



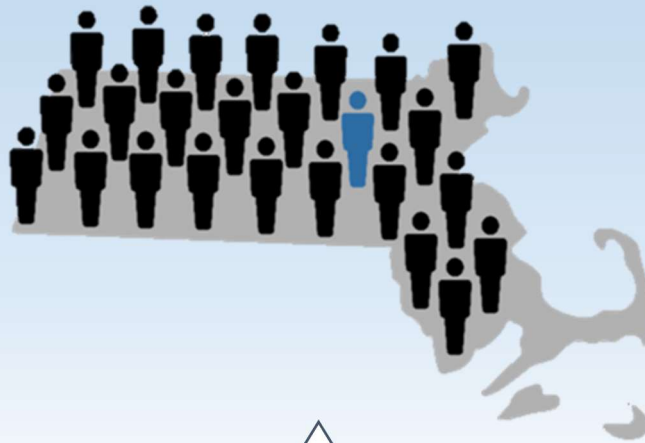
Massachusetts Military & Veteran Drug Overdose Deaths, 2019

This publication contains information on current or former military personnel who died by an unintentional/undetermined drug-related overdose in Massachusetts in 2019.

FOR HELP: Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment (SAVE) | (617) 210-5743 | Toll-free: (888) 844-2838

90

current or former military personnel died from a drug-related overdose in Massachusetts in 2019.



1 in 25

of all Massachusetts drug-related overdose deaths in 2019 were current or former military personnel.

Save A LIFE



- **46%** had a bystander present at the time of overdose.
- By having the proper training and carrying Narcan, bystanders may be able to help prevent a fatal drug overdose.

Current or Former Military Personnel

VS

Non-military Personnel

16%

had a diagnosis of PTSD



5%

had a diagnosis of PTSD

37%

of the overdoses involved alcohol



29%

of the overdoses involved alcohol

54%

died at home



42%

died at home

Average age

50.5

Male

94%



Average age

41.4

Male

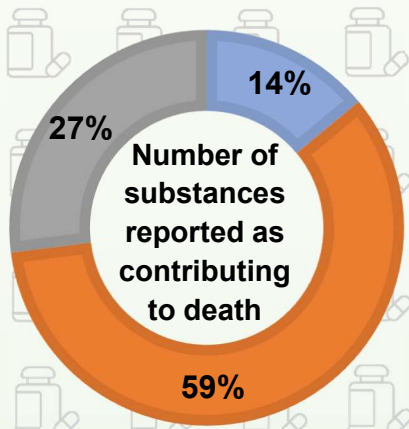
73%

43%

had a known current mental health condition.

#1 PTSD

#2 Depression



■ 1 drug ■ 2-5 drugs ■ >5 drugs

34%

had evidence of an alcohol use disorder.

79%

had evidence of a substance use disorder.

Of decedents tested,

92%

tested positive for **opioids.**



Of those with evidence of drug use on scene,

Injection Drug Use (Needles/ Syringes, etc.) 49%

Illicit Drugs 69%

Of decedents tested,

47%

tested positive for **cocaine.**



Person icon: Vaibhav Radhakrishnan from the Noun Project | **Massachusetts icon:** Linseed Studio from the Noun Project | **Mental health icon:** HeadsOfBirds from the Noun Project | **Cocaine icon:** Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project | **Drugs icon:** kareemovic2000 from the Noun Project | **Alcohol icon:** Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project | **Male Person icon:** Gan Khoon Lay | **Pill icon:** tang5000 | **Alcohol Bottle:** Rainbow Designs | **Nasal Spray icon:** Prettycons from the Noun Project | **House icon:** Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project
Data Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). Military status was ascertained from death certificates and medical examiner reports. All data were collected using guidelines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and are based upon the International Classification of Disease codes (ICD-10) for mortality. CDC analytic file dated 10 Nov 2020 (total number of decedents reported on: 2,176).