



Deaths Among Homeless Persons in Santa Barbara County

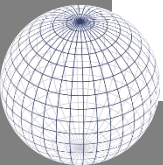
January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015
January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016

A Report for the Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors

November 14, 2017

Background

- This is the fifth Santa Barbara County homeless death review team (HDRT) report
- The Homeless Death Review Team meets regularly
- This report reflects data from calendar years 2015 and 2016
- The review process takes up to 18 months from start to finish



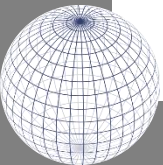
Demographics

2015

- 40 individuals were identified in 2015
- 80% were male
- Average age of death is 53 (Men 54 years & Women 49 years)
- By race/ethnicity: 70% were Caucasian, 18% were Latino/Hispanic

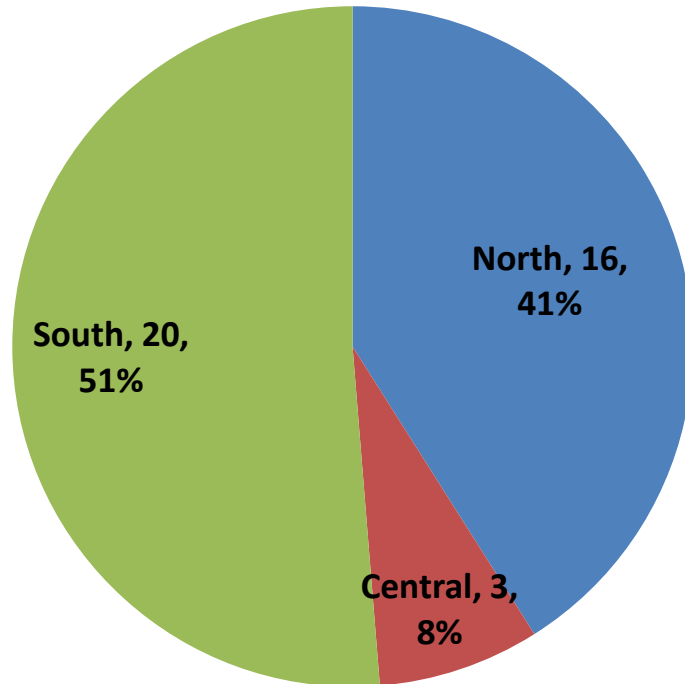
2016

- 44 individuals were identified in 2016
- 82% were male
- Average age of death is 55 (Men 55 years & Women 57 years)
- By race/ethnicity: 50% were Caucasian, 43% were Latino/Hispanic

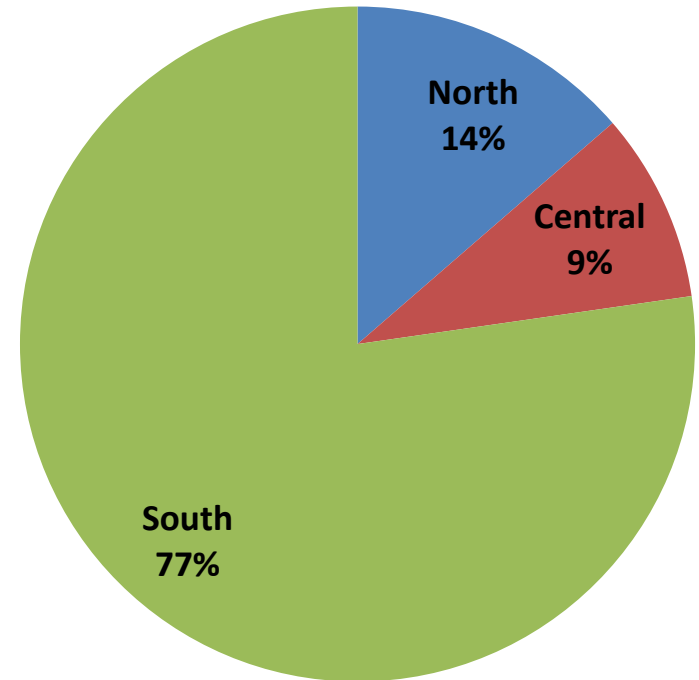


2015/2016 Location of Death (Usual Residence)

2015, N=40*

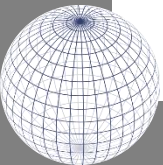


2016, N=44



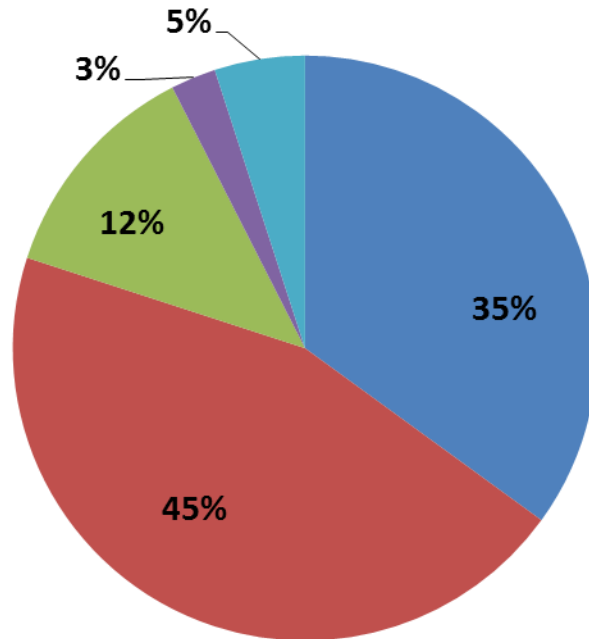
* 1 Decedent died outside of Santa Barbara County in hospice

-Data compiled from death certificate: "Usual Residence/Place of Death"

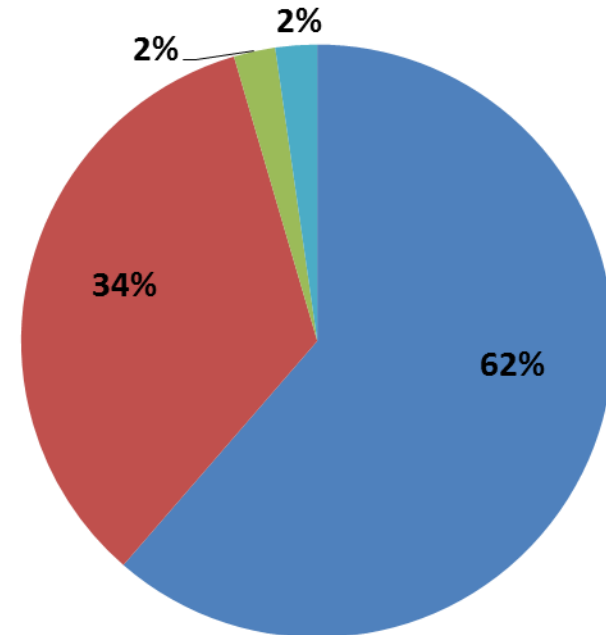


Manner of Death

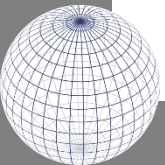
2015, N=40



2016, N=44



- Natural
- Accidental
- Suicide
- Homicide
- Could not be Determined



Cause of Death

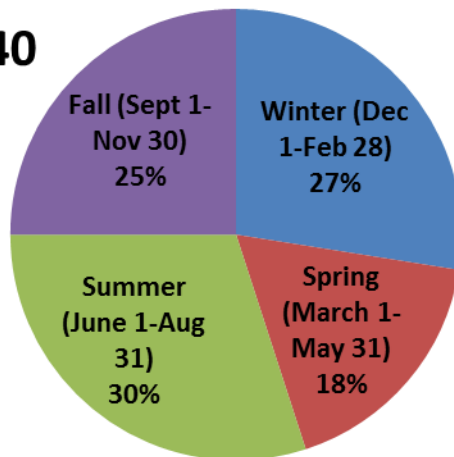
2015

- Drug or Alcohol Related = 32.5%
- Cardiovascular Related = 15%
- All Other Causes = 52.5%

Location and Season

- 52.5% were indoors and 47.5% were outdoors

2015, N=40



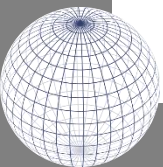
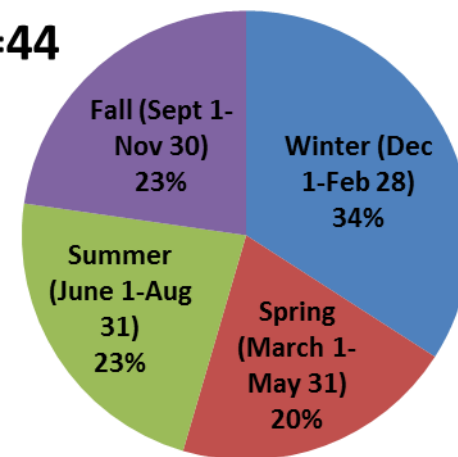
2016

- Drug or Alcohol Related = 20.5%
- Cardiovascular Related = 15.9%
- All Other Causes = 63.6%

Location and Season

- 52.3% were indoors and 47.4% were outdoors

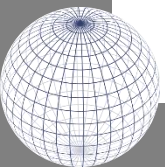
2016, N=44



Access To Services

Records were reviewed to determine the percentage of decedents who had accessed any of four county agencies within the year prior to death:

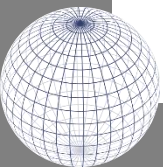
- 68% in 2015 and 71% in 2016 received services from Public Health, Cottage Hospital or Marian Hospital
- 95% in 2015 and 98% in 2016 had contact with the Sheriff's department
- 85% in 2015 and 68% in 2016 had been seen by Department of Social Services
- 45% in 2015 and 64% in 2016 had been seen by Behavioral Wellness



Access To Services (Cont.)

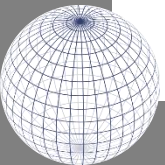
SBC Agency Access											
Service Provider	Year of Death										
	2011 (n=30)		2014 (n=32)		2015 (n=40)		2016 (n=44)		All Data (n=146)		
	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients	# of Patients	% of Patients	
BW	10	33%	14	43.8%	18	45.0%	28	63.6%	70	47.9%	
PHD	27	90%	28	87.5%	24	60.0%	19	43.2%	98	67.1%	
DSS	19	63%	22	68.8%	34	85.0%	30	68.2%	105	71.9%	
SD					38	95.0%	43	97.7%	81	96.4%	

- The Santa Barbara County Sheriff Department joined the HDRT in 2015; 2011/2014 Sheriff encounter data was not presented in earlier reports.
- Data was not collected 2012-13.



Summary Conclusions and Illustrations of Progress

- As identified in previous reports, substance abuse (drugs and alcohol) remains the most prevalent health condition identified in homeless individuals who died in 2015 and 2016.
- The decedents died prematurely with average age of death being 40 years in 2015, compared to 77 years in the housed population for the same year. For 2016 the average age of death was 44 years, compared to 78 years in the housed population for the same year.



Summary Conclusions, continued

- The leading cause of death in 2015 was due to blunt force trauma and in 2016 was due to drug or alcohol overdose.
- These individuals had frequent contact with four Santa Barbara County departments (Public Health, Behavioral Wellness, Sheriff, Social Services) and other providers of healthcare services including local hospitals.
- What brings people to homelessness is unique for every individual and ending one's homelessness requires the support of many.

