

Quarterly Report on Homeless Deaths
Local Law 63 of 2005
July 1, 2005 - September 30, 2005

This report has been prepared and submitted pursuant to Local Law 63 of 2005 (LL63) amending the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to track and report deaths of homeless persons in the city of New York. This is the first deliverable prepared under the law, which requires quarterly and annual reports, with the first quarterly report due January, 2006 and the first annual report due January, 2007. Data contained in this report are for the period July 1 – September 30, 2005 and were provided by the NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) to the DOHMH. DHS, HPD and HRA maintain records on the homeless individuals for whom they provide housing in New York City. OCME, through its responsibilities investigating NYC deaths, investigates the deaths of some homeless individuals. Data from these agencies and office was compiled and analyzed by the Department’s Office of Vital Statistics and is presented herein.

As defined in LL63, a “homeless person” is “a person who at the time of death did not have a known street address of a residence at which he or she was known or reasonably believed to have resided.” A “homeless shelter resident” is “a person who at the time of death lived in a homeless shelter...” A “homeless shelter” is “(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 homeless persons 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 battered women.”

Based on definitions above, incident reports were provided by OCME, DHS and HPD. Information from corresponding NYC death certificates were used to validate agency reports and remove any duplicates among them (i.e. some DHS cases were also OCME cases). Data from HRA did not disclose any identifiable information on HRA homeless residents, 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. *Therefore, corresponding death certificates for HRA-reported homeless deaths could not be identified and may duplicate reports from OCME.*

DEATHS TO HOMELESS PERSONS AND HOMELESS SHELTER RESIDENTS

Shelter Residency Status, OCME Investigation and Location of Death by Borough and Community District

OCME, DHS and HPD reported 24 homeless deaths between July 1 and September 30, 2005 (Table 1). Eleven were in Manhattan, two in the Bronx, six in Brooklyn and five in Queens.

One additional DHS resident lived in a NYC-operated shelter located outside of New York City and is not included in the total count of deaths reported by these agencies. This death having occurred outside of NYC, is not a NYC event and was not reported on a NYC death certificate, nor will primary investigation be conducted by NYC OCME. HRA reported 27 homeless deaths; 17 were in Manhattan, eight in the Bronx, one in Brooklyn and one in Queens.

Among the 24 homeless deaths reported by OCME, DHS and HPD, most (19) were shelter residents and most (20 of the 24) were OCME cases. Non-sheltered residents refer to those who were defined as having no housing; in other words those who were believed to be living on the streets.

All HRA deaths occurred to homeless placed in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing. While SROs are not homeless shelters, these decedents had been provided with sheltered housing and as such and according to LL63 definitions, were classified as homeless sheltered residents.

The boroughs and community districts where homeless persons died, disaggregated by shelter residency status and location of death, are shown in Tables 2 and 3. HRA's homeless deaths are presented separately in Table 4 by borough only, as required by LL63. Six homeless persons died in their respective homeless shelters, 16 in hospitals, two outdoors and one died outside of New York City. One 'outdoor' death occurred to a homeless person assigned to a shelter; that person was found in a mini-storage facility at the time of death; the other was to an individual believed to be sheltered, was found on a beach in Brooklyn (Table 2) If found to be non-sheltered, this will be amended in the annual report. Neither of these two outdoor deaths was due to exposure. The breakdown of these deaths by community district is found in Table 3.

Age and Gender by Borough and Community District

Nineteen homeless deaths were to men and five to women (Table 5). Three deaths occurred to males under 25 years of age; two of these were to infants. One, a four-week old, a child of a non-shelter homeless person was pronounced dead in the hospital. The other, approximately two months old at death, was living with the parents in a homeless shelter and was found not breathing in bed at the shelter. Eight deaths occurred to men between 25 and 44, five to men between 45 and 64 and three to men over 65. All female homeless deaths occurred to women 45 or more years of age, four age 45 to 64, and 1 older than 65.

HRA reported homeless deaths in 20 males and 7 females (Table 6). Five were between the ages of 25 and 44, and 22 between the ages of 45 and 64.

NEXT STEPS

As a result of lessons learned gathering and reporting on data obtained from these agencies, a new reporting form has been issued to OCME, DHS and HPD. To ensure reliability and validity in future quarterly and annual homeless death reports, permissions to share data among OCME, DHS and HPD agencies is being established. In this way, identification of deaths to homeless persons can improve and duplication in reporting may be reduced. The next quarterly report covering the time period of October 1 – December 31st, 2005 is due from the DOHMH in April, 2006.

Table 1. Homeless Deaths by Shelter Residency Status* and New York City Borough, July 1 - September 30, 2005

	OCME, DHS and HPD Homeless Deaths							HRA** Deaths Among Sheltered Homeless
	Total	Other Sheltered			Non Sheltered			
		Total Sheltered	OCME	Non- OCME	Total non- Sheltered	OCME	Non- OCME	
New York City	24	20	16	4	4	4	0	27
Manhattan	11	11	8	3	0	0	0	17
Bronx	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	8
Brooklyn	6	5	4	1	1	1	0	1
Queens	5	2	2	0	3	3	0	1
Staten Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NYC-operated shelter outside NYC***	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0

* All HRA deaths occurred to homeless placed in Single Room Occupancy (SRO). While SROs are not homeless shelters, these decedents had been provided with sheltered housing and as such and according to NYC Administrative code Chapter One Title 17-190, a. Definitions #2 and 3, were classified as homeless sheltered residents

** 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 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.

***This death occurred to a DHS resident; however it is not a NYC event and therefore will not be reported with a NYC death certificate

Table 2. Homeless Deaths by Shelter Residency Status, Location of Death and New York City Borough*, July 1 - September 30, 2005

	Total						Shelter						Not-Sheltered					
	Total	Homeless Shelter	Hospital	Nursing Home	Outdoors	Other	Total Sheltered	Homeless Shelter	Hospital	Nursing Home	Outdoors**	Other***	Total non-Sheltered	Homeless Shelter	Hospital	Nursing Home	Outdoors	Other
New York City	24	6	15	0	2	1	20	6	11	0	2	1	4	0	4	0	0	0
Manhattan	11	4	5	0	1	1	11	4	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronx	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brooklyn	6	0	5	0	1	0	5	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Queens	5	1	4	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
Staten Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NYC-operated shelter outside NYC****	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* 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 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.

** Two sheltered homeless decedents were found 'outdoors'; one death occurred to a homeless person assigned to a shelter; that decedent was found in a mini-storage facility; the other was found on a beach in Brooklyn.

*** Other Decedent died in bathroom of drop-in Center

**** This death occurred to a DHS resident; however it is not a NYC event and therefore will not be reported with a NYC death certificate

Table 3. Homeless Deaths by Homeless Shelter Residency Status, Location of Death and New York City Borough and Community District*, July 1 - September 30, 2005

	Total	Total					Sheltered					Non-Sheltered				
		Homeless Shelter	Hospital	Nursing Home	Outdoors**	Other***	Homeless Shelter	Hospital	Nursing Home	Outdoors	Other	Homeless Shelter	Hospital	Nursing Home	Outdoors	Other
New York City (Community Districts)	24	6	15	0	2	1	6	11	0	2	1	0	4	0	0	0
Manhattan	11	4	5	0	1	1	4	5	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0
Battery Park, Tribeca (01)											1					
Greenwich Village, SOHO (02)										1						
Lower East Side (03)																
Chelsea, Clinton (04)							1									
Midtown Business District (05)																
Murray Hill (06)								1								
Upper West Side (07)																
Upper East Side (08)								1								
Manhattanville (09)							1	2								
Central Harlem (10)							1	1								
East Harlem (11)							1									
Washington Heights (12)																
Bronx	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mott Haven (01)																
Hunts Point (02)																
Morrisania (03)																
Concourse, Highbridge (04)																
University/Morris Heights (05)																
East Tremont (06)								1								
Fordham (07)							1									
Riverdale (08)																
Unionport, Soundview (09)																
Throgs Neck (10)																
Pelham Parkway (11)																
Williamsbridge (12)																
Brooklyn	6	0	5	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Williamsburg, Greenpoint (01)																
Fort Green, Brooklyn Heights (02)																
Bedford Stuyvesant (03)								2								
Bushwick (04)																
East New York (05)																
Park Slope (06)																
Sunset Park (07)																
Crown Heights North (08)																
Crown Heights South (09)												1				
Bay Ridge (10)									2							
Bensonhurst (11)																
Borough Park (12)																
Coney Island (13)											1					
Flatbush, Midwood (14)																
Sheepshead Bay (15)																
Brownsville (16)																
East Flatbush (17)																
Canarsie (18)																
Queens	5	1	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Astoria, Long Island City (01)																
Sunnyside, Woodside (02)																
Jackson Heights (03)																
Elmhurst, Corona (04)													1			
Ridgewood, Glendale (05)																
Rego Park, Forest Hills (06)																
Flushing (07)																
Fresh Meadows, Briarwood (08)																
Woodhaven (09)																
Howard Beach (10)																
Bayside (11)																
Jamaica, St. Albans (12)							1	1					2			
Queens Village (13)																
The Rockaways (14)																
Staten Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Richmond (01)																
Willowbrook, South Beach (02)																
Tottenville (03)																
NYC-operated shelter outside NYC^	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* 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 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.

** Two sheltered homeless decedents were found 'outdoors'; one death occurred to a homeless person assigned to a shelter; that decedent was found in a mini-storage facility; the other was found on a beach in Brooklyn.

*** Other Decedent died in bathroom of drop-in Center

^This death occurred to a DHS resident; however it is not a NYC event and therefore will not be reported with a NYC death certificate

Table 4. HRA Sheltered Homeless* Deaths by Location of Death, New York City Borough, July 1 - September 30, 2005

	All HRA Homeless Deaths are Sheltered						
	Total	Homeless Shelter*	Hospital	Nursing Home	Outdoors**	Other	Unknown
New York City	27	9	10	0	1	0	7
Manhattan	17	4	7		1		5
Bronx	8	5	2				1
Brooklyn	1		1				
Queens	1						1
Staten Island	0						

*All HRA deaths occurred to homeless placed in Single Room Occupancy (SRO). While SROs are not homeless shelters, these decedents had been provided with sheltered housing and as such and according to NYC Administrative Code Chapter One Title 17-190, a. Definitions #2 and 3, were classified as homeless sheltered residents

**Outdoors: Decedent was found in the street

Table 5. Homeless Deaths* by Sex, Age and New York City Borough and Community District, July 1 - September 30, 2005

	All Ages	Total				Male					Female				
		0-24	25-44	45-64	>65	Total	0-24**	25-44	45-64	>65	Total	0-24	25-44	45-64	>65
New York City	24	3	8	9	4	19	3	8	5	3	5	0	0	4	1
Manhattan	11	0	4	5	2	7	0	4	2	1	4	0	0	3	1
Battery Park, Tribeca (01)														1	
Greenwich Village, SOHO (02)								1							
Lower East Side (03)															
Chelsea, Clinton (04)									1						
Midtown Business District (05)															
Murray Hill (06)										1					
Upper West Side (07)															
Upper East Side (08)									1						
Manhattanville (09)														2	1
Central Harlem (10)								2							
East Harlem (11)								1							
Washington Heights (12)															
Bronx	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Mott Haven (01)															
Hunts Point (02)															
Morrisania (03)															
Concourse, Highbridge (04)															
University/Morris Heights (05)															
East Tremont (06)								1							
Fordham (07)														1	
Riverdale (08)															
Unionport, Soundview (09)															
Throgs Neck (10)															
Pelham Parkway (11)															
Williamsbridge (12)															
Brooklyn	6	1	0	3	2	6	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Williamsburg, Greenpoint (01)															
Fort Green, Brooklyn Heights (02)															
Bedford Stuyvesant (03)									1	1					
Bushwick (04)															
East New York (05)															
Park Slope (06)															
Sunset Park (07)															
Crown Heights North (08)															
Crown Heights South (09)								1	2						
Bay Ridge (10)															
Bensonhurst (11)															
Borough Park (12)															
Coney Island (13)										1					
Flatbush, Midwood (14)															
Sheepshead Bay (15)															
Brownsville (16)															
East Flatbush (17)															
Canarsie (18)															
Queens	5	2	3	0	0	5	2	3	0						
Astoria, Long Island City (01)															
Sunnyside, Woodside (02)															
Jackson Heights (03)															
Elmhurst, Corona (04)								1							
Ridgewood, Glendale (05)															
Rego Park, Forest Hills (06)															
Flushing (07)															
Fresh Meadows, Briarwood (08)															
Woodhaven (09)															
Howard Beach (10)															
Bayside (11)															
Jamaica, St. Albans (12)							2	2							
Queens Village (13)															
The Rockaways (14)															
Staten Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Richmond (01)															
Willowbrook, South Beach (02)															
Tottenville (03)															
NYC-operated shelter outside NYC***	1	0	0	1	0	1			1		0				

* 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 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.

** Two male deaths occurring between 0 and 24 years of age were to infants; one four weeks old and the other, approximately two months old.

*** This death occurred to a DHS resident; however it is not a NYC event and therefore will not be reported with a NYC death certificate

Note: If age was not available on the death certificate, it was taken from agency records

Table 6. HRA Sheltered Homeless Deaths by Sex, Age and New York City Borough, July 1 - September 30, 2005

	Total					Male					Female				
	Total	0-24	25-44	45-64	>65	Total	0-24	25-44	45-64	>65	Total	0-24	25-44	45-64	>65
New York City	27	0	5	22	0	20	0	4	16	0	7	0	1	6	0
Manhattan	17	0	3	14	0	14		2	12		3		1	2	
Bronx	8	0	2	6	0	6		2	4		2			2	
Brooklyn	1	0	0	1	0	0					1			1	
Queens	1	0	0	1	0	0					1			1	
Staten Island	0	0	0	0	0	0					0				