

# Teller County Coroner's Office



2020 Annual Report



# Responsibilities and Duties of the Coroner

The Coroner's Office serves Teller County through the compliance of Colorado Revised Statute 30.10.606 which describes the role and responsibilities of the coroner investigating deaths. A complete forensic investigation provides the cause and manner of how an individual died. Identifying cause and manner of death is a critical component of ensuring public health and safety.

**Colorado Revised Statutes 30.10.606 mandate that the following deaths are reported to and investigated by the coroner:**

- Sudden, unexpected, or non-natural
- No physician available to certify the death
- Industrial accidents
- Deaths in custody of law enforcement or in the care of a public institution
- Deaths due to contagious diseases
- All unexplained deaths

## **Responsibilities of the Coroner:**

- Pronounce death
- Determine cause and manner of death
- Identify human remains
- Notify next-of-kin
- Investigate death in conjunction with but independent of law enforcement agencies
- Collect evidence on or in the body
- Secure a decedent's property for next-of-kin
- Provide expert testimony
- Grant tissue/organs for donation



# Total Deaths in Teller County

In 2020 there was a total of 157 deaths in Teller County, 84 of those cases were investigated, with 36 requiring full autopsies provided by one of the board-certified Forensic Pathologists El Paso Coroner's Office employed in 2020.

## Manner of Death

There are five categories of manner of death that can be listed on Colorado Death Certificate.

- Natural- Deaths due solely to disease or aging
- Accident- Deaths due to unintentional injury
- Suicide- Deaths due to an intentional self-inflicted injury
- Homicide- Deaths due to the intentional injurious action of another individual
- Undetermined- Deaths in the category may or may not have determined cause of death or may have several different possible manners.

## Total Deaths in Teller County in 2020: 157

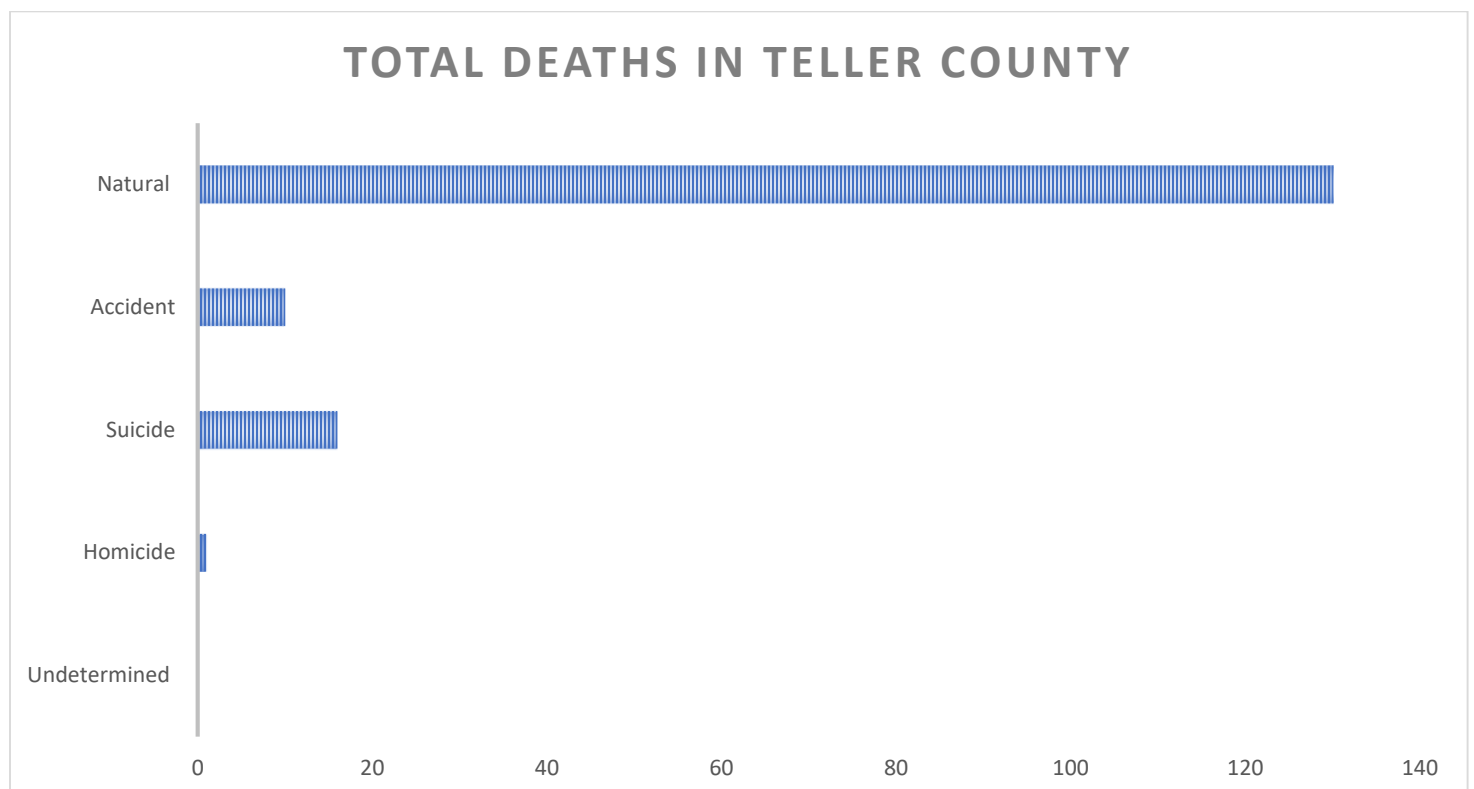
Natural 130

Accident 10

Suicide 16

Homicide 1

Undetermined 0

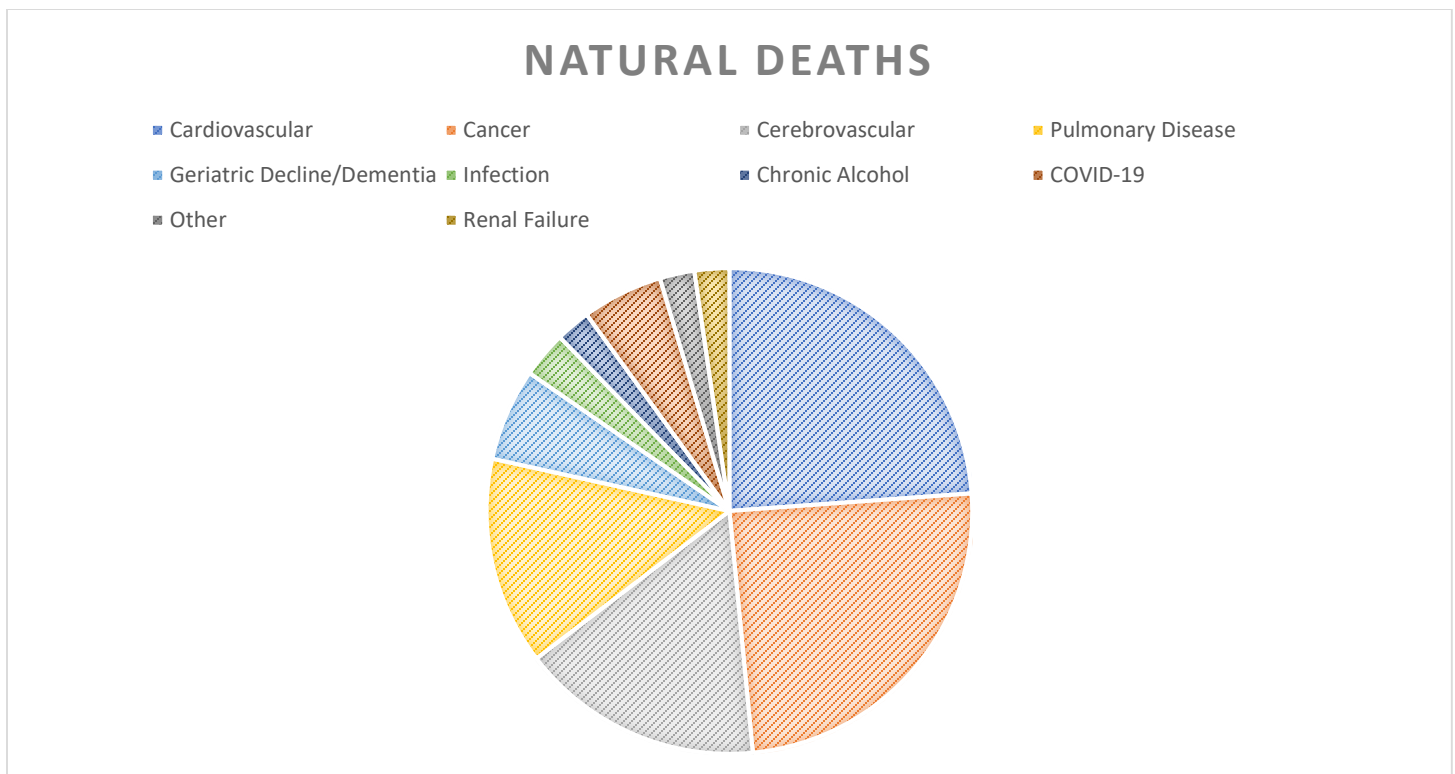


# Deaths Due to Natural Diseases or Aging

**Total: 130** Includes 57 investigated cases and 73 non-investigative cases

(Age range fetal- 95)

Cardiovascular	31
Cancer	32
Cerebrovascular	21
Pulmonary Disease	18
Geriatric Decline/Dementia	8
COVID-19 *	7
Chronic Alcohol	3
Infection	4
Renal Failure	3
Other	3



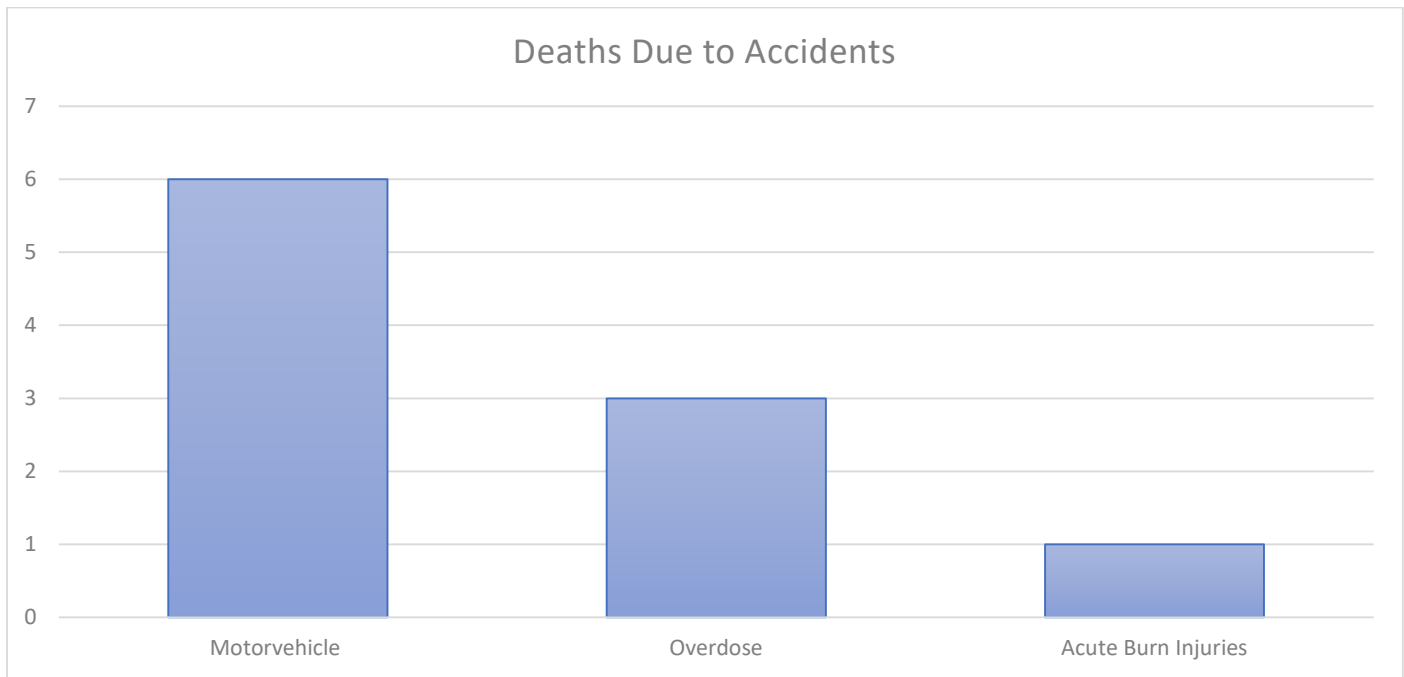
\* Deaths due to COVID-19 by CDPHE document deaths from and with COVID-19. The Teller County Coroner's Office and other Colorado Coroner Offices only documents deaths from COVID-19 and other mechanisms. Hence why the numbers will differ in very county within Colorado Coroner's Office and their corresponding Health Department.

## Deaths Due to Accidents

**Total: 10** (Age range 37 years-76 years)

Females 4

Males 6



## Motor Vehicle Accident Breakdown

Motorcycle 3

Driver with restraints 2

Driver without restraints 1

## Drug Overdose Breakdown

Methamphetamine 1

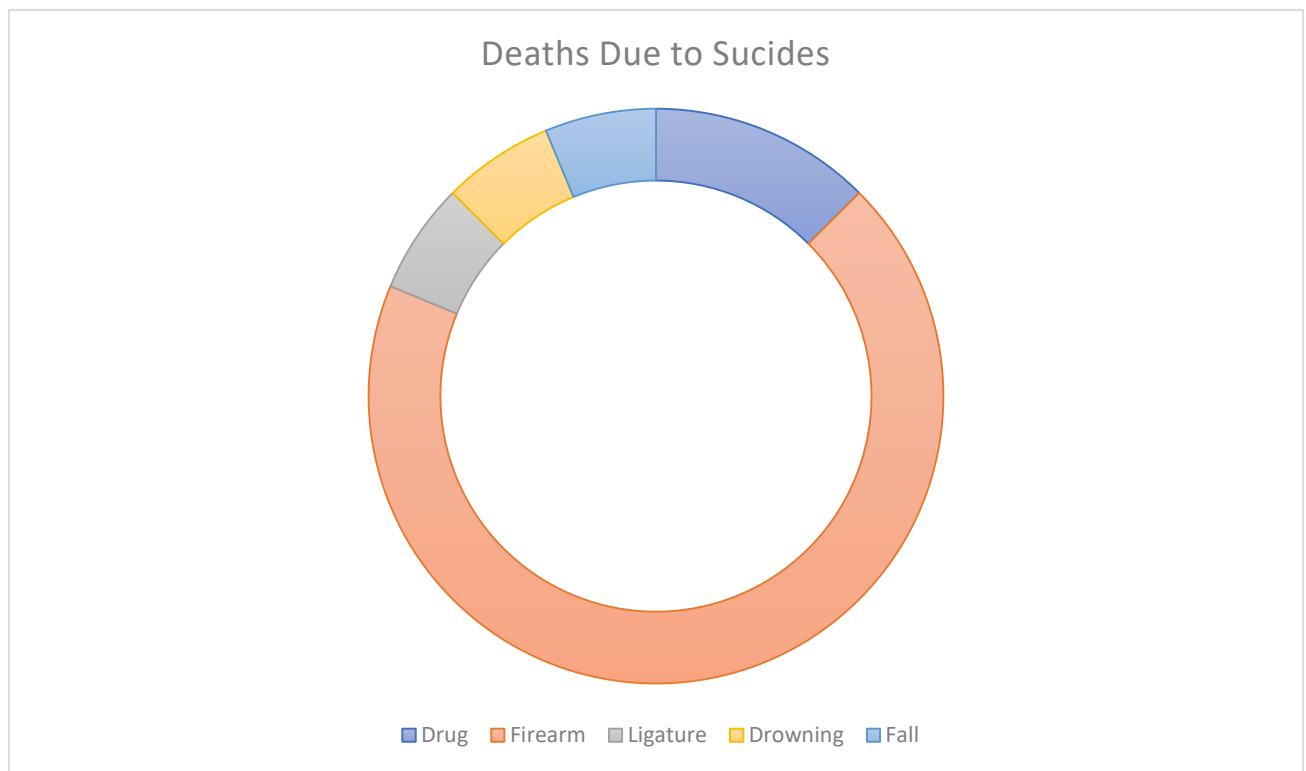
Mixed Drug Intoxication 2

## Deaths Due to Suicide

**Total: 16** (Age range 16- 78 years)

Female 3

Male 13



## Mechanism Used

Firearm 11

Overdose 2

Ligature 1

Drowning 1

Fall 1

## Deaths Due to Homicide

**Total: 1** (Age 35)

Female 1

## Mechanism Used

Firearm 1