

State of New York
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

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INMATE MORTALITY REPORT:
2007 – 2010



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INMATE MORTALITY REPORT: 2007 - 2010

Executive Summary

- ◆ A total of 545 inmate deaths occurred during the four year period from 2007-2010.
- ◆ Deaths due to natural causes accounted for 81% or 443 of total inmate deaths from 2007 to 2010; followed by suicides, 11% or 58; AIDS-related illnesses, 5% or 27; accidental deaths, 1% or 5; homicides, 1% or 4; accidental drug overdose, 1% or 3; and other deaths 1% or 5.
- ◆ The overall annual inmate mortality rate for this four year period was 22.5 deaths per 10,000 inmates.
- ◆ The annual death rate among male inmates, 22.7 per 10,000 inmates, was slightly higher than female inmates, 20.0 per 10,000 inmates.
- ◆ While the annual inmate mortality rate due to natural causes was 18.3 deaths per 10,000 inmates, the rate due to AIDS-related deaths was only 1.1 deaths per 10,000 inmates.
- ◆ Natural causes was the most frequent cause of death in all age groups except for the 16-24 year old group.
- ◆ Inmates 65 and over represented 1% of the inmate population, but 21% of total deaths during this period. This age group had the highest annual mortality rate (375.8 deaths per 10,000 inmates).

INTRODUCTION

This report examines the 545 inmate deaths that occurred in the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) inmate population from 2007 through 2010¹. The number of inmate deaths ranged from a high of 147 in 2007 to a low of 123 in 2010. During the four years covered by this report the inmate death rate was 22.5 per 10,000 inmates.

Inmate deaths are initially reported by correctional facility personnel to the Department's Communication Control Center located in Albany through the Unusual Incident Reporting system. Later, medical staff at the facility submit a detailed report to the DOCS Division of Health Services that outlines circumstances surrounding the inmate's death, details medical procedures used, and establishes preliminary cause of death. Cause of death and contributing factors are determined when the final autopsy report is completed and sent to Health Services. All data for cause of death are based upon reports verified by Health Services.

All deaths of inmates legally under the custody of DOCS are included in this report. Deaths not included are those that occur among escapees; absconders; and parolees at the Willard Drug Treatment Campus that was jointly administered by the Division of Parole and DOCS.

Information maintained by the Division of Health Services, Unusual Incident Reports, and demographic information contained in Department computer files were used to provide the statistics contained in this report.

The "cause of death" categories reflect those categories used by State correctional agencies to report inmate deaths to the federal government, for use in the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports on inmate mortality².

¹ This report on inmate deaths from 2007 through 2010 refers to the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) since DOCS and the Division of Parole were not merged until April 1, 2011.

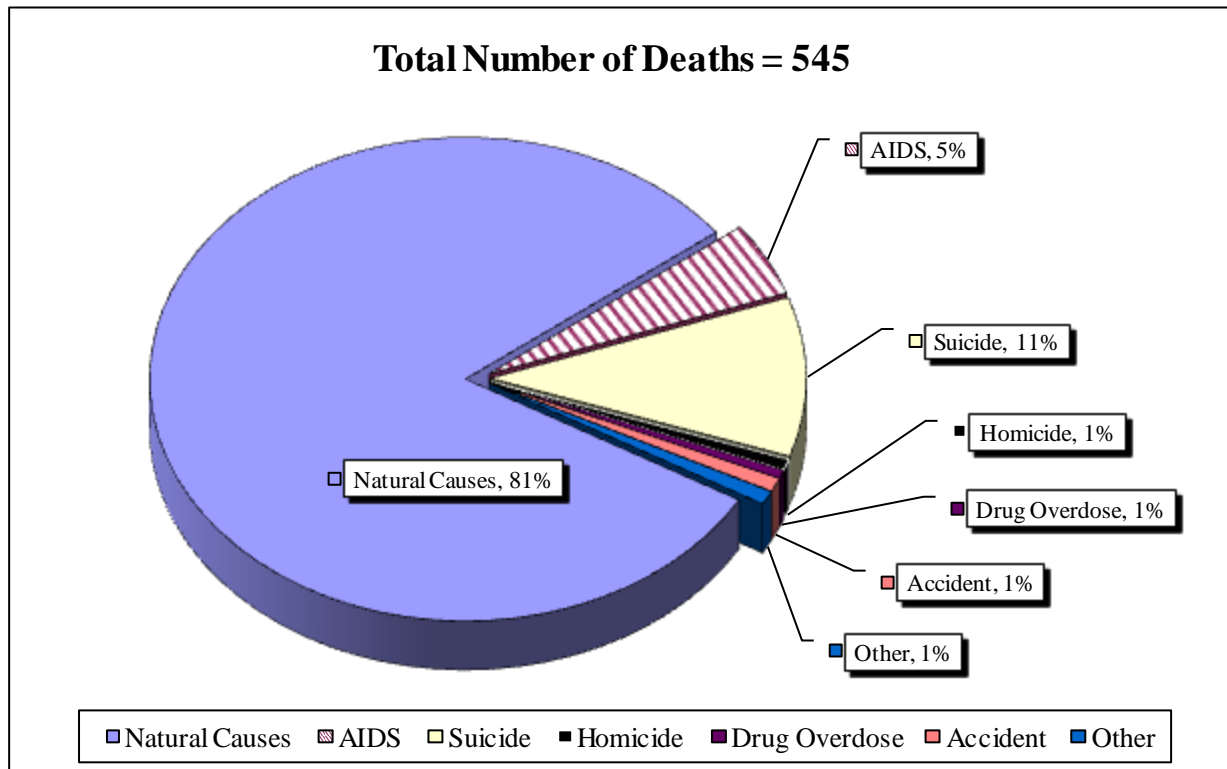
² Available online: Deaths in Custody: State Prison Deaths, 2001-2007 - Statistical Tables <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2093>

SECTION ONE

CAUSE OF DEATH

Cause of death is divided into seven categories: natural causes, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), homicide, suicide, drug overdose (Drug OD), accidental death, and other. The most common cause of death from 2007 through 2010 was natural causes, such as heart attack, cancer (not AIDS-related), or cirrhosis of the liver. Deaths by natural causes during the study period were followed by suicides; AIDS-related deaths; accidental deaths; other causes; homicides; and drug overdose deaths.

Figure 1A
Causes of Death
2007 – 2010



Natural Causes

Between 2007 and 2010, 81% or 443 of the inmate deaths were due to natural causes. Inmates who died of natural causes were, on average, 56 years old at the time of death. The annual death rate from natural causes over the 2007-2010 period was 18.3 deaths per 10,000 inmates of population.

Suicide

Fifty-eight inmates committed suicide during the 2007–2010 period. The average age for inmate suicide victims was 37 years old. The method of death was hanging in 98% or 57 of the suicide cases. The remaining suicide death (2%) resulted from self-administered cuts. Among inmates who committed suicide, 72% or 42 were convicted of a violent felony, 12% were convicted of other coercive crimes, 3% were convicted of a drug felony, and 12% were convicted of property and other crimes.

AIDS

Twenty-seven inmates died as a result of AIDS-related causes during the period 2007–2010. The average age at death for AIDS-related deaths was 48 years old. The death rate for AIDS-related causes was 1.1 deaths per 10,000 inmates.

Accident

Five inmates died due to accidents during the 2007–2010 study period.

Drug Overdose

Three inmates died of accidental drug overdose (including one while on temporary release). The average age for accidental drug overdose victims was 30 years old.

Homicide

Four inmates died of homicide between 2007 and 2010. All of the homicides occurred within correctional facilities. Three of the inmates died as a result of stab or slash wounds inflicted by other inmates, while the other death occurred as the result of a fall during a fight with another inmate. All four of the homicide victims had been committed for a violent felony offense.

Other

Lastly, the Division of Health Services' review of the autopsy reports concluded that five inmates died due to reasons that do not fit into any of the other categories.

Mortality Rates

The use of mortality rates allows for comparison of the number of deaths among subgroups of the inmate population. This is especially useful for comparisons over time or for comparisons among subgroups that differ in their proportion of the total under custody population. Mortality rates reflect the annual number of deaths per 10,000 inmates.

The reader is urged to use caution in making comparisons across subgroups when the number of deaths is low for any particular year. Mortality rates between individual subgroups may vary considerably when making year-to-year comparisons. These differences may be due to chance occurrences within calendar year measurement periods instead of statistically significant events measured across the four-year period of the study.

The overall inmate annual mortality rate for the four year period 2007-2010 was 22.5 deaths per 10,000 inmates.

Mortality Rates due to Natural Causes

The chart below illustrates the importance of deaths due to natural causes in determining the total mortality rate for DOCS inmates since deaths due to natural causes represent 81% of all deaths during this period. The overall inmate mortality rate from 2007-2010 was largely determined by deaths due to natural causes. The inmate annual mortality rate due to natural causes during this four year period was 18.3 deaths per 10,000 inmates.

Mortality Rates due to AIDS

In contrast, the rate of AIDS related deaths annually during this period was only 1.1 deaths annually per 10,000 inmates.

Figure 1B
Mortality Rates Per 10,000 for Total, Natural Causes and AIDS

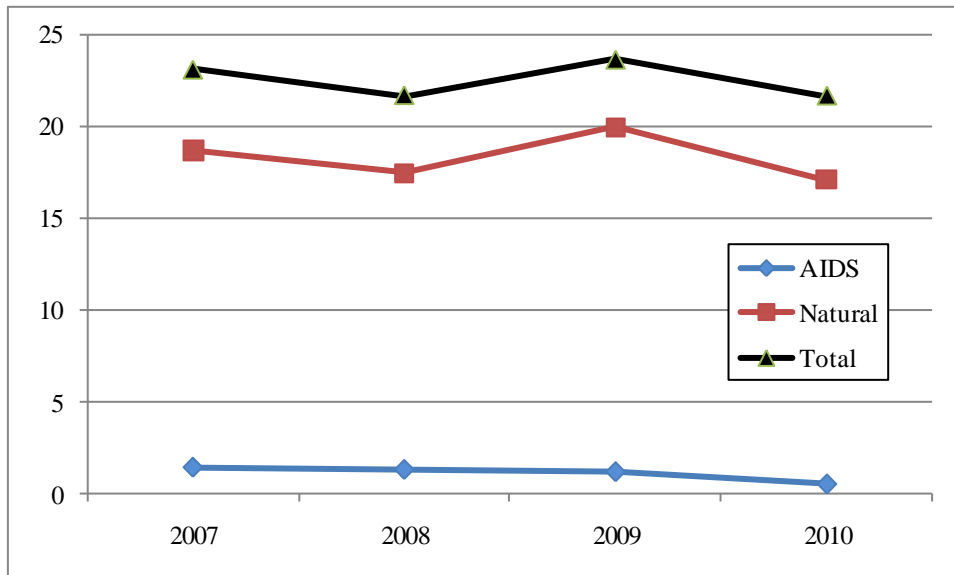


Table 1
Cause of Death, Average Age, and Death Rate by Year
2007-2010

| Cause of Death | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | Total |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Count | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 119 | 108 | 119 | 97 | 443 |
| AIDS | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 27 |
| Suicide | 18 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 58 |
| Homicide | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Drug Overdose | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Accident | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Other | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 147 | 134 | 141 | 123 | 545 |
| Percentage | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 81.0% | 80.6% | 84.4% | 78.9% | 81.3% |
| AIDS | 6.1% | 6.0% | 5.0% | 2.4% | 5.0% |
| Suicide | 12.2% | 7.5% | 7.1% | 16.3% | 10.6% |
| Homicide | 0.0% | 0.7% | 1.4% | 0.8% | 0.7% |
| Drug Overdose | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.7% | 0.0% | 0.6% |
| Accident | 0.0% | 2.2% | 0.7% | 0.8% | 0.9% |
| Other | 0.0% | 2.2% | 0.7% | 0.8% | 0.9% |
| Total | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Average Age | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 54.5 | 56.6 | 56.8 | 57.8 | 56.3 |
| AIDS | 47.6 | 42.6 | 51.3 | 52.3 | 47.6 |
| Suicide | 36.7 | 35.6 | 40.4 | 35.5 | 36.7 |
| Homicide | . | 41.7 | 45.9 | 44.3 | 44.5 |
| Drug Overdose | 28.5 | 32.5 | 29.6 | . | 30.2 |
| Accident | . | 68.5 | 51.6 | 49.0 | 61.2 |
| Other | . | 51.5 | 49.2 | 68.3 | 54.4 |
| Total | 51.7 | 54.0 | 54.9 | 54.0 | 53.6 |
| Death Rate* | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 18.74 | 17.50 | 20.01 | 16.96 | 18.31 |
| AIDS | 1.42 | 1.30 | 1.18 | 0.52 | 1.12 |
| Suicide | 2.83 | 1.62 | 1.68 | 3.50 | 2.40 |
| Homicide | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.34 | 0.17 | 0.17 |
| Drug Overdose | 0.16 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.12 |
| Accident | 0.00 | 0.49 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.21 |
| Other | 0.00 | 0.49 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.21 |
| Total | 23.15 | 21.71 | 23.71 | 21.51 | 22.53 |

* Deaths per 10,000 inmates under custody.

SECTION TWO

GENDER OF DECEDENTS

The under custody inmate population during the four-year study period 2007 through 2010 consisted of 95% men and 5% women. These percentages were almost the same for the decedent population, which were 96% male (N=522) and 4% female (N=23).

The specific causes of death within each gender group were generally similar.

Table 2 on the next page shows the cause of death, mortality rate and average age by gender. Table 7 in the Appendix shows the average daily population by gender and year. The death rate among male inmates, at 22.7 per 10,000 inmates, was slightly higher than that for female inmates, at 20.0 per 10,000 inmates.

Figure 2
Gender and Cause of Death
2007 – 2010

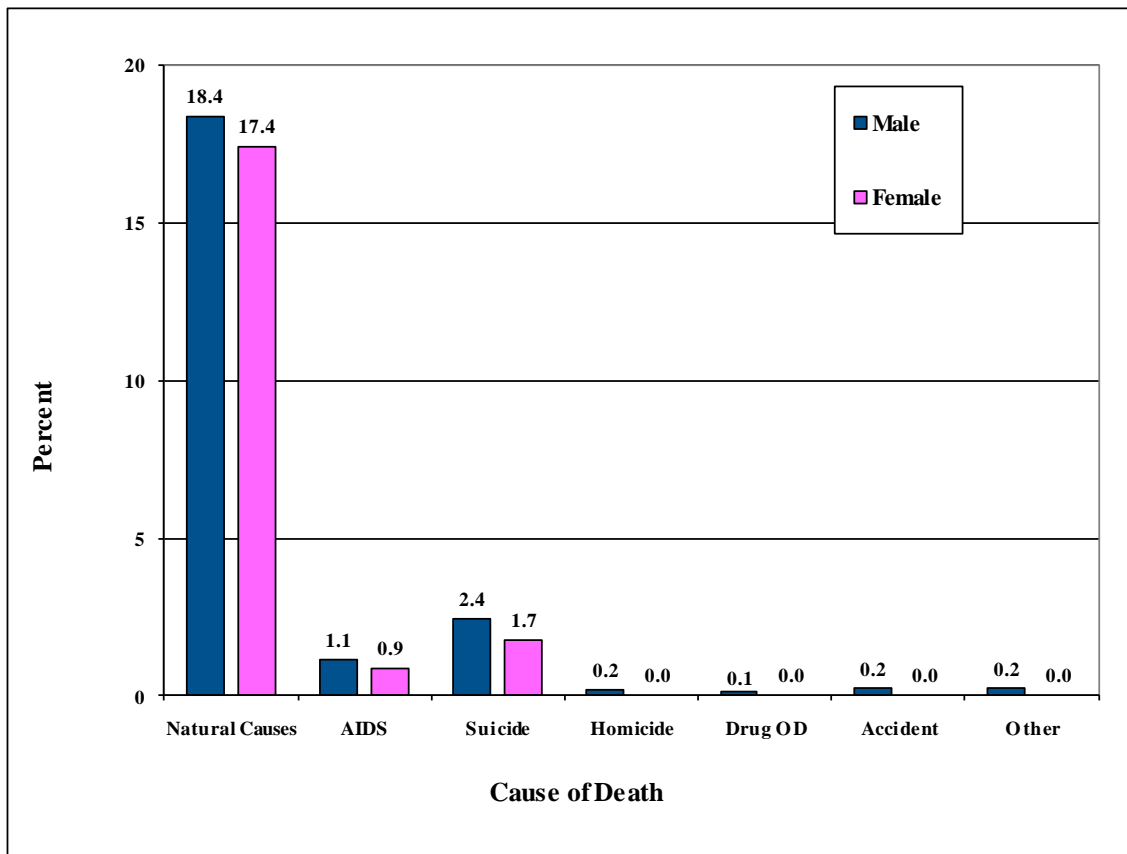


Table 2
Cause of Death, Average Age, Death Rate by Gender
2007 – 2010

| Cause of Death | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Count | | | |
| Natural Causes | 423 | 20 | 443 |
| AIDS | 26 | 1 | 27 |
| Suicide | 56 | 2 | 58 |
| Homicide | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Drug Overdose | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Accident | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Other | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 522 | 23 | 545 |
| | 95.8% | 4.2% | 100.0% |
| Percentage | | | |
| Natural Causes | 81.0% | 87.0% | 81.3% |
| AIDS | 5.0% | 4.3% | 5.0% |
| Suicide | 10.7% | 8.7% | 10.6% |
| Homicide | 0.8% | 0.0% | 0.7% |
| Drug Overdose | 0.6% | 0.0% | 0.6% |
| Accident | 1.0% | 0.0% | 0.9% |
| Other | 1.0% | 0.0% | 0.9% |
| Total | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Average Age | | | |
| Natural Causes | 56.5 | 52.8 | 56.3 |
| AIDS | 47.8 | 41.9 | 47.6 |
| Suicide | 36.7 | 36.4 | 36.7 |
| Homicide | 44.5 | . | 44.5 |
| Drug Overdose | 30.2 | . | 30.2 |
| Accident | 61.2 | . | 61.2 |
| Other | 54.4 | . | 54.4 |
| Total | 53.7 | 50.9 | 53.6 |
| Death Rate* | | | |
| Natural Causes | 18.36 | 17.42 | 18.31 |
| AIDS | 1.13 | 0.87 | 1.12 |
| Suicide | 2.43 | 1.74 | 2.40 |
| Homicide | 0.17 | 0.00 | 0.17 |
| Drug Overdose | 0.13 | 0.00 | 0.12 |
| Accident | 0.22 | 0.00 | 0.21 |
| Other | 0.22 | 0.00 | 0.21 |
| Total | 22.66 | 20.03 | 22.53 |

* Annual deaths per 10,000 inmates under custody.

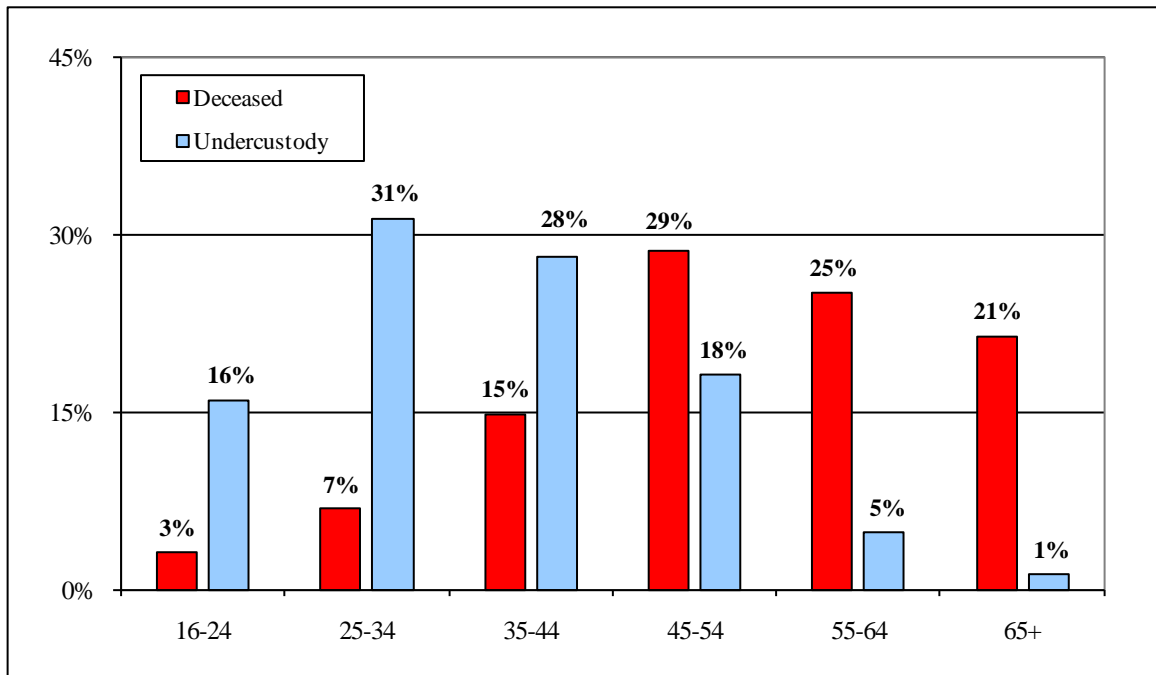
SECTION THREE

AGE OF DECEDENTS

A comparison of age of decedents and the under custody population for the four-year study period is displayed in Figure 3A. There are proportionately fewer deaths in the younger age groups. The 16-24 age group comprised 16% of the under custody population but only 3% of the decedents. On the other hand, the 65+ category comprised 1% of DOCS inmates, but accounted for 21% of deaths.

The largest number of deaths (N=156) occurred in the 45-54 age group. Within the 45-54 age group, 124 or 79% of the deaths were due to natural causes. For all age groups, except the 16-24 year olds, death due to natural causes was the most frequent cause of death (see Table 3). Among inmates 16-24, suicide was the most frequent cause of death.

Figure 3A
Age of Inmates
Decedents vs. Under Custody Inmates
2007 - 2010



As might be expected, mortality rates by age show that as inmates became older their chance of dying in prison increased. Inmates aged 16-24 had the lowest death rate (4.4 per 10,000), while inmates aged 65 and over had the highest rate (375.8 per 10,000 inmates).

Figure 3B
Mortality Rates for All Causes of Death
2007 – 2010 by Age Group

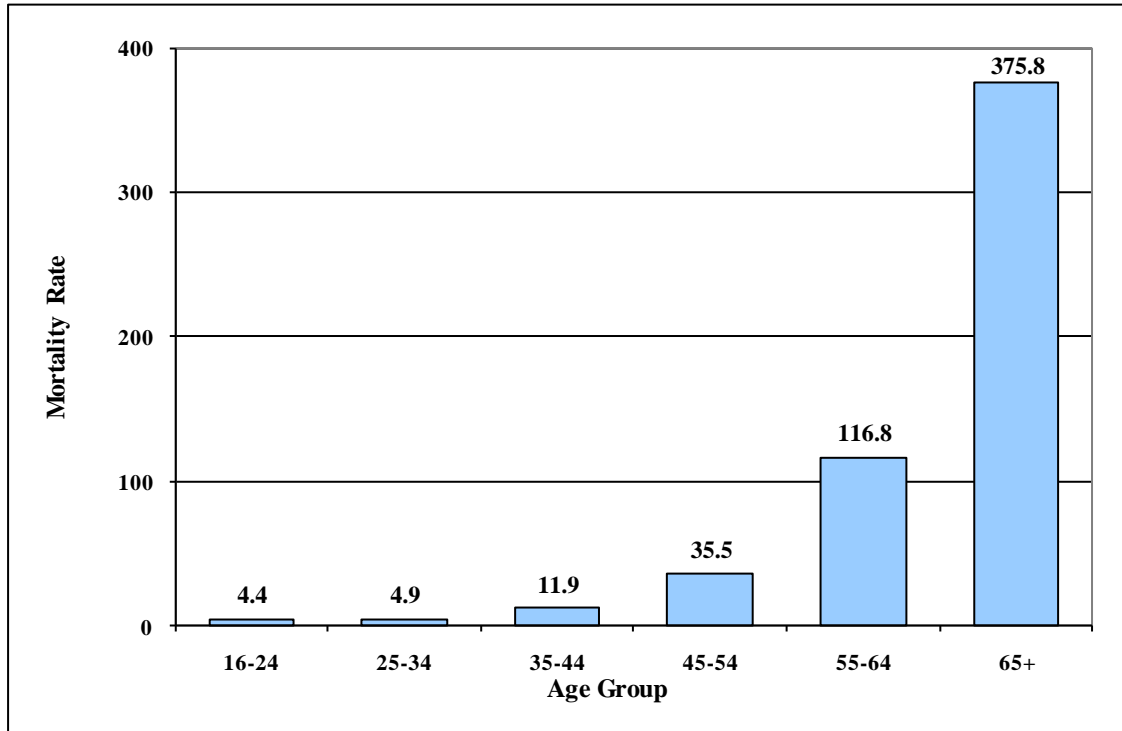


Table 3
Age and Cause of Death by Year of Death, 2007 – 2010

| Age and Cause of Death | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | Total | | | Percent by Age Group |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| | | | | | Count | Percent | Rate* | |
| 16-24 | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0.6% | 0.77 | 17.6% |
| AIDS | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.2% | 0.26 | 5.9% |
| Suicide | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 2.4% | 3.35 | 76.5% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Drug Overdose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 3.1% | 4.38 | 100.0% |
| 25-34 | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 21 | 3.9% | 2.77 | 56.8% |
| AIDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Suicide | 6 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 2.4% | 1.71 | 35.1% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Drug Overdose | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0.6% | 0.40 | 8.1% |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total | 12 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 37 | 6.8% | 4.87 | 100.0% |
| 35-44 | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 14 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 53 | 9.7% | 7.79 | 65.4% |
| AIDS | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 1.8% | 1.47 | 12.3% |
| Suicide | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 2.8% | 2.20 | 18.5% |
| Homicide | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0.6% | 0.44 | 3.7% |
| Drug Overdose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total | 20 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 81 | 14.9% | 11.90 | 100.0% |
| 45-54 | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 45 | 31 | 30 | 18 | 124 | 22.8% | 28.19 | 79.5% |
| AIDS | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 2.2% | 2.73 | 7.7% |
| Suicide | 7 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 2.4% | 2.96 | 8.3% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.2% | 0.23 | 0.6% |
| Drug Overdose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0.6% | 0.68 | 1.9% |
| Other | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0.6% | 0.68 | 1.9% |
| Total | 55 | 39 | 40 | 22 | 156 | 28.6% | 35.47 | 100.0% |
| 55-64 | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 37 | 28 | 36 | 28 | 129 | 23.7% | 109.99 | 94.2% |
| AIDS | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0.6% | 2.56 | 2.2% |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0.7% | 3.41 | 2.9% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Drug Overdose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.2% | 0.85 | 0.7% |
| Total | 39 | 29 | 37 | 32 | 137 | 25.1% | 116.81 | 100.0% |
| 65+ | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 18 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 113 | 20.7% | 362.96 | 96.6% |
| AIDS | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.2% | 3.21 | 0.9% |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Drug Overdose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.4% | 6.42 | 1.7% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0.2% | 3.21 | 0.9% |
| Total | 18 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 117 | 21.5% | 375.81 | 100.0% |
| Total | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 119 | 108 | 119 | 97 | 443 | 81.3% | 18.31 | 81.3% |
| AIDS | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 27 | 5.0% | 1.12 | 5.0% |
| Suicide | 18 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 58 | 10.6% | 2.40 | 10.6% |
| Homicide | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0.7% | 0.17 | 0.7% |
| Drug Overdose | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0.6% | 0.12 | 0.6% |
| Accident | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0.9% | 0.21 | 0.9% |
| Other | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0.9% | 0.21 | 0.9% |
| Total | 147 | 134 | 141 | 123 | 545 | 100.0% | 22.53 | 100.0% |

SECTION FOUR

RACE/ETHNIC STATUS

For purposes of this report, inmates are categorized into four primary race/ethnic groups: White, African-American, Hispanic, and Other (which includes Native-American and Asian). Inmates who did not indicate their race/ethnic status or where the information was missing are designated as unknown.

Figure 4 compares the race/ethnic distribution of the overall inmate under custody population with that of deceased inmates for the years 2007 through 2010. The graph shows that the percentage of deceased inmates classified as White (31%) was greater than the percentage of White inmates in the under custody population (21%). A smaller percentage of African-American inmates died (43%) when compared to their proportion in the inmate population (51%). The proportion of decedents who were Hispanic (23%) was slightly below their overall representation in the under custody population (26%).

Figure 4
Race/Ethnicity of Inmates
Decedents vs. Under Custody Inmates
2007 – 2010

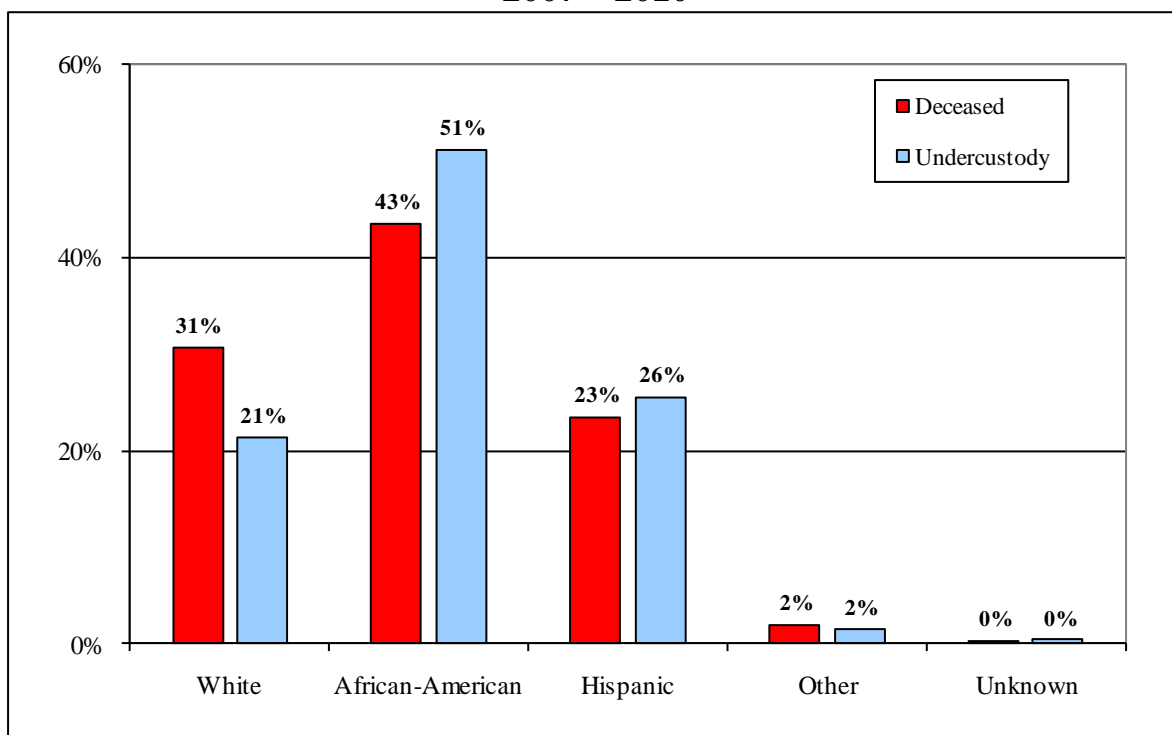


Table 4
Race/Ethnicity and Cause of Death by Year of Death, 2007 – 2010

| Race/Ethnic and Cause of Death | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | Total | | | Sub-Total |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| | | | | | Total 2007-2010 | Rate | Total Percent | Percent by Race/ethnic |
| White | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 39 | 33 | 39 | 32 | 143 | 27.72 | 26.2% | 85.6% |
| AIDS | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.19 | 0.2% | 0.6% |
| Suicide | 6 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 3.68 | 3.5% | 11.4% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Drug OD | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.19 | 0.2% | 0.6% |
| Accident | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0.39 | 0.4% | 1.2% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.19 | 0.2% | 0.6% |
| Total | 46 | 37 | 46 | 38 | 167 | 32.37 | 30.6% | 100.0% |
| African-American | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 48 | 48 | 47 | 49 | 192 | 15.54 | 35.2% | 81.0% |
| AIDS | 5 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 19 | 1.54 | 3.5% | 8.0% |
| Suicide | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 1.46 | 3.3% | 7.6% |
| Homicide | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0.16 | 0.4% | 0.8% |
| Drug OD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0.24 | 0.6% | 1.3% |
| Other | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0.24 | 0.6% | 1.3% |
| Total | 60 | 61 | 57 | 59 | 237 | 19.19 | 43.5% | 100.0% |
| Hispanic | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 29 | 25 | 30 | 16 | 100 | 16.21 | 18.3% | 78.1% |
| AIDS | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1.13 | 1.3% | 5.5% |
| Suicide | 5 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 16 | 2.59 | 2.9% | 12.5% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0.32 | 0.4% | 1.6% |
| Drug OD | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.32 | 0.4% | 1.6% |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.16 | 0.2% | 0.8% |
| Total | 38 | 33 | 34 | 23 | 128 | 20.75 | 23.5% | 100.0% |
| Other | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 15.97 | 1.1% | 54.5% |
| AIDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Suicide | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 13.31 | 0.9% | 45.5% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Drug OD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Total | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 29.28 | 2.0% | 100.0% |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 19.64 | 0.4% | 100.0% |
| AIDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Drug OD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Accident | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Total | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 19.64 | 0.4% | 100.0% |
| Total | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 119 | 108 | 119 | 97 | 443 | 18.31 | 81.3% | 81.3% |
| AIDS | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 27 | 1.12 | 5.0% | 5.0% |
| Suicide | 18 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 58 | 2.40 | 10.6% | 10.6% |
| Homicide | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0.17 | 0.7% | 0.7% |
| Drug OD | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0.12 | 0.6% | 0.6% |
| Accident | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0.21 | 0.9% | 0.9% |
| Other | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0.21 | 0.9% | 0.9% |
| Total | 147 | 134 | 141 | 123 | 545 | 22.53 | 100.0% | 100.0% |

SECTION FIVE

REGION OF COMMITMENT

New York State counties are aggregated into four groups according to region of the state and population centers. The New York City region consists of the following five counties: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond. Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester counties make up the Suburban New York Region. The Upstate Urban region is composed of counties that have a population center of 50,000 or more residents and includes: Albany, Broome, Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Niagara, Rensselaer, and Schenectady. The Upstate Other region contains the remaining counties of the state.

Figure 5 compares the region of commitment of the under custody population with the region of commitment for deceased inmates during the four-year study period. The overall percent of deceased inmates from each region of the state is approximately the same as the percent of under custody inmates from each region.

Examining the distribution of deaths by cause of death does show differences by region of commitment. Inmates from New York City were 52% of total deaths, but 67% of AIDS deaths. This contrasts with Upstate Other that had 17% of all inmate deaths, but only 4% of AIDS deaths (see Table 5).

Figure 5
Region of Commitment
2007 - 2010

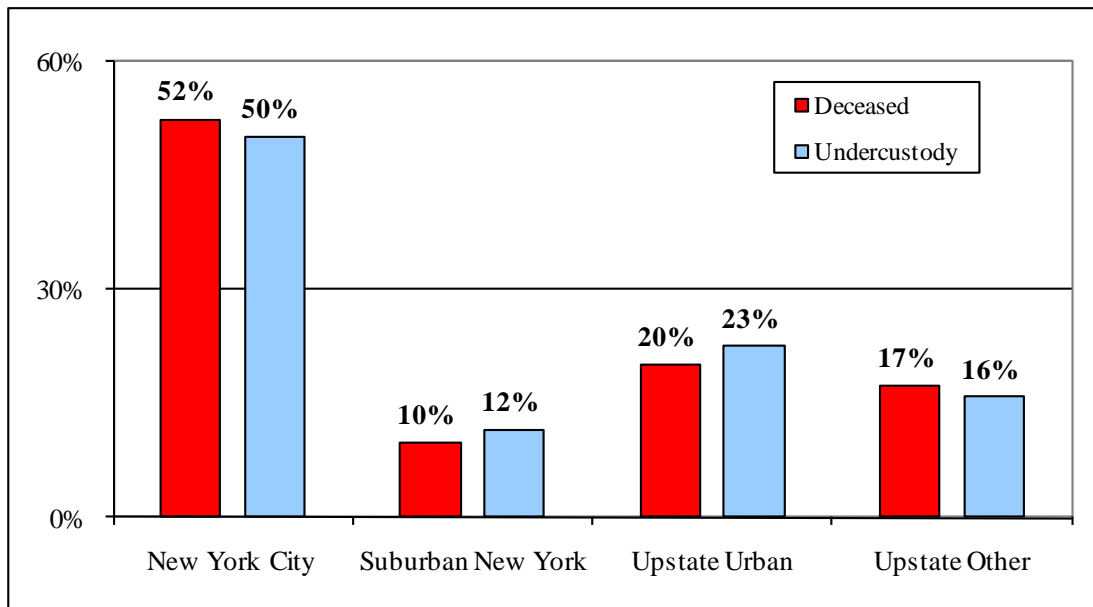


Table 5
Region of Commitment by Cause of Death
2007 – 2010

| Cause of Death | New York City | Suburban New York | Upstate Urban | Upstate Other | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Percent by Region | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 232 | 43 | 94 | 74 | 443 |
| AIDS | 18 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 27 |
| Suicide | 24 | 3 | 13 | 18 | 58 |
| Homicide | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Drug OD | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Accident | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Other | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 286 | 54 | 110 | 95 | 545 |
| Percent by Region | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 81.1% | 79.6% | 85.5% | 77.9% | 81.3% |
| AIDS | 6.3% | 9.3% | 2.7% | 1.1% | 5.0% |
| Suicide | 8.4% | 5.6% | 11.8% | 18.9% | 10.6% |
| Homicide | 1.0% | 1.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.7% |
| Drug OD | 0.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.1% | 0.6% |
| Accident | 0.7% | 3.7% | 0.0% | 1.1% | 0.9% |
| Other | 1.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.9% |
| Total | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Percent by Cause | | | | | |
| Natural Causes | 52.4% | 9.7% | 21.2% | 16.7% | 100.0% |
| AIDS | 66.7% | 18.5% | 11.1% | 3.7% | 100.0% |
| Suicide | 41.4% | 5.2% | 22.4% | 31.0% | 100.0% |
| Homicide | 75.0% | 25.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| Drug OD | 66.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 33.3% | 100.0% |
| Accident | 40.0% | 40.0% | 0.0% | 20.0% | 100.0% |
| Other | 100.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% |
| Total | 52.5% | 9.9% | 20.2% | 17.4% | 100.0% |

SECTION SIX

COMMITMENT OFFENSE

This section examines commitment offense and cause of death for decedents and the under custody population for 2007-2010. The total number of felony criminal offenses has been aggregated into four general categories: violent felonies, other coercive offenses, drug offenses, and property or other offenses. Figure 6 compares the commitment offenses of inmates who died to the commitment offenses of the under custody population during the 2007-2010 time period. The graph reveals that inmates committed for a violent felony were more likely to die while in custody, when compared to inmates sentenced for other crimes.

Table 6 provides information on the cause of death of inmates according to specific types of offenses. For example, during the years 2007-2010, 135 inmates sentenced for murder died while in custody. Of these, 116 (86%) died of natural causes.

Figure 6
Crime of Commitment
Decedents vs. Under Custody Inmates
2007 - 2010

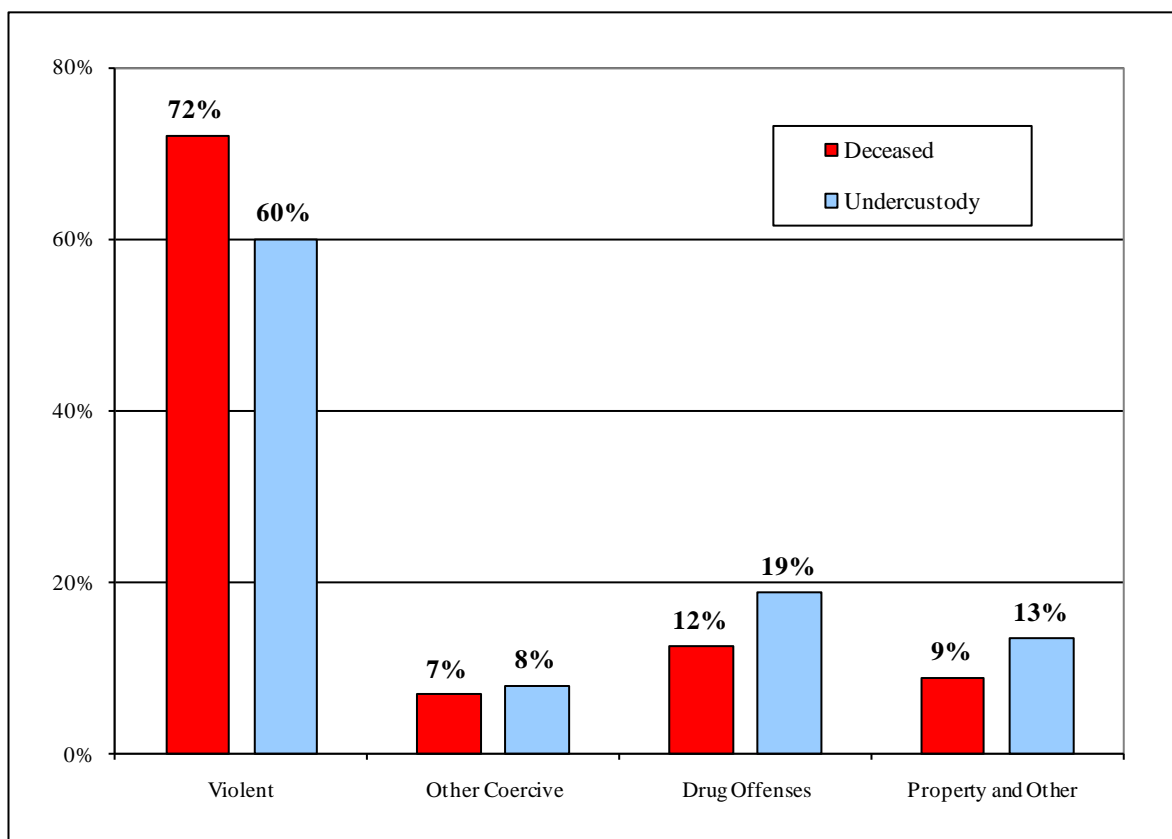


Table 6
Commitment Offense by Cause of Death
2007 – 2010

| Crime Category | Natural | AIDS | Suicide | Homicide | Drug OD | Accident | Other | Total |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| Violent | | | | | | | | |
| Murder | 116 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 135 |
| Attempted Murder | 13 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Manslaughter 1st | 20 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Rape 1st | 25 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 33 |
| Robbery 1st | 35 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 40 |
| Robbery 2nd | 10 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 15 |
| Assault 1st | 11 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Assault 2nd | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Burglary 1st | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Burglary 2nd | 19 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Arson | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Sodomy 1st | 23 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 |
| Sex Abuse 1st , Ag.2 | 23 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Weapons | 10 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Kidnapping 1st,2nd | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Other VFO Sex Off. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Subtotal | 321 | 17 | 42 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 392 |
| | 72.5% | 63.0% | 72.4% | 100.0% | 33.3% | 60.0% | 80.0% | 71.9% |
| Other Coercive | | | | | | | | |
| Manslaughter 2nd | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Other Homicide | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Robbery 3rd | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Att Assault 2nd | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Conspiracy 2,3,4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Other Weapons | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Other Sex Offenses | 7 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Other Coercive | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Subtotal | 28 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| | 6.3% | 7.4% | 12.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 6.8% |
| Drug Offenses | | | | | | | | |
| Drug Offenses | 56 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 68 |
| Subtotal | 56 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 68 |
| | 12.6% | 18.5% | 3.4% | 0.0% | 66.7% | 40.0% | 20.0% | 12.5% |
| Property and Other | | | | | | | | |
| Burglary 3rd | 10 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Grand Larceny | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Stolen Property | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Forgery | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Drive Intoxicated | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Contempt 1st | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| All Other Felonies | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Subtotal | 38 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 |
| | 8.6% | 11.1% | 12.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 8.8% |
| Grand Total | 443 | 27 | 58 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 545 |
| | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

APPENDIX

Average Daily Population and Average Population by Age and Race/Ethnic Status

The average population for the total population is based on a daily count of inmates under DOCS custody.

**Table 7
Total Average Daily Population by Gender**

| Gender | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2007-2010 | Percent |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Total Population | Total Population | Total Population | Total Population | Average Population | |
| Average Daily Population | 63,507 | 61,724 | 59,471 | 57,182 | 60,471 | 100.0% |
| Male Average Daily | 60,674 | 59,043 | 56,906 | 54,831 | 57,864 | 95.7% |
| Female Average Daily | 2,833 | 2,681 | 2,565 | 2,351 | 2,608 | 4.3% |

The age and race/ethnic status average populations in Table 8 are based upon a twelve point average with one day sampled from each month.

**Table 8
Population Sub-Group Totals
By Race/Ethnic Status and Age**

| Sub Group | 2007 Total | 2008 Total | 2009 Total | 2010 Total | 2007-2010 Average |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Race/Ethnic Status | | | | | |
| White | 13,133 | 12,967 | 12,796 | 12,698 | 12,899 |
| African-American | 32,339 | 31,688 | 30,484 | 29,018 | 30,882 |
| Hispanic | 16,619 | 15,837 | 14,979 | 14,241 | 15,419 |
| Other | 970 | 929 | 933 | 924 | 939 |
| Unknown | 246 | 258 | 242 | 273 | 255 |
| Grand Total Race/Ethnic | 63,308 | 61,679 | 59,434 | 57,154 | 60,394 |
| White | 20.7% | 21.0% | 21.5% | 22.2% | 21.4% |
| African-American | 51.1% | 51.4% | 51.3% | 50.8% | 51.1% |
| Hispanic | 26.3% | 25.7% | 25.2% | 24.9% | 25.5% |
| Other | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.6% |
| Unknown | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.4% |
| Grand Total Race/Ethnic | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Age | | | | | |
| 16-24 | 10,146 | 9,817 | 9,500 | 9,336 | 9,699 |
| 25-34 | 20,136 | 19,500 | 18,550 | 17,722 | 18,977 |
| 35-44 | 18,957 | 17,730 | 16,365 | 14,992 | 17,011 |
| 45-54 | 10,602 | 11,008 | 11,207 | 11,165 | 10,995 |
| 55-64 | 2,743 | 2,859 | 3,012 | 3,115 | 2,932 |
| 65+ | 724 | 765 | 800 | 825 | 778 |
| Grand Total Age | 63,308 | 61,679 | 59,434 | 57,154 | 60,394 |
| 16-24 | 16.0% | 15.9% | 16.0% | 16.3% | 16.1% |
| 25-34 | 31.8% | 31.6% | 31.2% | 31.0% | 31.4% |
| 35-44 | 29.9% | 28.7% | 27.5% | 26.2% | 28.2% |
| 45-54 | 16.7% | 17.8% | 18.9% | 19.5% | 18.2% |
| 55-64 | 4.3% | 4.6% | 5.1% | 5.5% | 4.9% |
| 65+ | 1.1% | 1.2% | 1.3% | 1.4% | 1.3% |
| Grand Total Age | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

The average inmate population for age and race/ethnic status subgroups in Table 9 is based upon a twelve point average with one day sampled from each month.

Table 9
Sub-Group Population by Age and Race/Ethnic Status

| Race/Ethnic by Age | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | | 2010 | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | Total Population | Percent of Age | Total Population | Percent of Age | Total Population | Percent of Age | Total Population | Percent of Age |
| 16-24 | 10,146 | 100.0% | 9,817 | 100.0% | 9,500 | 100.0% | 9,336 | 100.0% |
| White | 1,903 | 18.8% | 1,847 | 18.8% | 1,766 | 18.6% | 1,783 | 19.1% |
| African-American | 5,625 | 55.4% | 5,464 | 55.7% | 5,280 | 55.6% | 5,145 | 55.1% |
| Hispanic | 2,436 | 24.0% | 2,318 | 23.6% | 2,265 | 23.8% | 2,197 | 23.5% |
| Other | 122 | 1.2% | 124 | 1.3% | 130 | 1.4% | 140 | 1.5% |
| Unknown | 60 | 0.6% | 64 | 0.6% | 58 | 0.6% | 70 | 0.7% |
| 25-34 | 20,136 | 100.0% | 19,500 | 100.0% | 18,550 | 100.0% | 17,722 | 100.0% |
| White | 3,474 | 17.3% | 3,512 | 18.0% | 3,471 | 18.7% | 3,475 | 19.6% |
| African-American | 10,577 | 52.5% | 10,332 | 53.0% | 9,848 | 53.1% | 9,304 | 52.5% |
| Hispanic | 5,671 | 28.2% | 5,283 | 27.1% | 4,864 | 26.2% | 4,592 | 25.9% |
| Other | 347 | 1.7% | 303 | 1.6% | 295 | 1.6% | 272 | 1.5% |
| Unknown | 69 | 0.3% | 70 | 0.4% | 72 | 0.4% | 79 | 0.4% |
| 35-44 | 18,957 | 100.0% | 17,730 | 100.0% | 16,365 | 100.0% | 14,992 | 100.0% |
| White | 3,971 | 20.9% | 3,679 | 20.8% | 3,449 | 21.1% | 3,243 | 21.6% |
| African-American | 9,466 | 49.9% | 8,874 | 50.0% | 8,163 | 49.9% | 7,360 | 49.1% |
| Hispanic | 5,152 | 27.2% | 4,830 | 27.2% | 4,425 | 27.0% | 4,073 | 27.2% |
| Other | 298 | 1.6% | 283 | 1.6% | 273 | 1.7% | 259 | 1.7% |
| Unknown | 69 | 0.4% | 65 | 0.4% | 55 | 0.3% | 56 | 0.4% |
| 45-54 | 10,602 | 100.0% | 11,008 | 100.0% | 11,207 | 100.0% | 11,165 | 100.0% |
| White | 2,561 | 24.2% | 2,666 | 24.2% | 2,795 | 24.9% | 2,828 | 25.3% |
| African-American | 5,306 | 50.0% | 5,573 | 50.6% | 5,657 | 50.5% | 5,644 | 50.5% |
| Hispanic | 2,552 | 24.1% | 2,564 | 23.3% | 2,538 | 22.6% | 2,452 | 22.0% |
| Other | 146 | 1.4% | 162 | 1.5% | 178 | 1.6% | 191 | 1.7% |
| Unknown | 37 | 0.4% | 43 | 0.4% | 39 | 0.4% | 50 | 0.4% |
| 55-64 | 2,743 | 100.0% | 2,859 | 100.0% | 3,012 | 100.0% | 3,115 | 100.0% |
| White | 894 | 32.6% | 906 | 31.7% | 944 | 31.3% | 989 | 31.7% |
| African-American | 1,137 | 41.5% | 1,207 | 42.2% | 1,291 | 42.9% | 1,308 | 42.0% |
| Hispanic | 656 | 23.9% | 688 | 24.1% | 719 | 23.9% | 752 | 24.2% |
| Other | 46 | 1.7% | 45 | 1.6% | 45 | 1.5% | 50 | 1.6% |
| Unknown | 10 | 0.4% | 13 | 0.4% | 14 | 0.5% | 16 | 0.5% |
| 65+ | 724 | 100.0% | 765 | 100.0% | 800 | 100.0% | 825 | 100.0% |
| White | 330 | 45.5% | 357 | 46.7% | 370 | 46.2% | 378 | 45.9% |
| African-American | 229 | 31.6% | 238 | 31.1% | 247 | 30.8% | 257 | 31.2% |
| Hispanic | 153 | 21.1% | 155 | 20.2% | 168 | 21.0% | 174 | 21.1% |
| Other | 11 | 1.6% | 12 | 1.5% | 12 | 1.5% | 13 | 1.5% |
| Unknown | 2 | 0.2% | 3 | 0.4% | 3 | 0.4% | 3 | 0.3% |

Table 10
Cause of Death by Race/Ethnicity and Average Age, 2007-2010

| Cause of Death | White | | African-American | | Hispanic | | Other | | Unknown | | Total | |
|----------------|-------|------|------------------|------|----------|------|-------|------|---------|------|-------|------|
| | Num | Avg. | Num | Avg. | Num | Avg. | Num | Avg. | Num | Avg. | Num | Avg. |
| Natural Causes | 143 | 61.0 | 192 | 54.0 | 100 | 53.8 | 6 | 63.4 | 2 | 55.4 | 443 | 56.3 |
| AIDS | 1 | 47.9 | 19 | 47.0 | 7 | 49.0 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 27 | 47.6 |
| Suicide | 19 | 41.2 | 18 | 30.3 | 16 | 39.0 | 5 | 35.9 | 0 | - | 58 | 36.7 |
| Homicide | 0 | - | 2 | 46.7 | 2 | 42.2 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 4 | 44.5 |
| Drug OD | 1 | 29.6 | 0 | - | 2 | 30.5 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 3 | 30.2 |
| Accident | 2 | 59.9 | 3 | 62.0 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 5 | 61.2 |
| Other | 1 | 49.2 | 3 | 55.2 | 1 | 57.1 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 5 | 54.4 |
| Total | 167 | 58.4 | 237 | 51.7 | 128 | 51.1 | 11 | 50.9 | 2 | 55.4 | 545 | 53.6 |

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