



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Park County Coroners Office

David E Kintz Jr, NRP, BS, D-ABMDI

Coroner

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Park County Coroners Office is to provide thorough death investigations to all of 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 enhance our team with the latest information in the forensic community. 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. To further our pursuit of the truth in each investigation we became Fully Accredited by the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners in 2015. 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, NRP, BS, D-ABMDI
CORONER

DON COMSTOCK, D-ABMDI
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

BONNIE GUZMAN, RN, D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

JIM ELDRIDGE, D-ABMDI
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 17,166 in 2016 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 Accomplishments 2017

2017 brought great new opportunities. Coroner Kintz took his seat on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners. Park County is working hard to continue bringing the best education and resources to our citizens.

The Coroner CARE team has leaped into action and the team is fully functioning. Our volunteers have made a great difference to the lives of our survivors and we couldn't be more excited.

The "Evening with the Coroner" meetings were a tremendous success. Guffey lead the way with 46 attendees. These meetings covered a wide range of topics and brought resources to the citizens such as donation and funeral arrangement considerations.

We began working on assisting Colorado Mesa University on bringing a Forensic Research Facility to Park County. This would be the 7th in the world and we are very excited for that.

We exhumed an unidentified case from 1974. This man was found up Guenella Pass and was buried in Fairplay. We obtained DNA samples from the deceased in hopes we can finally identify him.

2018 goals

2018 will be an exciting year. We plan to make more developments in education and research.

We are striving to make a Forensic Research station a reality with our partners at Colorado Mesa University. The initial work on this in 2017 was productive and we would like to have a facility running by June.

The Coroner CARE team will be looking to strengthen our numbers and bring in a few more volunteers especially in Bailey and Lake George.

We plan to once again host the “Evening with the Coroner” meetings and change up the locations through the county.

The exhumation from last year we will continue to work on and hope the DNA results help us to identify this man.

Coroner Kintz will be looking to achieve an advanced certification of ABMDI-Fellow.

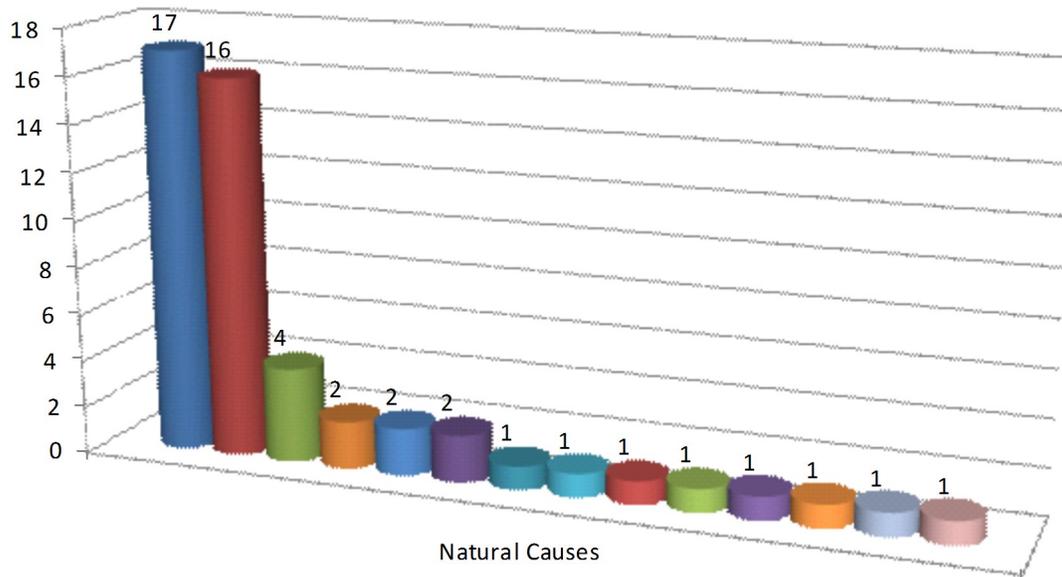
Chief Deputy Comstock will be coordinating a full scale mass fatality exercise with our partners in law enforcement, fire, EMS and our neighboring counties.

2017 cases

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Total cases: | 72 |
| Scene responses: | 50 |
| Hospice: | 22 |
| Autopsied cases: | 20 |
| Toxicology cases: | 29 |
| Deceased transports: | 48 |
| Morgue used: | 48 |
| External exams: | 50 |
| Donor referrals: | 4 |
| Organ Donors: | 1 |
| Tissue Donors: | 4 |
| Whole Body Donors: | 3 |
| Exhumations: | 1 |
| Unidentified: | 1 |
| Unclaimed: | 0 |
| Manners of death: | |
| Natural: | 51 |
| Accidental: | 12 |
| Homicide: | 1 |
| Suicide: | 7 |
| Undetermined: | 1 |

CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER

NATURAL

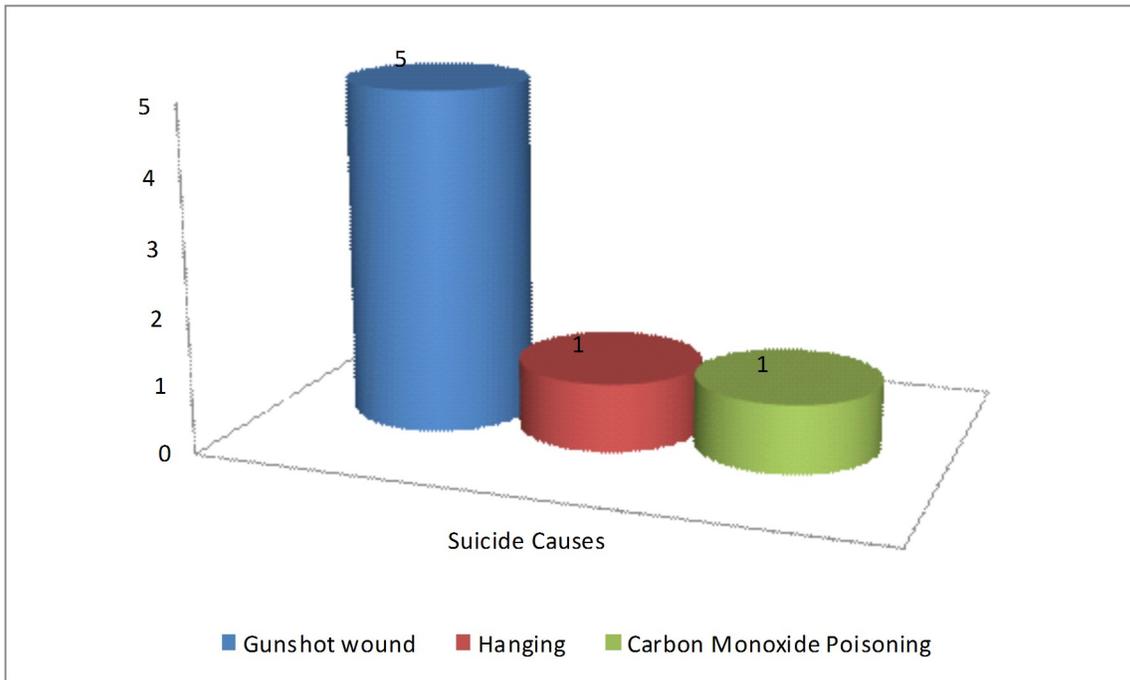


- Cancer
- Heart Disease
- CHF
- Renal Failure
- Kindey Failure
- Geriatric Demise
- Hepatitis
- Diabetes
- Aortic Aneurism
- Hypertension
- Fetal Demise
- COPD
- CVA
- AGS

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

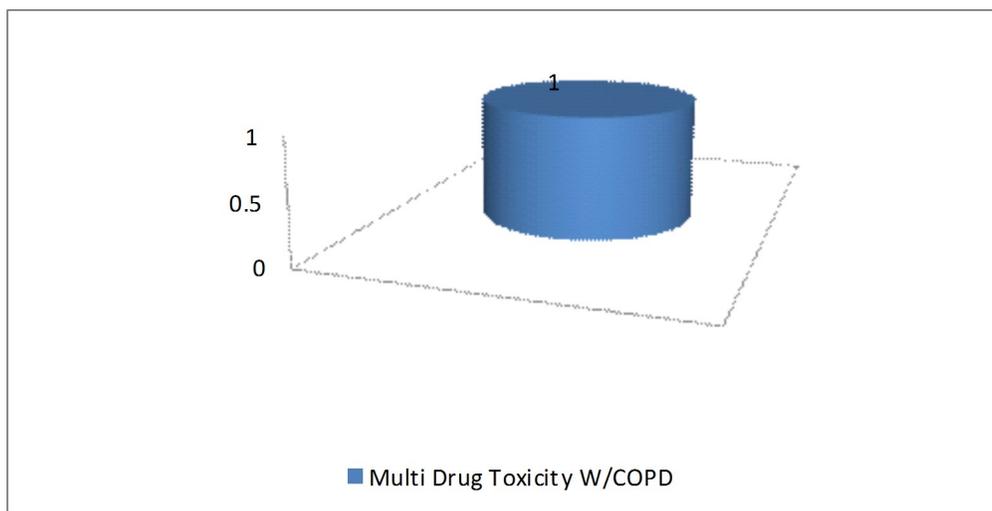
TOTAL: 51

SUICIDE

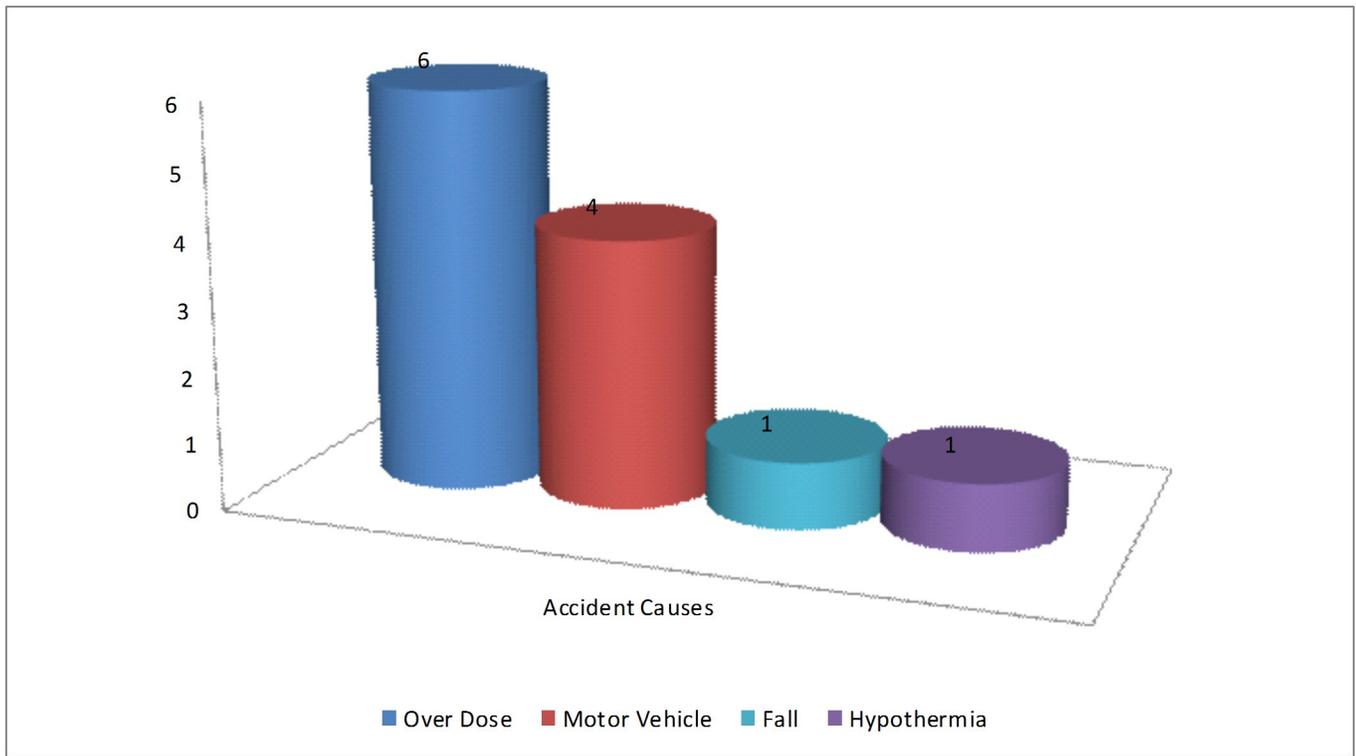


TOTAL:7

UNDETERMINED



ACCIDENTAL



PARK COUNTY IS NOT IMMUNE TO THE NATIONAL DRUG EPIDEMIC. DRUG OVER DOSES TOOK TOP COD IN THIS CATEGORY AND ALL WERE OPIOID RELATED.

TOTAL: 12

HOMICIDE

