

POSTED: NOVEMBER 2019

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | 220 | 1,388 |
| Dukes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 22 |
| Essex | 49 | 57 | 93 | 119 | 205 | 234 | 273 | 310 | 277 | 1,617 |
| Franklin | 6 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 22 | 104 |
| Hampden | 48 | 45 | 59 | 69 | 64 | 98 | 129 | 114 | 209 | 835 |
| Hampshire | 12 | 10 | 11 | 30 | 26 | 16 | 36 | 28 | 38 | 207 |
| Middlesex | 91 | 130 | 118 | 152 | 272 | 338 | 399 | 357 | 325 | 2,182 |
| 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 | 256 | 217 | 1,402 |
| Worcester | 79 | 82 | 91 | 115 | 161 | 221 | 241 | 266 | 282 | 1,538 |
| **Total Deaths** | **547** | **656** | **733** | **954** | **1,351** | **1,735** | **2,095** | **2,054** | **2,033** | **12,158** |

# 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 10/4/2019.
* 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