

Injury Deaths to MA Residents

2020

Injuries are the leading cause of death for people ages 1 through 44. In 2020, there were **5,005** injury deaths among Massachusetts residents¹, a rate of **71.2** 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	Undeter- mined	Legal Intervention/ Other ²	
Total Counts by Injury Intent	4,103	622	186	92	2	5,005
Percent by Intent	82.0%	12.4%	3.7%	1.8%	<0.1%	100.0%
Rate per 100,000 population ³	58.4	8.8	2.6	1.3	--	71.2

Injury Cause	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undeter- mined	Legal Intervention/ Other ²	Subtotal Counts	Percent of Total ⁴	Crude Rate per 100,000 ³
Cut/pierce	2	35	25	0	0	62	1.2%	0.9
Drowning/submersion	51	11	0	9		71	1.4%	1.0
Fall	1,016	24	0	3		1,043	20.8%	14.8
Fire/burn	37	5	0	1		43	0.9%	0.6
Firearm	1	134	133	1	1	270	5.4%	3.8
Machinery	6					6	0.1%	0.1
Natural/environmental	20					20	0.4%	0.3
Poisoning ⁵	2,252	113	1	47	0	2,413	48.2%	34.3
<i>Drug poisoning</i>	2,192	85	1	45	0	2,323	46.4%	33.0
<i>Non-drug poisoning</i>	60	28	0	2	0	90	1.8%	1.3
Struck by, against	8		1	0	0	9	0.2%	0.1
Suffocation/hanging	153	281	5	2		441	8.8%	6.3
Transport Injuries ⁵	394	2	0	0	0	396	7.9%	5.6
<i>Motor vehicle traffic-related</i>	374	2	0	0		376	7.5%	5.3
<i>Occupant⁶</i>	246	2				248	5.0%	3.5
<i>Motorcyclist</i>	52					52	1.0%	0.7
<i>Pedal cyclist</i>	9					9	0.2%	0.1
<i>Pedestrian</i>	67					67	1.3%	1
<i>Pedal cyclist, other</i>	3					3	0.1%	--
<i>Pedestrian, other</i>	9					9	0.2%	0.1
<i>Other land transport</i>	3					3	0.1%	--
<i>Other transport</i>	5					5	0.1%	0.1
Other specified & classifiable	21	13	1	0	0	35	0.7%	0.5
Other specified, not classifiable	30	3	8	8	1	50	1.0%	0.7
Unspecified	112	1	12	21	0	146	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; 2020 MA population 7,029,917.

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 mortality 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 2022, Release Date: May 2022

