



ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Coroner Division

Quarter 1 Comparison Report

Report time frame: January - March 2019

(comparing to: January - March 2018)

Total cases

591

(-5% from 621 in 2018)

Q1 Total include 4 cases pending and 9 cases undetermined

Accident

244

(+4%)

Homicide

15

(-12%)

Suicide

82

(-18%)

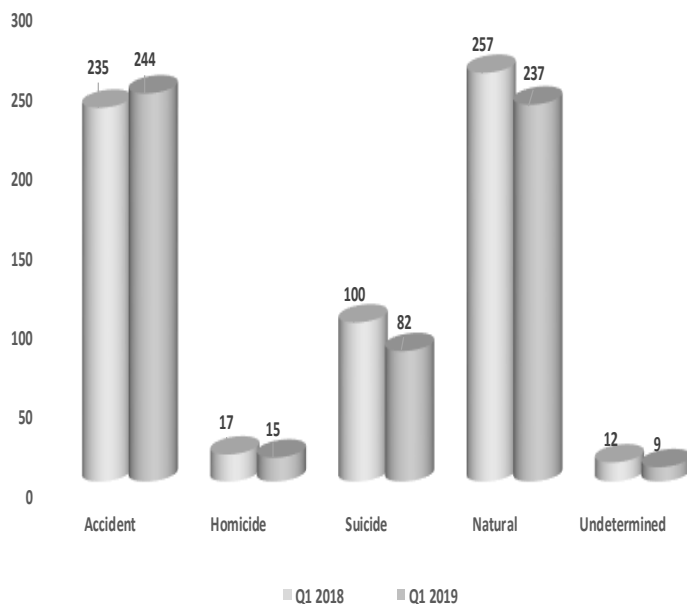
Natural

237

(-8%)

MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 1 of 2018 to 2019, accidental deaths have increased by 4%, homicides were down by 12%, suicides were down by 18%, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner went down by 8%.



Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths remained stable in 2019 at 33% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame in 2018. Falls accounted for 24% while traffic related deaths were at 22%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity increased by 8% in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same time period in 2018 (88 to 95)

Methamphetamine appeared in 37% of all overdoses cases which was a 2% decrease compared to the first quarter of 2018.

Fentanyl related deaths also showed a 6% decrease. (18 to 17)



Falls increased 14% in 2019 compared to 2018 (51 to 58) which makes them the second highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 72% of all falls in 2019 but down from 76% in 2018.



Vehicular traffic related deaths decreased by 5% in comparison to 2018 (64 to 53) with Auto vs. Auto dropping 20%.

Pedestrian deaths accounted for 34% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 1 of 2019 while in 2018 they were at 31%.

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

Homicides

12%

DECREASE

In 41% of the cases a firearm was used.

Suicides

In Quarter 1 of 2019 there was an 18% decrease in suicides compared to Quarter 1 of 2018.

During this time frame Asphyxia was the leading method at 34% 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