



### **D12 Are There Differences Between Cause of Death Among College Student and Death Among Non-College Students of the Same age Group?**

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be briefed on the eleven year statistical overview and information gained in this research of deaths of Purdue University students versus deaths of the same aged individuals occurring in Tippecanoe County. This information can be utilized in analyzing the cause and manner of deaths with the focus on the possible on individual's deaths attending a higher level of education versus those individuals who have not attended a college or university.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating the differences between the causes of death individuals who attend a university/college and those, of the same age range, whom do not. This information can be utilized to adjust, improve, and/or implement programs to assist in decreasing the preventable deaths.

From January 1995 through July 2006, there have been 122 deaths of Purdue University students; 25 committing suicide, 19 deaths due to natural causes; 54 deaths due to automobile accidents, and 17 deaths either accidental or undetermined. Whereas, the death, of individuals between the ages of 18-30 who do not have any college/ university or higher level of education, occurring in Tippecanoe County total 153. Of those deaths, 32 committed suicide; 15 were homicides; 70 were due to traffic accidents, 17 were ruled natural causes and 26 were ruled either accidental or undetermined.

The most astounding and unexpected difference was the cause of deaths due to drug overdoses. There were only 2 deaths due to accidental drug overdoses in the individuals who attended Purdue University, whereas there were 30 deaths due to accidental drug overdose in the individuals who died in Tippecanoe County, Indiana who did not attend Purdue University.

With a deeper understanding of the deaths among individuals between the ages of 18-30, risk behaviors may be identified as well as other findings that may assist in reducing the preventable deaths of both those who attend Purdue University and those who have no higher level of education in their background.

#### **Death, College Students, Purdue University**