



# Number of Unintentional<sup>1</sup> Opioid<sup>2</sup> Overdose Deaths by County, MA Residents, 2000-2014<sup>3</sup>

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment • January 2016

County	Year of Death															Total 2000-2014
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 <sup>3</sup>	
Barnstable	12	17	17	14	16	17	19	29	21	20	19	15	22	40	48	326
Berkshire	2	3	0	2	3	9	1	8	3	8	3	6	15	21	24	108
Bristol	37	56	60	80	67	75	79	61	78	66	74	76	92	111	134	1,146
Dukes	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	5	15
Essex	41	58	44	74	61	73	83	85	52	69	48	54	85	111	182	1,120
Franklin	5	2	1	5	3	4	6	4	2	2	4	6	8	9	11	72
Hampden	30	36	34	44	26	33	42	38	43	45	46	42	51	68	52	630
Hampshire	5	5	4	10	8	2	9	12	10	9	10	9	10	28	20	151
Middlesex	56	76	77	102	96	109	106	101	104	113	90	118	106	142	238	1,634
Nantucket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1 <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>4</sup>
Norfolk	24	39	34	36	37	49	46	53	67	64	55	59	65	79	108	815
Plymouth	22	24	27	42	24	35	47	49	45	46	39	60	54	83	97	694
Suffolk	44	79	75	93	73	62	106	101	67	91	60	79	82	105	127	1,244
Worcester	59	73	55	47	42	55	71	69	68	64	77	79	78	112	126	1,075
<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>9,035</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 2014 death data 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 received from the municipalities and some have yet to be assigned cause-of-death codes. These counts are based on the estimates rather than confirmed cases. Data updated on 12/10/2015.

<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 is a confirmed opioid overdose death.

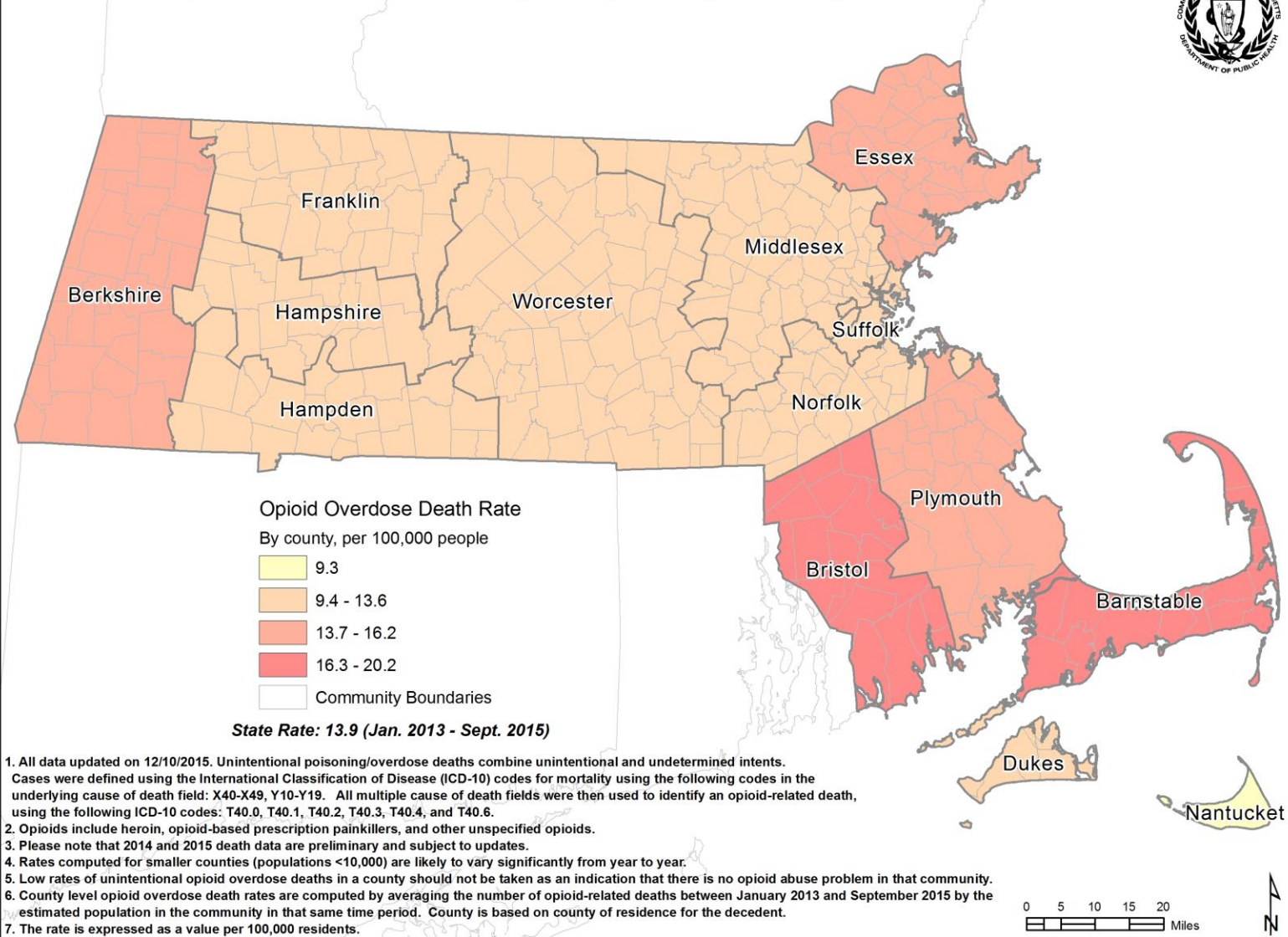
Please note that there is rounding of counts for 2014.

**Technical Notes:**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 Rate by County, January 2013 – September 2015



1. All data updated on 12/10/2015. 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 and 2015 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 2013 and September 2015 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.

Data source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH. Geographic data: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT. Map created by BEH-GIS, MDPH

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**Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH**