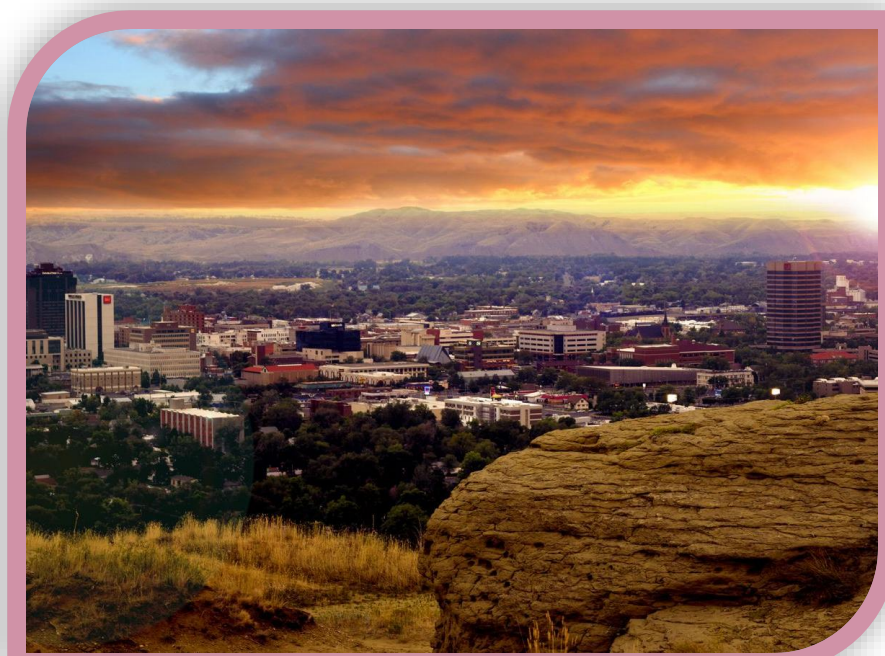


# **2023 MONTANA MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT**

## **April 30, 2024**



## **OVERVIEW:**

The Montana Medical Examiner's Office (MTMEO) is a section within the Montana Department of Justice, Forensic Science Division. It was created in 1980 to provide death investigation resources for county coroners, law enforcement agencies, and county attorneys on behalf of Montana's citizens. Montana is the fourth largest state in the United States, encompassing 147,040 square miles, and has an U.S. Census estimated population of 1,132,812 for 2023. This report summarizes the statistical results of the MTMEO cases performed during the 2023 calendar year.

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## **OUR VISION STATEMENT:**

We strive to create a partnership between Medical Examiners and Coroners to promote the health, well-being, and safety of the citizens of Montana through education, service, and compassionate, professional death investigation.

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## **RECENT PROJECTS COMPLETED:**

The Montana Medical Examiner's office recently completed the following projects and goals:

- Filled a vacant Medical Examiner position in Billings and are again fully staffed.
  - Collaborated with the Coroner's Association and POST to fill training needs.
  - Represented a rural State as a Project Partner in the first National Center on Forensics conference in August 2023.
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## **CURRENT PROJECTS:**

The Montana Medical Examiner's office is currently focused on the following projects and goals:

- Use extended NIJ grant funding to produce 20 hours of professional videos for coroner continuing education.
  - Actively promote opportunities to continuously improve death investigation and establish more uniform practices among the counties.
  - Work with the Department of Health and Human Services and the coroners across the State to replace the current statewide death investigation program with MDILog.
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## **SUMMARY OF 2023:**

In 2023 the Montana Medical Examiner's Office employed four forensic pathologists, two autopsy assistants, and two part-time autopsy assistants. Administrative support was provided by the Forensic Science Division, and we have a full-time Coroner Liaison to assist coroners, provide training, and manage the statewide death investigation management program. Two pathologists work at the primary State crime laboratory in Missoula to serve the needs of coroners in western Montana. Two pathologists work at the satellite State crime laboratory in Billings to serve the needs of coroners in Eastern Montana. During calendar year 2023 a total of 789 postmortem examinations were performed (Missoula 359, Billings 430), which is 5% less than prior year and correlates to the gradual death rate recovery following the pandemic. Our pathologists responded to a limited number of scene investigations and recoveries. We provided court testimony and made educational presentations at the annual Montana Coroner Advanced and Basic Coroner trainings. Informational meetings took place with coroners, law enforcement, county attorneys, organ and tissue procurement agencies, and funeral directors.

We had 37 cases considered legal interventions deaths, which involve either inmates or deaths occurring in presence of law enforcement.

Due to a growing shortage of forensic pathologists and limited resources in rural areas, our Billings office took on coverage of six Wyoming counties in 2023. The region has a population of 95,506 based on 2022 Census estimates, and we provided services for 47 autopsies.

In June 2021, the MTMEO was officially accredited for the first time through the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME) and that accreditation was maintained in 2023.

Based on recommendations that appear in the Scientific Working Group on Medicolegal Death Investigation (SWGMDI) "an autopsy rate of one per 1000 population might be considered as a best-case scenario formula for ensuring that medicolegal autopsies are performed in numbers that need public health, public safety, justice system, medical quality assurance and other needs." Generally, the need for a postmortem examination (autopsy) in Montana is determined by the county coroner per Title 46, Chapter 4, Part 1 of Montana Code Annotated. NAME inspection data for all offices published in the SWGMDI 2013 report listed an average autopsy rate of 0.5 per 1,000 persons for offices of all types and 0.7 per 1,000 persons in facility surveys. Utilizing our current data, the autopsy rate per 1,000 population in Montana is 7.1% across all counties (2022). Some counties meet or exceed the 1.0 per 1,000 population recommendations while some counties are below the recommendations. Results by county are listed in Total Autopsies by County table beginning on page 3.

Montana death investigations are served through a county coroner system with support by the State Medical Examiner's office. The following statistical information represents *only* those cases that coroners delivered for autopsy or examination and cannot encompass all deaths in the State. At the discretion of county coroners, selected suicides, overdoses, traffic fatalities, and well-established natural deaths are not submitted for autopsy.

The following tables and graphs outline 2023 activity as well as comparisons to prior years:

### **2023 AUTOPSY CASE TYPES:**

Type	# Cases	% Total
External	95	12%
Full	625	79%
Partial	60	7%
Skeletal	9	1%
Exhumation	0	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>100%</b>

MTMEO received 26 cases of unidentified human remains in 2023, of which 8 are still unidentified as of report date.

### **TOTAL AUTOPSIES BY COUNTY:**

Montana consists of 56 counties. Three counties were shifted to be served by the Billings office in 2023, leaving approximately 56% of the population served by the Missoula office. The eastern half contains the State's largest city, Billings, with a city population of 119,706 (2022). Vital Statistics does not yet have population and death statistics for 2023.

AUTOPSIES BY COUNTY								
County	2023 Autopsy Count	2022 Autopsy Count	2023 vs 2022 Autopsies	2023 % of Total Autopsies	Number of Deaths 2022*	2022 Autopsies % of Total Deaths	Population (2022)*	2022 % of Total Population
Beaverhead	6	7	-1	0.8%	112	6.3%	9719	0.9%
Big Horn	21	33	-12	2.7%	91	36.3%	12851	1.1%
Blaine	7	3	4	0.9%	41	7.3%	6936	0.6%

Broadwater	10	7	<b>3</b>	1.3%	43	16.3%	7793	0.7%
Butte/SB	31	41	<b>-10</b>	3.9%	487	8.4%	36068	3.2%
Carbon	15	20	<b>-5</b>	1.9%	80	25.0%	11179	1.0%
Carter	0		<b>0</b>	0.0%	17	0.0%	1382	0.1%
Cascade	27	38	<b>-11</b>	3.4%	1328	2.9%	84864	<b>7.6%</b>
Chouteau	6	5	<b>1</b>	0.8%	40	12.5%	5898	0.5%
Custer	7	5	<b>2</b>	0.9%	129	3.9%	12032	1.1%
Daniels	1	1	<b>0</b>	0.1%	16	6.3%	1628	0.1%
Dawson	2	3	<b>-1</b>	0.3%	88	3.4%	8830	0.8%
Deer Lodge	6	8	<b>-2</b>	0.8%	111	7.2%	9510	0.8%
Fallon	0	3	<b>-3</b>	0.0%	30	10.0%	3011	0.3%
Fergus	10	10	<b>0</b>	1.3%	155	6.5%	11663	1.0%
Flathead	44	68	<b>-24</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	1238	5.5%	111814	<b>10.0%</b>
Gallatin	41	37	<b>4</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	674	5.5%	124857	<b>11.1%</b>
Garfield	0	0	<b>0</b>	0.0%	14	0.0%	1218	0.1%
Glacier	13	23	<b>-9</b>	1.8%	128	18.0%	13681	1.2%
Golden Valley	2	1	<b>1</b>	0.3%	6	16.7%	835	0.1%
Granite	3	9	<b>-6</b>	0.4%	37	24.3%	3502	0.3%
Hill	5	4	<b>1</b>	0.6%	145	2.8%	16068	1.4%
Jefferson	8	5	<b>3</b>	1.0%	104	4.8%	12826	1.1%
Judith Basin	2		<b>2</b>	0.3%	10	0.0%	2105	0.2%
Lake	52	57	<b>-5</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	277	20.6%	32853	2.9%
Lewis&Clark	27	27	<b>0</b>	3.4%	724	3.7%	73832	<b>6.6%</b>
Liberty	0		<b>0</b>	0.0%	26	0.0%	1972	0.2%
Lincoln	2	7	<b>-5</b>	0.3%	248	2.8%	21525	1.9%
Madison	5	5	<b>0</b>	0.6%	99	5.1%	9265	0.8%
McCone	0	1	<b>-1</b>	0.0%	11	9.1%	1709	0.2%
Meagher	1	1	<b>0</b>	0.1%	15	6.7%	2013	0.2%
Mineral	6	3	<b>3</b>	0.8%	44	6.8%	5058	0.5%
Missoula	73	70	<b>3</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	1285	5.4%	121041	<b>10.8%</b>
Musselshell	8	3	<b>5</b>	1.0%	46	6.5%	5197	0.5%
Park	13	19	<b>-6</b>	1.6%	182	10.4%	17790	1.6%
Petroleum	0		<b>0</b>	0.0%	1	0.0%	524	0.0%
Phillips	0	2	<b>-2</b>	0.0%	40	5.0%	4240	0.4%
Pondera	8	2	<b>6</b>	1.0%	51	3.9%	6078	0.5%
Powder River	4	2	<b>2</b>	0.5%	13	15.4%	1725	0.2%
Powell	18	10	<b>8</b>	2.3%	66	15.2%	7051	0.6%
Prairie	1	1	<b>0</b>	0.1%	16	6.3%	1107	0.1%
Ravalli	13	30	<b>-17</b>	1.6%	414	7.2%	47298	4.2%
Richland	4	5	<b>-1</b>	0.5%	82	6.1%	11237	1.0%
Roosevelt	16	17	<b>-1</b>	2.0%	109	15.6%	10572	0.9%

Date

Rosebud	8	12	-4	1.0%	72	16.7%	8088	0.7%
Sanders	10	19	-9	1.3%	143	13.3%	13442	1.2%
Sheridan	2	1	1	0.3%	48	2.1%	3564	0.3%
Stillwater	7	10	-3	0.9%	62	16.1%	9177	0.8%
Sweet Grass	3	4	-1	0.4%	42	9.5%	3715	0.3%
Teton	1	1	0	0.1%	49	2.0%	6368	0.6%
Toole	1	1	0	0.1%	30	3.3%	5082	0.5%
Treasure	1		1	0.1%	4	0.0%	758	0.1%
Valley	6	5	1	0.8%	75	6.7%	7513	0.7%
Wheatland	2		2	0.3%	17	0.0%	2032	0.2%
Wibaux	1	1	0	0.1%	22	4.5%	919	0.1%
Yellowstone	174	179	-5	22.0%	2336	7.7%	169852	15.1%
Hospital	8	8	0	1.0%				
Other State	47	0	47	5.9%				
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>-44</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11,773</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>1,122,867</b>	<b>1.05%</b>

\*Source: Montana Vital Records and MT Census and Economic Bureau most recent confirmed numbers

## **MANNER OF DEATH:**

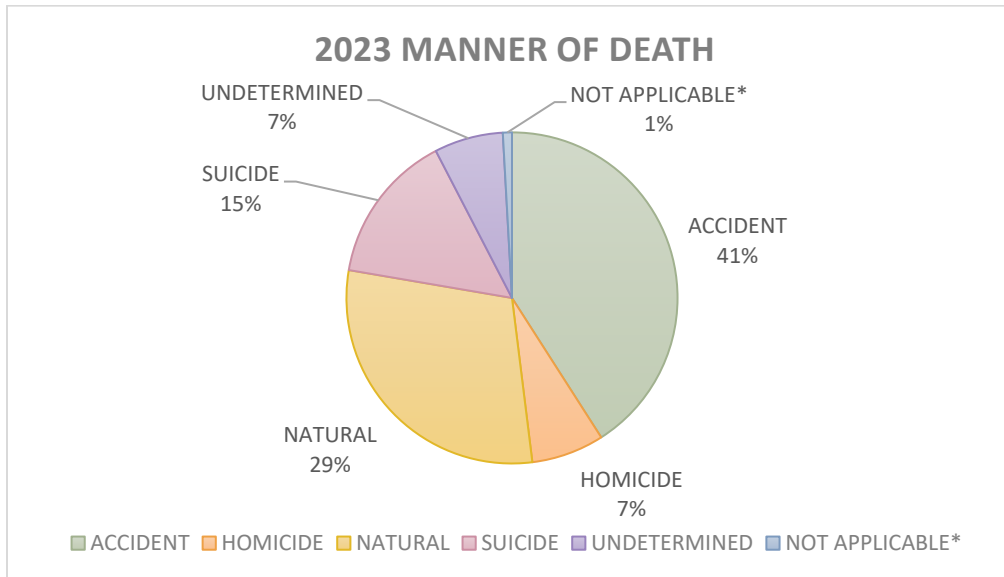
Manner is used to distinguish whether a death is considered natural or unnatural. If deemed unnatural, the death is typically categorized as either accident, suicide, homicide, or in the absence of a clear result, undetermined.

## **AUTOPSIES BY MANNER:**

MANNER	COUNT	% OF TOTAL
ACCIDENT	323	41%
HOMICIDE	56	7%
NATURAL	234	30%
SUICIDE	116	15%
UNDETERMINED	53	7%
NOT APPLICABLE*	7	1%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*includes fetal and skeletal remains (including some non-human).

Date



### LEGAL INTERVENTION DEATHS BY MANNER:

MANNER	# OF CASES	% OF TOTAL
HOMICIDE	8	22%
SUICIDE	12	32%
ACCIDENT	9	24%
NATURAL	7	19%
UNDETERMINED	1	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100%</b>

Montana Cases Only

### BIOLOGICAL SEX:

SEX	COUNT	% OF TOTAL	2022 Population	Per 10,000 Population
Female	237	32%	553,021	4.3
Male	498	67%	569,846	8.7
Non-Human	2		-	-
Unknown	5	1%	-	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,122 867</b>	<b>6.6</b>

Montana Cases Only

Date

2023 MANNER BY SEX			
MANNER	FEMALE	MALE	UNKNOWN
ACCIDENT	100	209	-
HOMICIDE	9	45	-
NATURAL	81	130	-
SUICIDE	21	87	-
UNDETERMINED	24	25	4
NOT APPLICABLE	2	2	3
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>% OF TOTAL</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>1%</b>

Montana Cases Only

### **ANCESTRY:**

Based upon Montana's Census and Economic Information Center, the following ancestry groups comprise Montana's population in 2022: Caucasian 85.3%, Native American 6.5%, Hispanic 3.4%, Asian 1.1%, Black/African American 0.6%, and Multi Race 3.0%.

Although comprising 14.7% of the population, non-Caucasian citizens accounted for 44% of homicides, 20% of autopsied suicides, 25% of autopsied accidents, and 24% of autopsied overdoses in 2023. In addition, and significantly, for deaths of children and youth under 20 years, non-Caucasians represented 36% of the total cases.

2022 Population Data		
Type	Population 2022	% of Total
Caucasian	957,643	85.30%
Native American	73,170	6.50%
Black	6,993	0.60%
Asian/Pacific Islander	12,473	1.10%
Hispanic	38,536	3.40%
Multi	34,052	3.00%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,122,867</b>	<b>100%</b>



**AUTOPSY TOTALS BY ANCESTRY:**

Ancestry	# of Cases	% of Total
Asian	6	1%
Black	14	2%
Caucasian	600	76%
Hispanic	18	2%
Native American/Alaskan	132	17%
Non-Human (skeletal)	2	0%
Unknown	16	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>100%</b>

**ANCESTRY BY SELECTED MANNER:**

Ancestry	Accident	% of Total	Homicide	% of Total	Suicide	% of Total	Overdose	% of Total
Asian	2	1%	2	4%		0%	1	1%
Black	5	2%	1	2%	4	4%	2	1%
Caucasian	232	75%	30	56%	86	80%	102	76%
Hispanic	9	3%	2	4%	1	1%	1	1%
Multi		0%		0%		0%		0%
Native American	59	19%	18	33%	14	13%	27	20%
Unknown	2	1%	1	2%	3	3%	1	1%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>100%</b>

Montana Cases Only

Date

**HOMICIDES PER 10,000 POPULATION BY ANCESTRY:**

Ancestry	Homicide	% Total	Per 10,000 Population
Asian	2		0.0
Black	1	4%	1.4
Caucasian	30	59%	0.3
Hispanic	2		0.5
Native American	18	36%	2.5
Unknown	1	1%	
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Montana Cases Only

**CHILD UNDER 20 DEATHS PER 10,000 POPULATION BY ANCESTRY:**

Ancestry	# Cases	% Total	Per 10,000 Population
Asian	1	2%	0.0
Black	1	2%	0.4
Caucasian	42	64%	2.1
Native American	22	33%	8.2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Montana Cases Only

**2023 CASE ANCESTRY BY COUNTY FOR TOP COUNTIES:**

County	# of Cases	% of Total Cases	Caucasian	Native American	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Unknown
Yellowstone	173	20.7%	146	18		2	7	
Missoula	73	8.8%	61	7	2	1		2
Lake	52	6.2%	29	20			1	1
Flathead	44	5.3%	39	1				4
Gallatin	41	4.9%	34		2	1	4	
Butte-Silver Bow	30	3.6%	29					2
Lewis & Clark	27	3.2%	22	3			1	1
Cascade	27	3.2%	17	5		3		1
Big Horn	21	2.5%	4	16			1	
Powell	18	2.2%	11	5			1	1
Roosevelt	16	1.9%	1	14		1		
Carbon	15	1.8%	12	2		1		
Glacier	14	1.7%	4	8	1			1
Ravalli	13	1.6%	12				1	
Park	13	1.6%	11			2		
Broadwater	10	1.2%	10					
Fergus	10	1.2%	9		1			
Sanders	10	1.2%	9	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>72.8%</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>

**AGE RANGES OF DECEDENTS BY MANNER:**

AGE	MANNER	# OF CASES	% OF 740 (MT HUMAN) CASES
Infants</=2 years	Accident	3	
	Homicide	4	
	Natural	2	
	Undetermined	16	
		<b>25</b>	<b>3%</b>
Child 3-12	Accident	3	
	Natural	4	
	Undetermined	1	
		<b>8</b>	<b>1%</b>
Teen 13-19	Accident	18	
	Homicide	2	
	Natural	2	
	Suicide	11	
		<b>33</b>	<b>4%</b>
Adult 20-65	Accident	237	
	Homicide	41	
	Natural	151	
	Suicide	79	
	Undetermined	25	
	n/a	1	
		<b>534</b>	<b>72%</b>
Adult Senior 66+	Accident	46	
	Homicide	6	
	Natural	52	
	Suicide	18	
	Undetermined	5	
		<b>127</b>	<b>17%</b>
Unknown Age	N/A	4	
	Homicide	1	
	Accident	2	
	Undetermined	6	
		<b>13</b>	<b>2%</b>

## DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO ALCOHOL OR DRUG INTOXICATION:

Medical Examiners performed 742 Montana autopsies in death investigation cases. The toxicology section would have performed testing on most of the cases. It was determined that 134 of these cases had toxicology results impacting the direct cause of death. Below is a breakdown of the identified substances and corresponding drug results. *The data below does not include deaths where the coroner did not have an autopsy performed.*

2023 TOXICOLOGY-RELATED CASE BREAKDOWN BY CAUSE OF DEATH (AUTOPSIED ONLY)		
CAUSE OF DEATH	# OF CASES	COMMENTS
Acute Ethanol Intoxication	0	
Complications of chronic ethanol use	29	
Acute Single Drug Intoxication	64	
Methamphetamine	23	
Fentanyl/Para-fluoro fentanyl	28	25 fentanyl only OD in 2022, 21 fentanyl only OD in 2021, 5 fentanyl only OD in 2020
Heroin	1	
Cocaine	1	
Oxycodone	3	
Methadone	3	
Amphetamine	1	
Buprenorphine	2	
Acetaminophen	1	
Diphenhydramine	1	
Acute, Poly-Drug Combination	70	some cases may fall into multiple categories
Methamphetamine	46	compared to 42 in 2022, 23 in 2021
Fentanyl	53	compared to 52 in 2022, 28 in 2021
Heroin	2	
Cocaine	3	
Oxycodone	6	
Hydrocodone	2	
Methadone	3	
Diphenhydramine	7	
Gabapentin	7	
Drugs/Ethanol not direct, but contributory to cause of death	39	
Inhalant Intoxication	0	

For those non-natural cases that involved drug or ethanol not direct, but contributable, to cause of death in 2023, 42% involved hypothermia or drowning/asphyxia.

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**OVERDOSE DEATHS BY COUNTY- TOP 10\***

County	# of Cases	% Total OD
Yellowstone	28	21%
Missoula	15	11%
Flathead	14	10%
Gallatin	10	7%
Lake	10	7%
Butte-Silver Bow	8	6%
Lewis & Clark	7	5%
Cascade	7	5%
Powell	4	3%
Valley	3	2%
Park	3	2%

\*Carbon monoxide cases not included

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**SUICIDES AND HOMICIDES ATTRIBUTABLE TO FIREARMS:**

In 2023, 69% of the homicide cases, 67% of the autopsied suicides, and 15% of all Montana casework involved a firearm.

Manner	# of Cases
Homicide	37
Suicide	72
Undetermined	2
Total	111
% Total Cases	15%

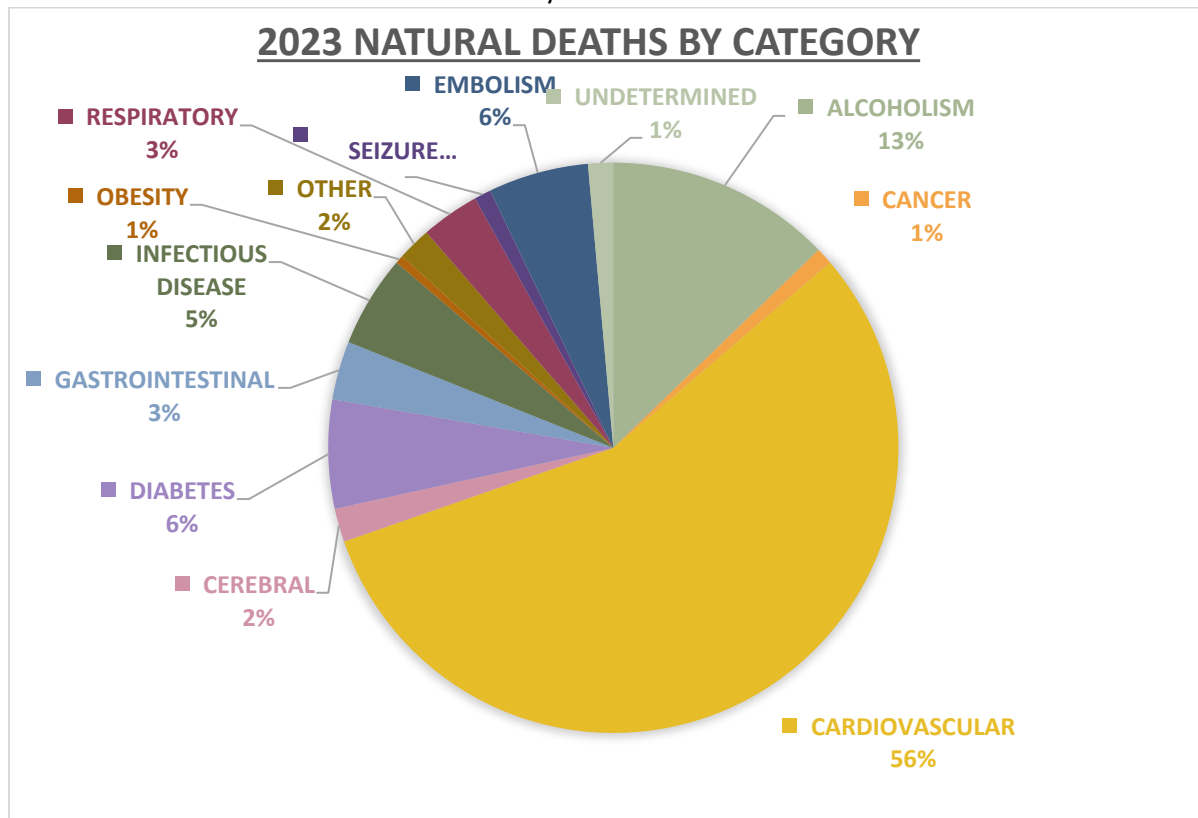
Montana Cases Only

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**NATURAL DEATHS BY CATEGORY:**

CATEGORY	# OF CASES
ALCOHOLISM	27
CANCER	2
CARDIOVASCULAR	118
CEREBRAL	4
DIABETES	13
GASTROINTESTINAL	7
INFECTIOUS DISEASE	11
OBESITY	1
OTHER	4
RESPIRATORY	7
SEIZURE	2
EMBOLISM	12
UNDETERMINED	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>211</b>
% of Total Cases	28%

Montana Cases Only



Date

### **2023 TURN-AROUND TIMES:**

Turn-Around Time represents the number of days between the postmortem examination and the completion of the autopsy report. 94% of our reports in 2023 were completed within 90 days. We attained our goal to complete 90% of our cases in 90 days.

LESS THAN 60	576	73%
60-90	161	20%
91-120	34	4%
OVER 120	18	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **EIGHT YEAR TRENDS (2016-2023)**

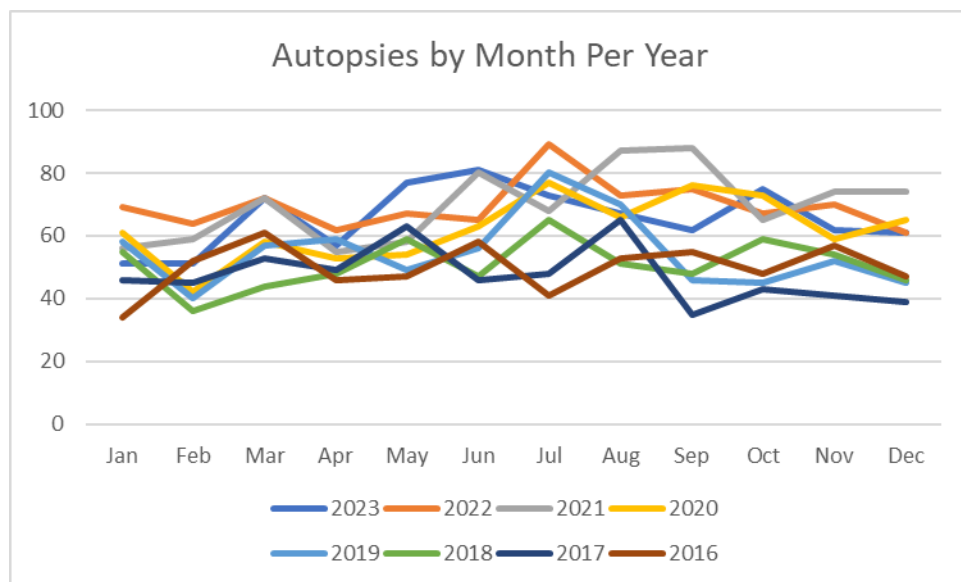
The Montana State Medical Examiner's office initiated a process to maintain better statistical information beginning in 2015. We have now completed 8 years from which we can make annual comparisons and watch trends. Again, these comparisons are only based on the cases submitted to the office and not all investigated deaths in the State.

<b>AUTOPSIES BY TYPE PER YEAR</b>								
<b>Type</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Full	626	689	706	660	570	546	530	540
Partial	59	56	45	35	28	20	15	12
External	95	77	74	41	47	37	22	37
Skeletal	9	12	11	11	11	8	7	10
Disinterred	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Coroner Case Review	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
<b>TOTAL CASES</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>599</b>



**AUTOPSIES BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

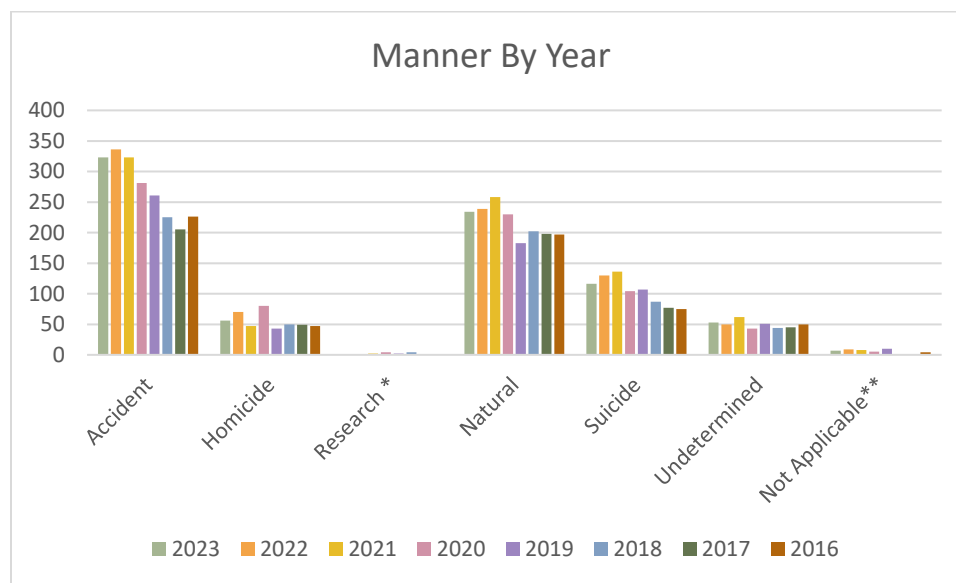
Month	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	51	69	56	61	58	55	46	34
Feb	51	64	59	42	40	36	45	52
Mar	72	72	72	58	57	44	53	61
Apr	57	62	55	53	59	48	49	46
May	77	67	58	54	49	59	63	47
Jun	81	65	80	63	56	47	46	58
Jul	73	89	68	77	80	65	48	41
Aug	67	73	87	66	70	51	65	53
Sep	62	75	88	76	46	48	35	55
Oct	75	67	65	73	45	59	43	48
Nov	62	70	74	59	52	54	41	57
Dec	61	61	74	65	45	46	39	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>599</b>



**MANNER OF DEATH BY YEAR:**

MANNER	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Accident	323	336	323	281	261	225	205	226
Homicide	56	70	47	80	43	50	49	47
Research *	0	0	2	4	2	4	1	
Natural	234	239	258	230	183	202	198	197
Suicide	116	130	136	104	107	87	77	75
Undetermined	53	50	62	43	51	44	45	50
Not Applicable**	7	9	8	5	10			4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>599</b>

\*Brain Removals \*\*Skeletal, fetal human and non-human remains



**DEATHS UNDER 20 YEARS BY MANNER:**

AGE	MANNER	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Infants<=2 years	Accident	3	5	4	6	4	4	4	7
	Homicide	4	2	1	3	4	3	5	6
	Natural	2	9	4	7	2	3	5	5
	Undetermined	16	12	17	14	18	13	16	15
Child 3-12	Accident	3	9	2	5	3	7	3	4
	Homicide	0	3	4	4	2	1	0	3
	Natural	4	3	0	0	4	2	0	2
	Undetermined	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0
	Suicide	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1
Teen 13-19	Accident	18	16	25	12	12	11	4	12
	Homicide	2	6	2	6	2	0	1	3
	Natural	2	4	5	1	3	5	3	2
	Suicide	11	12	11	7	11	6	5	3
	Undetermined	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	0
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>63</b>

Montana Cases Only

**FIREARM DEATHS BY MANNER BY YEAR**

MANNER	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Accident	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0
Homicide	37	48	32	45	30	24	25	25
Suicide	72	83	81	62	65	48	51	46
Undetermined	2	2	4	3	1	1	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>74</b>
% OF TOTAL MT CASES	15%	16%	14%	15%	14%	12%	14%	12%

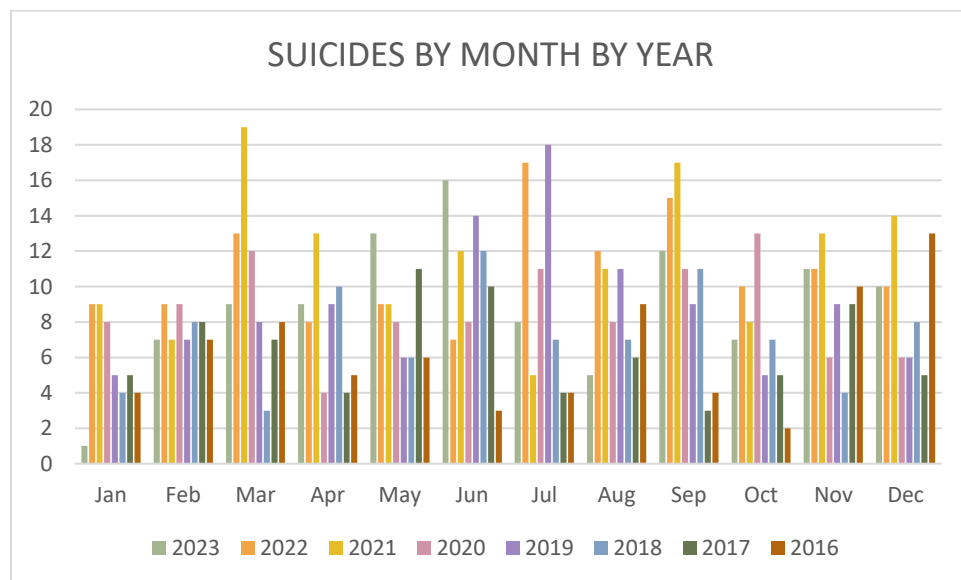
Montana Cases Only

Date

**SUICIDES BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

Month	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	1	9	9	8	5	4	5	4
Feb	7	9	7	9	7	8	8	7
Mar	9	13	19	12	8	3	7	8
Apr	9	8	13	4	9	10	4	5
May	13	9	9	8	6	6	11	6
Jun	16	7	12	8	14	12	10	3
Jul	8	17	5	11	18	7	4	4
Aug	5	12	11	8	11	7	6	9
Sep	12	15	17	11	9	11	3	4
Oct	7	10	8	13	5	7	5	2
Nov	11	11	13	6	9	4	9	10
Dec	10	10	14	6	6	8	5	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>

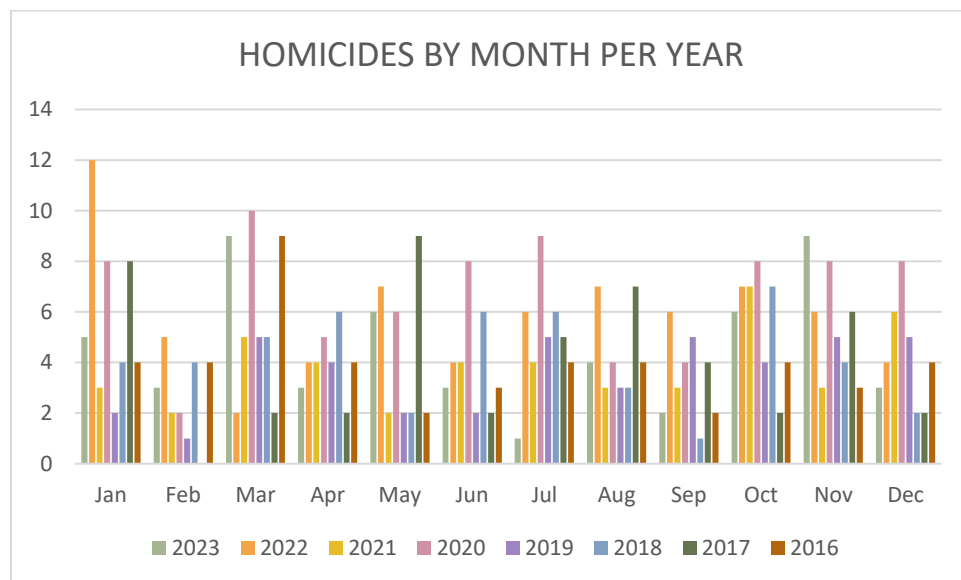
Montana Cases Only



**HOMICIDES BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

Month	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	5	12	3	8	2	4	8	4
Feb	3	5	2	2	1	4	0	4
Mar	9	2	5	10	5	5	2	9
Apr	3	4	4	5	4	6	2	4
May	6	7	2	6	2	2	9	2
Jun	3	4	4	8	2	6	2	3
Jul	1	6	4	9	5	6	5	4
Aug	4	7	3	4	3	3	7	4
Sep	2	6	3	4	5	1	4	2
Oct	6	7	7	8	4	7	2	4
Nov	9	6	3	8	5	4	6	3
Dec	3	4	6	8	5	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>

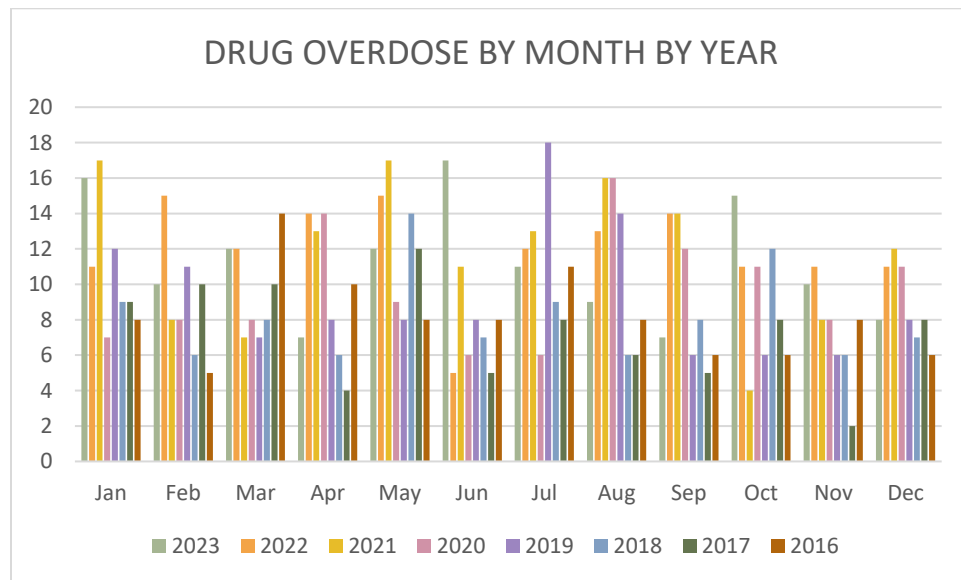
Montana Cases Only



**OVERDOSE DEATHS BY MONTH PER YEAR:**

Month	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Jan	16	11	17	7	12	9	9	8
Feb	10	15	8	8	11	6	10	5
Mar	12	12	7	8	7	8	10	14
Apr	7	14	13	14	8	6	4	10
May	12	15	17	9	8	14	12	8
Jun	17	5	11	6	8	7	5	8
Jul	11	12	13	6	18	9	8	11
Aug	9	13	16	16	14	6	6	8
Sep	7	14	14	12	6	8	5	6
Oct	15	11	4	11	6	12	8	6
Nov	10	11	8	8	6	6	2	8
Dec	8	11	12	11	8	7	8	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>98</b>

Montana Cases Only



**OVERDOSE DEATHS BY COUNTY PER YEAR-*TOP 5 COUNTIES*\*:**

COUNTY	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Yellowstone	28	25	52	25	31	23	22	18
Butte	8	15	16	8	6	6	3	10
Flathead	14	15	11	10	6	9	6	12
Lake	10	12	10	2	5	2	5	3
Missoula	15	12	10	11	10	11	11	14

\*Reminder: only coroner submitted autopsies and may not reflect comprehensive county data

**HOMICIDE DEATHS BY COUNTY PER YEAR**

COUNTY	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Beaverhead				2				
Big Horn	1	3	1	2		1	6	2
Blaine	1	1	1					
Broadwater					1		1	
Butte/SilverBow		1	2	1				4
Carter							1	
Carbon	2	1		1		1		4
Cascade	5	7	4	3	6	5	8	5
Chouteau		1						1
Custer					1	1		
Dawson							1	
Deer Lodge		1		1		1	1	1
Fergus		2		1				
Flathead	4	6	4	7	4	4	1	2
Gallatin	2	4	2	1	3	1	3	4
Glacier	4	4		5		2	3	1
Golden Valley	1							
Granite								1
Hill			2		2	1		1
Jefferson	1						1	
Judith Basin	1		1					
Lake	4	3	1	5	3	2	1	1
Lewis & Clark		2	1	1	2	5	3	4
Liberty								1
Lincoln	1	2	1	1	2		2	2
Madison				1	1			

Date

Meagher	1							
Mineral	3							
Missoula	5	2	8	10	3	5	5	1
Musselshell								1
Park		2	1					2
Phillips						1		1
Pondera		1				1		
Powell	1	1			1			
Petroleum			1					
Prairie	1							
Ravalli			2	6	1		1	
Richland		1			2			1
Roosevelt		1		4		1	2	4
Rosebud		2	3	4		1		2
Sanders	1			2		2	1	
Stillwater			1	1				
Sweetgrass				1				
Teton			1					
Toole					2			
Valley	1					1		
Yellowstone	14	22	9	20	9	14	8	1
Totals	54	70	46	80	43	50	49	47



**SUICIDE DEATHS BY COUNTY PER YEAR**

COUNTY	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Beaverhead			1			1		2
Big Horn	4	2	3	4	2	4	1	1
Blaine	1				1			
Broadwater	1		1	1	2	1		
Butte/Silver Bow	7	6	6	3	3		1	6
Carbon	1	3	4	1	4	1		
Carter							1	
Cascade	3	6	2	3	1	3	4	4
Chouteau	1							1
Custer				1				1
Daniels							1	1
Dawson			1		1	2		
Deer Lodge	1	1		4	2	1	3	1
Fallon								1
Fergus	1	2		4	1		1	
Flathead	5	10	14	9	7	4	4	3
Gallatin	5	3	6	2	7	3	2	2
Garfield				1				
Glacier	1	3	3	4	2	4	1	2
Golden Valley		1		1				
Granite		2	1			1	1	2
Hill	1		1	2	1	1	1	
Jefferson	1	1		2	1			
Judith Basin			1					
Lake	8	12	9	8	5	7	9	6
Lewis & Clark	3	3	7	5	3	12	3	2
Lincoln				1				
Liberty								1
Madison		1	1		1		1	
Meagher			1					
Mineral		1					1	
Missoula	7	6	14	10	7	8	9	11
Musselshell	1		2	2		3		3
Park	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2
Phillips		1						

<b>Pondera</b>	<b>2</b>							
<b>Powder River</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>					
<b>Powell</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Prairie</b>							<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Ravalli</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Richland</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			
<b>Roosevelt</b>					<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rosebud</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Sanders</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>2</b>	
<b>Sheridan</b>			<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>			
<b>Stillwater</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Sweetgrass</b>				<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>
<b>Toole</b>		<b>1</b>						<b>3</b>
<b>Valley</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>					
<b>Wheatland</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Wibaux</b>	<b>1</b>							
<b>Yellowstone</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>

Questions or inquiries regarding the information provided in this report can be addressed by contacting our main office at:

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Date