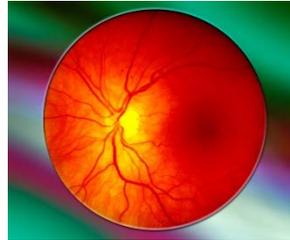


2012 CORONER'S REPORT

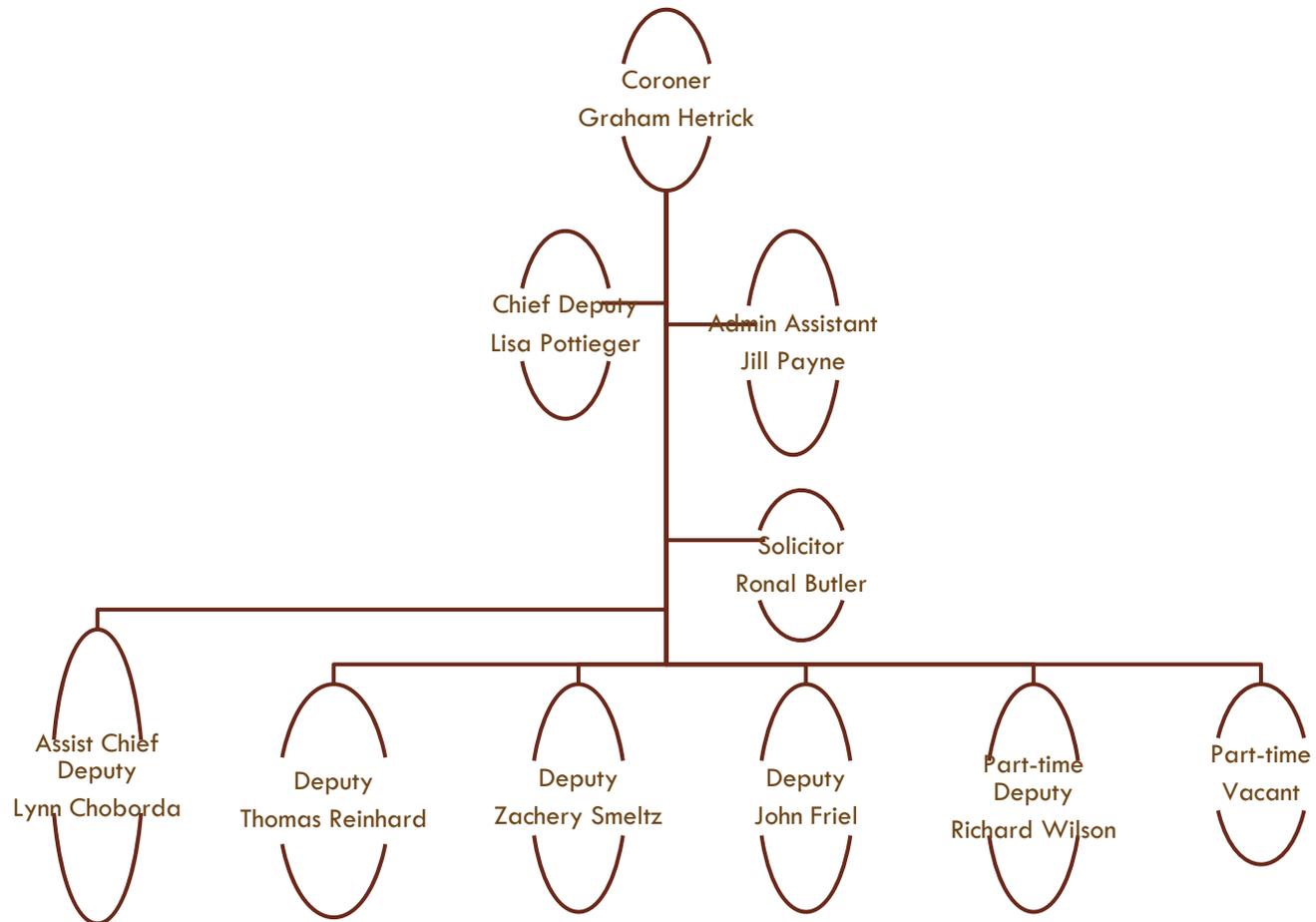


CORONER

A government official who

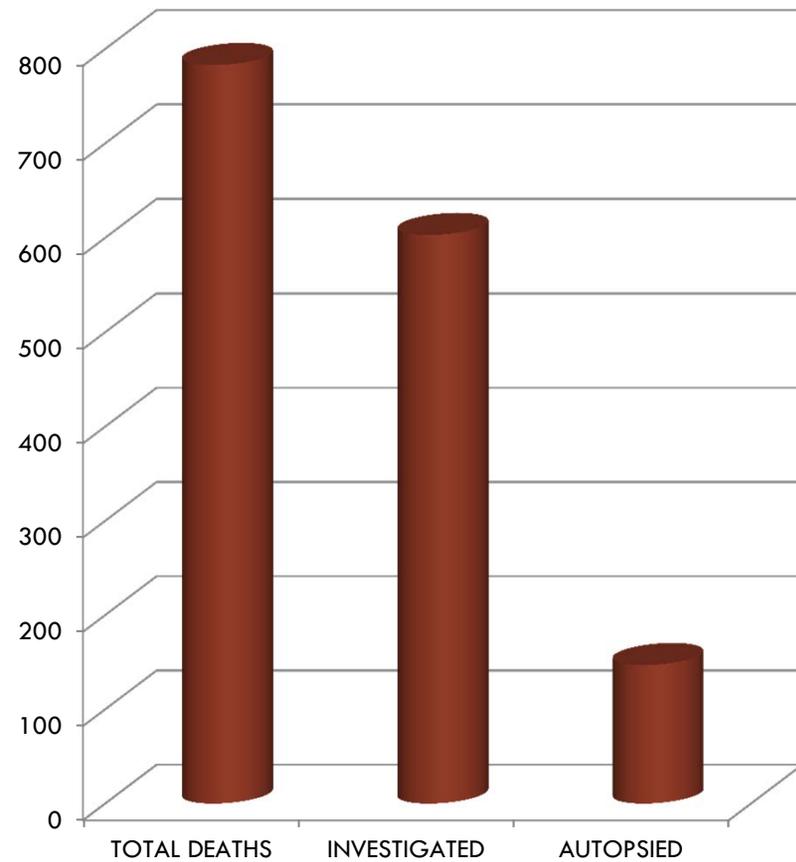
- Investigates human deaths
 - Determines cause of death
 - Issues death certificates
 - Maintains death records
 - Responds to deaths in mass disasters
 - Identifies unknown dead
- *an officer, whose chief function is to investigate any death not clearly resulting from natural causes.*

2012 Organizational Chart



2012

There were 734 deaths referred to this office in 2012. In 26% of these deaths, this office released jurisdiction. The remaining 74% required full investigations, and 28% of these investigations required autopsies to determine the causes and manners of death.



INVESTIGATED DEATHS

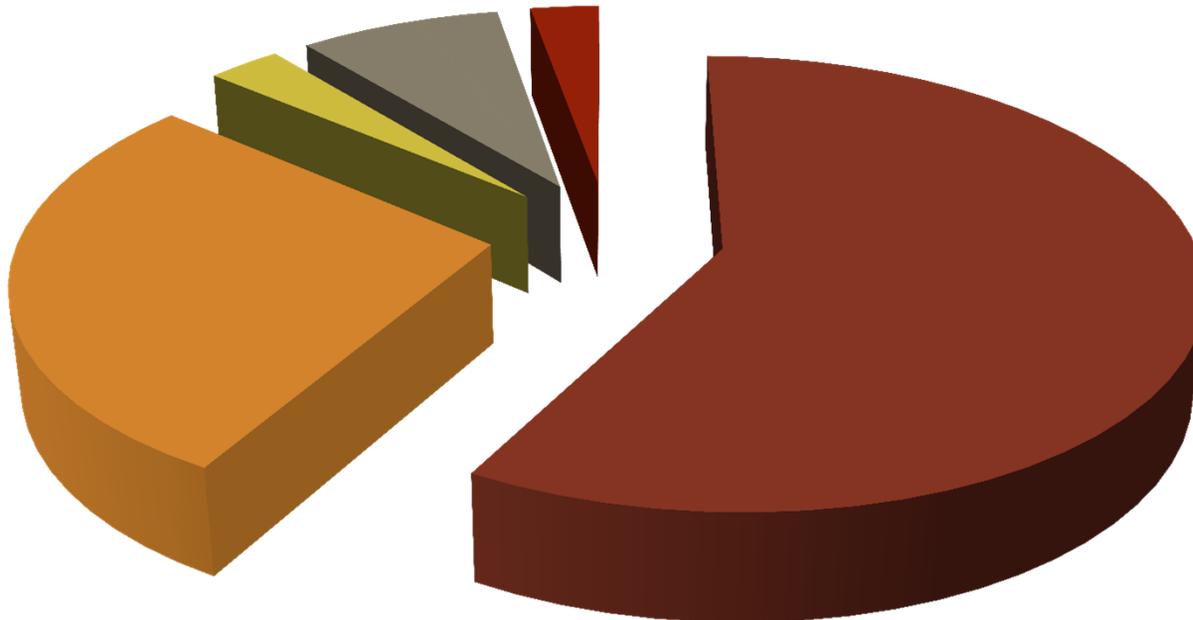
□ SECTION 1237 - CORONER'S INVESTIGATIONS

(a) The coroner having a view of the body shall investigate the facts and circumstances concerning deaths which appear to have happened within the county, regardless where the cause thereof may have occurred, for the purpose of determining whether or not an autopsy should be conducted or an inquest thereof should be had, in the following cases:

- (1) sudden deaths not caused by readily recognizable disease, or wherein the cause of death cannot be properly certified by a physician on the basis of prior (recent) medical attendance;
- (2) deaths occurring under suspicious circumstances, including those where alcohol, drugs or other toxic substances may have had a direct bearing on the outcome;
- (3) deaths occurring as a result of violence or trauma, whether apparently homicidal, suicidal or accidental (including, but not limited to, those due to mechanical, thermal, chemical, electrical or radiational injury, drowning, cave-ins and subsidences);
- (4) any death in which trauma, chemical injury, drug overdose or reaction to drugs or medication or medical treatment was a primary or secondary, direct or indirect, contributory, aggravating or precipitating cause of death;
- (5) operative and peri-operative deaths in which the death is not readily explainable on the basis of prior disease;
- (6) any death wherein the body is unidentified or unclaimed;
- (7) deaths known or suspected as due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard;
- (8) deaths occurring in prison or a penal institution or while in the custody of the police;
- (9) deaths of persons whose bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea or otherwise disposed of so as to be thereafter unavailable for examination;
- (10) sudden infant death syndrome; and
- (11) stillbirths.

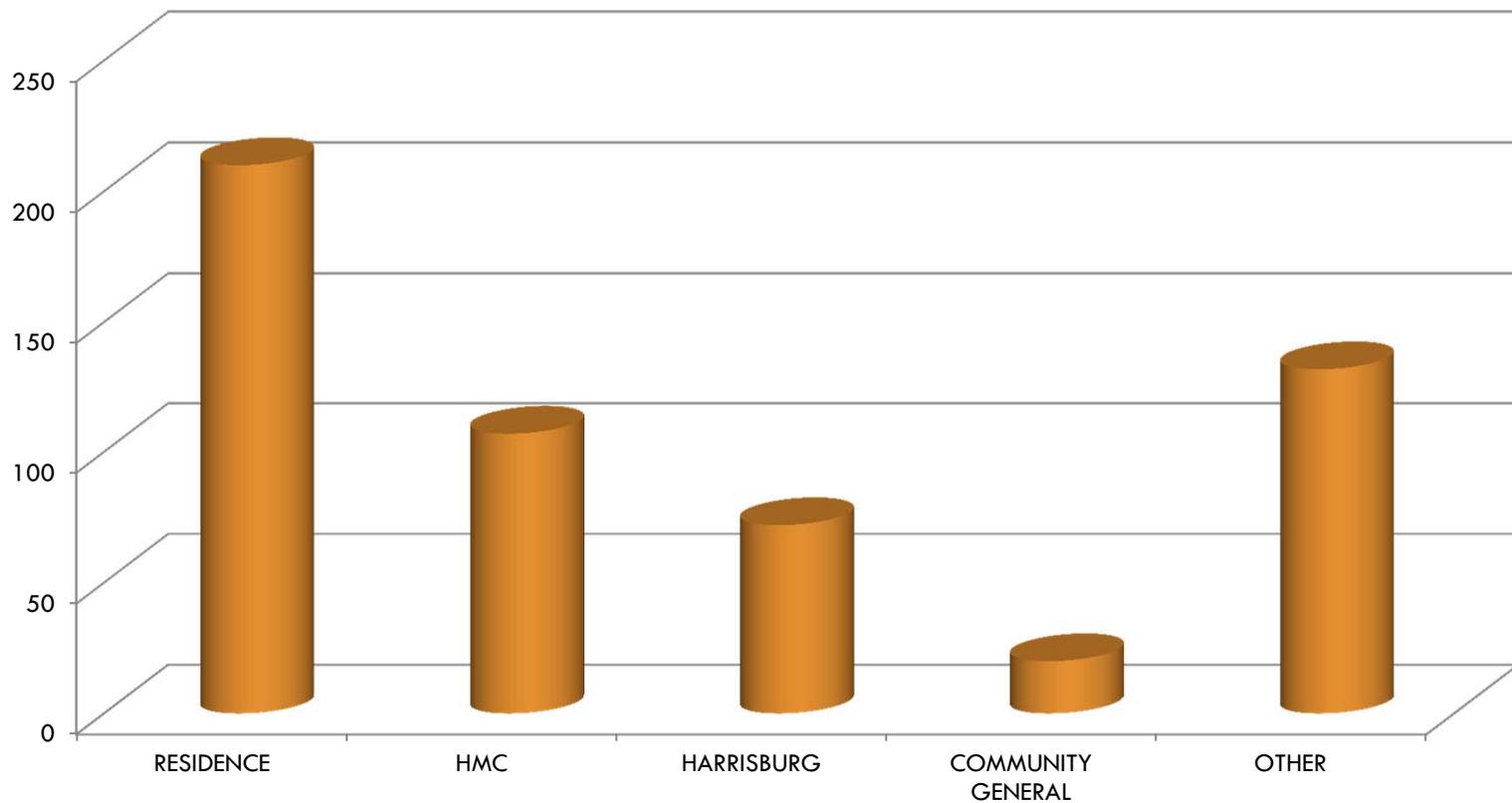
INVESTIGATED DEATHS

The number of natural death investigations accounted for 58% of the total investigations conducted by this office. This was followed by, in decreasing order, accidental deaths, suicidal deaths, homicidal deaths, and deaths where the manner was undetermined .



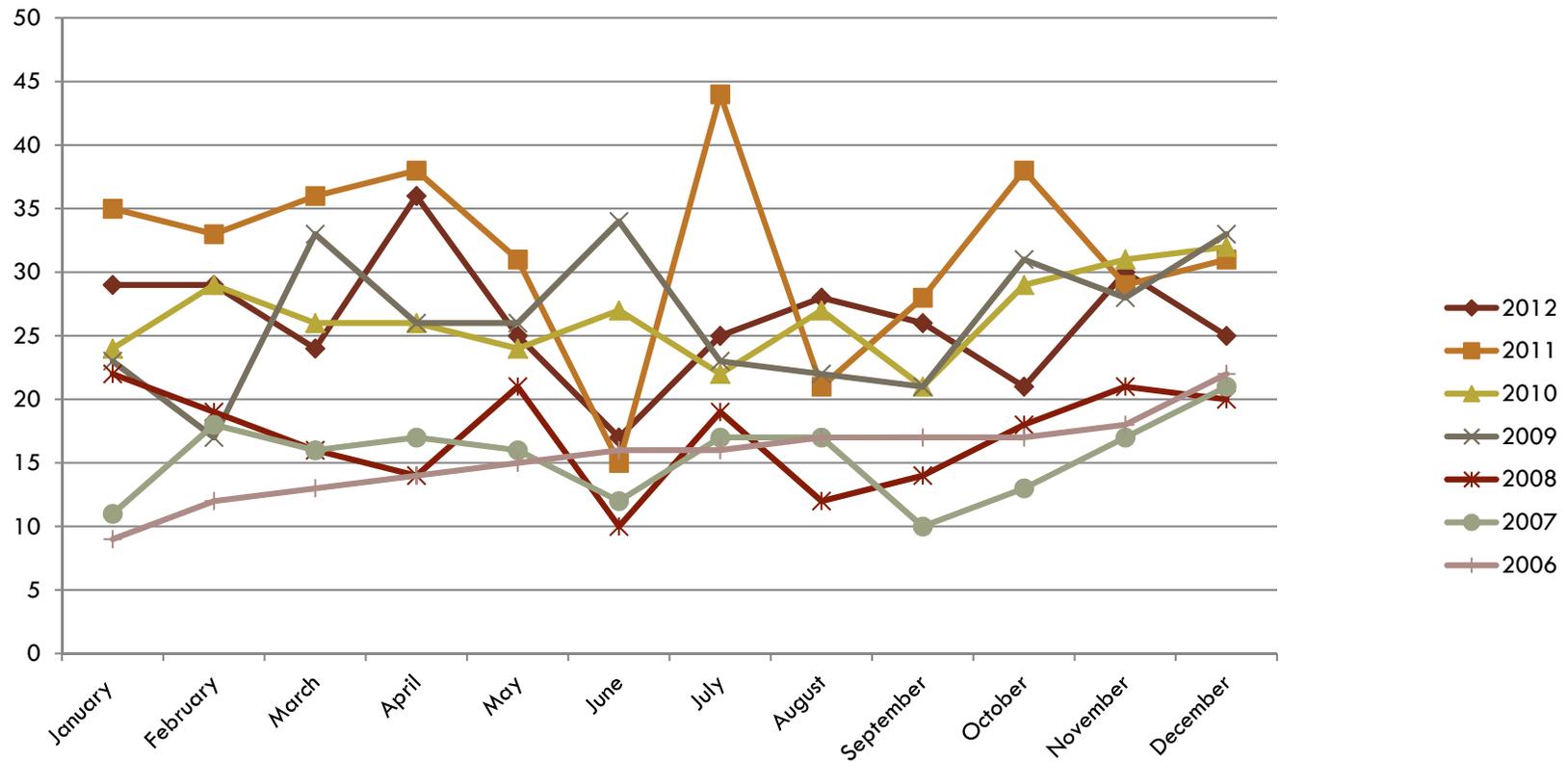
Of these investigations, 38% percent originated in the decedents' homes. Of the remainder: 21% at Hershey Medical Center, 14% at Harrisburg Hospital, 4% at Community General Hospital, and the remaining 23% at *other places.

* These places include scene deaths other then residence



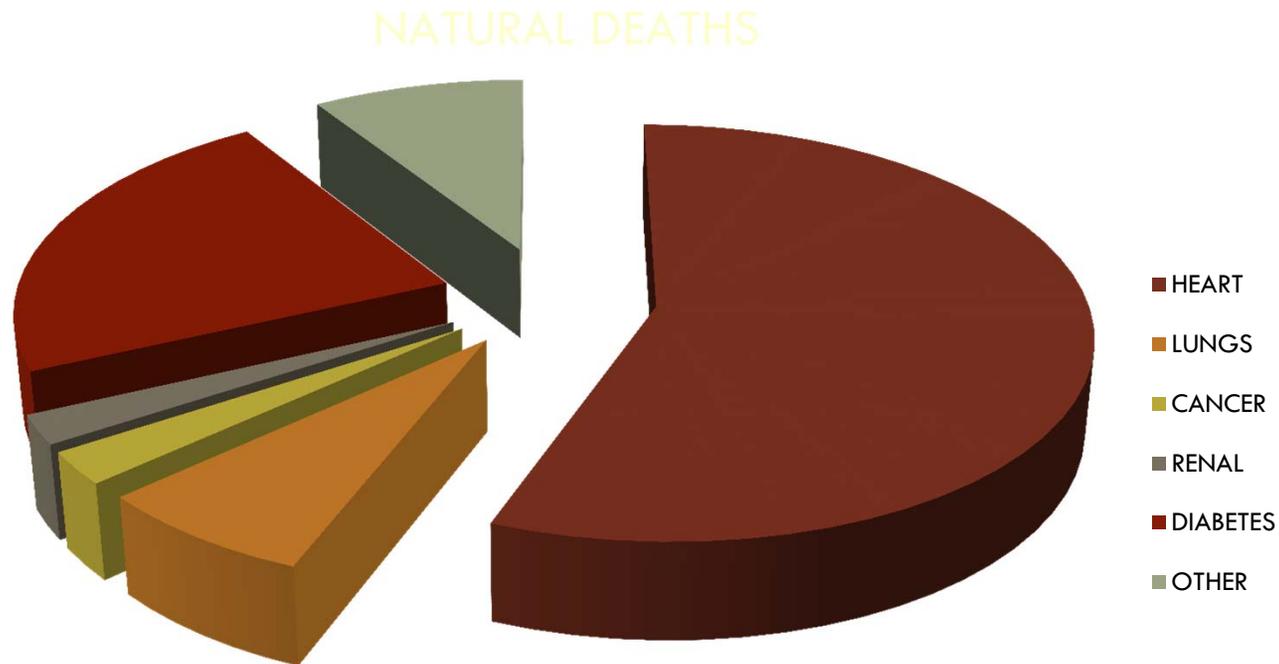
NATURAL DEATHS

There were 315 natural death investigations in 2012, which is a decrease of 20% over the 379 natural death investigations that were conducted in 2011



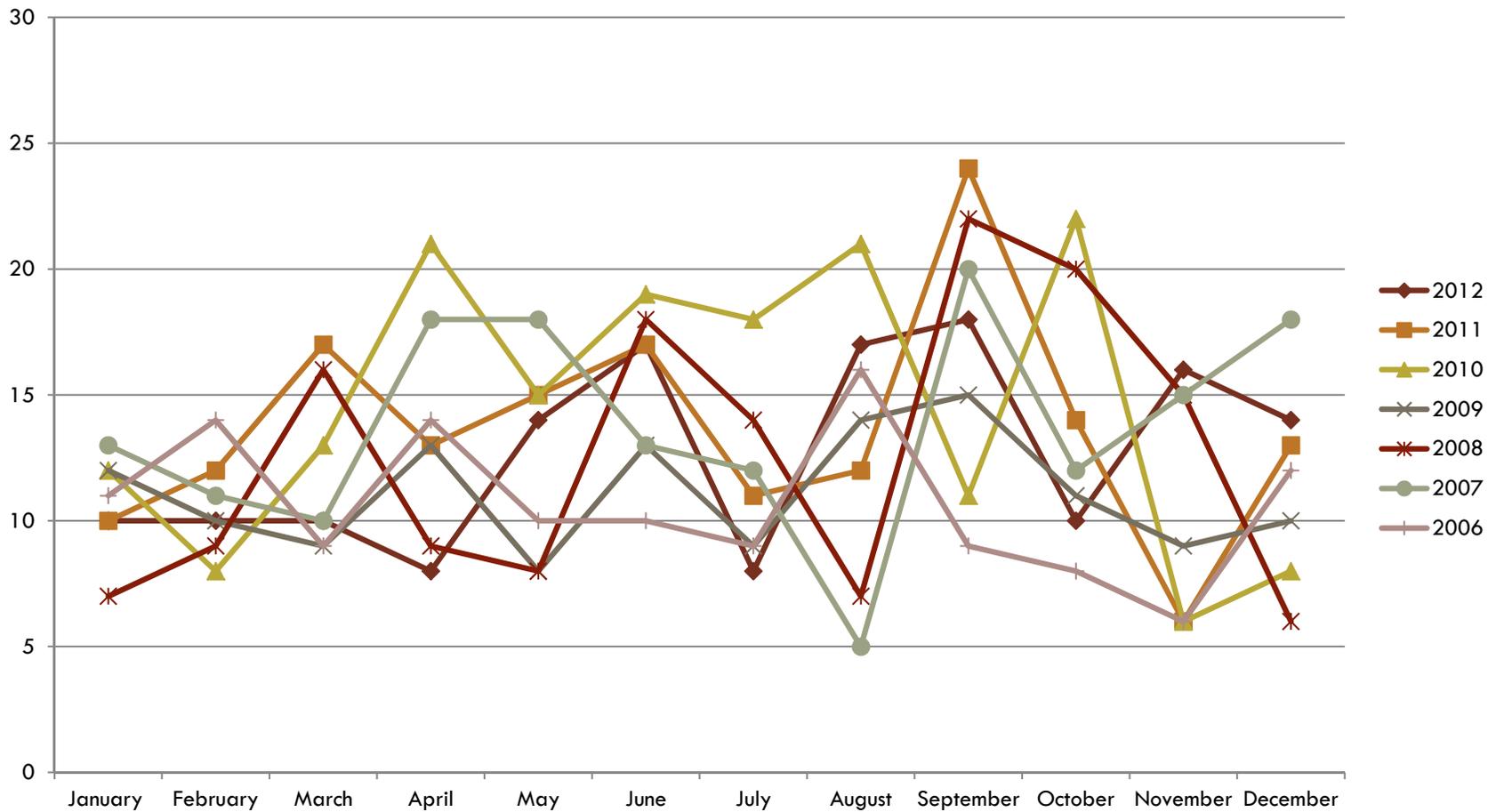
NATURAL DEATHS

Heart and heart related incidents accounted for 71% of the reported natural deaths followed by Pulmonary at 10%, Cancer at 4% , Renal Disease at 4%, Diabetes at 4% and 7% due to other causes.



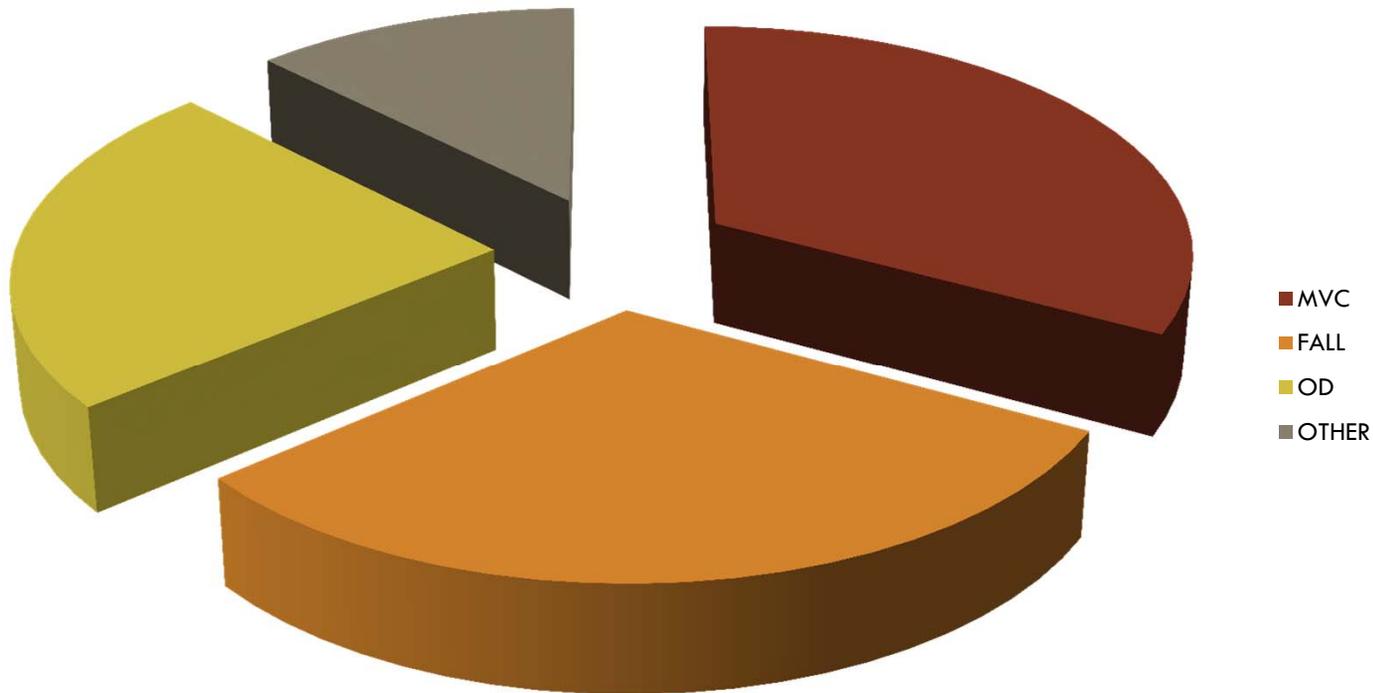
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

There were 152 accidental death investigations conducted in 2012. This is slightly less than the 164 accidental death investigations in 2011.



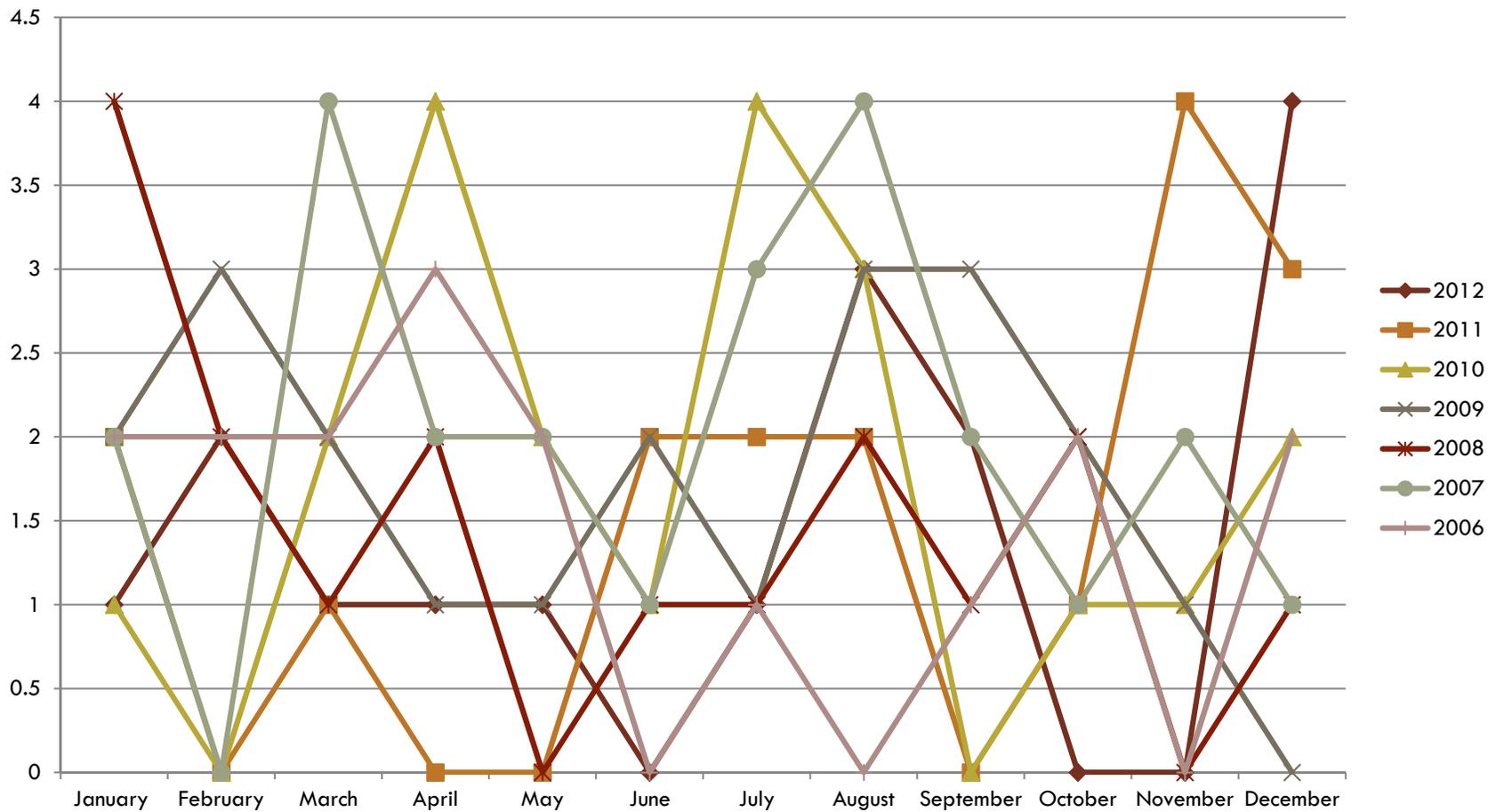
ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Of the 152 accidental deaths, 33% were associated with motor vehicle collisions, 31% were from falls, 24% were drug related, and the remaining 12% were associated with other causes.



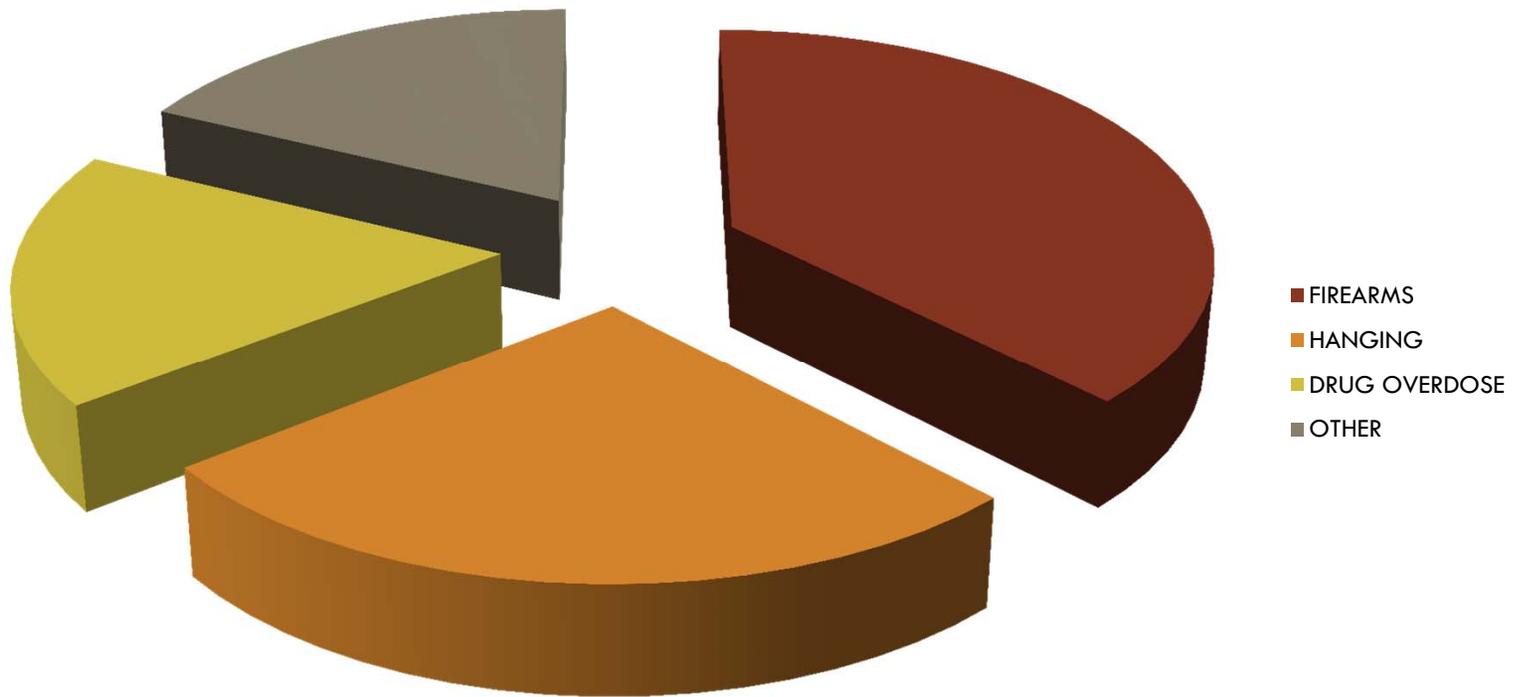
HOMICIDE

There were 16 homicide investigations conducted in 2012. This is a decrease compared to the 17 homicidal death investigations that were conducted in 2011.



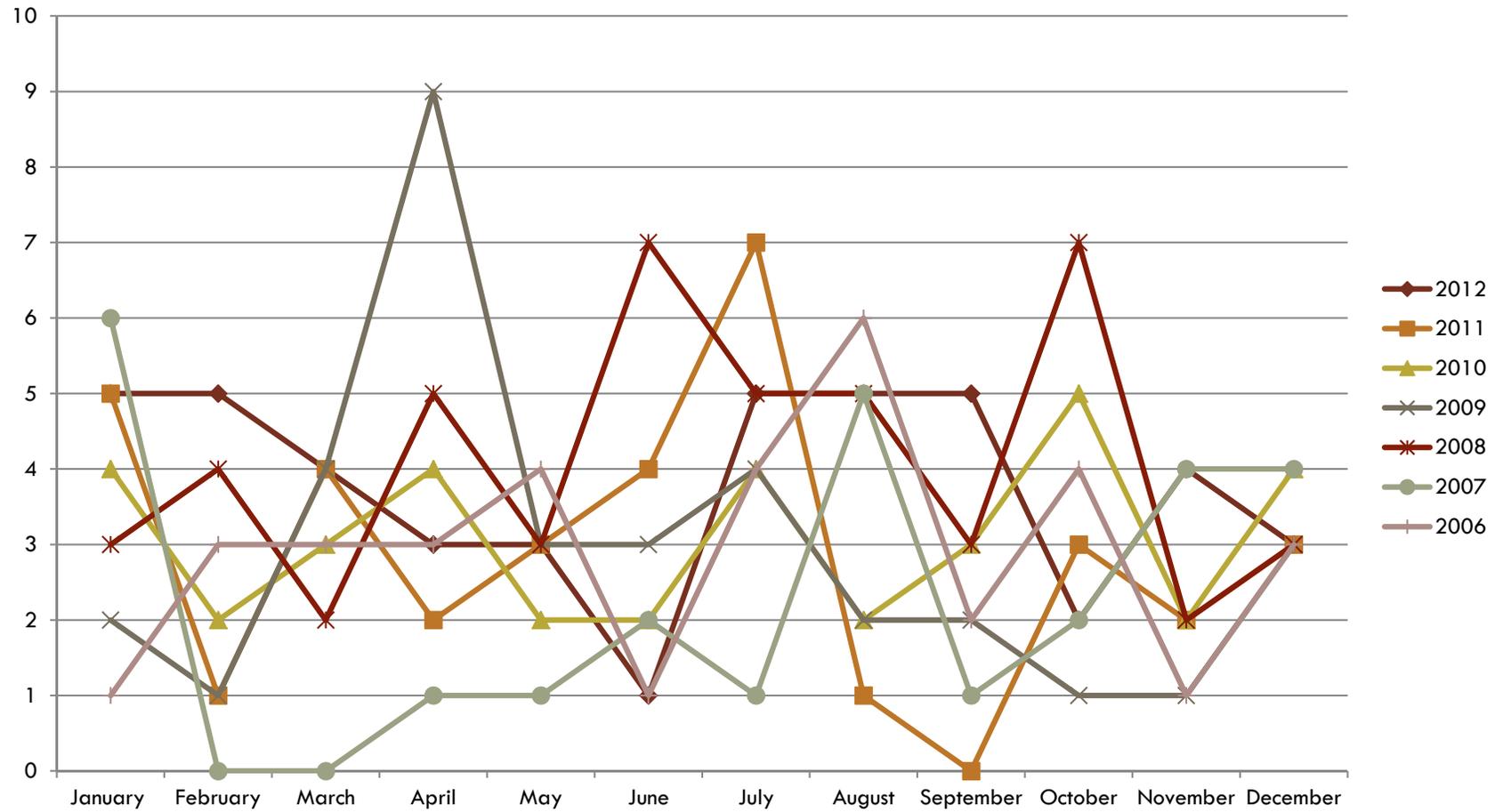
HOMICIDE DEATHS

Firearms were used in 81% of these investigations, followed by traumatic injuries at 13% and stabbings at 6%.



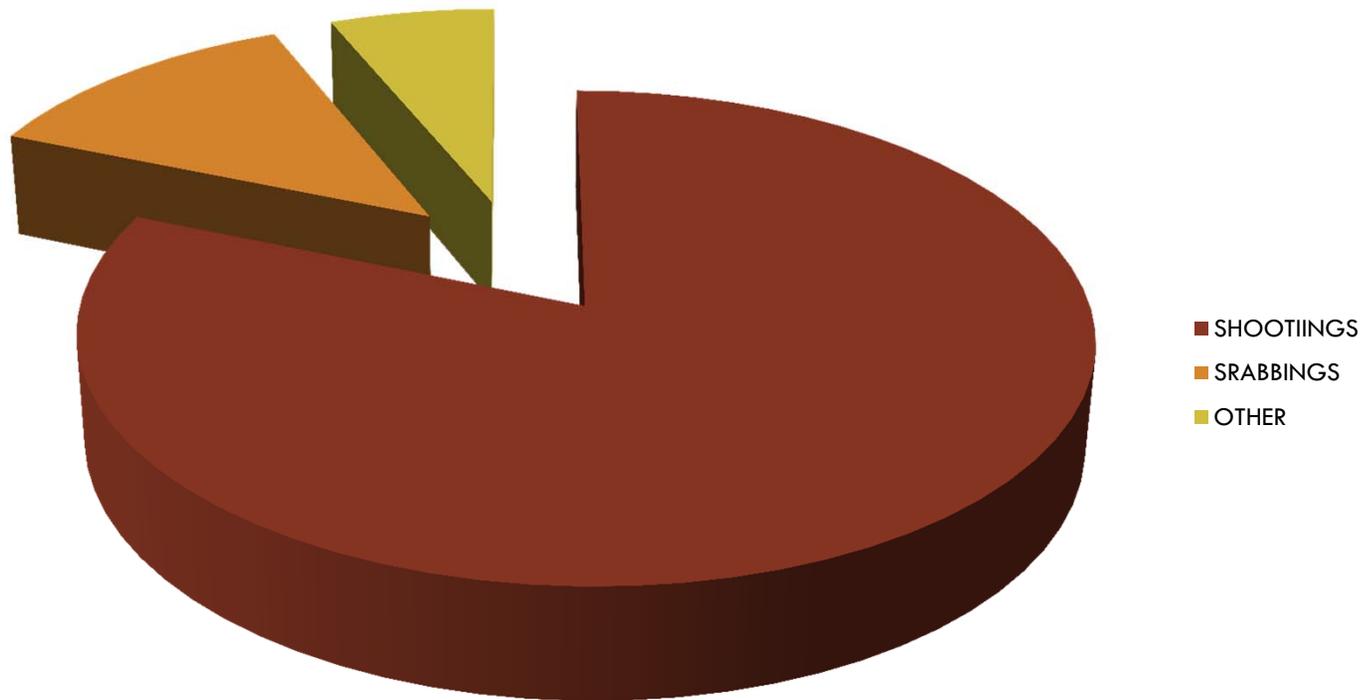
SUICIDE

There were 45 suicide investigations in 2012. This represented a 22% increase from the 35 suicide investigations in 2011.



SUICIDE DEATHS

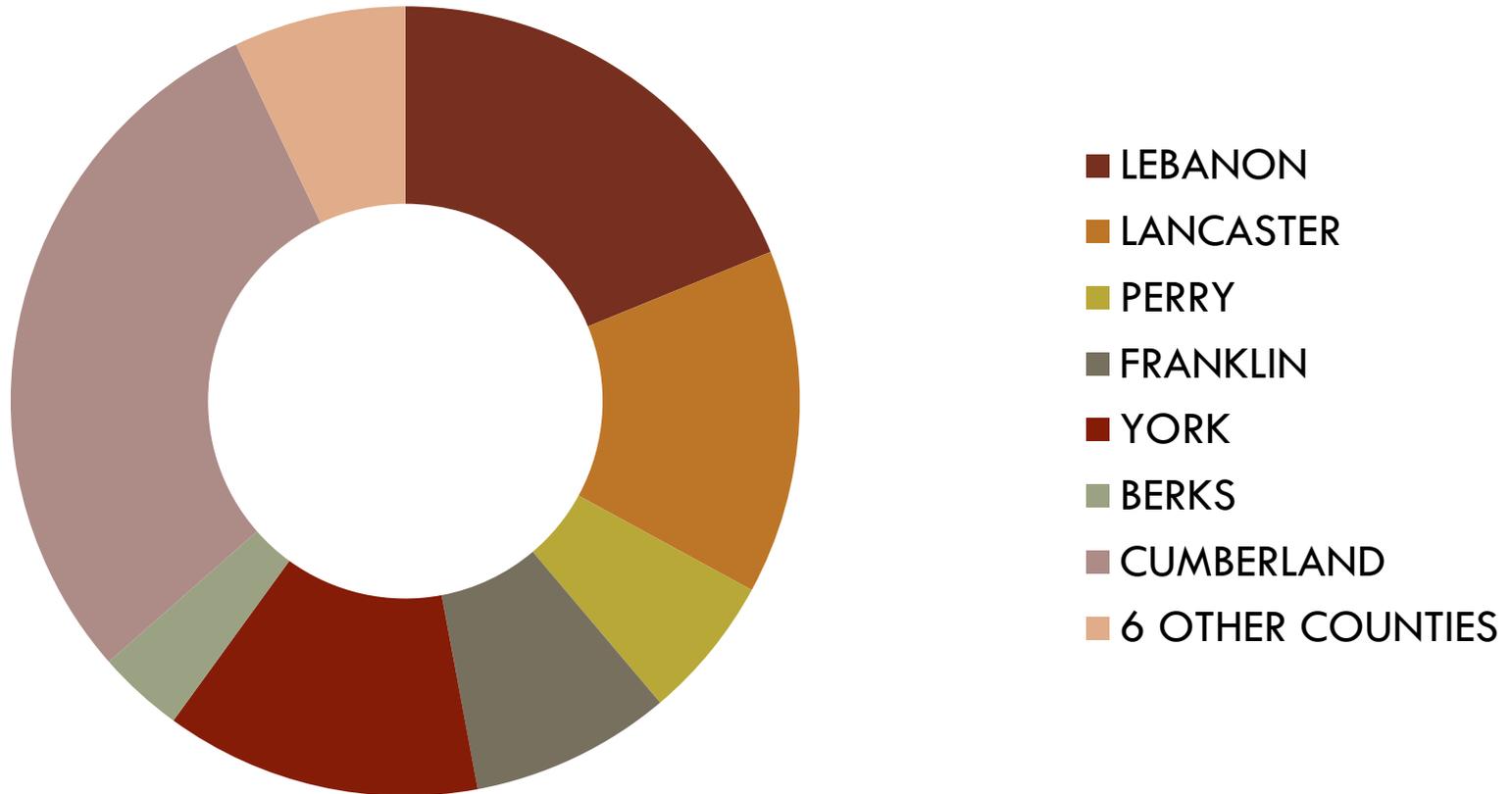
Firearms were used in 38% of these deaths, followed by hanging with 26%, drug overdose with 18%, and 18% other methods



TRANSFERR (FROM OTHER COUNTIES)

This office investigated a total of 72 calls that were transported in from other counties. Of these, 15% required autopsies.

TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER COUNTIES





“All of life is a constant education.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt,

“Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to appreciate life.”

— Brigham Young

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
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Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course-MLDIC



“To educate a person in the mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

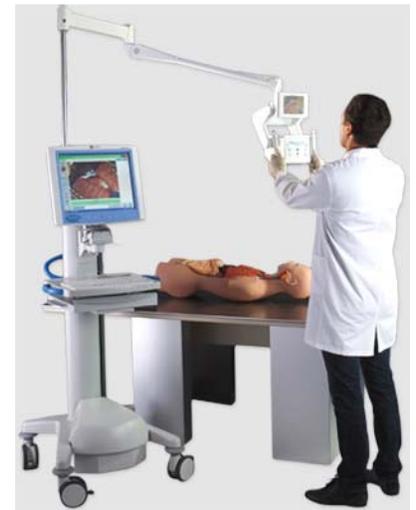
— Theodore Roosevelt

Expense

In addition to routine expenses, this office purchased the following items:

- ▣ *Macro View DM mobile digital imaging system
- ▣ A Coroner's vehicle, equipped with emergency lighting.
- ▣ A Sony MP3 linear recorder
- ▣ New tires plus repairs on work vehicles.

- ▣ *Grant monies were obtained to offset the cost of purchase



Issues of the Future



In Closing

