



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Coroner Division

Quarter 3 Comparison Report

Report time frame: July - Sept. 2020

(comparing to: July - Sept. 2019)

Total cases

741

(+31% from 565 in 2019)

Q3 Total include 13 cases pending and 11 cases undetermined

Accident

343

(+43%)

Homicide

23

(-8%)

Suicide

71

(-17%)

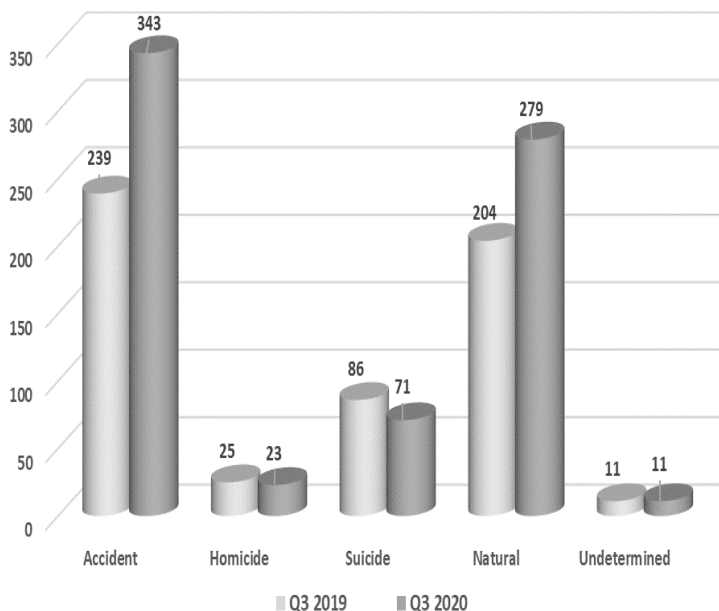
Natural

279

(+37%)

MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 3 of 2019 to 2020, accidental deaths have increased by 43%, homicides were 8% lower, suicides were down by 17%, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner increased by 37%.



Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths increased in 2020 to 54% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (42%) in 2019. Falls accounted for 17% while traffic related deaths were at 20%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 79% in the third quarter of 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019 (106 to 190)

Methamphetamine appeared in 53% of all overdoses cases which was a 180% increase compared to the third quarter of 2019.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 241% increase. (39 to 133)



Falls increased 10% in 2020 compared to 2019 (52 to 57) which makes them the third highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 60% of all falls in 2020 but down from 77% in 2019.



Vehicular traffic related deaths increased by 29% in comparison to 2019 (52 to 67) with Auto vs. Auto decreasing 31%.

Pedestrian deaths accounted for 42% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 3 of 2020 while in 2019 they were at 23%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw an 36% decrease. (14 to 9)

Drowning Deaths

-31%

DECREASE (16 to 11)

18% of the cases involved a pool.

Suicides

In Quarter 3 of 2020 there was an 17% decrease in suicides compared to Quarter 3 of 2019.

During this time frame Gunshot was the leading method at 32% followed by Asphyxia at 31%

The work of the Coroner Division is largely based on Government Code § 27491, which states that all unnatural deaths including homicides, suicides, accidents, and deaths in custody are under the coroner/medical examiner's jurisdiction to investigate. Also falling under our jurisdiction are infectious diseases reaching epidemic proportions, deaths in state or local institutions, and deaths believed to be natural but that occurred suddenly and unexpectedly where the decedent had not seen their health care provider in the last 20 days of life. Note: All deaths that fall under § 27491 are also subject to whether the facts indicate the death occurred under natural circumstances and the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of death occurred under natural circumstance. Therefore, not every death that falls under one of these categories will be investigated by the Medical Examiner's office. See Govt Code § 27491.

*Due to some cases still under investigation within the quarter, manner of death counts and associated insights may adjust slightly as those cases are closed