



---

# MEMORANDUM

---

Date: June 15, 2015

To: The Honorable Chair and Members  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner Annual Report**

Attached is the 2014 Annual Report and transmittal memorandum from Pima County Medical Examiner Dr. Gregory Hess for your information. The annual report covers a variety of topics relevant to the performance of his office's duties.

The 2014 Annual Report provides a comprehensive analysis of the Medical Examiner's activities during Calendar Year 2014 and summarizes pertinent information regarding the death investigations conducted by the Medical Examiner. This year's report is expanded to include all of the Medical Examiner's activities, including those for other counties that contract with Pima County for Medical Examiner services.

The Medical Examiner is required to investigate any death in Pima County that is sudden, violent, unexpected or in which the cause is unknown. Dr. Hess provides these services by statute for Pima County, serves as the Medical Examiner for Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties, and performs examinations as needed for eight additional counties in Arizona.

In 2014, there were 8,630 deaths in Pima County. Of these, 2,520 were reported to the Medical Examiner for investigation.

New for this year is the approval of a fellowship training program in forensic pathology beginning July 2015. There is a critical shortage of practicing forensic pathologists in the United States, and there are only 36 accredited training programs in the country. Prior to our program, there were none in Arizona.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Dr. Hess.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Dr. Gregory Hess, Pima County Medical Examiner



OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

2825 E. District Street • Tucson, Arizona 85714 • 520-243-8600 • Fax: 520-243-8610

To: CH Huckleberry  
County Administrator

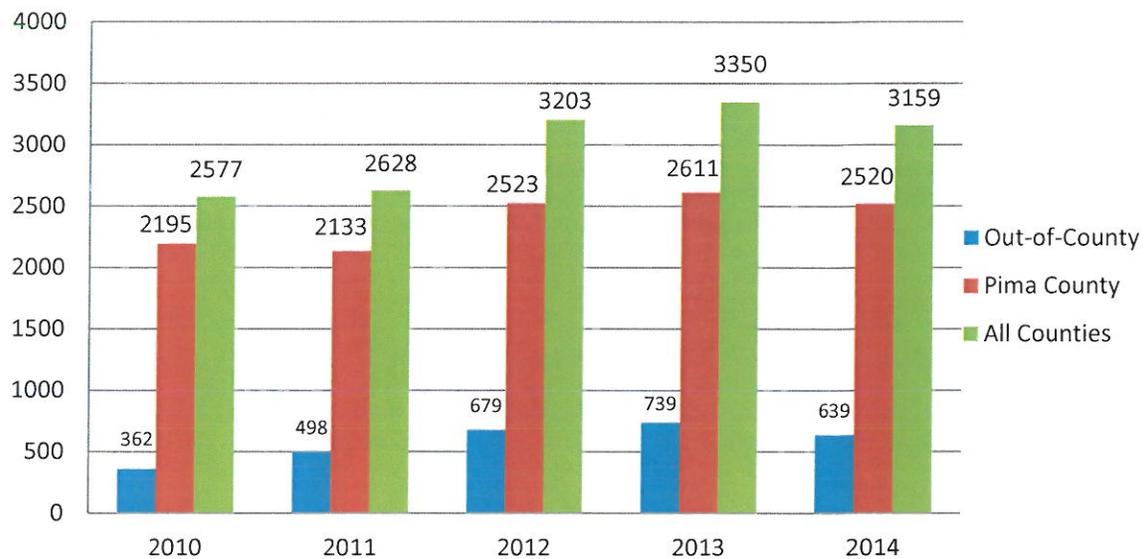
Re: 2014 Annual Report, 2014 highlights and looking ahead

*2014 Annual Report*

Attached is the 2014 Annual Report for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME). This is the fifth calendar year in which I have produced a report detailing some of the activities of the office and the number and types of deaths examined at the PCOME. This year's report is 68 pages longer (102 total pages) than the 2013 report with the addition of a county by county section not present in last year's report.

The number of cases from out-of-county deaths decreased slightly from 2013 (739) to 2014 (639). The total number of cases in 2014 (3,159) also decreased slightly from 2013 (3,350). Please reference the graph below for a visual representation of the numbers of cases from 2010-2014.

### PCOME Cases 2010 - 2014

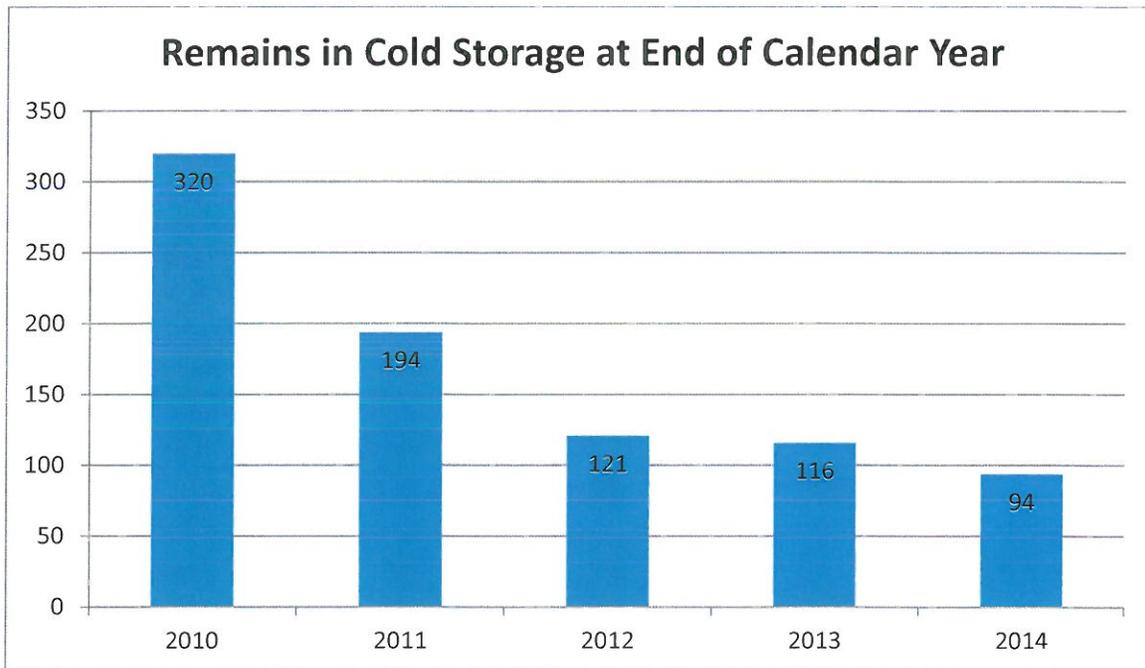


Gregory L. Hess, M.D. Chief Medical Examiner

*2014 Highlights and Looking Ahead*

In January 2012, pursuant to A.R.S §36-861, the PCOME began death notification referrals to Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) for their consideration concerning organ or tissue donation and DNA began tissue procurement at our facility. This partnership has continued with PCOME death referrals comprising 20-25% of all DNA tissue recoveries in 2014.

The storage of decedents, historically a significant problem at this facility, improved with the approval of the Pima County Ordinance No. 2011-84 Forensic Science Fee Schedule in the fall of 2011 and with transition at the helm of the Pima County Public Fiduciary Office, also in 2011. At the end of 2010, 320 remains were in storage at our facility. At the end of each subsequent year the number of remains in storage has decreased from 194 in 2011, to 121 in 2012, to 116 in 2013 and to 94 in 2014 (see graph below). In short, the PCOME continues to work on processes to assure remains are examined carefully and professionally and subsequently interred in a timely manner if identification cannot be established.



We began a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Forensic Anthropology in February 2012, the only position of its kind at the time in the United States. Three programs, including Pima County's, were offered in 2014 and we look forward to continuing this program in the future.

Our position as a regional forensic facility to serve Arizona continues. The PCOME is the Medical Examiner for three counties (Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise) and serves as an examination and forensic service resource for eight additional counties (Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo, Pinal and Yuma). I project our out-of-county

examinations to remain essentially static for the foreseeable future secondary to the projected needs of the counties we serve and the limitations of our current facility.

In cooperation with and funded through the Department of Pathology at the University of Arizona, Banner University Medical Center – Tucson, the PCOME was accredited through the American College of Graduate Medical Education to provide fellowship training in Forensic Pathology beginning July 2015. There is a critical shortage of practicing Forensic Pathologists in the United States with only 36 accredited training programs and none in Arizona. Our first Forensic Pathology Fellow will begin his/her training July 1, 2016 and will be the only such training program offered in the State. As Fellowship applications are commonly filled years ahead of time, we are currently recruiting for our 2017-2018 fellow as demonstrated in the following description.

## **FORENSIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP**

### **Opening for 2017-2018**

The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) in Tucson, AZ offers an ACGME-accredited one-year Forensic Pathology training program. This program concentrates on preparing the fellow to successfully complete requirements for board certification. The PCOME is Arizona's only National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) accredited office and serves as the primary site for fellowship training. Other sites include the Tucson Police Department Crime Lab and the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office toxicology laboratory. PCOME has over 3000 cases reported to it annually of which approximately 100 are homicides. The fellow will personally perform approximately 250 autopsies under the direct supervision of any of six Board-certified forensic pathologists. The fellow will also accompany medical investigators to scenes to learn the essential techniques of scene investigation. Due to our location near the border with Mexico and the volume of migrant deaths in our jurisdiction, the office has world-renowned expertise in the handling, processing, examination and identification of unidentified and skeletal human remains. In-house forensic anthropologists provide comprehensive training in these disciplines. After a period of observation of expert testimony provided by staff forensic pathologists, the fellow will be given the opportunity to testify on their own involving cases they have performed. The fellow is encouraged to participate in a scholarly project during the year culminating in presentation at a meeting and/or publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Requirements: Board eligible/certified in AP or AP/CP

Stipend: Commensurate with level of postgraduate training

As we have previously discussed, the PCOME physical plant is inadequate to continue to meet the needs of Pima County and the additional regions of Arizona that we now serve. As the population of Pima and surrounding counties increases over time, we need to expand in order to meet this demand both now and in the future. We do not have the capacity to accept cases beyond our current census in our current facility, effectively capping our ability to generate new revenue with out-of-county cases or respond to an increased demand within Pima County.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact me with any questions or concerns. A bound copy of the annual report will follow this electronic version in the coming days.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory L. Hess', with a stylized flourish extending to the left.

Gregory L. Hess, MD  
Chief Medical Examiner



**PIMA COUNTY**

---

**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER**

# **Annual Report 2014**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>		<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>OVERVIEW</b>		<b>PAGES 4-6</b>
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL CHART</b>		<b>PAGE 7</b>
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>		<b>PAGE 8</b>
<b>MEDICAL EXAMINER (ME) CASES</b>		<b>PAGE 8</b>
<b>ME CASES</b>	<b>PAGE 9</b>	
<b>ME CASES BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 9</b>	
<b>ME CASES BY MANNER</b>	<b>PAGE 10</b>	
<b>PIMA COUNTY ME CASES BY MANNER</b>	<b>PAGE 10</b>	
<b>HOMICIDE DEATHS</b>		<b>PAGE 11</b>
<b>HOMICIDE 2009-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 11</b>	
<b>HOMICIDE BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 11</b>	
<b>HOMICIDE BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 12</b>	
<b>HOMICIDE BY CAUSE</b>	<b>PAGE 12</b>	
<b>ACCIDENT DEATHS</b>		<b>PAGE 13</b>
<b>ACCIDENT BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 13</b>	
<b>ACCIDENT BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 13</b>	
<b>ACCIDENT BY CAUSE</b>	<b>PAGE 14</b>	
<b>ACCIDENT BY CAUSE 2011-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 14</b>	
<b>SUICIDE DEATHS</b>		<b>PAGE 15</b>
<b>SUICIDE BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 15</b>	
<b>SUICIDE BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 15</b>	
<b>SUICIDE BY CAUSE</b>	<b>PAGE 16</b>	
<b>SUICIDE BY CAUSE 2011-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 16</b>	
<b>NATURAL DEATHS</b>		<b>PAGE 17</b>
<b>NATURAL BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 17</b>	
<b>NATURAL BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 17</b>	
<b>NATURAL BY CAUSE</b>	<b>PAGE 18</b>	
<b>NATURAL BY CAUSE 2012-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 18</b>	
<b>UNDETERMINED MANNER OF DEATH</b>		<b>PAGE 19</b>
<b>UNDETERMINED MANNER BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 19</b>	
<b>UNDETERMINED MANNER BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 19</b>	
<b>UNDETERMINED MANNER BY CAUSE</b>	<b>PAGE 20</b>	

<b>OVERDOSE DEATHS</b>		<b>PAGE 21</b>
<b>OVERDOSE DEATHS 2010-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 21</b>	
<b>OVERDOSE DEATHS BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 22</b>	
<b>OVERDOSE DEATHS BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 22</b>	
<b>OVERDOSE DEATHS BY MANNER</b>	<b>PAGE 23</b>	
<b>SELECT DRUGS BY YEAR 2012-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 23</b>	
<b>OVERDOSE DEATHS BY DRUG</b>	<b>PAGE 24</b>	
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE RELATED FATALITIES</b>		<b>PAGE 25</b>
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES 2011-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 25</b>	
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 25</b>	
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 26</b>	
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITIES BY TYPE</b>	<b>PAGE 26</b>	
<b>W.H. BIRKBY FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORY</b>		<b>PAGE 27</b>
<b>FA EXAMS BY NUMBER 2007-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 27</b>	
<b>FA EXAMS BY CONDITION OF REMAINS</b>	<b>PAGE 28</b>	
<b>FA EXAMS BY TYPE</b>	<b>PAGE 28</b>	
<b>UNDOCUMENTED BORDER CROSSER (UBC) REMAINS</b>		<b>PAGE 29</b>
<b>UBC RECOVERIES 2001–2014</b>	<b>PAGE 30</b>	
<b>UBC RECOVERIES BY MONTH</b>	<b>PAGE 30</b>	
<b>UBC RECOVERIES BY AGE</b>	<b>PAGE 31</b>	
<b>CONDITION OF RECOVERED REMAINS</b>	<b>PAGE 31</b>	
<b>UBC RECOVERIES BY SEX</b>	<b>PAGE 32</b>	
<b>UBC RECOVERIES BY CAUSE</b>	<b>PAGE 32</b>	
<b>UBC RECOVERIES BY NATIONALITY, 2014</b>	<b>PAGE 33</b>	
<b>UBC RECOVERIES BY NATIONALITY, 2001-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 33</b>	
<b>IDENTIFIED V. UNIDENTIFIED UBC RECOVERIES</b>	<b>PAGE 34</b>	
<b>DNA IDENTIFICATIONS 2001-2014</b>	<b>PAGE 34</b>	
<b>DEATHS BY COUNTY</b>		<b>PAGE 35</b>
<b>APACHE COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 35 - 38</b>	
<b>COCHISE COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 39 - 44</b>	
<b>GILA COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 45 - 50</b>	
<b>GRAHAM COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 51 - 54</b>	
<b>GREENLEE COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 55 - 58</b>	
<b>LA PAZ COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 59 - 62</b>	
<b>NAVAJO COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 63 - 68</b>	
<b>PIMA COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 69 - 88</b>	
<b>PINAL COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 89 - 94</b>	
<b>SANTA CRUZ COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 95 - 98</b>	
<b>YUMA COUNTY</b>	<b>PAGE 99 - 102</b>	

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME) investigates any death in Pima County that is sudden, violent, unexpected, or in which the cause of death is unknown. The PCOME also serves as the Medical Examiner (ME) for Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties and performs examinations as needed for 8 additional counties. In 2014 there were 8,630 deaths in Pima County; of these 2,520 (29%) were reported to the PCOME for investigation. This annual report consists of three main sections. The first is an overview of the activities and notable events of the office over the course of the report year. The second is a statistical review of the types of cases processed by the office over the same time period. The third is a by-county breakdown of certain death classifications.

## **OVERVIEW**

The PCOME was fully accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) following a two day inspection in October 2011. This accreditation is effective from October 24, 2011 through October 24, 2016 and requires annual accreditation verification. NAME accredited offices represent the highest quality of death investigation systems. There are 80 offices across the United States accredited by NAME. The PCOME has the distinction of being the sole accredited office in Arizona.

### Reportable Deaths

Arizona Revised Statute §11-593 delineates ten circumstances in which a death is reportable to the PCOME.

1. Death when not under the current care of a health care provider as defined pursuant to section 36-301.
2. Death resulting from violence.
3. Death occurring suddenly when in apparent good health.
4. Death occurring in a prison.
5. Death of a prisoner.
6. Death occurring in a suspicious, unusual or unnatural manner.
7. Death from disease or accident believed to be related to the deceased's occupation or employment.
8. Death believed to present a public health hazard.
9. Death occurring during, in association with or as a result of anesthetic or surgical procedures.
10. Unidentifiable bodies.

### Investigations

Our 11 medical investigators processed 2,520 reports of deaths from Pima County and 639 reports from 10 additional Arizona counties in 2014. Jurisdiction was declined in 937 of these cases. A total of 1,878 decedents were transported to the PCOME for examination or storage in 2014.

### Examinations

Pima County forensic pathologists and anthropologists performed 1,316 autopsies, 358 external examinations, 344 death certifications, and 149 anthropologic examinations, and reviewed 6,044 death certificates for cremations in 2014.

### Education, Training and Activities

- 1) *Medicolegal Death Investigators*  
Calendar year 2012 saw a transition from the term Forensic Medical Investigator (FMI) to Medicolegal Death Investigator (MDI) for our 11 MDIs in keeping with national norms. Seven MDIs, our MDI Supervisor, and Morgue Supervisor are certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators to provide competent medicolegal death investigations. PCOME Forensic Pathologists lecture to the MDIs on varying topics monthly. In accordance with our MDI quality assurance and performance improvement program, 10% of reports are pathologist reviewed monthly and 10% of reports are peer reviewed quarterly.
- 2) *Community education, presentations and media interviews*  
The PCOME receives numerous requests from various groups, organizations, individuals and schools for presentations regarding a host of forensic issues annually. Not all requests can be honored due to time and personnel constraints, but examples of educational activities include but are not limited to: presentations at local primary and secondary schools; lectures at various institutions and departments at the University of Arizona; presentations and tours for humanitarian organizations; and the teaching of a 3-credit-hour death investigation class at Pima Community College. The Chief Medical Examiner recorded 163 media interviews, emails and phone calls over the calendar year. Pima County's Forensic Anthropologist and Postdoctoral Fellow gave numerous platform and poster presentations to various organizations and at national anthropologic and forensic conferences.
- 3) *University of Arizona College of Medicine, Department of Pathology and School of Anthropology*  
PCOME Forensic Pathologists hold clinical appointments with the Department of Pathology at the University of Arizona, College of Medicine, where they are involved with pathology resident and medical student teaching. Five pathology residents, five medical students and one pathology post-sophomore fellow rotated through the PCOME for month-long rotations in 2014. Our Forensic Anthropologist also holds an academic appointment at the University of Arizona and three anthropology interns trained at our facility in 2014.

### Law Enforcement and Legal System

The availability of our pathologists to assist or advise law enforcement personnel in their investigations and the legal system in its proceedings is an important function of the PCOME. Involvement of the PCOME in the legal system generally consists of pretrial interviews, depositions and courtroom testimony. In 2014, the office's six forensic pathologists and two anthropologists participated in approximately 50 pretrial interviews, 65 depositions and 45 jury trials.

Organ and Tissue Donation

Pursuant to A.R.S §36-861, the PCOME refers death notifications to, and partners with Donor Network of Arizona (DNA) and other associated tissue research agencies for the coordination and procurement of anatomic gifts. The importance of supporting the efforts of the organ and tissue transplant and research communities in Arizona cannot be understated. Anatomic gifts can be life saving for organ and tissue recipients and these donations are always in short supply.

Organ Donations with PCOME Involvement 2014

Heart	Lungs	Liver	Kidneys	Pancreas	Sm. Intestine	Total
9	3	18	35	2	0	67

The total lives saved through organ donation involving deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014 were 54 with 56 organs being transplanted. The authorization for the procurement of organs was granted in 100% of cases.

Cornea Donations with PCOME Involvement 2014

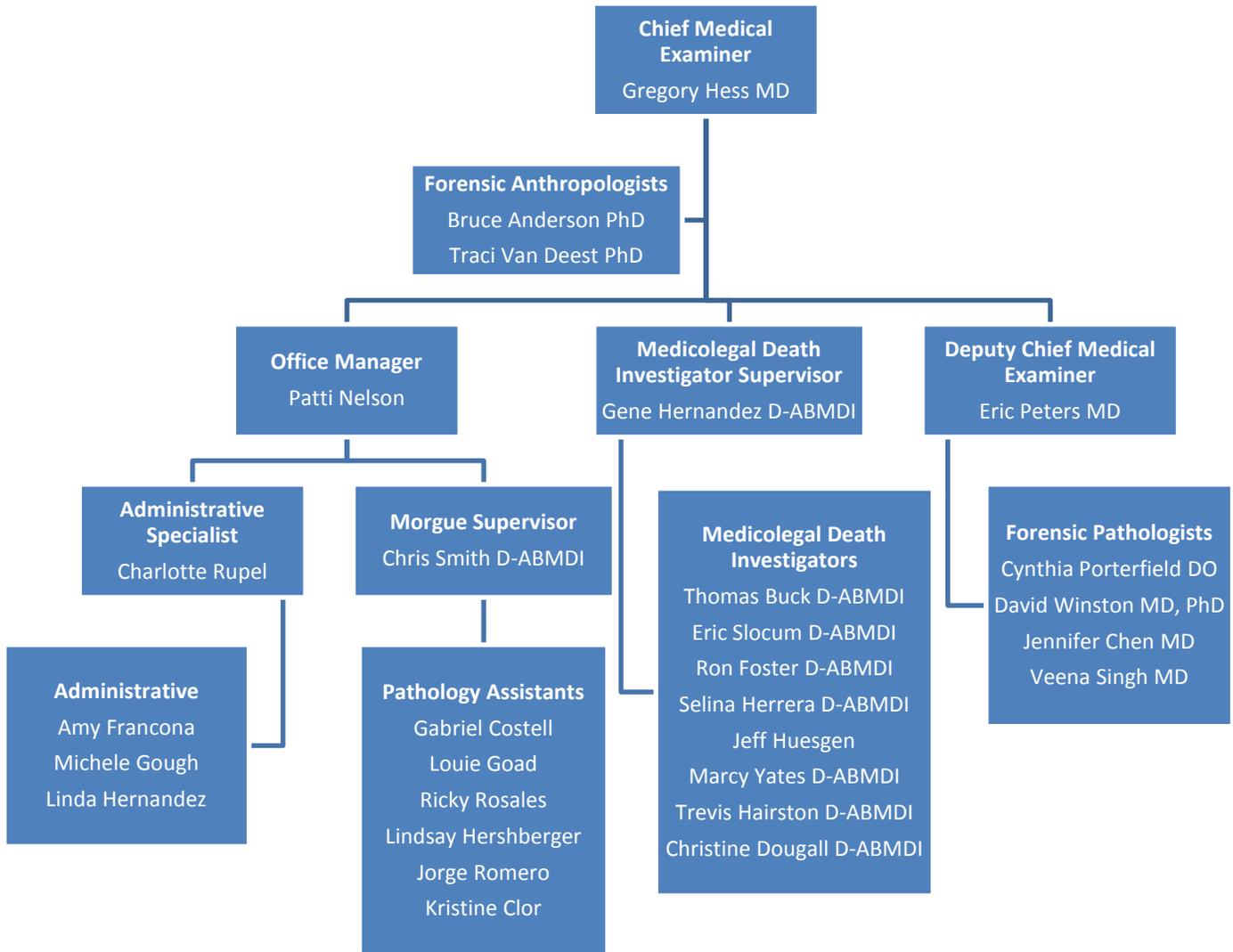
Corneas Recovered	Corneas Transplanted
218	142

There were 218 corneas recovered and 142 transplanted in 2014 with PCOME involvement. The release of corneas was granted 97% of the time.

Tissue Donation with PCOME Involvement 2014

Bone	Skin	Vascular	Heart	Aortoiliac
83	85	26	34	15

The PCOME was involved in 20-25% of all DNA tissue recoveries in 2014. The average release of tissue for procurement was granted 84% of the time across the state of Arizona in 2014. The release of tissues was granted 94% of the time by the PCOME, significantly above the state average.

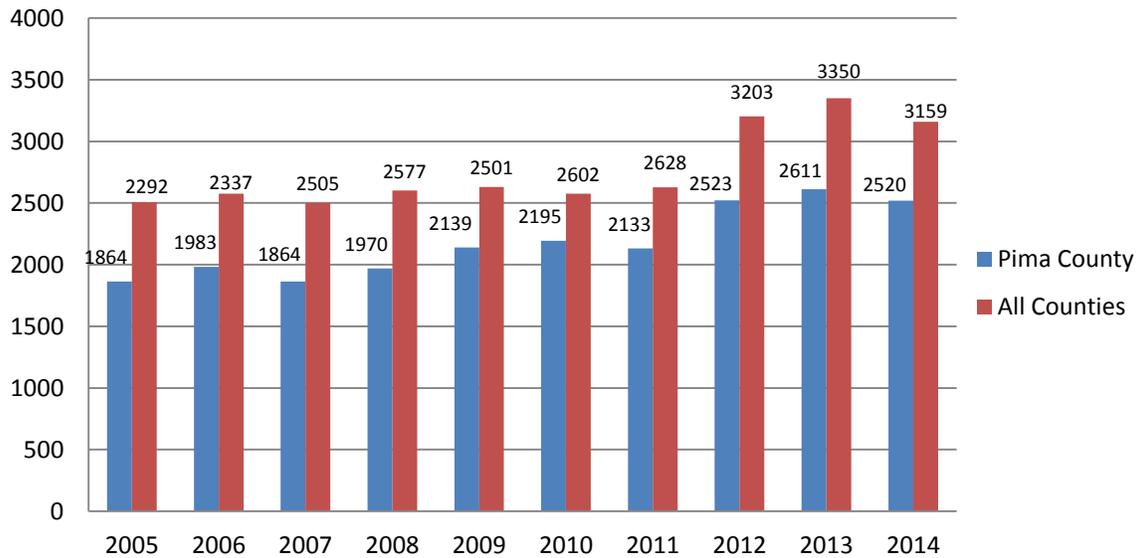


**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART AS OF DECEMBER 2014**

## TOTAL CASES

The total cases handled by the PCOME in a given year are the sum of the ME cases (autopsies, external examinations, and death certificate cases), cases in which jurisdiction was declined, and the number of cases stored at our facility during the calendar year (storage cases). ‘All Counties’ includes cases examined at the PCOME from Apache, Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Navajo, Pinal, Santa Cruz and Yuma counties in addition to Pima County.

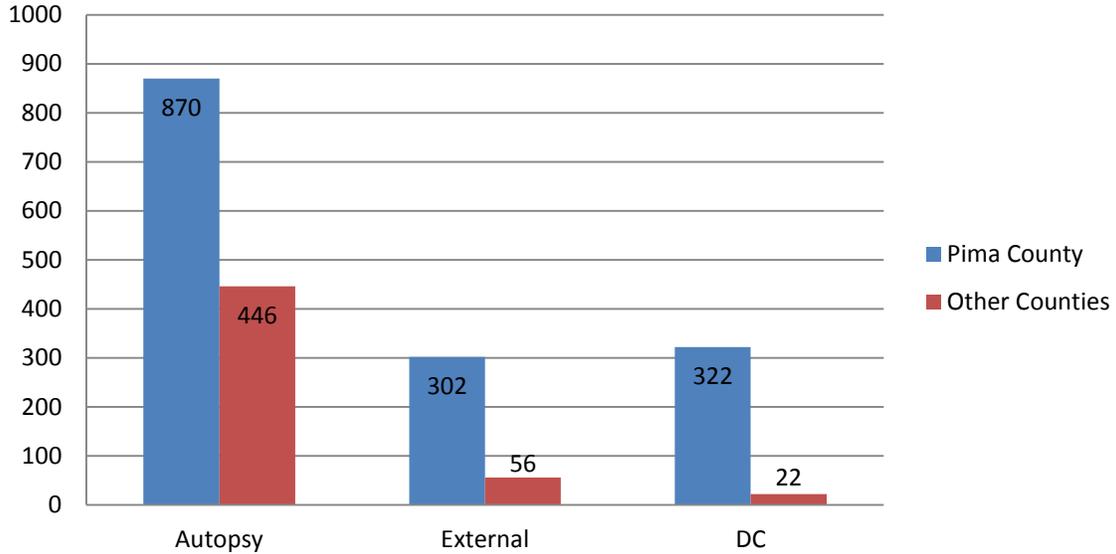
### Total Cases 2005 - 2014



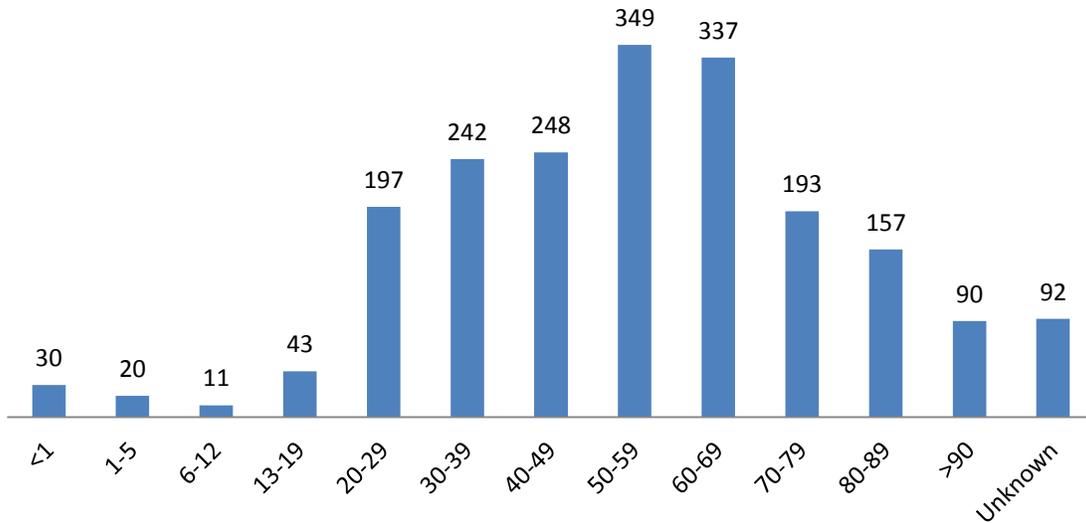
## MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES

The PCOME considers all cases in which the cause and manner of death are determined by this office as “medical examiner cases.” Those cases include autopsies, external examinations and death certificate (DC) cases. Autopsies are examinations where a decedent is examined both externally and internally for evidence of injury or natural disease which may have caused or contributed to the individual’s death. External examinations consist of an external examination of the body without the internal examination. A DC case involves review of the medical records, law enforcement reports and any other information that may be necessary to determine the cause and manner of death without physical examination of the decedent. In 2014, for Pima and all other counties listed above, 1316 autopsies, 358 external examinations and 344 DC cases were performed at the PCOME. Pima County alone accounted for 870 autopsies, 302 external examinations and 322 DC cases.

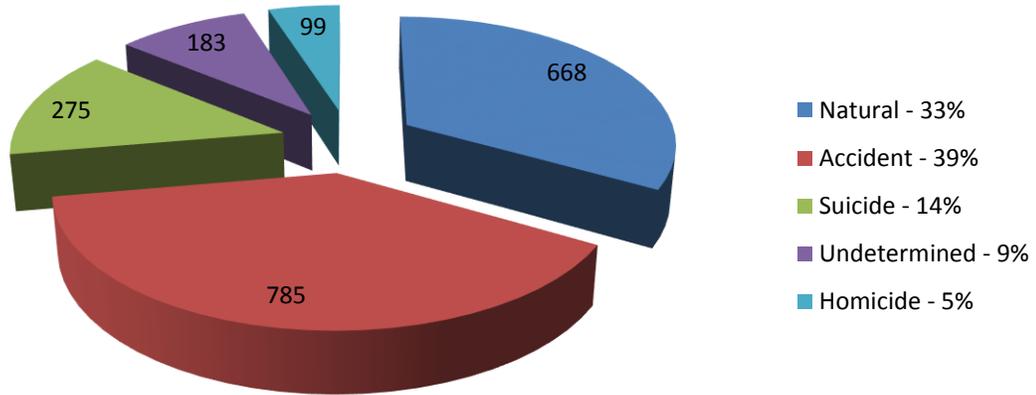
### 2014 Medical Examiner Cases



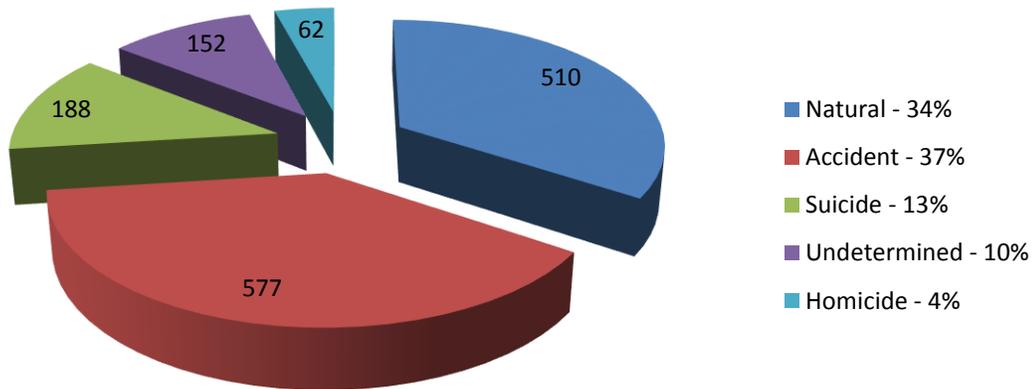
### Medical Examiner Cases by Age - 2014



### ME Cases (all counties) by Manner of Death - 2014



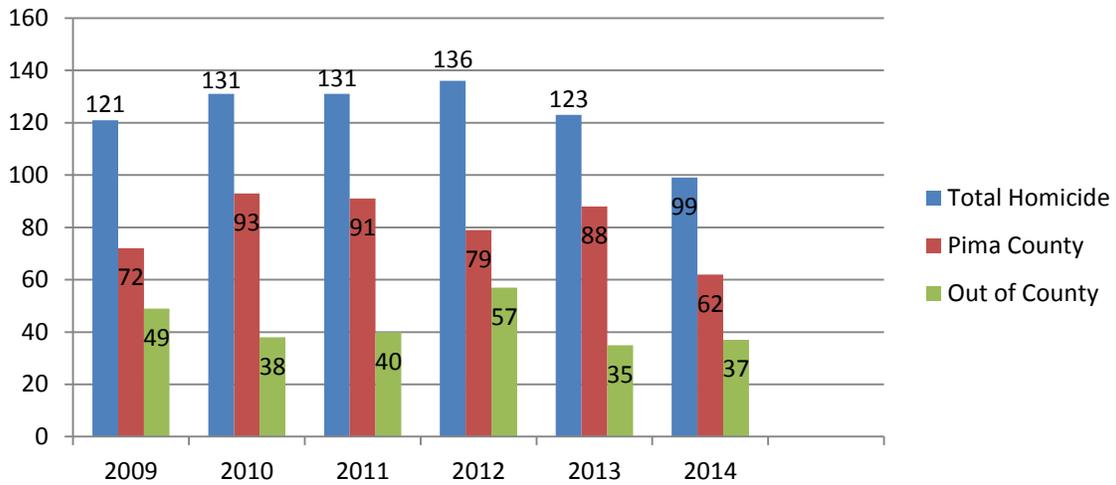
### ME Cases (Pima only) by Manner of Death - 2014



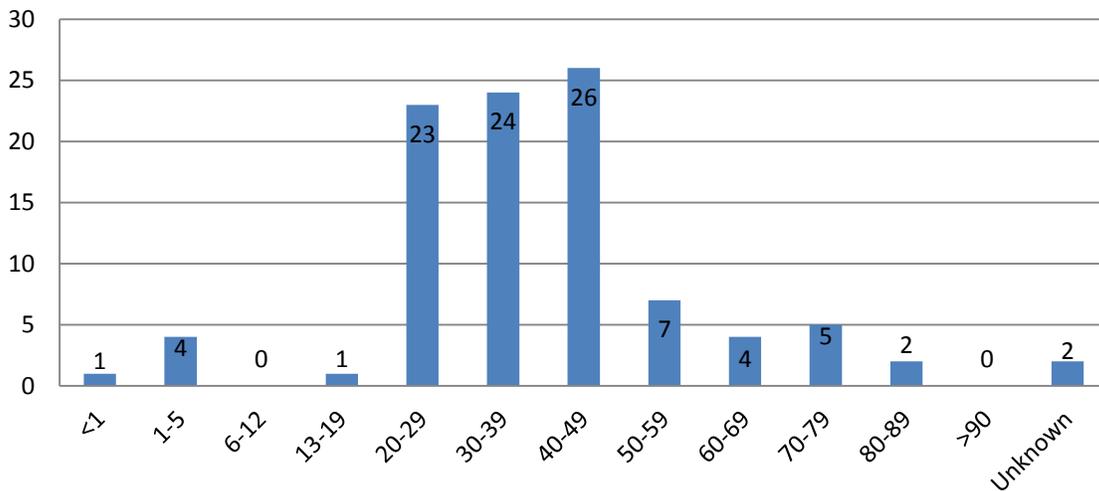
## HOMICIDE DEATHS

The PCOME examined 99 homicides in 2014, 62 from Pima County and 37 from other counties. Homicide totals from 2009 – 2014 are compared below. Homicide victims were most frequently male (77%), between 40-49 years of age (26%) and died as the result of firearms (61%).

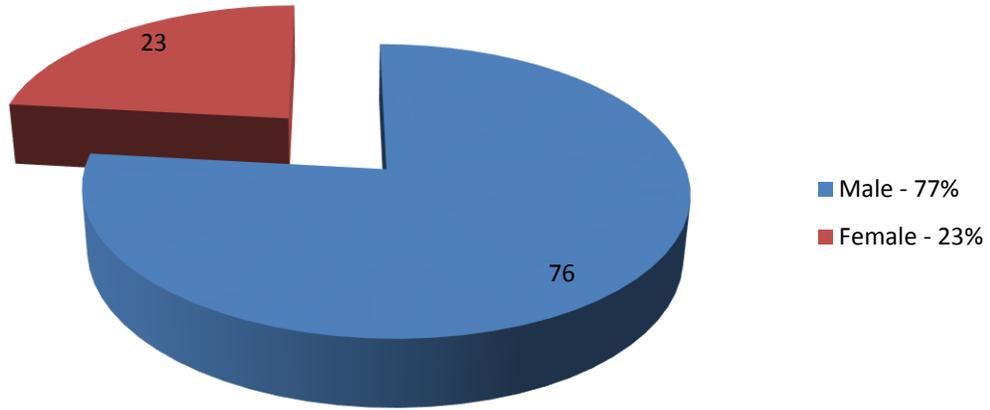
### Homicide 2009 - 2014



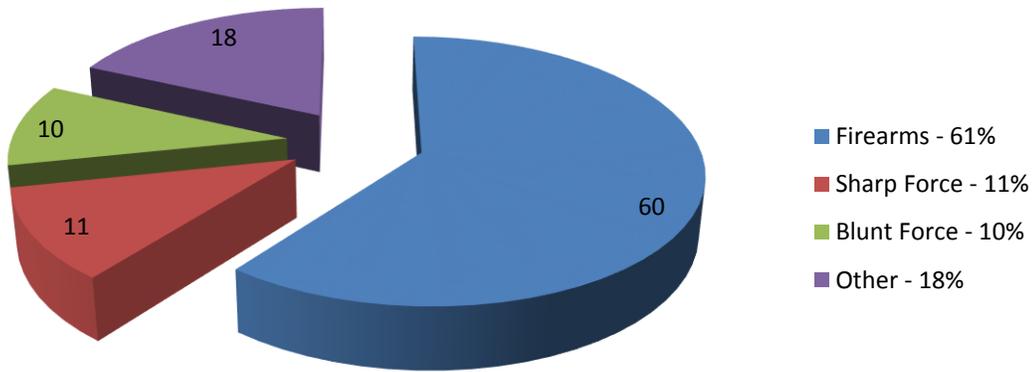
### Homicide by Age - 2014



### Homicide by Sex - 2014



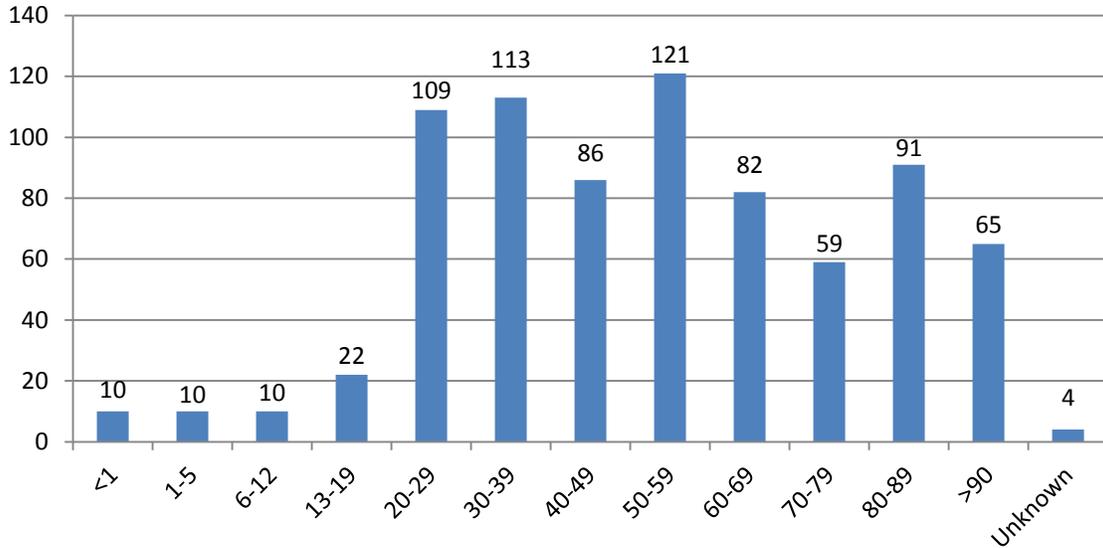
### Homicide by Cause - 2014



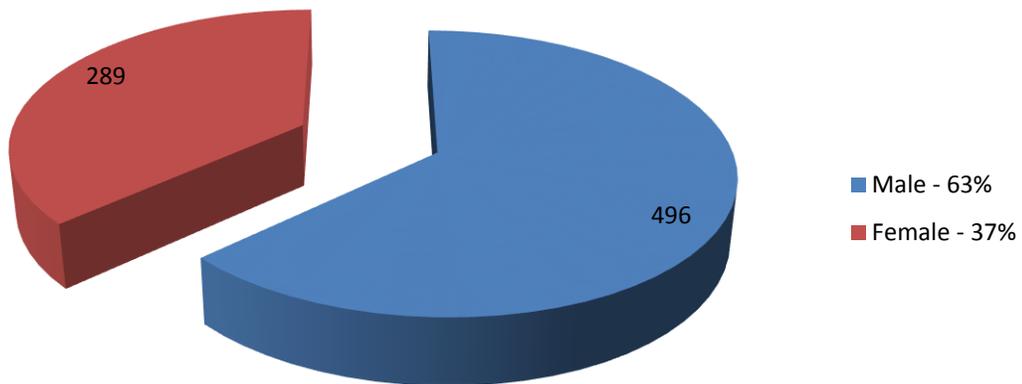
## ACCIDENT DEATHS

Deaths due to accidents accounted for 39% of the ME deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Accident victims were most frequently males (63%), between 50-59 years of age (15%) and died as the result of a drug or medication overdose (34%).

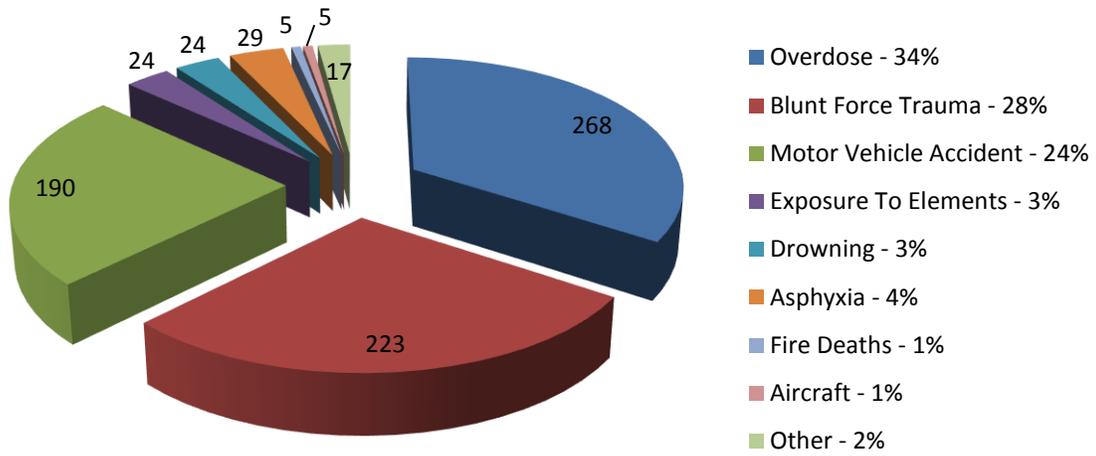
### Accident by Age - 2014



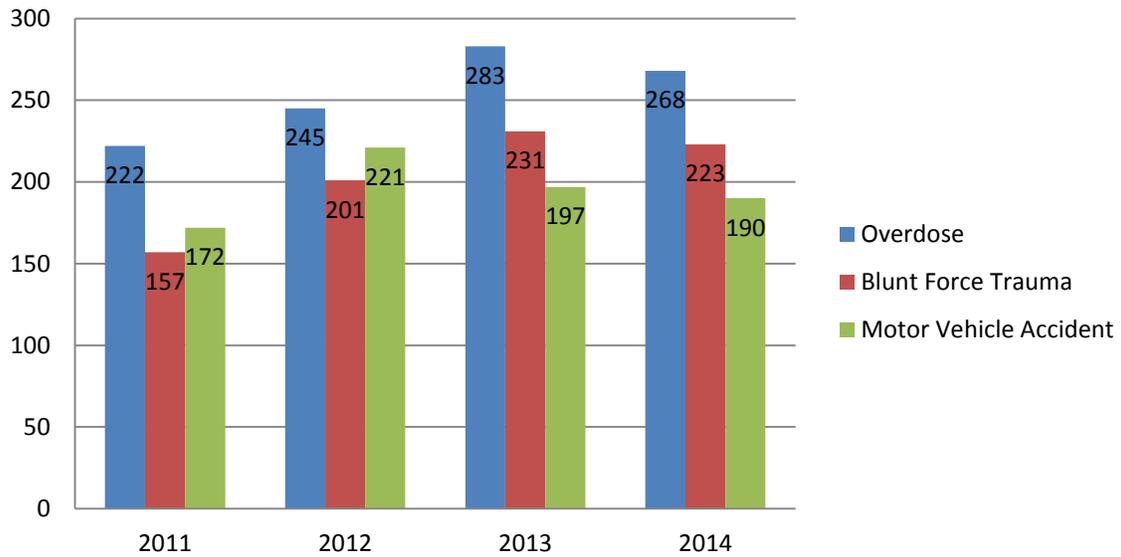
### Accident by Sex- 2014



### Accident by Cause - 2014



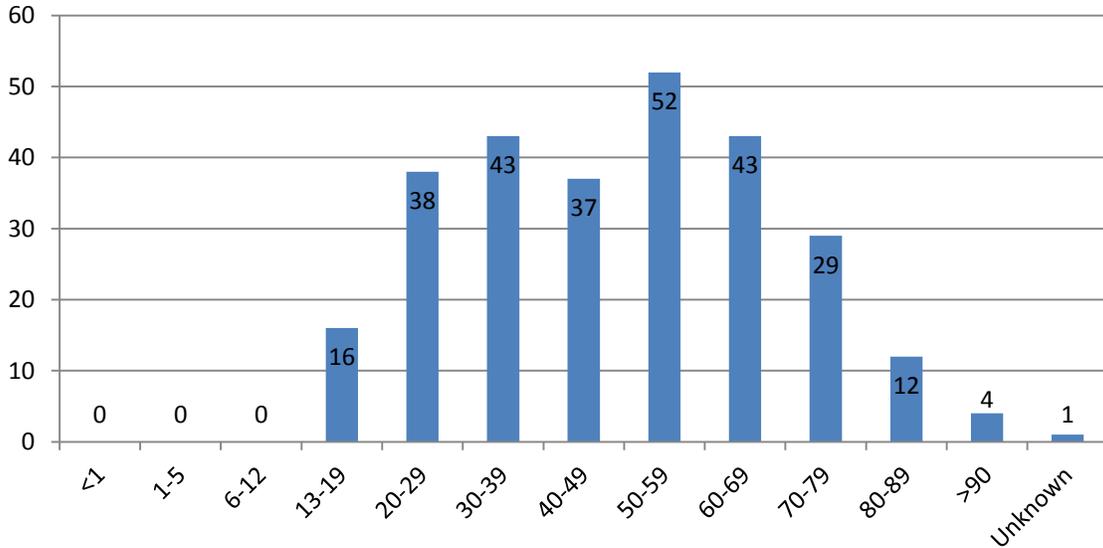
### Accident by Cause (Top 3) 2011 - 2014



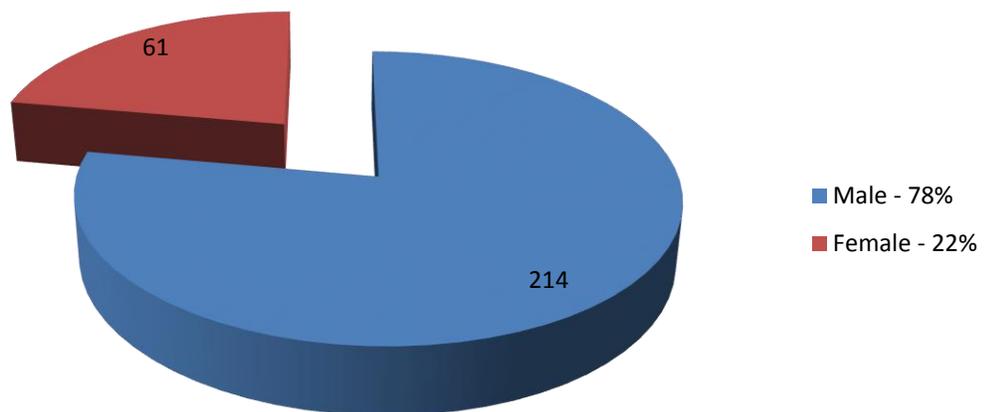
## SUICIDE DEATHS

Suicide deaths accounted for 14% of the ME deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Suicide victims were most frequently males (78%), between 50-59 years of age (19%) and died as the result of firearms (51%).

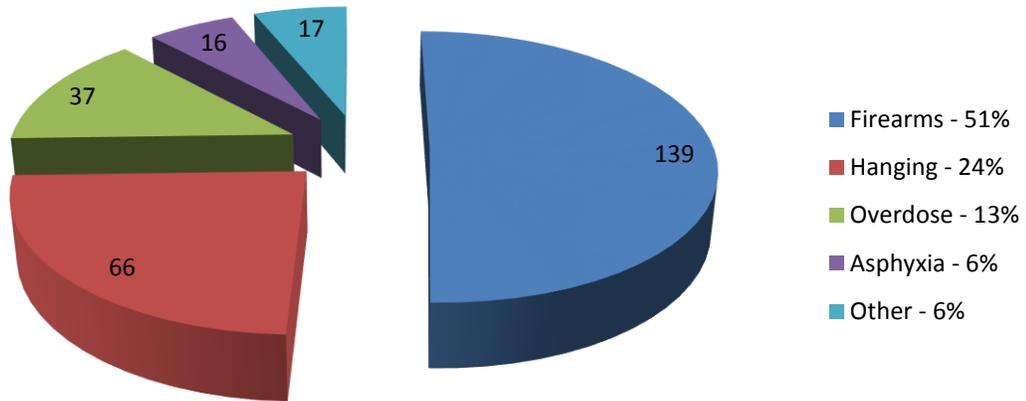
### Suicide by Age - 2014



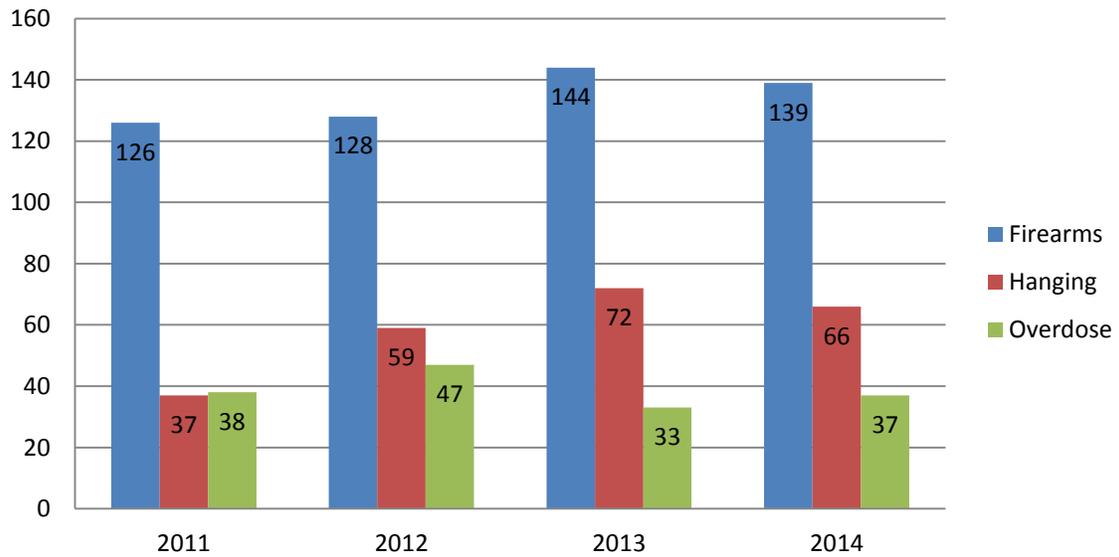
### Suicide by Sex - 2014



### Suicide by Cause - 2014



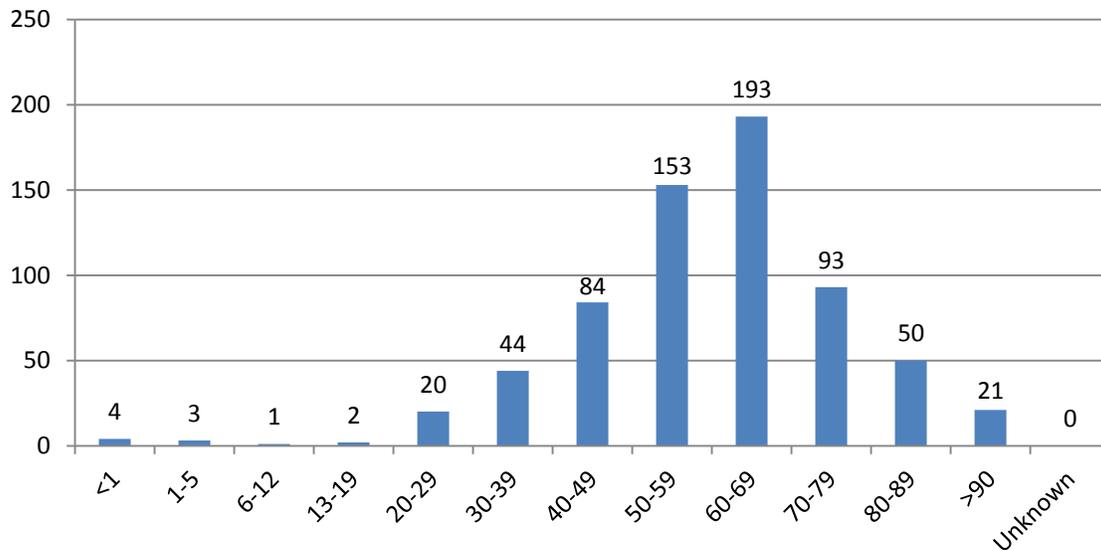
### Suicide by Cause (Top 3) 2011 - 2014



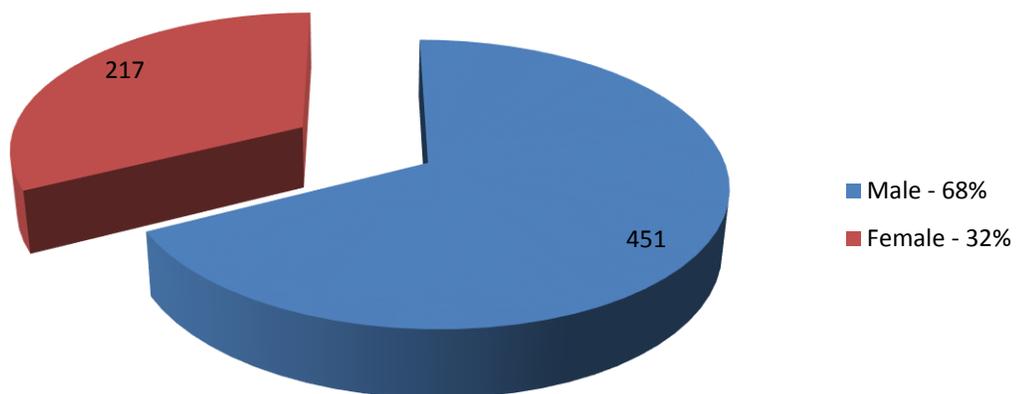
## NATURAL DEATHS

Natural deaths accounted for 33% of the ME deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Individuals who died from natural causes were most frequently males (68%), between 60-69 years of age (29%) and died as the result of cardiovascular disease (61%).

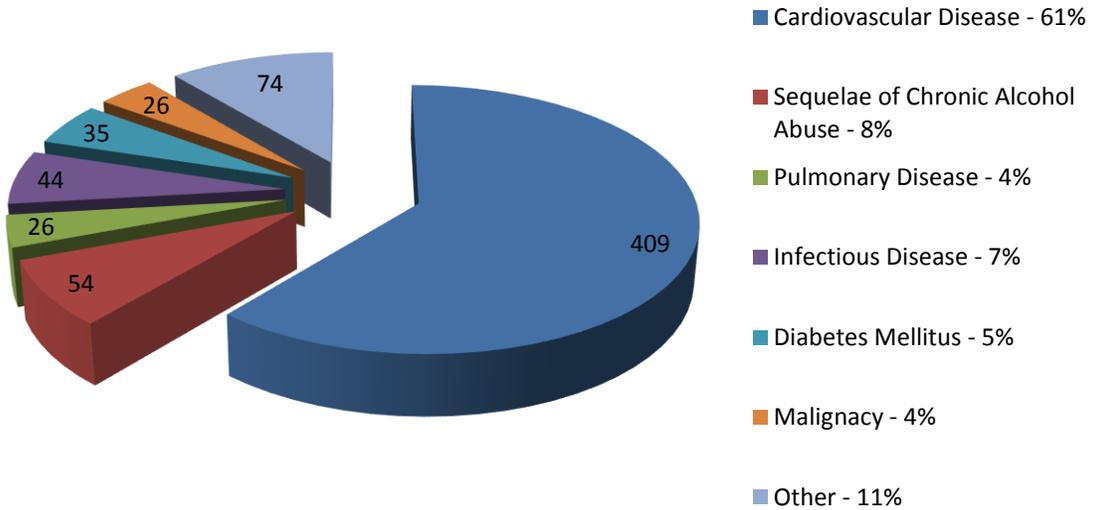
### Natural Deaths by Age - 2014



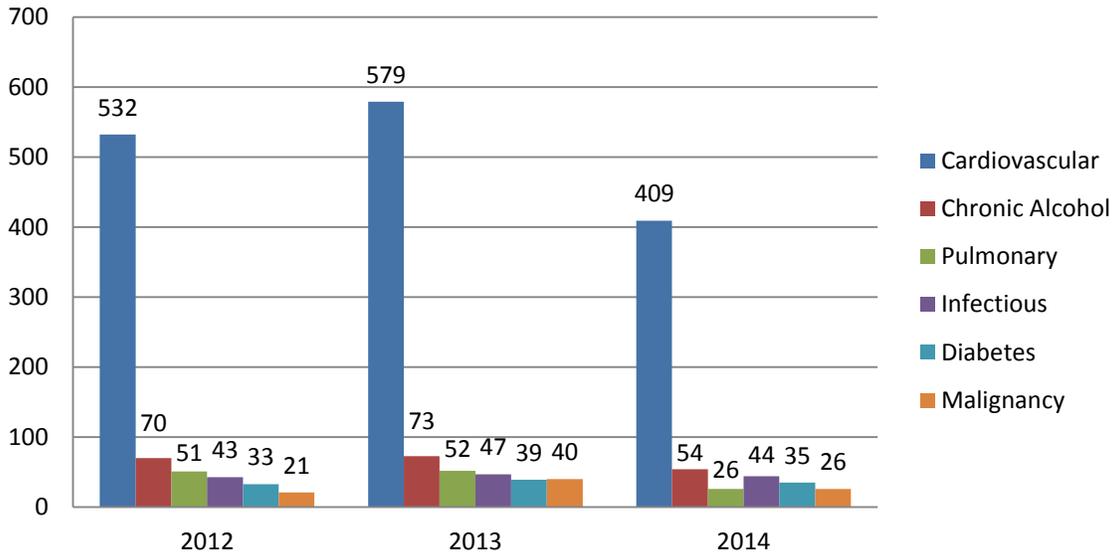
### Natural Deaths by Sex - 2014



### Natural Deaths by Cause - 2014



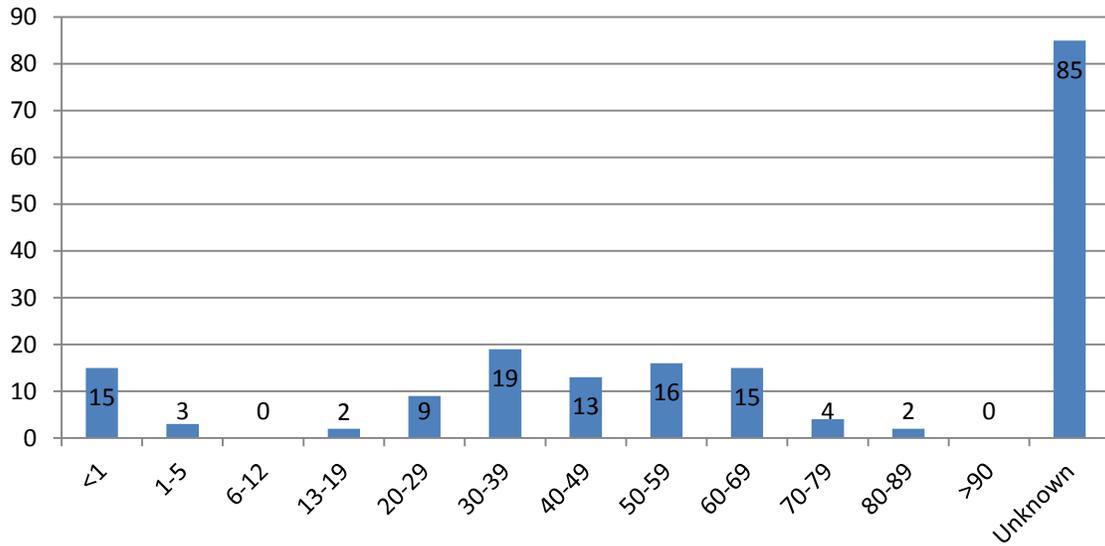
### Natural Death by Cause 2012 - 2014



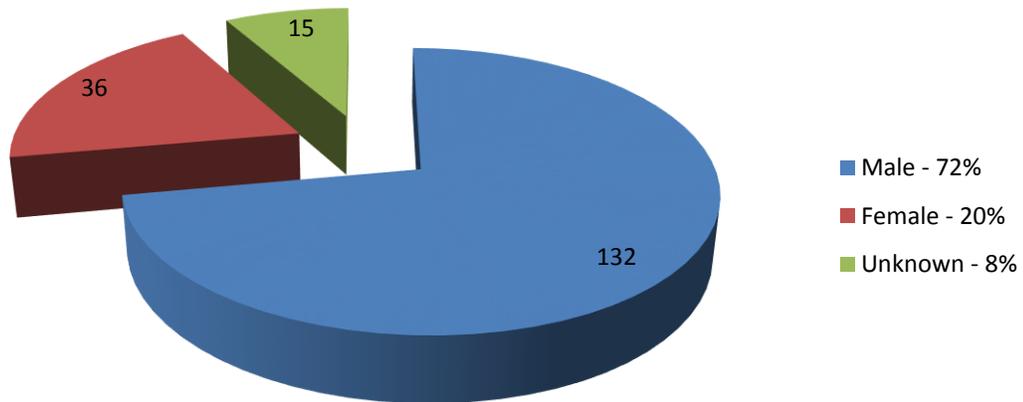
## UNDETERMINED MANNER OF DEATH

Deaths in which the manner of death was undetermined accounted for 9% of the ME deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Individuals who died with an undetermined manner were most frequently males (72%), of unknown age (46%) and died from undetermined causes (83%). Many of these deaths represent skeletal remains of undocumented border crossers who died in the deserts of southern Arizona.

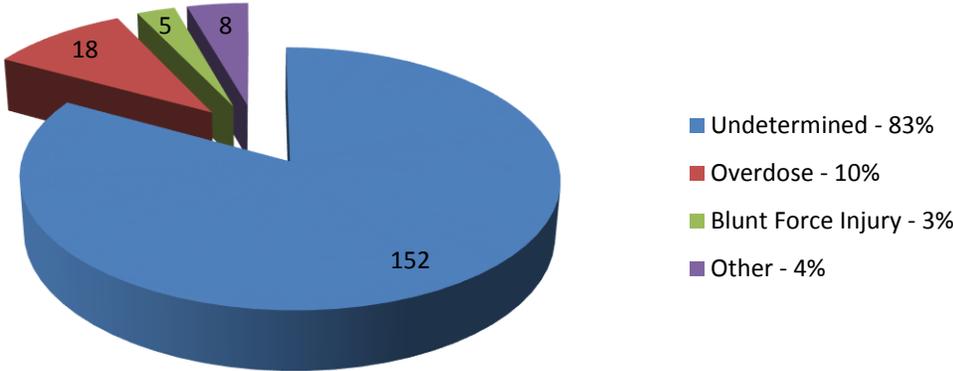
### Undetermined Manner of Death by Age - 2014



### Undetermined Manner of Death by Sex - 2014



### Undetermined Manner of Death by Cause - 2014



## OVERDOSE DEATHS

There were 324 deaths attributed to an overdose of either a single drug (156 deaths, 48%) or a combination of drugs (168 deaths, 52%) in 2014. Overdose deaths commonly involved males (60%) between the ages of 50-59 (24%). The majority of these deaths were classified as accidents (83%).

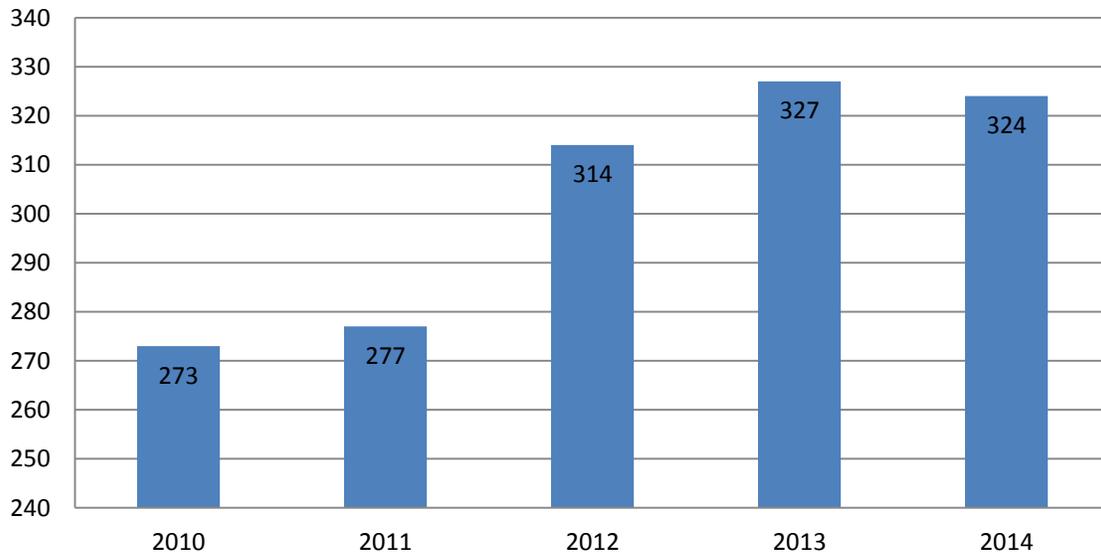
Opiate drugs (heroin, oxycodone, methadone, hydrocodone, morphine, oxymorphone, hydromorphone, tramadol, opiate unspecified) and fentanyl (a synthetic opioid narcotic) accounted for the majority of overdose deaths, either as a single drug or as a component of a poly-drug overdose. Heroin was the most commonly abused illicit drug contributing to death in 2014 followed by methamphetamine. Heroin deaths were significantly increased in comparison to 2012 and 2013.

The number of heroin deaths is likely underreported as heroin is rapidly metabolized to morphine by the body and if the parent compound indicative for heroin (6-monoacetylmorphine) is not present on the toxicology report these deaths may be classified as either morphine intoxication or opiate intoxication.

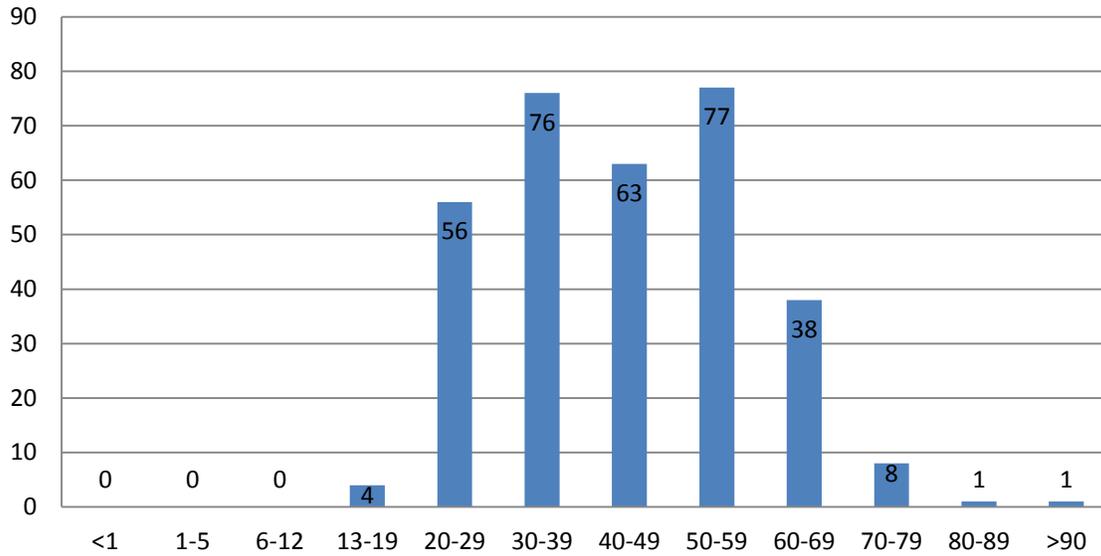
Acute alcohol intoxication alone, not as component of a poly-drug overdose, accounted for 9 overdose (3%) deaths in 2014.

There was one judicial execution (manner of death Homicide) by injection of hydromorphone and midazolam examined at the PCOME in 2014.

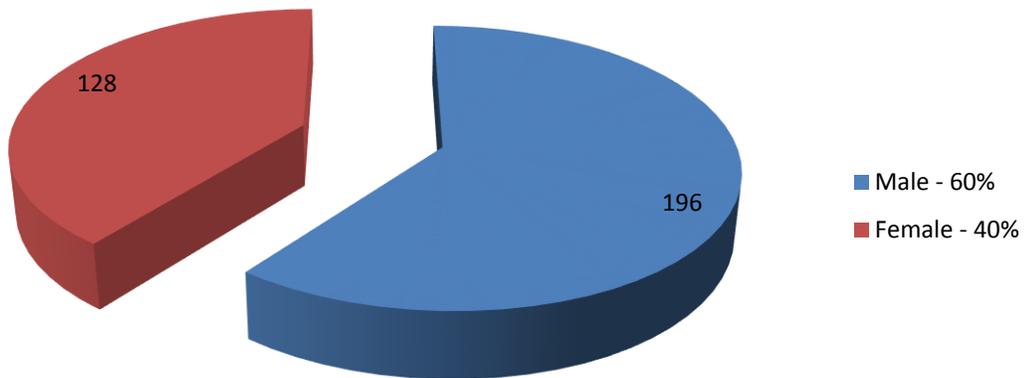
### Overdose Deaths 2010 - 2014



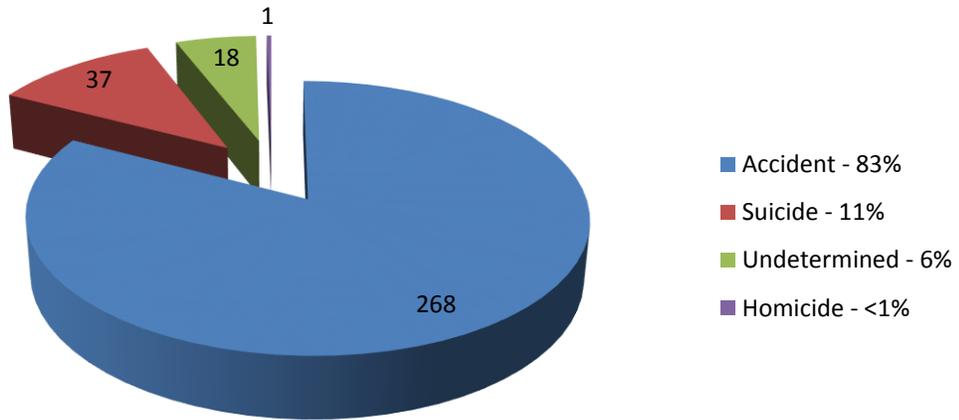
### Overdose Deaths by Age - 2014



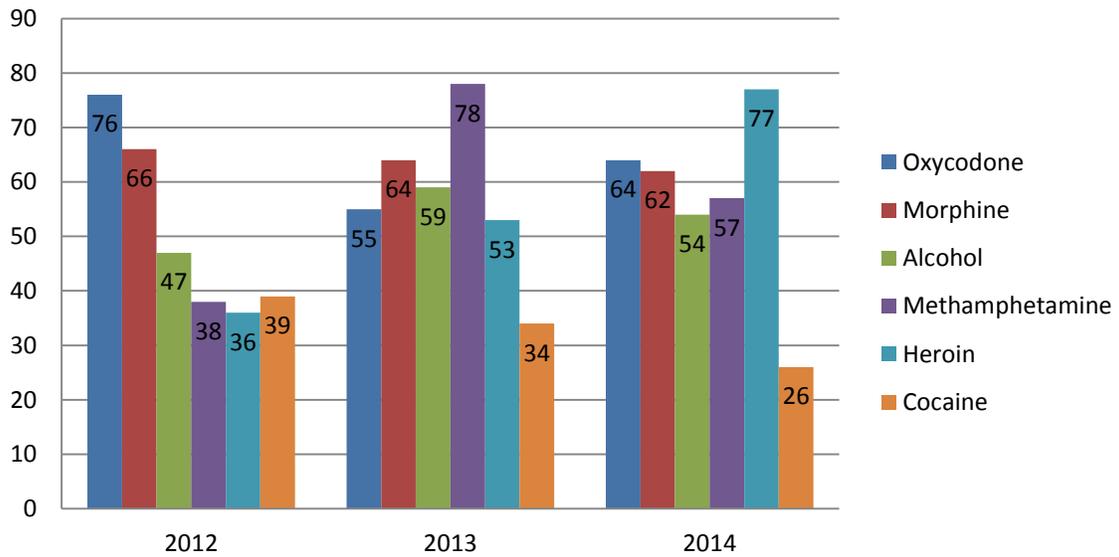
### Overdose Deaths by Sex- 2014



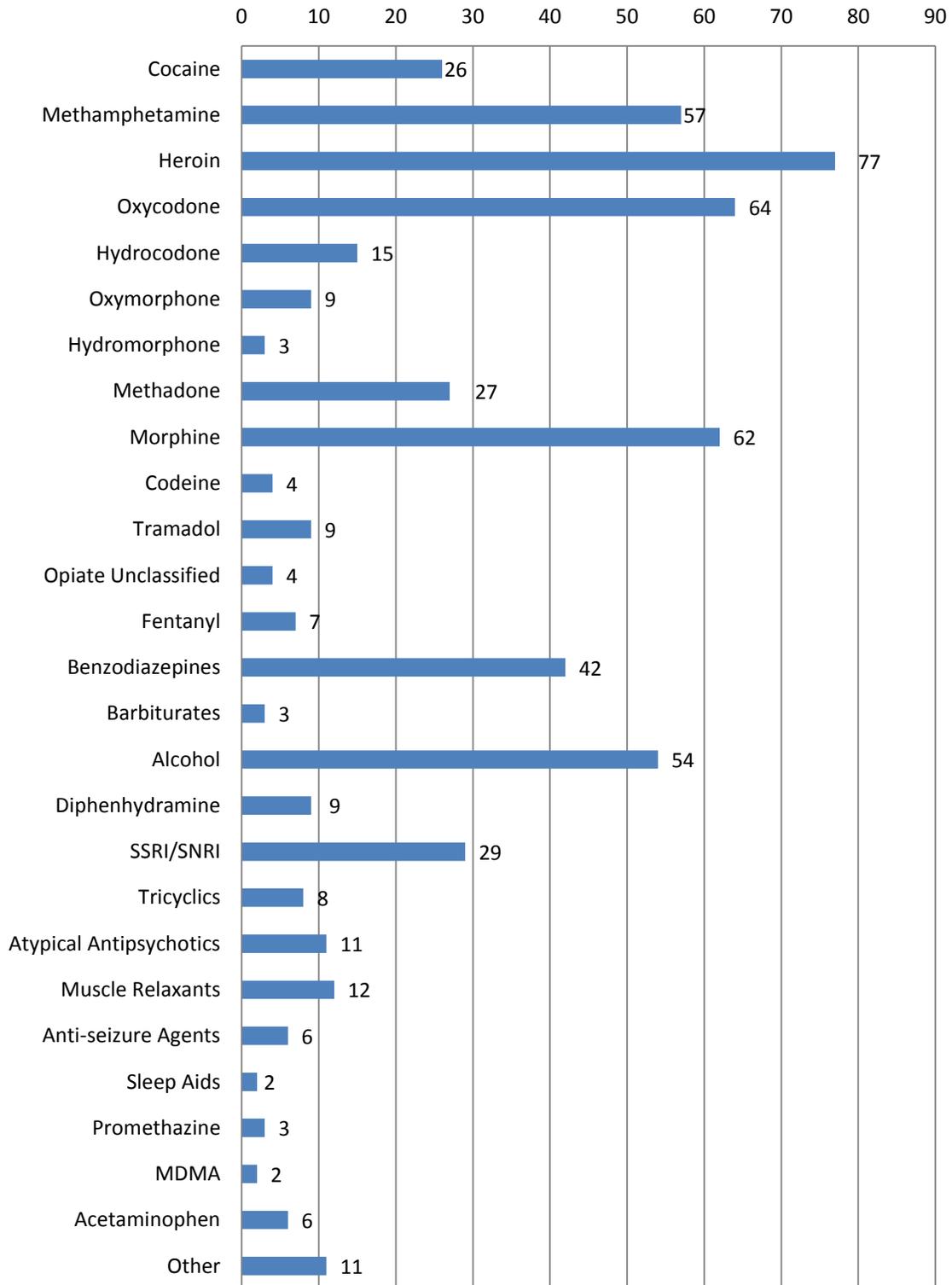
### Overdose Deaths by Manner - 2014



### Select Drugs by Year 2012 - 2014



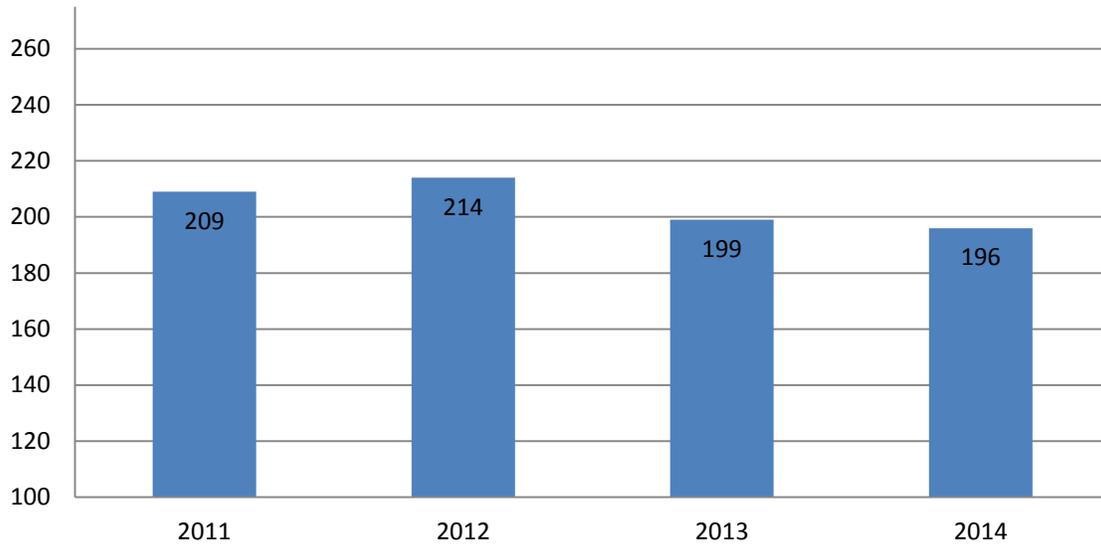
## Overdose Deaths by Drug - 2014



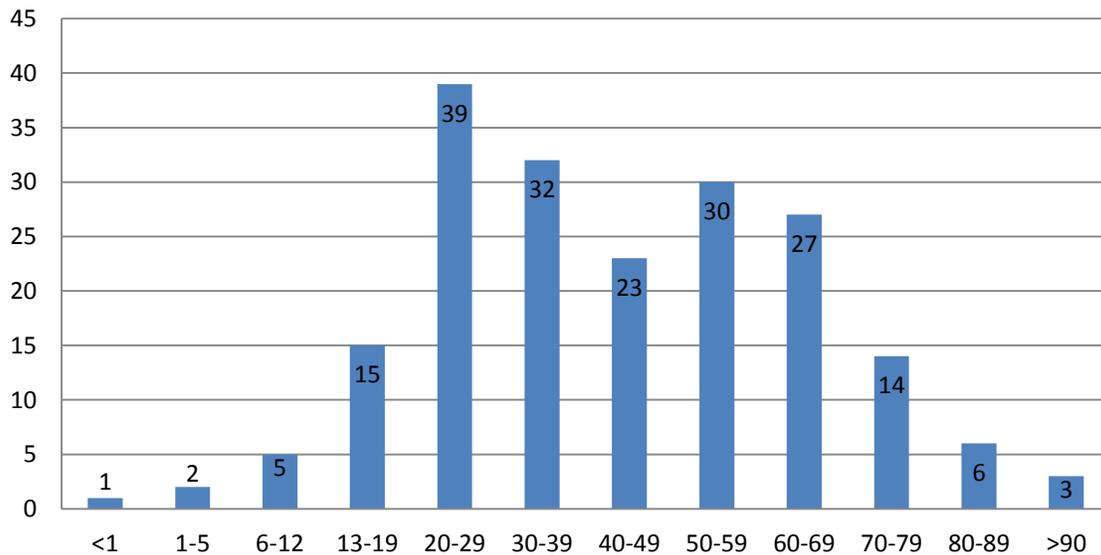
## MOTOR VEHICLE RELATED FATALITIES

Motor vehicle related fatalities accounted for 196 total deaths in 2014. The majority, 130 deaths, were occupants of a motor vehicle involved in an accident (MVA). Of the remaining, 21 were motorcycle accidents (MCA), and 42 were pedestrians or bicyclists struck by vehicles. Individuals who died from motor vehicle related fatalities were most frequently males (71%) and between 20-29 years of age (20%).

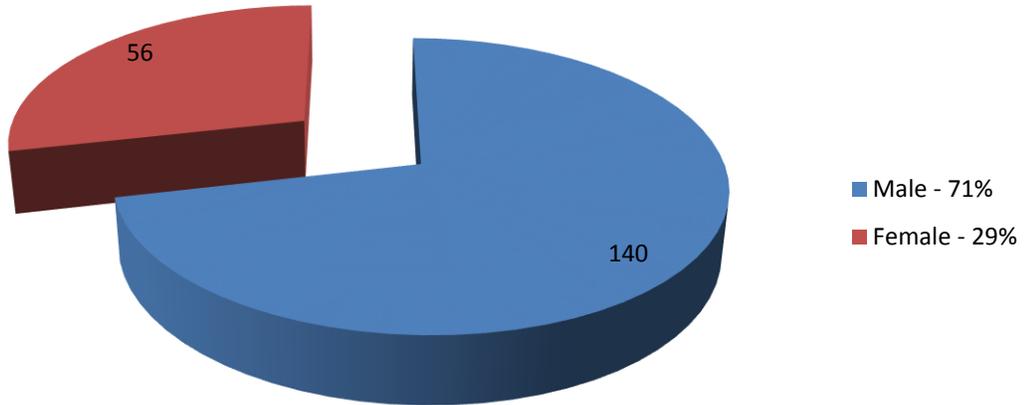
### Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Year 2011 - 2014



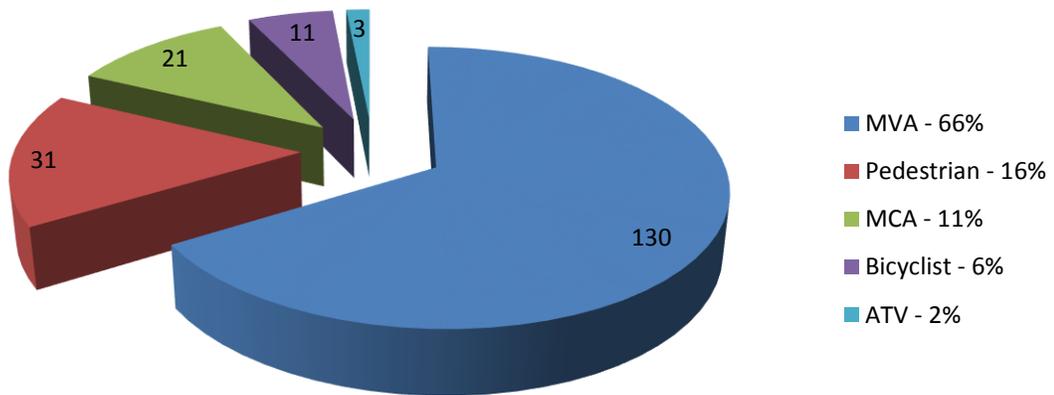
### Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Age - 2014



### Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Sex - 2014



### Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Type - 2014





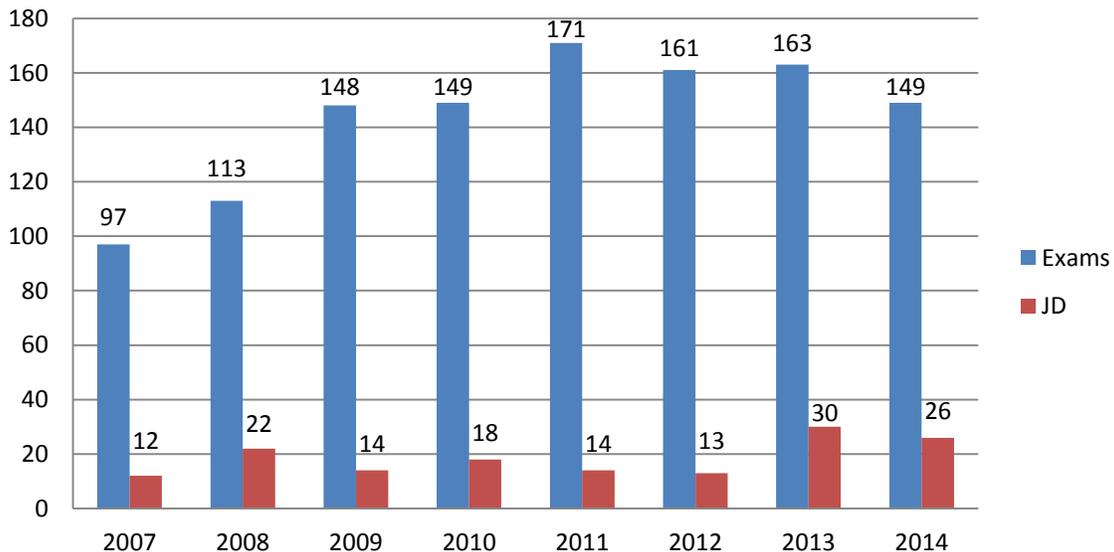
## W.H. BIRKBY FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORY

Forensic Anthropologists at the W.H. Birkby Forensic Anthropology Laboratory within the PCOME performed 149 examinations (biological profiles, trauma evaluations, dental examinations and examinations for identification) in 2014 on human remains of forensic significance. An additional 26 examinations were performed on remains ultimately deemed non-human, prehistoric or otherwise not forensically significant and jurisdiction of the remains was declined (JD) in those cases.

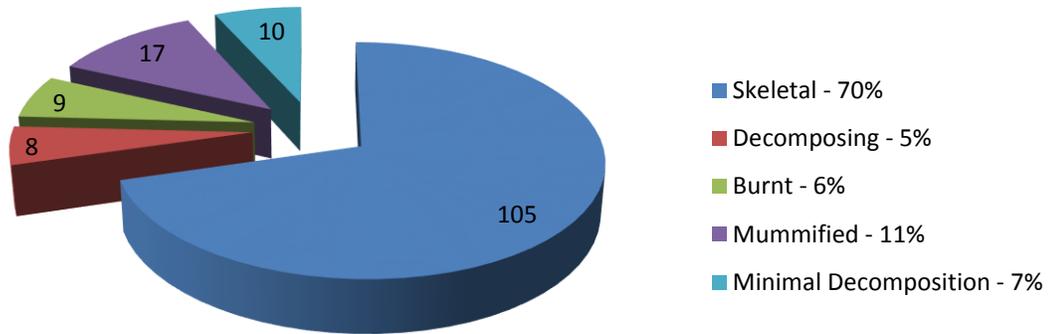
The extent of postmortem decomposition of a particular set of remains is important when performing a Forensic Anthropology (FA) examination. Remains examined by Forensic Anthropologists were categorized as minimally decomposed, decomposing, mummified, skeletal or burnt. In 2014, skeletal remains comprised 70% of FA examinations. Four main types of exams are performed; biologic profiles, dental, trauma and identification examinations.

Biological profiles refer to charting, measurements, descriptions, radiographs and photographs taken to estimate sex, age, ancestry, stature and postmortem interval of a set of remains. Dental and identification examinations entail charting, descriptions, radiographs and photographs in an effort to identify an unknown individual or confirm a suspected identity. Trauma examinations entail charting, measurements, descriptions, radiographs and photographs to characterize the nature of an injury, implement used to cause injury to the bone, age of injury, etc. It is common for a particular set of remains to receive more than one type of examination. Most (92%) FA exams include a biological profile with dental examination (94%) when applicable. Less common are examinations for identification (9%) or trauma (6%) with or without biological profiles and dental examinations.

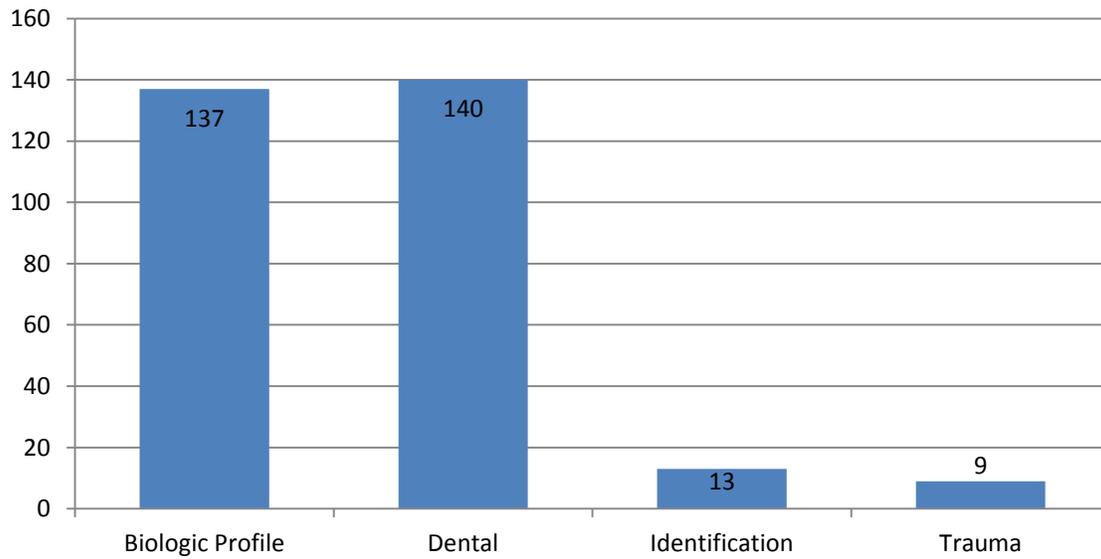
### Number of FA Exams 2007 - 2014



### FA Exam by Condition of Remains - 2014



### FA Examination by Type - 2014



## **UNDOCUMENTED BORDER CROSSER (UBC) REMAINS**

The term ‘UBC’ refers to foreign nationals who die attempting to cross the southern Arizona desert without permission from the United States government. Calendar year 2010 saw the highest number of UBC recoveries (223) recorded at the PCOME as compared to the annual average (173 recoveries per year on average from 2002 - 2014). The PCOME has received 2,330 recovered remains of suspected UBCs since 2001. The recoveries per year are adjusted annually to account for identification of remains initially thought to be those of a UBC that are not, and association of remains found months or years apart later discovered to be that of the same individual.

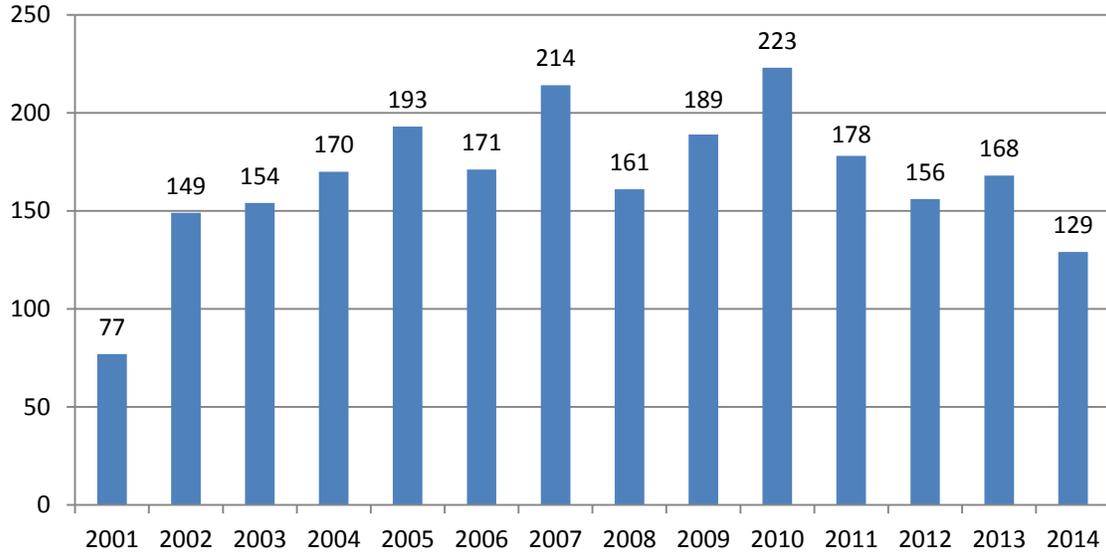
There were 129 UBC recoveries in calendar year 2014. As is the historic norm, UBC recoveries peaked during the summer months (June – July) with 33 recoveries (26% of total for year) in 2014. Many remains are not identifiable due to postmortem changes and efforts by UBCs to obscure their identities. Of the decedents who were identified, 40% (43 deaths) were between 20-29 years of age. Additionally, 83% (107) of the recovered remains, identified or unidentified, were males, 9% (11) were females and 9% (11) were of unidentifiable sex.

Since the exact date and time of death of found remains are often unknown, PCOME staff determine a ‘postmortem interval (PMI)’, which is an assessment of what period of time elapsed from death to recovery of the remains. A 1-8 body condition scale was developed in 2013 to provide a more objective measure of the PMI. The PMI is an estimate and therefore subject to error. The PMIs for the body condition categories are listed following the Condition of Recovered UBC Remains table on page 31 of this report. In 2014, 14 remains (condition 1) were found within less than a day of death (11%), 28 remains (conditions 2-4) were found with a few days up to a few weeks from death (22%), and skeletal remains (body conditions 5-7) accounted for 85 (66%) of the recovered remains.

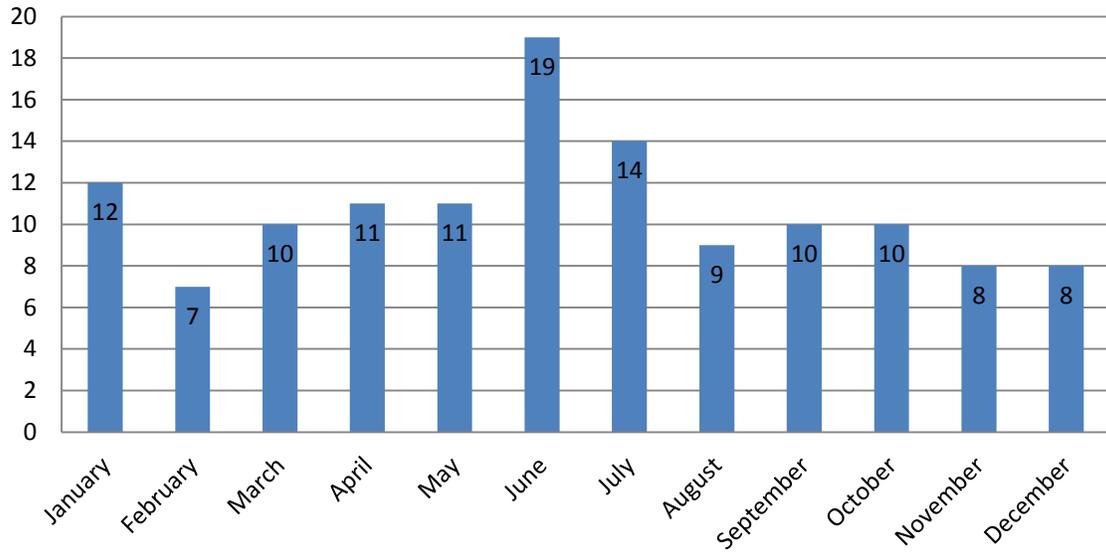
The cause of death was undetermined in 84% (109) of cases, primarily due to limitations of examination of decomposed and skeletal remains. Of the remainder, environmental exposure to extremes in heat or cold combined with dehydration comprised 11% (14) of deaths. Other, less frequent, causes of death included gunshot wound injuries (2 cases), blunt force injuries from falls or motor vehicle accidents (3), and electrocution due to a lightning strike (1).

In 2014, 35 (81%) of identified UBCs were of Mexican nationality, followed by Guatemalans (5, 12%), Hondurans (2, 5%) and one Salvadoran. Since 2001, identified UBCs of Mexican nationality have been the most numerous (1,285, 85%), followed by Guatemalans (120, 8%) and Salvadorans (40, 3%). Of the 2,330 decedents since 2001, 1,504 (65%) have been identified, 301 (20%) by DNA comparison to a family or law enforcement reference sample. As of December 31, 2014, 826 decedents remain unidentified.

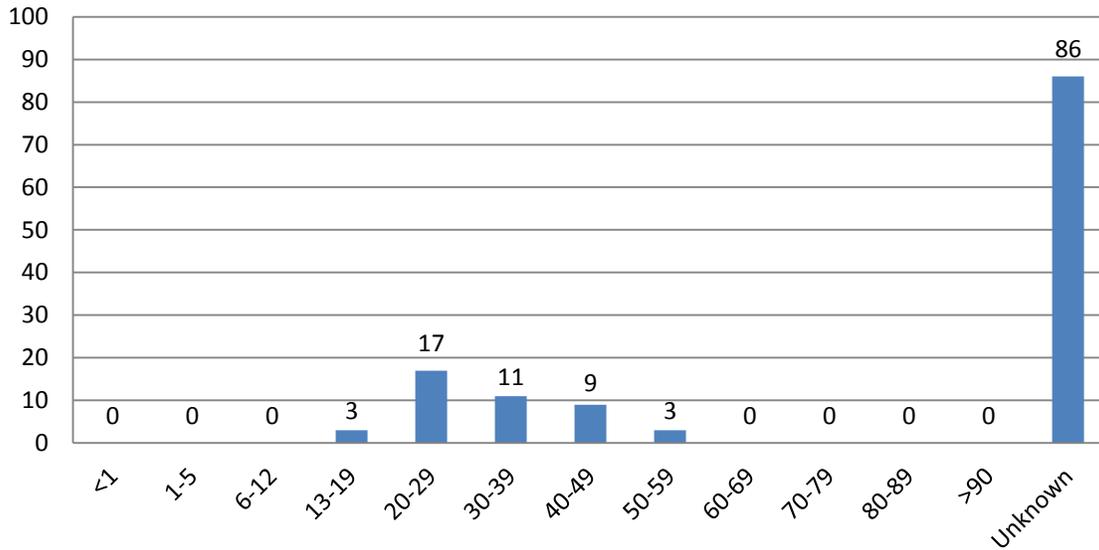
### UBC Recoveries 2001 - 2014



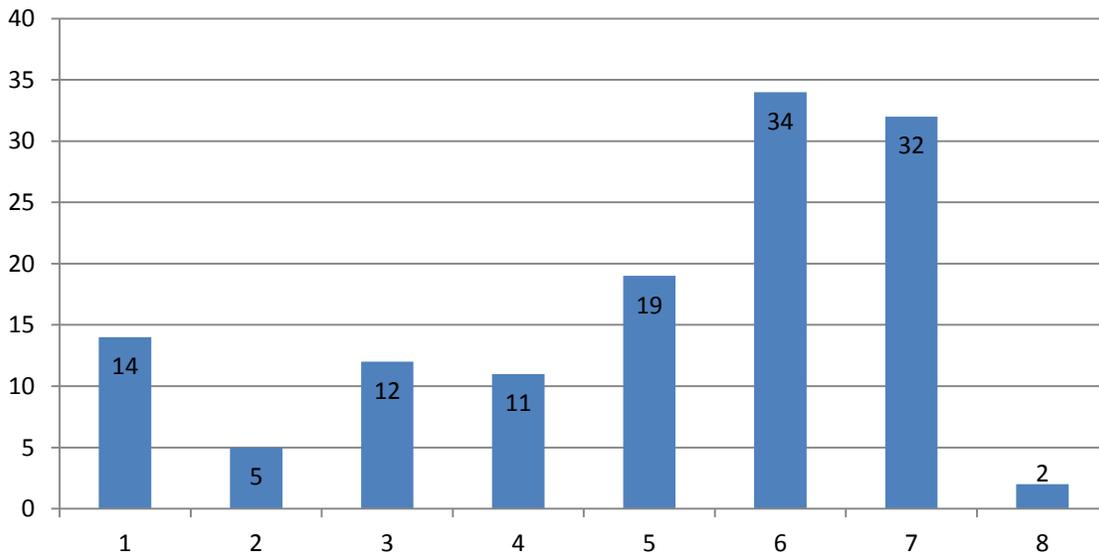
### UBC Recoveries by Month - 2014



### UBC Recoveries by Age - 2014

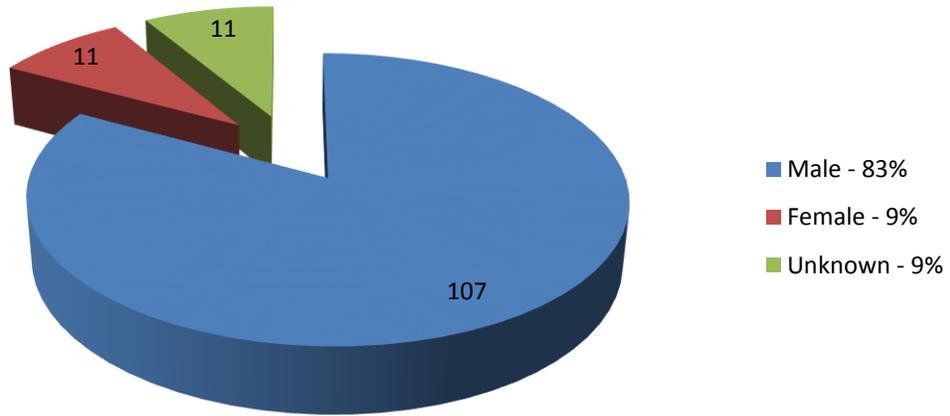


### Condition of Recovered UBC Remains - 2014

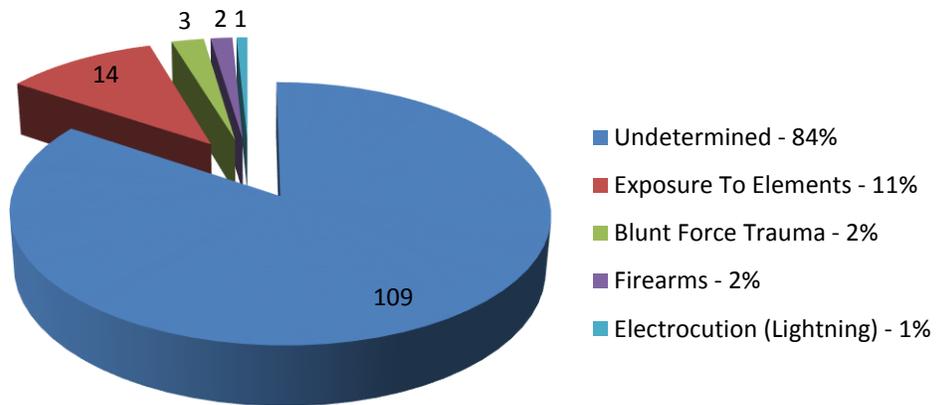


- 1 - Fully fleshed (PMI < 1 day)
- 2 - Decomposed (PMI < week)
- 3 - Decomposition with focal skeletonization (PMI < 3 weeks)
- 4 - Mummification with skeletonization (PMI < 5 weeks)
- 5 - Skeletonization with articulation/ligamentous attachments (PMI < 3 months)
- 6 - Complete skeletonization with disarticulation (PMI < 6-8 months)
- 7 - Complete skeletonization with bone degradation (PMI > 6-8 months)
- 8 - Other

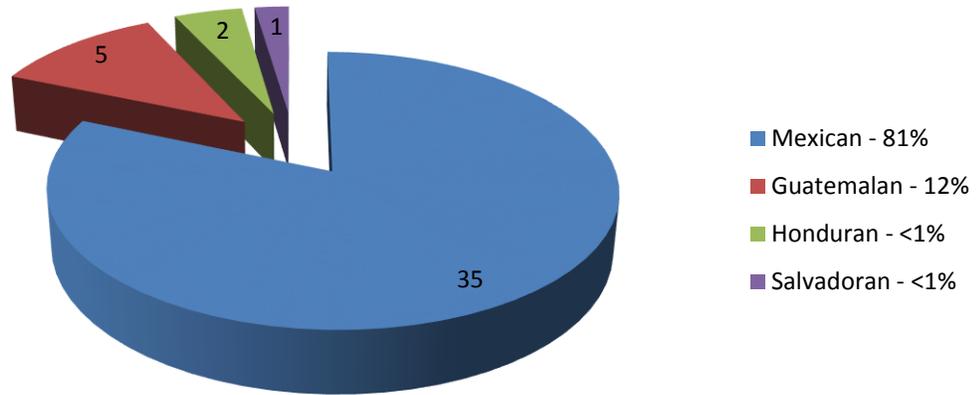
### UBC Recoveries by Sex- 2014



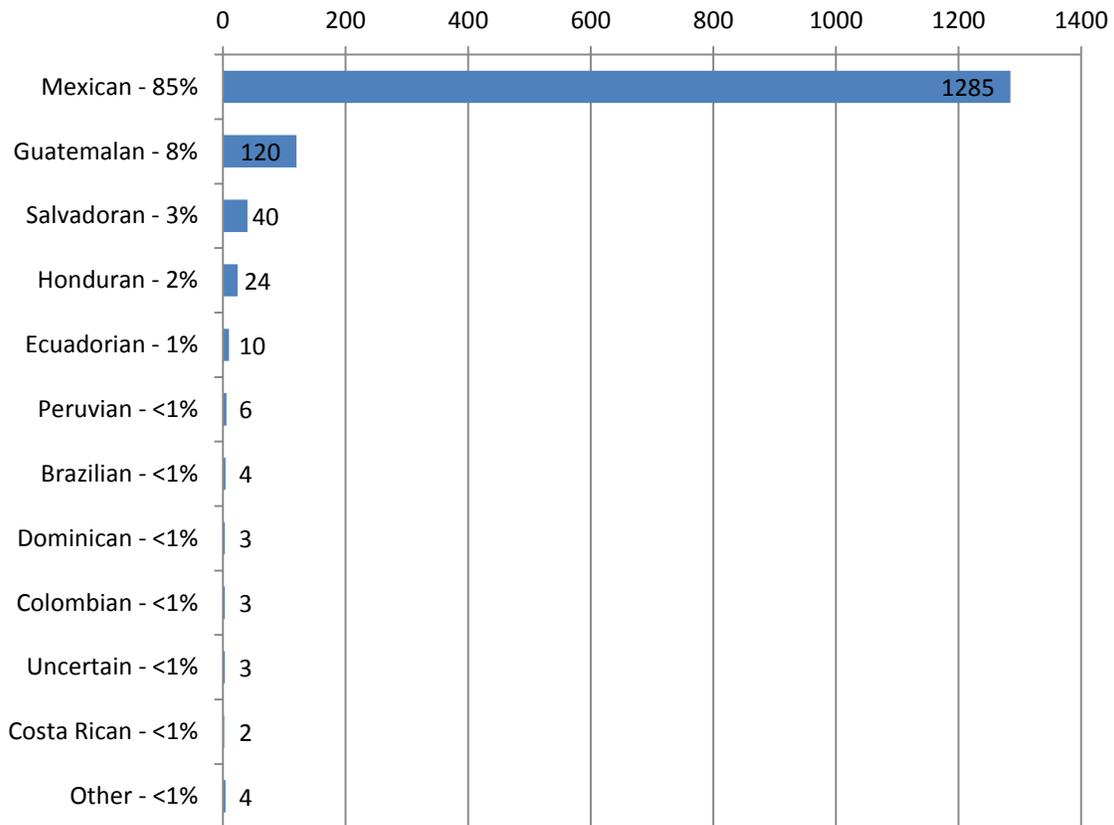
### UBC Recoveries by Cause - 2014



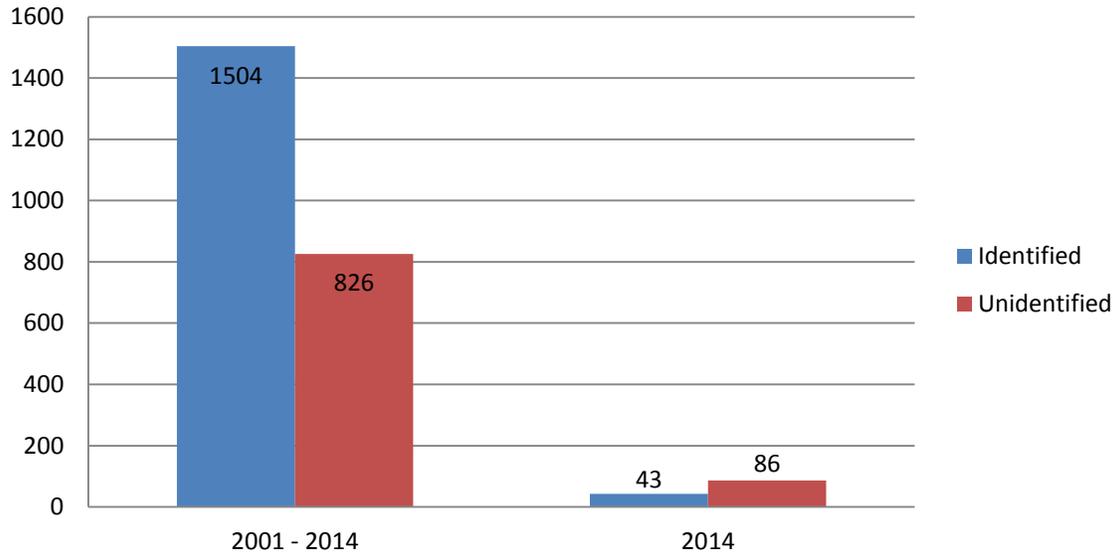
### Identified UBC Recoveries by Nationality - 2014



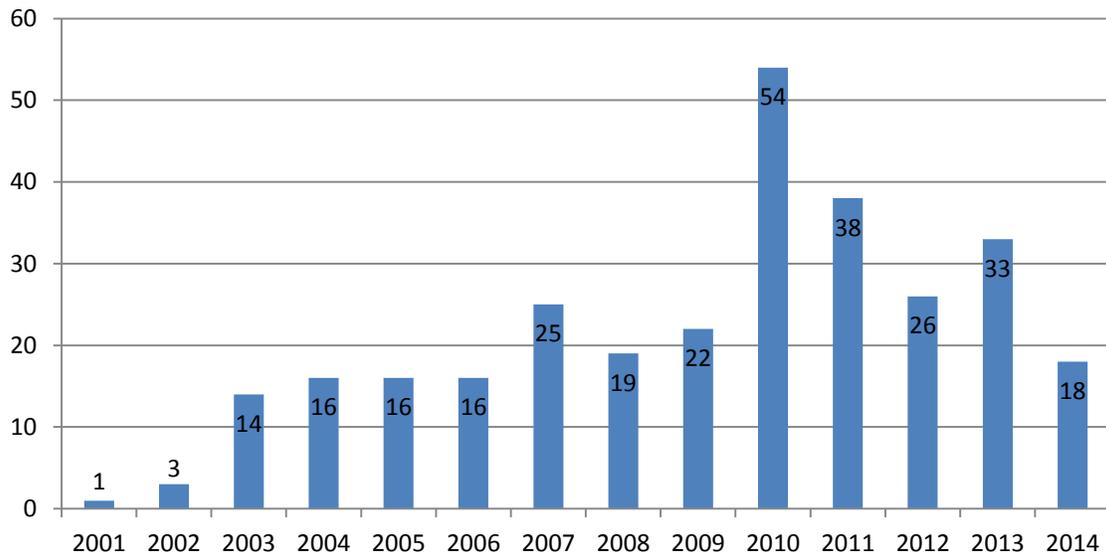
### Identified UBC Recoveries by Nationality 2001 - 2014



### Identified vs Unidentified UBC Recoveries



### DNA Identifications by Year 2001 - 2014

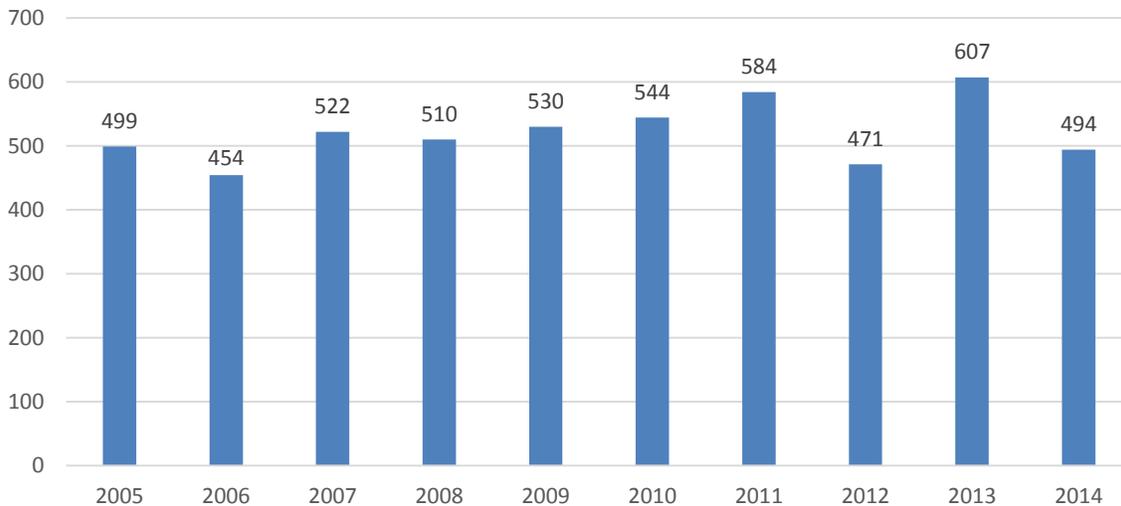


## Apache County

Apache County contracts with an appointed non-Forensic Pathologist physician(s), termed an Alternate Medical Examiner(s) (AME) (A.R.S. §11-591), who triages, investigates and certifies deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in Apache County. The Apache County AME does not perform autopsy examinations and if the AME deems an autopsy is necessary to certify the cause and manner of death, the decedent may be referred to Pima County for an examination and death certification. The PCOME is not aware of how many deaths occurring in Apache County are reported to the Apache County AME, nor the total number or types of deaths certified by the AME. The PCOME only has a record of deaths reported to, or referred for examination to Pima County. Deaths on Native American tribal lands do not have to be reported through the respective death investigation system of that County and may be reported directly to the PCOME as necessary for the needs of the appropriate agency investigating that death (Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), FBI or local tribal police departments).

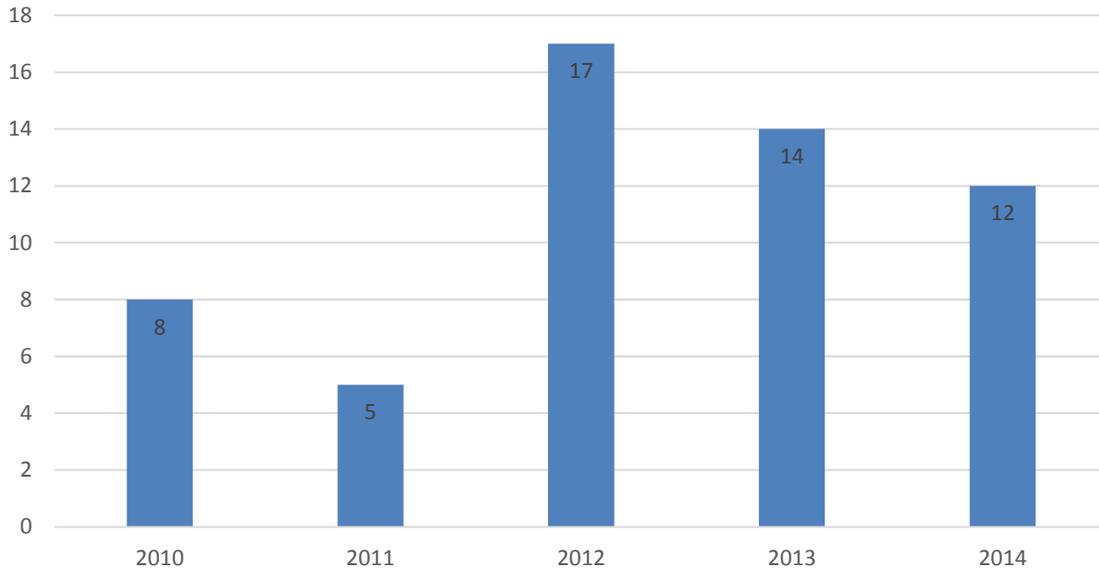
Twelve deaths from Apache County were reported to the PCOME in 2014, ten of which required autopsy examinations. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**Apache County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

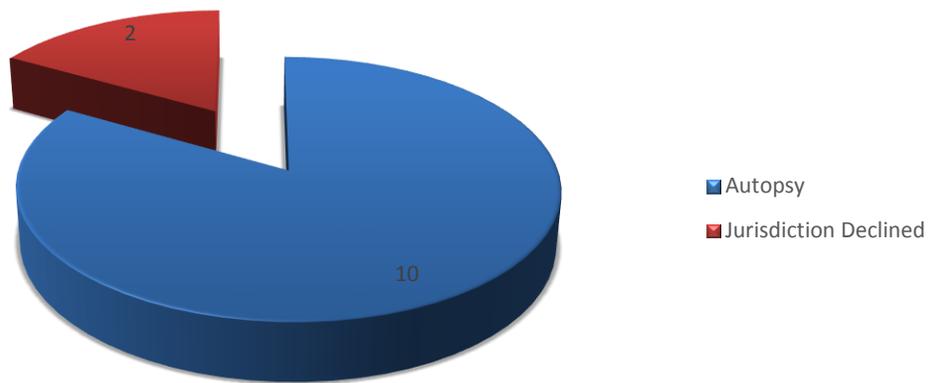


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

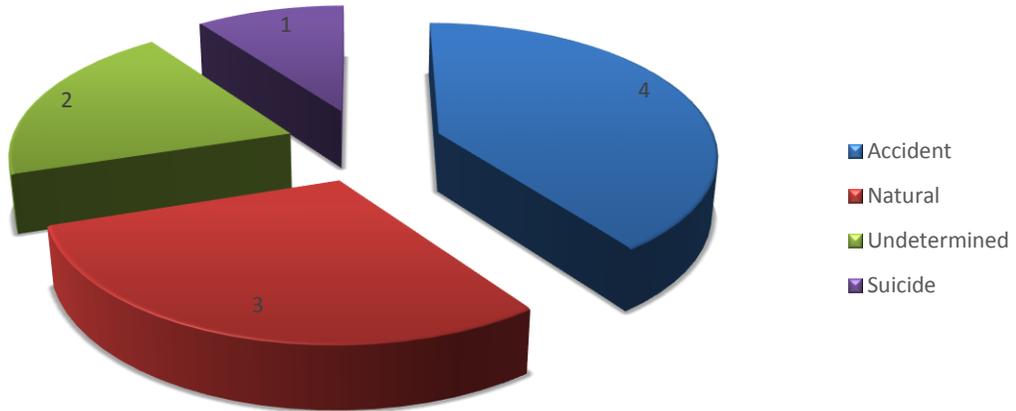
### Apache County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014



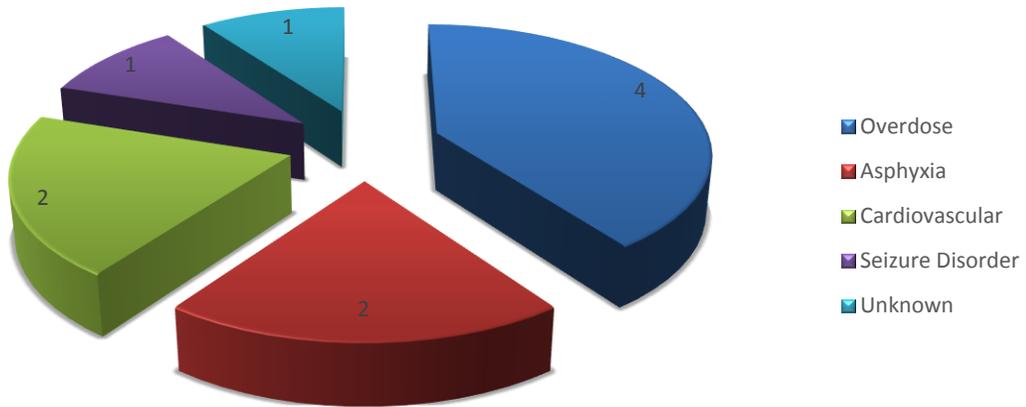
### Apache County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014



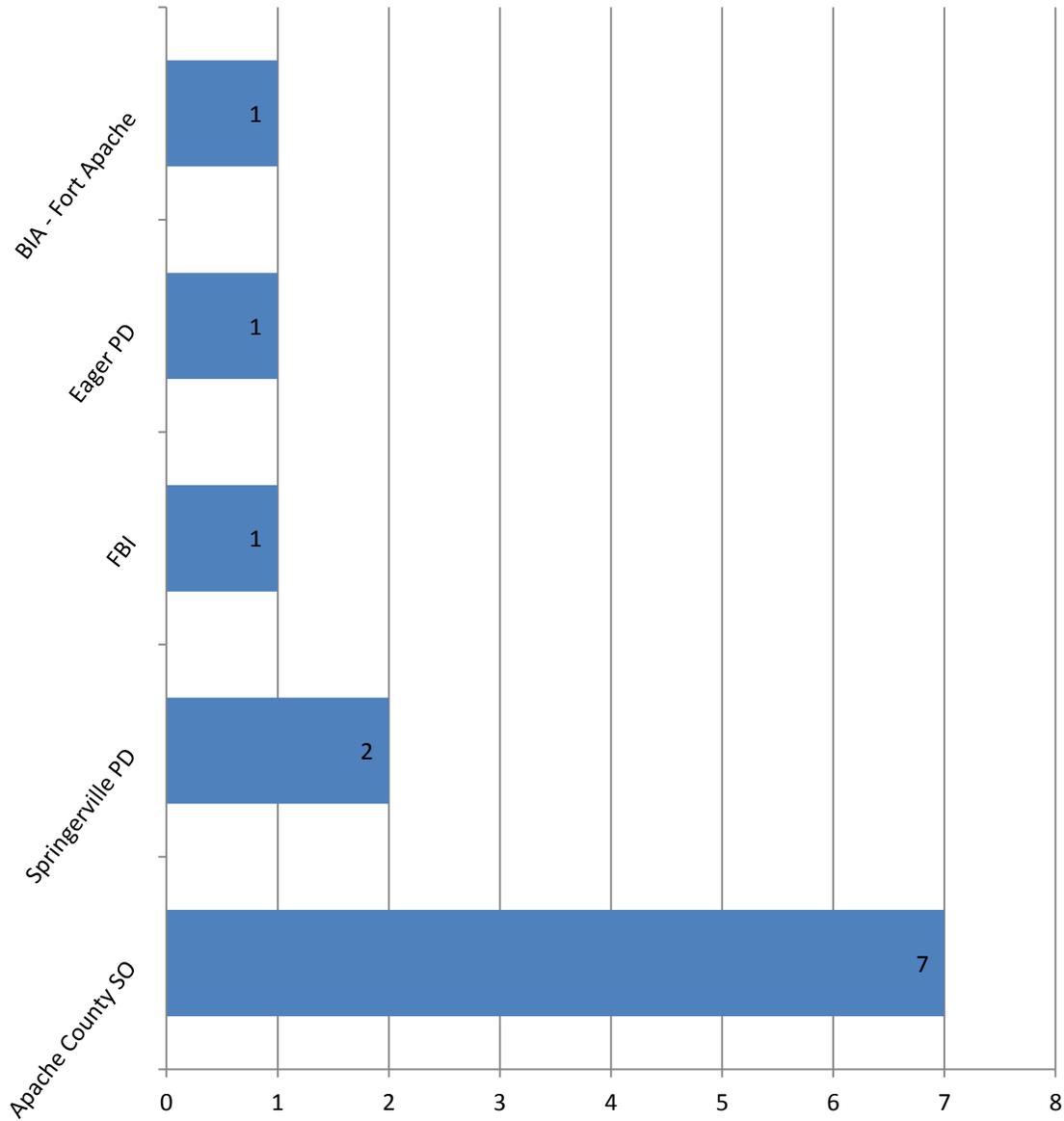
### Apache County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



### Apache County Deaths by Type of Death 2014



### Apache County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

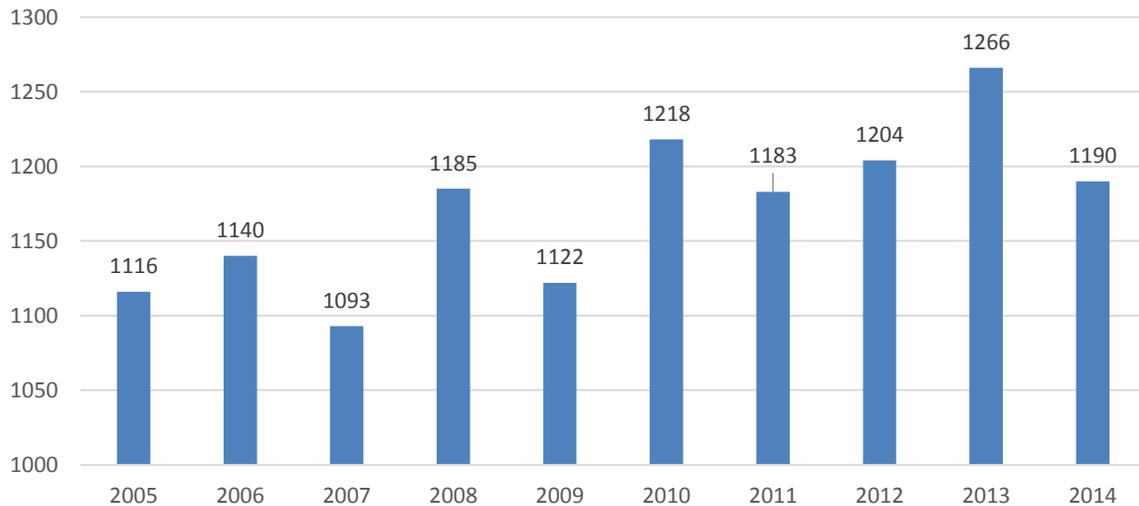


## Cochise County

Cochise County contracts with the PCOME to certify deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in Cochise County. Cochise County does not maintain an in-county Medical Examiner’s office to conduct death scene investigations, transport remains, or triage deaths reportable to the ME. Cochise County does provide third party transportation services, local law enforcement death scene investigation and archival support for examinations that occurred prior to July 1, 2012. The PCOME works closely with Cochise County law enforcement agencies, the public fiduciary office and funeral homes to facilitate investigations, disposition of remains and transportation respectively. The PCOME is also involved as needed with mass fatality planning, child death review, or other medical examiner related issues in Cochise County.

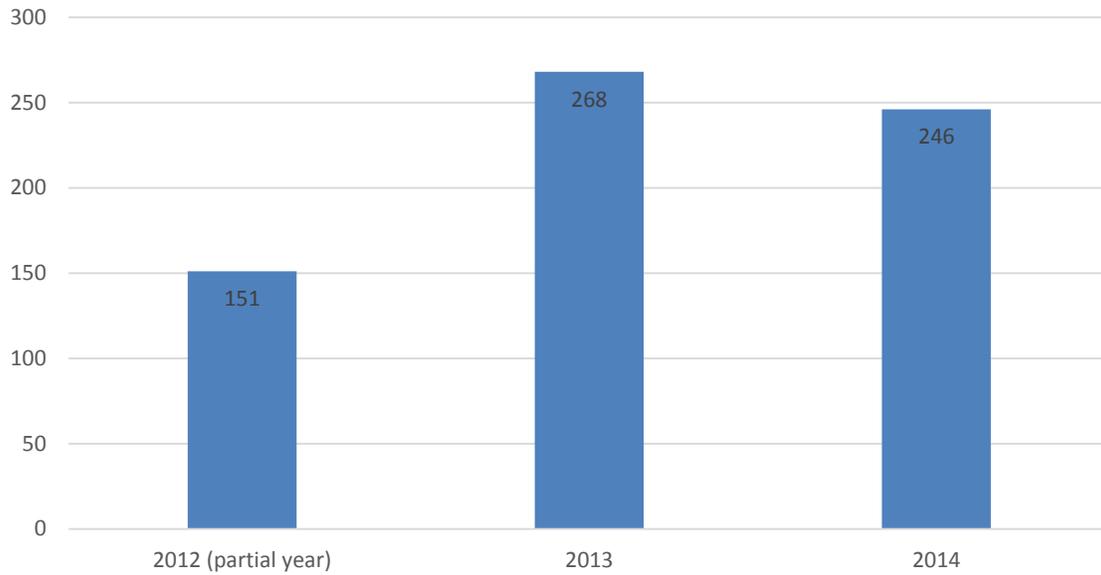
In calendar year 2014 there were 1190 deaths in Cochise County; of these 246 (21%) were reported to the PCOME for investigation and/or examination. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**Cochise County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

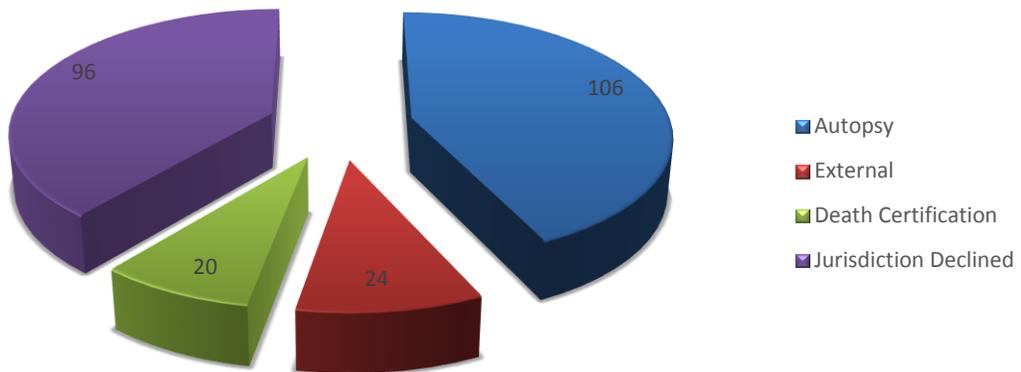


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

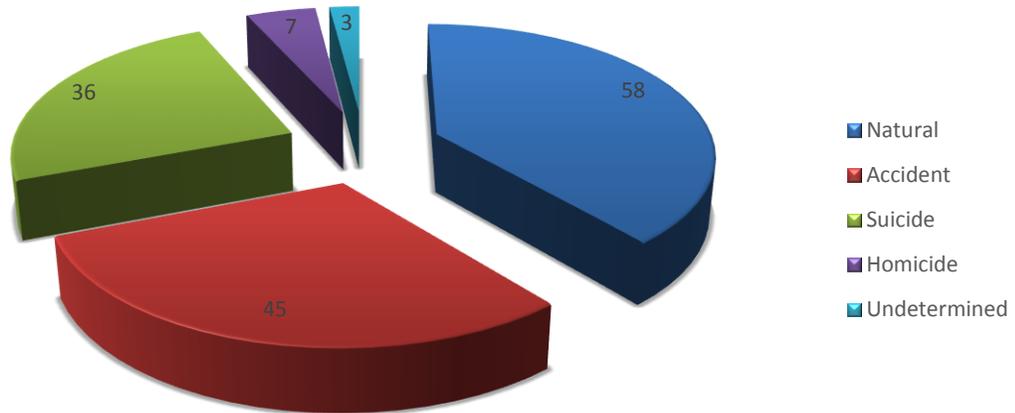
### Cochise County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2012 - 2014



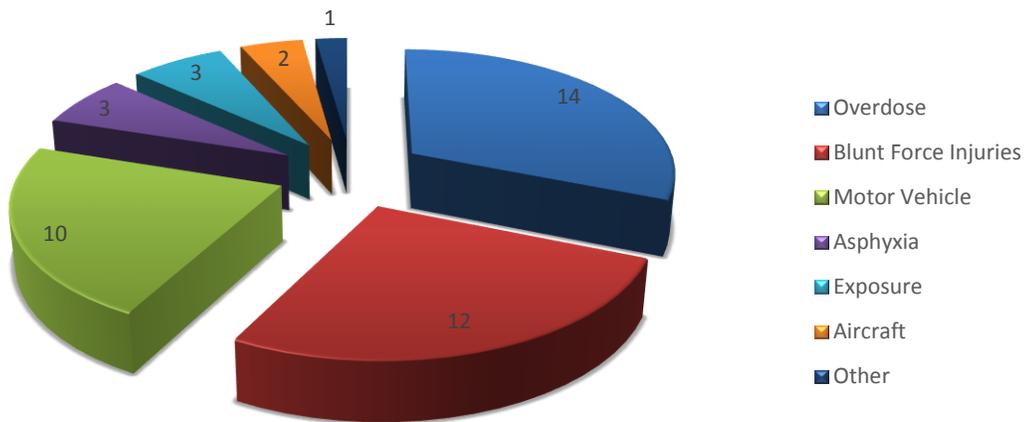
### Cochise County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014



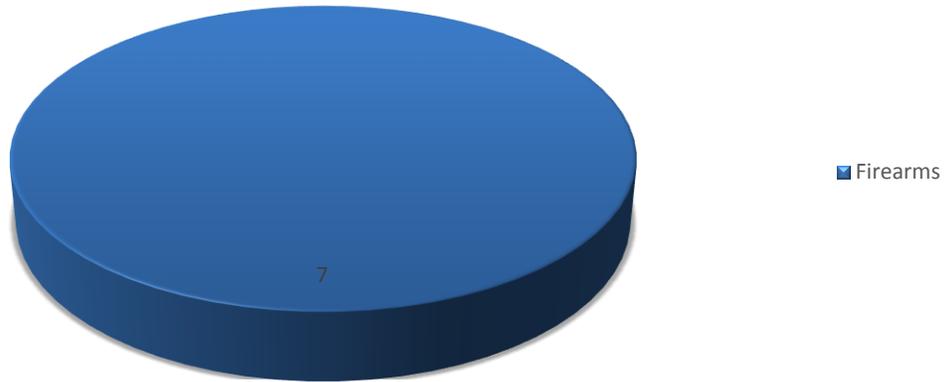
### Cochise County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



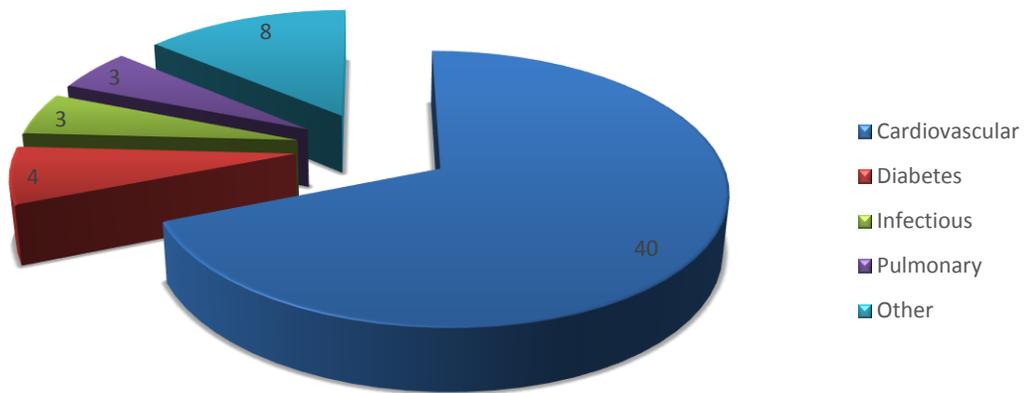
### Cochise County Accidents by Type 2014



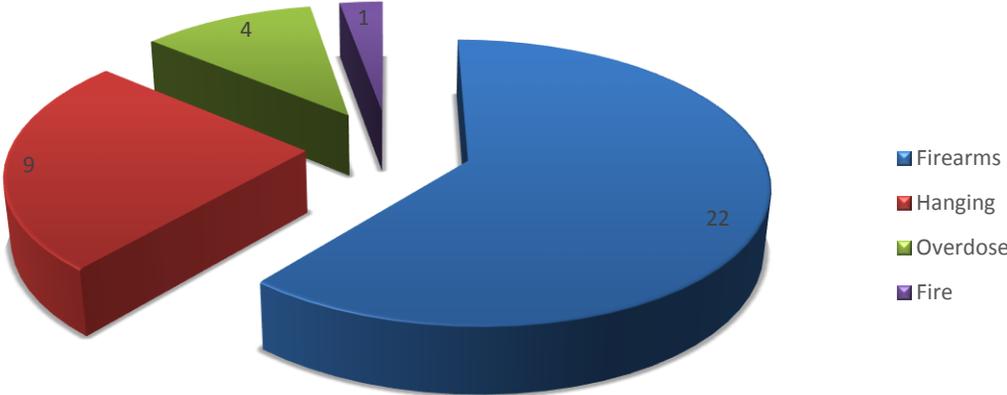
### Cochise County Homicides by Type 2014



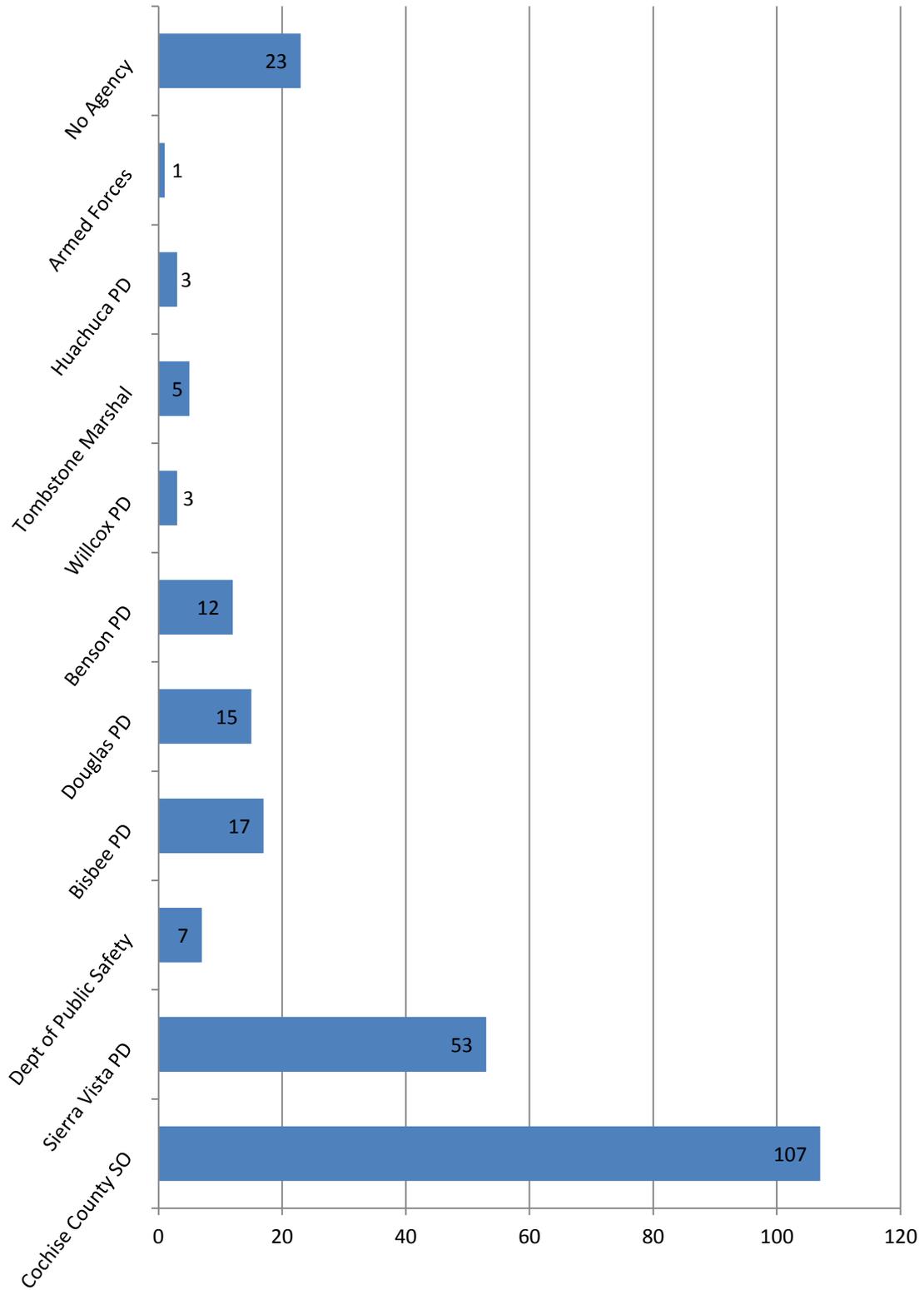
### Cochise County Naturals by Type 2014



### Cochise County Suicides by Type 2014



### Cochise County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

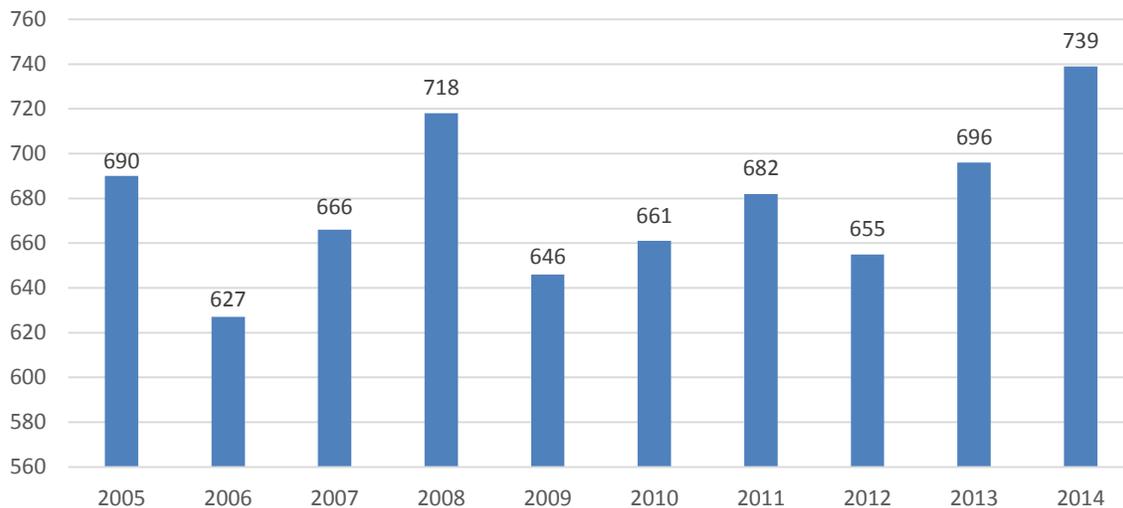


## Gila County

Gila County contracts with an appointed Forensic Pathologist Medical Examiner, who triages, investigates and certifies deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in Gila County. The Gila County ME performs some autopsy examinations in Payson if the ME deems an autopsy is necessary to certify the cause and manner of death. Additionally, the ME may refer some decedents from southern Gila County to Pima County for an examination and death certification as necessary. The PCOME is not aware of how many deaths occurring in Gila County are reported to the ME, nor the total number or types of deaths certified by the ME. The PCOME only has a record of deaths reported to, or referred for examination to Pima County. Deaths on Native American tribal lands do not have to be reported through the respective death investigation system of that County and may be reported directly to the PCOME as necessary for the needs of the appropriate agency investigating that death (BIA, FBI or local tribal police departments).

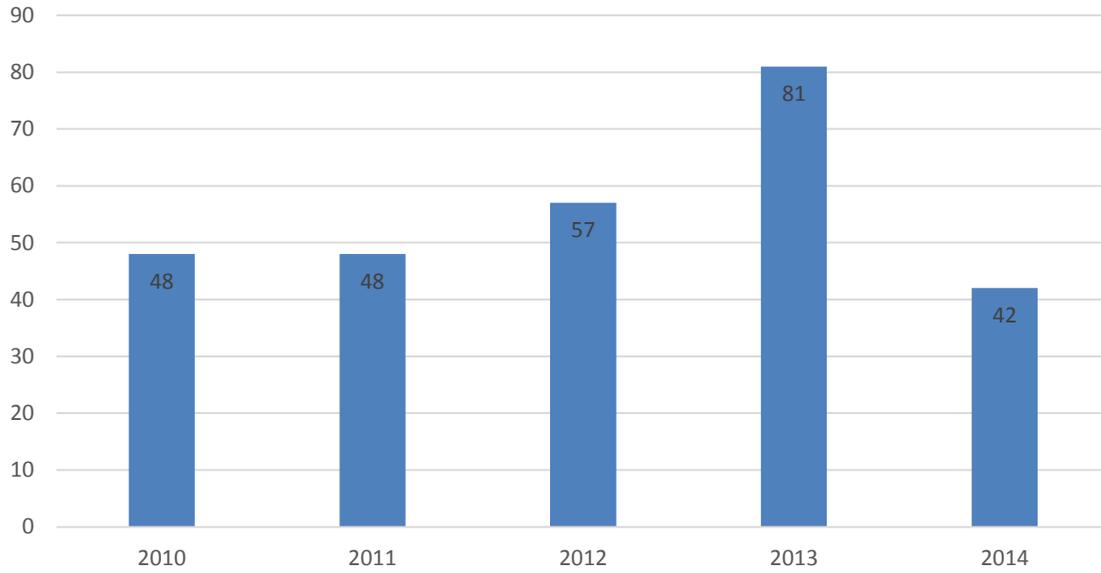
Forty two deaths from Gila County were reported to the PCOME in 2014, 39 of which required autopsy examinations. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**Gila County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

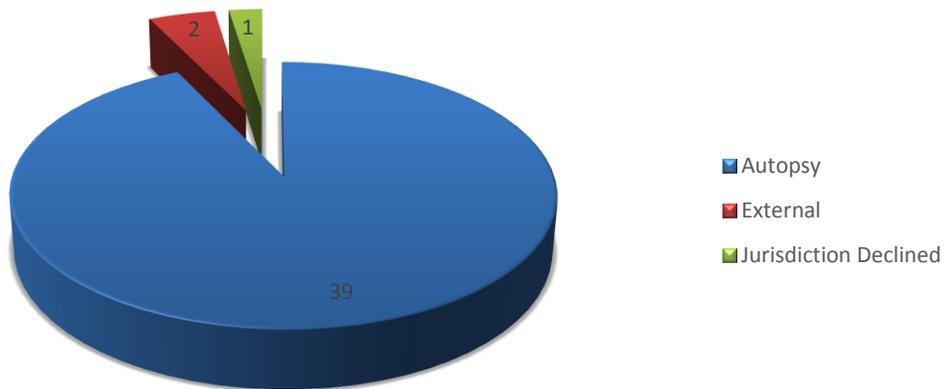


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

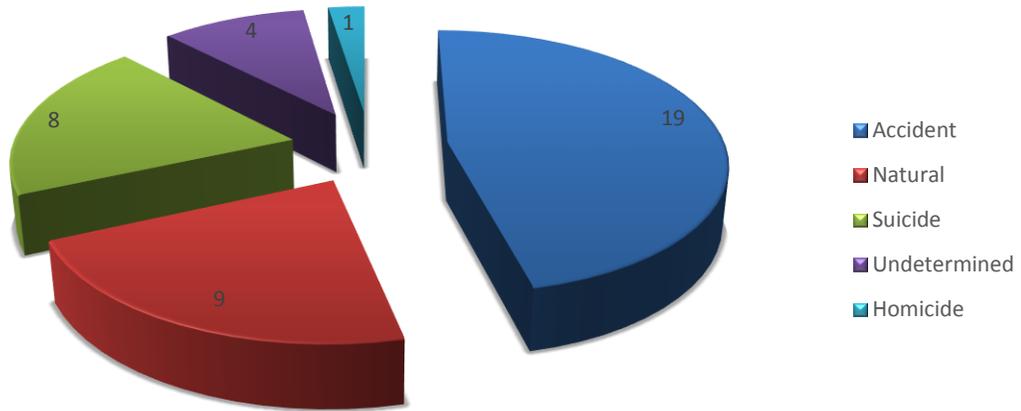
### Gila County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014



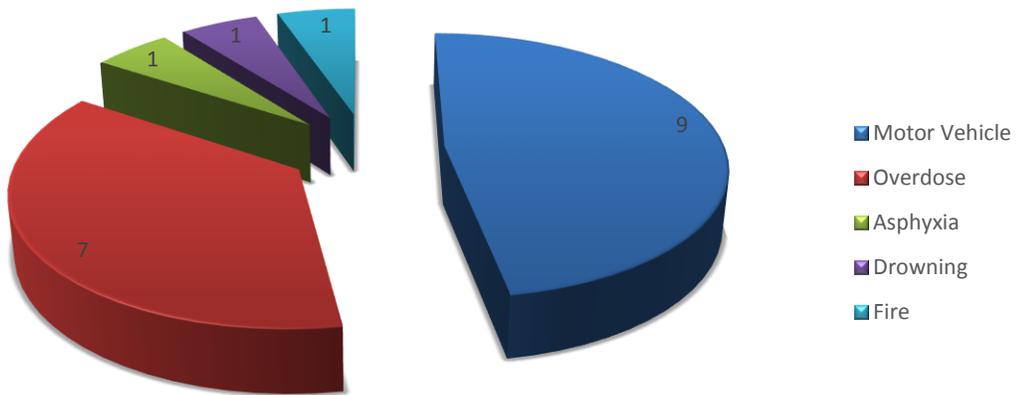
### Gila County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014



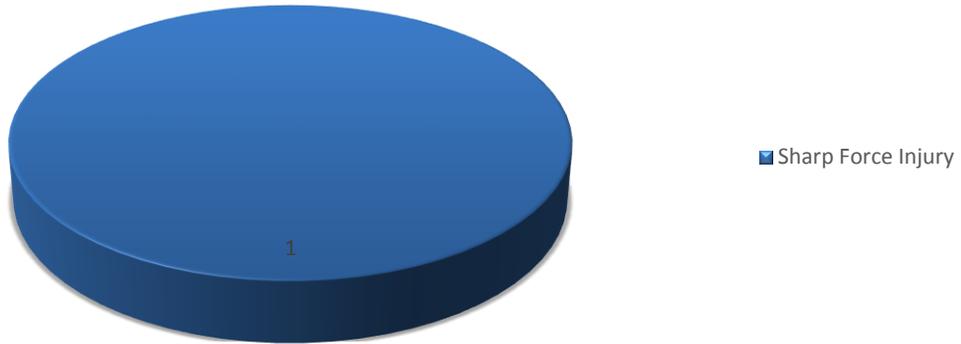
### Gila County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



### Gila County Accidents by Type 2014



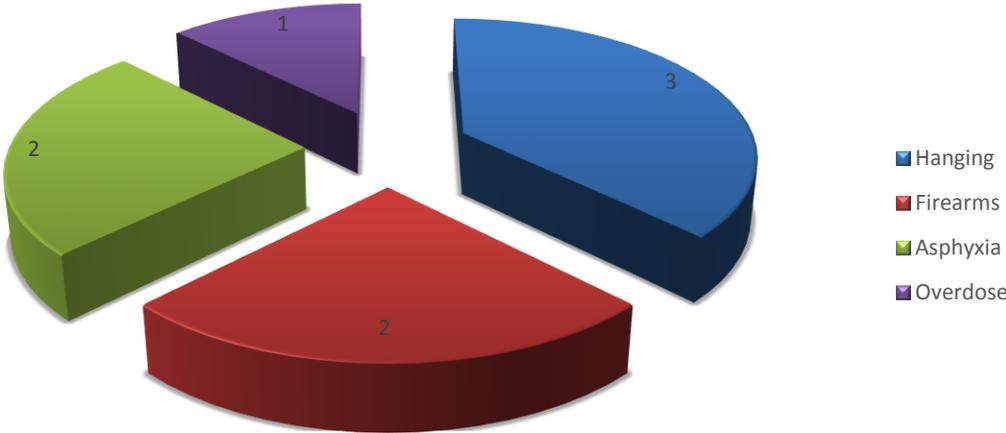
### Gila County Homicides by Type 2014



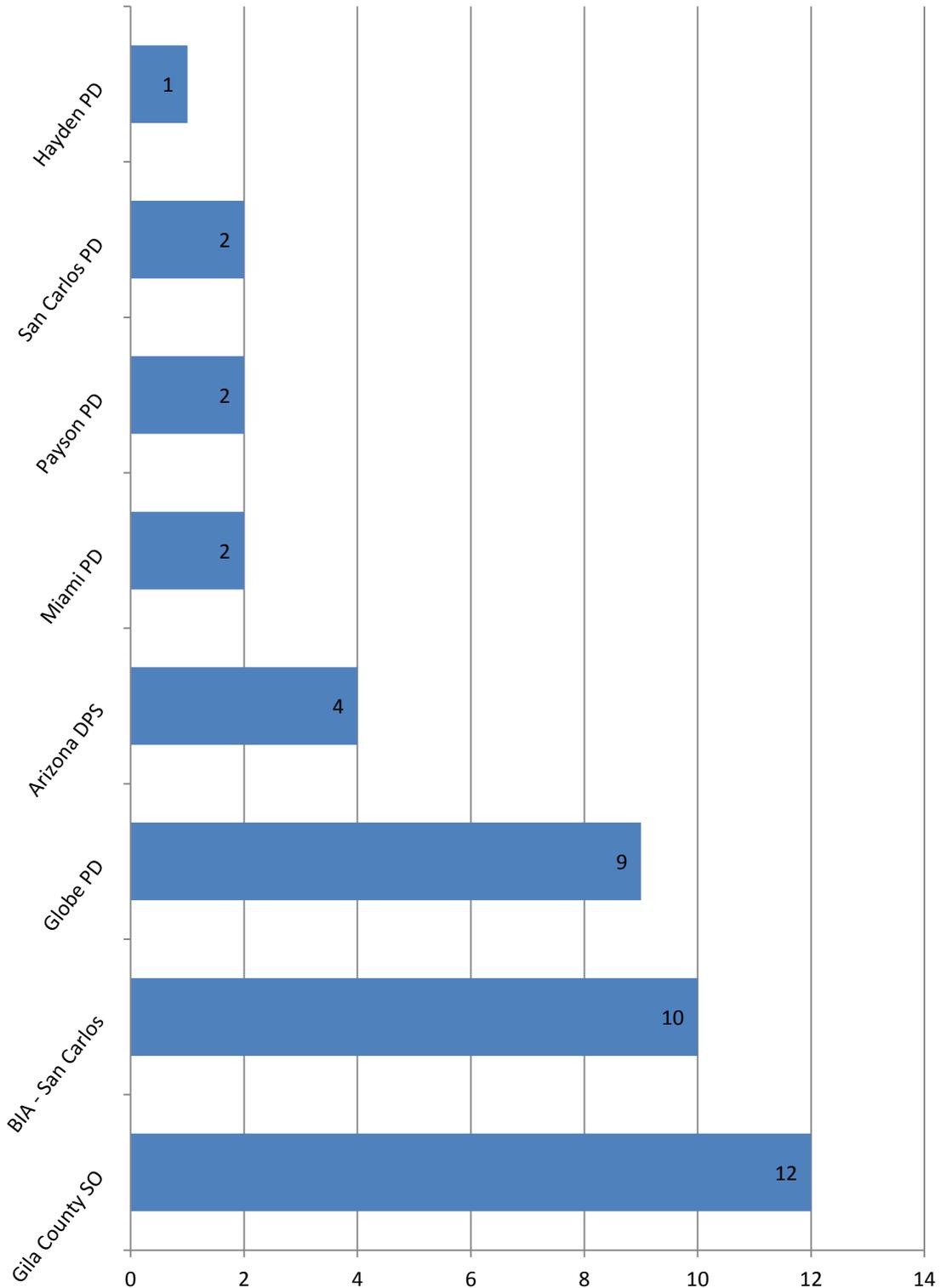
### Gila County Naturals by Type 2014



### Gila County Suicides by Type 2014



### Gila County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

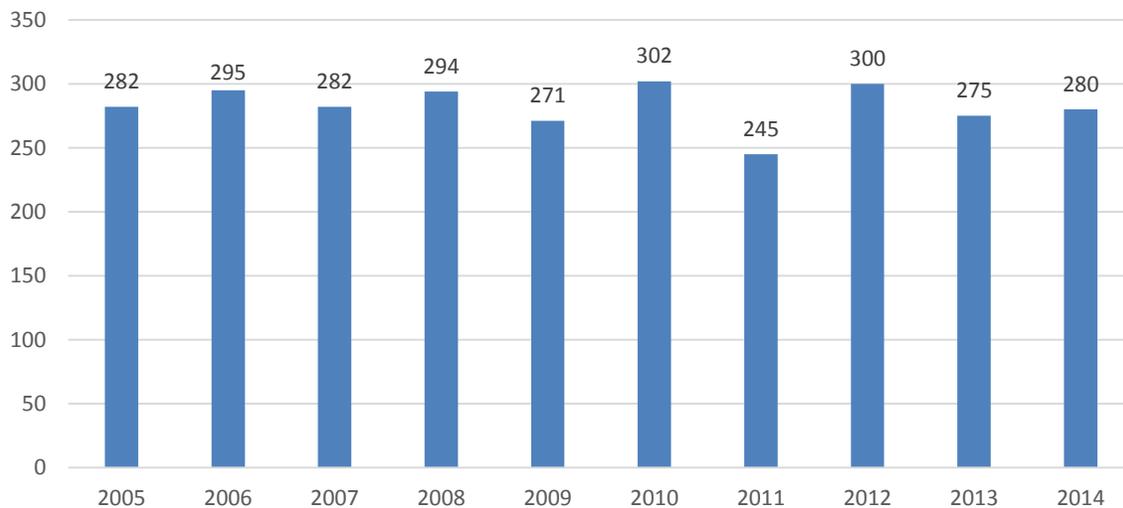


## Graham County

Graham County contracts with an appointed non-Forensic Pathologist physician(s), termed an Alternate Medical Examiner(s) (AME) (A.R.S. §11-591), who triages, investigates and certifies deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in Graham County. The Graham County AME does not perform autopsy examinations and if the AME deems an autopsy is necessary to certify the cause and manner of death, the decedent may be referred to Pima County for an examination and death certification. The PCOME is not aware of how many deaths occurring in Graham County are reported to the Graham County AME, nor the total number or types of deaths certified by the AME. The PCOME only has a record of deaths reported to, or referred for examination to Pima County. Deaths on Native American tribal lands do not have to be reported through the respective death investigation system of that County and may be reported directly to the PCOME as necessary for the needs of the appropriate agency investigating that death (BIA, FBI or local tribal police departments).

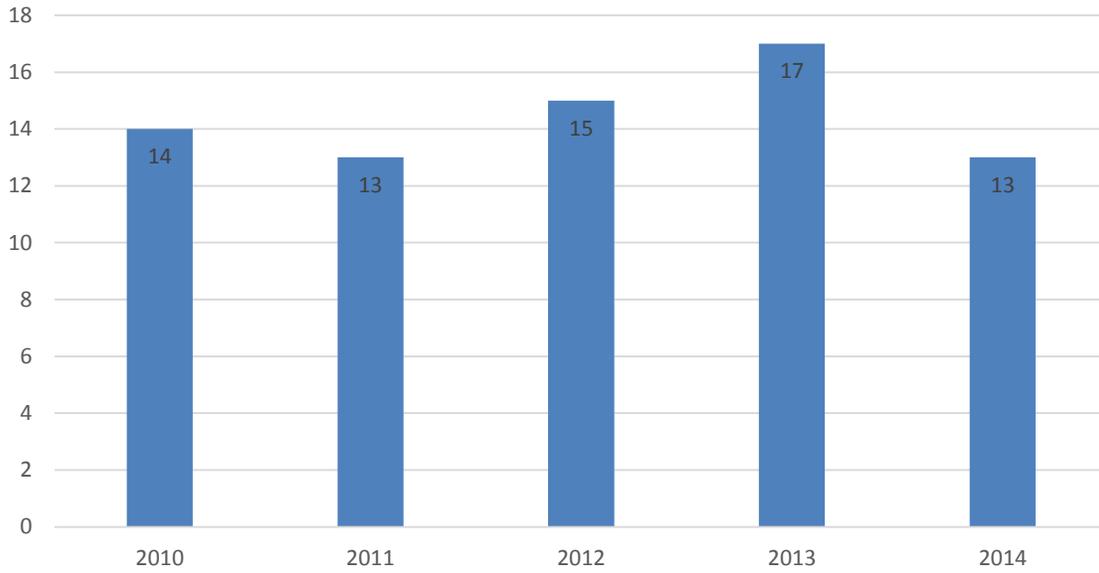
Thirteen deaths from Graham County were reported to the PCOME in 2014, all of which required autopsy examinations. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**Graham County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

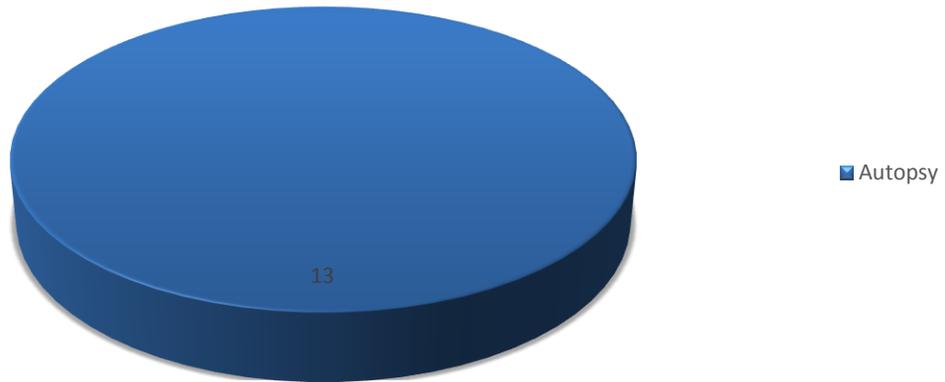


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

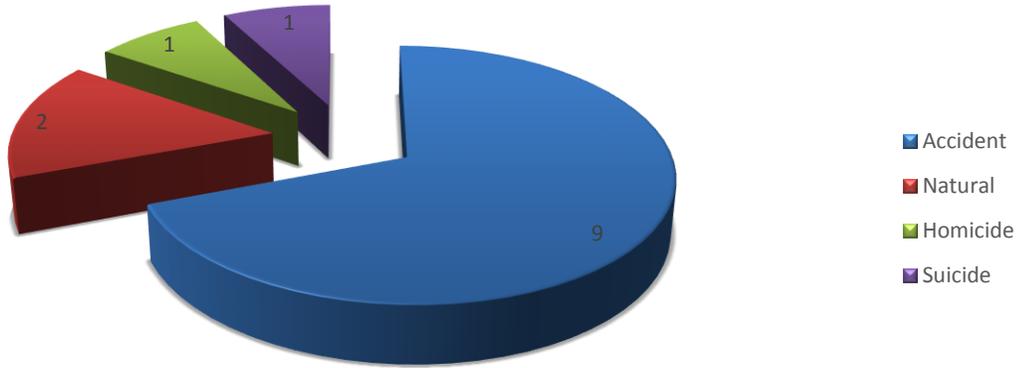
**Graham County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014**



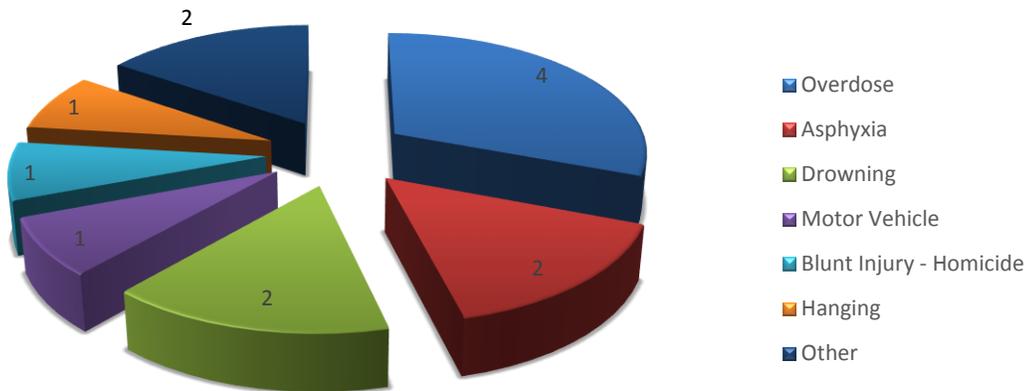
**Graham County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014**



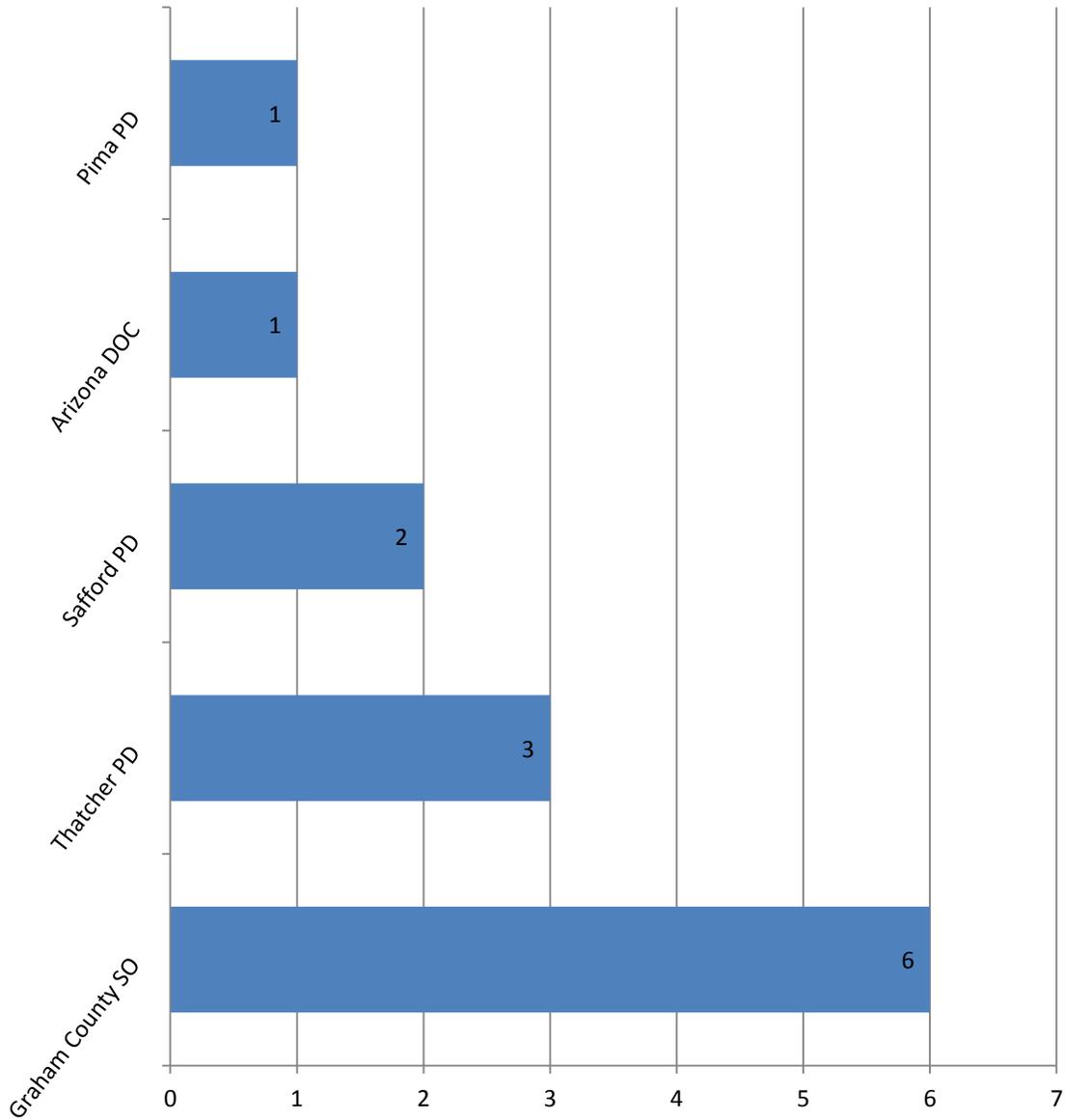
### Graham County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



### Graham County Deaths by Type of Death 2014



### Graham County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

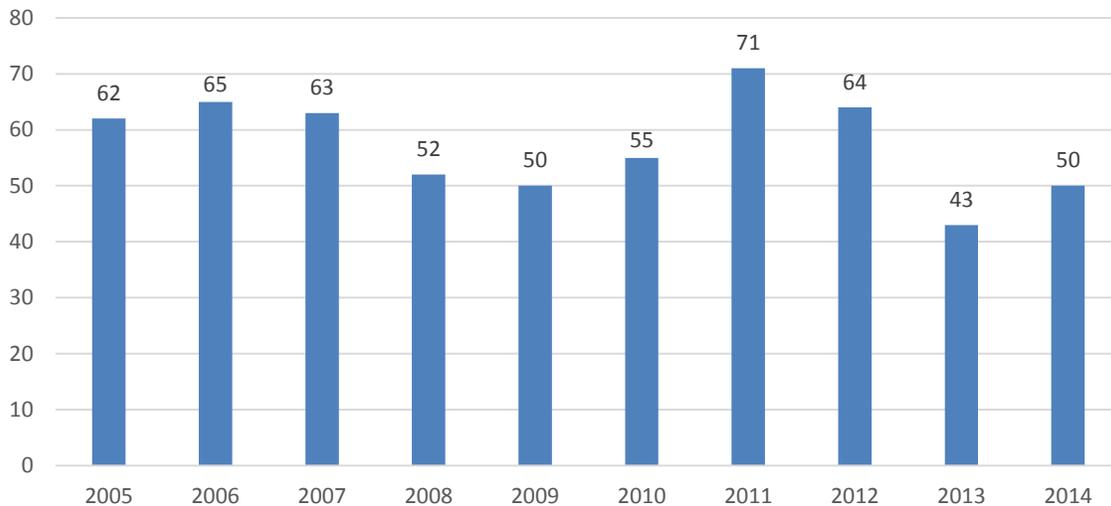


## Greenlee County

Greenlee County contracts with an appointed non-Forensic Pathologist physician(s), termed an Alternate Medical Examiner(s) (AME) (A.R.S. §11-591), who triages, investigates and certifies deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in Greenlee County. The Greenlee County AME does not perform autopsy examinations and if the AME deems an autopsy is necessary to certify the cause and manner of death, the decedent may be referred to Pima County for an examination and death certification. The PCOME is not aware of how many deaths occurring in Greenlee County are reported to the Greenlee County AME, nor the total number or types of deaths certified by the AME. The PCOME only has a record of deaths reported to, or referred for examination to Pima County. Deaths on Native American tribal lands do not have to be reported through the respective death investigation system of that County and may be reported directly to the PCOME as necessary for the needs of the appropriate agency investigating that death (BIA, FBI or local tribal police departments).

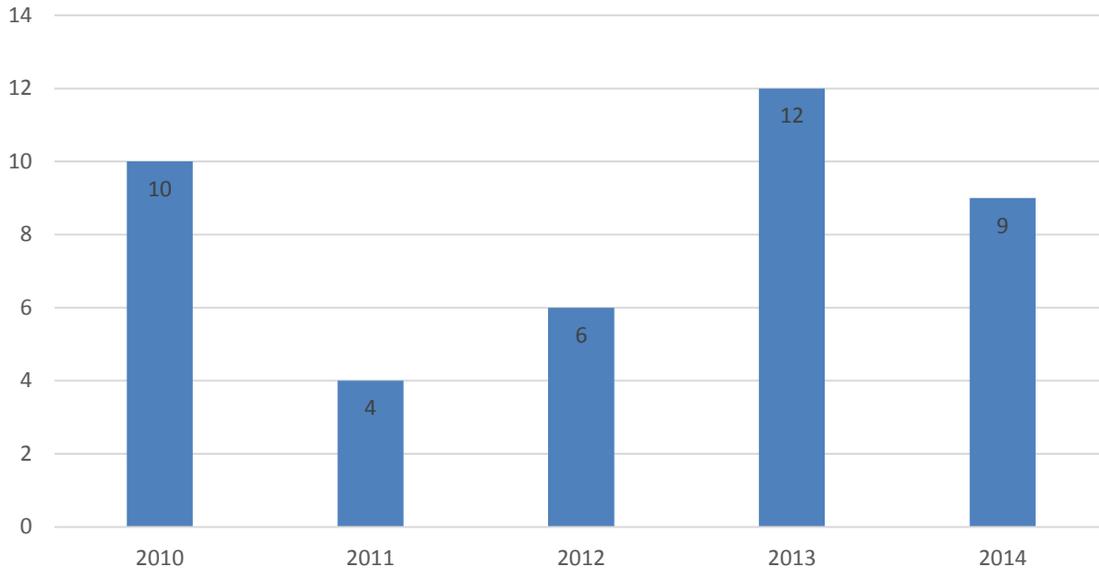
Nine deaths from Greenlee County were reported to the PCOME in 2014, all of which required autopsy examinations. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**Greenlee County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

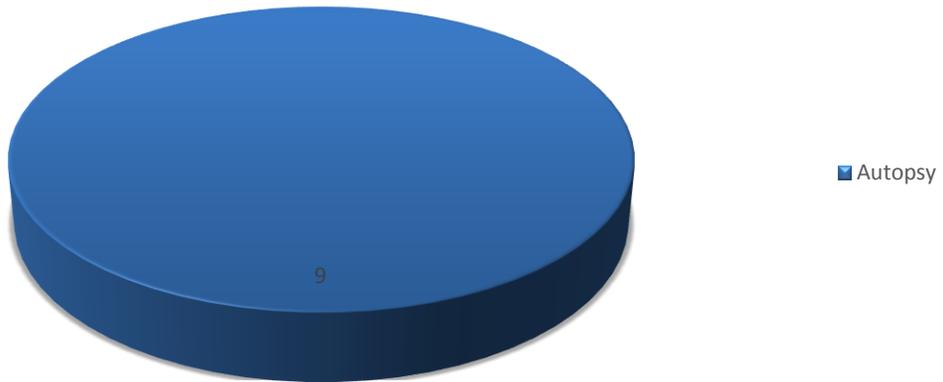


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

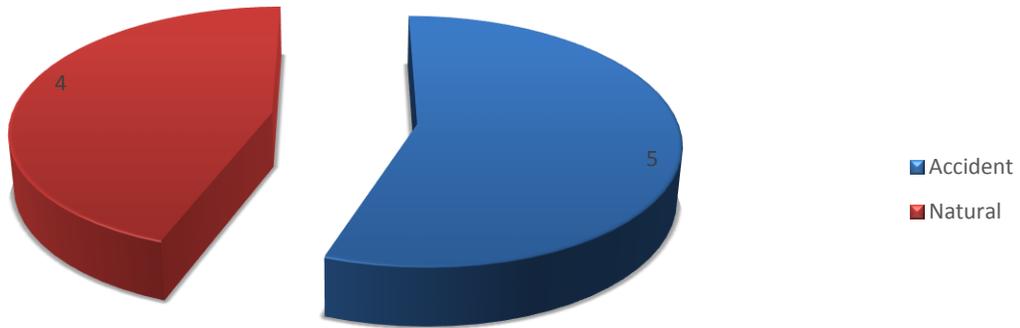
**Greenlee County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014**



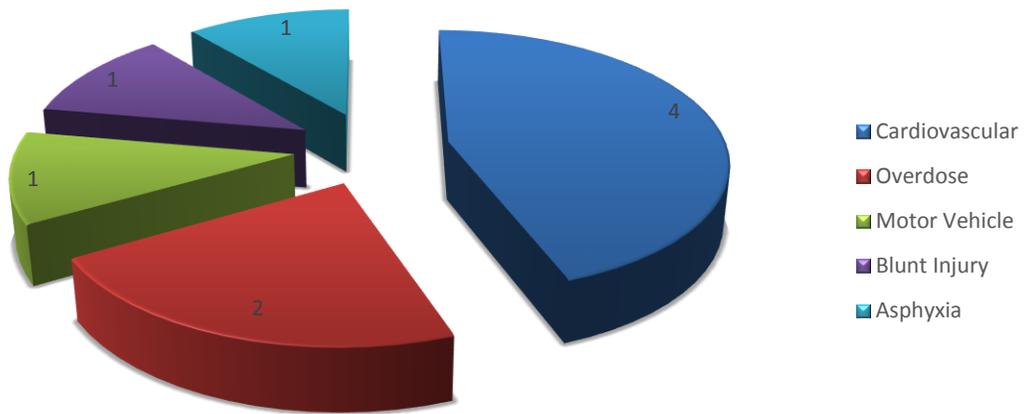
**Greenlee County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014**



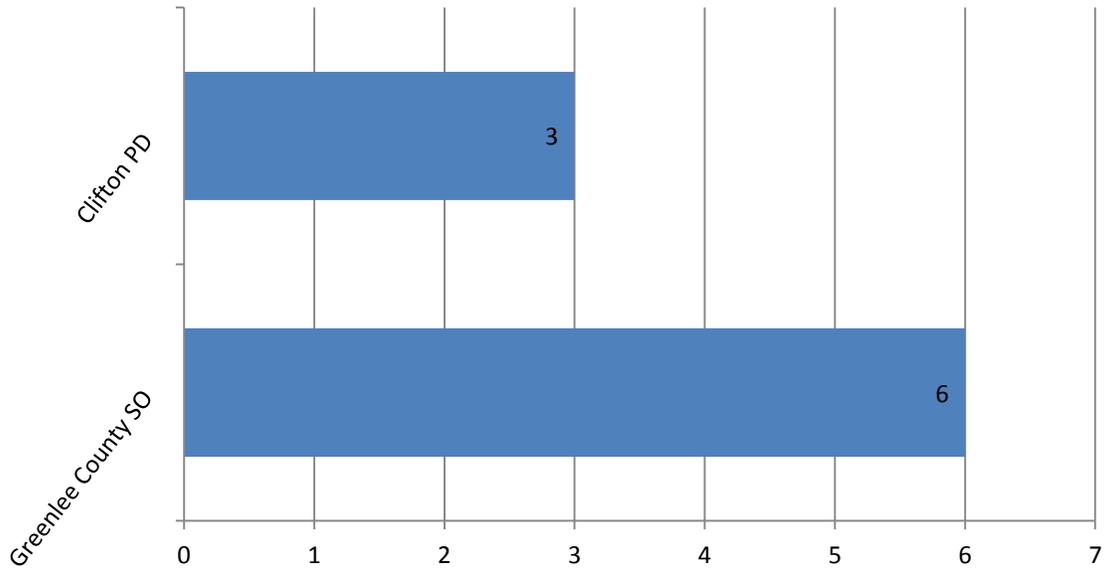
### Greenlee County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



### Greenlee County Deaths by Type of Death 2014



**Greenlee County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014**

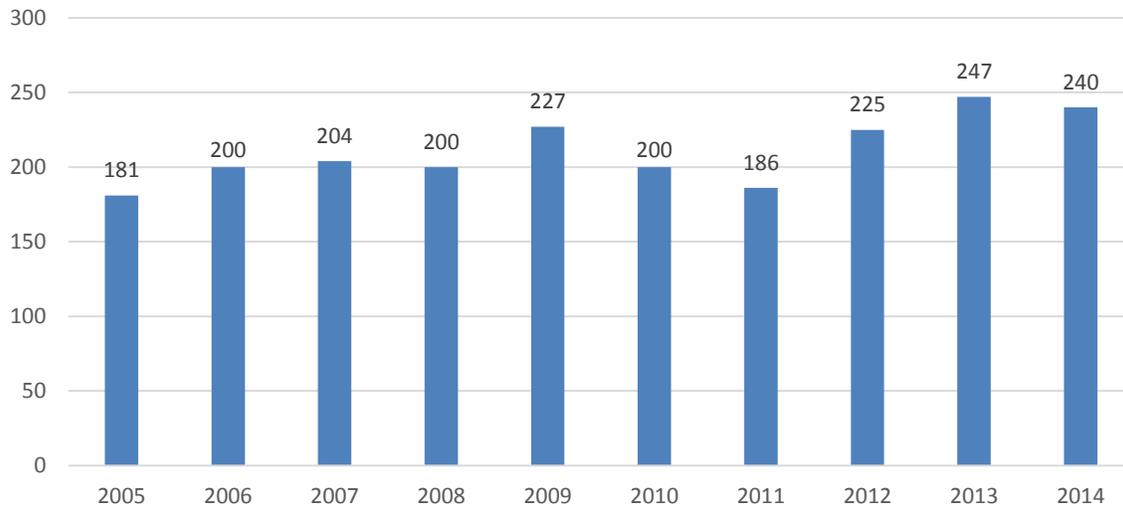


## La Paz County

La Paz County contracts with an appointed non-Forensic Pathologist physician(s), termed an Alternate Medical Examiner(s) (AME) (A.R.S. §11-591), who triages, investigates and certifies deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in La Paz County. The La Paz County AME does not perform autopsy examinations and if the AME deems an autopsy is necessary to certify the cause and manner of death, the decedent may be referred to Pima County for an examination and death certification. The PCOME is not aware of how many deaths occurring in La Paz County are reported to the La Paz County AME, nor the total number or types of deaths certified by the AME. The PCOME only has a record of deaths reported to, or referred for examination to Pima County. Deaths on Native American tribal lands do not have to be reported through the respective death investigation system of that County and may be reported directly to the PCOME as necessary for the needs of the appropriate agency investigating that death (BIA, FBI or local tribal police departments).

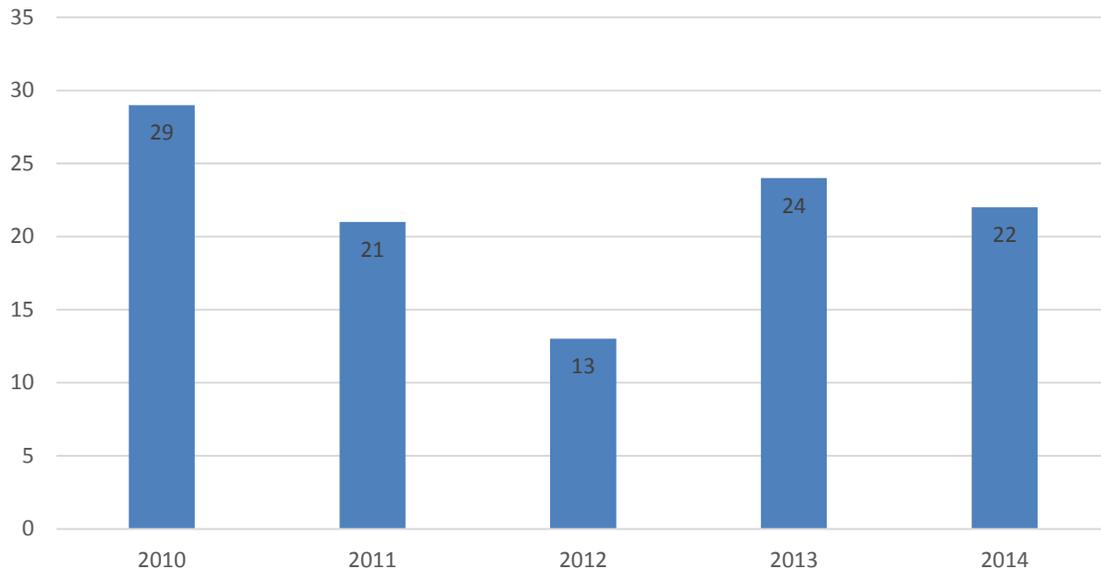
Twenty two deaths from La Paz County were reported to the PCOME in 2014, 18 of which required autopsy examinations. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**La Paz County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

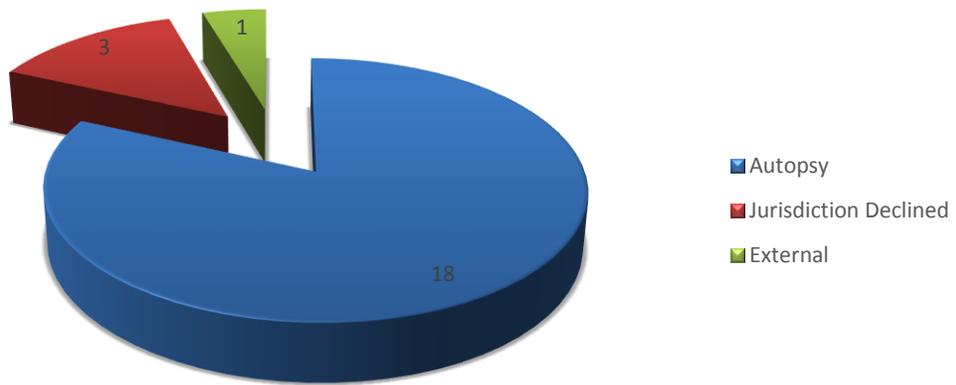


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

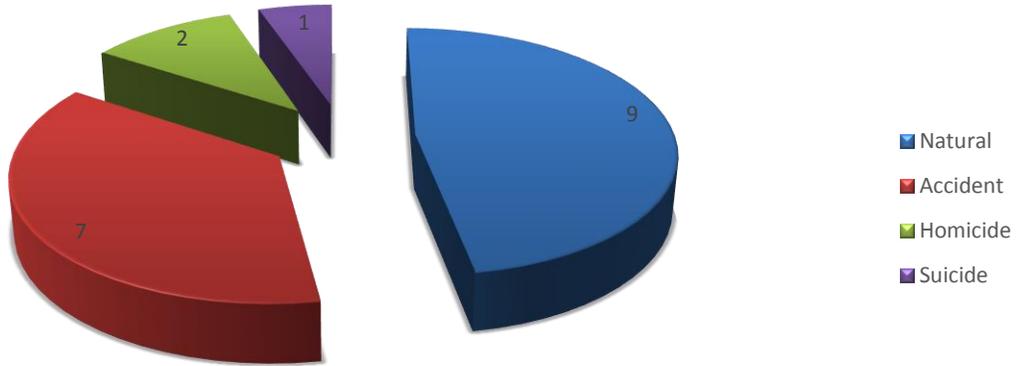
### La Paz County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014



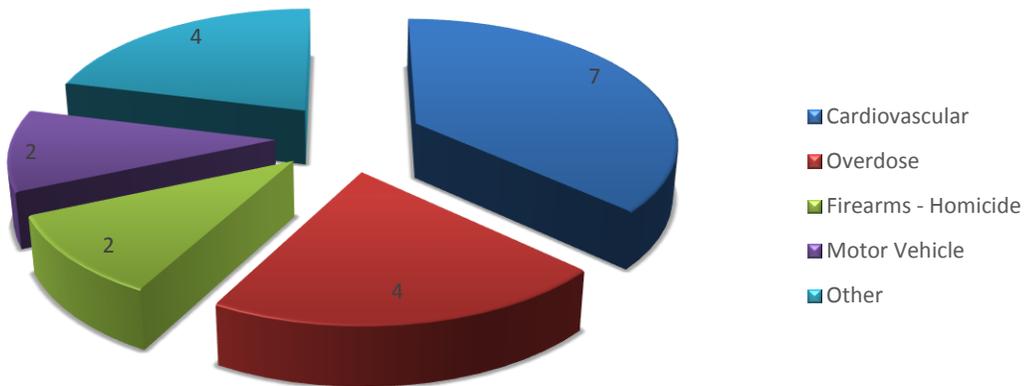
### La Paz County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014



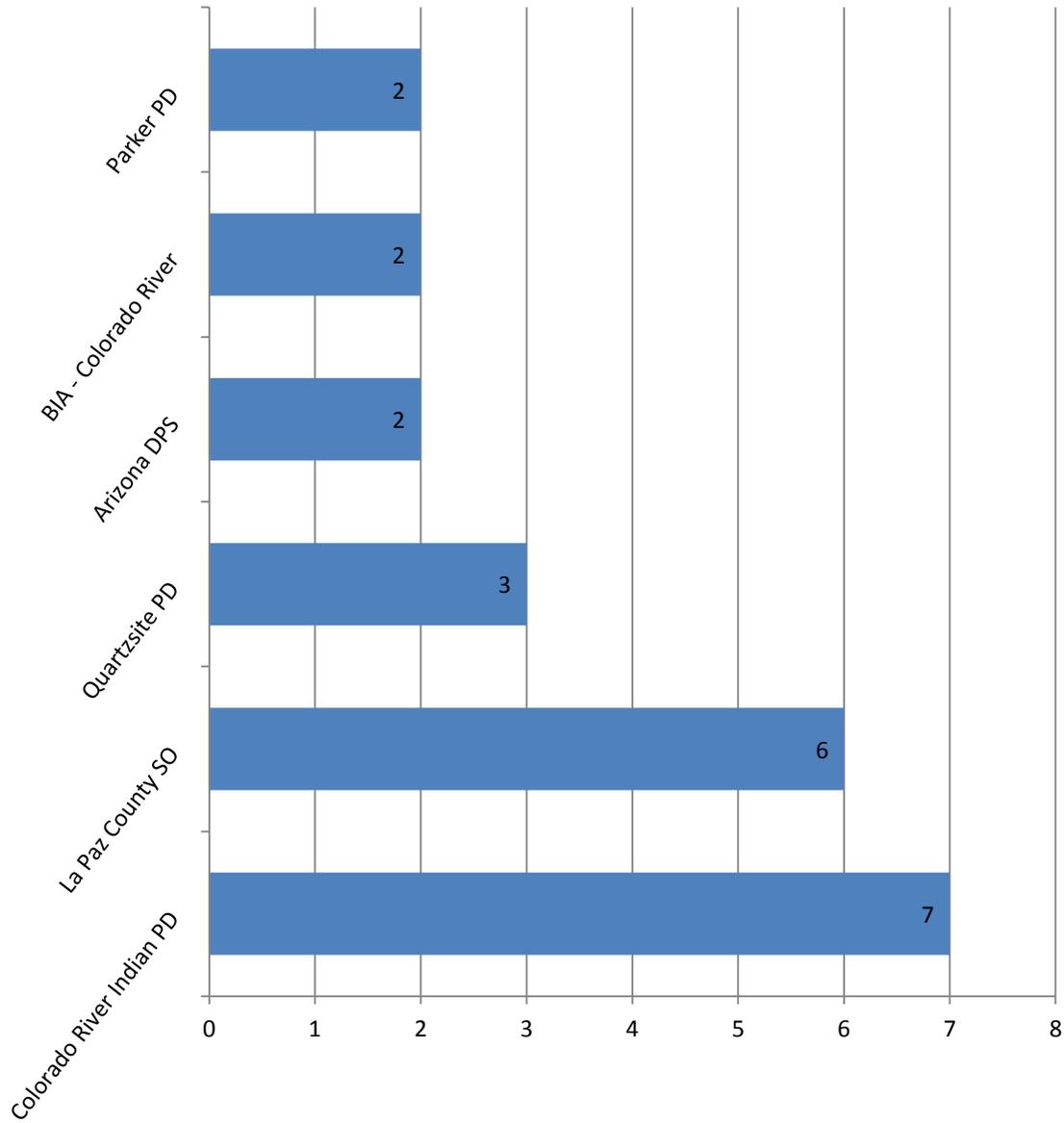
### La Paz County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



### La Paz County Deaths by Type of Death 2014



### La Paz County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

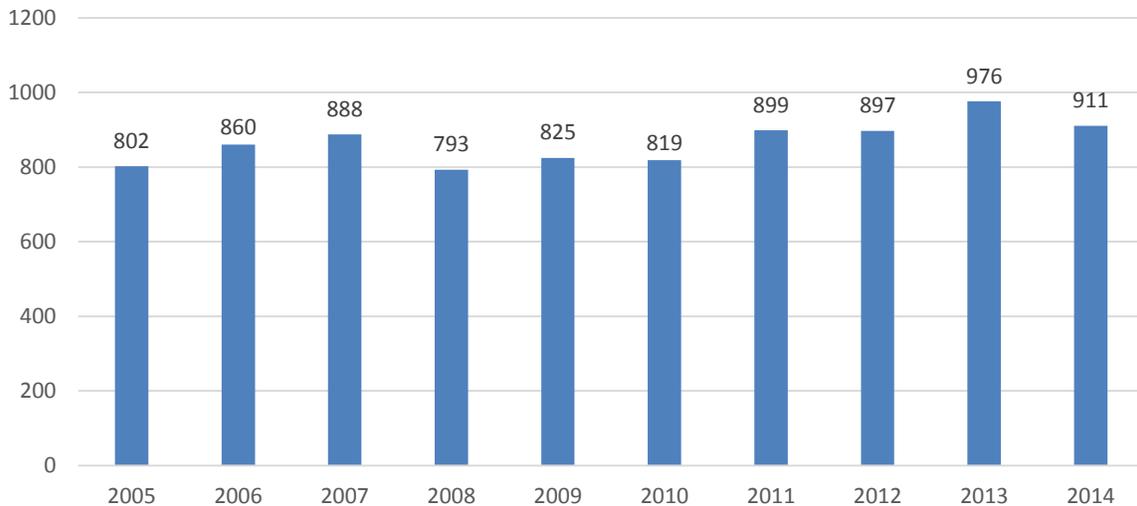


## Navajo County

Navajo County contracts with an appointed non-Forensic Pathologist physician(s), termed an Alternate Medical Examiner(s) (AME) (A.R.S. §11-591), who triages, investigates and certifies deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in Navajo County. The Navajo County AME does not perform autopsy examinations and if the AME deems an autopsy is necessary to certify the cause and manner of death, the decedent may be referred to Pima County for an examination and death certification. The PCOME is not aware of how many deaths occurring in Navajo County are reported to the Navajo County AME, nor the total number or types of deaths certified by the AME. The PCOME only has a record of deaths reported to, or referred for examination to Pima County. Deaths on Native American tribal lands do not have to be reported through the respective death investigation system of that County and may be reported directly to the PCOME as necessary for the needs of the appropriate agency investigating that death (BIA, FBI or local tribal police departments).

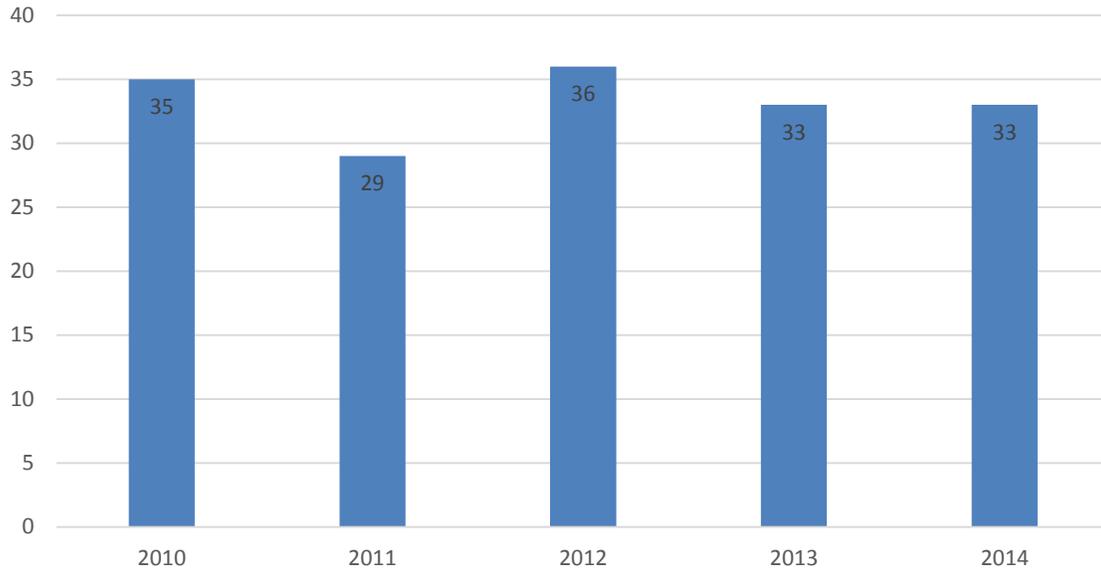
Thirty three deaths from Navajo County were reported to the PCOME in 2014, 31 of which required autopsy examinations. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**Navajo County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

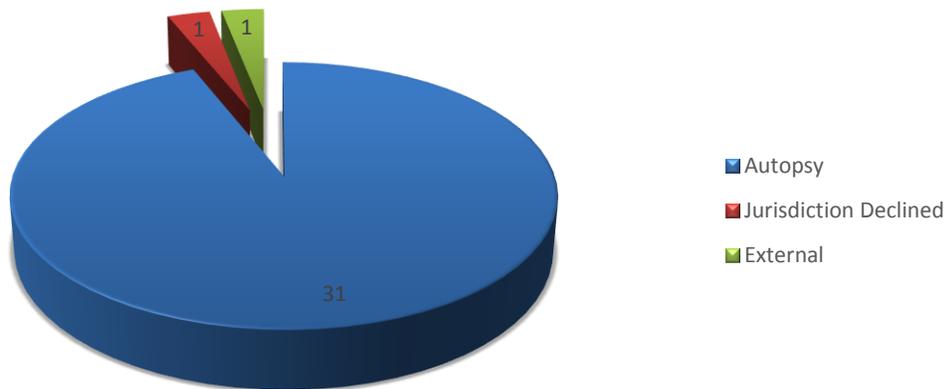


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

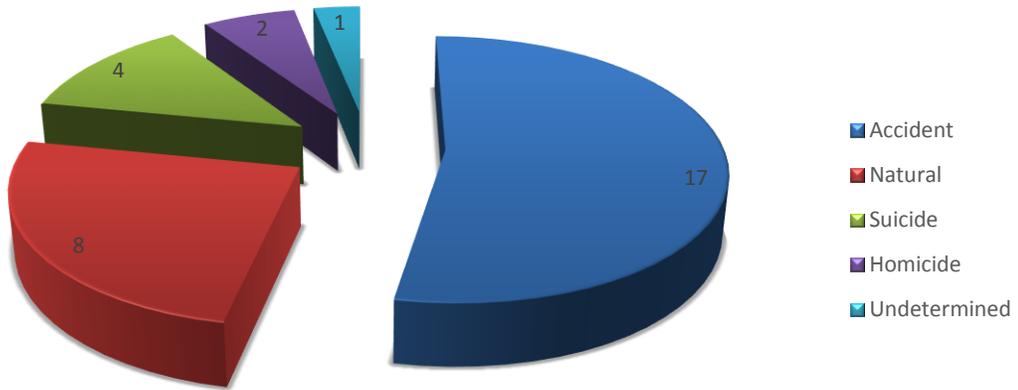
### Navajo County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014



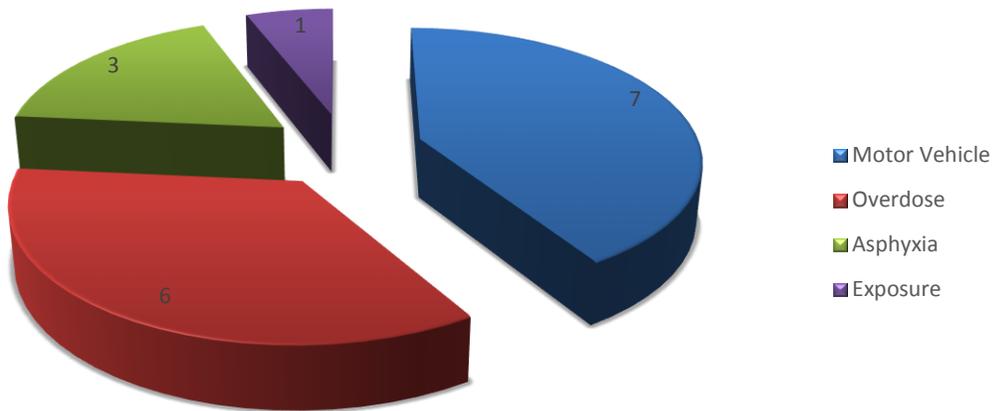
### Navajo County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014



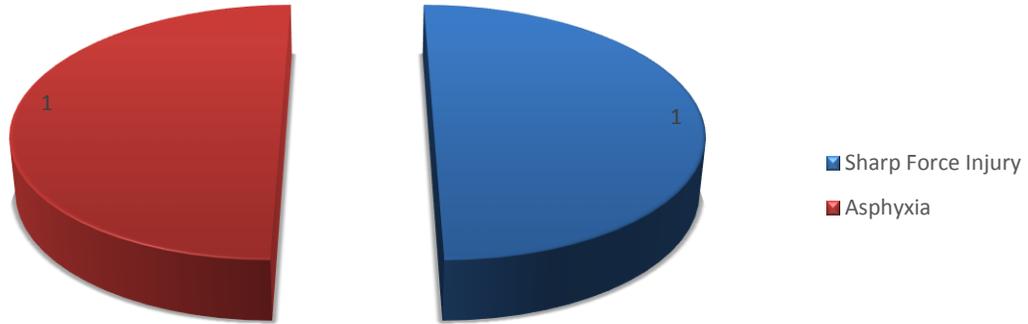
### Navajo County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



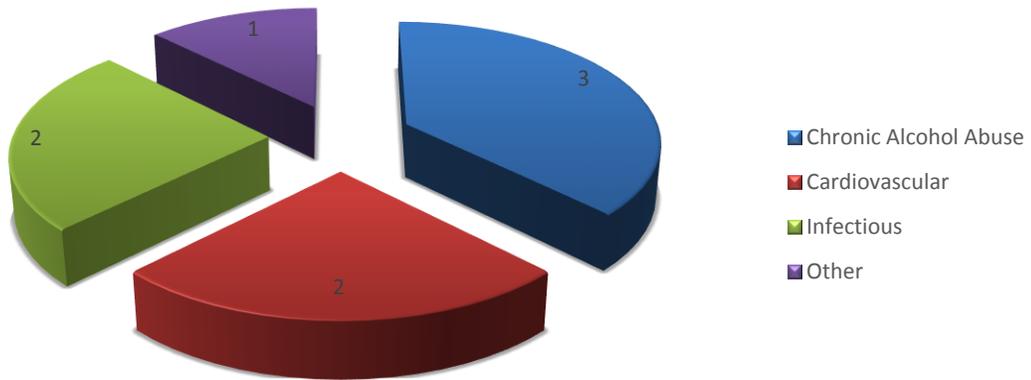
### Navajo County Accidents by Type 2014



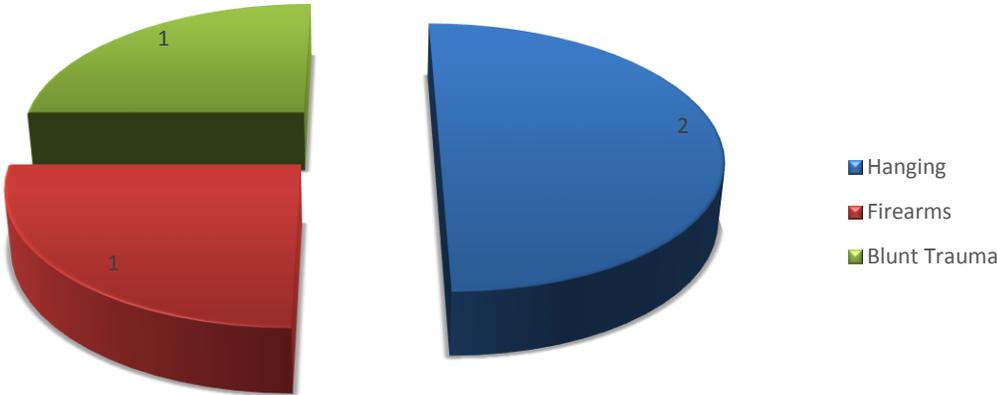
### Navajo County Homicides by Type 2014



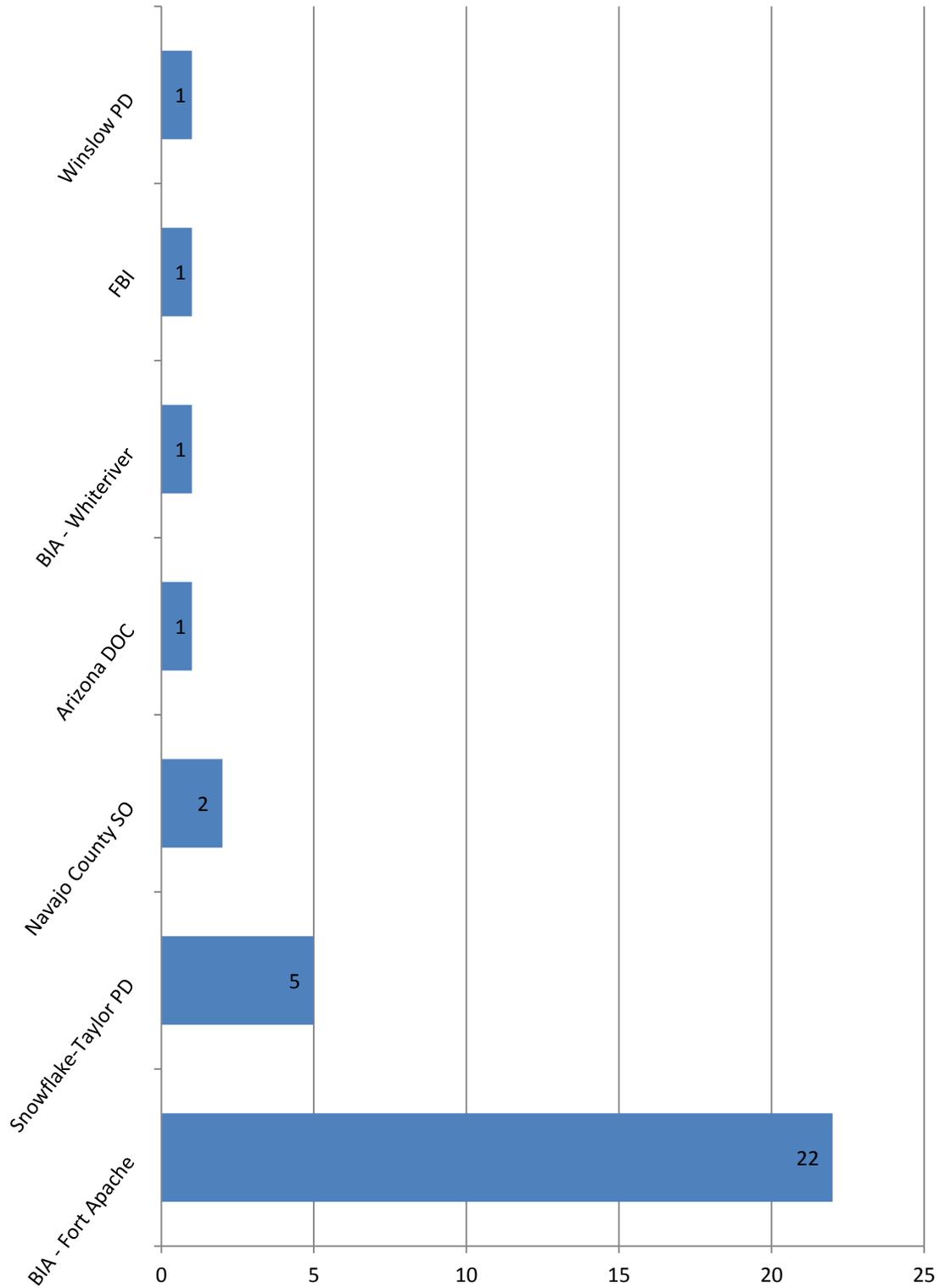
### Navajo County Naturals by Type 2014



### Navajo County Suicides by Type 2014



### Navajo County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

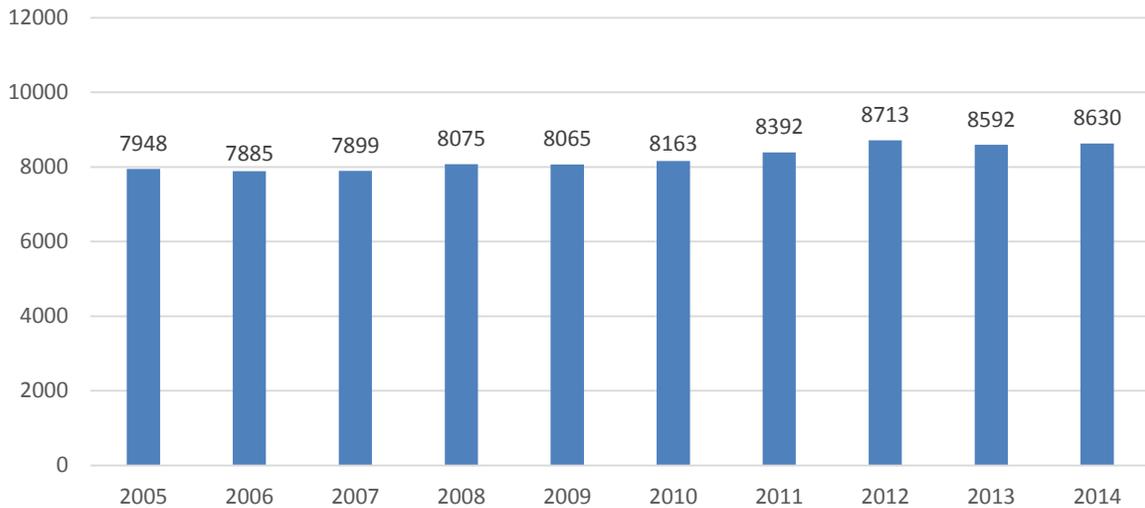


## Pima County

### TOTAL MORTALITY

The number of deaths reported to the medical examiner’s office in a given time frame is a reflection of the total population that the office serves. In 2014 there were 8,630 deaths in Pima County; of these 2,520 (29%) were reported to the PCOME for investigation.

**Pima County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

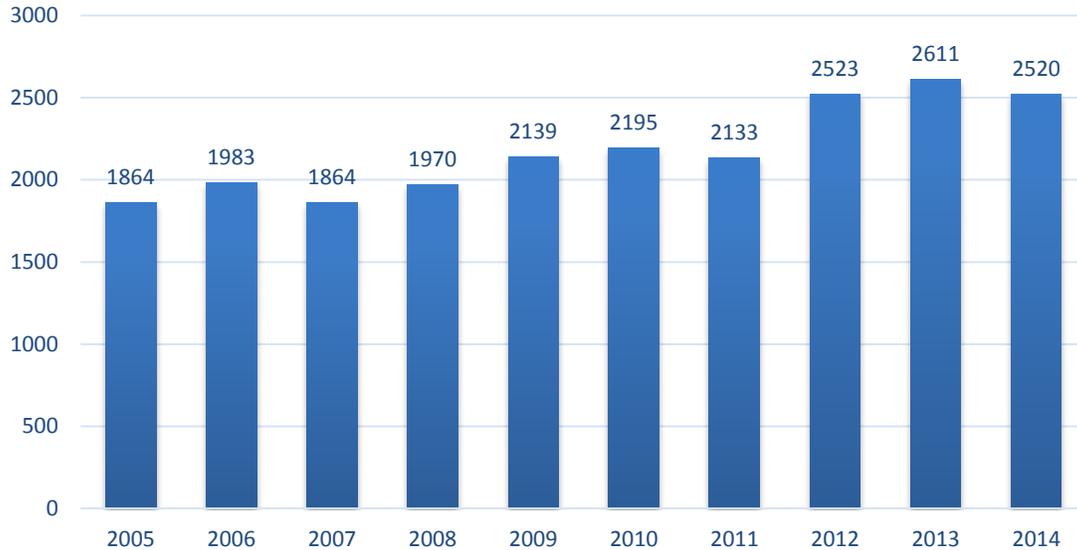


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

### TOTAL CASES

The total cases handled by the PCOME from Pima County in a given year are the sum of the ME cases (autopsies, external examinations, and death certificate cases), cases in which jurisdiction was declined, and the number of cases stored at our facility during the calendar year (storage cases).

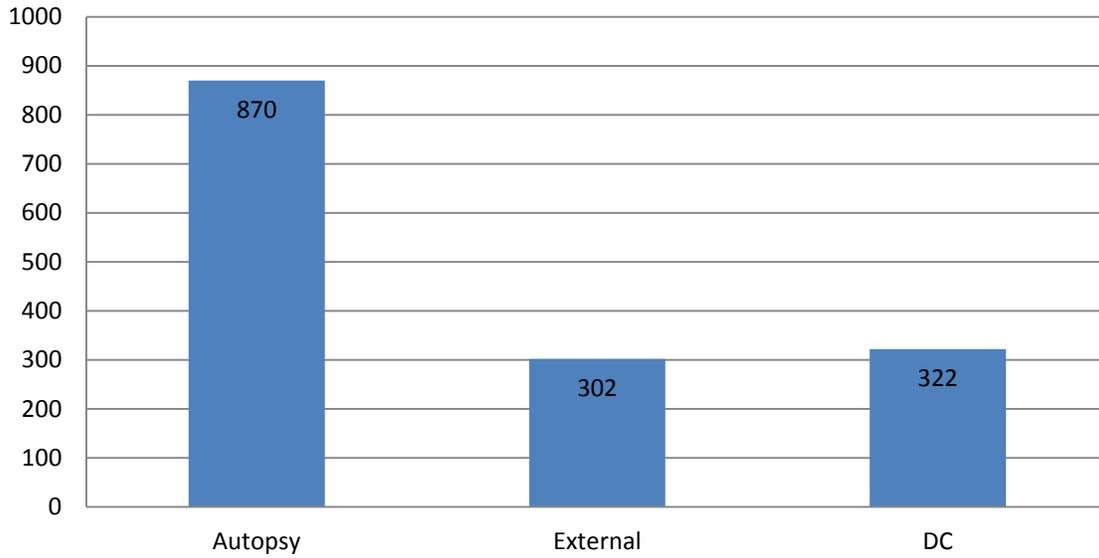
### Total Cases from Pima County 2005 - 2014



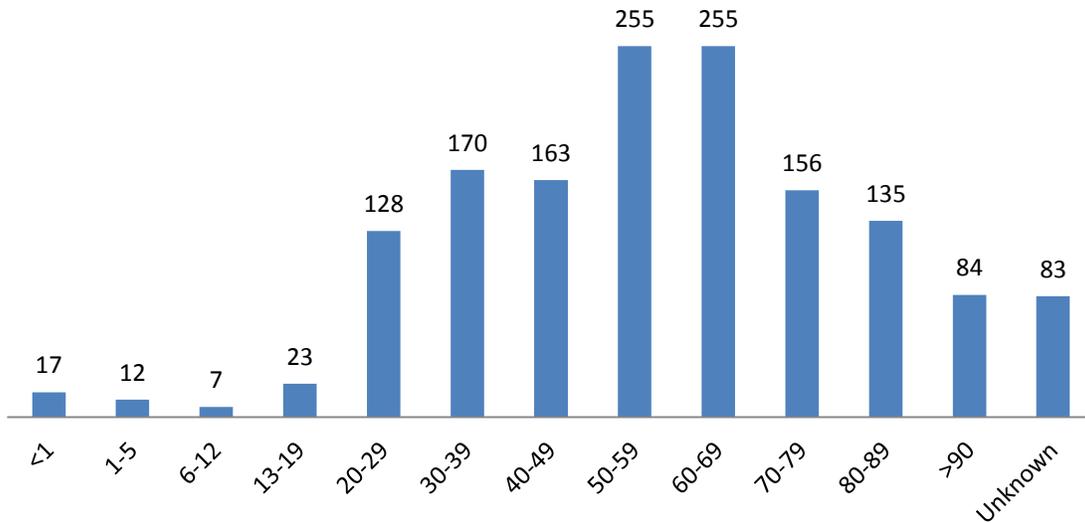
### MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES

The PCOME considers all cases in which the cause and manner of death are determined by this office as “medical examiner cases.” Those cases include autopsies, external examinations and death certificate (DC) cases. Autopsies are examinations where a decedent is examined both externally and internally for evidence of injury or natural disease which may have caused or contributed to the individual’s death. External examinations consist of an external examination of the body without the internal examination. A DC case involves review of the medical records, law enforcement reports and any other information that may be necessary to determine the cause and manner of death without physical examination of the decedent. In 2014, 870 autopsies, 302 external examinations and 322 DC cases were performed on deaths from Pima County.

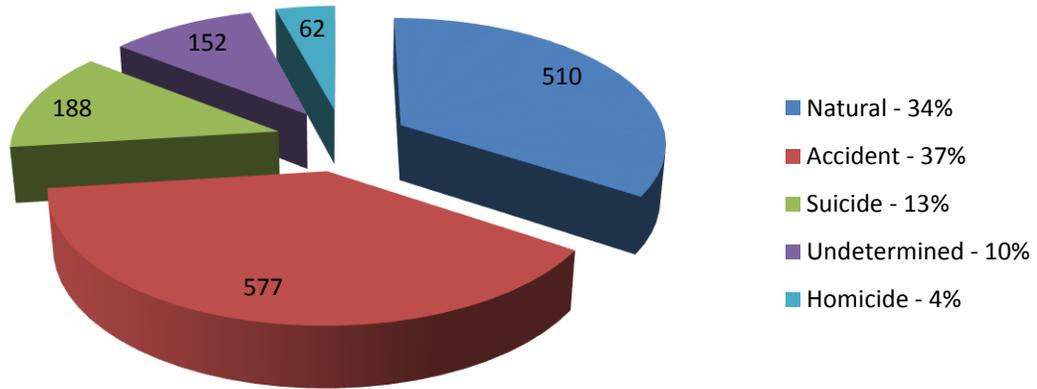
## 2014 Pima County Medical Examiner Cases



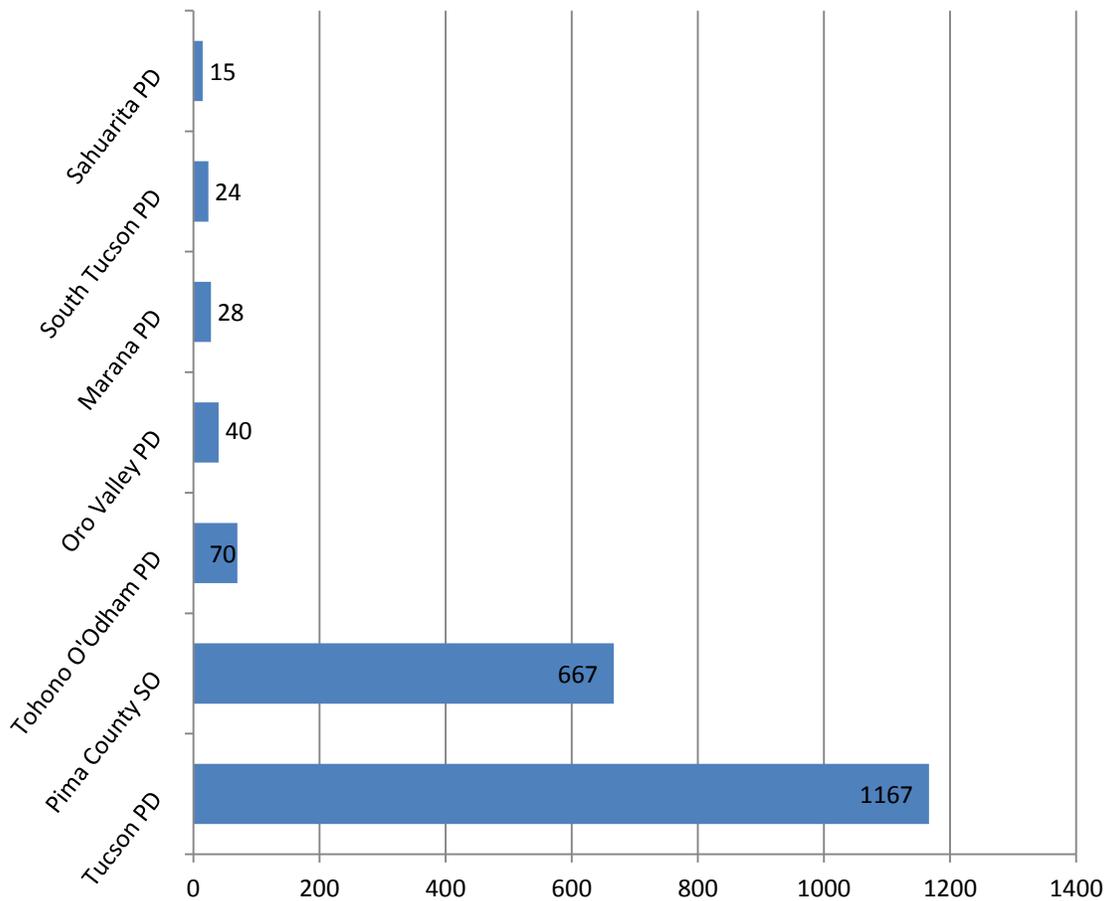
## Pima County Medical Examiner Cases by Age - 2014



### Pima County ME Cases by Manner of Death - 2014



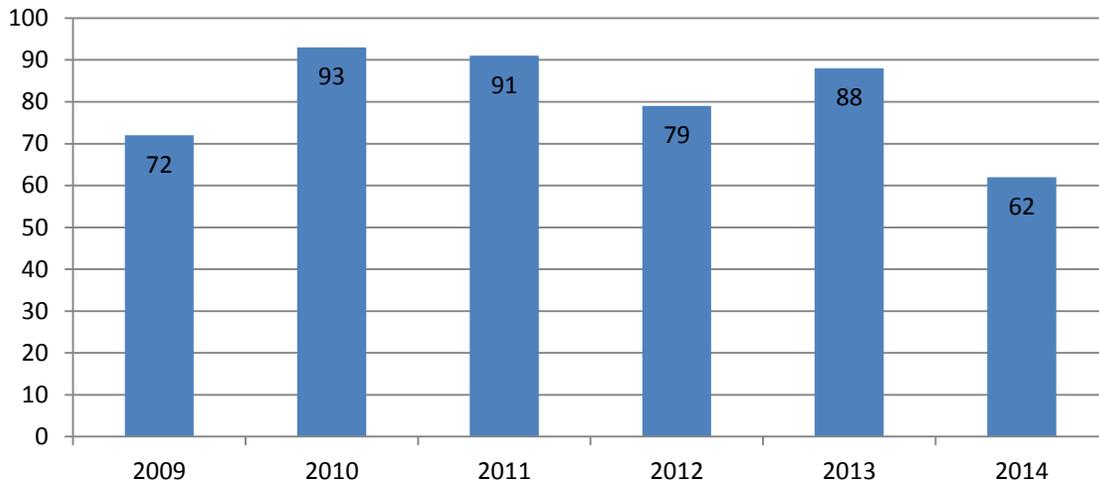
### Pima County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014



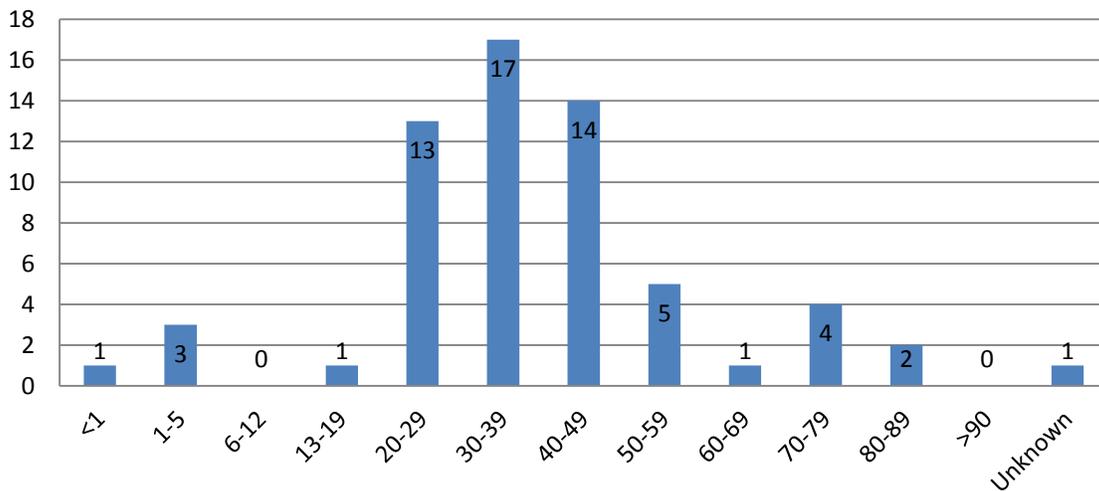
## HOMICIDE DEATHS

The PCOME examined 62 homicides from Pima County in 2014; 4% of total Pima County deaths certified. Homicide totals from 2009 – 2014 are compared below. Homicide victims were most frequently male (81%), between 30-39 years of age (27%) and died as the result of firearms (65%).

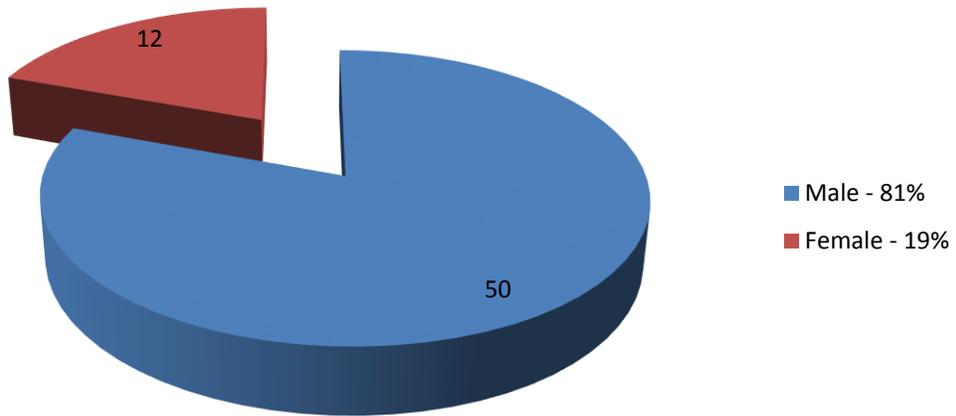
### Pima County Homicide 2009 - 2014



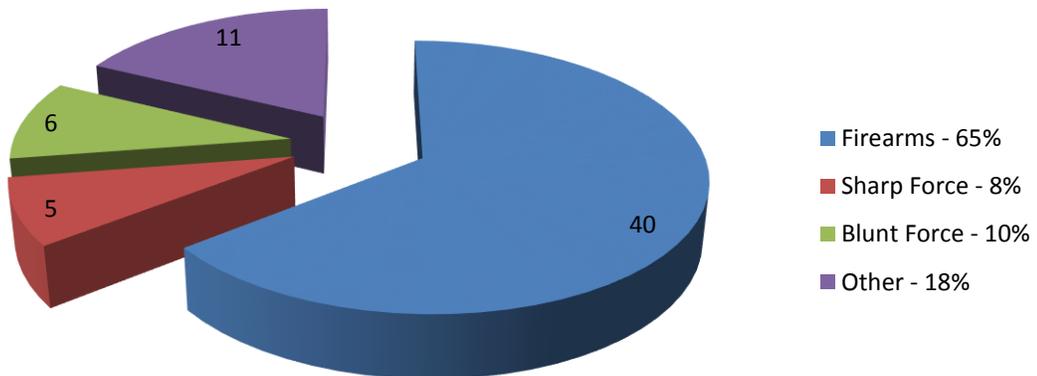
### Pima County Homicide by Age - 2014



### Pima County Homicide by Sex - 2014



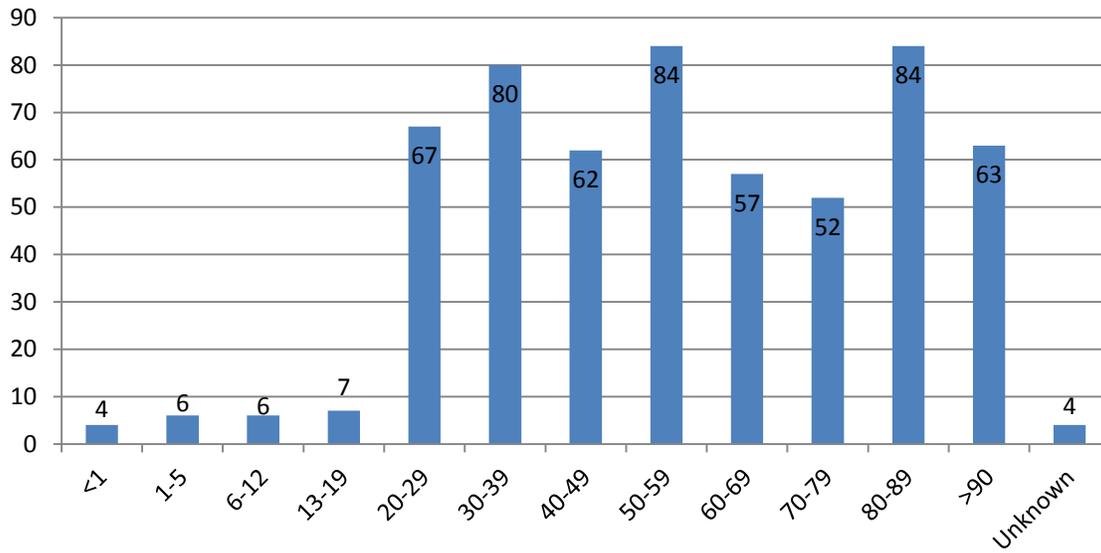
### Pima County Homicide by Cause - 2014



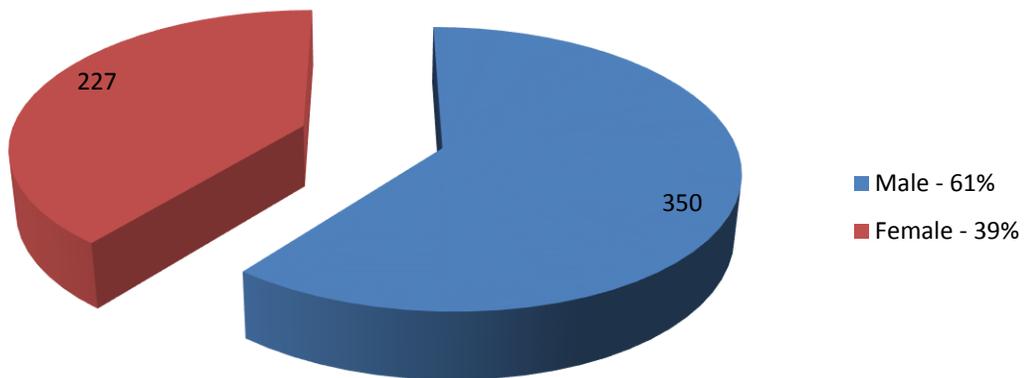
## ACCIDENT DEATHS

Deaths due to accidents accounted for 37% of the deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Accident victims were most frequently males (61%), between 50-59 or 80-89 years of age (each 15%) and died as the result of blunt force injuries (35%) often as the result of such conditions as complications of a hip fracture or intracranial hemorrhage from a fall.

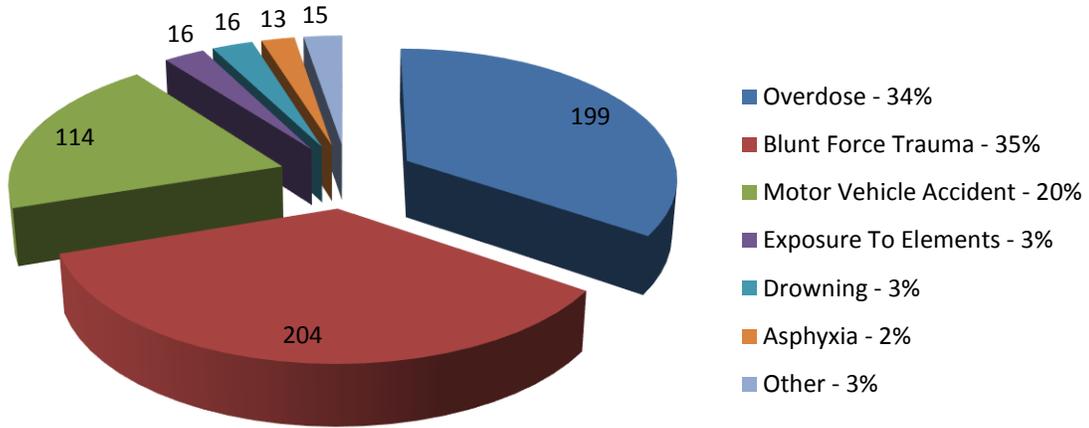
### Pima County Accident by Age - 2014



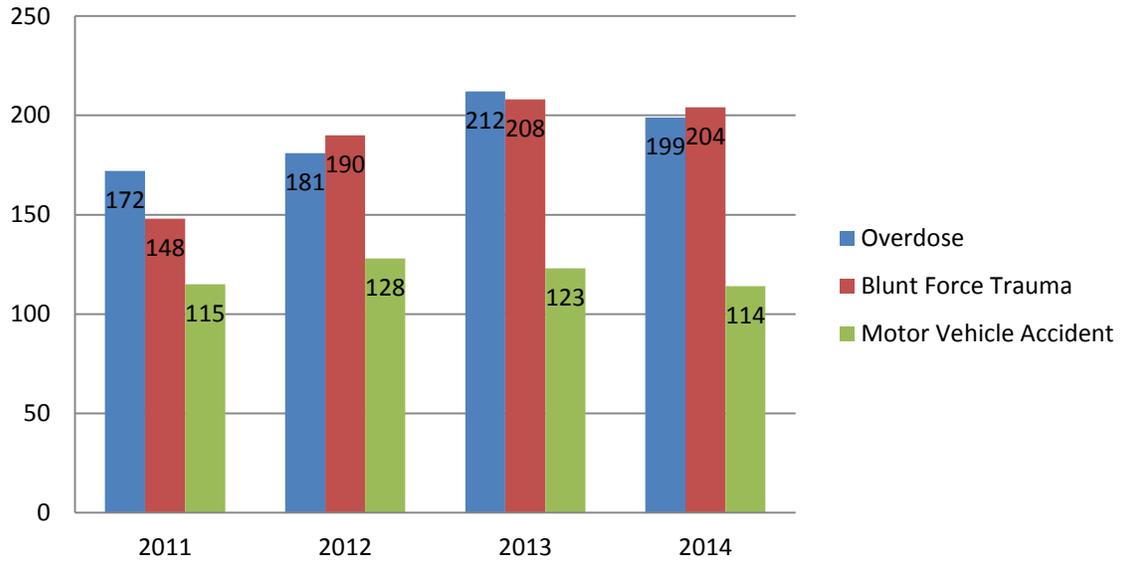
### Pima County Accident by Sex- 2014



### Pima County Accident by Cause - 2014



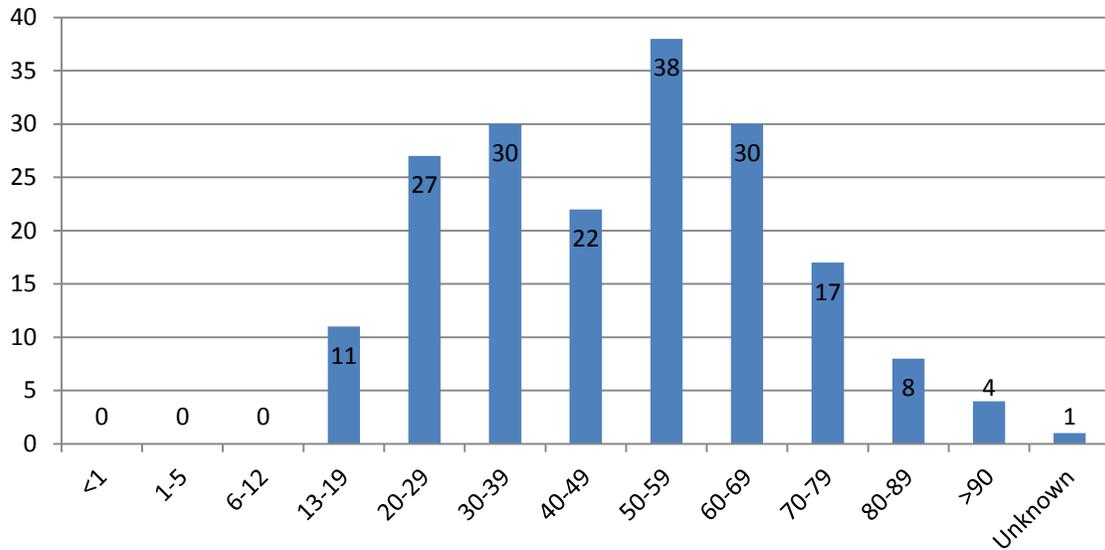
### Pima County Accident by Cause (Top 3) 2011 - 2014



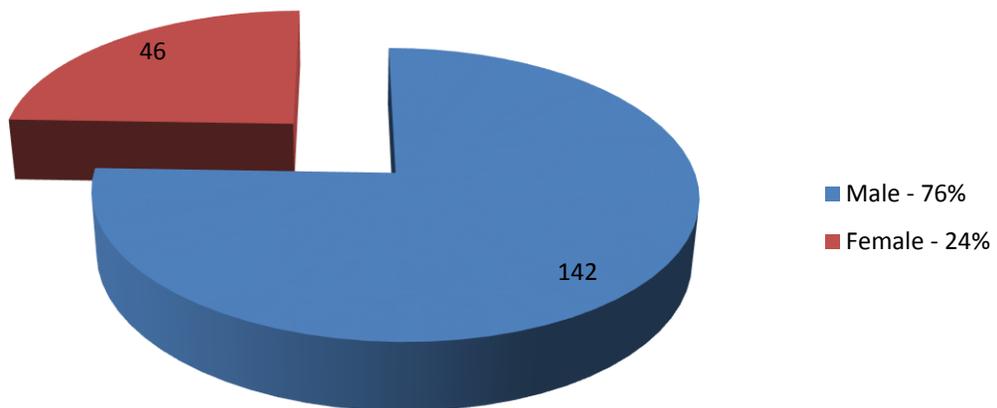
## SUICIDE DEATHS

Deaths due to suicide accounted for 13% of the deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Suicide victims were most frequently males (76%), between 50-59 years of age (20%) and died as the result of firearms (54%).

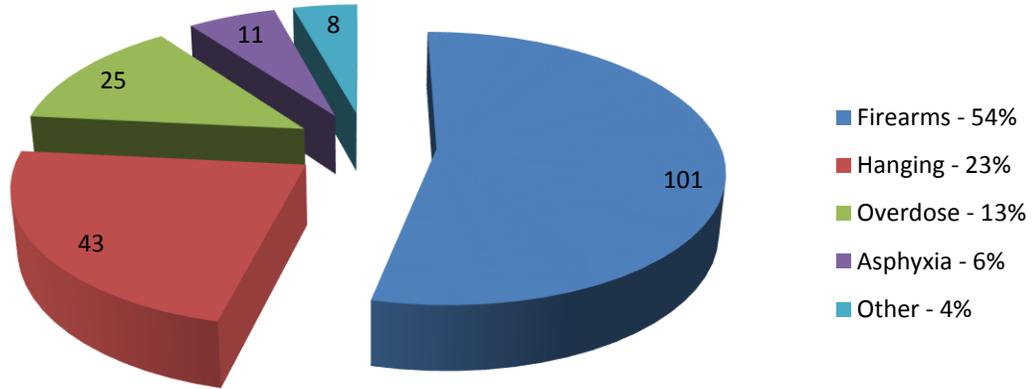
### Pima County Suicide by Age - 2014



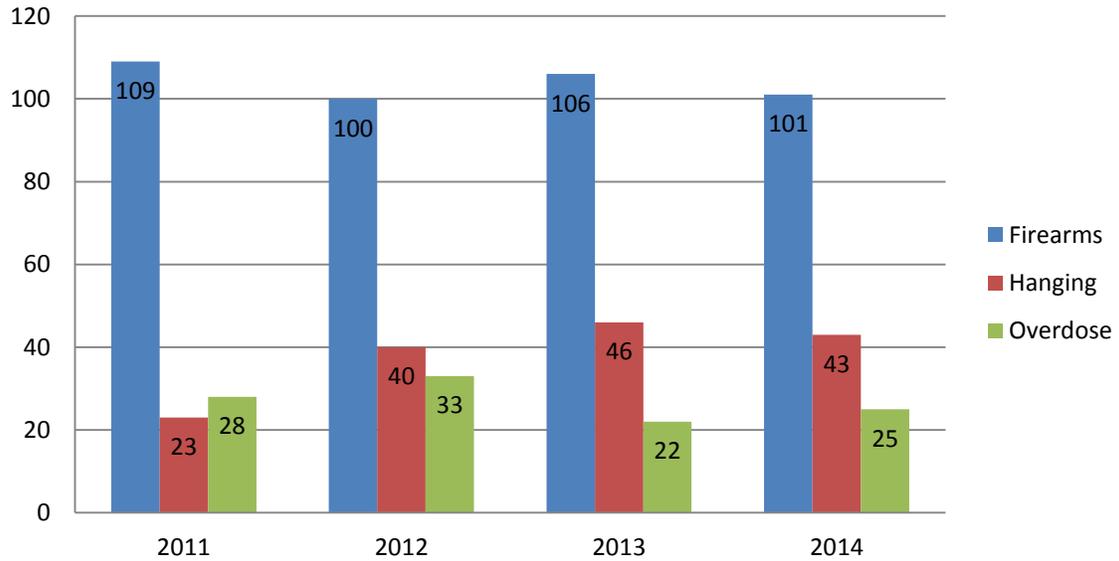
### Pima County Suicide by Sex - 2014



### Pima County Suicide by Cause - 2014



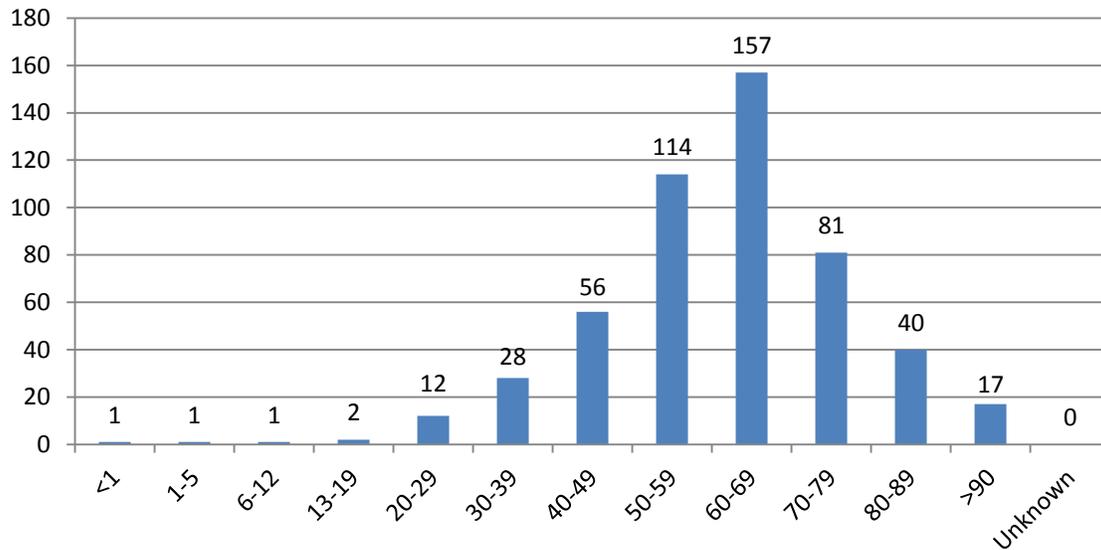
### Pima County Suicide by Cause (Top 3) 2011 - 2014



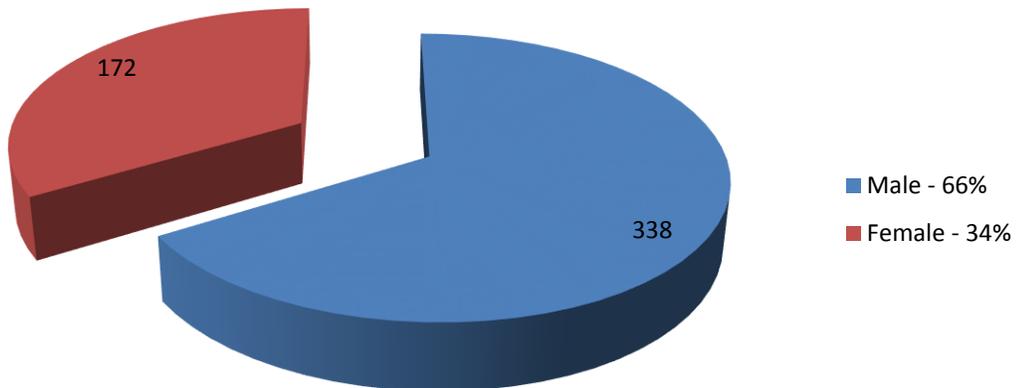
## NATURAL DEATHS

Deaths due to natural causes accounted for 34% of the deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Individuals who died from natural causes were most frequently males (66%), between 60-69 years of age (31%) and died as the result of cardiovascular disease (60%).

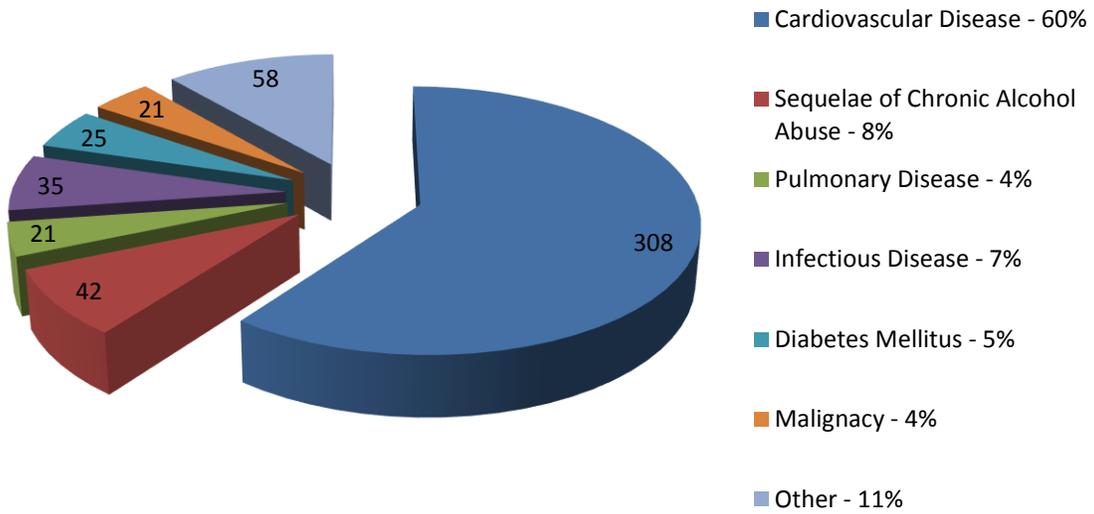
### Pima County Natural Deaths by Age - 2014



### Pima County Natural Deaths by Sex - 2014



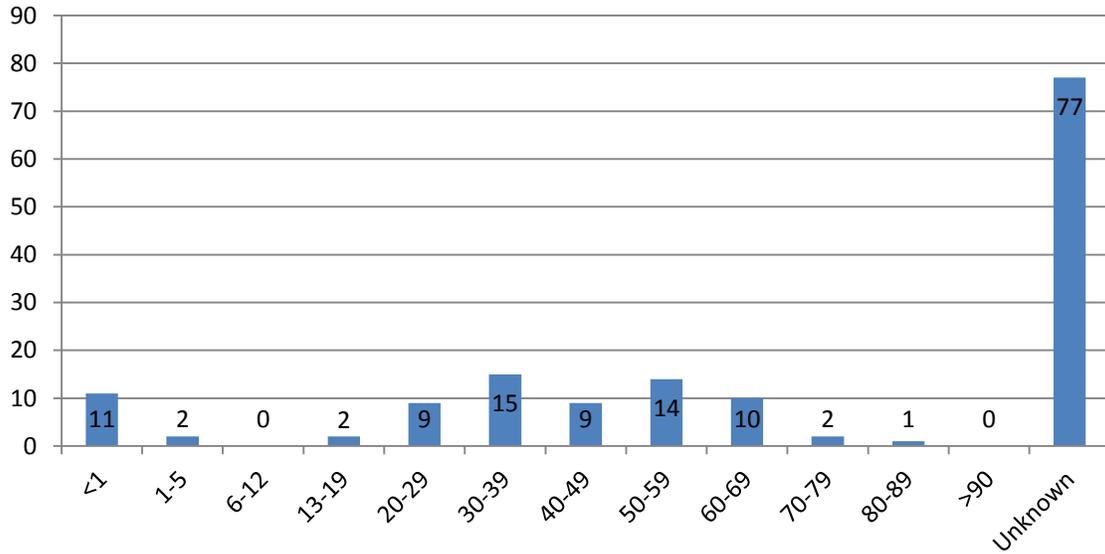
## Pima County Natural Deaths by Cause - 2014



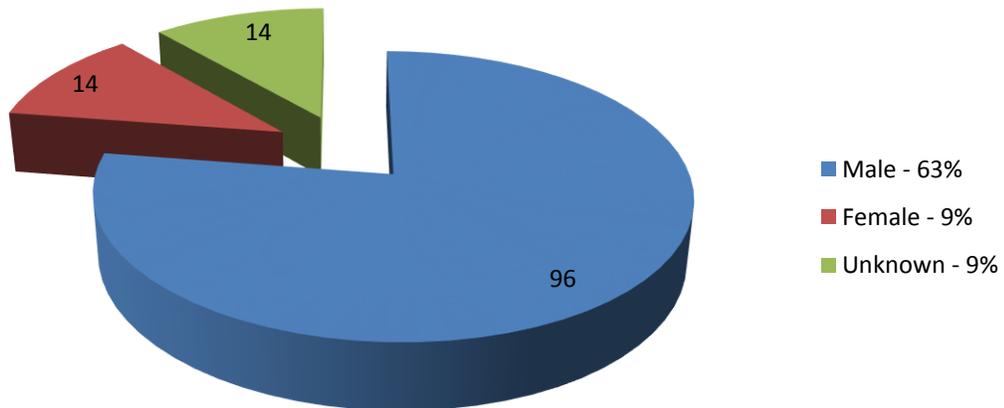
## UNDETERMINED MANNER OF DEATH

Deaths of undetermined manner accounted for 10% of the deaths investigated by the PCOME in 2014. Individuals who died with an undetermined manner were most frequently males (72%), of unknown age (46%) and died from undetermined causes (83%). Many of these deaths represent skeletal remains of UBCs who died in the deserts of southern Arizona.

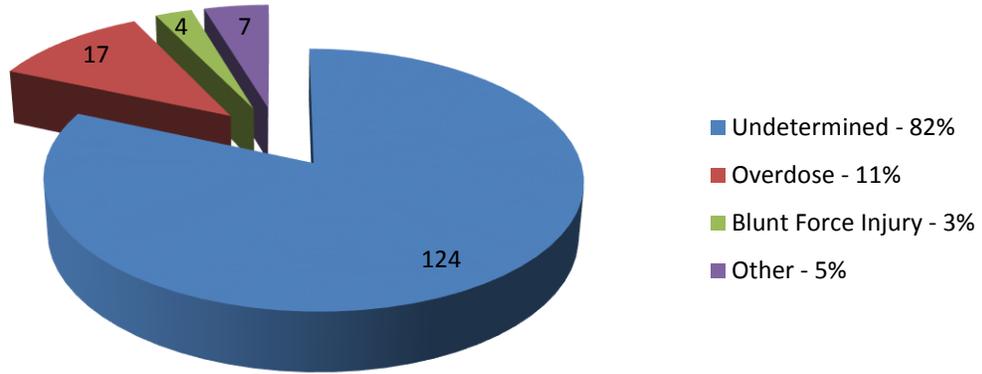
**Pima County Undetermined Manner of Death by Age - 2014**



**Pima County Undetermined Manner of Death by Sex - 2014**



**Pima County Undetermined Manner of Death by Cause - 2014**



## OVERDOSE DEATHS

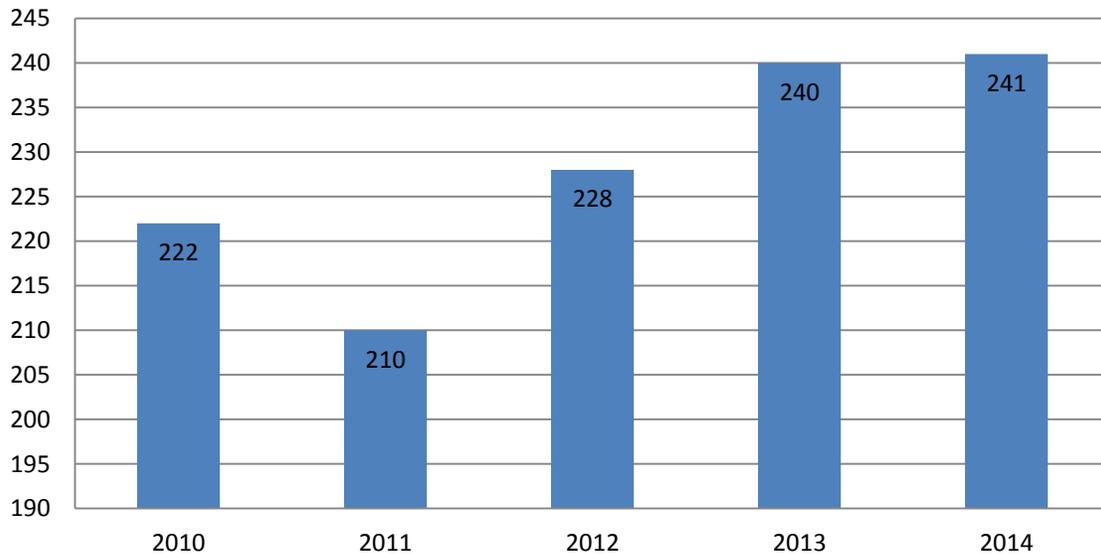
There were 241 deaths attributed to an overdose of either a single drug (122 deaths, 51%) or a combination of drugs (119 deaths, 49%) in 2014. Overdose deaths commonly involved males (60%) between the ages of 30-39 (24%). The majority of these deaths were classified as accidents (83%).

Opiate drugs (heroin, oxycodone, methadone, hydrocodone, morphine, oxymorphone, hydromorphone, tramadol, opiate unspecified) and fentanyl (a synthetic opioid narcotic) accounted for the majority of overdose deaths, either as a single drug or a component of a poly-drug overdose. Heroin was the most commonly abused illicit drug contributing to death in 2014 followed by methamphetamine.

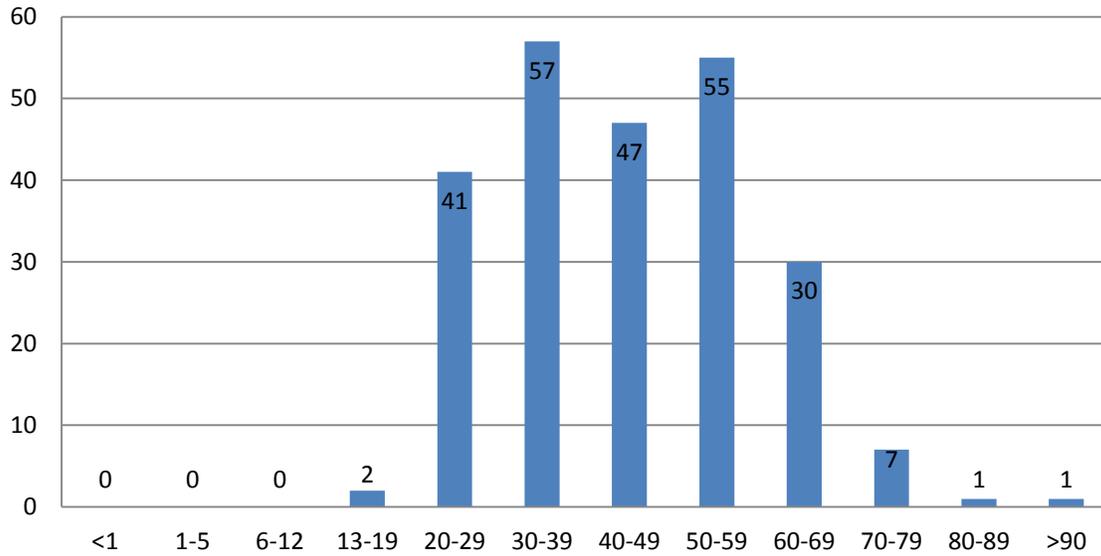
The number of heroin deaths is likely underreported as heroin is rapidly metabolized to morphine by the body and if the parent compound indicative for heroin (6-monoacetylmorphine) is not present on the toxicology report these deaths may be classified as either morphine intoxication or opiate intoxication.

Acute alcohol intoxication alone, not as component of a poly-drug overdose, accounted for 5 overdose (2%) deaths in 2014.

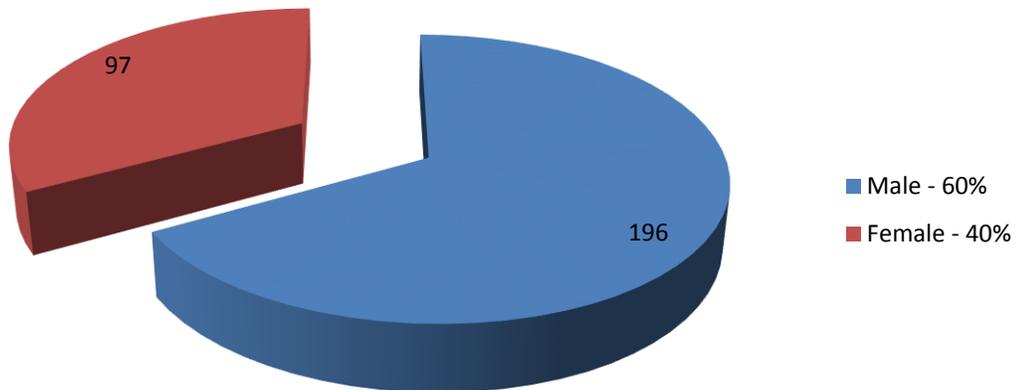
### Pima County Overdose Deaths 2010 - 2014



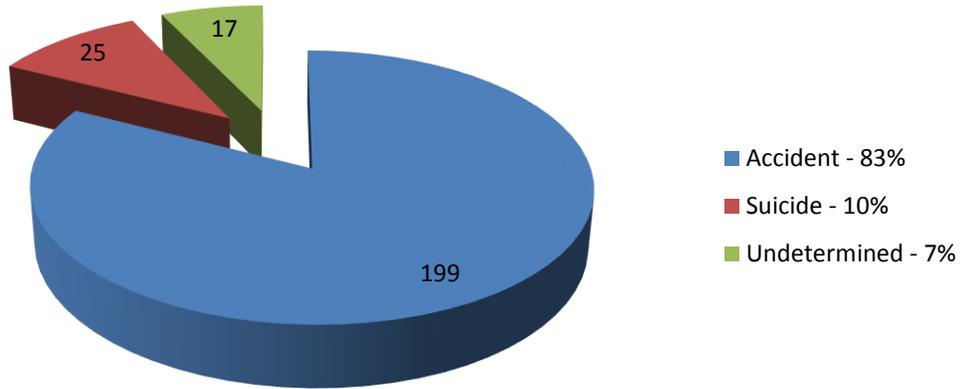
### Pima County Overdose Deaths by Age - 2014



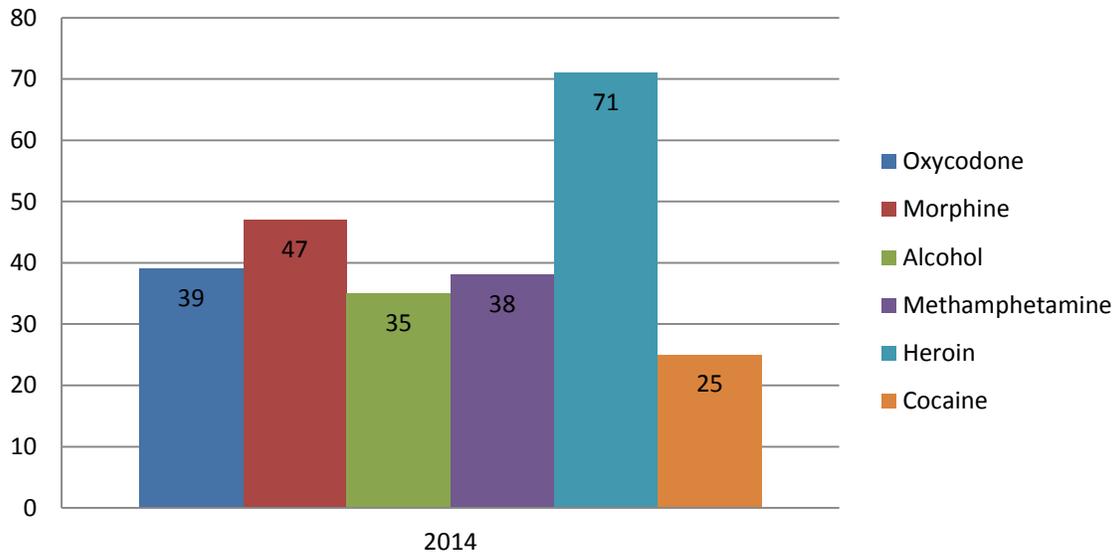
### Pima County Overdose Deaths by Sex- 2014



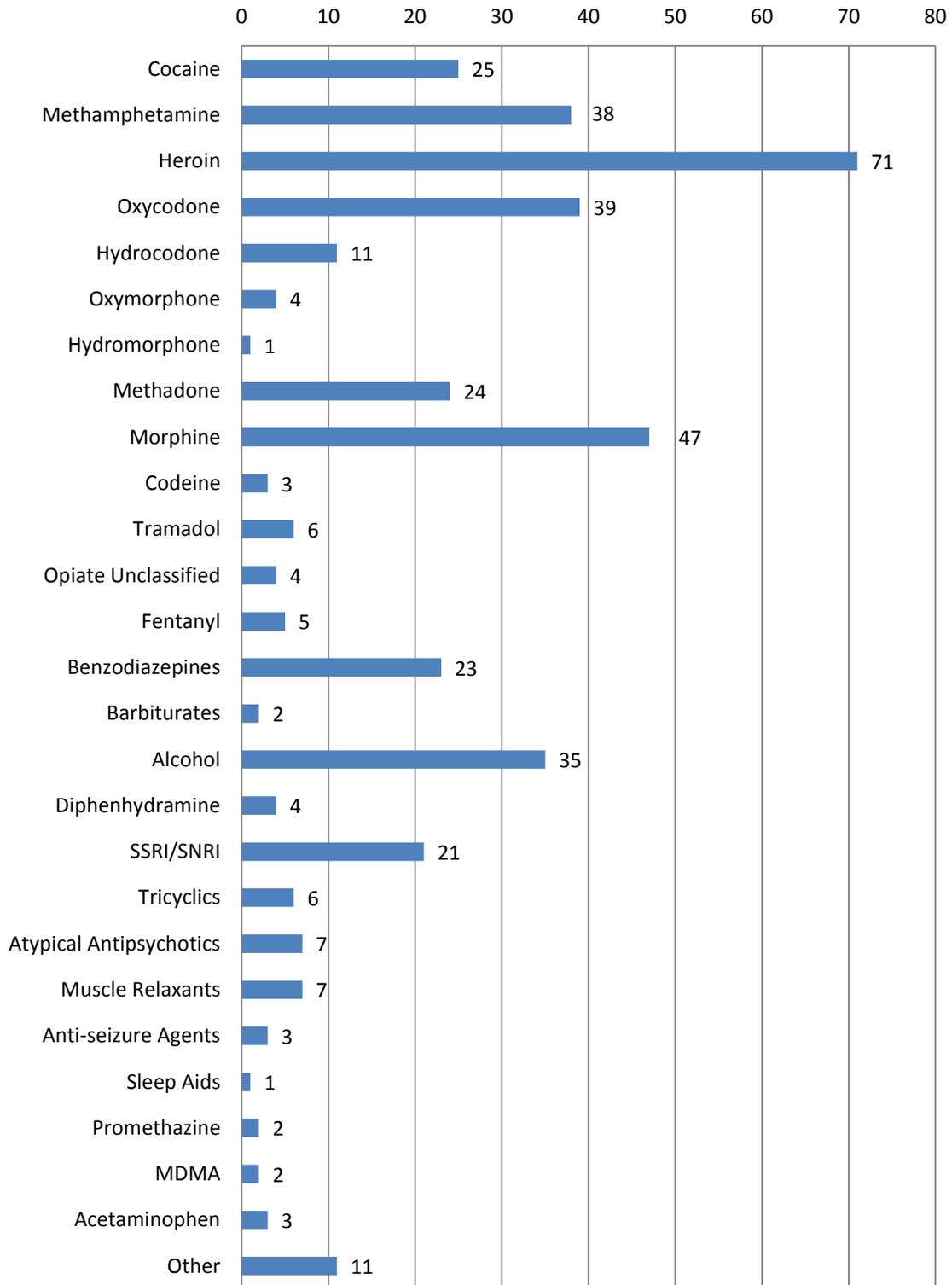
### Pima County Overdose Deaths by Manner - 2014



### Select Pima County Drugs by Year - 2014



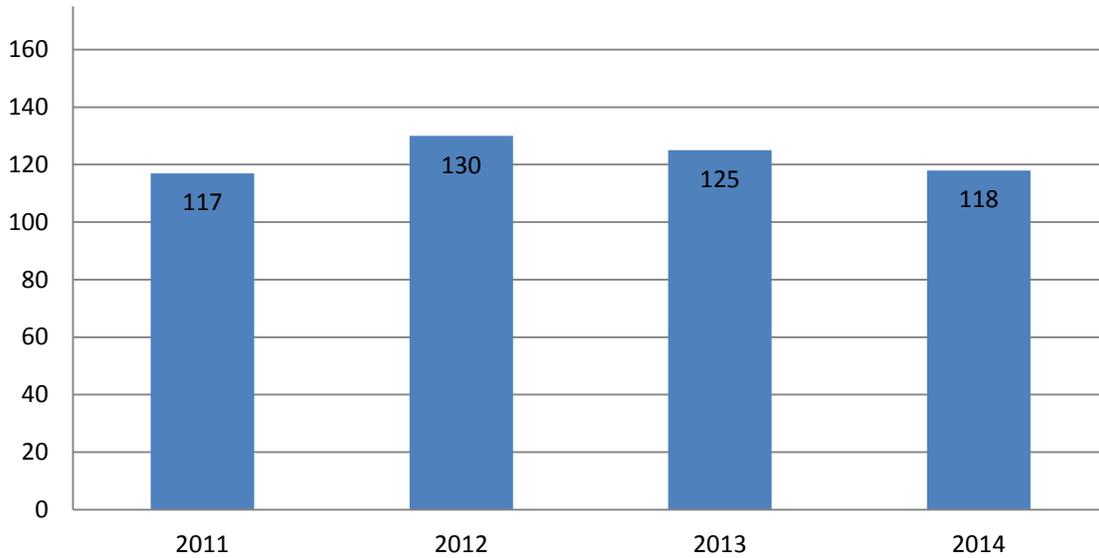
## Pima County Overdose Deaths by Drug - 2014



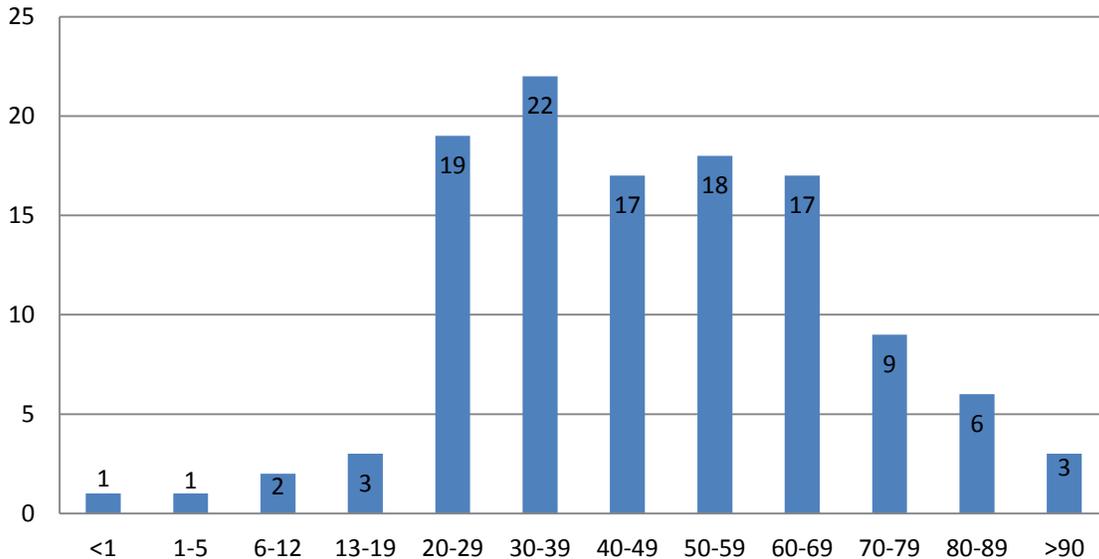
## MOTOR VEHICLE RELATED FATALITIES

Motor vehicle related fatalities accounted for 118 total deaths in in Pima County in 2014. The majority, 72 deaths, were occupants of a motor vehicle involved in an accident (MVA). Of the remaining, 12 were motorcycle accidents (MCA), 32 were pedestrians or bicyclists struck by vehicles, and 2 were all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accidents. Individuals who died from motor vehicle related fatalities were most frequently males (74%) and between 30-39 years of age (19%).

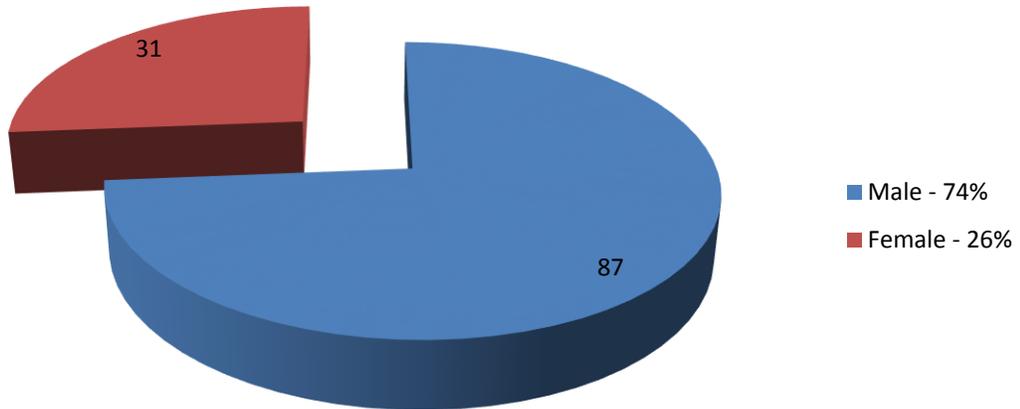
**Pima County Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Year 2011 - 2014**



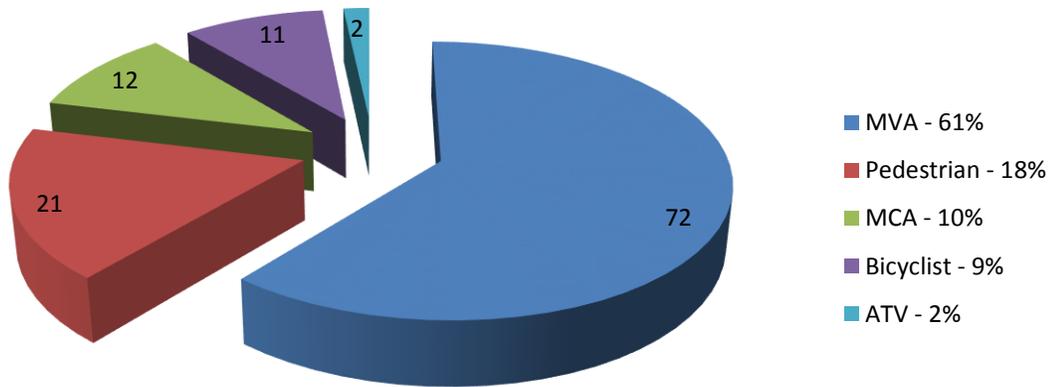
**Pima County Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Age - 2014**



### Pima County Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Sex - 2014



### Pima County Motor Vehicle Fatalities by Type - 2014

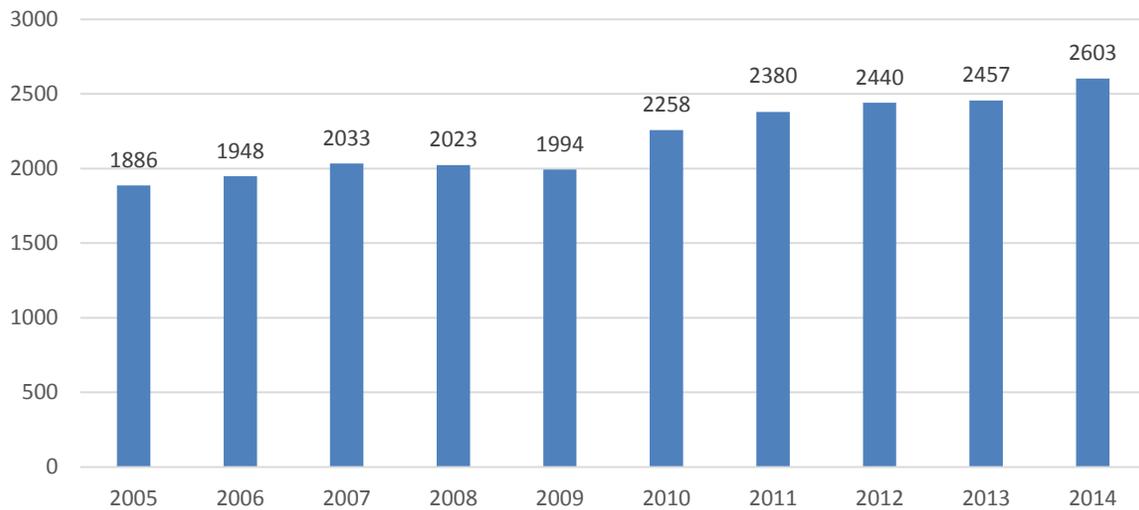


## Pinal County

Pinal County contracts with the PCOME to provide examination or other support services beyond what Pinal County provides internally. Pinal County maintains its own Medical Examiner’s office staffed to conduct death scene investigations, transport remains, assist with the performance of some external examinations at the OME facility in Pinal County, and triage deaths reportable to the ME as stated in A.R.S §11-593 above. Not all deaths in Pinal County are reported to the PCOME through the Pinal County Medical Examiner’s Office. Deaths on Native American tribal lands do not have to be reported through the respective death investigation system of that County and may be reported directly to the PCOME as necessary for the needs of the appropriate agency investigating that death (BIA, FBI or local tribal police departments). The Pinal County Medical Examiner’s Office issues its own annual report. Please reference that report for details concerning deaths occurring in Pinal County that are not referred to the PCOME.

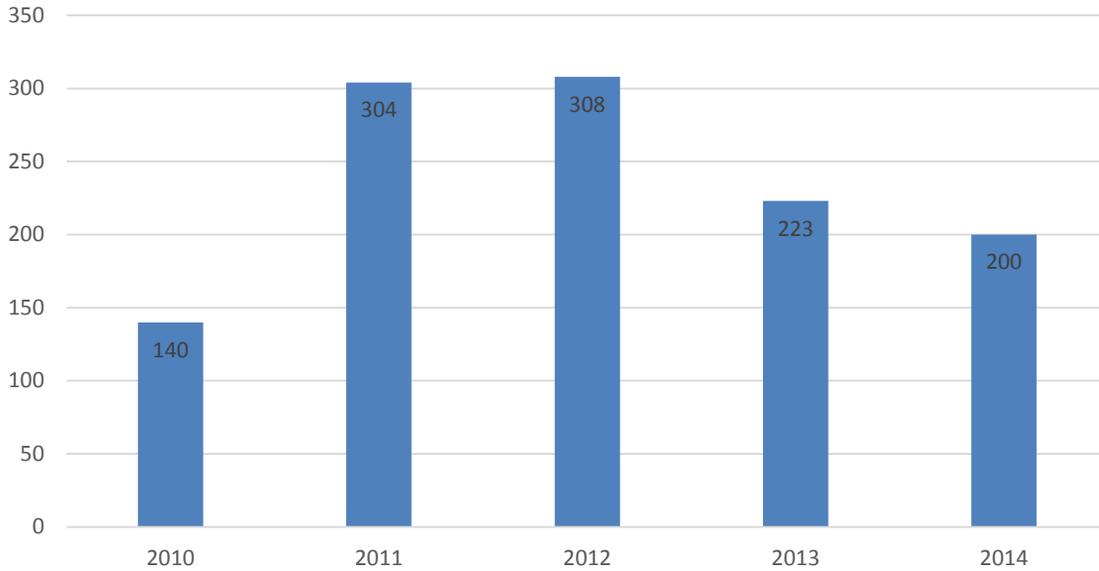
In calendar year 2014 there were 2603 deaths in Pinal County; of these 200 (8%) were reported to the PCOME for examination. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables and graphs below.

**Pinal County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

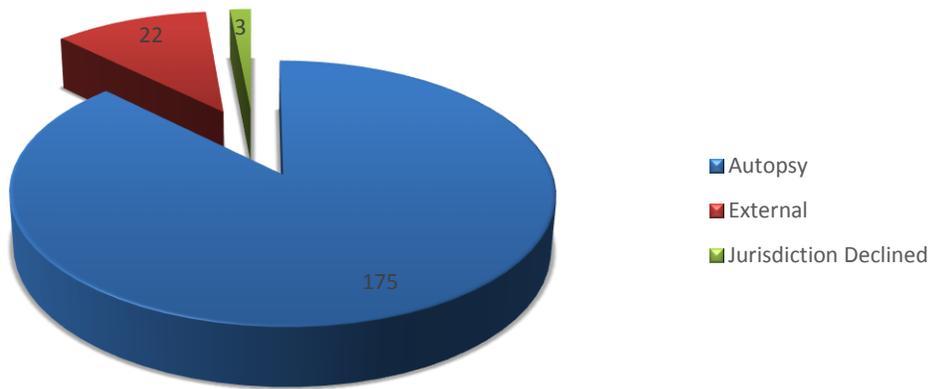


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

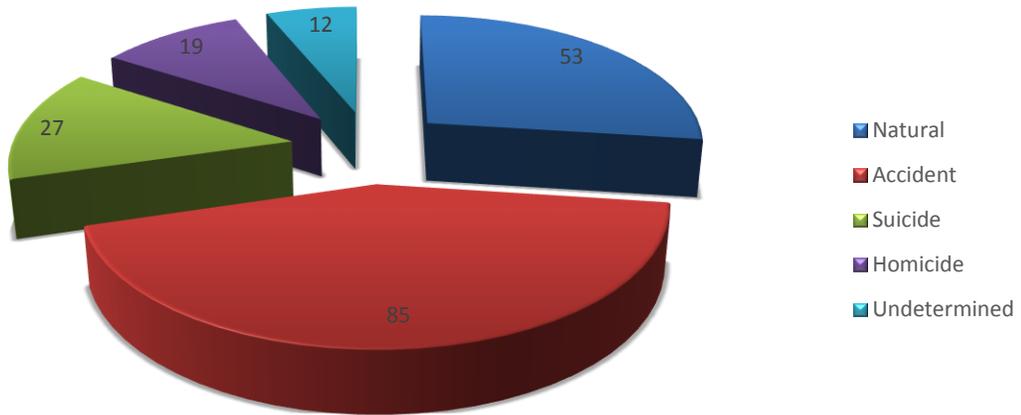
**Pinal County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014**



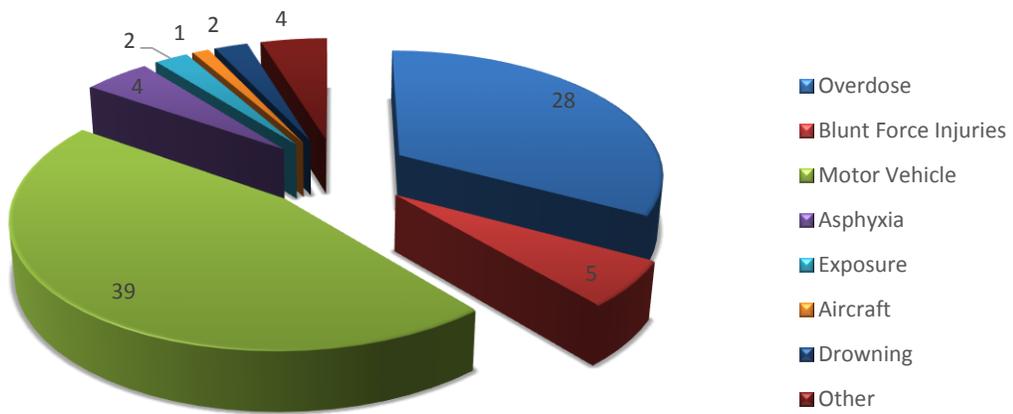
**Pinal County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014**



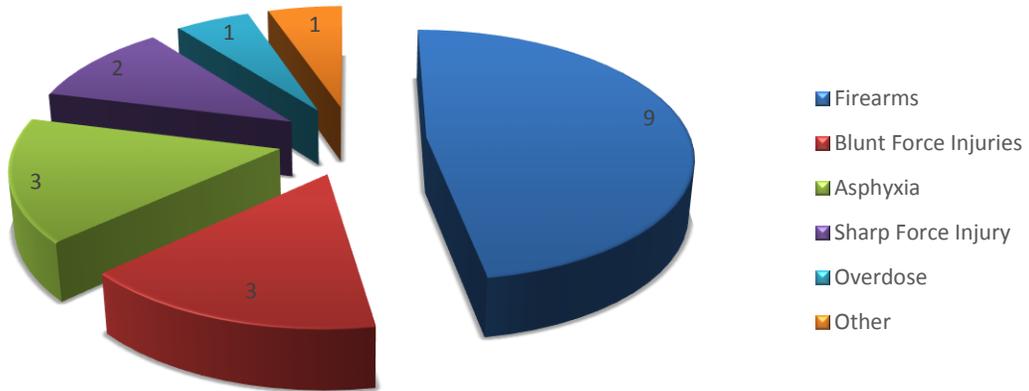
### Pinal County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



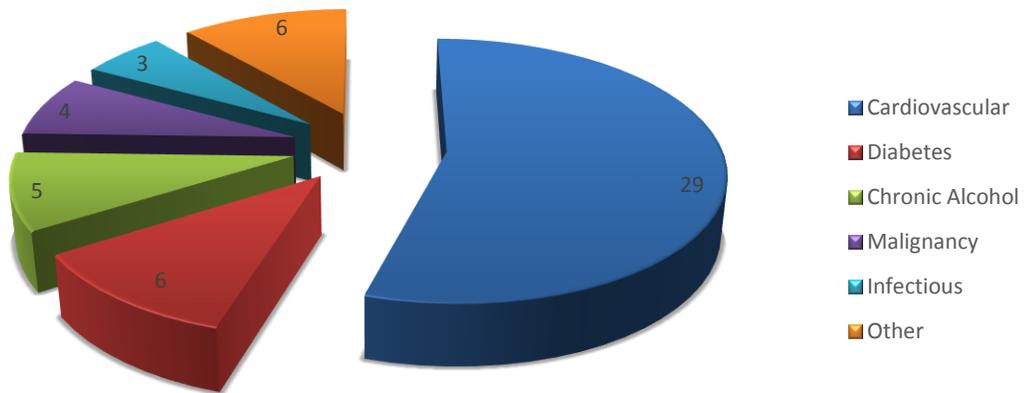
### Pinal County Accidents by Type 2014



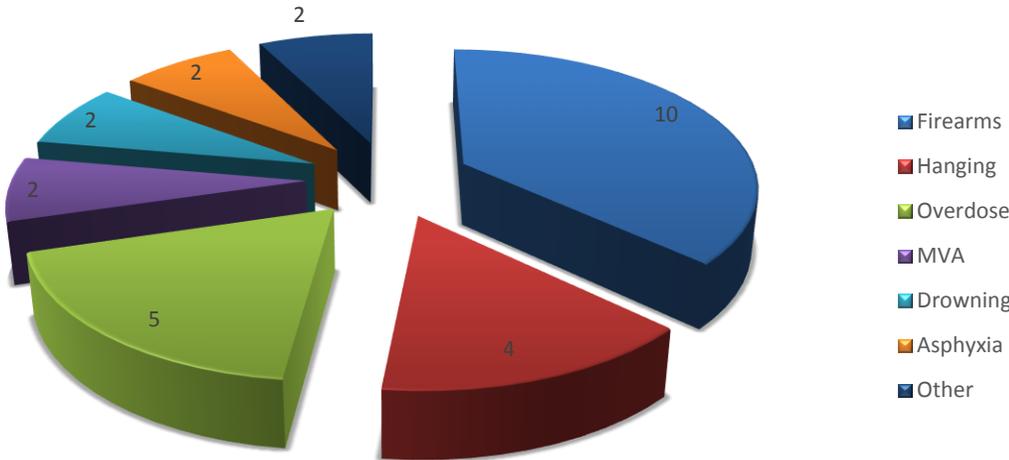
### Pinal County Homicides by Type 2014



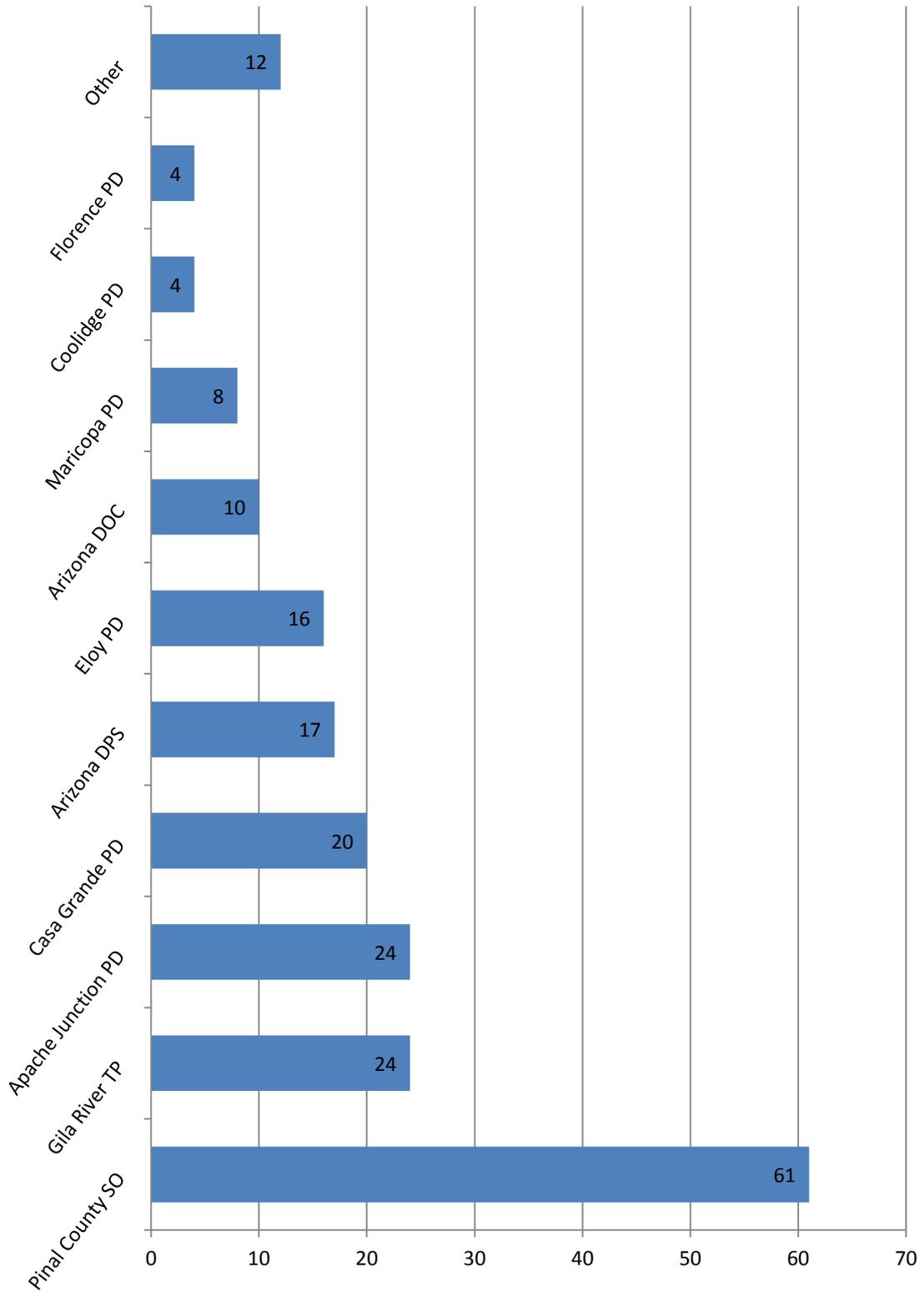
### Pinal County Naturals by Type 2014



### Pinal County Suicides by Type 2014



### Pinal County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

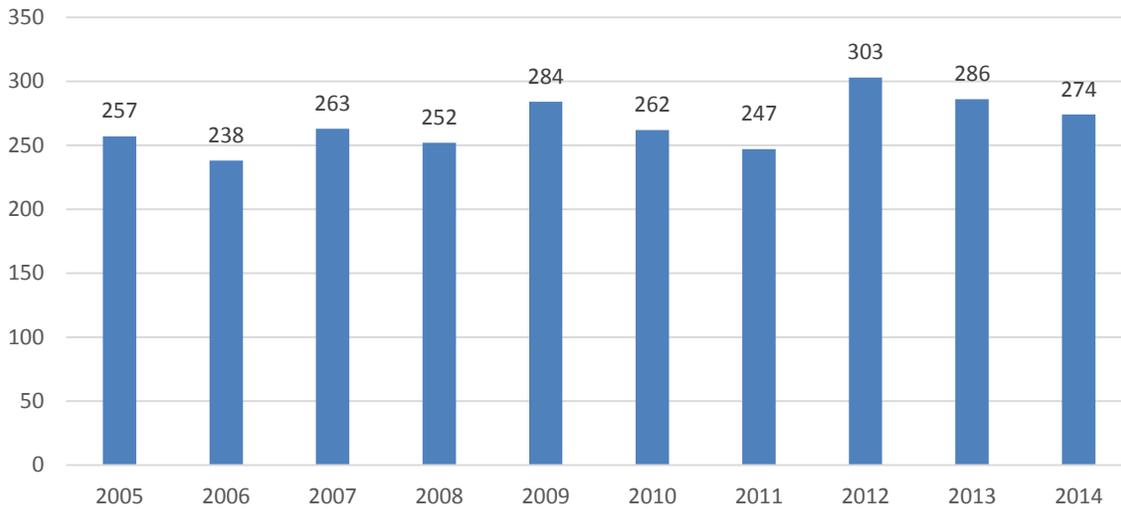


## Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz County does not maintain an in-county Medical Examiner’s office to conduct death scene investigations, transport or examine remains, or certify deaths reportable to the ME. Nor does Santa Cruz County appoint or contract with an Alternate Medical Examiner. The PCOME acts as the de-facto appointed ME for Santa Cruz County. When deaths occur in Santa Cruz County pursuant to A.R.S. §11-593, Santa Cruz County law enforcement agencies investigate the circumstances of the death and notify the PCOME as necessary.

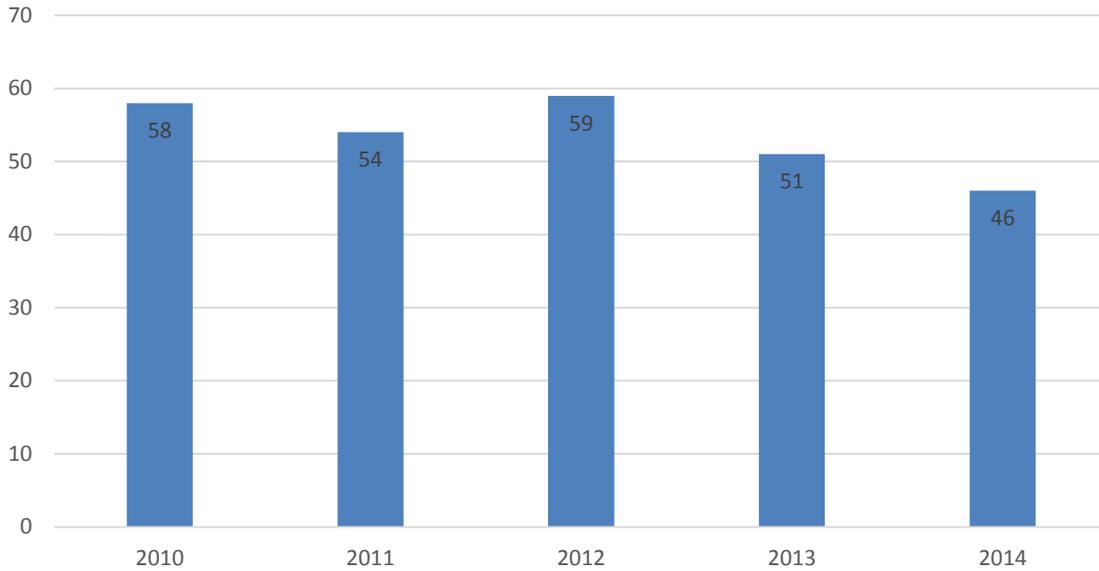
In calendar year 2014 there were 274 deaths in Cochise County; of these 46 (17%) were reported to the PCOME for investigation and/or examination. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables below.

**Santa Cruz County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

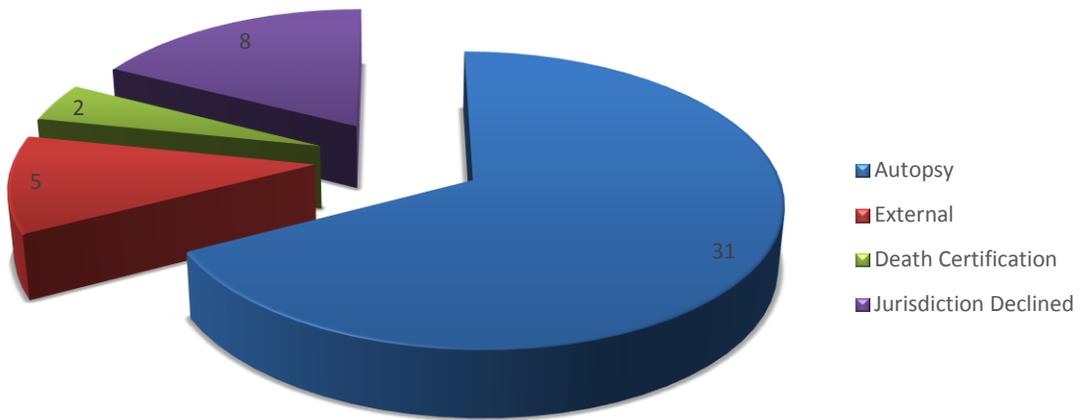


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

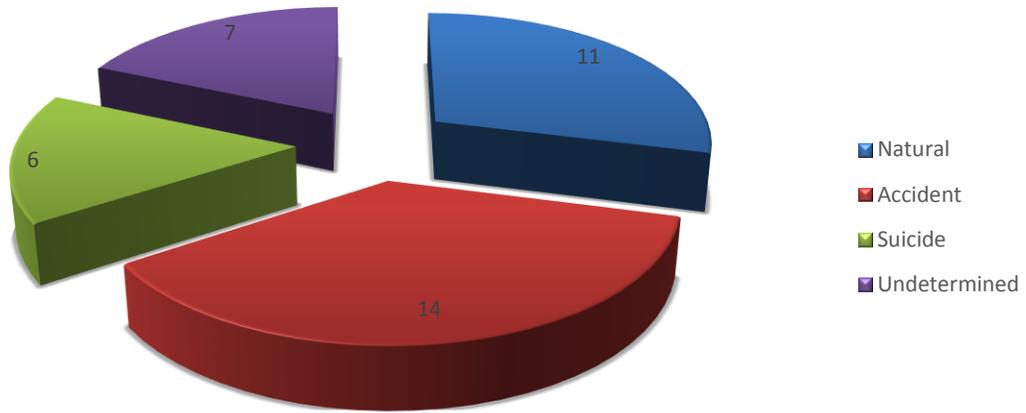
**Santa Cruz County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2012 - 2014**



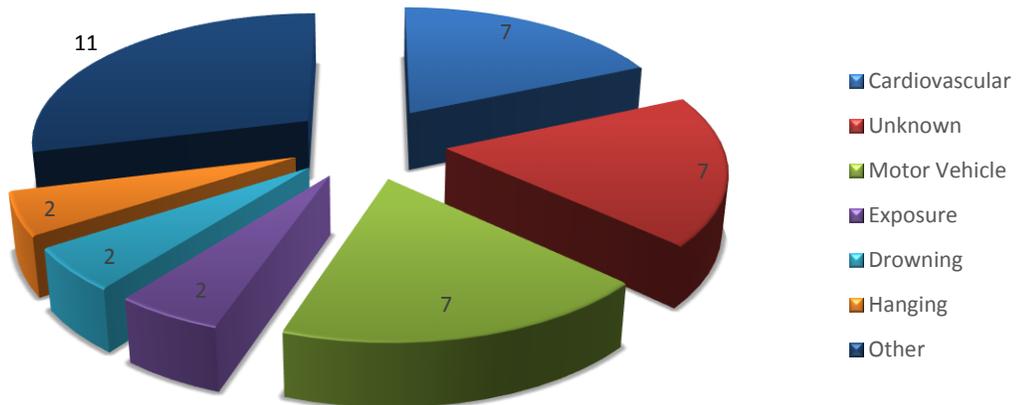
**Santa Cruz County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014**



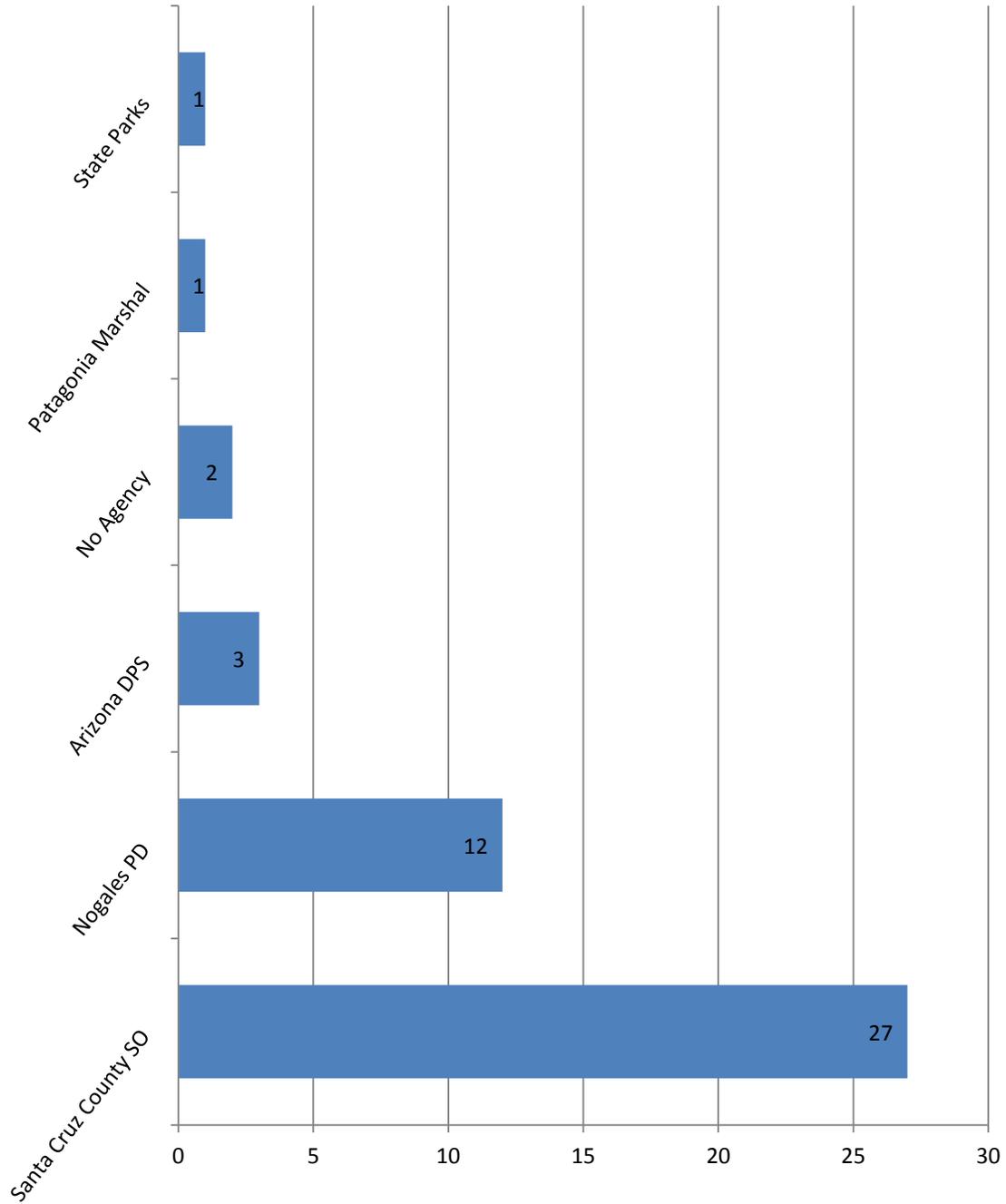
### Santa Cruz County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



### Santa Cruz County Deaths by Type of Death 2014



**Santa Cruz County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014**

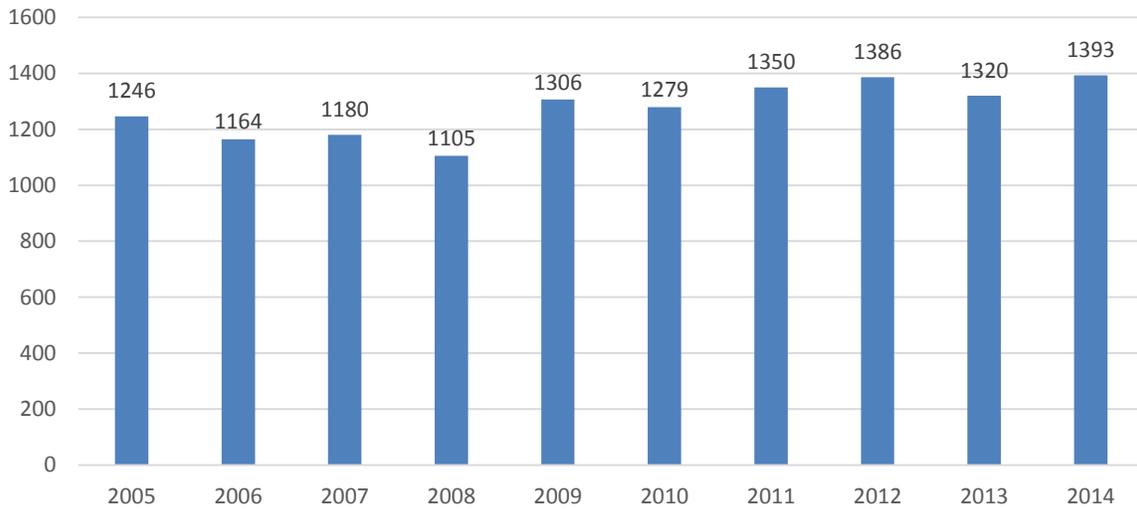


## Yuma County

Yuma County contracts with the pathology group at Yuma Regional Medical Center to perform examinations and certify deaths that fall under the jurisdiction of the ME in Yuma County. Some decedents (typically suspected homicides) are referred to Pima County for an examination and death certification at the discretion of the Yuma County Medical Examiner’s Office. The Yuma County Medical Examiner’s Office issues its own Annual Report. Please reference that report for details concerning deaths occurring in Yuma County that are not referred to the PCOME.

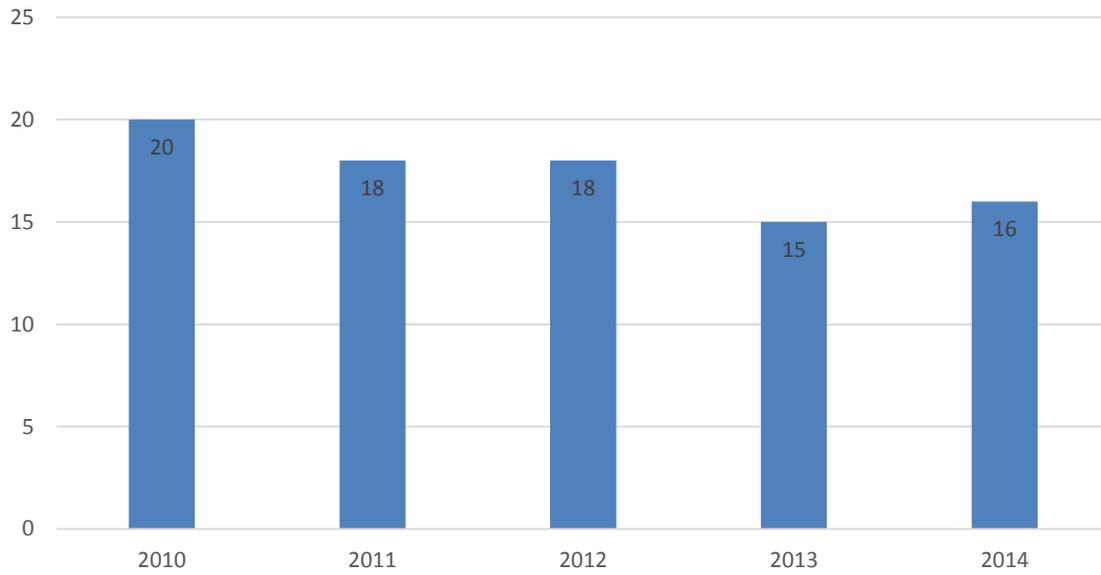
Sixteen deaths from Yuma County were reported to the PCOME in 2014, 14 of which required autopsy examinations. Some pertinent statistics regarding these deaths are detailed in the tables below.

**Yuma County Mortality by Year 2005 - 2014\***

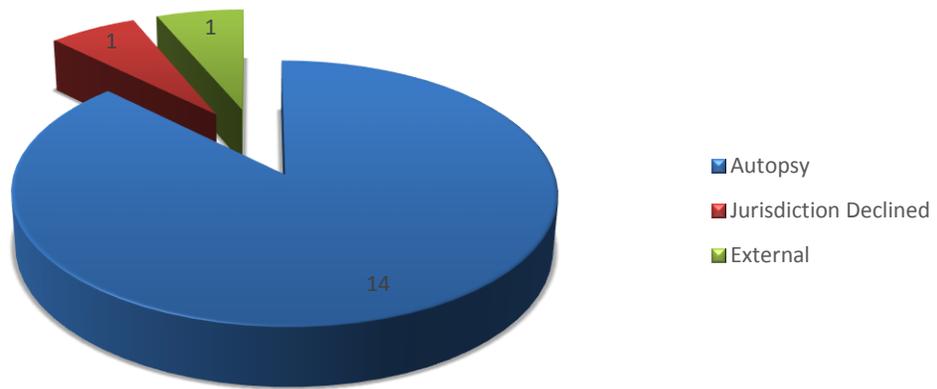


\*Arizona Department of Vital Statistics

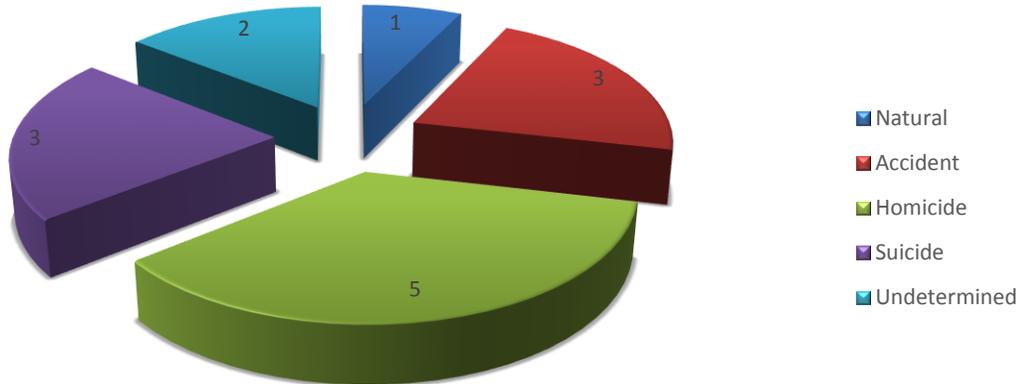
### Yuma County Deaths Reported to the PCOME 2010 - 2014



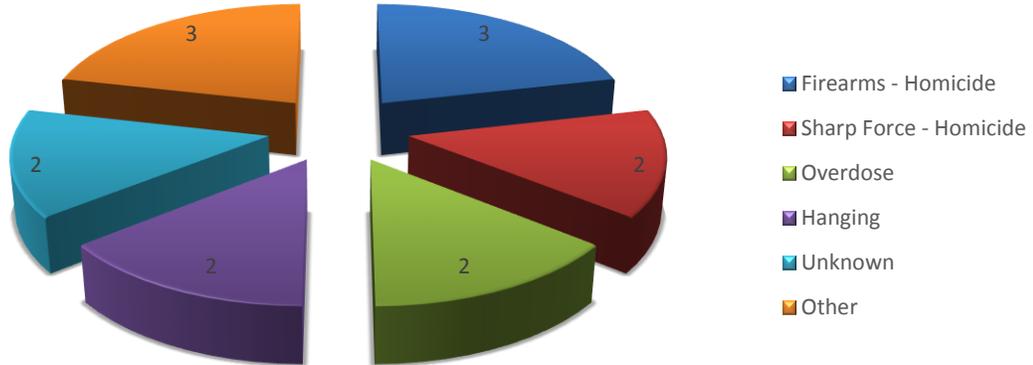
### Yuma County Deaths by Type of Exam 2014



### Yuma County Deaths by Manner of Death 2014



### Yuma County Deaths by Type of Death 2014



### Yuma County Deaths by Law Enforcement Agency 2014

