



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Park County Coroner's Office

David E Kintz Jr., BS, NRP, F-AMBDI, CORONER

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Park County Coroners Office is to provide thorough death investigations of 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 & 2025. 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
Coroner
BS, NRP, F-ABMDI



Don Comstock
Chief Deputy Coroner
D-ABMDI



Bonnie Guzman
Deputy Coroner
RN, D-ABMDI



Bill Landon
Deputy Coroner
D-ABMDI



Lea Hamner
Deputy Coroner
D-ABMDI

Accredited by:



**15 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 18,316 in 2024 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.

COLLABORATIONS



SPARC
A KBR PROGRAM



Donor
Alliance[®]
Organ & Tissue Donation



AutismBrainNet

Coroner Accomplishments 2025

2025 brought lots of achievements that we are proud of. First among them is that we passed our re-accreditation audit in May! This is our 3rd audit and the requirements get tougher every time. Our team did a stellar job as we have achieved full reaccreditation through 2030!

In February, Coroner Kintz spoke at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences about local jurisdictions working closer with academia to bring advancements in Forensic Science. This talk focused on the unique relationship between Park County and Colorado Mesa University at the Forensic research facility (TB40).

In June, we conducted a research burn with Colorado Mesa University to study the effect of fire on human remains. The University collected priceless information and will be drafting the results over the next year. We know the information gained will help countless agencies in fire death investigations for decades to come.

Over the summer we hosted an intern who worked tirelessly on digitizing our older coroner records which will be an ongoing project for a couple of years. She also spent many hours assisting on cases and working on streamlining processes. We also hosted seven other CMU interns to give them experience in Death Investigation.

We applied for numerous grants to expand our current facility. We have outgrown our current building and are in need of expansion to keep up with case load and current forensic practices. In December, we took delivery of a temporary cooler to attempt to alleviate our lack of space. We are determined to make this temporary!

In July, we trained at the International Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners conference to keep up with all the latest in forensic sciences. Our staff is required to take ABMDI approved training every year to maintain our certifications.

The CARE team had a busy year bringing in training from numerous places such as Denver Coroners office, Donor Alliance, SPARC Brain Donation and Red Cross. The CARE team finished the year with 15 volunteers. We brought Lisa Meade on board as the CARE Team Lead with Molly Hakes and Cindy MacArthur as assistant leads. We have the best team of volunteers!

We solidified our relationship with SPARC Brain Donation and Austin Brain. These are specialty brain research organizations that we have a great working relationship with so families have options to have their loved ones conditions contribute to future medical developments.

We launched a digital referral program with Donor Alliance to streamline getting more Organ and Tissue donors. We strongly support Organ and Tissue donation and encourage everyone to consider being a donor!

We also have expanded our information dissemination through social media. We are addressing not only our case work but health and social issues affecting deaths in our country and region. Follow us!



@Park County Coroners Office



@pccoroner

Goals

We have applied for two grants that we will be waiting for notification in 2026. One is a federal grant to finalize plans for a facility expansion, and one is a state opioid grant to add a position for three years to coordinate the CARE Team to support families and especially bring resources for families of addition that lose a loved one. We are very hopeful!

We hope to replace two of our aging trucks to contribute to serve our community.

We will continually work to find ways to get a facility expansion so we can continue to operate.

We are exploring some enhanced ideas for training for the CARE Team. We are also looking to introduce some more resources for the families we serve. Stay tuned!

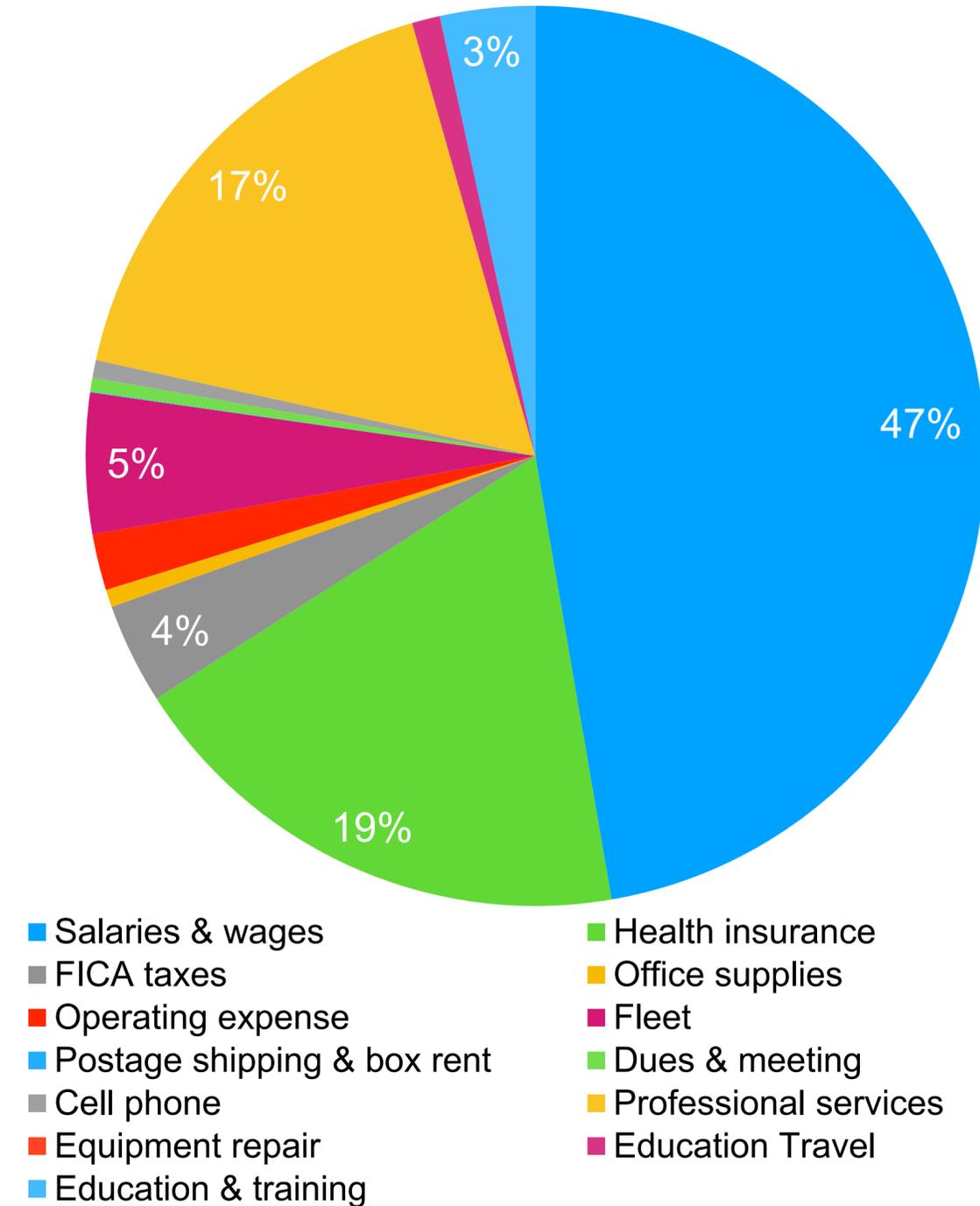
In the face of an 11% budget reduction, we will be working diligently to find ways to save money so we can continue to do the necessary work. We have working hard for years to get the most out of the little money we have. We strongly believe in excellent training and top of the line practitioners to make sure every decedent has their story told. We have price shopped for 15 years all the equipment we use in the office. That means we didn't have a lot of wiggle room. However, even with the challenge we are determined to continue to conduct top notch death investigations. On that we will not compromise.

2025 ANNUAL BUDGET

Salaries & wages	187,310
Health insurance	73,892
FICA taxes	14,329
Office supplies	2,500
Operating expense	8,000
Fleet	20,000
Postage shipping & box rent	100
Dues & meeting	2,000
Cell phone	2,500
Professional services	68,000
Education Travel	4,000
Education & Training	13,500
Debt service - principal	33,265
Debt service - interest	1,065
Scholarship Reimbursement	-8,646

TOTAL

\$430,461



2025 CASE OVERVIEW

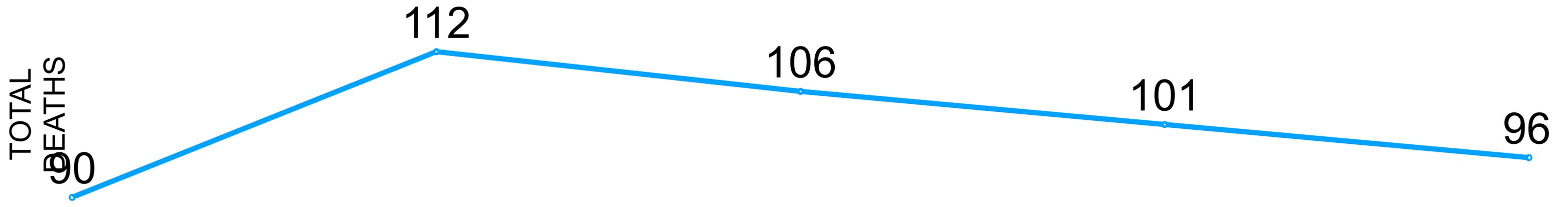
TOTAL	96
Alcohol involved	8
With covid	0
Scene resonse	72
Hospice	22
Autopsied cases	37
Toxicology cases	41
Deceased transported	73
Morgue used	73
External exams	73
Marijuana use	12
Organ doners	2
Tissue doners	5
Whole body doners	4
Exhumations	0
Unidentified	0
Unclaimed	0
Death notifications	10

2025 Case Data Analysis

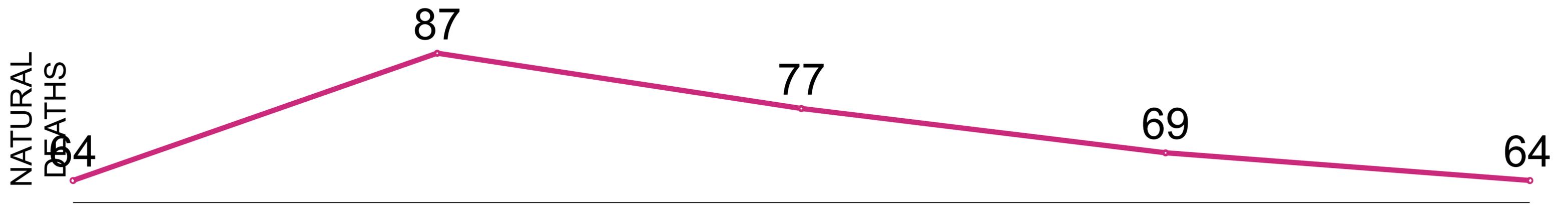
During CY25, a total of 96 deaths were reported to PCCO with was a **-5%** decrease from the previous calendar year

Total Cases Accepted	96	-5% vs 2024
Total Scene Response	72	-8.7% vs 2024
Total Autopsied	37	+13.5% vs 2024
Total Toxicology	41	0% vs 2024
Morgue Intakes	73	-6.5% vs 2024
Death Notifications	10	-10% vs 2024

ANNUAL TRENDS IN DEATHS REPORTED



Natural Deaths continue to be leading county MOD



2021

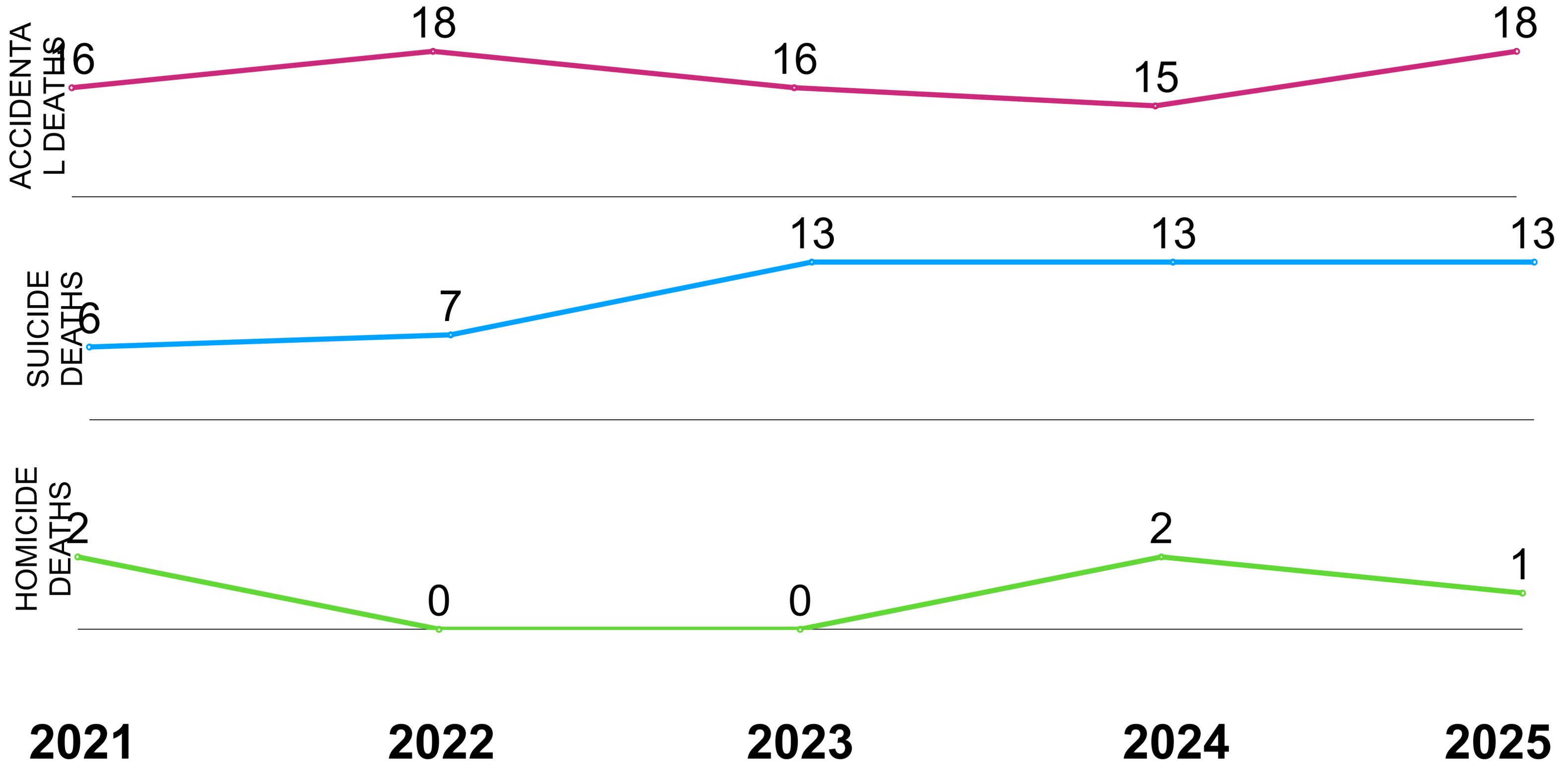
2022

2023

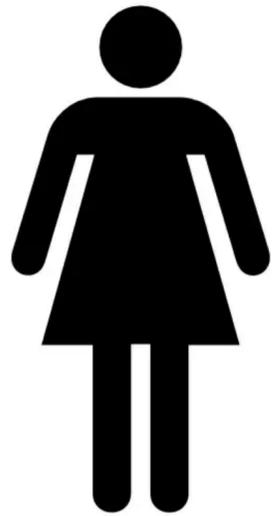
2024

2025

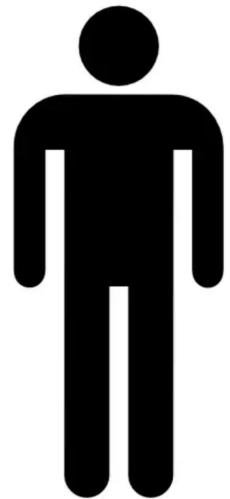
ANNUAL TRENDS IN DEATHS REPORTED



Demographic Distribution

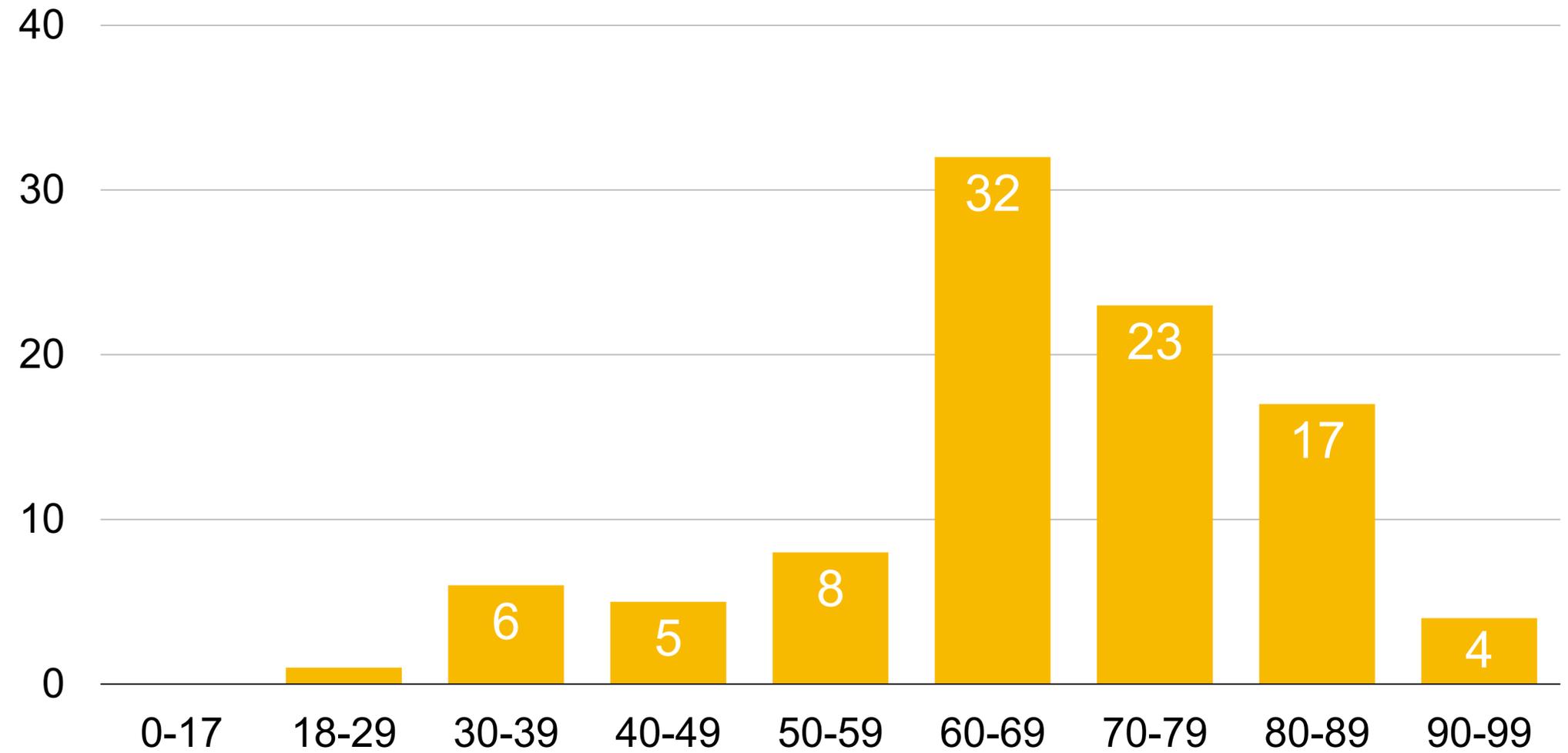


29 females
30%



67 males
70%

Age Bracket of Decedents



2025 Manner of Death Case Summary

In CY25, Natural Deaths remained the highest category accounting for 61% of the total, which is a slight decrease (68%) vs 2024. Accidents increased 20% (15%) vs 2024.

Suicides increased remained the exact same, accidents decreased by -20% and homicide by -50%.

102 (2024) vs. 96 (2025)
-6% vs LY

In Custody/LE: 0
Minors (0-17): 0

2025 MOD

MOD	96 TOTAL
Natural	64
Accident	18
Suicide	13
Homicide	1
Undetermined	0

NATURAL TOP 3:

- 20/96 Cardiac
- 11/96 Cancer
- 8/96 COPD

ACCIDENT TOP 3:

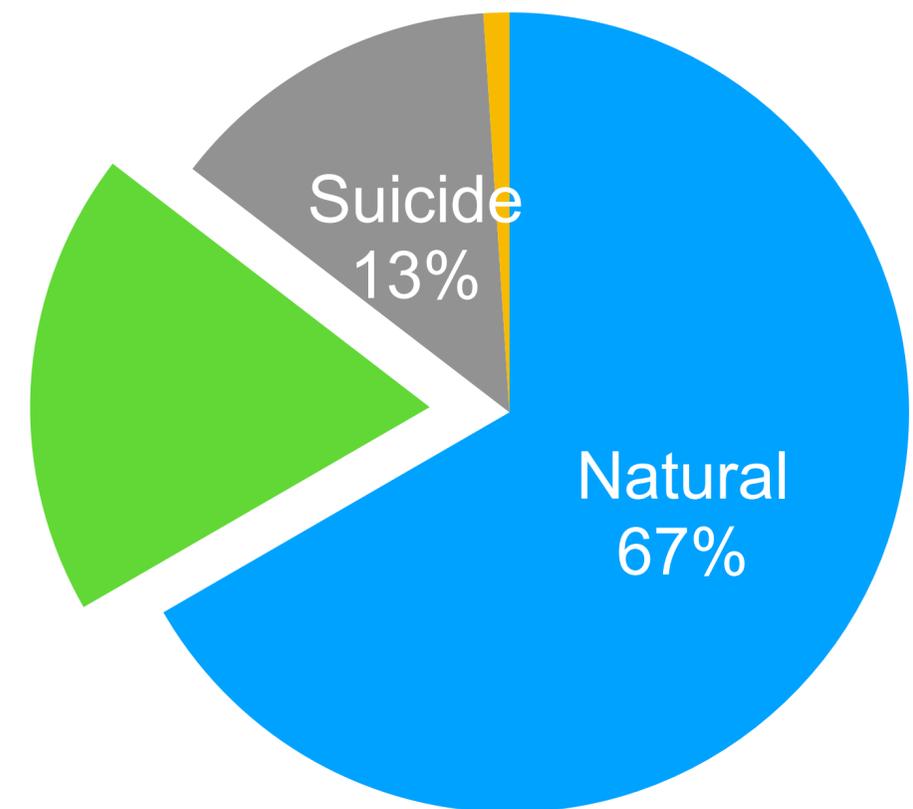
- 4/18 Fall
- 4/18 Motor Vehicle Crash
- 3/18 Cocaine OD

SUICIDE TOP 2:

- 8/13 Gunshot Wound
- 4/13 Polysubstance OD

HOMICIDE

- 1/1 Gunshot Wound



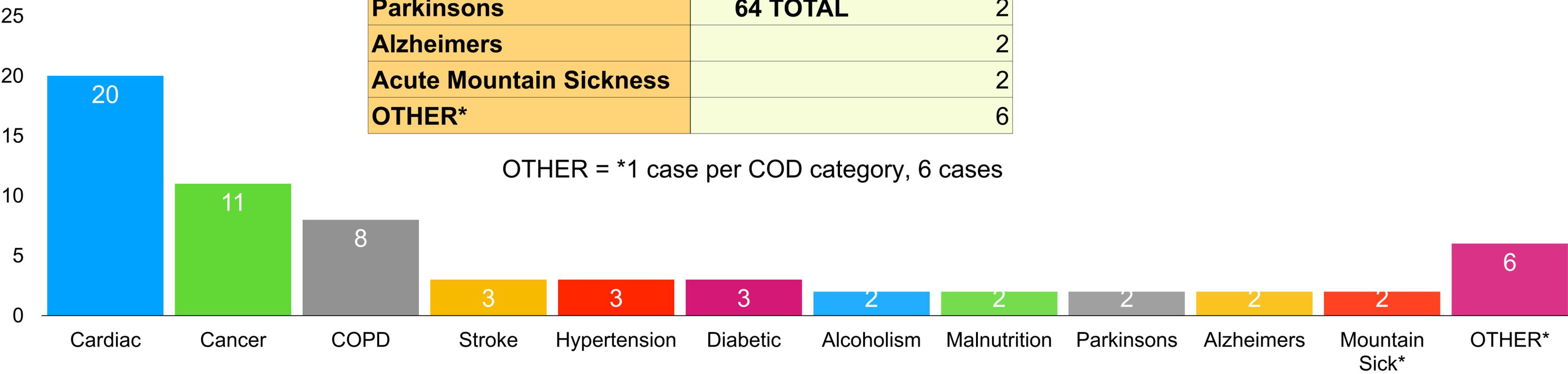
■ Natural ■ Accident ■ Suicide ■ Homicide

Natural Cause of Death Summary

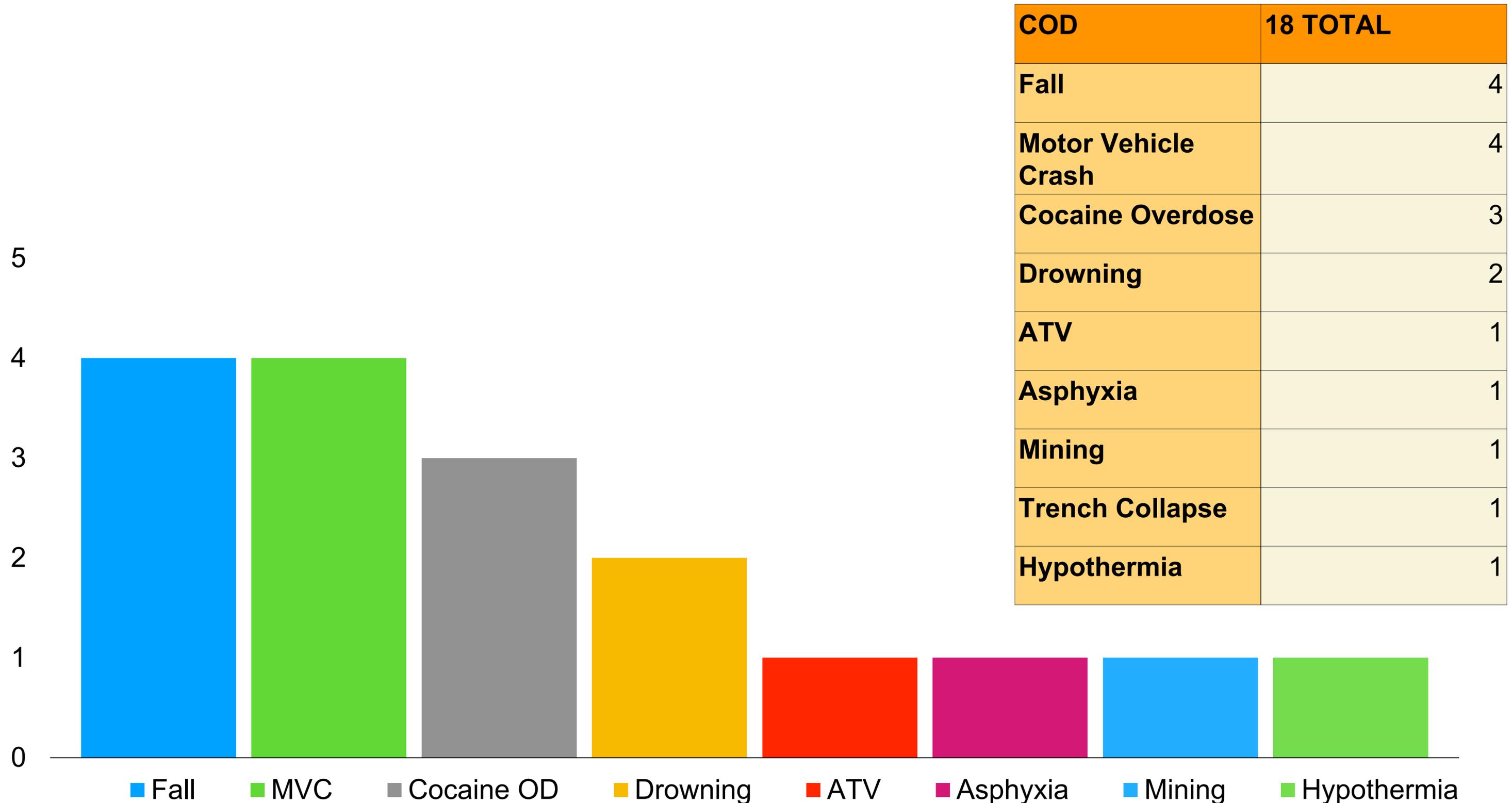
COD	64 TOTAL
Cardiac	20
Cancer	11
COPD	8
Stroke	3
Hypertension	3
Diabetic	3
Alcoholism	2
Malnutrition	2
Parkinsons	2
Alzheimers	2
Acute Mountain Sickness	2
OTHER*	6

OTHER*

COD	8 TOTAL
Renal failure	1
Cerebral Edema	1
Pulmonary Embolism	1
Intestinal Obstruction	1
ALS	1
Leukoencephalitis	1



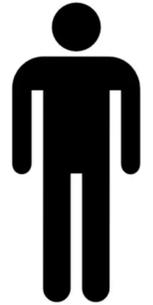
Accidental Cause of Death Summary



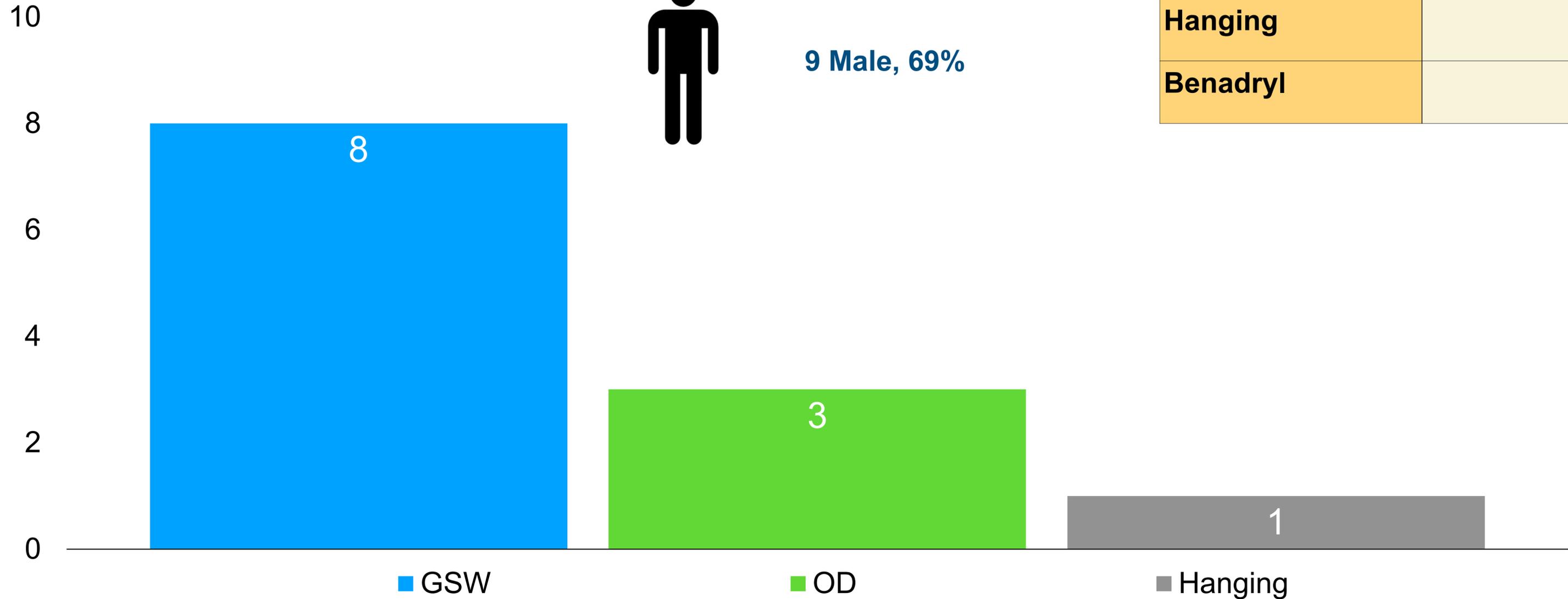
Suicide Death Summary



4 Female, 31%



9 Male, 69%



COD	13 TOTAL
GSW	8
Polysubstance OD	3
Hanging	1
Benadryl	1

Death by zip code

80420	80421	80432	80440	80448	80449	80456	80470	80820	80827	80816
6	37	2	14	0	11	5	6	9	5	1