Coroner Unit Staff:

Commander: Lt. Jon Alvarado

- Chief Forensic Pathologist: Dr. Venu Gopal
- Forensic Pathologist: Dr. Angellee Chen
- Forensic Pathologist: Dr. Michael Chambliss

Deputy Coroner Supervisor: Kelly Matlock

- Deputy Coroner II: Loretta Andrews, Imron Ramos, Jeff Gentry, Leticia Funderburk, Sarah Davis
- Deputy Coroner I: Catherine Prieto, Christian Acosta

Forensic Technician: George Franco, Monica Prieto, Marcella Halverson, Bianca Alvarado, Ophelie Kompaore

Summary:

The Fresno County Sheriff’s Office (coroner unit) investigates all suspicious, unnatural, and unexpected deaths that occur in Fresno County. The deputy coroner investigators are responsible for death investigations in all 6,011 square miles of Fresno County. The forensic pathologists determine both cause and manner of death for all coroner case death investigations.

In 2021, there were 10,925 deaths in Fresno County. Of those deaths, 6085 were reported to the coroner unit for review. The coroner unit accepted 1390 of those reported deaths as coroner cases and performed an examination, toxicology testing, or medical record review to determine the cause and manner of death.

*All reported statistics subject to change pending additional death investigation.*

*Report created 09/13/2022.*
LEGEND:

OVERALL CORONER UNIT STATISTICS: PG. 4 – 7
- TOTAL FRESNO COUNTY DEATHS: PG. 4
- CORONER CASE INVESTIGATIONS: PG. 5 - 6
- PATHOLOGIST EXAMINATIONS: PG. 7
- BODIES TRANSPORTED TO CORONER MORGUE: PG. 7

ACCIDENT - MOTOR VEHICLE RELATED: PG. 8

ACCIDENT - OTHER: PG. 8

ACCIDENT - OVERDOSE: PG. 9 - 12
- DRUG OVERDOSE TRENDS: PG. 9
- SINGLE DRUG OVERDOSE: PG. 10
- COMBINED DRUG OVERDOSE: PG. 11
- FENTANYL OVERDOSE TRENDS

SUICIDE: PG. 13 - 14
- SUICIDE TRENDS: PG. 13

HOMICIDE: PG. 15 - 17
- HOMICIDE TRENDS: PG. 15

IN CUSTODY / OFFICER INVOLVED DEATHS: PG. 16
OVERALL (2021):

- TOTAL FRESNO COUNTY DEATHS (2021): 10925

FRESNO COUNTY MAP:
OVERALL (2021):

- CORONER REPORTED DEATHS (2021): 6085

- CORONER CASE INVESTIGATIONS (REPORTS PRODUCED) (2021): 1390
OVERALL (2021):

TOTAL CORONER CASES: 1390

- NATURAL: 584
- ACCIDENT: 594
  - MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT: 224
  - OVERDOSE: 232
  - OTHER ACCIDENTS: 138
- SUICIDE: 94
- HOMICIDE: 112
- UNDETERMINED: 6

CORONER CASE INVESTIGATIONS [2021]
OVERALL (2021):

TOTAL FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST EXAMINATIONS (2021): 1258

- AUTOPSY EXAMINATIONS (2021): 501
- EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS / TOXICOLOGY / MEDICAL RECORD REVIEW: 757

BODIES TRANSPORTED TO CORONER MORGUE (2021): 1892
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS (2021):

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT (MVA) DEATHS (2021): 224

- AUTO VS. AUTO: 92
- AUTO VS. PED: 57
- SOLO AUTO: 43
- MOTORCYCLE: 27
- TRAIN: 4
- ATV: 1

OTHER ACCIDENT DEATHS: 138

- ANIMAL RELATED: 1
- ASPHYXIATION: 1
- FIRE: 14
- FALL: 79
- CARBON MONOXIDE: 3
- HEAT RELATED: 2
- INDUSTRIAL: 4
- CHOKING: 6
- GUNSHOT WOUND: 3
- DROWNING: 10
- ELECTROCUTION: 2
- OTHER: 13
OVERDOSE (2021):

TOTAL ACCIDENT OVERDOSE DEATHS (2021): 232

- SINGLE DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS: 171
- COMBINED DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS: 61

OVERDOSE (GENDER):

- MALE: 176
- FEMALE: 56

OVERDOSE AGE RANGE:

- 0-9: 1
- 10-20: 10
- 21-30: 44
- 31-40: 50
- 41-50: 37
- 51-60: 52
- 61-70: 36
- 71-80: 2
OVERDOSE (2021):

SINGLE DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS: 171

- METHAMPHETAMINE WAS PRESENT IN (105) 61% OF SINGLE DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS.
- FENTANYL WAS PRESENT IN (43) 25% OF SINGLE DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS.
OVERDOSE (2021):

COMBINED DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS: 61

- ALCOHOL, AMITRIPTYLINE, METHAMPHETAMINE: 1
- ALCOHOL, BUPROPION, DIPHENHYDRAMINE, MITRAGYNINE: 1
- ALCOHOL, COCAINE: 2
- ALCOHOL, DIPHENHYDRAMINE: 1
- ALCOHOL, DIPHENHYDRAMINE, HYDROXYZINE: 1
- ALCOHOL, FENTANYL: 4
- ALCOHOL, LIDOCAINE: 1
- ALCOHOL, METHAMPHETAMINE: 4
- ALCOHOL, OPIATES: 1
- BUPROPION, CITALOPRAM, HYDROXYZINE: 1
- CITALOPRAM, HYDROCODONE, LAMOTRIGINE, METHAMPHETAMINE: 1
- COCAINE, FENTANYL: 3
- COCAINE, METHAMPHETAMINE: 1
- DIPHENHYDRAMINE, HYDROXYZINE: 1
- DIPHENHYDRAMINE, METHADONE: 1
- DIPHENHYDRAMINE, METHAMPHETAMINE: 1
- DULOXETINE, TRAMADOL: 1
- FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN, VENLAFAXINE: 1
- FENTANYL, HEROIN, METHAMPHETAMINE: 1
- FENTANYL, MDMA (ECSTASY): 2
- FENTANYL, METHADONE, METHAMPHETAMINE: 1
- FENTANYL, METHADONE, MORPHINE: 1
- FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE: 13
- FENTANYL, METHAMPHETMAINE, PHENCYCLIDINE (PCP): 1
- FENTANYL, MORPHINE: 1
- HYDROCODONE, MORPHINE: 2
- HYDROCODONE, OXYCODONE: 1
- METHADONE, METHAMPHETAMINE: 1
- METHADONE, MORPHINE: 2
- METHAMPHETAMINE, MORPHINE: 1
- MITRAGRYNINE, PHENTERMINE, TRAMADOL: 1
- OPIATES, METHAMPHETAMINE: 5
- POLY SUBSTANCE: 1

- METHAMPHETAMINE WAS PRESENT IN (28) 45% OF COMBINED DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS.
- FENTANYL WAS PRESENT IN (28) 45% OF COMBINED DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS.
- ALCOHOL WAS PRESENT IN (15) 25% OF COMBINED DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS.
OVERDOSE (2021):

FENTANYL OVERDOSE DEATH TRENDS [2017 – 2021]

TOTAL DEATHS INVOLVING FENTANYL [2021]: 71

FENTANYL OVERDOSE GENDER [2021]:
- MALE: 53
- FEMALE: 18

FENTANYL OVERDOSE AGE RANGE [2021]:
- 10-20: 9
- 21-30: 23
- 31-40: 17
- 41-50: 9
- 51-60: 8
- 61-70: 5
SUICIDE (2021):

SUICIDE DEATHS (2021): 94

FRESNO COUNTY SUICIDE DEATH TRENDS [2010 -2021]

# OF DEATHS


YEAR

GUNSHOT HANGING OVERDOSE STABBING VEHICLE ASPHYXIATION (CARBON MONOXIDE)

SUICIDE DEATHS BY TYPE [2021]

YEAR
SUICIDE (2021):

SUICIDE GENDER (2021):

- MALE: 78
- FEMALE: 16

SUICIDE AGE RANGE (2021):

- 10-20: 4
- 21-30: 19
- 31-40: 28
- 41-50: 14
- 51-60: 10
- 61-70: 10
- 71-80: 6
- 81-90: 3

- YOUNGEST SUICIDE: 14 YEARS
- OLDEST SUICIDE: 89 YEARS
- AVERAGE SUICIDE AGE: 44 YEARS
HOMICIDE (2021):

HOMICIDE DEATHS (2021): 112

HOMICIDE DEATH TRENDS [2010 - 2021]

HOMICIDE DEATHS BY TYPE [2021]
HOMICIDE (2021):

HOMICIDE GENDER (2021):
- MALE: 94
- FEMALE: 18

HOMICIDE AGE RANGE (2021):
- 1-9: 4
- 10-20: 15
- 21-30: 38
- 31-40: 27
- 41-50: 12
- 51-60: 8
- 61-70: 7
- 71-80: 1

- YOUNGEST HOMICIDE: 1 YEAR
- OLDEST HOMICIDE: 73 YEARS
- AVERAGE HOMICIDE AGE: 33 YEARS
HOMICIDE (2021):

HOMICIDE DEATHS BY INVESTIGATING AGENCY [2021]

IN-CUSTODY / OFFICER INVOLVED DEATHS (2021): 17

FRESNO COUNTY JAIL: 5
- NATURAL: 2
- SUICIDE: 1
- ACCIDENT: 1
- PENDING: 1

COALINGA STATE HOSPITAL: 7
- NATURAL: 7

MENDOTA FEDERAL PRISON: 1
- SUICIDE: 1

FRESNO POLICE DEPARTMENT: 4
- FOLLOWING PURSUIT: 2
- OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING: 1
- PENDING: 1