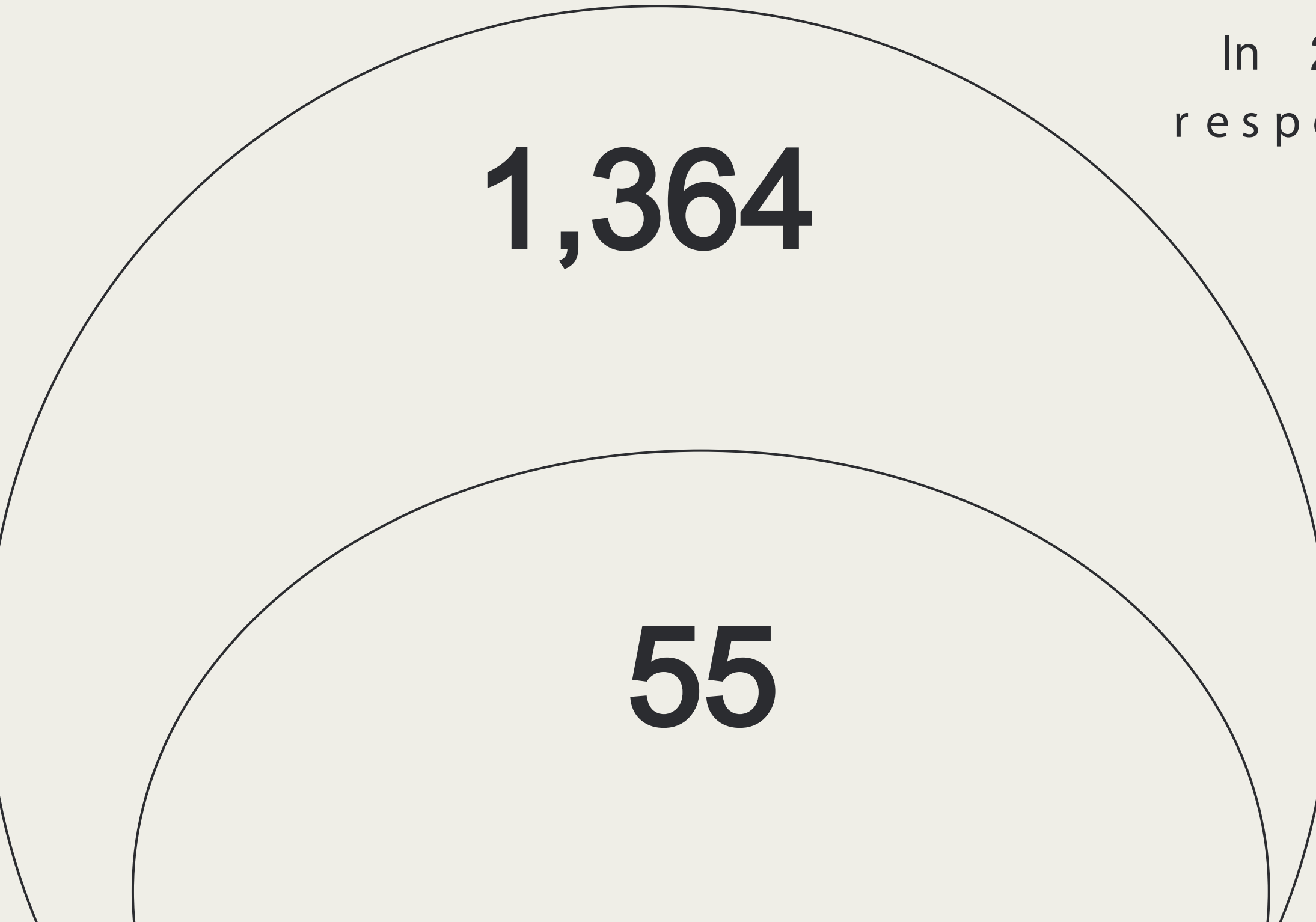


The Autopsy Initiative

Nicole Martin, Legal Program Director

A 2021 study published by *The Lancet* revealed that from 1980 to 2018, over half of police -related deaths in the United States have been unreported and misclassified.



1,364

In 2024 , police in the U.S. were responsible for the deaths of 1,364 individuals.

55

So far in 2025 , police have been involved in 55 deaths.

Source: Mapping Police Violence Database

AUTOPSY INITIATIVE OBJECTIVE

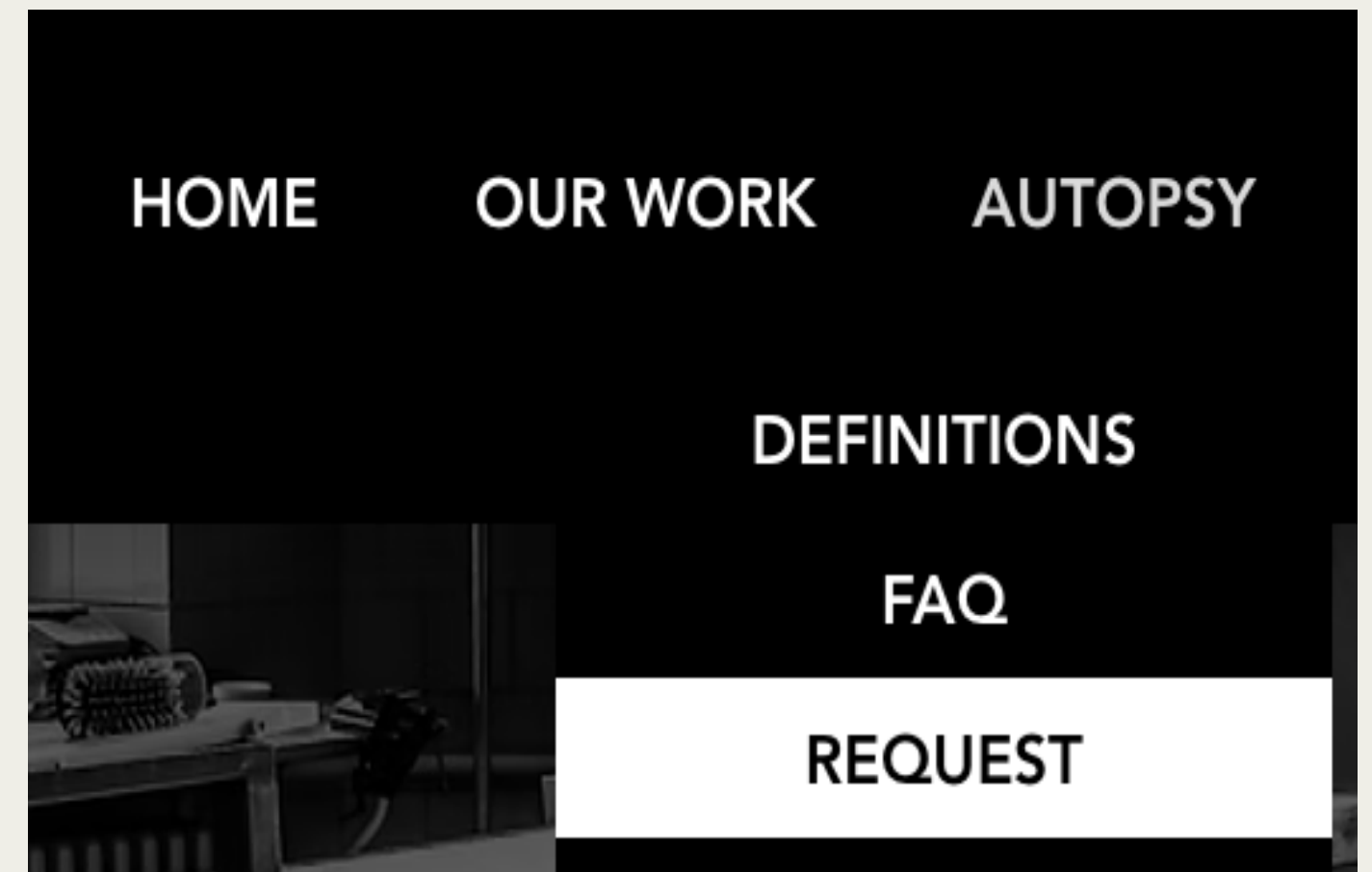
- We offer **free autopsy services** to families who have lost loved ones due to an in-custody death.
- Our initiative is supported by a team of **board-certified forensic pathologists** who conduct second autopsies with objectivity, efficiency, and diligence to provide families with their loved one's cause of death diagnosis.
- Second autopsies provide **transparency** for families.
- In the medical field, obtaining **second opinions** are highly valuable for ensuring accuracy and maintaining objectivity.

Definition of In -Custody Death:

A death that occurs during arrest, apprehension, pursuit, or while incarcerated.

Autopsy Initiative Request Form:

Website: knowyourrightscamp.org



AUTOPSY INITIATIVE CRITERIA

Criteria for Acceptance:

- The death must satisfy the **KYRC definition** of an in-custody death.
- The decedent's representative (next of kin, spouse, children, or parents) must provide **consent** for the autopsy.
- There must be a **reasonable likelihood** of determining a definitive cause of death diagnosis.
- The case must be **time-sensitive** and within a **reasonable timeframe** postmortem.
- Generally, **no embalming, burial, or cremation** has taken place prior to the autopsy.
- The remains should not be in advanced stages of **decomposition**.
- Advanced decomposition may also **limit the feasibility** of conducting a thorough and effective autopsy.

Forensic Pathologist Coordinator:

- Our Pathologist Coordinator **evaluates all cases** to determine the reasonable likelihood of obtaining an accurate cause of death diagnosis.
- The Coordinator **reviews the information** from the autopsy request form, prescreening-questionnaire, and makes a recommendation based on the the **specifics of each case**.
- Our Operations Manager consults with the **family's selected funeral home** regarding status of decomposition to report to our Coordinator.

AUTOPSY INITIATIVE SERVICES

Independent Second Autopsy

Performed by Experts:

- Conducted by board- certified forensic pathologists from our panel.

Nationwide Coverage:

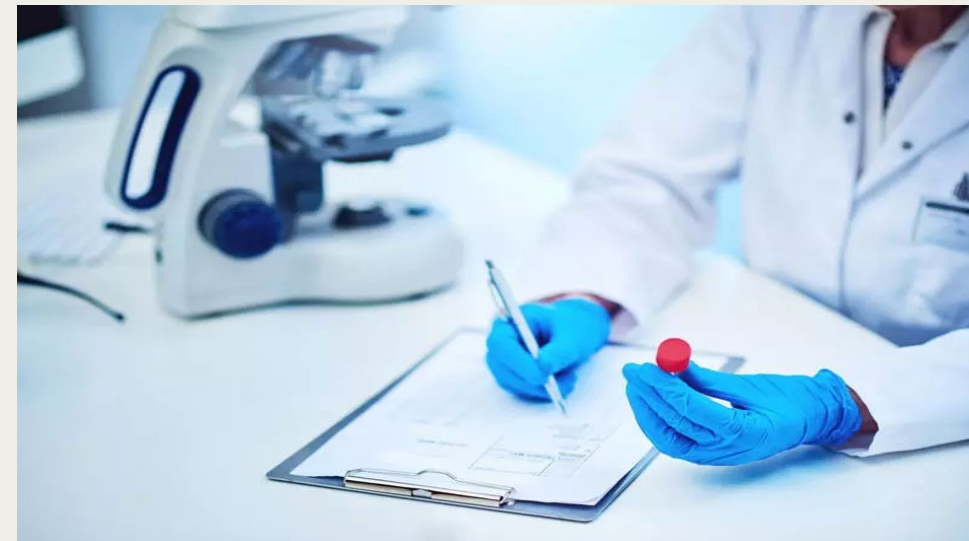
- Services available across the country.

Timeline:

- To ensure optimal results, the autopsy should be performed within 2- 3 weeks postmortem.

Preliminary Findings

- Direct consultation with pathologists who conducted the autopsy.
- Helps families and their attorneys with immediate insights into findings and observations



Issuance of Final Autopsy Report

- Examination of the initial autopsy report from the Medical Examiner/Coroner.
- Review of additional relevant evidence, including medical records, body cam footage, and photos.
- A final autopsy report is provided, with a detailed cause of death diagnosis based on thorough analysis.

SELECTION OF PATHOLOGIST AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION

Geographical Considerations:

- Pathologists are selected based on their **proximity** to the location of the death and their **availability**.

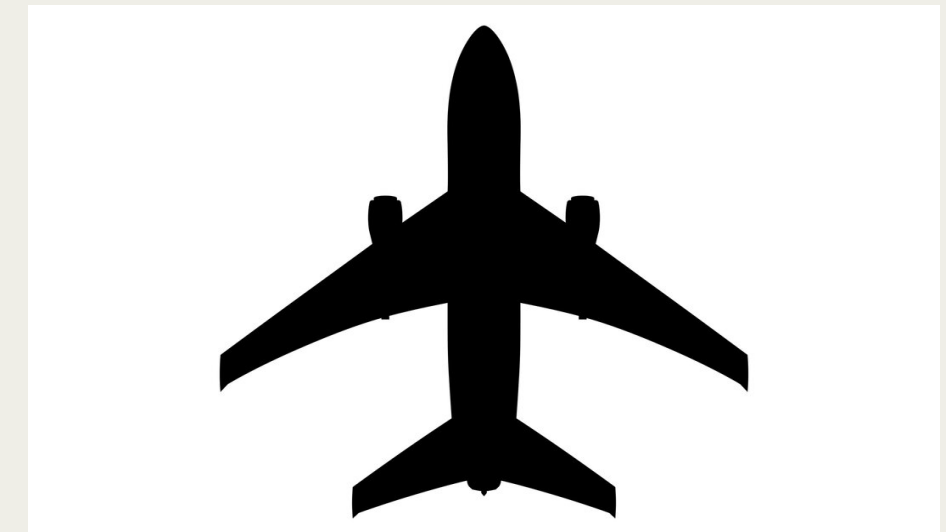


Transportation:

- Pathologists performing the second autopsies must be **licensed in the state** where they perform the autopsy.
- If the individual's death did not occur in the state where one of our pathologists is licensed, the **deceased must be transported** to the state where the pathologist is licensed.

Costs:

- Our Initiative **covers all transportation costs** associated with the performance of the autopsy.
- **Average Cost w/ Transport: \$13,600**



PATHOLOGIST REQUIREMENTS

Interview Process

- Conducted with our team and the Forensic Pathologist Coordinator.

Code of Ethics

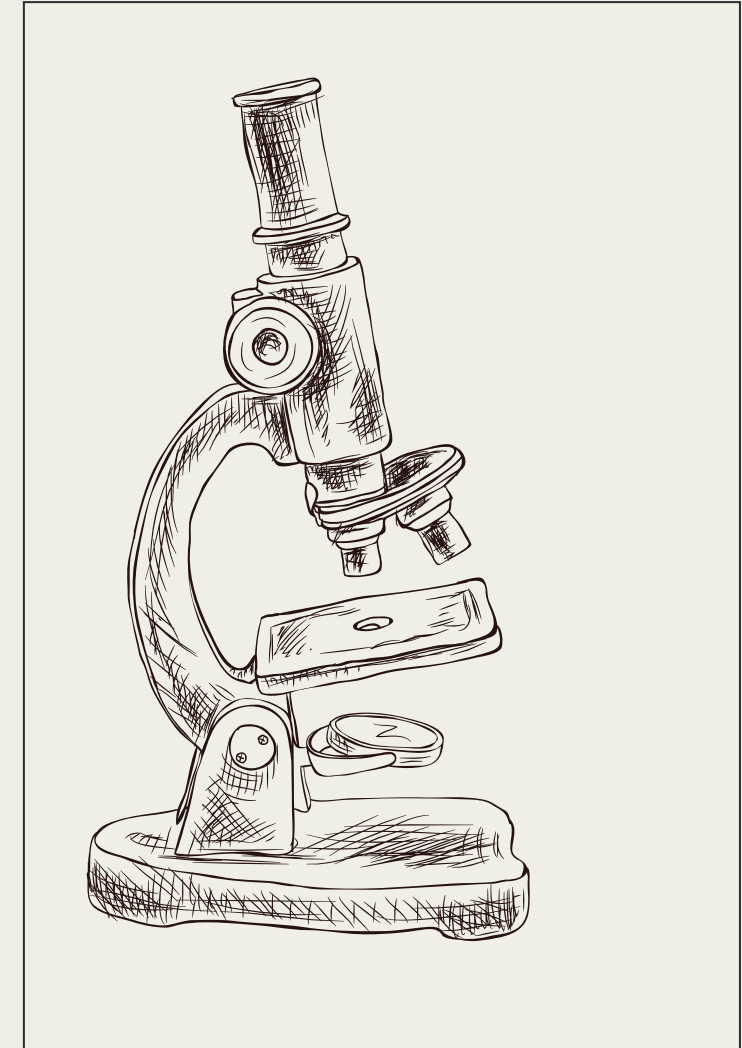
- Pathologists must adhere to the College of American Pathologists Principles of Ethical and Professional Conduct.

Autopsy Procedure

- A complete autopsy includes a thorough external and internal examination of the body, anterior and posterior forensic neck dissection, posterior subcutaneous dissection, and full inspection and photography of all body cavities.

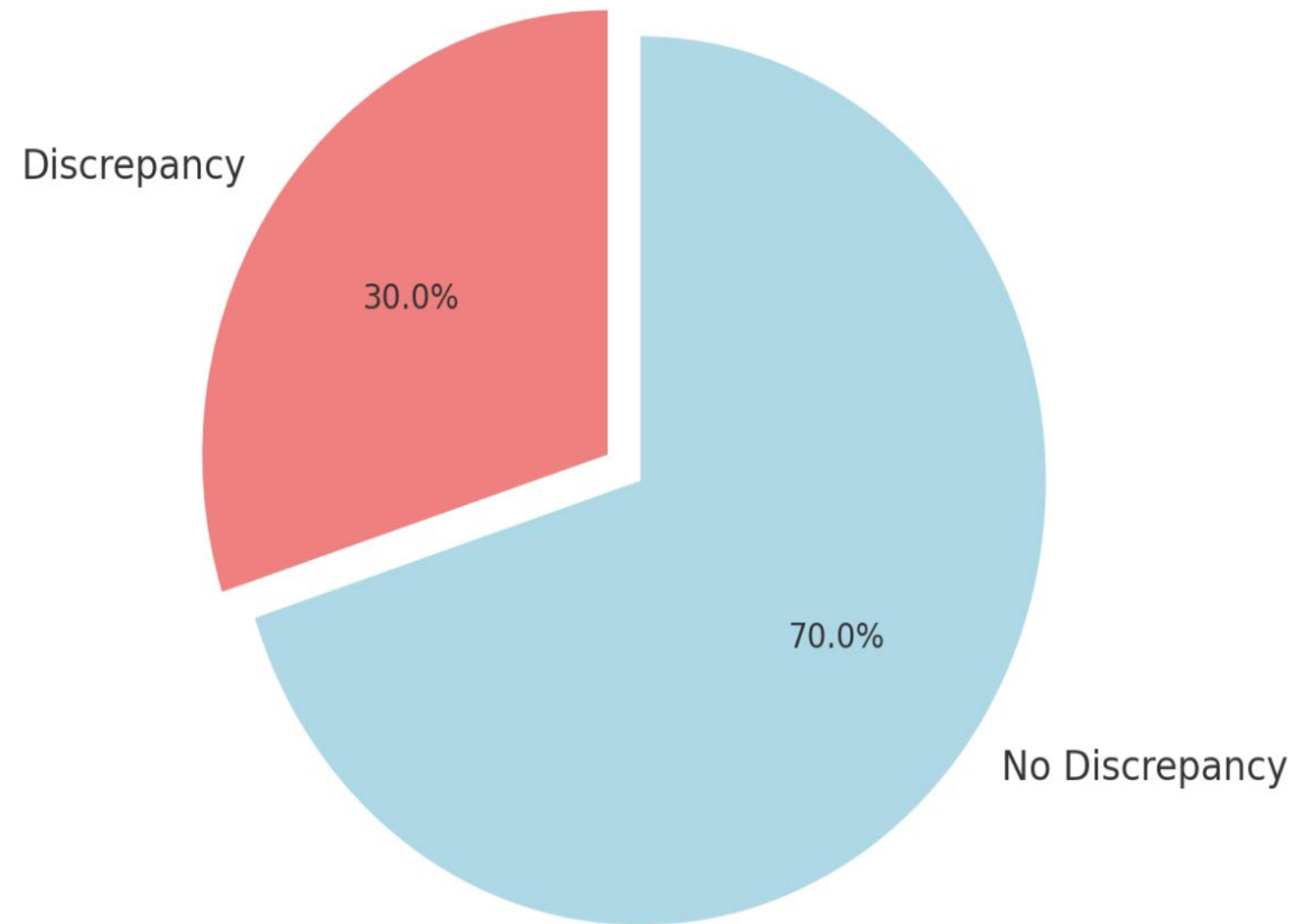
Toxicology and Histology

- Toxicology and histology tests should be performed on all unembalmed bodies at the discretion of the selected pathologist.



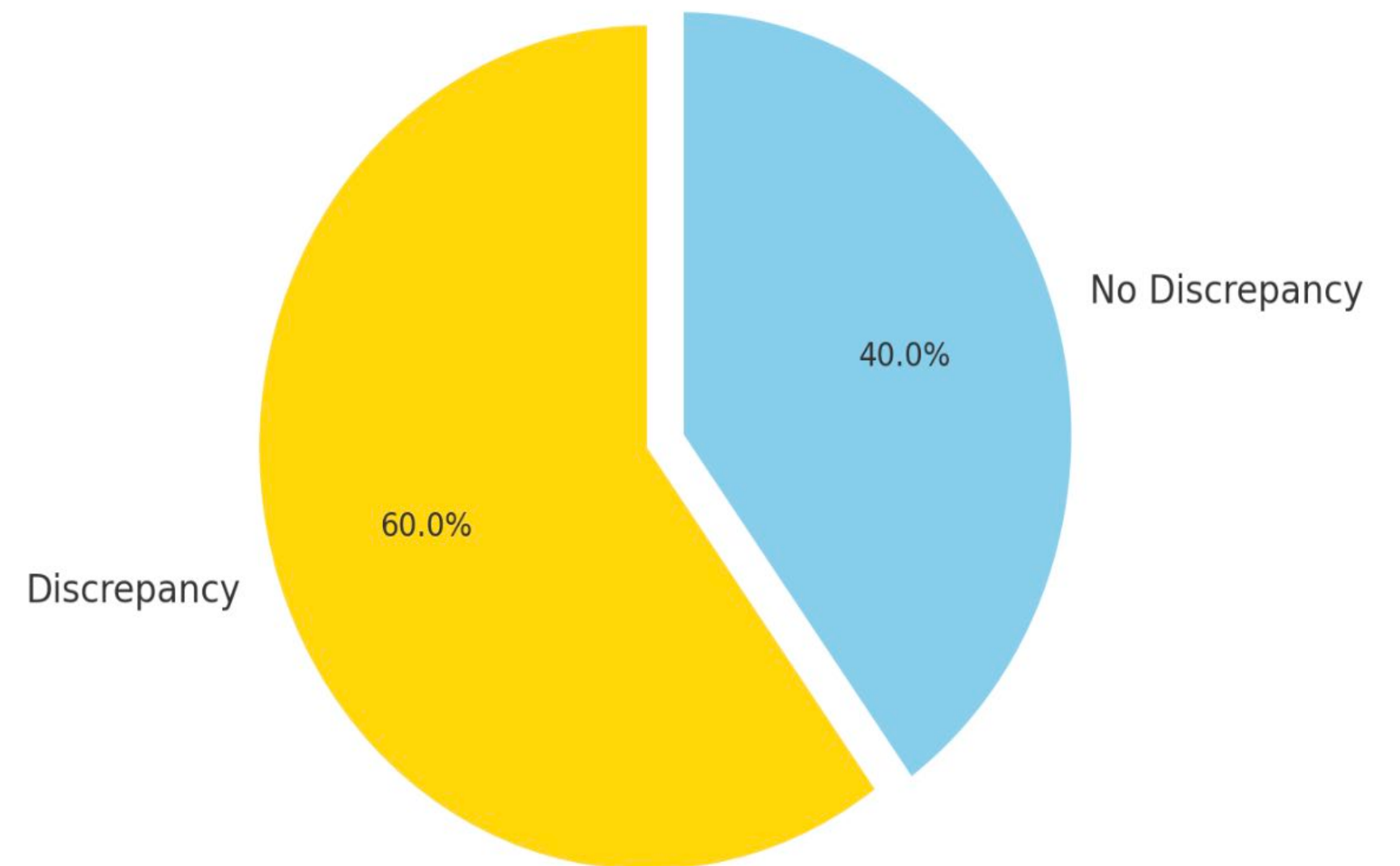
COMPLETED CASES: DISCREPANCIES

Reporting Discrepancy



6 out of 20 completed cases had a difference in cause of death diagnosis

Overall Discrepancies



12 out of 20 completed cases had a discrepancy, inaccuracy, or suspicious circumstance present

MAJOR DISCREPANCIES

First Example

The medical examiner ruled the individual's death as a natural cause of dehydration/bronchopneumonia; Our pathologist who performed the individual's second autopsy ruled death as asphyxia by manual strangulation.

Second Example

Bullet was found in the individual's body during the performance of the second autopsy.

Third Example

Deceased's family was told that a first autopsy was performed. Our pathologist who was supposed to perform the second autopsy performed a first autopsy; no incision marks found on the individual's body indicating no first autopsy was performed.

Note: This has occurred 3 times with our cases

2022 COMPLETED CASES: 42

Occurred in Jail/Prison/Detention Center : 20 (47.6%)

Occurred in Public : 22 (52.4%)

Approval Rate : 36.8%

Denial Rate : 55.3%

Withdraw Rate : 7.9%

Average Age of Decedent: 36

Ethnicity:

Black/African American: 47.6 %

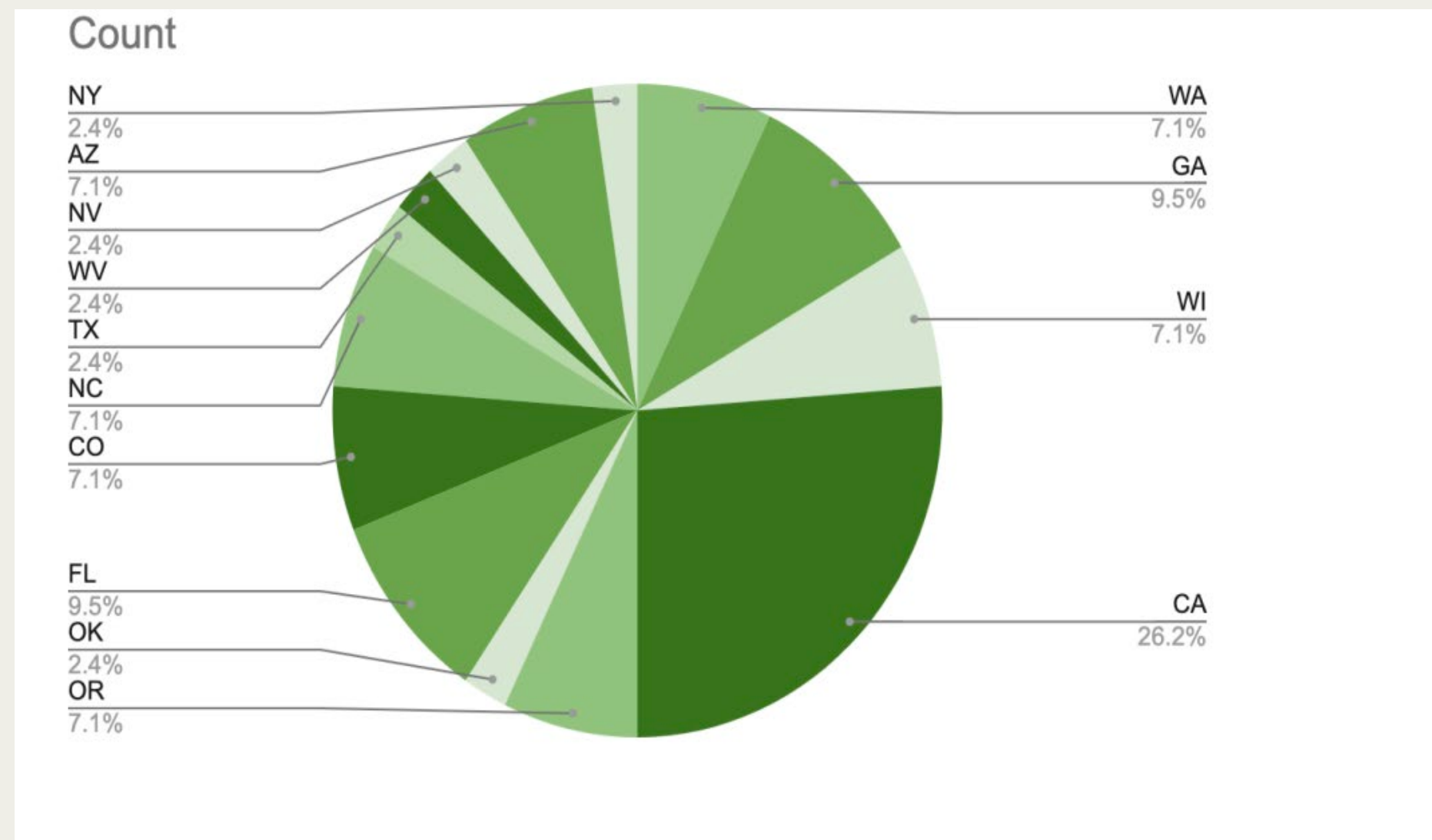
White: 19%

Hispanic or Latino: 14.3%

Not provided: 14.3 %

Two or more: 2.4 %

By State :



2023 COMPLETED CASES: 30

Occurred in Jail/Prison/Detention Center : 14 (46%)

Occurred in Public: 16 (53%)

Approval Rate: 29.29%

Denial Rate: 47.47%

Withdraw Rate: 23.23%

Average Age of Decedent: 33

Ethnicity:

Black/African American: 40%

Hispanic or Latino: 23.3 %

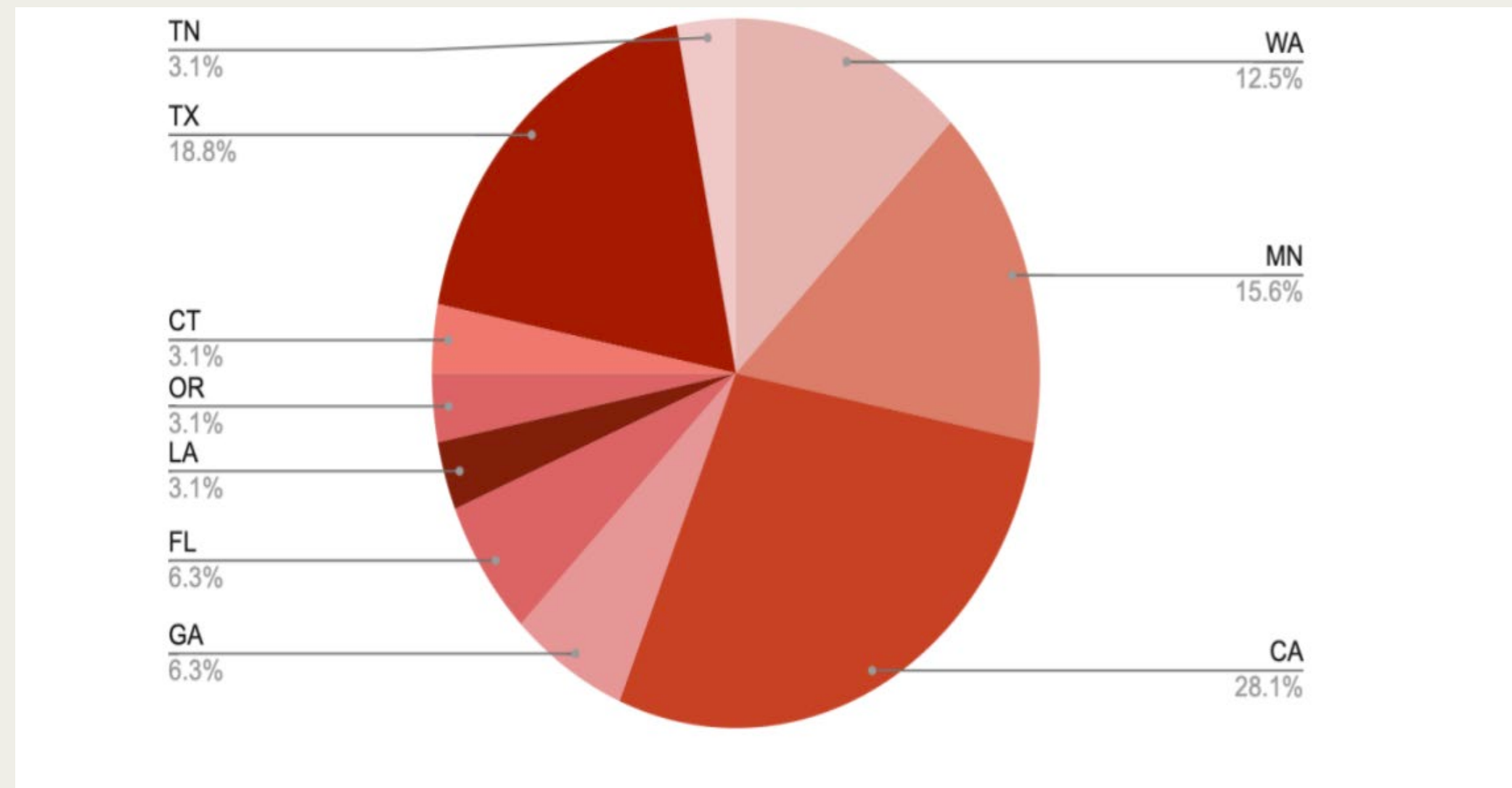
White: 20%

American Indian: 3.3 %

Two or More : 6.7 %

Not Provided: 6.7%

By State :



2024 COMPLETED CASES: 32

Occurred in Jail/Prison/Detention Center : 78.1%

Occurred in Public : 21.9%

Average Age of Decedent: 37.4

Gender	%
Male	87.5%
Female	12.5%

Ethnicity	%
Black or African American	53.1%
White	21.9%
Hispanic or Latino	15.6%
Asian	3.1%

States we performed the most autopsies :

State	%
California	25.0%
Georgia	12.5%
Minnesota	9.4%
Florida	9.4%
Rhode Island	9.4%
Virginia	6.3%

IMPACT FOR FAMILIES

- “Thank you for your courage, honor, righteousness, and generosity. I thank God for you everyday. I can only dream of making an impact and contribution such as yours.”
- “We feel that at every step of this process we have been treated respectfully with compassionate concern and care. Your advice and experience that you have both been so willing to share has been invaluable.”
- “Thank you for your assistance in the autopsy of our brother...We appreciate your patience, understanding, support and compassion.”



HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

- Please spread awareness of our services.
- Research, publish articles, and stay informed on issues surrounding deaths in - custody.
- Assist with data collection measures.
- Grow our forensic pathologist panel.
- Expand our funeral home network.
- Donations for autopsy services for families are welcomed and greatly appreciated!

Pathologist Request Form

[HTTPS://WWW.KNOWYOURRIGHTSCAMP.ORG/PATHOLOGIST - REQUEST](https://www.knowyourrightscamp.org/pathologist-request)



Pathologist Request Form

<i>Pathologist First Name</i>	<i>Pathologist Last Name</i>
<i>Email</i>	
<i>Area Code</i>	<i>Phone</i>

CONTACT US

Autopsy Initiative Email:

AutopsyInitiative@knowyourrightscamp.com

Website:

<https://www.knowyourrightscamp.org/autopsyinitiative>

