



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Park County Coroners Office

David E Kintz Jr, BS, NRP, 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. 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 educational 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, NRP
CORONER

DON COMSTOCK, D-ABMDI
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

JIM ELDRIDGE, D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

BONNIE GUZMAN, D-ABMDI, RN
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 OFFICE COVERS PARK COUNTY, COLORADO WITH A POPULATION OF 16,510 IN 2015 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 A TOURIST DESTINATION FOR CAMPING, HIKING, FISHING, HUNTING, SIGHT SEEING AND MUCH MORE.

Coroner Accomplishments

2016 became a very busy and challenging year from the beginning. Our Office handled many complex cases which included officer involved shootings and numerous child deaths. Our staff handled all of these adverse situations with dignity and professionalism.

Bonnie Guzman accomplished her National Registry certification with the ABMDI completing the last piece of the puzzle in making our entire staff national certified death investigators. We began the year in a homicide trial where our certifications and accreditation proved invaluable. We were able to display, in court with the backing of our accreditation, that we are operating to the highest forensic standards

In May, at the request of the Office of Emergency Management, we taught our second FEMA G-386 Mass Fatality Response class to responders from surrounding counties.

Our Coroner, David Kintz, was appointed to the Board of Directors for the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. This gives our small county a seat at the table in the future of death investigation nation wide and around the world.

This fall we established the Park County Coroner CARE Team which is comprised of a group of volunteers that provide support to survivors on a death scene or during a death notification. We hosted our first Training for this team in November, ending the year with 9 great volunteers.

2017 GOALS

In 2017 we will be working to bring a rural coroner view to national issues facing death investigation through Coroner Kintz's seat on the IACME Board of Directors.

A top priority for the year will be to expand the CARE team in all areas of our county. We will hold another training in the spring for new volunteers. This team has a very exciting future and the volunteers are working hard to make it a great success while helping to support many survivors.

Beginning in the spring of 2017 we plan to host "Evening with the Coroner" events in each community. These will be informal gatherings for people to come and ask questions or learn about topics not often discussed. We will be providing information on many topics such as; organ and tissue donation, whole body research donation, private property burial, who is next of kin, Coroner office procedures, and other topics about what people wish to learn. Though we will not discuss specific cases, we will advise on what is public record and how one can request a copy. Our CARE team will be represented and topics related to grief and support will also be addressed.

We will also be transferring over to a new file system for our physical records.

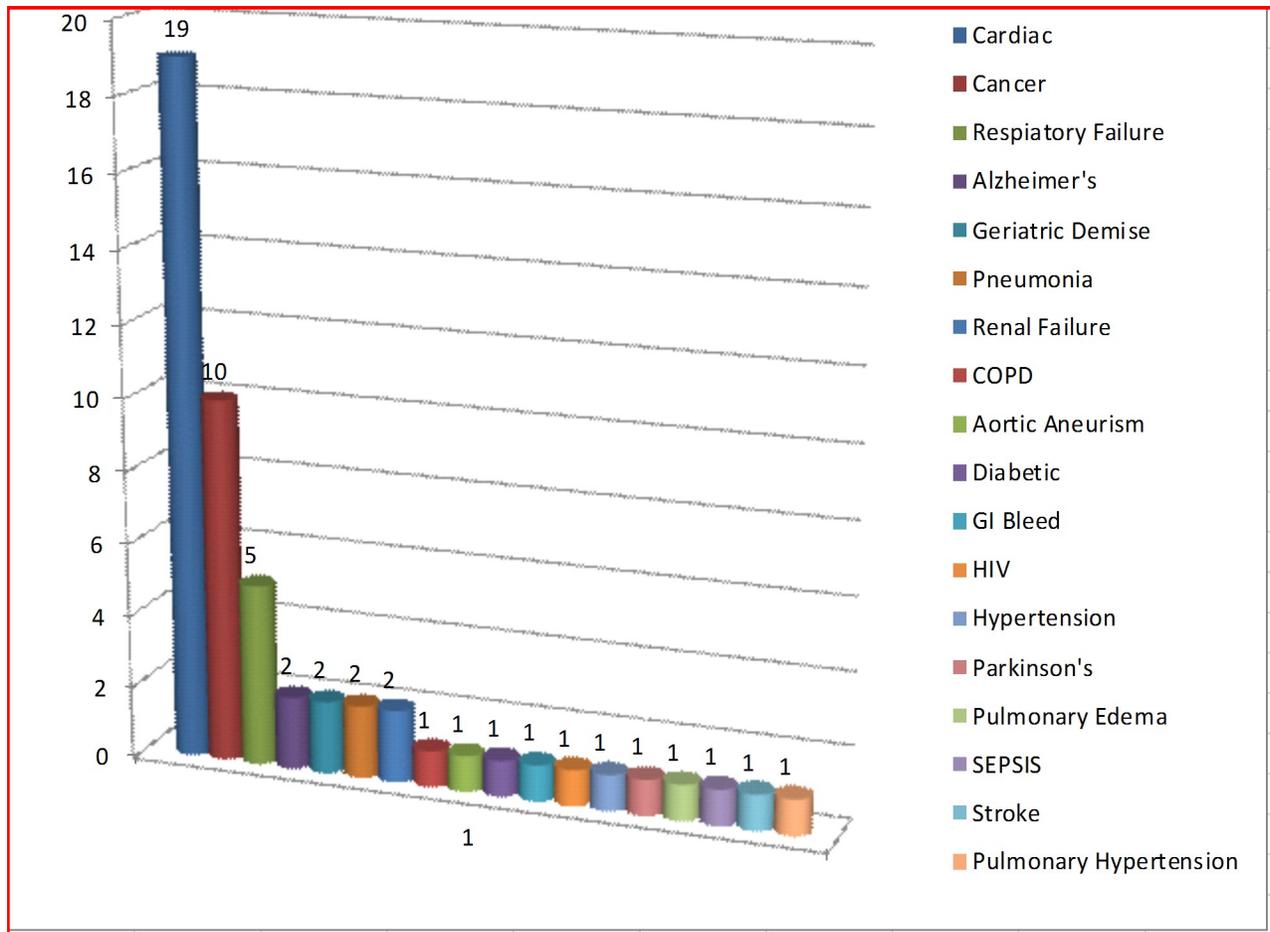
As an additional standard the Coroners Office will begin collecting DNA specimens on all deceased brought to the morgue.

2016 CASES

TOTAL CASES:	87
SCENE RESPONSES:	71
HOSPICE:	16
AUTOPSIED CASES:	39
TOXICOLOGY CASES:	39
DECEASED TRANSPORTS:	65
MORGUE USED:	65
EXTERNAL EXAMS:	71
DONOR REFERRALS:	6
ORGAN DONORS:	1
TISSUE DONORS:	6
WHOLE BODY DONORS:	1
EXHUMATIONS:	0
UNIDENTIFIED:	0
UNCLAIMED:	0
MANNERS OF DEATH:	
NATURAL:	53
ACCIDENTAL:	17
HOMICIDE:	6
SUICIDE:	11
UNDETERMINED:	0

2016 WAS THE HIGHEST CASE LOAD IN HISTORY FOR THE PARK COUNTY
CORONERS OFFICE

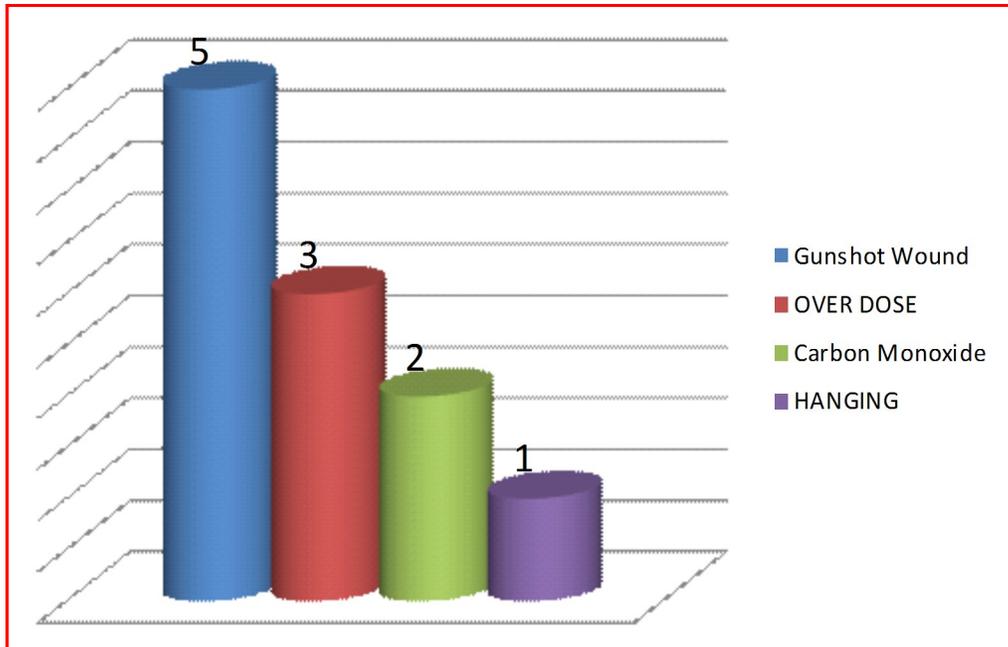
CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER NATURAL



CARDIAC CONDITIONS WERE THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH IN PARK COUNTY IN 2016. WE ALSO SAW A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN RESPIRATORY FAILURE AND OTHER RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS DURING THE YEAR.

TOTAL: 53

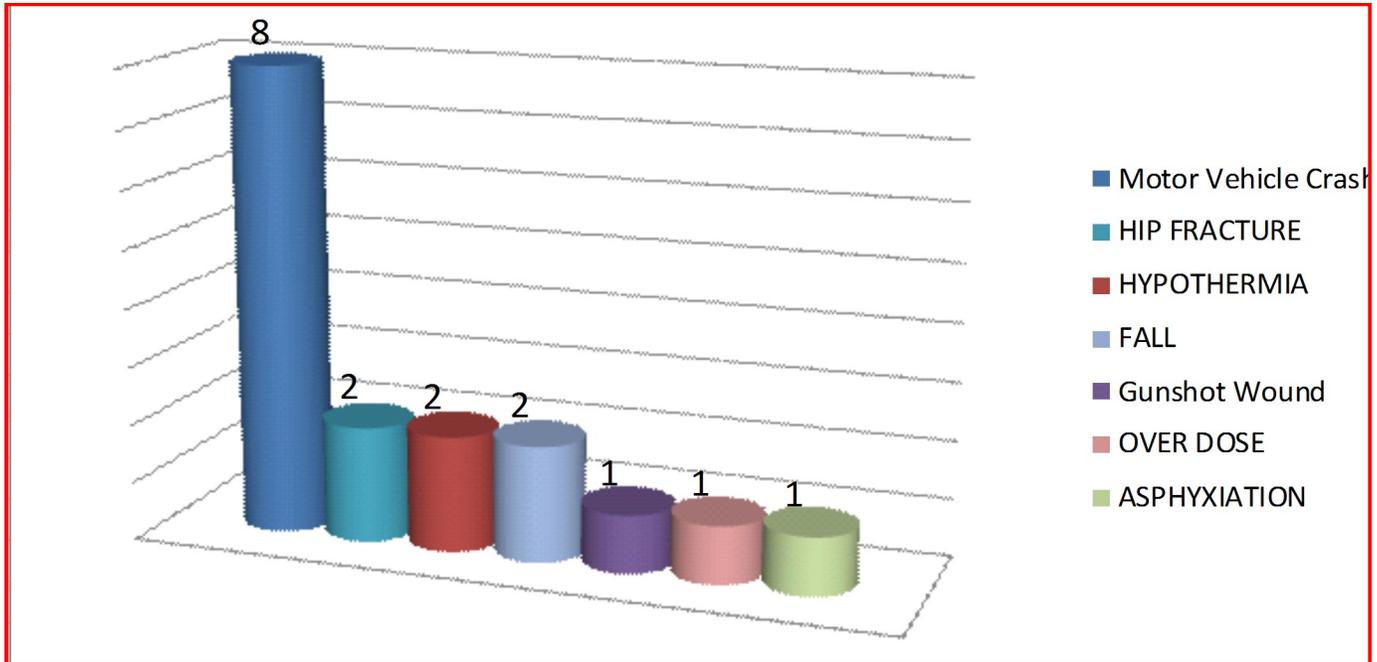
SUICIDE



2016 SAW THE LARGEST NUMBER OF SUICIDES SINCE
2010.

TOTAL: 11

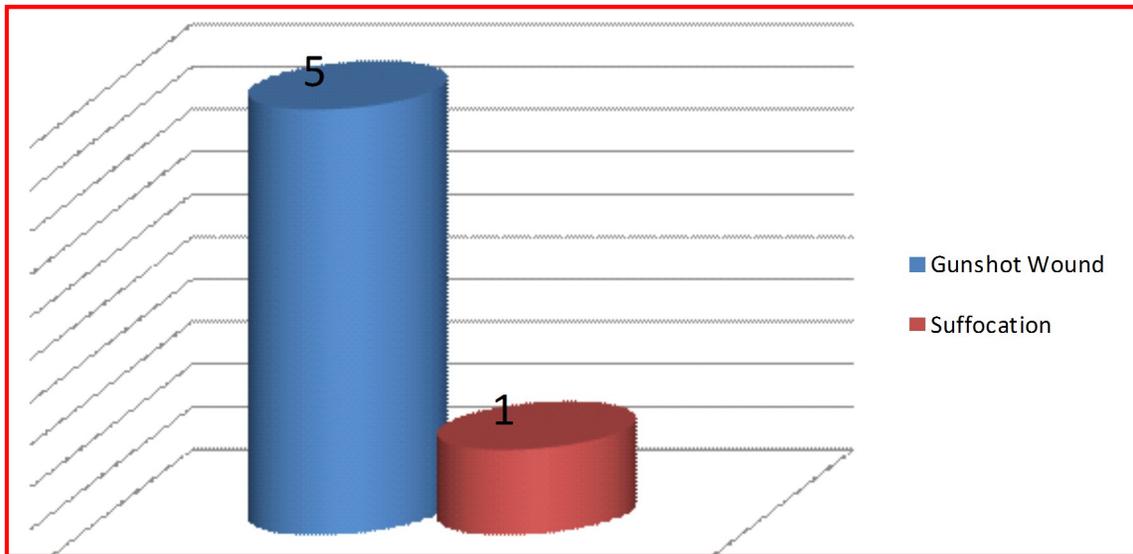
ACCIDENTAL



2016 SAW AN INCREASE ACCIDENTAL DEATHS OVER 2015 LEAD BY THE MOST MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES SINCE 2009.

TOTAL: 17

HOMICIDE



2016 SAW THE MOST HOMICIDES IN RECENT HISTORY IN PARK COUNTY.

TOTAL: 6