

## Hanging Fatalities Involving Drugs in Jazan, Saudi Arabia

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**Abstract :** The current retrospective study's objective was to analyze the forensic toxicological findings of fatal suicide hangings that occurred in Jazan between 2018 and 2022. **Methods:** This study includes all forensic toxicology cases where the cause of death was hanging suicide. To establish the presence of drugs, postmortem samples were examined by forensic toxicology services. **Results:** The results showed that 132 cases of hanging fatalities out of 802 total cases were studied throughout the study period, with 86.4% of the fatalities being male, 13.6% being female, 33.3% Saudi, and 66.6% non-Saudi. The younger age group, between 18 and 29, was more prevalent. The Saudi population has seen an increase in the number of hanging fatalities each year. With an increase in hanging fatalities, the proportion of drug-related deaths by hanging slightly increased. Multiple drugs usage is the most prevalent drug use pattern among all age categories. Amphetamine was the most frequent drug presence in hanging cases who used one drug. Amphetamine and ethanol were the most frequent combination. **Conclusion:** In conclusion, hanging deaths were more common in young males, with majority of non-Saudi. Multiple drug use was the most common drug use pattern in hanging fatalities across all age categories, with amphetamine and ethanol predominant. More studies are required regarding the link between certain drugs and suicide by hanging. Preventive measures should be take these risk factors into consideration.

**Keywords :** forensic toxicology, suicides, hanging, amphetamine, ethanol

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