

Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths, Quarter 1, 2023, New York City

November 2023

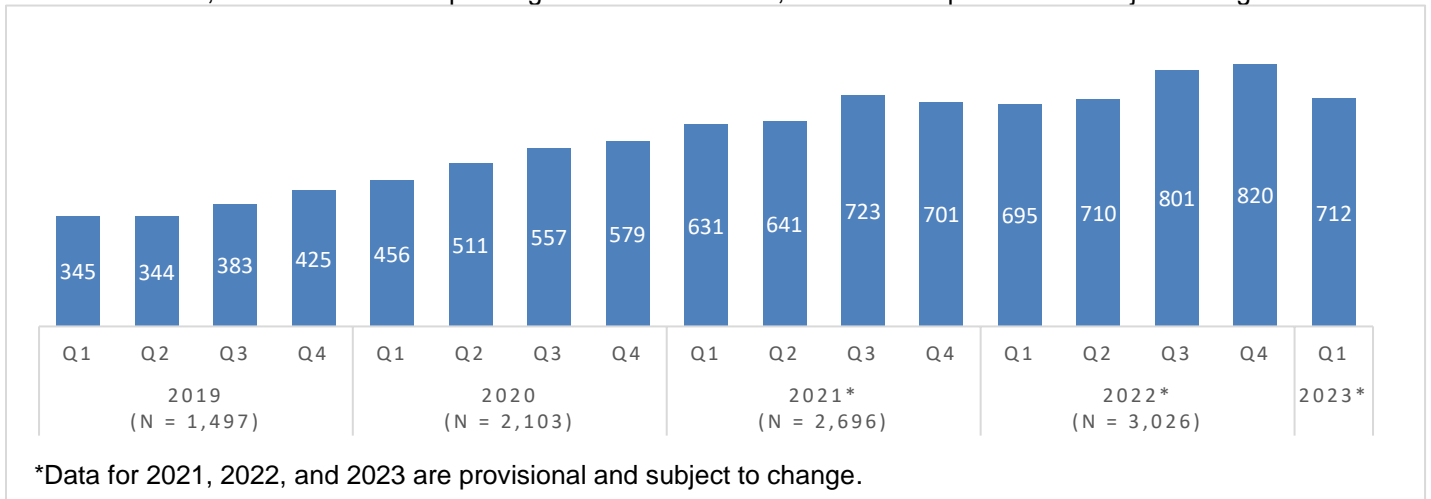
Key Points

- Overdose continues to be a public health emergency. Every three hours, someone dies of a drug overdose in New York City (NYC).
- Fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, was the most common substance involved in overdose deaths.
- Opioids were involved in more than 84% of all overdose deaths.

There were 712 overdose deaths confirmed during the first quarter of 2023.

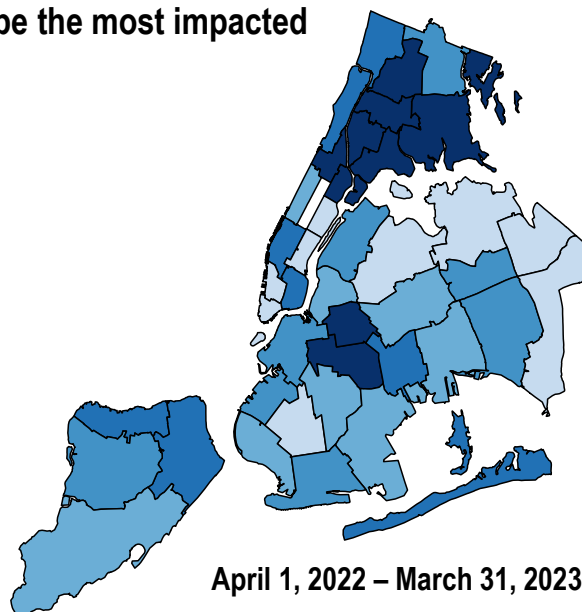
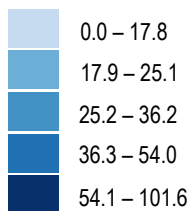
Number of confirmed overdose deaths by quarter, NYC, 2019-2023.

Deaths in 2021, 2022 and 2023 still pending final determinations; more recent quarters are subject to larger increases.



Bronx neighborhoods continue to be the most impacted by overdose deaths.

Rate per 100,000 residents



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 (OOPPs) on how to recognize the signs of an overdose and respond by calling **911** and administering naloxone. To find an OOPP near you, visit nyc.gov/health and search for **overdose prevention**.
- The NYC Health Department also [offers regular virtual naloxone trainings](#), 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. Participants can register at nyc.gov/naloxone.
- As of September 2023, naloxone nasal spray is available over the counter (OTC). This means anyone can purchase naloxone without a prescription at any location where other OTC medications are sold. The current retail cost for two doses of 4 milligram (mg) nasal spray is less than \$50 on average, although prices can vary across settings and may change over time.
- Naloxone is also available for purchase with insurance at [participating pharmacies](#) in NYC: Visit nyc.gov/health/map for locations. Most insurance programs cover all or part of the cost of naloxone. Additionally, New York State will [cover copayments of up to \\$40](#).

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 or text **988** or chat at nyc.gov/988. Call, text and chat services are available in English and Spanish, and call services are available in more than 200 additional languages.

Data Notes and Definitions

- Data for 2021, 2022 and 2023 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 2021, 2022 and 2023 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 NYC 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 nonresidents, numbers will not reflect the total number of overdose deaths in NYC.