

Bannock County

Coroner



2022 Annual Report

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Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Bannock County

The Bannock County Coroner's Office is statutorily obligated to investigate and determine the cause and manner in all deaths that are unattended, accidental, violent in nature, suspicious, or in the death of a child that occur in Bannock County. Our investigations are parallel to but separate from the law enforcement investigation. The Office of the Coroner certifies death after investigation and postmortem examination and issues the death certificate as required by law. Complete findings of the death investigation are distributed to families and law enforcement agencies as appropriate.

The main duties of the Office of Coroner are to determine the cause and manner of death, and certify deaths that are reported to the coroner. The cause of death is the disease process or injury that resulted in death. There are thousands of diseases and injuries that may result in death. The manner of death is a classification in which a determination is made regarding whether the death resulted from natural causes, homicide, suicide, or an accident. On occasion, the manner of death is classified as undetermined.

Information collected during the investigation helps clarify the circumstances, such as the sequence of events prior to death. Evidence collected during an investigation and/or postmortem examination may help lead to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in a homicide case. Because deaths occur around the clock, coroner staff members must be available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

For the first time in Bannock County, the staff of the Bannock County Coroner's Office have been certified with the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI). With the skill and experience of the ABMDI-certified death investigators and board-certified forensic pathologist, we believe the quality of death investigations in Bannock County is among the best in the State. The death scene investigation reports filed by the investigators are very thorough and comprehensive. Our investigators also extend their duties to the living by answering questions and addressing concerns regarding deaths within the county.

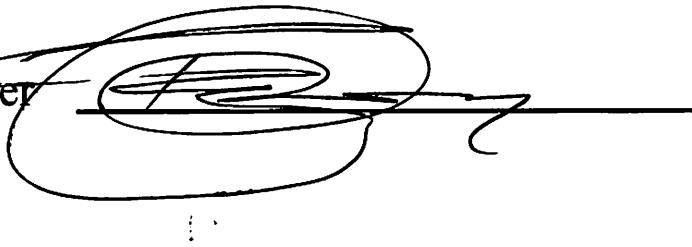
Investigators frequently make personal contact with family members of a deceased and assist them by providing appropriate answers regarding the circumstance of the death.

The Bannock County Coroner's Office utilizes MDI Log for case management and storage. MDI Log is a comprehensive investigative report/database system that enables the Coroner to review death scene investigation information from a secure internet site at any time of the day. MDI Log enables investigators to input death scene investigation reports in an efficient manner. MDI Log has evolved to become a valuable tool for our office and it is now utilized by many medical examiners and coroner's offices across the county.

To the Bannock County Board of Commissioners, I ask for your support of the growth and evolution of this office and the services we provide to the citizens of Bannock County.

Thank You,

Coroner T. Danner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Coroner T. Danner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized oval at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bannock County Coroner's Office Staff

**Torey Danner
Coroner**

**J.R. Farnsworth
Chief Deputy Coroner**

Mission Statement: *We will serve and advocate for the deceased and their families with compassion and professionalism while being diligent and transparent in our investigations.*

Vision Statement: *Lead the region in medicolegal death investigations through education and accreditation.*

Values: *Bannock County Coroner's office values honesty, transparency, compassion, integrity, and the fostering of relationships.*

Goals and Objectives

- Develop a strong foundation that can sustain evolution and possible growth to meet the needs of the office.
 - Initiate the accreditation process to become an accredited office by the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (IACME) by the end of 2023.
 - Complete a policy and procedure manual that covers all the requirements of the IACME requirements by the end of 2023.
 - Add a full-time investigator to the staff to meet the current needs of this office.
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Ada County Forensic Pathology

Dotti Owens Coroner	Brett Harding Chief Deputy Coroner	
Christina Di Loreto Forensic Pathologist	Garth Warren Forensic Pathologist	Chiara Mancini Forensic Pathologist

Types of Deaths Reportable to the County Coroner

Idaho Title 19 Chapter 43 mandates that specific types of death are to be referred to the coroner for investigation. These deaths include sudden and unexpected deaths, accidental deaths, and violent deaths. The coroner has the authority under Idaho Statute 19-4301B to order an autopsy at any time it is deemed necessary to determine or confirm the cause and manner of death.

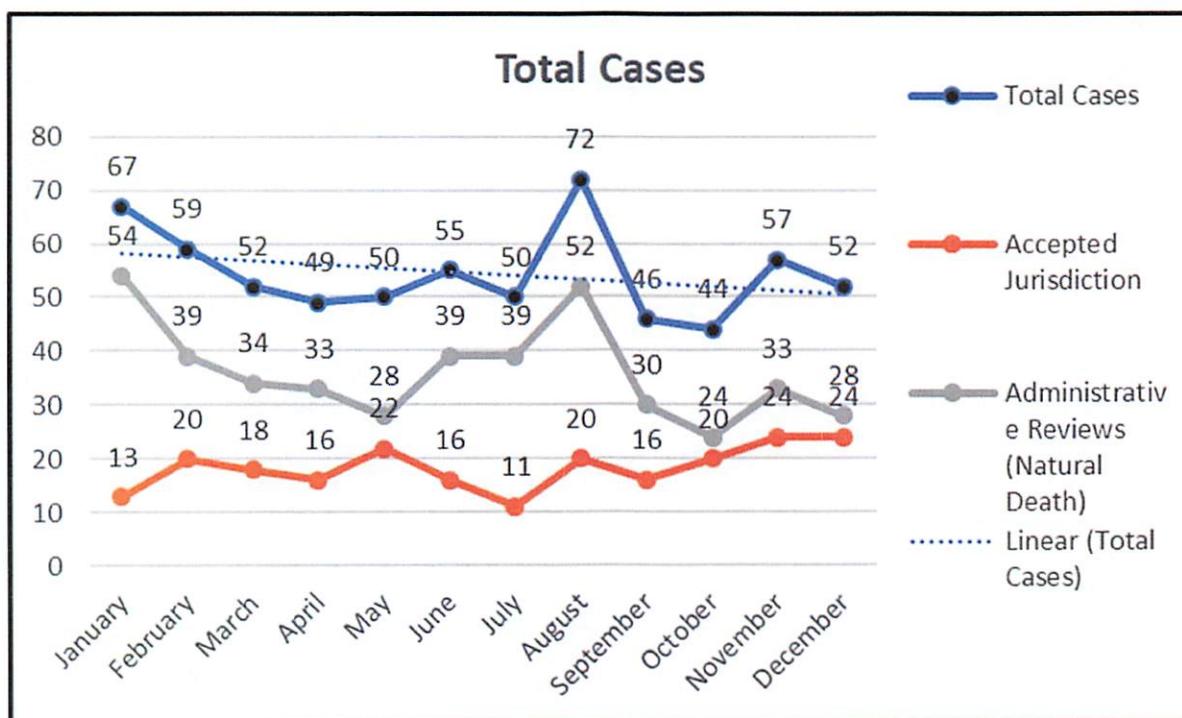
TITLE 19 CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CHAPTER 43 CORONER'S INQUESTS

19-4301. COUNTY CORONER TO INVESTIGATE DEATHS. (1) When a county coroner is informed that a person has died, the county coroner shall investigate that death if:

- (a) The death occurred as a result of violence, whether apparently by homicide, suicide or by accident;
 - (b) The death occurred under suspicious or unknown circumstances; or
 - (c) The death is of a stillborn child or any child if there is a reasonable articulable suspicion to believe that the death occurred without a known medical disease to account for the stillbirth or child's death.
- (2) If a death occurs that is not attended by a physician and the cause of death cannot be certified by a physician, the coroner must refer the investigation of the death to the sheriff of the county or the chief of police of the city in which the incident causing the death occurred or, if such county or city is unknown, to the sheriff or chief of police of the county or city where the body was found. The investigation shall be the responsibility of the sheriff or chief of police. Upon completion of the investigation, a written report shall be provided to the coroner of the county in which the death occurred or, if such county is unknown, to the coroner of the county where the body was found.
- (3) A coroner in the county where the incident causing the death occurred or, if such county is unknown, the coroner in the county where the body was found, may conduct an inquest if there are reasonable grounds to believe as a result of the investigation that the death occurred as provided in subsection (1) of this section.
- (4) If an inquest is to be conducted, the coroner shall summon six (6) persons qualified by law to serve as jurors for the inquest.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the tenets of any church or religious belief.

Bannock County Coroner Cases for 2022

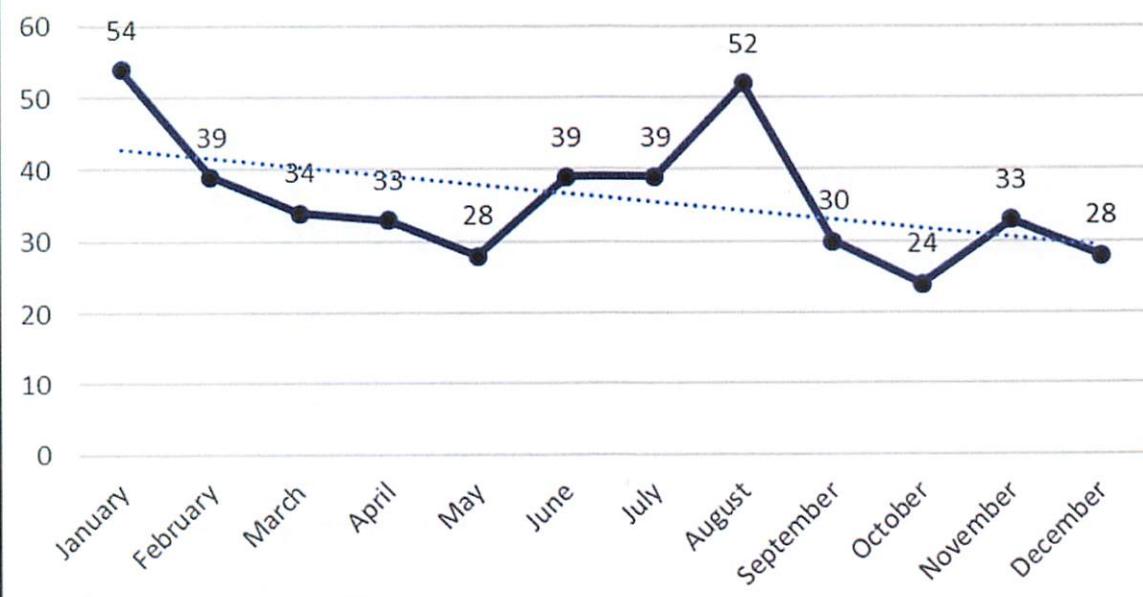
Population (Census, April 1, 2020)	87,018
Cases Reported to Coroner	653
Number of deaths requiring Full Autopsy (including toxicology)	25
Number of cases accepted jurisdiction	220
Number or External Examinations of a Decedent	197
Number of cases receiving scene investigations	194
Number of cases reviewed w/o accepted jurisdiction	433
Number of bodies transported by the office	25
Number of cases with only toxicology	32
Number of Unidentified bodies	0
Number of Exhumations	1



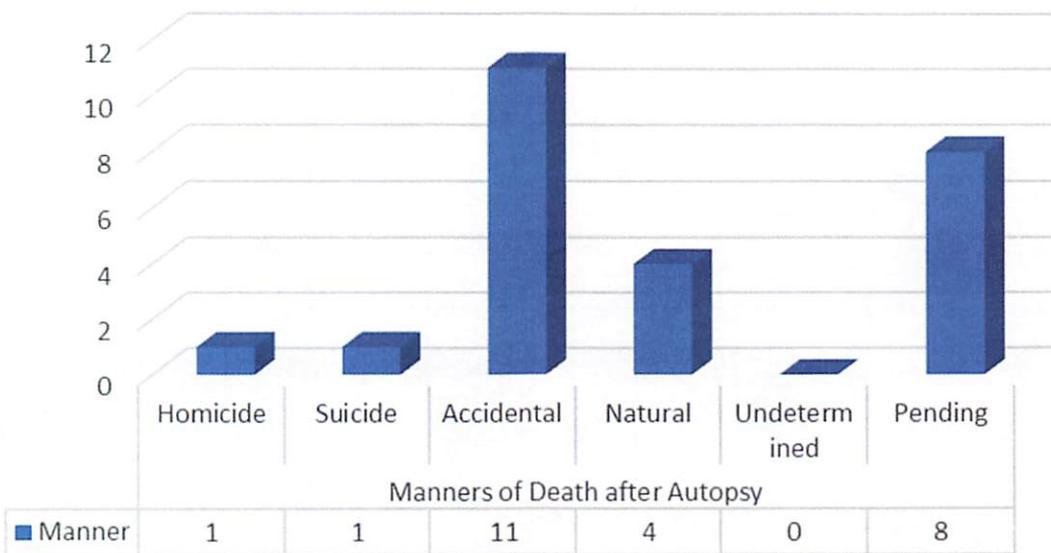
Accepted Jurisdiction



Administrative Reviews (Natural Death)



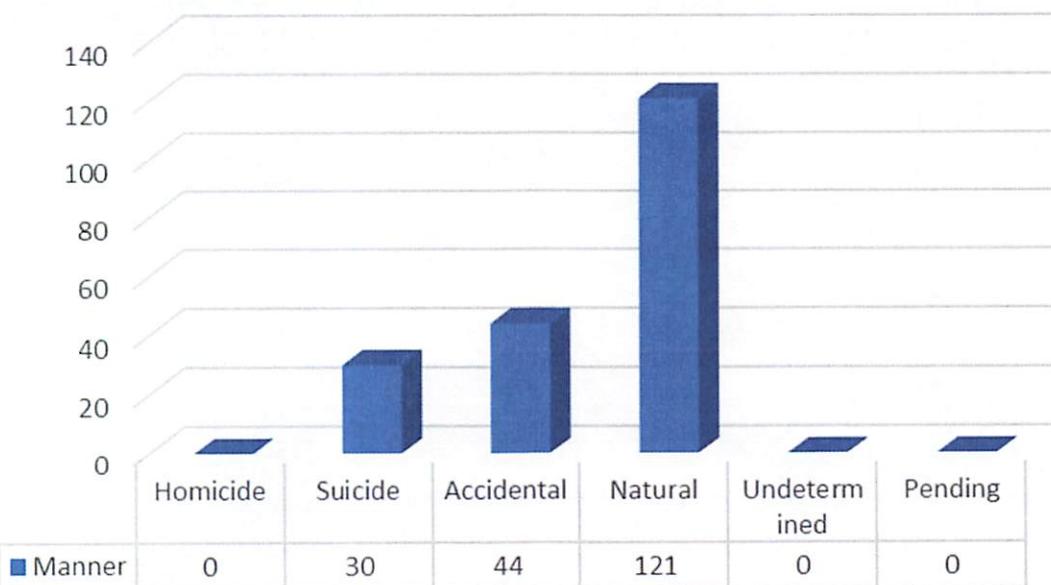
Manners of Death after Autopsy



*One autopsy was investigated in 2020 but exhumed in 2022 for autopsy.

* All accidental deaths were drug related with Fentanyl involved.

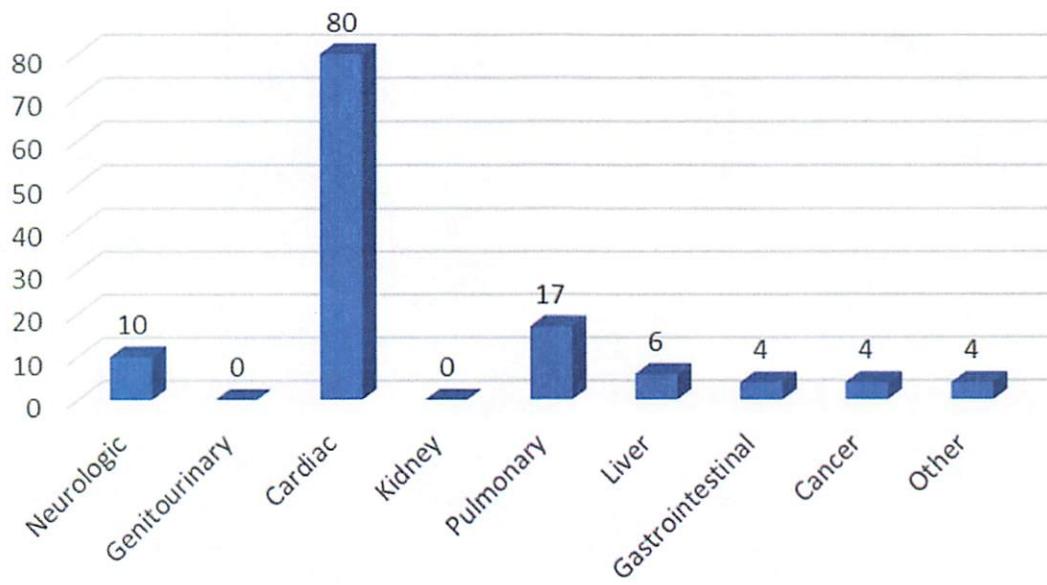
Manners of Death by Investigation w/o Autopsy



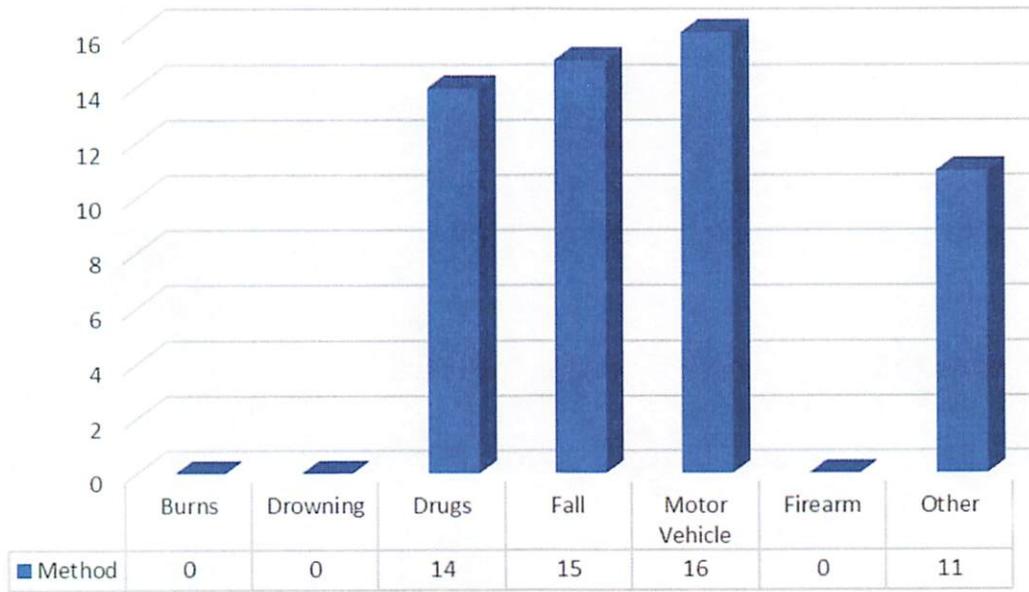
Total Cases By Manner

Homicide	Suicide	Accidental	Natural	Undetermined	Pending
1	31	55	125	0	8

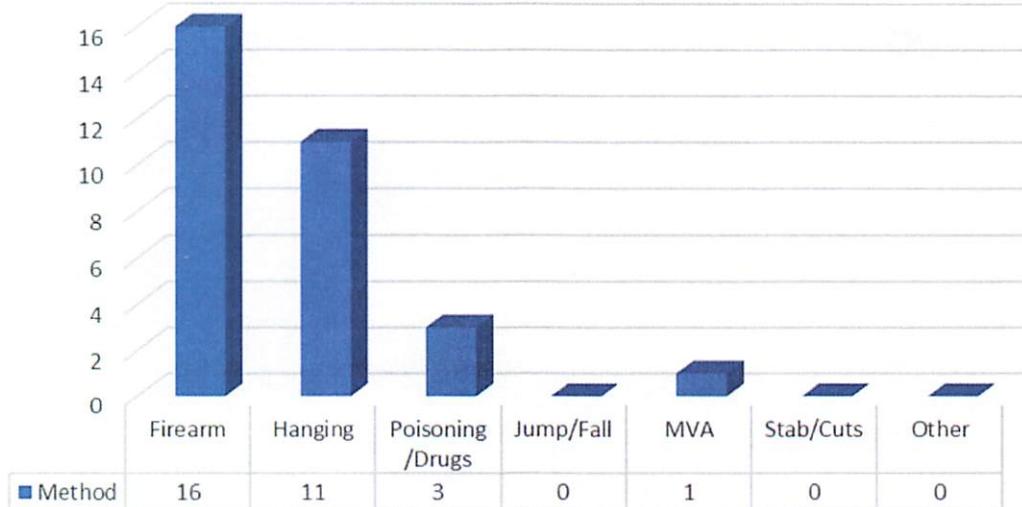
Natural Deaths by Cause after Investigation



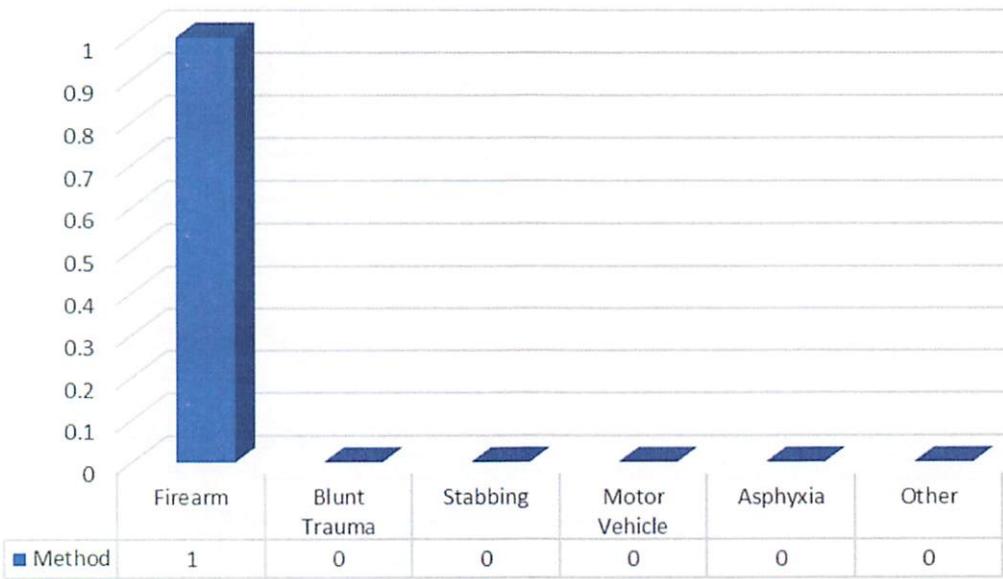
Accidental Deaths by Type



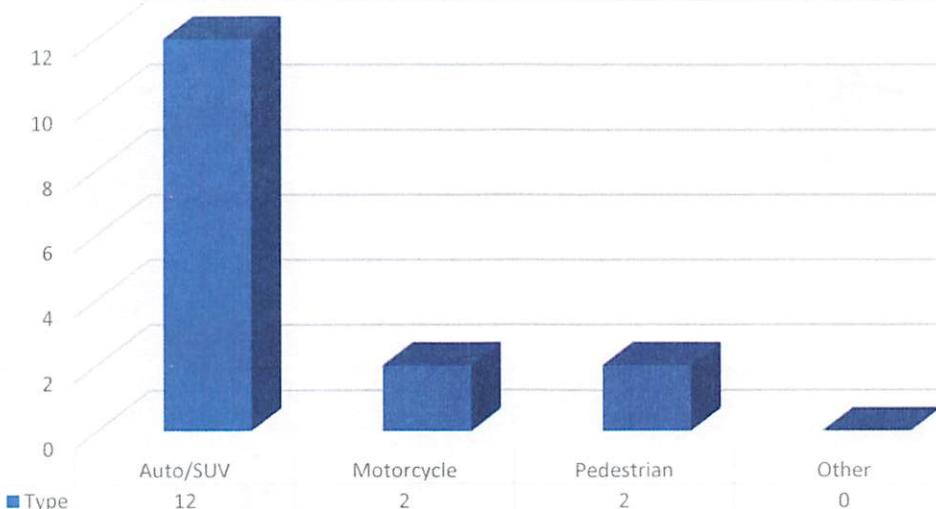
Methods of Suicide



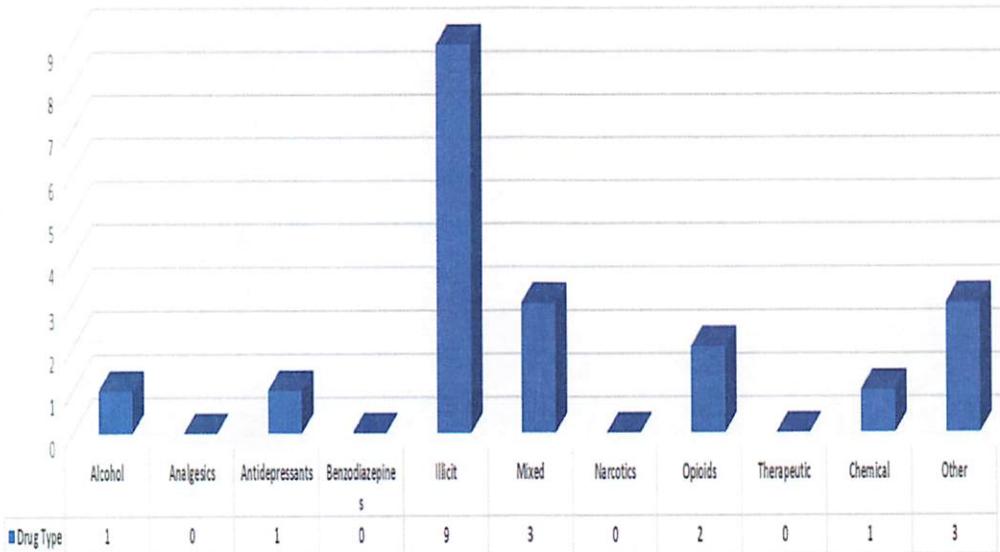
Methods of Homicide

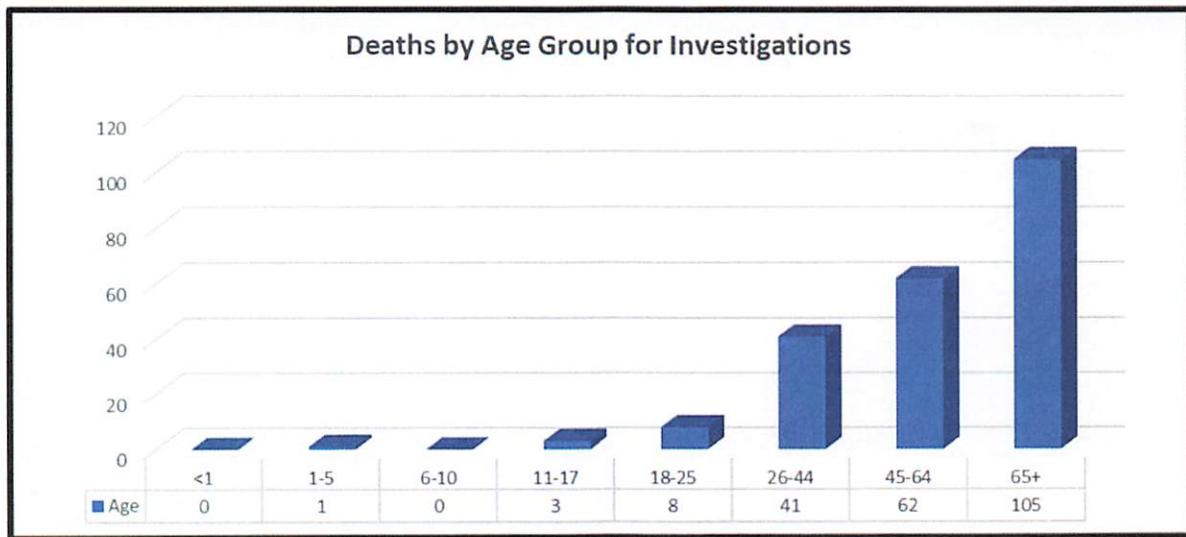


Motor Vehicle Deaths



Deaths Involving Drugs





**Idaho Department of Health & Welfare 2020 Annual Report
for Bannock County's Profile**

<https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=21564&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS>

Live Births	Infant Deaths	Perinatal Deaths	Induced Abortions	Reported Deaths
1,048	4	13	65	855
<i>Cause of Death</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>% of all deaths</i>
Heart Disease			194	22.69%
Malignant Neoplasms			149	17.43%
COVID-19			59	6.90%
Accident			53	6.20%
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases			52	6.08%
Cerebrovascular Diseases			30	3.51%
Alzheimer's Disease			44	5.15%
Diabetes Mellitus			26	3.04%
Suicide			22	2.57%
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis			28	3.27%
All other causes			198	23.16%