Posted: February 2017

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment

**Number of Unintentional1 Opioid2- Related Overdose Deaths by County, MA Residents: 2000-20153**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **2000** | **2001** | **2002** | **2003** | **2004** | **2005** | **2006** | **2007** | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **20143** | **20153** | **Total 2000-2015** |
| Barnstable | 12 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 29 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 15 | 23 | 40 | 55 | 69 | 410 |
| Berkshire | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 21 | 28 | 32 | 147 |
| Bristol | 37 | 57 | 65 | 84 | 70 | 78 | 81 | 61 | 79 | 66 | 74 | 77 | 94 | 111 | 140 | 166 | 1340 |
| Dukes | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 21 |
| Essex | 46 | 61 | 52 | 79 | 67 | 80 | 85 | 85 | 58 | 72 | 47 | 55 | 87 | 112 | 213 | 237 | 1436 |
| Franklin | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 18 | 90 |
| Hampden | 32 | 36 | 41 | 45 | 27 | 35 | 44 | 38 | 48 | 46 | 46 | 43 | 52 | 69 | 61 | 101 | 764 |
| Hampshire | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 28 | 25 | 16 | 173 |
| Middlesex | 61 | 80 | 89 | 109 | 103 | 116 | 113 | 102 | 106 | 116 | 92 | 120 | 112 | 144 | 279 | 345 | 2087 |
| Nantucket | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 14 | 7 |
| Norfolk | 26 | 40 | 42 | 41 | 40 | 49 | 48 | 53 | 69 | 64 | 55 | 59 | 69 | 80 | 129 | 163 | 1027 |
| Plymouth | 23 | 25 | 29 | 45 | 27 | 37 | 47 | 50 | 47 | 48 | 39 | 64 | 55 | 83 | 115 | 175 | 910 |
| Suffolk | 46 | 85 | 96 | 102 | 82 | 65 | 105 | 101 | 69 | 91 | 61 | 80 | 85 | 106 | 147 | 203 | 1524 |
| Worcester | 59 | 73 | 63 | 50 | 48 | 59 | 73 | 70 | 73 | 65 | 80 | 79 | 86 | 113 | 168 | 219 | 1377 |
| **TOTAL DEATHS** | **355** | **486** | **505** | **587** | **494** | **554** | **635** | **617** | **587** | **610** | **532** | **613** | **698** | **918** | **1,3795** | **1,751** | **11,321** |

1Unintentional poisoning/overdose deaths combine unintentional and undetermined intents to account for a change in death coding that occurred in 2005. Suicides are excluded from this analysis.

2 Opioids include heroin, opioid-based prescription painkillers, and other unspecified opioids.

3 Please note that data for 2000-2013 have been updated following a review of cases that did not receive an official cause of death at the time the file was closed. Data for 2014-2015 death 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. These counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 01/12/2017.

4 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. The 1 death listed in Nantucket County in 2014 and 2015 is a confirmed opioid overdose death.

5There was 1 death of an MA resident whose city/town of residence was not known in 2014. Also, total may not add up due to rounding.

# Please note that there is rounding of counts for 2014-2015. Technical Notes:

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, Y10-Y19. 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, we do not include the ICD-10 code F11.1, which may include opioid-related overdose death.

# Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH.

**Unintentional Opioid Overdose Death Rates by County, January 2014- December 2016**

**Worcester**

**Opioid Overdose Death Rate By County, per 100,000 people**

**NA**

9.3-14.4

c=J 14.5-16.4

**111116.5-** 19.5

**111119.6-24.0**

***State Rate: 21.J (Jan.* 2014- *Dec. 2016)*** I - �

Notes: '"

1. All data updated on 0111212017. Unintentional poisoninwCTverdose deaths combine unintentional and undetermned intents. **uc' et.**

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underlying cause of death field X40-X49, Y1O-Y19. All multiple cause of death fields were then used to identify an opioid-related death, using the following I CD-10 codes: T40.0, T40.1, T40.2, T40. 3, T40.4, and T40.6.

1. Opioids include heroin, opioid-based prescription painkillers, and other unspecified opioids.
2. Please note that 2014-2016 death data are preliminary and subject to updates
3. Rates computed for smaller counties (populations <10,000) are likely to vary significantly from year to year.
4. Low rates of unintentional opioid overdose deaths in a county should not be taken as an indication that there is no opioid abuse problem in that community.
5. County level opioid overdose death rates are computed by averaging,the number of opioid-related deaths between January .2014 and December.2016 by the estimated population in the community in that same time period. County is based on county of residence for the decedent.
6. The rate is eJ(pressed as a value per 100,000 residents.