

Epi Data Brief

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths in New York City: Brooklyn, New York

- In 2013, among residents of the five boroughs of New York City (NYC), those in the borough of Brooklyn had the second-lowest rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths (8.2 per 100,000 residents).¹
- The rate of unintentional overdose deaths in Brooklyn decreased by 35% from 11.2 per 100,000 in 2006 to 7.3 per 100,000 residents in 2010.



Unintentional overdose deaths by borough

Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2000-2013

Since 2010, rates increased to 8.2 per 100,000 residents in 2013.



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2000–2013

Unintentional overdose deaths among Brooklyn residents, by drug involved, 2000–2013



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2000–2013

- Since 2004, the rate of cocaine-involved overdose deaths among Brooklyn residents decreased by 43% from 6.8 per 100,000 to 3.9 per 100,000 residents in 2013.
- Heroin-involved overdose rates increased by 56% from 2.7 per 100,000 in 2010 to 4.2 per 100,000 in 2013.
- The rate of opioid analgesicinvolved overdose deaths increased by 257% from 0.7 per 100,000 in 2000 to 2.5 per 100,000 residents in 2013.

Data Source ¹NYC 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 DOHMH's Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for 2000-2013.

Definitions:

Rate calculation: NYC **DOHMH** population estimates, modified from US Census Bureau intercensal population estimates 2000-2013, updated October 8, 2014. 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. Unintentional drug poisoning deaths referred to as overdose deaths: Derived from death certificates and includes deaths from both illicit drugs and licit drugs. Excludes drug poisonings where the manner of death was intentional (suicide), undetermined, or homicide. **Toxicology findings** were abstracted from OCME files. Drugs are not mutually exclusive.



Unintentional drug overdose deaths among Brooklyn residents, 2013

- In 2013, Brooklyn residents had a lower rate of unintentional overdose death compared with NYC overall.
- Heroin was involved in over half (51%) of overdose deaths among Brooklyn residents. Two out of five overdose deaths involved cocaine (45%) or alcohol (41%).
- About one-third of overdose deaths involved a benzodiazepine (35%), or an opioid analgesic (31%).

Unintentional overdose deaths by drug type and residence, 2013



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2013

Unintentional overdose deaths among Brooklyn residents, by demographic characteristics, 2013



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2013

- Male Brooklyn residents had almost three times the rate of unintentional overdose death as female Brooklyn residents (12.8 in males compared with 4.3 per 100,000 in females).
- Brooklyn residents aged 35-54 years had the highest rate of unintentional drug overdose death (13.7 per 100,000), and account for over half of the overdose deaths (56%).
- While the majority of overdose deaths occurred among White Brooklyn residents (44%), Hispanic Brooklyn residents had the highest rate of unintentional drug overdose death (12.4 per 100,000) in 2013.



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- For complete tables of data prepared for this Brief, visit nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable62.pdf
- Visit EpiQuery the Health Department's online, interactive health data system at nyc.gov/health/EpiQuery

Data & Statistics at nyc.gov/health/data