



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Coroner Division

Quarter 2 Comparison Report

Report time frame: April - June 2020

(comparing to: April - June 2019)

Total cases

625

(+21% from 518 in 2019)

Q2 Total include 17 cases pending and 16 cases undetermined

Accident

270

(+22%)

Homicide

18

(+50%)

Suicide

66

(-8%)

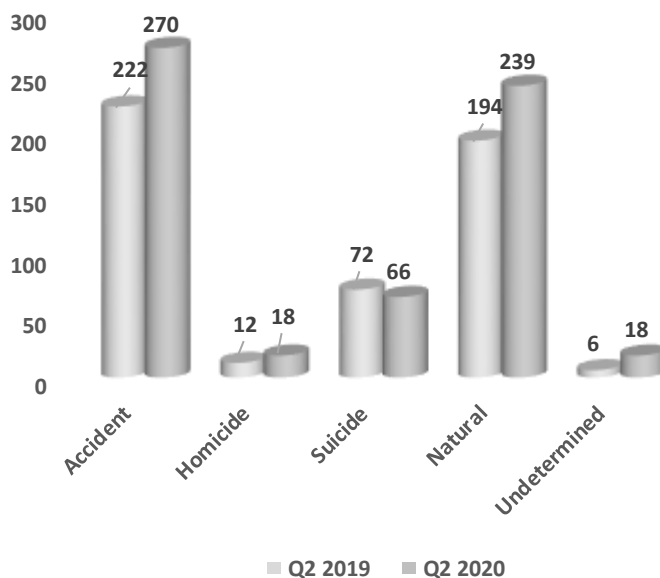
Natural

239

(+23%)

MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 2 of 2019 to 2020, accidental deaths have increased by 22%, homicides by 50%, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner increased by 23%. Suicides, however, were down by 8%.



Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths increased in 2020 to 64% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (49%) in 2019. Falls accounted for 13% while traffic related deaths were at 16%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 58% in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019 (109 to 172).

Methamphetamine appeared in 46% of all overdoses cases which was a 7% increase compared to the second quarter of 2019.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 180% increase (35 to 98).



Falls decreased 31% in 2020 compared to 2019, (49 to 34), which makes them the third highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 68% of all falls in 2020 and up from 63% in 2019.

Vehicular traffic related deaths increased by 5% in comparison to 2019, (42 to 44), with Auto vs. Auto increasing by 55% (11 to 17).



Pedestrian deaths accounted for 32% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 2 of 2020 while in 2019 they were at 29%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw a 25% decrease (8 to 6).

Homicides

50%

INCREASE

A firearm was used in 78% of the cases.

Suicides

In Quarter 2 of 2020 there was an 8% decrease in suicides compared to Quarter 2 of 2019.

During this time frame, gunshot was the leading method at 33% followed by Asphyxia at 21%.

The work of the Coroner Division is largely based on Government Code § 27491, which states that all unnatural deaths including homicides, suicides, accidents, and deaths in custody are under the coroner/medical examiner's jurisdiction to investigate. Also falling under our jurisdiction are infectious diseases reaching epidemic proportions, deaths in state or local institutions, and deaths believed to be natural but that occurred suddenly and unexpectedly where the decedent had not seen their health care provider in the last 20 days of life. Note: All deaths that fall under § 27491 are also subject to whether the facts indicate the death occurred under natural circumstances and the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of death occurred under natural circumstance. Therefore, not every death that falls under one of these categories will be investigated by the Medical Examiner's office. See Govt Code § 27491.

*Due to some cases still under investigation within the quarter, manner of death counts and associated insights may adjust slightly as those cases are closed