



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Coroner Division

Quarter 3 Comparison Report

Report time frame: July - Sept. 2021

(comparing to: July - Sept. 2020)

Total cases

808

(+9% from 741 in 2020)

Q3 Total include 11 cases pending and 10 cases undetermined

Accident

391

(+14%)

Homicide

30

(+30%)

Suicide

71

(0%)

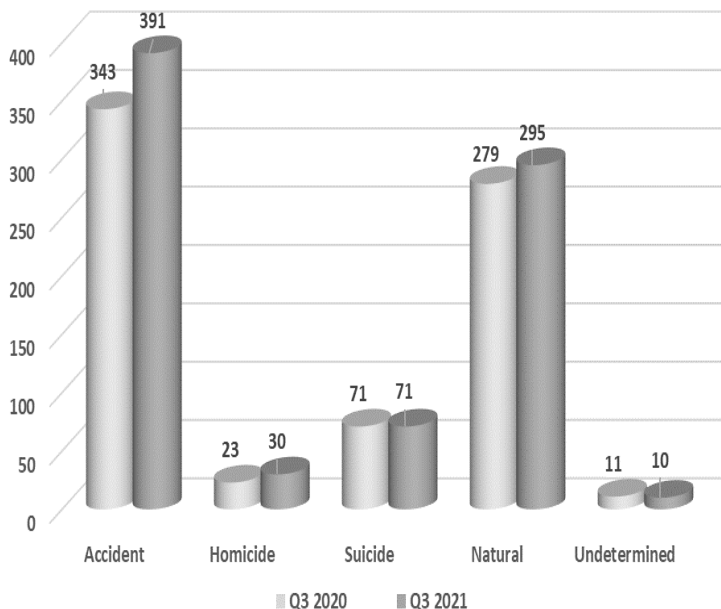
Natural

295

(+6%)

MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 3 of 2020 to 2021, accidental deaths have increased by 14%, homicides were 30% higher, suicides were the same, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner increased by 6%.



Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths increased in 2021 to 58% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (54%) in 2020. Falls accounted for 14% while traffic related deaths were at 18%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 23% in the third quarter of 2021 compared to the same time period in 2020 (190 to 233)

Methamphetamine appeared in 53% of all overdoses cases which was the same as the third quarter of 2020.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 29% increase. (133 to 172)



Falls decreased 4% in 2021 compared to 2020 (57 to 55) which makes them the third highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 73% of all falls in 2021 but up from 60% in 2020.

Vehicular traffic related deaths remained the same in comparison to 2020 (67 to 67) with Auto vs. Auto increasing 30%.



Pedestrian deaths accounted for 39% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 3 of 2021 while in 2020 they were at 42%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw an 33% increase. (9 to 12)

Drowning Deaths

+46%

INCREASE (13 to 19)

42% of the cases involved a pool.

Suicides

In Quarter 3 of 2021 there was no change in the amount of suicides compared to Quarter 3 of 2020.

During this time frame asphyxia was the leading method at 38% followed by gunshot at 25%

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 Coroner'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