

Bingham County Coroner

2023 Annual Report

Bingham County Coroner
501 N. Maple St. #303
Blackfoot, 83221

Last Revised: January 2, 2024

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Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Bingham County

The Bingham County Coroner's Office investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur in Bingham County. The Office of the Coroner certifies death after investigation and postmortem examination and issues the death certificate as required by law. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families and law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

The main duties of the Office of the Coroner are to determine the time, cause and manner of death and certify deaths that are reported to the coroner. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that resulted in death. There are thousands of diseases and injuries that may result in death. The manner of death is a classification in which a determination is made regarding whether the death resulted from natural causes, homicide, suicide, or an accident. On occasion, the manner of death is classified as undetermined if a clear manner of death cannot be identified.

Information collected during the investigation helps clarify the circumstances, such as the sequence of events prior to death. Evidence collected during an investigation and/or postmortem examination may help lead to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in a homicide case or ensure that an innocent person is not wrongly convicted. Because deaths occur around the clock, Coroner's staff members are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

With the skill and experience of the medicolegal death investigators and board-certified forensic pathologists with our contracted pathology center in Ada County, we believe the quality of death investigations in Bingham County are among the best in the State.

Where do our standards come from?

We do everything within our means to meet the standards set by the Idaho State Association of County Coroners (I.S.A.C.C.), National Association of Medical Examiners (N.A.M.E.) and the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (I.A.C.M.E.) These two organizations are the develop and maintain the national standards in the United State of America regarding death investigation.

The death scene investigation reports filed by the investigators are very thorough and supply comprehensive information to the coroner, law enforcement, prosecutor, families and the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics.

Our Coroner and investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county. Medicolegal death investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstances of the death.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Bingham County Board of Commissioners for their support of the medical examiner program and the services we provide to the citizens of the Bingham County.

Coroner's Office Staff & Contracted Forensic Pathology Agency

Bingham County Coroner's Office Staff:

James Roberts
Medicolegal Death Investigator
Bingham County Coroner

Melanie Hansen
Chief Deputy Coroner/Medicolegal Death
Investigator
Bingham County Coroner's Office

Flint Christensen
Deputy Coroner/Medicolegal Death Investigator
Bingham County Coroner's Office

Ada County Coroner Staff Available to the Bingham County
Coroner's Office through our Forensic Pathology Contract:

Richard Riffle
Coroner
Ada County Coroner's Office

Brett Harding
Chief Deputy Coroner
Ada County Coroner's Office

Garth Warren
Chief Forensic Pathologist
Ada County Coroner's Office

Christina Di Loreto
Forensic Pathologist
Ada County Coroner's Office

Chiara Mancini
Forensic Pathologist
Ada County Coroner's Office

Ryan Belanger
Forensic Supervisor
Ada County Coroner's Office

Carolina Ramos
Senior Forensic Technician
Ada County Coroner's Office

Zackary Rushton
Forensic Technician
Ada County Coroner's Office

Collin Lapp
Forensic Technician
Ada County Coroner's Office

Sheila Silva
Administrative Specialist II
Ada County Coroner's Office

Jessica Macdonald
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Ada County Coroner's Office

Types of Deaths Reportable to the Office of the Coroner

Idaho Code § 19-4301. COUNTY CORONER TO INVESTIGATE DEATHS.

(1) When a county coroner is informed that a person has died, the county Coroner shall investigate the death if:

- The death occurred as a result of violence, whether apparently by homicide, suicide or by accident;
- The death occurred under suspicion or unknown circumstances; or

(c) The death is of a stillborn child or any child if there is a reasonable articulable suspicion to believe that the death occurred without a known medical disease to account for the stillbirth or child's death.

The coroner has the authority under these Acts to order an autopsy at any time it is deemed necessary to determine or confirm the cause and manner of death.

Deaths Reportable to the Coroner:

- Violent death (e.g., strangulation, gunshot, stabbing, poisoning, etc.)
- Accidental deaths (e.g., falls, drowning, motor vehicle collisions, burns, overdose, etc.)
- Death of a prisoner (e.g., deaths in any county or city jail while imprisoned or in custody).
- Suspicious Circumstances (e.g., Unidentified Bodies or events surrounding death)
- Sudden and Unexpected deaths (e.g., all deaths during a surgical procedure, in recovery, anesthesia-related, unexpected natural death, occupational-related deaths)*
- Without medical attendance within 48 hours of death:
- In cases of chronic illness, the attending physician may sign the death certificate if s/he can be reasonably certain of the cause of death.
- Death of a mother due to an abortion.
- Unexpected infant deaths

The coroner would generally order an autopsy for any of the reportable deaths listed above.

Bingham County Coroner Cases

Population (Per 2020 Census)	48,706
Cases Reported to Medical Examiner	181
A. Case requiring some level of autopsy	31
1. Number of Coroner Cases with Complete Autopsy	27
2. Number of Coroner Cases with External Examination	2
3. Number of Medical Examiner Cases with Limited Examination	2
B. Number of deaths certified with only medicolegal death investigator postmortem examination only.	73
C. Number of deaths not certified by Coroner's Office after investigation.	77

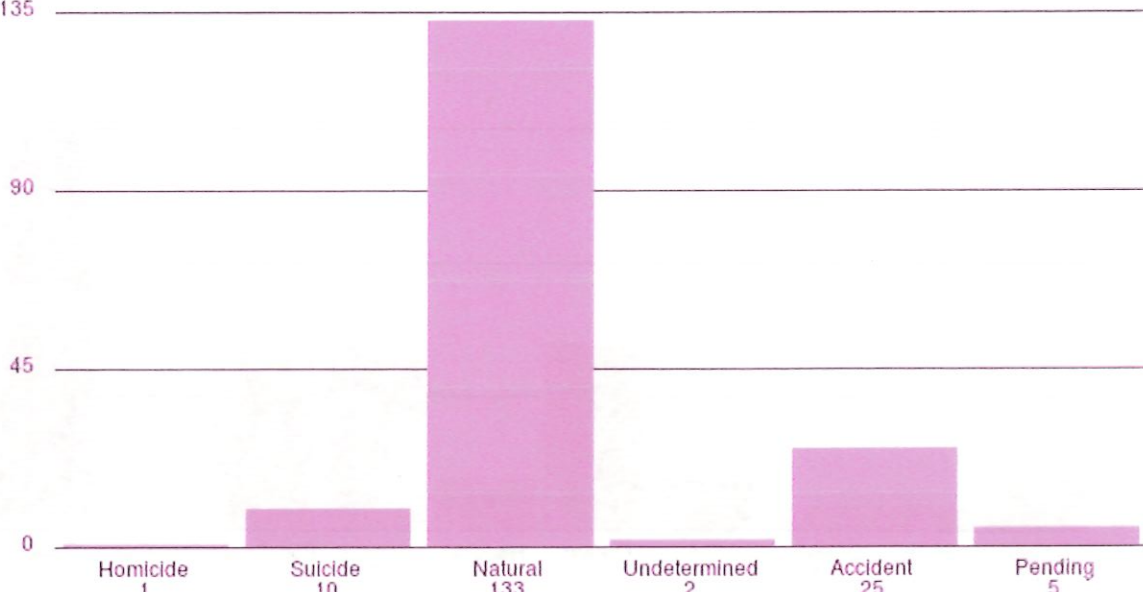
Definitions

Full Autopsy: A complete external and internal examination of a decedent

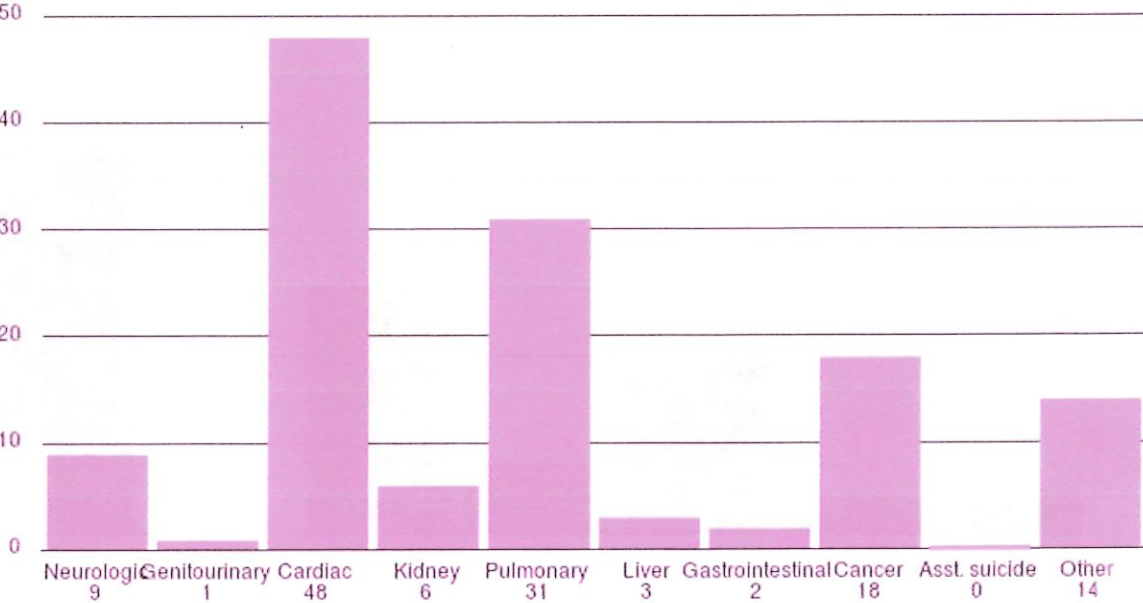
Limited Examination: An examination which is focused on a specific organ or region of the body, i.e., heart. The limited examination also includes an external examination.

External Examination: An examination of the exterior of a decedent.

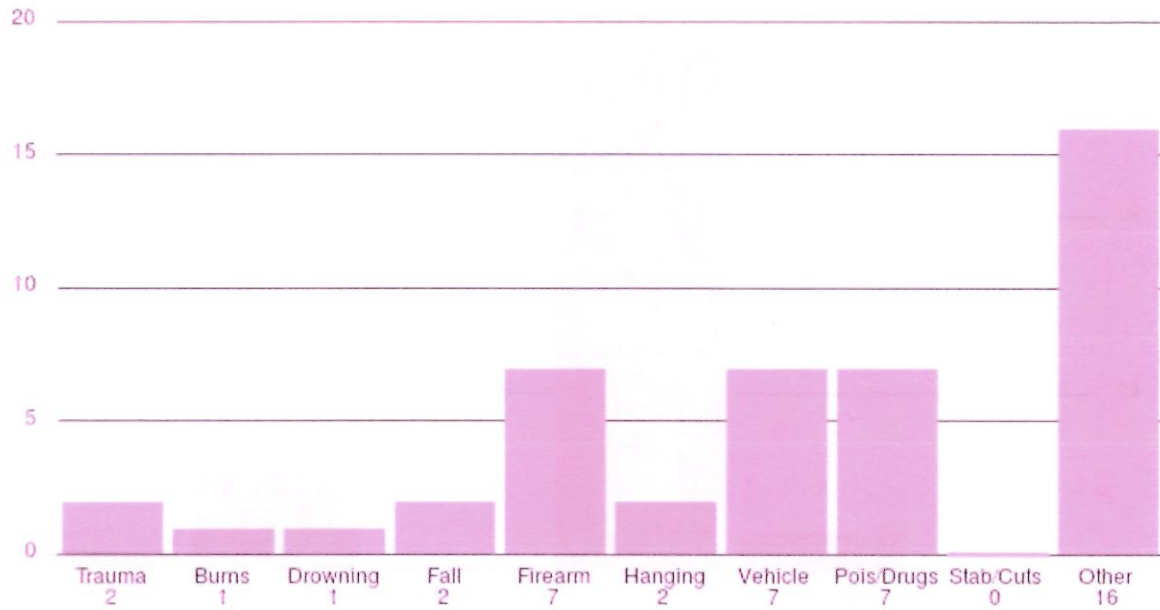
Manner of Death by Postmortem Examination



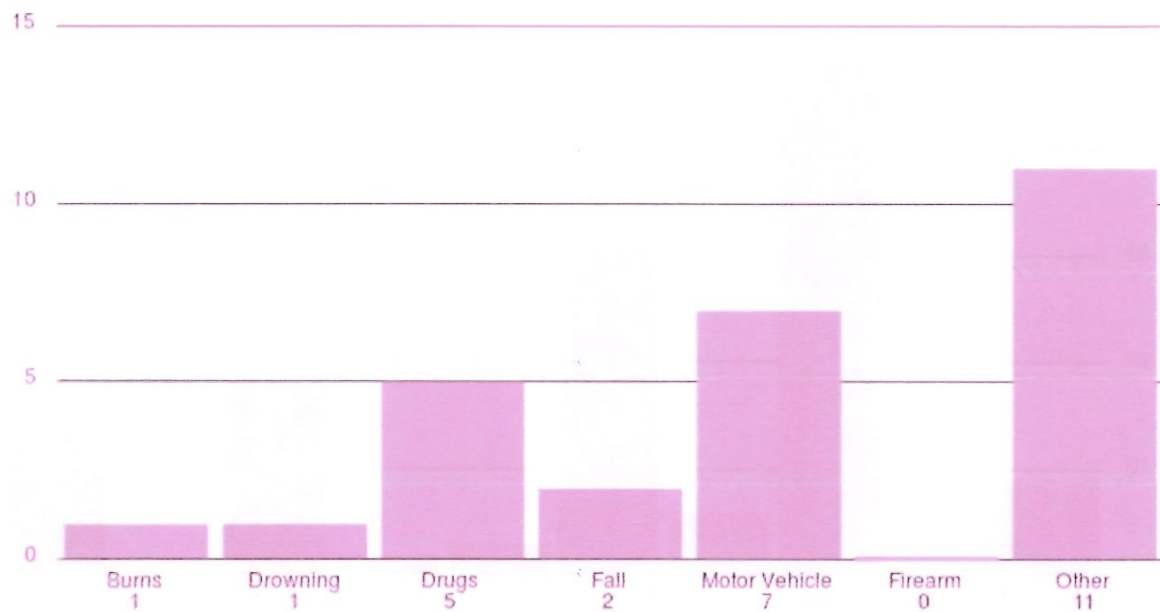
Deaths by Natural Causes



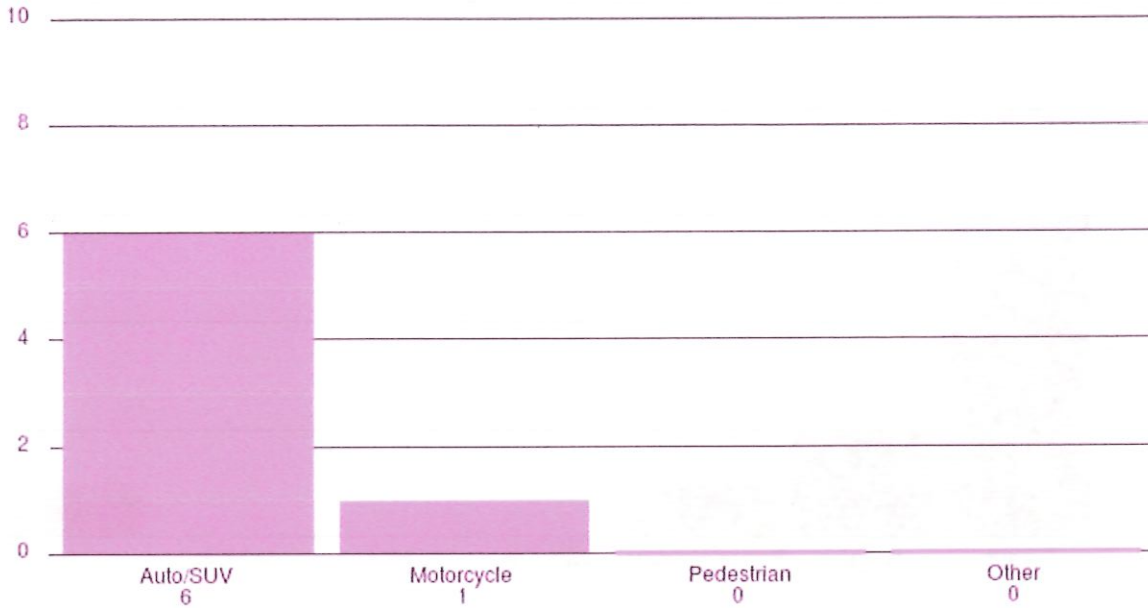
Deaths by Unnatural Causes



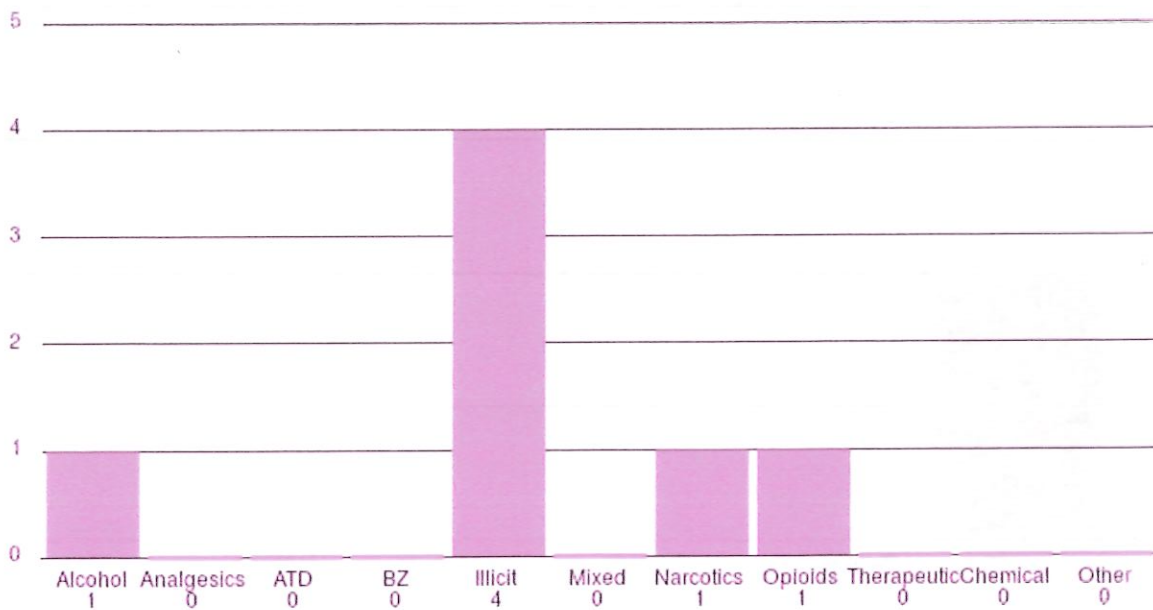
Accidental Deaths by Type



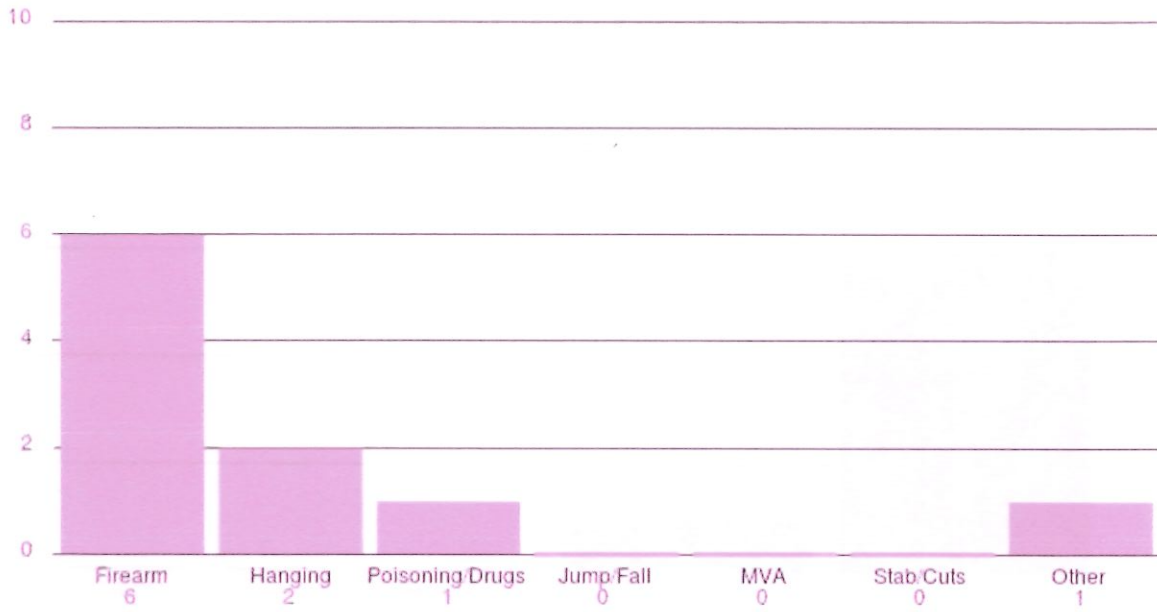
Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes



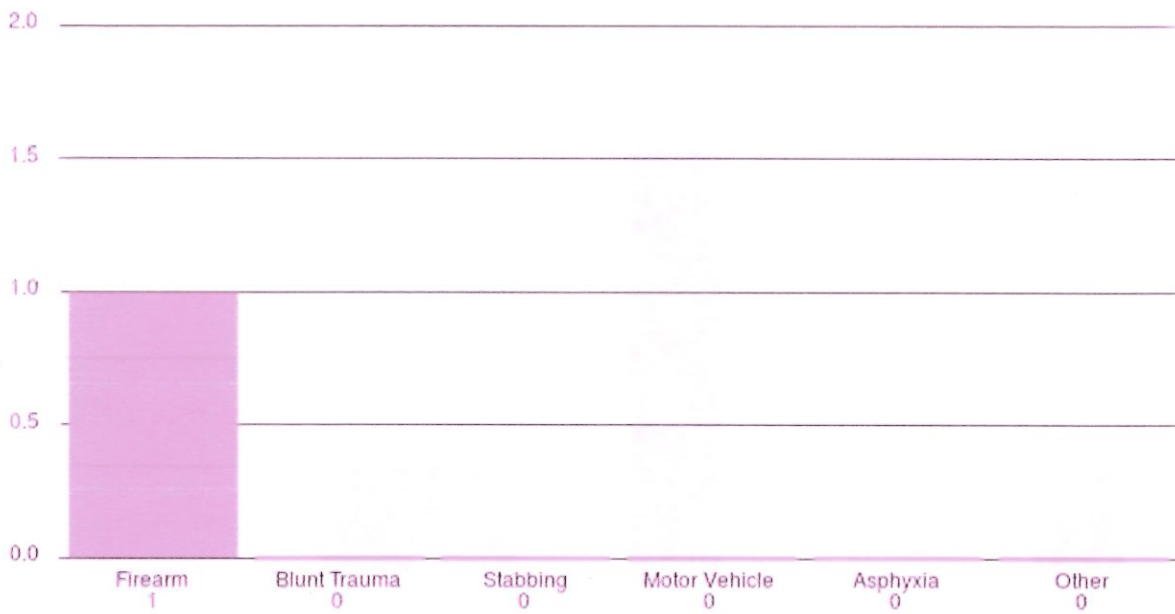
Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death



Suicide by Means



Homicide Deaths



Deaths by Age Group

