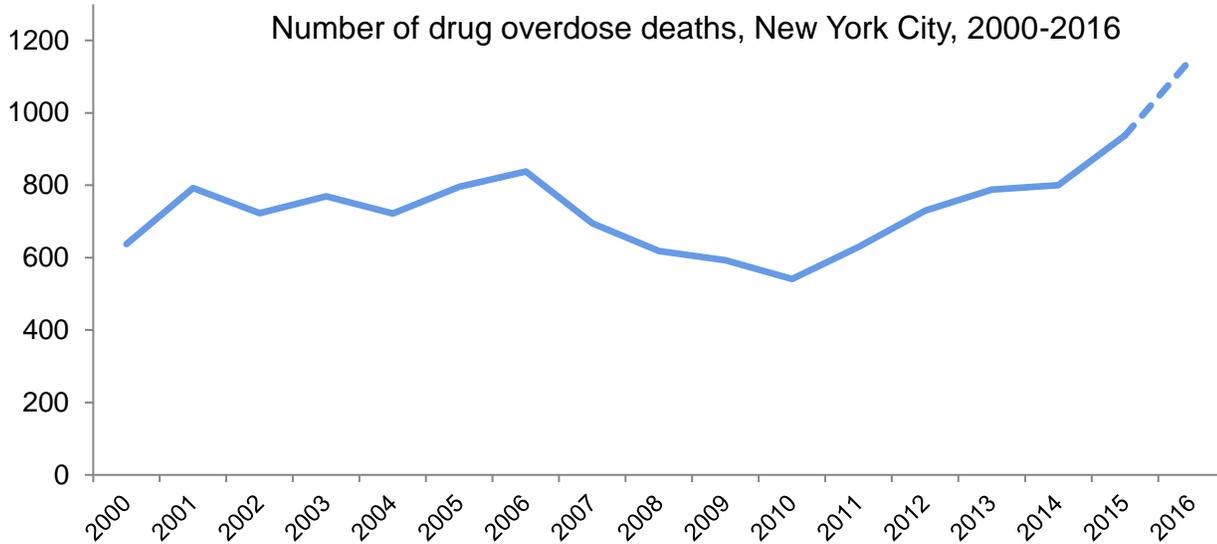


# Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths in New York City

November 2016

## Fentanyl is driving overdose death increases in New York City



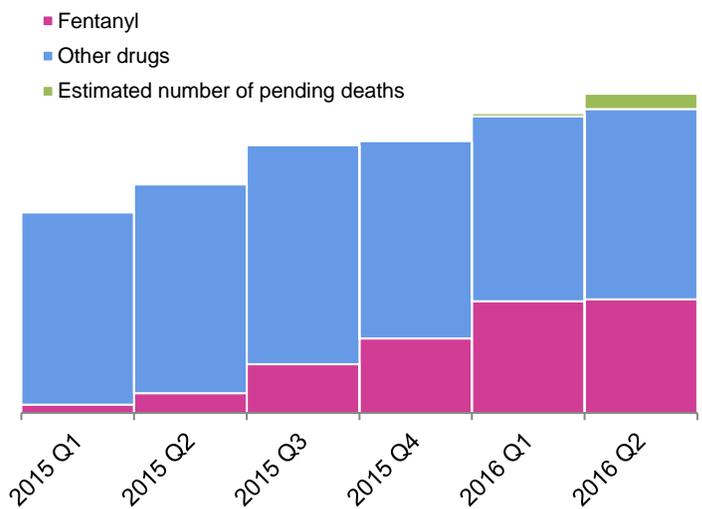
### Key Points

- Overdose deaths in New York City (NYC) have increased for the previous five years.
- Driven by fentanyl, overdose deaths in 2016 are projected to exceed 1,000 deaths for the first time on record in NYC.
- Fentanyl is a potent opioid that is commonly mixed with heroin. It may also be present in cocaine and in illicitly-made pills that look like painkillers or sedatives, such as Xanax.

### The number of overdose deaths in the first half of 2016 are approaching 2015 totals



### Fentanyl is increasingly present in deaths from drug overdose



## **Naloxone can reverse opioid overdose.**

- Nearly all overdoses involve multiple substances, and 83% of deaths to date in 2016 involved an opioid.
- Opioid-involved deaths are preventable and can be reversed using the medication naloxone.
- 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.
- To find an overdose prevention program or a pharmacy near you, visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search “overdose prevention.”

## **Medication-assisted treatment is the standard of care for opioid dependence.**

- Many New Yorkers have opioid dependence 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.

## **Data Notes and Definitions**

- Data for 2016 are provisional and subject to change.
- Data include drug overdoses where medical examiners determined the manner of death to be accidental.
- Borough-level data are presented by borough of residence. Because borough-level data exclude non-residents, numbers will not reflect the total number of overdoses 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.