

**SUBSTANCE-RELATED DEATHS
WASHOE COUNTY
2017 DATA**

May 9, 2019

DATA REVIEW

- 3,949 deaths occurred in Washoe County during 2017
- Washoe County Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO) reviewed 635 cases, accounts for approximately 16% of all deaths that occurred in Washoe County.
- Approximately 265 (42%) of the deceased Washoe County residents had a positive toxicology screen.
- Inclusion Criteria: At least one substance being found to have caused death **or** be related to a homicide, accidental (motor-vehicle, drownings etc.) **or** intentional self-harm (suicide) death.
- A total of 338 deaths were included for analyses within the report this includes non-Washoe County residents.

MANNER OF DEATH

56% Accident (motor vehicle, blunt force, methamphetamine, drowning)

20% Suicide (firearm, hanging, asphyxia)

12% Natural (chronic alcoholism,

8% Homicide (firearm)

3% Undetermined

TOP CAUSES OF
DEATH-SINGLE
CAUSES OF DEATH

17% Firearms

12% Chronic alcoholism

9% Methamphetamine only

6% Motor vehicle

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- Males represented 7 out of 10 deaths
- 24% of deaths among those 50-59 years of age
- 33% of deaths due to a combination of two or more substances
- 19% of deaths due to a combination of opioid and some other substance*
- 13% of deaths due to a combination of methamphetamine and some other substance*
- 12% of deaths due to a combination of benzodiazepine and some other substance*

*Not mutually exclusive, could be counted across categories multiple times

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- Majority (56%) of deaths were due to accidents
 - Methamphetamine-only 12%, motor vehicles 11%, blunt force 8%, meth + other substances 7%
- 20% of all deaths due to suicide
 - 48% caused by firearms
 - 18% hanging
- 12% of all deaths due to natural causes
 - 83% of natural deaths due to alcohol (usually cirrhosis due to long-standing alcohol consumption)
- 8% of deaths due to homicide
 - 86% cause by firearms
 - 36% of homicide deaths among 20-29 year old age group
- 3% of deaths due to undetermined intent

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- Most commonly found substances (# represents the number of times it was found in a case, each case could have multiple substances and the substance was counted for each separate drug)
 - Alcohol (n=238)
 - Prescription opioids (n=204)
 - THC (n=181)
 - Benzodiazepine (n=130)
 - Amphetamine (n=108)
 - Meth (n=96)
 - Opioid (n=97)