

FOREWORD

The Yakima Coroner's Office serves the community by investigating sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. The Coroner's staff recognizes the tragedy surrounding any untimely death and performs investigations, in part, to assist the grieving family. A complete investigation provides for the expeditious settling of estates and insurance claims, as well as for implementing civil and criminal actions. Questions which seem irrelevant in the initial hours after death can become significant in the following months. The surviving family, friends, and general public can have the assurance the Coroner conducted a comprehensive investigation.

When a death occurs on the job or is work related, we immediately forward the results of our investigation to the State Department of Labor and Industries so family can gain the full benefits of our findings. Private insurance companies also routinely use our finding to settle claims. Whenever a consumer product is implicated in a death, we notify the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ensure the product is studied and the necessary steps taken to protect the public. One of the Coroner's functions is to isolate and identify causes of sudden, unexpected death. When an infectious agent or poison is the cause of death, we notify the family and contacts of the deceased so they may receive any needed medical treatment. In this era of concern regarding bioterrorism, the Coroner provides an important level of surveillance for such possibilities.

Civil or criminal judicial proceedings frequently require the medical investigation of violent death. The Yakima County Coroner's Office conducts a prompt medico legal investigation to provide the criminal justice system with medical information and evidence required for adjudication. Although criminal death investigations constitute a small portion of deaths investigated by the Coroner's Office, these deaths are studied in great detail due to the legal issues and consequences involved. In this way, The Yakima County Coroner's Office offers the criminal justice system the best support that medical science can provide.

In summary, the Yakima County Coroner's Office brings trained medico legal evaluation to the investigation of deaths that are of concern to the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THE *Yakima County Coroner's Office*

Washington State utilizes three systems for the investigation of deaths. The Medical Examiner's system is used for county populations of more than 250,000; the Coroner's system is used for county populations of 40,000 to 250,000, and in counties with a population less than 40,000, the Prosecuting Attorney assumes the responsibilities of the Coroner.

Yakima County is under the *Coroner System* with a population of 235,900, which is the 7th largest county population in Washington State and encompasses 4,296 square miles, making it the second largest county in the State of Washington.

The Coroner is an elected position. The Coroner is responsible for the investigation of sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unnatural deaths. The key functions under the Coroner's direction are: forensic pathology, scene investigation & circumstances of death, autopsy support, and when indicated, certification of death, identification of the deceased, notification of next-of-kin, and control and disposition of the deceased's personal property.

Deaths that come under the jurisdiction of the Yakima County Coroner are defined by state statute (RCW 68.50) and include, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

1. Persons who die suddenly when in apparent good health and without medical attendance within thirty-six hours, preceding death. This category is reserved for the following situations: (1) Sudden death of an individual with no known natural cause for the death. (2) Death during an acute or unexplained rapidly fatal illness, for which a reasonable natural cause has not been established. (3) Death of an individual who was not under the care of a physician. (4) Death of a person in a nursing home or other institution where medical treatment is not provided by a licensed physician.
2. Circumstances which indicate death was caused in part or entirely by unnatural or unlawful means. This category includes but is not limited to: (1) Drowning, suffocation, smothering, burns, electrocution, lightning, radiation, chemical or thermal injury, starvation, environmental exposure, or neglect. (2) Unexpected death during, associated with, or as results of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures. (3) All deaths in the operating room whether due to surgical or anesthetic procedures. (4) Narcotics or other drugs including alcohol or toxic exposure. (5) Death thought to be associated with, or resulting from, the decedent's occupation, including chronic occupational disease such as asbestosis and black lung. (6) Death of the mother caused by known or suspected abortion. (7) Death from apparent natural causes during the course of a criminal act, e.g., a victim collapses during a robbery. (8) Death that occurs within one year following an accident, even if the accident is not thought to have contributed to the cause of death. (9) Death following all injury producing accidents, if recovery was considered incomplete or if the accident is thought to have contributed to the cause of death (regardless of the interval between the accident and death).

3. Suspicious circumstances. This category includes, but is not limited to, deaths under the following circumstances: (1) Deaths resulting from apparent homicide or suicide. (2) Hanging, gunshot wounds, stabs, cuts, strangulation, etc. (3) Alleged rape, carnal knowledge, or Sodomy. (4) Death during the course of, or precipitated by, a criminal act. (5) Death that occurs while in a jail or prison, or while in custody of law enforcement or other non-medical public institutions.
4. Unknown or obscure causes. This category includes: (1) Bodies that are found dead. (2) Death during or following an unexplained coma.
5. Deaths caused by any violence whatever, when the injury was the primary cause or a contributory factor in the death. This category includes, but is not limited to: (1) injury of any type, including falls. (2) Any death due to or contributed to by any type of physical trauma.
6. Contagious disease. This category includes only those deaths wherein the diagnosis is undetermined and the suspected cause of death is a contagious disease which may be a public health hazard.
7. Unclaimed bodies. This category is limited to deaths where no next of kin or other legally responsible representatives can be identified for disposition of the body.
8. Premature and stillborn infants. This category includes only those stillborn or premature infants whose birth was precipitated by maternal injury or drug use, criminal or medical negligence, or abortion under unlawful circumstances.

**MISSION STATEMENT
OF THE
YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE**

The mission of the Yakima County Coroner's Office is to investigate sudden, unexpected and unnatural deaths in Yakima County with the highest level of professionalism, compassion, accuracy, and efficiency and to provide a resource for improving the health and safety of the community consistent with the general mission of Public Health Department.

To achieve this mission The Yakima County Coroner's Office will:

Coordinate investigative efforts with law enforcement, hospitals, and other agencies in a professional and courteous manner.

Treat decedents and their effects with dignity and respect, and without discrimination.

Conduct investigation and autopsies professionally, scientifically, and conscientiously; and to complete reports expeditiously with regard for the concern of family members, criminal justice, and public health and safety.

Provide compassion, courtesy, and accurate information to family members and, with sensitivity for cultural differences, make appropriate efforts in assisting with their grief, medical and legal questions, disposition of decedents and effects, and other settlements.

Collect, compile, and provide scientific testimony in court and depositions, as well as medico legal consultation for prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, and attorneys representing surviving family members.

A goal of the Yakima County Coroner's Office is to promote and advance, through education and research, the sciences and practices of death investigation, pathology, and anthropology in collaboration with educational institutions.

Promote and maintain an emotionally and physically healthy and safe working environment for employees, following Public Health Department policies for standards of conduct, management, and support for employee diversity, training and development.

Expand communication with public health agencies and the community at large regarding the roles, responsibilities, and objectives of The Yakima County Coroner's Office.

This report is dedicated to those people in Yakima County who have suffered the loss of a relative or friend.

Coroner Cases in 2015

In **2015**, there were a total of **1,877** deaths recorded in Yakima County by the Department of Vital Statistics. Based on the analysis of the scene and circumstances of death, and the decedent's medical history, the Coroner assumed jurisdiction over **572** of these deaths. Of these **572** deaths, it was deemed necessary to perform **67** autopsies. There were a total of **491** cases when the Coroner's Office was notified but did not assume jurisdiction (Non-Jurisdiction Cases). There were a total of **814** Hospice deaths reported to the Coroner. The Coroner assisted with **26** Indigent Deaths. These include deaths such as: Those deceased whose family could not be located and/or there were no available funds for disposition and/or the Coroner was needed to sign cremation papers and/or assist monetarily.

It is the goal of this office to provide quality death investigation which may, in turn, benefit the living. Through data collected by our office and shared with valley agencies, we attempt to find answers, explanations and preventive measures. This report breaks down the data so as to assist individuals in assembling a profile of death statistics.

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2015

CORONER CASES 2015

ACCIDENTAL

Positional Asphyxia 2
 Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma 1
 Bee Sting 1
 Fractures/Fall 13
 Carbon Monoxide 4
 Fresh Water Drowning 2
 Dog Bites 1
 Alcohol / Hypothermia 1
TOTAL/ACCIDENTAL: **25**

AIRPLANE

Pilot 0
 Passenger 0
TOTAL AIRPLANE: **0**

MOTOR VEHICLE

Driver 21
 Passenger 3
 Pedestrian 6
 Off Road Vehicle 0
 Train 0
 Motorcycle 0
 Bicyclist 0
 Motor Vehicle Homicide 8
TOTAL MVE: **38**

NATURAL/TOTAL:

400

SIDS/TOTAL:

1

FETAL DEMISE:

17

HOMICIDE

Gunshot Wounds 17
 Blunt Impact/Head 1
 Stabbing 3
 Homicide by Violence 0
 Undetermined
 Drugs
TOTAL HOMICIDES: 21

ACCIDENTAL ALOCOHOL/DRUG TOXICI

Ethanol.
3 Ethanol, Morphine.
 1
 Ethanol, Codeine, Morphine.
 Ethanol, 6-acetylmorphine, Codeine, Morphine.
 Methanol, Methamphetamine.
 Acetone, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine.
 Methamphetamine.
25 Methamphetamine, Amphetamine.
 Methamphetamine, Amphetamine, Methanol.
 Methamphetamine, Carboxy-THC.
 Methamphetamine, Diphenhydramine.
 Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Temazepam.
0 Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, 7-aminoclonaz
 Alprazolam, Methadone, Morphine.
 Morphine.
 Morphine, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine.
 Alprazolam, Diazepam, Benzoylcegonine, Sertrali
 6-acetylmorphine, Codeine, Morphine.
 Diphenhydramine, Amphetamine, Methamphetam
 Oxycodone, Alprazolam, Quetiapine, Desmethylyse
 Sertraline.
 Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, Amphetamine, Methan
 Tramadol.
 Benzoylcegonine, Cocaethylene.
38 MDMA (methylenedioxy-methamphetamine).
 Oxycodone, Oxymorphone.
 Tramadol, Alprazolam, diazepam, Nordiazepam, M

TOTAL DRUG TOXICITY: 29

SUICIDE

Hanging 11
 Gunshot to Head 22
 Helium Gas 1
 Knife 2
 Alcohol & Drugs 0

TOTAL SUICIDES: 38

TOTAL JURISDICTIONAL CASES: 491
TOTAL HOSPICE DEATH REPORTED: 814
TOTAL ALL CORONER CASES FOR 2015: 572
TOTAL NON-JURISDICTION CASES: 491
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS IN YAKIMA COUNTY FOR 2015: 1,877

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY **2015**

MANNER: ACCIDENTAL

There were **25** deaths certified as accidental for the year **2015**. Of those, the largest single group was people who died as a result of accidental drug overdose.

<u>INJURY MODE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Fractures/Fall	13	7	6
Positional Asphyxia	2	2	0
Head Trauma/Subdural Hematoma	1	1	0
Bee Sting	1	1	0
Dog Bites	1	1	0
Fresh Water Drowning	2	2	0
Carbon Monoxide	4	1	3
Alcohol Inebriation / Hypothermia	1	1	0

TOTAL: 25

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
<1	1	1	0
1-9	1	0	1
10-19	0	0	0
20-29	4	3	1
30-39	0	0	0
40-49	1	1	0
50-59	4	3	1
60-69	3	2	1
70-79	0	0	0
80-89	7	4	3
90-99	4	2	2
100	0	0	0

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	1
February	3
March	0
April	1
May	1
June	2
July	5
August	2
September	1
October	3
November	0
December	6

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL 25</u>
Hispanic	5
White	16
Native American	4

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2015

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

MANNER: ACCIDENTAL DRUG TOXICITY *continued*

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>		<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
>10	0	0	0		January	2
11-19	0	0	0		February	1
20-29	7	4	3		March	1
30-39	5	4	1		April	4
40-49	9	6	3		May	4
50-59	7	6	1		June	1
60-69	1	0	0		July	3
70-79	0	1	0		August	3
80-89	0	0	0		September	2
90-99	0	0	0		October	2
<u>TOTAL: 29</u>					November	5
					December	1
<u>RACE</u>						
White	21					
Native American	2					
Hispanic	5					
African American	1					

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2015

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

MANNER: HOMICIDE

A death is classified as a homicide when the death results from injuries inflicted by another person, regardless of the intent. There are several types of criminal and non-criminal homicides. A non-criminal homicide may be accidental, justifiable or excusable. During 2015, **21** deaths were classified as homicides. The breakdown of agencies that responded to these deaths is as follows:

<u>Yakima PD</u>	<u>Grandview PD</u>	<u>Union Gap</u>	<u>Sunnyside</u>	<u>Toppenish</u>
7	1	1	2	3

Yakima Sheriff's Department

Moxee: 1
 Wapato: 1
 White Swan: 2
 Yakima: 2
 Zillah: 1

YSO TOTAL: 7

<u>METHOD OF HOMICIDE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Gunshot	17	14	3
Blunt Force Trauma	1	1	0
Stabbing	3	3	0
Undetermined			
TOTAL: 21			

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
>1	0	0	0		
1-9	0	0	0		
10-19	2	2	0	January	2
20-29	10	9	1	February	3
30-39	4	3	1	March	3
40-49	3	3	0	April	1
50-59	1	0	1	May	2
60-69	1	1	0	June	3
70-99	0	0	0	July	1

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2015

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>		
HISPANIC	15	August	3
WHITE	5	September	0
NATIVE AMERICAN	1	October	1
		November	1
		December	1

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

2015 HOMICIDE SYNOPSIS

2015 HOMICIDE SYNOPSIS

TOTAL HOMICIDES YAKIMA COUNTY: 21

UNJUSTIFIABLE OF HOMICIDES: 21

Yakima Police Department- 7

Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department - 7: Areas of: Yakima- 1, Moxee - 1, Cowiche-, Wapato- 1, Toppenish -, Zillah- 1, White Swan- 2, Outlook, E. Selah (Yakima)

Yakama Nation / FBI

Cities of: Wapato - , City of Toppenish - 3, City of Sunnyside - 2, City of Grandview - 1, Union Gap - 1,

NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE S:

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES: _____

Yakima Police Department-

Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department -: Areas of:

Yakama Nation/ FBI -

EXCUSABLE HOMICIDES :

METHOD OF HOMICIDE:

Gunshot: Unjustifiable - 17, Justifiable -, Excusable

Stabbing (knife) - 3

Blunt Force Trauma - 1 - Motor Vehicle

Trauma - / Shaken Baby Syndrome (Brain Trauma) -

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning,
Arson House Fire -
Drug Overdose -
Asphyxia (pressure on chest and facial obstruction) -

MOTOR VEHICLE HOMICIDES: 5

Yakima County / WSP- 8: Areas of: Selah - , Grandview - , Terrace Hts. - , Granger - 2, Wapato - 1, Naches Forest/ Kittitas Co. Toppenish - 3. Union Gap - 2,

MOTOR VEHICLE HOMICIDES :

#1- 15-097 MVH1 - LIULAMAGA, Toaga R; DOB 01/19/1983; a 32 yrs. old male was a passenger in a one car fatality collision. The vehicle left the roadway Lateral "A" at Evans Road and went into a deep irrigation canal and caught fire. COD Carbon Monoxide Inhalation / Poisoning, due to Vehicle Fire, due to a Motor Vehicle Collision.

Contacted Trooper Jodi Metz at the scene who advised the deceased was still in the vehicle. The vehicle had been traveling southbound on Lateral "A" and approximately .6 miles south of West Wapato Road near Evans Rd. the vehicle went out of control and left the east side of the roadway and down into a deep irrigation canal. The vehicle was driven by Leandro Hererca, 41 years old. The canal was empty of water; the vehicle caught fire and burned. A passerby was able to pull the driver from the vehicle, and the passenger remained in the vehicle. The vehicle was towed from the irrigation canal and we removed the passenger from the floor of the rear seat. The vehicle and the passenger had been burned beyond recognition. The passenger was a male. We removed this unidentified male from the scene and transported him to the Yakima County Morgue. I was advised the driver was at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

March 7, 2015 at 0926 Trooper Reeves called and advised that this unidentified male may be a Toaga R. LIULAMA, DOB 1/19/1983, 32 years old. This was the information they received as to who the passenger was that had been in this vehicle. I was able to make a positive identification from photos of Toage.

March 9, 2015 at 1200 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Toaga R. Liulamaga. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Carbon Monoxide Inhalation / Poisoning, due to a Motor Vehicle Collision. Contributing Conditions: left rib fracture & laceration, left lung & left hemothorax laceration; severe post mortem fire damage.

September 2, 2015, Leandro Javier Huereca was charged with Vehicular Homicide.

#2 - 15-171 MVH2 - MIRELEZ, Melany; DOB 04/08/1985; 30 yr. old Female was a passenger in a one car fatality collision. The collision occurred on Van Belle Road near Brien Lane in the Outlook / Granger area May 2, 2015 at 2149 hours. Melany was a passenger in the vehicle, she was ejected as she was not wearing her seat belt. I learned later that the driver of the vehicle was Mathew Mirelez and there was also a three year old female passenger, both Mathew & the child were wearing seat belts. They were injured & transported to Sunnyside Community Hospital and they both survived their injuries. Melany expired at the Sunnyside Community Hospital May 2, 2015 at 2255 hours.

May 4, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Melany Mirelez Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Exsanguination (massive hemothorax), due to Laceration of right pulmonary artery, due to a Motor Vehicle Collision. Contributing Conditions: laceration of liver and left lung. Bilateral hemothorax. Dr. Reynolds advised that the trauma to Melany's body to mostly to the left side, she did have two broken ribs # 3 & 4 on her left side. Her right pulmonary artery was lacerated and everything was pushed to the right. Melany died from the loss of

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2015

blood from the lacerated pulmonary artery. Her liver and left lung was also lacerated, with bilateral hemothorax. Manner of Death Vehicular Homicide.

#3 & #4 - 15-319 MVH3 & 15-320 MVH4 - WALKER, Angela & Kyle J. DOB 05/08/1979, 36 yr. old, Female, and DOB 01/16/1980, 35 yr. old male were in a motor vehicle Angela was driving was operating a motor vehicle eastbound on State Highway 22 with a passenger Kyle J. WALKER, DOB. 01/16/1980, 35 years old, male. Angela's vehicle was struck broadside on the passenger side by a northbound vehicle on Meyers Road. This vehicle being driven by Latica GASCA-ESQUIVEL, 19 years old, female at a high rate of speed & failed to stop at the stop sign at Hwy. 22 & Meyers Rd. Both Angela & Kyle were deceased at the scene. Latica Gasca-Esquivel and passenger Yasmin SEPULVEDA, DOB. 01/01/1995, 19 years old, female were transported to Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital. Yasmin Sepulveda was transported to Harbor View Medical Center in Seattle, WA. with life threatening injuries. Latica was treated and released from Memorial Hospital. There was another passenger unknown name transported to Yakima Regional Medical Center. Latica was suspected of alcohol and or drug consumption as well as reckless driving. I was advised by Washington State Patrol Troopers that Latica GASCA-ESQUIVEL will be charged with Motor Vehicle Negligent Homicide.

July 28, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsies on Angela Walker. Dr. Reynolds advised that Angela suffered severe internal injuries a complete transection of the aorta at T3, three liters of blood in the chest cavity. Angela died in minutes from exsanguination, due to her internal injuries. Manner of Death was Vehicular Homicide.

July 28, 2015 at 1115 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsies on Kyle Walker. Dr. Reynolds advised that Kyle suffered severe multiple internal injuries. Complete flail chest multiple rib fractures, complete transection of the aorta at T3, multiple tears in the liver. Kyle died from exsanguination, due to his internal injuries. Manner of Death was Vehicular Homicide.

#5 - 15-423 MVH5 - CABRERA, Jose, DOB 02/26/1975, 41 yr. old Hispanic male was a pedestrian, he had jumped onto the hood of the vehicle and the driver accelerated forward and applied the brakes cause Jose to slide off the hood and strike his head on the roadway. This incitement occurred in the City of Sunnyside at N. 16th Street & Sheller. Jose was then run over by the vehicle as the driver failed to secure the vehicle when he got out to check on Jose. The driver then backed the vehicle up again running over Jose. He then transported Jose to the Sunnyside Community Hospital. Jose was then transported to Kadlec Hospital in Kennewick where he died from the head injury he received in this collision.

October 5, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Jose Cabrera. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Progressive Cerebral Anoxia, due to Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to Motor Vehicle / Pedestrian Collision. Other Significant Conditions: displaced fracture of left ankle; abrasion on chest and stomach, no significant chest or abdomen trauma. Manner of Death Homicide (Motor Vehicle Homicide)

#6 - 15-425 MVH6 - VILLEGAS, Marino Guerrero, DOB 01/17/1954, 61 yr. old Hispanic male. Marino was a passenger in a motor vehicle that was being driven at a high rate of speed, the vehicle was eastbound on I-82 and took Exit 50, and lost control went off the roadway and rolled. Marino was ejected from the vehicle suffering severe body trauma. Collision was near Toppenish investigated by the Washington State Patrol.

October 5, 2015 at 1130 hrs. Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD. Forensic pathologist performed the autopsy on Marino G. Villegas. Present during the autopsy was Chief Deputy Coroner M. Slight and I, JB Hawkins, Coroner. Dr. Reynolds advised that Villegas suffered severe body trauma, tearing the right atrium of the heart 3cmX3cm tear. Marino bleed to death in minutes. Other injuries, torn liver, spinal injuries T-3 &

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T-7, ruptured spleen, bowl, stomach, and colon. Tear to both kidneys, both legs broken.

Cause of Death was Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination, due to Torn Atrium, due to Motor Vehicle Collision.

Manner of Death Homicide (Motor Vehicle Homicide)

#7 & 8 - 15-448 & 449 MVH7 & 8 - SHURE, JoAnn K. DOB 10/15/1944, 71 yr. old White female. SHURE, Leonard DOB 14/04/1948, 66 yr. old White male. Both parties were in a motor vehicle that was setting off the side of the interstate highway 82 in the median area and was struck by a pickup truck that left the road way and struck their vehicle. Both Jo Ann & Leonard were killed in the collision. The collision was investigated by the Washington State Patrol.

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed autopsy on both JoAnn Shure. October 27, 2015 at 1000 hours at Mueller 's Funeral Home in Pasco, WA. Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds advised that the Cause of Death was Exsanguination (massive hemothorax), due to transected thoracic spine, lacerated thoracic aorta, due to a Motor Vehicle Collision. Contributing Condition: Arterial flail chest (immediately unconscious).

November 17, 2015 I received results from Washington State Toxicology Laboratory. Drugs and Alcohol - Negative

Cause of Death: Rapid Exsanguination, (massive hemothorax), due to lacerated thoracic aorta, due to Motor Vehicle Accident.

Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD. Forensic Pathologist performed an autopsy October 27, 2015 at 1000 hours at Mueller 's Funeral Home in Pasco, WA. Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds advised that the Cause of Death was Exsanguination (massive hemothorax), due to transected thoracic spine, due to a Motor Vehicle Collision. Contributing Conditions: Massive bilateral hemothorax, multiple bilateral rib fractures, (immediately unconscious).

Cause of Death: Rapid Exsanguination, (massive hemothorax), due to transected thoracic spine, due to Motor Vehicle Accident.

Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide

#9 - 15-478 MVH0 - MENDOZA, Angel D. DOB. 5/21/1998, 17 Yr. old, Hispanic male. Nov. 6, 2015 Angel was a passenger in a motor vehicle that was southbound on Yakima Valley Highway, the vehicle went straight and a right hand curve crossing the center of the roadway and was struck by an eastbound vehicle rounding the curve to go northbound. This occurred at 1359 hours. Angel died at the scene from injuries sustained in the collision. November 9, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Angel Mendoza. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to Massive Blunt Force Trauma to the Right Head,

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due to Motor Vehicle Collision, interval was minutes (with instantly unconscious), multiple displaced skull fractures, multiple cerebral lacerations. No trauma to chest or abdomen.

Cause of Death: Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to Massive Blunt Force Trauma to the Right Head, due to Motor Vehicle Collision

Manner of Death: Motor Vehicle Homicide

NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE S: 0

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES: 0

UNJUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE S: 21

#1 - 15-008 H1 - SILVA, Jose Jr; DOB 06/28 /1991: a 23 yrs. old Hispanic male shot multiple times while in a side yard of a vacant home, 160 Mahre Road, Yakima in the West Valley Area. Found January 6, 2015 at 1048 hours. Yakima Co. Sheriff's Department's #1 Homicide 2015. COD: Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the Head (9mm). Contributing Conditions: Gunshot wound to the Left Chest 9mm.

Jose Silva was found by a TV cable man, he was lying on his back next to the driveway. He was partially nude: no pants; underwear; shoes or socks. Brief examination showed two gunshot wounds to the head: left cheek and left eye; and a gunshot wound to the chest. His hair and his pubic area had been burned. Silva had been found by a cable worker who had gone to the vacant residence to remove some equipment for his company. He called the Sheriff's Department and deputies were dispatched at 1048 hours 1/6/2015.

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds M.D. Forensic Pathologist, performed the autopsy on Jose Silva January 7, 2015 at 1000 hours. Examination showed two gunshot wounds to the face: one in the left cheek and one in the left lower eye lid and eye ball; one gunshot wound to the chest. The hair on the head had been burned and the genital area and pubic hair had also been burned. No other trauma, defensive or otherwise, was found. It appeared that the first shot was to the left cheek approximately 6 inches away from the cheek and the second shot was to the left eye and third shot to chest. All 3 rounds were 9mm. The two bullets to the head entered and passed through the brain and were recovered in the left rear quad of the head. The bullet to the chest traveled through the heart and left lung and was recovered in the left rear back area in the scapula area. All three rounds were released to Detective Michael. Silva was wearing: a black shirt (removed at the scene and given to detectives); a black undershirt; no pants, underwear, shoes or socks. Dr. Reynolds advised Cause of

YAKIMA COUNTY CORONER ANNUAL SUMMARY 2015

Death: Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to two Gunshot Wounds to the Head (face) (9mm). Contributing Conditions: A Gunshot Wound to the Chest (9mm).

Suspect Arrested: Walter Garcia, 23 years, & Eric Michael Porchia 30 years.

#2 - 2015-042 H2 - NAVARRO, Eliodoro; DOB 08/08/1989; 25 yr. old Hispanic male, shot in the head, during a drive by shooting at So. 7th Street & Pine Street, Yakima, WA. January 29, 2015 at 2104 hours and expired at the scene. Yakima Police Department #1 Unjustifiable Homicide for 2015. COD: Cerebral Hemorrhage, due to Gunshot Wound to the Head (AK47).

Eliodoro had been shot in the head with a possible AK 47; multiple shots were fired at him and he was struck once in the head. Eliodoro was at the northwest corner of Pine & 7th Street when he was shot. He was found down on the sidewalk with a severe head wound.

January 30, 2015 at 1300 hours Dr. Kiesel MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Eliodoro NAVARRO. External examination showed a gunshot wound to the left side below the ear of the head. This was a through & through gunshot wound. There was no other trauma to his body. It appeared there was an old bruise to the face. Internal examination was unremarkable. The Cause of Death was Cerebral Hemorrhage due to a Gunshot Wound to the Head. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

#3 - 2015-051 H3 - CREEL, Mason Franklin; DOB 01/11/1949; 66 yr. old White male, shot in the chest February 4, 2015 at 1714 hours and expired at the scene driveway of 670 Simcoe Creek Rd. White Swan, WA. Yakima County Sheriff 's Department 's #2 Unjustifiable Homicide of 2015. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest, 0.40 caliber.

Mason was shot in front of a pickup truck just off the side of the driveway. Mason had been shot in the chest by his neighbor. I was advised that there was an ongoing feud between Mason and his neighbor. They shared the driveway where Mason had been shot.

February 5, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Mason Creel. External examination; one bullet wound to the upper left chest and an exit wound to the right back. No Other Trauma was detected. Internal examination; massive bilateral hemothorax; destroyed main & left pulmonary arteries; perforated trachea; perforated upper lobes of both lungs. Dr. Reynolds recovered a 40 caliber bullet that was located between the shirt and Mason 's back. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Rapid Exsanguination, due to a .40 caliber Gunshot Wound to the Left Upper Chest. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

Linden C. ASBELL was arrested by Sheriff 's Department for Homicide.

#4 - 2015-062 H4 - HERNANDEZ-LEDEZMA, Antonio; DOB 10/30/1990; 24 yr. old Hispanic male, presumably shot in the head and presumed deceased February 7, 2015 at unknown time, Zillah area, Near Dekker & Houghton Roads. COD: Probable Severe Head Trauma, due to Gunshot Wound to the Head.

The investigation of an abandon green Ford Mustang found the passenger window had been broken out. There was blood in the passenger seating compartment, along with a stocking cap that also had blood and brain matter attached to it. There was a bullet strike in the passenger compartment

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It was learned through the investigation that the owner of this Ford Mustang Antonio HERNANDEZ-LEDEZMA, DOB. 10/30/1990, 24 years old, Hispanic, male had been contacted by a Yoset G. DOMINGUEZ-SERRANO and arrangements had been made for Antonio Hernandez-Ledezma to bring the Ford Mustang to the Yakima Valley from Boardman, Org. as a possibility of Yoset buying the Ford Mustang. Hernandez-Ledezma was suspected of rape of Dominguez-Serrano 's 14 year old sister. There was a warrant for the arrest of Hernandez-Ledezma for rape. Dominguez-Serrano met with Hernandez-Ledezma for the pretense of test driving the Ford Mustang. Dominguez-Serrano stated after he was arrested that he was in the vehicle with Hernandez-Ledezma and was going to take him to the Sunnyside Police Department as there was a warrant for his arrest for rapping his sister. They started fighting in the vehicle and Dominguez-Serrano shot Hernandez-Ledezma twice. Dominguez-Serrano stated that he then abandon the vehicle and walked home. He showed the Sheriff 's Deputies the path that he had taken, stated that he did not know where the gun was, and he left Hernandez-Ledezma in the vehicle. The Sheriff 's Department had not located Antonio Hernandez-Ledezma or his body. **Dominguez-Serrano was booked into the Yakima County Jail - Murder1.**

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds M.D. Forensic Pathologist was consulted about the stocking cap and the material found attached to the stocking cap. Dr. Reynolds advised that the blood and brain matter was consistent with a gunshot wound to the head. He also advised that the person that had been wearing the stocking cap when he or she was shot would either have to be in surgery or would have died from the wound; note the loss of brain matter. Cause of Death: Probable - Severe Head Trauma, due to Gunshot Wound to the Head, Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

#5 - 2015-080 H5 - Verduzco, Ramon Jr.; DOB 02/08/1989; 26 yr. old Hispanic male, shot February 21, 2015 at 1318 hours, alley behind 107 So. Alder, Toppenish, WA. Expired February 21, 2015 at 1511 hours, Yakima Regional Medical Center - ER. Toppenish Police Departments #1 Homicide for 2015. COD: Exsanguination, due to Multiple Gunshot Wounds to the Torso, .40 caliber.

Ramon had confronted a subject in the alley behind 107 So. Alder in Toppenish reference some sort of a theft. Ramon was shot by this subject multiple times in the torso and expired approximately two hours later in the hospital.

February 23, 2015 at 1000 hrs. Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Ramon Verduzco. Dr. Reynolds advised that Ramon was shot five times, one - front to back, one - back to front, three - left to right, all in the torso, 40 caliber gunshot wounds. There were no other injuries or trauma to Ramon. The x-rays showed no bullets inside the body, all wounds were through and through. Ramon died from blood loss, due to the multiple gunshot wounds. The bullets perforated the left & right lungs, T-spine, right liver, sigmoid colon, cecum, right kidney. Also causing a massive bilateral hemothorax. Manner of death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

Francisco, SANCHES-MADRIGAL, 16 yr. old Hispanic male arrested and charged in this homicide. He will be charged as an adult.

#6 - 2015-099 H6 - REEDY-McCoy; dob 09/18/2004; 10 YR OLD White male, shot March 8, 2015 at 0121 hours, outside of residence at 1815 Ahtanum Rd. Union Gap, WA. Expired March 8, 2015 at 0301 hours (note DST changeover) at Yakima Regional Medical Center emergency room. Union Gap Police Departments #1 Homicide for 2015. COD: Rapid Exsanguination, due to a single .22 caliber Gunshot Wound to the Chest.

Nathaniel was staying with his grandfather Steven Reedy. They had gone outside to check the generator as something had gone wrong with the power to the Camper they were staying in. While outside Nathaniel had been shot. Steven Reedy advised he heard a shot and then observed that Nathaniel had been shot. Nathaniel had been transported to the hospital via ambulance. Nathaniel expired March 8, 2015 at 1000 hours in the emergency room at Yakima Regional Medical Center. Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Nathaniel REEDY-McCOY. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Rapid Exsanguination, due to single .22 cal. Gunshot Wound to the Chest. Contributing Conditions: massive bilateral hemothorax; lacerated thoracic aorta; bilateral pulmonary perforations. The bullet entered the right side chest at armpit level and traveled from right to left and downward.

The bullet was recovered in the base of the left diaphragm the hospital at 0301 hrs . March 8, 2015. **Microscopic Examination: Multiple sections of the bullet entry wound show no thermal damage to the adjacent keratinized skin layers. This would be consistent**

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with a barrel distance of greater than 2 feet. Fragments of birefringent foreign material are found in the wound tract, consistent with gunshot residue. This would be most consistent with a barrel distance less than 6 feet. Localized inflammatory response to trauma consistent with survival for at least a few minutes after wounding. Manner of Death Unjustifiable Homicide.

#7 - 2015- 108 H7 - GARZA Genaro; DOB 04/17/1998; a 16 yr. old Hispanic male, shot in the upper left chest while standing outside of the residence at 215 Ave "E", Grandview, WA. The shot came from inside the residence. Grandview Police Departments #1 Homicide for 2015. COD; Exsanguination, due to a Gunshot Wound to the Left Chest (.38 cal. / 9mm). Genaro was shot in Grandview and was taken to Prosser Hospital by private vehicle. Genaro was then being transported to a Spokane Hospital, but he went into cardiac failure and was diverted to the closest hospital which was Kadlec Medical Center in Richland, WA. where he expired March 17, 2015 at 2217 hours. It was later learned that Genaro had stolen a gun and had it at 215 Ave. "E" in Grandview and was attempting to sell the weapon. The weapon was lying on the counter in the residence and an Omar Ochoa-Mendoza, 18 years old, picked up the weapon and it discharged. The bullet went through the house and went through the wall and outside where it struck Genaro who was standing outside the residence near the front door. March 19, 2015 at 1100 hours, Dr. Reynolds performed the autopsy on Genaro Garza, Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Exsanguination, due to a Gunshot Wound to the Left Chest (.38 cal. / 9mm). Genaro died within minutes of being shot as the bullet lacerated the left Subclavian artery; perforated left upper lobe of lung; bullet fracture of left #2 rib, Manner of Death was an Unjustifiable Homicide. Genaro did not suffer any other trauma. Dr. Reynolds did recover a .38 caliber / 9mm bullet from the torso of Genaro.

#8 - 15-117 H8 - SANZON-VASQUEA, Armando G; DOB 12/12/1987; age 27 yr. old Hispanic male, shot multiple times in neck torso, arms and legs while setting in a parked vehicle in front of 201 Ebony Lane, Wapato, WA. The shots were fired by a drive-by shooter. Yakima Sheriff's Departments #4 Homicide for 2015. COD; Cardiac Rupture, due to Multiple High-Velocity Gunshot Wounds 6+. Armando was setting in the driver's seat of a parked vehicle with a friend seated in the front passenger seat, in front of 201 Ebony Lane, Wapato. A vehicle drove by and multiple shots were fired at and into Armando's vehicle. Armando was struck multiple times as was his friend. Armando died at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds, his friend was transported to a local hospital where he was treated, and he will survive his wounds. March 25, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Armando G. Sanzon-Vasquez. The autopsy showed multiple gunshot wounds to the neck, torso, arms & legs. Injuries causing death; massive bilateral hemothorax; lacerated thoracic aorta; all lobes perforated; lacerated liver; fractured femur. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Cardiac Rupture, due to Multiple High-Velocity Gunshot Wounds most likely 7.62 mm (.308 cal.) ammo. Bullets and fragments recovered were released to Detective Cypher. Contributing Conditions were massive bilateral hemothorax; lacerated thoracic aorta; all lung lobes perforated; lacerated liver; fractured femur. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

#9 - 15-158 H9 - MARQUEZ, Jesse; DOB 08/06/1976; 38 yr. old, Hispanic male, shot one time in the abdomen in front of 511 So. Naches Ave. Yakima, WA. City of Yakima, Yakima Police Departments #2 Homicide for 2015. COD; Hypovolemic Shock, due to Exsanguination due to Gunshot Wound to the Abdomen (9 mm.) . Jesse had been shot on April 24, 2015 at 0102 hours outside in front of 511 So. Naches Ave. He had been shot in the abdomen with possibly by a 9mm handgun. Yakima Police are investigating the shooting. Jesse was transported to the emergency room of Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital on April 24, 2015 with a gunshot wound to the abdomen. He had been taken to surgery and survived the surgery but had lost a great deal of blood and was in critical condition. The wound was to the abdomen and was a through & through wound, exiting the back. The Iliac Artery had been hit by the bullet causing the loss of blood. Jesse expired April 25, 2015 at 0204 hours. April 28, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Jesse Marquez. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Hypovolemic Shock, due to

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Exsanguination due to Gunshot Wound to the Abdomen (9 mm.). The Iliac Artery was struck by the bullet causing Jesse to go into hypovolemic shock and excessive bleeding causing his death. Doctor Reynolds advised there had been medical intervention performed, emergency laparotomy with repair of lacerated pelvic artery and small intestine. Severe pulmonary and cerebral edema. Manner of Death was Homicide.

#10 - 15-186 H10 - GUTIERREZ-MENDOZA, Oscar R. ; DOB 11/23/1993; age 21 yr. old Hispanic male, single gunshot to the chest while he was setting in a vehicle (passenger front seat), parker in the parking lot at 1415 So. 6th Street in Sunnyside, WA. City of Sunnyside 's #1 Homicide for 2015. COD; Single Gunshot Wound to the Chest. Oscar was a passenger in the right front seat of a vehicle that was parked in the Parking Lot in Sunnyside. The driver of the vehicle was out of the vehicle. An unknown subject approached and shot Oscar in the chest as he sat in the vehicle and he shot the driver twice while he was out of the vehicle. The driver was taken to the hospital.

May 13, 2015 Dr. Gina Fino MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Oscar Gutierrez-Mendoza and advised the trauma to the body was a through & through gunshot wound to the right chest and exit the left side of the trunk. The autopsy confirmed the cause of death was a single gunshot wound to the chest, causing severe exsanguination (bleeding) causing death. Manner of Death was an Unjustifiable Homicide.

[Raymundo Casares, 21 years charged w/ First & Second degree Murder, Attempted Murder & Assault.](#)

#11 - 15-216 H11 - AMEZCUA, David; DOB; 11/23/1987, age 27 yr. old Hispanic male, single gunshot wound to the right rear side of torso & into the abdomen while he was sitting in a vehicle (driver 's front seat), in the parking lot of the Mercado Latino II Market at S. 6th Street & Adams Street in the City of Yakima. City of Yakima 's #3 Homicide for 2015. COD; Exsanguination, due to a Single Gunshot Wound to the right - rear side Torso and into the Abdomen. May 23, 2015 at 1609 hours, David was in the driver 's seat of his vehicle and a subject approached him and shot him while he was in the vehicle and parked at the Market. He then tried to escape the scene and drove for a few blocks and crashed into a fence at S. 6th Street & Arlington Street. He was then transported to Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital where he expired May 23, 2015 at 2155 hours.

May 26, 2015 at 1000 hours Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on David Amezcua. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to the Abdomen (right side - rear torso) .40 caliber. Contributing Conditions: Bullet transection of right Kidney. The .40 caliber bullet was recovered by Dr. Reynolds. No other trauma internal or external other than minor contusions from the motor vehicle collision with the fence, which David struck as he was driving after he had been shot. Manner of death was Unjustifiable Homicide. GANG RELATED SHOOTING.

[Randy A. Brewer, 27 years arrested first degree Murder.](#)

#12 - 15-230 H12 - BIRRUETA-SOSA, Manuel; DOB 08/31/1980; age 34 yr. old Hispanic male, single gunshot wound to the head. June 5th, 2015 at 0530 hours Manuel was shot in the head while he was putting his lunch into the trunk of the car which his friend was driving, he was going to get into the vehicle and go to work, when a subject came up from behind him and shot him. The driveway was at Manuel 's residence at 1008 N. 20th Ave., City of Yakima. This was Yakima City 's 4th Homicide for 2015. COD; Direct or Indirect Central Nervous System Trauma, due to a Gunshot Wound to the Head, possible.40 caliber .

June 5th, 2015 Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Manuel Birrueta-Sosa and advised Cause of Death was Direct or Indirect Central Nervous System Trauma, due to a Gunshot Wound to the Head, possible.40 caliber. Interval: unconscious instantly, dead in minutes. Contributing Conditions: No evidence of non-GSW trauma, no defensive wounds to hands, arms or body. Manner of Death: Unjustifiable Homicide. The gunshot wound was through & through it entered the right rear side just below the ear of Manuel 's head and exited the left side of his head. Posterior aspect of the right earlobe in this region shows some stippling and mild mechanical damage due to blast effect, consistent with a shot probably 4 feet or less. There was no other trauma defensive or otherwise to Manuel.

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#13 - 15-254 H13 - EDWARDS, Donald K.: DOB 11/01/1972; age 42 yr. old Native American male, single edged blade (knife) wound to the chest. In the residence of 1262 Medicine Valley Rd. White Swan, WA. Yakima County Sheriff 's # 5 Homicide for 2015. COD; Rapid Exsanguination, due to Single-Edged Blade (Knife) Wound to the Left Chest. Donald was seating on the couch in the living room of the residence. There was a family gathering for Father 's Day. Anthony J. LEWIS approached Donald from the rear and stabbed him in the chest, causing Donald to bleed to death. He died at the scene.

June 22, 2015 at 0930 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Donald K. Edwards. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was a Single - Edged Blade Wound (Knife) to the Left Chest, through the Heart, causing Edwards to bleed to death. No other evidence of trauma; no defensive injuries; moderate to mild fatty liver; massive left hemothorax. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

Anthony J. LEWIS was arrested for Murder.

#14 - 15-266 H14 - PAYNE, Charles Joseph; DOB 02/25/1966; age 49 yr. old White male. June 25, 2015 at 2113 hours, at Miller Park 500 blk. N. 4th Street, City of Yakima, Charles was involved in an altercation with another subject and was stabbed in the chest. Charles was transported to Yakima regional Medical Center and expired in the hospital June 25, 2015 at 2225 hours from the stab wound to the chest. This was the City of Yakima 's # 5 Homicide for 2015. COD; Rapid Exsanguination, due to Knife Wound to the Chest / Heart.

June 29, 2015 at 0900 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy of Charles Payne. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Rapid Exsanguination, due to Knife Wound to the Chest / Heart, Interval: minutes. The Manner of Death was Homicide. C. Payne was stabbed in the chest both right and left sides. The knife struck the heart. Damaging right ventricle, pulmonary and aortic valves. Dr. Reynolds advised he would have been brain dead in five minutes as he bleed to death. There were no other defensive wounds on his hands or arms. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

#15 - 15-281 H15 - BARAJAS, Esperanza; DOB 07/28/1975; 39 yr. old, Hispanic female, July 5, 2015 at 2155 hours, Esperanza was shot once in the head with a 9mm handgun. Esperanza was at her home at 7300 State Route 24, Moxee, WA. when her significant other Edilberto B. Mendoza, 40 yr. old male came to her residence and they got into an argument and Edilberto shot her in the head. Esperanza expired at the scene from the gunshot wound to the head. Edilberto then left the residence and shot himself in the head committing suicide. This was Yakima County Sheriff 's Department 's # 6 Homicide for 2015.

July 6, 2015 at 1100 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds M.D. Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Esperanza BARAJAS. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to Single 9mm Gunshot Wound to the Right Eye. The distance of the barrel to the wound at time of discharge was over 2 feet. The bullet did exit the rear of her head, this was a through and through wound. There was no evidence of offensive or defensive wounds to hands or arms; the gunshot to Esperanza 's head caused multiple skull fractures. Manner of Death was Unjustifiable Homicide.

#16 - 15-328 H16 - FLORES, Eduardo; DOB 07/26/1994; 21 yr. old, Hispanic male. August 2, 2015 at 0211 hours, Eduardo was shot once in the chest with a .40 caliber weapon at died at the scene. He was shot outside of his residence at 1121 Satus Ave. City of Toppenish. He was with approximately 30 other people in the yard at a wedding reception. Unknown assailant fired a number of shots into the gathering and struck two victims. Eduardo & Jessica Rodriguez. Jessica expired at Harbor View Medical Center August 2, 2015. This double homicide was Toppenish Cities number two & three Homicides for 2015.

August 3, 2015 at 0900 hours Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Eduardo FLORES. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Rapid Exsanguination due to Gunshot Wound to the Chest. The .40 caliber bullet entered the right bicep went through the bicep and entered the right side chest, striking the liver, both lungs and through the heart. Dr. Reynolds advised Eduardo would have been unconscious in seconds and he expired in minutes. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Cause of Death: Rapid Exsanguination, due to Gunshot Wound to Chest, .40 caliber. Interval:

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unconscious in seconds; expired in minutes . Contributing Conditions: bullet wound to heart, both lungs & liver. No non-gunshot wound trauma . Manner of Death: Homicide .

#17 - 15-329 h17 - RODRIGUEZ, Jessica; DOB 11/25/1985; 29 yr. old, Hispanic female. August 2, 2015 at 0211 hours, Jessica was shot once in the head with a .40 caliber weapon while attending a wedding reception at 1121 Satus Ave. City of Toppenish. Jessica was transported to Harbor View Medical Center in Seattle, WA. where she expired August 2, 2015 at 0846 hours. This was an unknown assailant who fired a number of shots into the gather of approximately 30 people, sticking the two Victims, Jessica Rodriguez & Eduardo Flores. This double homicide was number two & three homicides for the City of Toppenish for 2015.

Jessica's autopsy was performed by King County Medical Examiner 's Office. Cause of Death was Cerebral Trauma, due to Gunshot Wound to the Head. Manner of Death was Homicide.

#18 - 15-361 H18 - ROMERO, Jose L.: DOB 11/13/1988; 26 yr. old, Hispanic male. August 23, 2015 at 0139 hours, Jose was stabbed several times in the chest & back outside of La Carreta Restaurant at 1006 S. 3rd Ave. Yakima, WA. Jason was transported to Yakima Regional Medical Center where he expired August 23, 2015 at 0232 hours in the emergency room. Jason had been involved in an altercation at this location with another subject. This is the 6th homicide investigated by Yakima Police for 2015.

Dr. Gina Fino M.D. Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy August 24, 2015. Dr. Fino advised the Cause of Death was Exsanguination, due to Multiple Stab Wounds to the Chest & Back, interval to death minutes. Manner of Death was Homicide. The knife struck the heart damaging the right ventricle also the liver.

#19 - 15-489 H19 - EMMERSON, Norma Irene; DOB 07/23/1961; 54 yr. old White female. November 11, 2015 between 0000 & 0300 hours Norma was shot in the back of the head three times and left 2 mile south of 760 Sage Trail Road, Yakima, WA. (E. Selah area). Norma was found by a man who lived in the area as she was lying on her back in the middle of the dirt lane that goes to his residence. This is the 7th Homicide investigated by the Yakima Sheriff 's Department this year.

Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds MD, Forensic Pathologist performed the autopsy on Norma I. Emmerson. Reynolds advised that Norma had been shot three times in the right side of the head. The first shot was a glancing blow fracturing the head, the second shot penetrated the skull near the top & behind the right ear and was found & recovered in the left frontal lobe, this was a .22 caliber bullet. The third shot was a partial entry & fragmented by the heavy skull bone. Her right hand at the thumb had been struck by fragments. There was no other trauma or injuries other than that from the gunshot wounds. No signs of assault or self-defensive wounds. Dr. Reynolds advised the cause of death was Direct Cerebral Trauma, secondary to Respiratory Arrest, due to the .22 caliber Gunshot Wounds to the Head.

#20 - 15-562 H20 - HUNSAKER, Jeramiah James; DOB 01/23/1979; 36 yr. old White male. December 23, 2015 at 0002 hours Jeramiah was shot in the body & head three times with a .12 gauge shotgun. Jeramiah was at 1608 S. 7th Ave. in Yakima, he was outside of the residence and was told to leave by occupants of the residence. Jeramiah did not leave and was shot twice in the body and then once in the head at close range causing his immediate death. This occurred in the driveway of 1608 S. 7th Ave. Yakima at 0002 hours Dec. 23, 2015. This was the City of Yakima 's 7th Homicide investigated in 2015.

December 23, 2015 at 0930 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Jeramiah James HUNSAKER. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Exsanguination, due to Lacerated Aorta; Disrupted Cerebrum, due to multiple Gunshot Wounds (.12 ga. Shotgun). No evidence of significant none gunshot wound trauma. Cause of Death was Exsanguination, due to Lacerated Aorta; Disrupted Cerebrum, due to multiple Gunshot Wounds to Body & Head (.12 ga. Shotgun). Manner of Death was Homicide.

[William Martin Jr. 22 year old White male was arrested for the shooting of Jeramiah Hunsaker Charged with 1st Degree Murder.](#)

#21 - 15-423 H21 - CABRERA, Jose, DOB 02/26/1975, 41 yr. old Hispanic male was a pedestrian, he had jumped onto the hood of the vehicle and the driver accelerated forward and applied the brakes cause Jose to slide off the hood and strike his head on the roadway. This incitement occurred in the

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City of Sunnyside at N. 16th Street & Sheller. Jose was then run over by the vehicle as the driver failed to secure the vehicle when he got out to check on Jose. The driver then backed the vehicle up again running over Jose. He then transported Jose to the Sunnyside Community Hospital. Jose was then transported to Kadlec Hospital in Kennewick where he died from the head injury he received in this collision.

October 5, 2015 at 1000 hours, Dr. Jeffrey Reynolds performed the autopsy on Jose Cabrera. Dr. Reynolds advised the Cause of Death was Progressive Cerebral Anoxia, due to Direct Cerebral Trauma, due to Motor Vehicle / Pedestrian Collision. Other Significant Conditions: displaced fracture of left ankle; abrasion on chest and stomach, no significant chest or abdomen trauma. Manner of Death Homicide, Sunnyside Detectives advised that this was a Domestic Violence Homicide. Jose Cabrera and his brother Raul Cabrera had gotten in a fight, Jose was kicked out of the car and he then jumped on the hood of the vehicle and Raul internally sped up to 30 to 40 mph and hit the brakes causing Jose to slide off the hood and onto the pavement where he struck his head and died from his injuries. **Raul Cabrera has been charged with 2nd Degree Murder.**

MANNER: SUICIDE

Suicide happens when the coping mechanisms for an individual become overwhelmed, and the only way out of perceived pain is via death. Accurate determination of suicidal deaths is necessary in order to identify high-risk groups and develop preventive strategies and interventions.

<u>METHOD OF SUICIDE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Hanging	11	7	4
Gunshot to Head	22	18	4
Drugs & Alcohol	2	0	2
Helium Gas	1	0	1
Knife	2	2	0

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TOTAL: 38

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
<19	5	3	2
20-29	7	5	2
30-39	10	8	2
40-49	5	3	2
50-59	4	4	0
60-69	5	2	3
70-79	0	0	0
80-89	0	0	0
90-99	2	2	0

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	0
February	3
March	1
April	2
May	8
June	3
July	5
August	3
September	2
October	1
November	5
December	5

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
White	24
Hispanic	7
Native American	7

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

MANNER: TRAFFIC

Blood alcohol tests were performed for 33 of the 38 traffic fatalities, of the 33, 15 tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs. Of the 21 vehicle drivers, 10 tested positive, of the 8 passengers, 4 tested positive. There were 6 pedestrian fatalities, of those 2 tested positive for alcohol and/or drugs. In the State of Washington, 0.08 grams is considered the legally intoxicated level while driving. Blood Ethanol is measured in grams per 100 ml of blood or grams %. It should be noted that in many cases someone other than the person who died may have been under the influence of alcohol and directly involved in the accident.

<u>CIRCUMSTANCE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Driver/MVC	21	14	7
Passenger/MVC	3	0	0
Pedestrian	6	4	2
Motor Vehicle Homicide	8	5	3

TOTAL: 38

<u>TOTAL RACE</u>	
Native American	6
White	16
Hispanic	16
Asian	1

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<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH TOTAL</u>	
0-9	3	2	1	January	3
10-19	3	3	0	February	1
20-29	6	4	2	March	4
30-39	11	8	3	April	0
40-49	3	2	1	May	6
50-59	3	3	0	June	3
60-69	5	4	1	July	5
70-79	3	1	2	August	1
80-89	1	0	1	September	6
90-99	0	0	0	October	5
				November	3
				December	1

LOCATIONS:

West Bound I-82 MP 21, Selah, WA
 State Route 241 MP 14, Sunnyside, WA
 200 block of 4th Avenue, Mabton, WA
 North Track Road, North of Lateral 1, Wapato, WA
 Interstate Highway 82 MP 40, Union Gap, WA
 Lateral A & McDonald Road, Wapato, WA
 Yakima Valley Hwy & Cutler Way, Zillah, WA
 604 Keys Road, Yakima, WA
 7763 Old Naches Hwy. (E. of Allen Rd.) Naches, WA
 State Highway 12 at MP 167, Naches, WA
 Van Belle Rd & Ray Rd. 3 mi NE of Sunnyside, WA
 I-82 at MP 51, Zillah, WA
 Driveway of 720 Pioneer Way, Yakima, WA
 Speyers Road 7 Lynnwood Lane, Selah, WA
 2200 Block of North Wenas, Selah, WA
 2300 Naches-Tieton Road, Tieton, WA
 206 Avenue D, Grandview, WA
 Branch & Stephenson Road, White Swan, WA
 Yakima Valley Highway & Gurley Road, Granger, WA

Mead & Ledwich Ave., Yakima, WA
 WA State Hwy 22 & Larue Road, Toppenish, WA
 WA State Hwy 22 & Larue Road, Toppenish, WA
 WA State Hwy 22 & Larue Road, Toppenish, WA
 WA State Hwy 22 & Larue Road, Toppenish, WA
 Wide Hollow Road 7 Douglas Road, Yakima, WA
 State Highway 22 MP1, Toppenish, WA
 W/B Interstate Hwy 82, West of MP 62, Outlook, WA
 County Road, Fort Road East of Lateral B, Wapato, WA
 Ashue & Progressive Roads, Wapato, WA
 Highway 12 & Low Road, Naches, WA
 Irrigation Ditch on Lateral A & Evans Road, Wapato, WA
 Van Belle & Brien Lane, Granger/Outlook, WA
 State Highway 22 & Meyers Road, Toppenish, WA
 State Highway 22 & Meyers Road, Toppenish, WA
 Exit 50, Interstate Hwy 82, Toppenish, WA
 East Bound Interstate Hwy 82, MP 40, Union Gap, WA
 East Bound Interstate Hwy 82, MP 40, Union Gap, WA
 Forest Area – North Fork Rd., Yakima, WA

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

MANNER: SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

The Coroner’s Office is required by RCW 43.103.100 (4) to report to the Public Health Department when a sudden unexplained infant death occurs. This is done to achieve a better understanding of such deaths, and to connect families to various community and public health support systems to aid in grief recovery. Autopsies are necessary in all child deaths.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
3 Mo.	1	1	0	January	0
				February	0
				March	0

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Hispanic	0	April	1
White	0	May	0
Native American	0	June	0
Africa American	1	July	0
		August	0
		October	0
		November	0
		December	0

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

MANNER: FETAL DEMISE

The fetal death certificate is a legal document, although it primarily serves statistical and health research purposes. The information is used to study prenatal care services and obstetrical programs. It is also used to examine consequences to the fetus from possible environmental and occupational exposures to parents. A fetal death certificate must be completed and filed for every fetus 20 or more weeks' gestation.

<u>MONTH OCCURRED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RACE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
January	3	White	1	0
		Hispanic	1	0
		Nat/American	1	0
February	0	Hispanic	0	0

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		Nat/American	0	0
		White	0	0
March	1	Hispanic	1	0
		Nat/American	0	0
April	2	White	1	0
		Hispanic	0	1
May	0	Hispanic	0	0
		White	0	0
June	2	Hispanic	1	1
July	0	Hispanic	0	0
		White	0	0
August	0	White	0	0
		Hispanic	0	0
September	1	Hispanic	1	0
		Asian	0	0
		White	0	0
October	2	Na/American	1	0
		Black	1	0
November	5	Hispanic	2	0
		White	3	0
December	1	White	1	0

TOTAL: 17

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

MANNER: NATURAL

The vast majority of deaths in Yakima County result from natural causes. For most deaths occurring in Yakima County, a physician who has medically attended to the patient, should, and usually will, certify the cause of death. The responsibility of the Yakima County Coroner's Office is to remain focused on the investigation of unnatural deaths.

The Coroner assumed jurisdiction on 400 natural deaths in 2015. The various factors that influence this decision were:

- The physician was unavailable to certify the cause of death within the two-day time frame.
- The physician had not attended to the individual recently and declined to certify the death certificate.
- The decedent had not been under the care of a physician and the cause of death was unknown.

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- The decedent was indigent and/or unclaimed and Yakima County contributed to their final disposition.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
<1	2	1	1
1-09	1	0	1
10-19	1	1	0
20-29	4	4	0
30-39	6	5	1
40-49	23	17	6
50-59	60	42	18
60-69	86	57	29
70-79	92	53	39
80-89	79	38	41
90-99	40	13	27
100+	6	1	5

TOTAL: 400

<u>RACE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
White	330
Hispanic	46
African American	0
Native American	21
Asian	3

<u>MONTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
January	34
February	32
March	29
April	33
May	33
June	35
July	32
August	34
September	36
October	34
November	32
December	36

TEN YEAR COMPARISON

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Blood alcohol level:** The concentration of ethanol (alcohol) found in blood following ingestion. Blood ethanol is measured in grams per 100 ml of blood or grams %. In the State of Washington, 0.08 grams % is considered legally intoxicated level while driving.
- Cause of Death:** Any injury or disease that produces a physiological derangement in the body that results in the death of an individual. ¹

¹ DiMaio, V.J. & DiMaio, D. Forensic Pathology, Second Edition. CRC Press, 2001.

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Drug:	Therapeutic drug: A substance, other than food, used in the prevention, diagnosis, alleviation, treatment, or cure of disease. Recreation drug: A drug used non-medically for personal stimulation/depression/euphoria.
Drug caused death:	Death directly caused by a drug or drugs in combination with each other or with alcohol.
Jurisdiction:	The jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office extends to all reportable deaths occurring within the boundaries of Yakima County, whether or not the incident leading to the death (such as an accident) occurred within the county. Reportable deaths are defined by RCW 68.50, as explained in the "Description and Purpose" section of this report. Not all natural death reported fall within the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office.
Manner of Death:	A classification of the way in which the events preceding death were causal factors in the death. The manner of death as determined by the forensic pathologist in an opinion based on the known facts concerning the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the death, in conjunction with autopsy findings and laboratory tests. ²
Manner: Accidental	Death other than natural, where there is no evidence of intent, i.e., unintentional. In this report, traffic accidents are classified separately.
Manner: Homicide	Death resulting from intentional harm (explicit or implicit) of one person by another, including actions of grossly reckless behavior.
Manner: Natural	Death caused solely by disease. If natural death is hastened by injury (such as a fall or drowning in a bathtub), the manner of death is classified other than natural.
Manner: Suicide	Death as a result of a purposeful action with intent (explicit or implicit) to ends one's own life.

² Ibid, p 3.

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Manner: Traffic	Unintentional deaths of drivers, passengers, and/or pedestrians involving motor vehicles on public roadways. Accidents involving motor vehicles on private property (such as driveways) are not included in this category and are classified non-traffic, vehicular accidents.
Manner: Complication Of Therapy	Death that arises as a predictable consequence of appropriate medical therapy. Although this is a manner of death for death certification purposes, Complication of Therapy statistics are included under the Manner “Accidental” in this report.
Opiate:	Any preparation of derivative of opium, including heroin, morphine or codeine. In this report “opiate deaths” most likely refer to heroin caused deaths.
Poison:	Any substance, either taken internally or applied externally, that is injurious to health or dangerous to life, and with no medicinal benefit.
Fetal Death:	Category of deaths that occur within the uterus. The Coroner’s Office assumes jurisdiction over fetal deaths that meet the criteria specified in RCE 68.50. (<i>See page 13</i> of this report for details).
Race:	The racial categories used in this report are: White, African American, Native American, Chinese American, and Filipino.