

County of Santa Clara

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MEDICAL EXAMINER - CORONER
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



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

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'mag.'.

SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report: Number 29
Updated Information on Medical Examiner-Coroner Death Notices

DATE: June 7, 2022

The weekly number of deaths are provided in continuation from the prior reports (see data tables below).

Fentanyl fatalities from Jan 1, 2015 – May 31, 2022

Year	Count of Decedent	
2015	9	
2016	13	
2017	16*	*(1 case=San Benito)
2018	12*	*(1 case=San Benito)
2019	29*	*(2 case=San Benito)
2020	90*	*(2 case=San Benito)
2021	135*	*(4 case=San Benito)
2022	36*	*(1 case=San Benito)
Total	340**	

**Not all drug related deaths are closed in our system and this number will increase as we continue to certify deaths and close cases.

FENTANYL FATALITIES CONTINUE:

Fentanyl continues to take many young lives in Santa Clara County. Fentanyl is an extremely potent opioid which can cause death at small doses (up to 80-100X more potent than morphine). Fentanyl is found in pills illegally sold and purchased on the streets which we term “fake pills”. Fentanyl is also available in powder form and can be mixed with other deadly drugs (i.e. cocaine, methamphetamine). Most Fentanyl drug deaths in Santa Clara County continue to involve Fentanyl combined with other drugs, including methamphetamine. Fentanyl can be ingested, smoked, injected and/or snorted. Continued education regarding the dangers of Fentanyl are encouraged.

COVID-19:

A number of COVID-19 deaths were recorded in January 2022. The ME-C is closely monitoring and continues to communicate with Public Health frequently regarding COVID-19 fatalities. Similar to prior reports, this off-agenda report incorporates revised COVID-19 death statistics since the last report to incorporate prior pending and open cases which have since closed.

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Otto Lee, Susan Ellenberg, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

INCREASED CASELOAD HANDLED BY ME-C:

The number of cases examined by the ME-C has increased since 2019 (*please see below*). Although the number of deaths has slowed in 2022 when compared to last year, the number of deaths examined by the ME-C in 2022 surpassed 2019 numbers and are expected to remain higher than pre-pandemic numbers.

Summary tables are provided for your convenience:

Count of Decedent				
Month	2019	2020	2021	2022
Jan	364	353	965	528
Feb	303	354	543	470
Mar	325	405	421	375
Apr	275	441	317	321
May	288	360	345	377
Jun	287	334	300	
Jul	258	338	313	
Aug	304	398	376	
Sep	256	391	429	
Oct	322	343	396	
Nov	286	432	363	
Dec	341	845	424	
Grand Total	3609	4994	5192	2071

Weekly Cases		Weekly Cases		Weekly Cases		Weekly Cases	
Week	2019	Week	2020	Week	2021	COVID-19	2022
1/1-5	63	1/1-4	45	1/1-2	73	1/1/2022	13
1/6-12	87	1/5-11	83	1/3-9	223	1/2-8	103
1/13-19	85	1/12-18	80	1/10-16	245	1/9-15	106
1/20-26	74	1/19-25	81	1/17-23	210	1/16-22	139
1/27-2/2	76	1/26-2/1	76	1/24-30	186	1/23-29	131
2/3-9	60	2/2-8	94	1/31-2/6	172	1/30-2/5	133
2/10-16	83	2/9-15	85	2/7-13	159	2/6-12	122
2/17-23	87	2/16-22	84	2/14-20	129	2/13-19	115
2/24-3/2	80	2/23-29	79	2/21-27	104	2/20-26	113
3/3-9	68	3/1-7	84	2/28-3/6	81	2/27-3/5	89
3/10-16	76	3/8-14	82	3/7-13	111	3/6-12	89
3/17-23	80	3/15-21	97	3/14-20	73	3/13-19	78
3/24-30	66	3/22-28	98	3/21-27	120	3/20-26	76
3/31-4/6	55	3/29-4/4	100	3/28-4/3	71	3/27-4/2	88
4/7-13	81	4/5-11	125	4/4-10	69	4/3-9	79
4/14-20	62	4/12-18	109	4/11-17	78	4/10-16	77
4/21-27	60	4/19-25	86	4/18-24	77	4/17-23	67
4/28-5/4	56	4/26-5/2	85	4/25-5/1	78	4/24-30	76
5/5-11	51	5/3-9	99	5/2-8	83	5/1-5/7	72
5/12-18	61	5/10-16	72	5/9-15	61	5/8-5/14	100
5/19-25	86	5/17-23	70	5/16-22	76	5/15-5/21	74
5/26-6/1	67	5/21-30	86	5/23-29	87	5/22-5/28	86
6/2-8	67	5/31-6/6	84	5/30-6/5	63	5/29-5/31	45
6/9-15	68	6/7-13	66	6/6-6/12	75	Grand Total	2071
6/16-22	63	6/14-20	76	6/13-19	86		
6/23-29	75	6/21-27	81	6/20-6/26	68		
6/30-7/6	55	6/28-7/4	76	6/27-7/3	55		
7/7-13	61	7/5-11	73	7/4-10	70		
7/14-20	58	7/12-18	84	7/11-17	69		
7/21-27	57	7/19-25	81	7/18-24	72		
7/28-8/3	59	7/26-8/1	78	7/25-31	80		
8/4-10	63	8/2-8	68	8/1-7	84		
8/11-17	66	8/9-15	84	8/8-14	82		
8/18-24	69	8/16-22	106	8/15-21	76		
8/25-31	79	8/23-29	93	8/22-28	97		
9/1-7	46	8/30-9/5	92	8/29-9/4	88		
9/8-14	65	9/6-12	92	9/5-11	115		
9/15-21	60	9/13-19	106	9/12-18	106		
9/22-28	71	9/20-26	82	9/19-25	93		
9/29-10/5	64	9/27-10/3	83	9/26-10/2	87		
10/6-12	56	10/4-10	65	10/3-9	98		
10/13-19	88	10/11-17	75	10/10-16	85		
10/20-26	75	10/18-24	81	10/17-23	94		
10/27-11/2	68	10/25-31	91	10/24-30	86		
11/3-9	78	11/1-7	88	10/31-11/6	74		
11/10-16	58	11/8-14	83	11/7-13	102		
11/17-23	55	11/15-21	123	11/14-20	80		
11/24-30	80	11/22-28	103	11/14-27	81		
12/1-7	103	11/29-12/5	113	11/28-12/4	84		
12/8-14	62	12/6-12	160	12/5-11	93		
12/15-21	68	12/13-19	195	12/12-18	99		
12/22-28	72	12/20-26	236	12/19-25	110		
12/29-31	36	12/27-31	176	12/26-31	74		
Grand Total	3609	Grand Total	4994	Grand Total	5192		

Weekly Cases

COVID-19	2020
1/1-4	0
1/5-11	0
1/12-18	0
1/19-25	0
1/26-2/1	0
2/2-8	1
2/9-15	0
2/16-22	1
2/23-29	0
3/1-7	1
3/8-14	3
3/15-21	11
3/22-28	19
3/29-4/4	14
4/5-11	20
4/12-18	27
4/19-25	16
4/26-5/2	15
5/3-9	10
5/10-16	7
5/17-23	1
5/21-30	2
5/31-6/6	7
6/7-13	3
6/14-20	1
6/21-27	5
6/28-7/4	7
7/5-11	11
7/12-18	15
7/19-25	12
7/26-8/1	15
8/2-8	9
8/9-15	12
8/16-22	19
8/23-29	21
8/30-9/5	12
9/6-12	14
9/13-19	20
9/20-26	13
9/27-10/3	15
10/4-10	12
10/11-17	10
10/18-24	16
10/25-31	10
11/1-7	20
11/8-14	11
11/15-21	22
11/22-28	22
11/29-12/5	45
12/6-12	73
12/13-19	108
12/20-26	140
12/27-31	117
Grand Total	965

Weekly Cases

COVID-19	2021
1/1-2	51
1/3-9	136
1/10-16	152
1/17-23	130
1/24-30	100
1/31-2/6	93
2/7-13	65
2/14-20	47
2/21-27	35
2/28-3/6	22
3/7-13	23
3/14-20	11
3/21-27	12
3/28-4/3	10
4/4-10	14
4/11-17	4
4/18-24	5
4/25-5/1	6
5/2-8	8
5/9-15	2
5/16-22	3
5/23-29	2
5/30-6/5	2
6/6-6/12	6
6/13-19	3
6/20-6/26	3
6/27-7/3	2
7/4-10	2
7/11-17	3
7/18-24	6
7/25-31	6
8/1-7	4
8/8-14	14
8/15-21	15
8/22-28	23
8/29-9/4	21
9/5-11	31
9/12-18	25
9/19-25	11
9/26-10/2	11
10/3-9	14
10/10-16	9
10/17-23	11
10/24-30	11
10/31-11/6	11
11/7-13	14
11/14-20	11
11/14-27	10
11/28-12/4	17
12/5-11	8
12/12-18	7
12/19-25	17
12/26-31	8
Grand Total	1267

Weekly Cases

COVID-19	2022
1/1/2022	2
1/2-8	25
1/9-15	32
1/16-22	60
1/23-29	58
1/30-2/5	45
2/6-12	39
2/13-19	35
2/20-26	31
2/27-3/5	15
3/6-12	20
3/13-19	4
3/20-26	11
3/27-4/2	10
4/3-9	1
4/10-16	7
4/17-23	4
4/24-30	8
5/1-5/7	2
5/8-5/14	9
5/15-5/21	6
5/22-5/28	12
5/29-5/31	1
Grand Total	437

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