



2022 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

12 CARE TEAM VOLUNTEERS

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 2022

This year was a busy year at the Coroner Office running a record number of deaths. We worked 112 cases which is a 24% increase over our previous record.

We maintained staff numbers as we did through COVID and that is a real blessing for the office. Our staff continuously strived to meet the increased demands that 2022 delivered.

In June we identified our last unidentified case in the county. This case was found in 2020 and we used Forensic Genealogy to identify him as a missing man from Virginia.

The CARE Team maintained 12 volunteers and continued to support families in person throughout the year. A fundraiser was held for the team on October 30, 2022 and was a great success. We purchased uniform winter coats for our volunteers so they can stay warm and easily be identifiable on cold winter scenes.

Research continues at the Forensics Research Facility and is continuing to provide great information to forensic investigations at altitude. Our anthropologist wrapped up her decertation portion of research with PhD status soon!!

Coroner Kintz participated on a panel for the National Violent Death Reporting System in May and also became Treasure of the IACME in July both of which are ways to continue advocating for rural coroners nationwide.

2023 goals

We have several trainings scheduled that will bring good advancement and perspective to our office. Coroner Kintz will be presenting on Forensic Genealogy at the American Academy of Forensic Science.

We are preparing for a mass fatality training exercise we hope to hold this summer. Our goal is to have a full scale event with county and surrounding agencies. To prepare for this we will also be hosting a Mass Fatality training class open to all surrounding agencies in May.

We would like to expand the number of CARE Team volunteers as well as advance their training. There maybe an opportunity for an outside training for them which we are eager to take advantage of.

We will be again working with our assisting agencies to do trainings and make sure scenes and families are treated in the most appropriate manner.

We are looking to expand our presence on Social Media. We have a goal to post more items of interest through the year.

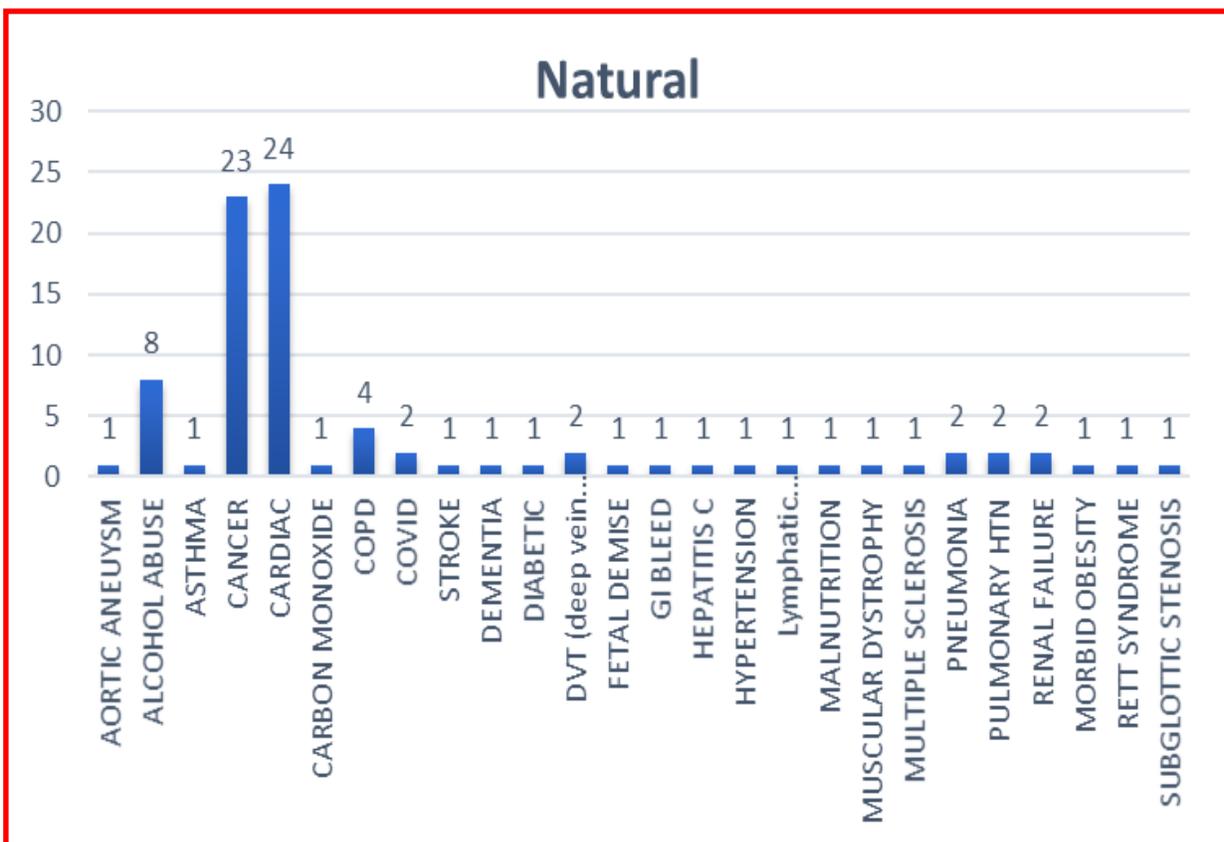
We are pursuing a federal grant to bring advanced equipment to the office using opioid funds.

2022 CASES

TOTAL CASES:	112
COVID:	2
WITH COVID:	1
SCENE RESPONSES:	77
HOSPICE:	30
AUTOPSIED CASES:	26
TOXICOLOGY CASES:	41
DECEASED TRANSPORTS:	73
MORGUE USED:	73
EXTERNAL EXAMS:	77
MARIJUANA USE	11
DONOR REFERRALS:	1
ORGAN DONORS:	0
TISSUE DONORS:	1
WHOLE BODY DONORS:	3
EXHUMATIONS:	0
UNIDENTIFIED:	0
UNCLAIMED:	0
MANNERS OF DEATH:	
NATURAL:	87
ACCIDENTAL:	18
HOMICIDE:	0
SUICIDE:	7
UNDETERMINED:	0
OTHER:	0

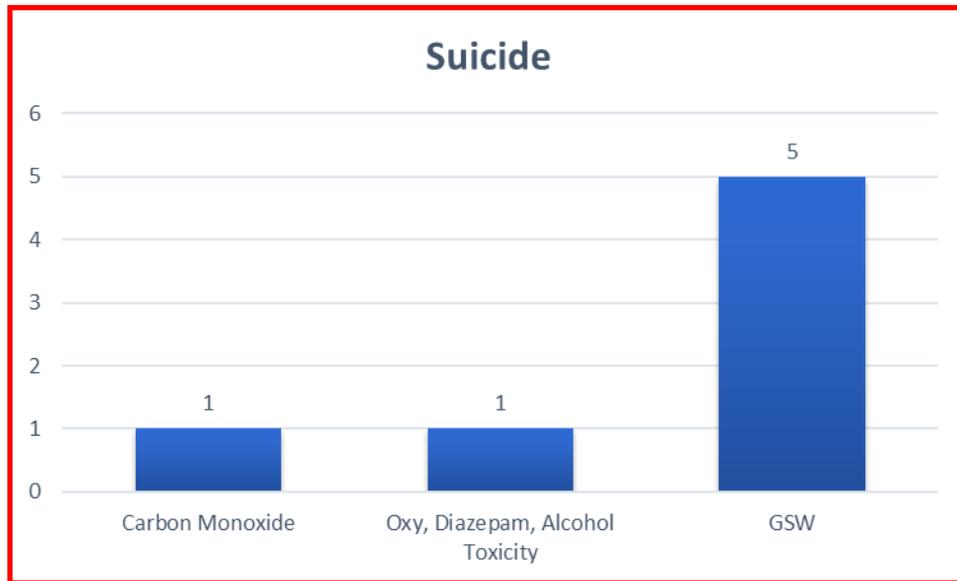
CAUSE OF DEATH BY MANNER NATURAL

TOTAL : 87



SUICIDE

TOTAL: 7



UN-DETERMINED

TOTAL: 0

ACCIDENTAL

TOTAL: 18



HOMICIDE

TOTAL: 0