

**Fremont County Coroner**  
**2017 Case Summary & Comparison (as of 01/04/2018)**  
(National Statistic Comparison from CDC-National Vital Statistics System, 2015, most recent available)

- A. **TOTALS:** There have been 339 recorded deaths in Fremont County for 2017:
1. 51% were Coroner Cases (174)
  2. The total number of Coroner Cases is 28 more than 2016 (146).
- B. **CASES:** Among Coroner cases for 2017, 34.5% (60) were “non-natural” in manner (accident, homicide, suicide, undetermined). Of those:
1. The number of **accidental** deaths is 34, about two times higher than the national average for our population. This is 4 more than 2016 (30).
  2. The number of deaths by **suicide** is 13, 4 less than 2016 (17). This is around 2 ½ times the national average for our population.
  3. The number of deaths by **homicide** is 9, the same as that of 2016 (9) and about four times the national average for our population. Six of those were motor-vehicle in two incidents.
  4. **Motor-vehicle/Traffic deaths:** There have been 17 motor vehicle deaths in 2017, including eleven accidental deaths and six vehicular homicides. 64% of the total involved alcohol and/or drugs. In a 6-year analysis of vehicular deaths in Fremont County, the most common factors are a white male, driver, age 19 to 35, not wearing a seatbelt, single vehicle incident, under the influence of alcohol and/or cannabis products.
- C. **NOTES:**
1. The leading cause of **accidental** death in 2017 is motor vehicle accidents (11), tied with drug and/or alcohol toxicity (11). Third is falls (6); fourth is drowning or other asphyxia (4), then fire and hypothermia deaths with one each.
  2. While down a bit, Suicide numbers have been trending up since 2012 broke the record for a single year with 19, going back to when records were started in 1885.
  3. Vehicular homicides have stayed level at six in 2017, same as 2016 (6), compared to 2015 (5), 2014 (4) and 2013 in which there was only one.
  4. There were four child fatalities (age 17 and under) which is a significant decrease from eight in 2016. All four were non-natural deaths (two accidents, one motor vehicle homicide, and one suicide).
- D. **DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:**
1. Total Drug and Alcohol **related** deaths account for 62 of all 174 cases, or 35%, an increase over 2016's 31%. Of the non-natural deaths, 45 of 60 were drug/alcohol related, or 75% - also an increase from 2016's 60%.
  2. The #1 contributing factor in accidental deaths in Fremont County is drugs and/or alcohol at 85% (29 of 34 deaths), a marked increase from 2016 (62%).
  3. Of all 62 of the total drug and alcohol related deaths, the primary substance of abuse in Fremont County remains alcohol (76%). THC/Cannabis substances have moved into the #2 spot at 18 related deaths (29%), with Methamphetamine now #3 at 10 (16%) – the highest that has been since 2005 when there were 15 Meth related deaths. Opiate related drugs have dropped to #4 at 6 (10%)