

Injury Deaths to MA Residents

2018

Injuries are the leading cause of death for people ages 1 through 44. In 2018, there were **4,929** injury deaths among Massachusetts residents¹, a rate of **71** injuries for every 100,000 residents. The leading causes of injury deaths were poisonings, falls and suffocations.

Key Indicators	INJURY INTENT					Totals
	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Legal Intervention/Other ²	
Total Counts by Injury Intent	3,973	741	159	53	3	4,929
Percent by Intent	80.6%	15.0%	3.2%	1.1%	0.1%	100.0%
Rate per 100,000 population ³	57.2	10.7	2.3	0.8	--	71.0

Injury Cause	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Legal Intervention/Other ²	Subtotal Counts	Percent of Total ⁴	Crude Rate per 100,000 ³
Cut/pierce	0	26	24	0	0	50	1.0%	0.7
Drowning/submersion	74	7	0	7		88	1.8%	1.3
Fall	906	36	0	1		943	19.1%	13.6
Fire/burn	39	9	1	0		49	1.0%	0.7
Firearm	1	148	104	3	2	258	5.2%	3.7
Machinery	7					7	0.1%	0.1
Natural/environmental	24					24	0.5%	0.3
Overexertion	1					1	<0.1%	--
Poisoning ⁵	2,181	135	1	29	0	2,346	47.6%	33.8
<i>Drug poisoning</i>	2,125	93	1	26	0	2,245	45.5%	32.3
<i>Non-drug poisoning</i>	56	42	0	3	0	101	2.0%	1.5
Struck by, against	9		0	0	0	9	0.2%	0.1
Suffocation/hanging	147	356	2	1		506	10.3%	7.3
Transport Injuries ⁵	413	0	0	0	0	413	8.4%	5.9
<i>Motor vehicle traffic-related</i>	387	0	0	0		387	7.9%	5.6
<i>Occupant⁶</i>	245					245	5.0%	3.5
<i>Motorcyclist</i>	54					54	1.1%	0.8
<i>Pedal cyclist</i>	2					2	<0.1%	--
<i>Pedestrian</i>	86					86	1.7%	1.2
<i>Pedal cyclist, other</i>	4					4	0.1%	--
<i>Pedestrian, other</i>	13					13	0.3%	0.2
<i>Other land transport</i>	7					7	0.1%	0.1
<i>Other transport</i>	2					2	<0.1%	--
Other specified & classifiable	27	21	1	0	0	49	1.0%	0.7
Other specified, not classifiable	29	2	7	4	1	43	0.9%	0.6
Unspecified	115	1	19	8	0	143	2.9%	2.1

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

1) Includes Massachusetts residents who died in or out-of-state. Non-MA residents are excluded. An injury-related fatality is defined as any death with an ICD-10 code of U01-U03 or V01-Y89 in the underlying cause field.

Counts may differ from other analyses (e.g., death report), due to slight definitional differences.

2) Includes fatalities resulting from police actions and operations of war.

3) Rates provided are crude rather than age-adjusted and may differ slightly from other department publications. Rates are not calculated on counts of less than five, and rates based on counts less than twenty may be unstable. Data used to calculate rates are based on small area population estimates from the Donahue Institute, MDPH, Bureau of Environmental Health; 2018 MA population 6,947,185.

4) Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

5) Includes subcategories (shown in italics).

6) Includes motor vehicle drivers, passengers, and unspecified persons.

• Injury categories are based on the CDC's "Recommended framework of E-code groupings for presenting injury and morbidity data." This framework does not provide for intentionality for certain cause categories as indicated by gray shading.

• Data were extracted and compiled by the Injury Surveillance Program, MDPH, February, Release Date: May 2022

