



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Coroner Division

### Quarter 1 Comparison Report

Report time frame: January - March 2020

(comparing to: January - March 2019)

Total cases

**613**

(+4% from 591 in 2019)

Q1 Total include 20 cases pending and 11 cases undetermined

Accident

**252**

(+2%)

Homicide

**18**

(+20%)

Suicide

**78**

(-5%)

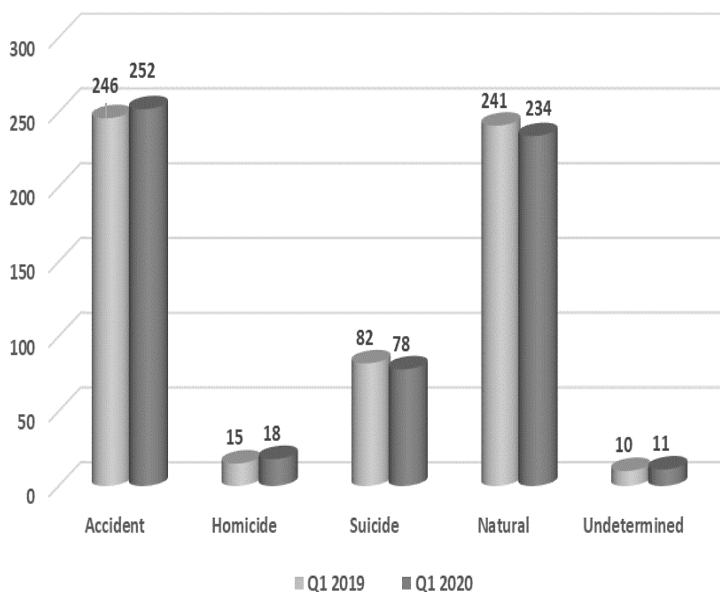
Natural

**234**

(-3%)

# MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 1 of 2019 to 2020, accidental deaths have increased by 2%, homicides were up by 20%, suicides were down by 5%, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner went down by 3%.



## Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths increased in 2020 at 47% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame in 2019. Falls accounted for 22% while traffic related deaths were at 21%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 24% in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019 (96 to 119)

Methamphetamine appeared in 37% of all overdoses cases which was a 1% increase compared to the first quarter of 2019.

Fentanyl related deaths also showed a 233% increase. (18 to 60)



Falls decreased 3% in 2020 compared to 2019 (58 to 56) which makes them the second highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 66% of all falls in 2020 but down from 72% in 2019.



Vehicular traffic related deaths decreased by 4% in comparison to 2019 (56 to 52) with Auto vs. Auto dropping 24%.

Pedestrian deaths accounted for 31% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 1 of 2020 while in 2019 they were at 35%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw a 13% decrease (8 to 7)

## Homicides

**20%**

**INCREASE**

In 56% of the cases a firearm was used.

## Suicides

In Quarter 1 of 2020 there was an 5% decrease in suicides compared to Quarter 1 of 2019.

During this time frame gunshot was the leading method at 39% followed by asphyxia at 28%

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