

# National Park Service

## Mortality Dashboard Key Statistics CY2014 - CY2016

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### ALL MORTALITY

- The NPS Mortality Dashboard is an analysis of reported deaths in national parks from 2014 to 2016
- A total of 990 deaths were reported in national parks from 2014 to 2016 which equals to an average of 330 deaths per year or 6 deaths a week
- While recreational visits increased by 8% from 2015 to 2016, the number of reported deaths decreased from 339 to 336
- The NPS mortality rate is 0.1 deaths/100,000 recreational visits which is very low when compared to the mortality rate of the overall U.S. population (844 deaths/100,000 people)
- The majority of all deaths (79%) occurred among males and more than half of all deaths (53%) occurred among people ages 45 and older
- Over half of all deaths (53%) are due to *unintentional* causes
- About half of *medical* deaths (49%) occurred while the individual was engaged in a physical activity (e.g. hiking, biking, swimming)
- A total of 165 suicides were reported in national parks from 2014 to 2016 which account for 95% of *intentional* deaths

### UNINTENTIONAL DEATHS

- Over half of all reported deaths (53%) from 2014 to 2016 were due to *unintentional* causes, which is an average of 175 deaths per year or 3 deaths per week.
- Drowning, motor vehicle crashes (MVCs), and falls are the leading causes of unintentional deaths, in that order. This trend has been consistent since 2007.
- Drowning accounts for 33% of all unintentional deaths. An average of 58 fatal drownings are reported each year, which equals to one drowning per week.
- MVCs account for 31% of all unintentional deaths. An average of 54 fatal MVCs are reported each year, which equals to one death per week.
- Falls account for 17% of all unintentional deaths. An average of 29 fatal falls are reported each year.

## MEDICAL DEATHS

- Medical deaths account for 22% of all reported deaths from 2014 to 2016 which is an average of 74 deaths per year or one death per week
- About half of *medical* deaths (49%) occurred while the individual was engaged in a physical activity (e.g. hiking, biking, swimming)

## INTENTIONAL DEATHS

- Suicides account for 95% of all intentional deaths
- An average of 55 suicides per year were reported from 2014 to 2016 which equals to one per week

Suicides are a national public health concern. The objective of collecting and analyzing suicide data is to start and support an informed discussion about suicides in national parks. Data analysis can help parks and the agency understand the magnitude and impact of suicides.

If you suspect a loved one has intentions to complete a suicide in a national park, please call 911 and be prepared to share any information you have about them.

**If you are in crisis, call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The service is available to anyone. All calls are confidential. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>**