



COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE

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2012 Coroner Data Summary

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SUMMARY

- There were a total of 61 deaths in 2012 compared to 56 in 2011
- 14 autopsies were ordered compared with 10 in 2010
- Gender: 41 male, 20 female
- Residency: 33 Summit County, 14 Colorado and 14 from elsewhere
- The busiest months were January and February, each with 10
- There were 9 traumatic ski area deaths
- There were 9 transfer of jurisdiction cases compared with 11 in 2011
- There were 6 hospice cases compared with 5 in 2011

MANNER

- 34 Natural
- 20 Accidental
- 6 Suicide
- 1 Homicide

GENDER OF DECEDENT

| | Male (41) | Female (20) |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Natural | 24 | 10 |
| Accidental | 12 | 8 |
| Suicide | 4 | 2 |
| Homicide | 1 | 0 |

AVERAGE AGE OF DECEDENT

- Male 52.9 years (range 0-92)
- Female 56.6 years (range 15-85)

RESIDENCY OF DECEDENT

- Summit County 33 (54%)
- Colorado 14 (23%)
- Remainder 14 (23%)

SNOW SPORT DEATHS

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|---------|---------|--------|--------|----------|---------|
| Skier Deaths (% of year's total deaths) | 8 (13%) | 5 (9%) | 2 (4%) | 1 (2%) | 8 (13%) | 5 (12%) |
| Snowboarder | 1 (2%) | 1 (2%) | 3 (5%) | 2 (4%) | 3 (5%) | 0 |
| Combined skier and snowboarder | 9 (15%) | 6 (11%) | 5 (9%) | 3 (6%) | 11 (18%) | 5 (12%) |

HELMET USAGE

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Decedent skiers wearing helmets | 5 (62%) | 2 (40%) | 1 (50%) | 0 | 5 (62%) | 5 (40%) |
| Decedent snowboarders | 1 | 1 | 2 (67%) | 1 (50%) | 1 (33%) | - |

DEATHS BY SKI AREA

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| A-Basin | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Breckenridge | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Copper Mountain | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Keystone | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 1 |

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH DEATHS

| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of Deaths | 3 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| Number of decedents using seatbelt | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Alcohol involvement | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |

COMMENTS/TRENDS

Death is unpredictable. The number and timing of deaths is generally proportional to the population at any given time. Therefore as expected, the number of deaths in Summit County generally increases during the summer and ski season months. Likewise on an average, more people die on weekends. A review of deaths over the past 6 years to determine the most frequent day of the week varies year to year, 2012 was no exception. Regarding the time of death, in 2012, 55% occurred in the AM hours and 45% in the PM.

The majority of deaths occurred in unincorporated Summit County; of the municipalities, Breckenridge had the next most.

The predominate cause of death was heart failure. It was reported in 67% of natural deaths (37% of all deaths in Summit County).

Alcohol was a contributing factor in 8 deaths (13% of all deaths for 2012); 4 male and 4 female.

Drugs contributing to death in 2012 include clonazepam, THC, zolpidem, morphine, Benadryl and citalopram.

Given the relatively small sample size number of deaths in Summit County, it is problematic to draw definitive conclusions regarding death in Summit County.

Using raw numbers, regarding ski area deaths, helmets had been worn by more than 50% of the decedents since 2007

Draw your own conclusions.