

# Franklin County Coroner



## Copy of 2025 Annual Report

Franklin County Coroner  
1310 North 5th Avenue  
Pasco, 99301

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# Message to the Board of Commissioners and Citizens of Franklin County

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The Franklin County Coroner's Office is responsible for investigating sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths that occur within Franklin County. Following a thorough investigation and, when appropriate, a postmortem examination, the Coroner certifies the death and issues the death certificate as required by law. The findings of each death investigation are documented and shared with family members and law enforcement agencies, as appropriate.

A primary duty of the Coroner's Office is to determine and certify the cause and manner of death for all cases reported to the office. The *cause of death* refers to the disease process or injury that directly resulted in death, of which there are thousands of possible medical conditions and traumatic injuries. The *manner of death* is the classification assigned based on the circumstances of the death and is determined as natural, accident, suicide, homicide, or, in some cases, indeterminate.

Information collected during a death investigation helps clarify the circumstances surrounding the death, including the sequence of events leading up to it. Evidence collected during the investigation and/or postmortem examination is gathered independently of all other agencies, ensuring a fair and unbiased investigative process. These investigations may contribute to the arrest or successful conviction of a suspect in homicide cases. Because deaths occur at all hours, coroner staff members are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Coroner's Office is an accredited office, and all medicolegal investigative personnel are required to successfully complete medicolegal forensic investigation training through the state's Medicolegal Training Academy program within specified timeframes. In addition, the office employs investigators who are certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators and utilizes board-certified forensic pathologists. As a result of this training, certification, and professional oversight, the quality of death investigations conducted in Franklin County is among the best in the state. Death scene investigation reports prepared by investigators are thorough and provide comprehensive, well-documented information to the coroner.

In addition to their investigative responsibilities, coroners and investigators serve the living by answering questions and addressing concerns related to deaths within the county. Coroner investigators frequently make personal contact with the family members of the deceased and provide clear, compassionate information regarding the circumstances of the death. Investigators also provide families with an informational pamphlet that answers common questions, explains the autopsy process, and offers resources related to grief support and counseling.

In 2025, the Coroner's Office completed construction of a new morgue facility. The project was funded primarily through the American Rescue Plan Act, with the remaining costs covered by grants secured by the Coroner's Office and contributions from the county. The Coroner's Office has since contracted with outside agencies to utilize the facility, generating revenue for the county. The new facility has significantly reduced staff travel time by eliminating the need to transport decedents to other agencies. This improvement allows the office to maintain a consistent chain of custody and continuity of care for the deceased while they are under the Coroner's Office's responsibility.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for their support of the coroner program and the services we provide to the citizens of the Franklin County.

# Coroner Staff

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Curtis McGary  
Coroner

Reuben Marquez  
Chief Deputy Coroner

Salem Gray  
Deputy Coroner

# Types of Deaths Reportable to the Coroner

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## State-Mandated Coroner Referrals

State law requires that certain types of deaths be referred to the Coroner for investigation (see list below). These include sudden, unexpected, accidental, and violent deaths. Under these statutes, the Coroner has the authority to order an autopsy whenever it is deemed necessary to determine or confirm the cause and manner of death.

## Deaths Reportable to the Coroner

- *Violent deaths*: e.g., strangulation, gunshot, stabbing, poisoning, assault-related injuries.
- *Accidental deaths*: e.g., falls, drowning, motor vehicle collisions, burns, drug overdose.
- *Deaths of prisoners*: occurring in any county or city jail, or while in custody.
- *Suspicious circumstances*: e.g., unidentified bodies, unusual circumstances surrounding death.
- *Sudden and unexpected deaths*: e.g., deaths during surgical procedures, post-operative or recovery deaths, anesthesia-related deaths, unexpected natural deaths, occupational-related deaths.\*
- *Deaths without recent medical attendance*: if no physician attended within 48 hours, unless the attending physician can reasonably determine the cause of death in cases of chronic illness.
- *Maternal deaths related to abortion*.
- *Unexpected infant deaths*.

The Coroner generally orders an autopsy for any death falling under the categories listed above to ensure accurate determination of cause and manner of death.

\*Occupational-related deaths include worksite accidents or other job-related fatalities.

# Franklin County Coroner Cases

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Population	100,000
Cases Reported to Coroner	356
A. Number of deaths certified after postmortem examination	135
1. Number of Coroner Cases with Complete Autopsy	22
2. Number of Coroner Cases with External Examination	117
3. Number of Coroner Cases with Limited Examination	0
B. Number of deaths certified without postmortem examination	143
C. Number of deaths not certified by Coroner's Office after investigation	213

## Definitions

### Full Autopsy:

A comprehensive external and internal examination of a decedent, including all major organs and body systems.

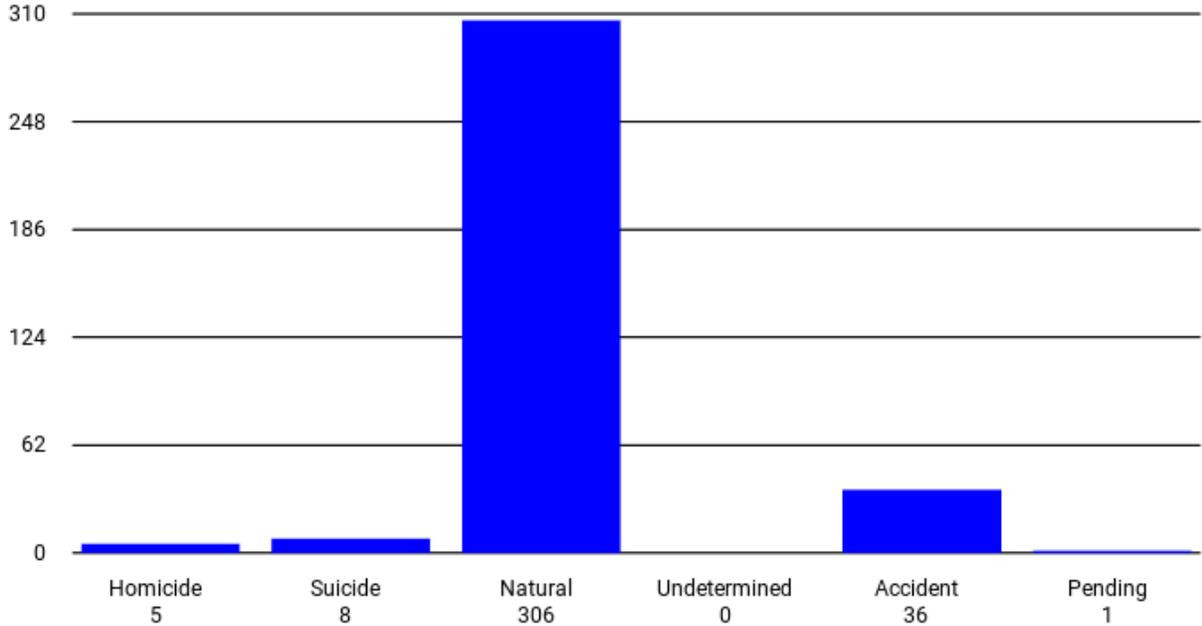
### Limited Examination:

An examination focused on a specific organ, organ system, or region of the body (e.g., heart). A limited examination also includes a complete external examination.

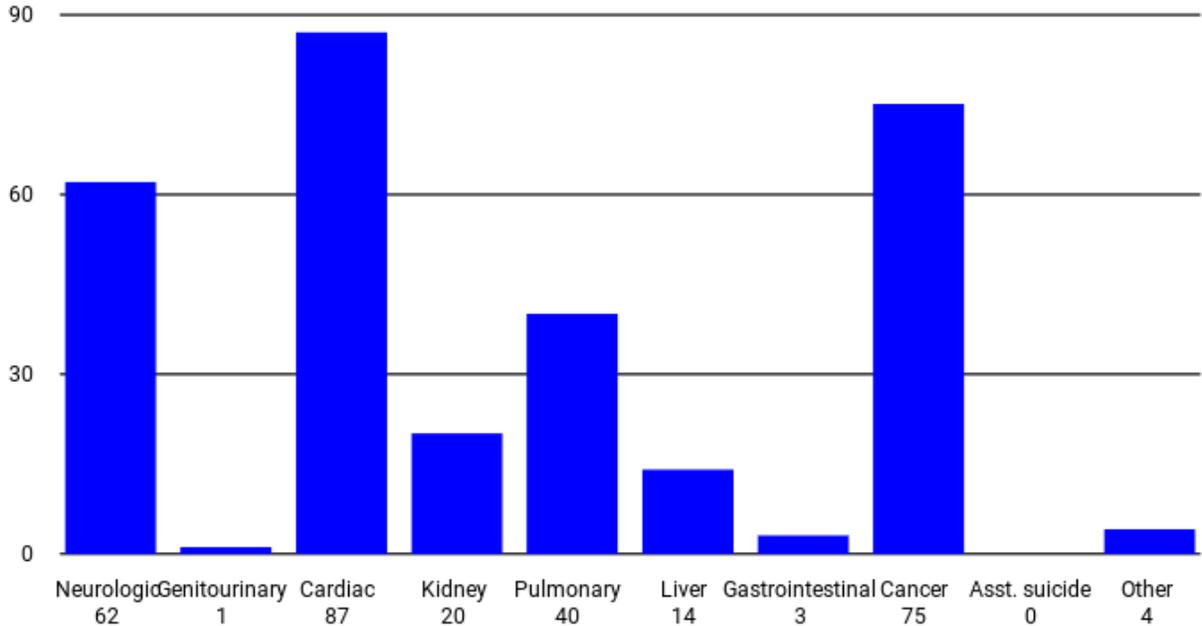
### External Examination:

An examination limited to the exterior of a decedent, without internal dissection.

# Manner of Death by Postmortem Examination

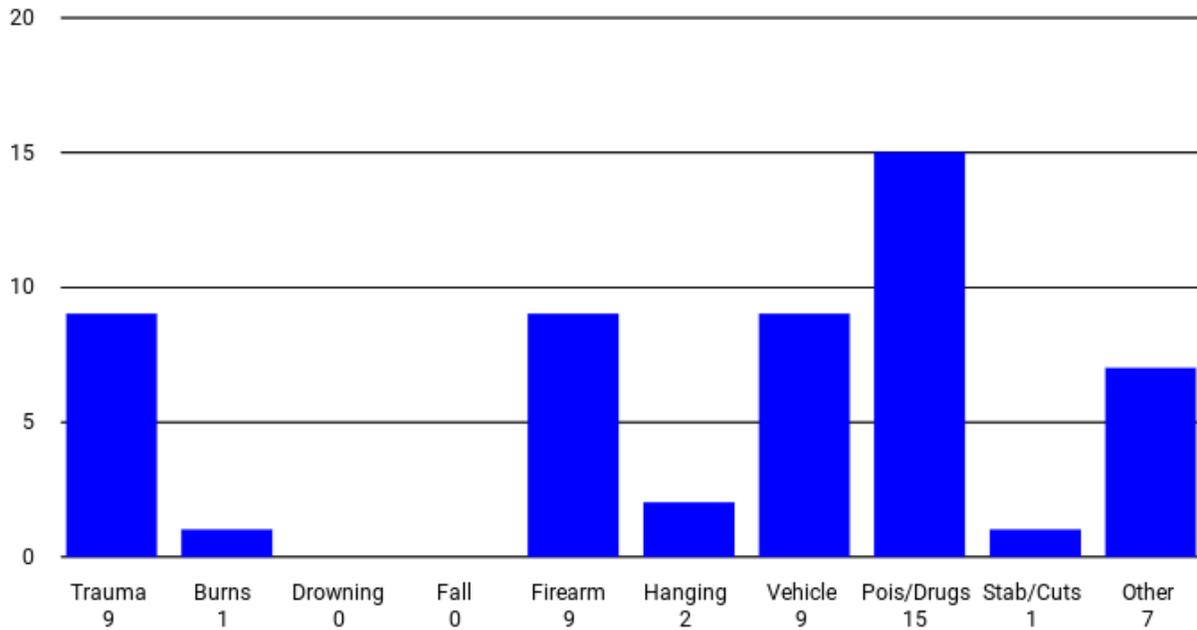


# Deaths by Natural Causes



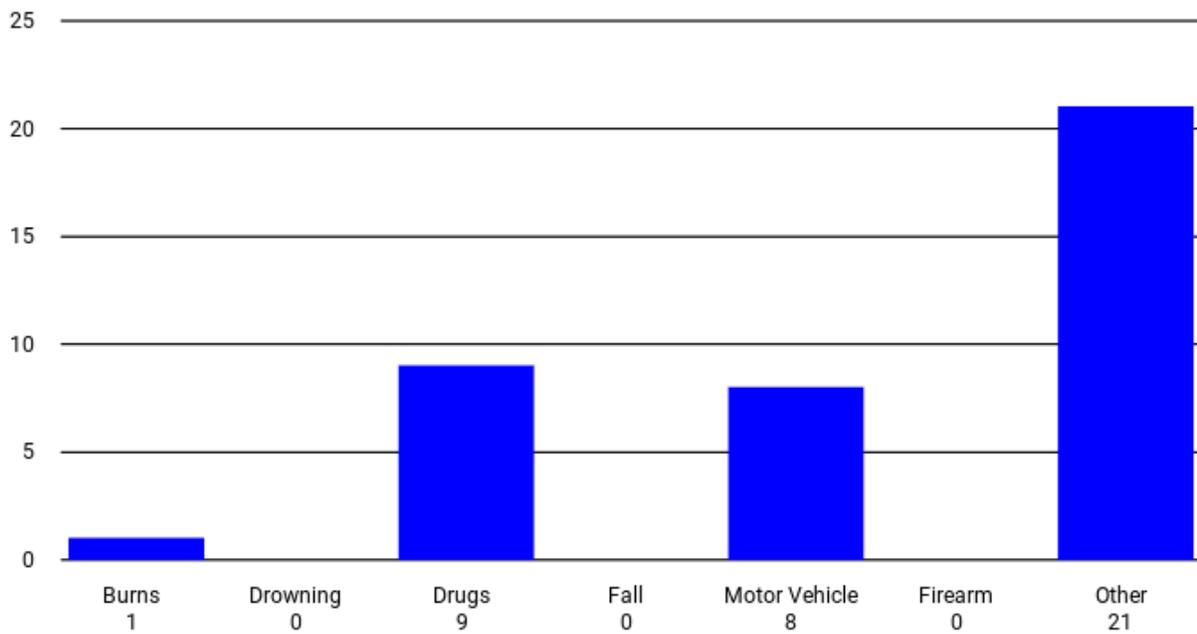
## Deaths by Unnatural Causes

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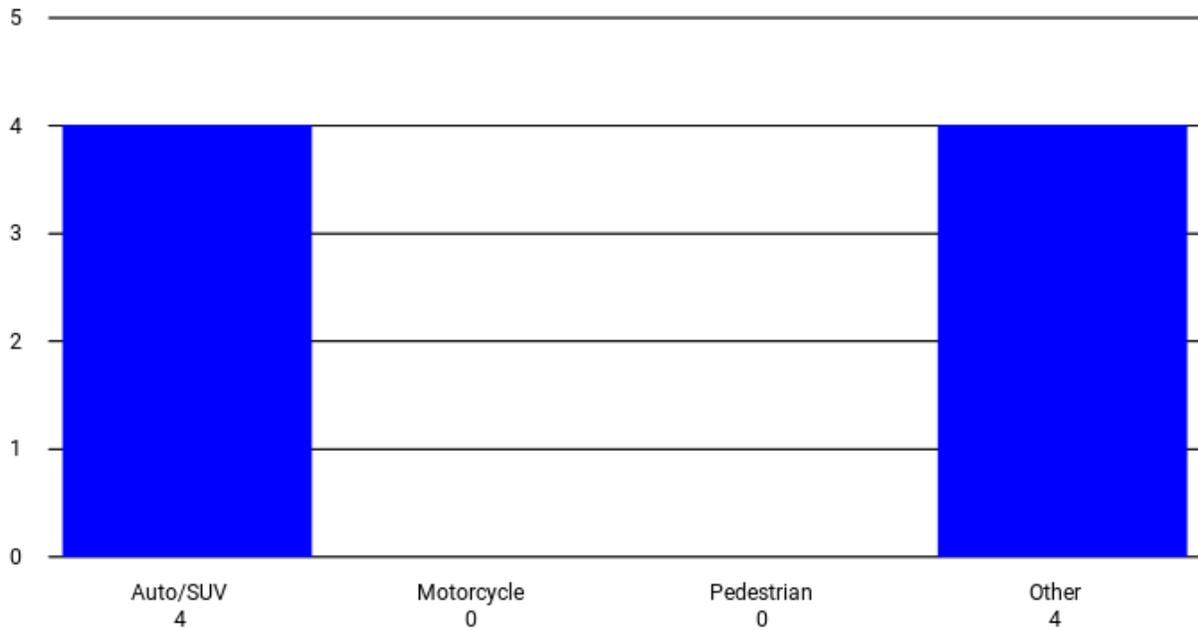
## Accidental Deaths by Type

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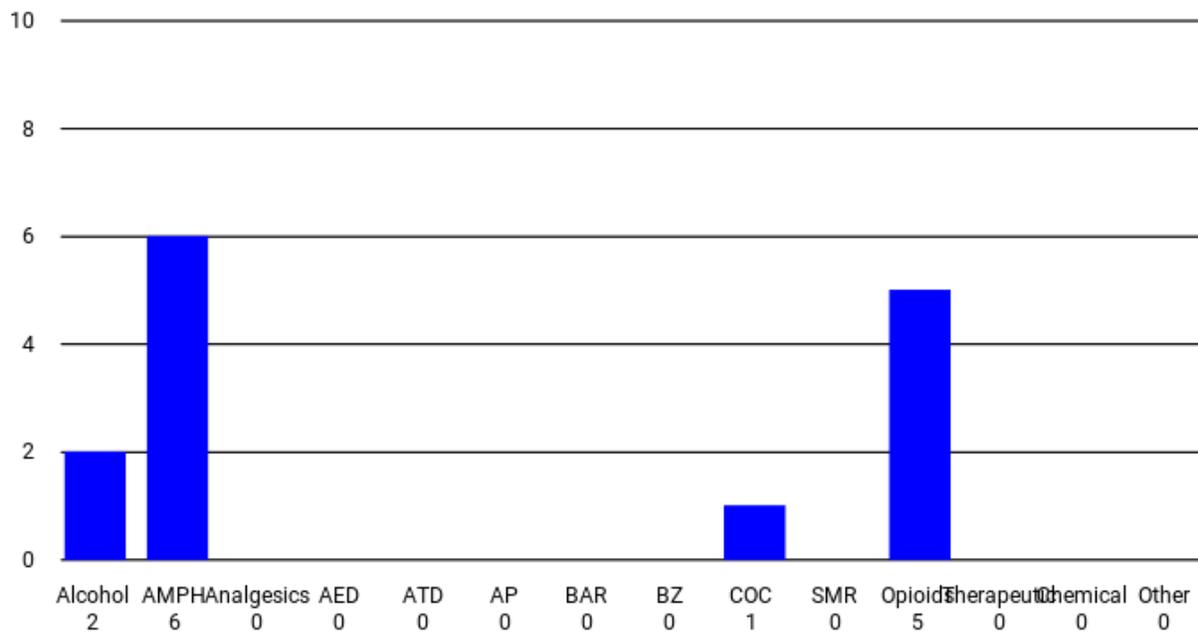
## Accidental Deaths - Motor Vehicle Crashes

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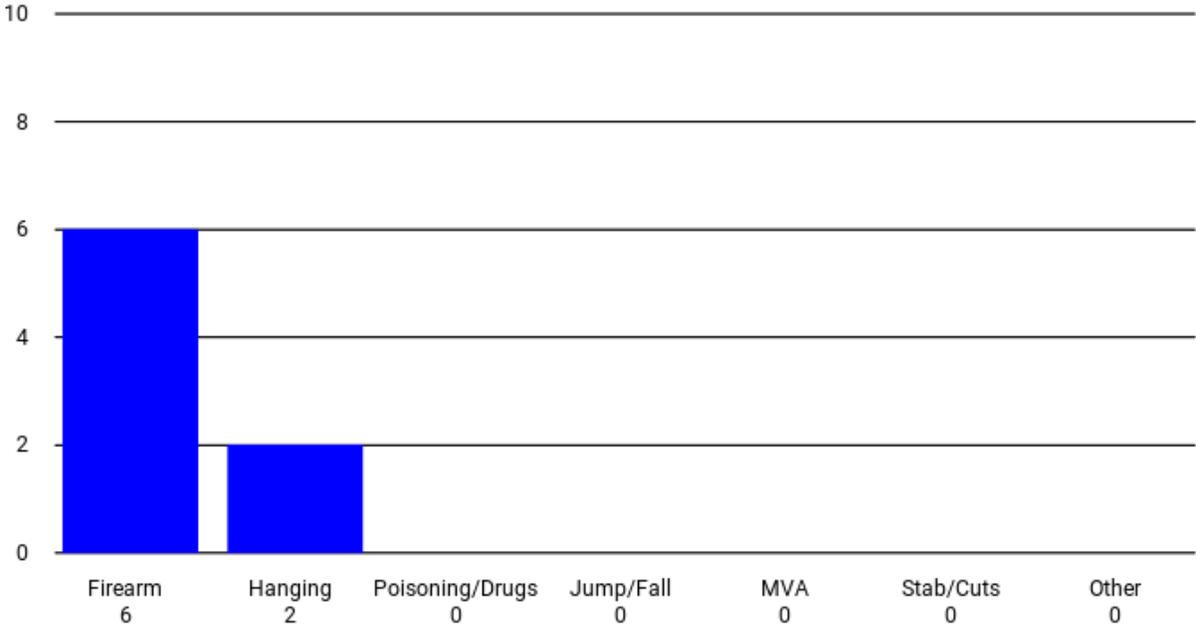
## Drugs Contributing to Cause of Death

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# Suicide by Means

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# Homicide Deaths

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# Deaths by Age Group

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