
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Blood alcohol level:** The concentration of ethanol (alcohol) found in blood following ingestion. Measured in grams per 100 ml of blood or grams %. In the State of Washington, 0.08 grams % is considered the legally intoxicated level while driving.
- Cause of Death:** Any injury or disease that produces a physiological derangement in the body that results in the death of an individual.¹
- Drug:**
Therapeutic drug: A substance, other than food, used in the prevention, diagnosis, alleviation, treatment, or cure of disease.
Recreational drug: A drug used non-medically for personal stimulation/depression/euphoria.
- Drug caused death:** Death directly caused by a drug or drugs in combination with each other or with alcohol.
- Jurisdiction:** The jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner extends to all reportable deaths occurring within the boundaries of King County, whether or not the incident leading to the death (such as an accident) occurred within the county. Reportable deaths are defined by RCW 68.50, as explained in the "Description and Purpose" section of this report. Not all natural deaths reported fall within the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner.
- Manner of Death:** A classification of the way in which the events preceding death were causal factors in the death. The manner of death as determined by the forensic pathologist is an opinion based on the known facts concerning the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the death, in conjunction with autopsy findings and laboratory tests.²
- Manner: Accident** Death other than natural, where there is no evidence of intent, i.e., unintentional. In this report, traffic accidents are classified separately.

¹ DiMaio, Vincent J. & DiMaio, Dominick. Forensic Pathology, Second Edition. CRC Press, 2001.

² Ibid, p. 3.

Manner: Homicide	Death resulting from intentional harm (explicit or implicit) of one person by another, including actions of grossly reckless behavior.
Manner: Natural	Death caused solely by disease. If natural death is hastened by injury (such as a fall or drowning in a bathtub), the manner of death is classified other than natural.
Manner: Suicide	Death as a result of a purposeful action with intent (explicit or implicit) to ends one's own life.
Manner: Traffic	Unintentional deaths of drivers, passengers, and pedestrians involving motor vehicles on public roadways. Accidents involving motor vehicles on private property (such as driveways) are not included in this category and are classified non-traffic, vehicular accidents.
Manner: Complication Of Therapy	Death that arises as a predictable consequence of appropriate medical therapy. Although this is a manner of death for death certification purposes, Complication of Therapy statistics are included under the Manner "Accident" in this report.
Manner: Undetermined	Manner assigned when there is insufficient evidence or information, especially about intent, to assign a specific manner.
Opiate:	Any preparation or derivative of opium, including heroin, morphine or codeine. In this report "opiate deaths" most likely refer to heroin caused deaths.
Poison:	Any substance, either taken internally or applied externally, that is injurious to health or dangerous to life, and with no medicinal benefit.
Fetal Death:	Category of deaths that occur within the uterus. The Medical Examiner assumes jurisdiction over fetal deaths that meet the criteria specified in RCW 68.50. See pages 2 - 3 of this report for details.
Race:	The racial categories used in this report are: White; Black; Native American; Asian (S.E. Asian/Pacific Islander); and Other.