



Georgia Custodial Death Records Summary Report

Agency: Georgia Department of Corrections

Jurisdiction: Georgia State Prisons

October 2022



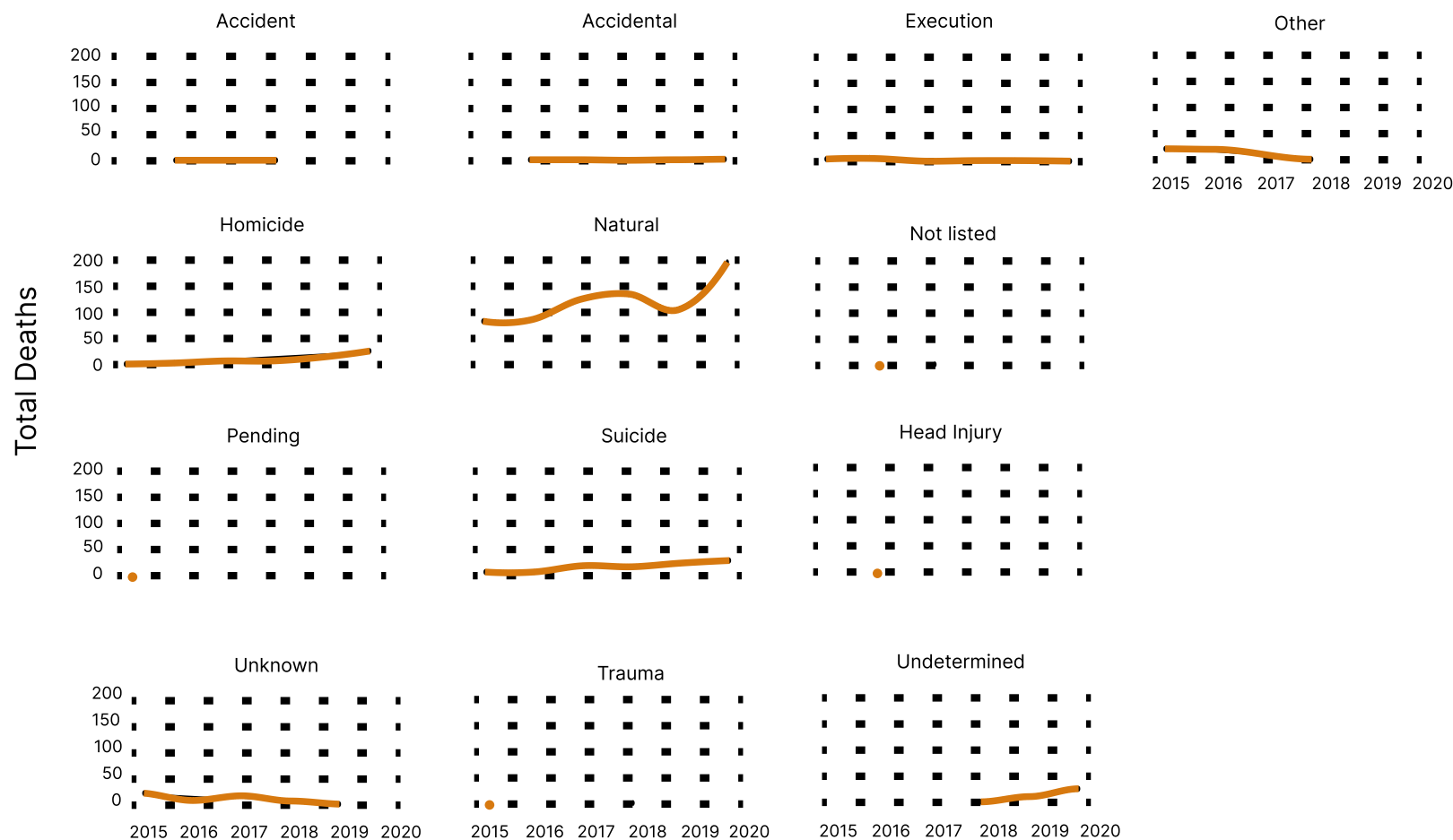
The UCLA Law COVID Behind Bars Data Project obtained data on deaths in Georgia state prisons from 2015 to 2020 through a request for public records to the Georgia Department of Corrections. For each death, the GDC provided the following variables of information:

Variable	Provided by GDC	Number of other state prison agencies providing this variable
Year of Death	Yes	49
Month of Death	Yes	47
Date of Death	Yes	39
Facility of Death	Yes	42
Data on Age at Death	Yes	29
Name of Decedent	Yes	26
Custodial ID of Decedent	Yes	18
Sex of Decedent	No	26
Race of Decedent	No	22
Ethnicity of Decedent	No	5
General Circumstances of Death	Yes	26
Specific Circumstances of Death	No	5
Location	No	15



In these records for these years, the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) recorded 1,072 deaths at ~59 different facilities. Approximately 27 percent of all these deaths occurred at Augusta State Medical Prison.¹ Between 2015 and 2020, the general circumstance of death with the most recorded deaths was ‘Natural,’ representing 68.1 percent of all deaths (or 730 deaths).² The second largest general circumstance of death was ‘Suicide,’ representing 9.6 percent of all deaths (or 103 deaths).³ Between 2015 and 2020, the annual number of prison deaths in GDC increased by 96.5 percent.⁴ Deaths listed as ‘Natural,’ ‘Suicide,’ and ‘Homicide,’ all increased between these years by 136.1 percent (113 deaths), 314.3 percent (22 deaths), and 2500 percent (25 deaths) respectively.⁵

Plot 1 | Total Deaths by General Circumstance of Death (2015-2020)



¹ See Table 2 in appendix.

² See Table 3 in appendix.

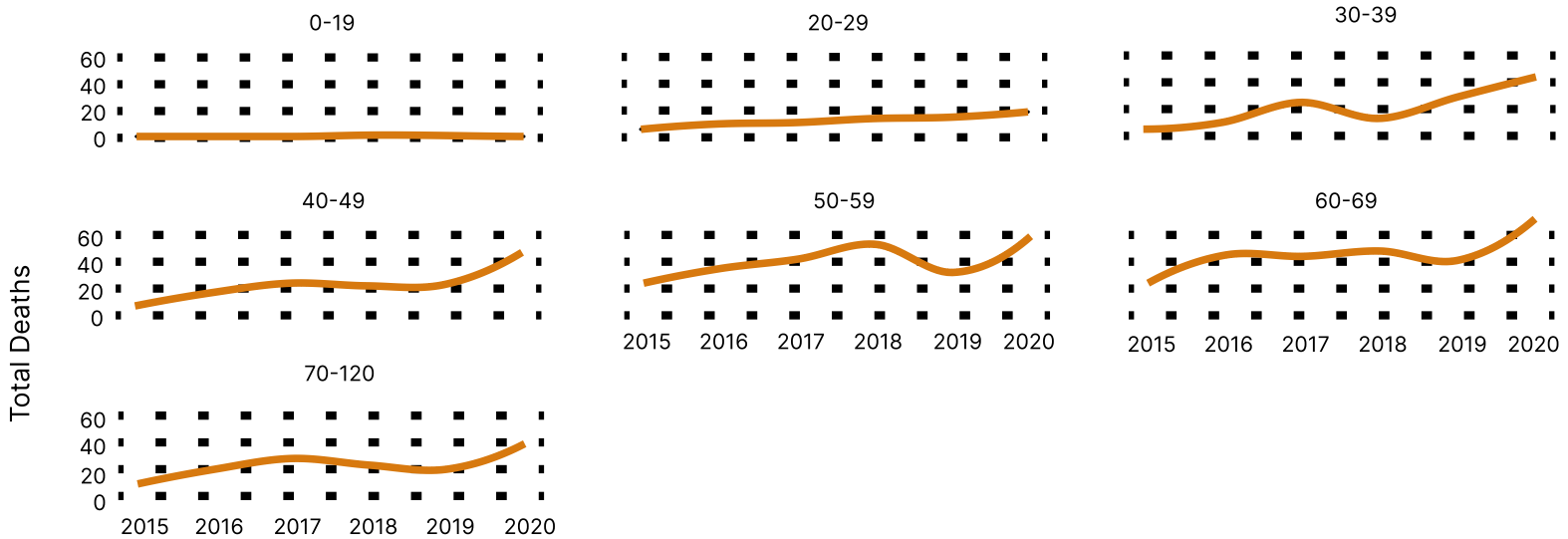
³ See Table 4 in appendix.

⁴ See Table 4 in appendix.

⁵ See Table 5 in appendix.

While records with complete information on age at death are not available for 2015, between 2016 and 2020 deaths among all age groups aside from 0-19 increased.⁶ Deaths among individuals 30-39 and 40-49 increased most during this period by 340 percent (39 deaths) and 176 percent (40 deaths) respectively.⁷ Using monthly population numbers by age group obtained from July of each year from 2016-2020 as denominators, the crude mortality rate for every age group in the GDC prison system increased during this period.⁸

Plot 2 | Total Deaths by Age Group (2016-2020)



The prison facility with the highest recorded number of suicides in 2020 was Georgia State Prison.⁹ There were 8 suicides at Georgia State Prison in 2020, more than any of the five years prior.¹⁰ The prison facility with the highest recorded number of homicides in 2020 was Macon State Prison.¹¹ There were 7 homicides at Macon State Prison in 2020, also more than any of the five years prior.¹² The age group with the highest recorded number of homicides and suicides was individuals aged 30-39, with 13 homicides and 10 suicides.¹³ The only year during this period with more recorded suicides in this age group was 2019, with 13 suicides and 24 suicides in the total population.¹⁴

Our project currently does not have facility-level demographics for Georgia State Prisons, but our project does have access to ‘anchored’ population totals for national prison facilities coming from on or about February 2020, which are used to calculate crude mortality and COVID-case rates, and other facility-level details, like capacity and security-level.¹⁵ We can process more detailed monthly population data from the GDC to calculate facility-level rates with more recent data. If we obtain facility-level demographics for Georgia state prisons, our project can better contextualize changes in mortality in Georgia prison facilities compared to those from facilities in other prison systems. We can compare to a limited degree due to differences in the labeling of circumstances of death and variables made available (e.g. GDC did not provide data on race), the characteristics of facility-level mortality in Georgia state prisons during this period with facility-level mortality in California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Texas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming state prisons and Bureau of Prisons facilities.

¹⁵ For more information on what facility-level data we have, please visit the ‘facility-data’ repository on our GitHub [\(link\)](#)

Appendix

Table 2 | Total and Percent Representation of Deaths by GDC Facility (2015-2020)

Facility	Deaths	Pct.All.Deaths
AUGUSTA STATE MEDICAL PRISON	294	27.43
GEORGIA STATE PRISON	93	8.68
GEORGIA DIAGNOSTIC AND CLASSIFICATION PRISON	81	7.56
JOHNSON STATE PRISON	44	4.1
AUTRY STATE PRISON	43	4.01
COASTAL STATE PRISON	42	3.92
VALDOSTA STATE PRISON	40	3.73
MACON STATE PRISON	37	3.45
PHILLIPS STATE PRISON	34	3.17
BALDWIN STATE PRISON	29	2.71
WHEELER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	26	2.43
HELMS FACILITY	25	2.33
WARE STATE PRISON	25	2.33
PULASKI STATE PRISON	22	2.05
DOOLY STATE PRISON	20	1.87
WILCOX STATE PRISON	19	1.77
CALHOUN STATE PRISON	18	1.68
LEE ARRENDALE STATE PRISON	18	1.68
TELFAIR STATE PRISON	14	1.31
DODGE STATE PRISON	13	1.21
HAYS STATE PRISON	13	1.21
COFFEE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	12	1.12
SMITH STATE PRISON	11	1.03
CENTRAL STATE PRISON	10	0.93
HANCOCK STATE PRISON	10	0.93
JENKINS CORRECTIONAL CENTER	8	0.75
RIVERBEND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	8	0.75
RUTLEDGE STATE PRISON	8	0.75
LEE STATE PRISON	5	0.47
ROGERS STATE PRISON	5	0.47
WASHINGTON STATE PRISON	5	0.47
WALKER STATE PRISON	4	0.37
SMITH TRANSITIONAL CENTER	3	0.28
ATLANTA TRANSITIONAL CENTER	2	0.19
BURRUSS CORRECTIONAL TRAINING CENTER	2	0.19
COLQUITT COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	2	0.19
FLOYD COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	2	0.19
LONG UNIT	2	0.19
PHILLIPS TRANSITIONAL CENTER	2	0.19
COASTAL TRANSITIONAL CENTER	2	0.19
APPLING INTEGRATED TREATMENT FACILITY	1	0.09
AUGUSTA TRANSITIONAL CENTER	1	0.09
BAINBRIDGE PROBATION SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT	1	0.09
CLAYTON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	1	0.09
COLWELL PROBATION DETENTION CENTER	1	0.09
EMANUEL WOMENS FACILITY	1	0.09

**Table 2 | Total and Percent Representation of Deaths by GDC Facility (2015-2020) Cont.**

Facility	Deaths	Pct.All.Deaths
GWINNETT COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	1	0.09
HALL COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	1	0.09
HARRIS COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	1	0.09
JEFFERSON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	1	0.09
MACON TRANSITIONAL CENTER	1	0.09
MCEVER PDC	1	0.09
METRO REENTRY FACILITY	1	0.09
MONTGOMERY STATE PRISON	1	0.09
PATTEN PROBATION DETENTION CENTER	1	0.09
TREUTLEN PROBATION DETENTION CENTER	1	0.09
TURNER RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT	1	0.09
VALDOSTA TRANSITIONAL CENTER	1	0.09
WEST CENTRAL INTEGRATED TREATMENT FACILITY	1	0.09

Table 3 | Total and Percent Representation of Deaths by General Circumstance of Death (2015-2020)

General Circumstances of Death	Total.Deaths	Pct.All.Deaths
Natural	730	68.1
Suicide	103	9.61
Unknown	60	5.6
Homicide	58	5.41
Other	42	3.92
Undetermined	38	3.54
Execution	17	1.59
Accidental	10	0.93
Not listed	5	0.47
Trauma	4	0.37
Accident	3	0.28
Head Injury	1	0.09
Pending	1	0.09

Table 4 | Annual Totals and Percent Changed of Deaths (2015-2020)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Pct.Chg.1520	Pct.Chg.1920
143	138	175	175	160	281	96.5	75.62

Table 5 | Annual Totals and Percent Change of Deaths by General Circumstance of Death (2015-2020)

General Circumstances of Death	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Pct.Chg.1520	Pct.Chg.1520
Natural	83	86	125	135	105	196	136.14	86.67
Suicide	7	7	19	17	24	29	314.29	20.83
Homicide	1	3	7	7	14	26	2500	85.71
Undetermined	0	0	0	1	11	26	NA	136.36
Accidental	0	2	2	1	2	3	NA	50
Execution	5	6	1	2	2	1	-80	-50
Accident	0	1	1	1	0	0	NA	NA
Head Injury	0	1	0	0	0	0	NA	NA
Not listed	0	3	2	0	0	0	NA	NA
Other	21	20	0	1	0	0	-100	NA
Pending	1	0	0	0	0	0	-100	NA
Trauma	2	0	0	2	0	0	-100	NA
Unknown	23	9	18	8	2	0	-100	-100

Table 6 | Annual Totals and Percent Change of Deaths by Age Group (2016-2020)

Age Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Pct.Chg.1620	Pct.Chg.1920
0-19	1	1	1	2	0	1	0	NA
20-29	6	10	11	14	15	19	90	26.67
30-39	5	10	25	13	29	44	340	51.72
40-49	7	17	24	22	23	47	176.47	104.35
50-59	24	35	42	53	32	59	68.57	84.38
60-69	24	45	44	48	41	72	60	75.61
70-120	9	20	28	23	20	39	95	95
Not Recorded	67	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA

Table 7 | Annual Crude Mortality Rate by Age Group (2016-2020) *

Age Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Pct.Chg.1620	Pct.Chg.1920
0-19	12.92	12.27	24.24	0	18.28	41.49	NA
20-29	6.36	7.08	9.28	10.31	14.8	132.7	43.55
30-39	6.13	15.03	7.74	17.13	28	356.77	63.46
40-49	15.45	21.28	19.41	19.63	41.8	170.55	112.94
50-59	48.78	57.44	70.87	42.75	83.53	71.24	95.39
60-69	196.34	181.14	185.61	151.01	259.93	32.39	72.13
70-120	351.49	440.25	350.61	298.06	547.75	55.84	83.77

**Table 8 | Annual Totals of Homicides and Suicides by Facility (2015-2020)**

Facility	General Circumstances	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
MACON STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	1	0	0	0	7
TELFAIR STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	2	1	0	4
GEORGIA STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	1	0	1	3
VALDOSTA STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	2	3	2	3
SMITH STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	1	0	4	2
AUGUSTA STATE MEDICAL PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	1
BALDWIN STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	0	2	1
COFFEE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	1
HANCOCK STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	1
HAYS STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	1
JOHNSON STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	1
WARE STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	2	0	1
AUTRY STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	0
CALHOUN STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	2	0	0	1	0
DOOLY STATE PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	0
GA DIAG AND CLASS PRISON	Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0
PHILLIPS STATE PRISON	Homicide	1	0	0	0	0	0
GEORGIA STATE PRISON	Suicide	4	2	2	3	2	8
VALDOSTA STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	1	4	4	3	4
JOHNSON STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	0	1	3
GA DIAG AND CLASS PRISON	Suicide	0	0	3	0	4	2
SMITH STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	2
WHEELER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	2
AUGUSTA STATE MEDICAL PRISON	Suicide	0	0	2	0	1	1
GA DIAGNOSTIC AND CLASS PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	1
JEFFERSON CCI	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	1
MACON STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	1	0	1	1	1
PHILLIPS STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	3	1	0	1
RUTLEDGE STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	1
SMITH TRANSITIONAL CENTER	Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	1
WILCOX STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	1	1	1	0	1
ATLANTA TRANSITIONAL CENTER	Suicide	0	0	1	0	0	0
AUTRY STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	0	2	0
BAINBRIDGE PSATC	Suicide	0	0	0	0	1	0
BALDWIN STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	1	1	0	2	0
CALHOUN STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	1	0	0	1	0
CENTRAL STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	0	2	0
CLAYTON CCI	Suicide	0	0	0	0	1	0
COASTAL STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	1	0	0
COFFEE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	Suicide	1	0	0	0	0	0
DODGE STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	1	1	0
HANCOCK STATE PRISON	Suicide	1	0	0	1	2	0
HAYS STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	1	1	0	0
PULASKI STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	0	1	0	0
ROGERS STATE PRISON	Suicide	1	0	0	1	0	0
WARE STATE PRISON	Suicide	0	0	1	1	0	0

**Table 9 | Annual Totals of Homicides and Suicides by Age Group (2015-2020)**

Age Group	General Circumstances	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
30-39	Homicide	0	0	5	0	6	13
20-29	Homicide	1	2	1	5	5	7
40-49	Homicide	0	0	1	0	1	2
50-59	Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	2
0-19	Homicide	0	0	0	2	0	1
60-69	Homicide	0	1	0	0	1	1
30-39	Suicide	1	2	7	8	13	10
20-29	Suicide	1	2	4	6	6	9
40-49	Suicide	1	0	6	2	4	9
50-59	Suicide	0	3	1	1	1	1
70-120	Suicide	0	0	1	0	0	0
Not Recorded	Suicide	4	0	0	0	0	0