**DETAINED PERSON DEATHS ON RIKERS ISLAND IN 2022–23**

**Tzar Youngblood**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 2/27/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Overdose
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Inefficient Testing: Did not complete tours every 20 minutes; did not check Youngblood cell for over 4 hours.

**George Pagan**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 3/17/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Sepsis
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Mixed Medical Appointments: DOC failed to produce Pagan to Medical appointments in the 8 days leading to his death; Pagan did not receive necessary medication.

**Herman Diaz**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 3/18/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Choked on Orange
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** No Medical Staff Located by DOC: The "X" Post Officer refused to perform OPR if necessary.

**Dashean Carter**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 5/17/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Hanging)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Possible Delayed Medical Attention: Waiting for final report on this; possibly did not receive loan.

**Mary Yehudah**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 5/18/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suspected Diabetic Ketaosis
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Possible Deficient Medical Care: Correctional Health Services failed to do urinalysis; DOC failed to provide medical checkup.

**Emanuel Sullivan**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 5/28/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Unknown
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Found dead in bed with blood dripping from nose; still under investigation.

**Antonio Bradley**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 6/18/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Hanging)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Delays Response: Mr. Bradley was hanging for 8-10 minutes before anyone arrived.

**Anibal Carrasquillo**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 6/20/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Overdose
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Still no solid details here yet.

**Eligah Muhammad**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 7/11/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suspected Overdose
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Likely Delayed Medical Attention: Preliminary evidence is that Muhammad was suffering earlier in the day from symptoms of overdose, but was ignored by staff.

**Michael Lorenzo**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 7/18/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Hanging)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Arrives but likely neglect by correction staff, who did not intercede in drug use.

**Ricardo Cruciani**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 8/5/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Hanging)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Negligence: The DOC did not send a paramedic to Cruciani in protective custody and under suicide watch, however this was not complied with.

**Michael Nieves**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 8/25/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Still His Throat)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Security Violation: Mr. Nieves did not receive treatment or access that he correctly deserved.

**Kevin Bryan**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 9/4/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Hanging)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Potential Unstopped Post in Understaffed Building: Bryan hung himself in secluded staff bathroom after he was jumped by other detainees.

**Gregory Acvedo**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 9/20/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Taken Off Life Support
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Potential Unstopped Post in Understaffed Building: Acvedo climbed the towering fence of the city's floating jail barge, over barbed wire, and jumped into the East River. How did the Department of Corrections evade this?

**Elmore Robert Pondexter**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 9/22/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Taken Off Life Support
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Potential Unstopped Post in Understaffed Building: Pondexter was last seen alive in the day wing, but no one knew, or cared, if he was still alive.

**Erick Tavira**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 10/22/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Hanging)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Likely Inefficient Tours: 29-year-old Erick was being housed in the mental health unit at the George R. Vierno Center (GRC). This death surpassed the death count of 16 in 2021.

**Gilberto Garcia**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 10/30/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suspected Overdose
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Likely Inefficient Tours: Almost 5 days to the day after he entered the system for an overdose, Garcia did not receive the necessary medical attention.

**Edgardo Mejías**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 12/11/22
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suspected Overdose
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Likely Inefficient Tours: Correction Department sources said he was too quickly granted medical attention, who ordered staff: Several attempts were made to revive Mejías with Narcan but he did not respond; suggesting he was already dead for the time staff reached him.

**Marvin Pines**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 1/24/23
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suicide (Under Investigation)
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Inefficient Tours: 13 Correction Officers were suspended as a result of Mr. Pines death — all save one were called to carry out routine tours of the facility. Mr. Pines should never have died, and was known to suffer from seizures.

**Rubu Zhao**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 5/18/23
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Fatal Injury
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Inefficient Medical Supervision: Zhao was being treated in Mr. Pondexter’s mental health unit and never received basic psychiatric help, meant to have a higher degree of security and medical supervision. Clearly this supervision was lacking.

**Joshua Valles**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 5/30/23
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Autopsy Shows Skull Fracture
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** DOC told the mother of Valles that ‘She appeared to have a heart attack and the Department does not suspect that any foul play occurred.”

**Felix Taveras**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 7/4/23
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suspected Overdose
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Faced the same tragedy as the other detainees housed in the cell who, when he died, DOC admitted he was in restraints — they stated that no procedure violations were discovered and therefore suspensions will be issued.

**Ricky Howell**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 7/6/23
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Illness
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** Died of stage 4 cancer in Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward. He was arrested on Sept. 3, 2022.

**William Johnstone**
- **DATE OF DEATH:** 7/8/23
- **CAUSE OF DEATH:** Suspected Overdose
- **ADMINISTRATION FAILURE(S):** William was found unresponsive in his cell and taken to Mount Sinai Queens, where he died. Guards administratively Tacicon - suggest he likely died of an overdose, the same path many others died on. This came 10 years after the death of Eric Garner from an untreated diabetes.

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**NEW YORK TIMES**

**Inefficiency at Rikers Island:**

"Rikers Island is a place of suffering and despair, where the sickest and most vulnerable are left to fend for themselves, often with little hope for recovery. The facility is plagued by understaffing, overcrowding, and inadequate medical care, leading to multiple deaths.

**William Johnstone’s Death:**

On July 8, 2023, William Johnstone, 35, was pronounced brain dead after being found unresponsive in his cell. DOC staff had failed to report the incident to elected officials who had asked for an update.

**Antonio Bradley’s Death:**

On June 18, 2022, Antonio Bradley, 41, was pronounced brain dead after being found hanging in his cell. The Department of Corrections failed to report the incident to elected officials who had asked for an update.

**Erick Tavira’s Death:**

On May 30, 2023, Erick Tavira, 29, was found dead in his cell with blood dripping from his nose. The Department of Corrections failed to report the incident to elected officials who had asked for an update.

**Michael Nieves’s Death:**

On June 25, 2022, Michael Nieves, 36, was pronounced brain dead after being found in a cell with his hands tied behind his back. The Department of Corrections failed to report the incident to elected officials who had asked for an update.

**William Johnstone’s Family:**

William’s family is calling for an independent investigation into his death, stating that DOC failed to produce Pagan to Medical appointments in the 8 days leading to his death; Pagan did not receive necessary medication.