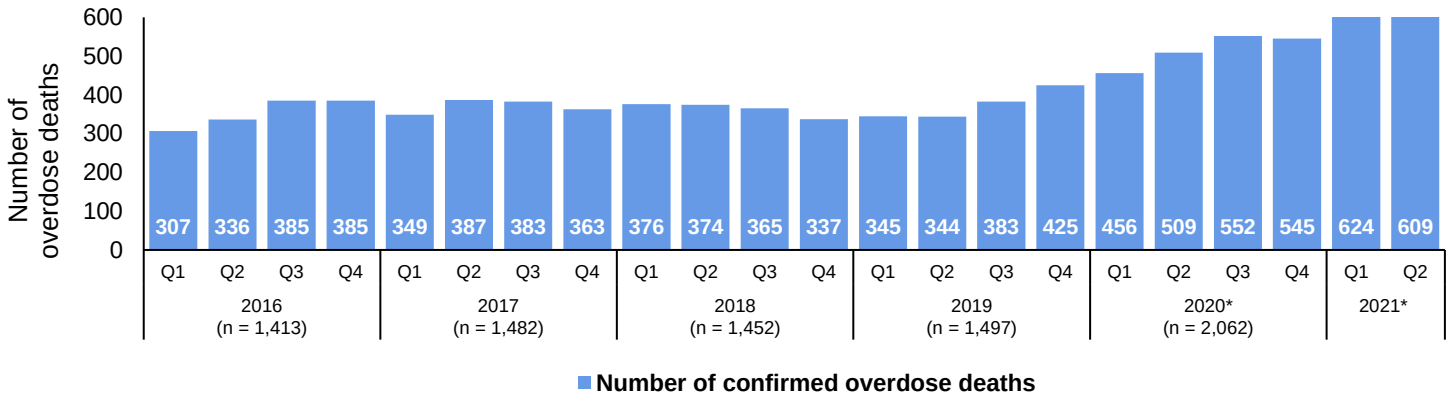
Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths
Quarter 2, 2021, New York City

April 2022

609 overdose deaths confirmed during the second quarter of 2021

Deaths in 2020 and 2021 still pending final determinations; more recent quarters subject to larger increases

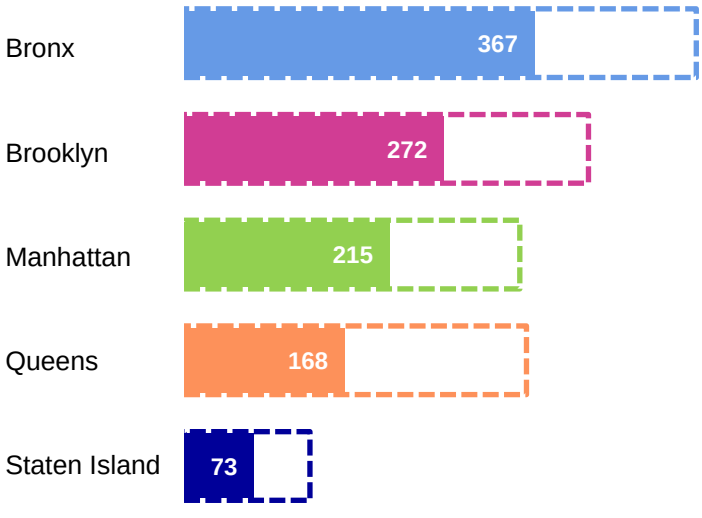


*Data for 2020 and 2021 are provisional and subject to change.

Key Points

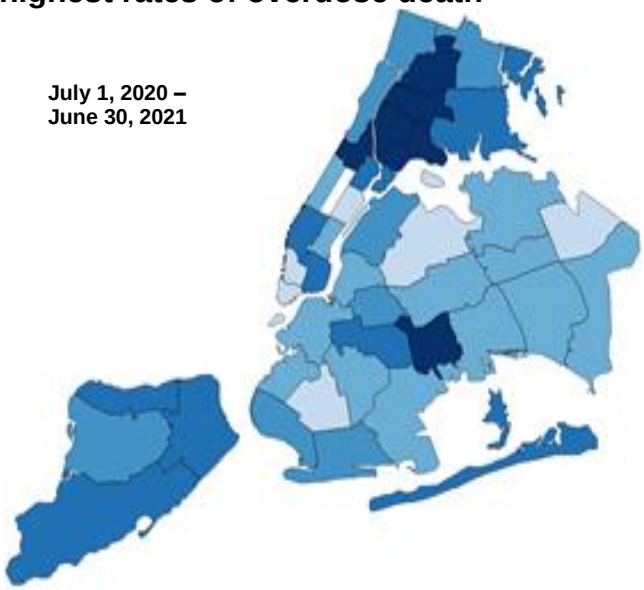
- Every four hours, someone dies of a drug overdose in New York City.
- More New Yorkers die of drug overdoses than homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle crashes combined.
- Fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, is involved in more than 78% of all overdose deaths.
- Opioids are involved in more than 85% of all overdose deaths.

Number of confirmed overdose deaths by borough of residence, January – June 2021, compared with 2020



Bronx and Harlem neighborhoods have highest rates of overdose death

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021



Rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) death, per 100,000 residents
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

0.0 - 14.9
15.0 - 24.9
25.0 – 34.9
35.0 – 49.9
50.0 - 95.0

NYC Health

Concerned about overdose?

Here's what you can do

Obtain naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose

- Opioid-involved deaths are preventable. Opioid-involved overdoses can be reversed using the medication naloxone (Narcan®).
- All New Yorkers can receive free naloxone and training from registered Opioid Overdose Prevention Programs on how recognize the signs of an overdose and respond by calling 911 and administering naloxone.
- The Health Department also **offers regular naloxone trainings** at its main office in Queens, which teach New Yorkers to recognize the signs of an overdose and respond by calling 911 and administering naloxone. The trainings are free, and all participants are offered a free naloxone kit.
- Naloxone is also available at **participating pharmacies** in New York City. Most insurance programs cover part or all of the cost of naloxone. Additionally, New York State will **cover co-payments of up to $40**.
- To find an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program near you, visit **nyc.gov/health** and search "overdose prevention."

Know and get the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder (addiction)

- Treatment with methadone or buprenorphine (Suboxone®) is highly effective for opioid use disorder (addiction) and can reduce the risk of overdose.
- Many New Yorkers have opioid addiction and could benefit from treatment.
- If you or someone you know is seeking support for opioid addiction, treatment with methadone or buprenorphine can help.
- To find a treatment provider near you, **call 1-888-NYCWELL**, **text "WELL" to 65173, or visit nyc.gov/nycwell**.
- New York City providers who would like to prescribe buprenorphine can register for training by e-mailing **buprenorphine@health.nyc.gov**.

Data Notes and Definitions

- Data for 2020 and 2021 are provisional and subject to change.
- This report includes only deaths where the medical examiner has determined the cause of death. Since it can take several weeks for the medical examiner to complete investigations of suspected overdoses, some cases for 2020 and 2021 are still pending final determinations. More recent quarters are subject to larger increases.
- Data include drug overdoses where medical examiners determined the manner of death to be accidental.
- 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.
- Borough-level data are presented by decedent's borough of residence. Because borough-level data exclude non-residents, numbers will not reflect the total number of overdose deaths in New York City.

NYC Health