



Number of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, All Intent by County, MA Residents: 2010-2021

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

POSTED: December 2022

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total 2010-2021
Barnstable	20	19	24	43	53	67	81	67	71	73	76	80	674
Berkshire	4	9	16	22	29	32	35	30	40	39	56	62	374
Bristol	78	82	95	115	145	172	243	239	218	260	233	291	2,171
Dukes	0	0	0	1	5	7	3	2	4	3	6	5	36
Essex	49	57	93	119	205	235	274	299	273	279	250	288	2,421
Franklin	6	6	8	10	11	18	14	9	22	17	20	36	177
Hampden	48	45	59	69	64	98	130	113	209	199	215	213	1,462
Hampshire	12	10	11	30	26	16	36	28	38	39	34	44	324
Middlesex	91	130	118	152	273	341	402	350	322	304	297	356	3,136
Nantucket	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	4	16
Norfolk	58	64	70	82	125	164	213	167	170	129	154	162	1,558
Plymouth	38	67	57	86	110	174	190	202	151	176	184	167	1,602
Suffolk	63	85	90	110	146	199	241	252	215	218	287	294	2,200
Worcester	79	82	91	115	162	222	246	250	281	267	278	279	2,352
Total Deaths	547	656	733	954	1,356	1,747	2,110	2,011	2,015	2,005	2,091	2,281	18,506

Technical Notes

- Data for 2019 to 2021 deaths are preliminary and subject to updates. Case reviews of deaths are evaluated and updated on an ongoing basis. A large number of death certificates have yet to be assigned final cause of death codes. 2019 to 2021 counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 11/1/2022.
- Numbers and calculations based on values less than 5 are suppressed for years in which the death file is not yet closed if they are based on pending cases.
- Please note that some totals may not add up due to deaths with unknown city/town of residence and the rounding of counts.
- Opioids include heroin, illicitly manufactured fentanyl, opioid-based prescription painkillers, and other unspecified opioids.
- Beginning with the August 2019 report, DPH updated the case definition used to identify opioid-related overdose deaths to match the CDC's case definition. The following International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) codes for mortality were selected from the underlying cause of death field to identify poisonings/overdoses: X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, and Y10-Y14. All multiple cause of death fields were then used to identify an opioid-related overdose death: T40.0, T40.1, T40.2, T40.3, T40.4, and T40.6.
- This report tracks all opioid-related overdoses due to difficulties in reporting heroin-associated overdoses separately. Many deaths related to heroin are not specifically coded as such due to the fast metabolism of heroin into morphine.
- To maintain consistency with NCHS reporting, DPH does not include the ICD-10 code F11.1, which may include opioid-related overdose deaths.
- Beginning with the May 2017 report, DPH started reporting opioid-related overdose deaths for all intents, which includes unintentional/undetermined and suicide.

Sources

- Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH
- Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner