

2021 MONTANA MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT  
April 30, 2022



## **OVERVIEW:**

The Montana Medical Examiner's Office (MTMEO) is a section within the Montana Department of Justice, Forensic Science Division. It was created in 1980 to provide death investigation resources for county coroners, law enforcement agencies, and county attorneys on behalf of Montana's citizens. Montana is the fourth largest state in the United States, encompassing 147,040 square miles, and has an estimated population of 1,104,271 for 2021. This report summarizes the statistical results of the MTMEO cases performed during the 2021 calendar year.

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## **OUR VISION STATEMENT:**

We strive to create a partnership between Medical Examiners and Coroners to promote the health, well-being, and safety of the citizens of Montana through education, service, and compassionate, professional death investigation.

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## **RECENT PROJECTS COMPLETED:**

The Montana Medical Examiner's office recently completed the following projects and goals:

- Awarded full NAME accreditation in June 2021
  - Initiated grant-funded Coroner Liaison position in August 2021
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## **CURRENT PROJECTS:**

The Montana Medical Examiner's office is currently focused on the following projects and goals:

- Continue to train coroners and increase usage of ImageTrend, the Statewide death investigation database, and improve the program to fit coroner needs.
  - Actively promote opportunities to continuously improve death investigation and establish more uniform practices among the counties.
  - Partner in the National Center on Forensics grant through NIJ along with George Mason University, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, and the National Association of Attorney Generals, which includes a Coroner Liaison position and training for medical and pathology students.
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## **SUMMARY OF 2021:**

In 2021 the Montana Medical Examiner's Office employed four forensic pathologists, two autopsy assistants, and two part-time autopsy assistants. Administrative support was provided by the Forensic Science Division. Two pathologists work at the primary State crime laboratory in Missoula to serve the needs of coroners in western Montana. Two pathologists work at the satellite State crime laboratory in Billings to serve the needs of coroners in Eastern Montana. During calendar year 2021 a total of 836 postmortem examinations were performed (Missoula 458, Billings 378), which is an increase of nearly 12% over the prior year, and 27% over 2019. Our pathologists responded to a limited number of scene investigations and recoveries. We provided court testimony and made educational presentations at the annual Montana Coroner Advanced and Basic Coroner trainings. Informational meetings took place with coroners, law enforcement, county attorneys, organ and tissue procurement agencies, and funeral directors.

As with similar trends across the country during the COVID19 pandemic, we continued to experience a significant increase in casework. We had 107 cases that involved COVID19 status inquiries, of which 42 were confirmed positive. We had 32 cases considered in-custody deaths, which involve either inmates or deaths occurring in presence of law enforcement.

In June 2021, the MTMEO was officially accredited for the first time through the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME).

Based on recommendations that appear in the Scientific Working Group on Medicolegal Death Investigation (SWGMDI) "an autopsy rate of one per 1000 population might be considered as a best-case scenario formula for ensuring that medicolegal autopsies are performed in numbers that need public health, public safety, justice system, medical quality assurance and other needs." Generally, the need for a postmortem examination (autopsy) in Montana is determined by the county coroner per Title 46, Chapter 4, Part 1 of Montana Code Annotated. NAME inspection data for all offices published in the SWGMDI 2013 report listed an average autopsy rate of 0.5 per 1,000 persons for offices of all types and 0.7 per 1,000 persons in facility surveys. Utilizing our current data, the autopsy rate per 1,000 population in Montana is 6.2% across all counties (2020). Some counties meet or exceed the 1.0 per 1,000 population recommendations while some counties are below the recommendations. Results by county are listed in Total Autopsies by County table beginning on page 3.

Montana death investigations are served through a county coroner system with support by the State Medical Examiner's office. The following statistical information represents *only* those cases that coroners delivered for autopsy or examination and cannot encompass all deaths in the State. At the discretion of county coroners, selected suicides, overdoses, traffic fatalities, and well-established natural deaths are not submitted for autopsy.

The following tables and graphs outline 2021 activity as well as comparisons to prior years:

### **2021 AUTOPSY CASE TYPES:**

Type	# Cases	% Total
External	74	9%
Full	705	84%
Partial	45	5%
Skeletal	12	1%
Exhumation	0	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100%</b>

MTMEO received 6 cases of human remains in 2021 that are unidentified as of report date.

### **TOTAL AUTOPSIES BY COUNTY:**

Montana consists of 56 counties. Approximately 2/3 of the population resides in the western half of the State, which is served by the Missoula office. The eastern half contains the State's largest city, Billings, with a city population of 117,116 (2020). Vital Statistics does not yet have population and death statistics for 2021.

AUTOPSIES BY COUNTY								
County	2021 Autopsy Count	2020 Autopsy Count	2021 vs 2020 Autopsies	2021 % of Total Autopsies	Number of Deaths 2020*	2020 Autopsies % of Total Deaths	Population (2020)*	2020 Deaths % of Total County Population
Beaverhead	5	6	-1	0.6%	110	5.5%	9483	1.2%
Big Horn	30	32	-2	3.6%	113	28.3%	13063	0.9%
Blaine	4	4	0	0.5%	58	6.9%	6568	0.9%
Broadwater	5	11	-6	0.6%	45	24.4%	6444	0.7%
Butte/SB	37	21	16	4.4%	457	4.6%	35180	1.3%
Carbon	12	12	0	1.4%	102	11.8%	10921	0.9%
Carter	0	0	0	0.0%	16	0.0%	1235	1.3%

Cascade	34	38	-4	4.1%	1325	2.9%	81346	1.6%
Chouteau	2	0	2	0.2%	45	0.0%	5699	0.8%
Custer	4	3	1	0.5%	123	2.4%	11292	1.1%
Daniels	0	1	-1	0.0%	23	4.3%	1638	1.4%
Dawson	4	2	2	0.5%	115	1.7%	8555	1.3%
Deer Lodge	4	15	-11	0.5%	143	10.5%	9204	1.6%
Fallon	2	1	1	0.2%	38	2.6%	2826	1.3%
Fergus	10	16	-6	1.2%	170	9.4%	11104	1.5%
Flathead	82	67	15	9.8%	1253	5.3%	105851	1.2%
Gallatin	28	31	-3	3.3%	643	4.8%	116806	0.6%
Garfield	2	1	1	0.2%	15	6.7%	1268	1.2%
Glacier	15	20	-5	1.8%	103	19.4%	13594	0.8%
Golden Valley	5	5	0	0.6%	12	41.7%	827	1.5%
Granite	7	4	3	0.8%	34	11.8%	3317	1.0%
Hill	10	4	6	1.2%	181	2.2%	16358	1.1%
Jefferson	3	8	-5	0.4%	101	7.9%	12360	0.8%
Judith Basin	4	3	1	0.5%	14	21.4%	1994	0.7%
Lake	47	38	9	5.6%	280	13.6%	30986	0.9%
Lewis & Clark	28	19	9	3.3%	716	2.7%	70229	1.0%
Liberty	3	2	1	0.4%	17	11.8%	2369	0.7%
Lincoln	4	5	-1	0.5%	242	2.1%	20343	1.2%
Madison	3	4	-1	0.4%	88	4.5%	8959	1.0%
McCone	1	0	1	0.1%	14	0.0%	1648	0.8%
Meagher	1	0	1	0.1%	15	0.0%	1831	0.8%
Mineral	2	2	0	0.2%	51	3.9%	4544	1.1%
Missoula	80	68	12	9.6%	1192	5.7%	121630	1.0%
Musselshell	10	5	5	1.2%	63	7.9%	4669	1.3%
Park	8	7	1	1.0%	166	4.2%	16760	1.0%
Petroleum	3	0	3	0.4%	1	0.0%	500	0.2%
Phillips	3	3	0	0.4%	40	7.5%	3919	1.0%
Pondera	3	2	1	0.4%	54	3.7%	5782	0.9%
Powder River	2	1	1	0.2%	14	7.1%	1681	0.8%
Powell	15	9	6	1.8%	76	11.8%	6817	1.1%
Prairie	1	0	1	0.1%	19	0.0%	1067	1.8%
Ravalli	39	36	3	4.7%	466	7.7%	45002	1.0%
Richland	4	4	0	0.5%	91	4.4%	11043	0.8%
Roosevelt	17	14	3	2.0%	131	10.7%	10964	1.2%
Rosebud	14	13	1	1.7%	71	18.3%	8836	0.8%
Sanders	5	7	-2	0.6%	134	5.2%	12157	1.1%
Sheridan	4	2	2	0.5%	32	6.3%	3261	1.0%
Stillwater	22	12	10	2.6%	77	15.6%	9888	0.8%

Sweet Grass	5	7	-2	0.6%	50	14.0%	3684	1.4%
Teton	4	2	2	0.5%	38	5.3%	6249	0.6%
Toole	7	4	3	0.8%	40	10.0%	4686	0.9%
Treasure	1	0	1	0.1%	3	0.0%	695	0.4%
Valley	4	2	2	0.5%	88	2.3%	7359	1.2%
Wheatland	1	2	-1	0.1%	24	8.3%	2157	1.1%
Wibaux	0	0	0	0.0%	23	0.0%	939	2.4%
Yellowstone	175	156	19	20.9%	2455	6.4%	162990	1.5%
Hospital/Other	11	16	-5	1.3%				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12,010</b>	<b>6.2%</b>	<b>1,080,577</b>	<b>1.11%</b>

\*Source: Montana Vital Records, most recent confirmed numbers

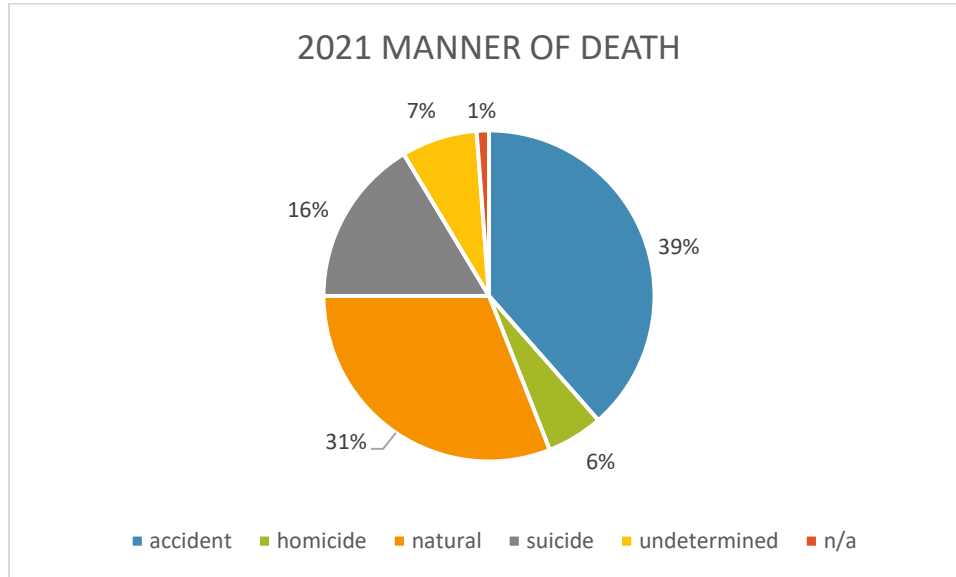
## **MANNER OF DEATH:**

Manner is used to distinguish whether a death is considered natural or unnatural. If deemed unnatural, the death is typically categorized as either accident, suicide, homicide, or in the absence of a clear result, undetermined.

## **AUTOPSIES BY MANNER:**

<b>MANNER</b>	<b>COUNT</b>	<b>% OF TOTAL</b>
ACCIDENT	322	39%
HOMICIDE	47	5%
NATURAL	258	31%
SUICIDE	135	16%
UNDETERMINED	62	7%
NOT APPLICABLE*	10	1%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*includes brain donations for research, fetal, and skeletal remains (including some non-human)



**SEX DETAILS:**

SEX	COUNT	% OF TOTAL	2020 Population	Per 10,000 Population
Female	243	29%	536,476	4.5
Male	584	70%	544,101	10.7
Non-Human	2	0%	-	-
Unknown	7	1%	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,080,577</b>	<b>7.7</b>

2021 MANNER BY SEX				
MANNER	FEMALE	MALE	TRANSGENDER	UNKNOWN
ACCIDENT	93	230	-	-
HOMICIDE	12	35	-	-
NATURAL	87	171	-	-
SUICIDE	33	103	-	-
UNDETERMINED	18	41	-	3
NOT APPLICABLE		4	-	6
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1%</b>

**ANCESTRY:**

Based upon Montana's Census and Economic Information Center, the following ancestry groups comprise Montana's population in 2020: Caucasian 87.2%, Native American 7.2%, Hispanic 3.3%, Asian/Pacific Islander 1.2%, and Black/African American 1%.

Although comprising 12.8% of the population, non-Caucasian citizens accounted for 29% of homicides, 16% of autopsied suicides, 21% of autopsied accidents, and 20% of autopsied overdoses in 2021. In addition, and significantly, for deaths of children and youth under 20 years, non-Caucasians represented 27% of the total cases.

2020 Population Data		
Type	Population	% of Total
Caucasian	942,577	87.2%
Native American	78,116	7.2%
Black	11,046	1.0%
Asian	13,296	1.2%
Hispanic	35,542	3.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,080,577</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Source: MT Dept of Commerce CEIC		

**AUTOPSY TOTALS BY ANCESTRY:**

ANCESTRY	# OF CASES	% OF TOTAL
Hispanic	10	1%
Unknown	10	1%
Native American/Alaskan	141	17%
Caucasian	655	78%
Asian	7	1%
Black	9	1%
Mixed	2	<1%
Non-Human (skeletal)	2	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100%</b>



**ANCESTRY BY SELECTED MANNER:**

Ancestry	Accident	% of Total	Homicide	% of Total	Suicide	% of Total	Overdose	% of Total
Caucasian	254	79%	33	70%	115	84%	110	79%
Black	3	1%	4	9%	1	1%	2	1%
Hispanic	1	0%	0	0%	5	4%	1	1%
Native American	59	18%	10	22%	16	12%	26	19%
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Unknown	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>

**HOMICIDES PER 10,000 POPULATION BY ANCESTRY:**

Ancestry	Homicide	% Total	Per 10,000 Population
Caucasian	33	70%	0.4
Black	4	9%	3.6
Hispanic	0	0%	0
Native American	10	21%	1.3
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0.4</b>

**INFANT (2 YEARS OR LESS) DEATHS PER 10,000 POPULATION BY ANCESTRY:**

Ancestry	# Cases	% Total	Per 10,000 Population
Caucasian	17	57%	6.2
Mixed	1	3%	
Asian	2	7%	42.0
Native American	9	30%	21.6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8.4</b>

**CHILD UNDER 20 DEATHS PER 10,000 POPULATION BY ANCESTRY:**

Ancestry	# Cases	% Total	Per 10,000 Population
Caucasian	61	77%	3.0
Native American	18	22%	5.9
Asian	0	0%	0
Black	1	1%	2.2
Mixed	1	1%	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3.2</b>

**2021 CASE ANCESTRY BY COUNTY FOR TOP COUNTIES:**

County	# of Cases	% of Total Cases	Caucasian	Native American	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Mixed	Unknown
Yellowstone	175	20.9%	140	23	2	2	8		
Flathead	82	9.8%	80	2					
Missoula	80	9.6%	70	5			5		
Lake	47	5.6%	24	21					2
Ravalli	39	4.7%	39						
Butte/SB	37	4.4%	36	1					
Cascade	34	4.1%	21	10		2		1	
Big Horn	30	3.6%	8	21	1				
Gallatin	28	3.3%	27						1
Lewis&Clark	28	3.3%	25	1			1		1
Stillwater	22	2.6%	21	1					
Roosevelt	17	2.0%	2	13			1		1
Glacier	15	1.8%	1	14					
Powell	15	1.8%	12	2	1				
Rosebud	14	1.7%	2	12					
Carbon	12	1.4%	12						
Fergus	10	1.2%	9	1					
<b>Total</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

**AGE RANGES OF DECEDENTS BY MANNER:**

AGE	MANNER	# OF CASES	% OF 834 (HUMAN) CASES
Infants</=2 years	Accident	4	
	Homicide	1	
	Natural	4	
	Undetermined	17	
		<b>26</b>	<b>3%</b>
Child 3-12	Accident	2	
	Homicide	4	
	Suicide	3	
	Undetermined	1	
		<b>10</b>	<b>1%</b>
Teen 13-19	Accident	25	
	Homicide	2	
	Natural	5	
	Suicide	11	
	Undetermined	1	
		<b>44</b>	<b>5%</b>
Adult 20-65	Accident	230	
	Homicide	33	
	Natural	150	
	Suicide	95	
	Undetermined	32	
		<b>540</b>	<b>65%</b>
Adult Senior 66+	Accident	61	
	Homicide	6	
	Natural	99	
	Suicide	27	
	Research	2	
	Undetermined	8	
		<b>203</b>	<b>24%</b>
Unknown Age	Accident	1	
	Undetermined	9	
		<b>10</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

## **DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALCOHOL OR DRUG INTOXICATION:**

Medical Examiners performed 836 autopsies in death investigation cases. The toxicology section would have performed testing on most those cases. It was determined that 172 of those cases had toxicology results of significance. Below is a breakdown of the identified substances and corresponding drug results. *The data below does not include deaths where the coroner did not have an autopsy performed.*

<b>TOXICOLOGY-RELATED CASE BREAKDOWN BY CAUSE OF DEATH (AUTOPSIED ONLY)</b>		
<b>CAUSE OF DEATH</b>	<b># OF CASES</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Acute Ethanol Intoxication	1	
Complications of chronic ethanol use	34	
<b>Acute Single Drug Intoxication</b>		
Methamphetamine	36	21% increase in acute deaths over 2020
Fentanyl/Para-fluoro fentanyl	21	5 fentanyl only OD in 2020 and 1 fentanyl only OD in 2019
Heroin	4	
Cocaine	1	
Oxycodone	2	
morphine	1	
methadone	2	
MDMA	1	
tramadol	1	
hydroxychloroquine	1	
bupropion	1	
mitragynine	1	
<b>Acute, Poly-Drug Combination</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>some cases may fall into multiple categories</b>
	23	Methamphetamine
	28	Fentanyl
	13	Heroin
	4	Cocaine
	7	Oxycodone
	7	Hydrocodone
	3	Methadone
	2	Mitragynine
	4	Gabapentin
	2	Buprenorphin
Inhalant Intoxication	1	1,1 Difluoroethane

**OVERDOSE DEATHS BY COUNTY- TOP 10\***

COUNTY	# CASES	% TOTAL
Yellowstone	52	38%
Silver Bow	16	12%
Flathead	11	8%
Lake	10	7%
Missoula	10	7%
Cascade	6	4%
Hill	5	4%
Ravalli	4	3%
Roosevelt	4	3%
Stillwater	3	2%

\*Carbon monoxide cases not included

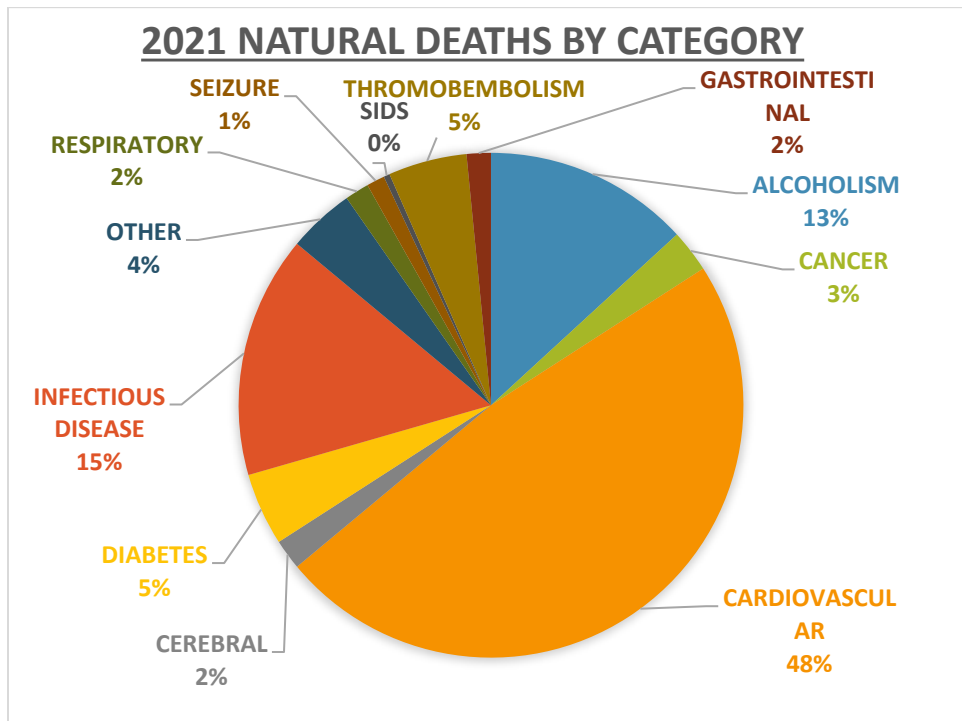
**SUICIDES AND HOMICIDES ATTRIBUTABLE TO FIREARMS:**

In 2021, 70% of the homicide cases, 59% of the autopsied suicides, and 14% of all MTMEO casework involved a firearm.

MANNER	# OF CASES
Homicide	32
Accident	1
Suicide	81
Undetermined	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>118</b>
% OF TOTAL CASES	14%

**NATURAL DEATHS BY CATEGORY:**

CATEGORY	# OF CASES
ALCOHOLISM	34
CANCER	7
CARDIOVASCULAR	124
CEREBRAL	5
DIABETES	12
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	40
OTHER	11
RESPIRATORY	4
SEIZURE	3
SIDS	1
GASTROINTESTINAL	4
THROMBOEMBOLISM	13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>258</b>
% OF TOTAL CASES	31%



**2021 TURN-AROUND TIMES:**

Turn-Around Time represents the number of days between the postmortem examination and the completion of the autopsy report. 91% of our reports in 2021 were completed within 90 days. We attained our goal to complete 90% of our cases in 90 days.

LESS THAN 60	494	59%
60-90	268	32%
91-120	44	5%
OVER 120	30	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>100%</b>

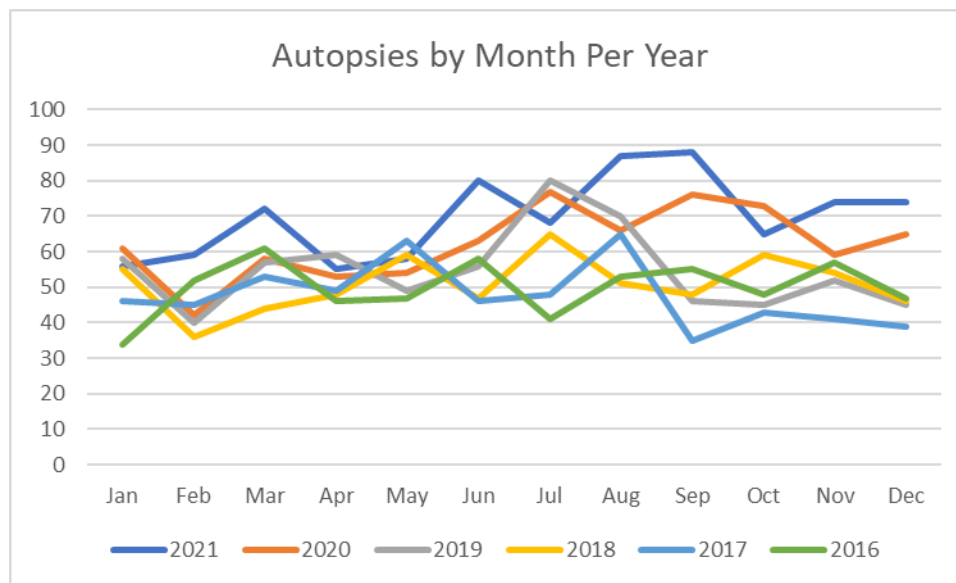
**SIX YEAR TRENDS (2016-2021)**

The Montana State Medical Examiner's office initiated a process to maintain better statistical information beginning in 2015. We have now completed 6 years with which we can make annual comparisons and watch for trends. Again, these comparisons are only based on the cases submitted to the office and not all investigated deaths in the State.

<b>AUTOPSIES BY TYPE PER YEAR</b>						
<b>Type</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Full	706	660	570	546	530	540
Partial	45	35	28	20	15	12
External	74	41	47	37	22	37
Skeletal	11	11	11	8	7	10
Disinterred	0	0	0	0	1	0
Coroner Case Review	0	0	1	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>599</b>

**AUTOPSIES BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

Month	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	56	61	58	55	46	34
Feb	59	42	40	36	45	52
Mar	72	58	57	44	53	61
Apr	55	53	59	48	49	46
May	58	54	49	59	63	47
Jun	80	63	56	47	46	58
Jul	68	77	80	65	48	41
Aug	87	66	70	51	65	53
Sep	88	76	46	48	35	55
Oct	65	73	45	59	43	48
Nov	74	59	52	54	41	57
Dec	74	65	45	46	39	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>599</b>



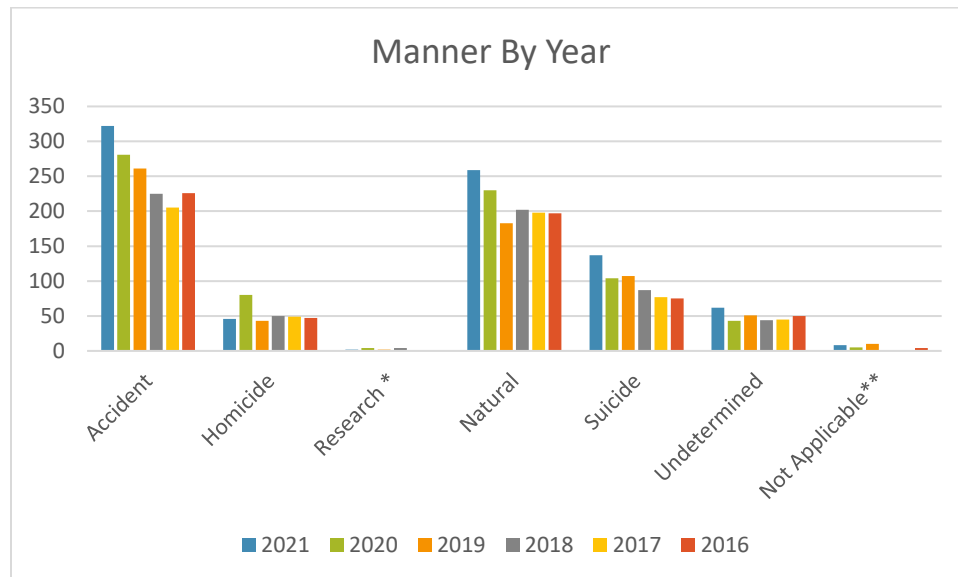


**MANNER OF DEATH BY YEAR:**

MANNER	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Accident	322	281	261	225	205	226
Homicide	47	80	43	50	49	47
Research *	2	4	2	4	1	
Natural	258	230	183	202	198	197
Suicide	137	104	107	87	77	75
Undetermined	62	43	51	44	45	50
Not Applicable ***	8	5	10			4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>599</b>

\*Brain Removals

\*\*Skeletal, fetal human and non-human remains



**DEATHS UNDER 20 YEARS BY MANNER:**

AGE	MANNER	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Infants<+2 years	Accident	4	6	4	4	4	7
	Homicide	1	3	4	3	5	6
	Natural	4	7	2	3	5	5
	Undetermined	17	14	18	13	16	15
Child 3-12	Accident	2	5	3	7	3	4
	Homicide	4	4	2	1	0	3
	Natural	0	0	4	2	0	2
	Undetermined	1	1	1	2	0	0
	Suicide	3	1	0	0	0	1
Teen 13-19	Accident	25	12	12	11	4	12
	Homicide	2	6	2	0	1	3
	Natural	5	1	3	5	3	2
	Suicide	11	7	11	6	5	3
	Undetermined	1	2	1	2	2	0
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>63</b>

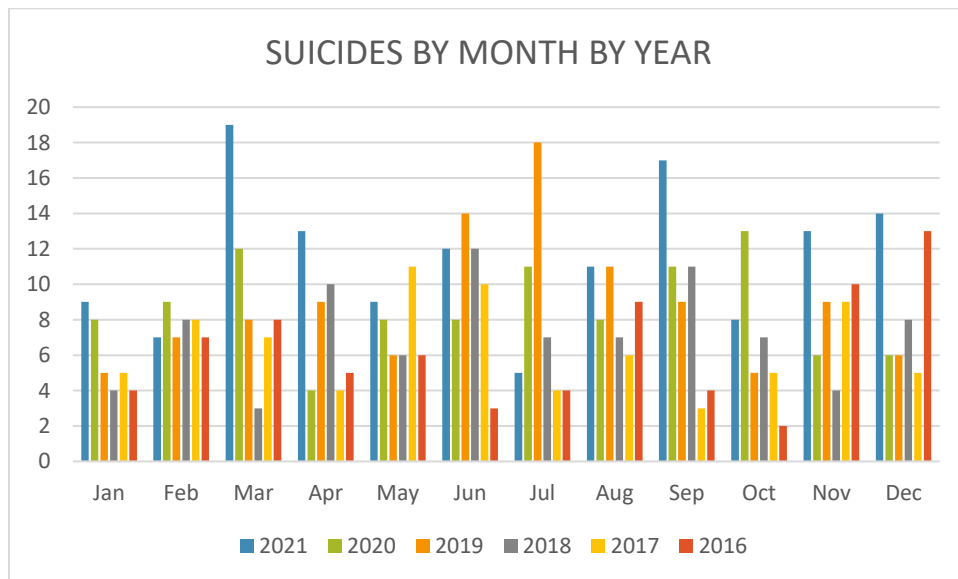
**FIREARM DEATHS BY MANNER BY YEAR**

MANNER	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Accident	1	1	2			
Homicide	32	45	30	24	25	25
Suicide	81	62	65	48	51	46
Undetermined	4	3	1	1	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>

Date

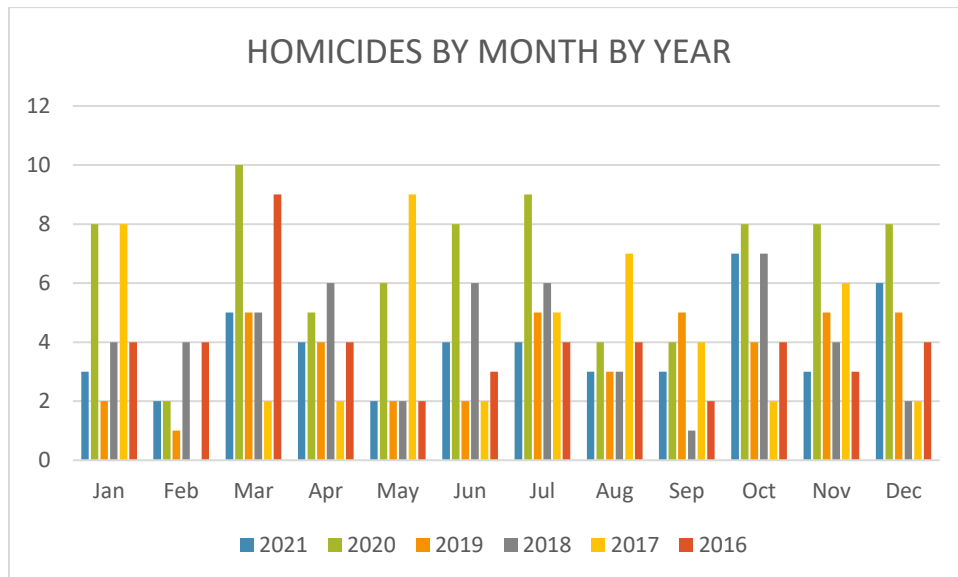
**SUICIDES BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

Month	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	9	8	5	4	5	4
Feb	7	9	7	8	8	7
Mar	19	12	8	3	7	8
Apr	13	4	9	10	4	5
May	9	8	6	6	11	6
Jun	12	8	14	12	10	3
Jul	5	11	18	7	4	4
Aug	11	8	11	7	6	9
Sep	17	11	9	11	3	4
Oct	8	13	5	7	5	2
Nov	13	6	9	4	9	10
Dec	14	6	6	8	5	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>



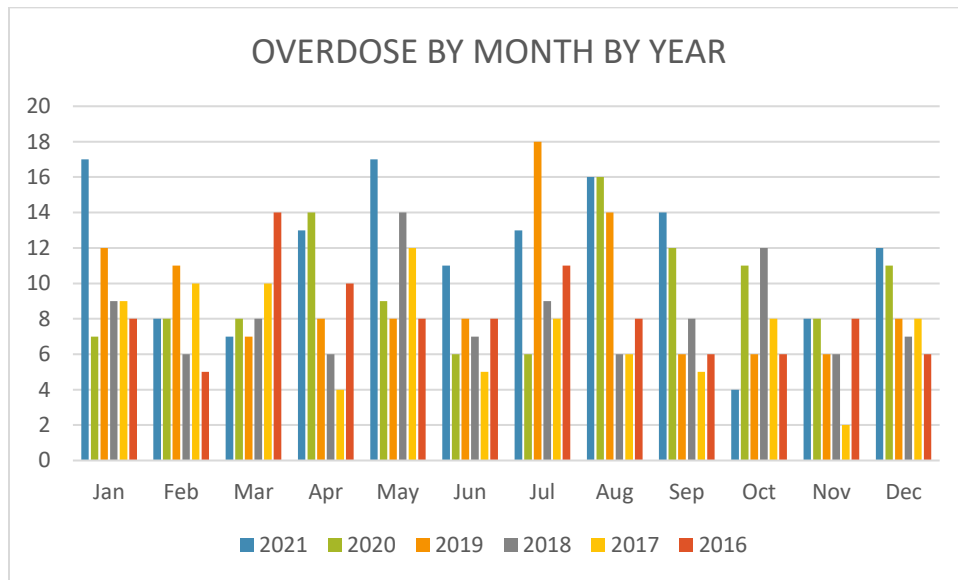
**HOMICIDES BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

Month	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	3	8	2	4	8	4
Feb	2	2	1	4	0	4
Mar	5	10	5	5	2	9
Apr	4	5	4	6	2	4
May	2	6	2	2	9	2
Jun	4	8	2	6	2	3
Jul	4	9	5	6	5	4
Aug	3	4	3	3	7	4
Sep	3	4	5	1	4	2
Oct	7	8	4	7	2	4
Nov	3	8	5	4	6	3
Dec	6	8	5	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>



**OVERDOSE DEATHS BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

Month	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	17	7	12	9	9	8
Feb	8	8	11	6	10	5
Mar	7	8	7	8	10	14
Apr	13	14	8	6	4	10
May	17	9	8	14	12	8
Jun	11	6	8	7	5	8
Jul	13	6	18	9	8	11
Aug	16	16	14	6	6	8
Sep	14	12	6	8	5	6
Oct	4	11	6	12	8	6
Nov	8	8	6	6	2	8
Dec	12	11	8	7	8	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>98</b>



**OVERDOSE DEATHS BY COUNTY PER YEAR-TOP 5 COUNTIES\*:**

COUNTY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Yellowstone	52	25	31	23	22	18
Butte	16	8	6	6	3	10
Flathead	11	10	6	9	6	12
Lake	10	2	5	2	5	3
Missoula	10	11	10	11	11	14

\*Reminder: only coroner submitted autopsies and may not reflect comprehensive county data

**HOMICIDE DEATHS BY COUNTY PER YEAR**

COUNTY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Beaverhead		2				
Big Horn	1	2		1	6	2
Blaine	1					
Broadwater			1		1	
Butte/Silver Bow	2	1				4
Carter					1	
Carbon		1		1		4
Cascade	4	3	6	5	8	5
Chouteau						1
Custer			1	1		
Dawson					1	
Deer Lodge		1		1	1	1
Fergus		1				
Flathead	4	7	4	4	1	2
Gallatin	2	1	3	1	3	4
Glacier		5		2	3	1
Granite						1
Hill	2		2	1		1
Jefferson					1	
Judith Basin	1					
Lake	1	5	3	2	1	1
Lewis & Clark	1	1	2	5	3	4
Liberty						1
Lincoln	1	1	2		2	2
Madison		1	1			
Missoula	8	10	3	5	5	1

Musselshell						1
Park	1					2
Phillips				1		1
Pondera				1		
Powell			1			
Petroleum	1					
Ravalli	2	6	1		1	
Richland			2			1
Roosevelt		4		1	2	4
Rosebud	3	4		1		2
Sanders		2		2	1	
Stillwater	1	1				
Sweetgrass		1				
Teton	1					
Toole			2			
Valley				1		
Yellowstone	9	20	9	14	8	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>

### SUICIDE DEATHS BY COUNTY PER YEAR

COUNTY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Beaverhead	1			1		2
Big Horn	3	4	2	4	1	1
Blaine			1			
Broadwater	1	1	2	1		
Butte/Silver Bow	6	3	3		1	6
Carbon	4	1	4	1		
Carter					1	
Cascade	2	3	1	3	4	4
Chouteau						1
Custer		1				1
Daniels					1	1
Dawson	1		1	2		
Deer Lodge		4	2	1	3	1
Fallon						1
Fergus		4	1		1	
Flathead	14	9	7	4	4	3
Gallatin	6	2	7	3	2	2
Garfield		1				

Glacier	3	4	2	4	1	2
Golden Valley		1				
Granite	1			1	1	2
Hill	1	2	1	1	1	
Jefferson		2	1			
Judith Basin	1					
Lake	9	8	5	7	9	6
Lewis & Clark	7	5	3	12	3	2
Lincoln		1				
Liberty						1
Madison	1		1		1	
Meagher	1					
Mineral					1	
Missoula	14	10	7	8	9	11
Musselshell	2	2		3		3
Park	2	1	1	1	2	2
Powder	2					
Powell	2	2	1	1		
Prairie					1	1
Ravalli	9	8	8	8	7	2
Richland		1	1			
Roosevelt			2		2	1
Rosebud	3	1	2	1	1	
Sanders	3	2			2	
Sheridan	1		1			
Stillwater	4	2	1	2	1	
Sweetgrass		1				1
Toole						3
Valley	1					
Wheatland				1	1	
Yellowstone	32	18	39	17	16	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>

Questions or inquiries regarding the information provided in this report can be addressed by contacting our main office at:

(406) 728-4970

Montana State Medical Examiner's Office  
Forensic Science Division  
2679 Palmer St  
Missoula, MT 59808

Date



Date

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