SUMMIT COUNTY
COLORADO

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2017 Summit County Deaths

Breakdown by Manner and Cause of Death

There were 63 total deaths in Summit County in 2017:

Natural: 45

- Cardiac: 28
  - Coronary artery disease: 19
  - Congestive heart failure: 5 (1 in hospice)
  - Pericardial tamponade: 1
  - Complications from atrial fibrillation: 1
  - Complications from mitral valve prolapse: 1
  - Myocardial infarction: 1
  - Cardiomegaly: 1
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: 2
- Pulmonary embolism: 1
- Liver failure: 1
- Pneumonia: 2
- Diabetic complications: 2
- ALS: 2
- Complications from grand mal seizure: 1
- Cancer: 6 (all in hospice)

Accidental: 13

- Overdose: 2
- Blunt force trauma, ski related: 4 (3 skiers, 1 snowboarder)
- Blunt force trauma, motor vehicle crash: 5
- Fatty emboli: 1 (due to a skier accident: broken femur and tib-fib)
- Drowning: 1

Suicide: 5

- Overdose: 1
- Hanging: 1
- Gunshot wound: 3

Transfers and Autopsies

There were 16 autopsies in 2017, compared to 24 in 2016.

There were 4 transfer-of-jurisdiction cases in 2017 (compared to 10 in 2016), meaning that the original incident causing the death occurred in Summit County, but the death occurred in another county, following transport out of Summit to a facility in the Denver area for treatment.

Trends and Observations

2017 was not as busy as the previous two years for the Summit County Coroner's Office; we recorded 63 deaths. We had 82 deaths in 2016, and 87 in 2015.

As in previous years, the most common manner of death remains natural, with cardiac leading in cause. Of the 7 hospice cases, 6 were cancer related, and the other was due to congestive heart failure.

Accidental deaths totaled 13, compared to 22 in 2016. The leading cause again this year was motor vehicle crashes, which claimed the lives of 5 people. Accidental overdoses decreased from 4 in 2016 to 2 in 2017. I believe the countywide educational campaigns and programs addressing this issue are having a positive effect and are helping to reduce our accidental overdose numbers.

Snow-sports related deaths totaled 5 in 2017. Of the 5 deaths, 4 were skiers and 1 was a snowboarder. Three of the deceased were wearing helmets; the other 2 were not.

Suicides totaled 5 in 2017, down dramatically from 13 in 2016. The leading cause continues to be gunshot wounds, which were the cause of death in 3 of the suicides. There was 1 intentional overdose and 1 hanging. Suicide prevention is another area in which the community has devoted significant resources to public education and support programs in recent years.

As in previous years, alcohol and drugs continue to play a part in many deaths. Toxicology testing reveals that many decedents have alcohol and marijuana in their systems. In such cases, drugs and/or alcohol are not listed as a primary cause of death, but as a significant condition on the death certificate.

Community Outreach

The Summit County Coroner's Office continued to provide outreach and education to the community in 2017 through the following events and activities:

- Presentation to Summit County Senior Citizens: "Death and Dying in Summit County." DNR procedures, using the Colorado MOST form and general question-and-answer session regarding procedures for hospice deaths and unexpected deaths in the home.

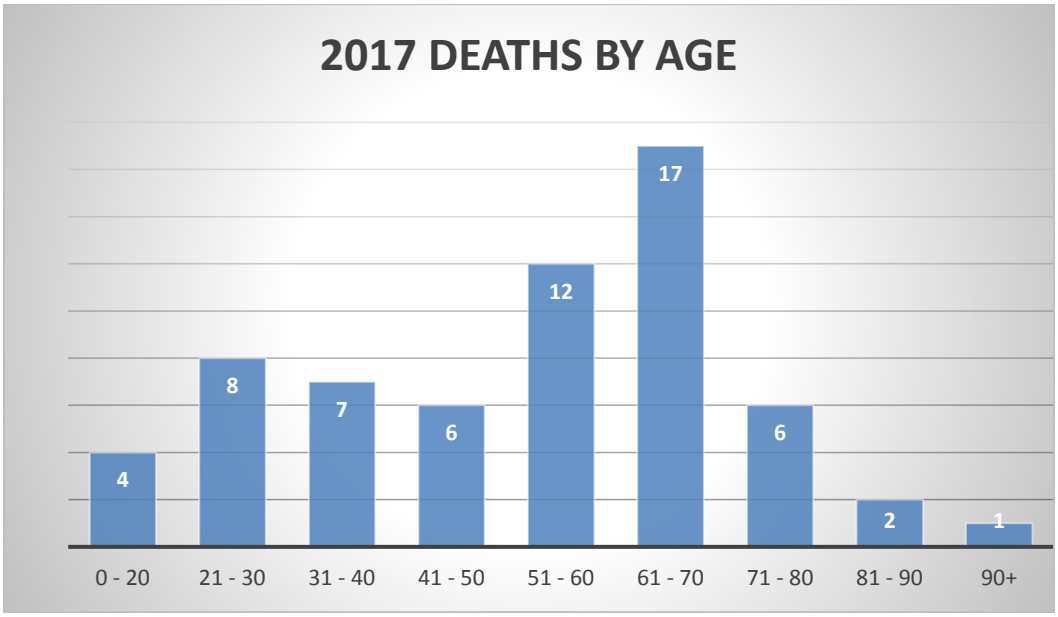
- Presentation to Summit County emergency medical services staff: Utilizing Survivor Support Services and resources for on-scene persons affected by a death.

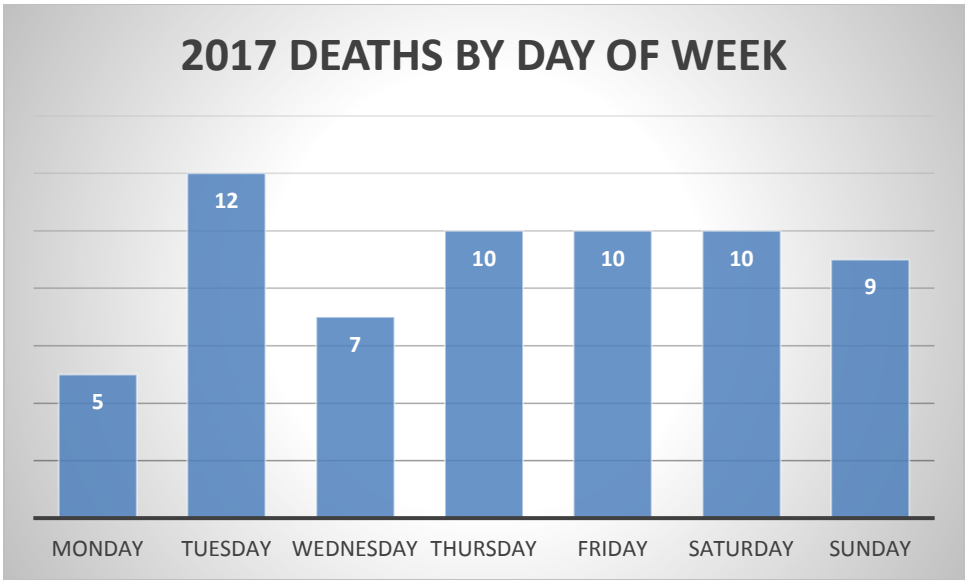
- Two presentations to Summit High School Criminal Justice class: Death investigation and Coroner's Office duties.

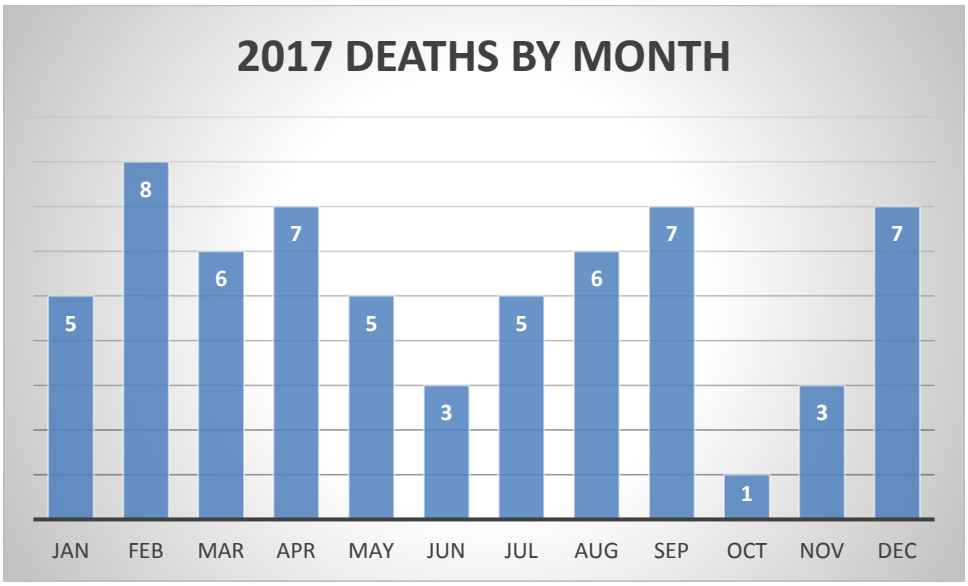
- Presentation to Summit Middle School STEM classes: Death investigation, Coroner's Office duties, how to pursue a degree in the forensic sciences.

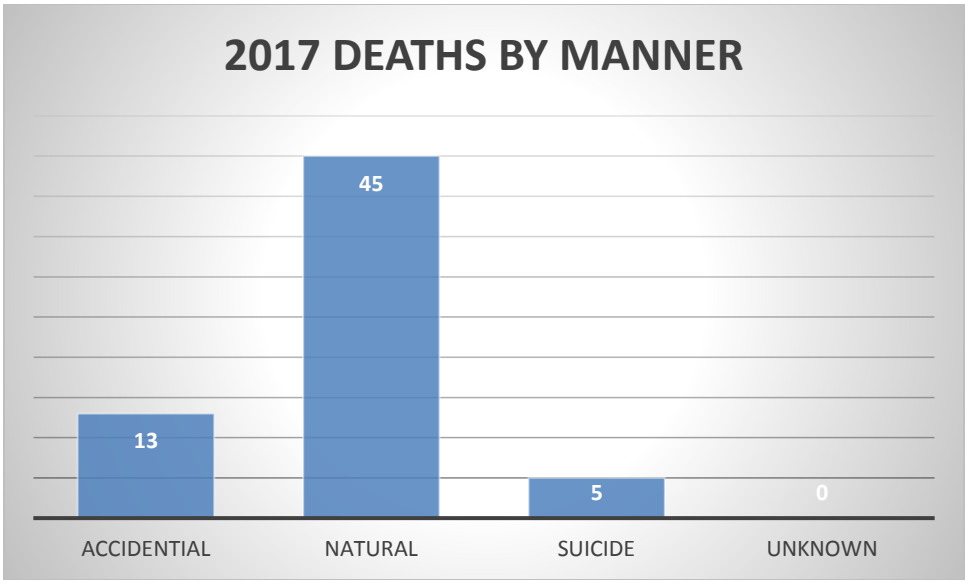
- Two presentations to Colorado Mountain College Death and Dying class: Death investigation and Coroner's Office duties.

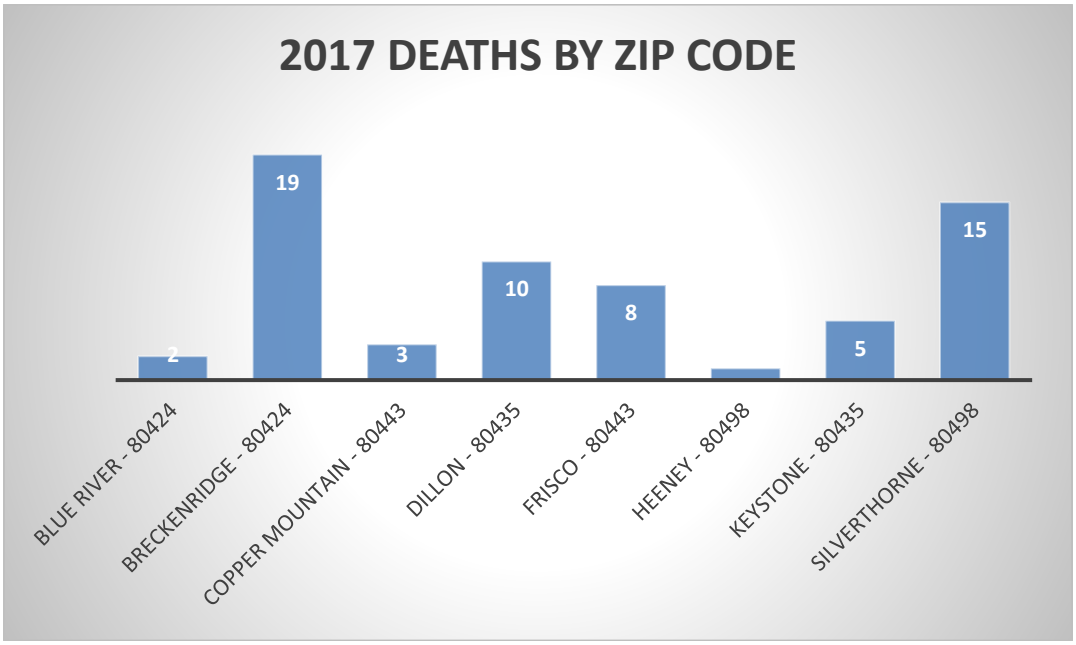
Summit County Coroner's Office
2017 Summary Statistics

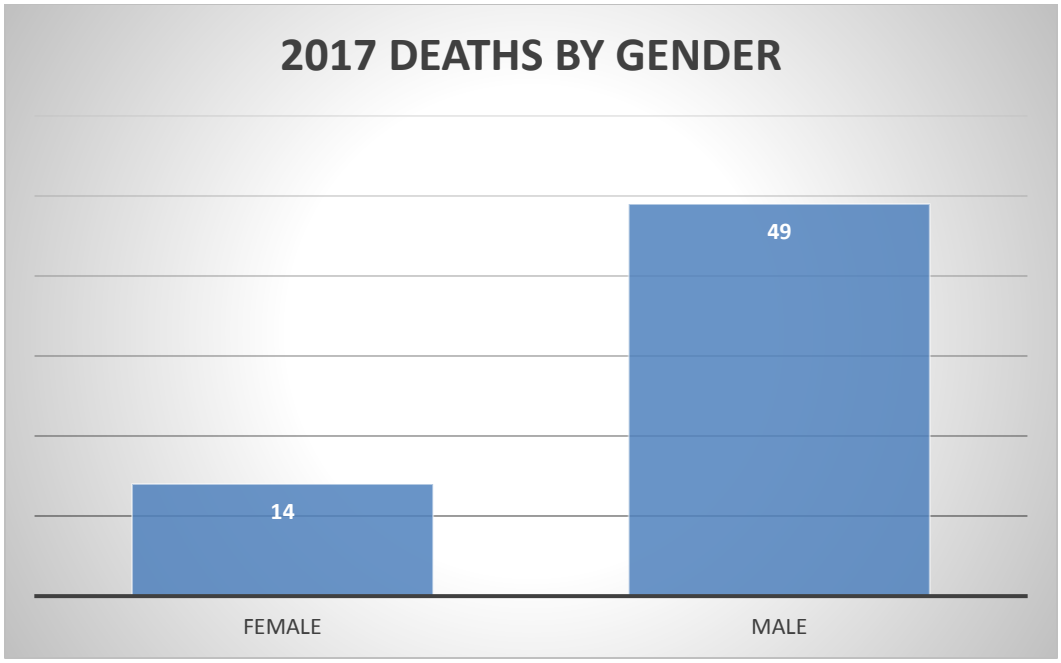



2017 DEATHS BY DAY OF WEEK
5
12
7
10
10
10
9
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY


2017 DEATHS BY MONTH
5
8
6
7
5
3
5
6
7
1
3
7
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
JUN
JUL
AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC


2017 DEATHS BY MANNER
45
13
5
0
ACCIDENTIAL
NATURAL
SUICIDE
UNKNOWN


2017 DEATHS BY ZIP CODE
19
10
8
15
5
3
2
BLUE RIVER - 80424
BRECKENRIDGE - 80424
COPPER MOUNTAIN - 80443
DILLON - 80435
FRISCO - 80443
HEENEY - 80498
KEYSTONE - 80435
SILVERTHORNE - 80498


2017 DEATHS BY GENDER
49
14
FEMALE
MALE