



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Park County Coroners Office

David E Kintz Jr, D-ABMDI

Coroner

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE PARK COUNTY CORONERS OFFICE IS TO PROVIDE THOROUGH DEATH INVESTIGATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO DIE WITHIN PARK COUNTY OR SUFFER A FATAL EVENT WITHIN THE COUNTY THAT RESULTS IN THEIR DEATH OUTSIDE THE COUNTY. THE CORONERS OFFICE IS ON CALL AND RESPONDS 24 HOURS A DAY EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR. THE CORONERS OFFICE CONDUCTS AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH. WE ACCEPT OUR ROLE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE DECEASED, WHO CAN NO LONGER SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, SOLEMNLY AND RESPECTFULLY. FAMILIES WE CONSIDER AN EQUAL PRIORITY TO THE DEATH INVESTIGATION. WE STRIVE TO NOTIFY FAMILIES QUICKLY AND KEEP THEM INFORMED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS. OUR STAFF IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS FAMILY MAY HAVE.

FORENSIC SCIENCES ARE EVER EVOLVING AND EDUCATION IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY. THE PARK COUNTY CORONERS OFFICE SEEKS OUT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES EACH YEAR TO BRING THE LATEST INFORMATION IN THE FORENSIC COMMUNITY BACK TO OURS. IN ADDITION TO EDUCATION A STANDARD OF THE PARK COUNTY CORONERS OFFICE IS TO HAVE EACH STAFF MEMBER CERTIFIED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION AS SOON AS THEY ARE ELIGIBLE UNDER THE EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS. THE PARK COUNTY CORONERS OFFICE WORKS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH TO ENSURE THAT EACH DEATH GETS A THOROUGH AND RESPECTFUL INVESTIGATION.

CORONER STAFF

DAVID E KINTZ JR, D-ABMDI
CORONER

JIM ELDRIDGE, D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

DON COMSTOCK, D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

BONNIE GUZMAN, RN
DEPUTY CORONER

THOMAS WELDON, D-ABMDI
RESERVE DEPUTY CORONER

DUTIES OF THE CORONER

THE CORONER IS CHARGED WITH DETERMINING THE CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH. THE CORONERS OFFICE IS A STATUTORY OFFICE UNDER TITLE 30-10-601 THROUGH 30-10-622 OF THE COLORADO REVISED STATUTES. THE CORONER MUST INVESTIGATE THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF DEATHS UNDER STATUTE:

- I.** DEATHS FROM EXTERNAL VIOLENCE, UNEXPLAINED CAUSE, OR OTHER UNEXPLAINED SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
- II.** DEATHS WHERE NO PHYSICIAN IS IN ATTENDANCE OR PHYSICIAN IS UNABLE TO CERTIFY CAUSE OF DEATH
- III.** DEATHS FROM THERMAL, CHEMICAL, OR RADIATION INJURY
- IV.** DEATH FROM CRIMINAL ABORTION, INCLUDING SELF INDUCED
- V.** DEATHS FROM HAZARDOUS OR CONTAGIOUS CONDITIONS THAT MAY POSE A THREAT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC
- VI.** DEATHS WHILE IN CUSTODY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OR INCARCERATED
- VII.** DEATH WAS SUDDEN AND HAPPENED TO A PERSON IN GOOD HEALTH
- VIII.** DEATH FROM INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT

IN PARK COUNTY WE DO NOT HAVE A HOSPITAL OR INPATIENT HOSPICE WHICH MEANS THAT ALL DEATHS FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE CORONER.

THE PARK COUNTY CORONERS COVERS PARK COUNTY, COLORADO WITH A POPULATION OF 16,345 IN 2014 PER THE US CENSUS BUREAU. WE COVER THE INCORPORATED TOWNS OF FAIRPLAY AND ALMA. THE COUNTY IS HOME TO TWO STATE PARKS, MANY WILDLIFE AREAS AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF STATE LAND AND NATIONAL FOREST. PARK COUNTY IS TOURIST DESTINATION FOR CAMPING, HIKING, FISHING, HUNTING, SIGHT SEEING AND MUCH MORE.

Coroner Goals

IN 2014, THE CORONERS OFFICE ACCOMPLISHED A PREVIOUS YEARS GOAL OF FULLY PREPARING FOR A MASS FATALITY. IN THE PROCESS THE CORONERS OFFICE RECEIVED \$35,000 IN GRANT MONEY. THE MONEY WAS SPENT TO RE-WRITE THE PARK COUNTY MASS FATALITY PLAN, STOCK A MASS FATALITY RESPONSE TRAILER, AND BRING IN MASS FATALITY EDUCATION. THE TRAILER IS EQUIPPED WITH A PORTABLE MORGUE BUILDING, ALONG WITH EXTRICATION, IDENTIFICATION, EXAMINATION, INVESTIGATION AND TRANSPORTATION SUPPLIES. THE TRAILER WAS STOCKED TO HANDLE UP TO A 30 PERSON MASS FATALITY. THIS RESOURCE IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO OUR SURROUNDING COUNTIES SHOULD THE NEED ARISE. WE HOSTED THE FEMA G386 MASS FATALITY RESPONSE CLASS TO FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 6 YEARS IN COLORADO WE HAD OVER 20 ATTEND FROM AROUND THE STATE.

2015 GOALS

IN 2015 WE WILL BE WORKING TOWARDS BECOMING ACCREDITED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINER. WE CONSIDER THIS A NECESSARY STEP FORWARD TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST STANDARDS WITHIN THE MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION WORLD. IN ADDITION TO THIS LARGE GOAL, WE WILL BE WORKING TO HAVE OUR NEWEST DEPUTY CORONER ACHIEVE HER ABMDI CERTIFICATION. WE ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO REPLACE OUR OLDEST VEHICLE WITH ONE BUILT TO CURRENT STANDARDS FOR DEATH INVESTIGATION AND BETTER EQUIPPED FOR TRANSPORT OF THE DECEASED.

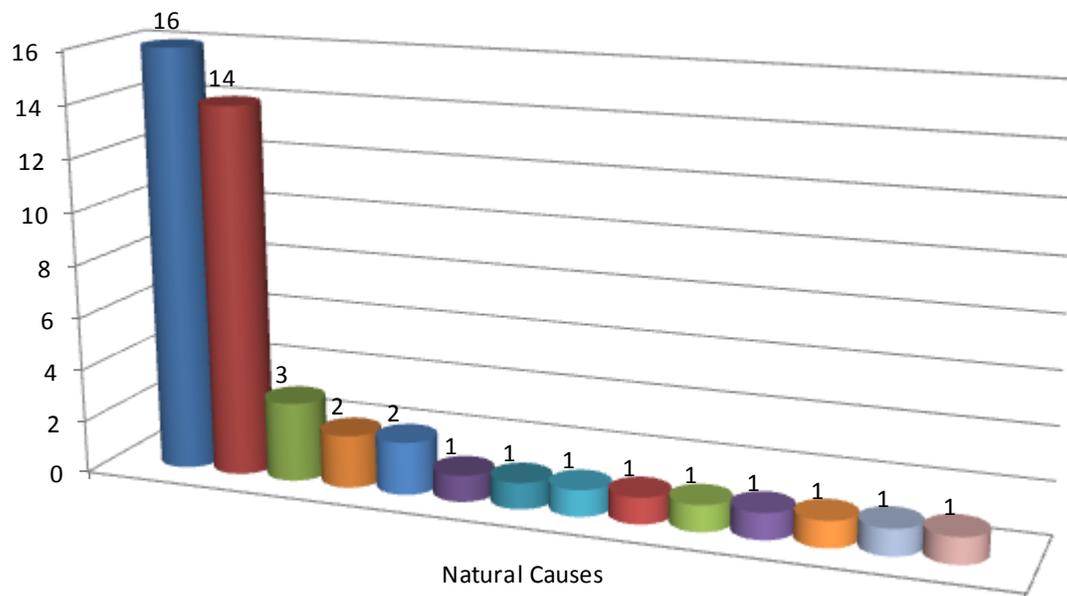
2014 CASES

TOTAL CASES:	75	
SCENE RESPONSES:	58	
HOSPICE:	17	
AUTOPSIED CASES:	22FP	1 H
TOXICOLOGY CASES:	35	
DECEASED TRANSPORTS:	47	
MORGUE USED:	47	
EXTERNAL EXAMS:	48	
DONOR REFERRALS:	8	
ORGAN DONORS:	1	
TISSUE DONORS:	4	
WHOLE BODY DONORS:	1	
EXHUMATIONS:	0	
UNIDENTIFIED:	1	
UNCLAIMED:	1	
MANNERS OF DEATH:		
NATURAL	47	
ACCIDENTAL:	19	
HOMICIDE:	0	
SUICIDE:	7	
UNDETERMINED:	2	

2014 WAS THE HIGHEST CASE LOAD IN HISTORY FOR THE PARK COUNTY
CORONERS OFFICE.

CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER

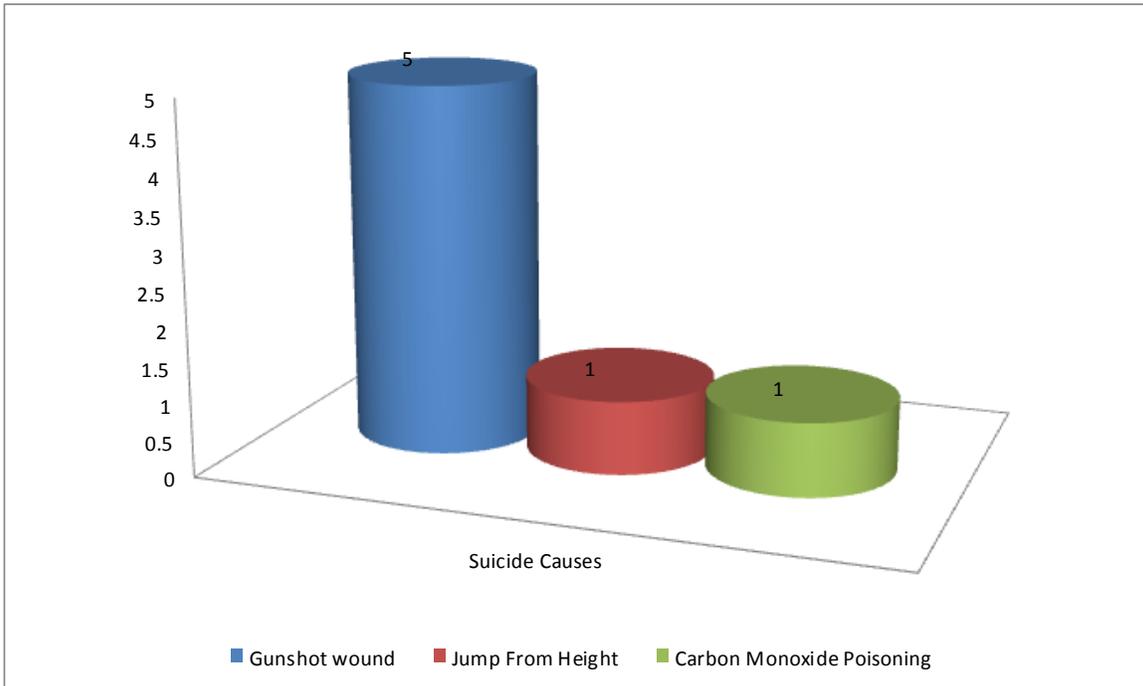
NATURAL



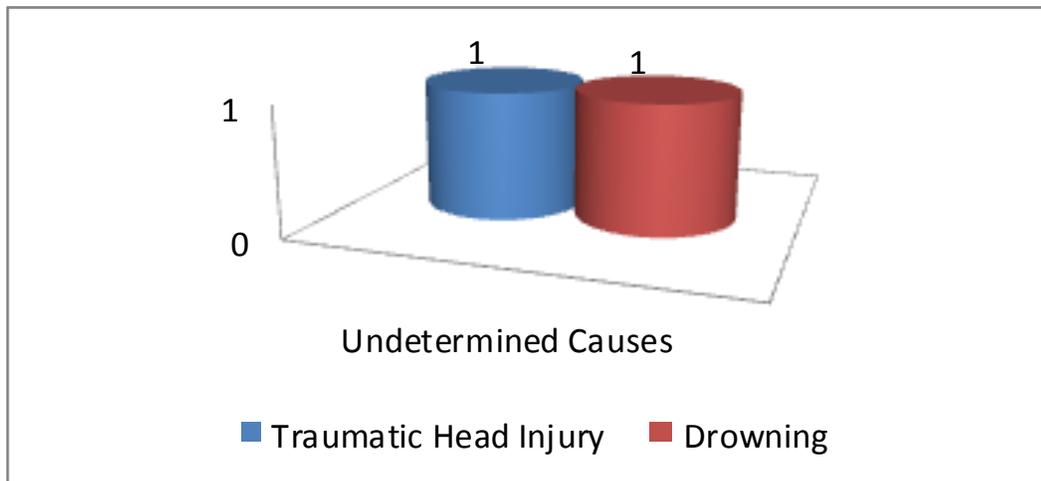
- Cancer
- Heart Disease
- COPD
- DVT
- Kindey Failure
- GI Bleed
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Influenza
- Aneurysm
- Alcohol Abuse
- Siezure Disorder
- Hypertension
- SIDS

FOR THE FIRST TIME CANCER OVERTOOK HEART DISEASE AS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH IN PARK COUNTY.

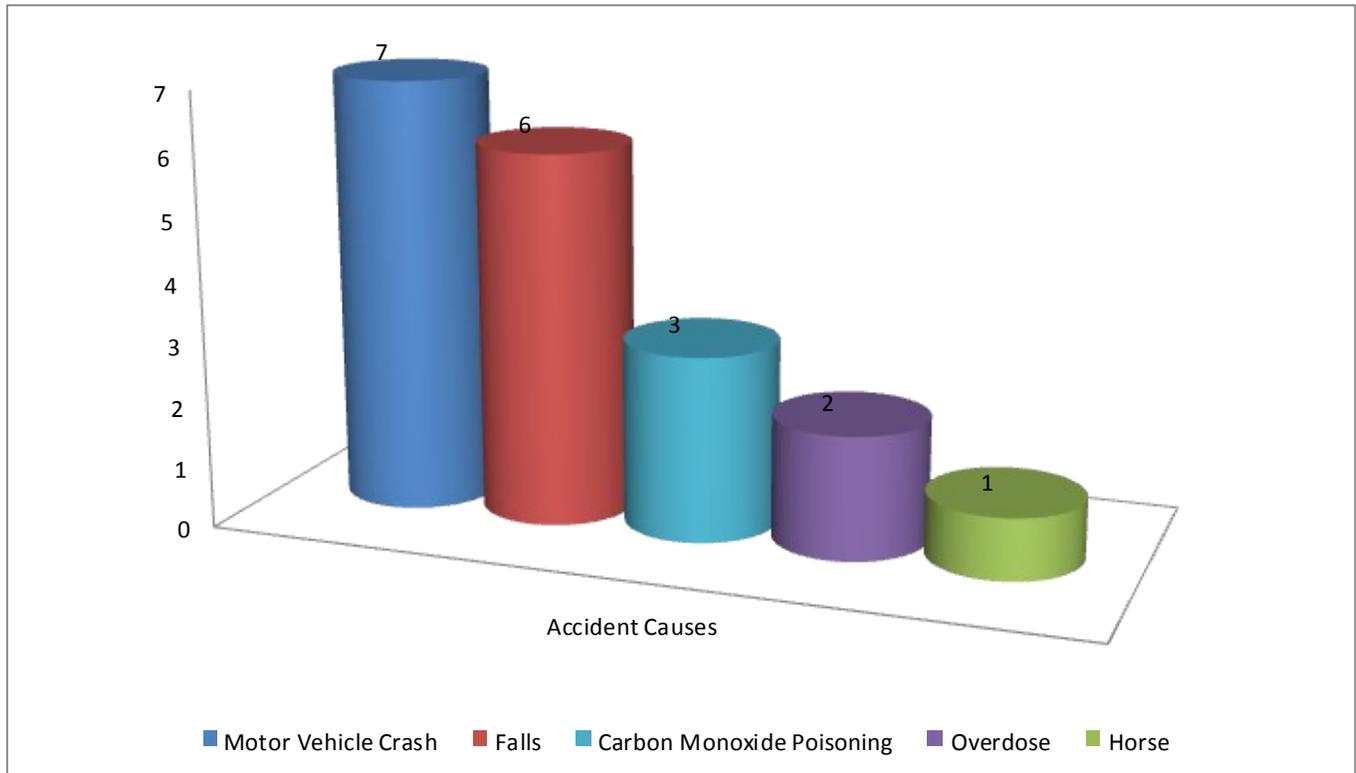
SUICIDE



UNDETERMINED



ACCIDENTAL



THE SINGLE LARGEST INCREASE IN CASE LOAD FROM PREVIOUS YEARS WAS THE ACCIDENTAL CATEGORY. FALLS AT HOME AND CARBON MONOXIDE DEATHS ARE BOTH PREVENTABLE AND ACCOUNTED FOR THE INCREASE.