



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 21-293 Version: 1 Name:
Type: Informational Report Status: Filed
File created: 5/24/2021 In control: Council Work Session
On agenda: 7/12/2021 Final action: 7/12/2021
Title: 2020 Annual Coroner's Report, Youth Suicide Prevention & Behavioral Health

Presenter:
Dr. Leon Kelley, El Paso County Coroner
Susan Wheelan, El Paso County Public Health Director

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. 2020 El Paso County Coroner's Office

Table with 5 columns: Date, Ver., Action By, Action, Result. Rows include dates 7/12/2021 and 6/7/2021 with actions like 'Council Work Session' and 'received'.

2020 Annual Coroner's Report, Youth Suicide Prevention & Behavioral Health

Presenter:

Dr. Leon Kelley, El Paso County Coroner
Susan Wheelan, El Paso County Public Health Director

Summary:

Key takeaways from the 2020 report include:

- 6,037 total cases investigated
• 1,293 total autopsies performed (a nine percent increase over 2019)
o 920 autopsies performed on El Paso County deaths
o 373 autopsies performed for 21 surrounding counties

Top themes from the 2020 report include:

- Overall, deaths increased in nearly every category
• The total number of all drug-related deaths increased significantly from 130 in 2019 to 186 in 2020. Of note, 40 percent of deaths were due to a combination of substances.
o Fentanyl deaths increases from 21 in 2019 to 47 in 2020
o Methamphetamine deaths increased from 66 in 2019 to 91 in 2020
o Cocaine deaths increased from 20 in 2019 to 30 in 2020
o Heroin deaths increased from 35 in 2019 to 43 in 2020
• While suicides overall did not see an increase in El Paso County (180 in 2019 compared to 178 in 2020), suicides among youth between the ages of 11-17 increased significantly (nine in 2019)

compared to 15 in 2020)

- o Of note, investigations revealed 18 cases where COVID-19 associated grief or stress was a driving factor in the suicide
- o Across all suicides, the average age at death was 42, and 79 percent of completed suicides were male
- There were 13 COVID-19 deaths brought in for autopsy. However, it's important to note that the majority of COVID-19 deaths occur in a hospital or care facility setting and are not investigated by the Coroner. The deaths in this report represent those that died at home or prior to diagnosis.

**Background:**

N/A

**Previous Council Action:**

N/A

**Financial Implications:**

N/A

**City Council Appointed Board/Commission/Committee Recommendation:**

N/A

**Stakeholder Process:**

N/A

**Alternatives:**

N/A

**Proposed Motion:**

N/A

N/A