



# Number of Unintentional<sup>1</sup> Opioid<sup>2</sup>- Related Overdose Deaths by County, MA Residents: 2000-2015<sup>3</sup>

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

Posted: February 2017

County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 <sup>3</sup>	2015 <sup>3</sup>	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	1 <sup>4</sup>	1 <sup>4</sup>	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
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>1,379<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>11,321</b>

<sup>1</sup>Unintentional 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.

<sup>2</sup>Opioids include heroin, opioid-based prescription painkillers, and other unspecified opioids.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>There 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:**

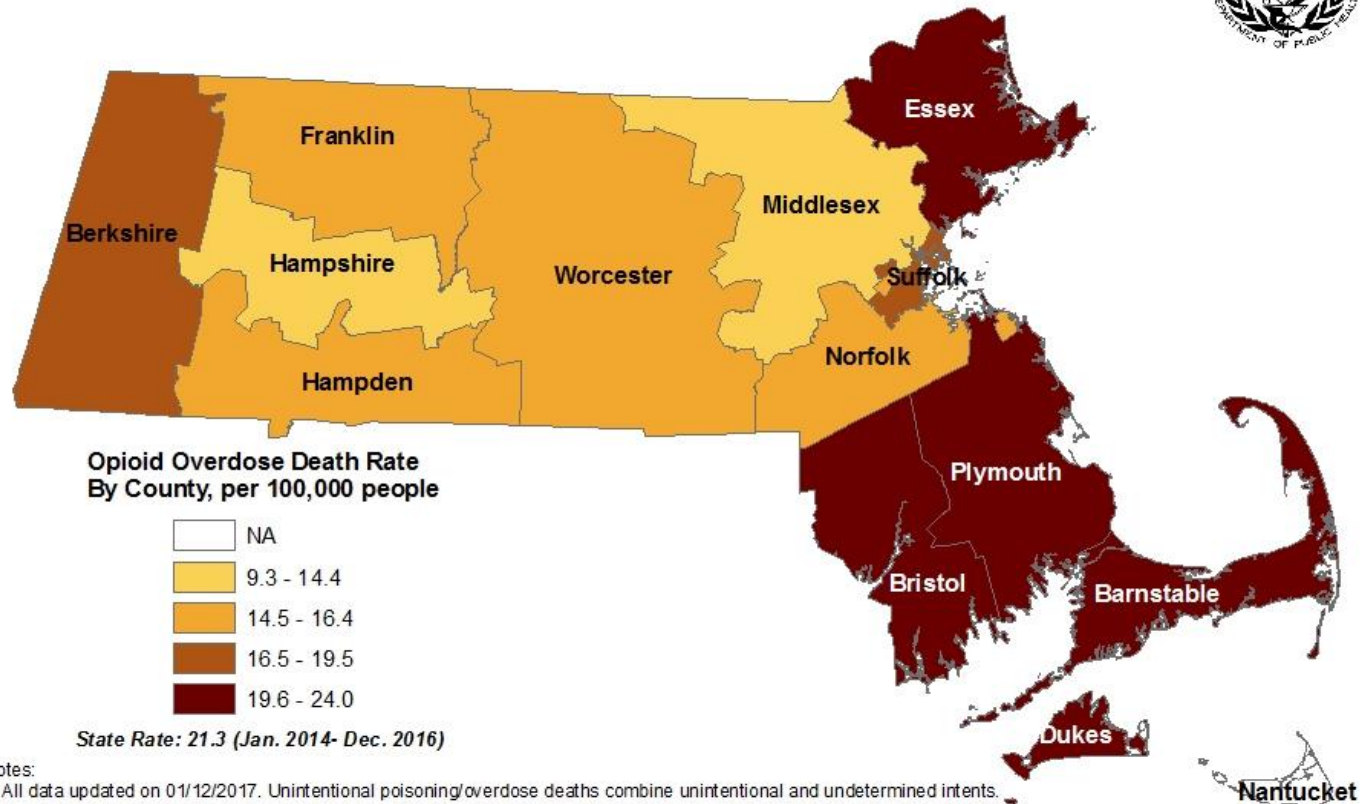
Cases were defined using the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) codes for mortality. The following codes were selected from the underlying cause of death field to identify poisonings/overdoses: X40-X49, Y10-Y19. All multiple cause of death fields were then used to identify an opioid-related 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



**Notes:**

1. All data updated on 01/12/2017. Unintentional poisoning/overdose deaths combine unintentional and undetermined intents. Cases were defined using the International Classification of Disease (ICD-10) codes for mortality using the following codes in the underlying cause of death field: X40-X49, Y10-Y19. All multiple cause of death fields were then used to identify an opioid-related death, using the following ICD-10 codes: T40.0, T40.1, T40.2, T40.3, T40.4, and T40.6.
2. Opioids include heroin, opioid-based prescription painkillers, and other unspecified opioids.
3. Please note that 2014-2016 death data are preliminary and subject to updates.
4. Rates computed for smaller counties (populations <10,000) are likely to vary significantly from year to year.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The rate is expressed as a value per 100,000 residents.