Summary of Unintentional and Undetermined Intent Drug Overdose Deaths in Massachusetts – 2019

2,221 total deaths (32.2 per 100,000 population)

# Who died of a drug overdose?

Female 26%

# What drugs¹ were identified?

What circumstances⁴ were documented?

of deaths occurred in the decedent's home

67%

Male 74%

Current or past substance use/misuse

55%

83%

Female Male

<15

15-24

25-34

0% 0%

1%

20%

4%

7%

Additional drug classes detected among drug overdose deaths by COD drug²

Bystander present⁵

Mental health diagnosis⁵

29%

Naloxone administered

25%

41%

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

White, non-Hispanic

Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Other, non-Hispanic

1% 2%

14%

7%

2%

77%

93% of all deaths involved any opioids. 77% of all deaths had more than one drug class present. 70% of all deaths with illicitly manufactured fentanyls (IMFs) listed as cause of death also had another drug class present; the most common drug class present with IMFs was cocaine.

81% of decedents had at least one potential opportunity for…

12%

17%

19%

4%

6%

6%

# How many drug overdose deaths occurred by month³?

Ever treated for substance use disorder⁵

21%

Recent opioid use relapse⁷

15%

Prior overdose⁵

12%

Current pain treatment

10%

Recent release from institution⁵˒⁶

7%

Fatal drug use witnessed⁵

7%

Homeless

81% of decedents had at least one potential

27% of people who died of a drug overdose were 25-34 years old, 77% were White, non-Hispanic, and 74% were male.

/

opportunity for linkage to care prior to death or implementation of a life-saving action⁵ at the time of overdose.