

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

<u>INJURY MODE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE=18</u>	<u>FEMALE=8</u>
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

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>		
<1	3	1			
1-9	2	1	1		
10-19					
20-29	3	2	1	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
30-39	2	2		January	2
40-49	3	2	1	February	2
50-59	4	4		March	4
60-69	4	3	1	April	3
70-79	1		1	May	1
80-89	4	2	2	June	0
90-99				July	2
100				August	0
				September	1
<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>			October	4
White	13			November	5
Native American	4			December	2
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>
>10			
11-19	1		1
20-29	28	21	7
30-39	41	32	9
40-49	33	18	15
50-59	25	20	5
60-69	12	7	5
70-79	5	4	1
80-89	1	1	
90-99			

TOTAL: -146

RACE

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	8
February	6
March	16
April	10
May	17
June	14
July	11
August	6
September	8
October	11
November	20
December	19

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>YYSIU</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	
<u>TOTAL: 24</u>			

<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
<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>			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.

<u>METHOD OF SUICIDE</u>	<u>TOTAL-43</u>	<u>MALE-32</u>	<u>FEMALE- 11</u>
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

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
<19	3	2	1
20-29	5	5	
30-39	9	7	2
40-49	4	2	2
50-59	4	1	3
60-69	4	2	2
70-79	8	8	
80-89	4	4	
90-100	1	1	

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

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	8
February	2
March	3
April	6
May	6
June	1
July	2
August	2
September	2
October	1
November	5
December	5

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>
Driver/MVC	24	18	6
Passenger/MVC			
Pedestrian	6	2	4
Bicycle			
Motor Vehicle Homicide	5	3	2

TOTAL=35

TOTAL RACE
 White- 11
 Native American-10
 Hispanic-14
 Asian -
 African American-

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>				
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.

AGE

TOTAL

MALE

FEMALE

RACE

Hispanic

White

Native American

African American

TOTAL

MONTH

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

TOTAL

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.

<u>MONTH OCCURRED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RACE</u>	<u>MALE- 4</u>	<u>FEMALE-3</u>
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				
<u>TOTAL: 7</u>				

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.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE-313</u>	<u>FEMALE-225</u>
<1	2	1	1
1-09	2	1	1
10-19	2	1	1
20-29	7	5	2
30-39	15	10	5
40-49	28	15	13
50-59	49	34	15
60-69	141	96	44
70-79	140	73	67
80-89	106	56	50
90-99	46	21	25
100+	1		1

TOTAL: 538

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
White -	405
Hispanic -	95
African American -	4
Native American -	32
Asian/Pacific Islander-	2

<u>MONTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	55
February	58
March	48
April	53
May	41
June	37
July	33
August	48
September	23
October	44
November	43
December	56