

Local Law 163 of 2023

Sickle Cell Disease Annual Report

June 2026

New York City Department of Health
and Mental Hygiene

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Background

Local law 163 of 2023 was passed by the City Council to raise awareness about sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. The following update provides available data for New York City and summarizes LL163 activities for fiscal year 2026.

To learn more about sickle cell disease and New York City’s healthcare landscape and recommendations, please refer to pages and 16 and 25, respectively, of the 2025 Sickle Cell Disease report, available on the [NYC Health Department’s website](#). Additionally, guidance including screening and treatment centers, and educational opportunities for providers, can be found on the NYC Health Department’s website [Sickle Cell page](#).

Data

Newborns

Table 1: Children born in New York City between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024 who were diagnosed with either hemoglobin SS, SC or CC disease, or were found to have sickle cell (S) trait.

	Manhattan	Bronx	Brooklyn	Queens	Staten Island
Infants Screened	14,683	16,003	32,989	23,933	4,851
SS Disease	8	21	20	10	≤5
SC Disease	≤5	21	17	≤5	≤5
CC Disease	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5	≤5
S Trait	347	960	720	496	105

Data source: New York State Department of Health, Newborn Screening Program.

Compared to 2023, sickle cell trait numbers increased in all boroughs, except the Bronx where it remained the same.

Emergency Department Visits

Table 2: Treat and release emergency department visits in New York City for sickle cell disease, all ages, 2024.

Borough	ED Visits
Bronx	2,595
Brooklyn	3,522
Manhattan	1,580
Queens	980

Staten Island	142
Unknown	336
Total	9,155

Hospitalizations

Table 3: Hospitalizations in New York City for sickle cell disease, all ages, 2024

Borough	Hospitalizations
Bronx	1,670
Brooklyn	1,917
Manhattan	658
Queens	1,099
Staten Island	176
Unknown	228
Total	5,748

Data source for ED visits & hospitalizations: New York State Department of Health, Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS). Disclaimer: The raw SPARCS data used to produce this publication was provided by the New York State Department of Health. However, the calculations, metrics, conclusions derived, and views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the work, conclusions, or views of New York State. The New York State Department of Health, its employees, officers, and agents make no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy, completeness, currency, or suitability of the information provided here.

Fiscal Year 2026 Activities

Health Department’s Efforts to Educate Providers

The Truth About Sickle Cell Trait: [Special lecture](#) by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, in collaboration with NYC Health + Hospitals and Mount Sinai Hospital, that focuses on debunking the myths of sickle cell trait (SCT) and how to apply equitable approaches to treatment and care. June 2025.

Publications and Pre-Prints

- Zhilkova A, Rivlin K, Jackson J, Glassberg J, McCrary B, Eyssallenne A. **Leaving against medical advice as a signal of unmet care needs in adult sickle cell disease hospitalizations.** MedRxiv (pre-print). March 2026. doi: <https://doi.org/10.64898/2026.03.20.26348715>
- Rivlin K, Zhilkova A, Jackson J, Eyssallenne A. **Sickle cell disease patients disproportionately leave hospitals against medical advice.** Health Affairs Forefront. September 2025. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/sickle-cell-disease-patients-disproportionately-leave-hospitals-against-medical-advice>

- Rivlin K, Vorri S, Aviles M, Emeghebo K, Usmani S, Balaoura K, Eyssallenne A. **Fifty years of newborn screening for sickle cell disease: A call for sickle cell trait counseling.** Journal of Sickle Cell Disease. 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jscdis/yoaf041>
- Rivlin K, Zhilkova A, Jackson J, Glassberg J, McCrary B, Eyssallenne A. **Dismantling systemic barriers in sickle cell disease care: Design and rationale of a municipal public health initiative in New York City.** Poster presentation, American Society of Hematology Annual Conference. December 2025.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006497125053352>
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. **Sickle Cell Disease in New York City.** Inaugural report to City Council. June 2025.
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/cardio/sickle-cell-in-nyc-2025.pdf>

At Risk Stakeholder Education & Public Engagement

- Individualized letters were sent to the Chief Medical Officers representing over ten hospitals, providing facility-specific outcome data and recommendations for strengthening clinical care.
- Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Toni Eyssallenne served as a panelist at New York University's Sickle Cell Disease Symposium in November 2025.
- Ongoing engagement with community-based organizations to address health disparities in acute care for sickle cell disease.
- Engagement with New York State Department of Health to enhance Medicaid coverage for treatment and care coordination for individuals with sickle cell disease.