

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

## **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.

## 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 247,681, which is the 8th largest county population in Washington State and encompasses 4,312 square miles, making it the second largest county in the State of Washington. There are 39 Counties in Washington State.

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).

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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.

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## **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 2017**

## **Coroner Cases in 2017**

In **2017**, there were a total of **1,960** 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 **654** of these deaths. Of these **654** deaths, it was deemed necessary to perform **76** autopsies. There were a total of **301** cases when the Coroner's Office was notified but did not assume jurisdiction (Non-Jurisdiction Cases). There were a total of **1,005** Hospice deaths reported to the Coroner.

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.

**TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL CASES: 654**

**TOTAL HOSPICE DEATH REPORTED: 1,005**

**TOTAL ALL CORONER CASES FOR 2017: 654**

**TOTAL NON-JURISDICTION CASES: 301**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS IN YAKIMA COUNTY FOR 2017: 1,960**

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017

## CORONER CASES 2017

### **ACCIDENTAL**

Positional Asphyxia	2
Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma	2

Foreign body aspiration	1
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Fall	3
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Carbon Monoxide	1
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Fresh Water Drowning	4
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Self-inflicted Gunshot	1
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Blunt Force Trauma/ Crush	2
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Asphyxia, smoke inhalation	3
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Pulmonary Edema/Allergen	3
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Hypothermia	2
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<b><u>TOTAL/ACCIDENTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>24</u></b>
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### **AIRPLANE**

Pilot	0
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Passenger	0
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<b><u>TOTAL AIRPLANE:</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
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<b><u>PENDING:</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
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### **MOTOR VEHICLE**

Driver	24
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Passenger	7
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Pedestrian	11
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Off Road Vehicle	0
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Train	0
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Motorcycle	0
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Bicyclist	0
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Motor Vehicle Homicide	2
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<b><u>TOTAL MVF:</u></b>	<b><u>44</u></b>
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### **NATURAL/TOTAL:**

<b><u>SUICIDE</u></b>	
Hanging	5
Gunshot	18
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1
Jumped from bridge	2
Drugs	1

<b><u>SIDS/TOTAL:</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
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<b><u>TOTAL SUICIDES: 27</u></b>	
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<b><u>FETAL DEMISE:</u></b>	<b><u>21</u></b>
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### **HOMICIDE**

Gunshot Wounds	24
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Blunt Impact	1
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Stabbing	3
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Homicide by Violence	4
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Undetermined	
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<b><u>TOTAL HOMICIDES: 32</u></b>	
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## MANNER: ACCIDENTAL

There were **24** deaths certified as accidental for the year **2017**. 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>
Fractures/Fall	3	0	3
Positional Asphyxia	2	0	2
Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma	2	2	0
Self-inflicted Gunshot	1	0	1
Pulmonary Edema, Allergen	3	1	2
Fresh Water Drowning	4	3	1
Carbon Monoxide	1	1	0
Asphyxia, smoke inhalation	3	2	1
Blunt Force Trauma, Crush Injury	2	2	0
Foreign body aspiration	1	1	0
Climate Exposure	2	1	1

**TOTAL: 24**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
<1	3	1	2
1-9	0	0	0
10-19	2	1	1
20-29	2	2	0
30-39	3	3	0
40-49	1	0	1
50-59	4	3	1
60-69	4	3	1
70-79	1	1	0
80-89	3	2	1
90-99	1	0	1
100	0	0	0

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

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL 24</u></b>
Hispanic	10
White	12
Native American	2

## TEN YEAR COMPARISON

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017

## MANNER: ACCIDENTAL DRUG TOXICITY continued

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
>10	0	0	0	January	2
11-19	0	0	0	February	3
20-29	11	9	2	March	5
30-39	16	12	4	April	7
40-49	6	4	2	May	5
50-59	4	2	2	June	3
60-69	6	6	0	July	2
70-79	0	0	0	August	7
80-89	0	0	0	September	3
90-99	1	0	1	October	2
<b>TOTAL 44</b>				November	1
				December	4

  

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
White	30	January	2
Native American	6	February	3
Hispanic	8	March	5
African American	0	April	7
		May	5
		June	3
		July	2
		August	7
		September	3
		October	2
		November	1
		December	4

## TEN YEAR COMPARISON

## MANNER: HOMICIDE

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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 2017, 31 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>Selah PD</u></b>	<b><u>Sunnyside</u></b>	<b><u>Toppenish</u></b>	<b><u>FBI</u></b>	<b><u>WSP</u></b>
14	0	1	1	1	8	1

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

Tieton: 1

Wapato:

White Swan:

Yakima: 1

Toppenish: 2

Naches:

Sunnyside:

Mabton: 1

Granger: 1

#### **YSO TOTAL: 6**

<b><u>METHOD OF HOMICIDE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
Gunshot	24	22	2
Blunt Force Trauma	5	2	3
Stabbing	3	3	0
Undetermined	0	0	0
<b><u>TOTAL: 32</u></b>			

<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	0	0	0		
1-9	0	0	0		
10-19	3	3	0	January	3
20-29	13	16	2	February	3
30-39	7	5	2	March	2
40-49	1	0	1	April	2
50-59	1	1	0	May	3
60-69	2	2	0	June	2
70-99	0	0	0	July	4

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	
HISPANIC	16	August 3
WHITE	5	September 2
NATIVE AMERICAN	7	October 1
Unknown	2	November 3
African American	2	December 4

#### **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

## **2017 HOMICIDE SYNOPSIS**

### **2017 HOMICIDE SYNOPSIS**

**TOTAL HOMICIDES YAKIMA COUNTY: 32**

**UNJUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES: 28 / JUSTIFIABLE - 3**

Yakima Police Department- 14

Yakima County Sheriff 's Office - 6: Unincorporated Yakima- 1, Granger - 1, Tieton - 1, Toppenish- 2, Mabton - 1

Yakama Nation / FBI - 8: Wapato - 4, Toppenish - 2, White Swan- 1

Cities of: Selah - 1, Toppenish - 1, Sunnyside - 1

W.S.P - 1 (City of Yakima)

**JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES:**

Yakima Police Department- 1

Yakima Co. Sheriff 's Department - 1

WSP - 1

**METHOD OF HOMICIDE:**

Gunshot: Unjustifiable - 21, Justifiable - 3

Stabbing (knife) - 3

Blunt Force Trauma - 5

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## **HOMICIDES:**

**#1. 2017-005 H1 SMITH, Leonard;** DOB 09/08/1952; 64-year-old white male. Stabbed multiple times in the neck while in his home at 2414 S. 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Yakima. He was stabbed on 12/21/2016 and expired 01/04/2017. Yakima Sheriff's Office's 1st Homicide of 2017. Cause of Death: Acute Bacterial Sepsis, due to bacterial left upper lobe pneumonia abscess, due to stab wound.

January 4, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Leonard Smith. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was acute bacterial sepsis, due to bacterial left upper lobe pneumonia abscess, due to stab wound. Dr. Reynolds advised there was no other trauma. Leonard suffered from the infection to the left lung, due to the stab wounds to the left lung. Contributing Conditions were asplenia (old surgery?), severe hepatic cirrhosis, and diffuse pulmonary edema. The Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#2. 2017-012 H2 PALOMINO Juan A .;** DOB 08/29/1991; 25-year-old Hispanic male suffered a single gunshot wound to the head, possibly 9mm. Juan was shot while in a motor vehicle in the area of US Hwy 97 & Buster Road in Toppenish. Shot 01/07/2017 at approximately 0445 hours, and expired in the emergency room at Toppenish Hospital 01/07/2017 at 0707 hours. Yakima Sheriff's Office's 2nd Homicide for 2017.

January 9, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Juan A. PALOMINO. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was respiratory arrest due to direct cerebral trauma, hypovolemia due to gunshot wound to the head. No evidence of non-gunshot wound trauma, no offensive or defensive wounds to hands or arms. The entry wound was to the right top of the head. The bullet did not exit, it was recovered from the left side of the head. This bullet was deformed, may possibly be a 9mm bullet. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#3. 2017-039 H3 TINAJERO, Francisco;** DOB 06/24/1984; 32-year-old Hispanic male suffered a gunshot wound to the head and two gunshot wounds to the chest, 9mm. Francisco was sitting in a vehicle driver's seat at Sarge Hubbard Park, 111 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Yakima, when he was shot. He was shot January 20, 2017, found at 1320 hours. He expired in the vehicle from his wounds. This was Yakima Police Department's 1st Homicide investigated in 2017.

January 23, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Francisco Tinajero. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was exsanguination, due to multiple gunshot wounds to the chest & face (9mm). There was damage to the liver, left kidney, pancreas, left renal artery, and lumbar spinal cord. Dr. Reynolds did recover three 9mm bullets. Manner of Death was Homicide.

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**#4. 2017-077 H4 ABRAMS, Eddie Leon** ; DOB 08/20/1988; 28-year-old white male suffered a gunshot wound to the torso, 40 caliber. Eddie had been walking westbound on the north side of East Spruce Street and was shot in front of 811 East Spruce Street in Yakima. He was shot February 11, 2017 at 2058 hours. He expired at the scene from the gunshot wound to his torso. Yakima Police Department's 2<sup>nd</sup> Homicide investigated in 2017.

February 13, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Eddie Abrams. The 10 mm, or 40 caliber bullet, entered the left arm, shoulder area and passed through his torso and exited the right arm, shoulder area. No other trauma to Eddie other than the gunshot wound. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of Death was hypovolemic shock, exsanguination, due to gunshot wound to the torso. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#5. 17-087 H5 Jane Doe, later identified as DAVE, Linda;** DOB 01/26/1979; 38-year-old Native American female. Shot in the abdomen with a .22 caliber bullet. She was found February 15, 2017, at 1100 hours in the Marion Drain, under a bridge on Highway 97 in Toppenish. Yakima Sheriff's Office's 3rd Homicide investigated in 2017. Investigation was later turned over to the F.B.I. as the victim was identified as a Native American and the crime did occur on the Yakama Indian Reservation.

February 16, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Linda. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was exsanguination due to gunshot wound to the abdomen. No trauma to the head, no other trauma other than the gunshot wound to the abdomen was found. Dr. Reynolds collected the bullet from the spine, a .22 caliber. Linda did have on socks and a black hair clip. Dr. Margaret McMillan, DDS, MAGO, Forensic Dentist, examined Linda's teeth. Purpose for the examination and x-rays for future examination was to list the person (then known only as Jane Doe) in the missing persons data base. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#6. 17-103 H6 MOCTEZUMA, Noel;** DOB 12/25/1990; 26-year-old Hispanic male, suffered a gunshot wound to the head, 9 mm. Noel was shot in his apartment at 8 South 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Yakima. He was shot Feb. 21, 2017 at 1907 hours and died at the scene. This was the Yakima Police Department's 3rd Homicide investigated in 2017.

Feb. 22, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Noel Moctezuma. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was cerebral trauma, due to a 9 mm gunshot wound to the head. The entrance wound was to the forehead and the exit wound was to the rear of the head. There were no other signs or trauma internal or external. Manner of Death was Homicide.

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**#7. 17-118 H7 SCROGGINS, Jared** ; DOB 02/08/1994; 23-year-old, white male suffered a single gunshot wound to the abdomen, .45 caliber. March 5, 2017 at 2340 hours, Jared was walking westbound in the 800 block of East "D" Street when he suffered a single gunshot wound to the abdomen. Jared expired at the scene. This was Yakima Police Department's 4<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated in 2017.

March 6, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Jared Scroggins. Dr. Reynolds examined Jared and found trauma to his face and what appeared to be a bullet wound to the abdomen. It appeared that Jared was shot in the abdomen and fell forward, causing minor abrasions to his face and head and also his left knee. Dr. Reynolds advised the bullet struck the iliac artery, damaging the artery, which would have caused Jared to bleed to death, or rapid onset of hypovolemic shock. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#8. 17-156 H8 JIM, Ronald Jr** ; DOB 01/07/1986; 31-year-old Native American male, suffered blunt force trauma to the head during a fist fight, March 26, 2017 at 1737 hours. Ronald expired at the scene. Location was 410 Adams View Road in Wapato. This was the 2nd Homicide in 2017 investigated by Yakama Nation Police & the F.B.I.

March 30, 2017 at 1130 hours, Dr. Gina Fino, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Ronald JIM. Dr. Fino advised the cause of death was blunt impact injuries to the head & neck. Ronald suffered a basal skull fracture, and expired due to exsanguination. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#9. 17-180 H9 JARYAL, Vikram;** DOB 09/19/1991; 25-year-old East Indian male, suffered a single gunshot wound to the abdomen (through & through wound). Vikram was working at the AM/PM Mini Mart at 601 East Yakima Avenue when he was robbed and shot on April 6, 2017 at 0200 hours. Vikram expired in the emergency room at Yakima Regional Medical Center, April 6, 2017 at 0326 hours. This was the 5th homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

Monday April 10, 2017 at 0800 hours, Dr. Sigmund Menchel, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Vikram. Dr. Menchel examined Vikram. External injuries were the gunshot wound entrance in the abdomen just left of center and the exit wound in the right mid back area, no other trauma or injuries. Internal damage was to the liver and internal bleeding from the gunshot wound which appeared to be that of a 9 mm. Cause of Death was exsanguination, due to a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#10. 17-211 H10 SMITH, Kabin Everett;** DOB 05/09/2002; 14-year-old white male, suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the torso and extremities. Kabin had been walking near the intersection of West King Street and Cornell Avenue in Yakima. A vehicle

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approached Kabin and multiple shots were fired at him. Kabin fell to the ground, hit by several rounds. Kabin was transported to Virginia Mason Memorial Hospital in Yakima, where he expired April 24, 2017 at 1151 hours. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

On April 25, 2017, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed an autopsy on Kabin SMITH. Dr. Reynolds examined Kabin and found no trauma to his face or hands. He had gunshot wounds to his torso and extremities, damage perforated the heart and both lungs as well as the liver. Dr. Reynolds recovered four .40 caliber bullets. Cause of Death was rapid exsanguination, due to .40 caliber gunshot wound to the chest. Contributing conditions were perforated heart, liver and both lungs. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#11. 17-239 H11 GUERRERO, Carlos** ; DOB 08/09/1989; 27-year-old Hispanic male, suffered multiple (3) gunshot wounds to the head, .45 caliber. Carlos was sitting in a parked vehicle when he was shot at 501 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Yakima. Carlos died at the scene on May 5, 2017 at 2235 hours. This was the 7th homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

May 8, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, M.D. Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised the trauma to Carlos was to his head, three gunshot wounds, and all three exited the head. No other trauma was found. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was respiratory arrest, due to direct cerebral trauma, due to gunshot wounds to the head. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#12. 17-245 H12 SALAMANCA, Cuahutemoc;** DOB 07/05/1983; 33-year-old Hispanic male, suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the body & head, 9mm. Cuahutemoc was walking at the intersection of Cherry Avenue & Lewis Street in Yakima when he was shot. He died at the scene May 10, 2017 at 0315 hrs. This was the 8th Homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

May 10, 2017 at 1030 hours, Dr. Jeffery Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Cuahutemoc SALAMANCA. Dr. Reynolds advised Cuahutemoc had been shot multiple times. Cuahutemoc had been struck in the heart twice, and was also hit in multiple organs. Dr. Reynolds recovered 6 bullets, 9mm, from Cuauhtémoc's body. It appeared there were 9 entry wounds and two grazing type injuries from bullets. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was due to the two fatal wounds to the heart. Cause of Death was rapid exsanguination, due to gunshot wounds to the heart. Contributing Conditions were damage caused by gunshot wounds to right face and internal organs. Manner of Death was Homicide.

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**#13. 17-262 H13 PHELAN, Emilio R** ; DOB 08/12/1985; 31-year-old Hispanic male, suffered a gunshot wound to the back, 9mm. May 19, 2017 at 2241 hrs. Emilio was in the area of Cornell Avenue & Peach Street in Yakima when he was shot by unknown assailant in a drive-by shooting. Emilio was transported to Yakima Regional Medical Center emergency room where he expired May 19, 2017 at 2323 hours. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Emilio Phelan at 1000 hours on May 22, 2017. Dr. Reynolds located the entry wound from a gunshot wound at the mid back near the spine, no other trauma was found. Internal examination showed the bullet had struck the upper lobe of the right lung, and the subclavian artery, causing excessive blood loss. Dr. Reynolds noted no evidence of non-gsw trauma. No offensive or defensive wounds to hands or arms. Dr. Reynolds did recover a 9 mm bullet from the left subclavian area. Cause of Death was exsanguination, due to gunshot wound to the back (chest). Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#14. 17-286 H14 GONZALEZ-CASTILLO, Maria** ; DOB 08/10/1979; 37-year-old Hispanic female suffered a severe blow to the left temporal area of her head and suffered 4<sup>th</sup> degree burns. Maria was found near her home at 1631 Nass Road in Granger. She was in a fire pit, where she had been placed and burned after being struck in the head. The blow to the head caused her death. This was the 3rd Homicide investigated by the Yakima Sheriff's Office in 2017.

June 5, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds M.D., Forensic Pathologist, performed the examination of the remains of Maria Gonzalez-Castillo. The remains consisted of a skull and some smaller bones, the remaining portion of the deceased was cremated in a fire pit just outside of the residence. Dr. Reynolds advised that the skull did show a depressed skull fracture on the left side of head, this was the cause of death. Dr. Reynolds did examine the remaining bones and they were photographed.

Cause of Death was direct & indirect brain damage, due to blunt force trauma to left temporal region, interval - minutes. Contributing Conditions: distinctive dental work for I.D.; Diffuse 4<sup>th</sup> degree burns (mostly fragmented skeletal remains).

June 6, 2017, the skull was taken to Dr. Ryan Andersen of Riverbend Dental he took x-rays of the teeth and again on June 7, 2017 we took the upper and lower jaw to Dr. Andersen and he completed a full set of x-rays. He advised that he was able to make a positive identification from the jaws & x-rays he took, comparing them to the x-rays that

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

had been obtained from the Farmworkers Clinic Dental Department in Toppenish for Maria Gonzalez, DOB 08/10/1979.

Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#15. 17-287 H15 BRADER, Stanley;** DOB 12/15/1957; 59-year-old white male suffered blunt force trauma to his head and also laceration to his right thigh. Stanley was found near his house at 1615 South 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Yakima, next to a fence along his driveway. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by Yakima Police Department in 2017.

June 5, 2017 at 1130 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, M.D. Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Stan Brader. There was an electrical cord tied and wrapped around the body, his clothing was removed and Dr. Reynolds completed the external and internal examination. Dr. Reynolds advised he had been struck multiple times about the head and left shoulder, and a laceration to the right thigh.

Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death: direct & indirect brain injury, due to blunt force trauma, interval - minutes. Contributing Conditions: hypovolemic shock, laceration / incisional wound x2 to medial right thigh. The Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#16. 17-335 H16 ANDREWS, Isaiah** ; DOB 05/26/1997; 20-year-old, Native American male suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. This occurred July 7, 2017 at 0215 hours, outside of 312 Donald Road, apartment #A, in Wapato. Isaiah was able to enter the residence after being shot and collapsed on the floor, he died at the scene. This was the 3rd Homicide investigated by the F.B.I. & Yakama Nation Police in 2017.

July 7, 2017 at 0930 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Isaiah ANDREWS. Dr. Reynolds advised that Isaiah suffered two gunshot wounds, one to the left shoulder and one to the left side/chest area. Both .22 caliber bullets were recovered. The bullet to the side/chest struck both lungs and the aorta. The damage to the aorta caused severe exsanguination and death. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was rapid exsanguination, due to gunshot wound to the back. Manner of death was Homicide.

**#17. 17-340 H17 ANDY, Minnie;** DOB 2/27/1986; 31-year-old Native American female suffered blunt force trauma to the head. She had been assaulted by another subject. This occurred July 9, 2017 at 0348 hours at 70 Eagan Road in Wapato. She expired July 9, 2017 at 1335 hours at Yakima Regional Medical Center, a few hours after the assault. This was the 4th Homicide investigated by the F.B.I. & Yakama Nation Police in 2017.

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July 10, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Minnie Andy. The examination showed bruising inside of the mouth on her lips, and bruising of her right shoulder & arm, left shoulder, chest and liver internally. There was edema in the lungs, right lung weight was 550 gms, left 630 gms. There was severe cerebral edema causing respiratory arrest. The cerebral edema was due to blunt force trauma. Minnie suffered five to six blows to the chest and three to four severe blows to the front and left temporal area of the head. The swelling or edema of the head caused a great deal of pressure on the brain, causing Minnie to stop breathing and go into respiratory arrest. Cause of Death was respiratory arrest, second to severe cerebral edema, due to blunt force trauma to the head. Interval: hours. Contributing conditions were multiple blunt force trauma areas to chest, shoulders, arms, anterior knees. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#18. 17-348 H18 EMMONS, Basil;** DOB 4/12/1949; 68-year-old African American male suffered a knife wound to the left neck. Basil had been stabbed by an assailant in his home at 214 Wanity Park Drive in Toppenish. This occurred July 14, 2017 between the hours of 1830 and 2013 hours. Basil expired at the scene from the knife wound to the neck. This was the 4th homicide investigated by the Yakima Sheriff's Office in 2017.

July 18, 2017 at 0800 hours, Dr. Sigmund Menchel, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Basil Emmons. Dr. Menchel advised Basil suffered trauma to his mouth, multiple stab wounds to the neck (4 to 6), causing severe hemorrhaging, and laceration of carotid artery. The knife (5-inch blade, white plastic handle) was still in the neck. Strangulation by ligature around neck, causing asphyxia. The primary cause of death was hemorrhage (exsanguination), due to multiple stab wounds to the neck. Secondary was asphyxia, due to ligature around neck, strangulation. Strangulation was attempted first, prior to the stabbing in the neck. The laceration to the neck caused Basil to bleed to death.

Cause of Death was exsanguination, due to stabbing of the left neck. Contributing conditions: Asphyxia, due to ligature around neck, strangulation. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#19. 17-353 H19 OWENS, Waylon;** DOB 2/24/1994; 23-year-old Native American male suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. Waylon was walking on the west side of the 200 block of South Elm on the sidewalk in Toppenish when he was shot, believed to have been a drive-by shooting. This occurred July 19, 2017 at 0315 hours. Waylon died at the scene, pronounced deceased at 0350 hours. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by the F.B.I. & Yakama Nation Police in 2017.

July 19, 2017 at 1300 hours, Dr. Sigmund Menchel, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Waylon G. Owens. Examination showed an entrance bullet

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wound to the left chest and exit to the left posterior back. The bullet struck the heart, causing severe damage to the entire left side of the heart and the left lung, causing severe hemorrhage into the chest, causing death. Dr. Menchel advised that the Cause of Death was hemorrhage (exsanguination), due to gunshot wound to the chest. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#20. 17-392 H20 FUENTES, Marco Antonio** ; DOB 05/13/1999; 18-year-old Hispanic male suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the chest. Marco was at a large party outside the residence at 301 Fisher Road in Mabton. He was transported to Prosser Memorial Hospital, where he expired due to his injuries from the gunshot wounds. This occurred August 13, 2017 at 0306 hours, and he expired August 13, 2017 at 0401 hours at Prosser Memorial Hospital. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by the Yakima County Sheriff's Office in 2017.

August 14, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Marco Fuentes. Dr. Reynolds advised that Marco was shot three times with a 0.38 caliber, once in the mid chest, once in the right abdomen and once in the mid abdomen. Dr. Reynolds did recover a 0.38 caliber bullet from the left abdomen just under the skin. This bullet entered the mid chest and struck the heart, causing him to bleed to death. The gunshot wound to the right side struck the liver. The third gunshot wound was mid-abdomen, and was in and out and superficial. The Cause of Death: Exsanguination, due to multiple gunshot wounds to the chest. Contributing conditions were perforated right ventricle of heart, perforated right lobe of liver, massive left hemo/pneumothorax. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#21. 17-405 H21 CORONADO, Anthony** ; DOB 07/10/1993; 24-year-old Hispanic male suffered a gunshot wound to the head. On August 15, 2017 at 1813 hours, Anthony was shot in the head while he was sitting in a vehicle at South "I" Street & Satus Avenue in Toppenish. Anthony was in a vehicle and got into an argument with another subject who pulled a gun and shot Anthony. Anthony was transported to Toppenish Community Hospital, and then to Kadlec Hospital, where he expired from his head wound on August 17, 2017 at 1251 hours. This was the 1st Homicide investigated by Toppenish Police Department in 2017.

August 18, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Anthony Coronado. Dr. Reynolds advised there were no other injuries or trauma found other than the single gunshot wound to the head, possibly a .40 caliber. The jacket from the bullet was recovered at the right rear of Anthony's head. The bullet entered the head at the right rear and was found in the right frontal portion of the brain. The jacket and bullet was released to Toppenish Police. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was progressive cerebral anoxia, secondary to cerebral edema, due to gunshot wound to the head (right rear). Cerebral anoxia is the lack of oxygen to the

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

brain, and edema is the hemorrhaging in the brain. Interval from injury to death one to two days. The Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#22. 17-409 H22 MORENO-HERNANDEZ, Raymond** ; DOB 07/31/1991; 26-year-old Hispanic male suffered a gunshot wound to the head and right shoulder. Raymond had been shot in the head and right shoulder on April 15, 2017 at 2018 hours, directly in front of 8<sup>th</sup> Street Market at 315 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Yakima. Raymond had been inside a vehicle at the time of the shooting. He was transported to Yakima Regional Medical Center by ambulance. Raymond was later transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, and after that transported to Everett Rehabilitation & Care Center in Everett. Raymond expired on August 15, 2017 at 1950 hours. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

Raymond expired in Everett, WA. Snohomish Medical Examiner, Dr. Daniel Selove, performed the autopsy on Raymond and concluded that Raymond did expire due to the gunshot wounds he received on April 15, 2017. The Cause of Death was complications of multiple handgun wounds to the head. The Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#23. 17-468 H23 John DOE** ; 20-year-old Native American male suffered a knife wound to the chest. Victim was last seen in June 2017. He was found on the Yakama Indian Reservation, 2 miles west of White Swan, ¼ mile south of Medicine Valley Road. He was wrapped in a duffle-type bag, and a blue tarp. This was the 6<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by the F.B.I. & Yakama Nation in 2017.

September 20, 2017 at 1030 hours, Dr. Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy. The tank top that the deceased wore had a clear stab or cut with a single edge blade. Pants were size 32- to 34-inch waist, Dickie work pants 824, and original fit. Belt was a web belt with a Dickie belt buckle. The deceased was a male, in his 20's, 5'4" to 5'6" tall. The deceased was badly and near totally decomposed, he had been deceased for months. Officers were unable to find any dental records on the (as yet unidentified) victim. The lower jaw was released to the F.B.I. for DNA comparison. The tank top, belt, blue tarp, and duffle bag were also released to the F.B.I. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was exsanguination, due to a stab wound. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#24. 17-485 H24 ALCAREZ-MADRIGAL, Nora;** DOB 01/01/1976, 41-year-old Hispanic female suffered a gunshot wound to the neck. Nora was assaulted and shot by her estranged significant other, Christian Parra, who then shot himself in the head. This occurred at Nora's residence at 420 West South Hill Road in Sunnyside on September 27, 2017 at 1730 hours. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> Homicide investigated by Sunnyside Police Department in 2017.

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

September 28, 2017 at 0900 hours, Dr. Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Nora. Dr. Reynolds advised there was trauma from possibly a fist, to the chest, arms, and legs. The cause of death was from a single gunshot wound to the neck, possibly a 9 mm. The bullet was fired from less than a foot away from the neck. The bullet struck and lacerated the left subclavian artery, went through the left lung, and exited the back, causing Nora to bleed to death. Cause of Death was rapid exsanguination, due to gunshot wound to the neck. Contributing conditions: multiple blunt force trauma to the arms, chest, legs (probable blows by fist). The Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#25. 17-529 H25 PRADO, Napoleon E. Jr.** ; DOB 12/27/1999, 17-year-old Hispanic male suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the body, 9 mm. October 24, 2017 at 0937 hours, in the 300 block of South 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Yakima. Napoleon was shot by an assailant, who had exited a vehicle, pulled a gun and fired at him a number of times. He was struck multiple times and was transported to Astria Regional Medical Center where he expired October 24, 2017 at 1018 hours. This was the 12<sup>th</sup> homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department for 2017.

October 25, 2017 at 1200 hours, Dr. Sigmund Menchel, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Napoleon Prado. Dr. Menchel advised Napoleon had been shot multiple times, 5 gunshot wounds plus a graze wound. Both lungs were damaged and he bled to death. Dr. Menchel did recover a 9mm bullet that was released to the Yakima Police Detectives. Dr. Menchel advised the Cause of Death was multiple gunshot wounds to the trunk & extremities. Interval: minutes. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#26. 17-539 H26 BAEZ, Javier;** DOB 03/20/1987, 20-year- old Hispanic male suffered a single gunshot wound to the back. He was shot by a friend who was handling a 9 mm pistol, the weapon discharged and the bullet struck Javier in the back. The friend told police that he did not mean for the weapon to be discharged. This occurred at 213 South Fair Avenue, #108, in Yakima on October 31, 2017 at 1315 hours. Javier was transported to Astria Regional Medical Center in Yakima, and he expired Nov. 1, 2017 at 0843 hours due to the gunshot wound. This was 13<sup>th</sup> homicide investigated by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

Nov. 1, 2017 at 1030 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy for Javier A. Baez. Dr. Reynolds advised that Javier suffered a gunshot wound to the back. The bullet hit the right kidney, spine and aorta, causing Javier to bleed to death. The bullet exited the abdomen. The Cause of Death was exsanguination, due to a gunshot wound to the back. The Manner of Death was Homicide.

## **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

**#27. 17-543 H27 MONTES, Jorge Luis** ; DOB 08/26/1995; 22-year-old Hispanic male suffered a single gunshot wound to the mouth. Jorge was sitting in a motor vehicle playing with a semi-automatic handgun, 40 caliber. He had stuck the weapon in his mouth and was attempting to take a self-picture with his phone. He told his friend, who was with him in the vehicle, to rack the weapon for the photo. When his friend reached over and racked the weapon, it discharged and Jorge was shot in the roof of his mouth, causing his death. This occurred November 5, 2017 at 1523 hours in the Play Land Park parking lot at 503 Speyers Road in Selah. This was the 1st Homicide investigation by Selah Police Department in 2017.

November 6, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy for Jorge Luis Montes. There was a near contact wound to the roof of the mouth right side, exit wound was to the right side towards the top of the temple area. There was multiple bruising, 2 cm diameter to the anterior neck. The projectile trajectory was left to right, front to back, possibly a 40 caliber bullet. Jorge did not sustain any other trauma. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was direct cerebral trauma, due to near contact gunshot wound to the right roof of the mouth. Contributing conditions: basal skull fracture; temporal skull fracture/exit wound; pulmonary blood aspiration; multiple 2cm diameter punctate bruises to the anterior neck. Manner of Death was Homicide (Accidental Homicide).

**#28. 2017-579 H28 (Justifiable) ESCOBEDO, Christopher J.H.** ; DOB 05/24/1991; 26-year-old white male was shot multiple times by Yakima Police Officers. He led Yakima Police Officers on a high-speed chase and was firing a weapon at them during the pursuit. His vehicle became disabled off Naches Road at Beffa Road near the city of Tieton. As Christopher exited the vehicle and confronted the Police Officers, he was shot. Christopher died at the scene on 11/28/2017 at 0005 hours. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by the Yakima Sheriff's Office in 2017.

November 28, 2017 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Christopher. Dr. Reynolds advised that Christopher suffered gunshot wounds, possibly 0.223 caliber, to his head & body. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was massive cerebral trauma, due to high velocity 0.223 caliber gunshot wound to the head. Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#29. 2017-635 H29 BARR, Dale;** DOB 10/18/1979, 38-year-old Native American male was shot multiple times and placed in a shed. The shed was set on fire. This occurred at 481 Butler Road in Wapato. Dale was found December 25, 2017 at 0745 hours. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> Homicide investigated by the F.B.I. & Yakama Nation Police in 2017.

December 26, 2017 at 0930 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on John Doe, who was later identified as Dale BARR. There was

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

no soot in the airway or lungs. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was: hypovolemic shock; possible CO (carbon monoxide) inhalation; multiple gunshot wounds to hip & shoulder; per mortem fire. Contributing conditions were: markedly displaced fracture of femur; fracture of acromion process (shoulder); recent (24 to 48 hours) prolonged heavy alcohol use. The Manner of Death was Homicide.

**#30. 2017-638 H30 (Justifiable) GARCIA, Jose** ; DOB 08/14/1986, 32-year-old Hispanic male suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the chest. Jose was involved in an altercation with the Yakima Police at 20 Staff Sgt. Pendleton Way (Cascade Apartments) in Yakima. The incident was on December 26, 2017 at 0008 hours. Jose expired in Astria Regional Hospital December 26, 2017 at 0043 hours. This was the 14th Homicide investigation by the Yakima Police Department in 2017.

December 26, 2017 at 1230 hours, Dr. Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Jose Garcia. Jose had suffered gunshot wounds to the chest. Two gunshot wounds to the right chest, 0.223 caliber bullets, caused rapid exsanguination, multiple right rib fractures, massive right hemo-pneumothorax, and liver damage. He was also struck by .40 caliber bullets.

Cause of Death was rapid exsanguination, due to multiple gunshot wounds to the chest. Contributing conditions: multiple rib fractures; massive hemo-pneumothorax; gunshot wound to liver with hemoperitoneum. Manner of Death was Justifiable Homicide.

**#31. 17-639 H31 (Justifiable) ESCOBAR, Adrian** ; DOB 07/17/1988, 29-year-old, Hispanic male suffered a gunshot wound to the head. Adrian was shot by a Yakima Police Officer. The shooting was determined to be justifiable. This occurred in the 300 block of Pierce Avenue in Yakima on 12/26/2017. Adrian expired at the scene. The shooting was investigated by the Washington State Patrol.

December 27, 2017 at 0930 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds, MD, Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Adrian Escobar. Dr. Reynolds indicated that Adrian had a gunshot wound to the face, left side, just below his nose. This was a 0.223 caliber bullet wound. The bullet entered the brain and caused massive cerebral pulpification and complex skull fractures. Adrian did not suffer any other injuries or medical problems. Cause of Death was respiratory arrest, due to cerebral pulpification, due to gunshot wound to the (L) face, Interval: minutes. Contributing conditions: massive, complex skull fractures; instantaneous respiratory arrest. Manner of Death was Justifiable Homicide.

## **MANNER: SUICIDE**

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017

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	5	4	1
Gunshot to Head	18	17	1
Drugs & Alcohol	1	1	0
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1	1	0
Knife	0	0	0
Drowning	0	0	0
Death from fall	2	2	0

**TOTAL: 27**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
<19	5	5	0
20-29	4	3	1
30-39	4	3	1
40-49	4	3	1
50-59	1	1	0
60-69	5	5	0
70-79	2	2	0
80-89	2	2	0
90-99	0	0	0

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
White	18
Hispanic	9
Native American	0

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
January	5
February	1
March	2
April	2
May	4
June	0
July	2
August	4
September	4
October	2
November	1
December	0

## TEN YEAR COMPARISON

### MANNER: TRAFFIC

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017

Blood alcohol tests were performed for 38 of the 44 traffic fatalities, of the 38, 15 tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs. Of the 25 vehicle drivers, 00 tested positive, of the 8 passengers, 0 tested positive. There were 11 pedestrian fatalities, of those 00 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.

<u>CIRCUMSTANCE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL RACE</u>
Driver/MVC	24	15	10	Native American 15
Passenger/MVC	7	4	3	White 17
Pedestrian	11	9	2	Hispanic 12
Motor Vehicle Homicide	2	1	1	Asian 0
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b> 44				
<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH TOTAL</u>
0-9	1	0	1	January 4
10-19	2	1	1	February 1
20-29	10	8	2	March 3
30-39	8	5	3	April 0
40-49	7	2	5	May 2
50-59	5	4	1	June 4
60-69	2	2	0	July 6
70-79	1	0	1	August 5
80-89	2	2	0	September 6
90-99	1	1	0	October 7
				November 1
				December 5

## TEN YEAR COMPARISON

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

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

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>
4 Mon.	1	1	0	January	0
				February	0
				March	0
				April	0
				May	0
				June	0
				July	0
				August	0
				October	1
				November	0
				December	0

## **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

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

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 21 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	1
		Hispanic	1	0
		Nat/American	0	0
February	2	Hispanic	1	1
		Nat/American	0	0
		White	1	0
March	1	Hispanic	0	0
		Nat/American	0	0
April	0	White	0	0
		Hispanic	0	1
May	1	Hispanic	0	0
		White	0	0
June	2	White	1	0
		Hispanic	1	0
July	1	Hispanic	0	1
		White	0	0
August	4	White	1	0
		Hispanic	1	2
September	1	Hispanic	0	1
		White	0	0
October	0	Na/American	0	0
		Asian	0	0
November	3	Hispanic	0	3
		White	0	0
December	4	White	1	0
		Hispanic	2	1

**TOTAL: 21**

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

**MANNER: NATURAL**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

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 **457** natural deaths in **2017**. 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.

## **AGE**

<b><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE</u></b>
<1	7	5	2
1-09	2	2	0
10-19	2	2	0
20-29	2	1	1
30-39	10	5	5
40-49	28	18	9
50-59	65	36	29
60-69	97	58	39
70-79	124	79	45
80-89	80	40	40
90-99	39	15	24
100+	1	0	1

**TOTAL: 457**

## **RACE**

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
White	339
Hispanic	76
African American	7
Native American	34
Asian	1

<b><u>MONTHS</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
January	46
February	39
March	39
April	42
May	38
June	28
July	36
August	41
September	38
October	28
November	42
December	40

## **TEN YEAR COMPARISON**

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2017**

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>
Manner: Accidental	Death other than natural, where there is no evidence of intent, i.e., unintentional. In this report, traffic accidents are classified separately.

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

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

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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.
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.