



# Epi Data Brief

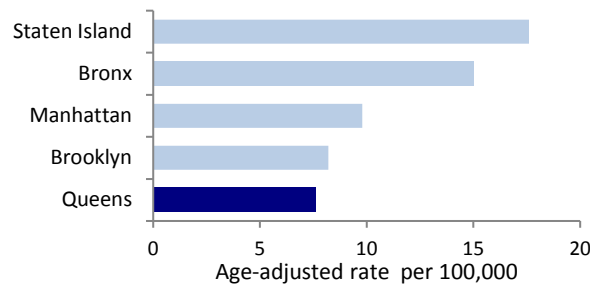
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

December 2015, No. 64

## Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths in New York City: Queens, New York

- In 2013, among residents of the five boroughs of New York City (NYC), those in the borough of Queens had the lowest rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths (7.6 per 100,000 residents).<sup>1</sup>
- In Queens, rates of unintentional overdose deaths increased by 38% from 5.5 per 100,000 in 2012 to 7.6 per 100,000 residents in 2013.

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



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2000-2013

### Data Source

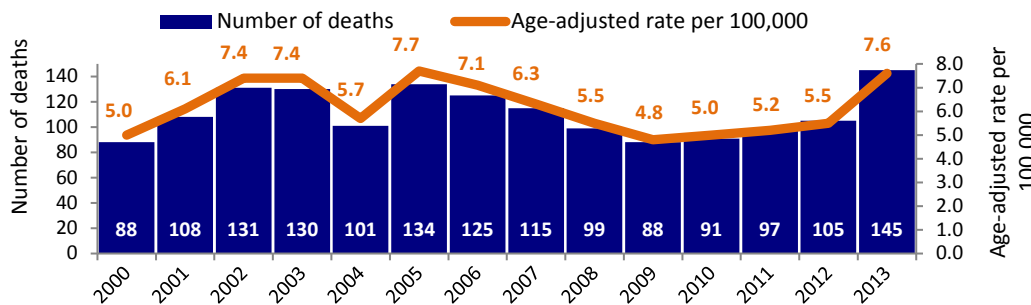
<sup>1</sup>NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics: Mortality data were collected through an in-depth review of data and charts from DOHMH's Bureau of Vital Statistics and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for 2000-2013.

### 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.

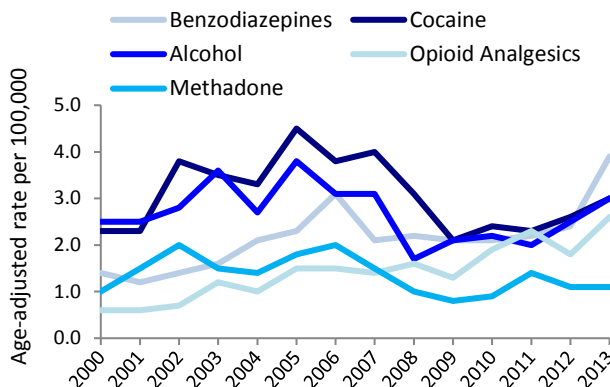
**Unintentional drug poisoning deaths referred to as overdose deaths:** Derived from death certificates and includes deaths from both illicit drugs. Excludes drug poisonings where the manner of death was intentional (suicide), undetermined, or homicide. Toxicology findings were abstracted from OCME files. Drugs are not mutually exclusive.

### Unintentional overdose deaths among Queens residents, 2000-2013



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2000-2013

### Unintentional overdose deaths among Queens residents, by drug involved, 2000-2013



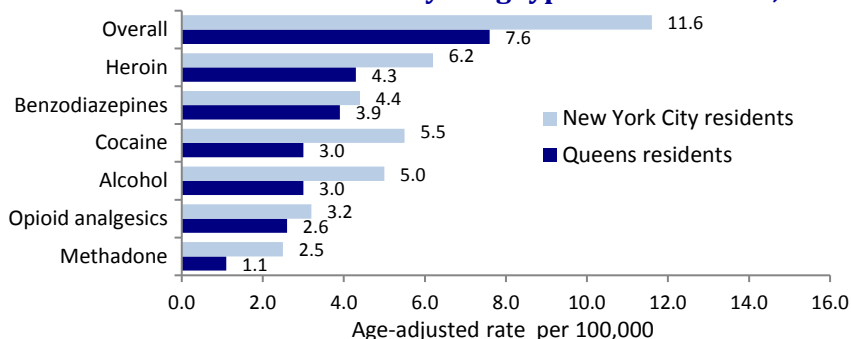
Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2000-2013

- Among Queens residents, heroin-involved overdose death rates increased 126% from 1.9 per 100,000 in 2010 to 4.3 per 100,000 in 2013.
- From 2000-2013, benzodiazepine-involved overdose death rates increased 179% from 2000 to 2013, from 1.4 to 3.9 per 100,000.
- The rate of opioid analgesic-involved overdose quadrupled from 0.6 in 2000 to 2.6 per 100,000 Queens residents in 2013.

## Unintentional drug overdose deaths among Queens residents, 2013

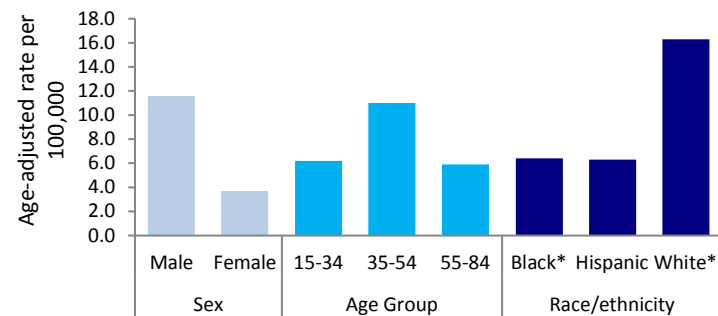
- In 2013, over half of overdose deaths among Queens residents involved heroin (56%) or benzodiazepines (52%). Two out of five overdose deaths involved cocaine (40%).
- Rates were lower among residents of Queens compared with NYC overall. In 2013, among Queens residents heroin-involved overdose deaths had the highest rate (4.3 per 100,000 residents).

### Unintentional overdose deaths by drug type and residence, 2013



Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2013

### Unintentional overdose deaths among Queens residents, by demographic characteristics, 2013



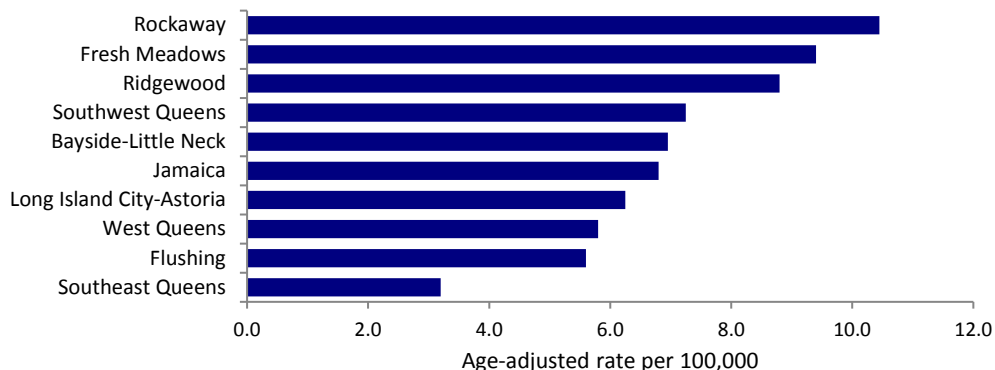
\*non-Hispanic

Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2013

- Among Queens residents, the rate of unintentional drug overdose was three times higher for males than females (11.6 per 100,000 vs. 3.7 per 100,000).
- Queens residents aged 35-54 years had the highest rate of drug overdose deaths at 11.0 per 100,000 and accounted for 50% of overdose deaths.
- Over half of all drug overdose deaths occurred among White residents (59%). The rate among White residents (16.3 per 100,000) was more than two times the rate among Black (6.4 per 100,000) and Hispanic (6.3 per 100,000) residents.

- In 2012-2013, residents of Rockaway neighborhood had the highest rate of drug overdose among Queens residents (10.5 per 100,000 residents).
- Residents of Rockaway had a higher rate of drug overdose than NYC residents overall (9.9 per 100,000 residents in 2012-2013).

### Unintentional overdose deaths among Queens residents by UHF-42\* neighborhood, 2012-2013



\*The United Hospital Fund (UHF) classifies New York City into 42 neighborhoods comprised of contiguous ZIP codes. Source: NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2012-2013

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# Epi Data Tables

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## Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths in New York City: Queens, New York

### Data Tables

**Table 1.** Number and rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths, Queens residents, New York City, 2010-2013

**Map 1.** Top five New York City neighborhoods: Rates of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) by neighborhood of residence, 2012-2013

### Data Sources

**Bureau of Vital Stastics/Office of the Chief Medical Examiner:** 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 for 2000-2013. Methadone is reported separately and not included in opioid analgesic analyses.

**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, except those for specific age groups.

**Table 1. Number and rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths, Queens residents, New York City, 2010-2013**

Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics/Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, New York City; Rates calculated using NYC DOHMH population estimates, modified from US Census Bureau intercensal population estimates, 2010-2013. Updated October 8th 2014. Analysis by Health Department's Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention, Care and Treatment.

Rates per 100,000 New Yorkers are age adjusted, except those for specific age groups.

|  | 2010      |               |                  | 2011      |             |            | 2012       |               |                  | 2013        |             |            |
|--|-----------|---------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
|  | Number    | Percent       | Rate             | Number    | Percent     | Rate       | Number     | Percent       | Rate             | Number      | Percent     | Rate       |
| <b>Total Unintentional Drug Poisoning Deaths</b> | <b>91</b> | <b>100%</b>   | <b>5.0</b>       | <b>97</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>5.2</b> | <b>105</b> | <b>100%</b>   | <b>5.5</b>       | <b>145</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>7.6</b> |
| <b>Gender</b>                                    |           |               |                  |           |             |            |            |               |                  |             |             |            |
| Male   | 69        | 76%           | 7.8              | 76        | 78%         | 8.3        | 78         | 74%           | 8.4              | 108         | 74%         | 11.6       |
| Female   | 22        | 24%           | 2.3              | 21        | 22%         | 2.2        | 27         | 26%           | 2.8              | 37          | 26%         | 3.7        |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity*</b>                           |           |               |                  |           |             |            |            |               |                  |             |             |            |
| Black (non-Hispanic)                             | 14        | 16%           | 4.1              | 23        | 24%         | 6.3        | 18         | 18%           | 5.9              | 23          | 17%         | 6.4        |
| Hispanic   | 16        | 18%           | 3.4              | 11        | 12%         | 2.3        | 20         | 20%           | 3.9              | 33          | 24%         | 6.3        |
| White (non-Hispanic)                             | 59        | 66%           | 12.8             | 60        | 64%         | 12.8       | 63         | 62%           | 12.5             | 81          | 59%         | 16.3       |
| <b>Age (years)</b>                               |           |               |                  |           |             |            |            |               |                  |             |             |            |
| 15-34  | 19        | 21%           | 2.8              | 28        | 29%         | 4.2        | 37         | 35%           | 5.6              | 41          | 28%         | 6.2        |
| 35-54  | 62        | 68%           | 9.5              | 45        | 46%         | 6.9        | 54         | 51%           | 8.3              | 72          | 50%         | 11.0       |
| 55-84  | 10        | 11%           | 2.0              | 24        | 25%         | 4.7        | 14         | 13%           | 2.7              | 32          | 22%         | 5.9        |
| <b>Drug Type†</b>                                |           |               |                  |           |             |            |            |               |                  |             |             |            |
| Alcohol  | 39        | 43%           | 2.2              | 37        | 38%         | 2.0        | 48         | 46%           | 2.5              | 57          | 39%         | 3.0        |
| Benzodiazepines                                  | 38        | 42%           | 2.1              | 41        | 42%         | 2.2        | 46         | 44%           | 2.4              | 76          | 52%         | 3.9        |
| Cocaine  | 44        | 48%           | 2.4              | 43        | 44%         | 2.3        | 50         | 48%           | 2.6              | 58          | 40%         | 3.0        |
| Heroin   | 35        | 38%           | 1.9              | 47        | 48%         | 2.6        | 53         | 50%           | 2.8              | 81          | 56%         | 4.3        |
| Methadone  | 17        | 19%           | 0.9              | 25        | 26%         | 1.4        | 21         | 20%           | 1.1              | 23          | 16%         | 1.1        |
| Opioid Analgesics                                | 34        | 37%           | 1.9              | 42        | 43%         | 2.3        | 33         | 31%           | 1.8              | 51          | 35%         | 2.6        |
| <b>UHF-42 neighborhood‡</b>                      |           |               |                  |           |             |            |            |               |                  |             |             |            |
|  |           |               | <b>2010-2011</b> |           |             |            |            |               | <b>2012-2013</b> |             |             |            |
|  |           | <b>Number</b> |                  |           | <b>Rate</b> |            |            | <b>Number</b> |                  | <b>Rate</b> |             |            |
| LI City-Astoria                                  |           | 29            |                  |           | 8.9         |            |            | 22            |                  | 6.3         |             |            |
| West Queens                                      |           | 29            |                  |           | 3.8         |            |            | 49            |                  | 5.8         |             |            |
| Flushing   |           | 20            |                  |           | 4.9         |            |            | 24            |                  | 5.6         |             |            |
| Bayside-Little Neck                              |           | 7             |                  |           | 4.6         |            |            | 10            |                  | 7.0         |             |            |
| Ridgewood  |           | 18            |                  |           | 4.7         |            |            | 36            |                  | 8.8         |             |            |
| Fresh Meadows                                    |           | 6             |                  |           | 4.1         |            |            | 15            |                  | 9.4         |             |            |
| SouthWest Queens                                 |           | 25            |                  |           | 5.7         |            |            | 33            |                  | 7.3         |             |            |
| Jamaica  |           | 24            |                  |           | 4.8         |            |            | 32            |                  | 6.8         |             |            |
| SouthEast Queens                                 |           | 9             |                  |           | 2.7         |            |            | 10            |                  | 3.2         |             |            |
| Rockaway   |           | 19            |                  |           | 10.7        |            |            | 18            |                  | 10.5        |             |            |

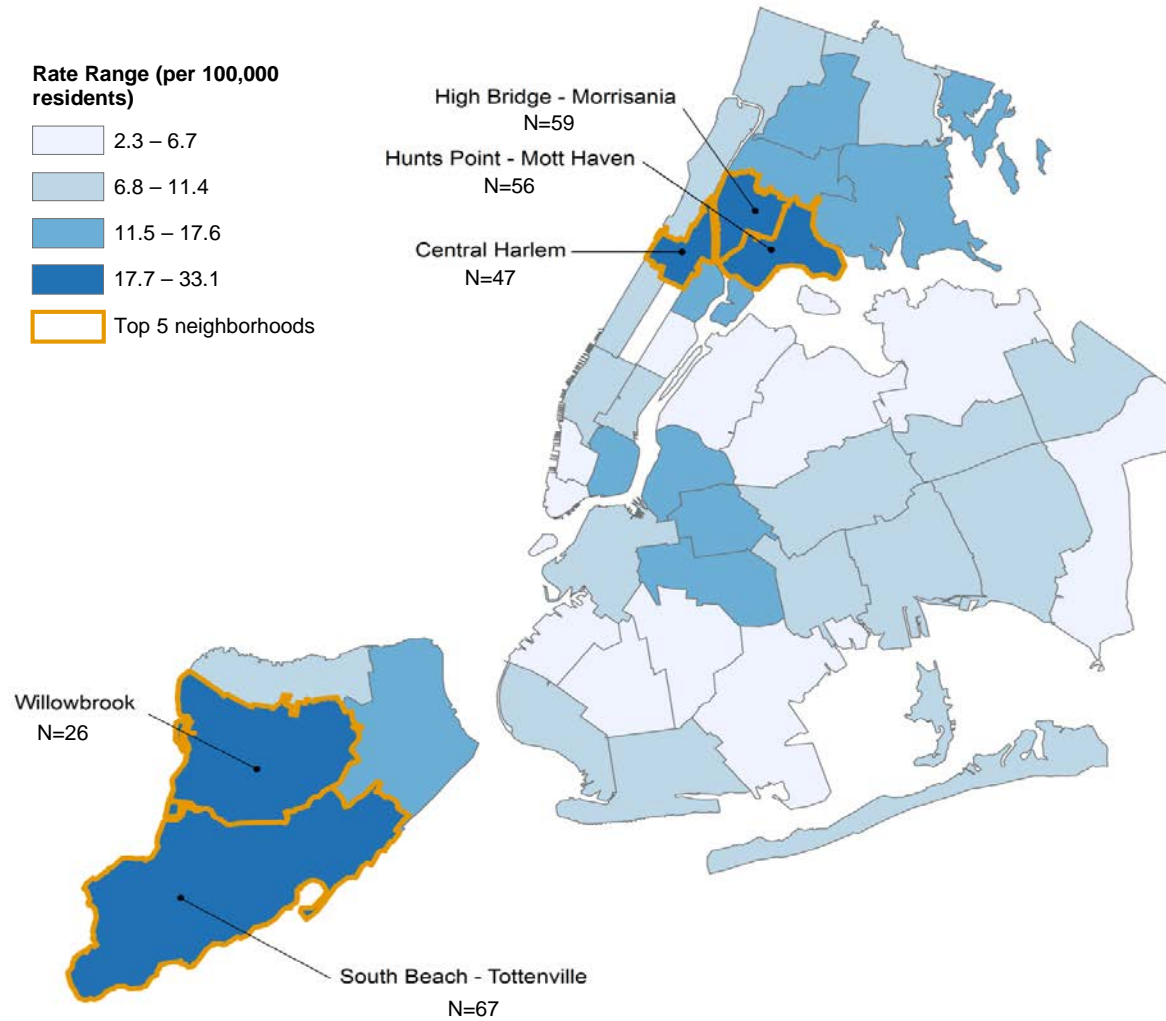
\*Percentage of deaths within subgroup calculated among categories presented.

† Drug Type, not mutually exclusive; percent will not equal 100%.

‡ By UHF-42 Neighborhood, number is the total across two years and rate is the average across two years.

**Map 1. Top five New York City neighborhoods: Rates of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths by neighborhood\* of residence, 2012-2013**

Source: Bureau of Vital Statistics/Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, New York City; Rates calculated using NYC DOHMH population estimates, modified from US Census Bureau intercensal



[\\*The United Hospital Fund \(UHF\) classifies New York City into 42 neighborhoods, comprised of contiguous ZIP codes.](#)