

# 2017 SUBSTANCE-RELATED DEATHS

Data from the Office of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner

Washoe County

This publication is supported in whole or in part by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Prevention, through State General Funds and/or the SAPTA Block Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO) primarily serves Washoe County, however, also provides services to all Nevada counties except for Lincoln, Clark and White Pine Counties. Additionally, the MCRMEO provides services to five California counties through interlocal agreements.

Certain categories of sudden death, by law, must be reported to and investigated by the office. These categories of deaths include sudden or unexpected deaths, traumatic deaths, and suspicious deaths. All suspicious and many apparent natural death scenes are evaluated by trained Medicolegal Death Investigators employed by the WCRMEO. Among the deaths reported to and falling within the office's jurisdiction, approximately 25% require autopsy or other medical examination. Board-certified forensic pathologists (medical doctors specializing in forensic pathology) conduct these autopsy and medical examinations.<sup>1</sup>

Responsibilities of the office include:

- Determining the cause and manner of death for jurisdictional cases;
- Electronic certification of death certificates in all cases of unnatural death and in many cases of natural death;
- Conducting investigations of death scenes;
- Identifying, collecting and processing evidence in order to ensure scientific integrity and usefulness;
- Recognizing unsuspected homicidal violence;
- Recognizing and reporting communicable and dangerous diseases, poisonings, and consumer product safety concerns;
- Positively identifying the dead;
- Notifying the decedent's next of kin and providing proper assistance to grieving families;
- Ensuring integrity of the personal property of decedents;
- Providing expert legal testimony in criminal and civil matters;
- Preparing for and responding to mass disasters; and
- Assisting in providing for burial of indigent citizens in accordance with law.

Washoe County is located along the north-western border of Nevada and in 2017, the total estimated population was 450,742.<sup>2</sup> There were 3,949 deaths during 2017 among Washoe County residents, of those, 3,798 died in Washoe County.<sup>3</sup> The Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office reviewed 635 cases<sup>4</sup> among the 3,949 deaths that occurred in Washoe County in 2017.<sup>5</sup> The number of deaths reviewed by the WCRMEO accounts for approximately 16% of all deaths that occurred in Washoe County during 2017.

Among the 635 Washoe County deaths reviewed by the WCRMEO, approximately 265 (42%) of the deceased Washoe County residents were found to have positive toxicology screens with at least one substance being found to have caused death or be related to a homicide, accidental (motor-vehicle,

---

<sup>1</sup> Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office. (2017). 2016 Annual Report. Reno, NV.

<sup>2</sup> Hardcastle, J. (2018). Nevada County Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin Estimates and Projections 2000 to 2037: Estimates from 2000 to 2017 and Projections from 2018 to 2037. Carson City, NV.

<sup>3</sup> Washoe County Health District, Division of Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness. Data provided upon request. Reno, NV.

<sup>4</sup> *Review of cases indicates an autopsy, limited (head-only) autopsies, and external examinations.*

<sup>5</sup> Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office. (2019). Data provided upon request. Reno, NV.

drownings etc.) or intentional self-harm (suicide) death. It should be noted, the total 338 deaths included in this report include deaths among non-Washoe County residents.

The WCRMEO provided de-identified data to Join Together Northern Nevada for those deaths that occurred during 2017 and were found to have positive toxicological findings. Analysis included only those deaths with positive toxicology results that met at least one of the following criteria:

1. Deaths where the cause of death was determined to be due to the substances identified through the toxicology screen.
2. Deaths due to suicide with a positive toxicology screen.
3. Deaths due to homicide with a positive toxicology screen.
4. Deaths due to accidents, such as unintended poisonings, drownings, and motor vehicle accidents, with a positive toxicology screen.

#### Definitions of manner of death

- Natural: unintentional death due to natural disease and/or the ageing process
- Accident: unintentional death due to an unplanned and unforeseeable sequence of events resulting in injury or poisoning. These are deaths which were unintentional and therefore classified as an accident.
- Suicide: death due to an injury or poisoning as a result of intentional or self-inflicted act with the intention of doing harm to one's self or cause death of one's-self.
- Homicide: death due to intentional injury or poisoning as a result of another person.
- Undetermined: classification when death cannot be attributed to one of the other categories. Lack of information to classify cause of death as intentional or unintentional.

#### Definitions for causes of death

- Alcohol: includes acute causes such as alcohol poisoning.
- Chronic Alcoholism: chronic conditions such as cirrhosis of the liver due to long-term alcohol use.
- Club Drug: includes ecstasy, MDMA, ketamine, and kratom.
- Drowning: includes drowning in any body of water.
- Firearm: includes deaths involving a firearm such as suicide, accident, or homicide.
- Hanging: includes all form of hanging, typically found among deaths due to intentional self-harm or suicide.
- Motor Vehicle: includes drivers, passengers, and pedestrian deaths involving a motorized vehicle.
- Other Medication: includes over-the-counter medications and other prescription medications such as antidepressants, anti-inflammatories, antipsychotics, antidiarrheal, muscle relaxants, anticonvulsants, antihistamines, antihypertensive, cough suppressants, calcium blockers, and hypertension medications.
- Opioid: includes drugs such as fentanyl, or toxicology findings that did not detail the type of opioid and list "opioids" as substance that caused death. This category does not include heroin which was classified separately.
- Opioid Replacement: substances used to treat opioid addiction including buprenorphine, methadone, and norbuprenorphine.
- Rx Opioid: includes prescription opioids, however, does not make the determination whether the drug was prescribed to the person or obtained illegally.

## County of Residence

Among the 338 substance - related deaths that occurred in Washoe County during 2017, not all were residents of Washoe County. The following table provides the county of residence for the 229 cases in 2016 and the 338 cases in 2017.

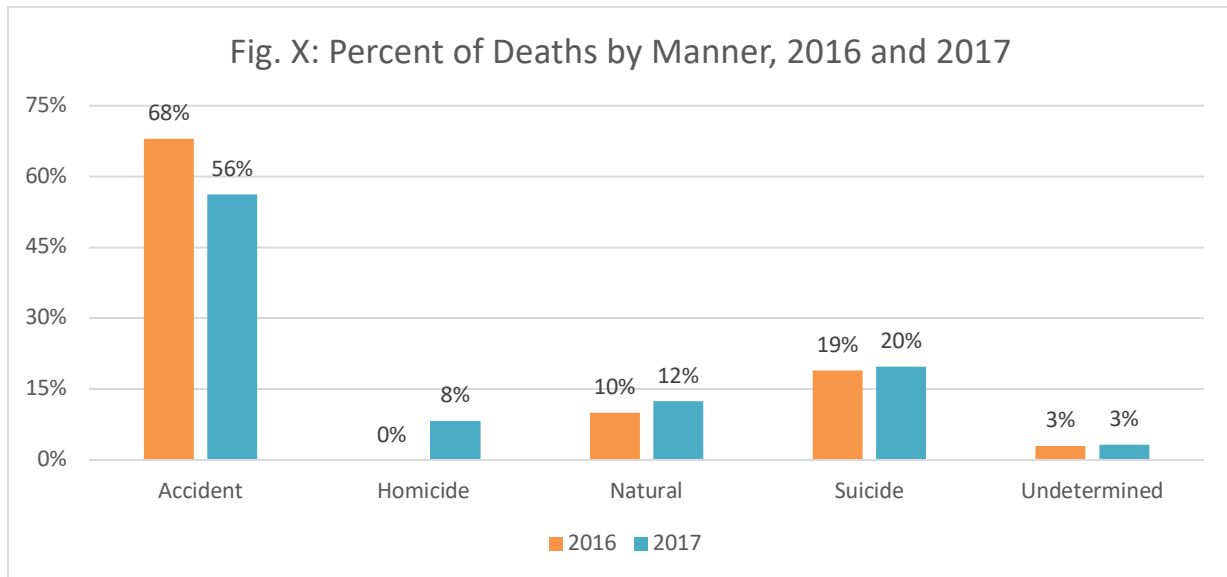
County of Residence	2016		2017	
	#	%	#	%
Carson City	2	1%	7	2%
Churchill	1	0%	4	1%
Clark	0	0%	2	1%
Douglas	3	1%	1	0%
Humboldt	1	0%	0	0%
Lander	1	0%	0	0%
Lyon	1	0%	5	1%
Pershing	1	0%	1	0%
Washoe	190	83%	265	78%
White Pine	0	0%	1	0%
Out of State	19	8%	36	11%
Unknown	10	4%	16	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Manner of Death

Similar to 2016, the majority of substance-related deaths in 2017 were primarily due to accidents (56%), followed by suicides (20%), natural causes (12%) and deaths of undetermined intent (3%). The 2017 data did include homicide deaths as well (8%).

**Table X: Number and Percent of Deaths by Manner, 2016 and 2017**

Manner	2016		2017	
	#	%	#	%
Accident	155	68%	190	56%
Homicide	0	0%	28	8%
Natural	23	10%	42	12%
Suicide	43	19%	67	20%
Undetermined	8	3%	11	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>100%</b>



## All Substance-related Deaths

There were 338 substance-related deaths during 2017 in Washoe County.

**Table X: Cause of Death, 2017**

Cause of Death	#	%
Alcohol	12	4%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Amphetamine	1	0%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Other Medication	1	0%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	1	0%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	1%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Sedative	1	0%
Alcohol/Heroin	1	0%
Alcohol/Methamphetamine	1	0%
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	1%
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	1	0%
Alcohol/Sedative/Opioid/Opioid Replacement	1	0%
Asphyxia	5	1%
Benzodiazepine	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Club Drug/Other Medication	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement/Opioid	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Methamphetamine/Opioid Replacement	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid	2	1%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Club Drug	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Other Medication	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Cocaine	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/RX Opioid	7	2%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	2	1%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Other Medication	2	1%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	1	0%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	5	1%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	2	1%
Blunt Force	22	7%
Blunt Force - Fall	6	2%
Chronic Alcoholism	40	12%
Drowning	3	1%
Environmental Exposure	3	1%
Firearm	56	17%
Hanging	12	4%
Heroin	4	1%
Heroin/Other Medication	1	0%
Heroin/RX Opioid	1	0%
Heroin/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0%
Inhalant/Carbon Monoxide	3	1%
Methamphetamine	29	9%
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Amphetamine/Opioid Replacement	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid	2	0%
Methamphetamine/Cocaine	1	0%

Methamphetamine/Heroin	6	2%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Cocaine	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid/Amphetamine	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Opioid	2	1%
Methamphetamine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Other Medication	15	4%
Methamphetamine/RX Opioid	2	1%
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Amphetamine	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0%
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	1%
Motor Vehicle	21	6%
Opioid	1	0%
Opioid Replacement	1	0%
Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0%
Opioid, multiple	1	0%
Other Medication	10	3%
Other Medication, multiple	1	0%
RX Opioid/Other Medication	1	0%
Rx Opioid	2	1%
Rx Opioid, multiple	6	2%
Rx Opioid/Anticonvulsant/Other Medication	1	0%
Rx Opioid/Antidepressant/Antianxiety/Cocaine	1	0%
Rx Opioid/Heroin/Club Drug	1	0%
Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0%
Rx Opioid/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0%
Rx Opioid/Other Medication	3	1%
Stab/Cutting	2	1%
Stimulant-Amphetamine	1	0%
Strangulation	1	0%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	103	30%
Male	235	70%
<b>Age Group</b>		
0-19 years	11	3%
20-29 years	62	18%
30-39 years	41	12%
40-49 years	50	15%
50-59 years	81	24%
60-69 years	70	21%
70+ years	23	7%
<b>Homeless</b>		
No	322	95%
Yes	16	5%
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
No	327	3%
Yes	11	0%
<b>Marital Status</b>		



	Divorced	52	15%
	Married	69	20%
	Never Married	19	6%
	Single	72	21%
	Unknown	110	33%
	Widowed	16	5%
<b>Location</b>			
	Abandoned House, Building, or Warehouse	1	0%
	Casino	3	1%
	Highway/Freeway	9	3%
	Hospital	90	27%
	Hotel/ Motel	19	6%
	Industrial or Construction Areas	1	0%
	Jail, Prison, Detention Facility	1	0%
	Motor Vehicle	1	0%
	Natural Area	11	3%
	Other	7	2%
	Parking Lot/ Public Parking Garage	7	2%
	Public Transportation	1	0%
	Railroad Tracks	1	0%
	Residence	166	49%
	Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	18	5%
	Waterway	2	1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>338</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Detailed Cause of Death

Among the 338 deaths, 135 (40%) were due to circumstances not attributed to the substances identified through the toxicology screen, for example deaths due to asphyxiation, blunt force, drowning, firearms, or motor vehicle accidents. Among the 203 deaths directly attributed to substance use (died as a result of the substances ingested), half (50%) were cases where multiple substances were found to contribute to the cause of death. The following table provides the detailed cause of death and for those deaths due to substances, the combination of substances that caused death.

Cause of Death	Manner					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	
Alcohol	7	0	4	0	1	12
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/ Amphetamine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	0	0	0	1	0	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	0	0	0	0	2
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Sedative	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol/Heroin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol/Methamphetamine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	1	0	0	1	0	2
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alcohol/Sedative/Opioid/Opioid Replacement	0	0	0	0	1	1
Asphyxia	2	0	0	3	0	5
Benzodiazepine	0	0	0	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Club Drug/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/ Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement/ Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Methamphetamine/ Opioid Replacement	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid	2	0	0	0	0	2
Benzodiazepine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Club Drug	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Cocaine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	6	0	0	1	0	7
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	2	0	0	0	0	2
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Other Medication	0	0	0	2	0	2
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	4	0	0	1	0	5

Cause of Death	Manner					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	2	0	0	0	0	2
Blunt Force	16	0	0	4	1	21
Blunt Force - Fall	6	0	0	0	0	6
Blunt Trauma	0	1	0	0	0	1
Chronic Alcoholism	5	0	35	0	0	40
Drowning	3	0	0	0	0	3
Environmental Exposure	3	0	0	0	0	3
Firearm	0	24	0	32	0	56
Hanging	0	0	0	12	0	12
Heroin	3	0	0	1	0	4
Heroin/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Heroin/Rx Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Heroin/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Inhalant/Carbon Monoxide	3	0	0	0	0	3
Methamphetamine	23	1	2	1	2	29
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Amphetamine/Opioid Replacement	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid	2	0	0	0	0	2
Methamphetamine/Cocaine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin	6	0	0	0	0	6
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Cocaine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid/Amphetamine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Opioid	2	0	0	0	0	2
Methamphetamine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Other Medication	14	0	1	0	0	15
Methamphetamine/RX Opioid	2	0	0	0	0	2
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Amphetamine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	0	0	0	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	0	0	0	0	2
Motor Vehicle	21	0	0	0	0	21
Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Opioid Replacement	1	0	0	0	0	1
Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	0	0	0	1	0	1
Opioid, multiple	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other Medication	3	0	0	5	2	10
Other Medication, multiple	1	0	0	0	0	1
RX Opioid/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rx Opioid	2	0	0	0	0	2
Rx Opioid, multiple	4	0	0	1	1	6
Rx Opioid/Anticonvulsant/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1

Cause of Death	Manner					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Undetermined	
Rx Opioid/Antidepressant /Antianxiety/Cocaine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rx Opioid/Heroin/Club Drug	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rx Opioid/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	0	0	0	1	3
Stab/Cutting	0	1	0	1	0	2
Stimulant-Amphetamine	1	0	0	0	0	1
Strangulation	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>338</b>

## Accident Deaths

There were 190 substance-related deaths due to accidents during 2017 in Washoe County.

<b>Table X: Cause of Death, Accident Deaths, 2017</b>		
<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Alcohol	7	4%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Amphetamine	1	1%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Other Medication	1	1%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	1	1%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	1%
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Sedative	1	1%
Alcohol/Heroin	1	1%
Alcohol/Methamphetamine	1	1%
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	1	1%
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	1	1%
Asphyxia	2	1%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Club Drug/Other Medication	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Methamphetamine/Opioid Replacement	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid	2	1%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Club Drug	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Other Medication	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Cocaine	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	6	3%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	2	1%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	4	2%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	2	1%
Blunt Force	16	8%
Blunt Force - Fall	6	3%
Chronic Alcoholism	5	3%
Drowning	3	2%
Environmental Exposure	3	2%
Heroin	3	2%
Heroin/Other Medication	1	1%
Heroin/RX Opioid	1	1%
Heroin/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	1%
Inhalant/Carbon Monoxide	3	2%
Methamphetamine	23	12%
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Amphetamine/Opioid Replacement	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid	2	1%
Methamphetamine/Cocaine	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Heroin	6	3%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Cocaine	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid/Amphetamine	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Opioid	2	1%

Methamphetamine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Other Medication	14	7%
Methamphetamine/RX Opioid	2	1%
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Amphetamine	1	1%
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	1%
Motor Vehicle	21	11%
Opioid	1	1%
Opioid Replacement	1	1%
Opioid, multiple	1	1%
Other Medication	3	2%
Other Medication, multiple	1	1%
RX Opioid/Other Medication	1	1%
Rx Opioid	2	1%
Rx Opioid, multiple	4	2%
Rx Opioid/Anticonvulsant/Other Medication	1	1%
Rx Opioid/Antidepressant/Antianxiety/Cocaine	1	1%
Rx Opioid/Heroin/Club Drug	1	1%
Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	1%
Rx Opioid/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	1%
Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	1%
Stimulant-Amphetamine	1	1%
<b>Gender</b>		0%
Female	66	35%
Male	124	65%
<b>Age Group</b>		0%
0-19 years	2	1%
20-29 years	33	17%
30-39 years	22	12%
40-49 years	29	15%
50-59 years	52	27%
60-69 years	37	19%
70+ years	15	8%
<b>Homeless</b>		0%
No	180	95%
Yes	10	5%
<b>Veteran Status</b>		0%
No	186	98%
Yes	4	2%
<b>Marital Status</b>		0%
Divorced	33	17%
Married	44	23%
Never Married	10	5%
Single	40	21%
Unknown	53	28%
Widowed	10	5%
<b>Location</b>		0%
Abandoned House, Building, or Warehouse	1	1%
Casino	2	1%
Highway/Freeway	8	4%
Hospital	51	27%
Hotel/ Motel	11	6%
Industrial or Construction Areas	1	1%
Jail, Prison, Detention Facility	1	1%

	Motor Vehicle	1	1%
	Natural Area	3	2%
	Other	4	2%
	Parking Lot/ Public Parking Garage	4	2%
	Public Transportation	1	1%
	Railroad Tracks	1	1%
	Residence	89	47%
	Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	12	6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>190</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Natural Deaths

There were 42 substance-related deaths due to natural causes during 2017 in Washoe County. Although methamphetamine was listed as a cause of death or as a contributing factor to death for three cases, these deaths were classified by the WCRMEO as deaths due to natural causes.

<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Alcohol	4	10%
Chronic Alcoholism	35	83%
Methamphetamine	2	5%
Methamphetamine/Other Medication	1	2%
<b>Gender</b>		0%
Female	11	26%
Male	31	74%
<b>Age Group</b>		0%
0-19 years	0	0%
20-29 years	0	0%
30-39 years	2	5%
40-49 years	6	14%
50-59 years	16	38%
60-69 years	16	38%
70+ years	2	5%
<b>Homeless</b>		0%
No	40	429%
Yes	2	24%
<b>Veteran Status</b>		0%
No	40	95%
Yes	2	5%
<b>Marital Status</b>		0%
Divorced	10	24%
Married	7	17%
Never Married	2	5%
Single	7	17%
Unknown	13	31%
Widowed	3	7%
<b>Location</b>		0%
Hospital	5	12%
Hotel/Motel	5	12%
Residence	32	76%
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Suicide Deaths

There were 67 substance-related deaths due to suicides during 2017 in Washoe County.

**Table X: Cause of Death, Suicide Deaths, 2017**

<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	1%
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	1	1%
Asphyxia	3	4%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	1	1%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Other Medication	2	3%
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	1	1%
Blunt Force	4	6%
Firearm	32	48%
Hanging	12	18%
Heroin	1	1%
Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	1%
Other Medication	5	7%
Rx Opioid, multiple	1	1%
Stab/Cutting	1	1%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	21	31%
Male	46	69%
<b>Age Group</b>		
0-19 years	4	6%
20-29 years	18	27%
30-39 years	9	13%
40-49 years	11	16%
50-59 years	9	13%
60-69 years	11	16%
70+ years	5	7%
<b>Homeless</b>		
No	65	97%
Yes	2	3%
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
No	63	94%
Yes	4	6%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Divorced	6	9%
Married	15	22%
Never Married	6	9%
Single	18	27%
Unknown	20	30%
Widowed	2	3%
<b>Location</b>		
Highway/Freeway	1	1%
Hospital	20	30%
Hotel/ Motel	2	3%
Natural Area	6	9%
Other	1	1%
Parking Lot/ Public Parking Garage	3	4%
Residence	33	49%
Waterway	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Homicide Deaths

There were 28 homicide deaths in 2017 that were found to have substances present through the toxicology screen conducted by the WCRMEO. For the case with methamphetamine listed as the cause of death, it was listed as “acute methamphetamine toxicity” although the case was categorized as a homicide.

<b>Table X: Cause of Death, Homicide Deaths, 2017</b>		
<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
Blunt Force	1	4%
Firearm	24	86%
Methamphetamine	1	4%
Stab/Cutting	1	4%
Strangulation	1	4%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	2	7%
Male	26	93%
<b>Age Group</b>		
0-19 years	5	18%
20-29 years	10	36%
30-39 years	6	21%
40-49 years	4	14%
50-59 years	0	0%
60-69 years	3	11%
70+ years	0	0%
<b>Homeless</b>		
No	27	96%
Yes	1	4%
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
No	28	100%
Yes	0	0%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Divorced	1	4%
Married	1	4%
Never Married	1	4%
Single	4	14%
Unknown	21	75%
<b>Location</b>		
Casino	1	4%
Hospital	12	43%
Natural Area	2	7%
Other	2	7%
Residence	5	18%
Street/Road, Sidewalk, Alley	6	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Undetermined Deaths

There were 11 substance-related deaths for which the intent was undetermined during 2017 in Washoe County.

<b>Table X: Cause of Death, Undetermined Deaths, 2017</b>			
<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	
Alcohol	1	9%	
Alcohol/Sedative/Opioid/Opioid Replacement	1	9%	
Benzodiazepine	1	9%	
Blunt Force	1	9%	
Methamphetamine	2	18%	
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	9%	
Other Medication	2	18%	
Rx Opioid, multiple	1	9%	
Rx Opioid/Other Medication	1	9%	
<b>Gender</b>			
Female	3	27%	
Male	8	73%	
<b>Age Group</b>			
		0%	
0-19 years	0	0%	
20-29 years	1	9%	
30-39 years	2	18%	
40-49 years	0	0%	
50-59 years	4	36%	
60-69 years	3	27%	
70+ years	1	9%	
<b>Homeless</b>			
		0%	
No	10	91%	
Yes	1	9%	
<b>Veteran Status</b>			
		0%	
No	10	91%	
Yes	1	9%	
<b>Marital Status</b>			
		0%	
Divorced	2	18%	
Married	2	18%	
Never Married	0	0%	
Single	3	27%	
Unknown	3	27%	
Widowed	1	9%	
<b>Location</b>			
		0%	
Hospital	2	18%	
Hotel/ Motel	1	9%	
Residence	7	64%	
Waterway	1	9%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## Special Populations

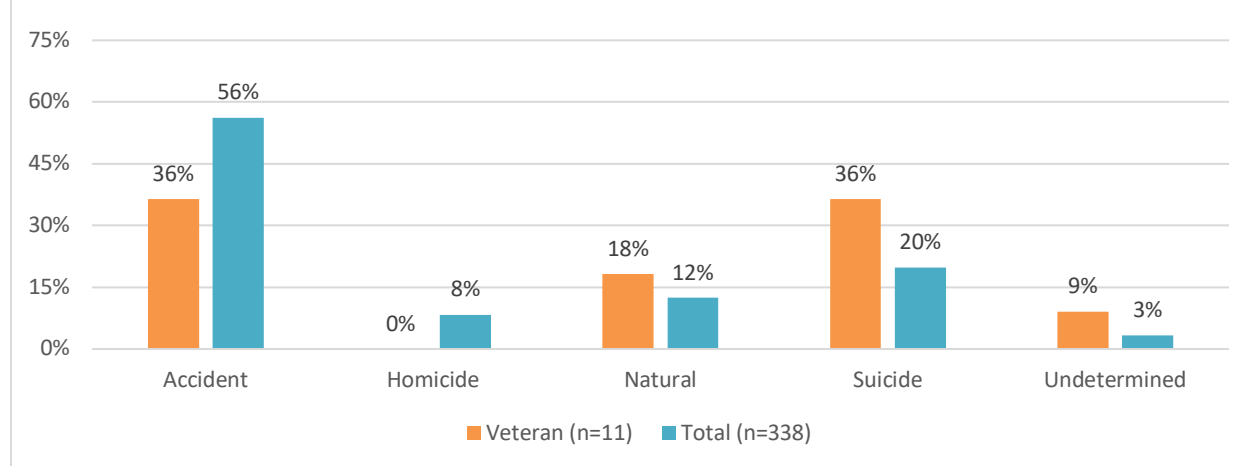
### Veteran Status

There were 11 substance-related deaths among veterans, among these, four deaths were categorized as accidents, while another four were suicides.

**Table X: Manner of Death by Veteran Status, 2017**

Manner	Veteran Status		
	No	Yes	Total
Accident	186	4	190
Homicide	28	0	28
Natural	40	2	42
Suicide	63	4	67
Undetermined	10	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>338</b>

**Fig. X: Percent of Deaths among Veterans by Manner of Death, 2017**



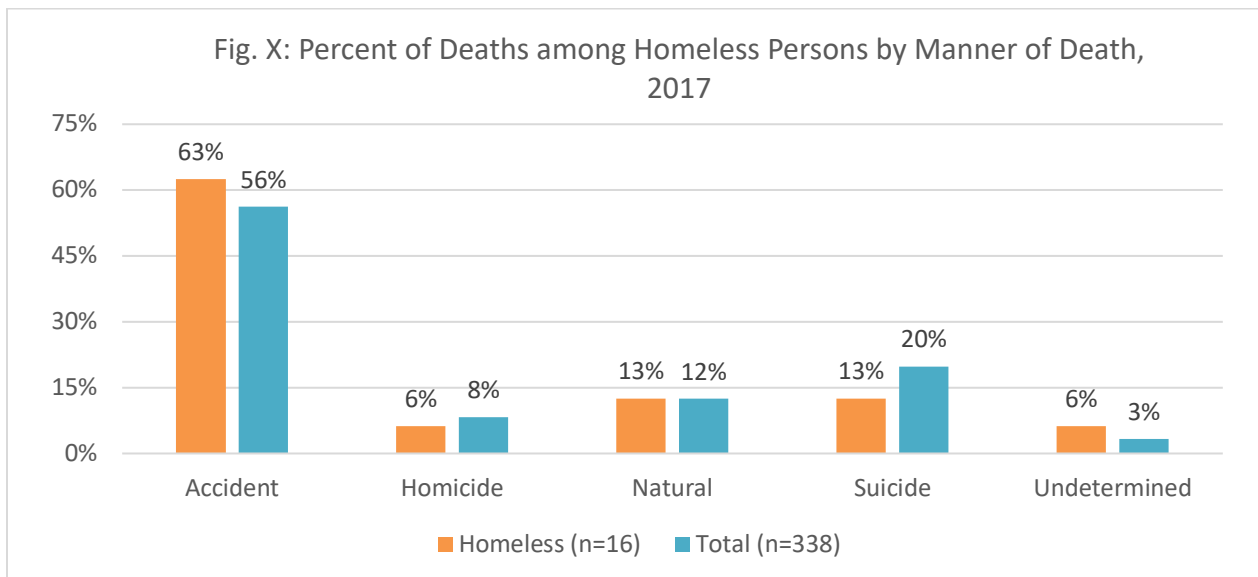
**Table X: Cause of Death Among Veterans, 2017**

Cause of Death	#	%
Chronic Alcoholism	2	18%
Firearm	3	27%
Methamphetamine	2	18%
Motor Vehicle	1	9%
Other Medication	2	18%
Rx Opioid/Other Medication	1	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Homeless

There were sixteen substance-related deaths among people who were homeless, the majority (63%) of which were accidental deaths.

Manner	Homeless		
	No	Yes	Total
Accident	180	10	190
Homicide	27	1	28
Natural	40	2	42
Suicide	65	2	67
Undetermined	10	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>338</b>



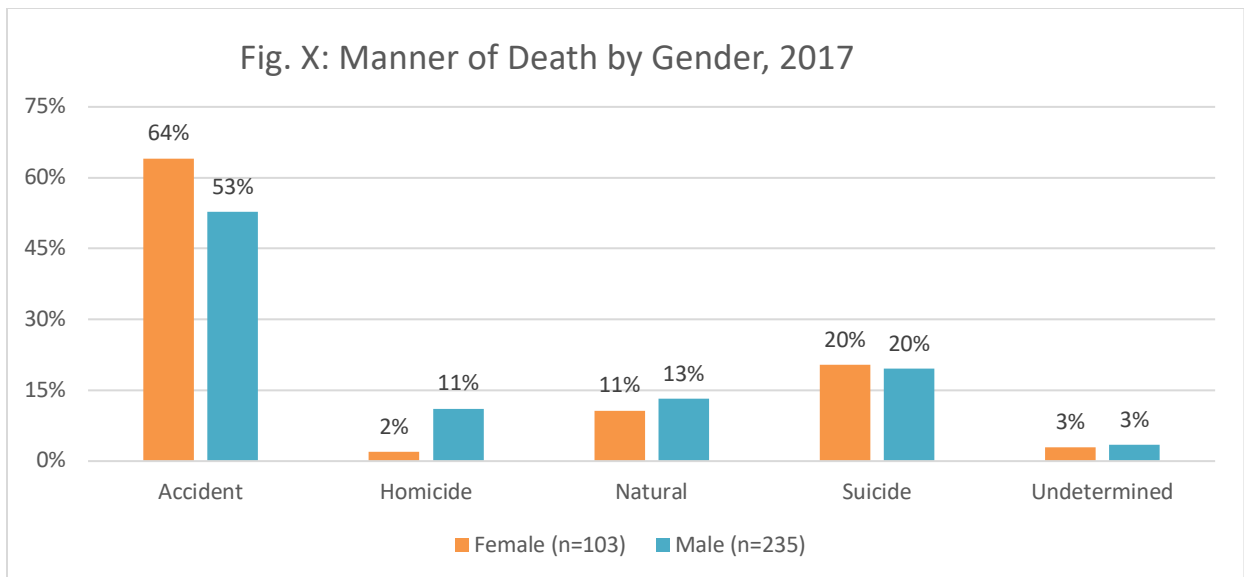
Cause of Death	#	%
Alcohol/Methamphetamine	1	6%
Blunt Force	1	6%
Chronic Alcoholism	2	13%
Drowning	1	6%
Environmental Exposure	1	6%
Firearm	1	6%
Hanging	1	6%
Methamphetamine	4	25%
Methamphetamine/Other Medication	1	6%
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	6%
Motor Vehicle	1	6%
Strangulation	1	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Substance-related Deaths by Gender

More deaths occurred among males compared to females in both 2016 and 2017. In 2017, females were more likely die due to accidents (64%) compared to males (53%), while males were more likely to die due to homicide (11%) compared to females (2%).

**Table X: Manner of Death by Gender, 2016-2017**

Manner	Female		Male		Total	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Accident	50	66	105	124	155	190
Homicide	0	2	0	26	0	28
Natural	6	11	17	31	23	42
Suicide	12	21	31	46	43	67
Undetermined	7	3	1	8	8	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>338</b>



**Table X: Cause of Death by Gender, 2017**

Cause of Death	Gender		
	Female	Male	Total
Alcohol	6	6	12
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Amphetamine	0	1	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Other Medication	1	0	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	1	0	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0	1
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	0	2
Alcohol/Benzodiazepine/Sedative	1	0	1
Alcohol/Heroin	0	1	1
Alcohol/Methamphetamine	0	1	1
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	0	2
Alcohol/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	0	1	1
Alcohol/Sedative/Opioid/Opioid Replacement	1	0	1

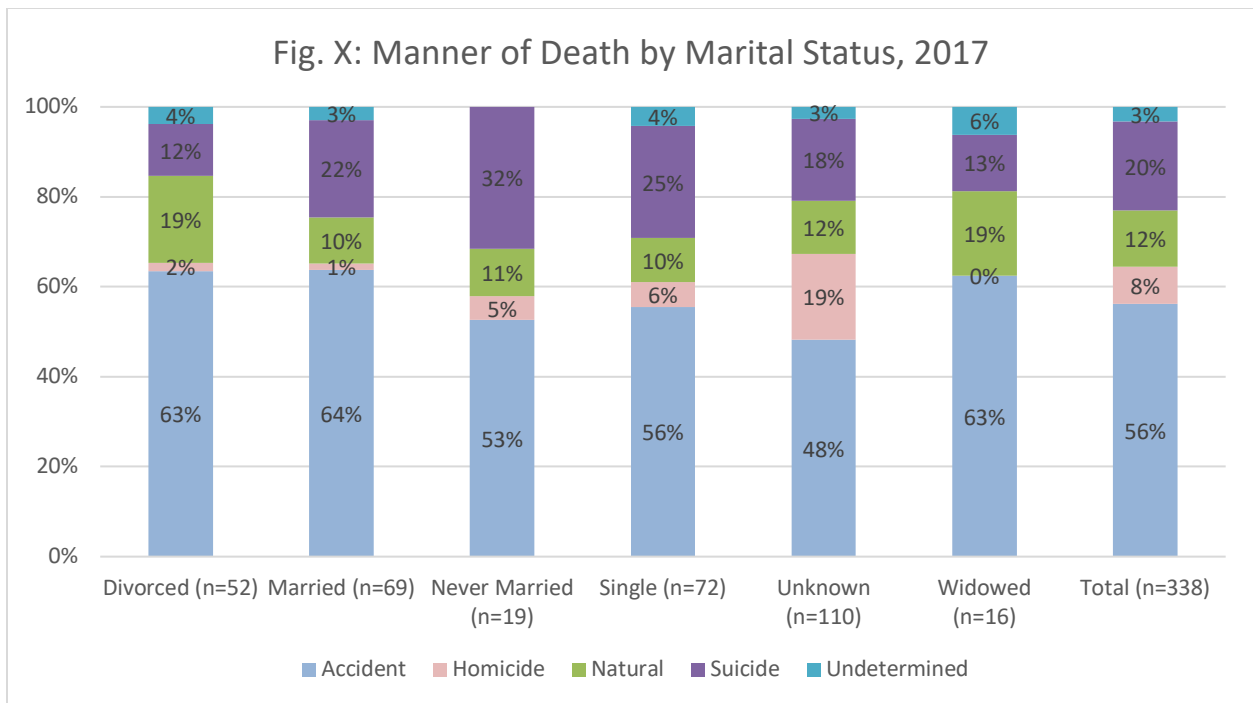
Asphyxia	1	4	5
Benzodiazepine	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Club Drug/Other Medication	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement/Opioid	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Methamphetamine/Opioid Replacement	1	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid	0	2	2
Benzodiazepine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Club Drug	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Other Medication	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Opioid/Cocaine	0	1	1
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid	2	5	7
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	1	2
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Other Medication	2	0	2
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	1	0	1
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	4	1	5
Benzodiazepine/Rx Opioid/Sedative/Other Medication	2	0	2
Blunt Force	8	13	21
Blunt Force - Fall	2	4	6
Blunt Trauma	0	1	1
Chronic Alcoholism	9	31	40
Drowning	1	2	3
Environmental Exposure	1	2	3
Firearm	5	51	56
Hanging	2	10	12
Heroin	1	3	4
Heroin/Other Medication	0	1	1
Heroin/Rx Opioid	0	1	1
Heroin/Rx Opioid/Opioid	0	1	1
Inhalant/Carbon Monoxide	1	2	3
Methamphetamine	9	20	29
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Amphetamine/Opioid Replacement	1	0	1
Methamphetamine/Benzodiazepine/Heroin/Opioid	1	1	2
Methamphetamine/Cocaine	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin	1	5	6
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Cocaine	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid Replacement	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Opioid	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid	1	0	1
Methamphetamine/Heroin/Rx Opioid/Amphetamine	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Opioid	0	2	2
Methamphetamine/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Other Medication	4	11	15
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid	1	1	2
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid/Amphetamine	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Opioid	0	1	1
Methamphetamine/Rx Opioid/Other Medication	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle	5	16	21
Opioid	0	1	1
Opioid Replacement	1	0	1
Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	1	0	1
Opioid, multiple	1	0	1

Other Medication	5	5	10
Other Medication, multiple	1	0	1
RX Opioid/Other Medication	1	0	1
Rx Opioid	1	1	2
Rx Opioid, multiple	1	5	6
Rx Opioid/Anticonvulsant/Other Medication	1	0	1
Rx Opioid/Antidepressant/Antianxiety/Cocaine	1	0	1
Rx Opioid/Heroin/Club Drug	0	1	1
Rx Opioid/Opioid	1	0	1
Rx Opioid/Opioid Replacement/Other Medication	0	1	1
Rx Opioid/Other Medication	2	1	3
Stab/Cutting	1	1	2
Stimulant-Amphetamine	0	1	1
Strangulation	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>338</b>



## Substance-related Deaths by Marital Status

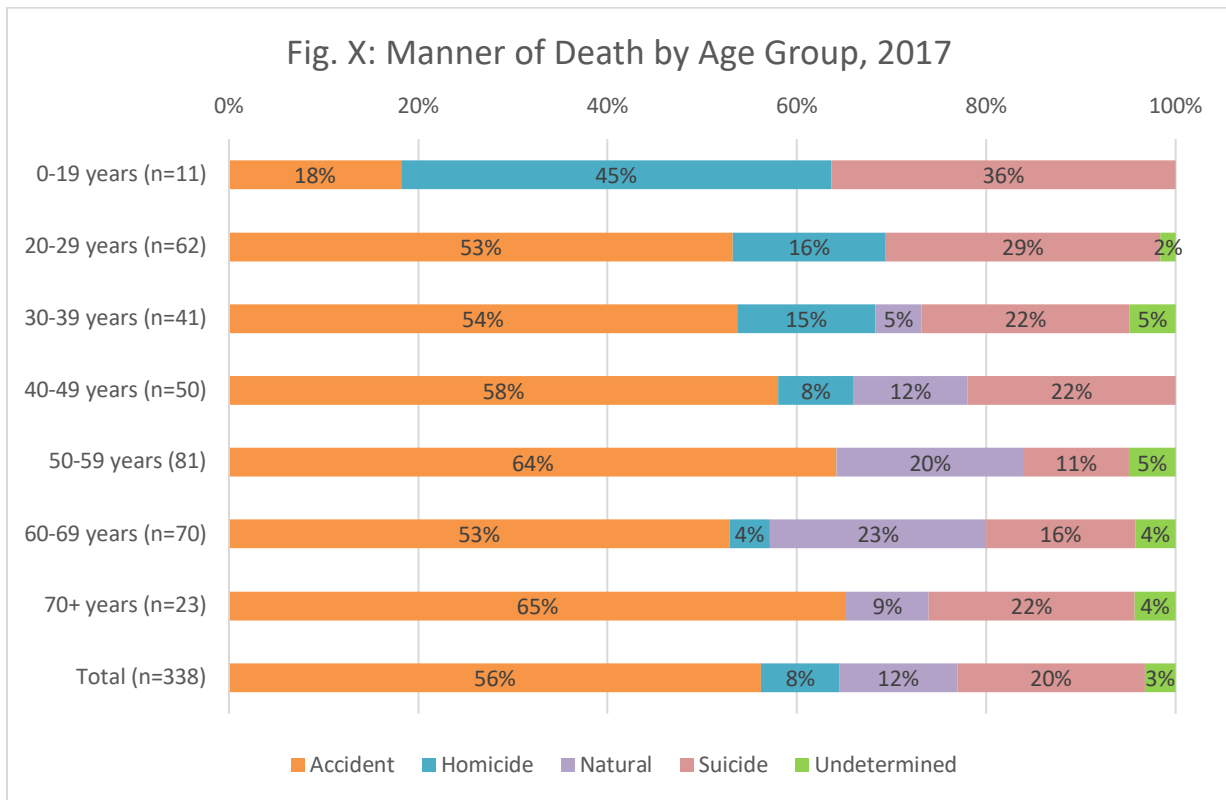
Manner	Divorced	Married	Never Married	Single	Unknown	Widowed	Total
Accident	33	44	10	40	53	10	190
Homicide	1	1	1	4	21	0	28
Natural	10	7	2	7	13	3	42
Suicide	6	15	6	18	20	2	67
Undetermined	2	2	0	3	3	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>338</b>



## Substance-related Deaths by Age Group

**Table X: Manner of Death by Age Group, 2017**

Manner	0-19 years	20-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60-69 years	70+ years	Total
Accident	2	33	22	29	52	37	15	190
Homicide	5	10	6	4	0	3	0	28
Natural	0	0	2	6	16	16	2	42
Suicide	4	18	9	11	9	11	5	67
Undetermined	0	1	2	0	4	3	1	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>338</b>



## Substances Found to Have Caused Death

Although a substance was identified through the toxicology screen, the death may not have been directly attributed to that substance. The following table shows the substances identified through a toxicology screen and the number and percent of times the substance was listed as having caused death. Each death may be represented more than once, as a case may have had multiple substances in their system at time of death.

Substance	Number of Times Identified in Toxicology Screen	Number of times Substance Listed as Causing Death	% of Mentions Substance Found to have Caused Death
MDMA	2	2	100%
Aerosol	1	1	100%
Metaxalone	1	1	100%
Propylene Glycol	1	1	100%
Salicylate	1	1	100%
Heroin	29	28	97%
Antihistamine - Benadryl	15	11	73%
Methamphetamine	96	66	69%
Muscle Relaxant	12	8	67%
Sedative	15	9	60%
Antidepressant/Antianxiety	5	3	60%
Antihistamine	5	3	60%
Anticonvulsant	43	23	55%
Antianxiety	4	2	50%
SSRI - Antidepressant	22	9	41%
Opioid Replacement	32	13	41%
Stimulant	8	3	38%
Rx Opioid	204	72	35%
Opioid	97	34	35%
Carbon Monoxide	6	2	33%
Ketamine	3	1	33%
Kratom	3	1	33%
Benzodiazepine	130	40	31%
SNRI - Antidepressant	11	3	27%
Cocaine	23	6	26%
Antidepressant	63	16	25%
Antipsychotic	16	4	25%
Amphetamine	108	20	19%
Ecstasy	7	1	14%
Alcohol	238	27	11%
Acetaminophen	15	1	7%
Acetone	12	0	0%
Anesthetic	3	0	0%
Antidiabetic	2	0	0%
Antihypertensive	3	0	0%
Aripiprazole	2	0	0%
Barbiturate	3	0	0%
Barbiturate/Stimulant	1	0	0%
BHB-Ketone	1	0	0%
Caffeine	127	0	0%
CBD	7	0	0%

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Number of Times Identified in Toxicology Screen</b>	<b>Number of times Substance Listed as Causing Death</b>	<b>% of Mentions Substance Found to have Caused Death</b>
Chloride	2	0	0%
Cocaethylene	1	0	0%
Creatinine	2	0	0%
Decongestant	3	0	0%
Diltiazem	2	0	0%
DXM Sedative	3	0	0%
Laudanosine	1	0	0%
LSD	1	0	0%
Nicotine	7	0	0%
Norketamine	2	0	0%
Opioid Blocker	34	0	0%
Potassium	2	0	0%
Sodium	2	0	0%
THC	181	0	0%
Theobromine	2	0	0%
Tobacco	62	0	0%
Urea Nitrogen	1	0	0%