



**150 YEARS**  
OF ADVANCING  
**PUBLIC**  
**HEALTH**

# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund  
Advisory Council  
July 19, 2021**

**BSAS Presentation Summary**

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# Summary Notes

- **Buprenorphine prescriptions by client's residence (slides 4 and 5)**
  - The highest prescription rates per 100,000 were in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampden counties, followed by Barnstable, Bristol, and Worcester counties.
- **Distribution of OEND Programs and Services (slides 7 – 20)**
  - Western MA has fewer OEND programs compared to the Eastern part of the State.
  - There were fewer admissions into OEND services in the western part of the State.
  - There were higher OEND admissions in communities with fixed or mobile OEND units.
  - Reporting of OEND enrollments and refills dropped significantly in 2020 due to pandemic related distribution changes.
  - In 2019, OEND enrollment rates were higher among Black Non-Hispanics in Barnstable, Berkshire, Bristol, Essex and Franklin counties as compared to White Non-Hispanics. Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Worcester counties had higher rates of OEND admissions among Hispanics as compared to White Non-Hispanics. Demographics are for the person collecting the kits.

# Summary Notes

- **Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths by Race (slides 22-28)**

- In 2020, Black Non-Hispanics constituted 31% of overdose deaths in Suffolk county. That represents over 46% of deaths among Black Non-Hispanics in the state. Over 90% of Opioid-Related overdose deaths among Black Non-Hispanics happened to residents of Suffolk, Middlesex, Hampden, Essex, Plymouth, Worcester and Bristol counties. Hispanics constituted 34% of deaths in Hampden county. Over 90% of deaths among Hispanics happened to residents of Bristol, Essex, Hampden, Middlesex, Suffolk and Worcester counties

- **Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths by Race**

In 2020, all counties experienced change in Opioid-related overdose deaths. This change was not evenly distributed among races.

- Suffolk county increased by 31%: 3% increase among White Non-Hispanics, 34% increase among Hispanics, and a doubling among Black Non-Hispanics.
- Hampden county increased by 8%: a 9% decrease among White Non-Hispanics, 27% decrease among Black non-Hispanics, and a 65% increase among Hispanics...
- Bristol county decreased by 10%: 11% decrease among White Non-Hispanics, 43% increase among Black Non-Hispanics and an 11% increase among Hispanics.

# Summary Notes

- **Average Age at Death**
  - Black Non-Hispanics were on average older, and Hispanics were younger than White Non-Hispanics (with the exception of Plymouth County where Black Non-Hispanics were younger than the rest).
  - Statewide average of OOD was 42.48 and 42.42 for males and females, respectively. Hampshire county reported the lowest average age among males (36.6 years old) and Berkshire county reported the lowest average age among females (38.4 years old), excluding Dukes and Nantucket due to small sample size.
- **Overdose deaths with a BSAS treatment history (slides 30 – 34)**
  - 69.1% of Opioid-related overdose deaths between 2018 – 2020 had a history of BSAS treatment. Of these individuals, 33.4% were identified as having been involved in the Criminal Justice System at their most proximal BSAS enrollment prior to death.
  - Individuals without a history of BSAS treatment were relatively more likely to be female, Non-White, and older than those with a history of BSAS treatment.
- **Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths in Homeless Shelters (slide 36)**
  - Less than 1% of Opioid-related overdose deaths in 2019 and 2020 happened in homeless shelters. Additional 1% happened in a place described as a shelter, residential facility or sober house.
  - Of OODs with a history of BSAS treatment, over 14% were homeless at the time of their last BSAS encounter.