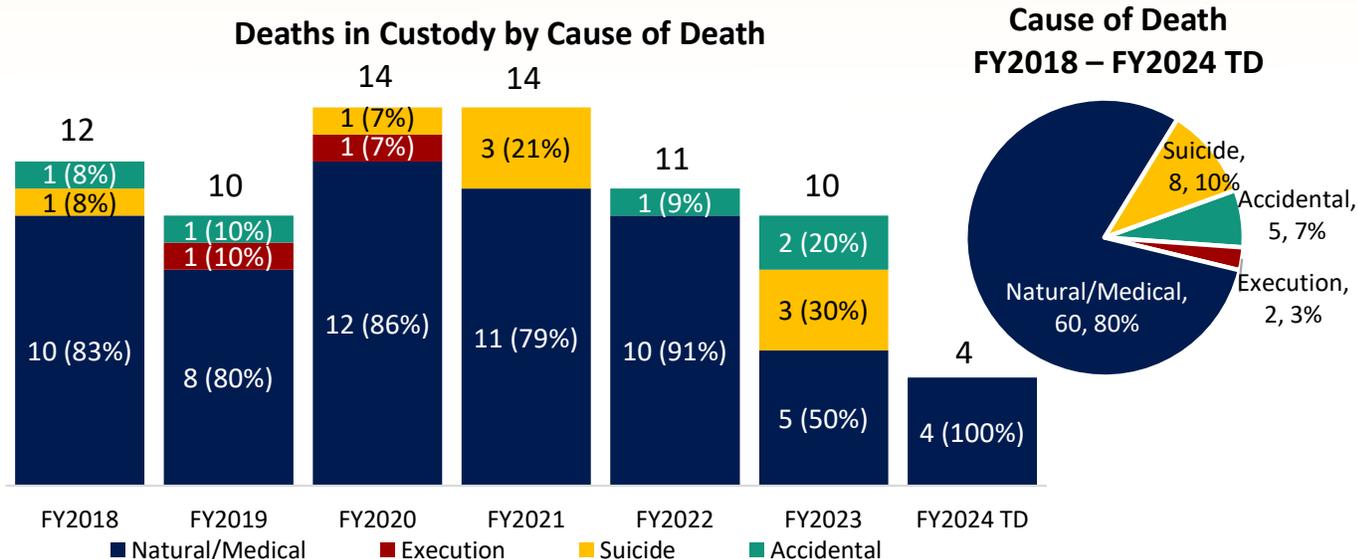


South Dakota Department of Corrections

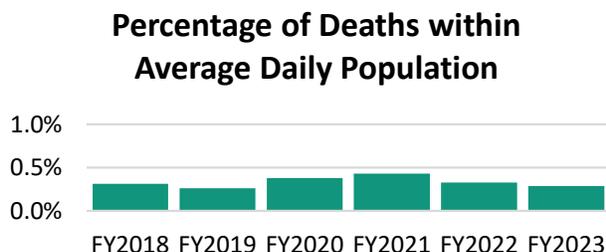
External Data Brief: Offender Deaths in Custody

July 31, 2023 : No 5-E

This brief presents data associated with South Dakota Department of Corrections (SDDOC) offenders who were incarcerated at the time of their deaths. Cause of death is determined by a medical examiner external to the SDDOC. There were 75 deaths from FY18 through FY24 to date. The cause of death for each fiscal year is shown in the bar chart below and combined in the pie chart on its right. 80% (60) deaths were determined to be natural or medical in cause followed by suicide at 10% (8). For FY24 to date, all deaths (4) were determined to be natural or medical in nature.



The chart to the right shows the percentage of inmate deaths compared to the average daily population. The rate has remained under half a percentage point since FY2018.



Nearly two thirds (65%, 49) of the 75 offenders that died were 55 years or older at the time of their death. The percent of SDDOC offenders in correctional facilities 55 and older has been gradually increasing since FY2018 to 11.7% in FY2023.

