

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 235,900, which is the 7th 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, lightning, 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. (3) 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.

**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 **2016**

Coroner Cases in 2016

In **2016**, there were a total of **1,952** 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 **607** of these deaths. Of these **607** deaths, it was deemed necessary to perform **56** autopsies. There were a total of **361** cases when the Coroner's Office was notified but did not assume jurisdiction (Non-Jurisdiction Cases). There were a total of **984** 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 HOSPICE DEATH REPORTED: 984

TOTAL ALL CORONER CASES FOR 2016: 607

TOTAL NON-JURISDICTION CASES: 361

TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS IN YAKIMA COUNTY FOR 2016: 1,952

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2016

CORONER CASES 2016

ACCIDENTAL

Positional Asphyxia 2
 Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma 3
 Bee Sting 0
 Fractures/Fall 3
 Carbon Monoxide 0
 Fresh Water Drowning 1
 Hypothermia 2
 Blunt Force Trauma/ Crush 2
 Medical intervention 1
 Crush Injury to Head 2

TOTAL/ACCIDENTAL: 17

AIRPLANE

Pilot 0
 Passenger 0

TOTAL AIRPLANE: 0

MOTOR VEHICLE

Driver 20
 Passenger 4
 Pedestrian 4
 Off Road Vehicle 0
 Train 0
 Motorcycle 0
 Bicyclist 0
 Motor Vehicle Homicide 2

TOTAL MVE: 30

NATURAL/TOTAL: 450

SIDS/TOTAL: 0

FETAL DEMISE: 27

HOMICIDE

Gunshot Wounds 18
 Blunt Impact/Head 1
 Stabbing 5
 Homicide by Violence 0
 Undetermined 0

TOTAL HOMICIDES: 24

ACCIDENTAL ALOCOHOL/DRUG TOXICI

Ethanol 3
 6-acetylmorphine 3
 Methamphetamine 7
 Amphetamine, Diazepam Nordiazepam 7
 Hydrocodone, Morphine, Codeine
 Heroin, 5
 Oxycodone, Zolpidem, Cyclobenzaprine 1

TOTAL DRUG TOXICITY: 26

SUICIDE

Hanging 8
 Gunshot 15
 Charcoal Burner 1
 Alcohol & Drugs 2
 Drowning 1

TOTAL SUICIDES: 27

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY **2016**

MANNER: ACCIDENTAL

There were **17** deaths certified as accidental for the year **2016**. Of those, the largest single group was people who died as a result of accidental drug overdose.

<u>INJURY MODE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Fractures/Fall	3	2	1
Positional Asphyxia	3	2	1
Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma	3	2	1
Bee Sting	0	0	0
Hypothermia	2	2	0
Fresh Water Drowning	1	1	0
Carbon Monoxide	1	0	1
Medical Intervention	1	1	0
Crush Injury	3	3	0

TOTAL: 17

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

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL 17</u>
Hispanic	7
White	8
Native American	2

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY **2016**

MANNER: ACCIDENTAL DRUG TOXICITY *continued*

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>		
>10	0	0	0		
11-19	1	1	0		
20-29	7	6	1		
30-39	5	2	3		
40-49	5	4	1		
50-59	6	4	2		
60-69	1	1	0		
70-79	1	1	0		
80-89	0	0	0	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
90-99	0	0	0	January	1
				February	4
<u>TOTAL: 26</u>				March	3
				April	1
<u>RACE</u>				May	3
White	18			June	2
Native American	1			July	4
Hispanic	6			August	2
African American	1			September	1
				October	1
				November	2
				December	2

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 2016, 26 deaths were classified as homicides. The breakdown of agencies that responded to these deaths is as follows:

<u>Yakima PD</u>	<u>Grandview PD</u>	<u>Union Gap</u>	<u>Sunnyside</u>	<u>Toppenish</u>	<u>Wapato</u>	<u>FBI</u>
13	0	1	1	0	1	2

Yakima Sheriff's Department

Tieton: 1
Wapato:
White Swan:
Yakima: 2
Naches: 1
Sunnyside: 1
Coviche: 1

YSO TOTAL: 6

<u>METHOD OF HOMICIDE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Gunshot	17	13	4
Blunt Force Trauma	1	0	1
Stabbing	6	4	2

TOTAL: 24

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

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HISPANIC	16
WHITE	6
NATIVE AMERICAN	2

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

2016 HOMICIDE SYNOPSIS

2016 HOMICIDE SYNOPSAS

TOTAL HOMICIDES YAKIMA COUNTY: 24

UNJUSTIFIABLE OF HOMICIDES: 22 / JUSTIFIABLE - 2

Yakima Police Department- 12

Yakima Co. Sheriff 's Department - 6 : Areas of: Yakima- 2, Moxee,
Cowiche - 1, Tieton - 1 , Naches - 1 Toppenish-, Sunnyside -1,
Zillah- , White Swan- , Outlook, E. Selah (Yakima)

Yakama Nation / FBI -2

Cities of: Wapato - 1

White Swan - 1

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES:

Yakima Police Department - 1

Wapato Police Department - 1

Yakima Co. Sheriff 's Department - 0 Areas of:

Yakama Nation/ FBI - 0

EXCUSABLE HOMICIDES:

METHOD OF HOMICIDE:

Gunshot: Unjustifiable - 17, Justifiable - 2, Excusable

Stabbing (knife) - 6

Blunt Force Trauma - 1(Baseball Bat) - Motor Vehicle

Trauma - / Shaken Baby Syndrome (Brain Trauma) -

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning,

Arson House Fire -

Drug Overdose -

Asphyxia (pressure on chest and facial obstruction) -

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES:

#1 - 2016 - 267 H13 - BRISENO-ORTEGA, J. Juan; DOB 3/30/1966; a 50 yr. old Hispanic male, shot twice in the chest with a .40 caliber handgun. J. Juan threatened a Police Officer with a firearm and was shot by a Yakima Police Officer. The Yakima Police Officer responded to a Domestic Violence call at J. Juan 's residence, 2125 S. 68th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98908, where he was having a verbal and physical dispute with his brother. This is the Yakima Police Department 's #1 Justifiable Homicide for 2016. COD: Rapid Exsanguination due to Gunshot wounds to the Chest. J. Juan expired at the scene and was transported to the Yakima County Morgue.

June 13, 2016 at 1000 hrs. Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Examination of J. Juan showed two gunshot wounds to the chest, one middle chest and one to the right lower chest. Barrel distance greater than four feet. No other trauma was found. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Rapid Exsanguination, Instant Cardiac Pump Failure due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest (Heart), .40 caliber, Interval: Unconscious under 10 seconds, Brain Dead within 4-5 Minutes. Contributing conditions were Fracture of Sternum caused by gunshot wound, Probable high narcotic blood levels. Dr. Reynolds recovered two .40 caliber bullets that were released to the Yakima Police Department. Property released to Yakima Police Department was the crack pipe and spice. Photographs taken by Deputy Coroner D. Chavez and Yakima Police Department Evidence Technician Supervisor Kristen Drury. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, Instant Cardiac Pump Failure due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest (Heart), .40 Caliber. Interval: unconscious under 10 seconds, Brain Dead within 4 - 5 minutes. Contributing conditions: Fracture of Sternum caused by gunshot wound, Probable high narcotic blood levels. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#2 - 2016- 355 H16 J2 - TORRES, Mario Martinez, DOB 2/25/1978, 38 year old Hispanic male was shot multiple times in the chest by a Wapato Police Officer. This occurred in the residence at 407 W. 2nd Street, Wapato, WA. Mario was involved in a domestic dispute. Wapato officers were attempting to contact him when he attacked the police officers. Mario expired on the scene July 31, 2016 at 2021 hours. City of Wapato #1 Homicide for 2016. COD: Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the Chest.

August 2, 2016 at 1300 hours, Dr. Gin Fino, MD Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy. The examination showed three .40 caliber gunshot wounds, left upper chest, left mid chest and left arm. The two bullets in the chest were recovered from Mario's back and the bullet in the left arm was recovered from the left arm. The two bullets in the chest were the cause of death. Internal bleeding (see Dr. Fino 's

autopsy report). All three bullets were released to the Yakima Police Detective Hampton. Dr. Fino advised COD was Gunshot Wounds to the Chest.

UNJUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES:

#1 - 2016 - 012 H1 - RAMIREZ-BRIGGS, Enrique; DOB 01/02/1992; a 24 yr. old Hispanic male was shot twice, the fatal wound in the chest with a 40 caliber bullet, and shot once in the right upper arm with a 9 mm bullet. Enrique was shot through the front door of his apartment at 1108 Cherry Ave. D4, Yakima, WA. The shots came from outside the residence, he was inside the residence. This was the Yakima Police Department 's #1 Homicide for 2016. COD; Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, .40 caliber. Enrique expired at the scene and was transported to the Yakima County Morgue.

January 12, 2016 at 1000 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds discovered the trauma to Enrique was limited to two gunshot wounds, one fatal wound to the chest, a .40 caliber bullet was recovered from the area T-6 left of the spine, and a through and through 9mm gunshot wound to the right upper arm. The gunshot wound to the chest damaged the aorta causing Enrique to bleed to death very quickly, within minutes. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, .40 caliber. Contributing conditions: Gunshot wound to the right Upper arm. Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide.

#2 - 2016-024 H2 - RAMOS, Rosendo; DOB 09/21/1990; a 25 yr. old Hispanic male was shot three times. The fatal wound was to the chest with a 9 mm weapon, and shot once in the back with a 9mm weapon and once in the neck with a .22 caliber weapon. It appeared that Rosendo was shot on the roadway of Cowiche Mill Road 2900 block, Cowiche, WA. This was the Yakima County Sheriff 's Department 's #1 Homicide investigated for 2016. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, 9 mm weapon. Rosendo expired at the scene and was transported to the Yakima County Morgue.

Sheriff Detectives advised that Rosendo was last seen on January 19, 2016 at 0430 hours. He was at a friend 's house and had eaten some chicken. At 0630 hours to 0635 hours a neighbor in the area of where Rosendo was found heard gunfire. Rosendo was found in the roadway at 0650 hours.

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January 20, 2016 at 1000 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised that Rosendo had been shot three times. The fatal gunshot wound was to the chest with a 9mm weapon causing massive hemothorax and destroying the aortic root, causing Rosendo to bleed to death very rapidly. Rosendo was also shot with a 9mm in the left back, and another gunshot wound to the anterior right neck via a .22 caliber weapon. Only other trauma was two or three days old, a minor head trauma. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, 9mm. Interval: minutes, unconscious in seconds. Contributing conditions were gunshot wound to anterior right neck .22 caliber, gunshot wound to left back 9mm; massive hemothorax; destroyed aortic root. Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide.

#3 - 2016-027 H3 - BRIONES, Marcelina A.; DOB 07/07/1991; a 24 yr. old Hispanic female, bludgeoned to death about the head with a metal baseball bat. Marcelina was a victim of a Domestic Violence Homicide. Her ex-boyfriend bludgeoned her about her head causing multiple skull fractures and leaving her to die on her living room floor at 1212 Ledwich Ave. apt. C, Yakima, WA. This was Yakima Police Department's #2 Homicide investigated for 2016.

January 20, 2016, I received a call from Detective Durban of the Yakima Police Department. Detective Durban advised that Marcelina had expired January 19, 2016 at 1753 hours at Harborview Medical Center due to the head trauma she received on January 16, 2016 at 0100 hrs. Yakima Police Reports state they received a call from Marcelina's neighbor who lives in the next door apartment. He stated that he heard a number of thumps and a women in the apartment next door. He went to the apartment next door, apartment C, and knocked on the door, A Hispanic male came to the door with a baseball bat in his hand, the neighbor had a pellet gun in his hand, and the Hispanic male threw the baseball bat at him and closed the door. The reporting party then called the police. Police officers arrived and were able to enter the apartment and found Marcelina on the living room floor with severe head trauma. She had been bludgeoned about her head. She was transported to Memorial Hospital. The reporting party was able to identify the assailant because the assailant used to live with Marcelina. This subject was identified as Ricardo Mendoza DOB 07/17/1989, 26 years old, Hispanic male. Yakima Police did locate him and arrest him for Domestic Violence Assault. Officers recovered the baseball bat, which appeared to have blood on it.

Marcelina was transferred to Harborview Medical Center from Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. Marcelina expired January 19, 2016 at 1753 hours at Harborview Medical Center. King County Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on Marcelina A. Briones.

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January 2017, Ricardo Mendoza plead guilty to First Degree Murder.

#4 - 2016-030 H4 - HARGETT, Anna M; DOB 05/01/1968; a 47 yr. old White female, shot in the chest. Anna had been in an altercation outside and at the rear of 1117 Roosevelt Ave. in the City of Yakima 1/22/2016 at 2203 hours. A male subject had shot her in the chest, the bullet had passed through her and struck another female in the neck while she was behind Anna. The second female was also in the hospital, it appeared she would survive her wound. This was Yakima Police Department 's #3 Homicide investigated in 2016. COD; Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, 9mm. Manner of Death: Homicide.

January 25, 2016 at 1000 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Present during the autopsy were Detective Hampton, YPD Evidence Technician Supervisor Kristen Drury, Chief Deputy Coroner M. Slight and I, JB Hawkins, Coroner. Dr. Reynolds advised the only trauma to Anna M. Hargett was the single gunshot wound to the chest and the bullet exited her upper right back. This appeared to have been a 9mm bullet. The bullet struck the aorta and caused rapid exsanguination, which caused her death. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, 9mm. Contributing Conditions: early hepatic cirrhosis, massive right hemothorax. Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide.

Ricardo Dimas, 37 years old, was arrested for the shooting of Anna Hargett.

#5 - 2016-142 H5 - MARTINEZ, Marta L.: DOB 01/08/1986; 30 yr. old Hispanic female.

#6 - 2016-143 H6 - MORALES-RODRIGUEZ, Karina G.; DOB 10/06/1988; 27 yr. old Hispanic female.

Both women were shot in the head (face). The two women were in the process of opening the Money Tree business at 128 S. 1st Street, Yakima, WA, on March 26, 2016 at approximately 0630 hours when they were assaulted by a gunman, who shot each one in the head. This was Yakima Police Department 's #4 & #5 Homicide investigations for 2016. COD: Respiratory Arrest, due to Lacerated Right Vertebral Artery, Indirect Trauma to Medulla Oblongata, due to Close-Range (less than two feet) 0.40 caliber Gunshot Wound to the Right Face. Interval: minutes. Contributing conditions: fracture of #1 cervical vertebral body, Manner of Death: Homicide

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March 28, 2016, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on both victims. Dr. Reynolds advised COD for Marta Martinez was Respiratory Arrest, due to Lacerated Right Vertebral Artery; Indirect Trauma to Medulla Oblongata, due to Close-Range (less than two feet) 0.40 caliber Gunshot Wound to the Right Face. Interval: minutes. Contributing conditions: fracture of #1 cervical vertebral body.

COD for Karina Morales-Rodriguez was Direct Cerebral Trauma, Instant Respiratory Arrest, due to Close-Range (less than one foot) 0.40 caliber Gunshot Wound to the Face. Interval: less than one second. There was no other trauma to either victim, other than skinned knees on Marta Martinez. Manner of Death for both victims: Homicide.

Manuel Enrique VERDUZCO, 26 years charged with first degree murder & first degree burglary in the homicide of both victims.

#7 - 2016-170 H7 - RAMIREZ-GONZALEZ, Luis: DOB 6/8/1991; 24 yr. old Hispanic male was shot in the head with a shotgun while in the parking lot of the Airline Market at 1002 W. Washington Avenue, Union Gap, WA, on April 8, 2016 at 2015 hours. This was Union Gap Police Department 's #1 Homicide for 2016. COD: Direct Cerebral Trauma Right Eye, due to close range Shotgun Wound #8 lead shot. Interval: minutes. Manner of Death: Homicide.

April 11, 2016 at 1000 hours Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to a Shotgun Wound to the Right Eye, close range. Interval: instantaneous respiratory arrest, death in minutes. No offensive or defensive wounds. Fatty liver; #8 lead shot in face & brain. No other trauma. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was: Direct Cerebral Trauma Right Eye, due to close range Shotgun Wound #8 lead shot. Interval: minutes. Manner of Death: Homicide.

Ivan VENEGAS-MADRID was arrested for the shooting of Luis RAMIREZ-GONZALEZ.

#8 - 2016-172 H8 - MESA, Andres, DOB 9/22/1989, 26 year old Hispanic male was shot while in the parking lot of the Econo Lodge 510 N. 1st Street, City of Yakima with a 9mm semi-automatic on April 9, 2016 at 1534 hours. He expired at Yakima Regional Medical Center ER on April 9, 2016 at 1620 hours. This was Yakima Police

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Department's #6 Homicide investigated for 2016. COD: Rapid Exsanguination due to Lacerated left Carotid Artery, due to 9mm Gunshot Wound to the left side of neck.

April 11, 2016, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised that Andres had been shot five times, 9mm gunshot wounds to the abdomen and back. The fatal wound was to the left neck, lacerating the left carotid artery. No other defensive wounds were found. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Rapid Exsanguination due to Lacerated left Carotid Artery due to Gunshot Wound to the left of the Neck, 9mm. Contributing conditions: four other 9mm gunshot wounds to abdomen and back (one a contact wound); perforated small & large bowel, fractured right #10 & 11 ribs. Manner of Death: Homicide.

Gonzalo AMAYA was arrested for the shooting of Andres.

#9 -2016- 175 H9 - ESTEBAN-OLGUIN, Antonio, DOB 1/24/1997, 17 year old Hispanic male was shot while at the 200 Block, S. 17th Avenue in Yakima, WA, on April 10, 2016 at 1545 hours. He expired at Yakima Regional Medical Center ER on April 10, 2016 at 1622 hours. This was Yakima Police Department's #7 Homicide investigated for 2016. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to Left Neck, 40 caliber.

April 11, 2016, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised Antonio had been shot once with a 0.40 caliber weapon in the left neck, he recovered the 0.40 caliber bullet from Antonio's right back shoulder area. The bullet had struck an artery and caused Antonio to bleed to death. The bullet lacerated the right innominate artery, perforated the right lung & right scapula; massive right Hemothorax. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Rapid Exsanguination due to Gunshot Wound to the Left side of the Neck, 40 Caliber. Contributing Conditions were Lacerated Right Innominate Artery, the bullet perforated the right lung & right scapula; massive right Hemothorax. Manner of Death: Homicide.

Angel OLIVERAS, 16 years old and Damian INIGUEZ, 22 years old were charged in connection with the shooting.

#10 -2016- 206 H10 - MARTINEZ, Shawn M., DOB 12/21/1992, 23 year old Hispanic male was shot while in front of 315 N. 8th Street Market, Yakima, WA, on April 29, 2016 at 2355 hours. Shawn expired on scene within minutes of being shot. This was Yakima Police Department's #8 Homicide investigated for 2016. COD: Hypovolemic Shock due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest & Heart, 9mm.

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May 2, 2016 at 1000 hours Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Hypovolemic Shock, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest and Heart, 9mm. Contributing conditions: Gunshot wounds to the left & right arms; right head (superficial); abdomen, 9mm. Dr. Reynolds advised that the fatal wound was to the chest, the bullet went through the heart, other wounds were to the abdomen, left & right arms, and right head (superficial). There was no other trauma. Dr. Reynolds recovered two 9mm bullets and a copper Jacket. One bullet was in the liver and one was recovered from the lower right back. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#11 -2016-224 H11 - DENTON, Timothy Michael, DOB 8/29/1988, 27 year old, White male was stabbed multiple times while in his cell on the fourth floor of the Yakima County Jail, 111 N. Front Street, Yakima, WA, on May 11, 2016 at 0830 hours. Timothy expired at the scene. Interval: minutes. This was Yakima County Sheriff's Department's #2 Homicide in 2016. COD: Hypovolemic Shock due to stab wounds to right Carotid Artery and Heart. Interval: minutes.

May 12, 2016 at 1000 hrs. Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Hypovolemic Shock due to stab wounds to the right Carotid Artery and Heart. Timothy was stabbed multiple times on the neck and chest with a fatal wound striking the Carotid Artery and Heart. There were approximately 133 stab wounds inflicted on Timothy. Dr. Reynolds removed a chive from Timothy's abdomen, the chive was manufactured out of a sheet rock nail about 3 ½ inches long, it was fastened to a wood dowel with tape, dental floss and string. Contributions Conditions: Multiple stab wounds to neck and chest. There was no evidence of defensive wounds. Manner of Death: Homicide.

Erick Garcia Romero, 25 year old and Hilario Sosa, 19 year old, were both charged with First Degree Murder.

#12 - 2016-236 H12 - RIOS, Samantha, DOB 8/20/1971, Presumed 21 years old, White female skeletal remains were found on May 18, 2016 at 1500 hours at 401 Pleasant Valley Rd., Yakima, WA. These remains were unearthed at a construction site. Remains were identified as Samantha RIOS who had been reported missing in 1992. It is believed she was a victim of Homicide, possible stabbing, due to the condition of her clothing and skeletal remains. This is the Yakima County Sheriff's Department's #3 Homicide for 2016. COD: Possible exsanguination due to multiple stab wounds.

May 20, 2016 at 1045 hrs. Dr. Reynolds examined the skeletal remains. Dr. Reynolds advised the remains appeared to be those of a White female, small rib cage. Examination of her teeth showed un-erupted wisdom teeth which placed her

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age under 25 yrs. Dr. Reynolds advised dental records matched the skeletal remains. Lack of dental work with root depth matches and other wisdom teeth and similarities were positive identification of Samantha. Dr. Reynolds advised there were impact fractures on the ribs, left 2, 6 and 7 and the right 6 and eight, which supported single blows to the chest cavity. Also, the Thoracic Vertebrae interior T 4 to 6 range and a chip interior (front). Dental shows age 18 to 22 years old, growth plate shows 21 to 22 years of age, height is 65 inches, tibia shows 66 to 67 inches.

May 27, 2016 Dr. Gary Bell, Forensic Odonatologist, advised he had made a positive identification from the dental x-rays and examination of the skeletal remains (dental). He confirmed Dr. Reynolds findings that this was in fact Samantha D. RIOS.

#13 - 2016 - 267 H13 JH1 - BRISENO-ORTEGA, J. Juan; DOB 3/30/1966; a 50 yr. old Hispanic male, shot twice in the chest with a .40 caliber handgun. J. Juan threatened a Police Officer with a firearm and was shot by a Yakima Police Officer. The Yakima Police Officer responded to a Domestic Violence call at J. Juan's residence, 2125 S. 68th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98908, where he was having a verbal and physical dispute with his brother. This is the Yakima Police Department's #1 Justifiable Homicide for 2016. COD: Rapid Exsanguination due to Gunshot wounds to the Chest. J. Juan expired at the scene and was transported to the Yakima County Morgue.

June 13, 2016 at 1000 hrs. Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Examination of J. Juan showed two gunshot wounds to the chest, one middle chest and one to the right lower chest. Barrel distance greater than four feet. No other trauma was found. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Rapid Exsanguination, Instant Cardiac Pump Failure due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest (Heart), .40 caliber, Interval: Unconscious under 10 seconds, Brain Dead within 4-5 Minutes. Contributing conditions were Fracture of Sternum caused by gunshot wound, Probable high narcotic blood levels. Dr. Reynolds recovered two .40 caliber bullets that were released to the Yakima Police Department. Property released to Yakima Police Department was the crack pipe and spice. Photographs taken by Deputy Coroner D. Chavez and Yakima Police Department Evidence Technician Supervisor Kristen Drury. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, Instant Cardiac Pump Failure due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest (Heart), .40 Caliber. Interval: unconscious under 10 seconds, Brain Dead within 4 - 5 minutes. Contributing conditions: Fracture of Sternum caused by gunshot wound, Probable high narcotic blood levels. Manner of Death: Homicide.

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#14 -2016- 299-H14 - MUNGIA, Joshua N. DOB 11/03/1997, 18 years old Hispanic male was stabbed multiple times on July 2, 2016 at 0024 hours, at the 1300 block of S. 13th Street, Sunnyside, WA. Joshua was transported to Sunnyside Community hospital by private vehicle where he expired July 2, 2016 at 0053 hours. This was Sunnyside 's Police Department 's #1 Homicide for 2016. COD: Exsanguination, due to Multiple Stab Wounds to the Chest.

July 2, 2016 at 1600 hours, Dr. Sigmund Menchel, MD Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy. Dr. Menchel advised the results of the autopsy showed Joshua had been stabbed five times, Forced Entry Wounds. Stab wounds consisted of one superficial wound to the corner of the left eye, minor wound to the right hip, a stab wound to the throat area that did not strike any major organs or cause severe damage, a stab wound to the right chest that caused damage to right lung and liver, and the fatal stab wound to the left chest striking the left lung and heart, this wound caused severe bleeding and was the COD. The wounds appeared to have been made by a single edge knife blade 4 to 6 in. in length, 1 in. width. There were no other wounds, injuries or trauma found on Joshua. Dr. Menchel advised COD was Exsanguination, due to Multiple Stab Wounds to the Chest. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#15 - 2016-484 H15 - OYLER, Trae C. DOB 11/28/1995, 20 year old White male was shot in the neck by a drive by shooter at the 800 block of Rosencrantz Rd. Tieton, WA. October 26, 2016 at 2136 hours. Trae expired at the scene. This was Yakima County Sheriff 's Department 's #4 Homicide for 2016. COD: Gunshot Wound to the Head & Neck.

October 28, 2016 Dr. Menchel performed the autopsy. Dr. Menchel advised Trae had been shot once with a .40 caliber weapon in the left chin and exited the right neck. The bullet had struck his Right Carotid Artery. The bullet traveled from left to right with a slight downward angle. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#16 -2016- 355 H16 J2 - TORRES, Mario Martinez, DOB 2/25/1978, 38 year old Hispanic male was shot multiple times in the chest by a Wapato Police Officer. This occurred in the residence at 407 W. 2nd Street, Wapato, WA. Mario was involved in a domestic dispute. Wapato officers were attempting to contact him when he attacked the police officers. Mario expired on the scene July 31, 2016 at 2021 hours. City of Wapato #1 Homicide for 2016. COD: Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the Chest.

August 2, 2016 at 1300 hours, Dr. Gin Fino, MD Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy. The examination showed three .40 caliber gunshot wounds, left upper chest, left mid chest and left arm. The two bullets in the chest were recovered from

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Mario's back and the bullet in the left arm was recovered from the left arm. The two bullets in the chest were the cause of death. Internal bleeding (see Dr. Fino's autopsy report). All three bullets were released to the Yakima Police Detective Hampton. Dr. Fino advised COD was Gunshot Wounds to the Chest.

#17 - 2016-478 H17 - GALVAN-RAMIREZ, Aurelia, DOB 09/08/1980, 36 year old, Hispanic female was stabbed in the neck. This occurred at the Clear Creek Falls Overlook, Naches, WA. October 28, 2016 where her body was found. This was Yakima County Sheriff's Department #5 Homicide for 2016. COD: Incised Wounds of Neck.

November 1, 2016 0800 hrs. Dr. Menchel performed the autopsy. Dr. Menchel advised COD was Incised Wounds of Neck. Dr. Menchel advised the incised wounds cut off the Carotid Arteries and trachea and larynx, and into the spinal cord. Manner of Death: Homicide.

Note: Her husband confessed to this homicide.

#18 - 2016-489 H18 - MEDINA-PIMENTEL, Nancy, DOB 08/23/1975, 41 year old Hispanic female was shot three times in the head and torso. This occurred at her residence 1201 W. Washington Ave. Yakima, WA. October 29, 2016 at 1530 hours, she expired on scene. This was the Yakima Police Department's #9 homicide investigation for 2016. COD: Multiple Gunshot Wounds of Head & Torso.

November 1, 2016 at 1000 hours, Dr. Menchel performed the autopsy. Dr. Menchel advised COD was multiple Gunshot Wounds of Head and Torso. The bullets perforated the right lung, heart and spinal cord. Dr. Menchel collected one .40 bullet that fell out of her shirt from the back. Dr. Menchel advised she was shot three times. Once in the head, twice in the upper torso. Manner of Death: Homicide.

Note: Husband shot himself committing suicide after shooting his wife Nancy.

#19 - 206-493 H19 - GILCHRIST, Chris, DOB 05/26/21970, 46 year old White male was stabbed multiple times in the chest. This occurred at 606 S. 6th Ave apt. #3, Yakima, WA. October 31, 2016 at 1930 hours. Chris was transported to Yakima Regional Medical Center ER where he expired November 1, 2016 at 0100 hours. This was the Yakima Police Department's #10 Homicide investigated for 2016. COD: Multiple Stab Wounds of Chest.

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November 2, 2016 at 0900 hours Dr. Menchel performed the autopsy. Dr. Menchel advised that Chris had been stabbed multiple times, with one stab wound striking his heart, which was the fatal wound. No other wounds, injuries or trauma found on Chris. Dr. Menchel advised COD was Multiple Stab Wounds of Chest.

Manner of Death: Homicide.

#20 - 2016-507 H20 - BARRETT, John L. DOB 03/19/1965, 51 year old, Hispanic male suffered a single gunshot wound to the left shoulder which struck the subclavian artery. This occurred in the parking area at 602 E. Yakima Ave. (Depot) Yakima, WA. November 6, 2016 at 1052 hours. John was transported to Yakima Regional Medical Center ER where he expired November 6, 2016 at 1125 hours. This was the Yakima Police Department 's #11 homicide investigation for 2016. COD: Respiratory / Cerebrovascular Insufficiency.

Yakima Police advised that John was involved in an argument with the subject who shot him. (See Yakima Police reports).

November 7, 2016 at 1000 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised that John died from a single .38 caliber gunshot wound to the left arm striking the subclavian artery and into the lung. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#21 - 2016-508 H21 - GOMEZ, Jeremy R. DOB 10/01/1990, 26 year old, Hispanic male suffered a single stab wound to the chest November 7, 2016 while in a vehicle at 20th Ave. & Jerome Yakima, WA. Jeremy was transported to Yakima Regional Medical Center ER where he expired November 7, 2016 at 0240 hours. This was the Yakima Police Department 's #12 Homicide investigation for 2016. COD: Hypovolemic Shock / Pulmonary Insufficiency.

November 7, 2016 at 1230 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised Jeremy died from a single stab wound to the chest. Cause of Death: Hypovolemic Shock / Pulmonary Insufficiency, due to Single Stab Wound to the Right Chest. Contributing conditions: right hemo / pneumothorax; laceration of superior vena cava; perforation of right upper lobe of lung. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#22 - 2016-523 H22 - BARRIGA, Cesar, DOB 09/15/1989, 27 year old, Hispanic male suffered multiple gunshot wounds (9mm) to the head, left thigh and left arm on November 19, 2016 in the area of Green Valley & Wendell Phillips Road, Sunnyside, WA. Cesar was transported to Sunnyside Community Hospital where he expired November 19, 2016 at 0438 hours. This was the Yakima County Sheriff 's Department 's #6 Homicide investigated for 2016. COD: Cerebral Edema; Hypovolemia, due to Gunshot Wound to the Head, 9mm.

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November 21, 2016 at 1000 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised Cesar was shot 7 times in the head, left forearm and left thigh. Dr. Reynolds recovered a particle bullet from the rear of the head, and a 9mm bullet from the left forearm. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Cerebral Edema; Hypovolemia, due to Gunshot Wound to the Head, 9mm. Contributing conditions: 9 mm gunshot wound to the left thigh and left arm X3. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#23 - 2016-537 H23 - SANCHEY, Anthony E. DOB 04/28/1974, 74 year old Native American male suffered gunshot wound to the left face / head on November 28, 2016 at 1930 hours and expired on scene at Anthony 's residence, 270 Sumac, Wapato, WA. This was #1 Homicide investigated by F.B.I. & Yakama Nation for 2016. COD: Direct Cerebral Brainstem Trauma, due to Gunshot Wound to Left Face, 9mm / 0.38 caliber

November 29, 2016 at 1130 hours Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy. Dr. Reynolds advised COD was Direct Cerebral Brainstem Trauma, due to Gunshot Wound to Left Face, 9mm / 0.38 caliber. The bullet (9mm or 38 caliber) entered the left face and exited the rear of the head. COD: Direct Cerebral Brainstem Trauma, due to Gunshot Wound to Left Face, 9mm / 0.38 caliber. Manner of Death: Homicide.

#24 - May 2016 - Unidentified Human remains found on Yakama Reservation Investigation by FBI, JANE DOE. Further Information to be obtained from FBI Seattle office.

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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.

<u>METHOD OF SUICIDE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Hanging	8	8	0
Gunshot to Head	15	14	1
Drugs & Alcohol	2	1	1
Charcoal Burner	1	1	0
Knife	0	0	0
Drowning	1	1	0
TOTAL: 27			

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
<19	1	1	0
20-29	8	8	0
30-39	5	5	0
40-49	2	1	1
50-59	6	6	0
60-69	2	2	0
70-79	0	0	0
80-89	3	2	1
90-99	0	0	0

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
White	16
Hispanic	6
Native American	5

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	1
February	3
March	2
April	4
May	3
June	5
July	2
August	3
September	0
October	2
November	2
December	0

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY **2016**

MANNER: TRAFFIC

Blood alcohol tests were performed for **28** of the **31** traffic fatalities, of the **31, 20** tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs. Of the **21** vehicle drivers, **10** tested positive, of the **5** passengers, **2** tested positive. There were **5** pedestrian fatalities, of those **5** 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>
Driver/MVC	20	17	3
Passenger/MVC	4	1	3
Pedestrian	5	5	0
Motor Vehicle Homicide	2	1	1

TOTAL: 31

<u>TOTAL RACE</u>	
Native American	10
White	11
Hispanic	10
Asian	0

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH TOTAL</u>	
0-9	0	0	0	January	0
10-19	3	3	0	February	3
20-29	8	5	3	March	1
30-39	2	2	0	April	1
40-49	6	5	1	May	4
50-59	7	6	1	June	4
60-69	3	2	1	July	4
70-79	2	2	0	August	2
80-89	0	0	0	September	4
90-99	0	0	0	October	0
				November	5
				December	2

LOCATIONS:

1140 Maple Grove Rd. Sunnyside, WA
 Valley Mall Blvd. & 3rd Ave. Union Gap, WA
 1413 S. 6th Ave. Yakima, WA
 I-81 mp 17, Ellensburg, WA
 Alderdale Rd. South of Ranschko Rd. Mabton, WA
 1181 Highland Rd., Tieton, WA (YVMH)
 Barkes Rd. & Branch Rd., White Swan, WA
 N 34th Ave. & Powerhouse, Yakima, WA
 1300 Gurley Rd. Granger, WA
 Lateral 1, West of Lateral C, Wapato, WA
 Van Belle and Yakima Valley Highway, Sunnyside, WA
 I-82 @ mile post 32, Yakima, WA
 5110 Tieton Dr. Yakima, WA
 4 @ Fort Road & Brownstown Rd. White Swan, WA
 900 W. 1st Ave. Toppenish, WA
 2 @ Hwy 12 @ mp 202, Yakima, WA
 I-82 @ mp 23, Selah, WA
 1800 Blk. W. Nob Hill, Yakima, WA

2085 Glade Rd. Mabton, WA
 Hwy 12 @ mp 188, Naches, WA
 2477 Van Belle Ave. Outlook, WA
 Hwy 97 & Fort Rd. Toppenish, WA
 SR 223 & Track Rd. Toppenish, WA
 1191 W. Wapato Rd. Wapato, WA
 Shields Rd. and Evans Rd. Wapato

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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.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	
	0	0	0	
			<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
			January	0
			February	0
			March	0
			April	0
			May	0
			June	0
			July	0
			August	0
			October	0
			November	0
			December	0
 <u>RACE</u>	 <u>TOTAL</u>			
Hispanic	0			
White	0			
Native American	0			
Africa American	0			

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY **2016**

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</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
January	2	White	0	0
		Hispanic	2	0
		Nat/American	0	0
February	3	Hispanic	1	0
		Nat/American	0	0
		White	2	0
March	4	Hispanic	0	2
		Nat/American	0	0
April	4	White	2	0
		Hispanic	3	1
May	1	Hispanic	0	1
		White	0	0
June	1	Hispanic	0	1
July	5	Hispanic	1	4
		White	0	0
August	0	White	0	0
		Hispanic	0	0
September	2	Hispanic	0	0
		White	1	1
October	1	Na/American	0	0
		Asian	1	0
November	0	Hispanic	0	0
		White	0	0
December	4	White	1	2
		Hispanic	0	1
<u>TOTAL: 27</u>				

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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 **450** natural deaths in **2016**. 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.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
<1	6	2	4
1-09	0	0	0
10-19	4	1	3
20-29	2	1	1
30-39	15	12	3
40-49	29	21	8
50-59	67	41	26
60-69	109	69	40
70-79	105	62	43
80-89	67	32	35
90-99	44	17	27
100+	2	1	1

TOTAL: 450

<u>MONTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	40
February	32
March	43
April	42
May	28
June	33
July	38
August	30
September	37
October	44
November	30
December	53

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
White	359
Hispanic	69
African American	4
Native American	15
Asian	3

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. ¹
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. ²

¹ DiMaio, V.J. & DiMaio, D. Forensic Pathology, Second Edition. CRC Press, 2001.

² Ibid, p 3.

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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.

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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.