



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF  
 DAVID O. LIVINGSTON  
 SHERIFF - CORONER

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Diane Burgis and Members of the Board  
 Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
 1025 Escobar Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 Martinez, CA 94553

**RE: Contra Costa County Coroner's Office Statistics**

Dear Madam Chair Burgis and Members of the Board:

This letter is in response to the Board of Supervisor's request for statistical data involving Contra Costa County Coroner's Cases. This request was made during the County's budget hearing held on April 20, 2021.

The Coroner's Office is an investigative unit responsible for determining the cause and manner of death for all deaths covered under California Government Code Section 27491 and California Health and Safety Code Section 10250. Death investigations are conducted on homicides, suicides, accidents, suspicious, and unexpected deaths. Other duties include notifying the next of kin, safeguarding personal property, the collection of evidence, processing death certificates, and overseeing indigent burials.

The following statistical data reflects the cause and number of deaths for all Coroner's Cases in 2018, 2019, and 2020 calendar years:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>BRIEF*</b>	<b>5410</b>	<b>5322</b>	<b>6179</b>
<b>HOMICIDE</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>109</b>

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<b>NATURAL CAUSES</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>SUICIDES</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>OTHER ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>307</b>
<b>ACCIDENTAL DRUG OVERDOSE</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>UNDETERMINED CAUSE</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>TOTAL-DEATHS (OVERALL)</b>	<b>6142</b>	<b>6056</b>	<b>7108</b>

*\*If a case does not meet the criteria of a Coroner's Case, there is no Coroner response and collection of the remains. The decedent is released to the family to contact a funeral home for removal. This is referred to as a "BRIEF." Most BRIEF cases are generated from convalescent homes, and/or hospice care.*

If you'd like any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

**DAVID O. LIVINGSTON**  
Sheriff – Coroner

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