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INMATE MORTALITY REPORT
1986 - 1991

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INMATE MORTALITY REPORT

1986 - 1991

The report provides information on inmate deaths that occurred during the years 1986 through 1991. Demographic profiles and causes of death are provided on decedents.

DIVISION OF PROGRAM PLANNING, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

December 1992

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INMATE MORTALITY REPORT

Executive Summary

- * AIDS-related illnesses accounted for 65.6% (N=969) of the total 1,477 inmate deaths that occurred between 1986 and 1991. Deaths due to other causes included: homicide 3.1% (N=46), suicide 1.8% (N=27), accident 1.6% (N=23), and other natural causes 27.9% (N=412).

- * The largest number of deaths occurred among inmates age 40 years and older (see p. 6).

- * Among Hispanic inmates 78.4% of deaths were due to AIDS while 38.6% of deaths among White inmates and 61.8% of deaths among Black inmates were related to AIDS (see p. 8).

- * Women decedents accounted for 2.8% of inmate deaths during 1986-1991, but women comprised 4.6% of the average undercustody population during the six year period (see p. 10).

- * Inmates from New York City experienced the highest number of inmate deaths. Persons committed from New York City made up approximately 70% of the undercustody population but 85% of inmate deaths from 1986 to 1991 (see p. 11).

- * Hispanic inmates, age 40 and above, experienced the highest mortality rate from all causes of death among prison population subgroups specified by age and ethnic status (see p. 13).

- * Commitment offenses for deceased inmates were similar to the undercustody population during the six year study period. For example, 27.9% of the undercustody population and 27.8% of decedents had been committed for drug offenses (see p. 18).

- * Inmates that died from other natural causes had served longer prison sentences than inmates who had died from homicide, suicide, or AIDS-related illnesses (see p. 20).

INTRODUCTION

The New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) has experienced an increase in inmate deaths during the last six years. The increase may be partially attributed to a rise in the undercustody population and to the number of AIDS-related deaths. This report summarizes the 1,477 inmate deaths that occurred in the DOCS inmate population from 1986 through 1991.

Inmate deaths are reported by correctional facility personnel to the Department's Command Center located in Albany through the Unusual Incident reporting system. Later, medical staff at facilities submit detailed reports to the Health Services Division of DOCS that outline circumstances surrounding the deaths, 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.

Information maintained by Health Services, Unusual Incident reports, and demographic information contained in Department computer files were used to provide the statistics contained in this report.

Section One - Cause of Death

Cause of death is divided into five categories: homicide, suicide, accident, other natural causes, and AIDS. The most common cause of death was AIDS-related, (N=969) followed by deaths due to other natural causes (N=412) such as heart attack, cancer (not AIDS-related), cirrhosis of the liver, etc. Homicide accounted for 46 deaths, suicide 27 deaths, and 23 deaths were the result of an accident (see Figure 1.1).

The total number of inmate deaths remained relatively stable for 1987-1990. However, the number of inmate deaths rose nearly 30% from 1990 to 1991 and the total number of AIDS-related deaths increased irregularly over the six year study period. The total number of deaths due to other natural causes rose in each year from 1986 through 1989; fell by a third in 1990, and then increased slightly in 1991 (see Figure 1.2).

Homicide

Forty-six inmates died from homicide between 1986 and 1991. Twenty-four died as a result of stabbings or slash wounds inflicted by other inmates. Sixteen inmates died from gunshot wounds sustained while outside a correctional facility and on temporary release status. Of the remaining deaths, three occurred as a result of beatings with clubs or weighted objects, two inmates died from injuries inflicted by other inmates' fists, and one died while out to court. Homicide victims had an average age of 29.8 years and had served an average of 38.4 months in custody. Thirty of the victims had been committed for violent felony offenses, one for 2nd degree manslaughter, one for 3rd degree robbery, eleven for drug offenses, and three for property crimes. See Appendix A for cause of death and information on age, time served, and commitment crime of decedents.

Suicide

Twenty-seven inmates committed suicide during the 1986-1991 period. Among these inmates the average age was 31.0 years and the average time served to date of death was 41.0 months. The method of death was hanging in 81% (N=22) of the cases. One inmate died from fire, another from poison, a third from a fall, and two inmates died from self-administered cuts. The total number of suicides varied considerably from 1989 (N=11) to 1990 (N=1), but averaged more than four cases per year over the six year span.

Accident

Twenty-three inmates died in accidents in the 1986-1991 period. In 1991, eight inmates died from accidental deaths: 1 from a fall, 2 from drug overdose, 2 while on temporary release, 2 due to accidents at outside hospitals, and one from swallowing a pen. The average age of accident victims was 34.7 years and average time served in custody was 40.5 months. The accident victims had been sentenced to prison for offenses that included murder, rape, robbery, assault, and drugs.

AIDS

The number of inmate deaths from AIDS related illnesses rose in nearly every year since the first inmate AIDS deaths were reported in 1981; only in 1989 was there a decline in total number of deaths from the previous year. However, the rate of deaths from AIDS per 10,000 undercustody population peaked in 1987, declined in 1988 and 1989 before the rate increased in 1990 and 1991 (see Section 6B for more detailed information).

Hispanic inmates and inmates aged 35 to 39 years have experienced the highest mortality rates from AIDS. Victims of AIDS were most likely convicted of violent felonies (55.7%) or drug offenses (31.5%). On average, decedents had served 30.4 months of their present incarceration and were 36.7 years old. The average length of time served in prison prior to death by AIDS has increased from less than 24 months in 1986 to 36 months in 1991.

Natural Causes

The rise in the level of inmate deaths due to other natural causes during 1986 - 1989 parallels the increase in inmate population. In 1990, there was a 34% decline (88 cases in 1989 to 58 cases in 1990) in inmate deaths attributed to other natural causes. In 1991 inmate deaths due to other natural causes rose to 64 deaths, an increase of 10% from 1990.

Inmates who died from other natural causes were most likely committed for a violent felony (64.6%), averaged 45.9 years of age, and served an average of 46.9 months of their present incarceration (the longest amount of time served of any category of cause of death).

Figure 1.1
Causes of Death
1986 - 1991

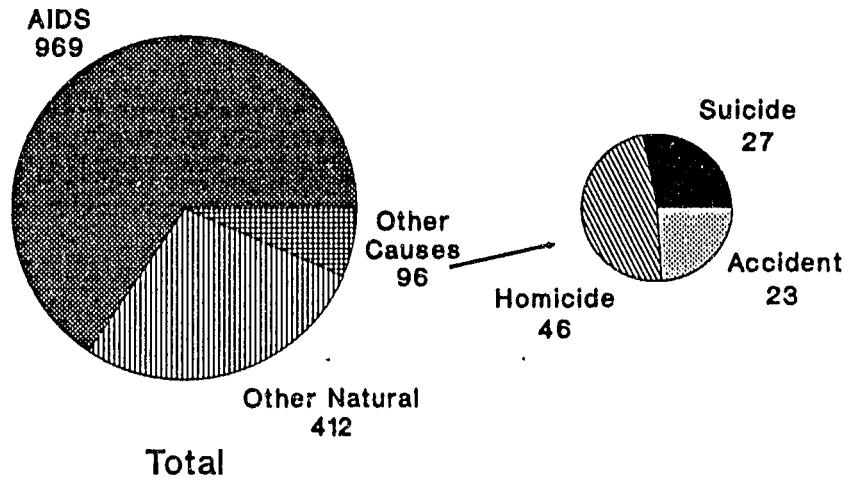
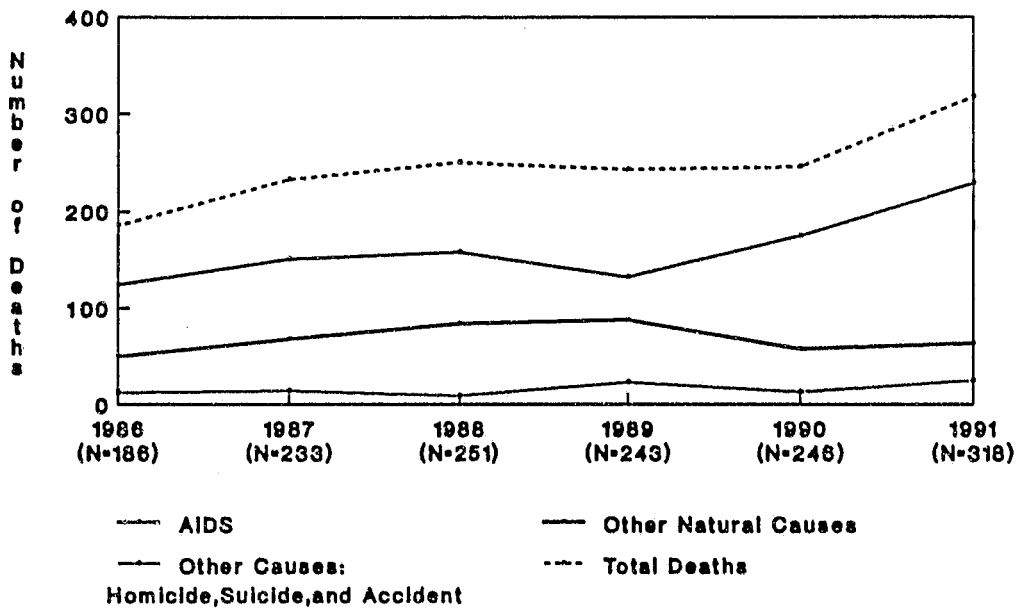


Figure 1.2
Inmate Deaths by Year
1986 - 1991



Total Inmate Deaths	186	233	251	243	246	318
Accident	2	5	1	3	4	8
Suicide	3	3	4	11	1	5
Homicide	7	6	4	9	8	12
Other Natural Causes	50	68	84	88	58	64
AIDS	124	151	158	132	175	229

Section Two - Age of Decedents

The largest number of deaths occurred in the group of inmates who were 40 or more years old at time of death (N=540). AIDS-related deaths accounted for 49% of deaths in the 40 and older age group; 48% of the deaths were due to other natural causes. This percentage of deaths due to causes other than AIDS is higher than any other age group. The largest number of homicides occurred in the 25-29 age group. The largest number of AIDS-related deaths occurred in the 30-34 age group.

A comparison of age categories of decedents and the undercustody population totals for the six year study period is displayed in Figure 2. The three younger age groups had proportionately fewer deaths in light of their number in the undercustody population. In particular, the 20-24 age group comprised 21% of the undercustody population but 3% of the total number of decedents. From 1986 through 1991 the 35-39 year old group made up 13% of the undercustody population but 23% of inmate deaths, and the 40+ category comprised 15% of DOCS inmates but accounted for 37% of deaths.

Figure 2, Age of Inmates
Percent of Population, 1986-1991
Deceased vs. Undercustody Inmates

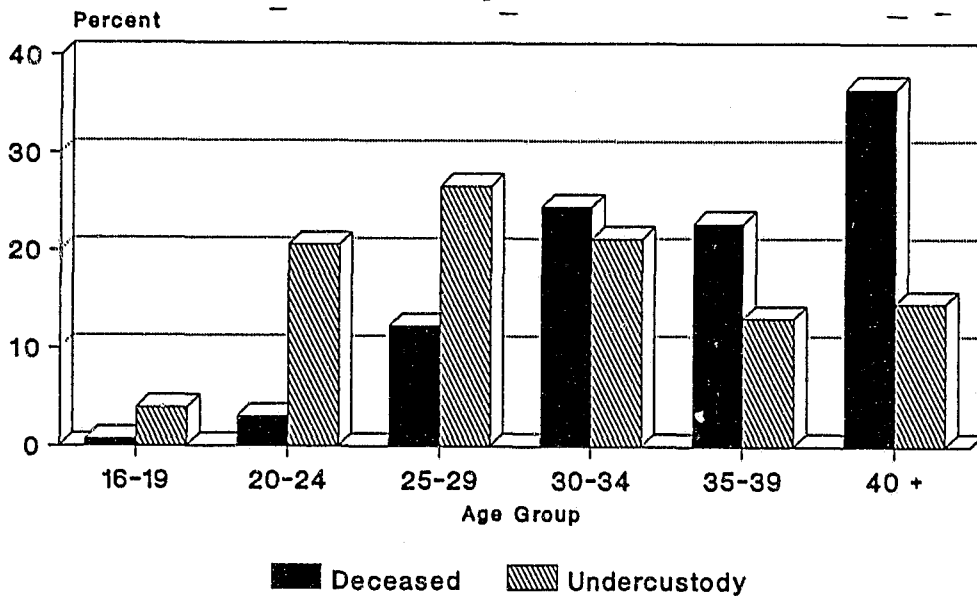


TABLE 2
AGE AND CAUSE OF DEATH BY YEAR OF DEATH
FACILITY DEATHS (All CAUSES), 1986 - 1991

Age and Cause of Death	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	TOTAL	
16-19								
Homicide	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	0.3%
Suicide	0	2	0	1	0	1	4	0.3%
Accident	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.1%
Other Natural Causes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
AIDS	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.1%
Subtotal	1	5	0	2	0	3	11	0.7%
20-24								
Homicide	1	2	0	1	0	2	6	0.4%
Suicide	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	0.2%
Accident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other Natural Causes	0	3	4	0	2	2	11	0.7%
AIDS	6	4	2	5	1	7	25	1.7%
Subtotal	8	10	6	7	3	11	45	3.0%
25-29								
Homicide	2	0	2	3	5	4	16	1.1%
Suicide	1	0	1	4	1	1	8	0.5%
Accident	0	1	0	1	1	2	5	0.3%
Other Natural Causes	3	5	9	6	4	3	30	2.0%
AIDS	19	28	20	19	19	18	123	8.3%
Subtotal	25	34	32	33	30	28	182	12.3%
30-34								
Homicide	2	1	1	2	2	3	11	0.7%
Suicide	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.1%
Accident	0	0	1	0	2	3	6	0.4%
Other Natural Causes	11	9	10	15	6	4	55	3.7%
AIDS	44	36	54	48	41	65	288	19.5%
Subtotal	57	46	66	67	51	75	362	24.5%
35-39								
Homicide	2	0	0	2	0	2	6	0.4%
Suicide	1	0	2	2	0	3	8	0.5%
Accident	0	1	0	1	1	1	4	0.3%
Other Natural Causes	5	8	12	19	7	4	55	3.7%
AIDS	28	47	43	31	50	65	264	17.9%
Subtotal	36	56	57	55	58	75	337	22.8%
40 +								
Homicide	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0.2%
Suicide	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.1%
Accident	2	2	0	1	0	2	7	0.5%
Other Natural Causes	31	43	49	48	39	51	261	17.7%
AIDS	26	36	39	29	64	73	267	18.1%
Subtotal	59	82	90	79	104	126	540	36.6%
GRAND TOTAL	186	233	251	243	246	310	1477	100.0%

Section Three - Race/Ethnicity

For purposes of this report, Department of Correctional Services undercustody inmates were categorized into four primary racial/ethnic groups: White, Black, Hispanic, and Other (which includes Native-American and Asian). In addition to those categories, inmates who did not indicate their race/ethnic status or where data were missing, were designated as unknown.

Figure 3.1 compares the race/ethnic distribution of the inmate undercustody population with that of deceased inmates for the 1986 through 1991 time period. The graph shows that the percentage of deceased inmates classified as White or Black was less than the percentage of Whites and Blacks in the undercustody population. However, a larger percentage of Hispanics died when compared to their proportion in the inmate population.

A larger percentage of Hispanic inmate deaths was from AIDS (78.4%) when compared to White inmate deaths (38.6%) or Black inmate deaths (61.8%). Suicide accounted for a higher percentage of deaths within the White subgroup (6.3%) when compared to Blacks (1.0%) or Hispanics (1.1%). Homicide constituted a higher percentage of deaths among Blacks (4.5%) than was true of Whites (2.7%) or Hispanics (2.0%) (see Figure 3.2).

See Appendix C for the risk ratio of cause of death by race/ethnicity.

Figure 3.1, Race/Ethnicity of Inmates
Percent of Population, 1986-1991
Deceased vs. Undercustody Inmates

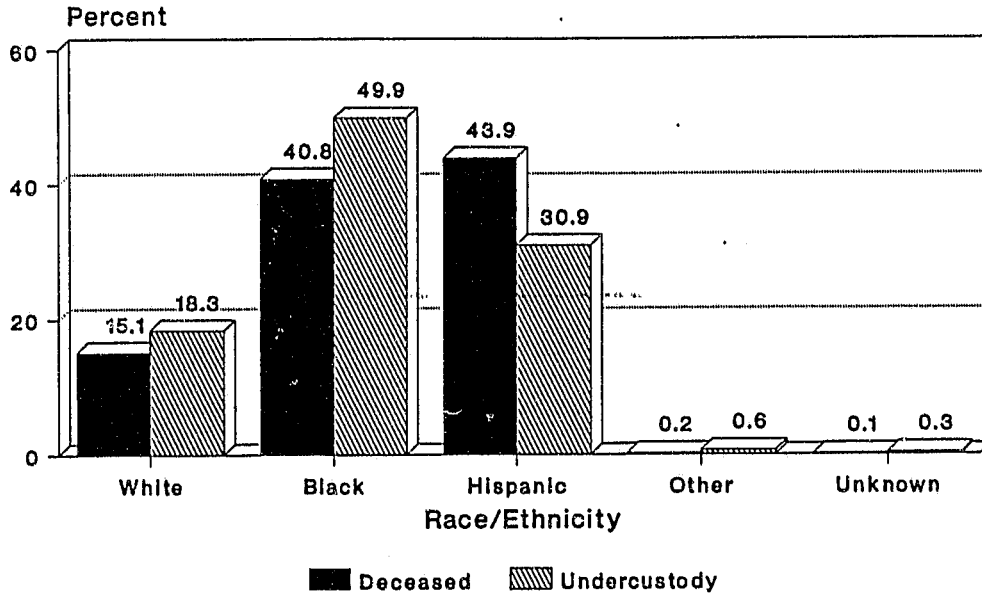
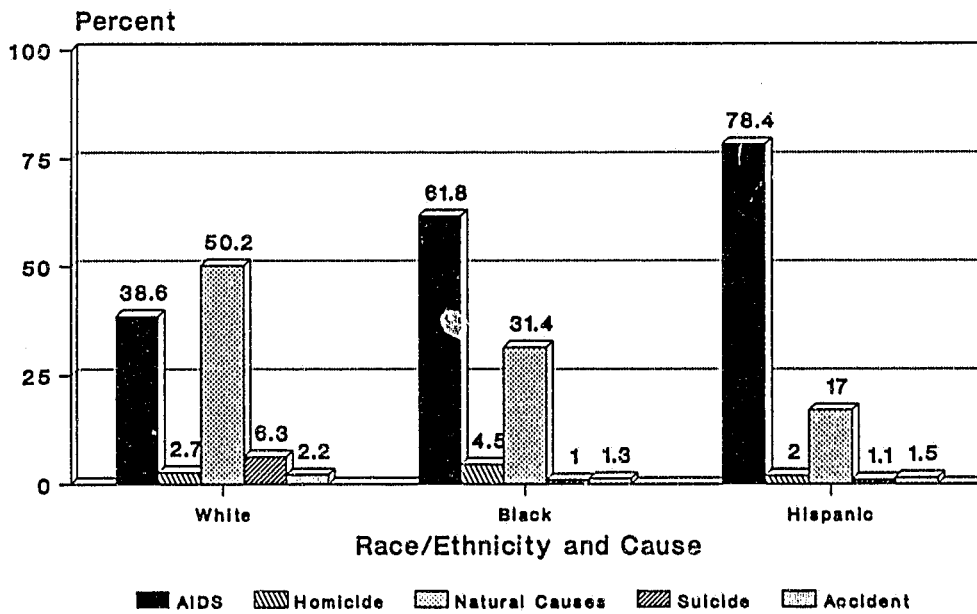


Figure 3.2, Race/Ethnicity of Inmates
Cause of Death, 1986 - 1991



Note: 4 inmates classified as 'other' or 'unknown' died: 3 of AIDS and 1 of natural causes (See Table 3).

TABLE 3
RACE/ETHNICITY AND CAUSE OF DEATH BY YEAR OF DEATH
FACILITY DEATHS (ALL CAUSES), 1986-1991

Race/Ethnicity and Cause of Death	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	TOTAL
White							
Homicide	2	1	0	1	1	1	6
Suicide	1	0	1	8	1	3	14
Accident	1	2	1	0	0	1	5
AIDS	12	16	13	11	12	22	86
Other Natural Causes	15	17	20	26	16	18	112
TOTAL	31	36	35	46	30	45	223
Black							
Homicide	3	3	2	3	6	10	27
Suicide	0	2	1	1	0	2	6
Accident	0	0	0	2	2	4	8
AIDS	60	60	53	48	54	97	372
Other Natural Causes	26	25	41	41	29	27	189
TOTAL	89	90	97	95	91	140	602
Hispanic							
Homicide	2	2	2	5	1	1	13
Suicide	2	1	2	2	0	0	7
Accident	1	3	0	1	2	3	10
AIDS	52	75	92	73	109	107	508
Other Natural Causes	9	26	23	21	12	19	110
TOTAL	66	107	119	102	124	130	648
Other							
AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Other Natural Causes	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Unknown							
AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
GRAND TOTAL	186	233	251	243	246	318	1477

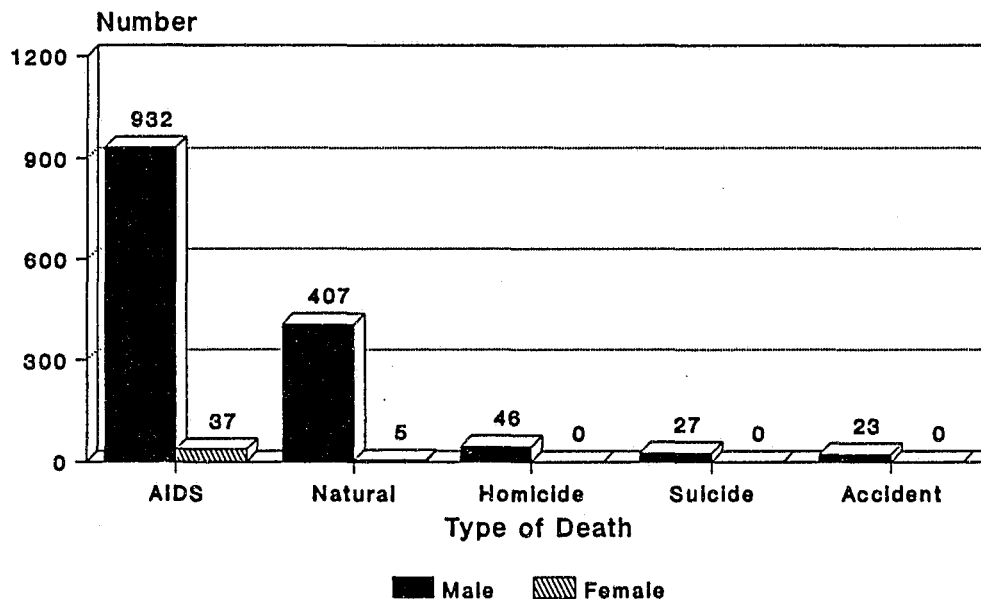
Section Four - Gender of Decedents

Forty-two women (2.8%) and 1,435 men (97.2%) died between 1986 and 1991. These percentages compare to the general inmate population of 4.6% female and 93.4% male for the same six year period.

Over the years 1986 to 1991, there were no instances of death by homicide, suicide or accident among female inmates. AIDS-related deaths accounted for 88% of all female deaths from 1986 to 1991 and in three years, 1986, 1990 and 1991, all female inmate deaths were attributed to AIDS-related illnesses. In comparison, during the same six year period, approximately 65% of male decedents died from AIDS related illnesses.

A review of Figure 4 reveals the vast differences between the total number of male and female inmate deaths during 1986 to 1991. Only 1.2% of natural deaths and 4.0% of AIDS-related deaths were females.

Figure 4
Gender by Cause of Death
1986 - 1991



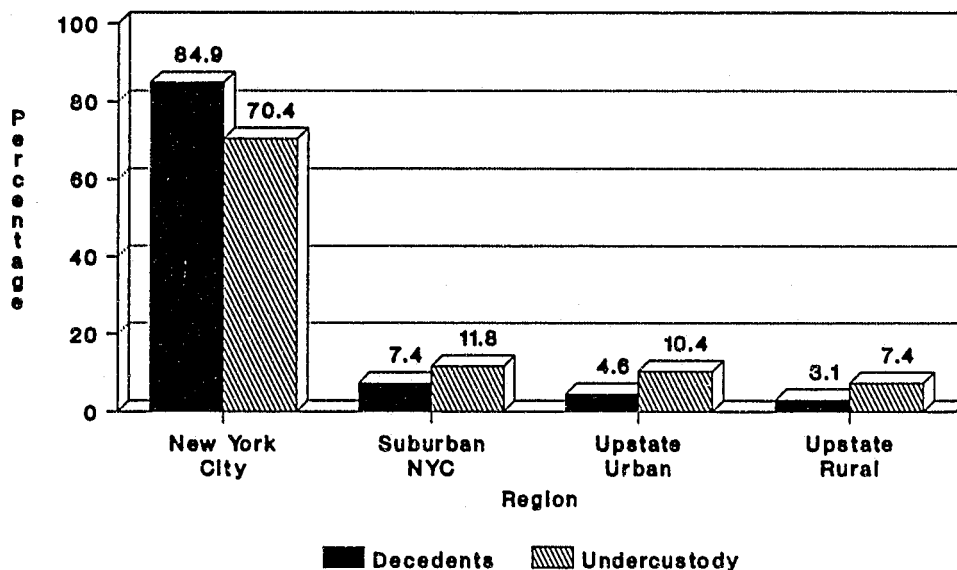
Section Five - Region of Commitment

New York State counties are aggregated into four groups to show region of the state. The New York City region consists of the 5 counties of Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond. Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester make up the Suburban New York Region. Upstate Urban counties have a population center of 50,000 or more residents and are comprised of Albany, Broome, Erie, Monroe, Oneida, Onondaga, Rensselaer and Schenectady. The Upstate Rural region contains the remaining counties of the state.

Figure 5 compares the region of commitment of the undercustody population at the end of each year for the six year period with the deceased inmates for the same period. As shown in Figure 5, 70.4% of undercustody inmates were from New York City and 11.8% were from the four Suburban New York City counties. A higher percentage of decedents (84.9%) were from New York City when compared with the undercustody population. The percentage of deceased inmates from the Upstate Urban and Upstate Rural region fluctuated during the years 1986 through 1991 but without an apparent trend. During the same six years, the percentage of decedents from New York City region declined (89.2% in 1986 to 84.3% in 1991) while there was a corresponding increase in the percentage of decedents from the Suburban New York City region (3.2% in 1986 to 8.8% in 1991).

After adjustment for AIDS deaths, when the regions of the state are compared by cause of inmate deaths, a large difference appears for deaths by suicide. Suicide accounts for 4.4% and 2.0% of inmate deaths by causes other than AIDS in New York City and Suburban N.Y.C. counties. However suicide is responsible for more than 11% of remaining deaths of inmates committed from Upstate Urban and Upstate Rural counties. See Appendix B for more information on region of commitment and cause of death.

Figure 5
Undercustody Population and Decedents
by Region, 1986 - 1991



Section Six - Mortality Rates

Part A All Causes of Death

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 the proportion of the total undercustody population that they make up. Mortality rates for any subgroup reflect number of deaths per ten thousand inmates of the subgroup population. An examination of Figure 6.1 reveals the rate of inmate deaths per 10,000 inmates for the years 1986 through 1991. The highest rate of inmate mortality was in 1988, while 1990 experienced the lowest level at 45.67 deaths per 10,000 inmates.

Table 6A displays mortality rates according to age and ethnicity. As noted earlier, the largest concentration of deaths is among older inmates. A review of mortality rates reinforces this fact but is especially salient among White and Black inmates. For example, in all years the rate for the 25-29 age group is less than half that of the 40+ age group. However, within the Hispanic population, while high rates are found in the 40 plus age category, high mortality rates are also found in the 30-34 and 35-39 age categories.

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 the 12 month calendar year measurement period rather than to statistically significant events measured across a six year period. For example, a review of 1989 and the 20-24 age category shows that the mortality rate for Hispanics (17.36) was nearly 100% higher than that for Whites (7.01) and over 600% higher than that for Blacks (1.84). However, only seven deaths were recorded across all three groups and comparisons may be misleading when based on a small number of cases.

Figure 6.1
Mortality Rates of All Causes of Deaths
1986 - 1991

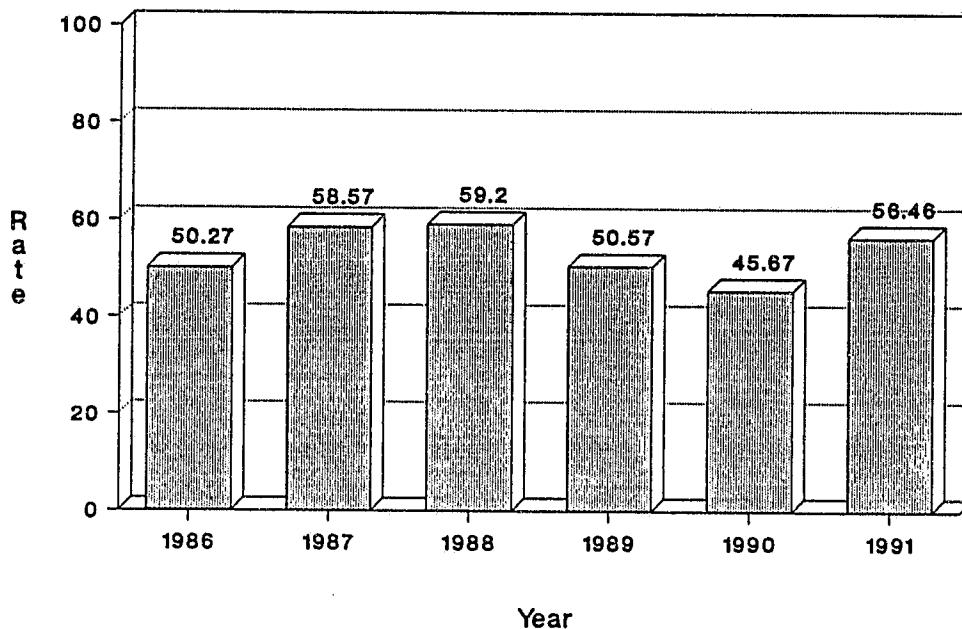


TABLE 6A
AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF INMATES BY YEAR OF DEATH
NUMBER AND MORTALITY RATES OF ALL CAUSES, 1986-1991

Age at Death and Race/Ethnicity	19 8 6		19 8 7		19 8 8		19 8 9		19 9 0		19 9 1		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
16-19														
White	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	38.61	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	6.58
Black	1	9.41	2	20.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	16.46	5	7.90
Hispanic	0	0.00	3	69.77	0	0.00	1	20.83	0	0.00	1	16.67	5	17.35
20-24														
White	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	6.94	1	7.01	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.23
Black	1	2.02	8	15.69	2	3.89	1	1.84	2	3.45	7	12.21	21	6.53
Hispanic	7	29.17	2	7.87	3	11.53	5	17.36	1	3.23	4	12.71	22	13.20
25-29														
White	6	29.90	4	19.55	3	14.86	5	23.65	2	9.39	2	9.77	22	17.80
Black	10	21.11	10	18.95	13	21.93	13	19.01	16	20.72	12	15.02	74	19.22
Hispanic	9	33.12	20	63.73	16	45.17	15	35.68	12	25.61	14	30.28	86	37.54
30-34														
White	4	27.55	7	45.96	6	37.85	7	39.64	7	36.19	8	38.80	39	37.78
Black	32	92.57	14	37.28	21	51.21	23	48.15	18	31.71	31	50.89	139	49.90
Hispanic	21	98.82	25	98.35	39	132.43	37	107.18	26	66.07	35	84.77	183	95.67
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	94.34	1	30.58
35-39														
White	5	48.73	6	57.97	7	64.22	7	58.24	7	53.48	7	50.11	39	55.25
Black	15	66.82	26	108.20	25	98.97	27	96.74	17	52.98	34	96.89	144	86.32
Hispanic	16	122.14	24	159.05	25	148.90	21	100.77	34	139.23	33	124.53	153	131.06
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	192.31	1	69.93
40 +														
White	16	108.77	19	120.71	18	107.85	25	138.35	14	70.53	28	130.17	120	112.60
Black	30	141.31	30	130.04	36	143.14	31	109.19	38	117.87	54	152.07	219	132.25
Hispanic	13	96.01	33	209.79	36	194.91	23	106.09	51	197.06	43	148.89	199	160.25
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	196.08	0	0.00	1	50.51
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	270.27	1	119.05
16-19	1	5.52	5	30.01	0	0.00	2	10.96	0	0.00	3	14.23	11	10.25
20-24	8	8.86	10	10.81	6	6.50	7	7.10	3	2.85	11	10.44	45	7.79
25-29	25	26.30	34	32.36	32	27.72	33	24.85	30	20.38	28	18.82	182	28.99
30-34	57	80.83	48	58.66	66	76.18	67	68.83	51	43.63	75	60.16	362	62.81
35-39	36	78.31	56	112.79	57	107.24	55	89.71	58	82.48	75	98.04	337	94.77
40 +	59	118.83	82	149.74	90	148.64	79	115.08	104	132.05	126	145.19	540	135.28
White	31	39.30	38	44.98	35	43.53	46	53.64	30	33.12	45	48.33	223	43.83
Black	89	47.90	90	45.44	97	46.00	95	40.05	91	33.97	140	49.83	602	43.60
Hispanic	66	63.82	107	91.20	119	91.50	102	66.80	124	71.69	130	72.06	648	75.63
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	22.47	2	39.22	3	44.91
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	27.40	1	119.05
GRAND TOTAL	186	50.27	233	58.57	251	59.20	243	50.57	246	45.67	318	56.46	1477	53.24

Part B - Mortality Rates and AIDS Related Deaths

AIDS-related illnesses are the single largest cause of death in the inmate population for the 1986-1991 time period. HIV associated disease accounted for 78% of deaths among Hispanic inmates, 62% of deaths among Black inmates and 39% of deaths among White inmates; and 66% of the total deaths (969 out of 1,477). Figure 6.2 shows the mortality rate of AIDS-related deaths for the six year study period. The year 1991 shows the highest mortality rate level.

An examination of Table 6B reveals that the mortality rate due to AIDS is highest among Hispanic inmates. The higher AIDS mortality rate is due to the higher infection rate among Hispanic inmates. Except for 1986 and 1991, the mortality rate for Hispanic inmates is more than twice as high when compared to White and Black inmates. Comparison across subgroups shows major fluctuations from year-to-year and trend analysis may be more valuable than focusing on particular subgroup populations for a specific year. For example, among deaths in the 40+ age group in 1986, the mortality rate was twice as high among Black and Hispanic inmates when compared with Whites (70.65 and 59.08 to 20.39). A review of Table 6B shows that Blacks 35-39 years old had higher AIDS-related mortality rates in 1987, 1988, and 1989 than did 40 years or older Blacks. Also, 35-39 year old White inmates had similar or higher mortality rates than 40 years or older Whites, but with the caveat of low subgroup cells frequencies in White inmates AIDS-related deaths.

Figure 6.2
Mortality Rates of AIDS-related Deaths
1986 - 1991

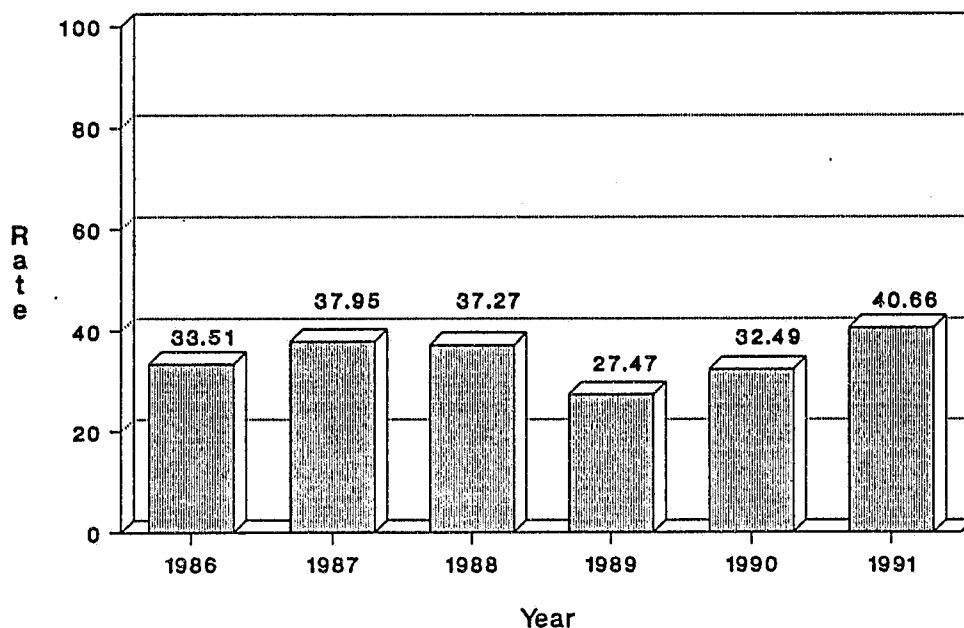


TABLE 6B
 AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF INMATES BY YEAR OF DEATH
 NUMBER AND MORTALITY RATES OF AIDS-RELATED DEATHS, 1986-1991

Age at Death and Race/Ethnicity	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
16-19														
Black	1	9.41	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.58
Hispanic	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	16.67	1	3.47
20-24														
Black	1	2.02	2	3.92	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.73	3	5.23	7	2.18
Hispanic	5	20.83	2	7.87	2	7.88	5	17.36	0	0.00	4	12.71	18	10.80
25-29														
White	2	9.97	4	19.55	1	4.95	1	4.73	0	0.00	1	4.88	9	7.28
Black	9	19.00	9	17.08	8	13.49	6	8.77	8	10.36	5	6.26	45	11.69
Hispanic	8	29.44	15	47.80	11	31.06	12	28.54	11	23.47	12	25.95	69	30.12
30-34														
White	4	27.55	5	32.83	3	18.93	1	5.66	5	25.85	7	33.95	25	24.22
Black	21	60.75	11	29.29	13	31.70	17	35.59	11	19.38	25	41.04	98	35.18
Hispanic	19	89.41	20	78.88	38	129.03	30	86.91	25	63.53	32	77.50	164	85.74
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	94.34	1	30.58
35-39														
White	3	29.24	4	38.65	6	55.05	3	24.96	5	38.20	4	28.63	25	35.42
Black	13	57.91	24	99.88	18	71.26	15	53.74	14	43.63	31	88.34	115	68.93
Hispanic	12	91.60	19	125.91	19	113.16	13	62.38	31	126.95	29	109.43	123	105.36
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	192.31	1	69.93
40 +														
White	3	20.39	3	19.06	3	17.97	6	33.20	2	10.08	10	46.49	27	25.34
Black	15	70.65	14	60.68	14	55.67	10	35.22	20	62.03	33	92.93	106	64.01
Hispanic	8	59.08	19	120.79	22	119.11	13	59.96	42	162.29	29	100.42	133	107.10
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	270.27	1	119.05
16-19	1	5.52	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	4.74	2	1.86
20-24	6	8.64	4	4.32	2	2.17	5	5.07	1	0.95	7	6.64	25	4.33
25-29	19	19.99	28	26.85	20	17.32	19	14.31	19	12.91	18	12.10	123	19.60
30-34	44	62.39	36	45.91	54	62.33	48	49.31	41	35.07	65	52.14	288	49.97
35-39	28	60.91	47	94.68	43	80.90	31	50.56	50	71.10	65	84.97	264	74.24
40 +	26	52.37	36	65.74	39	64.41	29	42.24	64	81.26	73	84.12	267	68.89
White	12	15.21	16	19.99	13	16.17	11	12.83	12	13.25	22	23.63	86	16.90
Black	60	32.29	60	30.30	53	25.14	48	20.23	54	20.16	97	34.53	372	28.94
Hispanic	52	50.28	75	63.93	92	70.74	73	47.81	109	63.02	107	59.31	508	59.29
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	39.22	2	29.94
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	27.40	1	119.05
GRAND TOTAL	124	33.51	151	37.95	158	37.27	132	27.47	175	32.49	229	40.66	969	34.93

Part C - Mortality Rates and Non AIDS Related Deaths

Deaths due to non AIDS-related causes include homicides, suicides, accidents, and other natural causes. Figure 6.3 shows the yearly mortality rate of inmate deaths due to non AIDS-related causes. Between 1986 and 1989, there was a steady increase in the mortality rate but 1990 witnessed a dramatic decline due to fewer deaths by natural causes. Data for 1991 reflected a return toward the earlier years' range.

Table 6C shows the mortality rates for the years 1986 through 1991 by subgroups categorized by age and ethnicity. Twenty-eight percent (N=412) of total inmate deaths can be attributed to other natural causes as compared to 6.5% (N=96) due to other non AIDS-related causes. The data in Table 6C show that the oldest inmates have the highest mortality due to non AIDS-related causes.

Mortality rates for non-AIDS deaths decline in 1990 in nearly every subgroup when compared to 1989 mortality rates. No conclusions can be reached regarding the decline in non-AIDS mortality rates for 1990 and 1991; this could be normal variation or the beginning of a declining trend.

However, some trends do appear when examining specific subgroups over the six-year time period. For example, the mortality rates for Hispanic inmates in the 25-29 category steadily decline from 1987 to 1990, but rise in 1991. But in most other subgroups consistent trends are not apparent in either direction or there are too few cases to draw conclusions.

Figure 6.3
Mortality Rates of Non AIDS-related
Deaths, 1986 - 1991

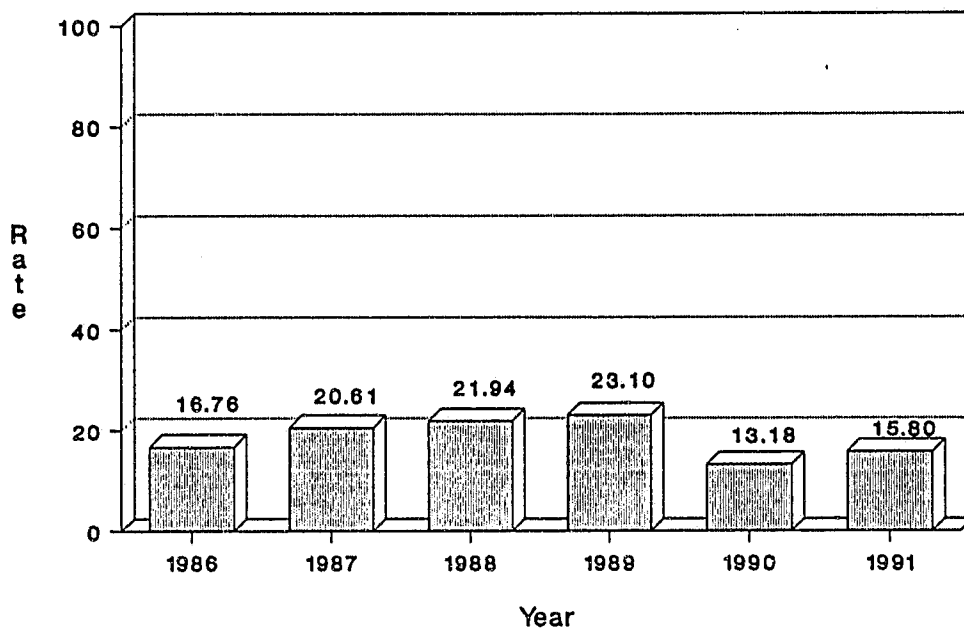


TABLE 6C
AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF INMATES BY YEAR OF DEATH
NUMBER AND MORTALITY RATES OF NON AIDS RELATED DEATHS 1986-1991

Age at Death and Race/Ethnicity	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
16-19														
White	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	38.61	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	8.58
Black	0	0.00	2	20.70	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	16.46	4	6.32
Hispanic	0	0.00	3	69.77	0	0.00	1	20.83	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	13.88
20-24														
White	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	6.94	1	7.01	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.23
Black	0	0.00	6	11.77	2	3.89	1	1.84	1	1.73	4	6.97	14	4.35
Hispanic	2	8.33	0	0.00	1	3.84	0	0.00	1	3.23	0	0.00	4	2.40
25-29														
White	4	19.93	0	0.00	2	9.91	4	18.92	2	9.39	1	4.88	13	10.52
Black	1	2.11	1	1.90	5	8.43	7	10.24	8	10.36	7	8.76	29	7.53
Hispanic	1	3.68	5	15.93	5	14.12	3	7.14	1	2.13	2	4.33	17	7.42
30-34														
White	0	0.00	2	13.13	3	18.93	6	33.98	2	10.34	1	4.85	14	13.56
Black	11	31.82	3	7.99	8	19.51	6	12.56	7	12.33	6	9.85	41	14.72
Hispanic	2	9.41	5	18.67	1	3.40	7	20.28	1	2.54	3	7.27	19	9.93
35-39														
White	2	19.49	2	19.32	1	9.17	4	33.28	2	15.28	3	21.47	14	19.83
Black	2	8.91	2	8.32	7	27.71	12	43.00	3	9.35	3	8.55	29	17.38
Hispanic	4	30.53	5	33.13	6	35.74	8	38.39	3	12.29	4	15.09	30	25.70
40 +														
White	13	88.38	16	101.65	15	89.87	19	105.15	12	60.45	18	83.68	93	87.27
Black	15	70.65	16	69.35	22	87.48	21	73.97	18	55.83	21	59.14	113	68.24
Hispanic	5	36.93	14	89.00	14	75.80	10	46.13	9	34.78	14	48.48	66	53.15
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	196.08	0	0.00	1	50.51
16-19	0	0.00	5	30.01	0	0.00	2	10.98	0	0.00	2	9.49	9	8.39
20-24	2	2.21	6	6.48	4	4.34	2	2.03	2	1.90	4	3.80	20	3.46
25-29	6	6.31	6	5.71	12	10.39	14	10.54	11	7.47	10	6.72	59	9.40
30-34	13	18.43	10	12.75	12	13.85	19	19.52	10	8.55	10	8.02	74	12.84
35-39	8	17.40	9	18.13	14	26.34	24	39.15	8	11.38	10	13.07	73	20.53
40 +	33	66.47	46	84.00	51	84.23	50	72.82	40	50.79	53	61.07	273	68.39
White	19	24.09	20	24.99	22	27.36	35	40.82	18	19.87	23	24.70	137	26.93
Black	29	15.61	30	15.15	44	20.87	47	19.81	37	13.81	43	15.31	230	16.66
Hispanic	14	13.54	32	27.28	27	20.76	29	18.99	15	8.67	23	12.75	140	16.34
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	22.47	0	0.00	1	14.97
GRAND TOTAL	62	16.76	82	20.61	93	21.94	111	23.10	71	13.18	89	15.80	508	18.31

Section Seven - Commitment Offense

This section examines commitment offense and cause of death for decedents and the average undercustody population for 1986-1991. 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. Twenty-eight more specific groups of offenses are listed within the four general categories. Figure 7 compares the commitment offenses of inmates who died to the commitment offenses of the undercustody population during the 1986-1991 time period. The graph reveals that commitment offenses for decedents are similar to those of the undercustody population. Proportionately inmates convicted and sentenced for a 'violent felony' were only slightly more likely to die while in custody (59.1% decedents vs. 57.4% undercustody) while inmates incarcerated for property or other offenses, or as a youthful offender, were slightly less likely to die (9.2% decedents vs. 10.2% undercustody).

Table 7 provides information on the cause of death of inmates incarcerated for more specific types of offenses. For example, 133 inmates sentenced for murder died while in custody during the years 1986 through 1991. Of these, 66 died from other natural causes, 55 from AIDS, 7 from suicide, and 3 from homicide. In the general category of commitment to prison due to a 'violent felony', 873 inmates died during 1986-1991. Five-hundred forty (61.9%) died from AIDS and 266 (30.5%) died from natural causes. Perhaps not surprisingly, inmates incarcerated for the most serious violent offenses and serving the longest prison sentences also had the highest number of deaths by suicide (N=23).

Figure 7, Commitment Offense
Percent of Population, 1986-1991
Deceased vs. Undercustody Inmates

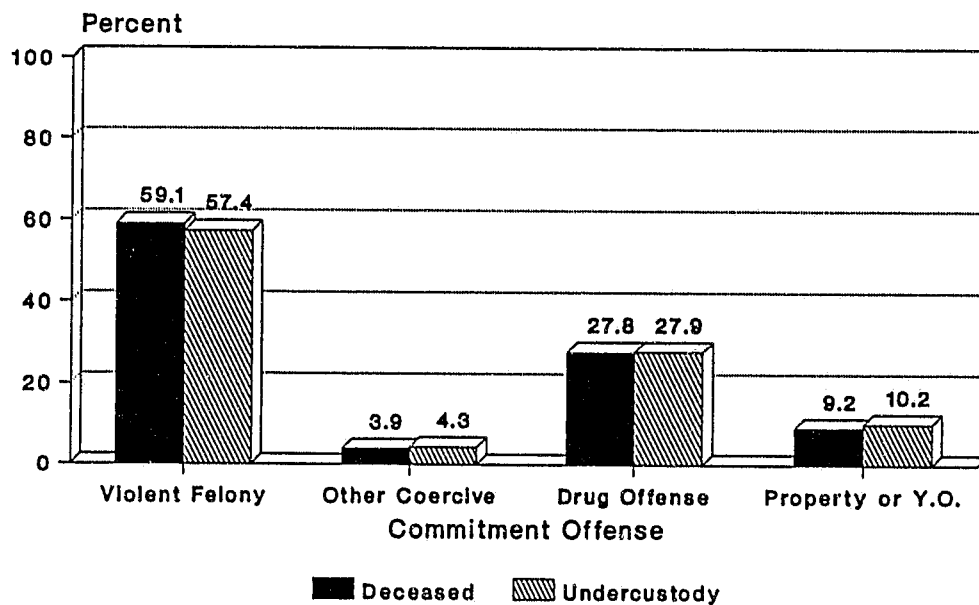


TABLE 7
 COMMITMENT OFFENSE BY CAUSE OF DEATH OF INMATES
 FACILITY DEATHS (ALL CAUSES), 1986-1991

Category and Crime	Cause of Death					TOTAL
	Homicide	Suicide	Accident	AIDS	Other Natural Causes	
Violent Felony						
Murder	3	7	2	55	66	133
Attempt Murder	0	0	0	14	14	28
Manslaughter 1st	4	2	1	38	31	76
Rape 1st	0	1	1	19	14	35
Robbery 1st	8	6	5	177	57	253
Robbery 2nd	9	1	1	61	21	93
Assault 1st	0	1	0	20	5	26
Assault 2nd	1	0	0	6	5	12
Burglary 1st	1	1	0	9	1	12
Burglary 2nd	1	2	4	105	15	127
Arson 1st, 2nd	1	0	0	1	6	8
Sodomy 1st	1	0	0	5	11	17
Sexual Abuse 1st	0	0	0	4	12	16
Weapons Offenses	1	0	0	22	7	30
Kidnapping 1st, 2nd	0	2	0	4	1	7
Subtotal	30	23	14	540	266	873
	3.4%	2.6%	1.6%	61.9%	30.5%	100.0%
Other Coercive						
Manslaughter 2nd	1	0	0	5	6	12
Other Homicide	0	0	0	0	2	2
Robbery 3rd	1	0	0	13	5	19
Att Assault 2nd	0	0	1	3	1	5
Other Sex Offenses	0	0	0	3	9	12
Other Coercive	0	0	0	3	4	7
Subtotal	2	0	1	27	27	57
	3.5%	0.0%	1.8%	47.4%	47.4%	100.0%
Drug Offenses						
Drug Offenses	11	1	5	305	89	411
Subtotal	11	1	5	305	89	411
	2.7%	0.2%	1.2%	74.2%	21.7%	100.0%
Property and Other						
Burglary 3rd	3	3	0	50	11	67
Grand Larceny	0	0	2	20	8	30
Forgery	0	0	0	6	4	10
Stolen Property	0	0	1	16	3	20
All Other Felonies	0	0	0	5	4	9
Subtotal	3	3	3	97	30	136
	2.2%	2.2%	2.2%	71.3%	22.1%	100.0%
GRAND TOTAL	46	27	23	969	412	1,477
	3.1%	1.8%	1.6%	65.6%	27.9%	100.0%

Section Eight - Average Time Served

Average time served refers to the length of incarceration (in months) since the inmates' last admittance to DOCS custody. For example, an inmate incarcerated for a robbery conviction in 1984 may have been paroled in 1988, had his parole revoked in May 1989, and after return to prison as a parole violator died from AIDS in May 1990. In this case his time served would have been 12 months because his last admittance was in 1989.

Figure 8 displays the average time served by cause of death. Inmates that died from other natural causes (average 46.9 months) and suicide victims (41.0 months) served the longest length of incarceration prior to death. Homicide and AIDS victims had the shortest average time served prior to death.

Table 8 on the next page reveals the average time served for inmates categorized by age and ethnicity. An examination of the table shows that older inmates (40+ age category) who died from other natural causes had served the longest time since their last admittance (52.5 months) of any major subgroup (N > 10). Though deaths due to accident are rare, the twenty-three accident victims served 40.5 months prior to death.

Figure 8
Average Time Served
All Causes of Death, 1986 - 1991

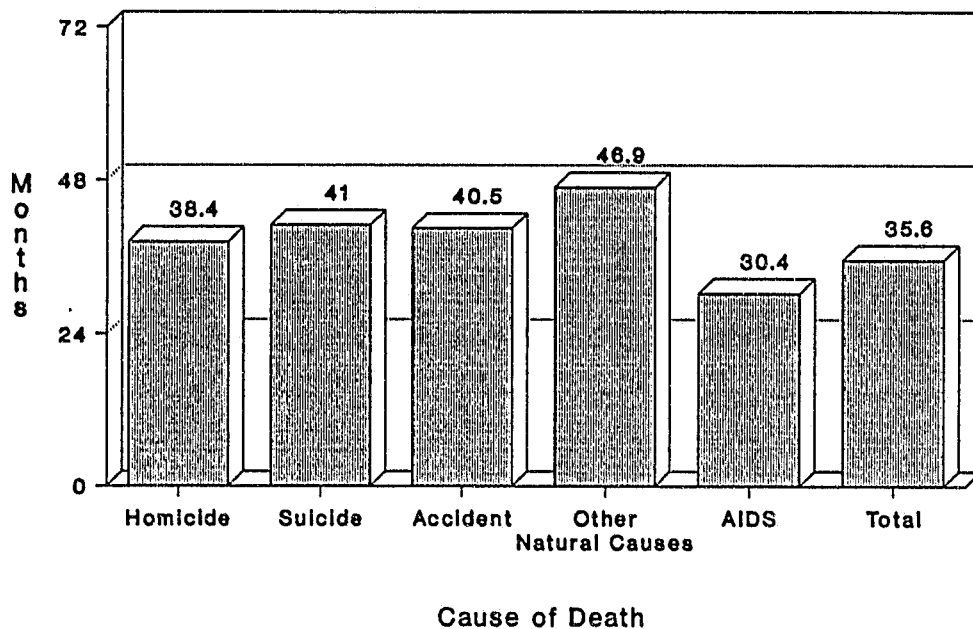


TABLE 8
AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY OF INMATES BY CAUSE OF DEATH
AVERAGE TIME SERVED IN STATE PRISON 1986 - 1991

Age and Race/Ethnicity	Homicide		Suicide		Accident		AIDS		Other Natural Causes		Total	
	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg
16-19												
White	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Black	2	4.5	2	5.3	0	0.0	1	8.7	0	0.0	5	5.7
Hispanic	2	14.8	1	1.2	1	19.8	1	9.4	0	0.0	5	12.0
Sub Total	4	9.7	4	2.9	1	19.8	2	9.0	0	0.0	11	8.0
20-24												
White	0	0.0	1	17.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	17.3	2	17.6
Black	5	28.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	7	27.4	8	14.9	21	21.5
Hispanic	1	5.4	1	6.9	0	0.0	18	17.8	2	13.7	22	16.4
Sub Total	6	24.2	3	8.3	0	0.0	25	20.5	11	14.9	45	18.8
25-29												
White	3	21.2	5	29.5	1	3.1	9	24.6	4	29.2	22	25.1
Black	11	30.1	2	73.1	3	40.2	45	21.4	13	42.9	74	28.6
Hispanic	2	47.6	1	12.2	1	11.5	69	23.8	13	25.4	86	24.3
Sub Total	16	30.6	8	38.2	5	27.0	123	23.0	30	33.5	182	26.2
30-34												
White	1	44.0	2	9.8	1	13.7	25	33.1	10	24.6	39	29.5
Black	7	37.3	0	0.0	3	58.8	98	30.9	31	43.0	139	34.6
Hispanic	3	58.2	0	0.0	2	16.1	164	32.3	14	31.4	183	32.5
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	23.2	0	0.0	1	23.2
Sub Total	11	43.6	2	9.8	6	37.1	288	31.9	55	36.7	362	32.9
35-39												
White	1	11.0	3	83.9	1	55.0	25	21.8	9	67.1	39	37.6
Black	2	48.5	1	111.4	1	44.2	115	31.5	25	51.8	144	35.9
Hispanic	3	69.7	4	57.9	2	17.6	123	29.6	21	26.8	153	30.6
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	23.0	0	0.0	1	23.0
Sub Total	6	52.9	8	74.4	4	33.6	264	29.7	55	44.7	337	33.7
40 +												
White	1	115.5	2	75.2	2	40.3	27	34.8	88	54.8	120	51.0
Black	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	32.8	106	39.1	112	64.0	219	51.7
Hispanic	2	89.9	0	0.0	4	76.6	133	29.9	60	28.8	199	31.1
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.6	1	3.6
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.8
Sub Total	3	98.5	2	75.2	7	60.0	267	33.9	261	52.5	540	43.7
GRAND TOTAL	46	38.4	27	41.0	23	40.5	969	30.4	412	46.9	1477	35.6

APPENDIX A

Cause of Death	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		TOTAL	
	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg
Homicide	7	30.00	6	29.40	4	32.00	9	29.50	8	31.00	12	28.70	46	29.80
Suicide	3	28.00	3	20.80	4	38.30	11	32.00	1	25.90	5	31.70	27	31.00
Accident	2	41.40	5	34.00	1	31.10	3	37.90	4	32.20	8	34.00	23	34.70
AIDS	124	35.30	151	36.10	158	36.50	132	35.80	175	38.30	229	37.40	969	36.70
Other Natural Causes	50	46.30	68	45.00	84	43.60	88	44.10	58	46.90	64	51.20	412	45.90
TOTAL	186	38.00	233	38.30	251	38.80	243	38.40	246	40.00	318	39.70	1477	38.90

Cause of Death	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		TOTAL	
	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg	Num	Avg
Homicide	7	21.90	6	40.70	4	36.30	9	46.50	8	61.00	12	26.50	46	38.40
Suicide	3	62.20	3	0.60	4	35.20	11	38.30	1	23.70	5	66.50	27	41.00
Accident	2	69.40	5	51.90	1	13.70	3	51.20	4	22.90	8	34.30	23	40.50
AIDS	124	23.80	151	23.60	158	26.40	132	33.70	175	34.30	229	36.20	969	30.40
Other Natural Causes	50	42.50	68	47.10	84	46.90	88	52.10	58	37.70	64	51.50	412	46.90
TOTAL	186	29.90	233	31.20	251	33.50	243	41.30	246	35.70	318	39.30	1477	35.60

Cause of Death	Violent Felony	Other Coercive	Drug Offenses	Property and Other	TOTAL
Homicide	30	2	11	3	46
PCT	65.2%	4.3%	23.9%	6.5%	100.0%
Suicide	23	0	1	3	27
PCT	85.2%	0.0%	3.7%	11.1%	100.0%
Accident	14	1	5	3	23
PCT	60.9%	4.3%	21.7%	13.0%	100.0%
AIDS	540	27	305	97	969
PCT	55.7%	2.8%	31.5%	10.0%	100.0%
Other Natural Causes	266	27	89	30	412
PCT	64.6%	6.6%	21.6%	7.3%	100.0%
TOTAL	873	57	411	136	1477
PCT	59.1%	3.9%	27.8%	9.2%	100.0%

APPENDIX C

TABLE 3A
RACE/ETHNICITY OF INMATES BY YEAR OF DEATH
NUMBER AND RISK RATIO OF ALL CAUSES OF DEATH, 1986-1991

Age at Death and Race/Ethnicity	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
White	31	0.90	36	1.03	35	0.99	46	1.22	30	0.76	45	1.10	223	1.00
Black	89	1.09	90	1.04	97	1.05	95	0.91	91	0.77	140	1.14	602	0.99
Hispanic	66	1.46	107	2.08	119	2.09	102	1.52	124	1.64	130	1.64	648	1.73
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.51	2	0.89	3	1.02
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.63	1	2.72

TABLE 3B
RACE/ETHNICITY OF INMATES BY YEAR OF DEATH
NUMBER AND RISK RATIO OF AIDS-RELATED DEATHS, 1986-1991

Age at Death and Race/Ethnicity	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
White	12	0.90	16	1.18	13	0.96	11	0.76	12	0.78	22	1.40	86	1.00
Black	60	1.91	60	1.79	53	1.49	48	1.20	54	1.19	97	2.04	372	1.59
Hispanic	52	2.97	75	3.78	92	4.18	73	2.83	109	3.73	107	3.51	508	3.51
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.32	2	1.77
Unknown	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.62	1	7.04

TABLE 3C
RACE/ETHNICITY OF INMATES BY YEAR OF DEATH
NUMBER AND RISK RATIO OF NON AIDS-RELATED DEATHS 1986-1991

Age at Death and Race/Ethnicity	1986		1987		1988		1989		1990		1991		TOTAL	
	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate	N	Rate
White	19	0.89	20	0.93	22	1.02	35	1.52	18	0.74	23	0.92	137	1.00
Black	29	0.58	30	0.56	44	0.77	47	0.74	37	0.51	43	0.57	230	0.62
Hispanic	14	0.50	32	1.01	27	0.77	29	0.71	15	0.32	23	0.47	140	0.61
Other	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.83	0	0.00	1	0.56

Note: The risk ratio is the mortality rate for each ethnic/racial group (10,000 inmates) divided by the mortality rate for White inmates over the 1986-1991 time period.

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