

# County of Santa Clara

Medical Examiner-Coroner

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MEDICAL EXAMINER - CORONER  
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

**FROM:** Michelle A. Jorden MD, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

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**SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report: Exposure Death Request**

**DATE:** February 10, 2022

Per Supervisor Ellenberg's request at the Public Safety and Justice Committee (PSJC) meeting on January 13, 2022, the Medical Examiner-Coroner is providing data on exposure deaths from Jan 1, 2018 through December 31, 2021 and include both heat- and cold-environmental related deaths. Of the 48 reported deaths attached in the spreadsheet, 24 of these involved unhoused individuals. Not all potential exposure deaths are closed for 2021 so these numbers are expected to increase as cases are still under investigation. A summary table is provided for review below:

Year	Count of Decedent	Count of Unhoused
2018	11	5
2019	13	8
2020	13	4
2021	11	7

Death Date	Age	Res Zip	Cause of Death	Other Significant Condition	Unhoused
Mar 21, 2018	80 Years	95120	Complications of Hypothermia in the setting of valvular, hypertensive, and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, atrial fibrillation, chronic alcohol abuse and advanced age	
May 25, 2018	43 Years	95111	Hypothermia complicating streptococcus pyogenes sepsis Necrotizing fasciitis Chronic cutaneous erosions and ulcerations Diabetes mellitus type 2	Acute methamphetamine toxicity, hypertensive cardiovascular disease	x
Jun 05, 2018	22 Years	95051	Complications of cocaine toxicity including hyperthermia, disseminated intravascular		

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			coagulation, and multiorgan failure		
Nov 17, 2018	52 Years	95126	Hypothermia complicating ethanol intoxication	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease, coronary artery disease	
Nov 28, 2018	57 Years	95110	Hypothermia complicating alcoholic ketoacidosis Complications of chronic ethanol abuse	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease	
Dec 02, 2018	45 Years	0	Hypothermia complicating mixed ethanol, methamphetamine, mirtazapine, and chlorpromazine toxicity	Chronic ethanol abuse, hypertensive cardiovascular disease, class 3 obesity	x
Dec 04, 2018	53 Years	95118	Acute methamphetamine toxicity complicating acute pneumonia	Cold exposure, malnutrition	x
Dec 19, 2018	22 Years	0	Complications of anoxic encephalopathy Methamphetamine and morphine intoxication	Hypothermia	x
Dec 25, 2018	68 Years	0	Severe hypothermia complicating mixed drug (cocaine and risperidone) toxicity	Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; hypothyroidism	x
Dec 28, 2018	43 Years	95126	Hypothermia complicating diabetic ketoacidosis	Methamphetamine toxicity, and hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	
Dec 30, 2018	82 Years	95125	Hypothermia complicating cardiogenic and septic shock	Congestive heart failure, acute cellulitis of lower extremities, hypertensive cardiovascular disease	
Jan 02, 2019	54 Years	95121	Cold exposure complicating acute ethanol intoxication	Hepatic cirrhosis and fatty liver disease; hypertensive cardiovascular disease	

Jan 03, 2019	64 Years	0	Cold exposure complicating acute on chronic ethanol abuse	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease	
Jan 05, 2019	57 Years	95020	Methamphetamine toxicity complicating cardiomegaly and left ventricular hypertrophy	Probable cold exposure	x
Feb 08, 2019	64 Years	0	Cocaine intoxication complicating hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	Cor pulmonale, paroxysmal atrial fibrillation and cold exposure	x
Feb 19, 2019	80 Years	94080	Multiple blunt force injuries	Environmental cold exposure	
Mar 22, 2019	71 Years	94025	Hypothermia complicating chronic ethanol abuse	Hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	
Mar 28, 2019	49 Years	0	Complications of acute on chronic ethanol toxicity	Environmental cold exposure	x
Apr 15, 2019	59 Years	0	Complications of hypothermia Environmental cold exposure	Acute methamphetamine intoxication	x
Jun 12, 2019	68 Years	95111	Probable complications of environmental heat exposure	Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	
Nov 27, 2019	75 Years	0	Alcoholic ketoacidosis	Environmental cold exposure	x
Dec 12, 2019	54 Years	0	Hypothermia complicating acute infective endocarditis	Recent enterococcus faecalis bacteremia; acute and organizing pneumonia; hypertensive cardiovascular disease; cirrhosis; chronic ethanol use; chronic Hepatitis C	x
Dec 18, 2019	36 Years	0	Anoxic-ischemic encephalopathy Complications of acute methamphetamine intoxication	Environmental cold exposure	x
Dec 27, 2019	63 Years	0	Hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	Environmental cold exposure; methamphetamine abuse;	x

				chronic iron deficiency anemia	
Jan 01, 2020	64 Years	95111	Hypothermia	Hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; diabetes mellitus; severe obesity; high grade papillary urothelial carcinoma with bladder hemorrhage	
Jan 16, 2020	52 Years	94539	Hypothermia	Anemia and diabetes mellitus	x
Jan 18, 2020	94 Years	94086	Blunt force injury of the head including subdural hemorrhage and facial fractures	Environmental cold exposure	
Feb 07, 2020	59 Years	0	Severe hypothermia complicating septic shock and multiorgan failure Respiratory syncytial virus pneumonia	Chronic hepatitis C cirrhosis; recent methamphetamine and heroin use; class 3 obesity; hypertension	x
Feb 09, 2020	92 Years	95124	Hypothermia complicating hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	Recurrent urinary tract infections	
Jun 17, 2020	91 Years	95129	Hyperthermia complicating hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	Asthma with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; hypothyroidism	
Sep 08, 2020	76 Years	94043	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus; hyperlipidemia, environmental heat exposure	
Nov 13, 2020	25 Years	95129	Mixed drug (Fentanyl, 4-ANPP, etizolam, buprenorphine, and methamphetamine) toxicity	Cold exposure, focal coronary artery disease	
Nov 17, 2020	72 Years	95128	Hypothermia complicating Hypertensive and Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular disease	Dehydration; Underweight; Neurodegenerative disease	

Nov 20, 2020	66 Years	0	Cold exposure complicating probable anemia and hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	Diabetes mellitus, type II and acute pyelonephritis	
Nov 20, 2020	42 Years	95127	Ethanol intoxication complicated by hypothermia Environmental cold exposure	Congestive heart failure, paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, hypertension	
Dec 07, 2020	50 Years	0	Cold exposure in the setting of Methamphetamine toxicity		x
Dec 18, 2020	44 Years	0	Cold exposure complicating alcoholic ketoacidosis	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease and dehydration	x
Jan 05, 2021	42 Years	0	Methamphetamine toxicity complicating cardiomegaly	Cold exposure	x
Jan 23, 2021		0	Hypothermia	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease	x
Jan 23, 2021	63 Years	0	Hypothermia complicating dilated cardiomyopathy	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease; atrial fibrillation	x
Jan 28, 2021	55 Years	0	Hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease	Cold exposure	x
Jan 29, 2021	68 Years	94303	Hypothermia	Hypertensive cardiovascular disease; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; recent gastrointestinal hemorrhage due to esophageal varices and duodenal ulcer; recent cocaine use	x
Jan 31, 2021		0	Cold exposure complicating diabetic ketoacidosis	Acute community-acquired bronchopneumonia	x
Mar 08, 2021	80 Years	95124	Hypothermia complicating metastatic pancreatic carcinoma		
Mar 22, 2021	49 Years	0	Complications of hypothermia in the setting of alcohol intoxication	Cirrhosis of the liver and unspecified hepatitis	x

May 19, 2021	68 Years	95476	Hypothermia complicating hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease		
Jun 19, 2021	51 Years	95148	Complications of hyperthermia including disseminated intravascular coagulation	History of cirrhosis due to chronic ethanol use, class 3 obesity	
Dec 20, 2021	46 Years	95112	Hypothermia complicating alcoholic withdrawal	Chronic ethanol use with hepatic cirrhosis	

cc: Chief Board Aides

James Williams, County Counsel

Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer

Tiffany Lennear, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Mary Ann Barrous, Agenda Review Administrator