



# 2018 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 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

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 17,905 in 2017 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 2018

This year has brought peaks and valleys in case flow which have made for some very busy times.

We said good luck to our long time Senior Deputy Coroner Jim Eldridge who retired on Thanksgiving. We wish him all the best in his new adventures.

The Coroner CARE team has shined this year. We end the year with 15 great volunteers whose compassion for our survivors is unmatched.

The “Evening with the Coroner” meetings were held once again with great questions being asked and a lot of education provided. We always learn from the public too!!

The scavenger research began at the Forensic Research Facility in Park County. Colorado Mesa University and our staff spent a significant number of hours on this project. The information obtained will have a tremendous benefit to the forensic field.

We obtained a grant from CDPHE and with it purchased a DOT3 scene scanner. We are the first Coroner office in the country to be using this technology according to the vendor. This technology will allow us to create a 3D image of our scenes with measurements. We are very excited about this new tool. We also purchased new pagers and cameras this year to keep our technology up to date.

## 2019 goals

2019 will be a year of growth as we look to add a Deputy Coroner and expand our High School and College education outreach. We have had great success over the years and we are now working with high school students doing career projects and capstone research assignments.

We plan to, once again, host the “Evening with the Coroner” and change up the locations through the county. We are looking at doing three this year in June.

Dr Galloway announced his retirement for June 1. We will be working through the process of a change in our forensic autopsy services. We wish Dr Galloway all the best in his retirement after decades of service.

Coroner Kintz will be looking to achieve an advanced certification of ABMDI-Fellow which is a holdover goal from 2018.

Chief Deputy Comstock will be coordinating a second attempt (2018’s was cancelled by the Weston Fire) of a full scale mass fatality exercise with our partners in law enforcement, fire, EMS and our neighboring counties.

We will be spending additional time this year preparing for our reaccreditation audit in early 2020.

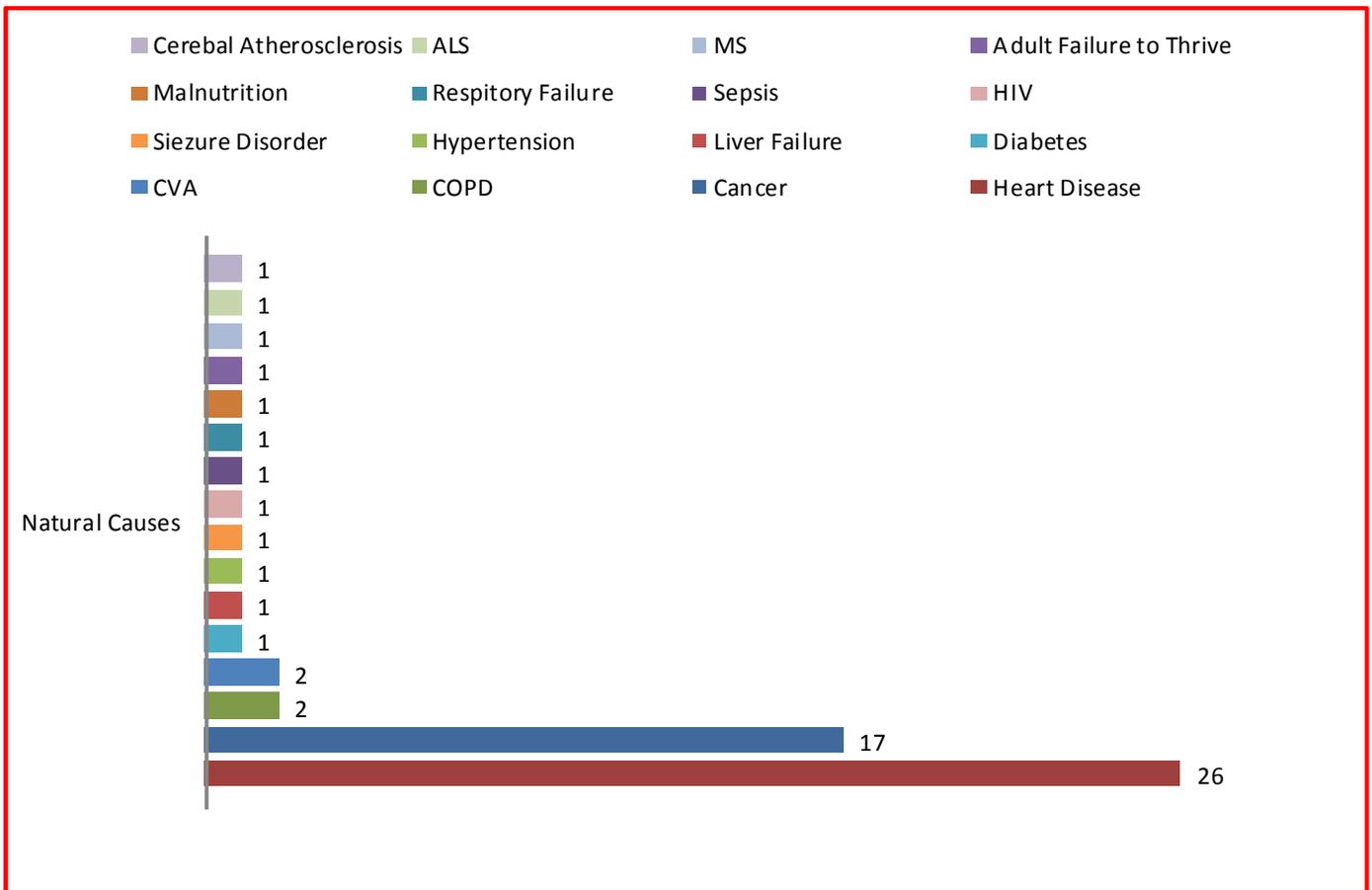
# 2018 CASES

TOTAL CASES:	85
SCENE RESPONSES:	57
HOSPICE:	25
AUTOPSIED CASES:	30
TOXICOLOGY CASES:	35
DECEASED TRANSPORTS:	56
MORGUE USED:	56
EXTERNAL EXAMS:	55
DONOR REFERRALS:	2
ORGAN DONORS:	0
TISSUE DONORS:	2
WHOLE BODY DONORS:	3
EXHUMATIONS:	0
UNIDENTIFIED:	0
UNCLAIMED:	0
MANNERS OF DEATH:	
NATURAL	59
ACCIDENTAL:	12
HOMICIDE:	1
SUICIDE:	12
UNDETERMINED:	1

2018 BECAME THE SECOND BUSIEST ON MODERN RECORD.

# CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER NATURAL

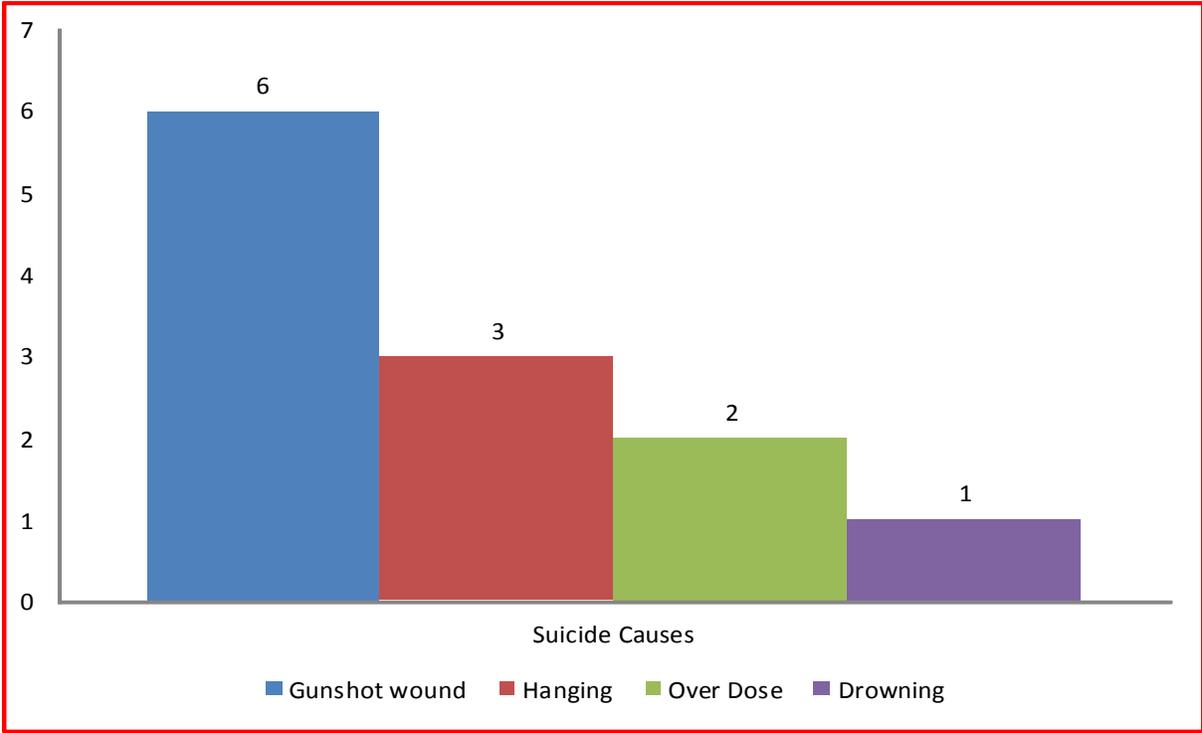
TOTAL : 59



HEART DISEASE WAS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF DEATH FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2 YEARS. CANCER LEAD THE LAST TWO YEARS.

# SUICIDE

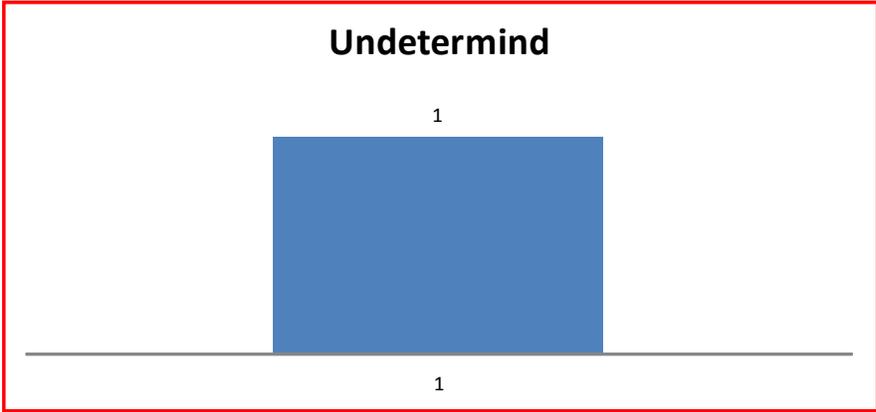
TOTAL: 12



2018 HAD THE MOST SUICIDES SINCE 2010 WHEN THERE WERE 15.

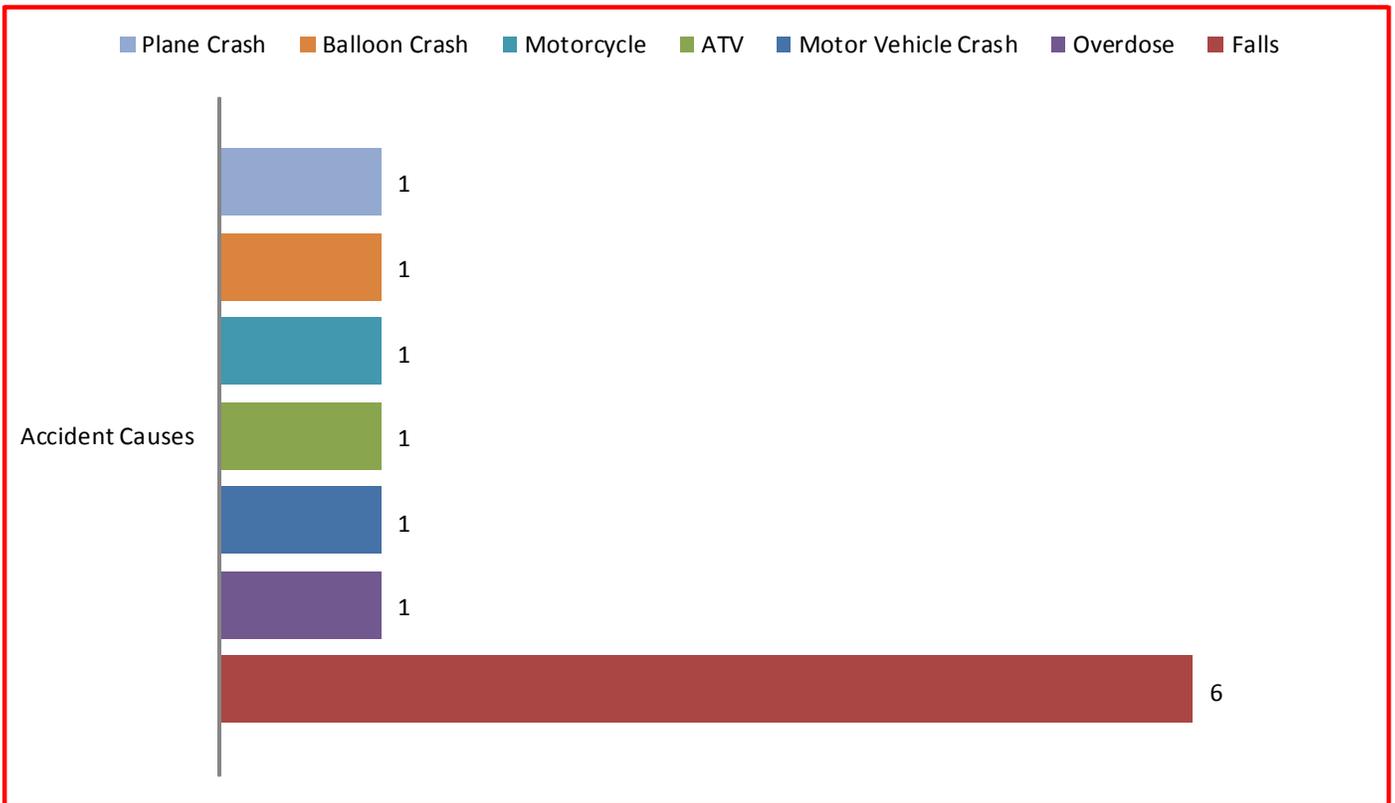
# UNDETERMINED

TOTAL: 1



# ACCIDENTAL

TOTAL: 12



# HOMICIDE

TOTAL: 1

