

Natives fight every day to survive the FBI's most 'dangerous city' as of 2014

Gallup, New Mexico is notorious and deadly for Native people. Ranked as the most “dangerous city” in New Mexico by a 2014 FBI report, violent, unnatural deaths for Native people has become an everyday fact of life.

In 2014, 36 unnatural deaths were recorded for Natives in or around the Gallup area. Almost all were alcohol related or caused from being homeless. Seventeen of those deaths were caused by motorists killing pedestrians attempting to cross major thoroughfares or I-40. Nearly all the victims were Native. The 2015 winter began with record-setting deaths from exposure in McKinley County – 12 as of January 14; all the victims were Native.

List of unnatural deaths of Natives in and around Gallup:

## **2014**

January 25:

Ervin Shirley, 46, died, possibly from exposure.

January 29:

Walter Sam, 69, died, possibly from exposure, in an arroyo.

February 8:

Curtis Arviso, 34, died, possibly from exposure.

February 16:

Wynona Brown, 24, killed by vehicle on New Mexico Highway 602.

February 22:

Christopher Grayeagle, 32, was shot and killed by Gerald Wilson, 31, at a Gallup McDonald's.

March 7:

Norman Tuley, 54, was run over by a semi at a truck stop.

April 5:

Donavan Atencio, 30, died in a rollover crash under the influence of alcohol.

April 8:

Beverly Mitchell, 47, was hit and killed by a semi attempting to cross I-40.

May 5:

Bradley Kaamasee, 23, was hit and killed by a vehicle while riding his bicycle on New Mexico Highway 264.

May 19:

An unidentified woman was found dead near the BNSF railroad tracks.

May 24:

Harold Begay, 42, was killed by a vehicle attempting to cross Route 66

June 17:

Harold Lee, 51, died of alcohol poisoning while in protective custody at the Gallup Detox Center.

June 14:

Preston Tsosie, 46, was hit and killed by a vehicle attempting to cross I-40.

July 3:

Kimberly Yazzie, 35, was murdered and found dead in a homeless camp.

July 4:

Roberto Charles McCabe, 30, was hit and killed by a pickup truck on New Mexico 264.

July 9:

An unidentified man was hit and killed while crossing New Mexico 264 near Rock Springs.

August 20:

Curley Martin Jr., 18, was crushed to death by a pickup truck while sleeping in an alleyway.

August 23:

Herbert Wood, 69, was hit and killed by a semi attempting to cross I-40.

September 23:

Richard Smith, 26, was found dead along Twin Buttes Road in Mentmore.

September 30:

Aaron Begaye, 38, was found murdered in a field. Unsolved.

October 12:

Jones Larry, 26, was picked up by Marcos and Carlos Perez in Gallup and murdered near Manuelito.

October 18:

Harrison Yazzie, 47, died in a DWI crash.

November 25:

Sarah Tom, 67, was found dead in a field due to exposure.

November 27:

George Morgan, 51, was hit and killed attempting to cross I-40.

December 5:

Almando Lee, 48, found dead due to exposure behind Allsup's.

December 5:

Unidentified man found near I-40, cause of death unknown.

December 7:

Marcus McCabe, 24, was hit and killed by a pickup truck on U.S. 491.

December 7:

Travis Silversmith, 44, was hit and killed by a vehicle attempting to cross I-40.

December 9:

Unknown name, 36, was hit and killed by a suspected drunken driver while jogging on NM 118.

December 12:

Colt David, 30, was hit and killed by a vehicle on New Mexico 602. The driver fled the scene and was never apprehended.

December 20:

Alfred Billy, 48, died after he was hit by a pickup truck while crossing Historic Highway 66.

December 22:

Melbert Tom, 33, was found dead due to exposure in a field.

December 22:

Unidentified man was found dead due to exposure in a field.

December 22:

Unidentified body found dead due to exposure in a field.

December 30:

Linda Carroll, 45, found dead due to exposure in a field.

December 31:

Unidentified man was found dead due to exposure in a field.

## **2015**

January 2:

Joseph Whitehip, 39, was found dead due to exposure in a field. Dogs mauled his remains.

January 2:

Roger Yazzie, 54, was found dead due to exposure in a field.

January 6:

Daniel Nez, 54, was found dead due to exposure in a field.

January 10:

Unidentified was man found dead on a hill (possibly due to exposure).

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