



Corrections and Community Supervision

Annual Mortality Report

2021

Introduction

This report presents information about the deaths of individuals under DOCCS' custody, regardless of where the death occurred; thus hospital deaths are included. Any death of an escapee or an absconder is excluded, since they were not under DOCCS' custody at the time of death. Any death of a detainee (individuals from other jurisdictions who are being held temporarily in DOCCS' facilities) is included. The deaths reported for 2021 include one detainee death.

The manner of death presented corresponds to the manner of death recorded on the Department's unusual incident system. The manner of death categories include: accident, homicide, natural, suicide and unknown. This system is updated based on information received from autopsy reports. However, this system does not record information regarding the cause of death. Pursuant to NYS County Law §671 and §674, the official cause of death for all incarcerated individual deaths is determined by the county coroner or medical examiner. County Law §677 leaves it to county coroner and medical examiner to determine if results will be released and to whom. Therefore, the manner of death is presented in this report, not cause of death.

The Department's mortality report was discontinued in 2012. For historical context, Table 9 presents information about manner of death for deaths between 2017 and 2021. In addition to manner of death, this report also presents demographic and legal characteristics of the individuals whose deaths are reported.

This data is preliminary and is based on data on file as of March 2022. At the time of this report, not all autopsy results had been received. Therefore, although the number of deaths reported will not change, the manner of death reported may change based on the manner of death reported in official autopsy results.

All rates presented are per 10,000 incarcerated individuals. Between 2017 and 2021, the mortality rate for deaths at DOCCS was 30.08 per 10,000 or 300.8 per 100,000. Based on the most recent national figures for deaths in state prisons between 2001 and 2019, New York's mortality rate was about the same as or lower than other large states. Between 2001 and 2019, the mortality rate for deaths in New York state prisons was 250 per 100,000. This was comparable to California and Ohio (247 per 100,000) and lower than Pennsylvania (331 per 100,000), Florida (319 per 100,000) and Texas (274 per 100,000)(see <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/mortality-state-and-federal-prisons-2001-2019-statistical-tables>).

Table 1. Correctional Facility by Manner of Death: 2021

Facility	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
Maximum Security						
Attica	1	0	4	0	1	6
Auburn	0	0	1	0	1	2
Bedford Hills	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clinton	3	0	3	0	1	7
Coxsackie	0	0	3	1	0	4
Downstate	0	0	0	1	0	1
Eastern	0	0	2	0	0	2
Elmira	0	0	2	6	1	9
Five Points	0	0	3	3	0	6
Great Meadow	0	0	2	0	0	2
Green Haven	3	0	2	0	1	6
Shawangunk	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sing Sing	0	0	1	2	1	4
Sullivan	0	0	1	1	0	2
Wende	0	0	2	0	1	3
Sub-total	7	0	28	14	7	56
Regional Medical Unit						
Coxsackie RMU	0	0	8	0	0	8
Fishkill RMU	0	0	5	0	1	6
Walsh RMU	0	0	19	0	0	19
Wende RMU	0	0	15	0	0	15
Sub-total	0	0	47	0	1	48
Medium Security						
Adirondack	0	0	1	0	0	1
Albion	0	0	1	1	0	2
Altona	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bare Hill	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cayuga	0	0	2	0	0	2
Collins	0	0	2	0	1	3
Fishkill	1	0	3	0	0	4
Franklin	0	0	1	0	1	2
Gouverneur	0	0	2	0	0	2
Greene	0	0	2	0	0	2
Groveland	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mid-State	0	0	3	1	0	4
Mohawk	0	0	1	0	0	1
Otisville	1	0	0	0	0	1
Riverview	0	0	1	0	0	1
Washington	0	0	0	0	1	1
Woodbourne	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sub-total	2	0	23	2	3	30
Minimum Security						
Queensboro	0	0	0	0	1	1
Albion Work Release	0	0	0	0	1	1
Collins Work Release	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sub-total	0	0	0	0	3	3
Grand Total	9	0	98	16	14	137

Table 2. Month of Death by Manner of Death: 2021

Month	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
JAN	0	0	11	1	0	12
FEB	0	0	15	1	1	17
MAR	0	0	10	1	1	12
APR	1	0	4	3	0	8
MAY	0	0	8	0	1	9
JUN	3	0	10	0	0	13
JUL	2	0	5	1	2	10
AUG	1	0	5	2	0	8
SEP	0	0	10	0	1	11
OCT	1	0	6	3	2	12
NOV	0	0	6	3	3	12
DEC	1	0	8	1	3	13
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137

Figure 1. Manner of Death: 2021

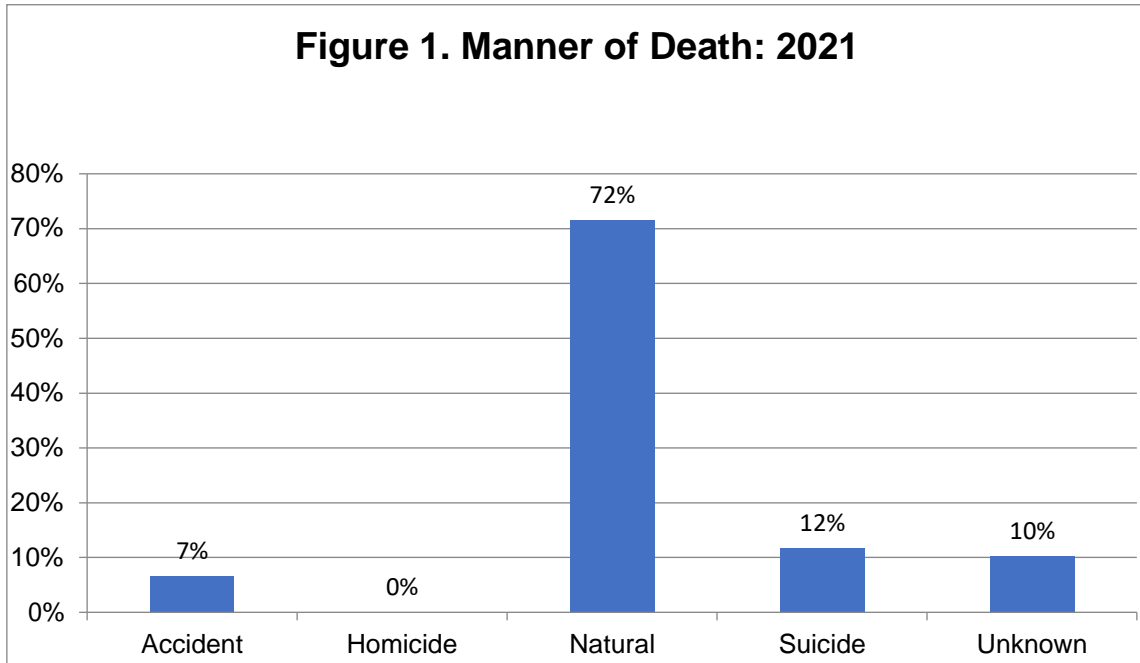


Table 3. Sex by Manner of Death: 2021

Sex	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
Male	9	0	96	15	13	133
Female	0	0	2	1	1	4
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137
Rate per 10,000						
Male	2.89	0.00	30.82	4.82	4.17	42.70
Female	0.00	0.00	16.58	8.29	8.29	33.16
Total	2.78	0.00	30.29	4.95	4.33	42.34

Table 4. Race/Ethnicity by Manner of Death: 2021

Race / Ethnicity	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
Black	1	0	41	3	5	50
White	5	0	41	9	7	62
Hispanic ¹	3	0	12	2	2	19
Native American	0	0	1	0	0	1
Asian	0	0	0	2	0	2
Other	0	0	3	0	0	3
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137
Rate per 10,000						
Black	0.62	0.00	25.41	1.86	3.10	30.98
White	6.79	0.00	55.68	12.22	9.51	84.19
Hispanic ¹	3.84	0.00	15.38	2.56	2.56	24.35
Native American	0.00	0.00	34.62	0.00	0.00	34.62
Asian	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.41	0.00	98.41
Other	0.00	0.00	53.85	0.00	0.00	53.85
Total	2.78	0.00	30.29	4.95	4.33	42.34

¹ For reporting purposes, Hispanic ethnicity (either self-reported or based on country of descent, per Correction Law 29) is prioritized over self-reported race. For example, someone who is Black and of Hispanic descent, is reported as Hispanic.

Table 5. Time Served by Manner of Death:2021

Time Since Latest Admission	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
Less than 1 Year	1	0	7	4	3	17
1-3 Years	3	0	22	7	5	36
4-7 Years	2	0	17	1	1	21
8-12 Years	0	0	7	1	2	9
13-20 Years	3	0	13	2	1	19
Over 20 Years	0	0	32	1	2	35
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137

Table 6. Age at Death by Manner of Death: 2021

Age at Death	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
16-24	0	0	1	0	0	1
25-34	2	0	0	7	2	11
35-44	4	0	4	3	4	15
45-54	0	0	11	2	1	14
55-64	3	0	31	4	7	45
65+	0	0	51	0	0	51
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137
Rate per 10,000						
16-24	0.00	0.00	4.21	0.00	0.00	4.21
25-34	1.98	0.00	0.00	6.94	1.98	10.90
35-44	4.40	0.00	4.40	3.30	4.40	16.49
45-54	0.00	0.00	18.75	3.41	1.70	23.86
55-64	7.77	0.00	80.30	10.36	18.13	116.57
65+	0.00	0.00	478.52	0.00	0.00	478.52
Total	2.78	0.00	30.29	4.95	4.33	42.34
Average Age at Death						
Age	42	N/A	63	43	48	58

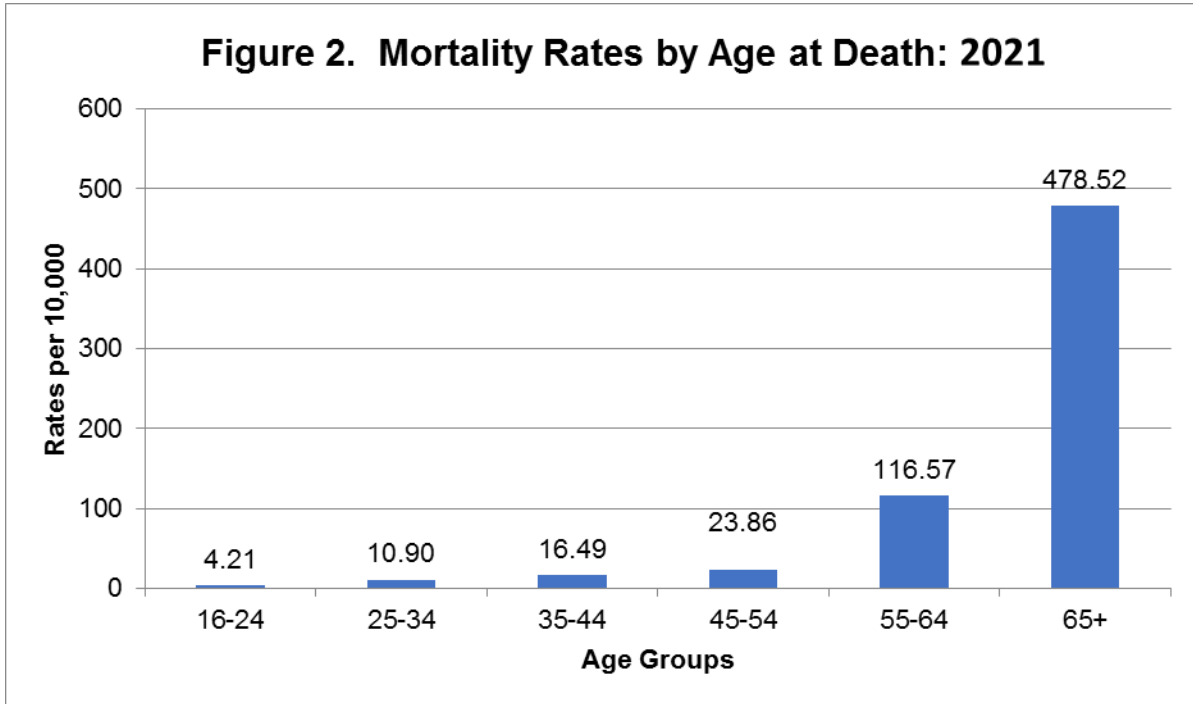


Table 7. Medical Level by Manner of Death: 2021

Medical Level	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
Level 1 ²	0	0	57	3	3	62
Level 2	7	0	24	5	6	42
Level 3	2	0	17	7	5	32
Unassigned	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137
Rate per 10,000						
Level 1 ²	0.00	0.00	455.47	23.97	23.97	495.43
Level 2	6.10	0.00	20.92	4.36	5.23	36.60
Level 3	1.03	0.00	8.73	3.59	2.57	16.42
Unassigned	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	2.78	0.00	30.29	4.95	4.33	42.34

² Medical Level 1 represents the highest level of medical needs.

Table 8A. Commitment Offense Type by Manner of Death: 2021

Offense Type	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
Violent Felony	5	0	86	15	8	114
Other Coercive	2	0	4	1	0	7
Drug Offenses	1	0	1	0	5	7
Property and Other Offenses	1	0	7	0	1	9
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137

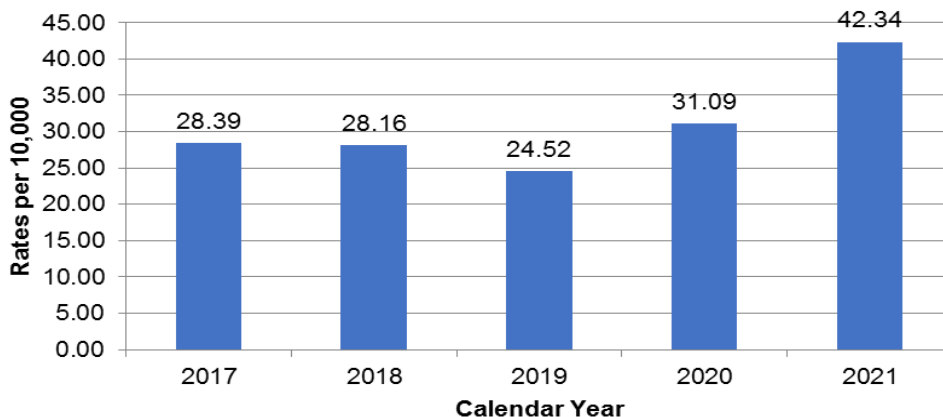
Table 8B. Commitment Crime by Manner of Death: 2021

Commitment Crime	Manner of Death					Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Suicide	Unknown	
Violent Felony						
Arson 1st,2nd	0	0	2	0	0	2
Assault 1st	0	0	1	1	0	2
Assault 2nd	0	0	3	1	0	4
Burglary 1st	1	0	1	0	0	2
Burglary 2nd	1	0	4	2	2	9
Rape 1ST	0	0	12	2	0	14
Robbery 1st	0	0	4	0	2	6
Robbery 2nd	0	0	5	0	1	6
Manslt 1st, Aggrav.2nd	0	0	3	2	0	5
Murder / Attempted Murder	2	0	30	4	3	39
Sexual Abuse 1st,Aggrav.2nd	0	0	10	1	0	11
Sodomy 1st	0	0	3	1	0	4
Weapons Offenses	0	0	2	1	0	3
Other VFO Sex Offenses	1	0	6	0	0	7
Sub-total	5	0	86	15	8	114
Other Coercive						
Attempted Assault 2nd	0	0	1	0	0	1
Conspiracy 2,3,4	0	0	1	1	0	2
Manslaughter 2nd	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other Sex Offenses	1	0	1	0	0	2
Other Coercive	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sub-total	2	0	4	1	0	7
Drug Offenses						
Drug Offenses	1	0	1	0	5	7
Sub-total	1	0	1	0	5	7
Property & Other						
Burglary 3rd	0	0	2	0	0	2
Contempt 1st	0	0	1	0	0	1
Drive Intoxicated	1	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Larceny	0	0	2	0	0	2
All Other Felonies	0	0	2	0	1	3
Sub-total	1	0	7	0	1	9
Total	9	0	98	16	14	137

Table 9. Manner of Death, Average Age and Death Rate per 10,000 by Year: 2017 - 2021

Manner	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Count						
Accident	17	9	4	8	9	47
Homicide	1	3	1	2	0	7
Natural	112	109	87	94	98	500
Suicide	13	13	18	13	16	73
Unknown	2	4	3	5	14	28
Total	145	138	113	122	137	655
Percentage						
Accident	12%	7%	4%	7%	7%	7%
Homicide	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	1%
Natural	77%	79%	77%	77%	72%	76%
Suicide	9%	9%	16%	11%	12%	11%
Unknown	1%	3%	3%	4%	10%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Average Age						
Accident	48.1	51.4	51.3	49.0	41.9	48.0
Homicide	51.0	49.7	67.0	37.0	-	48.7
Natural	59.3	60.2	60.7	59.7	63.3	60.6
Suicide	35.4	40.5	36.4	48.5	42.7	40.5
Unknown	41.5	38.3	44.3	38.1	48.4	43.9
Total	55.5	56.9	56.1	56.2	58.0	56.6
Rate per 10,000						
Accident	3.33	1.84	0.87	2.04	2.78	2.16
Homicide	0.20	0.61	0.22	0.51	0.00	0.32
Natural	21.93	22.24	18.88	23.95	30.29	23.00
Suicide	2.55	2.65	3.91	3.31	4.95	3.36
Unknown	0.39	0.82	0.65	1.27	4.33	1.29
Total	28.39	28.16	24.52	31.09	42.34	30.08

Figure 3. Mortality Rates per 10,000: 2017 - 2021



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June 2022