

# Kendall County Coroner



## 2022 Annual Report

Office of the Kendall County Coroner  
804 W. John Street  
Suite A  
Yorkville, 60560

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## Coroner's Office Staff

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Jacque Purcell  
Coroner

Jennifer Johnson  
Administrative Assistant

Kristin Escobar  
Forensic Pathologist

Cristie Fry  
Coroner's Assistant

Levi Gotte  
Chief Deputy Coroner

Allen Grobe  
Coroner's Assistant

Jessica Gotte  
Deputy Coroner

Jennifer Hockings  
Coroner's Assistant

William Sutton  
Deputy Coroner

Jill Blankenship  
Coroner's Assistant

Cherie McCarron  
Deputy Coroner

## Message to the Citizens of Kendall County

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The Kendall County Coroner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Kendall 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 coroner. 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 undetermined.

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, coroner staff members are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the Coroner, Deputy Coroners and board-certified forensic pathologists, we believe the quality of death investigations in Kendall 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 Coroner.

Our Coroner and Deputy Coroners also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and

addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. The Coroner and Deputy Coroners frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstances of the death. Deputy Coroners are supplied with a pamphlet for distribution to families. The information provides answers to common questions and facts about autopsies and also provides resource information pertaining to grief counseling.

## **Types of Deaths Reportable to the Coroner**

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The Illinois Coroner Act, 55 ILCS 5/3-3 *et. al.*, mandates that specific types of death are to be referred to the Coroner for investigation (see list below). These deaths include sudden and unexpected deaths, accidental deaths, and violent deaths. The Coroner has the authority under this act to order an autopsy at any time it is deemed necessary to determine or confirm the cause and manner of death. In addition to statutorily mandated death investigations, the Coroner's Office requires all deaths occurring in the county to be reported to our office to ensure appropriate investigation of all necessary cases.

### **Deaths mandated to be investigated by 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.

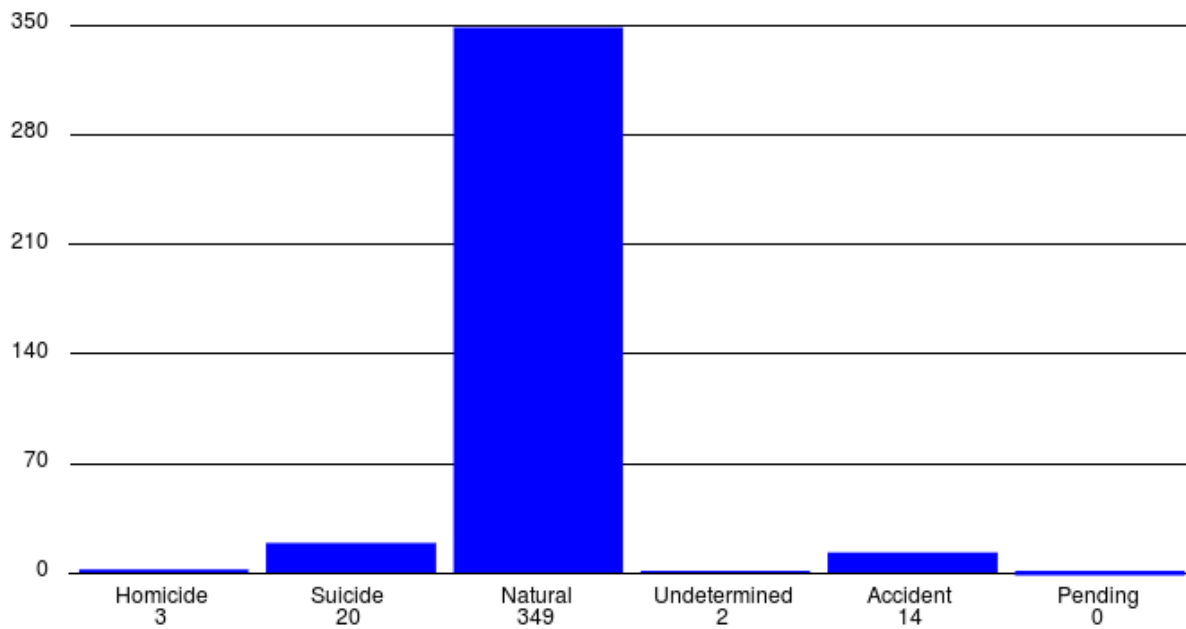
## **Kendall County Coroner Cases**

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Population	123,355
Cases Reported to Coroner	388
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	29
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	32
C. Number of deaths not certified by the Coroner's Office after investigation	327

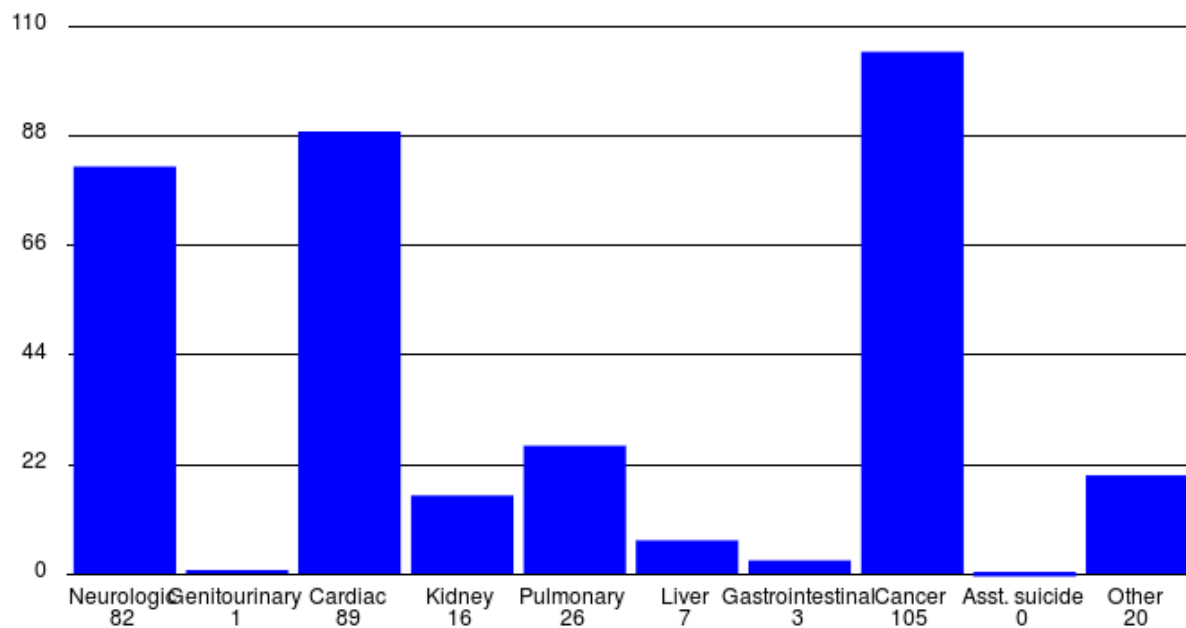
## Manner of Death by Postmortem Examination

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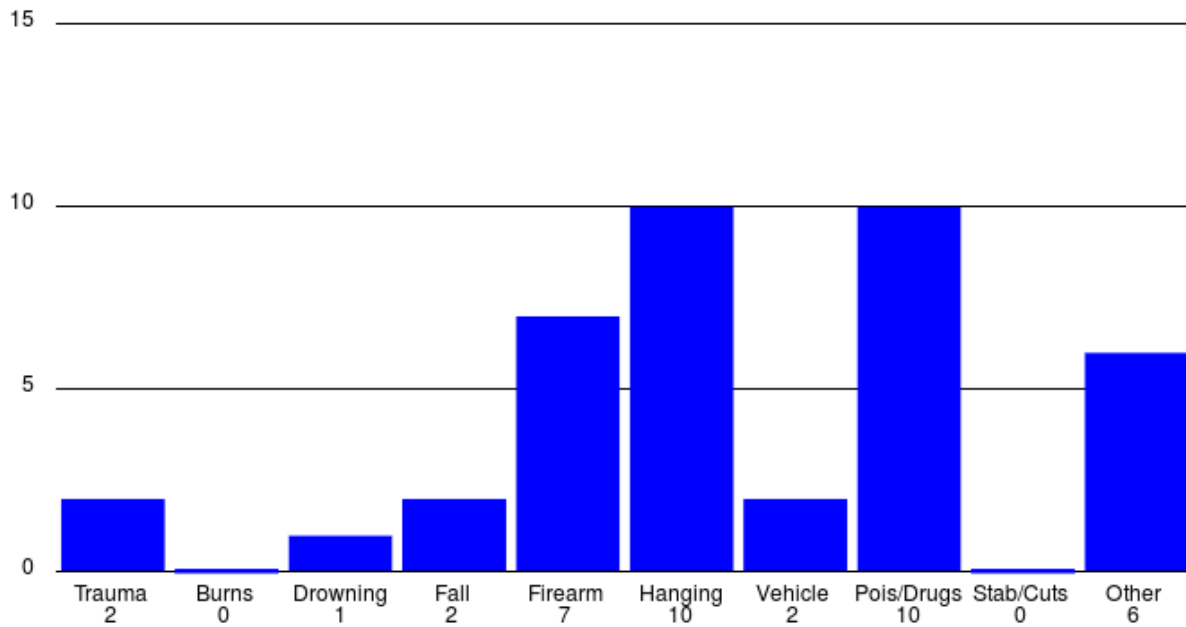
## Deaths by Natural Causes

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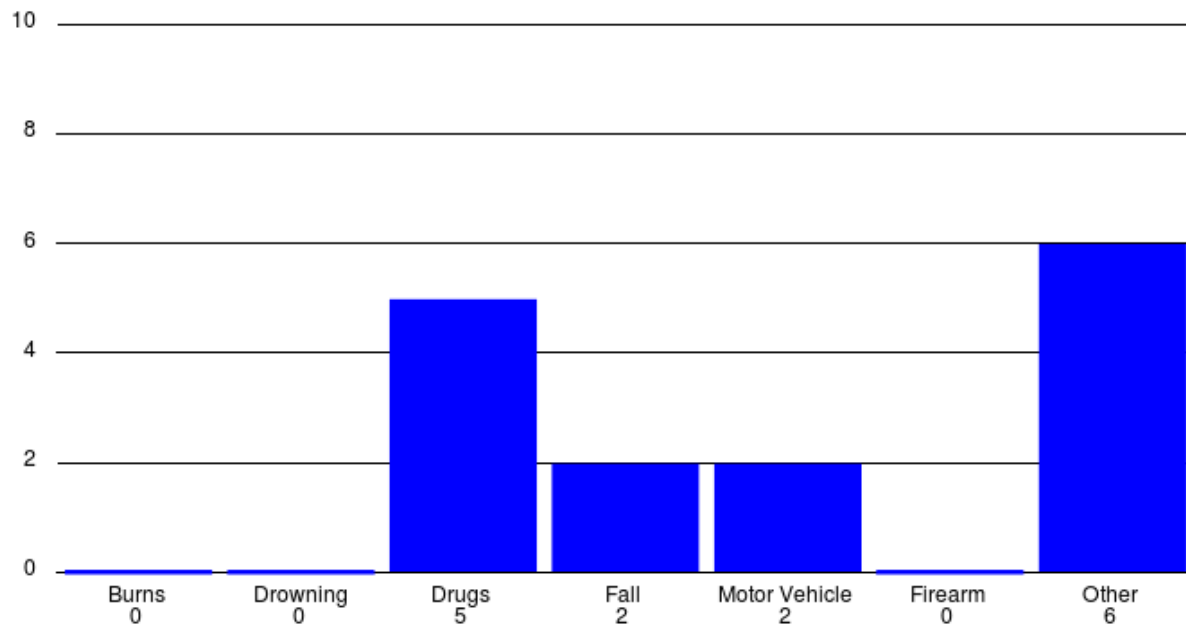
## Deaths by Unnatural Causes

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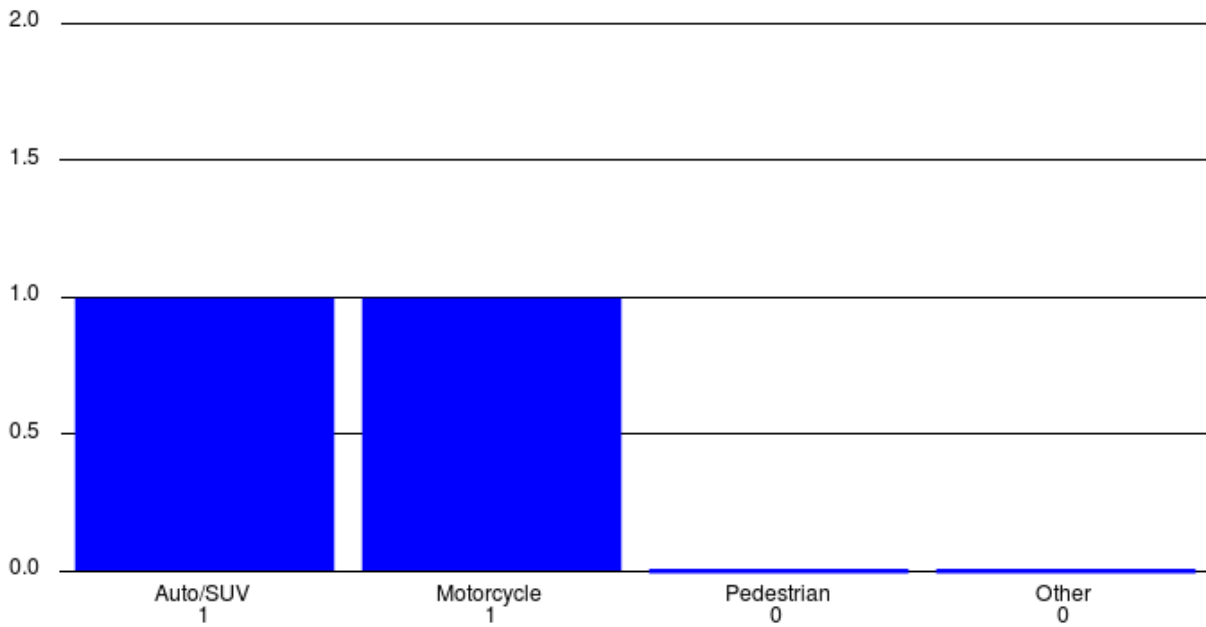
## Accidental Deaths by Type

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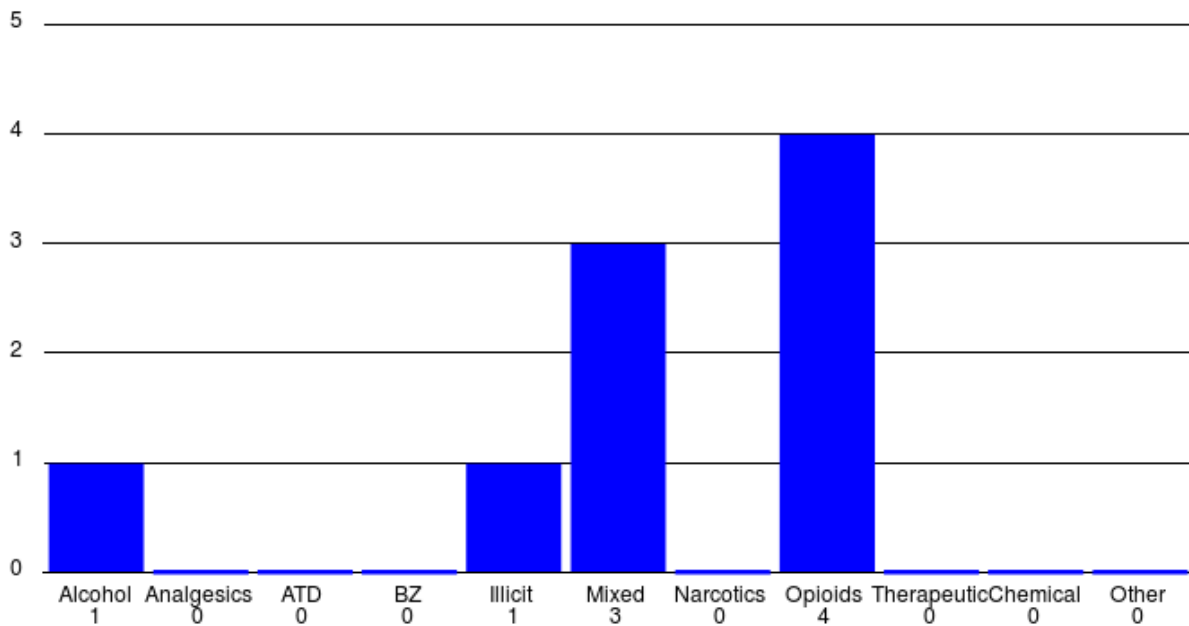
## Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes

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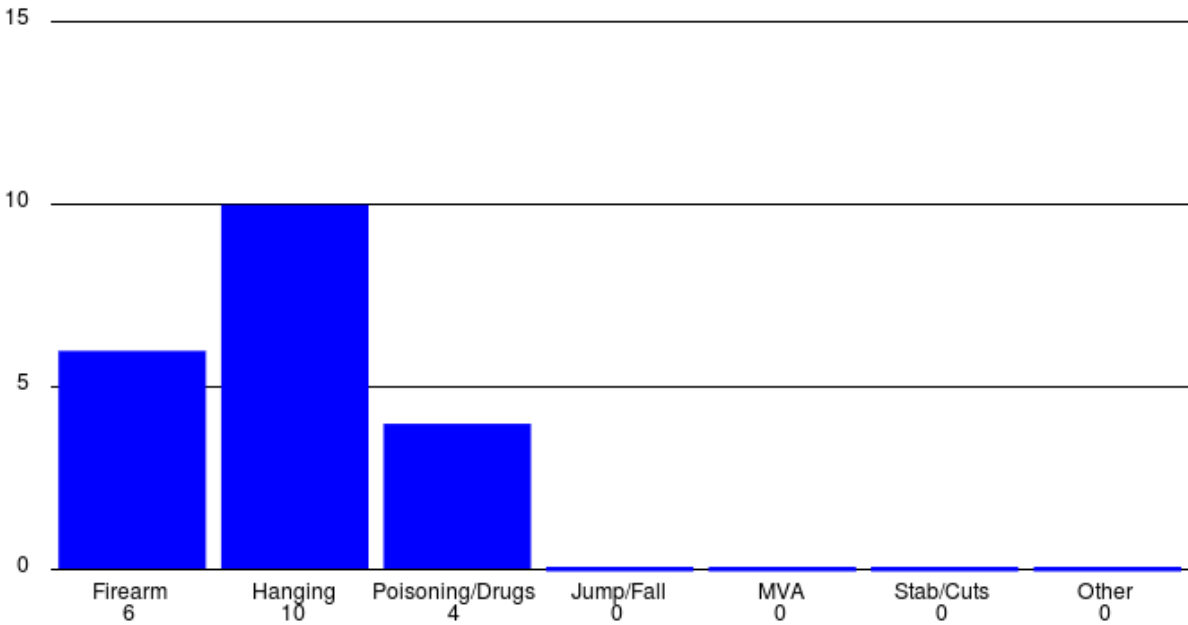
## Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death

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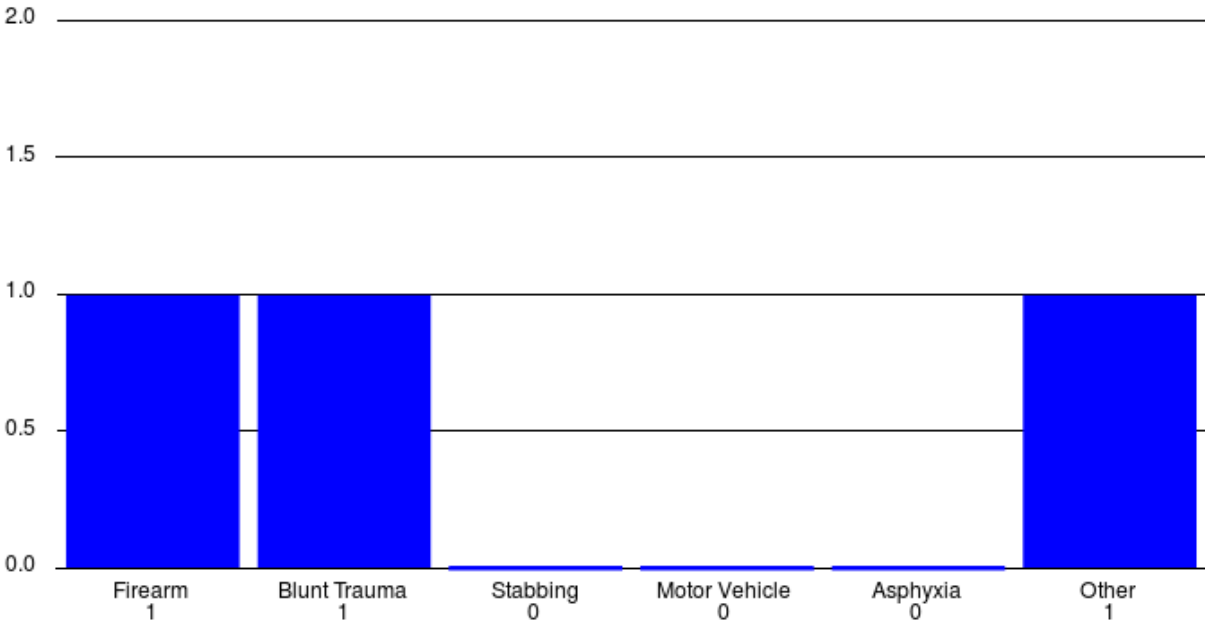
# Suicide by Means

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# Homicide Deaths

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# Deaths by Age Group

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