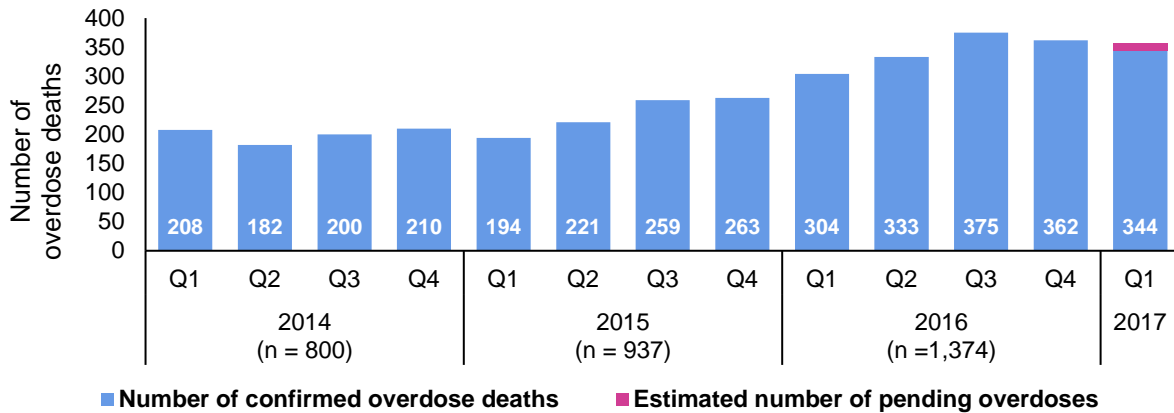


# Unintentional Drug Poisoning (Overdose) Deaths in New York City, January – March 2017

July 2017

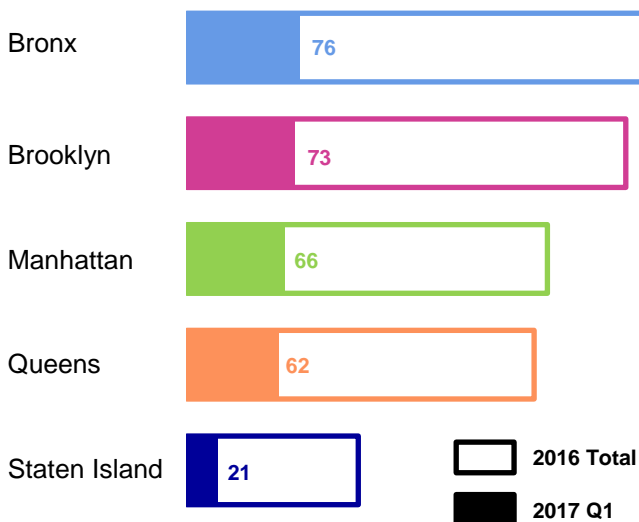
Overdose deaths in New York City remained at epidemic levels during the first three months of 2017



## Key Points

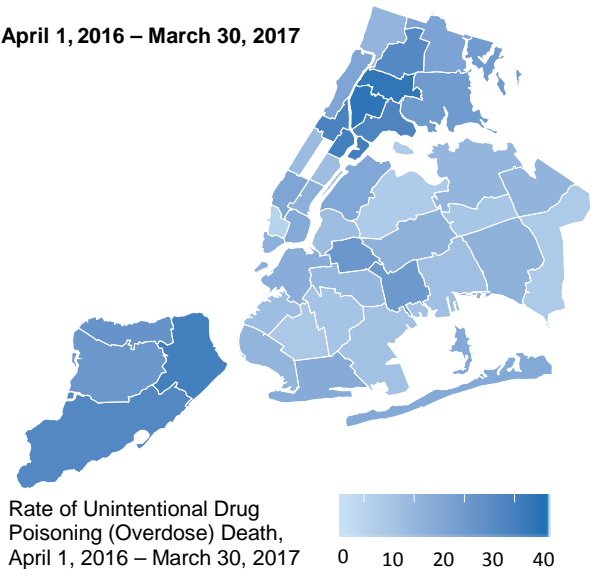
- Every seven hours, someone dies of a drug overdose in New York City.
- More New Yorkers die of drug overdoses than homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle crashes combined.
- Overdose deaths in New York City (NYC) have increased for the previous six years.
- Fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, continued to be involved in approximately half of all overdose deaths.

## Number of overdose deaths by borough of residence, January – March, 2017



## Bronx and Staten Island neighborhoods had high rates of overdose death

April 1, 2016 – March 30, 2017



# Concerned about overdose?

## Here's what you can do

### Obtain naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose

- Opioid-involved deaths are preventable and can be reversed using the medication naloxone (Narcan®).
- Nearly all overdoses involve multiple substances, and more than 80% of deaths to date in 2017 involved an opioid.
- All New Yorkers can receive free training to carry and use naloxone.
- Naloxone is available free of charge from overdose prevention programs and can be purchased at participating pharmacies in New York City. Many insurance programs cover most or all of the cost of naloxone (Narcan®).
- To find an overdose prevention program or a pharmacy near you, visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search "overdose prevention."

### Know the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder (addiction)

- **Medication-assisted treatment** is the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder (addiction).
- Many New Yorkers have opioid use disorder and could benefit from treatment.
- Medication-assisted treatment, such as methadone or buprenorphine (Suboxone®), can prevent overdose and effectively treat opioid dependence.
- If you or someone you know has an opioid use disorder, medication-assisted treatment can help.
- To find a buprenorphine prescriber or a methadone treatment program near you, call **1-888-NYCWELL** or text "**WELL**" to **65173**.
- New York City providers who would like to prescribe buprenorphine can register for training by e-mailing [buprenorphine@health.nyc.gov](mailto:buprenorphine@health.nyc.gov).

### Data Notes and Definitions

- Data for 2015, 2016, and 2017 are provisional and subject to change.
- Data include drug overdoses where medical examiners determined the manner of death to be accidental.
- This report includes only deaths where the medical examiner has determined the cause of death. Since it can take several weeks for the medical examiner to complete investigations of suspected overdoses, an estimate of the number of pending overdoses was calculated.
- Borough-level data are presented by borough of residence. Because borough-level data exclude non-residents, numbers will not reflect the total number of overdose deaths in New York City.
- 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.