

From: committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:04 AM
To: clerks@guamlegislature.org
Cc: 'Speaker Therese M. Terlaje'
Subject: TO REPLACE: Messages & Communications Doc. No. 37GL-24-1655.
Attachments: 021424 COMM Doc. No. 37GL-24-1655.pdf

Håfa Adai Clerk's Office,

To Replace with email sent on 2/14/24 at 11:37 a.m.

Please see attached, **Messages & Communications Doc. No. 37GL-24-1655** for processing:

37GL-24-1655	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - Guam	2023 Annual Report Annual Report CY 2023 (January - December 2023).*
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Kindly reply to this email.



si Yu'os ma'åse',

Beatrice Cruz

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

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Note that the Legislature has taken steps to ensure that any protected personal identifying information has been redacted or excluded in whole or in part in order to protect the privacy of any individual(s) whose information has been included as part of this transmittal.



(HARD COPY) Messages and Communications for 37GL-24-1655

4 messages

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org> Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 10:08 AM
To: 37th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org>, Legislative Secretary Amanda Shelton <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>

Håfa Adai,

Please see attached M&C Doc. No. 37GL-24-1655

37GL-24-1655	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	2023 Annual Report
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Si Yu'os ma'åse',
Patsy Cruz
Office Manager

37GL-24-1655.pdf
261K

committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org> Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 11:08 AM
To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Håfa Adai!

Received and thank you.



si Yu'os ma'åse',

Beatrice Cruz
Committee on Rules Assistant
COMMITTEE ON RULES
Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
37th Guam Legislature

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image001.png
97K

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org> Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 2:51 PM
To: 37th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org>, Legislative Secretary Amanda Shelton <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>

Håfa Adai,

Please see attached M&C Doc. No. 37GL-24-1655

37GL-24-1655	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	2023 Annual Statistical Report.
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Si Yu'os ma'åse',
Patsy Cruz
Office Manager

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37GL-24-1655.pdf
276K

committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org> Wed, Feb 14, 2024 at 3:38 PM
To: "Speaker Therese M. Terlaje" <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Håfa Adai!

Note that the Legislature has taken steps to ensure that any protected personal identifying information has been redacted or excluded in whole or in part in order to protect the privacy of any individual(s) whose information has been included as part of this transmittal. Received and thank you.



si Yu'os ma'åse'

Beatrice Cruz

Committee on Rules Assistant

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

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From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 2:51 PM

To: 37th Committee On Rules <committeeonrules@guamlegislature.org>; Legislative Secretary Amanda Shelton <officeofsenatorshelton@guamlegislature.org>

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GUAM Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

325 Duenas Drive
Tamuning, GU 96913
(671) 646-9363 cme@ocmeguam.com

6 February, 2024

Honorable Therese M. Terlaje, Speaker
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Doc Type 37GL-24-1655
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE

FEB 14 2024

Time: 8:20am
Received: [Signature]

Hafa Adai Speaker Terlaje,

As Guam's Chief Medical Examiner, I present to you our **2023 Annual Statistical Report**.

When I arrived in November 2022 I had two initial goals: 1) to modernize our database system, and 2) to establish comprehensive postmortem drug testing. I trust you will find the results of those goals represented in this report.

As always, please feel free to contact me by email, phone, or WhatsApp if you have further questions, concerns, or comments.

Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: jnine@ocmeguam.com

In service of Guam's people,

Dr. Jeff Nine
Chief Medical Examiner



37GL-24-1655
Messages and Communications
RECEIVED
Committee on Rules
February 14, 2024
2:51 p.m.
Beatrice Cruz

2023 Annual Report (January – December 2023)



GUAM Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Submitted: January 2024



Guam Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) 2023 Annual Report January – December 2023

STAFF

Chief Medical Examiner – Dr. Jeffrey Nine

Administrative Assistant – Johanna Bamba

Affiliated Personnel – Guam Memorial Hospital

Edward Camacho, Morgue Attendant

Clarissa Perez, Morgue Attendant

Student Interns

Catherine Tabunar (University of Guam)

Merry Ann Ocampo (University of Guam)

William Minami (University of Guam)

Kai Akimoto (University of Minnesota)

Isaiah Atalig (Chaminade University of Hawaii)

About the Office

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) was formed in 1971 under the guidance of the 11th Guam Legislature and approved by the people of Guam and then Governor Carlos G. Camacho. The OCME was established to provide a scientific investigative system for the island of Guam on deaths which occurred suddenly without cause or from unnatural circumstances. The OCME is under the oversight of the Commission on Postmortem Examinations which is comprised of the Attorney General of Guam, the Guam Police Department Chief, Public Health & Social services Director, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority Administrator, the Guam Medical Society President, and the current Chief Medical Examiner. (*Guam Code Annotated Title 10 Part 2 Division 4 Chapter 81*)

Demographics

Guam Population (2020 Census) – 153,836

Terminology

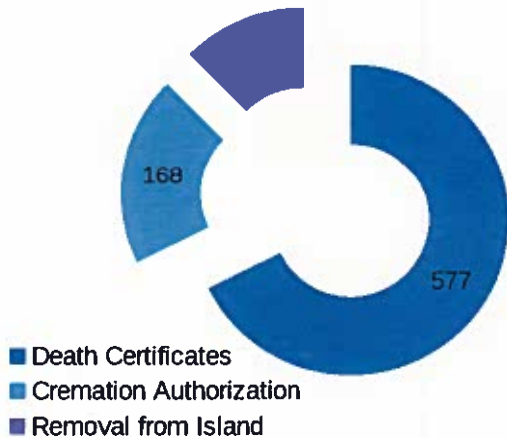
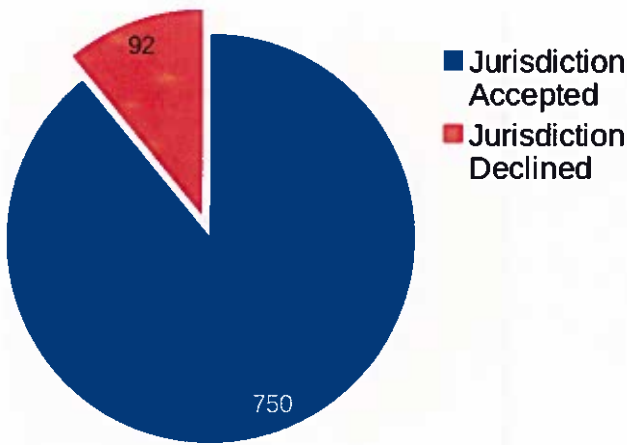
Death investigated: OCME received a report of the death and investigated the circumstances

Jurisdiction accepted: OCME admitted the case into its care

Jurisdiction declined: OCME released the case into the care of the medical provider

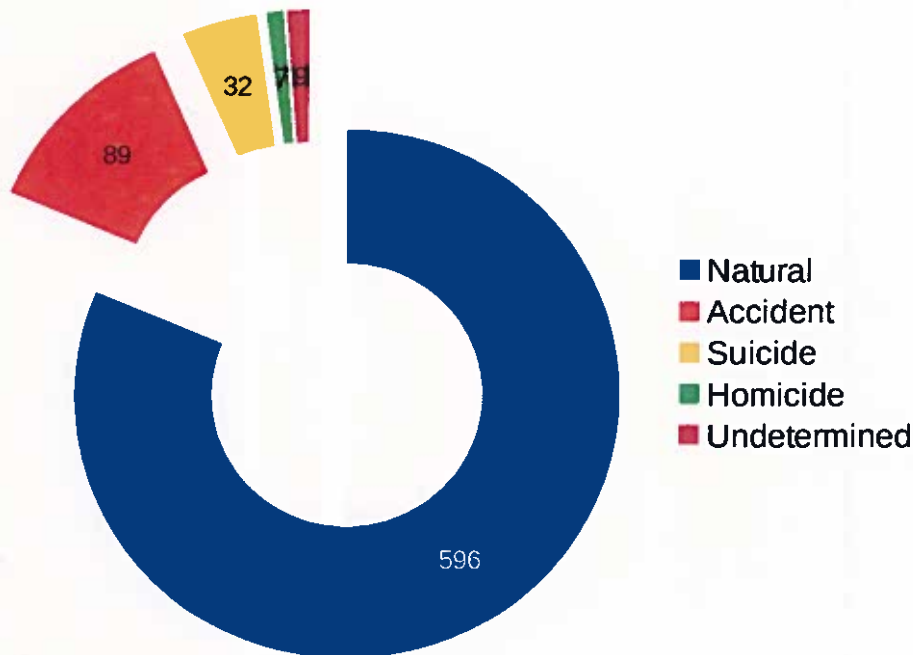
2023 Death Investigation Summary

# of Cases	Investigative Description
842	Total Cases Investigated
750	Jurisdiction Accepted (Case admitted into OCME care)
92	Jurisdiction Declined (Case not admitted into OCME care)
304	In-house examinations
446	Record review only (no examination)
577	Death Certificates produced
168	Cremation authorizations
107	Removal From Island authorizations



CASE SUMMARY – MANNER OF DEATH

<i>Number</i>	<i>Manner</i>
596	Natural
89	Accident
32	Suicide
7	Homicide
9	Undetermined



Natural death (in order):

1. Cardiac (hypertension, coronary artery disease)
2. Infection (virus, pneumonia, sepsis)
3. Lung disease (COPD, asthma)
4. Stroke
5. Kidney disease (secondary to diabetes and hypertension)

Accidental death (in order):

1. Drug overdose
2. Motor vehicle crash
3. Fall

Suicide (in order):

1. Hanging
2. Gun
3. Jump
4. Knife
5. Overdose

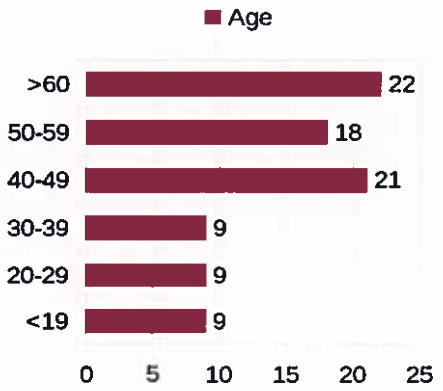
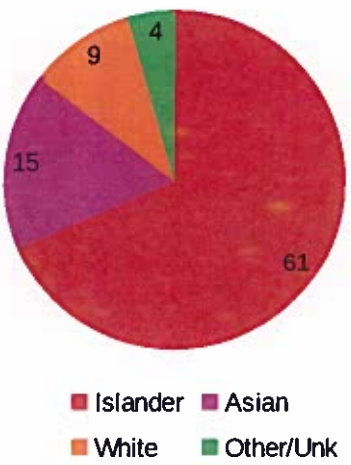
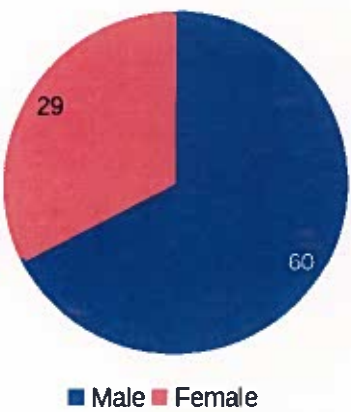
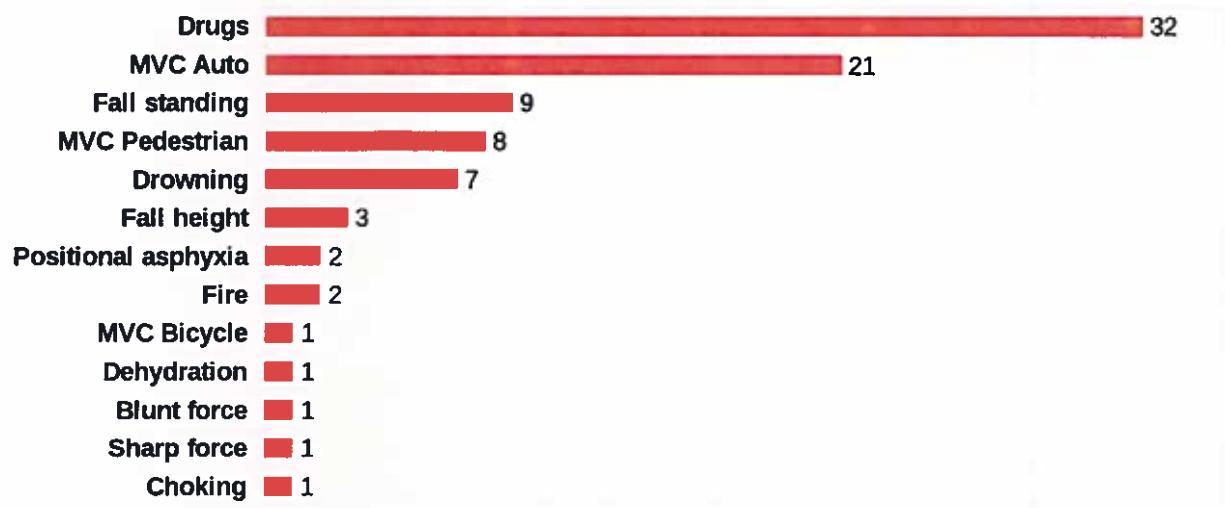
Homicide (in order):

1. Gun
2. Blunt force
3. Stab

ACCIDENT

Total = 89 cases

■ Accident by type (MVC=motor vehicle crash)



COMMENTS:

- Drugs = methamphetamine (see following pages)
- Accidents in older people = Falls, MVC Pedestrian
- Accidents in younger people = Drowning, Unsafe sleeping surfaces (infants)
- Dehydration = Tourist hiking

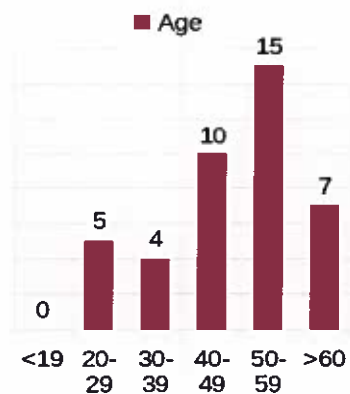
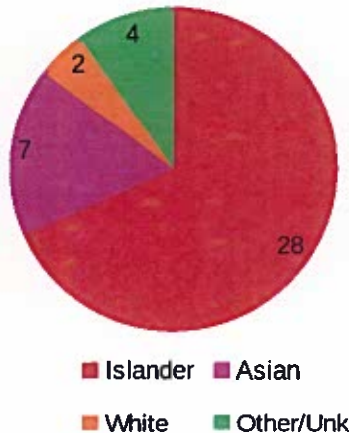
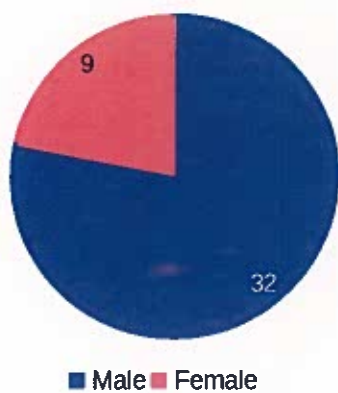
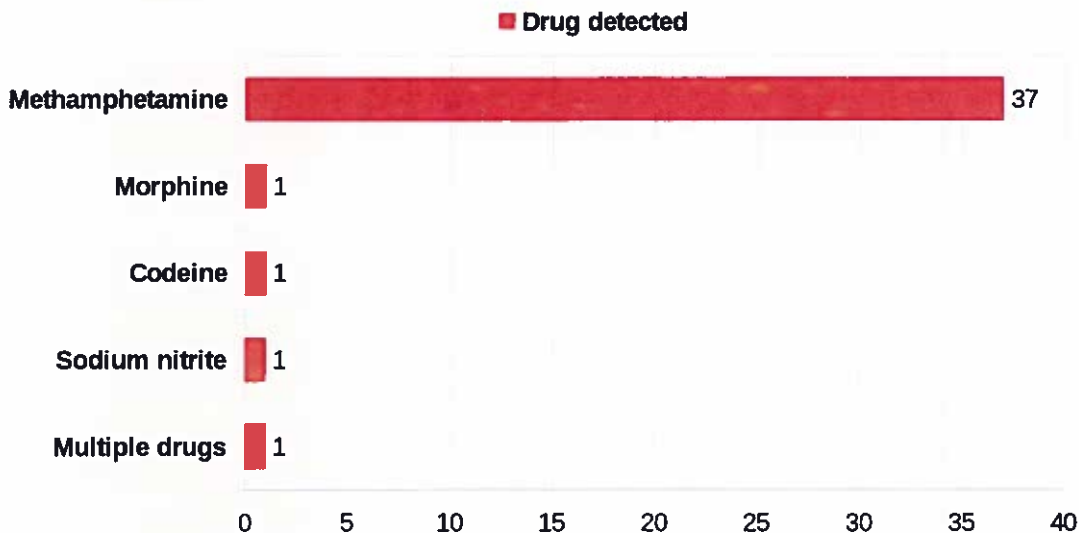
DRUGS AND DRIVING:

18 of 30 MVC deaths (60%) had drugs (methamphetamine, marijuana) or alcohol (levels from 0.033 to 0.320) in their system at the time of the fatal crash.

DEATHS CAUSED BY DRUG USE AND ABUSE

Total = 41 cases

Methamphetamine was detected in **1 in 17 deaths investigated** and **1 in 6 cases examined** by the OCME in 2023. Some were vehicle crash, suicide or homicide. The majority were deaths due to methamphetamine abuse. This section *only* addresses those deaths *due to* drug use and abuse.

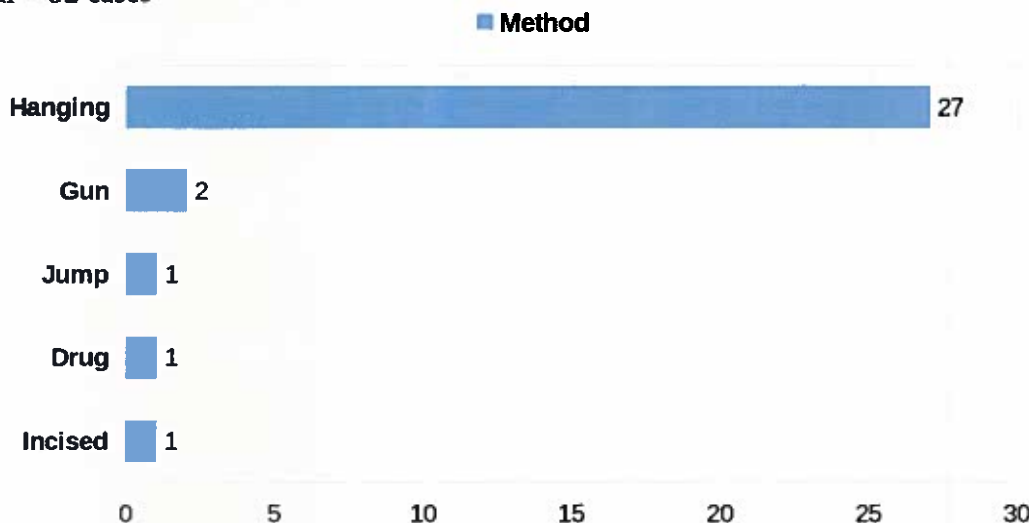


COMMENTS:

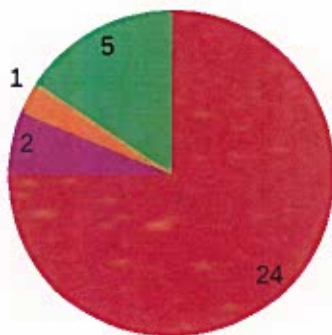
Methamphetamine abuse can lead to stroke, ruptured aorta, and congestive heart failure.
Sodium nitrite is a rare but recognized chemical used to commit suicide.
Morphine was detected during misuse of prescribed medication.
Codeine was detected in a postpartum woman who died from a blood clot in the lung.

SUICIDE

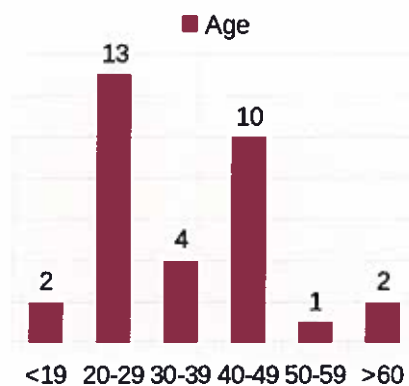
Total = 32 cases



Male Female



Islander Asian White Other/Unk



COMMENTS:

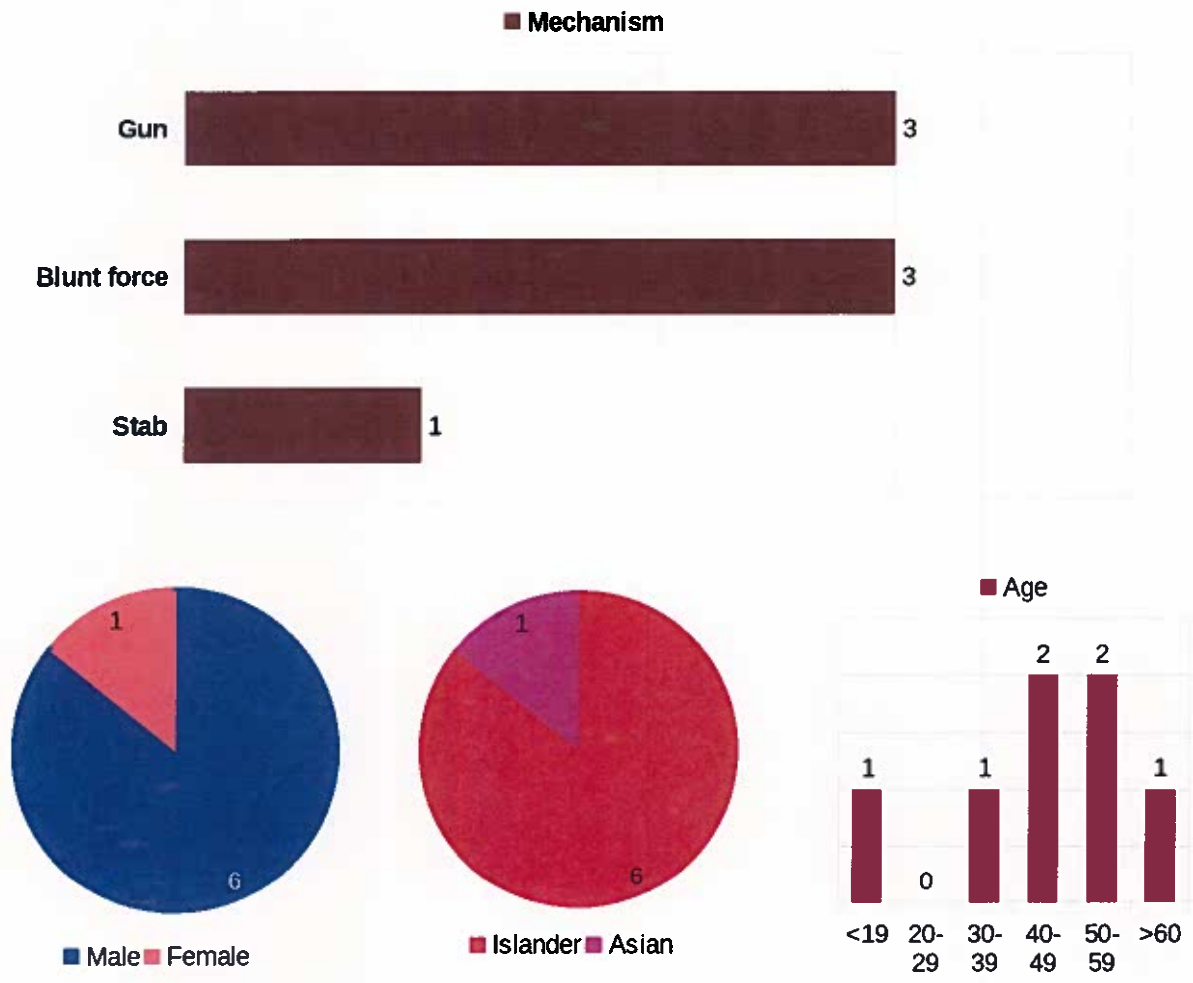
All hanging suicides are of Islander ethnicity.
 Non-hanging suicides (drug, incised wound) = Asian
 Non-hanging suicide (gun) = Islander
 Jump (from height) = White
 Drug suicide = sodium nitrite poisoning

DRUGS AND SUICIDE:

18 of the 32 cases had drugs in their system at the time of death (some with multiple drugs).
 Methamphetamine 10 | Alcohol 8 (0.07 to 0.430) | Marijuana 5 | Sodium nitrite 1

HOMICIDE

Total = 7 Cases



COMMENTS:

Firearm (gun) homicides were all of Islander ethnicity.

Blunt force homicides included one (1) Asian ethnicity and one (1) Infant.

DRUGS AND HOMICIDE:

3 of 7 homicides had drugs and/or alcohol in their system at the time of the incident:

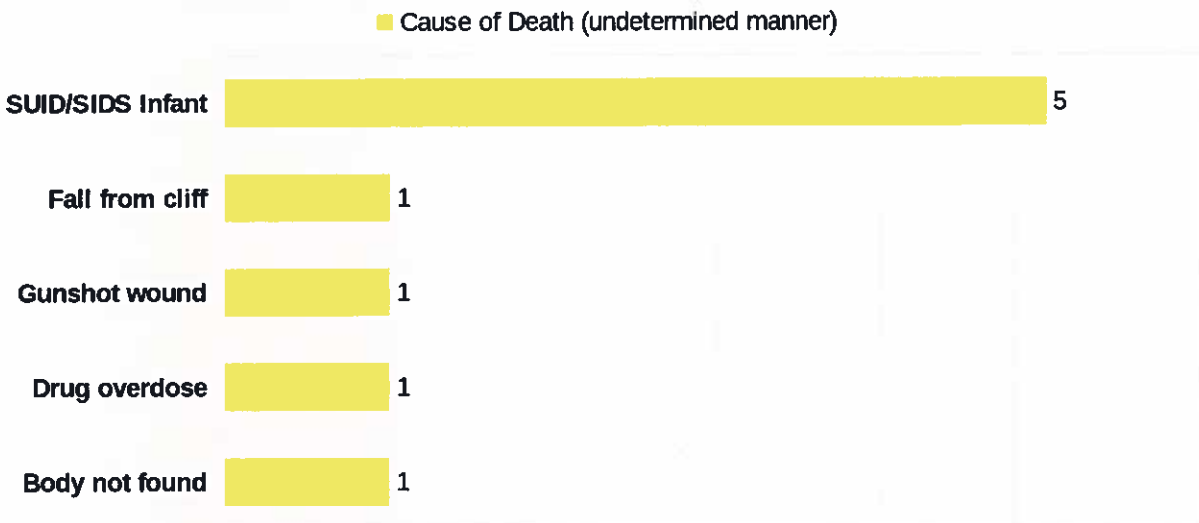
Methamphetamine 2 | Alcohol 2 (0.041 and 0.0316 blood level)

UNDETERMINED

Total = 9 Cases

Undetermined manner of death typically involves the following situations:

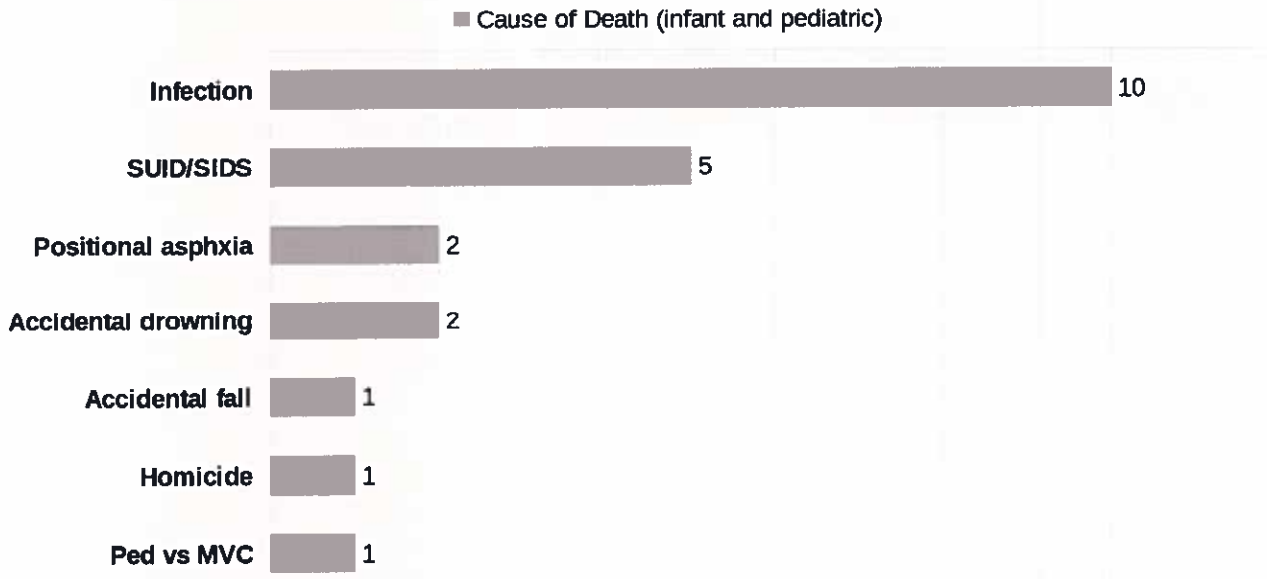
- Sudden unexplained infant death (SUID; previously SIDS)
- Skeletonized or decomposed remains
- Traumatic cause of death with uncertain manner (i.e. Suicide vs. Accident)
- Ocean drowning that was never discovered (no body)



INFANT AND PEDIATRIC

Total = 37 Cases

Postmortem Examination = 22 Cases



NOTES

- Note on ethnicity – all citizens of the Pacific Islands are categorized as “Islander” in the annual report. Detailed country or island citizenship is listed on death certificates and in reports from specialized working groups (such as Suicide Mortality Review or Infant Death Review).
- Examples of deaths that are typically reported to and investigated by the OCME include:
 - Unattended death at home
 - Death less than 24 hours after arrival to the hospital
 - Death during surgery or hospital procedure
 - Suspicious, non-natural, or traumatic deaths
 - Infant and pediatric deaths
 - Death without other obvious cause
- All funeral home requests for cremation or removal of a body from the island are reviewed by the OCME; authorization letters are provided to the funeral home of record.
- Guam OCME has concurrent jurisdiction with military bases and other military assets on the island. Deaths that occur on military property are reported to and investigated by the Guam OCME.