



Epi Data Brief

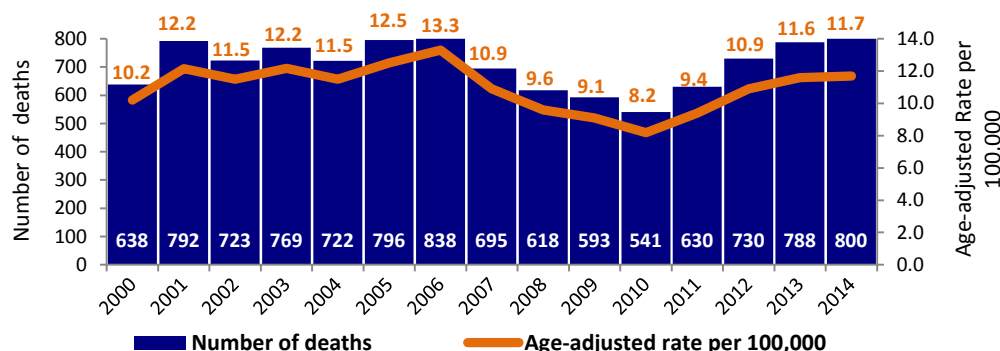
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths Involving Opioids in New York City, 2000–2014

- In 2014, there were 800 overdose deaths in New York City (NYC) (11.7 per 100,000 residents), compared with 788 overdose deaths in 2013 (11.6 per 100,000 residents).
- Rates of unintentional drug overdose deaths increased by 43% for the period 2010 to 2014, from 8.2 per 100,000 residents in 2010 to 11.7 per 100,000 residents in 2014.

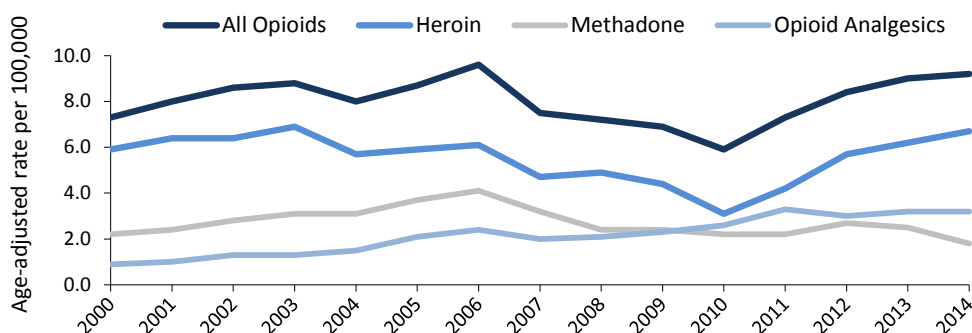
Unintentional overdose deaths, New York City, 2000–2014



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics

- In 2014, nearly all (97%) overdose deaths involved more than one substance. Approximately eight in ten (79%) overdose deaths involved an opioid.
- [Benzodiazepines](#) were found in 53% of overdose deaths involving [opioid analgesics](#), 41% of deaths involving heroin, and 55% of deaths involving methadone in 2014.

Unintentional overdose deaths by opioid type involved (not mutually exclusive), New York City, 2000–2014



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics

- Opioid analgesic-involved overdose death rates in NYC did not change in 2014 compared with 2013 (3.2 per 100,000 residents in both 2013 and 2014).
- The rate of heroin-involved overdose deaths increased each year for a cumulative 88% increase. The rate more than doubled from 3.1 per 100,000 residents in 2010 to 6.7 per 100,000 residents in 2014.

Data Source:

NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics: Mortality data were collected through an in-depth review of data and charts from the Health Department's Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for 2000-2014. Methadone is reported separately and not included in opioid analgesic analyses.

Definitions:

Rate Calculation: DOHMH population estimates, modified from US Census Bureau intercensal population estimates 2000-2014, updated October 13th, 2015. These rates will differ from previously reported rates based on Census counts or previous versions of population estimates. Rates are age-adjusted to Census 2000 US standard population, except those for specific age groups.

Neighborhood poverty:

Based on ZIP code and defined as percentage of residents with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level, per American Community Survey 2007-2011, in four groups: low (<10%), medium (10% -< 20%), high (20% -< 30%), and very high (>=30%).

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Definitions:

Opiates are sedative narcotics containing opium; most common opiates include, morphine, methadone, codeine and heroin.

Opioid analgesics: Commonly known as prescription pain relievers, such as oxycodone (Percoct®) and hydrocodone (Vicodin®).

Methadone is a synthetic opioid used medically as an analgesic and to treat opioid dependence. Methadone is reported separately from opioid analgesics in New York City.

We highlight opioid analgesics and heroin as they are involved in the majority of opioid-involved overdoses.

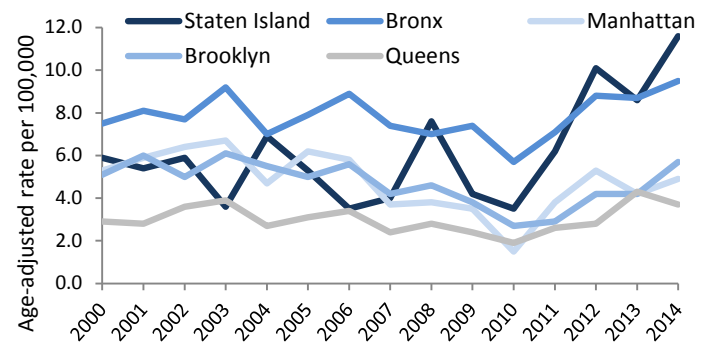
Unintentional overdose deaths involving opioid analgesics, 2014

- Opioid analgesics were involved in 27% of overdose deaths in NYC in 2014.
- In 2014, the rate of overdose deaths involving opioid analgesics was highest among Staten Island residents (7.9 per 100,000).
- In Queens, the rates decreased from 2.6 per 100,000 residents in 2013 to 2.4 per 100,000 residents in 2014.

Unintentional overdose deaths involving heroin, 2014

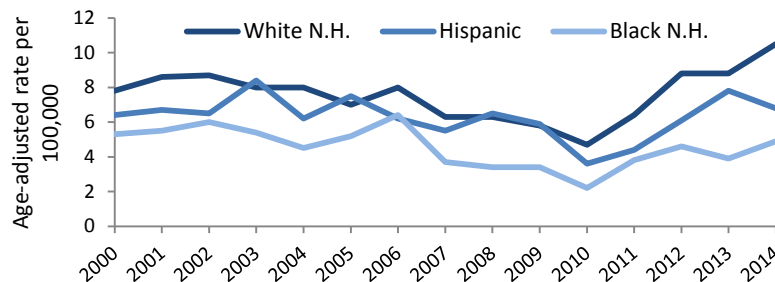
- In 2014, heroin was involved in 58% of all overdose deaths in NYC, making it the most common substance involved in overdose deaths.
- In 2014, heroin-involved overdose death rates increased in all boroughs except Queens.
- From 2000 to 2013, rates of heroin-involved overdose deaths were highest among Bronx residents in all years, except 2008 and 2012. In 2014, Staten Island residents had the highest rate (11.6 per 100,000, 42 deaths).
- More than half (55%) of heroin-involved overdose deaths among NYC residents were among residents of Brooklyn (29%, 116 deaths) and the Bronx (26%, 103 deaths) in 2014.
- From 2013 to 2014, rates of heroin-involved overdose deaths increased more than 50% in the neighborhoods of Union Square, Borough Park, Bedford Stuyvesant, Coney Island, and Stapleton-St. George. Rates more than doubled in Greenpoint, Bensonhurst-Bay Ridge, Port Richmond, and East Harlem neighborhoods.
- From 2010 to 2014, New Yorkers aged 35 to 54 had the highest rate of overdose deaths involving heroin.
- Among New Yorkers aged 15 to 34, the rate of heroin-involved overdose deaths more than doubled from 2.1 per 100,000 in 2010 to 5.3 per 100,000 in 2014, a 152% increase.

Unintentional overdose deaths involving heroin by borough of residence, New York City, 2000–2014



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics

Unintentional overdose deaths involving heroin by race/ethnicity, New York City, 2000–2014



N.H.=non-Hispanic

Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics

- Residents of the highest poverty neighborhoods had a higher rate of overdose deaths involving heroin (10.4 per 100,000) than neighborhoods with lower poverty in 2014.
- The rate of heroin-involved overdose deaths decreased among Hispanic New Yorkers, from 7.8 to 6.8 per 100,000 from 2013 to 2014.
- The rate of overdose deaths involving heroin remained highest among White New Yorkers (10.5 per 100,000).

MORE New York City Health Data and Publications

- For complete tables of data prepared for this Brief, visit www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable66.pdf
- Visit EpiQuery – the Health Department’s online, interactive health data system at nyc.gov/health/EpiQuery

Data & Statistics at nyc.gov/health/data