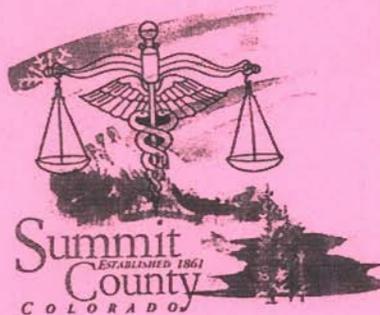


SUMMIT COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER

10-YEAR DATA SUMMARY FOR 1993-2002



OFFICE OF THE CORONER

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10-year Data Summary 1993-2002

To the Citizens of Summit County,

December, 2003

The information you will find in the following pages was gathered by hand and entered into a database that was created in the interest of computerizing data for statistical analysis as well as for the public interest. Only the years 1993-2002 were archived. It is my hope that in the coming months, more records will be archived. Any demographic or office information is available from home page links.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I hope that you find this data informative and interesting.

Joanne L. Richardson
Summit County Coroner



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SECTION 1

SUMMIT COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER
10-Year Data Summary 1993-2002

BACKGROUND FOR PROJECT:

Generating yearly death statistics is an important function of any Coroner's office. Prior to January 2003 Coroner records were not computerized office was not computerized. The creation of a database allows access to archived records, the ability to generate statistics and trend analysis.

An Archiving database was created in Microsoft Access and the data was pulled by hand. The statistics were then placed into Excel for the years 1993-2002. Therefore, the Archive information presented is limited and a reasonable margin of error should be understood.

The information contained in this Data Summary includes charts that summarize 10 years of data including Deaths by Month; Age, Gender; Deaths by Resident State; Natural death Modes; Deaths vs. Autopsies; Summit County Deaths; Modes of Accidents; Suicides and Homicides. A complete list appears in the Table of Contents. Due to the amount of information generated, each chart is not summarized verbally and the reader must decipher findings on his or her own.

A second database was created utilizing Microsoft Access and statistics placed into Excel for cases from 2003-on. This second database includes more sophisticated information that can be gleaned if necessary. An example includes time of day call received, police officers present or organs donated. The information from this Data Base is *not* included in this data summary. The 2003 data will be released in a report by itself, in mid January of 2004. However, when released, 2003's data will only reflect the Archive Data Base queries.

Records from 1881 to 1956 are being sought but no Archive Books were kept making the task interesting. The years 1956 – 1992 still need to be pulled by hand. All filed death certificates will be researched and archived in the coming months.

An Example of the Archive Data Base appears below:

Coroner Archives

Name	<input type="text"/>	DOD	<input type="text"/>	DOB	<input type="text"/>	Age at Death	<input type="text"/>
Home, Summit Ct	<input type="text"/>	Home, State	<input type="text"/>	Home, Country	<input type="text"/>	Sex	<input type="text"/>
Manner	<input type="text"/>						
Cause	<input type="text"/>						
Mode	<input type="text"/>	If Applicable: Seat Belts Worn? <input type="checkbox"/>					
Alcohol Involved?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Helmet Worn? <input type="checkbox"/>					
Drugs Involved?	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Location	<input type="text"/>						
Trans Juris	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Notes	<input type="text"/>						

SUMMIT COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER
10-Year Data Summary 1993-2002

EXPLANATION OF CORONER ARCHIVE FIELDS:

The Computer Archives are set up to record several areas of interest. Over the course of the 10 years of archiving the following parameters were followed:

AGE: at time of death.

DATE OF DEATH: Trend by month volume

HOME STATE: This is useful because we have many visitors and it is helpful to learn where they are visiting from.

SUMMIT COUNTY TOWN RESIDED - Including:

Blue River	Heeney
Breckenridge	Keystone
Copper Mtn.	Montezuma* none btwn 1993-2002
Dillon	Silverthorne
Frisco	Unincorporated County

SEX: Male versus Female Deaths

MANNER OF DEATH: This is classified as the way in which the cause of death came about, whether by accidental means, natural events, self-inflicted wounds or other external forces. There are only five manners of death that are recognized by the state of Colorado:

Accidental – Death by unintended event(s).

Natural – Death caused solely by disease processes

Homicide - Death caused by another

Suicide - Death caused intentionally by decedent

Undetermined – Assigned when through combined investigation and autopsy, no cause can be found.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Refers to the "medical reason" for the death. As there can be many causes of death, Modes is also recorded to assist with categorizing the deaths.

MODES OF DEATH: These are sub units of Cause, which specify how the death occurs.

ALCOHOL INVOLVED: While no levels are recorded in the Data Base, if checked, this means that the level was at least ABOVE the legal limit of 1.0mg/dl.

DRUGS INVOLVED: This is defined as prescription or illicit drugs although types of drugs are not listed.

SEATBELT USED or HELMET WORN: While these appear in the Data Base, this information was not consistent and therefore not recorded in this report.

LOCATION: Where the incident occurred including clinics, residence or at other scene.

POST: Refers to Postmortem examination (aka autopsy) performed.

TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION: Means the case was transferred back to Summit County. This means the decedent was taken by ambulance or helicopter to a Denver area hospital where they expired due to an incident that originally occurred in Summit County. This is important because the transferring Coroner cannot conduct an investigation in the originating jurisdiction.

SUMMIT COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER
10-Year Data Summary 1993-2002

AGENCY INFORMATION:

The Summit County Office of the Coroner (SCOC) is a separate and independent division of the Summit County Government and is funded through the Summit County Commissioners by the citizens of Summit County. The Coroner is a salaried position and there are two sworn Deputy Coroner's that assist on a case-by-case basis.

By statute, it is the Coroner's job to prove **Cause** and **Manner** of death. The **Cause** of death is considered the "medical" cause, **Manner** of death concerns "how" the death occurs whether by natural, self inflicted, external forces or accidental means. In Colorado, five categories are recognized:

Natural - Death caused by disease process occurring naturally such as heart, liver, or renal disease.

Accidental - Death which occurs by unintentional events or chain of events. This can include falls, motor vehicle accidents, skier vs. tree, climbing accidents etc.

Homicide - Death which results from the actions of another whether inflicted by gross recklessness, behavior which is *implicit* (silent observer or assist in) OR *explicit* (elements present & obvious).

Suicide - Intentional act in ending ones own life by various means.

Undetermined - Is assigned when manner of death is unclear or not defined. This can happen when no medical cause is found upon autopsy or when remains are found that can't explain manner.

It has been misunderstood that the responsibility of assigning **manner** falls to law enforcement agencies but it is in fact, the responsibility of the Coroner.

Finding Cause and Manner may be assisted through ordering a forensic autopsy or it may be found through medical records and history, interviews, findings at the scene and so on.

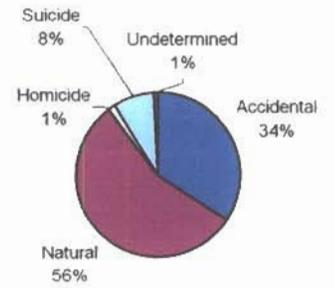
SUMMIT COUNTY OFFICE OF THE CORONER
10-Year Trend Summary 1993-2002

1. Top two **Manner's** of death are Natural (56%) and Accident (34%)
2. Silverthorne is the resident town with the most deaths.
3. More men died in Summit County (73%) vs. women (27%)
4. The age range of 40-49 had the most deaths.
5. March was the busiest month overall.
6. Other than Summit County, primarily Colorado residents died in Summit County with Texas and Florida second and third.
7. People are more likely to die of heart disease than cancer in Summit County.
8. Colon and Lung Cancer are equally as deadly in Summit County.
9. There are more Motor Vehicle Accidents (45%) than Ski accidents (19%) in Summit County.
10. Most Motor Vehicle Accidents occurred on I-70, (45%)
11. Over 10 years studied, 16 Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents involved drugs or alcohol out of 72.
12. People between 20-29 are most likely to die in an MVA or Ski Accident.
13. Handgun suicides are the most common type of suicide in Summit County.
14. Blunt Force Trauma (being struck or beaten with an object) is the most likely mode of homicide in Summit County.

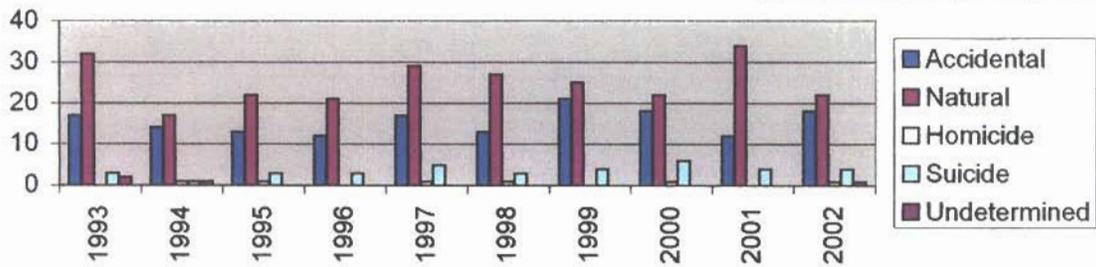
SECTION 2

Year	Accidental	Natural	Homicide	Suicide	Undetermined	Total
1993	17	32	0	3	2	54
1994	14	17	1	1	1	34
1995	13	22	1	3	0	39
1996	12	21	0	3	0	36
1997	17	29	1	5	0	52
1998	13	27	1	3	0	44
1999	21	25	0	4	0	50
2000	18	22	1	6	0	47
2001	12	34	0	4	0	50
2002	18	22	1	4	1	46
Total	155	251	6	36	4	452

Manner of Deaths 93-02

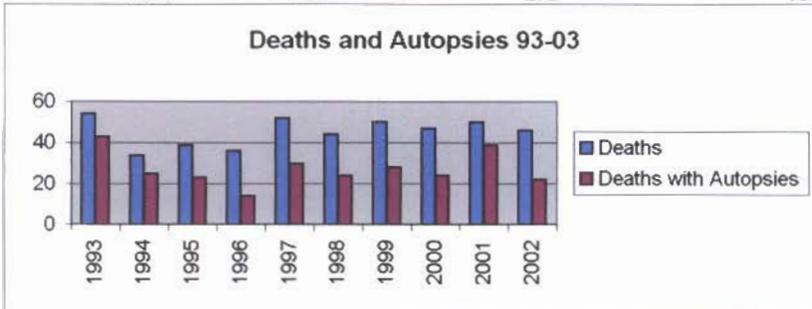
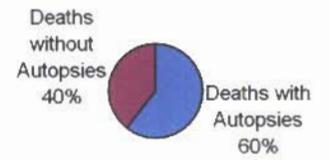


Deaths by Manner 93-03



Year	Deaths	Deaths with Autopsies	Deaths without Autopsies
1993	54	43	11
1994	34	25	9
1995	39	23	16
1996	36	14	22
1997	52	30	22
1998	44	24	20
1999	50	28	22
2000	47	24	23
2001	50	39	11
2002	46	22	24
Total	452	272	180

Deaths and Autopsies 93-02

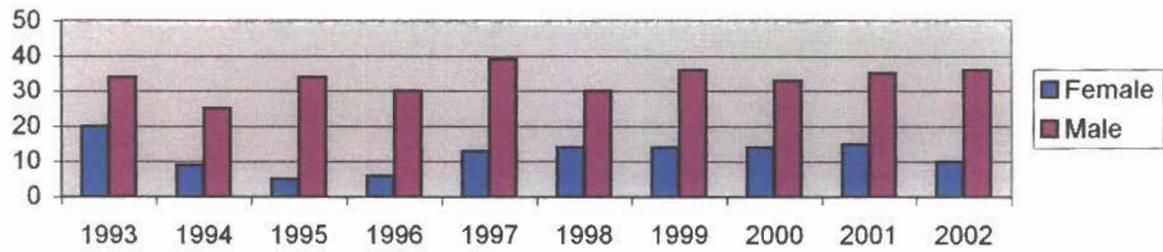


Year	Female	Male	Total
1993	20	34	54
1994	9	25	34
1995	5	34	39
1996	6	30	36
1997	13	39	52
1998	14	30	44
1999	14	36	50
2000	14	33	47
2001	15	35	50
2002	10	36	46
	120	332	452

Total Deaths by Gender 93-02



Death by Gender 93-02

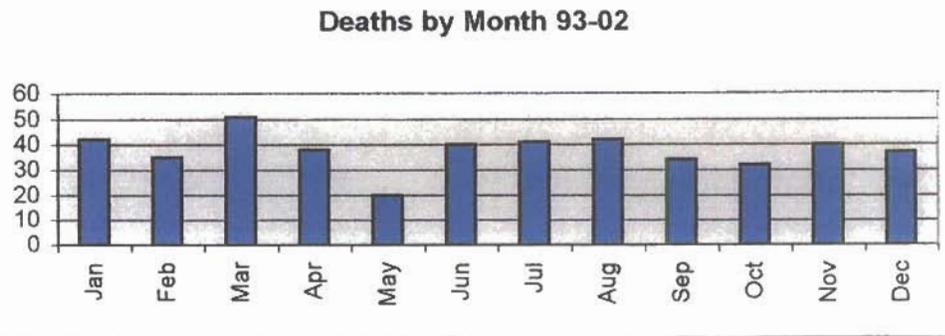


Age	<1	1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+	Total
Count	18	4	22	73	70	81	57	59	48	19	1	452



A

Month	Total by Month
Jan	42
Feb	35
Mar	51
Apr	38
May	20
Jun	40
Jul	41
Aug	42
Sep	34
Oct	32
Nov	40
Dec	37

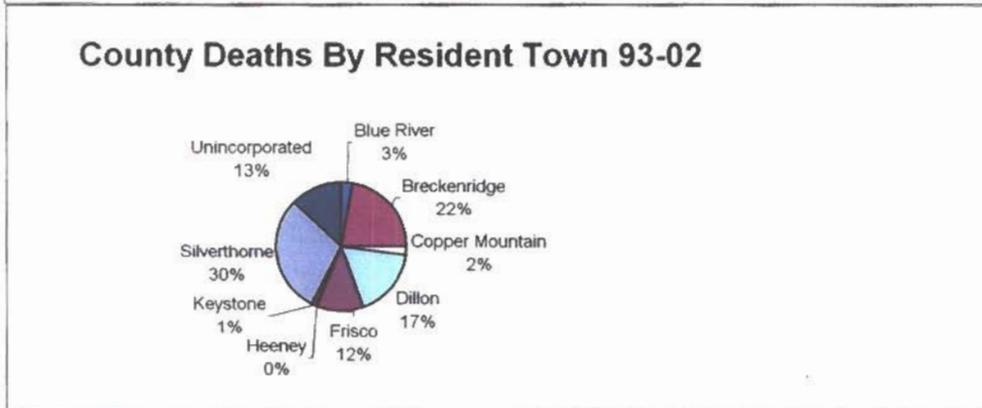
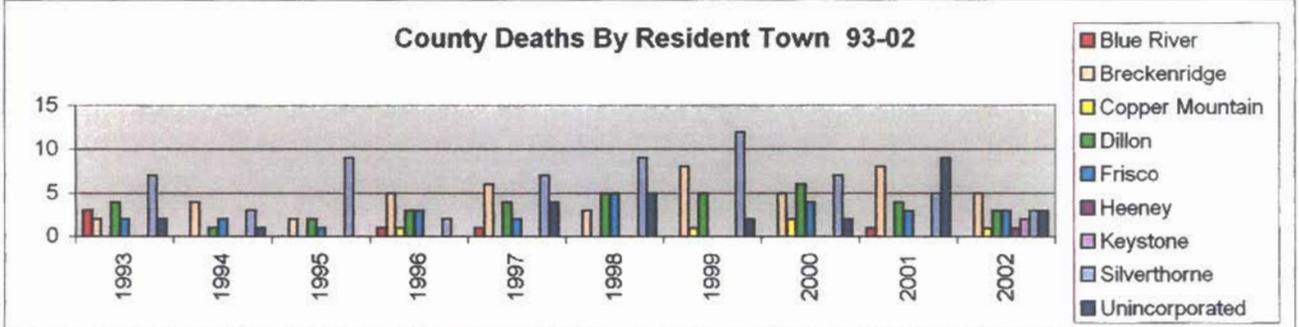


452

Year	Count	Year	Count	Year	Count
1/1993	2	5/1993	3	9/1993	5
1/1994	3	5/1994	1	9/1994	4
1/1995	2	5/1995	3	9/1995	1
1/1996	1	5/1996	2	9/1996	4
1/1997	6	5/1997	4	9/1997	4
1/1998	6	5/1998	1	9/1998	3
1/1999	6	5/1999	0	9/1999	3
1/2000	8	5/2000	1	9/2000	2
1/2001	5	5/2001	3	9/2001	4
<u>1/2002</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5/2002</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9/2002</u>	<u>4</u>
2/1993	4	6/1993	3	10/1993	6
2/1994	0	6/1994	3	10/1994	1
2/1995	2	6/1995	0	10/1995	6
2/1996	2	6/1996	4	10/1996	1
2/1997	3	6/1997	6	10/1997	4
2/1998	5	6/1998	5	10/1998	3
2/1999	10	6/1999	6	10/1999	3
2/2000	2	6/2000	6	10/2000	4
2/2001	5	6/2001	3	10/2001	2
<u>2/2002</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6/2002</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10/2002</u>	<u>2</u>
3/1993	7	7/1993	5	11/1993	6
3/1994	6	7/1994	3	11/1994	4
3/1995	7	7/1995	4	11/1995	4
3/1996	5	7/1996	6	11/1996	1
3/1997	4	7/1997	7	11/1997	2
3/1998	4	7/1998	3	11/1998	2
3/1999	4	7/1999	3	11/1999	3
3/2000	5	7/2000	3	11/2000	6
3/2001	4	7/2001	4	11/2001	5
<u>3/2002</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7/2002</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11/2002</u>	<u>7</u>
4/1993	2	8/1993	5	12/1993	6
4/1994	3	8/1994	2	12/1994	4
4/1995	4	8/1995	1	12/1995	5
4/1996	3	8/1996	6	12/1996	1
4/1997	2	8/1997	8	12/1997	2
4/1998	3	8/1998	5	12/1998	4
4/1999	4	8/1999	4	12/1999	4
4/2000	2	8/2000	4	12/2000	4
4/2001	10	8/2001	3	12/2001	2
<u>4/2002</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8/2002</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>12/2002</u>	<u>5</u>

452

Year	Blue River	Breckenridge	Copper Mountain	Dillon	Frisco	Heeney	Keystone	Silverthorne	Unincorporated	Total
1993	3	2		4	2			7	2	20
1994		4		1	2			3	1	11
1995		2		2	1			9		14
1996	1	5	1	3	3			2		15
1997	1	6		4	2			7	4	24
1998		3		5	5			9	5	27
1999		8	1	5				12	2	28
2000		5		2	6	4		7	2	26
2001	1	8		4	3			5	9	30
2002		5	1	3	3	1	2	3	3	21
Total	6	48	5	37	25	1	2	64	28	216



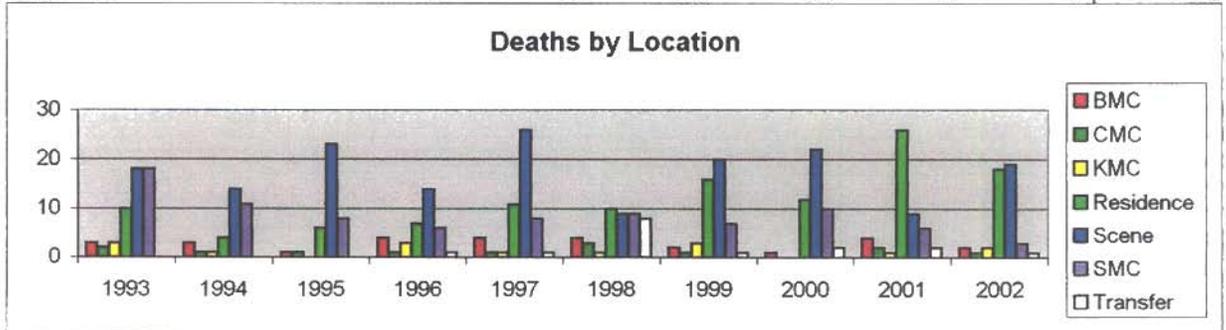
Year	AK	AL	AR	AZ	CA	CO	FL	GA	HI	IA	IL	IN	KS	KY	LA	MA	ME	MI	MN	MO	MS	NE		
1993				2		33			1		1	1			1								1	
1994					1	22	2	2			1	1	2		1									
1995				1		28	1				2		1			1		1			1			
1996						27	1				1													
1997			1	1	5	34	3													1	1	1		
1998		1				35	1	1			2								1					1
1999						37	1	1		2	1		1				1							1
2000	1	1			2	37	1																1	
2001						40		1			1		2		1				1			1		1
2002						36	1				1			1								1		
Total	1	2	1	4	8	329	11	5	1	2	10	2	6	1	3	1	1	3	1	5	1	4		

DEATHS BY RESIDENT STATE 93 - 02

Year	NH	NJ	NM	NV	NY	OH	OK	OR	PA	SD	TN	TX	UT	VA	WA	WI	WV	Other	Country	Total		
1993		1	1	1			1		2			5	1			1				1	54	
1994											2										34	
1995	1						1										1				39	
1996					1	2		1													3	36
1997				1	1	1	1					1										52
1998												1		1								44
1999					1						1	2			1							50
2000									1												3	47
2001											1	1										50
2002						2						2	1	1								46
Total	1	1	1	2	3	5	3	1	3	2	2	12	2	2	1	1	1			7	452	

State	Total
CO	329
TX	12
FL	11
IL	10
CA	8
KS	6
GA	5
MO	5
OH	5
AZ	4
All Others	395
	57
	452

Year	BMC	CMC	KMC	Residence	Scene	SMC	Transfer	Grand Total
1993	3	2	3	10	18	18		54
1994	3	1	1	4	14	11		34
1995	1	1		6	23	8		39
1996	4	1	3	7	14	6	1	36
1997	4	1	1	11	26	8	1	52
1998	4	3	1	10	9	9	8	44
1999	2	1	3	16	20	7	1	50
2000	1			12	22	10	2	47
2001	4	2	1	26	9	6	2	50
2002	2	1	2	18	19	3	1	46
Grand Total	28	13	15	120	174	86	16	452



KEY

BMC = Breckenridge Medical Center

CMC = Copper Mountain Medical Center

KMC = Keystone Medical Center

Residence = Died at home

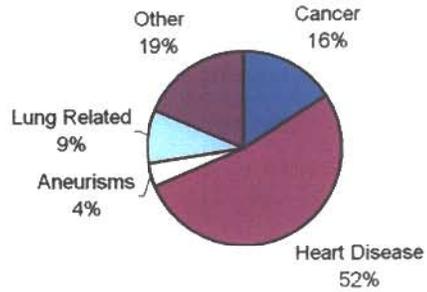
Scene = Died at scene ie: condo, trail, accident or suicide scene

SMC = Summit Medical Center

Transfer = Transfer of Jurisdiction. Defined as person flown or taken to Denver where they expire due to injuries sustained in Summit County. (usually trauma cases)

CANCER (by type)	40	Cancer	40
Brain	1	Heart Disease	132
Breast	4	Aneurisms	10
Colon	9	Lung Related	22
Esophogeal	3	Other	47
Liver	1		
Lung	9		
Leukemia	1		
Metastatic	2		
Lymphoma	2		
Mediastinal	1		
Ovarian	1		
Pancreatic	2		
Renal	2		
Stomach	1		
Tonsil	1		

Natural Deaths 93-02



HEART DISEASE DEATHS	132
ASHD (Atherosclerotic Heart Disease)	97
Fatal Heart Attack	16
Previous Heart Attack History	10
Congenital Heart Defect	9

ANEURISMS	10
Thoracic Aneurism	5
AAA (Abdominal Aortic Aneurism)	4
Brain Aneurism	1

LUNG RELATED	22
COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonar)	8
Fatal Asthma Attack	6
HAPE (High Altitude Pulmonary Edem)	4
Pneumonia	4

OTHER Natural Causes	47
Liver Cirrhosis	13
Stillbirths	11
Diabetes related	5
SIDS	5
Sepsis	4
Stroke	2
Miscellaneous	7

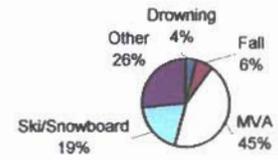
Includes: Adrenal failure, Hyper tensive crisis, autoimmune disease, Multi system organ failure, sleep apnea , scar tissue on brain, Ence

Total	251
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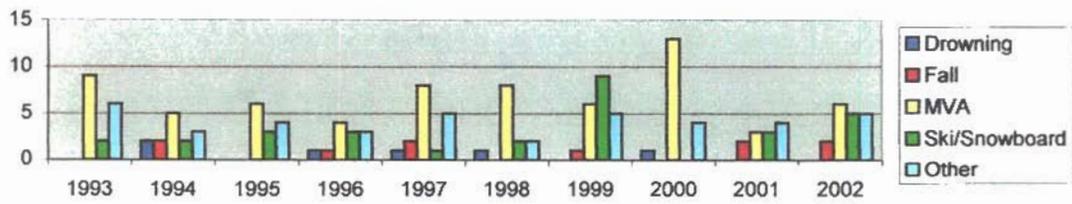
SECTION 3

Year	Drowning	Fall	MVA	Ski/Snowboard	Other	Grand Total		
1993			9	2	6	17		
1994		2	2	5	2	3	14	
1995			6		3	4	13	
1996	1	1	4		3	3	12	
1997	1	2	8		1	5	17	
1998		1	8		2	2	13	
1999			1	6		9	5	21
2000	1		13			4	18	
2001		2	3		3	4	12	
2002		2	6		5	5	18	
Grand Total	6	10	68	30	41	155		

Mode of Accidental Deaths 93-02

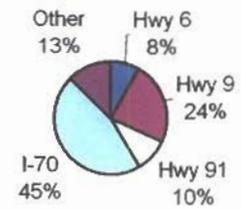


Mode of Accidental Deaths 93-02

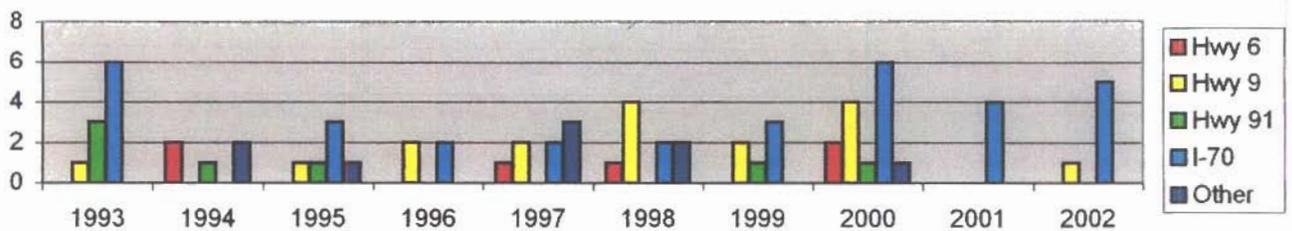


Year	Hwy 6	Hwy 9	Hwy 91	I-70	Other	Grand Total
1993		1	3	6		10
1994	2		1		2	5
1995		1	1	3	1	6
1996		2		2		4
1997	1	2		2	3	8
1998	1	4		2	2	9
1999		2	1	3		6
2000	2	4	1	6	1	14
2001				4		4
2002		1		5		6
Grand Total	6	17	7	33	9	72

Total MVA Deaths by Location 93-02



MVA Deaths by Location 93-02



"Other locations are locations which an accident occurred only once.

KEY:

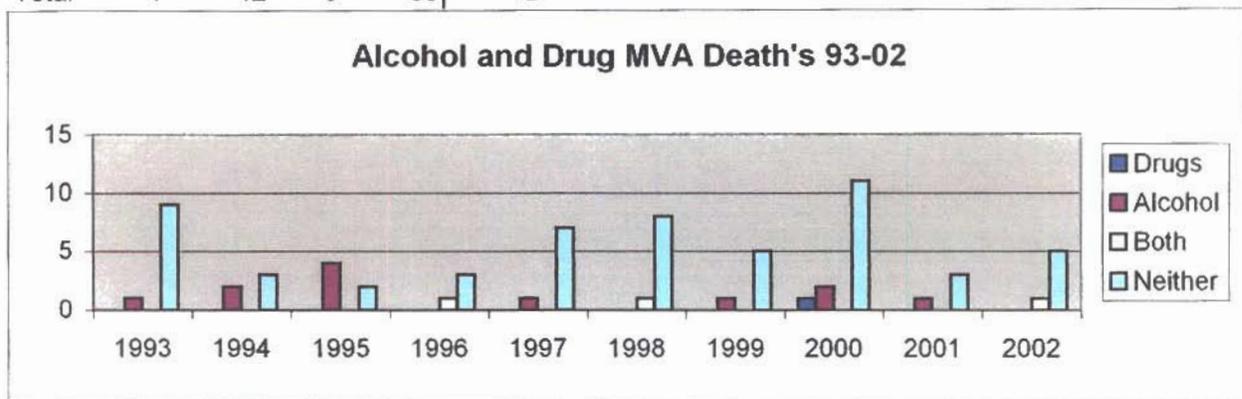
Hwy 6 = Highway 6 Loveland Pass to I-70

Hwy 9 = Highway 9 Hoosier Pass, through Breckenridge, Frisco, Svthn, Heeney, GMR

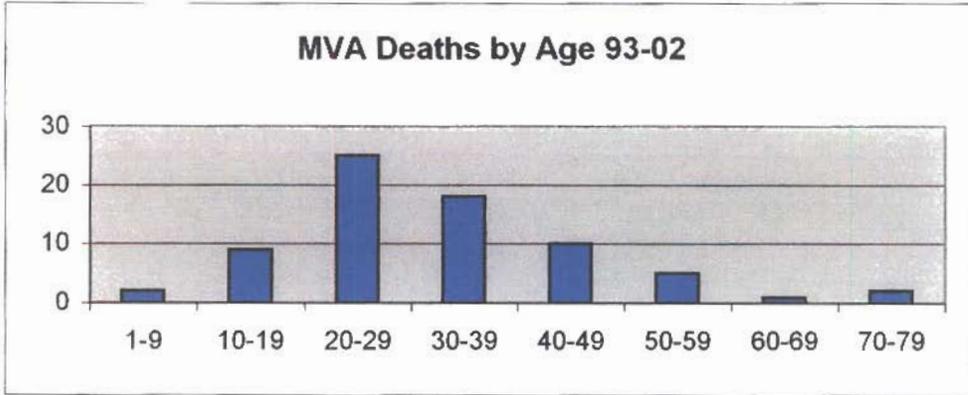
Hwy 91 = Highway 91 Freemont Pass, through Copper I Mtn, to I-70

I-70 = Interstate 70 Eisenhower Tunnel to Vail Pass

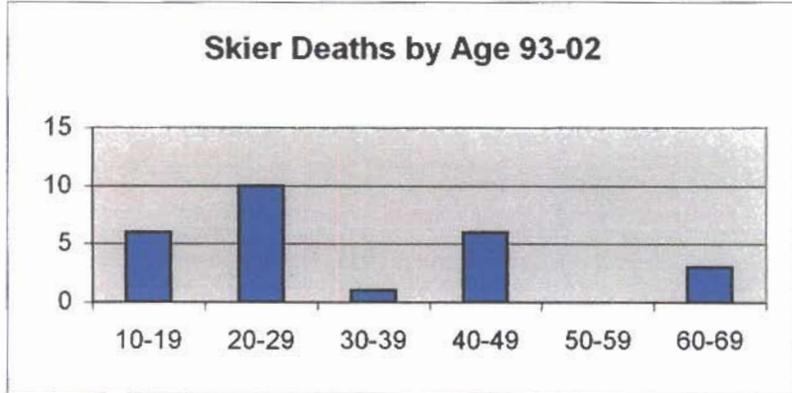
Year	Drugs	Alcohol	Both	Neither	Total
1993		1		9	10
1994		2		3	5
1995		4		2	6
1996			1	3	4
1997		1		7	8
1998			1	8	9
1999		1		5	6
2000	1	2		11	14
2001		1		3	4
2002			1	5	6
Total	1	12	3	56	72



1-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	Total
2	9	25	18	10	5	1	2	72

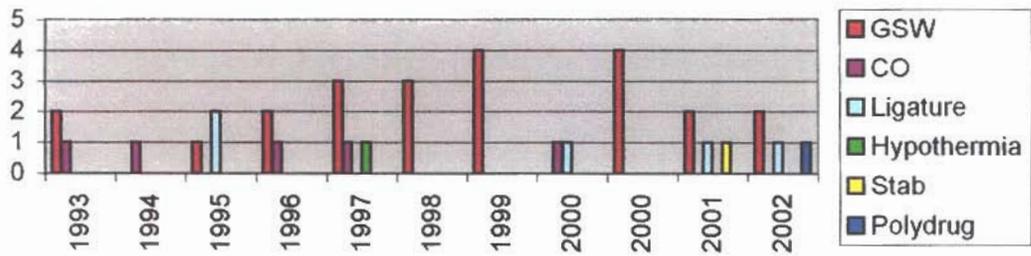


10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	Total
6	10	1	6	0	3	26

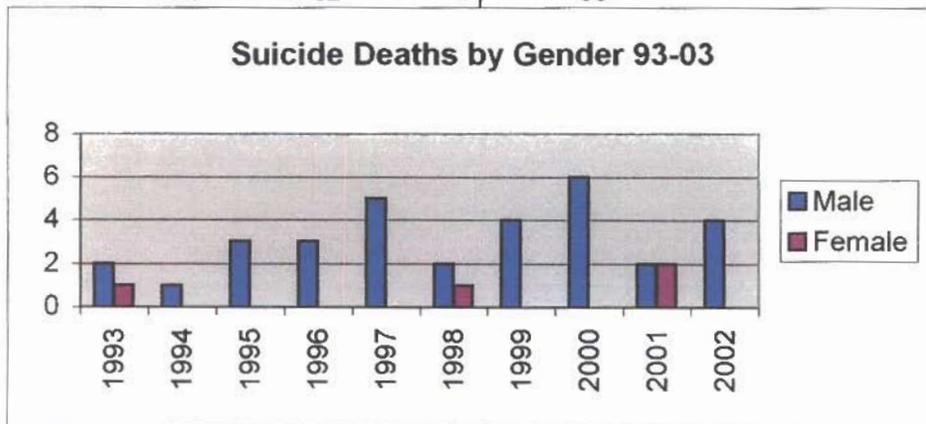


Year	GSW	CO	Ligature	Hypothermia	Stab	Polydrug	Total
1993	2	1					3
1994		1					1
1995	1		2				3
1996	2	1					3
1997	3	1			1		5
1998	3						3
1999	4						4
2000		1	1				2
2000	4						4
2001	2		1		1		4
2002	2		1			1	4
Total	23	5	5	1	1	1	36

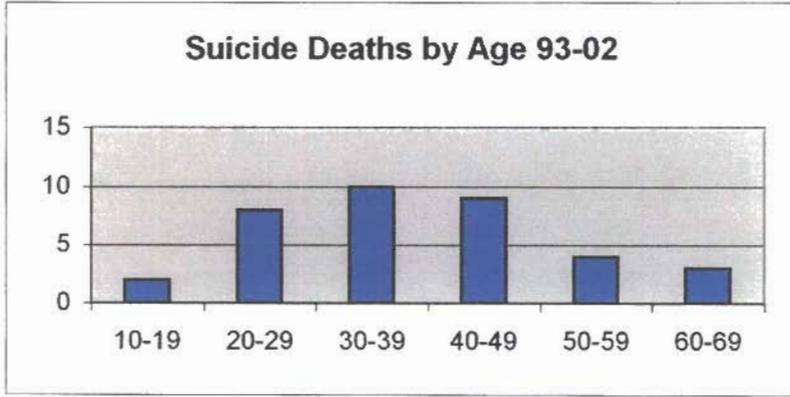
Mode of Suicide Deaths 93-02



Year	Male	Female	Total
1993	2	1	3
1994	1	0	1
1995	3	0	3
1996	3	0	3
1997	5	0	5
1998	2	1	3
1999	4	0	4
2000	6	0	6
2001	2	2	4
2002	4	0	4
Total	32	4	36



10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	Total
2	8	10	9	4	3	36



Age Range 17-66

Year	Blunt Force Trauma	Gunshot	Shaken Baby	Stabbing	Grand Total
1993					0
1994				1	1
1995	1				1
1996					0
1997			1		1
1998				1	1
1999					0
2000	1				1
2001					0
2002	1				1
Grand Total	3		1	1	6

