

ANNUAL REPORT



CRAWFORD COUNTY CORONER

2022

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Message from the Coroner

The Crawford County Coroner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Crawford County. The office of the Coroner certifies death after investigation and postmortem examination and issues the death certificate as required by law. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families and law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

The main duties of the Office of the Coroner are to determine the cause and manner of death, and certify deaths that are reported to the Coroner. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that resulted in death. There are thousands of diseases and injuries that may result in death. The manner of death is a classification in which a determination is made regarding whether the death resulted from natural causes, homicide, suicide, or an accident. On occasion, the manner of death is classified as indeterminate.

Information collected during the investigation helps clarify the circumstances, such as the sequence of events prior to death. Evidence collected during an investigation and/or postmortem examination may help lead to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in a homicide case. Because deaths occur around the clock, Coroner Investigation staff are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the Coroner investigators and board-certified forensic pathologists, we believe the quality of death investigations in Crawford County are among the best in the State. The death scene investigation reports filed by the investigators are very thorough and supply comprehensive information to the Coroner and Pathologist.

Our Coroner and investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Coroner investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstances of the death. Investigators are supplied with a pamphlet for distribution to families. The information provides answers to common questions and facts about autopsies and also provides resource information pertaining to grief counseling.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Crawford County Board of Commissioners for their support of the Coroner's office and the services we provide to the citizens of Crawford County.

Respectfully,



Darren Dake
Coroner

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Coroner's Office

Missouri state law mandates that specific types of death be referred to the Coroner for investigation (see list below). These deaths include sudden and unexpected deaths, accidental deaths, and violent deaths. The Coroner has the authority under these Acts to order an autopsy at any time it is deemed necessary to determine or confirm the cause and manner of death.

Deaths Reportable to the Coroner:

- Violent death (e.g., strangulation, gunshot, stabbing, poisoning, etc.)
- Accidental deaths (e.g., falls, drowning, motor vehicle collisions, burns, overdose, etc.)
- Death of a prisoner (e.g., deaths in any county or city jail while imprisoned or in custody).
- Suspicious Circumstances (e.g., Unidentified bodies or events surrounding death)
- Sudden and Unexpected deaths (e.g., all deaths during a surgical procedure, in recovery, anesthesia-related, unexpected natural death, occupational-related deaths)*
- Without medical attendance within 48 hours of death: In cases of chronic illness, the attending physician may sign the death certificate if s/he can be reasonably sure of the cause of death.
- Death of a mother due to an abortion.
- Unexpected infant deaths
- All deaths that occur in a Nursing Home
- All Hospice deaths.

The Coroner would generally order an autopsy for any of the reportable deaths listed above.

Coroner Staff

Darren Dake
Coroner

Hillary Campbell
Admin Assistant

Amber Scott
Deputy Coroner

Nicole Bussell
Deputy Coroner

Paul Hutson
Coroner (Retired)

Southwest Forensics
Pathologist

Crawford County Coroner Cases

Population - Full Time	23,000
Cases Reported to Coroner	282
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	33
1. Number of Coroner Cases with Complete Autopsy	28
2. Number of Coroner with External Examination only	1
3. Number of Coroner Cases with Limited Examination	4
B. Number of deaths certified without autopsy examination	249
C. Number of deaths not certified by Coroner's Office after investigation	0

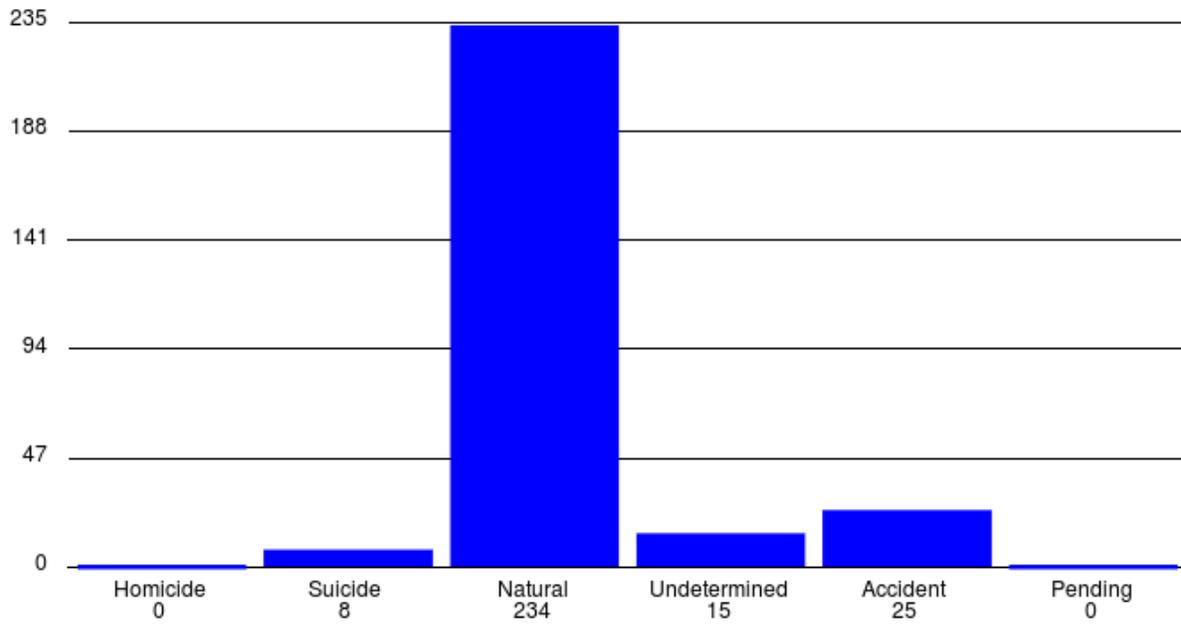
Definitions

Full Autopsy: A complete external and internal examination of a decedent

Limited Examination: An examination that is focused on a specific organ or region of the body, i.e., heart or head. The limited examination also includes an external examination.

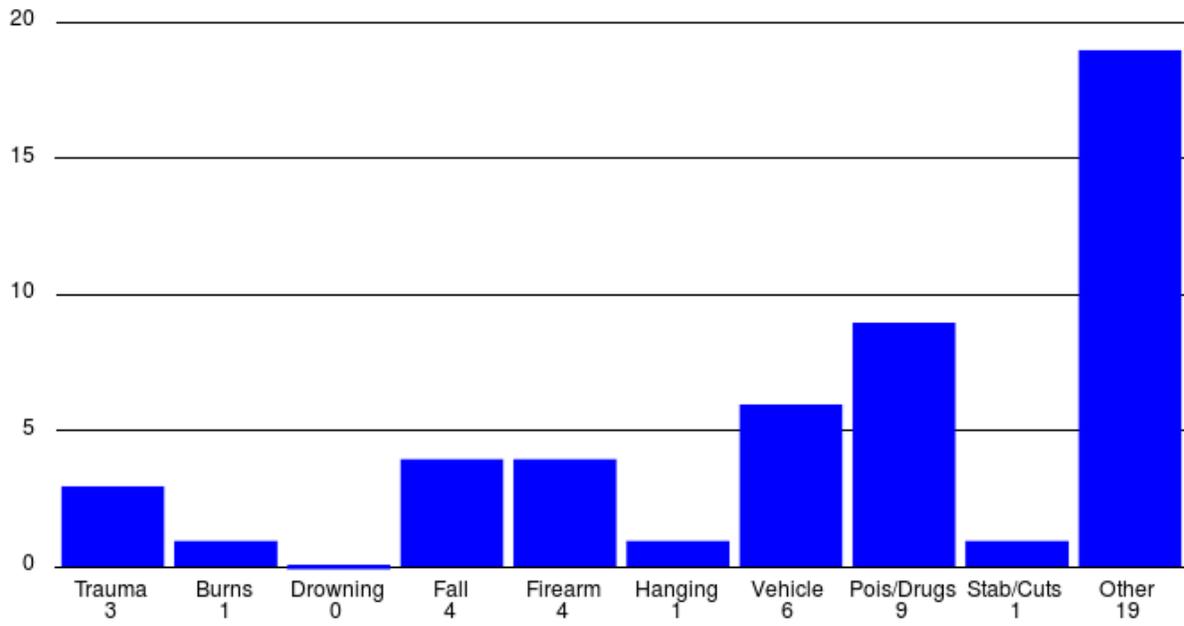
External Examination: An examination of the exterior of a decedent.

Manner of Death assigned after investigation

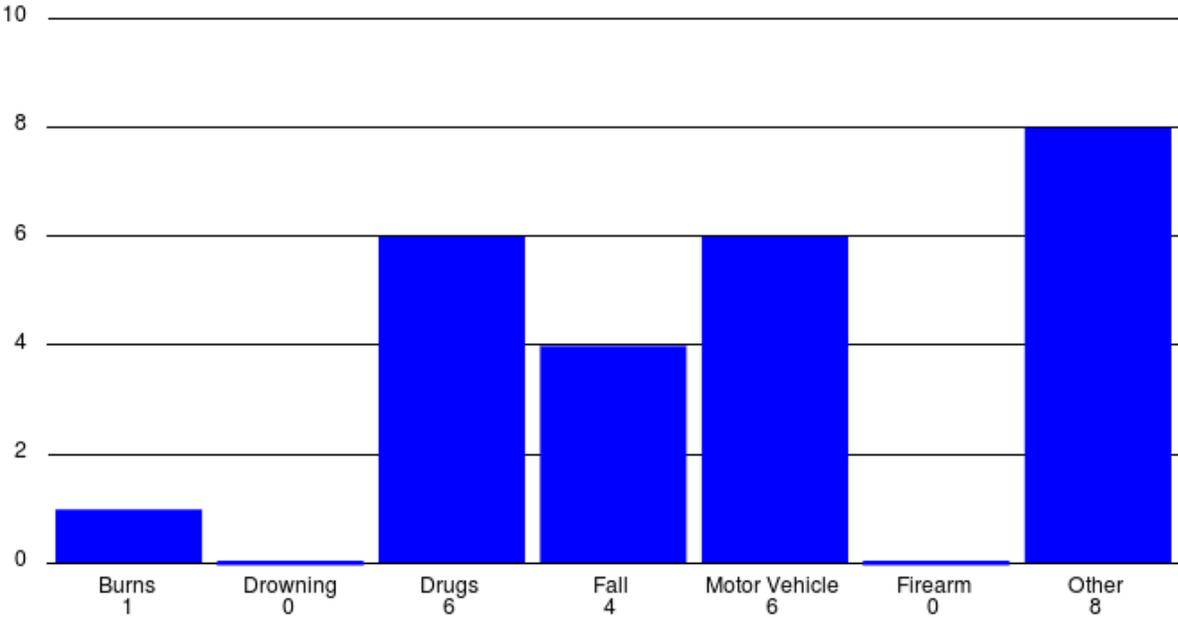


Of the undetermined cases, thirteen are cases we remanded to another county per statute requirement. In doing so, we would not know the final disposition. The remaining case is indeterminate.

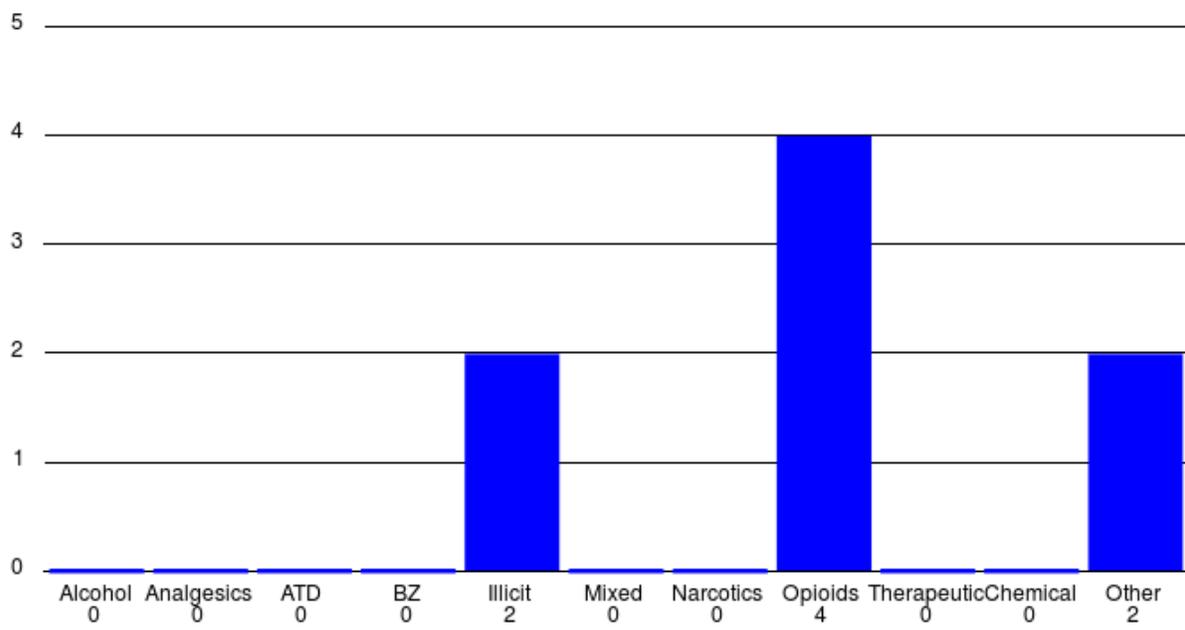
Deaths by Unnatural Causes



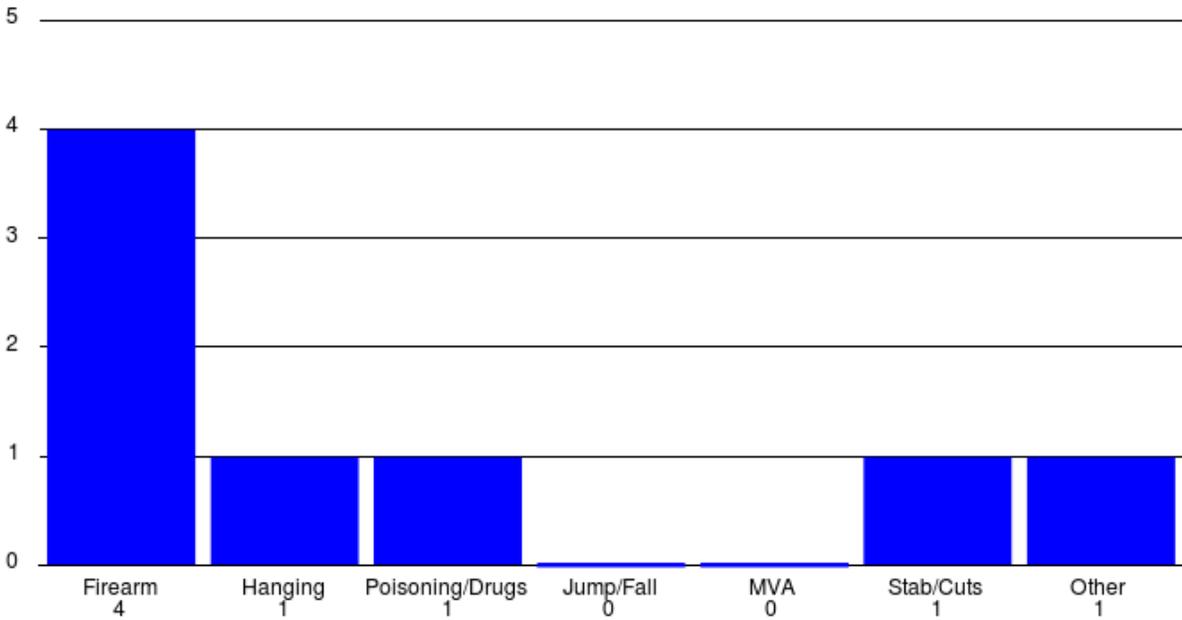
Accidental Deaths by Type



Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death



Suicide by Means



Deaths by Age Group

