



Number of Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths, All Intent by County, MA Residents: 2000-2017

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total 2000-2017
Barnstable	12	19	21	15	17	20	24	31	22	21	20	19	24	43	53	66	81	67	575
Berkshire	2	3	1	2	6	9	1	8	3	8	4	9	18	22	29	33	38	27	223
Bristol	38	58	66	84	72	78	85	64	84	70	79	82	95	116	146	168	246	243	1,874
Dukes	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	1	5	7	3	2	29
Essex	51	65	55	81	68	80	87	89	65	74	51	57	94	119	209	231	278	310	2,064
Franklin	5	2	1	5	3	4	6	4	2	2	6	6	8	10	11	18	14	9	116
Hampden	32	37	42	46	32	36	46	38	48	46	48	45	59	69	64	96	130	113	1,027
Hampshire	5	5	5	12	8	3	10	14	11	10	12	10	11	30	26	16	36	28	252
Middlesex	64	86	92	115	105	122	118	110	112	124	94	130	122	155	273	331	412	358	2,923
Nantucket	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	12
Norfolk	29	42	44	43	40	53	49	54	73	65	60	64	71	83	127	161	215	170	1,443
Plymouth	23	25	29	47	28	38	49	52	48	53	41	67	57	86	110	166	191	206	1,316
Suffolk	49	87	98	106	83	66	107	103	74	95	64	85	91	111	145	193	245	257	2,059
Worcester	68	75	71	58	51	63	74	71	78	67	80	82	91	115	162	216	261	266	1,949
Total Deaths	379	506	526	614	514	575	660	642	622	638	560	656	742	961	1,362	1,704	2,154	2,061	15,876

Technical Notes

- Data for 2016-2017 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. 2016-2017 counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 10/25/2018.
- 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 for 2016-2017.
- Opioids include heroin, illicitly manufactured fentanyl, opioid-based prescription painkillers, and other unspecified opioids.
- Cases were defined using the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) codes for mortality. The following codes were selected from the underlying cause of death field to identify poisonings/overdoses: X40-X49, X60-X69, X85-X90, Y10-Y19, and Y35.2. All multiple cause of death fields were then used to identify an opioid-related 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 death.
- Beginning with the May 2017 report, DPH started reporting opioid-related 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