

Injury Deaths to MA Residents

2023

Injuries are the leading cause of death for Massachusetts residents ages 1-44, and the third leading cause for all ages. In 2023, there were 5,410 injury deaths,¹ a rate of 77 deaths per 100,000 people. The leading mechanisms of injury deaths were poisonings, falls, and suffocation/hangings.

Key Indicators	INJURY INTENT					Totals
	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Legal Intervention/Other ²	
Total Counts by Injury Intent	4,465	660	183	98	4	5,410
Percent by Intent	82.5%	12.2%	3.4%	1.8%	0.1%	100.0%
Rate per 100,000 population ³	63.5	9.4	2.6	1.4	--	77.0

Injury Mechanism	Unintentional	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined	Legal Intervention/Other ²	Subtotal Counts	Percent of Total ⁴	Crude Rate per 100,000 ³
Cut/pierce	0	28	34	1	0	63	1.2%	0.9
Drowning/submersion	56	14	0	13		83	1.5%	1.2
Fall	1,189	26	0	2		1,217	22.5%	17.3
Fire/burn	35	6	0	2		43	0.8%	0.6
Firearm	0	147	121	0	2	270	5.0%	3.8
Machinery	4					4	--	--
Natural/environmental	24	0		0		24	0.4%	0.3
Poisoning ⁵	2,278	139	1	42	0	2,460	45.5%	35.0
<i>Drug poisoning</i>	2,251	93	1	38	0	2,383	44.0%	33.9
<i>Non-drug poisoning</i>	27	46	0	4	0	77	1.4%	1.1
Struck by, against	10		2	0	0	12	0.2%	0.2
Suffocation/hanging	212	274	6	1		493	9.1%	7.0
Transport Injuries ⁵	452	2	1	0	0	455	8.4%	6.4
<i>Motor vehicle traffic-related</i>	421	2	1	0		424	7.8%	6.0
<i>Occupant⁶</i>	271	2	1	0		274	5.0%	3.9
<i>Motorcyclist</i>	51					51	0.9%	0.7
<i>Pedal cyclist</i>	3					3	--	--
<i>Pedestrian</i>	96					96	1.8%	1.4
<i>Pedal cyclist, other</i>	8					8	0.1%	0.1
<i>Pedestrian, other</i>	11					11	0.2%	0.2
<i>Other land transport</i>	10			0		10	0.2%	0.1
<i>Other transport</i>	2					2	--	--
Other specified & classifiable	43	19	0	1	0	63	1.2%	0.9
Other specified, not classifiable	63	2	8	10	2	85	1.6%	1.2
Unspecified	99	3	10	26	0	138	2.6%	2.0

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 2023 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, Release Date: June 2025

