



Corrections and Community Supervision

Annual Mortality Report

2023

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 2023 do not include any detainees; the last detainee deaths occurred in 2022 (1) and 2021 (1).

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, overdose, 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.

For historical context, Table 9 presents information about manner of death for deaths between 2019 and 2023. 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 June 17, 2024. 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 2019 and 2023, the mortality rate for deaths at DOCCS was 29.97 per 10,000 or 299.7 per 100,000. The mortality rate declined for the second year in a row, following a high point in 2021. The 2023 rate of 33.38 was slightly higher than the pre-pandemic rate of 31.09 in 2019.

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: 2023

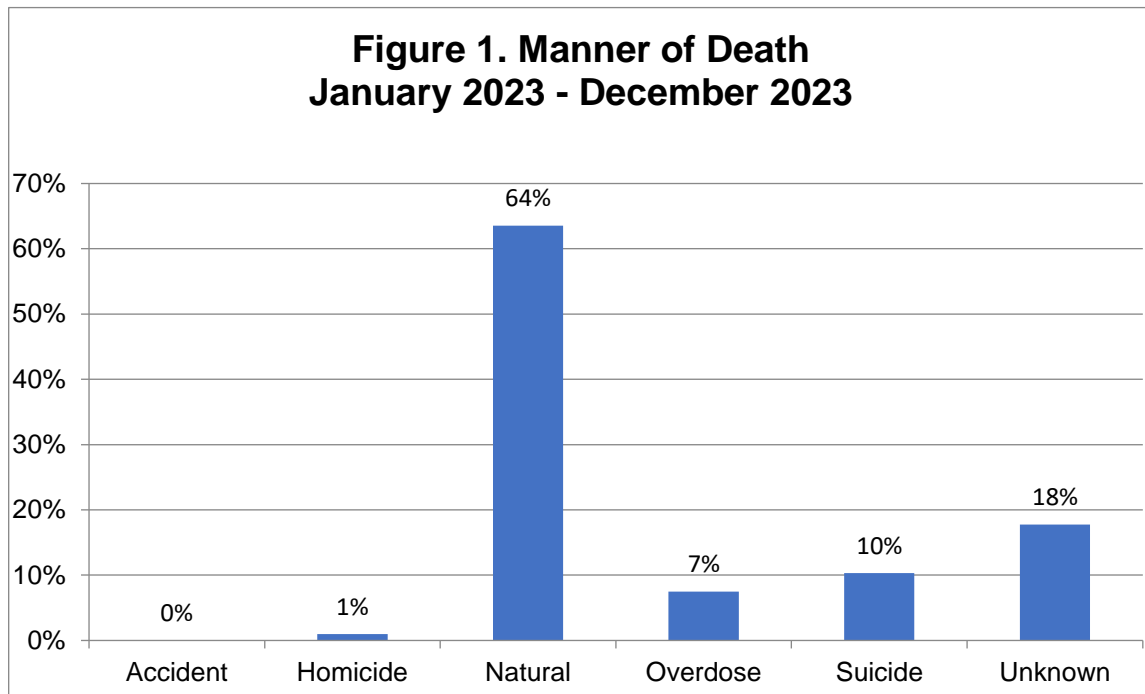
Facility	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
Maximum Security							
Attica	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Auburn	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Bedford Hills	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Clinton	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Coxsackie	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Elmira	0	0	4	1	1	1	7
Great Meadow	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Green Haven	0	0	7	2	3	1	13
Shawangunk	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sing Sing	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Wende	0	0	3	0	0	1	4
Sub-total	0	0	20	4	7	10	41
Residential Rehabilitaiton Unit							
Five Points RRU	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Gouverneur RRU	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Greene RRU	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Upstate RRU	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sub-total	0	1	1	0	1	1	4
Residential Mental Health Treatment Unit							
Great Meadow BHU	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Auburn ICP	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Clinton ICP	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Five Points ICP	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wende ICP	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sub-total	0	0	2	0	3	0	5
Regional Medical Unit							
Coxsackie RMU	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
Fishkill RMU	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Walsh RMU	0	0	14	0	0	0	14
Wende RMU	0	0	9	0	0	1	10
Sub-total	0	0	38	0	0	1	39
Medium Security							
Albion	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bare Hill	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Collins	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Fishkill	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Gouverneur	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Marcy	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Mohawk	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Walkkill	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sub-total	0	0	7	2	0	7	16
Minimum Security							
Hudson Work Release	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Sub-total	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Grand Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107

Note: Unusual Incident Data is preliminary as of June 17, 2024 and is subject to change. Deaths are categorized during unusual incident reporting and are subject to change upon receipt of an official autopsy report.

Table 2. Month of Death by Manner of Death: 2023

Month	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
JAN	0	0	5	1	1	0	7
FEB	0	0	3	0	2	0	5
MAR	0	0	9	0	1	2	12
APR	0	0	3	0	1	0	4
MAY	0	0	7	1	2	1	11
JUN	0	1	7	2	0	0	10
JUL	0	0	3	1	0	1	5
AUG	0	0	7	0	1	4	12
SEP	0	0	6	0	1	3	10
OCT	0	0	8	1	0	3	12
NOV	0	0	8	1	2	0	11
DEC	0	0	2	1	0	5	8
Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107

Note: Unusual Incident Data is preliminary as of June 17, 2024 and is subject to change. Deaths are categorized during unusual incident reporting and are subject to change upon receipt of an official autopsy report.



**Table 3. Sex by Manner of Death
January 2023 - December 2023**

Incarcerated Individual Sex	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
Male	0	1	67	8	11	18	105
Female	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107
Rate per 10,000							
Male	0.00	0.32	21.77	2.60	3.57	5.85	34.12
Female	0.00	0.00	7.84	0.00	0.00	7.84	15.68
Total	0.00	0.31	21.21	2.50	3.43	5.93	33.38

**Table 4. Race/Ethnicity* by Manner of Death
January 2023 - December 2023**

Self-Reported Race / Ethnicity	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
Black	0	0	28	4	2	8	42
White	0	1	26	2	9	4	42
Hispanic	0	0	12	2	0	5	19
Native American	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107
Rate per 10,000							
Black	0.00	0.00	17.78	2.54	1.27	5.08	26.67
White	0.00	1.36	35.33	2.72	12.23	5.44	57.07
Hispanic	0.00	0.00	15.83	2.64	0.00	6.60	25.06
Native American	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.96	29.96
Asian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	25.05	0.00	0.00	12.52	37.57
Total	0.00	0.31	21.21	2.50	3.43	5.93	33.38

*Hispanic ethnicity is prioritized over race in this table. Regardless of race, individuals reporting a Hispanic ethnicity are reported as Hispanic.

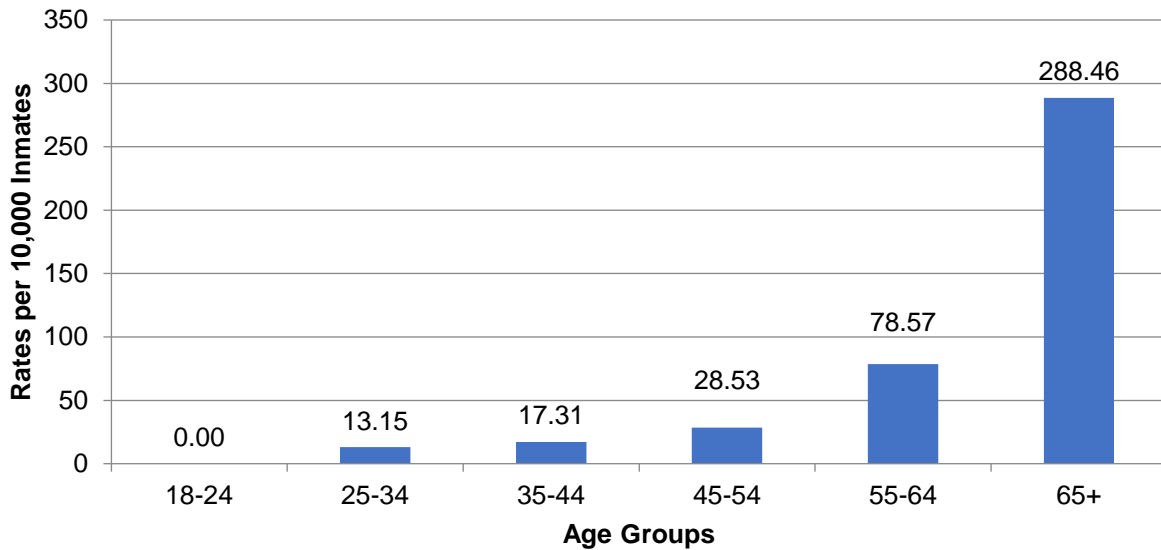
Table 5. Time Served by Manner of Death: 2023

Time Since Latest Admission	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
Less than 1 Year	0	0	12	2	2	6	22
1-3 Years	0	0	10	2	4	4	20
4-7 Years	0	1	8	4	2	1	16
8-12 Years	0	0	12	0	3	5	20
13-20 Years	0	0	5	0	0	3	8
Over 20 Years	0	0	21	0	0	0	21
Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107

**Table 6. Age at Death by Manner of Death
January 2023 - December 2023**

Age at Death	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
18-24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-34	0	1	2	3	5	2	13
35-44	0	0	5	3	3	5	16
45-54	0	0	7	1	1	7	16
55-64	0	0	22	1	2	3	28
65+	0	0	32	0	0	2	34
Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107
Rate per 10,000							
18-24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25-34	0.00	1.01	2.02	3.03	5.06	2.02	13.15
35-44	0.00	0.00	5.41	3.25	3.25	5.41	17.31
45-54	0.00	0.00	12.48	1.78	1.78	12.48	28.53
55-64	0.00	0.00	61.73	2.81	5.61	8.42	78.57
65+	0.00	0.00	271.49	0.00	0.00	16.97	288.46
Total	0.00	0.31	21.21	2.50	3.43	5.93	33.38
Average Age at Death							
Age	-	26	62	39	40	49	56

**Figure 2. Mortality Rates by Age at Death
January 2023 - December 2023**



**Table 7. Medical Level by Manner of Death
January 2023 - December 2023**

Medical Level	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
Level I ¹	0	0	48	0	0	2	50
Level II	0	0	8	2	7	9	26
Level III	0	1	11	6	4	8	30
Unassigned	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107
Rate per 10,000							
Level I	0.00	0.00	393.04	0.00	0.00	16.38	409.42
Level II	0.00	0.00	6.65	1.66	5.82	7.48	21.60
Level III	0.00	0.54	5.92	3.23	2.15	4.31	16.15
Unassigned	0.00	0.00	43.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.23
Total	0.00	0.31	21.21	2.50	3.43	5.93	33.38

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

Table 8. Commitment Crime by Manner of Death: 2023

Commitment Crime	Manner of Death						Total
	Accident	Homicide	Natural	Overdose	Suicide	Unknown	
Violent Felony							
Murder	0	0	19	1	3	4	27
Attempted Murder	0	0	3	1	0	0	4
Manslt 1st,Agg 2nd	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
Rape 1ST	0	0	7	0	0	1	8
Robbery 1st	0	0	3	0	0	1	4
Robbery 2nd	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Assault 1st	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Assault 2nd	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Burglary 1st	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Burglary 2nd	0	0	1	1	0	2	4
Arson 1st,2nd	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Sodomy 1st	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sex Ab 1st,Agg 2nd	0	0	5	0	2	2	9
Weapons Offenses	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Other VFO Sex Off	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Other Violent	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sub-total	0	0	50	5	9	13	77
Other Coercive							
Other Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Robbery 3rd	0	0	1	0	1	2	4
Att Assault 2nd	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Conspiracy 2,3,4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other Weapons	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Other Sex Offenses	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Sub-total	0	0	6	0	1	6	13
Drug Offenses							
Drug Offenses	0	1	6	2	0	0	9
Sub-total	0	1	6	2	0	0	9
Property & Other							
Burglary 3rd	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Grand Larceny	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Business Corruption	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
All Other Felonies	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Sub-total	0	0	6	1	1	0	8
Youthful Offender							
Youthful Offender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	68	8	11	19	107

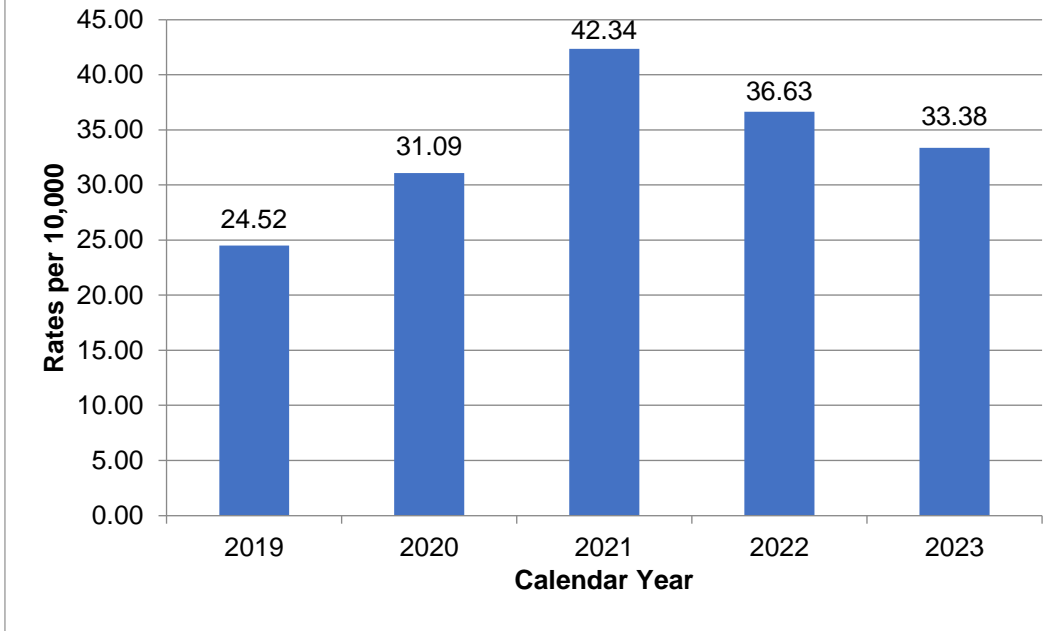
Table 9. Manner of Death, Average Age and Death Rate per 10,000 by Year: 2019 - 2023

Manner	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Count						
Accident	4	8	14	4	0	30
Homicide	1	2	1	2	1	7
Natural	87	94	98	75	68	422
Overdose*	N/A *	N/A *	2	12	8	22
Suicide	18	13	16	18	11	76
Unknown	3	5	6	1	19	34
Total	113	122	137	113	107	592
Percentage						
Accident	4%	7%	10%	4%	0%	5%
Homicide	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Natural	77%	77%	72%	66%	64%	71%
Overdose	N/A *	N/A *	1%	11%	7%	4%
Suicide	16%	11%	12%	16%	10%	13%
Unknown	3%	4%	4%	1%	18%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Average Age						
Accident	51.3	49.0	46.6	52.0	--	49.7
Homicide	67.0	37.0	44.0	30.0	26.0	40.8
Natural	60.7	59.3	63.0	60.4	62.3	61.2
Overdose	N/A *	N/A *	33.0	41.4	38.5	37.6
Suicide	36.4	48.5	42.7	42.2	40.5	42.0
Unknown	44.3	36.8	54.3	41.0	49.0	45.1
Total	51.9	46.1	47.3	44.5	43.2	46.6
Rate per 10,000						
Accident	0.87	2.04	4.33	1.30	0.00	1.66
Homicide	0.22	0.51	0.31	0.65	0.31	0.39
Natural	18.88	23.95	30.29	24.31	21.21	23.37
Overdose	--	--	0.62	3.89	2.50	1.22
Suicide	3.91	3.31	4.95	5.84	3.43	4.21
Unknown	0.65	1.27	1.85	0.32	5.93	1.88
Total	24.52	31.09	42.34	36.63	33.38	32.78

Note: Unusual Incident Data is preliminary as of June 17, 2024 and is subject to change. Deaths are categorized during unusual incident reporting and are subject to change upon receipt of an official autopsy report.

**The Overdose category was added to the Unusual Incident system in 2021. Prior to that, overdose deaths were generally included in the Accident category.*

**Figure 3. Mortality Rates per 10,000:
2019 - 2023**



Prepared by:

Division of Program Planning, Research & Evaluation
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