



Number of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, All Intentions by County, MA Residents: 2012-2022

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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County	Year of Death												Total 2012-2022	Percent Change 2022 vs. 2021
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022			
	Barnstable	24	43	53	67	81	67	71	73	76	80	86	740	7.5%
Berkshire	16	22	29	32	35	30	40	39	56	62	48	418	-22.6%	
Bristol	95	115	145	172	243	239	218	260	233	293	277	2,372	-5.5%	
Dukes	0	1	5	7	3	2	4	3	6	5	6	42	20.0%	
Essex	93	119	205	236	274	301	273	279	254	291	276	2,658	-5.2%	
Franklin	8	10	11	18	14	9	22	17	20	36	27	198	-25.0%	
Hampden	59	69	64	98	130	113	209	199	215	213	227	1,642	6.6%	
Hampshire	11	30	26	16	36	28	38	39	34	44	37	349	-15.9%	
Middlesex	118	152	273	341	402	350	322	304	300	360	383	3,436	6.4%	
Nantucket	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	4	2	17	-50.0%	
Norfolk	70	82	125	164	213	167	170	129	156	163	160	1,663	-1.8%	
Plymouth	57	86	110	174	190	202	151	176	185	167	190	1,755	13.8%	
Suffolk	90	110	146	199	241	252	215	218	288	300	305	2,449	1.7%	
Worcester	91	115	162	222	246	250	281	267	280	281	331	2,608	17.8%	
Total Deaths	733	954	1,356	1,748	2,110	2,013	2,015	2,005	2,104	2,300	2,357	20,351	2.5%	

Technical Notes

- Data for 2020 to 2022 deaths are preliminary and subject to updates. Case reviews of deaths are evaluated and updated on an ongoing basis. Many death certificates have yet to be assigned final cause of death codes. 2020 to 2022 counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 04/25/2023.
- 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