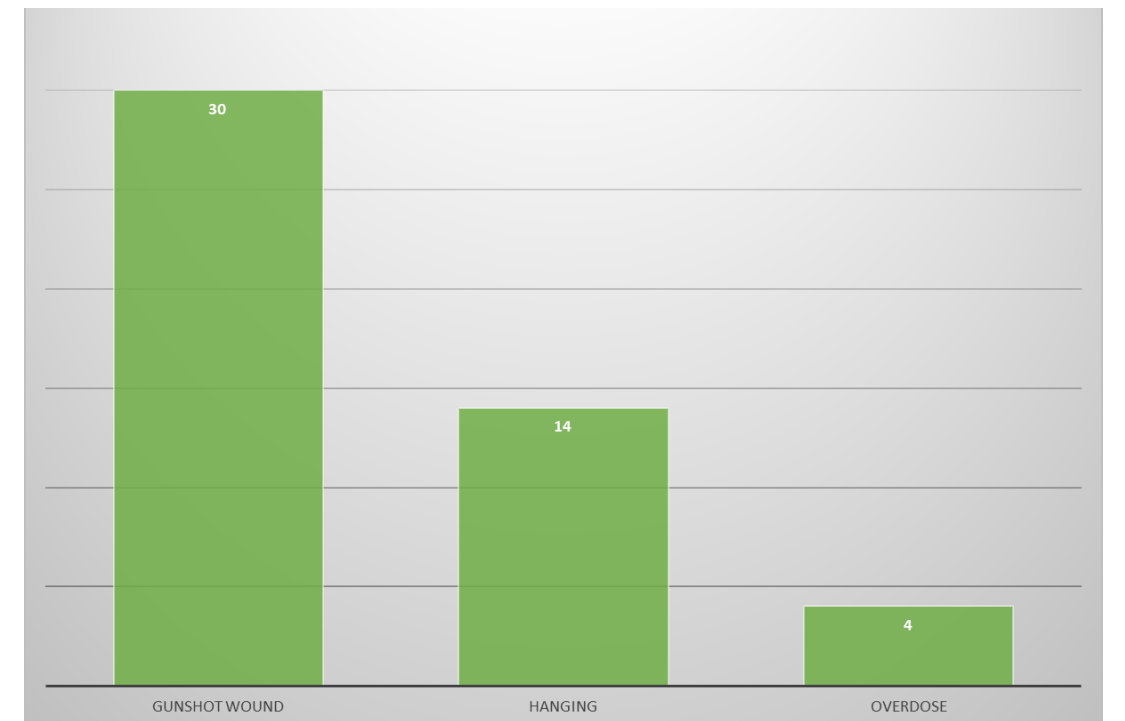


Seatbelt Usage in Automobile Fatalities	
Seatbelt Used	5
Seatbelt Not Used	6
Unknown if Seatbelt Used	1

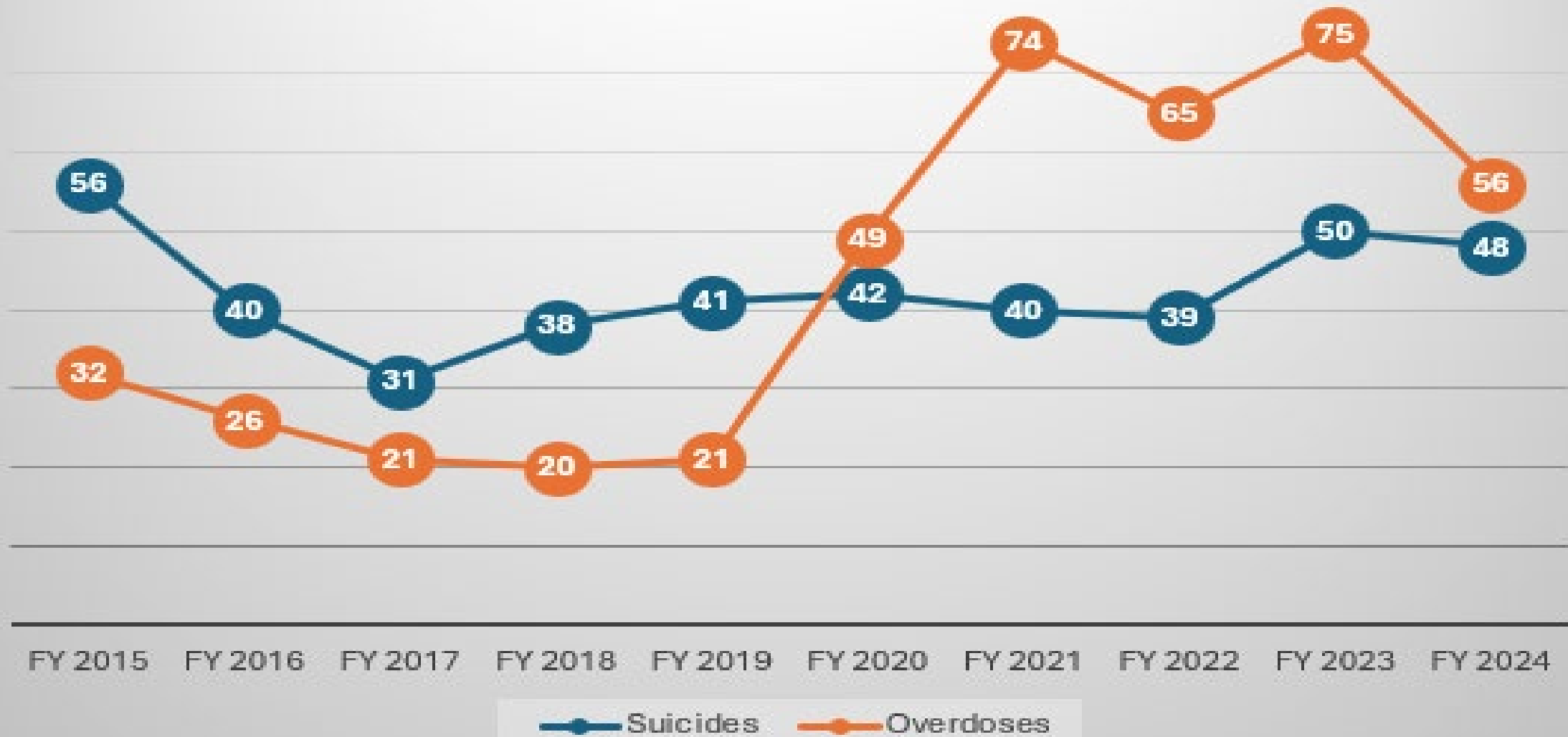
Number of Suicides



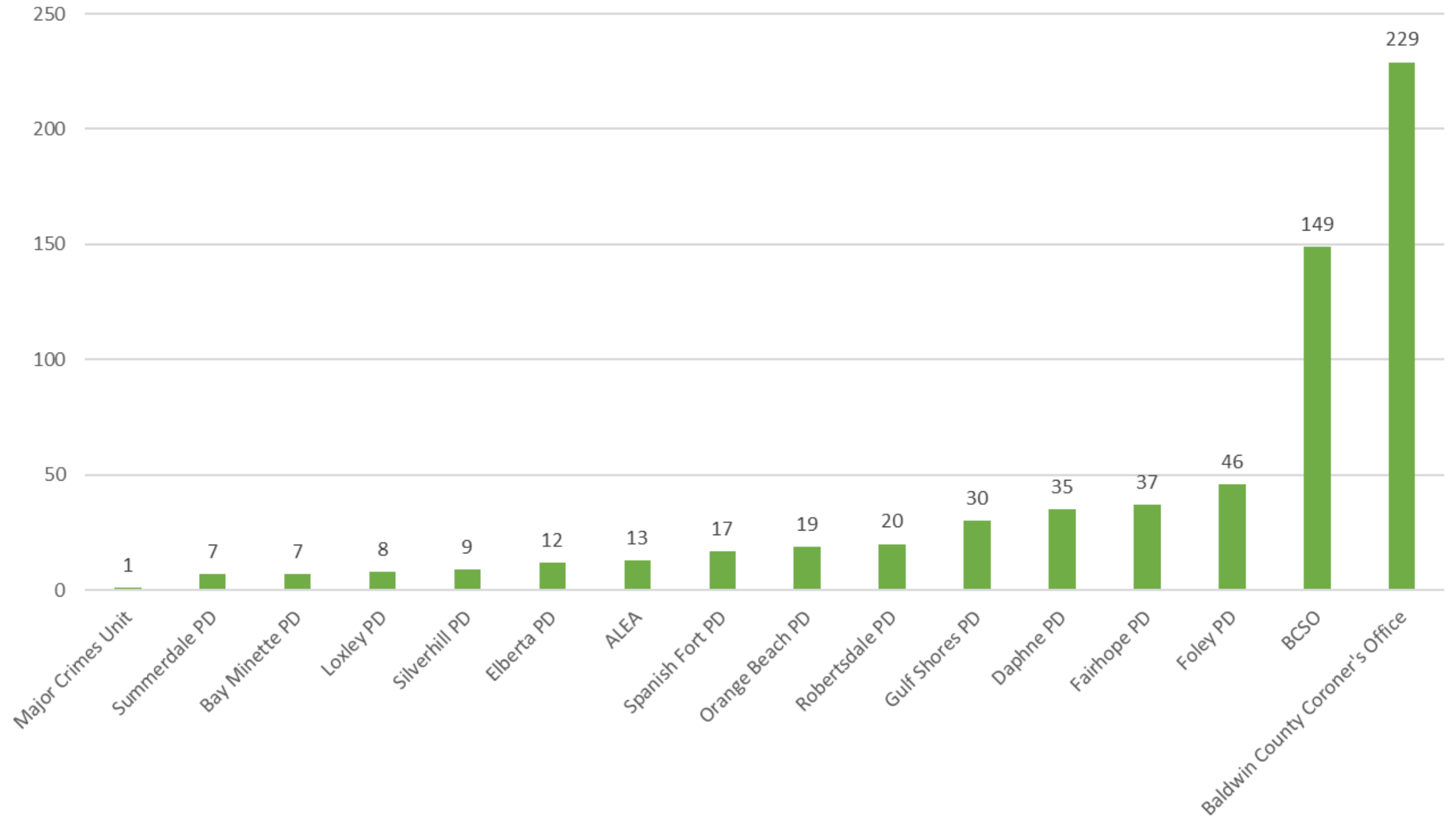
Method of Suicide 2024



BCCO Suicide and Overdose Cases




FY 2023 - 2024 Number of Cases By Agency



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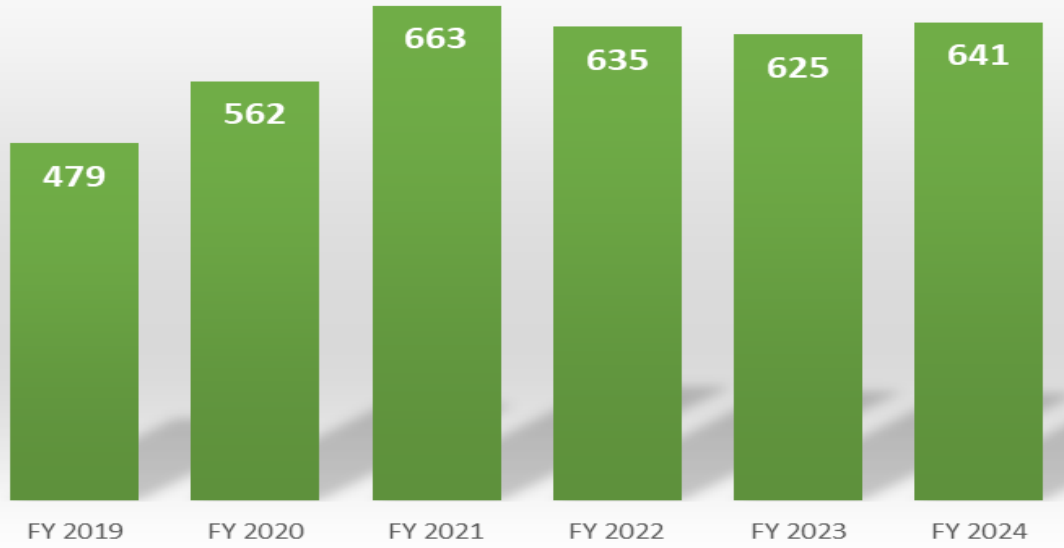
**FY 2023-
2024**

- **685 Cases called in for Service**
 - **641 Coroner Cases**
 - **44 Non-Coroner Cases**
 - **Took Custody of 391 bodies**
 - **185 were sent for Autopsy/Medical Examiner opinion**
 - **Responded to 193 death scenes for investigation**
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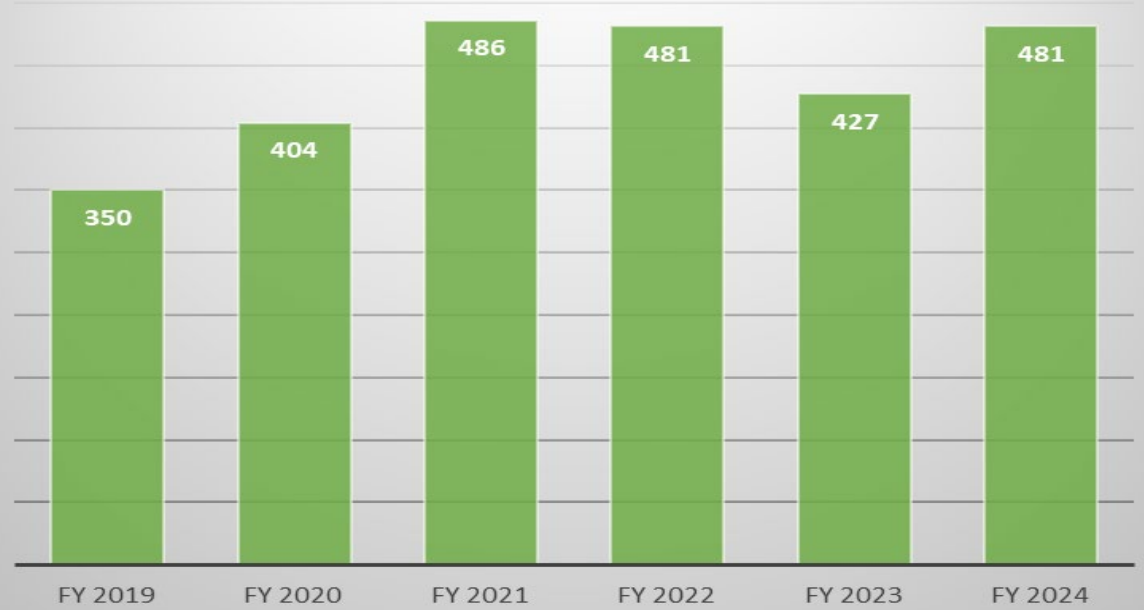
- **Worked with the Council on Aging, on 20 County Cremations**
- **Assisted Legacy of Hope with 198 tissue donations**
- **68 of the 685 of cases were non-residents**



Baldwin County Coroner Cases



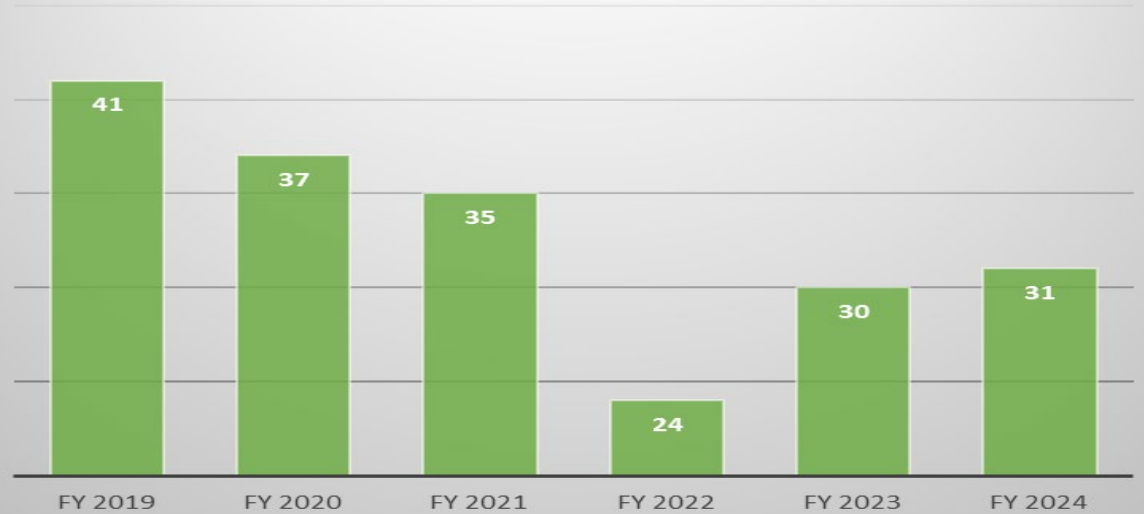
Number of Natural Deaths



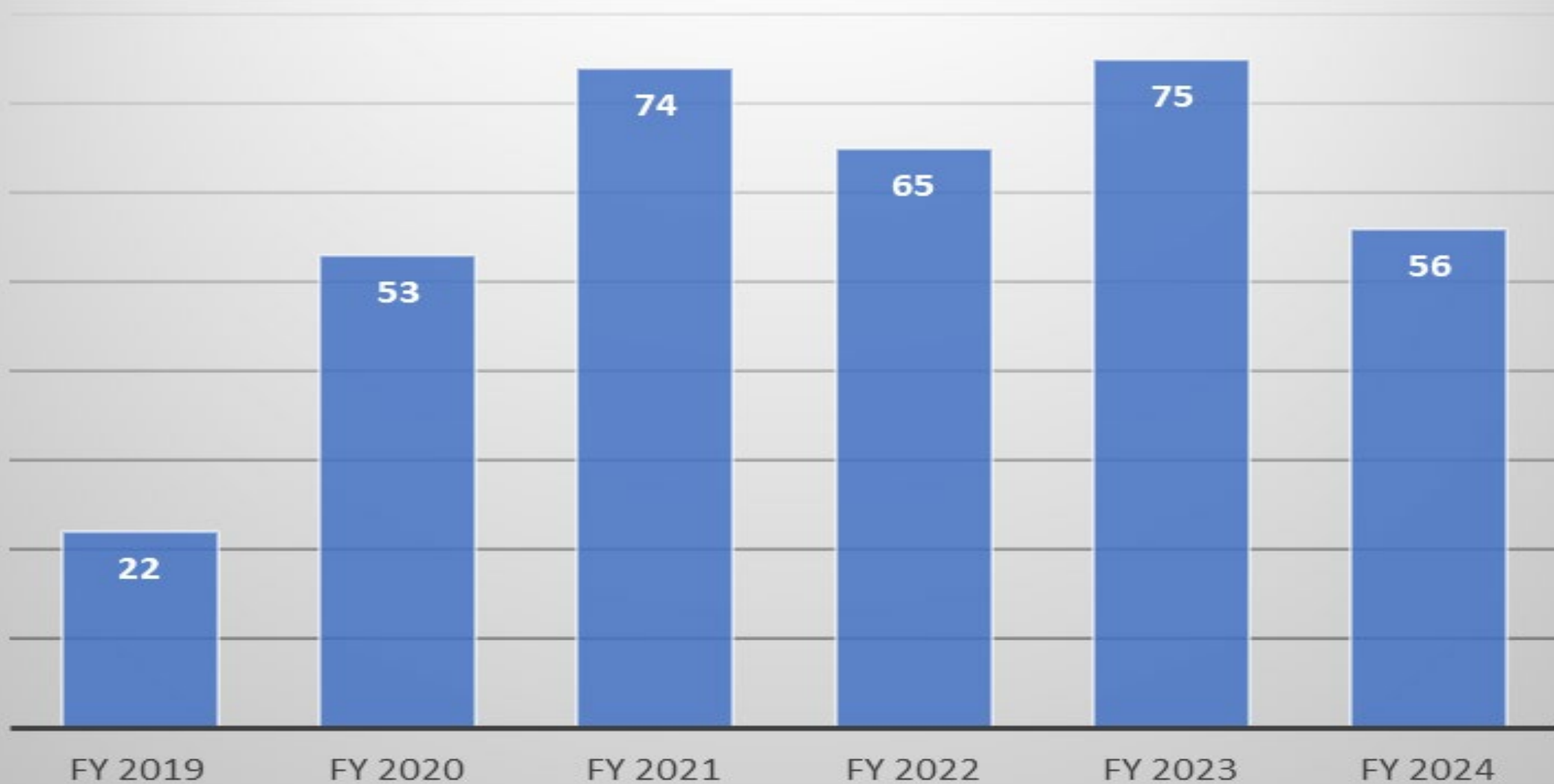
Number of Drowning Deaths



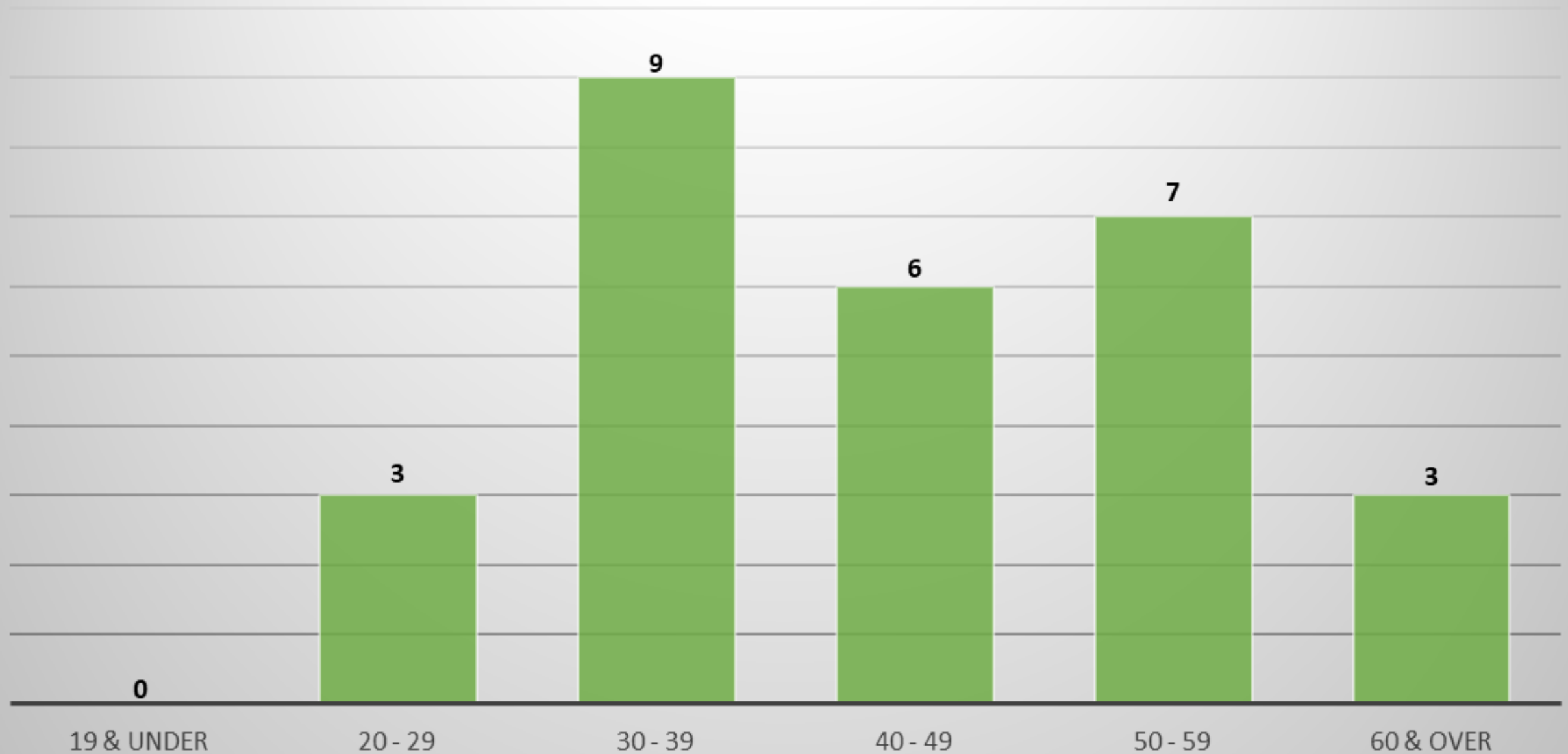
Number of Blunt Force Trauma Deaths



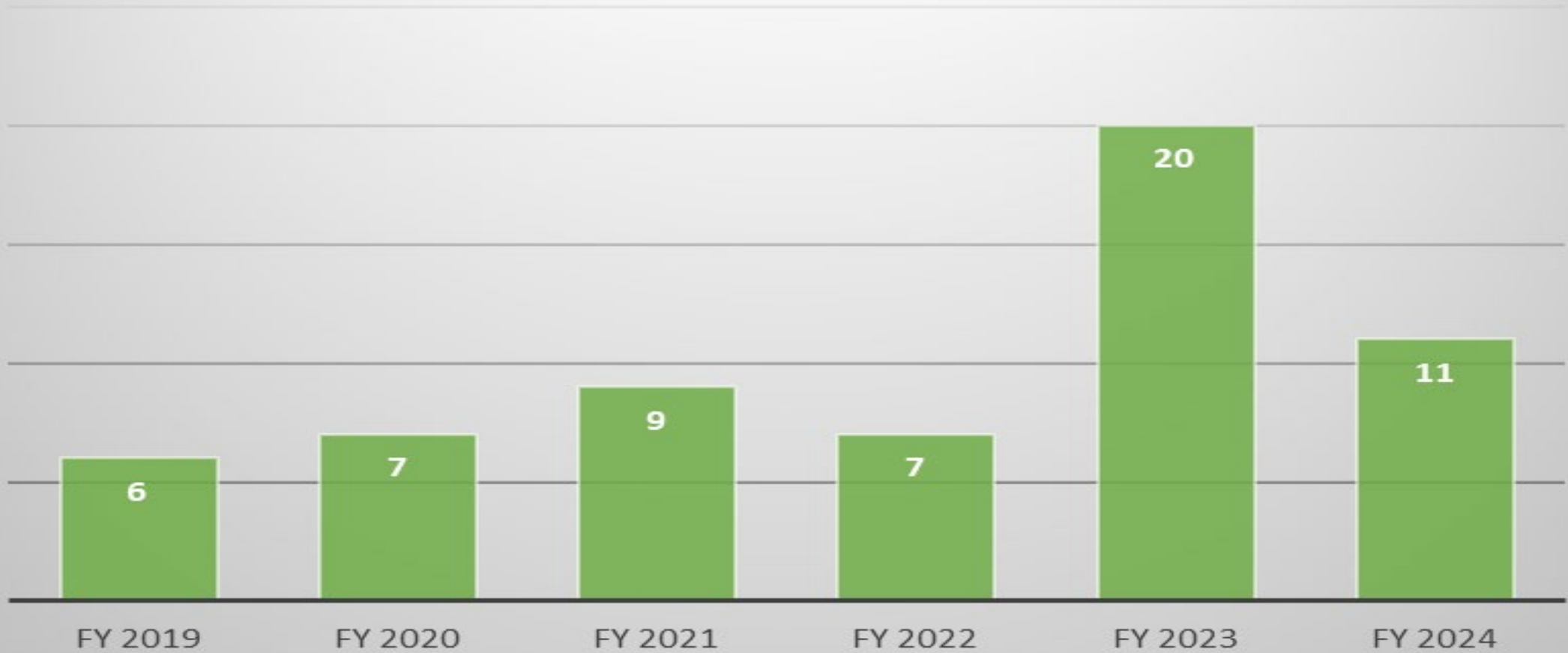
Number of Overdose Deaths



FY 2023 - 2024 Deaths Involving Fentanyl



Baldwin County Coroner's Office Homicide Cases



CASE LOAD HISTORY

2010	2015	2020	2024	2025	2030
353	438	562	685	750*	893*



*Based on the growth of the past 10 years

We must prepare for approximately 900 coroner cases per year by 2030, and more than 1,500 by 2050.

Where does all the Magic Happen???

Baldwin County Coroner's Office
18126 B County Road 54
Robertsdale, AL 36567



Coroner's Office March 2024

- 1500 square foot main office
 - Built in 2009
 - Reception, MDI Office, Break room, Climate Storage, Lab, Clinical Space, and Morgue.
- 2 - 20ft Conex containers
 - Storage for supplies and Medical Waste
- Modular Office space
 - Added in November of 2023





conceptual design
BALDWIN COUNTY FORENSICS

Robertsdale, Alabama

prepared by



Adams • Stewart • Architects



What is Next????



Adding Forensic Services

- Documentation: X-rays
- On-site Drug surveillance: Randox Multistat

Facilities

- Appropriate Cooler space for Population/Fatality Management
- Desk space for workers
- Clinic Space for case load

Improving product

- Faster results
- Faster re-unification of deceased with family

Reducing the burden to the Taxpayer

- Reducing the # of transports out of the County
- Expand Contracts with LOH, additional revenue

Regional Concept for Southwest Alabama

- Share the cost of resources with other Community Partners
- Work to Serve Gulf Coast Counties

PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE

8/7/2024

Baldwin County Forensics Office

• NO	VALUE	
• 1	Bonds & Insurance	\$ 30,000.00
• 2	General Conditions	\$ 207,000.00
• 3	Sitework	\$ 445,000.00
• 4	Site Utilities	\$ 108,000.00
• 5	Site Electrical/Generator	\$ 165,000.00
• 6	Ext Finishes	\$ 215,000.00
• 7	Concrete	\$ 480,000.00
• 8	Structural Steel	\$ 197,000.00
• 9	Masonry	\$ 1,045,000.00
• 10	Metal Stud Framing	\$ 96,000.00
• 11	Carpentry	\$ 64,500.00
• 12	Roofing	\$ 143,000.00
• 13	Building Insulation	\$ 142,000.00
• 14	Interior Doors & Hardware	\$ 168,000.00
• 15	Exterior Doors and New Storefront at Entry	\$ 115,000.00
• 16	Drywall and Acoustical	\$ 105,000.00
• 17	Flooring	\$ 265,000.00
• 18	Painting	\$ 135,000.00
• 19	Plumbing	\$ 204,000.00
• 20	HVAC	\$ 605,000.00
• 22	Electrical	\$ 675,000.00
• 23	Wall Tile- Restrooms	\$ 29,500.00
• 24	Toilet Partitions & Accessories	\$ 32,000.00
• 25	Casework & Glass Int. Wall	\$ 165,000.00
• 26	Contingency Allowance	\$ 150,000.00
• 27	Furnishings, Fixture and Equipment (By Owner)	TBD
•		
•	TOTAL PRELIM. BUDGET	\$ 5,986,000.00

Questions?

