



OFFICE OF THE CORONER Regan Wood - Coroner

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2019 Summit County Deaths Breakdown by Manner and Cause of Death

There were a total of 83 deaths in Summit County in 2019

Natural - 57

Cardiac related- 34
High Altitude Pulmonary Edema -2
Respiratory failure – 2
Septic shock - 2
Hemorrhagic stroke – 2
Cancer -10
Bacterial peritonitis – 1
GI hemorrhage -1
Malnutrition – 1
Dementia – 1
Sepsis – 1

Accidental – 18

Overdose/ ETOH - 1
Multiple prescription overdose – 3
Overdose/duster - 1
Blunt force trauma, - 3 skiers 1 snowmobiler
Blunt force trauma – MVC - 2
Automobile vs Pedestrian – 1
Fall – 2
Drowning – 2
Sepsis- 1
Respiratory arrest - 1

Suicide- 4

Hanging/Asphyxiation -2
Gunshot wound: 2

Homicide – 5

Motor vehicle crash – 4
Manual strangulation – 1

Transfers and Autopsies

There were 27 autopsies in 2019, compared to 24 in 2018.

There were 9 transfer-of-jurisdiction cases in 2019, compared to 4 in 2018, meaning that the original incident causing the death occurred in Summit County but the death occurred in another county, following transport out of Summit to a facility in the Denver area for treatment.

Trends and Observations

The Colorado population continues to grow, the economy is strong, and people are traveling to Summit County in high numbers, which is reflected in activity levels by our office.

Of the 83 deaths in 2019, 38 were Summit County residents, and 45 were from out of the county, state or country. The cause of death for the majority of visitors remains cardiac related; our high altitude can be very hard on the body, especially if there is an underlying undiagnosed cardiac condition.

As in previous years, the most common manner of death remains natural, with cardiac leading in cause.

Accidental deaths totaled 16, compared to 13 in 2018. Blunt force trauma injuries were the leading cause of accidental deaths which claimed the lives of 7 people. Accidental overdoses increased from 3 in 2018 to 5 in 2019. There were no opioid related deaths in 2019.

Snow-sports related deaths totaled 4 in 2019 compared to 6 in 2018. Of the 4 deaths, 3 were skiers and 1 was a snowmobiler.

Suicides totaled 4 in 2019, decreased from 12 in 2018. There were 2 involving guns and 2 hangings. I believe the countywide awareness campaigns around this issue had a positive effect on our suicide numbers.

Again, as in previous years, alcohol and drugs continue to play a part in many deaths. Toxicology testing reveals that many decedents have alcohol and marijuana in their systems. In such cases, drugs and/or alcohol are not listed as a primary cause of death, but as a significant condition on the death certificate.

Community Outreach Projects:

The Summit County Coroner's Office continued to provide outreach and education to the community in 2019 through the following events:

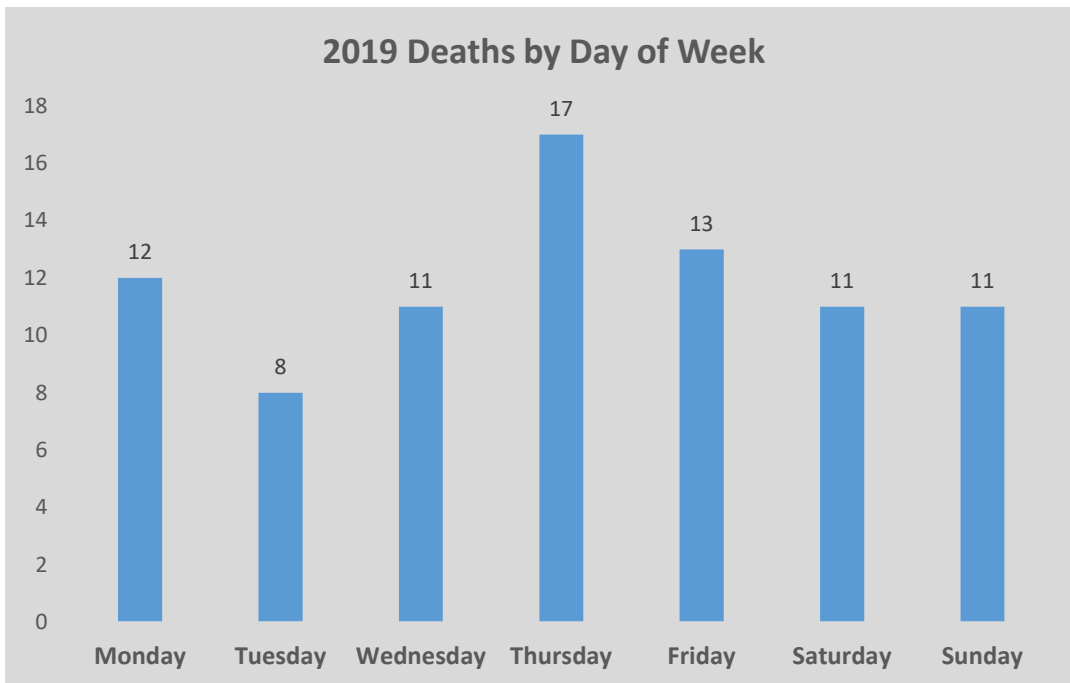
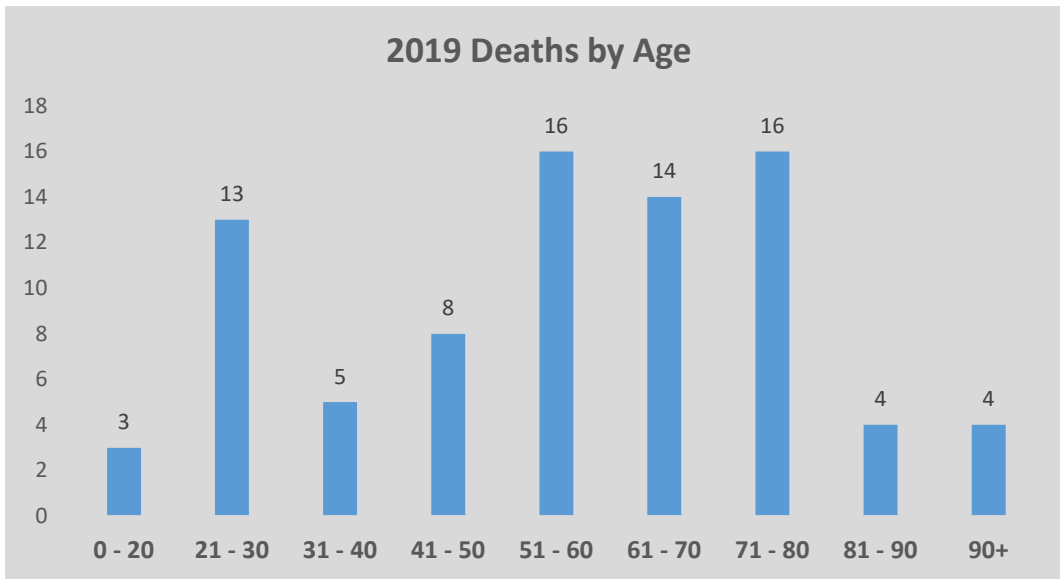
We presented to seniors at the Senior Community Center on dealing with an expected or unexpected death in your home during their "Death with Dignity" series.

Summit High School – Criminal Justice class, presentation on death investigation and coroner office duties. We present twice a school year to this class.

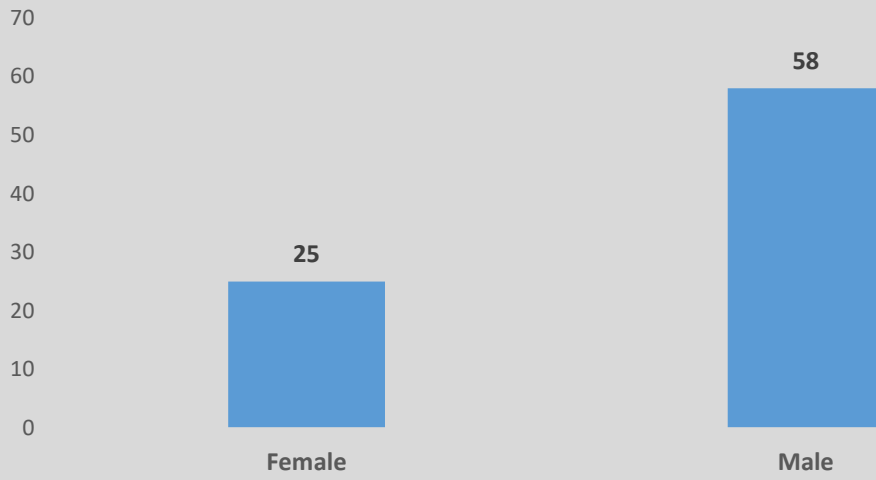
Summit Middle School – STEM classes, presentation on death investigation and coroner office duties. We provide information on how to pursue a degree in the forensic sciences.

We held our 3rd annual Coroner's Zombie Ball at the Ten Mile Music Hall Inn Frisco on October 25th to promote and raise funds for our Survivor Support program. We had over 150 people in attendance and raised just over \$5000.00, tripling the monies previously raised.

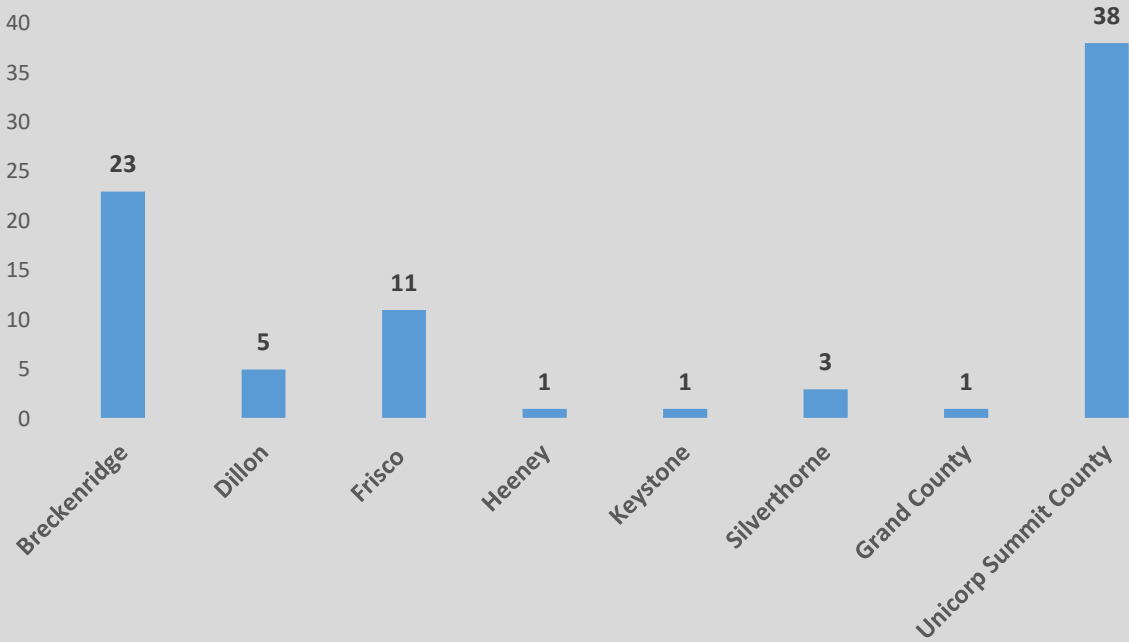
2019 SCOC DEATH STATS



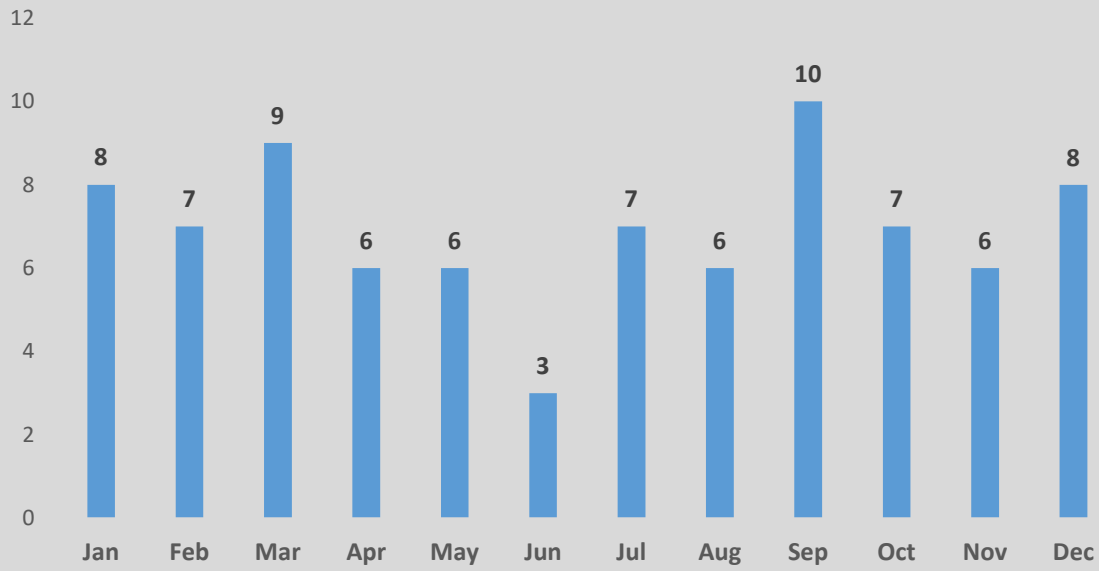
2019 Deaths by Gender



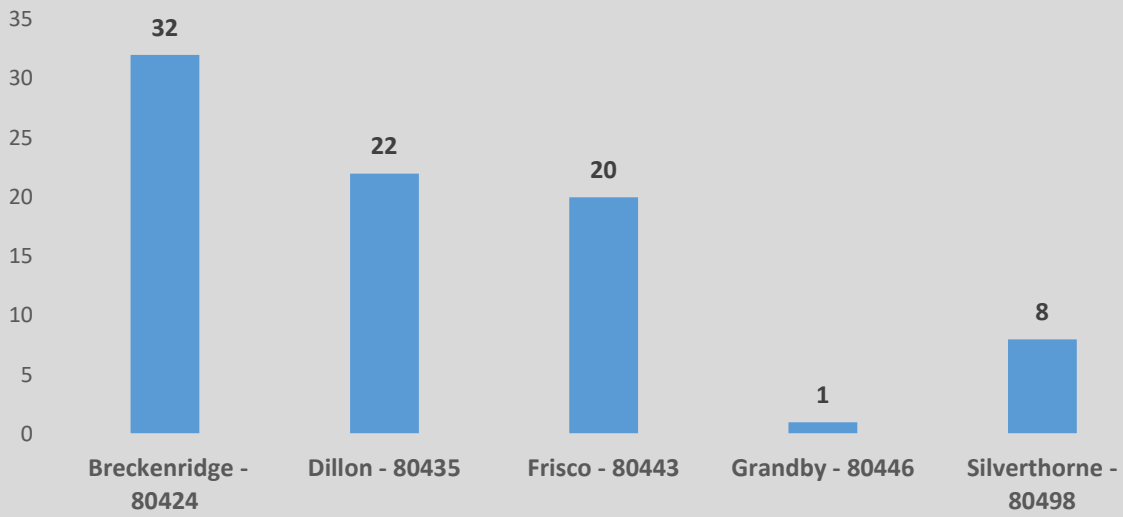
2019 Deaths by Jurisdiction



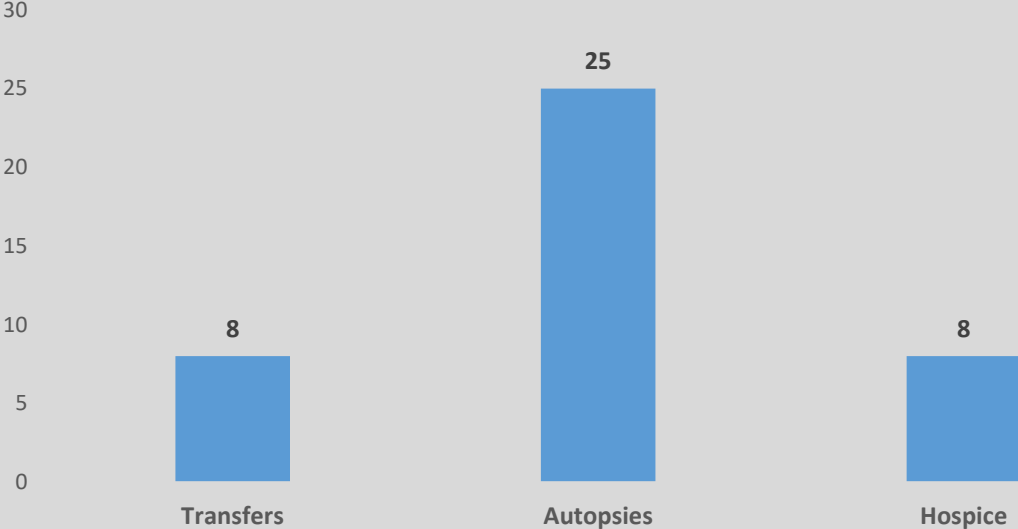
2019 Deaths by Month



2019 Deaths by Zip Code



2019 Autopsies, Hospice, & transfer Cases



2019 Deaths By Manner

