



2019 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 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 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, BS, NRP, F-ABMDI
CORONER

DON COMSTOCK, D-ABMDI
CHIEF DEPUTY CORONER

BONNIE GUZMAN, RN, D-ABMDI
DEPUTY CORONER

GENEVIEVE DITLEVSON
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 18,556 in 2018 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 2019

2019 brought unique challenges and continued growth to the Coroners Office. We hired a new Deputy Coroner, Genevieve Ditlevson, who we are very excited about for the future.

In May, Dr Ben Galloway who has been serving Park County since 1972 retired. We wished him well in his retirement and participated in a retirement celebration along with Clear Creek and Summit Counties. Park County gave Dr. Galloway a Golden Scalpel in recognition of his incredible 47 years of service.

With Dr Galloways retirement we have chosen El Paso County to conduct our autopsies. They employ four Board Certified Forensic Pathologists and an in-house toxicology service. Their facility is state of the art and the price for autopsies is very reasonable especially for the quality of service they will give our citizens.

In June we conducted a mass fatality full scale exercise on Hwy 285 near Como. Four Coroners Offices as well as seventeen other agencies took part in the exercise. This exercise proved greatly beneficial for training, multiple agency cooperation and future incident planning. We also had DOT 3D (the vendor we purchased our crime scene scanner from) out from Boston test a new forensic scanner that had not yet been released to the market.

Coroner Accomplishments 2019- Continued

We took delivery of a new FORD F-150 built for service to the Coroners Office. We also took delivery of 3 (new to us) cots to continue to improve our ability to transport the deceased with respect and safety for our staff.

Coroner David Kintz passed his Boards and became a Board Certified Death Investigator with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation. One of only 17 in Colorado at the time.

Our CARE team is our team of volunteers that respond to deaths to support the survivors family and friends in their time of loss. They responded to some particularly difficult cases this year and were amazing in the support they provided. The Cutthroat Café hosted our first ever CARE Team Fundraiser on Halloween and we raised over \$1,000!!! Our CARE Team boasted 19 volunteers by the end of 2019.

Work continued with Colorado Mesa University to prepare for human study at the Forensic research station. Research was accomplished that will be presented at the American Academy of Forensic Science Meetings in Anaheim, California in February by Coroner Kintz and Anthropologist Baigent.

Coroner Accomplishments 2019- Continued

This year we began teaching narcan classes for all local law enforcement to carry in the field to save people from an opioid overdose. With the medical backgrounds of our staff and continued public awareness and support roles we embrace it seemed like a natural fit for us to help with this. The Park County Sheriffs Office, Fairplay PD and Alma PD have all been through the training and carry Narcan to respond to an opioid overdose. As of the end of the year 1 life was saved by a Sheriffs deputy. This life saved shows us a how important this program is and we will continue to support it in the coming years.

We did have one unidentified case found at a back country campsite this summer. We are hoping to have an identification on this decedent by mid 2020 using DNA we have sent to The University of North Texas.



2020 goals

2020 has many exciting goals beginning with achieving re-accreditation Through the IACME. We are aiming to have this 5 year re-accreditation audit completed in the spring.

Social Media is another goal we are looking to harness in the new year. We plan to use Facebook and Twitter to expand our outreach to the public for press releases and general public information. Please like us and follow us!!!! We plan to address topics that our citizens bring to us as well as issues important to the community and forensic science.

The Evening with the Coroner will be held this year in Lake George, Fairplay and Shawnee. We are looking to have dates in May.

Deputy Ditlevson will be working to accomplish her ABMDI registry certification.

We are looking to add to our CARE Team trainings and spread them throughout the county and expand the topics of training. We also plan on conducting more fundraisers to help fund the needs of our great volunteers.

2020 Goals– Continued

We are looking to upgrade our evidence storage capability by taking delivery of a new evidence locker early in the year.

We are looking to host the FBI to teach a fingerprint class in Fairplay to our staff as well as other local agencies at no local cost. This class we are hoping to have in early spring.

Deputy Ditlevson will be working with our partners in the Office of Emergency Management to organize a table-top mass fatality exercise. That all county agencies can participate in.



2019 Mass Fatality Exercise B. Golden

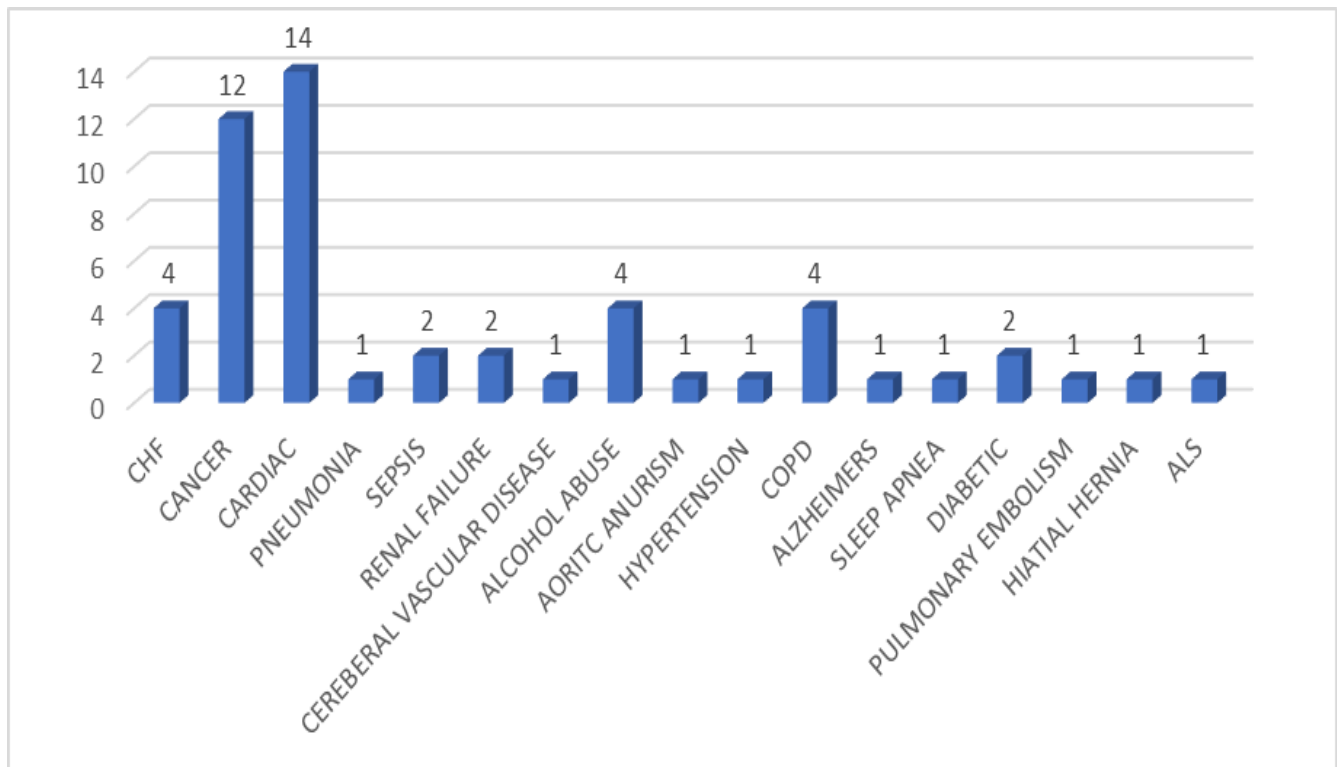
2019 CASES

TOTAL CASES:	84
SCENE RESPONSES:	65
HOSPICE:	16
AUTOPSIED CASES:	30
TOXICOLOGY CASES:	44
DECEASED TRANSPORTS:	61
MORGUE USED:	61
EXTERNAL EXAMS:	64
DONOR REFERRALS:	4
ORGAN DONORS:	0
TISSUE DONORS:	2
WHOLE BODY DONORS:	3
EXHUMATIONS:	1
UNIDENTIFIED:	1
UNCLAIMED:	0
MANNERS OF DEATH:	
NATURAL:	53
ACCIDENTAL:	14
HOMICIDE:	1
SUICIDE:	14
UNDETERMINED:	1

84 CASES MAKES 2019 THE 3RD BUSIEST YEAR FOR THE PARK COUNTY
CORONERS OFFICE.

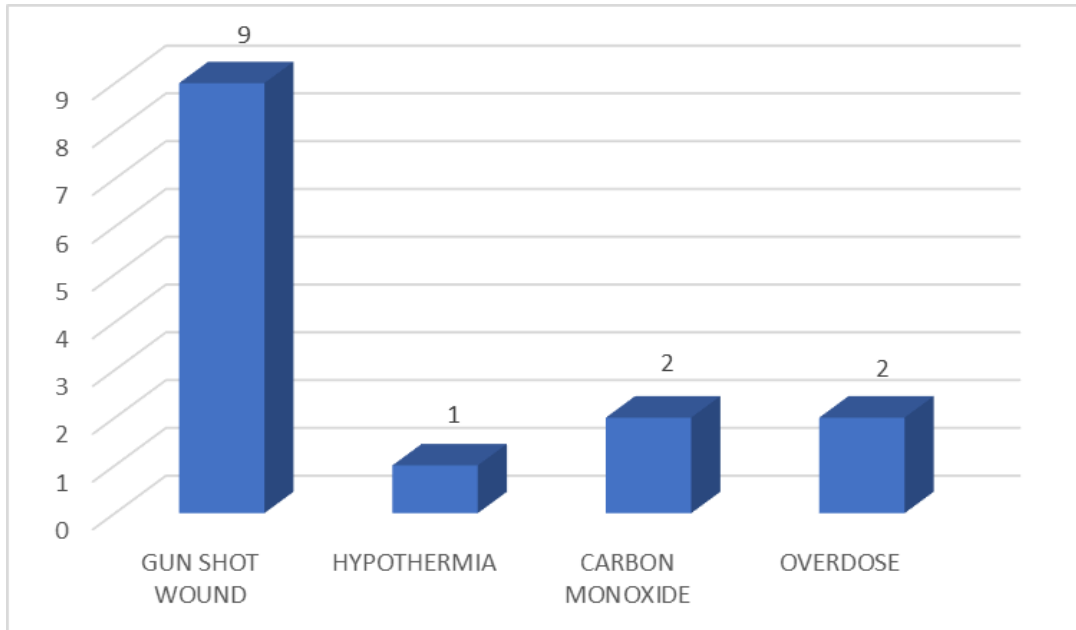
CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER NATURAL

TOTAL : 53



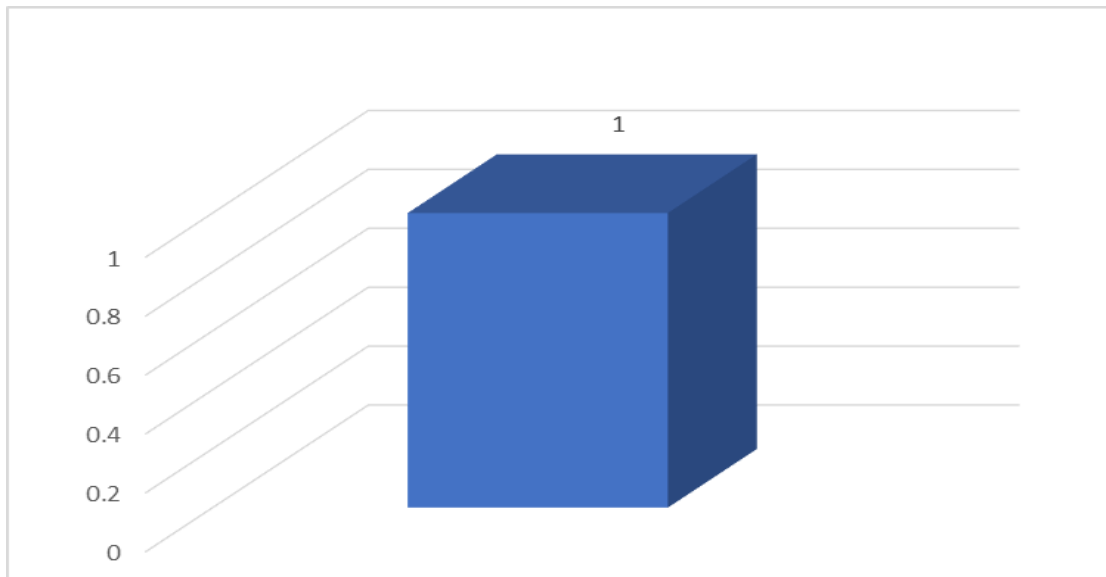
SUICIDE

TOTAL: 14



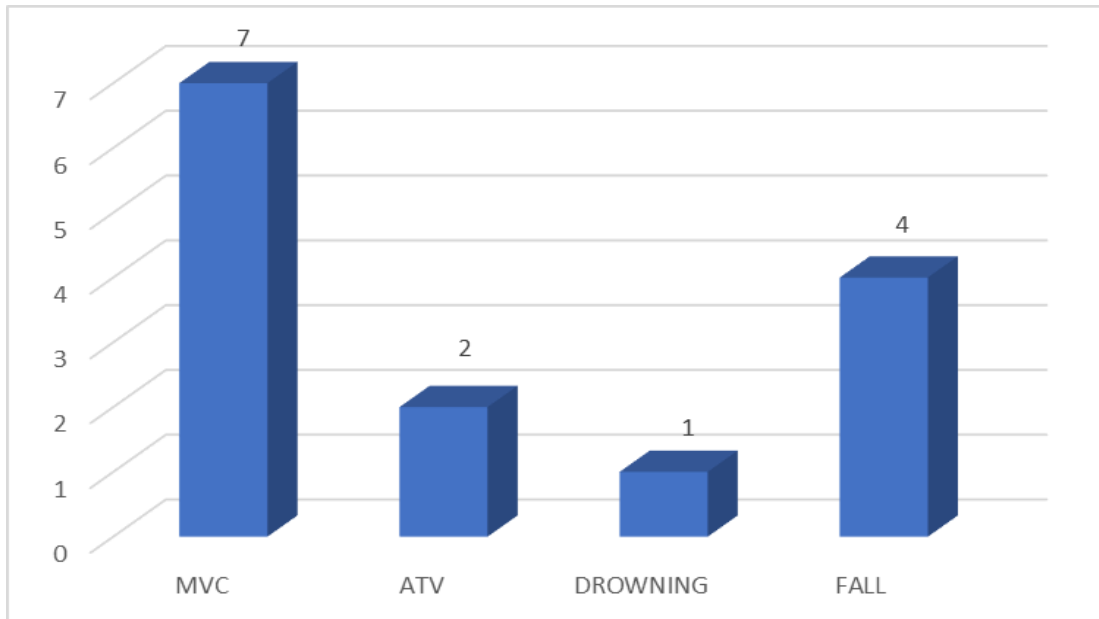
UNDETERMINED

TOTAL: 1



ACCIDENTAL

TOTAL: 14



HOMICIDE

TOTAL: 1

