

Total Homicides and Unsolved Homicides by Year*
Compiled by Stacy Horn in 2004 for *The Restless Sleep*
(I added the homicide totals for 2005 - 2010.)

A lot of these numbers are iffy, and for reasons which I explain in my book they get more iffy the further back you go. But the more recent numbers are solid, and for the purposes of my book—which was to look at which murders don't get solved and why not, and what the current Cold Case Squad does to try to solve them—the numbers, even the iffy ones, are enlightening.

It's also important to note that even the solid numbers are not the true number of people murdered in New York. Some murders are classified "justifiable homicides" and are not included in the NYPD's totals. These include those committed in self defense, or when a member of the police department kills someone in the line of duty. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner counts everything, so their totals are always higher than the NYPD's. I have more caveats and explanations at the end of this document.

The last time I was able to get a figure, which was in January of 2007, there were 9,082 unsolved murders in New York City going back to 1985. That number will go up every year because they add more than they take away. (This is not a reflection on whether or not they are doing a good job, the weight of the past is not in their favor.)

Any corrections would be greatly appreciated, but I would respectfully request that you also include your sources.

Total Homicides and Unsolved Homicides by Year*

Year	Total	Unsolved	% Unsolved	Year	Total	Unsolved	% Unsolved
1900	140**	46	33.0%	1930	421	112 (3)	26.6%
1901	112**	37	33.0%	1931	489	175	35.9%
1902	127**	42	33.0%	1932	478	171	35.9%
1903	136**	45	33.0%	1933	431	195	45.2%
1904	176**	58	33.0%	1934	400	154	38.5%
1905	165**	54	33.0%	1935	370	147	39.9%
1906	255**	84	33.0%	1936	364	145	39.9%
1907	285**	94	33.0%	1937	331	137	41.3%
1908	251**	83	33.0%	1938	272	110	40.8%
1909	182**	60	33.0%	1939	291	103	35.4%
1910	286**	94	33.0%	1940	275	71	25.8%
1911	281**	92	33.0%	1941	268	95	35.4%
1912	275	64	23.2%	1942	265	83	31.3%
1913	326**	136	41.7%	1943	201	57	28.3%
1914	299**	98	33.0%	1944	228	36	15.7%
1915	261**	86	33.0%	1945	292	59	20.2%
1916	256**	84	33.0%	1946	346	64	18.4%
1917	236	124	52.5%	1947	333	67	20.1%
1918	223	76	34.0%	1948	315	46	14.6%
1919	224	74	33.0%	1949	301	53	17.6%
1920	215 (1)	70	33.0%	1950	294	47	15.9%
1921	237	78	33.0%	1951	243	36	15.0%
1922	266	88	33.0%	1952	309	43	13.9%
1923	262	97	37.0%	1953	350	42	12.0%
1924	310 (2)	97	31.2%	1954	342	49	6.9%
1925	308	101	33.0%	1955	306	49	15.8%
1926	289	95	33.0%	1956	315	40	12.6%
1927	278	92	33.0%	1957	314	33	10.8%
1928	339	112	33.0%	1958	354	32	9.0%
1929	357	86	24.0%	1959	390	32	8.2%

Total Homicides and Unsolved Homicides by Year, as of 3/4/04*

Year	Total	Unsolved	% Unsolved	Year	Total	Unsolved	% Unsolved
1960	390	46	11.7%	1980	1,814	558	30.8%***
1961	483	60	12.4%	1981	1,826	787	43.0%
1962	508	50	9.8%	1982	1,668	524	31.4%
1963	549	59	10.7%	1983	1,662	416	25.0%***
1964	637	81	12.7%	1984	1,450	469	34.2%
1965	634	105	16.7%	1985	1,384	305	22.0%
1966	654	143	21.8%	1986	1,582	477	30.1%
1967	746	155	20.8%	1987	1,672	483	28.8%
1968	986	217	22.1%	1988	1,896	591	31.1%
1969	1,043	333	32.0%***	1989	1,905	652	34.2%
1970	1,117	344	30.8%***	1990	2,245	791	35.2%
1971	1,466	633	43.2%***	1991	2,154	783	36.3%
1972	1,691	732	43.3%***	1992	1,995	770	38.5%
1973	1,680	514	30.6%***	1993	1,946	710	36.4%
1974	1,554	494	31.8%***	1994	1,561	595	38.1%
1975	1,645	583	35.5%***	1995	1,177	358	30.4%
1976	1,622	702	43.3%***	1996	983	327	33.2%
1977	1,557	649	41.7%***	1997	767	240	31.2%
1978	1,504	463	30.8%***	1998	633	185	29.2%
1979	1,733	753	43.5%***	1999	667	215	32.2%
				2000	671	253	37.7%
				2001	642	235	36.6%
				2002	586	222	37.8%
				2003	596	294	49.3%
				2004	571		
				2005	540		
				2006	596		
				2007	496		
				2008	523		
				2009	471		
				2010	536		

2011: NYPD has different totals on their website for these years:

1990: 2,262 1995: 1,181 1998: 629 2001: 649

NYCHomicideTotals.pdf

*All the figures came from the NYPD Annual Reports and from the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Public Information, except for the following.

2002 and 2003 came from the Homicide Analysis Unit.

**The number of total homicides for the years, 1900-1911, 1913-1916 came from "Population, Births, Notifiable Diseases, and Deaths, Assembled for New York City, NY 1866-1936 from Official Record," compiled by Haven Emerson, MD, and published by Columbia University. Emerson got his figures from the Department of Health, so his numbers, like those from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, are going to be higher because they count all homicides, including justifiable homicides, etc.

***The clearance rates for the years 1969-1980, and 1983 were based on Crime Comparison figures vs the FBI Crime Index. Crime Comparison is based on the New York State Penal Code, where more deaths are classified as homicides. The NYPD has adopted the FBI Crime Index for reporting purposes, but where those figures were not available, the Crime Comparison figures were used. Those figures will always be higher.

The clearance rates for all other years are based on the NYPD Annual Reports. When the NYPD did not provide a clearance rate one year (or years), an estimate was made based on an average for that time period. The years that are based on an average: 1900-1911, 1914-1916, 1919-1922, 1925-1928, 1931-1932, and 1935-1936.

- (1) Does not include 39 people killed in the Wall Street explosion.
- (2) Includes 13 Chinese killed in the Tong War.
- (3) 280 were closed with arrests, 29 perpetrators committed suicide.