Fremont County Coroner

2023 Case Summary & Comparison (as of 01/08/2024)
(National Statistic Comparison from CDC-National Vital Statistics System, 2020, most recent available)

A. TOTALS: There have been 298 recorded deaths in Fremont County for 2023, 39 less than that of 2022 (337):
   1. The Coroner’s Office was contacted 161 times for investigation/referral
   2. Of the 161 contacts, 139 were Coroner Cases (46.6%).
   3. The total number of Coroner Cases is 10 less than 2022 (149).

B. CASES: Coroner cases for 2023, 36% (50) were “non-natural” in manner (accident, homicide, suicide, undetermined). This is one more than that of 2022 (49). Of those:
   1. The number of accidental deaths is 35, one less than 2022 (36). The leading cause of accidental death in 2023 is motor vehicle accidents (12), second is drug and/or alcohol toxicity (9), and third is falls and asphyxia (4 each). Others are drowning (3), and hypothermia (3).
   2. The number of deaths by suicide is 9, two more than 2022 (7).
   3. The number of deaths by homicide is 3, the same as that of 2022.
   4. The number of deaths ruled undetermined is 3 (two vehicular, one prehistoric/pre-contact skeletal remains).

C. Motor-vehicle/Traffic deaths: There have been 14 motor vehicle deaths in 2023, three less than in 2022. (13 incidents resulting in 14 deaths).
   1. Nine, or 64% of the total involved alcohol and/or drugs.
   2. Two pedestrian deaths, one ATV.
   3. Eleven fatalities involved vehicles equipped with safety restraints – six were in use.
   4. Twelve are Accidental in manner, 2 are Undetermined in manner.

D. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:
   1. Total Drug and Alcohol related deaths account for 42 of all 139 cases, or 30%, slightly lower than 2022’s 33%. Of the non-natural deaths, 28 of 50 were drug/alcohol related, or 56% - a slight decrease from 2022’s 63%.
   2. The contributing factor in accidental deaths in Fremont County is drugs and/or alcohol at 57% (20 of 35 deaths), a decrease from 66% in 2022.
   3. The primary substance of abuse in Fremont County remains alcohol at 26 (61%). Methamphetamine is at 13 (down from 16 in 2022). Cannabis is at 4 (down from 5 in 2022). Fentanyl is at 4 (down from 5 in 2022). Benzodiazepines are at 1. Opiates, excluding Fentanyl (oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine etc.) are at 3. Note: some cases involve more than one substance relating to drug and/or alcohol.

E. LOCATION:
   1. Coroner’s Office responded to Riverton (54), Lander (47), Fort Washakie (10), Ethete (7), Dubois (6), Hudson and Shoshoni (4 each), Jeffery City and Pavillion/Kinnear (3 each), and Crowheart (1).
   2. 6 cases were at Sage West Hospital Lander, 5 cases at Sage West Hospital Riverton. 2 cases at WMC-Casper.
   3. 19 cases involved Search and Rescue and/or Fire Department(s), 2 involved BLM/THPO/NAGPRA.

F. AUTOPSY:
   1. 24 Autopsies were completed for Fremont County cases.
   2. 23 Contractual autopsies were completed for surrounding counties.
   3. 3 contractual cases from December are waiting for payment - total revenue billed for 2023 calendar year $45,275.00

G. NOTES:
   1. Budget: Currently estimated at 3% under average for this time of year. Overtime is at 34.5%.
   2. There have been no unclaimed remains burials in 2023.
   3. There have been no unidentified cases in 2023.

Erin Ivie, Coroner