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Massachusetts Department of Public Health

**Number of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, All Intents by County, MA Residents: 2013-2023**

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| --- | --- |
| **County** | **Year of Death** |
| **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **Total 2013-2023** | **Percent Change** |
| **2023 vs. 2022** |
| Barnstable | 43 | 53 | 67 | 81 | 67 | 71 | 73 | 76 | 80 | 87 | 72 | **770** | **-17.2%** |
| Berkshire | 22 | 29 | 32 | 35 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 56 | 62 | 47 | 48 | **441** | **2.1%** |
| Bristol | 115 | 145 | 172 | 243 | 239 | 218 | 260 | 233 | 291 | 276 | 261 | **2453** | **-5.4%** |
| Dukes | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | **48** | **0.0%** |
| Essex | 119 | 205 | 236 | 274 | 301 | 273 | 279 | 251 | 289 | 277 | 217 | **2720** | **-21.7%** |
| Franklin | 10 | 11 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 22 | 17 | 20 | 36 | 26 | 28 | **211** | **7.7%** |
| Hampden | 69 | 64 | 98 | 130 | 113 | 209 | 199 | 215 | 213 | 230 | 231 | **1771** | **0.4%** |
| Hampshire | 30 | 26 | 16 | 36 | 28 | 38 | 39 | 34 | 44 | 37 | 29 | **357** | **-21.6%** |
| Middlesex | 152 | 273 | 341 | 402 | 350 | 322 | 304 | 297 | 358 | 380 | 301 | **3480** | **-20.8%\*** |
| Nantucket | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | **21** | **100.0%** |
| Norfolk | 82 | 125 | 164 | 213 | 168 | 170 | 130 | 154 | 162 | 160 | 165 | **1693** | **3.1%** |
| Plymouth | 86 | 110 | 174 | 190 | 202 | 151 | 176 | 184 | 167 | 190 | 154 | **1785** | **-18.9%** |
| Suffolk | 110 | 146 | 199 | 242 | 252 | 215 | 218 | 287 | 295 | 304 | 330 | **2598** | **8.6%** |
| Worcester | 115 | 162 | 222 | 246 | 251 | 281 | 267 | 278 | 279 | 331 | 278 | **2710** | **-16.0%** |
| **Total Deaths** | **954** | **1,356** | **1,748** | **2,111** | **2,015** | **2,015** | **2,007** | **2,092** | **2,285** | **2,357** | **2,125** | **21,064** | **-9.8%\*** |
| **\***Indicates a statistically significant change |

# Technical Notes

* Data for 2022 to 2023 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. 2022 to 2023 counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 04/11/2024.
* 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

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