

## **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

### **Coroner Cases in 2024**

In **2024**, **1,831** deaths were 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 **818** of these deaths. Of these **818** deaths, it was deemed necessary to perform **63** autopsies.

There was a total of **516** Hospice deaths reported to the coroner.

This office aims to provide quality death investigations that may, in turn, benefit the living. We collect data and share it with valley agencies to attempt to find answers, explanations, and preventive measures. This report breaks down the data to assist individuals in assembling a profile of death statistics.

**TOTAL HOSPICE DEATH REPORTED:516**

**TOTAL ALL CORONER CASES FOR 2024:818**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS IN YAKIMA COUNTY FOR 2024: 1,831**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

## **ACCIDENTAL**

Suffocation – 1  
Asphyxia-3  
Cerebral & Subdural Hemorrhage-  
Pulmonary Injuries, Fire Exposure -  
Crushing Injuries –4  
Drowning 3  
Carbon Monoxide Toxicity -6  
Untreated Thermal Injuries-  
Aspiration of Gastric Contents-1  
Exsanguination blunt trauma -  
Hypothermia-2  
Foreign Body Obstruction-3  
Fall-3  
**TOTAL/ACCIDENTAL:26**

## **MOTOR VEHICLE**

Driver -22  
Passenger -2  
Pedestrian -6  
Off-Road Vehicle -  
Bicycle -  
Motor Vehicle Homicide- 4  
**TOTAL MVF: -35**

## **NATURAL/TOTAL: 538**

**SIDS/TOTAL -**  
**FETAL DEMISE: -7**

## **HOMICIDE**

Gunshot Wounds-20  
Stabbing -3  
Burns-  
Blunt force trauma -  
Strangulation-  
Subdural Hemorrhage-1

## **TOTAL HOMICIDES: -24**

## **ACCIDENTAL ALCOHOL/DRUG**

**TOXICITY**  
Amitriptyline -  
Oxycodone -  
Methamphetamine-27  
Fentanyl-56  
Fentanyl/Methamphetamine-\* 40  
Alcohol/Ethanol -  
Methadone-2  
Cocaine/Fentanyl Toxicity-2  
Cocaine Toxicity-  
Buprenorphine Toxicity-1  
Unknown Toxicity-1  
Pending- 16  
Fentanyl/Methamphetamine/Cocaine  
Toxicity - 1  
\*Some deaths have multiple drugs

## **TOTAL DRUG TOXICITY: \*146**

## **SUICIDE**

Hanging-7  
Gunshot -33  
Jumped from building -  
Pills-1  
Plastic Bag-1  
Strap- 1  
Carbon Monoxide-

## **TOTAL SUICIDES: 43**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

## **MANNER: ACCIDENTAL**

There were **26** deaths certified as accidental for the year **2024**

<b><u>INJURY MODE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE=18</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE=8</u></b>
Positional Asphyxia	3	2	1
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning-	6	5	1
Cerebral & Subdural Hemorrhages			
Crushing Injuries-	4	4	
Acute Cardiac Dysrhythmia	1	1	
Aspiration of Gastric Contents -			
Drowning -	3	2	1
Foreign body Obstruction -	3	1	2
Hypothermia -	2	1	1
Exsanguination-Blunt trauma -			
Fall-	3	2	1
Suffocation	1	1	

### **TOTAL: - 26**

<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	3	1			
1-9	2	1	1		
10-19					
20-29	3	2	1	January	2
30-39	2	2		February	2
40-49	3	2	1	March	4
50-59	4	4		April	3
60-69	4	3	1	May	1
70-79	1		1	June	0
80-89	4	2	2	July	2
90-99				August	0
100				September	1
				October	4
				November	5
				December	2
<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>				
White	13				
Native American	4				
Hispanic	7				
Asian/Pacific Islander	1				
African American	1				

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

## **MANNER: ACCIDENTAL DRUG TOXICITY**

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE=103</u>	<u>FEMALE=43</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>&gt;10</u>					
<u>11-19</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>20-29</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>30-39</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>40-49</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>50-59</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>60-69</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>70-79</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>80-89</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>August</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>90-99</u>				<u>September</u>	<u>8</u>
<b><u>TOTAL:</u></b> <b><u>-146</u></b>				<u>October</u>	<u>11</u>
				<u>November</u>	<u>20</u>
				<u>December</u>	<u>19</u>

### RACE

White - 71  
Native American-31  
Hispanic-40  
African American - 3  
Asian/Pacific Islander-1

# YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024

## 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. In 2024, 24 deaths were classified as homicides. The breakdown of agencies that responded to these deaths is as follows:

<u>Yakima PD</u>	<u>Wapato PD</u>	<u>Moxee PD</u>	<u>Sunnyside</u>	<u>Toppenish</u>	<u>FBI</u>	<u>Tribal</u>	<u>YVSIU</u>
13		1	3		1	1	1

### Yakima Sheriff's Department

Wapato:1

White Swan:

Naches:

Grandview:1

Granger:1

Sunnyside:

Mabton:

Toppenish:1

Moxee-

**YSO TOTAL: 3**

<u>METHOD OF HOMICIDE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE- 20</u>	<u>FEMALE -4</u>
Gunshot	20	17	3
Stabbing	3	2	1
Blunt force trauma			
Strangulation			
Burns			
Subdural Hemorrhage	1	1	
<b><u>TOTAL: 24</u></b>			

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
01-19	5	4	1	January	1
20-29	3	3		February	3
30-39	6	5	1	March	2
40-49	7	6	1	April	0
50-59	1	1		May	2
60-69				June	2
70-79	2	1	1	July	2
80-89				August	2
<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>			September	3
White	9			October	2
Native American	3			November	1
Hispanic	12			December	2
Asian/Pacific Islander					
African American					

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

## **MANNER: SUICIDE**

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

<b><u>METHOD OF SUICIDE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL-43</u></b>	<b><u>MALE-32</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE- 11</u></b>
Hanging -	7	2	5
Gunshot Wound -	33	28	5
Drugs & Alcohol -	1	1	
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning -			
Loppers -			
Knife -			
Self-inflicted Suffocation -	1		1
Oxygen Depleted			
Strap-	1	1	

**TOTAL: 43**

<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>
<19	3	2	1	January	8
20-29	5	5		February	2
30-39	9	7	2	March	3
40-49	4	2	2	April	6
50-59	4	1	3	May	6
60-69	4	2	2	June	1
70-79	8	8		July	2
80-89	4	4		August	2
90-100	1	1		September	2
				October	1
				November	5
				December	5

  

<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
White-	29
Native American	4
Hispanic	10
Asian/Pacific Islander	

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

## **MANNER: TRAFFIC**

Blood alcohol tests were performed for 20 of the 24 traffic fatalities of the 20, 7 tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs. Of the 26 vehicle drivers, 20 tested positive, and of the 4 passengers, 2 tested positive. There were 6 pedestrian fatalities of those 3 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-23</u>	<u>FEMALE - 12</u>	<u>TOTAL RACE</u>
Driver/MVC	24	18	6	White- 11
Passenger/MVC				Native American-10
Pedestrian	6	2	4	Hispanic-14
Bicycle				Asian -
Motor Vehicle Homicide	5	3	2	African American-
<b><u>TOTAL=35</u></b>				
<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH</u>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>				
01-19	2	1	1	January -
20-29	9	3	6	February -1
30-39	6	4	2	March - 5
40-49	4	3	1	April- 2
50-59	4	4		May-4
60-69	3	3		June- 4
70-79	2	2		July- 2
80-89	3	1	2	August-
90-99				September 10
100-120				October-3
				November-2
				December -2

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

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

The Coroner's Office is required by RCW 43.103.100 (0) 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	
				February	
				March	
				April	
				May	
				June	
				July	
				August	
				September	
				October	
				November	
				December	

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

## **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- 4</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE-3</u></b>
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**January**

**February** 1 Hispanic 1

**March**

**April**

**June**

**July**

**August** 1 Hispanic 1

**September**

**October** 1 Hispanic 1

**November** 4 Hispanic 3  
White 1

**December**

**TOTAL: 7**

# **YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2024**

## **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 over **538** natural deaths in **2024**. The various factors that influenced 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><u>AGE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>MALE-313</u></b>	<b><u>FEMALE-225</u></b>	<b><u>MONTHS</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
<1	2	1	1	January	55
1-09	2	1	1	February	58
10-19	2	1	1	March	48
20-29	7	5	2	April	53
30-39	15	10	5	May	41
40-49	28	15	13	June	37
50-59	49	34	15	July	33
60-69	141	96	44	August	48
70-79	140	73	67	September	23
80-89	106	56	50	October	44
90-99	46	21	25	November	43
100+	1	1		December	56
<b><u>TOTAL: 538</u></b>					
<b><u>RACE</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>				
White -	405				
Hispanic -	95				
African American -	4				
Native American -	32				
Asian/Pacific Islander -	2				