



Steven M. Enlow Clanton
Coroner

State of Louisiana Office of the Coroner ♀ Parish of Natchitoches

2025 Annual Statistics Press Release

Overview Death Statistics

Over the past decade, Natchitoches Parish has experienced important changes in the types and numbers of deaths investigated by the Coroner's Office. While the total number of cases has remained relatively steady, there have been notable shifts in causes of death and in the types of investigations performed. These trends reflect both challenges and progress in our community's health and safety.

"We are seeing both encouraging and concerning trends in our community. While some categories have declined, others, such as mental health interventions, have increased. We remain committed to transparency, prevention, and compassionate service for every family in Natchitoches Parish." — Steven M. Enlow Clanton, Coroner

Key Statistics and Year-over-Year Changes

Year	Total Cases	Total Deaths	Natural Deaths	Homicides	Suicides	Accidental Deaths	Toxicology Cases	Complete Autopsies
2016	906	375	333	10	9	23	18	30
2017	932	409	362	12	6	30	27	31
2018	950	382	359	4	1	18	22	16
2019	944	392	359	9	4	20	13	16
2020	1067	377	333	9	5	26	20	24
2021	982	403	362	7	5	29	25	17
2022	1004	406	359	8	9	31	20	27
2023	985	418	359	13	7	38	28	39
2024	932	410	362	12	6	30	27	31
2025	950	382	359	4	1	18	22	16
% Change (2016–2025)	+4.85%	+1.87%	+7.81%	-60.00%	-88.89%	-21.74%	+22.22%	-46.67%

Overall Trends: Over the last ten years, total cases investigated by the Coroner's Office increased by nearly 5%. The total number of deaths rose by just under 2%.

- **Natural Deaths:** Natural deaths increased by almost 8%, remaining the most common cause, with heart and neurological conditions leading.
- **Homicides & Suicides:** Homicides dropped by 60% and suicides by nearly 89%, reflecting progress in violence prevention and mental health support.
- **Accidental Deaths:** Accidental deaths decreased by 22%, including declines in motor vehicle, falls, and drug-related deaths.
 - Over the past decade, accidental deaths in Natchitoches Parish have shown a downward trend, decreasing by nearly 22% from 2016 to 2025. The most common types of accidental deaths include motor vehicle incidents, falls, and drug-related overdoses.
 - **Motor Vehicle Accidents:** These remain a leading cause of accidental deaths, though the numbers have generally declined, reflecting possible improvements in road safety and public awareness.
 - **Falls:** Fatal falls have fluctuated but remain a significant concern, especially among older adults.
 - **Drug Overdoses:** While not always the largest category, drug-related accidental deaths have been a persistent issue, highlighting the ongoing need for substance abuse prevention and intervention programs.
 - **Other Causes:** Occasional cases involve drowning, burns, and other rare incidents.



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These trends show that while our community faces ongoing challenges, especially in health and safety, there are also signs of improvement. Fewer homicides and suicides suggest progress in violence prevention and mental health support. The increase in toxicology cases highlights the importance of continued vigilance regarding substance use. The Coroner's Office remains dedicated to working with local agencies and the public to continue these positive trends.

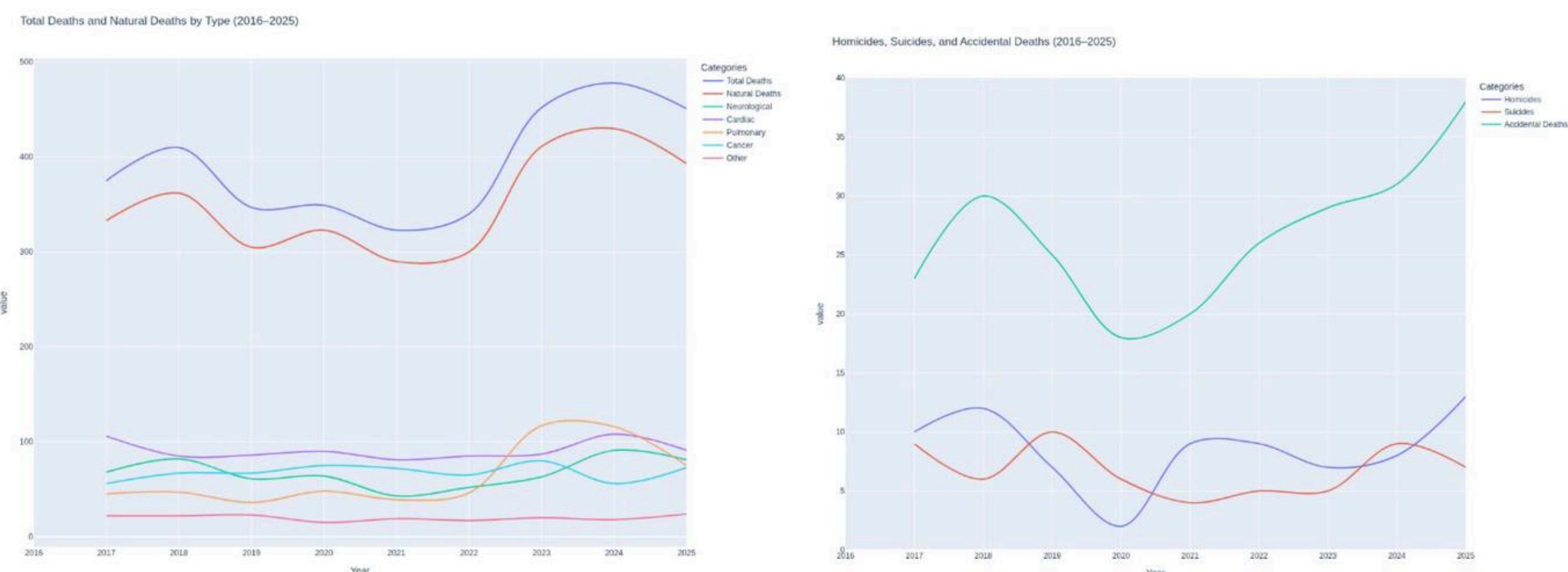
Substances Detected in Accidental Drug-Related Deaths (2025)

Alprazolam, Amitriptyline, Amphetamine, Citalopram/Escitalopram, Cocaine, Diphenhydramine, Ethanol, Fentanyl, Gabapentin, Heroin, Hydrocodone, Methamphetamine, Methylphenidate, Mitragynine, N-pyrrolidino Protonitazene, Oxycodone, Oxymorphone, Promethazine, THC.

Note: These substances were detected in toxicology screenings for accidental deaths. Detection does not indicate the drug was the primary cause of death; it simply means the substance was present.

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Overall Trends:





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Mental Health and Sexual Assault Overview

Mental health interventions and sexual assault cases are important indicators of community well-being. In recent years, there has been an increase in mental health-related interventions, showing both greater need and improved access to services.

Key Interdiction & Sexual Assault Statistics (2016–2025)

Year	CEC (In Parish)	CEC (Out of Parish)	OPC	Consultations	Sexual Assault Cases
2016	269	254	130	119	9
2017	265	250	121	113	12
2018	275	292	156	111	14
2019	400	83	131	79	9
2020	490	141	134	53	12
2021	341	123	115	47	7
2022	346	158	109	78	17
2023	344	160	101	78	12
2024	275	292	156	111	14
2025	275	292	156	111	14
% Change (2016–2025)	+2.23%	+14.96%	+20.00%	-6.72%	+55.56%

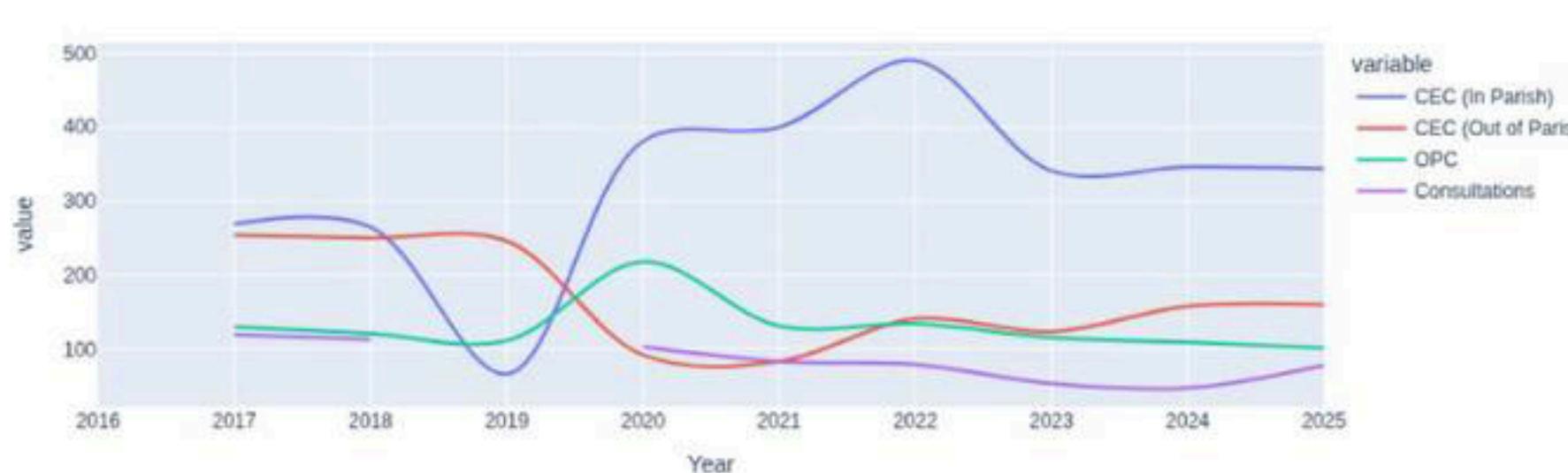
Highlights

- Mental Health Interventions:** Interdictions (CEC, OPC) have increased, reflecting both a rise in mental health needs and the community's commitment to helping those in crisis.
- Sexual Assault Cases:** Sexual assault cases have increased by over 55% over the average but remains within the lowest year 2021 at 7 cases to 17 in 2022. Not every sexual assault case resulted in an examination but were reported to our office.

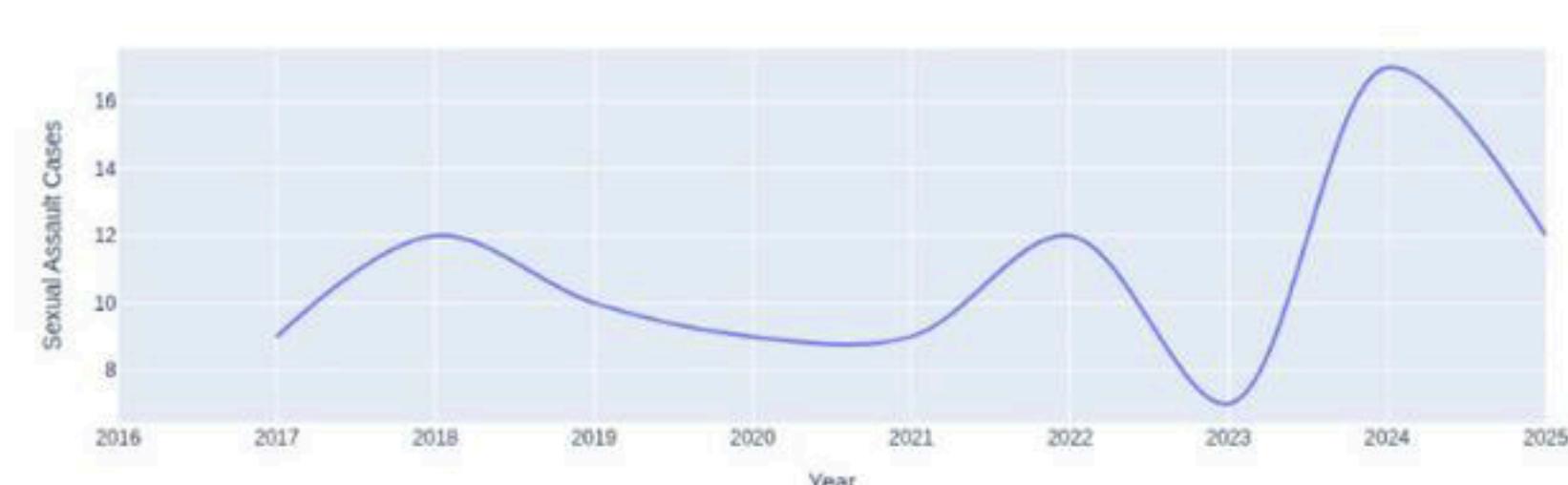
What This Means for the Public

The rise in mental health interventions shows that more people are seeking and receiving help, which is a positive step for community health. Any amount of sexual assault cases is concerning and underscores the need for continued education, prevention, and support services.

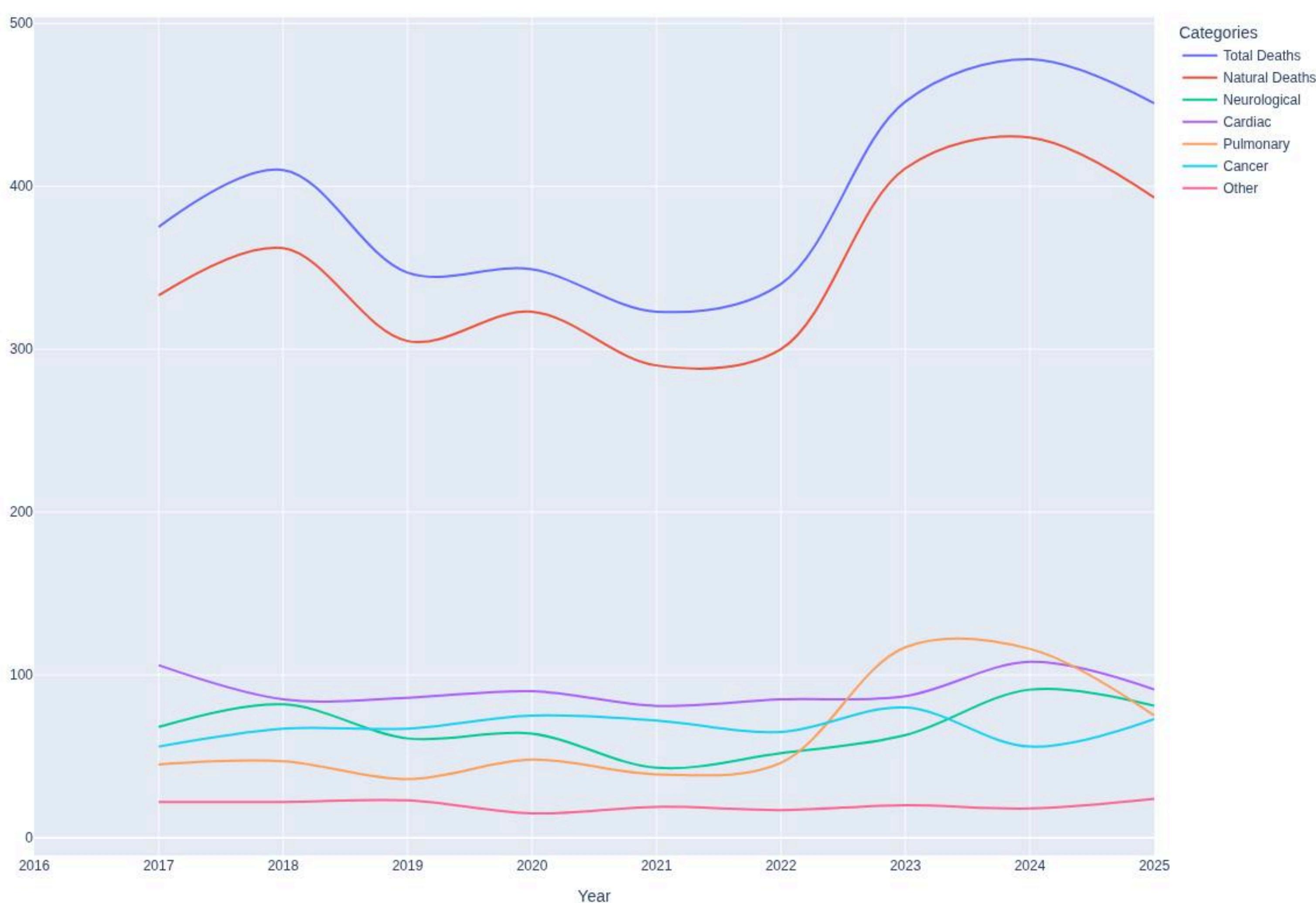
Interdictions by Type (2016–2025)



Sexual Assault Cases (2016–2025)



Total Deaths and Natural Deaths by Type (2016–2025)



Homicides, Suicides, and Accidental Deaths (2016–2025)

