



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## Coroner Division

### Quarter 2 Comparison Report

Report time frame: April - June 2021

(comparing to: April - June 2020)

Total cases

**748**

(+20% from 625 in 2020)

Q2 Total include 6 cases pending and 20 cases undetermined

Accident

**364**

(+35%)

Homicide

**24**

(+33%)

Suicide

**100**

(+52%)

Natural

**234**

(-2%)

## MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 2 of 2020 to 2021, accidental deaths have increased by 35%, homicides by 33%, natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner decreased by 2% and suicides increased by 52%.



### Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths decreased in 2021 to 63% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (64%) in 2020. Falls accounted for 15% while traffic related deaths were at 15% also.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 33% in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the same time period in 2020 (222 to 172).

Methamphetamine appeared in 47% of all overdoses cases which was a 1% increase compared to the second quarter of 2020.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 82% increase (98 to 178).



Falls increased 8% in 2021 compared to 2020, (53 to 49), which makes them the third highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 57% of all falls in 2021 and down from 68% in 2020.

Vehicular traffic related deaths increased by 25% in comparison to 2020, (44 to 55), with Auto vs. Auto increasing by 6% (17 to 18).



Pedestrian deaths accounted for 25% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 2 of 2021 while in 2020 they were at 29%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw a 33% increase (6 to 8).

### Homicides

**33%**

**INCREASE**

A firearm was used in 79% of the cases.

### Suicides

In Quarter 2 of 2021 there was an 52% increase in suicides compared to Quarter 2 of 2020.

During this time frame, asphyxia was the leading method at 33% followed by gunshot at 30%.

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