

Many of the terrible plagues of this era are waiting, living in other hosts and waiting to infect the human population. Plagues are worst in inner cities, and the city has been the source of several recent plague outbreaks. Countless untold diseases are living in the city's massive rat population (not to mention stray cats and dogs, pigeons, squirrels and bats). A random bite by a rat can introduce a new strain in to a population. Or, in an even worse scenario, a mutated strain starts killing all the rats, and the billions of fleas jump off the dead rats and bite humans (thus spreading the disease to them).

Quarantines

In Brief- The CDC locks down the city during plague outbreaks, provides emergency care.

The city hospital reports disease stats to the CDC. When the CDC fears there is considerable danger from a disease, it issues a quarantine. The city is locked down, no one can enter and leave except for CDC doctors in CDC helicopters. CDC doctors set up inflatable labs where they can work on finding some treatment for the disease. Helicopters with powerful speakers move through the city ordering everyone to stay inside. Anyone could be arrested for going out on the streets (or disobeying a CDC doctor) but the CDC seldom has the time or employees to enforce such rules. The Central Hospital and Urgent Care Clinic (and sometimes the blocks surrounding them) become triage units where people die en masse and a fine disinfectant mist is being constantly sprayed from the ceilings. After one hour, the subways are shut down.

Any city resident who's lived through a plague develops a sixth sense during outbreaks: every doorknob, pool of blood, delirious addict, even the air around a corpse seems to glow with disease energy. Many times "business" can't be stopped, even during a plague, and while city residents move through the city they recognize death everywhere, just waiting for the right time to strike.



Plague Survival Kit \$170 (\$500-\$1000 during a plague)

- Gasmask \$75 (to protect against airborne diseases)
- Sterilization Spray \$50 (to sterilize food)
- Latex Gloves \$1 (to protect against contact based diseases)
- Trenchcoat \$35 (to protect the body from bites and scratches)
- Insect Repellent \$5 (to repel insects that might carry diseases)

DRUGS

Drug Addicts

In Brief- Drug addicts mostly dangerous, unhappy, poor. Some addicts handle addiction better than others. Many spend all day doing anything they can to get money for drugs. A lucky few become servants of addicts.

The most visible drug addicts are what people jokingly call "**career addicts**": people who are so deeply addicted to their drug that they can not stay on welfare or hold an occupation (legal or illegal) or allegiance to any group. Career addicts are easy to spot: they care little about hygiene, they may stink of alcohol or have visible needle tracts on their skin, the malnutrition from each time they chose drugs over food is readily visible, and they have a desperate look in their eyes. The majority of drug addicts

look like everyone else, these are the "**part-timers**" who are able to "keep it together" enough to stay at their current place on the socioeconomic ladder and maintain their membership in whatever group they belong to. Some part-timers keep their addictions secret from everyone they know, some only hang around with drug abusers and never think of not using as an option, some have admitted that they are addicted and are trying to live with their "disease" as comfortably as possible, some are trying to fight the disease with the help of friends and family.

There are 20,000 career addicts in the city and 56,500 part-time addicts. Altogether that's more than a third of the city population that is addicted to some drug, whether they are willing to admit it or not.