## Fifteenth Annual Report on Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene New York City Department of Homeless Services

Prepared and submitted pursuant to Local Law 7 (LL7), which was originally named and passed as Local Law 63 (LL63) by the New York City Council in 2005 before being replaced in 2012 with LL7, requiring the City of New York to track and report deaths of persons experiencing homelessness in the City, this annual report provides detailed analyses of patterns and trends regarding deaths among New Yorkers experiencing homelessness.

#### **Executive Summary**

The City of New York, through the New York City (NYC) Department of Homeless Services (DHS) works to prevent homelessness, provide temporary emergency shelter, and help individuals and families transition into permanent housing. NYC Department of Social Services (DSS) programs, including Human Resources Administration (HRA) prevention programs and DHS transitional housing, provide targeted assistance to help vulnerable New Yorkers experiencing homelessness navigate the myriad challenges they face, which include a greater likelihood of medical and behavioral health conditions. The transient and stressful nature of homelessness often compounds health issues, which may result in poor health outcomes.

This report has been prepared and submitted pursuant to Local Law 7 (LL7), which was originally named and passed as Local Law 63 (LL63) by the New York City Council in 2005 before being replaced in 2012 with LL7, requiring the City of New York to track and report deaths of persons experiencing homelessness in the City, this annual report provides detailed analyses of patterns and trends regarding deaths among New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Such information can provide critical insight into serious health problems and is essential for understanding the health challenges faced by this population. DSS continues to gain a better understanding of the health status of persons experiencing homelessness in an effort to plan services and interventions, including, for example, the creation, implementation, and subsequent expansion of a comprehensive Opioid Overdose Prevention Program and naloxone administration trainings over the past several years.

Through the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the City of New York registers all deaths. At the same time, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is responsible for investigating deaths in NYC that may be suspicious, unusual, violent, or criminal in nature. The OCME also investigates cases where the decedent's homelessness status is in question and leverages information from the death scene, DHS administrative data, the decedent's family, and the police.

At this time, the NYC DSS, comprised of DHS and HRA, maintains all available records on the persons experiencing homelessness for whom they provide temporary housing in NYC. These include families with children under 18 years old, adult families with no minor children, and single adults experiencing homelessness. These data exclude single individuals or families under the age of 18 who may be experiencing homelessness, as those populations are served by the City's Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and other agencies.

Data presented herein have been compiled and vetted by DSS, DHS, HRA, OCME, and DOHMH, including being matched against NYC death certificates and analyzed by the DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics. The FY20 report is the result of a collaborative effort informed by the programmatic activities of HRA and DHS, the investigations of the OCME and DHS, and the death data reported to DOHMH.

\*Please note that, historically, since its inception, this report has contained data provided by the OCME, DHS, HRA, DOHMH, as well as the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). The current report adds data for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 to data reported since 2005. Until 2005, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) housed a limited number of persons experiencing homelessness and provided data for this report. However, this HPD-administered program no longer exists, so related HPD data are no longer included in the report.

#### Summary

For the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 (Fiscal Year 2020, FY20), there were 613 deaths among persons experiencing homelessness identified by DHS and OCME.<sup>1</sup> In FY20, the highest number (n=254; 41%) of deaths were reported in the fourth quarter (April 1-June 30, 2020). HRA separately reported 72 deaths during FY20. Per Article 27-F of the New York State Public Health Law, which prohibits disclosure of information that could reasonably identify someone as having an HIV-related illness or AIDS, HRA reported deaths are not linked to death certificates and this report does not include any identifiable information. As a result, findings from the two groups of deaths are reported separately.

**Deaths among persons experiencing homelessness (excludes HRA data).** The number of deaths among persons experiencing homelessness increased by 52% in FY20 (n=613), compared to the number of deaths reported in FY19 (n=404).

Of the 613 deaths, most were among males (77%; n=469), and persons aged 45 to 64 years (54%; n=330), as in prior years. Non-sheltered individuals accounted for a quarter of decedents (25%; n=154); the remaining 459 deaths were among sheltered residents, the majority of whom died in a hospital (63%, n=290).

Location of death was categorized as those deaths occurring in a hospital, shelter, outdoors (see Table 1 in the Appendix), and all other places (including subway, abandoned buildings, friends' homes, etc.).

- Among all decedents, most people died in a hospital (60%; n=369), similar to FY19. There were 67 deaths that occurred outdoors (11%) and 57 deaths at other locations (9%). The percent of outdoor deaths decreased from FY19 (12%).
- Among sheltered residents, while the number of individuals who died in a shelter increased, the proportion who died in a shelter in FY20 (26%; n=120), remained same as in FY19 (25%; n=63). A similar proportion of sheltered residents died in a hospital in FY20 (63%, n=290) and FY19 (64%, n=62), although the number increased significantly.
- Among non-sheltered decedents, 51% (n=79) died in a hospital, similar to 54% (n=80) in FY19 and 45 (29%) died outdoors, compared to 33 in FY19 (22%).
- There were 27 (6%) deaths in other locations among sheltered residents compared to 30 (19%) among non-sheltered persons. Refer to Table 1 in the Appendix for definitions of outdoor and other place of deaths.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For the fifteenth annual report, no HPD deaths were included in the report per LL7's definition that HPD clients must also be DHS clients.

Fifteenth Annual Report on Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

- Drug-related deaths remained the leading cause of death among persons experiencing homelessness, consistent with citywide and national trends, increasing by 13%, from 116 in FY19 to 131 in FY20. However, the proportion of drug related deaths among persons experiencing homelessness decreased by 9% in FY20 (20%), compared to FY19 (29%).
- In FY20, there were 120 confirmed or probable COVID-19 deaths (20%) making COVID-19 the second leading cause of death in FY20. The majority of these deaths occurred during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY20, and, among these, 99 (83%) were laboratory confirmed, and 108 (90%) occurred in a hospital. Most COVID-19 deaths (n=108, 90%) occurred among sheltered residents, and of residents, and of those, 90were laboratory confirmed.
- Deaths due to alcohol misuse/dependence decreased in FY20 (n=30; 5%), compared to FY19 (n=35; 9%).
- In FY20, the top five leading causes of death were drug-related (21%; n=131), COVID-19-related (20%; n=120), heart disease (17%; n=103), accidents (excluding drug overdose) (6%; n=35), and alcohol misuse/dependence (5%; n=30).
- The majority of deaths reported in this document were investigated by OCME (66%; n=407), although the proportion is lower than in prior years.

**Deaths among persons experiencing homelessness reported by HRA.** There were 72 deaths reported by HRA in FY20: 2 (3%) less than in FY19. The majority of decedents were male (76%; n=55) and between the ages of 45 to 64 years (56%; n=40). These individuals most commonly died in HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA) housing (73%; n=54) and hospitals (23%; n=17).

### Methods

**Definitions.** LL7 defines a "person experiencing homelessness" as "a person who at the time of death did not have a known street address of a private residence at which he or she was known or reasonably believed to have resided," a subset of which includes persons residing in NYC DSS homeless shelters, as well as those deemed to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness, which may also been known as "street homelessness," as well as those persons living unstably housed who therefore had no fixed address.

The majority of persons defined by LL7 as experiencing homelessness were residing in "homeless shelters," defined here as:

- (i) a residence operated by or on behalf of the Department of Homeless Services;
- (ii) an emergency residence operated by or on behalf of the Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration which is available primarily for persons experiencing homelessness with HIV or AIDS related illness; or
- (iii) a residence operated by or on behalf of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to the extent that such residence houses clients of the Department of Homeless Services; provided, however that such term shall not include any residence that is available primarily for survivors of intimate partner violence. Note that since 2005, HPD has not housed persons experiencing homelessness at HPD facilities.

As stated, individuals defined by LL7 as experiencing homelessness can also include the following experiences of housing instability, through which individuals may not have fixed permanent addresses: "doubled up" (sharing the housing of others), in a hotel/motel, or in other temporary housing, a subset of which includes NYC Department of Social Services shelters.

Table M1 describes the criteria used for sheltered and non-sheltered homeless decedents reported by DHS and OCME.

| Non-Sheltered decedent  |
|---|
| <ul> <li>A person who was not a DHS shelter/Safe<br/>Haven resident at the time of death, but<br/>who also lacked a fixed permanent address.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul> <li>A deceased person experiencing<br/>homelessness who was known to outreach<br/>team/drop-in center.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul> <li>OCME may categorize a person as<br/>experiencing unsheltered homelessness<br/>based on on-site investigation (location<br/>where deceased was found, appearance,<br/>personal hygiene etc.), hospital reports, or<br/>family confirmation, including confirming<br/>none of the 'sheltered' criteria are met.</li> </ul> |
|   |

#### **Table M1: Criteria for Shelter Residency Status**

#### **Data Collection and Analysis**

For FY20, DHS and OCME provided data on deaths among persons experiencing homelessness. OCME is responsible for investigating NYC deaths that may be due to external causes. External causes of death are those which are not due to natural causes and include, but are not limited to, drug overdose, accidents, homicides, and suicides. Data presented herein were compiled from the agencies and matched against NYC death certificates and analyzed by the DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics.

The data consist of reported deaths among persons known to DHS at the time of death and autopsy reports from OCME for those individuals, as well as individuals not known to DHS at the time of death for reasons specified above (i.e. without a fixed address/residence, but not residing in NYC DHS shelter or known to NYC DHS outreach teams). These reported deaths are validated and deduplicated. Article 27-F of the New York State Public Health Law prohibits disclosure of information that could reasonably identify someone as having an HIV-related illness or AIDS. As a result, HRA decedents are reported separately.

Case reports from DHS, OCME, and HRA were compiled and analyzed to describe characteristics and trends. Only DHS and OCME case reports were matched against NYC DOHMH Vital Statistics death certificates as persons experiencing homelessness are no longer provided housing by HPD. DOHMH followed up with agencies to obtain any missing data elements. Some cases determined not to meet the LL7 case definition of persons experiencing homelessness were removed.

The LL7 report provides trends in the number of deaths by shelter status, OCME investigation status, and location of death, as well as by demographic factors such as age group and sex. The report also provides data on the leading cause of death. The cause of death is reported on the death certificate as text fields which are then coded by the Center for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics' Supermicar software, which classifies conditions according to the International Classification of Disease (ICD) published by the World Health Organization. Standardized codes allow for national and international comparisons. A single underlying cause is assigned based on the reported chain of events leading to death. See below for a table describing terminology used in this report to refer to drug-related deaths.

| Terminology for Drug-related Deaths |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                                     | <b>Drug-related</b><br>Umbrella term to describe underlying cause of deaths due to Chronic Dru<br>Use and Accidental Drug Overdose |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                     | Chronic Drug Use Accidental Drug Overdose  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Definition                          | Chronic drug use, long-term impact   | Accidental drug overdose, acute event, sudden, excess drug use |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ICD 10 terminology                  | Mental and behavioral disorders due to<br>the use of psychoactive substance<br>excluding alcohol and tobacco                       | Accidental (unintentional) drug-<br>poisoning                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ICD 10 codes                        | F11-F16, F18-19 X40-X42, X44   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manner of Death                     | Natural  | Accidental   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### Table M2: Terminology for Drug-related Deaths

5

#### COVID-19 Related Deaths

COVID-19 related deaths are categorized as laboratory-confirmed or probable. Laboratory-confirmed COVID deaths had a positive molecular SARS-CoV-2 test and are identified or confirmed via a daily match between death certificates and laboratory confirmed SARS-CoV-2 tests. Probable COVID deaths are deaths that have not matched to a positive laboratory confirmed SARS-CoV-2 test but COVID-19 or an equivalent is included in the cause of death literals in Part I or Part II of the death certificate.<sup>2</sup>

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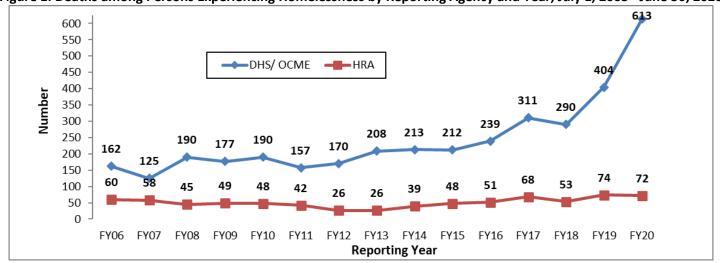
Fifteenth Annual Report on Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Update to the standardized surveillance case definition and national notification for 2019 novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (<u>Interim-20-ID-02\_COVID-19.pdf</u> (<u>ymaws.com</u>))

### Results

Overall, DHS and OCME reported 613 deaths among persons experiencing homelessness in NYC, representing an increase of 52% in the overall number of deaths compared to FY19 (404). Previously, the largest year-over-year change on record was the 52% increase reported in FY08 (n=190) from FY07 (n=125).

#### Trend in the Number of Deaths





The number of deaths among DHS clients has ranged between 190 in FY10 and 613 in FY20 (Figure 1). The fourth quarter (April 1-June 30, 2020) of FY20 had the highest number of deaths (n=254); see Table 2 in the Appendix.

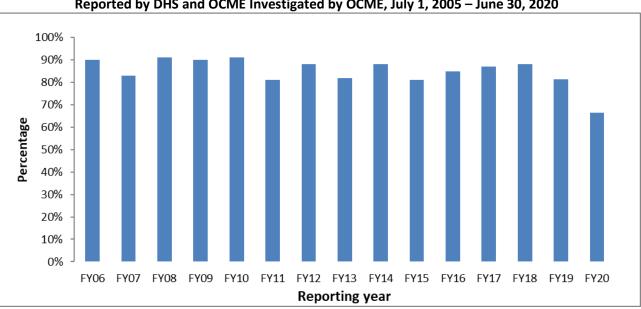


Figure 2. Percent of Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME Investigated by OCME, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2020

In FY20, OCME investigated most deaths among persons experiencing homelessness (66%; n=407), a decrease from previous years (81% to 91%) (Figure 2). Among the 459 sheltered decedents, 59% (n=271) were investigated by OCME. Among the non-sheltered decedents, 88% (n=136) were investigated by OCME (Table 2).

Figure 3. Percent of Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME by Shelter Residency Status, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2020 100% 90% 80% 70% Percentage 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 FY10 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17 FY18 FY19 FY20 Reporting year Non-sheltered Sheltered

#### DHS and OCME reported decedents

Of the 613 deaths in FY20, 75% (n=459) of decedents were sheltered and 25% (n=154) were non-sheltered (Figure 3, Table 2). Of the non-sheltered decedents experiencing homelessness, 97 (63%) were known to DHS and confirmed by outreach teams to be experiencing unsheltered homelessness and residing on the streets. The proportion of deaths among sheltered decedents increased 12% in FY20, compared to FY19 (63%, n=256).

#### Location of death

The location of death (shelter, hospital, outdoors, or other place) stratified by borough, Community District, and shelter residency status are shown in Table 3 and 4a. Categories of outdoor and other place of death are provided in Table 1. HRA-reported deaths, stratified by location of death, are presented separately in Table 4b by borough only, as Community District is not available for these deaths.

Overall, 60% (n=369) of the persons experiencing homelessness died in a hospital in FY20, the same proportion as FY19 (60%; n=243), but a 51% increase. The overall percent of outdoor deaths decreased by 1% in FY20 (11%; n=67), compared to FY19 (12%; n=49).

#### Non-sheltered decedents

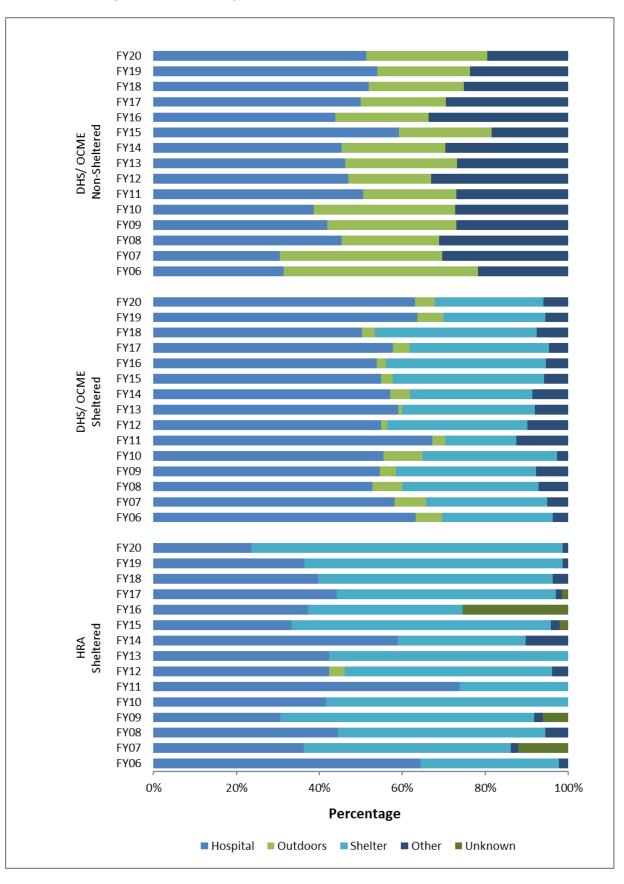
Among non-sheltered decedents, hospital deaths accounted for 51% (n=79) of deaths, followed by outdoors (29%; n=45), and other places (20%; n=30) (Figure 4, Table 4a). The proportion of outdoor deaths among non-sheltered individuals increased in FY20 (29%; n=45) from FY19 (19%; n=30) (Figure 4). Of the 30 non-sheltered decedents who died in other places, the majority died in a subway car/subway platform/train station (n=17) followed by public space in a building (n=6), abandoned building (n=3), a friend or family member's apartment (n=1), building vestibule (n=1), place of employment (n=1) and storage facility (n=1).

#### Sheltered decedents

Deaths in hospitals accounted for the majority, nearly two thirds (63%; n=290) of deaths among sheltered decedents, similar to the proportion in FY19 (64%; n=163) (Figure 4, Table 4a). The next most frequent location of death was a shelter (26%; n=120), a similar proportion as FY19 (25%; n=63), followed by other places (6%; n=27) and outdoors (5%; n=22). The majority of shelter decedents resided in shelters located in Brooklyn (36%; n=165), followed by Manhattan (25%; n=113), Bronx (21%; n=98), Queens (18%; n=82), and one in Staten Island (Table 3).

#### **HRA reported decedents**

The 72 HRA reported deaths died in HASA housings (73%; n=54), hospitals (23%; n=17), and other places (1%; n=1) (Table 4b). The majority of deaths among HRA clients occurred in the Bronx (38%; n=28), followed by Manhattan (27%; n=20), Brooklyn (24%, n=18,) Queens (4%, n=3), and Staten Island (4%, n=3) (Table 4b).

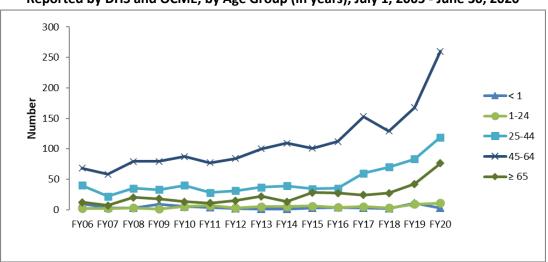


#### **Demographic Characteristics**

#### **DHS and OCME reported deaths**

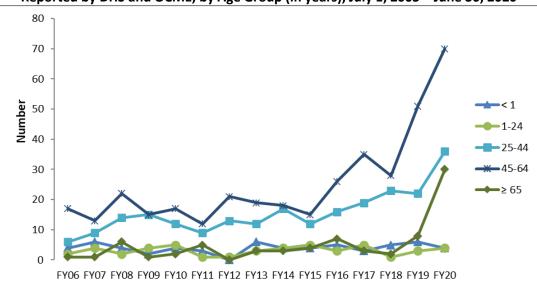
The majority (54%; n=330) of deaths occurred among persons aged 45 to 64 years (Figure 5a, 5b, Table 5). The proportion of decedents aged 65 years and older was 17% (n=106), which is a two-fold increase in deaths among this age group compared to FY19 (12%; n=50). Decedents aged 1 to 24 years accounted for 2% (n=15) of deaths. There were 7 infant deaths (1%) in FY20, which is a 59% decrease in infant deaths compared to FY19 (4%; n=17).

Male decedents accounted for the majority of deaths (77%; n=469). In particular, males aged 45 to 64 years accounted for 42% of decedents (n=260) (Table 5), a similar proportion to FY19 (42%; n=168). The proportion of male decedents aged 25 to 44 years was also similar in FY20 (19%; n=119) compared to FY19 (21%; n=83). The proportion of female decedents aged 45 to 64 years was also similar in FY20 (11%; n=70) compared to FY19 (13%; n=51). Female decedents aged 25 to 44 years were similar by proportion in FY20 (6%; n=36) from FY19 (5%; n=22).









#### **HRA Reported Deaths**

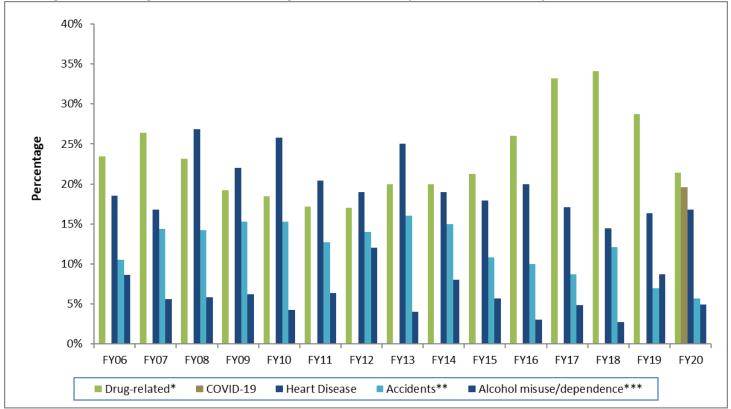
Among the 72 HRA reported deaths, 76% (n=55) were male and 24% (n=17) were female. The age group 45 to 64 years accounted for 56% (n=40) of decedents, those aged 25 to 44 years, 33% (n=24), and 65 years and older, 8% (n=6) (Table 5). There were two deaths reported among HRA decedents under the age of 25 years.

#### Leading Cause of Death (DHS and OCME reported)

In FY20, the proportion of drug-related deaths decreased from 29% (n=116) in FY19 to 21% (n=131) but remains the leading cause of death (Figure 6a, Table 6a). Drug-related deaths include underlying cause of death codes that capture deaths due to chronic and/or unspecified drug use and/or accidental drug intoxication (overdose) (see table M2 in Methods). The number of accidental drug overdose deaths increased by 25 (29% increase) from 103 in FY19 to 128 in FY20 (Figure 6d, Table 7).

COVID-19 (including laboratory-confirmed (n=99) and probable deaths (n=21)) were the second leading cause of death in FY20 accounting for 20% of deaths (n=120) (Table 6a).

Heart disease ranked as the third leading cause of death with a similar proportion in FY20 (17%; n=103) compared to FY19 (16%; n=66). Accidents (excluding overdose) were fourth (6%; n=35), similar to FY19 (7%; n=28). Alcohol misuse/dependence (n=30; 5%) was the fifth leading cause of death, a lower proportion than in FY19 (n=35; 9%). The number of deaths due to cancer remained similar (n=16,3%) in FY20, compared to FY19 (n=18; 4%). Cause of death had not been determined for 30 decedents in FY20. See Table 6a for the complete list of leading causes of death.



#### Figure 6a. Leading Cause of Death among DHS and OCME Reported Decedents, July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2020

\*Use of or poisoning by psychoactive substance (Mental and Behavior Disorders Due to the Use of, or Accidental Poisoning by, Psychoactive Substances Excluding Alcohol and Tobacco)

\*\*Excluding Accidental Drug Overdose

\*Leading causes of death for each reporting year have been altered to reflect the current reporting year's five leading causes.

#### Leading Causes of Death by Gender (DHS and OCME reported)

#### 12

Fifteenth Annual Report on Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Among both males (n=104; 22%) and females (n=27; 19%), drug-related deaths were the leading cause in FY20 (Figure 6b and 6c, Table 6a). See Table 6a for the complete list of leading causes of death by gender.

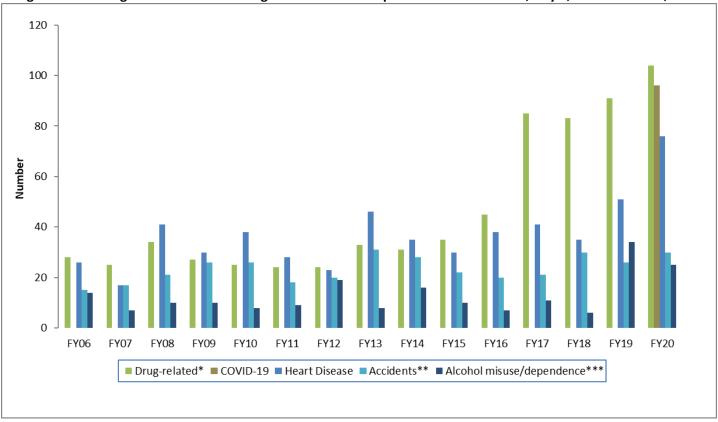


Figure 6b. Leading Cause of Death among DHS and OCME Reported Male Decedents, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2020

\*Use of or poisoning by psychoactive substance (Mental and Behavior Disorders Due to the Use of, or Accidental Poisoning by, Psychoactive Substances Excluding Alcohol and Tobacco)

\*\*Excluding Accidental Drug Overdose

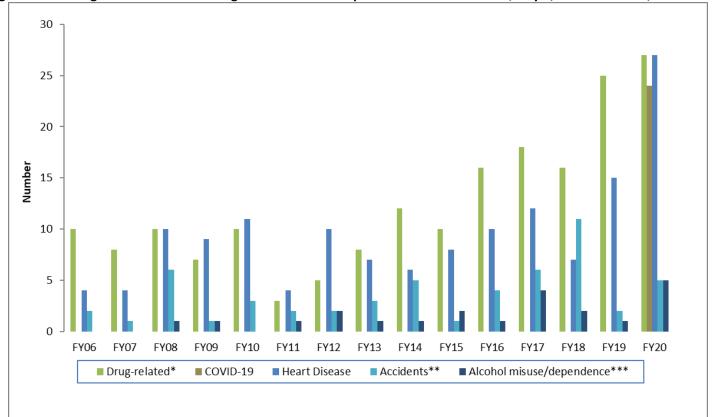
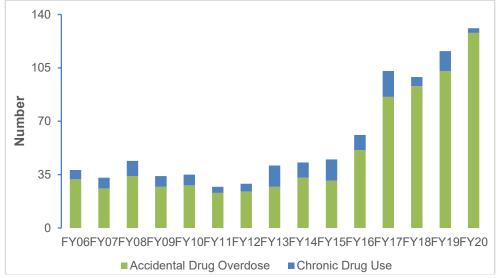


Figure 6c. Leading Cause of Death among DHS and OCME Reported Female Decedents, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2020

\*Use of or poisoning by psychoactive substance (Mental and Behavior Disorders Due to the Use of, or Accidental Poisoning by, Psychoactive Substances Excluding Alcohol and Tobacco)

\*\*Excluding Accidental Drug Overdose

#### Figure 6d. Drug-related deaths among DHS and OCME Reported Decedents, by Type, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2020



#### Leading Causes of Death by Shelter Status (DHS and OCME reported)

In FY20, the leading causes of death among sheltered decedents were COVID-19 (24%; n=108; including 90 confirmed and 18 probable COVID-19 deaths), followed by drug-related deaths (22%; n=100), heart disease (18%; n=83), accidents (excluding overdose) (4%; n=19), and both homicide and cancer (2%; n=11) (Table 6b).

Among non-sheltered/unsheltered decedents, the leading causes of death were drug-related (20%; n=31) followed by alcohol misuse/dependence (14%; n=22), heart disease (13%; n=20), accidents (excluding drug overdose) (10%; n=16), and COVID-19 (8%; n=12) (Table 6b).

#### Leading Causes of Death by Shelter Status and Location of Death (DHS and OCME reported)

Among the 154 non-sheltered persons who died in FY20:

- Almost a third, 45 deaths, occurred outdoors (Table 4a). These included drug-related (31%; n=14), alcohol misuse/dependence (20%; n=9), heart disease (13%; n=6), accidents (excluding drug overdose) (9%; n=4), homicide (7%; n=3), chronic liver disease (4%; n=2), and one (2%) for both COVID-19 and lower respiratory disease, in addition to other causes not rankable as leading causes of death (11%; n=5);
- A total of 30 deaths (19%) occurred in other locations (not outdoors or in a hospital) (Table 4a), including deaths that were drug-related (27%; n=8), due to accidents (excluding drug overdose) (13%; n=4), alcohol misuse/dependence (13%; n=4), heart disease (7%; n=2), suicide (7%; n=2), homicide (3%; n=1) and chronic liver disease (3%; n=1), and other causes not rankable as leading causes of death (27%; n=8).

Among the 459 decedents who were living in a shelter at the time of death:

- One-fourth (26%; n=120) of deaths occurred in a shelter, including 47 drug-related deaths (all of which were accidental overdoses), heart disease (n=31), and COVID-19-related (n=8);
- Almost two thirds (63%; n=290) occurred in a hospital, including 97 (21%) COVID-19-related, 44 (10%) from heart disease, 33 (7%) drug-related, 14 (3%) accidents (excluding drug overdose), and 10 (2%) cancer;
- Twenty-two (5%) deaths occurred outdoors: eight (2%) were drug related, two (<1%) were COVID-19, two (<1%) were suicides, two (<1%) were accidents (excluding drug overdose), one each (<1%) due to alcohol misuse/dependence, heart disease, and homicide, as well as five (1%) to other causes not rankable;</li>
- Twenty-seven deaths occurred in other places (excluding outdoor or hospital:
  - Of those, the cause of death included drug-related (n=12), suicide (n=4), accidents (excluding drug overdose) (n=3), one each of heart disease, alcohol misuse/dependence and COVID-19, and five not rankable as leading causes of death;
- Of the 108 deaths due to COVID-19 (probable and confirmed) among those living in a shelter, most died in hospital (90%; n=97), followed by shelter (7%; n=8); outdoors (2%; n=2) and other places (1%; n=1).

#### Leading Causes of Death among Infants Experiencing Homelessness (DHS and OCME reported)

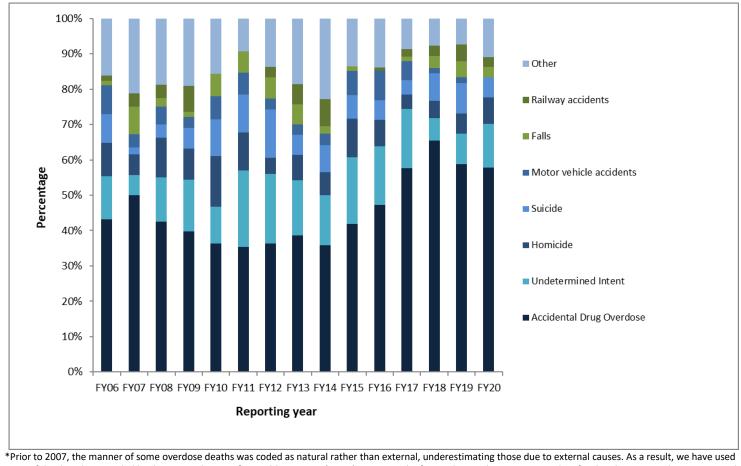
There were 7 infant deaths reported in FY20, which is 59% decrease in infant deaths compared to FY 19 (n=17). Leading causes of infant deaths includes homicide (n=1), congenital malformations (n=1), and five for which cause of death was still pending. Since reporting began in 2005, 124 deaths among infants experiencing homelessness have been reported.

#### External Causes of Death (DHS and OCME reported)

External causes of death are those which are not due to natural causes and include, but are not limited to drug overdose, accidents, homicides, and suicides. The annual number of deaths due to external causes has ranged between 52 in FY07 and 217 in this report (Figure 7). Of the 217 deaths due to external causes, 68% (n=148) occurred among residents of shelters and 32% (n=69) among non-sheltered persons (Figure 7, Table 6d). Among deaths due to external causes, most (59%; n=128) were due to accidental drug overdose followed by homicide (7%; n=16), suicide (6%; n=12), motor vehicle accidents (5%; n=11), falls (3%; n=6), railway accidents (3%; n=6), other non-transportation accidents (i.e. any other accident-related deaths

that does not relate to transportation and are not already included in the table) (2%; n=5), exposure to excessive natural cold (2%; n=4), and drowning, other land transport accidents, and poisoning by noxious substance with one each (Figure 7, Table 6c, 6d). Additionally, for 12% (n=26) of the deaths, it could not be determined if the intent was homicide, suicide, or accidental.

Causes of external deaths varied somewhat between sheltered and non-sheltered persons. Among sheltered persons, 66% (n=98) of external deaths were due to accidental drug overdose versus 43% (n=30) among non-sheltered persons. All deaths due to exposure to excessive natural cold were among non-sheltered persons (n=4; 2%), the same number as FY19. Proportions of death due to suicide, homicide, and motor vehicle accidents were similar in FY20 compared to FY19 (Table 6d).



#### Figure 7. Most Frequent External Causes of Death among DHS and OCME Reported Decedents, July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2020

\*Prior to 2007, the manner of some overdose deaths was coded as natural rather than external, underestimating those due to external causes. As a result, we have used cause of death codes provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) to correct the first and second reporting year data for this change in coding. See Special Section: New York City Changes from Manual to Automated Cause-of-Death Coding (page 75): <a href="https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/vs/2007sum.pdf">https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/vs/2007sum.pdf</a> for more information.

| Outdoor Deaths                 | Other Deaths                                 |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Sidewalk/Street                | Friend or Family Member's Apartment          |
| Expressway                     | Subway Car/ Subway Platform/Train<br>Station |
| Outside of Building Entrance   | Abandoned Building                           |
| Park Area                      | Public Space in a Building <sup>+</sup>      |
| Street Homeless Condition      | Motel/Hotel Room                             |
| Vehicle                        | Drop-in Center                               |
| Vacant Lot                     | Building Vestibule                           |
| Bank/Shore of in Body of Water | Place of Employment                          |
| Construction Site              | Storage Facility                             |
| Roof of Building               | Other, not otherwise specified               |

\* In the 1st annual report, subway and train deaths were categorized as outdoor; this was changed in the 2nd annual report based on discussions between agencies reporting these deaths.

<sup>†</sup>Public spaces in buildings include lobbies, stairwells, elevators, and roofs.

|          |     |       | Deaths R | eport | ed by Dl | HS and C |        | Deaths Reported |      |         |
|----------|-----|-------|----------|-------|----------|----------|--------|-----------------|------|---------|
|          |     |       |          |       | Shelt    | er Resid | ency S | tatus           |      | by HRA* |
|          |     | Total |          |       | Sheltere | ed       | Nor    | n-Shelte        | ered |         |
| Month of |     |       | Non-     |       |          | Non-     |        |                 | Non- |         |
| Death    | All | OCME  | OCME     | All   | OCME     | OCME     | All    | OCME            | OCME | Total   |
| Total    | 613 | 407   | 206      | 459   | 271      | 188      | 154    | 136             | 18   | 72      |
| JUL19    | 44  | 32    | 12       | 26    | 16       | 10       | 18     | 16              | 2    | 5       |
| AUG19    | 39  |       | 12       | 31    | 19       | 12       | 8      | 8               | 0    | 4       |
| SEP19    | 31  | 25    | 6        | 20    | 15       | 5        | 11     | 10              | 1    | 1       |
| OCT19    | 44  | 36    | 8        | 30    |          | 7        | 14     |                 | 1    | 4       |
| NOV19    | 40  |       | 12       | 34    |          | 11       | 6      | 5               | 1    | 7       |
| DEC19    | 40  |       | 11       | 32    | 22       | 10       | 8      | 7               | 1    | 8       |
| JAN20    | 38  |       | 8        | 24    | 17       | 7        | 14     | 13              | 1    | 5       |
| FEB20    | 35  | 30    | 5        | 24    | 19       | 5        | 11     | 11              | 0    | 9       |
| MAR20    | 48  |       | 19       | 36    |          | 16       | 12     |                 | 3    | 4       |
| APR20    | 131 | 56    | 75       | 107   | 39       | 68       | 24     |                 | 7    | 11      |
| MAY20    | 79  |       | 28       |       |          |          | 19     |                 |      | 6       |
| JUN20    | 44  | 34    | 10       | 35    | 25       | 10       | 9      | 9               | 0    | 8       |

### Table 2: Deaths by Shelter Residency Status and Month of Death, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

\* All HRA deaths occurred to homeless placed in Single Room Occupancy (SRO). SROs are not considered homeless shelters by HRA,

but they are included in this report because they are homeless shelter residents according to Local Law No. 63 of 2005 (codified at New York

City Administrative Code Section 17-190) definitions #2 Homeless shelter resident and #3 Homeless shelter were classified as homeless sheltered residents. See: <u>http://webdocs.nyccouncil.info/attachments/66681.htm</u>

HRA homeless sheltered deaths are reported separately and should not be added to other homeless sheltered deaths as there may be duplication. To comply with Article 27-F of the New York state Public Health Law which prohibits disclosure of any information that could reasonably identify someone having an HIV related illness or AIDS, personal identifiers on HRA homeless deaths were not provided; hence corresponding death certificates could not be reviewed to determine whether deaths were also reported by OCME

Table 3: Deaths among Sheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Community District of Shelter, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

|           | trict of Shelter, July 1, 2019 – June 30,            | Deaths among Sheltered Persons |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------|
|           |  | Experiencing Homlessness       |
| Devenuela | Community District of Chalton                        |                                |
| Borough   | Community District of Shelter                        | Reported by DHS and OCME       |
| Total     | Tatal  | 459                            |
| Manhattan | Total  | 113                            |
|           | Battery Park, Tribeca (01)                           | 1                              |
|           | Greenwich Village, SOHO (02)<br>Lower East Side (03) |                                |
|           | Chelsea, Clinton (04)                                |                                |
|           | Midtown Business District (05)                       |                                |
|           | Murray Hill (06)                                     |                                |
|           | Upper West Side (07)                                 |                                |
|           | Upper East Side (07)                                 | 0                              |
|           | Manhattanville (09)                                  | 1                              |
|           | Central Harlem (10)                                  | 5                              |
|           | East Harlem (10)                                     | 30                             |
|           | Washington Heights (12)                              | 10                             |
|           | Total  | 98                             |
| Bronx     | Mott Haven (01)                                      | 8                              |
|           | Hunts Point (02)                                     | 5                              |
|           | Morrisania (03)                                      | 22                             |
|           | Concourse, Highbridge (04)                           | 20                             |
|           | University/Morris Heights (05)                       | 20                             |
|           | East Tremont (06)                                    |                                |
|           | Fordham (07)   |                                |
|           | Riverdale (08)                                       |                                |
|           | Unionport, Soundview (09)                            | 2                              |
|           | Throgs Neck (10)                                     | 2                              |
|           | Pelham Parkway (11)                                  |                                |
|           | Williamsbridge (12)                                  |                                |
| Brooklyn  | Total  |                                |
| DIOOKIYII | Williamsburg, Greenpoint (01)                        | 18                             |
|           | Fort Greene, Brooklyn Heights (02)                   |                                |
|           | Bedford Stuyvesant (03)                              |                                |
|           | Bushwick (04)  |                                |
|           | East New York (05)                                   | 24                             |
|           | Park Slope (06)                                      |                                |
|           | Sunset Park (07)                                     | 5                              |
|           | Crown Heights North (08)                             | 15                             |
|           | Crown Heights South (09)                             | 17                             |
|           | Bay Ridge (10)                                       | 0                              |
|           | Bensonhurst (11)                                     | 0                              |
|           | Borough Park (12)                                    | 2                              |
|           | Coney Island (13)                                    | 0                              |
|           | Flatbush, Midwood (14)                               | 4                              |
|           | Sheepshead Bay (15)                                  | 0                              |
|           | Brownsville (16)                                     | 18                             |
|           | East Flatbush (17)                                   | 5                              |
|           | Canarsie (18)  | 21                             |

Table 3 (continued): Deaths among Sheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Community District of Shelter, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

|               |                                | Deaths among Sheltered Persons<br>Experiencing Homlessness |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Borough       | Community District of Shelter  | Reported by DHS and OCME                                   |
| Queens        | Total                          | 82   |
|               | Astoria, Long Island City (01) | 7  |
|               | Sunnyside, Woodside (02)       | 13   |
|               | Jackson Heights (03)           | 6  |
|               | Elmhurst, Corona (04)          | 4  |
|               | Ridgewood, Glendale (05)       | 0  |
|               | Rego Park, Forest Hills (06)   | 0  |
|               | Flushing (07)                  | 6  |
|               | Fresh Meadows, Briarwood (08)  | 1  |
|               | Woodhaven (09)                 | 7  |
|               | Howard Beach (10)              | 12   |
|               | Bayside (11)                   | 0  |
|               | Jamaica, St. Albans (12)       | 17   |
|               | Queens Village (13)            | 7  |
|               | The Rockaways (14)             | 2  |
| Staten Island | Total                          | 1  |
|               | Port Richmond (01)             | 1  |
|               | Willowbrook, South Beach (02)  | 0  |
|               | Tottenville (03)               | 0  |

## Table 4a: Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Location of Death (Community District), July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

| (Commu    | Deaths Reported by DHS and OCME |       |                 |          |          |       |       |                          |          |          |       |       |         |          |          |       |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------|----------|----------|-------|-------|--------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-------|---------|----------|----------|-------|
|           |                                 | Total |                 |          |          |       |       | Shelter Residency Status |          |          |       |       |         |          |          |       |
|           |                                 |       | Sheltered Non-S |          |          |       |       |                          |          |          |       |       |         |          | ered     |       |
|           | Community District              |       |                 |          |          |       |       |                          | Location | of Death |       |       |         | Location | of Death |       |
| Borough   | of Death                        | Total | Shelter         | Hospital | Outdoors | Other | Total | Shelter                  | Hospital | Outdoors | Other | Total | Shelter | Hospital | Outdoors | Other |
| Total     |                                 | 613   | 120             | 369      | 67       | 57    |       | 120                      | 290      | 22       | 27    | 154   | 0       |          |          | 30    |
| Manhattan | Total                           | 206   | 36              | 123      | 24       | 23    | 140   | 36                       | 89       | 7        | 8     | 66    | 0       | 34       | 17       | 15    |
|           | Battery Park, Tribeca (01)      | 11    | 0               | 8        | 1        | 2     | 8     | 0                        | 6        | 1        | 1     | 3     | 0       | 2        | 0        | 1     |
|           | Greenwich Village, SOHO         | 8     | 0               | 5        | 2        | 1     | 2     | 0                        | 1        | 1        | 0     | 6     | 0       | 4        | 1        | 1     |
| ľ         | Lower East Side (03)            | 13    | 8               | 0        | 2        | 3     | 10    | 8                        | 0        | 0        | 2     | 3     | 0       | 0        | 2        | 1     |
| ľ         | Chelsea, Clinton (04)           | 16    | 2               | 7        | 4        | 3     | 6     | 2                        | 2        | 1        | 1     | 10    | 0       | 5        | 3        | 2     |
| ľ         | Midtown Business District       | 7     | 3               | 0        | 2        | 2     | 4     | 3                        | 0        | 0        | 1     | 3     | 0       | 0        | 2        | 1     |
| 1         | Murray Hill (06)                | 56    | 4               | 48       | 2        | 2     | 39    | 4                        | 34       | 0        | 1     | 17    | 0       | 14       | 2        | 1     |
| ľ         | Upper West Side (07)            | 10    | 8               | 0        | 2        | 0     | 9     | 8                        | 0        | 1        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 1        | 0     |
|           | Upper East Side (08)            | 13    | 0               | 9        | 1        | 3     | 10    | 0                        | 9        | 1        | 0     | 3     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 3     |
|           | Manhattanville (09)             | 7     | 0               | 6        | 0        | 1     | 5     | 0                        | 5        | 0        | 0     | 2     | 0       | 1        | . 0      | 1     |
|           | Central Harlem (10)             | 27    | 3               | 20       | 2        | 2     | 19    | 3                        | 16       | 0        | 0     | 8     | 0       | 4        | 2        | 2     |
|           | East Harlem (11)                | 24    | 6               | 13       | 3        | 2     | 18    |                          | 11       | 0        | 1     | 6     | 0       | 2        | 3        | 1     |
| ľ         | Washington Heights (12)         | 14    | 2               | 7        | 3        | 2     | 10    | 2                        | 5        | 2        | 1     | 4     | 0       | 2        | 1        | 1     |
| Bronx     | Total                           | 117   | 24              | 75       | 6        | 12    | 98    | 24                       | 63       | 4        | 7     | 19    | 0       | 12       | 2        | 5     |
| ľ         | Mott Haven (01)                 | 26    | 2               | 23       | 1        | 0     | 19    | 2                        | 16       | 1        | 0     | 7     | 0       | 7        | 0        | 0     |
| ľ         | Hunts Point (02)                | 4     | 0               | 0        | 1        | 3     | 3     | 0                        | 0        | 1        | 2     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 1     |
| ľ         | Morrisania (03)                 | 14    | 9               | 5        | 0        | 0     | 13    | 9                        | 4        | 0        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 1        | 0        | 0     |
| ľ         | Concourse, Highbridge (04)      | 23    | 3               | 16       | 3        | 1     | 22    | 3                        | 16       | 2        | 1     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 1        | 0     |
| ľ         | University/Morris Heights       | 6     | 5               | 0        | 0        | 1     | 5     | 5                        | 0        | 0        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 1     |
| F         | East Tremont (06)               | 12    | 1               | 10       | 1        | 0     | 11    | 1                        | 10       | 0        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 1        | 0     |
|           | Fordham (07)                    | 14    | 2               | 10       | 0        | 2     | 12    | 2                        | 9        | 0        | 1     | 2     | 0       | 1        | . 0      | 1     |
| ľ         | Riverdale (08)                  | 0     | 0               | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0                        | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0     |
| ľ         | Unionport, Soundview (09)       | 4     | 1               | 1        | 0        | 2     | 3     | 1                        | 1        | 0        | 1     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 1     |
| ľ         | Throgs Neck (10)                | 1     | 0               | 0        | 0        | 1     | 1     | 0                        | 0        | 0        | 1     | 0     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0     |
| ľ         | Pelham Parkway (11)             | 10    | 0               | 9        | 0        | 1     | 7     | 0                        | 6        | 0        | 1     | 3     | 0       | 3        | 0        | 0     |
| ľ         | Williamsbridge (12)             | 3     | 1               | 1        | 0        | 1     | 2     | 1                        | 1        | 0        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 1     |
| Brooklyn  | Total                           | 173   | 35              | 111      | 14       | 13    | 138   | 35                       | 90       | 7        | 6     | 35    | 0       | 21       | 7        | 7     |
| í t       | Williamsburg, Greenpoint        | 8     | 6               | 0        | 1        | 1     | 7     | 6                        | 0        | 1        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 1     |
| ľ         | Fort Greene, Brooklyn           | 17    | 3               | 13       | 1        | 0     | 12    | 3                        | 9        | 0        | 0     | 5     | 0       | 4        | 1        | 0     |
| ľ         | Bedford Stuyvesant (03)         | 30    | 5               | 22       | 2        | 1     | 25    | 5                        | 18       | 2        | 0     | 5     | 0       | 4        | 0        | 1     |
| ľ         | Bushwick (04)                   | 9     | 2               | 6        | 1        | 0     | 5     | 2                        | 3        | 0        | 0     | 4     | 0       | 3        | 1        | 0     |
| ľ         | East New York (05)              | 5     | 2               | 0        | 1        | 2     | 4     | 2                        | 0        | 0        | 2     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 1        | 0     |
| ľ         | Park Slope (06)                 | 9     | 2               | 5        | 0        | 2     | 6     | 2                        | 3        | 0        | 1     | 3     | 0       | 2        | 0        | 1     |
| ľ         | Sunset Park (07)                | 8     | 3               | 3        | 2        | 0     | 5     | 3                        | 1        | 1        | 0     | 3     | 0       | 2        | 1        | 0     |
| ľ         | Crown Heights North (08)        | 5     | 2               | 0        | 2        | 1     | 4     | 2                        | 0        | 2        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 1     |
| ľ         | Crown Heights South (09)        | 19    | 1               | 17       | 0        | 1     | 16    | 1                        | 15       | 0        | 0     | 3     | 0       | 2        | 0        | 1     |
| ľ         | Bay Ridge (10)                  | 0     | 0               | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0                        | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0     |
|           | Bensonhurst (11)                | 0     | 0               | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0                        | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0     |
|           | Borough Park (12)               | 3     | 1               | 1        | 0        | 1     | 2     | 1                        | 1        | 0        | 0     | 1     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 1     |
|           | Coney Island (13)               | 5     | 0               | 3        | 2        | 0     | 3     | 0                        | 2        | 1        | 0     | 2     | 0       | 1        | 1        | 0     |
|           | Flatbush, Midwood (14)          | 1     | 0               | 0        | 0        | 1     | 1     | 0                        | 0        | 0        | 1     | 0     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0     |
|           | Sheepshead Bay (15)             | 2     | 0               | 2        | 0        | 0     | 2     | 0                        | 2        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0       | 0        | 0        | 0     |
| -         | Brownsville (16)                | 3     | 1               | 0        | 2        | 0     |       |                          | 0        | 0        | 0     | 2     | 0       | 0        | 2        | 0     |
|           | East Flatbush (17)              | 40    | 3               |          | 0        | 2     | 36    |                          | 32       | 0        | 1     |       |         | 3        | 0        |       |
| ł         | Canarsie (18)                   | 9     | 4               |          | 0        |       | 9     |                          | 4        |          |       |       |         |          |          |       |

# Table 4a (continued): Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Location of Death (Community District), July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

|         |                                |       | Deaths Reported by DHS and OCME |          |          |       |       |           |          |          |          |                |               |          |          |       |  |  |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------|-------|--|--|
|         |                                |       |                                 | Total    |          |       |       |           |          | She      | lter Res | sidency Status |               |          |          |       |  |  |
|         |                                |       |                                 | Total    |          |       |       | Sheltered |          |          |          |                | Non-Sheltered |          |          |       |  |  |
|         | Community District             |       |                                 |          |          |       |       |           |          | of Death |          |                |               |          | of Death |       |  |  |
| Borough | of Death                       | Total | Shelter                         | Hospital | Outdoors | Other | Total | Shelter   | Hospital | Outdoors | Other    | Total          | Shelter       | Hospital | Outdoors | Other |  |  |
| Queens  | Total                          | 114   |                                 | 57       | 23       | 9     |       | 25        | 46       | 4        | 6        | 33             | 0             | 11       | 19       | 3     |  |  |
|         | Astoria, Long Island City (01) |       |                                 | 7        | 2        | 1     | 11    | 4         | 5        | 1        | 1        | 3              | 0             | 2        | 1        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Sunnyside, Woodside (02)       |       | 3                               | 1        | 2        | 0     | 4     |           | 1        | 0        | 0        | 2              | 0             | 0        | 2        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Jackson Heights (03)           |       | 2                               | 0        | 5        | 0     | 2     | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 5              | 0             | 0        | 5        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Elmhurst, Corona (04)          |       | 0                               | 13       | 3        | 3     | 10    |           | 8        | 0        | 2        | 9              | 0             | 5        | 3        | 1     |  |  |
|         | Ridgewood, Glendale (05)       |       | 0                               | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Rego Park, Forest Hills (06)   |       | 0                               | 0        | 2        | 0     | 0     | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2              | 0             | 0        | 2        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Flushing (07)                  | 7     | 2                               | 4        | 0        | 1     | 4     | 2         | 2        | 0        | 0        | 3              | 0             | 2        | 0        | 1     |  |  |
|         | Fresh Meadows, Briarwood       | 11    | 0                               | 10       | 0        | 1     | 9     | 0         | 9        | 0        | 0        | 2              | 0             | 1        | 0        | 1     |  |  |
|         | Woodhaven (09)                 | 23    | 3                               | 18       | 2        | 0     | 20    | 3         | 17       | 0        | 0        | 3              | 0             | 1        | 2        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Howard Beach (10)              | 5     | 4                               | 0        | 0        | 1     | 5     | 4         | 0        | 0        | 1        | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Bayside (11)                   | 1     | 0                               | 0        | 1        | 0     | 1     | 0         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Jamaica, St. Albans (12)       | 10    | 4                               | 0        | 5        | 1     | 7     | 4         | 0        | 2        | 1        | 3              | 0             | 0        | 3        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Queens Village (13)            | 5     | 2                               | 2        | 1        | 0     | 4     | 2         | 2        | 0        | 0        | 1              | 0             | 0        | 1        | 0     |  |  |
|         | The Rockaways (14)             | 4     | 1                               | 2        | 0        | 1     | 4     | 1         | 2        | 0        | 1        | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0     |  |  |
| Staten  | Total                          | 3     | 0                               | 3        | 0        | 0     | 2     | 0         | 2        | 0        | 0        | 1              | 0             | 1        | 0        | 0     |  |  |
| Island  | Port Richmond (01)             | 3     | 0                               | 3        | 0        | 0     | 2     | 0         | 2        | 0        | 0        | 1              | 0             | 1        | 0        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Willowbrook, South Beach       | 0     | 0                               | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0     |  |  |
|         | Tottenville (03)               | 0     | 0                               | 0        | 0        | 0     | 0     | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0              | 0             | 0        | 0        | 0     |  |  |

Table 4b. Deaths among HRA Persons Experiencing Homelessness by Location of Death, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020\*

|               | Deaths Reported by HRA* |                   |          |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|               |                         | Sheltered         |          |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|               |                         | Location of Death |          |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Borough       | Total                   | Shelter           | Hospital | Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total         | 72                      | 54                | 17       | 1     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Manhattan     | 20                      | 18                | 2        | 0     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bronx         | 28                      | 24                | 3        | 1     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brooklyn      | 18                      | 7                 | 11       | 0     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Queens        | 3                       | 3                 | 0        | 0     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Staten Island | 3                       | 2                 | 1        | 0     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 5: Deaths among Persons Experiencing Homelessness by Reporting Agency, Age, and Sex, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020\*

| Age Category | Deat  | hs Rep | orted | by DHS | and O  | Deaths Reported by HRA* |       |     |     |     |        |    |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----|
|              | Total |        | Male  |        | Female |                         | Total |     | Ma  | ale | Female |    |
|              | All   | %      | All   | %      | All    | %                       | All   | %   | All | %   | All    | %  |
| All Ages     | 613   | 100    | 469   | 77     | 144    | 23                      | 72    | 100 | 55  | 76  | 17     | 24 |
| <1           | 7     | 1      | 3     | 0      | 4      | 1                       | 0     | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0      | 0  |
| 1-24         | 15    | 2      | 11    | 2      | 4      | 1                       | 2     | 3   | 2   | 3   | 0      | 0  |
| 25-44        | 155   | 25     | 119   | 19     | 36     | 6                       | 24    | 33  | 18  | 25  | 6      | 8  |
| 45-64        | 330   | 54     | 260   | 42     | 70     | 11                      | 40    | 56  | 30  | 42  | 10     | 14 |
| ≥65          | 106   | 17     | 76    | 12     | 30     | 5                       | 6     | 8   | 5   | 7   | 1      | 1  |

\*All HRA deaths occurred to homeless placed in Single Room Occupancy (SRO). SROs are not considered homeless shelters by HRA, but they are included in this report because they are homeless shelter residents according to Local Law No. 63 of 2005 (codified at New York City Administrative Code Section 17-190) definitions #2 "Homeless shelter resident" and #3 "Homeless shelter". See: http://webdocs.nyccouncil.info/attachments/66681.htm

HRA homeless sheltered deaths are reported separately and should not be added to other homeless sheltered deaths as there may be duplication. To comply with Article 27-F of the New York state Public Health Law which prohibits disclosure of any information that could reasonably identify someone having an HIV related illness or AIDS, personal identifiers on HRA homeless deaths were not provided, including community district of death.

\*\*Female includes transgender females

## Table 6a: Leading Causes of Death among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Sex, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

|       |   |      |     | Sex |     |     |      |  |
|-------|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--|
|       |   | Tota | al  | M   | ale | Fer | nale |  |
|       | Cause of Death  | All  | %   | All | %   | All | %    |  |
| Rank* | Total   | 613  | 100 | 469 | 100 | 144 | 100  |  |
| 1     | Drug related  | 131  | 21  | 104 | 22  | 27  | 19   |  |
| 2     | COVID-19  | 120  | 20  | 96  | 20  | 24  | 17   |  |
|       | Lab-Confirmed   | 99   | 16  | 76  | 16  | 23  | 16   |  |
|       | Probable  | 21   | 3   | 20  | 4   | 1   | 1    |  |
| 3     | Heart disease   | 103  | 17  | 76  | 16  | 27  | 19   |  |
|       | Accidents (excluding drug overdose)                             | 35   | 6   | 30  | 6   | 5   | 3    |  |
| 5     | Mental disorders due to alcohol use (alcohol misuse/dependence) | 30   | 5   | 25  | 5   | 5   | 3    |  |
| 6     | Homicide  | 16   | 3   | 14  | 3   | 2   | 1    |  |
| 6     | Cancer  | 16   | 3   | 12  | 3   | 4   | 3    |  |
| 8     | Chronic liver disease   | 13   | 2   | 8   | 2   | 5   | 3    |  |
| 9     | Chronic lower respiratory diseases                              | 12   | 2   | 4   | 1   | 8   | 6    |  |
| 9     | Suicide   | 12   | 2   | 10  | 2   | 2   | 1    |  |
| 11    | Diabetes  | 10   | 2   | 6   | 1   | 4   | 3    |  |
| 11    | Stroke  | 9    | 1   | 7   | 1   | 2   | 1    |  |
| 13    | Influenza/pneumonia   | 8    | 1   | 6   | 1   | 2   | 1    |  |
| 14    | Hypertension  | 4    | 1   | 2   | 0   | 2   | 1    |  |
|       | Aortic aneurysms  | 4    | 1   | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1    |  |
| 16    | Congenital malformations  | 2    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1    |  |
|       | Hepatitis   | 2    | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0    |  |
| 16    | Pregnancy related   | 2    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 1    |  |
| 19    | Anemias   | 1    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1    |  |
| 19    | Septicemia  | 1    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0    |  |
|       | Meningitis  | 1    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0    |  |
| 19    | Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids                           | 1    | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1    |  |
| 19    | HIV   | 1    | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0    |  |
|       | Pending final determination                                     | 30   | 5   | 19  | 4   | 11  | 8    |  |
|       | All other causes  | 49   | 8   | 41  | 9   | 8   | 6    |  |
|       | tios somo ranks do not annoar                                   |      |     |     |     |     |      |  |

\*Because of ties some ranks do not appear.

\*\*Other causes not rankable as leading causes includes cases where the cause or manner of death are still under investigation by the OCME (n=11).

| Table 6b: Leading Causes of Death among Persons Experiencing Homelessness | Reported by DHS and OCME, |
|---|---------------------------|
| by Shelter Residency Status, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020                 |                           |
|   | Chalten Desiden           |

|       |   |      | Shelter Residency Status |           |     |               |     |  |
|-------|---|------|--------------------------|-----------|-----|---------------|-----|--|
|       |   | Tota | al                       | Sheltered |     | Non-Sheltered |     |  |
|       | Cause of Death  | All  | %                        | All       | %   | All           | %   |  |
| Rank* | Total   | 613  | 100                      | 459       | 100 | 154           | 100 |  |
| 1     | Drug related  | 131  | 21                       | 100       | 22  | 31            | 20  |  |
| 2     | COVID-19  | 120  | 20                       | 108       | 24  | 12            | 8   |  |
|       | Lab-Confirmed   | 99   | 16                       | 90        | 20  | 9             | 6   |  |
|       | Probable  | 21   | 3                        | 18        | 4   | 3             | 2   |  |
| 3     | Heart disease   | 103  | 17                       | 83        | 18  | 20            | 13  |  |
| 4     | Accidents (excluding drug overdose)                             | 35   | 6                        | 19        | 4   | 16            | 10  |  |
| 5     | Mental disorders due to alcohol use (alcohol misuse/dependence) | 30   | 5                        | 8         | 2   | 22            | 14  |  |
| 6     | Homicide  | 16   | 3                        | 11        | 2   | 5             | 3   |  |
| 6     | Cancer  | 16   | 3                        | 11        | 2   | 5             | 3   |  |
| 8     | Chronic liver disease   | 13   | 2                        | 8         | 2   | 5             | 3   |  |
| 9     | Chronic lower respiratory diseases                              | 12   | 2                        | 10        | 2   | 2             | 1   |  |
| 9     | Suicide   | 12   | 2                        | 8         | 2   | 4             | 3   |  |
| 11    | Diabetes  | 10   | 2                        | 10        | 2   | 0             | 0   |  |
|       | Stroke  | 9    | 1                        | 9         | 2   | 0             | 0   |  |
|       | Influenza/pneumonia   | 8    | 1                        | 5         | 1   | 3             | 2   |  |
| 14    | Hypertension  | 4    | 1                        | 4         | 1   | 0             | 0   |  |
|       | Aortic aneurysms  | 4    | 1                        | 3         | 1   | 1             | 1   |  |
| 16    | Congenital malformations  | 2    | 0                        | 2         | 0   | 0             | 0   |  |
| 16    | Hepatitis   | 2    | 0                        | 2         | 0   | 0             | 0   |  |
| 16    | Pregnancy related   | 2    | 0                        | 2         | 0   | 0             | 0   |  |
| 19    | Anemias   | 1    | 0                        | 1         | 0   | 0             | 0   |  |
| 19    | Septicemia  | 1    | 0                        | 0         | 0   | 1             | 1   |  |
| 19    | Meningitis  | 1    | 0                        | 1         | 0   | 0             | 0   |  |
| 19    | Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids                           | 1    | 0                        | 1         | 0   | 0             | 0   |  |
| 19    | HIV   | 1    | 0                        | 0         | 0   | 1             | 1   |  |
|       | Pending final determination                                     | 30   | 5                        | 22        | 5   | 8             | 5   |  |
|       | All other causes  | 49   | 8                        | 31        | 7   | 18            | 12  |  |

\*Because of ties some ranks do not appear.

Table 6c: External Causes of Death\*\* Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Sex, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

|       |                                    |     |     |     | Se  | X      |     |  |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|--|
|       |                                    | То  | tal | Ma  | le  | Female |     |  |
|       | Cause of Death                     | All | %   | All | %   | All    | %   |  |
| Rank* | Total                              | 217 | 100 | 181 | 100 | 36     | 100 |  |
| 1     | Accidental drug overdose           | 128 | 59  | 102 | 56  | 26     | 72  |  |
| 2     | Undetermined intent                | 26  | 12  | 25  | 14  | 1      | 3   |  |
| 3     | Homicide                           | 16  | 7   | 14  | 8   | 2      | 6   |  |
| 4     | Suicide                            | 12  | 6   | 10  | 6   | 2      | 6   |  |
| 5     | Motor vehicle accidents            | 11  | 5   | 10  | 6   | 1      | 3   |  |
| 6     | Falls                              | 6   | 3   | 5   | 3   | 1      | 3   |  |
| 6     | Railway accidents                  | 6   | 3   | 4   | 2   | 2      | 6   |  |
| 8     | Other non-transport accidents      | 5   | 2   | 4   | 2   | 1      | 3   |  |
| 9     | Exposure to excessive natural cold | 4   | 2   | 4   | 2   | 0      | 0   |  |
| 10    | Poisoning by noxious substance     | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0      | 0   |  |
| 10    | Other land transport accidents     | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0      | 0   |  |
| 10    | Drowning                           | 1   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0      | 0   |  |

\*Because of ties some ranks do not appear.

\*\*External causes of death include accidents, suicide, assault, legal intervention, events of undetermined intent, operations of war and their sequelae, and complications of medical and surgical care.

## Table 6d: External Causes of Death among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Shelter Residency Status, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

| -     |                                    |     |     | Shelt | ter Resid | dency Status |         |  |  |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----------|--------------|---------|--|--|
|       |                                    | То  | tal | Shelt | ered      | Non-Sh       | eltered |  |  |
|       | Cause of Death                     | All | %   | All   | %         | All          | %       |  |  |
| Rank* | Total                              | 217 | 100 | 148   | 100       | 69           | 100     |  |  |
| 1     | Accidental drug overdose           | 128 | 59  | 98    | 66        | 30           | 43      |  |  |
| 2     | Undetermined intent                | 26  | 12  | 12    | 8         | 14           | 20      |  |  |
| 3     | Homicide                           | 16  | 7   | 11    | 7         | 5            | 7       |  |  |
| 4     | Suicide                            | 12  | 6   | 8     | 5         | 4            | 6       |  |  |
| 5     | Motor vehicle accidents            | 11  | 5   | 7     | 5         | 4            | 6       |  |  |
| 6     | Falls                              | 6   | 3   | 4     | 3         | 2            | 3       |  |  |
| 6     | Railway accidents                  | 6   | 3   | 3     | 2         | 3            | 4       |  |  |
| 8     | Other non-transport accidents      | 5   | 2   | 3     | 2         | 2            | 3       |  |  |
| 9     | Exposure to excessive natural cold | 4   | 2   | 0     | 0         | 4            | 6       |  |  |
| 10    | Poisoning by noxious substance     | 1   | 0   | 0     | 0         | 1            | 1       |  |  |
| 10    | Other land transport accidents     | 1   | 0   | 1     | 1         | 0            | 0       |  |  |
| 10    | Drowning                           | 1   | 0   | 1     | 1         | 0            | 0       |  |  |

\*Because of ties some ranks do not appear.

\*\*External causes of death include accidents, suicide, assault, legal intervention, events of undetermined intent, operations of war and their sequelae, and complications of medical and surgical care.

Table 7: Select Causes of Death among Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reported by DHS and OCME, by Shelter Residency Status and Location of Death, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020

|                     |       | FY17                     |                   |       | FY18                     |                   |       | FY19                     |                   |       | FY20                     |                   |  |  |
|---------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Cause / Location of |       | Shelter Residency Status |                   |  |  |
| Death               | Total | Sheltered                | Non-<br>Sheltered |  |  |
| Drug Related Total  | 103   | 64                       | 39                | 99    | 63                       | 36                | 116   | 75                       | 41                | 131   | 100                      | 31                |  |  |
| In shelter          | 29    | 29                       | 0                 | 35    | 35                       | 0                 | 32    | 32                       | 0                 | 47    | 47                       | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 45    | 28                       | 17                | 35    | 21                       | 14                | 57    | 36                       | 21                | 42    | 33                       | 9                 |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 10    | 2                        | 8                 | 11    | 2                        | 9                 | 8     | 1                        | 7                 | 22    | 8                        | 14                |  |  |
| Other location      | 19    | 5                        | 14                | 18    | 5                        | 13                | 19    | 6                        | 13                | 20    | 12                       | 8                 |  |  |
| Accidental Drug     | 86    | 55                       | 31                | 93    | 59                       | 34                | 103   | 68                       | 35                | 128   | 98                       | 30                |  |  |
| In shelter          | 26    | 26                       | 0                 | 34    | 34                       | 0                 | 31    | 31                       | 0                 | 47    | 47                       | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 36    | 22                       | 14                | 32    | 18                       | 14                | 48    | 31                       | 17                | 40    | 32                       | 8                 |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 8     | 2                        | 6                 | 10    | 2                        | 8                 | 7     | 0                        | 7                 | 22    | 8                        | 14                |  |  |
| Other location      | 16    | 5                        | 11                | 17    | 5                        | 12                | 17    | 6                        | 11                | 19    | 11                       | 8                 |  |  |
| Chronic Drug Use    | 17    | 9                        | 8                 | 6     | 4                        | 2                 | 13    | 7                        | 6                 | 3     | 2                        | 1                 |  |  |
| In shelter          | 3     | 3                        | 0                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 9     | 6                        | 3                 | 3     | 3                        | 0                 | 9     | 5                        | 4                 | 2     | 1                        | 1                 |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 2     | 0                        | 2                 | 1     | 0                        | 1                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 |  |  |
| Other location      | 3     | 0                        | 3                 | 1     | 0                        | 1                 | 2     | 0                        | 2                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 |  |  |
| Homicide Total      | 6     | 5                        | 1                 | 7     | 5                        | 2                 | 10    | 5                        | 5                 | 16    | 11                       | 5                 |  |  |
| In shelter          | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 5     | 5                        | 0                 | 5     | 4                        | 1                 | 8     | 4                        | 4                 | 10    | 9                        | 1                 |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 1     | 0                        | 1                 | 1     | 0                        | 1                 | 2     | 1                        | 1                 | 4     | 1                        | 3                 |  |  |
| Other location      | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 1     | 0                        | 1                 |  |  |
| Cold-related Total  | 2     | 0                        | 2                 | 4     | 0                        | 4                 | 4     | 1                        | 3                 | 4     | 0                        | 4                 |  |  |
| In shelter          | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 2     | 0                        | 2                 | 2     | 0                        | 2                 | 2     | 1                        | 1                 | 3     | 0                        | 3                 |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 2     | 0                        | 2                 | 1     | 0                        | 1                 | 1     | 0                        | 1                 |  |  |
| Other location      | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 1     | 0                        | 1                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 |  |  |
| Heart disease Total | 53    | 34                       | 19                | 42    | 27                       | 15                | 66    | 42                       | 24                | 103   | 83                       | 20                |  |  |
| In shelter          | 16    | 16                       | 0                 | 13    | 13                       | 0                 | 18    | 18                       | 0                 | 37    | 37                       | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 27    | 18                       | 9                 | 24    | 14                       | 10                | 35    | 20                       | 15                | 56    | 44                       | 12                |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 3     | 0                        | 3                 | 2     | 0                        | 2                 | 7     | 1                        | 6                 | 7     | 1                        | 6                 |  |  |
| Other location      | 7     | 0                        | 7                 | 3     | 0                        | 3                 | 6     | 3                        | 3                 | 3     | 1                        | 2                 |  |  |
| Accidents Total     | 27    | 10                       | 17                | 36    | 14                       | 22                | 28    | 8                        | 20                | 35    | 19                       | 16                |  |  |
| In shelter          | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 2     | 2                        | 0                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 | 0     | 0                        | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 14    | 6                        | 8                 | 19    | 8                        | 11                | 14    | 4                        | 10                | 22    | 14                       | 8                 |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 9     | 3                        | 6                 | 7     | 0                        | 7                 | 6     | 2                        | 4                 | 6     | 2                        | 4                 |  |  |
| Other location      | 4     | 1                        | 3                 | 8     | 4                        | 4                 | 7     | 1                        | 6                 | 7     | 3                        | 4                 |  |  |
| Suicides Total      | 6     | 5                        | 1                 | 11    | 8                        | 3                 | 15    | 13                       | 2                 | 12    | 8                        | 4                 |  |  |
| In shelter          | 3     | 3                        | 0                 | 2     | 2                        | 0                 | 3     | 3                        | 0                 | 1     | 1                        | 0                 |  |  |
| In hospital         | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 3     | 2                        | 1                 | 2     | 2                        | 0                 | 3     | 1                        | 2                 |  |  |
| Outdoor             | 0     | 0                        | 0                 | 3     | 3                        | 0                 | 6     | 6                        | 0                 | 2     | 2                        | 0                 |  |  |
| Other location      | 3     | 2                        | 1                 | 3     | 1                        | 2                 | 4     | 2                        | 2                 | 6     | 4                        | 2                 |  |  |