

LAFOURCHE PARISH CORONER'S OFFICE

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

Dear Citizens of Lafourche Parish,

This report provides a summary and statistical analysis of the deaths that were investigated by the Lafourche Parish Coroner's Office in the year 2013. Lafourche Parish encompasses an area over 1472 square miles which consists of bayou, agricultural and industrial areas. Lafourche Parish is home to approximately 97,000 people in 10 communities.

The Coroner and/or Deputy Coroner's are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Coroner's mission is to satisfy the legal requirements of the office in an expeditious manner. The primary task of the Coroner's Office is to determine the cause and manner of death of those who have died in Lafourche Parish or in those whose traumatic event originated in Lafourche Parish. An autopsy may be required depending upon the circumstances of the death.

The Coroner's Office investigates sudden, unexpected deaths, especially those that occur under violent or suspicious circumstances. Those deaths to be reported to the Lafourche Parish Coroner's Office include all deaths occurring in Lafourche Parish as outlined below regardless of where or when the initial injuring event occurred. In addition, all deaths as outlined below shall be reported that occurred outside of Lafourche Parish but the initiating injuring event occurred in Lafourche Parish.

- From disease which may be hazardous or contagious or which may constitute a threat to the health of the general public
- From external violence, an unexplained cause, or under suspicious circumstances
- Where no physician is in attendance, or where, though in attendance, the physician is unable to certify the cause of death
- From thermal, chemical, or radiation injury
- From criminal abortion
- While in the custody of law enforcement officials or while incarcerated in a public institution
- When the death was sudden and happened to a person who was in good health
- From an industrial accident or any death suspected to involved with the decedent's occupation
- When death occurs in a hospital less than 24 hours after admission to a hospital
- Any death suspected to be due to alcohol intoxication or the result of exposure to drugs or toxic agents
- Any death due to neglect or suspected neglect
- Any stillbirth of 20 or more weeks gestational age unattended by a physician
- Any death of an infant or child where the medical history has not established a significant pre-existing condition

Since I have been Coroner of Lafourche Parish, an annual report has been available on its web page <http://www.lpcoroner.com>

Since 2008, The Lafourche Parish Coroner's Office has worked closely with all law enforcement agencies and has improved the office in a cost efficient manner. Our resources have been remarkable and we have provided the taxpayers of Lafourche Parish with an office t hey can be proud of.

Our thanks go to our Parish officials including the Parish President, Parish Administrator, Parish Council, Parish Community Service Director, Sheriff and District Attorney.

If I can be any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. King, MD

Lafourche Parish Coroner

MISSION STATEMENT

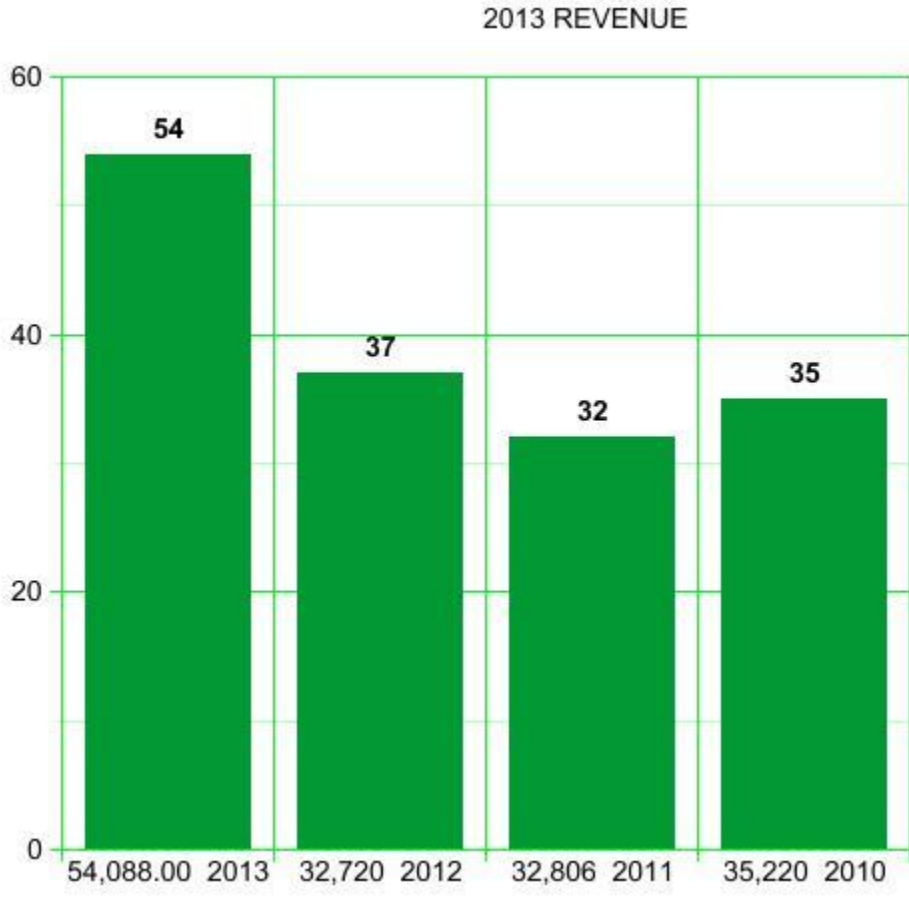
- **Through our actions we represent those who can no longer represent themselves.**
- **Provide quality services as required by law or mandated by the public in order to enhance the health, safety, and general well being of the citizens and guests of Lafourche Parish.**
- **To assume jurisdiction over persons who come to their death suddenly, or where the death is caused by unnatural or unlawful means ensuring that decedents and their survivors are treated with the highest levels of dignity and respect.**
- **Ensure that investigations are carried out in an expeditious and professional manner, and maintaining the highest level of sensitivity and compassion to the surviving loved ones during their time of grief.**
- **Work in partnership with other organizations toward the reduction of preventable deaths.**
- **Provide educational presentations and continually serve as a resource to the public regarding the field of medicolegal death investigation.**

COST IMPROVEMENT

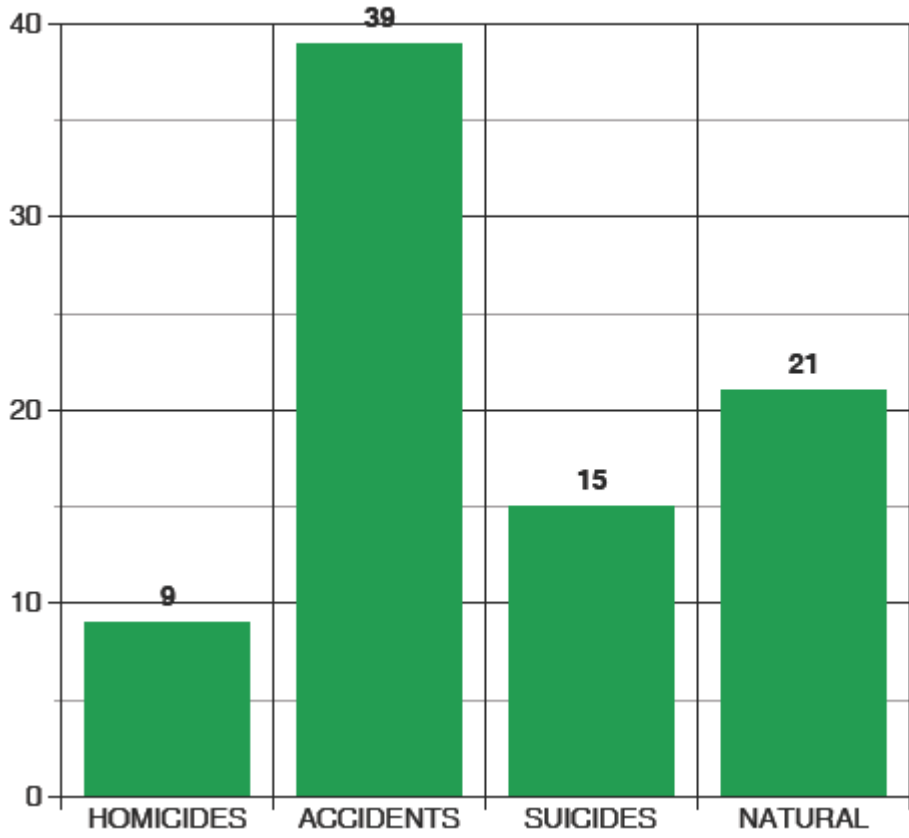
The Lafourche Parish Coroner's Office continues to improve its services and looks for creative ways to save taxpayer money.

One of the highlights is our revenue has improved and although the funds go to the general fund, we have not had any problems with our budget and do everything that is possible to keep all costs down.

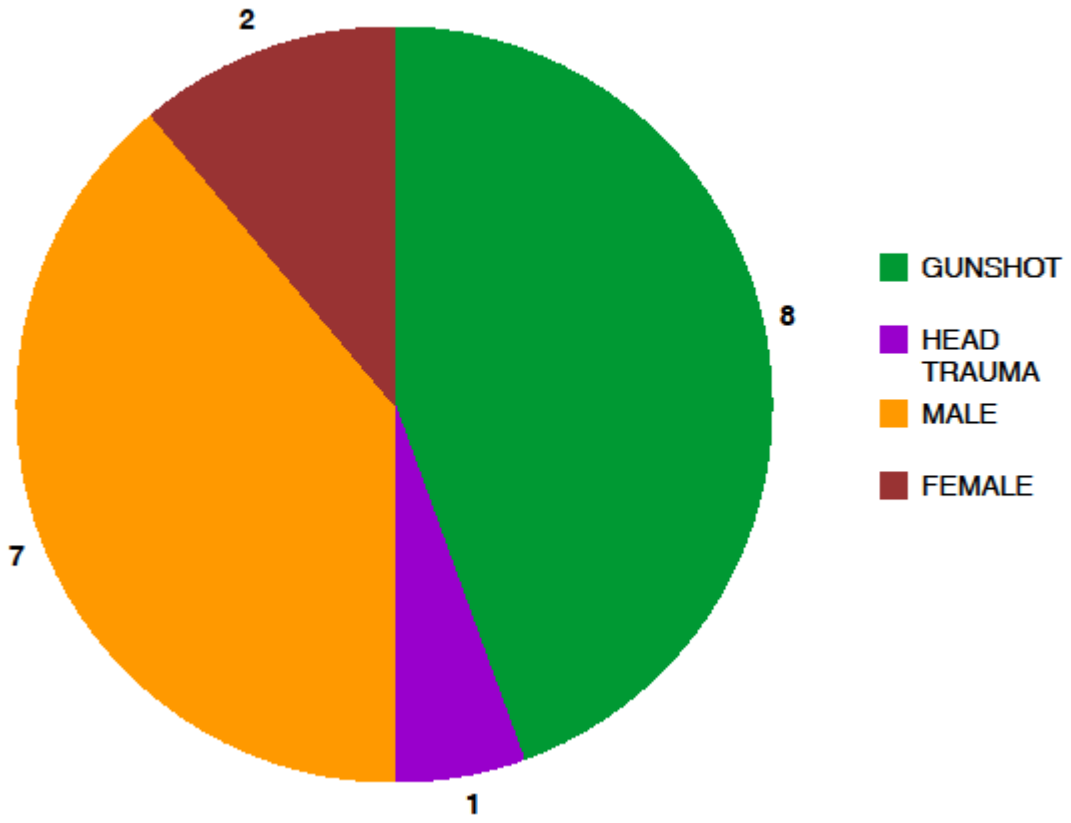
REVENUE 2013



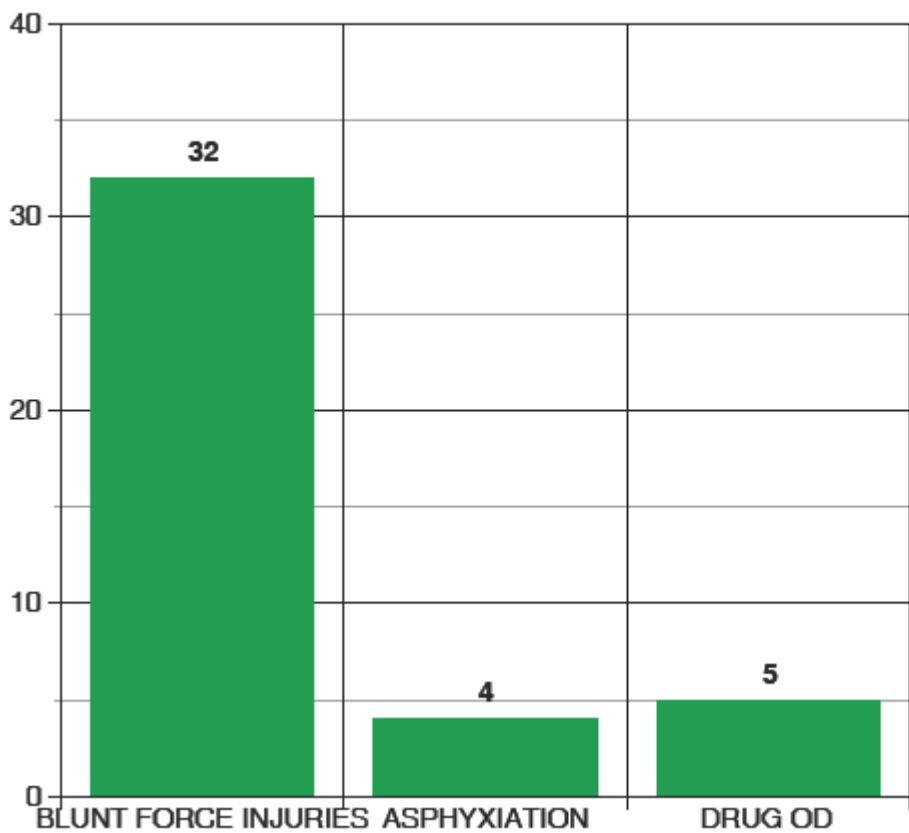
AUTOPSY CASES 2013



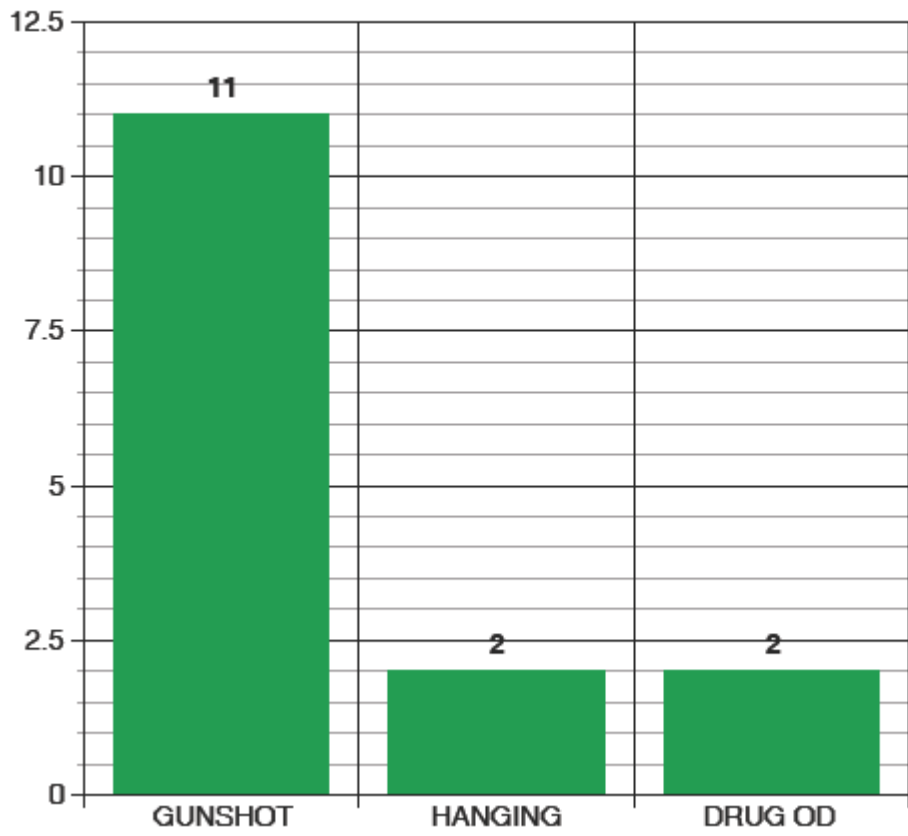
HOMICIDE



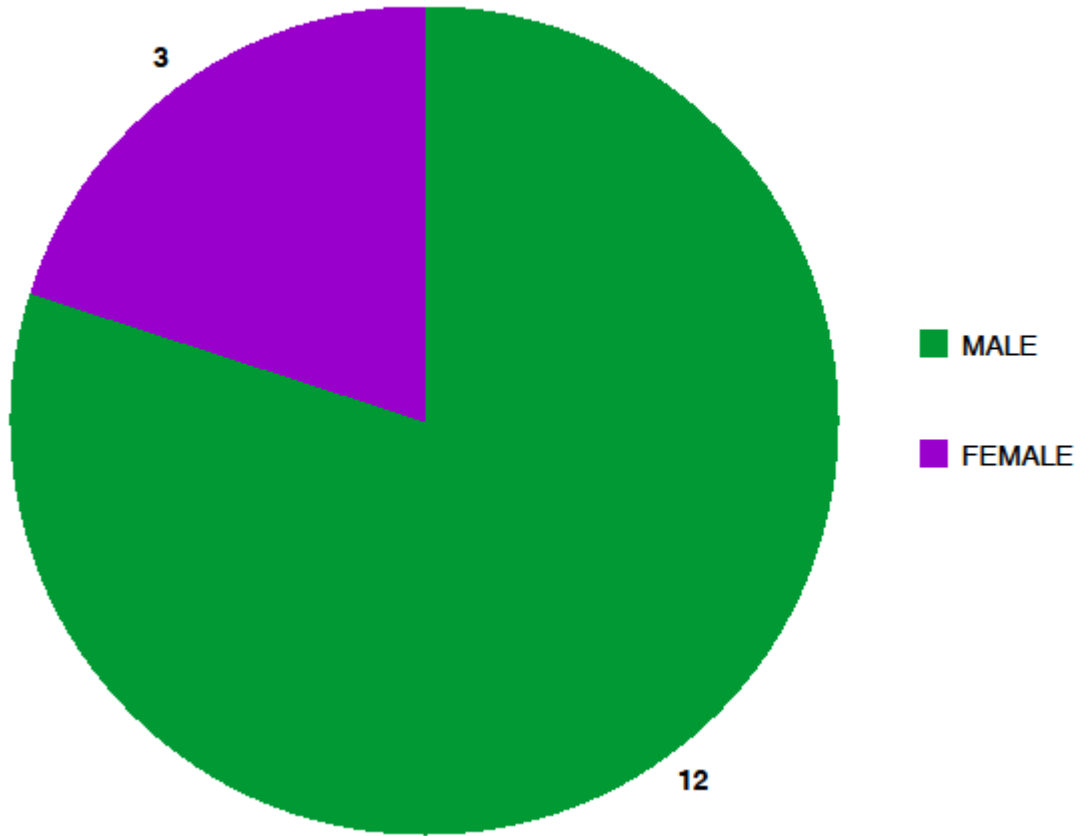
ACCIDENTS 2013



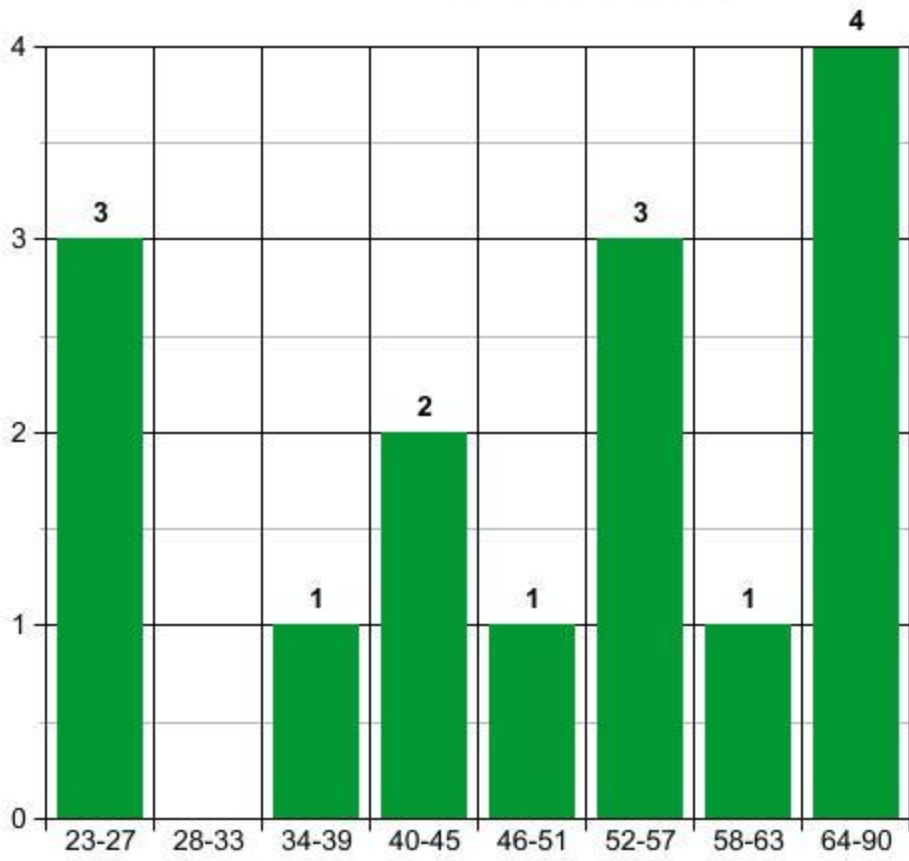
SUICIDES



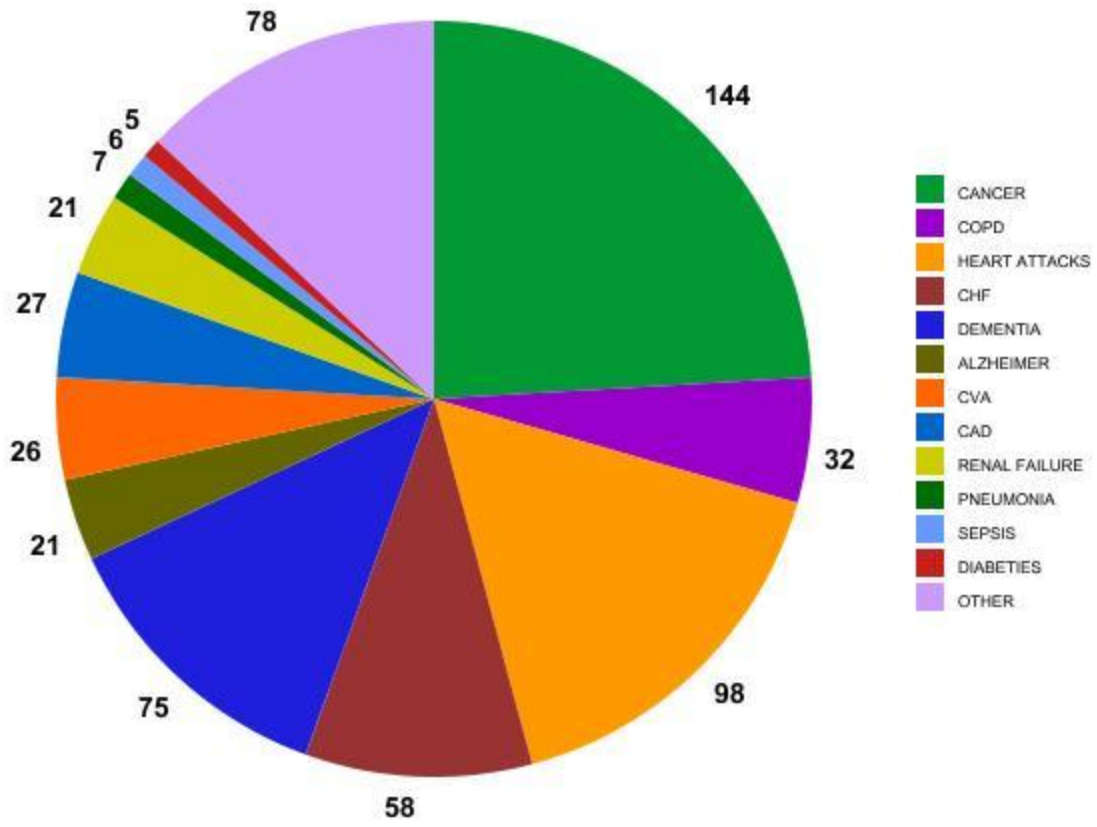
2013 SUICIDE BY MALE/FEMALE



AGE OF SUICIDE 2013



NATURAL DEATHS



SOUTHERN EYE BANK



2013 statistics

25 residents from Lafourche Parish DONATED ocular tissue

24 residents of Lafourche parish RECEIVED the Gift of Sight

In 2012 14 Lafourche Parish residents received a corneal transplant

We have nearly doubled our efforts with Southern Eye Bank!

Excellent response from Lafourche Parish!

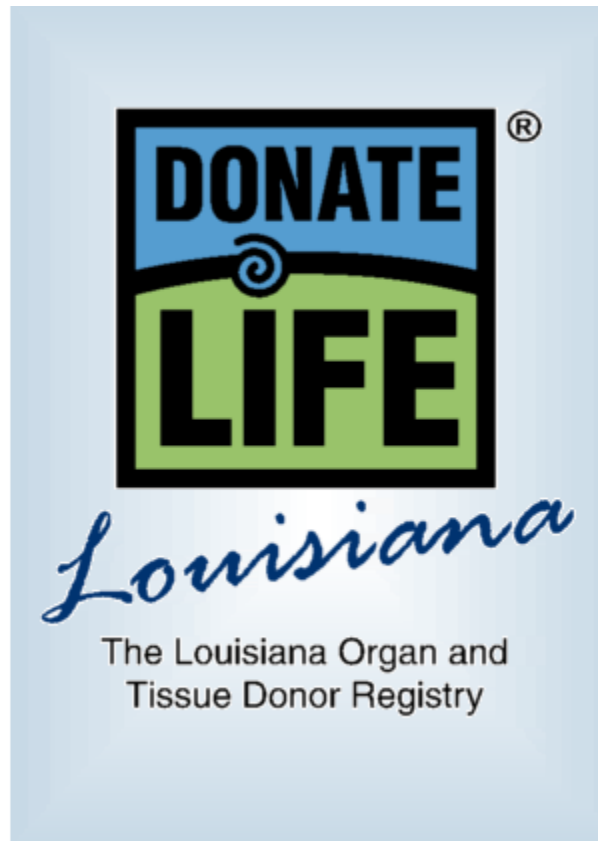
Our thanks to William "Billy" Buras, Sr. CEBT

and

Colleen Oltmann, Director of Education and Development

www.southerneyebank.com

LOUISIANA ORGAN PROCUREMENT AGENCY (LOPA)



The Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency (LOPA) is the only federally-designated organ procurement organization for the State of Louisiana. The agency focuses on educating the medical community and the general public about organ and tissue donation issues, working with families through the donation process, recovering donated organs and tissue, and placing the organs and tissue for transplant.

LOPA has its main office in Metairie, with regional offices in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Shreveport. Additionally, LOPA has representatives in Alexandria, Lake Charles, and Monroe.

Lafourche Parish Coroner's Office is proud to recognize and support the Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency and Pamela Cart, Coroner Liaison

LOPA 2013 Statistics

25 deaths reported

24 hospital deaths

1 death reported by coroner non hospital

7-Tissue Donors enhancing 490 lives

3-Organ Donors saving 12 lives

Out of 25 deaths

9- ruled out Social history/shutdown on site/processor defered

1-ruled out Medical history

4-Family Decline

2-Time Constraints

1 was a tissue and organ donor

6 Tissue only

2 organ only

MENTAL HEALTH



3 Emergency Order of Protective Custody papers issued on individuals threatening

To harm self and others with stand off with law enforcement.

85 order of Protective Custody papers issued

Over 600 Physician Emergency Certificates

Mental Health calls are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Dr. John C. King, Coroner

Dr. Gary Birdsall, Dep. Coroner

Dr. Duane Luke, Dep. Coroner

Dr. Jack Heidenreich, Dep. Coroner.

SEXUAL ASSAULT



Sexual Assault cases were increased in 2013, examinations were performed with Local hospitals and working with Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office and Thibodaux Police Department.

All minor children were examined at Children's Hospital in New Orleans.

Rape kits were provided to all area hospitals.

GOALS FOR 2014

The Lafourche Parish Coroner's Office has set goals for each year and has met above and beyond what we expected.

This is from the dedication of our Deputy Coroner's and our Administrator/Chief Investigator and our two full time Forensic Investigators as well as our Secretary.

We will continue with our education to the public on infant mortality prevention, drug and alcohol awareness in our schools and community.

We will continue to work with law enforcement agencies and I thank each elected official of Lafourche Parish and the citizens of Lafourche Parish for the trust and support of my office.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. King, MD

Coroner of Lafourche Parish