

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **FOREWORD**

The Yakima Coroner's Office serves the community by investigating sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. The Coroner's staff recognizes the tragedy surrounding any untimely death and performs investigations, in part, to assist the grieving family. A complete investigation provides for the expeditious settling of estates and insurance claims, as well as for implementing civil and criminal actions. Questions which seem irrelevant in the initial hours after death can become significant in the following months. The surviving family, friends, and general public can have the assurance the Coroner conducted a comprehensive investigation.

When a death occurs on the job or is work related, we immediately forward the results of our investigation to the State Department of Labor and Industries so family can gain the full benefits of our findings. Private insurance companies also routinely use our finding to settle claims. Whenever a consumer product is implicated in a death, we notify the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ensure the product is studied and the necessary steps taken to protect the public. One of the Coroner's functions is to isolate and identify causes of sudden, unexpected death. When an infectious agent or poison is the cause of death, we notify the family and contacts of the deceased so they may receive any needed medical treatment. In this era of concern regarding bioterrorism, the Coroner provides an important level of surveillance for such possibilities.

Civil or criminal judicial proceedings frequently require the medical investigation of violent death. The Yakima County Coroner's Office conducts a prompt medico legal investigation to provide the criminal justice system with medical information and evidence required for adjudication. Although criminal death investigations constitute a small portion of deaths investigated by the Coroner's Office, these deaths are studied in great detail due to the legal issues and consequences involved. In this way, The Yakima County Coroner's Office offers the criminal justice system the best support that medical science can provide.

In summary, the Yakima County Coroner's Office brings trained medico legal evaluation to the investigation of deaths that are of concern to the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THE *Yakima County Coroner's Office***

Washington State utilizes three systems for the investigation of deaths. The Medical Examiner's system is used for county populations of more than 250,000; the Coroner's system is used for county populations of 40,000 to 250,000, and in counties with a population less than 40,000, the Prosecuting Attorney assumes the responsibilities of the Coroner.

Yakima County is under the **Coroner System** with a population of 235,900, which is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest county population in Washington State and encompasses 4,296 square miles, making it the second largest county in the State of Washington.

The Coroner is an elected position. The Coroner is responsible for the investigation of sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. The key functions under the Coroner's direction are: forensic pathology, scene investigation & circumstances of death, autopsy support, and when indicated, certification of death, identification of the deceased, notification of next-of-kin, and control and disposition of the deceased's personal property.

Deaths that come under the jurisdiction of the Yakima County Coroner are defined by state statute (RCW 68.50) and include, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

1. Persons who die suddenly when in apparent good health and without medical attendance within thirty-six hours, preceding death. This category is reserved for the following situations: (1) Sudden death of an individual with no known natural cause for the death. (2) Death during an acute or unexplained rapidly fatal illness, for which a reasonable natural cause has not been established. (3) Death of an individual who was not under the care of a physician. (4) Death of a person in a nursing home or other institution where medical treatment is not provided by a licensed physician.
2. Circumstances which indicate death was caused in part or entirely by unnatural or unlawful means. This category includes but is not limited to: (1) Drowning, suffocation, smothering, burns, electrocution, lighting, radiation, chemical or thermal injury, starvation, environmental exposure, or neglect. (2) Unexpected death during, associated with, or as results of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. (3) All deaths in the operating room whether due to surgical or anesthetic procedures. (4) Narcotics or other drugs including alcohol or toxic exposure. (5) Death thought to be associated with, or resulting from, the decedent's occupation, including chronic occupational disease such as asbestosis and black lung. (6) Death of the mother caused by known or suspected abortion. (7) Death from apparent natural causes during the course of a criminal act, e.g., a victim collapses during a robbery. (8) Death that occurs within one year following an accident, even if the accident is not thought to have contributed to the cause of death. (9) Death following all injury producing accidents, if recovery was considered incomplete or if the accident is thought to have contributed to the cause of death (regardless of the interval between the accident and death).

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

3. Suspicious circumstances. This category includes, but is not limited to, deaths under the following circumstances: (1) Deaths resulting from apparent homicide or suicide. (2) Hanging, gunshot wounds, stabs, cuts, strangulation, etc. (4) Alleged rape, carnal knowledge, or Sodomy. (4) Death during the course of, or precipitated by, a criminal act. (5) Death that occurs while in a jail or prison, or while in custody of law enforcement or other non-medical public institutions.
4. Unknown or obscure causes. This category includes: (1) Bodies that are found dead. (2) Death during or following an unexplained coma.
5. Deaths caused by any violence whatever, when the injury was the primary cause or a contributory factor in the death. This category includes, but is not limited to: (1) injury of any type, including falls. (2) Any death due to or contributed to by any type of physical trauma.
6. Contagious disease. This category includes only those deaths wherein the diagnosis is undetermined and the suspected cause of death is a contagious disease which may be a public health hazard.
7. Unclaimed bodies. This category is limited to deaths where no next of kin or other legally responsible representatives can be identified for disposition of the body.
8. Premature and stillborn infants. This category includes only those stillborn or premature infants whose birth was precipitated by maternal injury or drug use, criminal or medical negligence, or abortion under unlawful circumstances.

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE**

The mission of the Yakima County Coroner's Office is to investigate sudden, unexpected and unnatural deaths in Yakima County with the highest level of professionalism, compassion, accuracy, and efficiency and to provide a resource for improving the health and safety of the community consistent with the general mission of Public Health Department.

To achieve this mission The Yakima County Coroner's Office will:

Coordinate investigative efforts with law enforcement, hospitals, and other agencies in a professional and courteous manner.

Treat decedents and their effects with dignity and respect, and without discrimination.

Conduct investigation and autopsies professionally, scientifically, and conscientiously; and to complete reports expeditiously with regard for the concern of family members, criminal justice, and public health and safety.

Provide compassion, courtesy, and accurate information to family members and, with sensitivity for cultural differences, make appropriate efforts in assisting with their grief, medical and legal questions, disposition of decedents and effects, and other settlements.

Collect, compile, and provide scientific testimony in court and depositions, as well as medico legal consultation for prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, and attorneys representing surviving family members.

A goal of the Yakima County Coroner's Office is to promote and advance, through education and research, the sciences and practices of death investigation, pathology, and anthropology in collaboration with educational institutions.

Promote and maintain an emotionally and physically healthy and safe working environment for employees, following Public Health Department policies for standards of conduct, management, and support for employee diversity, training and development.

Expand communication with public health agencies and the community at large regarding the roles, responsibilities, and objectives of The Yakima County Coroner's Office.

**This report is dedicated to those people in Yakima County who have suffered the loss of a relative or friend.**

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

## Coroner Cases in 2014

In **2014**, there were a total of **1,819** deaths recorded in Yakima County by the Department of Vital Statistics. Based on the analysis of the scene and circumstances of death, and the decedent's medical history, the Coroner assumed jurisdiction over **610** of these deaths. Of these **610** deaths, it was deemed necessary to perform **60** autopsies. There were a total of **445** cases when the Coroner's Office was notified but did not assume jurisdiction (Non-Jurisdiction Cases). There were a total of **734** Hospice deaths reported to the Coroner. The Coroner assisted with **35** Indigent Deaths. These include deaths such as: Those deceased whose family could not be located and/or there were no available funds for disposition and/or the Coroner was needed to sign cremation papers and/or assist monetarily.

It is the goal of this office to provide quality death investigation which may, in turn, benefit the living. Through data collected by our office and shared with valley agencies, we attempt to find answers, explanations and preventive measures. This report breaks down the data so as to assist individuals in assembling a profile of death statistics.

## ORGAN DONOR & TISSUE STATISTICS

The Yakima County Coroner's Office supports organ and tissue donations and assists agencies in the process of procuring tissue and organs for donations.

<b><u>ORGAN STATISTICS</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>Tissue STATISTICS</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
Total Deaths	610	Tissue Donor Referrals	422
Organ Donor Referrals	85	Potential Tissue Donors	71
Medically Unsuitable	77	No Next of Kin	5
Inappropriate Referrals (met imminent death clinical triggers & not referred prior to extubation)	0	Family Decline	46
Potential Organs Donors	8	Coroner Decline	14
Family Decline	1	Time/Out Logistics	34
Coroner Decline	0	Total Tissue Donors	29
Cardiac Arrest - Post Brain Death	0		
Not Referred to Life Center – missed Donor	0	Potential Cornea Donors	119
Total Organ Donors	6	Cornea Transplants	125
Organs recovered for transplant	16	Cornea Donors	81
Heart	3	Yakima Regional Medical Center	0
Liver	3	Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital	0
Kidney	10	Toppenish Community Hospital	0
Pancreas	0	Sunnyside Community Hospital	0
		Washington State Patrol	0

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

## CORONER CASES 2014

### ACCIDENTAL

Positional Asphyxia  
Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma  
Crushing Impact  
Fractures/Fall  
Carbon Monoxide  
Fresh Water Drowning

### TOTAL/ACCIDENTAL

### AIRPLANE

Pilot  
Passenger  
**TOTAL AIRPLANE:**

### MOTOR VEHICLE

Driver  
Passenger  
Pedestrian  
Off Road Vehicle  
Train  
Motorcycle  
Bicyclist  
**TOTAL MVC:**

### NATURAL/TOTAL:

### SIDS/TOTAL:

### FETAL DEMISE:

### HOMICIDE

Gunshot Wounds  
Blunt Impact/Head  
Stabbing  
Homicide by Violence  
Undetermined  
Drugs  
**TOTAL HOMICIDES**

### ACCIDENTAL ALOCOHOL/DRUG TOXIC

2	Ethanol
11	1      Ethanol, Codeine, Morphine, Alprazolam
1	1
4	Ethanol, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Diphe
3	Ethanol, Chlordiazepoxide, Nordiazepam
4	Ethanol, Oxycodone, Citalopram
	Ethanol, Chlordiazepoxide, Nordiazepam, 6-acetyl
25	Morphine, Benzoyllecgonine, Cocaethylene
	Ethanol, Citalopram, Methadone
	Methamphetamine
	Amphetamine, Methamphetamine
0	Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Benzoyllecgoni
0	THC, Ketones
0	Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Quetiapine, O:
	Oxymorphone
	Morphine, Methamphetamine
	Alprazolam, 6-acetylmorphine, Codeine, Morphin
21	6-acetylmorphine, Codeine, Morphine
12	Diphenhydramine, Doxylamine
4	Lorazepam, 6-acetylmorphine, Codeine, Morphine
0	Nortriptyle
0	6-acetylmorphine, Codeine, Morphine, Amphetam
0	Methamphetamine
0	Lidocaine, Carboxy-THC, THC, Hydrocodone,
37	7-aminoclonazepam, Oxazepam, Temazepam, Cyc
	Lorazepam, Oxazepam, Hydromorphone, Morphir

### 445 TOTAL DRUG TOXICITY

**0**

### 26 SUICIDE

	Hanging
	Gunshot to Head
10	Hit by a car
3	Knife
1	Alcohol & Drugs
0	
1	<b>TOTAL SUICIDES</b>
1	
16	

**TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL CASES: 610**

**TOTAL HOSPICE DEATH REPORTED: 734**

**TOTAL ALL CORONER CASES FOR 2014:610**

**TOTAL NON-JURISDICTION CASES: 444**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS IN YAKIMA COUNTY FOR 2014:1819**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

**MANNER: ACCIDENTAL**

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

There were **25** deaths certified as accidental for the year **2014**. Of those, the largest single group was people who died as a result of accidental drug overdose.

<b><u>INJURY MODE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
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Positional Asphyxia	2	1	1
Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma	10	6	4
Crushing Impact	1	1	0
Fractures/Fall	4	2	2
Fresh Water Drowning	4	3	1
Carbon Monoxide	3	1	2
Burns	1	0	1

**TOTAL: 25**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>	<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
<1	2	1	1		
1-9	0	0	0		
10-19	1	1	0		
20-29	1	1	0	January	2
30-39	2	2	0	February	1
40-49	2	0	2	March	1
50-59	2	1	1	April	5
60-69	2	1	1	May	2
70-79	2	1	1	June	2
80-89	5	4	1	July	1
90-99	6	2	4	August	3
100	0	0	0	September	2

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Hispanic	6
White	18
African American	0
Native American	1

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

### **MANNER: ACCIDENTAL DRUG TOXICITY continued**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>		<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
>10	0	0	0		January	1
11-20	1	1	0		February	2
20-29	5	5	0		March	3
30-39	6	3	3		April	2
40-49	1	1	0		May	3
50-59	6	5	1		June	2
60-69	0	0	0		July	2
70-79	3	3	0		August	1
80-89	0	0	0		September	2
90-99	1	0	1		October	1
<b><u>TOTAL: 23</u></b>					November	3
					December	1

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
White	19
Native American	2
Hispanic	2
African American	0

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

## MANNER: HOMICIDE

A death is classified as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person, regardless of the intent. There are several types of criminal and non-criminal homicides. A non-criminal homicide may be accidental, justifiable or excusable. During 2014, **16** deaths were classified as homicides. The breakdown of agencies that responded to these deaths is as follows:

<b><u>Yakima PD</u></b>	<b><u>Grandview PD</u></b>	<b><u>Zillah</u></b>	<b><u>Yakima Nation</u></b>	<b><u>Wapato</u></b>	<b><u>Gleed</u></b>	<b><u>Toppenish</u></b>
4	1	1	1	2	1	1

### **Yakima Sheriff's Department**

Outlook: 1  
 Cowiche: 1  
 Toppenish: 1  
 Wapato: 2  
**YSO TOTAL: 5**

<b><u>METHOD OF HOMICIDE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
Gunshot	11	10	1
Blunt Force Trauma	2	2	
Stabbing	1	1	
Undetermined	1	1	
<b><u>TOTAL: 16</u></b>			

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
>1	1	0	1
1-9	0	0	0
10-19	1	0	1
20-29	7	7	0
30-39	3	3	0
40-49	2	2	0
50-59	1	1	0
60-69	0	0	0
70-99	1	1	0

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	
HISPANIC	6	August 1
WHITE	5	September 0
AFRICAN AMERICAN	3	October 1
NATIVE AMERICAN	2	November 3
		December 2

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

### **2014 HOMICIDE SYNOPSIS**

#### **2014 HOMICIDE SYNOPSIS**

**TOTAL HOMICIDES YAKIMA COUNTY - 16**  
**UNJUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES - 11**

**City of Yakima - 2**

**Yakima County Sheriff 's Dept. -5:** Areas of: Yakima- 0, Cowiche-1, Wapato-2, Toppenish-1, Outlook -1, Yakama Nation / FBI - 0

**Cities of:** Wapato - 2, Toppenish - 1, Sunnyside - 0, Grandview - 1,

**NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE - 0**

**JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES - 5**

**Yakima Sheriff 's Dept. - 2:** Areas of: Selah -1, Gleed -1, Yakima Police - 2

**Yakama Nation/ FBI -1**

**EXCUSABLE HOMICIDES - 0**

**Method of Homicide**

**Gunshot:** Unjustifiable - 6, Justifiable - 5, Excusable - 0

**Stabbing (knife ) - 1**

**Blunt Force Trauma - 3**

**Trauma - Shaken Baby Syndrome (Brain Trauma) - 0**

**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning-0**

**Arson House Fire - 0**

**Drug Overdose - 1**

**Asphyxia (pressure on chest and facial obstruction) - 0**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **MOTOR VEHICLE HOMICIDE - 7**

**Yakima County / WSP: Areas of: Selah -1, Grandview -1, Terrace Hts. -1, Granger -1, Wapato -1, Naches Forest Area Kittitas Co. -1**

**City of Yakima -1.**

## **MOTOR VEHICLE HOMICIDES**

**#1- 2014-132 MVH1 - KESTER, Clayton; DOB 01/16/1996: an 18 yr old White male, stricken at 03/07/2014 at 2243 hours, at North Wenas and Lancaster Road, Selah, WA. Expired 03/08/2014 at 0646 hours, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA. Washington State Patrol and Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department's #1 Motor Vehicle Homicide in Yakima County 2014 . COD: Cerebral Contusions and Lacerations of the Heart, Lung, Spleen and Kidney, due to Blunt Force Trauma to the Head and Trunk, due to a motor vehicle collision.**

Kester was operating a motor vehicle, 1997 Chevy S-10 pickup, traveling on the North Wenas Road and attempting to turn left onto Lancaster Road when another vehicle, a 2011 Ford F150 pickup, driven by a Steven Gibbs, 28 years old, attempted to pass him and struck him at a high rate of speed. Kester was transported to Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital then transferred to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle where he expired.

King County Medical Examiner's office conducted the autopsy.  
Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide.

**Steven Gibbs was charged with Vehicular Manslaughter.**

**#2 - 2014-162 MVH2 - BROCIO VALDERAS, Magaly; DOB 02/13/1992: a 22 yr old Hispanic female, stricken at Forsell and Puterbaugh Road, Grandview WA. 03/30/2014 at 0245 hours. Expired 03/30/2014 at 0630 hours, Sunnyside Community Hospital. Washington State Patrol and Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department's #2 Motor**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

Vehicle Homicide in Yakima County 2014. COD: Exsanguination; Acute Respiratory Arrest, Rapid onset (4-6 min.) Brain Death, due to motor vehicle collision (rollover).

The collision occurred on Forsell & Puterbaugh Roads near Grandview. The vehicle had been westbound on Forsell Road at a high rate of speed and turned northbound onto Puterbaugh Road. The driver, Arturo Castillo, a 21 yr old Hispanic male, lost control of the Ford Fusion in some gravel; the vehicle left the

roadway and rolled. The passenger, Magaly, was ejected (she was not wearing a seat belt). Castillo was Magaly's boyfriend.

April 1, 2014 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffery Reynolds M.D. and Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Magaly Barocio Valderas. External examination showed numerous abrasions and contusions, skin scrapes, cuts and bruises. Her right femur suffered a compound fracture. Internal examination showed Bilateral Hemothorax in chest cavity, 1 1/2 liters of blood in the right cavity and 2 liters in the left cavity, abdominal cavity traction trauma, tearing and bleeding. Liver and Kidney indicated that Magaly bled to death (Exsanguination), going into Hypovolemic shock. Her spleen had ruptured and was removed in surgery at the hospital. Her head had three significant blows from striking a soft surface, scalp separation, Cerebral Edema. Direct High Spinal Cord Trauma to C-1 & C-2 subluxated (partially dislocated), acceleration / deceleration injuries. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Exsanguination; Acute Respiratory Arrest, Rapid onset (4 to 6 min.) Brain Death, due to motor vehicle accident (rollover). Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide.

**Arturo Castillo was charged with Vehicular Homicide.**

#3-2014-272 MVH3- BARTLETT, Russell; DOB 06/26/1941: 72 yr old White male, stricken 05/29/2014 at 0939 hrs. in the 2800 block Terrace Heights Drive, Yakima, WA. Expired 05/29/2014 at 1052 hrs. at Yakima Regional Medical Center - ER. Washington State Patrol & and Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department's #3 Motor Vehicle Homicide in Yakima County 2014. COD: Spinal Shock; Instant Respiratory Arrest, due to Traumatic Disruption of the Medulla Oblongata (brain stem), due to a motor vehicle /pedestrian collision.

Russell had been on the sidewalk on Terrace Hts. Drive in the 2800 block, Yakima, and was struck by a motor home. The driver fled the scene and was later stopped in the Terrace Heights area. She was possibly under the influence of alcohol and /or drugs.

May 30, 2014 at 1000 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Russell Bartlett. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Spinal Shock; Instant Respiratory Arrest, due to Traumatic Disruption of the Medulla Oblongata (brain stem), due to a Motor Vehicle / Pedestrian Collision. Interval: Immediate. Contributing Conditions: displaced thoracic and lumbar spine fractures; massive ® Hemothorax. Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide.

**Nicole M. Fragoso, 27, was arrested and charged with Vehicular Homicide.**

#4-2014- 279 MVH4 - VALENCIA, Jose Carlos; DOB 09/23/1991: a 22 yr old Hispanic male, stricken and expired 5/01/2014 at 0100 hrs. at 1500 E. Beech Street,

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

Yakima, WA. Yakima Police Department 's #1 Vehicular Homicide 2014. COD: Severe Head / Cerebral and Body Trauma due to motor vehicle collision. Contributing conditions: ruptured heart; ruptured left lung and diaphragm; ruptured spleen and left kidney ; all extremities fractured; and a high blood alcohol level. Valencia was a passenger in the one car collision. The driver lost control of the vehicle and struck a tree broadside. Valencia was a passenger in the left rear of the vehicle and was ejected when the vehicle hit the tree. June 2, 2014 at 1000 hours Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds M.D., Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Jose Valencia. Dr. Reynolds advised that Jose suffered a number of life ending injuries. The injury that caused his death: Direct Cerebral Trauma Massive Head Trauma, interval between injury and death was seconds. Contributing conditions: A ruptured heart; ruptured left lung and diaphragm; ruptured spleen and left kidney ; all extremities fractured; a high blood alcohol level. Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide. **The driver was being charged with Vehicular Homicide.**

#5-2014-517 MVH5 - ASHLOCK, Sonda; DOB 5/25/1974: a 40 yr old Native American female, stricken 11/01/2014 at 0256 hrs. at State Hwy 223 and Indian Church Rd. Granger, WA. Expired 11/01/2014 at 0604 hrs. at Topenish Community Hospital - ER. Washington State Patrol & Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department 's #4 Vehicular Homicide 2014. COD: Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination, due to Blunt Force Trauma to the Chest, due to motor vehicle collision. Ashlock was a passenger in a motor vehicle that had been northbound on State Hwy 223 when the driver lost control, went off the road and rolled at Indian Church Rd. near Granger, WA. Ashlock was ejected from the vehicle. November 3, 2014, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Sonda Ashlock. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination, due to Blunt Force Trauma to the Chest, due to motor vehicle collision. Contributing conditions: Massive bilateral hemothorax, lacerated liver. Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide. **The driver was under arrest for investigation of Vehicular Homicide.**

#6-2014-528 MVH6 - FAIRBANKS, Daniel Lee; DOB 8/21/1986: 28 yr old Native American male, stricken and expired 11/08/2014 at 0515 hrs. at 70 E. Progressive Rd. Wapato, WA. Washington State Patrol & Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department 's #5 Vehicular Homicide 2014. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Transsected Right Subclavian Artery and Internal Jugular Vein, due to a motor vehicle collision. The vehicle had been southbound on N. McKinley and failed to stop at the stop sign at E. Progressive Rd, a "T" intersection. The vehicle continued southbound and into the fence at the rear of 70 E. Progressive Road. Fairbanks was seated in the right front passenger seat and had been impaled by the top rail of a cyclone fence. The pole impaled his neck. It was advised by Sgt. Tri the driver and other passengers had fled the scene and had been apprehended.

November 10, 2014 at 1000 hrs. Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Daniel Lee Fairbanks. External examination showed damage to the left mandible and center of

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

the neck where the pole impaled Fairbanks , and an exit wound on the back at the right scapula . Internal examination showed the pole went through the right subclavian artery and vein, the right internal jugular vein and through the right scapula and exited the body. Fairbanks did not have other external or internal injuries. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Transected Right Subclavian Artery & Internal Jugular Vein, due to a motor vehicle collision. Contributing conditions: Fractured left mandible fractured right scapula. Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide.

**The driver will be charged with Vehicular Homicide.**

#7-2014-559 MVH7 - OYARZO, Jarrod M; DOB 07/02/1989: a 25 yr old White male, stricken and expired 11/28/2014 at 1900 hrs. on Forest Service Rd. 591, 2.1 mi. up from FR 1708, 7.7.mi. N. of Hwy. 410, Kittitas County, Naches, WA. Washington State Patrol, Kittitas Co. and Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department's #6 Vehicular Homicide 2014. COD: Positional Asphyxia, due to Crushing Chest Trauma, due to motor vehicle collision.

The collision occurred on Forest Service Rd. 591, 2.1 mi. up from FR 1708, 7.7.mi. N. of Hwy. 410. Both the driver , Kyle P. Osborne DOB. 08/21/1989, a 25 year old male, and the passenger, Jarrod M. Oyarzo, were ejected from the Jeep as it rolled, neither was wearing a seat belt. Oyarzo suffered severe crushing injuries as the Jeep rolled and came to rest on top of him. Fire Rescue people move the Jeep before he could be removed from the scene. We took custody of Jarrod and transported him to the Yakima County Morgue.

Sheriff's deputies advised me they had interviewed Osborne, and he advised them he was driving the Jeep when it rolled. There was probable cause to believe he had been drinking. He was given a blood test to determine his blood alcohol level.

December 1. 2014 at 1030 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Jarrod Oyarzo. The physical exam showed Jarrod was 74 in. tall and weighed 219 lbs.

There were petechial hemorrhages in both eyes and severe abrasions on his chest (Crushing Chest). Clothing: blue jeans, black belt, black rubber boots, gray socks, two T-shirts; one white and one black, a plaid long sleeve shirt and blue underwear. Internal examination showed : crushing chest injury or trauma, multiple displaced rib fractures bilaterally; petechial hemorrhages of conjunctivae, pleura and pericardium; strong odor of alcohol in all soft tissues. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Positional Asphyxia, due to Crushing Chest Injury, due to motor vehicle collision. Contributing conditions: Multiple displaced rib fractures bilaterally; petechial hemorrhages of conjunctivae, pleura and pericardium; strong odor of alcohol in all soft tissue. **Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide.**

## **JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES: 5**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

#1 2014-006 JH1 - HUMPHREY, Jesse J.; DOB 01/29/1983: a 30 yr old White male, stricken and expired 1/03/2014 at approximately 1705 hours at 533 South Rushmore Road, Selah, WA. Yakima Co. Sheriff's Dept. and Yakima Police Department's #1 Justifiable Homicide 2014. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the Chest.

Humphrey was in a standoff with Yakima Sheriff's deputies. Humphrey had started shooting at them from inside an ORV on the property where they were trying to serve a search warrant. Humphrey opened fire, shooting at the deputies. The deputies requested assistance from the Yakima Police SWAT team. The SWAT team arrived, as well as police negotiators who attempted to have Humphrey give up, he did not. Humphrey started, and continued, to shoot at the police. Humphrey was shot multiple times during this incident and expired at the scene.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Jessie Humphrey on January 4, 2014 at 1000 hours. Dr. Reynolds removed numerous bullets from Humphrey. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Rapid Exsanguination, due to multiple gunshot wounds to the chest.

Manner of Death: Justifiable Homicide.

#2 2014-007 JH2 - ARIAS, Rocendo; DOB 10/03/1990 : a 23 yr old Hispanic male, stricken and expired 1/04/2014 at approximately 0300 hours at the Classic Car Wash, 909 E. Nob Hill Blvd. Yakima, WA. Yakima Police Dept. and Yakima Co. Sheriff's department's #2 Justifiable Homicide 2014. COD: Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to gunshot wound to right temple/head.

Rocendo Arias was seated in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked in a vacuum stall at the Classic Car Wash on January 4, 2014 at 0300 hours. A Yakima Police officer checked on the situation since the vehicle had been parked at this location for over an hour. Officer approached the vehicle, saw the driver had a gun in his hands, felt threatened and opened fire at the occupant, Rocendo Arias, discharging four rounds and striking Rocendo one time in the right temporal area.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Rocendo Arias January 6, 2014 at 1000 hours. Dr. Reynolds advised this was a through & through bullet wound (.40 caliber). Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to a Gunshot Wound to the Right Temple/Head.

Manner of Death: Justifiable Homicide.

**March 2014, Prosecutor James Hagarty ruled this case a Justifiable Homicide.**

#3 2014-186 JH3 - HARO VILLANUEVA, Rolando H; DOB 07/27/1989: a 24 yr old Hispanic male, stricken 4/12/2014 at 2316 hours at I-82 MP 34, Yakima. Expired 4/13/2014 at 0005 hours at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital - ER. Yakima Police

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

Department's #3 Justifiable Homicide for 2014. COD: Hypovolemic Shock, Exsanguination, due to gunshot wound to the left shoulder - Chest (.40 caliber).

After Rolando was stopped for reckless driving on Fair Ave., he rammed an occupied police vehicle and attempted to elude police in his vehicle. He rammed more occupied police vehicles that pursued him. Police shot at Rolando striking him in the left shoulder. The police were able to stop him on I-82 near mp 34, Yakima, WA.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Rolando Haro Villanueva April 14, at 1200 hours. Dr. Reynolds recovered a .40 caliber jacketed hollow point bullet from the right posterolateral mediastinum at T6 level (chest area). The entry wound was to the anterolateral left shoulder, no exit. Bullet trajectory was downward, left to right, slightly anterior to posterior. The bullet fractured left #3 rib, perforated the left lung and lacerated the aorta. The second gunshot wound (.40 caliber) entry and exit wounds to left arm bicep, entry and exit wounds of anterior left forearm, minor soft tissue trauma related to both. Postmortem dog bite wound to left neck, superficial injuries only. Significant blood alcohol level. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Hypovolemic Shock / Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Shoulder / Chest.

Manner of Death : Justifiable

Homicide.

#4 2014-340 JH4 - ARQUETTE, Ira James; DOB 06/07/1972: a 42 yr old Hispanic male, stricken and expired 07/11/2014 at 0800 hours, in a hop field east of 4400 block of S. Wapato Rd. Toppenish, WA. Yakama Nation / F.B.I. # 1 Justifiable Homicide of 2014. COD: Cardiac Disruption; Exsanguination, due to gunshot wound to the torso ( .223 caliber rifle bullet ).

A Yakama Nation officer responded to a domestic call, observed a vehicle fleeing the area and pursued the vehicle. The vehicle went into a hop field; Arquette stopped and exited his vehicle, opened fire on the police officer, striking his patrol car a number of times. The officer returned fire and struck Arquette.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Ira James Arquette July 14 at 1000 hours. Dr. Reynolds examined Arquette and advised there were two gunshot wounds. Number one wound: Fatal: the bullet, a .223 caliber, entered the left shoulder upper arm, passed through the left arm and entered the left chest at a downward angle, struck internal organs including the aorta, causing Arquette to bleed to death. This bullet was recovered in the left chest cavity. Number two wound was to the left thigh area. This bullet entered the left thigh and exited to the rear, fracturing the left femur. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Cardiac Disruption; Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Torso. Contributing conditions: an alcoholic fatty liver, gunshot wound to the left leg.

Manner of Death Homicide.

#5 2014-522 JH5 - LAVIOLETTE, Anthony D.; DOB. 05/25/1987: a 27 yr old White male, stricken and expired 11/05/2014 at 1617 hours, State Highway 12 and Ackley Road, Yakima, WA. Yakima Co. Sheriff's Dept. and / Washington State Patrol #2 (WSP involved in Humphrey's JH on Rushmore Rd. in Selah). COD: Rapid

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

Exsanguination, due to perforated aorta; massive bilateral hemothorax, due to a gunshot wound to the chest (.40 caliber) .

Laviolette was driving eastbound on State Hwy 12 in the Gleed area in a stolen vehicle and was being pursued by a Yakima Sheriff 's deputy. Laviolette tried to turn right onto Ackley Road, went off the roadway and into a ditch. Sheriff 's Deputy Steadman approached the front of the vehicle on foot and ordered Laviolette to shut off and exit the vehicle. Laviolette attempted to drive off, towards the Deputy Steadman. Steadman ordered Laviolette to surrender, turn off the engine and get out of the vehicle. Laviolette did not comply , trying to maneuver the vehicle to escape. He hit Deputy Steadman with the car as Deputy Steadman shot Laviolette .

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Anthony Laviolette Nov.6, 2014 at 1000 hours. Examination showed four gunshot wounds: two wounds through and through in the left arm: one wound in the left shoulder and into the humerus and one wound to the chest. Two bullets were recovered: the bullet in the chest and the bullet in the humerus. The bullet in the chest went through the aorta and caused Laviolette to bleed to death, this was the fatal wound. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Rapid Exsanguination, due to perforated aorta; massive bilateral hemothorax, due to .40 caliber Gunshot Wound to the Chest. Contributing conditions: Three gunshot wounds to left arm; fractures x2 to left humerus.

Manner of Death : Justifiable Homicide

## **UNJUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES: 10**

#1 - 2014-036 H1 - BURKYBILE, Charles; DOB10/19/1981: a 32 yr old Native American male, shot at his residence 9011 Harrah Road, Wapato, WA. January 25, 2014 at 1335 hours. Expired January 25, 2014 at 1442 hours at Yakima Regional Medical Center-ER . Yakima County Sheriff 's Department 's #1 Unjustifiable Homicide for 2014. COD: Hypovolemic Shock, due to Lacerated Aorta, due to gunshot wound to the chest (9mm).

Burkybile was at his home on Harrah Road , Wapato, when four men came to his residence , apparently to buy marijuana, Charles talked to one of the men at the back door, the man returned to the car and someone from the car started shooting into the residence. Burkybile was shot in the chest and was transported to the hospital where he expired. The four men drove off in a vehicle that was later observed by a Yakama Nation police officer, who stopped the vehicle. One man was arrested by the officer and later the three other men were arrested.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Charles Burkybile January 27, 2014 at 1000 hours. Dr. Reynolds recovered a 9mm bullet from Burkybile. The bullet traveled left to right; superior to inferior; slightly front to back. Contributing conditions: Laceration of the left lung, laceration of abdominal aorta, transaction of right kidney and massive Hemoperitoneum. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Exsanguination / Hypovolemic Shock, due to Gunshot Wound to the Left

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

Chest (9mm). No other trauma was detected. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

Four Suspects arrest: Carlos J. Hernandez, 17, Jose T. Davila, 27, Martin Alvarez, 18, & Luis A. Anguiano, 25.

#2 - 2014-042 H2 - HOLBROOK, Vernon; DOB 11/10/1934: 79 yr old White male, stricken & found May 25, 2013 at 1941 hrs. at 17481 Summitview Road, Cowiche, WA. Expired January 26, 2014 at 0134 hrs. at his home. Yakima County Sheriff 's Dept. #2 Unjustifiable Homicide 2014. COD: Bacterial Aspiration Pneumonia due to Acquired Brain Damage due to Severe Cranial Blunt Force Trauma.

Vernon Holbrook was a real estate broker . On May 25, 2013 , he was showing a house to prospected buyers when he was severely assaulted. He was found down in the house, transported to the hospital and was later moved to Harborview Hospital in Seattle. He returned home, but had not recovered from his injuries, severe head trauma. On January 26, 2014 he succumbed to his injuries and expired at home.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Vernon Holbrook January 27, 2014 at 1200 hours. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death : Bacterial Aspiration Pneumonia, due to Impaired Mental Status, due to Severe Blunt Force Trauma to the Head.

Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide.

Arrested and charged with Murder: Luis Gomez-Monges & Adriana Mendez posed as buyers and assault Holbrook. Daniel Blizzard & Jill Taylor were also arrested.

#3 - 2014-043 H3 - DUFAULT, Edwin Eugene; DOB 09/21/1961: a 52 yr old White male, possibly stricken October / November, 2013 . Found in a pond at Hwy 22 and Meyers Road, Toppenish, WA. January 26, 2014 .Yakima County Sheriff 's Department 's #3 Unjustifiable Homicide 2014. COD: Undetermined (Head Trauma & Alcohol Factors) .

Edwin E. Dufault was found by some duck hunters in a pond near Hwy 22 and Meyers Rd. in the Toppenish area. He had been in the pond for some time; we were unable to identify him by viewing. He was later identified by a Missing Persons report filed by his sister, Janet Hutchinson, who advised us her brother had gone missing after he had been released from the Wapato City Jail in September 2013. He matched the physical description. He also had a tattoo of a star on his right hand dorsum area, and had an intramedullary rod in his right leg (tibia area), which showed on the x-rays . The rod was removed during autopsy. A positive identification was made from these factors.

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Edward Dufault January 28 at 1000 hours. Dr. Reynolds advised it appeared this male subject had been involved in an altercation. Dufault had direct trauma to his face: a split lip; a tooth had been knocked out, the root was still intact; had bruising on both sides of the temporal area. The condition of the lungs indicated this man was a heavy smoker. No other major trauma was found. Dr. Reynolds removed the intramedullary rod from his right tibia. His clothing was consisted of : two sweatshirts; blue jeans with the right front pocket pulled inside out; tennis shoes that were not tied and no underwear. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death will be related to a possible assault and acute alcoholism. Edwin died prior to being placed in the pond. There is no evidence of drowning. There was larva found between his sweatshirts that indicated that he died in fresh air not water. It appears Edwin had some sort of altercation, or was assaulted, and along with his alcoholic condition, caused his death. After death he was placed in the pond. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Undetermined (Head Trauma & Alcohol Factors). Contributing conditions: Alcohol and trauma to the face and head. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

#4 - 2014-134 H4 - HANSEN, Derek A.; DOB 04/13/1970: a 43 yr old White male, stricken July 1, 2011 approximately 1541 hours. Wapato Police Department's #1 Unjustifiable homicide 2014. COD: Pulmonary Emboli of the lungs, due to Deep Venous Thrombosis of the Extremities, due to Immobility S/P Shoulder Surgery, due to Shoulder Injury.

Derek was a Wapato Police Officer. Approximately two years before, Derek had been involved in an altercation executing an arrest while on duty in Wapato when injured his shoulder. Approximately a year later, he had surgery on his shoulder. Derek had to retire with a medical retirement from the Wapato Police Department due to this injury. Derek had no other medical problems, injury or health related.

March 11, 2014 at 1230 hours, Dr. Gina Fino MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Derek Hansen. Dr. Fino advised Cause of Death: Pulmonary Emboli of the Lungs, due to Deep Venous Thrombosis of the Extremities, due to Immobility S/P Shoulder Surgery, due to Shoulder Injury. Contributing conditions: Note: Shoulder was injured during an on duty law enforcement altercation executing an arrest. Note: Toxicology analysis results: Negative. Manner of Death: Extended Homicide.

#5 - 2014-150 H5 - MORGAN, Damarius S.; DOB 06/06/1991: a 23 yr old African American male, stricken March 22, 2014 at 2315 hours, at Naches Ave. and Staff Sgt. Pendleton Way, Yakima, WA. Yakima Police Homicide #1 for 2014. COD: Exsanguination, due to a 0.40 caliber gunshot wound to the chest right heart. Morgan was involved in an altercation in the area of North Naches and Staff Sgt. Pendleton Way, Yakima, when he was shot.

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Damarius Morgan March 24, 2014 at 1000 hours. Exterior examination showed: Morgan had been shot three times, twice in the right leg and once in the chest. The bullet wounds in the right leg were through and through wounds. Interior examination showed : the bullet wound to the chest went through the heart causing Morgan to bleed to death within minutes. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death : Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, right Heart (0.40 caliber). Contributing conditions: Two 0.40 caliber gunshot wounds to the lower right leg and fractured right fibula. Morgan did not suffer any other injuries. There were no injuries observed on his hands, face, etc., as though he had been in a fight. The gunshot wound to the chest was of the approximate distance of 2 to 3 feet as there was stippling near the wound.

Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide.

**Second degree Murder and first degree unlawful possession of a firearm charges were filed against 18-year-old William Escobar Martinez.**

#6 - 2014-416 H6 - Zepeda, Noe Yebras aka YEBRAS-CEPEDA, Noe; DOB 12/12/1976: a 37 yr old Hispanic male, stricken August 25, 2014 at 2124 hours, at 120 "D" Street, Outlook, WA. Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department's #4 homicide for 2014. COD: Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination, due to Supersonic gunshot wound to the right chest 30 caliber ).

Zepeda was standing in his front yard with another subject when they were shot

by an unknown subject from the road. There were a number of shots fired, with some going into the house, where a child was struck in the foot by a bullet. The second subject in the yard and the child survived their wounds. The gunman escaped in a stolen van that was later found burned approximately 1 to 2 miles from the scene of the shooting. Zepeda was shot in the right chest just below the nipple; the bullet exited his mid back. Zepeda was transported to the Sunnyside Community Hospital. He went into cardiac and respiratory arrest at the scene and was deceased prior to arriving at the hospital.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Noe Zepeda August 26, 2014 at 1000 hours. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination, due to Supersonic Gunshot Wound to the Right Chest (30 caliber). Contributing conditions: Shattered liver; lacerated right adrenal; destroyed apex of right kidney, massive right hemothorax.

Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide.

#7 - 2014-515 H7 - WARE, Deprecia Lashay; DOB 04/22/1995: a 19 yr old Black female, stricken October 31, 2014 at 2147 hours at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Spruce St., Yakima. Expired October 31, 2014 at 2234 hours, Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital-ER.

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

Yakima Police Department 's 2<sup>nd</sup> Unjustifiable Homicide 2014. COD: Rapid Hypovolemic Shock & Cardiac Tamponade, due to Ex sanguination, due to gunshot wound to the mid-back (.38 caliber).

Ware was involved in an altercation and was running away when she was shot in the back. Ware was transported to Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital -ER where she expired.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Deprecia Ware November 3, 2014 at 0900 hours. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Rapid Hypovolemic Shock & Cardiac Tamponade, due to Ex sanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Mid-Back (.38 caliber). Contributing conditions: massive bilateral hemotorax. Ware did not suffer any other injuries or trauma. Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide.

#8 - 2014-536 H8- J AIME, Manuel E; DOB. 05/28/1989: a 25 yr old Hispanic male, stricken November 15, 2014 at 0256 hours at his residence, 635 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Grandview, WA. Expired November 15, 2014 at 0352 hours, Prosser Memorial Hospital-ER. Grandview 's #1Unjustifiable Homicide for 2014. COD: Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination, due to Multiple Stab Wounds, esp. both Lungs. Jaime was at his residence in Grandview and babysitting his nieces and nephews. Jaime also had a visitor, a friend of his, at the residence. The two got into a confrontation with each other and Jaime was stabbed multiple times. This was witnessed by Jaime's 12 year old nephew, who called 911 for help. Jaime was transported to Prosser Memorial Hospital where he expired 11/15/2014 at 0352 hrs.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Manuel Jamie November 17, 2014 at 1000 hours. Exterior examination showed 69 stab wounds about his body, chest, head and extremities. The knife penetrated the chest cavity striking both lungs, liver, kidneys, large and small bowel and stomach. No major arteries were involved. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination, due to Multiple Stab Wounds, esp. both Lungs. Contributing Conditions: stab wounds to liver, both kidneys, large and small bowel, and stomach. No major arteries were involved. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

#9 - 2014-579 H9 - ARCIGA, Miguel A, DOB 8/25/1991 : a 23 yr. old Hispanic male, stricken and expired December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 0131 hours, at Martinez Bar, 16 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> street, Wapato, WA. Wapato Police Department 's 2nd Unjustifiable Homicide 2014. COD: Exsanguination / Hypovolemic Shock, due to Gunshot Wound to Left Chest (9mm).

Arciga had been shot twice that we could see: once in the left shoulder and once in the left side, no exit wounds were visible. I was advised by the deputies there had been an altercation inside the Martinez Sports Bar. Arciga was shot once while in the Bar, went outside after the person who shot him and was shot a second time outside. He returned and collapsed just inside the front door of the bar. Medics checked Arciga and he had expired.

Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Manuel Arciga December 11, 2014 at 1030 hours. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Exsanguination / Hypovolemic Shock,

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

due to Gunshot Wound to Left Chest, (9mm). Contributing conditions: Cause of Death was Gunshot Wound to Abdomen (.45 caliber), Lacerated Right Iliac Artery.

**Three subjects arrested in connection with Homicide, Teodulo Alfredo Martinez, 23 yrs., Jessica Lynn Perez, 22 yrs. and Juan Carlos Rodriguez, 25 yrs.**

#10 - 2014-582 H10 - VARGAS-CORTEZ, Omar Alberto , DOB 10/06/1985: 29 yr old Hispanic male, stricken & expired where found December 14 <sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 1530 hours, in a field area 1mile N. of E. Wapato Rd., 1.4 miles east of N. Track Rd. Wapato, WA. Yakima Co. Sheriff 's Department 's #5 Unjustifiable Homicide 2014. COD: Trauma to the head, probable gunshot wound.

Omar was found lying face down . His clothing had bee n torn from his body and parts of his body had been eaten by animals. He was missing his right arm and frontal skull and face. His shoes were not with him, he had one sock on and one sock off. A lot of the disruption of the clothing and the missing body part s was due to animal predation. I was advised when he was found by hunters; his body was covered by a piece of plywood.

December 15, 20 14 at 1030 hours. Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Omar Alberto Vargas-Cortez . Examination showed the following: Clothing: Dickey pants, blue in color; shirt, blue in color; white T-shirt; plaid u nderwear; green sweat pants; white socks. He had a black pocket knife. Numerous tattoos; Scarface, BGL / \$ on left arm, marijuana leaf on right leg, r osary w/cross on chest and around neck. His body was missing the right arm and frontal skull and face; all organs were missing except the heart and lungs. Dr. Reynolds advised the subject was in his 20 's, between 250 and 270 lbs. We did no identification at the time of autopsy. Dr.

Reynolds examined the body and advised that some outside force had fractured the skull, there are no animals in the Wapato area large enough to fracture and separate the skull into two pieces unless there had been a significant fracture to the skull. The examination of the lungs showed the deceased had aspirated blood into his lungs at the time of death , the blood was in the bottom lobes of the lung s, indicating he was standing up when he aspirated from the trauma to his head. Dr. Reynolds stated that due to the type of fracture of the skull and the location of the a spirated blood in the lungs the deceased was standing up and was shot in the head. This would account for the trauma to the head and the blood in the lungs. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death: Trauma to the Head probable Gunshot Wound.

Manner of Death : Unjustifiable Homicide

#11-2014-556 H11 - AGULAR, Angel Gabriella - aka - SORIA, Angel, Birth Date: 11/26/2014, Age: 2 hrs. @ 21 weeks gestation, Gender: Female, Race: Native American. Angel was born premature at 21 weeks gestation, due to her mother having consumed an excessive amount of methamphetamine. Angel lived for 2 hours and expired due to the methamphetamine overdose. Angel 's mother was identified as Melisa Soria, DOB 4/24/1989, 25 years old, Native American, female. She had been in Yakima and was assaulted by her boyfriend and then drove herself to Toppenish Community Hospital where she gave birth to Angel. Melisa was contacted by both the Toppenish Police Officers and Yakima Police Officers and refused to cooperate with the police investigation

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

November 26, 2014 at 0900 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds M.D. Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Baby Girl Soria. Present during the autopsy was Detective Durbin and Evidence technician Ross of the Yakima Police Department. Chief Deputy Coroner Marshall Slight and I , JB Hawkins, Coroner. Dr. Reynolds advised this was a 21 week gestation baby Girl as she measured 21 cm from Crown to Rump. Dr. Reynolds found no trauma only birth trauma , she did have slight bruising on the bottom of her rib cage and top of heart from CPR, she drowned, hypoxia due to immaturity lungs, due to premature birth. Dr. Reynolds advised that the Cause of Death was Systemic Hypoxia secondary to Lung Immaturity, due to Extreme Premature Birth at 21 weeks gestation, due to possible assault. Contributing Conditions: anatomic normal female child, no evidence of significant non-birth trauma. Manner of Death is undetermined at this time. Dr. Reynolds collected one tube of blood and prepared two DNA Cards. The blood specimen was sent to the Washington State Toxicology Laboratory of analysis.

The investigation continues into the possible domestic violence assault. Yakima Police are investigating. Detective Durbin advised that Melisa was not cooperating at all with the investigation. He was going to check with the nurses at Toppenish Hospital.

Toppenish Community Hospital Report does state extremely premature, born at 20 weeks, secondary to premature labor after maternal physical assault. Baby some respiratory effort at delivery, - - - - - by 10-15 minutes of life. Continued with heart rate for approximately 2 hours. Heart rate could not be auscultated at 1705 hrs.

Support given to mother.

January 22, 2015 I received results from Washington State Toxicology Laboratory. Hydrocodone 0.010 mg/L, Methamphetamine 0.16 mg/L.

The toxicology results were given to Dr. Reynolds. Dr. Reynolds advised that the Cause of Death was Systemic Hypoxia Secondary to Immature Lung Tissue, due to Extreme Premature Birth Secondary to Methamphetamine Abuse. Manner of Death is Homicide. Melisa SORIA, DOB. 4/24/1989, 25 years old, Native American, female consumed an excessive amount of methamphetamine which caused the premature birth of her 21 week fetus, which did live for 2 hours, and expired due do to methamphetamine toxicity (overdose).

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **MANNER: SUICIDE**

Suicide happens when the coping mechanisms for an individual become overwhelmed, and the only way out of perceived pain is via death. Accurate determination of suicidal deaths is necessary in order to identify high-risk groups and develop preventive strategies and interventions.

<b><u>METHOD OF SUICIDE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
Hanging	13	9	4
Gunshot to Head	23	19	4
Drugs & Alcohol	1	0	1
Blunt Force Trauma	1	1	0
Knife	1	1	0

**TOTAL: 39**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
<19	7	3	4
20-29	8	7	1
30-39	3	3	0
40-49	7	6	1
50-59	9	8	1
60-69	4	2	2
70-79	0	0	0
80-89	1	1	0
90-99			

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
White	28
Hispanic	4
Native American	7

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
January	1
February	1
March	3
April	5
May	2
June	5
July	3
August	3
September	4
October	5
November	3
December	4

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014

## TEN YEAR COMPARISON

### **MANNER: TRAFFIC**

Blood alcohol tests were performed for **32** of the **37** traffic fatalities, of the **32, 24** tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs. Of the **21** vehicle drivers, **15** tested positive, of the **9** passengers, **7** tested positive. There were **5** pedestrian fatalities, of those **2** tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs. In the State of Washington, 0.08 grams is considered the legally intoxicated level while driving. Blood Ethanol is measured in grams per 100 ml of blood or grams %. It should be noted that in many cases someone other than the person who died may have been under the influence of alcohol and directly involved in the accident.

<b>CIRCUMSTANCE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>TOTAL RACE</b>
Driver/MVC	20	15	5	Native American 8
Passenger/MVC	6	3	3	White 15
Pedestrian	3	1	2	Hispanic 14
Motor Vehicle Homicide	8	6	2	
<b>TOTAL: 37</b>				

<b>AGE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>MONTH TOTAL</b>
0-9	1	0	1	January 1
10-19	4	3	1	February 4
20-29	13	8	5	March 3
30-39	5	4	1	April 2
40-49	8	4	4	May 3
50-59	2	2	0	June 4
60-69	1	0	1	July 4
70-79	2	2	0	August 3
80-89	1	0	1	September 2
90-99	0	0	0	October 4
				November 2
				December 5

#### **LOCATIONS:**

Hwy 97 & Lateral 1, Wapato, WA  
 49 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Toppenish, WA  
 Hwy 97 & South Wapato Rd., Wapato, WA  
 Signal Peak Rd. MP 20, 5 miles past Guard snack  
 Van Belle Rd. & Washout Rd., Sunnyside, WA  
 Marion Drain Rd. West of Ashue Rd., Toppenish, WA  
 10000 Block of Van Belle Rd., Sunnyside, WA  
 North Shacker Church Rd., White Swan, WA  
 West Bound 1-82 @ MP 51, Zillah, WA  
 Progressive & Wapato Rd., Wapato, WA  
 I-82 East Bound MP 41, Union Gap, WA  
 North Wenas 8000 Block, Selah, WA  
 Hwy 97, 7 miles south of Toppenish, Toppenish, WA  
 1000 block Old Naches Hwy, Yakima, WA  
 Irrigation Canal 1300 block North Meyers Rd., Toppenish, WA  
 County Road 6743 No. Track Rd., Wapato, WA  
 Campbell and Progressive Rd., Wapato, WA  
 MP 78 Hwy 410, Naches, WA  
 2300 N. County Line Road, Grandview, WA  
 1628 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St., Sunnyside, WA  
 I-82 MP 57, Granger, WA  
 2- Irrigation Canal .1miles of 2900 Block S. Olden Way  
 Branch & North White Swan Rd., White Swan, WA  
 North Wenas & Lancaster Rd., Selah, WA  
 Forsell & Puterbaugh Rd., Grandview, WA  
 Terrace Heights Dr. & 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
 1500 E. Beech St., Yakima, WA  
 State Hwy 223 & Indian Church Rd., Granger, WA  
 70 E. Progressive Rd., Wapato, WA  
 Jeep Trail Forest Service Rd. 617, Naches, WA

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

2 – Hwy 97 & Jones Rd., Wapato, WA  
West Viola Ave. & South 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Yakima, WA  
Progressive Road & Lateral A, Wapato, WA

Hwy 12 & Locust Lane, Naches, WA

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

### **MANNER: SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME**

The Coroner's Office is required by RCW 43.103.100 (4) to report to the Public Health Department when a sudden unexplained infant death occurs. This is done to achieve a better understanding of such deaths, and to connect families to various community and public health support systems to aid in grief recovery. Autopsies are necessary in all child deaths.

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>	<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
				January	0
				February	0
				March	0
				April	0
				May	0
				June	0
				July	0
				August	0
				October	0
				November	0
				December	0

  

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
Hispanic	
White	
Native American	
Africa American	

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

### **MANNER: FETAL DEMISE**

The fetal death certificate is a legal document, although it primarily serves statistical and health research purposes. The information is used to study prenatal care services and obstetrical programs. It is also used to examine consequences to the fetus from possible environmental and occupational exposures to parents. A fetal death certificate must be completed and filed for every fetus 20 or more weeks' gestation.

<b><u>MONTH OCCURRED</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
January	2	White	0	0
		Hispanic	0	2
February	3	Hispanic	1	1
		Nat/American	1	0
		White	0	0
March	1	Hispanic	0	1
		Nat/American	0	0
April	3	White	0	0
		Hispanic	2	1
May	3	Hispanic	1	0
		White	2	0
June	1	Hispanic	0	1
July	2	Hispanic	0	2
		White	0	0
August	2	White	1	0
		Hispanic	1	0
September	5	Hispanic	1	0
		Asian	1	0
		White	0	3
October	3	Hispanic	2	0
		White	1	0
November	1	Hispanic	0	0
		Nat/American	1	0
December	0	White	0	0

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

**TOTAL: 26**

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

### **MANNER: NATURAL**

The vast majority of deaths in Yakima County result from natural causes. For most deaths occurring in Yakima County, a physician who has medically attended to the patient, should, and usually will, certify the cause of death. The responsibility of the Yakima County Coroner's Office is to remain focused on the investigation of unnatural deaths.

The Coroner assumed jurisdiction on **445** natural deaths in **2014**. The various factors that influence this decision were:

- The physician was unavailable to certify the cause of death within the two-day time frame.
- The physician had not attended to the individual recently and declined to certify the death certificate.
- The decedent had not been under the care of a physician and the cause of death was unknown.
- The decedent was indigent and/or unclaimed and Yakima County contributed to their final disposition.

<b>AGE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
<1	8	6	2
1-09	3	3	0
10-19	1	1	0
20-29	8	4	4
30-39	10	7	3
40-49	26	15	11
50-59	82	56	26
60-69	99	68	31
70-79	97	57	40
80-89	71	43	28
90-99	37	21	16
100+	2	0	2

**TOTAL: 445**

	<b>MONTHS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
January	46	
February	53	
March	32	
April	44	
May	39	
June	28	
July	43	
August	35	
September	27	
October	33	
November	31	
December	33	

<b>RACE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
White	358
Hispanic	52
African American	8
Native American	26
Asian	1

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

Blood alcohol level:	The concentration of ethanol (alcohol) found in blood following ingestion. Blood ethanol is measured in grams per 100 ml of blood or grams %. In the State of Washington, 0.08 grams % is considered legally intoxicated level while driving.
Cause of Death:	Any injury or disease that produces a physiological derangement in the body that results in the death of an individual. <sup>1</sup>
Drug:	Therapeutic drug: A substance, other than food, used in the prevention, diagnosis, alleviation, treatment, or cure of disease. Recreation drug: A drug used non-medically for personal stimulation/depression/euphoria.
Drug caused death:	Death directly caused by a drug or drugs in combination with each other or with alcohol.
Jurisdiction:	The jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office extends to all reportable deaths occurring within the boundaries of Yakima County, whether or not the incident leading to the death (such as an accident) occurred within the county. Reportable deaths are defined by RCW 68.50, as explained in the "Description and Purpose" section of this report. Not all natural death reported fall within the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office.
Manner of Death:	A classification of the way in which the events preceding death were causal factors in the death. The manner of death as determined by the forensic pathologist in an opinion based on the known facts concerning the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the death, in conjunction with autopsy findings and laboratory tests. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DiMaio, V.J. & DiMaio, D. *Forensic Pathology*, Second Edition. CRC Press, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p 3.

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

Manner: Accidental	Death other than natural, where there is no evidence of intent, i.e., unintentional. In this report, traffic accidents are classified separately.
Manner: Homicide	Death resulting from intentional harm (explicit or implicit) of one person by another, including actions of grossly reckless behavior.
Manner: Natural	Death caused solely by disease. If natural death is hastened by injury (such as a fall or drowning in a bathtub), the manner of death is classified other than natural.
Manner: Suicide	Death as a result of a purposeful action with intent (explicit or implicit) to ends one's own life.
Manner: Traffic	Unintentional deaths of drivers, passengers, and/or pedestrians involving motor vehicles on public roadways. Accidents involving motor vehicles on private property (such as driveways) are not included in this category and are classified non-traffic, vehicular accidents.
Manner: Complication Of Therapy	Death that arises as a predictable consequence of appropriate medical therapy. Although this is a manner of death for death certification purposes, Complication of Therapy statistics are included under the Manner "Accidental" in this report.
Opiate:	Any preparation of derivative of opium, including heroin, morphine or codeine. In this report "opiate deaths" most likely refer to heroin caused deaths.
Poison:	Any substance, either taken internally or applied externally, that is injurious to health or dangerous to life, and with no medicinal benefit.

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2014**

**Fetal Death:** Category of deaths that occur within the uterus. The Coroner's Office assumes jurisdiction over fetal deaths that meet the criteria specified in RCE 68.50. (*See page 13 of this report for details*).

**Race:** The racial categories used in this report are: White, African American, Native American, Chinese American, and Filipino.