



County of San Diego Department of the Medical Examiner Year-End Comparison Report

Report time frame: Jan - Dec 2019

(comparing to: Jan - Dec 2018)

Total cases
3,347
(+4% from 3,232 in 2018)

Accident
1,664
(+5%)

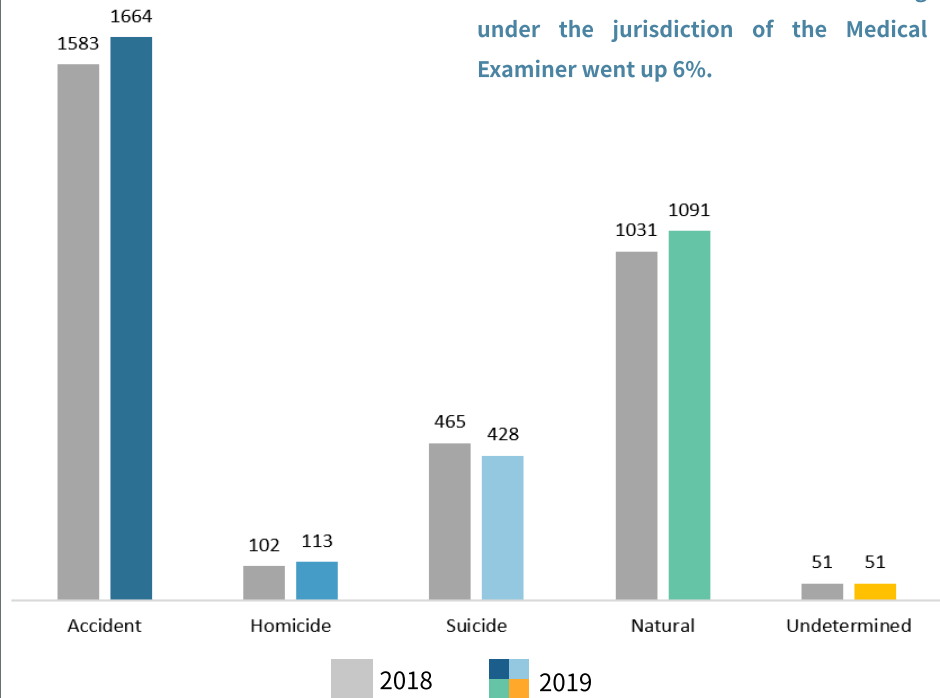
Homicide
113
(+11%)

Suicide
428
(-8%)

Natural
1,091
(+6%)

MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing cases from 2018 to 2019, accidental deaths have increased 5%, homicides were up by 11%, suicides decreased 8% and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner went up 6%.



Accidents

Unintentional Drug, Medication, and Alcohol related deaths remained high, representing 39% of all accidental deaths in 2019; Falls accounted for 33% and Motor Vehicle related accidental deaths were at 18%.

- Unintentional deaths due to drug, medication, and/or alcohol toxicity increased by 12% (577 to 645)
- The average age was 46, the youngest was 16, and oldest was 77; 77% were male
- Methamphetamine was a causative factor in 59% of all unintentional overdose cases and saw a 16% increase (328 to 379)
- Deaths where Fentanyl was a causative factor increased by 63% (92 to 151)

Note: Counts listed for Methamphetamine and Fentanyl include deaths where the drug either alone or with other drugs, medication and/or alcohol was a causative factor in death; these counts are not mutually exclusive and may include cases where both Fentanyl and Methamphetamine were a causative factor in death

- Falls increased 12% (488 to 545), remaining a significant cause of accidental deaths, representing 33% of all such cases
- Blunt Head Trauma, including subdural hematoma, remains the leading cause of fall-related deaths, accounting for 49% (266) of these cases
- Deaths resulting from Hip/Femur Fracture represented 24% (131) of Fall cases

- Motor Vehicle related deaths saw an overall decrease of 5% (316 to 301)
- Pedestrian deaths remained the leading type of Motor Vehicle related death at 33% (98); it also decreased 8% (107 to 98) compared to 2018
- Motorcycle related deaths, including both solo and those involving another motor vehicle, saw a 6% increase (48 to 51)

Homicides

11%

INCREASE (102 to 113)

In 55% of cases (62 of 113) the method was a firearm

Suicides

- There was an 8% decrease in suicides (465 to 428) compared to 2018
- During this time period, firearms continued to be the leading method of suicide, accounting for 39% (166) of all such cases, followed by Asphyxia at 32% (135)
- There were 15 Coronado Bridge deaths in 2019 compared to 16 in 2018