



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Park County Coroners Office

David E Kintz Jr, BS, NRP, F-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 embrace 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 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 and reaccredited in 2020. 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, BS, NRP, F-ABMDI
CORONER

DON COMSTOCK, D-ABMDI
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

BONNIE GUZMAN, RN, D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

GENEVIEVE DITLEVSON D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

GENE STANLEY, PHD
SPECIAL 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 17,390 in 2020 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. Vacation rentals have dramatically increased the amount of visitors to our county.

Coroner Accomplishments 2021

With COVID causing a disturbance to everyone's life it also caused some disturbances to our goals. After much effort we were able to get everyone on the staff to a quality training in person. This was harder then in years past.

We took delivery of 4 Ferno power cots in late winter. These cots and loading systems have dramatically reduced the injury risk of our staff and improved the dignity of decedent removal from scenes.

The CARE Team maintained 15 volunteers and continued to support the families in person throughout the year. A fundraiser was held for the team on October 30, 2022 and was a great success, projects are being put together to utilize the funds.

Research continues at the Forensics Research Facility and is continuing to provide great information to forensic investigations at altitude.

Coroner Kintz served on a DOJ committee this summer to revise the national death investigation guidelines. This was a successful endeavor and this office was able to provide useful insight into the challenges of death investigation in a rural and wilderness setting.

This year was the busiest year on record for the Park County Coroners Office. This was 1 case more then the previous record year of 2020.

2022 goals

We continue to recover from the pandemic and will strive to continue that in 2022. With that said we are looking to embark on a more normal set of training programs that are being scheduled again. These include the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meetings in Seattle, International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners in Las Vegas and Colorado Forensic Canines, which this year will be hosted right here in Park County for the first time. Some of these are still seeing a lot of complicated restrictions but we are optimistic that they will succeed.

We are looking to conduct in person “Evenings with the Coroner” this year if possible. We will also provide a virtual option for at least one of those meetings.

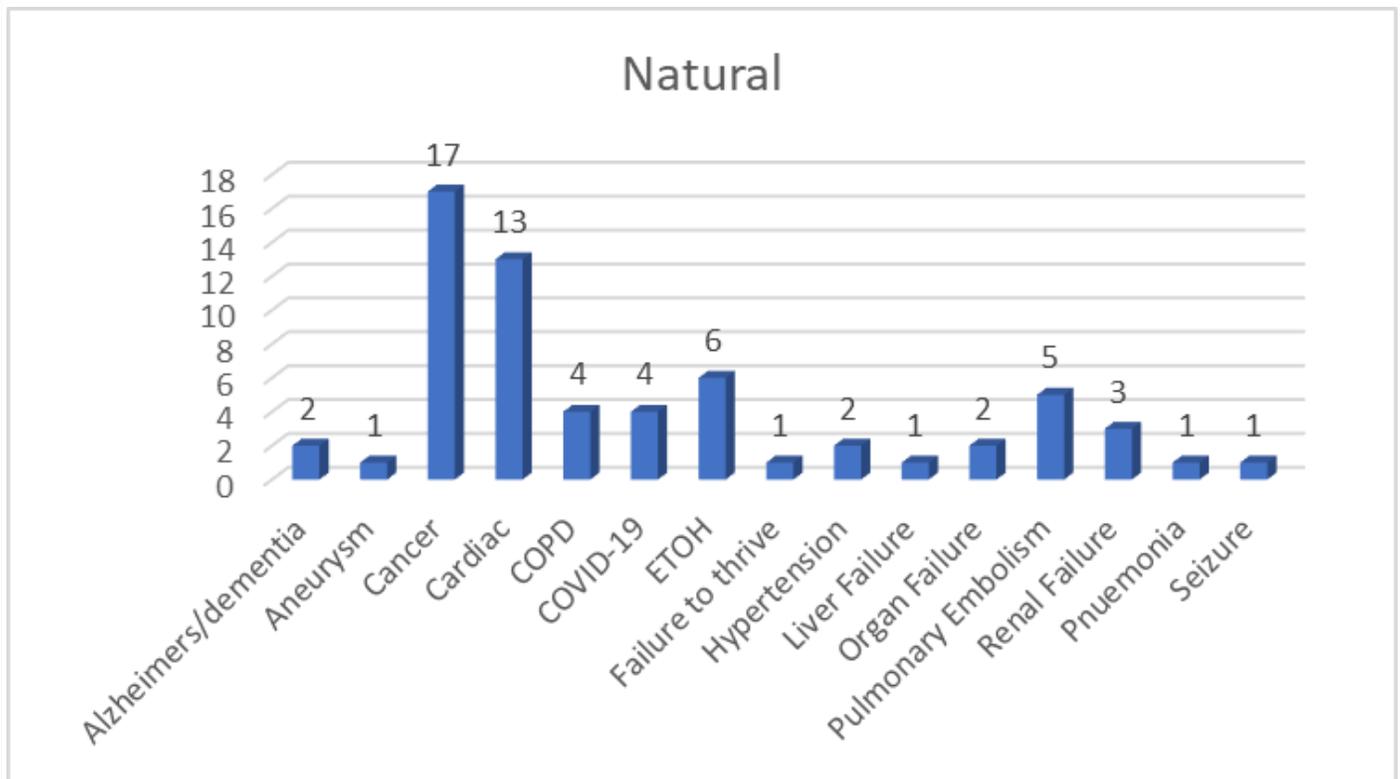
We are looking to be in the planning process this year for the future. This includes looking at the possibilities of a larger coroner facility and a temporary refrigeration unit.

2021 CASES

TOTAL CASES:	90
COVID:	4
WITH COVID:	2
SCENE RESPONSES:	61
HOSPICE:	26
AUTOPSIED CASES:	26
TOXICOLOGY CASES:	32
DECEASED TRANSPORTS:	60
MORGUE USED:	59
EXTERNAL EXAMS:	60
DONOR REFERRALS:	4
ORGAN DONORS:	1
TISSUE DONORS:	3
WHOLE BODY DONORS:	1
EXHUMATIONS:	0
UNIDENTIFIED:	0
UNCLAIMED:	0
MANNERS OF DEATH:	
NATURAL:	64
ACCIDENTAL:	16
HOMICIDE:	2
SUICIDE:	6
UNDETERMINED:	0
OTHER:	2

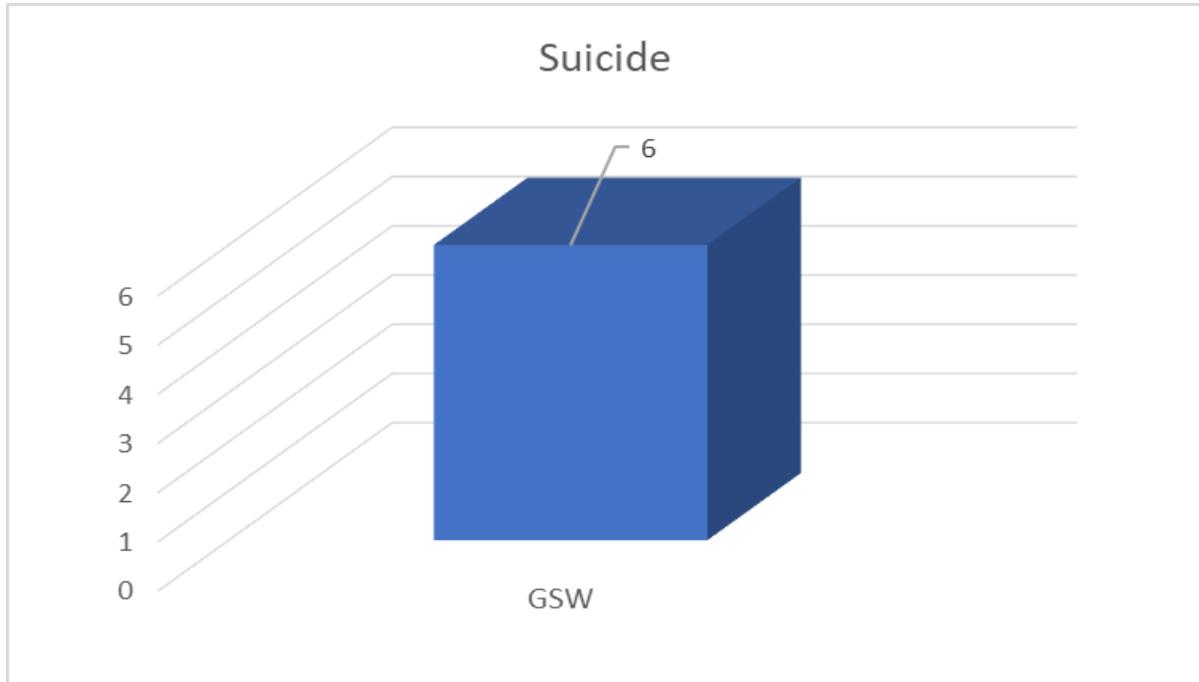
CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER NATURAL

TOTAL : 64



SUICIDE

TOTAL: 6

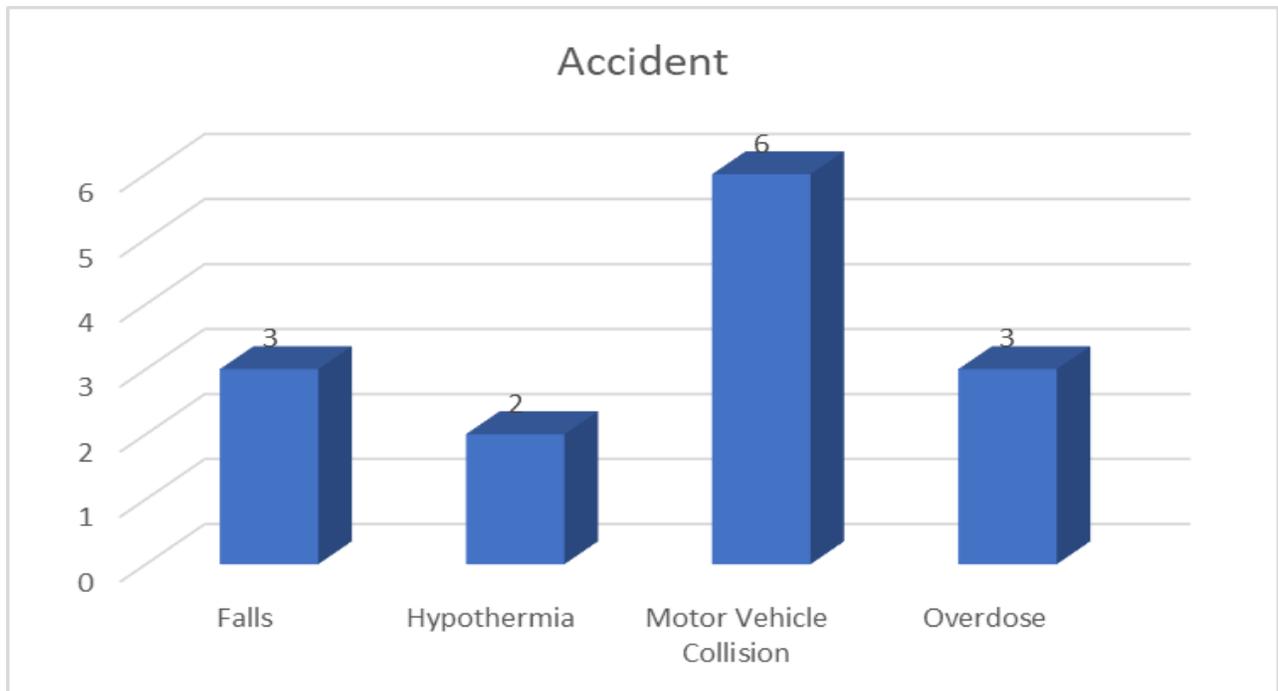


UN-DETERMINED

TOTAL: 0

ACCIDENTAL

TOTAL: 16



HOMICIDE

TOTAL: 2

