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

- In 2013, among residents of the five boroughs of New York City (NYC), those in the borough of Staten Island had the highest rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths (17.6 per 100,000 residents).¹
- Rates of unintentional overdoses deaths in Staten Island increased by 138% from 7.4 per 100,000 residents in 2000 to 17.6 per 100,000 residents in 2013.
- The benzodiazepine-involved overdose death rate among Staten Island residents increased 475% from 2.0 in 2000 to 11.5 per 100,000 in 2013.
- Rates of overdose deaths involving opioid analgesics increased 280% from 2.0 in 2000 to 7.6 per 100,000 residents in 2013.
- Heroin-involved overdose death rates among Staten Islanders increased 155% from 3.5 per 100,000 in 2010 to 8.6 per 100,000 residents in 2013.

Unintentional overdose deaths by borough of residence, New York City, 2013


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 poisoning deaths referred to as overdose deaths: 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.
- 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 overdose deaths among Staten Island residents, by drug-involved, 2000–2013


Unintentional overdose deaths among Staten Island residents, 2000–2013

Unintentional drug overdose deaths among Staten Island residents, 2013

- In 2013, benzodiazepines were the most common drug involved in overdose deaths among Staten Islanders (64%). Other drugs included heroin (50%), or opioid analgesics (44%).
- The rate of benzodiazepine involved overdose death was almost three times higher among Staten Islanders than NYC overall (11.5 per 100,000 residents compared to 4.4 per 100,000 residents).
- In 2013, the rate of unintentional drug overdose was three times higher for males than females (27.0 per 100,000 in males compared with 8.6 per 100,000 in females) in Staten Island.
- In Staten Island, residents aged 35-54 years had the highest rate of drug overdose deaths (29.4 per 100,000), over two-times the rates in residents aged 15-34 years (12.9 per 100,000).
- Among Staten Island residents, almost all overdose deaths occurred among White residents. The rate of unintentional drug overdose deaths among White residents was 25.2 per 100,000.
- In 2012-2013, residents of South Beach Tottenville had the highest rates of drug overdose in Staten Island (23.2 per 100,000), followed by Willowbrook (21.0 per 100,000).
- Residents of all four Staten Island neighborhoods had higher rates of drug overdose than NYC residents overall (9.9 per 100,000 residents in 2012-2013).

Unintentional overdose deaths by drug type and residence, 2013

- In 2013, Staten Island residents had a higher rate of benzodiazepines involved overdose deaths compared to NYC overall (11.5 per 100,000 residents compared to 4.4 per 100,000 residents).
- In Staten Island, residents aged 35-54 years had the highest rate of drug overdose deaths (29.4 per 100,000), over two-times the rates in residents aged 15-34 years (12.9 per 100,000).
- Among Staten Island residents, almost all overdose deaths occurred among White residents. The rate of unintentional drug overdose deaths among White residents was 25.2 per 100,000.

Unintentional overdose deaths among Staten Island residents by UHF-42* neighborhood, 2012-2013

- The United Hospital Fund (UHF) classifies New York City into 42 neighborhoods comprised of contiguous ZIP codes.

Unintentional overdose deaths by drug type and residence, 2013

- Benzodiazepines
- Heroin
- Opioid analgesics
- Cocaine
- Alcohol
- Methadone

* Data censored due to small number of events
† Non-Hispanic


Unintentional overdose deaths among Staten Island residents, by demographic characteristics, 2013

- Sex
- Age Group
- Race/ethnicity

* Data censored due to small number of events
† Non-Hispanic


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- For complete tables of data prepared for this Brief, visit nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable65.pdf
- Visit EpiQuery – the Health Department’s online, interactive health data system at nyc.gov/health/EpiQuery

Data & Statistics at nyc.gov/health/data

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