

**2014 Coroner Stats # of cases for the Year = 60**

**# Autopsies = 14**

**Transfer of jurisdiction = 6**

**Hospice = 7**

**MANNER of death**

**Natural = 36**

Heart failure = 25

Respiratory failure = 2

Seizure = 1 (Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome)

Eclampsia = 1

Severe pre-maturity = 1

Perforated gastric ulcer = 1

Cancer = 5 (pancreatic, metastatic esophageal, metastatic lung, osteosarcoma, breast)

**Accidental = 13**

Ski v. Tree = 4 (2 ski, 2 SB)

Avalanche= 1

Drowning= 1

Fall = 2

Overdose = 1

Motor Vehicle Crash = 2

Motor Vehicle vs Pedestrian= 2

**Suicide = 10 (1 alprazolam, 5 gsw, 2 hanging, 1 methamphetamine OD, 1 hydrogen sulfide poisoning)**

**Homicide = 1 (blunt force trauma head and neck)**

**Deaths By Month Breakdown**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Ap	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2003	7	3 <sup>10</sup>	8 <sup>18</sup>	6 <sup>24</sup>	3 <sup>27</sup>	0 <sup>27</sup>	6 <sup>33</sup>	3 <sup>36</sup>	2 <sup>38</sup>	2 <sup>40</sup>	4 <sup>44</sup>	3	47 <sup>25</sup>
2004	5	2 <sup>7</sup>	13 <sup>20</sup>	3 <sup>23</sup>	2 <sup>25</sup>	2 <sup>27</sup>	5 <sup>32</sup>	3 <sup>35</sup>	3 <sup>38</sup>	5 <sup>44</sup>	2 <sup>45</sup>	5	50 <sup>18</sup>
2005	9	5 <sup>14</sup>	5 <sup>19</sup>	2 <sup>21</sup>	3 <sup>24</sup>	3 <sup>27</sup>	5 <sup>32</sup>	3 <sup>35</sup>	1 <sup>36</sup>	5 <sup>41</sup>	4 <sup>45</sup>	5	50 <sup>13</sup>
*2006	11	8 <sup>19</sup>	8 <sup>27</sup>	2 <sup>29</sup>	3 <sup>32</sup>	6 <sup>38</sup>	8 <sup>46</sup>	4 <sup>50</sup>	5 <sup>55</sup>	5 <sup>60</sup>	3 <sup>63</sup>	7	70 <sup>25</sup>
2007	5	5 <sup>10</sup>	3 <sup>13</sup>	3 <sup>16</sup>	1 <sup>17</sup>	3 <sup>20</sup>	4 <sup>24</sup>	4 <sup>28</sup>	5 <sup>33</sup>	1 <sup>34</sup>	2 <sup>36</sup>	6	42 <sup>13</sup>
2008	8	7 <sup>15</sup>	4 <sup>13</sup>	7 <sup>24</sup>	3 <sup>29</sup>	3 <sup>32</sup>	4 <sup>36</sup>	3 <sup>39</sup>	4 <sup>43</sup>	4 <sup>47</sup>	2 <sup>49</sup>	7	63 <sup>14</sup>
2009	8	5 <sup>13</sup>	6 <sup>19</sup>	5 <sup>24</sup>	4 <sup>28</sup>	4 <sup>32</sup>	6 <sup>38</sup>	10 <sup>48</sup>	7 <sup>55</sup>	5 <sup>60</sup>	3 <sup>63</sup>	5	68 <sup>13</sup>
2010	4	6 <sup>10</sup>	9 <sup>19</sup>	4 <sup>23</sup>	3 <sup>26</sup>	4 <sup>30</sup>	6 <sup>36</sup>	3 <sup>39</sup>	5 <sup>44</sup>	4 <sup>48</sup>	3 <sup>51</sup>	4	55 <sup>7</sup>
2011	6	7 <sup>13</sup>	5 <sup>18</sup>	3 <sup>21</sup>	7 <sup>28</sup>	6 <sup>34</sup>	9 <sup>43</sup>	2 <sup>45</sup>	3 <sup>48</sup>	3 <sup>51</sup>	2 <sup>53</sup>	3	56 <sup>10</sup>
2012	10	10	7	4	8	1	3	3	4	5	3	3	61 <sup>14</sup>
2013	10	10	3	6	4	5	6	4	5	4	7	12	76 <sup>16</sup>
2014	7	6	7	5	7	4	5	5	5	2	4	3	60 <sup>14</sup>
AUT	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	14

AUT = autopsy

## Gender of decedent

	Male (46)	Female (14)
Natural	25	11
Accidental	11	2
Suicide	9	1
Homicide	1	0

## Average Age of decedent

## Average Age of Hospice decedent

Male: 53.8 years (range 19-91)  
Female: 50.8 years (range 0-95)

63 years (range 61-65)  
52.6 years (range 1-91)

## Residency of decedent

Summit County 35 (58%)  
Colorado 18 (30%)  
Other US States 7 (12%)

## Snow sport deaths

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Skier Deaths (% of total deaths)	3 (5%)	4 (5%)	8 (13%)	5 (9%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)
Snowboarder	2 (3%)	0	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	3 (5%)	2 (4%)
Combined skier and snowboarder	5 (8%)	4 (5%)	9 (15%)	6 (11%)	5 (9%)	3 (6%)

## Helmet usage

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Decedent skiers wearing helmets	3(100%)	2(50%)	5(62%)	2(40%)	1(50%)	0
Decedent snowboarders	1 (50%)	0	1(100%)	1(100%)	2(67%)	1(50%)

## Deaths by ski area

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
A-Basin	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Breckenridge	0	1	0	2	1	3	2
Copper Mountain	1	1	3	0	3	0	0
Keystone	3	2	5	2	1	0	7
Back country	1						

## Motor vehicle crash deaths

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Number of deaths	2	1	3	8	5	5
Number of decedents using seatbelt	2	0	1	2	3	4
Alcohol involvement	0	0	1	2	1	1

## TRENDS/COMMENTS

Following a record number of deaths in 2013, Summit County deaths in 2014 totaled 60, nearing the previous 10 year average of 59.1deaths/year.

The most logical explanation for this change in 2014 was the decrease in the number of Bristlecone Hospice deaths. In 2014, the total number of hospice deaths was 7 (as compared to 22 in 2013). Cancers caused 5 of the 7deaths.

Again in 2014, the predominant cause of death in Summit County was heart failure. It was reported in 69% of natural deaths in Summit County.

As in 2013, a greater number of the decedents were Summit County residents 35 (58%).

The majority (65%) of all deaths occurred in unincorporated Summit County. Within the incorporated municipalities the 18 deaths were nearly evenly divided. The other 7 decedents were visiting from 7 different states. No decedents were determined to be homeless.

In 2014 suicide increased in Summit County. There were 10 suicide deaths (as compared to 8 deaths in 2013) and the suicide death rate increased to17%. Males accounted for 90% of the suicides with average age of 41 years (age range 19-79). 9 of the decedents were Summit County residents. Self-inflicted gunshot wounds accounted for 50% of the suicides. There were 2 hangings and 3 intentional poisonings.

Accidental deaths also increased in 2014. The accidental death rate was 21.7% in 2014 vs 15.8% in 2013. In 2014, 11 of the 13 decedents from accidental deaths were male with an average age of 43 years (age range 21-86). The 2 females were ages 26 and 95.

Death is unpredictable. Statistically more deaths were reported in the cold weather months. Deaths occurred on every day of the week however the greatest number were reported on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Regarding the time of death in 2014, half occurred between 8AM-4PM, 25% between 4pm-midnight, and 25% between midnight- 8AM.

Abused drugs directly causing 3 deaths in 2014. The drugs were oxymorphone, oxycodone, alprazolam, and methamphetamine

Alcohol did not directly cause any 2014 deaths in Summit County. Alcohol did however contribute in some deaths including 2 suicides.

2014 reported 2 deaths from motor vehicle crashes. Both were wearing seatbelts. Alcohol was not associated with the 2 motor vehicular crashes.

There were 5 snow sport related deaths in 2014. All were male, 3 skiers, 2 snowboarders. Helmets were worn by all except for 1 snowboarder. One of the ski deaths was a victim of an avalanche.

Using raw numbers, I have attempted to identify trends by comparison to data collected from previous years. Given the relatively small sample size number of deaths in Summit County, it is problematic to draw definitive conclusions regarding death in Summit County.

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