



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Coroner Division

Quarter 3 Comparison Report

Report time frame: July - Sept. 2019

(comparing to: July - Sept. 2018)

Total cases

561

(-13% from 647 in 2018)

Q3 Total include 54 cases pending and 6 cases undetermined

Accident

210

(-18%)

Homicide

22

(0%)

Suicide

80

(-27%)

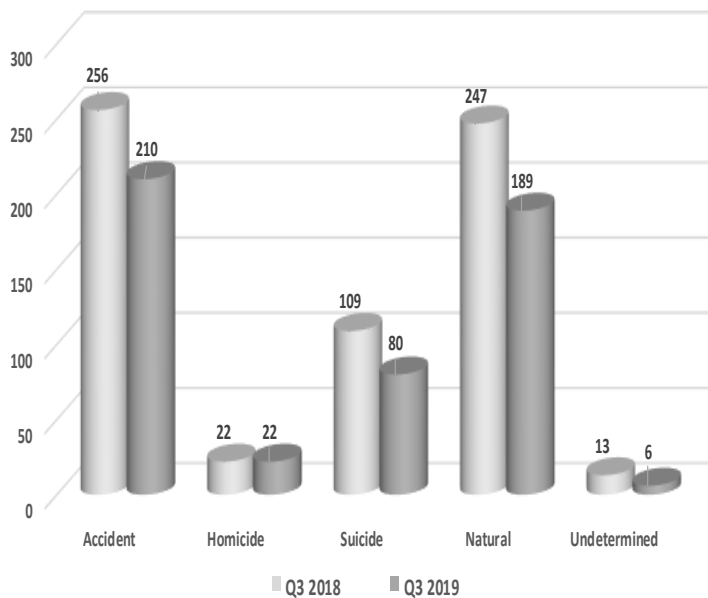
Natural

189

(-23%)

MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 3 of 2018 to 2019, accidental deaths have decreased by 18%, homicides were the same, suicides were down by 27%, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner decreased by 23%.



Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths decreased in 2019 to 38% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (42%) in 2018. Falls accounted for 24% while traffic related deaths were at 25%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity decreased by 25% in the third quarter of 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018 (107 to 80)

Methamphetamine appeared in 31% of all overdoses cases which was a 8% decrease compared to the third quarter of 2018.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 3% increase. (29 to 30)



Falls increased 32% in 2019 compared to 2018 (38 to 50) which makes them the third highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 80% of all falls in 2019 but down from 82% in 2018.

Vehicular traffic related deaths decreased by 27% in comparison to 2018 (71 to 52) with Auto vs. Auto decreasing 44%.

Pedestrian deaths accounted for 23% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 3 of 2019 while in 2018 they were at 28%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw an 100% increase. (7 to 14)



Drowning Deaths

-33%

DECREASE (24 to 16)

44% of the cases involved a pool.

Suicides

In Quarter 3 of 2019 there was an 27% decrease in suicides compared to Quarter 3 of 2018.

During this time frame Asphyxia was the leading method at 40% 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