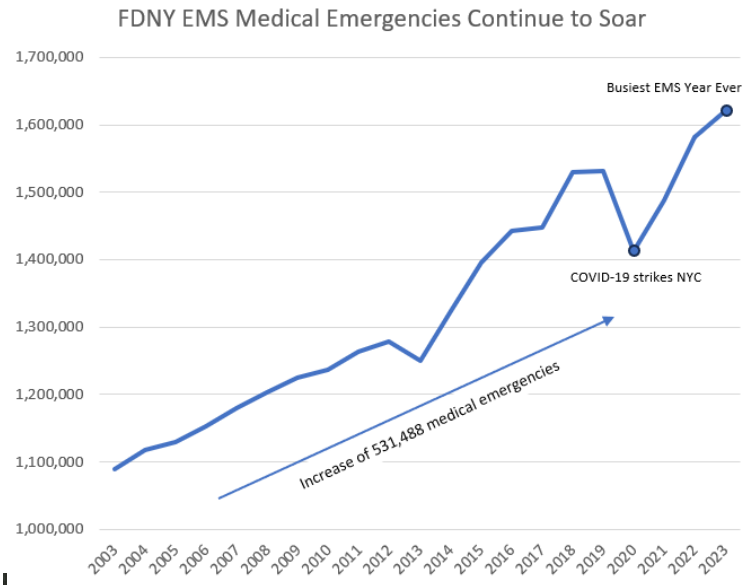
From: FDNY Local 2507

2023 Busiest Year in History for FDNY EMS' Medical First Responders

Gotham's Medical Emergencies Soar Nearly 15% Since Covid - 30% Since 2013 & 50% Since 2003

NY City Has World's Busiest Medical First Responders – Answering 28 Million Emergencies Since 2003

New York, NY, January 11, 2024 – New York medical first responders of the FDNY EMS are busier than ever. According to data from the FDNY, New York City EMT's and paramedics have turned the page on a year that was the agency's busiest of all time, responding to 1,619,863 medical emergencies, up 2.5 percent from 2022 and 8.2 percent from 2021. That was also a 14.2 percent jump from the number of medical emergency responses at the peak of the COVID outbreak in 2020.



Over the past decade, FDNY EMS experienced its busiest years in agency history, while headcount and the number of crews serving neighborhoods have remained largely stagnant.

"Overworked and severely underpaid, New York City's medical first responders are always there to save the lives of fellow New Yorkers," said **Oren Barzilay, President of FDNY EMS Local 2507**, representing EMTs, paramedics, and fire inspectors.

"However, if this agency is facing severe staff cuts in 2024 and 2025, fewer medical first responders on the streets will absolutely result in significantly increased response times, and people will die because of it Today, we are responsible for half a million more runs than just two decades ago. That's how dramatic this increase is."

Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

10 Busiest Years for FDNY EMS All in Last Decade

1. 2023 – 1,619,863	**6.** 2017 – 1,448,112
2. 2022 – 1,580,871	**7.** 2016 – 1,440,268
3. 2019 – 1,531,870	**8.** 2020 – 1,412,690*
4. 2018 – 1,529,569	**9.** 2015 – 1,395,570
5. 2021 – 1,488,097	**10.** 2014 – 1,323,198

*COVID strikes NYC

The FDNY EMS had a headcount of 4,036 EMTs and paramedics as of the end of 2023, compared to 3,858 at the end of 2022.

Since 2003, FDNY EMS has responded to nearly 28 million (27,895,439) medical emergencies, as the busiest medical first responder agency in the world. Since its merger with FDNY in 1996, EMS has seen civilian medical emergency response climb consistently each year. At the height of the pandemic in 2020, crews could not keep pace with daily call volumes, with the highest daily total reaching 6,527 medical emergencies.

In 2023, New York City EMS personnel responded to 611,443 so-called Segment 1-3 calls, an 8.33% increase over 2022. This code relates to patients with life threatening medical emergencies including choking, cardiac arrest, stroke, gunshot wounds, and other severely traumatic situations.

"Being a member of the FDNY EMS is a difficult, dangerous, and extremely stressful job. Our members are often referred to by New Yorkers as 'street doctors' and are truly miracle workers. They perform this service while earning exceptionally low, in fact, poverty level wages of $18.94 hour. Paramedics also are paid 40-60 percent below other peer first responders, and retention of experienced staff is a massive challenge imperiling the lives of New Yorkers," **said Barzilay**. "It's no wonder that job turnover exceeds 30 percent after three years and 50 percent after five years. New York City leaders need to do something rapidly to address this ongoing brain drain of our exceptionally talented and dedicated medical first responders."

According to the National Library of Medicine, rapid ambulance response is associated with a higher rate of survival from 'out of hospital cardiac arrests,' with a positive neurological outcome. Reducing ambulance response times can double the survival rate for cardiac arrests.

Year	Total # of Medical Emergencies	YOY
2023	1,619,863	2.47%
2022	1,580,871	6.23%
2021	1,488,097	5.34%
2020	1,412,690	-7.78%
2019	1,531,870	0.15%
2018	1,529,569	5.63%
2017	1,448,112	0.43%
2016	1,441,921	3.32%
2015	1,395,570	5.47%
2014	1,323,198	5.90%
2013	1,249,530	2.23%
2012	1,277,985	1.16%
2011	1,263,345	2.14%
2010	1,236,819	0.97%
2009	1,224,743	1.74%
2008	1,203,739	2.09%
2007	1,179,075	2.34%
2006	1,152,110	1.97%
2005	1,129,842	1.05%
2004	1,118,115	2.73%
2003	1,088,375	-

FDNY EMS has two types of emergency response vehicles serving the public: Advanced Life Support (ALS) units staffed with paramedics responding to Segment 1-3 calls, and Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances staffed with EMTs responding to Segment 4-8 calls. The city has been facing a shortage of ALS medical response crews, which can negatively affect response times for life-threatening emergencies.

Critical FDNY EMS Stats for New York City

- ***2023 = Busiest Year in FDNY EMS History*** *- with 1,619,863 civilian medical emergencies*
- *Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, responses by NYC medical first responders are up 14.67%*
- *From 2021 to 2023, NYC Emergency Medical Responses Leaped by an Oversized 8.85%*
- *Since 2003, FDNY EMS has responded to nearly 28 million (27,895,439) medical emergencies.*
- *Soaring call volumes result in over half a million more emergency medical calls than in 2003 (531,488)*
- ***Biggest Single Year Increase*** *– 2021 to 2022, 1,488,097 to 1,580,871 – equaling a 6.25% Increase in Medical Emergencies*
  - *Since 2013, NY City Medical Emergencies are* ***UP 29.6%***
  - *Since 2003, NY City Medical Emergencies are* ***UP 48.83%***

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