



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Coroner Division

Quarter 4 Comparison Report

Report time frame: Oct. - Dec. 2019

(comparing to: Oct. - Dec. 2018)

Total cases

610

(+2% from 598 in 2018)

Q4 Total includes 205 cases pending and 2 cases undetermined

Accident

172

(-33%)

Homicide

7

(-70%)

Suicide

80

(-14%)

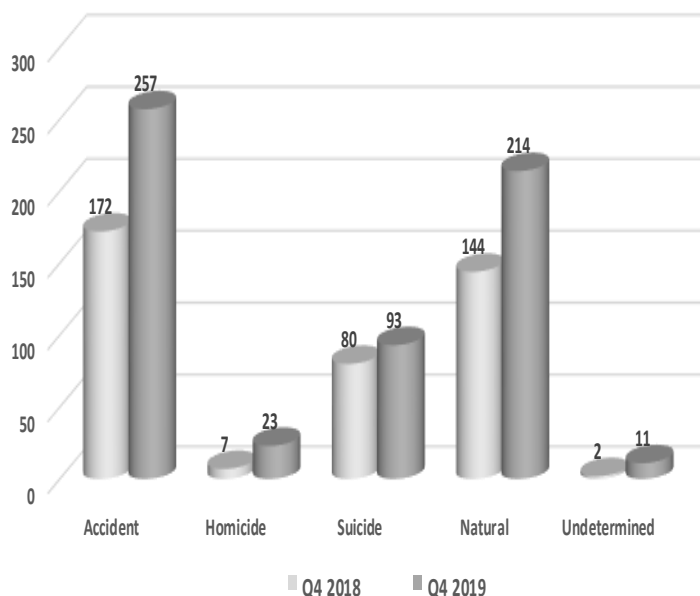
Natural

144

(-33%)

MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 4 of 2018 to 2019, accidental deaths have decreased by 33%, homicides decreased by 70%, suicides were down by 14%, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner decreased by 33%.



Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths decreased in Quarter 4 of 2019 to 9% of all accidental deaths when compared to the Quarter 4 (36%) in 2018. Falls accounted for 42%, while traffic related deaths were at 36%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity decreased by 82% in Quarter 4 of 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018 (97 to 17)

Methamphetamine appeared in 47% of all overdoses cases which was a 6% increase compared to the fourth quarter of 2018.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 75% decrease (32 to 8)



Falls increased 24% in Quarter 4 of 2019 compared to 2018 (59 to 73) which makes them the highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 78% of all falls in 2019 and up from 75% in 2018.



Vehicular traffic related deaths decreased by 18% in the 4th quarter in comparison to the 4th quarter of 2018 (76 to 62) with Auto vs. Auto remaining the same.

Pedestrian deaths accounted for 32% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 4 of 2019 while in Quarter 4 of 2018 they were at 37%. (20 to 28)

Motorcycle related deaths saw an 55% decrease. (11 to 5)

Traffic Deaths

-18%

DECREASE (76 to 62)

32% of the cases involved a pedestrian.

Suicides

In Quarter 4 of 2019 there was a 14% decrease in suicides compared to Quarter 4 of 2018.

During this time frame Asphyxia was the leading method at 55% followed by Gunshot at 31%

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 will adjust as those cases are closed