

State of New York  
Department of Correctional Services

Building Number 2  
Harriman Office Campus  
Albany, New York 12226

**INMATE MORTALITY REPORT:**  
**2005 - 2008**



**David A. Paterson**  
Governor



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Commissioner

## INTRODUCTION

This report examines the 584 inmate deaths that occurred in the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) inmate population from 2005 through 2008. The number of inmate deaths ranged from a high of 172 in 2005 to a low of 131 in 2006 with an average of 146 per year. During the four years covered by this report the inmate death rate was 23 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 facilities submit detailed reports to the DOCS Division of Health Services that outline circumstances surrounding the inmate's death, detail medical procedures used, and establish preliminary cause of death. Cause of death and contributing factors are determined when the final autopsy reports are 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 reflected in this report. Deaths included are 581 inmates in DOCS facilities; 1 inmate out to court in the Federal system; and 2 inmates on approved temporary release. Deaths not included are those that occur among escapees; absconders; and parolees at the Willard Drug Treatment Campus that is 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.

In this report, "the cause of death" categories have been revised to reflect categories used by State correctional agencies to report inmate deaths to the federal government. In past inmate mortality reports, DOCS has included drug overdose cases in the "Other Deaths" category. In this report, a separate "Drug Overdose" category has been added to conform with the categories used in the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports on inmate mortality<sup>1</sup>.

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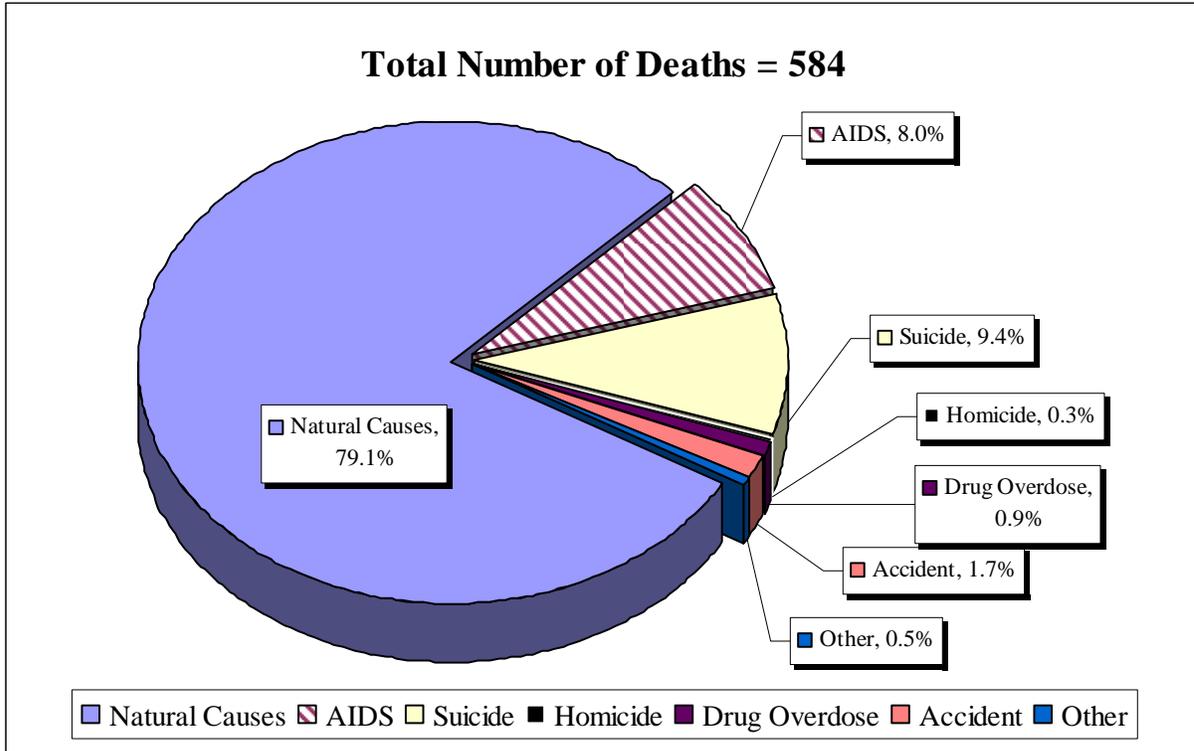
<sup>1</sup> Available online: *Deaths in Custody Statistical Tables*  
**State prison deaths, 2001-2006**  
<http://www.ojp.gov/bjs/dcrp/prisondeaths.pdf>

## SECTION ONE

### CAUSE OF DEATH

Cause of death is divided into seven categories: natural causes, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), homicide, suicide, drug overdose (OD), accidental death, and other. The most common cause of death from 2005 through 2008 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, and accidental deaths.

**Figure 1A**  
**Causes of Death**  
**2005 – 2008**



#### Natural Causes

Between 2005 and 2008, 79% (462) of inmate deaths were due to natural causes. Inmates who died of natural causes were, on average, 54 years old at the time of death. The death rate from natural causes over the 2005-2008 period was 18.3 deaths per 10,000 inmates of population.

## **Suicide**

Fifty-five inmates committed suicide during the 2005 – 2008 period. One of the 55 suicides occurred while the inmate was in a Federal jail for court proceedings. The average age for inmate suicide victims was 38 years old. The method of death was hanging in 98% or 54 of the suicide cases. The remaining inmate (2%) died of self-administered cuts. The death rate for suicide was 2.2 deaths per 10,000 inmates.

## **AIDS**

Forty-seven inmates died as a result of AIDS-related causes during the period 2005 – 2008. The average age at death for AIDS-related deaths was 44 years old. The death rate for AIDS-related causes was 1.9 deaths per 10,000 inmates.

## **Accident**

Ten inmates died due to accidents during the 2005 – 2008 period. Of the 10 cases of accidental death, one was from a car accident (while on temporary release), five died of injuries from different types of falls, and four from other types of accidents.

## **Drug Overdose**

Five inmates died of accidental drug overdose (one while on temporary release). The average age for inmate drug overdose victims was 38 years old.

## **Homicide**

Two inmates died of homicide between 2005 and 2008. Both of the homicides occurred within correctional facilities. One inmate died as a result of stab or slash wounds inflicted by other inmates, while the other death occurred as the result of a beating inflicted by other inmates. One of the homicide victims had been committed for a violent felony offense, and one for a drug offense.

## **Other**

Lastly, The Division of Health Services' review of the autopsy reports concluded that three 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 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 mortality rate for the four year period 2005-2008 period was 23.2 deaths per 10,000 inmates.

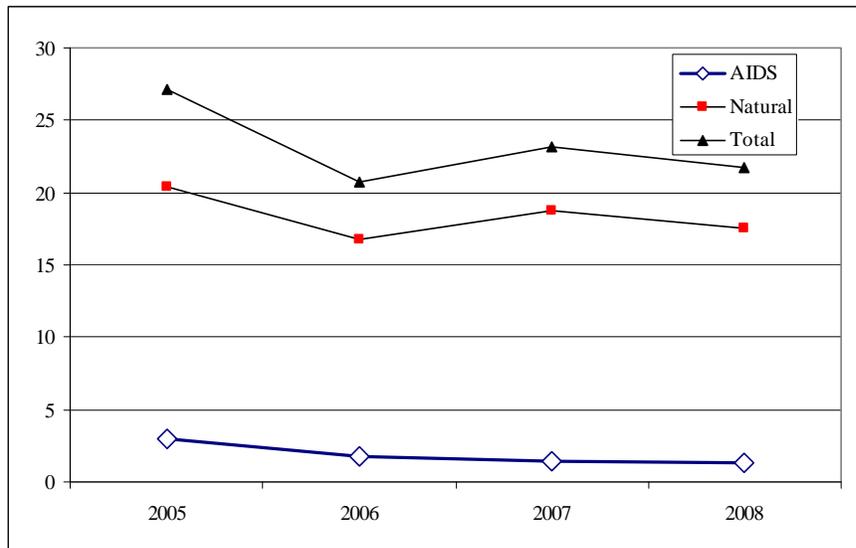
### Mortality Rates due to Natural Causes

The chart below illustrates the importance of natural case deaths in determining the total mortality rate for DOCS inmates since deaths due to natural causes represent 79% of all deaths during this period. The inmate 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 was only 1.9 deaths 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**

Cause of Death	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
<b>Count</b>					
Natural Causes	129	106	119	108	462
AIDS	19	11	9	8	47
Suicide	19	8	18	10	55
Homicide	1	0	0	1	2
Drug Overdose	3	0	1	1	5
Accident	1	6	0	3	10
Other	0	0	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>584</b>
<b>Percentage</b>					
Natural Causes	75.0%	80.9%	81.0%	80.6%	79.1%
AIDS	11.0%	8.4%	6.1%	6.0%	8.0%
Suicide	11.0%	6.1%	12.2%	7.5%	9.4%
Homicide	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%
Drug Overdose	1.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%
Accident	0.6%	4.6%	0.0%	2.2%	1.7%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Average Age</b>					
Natural Causes	52.6	53.4	54.5	56.6	54.2
AIDS	43.1	43.8	47.6	42.6	44.0
Suicide	40.6	41.1	36.7	35.6	38.5
Homicide	33.9	.	.	41.7	37.8
Drug Overdose	42.9	.	28.5	32.5	38.0
Accident	38.6	48.9	.	68.5	53.7
Other	.	.	.	51.5	51.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>51.7</b>
<b>Death Rate*</b>					
Natural Causes	20.36	16.74	18.74	17.50	18.34
AIDS	3.00	1.74	1.42	1.30	1.87
Suicide	3.00	1.26	2.83	1.62	2.18
Homicide	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.08
Drug Overdose	0.47	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.20
Accident	0.16	0.95	0.00	0.49	0.40
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.15</b>	<b>20.69</b>	<b>23.15</b>	<b>21.71</b>	<b>23.18</b>

\* Deaths per 10,000 inmates under custody.

## SECTION TWO

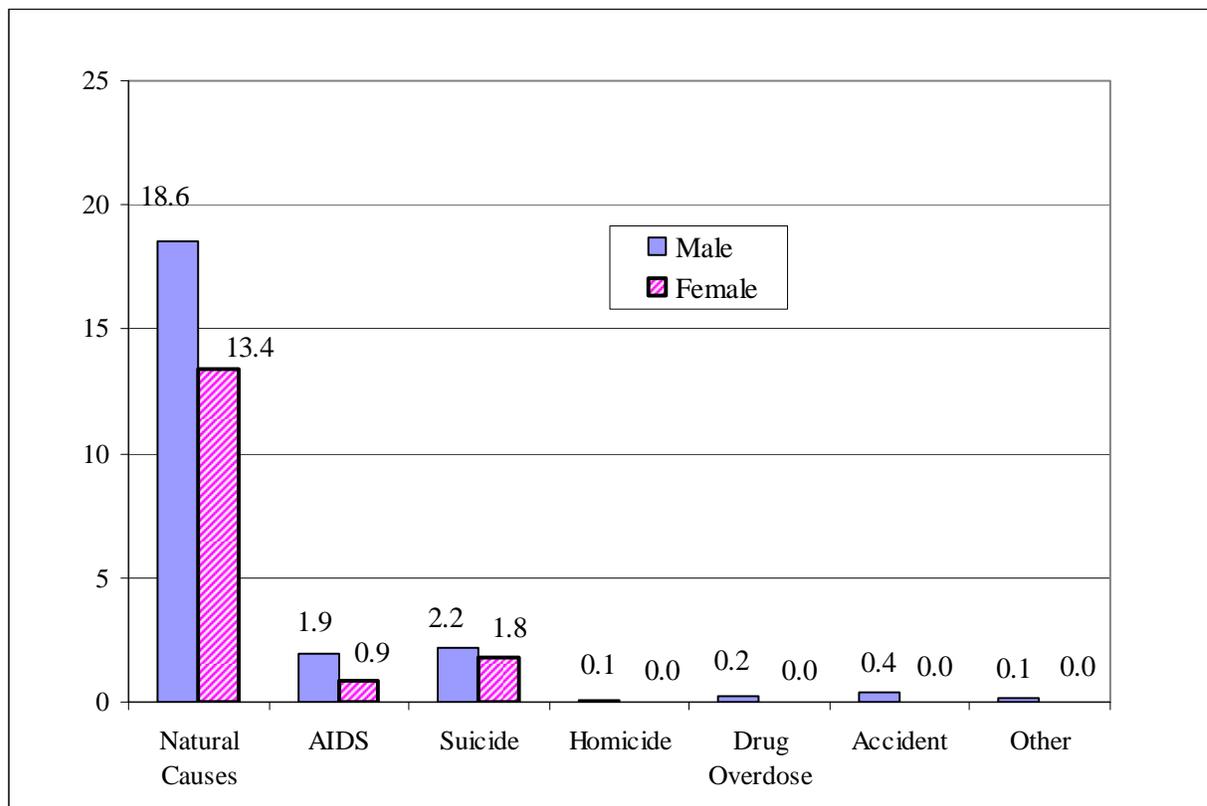
### GENDER OF DECEDENTS

The under custody inmate population during the four-year study period 2005 through 2008 consisted of 96% men and 4% women. These percentages were almost the same for the decedent population, which was 97% male (N=566) and 3% female (N=18).

The mortality rate among male inmates (23.5 per 10,000 inmates) was higher than that for female inmates (16.1 per 10,000 inmates). The mortality rate for men was greater than for women for each category of “cause of death.”

Table 2 on the next page shows the cause of death, mortality rate and average age by gender. Table 11 in the Appendix shows the average daily population by gender and year.

**Figure 2**  
**Mortality Rate by Gender and Cause of Death**  
**2005 – 2008**



**Table 2**  
**Cause of Death, Average Age, Death Rate by Gender**  
**2005 – 2008**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
<b>Count</b>			
Natural Causes	447	15	462
AIDS	46	1	47
Suicide	53	2	55
Homicide	2	0	2
Drug Overdose	5	0	5
Accident	10	0	10
Other	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>584</b>
<b>Percentage</b>			
Natural Causes	79.0%	83.3%	79.1%
AIDS	8.1%	5.6%	8.0%
Suicide	9.4%	11.1%	9.4%
Homicide	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%
Drug Overdose	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%
Accident	1.8%	0.0%	1.7%
Other	0.5%	0.0%	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Average Age</b>			
Natural Causes	54.5	47.4	54.2
AIDS	44.1	41.9	44.0
Suicide	38.3	43.6	38.5
Homicide	37.8	.	37.8
Drug Overdose	38.0	.	38.0
Accident	53.7	.	53.7
Other	51.5	.	51.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>51.7</b>
<b>Death Rate*</b>			
Natural Causes	18.57	13.40	18.34
AIDS	1.91	0.89	1.87
Suicide	2.20	1.79	2.18
Homicide	0.08	0.00	0.08
Drug Overdose	0.21	0.00	0.20
Accident	0.42	0.00	0.40
Other	0.12	0.00	0.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.51</b>	<b>16.08</b>	<b>23.18</b>

\* Deaths per 10,000 inmates under custody.

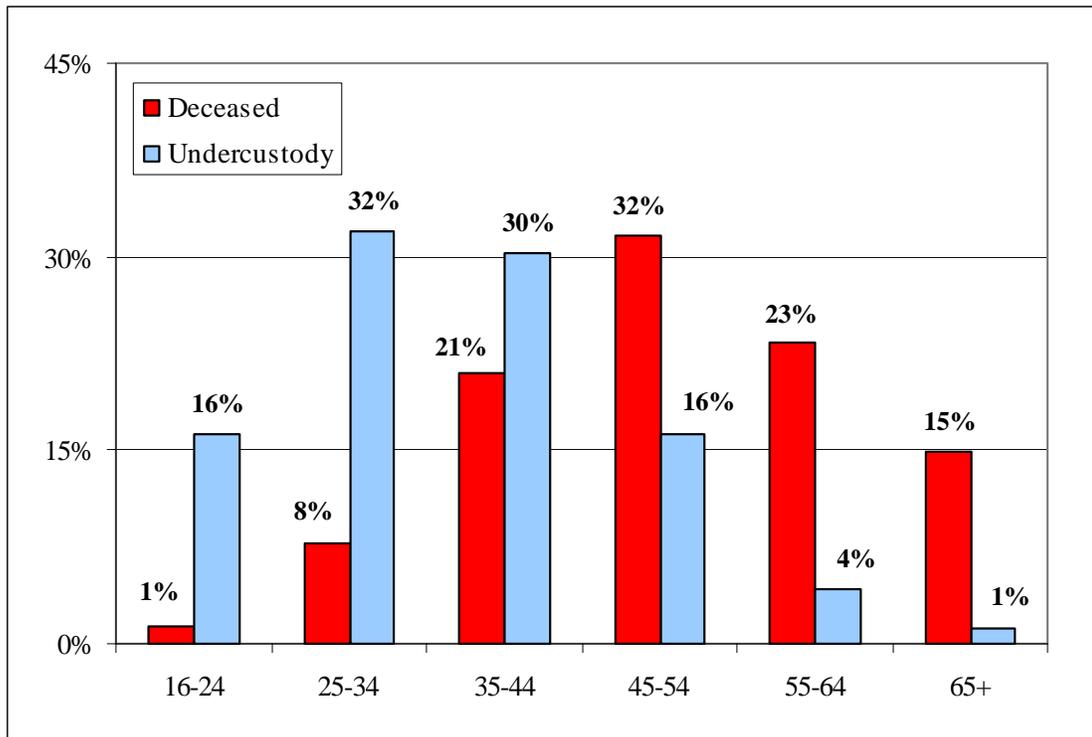
## SECTION THREE

### AGE OF DECEDENTS

A comparison of age of decedents and the under custody population for the four-year study period is displayed in Figure 3. There are proportionately fewer deaths in the younger age groups. The 16-24 age group comprised 16% of the under custody population but only 1% of the decedents. On the other hand, the 65+ category comprised 1% of DOCS inmates, but accounted for 15% of deaths.

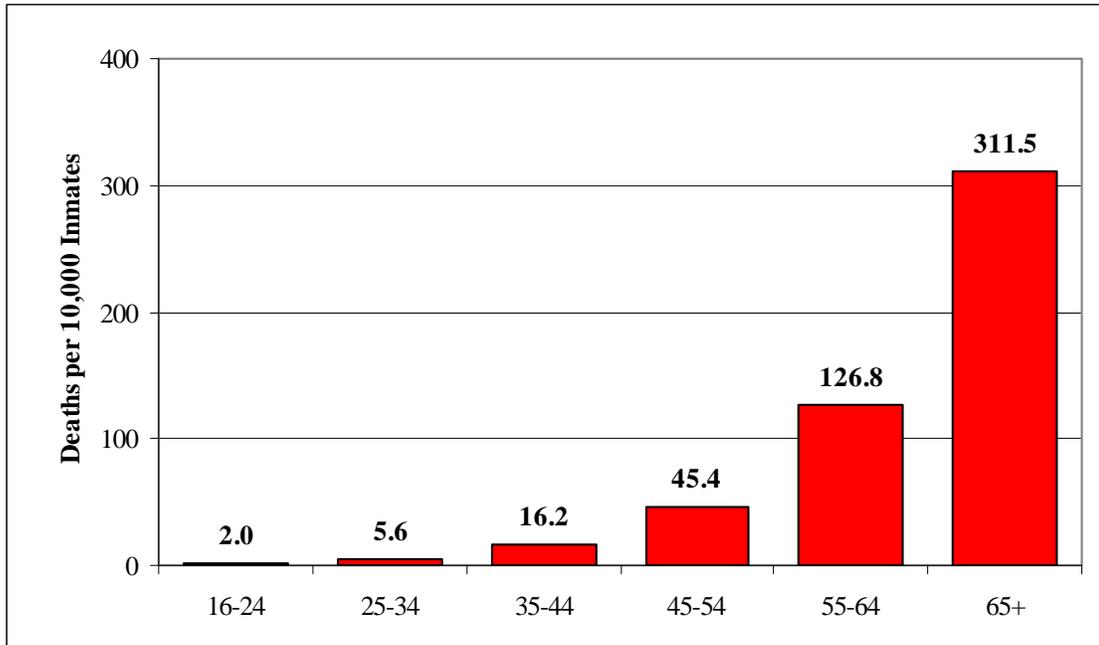
The largest number of deaths occurred in the 45-54 age group (N=185) (see Table 3). Within the 45-54 age group, 83% of the (154) deaths were due to natural causes. For all age groups, except the 16–24 year olds, deaths due to natural causes was the most frequent cause of death.

**Figure 3**  
**Age of Inmates**  
**Decedents vs. Under Custody Inmates**  
**2005 - 2008**



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 mortality rate (2 per 10,000 inmates), while inmates aged 65 and over had the highest rate (311 per 10,000 inmates).

**Figure 3-a**  
**Mortality Rates for All Causes of Death**  
**2005 – 2008 by Age Group**



**Table 3**  
**Age and Cause of Death by Year of Death, 2005 – 2008**

Age and Cause of Death	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total			Percent by Age Group
					Count	Percent	Rate*	
<b>16-24</b>								
Natural Causes	1	0	0	1	2	0.3%	0.49	25.0%
AIDS	0	0	0	1	1	0.2%	0.25	12.5%
Suicide	1	0	3	1	5	0.9%	1.23	62.5%
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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>25-34</b>								
Natural Causes	9	3	5	5	22	3.8%	2.74	48.9%
AIDS	2	1	0	0	3	0.5%	0.37	6.7%
Suicide	4	1	6	4	15	2.6%	1.87	33.3%
Homicide	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%	0.12	2.2%
Drug Overdose	0	0	1	1	2	0.3%	0.25	4.4%
Accident	0	2	0	0	2	0.3%	0.25	4.4%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>35-44</b>								
Natural Causes	26	21	14	12	73	12.5%	9.62	59.3%
AIDS	11	6	4	3	24	4.1%	3.16	19.5%
Suicide	12	5	2	4	23	3.9%	3.03	18.7%
Homicide	0	0	0	1	1	0.2%	0.13	0.8%
Drug Overdose	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%	0.12	0.8%
Accident	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%	0.13	0.8%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	<b>16.20</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>45-54</b>								
Natural Causes	42	36	45	31	154	26.4%	37.77	83.2%
AIDS	5	3	3	4	15	2.6%	3.68	8.1%
Suicide	0	1	7	1	9	1.5%	2.21	4.9%
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Drug Overdose	2	0	0	0	2	0.3%	0.49	1.1%
Accident	0	2	0	1	3	0.5%	0.74	1.6%
Other	0	0	0	2	2	0.3%	0.49	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>31.7%</b>	<b>45.37</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>55-64</b>								
Natural Causes	33	32	37	28	130	22.3%	121.24	95.6%
AIDS	1	1	2	0	4	0.7%	3.73	2.9%
Suicide	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%	0.93	0.7%
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	1	1	0.2%	0.93	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>126.84</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>65+</b>								
Natural Causes	18	14	18	31	81	13.9%	290.01	93.1%
AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Suicide	1	1	0	0	2	0.3%	7.16	2.3%
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	2	4	0.7%	14.32	4.6%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>311.49</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>								
Natural Causes	129	106	119	108	462	79.1%	18.34	79.1%
AIDS	19	11	9	8	47	8.0%	1.87	8.0%
Suicide	19	8	18	10	55	9.4%	2.18	9.4%
Homicide	1	0	0	1	2	0.3%	0.08	0.3%
Drug Overdose	3	0	1	1	5	0.9%	0.20	0.9%
Accident	1	6	0	3	10	1.7%	0.40	1.7%
Other	0	0	0	3	3	0.5%	0.12	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>23.18</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Deaths per 10,000 inmates under custody.

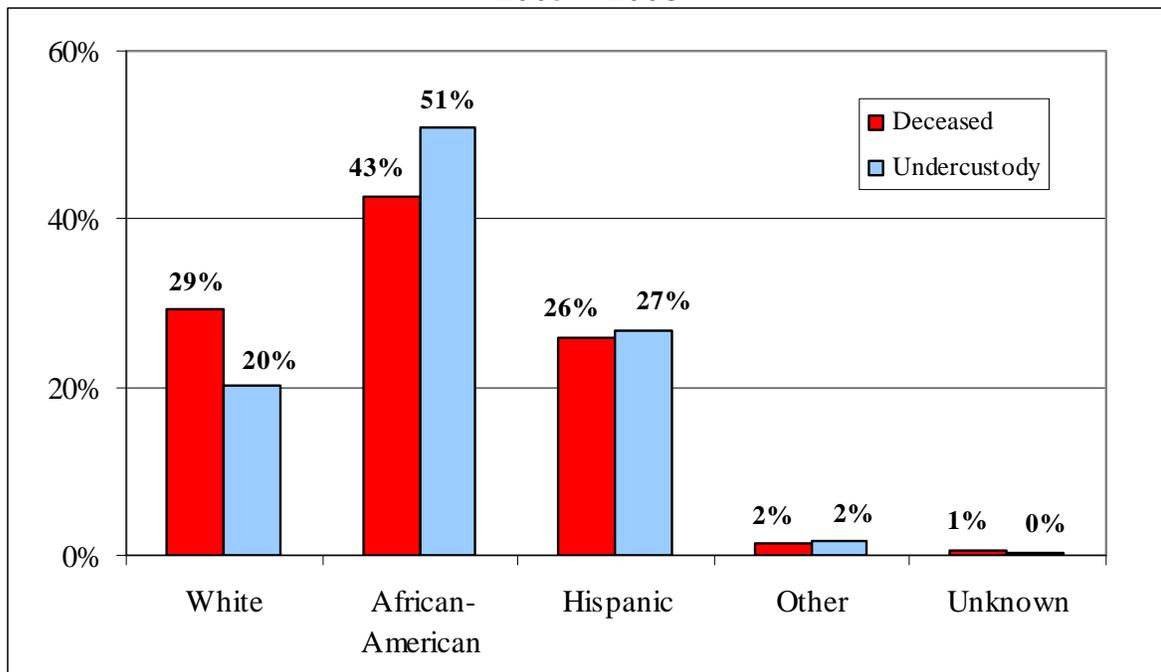
## SECTION FOUR

### RACE/ETHNIC STATUS

For purposes of this report, the Department of Correctional Services under custody 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 data was missing are designated as unknown.

Figure 4 compares the race/ethnic distribution of the inmate under custody population with that of deceased inmates for the years 2005 through 2008. The graph shows that the percentage of deceased inmates classified as White (29%) was greater than the percentage of White inmates in the under custody population (20%). 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 (26%) was almost the same as their overall representation in the under custody population (27%).

**Figure 4**  
**Race/Ethnicity of Inmates**  
**Decedents vs. Under Custody Inmates**  
**2005 – 2008**



**Table 4**  
**Race/Ethnicity and Cause of Death by Year of Death**  
**2005 – 2008**

Age and Cause of Death	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total			Percent by Race/ethnic
					Count	Percent	Rate*	
<b>White</b>								
Natural Causes	38	29	39	33	139	23.8%	27.28	81.3%
AIDS	2	1	1	0	4	0.7%	0.79	2.3%
Suicide	11	3	6	3	23	3.9%	4.51	13.5%
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Drug Overdose	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%	0.20	0.6%
Accident	0	3	0	1	4	0.7%	0.79	2.3%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>29.3%</b>	<b>33.56</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>African-American</b>								
Natural Causes	60	44	48	48	200	34.2%	15.61	80.3%
AIDS	8	8	5	6	27	4.6%	2.11	10.8%
Suicide	4	0	7	2	13	2.2%	1.01	5.2%
Homicide	1	0	0	1	2	0.3%	0.16	0.8%
Drug Overdose	0	0	0	2	2	0.3%	0.16	0.8%
Accident	0	3	0	2	5	0.9%	0.39	2.0%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>19.43</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>								
Natural Causes	28	31	29	25	113	19.3%	16.87	74.8%
AIDS	9	2	3	2	16	2.7%	2.39	10.6%
Suicide	3	4	5	4	16	2.7%	2.39	10.6%
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Drug Overdose	2	0	1	2	5	0.9%	0.75	3.3%
Accident	1	0	0	0	1	0.2%	0.15	0.7%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>25.9%</b>	<b>22.54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Other</b>								
Natural Causes	1	2	2	1	6	1.0%	15.11	66.7%
AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Suicide	1	1	0	1	3	0.5%	7.55	33.3%
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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>22.66</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Unknown</b>								
Natural Causes	2	0	1	1	4	0.7%	39.56	100.0%
AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
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	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>39.56</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>								
Natural Causes	129	106	119	108	462	79.1%	18.34	79.1%
AIDS	19	11	9	8	47	8.0%	1.87	8.0%
Suicide	19	8	18	10	55	9.4%	2.18	9.4%
Homicide	1	0	0	1	2	0.3%	0.08	0.3%
Drug Overdose	3	0	1	4	8	1.4%	0.32	1.4%
Accident	1	6	0	3	10	1.7%	0.40	1.7%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>23.18</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Deaths per 10,000 inmates under custody.

## SECTION FIVE

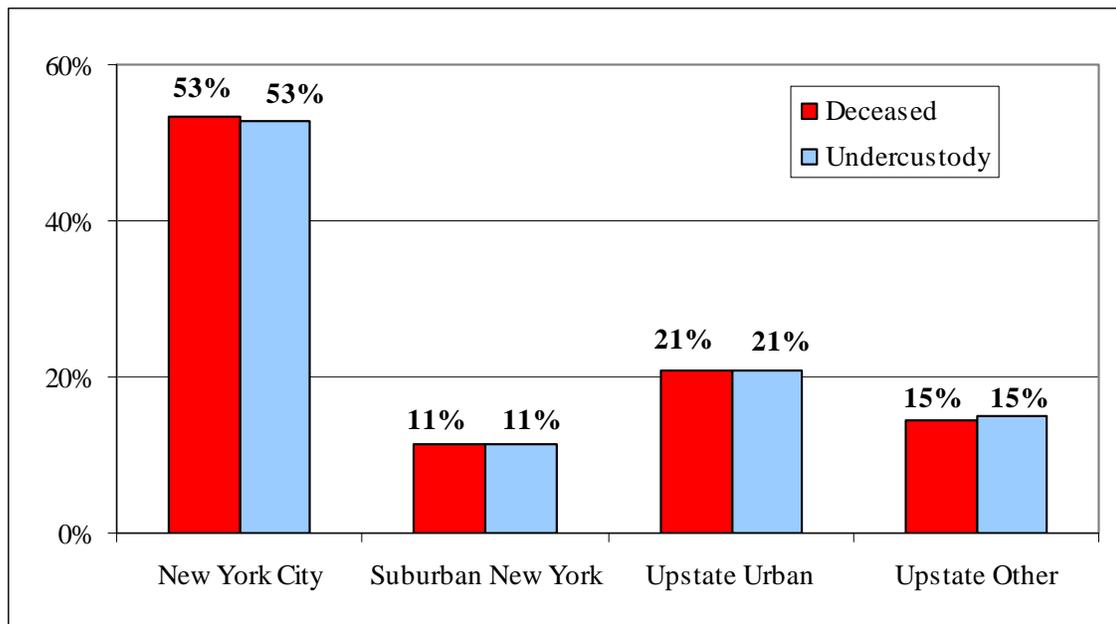
### REGION OF COMMITMENT

New York State counties are aggregated into four groups according to region of the state. The New York City region consists of the five counties of the 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 roughly the same as the percent of under custody inmates from each region.

However, examining the distribution of deaths by cause of death does show differences by region of commitment. Inmates from New York City and its surrounding area were 65% of total deaths, but 83% of AIDS deaths. While inmates from Upstate made up 35% of total deaths, they made up 49% of suicide deaths (see Table 5).

**Figure 5**  
**Region of Commitment**  
**2005 - 2008**



**Table 5**  
**Region of Commitment by Cause of Death**  
**2005 – 2008**

Cause of Death	New York City	Suburban New York	Upstate Urban	Upstate Other	Total
<b>Percent by Region</b>					
Natural Causes	243	52	100	67	462
AIDS	31	8	7	1	47
Suicide	24	4	13	14	55
Homicide	2	0	0	0	2
Drug Overdose	4	1	0	0	5
Accident	4	1	2	3	10
Other	3	0	0	0	3
Total	311	66	122	85	584
<b>Percent by Region</b>					
Natural Causes	78.1%	78.8%	82.0%	78.8%	79.1%
AIDS	10.0%	12.1%	5.7%	1.2%	8.0%
Suicide	7.7%	6.1%	10.7%	16.5%	9.4%
Homicide	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Drug Overdose	1.3%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Accident	1.3%	1.5%	1.6%	3.5%	1.7%
Other	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Percent by Cause</b>					
Natural Causes	52.6%	11.3%	21.6%	14.5%	100.0%
AIDS	66.0%	17.0%	14.9%	2.1%	100.0%
Suicide	43.6%	7.3%	23.6%	25.5%	100.0%
Homicide	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Drug Overdose	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Accident	40.0%	10.0%	20.0%	30.0%	100.0%
Other	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	53.3%	11.3%	20.9%	14.6%	100.0%

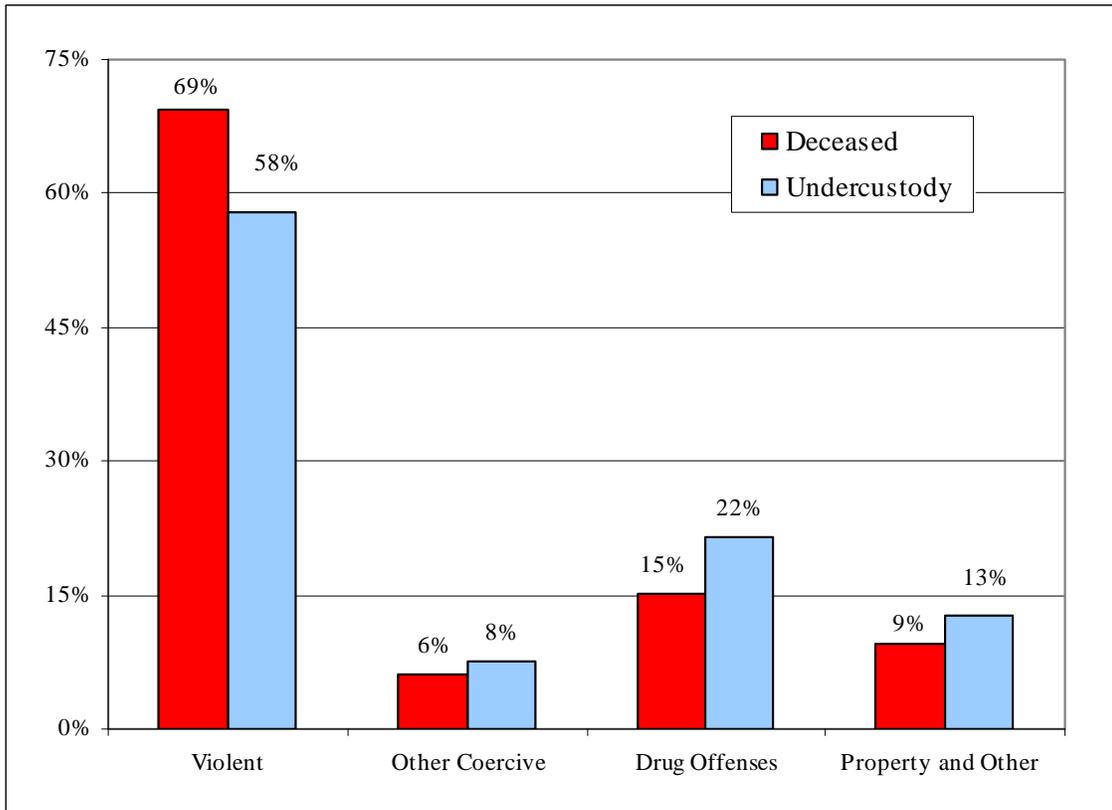
## SECTION SIX

### COMMITMENT OFFENSE

This section examines commitment offense and cause of death for decedents and the under custody population for 2005-2008. The total number of felony criminal offenses has been reduced to 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 2005 – 2008 time period. The graph reveals that inmates convicted for violent felonies, which often carry relatively lengthy sentences, 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, 130 inmates sentenced for murder died while in custody during the years 2005-2008. Of these, 110 died of natural causes.

**Figure 6**  
**Crime of Commitment**  
**Decedents vs. Under Custody Inmates**  
**2005 - 2008**



**Table 6**  
**Commitment Offense by Cause of Death**  
**2005 – 2008**

Crime Category	Natural	AIDS	Suicide	Homicide	Drug OD	Accident	Other	Total
<b>Violent</b>								
Murder	110	5	11	1	1	1	1	130
Attempted Murder	13	2	3	0	0	0	0	18
Manslaughter 1st	22	3	4	0	0	0	0	29
Rape 1st	33	3	5	0	0	0	1	42
Robbery 1st	33	4	4	0	1	0	0	42
Robbery 2nd	10	2	1	0	0	1	0	14
Assault 1st	13	1	3	0	1	0	0	18
Assault 2nd	9	2	3	0	0	1	0	15
Burglary 1st	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Burglary 2nd	20	3	4	0	0	0	0	27
Arson	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sodomy 1st	18	1	1	0	0	0	0	20
Sex Abuse 1st , Ag.2	20	0	3	0	0	1	0	24
Weapons	8	2	2	0	0	0	0	12
Kidnapping 1st,2nd	5	0	1	0	1	0	0	7
Other Violent	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Subtotal	320	28	46	1	4	4	2	405
	79.0%	6.9%	11.4%	0.2%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	100.0%
<b>Other Coercive</b>								
Manslaughter 2nd	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Other Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery 3rd	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Att Assault 2nd	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Conspiracy 2,3,4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Weapons	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Other Sex Offenses	13	0	2	0	0	0	0	15
Other Coercive	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Subtotal	31	0	4	0	0	1	0	36
	86.1%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	100.0%
<b>Drug Offenses</b>								
Drug Offenses	67	13	0	1	1	5	1	88
Subtotal	67	13	0	1	1	5	1	88
	76.1%	14.8%	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	5.7%	1.1%	100.0%
<b>Property and Other</b>								
Burglary 3rd	17	2	1	0	0	0	0	20
Grand Larceny	7	2	3	0	0	0	0	12
Stolen Property	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Forgery	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
Drive Intoxicated	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Contempt 1st	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
All Other Felonies	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Subtotal	45	5	5	0	0	0	0	55
	81.8%	9.1%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	463	46	55	2	5	10	3	584
	79.3%	7.9%	9.4%	0.3%	0.9%	1.7%	0.5%	100.0%

## APPENDIX

### AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION

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

**Table 9**  
**Average Daily Population by Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>2005 Total Population</b>	<b>2006 Total Population</b>	<b>2007 Total Population</b>	<b>2008 Total Population</b>	<b>2005-2008 Average Population</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Average Daily Population</b>	63,357	63,318	63,507	61,724	62,977	100.0%
<b>Male Average Daily</b>	60,535	60,457	60,674	59,043	60,177	95.6%
<b>Female Average Daily</b>	2,822	2,861	2,833	2,681	2,799	4.4%

The age and race/ethnic status average populations in Tables 10 and 11 are based upon a twelve point average with one day sampled from each month.

**Table 10**  
**Population Sub-Group Totals  
By Race/Ethnic Status and Age**

<b>Sub Group</b>	<b>2005 Total</b>	<b>2006 Total</b>	<b>2007 Total</b>	<b>2008 Total</b>	<b>2005-2008 Average</b>
<b>Race/Ethnic Status</b>					
<b>White</b>	12,195	12,656	13,133	12,967	12,738
<b>African-American</b>	31,899	32,202	32,339	31,688	32,032
<b>Hispanic</b>	17,622	16,905	16,619	15,837	16,746
<b>Other</b>	1,073	999	970	929	993
<b>Unknown</b>	247	260	246	258	253
<b>Grand Total Race/Ethnic</b>	63,035	63,022	63,308	61,679	62,761
<b>White</b>	19.3%	20.1%	20.7%	21.0%	20.3%
<b>African-American</b>	50.6%	51.1%	51.1%	51.4%	51.0%
<b>Hispanic</b>	28.0%	26.8%	26.3%	25.7%	26.7%
<b>Other</b>	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%
<b>Unknown</b>	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
<b>Grand Total Race/Ethnic</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Age</b>					
<b>16-24</b>	10,433	10,191	10,146	9,817	10,147
<b>25-34</b>	20,553	20,059	20,136	19,500	20,062
<b>35-44</b>	19,692	19,543	18,957	17,730	18,980
<b>45-54</b>	9,255	9,908	10,602	11,008	10,193
<b>55-64</b>	2,469	2,652	2,743	2,859	2,681
<b>65+</b>	634	671	724	765	698
<b>Grand Total Age</b>	63,035	63,022	63,308	61,679	62,761
<b>16-24</b>	16.6%	16.2%	16.0%	15.9%	16.2%
<b>25-34</b>	32.6%	31.8%	31.8%	31.6%	32.0%
<b>35-44</b>	31.2%	31.0%	29.9%	28.7%	30.2%
<b>45-54</b>	14.7%	15.7%	16.7%	17.8%	16.2%
<b>55-64</b>	3.9%	4.2%	4.3%	4.6%	4.3%
<b>65+</b>	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%
<b>Grand Total Age</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 11**  
**Sub-Group Population by Age and Race/Ethnic Status**

Race/Ethnic by Age	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Total Population	Percent of Age						
<b>16-24</b>	10,433	100.0%	10,191	100.0%	10,146	100.0%	9,817	100.0%
White	1,793	17.2%	1,830	18.0%	1,903	18.8%	1,847	18.8%
African-American	5,740	55.0%	5,658	55.5%	5,625	55.4%	5,464	55.7%
Hispanic	2,670	25.6%	2,499	24.5%	2,436	24.0%	2,318	23.6%
Other	182	1.7%	144	1.4%	122	1.2%	124	1.3%
Unknown	48	0.5%	61	0.6%	60	0.6%	64	0.6%
<b>25-34</b>	20,553	100.0%	20,059	100.0%	20,136	100.0%	19,500	100.0%
White	3,175	15.4%	3,249	16.2%	3,474	17.3%	3,512	18.0%
African-American	10,633	51.7%	10,547	52.6%	10,577	52.5%	10,332	53.0%
Hispanic	6,266	30.5%	5,827	29.0%	5,671	28.2%	5,283	27.1%
Other	398	1.9%	365	1.8%	347	1.7%	303	1.6%
Unknown	81	0.4%	71	0.4%	69	0.3%	70	0.4%
<b>35-44</b>	19,692	100.0%	19,543	100.0%	18,957	100.0%	17,730	100.0%
White	3,879	19.7%	3,974	20.3%	3,971	20.9%	3,679	20.8%
African-American	9,901	50.3%	9,856	50.4%	9,466	49.9%	8,874	50.0%
Hispanic	5,525	28.1%	5,325	27.2%	5,152	27.2%	4,830	27.2%
Other	307	1.6%	304	1.6%	298	1.6%	283	1.6%
Unknown	80	0.4%	84	0.4%	69	0.4%	65	0.4%
<b>45-54</b>	9,255	100.0%	9,908	100.0%	10,602	100.0%	11,008	100.0%
White	2,232	24.1%	2,426	24.5%	2,561	24.2%	2,666	24.2%
African-American	4,459	48.2%	4,863	49.1%	5,306	50.0%	5,573	50.6%
Hispanic	2,398	25.9%	2,452	24.7%	2,552	24.1%	2,564	23.3%
Other	133	1.4%	133	1.3%	146	1.4%	162	1.5%
Unknown	33	0.4%	34	0.3%	37	0.4%	43	0.4%
<b>55-64</b>	2,469	100.0%	2,652	100.0%	2,743	100.0%	2,859	100.0%
White	828	33.5%	874	33.0%	894	32.6%	906	31.7%
African-American	967	39.2%	1,071	40.4%	1,137	41.5%	1,207	42.2%
Hispanic	631	25.6%	658	24.8%	656	23.9%	688	24.1%
Other	39	1.6%	41	1.5%	46	1.7%	45	1.6%
Unknown	5	0.2%	9	0.3%	10	0.4%	13	0.4%
<b>65+</b>	634	100.0%	671	100.0%	724	100.0%	765	100.0%
White	288	45.5%	303	45.1%	330	45.5%	357	46.7%
African-American	199	31.4%	208	31.0%	229	31.6%	238	31.1%
Hispanic	132	20.8%	146	21.7%	153	21.1%	155	20.2%
Other	14	2.2%	14	2.0%	11	1.6%	12	1.5%
Unknown	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	2	0.2%	3	0.4%

**Table 12**  
**Cause of Death by Race/Ethnicity and Average Age, 2005-2008**

Cause of Death	White		African-American		Hispanic		Other		Unknown		Total	
	Num	Avg.	Num	Avg.	Num	Avg.	Num	Avg.	Num	Avg.	Num	Avg.
Natural Causes	139	59.0	200	52.5	113	51.4	6	55.7	4	49.0	462	54.2
AIDS	4	41.4	27	44.5	16	43.9	0	-	0	-	47	44.0
Suicide	23	41.5	13	32.6	16	37.5	3	45.5	0	-	55	38.5
Homicide	0	-	2	37.8	0	-	0	-	0	-	2	37.8
Drug Overdose	1	45.7	0	-	4	36.1	0	-	0	-	5	38.0
Accident	4	58.5	5	52.9	1	38.6	0	-	0	-	10	53.7
Other	0	-	2	48.6	1	57.1	0	-	0	-	3	51.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>51.7</b>

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