

Injury Deaths to MA Residents

2022

Injuries are the leading cause of death for Massachusetts residents ages 1-44, and the third leading cause for all ages. In 2022, there were 5,686 injury deaths,¹ a rate of 80.9 deaths per 100,000 people. The leading mechanisms of injury deaths were poisonings, falls, and motor vehicle traffic-related crashes.

Key Indicators	INJURY INTENT					Totals
	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Legal Intervention/Other ²	
Total Counts by Injury Intent	4,772	624	172	112	6	5,686
Percent by Intent	83.9%	11.0%	3.0%	2.0%	0.1%	100.0%
Rate per 100,000 population ³	67.9	8.9	2.4	1.6	0.1	80.9

Injury Mechanism	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Legal Intervention/Other ²	Subtotal Counts	Percent of Total ⁴	Crude Rate per 100,000 ³
Cut/pierce	2	24	34	1	0	61	1.1%	0.9
Drowning/submersion	57	16	0	21		94	1.7%	1.3
Fall	1,260	31	0	1		1,292	22.7%	18.4
Fire/burn	34	6	0	6		46	0.8%	0.7
Firearm	1	148	107	2	5	263	4.6%	3.7
Machinery	1					1	--	--
Natural/environmental	30	0		0		30	0.5%	0.4
Poisoning ⁵	2,517	142	3	53	0	2,715	47.7%	38.6
<i>Drug poisoning</i>	2,472	109	2	47	0	2,630	46.3%	37.4
<i>Non-drug poisoning</i>	45	33	1	6	0	85	1.5%	1.2
Struck by, against	11		2	0	0	13	0.2%	0.2
Suffocation/hanging	200	235	7	1		443	7.8%	6.3
Transport Injuries ⁵	498	6	0	0	0	504	8.9%	7.2
<i>Motor vehicle traffic-related</i>	467	6	0	0		473	8.3%	6.7
<i>Occupant⁶</i>	299	6	0	0		305	5.4%	4.3
<i>Motorcyclist</i>	55					55	1.0%	0.8
<i>Pedal cyclist</i>	8					8	0.1%	0.1
<i>Pedestrian</i>	105					105	1.8%	1.5
<i>Pedal cyclist, other</i>	6					6	0.1%	0.1
<i>Pedestrian, other</i>	14					14	0.2%	0.2
<i>Other land transport</i>	8			0		8	0.1%	0.1
<i>Other transport</i>	3					3	--	--
Other specified & classifiable	28	14	1	0	0	43	0.8%	0.6
Other specified, not classifiable	40	1	7	4	1	53	0.9%	0.8
Unspecified	93	1	11	23	0	128	2.3%	1.8

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) Legal Intervention/other 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 was used as a proxy, as 2022 estimates were unavailable.

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

5) Transport includes several 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, January 2024, Release Date: May 2024

