

Introduction

The following provides an overview of sudden unexpected death in the BC Coroners Service Northern Region for 2009 through 2012. The Northern Region includes all areas of the province north, east and west of 100 Mile House, including Haida Gwaii.

There are approximately 430 sudden unexpected deaths on average each year in the Northern Region.

Note that 12% of 2012 cases are still under investigation. The BCCS operates in a live database environment. The data are considered preliminary until all investigations have been completed. Data are subject to change, and are not directly comparable to published counts from previous years.

Northern Region: Classification of Death				
	2009	2010	2011	2012
Accidental	162	158	156	173
Homicide	18	14	6	8
Natural	179	164	171	220
Suicide	58	53	49	48
Undetermined	15	23	21	32
Total	432	412	403	481

Accidental Motor Vehicle Incident Deaths

Motor Vehicle Incidents						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Driver	32	39	30	21	122	52.6
Passenger	15	21	15	11	62	26.7
Motorcycle	2	1	4	2	9	3.9
Pedestrian	3	2	7	4	16	6.9
Commercial Driver	1	4	4	5	14	6.0
Cyclist	-	1	-	-	1	0.4
Other	2	2	1	3	8	3.4
Total	55	70	61	46	232	100.0

MVIs: Gender						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Female	18	22	19	12	71	30.6
Male	37	48	42	34	161	69.4
Total	55	70	61	46	232	100.0

MVIs: Age Group						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
0-15	-	4	3	3	10	4.3
16-25	16	15	11	11	53	22.8
26-35	10	9	11	5	35	15.1
36-45	12	8	5	5	30	12.9
46-55	8	14	10	6	38	16.4
56-65	6	10	12	8	36	15.5
66-75	1	6	7	6	20	8.6
76-85	2	2	2	1	7	3.0
86+	-	2	-	1	3	1.3
Total	55	70	61	46	232	100.0

MVIs: Average Age by Gender					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Overall
Female	35.2	43.9	47.9	49.6	43.8
Male	41.0	42.2	43.2	41.7	42.1
Overall	39.1	42.8	44.7	43.7	42.6

MVIs: Alcohol &/or Drug Involvement						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Alcohol	19	18	14	9	60	25.9
Drugs	3	3	3	2	11	4.7
Alcohol & Drugs	6	6	2	3	17	7.3
Alcohol &/or Drugs Total	28	27	19	14	88	37.9
Under investigation	-	1	3	5	9	3.9

Accidental Occupational Deaths

Occupational Deaths					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Industrial	2	-	-	4	6
Forestry	1	1	1	1	4
Construction	-	-	2	1	3
Mining/Oil & Gas	-	1	1	1	3
Farming	-	-	1	1	2
Helicopter Logging	-	-	-	1	1
Commercial SCUBA Diving	-	-	-	1	1
Railway	-	-	-	1	1
Other*	1	3	4	3	11
Total	4	5	9	14	32

*Other includes two helicopter crashes, each with three fatalities of workers, one in 2011 and one in 2012.

Occupational: Gender						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Female	-	-	1	-	1	3.1
Male	4	5	8	14	31	96.9
Total	4	5	9	14	32	100.0

Accidental Recreational Deaths

Recreational Deaths						
	Activity	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Land	Dirtbike/ATV	11	1	3	3	18
	Hiking/Climbing	-	1	-	2	3
	Horseback Riding	1	-	-	1	2
	Hunting	1	-	1	-	2
	Jogging/Running	-	-	-	1	1
	Cycling	-	1	-	-	1
	Team Sports	-	1	-	-	1
	Other	-	2	-	-	2
Land subtotal		13	6	4	7	30
Snow	Snowmobiling	7	4	5	1	17
	Heli-skiing	-	2	1	-	3
	Skiing	-	1	2	-	3
	Snow Subtotal		7	7	8	1
Water	Power Boating	-	2	-	6	8
	Canoe/Kayak/Rowboat	-	1	2	1	4
	Fishing (from land)	1	1	1	-	3
	White-Water Rafting	1	-	-	-	1
	Water subtotal		2	4	3	7
Air	Aircraft	1	-	1	1	3
Total		23	17	16	16	72

Recreational: Gender						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Female	2	4	2	5	13	18.1
Male	21	13	14	11	59	81.9
Total	23	17	16	16	72	100

Accidental Drug & Alcohol Involved Deaths

Poisoning/Overdose Deaths						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Drugs: Illicit	8	14	15	20	57	53.8
Drugs: RX	7	6	8	5	26	24.5
Mixed Alcohol/Drug	5	4	1	4	14	13.2
Alcohol	-	2	1	3	6	5.7
Drugs: Over-the-Counter	1	1	-	-	2	1.9
Other	1	-	-	-	1	0.9
Total	22	27	25	32	106	100.0

Poisoning/Overdose: Gender						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Female	9	13	6	9	37	34.9
Male	13	14	19	23	69	65.1
Total	22	27	25	32	106	100.0

Poisoning/Overdose: Age Group						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
10-19	1	2	2	3	8	7.5
20-29	3	4	3	4	14	13.2
30-39	7	4	5	7	23	21.7
40-49	5	10	7	5	27	25.5
50-59	3	6	4	8	21	19.8
60-69	2	1	3	5	11	10.4
70-79	1	-	-	-	1	0.9
80+	-	-	1	-	1	0.9
Total	22	27	25	32	106	100.0

Accidental Drug & Alcohol Involved Deaths*: Activity or Means of Death						
	Activity/Mean of Death	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Occupational	Mining/Oil & Gas	-	-	1	-	1
	Other	-	-	1	-	1
	Occupational Subtotal	-	-	2	-	2
Recreational	ATV/Dirtbike	6	1	1	2	10
	Canoe/Kayak/Rowboat	-	1	2	-	3
	Power Boating	-	1	-	2	3
	Snowmobile	-	1	1	-	2
	Fishing (from land)	-	-	1	-	1
	Cycling	-	1	-	-	1
	Recreational Subtotal	6	5	5	4	20
Other	MVI	28	27	19	14	88
	Exposure: Cold	6	2	1	3	12
	Fall	5	3	2	-	10
	Fire: Structural	3	1	4	1	9
	Drowning	-	1	-	2	3
	Airway Obstruction	-	-	-	2	2
	Other	-	1	1	-	2
	Incised Injuries	1	-	-	-	1
	Exposure: Heat	-	-	-	1	1
	MVI: Non-Traffic	-	-	-	1	1
	Other subtotal	43	35	27	24	129
Total		49	40	34	28	151

* This table counts cases in which drugs and/or alcohol were determined to be a contributing factor in the death. **Overdose/poisoning deaths are excluded.**

Accidental Drowning Deaths

Drowning Deaths						
Drowning		2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Recreational	Power boating	-	1	-	6	7
	Canoe/Kayak/Rowboat	-	1	2	1	4
	Fishing (from land)	1	1	-	-	2
	Dirt bike/ATV	-	-	-	1	1
	Snowmobiling	-	-	-	1	1
	Swimming	-	-	-	1	1
	Recreational Subtotal	1	3	2	10	16
Occupational	Commercial SCUBA Diving	-	-	-	1	1
	Industrial	1	-	-	-	1
	Occupational Subtotal	1	-	-	1	2
Other	MVI	1	3	1	-	5
	Other	1	1	-	2	4
	Other Subtotal	2	4	1	2	9
Total		4	7	3	13	27

Drowning: Gender						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Female	2	1	-	5	8	29.6
Male	2	6	3	8	19	70.4
Total	4	7	3	13	27	100.0

Suicide

Suicide: Means of Death					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Hanging	25	23	20	20	88
Fire Arms	16	14	20	19	69
Poisoning: Drugs/Alcohol/Other	8	6	5	3	22
Cutting/Piercing	-	2	2	3	7
Suffocation/Smothering	1	2	-	2	5
Poisoning: Carbon Monoxide	3	1	-	-	4
Fire	-	2	1	-	3
MVI	2	-	-	1	3
Explosions	1	1	-	-	2
Railway	-	1	1	-	2
Drowning	-	1	-	-	1
Electrical	1	-	-	-	1
Fall	1	-	-	-	1
Total	58	53	49	48	208

Suicide: Gender						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
Female	11	9	13	9	42	20.2
Male	47	44	36	39	166	79.8
Total	58	53	49	48	208	100.0

Suicide: Age Group						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total	%
0-18	6	5	2	-	13	6.3
19-29	11	8	12	5	36	17.3
30-39	13	5	9	9	36	17.3
40-49	9	15	6	9	39	18.8
50-59	9	13	8	13	43	20.7
60-69	6	6	8	6	26	12.5
70-79	4	-	2	4	10	4.8
80+	-	1	2	2	5	2.4
Total	58	53	49	48	208	100.0

Suicide: Township	
	2009-2012
Prince George	51
Williams Lake	14
Fort St John	12
Prince Rupert	11
Terrace	11
Quesnel	9
Dawson Creek	8
Burns Lake	4
Fort Nelson	4
Fort St James	4
Laxgalt'Sap (Greenville)	4
Moberly Lake	4
Other	72
Total	258

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