



2015 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

DON COMSTOCK, D-ABMDI
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

JIM ELDRIDGE, D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

BONNIE GUZMAN, 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 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 Accomplishments

IN 2015 WE APPLIED FOR ACCREDITATION THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS. WE WERE AUDITED BY CERTIFIED INVESTIGATORS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA AND COLORADO AND WERE AWARDED THE ACCREDITATION IN JULY OF 2015. WE BECAME THE 25TH OFFICE IN THE WORLD ACCREDITED BY THIS INSTITUTION AND ONE OF ONLY 70 MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION OFFICES ACCREDITED BY ANY ACCREDITING BODY IN THE WORLD. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST STANDARD IN THIS FIELD OF THE FORENSIC SCIENCES.

WE ARE ALSO PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT PART-TIME DEPUTY DON COMSTOCK HAS NOW BEEN PROMOTED TO CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER. THIS POSITION IS FULL TIME IN AN EFFORT TO BETTER SERVE THE CITIZENS OF PARK COUNTY. WE ALSO TOOK DELIVERY OF A 2015 CHEVY SILVERADO TO REPLACE OUR 25 YEAR OLD GMC. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF VITAL STATISTICS LAUNCHED THEIR NEW ELECTRONIC DEATH CERTIFICATE SYSTEM AND PARK COUNTY HAS BEEN INVOLVED FROM THE BEGINNING IN WORKING GROUPS AND TESTING OF THE SYSTEM TO GET THIS TECHNOLOGY UP AND RUNNING. WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN A DIGITAL FINGERPRINT SCANNER AS WELL THIS YEAR AS A TOOL TO IDENTIFY THE DECEASED QUICKER.

2016 GOALS

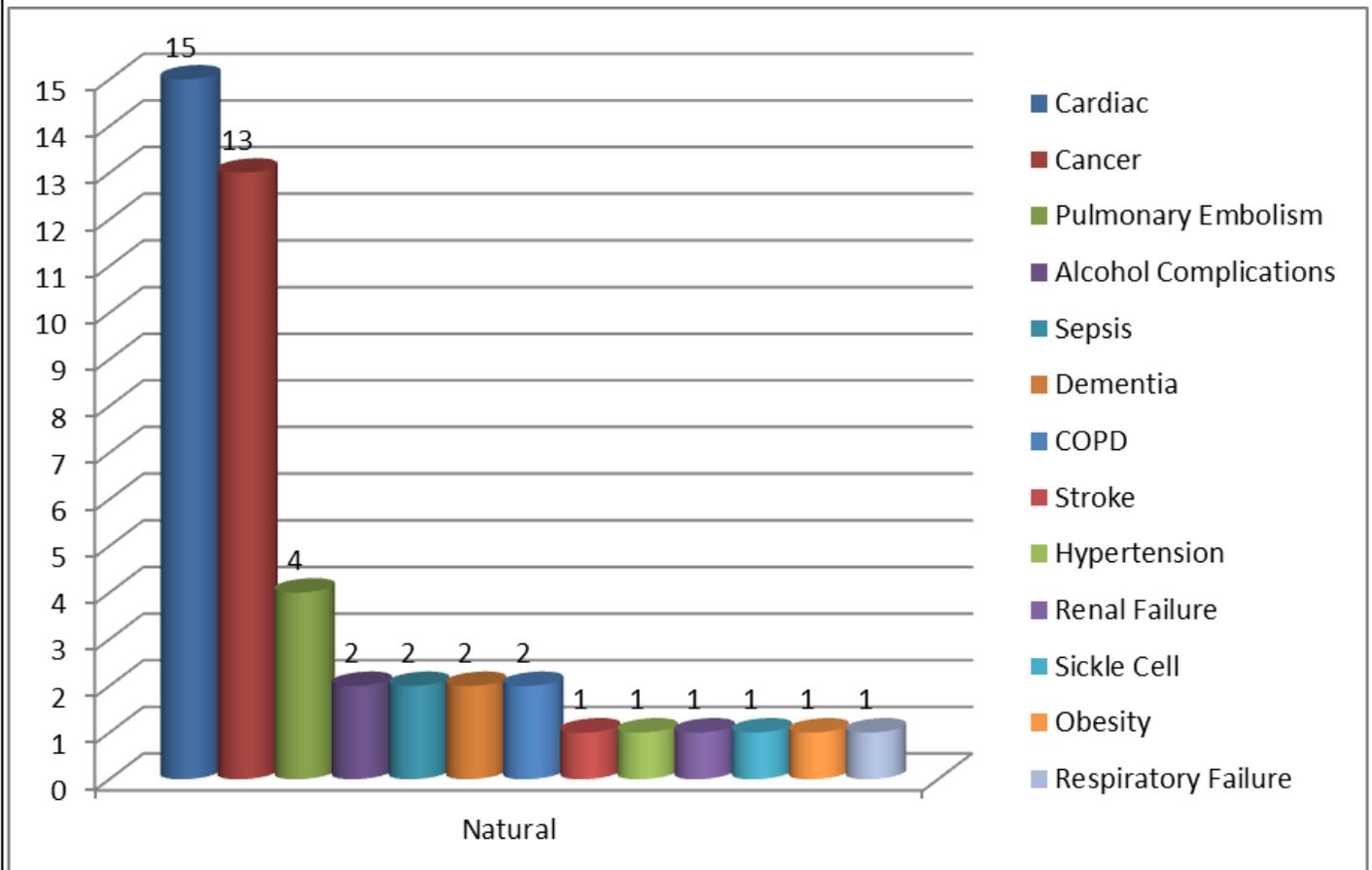
IN 2016 WE WILL BE COMPLETING THE CERTIFICATION OF DEPUTY CORONER GUZMAN. AS PART OF THE JOB DUTIES OF THE NEW CHIEF DEPUTY WE ARE ALSO CURRENTLY APPLYING FOR FOUR GRANTS TO IMPROVE OUR EQUIPMENT AND BRING IN SPECIFIC EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES. WE HAVE STARTED AND WILL CONTINUE A DISCUSSION WITH REGIONAL CORONERS TO DEVELOP A PLAN AND AGREEMENT OF HOW TO OBTAIN A FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST IN THE FUTURE. MANY COLORADO COUNTIES ARE FACING RETIREMENT OF THEIR LONG TIME FORENSIC DOCTORS AND WE NEED TO HAVE A PLAN IN PLACE BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.

2015 CASES

TOTAL CASES:	67
SCENE RESPONSES:	49
HOSPICE:	16
AUTOPSIED CASES:	18
TOXICOLOGY CASES:	30
DECEASED TRANSPORTS:	43
MORGUE USED:	43
EXTERNAL EXAMS:	49
DONOR REFERRALS:	6
ORGAN DONORS:	0
TISSUE DONORS:	6
WHOLE BODY DONORS:	2
EXHUMATIONS:	0
UNIDENTIFIED:	0
UNCLAIMED:	0
MANNERS OF DEATH:	
NATURAL:	46
ACCIDENTAL:	9
HOMICIDE:	1
SUICIDE:	9
UNDETERMINED:	2

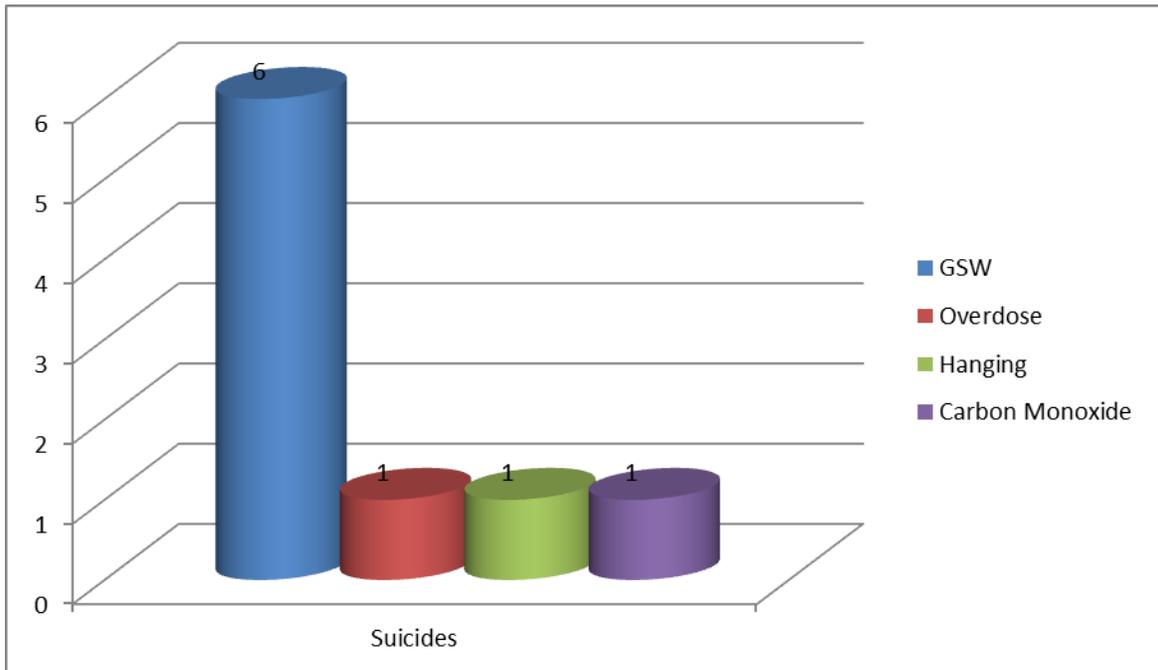
2015 WAS THE THIRD HIGHEST CASE LOAD IN RECENT HISTORY FOR THE
PARK COUNTY CORONERS OFFICE.

CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER NATURAL

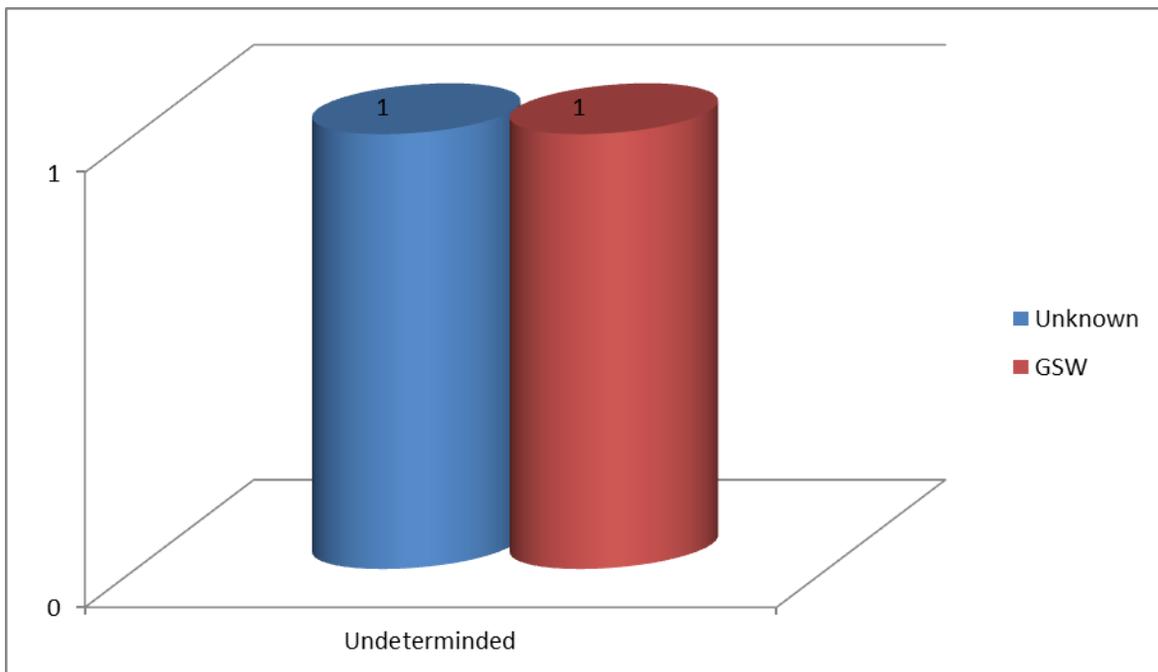


CARDIAC CONDITIONS WERE THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH IN PARK COUNTY IN 2015. PULMONARY EMBOLISMS WERE AN AREA OF INCREASE PARTLY ASSOCIATED WITH PREVIOUS EXTENDED TRAVEL.

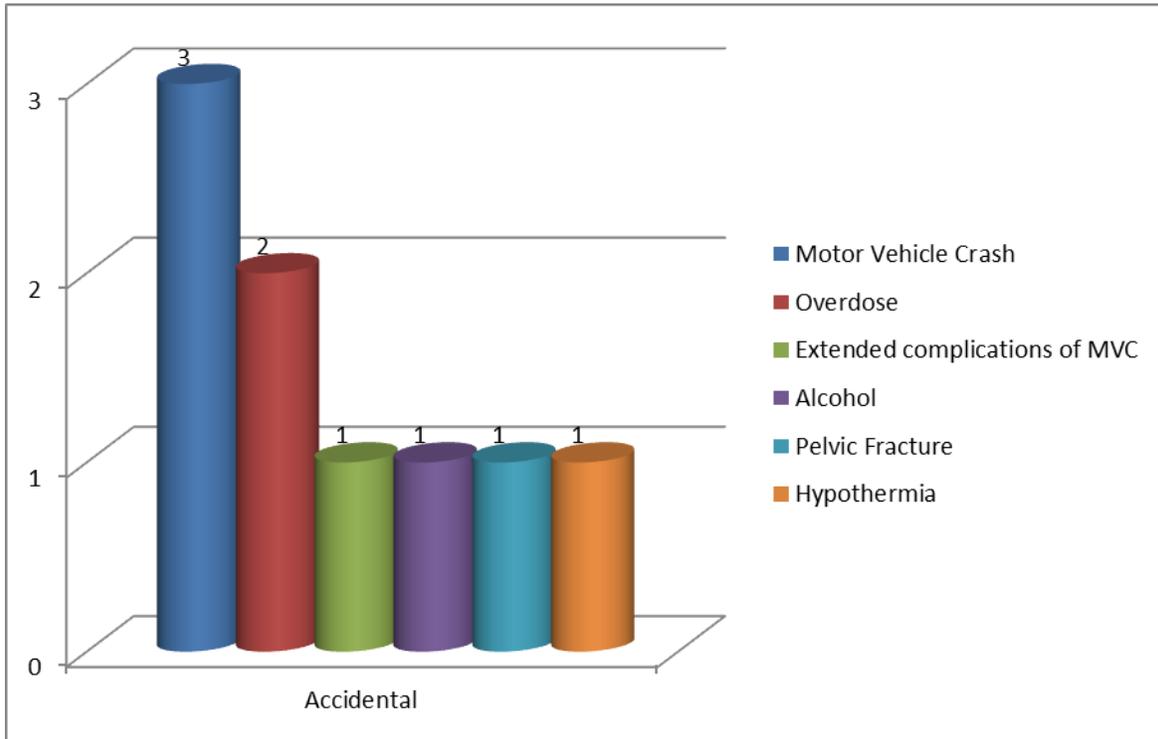
SUICIDE



UNDETERMINED



ACCIDENTAL



ACCIDENTAL DEATHS WERE AT A THREE YEAR LOW. THIS WAS LEAD BY THE LOWEST NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES IN YEARS. THIS WAS WHILE THE STATE OF COLORADO AND NATIONAL SAW A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES.

HOMICIDE

