



**By The Numbers**  
**The Growing Drug Epidemic**  
**in New York**

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# The Growing Drug Epidemic in New York

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## Summary

The nation has a serious opioid epidemic.<sup>2</sup> In nearly every state, deaths from drug overdoses or chronic drug use are on the rise. The same is true of New York State. Specifically, using the latest federal data:

- Deaths from drug overdoses and chronic drug abuse in New York have increased 71 percent between 2010 and 2015.
- The death rate from drugs in New York was 9.1 per every 100,000 people in 2010. In 2015, the rate was 15.2 per every 100,000 people.
- The problem was worse in upstate and suburban counties outside of New York City. There was a 45 percent increase in annual drug-related deaths in New York City, compared to an 84 percent increase in seventeen counties<sup>3</sup> outside of New York City (for which there is complete federal data).
- Drug-related death rates grew considerably in some upstate and suburban areas. In Erie County, the drug-related death rate increased 256 percent (from 8.9 per 100,000 people in 2010 to 31.7 in 2015). In Onondaga County, drug-related death rate increased 145 percent (from 8.8 per 100,000 people in 2010 to 21.6 in 2015). In Westchester, the increase was 122 percent (from 5.4 per 100,000 people in 2010 to 12.0 in 2015).
- Men died of drug overdoses/chronic drug abuse at more than twice the rate of women, and whites die at a higher rate than blacks and Hispanics.

## Introduction

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the nation “is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic.”<sup>4</sup> More than 500,000 people have died from drug overdoses since 2000 — nearly ninety-one people a day in the United States.<sup>5</sup>

States are grappling with drug addiction, especially [prescription drugs](#), [heroin](#), and dangerous synthetic drugs, like [fentanyl](#). States, as well as the federal government, have undertaken many initiatives to try to stem the growing tide of drug addiction, including public education campaigns, enhanced electronic drug monitoring programs, and new law enforcement efforts. The epidemic has strained state and local resources, from healthcare facilities to law enforcement.<sup>6</sup>

Addiction has become such a problem that in 2014 the governor of Vermont dedicated his entire 2014 State of the State address to addressing the state’s heroin epidemic.<sup>7</sup> Most recently, the president of

the United States convened a commission, led by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, to address the issue.<sup>8</sup>

This report examines the growing drug epidemic in New York. It will be the first in a series of reports examining the opioid crisis and solutions governments are taking. In future reports, the Rockefeller Institute of Government will examine how well some of those strategies are working and what other steps policymakers may want to take to address the problem.

Using data from the CDC on drug-related deaths, this report examines recent trends to see the overall size and scope of the problem in New York State. This analysis will hopefully lead to more targeted research to help policymakers address the problem.

## Drug Deaths in New York State

In nearly every state, drug-related deaths are on the rise. From 2005-2015, New York had an annual drug-related death rate of 10.7 drug deaths per 100,000 people (see Appendix A).

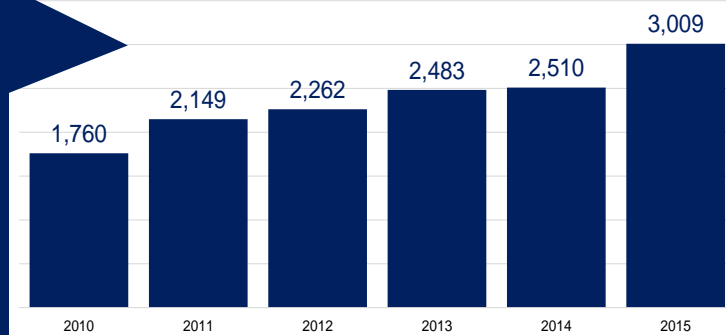
Looking only at 2015, New York State was only thirty-fourth in the nation in drug-related deaths, and not facing nearly the problems in West Virginia, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Kentucky, and Ohio, all of which had drug-related death rates more than twice as high as New York's. Although New York State's drug-related death rate is lower than many other states, there are pockets in the state where drug-related death rates are similar to the states with the greatest drug problems.

In response, New York has taken aggressive steps to combat the problem. In 2012, the state enacted a package of laws to better control the supply of prescription drugs by creating a real-time prescription drug monitoring system aimed at, among other things, preventing doctor shopping (a problem highlighted by the attorney general after a series of investigations).<sup>9</sup> Then in 2014, the state enacted another series of reforms including new penalties to crack down on illegal drug distribution and increased access to antioverdose kits.<sup>10</sup>

Just last year, based on a [Governor's Task Force to Combat Heroin](#), as well as several other [Legislative Task Forces](#), the state enacted a broad set of reforms addressing the epidemic.<sup>11</sup> Those efforts included reducing opioid prescriptions from thirty to seven days, eliminating insurance barriers for drug addiction treatment, and increasing the number of treatment beds in New York.<sup>12</sup> New York's recently enacted state budget included an [additional \\$42 million dollars](#) (for a total of \$213 million) to fight the heroin epidemic.

## Figure 1. Total Drug Deaths in New York State 2010-2015

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "About Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2015," on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.



Even with aggressive state action, 3,009 New Yorkers died from drug overdoses or from chronic drug abuse in 2015, a 71 percent increase from 2010. Between 2010 and 2015, 14,173 people died from drugs in New York State. In the preceding six years (2004-2009), there were 9,754 total deaths.<sup>13</sup>

This steady increase of drug-related deaths has been felt across the state, especially in upstate communities. Table 2 shows the number of drug-related deaths per 100,000 people in each county from 2010 to 2015. The counties listed in Table 2 were the only ones with complete data from the CDC for each year (for a full list of counties and their available data, see Appendix B). In many counties, the number of deaths grew considerably over the past six years, revealing a growing problem across the state. In Erie County, the drug-related death rate increased 256 percent (from 8.9 per 100,000 people in 2010 to 31.7 in 2015). In Onondaga County, drug-related deaths increase 145 percent (from 8.8 per 100,000 people in 2010 to 21.6 in 2015). In Westchester, the increase was 122 percent (from 5.4 per 100,000 people in 2010 to 12.0 in 2015), while the Bronx showed an increased 57 percent (from 13.0 deaths per 100,000 people in 2010 to 20.4 in 2015).

Dutchess County had the highest drug-related death rate of any New York county during three of the five years analyzed (2010, 2012, and 2013); and Erie had the highest rate of any county in a single year (31.7 per 100,000 in 2015). To put this in perspective, in 2015, Erie County was ninetieth in the nation in terms of highest drug overdose and chronic drug abuse death rate. The county with the worst death-rate in 2015 is McDowell County, West Virginia, with a death-rate of 141.2 for every 100,000 people.

**Table 1. 2015 Drug/Overdose Chronic Drug Abuse Death Rate Per 100,000 People by State**

	<b>State</b>	<b>2015</b>
1	West Virginia	40.7
2	New Hampshire	32.5
3	Rhode Island	30.1
4	Kentucky	30.1
5	Ohio	29.4
6	Massachusetts	27.2
7	Pennsylvania	26.4
8	New Mexico	24.7
9	Tennessee	23.4
10	Michigan	23.3
11	Connecticut	23.0
12	Utah	22.3
13	Delaware	22.0
14	Maryland	22.0
15	Nevada	21.8
16	Maine	20.9
17	Indiana	19.8
18	Arizona	19.8
19	Louisiana	19.3
20	District of Columbia	19.3
21	Oklahoma	19.2
22	Missouri	18.0
23	Vermont	17.7
24	Alaska	17.2
25	Wyoming	16.9
26	New Jersey	16.8
27	Alabama	16.7
28	Florida	16.7
29	Washington	16.6
30	Colorado	16.4
31	North Carolina	16.3
32	South Carolina	16.2
33	Wisconsin	15.5
34	<b>New York</b>	<b>15.2</b>
35	Oregon	15.1
36	Montana	14.7
37	Illinois	14.6
38	Arkansas	14.3
39	Idaho	13.5
40	Georgia	13.4
41	Virginia	12.8
42	California	12.8
43	Mississippi	12.3
44	Hawaii	12.2
45	Kansas	12.0
46	Minnesota	11.9
47	Iowa	10.6
48	Texas	9.9
49	North Dakota	8.6
50	South Dakota	8.4
51	Nebraska	7.3

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015," on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

**Table 2. 2010-2015 Drug-Related Death Rate Per 100,000, by NYS County\***

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Albany	9.2	10.9	8.8	11.7	13.0	11.6
Bronx	13.0	14.1	15.1	15.4	14.7	20.4
Dutchess	19.8	12.8	20.9	24.2	16.9	22.0
Erie	8.9	12.5	10.3	15.2	16.6	31.7
Kings	7.6	8.5	9.0	8.4	9.7	10.3
Monroe	8.6	9.4	11.2	12.8	14.9	14.0
Nassau	8.6	11.5	12.2	12.6	13.1	15.4
New York	8.9	10.7	12.8	13.0	12.0	13.1
Niagara	14.8	11.6	16.3	19.1	17.8	24.9
Onondaga	8.8	10.1	13.5	14.5	17.1	21.6
Orange	17.2	15.2	15.2	17.3	19.1	19.9
Queens	6.4	6.6	6.5	8.5	7.1	7.8
Richmond	15.4	18.5	19.5	16.3	18.6	19.0
Rockland	6.4	6.3	6.6	10.6	6.8	11.3
Suffolk	13.7	19.0	19.4	18.8	18.2	19.6
Westchester	5.4	9.9	9.9	11.3	10.0	12.0

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2015," on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

In many cases, the state's recent drug problem has been an upstate and suburban phenomenon.

**Table 3. Total Drug Deaths by County Have Increased in New York State\***

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Increase 2010 to 2015
Albany	28	33	27	36	40	36	29%
Bronx	180	196	212	219	212	297	65%
Broome	19	28	22	34	42	40	111%
Chautauqua	13	15	13	15	18	26	100%
Dutchess	59	38	62	72	50	65	10%
Erie	82	115	95	140	153	292	256%
Kings	191	216	230	219	254	272	42%
Monroe	64	70	84	96	112	105	64%
Nassau County	115	155	165	171	178	209	82%
New York	141	171	207	211	197	215	52%
Niagara	32	25	35	41	38	53	66%
Oneida	19	17	20	29	44	41	116%
Onondaga	41	47	63	68	80	101	146%
Orange	64	57	57	65	72	75	17%
Oswego	12	17	17	21	18	24	100%
Queens	142	148	148	196	164	183	29%
Richmond	72	87	92	77	88	90	25%
Rockland	20	20	21	34	22	37	85%
Suffolk	204	285	291	282	273	294	44%
Ulster	15	26	23	26	22	35	133%
Westchester	51	95	95	109	97	117	129%

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015," on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

\*These are the NYS counties that had complete data for every year. A full listing of the counties can be found in the Appendix.

Some areas of the state saw significant increases in drug-related deaths. In Erie County, drug-related deaths jumped from 82 in 2010 to 292 in 2015 — an increase of 256 percent. As illustrated by Table 3, other counties also had significant increases in the numbers of drug-related deaths. The largest increases were upstate or in the suburbs outside of New York City, with the greatest increases in Erie, Onondaga, Ulster, Westchester, and Oneida Counties.

Suffolk County has the most drug-related deaths in five of the six years analyzed (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014), with the Bronx having the most in 2015.

### Drug Deaths by Age

The age category with the highest drug-related death rate in 2015 was 45-54, with 27.4 per 100,000 people. In fact, the 45-54 age group had the highest drug-related rate each year between 2010 and 2015. In all but one age group (75-84), the death rate increased from 2010 to 2015.



**Table 4. 2010-15 New York State Drug Overdoses and Chronic Drug Abuse Death Rate, by Age**

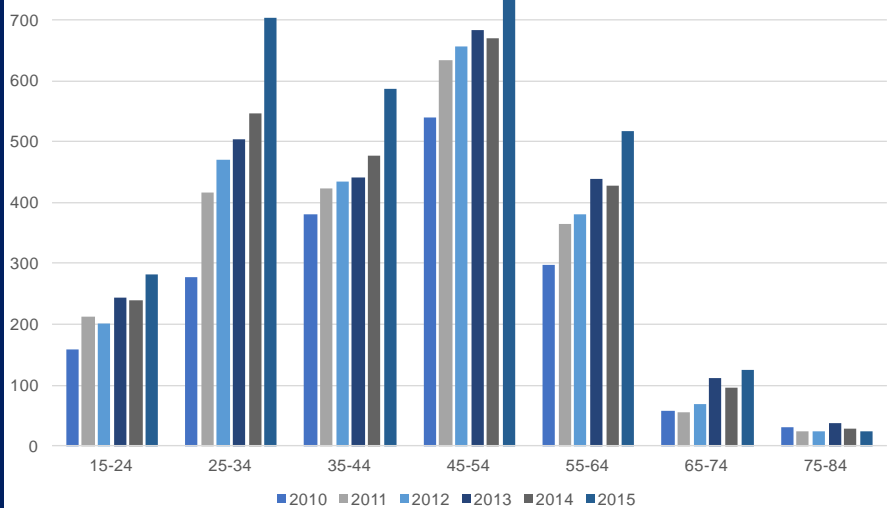
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
15-24	5.7	7.7	7.3	9.0	8.8	10.5
25-34	10.5	15.3	17.0	17.9	19.2	24.4
35-44	14.6	16.6	17.1	17.5	19.0	23.6
45-54	18.8	22.2	23.1	24.3	24.0	27.4
55-64	12.9	15.2	15.7	17.9	17.1	20.3
65-74	4.3	3.9	4.7	7.3	5.9	7.5
75-84	3.6	2.7	2.9	4.3	3.2	2.8

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015," on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

In 2015, the age group with the largest number of deaths was 45-54 (757 deaths per 100,000 people) followed by 25-34 (703), 35-44 (588), 55-65 (517), 65-74 (125), and 75-84 (24).<sup>14</sup>

Figure 2. Drug Overdose and Chronic Drug Abuse Deaths, by Age 2010-2015.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2015 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December, 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.



## Drug Deaths by Sex

More men die from drug-related deaths in New York than women. In 2015, 2,118 men died from drugs versus 891 women. From 2010 to 2015, 7,914 men died from drugs, while 4,575 women did.

**Table 5. Drug Deaths by Sex in New York State 2010-2015**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Male	1,159	1,448	1,527	1,662	1,684	2,118
Female	601	701	735	821	826	891

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, “Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015,” on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

The drug-related death rate for men is 22 per every 100,000 people and 8.7 per 100,000 people for women. However, in both the number of drug deaths have grown considerably — an 83 percent increase from 2010-2015 for men and a 48 percent increase for women.

**Table 6. 2010-2015 Drug-Related Death Rates by Sex in New York State**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Male	12.4	15.4	16.1	17.4	17.6	22.0
Female	6.0	7.0	7.3	8.1	8.1	8.7

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, “Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015,” on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

## Drug-Related Deaths by Race

In 2015, more whites died from drugs than any other group — 18.4 deaths per every 100,000 people, followed by Hispanic/Latino (12.1), black/African American (10.0), and Asian/Pacific Islander (2.4). Data for other groups, like American Indian/Alaska Native, were unreliable.

**Table 7. Drug-Related Death Rate by Race in New York State 2010-2015**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Black or African Ame	7.5	8.3	8.3	9.0	8.8	10.0
White	10.0	12.9	13.7	15.0	15.2	18.4
Hispanic or Latino	7.1	7.9	8.6	10.0	9.1	12.1

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, “Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015,” on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

Again, in every category the number of deaths increased from 2010 to 2015.

## Conclusion

The drug epidemic continues to worsen across the country. New York has also faced an increased number of drug overdose and chronic drug abuse deaths. In New York, the drug epidemic, with drugs like heroin and fentanyl, has been especially problematic in upstate and suburban counties outside of New York City.

But, in many ways, examining the growth of drug-related deaths is the tip of the iceberg. Future analysis will examine the broader problem of untreated or undertreated drug abuse and access, or the lack thereof, to adequate treatment.

Many states, including New York's state and local governments, have taken dramatic steps to combat the epidemic. This report is intended to establish a baseline to see whether new state and local programs are working to combat the epidemic. Whether those strategies pay off will be the subject of future examination and analysis.

# Appendices

## Appendix A. Drug-Related Death Rate Per 100K People, by State 2005-2015

State	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Avg.
Alabama	7.3	10.1	11.9	13.7	14.5	12.2	12.6	13.1	13.4	16.5	16.7	12.9
Alaska	12.7	12.6	11.0	19.2	19.0	11.8	14.8	18.0	15.0	17.2	17.2	15.3
Arizona	14.5	15.9	15.9	13.6	16.4	17.9	17.2	18.4	19.7	18.9	19.8	17.1
Arkansas	10.3	10.9	11.4	13.6	13.3	12.8	12.8	13.5	11.6	12.7	14.3	12.5
California	10.7	11.2	11.5	11.3	11.6	11.4	11.8	11.3	12.4	12.4	12.8	11.7
Colorado	13.8	14.0	15.5	15.5	15.8	13.4	16.7	15.9	16.4	17.1	16.4	15.5
Connecticut	10.0	13.0	12.6	11.2	11.1	10.4	11.6	12.6	16.7	17.8	23.0	13.6
Delaware	7.9	9.7	11.7	14.1	15.6	16.4	18.3	16.4	18.4	21.8	22.0	15.6
District of Columbia	16.6	22.6	15.7	13.3	9.8	15.0	15.2	13.4	17.5	16.1	19.3	15.9
Florida	14.9	16.1	16.0	16.7	17.1	16.9	15.9	14.0	13.3	14.1	16.7	15.6
Georgia	9.2	10.0	10.4	10.3	10.8	11.6	11.3	11.2	11.6	12.6	13.4	11.1
Hawaii	11.1	10.0	10.8	9.7	11.0	11.3	13.7	11.4	11.9	12.3	12.2	11.4
Idaho	8.3	10.0	8.8	9.9	11.6	11.7	12.6	11.8	13.5	13.3	13.5	11.4
Illinois	9.0	11.3	9.8	11.1	11.2	10.5	11.3	12.9	12.5	13.5	14.6	11.6
Indiana	10.6	12.2	13.0	13.5	14.4	14.9	15.4	16.2	17.1	18.7	19.8	15.1
Iowa	5.2	6.7	7.0	7.1	7.0	8.5	8.7	8.7	9.3	8.8	10.6	8.0
Kansas	10.3	10.6	10.6	8.6	11.2	10.1	11.0	11.8	12.3	12.0	12.0	11.0
Kentucky	15.8	18.2	17.0	18.2	18.2	23.9	25.2	25.7	23.9	25.6	30.1	22.0
Louisiana	16.4	18.6	19.7	15.5	13.9	13.6	13.5	12.8	18.1	17.4	19.3	16.3
Maine	12.7	12.5	12.1	12.2	13.7	10.5	12.0	11.8	13.8	17.1	20.9	13.6
Maryland	12.4	14.3	14.3	12.9	13.4	11.7	12.5	14.6	15.3	18.3	22.0	14.7
Massachusetts	13.5	15.9	15.6	13.7	14.1	12.8	15.4	14.7	17.9	20.8	27.2	16.5
Michigan	13.9	16.6	15.4	15.8	17.7	17.4	17.2	16.4	18.3	20.7	23.3	17.5
Minnesota	6.6	7.3	6.9	7.6	8.4	8.1	10.4	10.0	10.7	10.7	11.9	9.0
Mississippi	9.1	12.7	11.4	10.9	11.7	11.9	10.6	11.0	10.9	12.1	12.3	11.3
Missouri	11.1	13.1	12.4	13.2	14.8	17.1	16.5	16.0	17.2	18.3	18.0	15.2
Montana	12.7	12.7	13.7	14.4	14.9	12.4	15.0	12.8	15.4	14.2	14.7	13.9
Nebraska	7.3	7.4	5.2	6.3	6.5	7.1	8.0	8.3	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.1
Nevada	19.1	18.7	19.8	19.9	20.7	21.5	23.6	22.1	22.3	19.5	21.8	20.8
New Hampshire	11.7	12.2	14.2	9.8	13.1	12.5	16.1	13.4	16.4	26.2	32.5	16.1
New Jersey	11.2	11.6	9.2	9.3	3.9	10.3	11.8	14.3	15.0	14.6	16.8	11.6
New Mexico	19.9	22.2	23.7	26.6	21.9	23.7	25.8	24.1	22.6	26.8	24.7	24.0
New York	6.1	10.2	10.0	9.7	9.3	9.1	11.0	11.6	12.6	12.7	15.2	10.7
North Carolina	12.2	12.6	12.3	13.1	12.9	11.8	13.5	13.8	13.3	14.4	16.3	13.3
North Dakota	X	X	5.7	7.3	4.2	3.9	3.2	3.9	3.7	6.5	8.6	5.2*
Ohio	12.1	14.0	14.7	15.7	11.6	16.6	18.4	19.1	21.2	24.4	29.4	17.9
Oklahoma	15.0	17.2	18.9	15.9	20.6	19.4	18.9	20.5	20.8	20.9	19.2	18.8
Oregon	14.2	15.9	15.2	13.8	15.1	15.0	15.4	14.6	13.9	15.5	15.1	14.8
Pennsylvania	13.5	14.7	14.4	15.0	15.7	15.6	18.4	19.3	19.8	22.1	26.4	17.7
Rhode Island	15.3	16.8	13.4	18.3	15.9	16.7	18.4	19.1	24.0	24.0	30.1	19.3
South Carolina	11.4	14.7	13.1	13.0	13.7	15.1	13.7	12.9	13.6	15.0	16.2	13.9
South Dakota	6.1	5.5	4.3	7.1	6.3	5.9	7.3	5.4	6.7	8.2	8.4	6.5
Tennessee	15.6	16.9	16.8	15.6	15.9	17.8	17.5	18.9	19.8	20.3	23.4	18.0
Texas	9.4	10.5	9.8	9.0	10.1	9.9	10.5	9.8	9.9	10.1	9.9	9.9
Utah	19.6	19.0	21.0	18.1	18.7	16.5	18.5	21.4	21.1	21.0	22.3	19.7
Vermont	8.9	13.3	10.9	12.2	9.1	10.9	13.9	12.9	15.8	14.4	17.7	12.7
Virginia	8.1	8.7	9.2	9.3	8.8	7.1	10.1	9.2	10.8	12.0	12.8	9.6
Washington	14.9	15.2	15.5	16.1	15.5	14.3	15.4	15.0	14.9	15.0	16.6	15.3
West Virginia	10.8	20.7	22.1	25.4	12.7	28.1	34.8	31.0	31.4	34.9	40.7	26.6
Wisconsin	10.1	11.5	11.4	11.0	11.3	11.2	12.5	12.5	15.2	15.2	15.5	12.5
Wyoming	8.8	12.2	12.7	13.6	11.3	15.6	15.5	17.2	17.0	19.2	16.9	14.5

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2015 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December, 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the 57 vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

**Appendix B. Drug Death Rate Per 100,000,  
by County in New York State 2010-2015**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Albany	9.2	10.9	8.8	11.7	13	11.6
Allegany	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Bronx	13.0	14.1	15.1	15.4	14.7	20.4
Broome	Unreliable	14.1	11.1	17.2	21.3	20.3
Cattaraugus	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable
Cayuga	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable
Chautauqua	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	19.9
Chemung	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable
Chenango	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Clinton	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable
Columbia	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Suppressed
Cortland	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable
Delaware	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Dutchess	19.8	12.8	20.9	24.2	16.9	22.0
Erie	8.9	12.5	10.3	15.2	16.6	31.7
Essex	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Franklin	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Fulton	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Genesee	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable
Greene	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable
Hamilton	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Herkimer	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Jefferson	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable
Kings	7.6	8.5	9.0	8.4	9.7	10.3
Lewis	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Livingston	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Madison	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed
Monroe	8.6	9.4	11.2	12.8	14.9	14.0
Montgomery	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Nassau County	8.6	11.5	12.2	12.6	13.1	15.4
New York	8.9	10.7	12.8	13.0	12.0	13.1
Niagara	14.8	11.6	16.3	19.1	17.8	24.9
Oneida	Unreliable	Unreliable	8.6	12.4	18.9	17.6
Onondaga	8.8	10.1	13.5	14.5	17.1	21.6
Ontario	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable
Orange	17.2	15.2	15.2	17.3	19.1	19.9
Orleans	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Oswego	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	17.3	Unreliable	20.0
Otsego	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable
Putnam	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable
Queens	6.4	6.6	6.5	8.5	7.1	7.8
Rensselaer	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable	12.5	Unreliable	14.4
Richmond	15.4	18.5	19.5	16.3	18.6	19.0
Rockland	6.4	6.3	6.6	10.6	6.8	11.3
St. Lawrence	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable
Saratoga	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Unreliable	11.6	11.0
Schenectady	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	12.9	Suppressed	Unreliable
Schoharie	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Schuyler	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed

*(Continued on the following page)*

**Appendix B. Drug Death Rate Per 100,000,  
by County in New York State 2010-2015 (continued)**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Seneca	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Steuben	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Suppressed
Suffolk	13.7	19.0	19.4	18.8	18.2	19.6
Sullivan	Suppressed	40.3	Unreliable	26.1	31.6	26.7
Tioga	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable
Tompkins	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable	Suppressed	Unreliable	Unreliable
Ulster	Unreliable	14.3	12.7	14.4	12.2	19.4
Warren	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Washington	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Wayne	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Westchester	5.4	9.9	9.9	11.3	10.0	12.0
Wyoming	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
Yates	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2015," on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Data File, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>.

## Endnotes

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- 1 Special thanks to Urska Klancnik, special assistant at the Rockefeller Institute of Government for her assistance with this report as well as Rockefeller Institute Director Thomas Gais and Deputy Director for Research Patricia Strach for their helpful suggestions and guidance.
- 2 “Inside a Killer Drug Epidemic: A Look at America’s Opioid Crisis,” *New York Times*, January 6, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/06/us/opioid-crisis-epidemic.html>.
- 3 The Center for Disease Control and Prevention had complete annual drug-related deaths for 2010 and 2015 for seventeen counties outside of New York City: Albany, Broome, Chautauqua, Dutchess, Erie, Monroe, Nassau County, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Orange, Oswego, Rensselaer, Rockland, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester.
- 4 Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “The Opioid Epidemic: By the Numbers,” updated June 2016, <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/Factsheet-opioids-061516.pdf>.
- 5 Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “Drug overdose deaths in the United States continue to increase in 2015,” updated December 16, 2016, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/>.
- 6 See law enforcement in North Carolina for instance. Jason deBruyn, “Law Enforcement Grapple With Opioid Overdoses,” Blue Ridge Public Radio, December 30, 2016, <http://bpr.org/post/law-enforcement-grapple-opioid-overdoses>. See foster care system issues in West Virginia. M.K. McFarland, “Drug epidemic adds to strain on foster care in West Virginia,” *Herald-Dispatch*, November 22, 2016, [http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/drug-epidemic-adds-to-strain-on-foster-care-in-west/article\\_79fb4e70-6607-5ce7-8709-3ad00861f677.html](http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/drug-epidemic-adds-to-strain-on-foster-care-in-west/article_79fb4e70-6607-5ce7-8709-3ad00861f677.html). See Rita Price, “Ohio’s hard-hit Appalachia region strains to fund drug-addiction treatment” *Columbus Dispatch*, December 2, 2016, <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2016/12/02/ohios-hard-hit-appalachia-region-strains-to-fund-drug-addiction-treatment.html>.
- 7 Katharine Q. Seelye, “In Annual Speech, Vermont Governor Shifts Focus to Drug Abuse,” *New York Times*, January 8, 2014, <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/09/us/in-annual-speech-vermont-governor-shifts-focus-to-drug-abuse.html>.
- 8 See White House Office of the Press Secretary, “President Donald J. Trump Signs an Executive Order Establishing the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis,” News Release, March 29, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/30/president-donald-j-trump-signs-executive-order-establishing-presidents>.
- 9 Office of the Governor, “Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation to Help New York State Fight Prescription Drug Abuse,” News Release, August 27, 2012, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-legislation-help-new-york-state-fight-prescription-drug-abuse>.
- 10 Office of the Governor, “Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation to Combat Heroin, Opioid and Prescription Drug Abuse Epidemic,” News Release, June 23, 2014, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-signs-legislation-combat-heroin-opioid-and-prescription-drug-abuse-epidemic>.
- 11 See *Combatting the Heroin and Opioid Crisis* (Albany: New York State Heroin and Opioid Task Force, June 9, 2016), [https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/HeroinTaskForceReport\\_3.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/HeroinTaskForceReport_3.pdf), and the *Joint Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction: 2016 Report* (Albany: New York State Majority Joint Coalition, May 2016), [https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/articles/attachments/hf\\_report\\_final2.pdf](https://www.nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/articles/attachments/hf_report_final2.pdf). In addition, there have been a series of reports examining the issue. See the *Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Addiction in New York State* (Albany: New York

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State Comptroller's Office, June 2016),  
[https://www.osc.state.ny.us/press/releases/june16/heroin\\_and\\_opioids.pdf](https://www.osc.state.ny.us/press/releases/june16/heroin_and_opioids.pdf).

- 12 See Office of the Governor, "Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders Announce Agreement to Combat Heroin and Opioid Abuse in New York State," News Release, June 14, 2016, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-and-legislative-leaders-announce-agreement-combat-heroin-and-opioid-abuse-new>.
- 13 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, "About Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2015," on CDC WONDER Online Database, released December 2016. Data are from the Multiple Cause of Death Files, 1999-2015, as compiled from data provided by the fifty-seven vital statistics jurisdictions through the Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>.
- 14 Given potential privacy and reporting issues, the CDC does not have, or suppresses, data for the other age groups. In each age category, except the 75-84 category, drug-related deaths have increased since 2010.