Annual Report on Drowning Deaths in New York City: Provisional Data from 2023 Death Certificates

Prepared by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,

December 11, 2024

This report is submitted pursuant to Local Law No. 159 of 2023 and the New York City Administrative Code 17-199.23, which requires the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to submit the information enumerated below, as available, to the Mayor and City Council Speaker by January 1, for the prior calendar year.

1. The manner in which the drowning death occurred;
2. The age group of the decedent;
3. The gender identity of the decedent;
4. The race and ethnicity of the decedent;
5. Whether the decedent had any physical, medical, mental, or psychological impairment, or a history or record of such impairment, such as a seizure disorder;
6. Whether alcohol, drugs, or prescription medication was a contributing factor regarding the drowning death;
7. The type of location or facility at which the drowning death occurred, including, but not limited to, a beach, public outdoor pool, public indoor pool, private outdoor pool, or private indoor pool, and whether such location or facility has lifeguard supervision;
8. The council district in which the drowning death occurred; and
9. The community district in which the drowning death occurred.

Decedent characteristics, drowning deaths in NYC, 2023

	N	%
Total	**59**	**100.00**
Manner		
Accident	27	45.76
Suicide	15	25.42
Homicide	3	5.08
Undetermined Intent	14	23.73
Age group		
0-14	10	16.95
15-24	10	16.95
25-34	11	18.64
35-44	9	15.25
45-54	5	8.47
55-64	6	10.17
65+	8	13.56
Gender		
Male	50	84.75
Female	9	15.25
Race/ethnicity		
Hispanic/Latino	12	20.34
Asian & Pacific Islander	8	13.56
Non-Hispanic White	12	20.34
Non-Hispanic Black	19	32.20
Other	2	3.39
Unknown	6	10.17

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Contributing causes, drowning deaths in NYC, 2023

	N	%
Total	**59**	**100.00**
Physical or mental health conditions, excl. substance use	7	11.86
Cardiovascular	*3*	*5.08*
Other conditions	*4*	*6.78*
Substance use	10	16.95
Alcohol	*5*	*8.47*
Other substances, including illicit or prescription drugs	*5*	*8.47*
Substance, unknown type	*2*	*3.39*

N's are not mutually exclusive
Other injuries are not listed in table (e.g., blunt force trauma)

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Injury location, drowning deaths in NYC, 2023

	N	%
Total	**59**	**100.00**
Outdoors (e.g., open body of water)	45	76.27
Beach	*4*	*6.78*
Pool	1	1.69
Bathtub	13	22.03

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Drowning Deaths in NYC by City Council District of Injury, 2023

	N	%
Total	59	100
1 (CM Marte)	6	10.17
2 (CM Rivera)	3	5.08
3 (CM Bottcher)	5	8.47
4 (CM Powers)	1	1.69
5 (CM Menin)	1	1.69
7 (CM Abreu)	1	1.69
8 (CM Ayala)	1	1.69
9 (CM Salaam)	3	5.08
10 (CM De La Rosa)	1	1.69
13 (CM Marmorato)	2	3.39
18 (CM Farias)	1	1.69
26 (CM Won)	1	1.69
32 (CM Ariola)	7	11.86
33 (CM Restler)	1	1.69
34 (CM Gutierrez)	2	3.39
38 (CM Aviles)	1	1.69
39 (CM Hanif)	1	1.69
41 (CM Mealy)	1	1.69
44 (CM Yeger)	1	1.69
46 (CM Narcisse)	2	3.39
47 (CM Brannan)	1	1.69
48 (Vernikov)	1	1.69
50 (CM Carr)	2	3.39
*Unknown	13	22.03

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*We were unable to identify where the drowning occurred, therefore unable to identify the Council District.

Drowning Deaths in NYC by Community District of Injury, 2023

	N	%
Total	**59**	**100.00**
Battery Park, Tribeca (101)	2	3.39
Greenwich Village, SOHO (102)	1	1.69
Lower East Side (103)	6	10.17
Chelsea, Clinton (104)	3	5.08
Midtown Business District (105)	1	1.69
Murray Hill (106)	1	1.69
Upper East Side (108)	1	1.69
Central Harlem (110)	2	3.39
Washington Heights (112)	3	5.08
Mott Haven (201)	1	1.69
Unionport, Soundview (209)	1	1.69
Pelham Parkway (211)	2	3.39
Williamsburg, Greenpoint (301)	3	5.08
Park Slope (306)	1	1.69
Borough Park (312)	1	1.69
Coney Island (313)	1	1.69
Brownsville (316)	1	1.69
Canarsie (318)	2	3.39
Astoria, Long Island City (401)	1	1.69
Howard Beach (410)	1	1.69
Queens Village (413)	1	1.69
The Rockaways (414)	6	10.17
Willowbrook, South Beach (502)	2	3.39
Area not within a Community District	2	3.39
**Unknown	13	22.03

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*The numbers next to the named neighborhoods represent how the NYC Health Department identifies community districts.

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