



Number of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, All Intentions by County, MA Residents: 2010-2018

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

POSTED: FEBRUARY 2020

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total 2010-2018
Barnstable	20	19	24	43	53	67	81	67	71	445
Berkshire	4	9	16	22	29	32	35	30	41	218
Bristol	78	82	95	115	145	170	243	240	219	1,387
Dukes	0	0	0	1	5	7	3	2	4	22
Essex	49	57	93	119	205	234	274	310	277	1,618
Franklin	6	6	8	10	11	18	14	9	22	104
Hampden	48	45	59	69	64	98	129	113	209	834
Hampshire	12	10	11	30	26	16	36	28	38	207
Middlesex	91	130	118	152	272	338	399	357	326	2,183
Nantucket	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	9
Norfolk	58	64	70	82	125	162	212	167	172	1,112
Plymouth	38	67	57	86	109	172	188	204	153	1,074
Suffolk	63	85	90	110	144	198	239	255	216	1,400
Worcester	79	82	91	115	161	221	242	266	282	1,539
Total Deaths	547	656	733	954	1,351	1,735	2,097	2,051	2,031	12,155

Technical Notes

- Data for 2017 and 2018 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. 2017 and 2018 counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 1/3/2020.
- 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